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Electric Monopole Transition Strengths in Stable Nickel Isotopes¹ LEE EVITTS, ADAM GARNSWORTHY, TRIUMF, TIBOR KIBEDI, ANU, SUPER-E COLLABORATION — Electric monopole (E0) transition strengths are a sensitive probe for investigating nuclear structure and shape coexistence. There is a need for E0 transition strengths in closed shell nuclei in order to develop our understanding of the mechanisms responsible for the generation of electric monopole strength. Simultaneous detections of γ rays and internal conversion electrons must be measured in order to determine an E0 transition strength. A series of measurements in the stable nickel isotopes were performed at the Australian National University. Excited states in ^{58,60,62}Ni were populated via inelastic proton scattering. The CAESAR array of Compton-suppressed HPGe detectors was used to measure the (E2/M1) mixing ratio of transitions from angular distributions of γ rays. The Super-e spectrometer was used to measure electron-gamma branching ratios in order to extract E0 transition strengths for a number of $J^{\pi} \to J^{\pi}$ transitions. An overview of the experiments will be presented, along with preliminary results for E0transition strengths between $J^{\pi} \neq 0$ states in the semi-magic nuclei, ^{58,60,62}Ni. A comparison with the matrix elements obtained from a new microscopic model for E0 transitions will be made.

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