



Nuclear structure aspects via g-factor measurements: pushing the frontiers

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During the past decades systematic studies of the magnetic moments of the 2_1^+ states in eveneven nuclei have been performed by several groups around the globe, providing valuable tests of theoretical models of nuclear structure. Such measurements have unveiled important features of the interplay between single-particle and collective excitation degrees of freedom. It is widely accepted that the possibility to distinguish between single-particle and collective behavior in nuclear states, thanks to the microscopic description of the states under study, is one of the greatest achievements of the research in nuclear magnetic moments. Experimentally, much progress has been achieved by using the transient field technique in inverse kinematics. However, challenges arise from the difficulty to extend these measurements to 4_1^+ , 2_2^+ , and higher excited states, the use of low intensity radioactive beams, and reactions such as α transfer and fusion-evaporation. In this contribution an overview of the trend of magnetic moments (g factors) for several isotopic chains, measured using the transient field technique, will be presented. The results are evaluated in the context of the systematic of g factors in several mass regions. Some of the challenges and frontiers of future g-factor measurements will be discussed.

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1. Introduction

During the last decades a wealth of experimental and theoretical information has been obtained in the field of nuclear structure with the help of the study of nuclear magnetic moments of excited states [1, 2, 3, 4]. The outstanding property of the bare-spin g factors being positive for protons, $g_s^{\pi} = +5.586$, and negative for neutrons, $g_s^{\mu} = -3.826$, enable the determination of the proton and neutron contributions to the wave function of individual states, in particular for those nuclei near closed shells. It is worth to notice that most of the $g(2_1^+)$ factors are close to the collective value g = Z/A. The study of the deviations from this collective value provides key information about the evolution of the nuclear structure along several isotopic chains, and is presented below.

Recently, the measurements have been concentrated on the systematic study of even-even nuclei, specifically states with $J^{\pi} \ge 2^+$, with a special focus on the improvement of the accuracy of the measurements [5, 6]. In addition to the latter, the implementation of radioactive beam facilities has extended our knowledge to regions away from stability [7, 8, 9, 10]. Another successful technique to reach radioactive species has been the use of α -transfer reactions from stable beams [11, 12, 13, 14, 15].

On the theoretical side, Large Scale Shell Model calculations (LSSM) using codes such as ANTOINE [16] and the Oslo code [17], in combination with realistic interactions capable to describe large model spaces [18, 19, 20], have given us the capability to understand the microscopic behavior of nuclei in several mass regions.

In this contribution, results on nuclear magnetic moments, using the Transient Field (TF) technique for several isotopic chains, will be reviewed. The challenges and difficulties for future uses of the TF technique with radioactive species and different reactions will be addressed.



2. The region between N = 20 and N = 28

Figure 1: g-factor values for (a) the region around N = 20 and N = 28, and (b) for the region around N = 50 and N = 28. Experimental results before 2011 have been taken from Ref. [1].

Magnetic moments measurements with the TF technique, in the region around 20 < N < 28 are presented in Fig. 1 (a). For values obtained before 2011 the average value from Ref. [1] is reported in this contribution. For the magic numbers at N = 20 and N = 28 a maximum in the positive values for the *g* factors is observed, this result is due to the filling of the $1d_{3/2}$ and $1f_{7/2}$ neutron orbitals with the subsequent dominance of the proton configurations. Such behavior is also observed along the isotopic chains for the other magic numbers, see Fig. 1 (b) for N = 50 and Fig. 2 (b) for N = 82.

The results for nuclei in the region allow to study the behavior around the ⁴⁰Ca and ⁴⁸Ca closed-shell nuclei. For the ⁴⁰₁₈Ar a near-spherical shell model picture may be assumed to explain the $g(2_1^+) = -0.015(42)$ value [21], while for ⁴²₂₀Ca, the isotone of ⁴⁰Ar, it was necessary to involve significant core excitation in order to explain the vanishingly small $g(2_1^+) = +0.04(6)$ [22]. Along with the results for ⁴²₂₀Ca, the positive value for ⁴⁴₂₀Ca of $g(2_1^+) = +0.17(3)$ is an unexpected result also [22], since a negative *g*-factor value is expected for both isotopes from two and four valence neutrons in the *fp* shell using a ⁴⁰₂₀Ca as a closed-shell core. The measured $g(2_1^+)$ for ^{42.44}Ca requires a significant core-excitation component in the 2_1^+ wave function. For the negative $g(2_1^+) = -0.26(6)$ value for ⁴⁶₂₀Ca (*fp*)⁶_V configurations dominate near the shell closure at ⁴⁸Ca [23]. These results allow to conclude that ⁴⁸Ca is a better closed-shell nucleus than ⁴⁰Ca.

For the radioactive ${}^{38}_{16}$ S and ${}^{40}_{16}$ S isotopes the dominant components of the shell model wave functions are correct to give a satisfactory description of the measured *g* factors [24].

3. The region around N = 50

Measurements of nuclear magnetic moments in the region around N = 50, using the TF technique, are presented in Fig. 1 (b). The region is of high interest due to the possibility to study the N, Z = 40 sub-shell closure, and in fact this has motivated an important part of the measurements in the region [25, 26, 27]. Overall, the behavior for most of the $g(2_1^+)$ values follows the trend around g = Z/A. For example, a recent experimental study of the *g*-factor values for the isotopic chain of $_{32}^{70-76}$ Ge [6], $_{74-82}$ Se [28] and $_{76-82}$ Kr [29, 27] found good agreement with predictions from the IBA-II model.

A very interesting case are the $g(2_1^+)$ values of the Zr isotopes (Z = 40). A large positive $g(2_1^+) = +1.25(20)$ value for ⁹⁰Zr is produced by a predominantly $\pi(g_{9/2})^2$ configuration, whereas the negative $g(2_1^+) =$ values of ⁹²Zr and ⁹⁴Zr are produced by neutron excitations in the $v(d_{5/2})^2$ and $v(d_{5/2})^4$ respectively [26]. Values away from the g = Z/A can be observed in the ₂₈Ni isotopes, are caused by an strong coupling of valence particles to an excited double-magic $\frac{56}{28}$ Ni₂₈ core [30].

4. The region 50 < N < 82 and around N = 82

The region for 50 < N < 82 presents long isotopic chains with a collective behavior overall, as shown in Fig. 2 (a). A very interesting evolution of the magnetic moments as a function of the neutrons is presented by the $_{50}$ Sn chain, the *g*-factor values evolve from positive values for the lighter isotopes to negative values for the heavier ones. A qualitative analysis of this behavior is performed in Ref. [5]. The gradually filling of the set of neutron orbitals $0g_{7/2}$, $1d_{5/2}$, $1d_{3/2}$, $2s_{1/2}$ and $0h_{11/2}$ is responsible for the evolution of the *g*-factor values along the isotopic chains.



Figure 2: *g*-factor values for (a) the region 50 < N < 82 using the TF technique, and (b) for the region N = 82 using the TF technique. Experimental results before 2011 have been taken from Ref. [1].

Table 1: Empirical single-particle g factors from Ref. [5] for the neutron orbitals in the N = 50 - 82 major shell, and selected proton orbitals relevant for proton core excitations across Z = 50 and resulting empirical g factors of two-quasiparticle configurations with $J^{\pi} = 2^+$.

Single-particle g factors		2_1^+ state configuration	
<u>Orbit</u>	g emp	Configuration	<i>gemp</i>
$vd_{5/2}$	-0.43	$vd_{5/2}g_{7/2}$	+0.23
$vg_{7/2}$	+0.18	$vd_{5/2}^{-1}s_{1/2}$	-0.20
$vs_{1/2}$	-1.8	$vd_{3/2}s_{1/2}$	-0.11
$vd_{3/2}$	+0.46	$vg_{7/2}^{-1}d_{3/2}$	+0.04
$vh_{11/2}$	-0.25	,	
$\pi g_{9/2}$	+1.22	$\pi g_{9/2} d_{5/2}$	+1.09
$\pi d_{5/2}$	+1.38	$\pi g_{9/2} g_{7/2}$	+1.34
$\pi g_{7/2}$	+0.73		

Table 1 shows the empirical single-particle g factor values, deduced from measured g factors of one-quasiparticle states in odd-A Sn isotopes.

For the lightest Sn isotopes, ¹¹²Sn, the $g_{7/2}^2$ and the $d_{5/2}g_{7/2}$ two neutron configurations are expected to contribute to the formation of the 2_1^+ state. No notable differences exist between the 2_1^+ states of ¹¹²Sn and ¹¹⁴Sn. The decrease of the $g(2_1^+)$ values between ¹¹⁴Sn and ¹¹⁶Sn is explained by the fact that the $d_{3/2}$ and $s_{1/2}$ orbitals are already half filled, and the $d_{3/2}s_{1/2}$ configuration (g = -0.11) becomes relevant. The positive value of the $g(2_1^+)$ for ¹¹⁸Sn goes off the systematics, in Ref. [31] this behavior is attributed to the influence of the $d_{3/2}^2$ neutron configuration (g = +0.46 in Table 1) that has half the occupancy according to the results from Ref. [32]. For the remaining heavier ¹²⁰⁻¹²⁶Sn isotopes, the $h_{11/2}$ orbital is being filled and plays an important role

in the description of the configuration of the 2^+_1 states [5, 9].

$g(4_1^+)$ factors $g(2_1^+)$ factors "Ti 24Cr $_{20}^{20}$ Zn (b)- ₆₄Gd 32Ge (a) ₆₆Dy ₃₆Kr 38 38 40 Zr 68Er 0.5 Yb 0 40 44 A4 ŝ g(N) $_{72}\mathrm{Hf}$ 46Pd 54Xe ₇₄W 60Nd ₆₂Sm - ₇₆Os 62 64 66 66 67 68 67 ⊷ ₇₈Pt -0.5 -0.5 → ₈₀Hg 74W 100 110 120 76Os 20 80 90 30 70 60 40 ₇₈Pt 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 Number Neutron ₈₀Hg Neutron Number

5. The region with N > 82

Figure 3: *g*-factor values for (a) the region 82 < N < 126 measured using the TF technique, and (b) for the *g*-factor values of the 4_1^+ states in even-even nuclei measured using the TF technique. Vertical dotted lines correspond to the magic numbers for neutrons. Experimental results before 2011 have been taken from Ref. [1].

The onset of collectivity, for isotopes with 82 < N < 126, is clearly seen in Fig. 3 (a), where *g*-factor values for isotopes with 82 < N < 126 are presented. The influence of the $\pi(g_{7/2})$ and $\nu(f_{7/2})$ orbitals are important to explain magnetic moments around the ¹³²Sn [33]. Deviation from the $g \sim Z/A$ value have been explained with the help of pairing, single-particle contribution or subshell closure at Z = 64 [34].

An interesting feature for the region is the possibility to easily measure g factors for states with J > 2. This is possible due to two main reasons: firstly, the nuclear level density of the nuclei in the region that determines the possibility to make use of Coulomb excitation reactions [34], in some cases the ratios $g(4_1^+)/g(2_1^+)$ and $g(6_1^+)/g(2_1^+)$ are reported [35, 36] instead of single values of $g(2_1^+)$. Secondly, the possible use of Fusion-Evaporation reactions (FE) to populate collective structures. The main limitation for the use of FE reactions is that the time history of the de-exciting nuclei is not always well established, this obstacle sets limits to the information of the magnetic interaction between the excited states and the host ferromagnetic [37, 38], some works reports average g-factor values for deformed structures in specific isotopes [37, 39] and quasicontinuum structures [40].

6. *g*-factor values for J > 2 states

In Fig.3 the g-factor values of the 4_1^+ states measured using the TF technique are presented. The small number of g factor measured, when compared to the number of $g(2_1^+)$, is due to the experimental difficulties to populate and simultaneously measure the precession of the states with $J \ge 4$ in certain mass regions. As has been presented in previous sections of this contribution, three reactions have been commonly utilized to populated such states, Coulomb excitation, α -transfer, and fusion-evaporation. Coulomb excitation provides the most reliable result and fine results for states close to the ground state. while fusion-evaporation reactions can populate high-spin states, the measured precession of a given state maybe contaminated by the precession from higher-feeding states.

Recent studies using α -transfer reactions and Coulomb excitation in the $A \sim 100$ region have pointed out the importance of measuring *g*-factor values for J > 2 states. Two interesting cases will be presented here, the negative $g(4_1^+)$ value of ${}^{86}_{38}$ Sr and the $g(4_1^+)$ values for 100 Pd and 96 Ru.

6.1 The negative $g(4_1^+)$ value of ${}^{86}_{38}$ Sr

A surprisingly negative $g(4_1^+) = -0.68(49)$ Value for ⁸⁶Sr Has been recently reported in Ref. [15], in contrast with the positive values of $g(2_1^+) = +0.285(14)$ and $g(2_2^+) = +0.40(16)$ for the ⁸⁶Sr isotope, and $g(^{88}\text{Zr}; 4_1^+) = +0.65(18)$. Shell model calculations using the JUN45 [19] and JJ4B [18] interactions predict a small-negative value of $g(4_1^+)_{JUN45} = -0.07$ and a positive $g(4_1^+)_{JJ4B} = +0.22$, using a valence space composed by the single-particle orbitals $1p_{3/2}$, $0f_{5/2}$, $1p_{1/2}$, and $0g_{9/2}$, for both protons and neutrons.

In the considered space only three orbitals have negative single-particle Schmidt g factor values, $g(p_{1/2})_{\pi} = -0.529$, $g(g_{9/2})_{\nu} = -0.425$ and $g(p_{3/2})_{\nu} = -1.275$. It is not easy to figure out a possible configuration, that will form a 4⁺ state using only a proton configuration, while for neutrons the configurations $g(g_{9/2})_{\nu}^2$ or $g(p_{3/2}, f_{5/2})_{\nu}^2$ can form a 4⁺. Future Shell-Model studies should clarify the origin of this value, and also need a better experimental value.

6.2 The trend of the $g(2_1^+)$ and $g(4_1^+)$ values for ¹⁰⁰Pd and ⁹⁶Ru



Figure 4: Trend of the experimental and theoretical g-factor values for (a) 96 Ru and (b) 100 Pd.

The study of trends of the *g*-factor values as a function of the spin of the states provides an interesting test to the microscopic predictions of nuclear models. Recent results in ¹⁰⁰Pd [11] and ⁹⁶Ru [41] present a clear example of this, in Fig. 4 the experimental results are compared with Shell

Model calculations presented in their respective references. In both case the experimental values do not follow the theoretical predictions. Future work to clarify the differences in these trends is needed.

7. Summary and future

In this contribution an overview of the systematic of the nuclear g factors for several isotopic chains was presented. For nuclei with a neutron number around a magic number a clear single-particle behavior is present, and for nuclei in-between magic numbers a trend following the g = Z/A prediction from collective models is followed. For isotopic chains that are out of the latter general trend, the influence of j orbitals explain the behavior of g-factor values for the isotopic chains; this is the case of the $\pi(g_{9/2})$ for the Sr isotopes and the $\nu(h_{11/2})$ for the Sn isotopes.

The investigation of the softness of the ⁸⁸Sr and ⁹⁰Zr have stimulated recent studies at the extremes of the Sr (Z = 38) isotopic chain, for the radioactive ⁸²Sr and ⁹⁰Sr, specifically, have been carried out using α -transfer reaction from Kr isotopes [42].

The investigation of trends of magnetic moments as a function of the nuclear spin provides a test of the microscopic prediction of the different models. Future experimental studies should exploit:

• the use of α -transfer reactions to populate medium spin states. In recent years, the use of α -transfer reactions has become an active area of research which allows the production of states in radioactive species that otherwise will only be available in future radioactive beam facilities. A hindrance to the use of the α -transfer mechanism is that the alignment of the nuclear spin, necessary to observe a precession of the magnetic moment in an external or a hyperfine magnetic field, is much reduced compared to that observed in experiments using traditional Coulomb excitation.

Future studies must focus on improving the precision of the experimental results for α transfer reactions. Such studies need a detailed characterization of the reaction and the angular particle- γ correlations. The final goal is the design of new experimental setups with the
optimization of the position of the charged-particle detector, and the use of highly segmented ΔE -E detectors.

- the use of radioactive beams. Future studies of g factors for neutron-rich nuclei will depend on the development of experimental programs to measure in radioactive beam facilities. Some studies have been carried out recently [9, 10]. The use of Coulomb excitation reactions will be the best way to initiate future studies in this field. The main challenges arise from the available beam intensities.
- The study of the ion-solid interaction and the development of a new generation of target. The study of the interaction ion-solid is pivotal to develop a new generation of targets for *g*-factor measurements. To date, the use of several parametrizations, to obtain values of the hyperfine field utilized in TF experiments [3, 2], have a common linear dependence with the number *Z* of the ions but differ in their explicitly velocity dependence. The use of only

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one parametrization deduced from first principles is desirable as one of the goals of future studies.

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