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Light Exotic Λ Hypernuclei

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Hypernuclei with proton or neutron excess are of particular interest in strangeness nuclear physics [1]. Such systems are loosely studied experimentally so far. The first attempts to get neutron-rich Λ hypernuclei [2-4] were taken using mesonic projectiles. Exotic hypernuclei can be produced also in heavy ion collisions [5], particularly, at NICA complex developed at JINR. Properties of exotic hypernuclei can shed light on the subtle features of the hyperon-nucleon and hyperon-nucleus interactions. Specifically, density dependence of the Λ N interaction, core polarization can be investigated as factors that may have a significant influence on structure of exotic hypernuclei [6]. The charge symmetry breaking Λ N interaction [1,7,8,9] is also relevant to exotic hypernuclei.

We address the structure of light Λ hypernuclei in the framework of Hartree-Fock approach with effective potentials in the Skyrme form. This phenomenological approach widely used in hypernuclear physics (e.g., [10,11]) allows us to analyze the hypernuclear properties in relation to both nucleon-nucleon and hyperonnucleon components of the general baryonic interaction. Hyperon binding energies, as well as radii of nuclear cores are calculated using several Skyrme parametrizations. We consider isobaric chains of light Λ hypernuclei and show that the Λ binding energy depends slightly but sizably on (N - Z) at fixed A.

Due to the glue-like role of the Λ hyperon, there is a chance to get bound hypernuclei with unstable cores. We test the possibility of the ⁹C hypernucleus to be bound, and study its stability against two-proton and four-proton decays. We also examine the stability of exotic boron, nitrogen and oxygen hyperisotopes.

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