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High Precision Q_{EC} Value Measurements of Superallowed beta decays

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Precise measurements of beta decays between isobaric analog states of nuclear spin-parity 0^+ and isospin $T=1$ provide important data for testing the electroweak interaction. These so-called superallowed beta decays provide the most precise value of V_{ud} , the up-down element of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) quark-mixing matrix. The most stringent test of the CKM matrix is the top-row unitarity test, where V_{ud} contributes the most. Currently there are 13 superallowed transitions ranging from ^{10}C to ^{74}Rb that are determined accurately enough to contribute to the world average.

The three experimental quantities that are required to extract V_{ud} from a superallowed decay are the branching ratio (BR) of the superallowed 0^+ to 0^+ transition, the half-life ($T_{1/2}$) of the parent state and the decay energy (Q_{EC}). Additionally, a few theoretical correction terms are needed.

The JYFLTRAP Penning-trap setup at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, has contributed to these studies mainly with high-precision Q -values. Since 2006, Q values of 15 different superallowed transitions, ranging from ^{10}C to ^{62}Ga , have been determined with high precision. Since JYFLTRAP is coupled to the IGISOL mass separator, any element is available. Simultaneous production enabled us to determine a Q_{EC} value by measuring the frequency ratio of the parent and daughter ions directly. Using this so-called doublet technique and utilizing state-of-the-art methods, such as ion-motion excitation with time-separated oscillatory fields, we have reached precisions down to the 50-eV level.

In this contribution, the results and impact of the Q -value measurement program at JYFLTRAP will be presented.

Summary

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