



## Review

## Laser spectroscopy for nuclear structure physics

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## ABSTRACT

High-resolution laser spectroscopy is an established powerful tool in the study of nuclear shape, size and multipole moments. Measurements of the hyperfine structures and isotope shifts in the atomic spectra of radioactive nuclei provide unique insight into the evolution of the nuclear macroscopic shape and microscopic structure. These measurements can be made with high precision and high sensitivity and applied directly on-line at radioactive nuclear beam facilities. Recent measurements, advances at facilities and the future direction of the field are reviewed. A summary of experimental data is presented.

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## Contents

1.	Introduction.....	128
2.	Nuclear perturbations of the atomic structure .....	129
2.1.	Nuclear ground state properties from atomic spectra .....	131
2.2.	Hyperfine structure .....	132
2.2.1.	Hyperfine anomalies .....	132
2.3.	Isotope shift.....	133
2.4.	Mean-squared nuclear charge radii.....	134
2.5.	Relation to other nuclear observables.....	135
3.	Atomic spectroscopy.....	135
3.1.	Excitation and detection of atomic transitions.....	135
3.2.	Pioneering experiments .....	136
3.3.	Sample preparation .....	136
3.4.	Collinear laser spectroscopy .....	136
3.4.1.	Precision collinear spectroscopy .....	137
3.4.2.	Coincidence detection .....	138
3.4.3.	Bunched beam spectroscopy .....	139
3.4.4.	Optical pumping.....	139
3.5.	Resonance ionisation spectroscopy.....	139
3.5.1.	Hot cavity in-source resonance ionisation spectroscopy.....	142
3.5.2.	Collinear resonance ionisation spectroscopy.....	143
3.6.	Atom and ion traps .....	144
3.6.1.	Magneto-optical atom traps .....	144
3.6.2.	Ion traps .....	145

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3.7.	Gas cells and ion guides.....	146
3.7.1.	In-gas-cell resonance ionisation spectroscopy.....	147
3.7.2.	In-gas-jet resonance ionisation spectroscopy.....	148
3.8.	Comparison of techniques.....	149
4.	On-line laser spectroscopy facilities.....	151
4.1.	Present and planned facilities.....	151
4.1.1.	ALTO.....	151
4.1.2.	ANL.....	151
4.1.3.	FAIR.....	151
4.1.4.	GALS, DUBNA.....	152
4.1.5.	GSI.....	152
4.1.6.	ISOLDE, HIE-ISOLDE, CERN.....	153
4.1.7.	JYFL.....	153
4.1.8.	MSU.....	153
4.1.9.	PNPI.....	153
4.1.10.	RIKEN.....	153
4.1.11.	RISP.....	154
4.1.12.	SPIRAL 2, GANIL.....	154
4.1.13.	TRIGA-SPEC.....	154
4.1.14.	TRIUMF.....	154
4.2.	Recent changes.....	154
5.	Light mass nuclei.....	155
5.1.	Results and recent progress.....	155
5.1.1.	The proton radius puzzle.....	155
5.1.2.	Halo Nuclei (He, Li, Be).....	156
5.1.3.	From proton halos to beyond the Island of Inversion (Ne to Ti).....	158
6.	Medium mass nuclei.....	159
6.1.	Results and recent progress.....	160
6.1.1.	Neutron-rich nuclei near $Z = 28$ .....	160
6.1.2.	The zirconium region.....	161
6.1.3.	The tin region.....	162
6.1.4.	The mid-shell ( $N \sim 104$ ) platinum to lead nuclei.....	163
7.	Heavy mass nuclei.....	164
7.1.	Results and recent progress.....	165
7.1.1.	Shape coexistence in the lead region.....	165
7.1.2.	The $N = 126$ shell closure and above.....	167
7.1.3.	Laser spectroscopy of the actinide elements and beyond.....	167
8.	Outlook.....	168
8.1.	Recent output.....	168
8.2.	Future prospects and challenges.....	168
8.2.1.	Sensitivity and universality.....	168
8.2.2.	Extraction of nuclear parameters.....	170
8.2.3.	Future experiments and facilities.....	171
9.	Conclusions.....	171
	Acknowledgements.....	171
	References.....	172

## 1. Introduction

High-resolution laser spectroscopy has long been established as a powerful tool in the study of nuclear shape, size and multipole structure. The “Hyperfine spectroscopy of radioactive atoms” was first reviewed in 1979 by Jacquinet and Klapisch [1]. When deployed at radioactive beam facilities, where long chains of isotopes on both sides of the valley of beta stability can be produced, optical techniques still provide a unique opportunity to study changes in the structure of nuclear ground (and isomeric) states.

Otten [2] produced a comprehensive review of the field in 1989. This was updated in 1995 by Billowes and Campbell [3] and then in 2003 by Kluge and Nörtershäuser [4]. New experimental techniques, most notably radiofrequency ion beam coolers and bunchers, trapped atoms, and the greatly increased use of specialist ion sources formed the basis of a 2010 review by Cheal and Flanagan [5].

In this report we review the field with a focus on recent and projected progress with respect to measurements and facility developments, taken as that since the 2010 Cheal and Flanagan review [5]. Recent reported results, those since 2010, are highlighted in Table 1. Techniques are reviewed in Section 3 and developments at facilities are discussed in Section 4.

The reported results provide model-independent measures of the nuclear spin, multipole moments and radial extent of the charge distribution. The new results are concentrated towards the lighter and heavier mass regions of the nuclear chart. In many of the works new results for nuclear moments are reported and, where of structural pertinence, considered

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