AFRICAN NUCLEAR PHYSICS CONFERENCE ANPC2023

Contribution ID: 277



Type: Oral

Evolution of the neutron 1d spin-orbit splitting in ³⁵S and ³⁹Ca

Wednesday, 29 November 2023 10:55 (15 minutes)

Nuclei along N=20 provide an excellent region to investigate the change in nuclear structure and interactions. From their evolution from the doubly magic nucleus 40 Ca through to the Z=16 and Z=14 nuclei 36 S and 34 Si, respectively, to ${}^{32}Mg$ with a deformed 2p-2h intruder ground state [1]. The mechanism responsible for the change in shell structure is not well understood and is suspected to be a subtle combination of the different components of the nuclear force namely the central, spin-orbit (SO), and tensor parts. A significant reduction of the neutron $d_{5/2}$ and $d_{3/2}$ spin-orbit splitting between ⁴⁰Ca and ³⁶S, as protons are removed from the $d_{3/2}$ orbital, would be indicative of the proton-neutron tensor force. By comparing the neutron $d_{5/2}$ hole strength between these nuclei, the strength of the tensor force is probed in an unprecedented manner. The centroids of the hole states in ³⁵S have been inferred from a ³⁶S(p,d)³⁵S experiment performed at iThemba LABS. A ³⁶S(p,d)³⁵S reaction is a useful tool to probe the neutron spin-orbit splitting in ³⁶S, provided a reliable ³⁶S target is available. This was achieved by specifically developing a new target system at iThemba LABS which allows for a cost-effective ³⁶S target without heavy contaminants. This novel target encapsulates sulfur between two Mylar foils and has been shown to be an effective way to produce targets with a significant amount of material (0.5-1 mg/cm²). Using this moving 36 S target with 66 MeV incident protons states in 35 S were measured with the K600 magnetic spectrometer at iThemba LABS. States up to 20 MeV were observed\, identifying the neutron single-particle strength below and above the Fermi surface using the detection of the deuterons at the focal plane of the K600 spectrometer with an energy resolution of approximately 30 keV [2]. The results from the ³⁶S(p,d)³⁵S experiment were compared to the ⁴⁰Ca(p,d)³⁹Ca study by Matoba *et al.* [3]. The results show an increase of the neutron $1d_{5/2}$ - $1d_{3/2}$ SO splitting between ³⁵S and ³⁹Ca by 0.411 MeV. This is contrary to the universal trend of SO splitting with increasing mass number which would predict a decrease of ~0.450 MeV. This deviation is highly indicative of the effect of tensor forces. At present, the tensor force is not implemented in the vast majority of the available mean field and relativistic mean field calculations, whereby the amplitude of the SO splitting is solely attributed to the spin-orbit force. This study provides an unambiguous result indicating the role of the tensor force. It is shown that the strength of the tensor force is, however, lower than predicted by the shell model and ab-initio theory.

[1] O. Sorlin and M.-G. Porquet, Prog in Particle and Nuclear

Physics 61,602 (2008), ISSN 0146-6410

[2] R. Neveling, H. Fujita, *et. al* NIM in Physics Research Section A: Accelerators, Spectrometers, Detectors, and Associated Equipment 654, 29 (2011), ISSN 0168-9002

[3] M. Matoba, et. al Phys. Rev. C 48, 95 (1993).

This work is supported by the National Research Foundation of South Africa grant 118846.

Attendance Type

In-person

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Session Classification: Session 1

Track Classification: Nuclear Structure, Reactions and Dynamics