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Quenching of Gamow-Teller and forbidden transition strength

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Gamow-Teller (GT) strengths in medium and heavy nuclei in the giant-resonance region are suppressed compared to the Ikeda sum rule [1,2]. GT strengths in low-lying states in *sd*-shell and *pf*-shell nuclei, for example, have also been found to be suppressed: the quenching factors for the axial-vector coupling, $q_A = g_A^{eff}/g_A^{free}$, are ~ 0.77 and ~ 0.74 for *sd*-shell [3] and *pf*-shell [4], respectively. The origin of the quenching of the GT strength can be attributed to the restriction of the configuration space and the contributions from two-body currents, for example, those from the coupling to non-nucleonic degrees of freedom such as Δ_{33} resonance [5]. The contributions from the two-body current were studied in the GT β -decay in selected *sd*-shell nuclei with the valence space in-medium renormalization group (VS-IMSRG) method [6] and their effects were found to be important in enhancing the quenching factor by ~ 0.07 .

Here, we study the effects of extending the configuration space: *pf*-shell components are included to evaluate GT β -decay strengths in *sd*-shell nuclei. An effective interaction in the *sd-pf* shell obtained by the extended Kuo-Krenciglowa (EKK) method starting from chiral interactions is used [7,8]. The effective interaction proves to be successful in descriptions of the structure of the island of inversion [7]. It also reproduces the GT strength distribution in ^{40}Ar in the $sd^{-2}pf^2 + sd^{-4}pf^4$ shell-model space with $q_A=1$ [8]. The extension of the model space to the *sd-pf* shell, including up to 2p-2h excitations, in the study of the GT β -decay in the *sd*-shell is found to enhance the quenching factor by ~ 0.05 compared to the conventional Hamiltonians in the *sd*-shell [9]. The effects of more than 2p-2h excitations are estimated by including second-order core polarization contributions [5,10].

Next, we discuss the quenching of the strength in forbidden transitions. β -decay rates in the ^{208}Pb region, including the waiting-point nuclei with $N=126$, are important for r-process nucleosynthesis. In this region of nuclei, there are considerable contributions from first-forbidden transitions. Large quenching in g_A and g_V (vector-coupling constant), or matrix elements of spin-dipole and Coulomb operators, in the first-forbidden transitions are found in the study of beta-decays in $N=126$ isotones [11,12], in nuclei in the south region of ^{208}Pb [13], and in $N=125$ and 126 isotones [14].

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