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Spectroscopy of Deformed Trans-fermium Nuclei using the Argonne Gas-Filled Analyzer

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Nuclei near the closed Z=100, N=152 deformed shells are prolate deformed but higher order shapes play important role for their structure, e.g. β_6 is critical for creating the N=152 energy gap. In-beam, K-isomer, α -decay and spontaneous fission spectroscopy of trans-fermium nuclei provide a stringent test of nuclear models which are used to describe the heaviest known nuclei. To extend these studies to heavier, more proton-rich, odd-A, odd-odd nuclei, the Argonne Gas-filled Fragment Analyzer (AGFA) was constructed. During the talk, recent decay and isomer spectroscopy experiments with AGFA in stand-alone mode and in-beam spectroscopy experiments with AGFA coupled to Gammasphere will be reviewed. Among others, the high statistics prompt and delayed \boxtimes -ray spectroscopy of the benchmark nucleus 254 No, the observation of the ground-state rotational band in the fissile nucleus 254 Rf, and the discovery of the new isotope 251 Lr will be presented. The impact of these results on shape evolution in this region will be discussed. Plans for experimental program with AGFA will be also presented.

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