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Charge Exchange Reactions of Unstable Nuclei and the Beta-Decay Strength

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The Gamow-Teller transition (G-T) strengths are important for understanding nucleosynthesis in stars. The transition strength not only from a ground state but also from an excited state become important in some cases. Charge exchange reactions provide information of G-T strength even for transitions to excited states. However such studies had been done only at around stable nuclei. Here we show the first measurement of charge exchange (p,n) reaction on C isotopes from A=12 to 19 and demonstrate the feasibility of such experiments.

In the present experiment, production cross sections of nitrogen isotopes from high-energy (~950 MeV per nucleon) carbon isotopes on hydrogen have been measured. The fragment separator FRS at GSI was used to deliver C-isotope beams. Since the production of nitrogen is mostly due to charge-exchange (Cex) reactions below the proton separation energies, the present data reveal Gamow-Teller and/or Fermi transition strength at low excitation energies for neutron-rich carbon isotopes. The windows of a Cex reaction below the proton emission threshold and window of the beta-decay are very close with each other for neutron rich nuclei because of the small neutron separation energy.

Comparisons of transition strength obtained by two methods were made for C isotopes and consistent results were obtained for nuclei of which beta-strength are known. In light nuclei most of the transition is allowed and thus no complications due to forbidden transition is seen. The Cex cross section increases for more neutron-rich C isotopes indicating the increase of sum of the beta strength within the window.

Since the two windows are almost same for nuclei along the r-process path, studies of charge exchange reactions of r-process nuclei would provide information on the total strength of beta decay complementary with the half-life measurement in which decay strength are weighted by the decay energy of each decay channel. A simultaneous measurement of the neutrons and fragments is expected to give us more detailed information. Perspective and future experiments will be discussed in addition.

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