

## Nuclear laser spectroscopy of thorium-229 doped in CaF<sub>2</sub>

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“The thorium-229 nucleus possesses a first excited isomeric state with an excitation energy of 8.36 eV, which is extremely low for an atomic nucleus.

In 2024, laser excitation was achieved using a vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) laser[1][2][3], raising expectations for applications such as high-precision frequency standards.

We performed comprehensive spectroscopy experiments of <sup>229</sup>Th-doped CaF<sub>2</sub> crystals using a VUV pulsed laser with a linewidth of about 30 MHz and a detector system that can significantly reduce background.

This combination enables us to identify four distinct dopant sites within the CaF<sub>2</sub> lattice, each with a characteristic electric field gradient.

In this poster, the VUV laser and the detection system, measured spectra, lifetime measurement, and laser-induced quenching of the isomeric state will be presented.

[1] J. Tiedau et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 132, 182501 (2024).

[2] R. Elwell et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 133, 013201 (2024).

[3] C. Zhang et al., Nature 633, 63 (2024).”

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