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Spectroscopy of r-process nuclei using multi-nucleon transfer reaction

Y. HIRAYAMA¹, IPNS, KEK

The β -decay properties of the neutron-rich isotopes with neutron number $N = 126$, as progenitors on the r-process path forming the third peak ($A \sim 195$) in the r-abundance element distribution, are supposed to play a critical role for better understanding where the heavy elements such as gold and platinum were made. We will discuss our experimental proposal to study β -decay properties and nuclear structures around $N = 126$ nuclei. These isotopes could be obtained via the multi-nucleon transfer reactions induced by low-energy intense neutron-rich radioactive ion beams, such as ^{140}Xe and/or ^{144}Xe generated by the facility based on the ISOL and post-acceleration scheme. Since there has not been the facilities in the world yet, as the first step, we are going to produce ^{202}Os ($Z = 76$, $N = 126$), which has not been produced in any other facilities, by using the multi-nucleon transfer reactions in ^{136}Xe (stable beam) + ^{198}Pt (target) collision. The Pt target ($\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$) is used as the window of the gas catcher for collecting all reaction products by the collision, from which the ^{202}Os will be extracted as singly-charged ions by laser resonance ionization and transferred to a detection chamber after being mass-separated. In this way, both the element (atomic number Z) and mass (A) separations could be possible, allowing study the products of rare reaction channels. The mass separated isotopes are implanted into a tape transport system, which allows us to measure their beta-decays by multi-layered plastic scintillation detectors and germanium detectors of GRETINA.

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