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Peeling off Neutrons: Using Fragmentation Reactions to Measure the Neutron Skin

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By studying the neutron skin thickness across the Sn isotopic chain, one can gain a rich insight into the slope of the density dependence of the symmetry energy. A novel method using the total neutron-removal cross section (σ_{NR}) has been shown to be highly sensitive to the slope, with a 1% change in σ_{NR} corresponding to a variation of $L=\pm 5$ MeV. Experiments have been performed at GSI at $400 < E/A \text{ (MeV/nuc)} < 900$ with $^{120,124,128,132,134}\text{Sn}$ projectiles on p and ^{12}C targets.

Topic

Experiment

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