

Do we understand gamma strength functions - the case of ⁹⁶Mo

The gamma strength functions of ⁹⁶Mo derived from a variety of experimental methods show quite severe disagreement, in particular near the neutron threshold. We discuss a new experimental method, viz. relativistic proton scattering at extreme forward angles, which allows a consistent analysis of data below and above the particle threshold. E1 and M1 strength distributions can be determined by a multipole decomposition of angular distributions. The additional measurement of polarization observables provides an independent check of the method. First results from a recent experiment are presented.

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