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3<sup>rd</sup> prize ex-aequo:

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## Total Absorption Spectroscopy of Ground and Isomeric States in $^{70}\text{Cu}$



### Motivation

The astrophysical rapid-neutron capture process (r-process) relies on nuclear physics information such as neutron capture and  $\beta$ -decay rates. When nuclear data is not available, these models rely on theoretical values. Experimental  $\beta$ -decay information is required to decrease the dependency on these theoretical models.

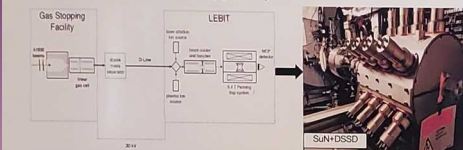
Here, we study the  $\beta$ -decay of two isomers and the ground state of  $^{70}\text{Cu}$  into  $^{70}\text{Zn}$  and compare the experimentally extracted  $\beta$ -feeding values to current theoretical calculations, and to probe the N=40 subshell closure.

### Improving $\beta$ -Decay Measurements

- Discrepancies in nuclear data are caused by  $\beta$ -decay measurements using high resolution detectors missing weak transitions from higher-lying states in the nucleus
- Total absorption spectroscopy can be used to determine the feeding to higher lying states, resulting in more accurate  $\beta$ -feeding measurements [1].

### Experimental Details

#### Total Absorption Spectroscopy (TAS) with SuN + LEBIT



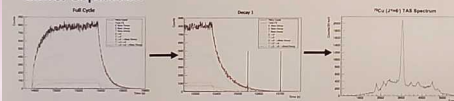
Experimental setup for the  $\beta$ -decay experiment at the NSCL using LEBIT and the SuN detector.  $^{70}\text{Cu}$  ions were thermalized in the gas cell and passed through LEBIT. The  $\beta$ -decay implantation Si detector is placed the center of SuN.

#### Summing NaI(Tl) (SuN) total absorption spectrometer



- 8 Segments give information about individual y-rays
- Summing y-rays from all segments gives information about excitation energies
- Multiplicity spectrum gives information about y-rays involved in individual cascades

#### Isomer Separation



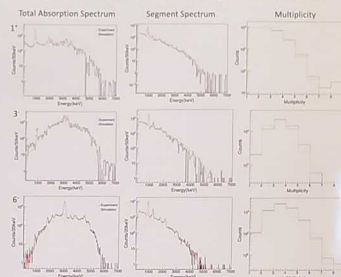
During the experiment  $^{70}\text{Cu}$  beam was cycled on/off to create grow-in/decay curves. These were fit Bateman equations representing the  $\beta$ -decays and internal transitions between the isomers and ground state. Different "time windows" were chosen to isolate the ground and isomeric state spectra. An example of the full cycle (left), time window to isolate the ground state (middle), and resulting total absorption spectrum (right) are shown above.

#### REFERENCES

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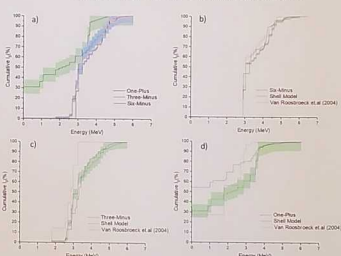
### Determining $\beta$ -Feeding Intensities ( $I_\beta$ )

- Generate "pseudo-levels" for higher lying excitation energy states by simulating possible y-rays in RAINIER [5]
- Simulate both known levels and "pseudo levels" in Geant4 with the validated SuN detector response
- Perform  $\chi^2$  minimization to fit total absorption (TAS), sum of segments (SOS), and multiplicity spectra from SuN



Results from the  $\chi^2$  minimization procedure to fit experimental data. The experimental data is shown in black and the simulated levels are shown in red. To simulate levels in Geant4, known levels were taken from [6] and higher-lying levels were created in a RAINIER Monte Carlo simulation.

### Results and Conclusions



$\beta$ -Feeding Intensity ( $I_\beta$ ) values determined from the  $\chi^2$  minimization to the TAS, SOS, and multiplicity segments for the  $\beta$ -decay of the two isomers and ground state in  $^{70}\text{Cu}$ . Cumulative  $I_\beta$  values for all spin-parity states are shown in a), and individually in b), c), and d) with comparisons to known values, QRPA, and shell model calculations.

Over 50% (1<sup>st</sup>), 30% (3<sup>rd</sup>) and 4% (6<sup>th</sup>) feeding to levels not included in the known level schemes for the respective isomers and ground state of  $^{70}\text{Cu}$  were observed. The determined feeding intensities were compared to theoretical calculations:

- Quasi-random phase approximation (QRPA)
- Shell Model

The results demonstrate a need for more spectroscopic measurements of  $\beta$ -feeding intensities to improve global models

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