2. EXPERIMENTS

2.1 Nuclear Reactions

2.1.1 Excitation of the 2^+ (E^*=2.7 MeV) state in ^{56}Ni by inelastic proton scattering

J. Friese, A. Gillitzer, H.-J. Körner, M. Peter, L.V. Chulkov [d], P. Egelhof [a], C. Fischer [a], H. Geissel [a], M. Golovkov [b], W. Henning [b], A. Himmler [a], J.V. Kratz [c], G. Kraus [a], F. Nickel [a], G. Münzenberg [a], A.A. Ogloblin [b], J.P. Schiffer [b], W. Schwab [a], A. Weiß [a]
[a] GSI, Darmstadt
[b] ANL, Argonne, Illinois
[c] U. Mainz
[d] I.V. Kurchatov Inst., Moskau

Radioactive beams from the heavy-ion synchrotron SIS (GSI, Darmstadt) in combination with the projectile fragment separator FRS [1] open the possibility for nuclear structure studies with direct reactions on unstable nuclei. Planned experiments include measurements of elastic and inelastic proton-scattering and transfer reactions such as (d, p), (d, t), etc. on nuclei in the vicinity of the doubly magic isotopes ^{56}Ni and ^{132}Sn and in a region of astrophysical interest around A=50 [2]. In a first experiment we investigated (p, p$'$) - inelastic scattering on ^{56}Ni to the first excited 2^+ ($E^* = 2.7\,MeV$) state at an incident energy of E_{lab} = 101 MeV/u. The measurement was intended to yield a more accurate value of the poorly known [3] matrix element for the transition from the 0^+-ground state. Furtheron, the measurement provided an experimental test of the problems associated with the study of reactions using radioactive beams in inverse kinematics.

The first diffraction maximum of the angular distribution of the differential cross-section for the excitation to the 2^+ ($E^* = 2.7\,MeV$) state in ^{56}Ni (expected at $\Theta_{CM} = 12°$ - $18°$ [5]) is localized between $\theta_{lab} = 78.5°$ and $\theta_{lab} = 80.9°$ in the laboratory system (inverse kinematics !). Due to the large level spacing in ^{56}Ni and the moderate kinematical variation of the recoil energy with laboratory angle, the inelastically scattered protons of interest are energetically well separated from the elastic protons. Hence, a large angular acceptance of the detector system ($\Delta\theta_{lab} = 2°$), as well as a comparatively large energy spread of the incident beam could be tolerated. As no additional cooling of the secondary beam in the ESR was needed, we performed the experiment at the final focal plane (S4) of the FRS. The ^{56}Ni -beam was produced by fragmentation of $350\,A \cdot MeV$ ^{58}Ni projectiles on a $4\,g/cm^2$ beryllium target. The fragment separator was tuned in an achromatic mode using a thin aluminum wedge degrader at the central focal plane (S2).

The experimental setup (except for the FRS part) is shown in Fig. 1. Total energy and time of flight of the recoiling protons were measured with 18 silicon detectors (48 × 8 mm^2 active area each, 2500 μm thick). The detectors were assembled in a vacuum chamber on a concentric ring of 20 cm radius around a 1 mg/cm^2 $(CH_2)_n$ -target. The target was mounted on a linear translation stage and could be moved along the beam axis. Thus a range of laboratory angles $77.5° \leq \theta_{lab} \leq 83.0°$ could be covered. A set of scintillation detectors was used to track the beam particles and to identify their nuclear charge and mass by time of flight and energy loss measurements. In order to minimize secondary reactions and multiple scattering all scintillators were mounted in vacuum chambers. The TOF start

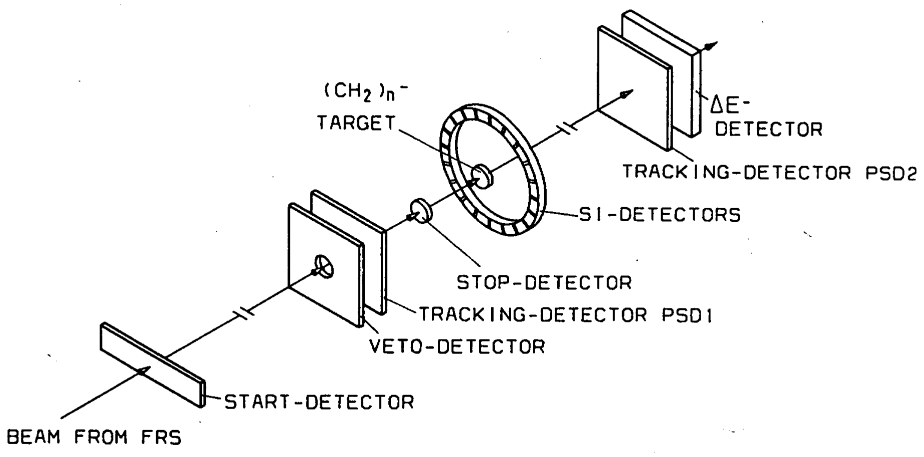

Fig. 1: Schematical view of the experimental setup at the FRS (for details see text).

signal was obtained from a position sensitive scintillator placed behind the degrader at S2. The tracking detectors, two $2 - dim$ position sensitive scintillators (PSD1 and PSD2, $140 \times 140\,\mathrm{mm}^2$ active area, read out with four photomultipliers) were mounted up- and downstream from the target. The whole scintillation detector system allowed for maximum beam intensities up to $10^5\,\mathrm{sec}^{-1}$. A position resolution of $\Delta x = \Delta y \approx 1\,mm$ and a time resolution of $\Delta\,\mathrm{t} \approx 250\,\mathrm{ps}$ was achieved. A well separated ^{56}Ni -beam with an intensity of up to $3\ \times 10^4\,\mathrm{sec}^{-1}$ and an emittancy of $\epsilon \approx 26\,\pi\,\mathrm{mm\,mrad}$ on target was obtained.

The low energetic recoiling protons were identified by an energy and time of flight measurement (time resolution $\approx 3\,\mathrm{ns}$). The background originating from ^{56}Ni + ^{12}C collisions was measured with a ^{12}C-target and subtracted from the yield obtained with the 1 mg/cm^2 $(CH_2)_n$ -target. The scattering angle for each proton was deduced from the projectile tracking-data with sufficient accuracy. Thus a separation of elastic and inelastic protons was achieved. Corrections for energy-loss and multiple scattering in the 1 mg/cm^2 $(CH_2)_n$ are included. As a result of this data analysis in Fig. 2 (upper part, right-hand side) the energy spectrum of the scattered protons is displayed.

The spectrum reveals two main contributions in regions, where the elastic and inelastic yields are expected. Due to the good detector energy resolution, the intensity distribution within each of the two regions reflects directly the angular distribution of the scattered protons in the angular acceptance of the detector aperture. The shape of the spectrum is fairly reproduced by a Monte-Carlo simulation (lower part, right-hand side of Fig. 2) taking into account a proper reaction mechanism and all experimental constraints. The yield of the emerging protons was extracted from optical model [4] and CCBA calculations assuming a value $\beta_2 = 0.2$ for the 2^+ $(E^* = 2.7\,MeV)$ state. The angular cut for inelastic scattering covers the first diffraction maximum, for elastic scattering it is near a calculated minimum in the angular distribution.

The experimental procedure and the validity of the data-analysis was tested by elastic proton-scattering with a stable ^{58}Ni beam. The results are shown in the left part of Fig. 2. The comparison of the measured spectra to calculations based on data from the literature [4] yields an excellent agreement for the deduced cross-sections.

From the analysis of the ^{56}Ni -data we extract a value of $\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) = 18.5\,\mathrm{mb/sr}$ with a 4.5 % statistical error for the inelastic cross-section in the diffraction maximum and $\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right) = 26.2\,\mathrm{mb/sr}$ with a 3.6 % statistical error for the elastic cross-section in the diffraction minimum. The corresponding

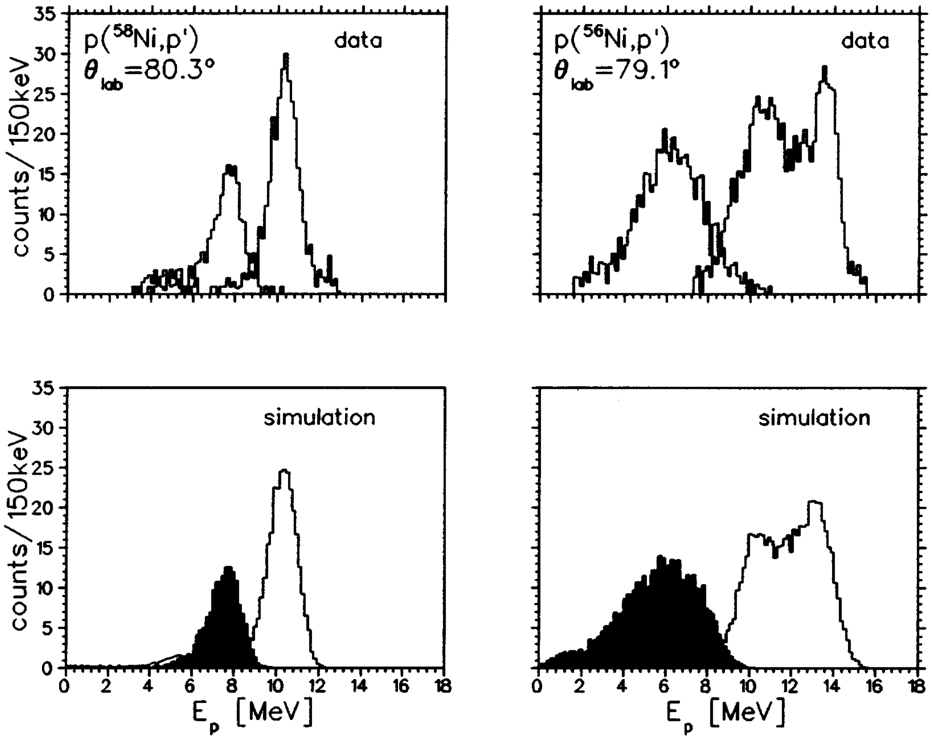

Fig. 2: Measured energy spectra (upper part) for p (^{58}Ni, p$'$)^{58}Ni* at 114 MeV/u, $\theta_{lab} = 80.3 \pm 0.3\,°$ (left) and p (^{56}Ni, p$'$)^{56}Ni* at 101 MeV/u, $\theta_{lab} = 79.1 \pm 0.9\,°$ (right) in comparison with the expected spectra obtained from Monte-Carlo simulations (lower part). The spectra are normalized in vertical scale.

β_2= 0.21(2) – including systematical errors – allows to deduce the matrix element for the transition connecting the 0^+-ground state to the 2^+-first excited state of ^{56}Ni with an accuracy of about 10 %. Assuming a uniform charge-distribution, the extracted value is $B(E2) = 850(120)\,\mathrm{e^2fm^4}$. This value has to be compared to the limit $B(E2) \geq 230\,\mathrm{e^2fm^4}$ from ref.[3].

In this experiment we have shown that the study of direct reaction mechanisms with radioactive heavy projectiles is a feasible tool to investigate the nuclear structure of unstable isotopes. With increasing primary beam intensities and additional beam cooling in the experimental storage ring ESR even nuclei further off the valley of stability are accessible.

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2.1.2 Fragmentation products of secondary ^{56}Ni projectiles measured with a SISWICH

J. Friese, A. Gillitzer, H.-J. Körner, M. Peter, J. Reinhold

Phoswich counters [1] – i.e. two scintillators with different light output decay times sandwiched together and viewed by one photo multiplier tube – have found widespread use as detectors for medium energy particles [2, 3, 4, 5]. They provide moderate energy resolution and particle identification up to atomic numbers $Z = 20$. But they somewhat suffer from two inherent characteristics of the scintillator materials used. First, the light output per unit of energy deposit of the thin ΔE plastic scintillator is small compared to that of the residual energy measuring crystal (i.e. CsI(Tl)) [6].

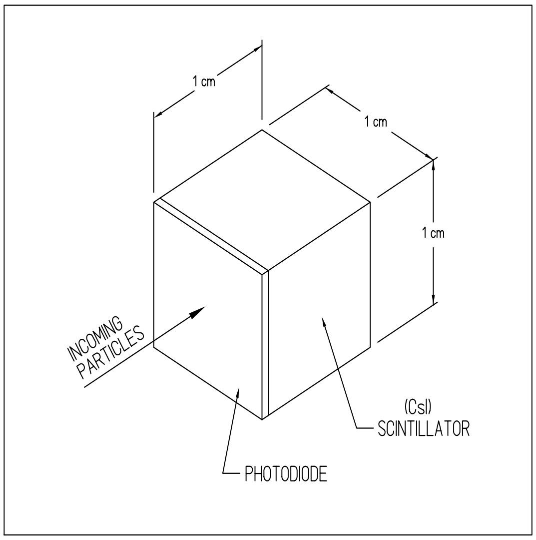

Fig. 1: Schematic view of the SISWICH detector

Second, the response of scintillators to different particles is nonlinear, and depends significantly on the atomic number Z and the operating temperature of the device [7]. An additional complication is the gain instability and limited dynamic range of photo multiplier tubes, which at least requires light pulser calibration techniques [2, 7]. However, the energy loss to light conversion is not tested by these methods.
To overcome the calibration, stability, and dynamic range problems, we have replaced the front plastic scintillator by a silicon PIN photo diode [9]. Fig. 1 illustrates schematically a so called SISWICH (Silicon Scintillator Sandwich) detector.

The photo diode measures both, the energy loss of the traversing particle and the light output of the glued on CsI(Tl) - crystal. The signal delivered contains basically two contributions, a fast component ($\tau \simeq 10\,$ns) corresponding to the electronic charge produced directly in the depletion layer of the silicon diode, and a slow ($\tau \simeq 1.0\,\mu$s) component resulting from the scintillation light decay in the CsI(Tl). Providing two different shaping time constants in the output signal processing thus yields the ΔE and the $\Delta\mathrm{E} + \mathrm{E}_{res}$ information. The most promising advantage of this device is the calibration capability of the silicon detector [8] which in turn also allows an unambiguous energy determination from the scintillator signal. Additionaly, SISWICH detectors can be operated in any magnetic field environment, in contrast to PHOSWICHes.

For light ions we have shown the feasibility of such a one element detector telescope [10]. In order to test its response to high energy heavy ions we have performed measurements at the GSI, Darmstadt.

At the fragment separator FRS a secondary ^{56}Ni beam was produced by the fragmentation of 350 A·MeV ^{58}Ni projectiles. The experimental setup and other details are presented in this report [11]. At the end of the evacuated FRS beamline we have placed - under very forward angles with repect to the beam direction - a SISWICH, consisting of a 220$\,\mu$m thick photo diode (Siemens, F109D) and a $1 \cdot 1 \cdot 1\,cm^3$ CsI(Tl) - crystal (Bicron). The beamline exit window, a 200$\,\mu$m titanium foil, and a