

Reference

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3 - 5 Charge Dependence of an Inferred Isomer in $^{92}\text{Zr}^*$

Jia Chenxu¹, Guo Song^{1,2} and Yuan Cenxi³

¹Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, China;

²School of Nuclear Science and Technology, University of Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing 100049, China;

³Sino-French Institute of Nuclear Engineering and Technology, Sun Yat-Sen University, Zhuhai 519082, Guangdong, China)

The influence of the electronic environment on nuclear decay has been proposed for long time^[1]. The lifetime of some excited states of nucleus may change due to the influence of electron wave function. A typical example is a 20% reduction in the half-life of an isomer of ^{57}Fe affected by the charge state^[2]. By blocking the internal conversion

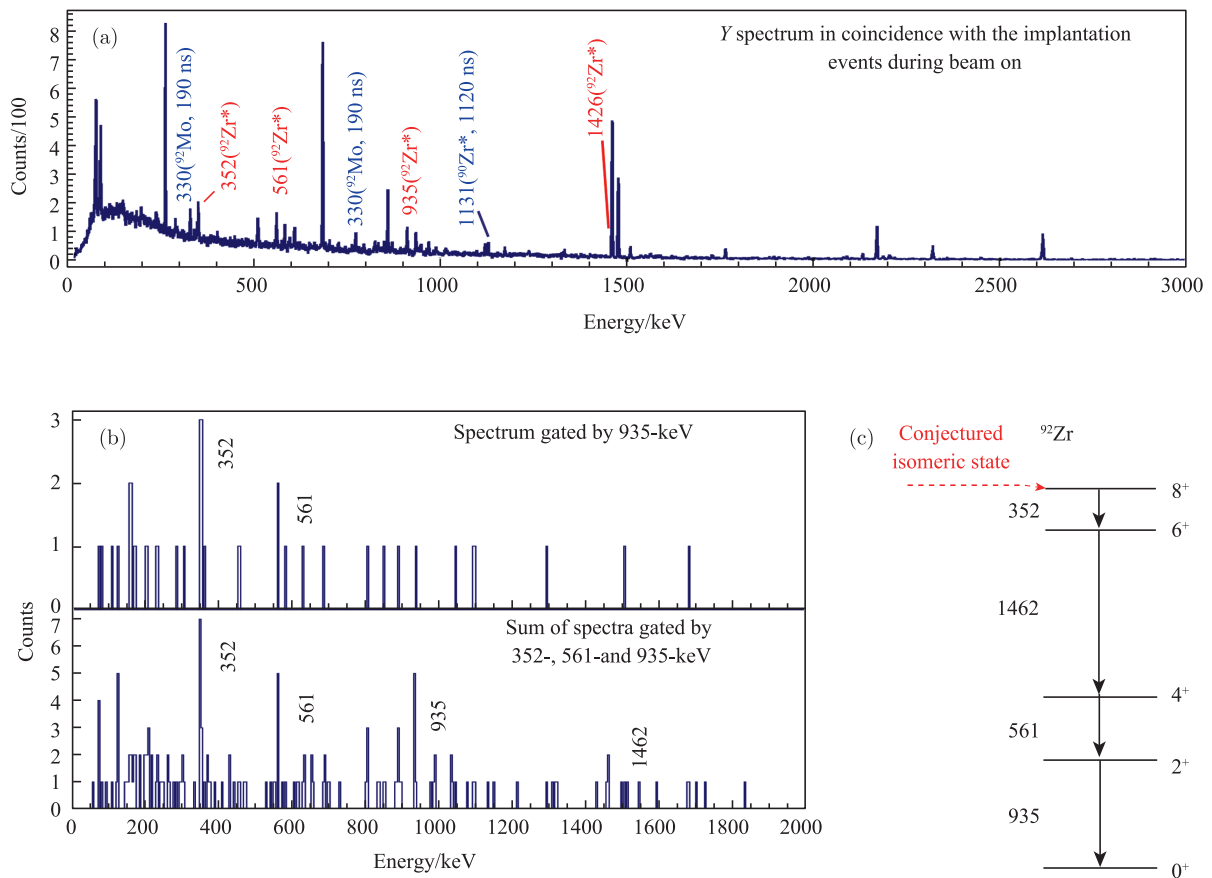


Fig. 1 (color online) (a) The γ -spectrum in coincidence with implantation events, (b) Gated spectra showing the coincidence of the 935-, 561-, 1462-, and 352-keV transitions, (c) Partial level scheme of ^{92}Zr known experimentally is presented, and also the conjectured isomer is indicated.

channels, lifetimes of excited states in highly-charged nuclei can be prolonged, and may turn to measurable in some special case^[3]. In this Letter, we report at least 6570% increase of the isomer lifetime of ^{92}Zr due to a large change in the internal conversion coefficient with increasing charge states. According to this gain we also identified a new level above the 8^+ state, which is inferred to be $3.3 \sim 3.6$ keV higher than the 8^+ level.

In the present work, the $^{12}\text{C}(^{86}\text{Kr}, 5n)$ fusion-evaporation reaction was employed at a beam energy of 559 MeV, and the residues were delivered to a low γ -background detection station via the radioactive ion beam line in Lanzhou (RIBLL) with a length of 35 m^[4]. The gamma-spectrum in coincidence with the injected particle within a time window of 50 ns was extracted (see Fig. 1(a)). Four unexpected incoincident transitions, with energies of 935, 561, 1462, and 352 keV, were observed, which have the same energies with first four corresponding transitions in the yrast band of ^{92}Zr . The correlated ^{92}Zr particle must arrive in another excitation state feeding the 8^+ state, which has a short lifetime and cannot survive the flight. The lifetime of the conjectured isomer is extracted to be less than 15 ns after it is stopped, but larger than 958 ns during the flight. We propose this big difference between the two lifetimes are mainly induced by the blocking of ICC. Calculations using shell model indicate that this conjectured isomer is likely to be based on a two-quasiparticle configuration involving intruder orbital, with a spin of 8 or 9. It can be the bandhead of a rotational band.

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3 - 6 Remeasuring $^{93\text{m}}\text{Mo}$ Isomer Depletion Probability in RIBLL1*

Chen Hongxing^{1,2}, Guo Song^{1,2}, Jia Chenxu^{1,2} and Ding Bing^{1,2}

(¹ School of Nuclear Science and Technology, University of Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing 100049, China;

² Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, China)

In 100 years after the discovery of isomer in nuclei, it was continuously a prominent topic in nuclear physics^[1]. Isomers with long lifetimes and high excitation energies are expected to represent a new source of nuclear energy. This stored energy is expected to be artificially released by the process known as isomer depletion in which the isomer is excited to an adjacent excited state of shorter lifetimes and subsequently decays to the ground state promptly. However, the effective way to trigger isomer depletion remains elusive. Recently, Chiara^[2] *et al.* reported the isomer depletion of $^{93\text{m}}\text{Mo}$ and attributed it to the Nuclear Excitation by Electron Capture (NEEC). Surprisingly, the estimated excitation probability, $P_{\text{exc}} = 0.010(3)$, was far beyond the calculated values, $P \sim 10^{-11}$, in the following theoretical works^[3]. Subsequently, Guo^[4] *et al.*, pointed out that the heavy and complicated background was treated in an extraordinarily idealistic manner, which may cause the overestimation of the isomer depletion.

By comparing the experimental conditions of Fig. 1 (b) and (c), a lighter and simpler background environment is achieved in this work. $^{93\text{m}}\text{Mo}$ was produced at position T_0 through the $^{12}\text{C}(^{86}\text{Kr}, 5n)$ reaction and then was transported to T_2 using a secondary beamline with a length of 35 m^[6]. After a transportation time of 1.14 μs , $^{93\text{m}}\text{Mo}$ was slowed down in the Carbon foil and finally stopped in the Plastic detector. The emitted γ rays were detected by five Ge detectors equipped with Compton-suppression shields.

The 268-keV gamma transition, which decays from an adjacent state with $I^\pi = 17/2^+$ above the isomer by approximately 5 keV, is regarded as a fingerprint for the expected isomer depletion of $^{93\text{m}}\text{Mo}$. Although it was not observed in the collected data during a 93-hour measurement, an upper limit of 2×10^{-5} was extracted for the excitation probability, which was in coincidence with the latest theoretical results.