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Beta Decay of 80,82-Ga with GRIFFIN and Shape Coexistence in 80,82-Ge

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Shape coexistence in atomic nuclei, the existence of structures with different degrees of deformation in a very narrow energy range, is an exciting phenomenon that is present across the nuclidic chart. A recent theoretical study^[1] using large scale shell model calculations predicted a well deformed prolate band at a low excitation energy in the doubly magic ⁷⁸Ni nucleus which indicated the presence of shape coexistence very far from stability. At the same time, another experiment^[2] observed an intruder 0_2^+ state in ⁸⁰Ge and interpreted this as evidence of shape coexistence. In our β -decay experiment, we aim to perform comprehensive spectroscopy of the ⁸⁰Ge and ⁸²Ge nuclei and investigate the evolution of their respective intruder excited 0_2^+ states.

An experiment to search for shape coexistence in ⁸⁰Ge and ⁸²Ge has been performed at the ISAC-TRIUMF facility. The ⁸⁰Ge and ⁸²Ge isotopes were formed from the β -decay of their parent isotopes, ⁸⁰Ga and ⁸²Ga respectively. The ⁸⁰Ga and ⁸²Ga beams were produced by the ISOL technique using a 500 MeV proton beam with a 10 μ A current colliding with a UC_x target. A specialized ion source was used to suppress Rb contamination. The β -decay was measured using the GRIFFIN spectrometer which was equipped with 15 HPGe detectors for gamma ray detection, plastic scintillators for β - γ tagging, the PACES array which has 5 Si(Li) detectors for conversion electron spectroscopy and 8 LaBr₃ scintillators for fast timing measurements of nuclear levels. Using this versatile array, correlated γ - γ , γ -electron and electron-electron data have been acquired simultaneously, providing a highly detailed level scheme for ⁸⁰Ge. The preliminary results of this data analysis will be presented. \newline

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Author: BELL, Aimee (Simon Fraser University)

Co-authors: ANDREOIU, C. (Simon Fraser University); ALI, F. A. (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario); BALL, Gordon (TRIUMF); BERNIER, Nikita (TRIUMF); BHATTACHARJEE, Soumendu Sekhar (TRIUMF); BOWRY, M. (Physical Sciences Division, TRIUMF, 4004 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia); COLEMAN, Robin (University of Guelph); DILLMANN, I. (Physical Sciences Division, TRIUMF, 4004 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia); DJIANTO, Isaiah (Simon Fraser University); FORNEY, A.M. (University of Maryland College Park); GARCIA, F.H. (Department of Chemistry, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC); GARNSWORTHY, A. B. (Physical Sciences Division, TRIUMF, 4004 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia); GASCOINE, Melanie (Simon Fraser University); HACKMAN, Greg (TRIUMF); LEACH, Kyle (Colorado School of Mines); MURPHY, A. N. (TRIUMF); NATZKE, C. (Colorado School of Mines); OLAIZOLA, B. (Physical Sciences Division, TRIUMF, 4004 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia); ORTNER, Kevin; PETERS, E. E. (University Of Kentucky); PETRACHE, Costel (University Paris Sud); RAJABALI, M.M. (Tennessee Technological University); RAYMOND, Kurtis (Simon Fraser University); SVENSSON, C. E. (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario); TOCABENS, G. (Universite Paris-Sud); UMASHANKAR, R. (TRIUMF); WHITMORE, K. (Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia); WILLIAMS, Jonathan (Simon Fraser University); YATES, Daniel Aaron (TRIUMF (CA))

Presenter: BELL, Aimee (Simon Fraser University)

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