Explaining a scientific problem to high-rank officials, try doing this not in the way it is correct, but in the way it is understandable. It will be a noble lie

Georgy FLEROV

Periodic table of elements and the Island of stability

Alexander Karpov

Flerov Laboratory of Nuclear Reactions, JINR, Dubna



science bringing nations together

Mendeleev Periodic table of chemical elements (1869)



2019 International year of the Periodic table of chemical elements

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1919: First nuclear reactions

⁴He+¹⁴N→p+¹⁷O

100 years ago mankind new how to transform one nucleus (element) to another



Ernest Rutherford (1871 – 1937)



Abundance of Elements in the Universe

The 11 Greatest Unanswered Questions of Physics (National Research Council, NAS, USA, <u>2002</u>):

- 1. What is dark matter?
- 2. What is dark energy?
- 3. How were the heavy elements from iron to uranium made?
- 4. Do neutrinos have mass?

...

2002-2019:

Discovery of gravitational waves \rightarrow first observation of gravitational waves in a neutron star merge \rightarrow start of multimessage astronomy

future ^{10⁻¹⁴ understanding of astrophysical nucleosynthesis}



Chart of nuclei (upper part). Vision in 1950th



Neutron number

Chart of nuclei (upper part)



Neutron number

Experimenters rushed to find this Island 1970-1985

Los Alamos (USA)

Berkeley (USA)

Dubna (JINR)

Oak Ridge (USA)

Mainz (Germany)

Darmstadt (Germany)

Orsay (France)

Würenlingen (Switzerland)

Tokyo (Japan) some later

The task of every laboratory was:

To find the method of producing

Search in nature:

earth/lunar objects, cosmic rays,

Artificial synthesis:

high-flux reactor, nuclear explosion, powerful accelerator

To develop setups:

separator/detector, spectrometers, chemical methods, etc.

Unfortunately in all attempts superheavy elements were not found

The problem of artificial synthesis of SHE is related with reaction of synthesis

Dubna, beginning of 90th: many times tried ⁴⁸Ca+Act. reactions are the last hope to produce superheavies

Reactors (target material)

HFIR, ORNL, Oak Ridge, USA, 85 MW



CM-3, IAR, Dimitrovgrad, Russia, 100 MW



22 mg of ²⁴⁹Bk from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA



Bk(NO₃)₃Product

Annual production:

 $_{97}Bk, _{98}Cf: 10^{th} of mg;$ $_{99}Es: few \mu g;$ $_{100}Es: < ng;$

Target wheel (~15 mg)



ECR ion sources. Careful consumption of calcium

~2 gr. of ⁴⁸Ca



Consumption: 0.5-0.8 mg/h

Annual production: 10-12 grams

"Elektrokhimpribor", Lesnoy, Sverdlovsk region, Russia

Ion source DECRIS-SC2



U-400 cyclotron at FLRN, JINR



Beam of ⁴⁸Ca

Intensity: 6.10¹² ion/s

Energy: ~300 MeV Speed: 10% speed of light

Gas-filled separator





Looking for: ~1 event/day

Without separator: 10¹³ events/s

With separator: 100 events/s

Collecting efficiency: ~30%



Synthesis of Superheavy Nuclei (since 1999)



Approaching the island of stability



Confirmations (2007-2014)

Α, Ζ	Setup	Laboratory	Published
²⁸³ 112	SHIP	GSI Darmstadt	Eur. Phys. J. A 32, 251 (2007)
²⁸³ 112	COLD	PSI-FLNR (JINR)	NATURE 447, 72 (2007)
^{286, 287} 114	BGS	LRNL (Berkeley)	P.R. Lett. 103, 132502 (2009)
^{288, 289} 114	TASCA	GSI – Mainz	P.R. Lett. 104, 252701 (2010)
^{292, 293} 116	SHIP	GSI Darmstadt	Eur. Phys. J. A 48: 62 (2012)
^{287, 288} 115	TASCA	GSI – Mainz	P.R. Lett. 111, 112502 (2013)
²⁹⁴ 117	TASCA	GSI-Mainz	P.R. Lett. 112, 172501 (2014)



International Union of Pure

and Applied Chemistry

May 2012: Official approval of the name *Flerovium* for element *114* and the name *Livermorium* for element *116*

30th December 2015:

Approval of the discovery of new elements 113, 115, 117, and 118

- element 113: RIKEN (Japan)
- elements 115 and 117: JINR (Dubna) LLNL (USA) ORNL (USA) collaboration
- element 118: JINR (Dubna) LLNL collaboration.

28th November 2016:

IUPAC formally approved names and symbols of new elements:

Nihonium (Nh) for element 113, Moscovium (Mc) for element 115, Tennessine (Ts) for element 117, and Oganesson (Og) for element 118.



Флеровий 114	Московий 115	Ливерморий 116	Теннессин 117	Оганесон 118
Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og
Flerovium	Moscovium	Livermorium	Tennessine	Oganesson

G. Flerov

All these elements were synthesized for the first time at the U-400

accelerator complex of the Flerov Laboratory of Nuclear Reactions of JINR.

Yu. Oganessian

In pursuit of new elements



USA, California, Berkeley: **101**(Md), **102**(No), **103**(Lr), **104** (Rf), **105** (Db), **106** (Sg) G. Seaborg, A. Ghiorso, et al.



Dubna: 1964 - 1975 – **102** (No), **103** (Lr), **104** (Rf), **105** (Dubnium), **106** (Sg), **107** (Bh), **108** (Hs) G.N. Flerov, Yu.Ts. Oganessian, et al.

2000 – **114** (Fl), 2002 – **116** (Lv), 2003 – **113** (Nh), **118** (Og), 2009 – **115** (Mc), **117** (Ts) Yu.Ts. Oganessian, et al.



Germany, Darmstadt, GSI:

1989 - 2000 – **107** (Bh), **108** (Hs), **109** (Mt), **110** (Ds), **111** (Rg), **112** (Cn) P. Armbruster, G. Münzenberg , S. Hofmann, et al.



Japan, Tokyo, RIKEN: 2003 - 2012 – **110** (Ds), **111** (Rg), **112** (Cn), **113** (Nh) K. Morita, et al.

Mendeleev's Table Today

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were discovered in Dubna

Questions and answers:

- ✓ Do the superheavy elements exist? YES!
- ✓ Does the "Island of stability" of superheavy elements exist? YES!
- ✓ How superheavy elements can be synthesized? fusion of ⁴⁸Ca with Actinides works
- ? How many new elements can be synthesized in the nearest future 119?, 120?, ??? How many they are?
- ? What are the properties (atomic, nuclear) of already known SHE?
- ? How to reach the center of the Island of stability? ???
- ? How long do the most stable nuclei from the Island of stability live ???
- ? Can superheavy elements be produced in nature? ???

Superheavy Element Factory



Superheavy Element Factory



plans for the end of 2019:

- **now:** separator testing and tuning;
- next: First experiment ⁴⁸Ca+²⁴³Am;
- Preparing the experiment aimed at synthesis of element 120 in the ⁵⁰Ti+²⁴⁹⁻²⁵¹Cf reaction;

Cyclotron DC-280:

- Dec., 26 2018: first beam was obtained;
- Jan.-June 2019: design parameters are nearly reached.
 designed: beam intensity 10 pµA with 50% efficiency

Gas-filled recoil separator (GFRS-2):

under commissioning



Fusion reactions: *left, right or up?*



Half-lives of nuclides with $Z \ge 110$



Long way to new Lands



Long way to new Lands



