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New results from the laser spectroscopy of RaF at CRIS towards searches for new physics

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More than a decade ago, radium monofluoride (RaF) was proposed as a highly promising system for the search of new physics with ultra-high-precision laser spectroscopy [1]. In addition to its predicted sensitivity to the electric dipole moment of the electron and nuclear P,T-odd effects [2], the molecular structure of RaF was also predicted to be laser-coolable [1,3], promising an improvement in ultra-high-precision spectroscopy of more than an order of magnitude.

In 2018, the collinear resonance ionization spectroscopy (CRIS) experiment at ISOLDE performed the firstever laser spectroscopy of RaF, confirming its laser-coolability [3], measuring the excitation energies of lowlying electronic states, and measuring isotope shifts for several transitions in 223-226,228RaF [4]. In 2021, the CRIS collaboration revisited RaF, successfully performing a large number of new measurements with both broadband and narrowband collinear laser spectroscopy.

This contribution will firstly briefly present RaF as a future probe for the search for new physics, and the role of quantum chemistry in such searches. Afterwards, new measurements of the excitation energies of high-lying electronic states, isotope shifts in 210,212-214,223-228,230RaF, and high-resolution spectroscopy of the hyperfine structure of 225RaF will be presented. These measurements can be used to understand the role of electron correlations and higher-order effects (e.g. QED corrections) in the electronic-state energies, and to study signatures of the Bohr-Weisskopf effect in 225Ra in the spectra of RaF. Comparisons with state-of-the-art quantum chemistry are thus used to assess theoretical treatments of RaF across a large range of electronic energies, whose accuracy and precision is necessary for the ultimate extraction of new physics from experimental searches.

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- [2] Kudashov et al., Physical Review A 90, 052513 (2014)
- [3] Garcia Ruiz et al., Nature 581, 396-400 (2020)
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