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## First Evidence of Axial Shape Asymmetry and Shape Coexistence in 74Zn: Suggestion for a Northern Extension of the N=40 Island of Inversion

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Results from recent experiments studying nuclei in the <sup>78</sup>Ni region suggest that the N = 50 shell closure persists, in agreement with state-of-the-art shell-model calculations. However, how collectivity manifests and evolves in this region of the Segrè chart is still an open question, particularly concerning phenomena such as vibrational modes, axial shape asymmetry (triaxiality) and shape coexistence. This is especially true in the Zn isotopic chain in the neutron-rich region, in which even definitive spin assignments are unavailable except for the very low-lying states.

In this talk, I will present the results of a recent experiment performed at the TRIUMF laboratory (Vancouver, Canada) using the GRIFFIN  $\gamma$ -ray spectrometer. The excited states of <sup>74</sup>Zn were investigated via  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy following <sup>74</sup>Cu  $\beta$ -decay. By exploiting  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  angular correlation analysis, the  $2_2^+$ ,  $3_1^+$ ,  $0_2^+$  and  $2_3^+$  states in <sup>74</sup>Zn were firmly identified. The  $\gamma$ -ray branching and E2/M1 mixing ratios for transitions deexciting the  $2_2^+$ ,  $3_1^+$  and  $2_3^+$  states were measured, allowing for the extraction of relative B(E2) values. In particular, the  $2_3^+ \rightarrow 0_2^+$  and  $2_3^+ \rightarrow 4_1^+$  transitions were observed for the first time. The levels observed were organized into rotational-like bands and the results were compared with large-scale shell-model calculations from which the shapes of individual states were determined. Enhanced triaxiality is suggested to characterize <sup>74</sup>Zn in its ground state. Furthermore, an excited K = 0 band with a different shape is identified. A shore of the N = 40 island of inversion appears to manifest above Z = 28, previously thought as its northern limit in the nuclide chart.

Primary authors: ROCCHINI, Marco (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); GAR-RETT, Paul (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); ZIELIŃSKA, Magda (IRFU, CEA, Universitée Paris-Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France); LENZI, Silvia (Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Padova, IT-35122 Padova, Italy and INFN Sezione di Padova, IT-35131 Padova, Italy); DAO, Duc (Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, F-67000 Strasbourg, France); NOWACKI, Frédéric (Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, IPHC UMR 7178, F-67000 Strasbourg, France); BILDSTEIN, Vinzenz (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); MACLEAN, Andrew (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); OLAIZOLA, Bruno (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada and CERN, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland); AHMED, Zarin (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); AN-DREOIU, Corina (Department of Chemistry, Simon Fraser University, V5A 1S6 Burnaby, Canada); BABU, Aditya (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada); BALL, Gordon (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada); BHATTACHAR-JEE, Soumendu (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada and Institute of Experimental and Applied Physics, Czech Technical University in Prague, 110 00 Prague, Czech Republic); BIDAMAN, Harris (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); CHENG, Chloe (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada); COLE-MAN, Robin (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); DILLMANN, Iris (TRI-UMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada and Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, V8P 5C2 Victoria, Canada); GARNSWORTHY, Adam (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada); GILLESPIE, Stephen (TRI-UMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada); GRIFFIN, Chris (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada); GRINYER, Gwen

(Department of Physics, University of Regina, S4S 0A2 Regina, Canada); HACKMAN, Greg (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada); HANLEY, Madeleine (Department of Physics, Colorado School of Mines, CO 80401 Golden, USA); ILLANA, Andres (Department of Physics, University of Jyväskylä, FI-40014 Jyväskylä, Finland); JONES, S. (Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Tennessee, TN 37996 Knoxville, USA); LAFFOLEY, Alex (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); LEACH, Kyle (Department of Physics, Colorado School of Mines, CO 80401 Golden, USA); LUBNA, Rebeka (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada and Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, MI 48824 East Lansing, USA); MCAFEE, J. (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada and Department of Physics, University of Surrey, GU2 7XH Guildford, UK); NATZKE, Connor (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada and Department of Physics, Colorado School of Mines, CO 80401 Golden, USA); PANNU, Sangeet-Pal (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); PAXMAN, C. (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada and Department of Physics, University of Surrey, GU2 7XH Guildford, UK); PORZIO, Carlotta (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada and INFN Sezione di Milano, IT-20133 Milano, Italy and Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, IT-20133 Milano, Italy and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, CA 94720 Berkeley, USA); RADICH, Allison (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); RAJABALI, M. (Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Tennessee, TN 37996 Knoxville, USA); SARAZIN, Frederic (Department of Physics, Colorado School of Mines, CO 80401 Golden, USA); SCHWARZ, K. (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada); SHADRICK, S. (Department of Physics, Colorado School of Mines, CO 80401 Golden, USA); SHARMA, Shivani (Department of Physics, University of Regina, S4S 0A2 Regina, Canada); SUH, J. (Department of Physics, University of Regina, S4S 0A2 Regina, Canada); SVENSSON, Carl (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada); YATES, Daniel (TRIUMF, V6T 2A3 Vancouver, Canada and Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of British Columbia, V6T 1Z4 Vancouver, Canada ); ZIDAR, Tammy (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada)

Presenter: ROCCHINI, Marco (Department of Physics, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1 Guelph, Canada)

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