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Charge Symmetry Breaking in strange nuclei

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The Charge Symmetry of the strong interaction requires that nn and pp interaction strengths are equal. As a consequence, the energy levels of nuclear isospin multiplets are expected to be identical, after correcting for the Coulomb energy difference. The breaking of this symmetry manifests itself in experiments at a level of ~ 0.07 MeV for the NN interaction in normal, not strange, nuclei.

In Lambda hypernuclei, where the Lambda-N interaction acts, the breaking is predicted to be ~ 0.05 MeV by theoretical models which do not consider the effects of Lambda-N - Sigma-N coupling and of the three-body LambdaNN forces. However, from the experimental side, a large value of binding energy difference has been found for the $A=4$ isospin doublet, $4\Lambda\text{H} - 4\Lambda\text{He}$, in experiments based on emulsion techniques in the seventies. The same experiments gave also indications about the binding energy difference in $A=7, 8, 10, 12$ isomultiplets which did not show a substantial breaking effect.

In the last few years, several magnetic spectrometers provided high precision results in the field of Hyper-nuclear Physics. In particular, the accurate determination of the Lambda-binding energy for $A=7, 10, 12, 16$ systems contributed to stimulate considerably the discussion about the Charge Symmetry Breaking effect in Lambda-hypernuclei isomultiplets. Also for the $A=4$ isospin doublet, very precise measurements of $4\Lambda\text{H}$ ground state binding energy and of $4\Lambda\text{He}$ first excited state energy have been obtained.

This contribution aims at making an overview on Charge Symmetry Breaking in s - and p -shell Lambda-hypernuclei, focusing on recent experimental results and analyses.

Selected session

Nuclear Structure, Spectroscopy and Dynamics

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