

To the Limits with Gamma-Ray Spectroscopy

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Gamma-Ray Spectroscopy: Times are Changing

 For the last ~ 15 - 20 years, large arrays of Compton-suppressed Ge detectors such as EuroBall, JUROBALL, GASP, EXOGAM, TIGRESS and Gammasphere and others have been the tools of choice for nuclear spectroscopy.



EUROBALL



EXOGAM



Gammasphere

Gamma-Ray Spectroscopy: Times are Changing

 A new generation of gamma-ray arrays with tracking capability is (almost) here: AGATA and GRETA



<u>Lecture Purpose & Plan</u>

• As we are about to embark on the "tracking adventure", let's

(1) review some of the achievements of the large arrays & discuss some of the unresolved issues

(2) discuss some more recent directions

- → Collective Motion in Nuclei
 - → Superdeformation
 - → Octupole Excitations
 - → Triaxiality & Wobbling

→ <u>Structure of Exotic Nuclei</u>

- → The Heaviest Nuclei
- → Changes in Shell Structure in Neutron-Rich Nuclei

→ Collective Motion in Nuclei

- → Superdeformation
- → Octupole Excitations
- → Triaxiality & Wobbling



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Superdeformation: Shell Effects at Large Deformation



Single-particle levels for an Harmonic
 Oscillator potential as a function of elongation → Shell gaps at large
 deformation (2:1, 3:1)

Single-particle levels for a Woods-Saxon potential (high level density regions are shaded) \rightarrow Shell gaps remain, but not necessarily at 2:1 or 3:1 exactly



QUADRUPOLE DEFORMATION

Role of Rotation: deepening of the SD minimum \rightarrow yrast at high spin \rightarrow use fusion-evaporation

with heavy ions to generate high spin



Superdeformation: Shell Effects at Large Deformation



SUPERDEFORMATION

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

(1) TO TEST OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SHELL STRUCTURE AT LARGE DEFORMATIONS

(2) TO STUDY THE DECAY FROM ONE POTENTIAL WELL INTO ANOTHER

A FEW OF THE MANY INTERESTING QUESTIONS:

- IDENTIFICATION OF ORBITALS NEAR THE FERMI SURFACE IN THE SD WELL
- ROLE OF SPECIFIC SHAPE DRIVING ORBITALS
- STIFFNESS OF THE SD WELL AND POSSIBLE COLLECTIVE EXCITATIONS
- PAIRING AT LARGE β₂
- CORIOLIS INTERACTION AND PARTICLE ALIGNMENTS AT LARGE β₂ ?
- NEW SYMMETRIES ?
- MORE SURPRISES (IDENTICAL BANDS, △ I = 4 BIFURCATION ...) ?
- WHICH PARAMETERS GOVERN FEEDING INTO & DECAY OUT OF SD WELL ?
-

In this presentation: answers to SOME of the many questions about physics at 2:1 deformation: - $E^*(SD)$, I^{π}

- Nature of Excitations in SD well

The Spectrum that helped make the case for the large arrays:



In this presentation: answers to SOME of the questions about physics at 2:1 deformation:

- E*(SD), I^π

- Nature of Excitations in SD well

Superdeformation: Some fundamentals

IMPORTANT PHYSICAL QUANTITIES:

 $I_{+4} - \Delta E = E_{\mu}$ $E_{2} \Delta I = 2\hbar$ **Experimental Sign** I+2 ---E2 E(I) ~ I(I+1) T $E(I+2) \sim (I+2)(I+3)$ $E = \frac{\hbar^2}{24}I(I+1)$ **4I** $\mathbf{F}^{(2)} = \hbar^2 \left[\underline{d^2 \mathbf{E}} \right] = \hbar \underline{dI} = \underline{4\hbar^2}$ DYNAMIC Moment $\underline{dI^2} \quad \underline{dw} \quad \Delta \mathbf{E\gamma}$ of INERTIA



Superdeformation: Shell Effects at Large Deformation



Superdeformation: Magic SD Nuclei





Lower Frequency at A~190 SD trapping to lower spin

15 Years Later: SD band is linked



T. Lauritsen *et al*. PRL 88, 42501

Isomer tagging (87 nsec isomer)

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15 Years Later: SD band is linked





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The Strength of the Shell Effects

Experiment: Lowest State in SD band:

 $I^{\pi} = 24^+$ E(0⁺) = 7.5 MeV **Calculations:** Nilsson – Strutinsky 26+ **8.8 MeV I. Ragnarsson NP A557, 167** Woods – Saxon 22+ **8.4 MeV** J. Dudek et al., PR C38, 940 **Relativistic Mean Field** 24+ **8.3 MeV** A.V. Afanasjev et al., NP A634, 395 Hartree Fock Bogoliubov 24⁺ 7.1 MeV J.L. Egido et al., PRL 85, 26

(66+) 33080.1 (64+)31534.5 (62+) 30036.7 (60+) 28587.1 (58+) 27185.8 (56+) 25832.9 (54+) 24528.1 (52+) 23271.5 (50+) 22062.9 (48+)20902.4 (46+) 19789.7 (44+) 18724.8 (42+)17707.4 (40+) 16737.2 (38+) 15814.0 (36+) 14937.6 (34+)14107.7 (32+) 13323.7 (30+)12585.6 (28+)11892.9 (26+)11245.4 (24+)10643.0 SD-1 band (1986Tw01,1994Da20)





More SD Bands \rightarrow the SD well sustain many excitations



Nature of the excitations in the SD well



Most excitations a quasi-particle exci role of high-j intru

"The picture of extreme single particle motion applies, the best example of the application of the shell model at extremes of angular momentum and deformation"

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152Dy: A laboratory to study generation of angular momentum Triaxial bands Superdeformed bands



Octupole Correlations: Traditional View



Octupole correlations originate from the long-range interactions between valence nucleons occupying states with $\Delta j = \Delta l = 3$ In actinide nuclei:

 $vj_{15/2} \otimes g_{9/2}$ $\pi i_{13/2} \otimes f_{7/2}$



Signature 1: 1⁻ energy & hindrance in α decay





Signature 2: E1 "zig-zag" transitions

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Signature 3: Parity Doublets



Octupole Deformed Octupole Vibration

$$S(I) \equiv E_I - \frac{(I+1) \cdot E_{I-1} + I \cdot E_{I+1}}{2I+1}$$



Signature 4: Energy Staggering



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S. Frauendorf and V.V. Pashkevich, Phys. Lett. B 141, 23 (1984)

e' [MeV



hindrance factors

- I. Wiedenhöever et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 83, 2143 (1999).
- S. Zhu et al., Phys. Lett. B618, 51 (2005).
- R. K. Sheline & M. A. Riley, Phys. Rev. C 61, 057301 (2000).







 $^{237,238}U$ and $^{239,240}Pu$: contrasting behaviors \leftarrow delay in alignment



Octupole Correlations: New Results for 240Pu



Experiment: "Unsafe" Coulomb Excitation of 240 Pu with a 208 Pb beam ~ 15% above the barrier

Observations:

(1) "zig-zag" pattern of E1 transitions between states of bands 1 (+ parity) and 2 (- parity) at high spin just like in octupole deformed rotors



(2) strong E1 transitions between band 3 (+ parity) and band 2 (- parity). To the best of our knowledge this is a "first"!

X. Wang et al., PRL 102, 122501 (2009)

Evidence for Octupole Condensation?



S. Frauendorf, PR C77, 021304(R) (2008) Octupole Condensation concept:

Rotation of a prolate deformed nucleus with a super-imposed octupole vibration with phonon spin aligned with rotational axis

Band 1 \rightarrow 0 phonon, Band 2 \rightarrow 1 phonon, Band 3 \rightarrow 2 phonons

Accounts for observations, i.e., bands, energies, alignments, branching ratios etc.





N=130 vs. N=132 Less "rotational-like" (weakly deformed), but Octupole features persist.





W. Reviol et al., PRC 74, 044305 (2006)

 $h\omega_c = 0.21 \text{ MeV}$

(constant ω)

Further exploration of the deformation space: Triaxial rotors ??

Triaxiality in nuclei is a longstanding prediction of theory, but has proved very difficult to establish experimentally beyond any doubt.

During the last decade, **evidence** for rotation of a **triaxial shape** has come from two collective modes: **wobbling** ← focus of this talk chiral bands


¹⁶³Lu: a good wobbler



A series of bands are created where the higher lying bands are associated with an increasing phonon number Each band is about 300 keV above the previous

Based on i_{13/2} orbital



Because all bands in the family are based on the same orbital, they should have nearly identical characteristics, such as alignment, quadrupole moment, and dynamic moment of inertia *f*⁽²⁾

There are also distinct deexcitation patterns

D.R. Jensen et al., PRL 89, 142503 (02)

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¹⁶³Lu

¹⁶³Lu a good wobbler: where else to look?



H. Schnack-Peterson, R. Bengtsson, et al., NPA 594, 175 (1995)

- Proton i_{13/2} orbital creates larger quadrupole deformation (isolated from other orbitals)
- When γ = 20°, a gap as large as the 64 spherical subshell forms at 94 in the neutron energy levels
- Wobbling in ¹⁶¹Lu, ¹⁶³Lu, ¹⁶⁵Lu, &
 ¹⁶⁷Lu, and in other nuclei with proton i_{13/2} orbital near the Fermi surface

Wobbling: a general phenomenon?



- Wobbling bands now observed in several odd-A Lu nuclei near N = 94
- Could not find any Strongly Deformed bands in ^{164,166}Hf
- Several Strongly Deformed bands found in Tm, Hf, & Ta but no evidence for wobbling ← how sure can one be that they are triaxial?
- No wobbling on the N=94 isotones Tm & Hf
- \rightarrow recent study of ¹⁶⁷Ta (D. Hartley et al.)

¹⁶⁷Ta: New experiment at Gammasphere



¹⁶⁷Ta: a wobbler

Relative alignment between bands 0.00 _ _ Difference between the alignment of -0.50 TSD 1 and TSD 2 Relative Alignment (\hbar) -1.00 Energy affer and between trisp163 Lu and 165 Lu ¹⁶⁵Lu ¹⁶³Lu (+13/2)_ar TSSinailar effects semilar to Lu and ¹⁶⁷Ta The alignment of the two bands in -1.50 that seen in 105Lu 167Ta look similar, although a little 0.0 ¹⁶⁷Lu ¹⁶⁷Ta both cashier the two badds gotev Ιħ 00000 tightly closer in energy as spin Clear difference in $\mathscr{I}^{(2)}$ and low -0.5 increases frequerent trimkarge evision from -1.0 small γ to real trixial $\gamma \sim 20^{\circ}$ minimum 000 with frequency -1.5 0.3 0.5 0.6 0.20 0.30 0.40 0.50 0.60 0.2 0.4 ħω (MeV) 0.0 0.5 30 10 20 40 50 D. J. Hartley, Phys. Rev. C80, 041304 Spin (ħ)

Wobbling: where do we stand ?

- Wobbling was once limited to a few odd-A Lu nuclei
- Newly found i_{13/2} & n_w=1 band in ¹⁶⁷Ta appear to be first case of wobbling outside of Lu
- N = 94 gap seems to be well established

BUT

- Role of the proton Fermi surface is not clear
- Actual deformation in ALL wobblers needs work as:
 - Where available Q_0 moments are smaller than calculated
 - Where available Q_0 moments decrease smoothly with frequency, i.e. is deformation (β_2 or γ) changing with spin?
- MORE Experimental and Theoretical work needed



Superdeformed (SD)

Mid-90's: From collective rotation to band termination



J. Simpson et al., Phys. Lett. B 327, 187 (1994)

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Mid-2000's: Feeding of the terminating states

The very weak feeding transitions originate from the levels of weakly-deformed, core-breaking configurations.



Evans et. al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 92, 252502 (2004)

2007: Evidence for return to collectivity



E.S. Paul et al., PRL 98, 012501(2007)

2007: Return to collectivity



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2011: What deformation?



2011: Doppler Shift (DSAM) Measurement



Theory vs Experiment



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0.6₅₀

0.2

 $\epsilon_2 \cos(\gamma + 30^\circ)$

0

0.4

→ <u>Structure of Exotic Nuclei</u>

 \rightarrow The Heaviest Nuclei

→ Changes in Shell Structure in Neutron-Rich Nuclei

Heavy Shell-Stabilized Nuclei



Heaviest nuclei: **at the limits of Coulomb stability**; would fission instantaneously, but

shell-correction energy lowers the ground state, thereby creating a **barrier against fission.**

Superheavy nuclei: delicate balance between **nuclear attraction** and **Coulomb repulsion.**

Calculated Shell Correction for the Heaviest Nuclei:

Stability is all from shell energy



- Opportunities to study nuclei at the limits of Charge, Spin and Excitation Energy.
- What are the limits?
- Are shell-stabilized nuclei different from lighter (normal) nuclei?

Approach:

Check validity of theory by establishing structure for Z>100 rather than through production of ever heavier nuclei



Orbitals at play



→ Opportunity to check single particle energies

- → Opportunity to verify presence & role of deformation (& importance of associated shell gaps
- → Opportunity to examine role of orbitals located above the Z=114 shell gap at sphericity

Motivation: There is MUCH work to do



R. Herzberg and P. Greenlees, Progress in Part. and Nucl. Phys. 61 (2008) 674

Production : fusion-evaporation reaction \rightarrow Challenge



For ,
$$I_{BEAM} = 1 \text{ p}\mu\text{A}$$
, $\sigma = 100 \text{ nb}$, $A_{target} \sim 200$
=> < 2 ER/s per mg/cm²

 \Rightarrow Need to find & select the needle in the hay stack !

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University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Q1(V) Recoil Ion Transport Unit Argonne National Laboratory Argonne Tandem Linear Accelerator System (ATLAS)



other gas-filled devices: BGS, TASCA

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First data in the region: ²⁵⁴No



P. Reiter et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 82 (1999) 509





P.A. Butler et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 89 (2002) 202501

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²⁵³No: Observation of an excited band ?

²⁰⁷Pb(⁴⁸Ca,2n)²⁵³No, σ = 300 nb, E=219 MeV Sarah Eeckhaudt, PhD thesis, R.D.Herzberg, et al., Eur. Phys x rays 100 100 20 Verv weak gamma rays K=7/2 band 80 80 High X-ray Yield →¹⁰ 60 10 40 high conversion 100 150 Counts/keV 60 Energy (keV) 0 4 0 Counts/keV 20 Counts/2 keV 100 40 X-rays K=9/2 band x 1/3 80 We are 0 ₩att th er 20 60 2 40 ° M 0 100a model is needed to00 500 20 40 (1037)21/220 0 17/2 understand the data (202) 500 100 200 300 400 9 Gamma-ray energy [keV] 207 (571 (668)) 13/2(486) γ Energy [kev] 9/2See 355 353 Caption 353 355 P. Reiter et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 95, 032501 (2005) ²⁵³No₁₅₁ 9/2-[734]

²⁵³No: Observation of the groundstate band ?



Observed band in ²⁵³No is *most likely* the groundstate band

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New cross section limit for in-beam spectroscopy of heavy nuclei



J. Piot et al., to be published





New electronics: Jurogam2 instrumented with 28 TNT2 cards Counting rate per detector: 40 kHZ

(~200 recoils a day) → spectrum at the very limits ← Next step GRETINA + BGS at LBNL

Isomer Spectroscopy: A Complementary Approach Quasi-particle Orbitals and Energies from K-Isomers







Isomer Spectroscopy: A Complementary Approach



New data:



F. Hessberger et al., Eur. Phys. J. A 43 (2010) 55



Ultimate Goal:



Fig. 7: Comparison between the measured one-quasi-particle single-proton energies in $^{249}Bk_{150}$ and those calculated with a Woods Saxon (W.S.) potential and density functional theories using the Skyrme (SLy4), Gogny(D1S) and NL1 interactions.

Fission Barriers at High Z and High J

With Gammasphere we can infer the fission barriers of Z > 100 nuclides and how they evolve with spin







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- a lot of new and interesting data are becoming available
- there is complementarity between prompt & decay spectroscopy
- confirmation is required for in low cross-section cases

- s.p energies are thus far not well reproduced by self consistent methods

- there clearly is much to be done in both experiment & theory