A New Measurement of the Intruder Configuration in $^{12}\text{Be}$

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Abstract

A new $^{11}\text{Be}(d,p)^{12}\text{Be}$ transfer reaction experiment was carried out in inverse kinematics at 26.9 A MeV, with special efforts devoted to the determination of the deuteron target thickness and of the required optical potentials from the present elastic scattering data. In addition a direct measurement of the cross section for the $0^+_1$ state was realized by applying an isomer-tagging technique. The $s$-wave spectroscopic factors of 0.20$^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$ and 0.41$^{+0.11}_{-0.10}$ were extracted for the $0^+_1$ and $0^+_2$ states, respectively, in $^{12}\text{Be}$. Using the ratio of these spectroscopic factors, together with the previously reported results for the $p$-wave components, the single-particle component intensities in the bound $0^+$ states of $^{12}\text{Be}$ were deduced, allowing a direct comparison with the theoretical predictions. It is evidenced that the ground-state configuration of $^{12}\text{Be}$ is dominated by the $d$-wave intruder, exhibiting a dramatic evolution of the intruding mechanism from $^{11}\text{Be}$ to $^{12}\text{Be}$, with a persistence of the $N=8$ magic number broken.

Keywords: transfer reaction, $^{12}\text{Be}$, intruder configuration

1. Introduction

According to the well-established mean field framework for nuclear structure, nucleons (protons or neutrons) are filling in the single-particle orbitals grouped into shells characterized by the conventional magic numbers 10. However, for nuclei far from the $\beta$-stability line, especially those in the region of light nuclei where the concept of a mean field is less robust, the exotic rearrangement of the single-particle configuration often appears and may result in vanishing or changing of the magic numbers. One widely-noted example is the ground state (g.s.) of the one-neutron-halo nucleus $^{11}\text{Be}$, which possesses an unusual spin-parity of $1/2^+$, being dominated ($\sim 71\%$) by an intruding $1s_{1/2}$ neutron coupled to a $^{10}\text{Be}(0^+)$ core 2.3. Obviously the prominent appearance of the $s$-wave in the g.s. of $^{11}\text{Be}$ is responsible for the formation of its novel halo structure 4.

The immediate question goes into the single-particle configuration of $^{12}\text{Be}$, having one more valence neutron outside the $^{10}\text{Be}$ core. This neutron-rich nucleus has four particle-bound states, namely the g.s.($0^+$), and the excited states at 2.107 ($2^+$), 2.251 ($0^+$) and 2.710 MeV ($1^-$). The relatively low energies of the latter three states imply the breakdown of the $N=8$ magic number and the strong intruder from the upper sd-shell 5.8, leading to the growth of other non-shell-like structure in this nucleus 10.11. Since Barker’s early work in describing the isospin $T=2$ states of the mass $A=12$ nuclei with a mixed configuration 12, substantial theoretical studies have been devoted to the spectroscopic studies of the low-lying states in $^{12}\text{Be}$. To date most studies agree on the large probability (60%) of intruder from the sd-shell, but the relative importance of the s- and d-components remains a subject of active investigation 11. A standard way to describe the intruding effects around $N=8$ is to use the configuration mixing $\alpha(s^2) + \beta(d^2) + \gamma(p^2)$, with $\alpha, \beta$ and $\gamma$ the normalized intensities (percentages) of the respective components for valence neutrons in $0^+$-states outside the $^{10}\text{Be}$ core 13,14. In principal there should be three $0^+$ states in this $p-sd$ model space, but only the lowest two have been found in the bound region. The third $0^+$ state was predicted to appear in a wide energy range of 3–9 MeV 12,13,15,16, but to date it has not been identified experimentally. Therefore in the present work we focus on the lowest two $0^+$ states only. Table 1 (upper panel) summarizes the individual intensities from the shell model calculations by Barker 12 and Fortune et al. 15, the three-body model predictions by Nunes et al. 17.

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The comparison to the theoretical intensities extracted spectroscopic factor (SF) of each single-particle or-neutron knockout reactions were performed for those sensitive to individual structure component. One-strengths. Here in Table 1 (lower panel) are listed only experiments have been carried out to quantify the intruder core-nucleon Hamiltonian and the nucleon-nucleon residual may be in both the g.s. and the long-lived isomeric state, leading to a reduced strength difference between the 0+ state, resulting in the ratio of s+ to d2 is sensitively regulated by the core-nucleon Hamiltonian and the nucleon-nucleon residual interaction.

As discussed in detail in Refs. \cite{1, 13, 14, 22}, various experiments have been carried out to quantify the intruder strengths. Here in Table 1 (lower panel) are listed only those sensitive to individual structure component. One-neutron knockout reactions were performed for 12Be to extract spectroscopic factor (SF) of each single-particle orbit \cite{22, 24}. The comparison to the theoretical intensities can be made by normalizing to the sum of the three SFs, similar to the way used in row N of Table I in Ref. \cite{13}. The obtained values show almost equivalent intensities for the s-, d- and p-orbital in the g.s. of 13Be. It was noticed that the 12Be beam used in the knockout reaction may be in both the g.s. and the long-lived isomeric 0+ state, leading to a reduced strength difference between the two 0+ states \cite{25}. One-neutron transfer reaction, namely 11Be(d,p)12Be at 5.4 MeV, was carried out to populate the s-component in the first two 0+ states of 12Be. The obtained SFs are 0.28±0.03 and 0.73±0.27, respectively. This experiment was later on questioned for the possible contamination of the (CD$_2$)$_n$ target and the large uncertainties in extracting SFs from the undistinguishable 0+ and 2+ states \cite{22}. Another one-neutron transfer experiment at 2.8A MeV was then performed with a clear separation of all low-lying excited states by incorporating the γ-ray detection \cite{20}. The extracted SFs (set III) are 0.15±0.05 and 0.40±0.05, respectively, for two low-lying 0+ states. This experiment suffered from a very low beam energy, leading to an effective detection outside the most sensitive angular range, especially for the 0+ state. Due to the lack of proper normalization procedures for these transfer reactions, it would be difficult to compare their SF results with other measurements or to each other \cite{27}. Recently the p-wave intensities for the two low-lying 0+ states were determined from a charge-exchange experiment \cite{28}, which are listed also in Table 1. It is evident that more measurements are urgently needed to clarify the theoretical deviations and the experimental ambiguities \cite{1, 22}. In this letter, we report on a new measurement of the 11Be(d,p)12Be transfer reaction, with special measures taken to deal with the questioned experimental uncertainties.

### Table 1: Intensities of the s(α)-, d(β)- and p(γ)-components in the first two 0+ states of 12Be, predicted by various model calculations with the same normalization scheme (upper panel). The selected experimental results are also presented (lower panel), as explained in the text.

| α1 (%) | β1 (%) | γ1 (%) | α2 (%) | β2 (%) | γ2 (%) | Ref |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| 33     | 29     | 38     | 67     | 10     | 23     | 12  |
| 53     | 15     | 32     | 25     | 7      | 68     | 13  |
| 31     | 42     | 27     |        |        |        | 14  |
| 67~76  | 10~13  | 13~19  | 15~23  | 6~8    | 71~78  | 15  |
| 23     | 48     | 29     |        |        |        | 16  |
| 25±3   | 21±3   | 54±3   | 62±3   | 0±3    | 38±3   | 17  |
| 33±7   | 57±7   | 39±2   | 2±2    | 59±5   |        | 18  |
| 19±7   | 57±7   | 39±2   | 2±2    | 59±5   |        | 20  |

a from Table 2 and Table 3 of Ref. \cite{20},
b using SFs of 0.42, 0.48 and 0.37 for s-, d- and p-components \cite{22}, respectively, which are normalized to their sum to give the intensities \cite{13},
c p-wave intensities extracted from a charge-exchange experiment \cite{25},

and Redondo et al. \cite{18}, the nuclear field theory approach by Gori et al. \cite{19}, and the random-phase approximation by Blanchon et al. \cite{20}. The results are quite disparate in terms of the dominant component of each state. For instance the s-wave intensity in the 0+ g.s. ranges from 23% up to 76%, resulting in active disputing \cite{15, 14}. In fact the model calculation of the configuration admixture depends on various basic physics ingredients, such as the particle-separation energy, the deformation of the nucleus, the core-nucleon potential and wave functions, the effective pair interaction, the interplay between the collective motion and the valence nucleons, and so on \cite{1, 10}. Particularly the ratio of s+ to d2 is sensitively regulated by the core-nucleon Hamiltonian and the nucleon-nucleon residual interaction.

2. Experimental setup

The experiment was carried out at the EN-course beam line, RCNP (Research Center for Nuclear Physics), Osaka University \cite{29}. A 11Be secondary beam at 26.9A MeV with an intensity of 104 particles per second (pps) and a purity of about 95% was produced from a 13C primary beam impinging on a Be production target with a thickness of 456 mg/cm2. The energy of the secondary beam was chosen considering the effective detection of the recoil protons at backward angles, the availability of the primary beam, and the validation of the transfer reaction mechanism. A schematic view of the detection system is shown in Fig.1 (with more details in Ref. \cite{30}). Elastic scattering of 11Be from protons or deuterons was measured by using a (CH$_2$)$_n$ (4.00 mg/cm$^2$) or a (CD$_2$)$_n$ (4.00 mg/cm$^2$) target, respectively, with the background subtraction provided by C-target runs \cite{30, 31}. The inevitable hydrogen contamination in the (CD$_2$)$_n$ target was found to be 9.5 ± 0.6% out of the total deuterium contents, determined by the number of recoil protons relative to those from the known (CH$_2$)$_n$ target \cite{31}. The incident angle and the hit position on the target were determined by two parallel-plate avalanche counters (PPAC) placed upstream of the target (not shown in the figure), with resolutions (FWHM) less than 0.3° and 2.0 mm, respectively. The backward emitted protons were detected using a set of the annular double-sided silicon-strip detector (ADSSD in Fig.1) composed of six sectors, each divided into sixteen 6.4-mm-wide rings on one side and 8 wedge-shaped regions on the other side. This annular detector has an inner and an outer radii of 165° ~ 135° relative to the beam direction. The
energy detection threshold was set at 1.0 MeV, allowing to cut off the noise while retaining a high sensitivity for protons related to interested excited states in $^{12}$Be. The ADSSD provided also good timing signals with a resolution ($\sim 2$ ns) good enough to reject protons not coming from the target. The forward moving projectile-like fragments were detected and identified by a set of charged-particle telescope (TELE0 in Fig.1) composed of a double sided silicon-strip detector (DSSD) of 1000 $\mu$m thick and two layers of large size silicon detector (SSD), each having a thickness of 1500 $\mu$m. This telescope has an active area of $62.5 \times 62.5$ mm$^2$ ($32 \times 32$ strips) and was centered at the beam direction ($0^\circ$) at a distance of 200 mm down stream from the target. A particle identification (PID) spectrum, taken by the TELE0 and in coincidence with protons related to interested excited states in $^{12}$Be, deduced from recoil protons in coincidence with $^{12}$Be isotope in the TELE0 (solid curves). The dotted curve in the inset shows the events having the further coincidence with the 0.511 MeV $\gamma$-rays detected by the scintillation counters around the TELE0.

A special isomer-tagging method was used to discriminate the $0^+_2$ state from the broad excitation-energy peak (Fig.2(b)). The method relies on its well-known isomeric property: a life-time of 331 $\pm$ 12 ns [8] and an E0-decay (via $e^+e^-$ pair emission) branching ratio of 83 $\pm$ 2 % [7]. $^{12}$Be($0^+_2^-$) isomers were stopped in the TELE0 and the subsequently emitting $\gamma$-rays, particularly the 0.511 MeV ones from the $e^+$-annihilations, were measured by an array of six large-size NaI(Tl) scintillation detectors surrounding or at the back of the TELE0 (Fig.1). This kind of decay-tagging method has been successfully applied in many particle-emission experiments [32–34]. The $^{12}$Be + $p + \gamma$ triple-coincidence was realized based on the good timing signals generated from the strips in the TELE0 and the ADSSD, and from the scintillation detectors, respectively. A time window of 3 $\mu$s for the triple-coincidence was applied, which covers about 9 times of the decay half-life ($331 \pm 12$ ns) of the $0^+_2$ state. The $\gamma$-energy spectrum of these triple-coincidence events is presented in Fig.3(b), with the 0.511 MeV $\gamma$-ray peak (between 0.4 and 0.6 MeV) standing well above the background. The time distribution of these 0.511 MeV $\gamma$-rays follows approximately the exponential-decay curve with an extracted half-life of 270 $\pm$ 120 ns, being consistent with the reported value [8] within the error bar. The source of these coincidentally observed 0.511 MeV $\gamma$-rays were checked against all possible contaminations.
Figure 3: Measured differential cross sections of the $^{11}$Be$(d,p)^{12}$Be reaction at 26.94 MeV (solid dots), together with the FR-ADWA calculations (curves as described in the text), for (a) the g.s. ($0_1^+$), (c) the isomeric state ($0_2^+$), and (d) the summed $2^+$ and $1^-$ states. $l$ in (a), (c), and (d) denotes the transferred orbital angular momentum into the final state of $^{12}$Be. (b) is dedicated to the $\gamma$-ray energy spectrum in coincidence with $^{12}$Be + $p$ events.

3. Experimental result

Differential cross sections for the $^{11}$Be$(d,p)^{12}$Be transfer reaction at 26.94 MeV are presented in Fig. 3 deduced from the recoil protons and gated on the excited state in $^{12}$Be. The g.s. events are selected by a cut from -1.0 to 0.6 MeV on the excitation energy spectrum (Fig.2(b)). A gate between 0.4 and 0.6 MeV on the $\gamma$-ray energy spectrum (Fig. 3(b)) is applied to select the isomeric $0_2^+$ state. $2^+$ and $1^-$ states are still indistinguishable from the excitation energy spectrum (Fig. 3(b)) and the summed cross sections are plotted in Fig. 3(d) with those for $0_2^+$ state subtracted. The error bars in the figure are statistical only. The systematic error is less than 10%, taking into consideration the uncertainties in the detection efficiency determination ($\sim 5\%$), the $(\text{CD}_2)_n$ target thickness ($\sim 2\%$), and the cuts on the PID spectrum ($\sim 4\%$) and on the excitation energy spectrum ($\sim 5\%$).

To extract the SFs, theoretical calculations were performed by using the code FRESCO [35], which incorporates approaches such as the distorted wave Born approximation (DWBA) or the finite-range adiabatic distorted wave approximation (FR-ADWA). Due to the uncertainties in DWBA calculation associated with the applied optical potentials (OPs) [2, 26, 37], we adopt the FR-ADWA method, which uses nucleonic potentials, includes explicitly the deuteron breakup process and can provide consistent results for $(d, p)$ transfer reactions [2]. In the present work the $p + n$ potential is given by the Reid soft-core interaction [32]. A Woods-Saxon form was used for the $^{11}$Be + $n$ binding potential, with a fixed radius and diffuseness of 1.25 fm and 0.65 fm, respectively. These geometrical parameters were widely adopted for loosely-bound states in light nuclei [2, 30, 41]. The well depth of this binding potential was adjusted to reproduce the correct excitation energies [25], and the obtained values are 65.18 MeV and 56.49 MeV, respectively, for the $0_1^+$ and $0_2^+$ states. The entrance channel OP is obtained by folding the $^{11}$Be + $p$ and $^{11}$Be + $n$ potentials, with the former extracted from the present elastic-scattering data [30] and the latter from global potentials [12, 43]. As a matter of fact the currently extracted potential is just the global one (CH89) but with two normalization factors, namely 0.78 and 1.02, applied to the depths of the real and imaginary parts of the potential, respectively. These normalization factors are necessary for weakly-bound nuclei and the currently adopted factors are close to the averaged ones in the literature [30].

The exit channel OP is extracted from the data reported in Ref. [12] by using the same method as for the $^{11}$Be + $p$ elastic-scattering data.

The results of FR-ADWA calculations, multiplied by the SFs for the selected single-particle component, are fitted to the experimental data by the standard $\chi^2$ minimization method [25], and the results are shown in Fig. 3. Data in Fig. 3(d) for the mixed $2^+$ and $1^-$ states are fitted by the weighted sum of $S1 \cdot (^{11}{\text{Be}} \otimes n(1d_5/2)) + S2 \cdot (^{11}{\text{Be}} \otimes n(1p_{1/2}))$, where $S1$ and $S2$ are SFs for the $d$-wave and $p$-wave neutrons in the low-lying $2^+$ and $1^-$ states in $^{12}$Be, respectively. The best fit (red solid curve in Fig.3d) is obtained by $S1 = 0.26 \pm 0.05$ and $S2 = 0.76 \pm 0.17$, with the error bars corresponding to a 68.3% confidence level [25]. If only one component was used, the result is represented by the dotted or dashed curve for a pure $d$-wave with SF = 0.5 or a pure $p$-wave with SF = 1.4, respectively. We notice that the $2^+$ state was resolved in
an previous measurement \cite{29}, but the unfavorable angular coverage of the data did not allow a unique extraction of the SF. Our SF result for the d-wave component in the 2$^+$ state, 0.26 \pm 0.05, is consistent with two out of four sets of results reported in Ref. \cite{29} for various selections of optical potentials, namely 0.30 \pm 0.10 (set II), and 0.40 \pm 0.10 (set III).

The extracted s-wave SFs for the 0$^+_1$ and 0$^+_2$ states are 0.20 \pm 0.03 and 0.41 \pm 0.11, respectively, with the error bars corresponding to a 68.3\% confidence level \cite{25}. These results are compatible with those obtained from the previous transfer experiments within the error bars \cite{23,29}, although the normalization of the SFs for each measurement was not obtained. Since we have resolved the 0$^+_2$ state by using the implantation-decay technique and applied the more suitable FR-ADWA analysis \cite{2}, the currently extracted SF should be more reliable. It should be worth noting that, although the cross section for the 0$^+_1$ state is twice as big as that of the latter one. This is essentially due to the large reduction of the calculated cross sections for the halo-like states. This behavior was also clearly exhibited in the similar reaction \cite{15}C(d, p), in which the s-wave SFs of 0.60 \pm 0.13 and 1.40 \pm 0.31 were extracted for the first and second 0$^+$ states in \cite{16}C \cite{16}. This difference in cross sections for various final states may depend also on the incident energy \cite{17} due naturally to the match of the internal and external waves. However, since this energy dependence happens for both the measurement and the proper calculation, the SFs, at least for its relative or normalized values, should be stable within a relevant energy range \cite{17}.

In order to compare our SF results with those from theoretical calculations and from other measurements, the conversion into relative intensities (percentages) is required \cite{24}. Since the necessary quantities related to the sum rule were not measured, we rely on the ratio of SFs for the 0$^+_1$ and 0$^+_2$ states, which is independent of the normalization factors. Using the standard method proposed by Barker \cite{12}, the wave functions of the two low-lying 0$^+$ states can be written as \[ |0^+_i\rangle = a_i|1s^2\rangle + b_i|0d^2\rangle + c_i|0p^2\rangle \] (\(i = 1, 2\)), with the normalization relations \[ a_i^2 + b_i^2 + c_i^2 = \alpha_i + \beta_i + \gamma_i = 1 \] and the orthogonal requirement \[ a_1 \cdot a_2 + b_1 \cdot b_2 + c_1 \cdot c_2 = 0 \]. From the present measurement we have \[ \alpha_1/\alpha_2 = 0.20/0.41 = 0.49^{+0.15}_{-0.16} \]. The errors are statistic only. The systematic uncertainty of this ratio is estimated to be less than \( \pm 7\% \), due basically to the possible choices of the optical potentials. Previously the 0p$_{1/2}$-wave strengths in the two low-lying 0$^+$ states of \(^{12}\)Be were investigated via a charge-exchange reaction experiment \cite{23}Li,\(^7\)Be\)\(^{12}\)Be \cite{28}. The extracted values are \( \gamma_1 = 0.24 \) and \( \gamma_2 = 0.59 \) within the p-sd model space. Combining all these conditions, the intensities in the above normalization equations can be deduced: \( \alpha_1 = 0.19 \pm 0.07 \), \( \beta_1 = 0.57 \pm 0.07 \), \( \gamma_1 = 0.24 \pm 0.05 \), \( \alpha_2 = 0.39 \pm 0.02 \), \( \beta_2 = 0.02 \pm 0.02 \), \( \gamma_2 = 0.59 \pm 0.05 \). These results are also listed in Table \[11\]. The error bars are deduced from the statistical uncertainties of the SFs extracted in the present work. According to the experimental as well as the theoretical definition of the intensity (\( I \) \cite{13}), which is the SF divided by the adopted sum rule and hence sums up to 100\%, and by using the expression of Ref. \cite{27}, we have \[ I = SF_{\exp}/[F_q*(2j + 1)]. \] Based on the presently determined SFs (0.20 or 0.41) and intensities (0.19 or 0.39, respectively), the quenching factor \( F_q \) can easily be deduced to be 0.53 for the s-wave (\( j = 1/2 \)) components in the low-lying 0$^+$ states of \(^{12}\)Be, fairly within the range of the nominal values \cite{27}.

We have applied the shell model calculations, with the latest YSOX interaction \cite{48,49}, to reproduce the experimentally observed spectroscopic strengths. This approach works in a full p-sd model space, including (0-3)\( \omega \) excitations, and may give good descriptions of the energy, electric quadrupole and spin properties of low-lying states in B, C, N, and O isotopes. The calculated individual s-, d-, and p-wave strengths for the first two 0$^+$ states in \(^{12}\)Be, denoted by Case1 in Fig[11](c), are compared to the experimental results shown in Fig[11](b). The calculated s-wave intensities for these two 0$^+$ states are in good agreement with the experimental ones, whereas the calculated p-wave intensity for the 0$^+_1$ state is slightly larger (smaller) than the experimental value \cite{28}. This deviation in p-wave is opposite to the d-wave components. Despite a generally good description of intensities by the Casel calculation, it does not give the correct level order of the low-lying excited states as demonstrated in Fig[11](a), neither does with the WBP interaction \cite{23}. A decrease of 0.5 MeV for the d-orbit in the calculation would lead to the restoration of the level order (a relative decrease of the 2$^+$ state), and also a better reproduction of the p-wave intensities, as dis-

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure4}
\caption{Figure 4: (a) Comparison of the level schemes of the low-lying states in \(^{12}\)Be between the experimental data and the shell model calculations with traditional wbp \cite{23} or YSOX Hamiltonian. (b) The individual s-, p- and d-wave intensities for the 0$^+_1$ and 0$^+_2$ states deduced from experiments. (c) Shell model calculations with YSOX interaction (Case1). (d) Same as (c) but with a decrease of 0.5 MeV for the d-orbit (Case2).}
\end{figure}
played by Case2 in Fig.1(d). Case2 parametrization allows also a good description of the ground and low-lying excited states in $^{11}\text{Be}$. The meaning of this shift for $d$-orbit needs to be understood by further theoretical investigations.

4. Summary

In summary, a new measurement of the $^{11}\text{Be}(d,p)^{12}\text{Be}$ transfer reaction was performed with a $^{11}\text{Be}$ beam at 26.9\,A\,MeV. Special measures were taken in determining the deuteron target thickness and in separating the $0^+_2$ isomeric state from the mixed excitation-energy peak. Elastic scattering of $^{11}\text{Be}+p$ was simultaneously measured to estimate the hydrogen contamination in the (CD$_2$)$_n$ target and to obtain the reliable OP to be used in the analysis of the transfer reaction. FR-ADWA calculations were employed to extract the SFs for the low-lying states in $^{12}\text{Be}$. The ratio between the SFs of the two low-lying $0^+$ states, together with the previously reported results for the $p$-wave components, was used to deduce the single-particle component intensities in the two bound $0^+$ states of $^{12}\text{Be}$, which are to be compared directly to the theoretical predictions. The results show a clear $d$-wave predominance in the g.s. of $^{12}\text{Be}$, which is dramatically different from the g.s. of $^{11}\text{Be}$ dominated by an intruding s-wave. This exotic intruding phenomenon was also observed in a latest $^{12}\text{Be}(p,\,pn)$ knockout reaction experiment [50]. The present results are also compatible with those obtained from the previous transfer reaction measurements, considering the reported uncertainties. This work demonstrates the importance of measuring the individual SFs in the low-lying states in order to fix the configuration-mixing mechanism.

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