

Mini-workshop on Quantum effects in atomic and particle physics, Zhuhai

# Manipulating isomers via NEEC

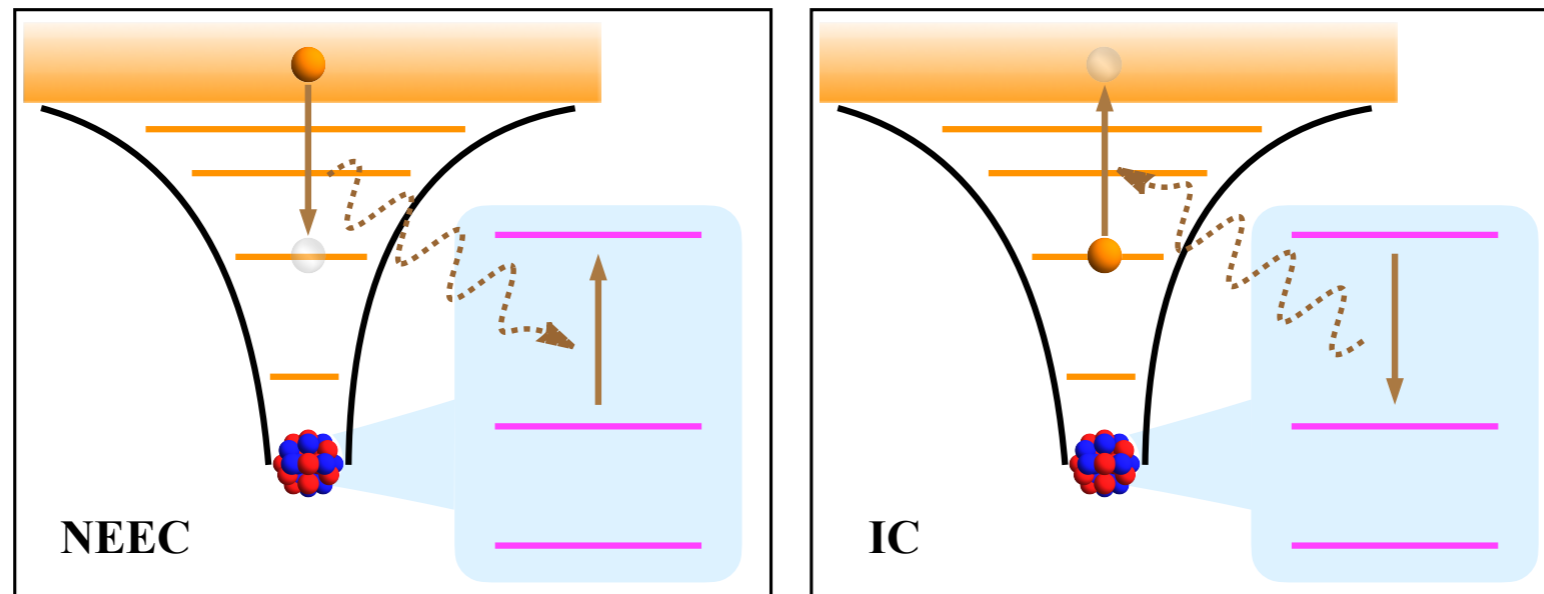
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# NEEC

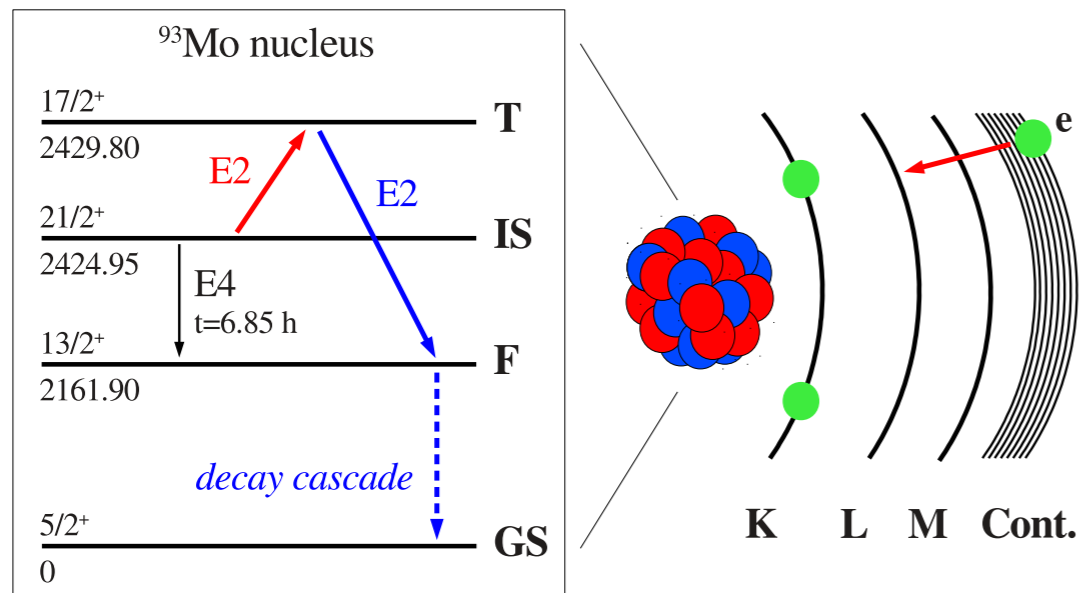
## NEEC: Nuclear Excitation by Electron Capture



- First proposed theoretically in 1976
- First experimental observation claimed in 2018
- Relevant for Nuclear structure and Nuclear astrophysics
- Manipulating nuclear states by manipulating electrons or ions
- Isomer depletion and Nuclear clock

# NEEC

## Isomer depletion



Isomer — long-lived excited state of nuclei

### key factors in NEEC

- Vacancies of atomic levels
- Electrons

### Scenarios of studies

- Storage rings
- EBITs
- Nuclear reactions
- Plasmas
  - Astrophysical plasmas
  - Laser-generated plasmas
- .....

# Outline

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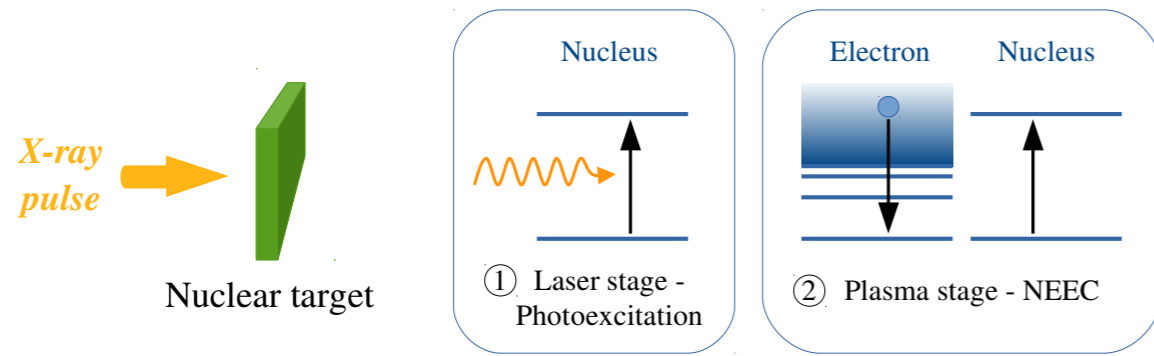
- Introduction
- Isomer depletion
- Isomer production
- Summary

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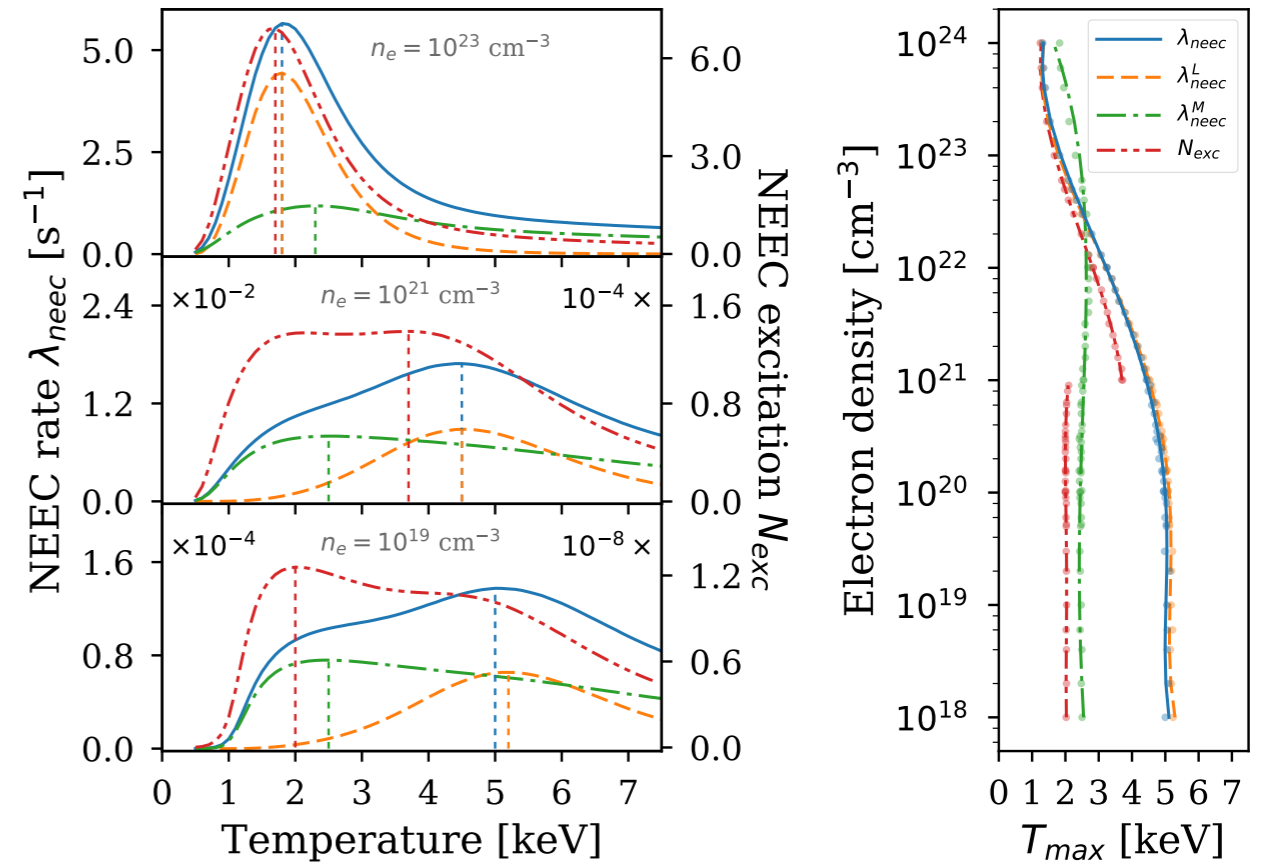
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# NEEC for isomer depletion



$$\lambda_{\text{neec}} = \sum_{q,\alpha} f_q(T, n) \int dE \sigma_q^\alpha(E) \phi(E, T, n)$$

$$N_{\text{exc}} = \int_{V_p} d^3\mathbf{r} \int dt n_{\text{iso}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \lambda_{\text{neec}}(T, n; \mathbf{r}, t)$$

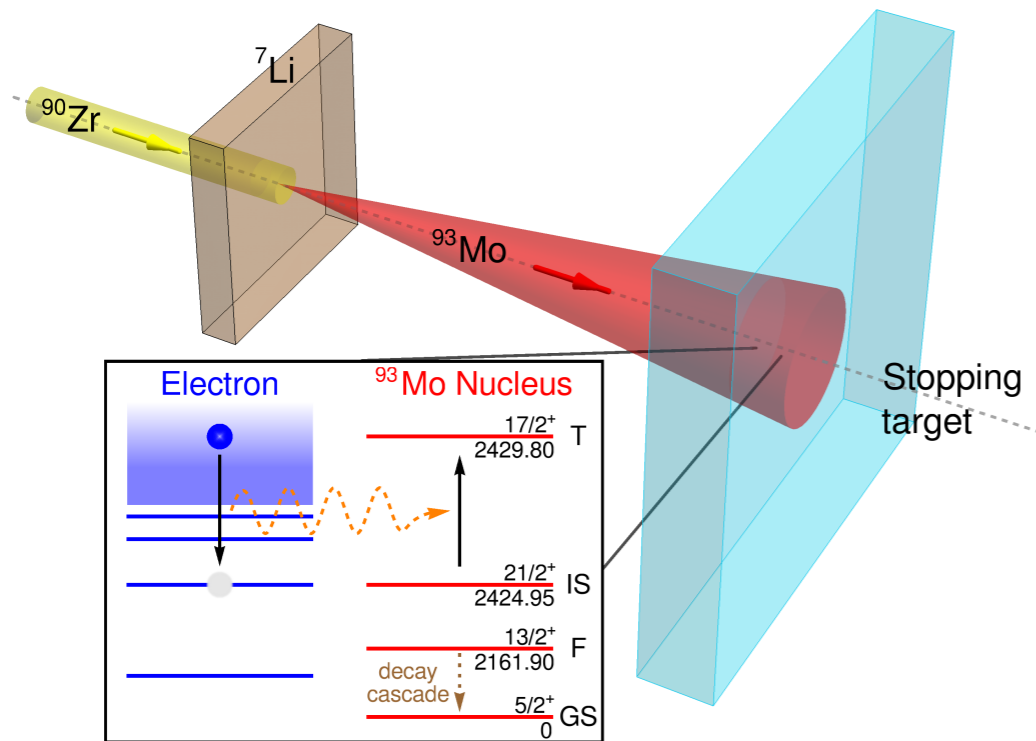


- XFEL NEEC  $\gg$  XFEL photoexcitation by  $10^5$
- High power laser NEEC  $\gg$  XFEL NEEC by  $10^6$   
 $N_{\text{exc}} \sim 1/\text{s}$

Gunst, Litvinov, Keitel, Pálffy, Phys. Rev. Lett. 112, 082501(2014)  
 Gunst, Wu, Kumar, Keitel, Pálffy, Phys. Plasmas 22, 112706 (2015)

Wu, Gunst, Keitel, Pálffy, Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 052504 (2018)  
 Gunst, Wu, Keitel, Pálffy, Phys. Rev. E 97, 063205 (2018)  
 Wu, Keitel, Pálffy, Phys. Rev. A 100, 063420 (2019)

# First claimed NEEC evidence



## Theoretical analysis

- NEEC probability  $\ll P_{\text{exc}} = 0.01$  by about 8 orders of magnitude

Y. Wu *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 212501 (2019)

J. Rządiewicz *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 042501 (2021)

J. Rządiewicz *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 108, L031302 (2023)

## First experimental evidence of NEEC

- $^{93\text{m}}\text{Mo}$  isomer depletion
- $P_{\text{exc}} = 0.01$

C. J. Chiara *et al.*, Nature 554, 216 (2018)

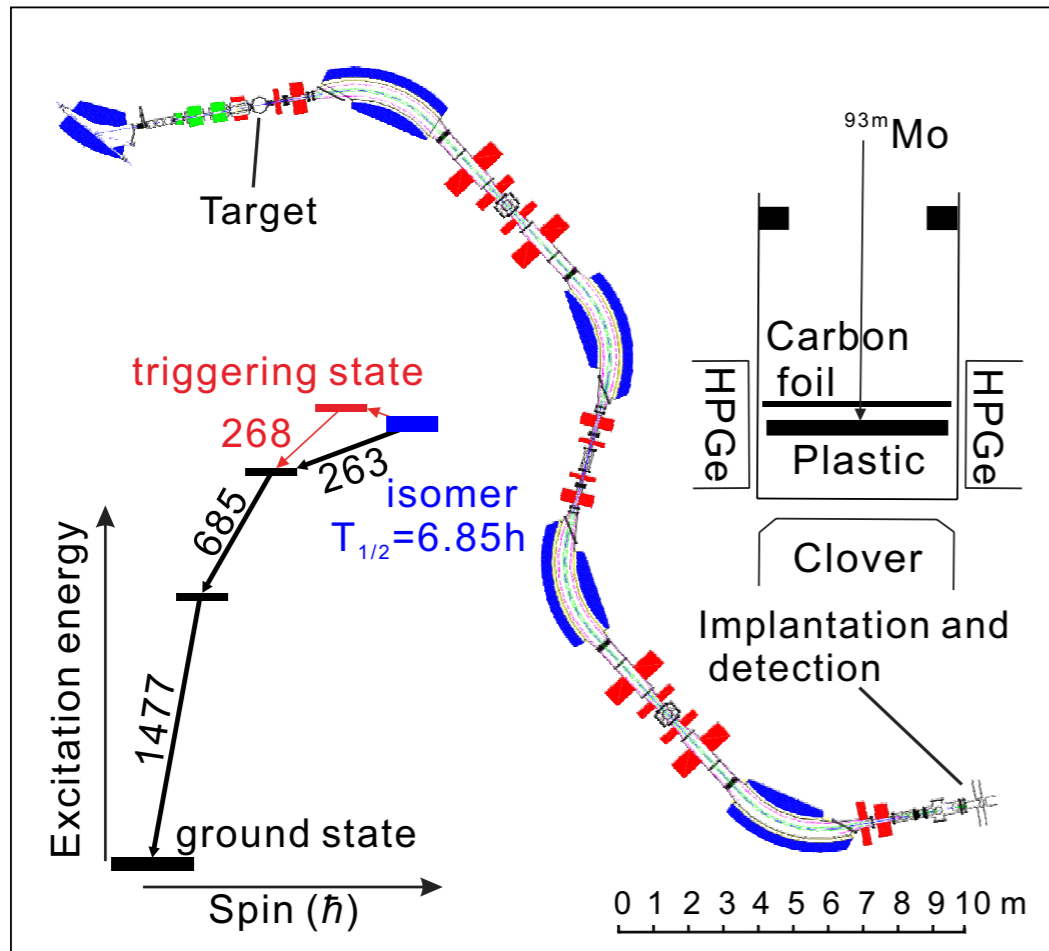
## Background analysis

- Overestimated due to complex gamma background?

S. Guo *et al.*, Nature 594, E1 (2021)

C. J. Chiara *et al.*, Nature 594, E3 (2021)

# New experiments with Isomer Beam

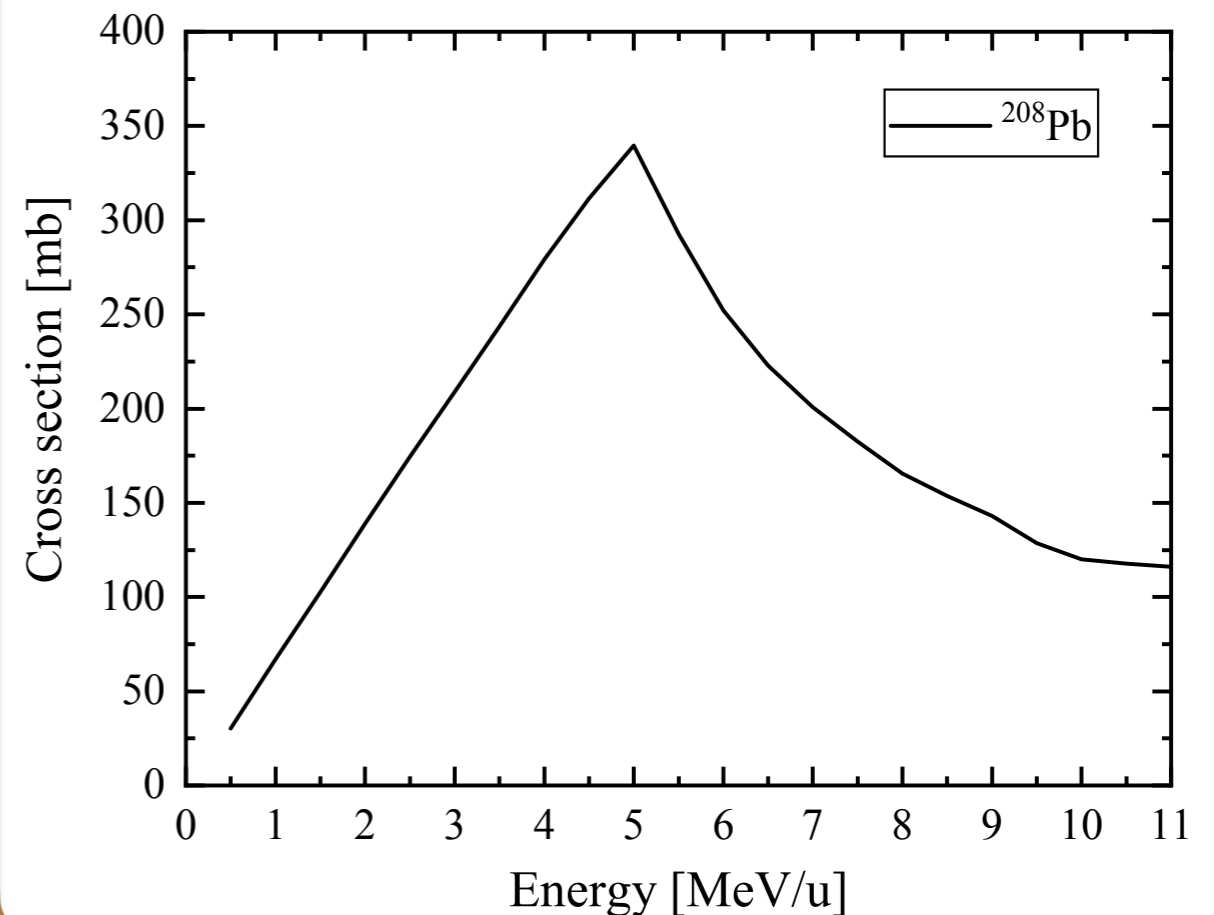


Experiment in 2023

Preliminary

- Higher ion energy
- Pb target  $\sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$  (experiment)  
 $\sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$  (inelastic scattering)

Theoretical calculation



- $^{93m}\text{Mo}$  ion energy: 460 MeV
- Separating  $^{93m}\text{Mo}$  production and depletion
- $P_{\text{exc}} < 2 \times 10^{-5}$
- Theoretical NEEC probability:  
 $P(460 \text{ MeV})/P(840 \text{ MeV}) \sim 8\%$   
Guo *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 242502 (2022)



# Clear observation of NEEC?

## Conclusive observations of NEEC

- Clean environments?
- Control of the NEEC process?

### **Electron is one of the key factors in NEEC**

- Shaping electron wave functions to manipulate the NEEC process?  
— electron vortex beams

### **Scenarios with control of the occurrence of the NEEC process**

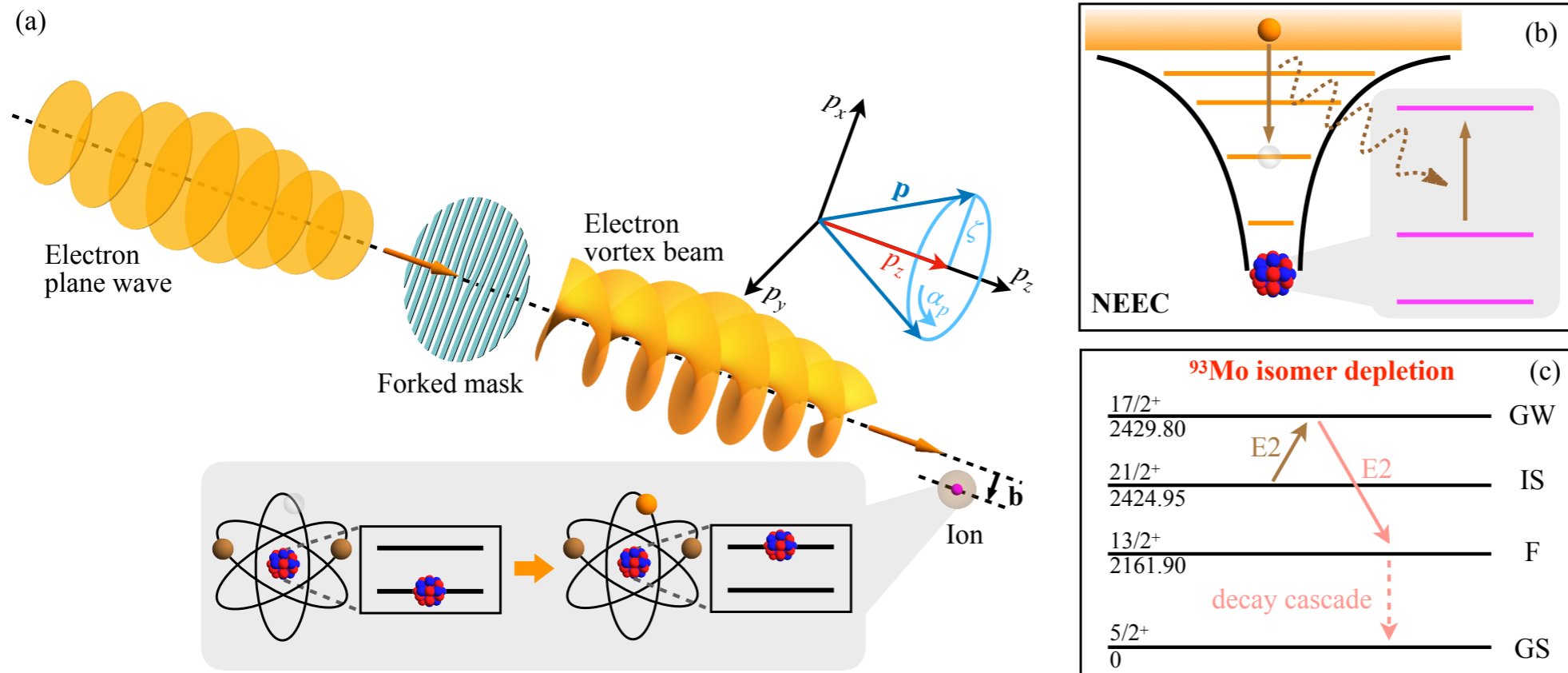
Well-defined initial and final states

Clear signals

Characteristic signals of NEEC

# NEEC with electron vortex beams

## Shaping electron wave functions to manipulate nuclei?



- Electron vortex beams carry orbital angular momentum

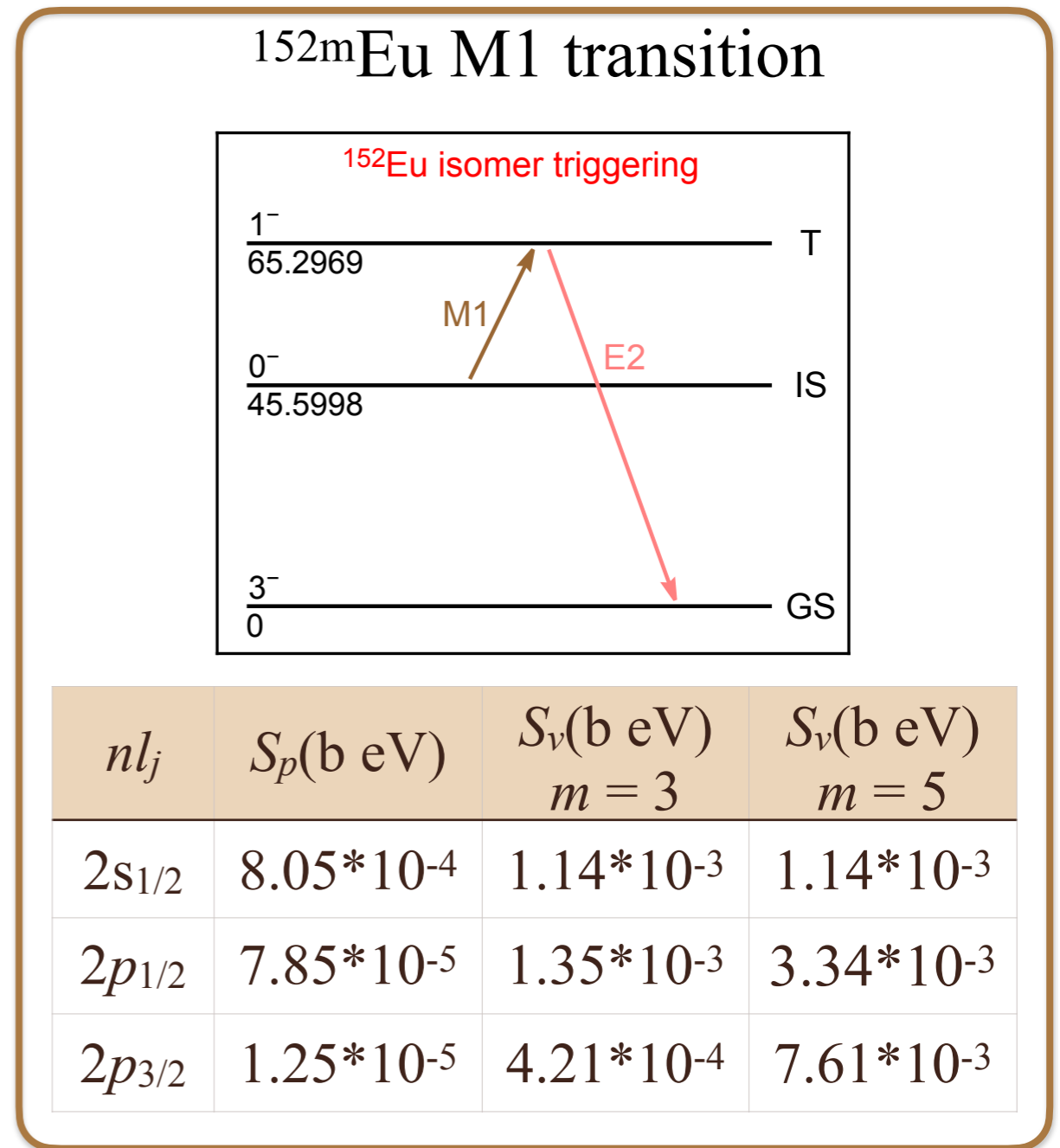
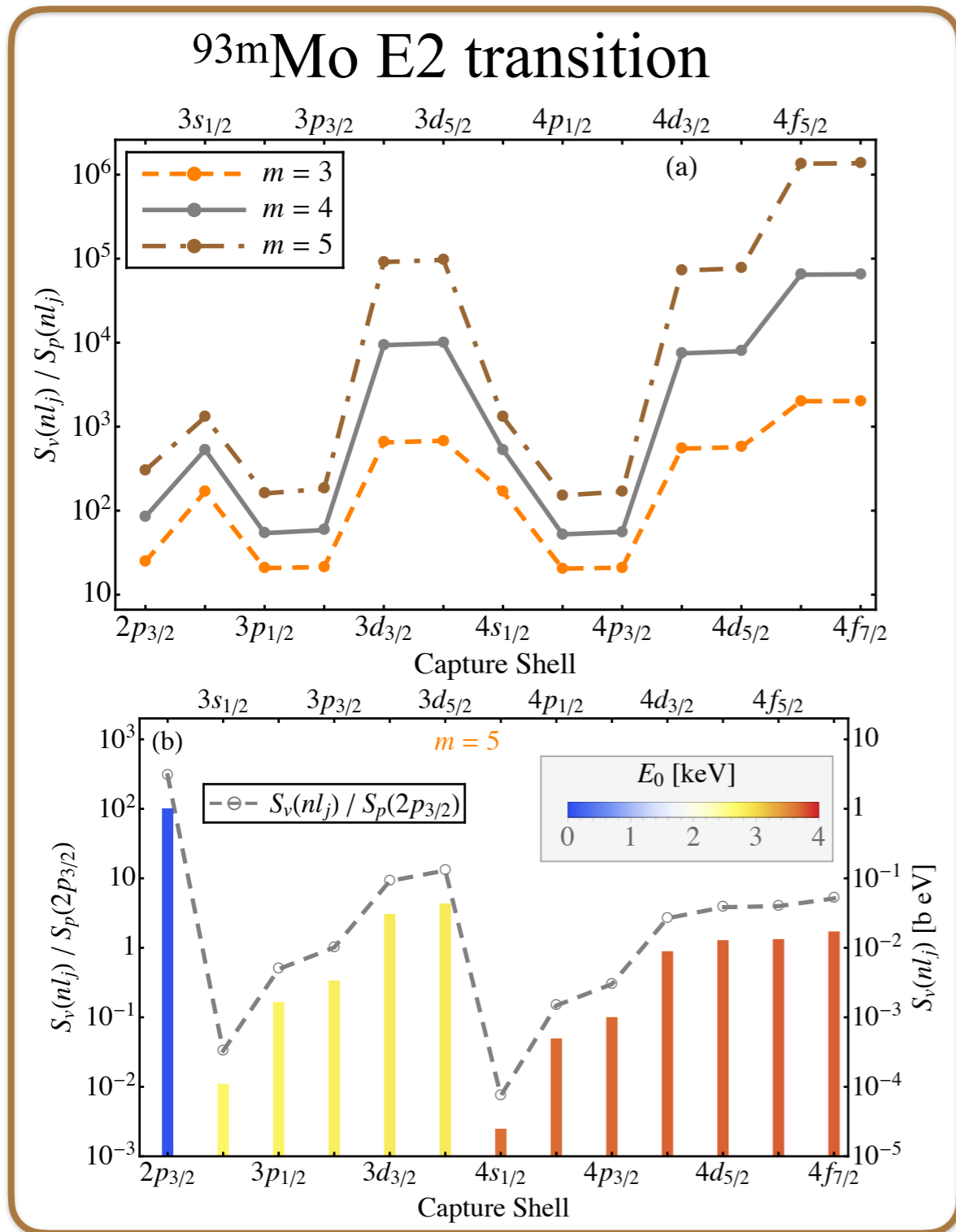
$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \int \frac{d^2\mathbf{p}_\perp}{(2\pi)^2} a_{\zeta m}(\mathbf{p}_\perp) u_{\mathbf{p}} e^{i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{r}}$$

$m$ : vortex quantum number

$$a_{\zeta m}(\mathbf{p}_\perp) = (-i)^m e^{im\alpha_p} \delta(|\mathbf{p}_\perp| - \zeta) / \zeta$$

$$\mathbf{p} = (\mathbf{p}_\perp, p_z) = (\zeta \cos \alpha_p, \zeta \sin \alpha_p, p_z)$$

# NEEC with electron vortex beams



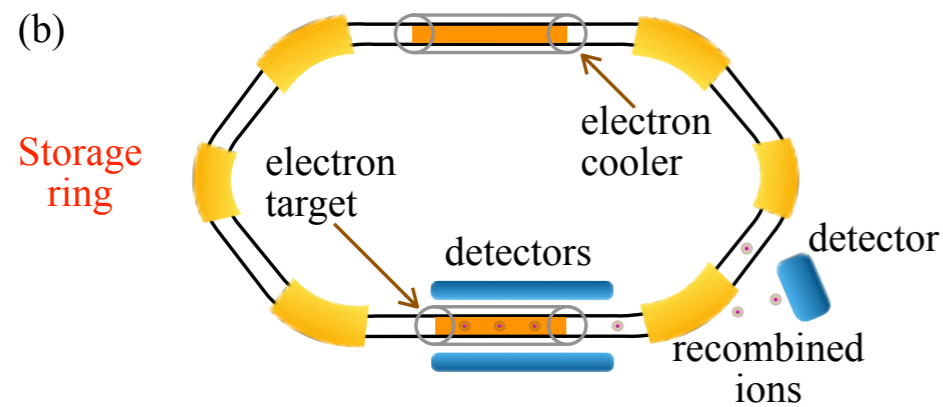
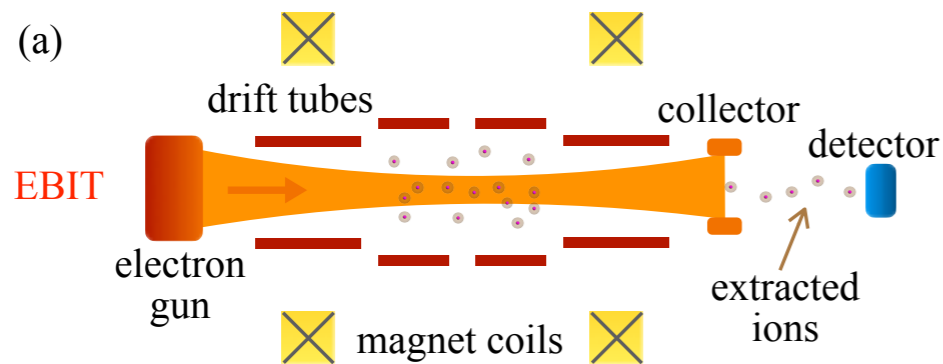
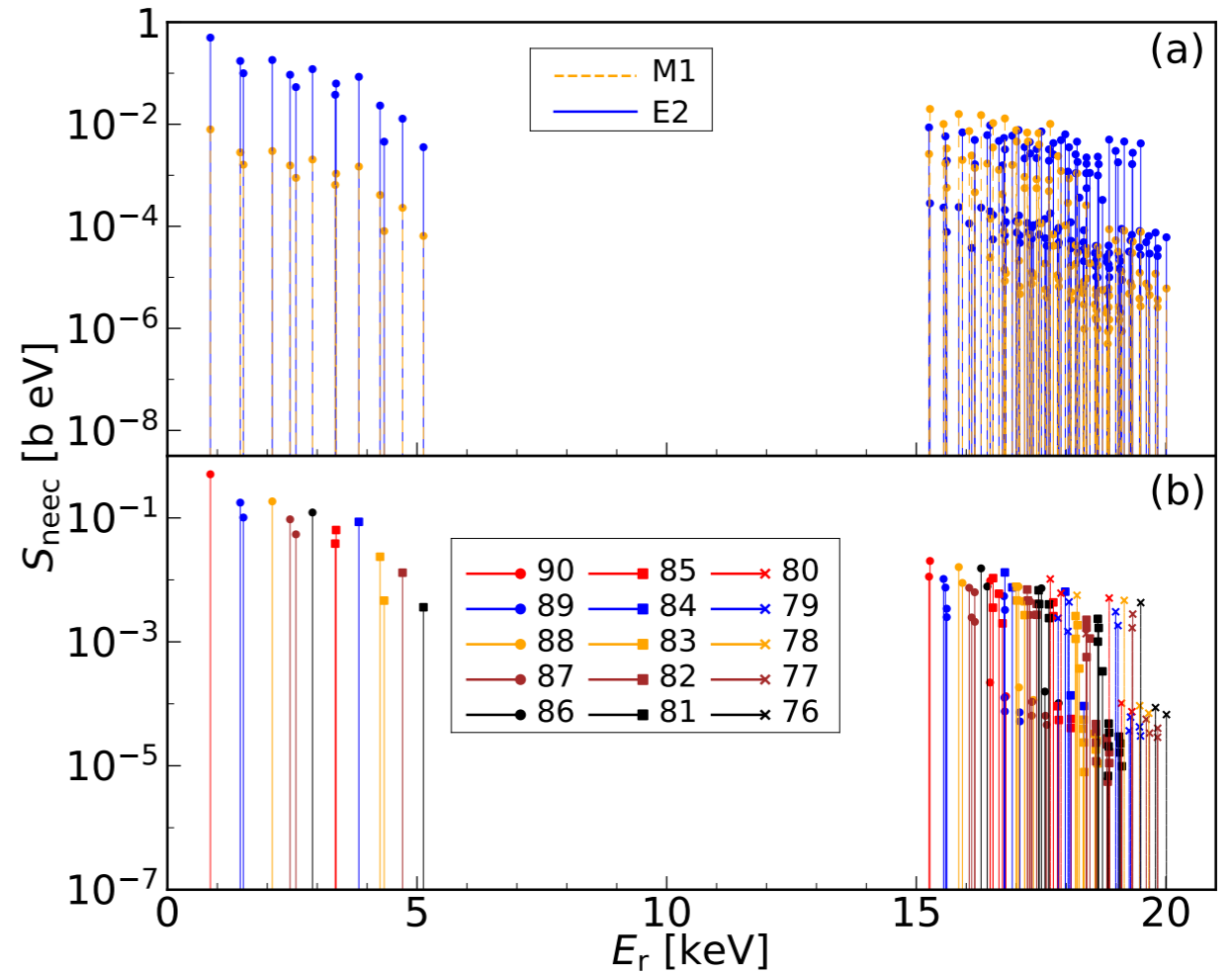
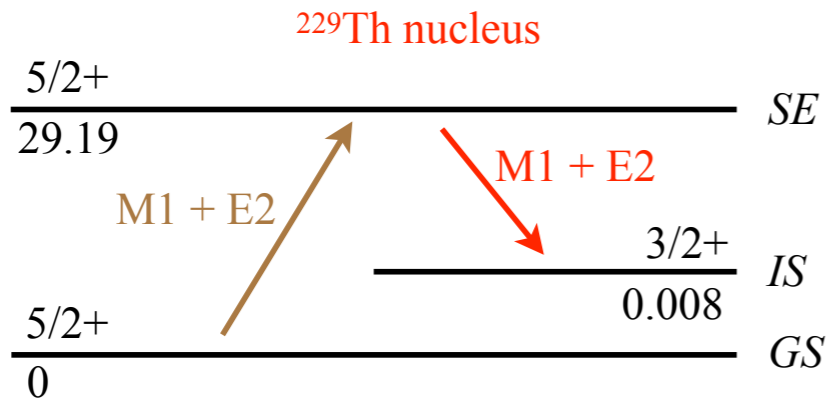
$$\zeta = p_z; \zeta b = 1$$

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# $^{229m}\text{Th}$



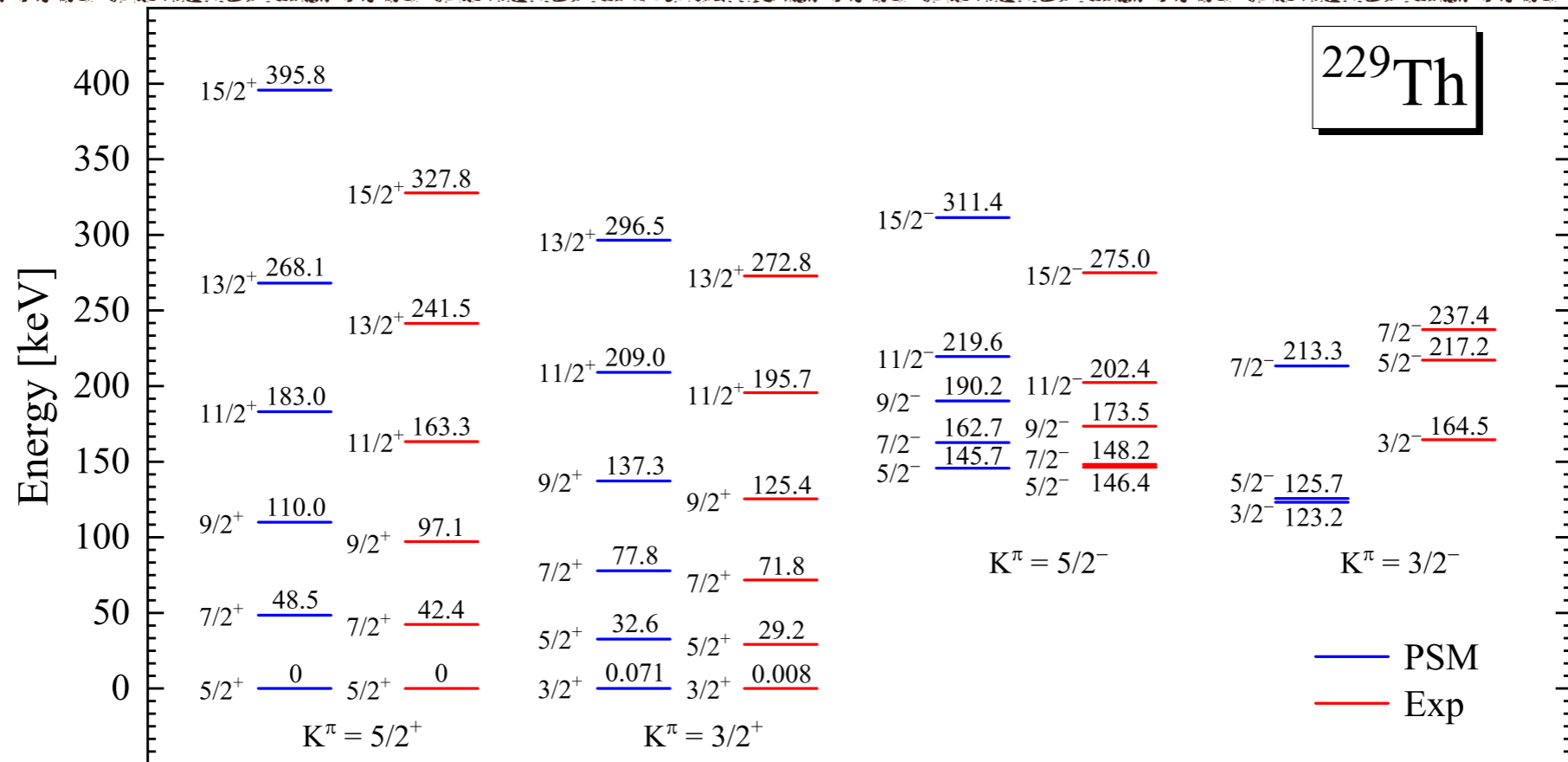
- $^{229m}\text{Th}$  production
- NEEC characteristic signal

recombined ion

x-ray photon (atomic transition)

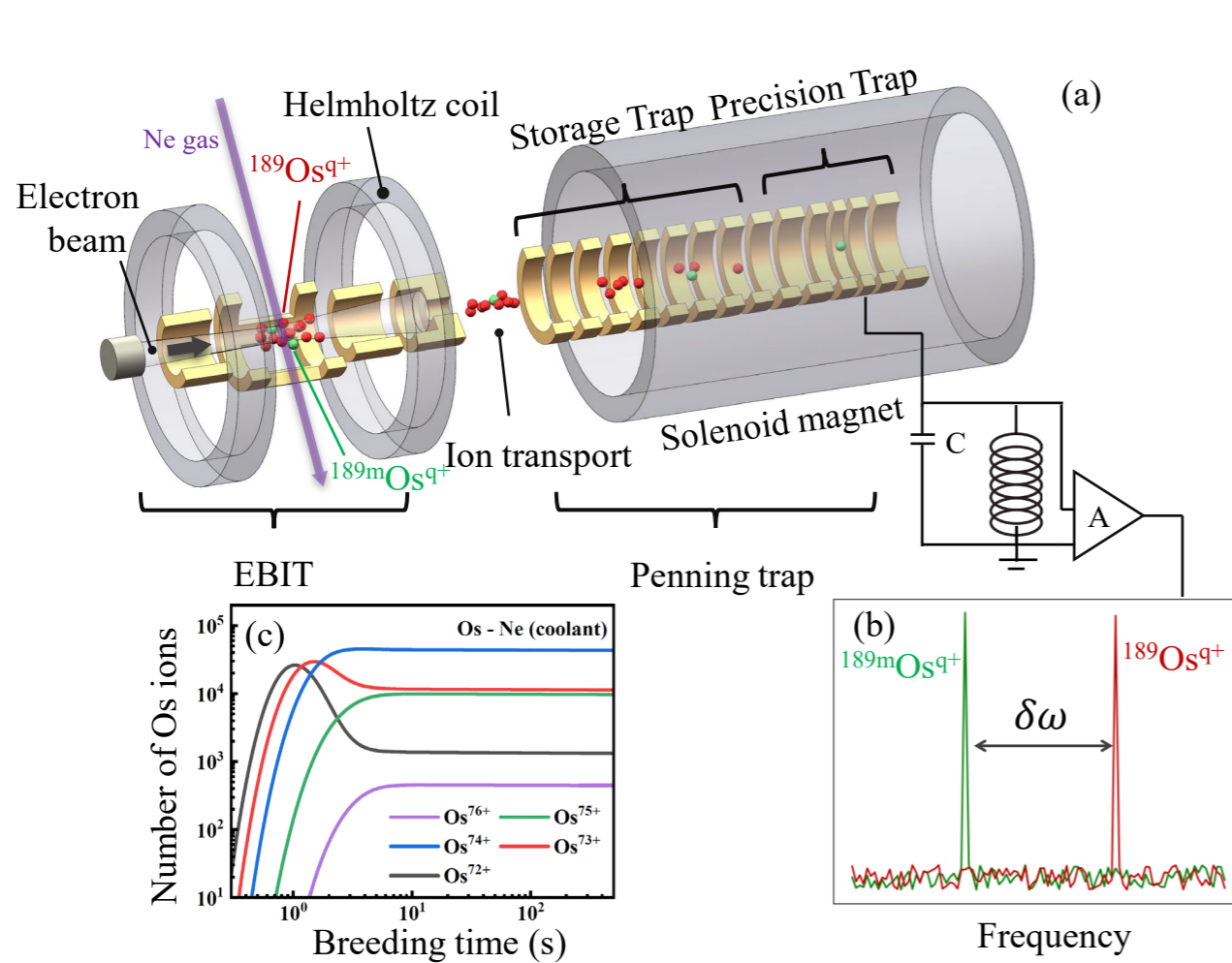
gamma photon (30 ns delay)

# 229mTh — Projected shell model

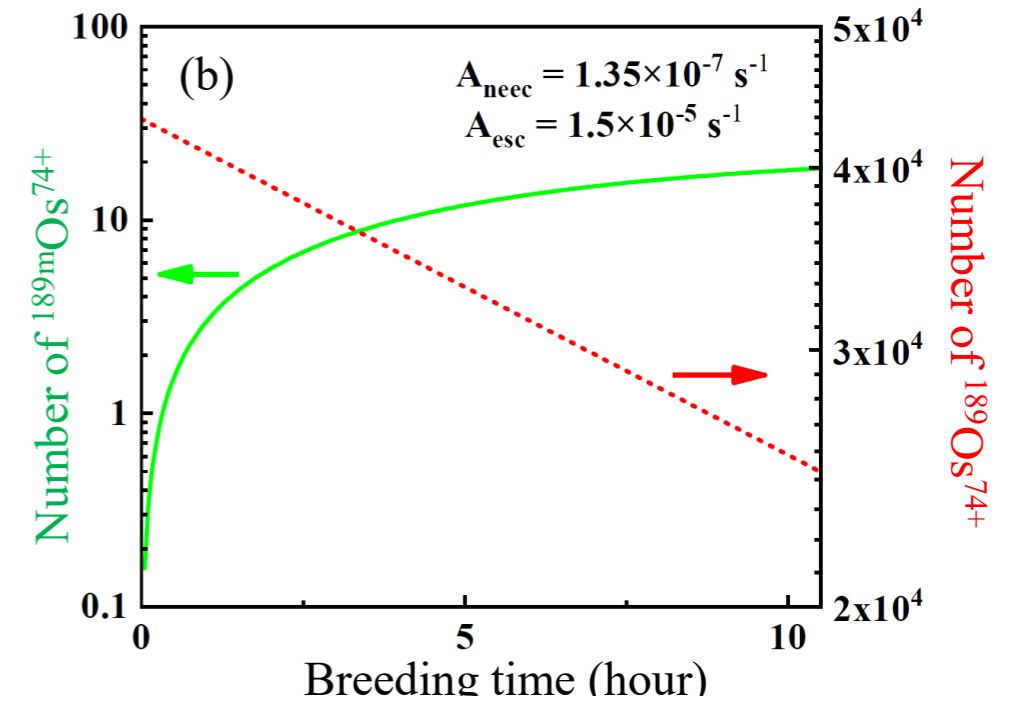


Type	$J_i (K_i^\pi)$	$J_f (K_f^\pi)$	Exp	Refs. [35, 63, 64]	PSM	
<i>E2</i>	9/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	7/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	170 ± 30	213 (224)	217	
	9/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	5/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	65 ± 7	82 (85)	75	
	9/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	5/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	6.2 ± 0.8	19.98 (17.37)	15.7	
	7/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	5/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	300 ± 160	252 (267)	274	
	5/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	5/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	...	27.11 - 39.49 [35]	9.99	
	5/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	3/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	...	234.86 - 239.18 [35]	267.37	
	3/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	5/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	...	27.04 (23.05)	10.47	
<i>M1</i>	9/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	7/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	0.0076 ± 0.0012	0.0178 (0.0157) 0.0038 - 0.0185 [64]	0.0057	
	9/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	7/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	0.0117 ± 0.0014	0.0151 (0.0130) 0.0144 - 0.0151 [64]	0.0157	
	7/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	5/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	0.011 ± 0.004	0.0093 (0.0085) 0.0011 - 0.0096 [64]	0.003	
	5/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	5/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	0.00326 ± 0.00076 [35]	0.0012 - 0.0050 [35]	0.0026	
	5/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	3/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	0.0318 <sup>+0.0102</sup> <sub>-0.0091</sub> [35]	0.0332 - 0.0648 [35]	0.0282	
	3/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	5/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	0.0172 <sup>+0.0031</sup> <sub>-0.0023</sub> [26]	0.0219 <sup>+0.0006</sup> <sub>-0.0006</sub> [29]	0.0076 (0.0061)	0.0297
			0.0272 <sup>+0.0074</sup> <sub>-0.0082</sub> [25]	0.0295 <sup>+0.0013</sup> <sub>-0.0012</sub> [30]		
3/2 (3/2 <sup>+</sup> )	5/2 (5/2 <sup>+</sup> )	0.0213 <sup>+0.0013</sup> <sub>-0.0012</sub> [28]	0.0214 <sup>+0.0002</sup> <sub>-0.0001</sub> [31]	0.0056 - 0.0081 [64]		

# EBIT + Penning trap



3/2- (GS)  
 ↓  
 7/2- (216.7 keV or 219.4 keV)  
 ↓  
 9/2- (30.8 keV, IS)



EBIT — Electron beam ion trap

- Isomer production in an EBIT
- Detection of isomer in a Penning trap

Background clean

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# 总结

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- NEEC can play important roles in isomer depletion and isomer production
- Conclusive observations of NEEC are highly demanded
- Electron vortex beams can strongly affect the NEEC process
- Storage rings and EBITs may provide clean environments for NEEC observations
- Characteristic signal of NEEC which can distinguish NEEC from other nuclear excitation mechanisms should be helpful

谢谢大家!