



Contribution ID: 61

Type: Oral

Lifetimes of excited states in neutron-rich Zn isotopes using the AGATA demonstrator

Monday, 21 May 2012 10:30 (20 minutes)

The spectroscopy of exotic nuclei offers the opportunity to investigate the isospin dependence of the nuclear structure. The structure of $N=40$ nuclei away from stability is currently questioned [1]. Even though ^{68}Ni shows signs of magic nucleus with a large first $2+$ excitation energy and a small transition probability $B(E2; 2+\rightarrow 0+)$, recent experiments point towards a rapid onset of collectivity and deformed shapes for Cr, Fe, Zn and Ge isotopes. The description of collectivity in this mass region seems to require the $g_{9/2}$ and $d_{5/2}$ orbits in the valence space in case of shell model calculations [2]. In neutron-rich copper isotopes $^{73,75}\text{Cu}$ excitations have been shown to contain both single-particle and collective components [3].

In this context, lifetime measurement of the first excited states in $^{70,72,74}\text{Zn}$ have been performed through a recoil-distance Doppler shift method (RDDS). The experiment, carried out at the Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro in Italy, is one of the first performed with the AGATA demonstrator, first stage of the AGATA new-generation germanium array. A ^{76}Ge beam at 577 MeV impinging on a ^{238}U target has been used to produce the Zinc isotopes from deep-inelastic scattering. Results suggest a maximum of collectivity at $N=42$ and an unexpectedly long lifetime is measured for the $4+$ state in ^{74}Zn leading to a very small ratio of $B(E2; 4+\rightarrow 2+)/B(E2; 2+\rightarrow 0+)$. This could be link to an onset of single-particle components in the excitation. The comparison with theoretical calculations will be discussed in the presentation.

[1] J. Ljungvall et al, Phys. Rev. C 81, 061301 (R) (2010)

[2] K. Sieja and F. Nowacki, Phys. Rev. C 81, 061303 (R) (2010)

[3] J.M. Daugas et al, Phys. Rev. C 83, 054312 (2011)

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Session Classification: Nuclear Structure far from Stability

Track Classification: Nuclear structure far from stability