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Study of quadrupole collectivity in neutron-rich ^{128}Cd

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The neutron-rich isotope ^{128}Cd is only two proton and two neutron holes away from the doubly-magic nucleus ^{132}Sn . It is famous for the irregular behaviour of the excitation energy of the first 2^+ state, a feature which cannot be explained even by recent shell model calculations. Currently, only a beyond-mean-field approach is capable to reproduce the anomaly. However, it predicts a considerable prolate deformation next to the $N=82$ shell closure. Astrophysical interest in this particular isotope arises from the proximity to the r-process waiting-point nucleus ^{130}Cd .

We investigated the exotic isotope ^{128}Cd for the first time by safe Coulomb excitation. The beam was delivered at an energy of about 2.85 MeV/u by the REX-ISOLDE facility at CERN. Scattered beam particles as well as recoiling target nuclei were detected by a segmented Si detector in coincidence with gamma-rays measured by the MINIBALL array. From the differential excitation cross section electric matrix elements were deduced. In previous experiments, the isotopes $^{122,124,126}\text{Cd}$ have been investigated in a similar way and evidence for a larger quadrupole collectivity compared to predictions from the shell model has been found. Additionally, the isotope ^{126}Cd has been studied in a lifetime measurement employing the Doppler shift attenuation method (DSAM).

In this contribution we will present first new results for $^{126,128}\text{Cd}$ and discuss the evolution of the quadrupole collectivity along the Cd isotopic chain towards $N=82$.

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