

Changes in shell structure in $A \sim 60$ neutron-rich nuclei as a function of spin

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Using the resolving power of spectrometers such as Gammasphere in combination with a variety of reactions ranging from fusion-evaporation with exotic beams or targets to deep inelastic reactions, it has been possible to investigate to fairly high angular momentum neutron-rich nuclei in a number of regions of the nuclear chart. The primary motivation for such studies is to provide the data required to characterize changes in shell structure as a function of the neutron-to-proton ratio that can be used to develop large-scale shell-model calculations and to characterize the impact of a large neutron excess on global properties, such as the nuclear shape, for example.

This presentation will review the nature of excitations in neutron-rich *fp*-shell nuclei between Ca and Ni, where interactions incorporating the monopole tensor force are responsible for a neutron sub-shell closure at $N=32$ [1–3]. Also of particular interest in this region is the role of the $g_{9/2}$ orbital in driving the nuclear shape as has been demonstrated by the presence of collective excitations at moderate spin in neutron-rich Cr, Fe and Mn isotopes [4–6]. This suggests that mixing between the “deformed” and the “shell-model” states might have a strong influence on their properties. This presentation will conclude with a discussion of recent results obtained in the direct vicinity of ^{68}Ni [7].

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