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Measurement of the bound-state beta decay of bare $^{205}\text{Tl}^{81+}$ and its nuclear astrophysical implications

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We report on the first direct measurement of the bound-state beta decay [1] of $^{205}\text{Tl}^{81+}$ ions, an exotic decay mode, in which an electron is directly created in one of the empty atomic orbitals instead of being emitted into the continuum. One of the most awaited and pioneering experiments was realized in the spring beamtime at GSI, Darmstadt in 2020, wherein the entire accelerator chain was employed. $^{205}\text{Tl}^{81+}$ ions (with no electron) were produced with the projectile fragmentation of ^{206}Pb primary beam on ^9Be target, separated in the fragment separator (FRS), accumulated, cooled, and stored for different storage times (up to 10 hours) in the experimental storage ring (ESR). The experimentally measured half-life value [2] draws a 4.7σ [3] and 7σ [4] tension with the theoretically predicted values, which could influence our understanding of the abundance of chemical elements in the early universe. In this contribution, the authors aim to present the s-process motivation and a preliminary value of the $^{205}\text{Tl}^{81+}$ half-life.

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