The Experimental Study of Shape Coexistence in ¹¹⁴Sn via GRIFFIN

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Shell Model and "Magic" Nuclei

- Nucleons arranged in respective shells
- Filled valence shells are associated with increased stability
 - "Doubly- / Singly-Magic"
- "Magic" nuclei characteristically spherical in ground state







Quadrupole Deformation



Oblate (earth)



Prolate (rugby ball)



Excitation energy of the 2_1^+ state in even-even nuclei

from NNDC NuDat





Signatures of Nuclear Shape: B(E2)

- Non-magic ¹³⁰Ba shows highly collective excitations
 - High B(E2) values
 - Indicative of the rotational band and deformed nuclear shape
- Singly-magic ¹³⁴Te shows non-collective excitations
 - Low B(E2) values
 - Seniority scheme implies sphericity



Rotational Band

Seniority Scheme





¹⁸⁶Pb and Shape Coexistence

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• Z=82 closed proton shell implying spherical shape in g.s.

- Shape coexistence is Two or more states having distinct properties and different intrinsic shapes within a narrow energy range
 - Characterized by rotational bands of excited states allowed by deformed shapes (prolate & oblate, etc.)

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Ojala, J. et al. Reassigning the shapes of the 0⁺ states in the ¹⁸⁶Pb nucleus. Commun Phys 5, 213 (2022)



Shape Coexistence in Sn Isotopes

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- Closed proton shell @ Z=50
- Near spherical g.s.

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- First excited 2⁺ corresponds to a noncollective breaking of neutron-pair
 - Excitation E ≈ 1.3 MeV
 - Low B(E2; $2_1^+ \rightarrow 0_1^+$)
- Mid-shell rotational band built upon 2p-2h configuration
 - Hypothesised to be built upon 0_2^+ state (blue)

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Garrett P. E. et al. An experimental view on shape coexistence in nuclei. Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 124, (2022),



¹¹⁶Sn Shape Coexistence

- Findings from Pore et. al (2016) regarding ¹¹⁶Sn suggest a reevaluation of the head of the 2p-2h band within this nucleus
 - B(E2;2⁺₂ \rightarrow 0⁺₃) / B(E2;2⁺₂ \rightarrow 0⁺₂) \approx 2.2

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 Based upon intensity measurement of very weak 85-keV transition



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2112	2.19(14)	$1.89(10) \mathrm{ps}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2^+_2 \rightarrow 0^+_3 \\ 2^+_2 \rightarrow 0^+_2 \end{array}$	85.294(88) 355.432(18)	$0.00166(10) \\ 0.939(23)$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0091(6) \\ 5.16(14) \end{array}$	$99.7(84) \\ 44.4(28)$
E_{lev} (keV	el	$T_{1/2}$ ref. [5]	$J_i^{\pi} \to J_f^{\pi}$	E_{γ} (keV)	I_{γ}	BR_{γ}	$\begin{array}{c} B(E2) \\ (W.u.) \end{array}$

A Case for ¹¹⁴Sn Inquiry

- ¹¹⁴Sn level scheme is highly similar to that of ¹¹⁶Sn and other mid-shell Tin isotopes
 - Missing observation of key $2_2^+ \rightarrow 0_3^+$ transition
- No established lifetime or branching ratios from 2₂⁺ state of interest
 - Existing lifetime lower limit of τ > 2.1 ps
- Most recent β-decay study of ¹¹⁴Sb→¹¹⁴Sn was M. E. J.
 Wigmans et. Al, Phys. Rev. C 14, 229 (1976)







Challenge of the 82-keV Transition

$$\frac{\lambda(2_2^+ \to 0_3^+)}{\lambda(2_2^+ \to 0_1^+)} = \left[\frac{E_{\gamma}(2_2^+ \to 0_3^+)}{E_{\gamma}2_2^+ \to 0_1^+)}\right]^5 = \left[\frac{82keV}{2239keV}\right]^5 = 6.6 \times 10^{-8}$$

Eqn. 1 – Decay rate ratio of competing $2_2^+ \rightarrow 0_3^+$ (82keV) to $2_2^+ \rightarrow 0_1^+$ (2239keV) transitions via single particle estimate

- For E2 transitions, transition rate is proportional to E_{γ}^5
- Energetic favourability of 2239-keV transition depopulating the 2₂⁺ state is predicted to occur 1.52 x10⁷ times for each 82-keV transition
- If consistent with Pore et. al's measurements the relative intensity of the 82-keV transition is predicted to be increased by a factor of 10³



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GRIFFIN Spectrometer





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• High intensity of ¹¹⁴In imposed significant limitations on DAQ

	Proposal	Experiment
Beam Intensity	1.0E6 pps	5.0E5 pps
t _{implantation}	2100 s	390 s
t _{decay}	210 s	390 s







Simulated Efficiency vs. Experimental Efficiency







γ - γ Coincidence



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Partial Level Scheme of ¹¹⁴Sn







856-keV Gate







856-keV Gate (zoom)



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Conclusions and Outlook

- ¹¹⁴Sn^{*} populated via ¹¹⁴Sb decay to GRIFFIN w/ intensity of 5E5 pps over ~48 hour experiment
- 5.7 TB of data collected over ~48 hours of beam-time
- Preliminary analysis of γ - γ coincidences did not observe the weak $2^+_2 \rightarrow 0^+_3$ transition
 - Established the upper limit $B(E2;2_2^+ \rightarrow 0_3^+) / B(E2;2_2^+ \rightarrow 0_2^+) \le 10$
 - Established upper limit on Branching ratio $(2_2^+ \rightarrow 0_3^+) / (2_2^+ \rightarrow 0_2^+) \le 0.0207$
 - E0 transitions, γ - γ - γ coincidences, and feeding ratios still to be investigated

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- A large number of γ - γ coincidences have been collected
 - Extend level scheme of ¹¹⁴Sn

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- γ-γ angular correlation measurements
- Fast-timing measurements with LaBr₃ (Ce) detectors
- Significant amount of analysis ahead

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Nuclear Shapes*

• Described by a multipole expansion in λ :

$$- R(\theta,\phi) = c(\alpha)R_0 \left[1 + \sum_{\lambda=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\mu=-\lambda}^{\lambda} \alpha_{\lambda\mu} Y_{\lambda\mu}(\theta,\phi) \right]$$

- Multipole order: 2^{λ}
 - $2^0 =$ monopole breathing mode
 - 2^1 = dipole center of mass shift
 - $2^2 =$ quadrupole reflection symmetric deformation
- Deformed nuclear shape arises from long-range multipolemultipole interactions between protons and neutrons in the nuclear valence space

Oblate (earth)



Prolate (rugby ball)







¹⁸⁶Pb Shape Coexistence*

- Two or more states having distinct properties and different intrinsic shapes within a narrow energy range
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Decay of ¹¹⁴Sb to ¹¹⁴Sn**

β⁺-decay

 Protons are spontaneously converted to neutrons, releasing a positron and an electron neutrino

Electron Capture (EC)

 Proton spontaneously captures an atomic electron, converting it to a neutron and neutrino







GRIFFIN Spectrometer*







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