Decay experiments and techniques at fragmentation facilities

Rin Yokoyama (Center for Nuclear Study, the University of Tokyo)



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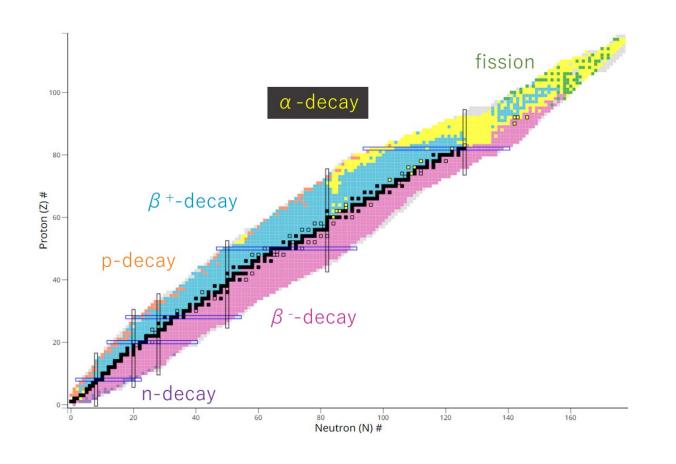
Overview of decay spectroscopy at RIBF

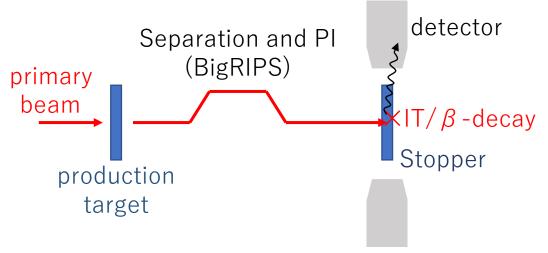
• Study of β -delayed neutron emission

New scintillator material for active stoppers

ullet Utilization of Apache Spark for efficient eta-implant correlation analysis

Decay spectroscopy

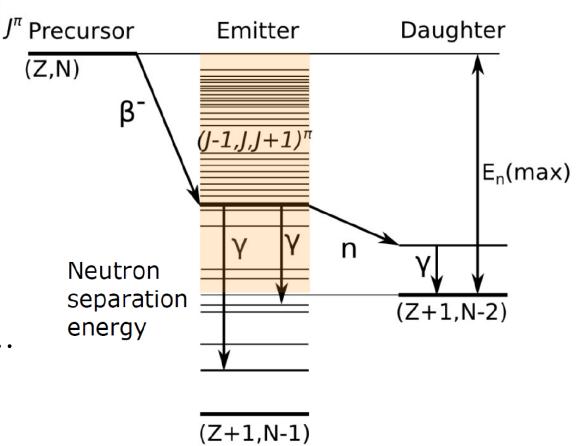




- . Most of the atomic nuclei except for stable ones decay.
- . 100% of the stopped nuclei decay
- . Feasible on very exotic isotopes with a limited yield (from 100 counts).
- . β -decay Q-values increase as N goes away from stable isotope.
- β -decay spectroscopy is a useful tool to study nuclear structure of very exotic nuclei Important information for astrophysical r-process calculation

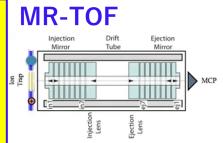
Decay measurements

- Half-lives
- α / protons
 - Q values
- β rays
 - Energy (continuum) shape factor
- Delayed γ rays
 - Singles, $\gamma \gamma$, Total absorption,...
- Delayed particles
 - Energy spectrum
 - Branching ratio



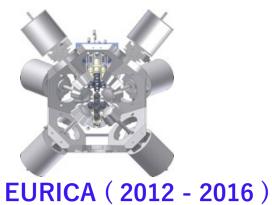
Decay Experiments at RIBF

ZeroDegree Program Decay Mass In-beam Interaction cross-section

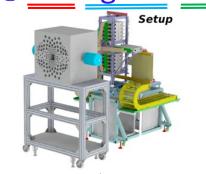


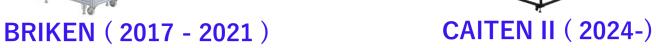
beta-gamma spectroscopy



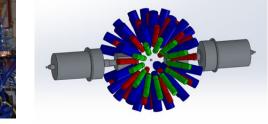












Total absorption spectroscopy

DTAS (2018 -) IDATEN (2024 -)

Lifetime of excited states

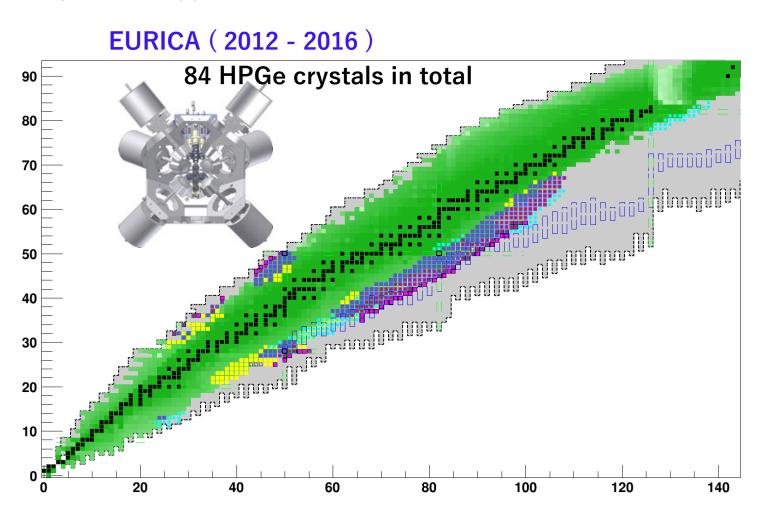
Other experiments

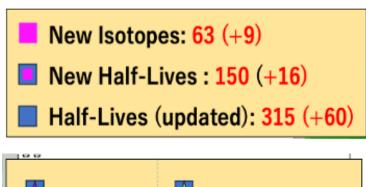
- VANDLE: β -delayed n spectroscopy of 78Ni region
- RIBF168: Super allowed α -decay of ¹⁰⁴Te
- RIBF104: Two-proton decay of ⁵⁴Zn
- SHARAQ03: Mass and p-decay of 45Fe region etc.

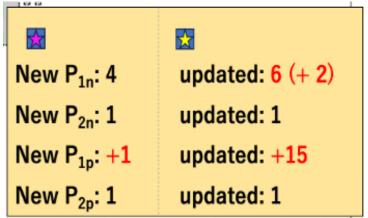


Significant supports from GSI, GAMMAPOOL, ibs, and RIKEN Nishina Center

77 papers
16 in Phys. Rev. Lett.
16 in Phys. Lett. B 3 EPJ
4 Phys. Rev. C (R) 2 PTEP
35 Phys. Rev. C 1 JPSJ





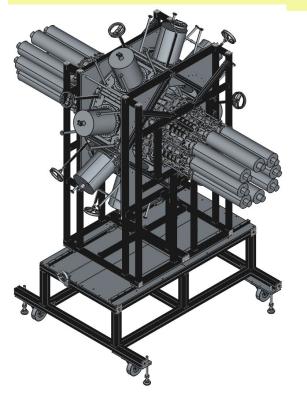


Many new β - γ and isomer spectroscopy Data were obtained

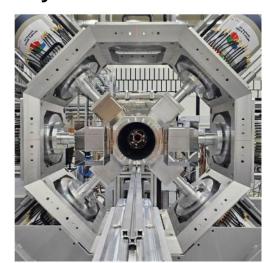
C2URIE (Clover and Cluster Units for the RIBF's Implantation Experiments)

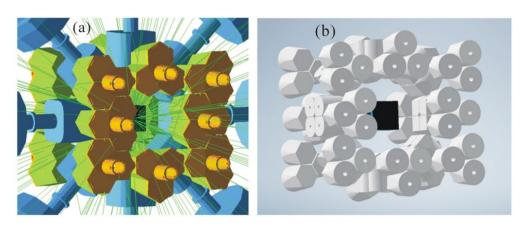
16 DEGAS cluster from GSI Suer-Clovers from CENS and IMP

- ☑ High efficiency detector: 16.5 % @ 1000 keV (x 1.7)
- **☑** Digital electronics with self-trigger
- ☑ Minimum dead-time for short-lived isomers

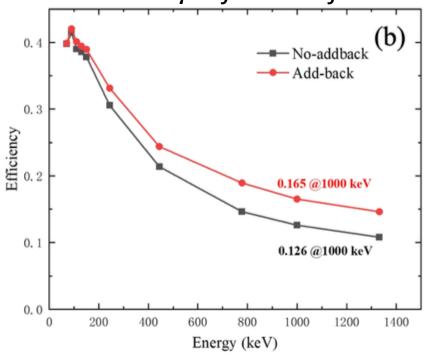


Decay station frame @ RAON









Upgrades from the EURICA Project

Primary Beam Intensity

Newly Available Beams

⁷⁰Zn ... 500 ~ 826 pnA ²⁰⁸Pb? ... Unknown (~100 pnA)

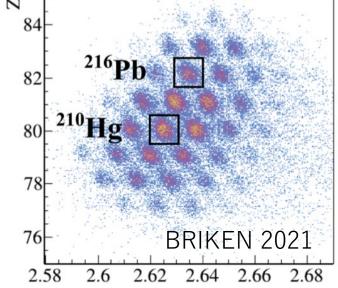
PID capability

Two stage separation (F1-F3, F3-F7)

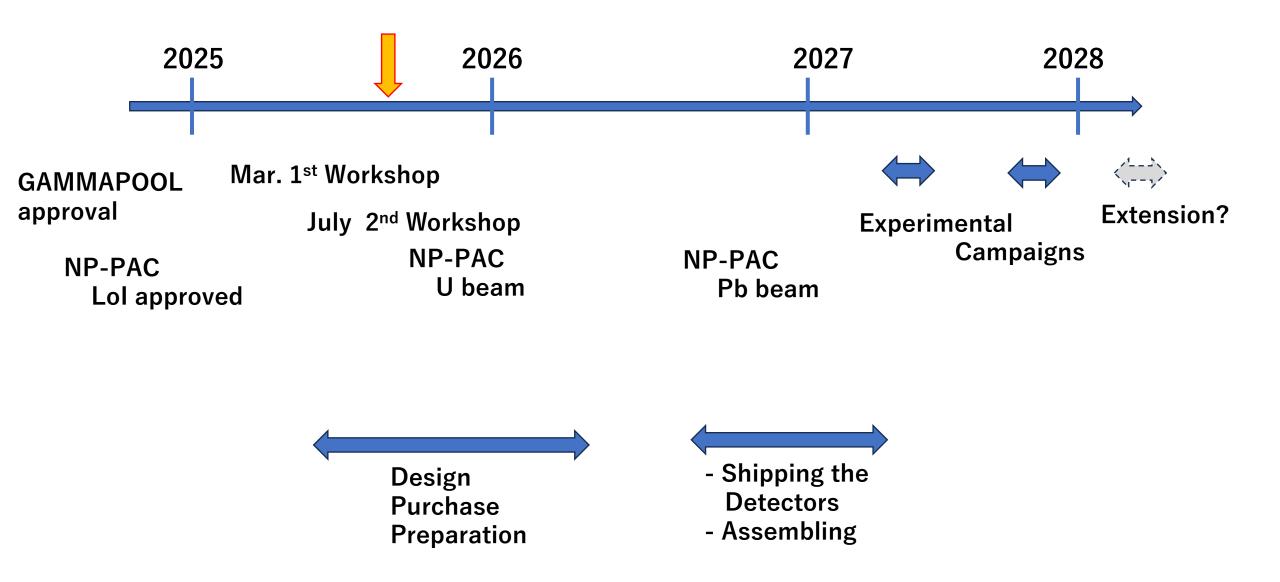
- Diamond detectors
- Xe-filled ionization chamber
- DAQ upgrades (MPV, digitizers, etc.) For higher rate at F3

heavy/neutron-deficient region





Tentative Schedule (C2URIE)

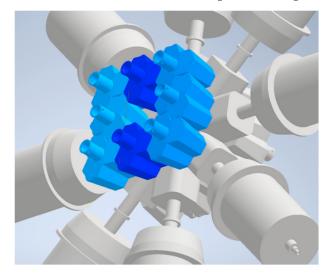


https://ribf.riken.jp/C2URIE/



Welcome to our new website C2URIE!

C2URIE (Clover and Cluster Units for the RIBF's Implantation Experiments)



Following the success of the EURICA (Euroball-RIKEN Cluster Array) experiments, which were carried out from 2012 to 2016, we are now looking ahead to the next phase of decay spectroscopy at RIBF. Currently, a new array is in the planning, composed of 8 Clover detectors from CENS and IMP Lanzhou, along with up to 16 DEGAS detectors from the HISPEC/DESPEC project of FAIR, including GAMMAPOOL germanium capsules. This array will provide enhanced efficiency and open new avenues for research in nuclear structure and astrophysics, using the world's strongest radioactive ion beams. The array will feature about 20 % efficiency at 1 MeV, and it is envisaged that experiments will take place in 2026 and 2027.

Supported by Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Area (A) (No. 25H01273).

RECENT ENTRIES

2nd C2URIE Workshop on July 28, 2025 (Zoom)

Dear Colleagues, We ...

on C2URIE Page

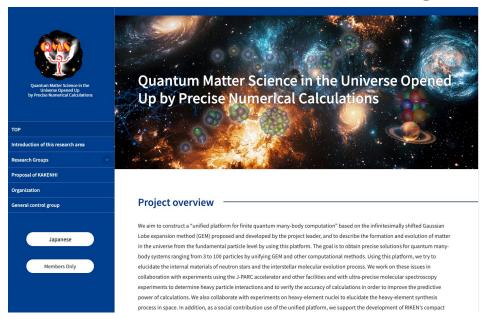
By Shunji Nishimura | Comments (o)

Subscribe to this website's feed

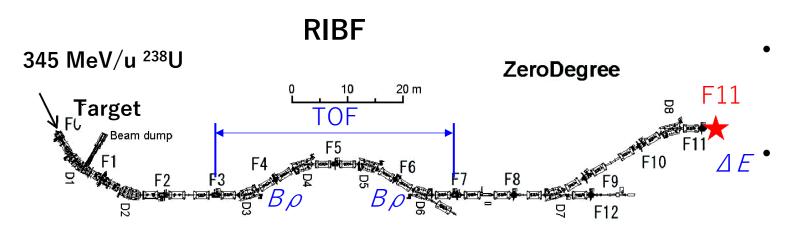
List of startup members

Name	Institution	Country of location
S. Ahn	IBS	Korea
H. Albers	GSI	Germany
A. Algora	IFIC	Spain
P. Doornenbal	RIKEN	Japan
M. Gorska	GSI	Germany
K. Hahn	IBS	Korea
A. Jungclaus	CSIC	Spain
J.H. Kim	IBS	Korea
G.S. Li	IMPCAS	China
B. Moon	IBS	Korea
S. Nishimura	RIKEN	Japan
K.L. Wang	IMPCAS	China
K. Wimmer	GSI	Germany

https://qm-science.org/en/



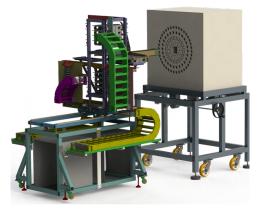
Beta-delayed neutron experiments at RIBF, RIKFN



- In-flight fission of 345 MeV/u ²³⁸U for production of very exotic nuclei
- ZeroDegree beamline for decay measurements

BigRIPS (PID)

BRIKEN



- HDPL moderator + 140 ³He tubes
- High efficiency (>60% for 1MeV n)
- Pxn measurement

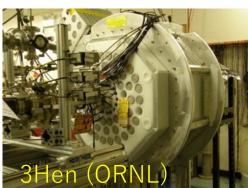
VANDLE (ToFU)



- Fast β -detector (YSO) + 48 plastic bars for ToF measurement
- Gamma-detectors
- Neutron energy spectra

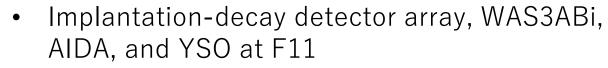
BRIKEN experiment at RIBF, RIKEN



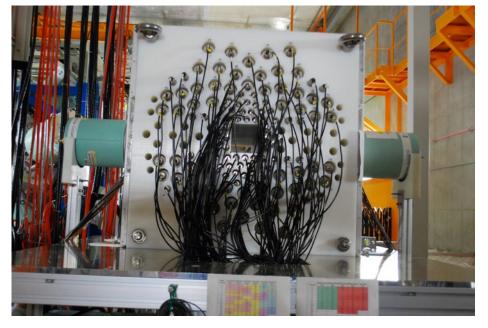








- Efficient neutron detection by 140 ³He tubes (nearly all ³He gas available for nuclear spectroscopy)
- Two ORNL clover Ge detectors for gamma-rays



~66% efficiency for 1 MeV neutrons

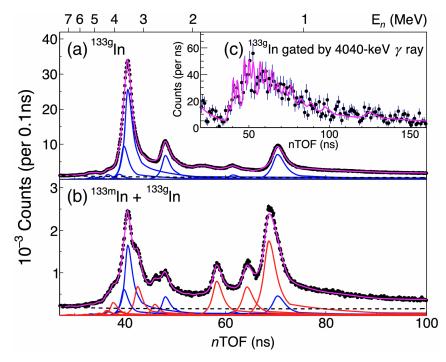
Systematic beta-delayed neutron emission branching ratio (Pxn) measurements

Beta-delayed Neutron ToF measurements

VANDLE W.A. Peters et al. (2016)



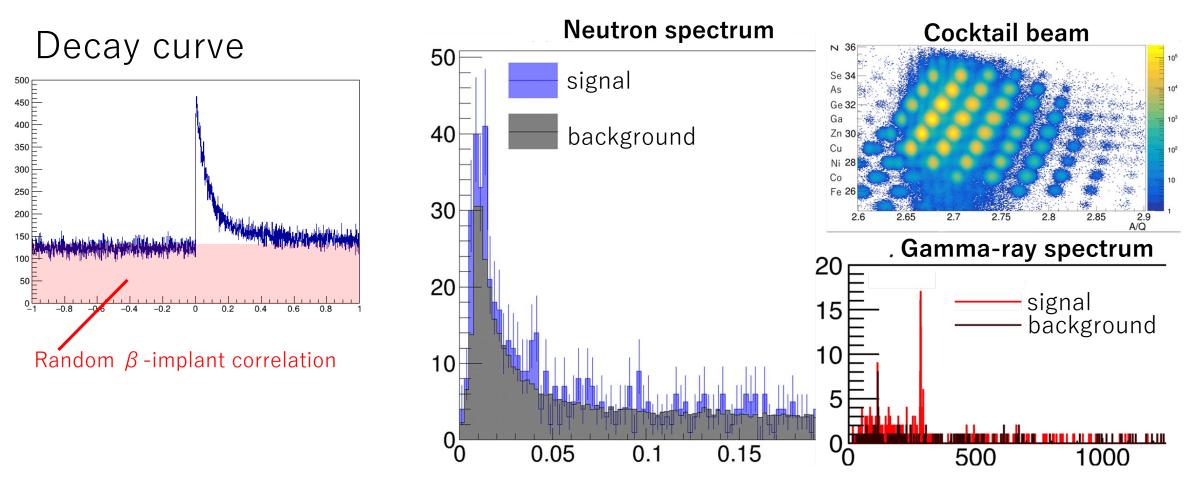
 Neutron spectroscopy is a powerful tool to study neutronrich nuclei



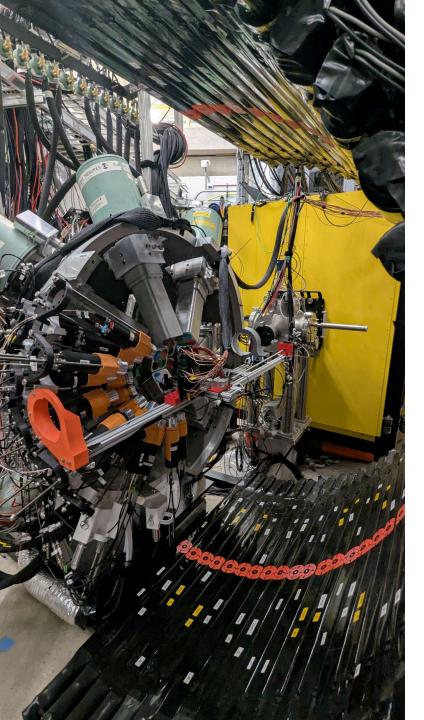
Z.Y.Xu et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 131 022501 (2023)

. Requires fast β detector for the start timing of nToF

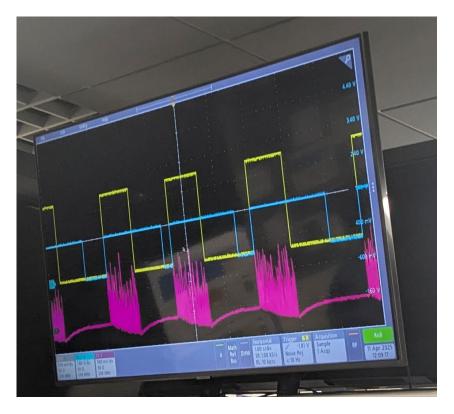
eta -implant correlation background



Random β -implant correlation affect neutron spectroscopy much more than high resolution γ -ray spectroscopy

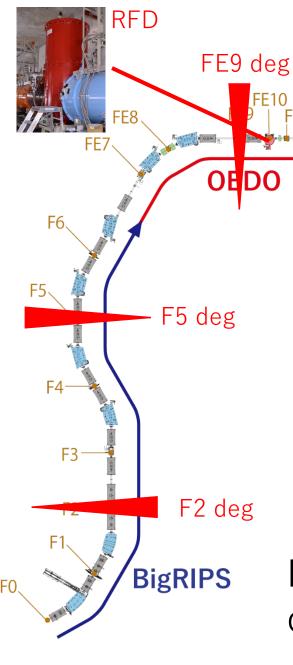


E23076 experiment at FRIB



 beam pulsing to measure the decay curve without implant correlation

- Beta-decays of less neutron-rich Co isotopes by using pure beam
- Cannot applied to nuclei with lower production



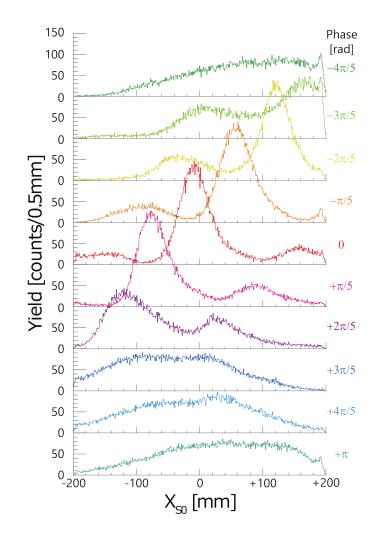
low-background decay spectroscopy at OEDO

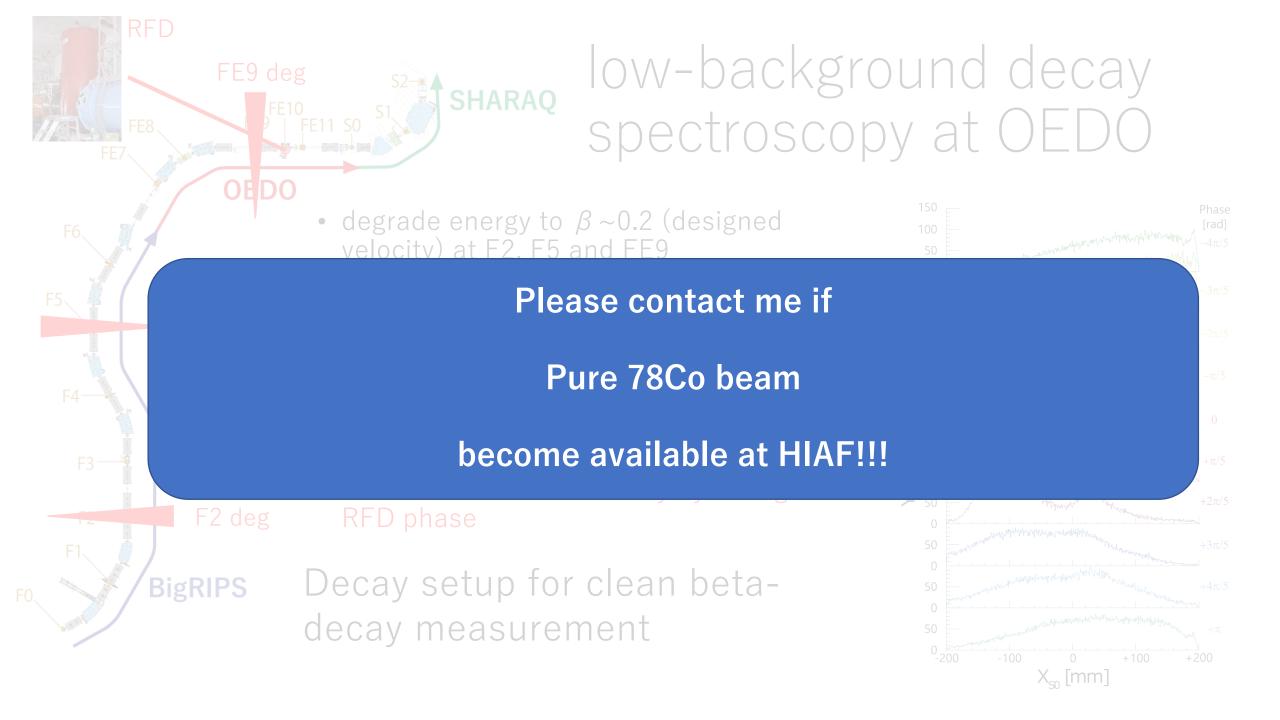
- degrade energy to $\beta \sim 0.2$ (designed velocity) at F2, F5 and FE9
- adjust F2/F5 deg thickness so ToFs of Zlow \sim Zhigh nuclei fit in 4/5 π of the RF
- Select X position to look at different nuclei
 OR
- Put x slit to obtain pure beam

SHARAQ

Select different nuclei only by changing RFD phase

Decay setup for clean betadecay measurement





Contents

Overview of decay spectroscopy at RIBF



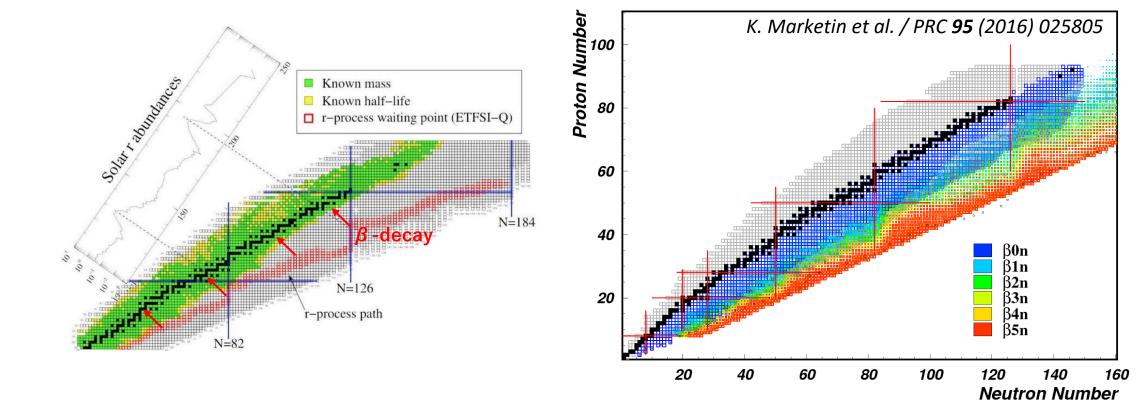
• Study of β -delayed neutron emission

New scintillator material for active stoppers

ullet Utilization of Apache Spark for efficient eta-implant correlation analysis

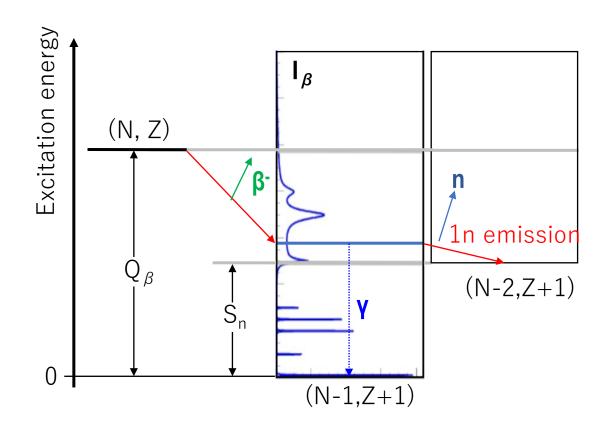
Beta-delayed multi-neutron emission

- Multi-neutron emission will occur when $Q_{\beta} > S_{2n}$
- Multi-neutron emission will be a dominant decay mode in r-process nuclei



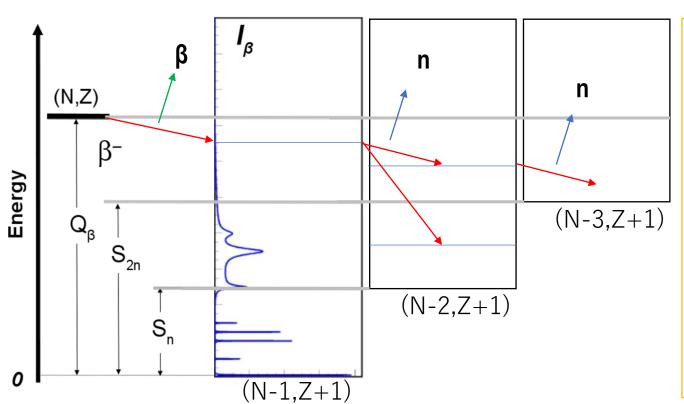
Complexity of multi-neutron emitters

In the case of one-neutron emission



- . Relative position of the beta decay strength (I_β) and the neutron separation energy (S_n) in the daughter nucleus controls P_n
- In the case of 1n emission, gamma decay is the only competition.
- . Until recently, γ -competition is considered to be only important for the states just above S_n .

Complexity of multi-neutron emitters In the case of multi-neutron emission

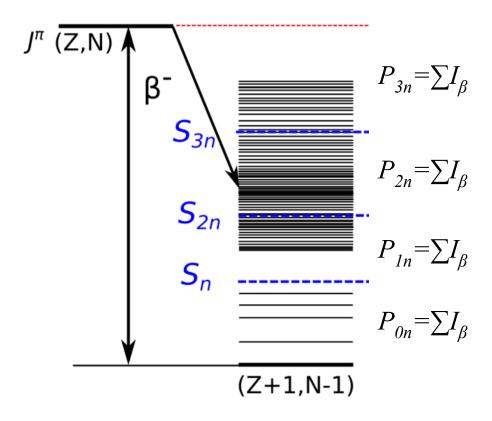


- . Above S_{2n} , not only β_{2n} but also β_{1n} may take place.
- . Competition between 1n and 2n decay reduces P_{2n} value.
- . Multi-neutron emitters are much more complicated and sensitive to the nuclear properties than one-neutron emitters.

Theoretical models of neutron emission

Cut off model P. Möller et al. (2003)

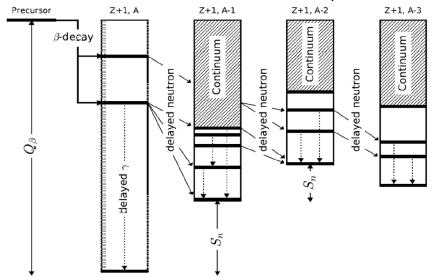
 P_{xn} proportional to the integrated β - feeding in the respective energy window



Statistical model T. Kawano et al. PRC 78, 054601 (2008)

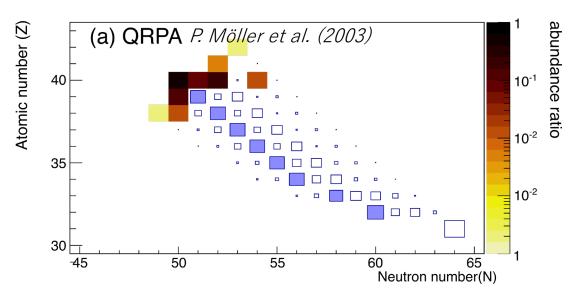
- . Implemented the Hauser-Feshbach statistical model for particle and γ -ray emission from compound nucleus.
- "only a slight improvement in neutron emission probabilities near stability"

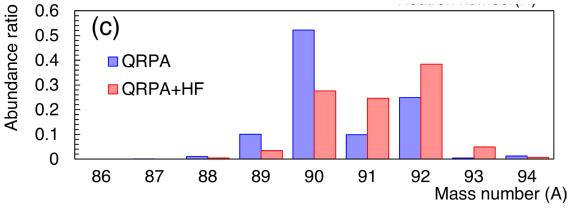
"Towards the neutron drip line we find substantial differences from older model predictions"



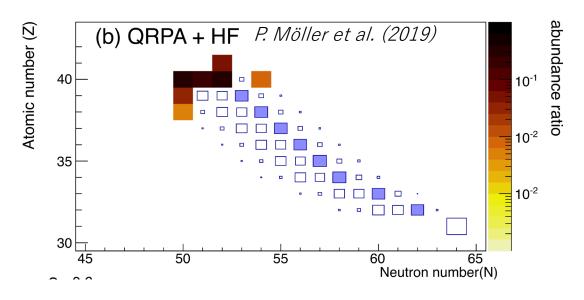
Decay paths of 95Ga with the two models

Cut off model (no competition)





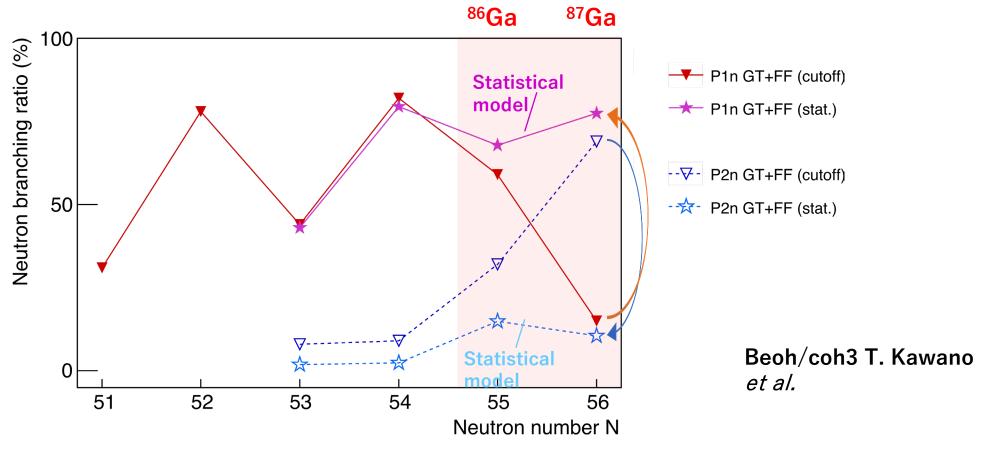
Statistical model



R. Yokoyama et al. PRC **100**, 031302(R) (2019)

(2019)
 statistical model predicts less neutron
 emission which ends up in larger A nuclides.
 →Impact on r-process calculations.

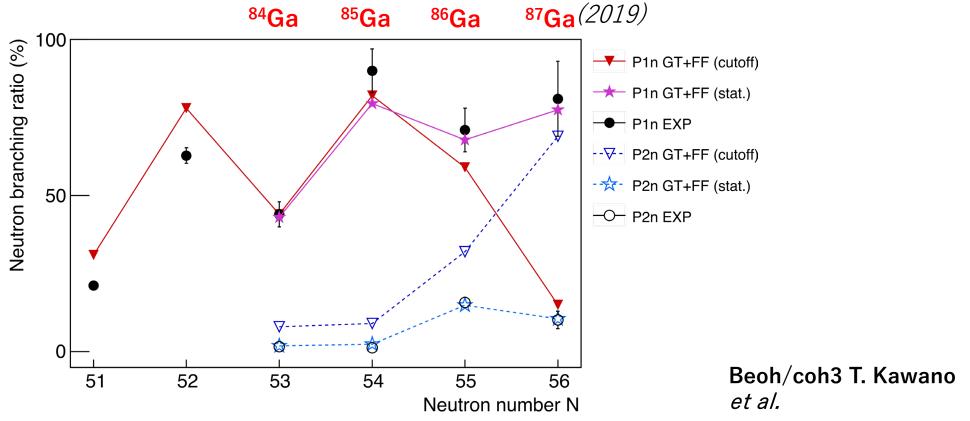
Statistical model applied with the shell model strength distribution



. Inclusion of the statistical model reduces P_{2n} values and increases P_{1n} vales.

Pn values of Ga isotopes (experiment)

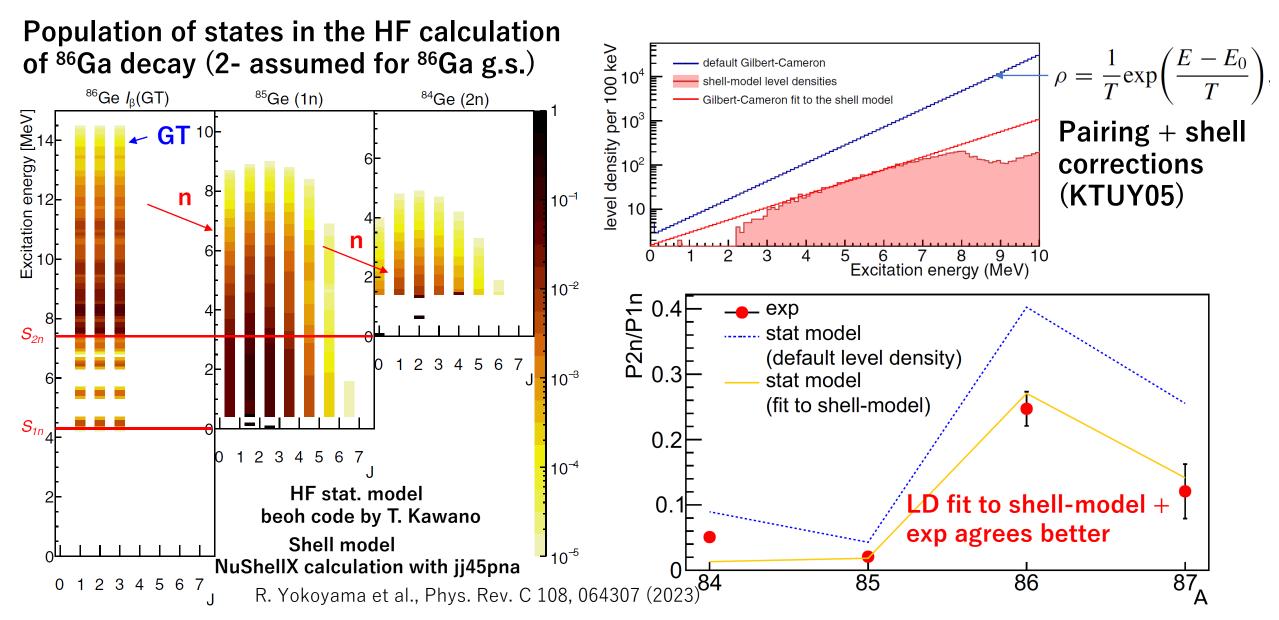
R. Yokoyama et al. PRC **100**, 031302(R)



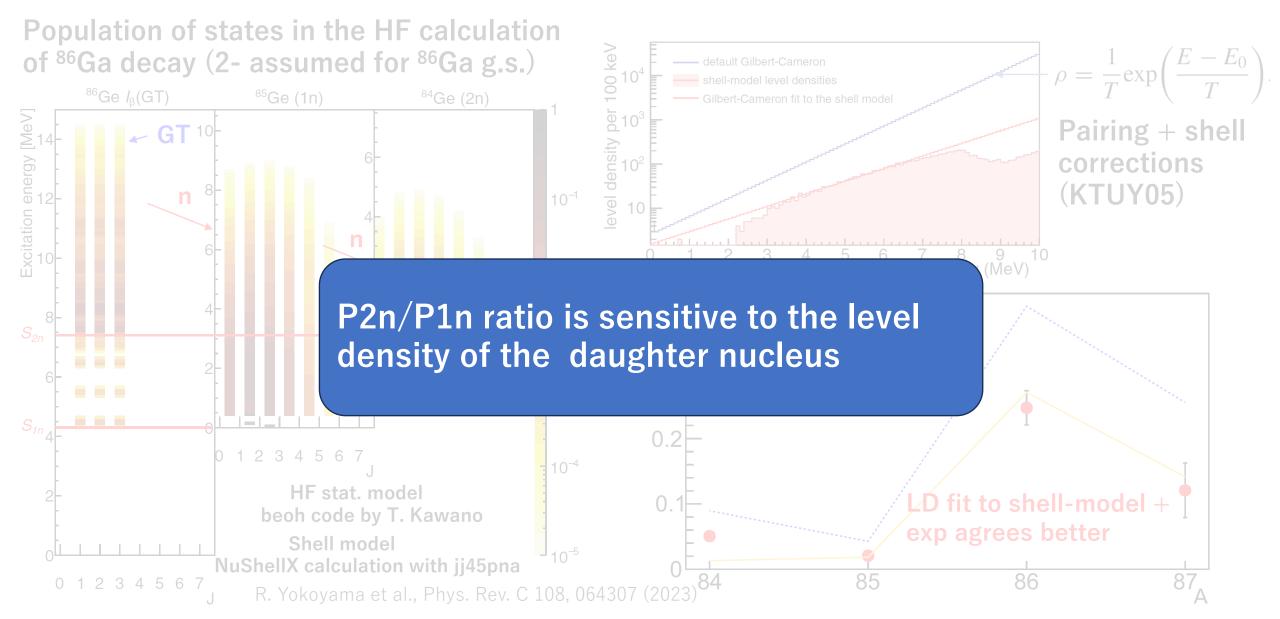
- P_{1n} is still dominant in the 87 Ga decay
- . P_{2n} values agree well with the statistical model

There is a competition between 1n and 2n channels

Impact of level densities to P_{2n}/P_{1n} ratio



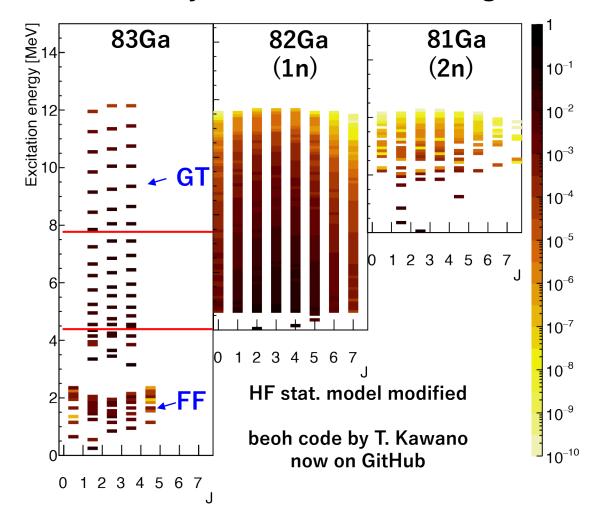
Impact of level densities to P_{2n}/P_{1n} ratio



Using KSHELL + stochastic estimation

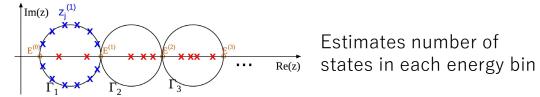
N. Shimizu et al., Comp. Phys. Comm. 244, 372 (2019)

Population of states in the statistical model of ⁸³Zn decay (5/2- assumed for ⁸³Zn g.s.)

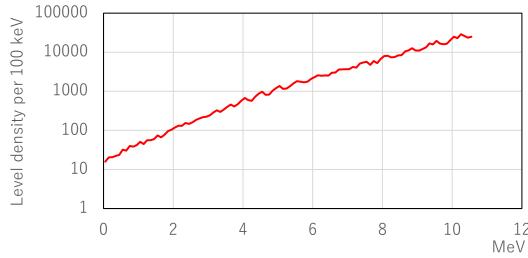


- KSHELL with jj4_45_VMU interaction is used to calculate both GT and FF transitions from the g.s. of the parent.
- Stochastic estimation method is used to calculate the level densities of daughter nuclides.

N. Shimizu et al., Phys. Lett. B 753, 13-17 (2016)



level density of 82Ga by stochastic estimation



83Zn decay (Exp. Vs HF+KSHELL)

Preliminary

We can now calculate neutron and gamma branching ratios

Contents

Overview of decay spectroscopy at RIBF

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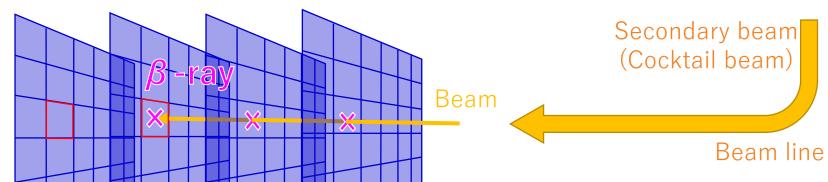
New scintillator material for active stoppers

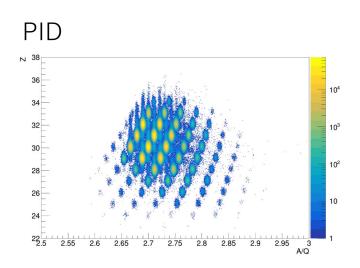
ullet Utilization of Apache Spark for efficient eta-implant correlation analysis

β -decay experiments at a fragmentation facility

Implant detector (Stack of DSSSD)

4th layer 3rd layer 2nd layer 1st layer





x-y position of an implant

x-y position of β -ray emission

Correlate β with PID

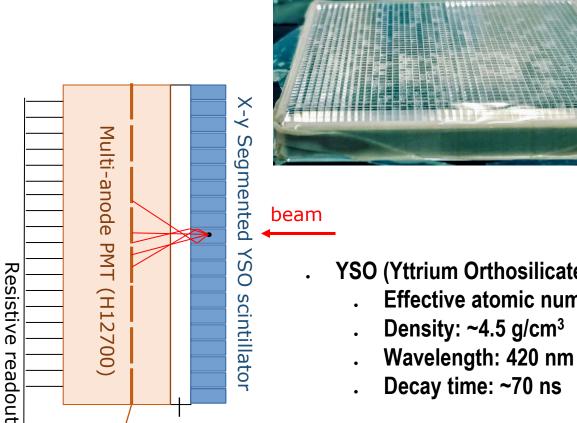
Implant detector requires

- . Good position resolution for both ions and beta
- . Implantation rate per pixel $<< 1/T_{1/2}$ of interest

DSSSD is too slow for nToF measurements

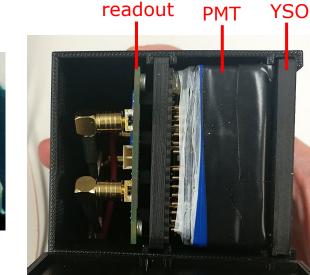
Segmented YSO detector

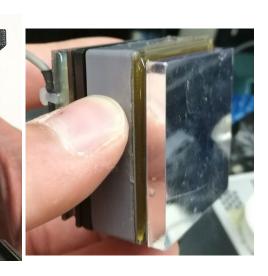
R.Yokoyama et al. NIM A 937, 93-97(2019)



_ight diffuse

photocatode egmented





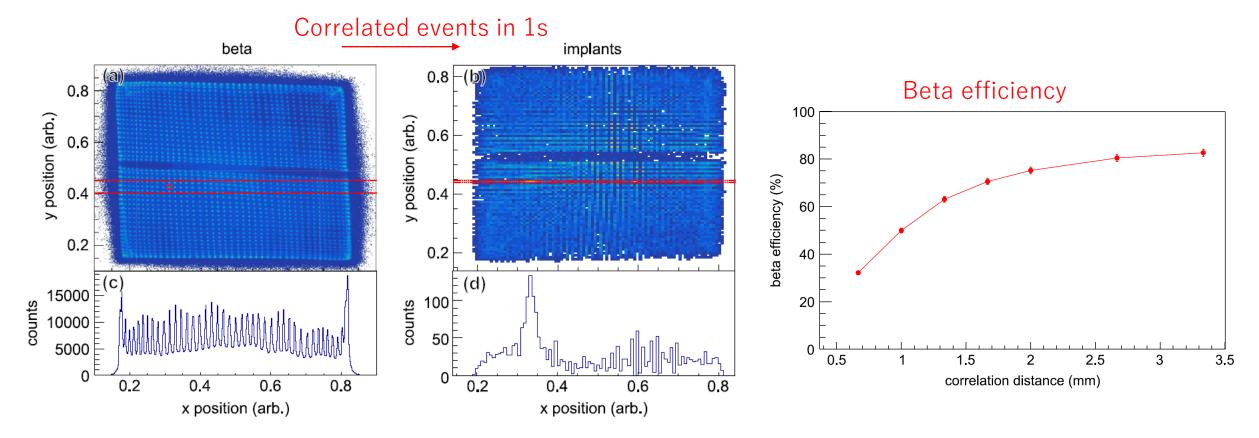
- YSO (Yttrium Orthosilicate, Y₂SiO₅) crystal
 - Effective atomic number: Z~39

- 48 x 48 segments
- Each segment: 1 x 1 mm
- Thickness: 5 mm
- Reflective material: ESR

Compared to DSSSDs

- Fast response time (~500 ps)
- Hard to radiation damage
- **High stopping power**
 - High beta efficiency
 - **Good position correlation**
- Can be thick
- Simple and compact
- More γ absorption
- ~10% energy resolution for ions

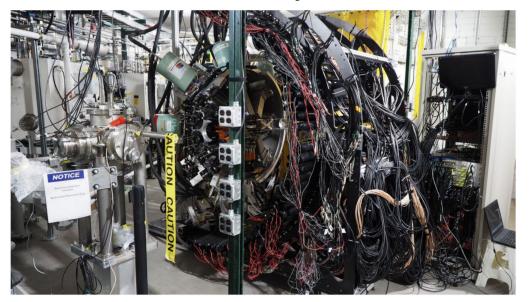
R.Yokoyama et al. NIM A 937, 93-97(2019)



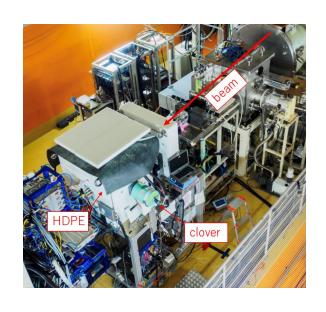
- . Clear position correlation between beta and implant events
- . Beta efficiency is as high as 80% at 3mm correlation radius (74Co).

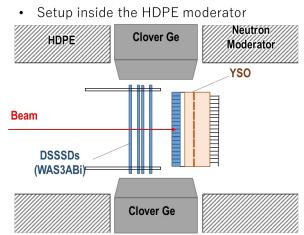
Success of YSO detector

with FRIB Decay Station



with BRIKEN



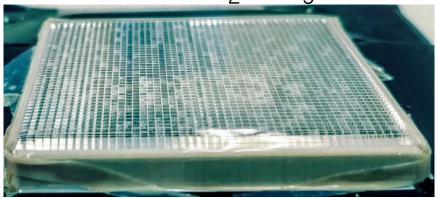


Shared implantation between the conventional DSSDs and new YSO detector

- [11] R. Yokoyama et al., Phys. Rev. C 100, 031302 (2019)
- [12] R. Yokoyama et al., Phys. Rev. C 108, 064307 (2023)
- [13] R. S. Lubna et al., Phys. Rev. C 108, 014329 (2023)
- [14] T. J. Gray et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 242501(2023)
- [15] M. Madurga et al., Phys. Rev. C 109, L061301 (2024)
- [16] I. Cox et al., Phys.Rev. Lett. 132, 152503 (2024)
- [17] S. Neupane et al., Phys. Rev. C 110, 034323 (2024)

New scintillator material for a β -implant detector

YSO (Y₂SiO₅:Ce)

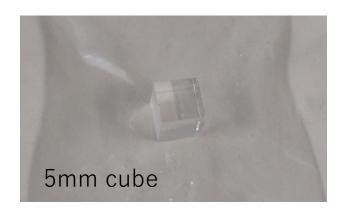


Zeff \sim 39, $\rho \sim 4.5$ g/cm³

2MeV β range: ~2.7mm

La-GPS ((Gd,La)₂Si₂O₇:Ce)

- A. Suzuki et al., Applied Physics Express 5 (10) (2012) 102601
- S. Kurosawa et al., Nucl. Instrum. and Meth. A 744 (2014) 30–34
- S. Kurosawa et al., IEEE TNS 65 (8) (2018) 2136-2139



Zeff ~ 51, ρ ~5.2g/cm³

2MeV β range: ~1.8mm

Heavier material

- \rightarrow Shorter β range
- \rightarrow Smaller β -implant correlation radius
- →Lower accidental background

La-GPS characteristics

Waveform

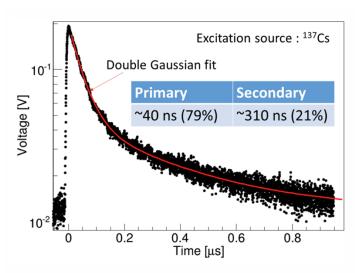
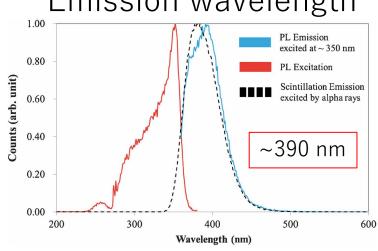


Fig. 6 Decay curve of Ce:La-GPS irradiated with gamma rays from a ¹³⁷Cs source.

Emission wavelength



Energy resolution

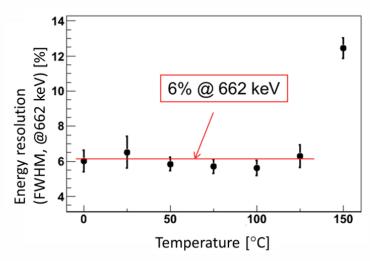
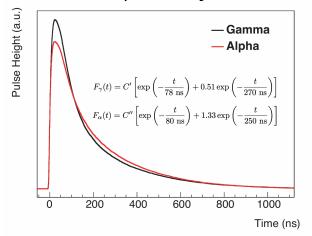
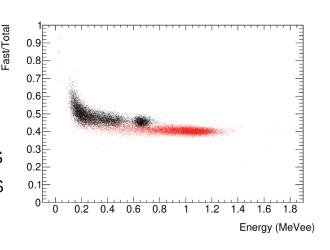


Fig. 9 Temperature dependence of energy resolution (FWHM, 662 keV) for Ce:La-GPS.

- High light output as halide scintillators (~36k photons/MeV)
- Fast time response as oxide scintillators
- Short wavelength that matches to PMTs unlike GAGG

Pulse-shape discrimination capability





- S. Kurosawa et al.,日本結晶成長学会誌 Vol. 43, No. 1, 47-53 (2016)
- K. Mizukoshi et al., Journal of Instrumentation 14, P06037 (2019)

2023/8/21 Tohoku



138La is radioactive

139-enriched La_2O_3 ~350kJPY/500g (70k for natural La)

~10% of total cost



Heat and compress materials in an iridium pod

La-GPS crystal growth

Heating chamber for Czochralski method

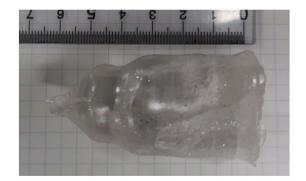
2.5" rod



3rd batch

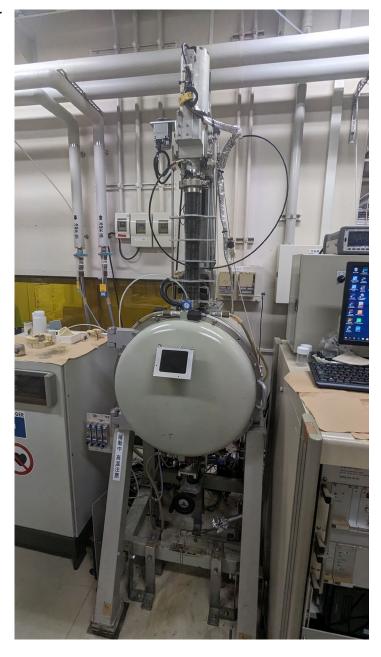
1st batch

2nd batch









Seed crystal

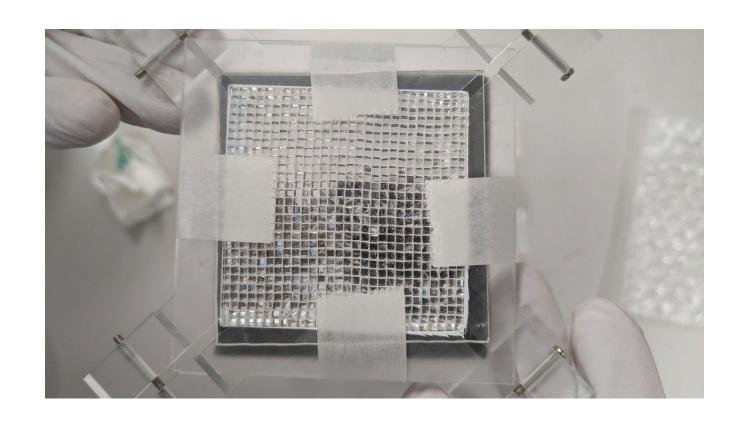


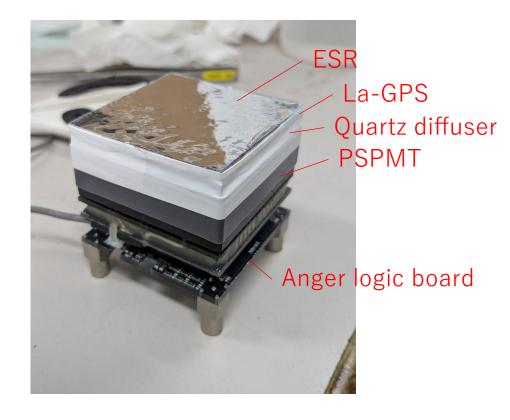
Making pixels

Cut into 1.5 mm x 2.5 mm pixels



La-GPS Array





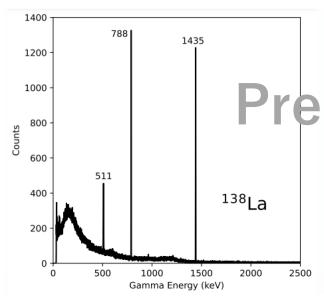
32 x 32 1.5mm x 1.5mmx2.5mm pixels

→Half the thickness of YSO

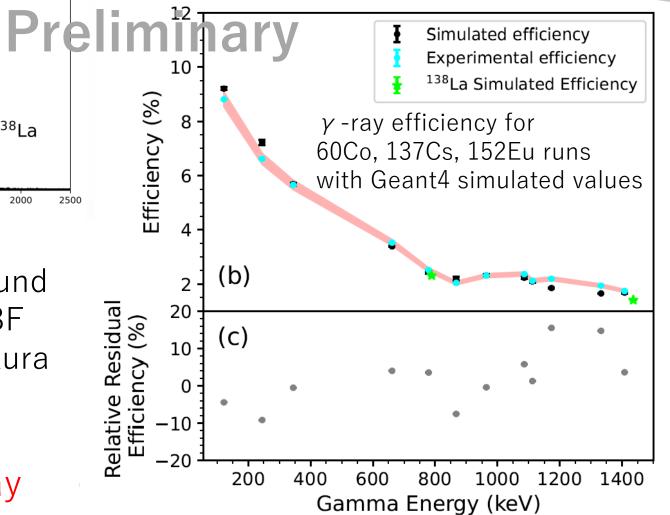
by Yasmin Anuar

139La-GPS activity measurement



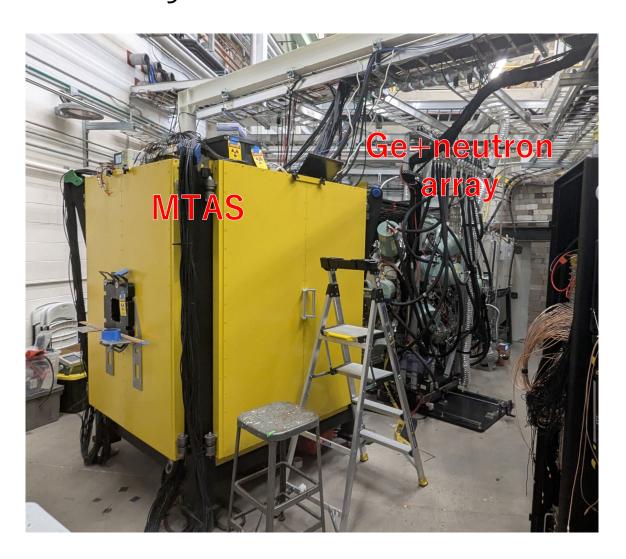


←Low background Ge setup at RIBF by Megumi Niikura Geant4 simulation with Cascade γ emissions

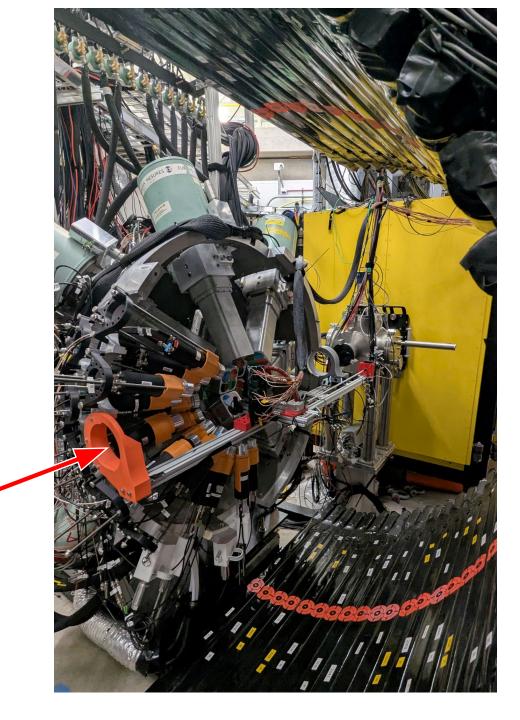


2.1(2)Bq for the entire array

La-GPS array at FRIB Decay Station

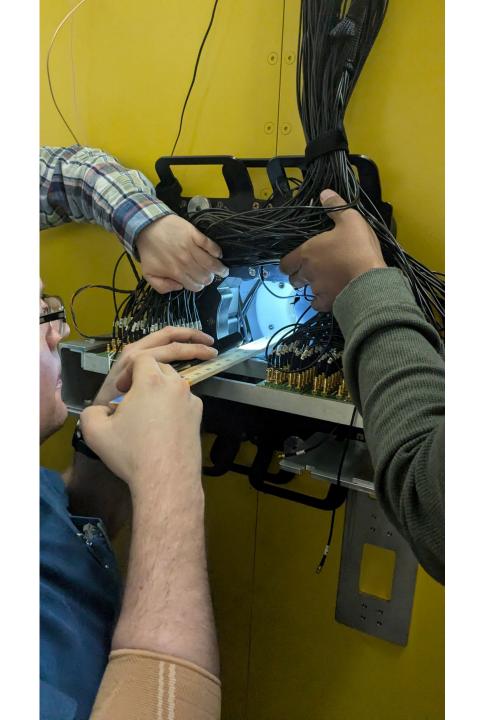


Beam



LaGPS Array for MTAS





La-GPS energy for implants

Preliminary

It has energy resolution to see ΔE -TKE plot in the Z~28 region

Analysis ongoing

- β-implant correlation efficiency
- Quenching factor

β -Implant detectors

- DSSDs
 - ✓Very good energy resolution
 - XSlow (not for neutron ToF)
- Plastic scintillator arrays
 - ✓Very fast/Cheap
 - XLow energy resolution
- YSO
 - \checkmark Fast (nToF)/Good β -implant correlation
 - \times Low energy resolution/Low energy γ -ray absorption
- La-GPS
 - \checkmark Very good β -implant correlation/Good energy resolution/Fast (nToF)
 - \times X-rays (49 keV)/Low energy γ -ray absorption

Contents

Overview of decay spectroscopy at RIBF

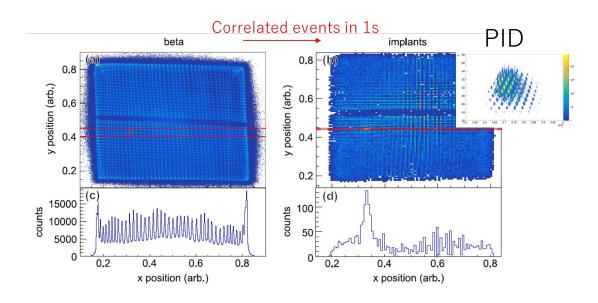
• Study of β -delayed neutron emission

New scintillator material for active stoppers



• Utilization of Apache Spark for efficient β -implant correlation analysis

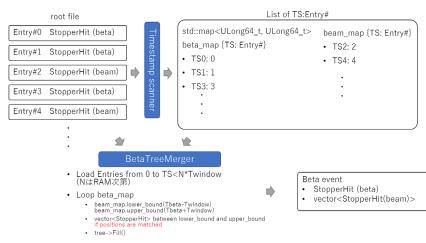
Correlating $oldsymbol{eta}$ and implant events need computing power



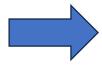
- Beta-implant detector: 1-2 kHz
- Finding correlations with ±1s
- Distance between beta position and implant position < 3 mm

- 5 days of beam at RIBF
- 83Ga (2e7 implants)
- Took 238m49s with a 32-core server with my C++ code

Complicated coding
Requires quite some C++ knowledge









- Spark: Open-source distributed processing framework for big data
- Event building code became very simple

Automatically

Multithreaded/lazy evaluation/Catalyst optimizer (plans algorithm to use)

238m49s with a 32-core server

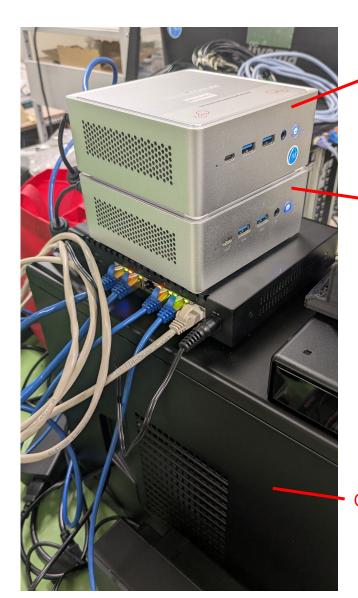


114m49.866s with a 16-core PC

PC Cluster







miniPC1

(i7-13620H) Driver+executor

miniPC2

(i7-13700H) executor

desktopPC (i7-14700F) executor

Executor ID	Address	♦ Status	RDD Blocks	Storage Memory	Disk Used	Cores	Active Tasks
driver	192.168.0.9:40089	Active	0	381.3 KiB / 5.8 GiB	0.0 B	0	0
o desktop	192.168.0.3:42203	Active	0	324.7 KiB / 5.8 GiB	0.0 B	28	28
1 miniPC2		Active	0	290 KiB / 5.8 GiB	0.0 B	20	21
² miniPC1	192.168.0.9:36581	Active	0	290 KiB / 5.8 GiB	0.0 B	16	17

- 64 cores in total
- 37m12.331s

(miniPC1 local: 114m49.866s)

Amazon EMR Serverless



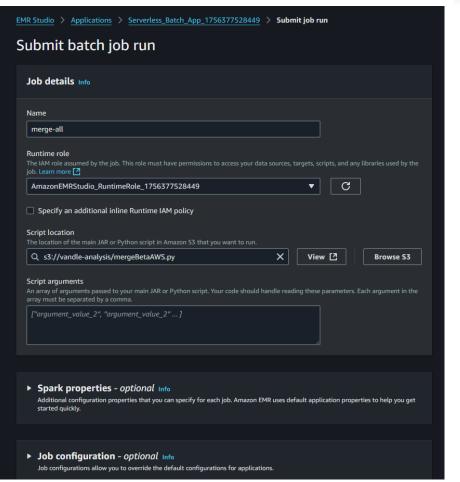
Executors

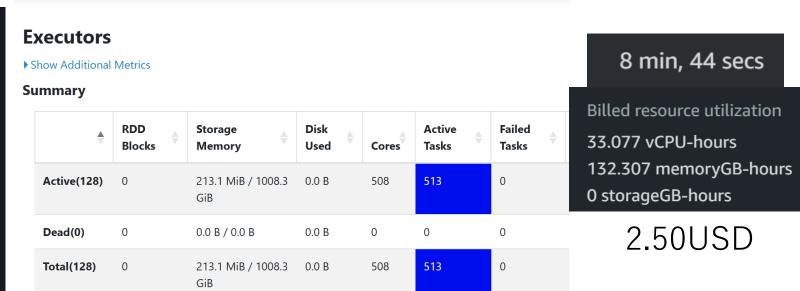
SQL / DataFi

Amazon **S3**

Upload data and codes to S3(Amazon Simple Storage Service)

Storage

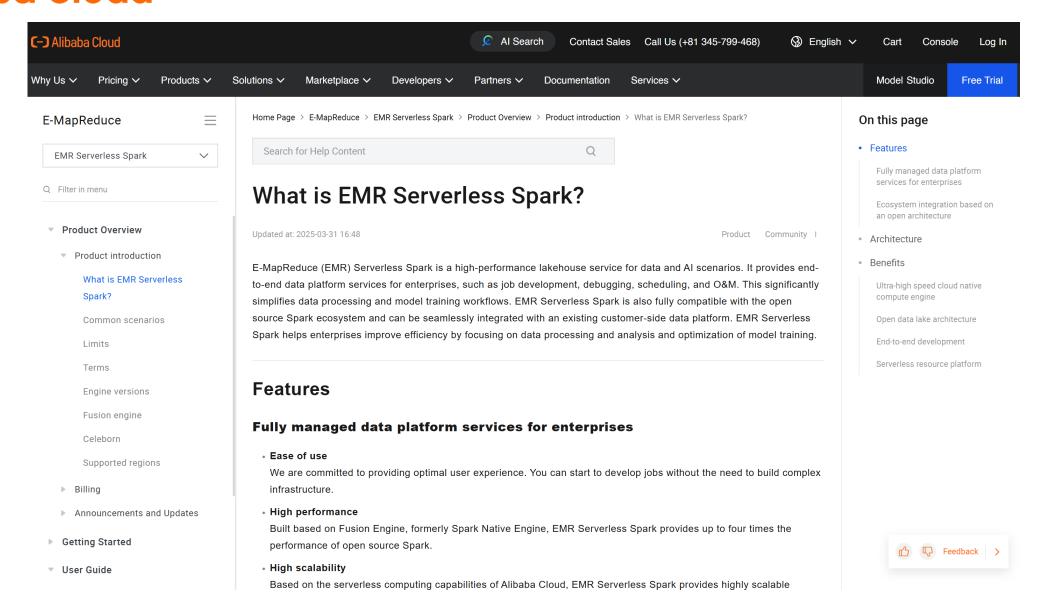




Environment

- 512 cores
- Took 8min 44s + 2.50USD
- ~ 4hours to 8min

(-) Alibaba Cloud



Contents

Overview of decay spectroscopy at RIBF

• Study of β -delayed neutron emission

New scintillator material for active stoppers

 \bullet Utilization of Apache Spark for efficient eta-implant correlation analysis

Summary

- . EURICA
- . BRIKEN
- 160 new half-lives, 70 new P_{1n}, 10 new P_{2n}, many papers…
- . C2URIE project (HPGe detectors from Europe, China, and Korea)
 - . Higher γ -ray efficiency with upgraded beam capabilities since EURICA
- . Pure exotic RI beam for decay spectroscopy
- . Multi-neutron emission process is complicated
- . KSHELL+stochastic estimation + HF statistical model
- . 139 enriched La-GPS scintillator as a new active stopper
- . 2 Bq for entire array/good energy resolution/first implementation at FRIB
- . Apache Spark for efficient β -implant correlation