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The MORA Experiment: Measuring the Time-Reversal Odd D Correlation in Nuclear Beta Decay

Why are we living in a world made of matter? The “Matter’s Origin from RadioActivity”(MORA) experiment [1] is looking for answers. CP violation is one of the three famous Sakharov conditions needed for explaining the matter –antimatter imbalance observed in the Universe [2]. The measurement of the CP violating D correlation in the beta decay of trapped and laser polarized $^{23}\text{Mg}^+$ and $^{39}\text{Ca}^+$ ions, as proposed in the framework of MORA, complements the search for Electric Dipole Moments to look for new interactions, that would explain this imbalance [3].

MORA employs an innovative polarization technique, combining the high efficiency of ion trapping with that of laser orientation. The experiment is currently taking data using $^{23}\text{Mg}^+$ beams from the IGISOL facility, at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, where the proof-of-principle for the laser polarization technique has recently been achieved [4]. This validation, along with recent advancements in beam purity, will enable MORA to measure the D correlation to a precision of $5 \cdot 10^{-4}$ in the coming years - rivaling the best current limits from neutron decay [5].

The potential of $^{39}\text{Ca}^+$ to further enhance these measurements is being explored through the ANR-funded ACCLAIM MORA project. By utilizing both isotopes at DESIR - delivered as high intensity beams (> 107 pps) from the GANIL/SPIRAL 1 facility and purified by the HRS - MORA aims to push sensitivities for D to $\sim 10^{-5}$, venturing into uncharted territory. At this level, MORA will not only probe CP-violating effects via the D correlation but also investigate CP –conserving new physics through Final State Interactions [6].

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Articles marked with an asterik are articles from the MORA collaboration.

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