

**Editorial Note: Observation of Superheavy Nuclei Produced in the Reaction of  $^{86}\text{Kr}$  with  $^{208}\text{Pb}$   
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All but one of the authors of the original Letter have asked us to publish the following retraction:

In our Letter, we reported the synthesis of element 118 in the  $^{208}\text{Pb}(^{86}\text{Kr}, n)$  reaction based upon the observation of three decay chains, each consisting of an implanted heavy atom and six sequential high-energy alpha decays, correlated in time and position. Prompted by the absence of similar decay chains in subsequent experiments [1–4], we (along with independent experts) reanalyzed the primary data files from our 1999 experiments. Based on these reanalyses, we conclude that the three reported chains are not in the 1999 data.

We retract our published claim for the synthesis of element 118.

[1] S. Hofmann and G. Münzenberg, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **72**, 733 (2000).

[2] K. Morimoto *et al.*, in *Tours Symposium on Nuclear Physics IV, Tours, 2000*, AIP Conf. Proc. No. 561 (AIP, New York, 2001), p. 354.

[3] C. Stodel *et al.*, in Ref. [2], p. 344.

[4] K. E. Gregorich *et al.* (to be published).