



# Radioactive molecules as laboratories for fundamental physics

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MIT

TRIUMF Science Week  
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# Radioactive molecules as laboratories for fundamental physics

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- Why (radioactive) Molecules?
- Recent Results (RaF)
- Summary & Outlook



# Radioactive Molecules

Nuclear EM  
structure

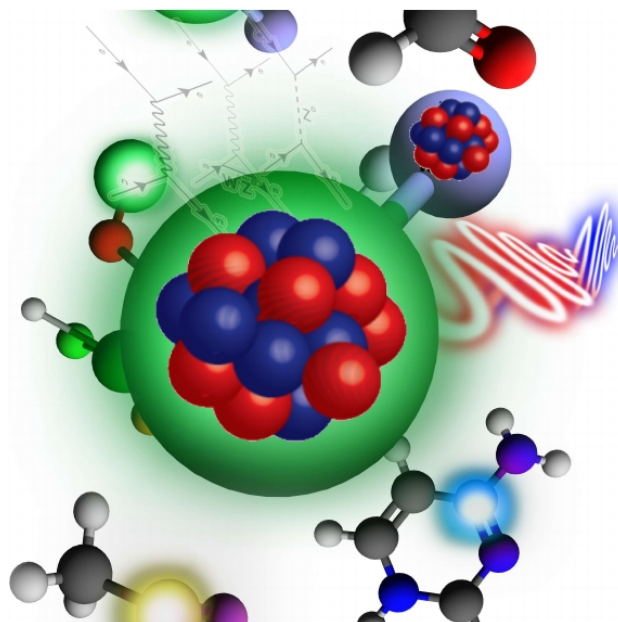
Astrophysics

Nuclear EW  
structure

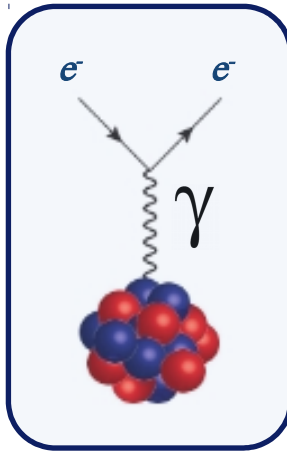
Nuclear  
chemistry

Fundamental  
symmetries

Quantum  
chemistry



# Why (radioactive) molecules?



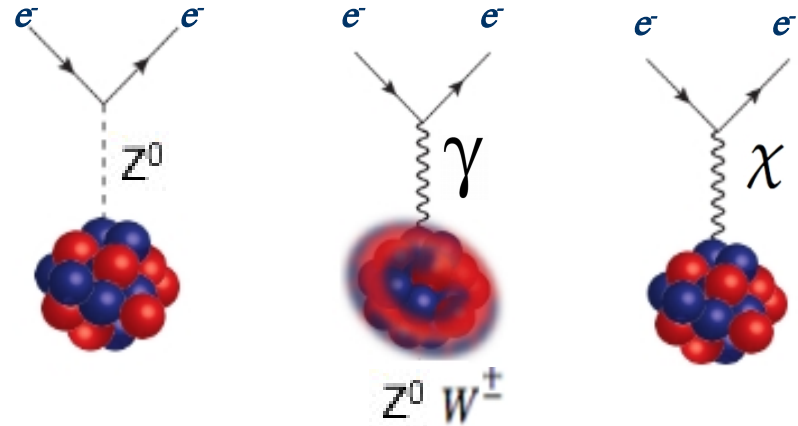
Long range

Electromagnetic structure

Atoms

$\langle r^2 \rangle, I, \mu, Q, \dots$

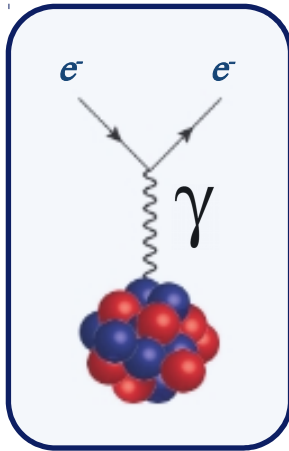
- Nuclear force  $\rightarrow$  QCD
- Emergence of nuclear phenomena
- Understanding of nuclear matter



Short range ( $< 0.1$  fm)

Electroweak structure

# Why (radioactive) molecules?



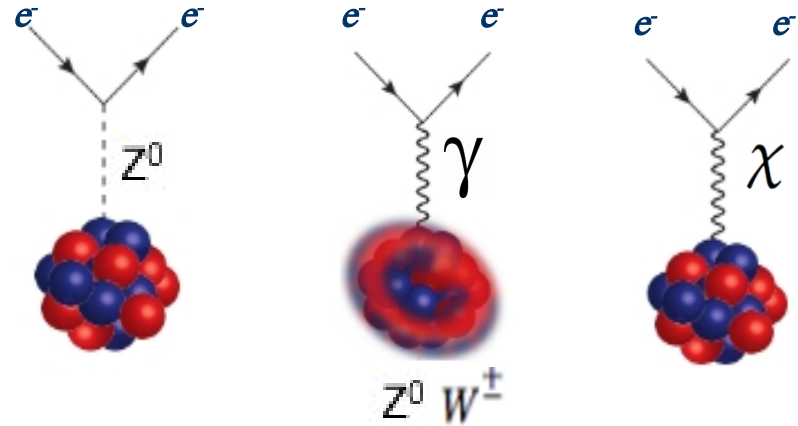
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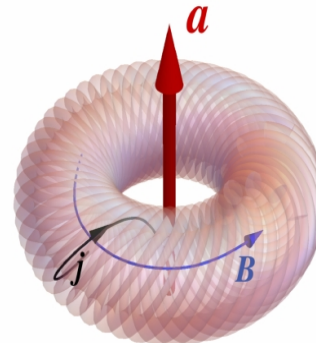
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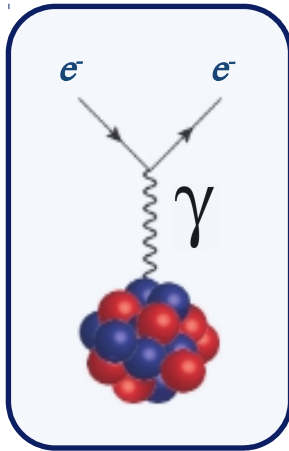
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[Safronova et al. RMP 90, 025008 (2018)]  
 [Wood et al. Science 275, 1759 (1997)]

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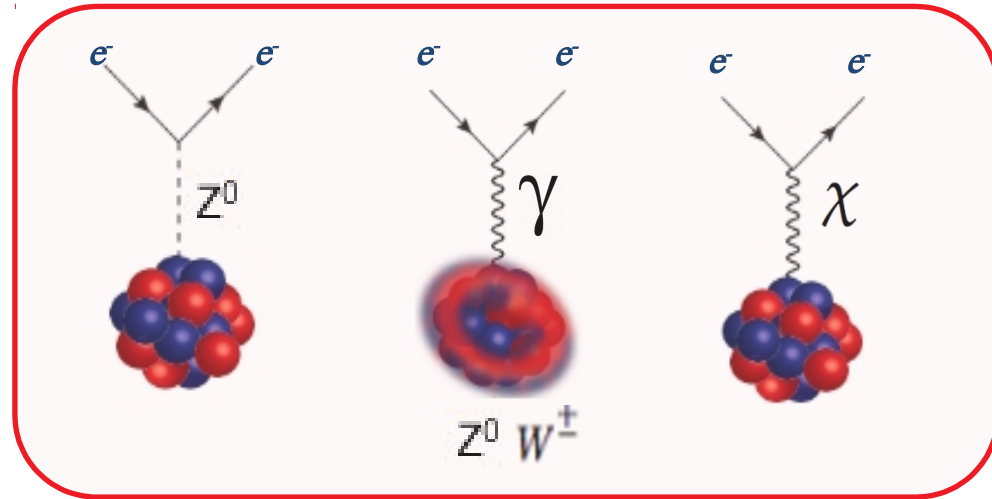
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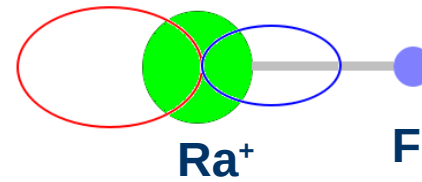
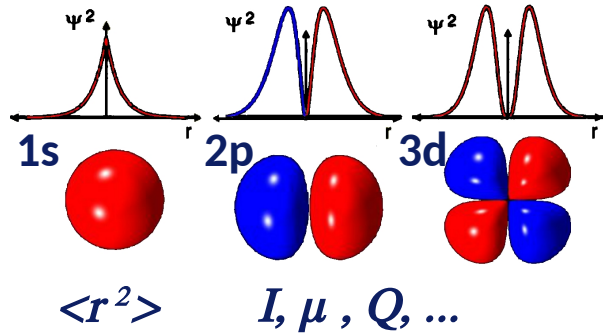
**Molecules**

$A_{AM}, eEDM, S_{schiff}, MQM$

- Fundamental symmetries, BSM physics
- Matter / Antimatter asymmetry
- Dark matter

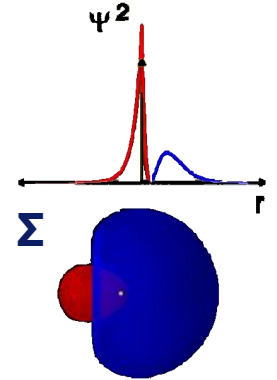
# Why (radioactive) molecules?

## Atoms



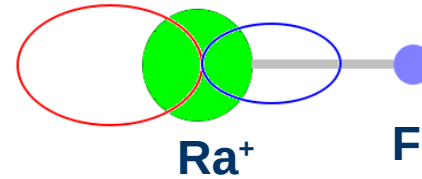
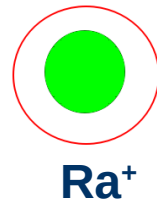
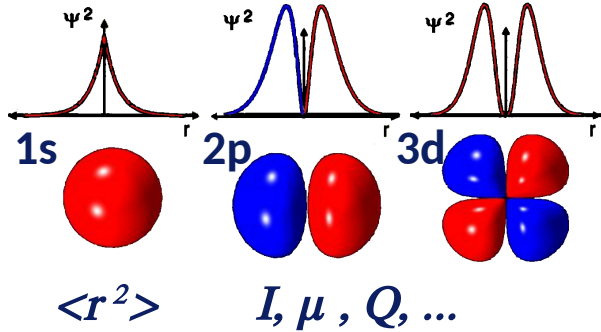
$A_{AM}$ ,  $eEDM$ ,  $S_{schiff}$ ,  $MQM$

## Molecules



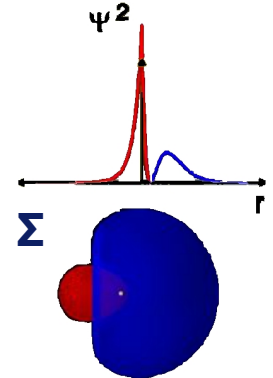
# Why (radioactive) molecules?

## Atoms



$A_{AM}$ ,  $eEDM$ ,  $S_{schiff}$ ,  $MQM$

## Molecules



$$E_{PNC} \sim \frac{\langle \text{P-odd} | H_w | \text{P-even} \rangle}{E_- - E_+}$$

Atoms:  $(E_- - E_+) \sim 1 \text{ eV}$

Molecules:  $(E_- - E_+) \sim 10^{-5} \text{ eV}$

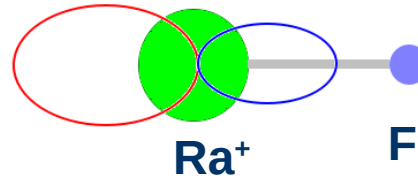
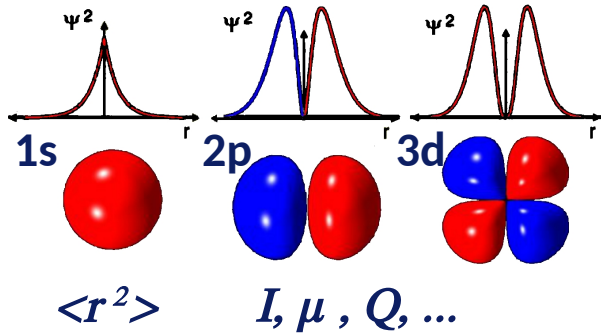
- Parity violation  $> 10^{11}$

[Phys Rev Lett 120, 142501 (2018)]  
 [Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 223201 (2017)]



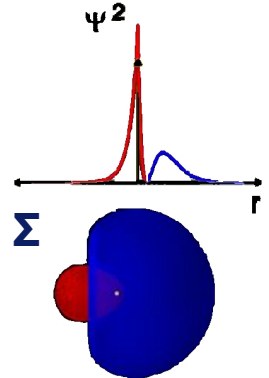
# Why (radioactive) molecules?

## Atoms



$A_{AM}, eEDM, S_{schiff}, MQM$

## Molecules



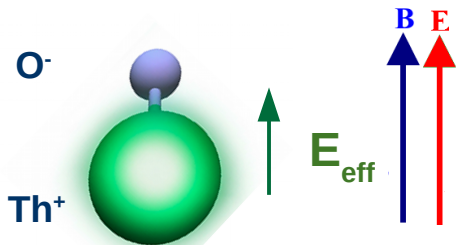
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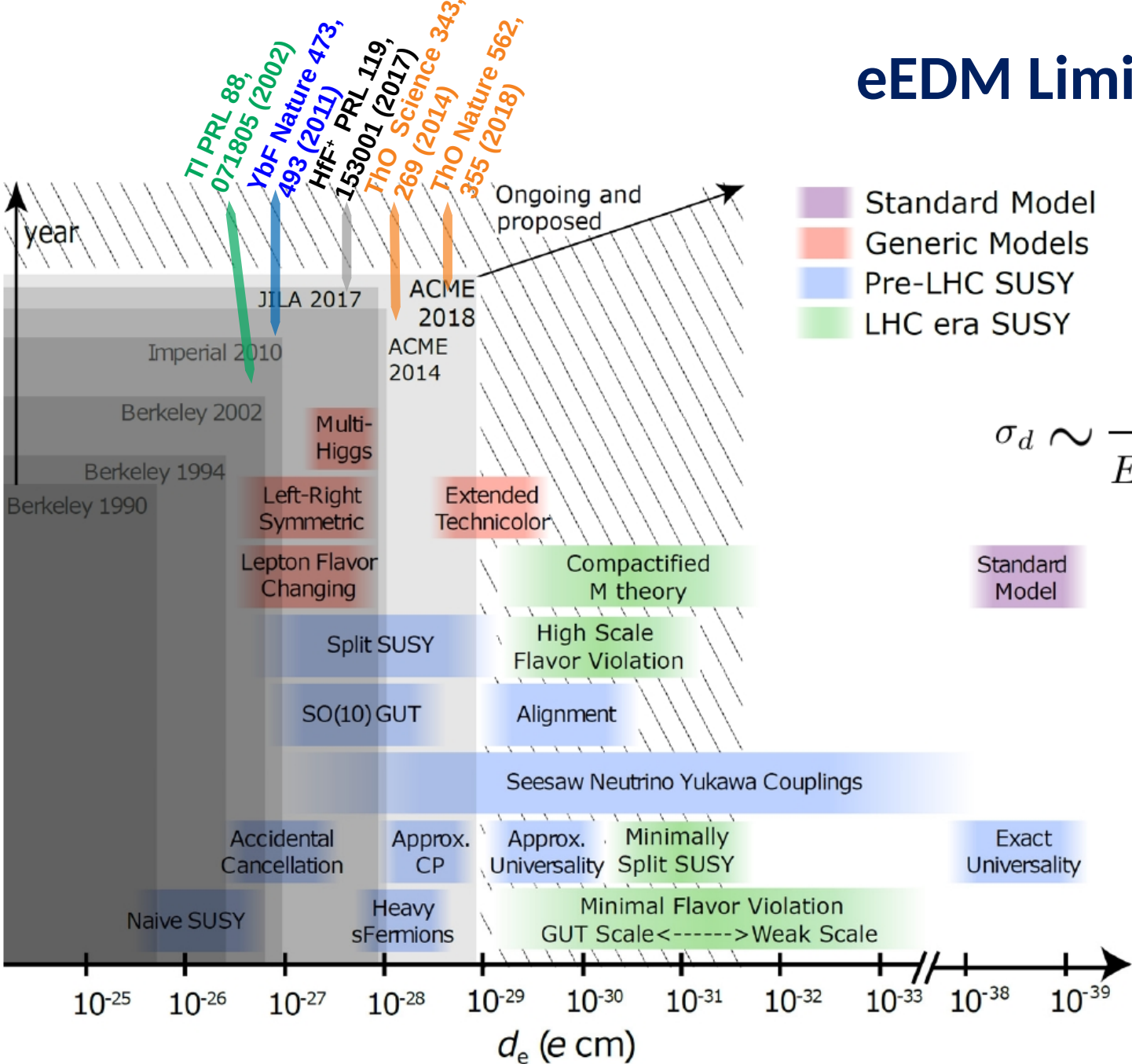


$E_{\text{ext}} \sim 1 \text{ V/cm}$   
 $E_{\text{eff}} \sim 80 \text{ GV/cm}$

[ACME, Nature 562, 355 (2018)]  
 [Baron et al. Science 343, 269 (2014)]  
 [Sandars Phys. Rev. Lett. 18, 1396 (1967)]

- $\sim Z^n$
- Parity and Time reversal violation  $> 10^3$

# eEDM Limits

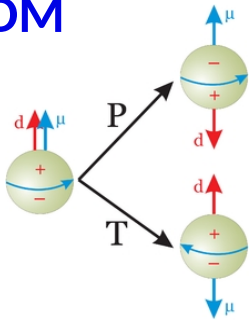


[Source: D. DeMille. Manipulating Quantum Systems: An Assessment of Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics in the United States (2019)]

# Why (radioactive) molecules?

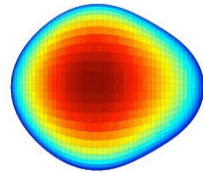
## P,T- violation

EDM



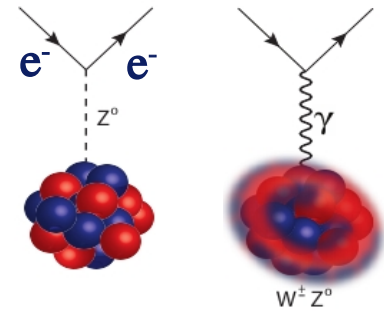
$$\sim Z^3 R(Z)$$

$S_{\text{schiff}}$



$$\sim Z^3 \beta_2 \beta_3 A^{2/3} / (E_+ - E_-)$$

## P- violation

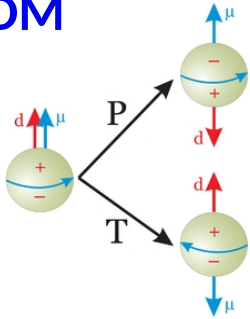


$$\sim Z^3 \quad \sim Z^2 A^{2/3} R(Z)$$

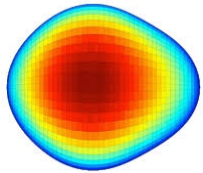
# Why (radioactive) molecules?

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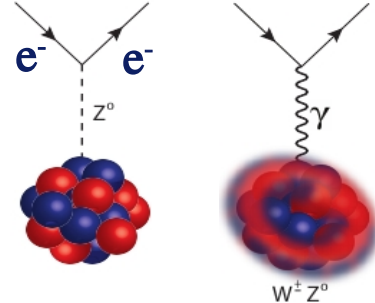
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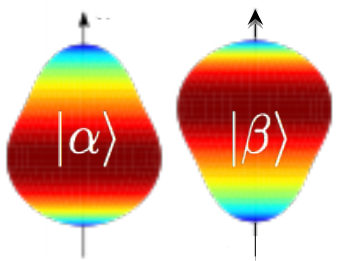
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## P- violation



$\sim Z^3 \quad \sim Z^2 A^{2/3} R(Z)$

[Gaffney et al. Nature 497, 199 (2013)]  
 [Parker et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 114, 233002 (2015)]



$^{225}\text{Ra}$   
 $\Delta E = 55 \text{ keV}$

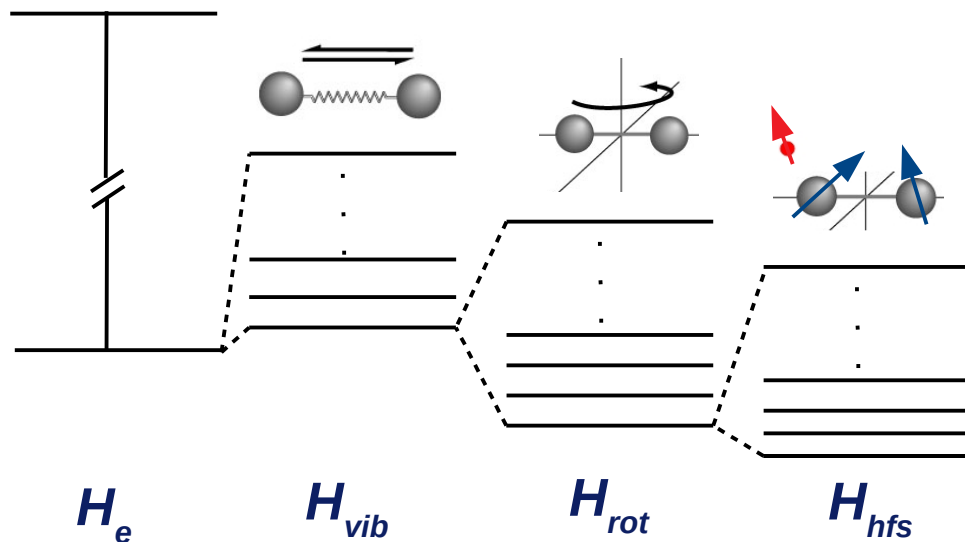
Radioactive nuclei

- Max.  $Z, A, I > 0$
- Max.  $\beta_2, \beta_3$
- Min.  $(E_+^N - E_-^N)$

# Radioactive molecules: Best of all worlds

# Recent Results (RaF)

*Collinear resonance ionization spectroscopy of Ra(Z=88)F molecules*  
 [Garcia Ruiz, Berger et al. CERN-INTC-2018-017 (2018)]



$$H_{mol} = H_e + H_{vib} + H_{rot} + H_{sr} + H_{hfs} + H_{PV} + H_{PTV}$$

Energy scales (eV):

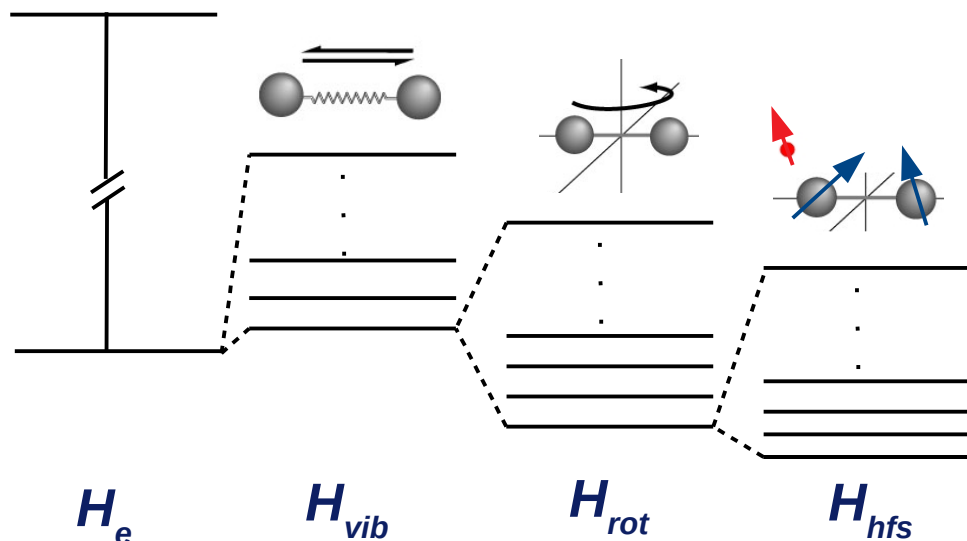
- $H_e$ :  $\sim 2$
- $H_{vib}$ :  $10^{-2}$
- $H_{rot}$ :  $10^{-5}$
- $H_{sr}$ :  $10^{-6}$
- $H_{hfs}$ :  $10^{-8}$
- $H_{PV}$ :  $< 10^{-12}$
- $H_{PTV}$ :  $< 10^{-15}$

$$\sigma_d \sim \frac{1}{E_{eff} \tau \sqrt{NT}}$$

$\sim Z^3$

# Recent Results (RaF)

*Collinear resonance ionization spectroscopy of Ra(Z=88)F molecules*  
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I. Low-lying structure?

II. Feasibility of **laser cooling**?

1. Dominant  $f_{00}$ ?

2. Short-lived excited state ( $T_{1/2}$ )?

3. Electronic states of lower energy (**E**)?

SrF: First evidence of laser cooling

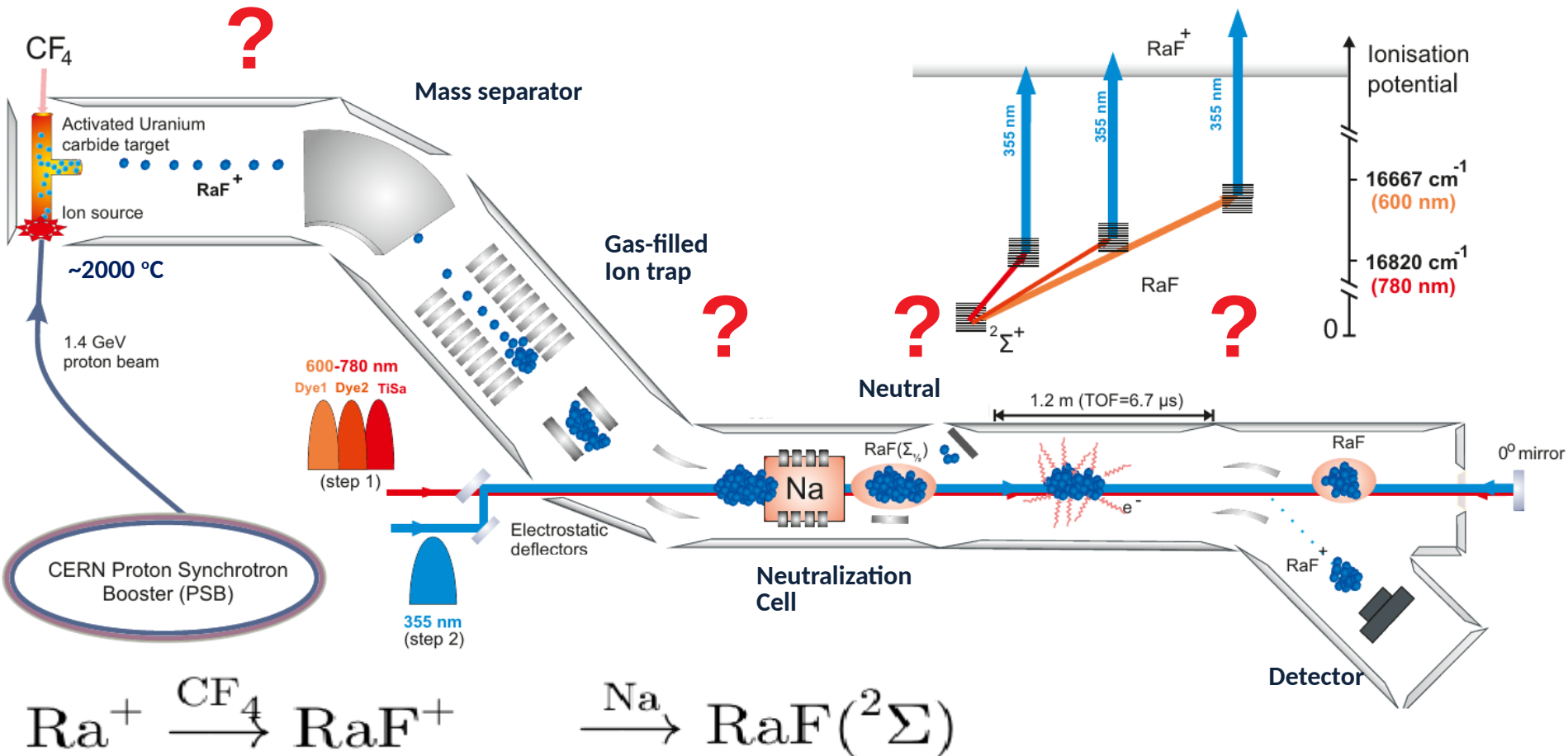
[Shuman et al. Nature 467, 820-823 (2010)]

$$\sigma_d \sim \frac{1}{E_{\text{eff}} \tau \sqrt{N T}}$$

$\sim Z^3$       $> 1 \text{ s}$      ?

# Recent Results (RaF)

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**Production**

**State preparation**

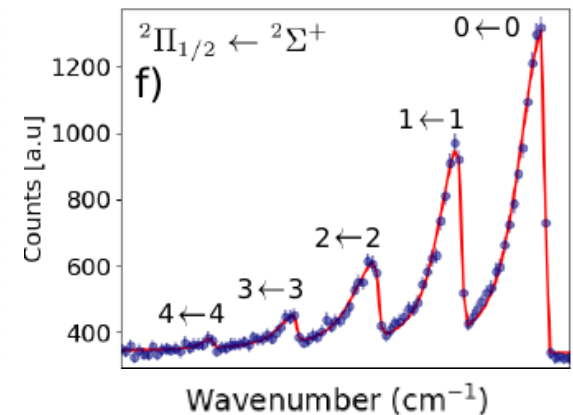
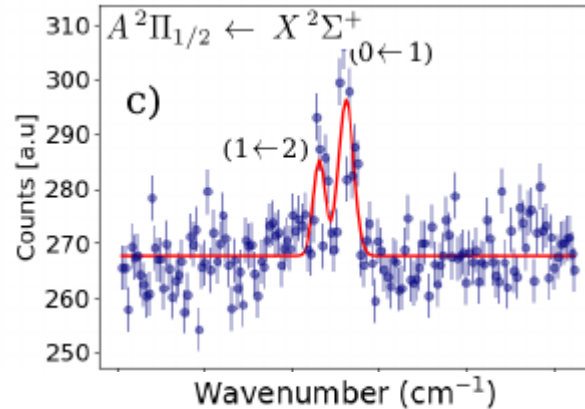
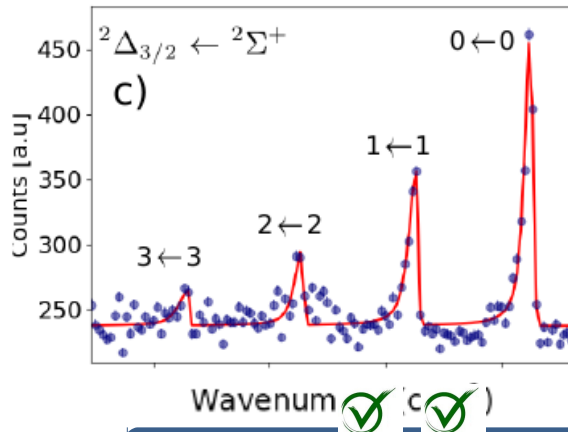
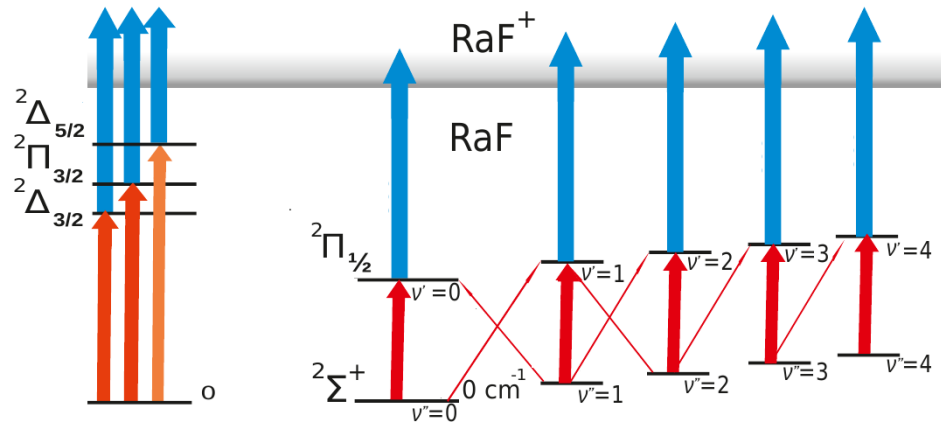
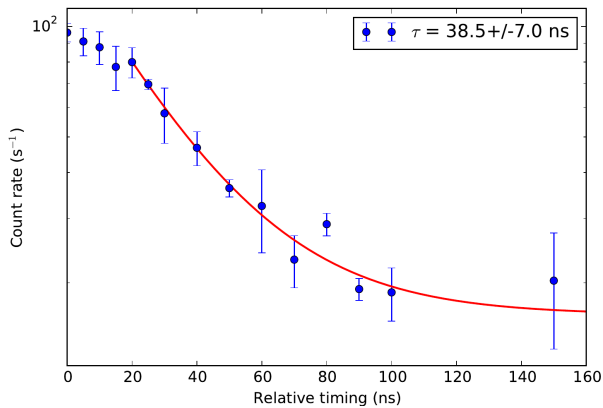
**Study**

[Garcia Ruiz et al. Nature 581, 396 (2020)]



# Recent Results (RaF)

- I. Low-lying structure ✓
- II. Feasibility of laser cooling?
  1. Dominant  $f_{00}$ ?  $\rightarrow f_{00}/f_{ij} > 0.97$  ✓
  2. Short-lived excited state ( $T_{1/2}$ )?  $\rightarrow T_{1/2} < 50$  ns ✓
  3. Electronic states of lower energy (E)?  $\rightarrow 2000$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  above ✓



$$H_{mol} = H_e + H_{vib} + H_{rot} + H_{hfs} + H_{PV} + H_{PTV}$$

[Garcia Ruiz et al. Nature 581, 396 (2020)]



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“Hot” molecules can be super cool!

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“Hot” molecules can be super cool!

nature

Article | [Open Access](#) | Published: 27 May 2020

## Spectroscopy of short-lived radioactive molecules

R. F. Garcia Ruiz [✉](#), R. Berger [✉](#), [...] X. F. Yang

*Nature* **581**, 396–400(2020) | [Cite this article](#)

9173 Accesses | 2 Citations | 152 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

$$H_{mol} = H_e + H_{vib} + H_{rot} + H_{hfs} + H_{PV} + H_{PTV}$$

## PHYSICS TODAY

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DOI:10.1063/PT.6.1.20200611a

11 Jun 2020 in [Research & Technology](#)

### Spectroscopy of molecules with unstable nuclei

Pinning down the energy transitions of radium monofluoride, and eventually other short-lived molecules, could reveal the ways they are influenced by the properties of heavy radioactive nuclei.

Andrew Grant

physicsworld

ATOMIC AND MOLECULAR | RESEARCH UPDATE

Exotic radioactive molecules could reveal physics beyond the Standard Model

05 Jun 2020

## CHEMISTRY WORLD

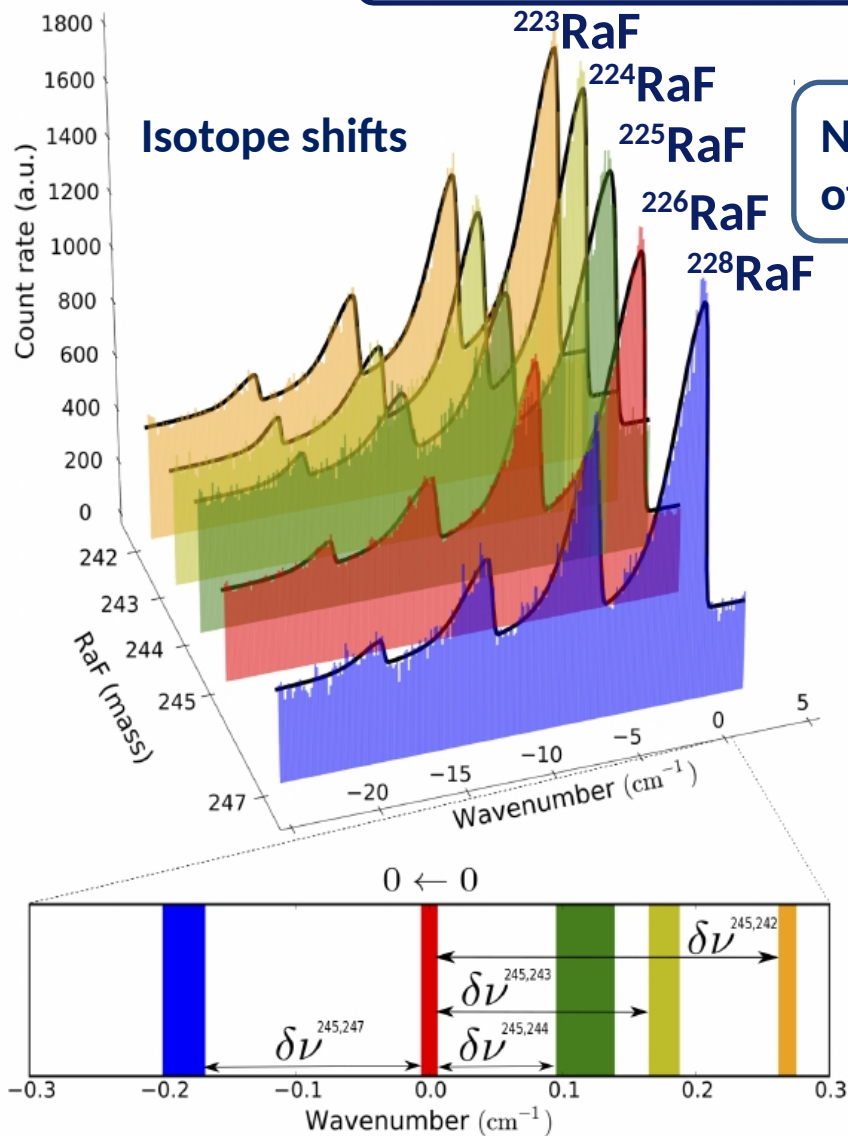
Molecular experiments hope to reveal new physics

BY ANDY EXTANCE | 5 JUNE 2020

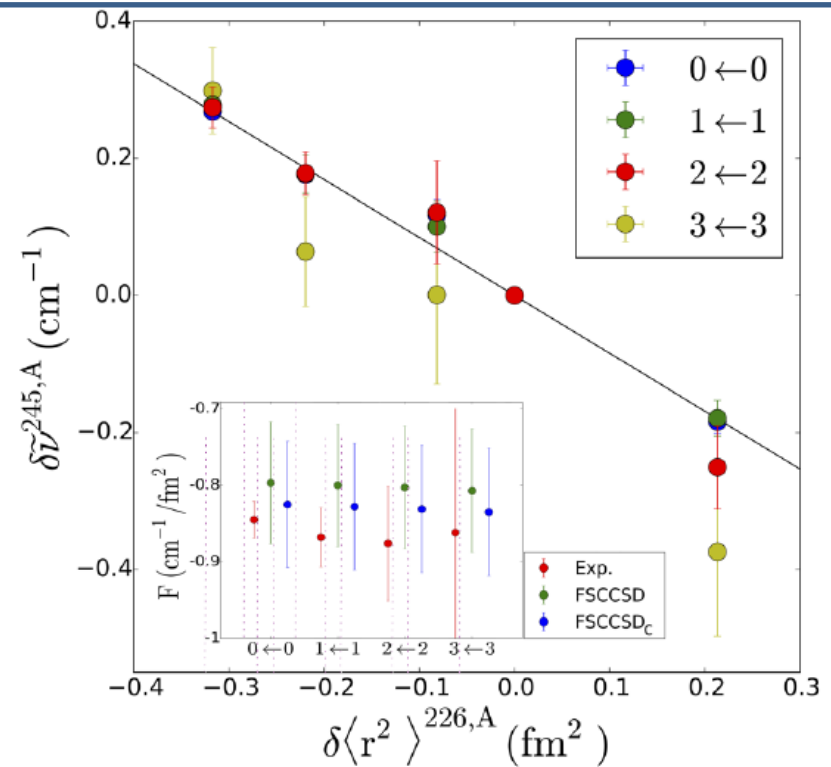
Detecting extremely short-lived radium fluoride can explore standard model's limits

[Garcia Ruiz et al. *Nature* 581, 396 (2020)]

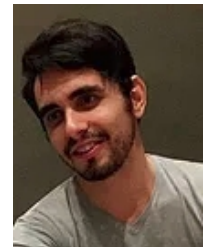
# Recent Results (RaF)



New opportunities for nuclear structure studies of the heaviest elements (e.g. ThO, PaO,...)



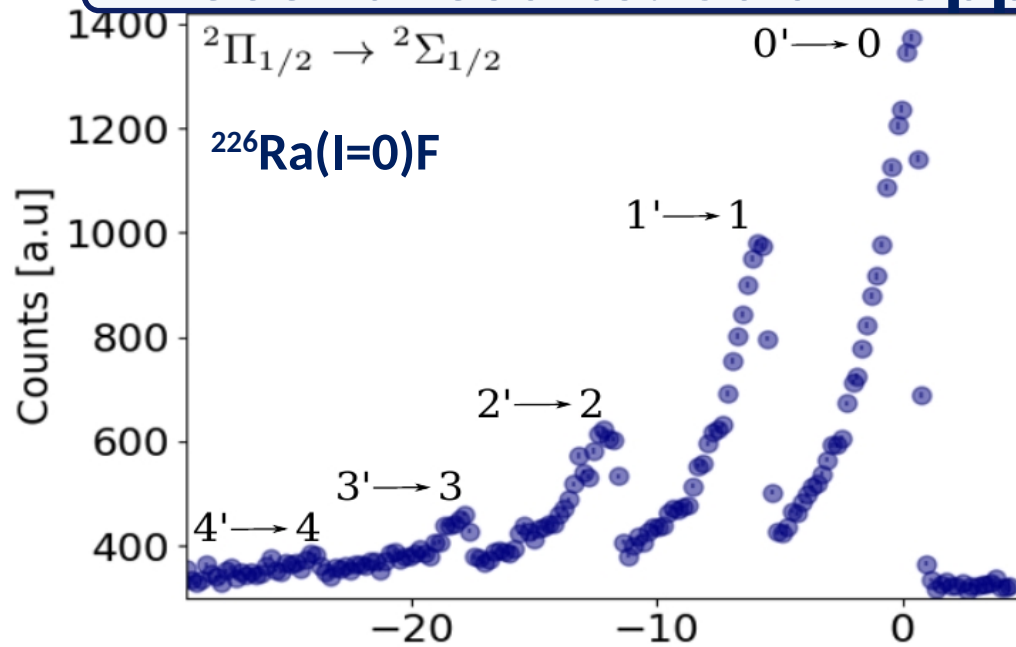
[Udrescu et al.  
In preparation (2020)]



S. Udrescu

$$H_{mol} = H_e + H_{vib} + H_{rot} + H_{hfs} + H_{PV} + H_{PTV}$$

# Recent results: Sub-Doppler spectroscopy (RaF)

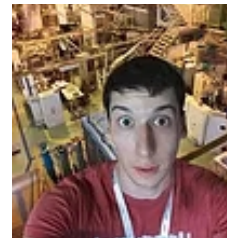


$$H_{\text{mol}} = H_e + H_{\text{vib}} + H_{\text{rot}} + H_{\text{sr}} + H_{\text{hfs}} + H_{\text{PV}} + H_{\text{PTV}}$$

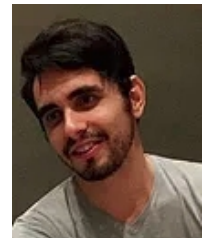
✓   ✓

$\text{eV} \quad \sim 2 \quad 10^{-2} \quad 10^{-5} \quad 10^{-6} \quad 10^{-8} \quad <10^{-12} \quad <10^{-15}$

Graduate students @ MIT

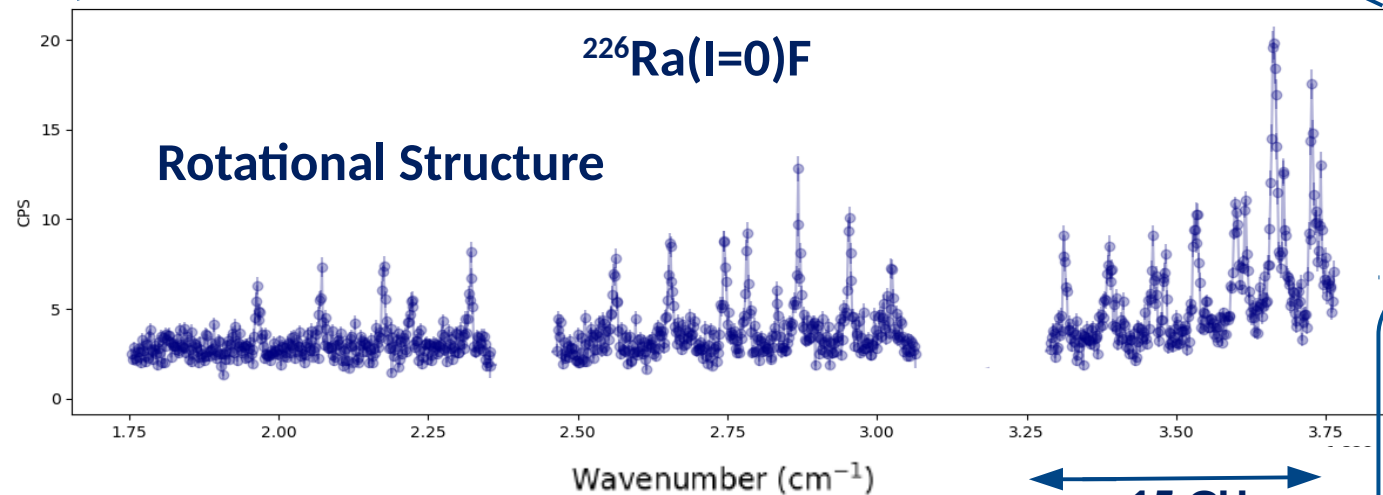
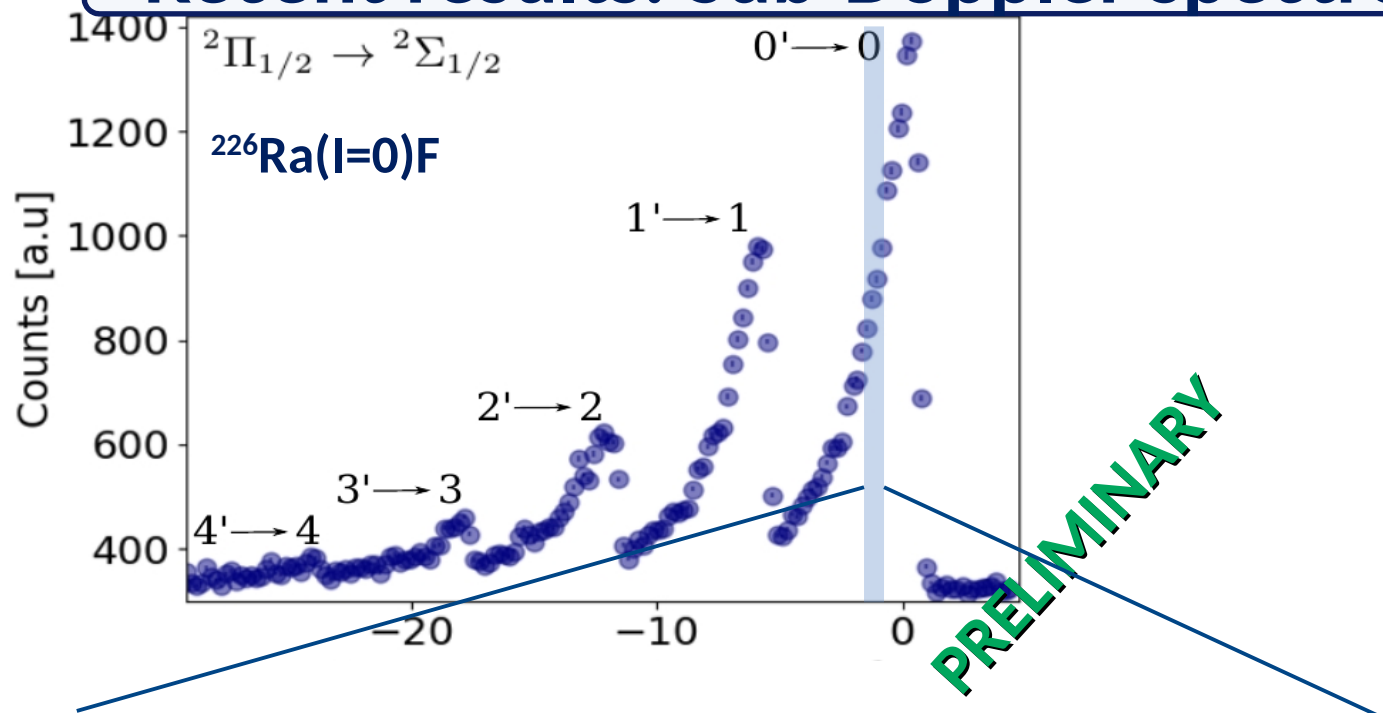


A. Brinson

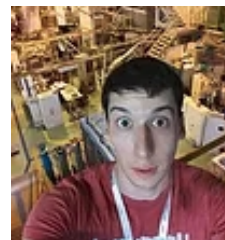


S. Udrescu

# Recent results: Sub-Doppler spectroscopy (RaF)



Graduate students @ MIT

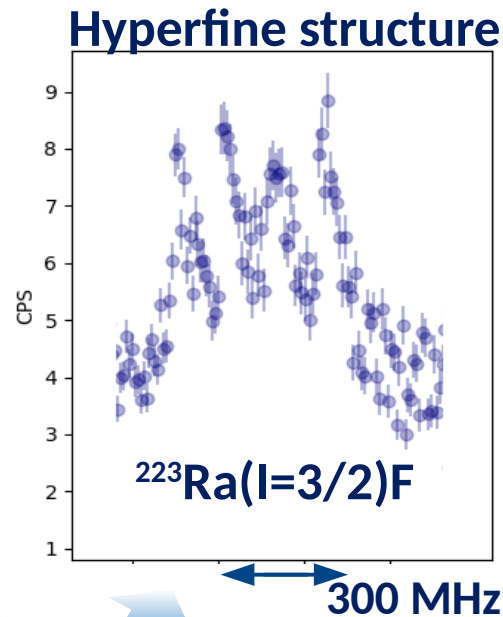
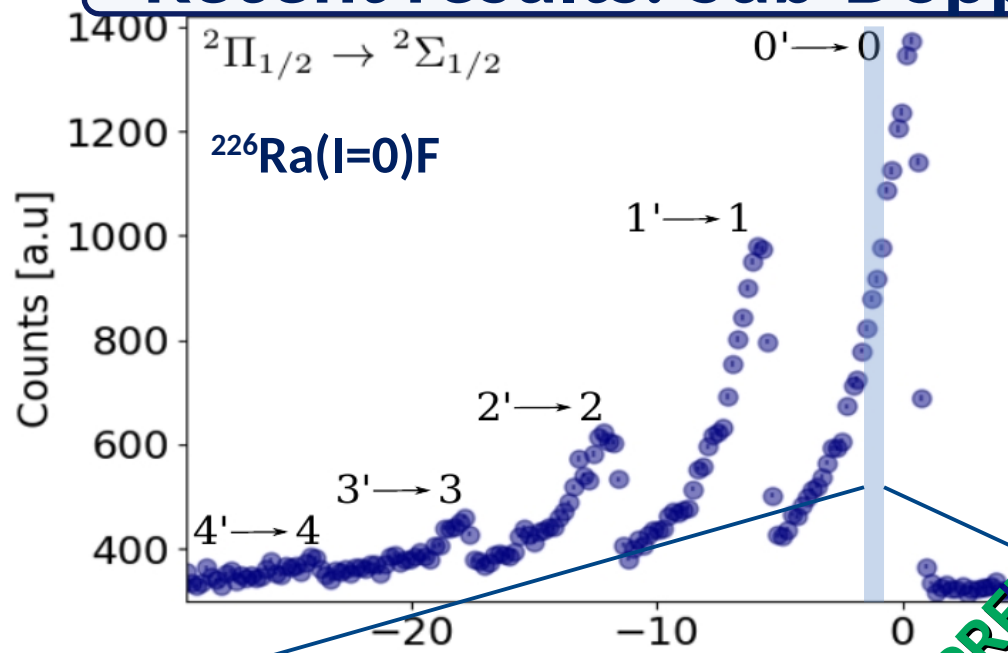


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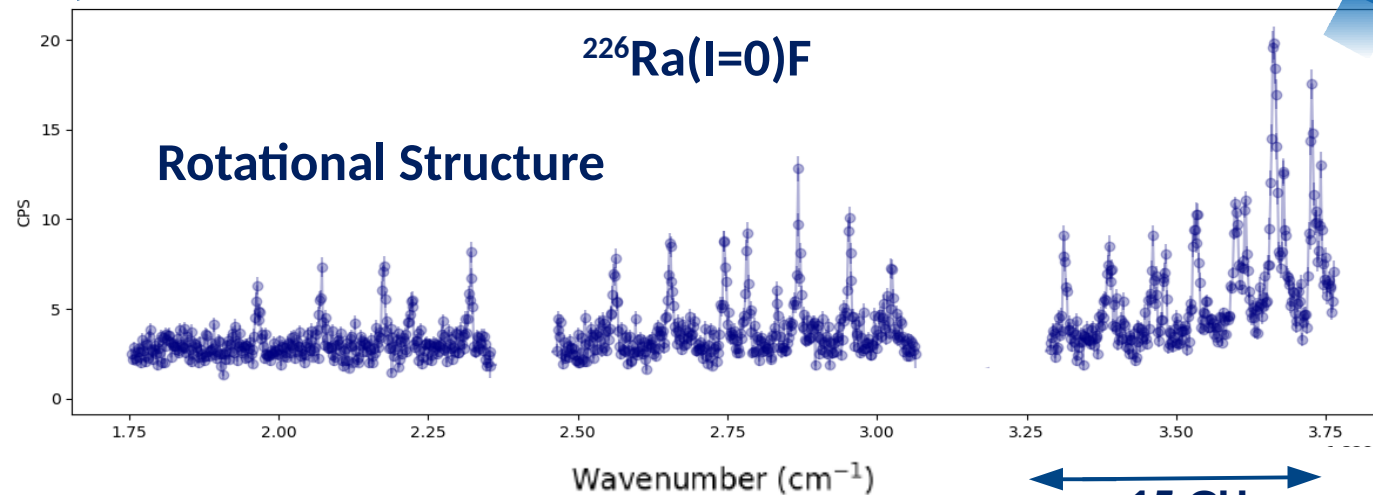
S. Udrescu

$$H_{mol} = H_e + H_{vib} + H_{rot} + \dots + H_{hfs} + H_{PV} + H_{PTV}$$

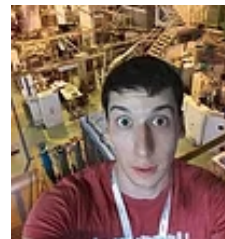
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PRELIMINARY



Graduate students @ MIT



A. Brinson

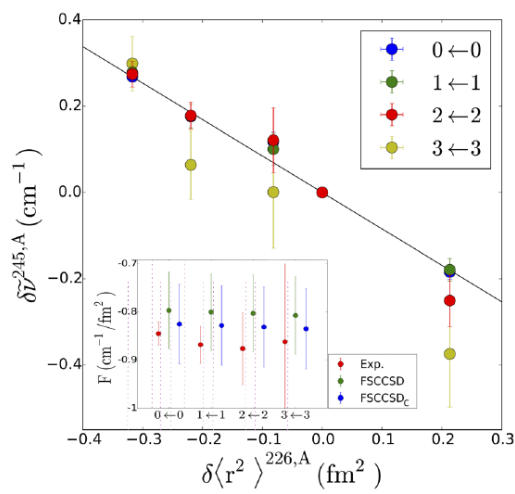
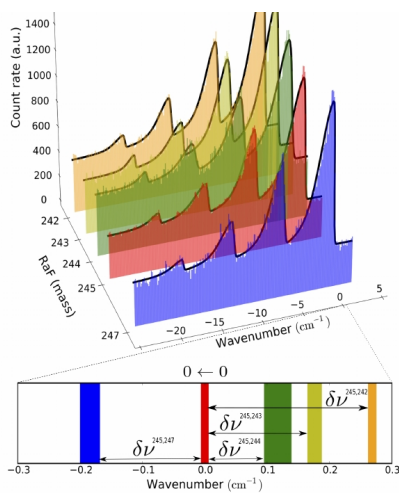
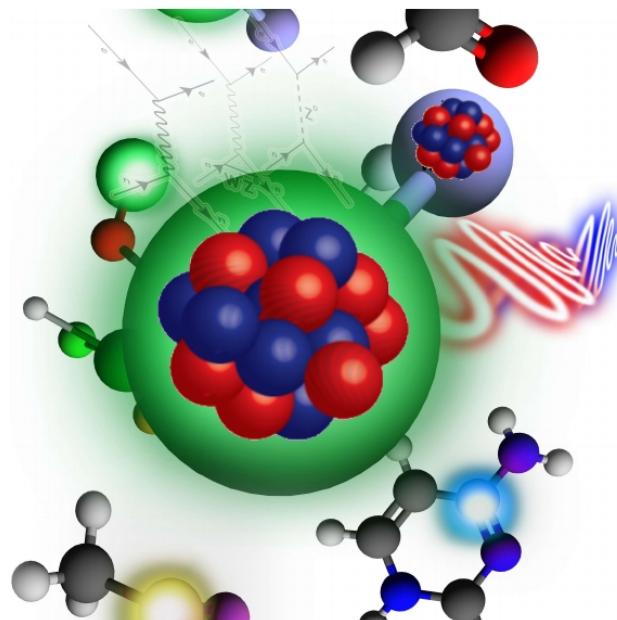
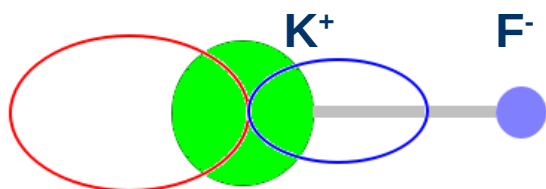
S. Udrescu

$$H_{mol} = H_e + H_{vib} + H_{rot} + \dots + H_{hfs} + H_{PV} + H_{PTV}$$

# Summary and Outlook

## Radioactive Molecules

### Nuclear EM structure



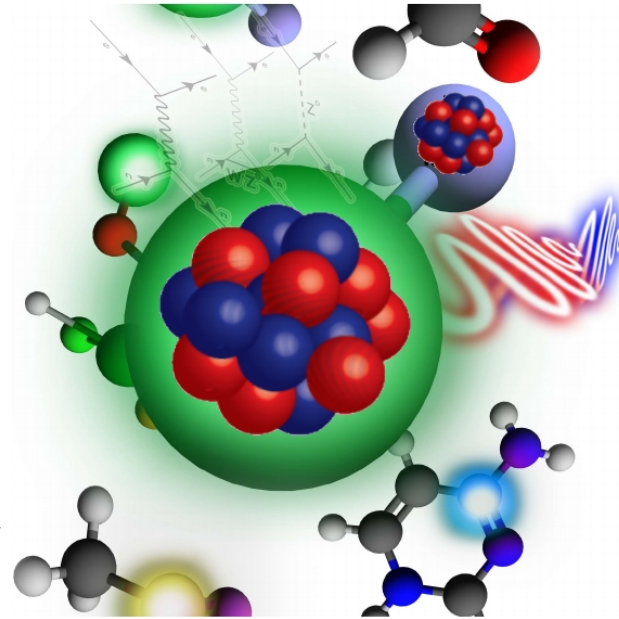


# Summary and Outlook

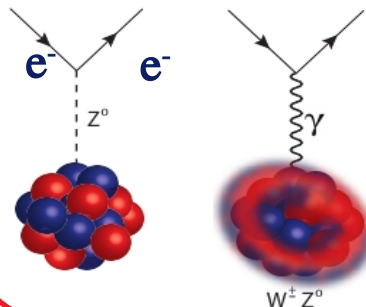
## Radioactive Molecules

Nuclear EM  
structure

Nuclear EW  
structure



**P- violation**



$$E_{PNC} \sim \frac{\langle \text{P-odd} | H_w | \text{P-even} \rangle}{E_- - E_+}$$

**Molecular enhancement > 10<sup>11</sup>**



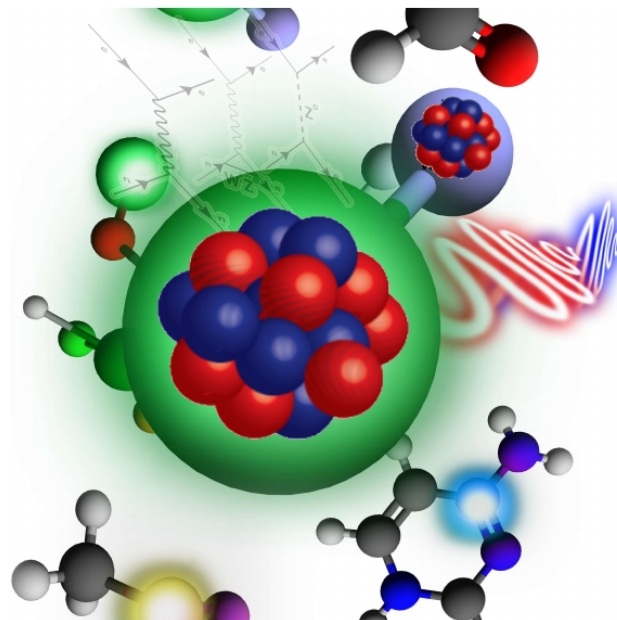
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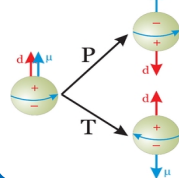
Fundamental  
symmetries



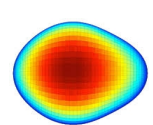
→ AcF, RaO, PaO,  
RaOH, ....

### P,T- violation

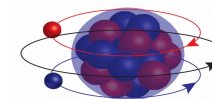
EDM



$S_{\text{schiff}}$



MQM



Molecular + Nuclear amplification  
→  $E_{\text{eff}} > 10 \text{ GV/cm}$

# Summary and Outlook

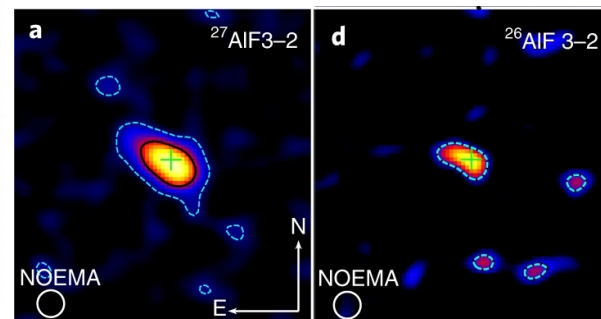
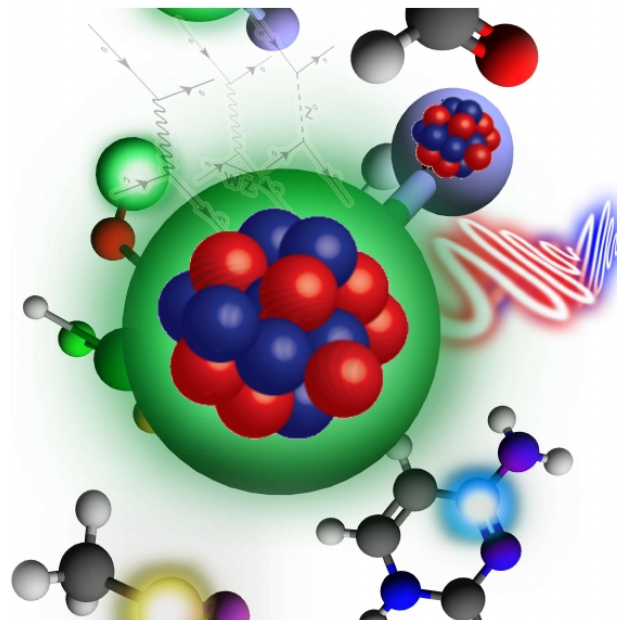
## Radioactive Molecules

Nuclear EM  
structure

Nuclear EW  
structure

Fundamental  
symmetries

Astrophysics



# Summary and Outlook

## Radioactive Molecules

Nuclear EM  
structure

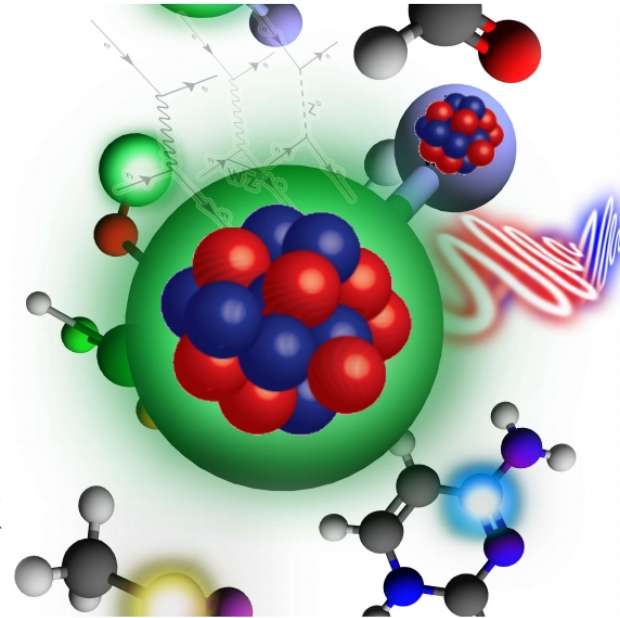
Astrophysics

Nuclear EW  
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# Summary and Outlook

## Radioactive Molecules

Nuclear EM  
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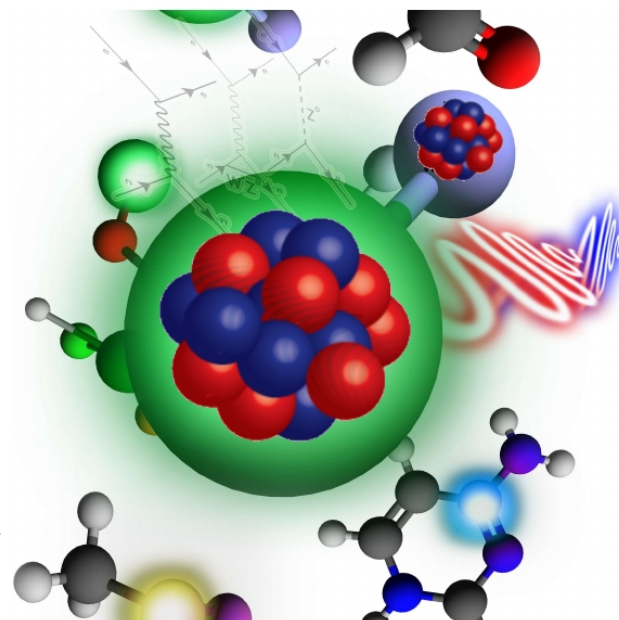
Nuclear EW  
structure

Nuclear  
chemistry

Fundamental  
symmetries

Quantum  
chemistry

Lots of opportunities!





TRIUMF EEC NEW LETTER OF INTENT

Detailed Statement of Proposed Research for Experiment S2068-LOI

## **Radioactive Molecules for Nuclear Structure and Fundamental Physics Research**

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**...collaboration in the making!**

# Thanks to...

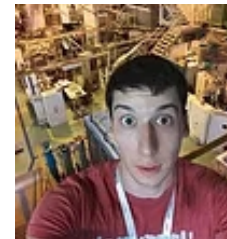


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