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First Identification of Excited States in ^{78}Zr and Implications for Isospin Non-Conserving Forces in Nuclei

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Isospin symmetry is a fundamental concept arising from the assumed charge symmetry and charge independence of the strong nuclear force. However, a wealth of experimental evidence has revealed isospin non-conserving interactions, which manifest, for example, in the excitation energies of analog states in $T = 1$ triplet nuclei. Until recently, the triplet energy difference (TED) data were available for $A = 42$ to $A = 74$ isobaric triplets, but have now been extended to cover the $A = 78$, $T = 1$ triplet, which is currently the heaviest system for which complete TED data exist.

A fusion-evaporation reaction study conducted at the Accelerator Laboratory of the University of Jyväskylä led to the first observation of the 2^+ and, tentatively, the 4^+ excited states in the $N = Z - 2$ nucleus ^{78}Zr [1]. This study also provided new structural information for the $N = Z$ nucleus ^{78}Y . These results were obtained using the JUROGAM 3 Ge-array coupled with the vacuum-mode mass separator MARA, along with employing the recoil- β and recoil- β - β correlation techniques. This presentation will discuss the new experimental results for the $A = 78$ triplet, which appear to be inconsistent with those obtained from contemporary theoretical calculations based on both the shell model and density functional theory.

References:

[1] G.L. Zimba, P. Ruotsalainen, D.G. Jenkins, W. Satula et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., Accepted 12 November, 2024

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