# LIBRA Partner Institution Universität zu Köln: Symmetries, Lifetimes and the Synthesis of Nuclei



Andreas Zilges Institut für Kernphysik Universität zu Köln

# Universität zu Köln

# Founded in 1388

# 41.000 students

# Annual budget 380 M€

# Universität zu Köln

# > 300 international cooperations

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# Albert's International Assistance

Internationa

# about 5000 foreign students

# **Department of Physics**

#### Astrophysics

#### **Condensed Matter Physics**



#### **Theoretical Physics**



#### **Nuclear Physics**

Thornwood &

# **Department of Physics**

- 600 students
- 25 faculty members
- 3 Collaborative Research Centres (SFB)
- Research grants: 8.5 M∉a



Bonn-Cologne Graduate School of Physics and Astronomy (German Excellence Initiative 2007)

#### Institute of Nuclear Physics – Institut für Kernphysik



#### **Nuclear Structure**





#### **Nuclear Astrophysics**



#### **Applied Nuclear Physics**





#### **Detector development**



#### Institute of Nuclear Physics – Institut für Kernphysik

- Alfred Dewald
- Jan Jolie
- Peter Reiter
- Andreas Zilges

# • Hans Ströher (FZ Jülich)

# 9 Postdocs21 PhD students16 Master/Diploma students





#### **Mechanical Workshop - Institute of Nuclear Physics**

# Fully equipped mechanical workshop with 15 employees

#### **Electronics workshop** - Institute of Nuclear Physics

MCA MCA MCA

Interface

#### Electronics development workshop with 8 employees



# **FN Tandem Accelerator at IKP**

- Up to 10 MV terminal voltage
- Pelletron charge system (since 2004)
- Beam can be pulsed
- Two ion sources:
  - duoplasmatron (p,<sup>3</sup>He,<sup>4</sup>He)
  - sputter source (up to A=127)

#### Accelerator Mass Spectrometry at IKP (under construction)

#### **Geosciences, Prehistory, Protohistory, Nuclear Physics**

- 6 MV terminal voltage
- standard isotopes: <sup>10</sup>Be, <sup>14</sup>C, <sup>26</sup>Al, <sup>36</sup>Cl, <sup>129</sup>I
- ample beam time for development



A. Dewald, J. Jolie, and A. Zilges, Nuclear Physics News 18 (2008) 26





Universität zu Köln



# **Nuclear Structure**

- The nucleus is a mesoscopic quantum system
- Ab initio descriptions are in many cases not feasible
- Symmetry properties reduce the degrees of freedom considerably

Important observables of excited states:

- Energies
- Spins
- Parities
- Decay patterns
  Lifetimes



# Lifetimes: Recoil Distance Doppler Shift Method



and the recoil velocity v.

#### **Lifetimes: The Cologne Plunger**



# Lifetimes: The Cologne Plunger



# **Cologne Plunger worldwide**

- INFN Legnaro, Italy
- Jyväskylä, Finland
- NSCL/MSU, USA
- Argonne National Laboratory, USA
- GANIL, Caen, France
- Yale University, USA
- IFIN-HH Bukarest, Romania (under construction)
- Demokritos, Greece (planned)

# Lifetimes: The Cologne Plunger

PRL 102, 242502 (2009)

Lifetime Measurements of the Neutron-Rich N = 30 Isotones <sup>50</sup>Ca and <sup>51</sup>Sc:



Low-Lying Neutron Intruder State in <sup>13</sup>B and the Fading of the N = 8 Shell Closure

Eur. Phys. J. A 39, 291–294 (2009) THE EUROPEAN DOI 10.1140/epja/i2008-10724-1 PHYSICAL JOURNAL A

Regular Article – Experimental Physics

#### Lifetime measurement in <sup>195</sup>Po

What is the origin of energy and radiation in our universe?

How were and are the chemical elements synthesized?

## **Ingredients:**

- Astrophysics
- Nuclear Physics



# **Synthesis of Nuclei**

What is the production mechanism of heavy nuclei on the proton rich side of the valley of stability ?

→ *p*-process

One needs to measure very small reaction rates ! (cross sections: μb range)

# In beam experiments using a Nal crystal



- + Very high efficiency
- + "simple" data evaluation
- No detailed information

e.g.: P. Tsagari et al., PRC 70 (2004) 015802

# In beam experiments using HPGe detectors



# HORUS @ IKP Köln:

- 14 HPGe detectors in close geometry
- Photopeak efficiency at 1332 keV: up to 5%

- High <u>energy resolution</u> to observe single transitions
- Adequate <u>efficiency</u> to study low cross sections
- Determination of <u>angular distributions</u> possible
- <u>Coincidence</u> technique to suppress background

#### Radiative proton capture on <sup>92</sup>Mo





Production of 1<sup>st</sup> excited state

#### **Background suppression with coincidence techniques**



# **Collaboration LIBRA – IKP Köln**

Study of the Pygmy Dipole Resonance in  $(\alpha, \alpha' \gamma)$  and  $(\gamma, \gamma')$  experiments



# **Collaboration LIBRA – IKP Köln**

# "Stuttgart" HPGe detector pool

- 3 x 100% HPGe detectors
- 1 x 80% HPGe detector
- BGO shields
- Electronic modules











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