

Nuclear structure studies around ^{132}Sn through nuclear moment measurements of isomeric states

G. Georgiev,^{*2,*1} S. Go,^{*1} K. Stoychev,^{*3} M. Niikura,^{*1} H. Baba,^{*1} D. L. Balabanski,^{*4} S.R. Ban,^{*4}
 D. Choudhury,^{*4,*6} A. Coman,^{*5} C. Costache,^{*5} J. M. Daugas,^{*7,*1} L. M. Fraile,^{*8} N. Fukuda,^{*1}
 Y. Fukuzawa,^{*9,*1} G. Garcia De Lorenzo,^{*8} Y. Ichikawa,^{*10} Y. Ichinohe,^{*1} N. Imai,^{*11} D. Kalaydjieva,^{*3}
 T. Kato,^{*9,*1} N. Kitamura,^{*11} A. Kusoglu,^{*4} G. Li,^{*12} Z. Liu,^{*12} M. Matsuda,^{*13} H. Matsufuji,^{*10} R. Matsui,^{*10}
 Y. Matsuo,^{*9,*1} S. Michimasa,^{*1} C. Mihai,^{*5} R. Mizuno,^{*14} M. Mochizuki,^{*9,*1} S. Motomura,^{*1} M. Mukai,^{*15}
 H. Nishibata,^{*11} A. Odahara,^{*13} S. Ohno,^{*9,*1} S. Pascu,^{*5} S. Shimano,^{*9,*1} K. Shimizu,^{*16,*1} Y. Shimizu,^{*1}
 M. Si,^{*12} H. Suzuki,^{*1} S. Takahashi,^{*9,*1} A. Takamine,^{*10} H. Takeda,^{*1} Y. Togano,^{*1} A. Turturica,^{*5}
 G. Turturica,^{*4} S. Ujeniuc,^{*5} Y. Yamamoto,^{*11} M. Yoshimoto,^{*1} and H. Ueno^{*1}

The region around ^{132}Sn has recently attracted huge attention both experimentally and theoretically. Considered as one of the pillars of the nuclear shell model, its stability is often compared with that of the ^{208}Pb region, raising the question of how fundamentally different they are. Experimentally, the studies of those two regions are slightly imbalanced as low-spin states in the vicinity of ^{132}Sn are better studied with radioactive ion beams, whereas the higher-spin isomeric states around ^{208}Pb make the low-energy states more challenging to investigate. A number of microsecond isomeric states have been observed recently around $^{132}\text{Sn}^{1-3}$, including an isomeric state at ^{130}Sn ($E_x = 2435$ keV, $t_{1/2} = 1.61(15)$ μs), which is the subject of the present study. Its tentative spin-parity assignment of 10^+ suggests a neutron $h_{11/2}$ configuration, which, because of its high spin, is expected to have a very pure configuration. A magnetic moment study on this isomer is expected to shed light on the robustness of the double shell closure ($Z = 50$ and $N = 82$) at ^{132}Sn .

The first part of the NP1712-RIBF143 experiment was performed in December 2018 at BigRIPS separator at RIBF. After a careful analysis of the collected data⁴⁾, an $R(t)$ function with a statistical significance of slightly less than the 3σ limit was observed, indicating a g factor considerably closer to the *free-nucleon Schmidt limit* than the standard $g_s^{eff} = 0.7g_s^{free}$. To verify the observation, a new proposal

was submitted to the RIKEN NP PAC in December 2019.

The NP1712-RIBF143R2 experiment has been performed in December 2024, following some improvements in the setup. A two-step reaction scheme, previously developed at RIBF⁵⁾ was applied to produce a spin-aligned ^{130}Sn beam. A secondary beam of ^{132}Sn was produced following the fission of 345 MeV/u ^{238}U beam on a 6 mm ^9Be target, using a secondary, wedge-shaped (3 mm), aluminium target at F5, following a two-neutron removal reaction. Special attention was paid to the dispersion matching condition. The tertiary beam was further purified using a wedge degrader at F7 and sent to the Time Dependent Perturbed Angular Distribution (TDPAD) setup at F12.

The setup consisted of 4 Ge Planar detectors, positioned in a horizontal plane around a dipole magnet, providing a static field of $B = 0.15$ mT in the vertical direction. The transport of the beam, from the production target up to the implantation point, was performed entirely in a vacuum, to avoid any possible spin de-orientation. The TDPAD technique is based on the observation of the angular-distribution modulation of the isomeric γ rays, due to the rotation of the nuclear spins in the magnetic field with Larmor frequency ω_L . The $R(t)$ function is constructed using detectors positioned at 90° with respect to each other.

Online analysis showed that the isomeric population in the two-neutron removal reaction is extremely low ($\sim 0.2\%$). However, the oscillation patterns hinted in the two γ -ray transitions of the de-exciting isomeric states, namely 97 keV ($E2$) and the 391 keV ($E1$), have opposite signs of the amplitude of the $R(t)$ functions, as expected from multipolarity one and multipolarity two transitions. This allows a consistent g -factor to be extracted through careful analysis.

References

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^{*1} RIKEN Nishina Center
^{*2} Université Paris-Saclay, IJCLab, CNRS/IN2P3
^{*3} Department of Physics, University of Guelph
^{*4} Extreme Light Infrastructure-Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP)
^{*5} Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH)
^{*6} Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology Ropar
^{*7} Institut Laue-Langevin
^{*8} Grupo de Física Nuclear, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
^{*9} Department of Advanced Sciences, Hosei University
^{*10} Department of Physics, Kyushu University
^{*11} Center for Nuclear Study, University of Tokyo
^{*12} Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences
^{*13} Department of Physics, Osaka University
^{*14} Department of Physics, University of Tokyo
^{*15} Wako Nuclear Science Center (WNSC), IPNS, KEK
^{*16} Department of Physics, Meiji University