

formation of gap states, electronic transitions at the isomer energy are forbidden, thus blocking IC.

In order to determine the lattice location of  $^{229}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{229}\text{Ac}^+$  ions were implanted (at 30 keV) into a  $\text{CaF}_2$  single crystal at the EC-SLI set-up. The  $\beta^-$  emission channelling patterns from  $^{229}\text{Ac}$  were measured in the vicinity of the  $\text{CaF}_2$   $\langle 211 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 111 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 100 \rangle$  and  $\langle 110 \rangle$  directions. Because the  $^{229}\text{Th}$  daughter nuclei are recoiled with an energy of only 2.3 eV, below typical threshold displacement energies, they are expected to occupy the same lattice sites as those determined for  $^{229}\text{Ac}$ . Preliminary analysis shows that the majority (at least 75 %) of the  $^{229}\text{Ac}$  atoms occupy Ca substitutional sites. In addition, thermal annealing and high temperature implantation are observed to affect the  $^{229}\text{Ac}$  root-mean-square displacement from the ideal Ca substitutional site, which suggests that additional lattice defects (e.g. neighboring F vacancies) may be involved. We will discuss to what extent these high-temperature processes can be exploited to optimize the Ca substitution, towards future studies of the isomer radiative decay and of its exploitation in the context of optical nuclear clock applications.

[1] P. Dessoic et al. , J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 26, 105402 (2014).

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### Halo effects in the low-energy scattering of $^{15}\text{C}$ with heavy targets

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Nuclear systems such as  $^6\text{He}$ ,  $^{11}\text{Li}$  or  $^{11}\text{Be}$  are known to have an extended neutron distribution, the so-called neutron halo. The halo can be formed in nuclei close to the neutron drip line, where the separation energy of valence neutrons is small and the nuclear barrier becomes thin enough for the neutrons to tunnel out with larger probability. This effect enhances the diffuseness of the nuclear surface, leading to an extended density distribution. The halo structure has been observed in high-energy scattering measurements ( $\approx 100$  MeV/u) from the narrow momentum distribution of breakup fragments and the large value of the interaction cross sections. At low collision energies ( $\approx 5$  MeV/u), the effect of the halo structure was for first time demonstrated by the strong absorption pattern found in the elastic cross sections, where the nuclear rainbow completely disappears. In the case of  $^6\text{He}$  and  $^{11}\text{Li}$  scattering this suppression can be attributed to the large neutron transfer and breakup probabilities.

In this work we present the first results on the low-energy scattering of the halo nucleus  $^{15}\text{C}$  with a  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  target at collision energies just around the Coulomb barrier. The isotope  $^{15}\text{C}$  is weakly bound for one-neutron removal by only 1218 keV, being the only known case of a pure  $2s_{1/2}$  neutron-halo configuration. The experiment (IS619) was carried out at the XT03 beamline of the HIE-ISOLDE facility at CERN (Switzerland), using the GLORIA detector array and the SEC scattering chamber. Two high-purity  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  targets (>98%) of 1.5 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> and 2.1 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> were used for the measurements. The  $^{15}\text{C}$  beam was produced using a  $\text{CaO}_2$  primary target on a hot-cathode plasma source. Details of experiment and preliminary results on the angular distribution of the elastic cross sections will be presented and discussed in the framework of optical model calculations.

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### Elastic scattering of p-halo $^8\text{B}$ beam close to the Coulomb barrier

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In this contribution, preliminary results of the experiment IS616 will be presented. The aim of the experiment was to investigate on the reaction dynamics of proton-halo induced collisions at energies around the Coulomb barrier where coupling to continuum effects are expected to be important. The elastic scattering  $^8\text{B}+^{64}\text{Zn}$  angular distribution was measured, for the first time, using the GLORIA Si-strip detector array placed in the SEC scattering chamber. The low beam intensity hindered the possibility to measure p- $^7\text{Be}$  coincidences coming from break-up processes. Singles events have, however, been measured.

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## Progress of the IS559 experiment

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The IS559 experiment is the first ever attempt of utilising the Oslo Method with a radioactive beam in inverse kinematics reactions. A  $^{66}\text{Ni}$  beam with 4.5 MeV/u hit a deuterated polyethylene target for a total of  $\approx 10$  days. The ultimate goal of the experiment is to look for particle-gamma coincidences from the  $d(^{66}\text{Ni},p)^{67}\text{Ni}$  reaction, reconstructing the excitation energy from the proton energy on an event-by-event basis. Six large volume (3.5x8") LaBr3:Ce detectors were coupled to the Miniball setup to boost the overall gamma detection efficiency while the charged particles were detected with the C-REX silicon setup. From the resulting excitation energy -  $\gamma$ -ray energy spectra we have extracted the level density and  $\gamma$ -ray strength function.

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## The ISOLDE Solenoidal Spectrometer - recent highlights and future developments

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