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Proton-neutron pairing in the fp-shell via the $^{48}\text{Cr}(p, ^3\text{He})^{46}\text{V}$ transfer reaction

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Unlike standard like-particle pairing (neutron-neutron, proton-proton) that only exists in the $T=1$ channel, proton-neutron pairing can exist in both $T=1$ and $T=0$ channels. The consequences of this coexistence are not yet fully understood, but could explain phenomena such as the overbinding of self-conjugate nuclei.

Proton-neutron pairing can be studied by spectroscopy as in ref. [1], or by transfer reactions, as in ref. [2], since the two-nucleon transfer reaction cross-section is expected to be enhanced by pairing. The relative proton-neutron pairing strengths between $T=1$ and $T=0$ channels can be accessed by measuring transfer cross-sections to the low-lying ($J=0^+$, $T=1$) and ($J=1^+$, $T=0$) states in odd-odd $N=Z$ nuclei. We chose to use $(p, ^3\text{He})$ reaction as its selection rules allow to populate both states at once.

As pairing is a collective effect, it is expected to be stronger in the middle of high j orbitals. The $f_{7/2}$ shell is the highest j shell currently accessible with sufficient beam intensity for two-nucleon transfer reactions in $N=Z$ nuclei. We are thus investigating ^{48}Cr , which lies in the middle of this shell, and comparing it with previous experiments in the same region [2]. Moreover, ^{48}Cr is a good candidate to study the interplay between pairing and deformation since it is known to be a good rotor up to spin 10^+ [3].

The experiment to measure the two-nucleon transfer reaction $^{48}\text{Cr}(p, ^3\text{He})^{46}\text{V}$ was performed at GANIL. A radioactive ^{48}Cr beam was produced by fragmentation of a primary ^{50}Cr beam and selected by the LISE spectrometer, before impinging on a CH_2 target. A forward array of DSSD-CsI telescopes (MUGAST) was used to detect and identify light charged particles, and was coupled to 12 EXOGAM Germanium clovers around the target, a zero-degree detection (ZDD) and MWPC detectors to reconstruct event by event the beam position on the target.

I will present preliminary cross-sections and angular distributions for the low-lying states of ^{46}V . They will be compared with second-order Distorted Wave Born Approximation (DWBA) calculations for two-nucleon transfer performed with both realistic and single particle two-nucleon amplitudes (TNA). The results will be put in perspective with the systematics in the f -shell: $^{56}\text{Ni}(p, ^3\text{He})$, $^{52}\text{Fe}(p, ^3\text{He})$ and $^{40}\text{Ca}(p, ^3\text{He})$.

[1] Cederwall, B., Moradi, F., Bäck, T. et al. Evidence for a spin-aligned neutron-proton paired phase from the level structure of Pd. *Nature* 469, 68-71 (2011). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature09644>

[2] Le Crom, B., Assié, M. et al. Neutron-proton pairing in the $N=Z$ radioactive fp-shell nuclei Ni and Fe probed by pair transfer, *Physics Letters B* 829 (2022), 137057. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physletb.2022.137057>

[3] Robinson, S. J. Q. and Hoang, T. and Zamick, L. and Escuderos, A. and Sharon, Y. Y. Shell model calculations of $B(E2)$ values, static quadrupole moments, and g factors for a number of $N = Z$ nuclei. *Phys. Rev. C* 89 (2014), 014316. <https://link.aps.org/doi/10.1103/PhysRevC.89.014316>

Collaboration

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