

Synthetic Elements

Advances in nuclear physics stimulated by the Manhattan project led to the discovery of a large number of new elements in the 20th Century. These elements can only be made under extreme conditions in particle accelerators, and most are only stable for fractions of a second.

New elements are still being discovered today. Nuclear physicists predict the presence of a number of stable "superheavy" elements, with atomic numbers > 110 . Some of these elements have been found, but the extreme conditions required to make them are difficult to reach.

