

# The discovery of element 113 at RIKEN

Kouji Morimoto

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# Contents of my talk

- **Naming rights of element 113**

Proposed **name** and **symbol** for element 113

- **The history of experiments aiming for element 113**

The experiments started in 2001 and finished in 2012

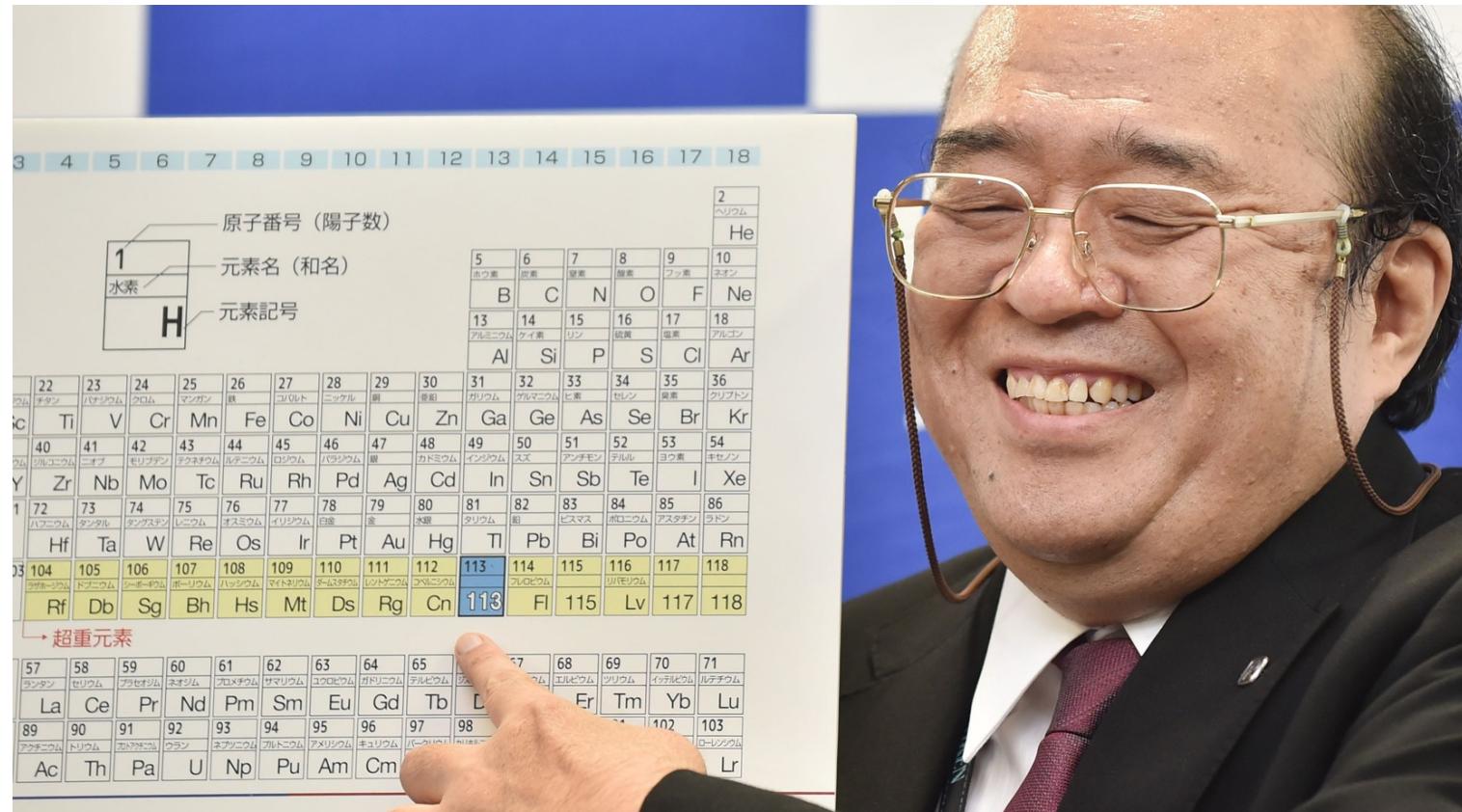
All the results related to the  $^{278}\text{113}$  are shown **in time series**

- **Future plans**

Development of new separator **GARIS-II**

Upgrade plan of **LINAC** accelerator

# IUPAC announced discoveries of element 113, 115, 117 and 118



Prof. Kosuke Morita

# At last, IUPAC announced discoveries of element 113, 115, 117 and 118



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December 30, 2015

SUBJECT: Discovery and Assignment of Elements with Atomic Numbers 113, 115,  
117 and 118

*IUPAC announces the verification of the discoveries of  
four new chemical elements:*

*The 7<sup>th</sup> period of the periodic table of elements is complete!*

The fourth IUPAC/IUPAP Joint Working Party (JWP) on the priority of claims to the discovery of new elements has reviewed the relevant literature for elements 113, 115, 117, and 118 and has determined that the claims for discovery of these elements have been fulfilled, in accordance with the criteria for the discovery of elements of the IUPAC/IUPAP Transfermium Working Group (TWG) 1991 discovery criteria. These elements complete the 7<sup>th</sup> row of the periodic table of the elements, and the discoverers from Japan, Russia and the USA will now be invited to suggest permanent names and symbols. The new elements and assigned priorities of discovery are as follows:

Element 113 (temporary working name and symbol: ununtrium, Uut)

The RIKEN collaboration team in Japan have fulfilled the criteria for element Z=113 and will be invited to propose a permanent name and symbol.

Elements 115, 117 and 118 (temporary working names and symbols: ununpentium, Uup;  
ununseptium, Uus; and ununoctium, Uuo)

The collaboration between the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Russia, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California, USA; and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA have fulfilled the criteria for element Z=115, 117 and will be invited to propose permanent names and symbols.

## Element 113

**The RIKEN collaboration team in JAPAN have fulfilled the criteria for element Z=113 and will be invited to propose a permanent name and symbol.**

# Nihonium “Nh”

We proposed "nihonium" for the name and "Nh" for the symbol.

There are two ways to say "Japan" in Japanese: "**Nihon**" and "**Nippon**". Both literally mean "**the Land of Rising Sun**" and are widely used officially. We have therefore decided on "**nihon**", and by adding "-ium. The symbol will be "**Nh**" as an abbreviation for "nihonium".



Naming  
meeting



Photo.  
together with  
Nishina-sensei

# The history of experiments for $^{278}\text{113}$

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Motivation was to produce a new element which is connected to known nuclei.

Then we started from following reproductions of GSI DATA.



2003: Z=113 Start (Almost the same time, GSI 's 113 exp. started.)



1<sup>st</sup> event was observed on Jul. 2004.

2<sup>nd</sup> event was observed on Apr. 2005.

2009:  $^{248}\text{Cm}(^{23}\text{Na},5\text{n})^{266}\text{Bh}$  ( $^{266}\text{Bh}$  is great grand daughter of  $^{278}\text{113}$ )

The results reinforced the information of known(**anchor**) isotopes of 113 decay chains.

And also established the **cross-bombardment**.

2010 (2004):  $^{205}\text{Tl}(^{70}\text{Zn},\text{n})^{274}\text{Rg}$  ( $^{274}\text{Rg}$  is daughter of  $^{278}\text{113}$ )

No event was observed because Tl target couldn't stand against of intense beam.

2012 Aug.: 3<sup>rd</sup> event of  $^{278}\text{113}$  was observed.

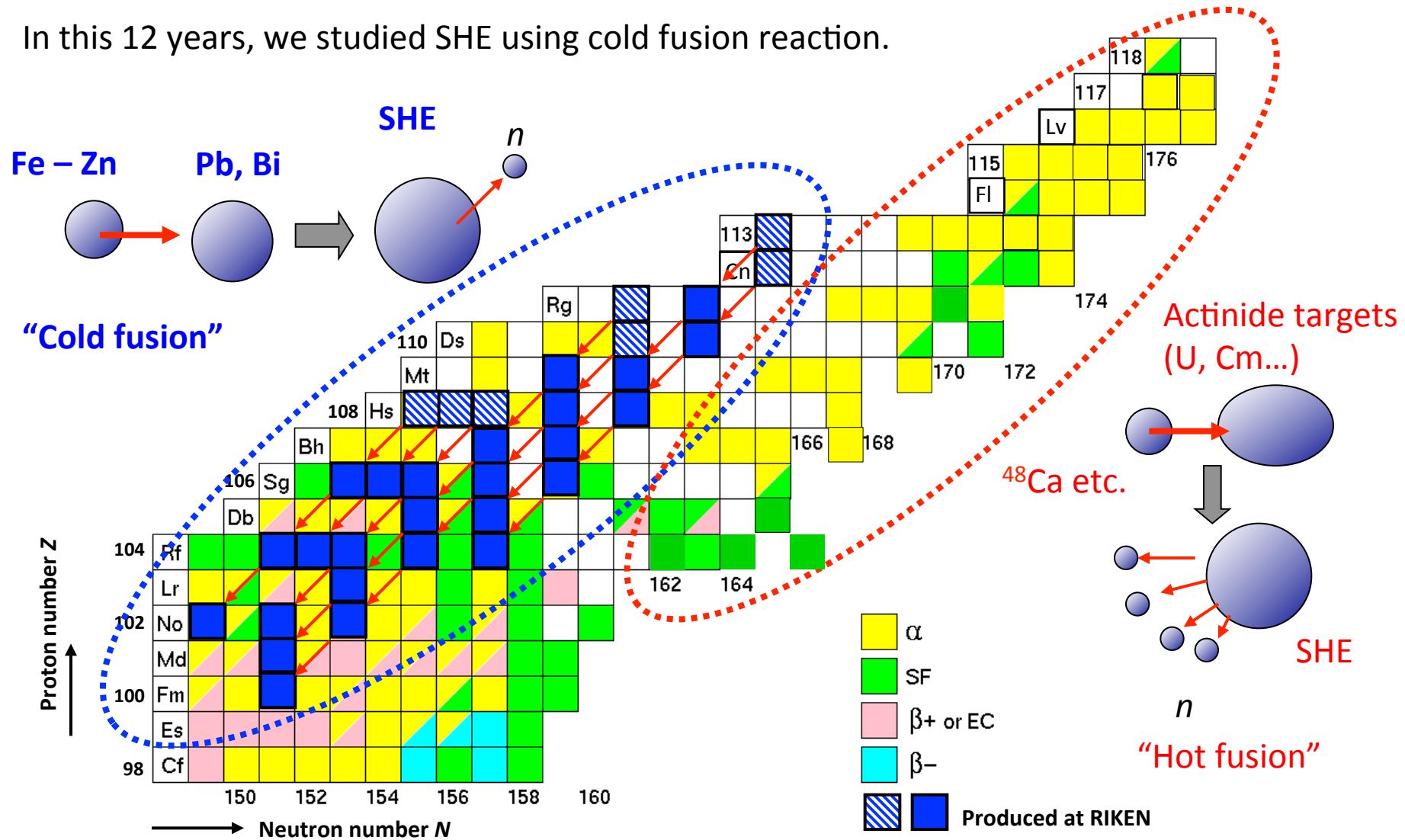
The observed decay chain consist of 6 alpha and **connected to  $^{254}\text{Md}$** .

2012 Oct.: Z=113 Finish

2015 Dec. IUPAC announced the verification of the discoveries of element 113.

# Our research region

In this 12 years, we studied SHE using cold fusion reaction.





The irradiation was started in Sep. 2003.

1<sup>st</sup> event was observed on Jul. 2004.

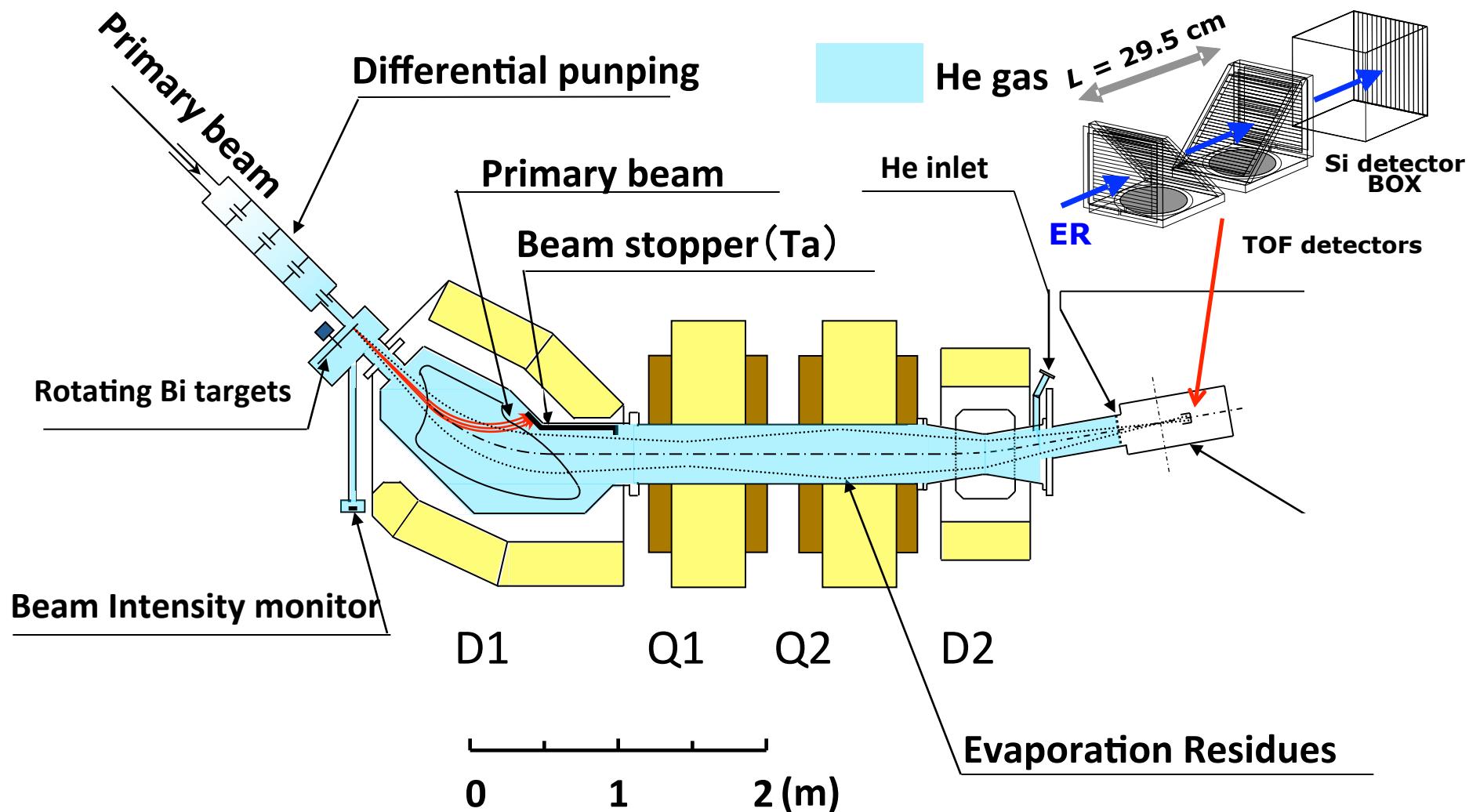
(J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. **73** (2004) 2593.)

2<sup>nd</sup> event was observed on Apr. 2005 .

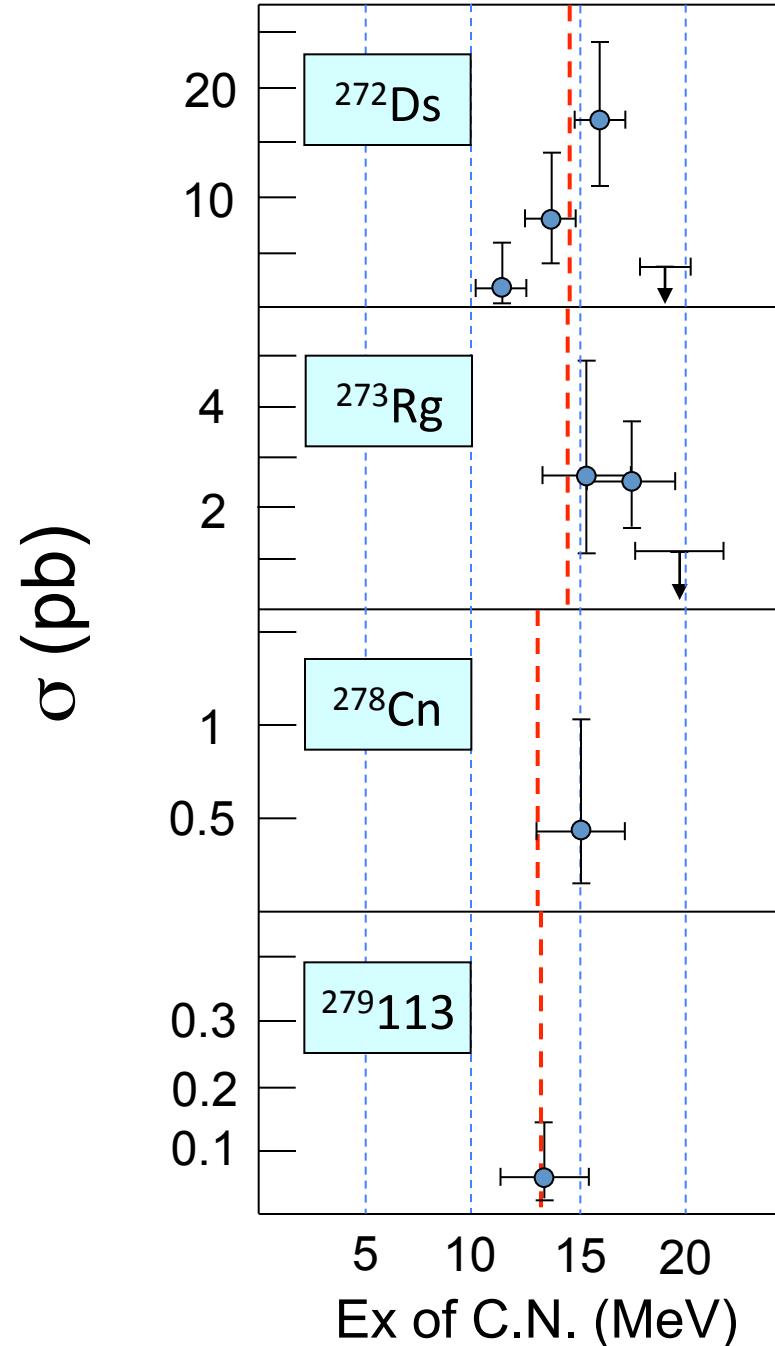
(J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. **76** (2007) 045001.)

# Experimental setup for $^{278}\text{113}$

GARIS (Gas-filled recoil ion separator)



The 113 experiment was performed by using GARIS and Si detector box with ToF



## Determination of incident Energy

We studied the **systematics of excitation function** for the  $^{272}\text{Ds}$  and  $^{273}\text{Rg}$ . The peak energies exists around a **threshold of fission after 1n emission** calculated by following mass tables. The beam energy was determined by this systematics.

Threshold of fission after 1n emission  
calculated by following mass tables.

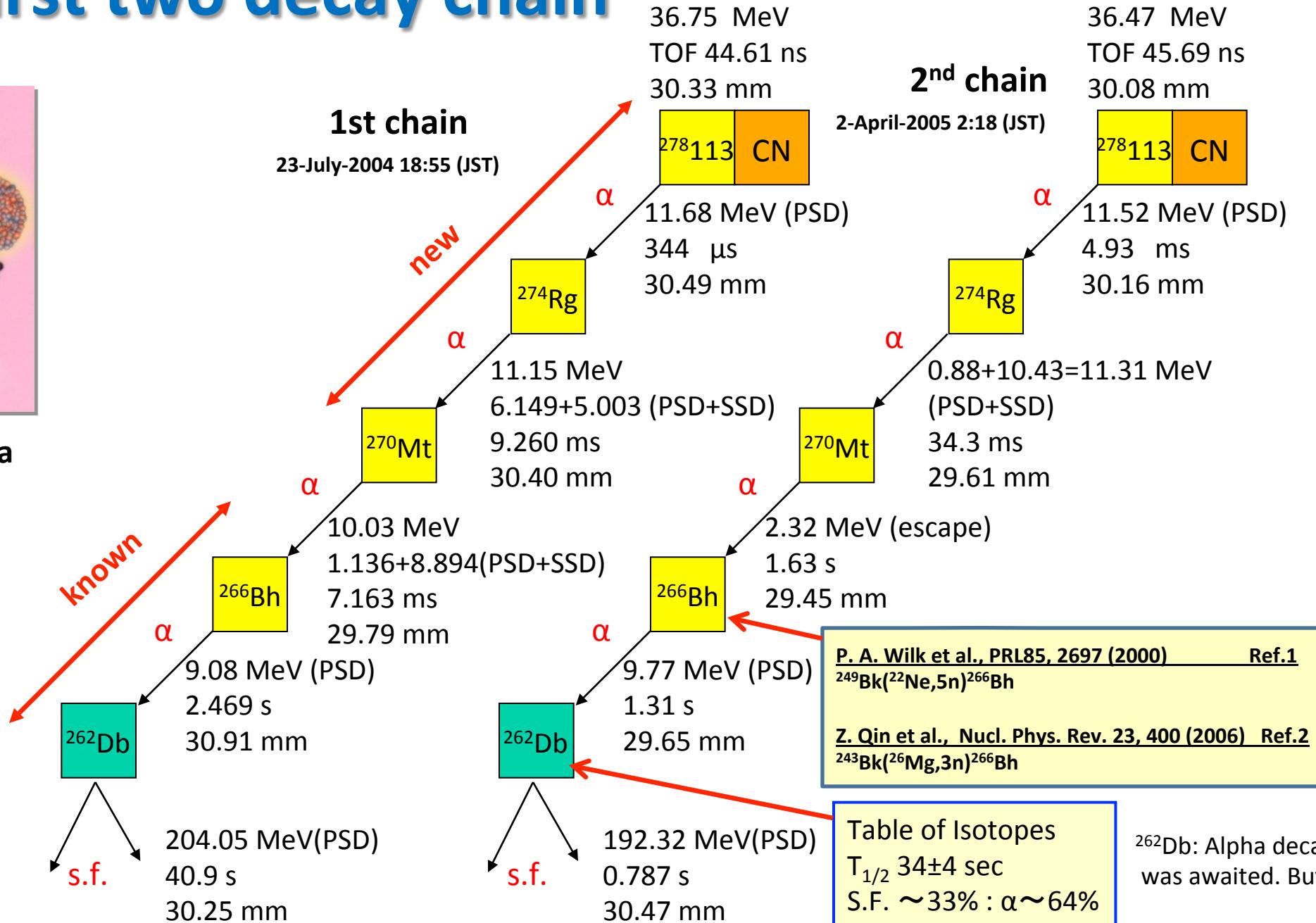
Masses of Beams & Targets  
Audi & Wapstra, Nucl. Phys A565, 1 (1993)

Masses of Compound Nuclei  
Myers & Swiatecki, Nucl. Phys. A601, 141 (1996)

# The first two decay chain



Dr. Morita





K. Morita, K. Morimoto, D. Kaji, *et al.*: J. Phys. Soc. Jap. 78(2009) 064201

As shown now, two decay chains of  $^{278}\text{113}$  were observed by using  $^{209}\text{Bi} + ^{70}\text{Zn}$ .  
Both Chain consist of four alpha decays and ended by spontaneous fission of  $^{262}\text{Db}$ .

$^{266}\text{Bh}$  and  $^{262}\text{Db}$ , the daughter products of  $^{278}\text{113}$ , are **known nuclei**, reports exists.  
The reports and the daughter products of  $^{278}\text{113}$  were **consistent**.  
Therefore **onece** we claimed that the  $^{278}\text{113}$  were **clearly determined with Z and A**.

## However

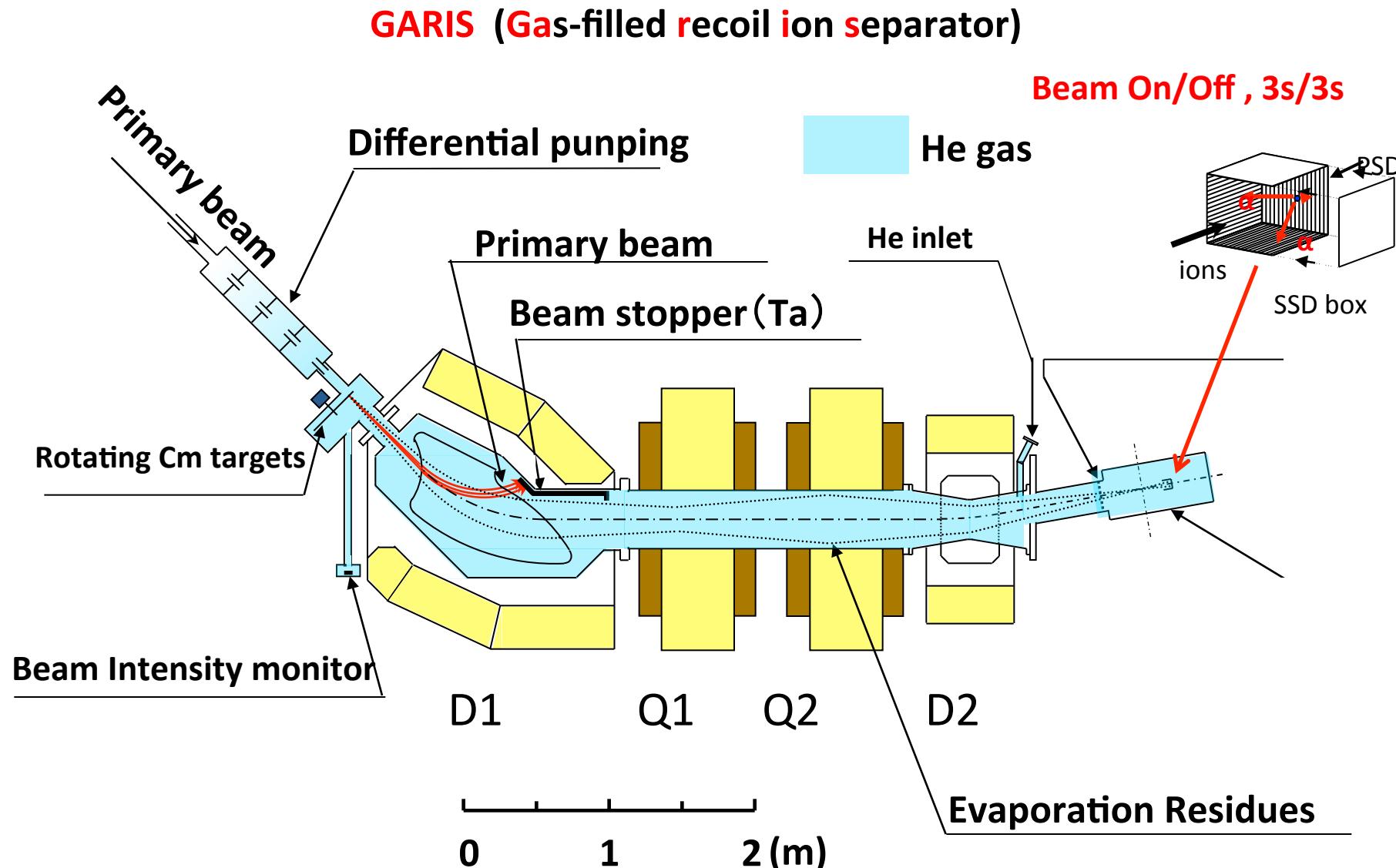
The **statistics** of the report of  $^{266}\text{Bh}$  were **not enough**.

**1 events**: ( $^{249}\text{Bk} + ^{22}\text{Ne} \rightarrow ^{266}\text{Bh}$ ), LBNL, P. A. Wilk *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **85**, (2000)

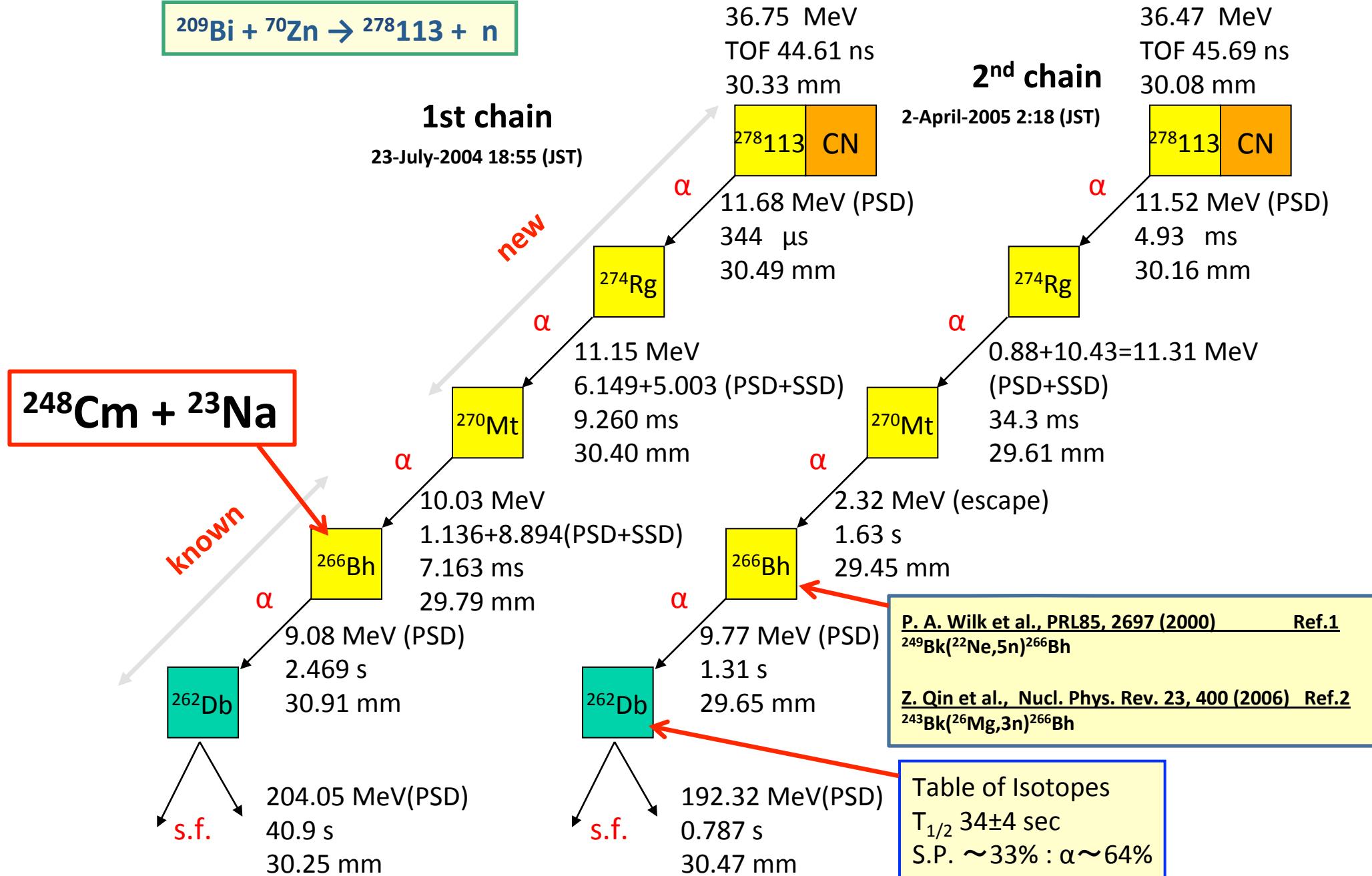
**4 events**: ( $^{243}\text{Am} + ^{26}\text{Mg} \rightarrow ^{266}\text{Bh}$ ), IMP, Z. Qin *et al.*, Nucl. Phys. Rev. **23** (2006) (Chinese journal in English)

**Motivation of this work was**  
**to reinforce the information of known(anchor) isotopes of 113 decay chain.**

# Experimental setup for the Cm + Na $\rightarrow$ Bh

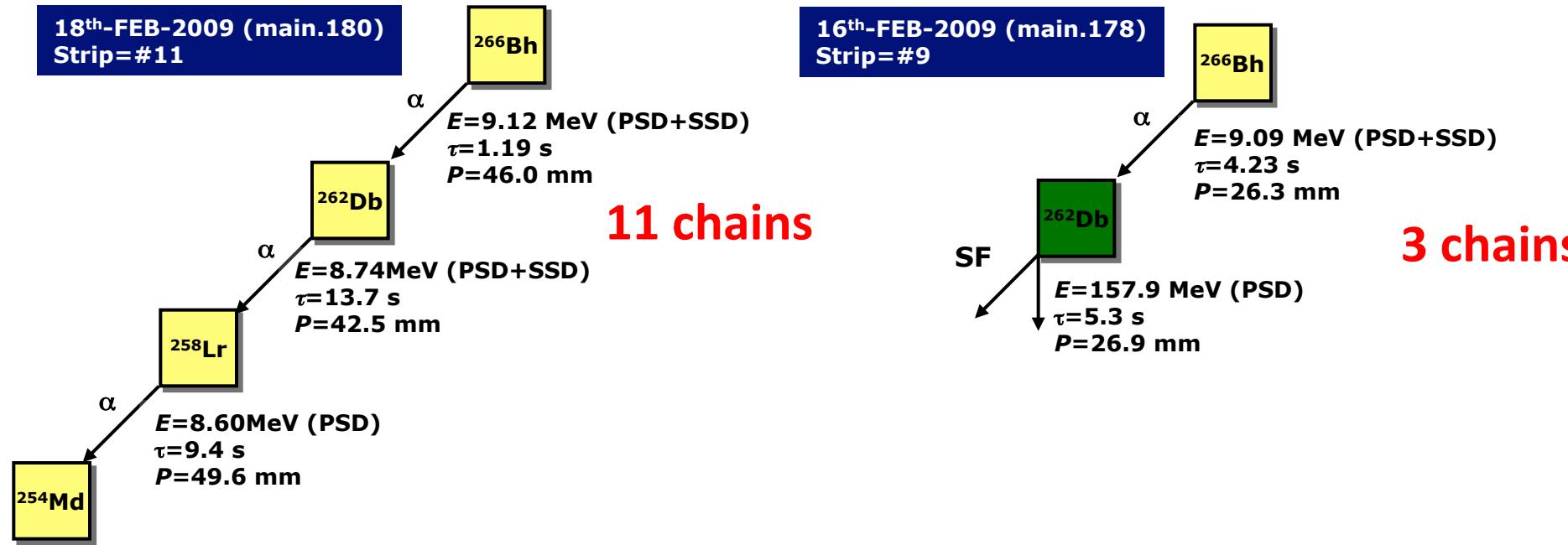


The Bh experiment was performed by using **GARIS** and **Si detector box without ToF detectors**, because recoil velocity is too low to passing through the ToF detectors.



# Example of the observed decay chains of $^{266}\text{Bh}$

14 decay chains from  $^{266}\text{Bh}$  were observed in total.



Fission branch of  $^{262}\text{Db}$  was clearly observed.

Now, the  $^{278}\text{Fl}$  decay chains clearly connected to the known  $^{266}\text{Bh}$  and  $^{262}\text{Db}$  !



$^{274}\text{Rg}$  is daughter of  $^{278}\text{Rb}$ .

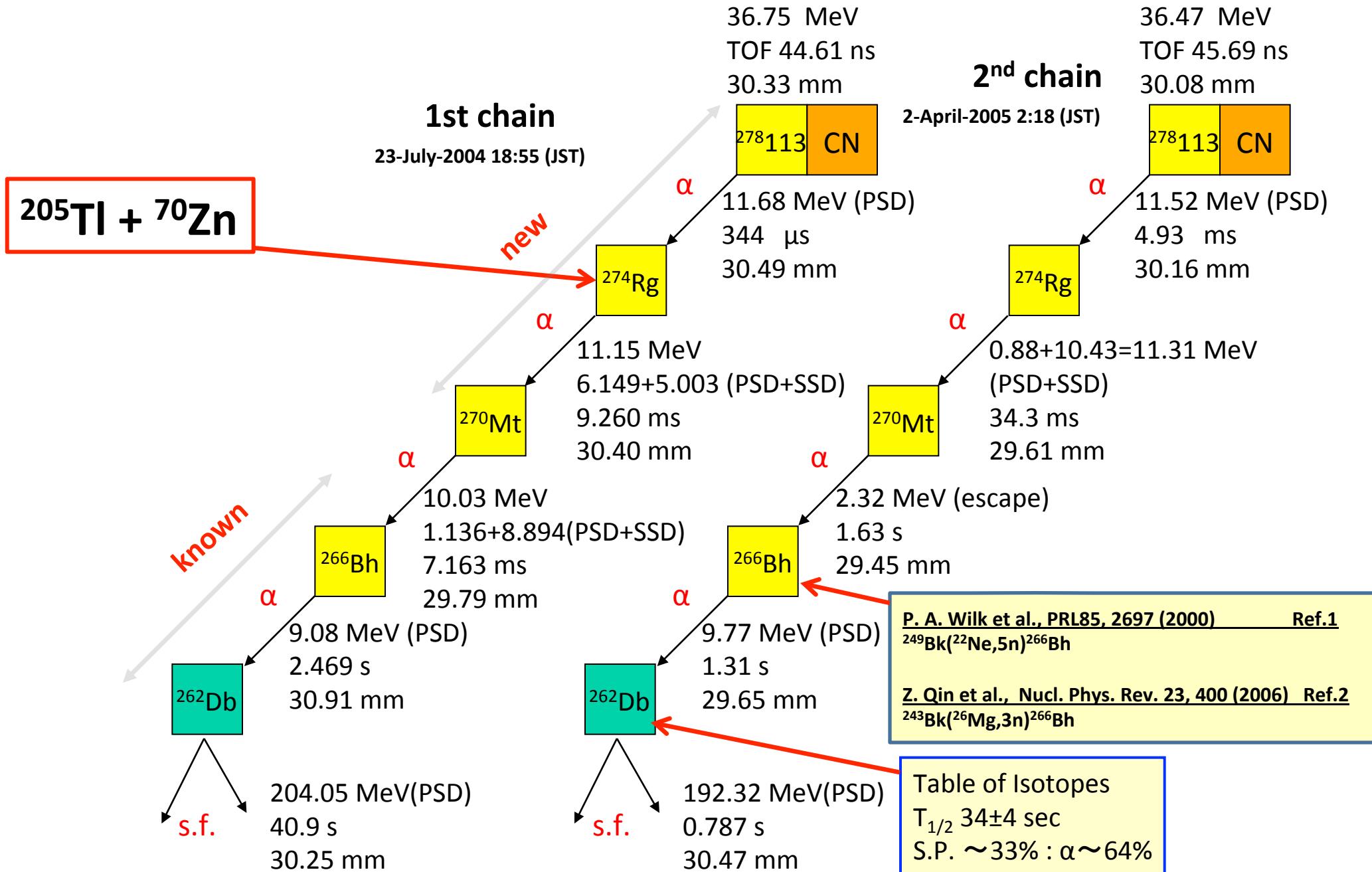
In order to make **further confirmation**,  
we tried to produce  $^{274}\text{Rg}$  by  $^{205}\text{TI}(^{70}\text{Zn},n)^{274}\text{Rg}$  reaction, two times.

Period 1:

2004/11/22 ~ 2004/12/15

Period 2:

2010/03/12 ~ 2010/03/29



# Summary of $^{205}\text{TI}(\text{Zn}, \text{n})^{274}\text{Rg}$

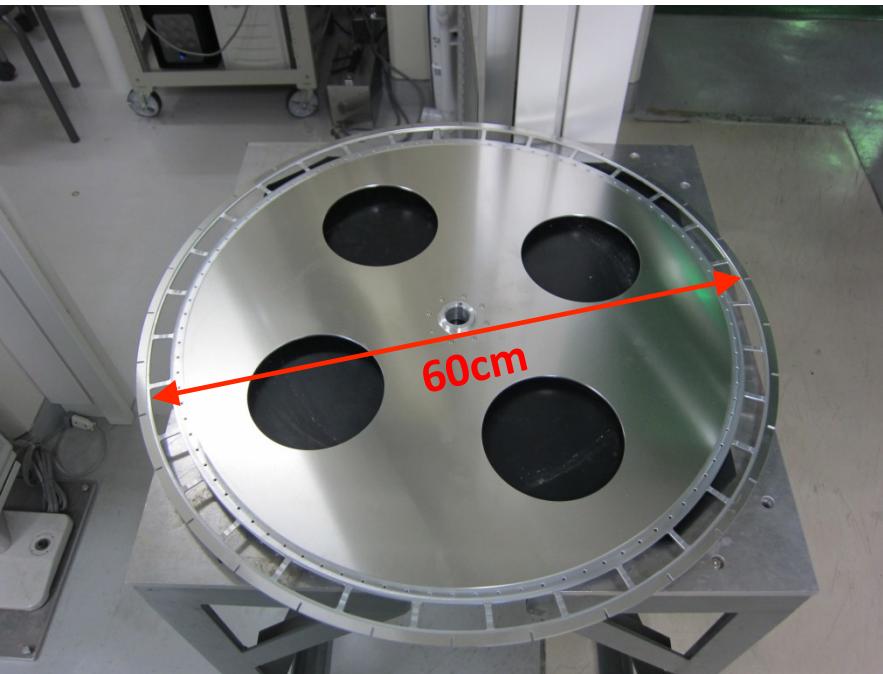
Period 1:	<b>2004/11/22 ~ 2004/12/15</b> (30cmΦ target) Target deterioration occur (thickness became un-uniform immediately) --> TI target is weaker than Bi
Period 2:	<b>2010/03/12 ~ 2010/03/29</b> (60cmΦ target) We applied <b>60cmΦ wheel</b> , but <b>not efficiently improved</b>
Beam Energy	<b>341 MeV</b> at target half depth
Total Dose	<b><math>7.5 \times 10^{18}</math></b>
Target Thickness	<b><math>450 \mu\text{g/cm}^2</math></b>
number of events	<b>0</b>
Cross section	<b>0.23 pb (upper limit)</b>
Irradiation time	<b>39 Days</b>
Beam Intensity	<b><math>\sim 0.4 \text{ p}\mu\text{A}</math></b>

Melting point  
TI: **302.5 °C**  
Bi: 271.5 °C  
Pb: 327.5 °C

Melting point of TI is higher than Bi, but TI target was weaker than Bi target.  
The reason is still question mark.

→ **Gave up!**

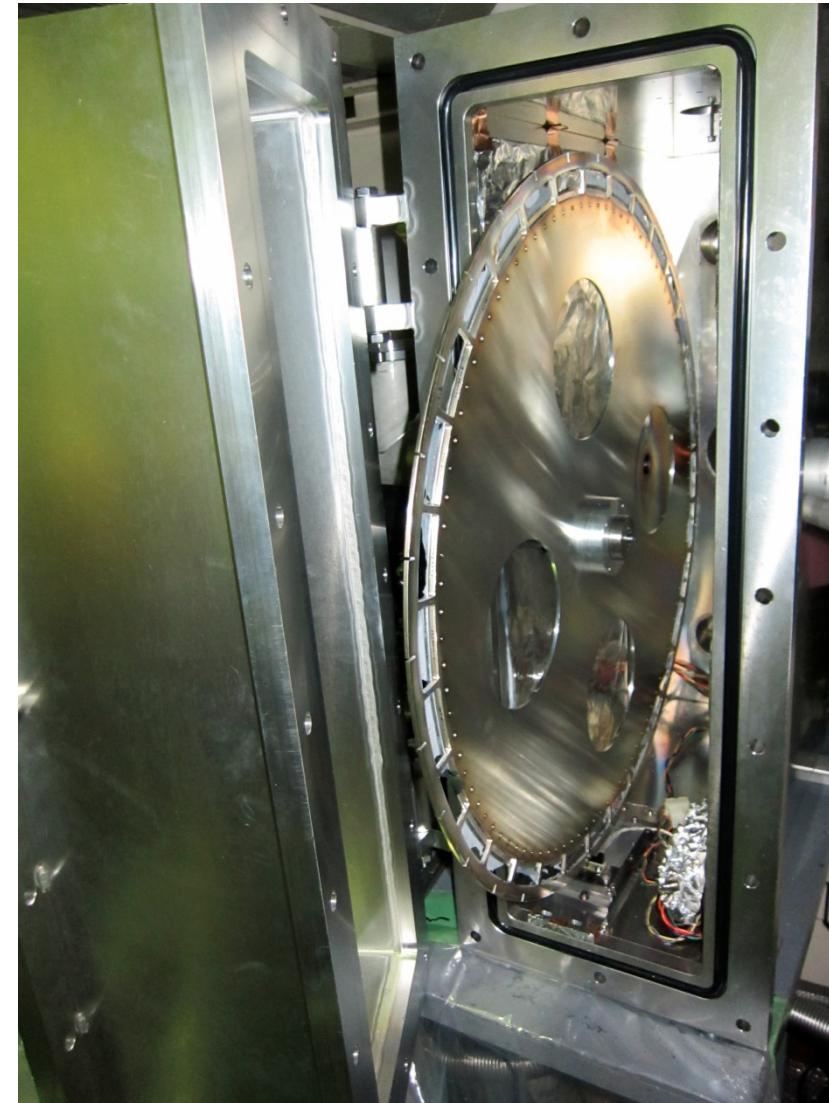
# Newly developed 60cm target



Target wheel

In 2009 we developed a 60cm diameter rotating target system for **GARIS-I**. It was succeeded to work in the condition of **2000 rpm** and used in the experiment of Zn + Ti. (Period 2: 2010)

**But the Ti target problem was not efficiently improved and we gave up the production of  $^{274}\text{Rg}$ .**



Target Camber

**Then again,**

**we continued Bi+Zn → 113 experiment.**

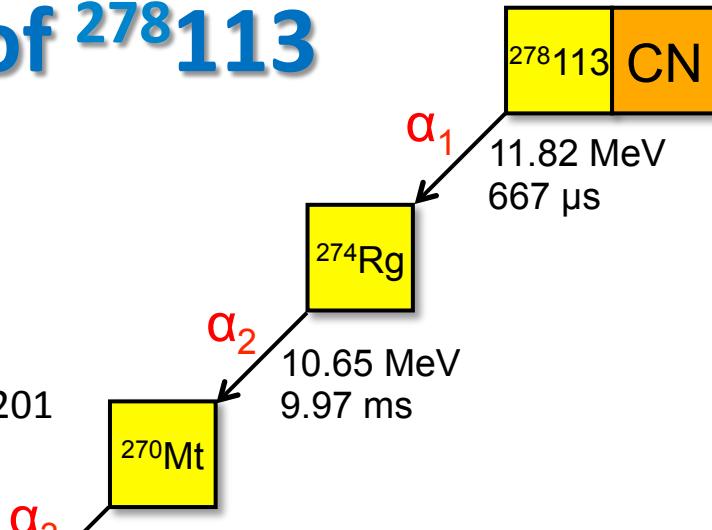
We continued the irradiation about **450 days** from **2<sup>nd</sup> event**.

**At last the 3<sup>rd</sup> event came!**

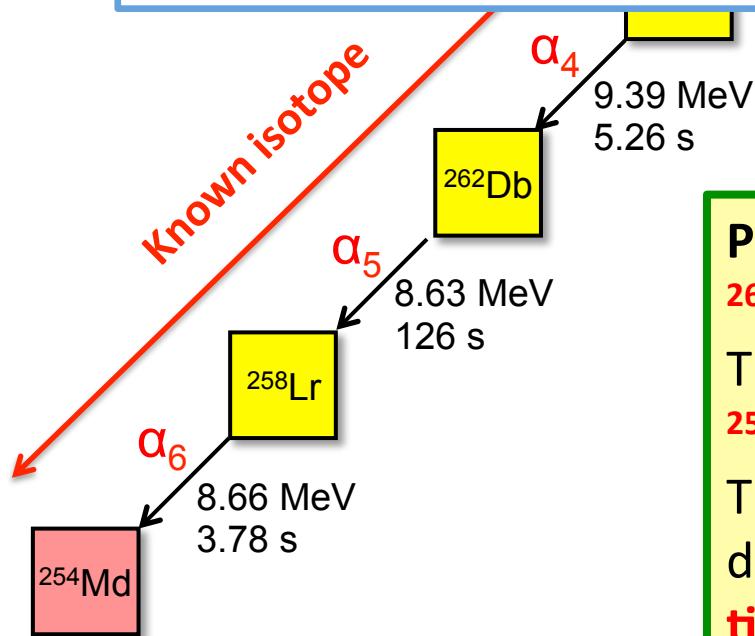
# Newly observed 3<sup>rd</sup> chain of $^{278}\text{113}$

Aug. 12, 2012

K. Morita et al., J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. **81** (2012) 103201

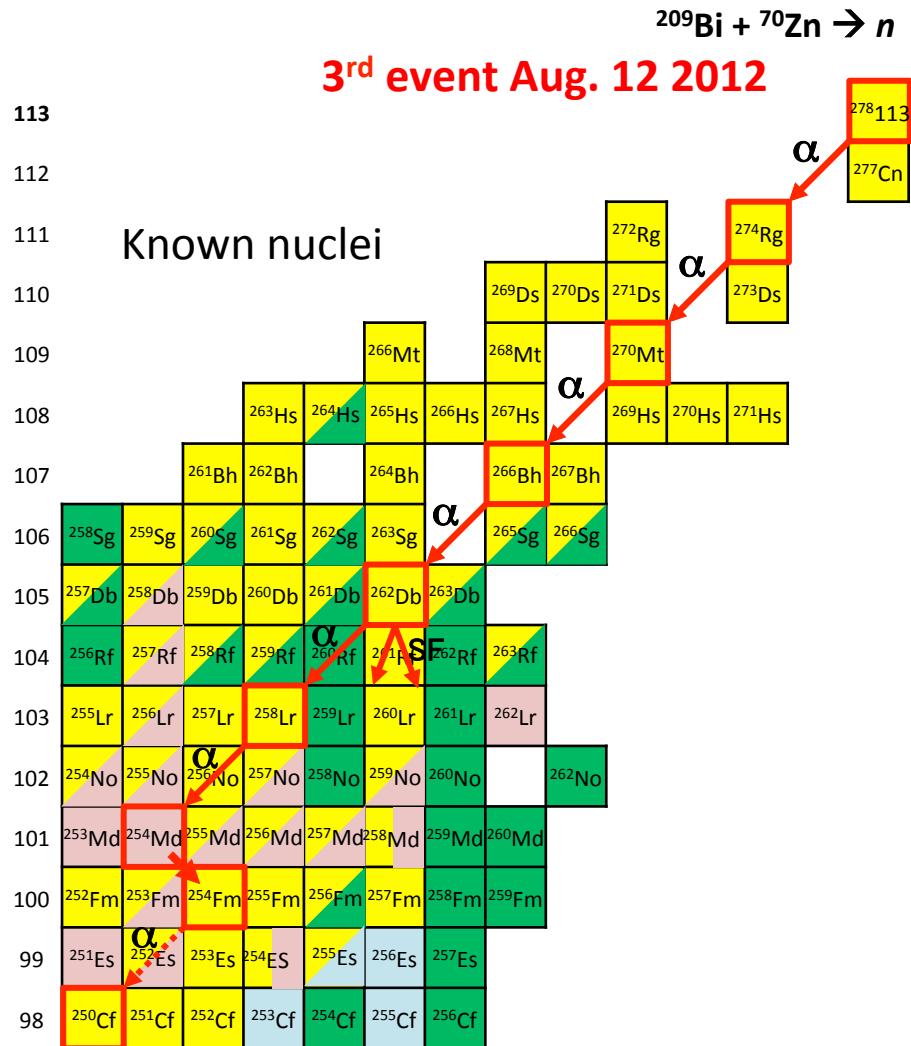


**The chain was long-awaited long chain!**

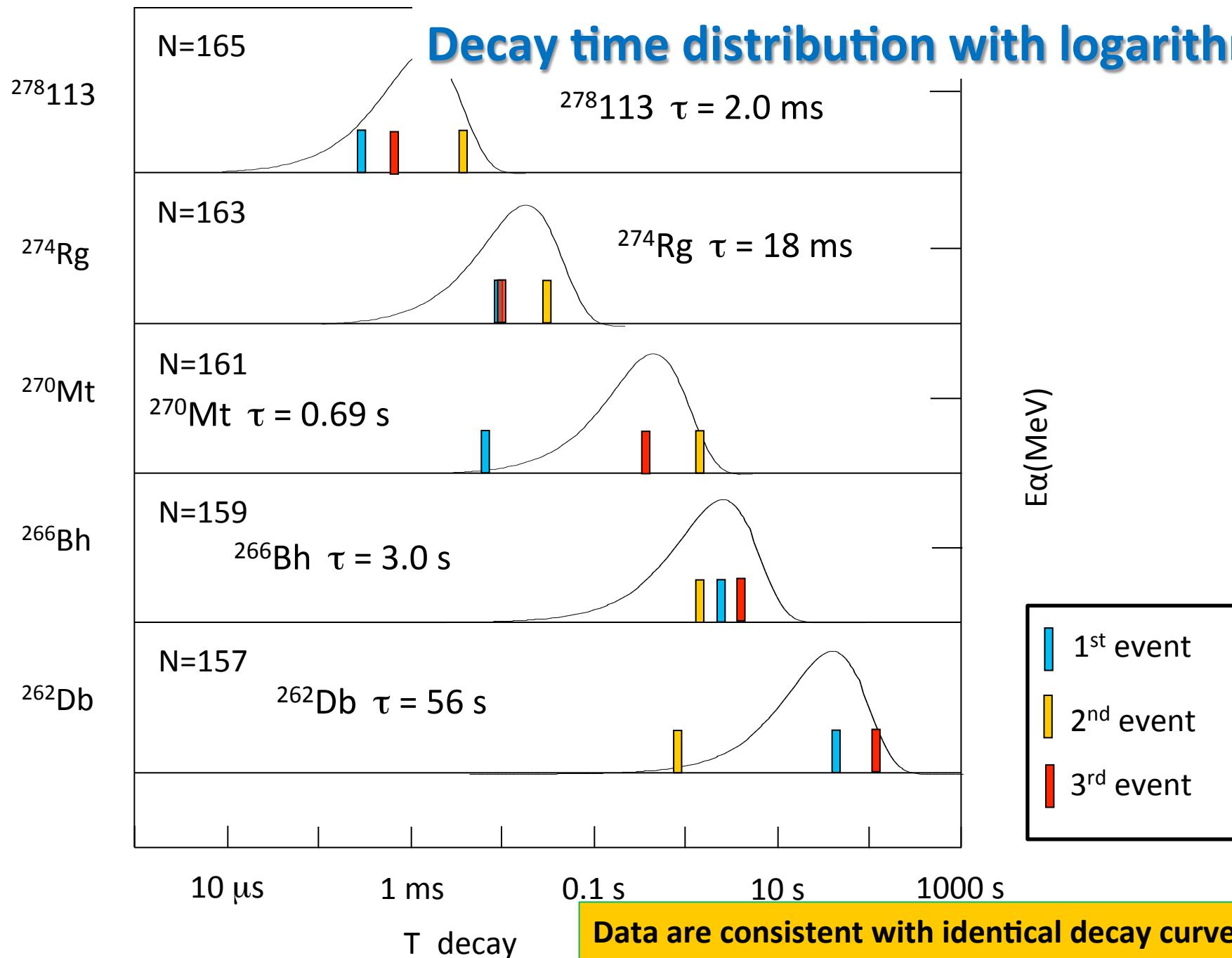


Previous two events were ended by spontaneous fission of  $^{262}\text{Db}$ . This event was consist of 6 alpha decays and connected to  $^{254}\text{Md}$ . The fifth and sixth decays are fully consistent with the sequential decays of  $^{262}\text{Db}$  and  $^{258}\text{Lr}$  in both decay energies and decay times.

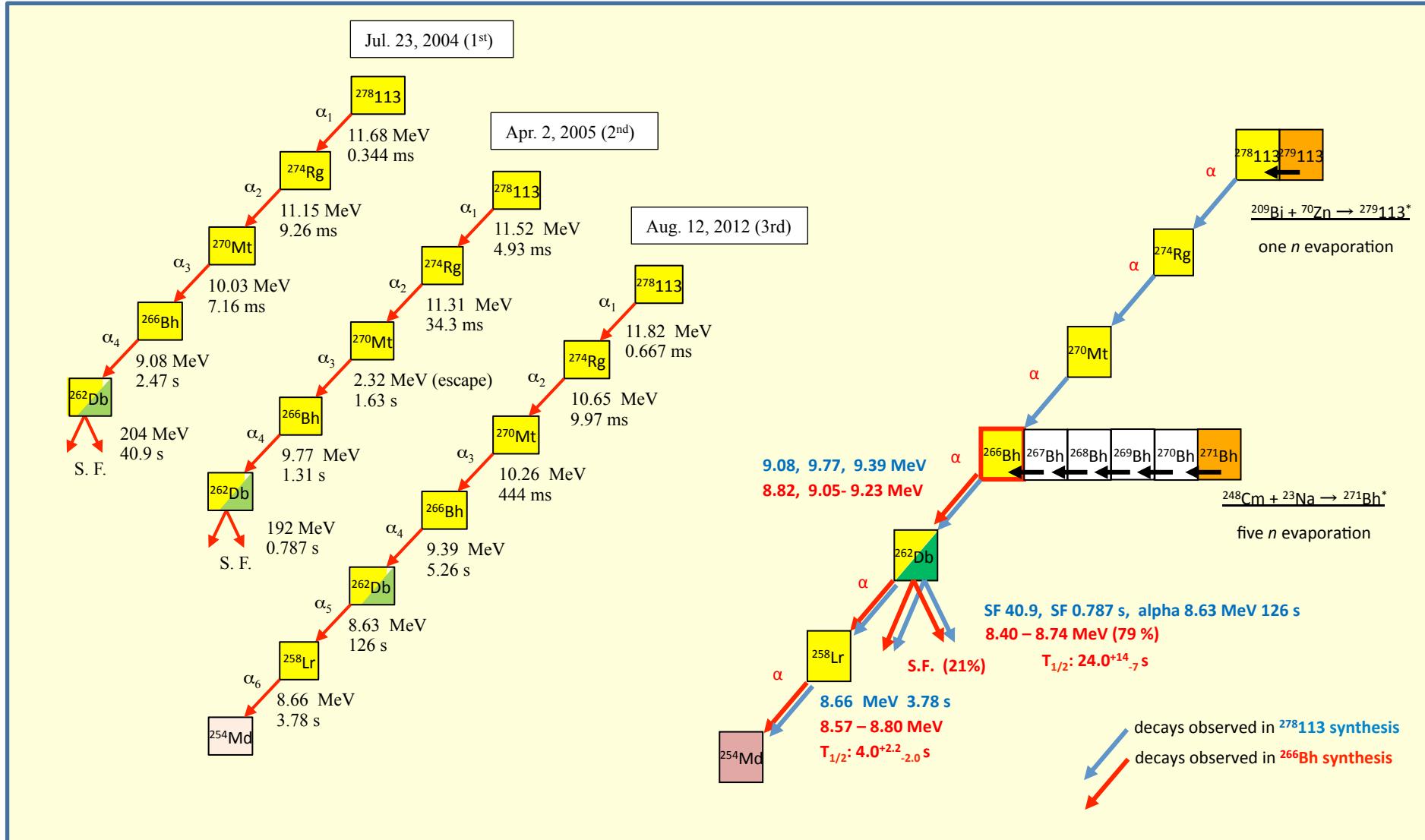
# Observed three decay chains on the nuclear chart



## Decay time distribution with logarithmic scale.



# Summary of the results related to $^{278}\text{113}$



# The history of experiments for $^{278}\text{113}$

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$$^{70}\text{Zn} + ^{209}\text{Bi} \rightarrow ^{278}\text{113}$$
**Beam Time Table**

Beam Time		net irradi. t.	dose/sum	Cross section	events
Year	Period	(days)	[ $\times 10^{19}$ ]	(fb)	
2003	9/5 - 12/29	57.9	1.24/1.24	75 (upper)	0
2004	7/8 - 8/2	21.9	0.51/1.75	55	1
2005	1/20 - 1/23	3.0	0.07/1.82	52	0
2005	3/20 - 4/22	27.1	0.71/2.53	75	1
2005	5/19 - 5/21	2.0	0.05/2.58	74	0
2005	8/7 - 8/25	16.1	0.45/3.03	63	0
2005	9/7 - 10/20	39.0	1.17/4.20	45	0
2005	11/25 - 12/15	19.5	0.63/4.83	39	0
2006	3/14 - 5/15	54.2	1.37/6.20	31	0
2008	1/9 - 3/31	70.9	2.28/8.48	23	0
2010	9/7 - 10/18	30.9	0.52/9.00	21	0
2011	1/22 - 5/22	89.8	0.24/11.21	17	0
2011	12/2 - 12/19	14.4	576 / 3 = 192, 1 event per 192 days!	17	0
2012	1/15 - 2/9	25.0	0.79/12.69	16	0
2012	3/13 - 4/17	33.7	0.25/12.94	15	0
2012	6/12 - 7/2	15.7	0.97/13.91	22	0
2012	7/14 - 10/1	55.0	0.97/13.91	22	1
Total		576	13.91	22	3

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*four new chemical elements:*

*The 7<sup>th</sup> period of the periodic table of elements is complete!*

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# Nihonium “Nh”

We proposed "nihonium" for the name and "Nh" for the symbol.

There are two ways to say "Japan" in Japanese: "**Nihon**" and "**Nippon**". Both literally mean "**the Land of Rising Sun**" and are widely used officially. We have therefore decided on "**nihon**", and by adding "-ium", the name for the new element with atomic number 113 will be "**nihonium**". The symbol will be "**Nh**" as an abbreviation for "nihonium".



Naming  
meeting

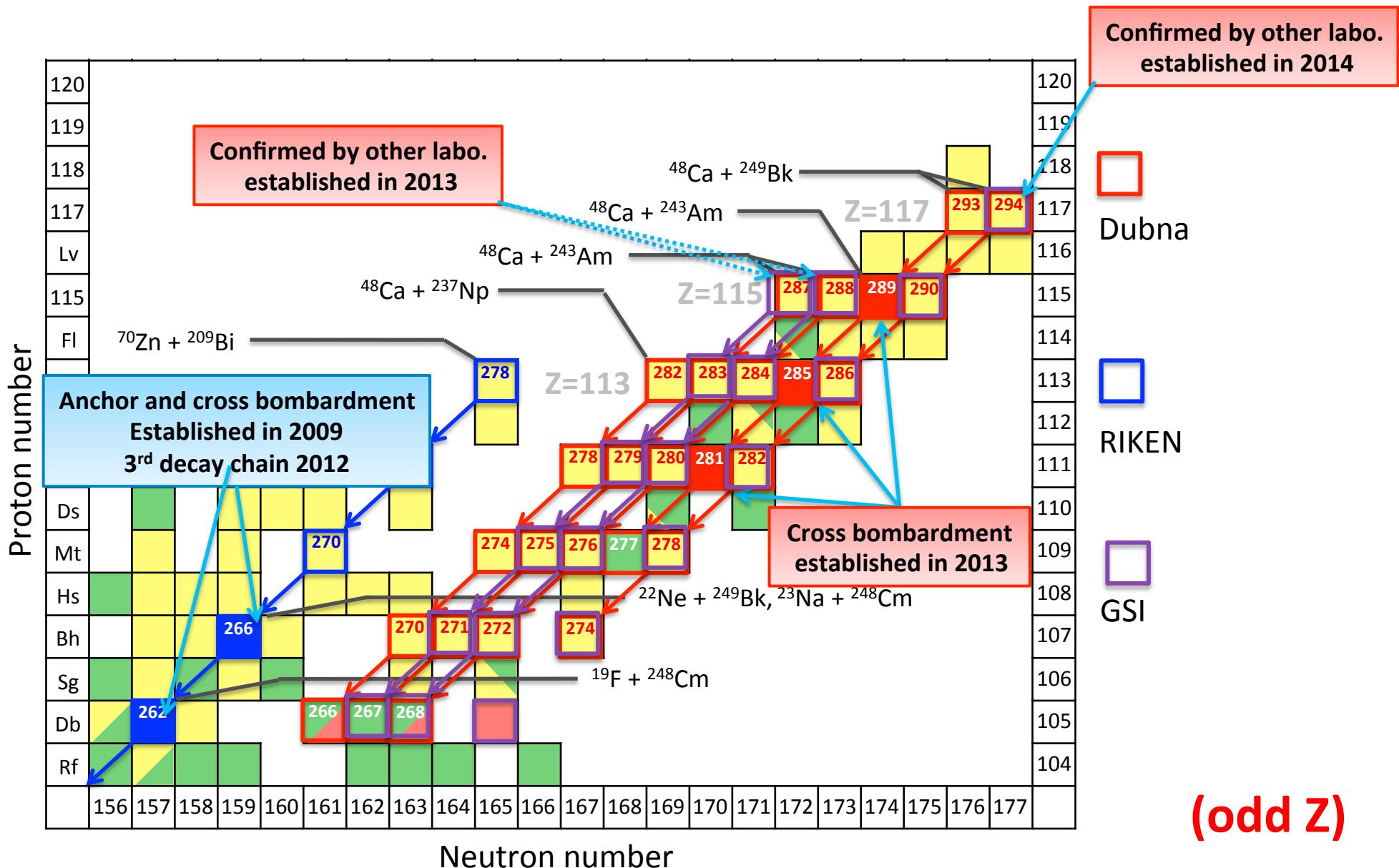


Together with  
Nishina-sensei

# **Why RIKEN?    Why not Dubna?**

Dubna and USA collaboration team  
also claimed the discovery of element 113

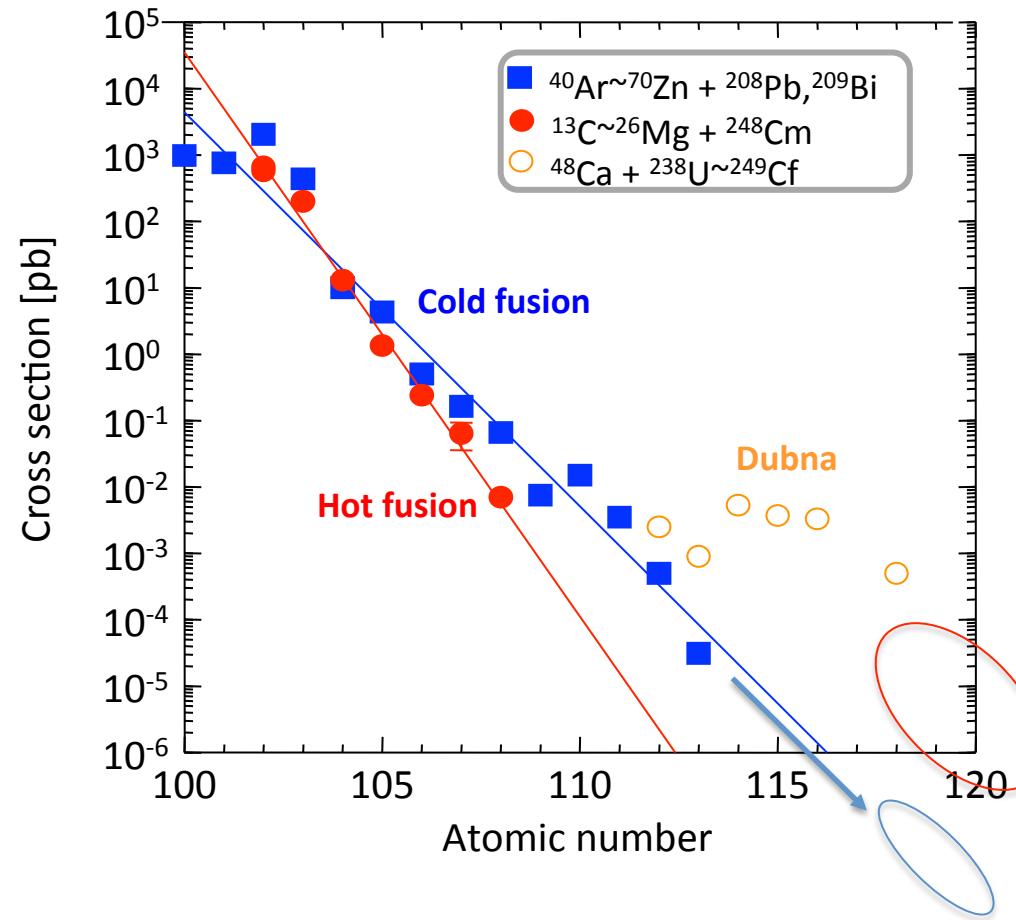
# RIKEN team fulfilled the criteria, just before Dubna and USA team



# Future plan

# Cold fusion → Hot fusion

Further new element search using cold fusion is hopeless  
because of its **small production cross-section**.



Z=113 (cold fusion)  
22 fb, 1 event / 200 day

# Development of GARIS-II

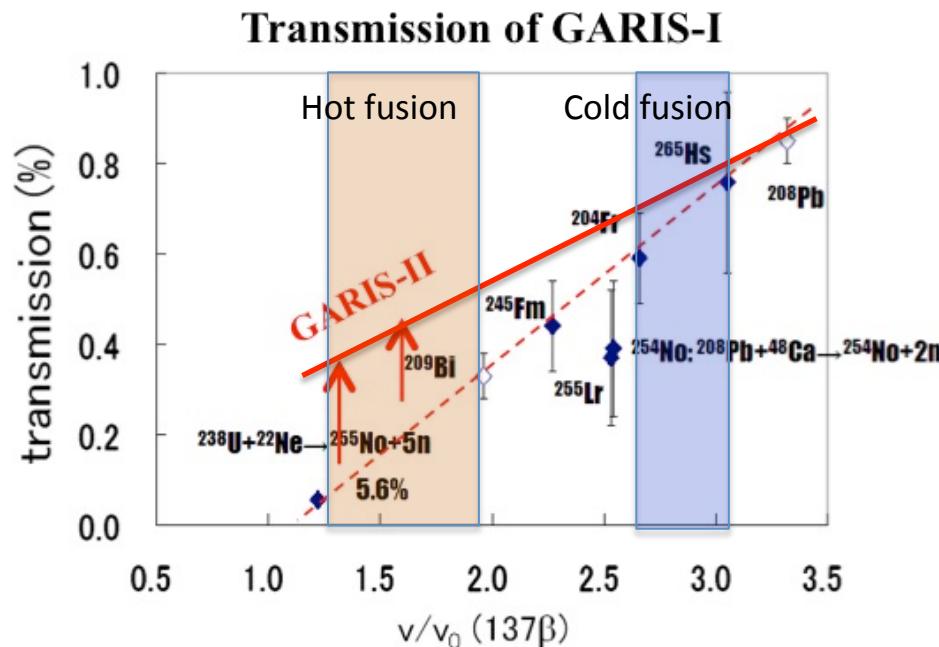
**GARIS-I** (present GARIS) has a high transmission efficiency for **symmetric reaction** (higher velocity products) like a **cold fusion** reaction.

**GARIS-II** was designed suitable for the **asymmetric reaction** like a **hot fusion** reaction.

Asymmetric (hot fusion) reaction →

- Small momentum of ERs
- recoil effect of emitted neutrons
- multiple scattering of ERs with target atoms

→ Large angular acceptance required



$$\Delta\theta = \pm 67 \text{ mrad}$$

$$\Delta\phi = \pm 58 \text{ mrad}$$

$$\Delta\Omega \approx 12 \text{ msr}$$

GARIS

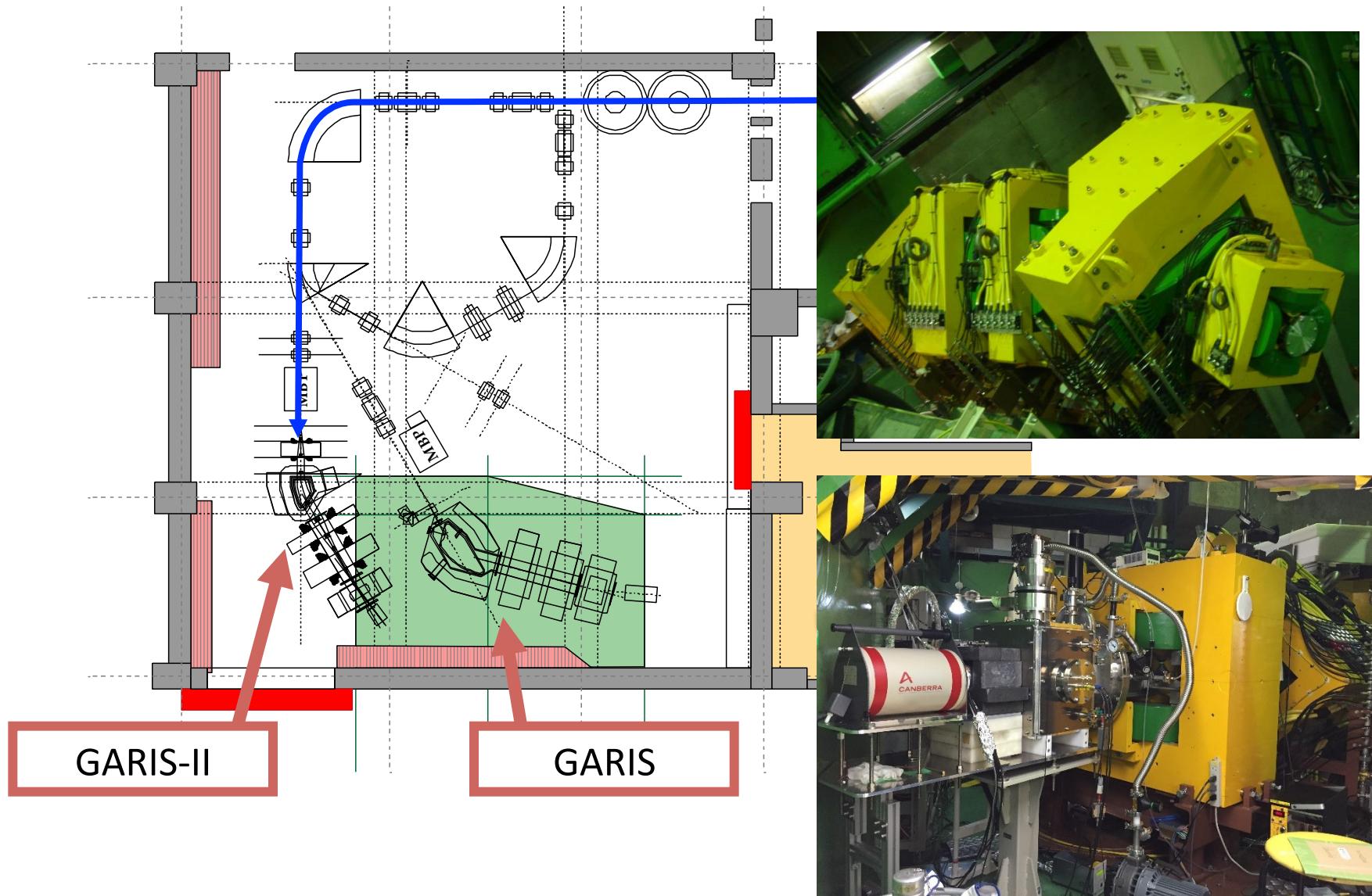
$$\Delta\theta = \pm 55 \text{ mrad}$$

$$\Delta\phi = \pm 120 \text{ mrad}$$

$$\Delta\Omega \approx 20 \text{ msr}$$

GARIS-II

# New separator GARIS-II



# Comparison

## GARIS-II vs. World's working GFRS

	DGFRS	BGS	RITU	GARIS	TASCA (HTM)	TASCA (SIM)	GARIS-II
Configuration	$DQ_h Q_v$	$Q_h D_h D$	$Q_v DQ_h Q_v$	$DQ_h Q_v D$	$DQ_h Q_v$	$DQ_v Q_h$	$Q_v DQ_h Q_v D$
Total length [m]	4.0	4.7	4.7	5.8	3.5	3.5	5.1
Bend. Angle [deg]	23	25+45	25	45+10	30	30	30+7
Solid angle [msr]	8.8	45.0	10.0	12.2	13.1	4.3	18.5
$B\rho(\text{max})$ [Tm]	3.10	2.50	2.20	2.16	2.40	2.40	2.43
Dispersion [mm/%]	7.5	20.0	10.0	9.7	9.0	1.0	19.3
Transmission [%]	41*	49-59*	?	40*	60*	36*	70

# GARIS-II Commissioning finished

## [40Ar COM#2 \(2 days\) : NOV-2012](#)

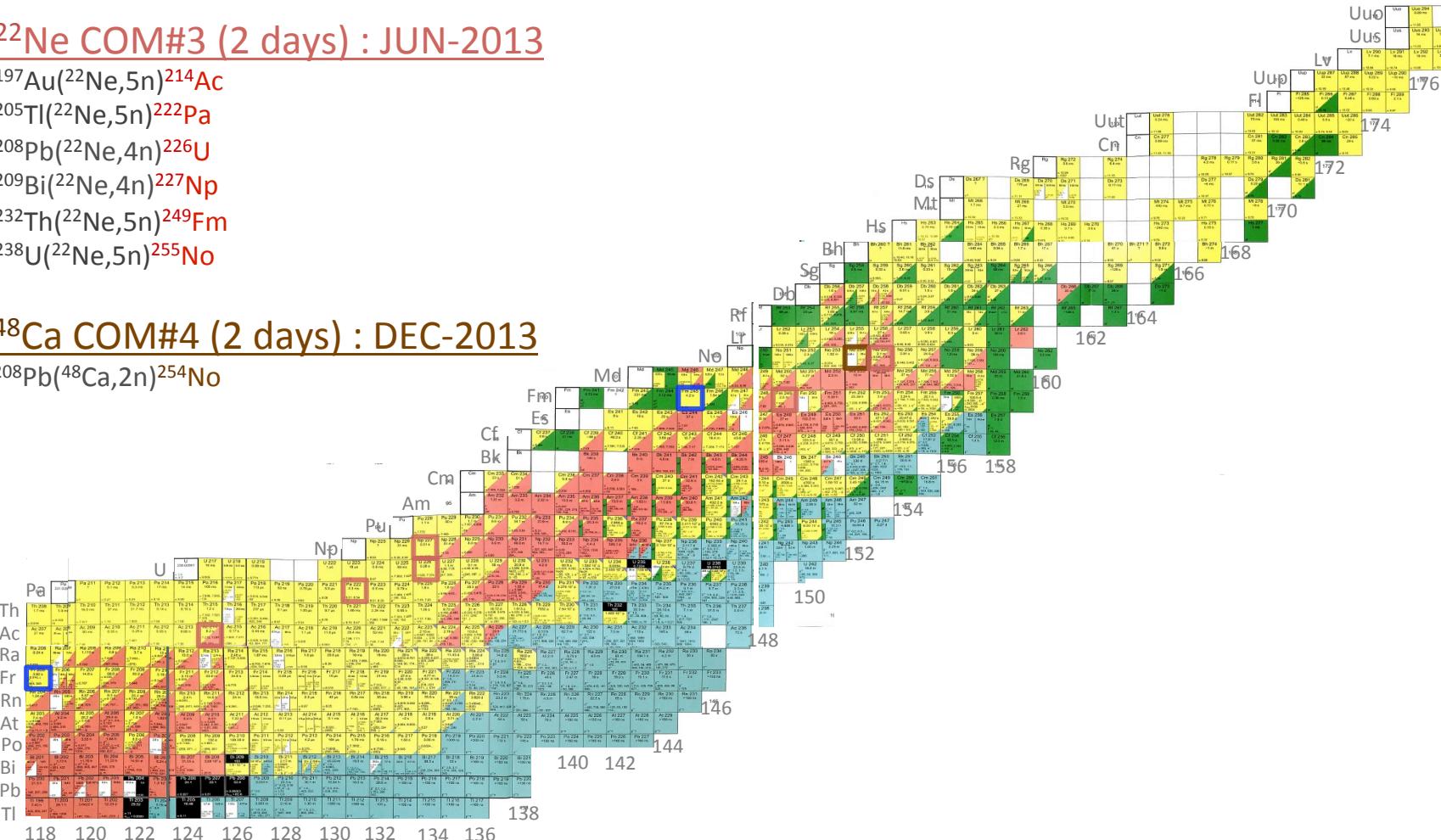
$^{169}\text{Tm}(^{40}\text{Ar},4\text{n})^{205}\text{Fr}$   
 $^{208}\text{Pb}(^{40}\text{Ar},3\text{n})^{245}\text{Fm}$

## [22Ne COM#3 \(2 days\) : JUN-2013](#)

$^{197}\text{Au}(^{22}\text{Ne},5\text{n})^{214}\text{Ac}$   
 $^{205}\text{Tl}(^{22}\text{Ne},5\text{n})^{222}\text{Pa}$   
 $^{208}\text{Pb}(^{22}\text{Ne},4\text{n})^{226}\text{U}$   
 $^{209}\text{Bi}(^{22}\text{Ne},4\text{n})^{227}\text{Np}$   
 $^{232}\text{Th}(^{22}\text{Ne},5\text{n})^{249}\text{Fm}$   
 $^{238}\text{U}(^{22}\text{Ne},5\text{n})^{255}\text{No}$

## [48Ca COM#4 \(2 days\) : DEC-2013](#)

$^{208}\text{Pb}(^{48}\text{Ca},2\text{n})^{254}\text{No}$



# GARIS-II Commissioning finished

$^{40}\text{Ar}, ^{22}\text{Ne}, ^{48}\text{Ca}$  GARIS-II COM#2-4

$^{23}\text{Na}$  BT#5 (7 days) : JUN-2014

$^{197}\text{Au}(^{23}\text{Na},\text{xn})^{214}\text{Th}$  [x=6]

$^{197}\text{Au}(^{23}\text{Na},\text{axn})^{212,213}\text{Ra}$  [x=3,4]

$^{208}\text{Pb}(^{23}\text{Na},\text{xn})^{226,227}\text{Np}$  [x=4,5]

$^{206}\text{Pb}(^{23}\text{Na},\text{xn})^{224,225}\text{Np}$  [x=4,5]

$^{238}\text{U}(^{23}\text{Na},\text{xn})^{255,256}\text{Lr}$  [x=5,6]

$^{27}\text{Al}$  BT#6 (7 days) : JUL-2014

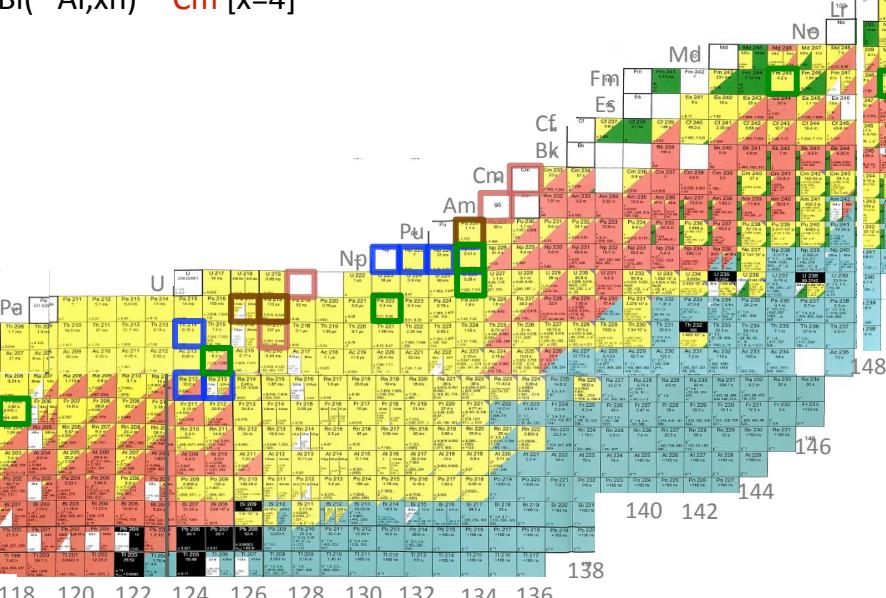
$^{197}\text{Au}(^{27}\text{Al},\text{xn})^{220}\text{U}$  [x=4]

$^{197}\text{Au}(^{27}\text{Al},\text{axn})^{217}\text{Tl}$  [x=4]

$^{207}\text{Pb}(^{27}\text{Al},\text{xn})^{230}\text{Am}$  [x=4]

$^{209}\text{Bi}(^{27}\text{Al},\text{xn})^{232}\text{Cm}$  [x=4]

**GARIS-II is ready!**



$^{238}\text{U}(^{48}\text{Ca},3\text{n})^{283}\text{Cn}$   
2 events / 4.5 days  
(Possible candidates)



$^{24}\text{Mg}$  BT#7 (7 days) : SEP-2015

$^{197}\text{Au}(^{24}\text{Mg},\text{xn})^{218,217}\text{Pa}$  [x=3,4]

$^{181}\text{Ta}(^{24}\text{Mg},\text{xn})^{201}\text{At}$  [x=5]

$^{208}\text{Pb}(^{24}\text{Mg},\text{xn})^{228}\text{Pu}$  [x=4]

$^{238}\text{U}(^{24}\text{Mg},\text{xn})^{257}\text{Rf}$  [x=5]

$^{48}\text{Ca}$  BT#8 (7 days) : OCT-2015

$^{208}\text{Pb}(^{48}\text{Ca},\text{xn})^{254}\text{No}$  [x=2]

$^{206}\text{Pb}(^{48}\text{Ca},\text{xn})^{252}\text{No}$  [x=2]

$^{238}\text{U}(^{48}\text{Ca},\text{xn})^{283}\text{Cn}$  [x=3]

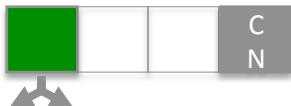
# Observed decay chains

GARIS-II ready!

The reaction  $^{48}\text{Ca} + ^{238}\text{U} \rightarrow ^{286}\text{Cn}^*$  studied using GARIS-II

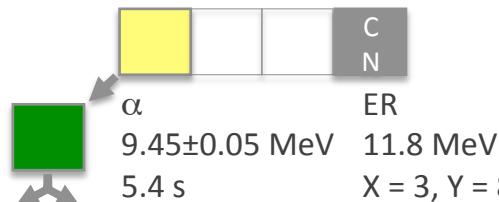
## Preliminary

① 23th-OCT-2015, 10:07 (JST)

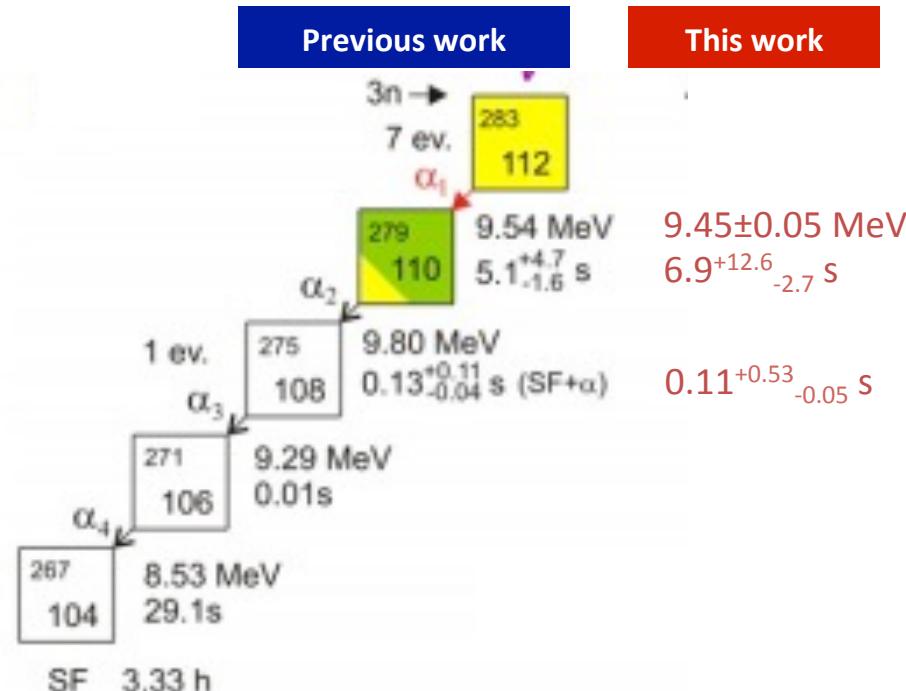


**2-fold fission**  
172 MeV (=167+5)  
14.4 s                    ER  
                        12.2 MeV  
                        X = 4, Y = 12  
                        (DSSD-1)

② 27th-OCT-2015, 01:05 (JST)

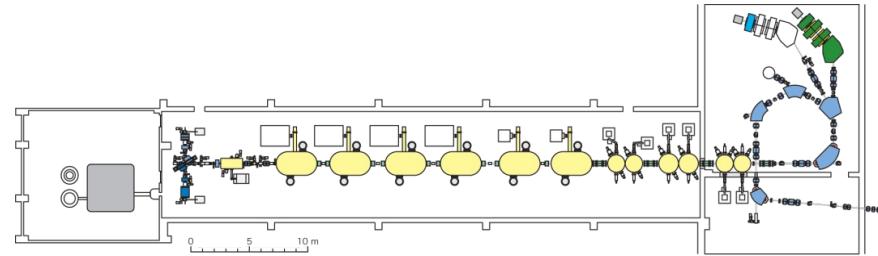


**2-fold fission**  
179 MeV (=137+42)  
154 ms                    ER  
                        11.8 MeV  
                        X = 3, Y = 8  
                        (DSSD-2)



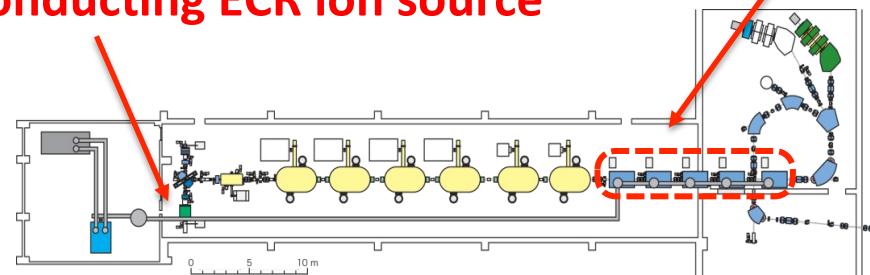
J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 34, R165 (2007)

# Upgrade plan of RILAC (2017 -2019)



**Superconducting Linac**

**28GHz superconducting ECR ion source**



**Stop operation:** middle of 2017

**Construction:** 2017 - 2019

**Restart operation:** 2019

**Beam intensity → more than 5 times**

# Future plan of SHE group

Present LINAC ?

- $^{248}\text{Cm} + ^{50}\text{Ti} \rightarrow 118$  For the study of the difference  
 $^{48}\text{Ca}$  and other projectiles

New LINAC ?

- $^{248}\text{Cm} + ^{51}\text{V} \rightarrow 119$  new element search
- $^{248}\text{Cm} + ^{54}\text{Cr} \rightarrow 120$  new element search

Status of Cm target

$^{248}\text{Cm}$  target will be ready by end of this year. (in collaboration with ORNL)

Status of ion source

- Ti: available,  $0.5 \text{ p}\mu\text{A}$  on target (in collaboration with IPHC)
- Cr: under development (in collaboration with IPHC)
- V: under development (in collaboration with IPHC)

**Thank you for your attention!**

# Collaborators

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