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Shell evolution and effective three-body forces in the newly-explored neutron-rich region around $Z=82$ and far beyond $N=126$

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The study of exotic nuclei has shown that significant changes of the well known shell structure along the stability valley occur. However, little is known on the neutron-rich nuclei around 208Pb , because of the experimental difficulties to reach such nuclei. The study of these heavy nuclei is relevant also for the understanding of the r-process stellar nucleosynthesis in heavy nuclei. Neutron-rich nuclei around 208Pb were populated by using a $1\text{ GeV}\cdot\text{A}$ ^{238}U beam at GSI. The resulting fragments were separated and analysed with the FRS-Rising setup. Many neutron-rich isotopes were identified for the first time and a significant number of new isomers were hence discovered, enabling to study the structure of these isotopes. The new exotic isotopes observed, extend up to ^{218}Pb along the $Z=82$ shell closure and up to $N=134$ and $N=138$ for the proton-hole and proton-particle Tl and Bi nuclei, respectively. The very exotic ^{210}Hg nucleus was also produced and studied: its unexpected structure will be discussed. In our talk, the experimental results will be presented within state-of-the-art shell-model calculations. The significant discrepancies between the experimental findings and the behaviour expected from the usual seniority scheme will be pointed out, showing how the inclusion of effective three-body interactions (and the related two-body transition operators) helps to improve the agreement between theory and experiment.

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