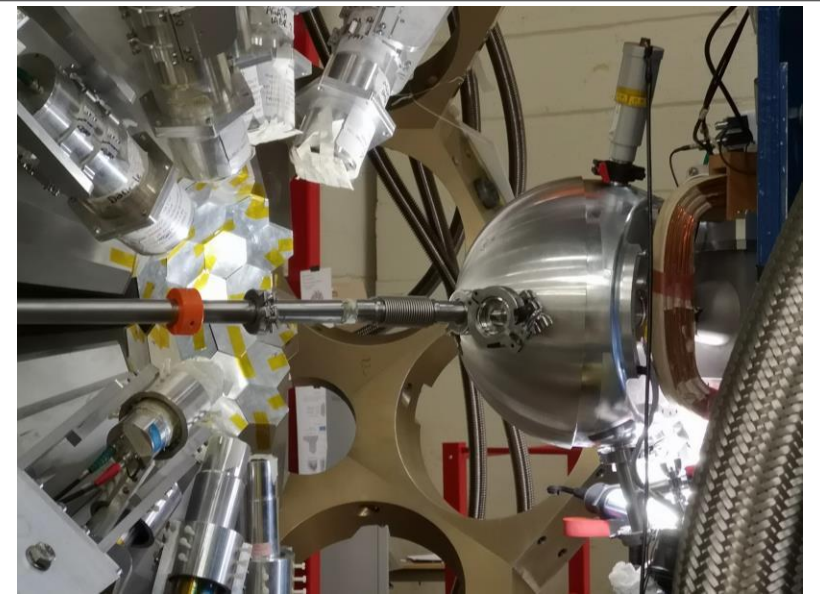


# Octupole deformation in neutron-deficient plutonium isotopes

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IOP Conference University of Manchester  
23.04.25 – 25.04.25



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
LABORATORI NAZIONALI DI LEGNARO

**UWS** UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WEST of SCOTLAND



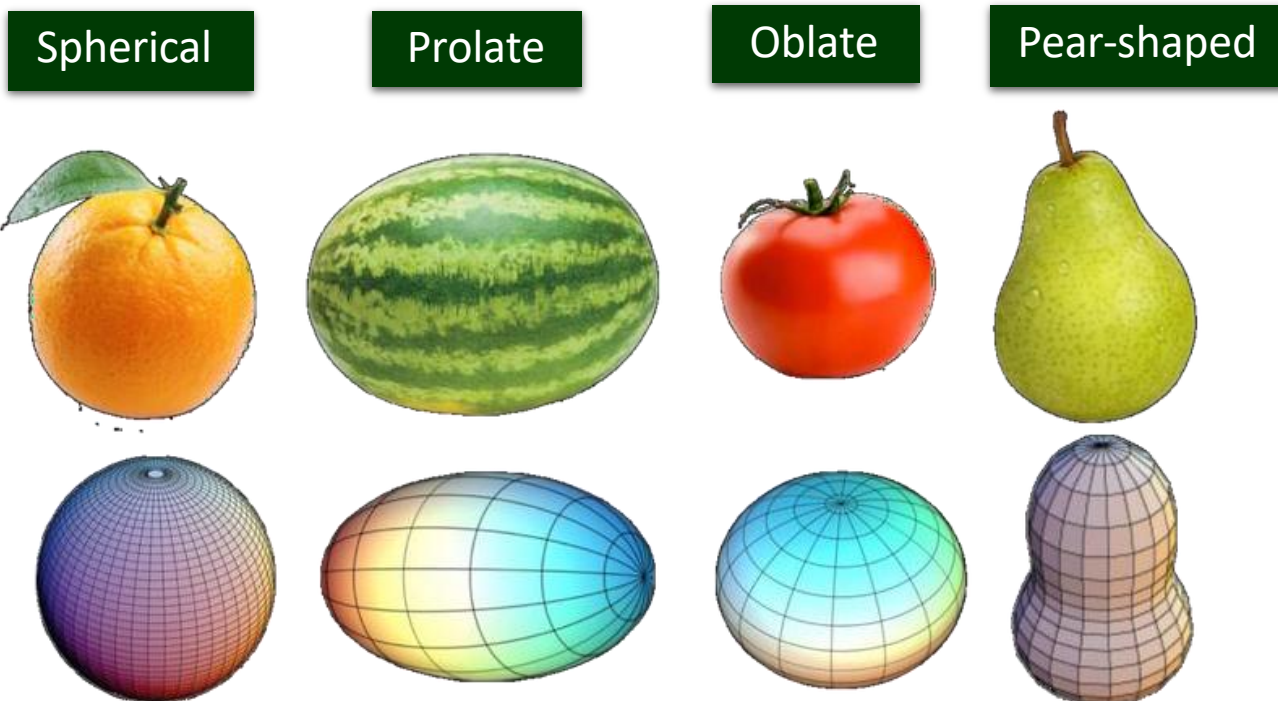
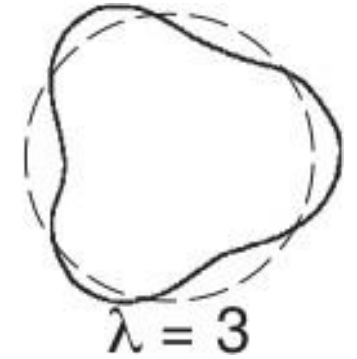
Science & Technology  
Facilities Council



# Octupole deformation

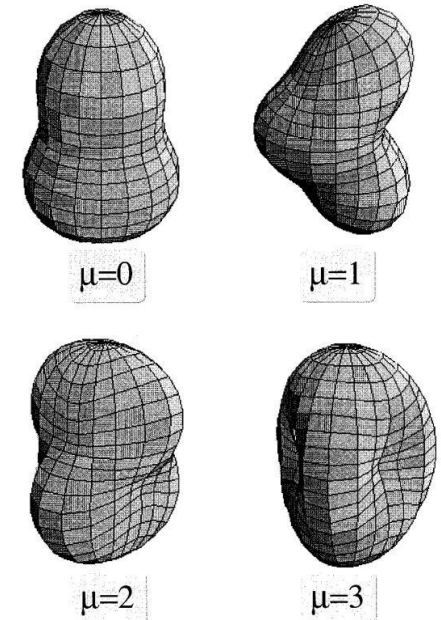
The nuclear shape is described by spherical harmonics multiplied by an expansion coefficient (deformation parameter).

$$R(\theta, \phi) = R_0 \left[ 1 + \sum_{\lambda, \mu} \alpha_{\lambda, \mu} Y_{\lambda}^{\mu} \right]$$

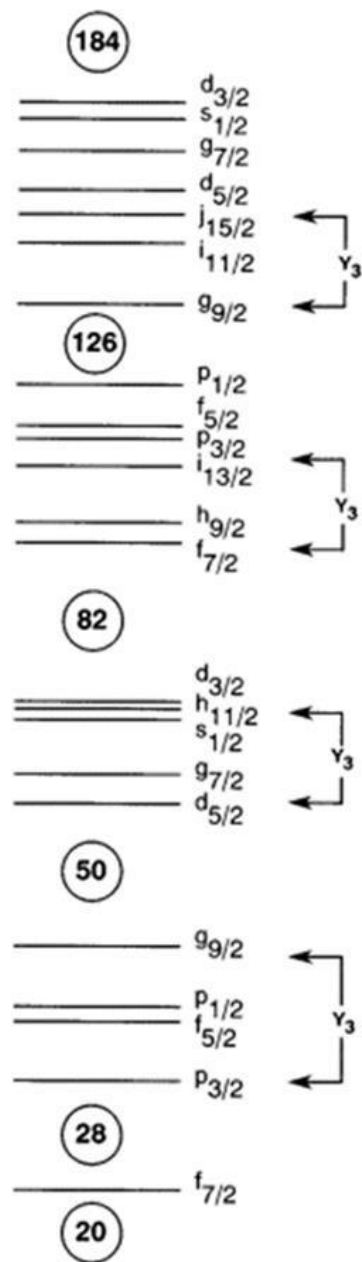


Quadrupole-octupole shapes

$\beta_2=0.6, \beta_{3\mu}=0.35$



# Octupole deformation



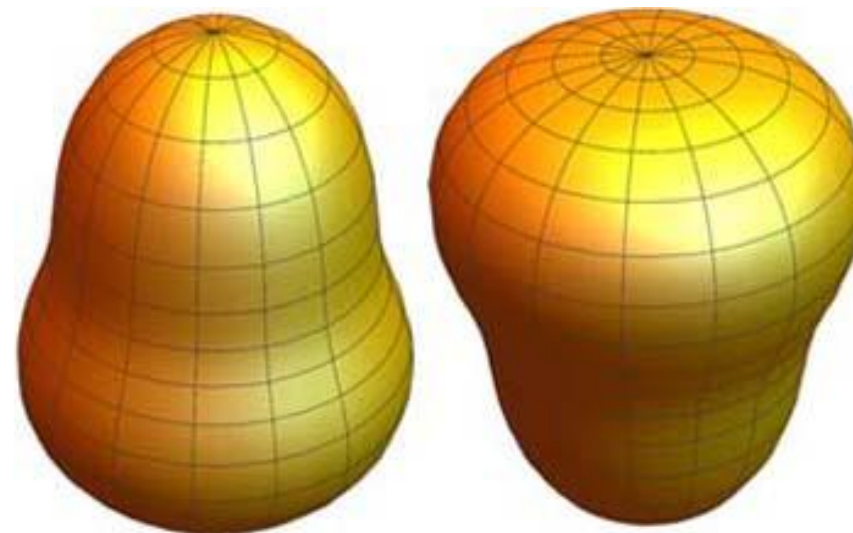
134 (j<sub>15/2</sub>, g<sub>9/2</sub>)

88 (i<sub>13/2</sub>, f<sub>7/2</sub>)

56 (h<sub>11/2</sub>, d<sub>5/2</sub>)

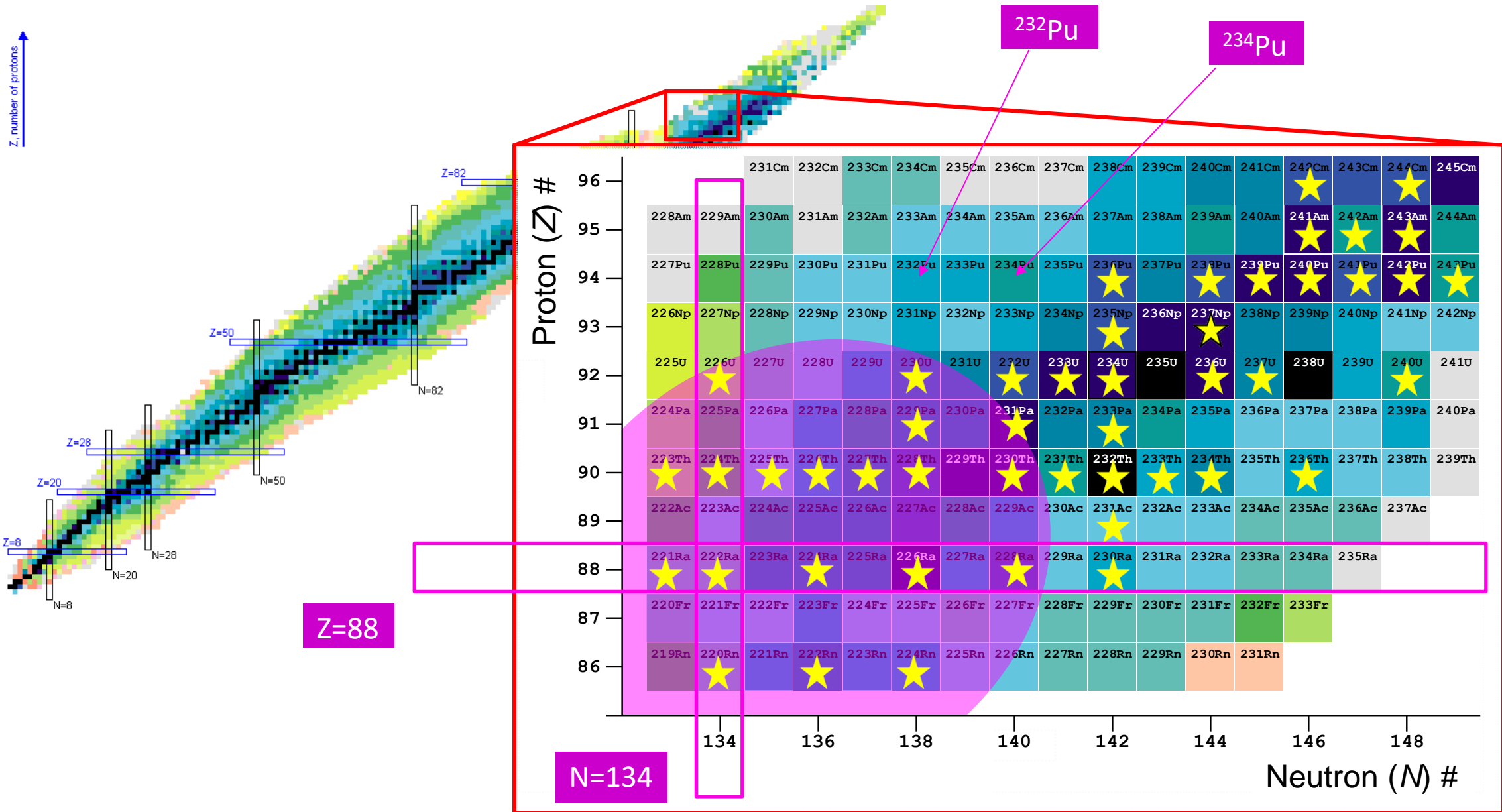
34 (g<sub>9/2</sub>, p<sub>3/2</sub>)

- $\Delta j = \Delta l = 3$
- Reflection-asymmetric nuclei
- Octupole magic numbers: 34, 56, 88, 134



- N=Z=56 close to <sup>112</sup>Ba
- Z=56 N=88 close to <sup>146</sup>Ba
- Z=88 N=134 close to <sup>224</sup>Ra

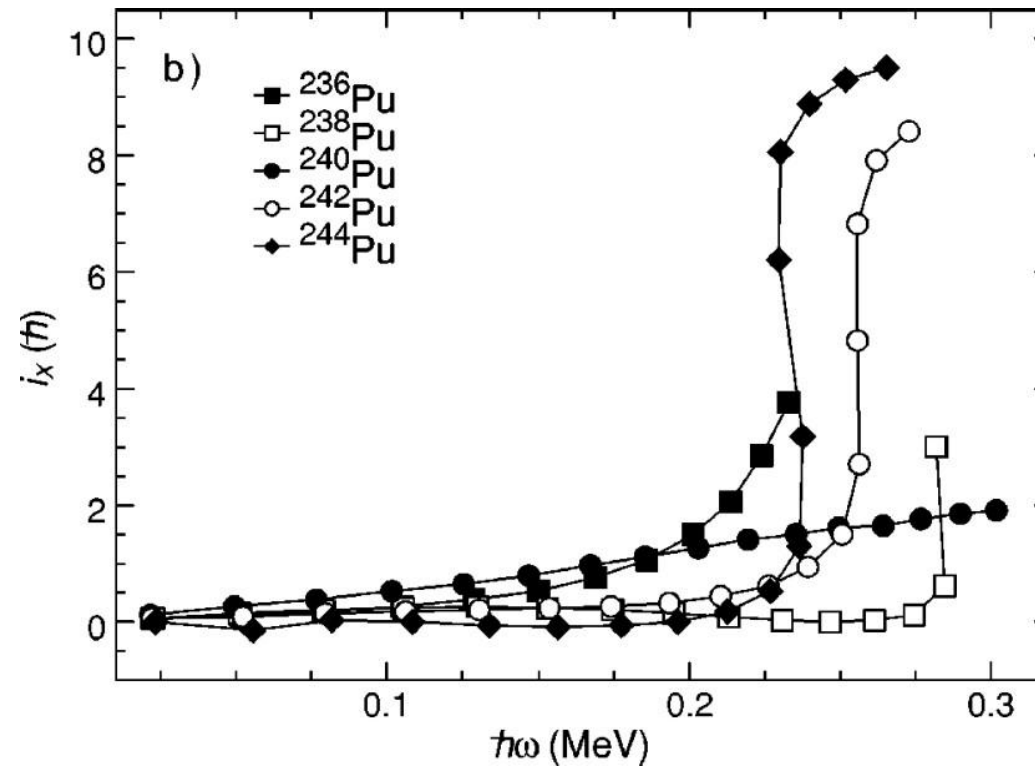
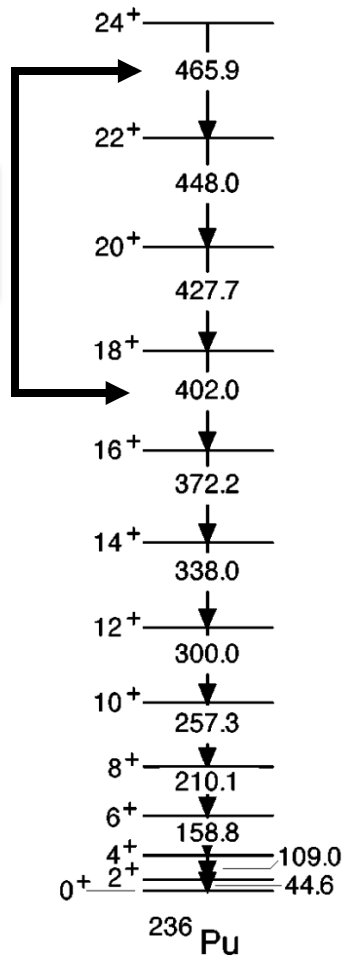
# Regional understanding



# Previous plutonium studies

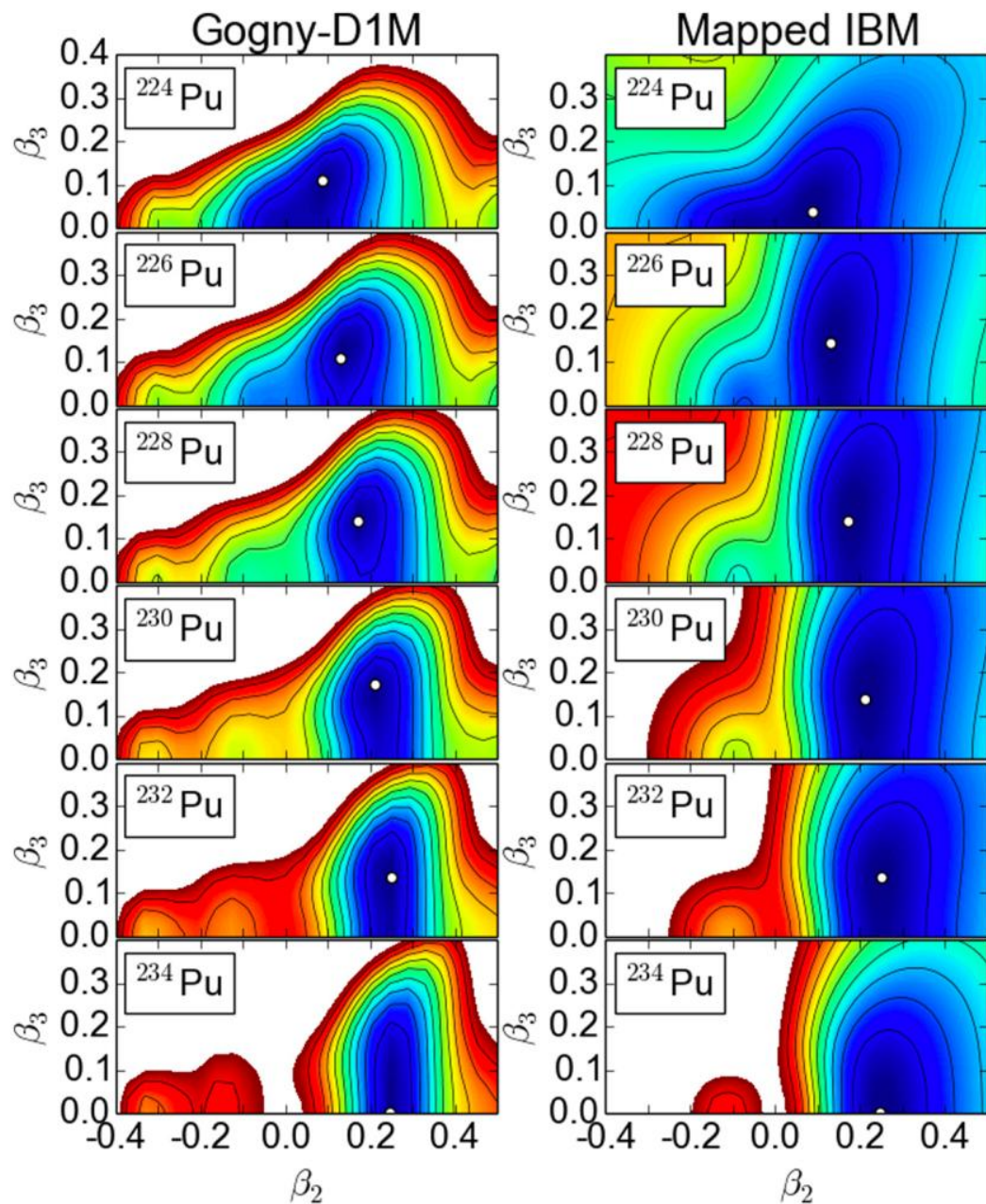
- An experiment by K. Abu Saleem et al. studied the  $^{236}\text{Pu}$  isotope [K. Abu Saleem et al., Phys. Rev. C 70, 024310 (2004)] using the  $^{237}\text{Np}(^{209}\text{Bi}, ^{210}\text{Pb})$  transfer reaction.
- Additional four  $\gamma$ -ray transitions identified in  $^{236}\text{Pu}$  adding to established level scheme.

added  
 $\gamma$  rays



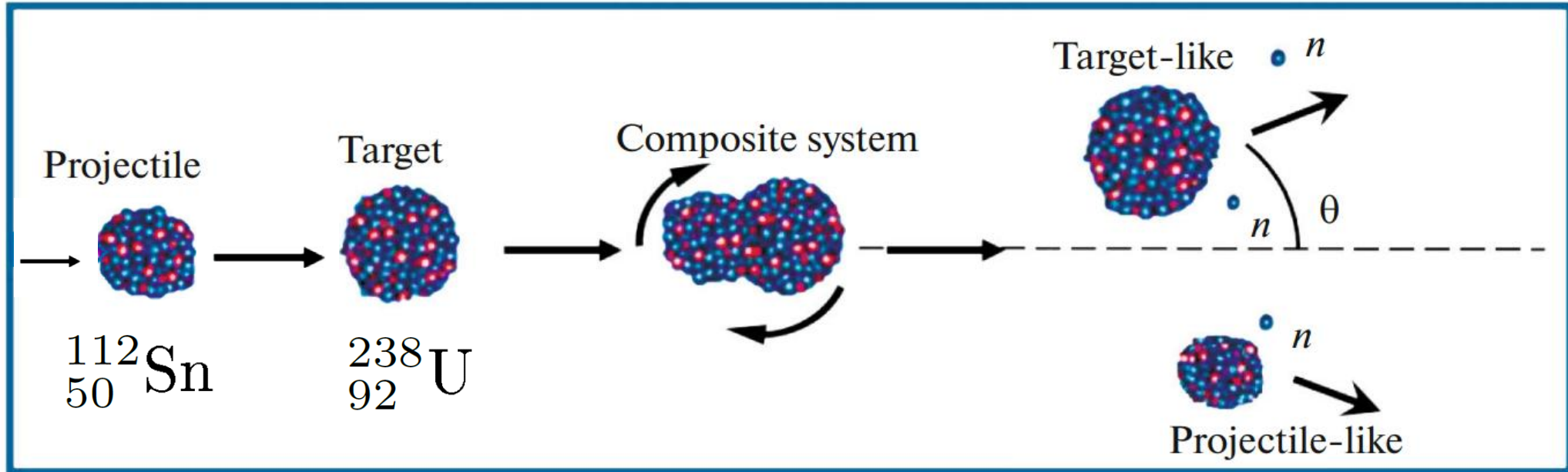
- Alignments show delayed backbending for plutonium isotopes with  $^{236}\text{Pu}$  and  $^{238}\text{Pu}$ .
- Only  $^{238-240}\text{Pu}$  show interleaving alternating parity states indicating stronger octupole effects.

# Theoretical predictions



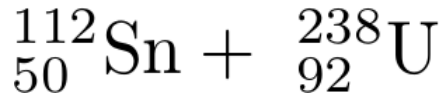
- Potential-energy surfaces measured by Nomura *et al.*
- $^{234}\text{Pu}$  has  $\beta_3 \approx 0$ .
- $^{232}\text{Pu}$  has  $\beta_3 \approx 0.22$ .

# Multi-nucleon transfer reactions

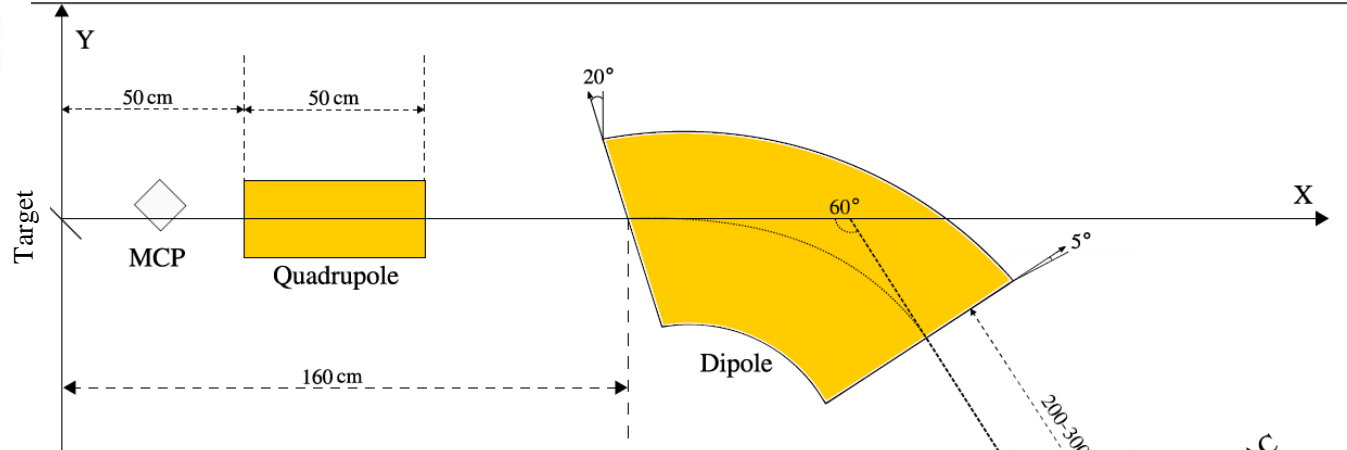


- Able to probe exotic nuclei past the current experimental limit when using fusion, fragmentation and other methods.
- Combination of MNT reactions with AGATA-PRISMA detector setup allows improved efficiency and selectivity.

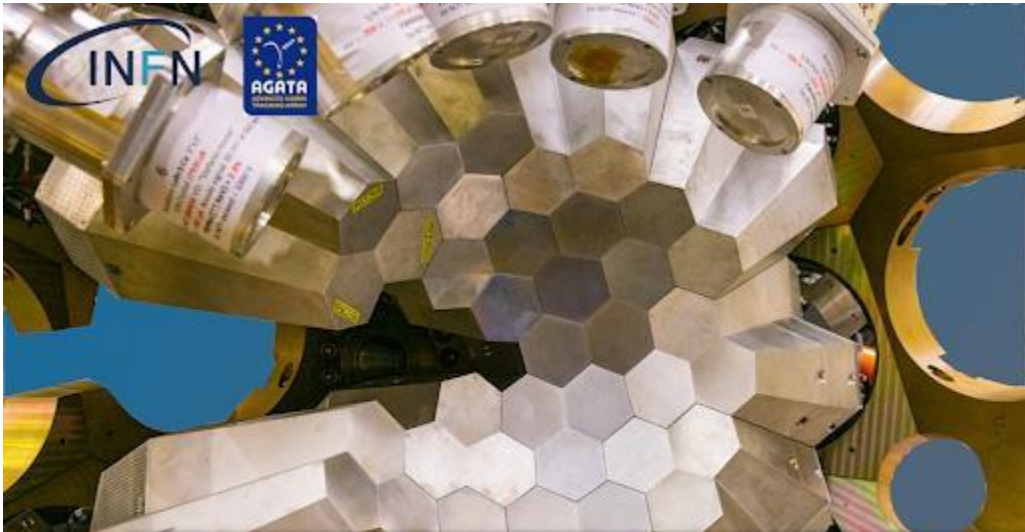
# Experimental details



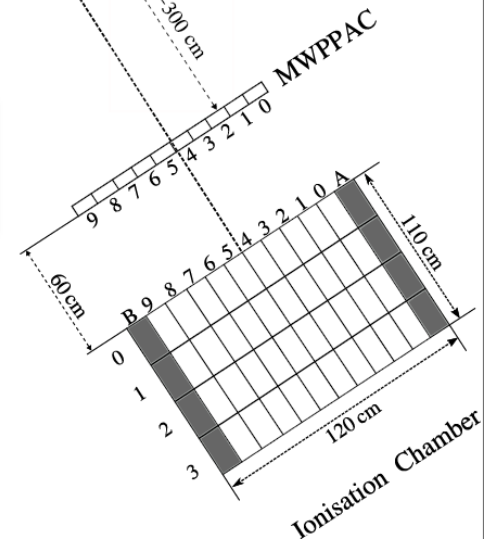
808 MeV



PRISMA Large Solid Angle Magnetic Spectrometer

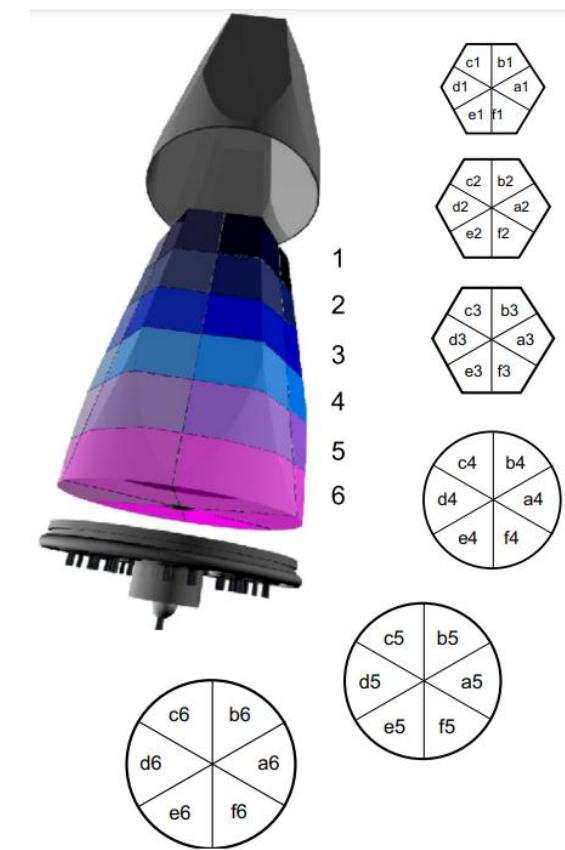


AGATA  
(Advanced GAMMA Tracking Array)





# AGATA- Advanced Gamma-ray Tracking Array



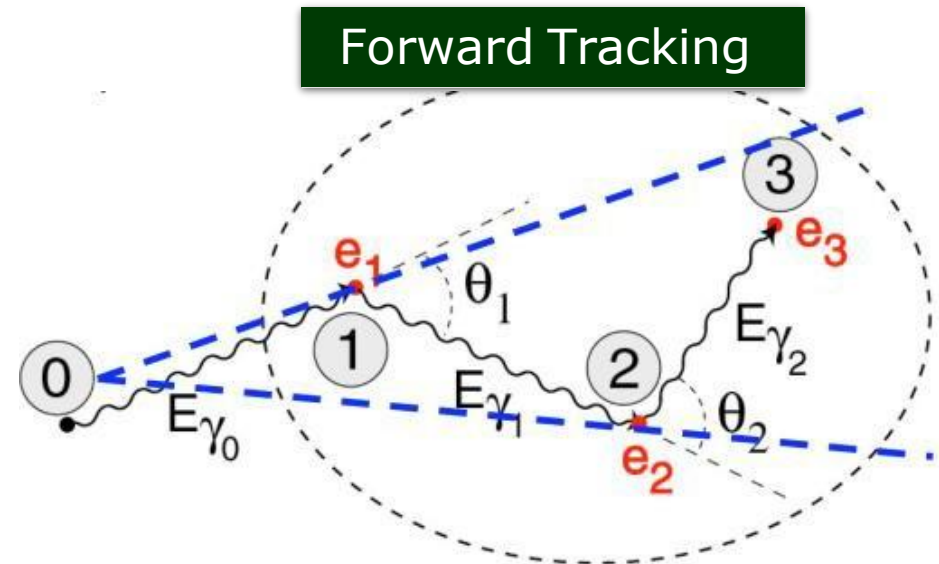
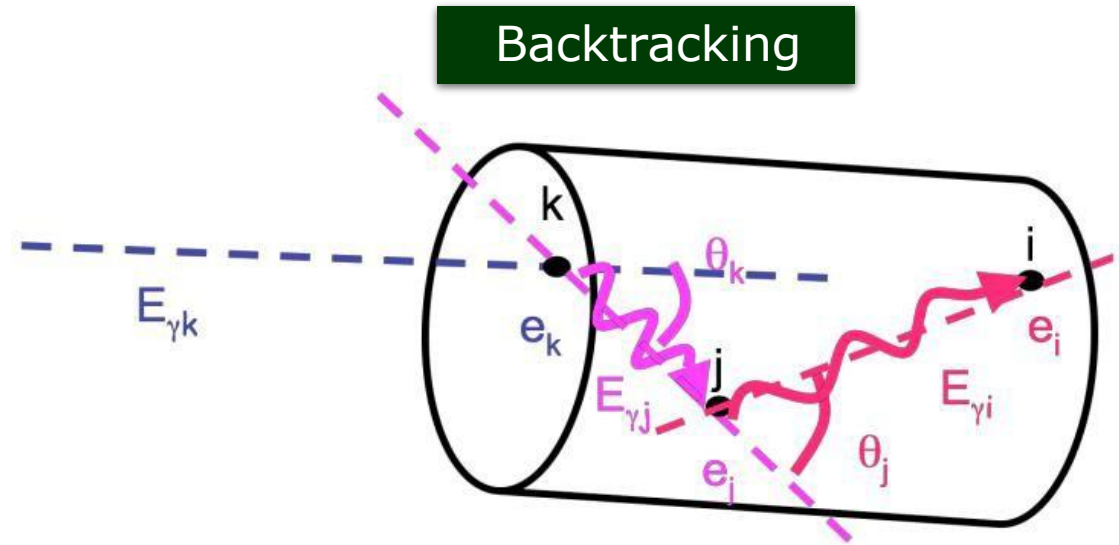
- New generation of gamma-ray spectrometers.
- Employs the novel technique of gamma-ray tracking to reconstruct events.
- 13 triple clusters.
- 36-fold segmentation.

# AGATA - Gamma-ray tracking

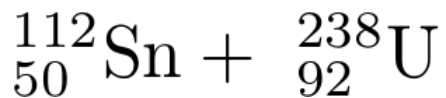
- Segmented germanium crystals allows reconstruction of gamma-ray energy.
- Two algorithms are employed to determine correct interaction sequence.
  - Negates the requirement for Compton suppression and improves the overall detection efficiency of the apparatus.

	Photopeak efficiency (%)	Peak/Total
Forward-tracking	53.6 (35.8)	75.2 (56.8)
Backtracking	36.7 (23.4)	67.4 (46.9)

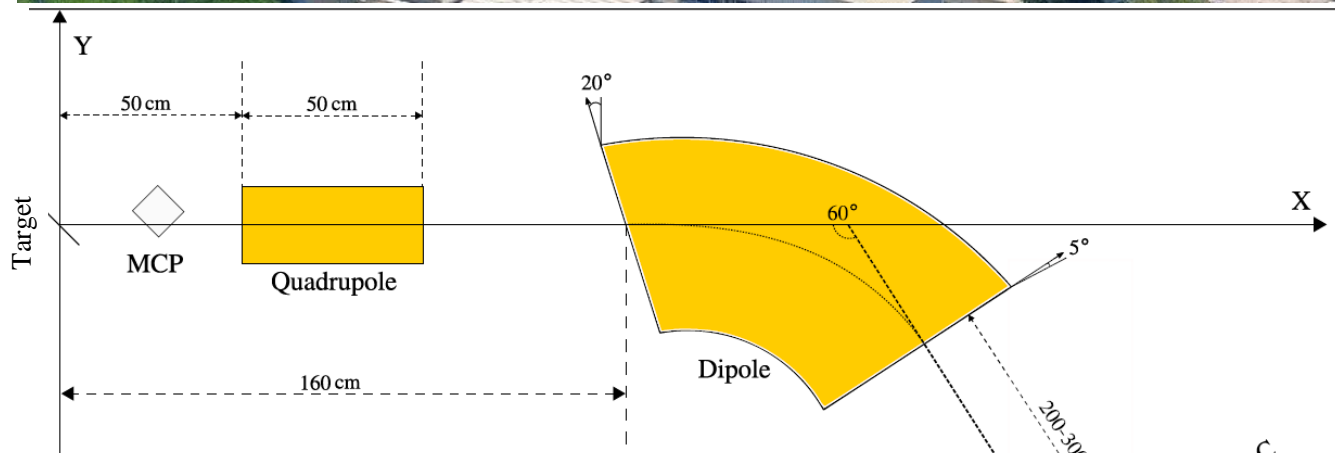
- Multiplicity 1
- Multiplicity 30



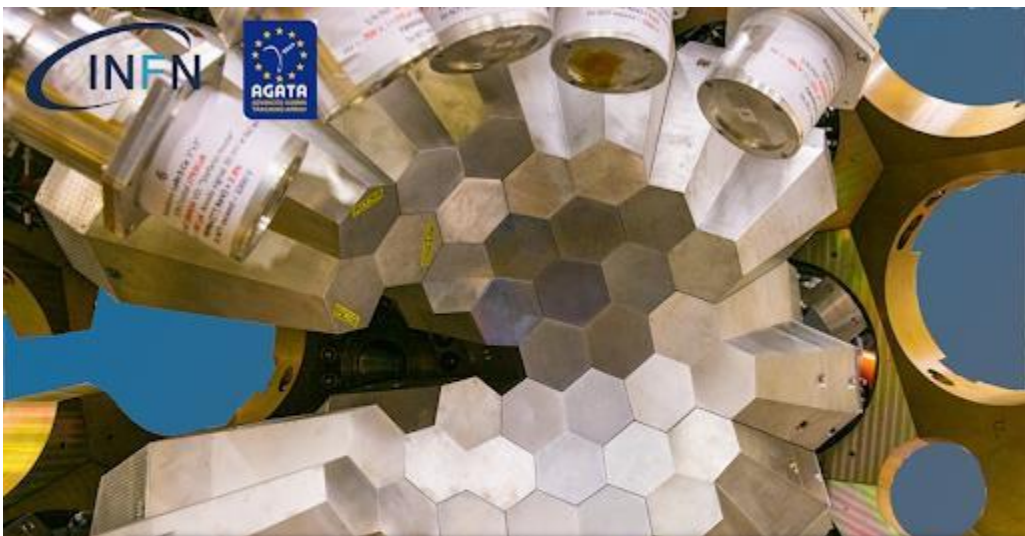
# Experimental details



808 MeV

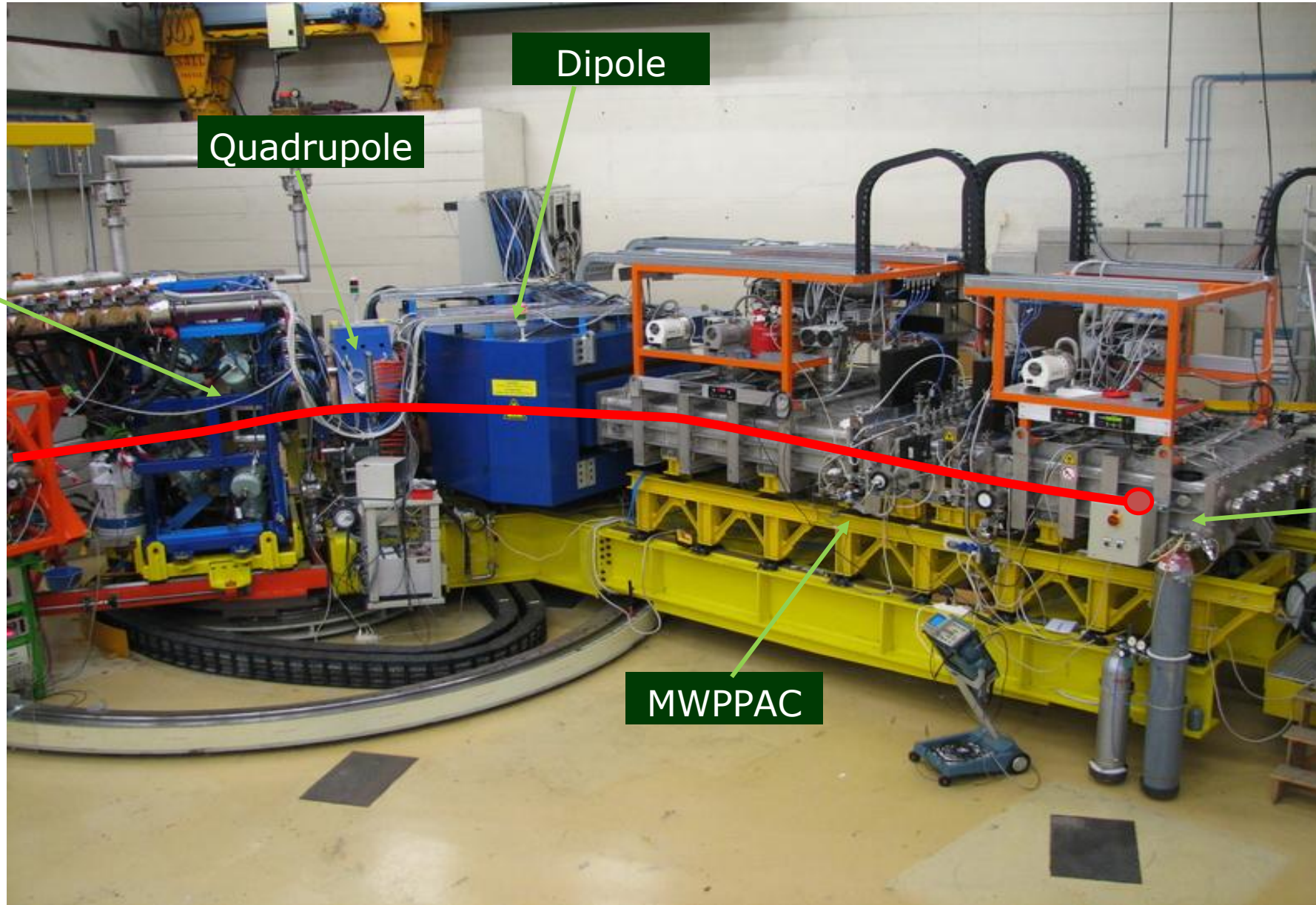


PRISMA Large Solid Angle Magnetic Spectrometer



AGATA  
(Advanced GAMMA Tracking Array)

# PRISMA Magnetic Spectrometer



MCP

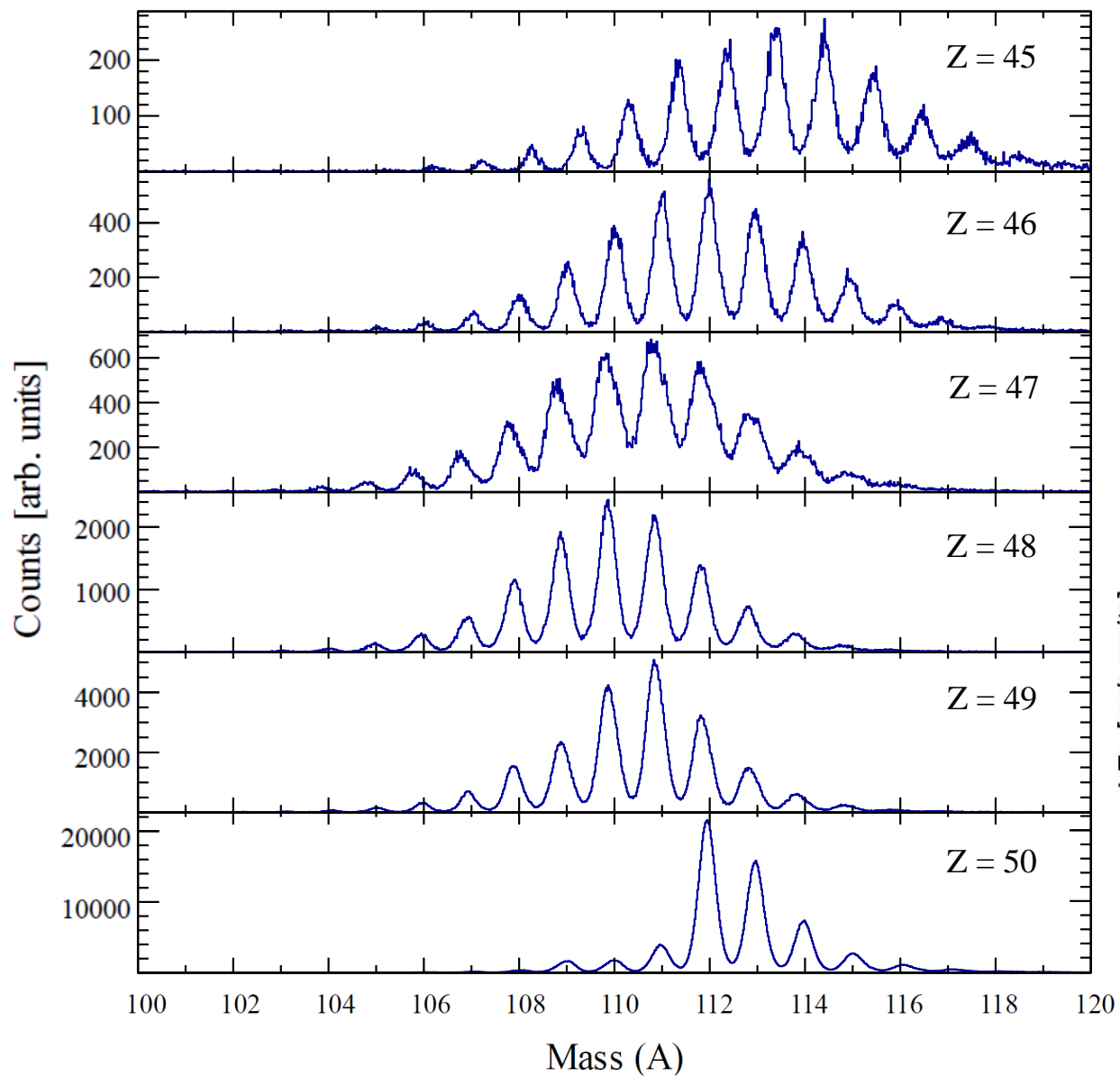
Quadrupole

Dipole

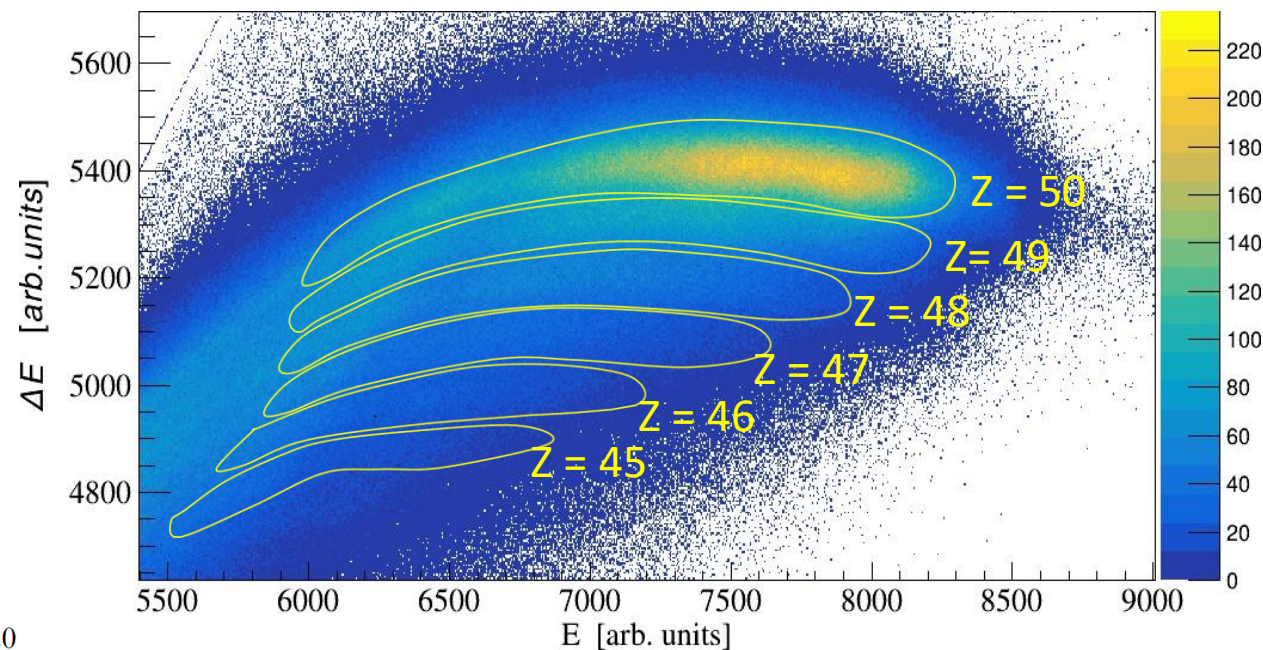
MWPPAC

Ionisation Chamber

# PRISMA - Analysis

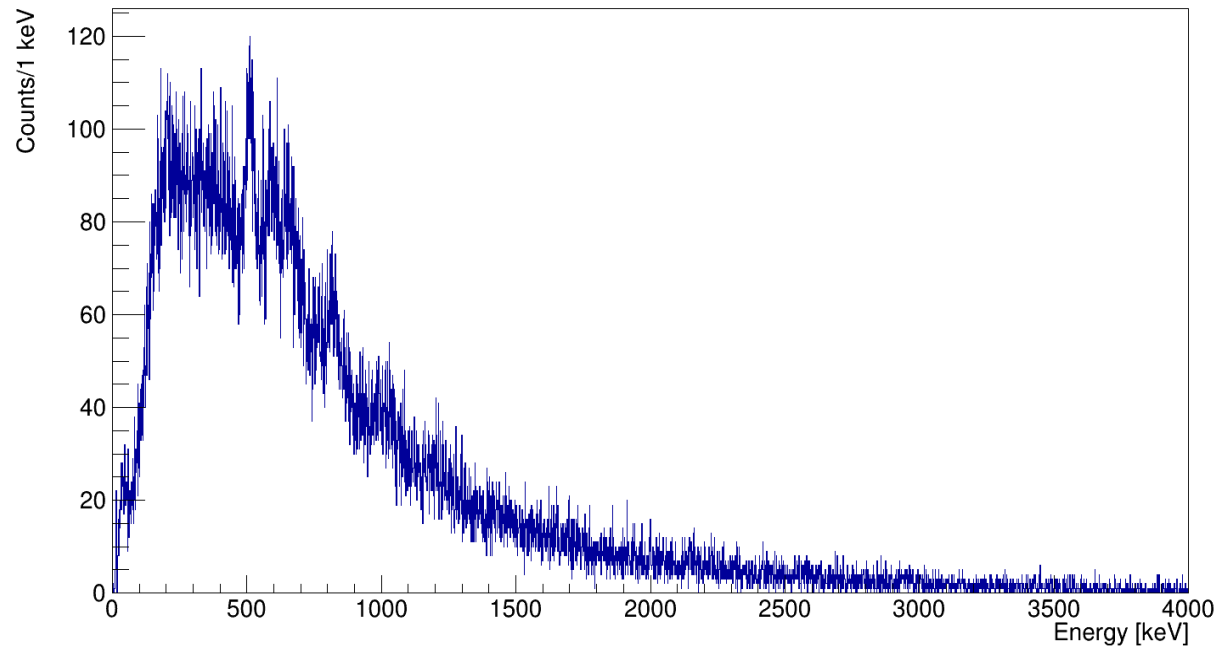


1. Z identification
2.  $q$  selection
3. Trajectory reconstruction
4. Aberrational corrections
4.  $A/q$  calibration
5. Mass calibration

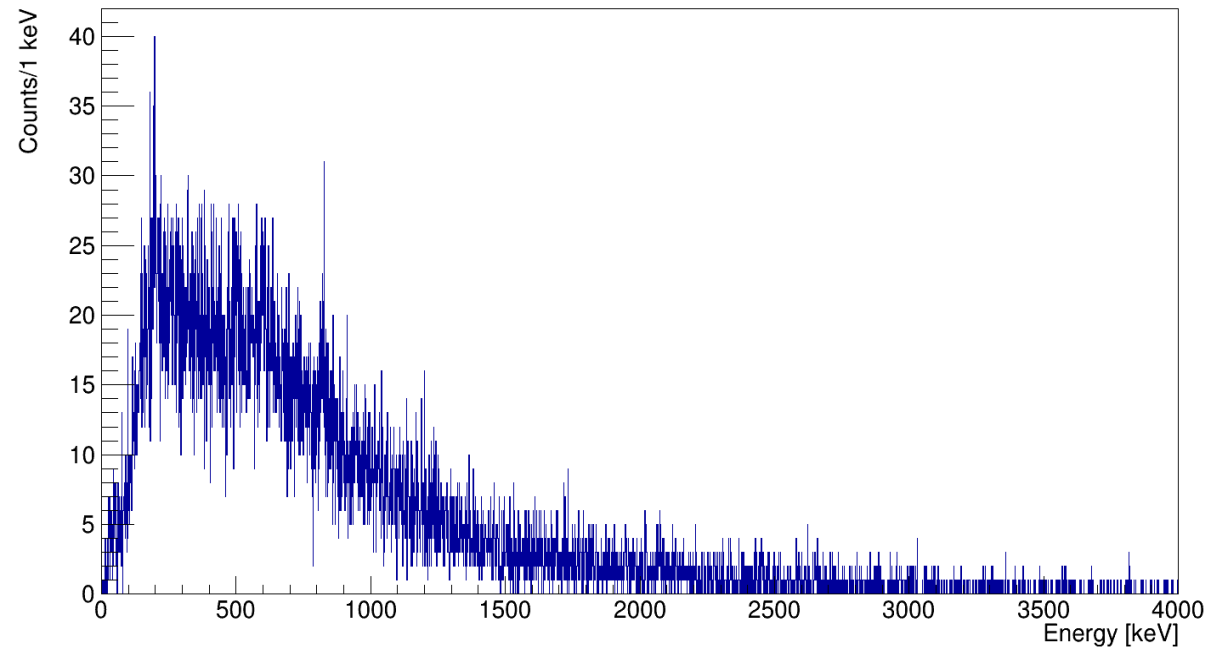


# Analysis results – AGATA PRISMA coincidences

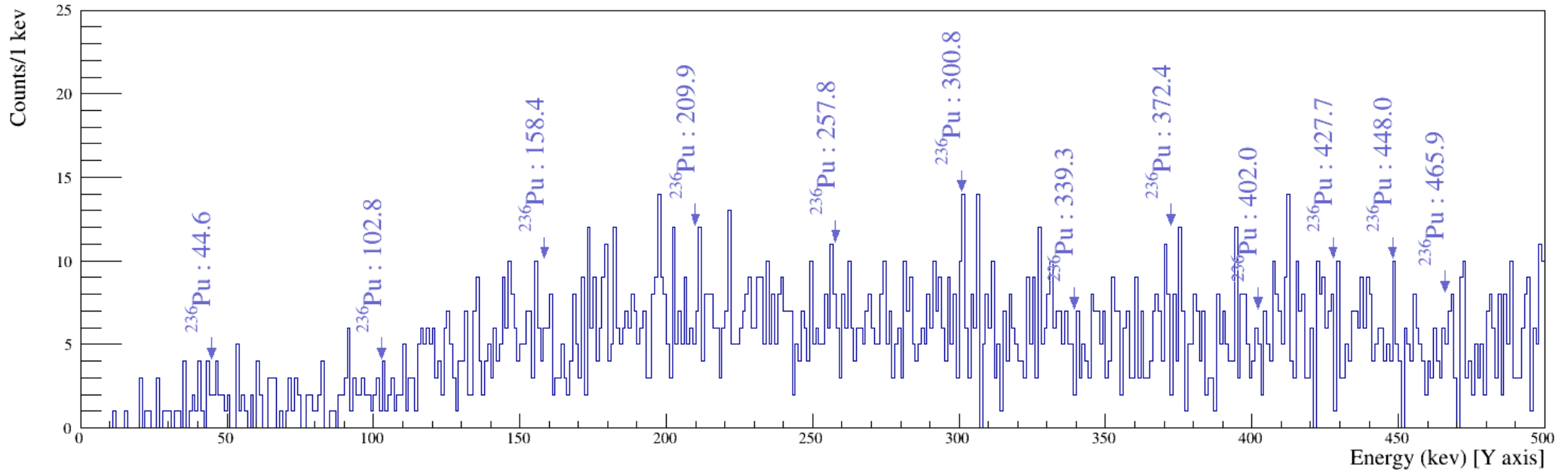
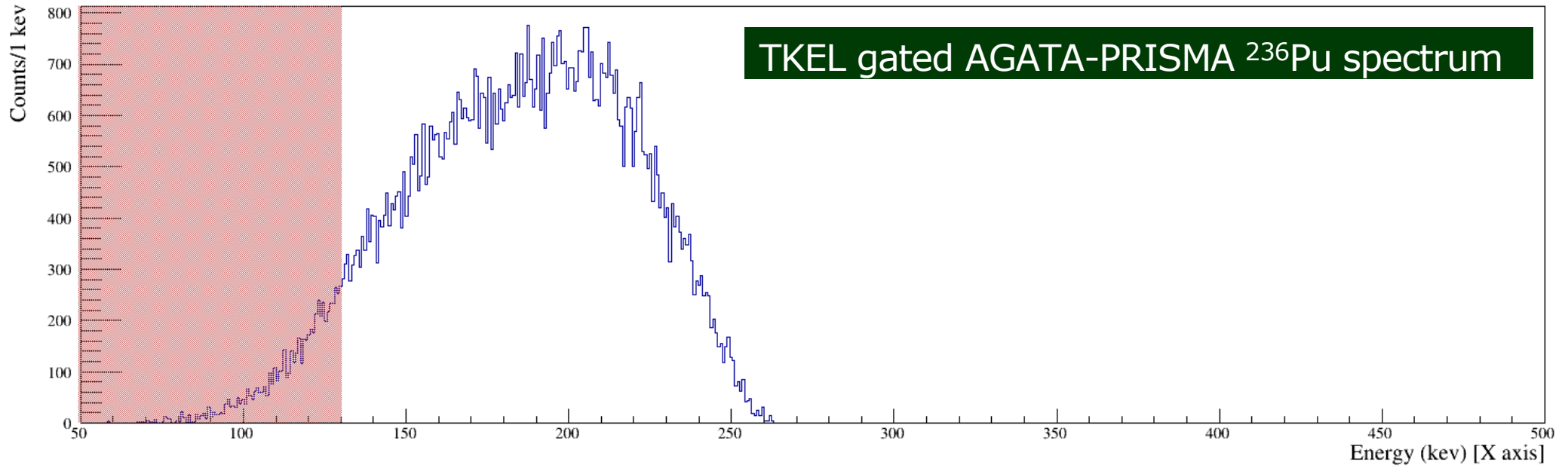
$^{236}\text{Pu}$  Doppler corrected AGATA-PRISMA spectrum



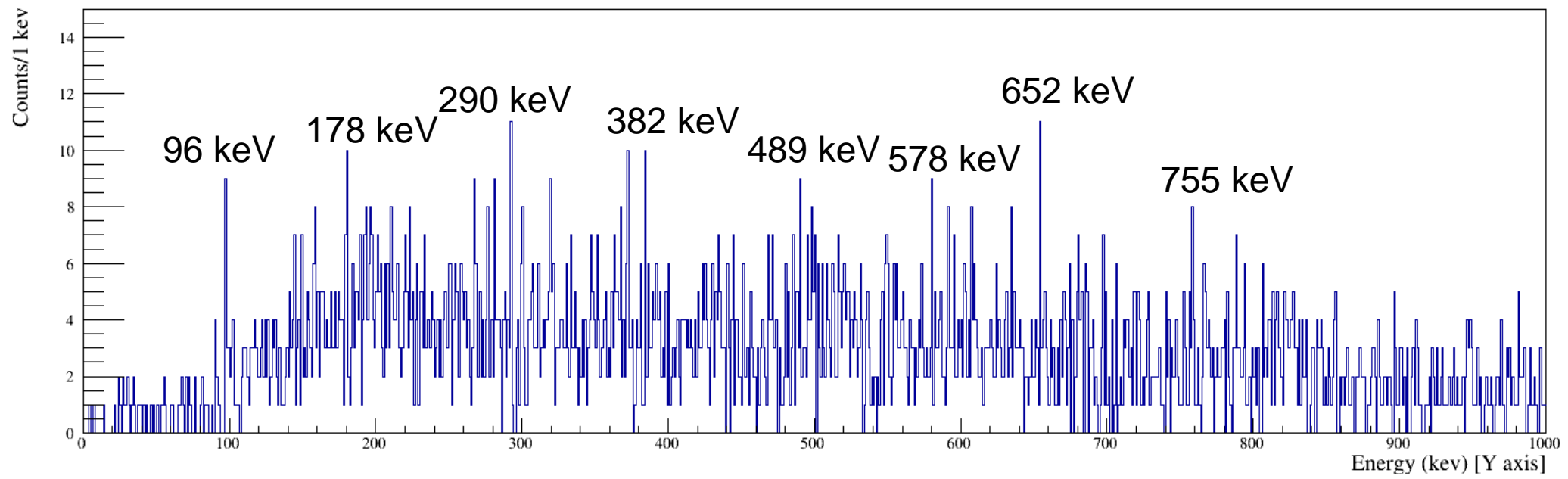
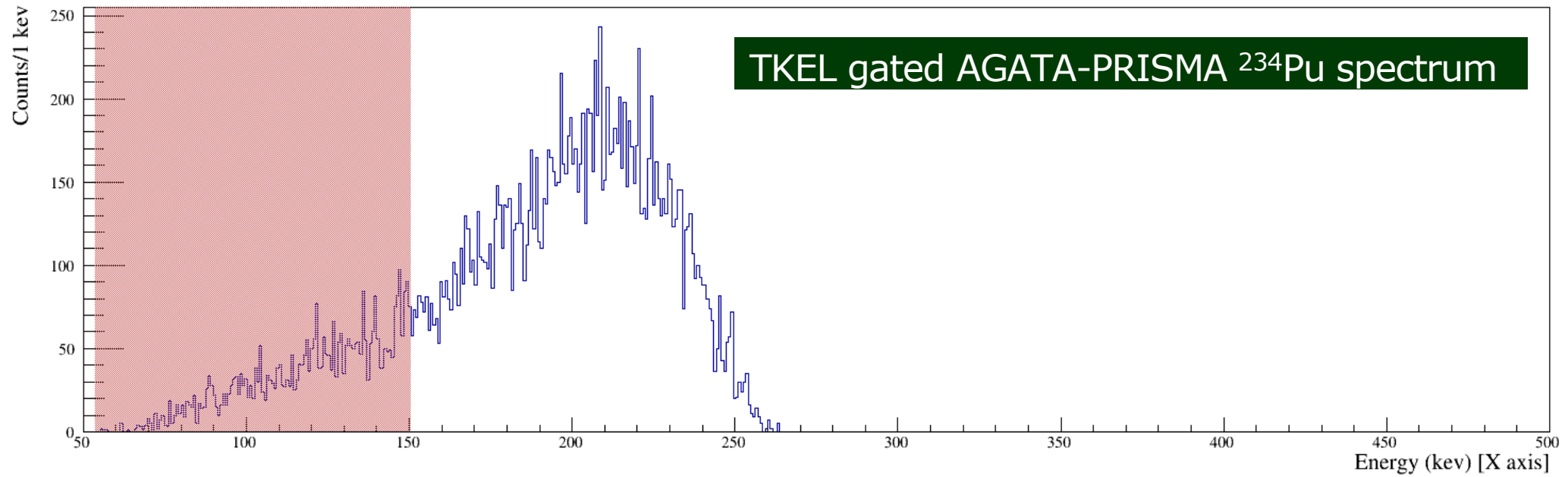
$^{234}\text{Pu}$  Doppler corrected AGATA-PRISMA spectrum



# Analysis results – AGATA PRISMA coincidences

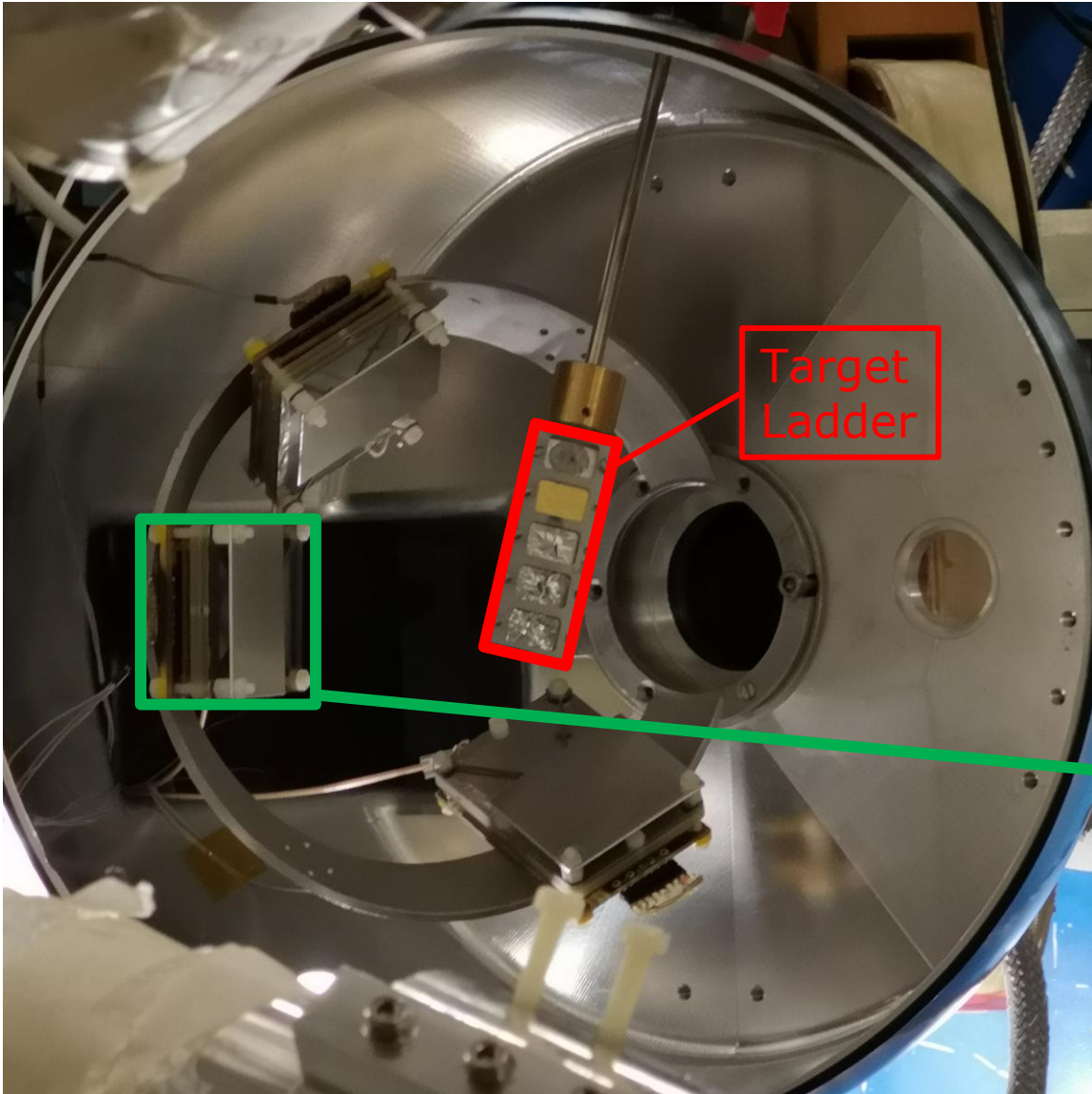


# Analysis results – AGATA PRISMA coincidences





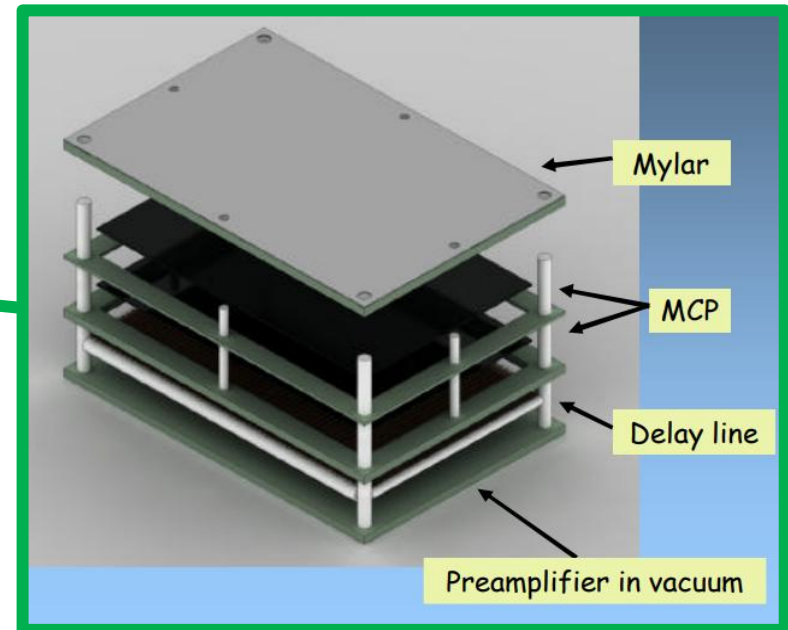
# DANTE array



DANTE consisted of 3 detectors around the target position

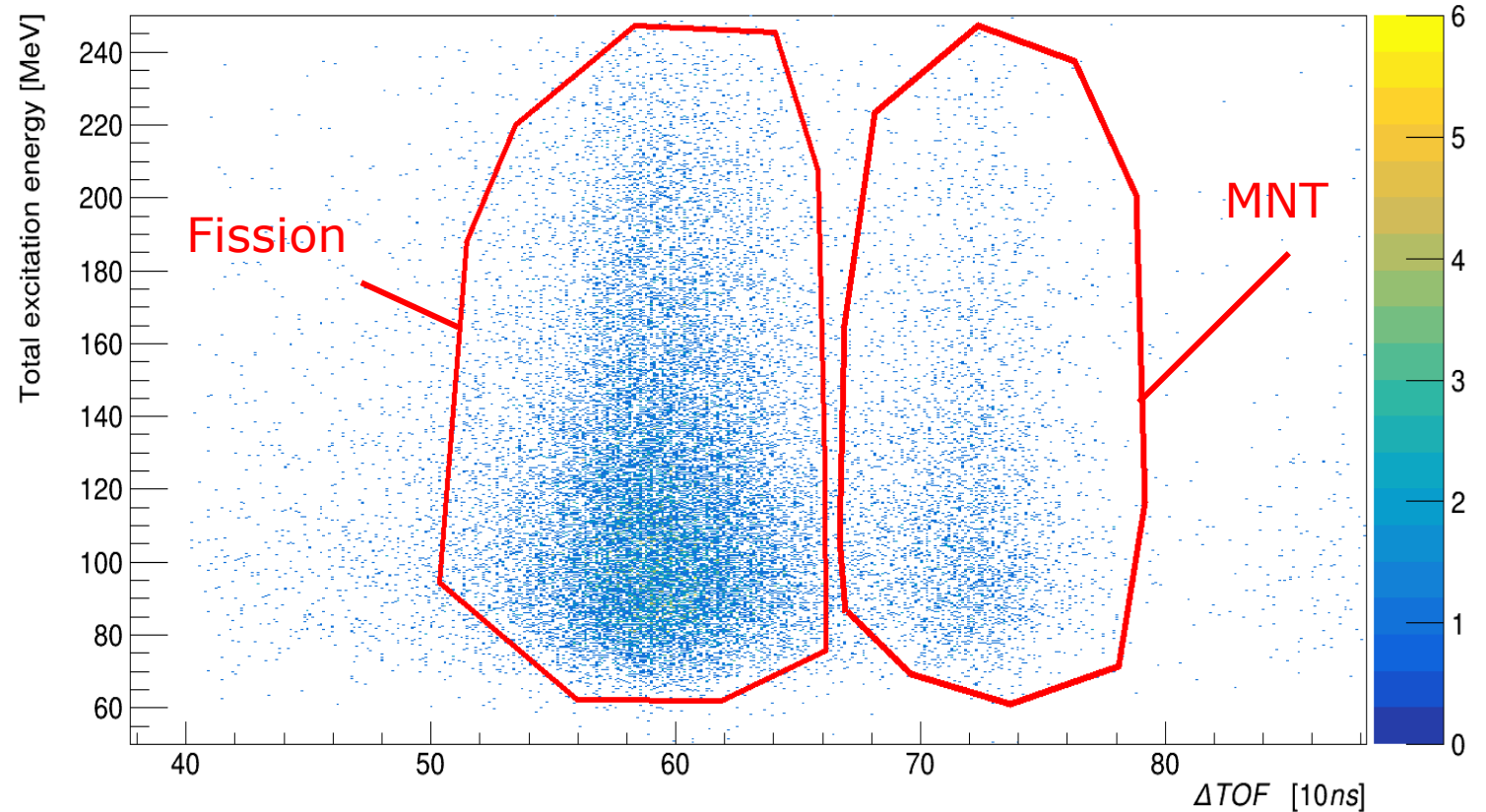
Grazing angle of  $56^\circ$

DANTE detector opposite PRISMA used for TOF measurements.



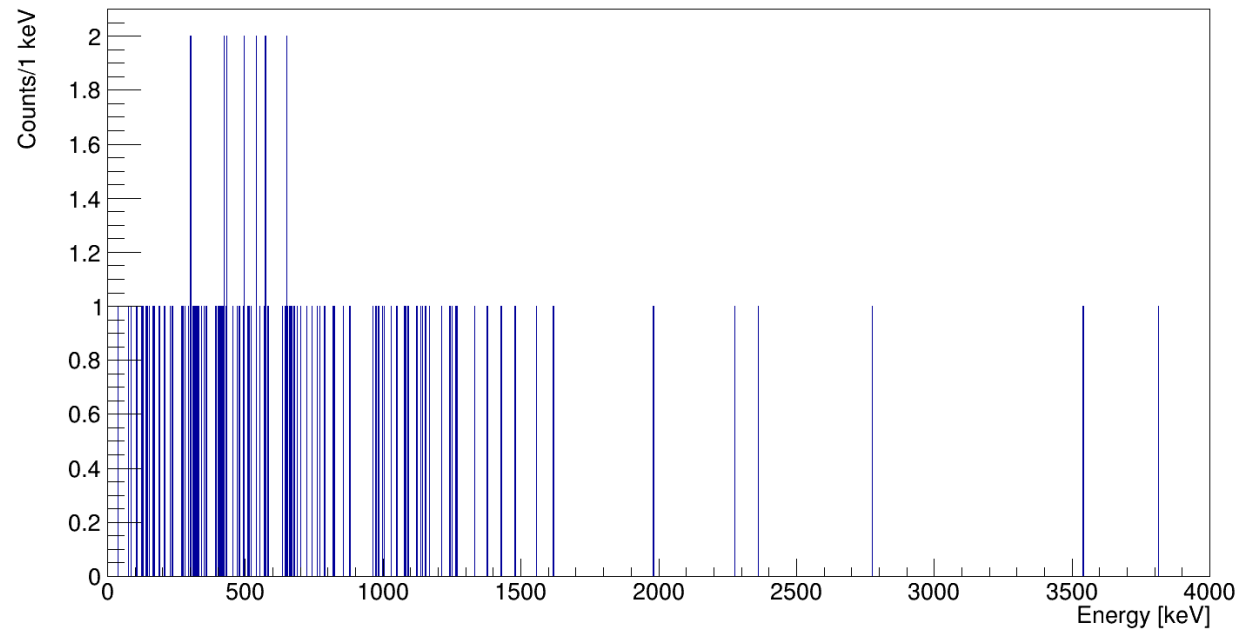
# DANTE Analysis

1. Time alignment of DANTE with AGATA and PRISMA
2. Calibration of DANTE position (matrix)
3. Gate on TKEL -  $\Delta$ TOF distribution
4. Observe AGATA-PRISMA-DANTE gated gammas.

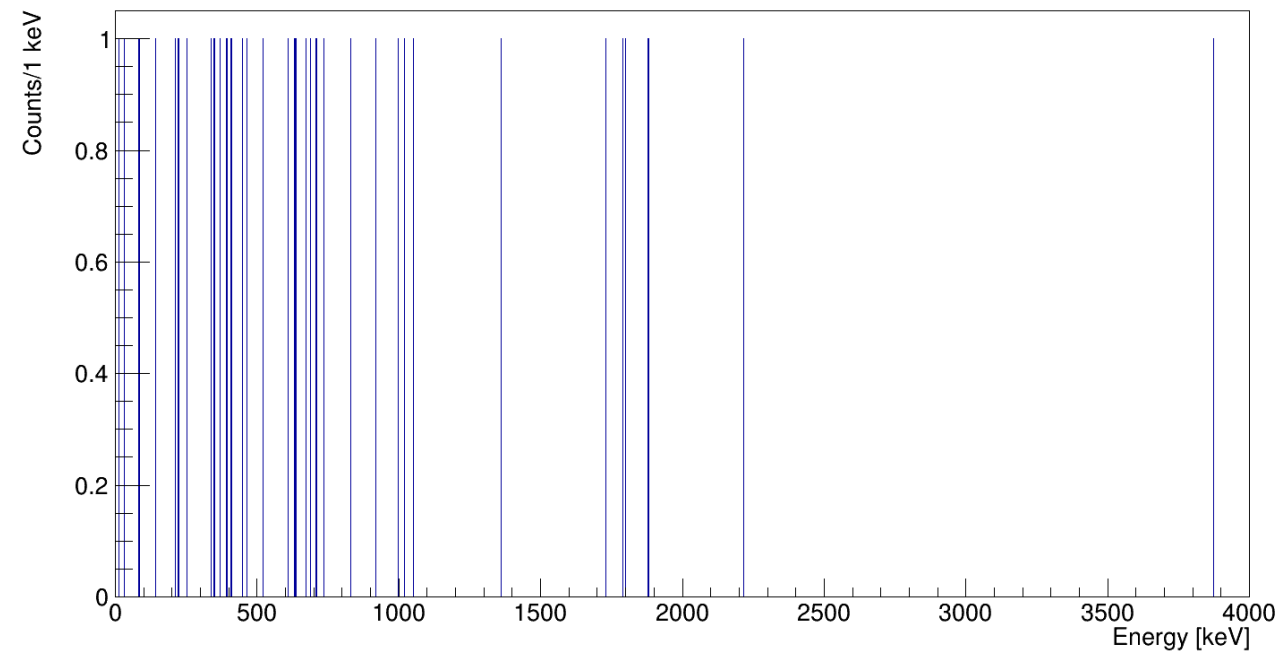


# Analysis results – AGATA PRISMA DANTE coincidences

Doppler corrected  $^{236}\text{Pu}$  gammas  
gated on TKEL -  $\Delta\text{TOF}$



Doppler corrected  $^{234}\text{Pu}$  gammas  
gated on TKEL -  $\Delta\text{TOF}$



# Next Steps

## Conclusions:

- AGATA and PRISMA Analysis has been completed.
- Preliminary AGATA-PRISMA-DANTE results
- TKEL gating shows another method of selectivity.

## Next steps:

- Confirm DANTE statistics are as shown.
- Conduct TKEL gating in more detail on Pu nuclei.
- Look at projectile-like reaction products In, Ag, Pd for new transitions.

# Summary

## With thanks to all collaborators:

H. Ayatollahzadeh <sup>1,2</sup>, J. M. Keatings <sup>1,2</sup>, J. F. Smith <sup>1,2</sup>, D. Mengoni <sup>3</sup>, P. Aguilera <sup>3,4</sup>, G. Andreetta <sup>3,5</sup>, F. Angelini <sup>3,4</sup>, M. Balogh <sup>4</sup>, J. Benito <sup>3,4</sup>, M. A. Bentley <sup>6</sup>, A. J. Boston <sup>7</sup>, H. C. Boston <sup>7</sup>, S. Bottoni <sup>8,9</sup>, M. Bowry <sup>1,2</sup>, P. A. Butler <sup>7</sup>, D. Brugnara <sup>4</sup>, S. Carollo <sup>3</sup>, G. Corbari <sup>8</sup>, L. Corradi <sup>4</sup>, R. Escudeiro <sup>5</sup>, P. T. Greenlees <sup>10</sup>, R. Chapman <sup>1,2</sup>, D. M. Cullen <sup>1,2</sup>, G. de Angelis <sup>4</sup>, A. Ertoprak <sup>4</sup>, C. Everett <sup>7</sup>, L. P. Gaffney <sup>7</sup>, F. Galtarossa <sup>5</sup>, A. Goasduff <sup>4</sup>, B. Góngora Servín <sup>4,11</sup>, A. Gottardo <sup>4</sup>, A. Gozzelino <sup>4</sup>, J. Hackett <sup>7</sup>, S. D. Hart <sup>12</sup>, F. Holloway <sup>7</sup>, P. M. Jones <sup>12</sup>, S. Jongile <sup>12</sup>, D. Judson <sup>7</sup>, M. Labiche <sup>13</sup>, M. S. R. Laskar <sup>9</sup>, K. L. Malatji <sup>12</sup>, A. McCarter <sup>7</sup>, G. Montagnoli <sup>3</sup>, N. Marchini <sup>14</sup>, B. S. Nara Singh <sup>1,2</sup>, D. R. Napoli <sup>4</sup>, R. Nicolás del Álamo <sup>3,5</sup>, D. O'Donnell <sup>1,2</sup>, J. Pellumaj <sup>4</sup>, R. Pérez <sup>4</sup>, S. Pigliapoco <sup>3</sup>, E. Pilotto <sup>5</sup>, M. Poletti <sup>3</sup>, F. Recchia <sup>3</sup>, K. Rezykina <sup>4</sup>, E. Rintoul <sup>7</sup>, M. Rocchini <sup>14</sup>, M. Sedlak <sup>4</sup>, M. Siciliano <sup>15</sup>, A. Stefanini <sup>4</sup>, D. Stramaccioni <sup>3,4</sup>, C. Sullivan <sup>7</sup>, J. J. Valliente-Dobon <sup>4</sup>, F. van Niekerk <sup>12</sup>, L. Zago <sup>3,4</sup>, and I. Zanon <sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup>Dipartimento di Fisica e Scienze della Terra, Università di Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy

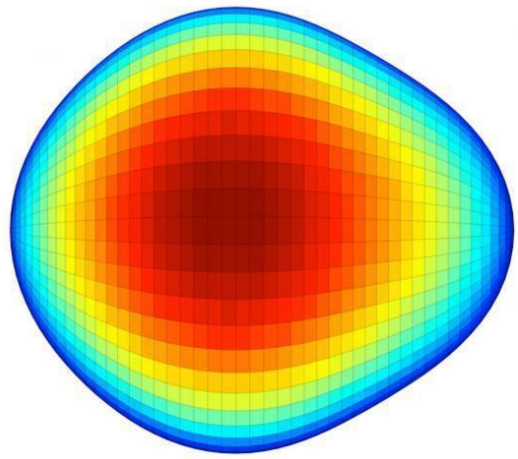
<sup>12</sup>iThemba LABS, National Research Foundation, PO Box 722, Somerset West 7129, South Africa

<sup>13</sup>STFC Daresbury Laboratory, Daresbury, Warrington WA44AD, United Kingdom

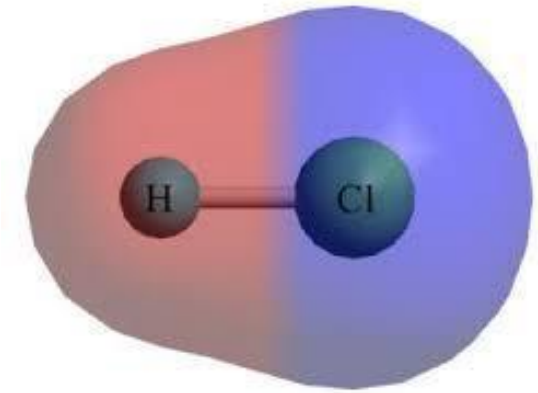
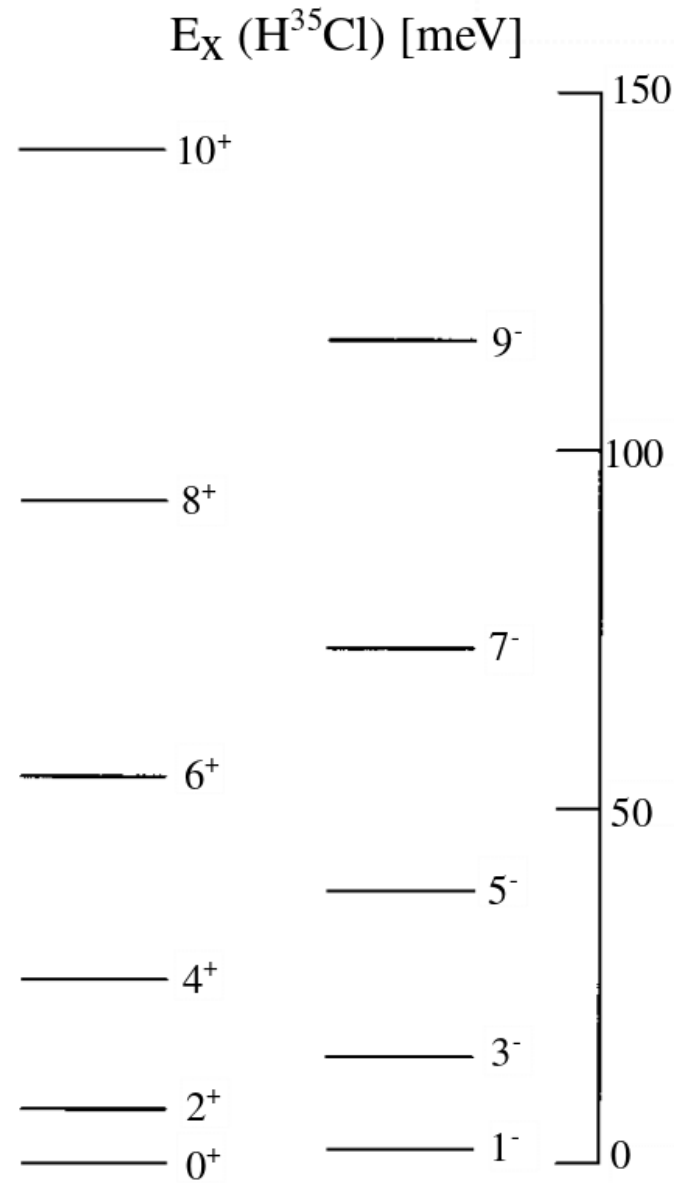
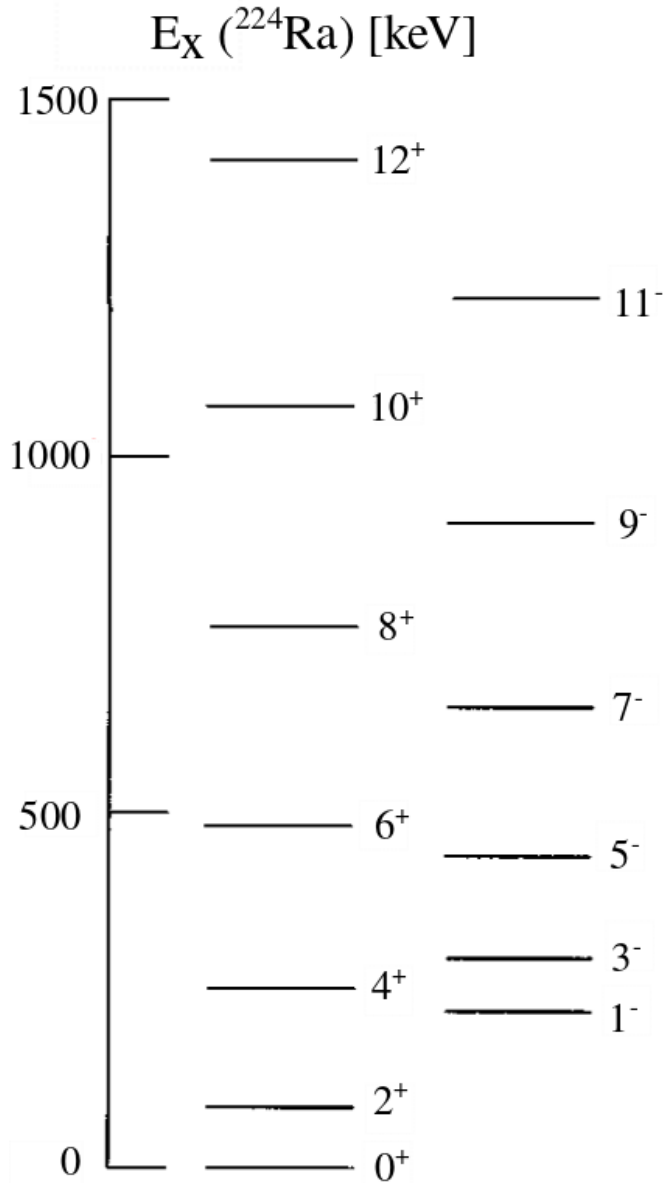
<sup>14</sup>INFN Sezione di Firenze, IT-50019 Firenze, Italy

<sup>15</sup>Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, USA

# Spectroscopic features of octupole deformation



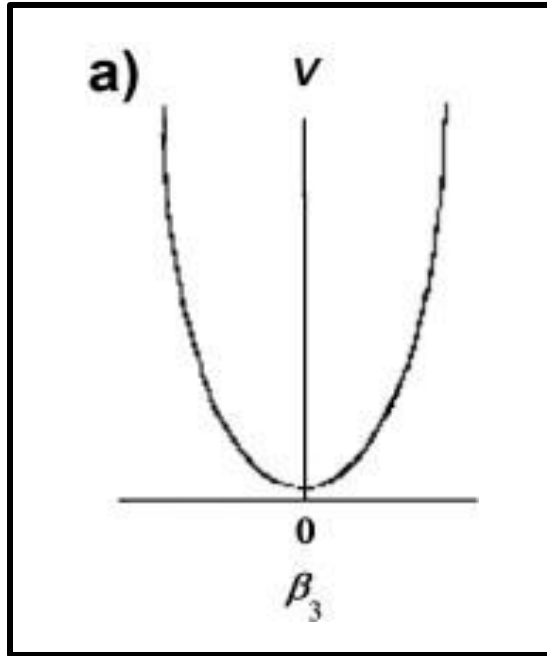
**$^{224}\text{Ra}$**



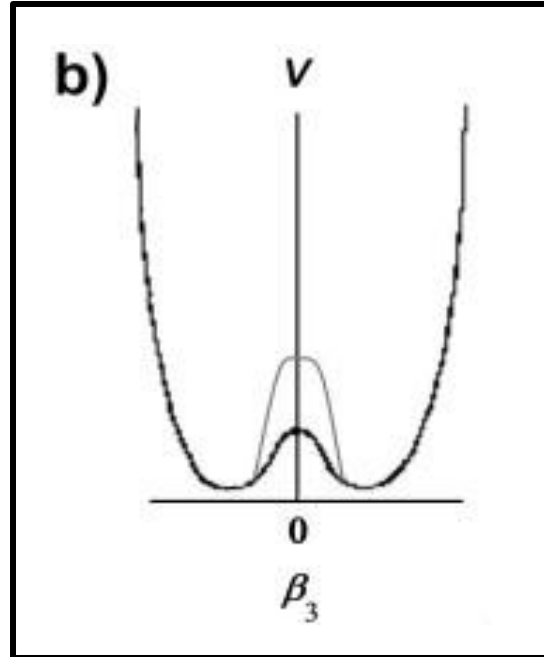
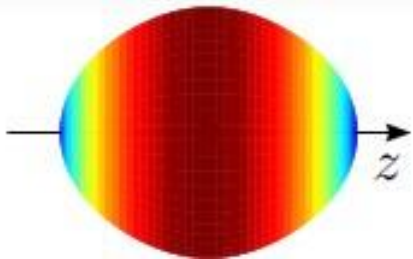
**HCl**

# Spectroscopic features of octupole deformation

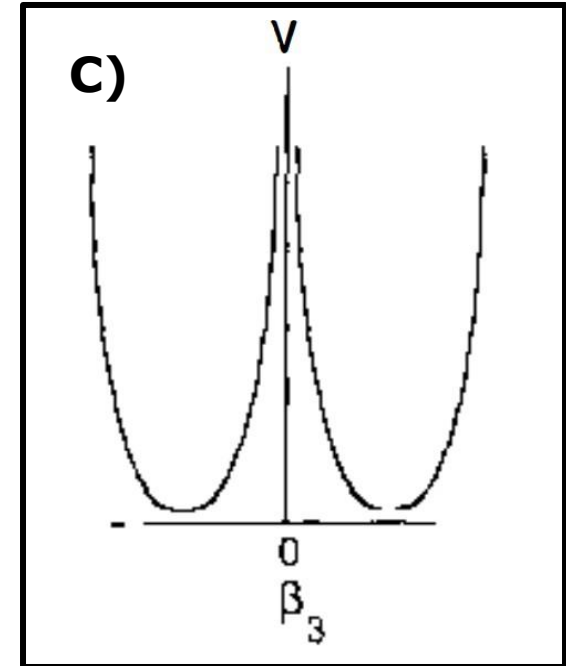
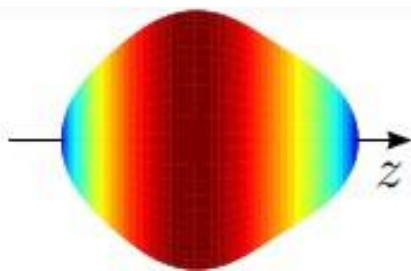
Angular momentum increasing



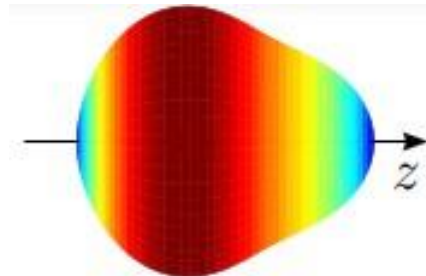
Octupole vibrational



Octupole deformed (static)



Octupole deformed (rigid)

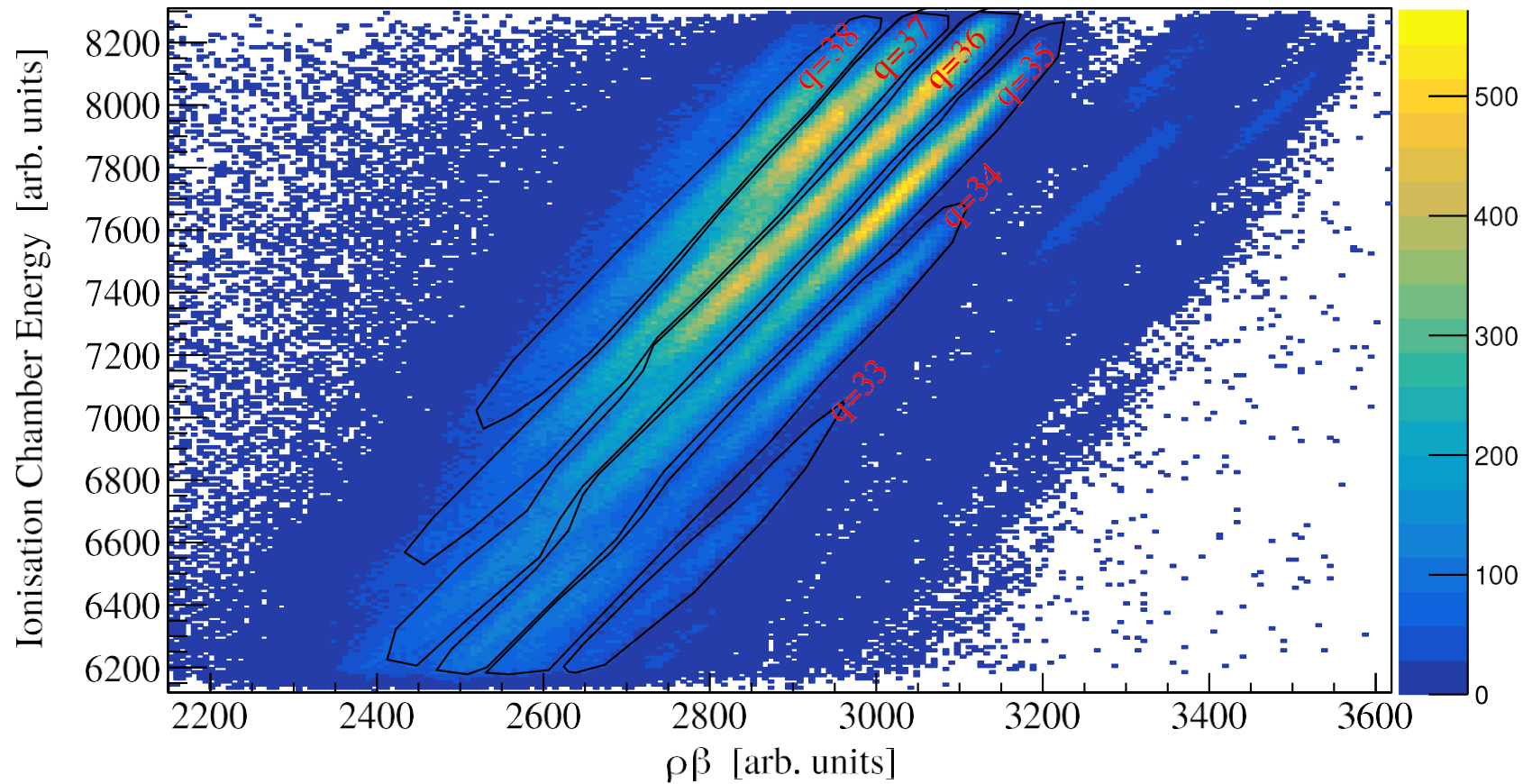


# PRISMA - q selection

$$B\rho = \frac{p}{q}$$

$$p = mv, \quad E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2, \quad v = \beta c$$

$$E_k \propto q \cdot \rho\beta$$

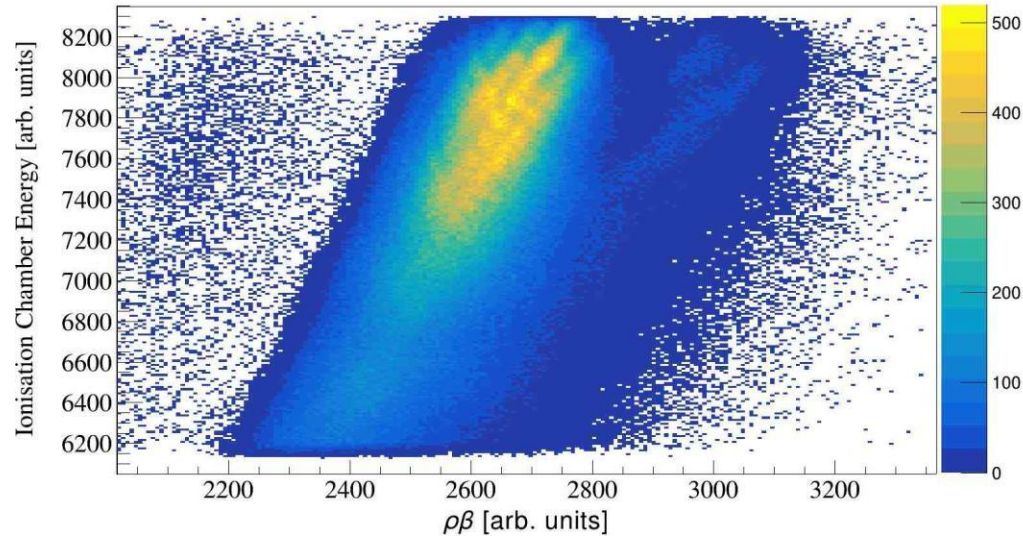


Charge state (q) gates  
applied to each Z gated  
distribution

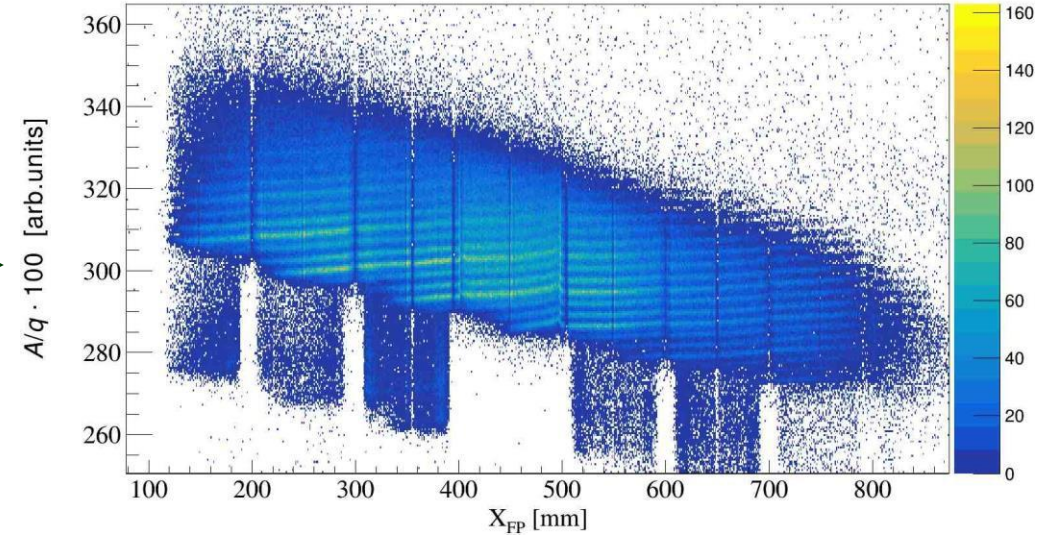
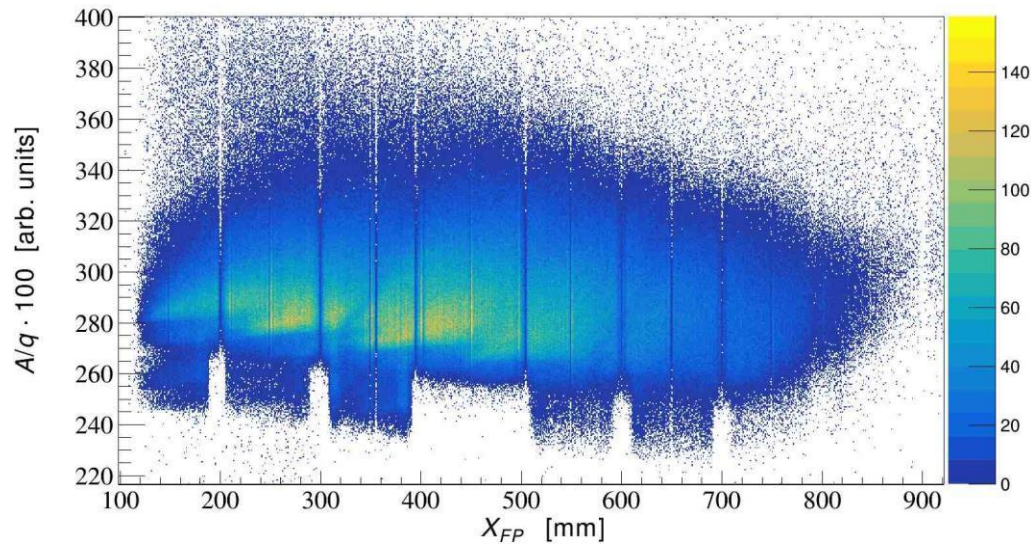
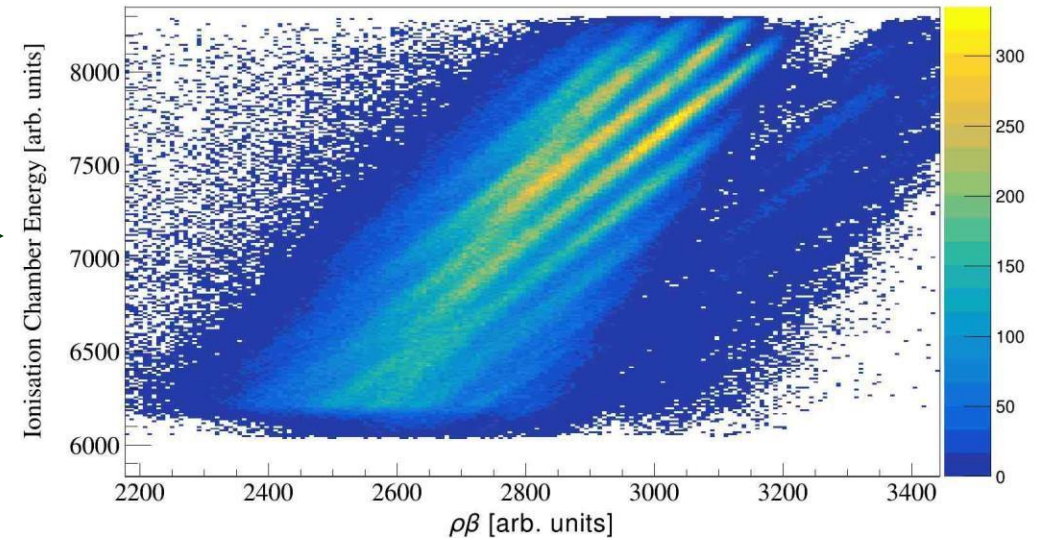


# PRISMA – Trajectory reconstruction

Bad optical parameters

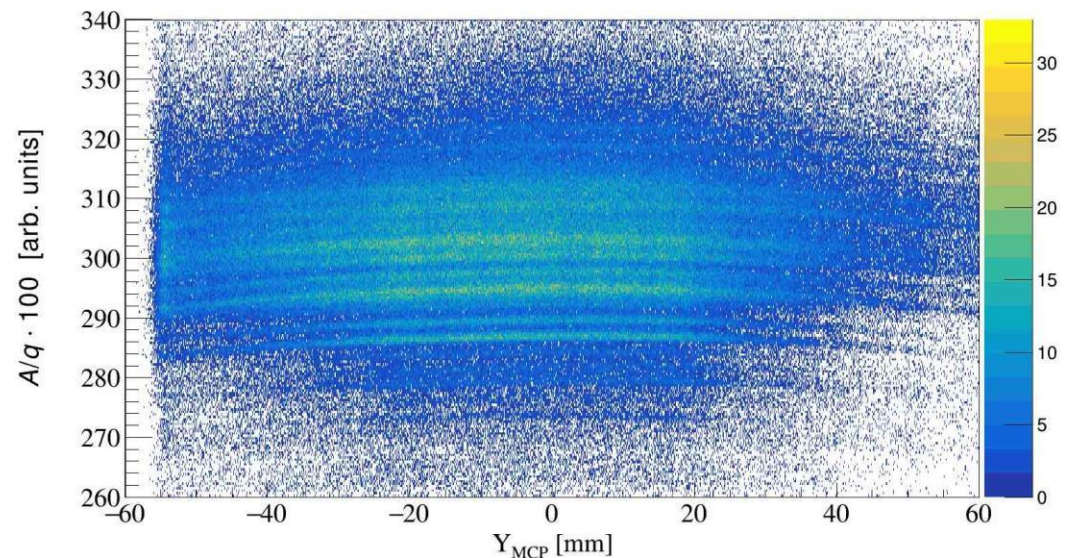


Good optical parameters

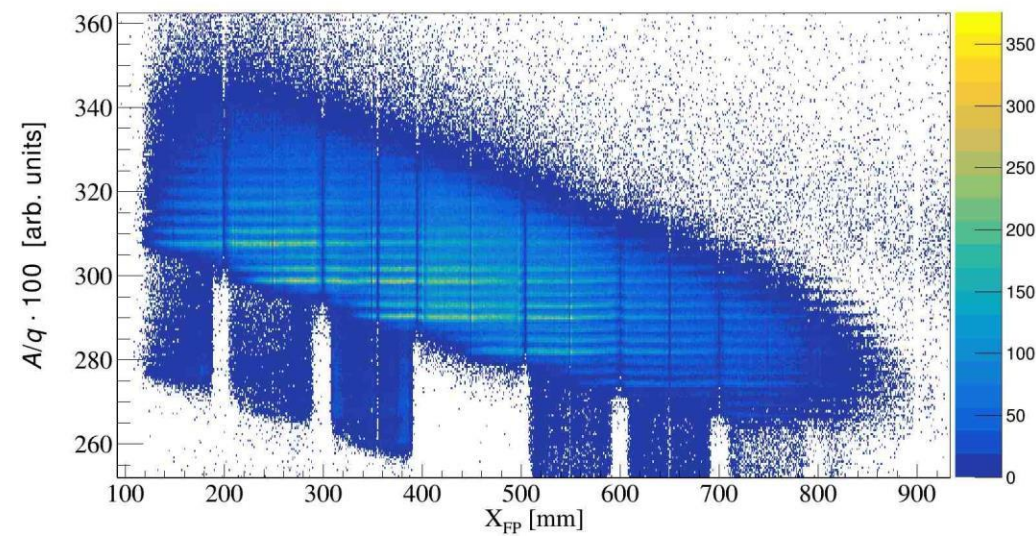
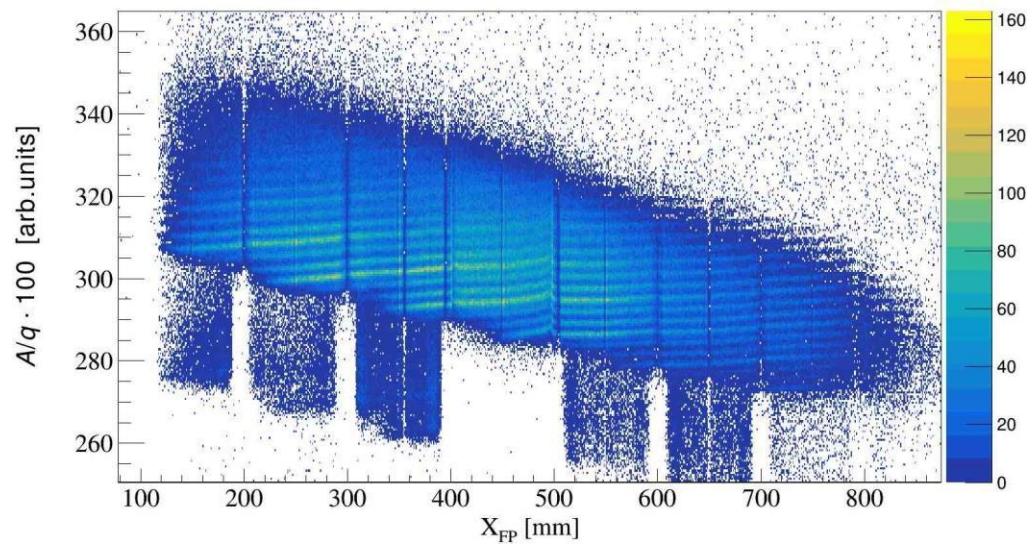
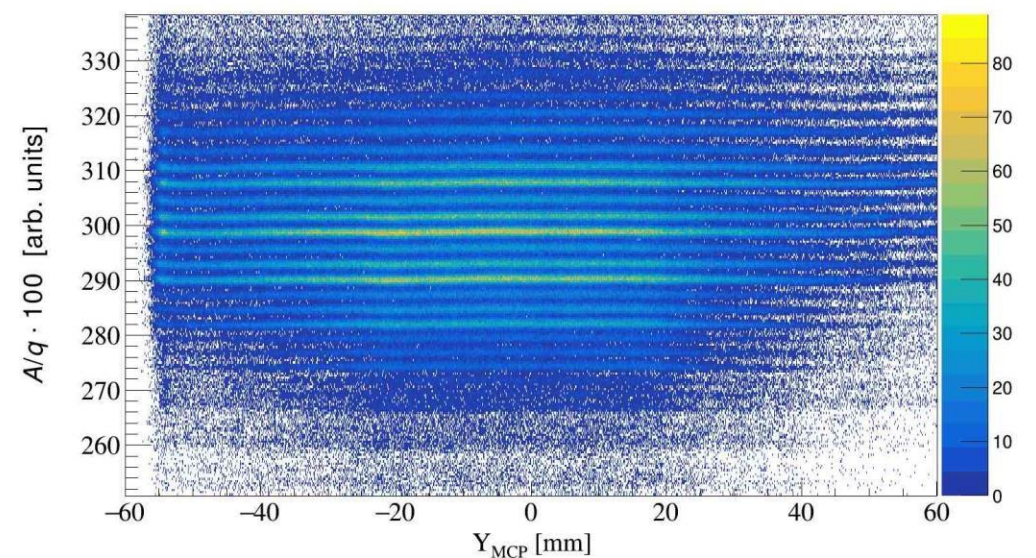


# PRISMA - $A/q$ calibration

Before Aberrational corrections

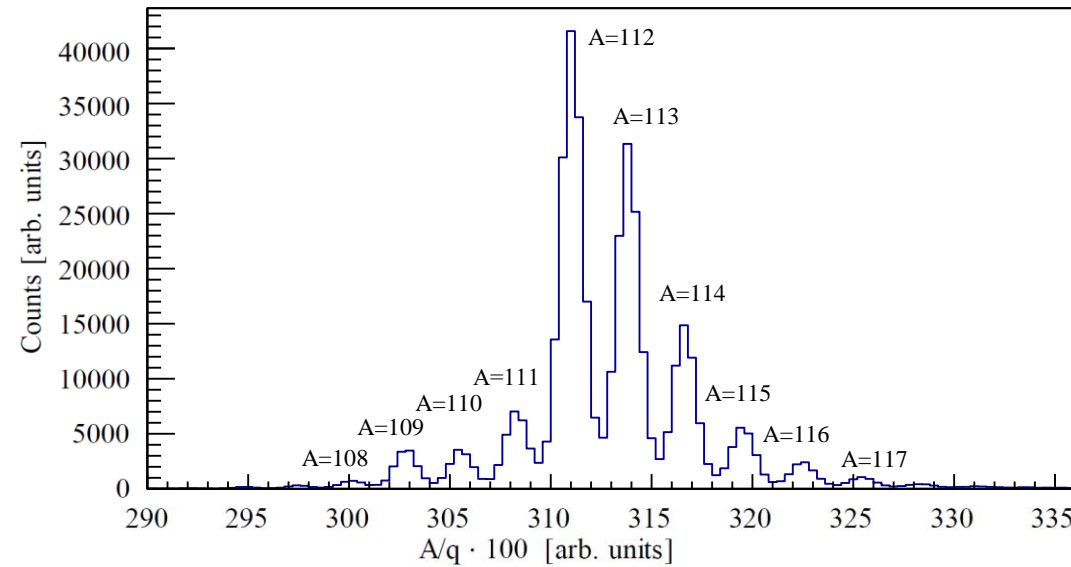


After aberrational corrections



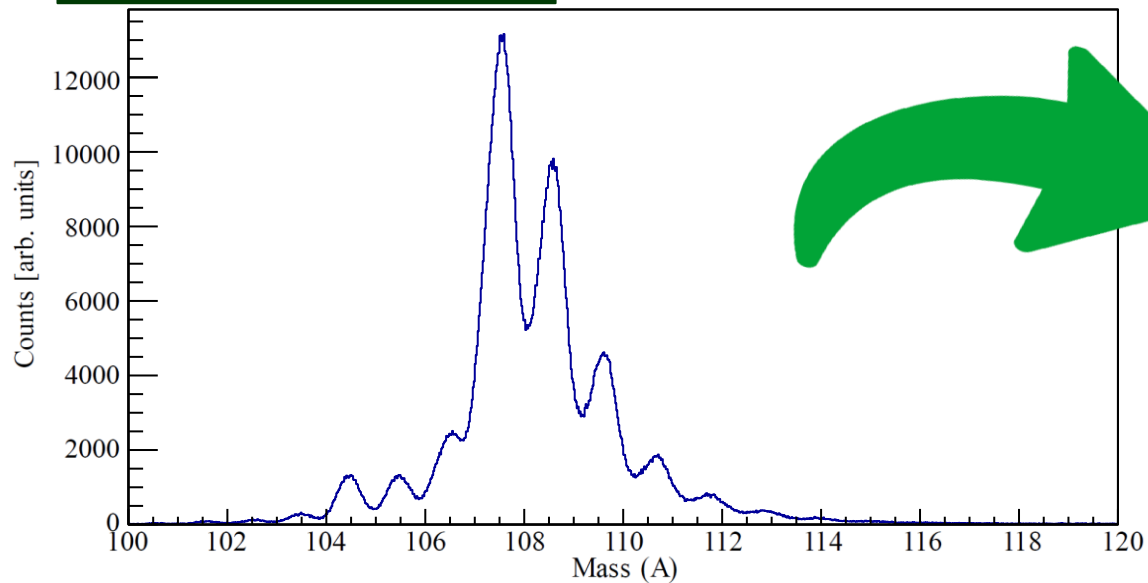
# PRISMA - Mass calibration

$A/q$  ( $Z = 50, q = 36$ )

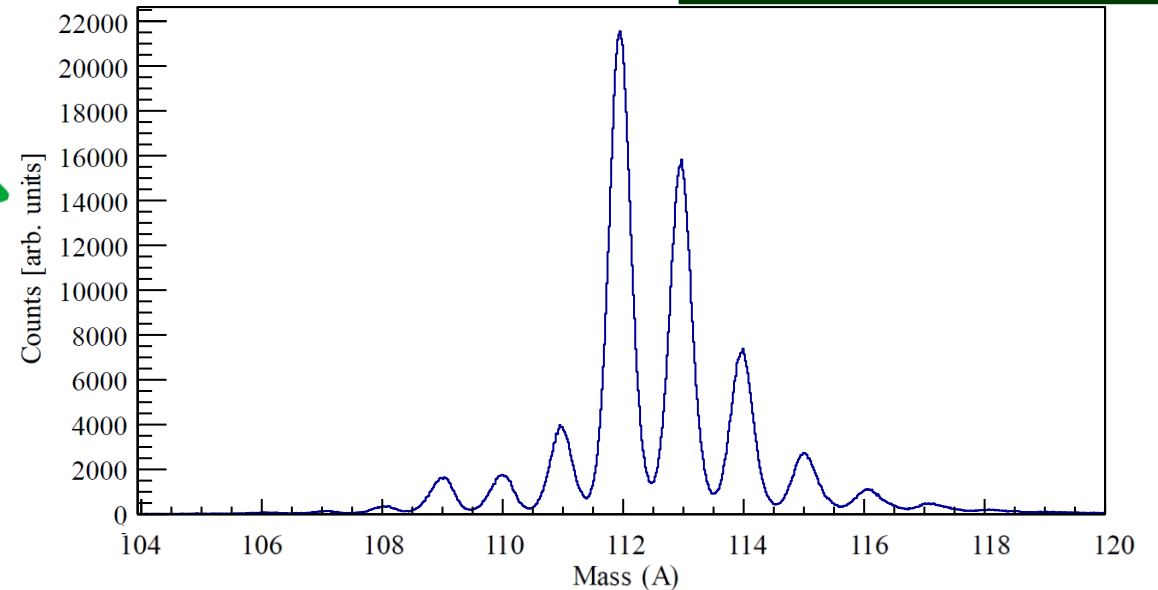


$A/q$  linear calibration applied by measuring centroid of ZQ-gated 1D  $A/q$  distributions and comparing observed with expected.

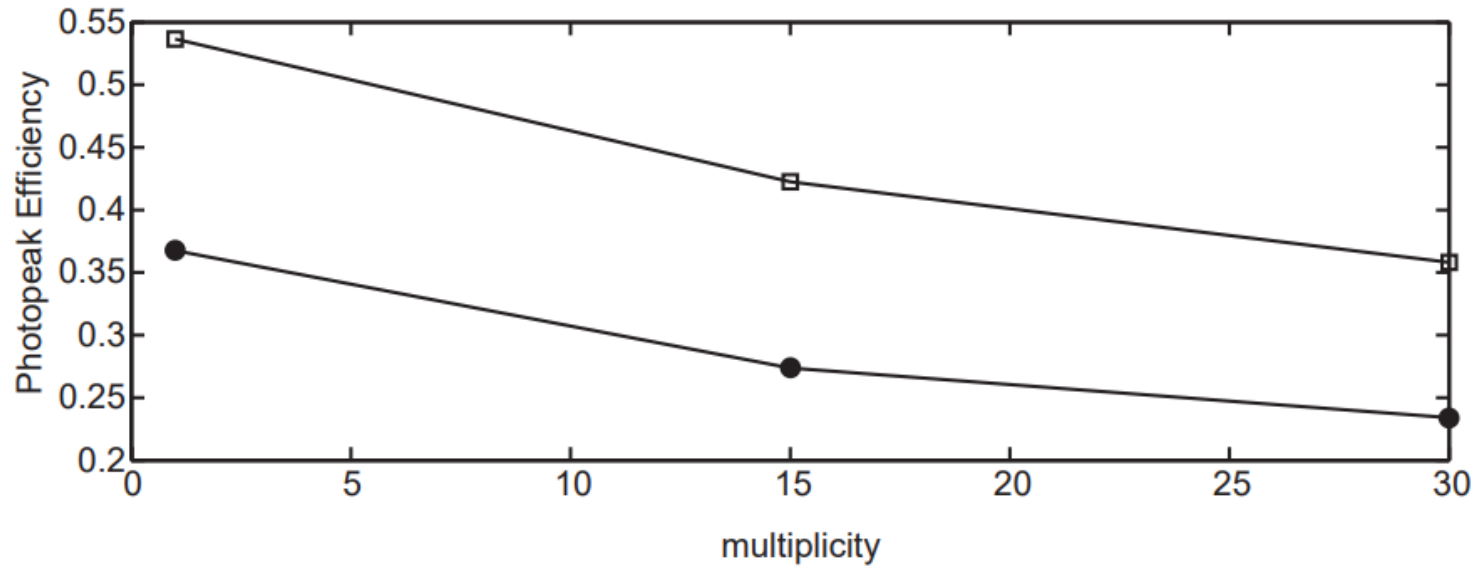
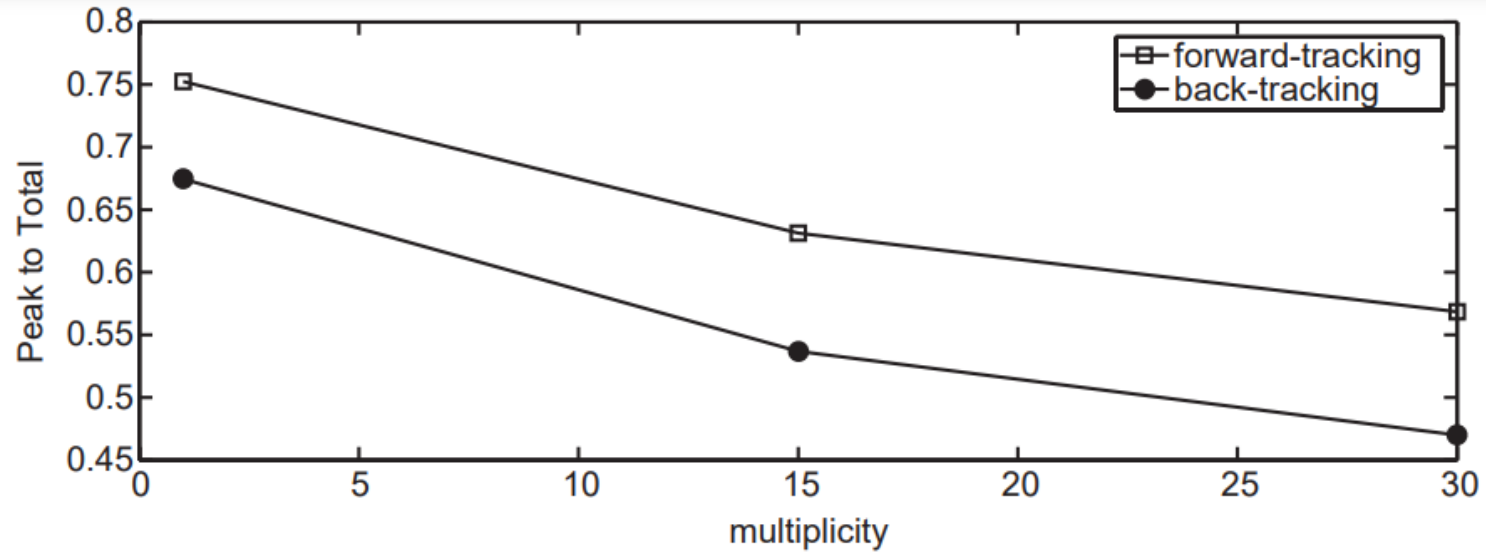
Mass ( $Z = 50$ ) before linear calibration



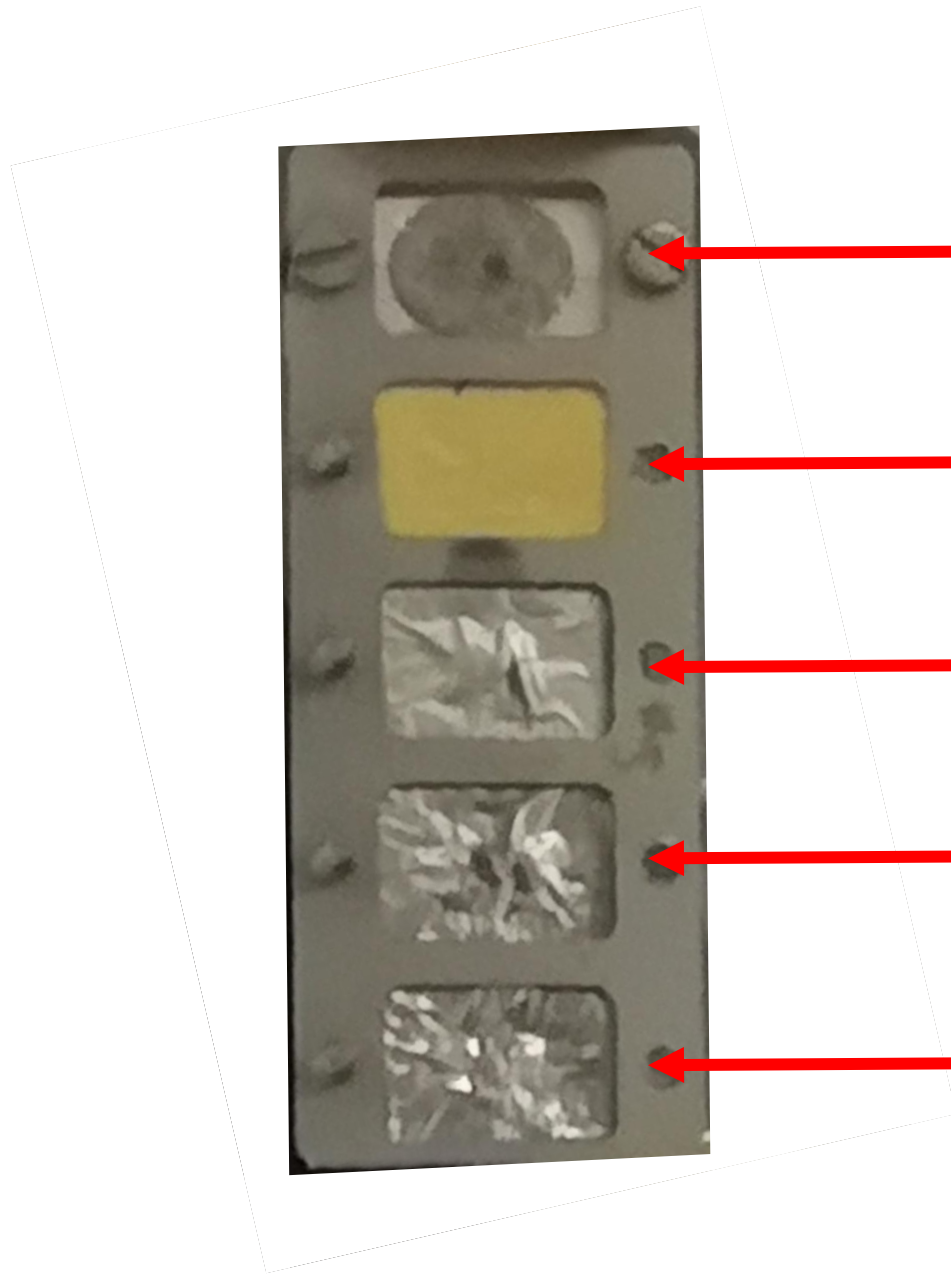
Mass ( $Z = 50$ ) after linear calibration



# Forward tracking vs. backtracking



# Target ladder



Quartz (beam focusing)

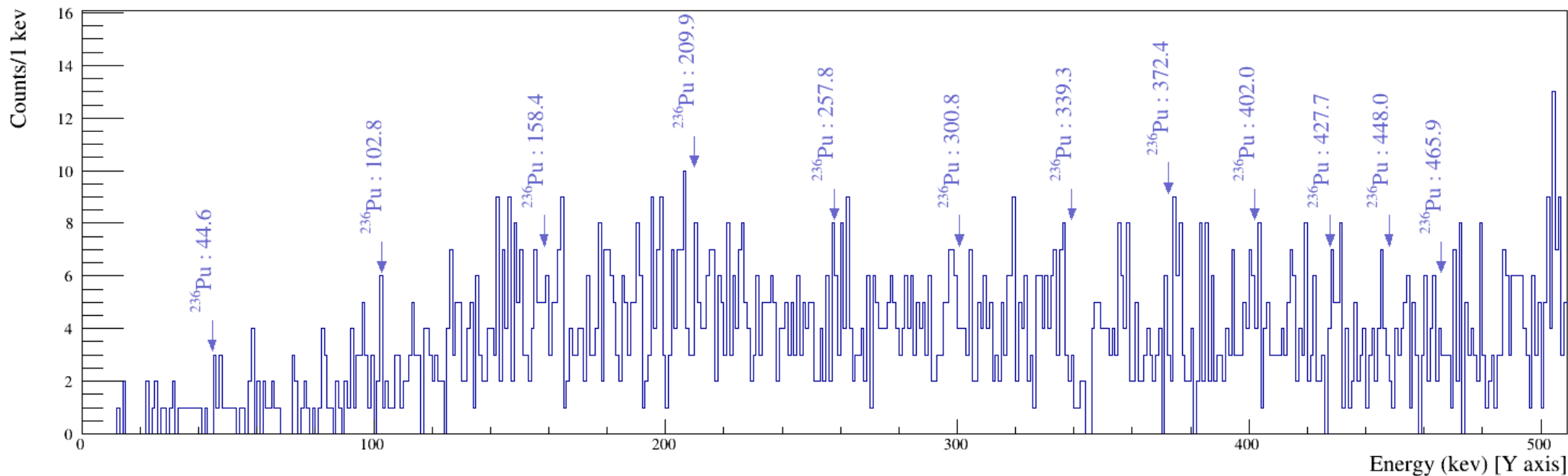
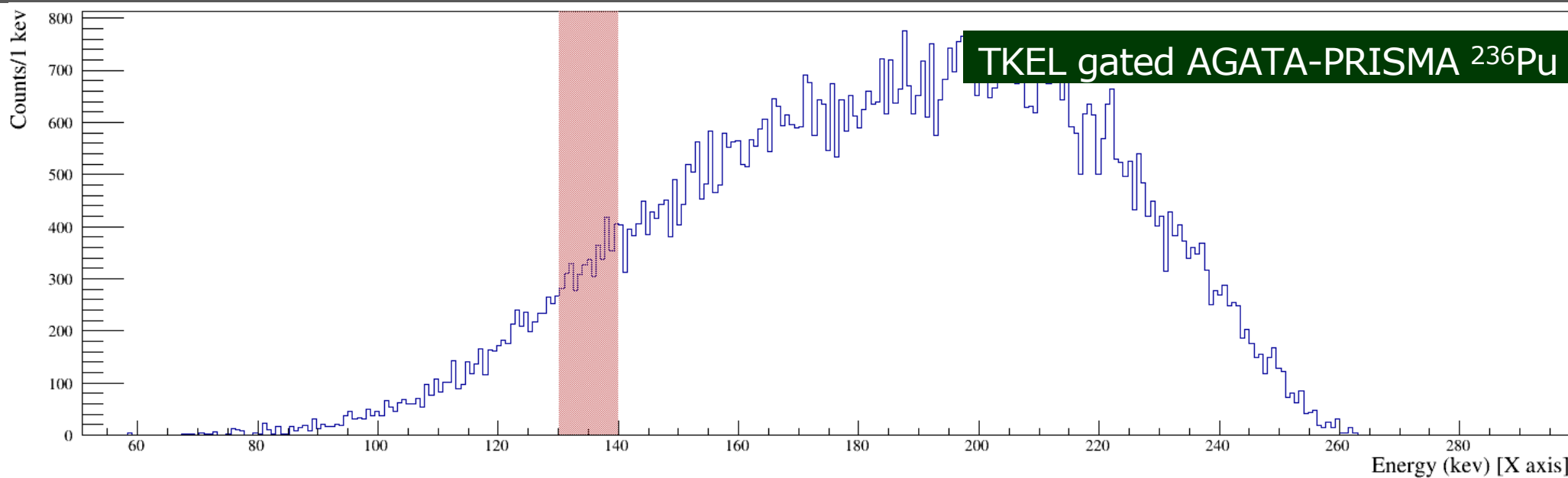
Au (Transmission testing)

$^{238}\text{U}$  (1)

$^{238}\text{U}$  (2)

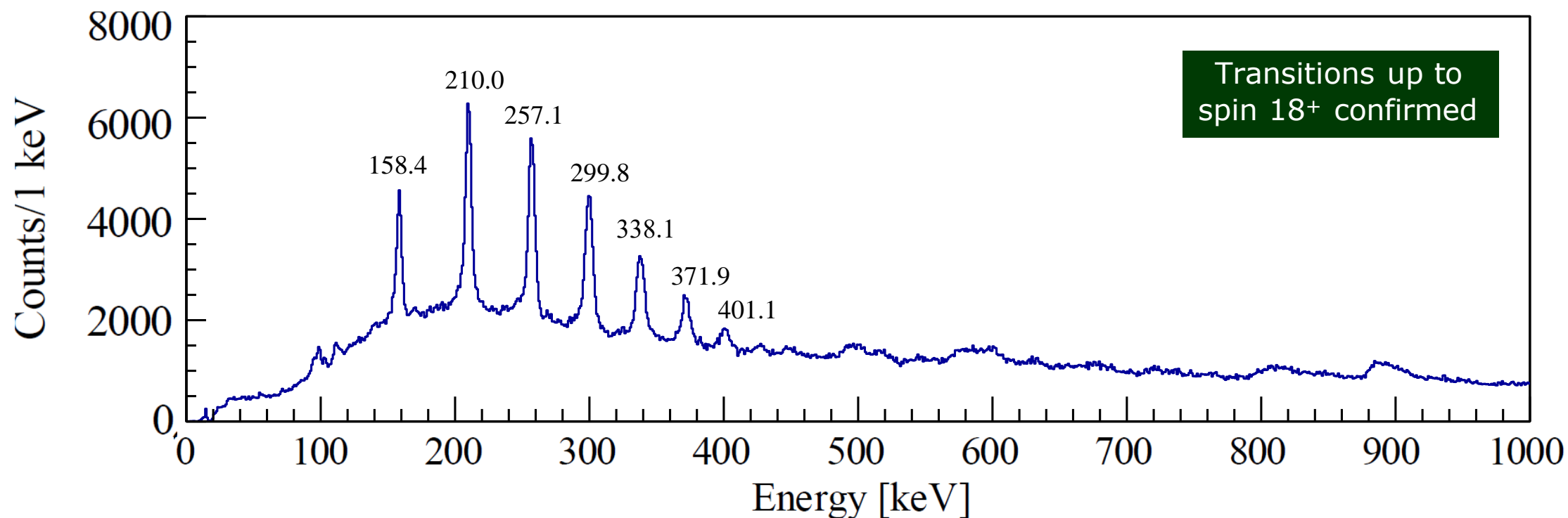
$^{238}\text{U}$  (3)

# Analysis results – AGATA PRISMA coincidences



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AGATA-PRISMA coincidence spectra Analysis ongoing



$^{238}\text{U}$  Doppler-corrected tracked  $\gamma$ -ray spectra gated on binary partner Sn ( $Z = 50$ ,  $A=112$ ).

# DANTE Analysis

