International Teachers weeks programme: ISOLDE

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- Nuclear physics at CERN
 - What is ISOLDE?

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- Introduction to ISOL method
- Examples of physics @ ISOLDE

Nuclear physics and nuclear scale



Nuclear physics at CERN



Open questions in low-energy nuclear physics



RIB facilities

Two main types of (complementary) RIB facilities:



RIB facilities comparison

	ISOL	In-Flight		
Projectile	light	heavy		
Target	thick	thin		
Ion beam energy				
Beam intensity				
Variety of nuclides				
Release from target				
Beam quality				
Examples	ISOLDE@CERN, SPIRAL2@GANIL, ISAAC@TRIUMF	GANIL, GSI/FAIR, RIBF@RIKEN, FRIB@MSU		

What is ISOLDE?

The On-Line Isotope Mass Separator ISOLDE is a facility dedicated to the production of a large variety of radioactive ion beams (RIBs)

Isolde history

Dec 1964: CERN approves the online separator project

May 1966: SynchroCyclotron shuts down for the construction of ISOLDE



Oct 1967: First proton beams at ISOLDE



1972: SC Improvement Program – doubles the intensity (now quite a nice museum)

1976: New experiments in ISOLDE II

June 1983: ISOLDE III approved – two-stage high resolution separation using two magnets





Dec 1990: The Synchrocyclotron beam ends ISOLDE moves to PS booster to utilize CERN's spare proton capacity...



ISOLDE at CERN

- Isotope Separator OnLine DEvice
- First ISOL facility worldwide!
- Produces Radioactive Ion Beams (RIBs)
- Approved by the CERN council in 1964
 - ◆ 1st used 600 MeV protons from SC
 - Then used 1.0 GeV (later 1.4 GeV) protons from the PSB



- A small facility with a big impact!
 - 0.1% of CERN budget
 - 7% of CERN scientists
 - 50% of CERN proton pulses
 - ◆ 80% of CERN protons

http://timeline.web.cern.ch/timelines/ISOLDE



Why at CERN?





Greece

Italy

Norway

Romania

Sweden

Germany

S. Africa Slovakia U. Kingdom

Poland Switzerland



SSP ISOTOPES

Bulgaria

Belgium

CERN

Denmark Spain

Finland

France

Production: Modern-day alchemy

- High energy (1.4 GeV) protons are impacted onto a thick target e.g. ²³⁸U
- The protons split up the heavy nucleus to produce a wide variety of nuclei simultaneously
- ◆Requirements for experiment:
 - High production
 - ◆Pure radioactive beams: 1 kind of isotope
- There are 3 stages of preparation
 - \bullet Production
 - Ionization
 - Separation



Production: Targets



- Over 120 materials have been tested and/or used as ISOL targets
 - Choice of target material and ionizer dependent on radioactive beam of interest
- ◆Target material and transfer tube heated to 1500 2000 degrees
- Operated by robots due to radiation

Ion Sources

• Hot-cavity

- W heated at > 2000 C
- High ionization efficiencies for some nuclei



ISOLDE Robots



Nuclear chart for ISOLDE

ISOLDE today offers the largest range of available isotopes of any ISOL facility worldwide.

- 1200 isotopes of ~73 elements
- Rich playground for fundamental studies using hyperfine Interactions
- Novel (and sometimes unique) isotopes which utilize hyperfine Interactions for solid state and biophysics.











User and Operations facility building



Groundbreaking MEDICIS building



Low-energy installations



MEDICIS

High-energy installations





Research with radioactive beams at ISOLDE





Laser spectroscopy and nuclear properties

Lasers allow studying ground-state (and isomeric) properties of nuclei, based on:

Atomic **hyperfine structure (HFS)** (interaction of nuclear and atomic spins)

- HFS details depend on:
 - Spin -> orbit of last proton&neutron
 - Magnetic dipole moment -> orbits occupied by protons&neutrons
 - Electric quadrupole moment -> deformations



Isotope shifts (IS) in atomic transitions (change in mass and size of different isotopes of the same chemical element)

IS between 2 isotopes depends on:





Shape staggering of mercury isotopes with RILIS



Penning-trap mass spectrometry

- Penning trap
 - superposition of static magnetic and electric field
 - Ion manipulation with radiofrequencies



Free cyclotron frequency is inversely proportional to the mass of the ions!

$$\omega_c = qB/m$$

Masses around ¹⁰⁰Sn with ISOLTRAP



Decay spectroscopy

- Different detectors to sensitive to emitted:
 - > Alpha particles
 - Beta particles
 - Gamma rays
 - Protons or neutrons
- Isolde Decay Station
- soon: polarised beams at VITO





Coulomb excitation



Nuclear astrophysics at HIE-ISOLDE



Beta-NMR in organic samples



Phys. Rev. X 10, 041061 (2020)

Applications in biology (metal ion interactions) And nuclear physics: distribution of magnetisation

Radioactive molecules & Beyond SM



Why Molecules?

→ New windows into the study of the atomic nucleus, and the fundamental particles and interactions of nature!





Exotic nuclei \rightarrow Nuclear amplification (>10³)

→ Large Z, A → Max. Q_2Q_3 → Min. $(E_+-E_)$

3



[Gainley et al. Nature 497, 199 (2013)

Exotic molecules → Best of all worlds ... BUT, are experimentally unknown!



[Garcia Ruiz et al. Nature 581, 396 (2020)]

"Hot" molecules can be super cool!

nature

Article | Open Access | Published: 27 May 2020

Spectroscopy of short-lived radioactive molecules

R. F. Garcia Ruiz 🖂, R. Berger 🖂, [...] X. F. Yang

Nature 581, 396–400(2020) Cite this article

8120 Accesses | 145 Altmetric | Metrics



Material science



^{229m}Th: towards a nuclear clock with VUV and EC



Voir en français

ISOLDE takes a solid tick forward towards a nuclear clock

The observation at CERN's nuclear physics facility of a long-sought decay of the thorium-229 nucleus in a solid-state system is a key step towards a clock that could outclass today's most precise atomic clocks

24 MAY, 2023



The ISOLDE facility seen from above (Image: CERN)

Atomic clocks are the world's most precise timekeepers. Based on periodic transitions between two electronic states of an atom, they can track the passage of time with a precision as high as one part in a quintillion, meaning that they won't lose or gain a second over 30 billion years - more than twice the age of the Universe.

In a paper published today in Nature, an international team at CERN's nuclear physics facility, ISOLDE, reports a key step towards building a clock that would be based on a periodic transition between two states of an atomic nucleus - the nucleus of an isotope of the element thorium, thorium-229.

Such a nuclear clock could be more precise than today's most precise atomic clocks, thanks to the different size and constituents of a nucleus compared to those of an atom. In addition, it could serve as a sensitive tool with

Related Articles







View all news)

Article Observation of the radiative decay of the ²²⁹Th nuclear clock isomer

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-05894-z	Sandro Kraemer ^{1,2} , Janni Moens ³ , Michail					
Received: 20 September 2022	Kjeld Beeks ⁵ , Premaditya Chhetri ¹ , Katerina C Thomas E. Cocolios ¹ , João G. M. Correia ⁶ , Hild Reinhard Heinke ⁴ , Niyusha Hosseini ⁵ , Mark He					
Accepted: 28 February 2023						
Published online: 24 May 2023	Mustapha Laatiaoui ^{8,9,10} , Razvan Lica ^{4,11} , Goele M Clement Merckling ¹² Ling M. C. Pereira ³ Sebas					
Check for updates	Simon Sels ¹ , Peter G. Thirolf ² , Shandirai Malv					

anasakis-Kaklamanakis^{1,4}, Silvia Bara¹ vsalidis⁴. Arno Claesse De Witte¹, Rafael Ferrer¹, Sarina Geldhof se¹. Ulli Köster⁷. Yuri Kudrvavtsev lagchiels³, Vladimir Manea¹ tian Raeder^{9,10}, Thorsten Schumn 1 Tunhuma³, Paul Van Den Bergh¹, Piet Van Duppen¹, André Vantomme³, Matthias Verlinde¹, Renan Villarreal³ & Ulrich Wahl

The radionuclide thorium-229 features an isomer with an exceptionally low excitation energy that enables direct laser manipulation of nuclear states. It constitutes one of the leading candidates for use in next-generation optical clocks¹⁻³. This nuclear clock will be a unique tool for precise tests of fundamental physics⁴⁻⁹. Whereas indirect experimental evidence for the existence of such an extraordinary nuclear state is substantially older¹⁰, the proof of existence has been delivered only recently by observing the isomer's electron conversion decay11. The isomer's excitation energy, nuclear spin and electromagnetic moments, the electron conversion lifetime and a refined energy of the isomer have been measured¹²⁻¹⁶. In spite of recent progress, the isomer's radiative decay, a key ingredient for the development of a nuclear clock, remained unobserved. Here, we report the detection of the radiative decay of this low-energy isomer in thorium-229 (229mTh). By performing vacuum-ultraviolet spectroscopy of 229mTh incorporated into large-bandgap CaF2 and MgF2 crystals at the ISOLDE facility at CERN, photons of 8.338(24) eV are measured, in agreement with recent measurements14-16 and the uncertainty is decreased by a factor of seven. The half-life of 229m Th embedded in MgF₂ is determined to be 670(102) s. The observation of the radiative decay in a large-bandgap crystal has important consequences for the design of a future nuclear clock and the improved uncertainty of the energy eases the search for direct laser excitation of the atomic nucleus.

The ²²⁹Th isotope and its low-energy isomer have inspired research for conversion is expected to constitute the dominant decay path¹³. The decades and the prospect of developing an optical clock using a nuclear oretical estimates for the radiative decay half-life vary by an order of transition has intensified efforts⁵. A particular focus lies on the precise magnitude between about 10³ and 10⁴ s (refs. 19–21). For a dominatmeasurement of properties relevant for an optical clock involving the ingradiative decay, which is required for the clock application, the direct laser manipulation of nuclear states¹⁷. Values of the isomer's exci-non-radiative decay channels, for example, by means of electron contation energy reported in the literature have changed substantially over version decay, need to be sufficiently suppressed. The last requires time¹⁸. Recent measurements using conversion electron spectroscopy charged ^{229m}Th ions to have an electron binding energy larger than the of electrically neutral thorium-229 atoms (229 Th⁰) resulted in an excita-isomer's decay energy. tion energy of 8.28(17) eV, corresponding, for radiative decay, to phovacuum wavelength of 149(17) and 153.1(32) nm, respectively^{15,16}.

At present, two different routes towards a nuclear clock are being tons of a vacuum wavelength of 149.7(31) nm (ref. 14). Measurements pursued. These consist of an approach with triply charged thorium of gamma (y) ray energy differences of nuclear transitions feeding ions stored in a radio-frequency ion trap and a solid-state approach the isomer and the ground state, using a magnetic microcalorimeter, with a thorium-doped large-bandgap crystal^{15,22-24}. For the latter, revealed energies of 8.30(92) and 8.10(17) eV, with an associated theoretical studies suggest that, at specific lattice positions, the conversion-electron decay channel of the isomer is suppressed and A half-life of 7(1) µs has been reported for ^{229m}Th⁰ deposited onto the radiative decay channel becomes dominant^{25,26}. Despite various a microchannel plate detector, an environment in which electron attempts, the observation of the radiative decay of 229m Th following the

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706 | Nature | Vol 617 | 25 May 2023



MINIBALL: Pear shape in ²²⁴Ra

- Pear shape octupole deformation
 - ◆ Very rare nuclear shape
- Coulomb excitation with MINIBALL
 - Determine electric octupole transition strengths (direct measure of octupole correlations)
- Pear shape shown for the 1st time experimentally
 - ◆ Test of nuclear models











Radioisotopes and Nuclear Medicine



NATURE | NEWS FEATURE

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Radioisotopes: The medical testing crisis

With a serious shortage of medical isotopes looming, innovative companies are exploring ways to make them without nuclear reactors.

Richard Van Noorden

11 December 2013





1- Established isotopes: 'industrial' suppliers

99mTc, 18F, 123,125,131I,111In,90Y

2- Emerging isotopes: 'small' innovative suppliers

68Ga, 82Rb, 89Zr, 177Lu, 188Re

3- R&D isotopes: research labs

44,47Sc, 64,67Cu, 134Ce, 140Nd, 149,152,155,161Tb, 166Ho,195mPt, 211At, 212,213Bi, 223Ra,225Ac..

Medical Physics : ISOLDE and MEDICIS

14 years ago – now : Innovative radioisotopes

Tb	149	Tb 152				
4.2 m ε α 3.99 γ 796; 165	4.1 h ε α 3.97 β*1.8 γ 352; 165	4.2 m ly 283; 160 ε; β* y 344; 411	17.5 h ε β* 2.8 γ 344; 586; 271			
Tb 5.3	155 32 d	Tb 161 6.90 d				
ε γ 87; 105; 180, 262		β [.] 0.5; 0.6 γ 26; 49; 75 e [.]				

Matched pairs for theranostics





¹⁴⁹Tb



PET/CT scan of a AR42J tumor-bearing mouse performed 2 h after injection of ¹⁴⁹Tb-DOTANOC

Muller et al., EJNMMI Radiopharmacy and Chemistry, (2016) 1:5.

Logistics: The Travel Challenge : ¹⁴⁹Tb



CERN-MEDICIS: new Facility for medical isotopes (and solid state/materials?)





Dy 150 7.2 m	Dy 151 17 m	Dy 152 2.4 h	Dy 153 6.29 h	Dy 154 3.0 · 10 ⁶ a	Dy 155 10.0 h	Dy 156 0.056	Dy 157 8.1 h	Dy 158 0.095	Dy 159 144.4 d	Dy 160 2.329	Dy 161 18.889	Dy 162 25.475
<; β ⁺ α 4.23 γ 397 α	<; α 4.07 γ 386; 49; 546; 176 g; m	e n 3.63 y 257 g	<; β* α 3.46 γ81; 214; 100: 254	a 2.87	⁶ β ⁺ 0.9; 1.1 γ 227	α33 05 α <0.009	е у 328	ar 33 ση. α <0.006	ε γ 58; e σ 8000	וד 60 ידה, נו < 0.0003	σ 600 σ _{8. α} <1E-6	et 170
Tb 149 42 m 4.1 h 4 5 47 4 3 99 17796; 1282; 105	Tb 150 5.8 m 3.67 h 1* 4.3* 3.1; 1400; e 3.49 807; e 3.49 807; 1 930; 609. 468.	Tb 151 25 s 1726 h 149; 4 341 4 344 4 344 1 345 1 345	Tb 152 42 m 17.5 h h 200 s 100	Tb 153 2.34 d	Tb 154 23 h 9.9 h 211 (2) + 4 8 367; 1773; 1723 1420; 946; 1274 1420; 446; 1274	Tb 155 5.32 d	Tb 156	Tb 157 99 a	Tb 158 10.5 s 180 s h_(110) s ⁻ y ⁻ y ⁻ y ⁻ y ⁻ y ⁻ y ⁻ y ⁻ y	Tb 159 100	Tb 160 72.3 d β ⁻ 0.6; 1.7 γ 879; 299; 966 σ 570	Tb 161 6.90 d β 0.5; 0.6 γ26; 49; 75
Gd 148 74.6 a	Gd 149 9.28 d	Gd 150 1.8 · 10 ⁶ a	Gd 151 120 d	Gd 152 0.20 1.1 · 10 ¹⁴ a	Gd 153 239.47 d	Gd 154 2.18	Gd 155 14.80	Gd 156 20.47	Gd 157 15.65	Gd 158 24.84	Gd 159 18.48 h	Gd 160 21.86
α 3.183 σ 14000	γ 150; 299; 347	a 2.72	γ 154; 243; 175	α 2.14; σ 700 σ _{0, α} <0.007	σ 20000 σ _{h, α} 0.03	a 60	σ. α 0.00008	<i>σ</i> −2.0	σ254000 σ _{n, α} < 0.05	#2.3	β 1.0 γ 364; 58	σ1.5

MEDICIS isotope production charge



Animation: V. Barozier

Mass separation as applied in MEDICIS in a snapshot



From CERN- MEDICIS to the lab/Hospital



(Countries: BE, CH, FR, PK, PT, LV, UK)

How to supply "novel" radionuclides with mass separation

 PRISMAP proposes to federate a consortium of high energy cyclotrons, research reactors, and isotope mass separation facilities in Europe.



Economics, Innovators

PRISMAP – The European medical radionuclides programme (2021-2025) <u>https://medical-radionuclides.eu</u>

Achievements in 2022:

• 15 projects for biomedical research with novel radionuclides were selected for services across Europe

www.prismap.eu/access/user-projects (BE, CZ, DE, ES, FR, IT, PT, UK)





 PRISMAP is invited to present research needs in the field of novel biomedical radionuclides to the EU Commissioner for research and education Mariya Gabriel

