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High-precision TDRIV g-factor measurement in ^{22}Ne and its implications for the $N=20$ Island of Inversion

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The Island of Inversion in the neutron-rich $N = 20$ region arises in part due to a significant reduction in the energy gap between the sd and fp shells. Recent theoretical calculations [1] and experimental results in ^{30}Mg [2] favor a much smoother transition towards the Island of Inversion than previously thought, with considerable fp admixtures in the ground state of ^{30}Mg and small fp admixtures down to ^{28}Mg . If such admixtures are present already in ^{28}Mg , they are expected to influence the g factor of its 2_1^+ state as the magnetic dipole moments are especially sensitive to the mixing of single-particle configurations.

To test this hypothesis, the first application of the Time Differential Recoil In Vacuum (TDRIV) method [3,4] on a radioactive ion beam aimed to measure the g factor of the 2_1^+ state in ^{28}Mg . The experiment was carried out at HIE-ISOLDE in 2017 using the MINIBALL HPGe detector array, a CD DSSSD for particle detection and the MINIBALL plunger device, and the state of interest was populated via Coulomb excitation of the post-accelerated ^{28}Mg beam. The TDRIV method is based on observing the Larmor frequency, proportional to the g factor, at which the nuclear and atomic spins precess around the total spin of the projectile as it recoils between the target and a secondary foil within a plunger device. In the same experiment a calibration TDRIV measurement of the supposedly well-known g factor of the 2_1^+ state in ^{22}Ne was also performed as a test of the plunger system and in order to determine the plunger zero-offset distance, needed to constrain the ^{28}Mg TDRIV analysis. A striking disagreement was observed between the newly-obtained results from the ^{22}Ne measurement and the adopted g-factor value from the 1970s [5], which introduced significant systematic uncertainties for the ^{28}Mg g-factor result.

In order to reduce the systematic uncertainties of the ^{28}Mg measurement and to resolve the discovered discrepancy in ^{22}Ne an experiment to re-measure the g factor of the 2_1^+ state in ^{22}Ne was performed in September 2024 at GANIL. The experimental setup consisted of the EXOGAM γ -ray spectrometer coupled to the Orsay Universal Plunger System and the newly-developed Orsay Particle Scintillator Array (OPSA). With the provided 10^9 pps ^{22}Ne beam intensity we were able to collect high-statistics particle- γ coincidence data that will allow us to obtain a high-precision and high-accuracy value for the g factor of the 2_1^+ state in ^{22}Ne . The results from the preliminary analysis of this data set will be presented and compared to theoretical predictions. In addition, the implications of these results on the ^{28}Mg g-factor measurement from ISOLDE, and on the extent of the $N = 20$ Island of Inversion will be discussed.

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