

Coulomb excitation of the 3^- isomer in ^{70}Cu

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Post-accelerated isomerically purified radioactive beams available at ISOLDE, CERN using resonant ionization laser technique, have been used to study the Coulomb excitation of the $I^\pi = 3^-$ state in ^{70}Cu ($Z=29$, $N=41$). While first results using a $I^\pi=6^-$ beam were reported previously, the present complementary experiment allows to complete the study of the multiplet of states (3^- , 4^- , 5^- , 6^-) arising from the $\pi 2p_{3/2}\nu 1g_{9/2}$ configuration. Besides the known γ -ray transition deexciting the 4^- state, a ground-state γ -ray of 511 keV was observed for the first time and was unambiguously associated to the 5^- state deexcitation. This observation fixes the energy, spin and parity of this state, completing the low-energy level scheme of ^{70}Cu . $B(E2)$ values for all the possible E2 transitions within the multiplet were determined. A comparison with large-scale shell model calculations using different interactions and valence spaces, shows the importance of proton excitation across the $Z=28$ shell gap and the role of the $d_{5/2}$ neutron orbital.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The study of the semi-doubly magic nucleus ^{68}Ni with $Z=28$ and $N=40$ and nuclei in its neighborhood has been subject to several experimental, e.g. [1–7] and theoretical papers, e.g. [8–10]. The key issues are the importance of neutron and/or proton excitation across the different shells and possible changes in the details of effective interactions when changing the proton-to-neutron ratio. Large-scale shell-model calculations using different effective interactions and different model spaces have been performed and their results compared to ground- and isomeric state properties (like masses and nuclear moments), energy level systematics and transition probabilities.

Recent studies clearly show the stabilizing effect of ^{68}Ni as the structure of its immediate neighbors can to a large extent be understood as a proton and/or neutron coupled to a ^{68}Ni core. It has been shown, however, that when moving away from ^{68}Ni along the isotopic chain towards ^{78}Ni [11] or along the isotonic chain towards lighter Z [5, 12], collectivity sets in rapidly.

In odd-odd mass ^{68}Cu and ^{70}Cu nuclei, the coupling of a proton and a neutron (particle or hole) to ^{68}Ni leads to the existence of multiplets like the $\pi 2p_{3/2}\nu 1g_{9/2}$ multiplet that gives rise to different states with spin values from 3^- to 6^- and the $\pi 2p_{3/2}\nu 2p_{1/2}$ multiplet leading to 1^+ , 2^+ states. The structure of these multiplets clearly arise from a mixing of different proton-neutron configurations. According to the shell model calculations presented in [3], however, the lowest 3^- to 6^- states in ^{70}Cu have a dominant $\pi 2p_{3/2}\nu 1g_{9/2}$ component, corresponding to more than 52% contribution in the total wave function. For

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this reason, in the rest of the text, for simplicity, we will refer to the 3^- to 6^- multiplet as belonging to this configuration.

These kind of structures induce isomerism like the triplet of β decaying states in ^{70}Cu as the most notorious example [2, 3]. The other members of these multiplets in $^{68,70}\text{Cu}$ were tentatively identified using nucleon-transfer reactions [13], mass measurements and beta-decay studies [2, 3]. These long-lived isomeric states were also investigated using laser spectroscopy [6, 14], whereby the spin and parity were firmly fixed to 1^+ , 3^- and 6^- in the case of ^{70}Cu and 1^+ and 6^- in case of ^{68}Cu .

Thanks to recent developments in resonant-laser ionization and post-acceleration, energetic isomeric beams could be produced and soon after, this opportunity was used to perform pioneering Coulomb excitation (Coulex) studies of the 6^- isomer in $^{68,70}\text{Cu}$ [4]. Coulex investigations are an important probe for nuclear-structure studies as they provide information on electromagnetic (E2) transition rates between nuclear states, on energies and, based on selection rules, on spin and parities of the excited levels. Especially the case of the odd-odd ^{70}Cu isotope where the existence of several long-lived states at very low energies, offers unique possibilities to perform Coulomb excitation within the $\pi 2p_{3/2}\nu 1g_{9/2}$ multiplet starting from two different states, in particular the 6^- and the 3^- states and compare the results to shell-model calculations.

The measurement reported in [4] was performed with a 6^- laser-purified beam and revealed the prompt transition $4^- \rightarrow 3^-$ of 127 keV allowing fixing the spin, parity and relative position of the 3^- , 4^- and 6^- members of the multiplet. However, the information gathered in this first experiment was limited, mainly because the radioactive ion beam used consisted of a mixture of 6^- and 3^- long-lived states in the ^{70}Cu beam. For the estimation of the $B(E2; 6^- \rightarrow 4^-)$ value in ^{70}Cu , the population of the $I^\pi = 4^-$ level through an E2/M1 excitation of the 3^- contaminant needed to be considered. The insufficient experimental information did not allow for the determination of both the reduced transition matrix elements involved in the excitation of the 4^- state, therefore a relative ratio of $\langle 6^- || E2 || 4^- \rangle = 0.94 \langle 3^- || E2 || 4^- \rangle$ was assumed based on an extreme single-particle approach for a pure $\pi 2p_{3/2}\nu 1g_{9/2}$ configuration. With this assumption a value of $41(5)e^2\text{fm}^4$ [$2.4(3)\text{W.u.}$] for the reduced transition probability $B(E2; 6^- \rightarrow 4^-)$ was estimated. Secondly, the population of the 5^- state of the multiplet that was proposed at an excitation energy of 506(6) keV above the 6^- ground state [3, 13] was not observed in that experiment preventing the investigation of this state.

To provide this crucial information about the energy levels and reduced transition probabilities for all the connecting transitions between the states of the 3^- - 6^- multiplet, a new Coulomb excitation experiment was performed with a ^{70}Cu beam whose intensity was enhanced in the 3^- isomeric state. Also in this case the beam of

interest was tainted with the other isomers. However, by combining the data from the two Coulex experiments on ^{70}Cu , the intrinsic indetermination due to the isomeric impurity of the beam could be overcome.

In this paper we report on the new results obtained by the comparative analysis of the two data sets that allow completing the features of the low-energy states of ^{70}Cu . Moreover, in the last years, developments on the procedure and tools for the data analysis have been carried out. These improvements mainly determine adjustments on the γ -peak integrals analysis and on the kinematical cuts to distinguish projectile and target detection. The set of data reported in [4] have been therefore re-analyzed on the basis of the new analysis procedure and more reliable values have been extracted. This also ensures that the data acquired in the two ^{70}Cu experiments are treated coherently. A detail description of the analysis procedure can be found in [15].

II. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The ^{70}Cu radioactive ion beam was produced at the ISOLDE facility by combining the 1.4 GeV proton induced fission in a $45\text{g}/\text{cm}^2 \text{UC}_x$ target with resonant laser ionization RILIS. The isomeric beams were produced in a similar way as in [2–4, 14] where narrow-band laser scans provided the optimum values of the laser frequency that maximize the ionization of the different isomers. The 6^- and 3^- beams of ^{70}Cu , post-accelerated by REX-ISOLDE up to 2.8 MeV/nucleon, were used to bombard a ^{120}Sn $2.3\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$ target hereby inducing Coulomb excitation. Typical total ^{70}Cu beam intensities at the detection setup were in the order of 10^4 - 10^5 pps. The experimental setup used in the present work is identical to the one described in Ref. [4, 15]. Gamma rays following the de-excitation of the levels populated by Coulomb excitation were detected by the MINIBALL HPGe array while the scattered projectile and recoiling target nuclei were detected in an annular double side silicon strip detector.

Experiments with radioactive ion beams often suffer from the contamination of the beam of interest with other isobars and, in this particular case, isomers. As the $B(E2)$ values of the transition of interest are determined relative to the known $B(E2)$ values of the transitions observed after excitation of the target nucleus (in this case ^{120}Sn), the beam composition is a crucial parameter in the normalization to the target excitation [15]. The isobaric contamination due to gallium was determined as described in [4, 15]. Values of 30(3)% Ga contamination is found in the ^{70}Cu beam when the lasers are tuned to the $I^\pi = 6^-$ while 50(3)% Ga contamination was obtained when the lasers are tuned to the $I^\pi = 3^-$ beam. In the latter case, measurements were performed in laser ON/OFF mode throughout the whole running period. By switching the selective laser ionization periodically ON and OFF with a typical periodicity of 50s

the observed $2^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ gamma transitions in ^{120}Sn coming from target excitation induced by the gallium beam could be subtracted in a reliable way. In the former case, the experiment with the 6^- enhanced beam, the excitation induced by the gallium was determined as described in [15].

The isomeric beam contamination stemmed from the broadening of the hyperfine-split resonances of each isomers [2, 3, 14, 16], as clearly shown in Fig.1 taken from [2]. The characteristic gamma rays from the β

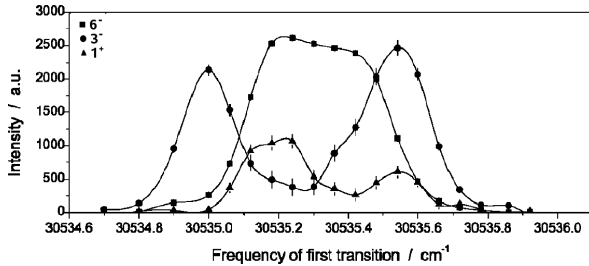


FIG. 1. Intensity of the characteristic gamma-decay lines of the three long-lived states of ^{70}Cu as a function of the laser frequency. Note that the gamma intensity was multiplied with different factors for the different states. The picture is taken from [2].

decay of the three long-lived states that were detected in the Miniball germanium array during the off-beam periods [15], allowed to determine the isomeric content of the beam. The analysis showed that when the laser was tuned to the maximum production of the 6^- beam, 85(5)% of the total ^{70}Cu ion yield was produced in this spin state, while the $(3^-, 1^+)$ isomers were found to contribute with almost equal amounts ($\approx 7\%$) to the total Cu beam. Similarly, when the laser was tuned to the maximum production of the 3^- beam, the isomeric composition was found to be 74(7)% and 25(3)% in the $6^-, 3^-$ states respectively, with contribution of the 1^+ isomer less than 1%. Information about the isobaric and isomeric composition of the two ^{70}Cu beams is reported in table I.

For simplicity, hereafter the two experiments are referred to as 6^- and 3^- experiment.

III. DATA ANALYSIS

The particle-gamma rays coincidence spectrum acquired after 29h of $^{70}\text{Cu}(3^-)$ beam on target is presented in Fig. 2 upper panel. The bottom panel shows the same spectrum acquired after 28h of $^{70}\text{Cu}(6^-)$ beam and already reported in [4]. Both spectra are Doppler corrected for mass $A=70$. It should be noted that the well-known $2^+ \rightarrow 1^+$ transition in ^{70}Ga of 508 keV has been carefully subtracted from the top-spectrum by means of laser ON/OFF runs.

Comparing the two spectra clearly show evidence that in the 3^- experiment a new transition at 511(3) keV was

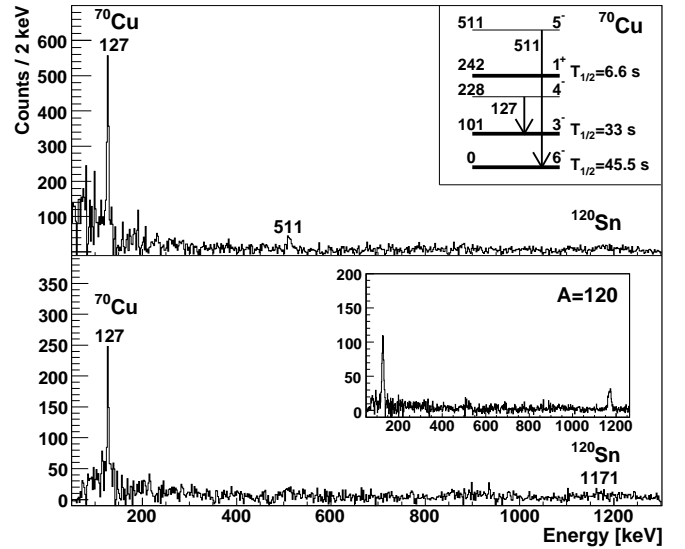


FIG. 2. Particle- γ ray coincidence spectrum obtained with 3^- beam (top) and 6^- beam (bottom). The spectra are Doppler corrected for mass $A=70$. The inset in the bottom panel shows the spectrum Doppler corrected for mass $A=120$. The partial level scheme and de-excitation γ rays shown in the upper right corner are based on Refs. [2–4] and this work. Energies are given in keV. Levels drawn with thick lines represent the isomeric states.

observed that was not present in the 6^- experiment. A state at 506(6) keV appeared strongly populated in the $(t, ^3\text{He})$ reaction on ^{70}Zn reported by Sherman et al. [13] and therefore has been claimed to have a $\pi 2p_{3/2} \nu 1g_{9/2}$ configuration. A spin $I^\pi = 5^-$ was proposed in Ref. [2] for this state. The fact that this state is populated in Coulomb excitation from a 3^- state where E2 excitation dominates, leads to $1^-, 5^-$ as possible spin and parities. Moreover, since de-excitation is mainly dominated by faster M1 transitions, the direct decay towards the 6^- ground state firmly fixes the spin and parity of the 511 keV state to 5^- . The $5^- \rightarrow 3^-$ E2 transition at 410 keV was not observed due to its lower absolute transition probability compared to the M1/E2 character of the 511 keV transition. The prompt peak at $E_\gamma = 127$ keV is clearly present in both spectra. The fact that we do not observe the population of the 5^- state in the experiment with the 6^- beam, indicates a small reduced E2 transition probability $6^- \rightarrow 5^-$.

The experimental energies corresponding to the two lowest multiplets in ^{70}Cu level scheme are summarize in table II and compared with large shell-model calculations. The calculated energies are in good agreement with the measured values. Even if the SMII calculation does not reproduce the experimental spectrum as well as the SMI, still the agreement is satisfactory given the complexity of the model. Details on the SMI and SMII calculations are given in section IV.

Beam	Energy (MeV/A)	Intensity (pps)	Cu/tot (%)	Isomer contamination (%)		
				6 ⁻ /Cu	3 ⁻ /Cu	1 ⁺ /Cu
⁷⁰ Cu (6 ⁻)	2.83	5×10 ⁴	70(5)	85(5)	7(2)	7(3)
⁷⁰ Cu (3 ⁻)	2.85	9×10 ⁴	50(3)	74(7)	25(3)	< 1

TABLE I. Main characteristics of the ⁷⁰Cu isomeric beams.

I ^π	E _{expt}	SMI	SMII <i>fpgd</i>	SMII <i>fpg</i>
		E _{theo}	E _{theo}	E _{theo}
6 ⁻	0	0	107	23
3 ⁻	101.1	87	0	0
4 ⁻	228.5	336	352	354
5 ⁻	511	582	589	583
1 ⁺	242.2	383	249	514
2 ⁺	320.7	317	109	304

TABLE II. Experimental and theoretical spectrum of ⁷⁰Cu. Energies are in keV. Details on the theoretical calculations are given in section IV.

The experimental Coulomb excitation cross-section σ_{CE} to populate the 4⁻ level was determined relative to the known cross-section for exciting the 2⁺ state in the ¹²⁰Sn target. By the coupling of the two values of Coulomb-excitation cross-section σ_{CE} obtained separately in the two experiments with the known isomeric-beam composition, a disentanglement of the $\sigma_{CE}(6^- \rightarrow 4^-)$ and the $\sigma_{CE}(3^- \rightarrow 4^-)$ was possible. The difference between the measured values can be indeed directly related to the different isomeric composition of the beams. The CLX code [17], based on the Winther-De Boer theory [18] was then used to determine the set of matrix elements for reproducing the observed excitation cross sections. A quadrupole moment equal to zero was assumed in the calculations. The B(E2; 6⁻ → 4⁻) and B(E2; 3⁻ → 4⁻) extracted are 69(9) e²fm⁴ [4.0(5)W.u.] and 73(10) e²fm⁴ [4.1(6)W.u.], respectively. It should be noted that the new value of B(E2; 6⁻ → 4⁻) is larger than the one reported in [4]. Indeed the measured ratio $\langle 6^- || E2 || 4^- \rangle / \langle 3^- || E2 || 4^- \rangle$ of 1.35 is larger than 0.94 assumed in [4] for a pure $\pi 2p_{3/2} \nu 1g_{9/2}$ configuration. The amount of excitations started from the 3⁻ isomer were therefore overestimated in [4] leading to a smaller value of the 6⁻ → 4⁻ transition strength.

Similarly, also the $\sigma_{CE}(3^- \rightarrow 5^-)$ was measured, ignoring the contribution of 6⁻ → 5⁻ transitions. The extracted B(E2; 3⁻ → 5⁻) value is 136(15) e²fm⁴ [7.9(9)W.u.]. An upper limit can be put on the B(E2; 6⁻ → 5⁻) of 11(2) e²fm⁴ [0.6(2) W.u.] assuming that 40 counts in the spectrum of Fig.2 - bottom panel is below the observation limit. The influence of this upper limit on the B(E2; 6⁻ → 5⁻) matrix element leads to a reduction of the B(E2; 3⁻ → 5⁻) value to 112(12) e²fm⁴ [6.5(7) W.u.]. The new analysis method has been also applied in the

re-analysis of the ⁶⁸Cu data set from Ref [4]. For this isotope a B(E2;6⁻ → 4⁻) value of 68(6) e²fm⁴ [4.1(4) W.u.] was reported in [4]. The new extracted value is 77(8) e²fm⁴ [4.7(4) W.u.].

IV. DISCUSSION

	B ^{expt} (E2) (e ² fm ⁴)	B ^{theo} (E2) (e ² fm ⁴)	ME (efm ²)	ME _π (efm ²)	ME _ν (efm ²)
3 ⁻ → 4 ⁻	73(10)	72.9	22.6	6.8	10.7
6 ⁻ → 4 ⁻	69(9)	66.7	29.4	12.9	5.5
3 ⁻ → 5 ⁻	136(15)	112.5	28.1	11.8	6.2
6 ⁻ → 5 ⁻	≤ 11(2)	19.2	15.8	9.7	-3.0

TABLE III. Experimental and calculated (ANTOINE) B(E2) values for the observed transitions. The calculations (SMI) use the *fpg* valence space outside the ⁵⁶Ni core for protons and neutrons. Effective charges $e_\pi = 1.9e$ and $e_\nu = 0.9e$ were used in the calculations.

	B ^{expt} (E2) (e ² fm ⁴)	<i>fpgd</i>		<i>fpg</i>	
		B ^{theo} (E2) (e ² fm ⁴)	ME (efm ²)	B ^{theo} (E2) (e ² fm ⁴)	ME (efm ²)
3 ⁻ → 4 ⁻	73(10)	51.4	19.0	59.9	20.5
6 ⁻ → 4 ⁻	69(9)	57.4	27.3	38.9	22.5
3 ⁻ → 5 ⁻	136(15)	122.2	29.3	85.1	24.4
6 ⁻ → 5 ⁻	≤ 11(2)	3.55	6.8	5.15	8.2

TABLE IV. Experimental and calculated (ANTOINE) B(E2) values for the observed transitions. The calculations (SMII) use the valence space outside the ⁴⁸Ca core. Two sets of results are reported, with (*fpgd*) and without (*fpg*) the $d_{5/2}$ neutron orbital. In both cases standard polarization charge of 0.5e is used.

The B(E2) values measured in this work are summarized in Table III and IV together with theoretical calculations. It is interesting to compare the experimental B(E2) values with the extreme single-particle model prediction given by the coupling of the angular momenta of the odd proton in $\pi 2p_{3/2}$ orbit and the odd neutron in the $\nu 1g_{9/2}$ orbit. This is well illustrated in Fig.3-top. As expected only poor agreement with the results from this simple approach is observed.

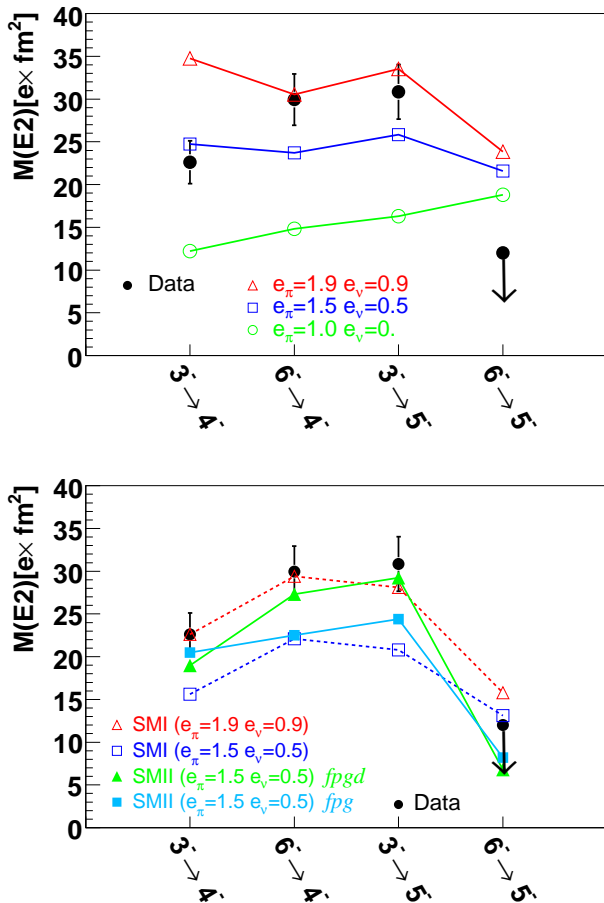


FIG. 3. The experimental transition matrix elements measured in ^{70}Cu are compared to results from the extreme single-particle approach for a pure $\pi 2p_{3/2}\nu 1g_{9/2}$ configuration (top) and to large-scale shell model calculations using different interactions and valence spaces (bottom). See text for details. Different effective proton and neutron charges are used.

To reach a microscopic understanding of the observed trends, large-scale shell-model calculations have been carried out using two different interactions and model spaces [10, 19]. In the first approach, labeled SMI, the shell-model calculations were performed using the realistic interaction determined in Ref. [20], also used for the calculation of the levels in $^{70-78}\text{Cu}$ [4]. The model space consists of the $(1f_{5/2}2p_{3/2}2p_{1/2}1g_{9/2})$ orbitals outside the ^{56}Ni inert core. The theoretical values are reported in table III for effective charges $e_\pi = 1.9e$ and $e_\nu = 0.9e$. In the second approach, labeled SMII, a large valence space outside the ^{48}Ca core have been used, including $(1f_{7/2}1f_{5/2}2p_{3/2}2p_{1/2})$ orbitals for protons and $(1f_{5/2}2p_{3/2}2p_{1/2}1g_{9/2}1d_{5/2})$ for neutrons. Such a model space have been used recently to describe the collectivity of the island of inversion around $N = 40$ [10] and allows to study the role of the proton and neutron core excitations. The two-body matrix elements used in the present work are based on the interaction of Ref. [10],

however further modifications have been applied to account for the evolution of the proton gap between ^{68}Ni and ^{78}Ni . We have performed the calculations allowing either for proton excitations only (SMII *fpg*) or for both, proton and neutron core excitations (SMII *fpgd*). In these calculations, reported in table IV, standard polarization charge $0.5e$ ($e_\pi = 1.5e$ and $e_\nu = 0.5e$) was used. All the calculations were performed using the *m*-scheme shell model code ANTOINE [21]. Complete diagonalizations have been achieved with the ^{56}Ni core, with the ^{48}Ca core, 7p-7h excitations, with respect to the $\pi f_{7/2}$ and $\nu p_{3/2}$ shells, were allowed in the calculations.

The comparison with the theoretical calculations is shown in Fig. 3-bottom panel. The SMI calculations assuming the ^{56}Ni core with the polarization charge of $0.5e$ show the correct trend but underestimate the $3^- \rightarrow 4^-$, $6^- \rightarrow 4^-$ and $3^- \rightarrow 5^-$ matrix elements. The best agreement within SMI is obtained by using effective proton and neutron charges of $e_\pi = 1.9e$ and $e_\nu = 0.9e$, to compensate for large ^{56}Ni core polarization that is clearly present. It is interesting to note that when using these effective charges and in contrast to the extreme single-particle approach the large-scale shell-model calculations reproduce essentially the experimental values for all the transitions within the multiplet in ^{70}Cu except for a slight overestimation of the $6^- \rightarrow 5^-$ matrix element. This large polarization of the ^{56}Ni core should be accounted for in the calculations allowing for the core excitations. Indeed, the SMII calculations in the *fpg* space and effective proton and neutron charges of $e_\pi = 1.5e$ and $e_\nu = 0.5e$ improve a little the agreement when compared to the SMI calculations with the same effective charges. However, it appears that the *fpgd* model space, that includes neutron excitations across $N=50$, is necessary to get the right order of the matrix elements in ^{70}Cu .

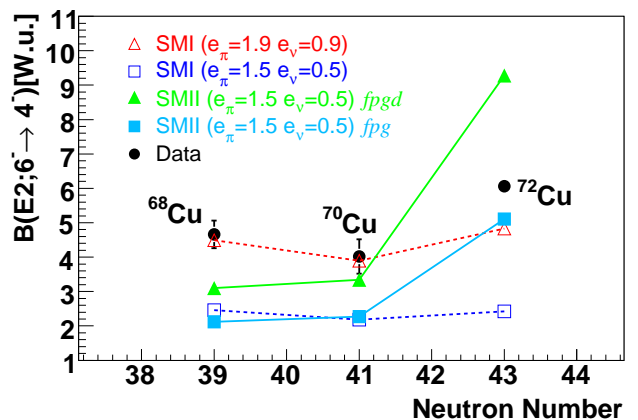


FIG. 4. The experimental $B(E2; 6^- \rightarrow 4^-)$ for the Cu isotopes are compared to large-scale shell-model calculations using different interactions and valence spaces (see text for details).

In Fig.4 the $B(E2; 6^- \rightarrow 4^-)$ reduced transition probabilities for the neutron-rich copper isotopes are shown as

a function of the neutron number N and compared with the calculations. The $B(E2; 6^- \rightarrow 4^-)$ value for ^{72}Cu is deduced from lifetime measurements [22–25]. However recent measurements of the ground state nuclear moment of ^{72}Cu [6, 26] firmly fix the spin and parity of the ground state as $I^\pi = 2^-$. According to this result the level scheme of ^{72}Cu proposed in [24, 25] as well as the type and order of the reported electromagnetic transitions should be revised. It should therefore be considered that as the 51 keV transition does potentially not correspond to $6^- \rightarrow 4^-$ as claimed in Ref. [25], the $B(E2; 6^- \rightarrow 4^-)$ value of ^{72}Cu might be incorrect.

The SMI calculations with the ^{56}Ni core and $0.5e$ polarization predict a nearly equal, slightly underestimated value for this transition in all considered isotopes. Enhancing the effective charges improves the agreement at $N=39$ and $N=41$, still is not enough to reproduce the increase observed at $N=43$. This is however well understood, as with the filling of the $g_{9/2}$ orbit no more pf holes can appear, the transition values saturates.

The increase observed experimentally between $N=41$ and $N=43$ may be mostly due to the weakening of the proton gap between $N=40$ and $N=50$ as shown in Ref. [9]. Indeed, the calculations with the ^{48}Ca core predict a rapid increase of this $B(E2)$ value between $N=41$ and $N=43$ with a standard $0.5e$ polarization. It is interesting to note that the SMII-*fpgd* model, which does rather well up to $N=41$, overshoots considerably the measured value in ^{72}Cu . Such a rapid growth of collectivity, similar to what is observed between ^{68}Ni and ^{70}Ni , or ^{69}Cu and ^{71}Cu , seem not to be the case for the $B(E2; 6^- \rightarrow 4^-)$ transition in coppers. However, as mentioned above, the experimental result for ^{72}Cu needs to be revised.

One should also point out that the increase of the $B(E2)$ value in the SMII-*fpgd* calculations depends on both the size of the proton gap and the excitations to the $d_{5/2}$ orbital. While the size of the proton gap can be constrained from the experiment at least in ^{68}Ni , very little is known on the position of the $d_{5/2}$ orbital and its evolution around $N=40$. The role of this orbital around $N=40$ clearly merits further experimental investigation.

$B(E2)$ values for the $3^- \rightarrow 4^-$ and $3^- \rightarrow 5^-$ transitions in other neutron-rich copper isotopes have not yet been measured.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Level energies and $B(E2)$ within the low-lying energy states of the $\pi 2p_{3/2}\nu 1g_{9/2}$ multiplet in ^{70}Cu have been measured using Coulomb excitation of post-accelerated $I^\pi = 6^-$ and $I^\pi = 3^-$ beam. This part of the level scheme was already studied in a previous experiment and data were reported in [4] where a post-accelerated $I^\pi = 6^-$ beam was used. The observation of a 511 keV transition fixes the energy, spin and parity of the 5^- member of the $\pi 2p_{3/2}\nu 1g_{9/2}$ multiplet. The experimental results have been compared with two large-scale shell-model calculations using different valence spaces and different values of the effective residual proton-neutron interaction. Calculations starting from a ^{56}Ni core (SMI), reproduce quite well both the absolute $B(E2)$ values and their trend, provided $e_\pi = 1.9e$ and $e_\nu = 0.9e$ effective charges are used. The large polarization of the ^{56}Ni core is directly taken into account by the SMII-*fpgd* calculations starting from a ^{48}Ca core and including the $2d_{5/2}$ orbital for neutrons. Indeed these calculation well reproduce the absolute values and their trend using standard $0.5e$ polarization charge. From the comparison with the SMII-*fpg* the inclusion of the $2d_{5/2}$ orbital appears necessary. However when including the $2d_{5/2}$, calculation predicts an enhancement in collectivity in ^{72}Cu not observed experimentally. But in view of the recent spin and parity determination of the ^{72}Cu ground-state [6, 26], the experimental result needs revision. The effect of the $2d_{5/2}$ deserves further investigation.

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