

Special Colloquium in memoriam Hans Joachim Specht



6.6.1936 - 20.5.2024

GSI, 14.10.2025

Utku Asan



Chopin: Nocturne No. 20 in C-sharp minor Op. posth.

Hans Specht's research areas

broad range of interests

“do something new to see something new” (H. Maier-Leibniz)

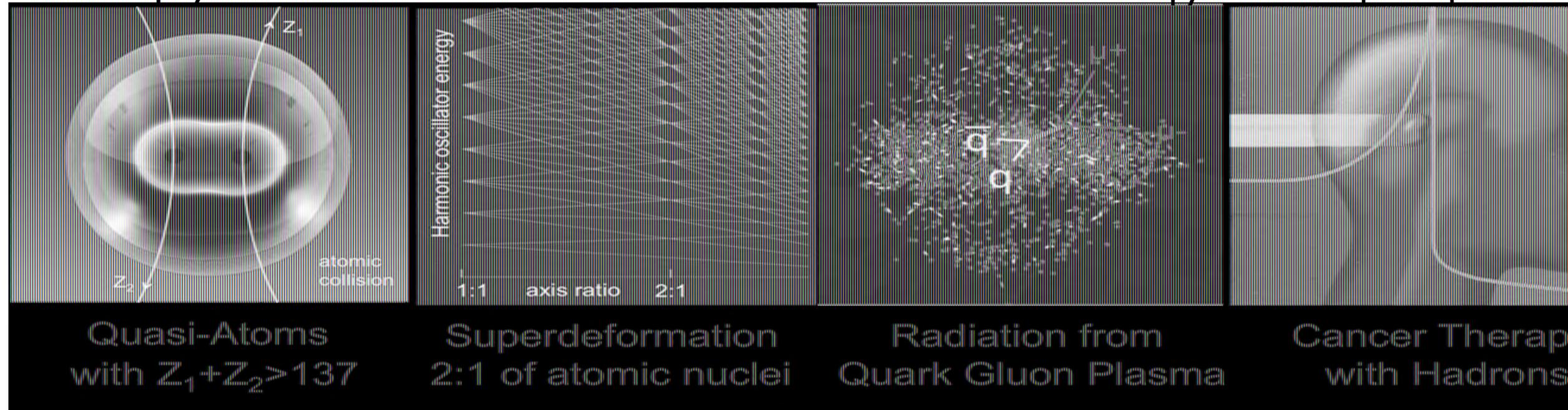
atomic physics

nuclear fission

HI collisions

HI cancer therapy

musical perception

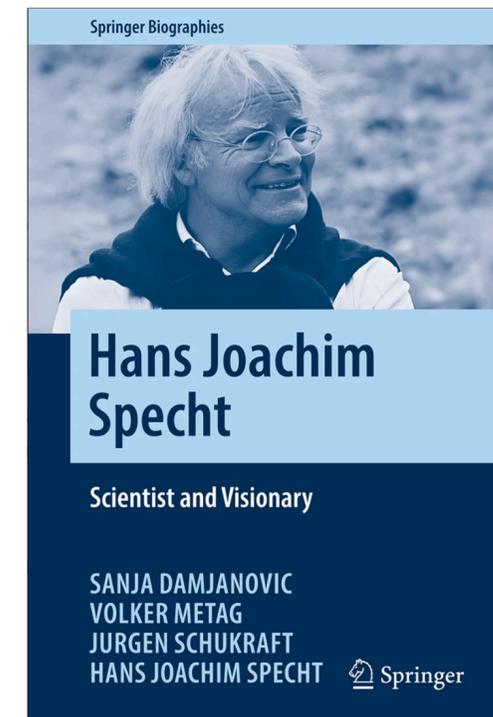


Axel Drees: *The Thermal Fingerprint of the Quark-Gluon Plasma*

Jürgen Debus: *Ion-Beam Therapy in Germany: HIT the target*

Dietrich v. Harrach: *Project and Promise: Remembering Hans Specht*

Volker Metag: *Program - Moderation*



<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-92353-1>

open access

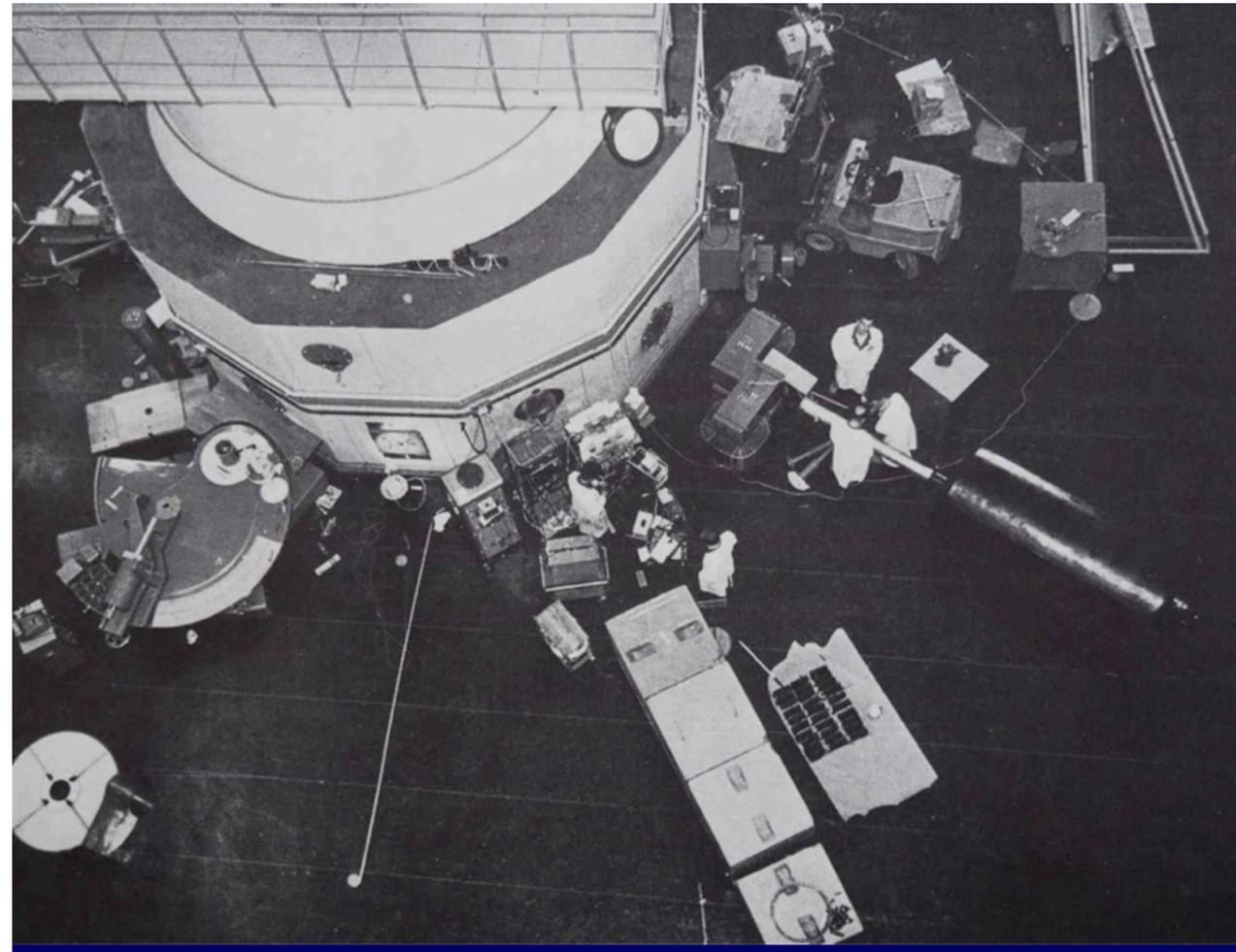
Hans Joachim Specht: Curriculum Vitae

6.6.1936	born in Unna, Westphalia, Germany
1942 - 1956	school / Gymnasium in Kamen
1956 - 1962	study of physics at LMU Munich, ETH Zürich and TU Munich
1964	PhD in atomic physics at FRM (adviser Maier-Leibnitz, TU Munich)
1965 - 1968	postdoc at Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories (Canada)
1969 - 1973	LMU Munich, habilitation (1970), HS2/3 professor (1971)
1973 - 2004	Full professor at University of Heidelberg
1992 - 1999	Scientific managing director of GSI Darmstadt
2000	member of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences
research fields:	atomic physics, nuclear fission, ultra-relativistic HI-collisions, neuroscience (musical perception)
CERN collaborations:	R807/808 at the ISR, HELIOS/NA34 (spokesperson), NA45/CERES (founder and spokesperson), NA60 , ALICE
service to community:	member/chairman of numerous (inter)national advisory committees

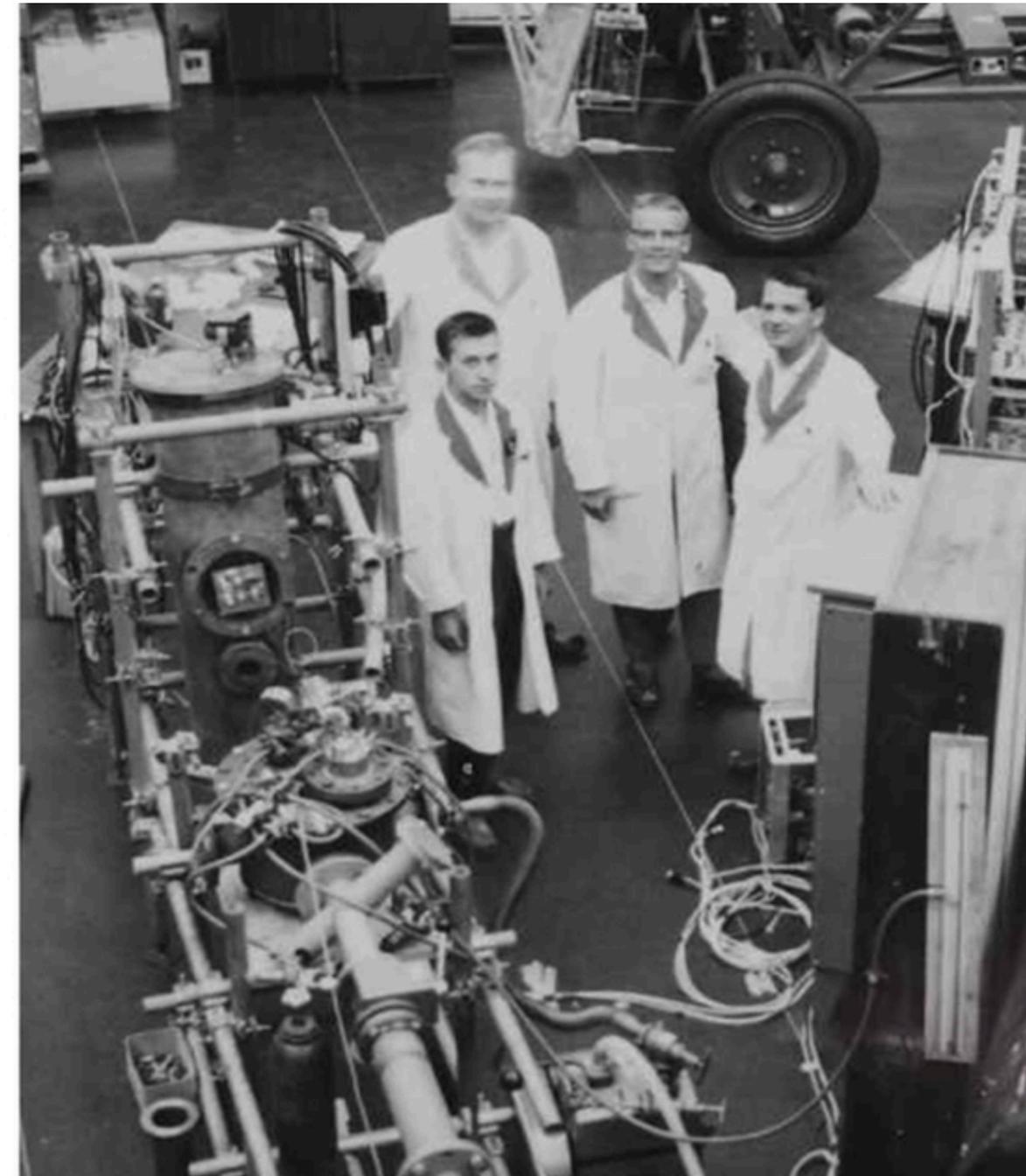
the team at the **Forschungs Reaktor München (FRM)**



Heinz Maier-Leibniz



FRM Munich; start of operation 1957
heavy-ion (fission fragment) beam:
20 - 80 MeV; intensity: 300/s

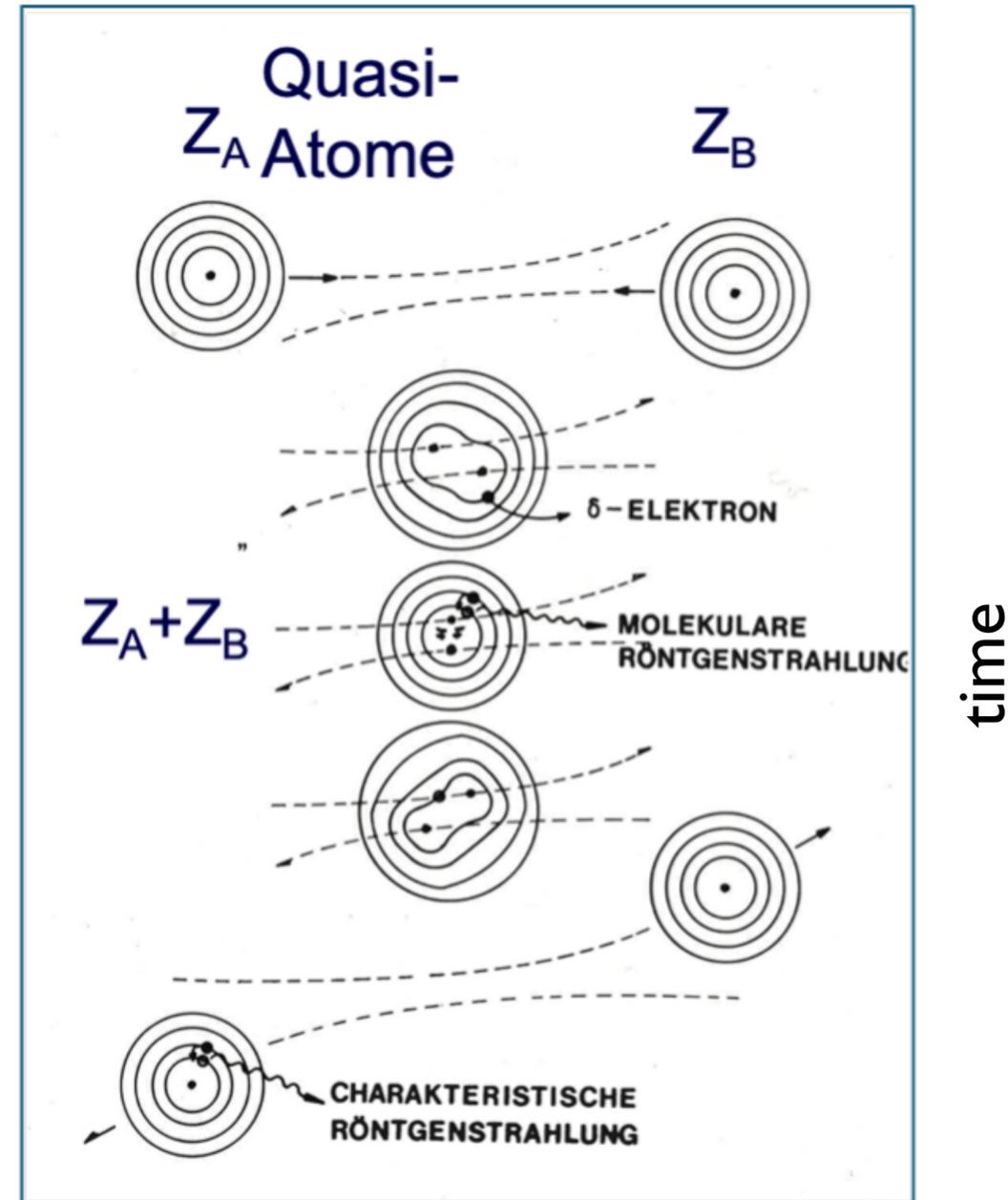
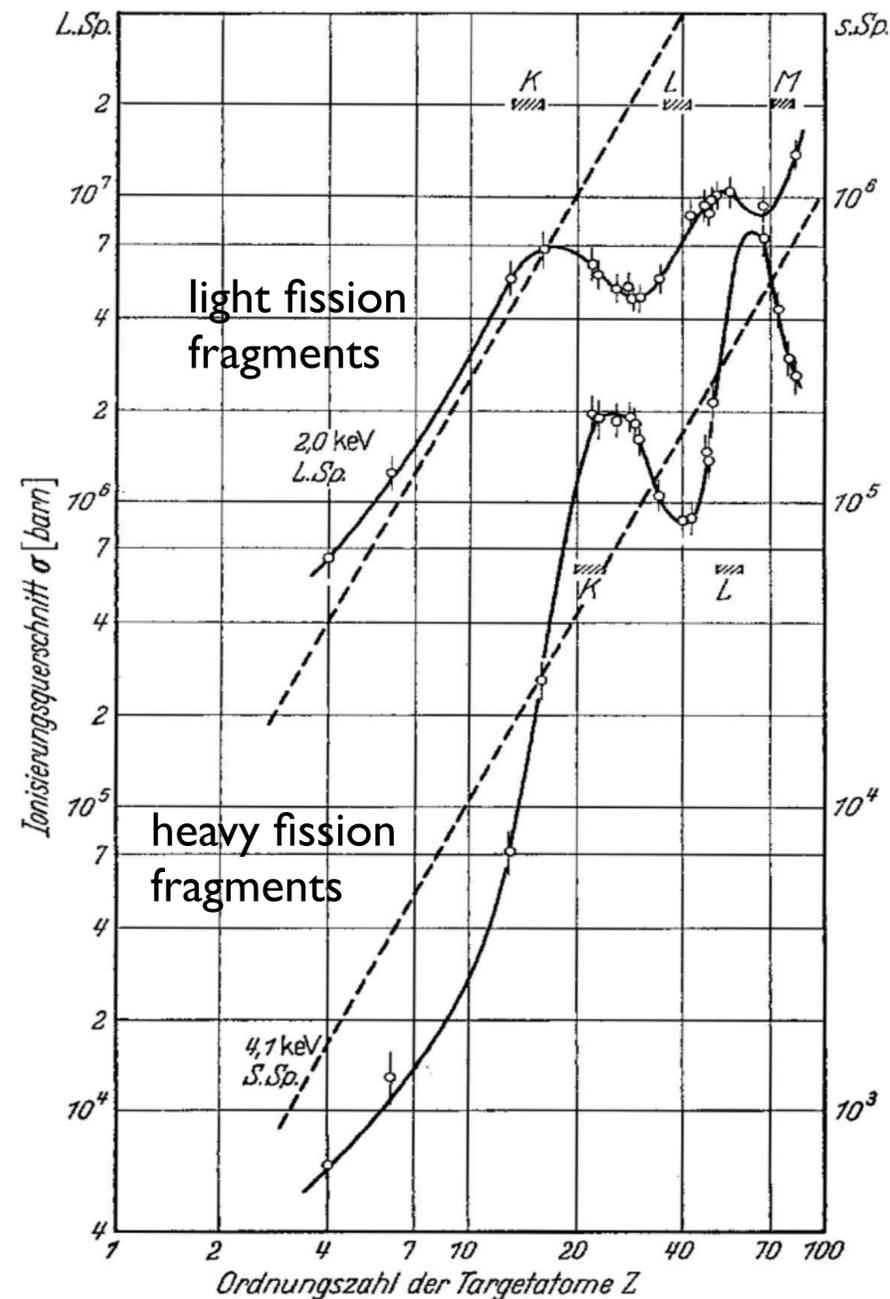


Hans Specht, Peter Armbruster et al.

PhD: atomic physics (1964)

using the first heavy-ion beam: fission fragments from the Munich reactor
observation of quasi-atomic x-rays

H.J. Specht. Z. Phys. 185 (1965) 8



later further pursued at MPI-HD MP-tandem together with R. Schuch et al. and H. Schmidt-Böcking et al.

the double humped fission barrier

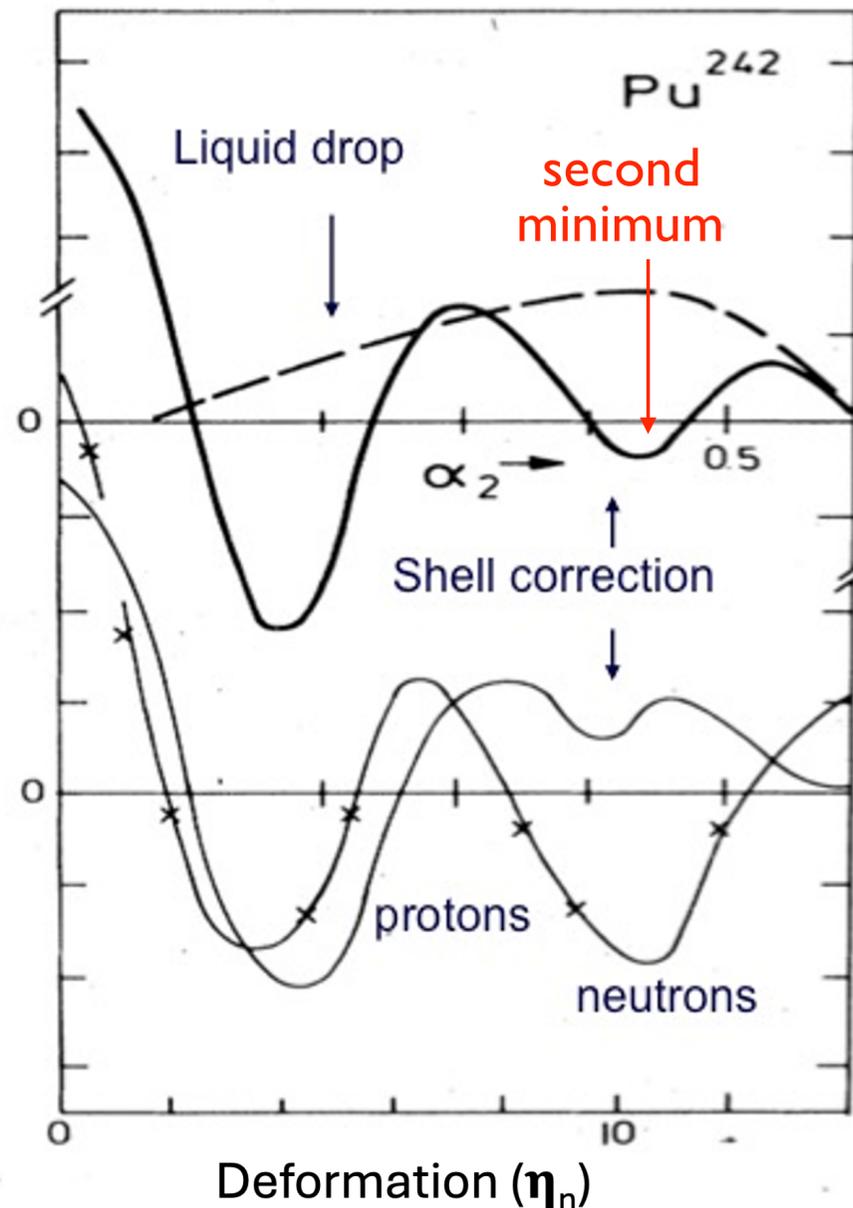
discovery of fission isomers by S. Polikanov et al.

spontaneously fissioning nuclear states with $ns \leq T_{1/2}^{sf} \leq ms$

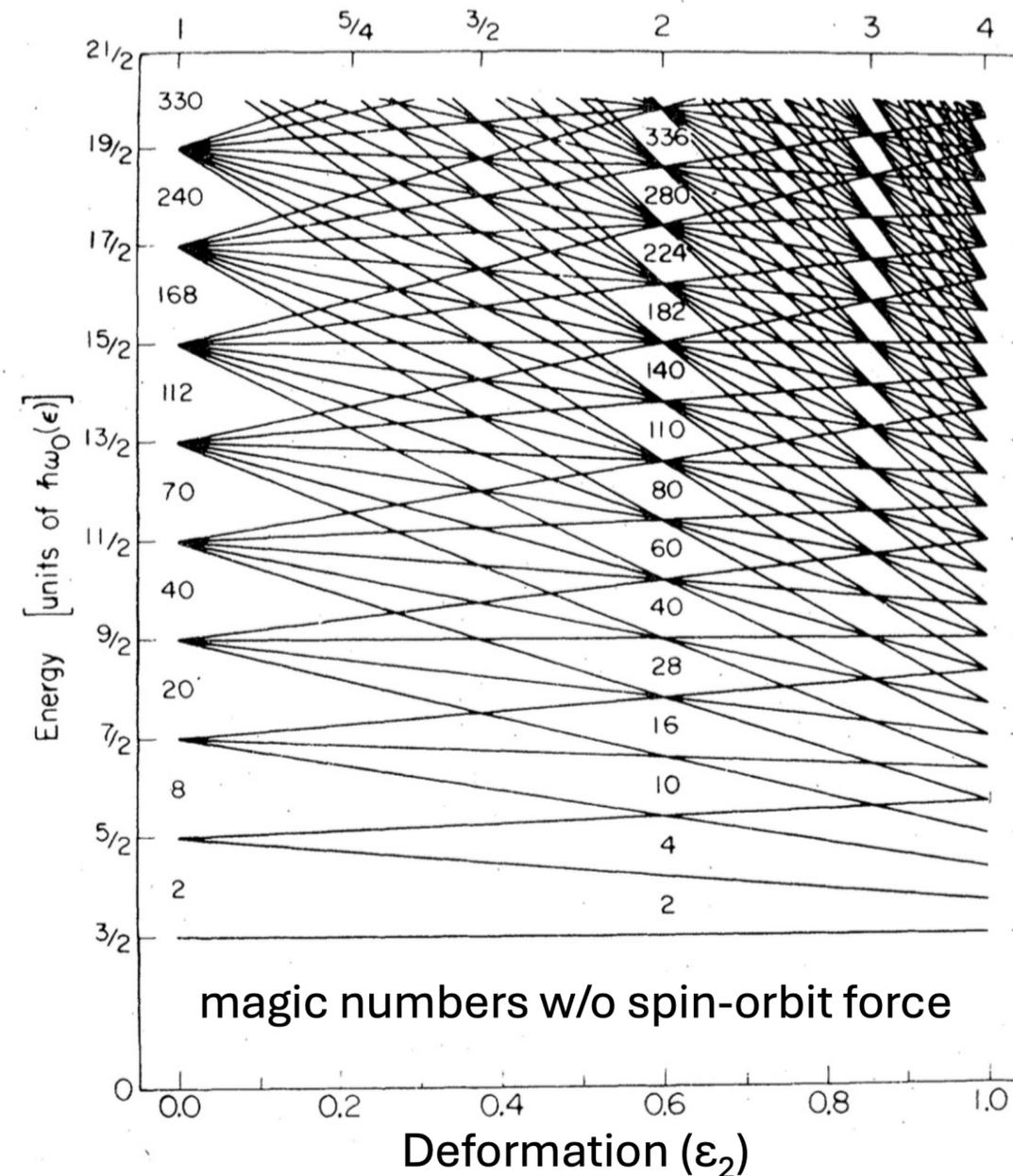
superposition of shell effects on the liquid drop model fusion barrier (V.M. Strutinsky)

→ second minimum in the fission barrier

Liquid drop + Shell correction



Ratio of axes c/a

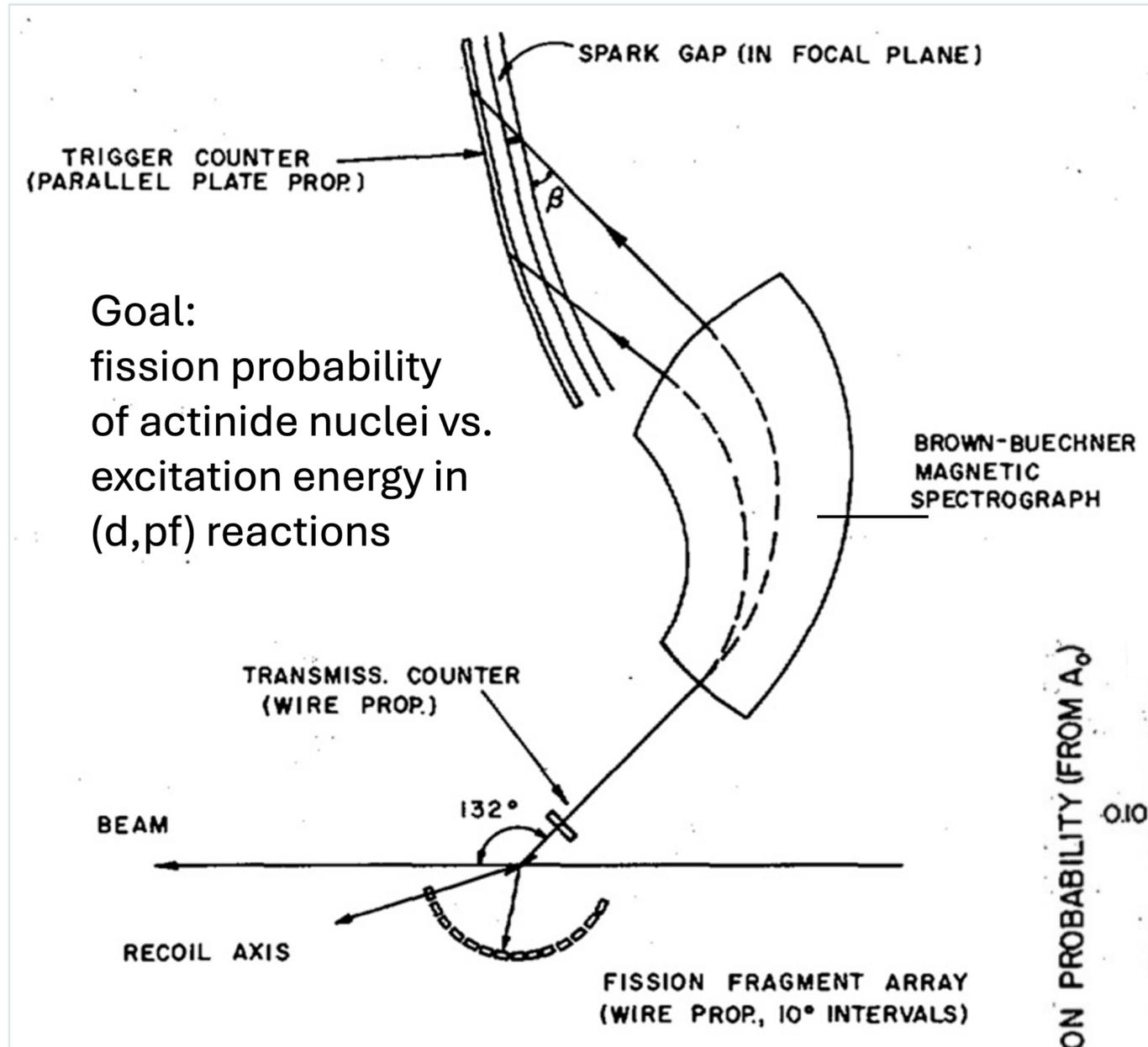


shell gaps occur not only for spherical shapes but also for deformations of $c/a = 2/1$ and $3/1$

the double humped fission barrier: transmission resonances

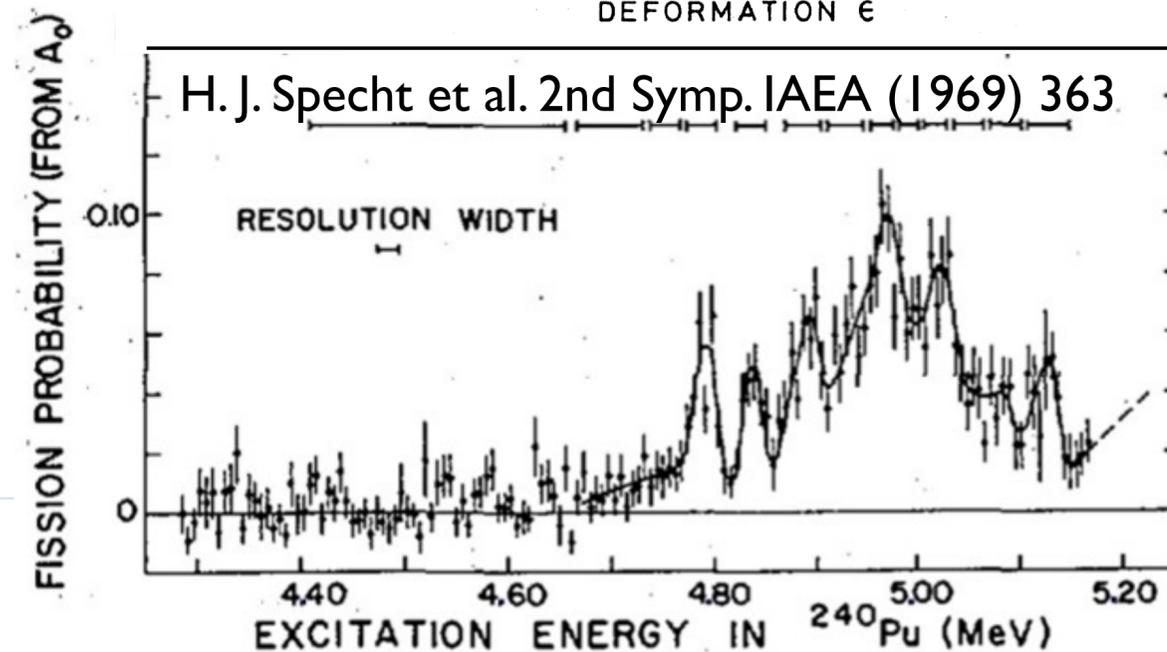
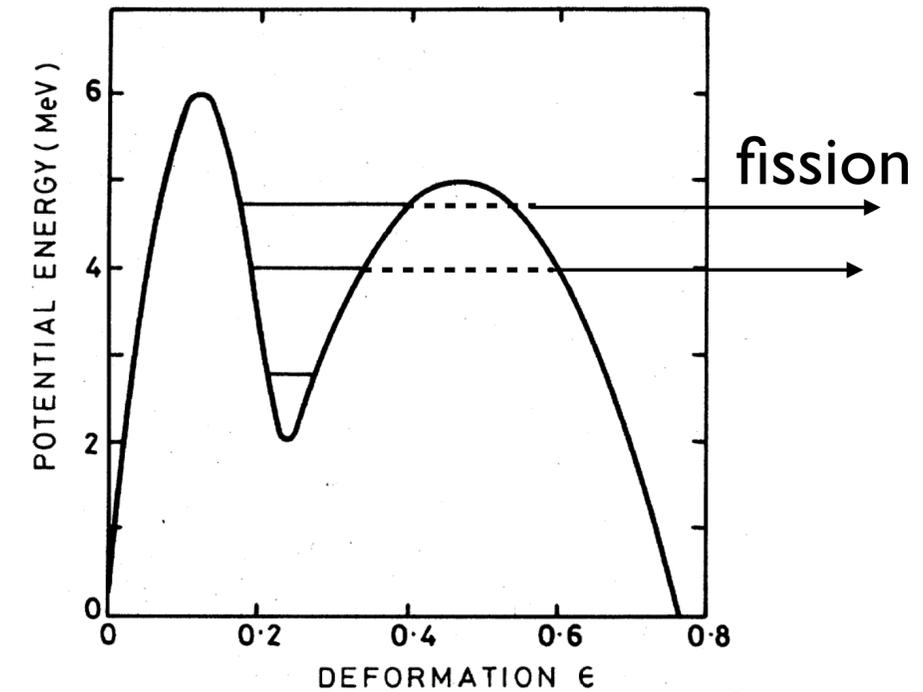
postdoc at Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories (Canada) :1965-1968

^{239}Pu (d,pf)



transmission resonance spectroscopy:

vibrational states in the second minimum as doorway states to fission



the team at Chalk River



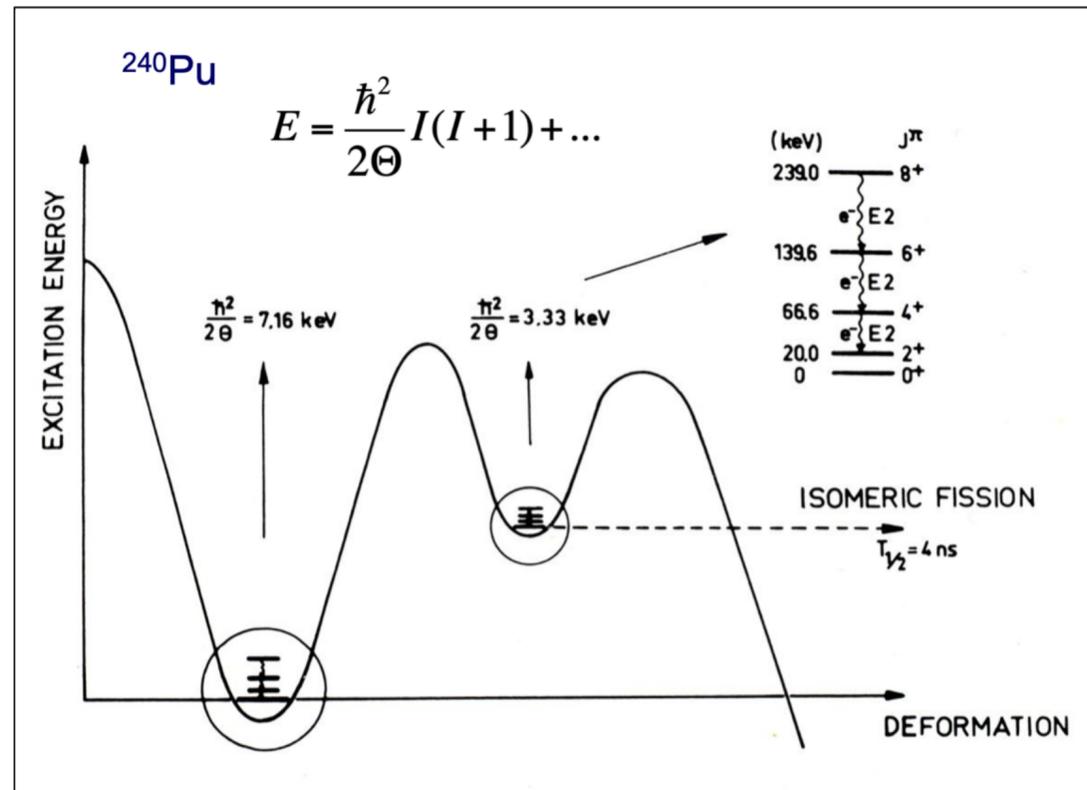
Hans Specht assembling his position sensitive gas detector



Hans Specht awaiting experimental results from the most modern computer (VAX) together with J.C.D. Milton and J. S Fraser

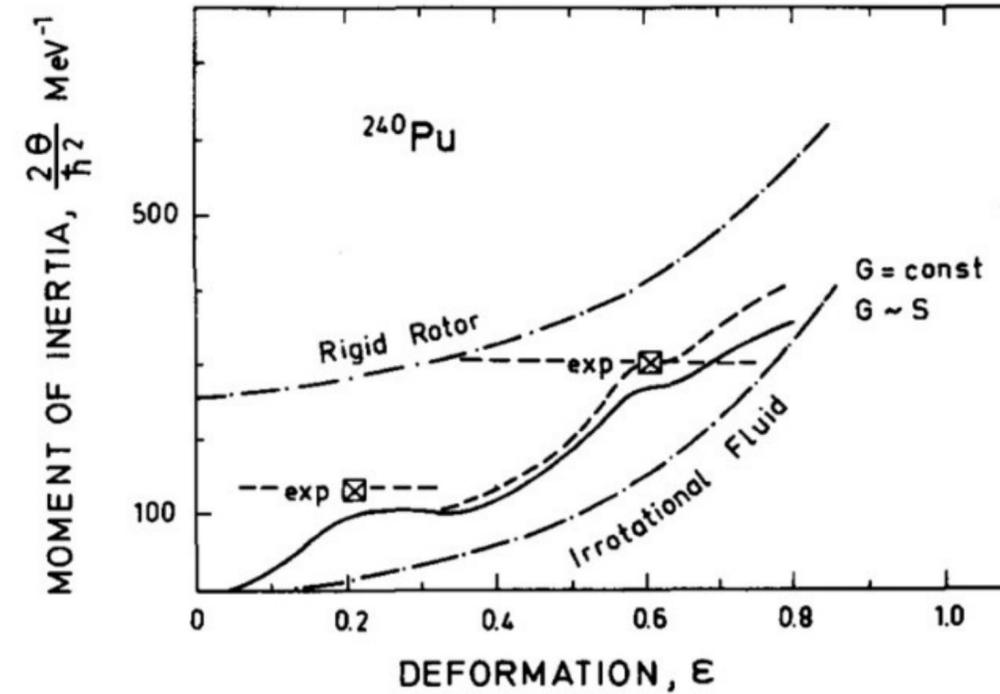
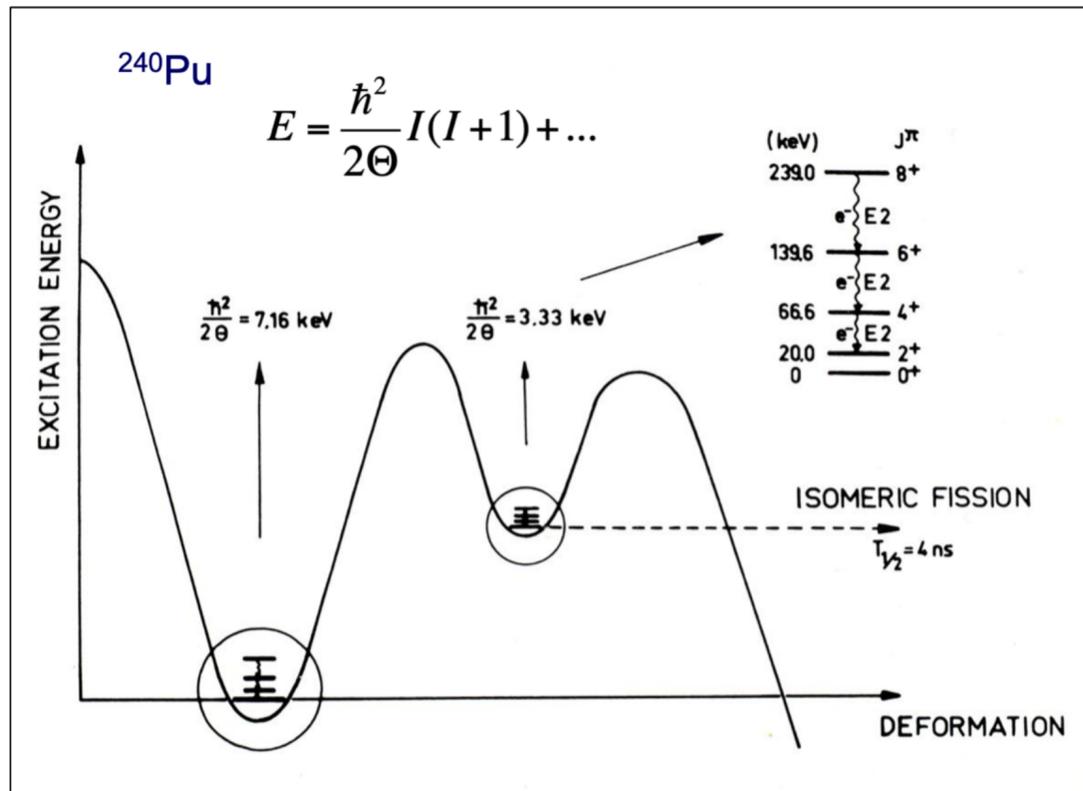
the double humped fission barrier: fission isomers

measurement of conversion electrons in coincidence with delayed fission



the double humped fission barrier: fission isomers

measurement of conversion electrons in coincidence with delayed fission



$$\Theta_{\text{fis}} > \Theta_{\text{rig.rot.}}(\text{gs})$$

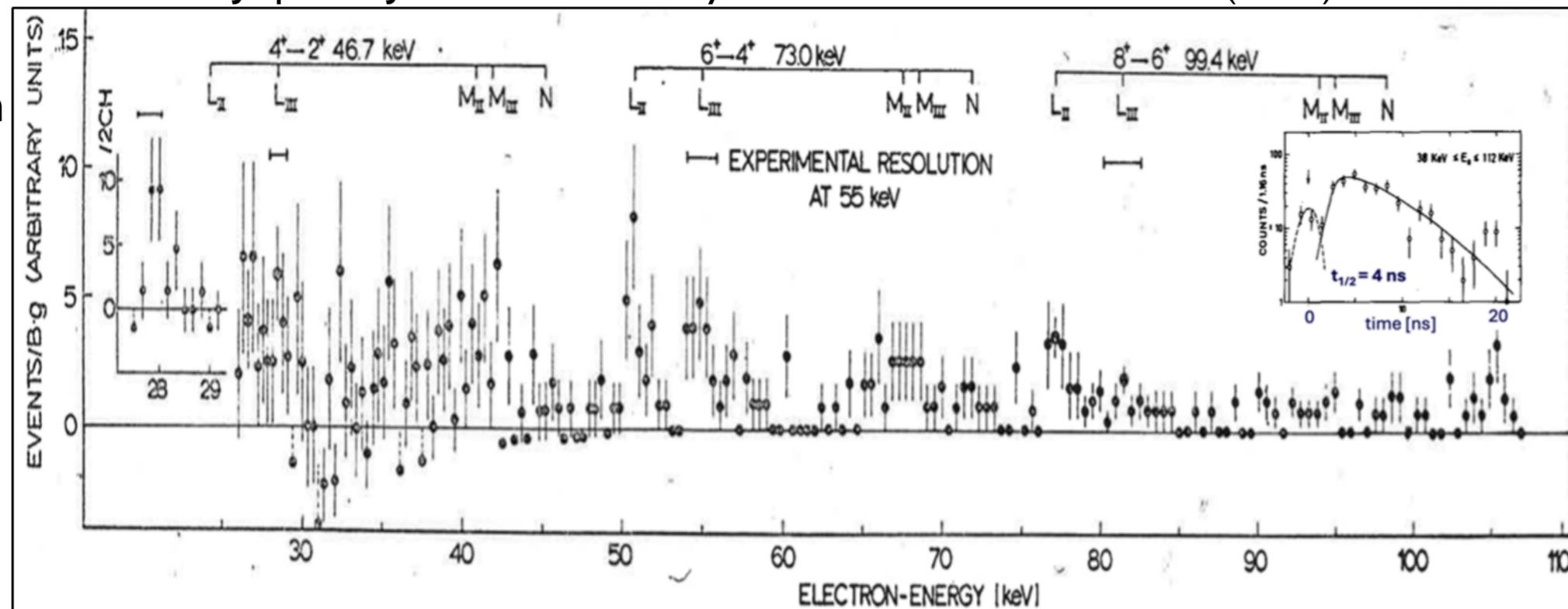
fission isomers = shape isomers !!

H.J. Specht, J. Weber, E. Konecny, and D. Heunemann, PLB 41 (1972) 43

Munich MP-Tandem

$^{238}\text{U}(\alpha, 2n)^{240\text{m}}\text{Pu}$

$T_{1/2}^{\text{sf}} = 4\text{ns}$



the team in Munich

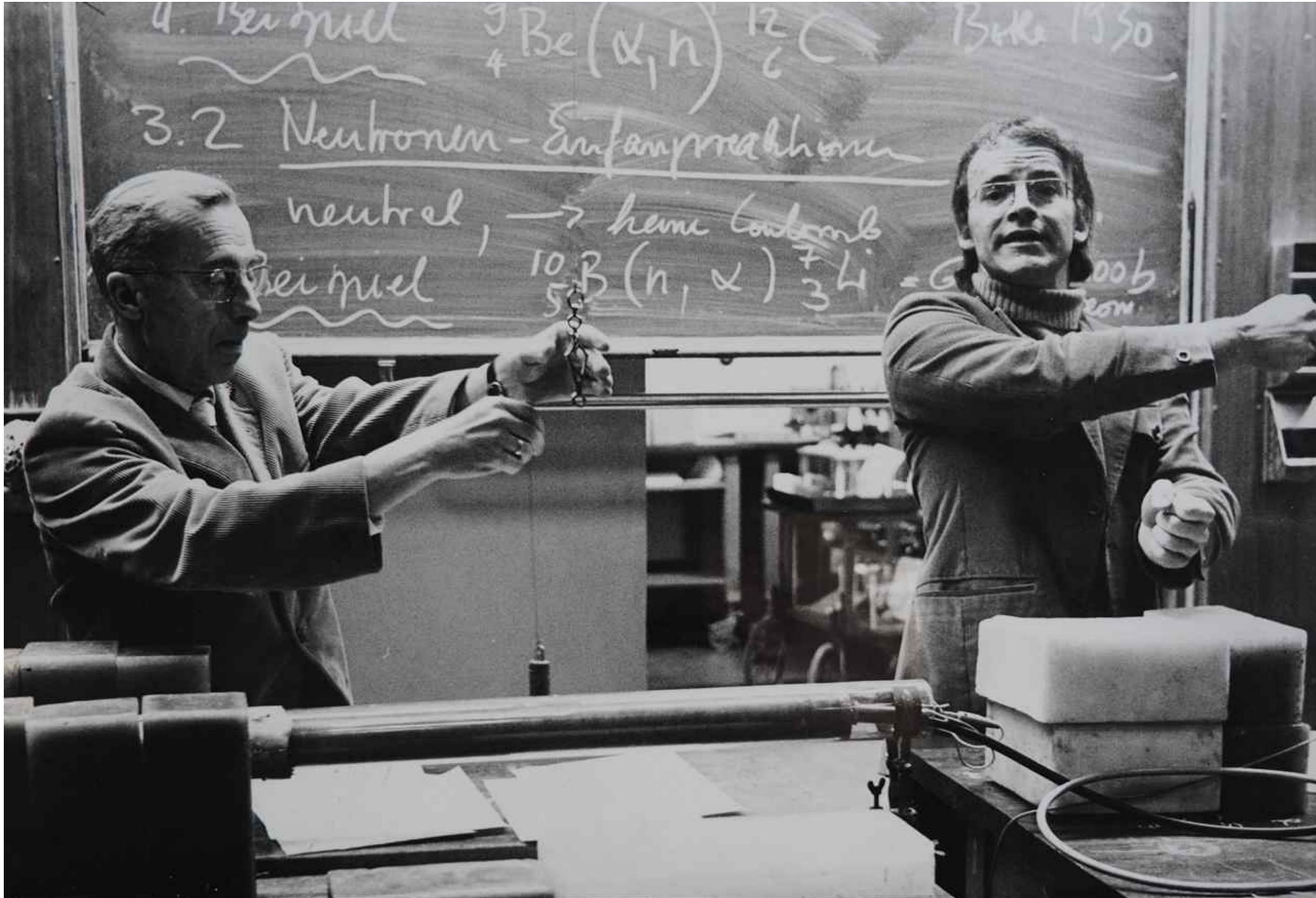
the MP tandem in Munich



Hans Specht (LMU)



Ewald Konecny (TUM)

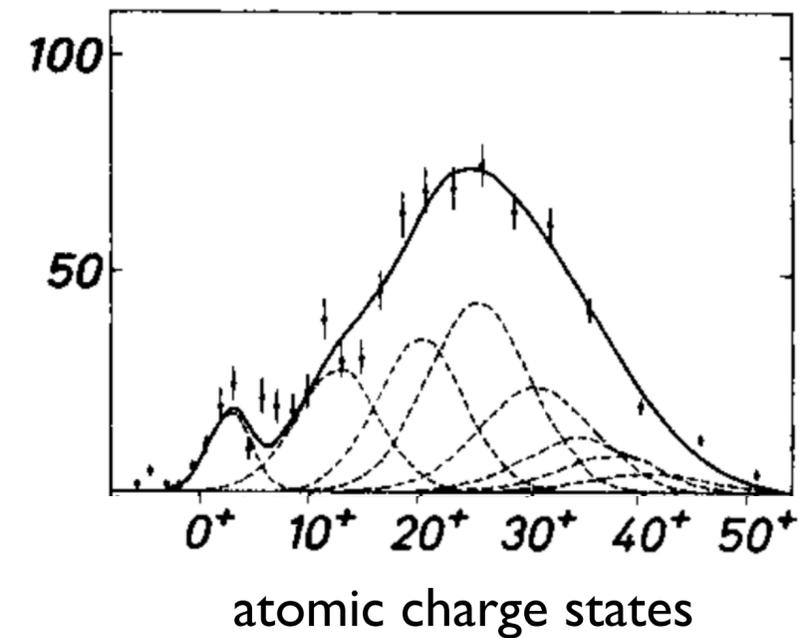
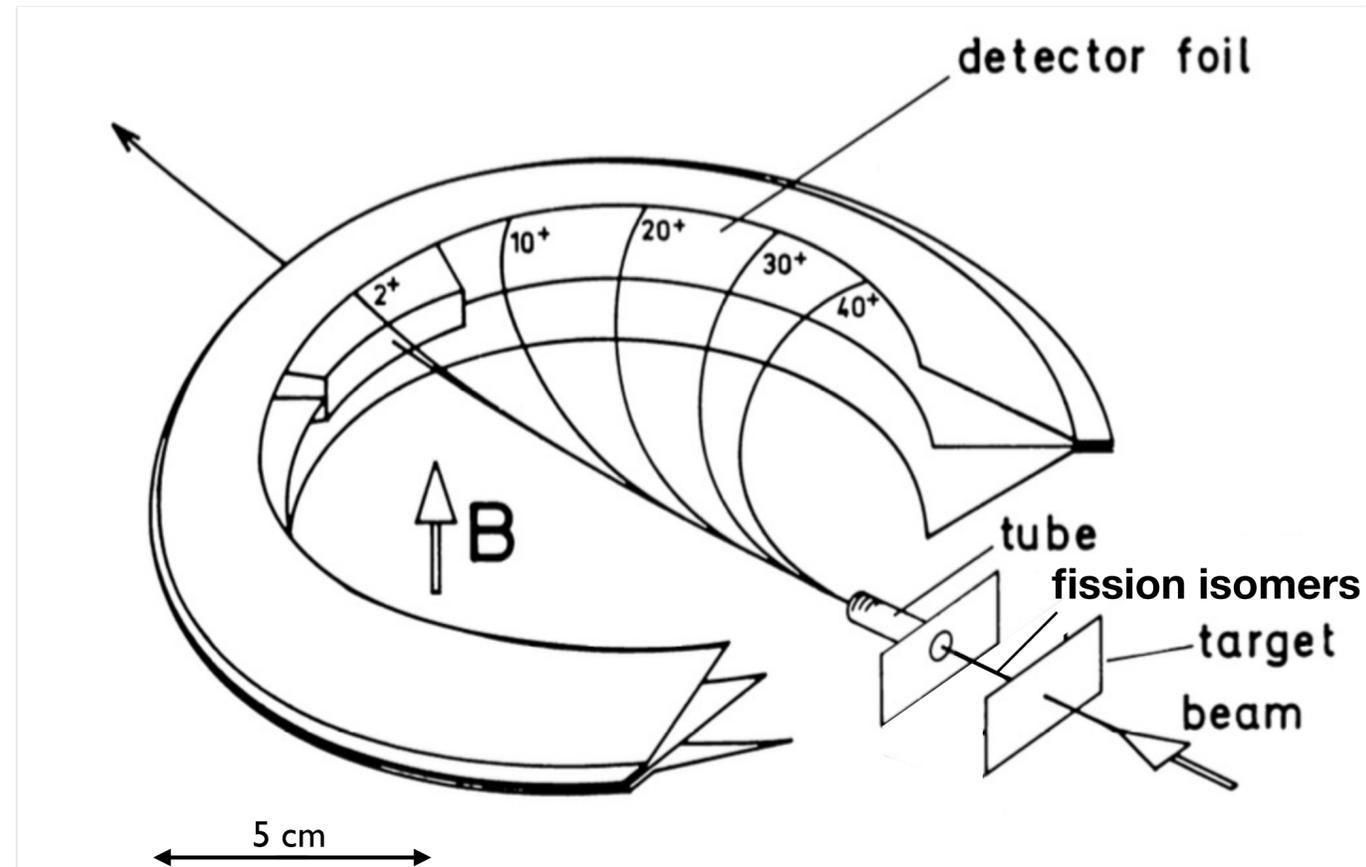


the charge plunger method

D. Habs, V. Metag, H.J. Specht and G. Ulfert PRL 38 (1977) 387

half-lives of rotational states in second minimum: $T_{1/2} \sim E^{-5} \cdot Q_0^{-2}$; \rightarrow deformation

internal conversion of rotational transitions \rightarrow high atomic charge states (Auger cascades)



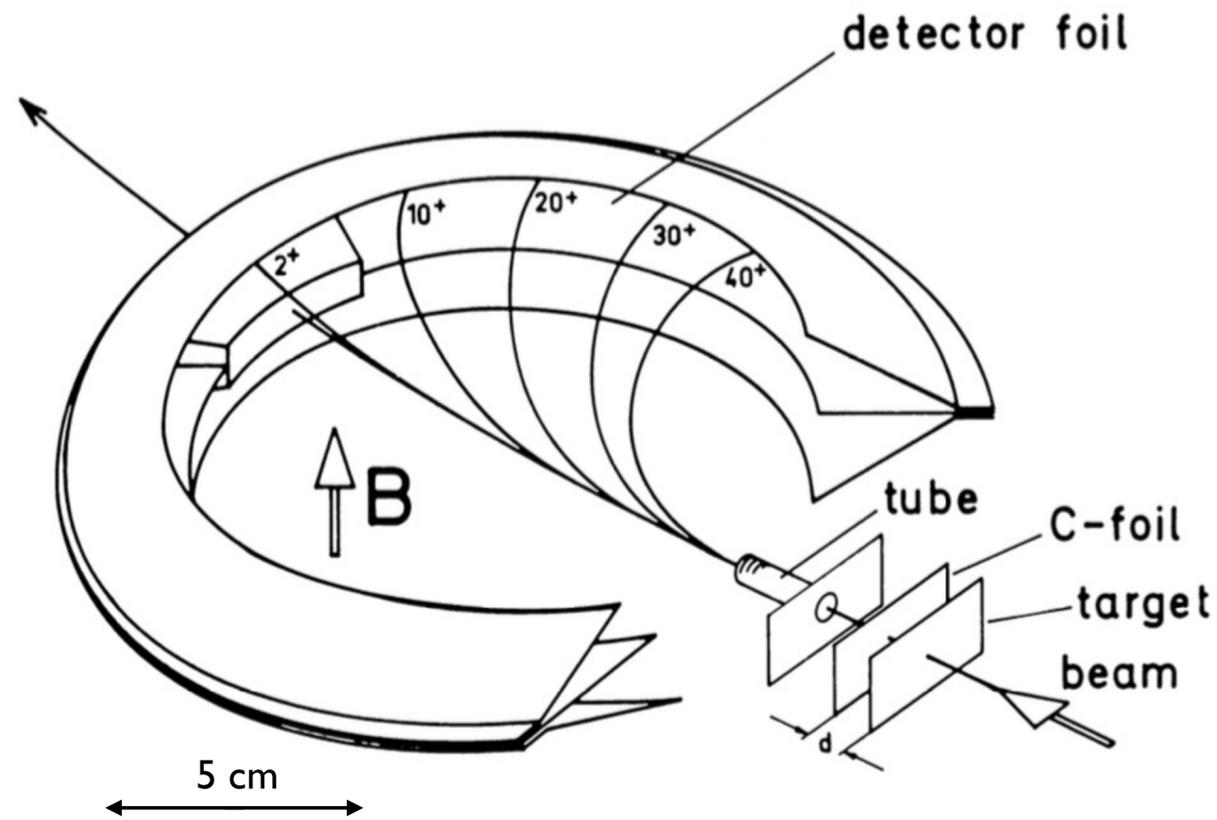
charge states measured by deflection in magnetic field and subsequent fission isomer decay

the charge plunger method

D. Habs, V. Metag, H.J. Specht and G. Ulfert PRL 38 (1977) 387

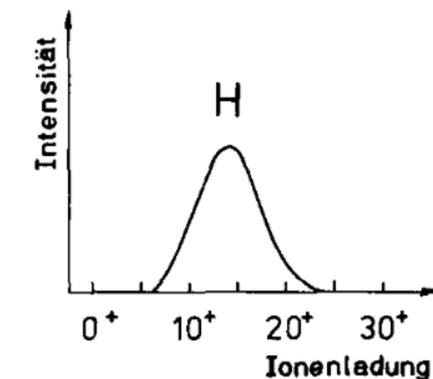
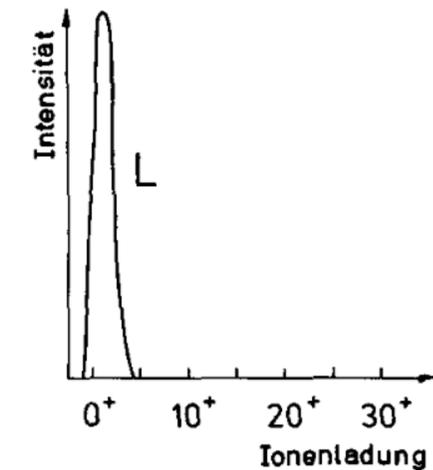
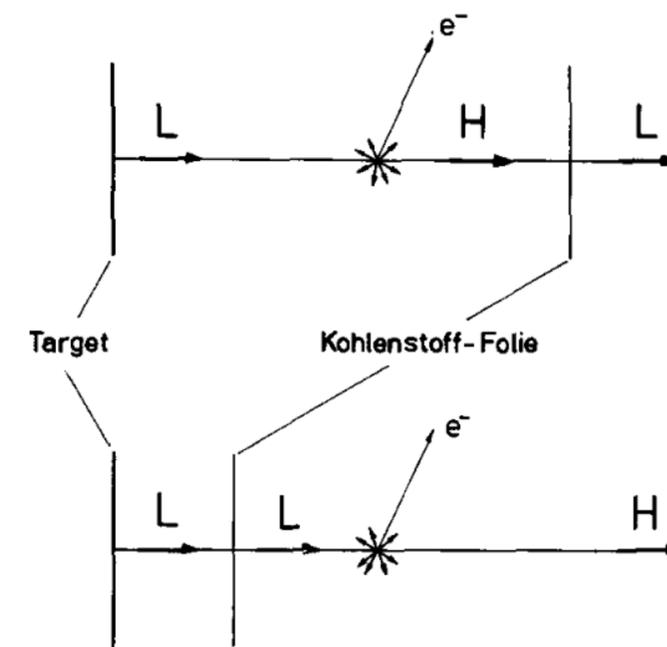
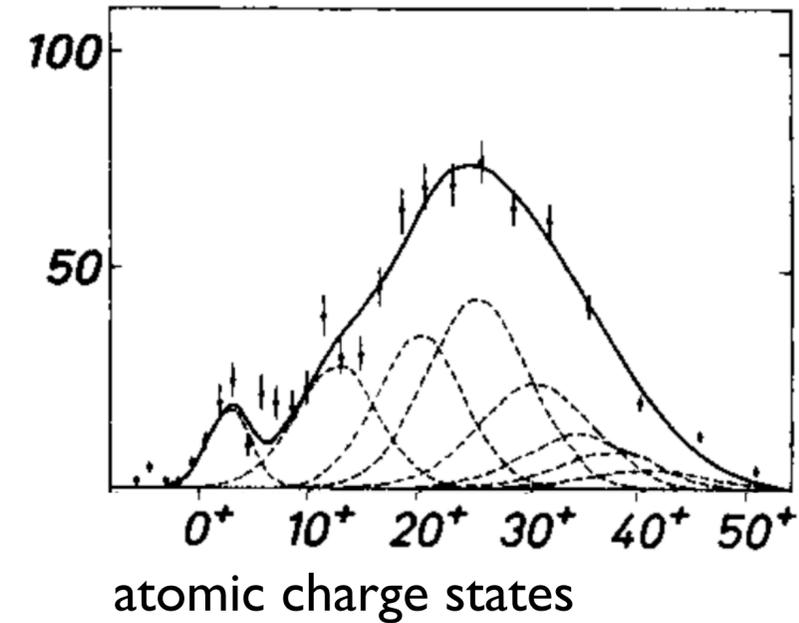
half-lives of rotational states in second minimum: $T_{1/2} \sim E^{-5} \cdot Q_0^{-2}$; \rightarrow deformation

internal conversion of rotational transitions \rightarrow high atomic charge states (Auger cascades)



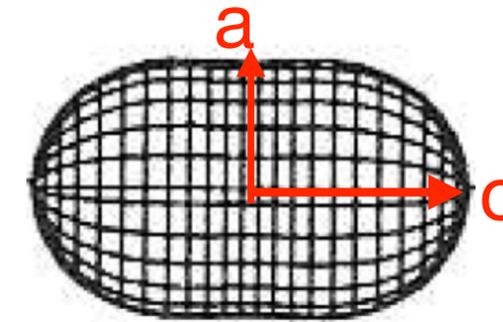
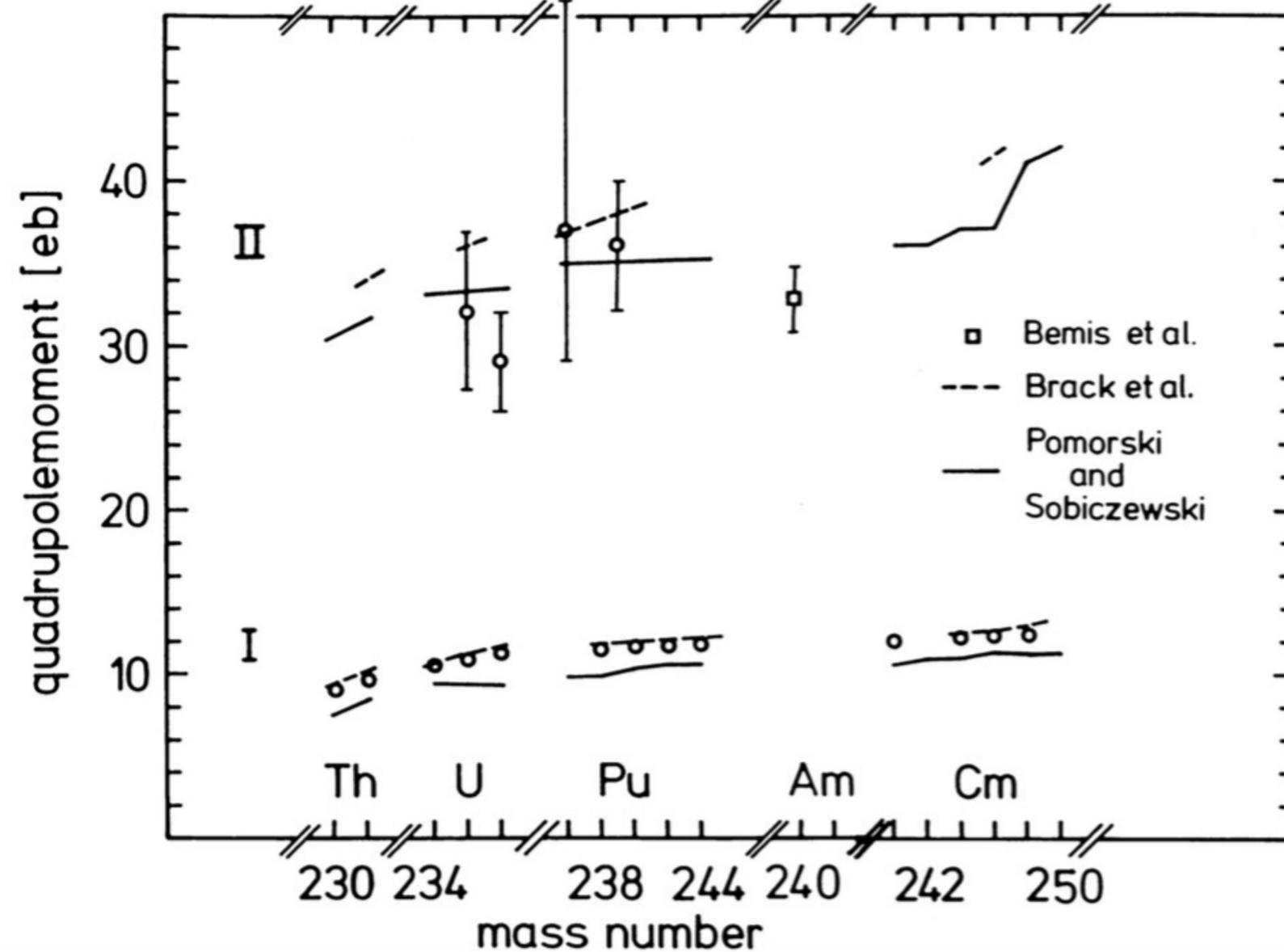
charge state measured by deflection in magnetic field and subsequent fission isomer decay

charge states reset in C-foil if rotational transition occurs before reaching the foil otherwise high charge state



quadrupole moments and deformation of fission isomeric states

V. Metag, D.Habs and H.J.Specht. Phys. Rep. 65 (1998) I



$$Q_{\text{fis}} = (36 \pm 4) \text{ b}; c/a = 2.0 \pm 0.1$$

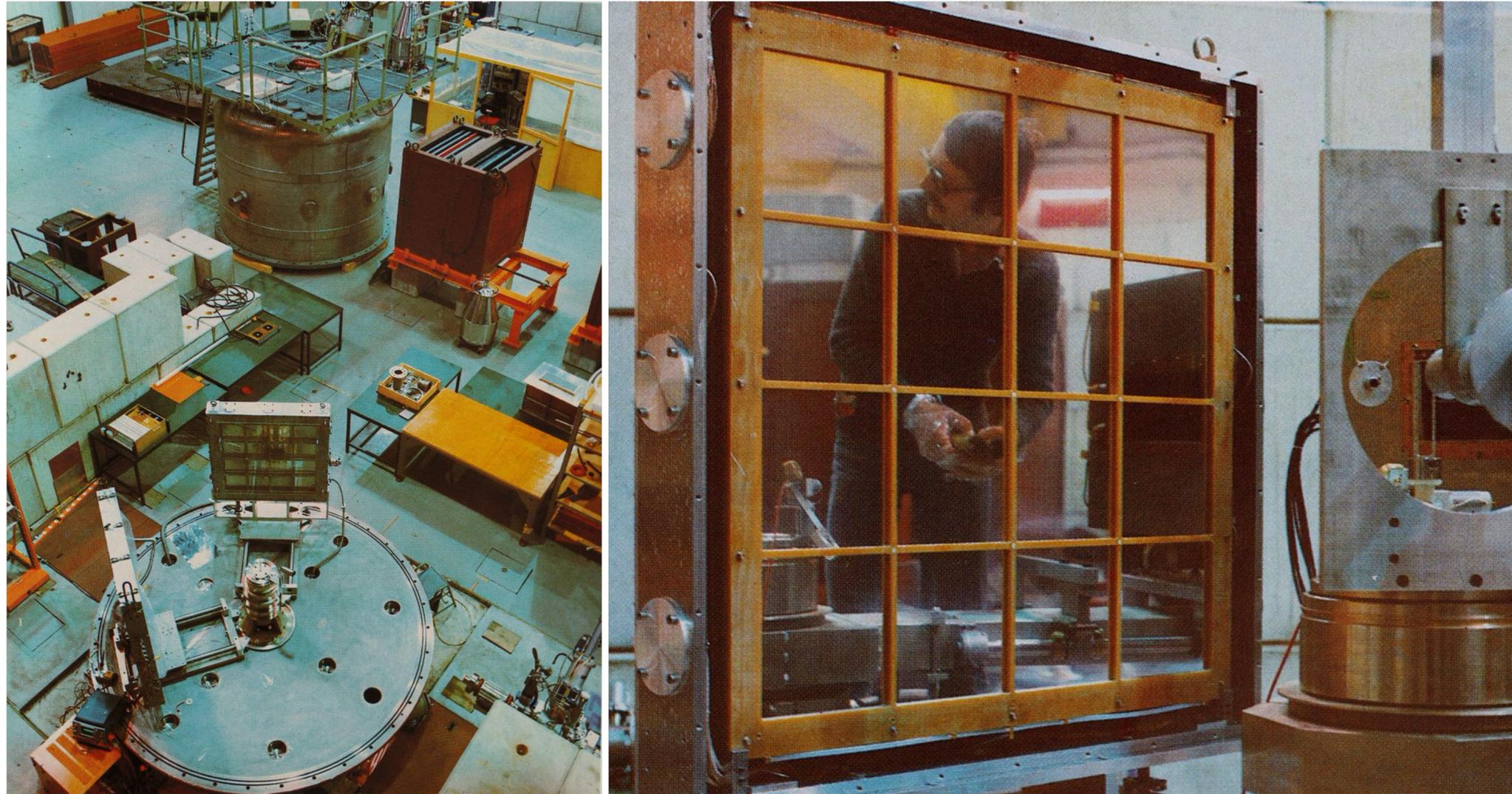
$$Q_{\text{gs}} \approx 12 \text{ b}; c/a \approx 1.3$$

fission isomers are cigar-shaped nuclear states with an axis ratio of $c/a = 2.0 \pm 0.1$, confirming quantitatively that the existence of fission isomers is due to shell effects at large deformation

heavy-ion experiments at GSI: Heidelberger Fass

1 m² size position sensitive parallel plate gas detectors: TOF; dE/dx
(D. von Harrach, P. Glässel)

kinematically complete measurement of 3 or 4 particles in the final state

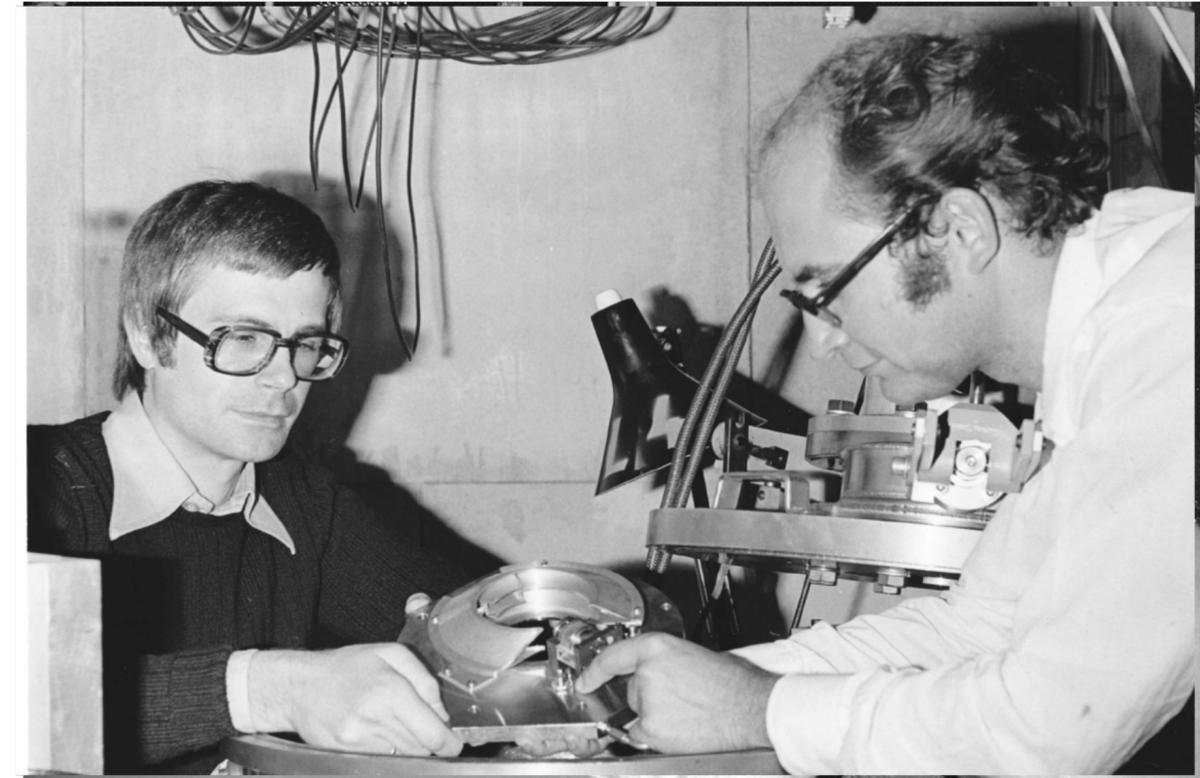


Angular momentum transfer in deeply inelastic heavy-ion collisions
D. von Harrach, P. Glässel, Y. Civelekoglu, R. Männer and H.J. Specht, PRL 42 (1979) 1728

Direct observation of Coulomb fission of ²³⁸U with ¹⁸⁴W projectiles
H. Backe et al., PRL 43 (1979) 1077

Hans Specht's team in Heidelberg

D. von Harrach, P. Glässel, J. Schukraft, V. Metag, D. Habs



Axel Drees

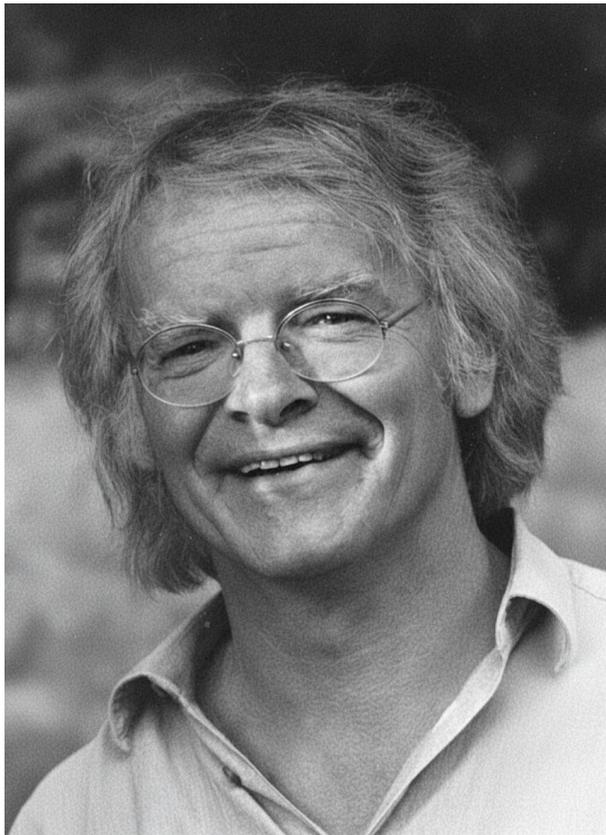
Stony Brook, USA

The Thermal Fingerprint of the Quark-Gluon-Plasma

The Thermal Fingerprint of the Quark Gluon Plasma

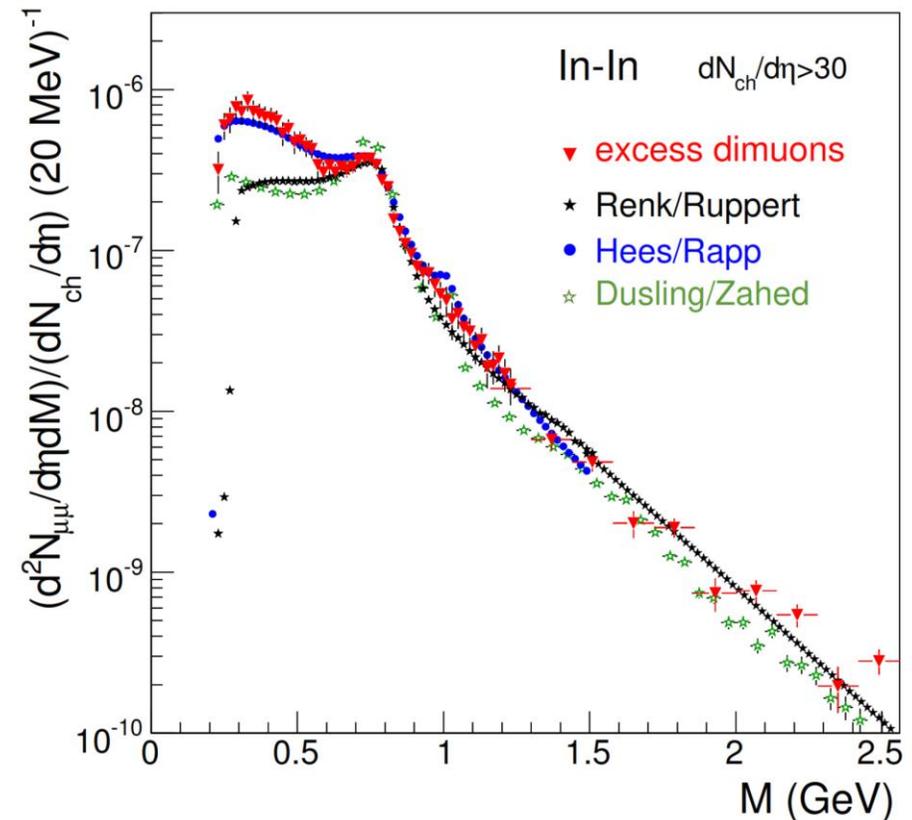
a tribute to Hans J. Specht

Axel Drees, GSI, October 2025

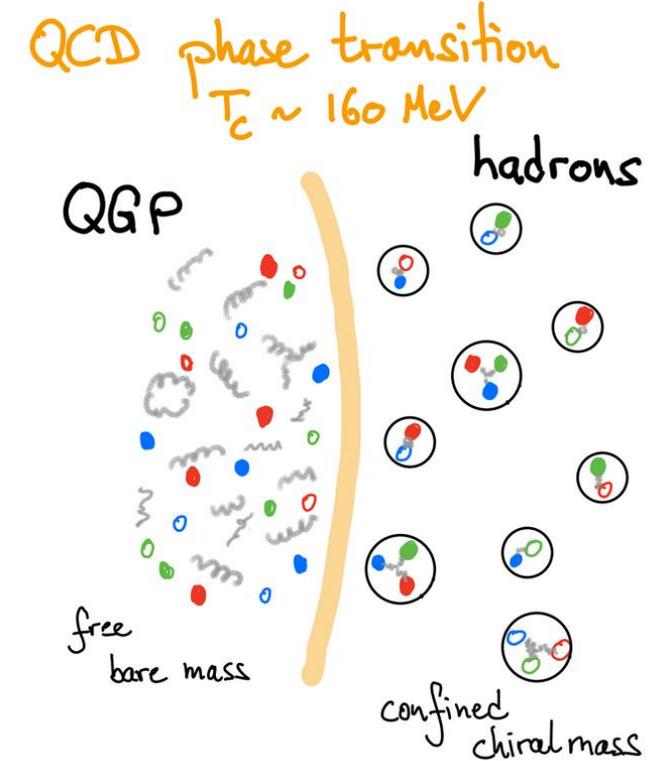
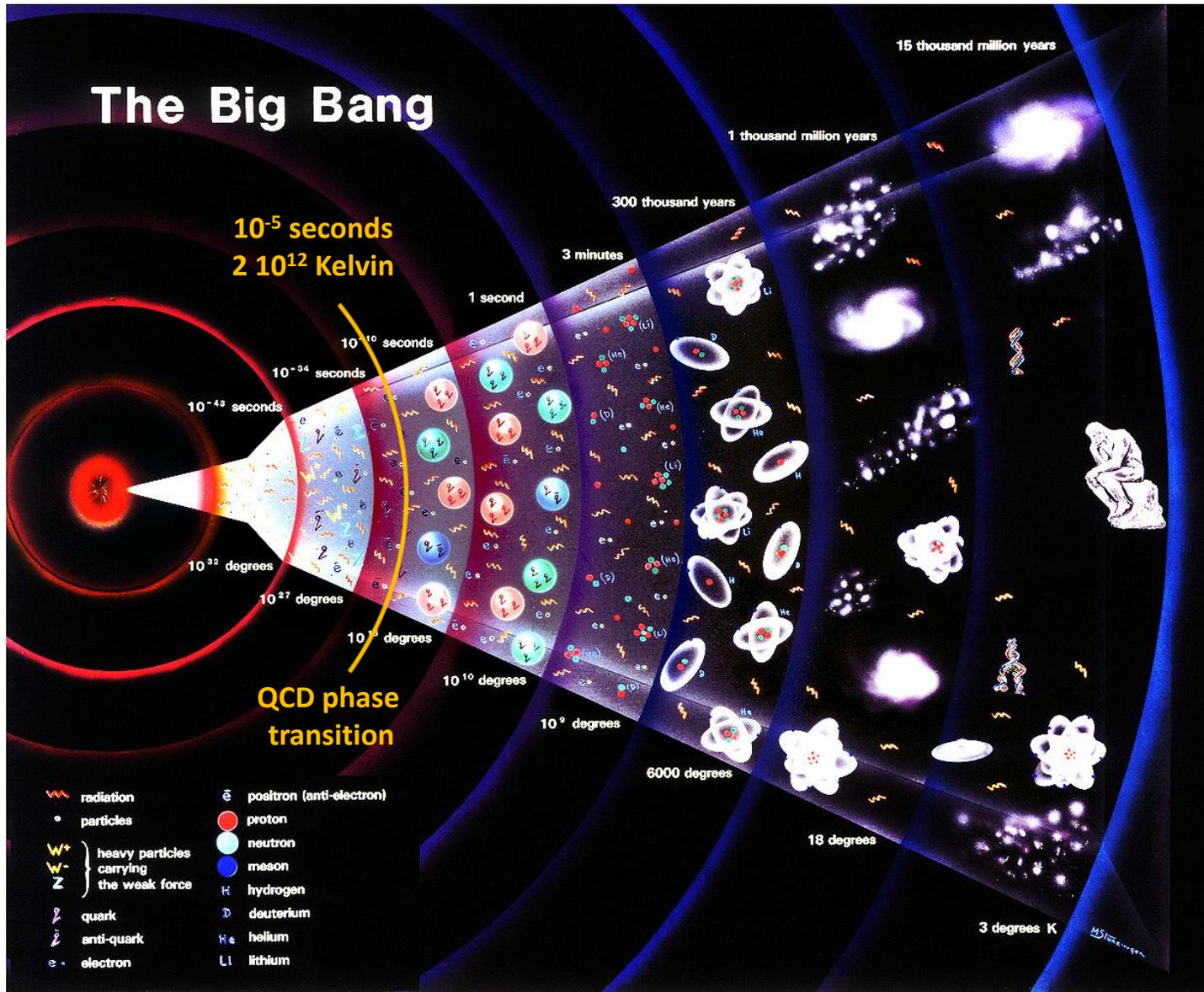


Max Planck Institute, July 1989

- **Brief Introduction**
- **Early years at CERN**
 - Dawn of Heavy Ion Physics
- **An Experimental Masterpiece**
 - CERES and the perpetual run against time
- **The State of the Art**
 - NA60 and the thermal fingerprint of the QGP
- **Perspectives for the Future**
 - Status of the Field
 - NA60+/DICE the next generation experiment



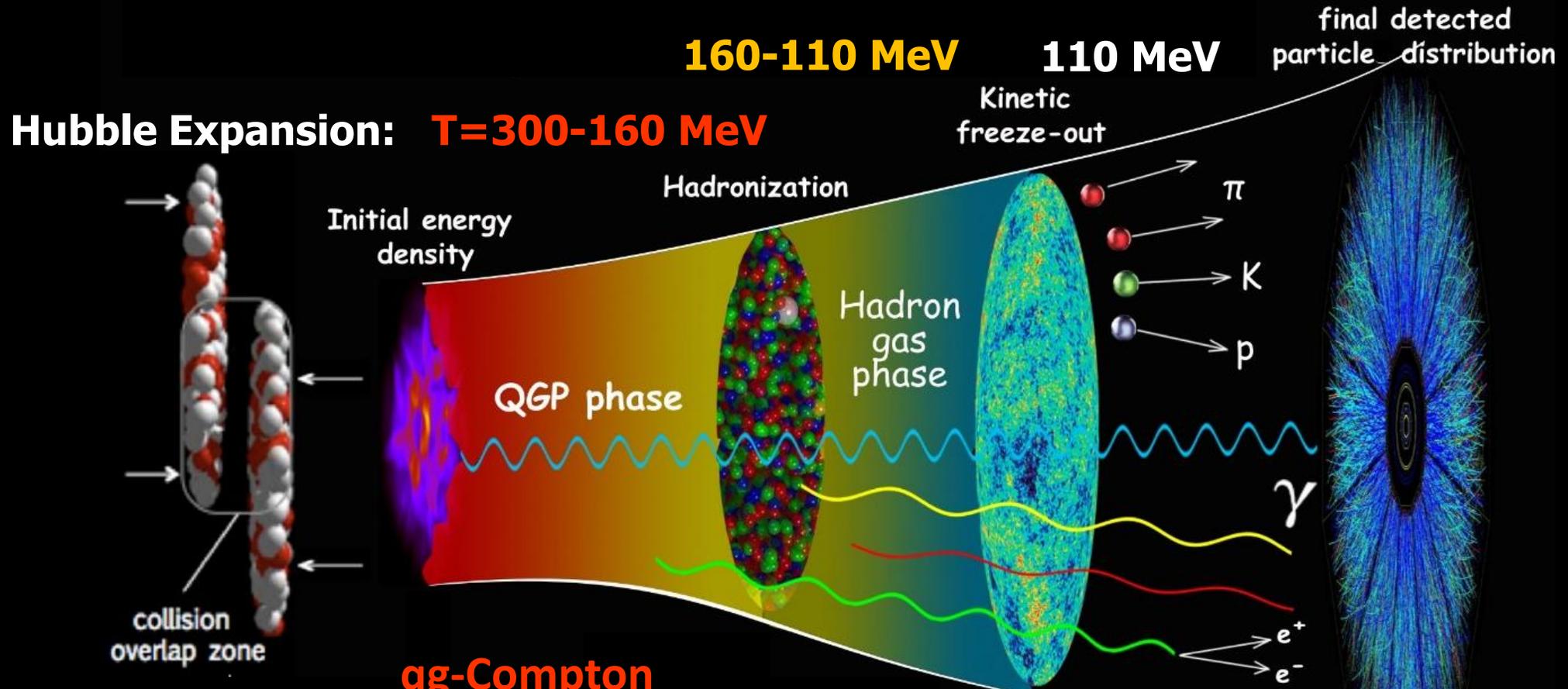
Little Bang in the Laboratory



Recreate "little" big bang in Heavy Ion collisions

Study formation of hadrons

Heavy Ion Collisions and the Thermal Fingerprint



Initial qg-Compton

- power law spectrum
- $\propto N_{coll}$
- no collective motion

qg-Compton (deconfinement)

- high T spectrum
- little radial flow
- yield $\propto N_{ch}^\alpha$ $\alpha \leq 2$

$\pi\rho$ Scattering

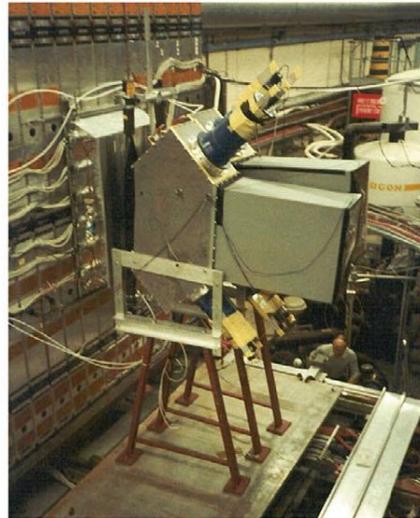
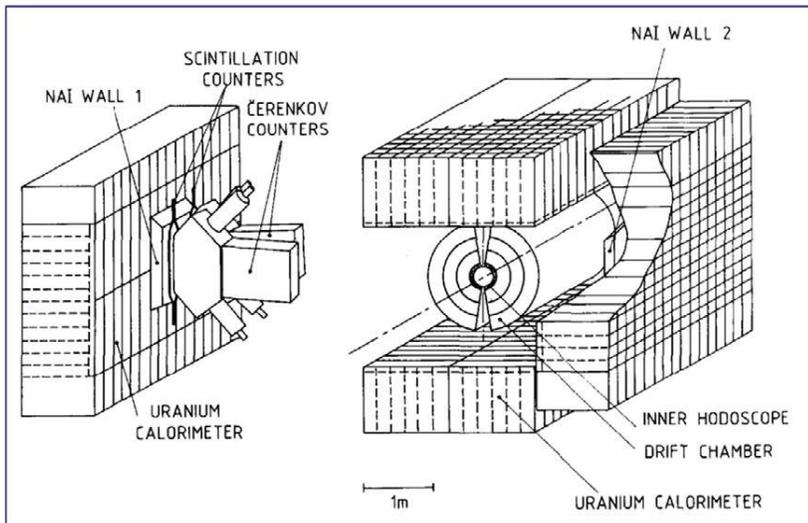
- Low T spectrum
- Large flow/ blue shift
- yield $\propto N_{ch}^\alpha$ $\alpha > 1$

Hadron Decays

- yield $\propto N_{ch}$
- Spectra derived from parent particles

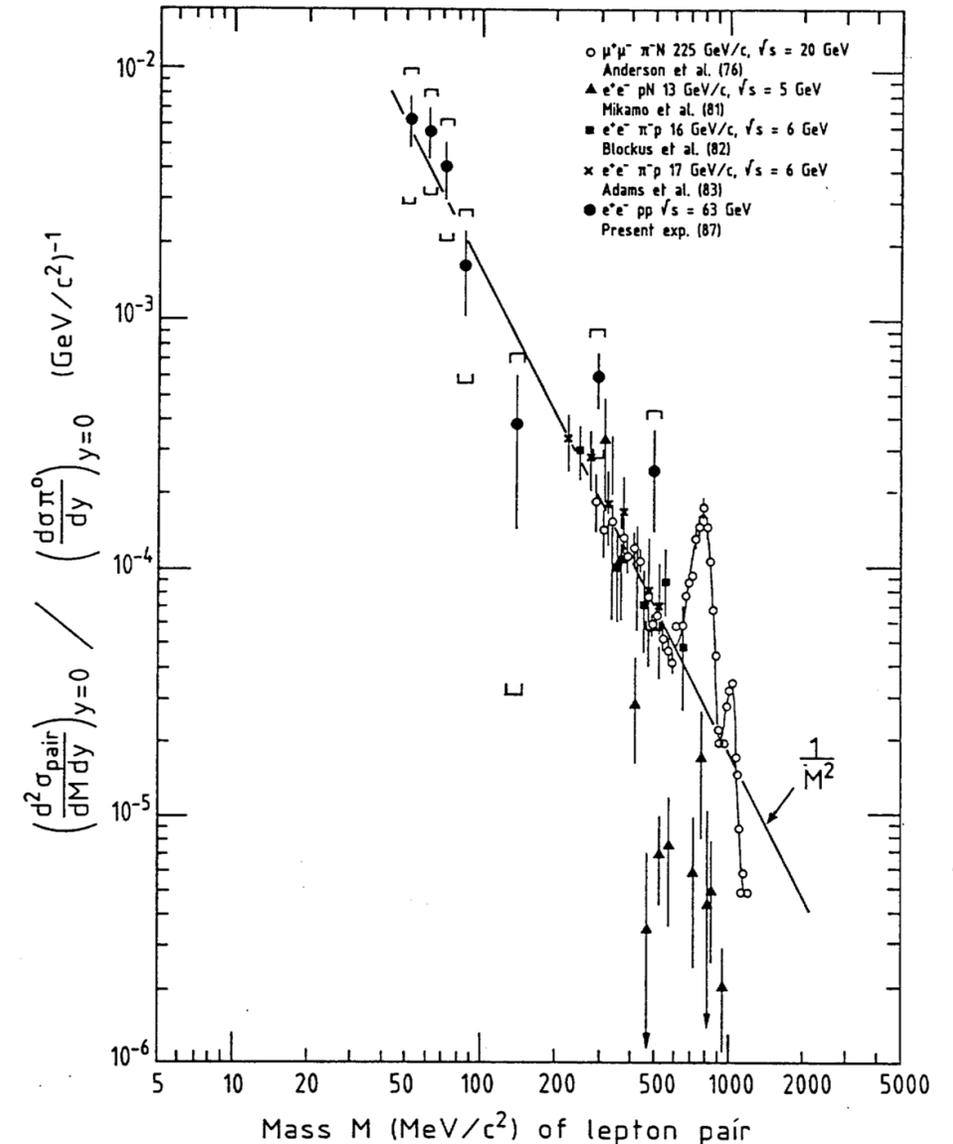
Early years at CERN: Axial Field Spectrometer

Axial Field Spectrometer (R807/808) at the ISR
1983 – 1985 lepton & dilepton measurements with pp collisions



**Apparent enhancement in pp collisions
 low mass region**

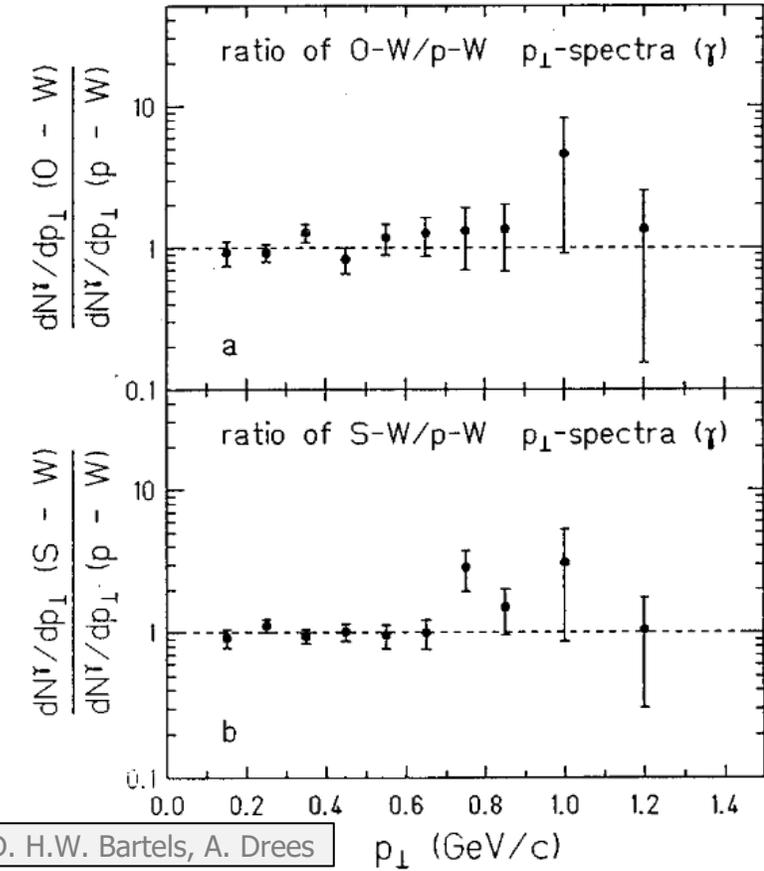
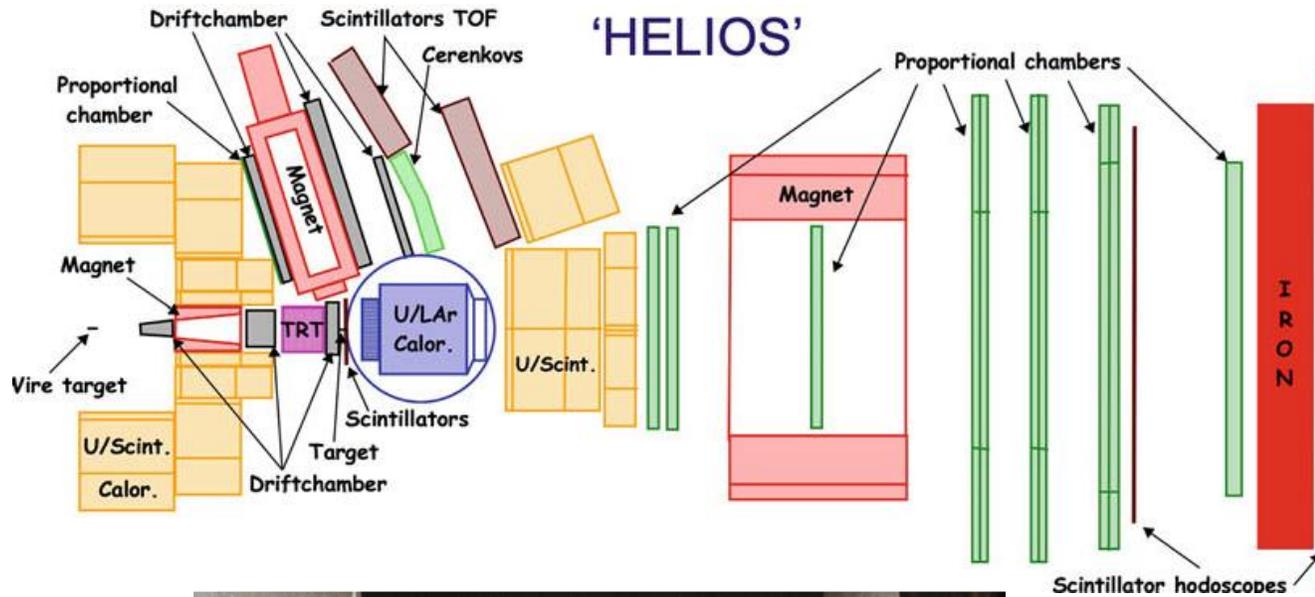
**HELIOS-1: incomplete understanding
 of hadron decay sources**



Early years at CERN: HELIOS-2

Spokesperson of HELIOS-2 1984 till 1988/89

HELIOS: *Z.Phys. C46 (1990) 361*
 HELIOS: *Z.Phys. C46 (1990) 369*



**Hadron and photon spectra:
 1st upper limit on "thermal photon"
 production from the QGP**

An Experimental Masterpiece: CERES/NA45

CERES Proposal: SPSC P237 July 1988

Addendum October 1988



CERN/SPSC 88-40
SPSC/P237 Add 1
10 October 1988

ADDENDUM to PROPOSAL SPSC/P237

STUDY OF ELECTRON PAIR PRODUCTION IN
HADRON AND NUCLEAR COLLISIONS AT THE CERN SPS

J. Schukraft

CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

U. Faschingbauer, M.G. Trauth, J.P. Wurm

Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik, Heidelberg, Germany

A. Drees, P. Fischer, P. Gläsel, M. Guckes, D. Irmscher, R. Mosbach, L.H. Olsen,
A. Pfeiffer, H. Ries, A. Schön, H. Sickmüller, H.J. Specht (Spokesman), T.S. Ullrich

Physikalisches Institut, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

E. F. Barasch, A. Breskin, R. Chechik, Z. Fraenkel,
D. Sauvage, V. Steiner, I. Tserruya

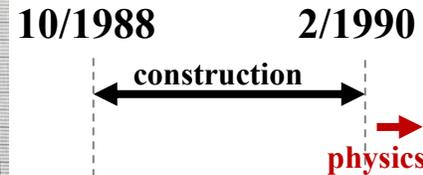
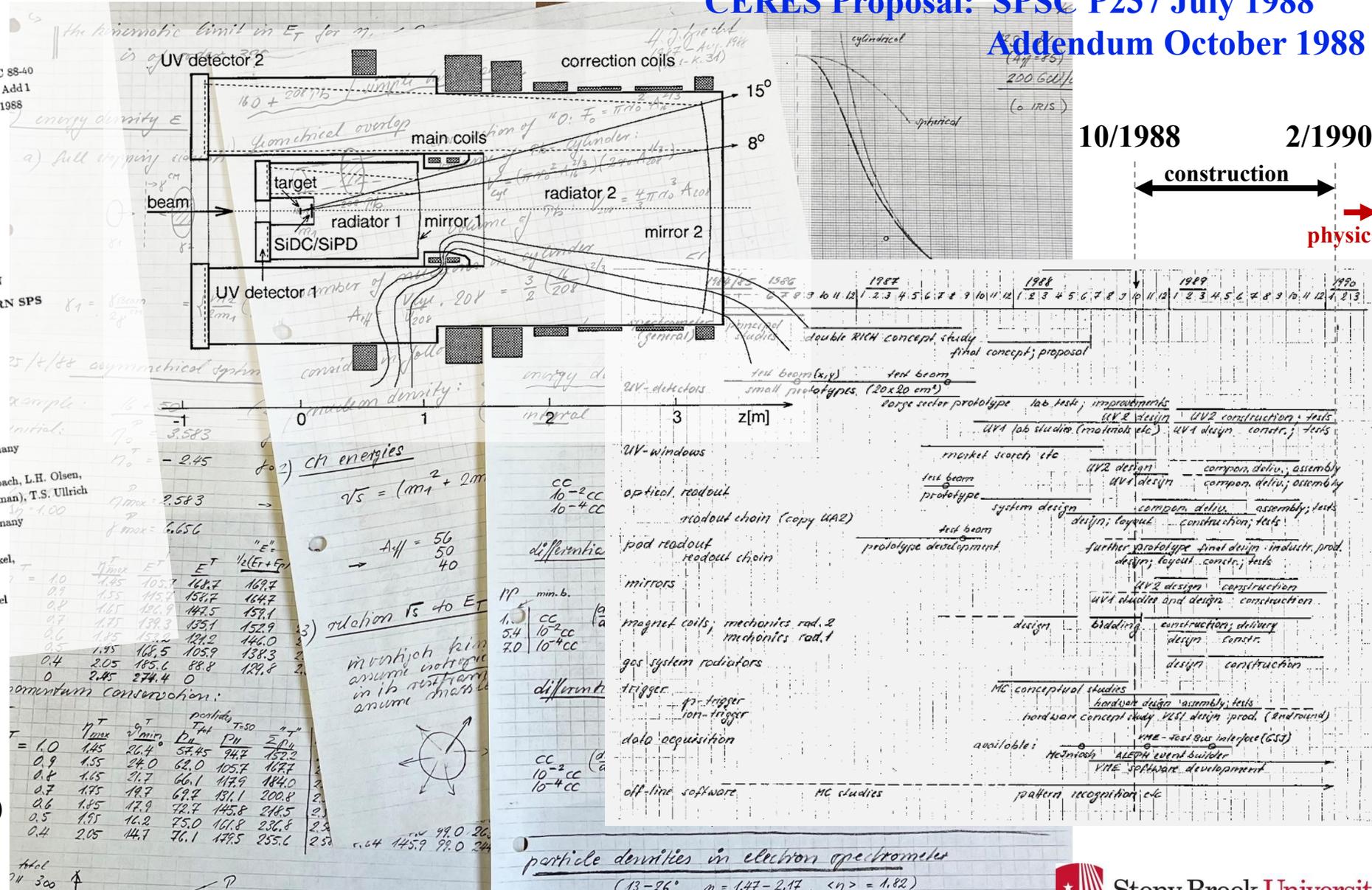
Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel

CERN (1)

MPI Heidelberg (3)

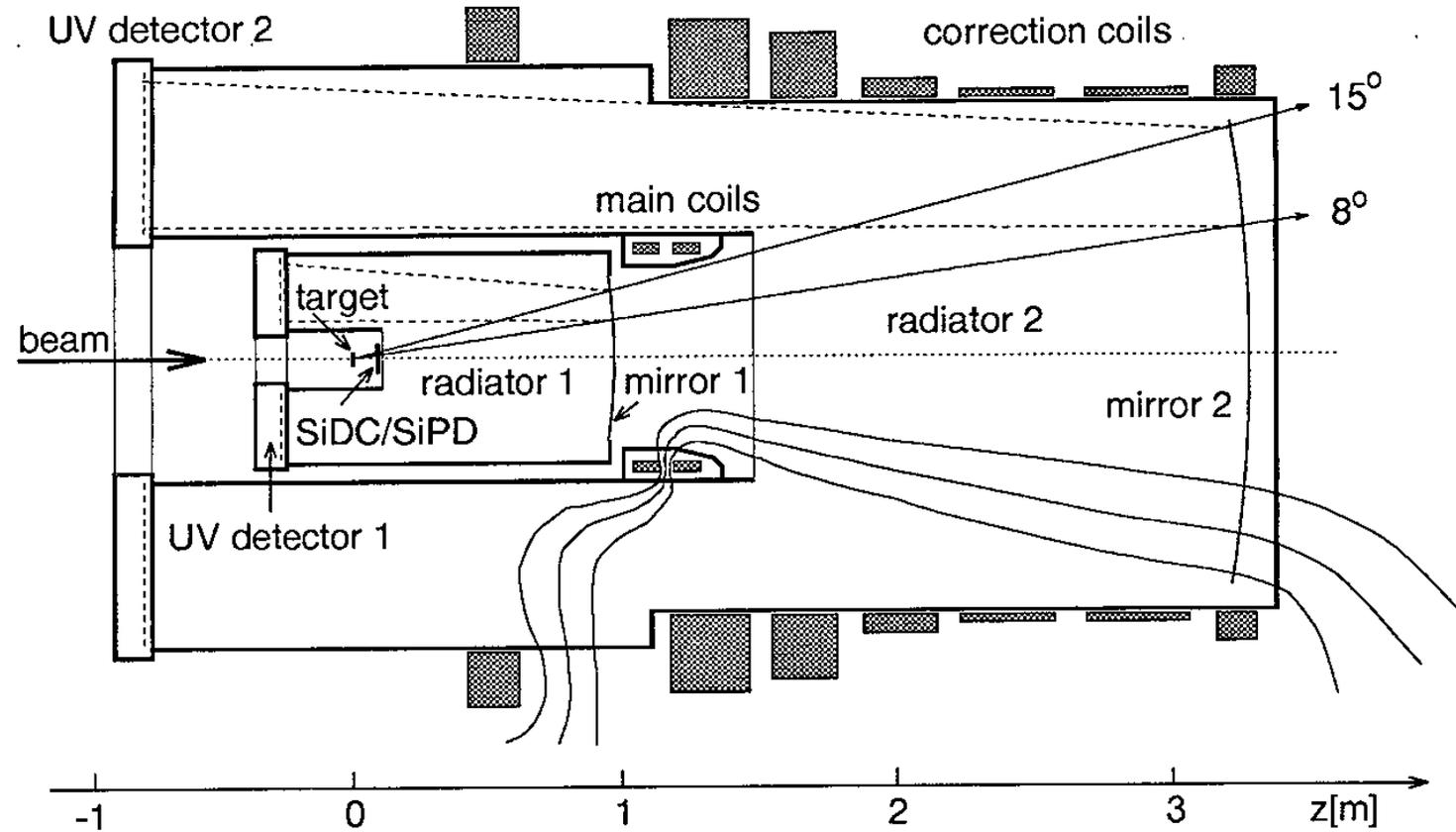
Universität Heidelberg (13)

Weizmann Institute, Rehovot (7)



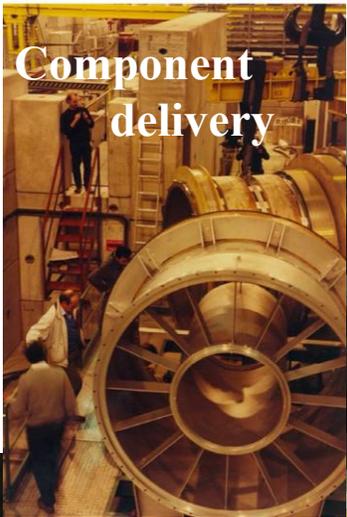
CERES: Hadron Blind e^+e^- Pair Spectrometer

- **RICH detectors in the 1980's**
 - Concept proposed 1977
 - Feasibility not yet demonstrated
 - Only large-scale application DELPHI, would start operation in 1989
- **Other cutting-edge components**
 - Carbon fiber mirror 1
 - Superconducting main magnet
 - Sophisticated field shaping
 - Silicon Pad Detector
 - Multiprocessor 2nd level trigger
 - 120,000 readout channels
 - VME based data acquisition
 -
- **Silicon Drift detector (added 1990)**
 - Proposed in 1984
 - First use in CERES experiment

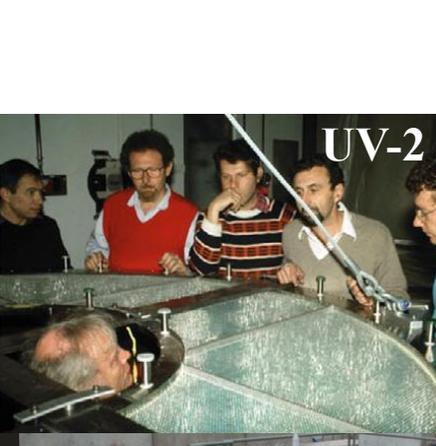


**Cutting-edge technology
and streamlined design**

CERES: Construction 1989 and early 1990



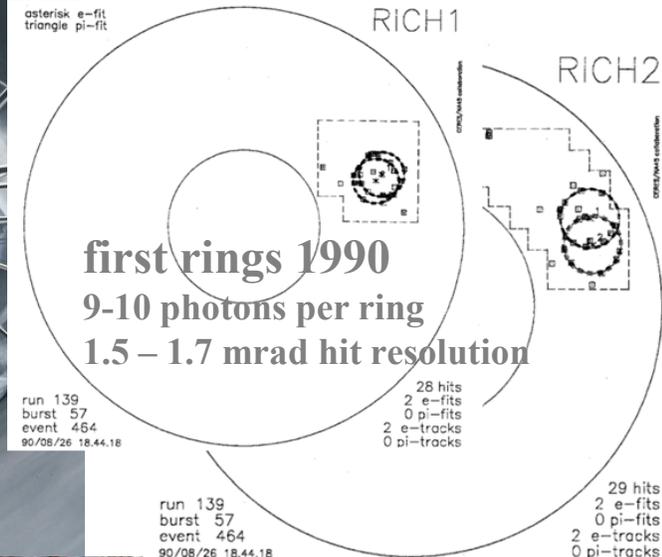
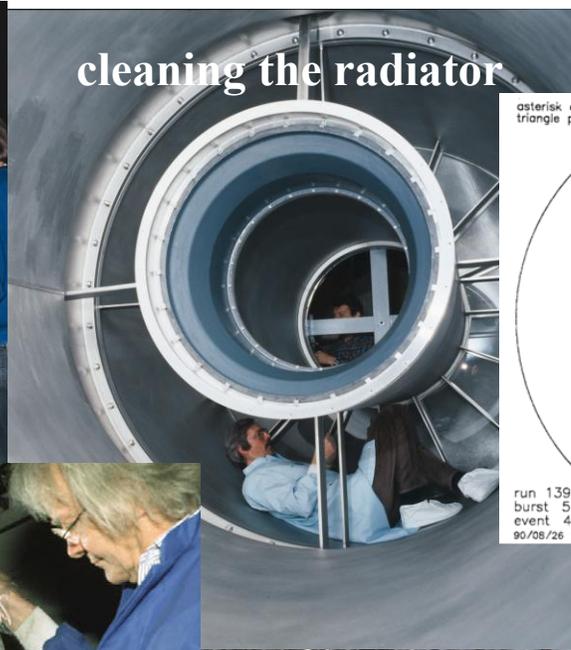
Component delivery



UV-2 detector



cleaning the radiator



magnet system



installing electronics



mirror 1



Final preparations for 1st beam



UV-2 arrives



debugging



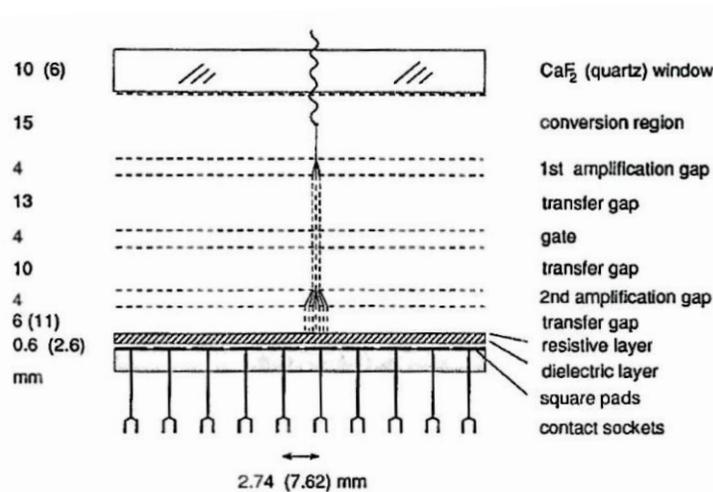
mirror 2

CERES: Catastrophic Sparking 1991

Gated parallel plate amplification

● UV detector operation

- unstable at design gain $\sim 2 \cdot 10^5$ despite gating
- 100% spark probability from slow protons
- >100 ms HV recovery time \rightarrow 1-2 Hz data rate
- significant damage to electronics



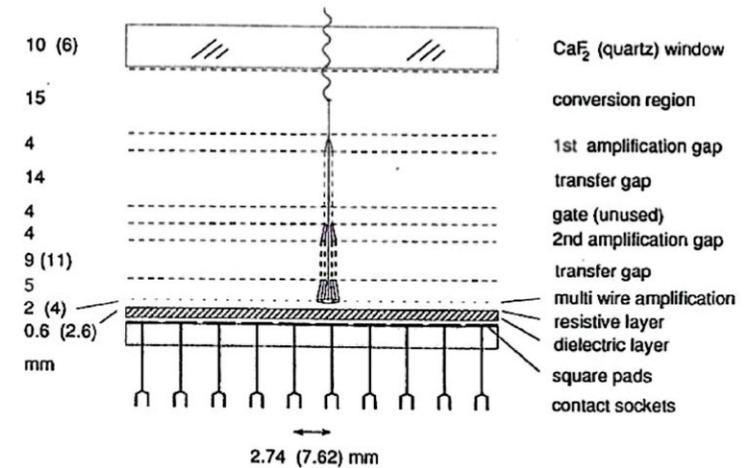
MWPC amplification stage

● UV detector operation

- self quenching amplification to $< 10^8$ charges
- stable at design gain $\sim 2 \cdot 10^5$ without gating

● Modification for 1992

- replace PPAC with MWPC in UV1 and UV2
- UV2: add diode protection to 60,000 channels
- UV1: 2nd gen. modules replacing 60,000 channel



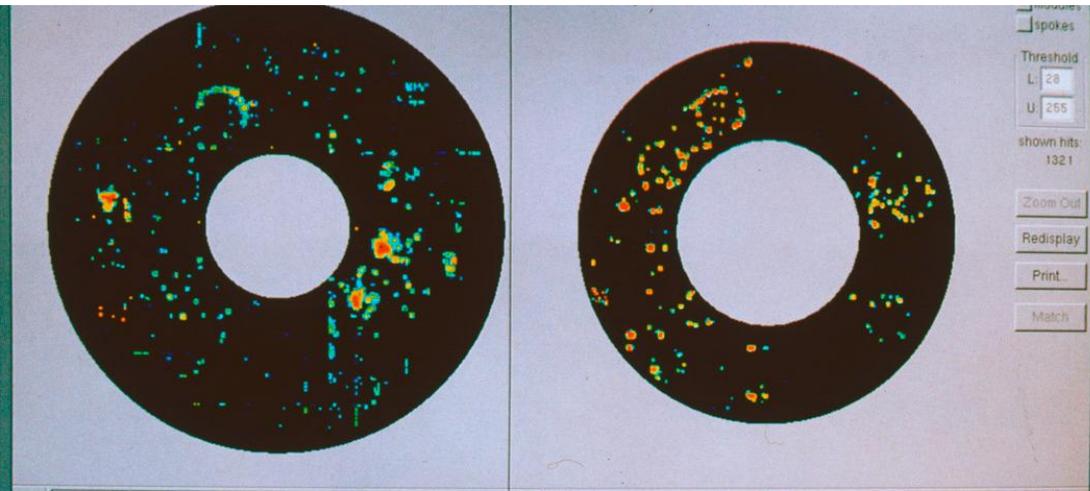
**Hans J. Specht concludes NIM A343 (1994) 231:
"We will in all future stick to the lovely tolerance
of a MWPC"**

CERES: Successful Data taking 1992/93

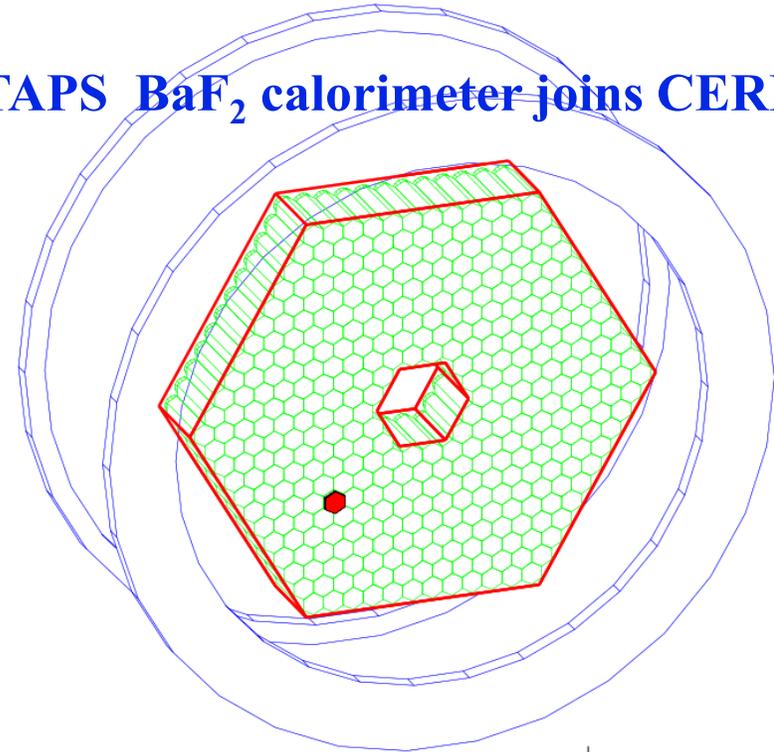
- 1992 S-Au physics run
- 1992-1992 CERES/TAPS addendum – use TAPS calorimeter downstream to measure hadron decays
- 1993 p-Be & p-Au physics run CERES/TAPS

S-Au collision 1992

UV1



UV2



SiDC



SiPD

S-Au data and precision measurement of hadron decays in p-Be and p-Au

CERES: Pb-Beam Era

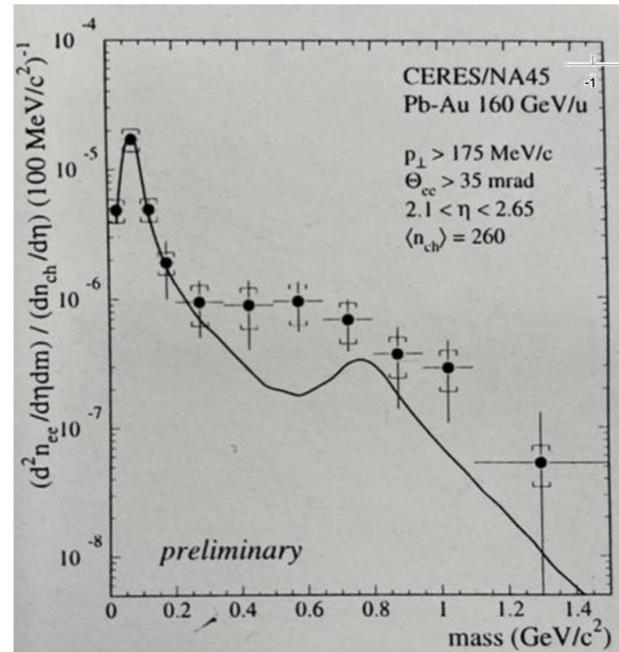
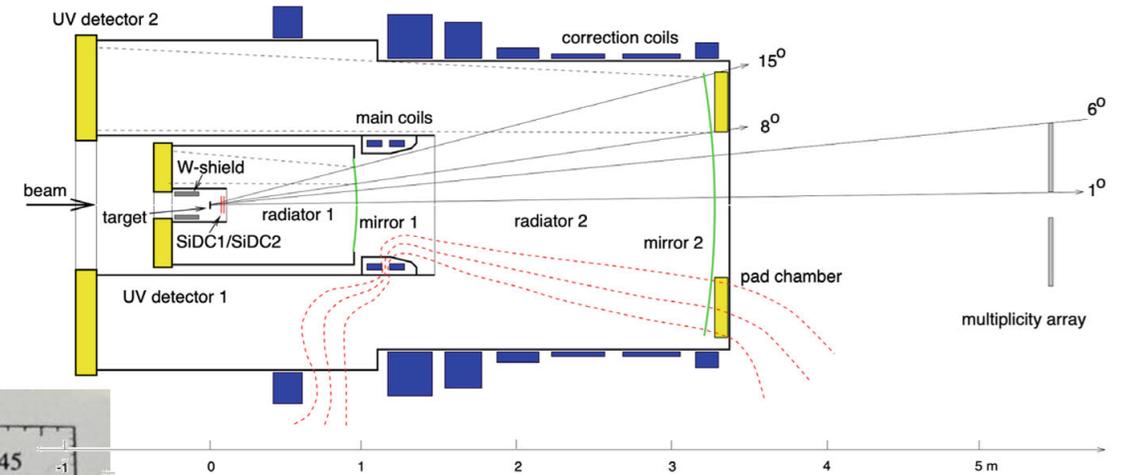
CERES – 2 proposal: SPSLC P280 January 1994

2 Si-drift chambers + pad chamber + interaction trigger

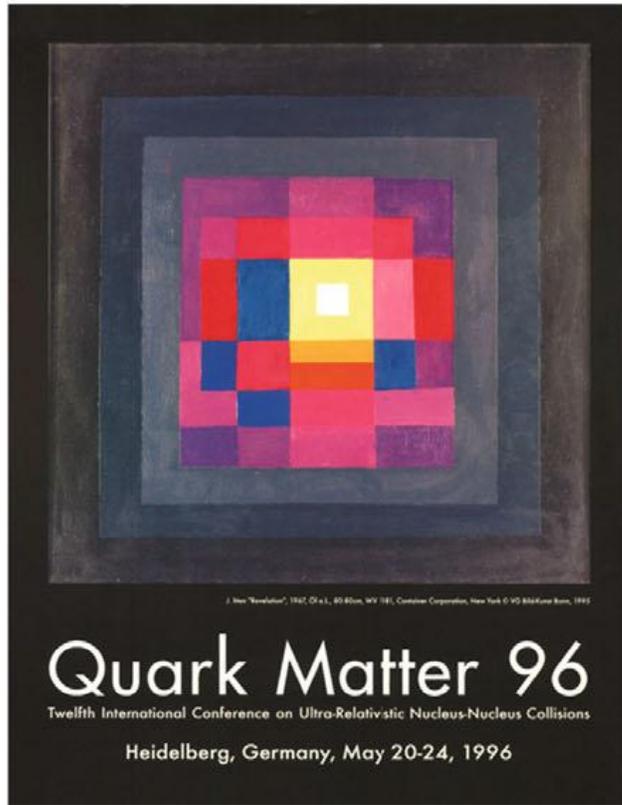
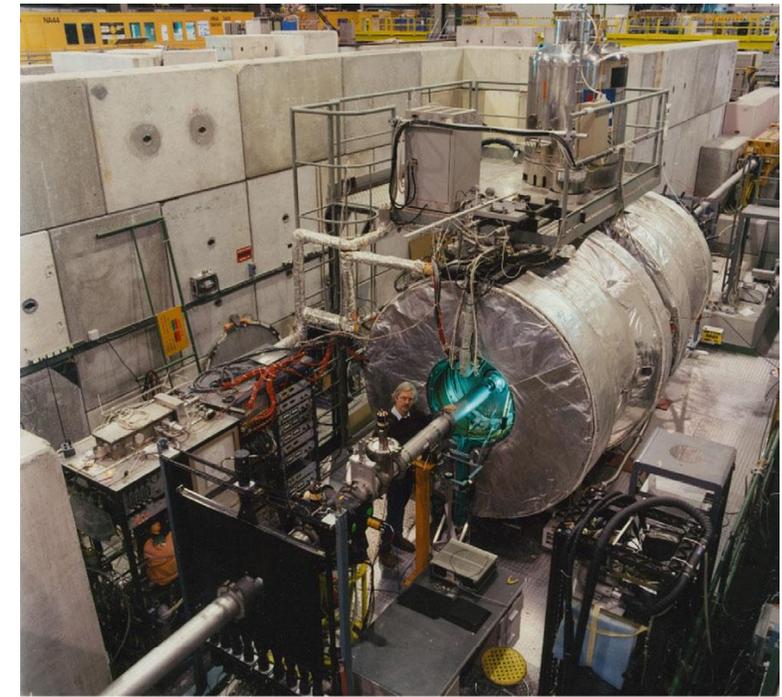
Main physics beam times 1995-1996

new analysis code: convert Fortran → C++

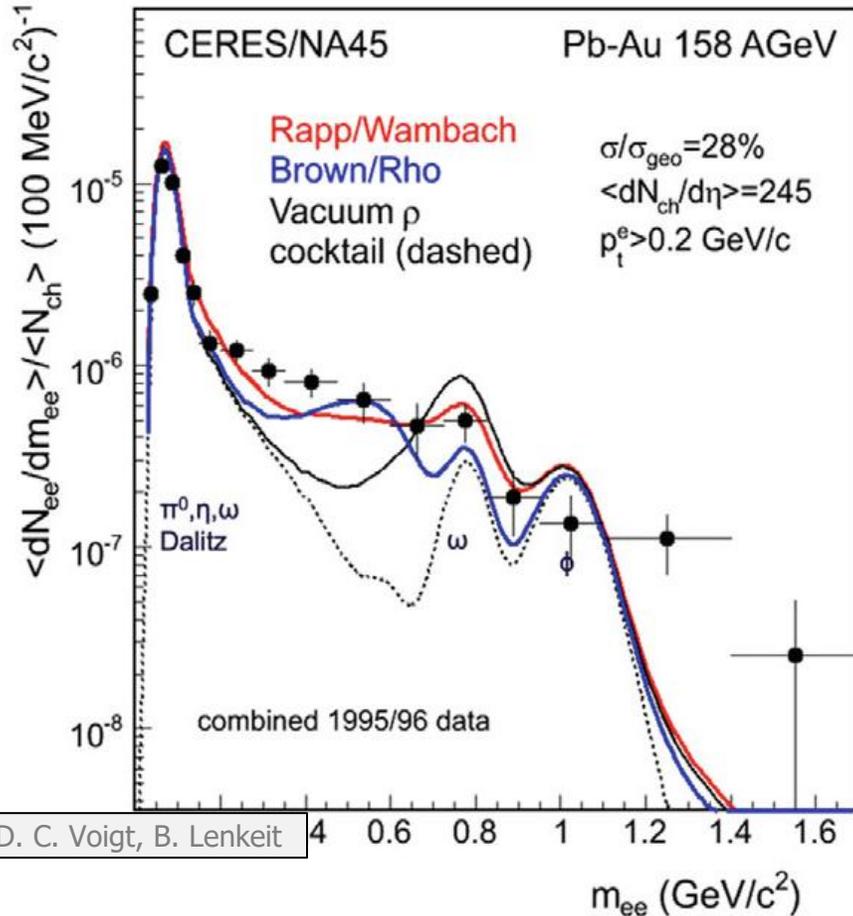
First results shown QM 1996 in Heidelberg



**1st Pb beam results
5 days before QM96**

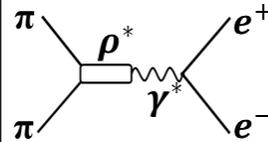


CERES: In Medium Effect



Ph.D. C. Voigt, B. Lenkeit

e^+e^- pairs from hot hadron gas:

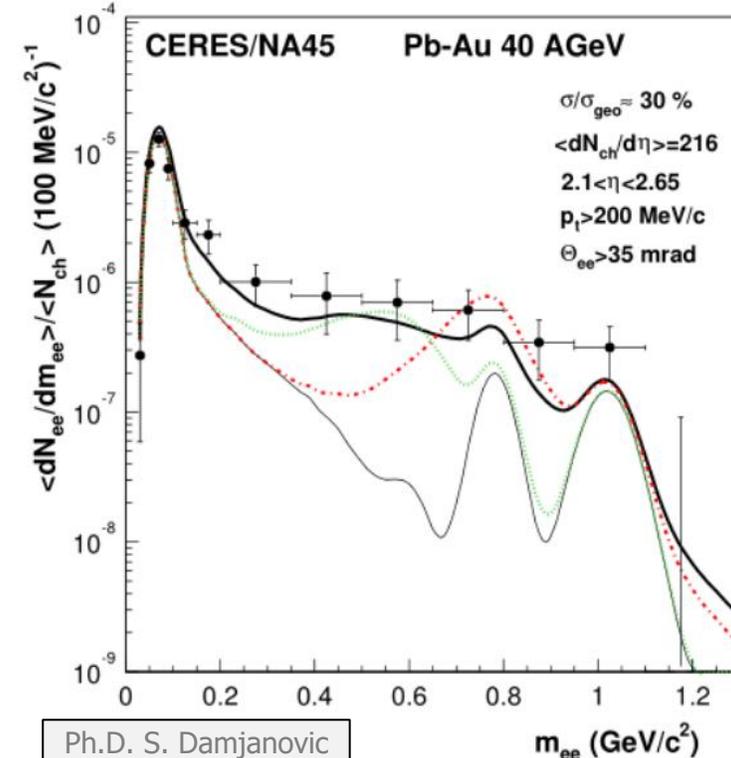


Final upgrade: CERES + TPC (lead by J.Stachel)

1996 proposal to construct TPC downstream of CERES

1999/2000 data taking with Pb beam at 40 and 158 AGeV

1999 data for final Doctoral Thesis supervised by H.J.Specht



Ph.D. S. Damjanovic

CERES: *Phys.Lett. B442 (1998) 405; 329 citations*

CERES: *NPA 661 (1999) 23c, Eur.Phys.J. C41 (2005) 475; 342 citations*

**CERES: ρ meson is modified!
but results do not distinguish:
dropping mass \leftrightarrow mass broadening**

Importance of baryon density

State of the Art Dilepton Experiment: NA60

Adding Silicon Pixel Telescope

- much better mass resolution
- Reduce remaining π , K decay background
- Larger low mass acceptance
- Capability to reconstruct secondary vertex

2000

CERN approved proposal to add silicon pixel telescope to NA10/NA38/NA50 muon spectrometer

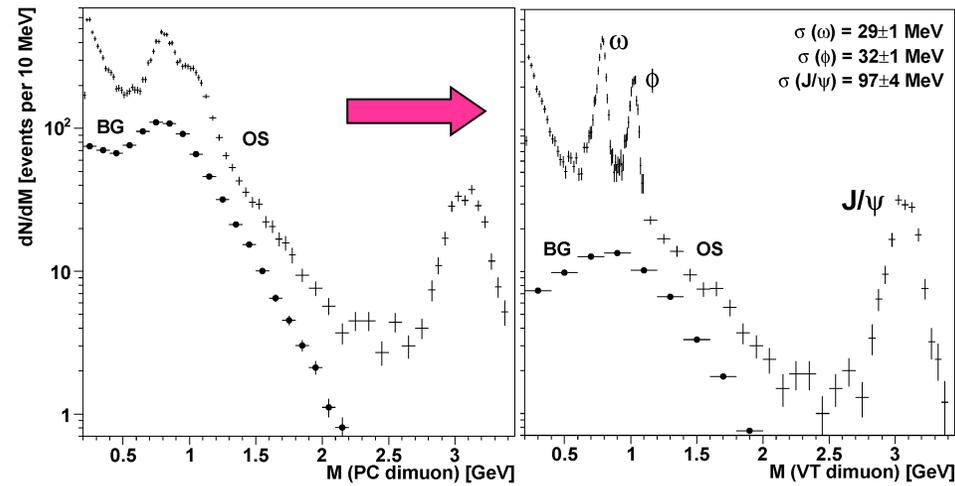
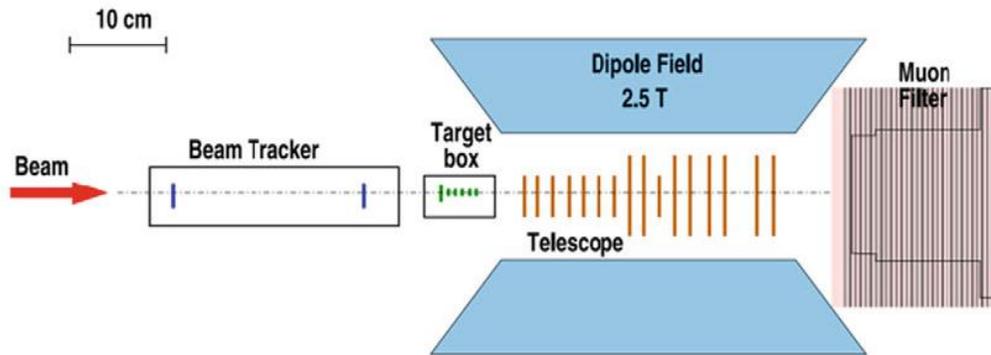
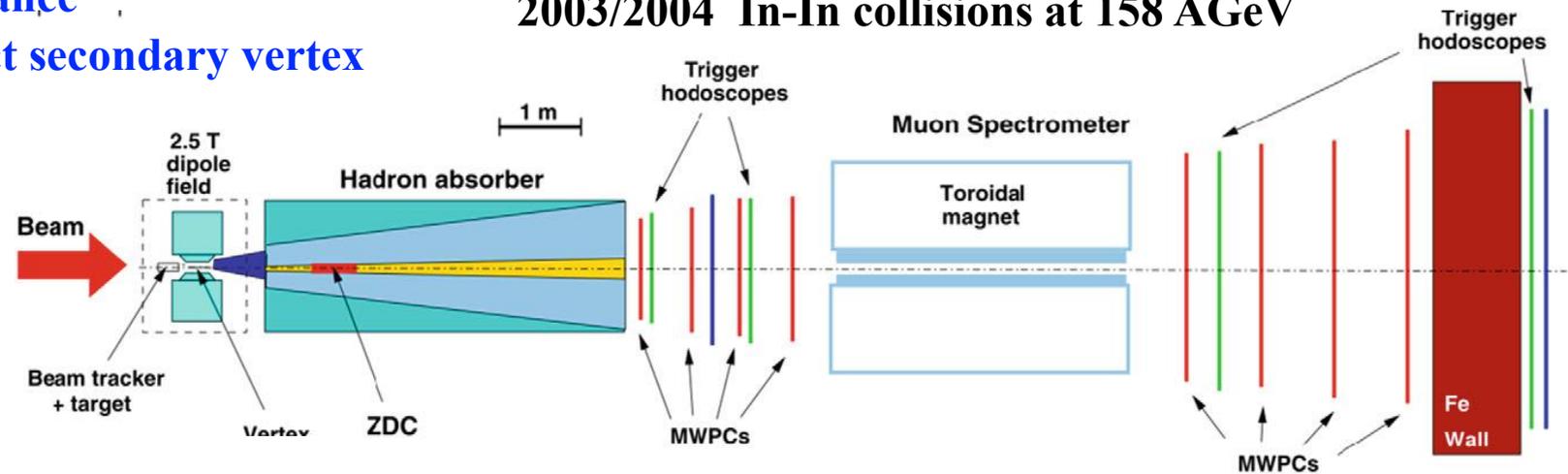
2003

H.J. Specht accepts invitation to join

2002

Proton beams on various targets

2003/2004 In-In collisions at 158 AGeV

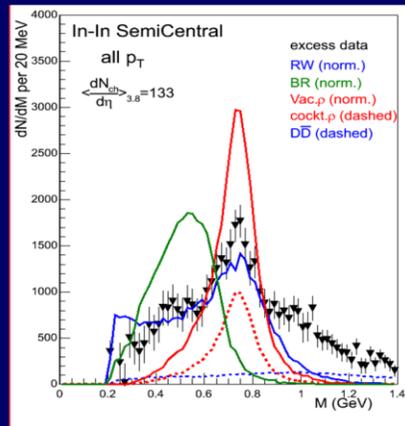


match vertex tracks with muon tracks in coordinate and momentum space

NA60: Medium Modifications of the ρ Meson

Trento 2005

Comparison of data to RW, BR and Vacuum ρ



Predictions for In-In by Rapp et al (2003) for $\langle dN_{ch}/d\eta \rangle = 140$, covering all scenarios

Theoretical yields normalized to data in mass interval $m < 0.9$ GeV

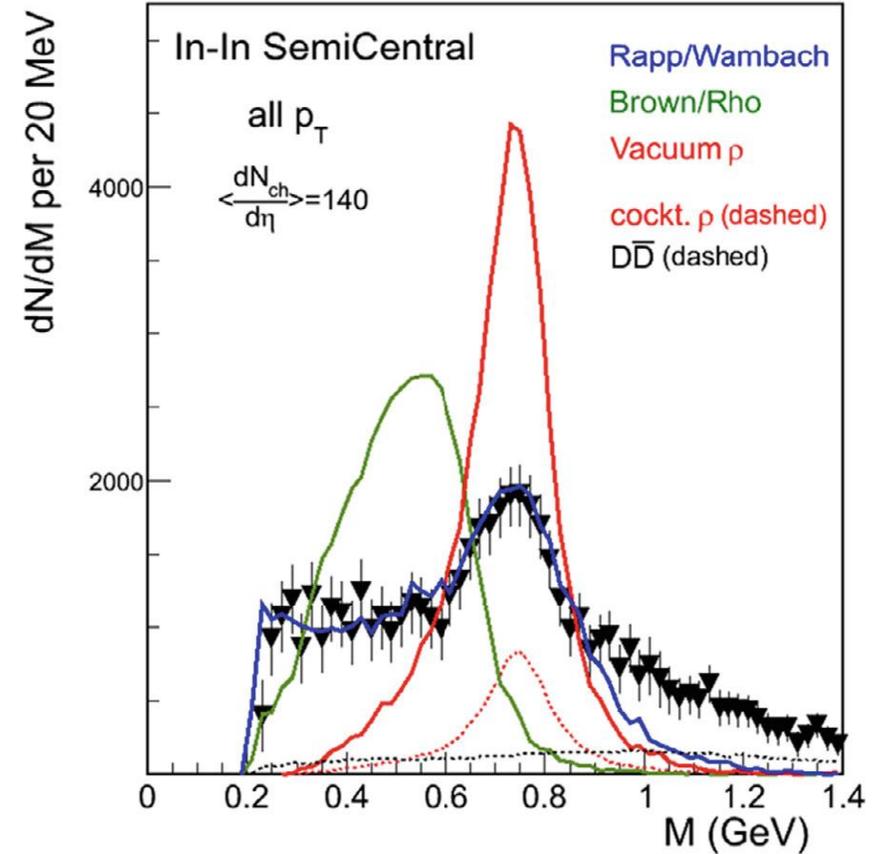
Only broadening of ρ (RW) observed, no mass shift (BR)

Low-mass dileptons-a more general view

Hans J Specht
in behalf of the NA60 Collaboration
of Hans J. Specht

Trento, June 2005

NA60: Phys.Rev.Lett. 96 (2006) 162302; 426 citations



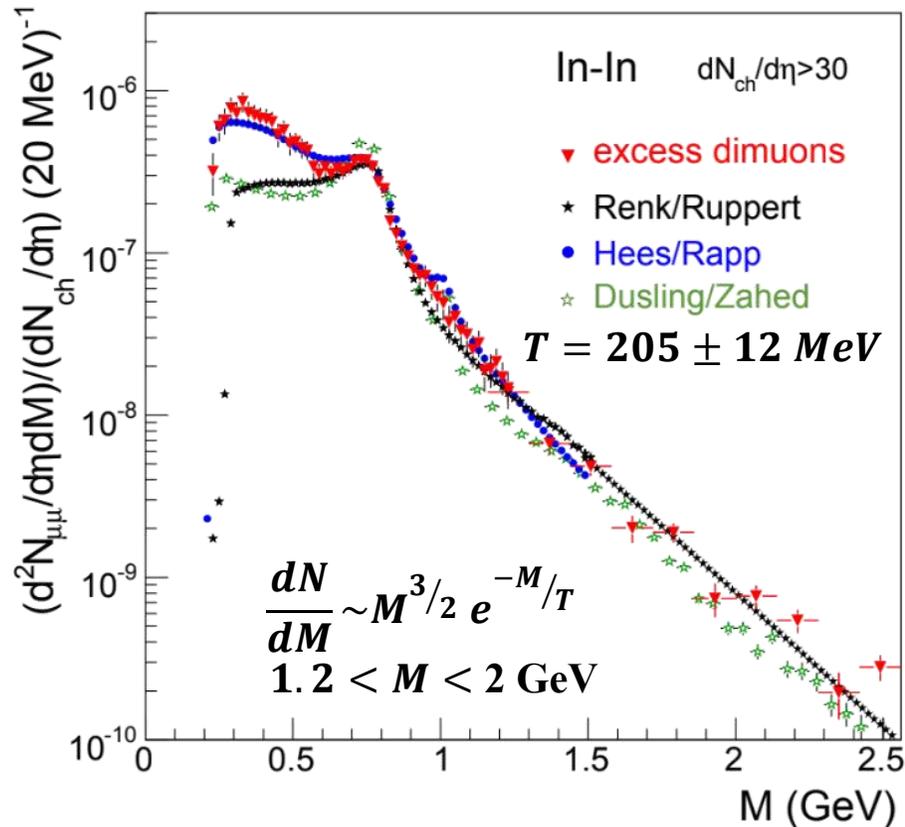
ρ meson spectral function broadens
No shift in mass!



NA60: Thermal Fingerprint of the QGP

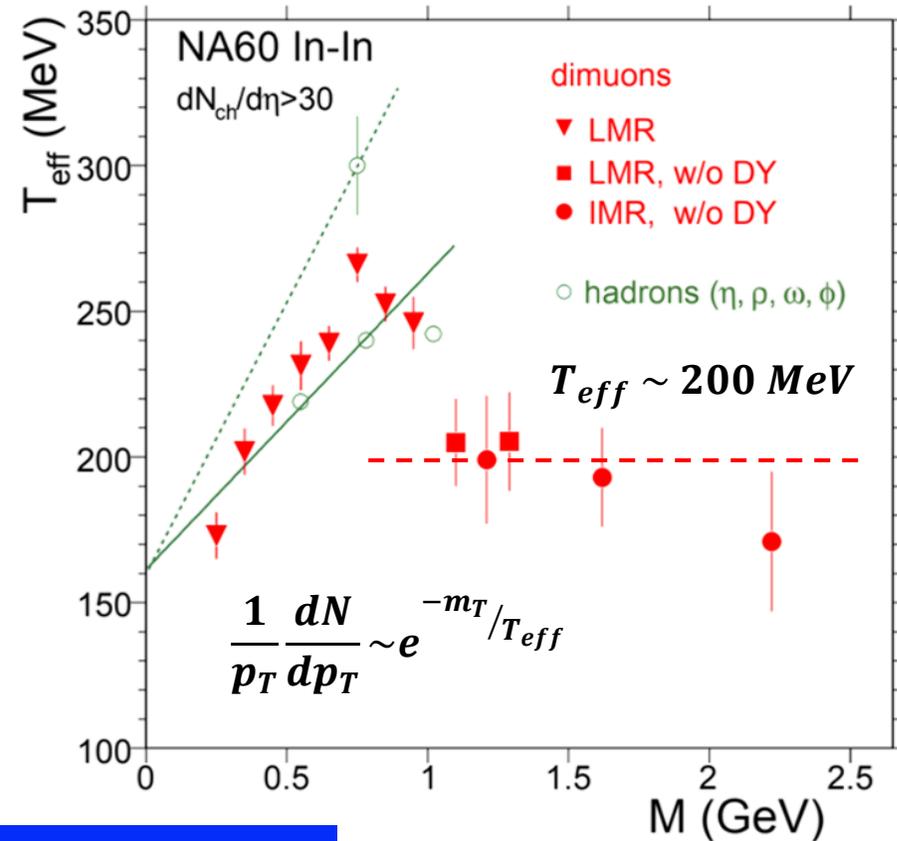
● Mass spectrum of thermal dileptons

- $M < 1$ GeV: ρ dominates and melts near T_C
- $M > 1$ GeV: Planck-like thermal spectrum $T > T_C$



● Momentum spectrum of thermal dileptons

- $M < 1$ GeV: rising $T_{eff} \rightarrow$ radial flow blue shifts
- $M > 1$ GeV: const. $T_{eff} > T_C$



**Model independent determination
initial temperature $T_i > 200$ MeV $> T_C$
solid proof: QGP formed at SPS energies**

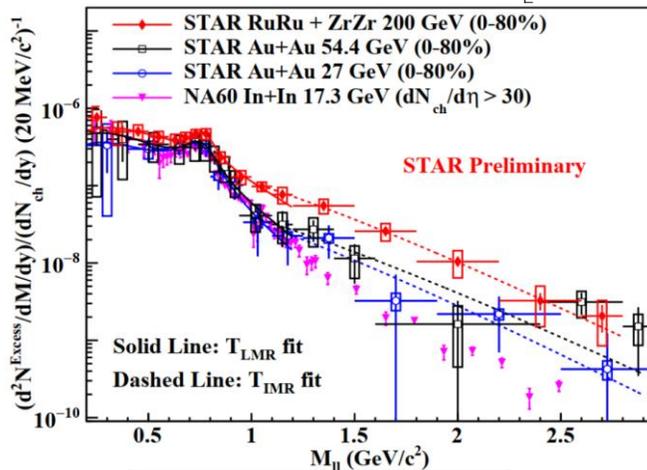
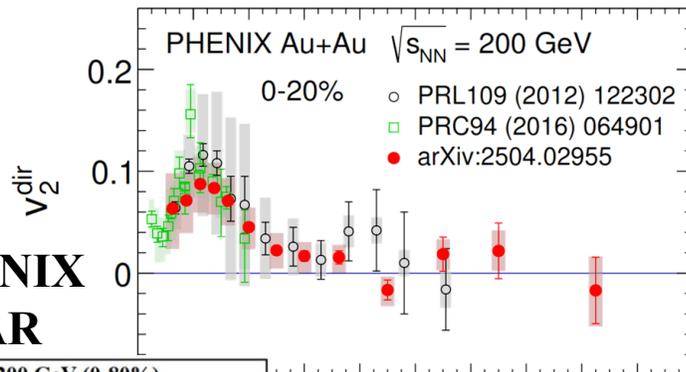
NA60: *Euro. Phys. J. C*61 (2009) 711; 177 citation
NA60: *Euro. Phys. J. C*59 (2009) 607; 148 citations

Thermal Radiation: QM2025

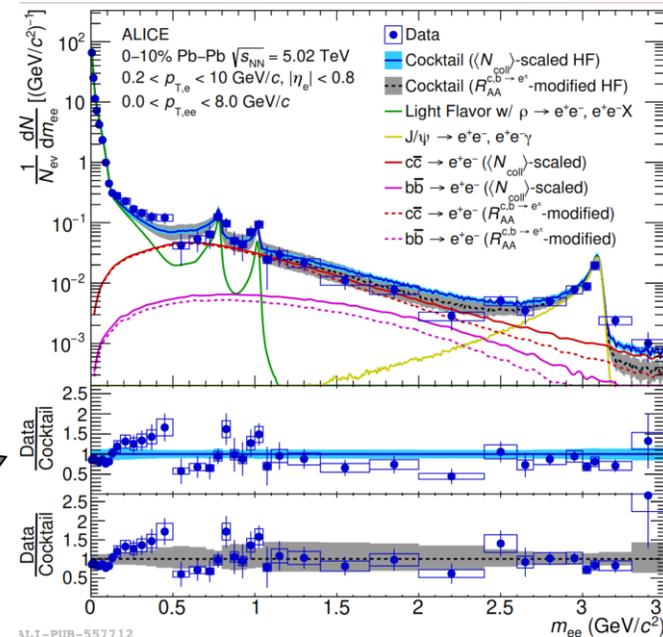
Status 2025

- New results at every major conference
- Many experiments
- Large range in temperature and density
- NA60 precision unrivaled

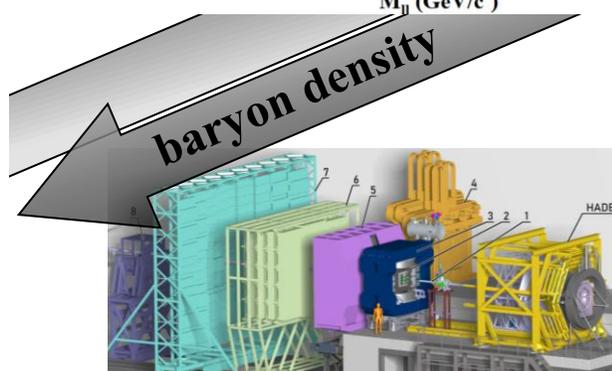
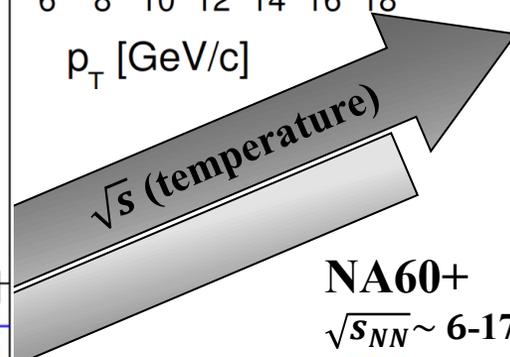
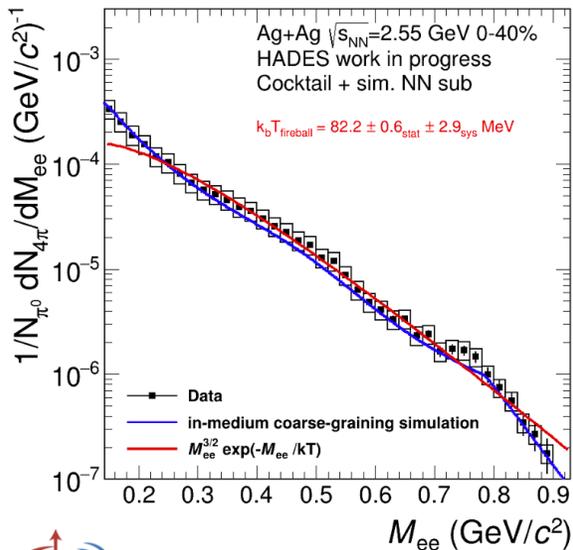
RHIC: PHENIX & STAR



LHC: ALICE

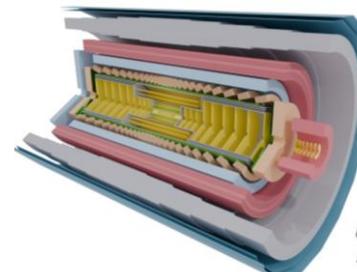
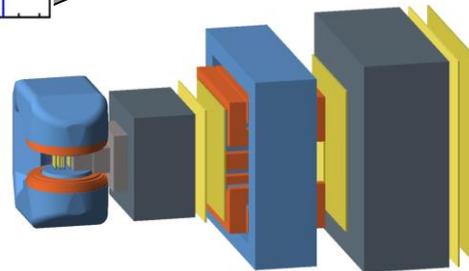


GSI: HADES



NA60+ $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \sim 6-17$ GeV (SPS)

ALICE 3 $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \sim 5$ TeV (LHC)

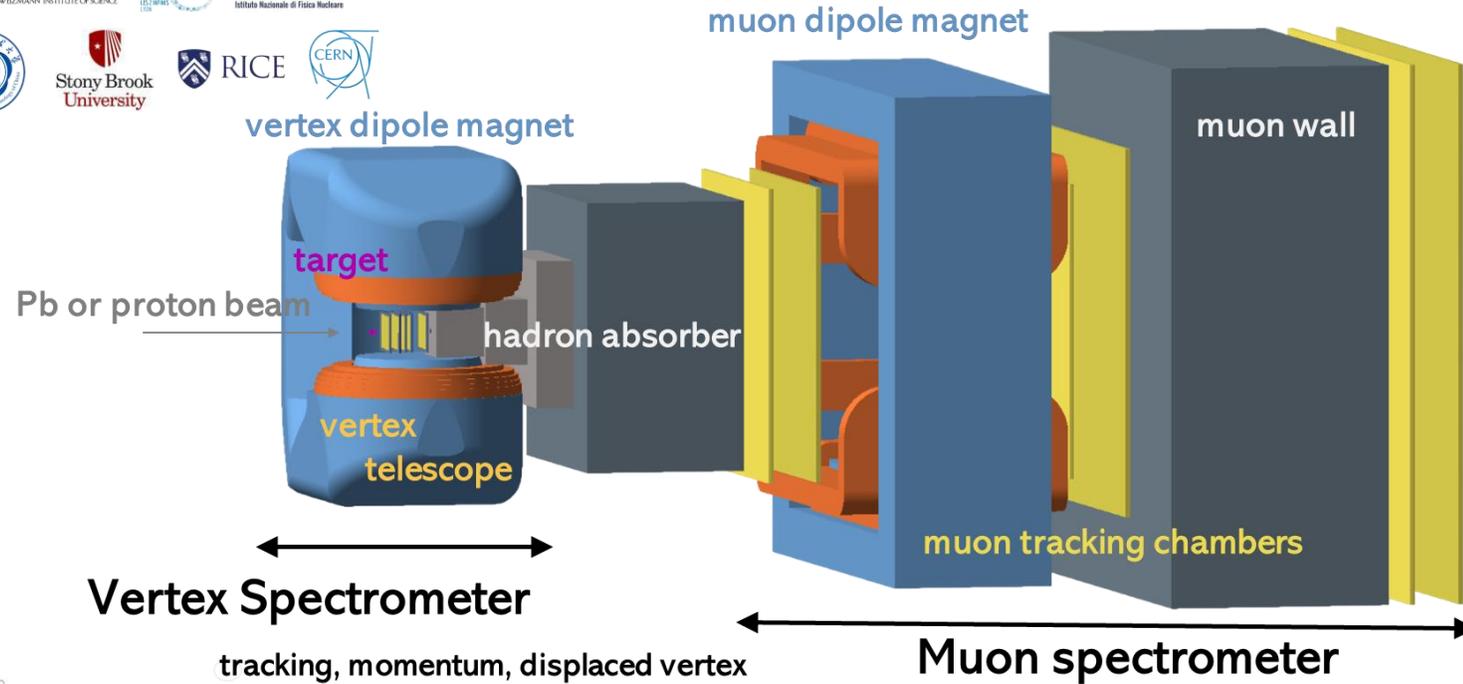


CBM – HADES $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \sim 3-5$ GeV (SIS 100)

future experiments

4th generation CERN-SPS Dimuon Experiment NA60+/DiCE

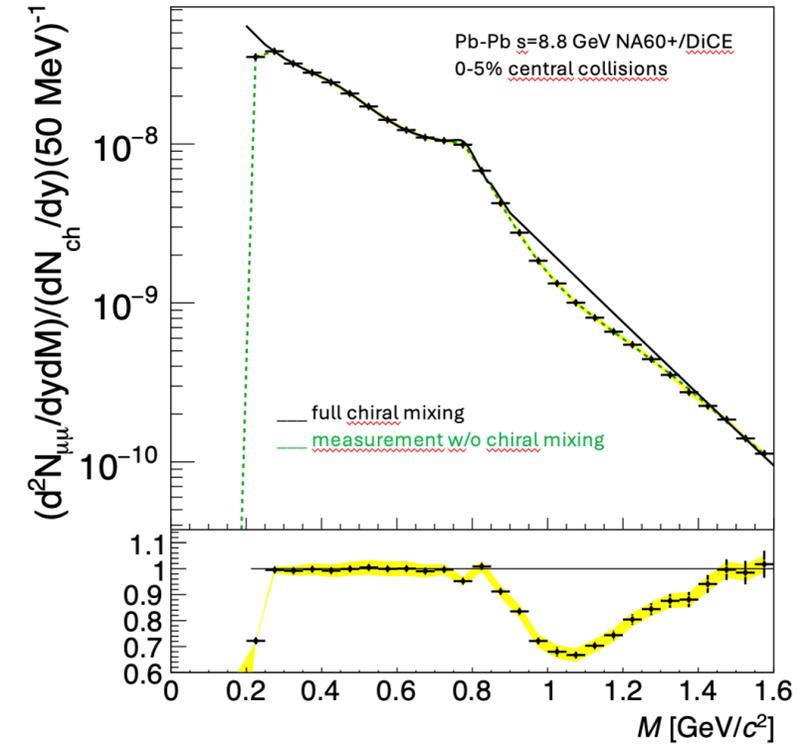
Dilepton and Charm Experiment



tracking, momentum, displaced vertex

muon ID, tracking, matching in space and momentum

From NA60+/ DiCE proposal



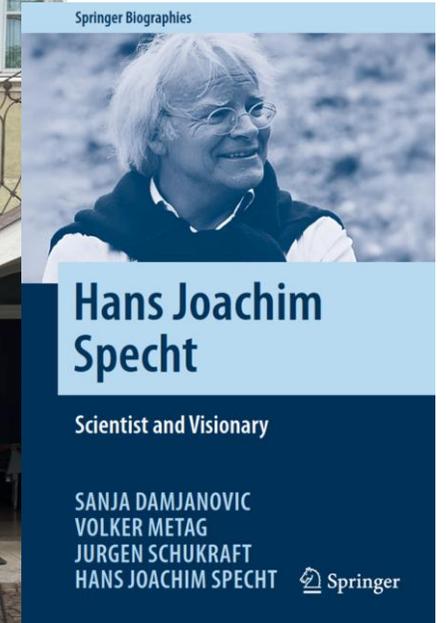
**10x statistics
significant discovery
potential**



Proposal SPSC P373 – May 2025

Pb-Pb at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 6.3, 8.8, 17.3 \text{ GeV}$

Encounters at the ECT* in Trento



Trento 1999 .. 2005 .. 2010 .. 2013 .. 2015 .. 2018 .. 2021 .. 2025 2030+

1st Trento workshop on EM probes

Last workshop with Hans in person Many talks dedicated to Hans

First results from NA60+??

Hans J. Specht will be missed

Hans Specht

scientific managing director of GSI

1992 - 1999

Hans Specht: Scientific managing director of GSI: 1992 - 1999



Hans Specht and his predecessors: Ch. Schmelzer, G. zu Putlitz, P. Kienle

Changes introduced by Hans Specht

new management structure similar to CERN and DESY:

- six-member directory board:
 - Chair and Scientific Director: Hans Specht
 - Research Director: Volker Metag (Giessen); from 1999 Jürgen Kluge (Mainz);
 - Accelerator Director: Norbert Angert
 - Scientific and Technical Infrastructure: Wolfgang von Rüdén (CERN)
 - Administration and Commercial Director: Helmut Zeitträger
 - Scientific secretary: Klaus-Dieter Gross
- involving leading scientists like Peter Armbruster, Rudolf Bock, Jürgen Kluge Eckart Grosse, Uli Lynen and later Peter Braun-Munzinger in regular meetings; round table discussions with senior and younger scientists on daily matters
- internationalisation of scientific advisory boards: English as working language in the Scientific Council and Program Advisory Committees fostering a consistently international composition and broad level of outside advice

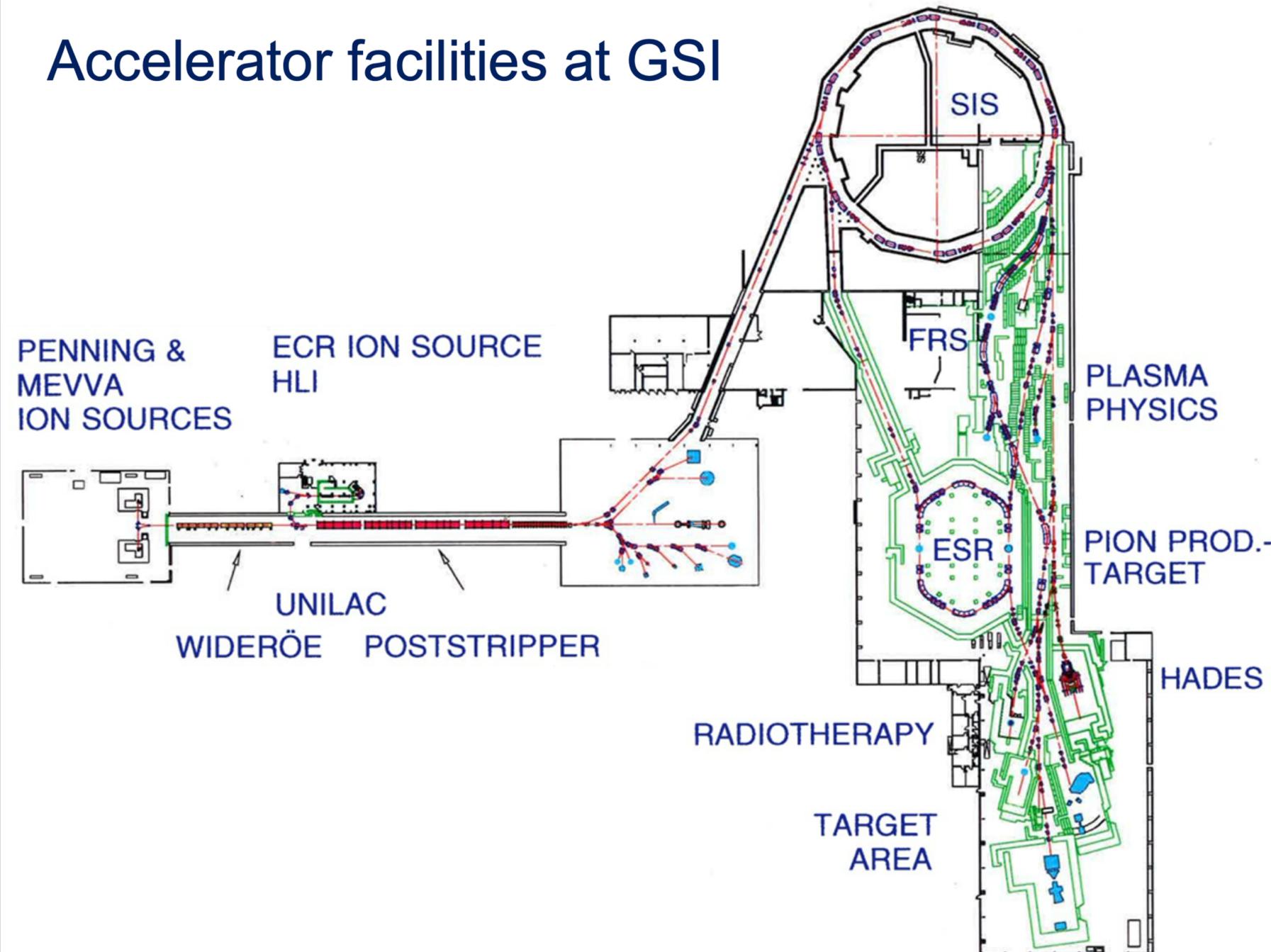
The extended GSI accelerator facility (1990)

synchrotron SIS18, storage ring ESR, and new detector systems:

FRS, ALADIN, FOPI, KAOS, TAPS

new research options pursued within a spirit of great enthusiasm

Accelerator facilities at GSI



scientific highlights in 1992-1999

extremely euphoric and scientifically exciting time → numerous new results

- synthesis, identification and study of exotic doubly magic nuclei, e.g. ^{100}Sn , ^{132}Sn , ^{48}Ni , ^{78}Ni
- mass measurements of many exotic nuclei with Schottky or TOF at FRS/ESR
- first observation of bound state β -decay $^{187}\text{Re} \rightarrow ^{187}\text{Os}$ at ESR
- first observation of low-lying (1s) pionic states in Pb atoms at FRS
- evidence for a liquid-gas phase transition in hadronic matter (ALADIN)
- observation of collective flow in Au+Au collisions (FOPI)
- evidence for in-medium modifications kaons in dense matter (KaoS)
- first detection of neutral mesons (π^0, η) in HI-collisions in the GeV range (TAPS)
- precision QED studies in strong electric and magnetic fields with U^{91+} , Bi^{82+} (ESR)

Synthesis of Superheavy elements at SHIP

1982-84: Z=107 Bohrium (Bh), 108 Hassium (Hs), 109 Meitnerium (Mt)

G. Münzenberg, P. Armbruster, F. P. Heßberger, S. Hofmann et al., Z. Physik. A (1982-84)

1994-96: Z=110 Darmstadtium (Ds), 111 Roentgenium (Rg), 112 Copernicium (Cn)

S. Hofmann, F.P. Heßberger, P. Armbruster, G. Münzenberg, et al., Z. Physik. A (1995-96)



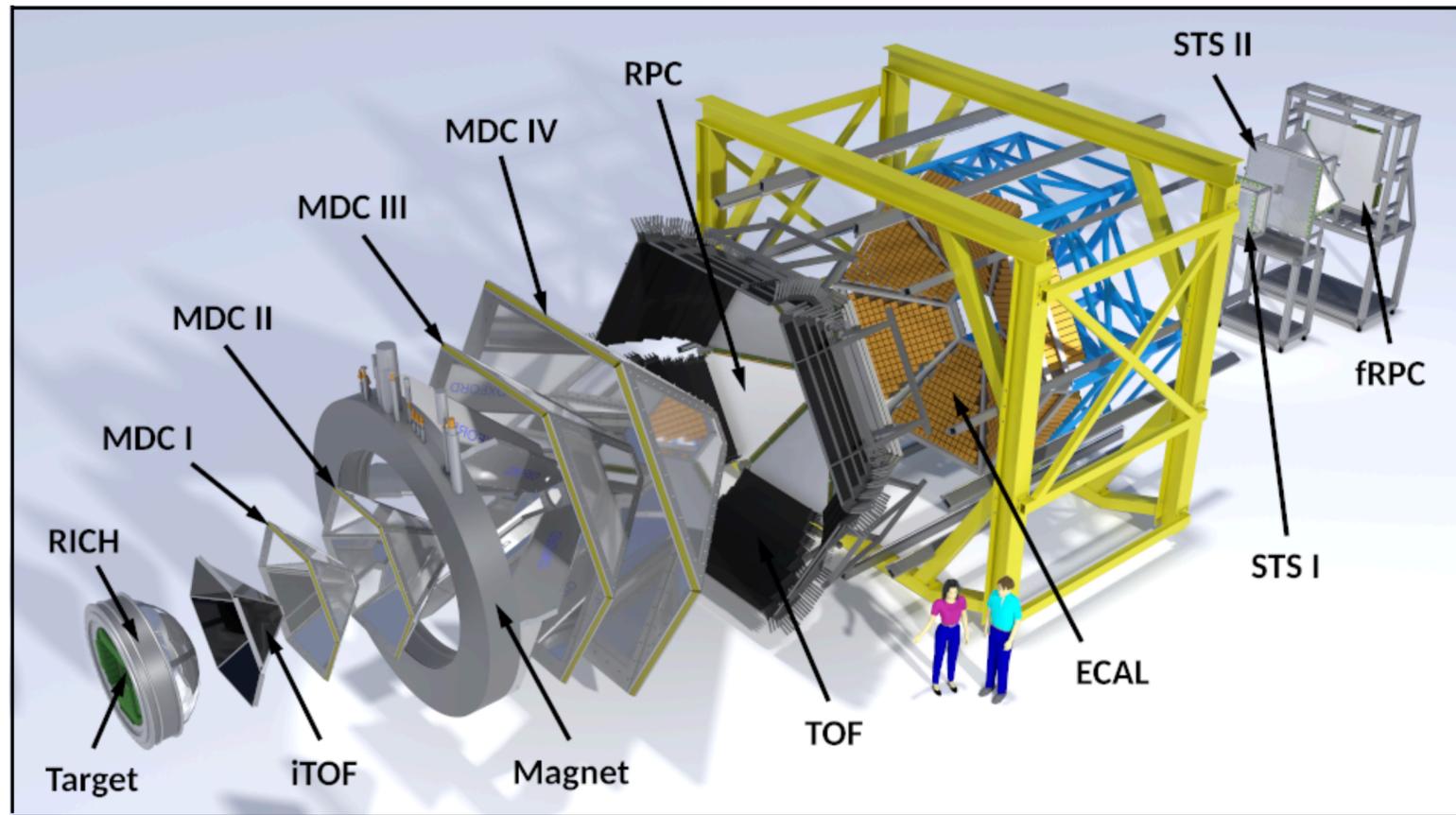
Peter Armbruster, Glenn T. Seaborg, Yuri Oganessian, Hans Specht
at farewell ceremony for Peter Armbruster Nov. 1996

1995: 25th. anniversary of GSI

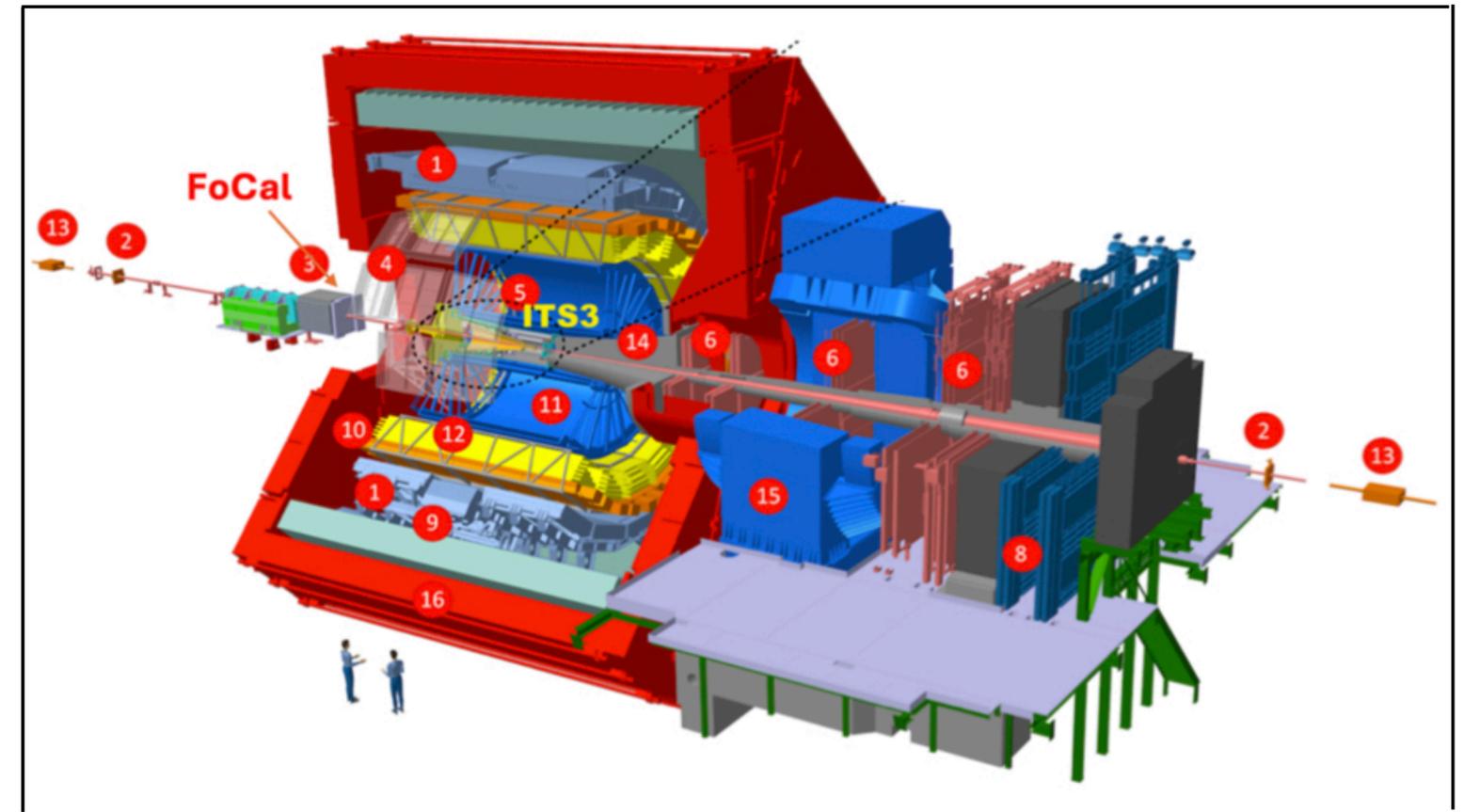


Hans Specht
addressing a large audience of
politicians and internationally
renowned scientists

High Acceptance Di-Electron Spectrometer (HADES)



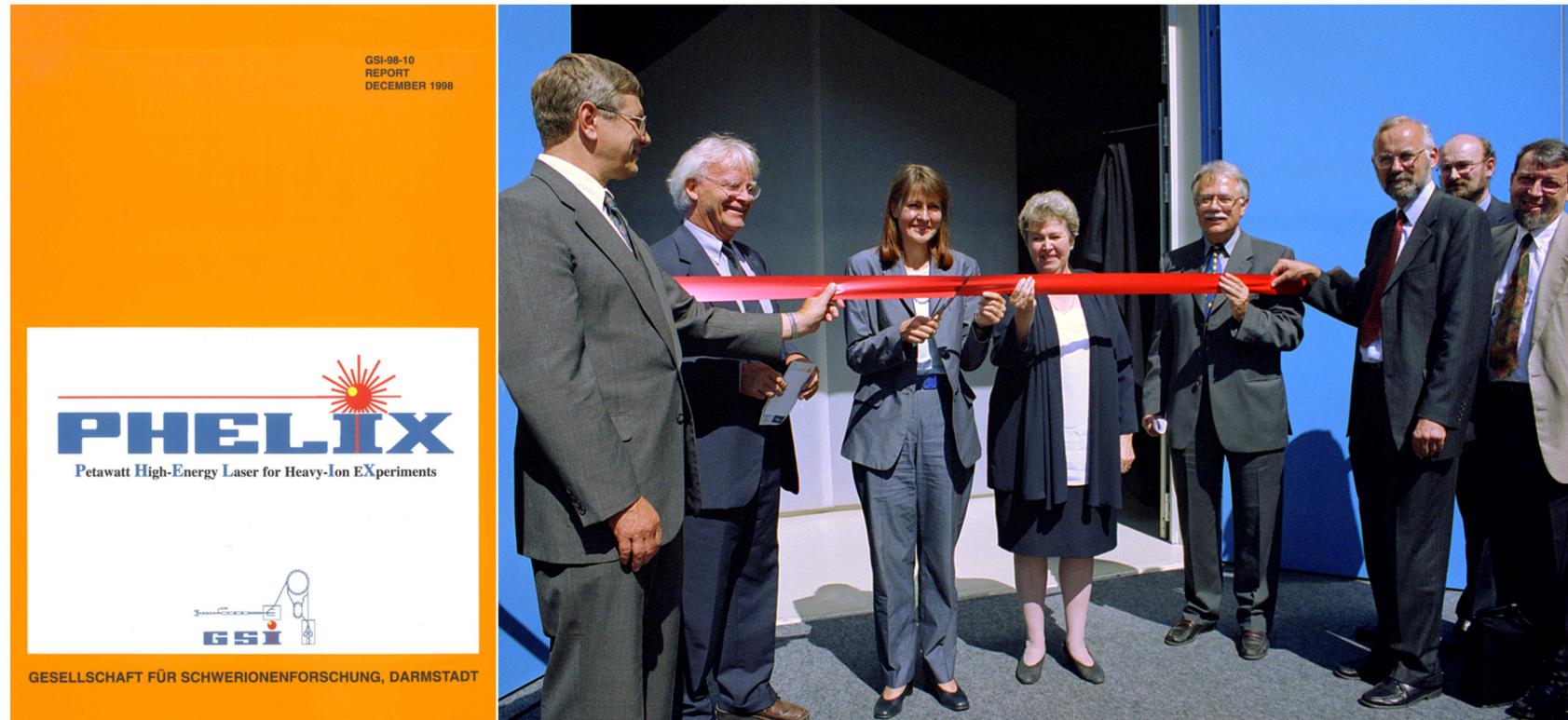
A Large Ion Collider Experiment (ALICE)



GSI participation in the CERN heavy-ion program:

- ALICE
- Pb injector

**Petawatt High Energy Laser for Heavy-Ion EXperiments:
PHELIX**

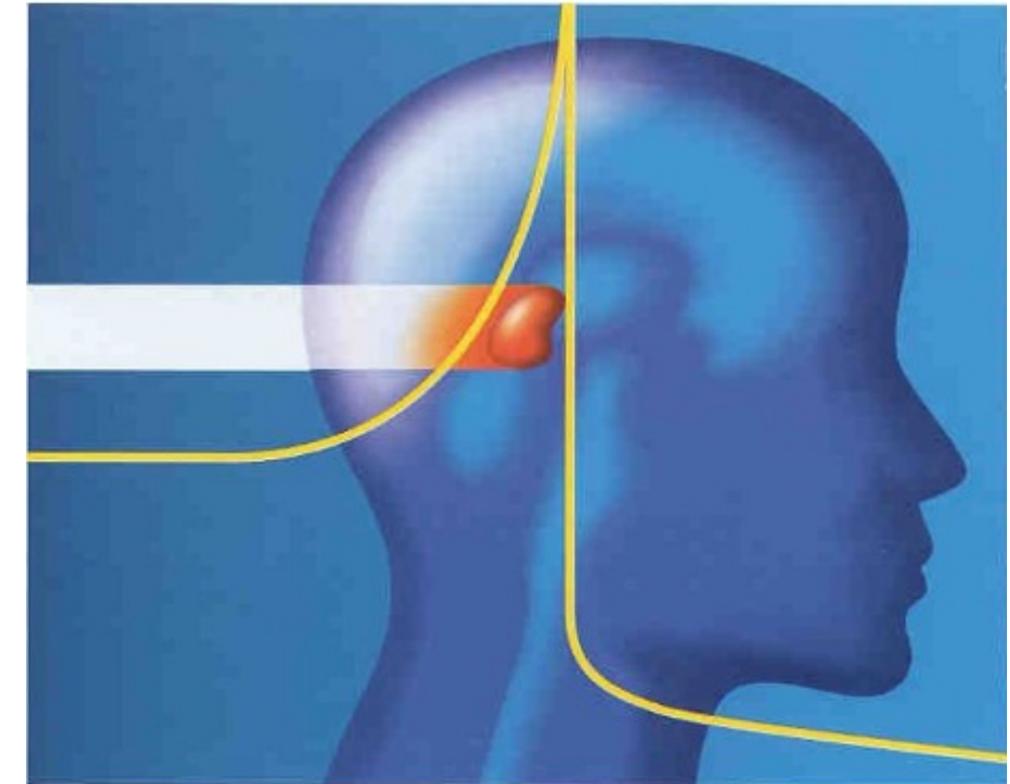


unique in its combination with high intensity heavy-ion beams for study of matter at extreme temperatures and pressures in plasma physics, astrophysics and energy research

project proposal 1998

groundbreaking ceremony in 2000

heavy-ion cancer therapy pilot project at GSI



(450 patients in 1993 - 2008)

1998 project proposal for HIT; start 2009

Jürgen Debus

Jürgen Debus

Ion-beam therapy in Germany: HIT the target

long range perspectives of GSI

long-range perspectives of GSI (1995-97)

8 working groups with broad participation of the international scientific community :

1.) Deep-inelastic electron-nucleon and electron-nucleus scattering at $\sqrt{s}=20-30$ GeV

D. von Harrach ,V. Metag,A. Schäfer

2.) X-ray spectroscopy and radiation physics

H. Backe,J. Kluge, G. Soff

3.) Nuclear collisions at maximum baryon density

J.P. Blaizot, P. Braun-Munzinger, R. Stock

4.) Physics with secondary π^- , K^- and \bar{p} -beams

D. Frekers, U. Lynen, J. Wambach

5.) Nuclear structure with radioactive beams

D. Habs, H. Lenske, G. Münzenberg, P. Ring

6.) Plasma physics with intense heavy-ion beams

R. Bock, D.D.H.Hoffmann, J. Meyer-ter-Vehn

7.) Accelerator studies (e^- - N/A collider)

K. Blaschke, N. Dikansky, J. Maidment, B. Autin

8.) Accelerator studies (high intensity option)

D. Böhne

long-range perspectives of GSI (1997)

8 working groups with broad participation of the international scientific community :

1.) Deep-inelastic electron-nucleon and electron-nucleus scattering at $\sqrt{s}=20-30$ GeV

D. von Harrach, V. Metag, A. Schäfer

2.) X-ray spectroscopy and radiation physics

H. Backe, J. Kluge, G. Soff

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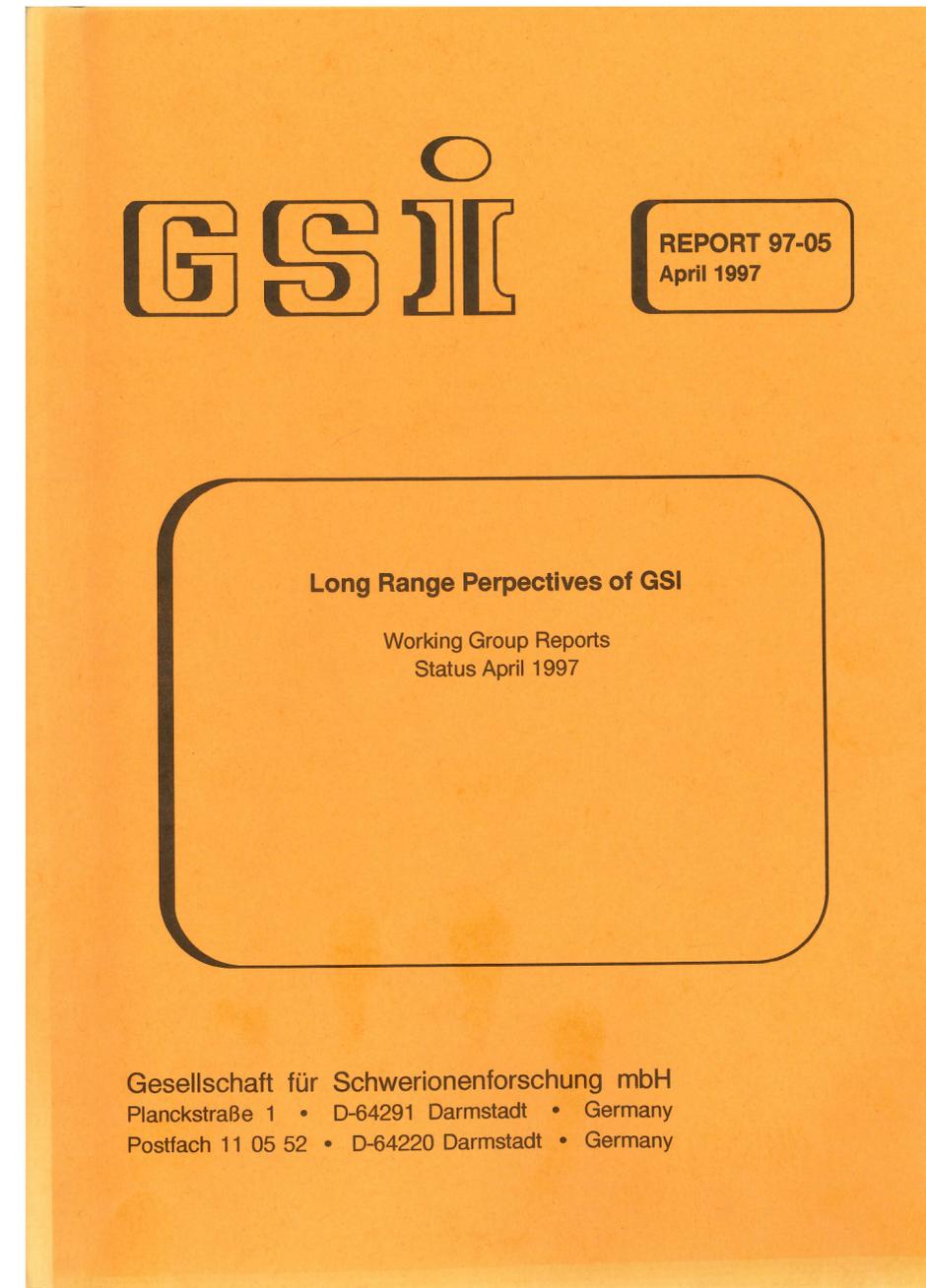
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D. Böhne



basis for further discussions → FAIR

Dietrich von Harrach

Universität Mainz

“Project and Promise: Remembering Hans Specht”



The link between music, physics, and neuroscience

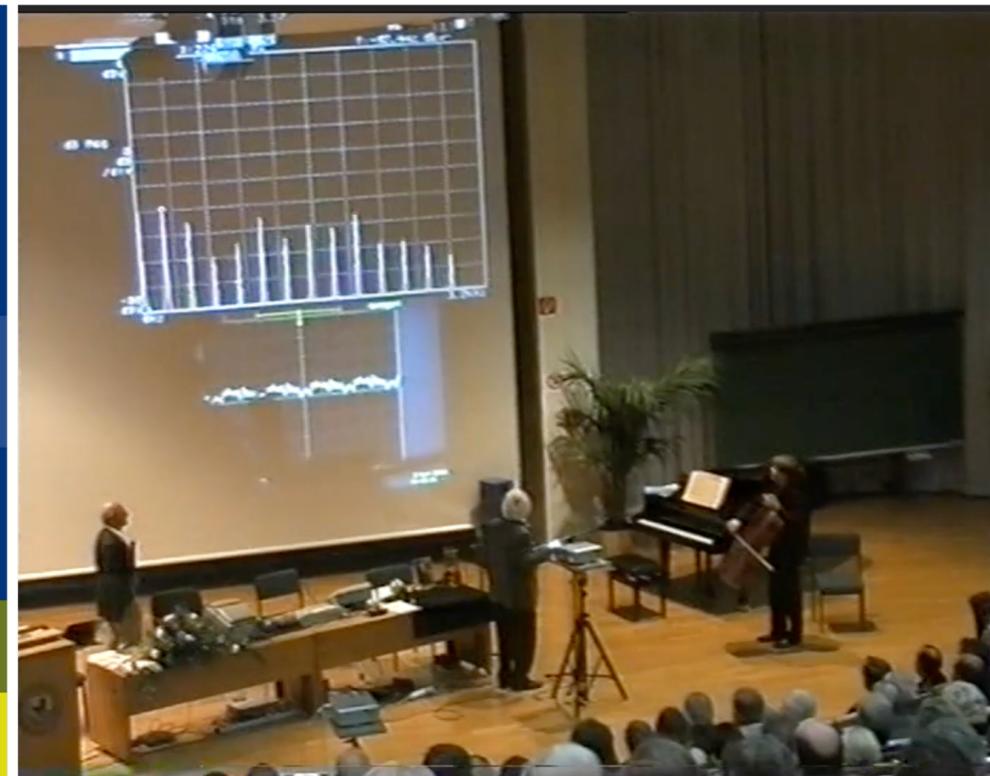
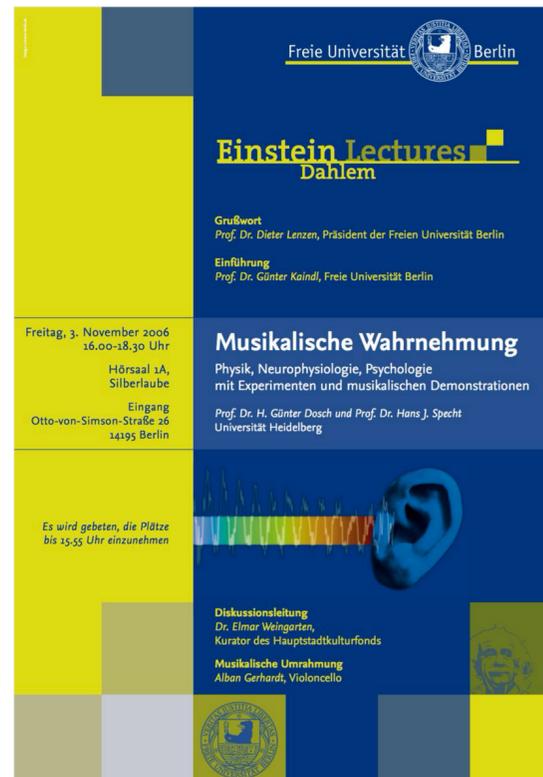
Hans Specht: scientist and pianist

exploring the link between music, physics and neuroscience



lectures given together:
with Hans Günter Dosch

“Musical Perception -
Physics, Neurophysiology, Psychology”



Einstein Lecture, Berlin
Beethoven Festival, Bonn
Loeb Lecture, Harvard
Music Festival, Verbier
Academy Traunkirchen
GSI, DESY, CERN,
Munich, Wien, Giessen

P. Schneider, M. Scherg, H.G. Dosch, H.J. Specht et al., Nature Neuroscience 5 (2002) 688

Hans Spechts most cited paper: 1024 citations

Utku Asan



Chopin: waltz in C-sharp minor, Op.64 no.2