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The highly efficient neutron detector NEDA reveals the structure of proton-rich nuclei populated in fusion-evaporation and transfer reactions.

Over the last decades nuclear spectroscopy has shown its capabilities to investigate the effective nucleon-nucleon interaction in nuclear matter. Technically, this has been possible thanks to the continuous improvement in germanium γ -arrays performances and in their associated instrumentation, that has allowed an enormous increase of the experimental sensitivity.

In this presentation, I would like to discuss the progress achieved in nuclear structure physics thanks to the newly constructed neutron-detector array NEDA [1], that was recently coupled with the state-of-the-art gamma-ray spectrometer AGATA at GANIL. In particular, I will address the octupole collectivity development when approaching the $N=Z$ line in the Xe isotopes. This mass region is noteworthy since the Fermi surface for both protons and neutrons lies between the non spin-flip orbitals $2d_{5/2}$ and the $1h_{11/2}$, with $\Delta L=\Delta J=3$, where the octupole correlation is expected to be enhanced. In fact, the $B(E3)$ transition probability measured in the neighbour isotope ^{114}Xe is one of the highest reported experimentally [2].

In addition, I will discuss the possibility to use in the future neutron detectors, such as NEDA, to perform inverse kinematics transfer reactions, with radioactive ion beams, where the emitted particle is a neutron. I will concentrate in the ^{36}Ca case, where the intruder 0^+ state in ^{36}Ca is predicted at 2.7 MeV, i.e. 720 keV below its mirror nucleus ^{36}S ; this represents the largest Mirror Energy Difference (MED) in the whole Segrè's Chart for bound states. This phenomenon has been dubbed Colossal Mirror Energy Difference (CMED) [3]. A two-proton transfer reaction, such as $^3\text{He}(^{34}\text{Ar},n)^{36}\text{Ca}$ will give access to the intruder 0^+ to study its intruder nature.

[1] J.J. Valiente-Dobón, et al., NIM A 927, 81 (2019).

[2] G. de Angelis, et al., Phys. Lett. B 535, 93 (2002).

[3] J.J. Valiente-Dobón, A. Poves, A. Gadea, B. Fernandez-Dominquez, Phys. Rev. C 011302(R) (2018).

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