

RADIOACTIVE ION SOURCES

An Introduction

http://radchem.nevada.edu/

Ion Source for Radioactive Ion Beams (RIB) facilities

- Motivation: study exotic nuclei far from stability
- Two exotic RIB production method:
	- Isotope Separation On-Line (ISOL)
	- Projectile separation

Simple Service Property

terra incognita

neutron stars

Nuclear Landscape

stable nuclei

neutrons

known nuclei

protons

1+ Radioactive source for ISOL

- Physics Requirement: Exotic nuclides may have a short half-life. The radioactive atoms have to be ionized and transferred to the beam line as fast as possible.
- Source Technical requirement:
	- Radiation hard (even 1 MGy)
	- Compact
	- Simple and reliable in use (no maintenance access due to the strong radiation level)

As an example: after the CERN production target, the following 1+ ion sources are mainly used:

- 1. Surface Ion Source (SIS) (see ion source section)
- 2. Resonant Ionization Laser Ion Source (RILIS)
- 3. Forced Electron Beam Induced Arc Discharge (FEBIAD)

(Slide H. Koivisto, JUAS2013)

Surface Ion Source with ISOL-target

- •Production target can produce large variety of different nuclei having the same mass
- •Produced 1+ ions having same mass cannot be separated by a dipole magnet
- •Some "selectivity" can be made by a tape system

How to separate Iso-mass radioactive atoms?

• Sometimes only a very small amount of the element of interest is produced. This is a great problem if other elements having the same mass and higher abundance have been produced! For example:

Resonance Ionization Laser Ion Source (RILIS)

- The co-produced iso-mass radioactive atoms have specific electronic level states
- Lasers can help selecting the atom of interest using any specific resonant excitation state having a much higher cross section than others
- When using several appropriate lasers, **only the element of interest is ionized**!

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Resonance Ionization example

- Order of magnitudes photo-ionization cross sections:
	- •non-resonant (direct ionization): σ = 10⁻¹⁹ - 10⁻¹⁷ cm²
	- resonant: σ = 10⁻¹⁰ cm²
	- auto-ionizing states (AIS): σ = 10⁻¹⁴ cm²
- Several laser wavelength are often required

Forced Electron Beam Induced Arc Discharge (FEBIAD) ion source

•FEBIAD are used for example at CERN and TRIUMF to produce radioactive 1+ beams at ~µA intensity level.

- the electrons are produced by a hot cathode
- electrons are accelerated through a grid
- Electron impact ionization of vapors emitted by the hot anode

Charge breeding $(1 + \rightarrow Q +)$

• The charge breeding technique consists to increase the ion beam charge state online

- Motivations to increase the radioactive ion charge state Q:
	- Higher energy reachable
	- Shorter accelerator dimension (COST REDUCTION)
	- Faster transport to the experiment
	- •• Furthermore, for LINAC, the RFQ radius decreases with the $\frac{Q}{A}$
	- LINAC cost \sim length \times radiusⁿ $1 < n < 2$

The 3 Charge breeding techniques

- Stripper foil
	- A foil is placed in the beam to multiionize the beam
		- Several charge states extracted
		- Mean charge state function of the beam velocity
		- Work with high currents, but Emittance increase
		- Not discussed here
- ECR charge breeder
	- A decelerated 1+ ion beam passes through a plasma with hot electrons
- EBIS charge breeder
	- A decelerated 1+ beam is trapped in an EBIS and crossed an intense electron beam

Charge breeding Yield:

$$
\eta = \frac{I(q+)}{q \cdot I(1+)}
$$

East electrons

Slow electrons

Q+

 $Q+$

Fast ions

Slow ions

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ECR charge breeder

- \bullet Ions are decelerated down to a few eV and cross slowly a $10^{12} e^- / cm^3$ plasma with hot electrons
	- •Ions are naturally decelerated to the ion plasma temperature
	- •Ions collide with other ions (coulomb collision) and scatter => memory loss
	- •Ions are ionized on flight
	- • Ions are captured by the plasma, and finally extracted after having being multiionized

ECR Charge breeder

• Optimization of ion beam capture: ΔV plot

• The 1+ beam emittance and energy needs to be carefully tuned to grant plasma capture, specially for condensables which are lost if they touch the ion source wall

ECR Charge Breeder features

- •1+ beam intensity up to \sim 100 eµA
- \bullet Continuous Work operation
- \bullet Breeding time \sim 3-10 ms/charge
- \bullet Breeding efficiencies in the range : $n \sim 2 - 18\%$
- • Extracted beam contaminated by any chemical species present in the source and vacuum (source operation ε 10-7 mbar)
	- C,N,O,H,Fe,Cu,Al,Ar,Kr,Xe…
- Requires a very high resolution mass separator downstream to purify the beam

 $\eta =$ $I(q+)$ $q.I(1+)$ Charge breeding Yield:

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EBIS Charge Breeding

- Bunch of 1+ ions are introduced in an electron beam ion source
	- The ions are electrostatically confined and are ionized by an intense electron beam

gas filled cylindrical Penning trap

beam in

Ion cooling Prior to EBIS injection

- Prior to EBIS injection, the 1+ RIBs needs to pass throught ^a Penning trap to:
	- Accumulate the beam
	- Bunch the beam
	- Cool down the ions to reduce the emittance

- Breeding time τ ~1-5 ms/charge
- Breeding efficiency η ~5-20%
- •• Limited extracted beam intensity : $10^9 - 10^{10}$ ions/s (~1 enA)
- Very low contamination (P~10-¹⁰ mbar)
- Requires a beam cooling stage (Penning trap)

Source : F. Wenander CAS 2012

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