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Search of the exotic nuclear two-photon emission decay in isochronous heavy ion storage rings

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The nuclear two-photon (2γ) decay is a rare decay mode in atomic nuclei whereby a nucleus in an excited state emits two gamma rays simultaneously. First order processes usually dominate the decay, however two-photon emission may become significant when first order processes are forbidden or strongly retarded, which can be achieved at the experimental storage ring ESR (GSI/FAIR). Within this work we will present the implemented methodology and the obtained results of two beam times performed in 2021, when for the first time the isochronous mode of ESR alongside non-destructive Schottky detectors were operated for the study of shortlived isomer production yields and lifetimes. We investigated specifically the isotope 72Ge, as it is the most easily accessible nucleus having a first excited 0+ state below the pair creation threshold paramount for the study of 2γ decay without competition of first order decays. In addition, the nuclei 70Se and 72Br were studied, as their isomeric states play a major role in nuclear astrophysics.

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