



# A new plunger device for Miniball at HIE-ISOLDE

**C. Fransen, T. Braunroth, A. Dewald, A. Goldkuhle, J. Jolie,  
J. Litzinger, C. Müller-Gatermann, P. Reiter, S. Thiel, N. Warr**

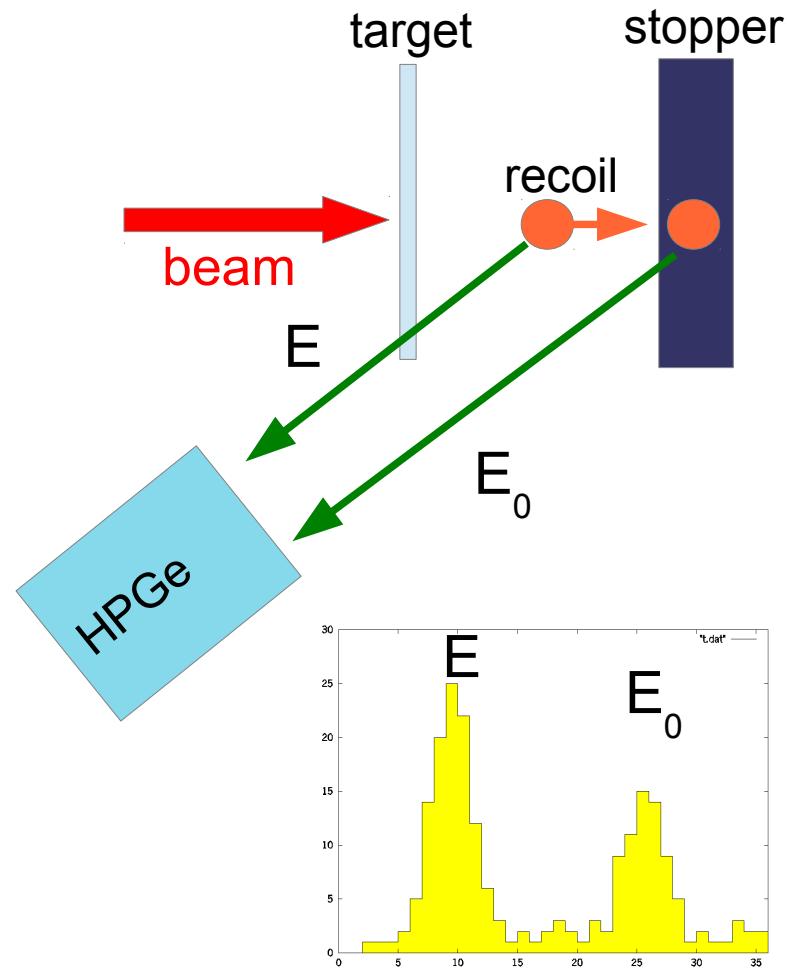
**Institut für Kernphysik, Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany**

**L. Gaffney**

**CERN, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Supported by the BMBF, Grant No. 05P15PKFNA**

# The recoil distance Doppler-shift method (RDDS)

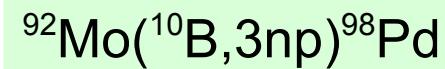
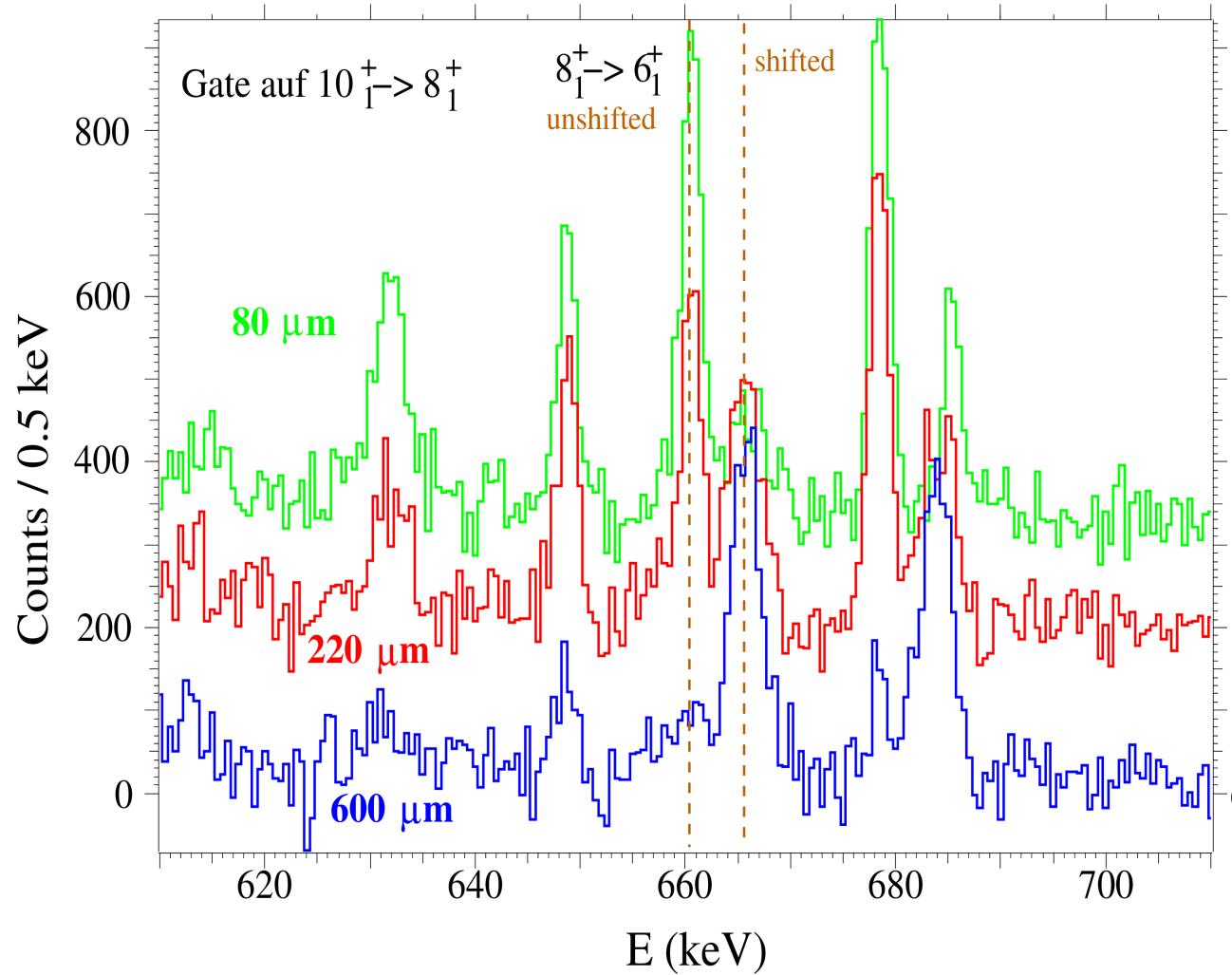


$$E = E_0 (1 + v/c \cos \theta)$$

$$\tau(t_k) = \frac{I^{\text{us}}(t_k)}{\frac{d}{dt} I^{\text{sh}}(t_k)}$$

$I^{\text{us}}$  = Intensity of the unshifted  $\gamma$ -ray line

$I^{\text{sh}}$  = Intensity of the Doppler-shifted component



# **Motivation: Combination of the Recoil Distance Doppler-shift (RDDS) method with Coulomb excitation**

## **Advantages:**

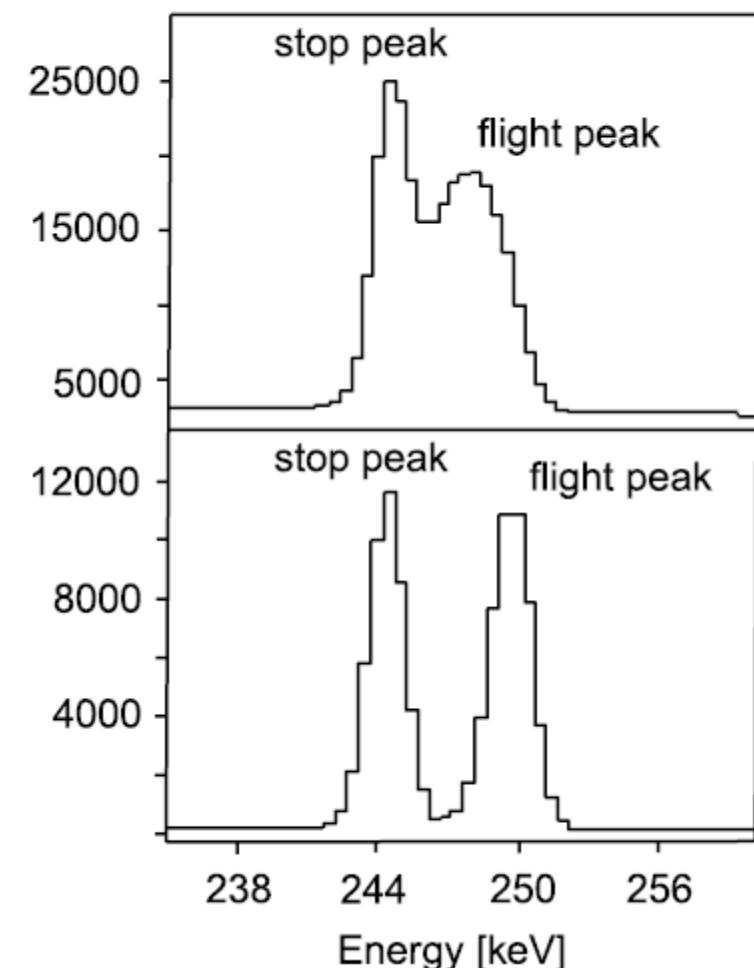
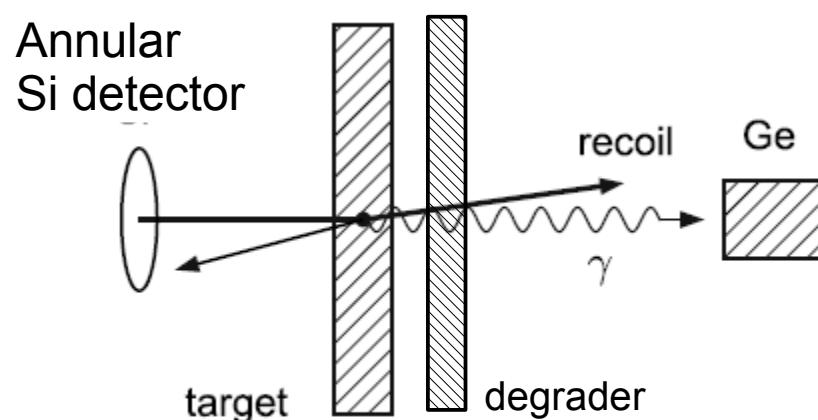
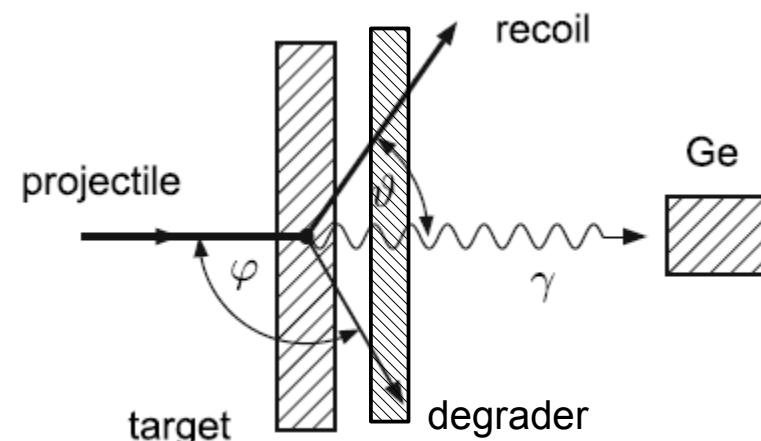
- Precise measurements of lifetimes via other techniques (RDDS,...) reduces number of coupled channels sensitive to the data which simplifies Coulomb excitation analysis.
- lifetimes determined in model-independent way.
- no need to measure absolute cross sections requiring efficiency information.
- can also analyze Coulex data.

## **Disadvantage:**

- need to measure at several target – degrader distances

# Coulex + RDDS:

## 1. particle tracking for reconstruction of kinematics



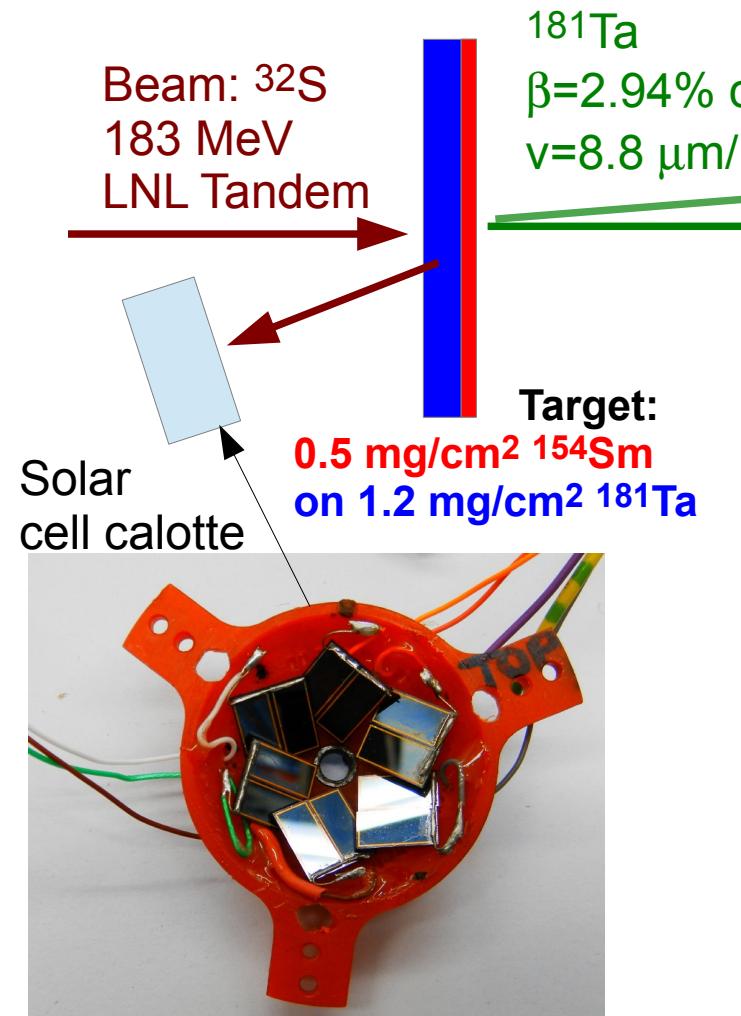
**Coulex:**

Depending on masses: wide angle spread

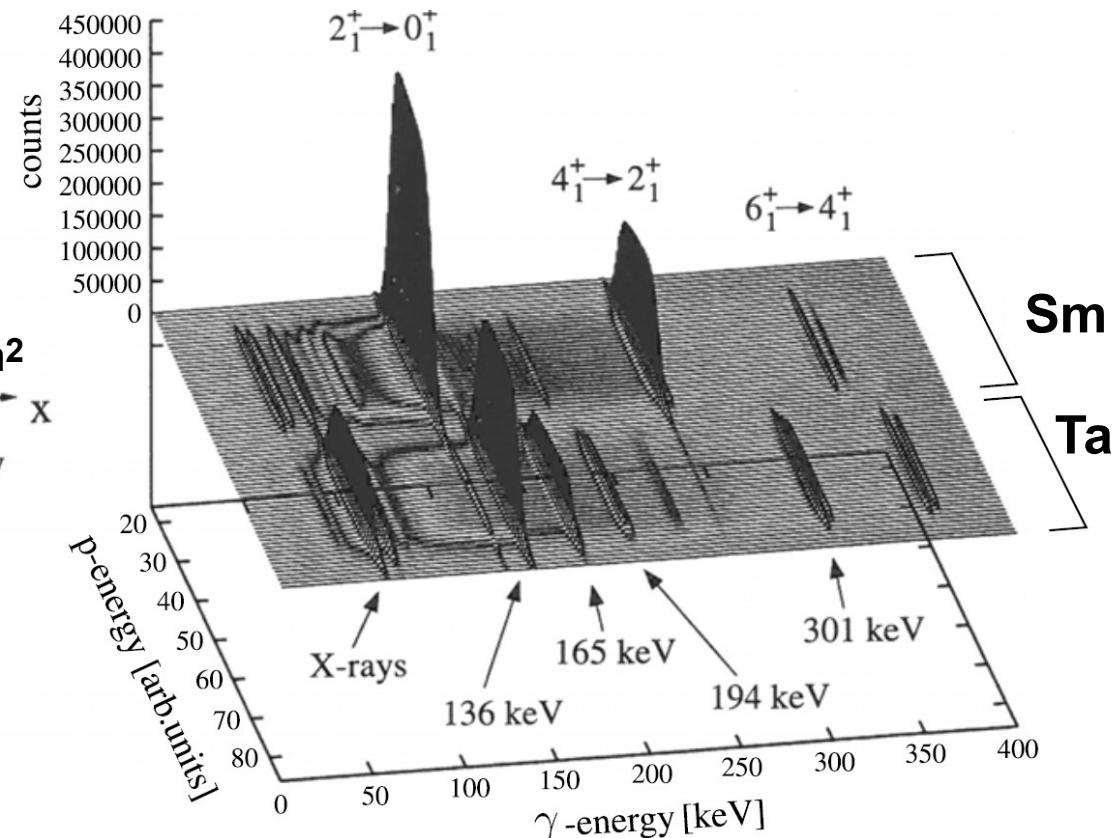
Solution: gate on scattered projectiles or recoils with position sensitive particle detector:  
reconstruct kinematics

# Coulex + RDDS: 2. particle tracking for separation of Coulex channels

Example: Coulex on  $^{154}\text{Sm}$  –  $^{181}\text{Ta}$  sandwich target

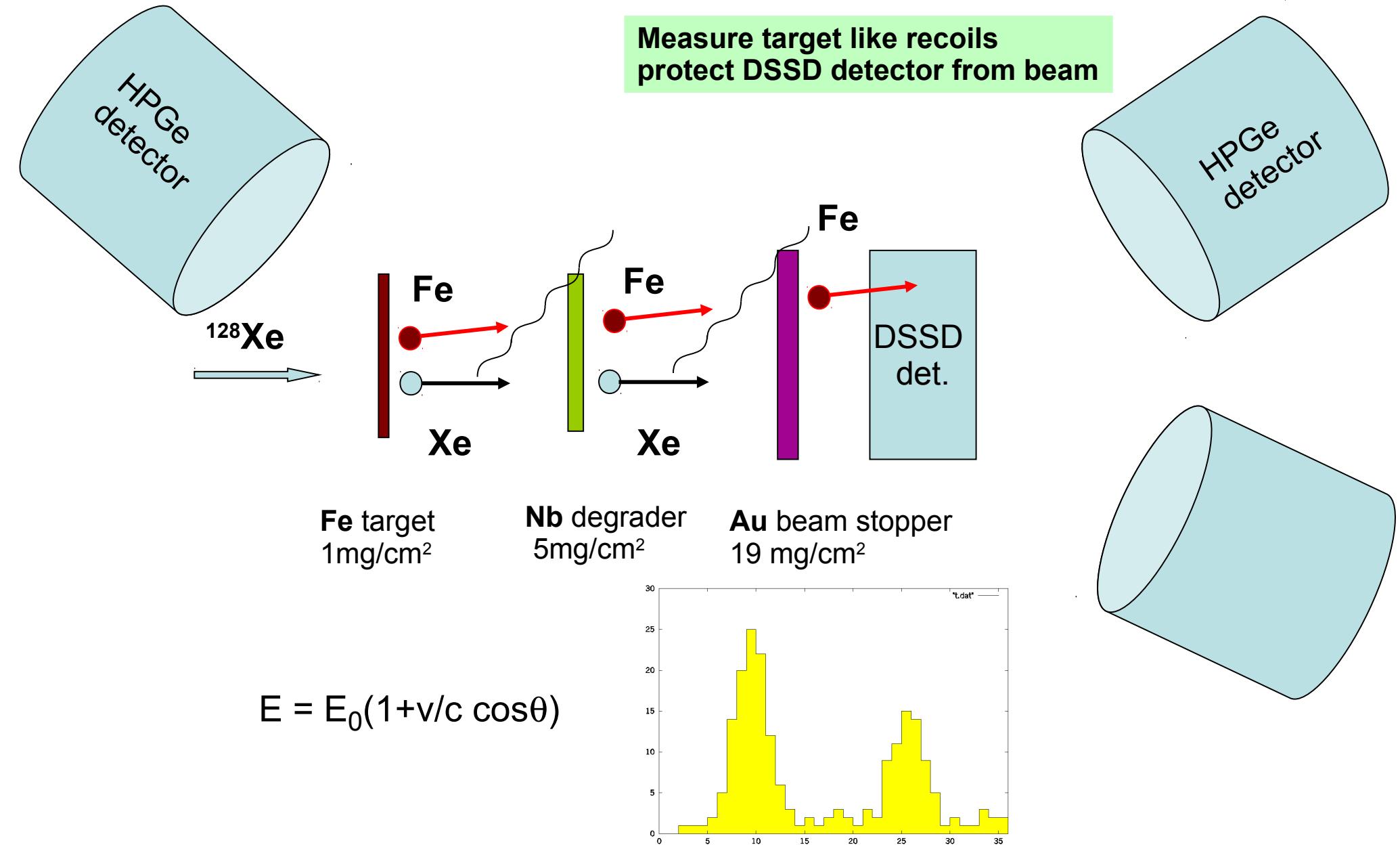


A. Dewald et al.,  
Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 67, 786 (2012)



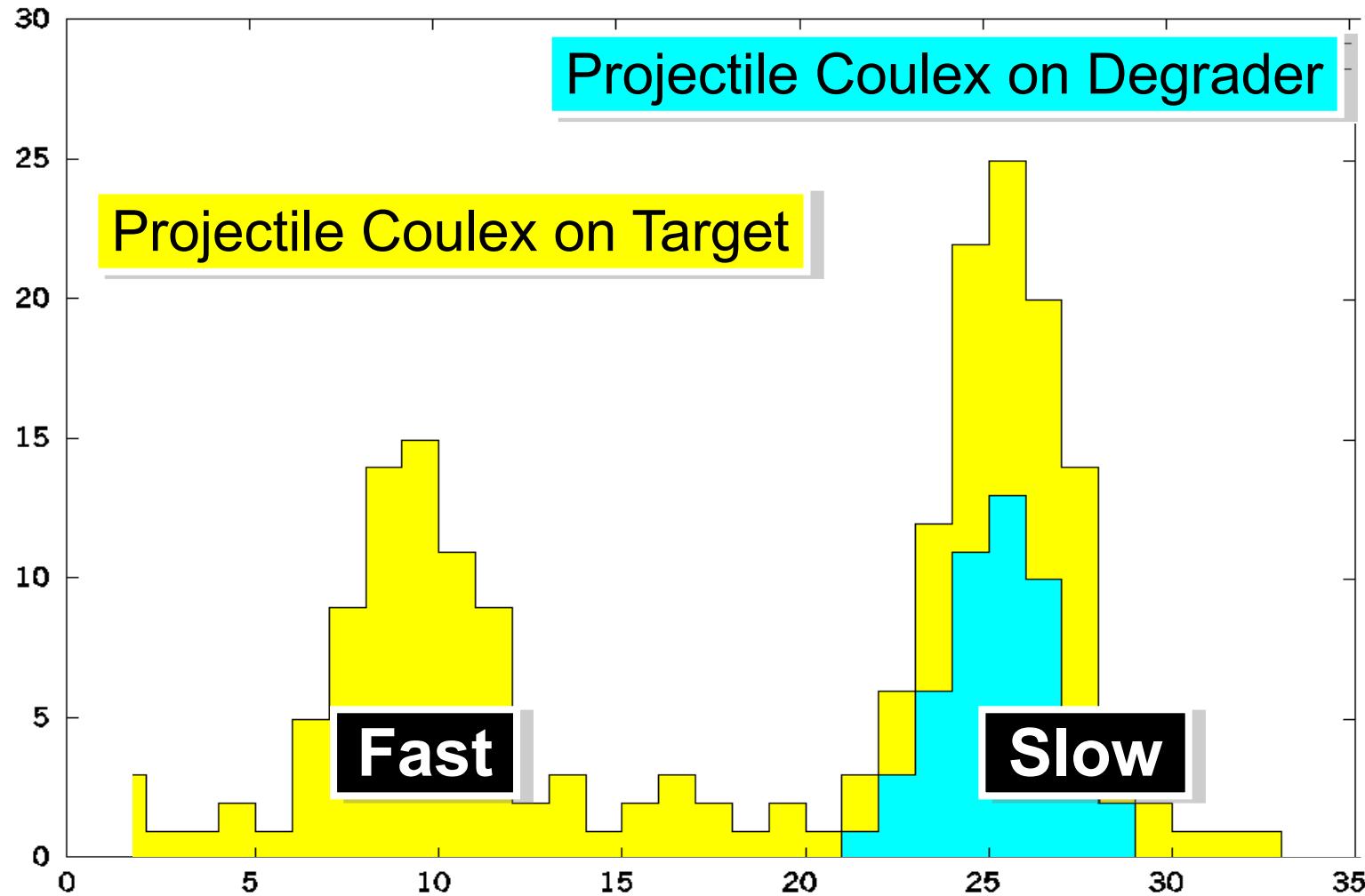
Possibility to measure absolute distances using sandwich target:  
 $^{181}\text{Ta}$  well known lifetimes

# Inverse kinematics Coulomb excitation + RDDS



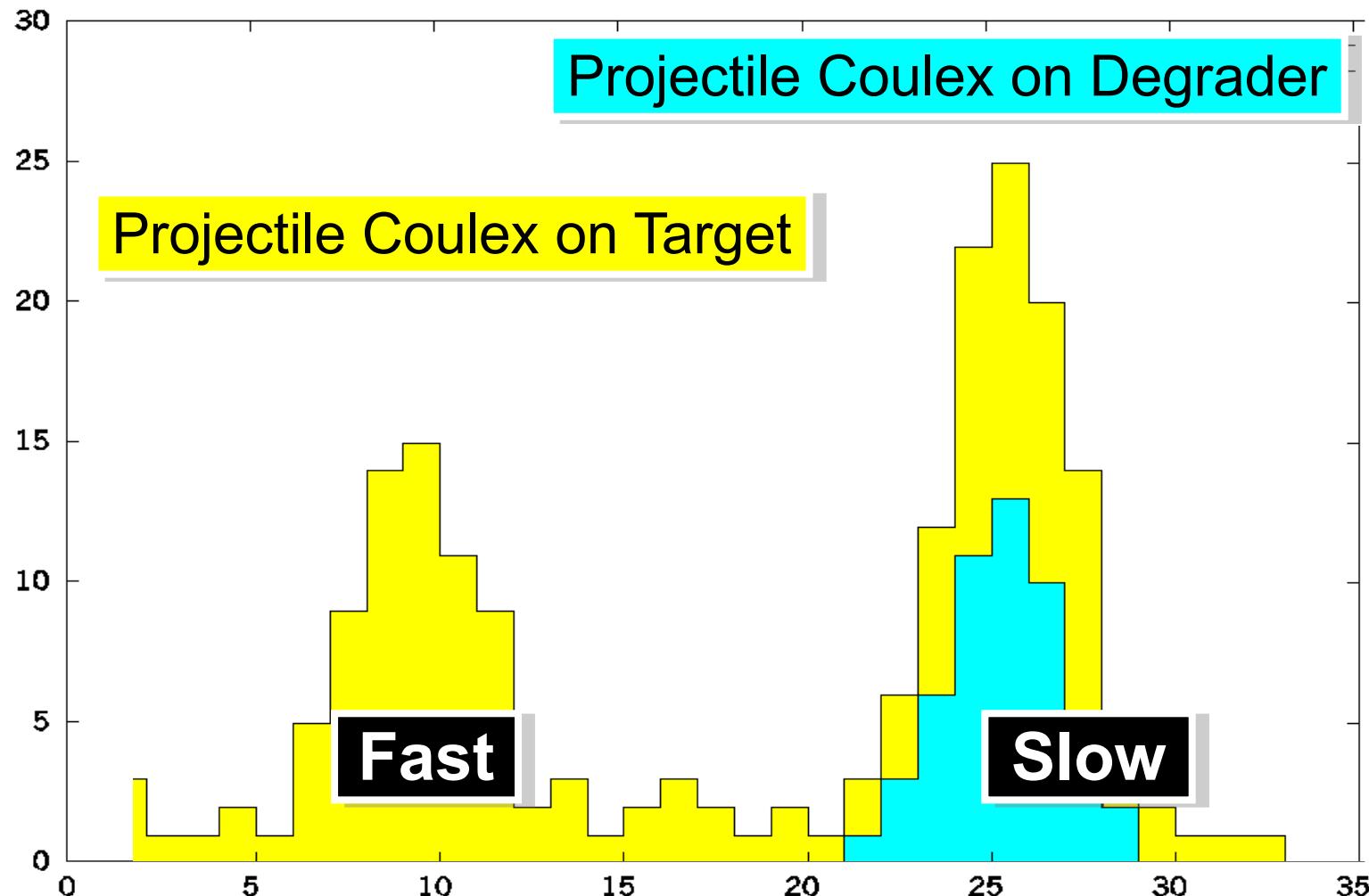
# Inverse kinematics Coulomb excitation + RDDS: Contribution from Coulex on degrader

**Gate on target recoils:**  
→ do not observe Coulex on degrader



# Inverse kinematics Coulomb excitation + RDDS: Contribution from Coulex on degrader

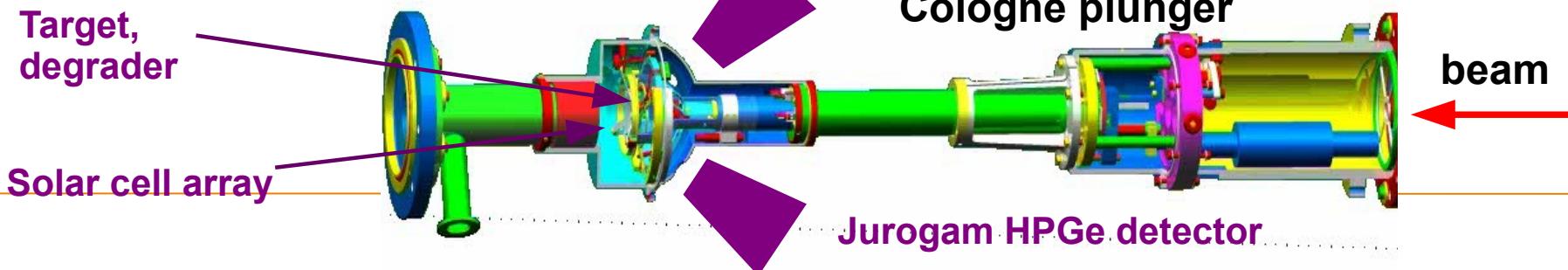
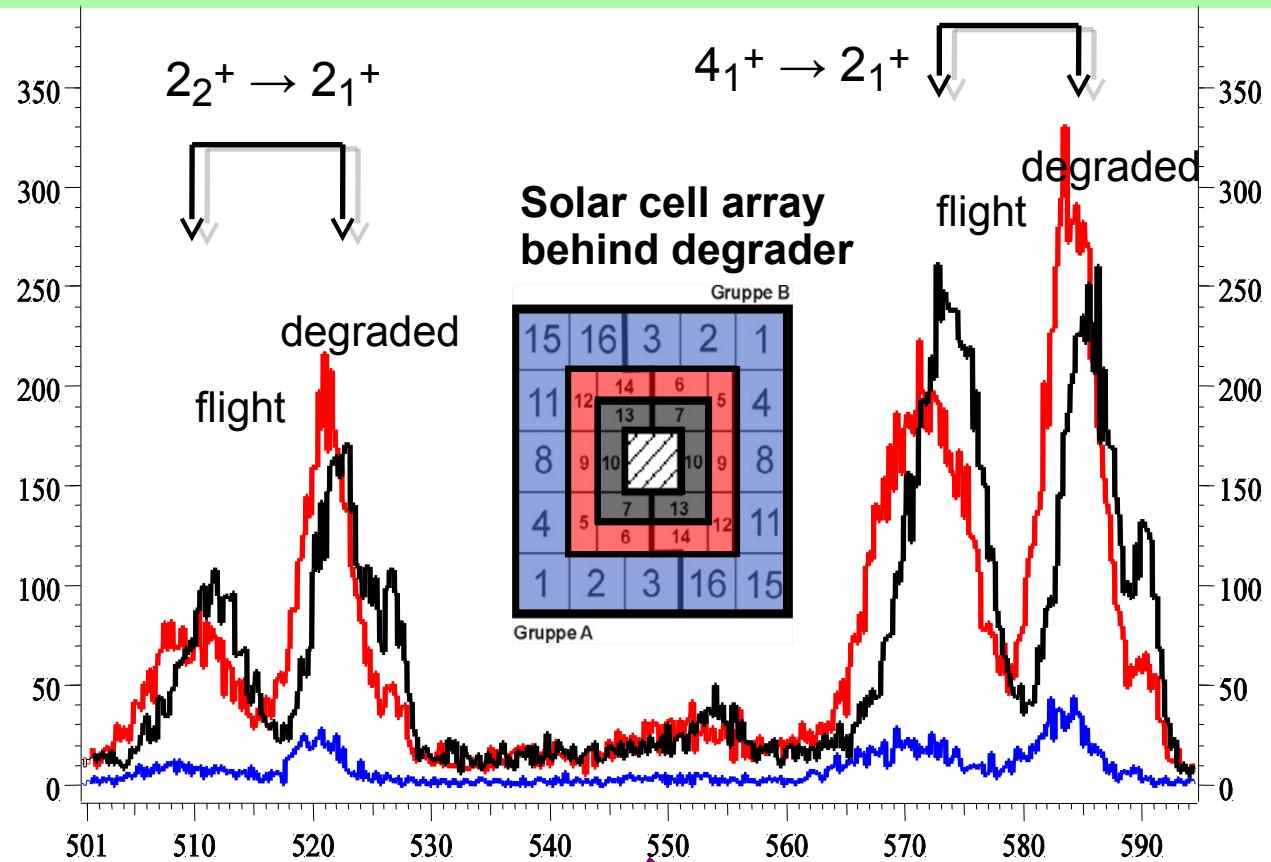
**Second option to eliminate Coulex on degrader from data:  
measure at large target - degrader distance ( $t_{\text{flight}} \gg \tau_{\text{level}}$ )  
slow component only results from Coulex on degrader**



# Example: lifetime determination of excited states in $^{128}\text{Xe}$ with inverse kinematics Coulex + RDDS at JYFL

Gating on target recoils:

reconstruct kinematics from particle emission angles: improve  $\gamma$ -resolution



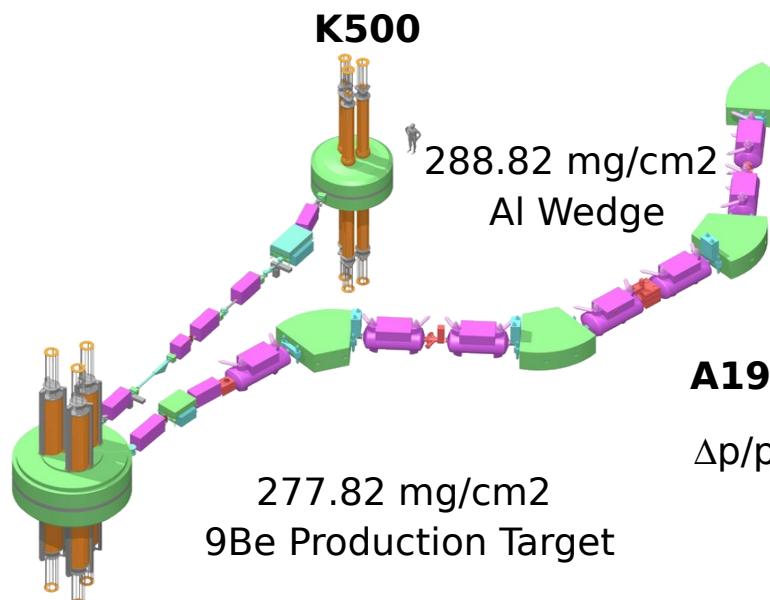
# Further example: Coulex + RDDS with fast radioactive beams: $^{62,64,66}\text{Fe}$ $2_1^+$ lifetime measurement at NSCL

NSCL, Michigan State University, coupled cyclotron facility  
+ A1900 fragment separator + S800 mass spectrograph

Primary beam: 76Ge,  
130 MeV/u

Secondary  
 $^{62,64,66}\text{Fe}$  beam

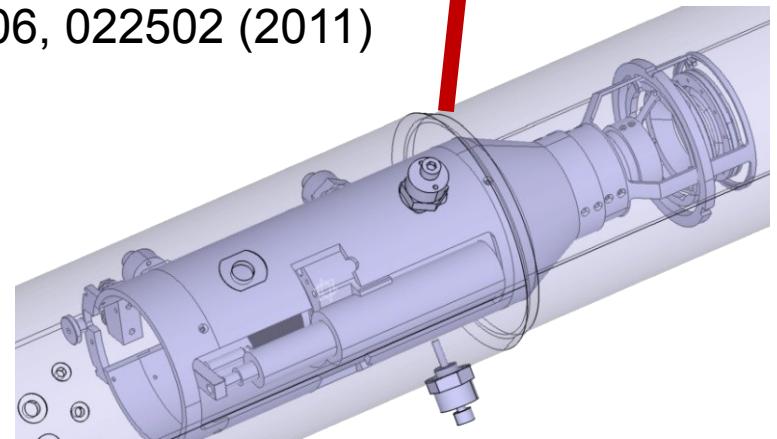
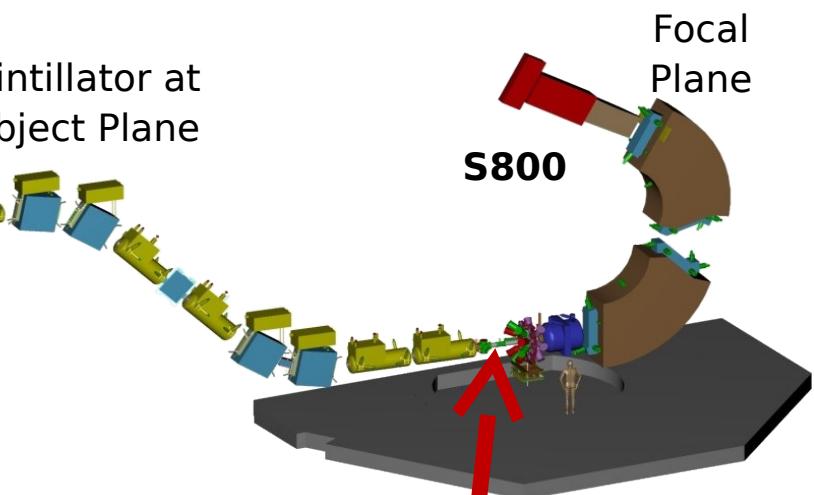
Scintillator at  
Object Plane



TOF  
Scintillator

W. Rother et al.  
PRL 106, 022502 (2011)

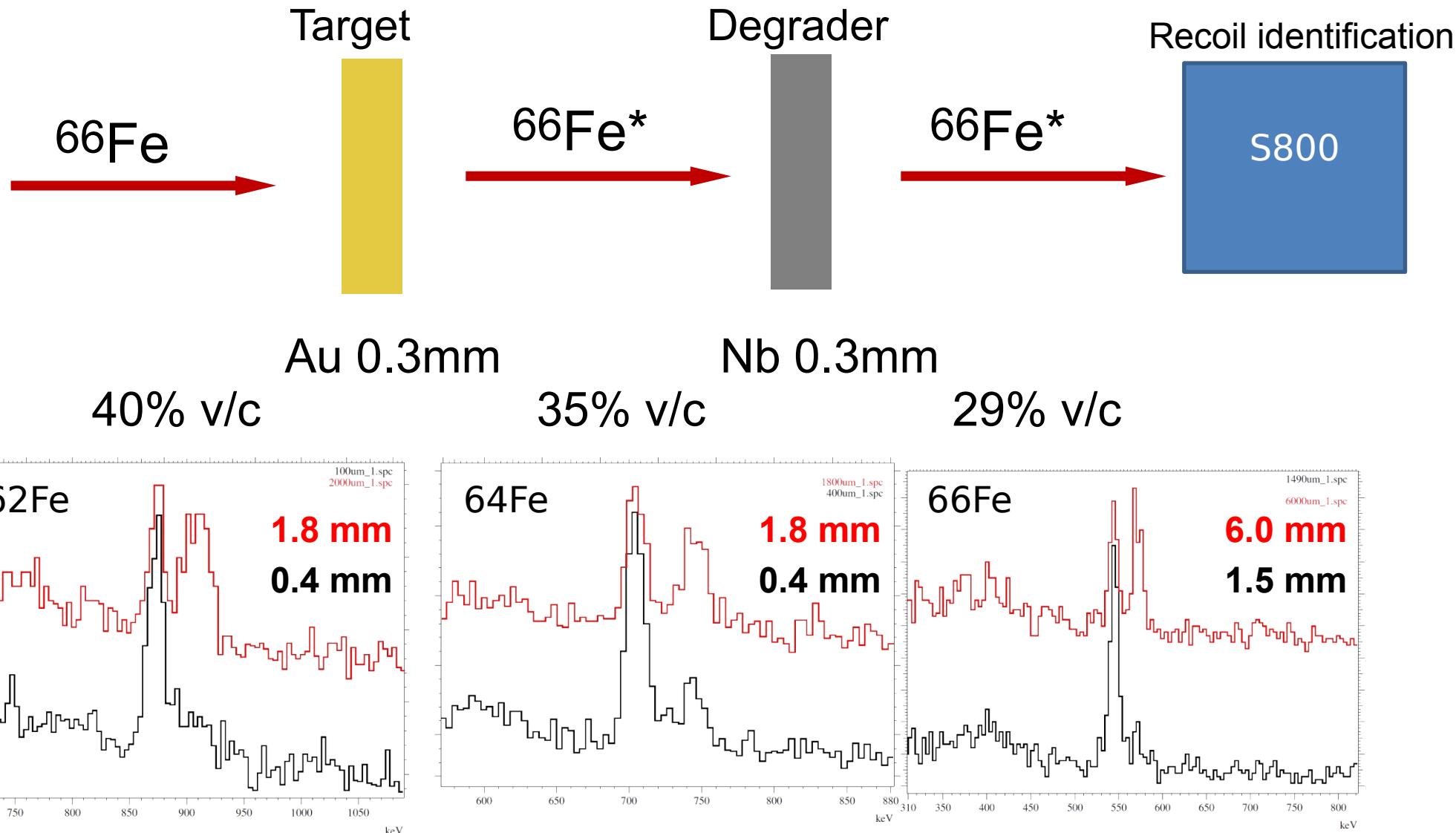
$\Delta p/p = 0.5\%$



+ SeGA HPGe array

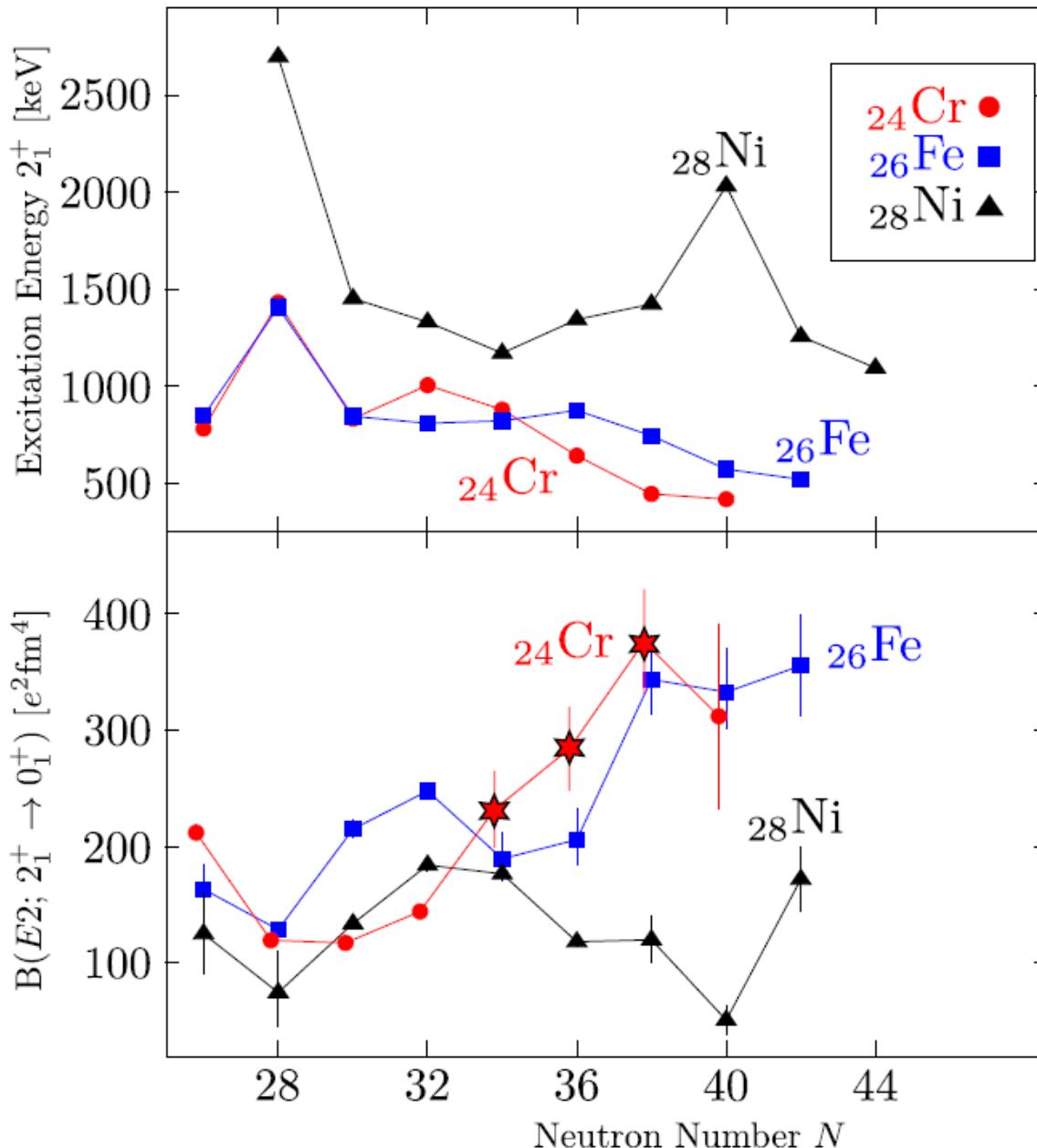
RDDS applied to  
projectile ( $^{62,64,66}\text{Fe}$ ) Coulomb excitation reactions  
at intermediate energies (88-98 AMeV )

# Investigation of $^{62,64,66}\text{Fe}$ : RDDS + Coulex inv. kinematics



Largest distance of 20 mm:  
estimate contribution from Coulex on degrader

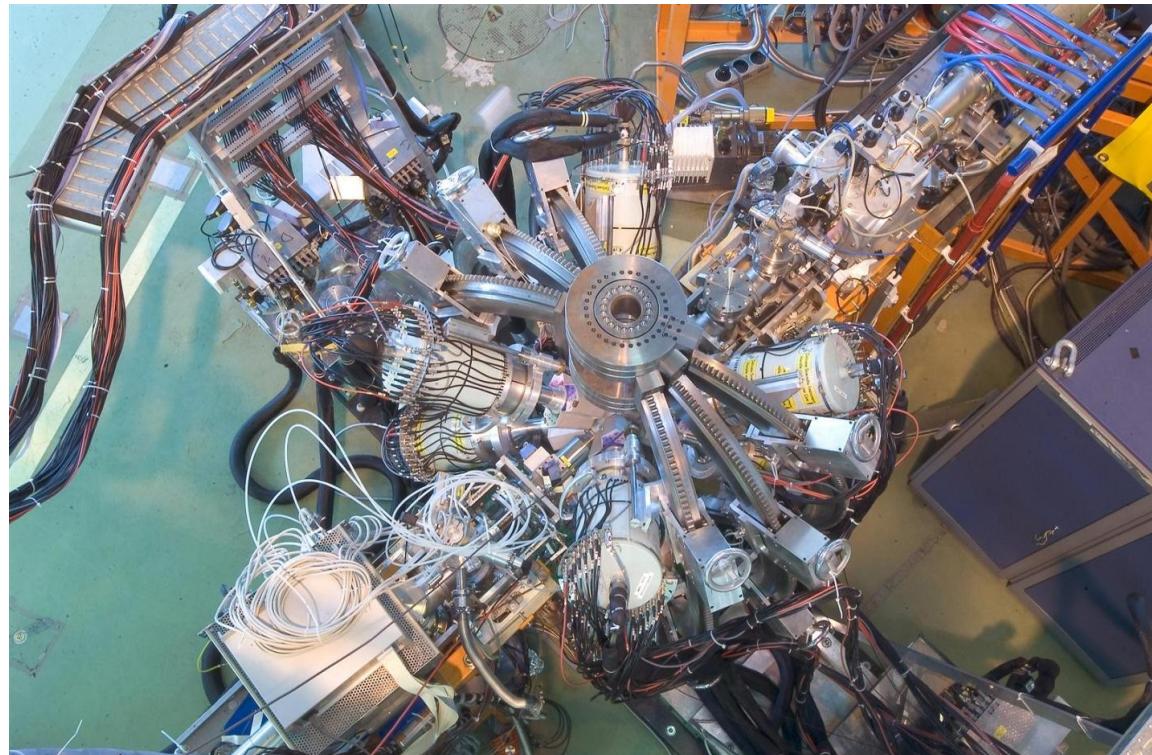
# RDDS with fast radioactive beams: Results for neutron-rich Fe, Cr



Increasing collectivity towards  $N=40$   
No  $N=40$  subshell closure in Fe, Cr

W. Rother et al.  
PRL 106, 022502 (2011)

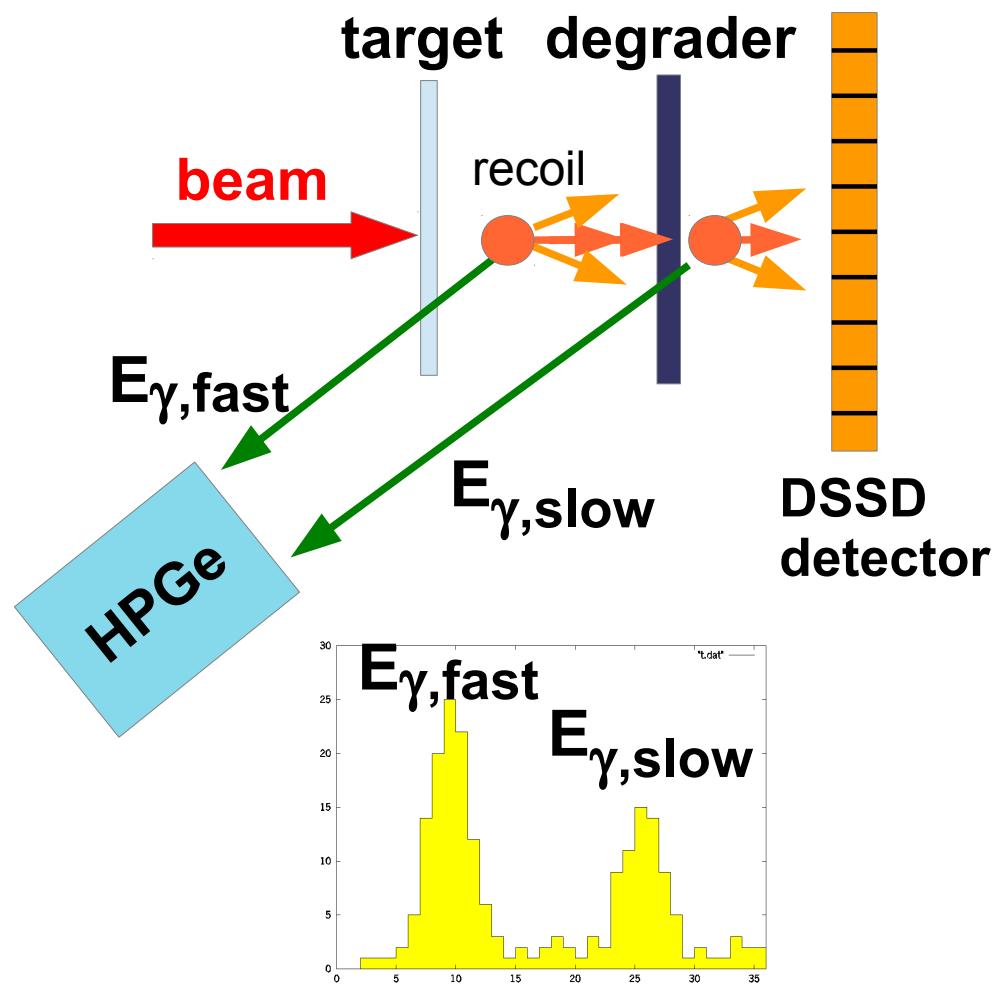
# A plunger for the MINIBALL spectrometer at HIE-ISOLDE



## MINIBALL:

- 24 six-fold segmented high-purity germanium crystals
- designed for low multiplicity experiments with low-intensity radioactive ion beams ~5.5 MeV/u

# A new plunger device for MINIBALL



$$E_{\gamma, \text{fast}} = E_{\gamma, 0} (1 + v_{\text{fast}} / c \cos \theta)$$

$$\tau = I_{\text{slow}}(t) / \frac{d}{dt} I_{\text{fast}}(t)$$

Recoil Distance Doppler-shift technique  
(RDDS)

- lifetimes of levels with RDDS:  $B(\pi l)$
- independent lifetime determination
- nuclear g-factors

Experiments in inverse kinematics with radioactive beams (few MeV/u), e.g.,  
→ Coulex (NIM A 654, 196 (2011))  
→ (incomplete) fusion, e.g., after  $^7\text{Li}$  breakup

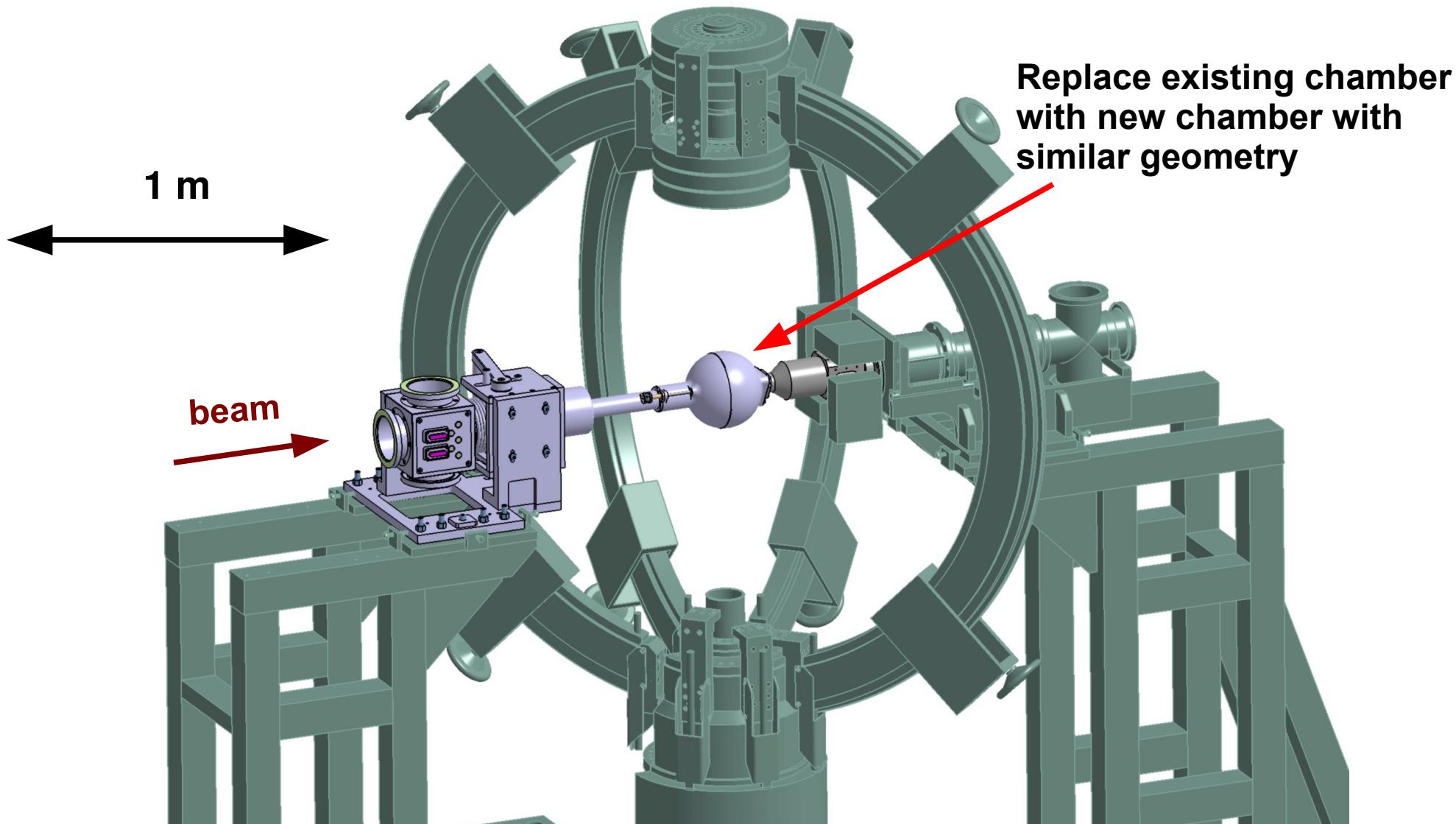
Recoil detection with DSSD:  
→ separation of reaction channels  
→ reconstruction of kinematics (Coulex)

**Aim:**  
Structure of exotic nuclei

# Requirements for the new plunger device

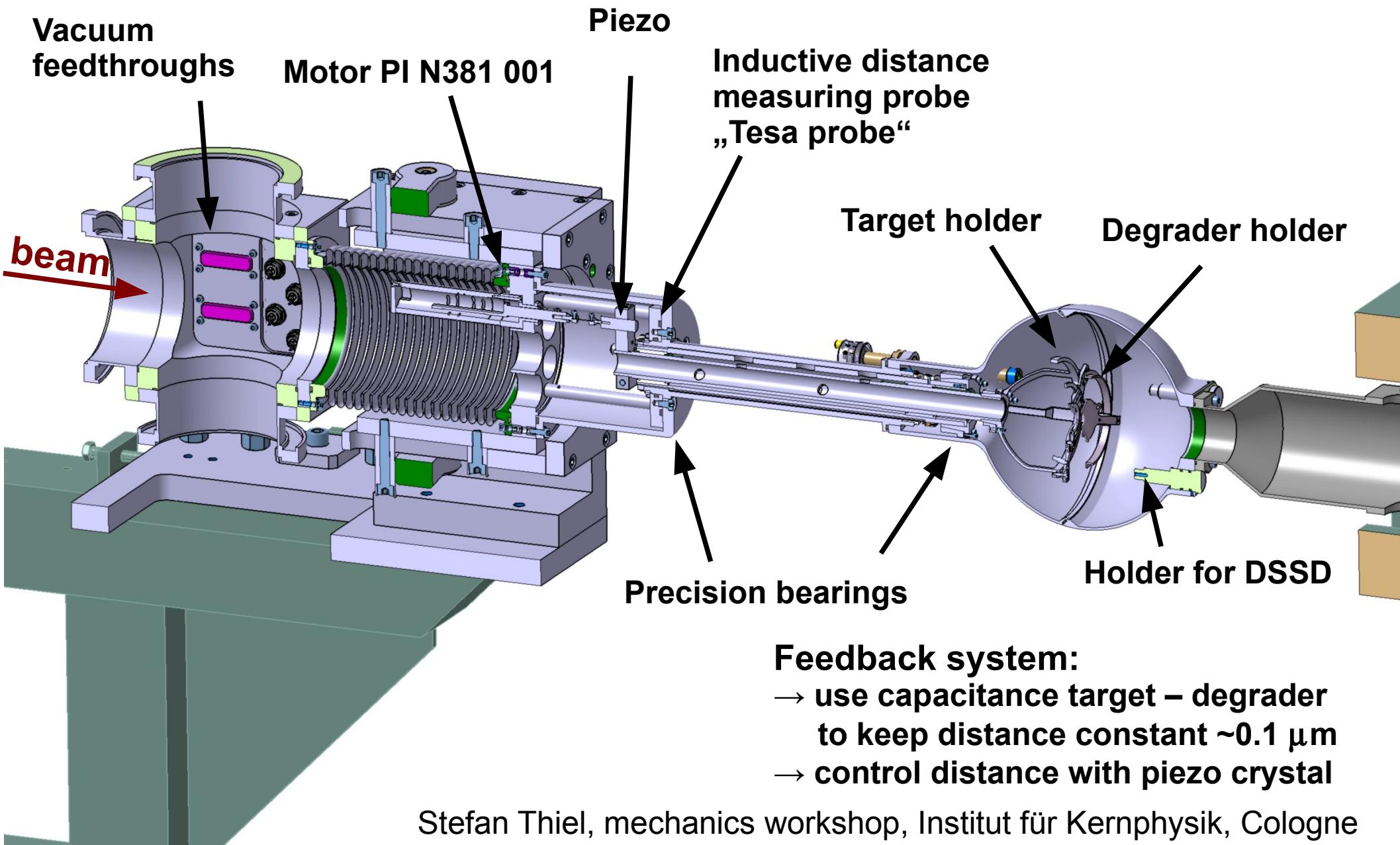
1. placement of MINIBALL HPGe detectors under extreme angles ( $35^\circ$ ,  $145^\circ$ ) for lifetime measurements and different angles for g-factor measurements
2. Minimize material in target chamber
3. DSSD detector downstream from plunger target/degrader
4. target / degrader holders easily replacable with „standard“ target holder: plunger left in place for other experiments.
5. Precision of target – degrader distance:  $\sim 0.1 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$
6. target – degrader distance range: 0 – 15 mm:  
 $v/c \sim 5\% \rightarrow \tau \sim 1 - 500 \text{ ps}$

# General construction



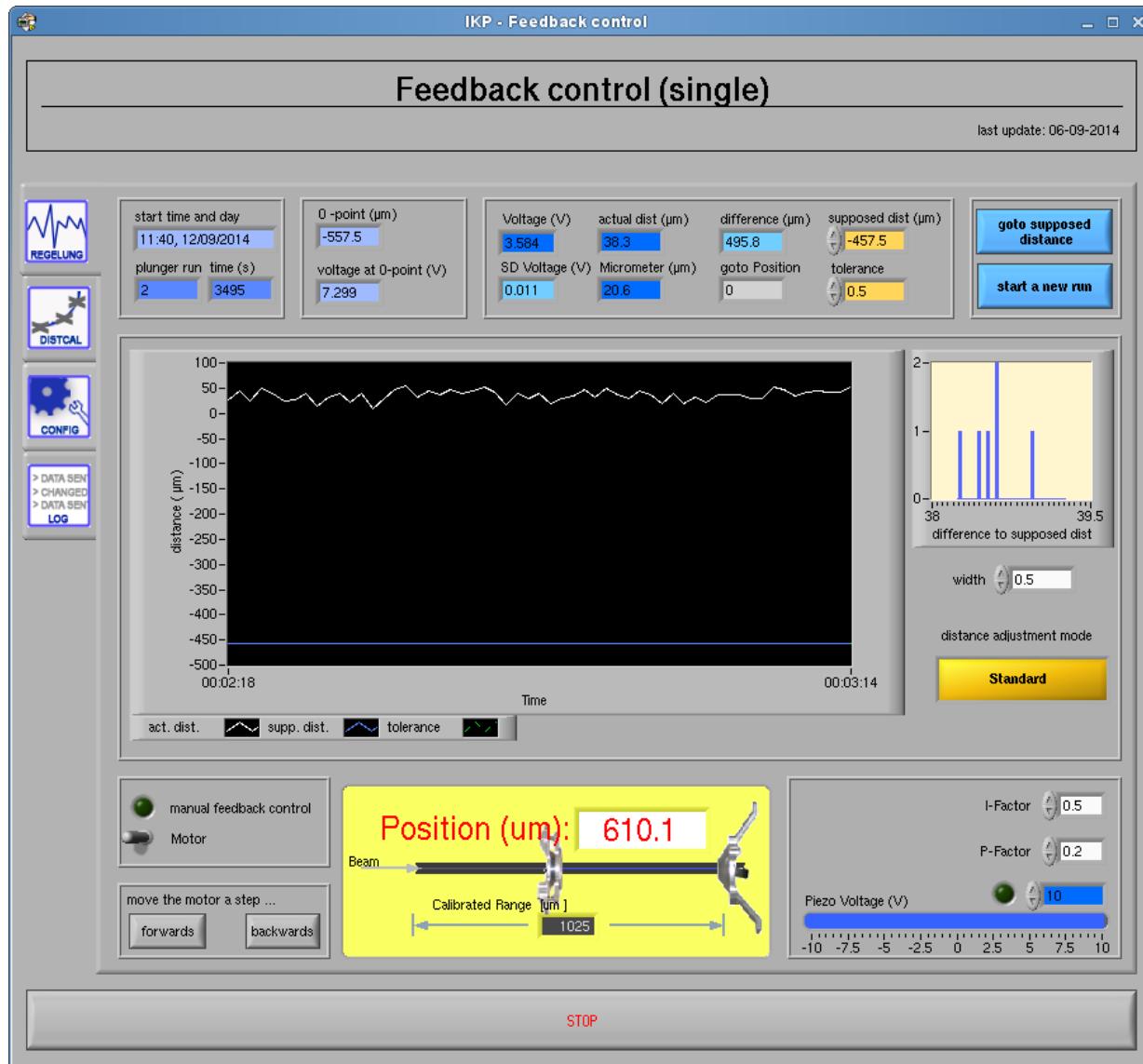
- Plunger mechanics in upstream beamline
- Miniball HPGe detectors under angles between  $35^\circ$  and  $145^\circ$  with respect to beam

# Construction of MINIBALL Plunger



# Control software: GUI for feedback system

- keep distance target – degrader constant (thermal effects)
- read capacitance signal and deduce relative distance from calibration

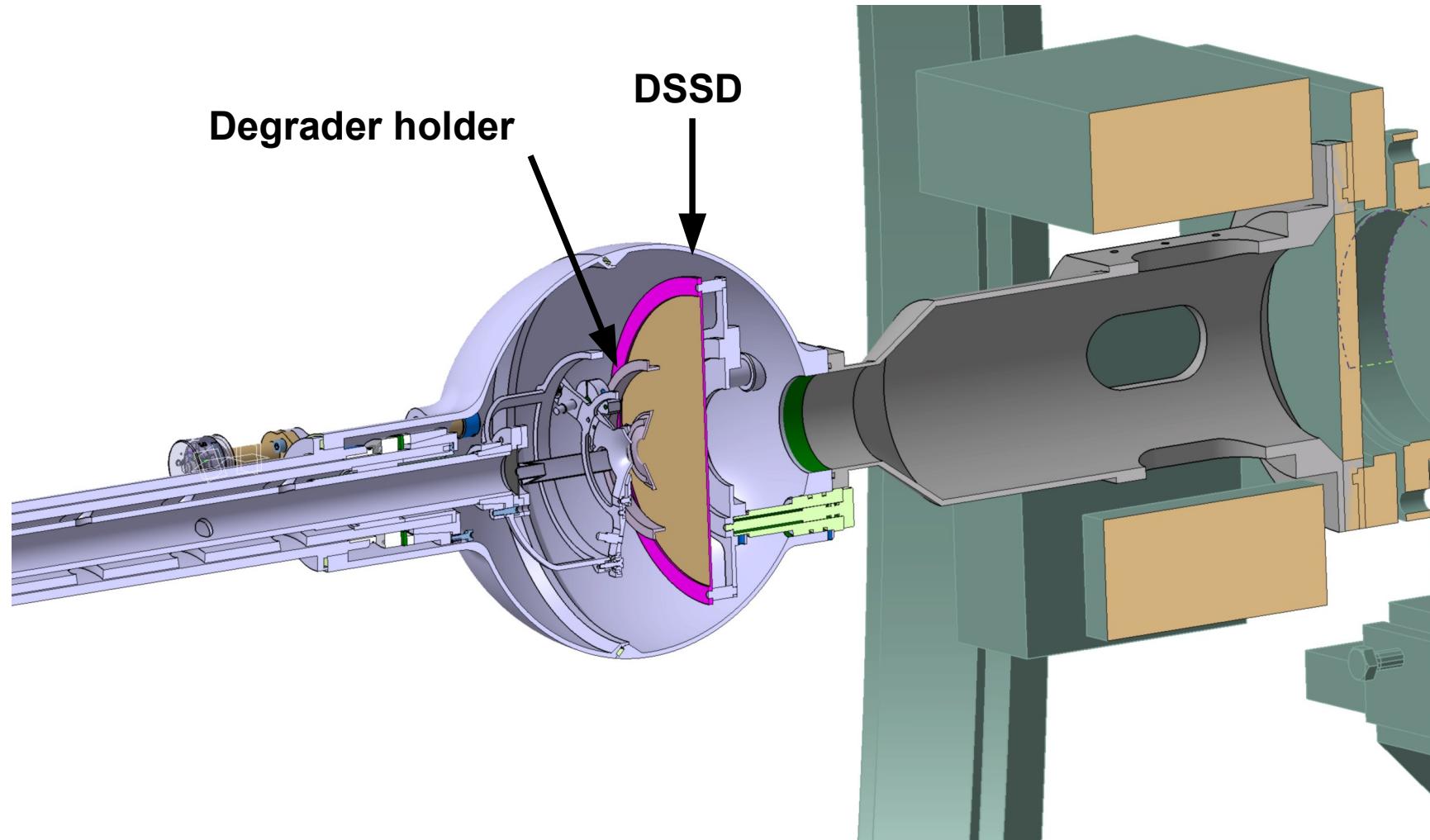


Motor for distance changes  
target – degrader:  
PI Physik Instrumente  
model N381 K001  
accuracy < 0.3 μm  
→ motor can be used  
for feedback system,  
but (so far) higher reliability  
with separate piezo crystal

T. Braunroth, IKP Cologne

# Cologne Miniball plunger: mounting target/degrader

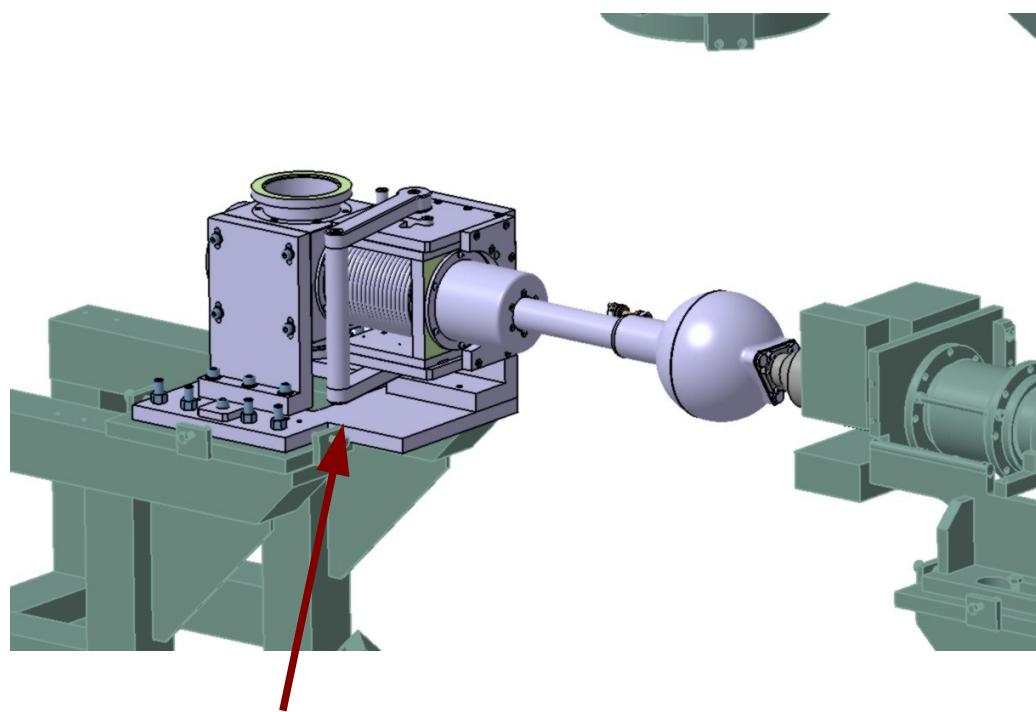
Distance between DSSD detector and degrader holder: only few mm!  
→ no way to mount/align target/degrader without risk to damage DSSD



→ solution: upstream part of plunger can be moved completely out of beam axis

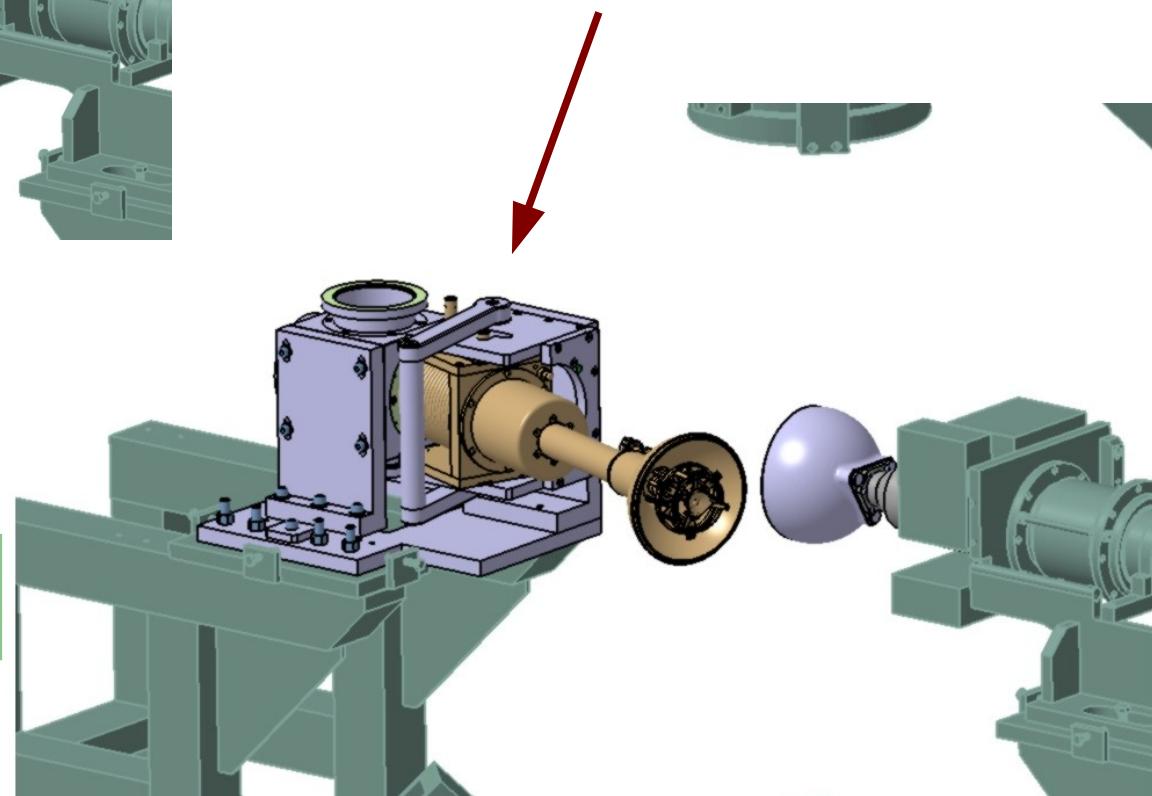
# Cologne Miniball plunger: mounting target/degrader

→ solution: upstream part of plunger can be moved completely out of beam axis



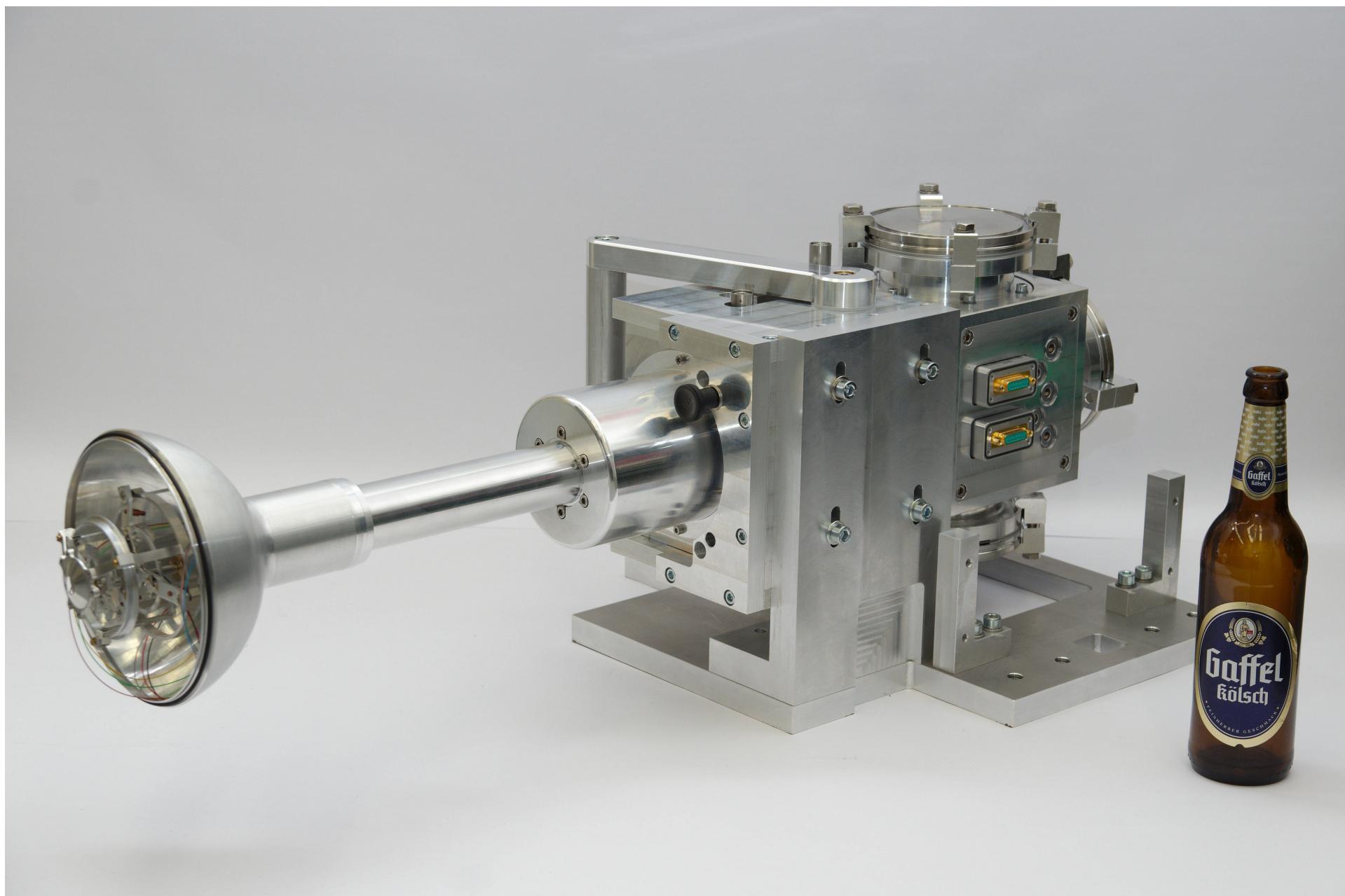
Move plunger back with handle

Pivot out of beamline to get access to chamber



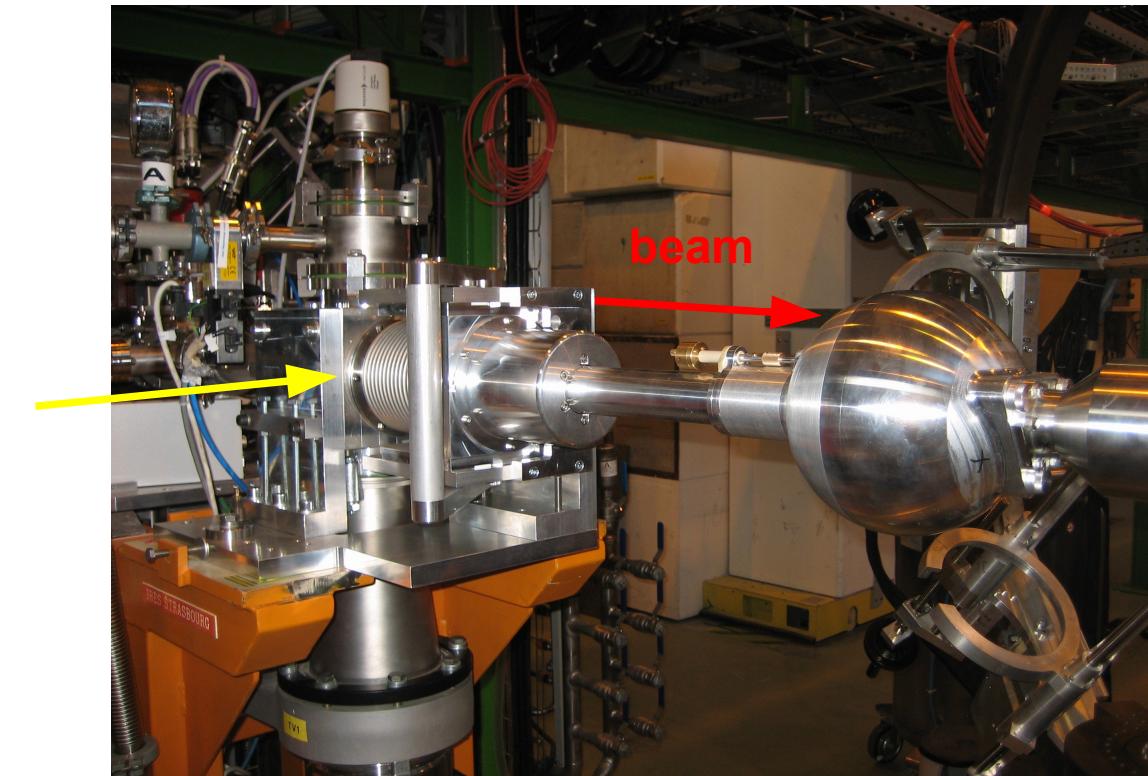
Construction allows repetitious accuracy  
with guiding rails and alignment screws

# Plunger completely mounted

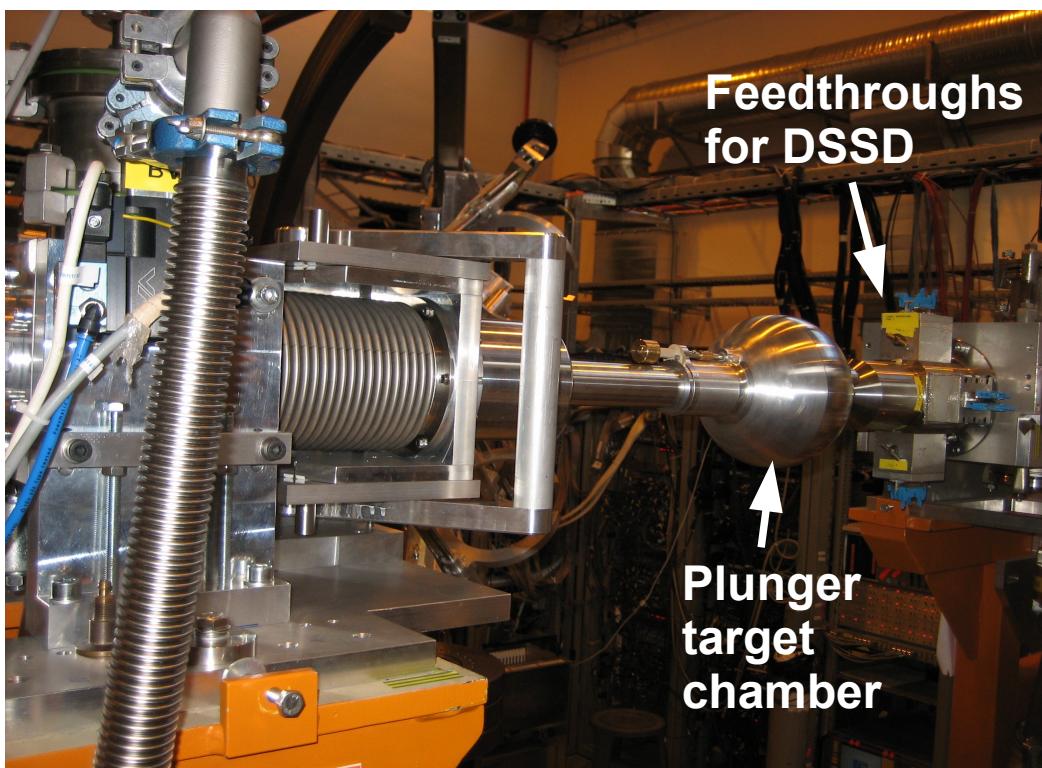


# Miniball plunger @HIE-ISOLDE, April 2017

Handle and bellow for pivoting plunger out of beamline

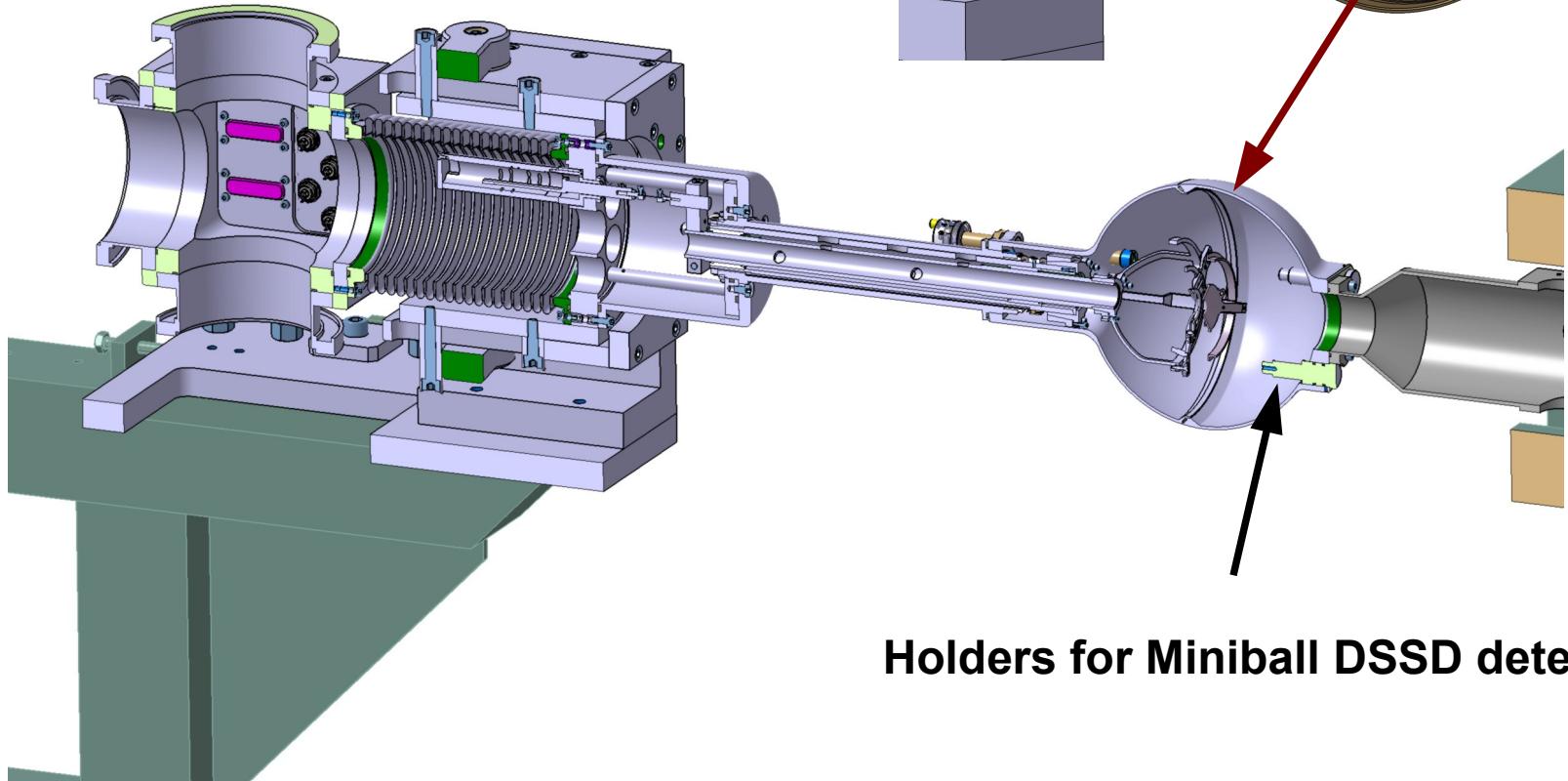


Target chamber:  
similar geometry than existing  
MINIBALL chamber for Coulex



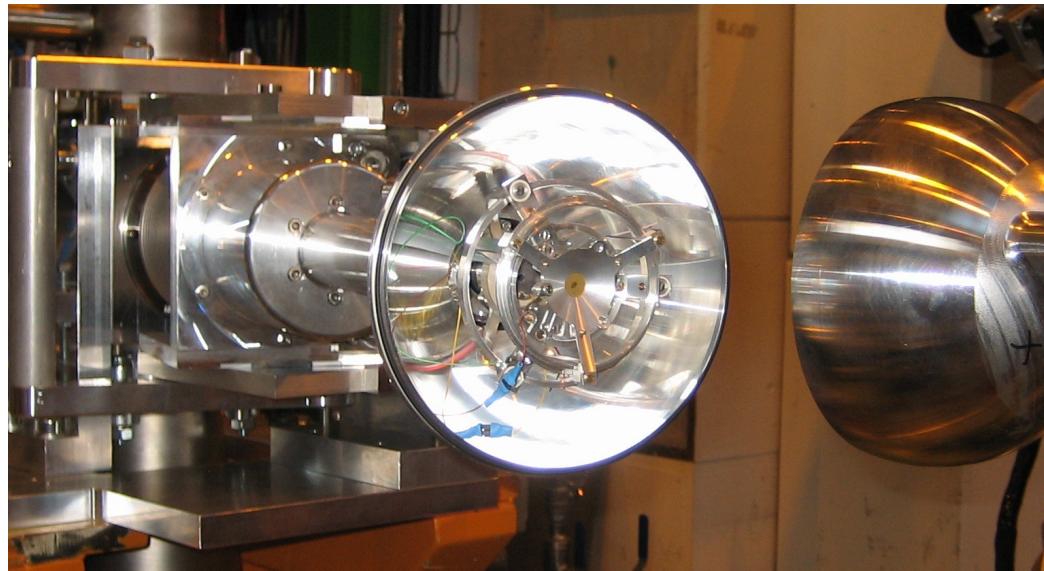
# Cologne Miniball plunger: use for Coulex experiments

Plunger target and degrader can be easily replaced with „standard“ Miniball target wheel: no need to dismount plunger for Coulex experiments

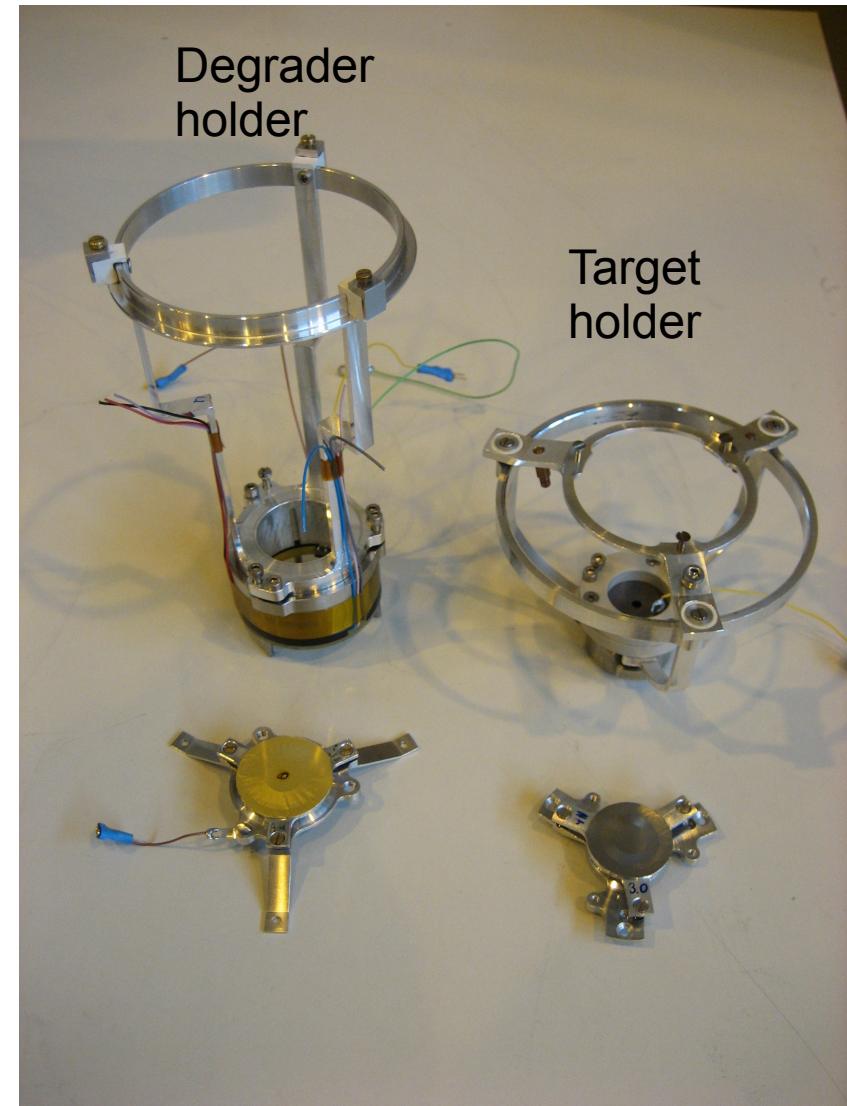
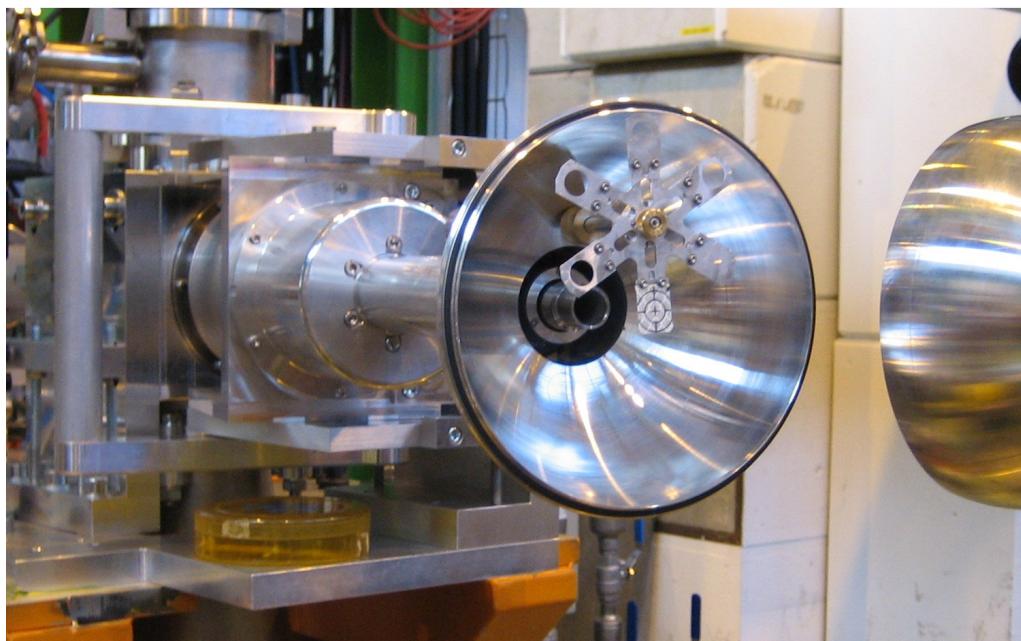


Holders for Miniball DSSD detector

# Options: use for lifetime measurements and Coulex



Replace plunger target / degrader  
holders with target wheel



# Status

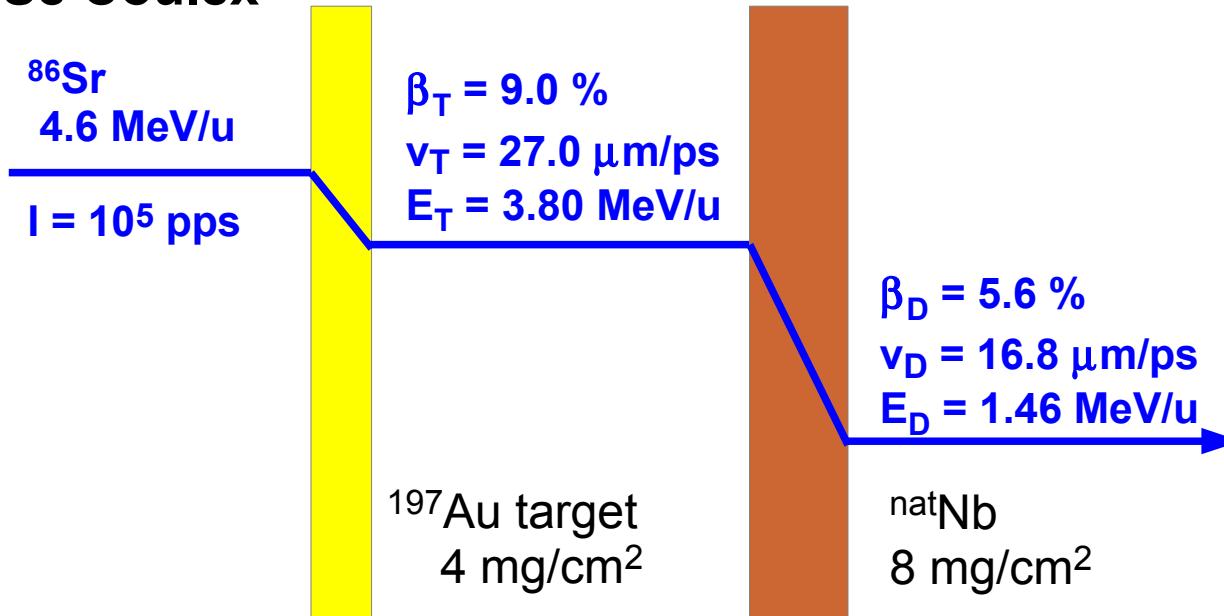
- **February 2017:** plunger completely mounted and tested off-beam at Cologne
- **March 2017:** in-beam test at Cologne FN-tandem (35 MeV  $^{32}\text{S}$  beam):
  - vacuum
  - mechanical stability, feedback system
  - heat conductivity sufficient to avoid heating up of structure
- **April 2017:** mounted at MINIBALL at HIE-ISOLDE
  - successful alignment at existing beamline
  - test of plunger electronics including feedback system under vacuum
- **July 2017:** Coulex run
- **November 2017:** first experiment in plunger configuration:  
measurement of g-factors in  $^{28}\text{Mg}$  (G. Georgiev et al.)

## Result: stable operation of plunger at MINIBALL

- **January 2018:** acceptance of proposal  
„Investigation of octupole correlations in  $^{144,145}\text{Ba}$  using RDDS“  
(C. Fransen et al.)

# Example: Coulex plunger experiment @ HIE-ISOLDE

## $^{86}\text{Se}$ Coulex



Recoils detected with target DSSD detector  
→ reconstruct kinematics important due to wide angle spread of recoils

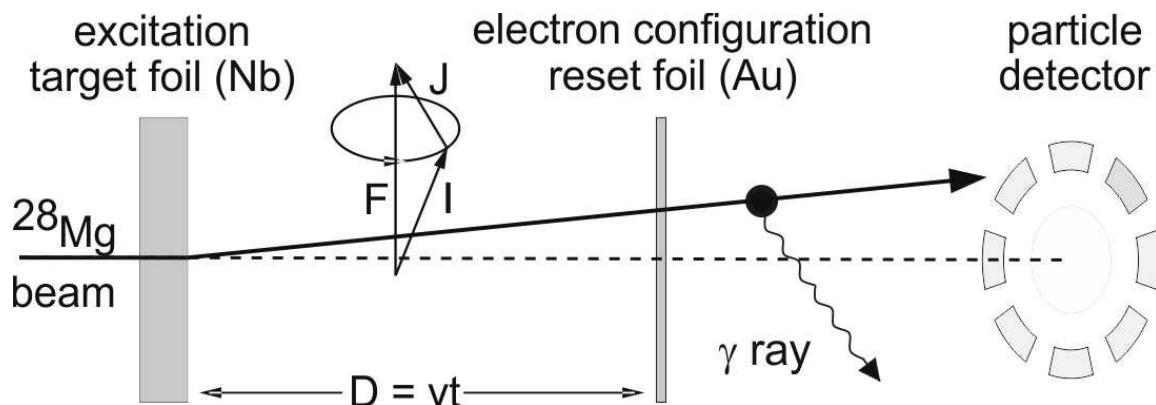
$J^\pi$	$E_{Level}$ [keV]	$E_\gamma$	$E_{\gamma,\text{fast}}$ [keV]	$E_{\gamma,\text{slow}}$ [keV]	$\Delta E$ [keV]
$2_1^+$	704.1	704.1	749.2	732.0	17.2
$4_1^+$	1567.9	863.8	919.1	898.0	21.1
$6_1^+$	2073.4	505.5	537.9	525.5	12.4

Expected lifetimes :  $\tau(2_1^+) \sim 5 \text{ ps}$   
 $\tau(4_1^+) \sim 8 \text{ ps}$   
→ sensitive range  $\sim 30 \mu\text{m} - 300 \mu\text{m}$

→ Sufficient separation of Doppler-shifted gamma-ray lines  
(Miniball detector under 45°)

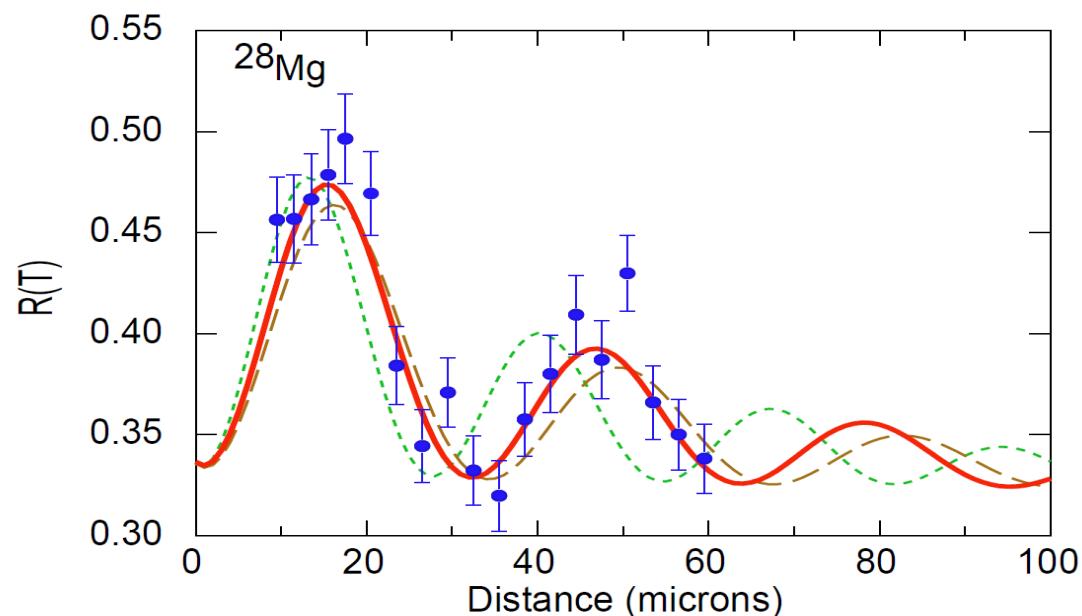
# Measurement of g-factors in $^{28}\text{Mg}$ (G. Georgiev, Nov. 2017): Method: TDRIV on H-like ions

**TDRIV** - Interaction between the **nuclear spins** (oriented by the reaction) with the **electron spins** (random) for **well defined time** (plunger):  
precession frequency prop. to nuclear g-factor → int. of g-rays changes periodically



**H-like ions** (50% at  $v/c \sim 0.1$ )  
→ well defined magnetic field ( $1s$ )

A. Kusoglu et al., PRL 114, 062501 (15)



→ very promising results  
for  $g_{2+}(^{28}\text{Mg})$  from TDRIV

At present under analysis

# Conclusion

- General introduction: lifetime determination with RDDS + Coulex
- New plunger device for MINIBALL @ HIE-ISOLDE constructed at Cologne
- installed at MINIBALL @ HIE-ISOLDE in April 2017
- already successfully used: g-factors in  $^{28}\text{Mg}$
- accepted proposal: „Octupole correlations in  $^{144,145}\text{Ba}$ “
- allows easy change between „standard“ (Coulex) experiments and RDDS experiments without change of chamber
- same geometry including DSSD as MINIBALL „Coulex“ chamber

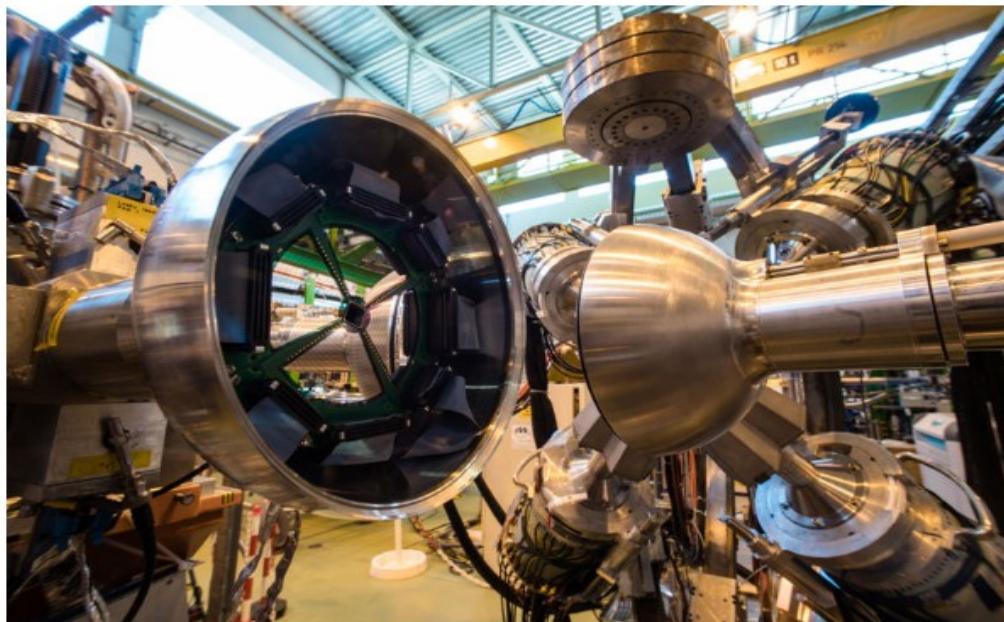
# Last but not least: Plunger for antimatter transport(?) (Nature, Feb. 20, 2018)



## Physicists plan antimatter's first outing – in a van

Researchers intend to transport the elusive material between labs and use it to study the strange behaviour of rare radioactive nuclei.

Elizabeth Gibney



Antiprotons present a unique way to study the radioactive elements produced at CERN's ISOLDE ion-beam facility. Credit: Julien Marius Ordan/CERN

PDF version

### RELATED ARTICLES

The race to reveal antimatter's secrets



Ephemeral antimatter atoms pinned down in milestone laser test

### SUBJECTS

Nuclear physics

<http://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-02221-9>