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AGATA@GANIL(E786s): Protons in the sd shells along the N=28 chain: only spectators ?

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The evolution of the nuclear shell closure along N=28 has gathered much interest due to the observed discrepancies between the well established shell model with SDPF-U interaction and measurements of the half-magic ^{46}Ar isotope.

In particular, while remarkable agreement was observed between theoretical and experimental values of S_n , transition probabilities measured with intermediate Coulomb excitation diverge by a factor of two from their predicted values [1, 2]. The reason behind this mismatch has been pinned down to the proton transition matrix elements [2] and hints at an incorrect description of the sd proton space below $Z=20$ [3]. The experiment we proposed aimed at shedding some light on this peculiar problem by directly probing the proton component of the wavefunction via a proton-pickup direct reaction: $^{46}\text{Ar}(^3\text{He}, d)^{47}\text{K}$ at an energy of 350 MeV.

The experiment, performed at the Spiral 1 facility in GANIL with a post-accelerated radioactive ^{46}Ar beam impinging on a high-density cryogenic ^3He target, will assess the amount of $d_{3/2}$ state relative to the $s_{1/2}$ relying on a state-of-the-art experimental setup for a precise reconstruction of the kinematics of the reaction.

The heavy reaction fragment was identified by the high acceptance magnetic spectrometer, VAMOS, while the high-granularity silicon DSSSD detector, MUGAST, allowed the measurement of the angular distribution of the light ejectile while also performing particle identification. The AGATA [5] gamma-ray tracking germanium array measured the gamma rays produced by the decay of the ^{47}K excited states. Experimental results will be compared with theoretical models to infer information on the proton wavefunction of ^{46}Ar .

References

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