

# Ion traps, atomic masses and astrophysics

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# Outline

- Some history
- Atomic masses
- Ion traps
- rp-process nucleosynthesis

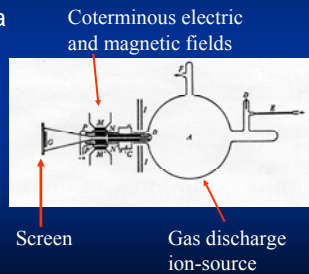
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# British beginnings...

- J.J. Thomson (1913)
- Positive ray parabola apparatus

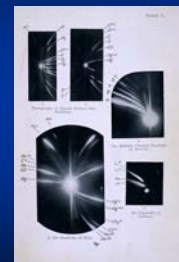


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# Positive ray parabolas



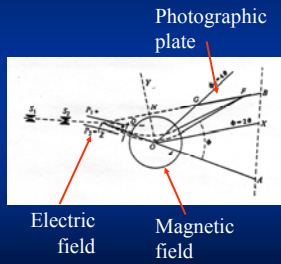
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## The 1<sup>st</sup> mass spectrometer

- F.W. Aston (1919)



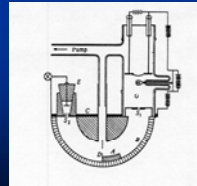
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## Meanwhile back in Chicago...

- A.J. Dempster (1918)
- Monoenergetic ion source
- Direction focusing; no energy focusing



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## Canadian Family Tree

- Atomic mass determinations group at the University of Manitoba

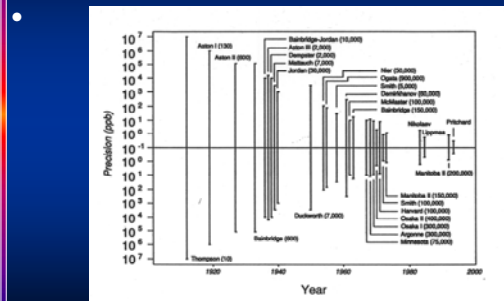


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## Evolution of precision



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## Information from atomic masses

- Binding energies of nucleons

$$(B.E.)_{nuclear} = Z \cdot (M_p + M_e) + N \cdot M_n - M(Z, N) - (B.E.)_{elect}$$

- Energy released in nuclear reactions and decays

$$Q = (M_T + M_B) - (M_P + M_E)$$

- $(B.E.)_{nuclear} \sim 10 \text{ MeV/nucleon}$ 
  - Differences in B.E.  $\sim 1 \text{ MeV}$
  - Need to know this to 0.1- 1% (1 - 10 keV) or better in some cases.
  - Need a precision of 10 ppb or better

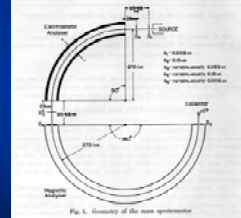
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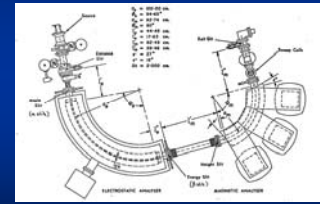
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## At the Univ. of Manitoba

- Two mass spectrometers were built:



Manitoba I: "Big Ed"



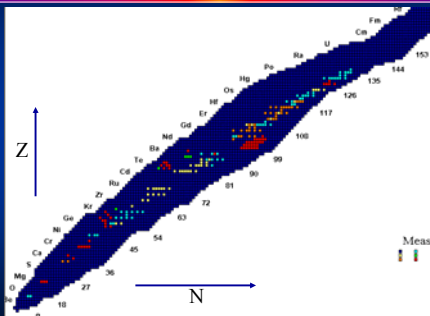
Manitoba II: "Betsy"

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## Measurements made

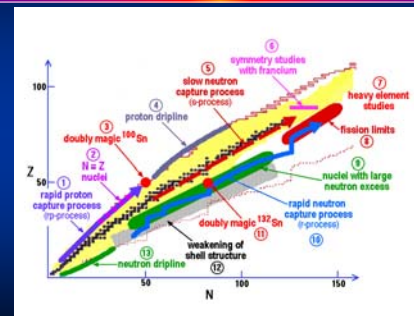


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## The lure of unstable nuclides



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## Penning Traps

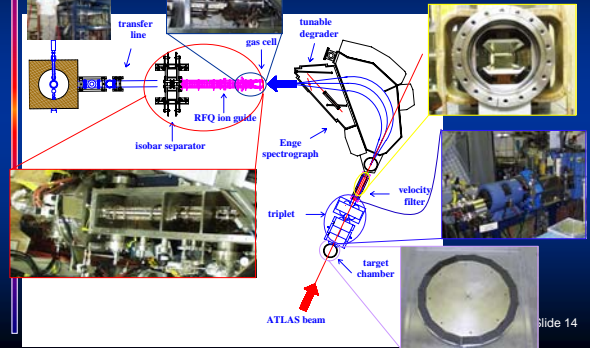
- To study unstable nuclides we need:
  - Precision
  - Accuracy
  - Sensitivity
- Ion traps can provide all of these.

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## Overview of the CPT apparatus at ANL



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## The anatomy of a Penning trap



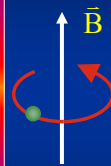
- Shapes of the electrodes
- Correction electrodes
- Carefully chosen materials

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## How a Penning Trap works-1



- Constant axial magnetic field
- particle orbits in horizontal plane

$$\omega_c = \frac{qB}{m}$$

- free to escape axially

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### How a Penning Trap works-2

•Add an axial harmonic electric field to confine particles

•axial oscillations:

$$\omega_z = \sqrt{\frac{eV}{md^2}}$$

•Radial motion split into two components by electric field:

→ $\omega_+$ : reduced cyclotron freq.

→ $\omega_-$ : magnetron frequency

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### How a Penning Trap works-3

Where:

$$\omega_c^2 = \omega_+^2 + \omega_-^2 + \omega_z^2$$

and

$$\omega_c = \omega_+ + \omega_-$$

Ion motion in the radial plane:

$$v_x = -\rho_+ \omega_+ \sin(\omega_+ t) - \rho_- \omega_- \sin(\omega_- t)$$

$$v_y = \rho_+ \omega_+ \cos(\omega_+ t) + \rho_- \omega_- \cos(\omega_- t)$$

Power absorbed by ion in electric field:  $P = q\vec{v} \cdot \vec{E}$

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### How a Penning Trap works-4

For a dipole field:

Resonances at  $\omega_D = \omega_+$  and  $\omega_-$

For a quadrupole field:

Resonances at  $\omega_Q = \omega_+ + \omega_- = \omega_c$

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### How a Penning Trap works-7

Recall:  $\omega_c = \frac{qB}{m}$

$\omega_c$  depends only on:

- the mass
- the magnetic field
- not on the electric fields

Can use  $\omega_c$  to make accurate and precise mass measurements

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## rp-process measurements

- Observed elemental abundances cannot be reproduced by only considering nuclear reactions in quiescent stars.
- Need to consider some explosive processes as well:
  - X-ray bursts – rp-process (involves proton rich nuclides)
  - Supernovae – r-process (involves neutron rich nuclides)

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## Mass measurements along the rp-process

From: [www.nsl.msu.edu/research/ria/whitepaper.pdf](http://www.nsl.msu.edu/research/ria/whitepaper.pdf)

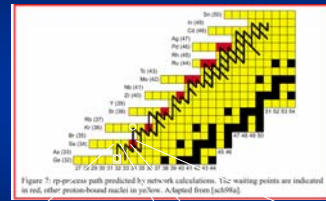
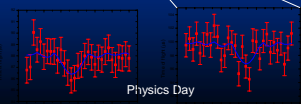


Figure 7: rp-process path predicted by network calculations. The waiting points are indicated in red, other proton-bound nuclei in yellow. Adapted from [Sch09a].

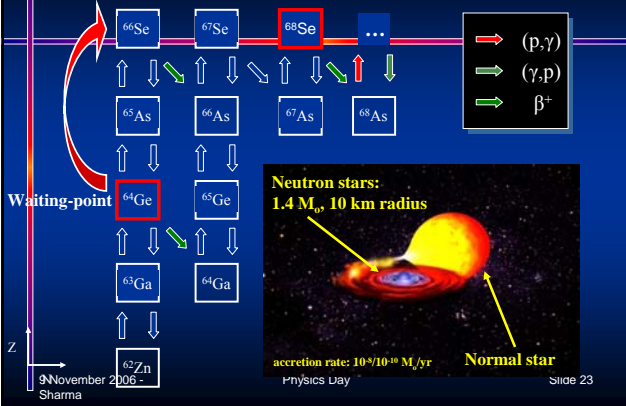


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## rp-process path

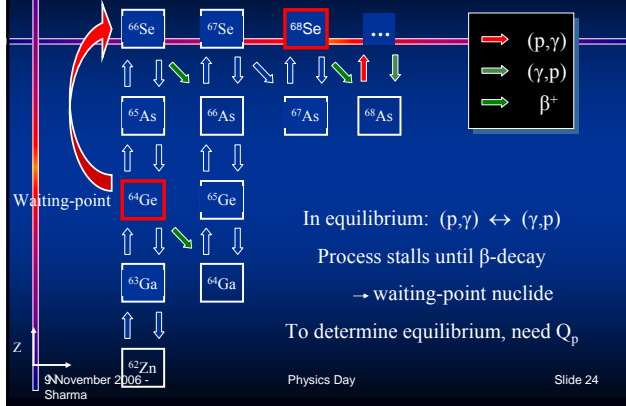


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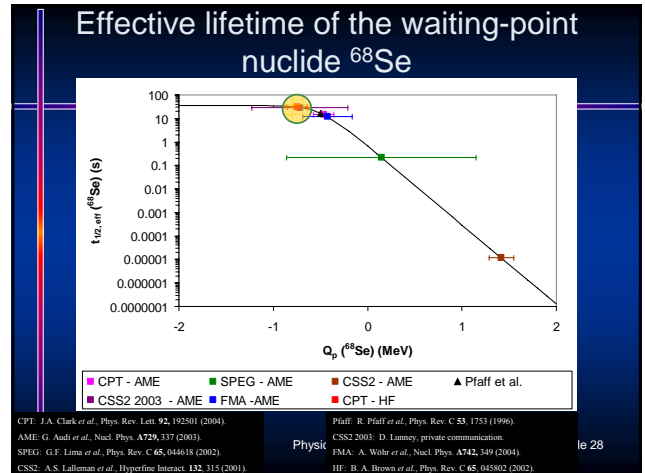
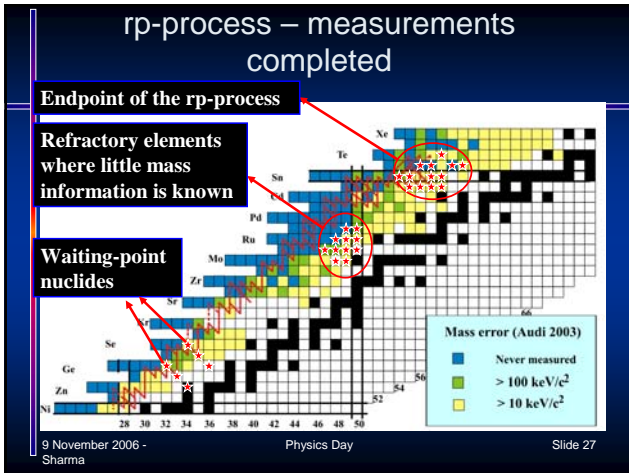
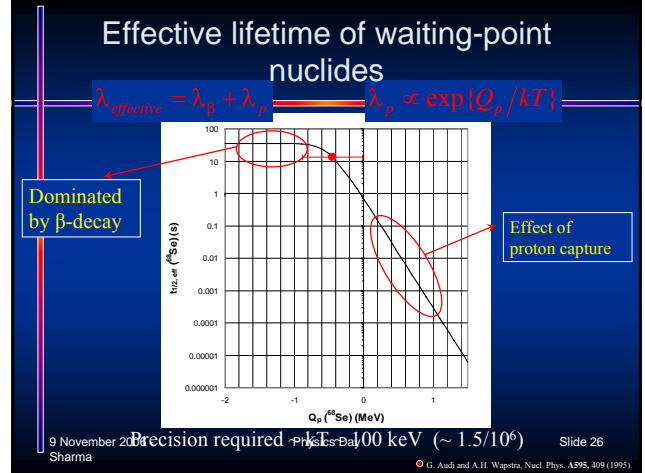
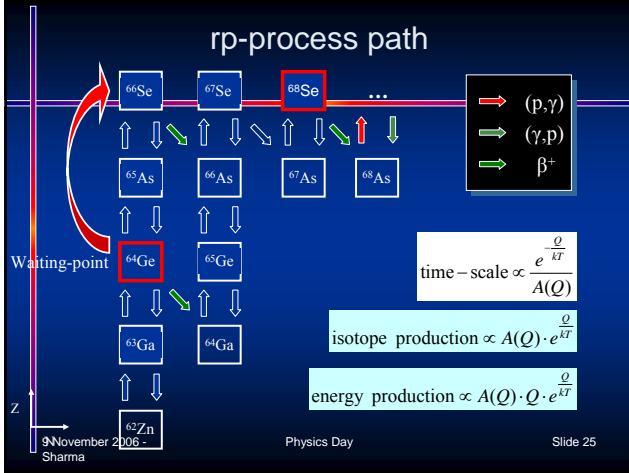
## rp-process path



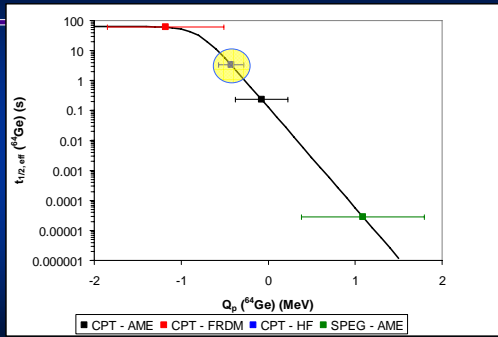
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## Effective lifetime of the waiting-point nuclide $^{64}\text{Ge}$



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AME: G. Audi *et al.*, Nucl. Phys. A729, 337 (2003).  
FRDM: P. Möller *et al.*, At. Data Nucl. Data Tables 59, 185 (1995).  
HF: B. A. Brown *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 65, 045802 (2002).  
SPEG: G. F. Lima *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C 45, 044618 (2002).

## Conclusions

- A Penning trap mass spectrometer is a powerful tool for the study of exotic nuclei.
- Can make measurements that shed light on:
  - Astrophysics
  - Tests of fundamental symmetries
  - Nuclear structure
  - Others

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## CPT Collaboration



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K.S. Sharma, Y. Wang



B. Blank, J.P. Greene, J. Guest, A.A. Hecht,  
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