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Determination of the Neutron Dripline at F and Ne and Discovery of the Heaviest Na Isotope: ^{39}Na

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The location of the neutron dripline is crucial to understand the stability of nucleonic many-body systems with extreme neutron-to-proton ratios.

It provides a benchmark for nuclear theories and mass models, and an important key to understand underlying nuclear structure and interactions.

The neutron dripline has been experimentally determined up to oxygen (atomic number $Z = 8$) as ^{24}O [1-4] more than 20 year ago, while no experimental confirmation has been reported for $Z \geq 9$.

We have searched for the neutron driplines, the heaviest new isotopes, of fluorine ($Z = 9$), neon (10), and sodium (11) by the BigRIPS separator at the RIKEN RI Beam Factory.

The neutron-rich isotopes were produced by projectile fragmentation of a 345-MeV/u 450-500-pnA $^{48}\text{Ca}^{20+}$ beam impinging on a 20-mm-thick Be target.

No events were observed for $^{32,33}\text{F}$, $^{35,36}\text{Ne}$, and ^{38}Na [5].

Comparison with predicted yields excludes the existence of bound states of these unobserved isotopes with high confidence levels, which indicates that ^{31}F and ^{34}Ne are the heaviest bound isotopes of fluorine and neon, respectively.

We have confirmed the fluorine and neon neutron driplines for the first time.

We have observed the new isotope of ^{39}Na , which is the most neutron-rich isotope with $N = 28$ neutron magic number [6].

The locations of the neutron dripline from oxygen to neon isotopes and the bound nature of ^{39}Na could be explained by evolution of nuclear deformation.

By the recent large-scale shell-model calculation with *ab initio* effective NN interaction [7], the oxygen dripline is determined by a new magic number of $N = 16$, emerging by tensor force and repulsive 3 nucleon forces.

From $Z = 9$ to 12, quadrupole deformation leads to a larger binding energy for neutrons and affects the location of the driplines.

The discovery of ^{39}Na suggests that its ground state is deformed and the magicity of $N = 28$ is lost.

In this talk, the experimental results will be presented to discuss the location of the neutron driplines as well as the underlying nuclear structure.

References:

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