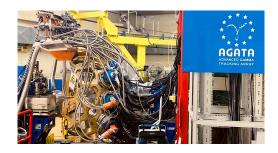
The 24th AGATA Week - ACC Meeting



ID de Contribution: 73 Type: Non spécifié

Report on AGATA@LNL experiment 23.08: Coulomb excitation of 60Ni

jeudi 12 septembre 2024 15:00 (15 minutes)

The nickel isotopes offer a unique laboratory to investigate shape evolution in the vicinity of doubly-magic N=Z nucleus, 56 Ni (Z=N=28), which should exhibit similar structural properties to those observed in the Z=N=20 region. Indeed, observation of the SD structures was reported also in 56 Ni, explained as the result of mp-mh excitations like in the case of 40 Ca [3]. However, recently the questions on the validity of Z/N=28 as a good magic number have been brought up triggering the discussion on the deformation in the nickel region, including the signatures of shape coexistence. Microscopic and collective properties in the vicinity of 56 Ni shall be evaluated with the dedicated measurements of the deformation and the neighboring nuclei. To this end, the Coulomb excitation studies focused on the structure of 58,60,62 Ni isotopes are currently undertaken at INFN LNL, IJC Lab in Orsay and at HIL Warsaw. These, together with the recent findings from the γ -ray and electron spectroscopy measurements reporting the unexpectedly large E0 transition strengths for the $2^+_2 \rightarrow 2^+_1$ transitions of 58,60,62 Ni [2], shall bring crucial information enabling the further discussion on the electromagnetic properties of Ni isotopes.

Coulomb excitation of ⁶⁰Ni beam of 240 MeV energy impinging on ²⁰⁸Pb target was performed at INFN LNL, Italy in October 2023. The experiment was carried out using 12 AGATA triple clusters [3,4] coupled to the particle detection array SPIDER [5] to register back-scattered beam ions. SPIDER was placed at laboratory angles to enhance the probability of multistep Coulomb excitation. Details of the experiment performed with AGATA at LNL along with the current status of the data analysis will be presented.

- [1] D. Rudolph et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 82, 3763 (1999)
- [2] L.J. Evitts et al., Phys. Lett. B 779, 396 (2018).
- [3] S. Akkoyun et al., NIM A668 (2012) 26.
- [4] J.J. Valiente-Dobon et al., NIM A1049 (2023) 168040.
- [5] M. Rocchini et al., NIM A971 (2020) 164030.

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Classification de Session: ACC