

# Evidence for a toroidal electric dipole mode in nuclei and implications for the pygmy dipole resonance

Monday 27 May 2024 09:40 (30 minutes)

I present first experimental evidence for a low-energy toroidal electric dipole mode in the nucleus  $^{58}\text{Ni}$  based on a combined analysis of high-resolution  $(p,p')$ ,  $(\gamma,\gamma')$  and  $(e,e')$  experiments [1]. Large transverse electron scattering form factors are identified as an unique signature of the toroidal nature of E1 transitions. Although  $^{58}\text{Ni}$  is a  $Z \approx N$  nucleus, these results bear important implications for the pygmy dipole resonance (PDR) in heavy nuclei with neutron excess. The toroidal excitations carry the same experimental signatures as the states forming the PDR [2]: large isovector response (on the scale of low-energy E1 strength), strong isoscalar response and large ground-state branching ratios. QRPA models successfully describing the toroidal mode in  $^{58}\text{Ni}$  predict the PDR in heavy nuclei to be of toroidal nature [3] and also reproduce the specific form of transition densities approximately isoscalar in the interior with a pronounced peak of the neutron density on the surface [4]. Furthermore, a recent study of the systematics of the low-energy dipole strength in the Sn isotope chain reveals much smaller  $B(E1)$  strengths of the PDR than previously thought [5]. These findings challenge an interpretation of the PDR as neutron skin oscillations.

[1] P. von Neumann-Cosel et al., arXiv:2310.04736.

[2] A. Bracco, E.G. Lanza and A. Tamii, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. **126**, 360 (2019).

[3] A. Repko et al., Eur. Phys. J. A **55**, 242 (2019).

[4] E.G. Lanza et al., Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. **129**, 104006 (2023).

[5] M. Markova, P. von Neumann-Cosel and E. Litvinova, arXiv:2311.14525.

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