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Total absorption gamma-ray spectroscopy at ISOLDE for isospin mirror asymmetry studies

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The isospin mirror asymmetry parameter in mirror systems is evaluated based on the β -decay data of the mirror partners. In particular, β decay intensities are traditionally obtained from γ -ray spectroscopy experiments with HPGe detectors. However, due to the limited efficiency of such detectors, this approach is known to be potentially affected by the Pandemonium effect [1], specially when high excitation-energy levels are fed and de-excitation cascades are very fragmented. A well consolidated tool to avoid this bias and determine the complete β -intensity distributions is the total absorption γ -ray spectroscopy technique [2].

In this contribution we will focus on a recent experiment with the Lucrecia total absorption spectrometer at ISOLDE [3] aimed at investigating the β decay of ²⁷Na, studied in the past with germanium detectors [4]. Our preliminary results point to previously unseen β intensity populating excited states in ²⁷Mg, including the observation of competition between neutron emission and γ de-excitation above the neutron separation energy. This would be the first confirmation of Pandemonium effect for such a light system and it would reduce the isospin mirror asymmetry of the ²⁷Na - ²⁷S pair, suggested to be an evidence of a proton halo structure in ²⁷S [5]. The γ emission from neutron-unbound states, observed so far in heavier nuclei, can be interpreted as a nuclear structure effect by means of Hauser-Feshbach statistical model calculations [6].

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