• Motivation

- new collective mode in exotic nuclei
- pygmy dipole resonance
- link to equation of state and symmetry energy
- access to neutron skin thickness
- Experiment at LAND@GSI
 - radioactive nuclear beams
 - relativistic Coulomb excitation
 - detection setup
- Results
 - dipole strength in neutron-rich ¹²⁹¹² Sn and ¹³³¹³⁴ Sb
 - symmetry energy parameters
 - neutron skin thickness in ^{13,12} Sn

Dipole response in exotic neutron-rich nuclei and the pygmy dipole resonance

unique structure phenomena

- weak binding of outermost neutrons
- regions with diffuse neutron densities (halo structures, neutron skins)
- changes in the mean field potential

dipole strength in neutron-rich nuclei:

- strong fragmentation of giant resonance
- low-lying components
- new collective mode "pygmy" dipole resonance (PDR)





pygmy resonance

- excited in nuclei with neutron skin
- interpreted as an oscillation of neutron skin against inert nuclear core
- described microscopically as a coherent superposition of many 1p -1h excitations
- located around neutron separation threshold
- exhausts a few percent of TRK sum rule
- poor experimental evidence

Taylor expansion of energy per nucleon in nuclear matter

$$E(\rho, \alpha) = E(\rho, 0) + S_2(\rho) \alpha^2 + \cdots \qquad \alpha \equiv \frac{N - Z}{A}$$

symmetry energy
$$E(\rho, 0) = -a_v + \frac{K_0}{18\rho_0^2} (\rho - \rho_0)^2 \qquad S_2(\rho) = \mathbf{a}_4 + \frac{\mathbf{p}_0}{\rho_0^2} (\rho - \rho_0) + \frac{\Delta K_0}{18\rho_0^2} (\rho - \rho_0)^2 + \cdots,$$

isospin symmetric matter

Symmetry energy parameters

- **a**₄ symmetry energy per nucleon in pure neutron matter
- **p**_o symmetry energy pressure (slope parameter)
- $\Delta K_{\rm o}$ correction term for incompressibility

$$a_4 = S(\rho_o) \qquad p_o = \rho_o^2 \frac{dS(\rho)}{d\rho} \qquad \Delta K_o = 9\rho_o^2 \frac{d^2S(\rho)}{d\rho^2}$$



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- strong <u>linear</u> correlation between neutron skin thickness and parameters a₄, p_o
- no distinct correlation with other quantities
- → measurement of the neutron skin thickness, even for a single heavy nucleus, delivers constraint on the symmetry energy

$$S_2(\rho) = a_4 + \frac{p_o}{\rho_o^2}(\rho - \rho_o) + \dots$$

$$a_4 = S(\rho_o)$$
 $p_o = \rho_o^2 \frac{dS(\rho)}{d\rho}$



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Experimental methods to measure neutron skin thickness

- limited to stable nuclei that can form a target (¹¹²⁻¹²⁴Sn,²⁰⁸Pb etc)
- strongly model-dependent
- proton elastic scattering B.C.Clark et al. PRC 67(2003)054605
- excitation of giant dipole resonance with isoscalar probes (inelastic α scattering)
 A.Krasznahorkay et al. NPA 567(1994)521
 - $\rightarrow~\delta R$ extracted from cross section
 - $\rightarrow\,$ required theoretical input : DWBA with optical-model parameters
- excitation of spin dipole resonance in charge exchange reactions, e.g. (³He,t)
 A.Krasznahorkay et al. PRL 82(1999)3216
 - $\rightarrow \delta R$ extracted from total strengths
 - \rightarrow model dependence in energy-weighted sum rule
- antyproton atoms A.Trzcińska et al. PRL 87(2001)082501
 - → δR from antiproton annihilation in nuclear surface area and antiproton atom level shifts
- parity violating electron scattering (in future) C.Horowitz et al. PRC 63(2001)025501
 - \rightarrow the least model-dependent approach
- pygmy dipole resonance J.Piekarewicz PRC 73(2006)044325



Experiment - beam production and isotope identification





Experimental approach – LAND reaction setup at GSI



Results: low-lying dipole strength in unstable neutron-rich nuclei from ¹²² Sn mass region



- obtained by subtracting giant dipole resonance and instrumental effects from measured cross section
- observed in all isotopes
- exhausts a few percent of the energy weighted sum rule
- difference between even and odd isotopes is a consequence of neutron separation threshold location and unpaired neutrons



	S_n	∫ ⁹ B(E1)	$\int^{11} B(E1)$	$\int^{11} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{E1})$
	[MeV]	$[e^2 \text{ fm}^2]$	$[e^2 fm^2]$	[% of S_{TRK}]
^{129}Sn	5.4	1.8(6;4)	1.7(8;7)	2.4(1.4;1.1)
^{130}Sn	7.7	_	2.4(5;5)	5.0(1.1;1.0)
^{131}Sn	5.2	2.6(4;5)	3.0(5;6)	4.9(1.0;1.1)
^{132}Sn	7.3	_	1.3(6;6)	2.7(1.3;1.1)
$^{133}\mathrm{Sb}$	7.3	_	2.9(5;8)	5.8(1.1;1.4)
$^{134}\mathrm{Sb}$	3.3	2.1(6;6)	2.1(7;7)	2.5(1.1;0.9)

L

total dipole strength rises with increasing N-Z asymmetry and confirms relation between PDR and equation of state

measurements with real photons N=82: PLB 542(2002) 43 ²⁸ Pb: PRL 89(2002) 272502 ¹¹⁶¹²⁴ Sn: PRC 57(1998) 2229

Asymmetry parameters and neutron skin thicknesses extracted from the experimental dipole response



Neutron skin thickness in Sn isotopes





- neutron skin thickness increases with neutron excess
- method accuracy comparable with amibtious programme of parity violating electron scattering

130	Sn	:	$R_n - R_p =$	0.23	±	0.04	fm
132	Sn	:	$R_n - R_p =$	0.24	±	0.04	fm

stable isotopes:SDR Method A.Krasznahorkay et al, PRL 82(1999)3216calculations:DD-ME2FSU, NL3NL3 J.Piekarewicz, PRC 73(2006)044325

²⁸ Pb analysis – approach verification





a₄ [MeV]



year

Theoretical predictions:

- $\delta r = 0.16 \pm 0.02 \text{ fm}$ from Friedman-Pandharipande EoS and
- SkX (Skyrme) parametrization B.A.Brown PRL85 (2000) 5296
- δr = 0.17 fm from nucleon elastic scattering analysis Karataglidis et al. PRC65 (2002)044306



Summary

- low lying E1 strength observed in all isotopes studied
- theoretical link between pygmy strength, neutron skin thickness and symmetry energy confirmed
- neutron skin thickness in ^{131,122} Sn follows a trend in stable Sn isotopes
- approach verified in Pb analysis
- promising method (access to exotic nuclei, isotope systematics possible)

Perspectives

- experimental: establish the phenomenon of pygmy dipole resonance!
- theoretical: prove the "pygmy-neutron skin" relation using various microscopical approaches!

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Results: giant dipole resonance in exotic even-even Sn isotopes





experimental differential Coulomb cross section with GDR fit (solid line), parametrized as Lorentzian distribution and folded with detector response due to relatively large errors, energy and width of GDR fixed and cross section obtained in Lorentz fit to ^{10,12} Sn

$$\sigma_{\gamma}(E) = \frac{\sigma_o}{1 + \left(\frac{E^2 - E_o^2}{\Gamma E}\right)^2}$$

$$E_{\circ} = 15.5 \text{ MeV}$$

 $\Gamma = 4.75 \text{ MeV}$
 $\sigma_{\text{mt}} = 2580 \pm 140 \text{ mb MeV}$

total GDR cross section in agreement with stable isotopes from the same mass region Pygmy dipole resonance in doubly magic ¹² Sn – various theoretical predictions



Relativistic Coulomb excitation





projectile

high-Z

target

- peripheral collisions between two heavy ions at large impact parameter
- Lorentz contracted electromagnetic field
- short pulse of electromagnetic radiation



Results for exotic even-even Sn isotopes P.Adrich et al. PRL 95 (2005)132501



	Α	P	PDR			
-		E _{œt} [MeV]	sum rule [%]	E _{œtr} [MeV]	F [MeV]	sum rule [%]
	[™] Sn	-	-	15.3	4.8	116
-	[™] Sn	10.1 (0.7)	7.0 (3.0)	15.9 (0.5)	4.8 (1.8)	145 (19)
	^t Sn	9.8 (0.7)	4.0 (3.1)	16.1 (0.8)	4.7 (2.2)	125 (32)

PDR

- located around 10 MeV of excitation energy
- exhausts a few % of TRK sum rule
- in agreemtent with theoretical predictions GDR
- in agreement with systematics for stable nuclei in the same mass region

Equivalent parametrizations of the symmetry energy S(p) encountered in the literature

degree of isospin diffusion in heavy ion collisions

$$S_{2}(\rho) = a_{4} + \frac{p_{0}}{\rho_{0}^{2}}(\rho - \rho_{0}) + \frac{\Delta K_{0}}{18\rho_{0}^{2}}(\rho - \rho_{0})^{2} + \cdots,$$

$$E_{sym}(\rho) = E_{sym}(\rho_{0}) + \frac{L}{3}\left(\frac{\rho - \rho_{0}}{\rho_{0}}\right) + \frac{K_{sym}}{18}\left(\frac{\rho - \rho_{0}}{\rho_{0}}\right)^{2},$$

$$L = 3\rho_{0}\frac{\partial E_{sym}(\rho)}{\partial\rho}|_{\rho = \rho_{0}},$$

$$p_{o} = \rho_{o}^{2}\frac{dS(\rho)}{d\rho}$$

$$K_{sym} = 9\rho_{0}^{2}\frac{\partial^{2}E_{sym}(\rho)}{\partial^{2}\rho}|_{\rho = \rho_{0}}.$$

$$\Delta K_{o} = 9\rho_{o}^{2}\frac{d^{2}S(\rho)}{d\rho^{2}} = 9\frac{dp_{o}}{d\rho}$$
relation between slope
$$L.W.Chen, C.M.Ko, B.A.Li PRC72 (2005) 064309$$

coefficients in both parametrizations:

$$p_o = \frac{L\rho_o}{3}$$

range of theoretically considered values L = -50, ... + 200 MeV corresponds to $p_o = -1.6, ... + 10$ MeV/fm³

value of $p_{\circ} = 2.3 \pm 0.8 \text{ MeV/fm}^3$ is equivalent to $L = 45 \pm 15 \text{ MeV}$