Revisiting the octupole collectivity in 96Zr

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Since N=56 is one of the so-called "octupole magic numbers", $^{96}{\rm Zr}$ is expected to show a strong octupole collectivity. According to several experiments carried out about 30 years ago to determine the $B(E3;0_1^+\to 3_1^-)$ value, it is one of the largest in the entire nuclear chart. However, the results differ by 30%. We therefore carried out an experiment at ILL in April 2024 to determine the observables required to conclude on the octupole collectivity: the lifetime of the first 3^- state and the branching ratio in its decay. For this purpose, $^{96}{\rm Y}$ was produced in a $^{235}{\rm U}({\rm n}_{th},{\rm f})$ fission reaction and subsequently selected by LOHENGRIN. The decay product $^{96}{\rm Zr}$ was analysed with a HPGe CLOVER detector, four LaBr₃(Ce) scintillation detectors and a plastic β -detector in close geometry. The status of the analysis will be presented. This work was supported by EURO-LABS.

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