Recent results in the Pb-Rn region in the vicinity of the neutron-midshell at $N=104^*$

A.N.Andreyev^{1,9}, S. Antalic², D. Ackermann³, L. Bianco⁴, S. Franchoo⁵, F.P. Hessberger³, S. Heinz³, S. Hofmann^{3,8}, M. Huyse⁶, B. Kindler³, B. Lommel³, R. Mann³, K. Nishio⁷, R.D. Page⁴, J.J. Ressler¹, P. Sapple⁴, Š. Šáro², B. Streicher², B. Sulignano³, J. Thomson⁴, P. Van Duppen⁶, M. Venhart²

Depart. of Chemistry, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1S6
 Depart. of Nuclear Phys. and Biophys., Comenius University, Bratislava SK-84248, Slovakia

³ Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung, Planckstrasse 1, D-64291 Darmstadt, Germany

- Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 7ZE, United Kingdom IPN Orsay, F-91406 Orsay Cedex, France
 - ⁶ Insituut voor Kern- en Stralingfysica, Univesity of Leuven, B-3001 Leuven, Belgium
 ⁷ Advanced Science Research Center, JAEA, Tokai, Ibaraki 319-1195, Japan
 - ⁸ Physikalisches Institut, J.W. Goethe-Universität, D-60054 Frankfurt, Germany
 - ⁹ TRIUMF, 4004 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6T 2A3

The contribution reviews the results of our recent experiments at the velocity filter SHIP (GSI, Darmstadt) and at ISOLDE (CERN), aimed at the study of very neutron-deficient Pb-Rn nuclides in the vicinity of N=104.

The first part presents the unambiguous identification of the EC-delayed fission (ECDF) in the odd-odd isotopes ¹⁸⁶Bi and ^{192,194}At, which is a new phenomenon in this region of nuclei. The ECDF data allow us to study the fission properties of the nuclei which do not decay via spontaneous fission at all. The preliminary analysis indicate unusually high ECDF probabilities for the nuclides ¹⁸⁶Bi and ^{192,194}At.

The second part of the contribution will discuss the new data related to the shape coexistence phenomena in the Pb region. Here, two recent results will be highlighted:

- First experimental evidence for the ground state deformation in the new isotopes ^{193,194}Rn, identified in our experiments at SHIP [1].
- Mean square charge radii measurements of the lightest isotopes ^{182–190}Pb at ISOLDE (CERN), proving the sphericity of lead nuclei in the vicinity and beyond the mid-shell at N=104 [2].

The two latter results will be discussed in the shape-coexisting framework, including both macroscopic-microscopic and beyond mean-field approaches.

Further perspectives for the research in this region of nuclei will be presented.

- [1] A.N. Andreyev et al. Phys. Rev. C74, 064303 (2006).
- [2] H. De Witte et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 112502 (2007).

^{*} This work was supported by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme through I3-EURONS (contract no. RII3-CT-2004-506065), by the FWO-Vlaanderen and by the Interuniversity Attraction Poles Programme - Belgian State - Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs (IAP grant P5/07) and UK EPSRC. A.N.A. and J.J.R. were partially supported by the NSERC of Canada.