

Charge-exchange isobaric resonances

Yu. S. Lutostansky*

¹National Research Centre “Kurchatov Institute”, 123182, Moscow, Russia

Abstract. Three types of the charge-exchange isobaric resonances — giant Gamow–Teller (GTR), the analog (AR) and pygmy (PR) ones are investigated using the microscopic theory of finite Fermi systems and its approximated version. The calculated energies of GTR, AR and three PR’s are in good agreement with the experimental data. Calculated differences $\Delta E_{G-A} = E_{GTR} - E_{AR}$ go to zero in heavier nuclei indicating the restoration of Wigner SU(4)-symmetry. The average deviation for ΔE_{G-A} is 0.30 MeV for the 33 considered nuclei where experimental data are available. The comparison of calculations with experimental data on the energies of charge-exchange pygmy resonances gives the standard deviation $\delta E < 0.40$ MeV. Strength functions for the ¹¹⁸Sn, ⁷¹Ga, ⁹⁸Mo and ¹²⁷I isotopes are calculated and the calculated resonance energies and amplitudes of the resonance peaks are close to the experimental values. Strong influence of the charge-exchange resonances on neutrino capturing cross sections is demonstrated.

1 Introduction

Charge-exchange isobaric states are manifested in the corresponding charge-exchange reactions such as (ν, e), (p, n), (n, p), (³He, t), ($t, ^3$ He), (⁶Li, ⁶He) and others, or in β -transitions in nuclei. Among these states, collective resonance excitations are of the most interest. The theoretical studies of these collective states have begun with the first calculations of the giant Gamow–Teller resonance (GTR) [1] and other collective states [2] long before their experimental studies in charge-exchange reactions [3, 4]. These collective states lying below the giant GTR [5] were called “pygmy” resonances (PR).

The most complete experimental information on the charge-exchange excitations in 9 tin isotopes with $A=112-124$ were obtained in [6], where the Sn(³He, t)Sb charge-exchange reaction at the energy $E(^3\text{He})=200$ MeV was used. The excitation energies (E_x), widths (Γ), and cross sections $d\sigma/d\Omega$ (mb/sr) were measured for the analog, Gamow-Teller, and three pygmy resonances. Also some charge-exchange strength-functions $S(E)$ were measured earlier in (p, n) and (³He, t) reactions. The influence of the charge-exchange resonances on neutrino capturing cross sections was investigated also.

2 Method of calculation

Charge-exchange excitations of nuclei are described in the microscopic theory of finite Fermi systems (TFFS) by the system of equations for the effective field [7]

$$\begin{aligned} V_{pn} &= e_q V_{pn}^\omega + \sum_{p'n'} F_{np,n'p'}^\omega \rho_{p'n'}, \\ V_{pn}^h &= \sum_{p'n'} F_{np,n'p'}^\omega \rho_{p'n'}^h, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

*e-mail: lutostansky@yandex.ru

where V_{pn} and V_{pn}^h are the effective fields of quasi-particles and holes in a nucleus whereas V_{pn}^ω is the external charge-exchange field. The system of secular equations (1) is solved for allowed transitions with local nucleon-nucleon interaction in the Landau-Migdal form [7]

$$F^\omega = C_0(f'_0 + g'_0(\vec{\sigma}_1 \vec{\sigma}_2))(\vec{\tau}_1 \vec{\tau}_2) \delta(\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2), \quad (2)$$

with the parameters $f'_0=1.35$ and $g'_0=1.22$ as in [8].

The energies of charge-exchange excitations were calculated both in the self-consistent TFFS and in its approximate version [5], which allowed to obtain the analytical solutions for the most collective states. For the energies E_{GTR} and E_{PR} , the solutions ω_k ($k=0$ for GTR and $k=1, 2, 3$ for PR1, PR2, and PR3, correspondingly) divided by the average value E_{ls} of the spin-orbit splitting [8] at $\Delta E > E_{ls}$, has the form

$$\begin{aligned} y_k &= \omega_k/E_{ls} = (a_k + b_k)g'_k x + \\ &+ \frac{b_k(1 + b_k g'_k)g'_k x}{(a_k + b_k)(g'_k x)^2 + [1 + 2(a_k + b_k)g'_k]/3A^{1/3}}, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where

$$x = \Delta E/E_{ls}, \quad \Delta E = \frac{4}{3} \varepsilon_F \frac{N-Z}{A} \text{ MeV}, \quad \varepsilon_F \approx 40 \text{ MeV}.$$

Parameters a_k , b_k and g_k in (3) are defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} a_k &\approx a \cdot p_k, \quad b_k \approx b \cdot p_k, \quad p_k \approx (k+1)^{-1}, \\ b &= \frac{2}{3} [1 - (2A)^{-1/3}], \quad a + b = 1 \end{aligned}$$

and for $k > 0$

$$g'_k = \frac{g'_0}{1 + \alpha_k \beta_k / 2}, \quad \alpha_k = \frac{p_k \beta_k}{1 + 2g'_0 \beta_k}, \quad \beta_k = \sum_{m=1}^k p_m.$$

Thus, all resonances, i.e. GTR ($k=0$) and PR k ($k=1, 2, 3$), are described by the single formula (3).

The energies of analog resonances (AR) were calculated within TFFS and also from the simple formulas for the difference ΔE_C between the Coulomb energies of neighboring isobar nuclei

$$E_{AR} = E_x(AR_{Z+1}) = \Delta E_C - \delta Q, \quad (4)$$

$$\Delta E_C = E_C(A, Z+1) - E_C(A, Z) = a_C \frac{Z}{A^{1/3}} + b_C, \quad (5)$$

where $\delta Q = Q_\beta + \Delta_{np}$, and $\Delta_{np} = 0.78234$ MeV is the dif-

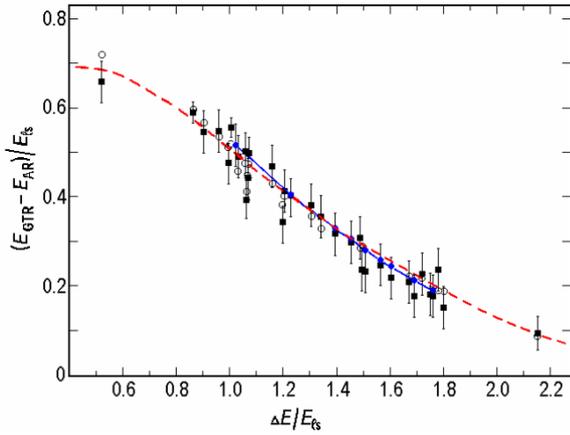


Figure 1. (Color online) The ratio $\Delta y_0(x) = (E_{GTR} - E_{AR})/E_{Is}$ as a function of parameter $x = \Delta E/E_{Is}$. Open circles – results of calculations by Eq. (1). Black squares – experimental data. Blue dots connected by the blue line are the values for Sn isotopes. The dashed red line shows the function $\Delta y_0(x)$ calculated by Eq. (6) for nuclei located on the beta-stability line.

ference between the neutron mass and the mass of hydrogen atom. For all nuclei with $5 \leq A \leq 244$ we have obtained $a_C = 1416$ keV and $b_C = -698$ keV [9] with the standard deviation $\delta E < 100$ keV. Deformation was taken into account as in [9], by introducing the correction to $\Delta E_C = \Delta E_C^{sph} - \delta E_C^{def}$ with the deformation parameters β_2 and β_4 from [10].

3 Results

Differences of energies between Gamow-Teller and analog resonances $\Delta E_{G-A} = E_{GTR} - E_{AR}$ were calculated in TFFS for 33 target nuclei ^{48}Ca , $^{60,64}\text{Ni}$, ^{71}Ga , ^{76}Ge , ^{82}Se , $^{90,91,92,94}\text{Zr}$, ^{93}Nb , $^{94,96,97,98,100}\text{Mo}$, ^{115}In , $^{112,114,116,117,118,119,120,122,124}\text{Sn}$, $^{128,130}\text{Te}$, ^{127}I , ^{136}Xe , ^{150}Nd , ^{169}Tm , and ^{208}Pb for which experimental data are available [6, 11]. The results of theoretical calculations and experimental data are presented in Fig. 1. Strictly speaking, in Fig. 1 we display the calculated and extracted from experimental data the dimensionless ratio $y(x) = \Delta E_{G-A}/E_{Is}$ as a function of parameter $x = \Delta E/E_{Is}$. Moreover, the values of $\Delta y_0(x)$ calculated by the following equation:

$$\Delta y_0(x) = (E_{GTR} - E_{AR})/E_{Is} \approx (g'_0 - f'_0)x + b \frac{1 + bg'_0}{g'_0 x (1 + c_A x^{-2})}, \quad c_A = 0.8A^{-1/3} \quad (6)$$

is also depicted in Fig. 1. Equation (6) is related with Eq. (3) where $k=0$ for the GTR energy. The standard r.m.s. deviation of the values calculated within TFFS Eq. (2) from the experimental data for the listed above nuclei is $\delta(\Delta E) \leq 0.30$ MeV which is comparable to the accuracy of the E_{GTR} experimental data [6].

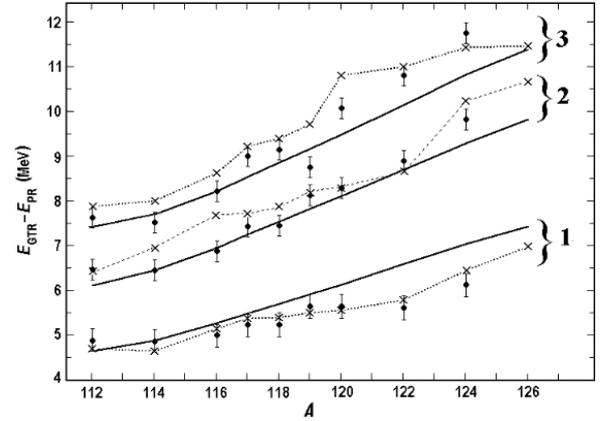


Figure 2. Differences $E_{GTR} - E_{PR}$ between the GTR energies and the energies of pygmy resonances in Sn isotopes as functions of the mass number A . Experimental data [6] are indicated by \bullet with error bars; calculations by TFFS – \times connected by dashed lines; calculations by Eq. (3) – solid lines. The digits 1, 2, and 3 indicate results and data for pygmy resonances PR1, PR2, and PR3, correspondingly.

Calculated differences ΔE_{G-A} go to zero in heavier nuclei (for ^{208}Pb $x=2.15$) indicating the restoration of Wigner SU(4)-symmetry [8]. Thus the analog and Gamow-Teller resonances belong to the same supermultiplet. AR energies were analyzed using both TFFS and simple Eqs. (4) and (5). Based on the results of our analysis of the energies ΔE_C for more than 400 nuclei [8], one can state that the observed functional dependence corresponds to the SU(4)-theory.

The most complete experimental studies of the entire spectrum of the charge-exchange excitations were performed in [6] for nine tin isotopes $^{112,114,116,117,118,119,120,122,124}\text{Sn}$ exploiting the charge-exchange reaction ($^3\text{He}, t$) at beam energy 200 MeV. In particular, three charge-exchange pygmy resonances were identified in every Sn isotopes. Our results for the energies of five charge-exchange resonances AR, GTR, PR1, PR2, and PR3 for nine tin isotopes calculated within microscopic TFFS presented in Table 1 together with the experimental data from [6]. As it can be seen from Table 1, the standard r.m.s. deviations of the calculated from experimental ones for the energies are small enough $\delta E < 0.40$ MeV. These values of δE are comparable with the experimental errors $\Delta E_{exp} = \pm 0.25$ MeV. Our results are close to that of other calculations of high-lying excitations, e.g., performed in the framework of self-consistent QRPA with Skyrme forces [12].

Figure 2 demonstrates the difference between the energies of GTR and lying below pygmy resonances PR for Sn isotopes as functions of the mass number A . The calculations by Eq. (3) produces standard deviations $\delta E_{PR1} = 0.53$

Table 1. Energies (in MeV) of the analog E_{AR} , Gamow-Teller E_{GTR} , and three pygmy E_{PR} resonances calculated within the TFFS, corresponding experimental data [6], and the standard deviations $\delta E = \langle E_{exp} - E_{calc} \rangle$ of theoretical results from experimental data.

Nucleus init./final	E_{AR}		E_{GTR}		E_{PR1}		E_{PR2}		E_{PR3}	
	exp. ± 0.03	calc.	exp. ± 0.25	calc.	exp. ± 0.25	calc.	exp. ± 0.20	calc.	exp. ± 0.20	calc.
$^{112}\text{Sn}/^{112}\text{Sb}$	6.16	6.69	8.94	9.38	4.08	4.70	2.49	3.00	1.33	1.52
$^{114}\text{Sn}/^{114}\text{Sb}$	7.28	6.92	9.39	9.60	4.55	4.97	2.95	2.65	1.88	1.60
$^{116}\text{Sn}/^{116}\text{Sb}$	8.36	8.47	10.04	10.36	5.04	5.23	3.18	2.68	1.84	1.75
$^{117}\text{Sn}/^{117}\text{Sb}$	11.27	11.38	12.87	12.91	7.64	7.54	5.45	5.21	3.87	3.71
$^{118}\text{Sn}/^{118}\text{Sb}$	9.33	9.23	10.61	10.93	5.38	5.54	3.17	3.08	1.47	1.55
$^{119}\text{Sn}/^{119}\text{Sb}$	12.36	12.48	13.71	13.77	8.09	8.27	5.49	5.57	3.63	4.07
$^{120}\text{Sn}/^{120}\text{Sb}$	10.24	10.20	11.45	11.78	5.82	6.24	3.18	3.47	1.38	0.98
$^{122}\text{Sn}/^{122}\text{Sb}$	11.24	11.17	12.25	12.54	6.65	6.76	3.37	3.91	1.45	1.55
$^{124}\text{Sn}/^{124}\text{Sb}$	12.19	12.05	13.25	13.59	7.13	7.16	3.44	3.06	1.50	2.17
δE	0.23		0.29		0.31		0.36		0.33	

MeV, $\delta E_{PR2}=0.26$ MeV and $\delta E_{PR3}=0.50$ MeV that is comparable with the microscopic calculations (see Table 1). Thus, on average the calculations by two methods describe the experimental data satisfactorily.

Charge-exchange strength functions $S(E_x)$ were calculated within TFFS for more than 100 isotopes in the middle-mass region. At present only few of these nuclides are investigated experimentally in charge-exchange nuclear reactions such as (p, n) or $(^3\text{He}, t)$. We present in Figure 3a) the experimental data on excitation spectra obtained in $^{118}\text{Sn}(^3\text{He}, t)^{118}\text{Sb}$ reaction [6]. The calculated charge-exchange strength function $S(E_x)$ for ^{118}Sn is depicted in Figure 3b). Unfortunately, direct measurements of the strength function $S(E_x)$ were not performed, but the data on counts shown in Figure 3a) are proportional to the partial data on the function $S(E_x)$. One more example of the experimental and theoretical strength functions are given in Figure 4 for the ^{71}Ga nucleus. Here, the GTR resonance as well as three pygmy resonances located at lower excitation energy are seen as well. Theoretical and experimental energies of the resonances are in reasonable agreement. These resonances play significant role in the neutrino capturing reactions as will be discussed in the next section 4.

4 Charge-exchange resonances in the neutrino capturing reactions

The charge-exchange resonances strongly influence neutrino capturing cross sections by nuclei $\sigma(E_\nu)$. We calculated within TFFS charge-exchange strength functions $S(E_x)$ for ^{71}Ga , ^{98}Mo and ^{127}I nuclei. Then, knowing $S(E_x)$ we calculated cross sections $\sigma(E_\nu)$ applying the following equation (see [14]):

$$\sigma(E_\nu) = \frac{(G_F g_A)^2}{\pi c^3 \hbar^4} \int_0^{E_\nu - Q} E_e p_e F(Z, A, E_e) S(x) dx$$

$$E_e = E_\nu - Q - x + m_e c^2, \quad c p_e = \sqrt{E_e^2 - (m_e c^2)^2}. \quad (7)$$

In Eq.(7), E_ν is an incident neutrino energy, $F(Z, A, E_e)$ – the Fermi function, $G_F/(\hbar c)^3$ – the Fermi weak interaction constant, g_A – the axial-vector constant from [15]. Cal-

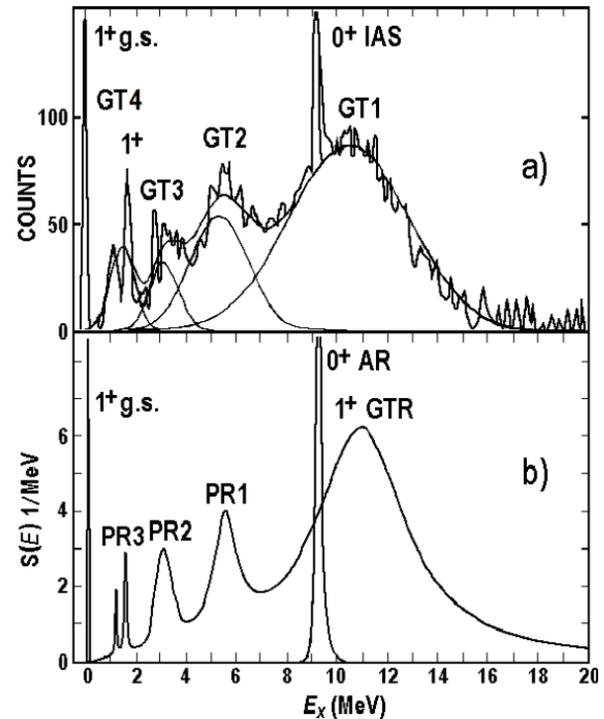


Figure 3. Panel a) – experimental spectrum of the reaction $^{118}\text{Sn}(^3\text{He}, t)^{118}\text{Sb}$ [6]. Panel b) – calculated charge-exchange strength function $S(E)$. The Gamow-Teller and three pygmy resonances are marked as GT1, GT2, GT3 and GT4 in panel a) and GTR, PR1, PR2, and PR3 in panel b).

culations were carried out for ^{71}Ga , ^{98}Mo and ^{127}I nuclei which are of interest for neutrino physics. The results of calculations $\sigma(E_\nu)$ are shown partly in Figure 5. It is seen that the effect of charge-exchange resonances on the cross section is quite sizable. Even at $E_\nu=4$ MeV, the exclusion of the Gamow-Teller resonance alone leads to reduction in the cross section by 25% for the reaction $^{71}\text{Ga}(\nu_e, e^-)^{71}\text{Ge}$. For the $^{98}\text{Mo}(\nu_e, e^-)^{98}\text{Tc}$ reaction exclusion of GTR reduces the cross-section by 16% at $E_\nu=6$ MeV and by 45% at $E_\nu=14$ MeV. For the $^{127}\text{I}(\nu_e, e^-)^{127}\text{Xe}$ reaction the cross-section appears to be reduced by 19% at $E_\nu=2$ MeV and by 69% at $E_\nu=14$ MeV. Certainly, the effect becomes stronger

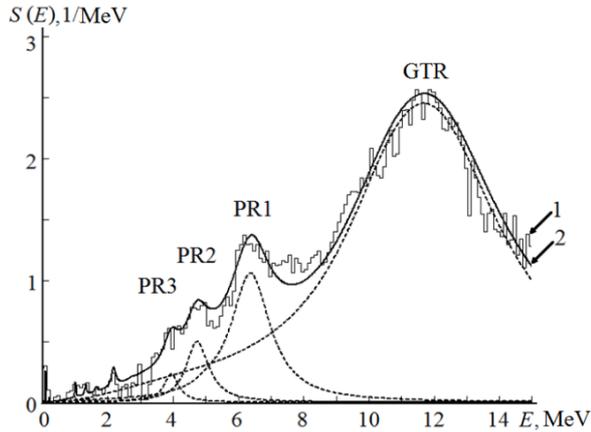


Figure 4. Charge-exchange strength functions $S(E)$ for the ^{71}Ga nucleus. 1 (bar chart) – experimental data [13], 2 (solid line) – numerical calculations within TFFS. GTR – the Gamow-Teller resonance, PR1, PR2, PR3 – pygmy resonances.

if one disregards not only GTR, but PR1 in addition. The elimination of two resonances, GTR and PR1, reduces the cross section of the $^{71}\text{Ga}(\nu_e, e^-)^{71}\text{Ge}$ reaction by an amount varying from 20% to 60% with a change in the neutrino energy from 2 to 14 MeV. From Figure 5 one can see that the strongest effect of GTR and PR resonances on $\sigma(E)$ is observed for the reaction $^{127}\text{I}(\nu_e, e^-)^{127}\text{Xe}$.

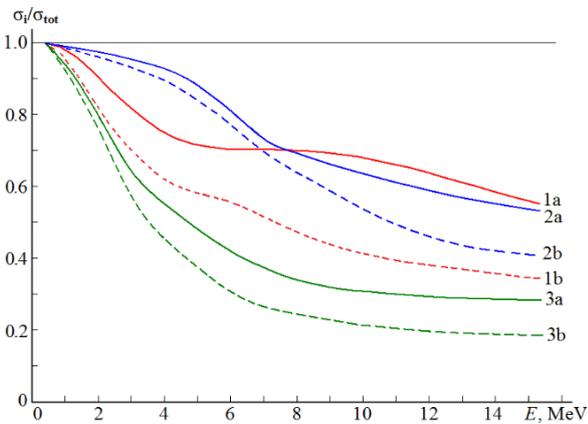


Figure 5. (Color online) The effect of GTR and PR1 resonances on the cross section $\sigma_i(E)$ of neutrino capturing on ^{71}Ga , ^{98}Mo and ^{127}I nuclei. The ratio $\sigma_i(E)/\sigma_{\text{tot}}$ calculated within TFFS is shown as a function of neutrino energy E_ν . σ_{tot} – cross section calculated with the complete strength function $S(E_\nu)$. Solid lines – calculations of $\sigma_i(E)$ with exclusion the GTR contribution only. Dashed lines – calculations of $\sigma_i(E)$ with exclusion both GTR and PR1. 1 (red) – calculations for $^{71}\text{Ga}(\nu_e, e^-)^{71}\text{Ge}$ reaction, 2 (blue) – calculations for $^{98}\text{Mo}(\nu_e, e^-)^{98}\text{Tc}$ reaction, 3 (green) – calculations for $^{127}\text{I}(\nu_e, e^-)^{127}\text{Xe}$ reaction.

5 Conclusions

Observed in all charge-exchange reactions three types of the isobaric resonances – the giant Gamow-Teller (GTR), the analog (AR) and pygmy (PR) ones – are investigated exploiting the microscopic theory of finite Fermi systems and its approximate version. The calculated energies of GTR, AR and three PRs are in good agreement with the

experimental data. The root-mean-square deviation for the value ΔE_{G-A} is 0.30 MeV for the 33 considered nuclei where experimental data are available. The comparison of calculations with experimental data on the energies of charge-exchange pygmy resonances gives the standard deviation $\delta E < 0.40$ MeV. Calculated difference of energies of GTR and AR resonances $\Delta E_{G-A} = E_{\text{GTR}} - E_{\text{AR}}$ go to zero in heavier nuclei indicating the restoration of Wigner SU(4)-symmetry. This allows to describe the properties of heavy nuclei more confidently using SU(4)-theory, especially for mass relations [16]. Also the analysis of the Coulomb displacement energies using the SU(4)-approach allows to describe AR energies and the masses of superheavy nuclei with a good accuracy.

Strength functions for the ^{118}Sn , ^{71}Ga , ^{98}Mo and ^{127}I nuclides were calculated and analyzed. The calculated resonance energies and amplitudes of resonance peaks appear to be close to the experimental values. Strong influence of the charge-exchange resonances on neutrino capturing cross sections is demonstrated.

Further investigation of the resonant structure of the strength functions $S(E)$ will allow us to analyze the data of the charge-exchange reactions and β -delayed processes. So the appearance of PR in the energy window of the emission of β -delayed neutrons leads to a sharp increase in the probability of this process [17]. Similar effect can be observed for the β -delayed fission process [18].

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