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Clustering in ¹⁸O –absolute determination of branching ratios via high-resolution particle spectroscopy

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Nuclear clustering is of great interest to the nuclear physics community as it allows complicated systems of many nucleons to be reduced to a few-body system, enabling the modelling of nuclei beyond where a traditional description of a nucleus would prove computationally challenging, as well as providing a good test of theoretical models. An experiment utilising the 12 C(7 Li, p) 18 O\reaction was performed at Maier-Leibnitz Laboratory (MLL) in Munich by von Oertzenet al. [1] which discovered 30 new states in 18 O. Using these in conjunction with previously determined states, rotational bands were proposed. Some of these bands were suggested to have cluster structures previously suggested by both theoretical and experimental work, such as 14 C \(\text{\text{\text{C}}} \) and 12 C \(\text{\text{\text{2}}} 2n \(\text{\text{\text{\text{C}}}} \) [2-5]. In order to determine the validity of these assertions an experiment was performed, again at MLL with the 12 C(7 Li, p) 18 O\ reaction. This time, the Q3D magnetic spectrograph was used in conjunction with the Birmingham DSSD array to enable the high-resolution reconstruction of decay fragments from 18 O* to determine absolute branching ratios of each high-energy excited state. The study also enabled a comparison of their α reduced widths to the Wigner limit to ascertain both the tendency towards α -clustering and consistency across the proposed rotational bands. This presentation will detail the final results of the analysis.

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Author: PIRRIE, Stuart (University of Birmingham)

Co-authors: Dr WHELDON, C. (University of Birmingham); Dr KOKALOVA, Tz. (University of Birmingham); Dr BISHOP, J. (University of Birmingham); Dr HERTENBERGER, R. (Ludwig Maximilians Universitat (DE)); Dr WIRTH, H.-F. (Ludwig-Maximillans-Universität); Dr BAILEY, S. (University of Birmingham); Dr CURTIS, N. (University of Birmingham); Dr DELL'AQUILA, D. (Università degli Studi di Napoli Fedorico II); Dr FAESTERMANN, Th. (Techinische Universität München); Dr MENGONI, D. (Università degli Studi di Padova); Dr SMITH, R. (University of Birmingham); Mr TURNER, A. (University of Birmingham)

Presenter: PIRRIE, Stuart (University of Birmingham)

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