Recent highlights in the measurements of nuclear charge radii of short-lived isotopes

Ruben de Groote YKIS2022b conference, 23-27 May 2022



A rich dataset...

- Shell effects
- Odd-even staggering
- Gradual deformation effects
- Sudden shape changes



. .

... obtained worldwide...



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with too many highlights...

- Constraining equation of state with charge radii data
 - ⁶⁸Ni,mirror pair ⁵⁴Fe-⁵⁴Ni

S. Kauffmann et al., PRL 124, 132502 (2020) S. V. Pineda et al, PRL 127, 182503 (2021)

- Small-scale effects like odd-even staggering
 - Neutron-rich copper isotopes
 - R. P. de Groote et al., Nat. Phys. 16, 620–624 (2020)
- Understanding charge radius kinks at shell closures
 - Sn, Hg, ...

C. Gorges et al, PRL 122, 192502 (2019) T. Day Goodacre et al, PRL 126, 032502 (2021)

- Interplay of coulomb and strong force in superheavies
 - No S. Raeder et al., PRL 120, 232503 (2018)

• many more...



Extracting nuclear charge radii using laser spectroscopy

- Isotope shift:
 - Atomic levels shift due to changing mass and size



• Knowledge of atomic factors enables extraction of nuclear charge radius changes





KM Lynch et al. Physical Review C 97 (2), 024309

The calcium region





Fig.: Bertsch, Dean, Nazarewicz, SciDAC review (2007)

8

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Nuclear radii in the calcium region

- Measurements at ISOLDE
- Collinear laser spectroscopy
 - Velocity spread of thermal ensemble of atoms
 - => doppler effect
 - => isotope shift not resolved
 - Accelerate to a few keV/u: velocity spread compresses

Level scheme for RILIS Proton beam High-resolution ionization scheme resonance excitation mass separator Uranium carbide Hyperfine structure target 655.0 nm spectrum 4p2 1D. on source RFQ cooler and 393.4 nm 585.7 nm buncher 4s4p 1P, 4s 251/2 422.7 nm Fabry-Pérot 4s2 150 interferometer He:Ne Ca Nd:YVO, hotomultiplier Electrostatic deflectors Ti:Sa laser SHG 796 nm 100 M 0000 cw: 393 nm Lenses Protons • Ca atom • Ca ion Doppler-tuning region

• Workhorse of the field!



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The chain of Ca isotopes

- Extending data to neutron-rich isotopes reveals further discrepancies, even with NNLO_{sat}
- This remains an open problem for ab-initio theory





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The chain of Ca isotopes

- Proton-rich nuclei not available in ISOLDE...
- NSCL: projectile-fragmentation reaction
- Spectroscopy down to ³⁶Ca!





AJ Miller, Nature Physics volume 15, pages 432–436 (2019)

The chain of Ca isotopes

- Proton-rich nuclei not available in ISOLDE...
- NSCL: projectile-fragmentation reaction
- Spectroscopy down to ³⁶Ca!
- Density functional calculations
 - BCS approximation: unbound singleproton orbits get occupied
 => radii too large
 - HFB: spatial localization of nuclear density
 - => good match obtained, also n-rich side!



Laser spectroscopy of K (Z=19)



CRIS:

- Collinear = doppler-free
- RIS = versatile, efficient

Challenges:

- Large isobaric contamination
- Low yields
- Changing proton current
 → changing production and background

At mass 52:

- >10⁶ pps contamination
- 300 pps ⁵²K
- Beta-detection: remove stable contaminants



Results

- CRIS: combines collinear geometry with selective laser ionization spectroscopy
- Measurement successful!
 - Spin assigned I=2
 - Smooth continuation of the trend
- Discrepancy for ab-initio work persists
 - Newer NNLO_{go} interaction also does not produce slope of the increase beyond N=28



Further probing with the K (Z=19) chain

- N=32 has been reported as a potential new shell closure near Z=20
 - Energy gaps obtained from binding energies show clear increase at well-established shell closures and N=32 for Ca and K
- Charge radii provide a test here: shell crossing corresponds to change in radius slope
 - Absence of clear effect at N=32...



In-source laser spectroscopy

Pushing methods to short lifetimes and low yields with in-source laser spectroscopy



Pushing far from stability – in-source laser spectroscopy





- Introducing lasers into the ion source, to achieve stepwise laser ionization
- Enables the furthest reach from stability
- Price to pay: resolution (limits applicability to particularly lucky elements)



In-source laser spectroscopy of silver



- Trap-assisted laser spectroscopy for mass purification
- Towards ultimate sensitivity
- Detection rate ⁹⁶Ag: 1 count / 5 minutes!
- Challenges modern DFT approaches near ¹⁰⁰Sn



M. Reponen, R.P. de Groote et al., Nature Communications 12 (2021) 4596

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Data: IGISOL laboratory (JYFL)

⁹⁵Ag

In-source laser spectroscopy of Hg and Bi

- Heavy isotopes: perfect for in-source laser spectroscopy
- Covering >10 orders of magnitude in production rate!
- Requires versatile detection systems to handle different detection rates and S/B conditions
 - alfa-decay
 - fast high-resolution mass separation (10⁻⁵) with MR-TOF
 - Faraday cup for stables





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B. March et al., Nature Physics 14, 1163 (2018), S. Sels et al., Phys. Rev. C 99, 044306 (2019)

Shape staggering of Hg and Bi

FIRST large scale shell model calculations in this heavy mass region (Otuska et al.)

- → origin of the staggering is understood microscopically !
- → Shape change from oblate to prolate



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To wrap up...

Some concluding remarks

- · Nuclear chart has been successfully explored extensively with optical techniques
 - Challenges remain: the most exotic, most short-lived, challenging chemistry, complex or unknown atomic structure, ...
- New and efficient techniques are being developed to access to the most exotic isotopes (gas-jet, PI-LIST, ...)
 - Collaboration between different specialists of different low energy beam techniques is vital
 - Use of diverse techniques is vital
- · Exploration of different facilities opens new frontiers
 - e.g. IGISOL: access refractory isotopes
 - e.g. NSCL/FRIB: fragmentation reactions
 - e.g. GANIL/S3LEB
- With precision comes additional information!
 - Measurement schemes and setups tailored to specific goals are very worthwhile



Spectroscopy in ion traps

- Injecting ions into an ion trap enables much longer interaction times
- More careful and delicate spectroscopy enables much higher precision measurements
- So far, however, no radii...



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Credit: J. Hur/Massachusetts Institute of Technology

A nonlinearity of the King plot can indicate:

 physics beyond the Standard Model (SM) in the form of a new bosonic force carrier (a possible candidate for Dark Matter)

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- or arise from higher-order nuclear effects within the SM.
- Precision requirements: sub-Hz! (current RIB application: typically 100 kHz)



I. Counts et al., PRL 125, 123002 (2020) C. Solaro et al., PRL 125, 123003 (2020)





Small detour past Z=29...

- Neutron-rich isotopes ⁷⁶⁻⁷⁸Cu studied for the first time in highresolution
 - Three additional isotopes in reach due to superior efficiency and S/B ratio
 - Background-free measurements achieved for ^{75,76,77}Cu
 - ⁷⁸Cu could be studied (half life 330 ms):
 < 20 pps, with >10⁷ contaminants in the beam!
- Detailed investigation of odd-even staggering...



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- Detailed investigation of odd-even staggering...
 - OES strongly reduced beyond N=46
 - Can understood microscopically from Fayans DFT and IM-SRG with interactions from χ-EFT (fitted to A<4 properties)
 => emerges automatically





³⁰ R. P. de Groote, et al. Nat. Phys. 16, 620–624 - 2020

Charge radii of nickel: constraining the neutron skin

- Theoretical coupled-cluster calculations with chiral-EFT interactions
 - correlation between dipole polarizability and charge radius
 - including 3 particle -3 hole correlations (full line) leads to softer dipole polarizability and slightly larger charge radius



31



=> measure the charge radius, exploit the correlation to find polarizability.

Then, constrain neutron radius and neutron skin of ⁶⁸Ni!

S. Kauffmann et al., PRL 124, 132502 (2020), Coupled Cluster calculations Schwenk, Hagen et al.

Charge radii of nickel: constraining the neutron skin

- Exploiting correlation between charge radius difference of ⁵⁴Ni-⁵⁴Fe, and the symmetry energy parameter *L* in the equation of state
- Constraint is consistent with PREX measurements and neutron star merger GW170817data





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32