Lifetimes of high-spin states in ^{76}Kr *

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High-spin states in $^{76}_{36}$Kr$_{40}$ have been populated in the ^{40}Ca(^{40}Ca,4p)^{76}Kr fusion-evaporation reaction at a beam energy of 165 MeV, and studied using the Gammasphere and Microball multi-detector arrays. The ground-state band and two signature-split negative-parity bands of ^{76}Kr have been extended to $\sim$30 $\hbar$. Lifetime measurements using the Doppler-shift attenuation method indicate that the transition quadrupole moment of these three bands decrease as they approach their maximum-spin states.

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1. Introduction

The proton-rich nucleus $^{76}_{36}\mathrm{Kr}_{40}$ is known to have a large deformation near its ground state [1]. Theoretical calculations have predicted a highly-deformed near-prolate shape for the ground state of this nucleus [2, 3]. The highly-deformed ground state was confirmed by lifetime measurements, yielding a quadrupole deformation of $|\beta_2|{\approx}0.33$ [3]. The yrast negative-parity excited band observed in ^{76}Kr has been previously assigned the two-quasiproton configuration based on the $\pi[431]\frac{3}{2}^{+} \otimes \pi[312]\frac{3}{2}^{-}$ Nilsson orbitals [3]. Lifetimes of the low-spin states in the ground-state band for ^{76}Kr have been previously studied up to spin $I^{\pi} = 10^{+}$ [3, 4]. This paper reports on the high-spin states of ^{76}Kr and their lifetimes.

2. Experiment

High-spin states in ^{76}Kr were populated via the ^{40}Ca(^{40}Ca,4p)^{76}Kr reaction. A 165-MeV ^{40}Ca beam provided by the ATLAS accelerator at Argonne National Laboratory was incident upon a 350 μg/cm^2 ^{40}Ca target, which was sandwiched between two 150 μg/cm^2 Au layers to prevent oxidation. Gamma rays were detected with 99 Compton-suppressed HPGe detectors of the GAMMASPHERE array [5], in coincidence with charged particles detected and identified with the 95-element CsI(Tl) MICROBALL detector [6]. More details about the experimental setup and analysis can be found in Ref. [7].

3. Results and discussion

A partial decay scheme (left) and γ-ray coincidence spectra (upper inset) are shown in Fig. 1 for the ground-state and the favoured negative-parity bands for ^{76}Kr. In this work we focus on the lifetimes, or equivalently on the transitional quadrupole moments Q_t, of the high-spin states of these band. These lifetimes are on the order of tens of femtoseconds. The centroid-shift Doppler attenuation method [8] was used to measure the lifetimes of these very fast transitions. These states decay while the recoil ions are slowing down inside the thin ^{40}Ca target. The stopping powers were obtained using the SRIM-2003 code [9]. Lifetimes are sensitive to the initial recoil velocity, which is determined from the momenta of the emitted particles. The lifetime measurement could therefore be biased if the particle detection efficiency of MICROBALL presented any angular dependence. Nevertheless the detection efficiency of MICROBALL for the 4-proton channel is nearly isotropic as can be seen in Fig. 1 (middle inset) and no bias is expected in the lifetime measurement. The Doppler shifts were measured by setting gates on the last three transitions at the top of each band. The side feeding assumes a rotational band sequence, with 4 transitions, into each state above a gating transition. The quadrupole moment of the side feeding bands was chosen to be the same as in the band under consideration. The Q_t values of the ground-state and the favoured negative-parity bands were found to decrease with spin and were approximately modelled as $Q_t = Q_t^{top} + \delta Q_t \sqrt{I^{top} - I}$, where the *top* superscript indicates the highest spin state in a band and δQ_t is the variation of the Q_t within the band, see Fig. 1 (lower inset a)). This decrease of the Q_t as a function of spin is well known in terminating bands and has been previously observed in other mass regions, A $\sim$ 110 [10], A $\sim$ 60 [11]. Figure 1 (lower inset b)) shows the energies of the states for the three bands relative to a rigid rotor and it can be observed, in all the cases, a smooth increase in the energies of the highest spin states. This behaviour in the state energies is also a signature of band termination [12].

4. Summary and conclusions

The present article reports on the extension to higher angular momentum of the ground-state and favoured negative-parity bands of the previously observed bands in ^{76}Kr. The lifetimes of these bands have been measured using the Doppler shift attenuation method. They present a substantial loss of collectivity as they approach the highest spin states. Full details of the new spectroscopic information for ^{76}Kr will be presented in a following publication [7] with a configuration-dependent cranked Nilsson-Strutinsky (CNS) calculation without pairing [13, 14].

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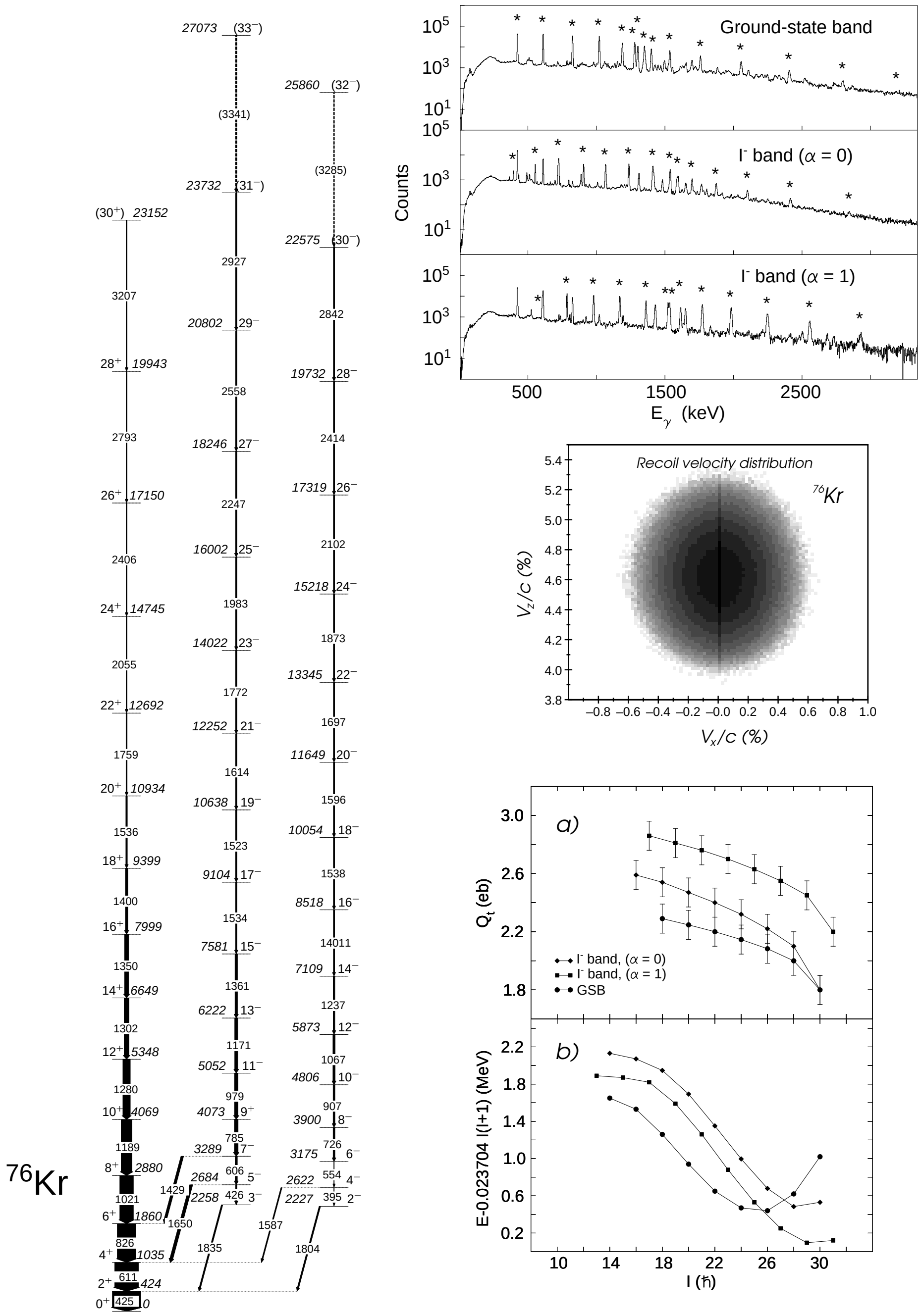

Fig. 1. Partial decay scheme for ^{76}Kr (left). The upper inset shows γ-ray spectra obtained by summing pairs of double coincidence gates for the ground-state and the favoured negative-parity bands. The middle inset shows the initial ^{76}Kr velocity distribution in the $v_x - v_z$ plane. The lower inset a) shows the measured transitional quadrupole moments Q_t for the ground-state and the favoured negative-parity bands. The lower inset b) shows the energies of the high-spin states relative to a rigid rotor with a moment of inertia of $\Im = 21\hbar^2 MeV^{-1}$ versus spin.