# Nuclear Structure of the Heaviest Elements revealed by High-Precision Mass Measurements



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## **Future Directions in SHE Research at GSI**



Courtesy Ch.E. Düllmann

# **Nuclear Shells: Magic Numbers in SHE?**



M. Bender et al., Phys. Lett. B 515 (2001) 42





## **Importance of Masses for Z > 100**



#### high-precision mass measurements provide

- accurate absolute binding energies to map nuclear shell effects
- anchor points to pin down decay chains
- ➡ Studies the nuclear structure evolution
- Benchmark theoretical nuclear models



## **Nuclear Structure Indicators from Masses**



indication for shell closure at N = 152 & N = 162

Data from Atomic Mass Evaluation 2012: M. Wang et al., CPC(HEP & NP), 2012, 36(12): 1603–2014





## **Nuclear Structure Indicators from Masses**

two-neutron separation energy

$$S_{2n}(N,Z) = M(N,Z) - M(N-2,Z) + 2 m_n$$



#### indication for shell closure at N = 152 & N = 162

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# **Tools for Direct Mass Measurements**



β-decays: masses from long-decay chains MUST be replaced by direct measurements Proton and alpha decays: needed for fast proton emitters, super heavy elements Reactions: (p,d) for masses (+excited states) of unbound nuclei beyond p-dripline





Courtesy G. Bollen

# **Principle of Penning Traps**

#### **PENNING trap**

B

- Strong homogeneous magnetic field
- Weak electric 3D quadrupole field



## Synthesis and Separation by SHIP



# **SHIPTRAP Setup**









## **SHIPTRAP** Performance



Mass resolving power of  $m/\delta m \approx 100,000$ in purification trap:

 $\Rightarrow$  separation of isobars

Mass resolving power of  $m/\delta m \approx 1,000,000$ in measurement trap:

 $\Rightarrow$  separation of isomers





## **Direct mass measurements with SHIPTRAP**



## **SHIPTRAP Results vs. Atomic Mass Evaluation**







## **Pinning Down** $\alpha$ **-Decay Chains**



## Masses of even-even N-Z = 48 and N-Z = 50 Nuclei



courtesy F. P. Hessberger

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# **SHIPTRAP: Probing the Strength of Shell Effects**

# **Direct Mapping of Nuclear Shell Effects in the Heaviest Elements**

E. Minaya Ramirez,<sup>1,2</sup> D. Ackermann,<sup>2</sup> K. Blaum,<sup>3,4</sup> M. Block,<sup>2\*</sup> C. Droese,<sup>5</sup> Ch. E. Düllmann,<sup>6,2,1</sup> M. Dworschak,<sup>2</sup> M. Eibach,<sup>4,6</sup> S. Eliseev,<sup>3</sup> E. Haettner,<sup>2,7</sup> F. Herfurth,<sup>2</sup> F. P. Heßberger,<sup>2,1</sup> S. Hofmann,<sup>2</sup> J. Ketelaer,<sup>3</sup> G. Marx,<sup>5</sup> M. Mazzocco,<sup>8</sup> D. Nesterenko,<sup>9</sup> Yu. N. Novikov,<sup>9</sup> W. R. Plaß,<sup>2,7</sup> D. Rodríguez,<sup>10</sup> C. Scheidenberger,<sup>2,7</sup> L. Schweikhard,<sup>5</sup> P. G. Thirolf,<sup>11</sup> C. Weber<sup>11</sup>



Experimental

Muntian (mic-mac) Z=114 N=184

Möller FRDM Z=114 N=184

TW-99 Z=120 N=172

Z=126 N=184

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SkM\*

## **Probing the Strength of Shell Effects**

#### Evolution of N = 152 shell closure



Data taken from Atomic Mass Evaluation (AME) 2012: M. Wang et al.





## **Probing the Strength of Shell Effects**

N = 152 isotones



Data taken from Atomic Mass Evaluation (AME) 2012: M. Wang et al.





# **Upgrades and Combinations**

- Novel experiments
  - trap-assisted decay spectroscopy
  - laser spectroscopy (gas cell, gas jet, trap)
  - gas phase chemistry
- Increase efficiency and sensitivity
  - novel measurement schemes (PI-ICR)
  - single-ion mass measurements (FT-ICR)
    - $(\rightarrow \text{TRIGA-TRAP, TRAPSENSOR})$
  - cryogenic gas cell



# **Cryogenic Gas Cell**



#### Advantages compared to 1st generation gas cell:

- Larger stopping volume and Coaxial injection of reaction products
- Higher cleanliness due to cryogenic operation
- Larger gas density at a lower absolute pressure

C. Droese et al. NIM B 338, 126 (2014)





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C. Droese et al. NIM B 338, 126 (2014)



## **Recent Breakthrough**



## **Phase-Imaging Ion-Cyclotron-Resonance Method**



# **PI-ICR vs. ToF-ICR in experiment**



### <sup>48</sup>Ca Mass Measurements



Proposal to integrate new "Superheavy Element" subcollaboration in NUSTAR @ FAIR submitted to Board of Representatives (Summer '14)

# Focus: synthesis, nuclear structure, atomic physics, nuclear chemistry experiments in region Z ≥ 100

Existing facilities: SHIP, TASCA, SHIPTRAP, Chemistry beamline Developments for high-intensity cw-Linac ongoing (HIM, GSI, U Frankfurt)

#### Complementary to existing NUSTAR activities at Super-FRS

Organizational Structure: Spokesperson: Deputy: Technical Director:

R.-D. Herzberg (Univ. Liverpool) M. Block (GSI/HIM/JGU) A. Yakushev (GSI)

Currently includes 9 German and 17 international institutes

Endorsed by NUSTAR Collaboration Committee: submission to FAIR management:

Sept. 25, 2014 summer 2015

# SHE research 2020+

## E<sub>Beam</sub> up to 7.3 MeV/u Length: 13.5 m





- Atomic structure beyond No (Z=102)
- Experiments with single SHE-ions (e.g. chemistry + mass spec)
- Chemical studies towards Eka-Rn
- New SHE molecules, their stability, formation kinetics
- New period in the periodic table



#### Mapping the island of stability:

- New elements with Z>118
- Neutron-rich isotopes in transfer reactions •
- Weak EC decay channels towards center of island
- Direct mapping of shell evolution towards N=184

# First components – October 2014











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## **SHIPTRAP Collaborators**



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D. Rudolph, C. Scheidenberger, S. Schmidt, L. Schweikhard,
P. Thirolf, G. Vorobjev, C. Weber, ...



# **Summary and Conclusions**

- State-of-the-art mass spectrometry provides ses of exotic nuclides with high accuracy anchor point in the set of exotic nuclides with high accuracy anchor point is a set
- High-precision mass measurements probing shell effects and tracking the evolution of nuclear are in the heaviest elements
- Technical and methodical importants will extend the reach towards more exotic nuclivity with higher *Z*
- SHE research remain interstone of science program at GSI/FAIR
- New cw-linac v v serve competitiveness in the future

