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Present status on high-precision atomic mass measurements using MRTOF-MS at RIBF

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One of the pillars for the study of exotic nuclides and astrophysical processes is the precise knowledge of the nuclear binding energy, which is directly and model-independently deduced from atomic-mass data. Tackling the increasing challenge to determine the mass of isotopes having low production yields and short half-lives, multi-reflection time-of-flight (MRTOF) mass spectrometry has grown from an initially rarely-used technology to the world's most commonly-used method for measurements with a relative mass precision down to $\delta m/m=10^{-8}$. This technology has been developed at RIKEN's RIBF facility for about two decades in combination with gas-filled ion catchers for low-energy access of isotopes produced by the in-flight method. In the recent past, three independent systems operating at different access points at RIBF, have provided substantial data in the medium- and heavy-mass region of the nuclear chart, reaching out to the superheavy nuclides. Recent achievements like high mass resolving power [1] followed by installations of α/β -TOF detectors [2] and in-MRTOF ion selection have tremendously increased the selectivity of the systems, allowing for background-free identification of the rarest isotopes.

In this contribution, I will give a short overview about the success of MRTOF atomic mass measurements using BigRIPS in the recent past [3-5], and further focus on new achievements from 2024. An outlook will be given for instrumentation, with a view to new MRTOF systems, and the combination with established methods for decay spectroscopy.

References:

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