β-γ and isomeric decay spectroscopy of 168Dy


1 IRCNPC, School of Physics and Nuclear Energy Engineering, Beihang University, Beijing 100191, China
2 RIKEN Nishina Center, 2-1 Hirosawa, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan
3 Department of Nuclear Physics, R.S.P.E., Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200, Australia
4 Nuclear Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA
5 Department of Physics, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, United Kingdom
6 National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0LW, United Kingdom
7 Department of Physics, Osaka University, Machikaneyama-machi 1-1, Osaka 560-0043 Toyonaka, Japan
8 MTA Atomki, P. O. Box 51, Debrecen, H-4001, Hungary
9 Department of Physics, Chung-Ang University, Seoul 156-756, Republic of Korea
10 Department of Physics, the University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
11 Department of Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China
12 Department of Physics, College of Science in Zulfi, Almajmaa University, P.O. Box 1712, 11932, Saudi Arabia
13 School of Computing Engineering and Mathematics, University of Brighton, BN2 4GJ, United Kingdom
14 Department of Physics, Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon 440-746, Republic of Korea
15 School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, United Kingdom
16 Research Center for Nuclear Physics (RCNP), Osaka University, Ibaraki, Osaka 567-0047, Japan
17 GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH, 64291 Darmstadt, Germany
18 National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0LW, United Kingdom
19 Department of Physics, Hoseo University, Chung-Nam 336-795, Republic of Korea
20 Department of Physics, Toho University, Aoba, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8578, Japan
21 School of Computing and Engineering Mathematics, University of Brighton, BN2 4GJ, United Kingdom
22 VNU Hanoi University of Science, 334 Nguyen Trai, Thanh Xuan, Hanoi, Vietnam
23 School of Physics, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
24 Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro, 35020 Legnaro, Italy

Abstract. This contribution will report on the experimental work on the level structure of 168Dy. The experimental data have been taken as part of the EURICA decay spectroscopy campaign at RIBF, RIKEN in November 2014. In the experiment, a 238U primary beam is accelerated up to 345 MeV/u with an average intensity of 12 pA. The nuclei of interest are produced by in-flight fission of 238U impinging on Be target with a thickness of 5 mm. The excited states of 168Dy have been populated through the decay from a newly identified isomeric state and via the β decay from 168Tb. In this contribution, scientific motivations, experimental procedure and some preliminary results for this study are presented.

1 Introduction

Atomic nuclei consisting of a number of protons and neutrons are driven towards non-spherical equilibrium shapes when moving away from shell closures. Being located in the close vicinity of the double midshell at $Z \approx 66$, $N \approx 104$, 168Dy ($Z = 66$, $N = 102$) is expected to have a large quadrupole deformation for the ground state. The excited states in such a well-deformed nucleus are characterized by collective rotation and surface oscillations, including quadrupole ($\beta$ and $\gamma$) and even higher-order vibrations, as well as by other quasiparticle excitations. The intrinsic state with a multi-quasiparticle configuration is likely to be a metastable state (isomer), when the projection of the total nuclear spin on the symmetry axis, denoted by $K$, is largely different from that of the lower-lying levels to which the isomer decays. The presence of these collective and intrinsic excitations within a narrow range of energy results in an interplay among them to a greater or lesser extent, giving rise to a rich variety of structural aspects.
in deformed nuclei. Therefore, spectroscopic studies of low-energy excitations in this doubly mid-shell region will provide a good testing ground for various collective model calculations.

This article will report on the spectroscopic results of $^{166}$Dy. For $N = 102$ isotones, $K^\pi = 4^-$ isomers have been identified in $^{168}$Er ($E_c = 1269$ keV, $T_{1/2} = 43$ ns) [1], $^{172}$Yb ($1641$ keV, $0.5$ ns) [2], and $K^\pi = 6^-$ isomers in $^{166}$Gd ($1486$ keV, $0.6$ µs), $^{166}$Gd ($1601$ keV, $0.95$ µs) [3], $^{168}$Er ($1591$ keV, $4.0$ ns) [1], $^{170}$Yb ($1550$ keV, $3.6$ µs) [4], $^{172}$Hf ($1714$ keV, $0.45$ ns) [5]. The $K^\pi = 6^-$ and $4^-$ isomers are interpreted as the neutron two-quasiparticle configurations $v^2 7/2^-[633] \otimes 5/2^+ [512]$ and $v^2 7/2^-[633] \otimes 1/2^+ [521]$, respectively. Yet isomeric states have not been identified in $^{168}$Dy.

The octupole vibrational excitations have been identified in the doubly midshell region at relatively low energy, for example, $^{166}$Dy ($976.9$ keV, $K^\pi = 2^-$) [6], $^{166}$Dy ($1029$ keV, $K^\pi = 2^-$) [6], $^{168}$Dy ($861$ keV, $K^\pi = 2^-$) [7] and $^{170}$Yb ($1154.9$ keV, $K^\pi = 1^-$) [6]. Thus the aforementioned $K$ isomers with negative parity are probably mixed with the rotational band-members built on such low-lying octupole vibrations. On the other hand, the $K^\pi = 3^+$ states have been identified in $^{170}$Er ($1217.5$ keV) [1] and $^{170}$Yb ($1172.4$ keV) [4]. In $^{172}$Hf, the $K^\pi = 3^+$ state has the possibility that the hexadecapole vibrational excitation may also have a contribution, which has already been studied before [8].

2 Experimental Procedure

In order to study the level structure of the neutron-rich rare-earth nuclei around double midshell, an experiment was performed in November 2014 at the RI-Beam Factory (RIBF) at RIKEN [9]. The $^{238}$U primary beam was accelerated up to 345 MeV/u by a sequential acceleration system consisting of a linac injector (RILAC) and four ring cyclotrons (RRC-IRC-SRC). The secondary beams were produced by in-flight fission of the U beam on the primary beam line for the measurement of heavy-ion implantation and electron and γ-ray events were time-stamped and recorded by independent data-acquisition systems. Isomeric states with (sub)microsecond lifetimes were identified by delayed coincidence between γ-ray and beam signals on an event-by-event basis. Meanwhile, all the data sets containing beam, electron and γ-ray events were needed for electron-γ coincidence analyses, in which the ion implantation of an identified particle was associated with the subsequent electron events that were detected in the same or neighboring DSSD pixels where the beam particle was implanted.

3 Preliminary results

Figure 2 shows the β-delayed γ-ray spectrum measured within 20 s after the implantation of $^{168}$Tb. Before the present work, the excited states of $^{168}$Dy had been studied by the β decay of $^{168}$Tb [13] and multi-nucleon transfer reactions with a $^{32}$Se beam incident on an $^{170}$Er target [14]. The γ rays at energies of 75 and 173 keV, which were previously assigned as $2^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ and $4^+ \rightarrow 2^+$, respectively, have been confirmed in the present work. In addition to the transitions reported previously, several new γ rays are clearly visible at 216, 322, 915 and 1131 keV in the present work.

Figure 3 shows the γ-ray spectrum measured within 350 ns ~ 3 µs after the implantation of $^{168}$Dy. New γ rays at 236 and 348 keV are clearly visible. Note that in Fig. 3, the γ-ray at 405 keV is a contaminant from an isomeric state in $^{174}$Ho, which could not be separated from the hydrogen-like component of the $^{168}$Dy ions in terms of Z on the particle identification plot due to the poor resolution of the ion chamber. Based on the present work, we

![Figure 1](image1.png)  
Figure 1. Particle identification spectra obtained with two different setting optimized for (a) $^{166}$Dy$^{62+}$ and (b) $^{172}$Dy$^{64+}$ ions.
have established a new level scheme of $^{168}$Dy, the details of which will be presented elsewhere along with the discussion about the spin-parity assignment, transition hindrances, multi-quasiparticle configurations, and so on.

4 Summary

Decay spectroscopy experiment of $^{168}$Dy has been carried out as part of the EURICA experimental campaign at RIBF, RIKEN. Following the production of neutron-rich isotopes by in-flight fission of $^{238}$U, the nuclei relevant to the present work were separated and identified through the BigRIPS spectrometer. The nuclei of interest were implanted into the WAS3ABi array, which also served as a detector for $\beta$ rays and internal conversion electrons accompanying the decay of the implanted radioactive isotopes. The heavy-ion implantation was associated with the subsequent decay electrons based on the position correlation in WAS3ABi. Gamma rays following $\beta$ decay were measured by the EURICA array in coincidence with electrons detected by WAS3ABi. Meanwhile, isomeric states with half-lives ranging from several tens of nanoseconds to (sub)microseconds could be unambiguously identified by taking delayed coincidence between $\gamma$-ray and identified particles on an event-by-event basis. New results obtained in the present work include a number of $\gamma$ rays following the $\beta$ decay from $^{168}$Tb and the isomeric decay in $^{168}$Dy. The detailed analysis including evaluation of $\gamma$-ray intensities, feeding patterns, coincidence relationship, and transition strengths will allow us to establish a level scheme of $^{168}$Dy, which will be presented elsewhere.

References