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WITHDRAWN Phase-imaging mass measurements with the Canadian Penning trap mass spectrometer

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Roughly half of the elements heavier than iron are thought to be produced through the astrophysical rapidneutron capture process of nucleosynthesis. Despite its large influence in explaining the observed abundance of heavy elements, much of the r process is still poorly understood. A more thorough library of nuclear data, particularly masses, of neutron-rich nuclei is needed to improve the accuracy and progression of r-process calculations. The Canadian Penning trap mass spectrometer (CPT) is currently located in the CARIBU facility at Argonne National Laboratory where intense radioactive beams of neutron-rich nuclei are produced from the spontaneous fission of $^{252}\mathrm{Cf.}$ Since its move to CARIBU in 2010, the CPT has successfully measured the masses of more than 110 isotopes to a typical precision of 15 keV/c² by measuring the cyclotron frequency of ions through a time-of-flight (TOF) technique. An upgrade to a position-sensitive microchannel plate detector at the CPT has facilitated a contemporary technique in the determination of masses by measuring the phases of orbital motion of trapped ions. This phase-imaging method is intrinsically more efficient than the TOF technique, and provides an order of magnitude improvement in mass-resolving power without loss in precision, allowing access to more weakly produced isotopes with shorter half-lives than was previously achievable at CARIBU. The low-energy beamline at CARIBU was recently fitted with a multi-reflection time-of-flight mass separator (MR-TOF) which improved beam purity by more than an order of magnitude. In a preliminary measurement campaign the phase-imaging technique, buoyed by the MR-TOF, has yielded the masses of eight previously unmeasured ground-state rare-earth isotopes, and another three nuclear isomers whose masses were directly measured for the first time. These results and future plans to probe another 1-3 neutrons from stability will be discussed.

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