Pursuing the most neutron-rich nuclei, status and prospectives

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The production of the most neutron-rich nuclei by the fragmentation of $^{48}$Ca and $^{76}$Ge beams at Michigan State will be presented. The cross sections were measured for a large range of nuclei including fifteen new isotopes that are the most neutron-rich nuclides of magnesium, aluminum, silicon, and the elements from chlorine to manganese. The observation of $^{42}$Al was itself surprising. The cross sections of several new nuclei were found to be enhanced relative to a simple thermal evaporation framework, previously shown to describe similar production cross sections. This may be an indication that precursor excited nuclei in the region around $^{62}$Ti that decay to the observed nuclei are more stable than predicted by current mass models and may be evidence for a new island of inversion similar to that centered on $^{31}$Na. The next generation radioactive beam facility, FRIB, for the United States will be constructed at Michigan State University. A brief overview of the proposed facility and the prospective for future studies of the most neutron-rich nuclei will be presented.

$^1$This work supported by the NSF under cooperative agreement PHY-06-06007.