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## Shedding a light on the nuclear structure of Mn isotopes towards $N = 40$

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The region south of  ${}^{68}_{28}\text{Ni}_{40}$  has attracted much interest due to the sudden onset of deformation observed near  $N = 40$ . For a better understanding of the dynamics responsible for this change in nuclear structure, it is desirable to expand the experimental knowledge on how the interplay between single-particle and collective nature evolves as a function of proton and/or neutron number. In this light, the ground state properties of Mn ( $Z = 25$ ) isotopes from  $N = 28$  up to  $N = 39$  were studied in two collinear laser spectroscopy experiments at ISOLDE. In combination with large-scale shell model calculations, these results illustrate the importance of particle-hole excitations across  $N = 40$  and  $Z = 28$  for Mn isotopes approaching  $N = 40$ . In particular, the strong influence of the neutron  $\nu d_{5/2}$  orbital on the observed deformation is demonstrated.

In a first campaign, the hyperfine spectra of  ${}^{51,53-64}\text{Mn}$  were measured using standard bunched-beam collinear laser spectroscopy on atomic manganese. Although the magnetic moments and isotope shifts were extracted with high precision, the quadrupole moment sensitivity was low. Hence, in a follow-up experiment, laser spectroscopy was performed on a more sensitive ionic transition starting from a metastable state. To efficiently enhance the population of this metastable state, optical pumping in the cooler-buncher was successfully applied for the first time at ISOLDE.

Apart from the high-precision quadrupole moments, this second experiment also yielded isotope shifts providing a critical test of the electronic factor calculations which are needed for reliable mean-square charge radii extraction. The measured quadrupole moments and mean-square charge radii give complementary information on the development of deformation and will be the main topic of the talk.

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