

Highlights from the first transfer experiment at GANIL with ACTAR TPC

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Direct reactions are fundamental tools to investigate the structure of exotic nuclei. Studies of nuclei far away from stability are usually performed with secondary radioactive beams, that suffer from low intensities and need to be compensated with thick targets and high efficient detection systems to increase luminosity. Active targets are invaluable devices that, among other important features, allow to reconstruct the reaction in three dimensions without loss of resolution.

The Active Target and Time Projection Chamber (ACTAR TPC) detector [1,3] has been developed at GANIL to cover a broad physics programme. The device was commissioned in 2018 showing an excellent performance of the detector [4]. Since then, several experiments have been performed at GANIL. In this talk, I will present the results from the single-proton removal reaction $^{20}\text{O}(d,^3\text{He})^{19}\text{N}$ which aimed at probing the $Z=6$ shell gap towards the neutron dripline. From all the magic numbers that emerge as a consequence of the spin-orbit splitting, the gaps at 6 and 14, were already considered by Goepper-Mayer and Jensen as very weak [5]. However, experimental results published in Nature [6] showed evidence for a $Z=6$ shell closure. A $(p,2p)$ experiment [7] was performed later and supports a moderate reduction of the $1p_{1/2}$ and $1p_{3/2}$ splitting. Yet not direct measurement of the gap has been obtained so far.

The goal of the $^{20}\text{O}(d,^3\text{He})^{19}\text{N}$ [8] experiment at GANIL is twofold: First, the experiment will provide a unique way of determining the gap between the $1p_{1/2}$ and $1p_{3/2}$ single-particle states in ^{19}N and will bring crucial information on the $Z=6$ shell gap. Second, this experiment is the first transfer experiment with the new generation of active targets. Originally, these transfer experiments required the use of complex arrays for particle and gamma detection systems to improve selectivity. The use of active targets overcomes the aforementioned difficulties and is specially well adapted to explore new regions of the nuclear chart with unprecedented resolution using a much more compact detection system.

References

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Primary author(s): Prof. FERNÁNDEZ-DOMÍNGUEZ, B. (IGFAE/Universidade de Santiago de Compostela,); LOIS-FUENTES, J. (IGFAE/Universidade de Santiago de Compostela); LOZANO, M. (IGFAE/Universidade de Santiago de Compostela); ROGER, T. (GANIL); FOR THE ACTAR COLLABORATION

Presenter(s): Prof. FERNÁNDEZ-DOMÍNGUEZ, B. (IGFAE/Universidade de Santiago de Compostela,)

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