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Fine Structure of the Isovector Giant Dipole Resonance using the (p,p') reaction at zero degrees: Effects of strong nuclear deformation

The decay of giant resonances in nuclei is a prime example of how a well-ordered collective excitation dissolves into a disordered motion of internal degrees of freedom in fermionic quantum many-body systems. Fine structure of the Isovector Giant Dipole Resonance (IVGDR) for the neodymium isotope chain, ^{142,144,146,148,150}Nd, has been observed in high energy-resolution inelastic proton scattering experiments. The state-of-the-art K600 magnetic spectrometer of iThemba LABS was used to perform these experiments at zero-degrees scattering angle with an incident proton energy of 200 MeV. The analysis of the measured (p,p') energy spectra will yield insight into the transition from spherical (¹⁴²Nd) to highly deformed (¹⁵⁰Nd) nuclei and provide information about the dominant damping mechanisms. A comparison can be made to (γ,xn) data which clearly show a broadening and splitting of the IVGDR as deformation increases. Preliminary results will be discussed.

Primary author: Ms DONALDSON, Lindsay (School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2050, South Africa)

Co-authors: Prof. RICHTER, Achim (Institut fur Kernphysik, Technische Universitat Darmstadt, D-64829, Darmstadt, Germany); Prof. TAMII, Atsushi (Research Center for Nuclear Physics, Osaka University, Ibaraki, Osaka 560-0047, Japan); Mr KUREBA, Chamunorwa Oscar (School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2050, South Africa); Dr STEYN, Deon (iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences, Somerset West 7129, South Africa); Prof. SIDERAS-HADDAD, Elias (School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2050, South Africa); Mr NEMULODI, Fhumulani (iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences, Somerset West 7129, South Africa; Department of Physics, University of Stellenbosch, Matieland 7602, South Africa); Dr SMIT, Frederick (iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences, Somerset West 7129, South Africa); Prof. COOPER, Gordon (School of Geosciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2050, South Africa); Dr FUJITA, Hirohiko (Research Center for Nuclear Physics, Osaka University, Ibaraki, Osaka 560-0047, Japan); Dr USMAN, Jyabo (School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2050, South Africa; iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences, Somerset West 7129, South Africa); Mr MIRA, Joele (iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences, Somerset West 7129, South Africa; Department of Physics, University of Stellenbosch, Matieland 7602, South Africa); Prof. CARTER, John (School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2050, South Africa); Mr JINGO, Maxwell (School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2050, South Africa); Prof. PAPKA, Paul (iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences, Somerset West 7129, South Africa; Department of Physics, University of Stellenbosch, Matieland 7602, South Africa); Prof. VON NEUMANN-COSEL, Peter (Institut fur Kernphysik, Technische Universitat Darmstadt, D-64829, Darmstadt, Germany); Dr NEVELING, Retief (iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences, Somerset West 7129, South Africa); Prof. FEARICK, Roger (Physics Department, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa); Dr FORTSCH, Siegfried (iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences, Somerset West 7129, South Africa); Prof. FUJITA, Yoshitaka (Department of Physics, Osaka University, Ibaraki 560-0047, Japan); Dr BUTHELEZI, Zinhle (iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences, Somerset West 7129, South Africa)

Presenter: Ms DONALDSON, Lindsay (School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2050, South Africa)