

Radiative Strength Functions in ^{172}Yb Below 8 MeV

A. Schiller, J.A. Becker, L.A. Bernstein, P.E. Garrett, T.S. Hill, D.P. McNabb, W. Younes, E. Tavukcu, A. Voinov, M. Guttormsen, J. Rekstad, S. Siem, R.C. Haight, R.O. Nelson

February 6, 2002

U.S. Department of Energy

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This work was performed under the auspices of the U. S. Department of Energy by the University of California, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under Contract No. W-7405-Eng-48.

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A. Schiller, J.A. Becker, L.A. Bernstein, P.E. Garrett,
T.S. Hill, D.P. McNabb, W. Younes

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

E. Tavukcu

North Carolina State University

A. Voinov

Frank Laboratory of Neutron Physics, JINR, Dubna, Russia

M. Guttormsen, J. Rekestad, S. Siem

University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

R.C. Haight, R.O. Nelson

Los Alamos National Laboratory

February 6, 2002

Self-assessment report

We have measured prompt γ rays after thermal and resonant neutron capture in ^{171}Yb . The γ rays were measured with three high resolution (~ 3 keV) and high efficiency (two $\sim 80\%$ Ge(HP) and one $\sim 200\%$ segmented Clover) detectors. We have obtained singles and two-fold coincidence spectra as function of neutron energy using the time-of-flight technique. Two-fold coincidences where the summed energy adds up to the neutron binding energy B_n or to B_n minus the energy of the first excited state (~ 79 keV) will be used to determine the multipolarity of the pygmy resonance in ^{172}Yb . This pygmy resonance is a resonant structure in the radiative strength function around ~ 3 MeV in deformed rare earth nuclei [1].

The following goals were met:

- We have shown the feasibility of prompt, high-resolution γ spectroscopy at FP14 after thermal as well as resonant neutron capture.
- Online analysis shows that sufficient statistics (~ 7000 counts) are expected in each of the two relevant peaks in the summed-energy spectrum.

Analysis of the experiment is in progress. It still remains to show that the multipolarity of the pygmy resonance can be determined experimentally from two-step cascade intensities.

This work has benefited from the use of the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. This facility is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract W-7405-ENG-36. Part of this work was performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy by the University of California, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under Contract W-7405-ENG-48, and Los Alamos National Laboratory under Contract W-7405-ENG-36. Financial support from the Norwegian Research Council (NFR) is gratefully acknowledged. One of us (A.V.) acknowledges support from a NATO Science Fellowship under project number 150027/432.

[1] A. Voinov, M. Guttormsen, E. Melby, J. Rekstad, A. Schiller, and S. Siem, *Phys. Rev. C* **63**, 044313 (2001).