Introduction and overview of nuclear shapes and radial structures

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The concept of intrinsic shapes

The concept of the "intrinsic shape" of an atomic nucleus refers to

- the geometric arrangement of nucleons
- a non-observable feature of the nucleus' wave function
- the interpretation of nuclear observables in terms of a classical picture

Setting the frame I: Symmetries

Noether's first theorem: "Every differentiable symmetry of the action of a physical system with conservative forces has a corresponding conservation law."

E. Noether, Nachr. Ges. Wiss, Göttingen, Math. Phys. Kl. 1918, 235.

Symmetries of the nuclear Hamiltonian and

- Translational invariance
- Galilean/Lorentz invariance
- Time-translational invariance
- Rotational invariance
- Time-reversal invariance
- Space-inversion invariance
- Global gauge invariance

Note: "invariance" does **not** mean that the nuclear many-body wave function does not change under such transformation, but that it transforms according to the rules of group representation theory for the group associated with the respective symmetry transformation.

Setting the frame I: Symmetries

Nuclei are isolated self-bound systems (with some Symmetries of the nuclear Hamiltonian:

- Translational invariance ⇒ momentum conservation
- Galilean/Lorentz invariance ⇒ only center-of-mass momentum changes when changing inertial frame
- Time-translational invariance ⇒ angular energy conservation
- Rotational invariance ⇒ angular-momentum conservation
- Time-reversal invariance (no quantum number associated with anti-linear operators)
- Space-inversion symmetry ⇒ parity conservation
- ullet Global gauge invariance \Rightarrow particle-number conservation

There are quantum numbers of the nuclear many-body state associated with the conserved quantities.

Setting the frame I: Symmetries II

These symmetries have a number of important consequences

- Conserved quantum numbers lead to selection rules for expectation values and transition matrix elements.
- Symmetries introduce correlations in the nuclear many-body wave function, such that the nucleons cannot evolve each independently from one another.
- A useful, but not conserved symmetry is the one under transformation in isospin space, which leads to approximate isospin quantum numbers (broken mainly by electromagnetic interactions, and on a much lesser level also by small differences in the strong interaction between nucleons).

Setting the frame II: Relevant phenomenology of nuclei

- The features of the nucleon-nucleon interactions have as a consequence that nucleons of the same species tend to couple pairwise to pairs with $L=0,\ S=0.$
 - $\bullet \Rightarrow$ ground states of even-even nuclei have angular momentum J=0 and parity $\pi=+1.$
 - \Rightarrow angular momentum and parity of the ground state of an odd-mass nucleus determined by "unpaired" nucleon, $J^{\pi}=1/2^{\pm}$, $3/2^{\pm}$, $5/2^{\pm}$, ...
 - \Rightarrow angular momentum and parity of the ground state of an odd-odd nucleus determined by the coupling of the "unpaired" proton and neutron, $J^{\pi}=0^{\pm}$, 1^{\pm} , 2^{\pm} , 3^{\pm} , ...
- From the rules of angular-momentum and parity coupling follows that
 - the multipole moments $\hat{Q}_{\ell m}$ of the *ground states* of even-even nuclei are all zero for any $\ell>0$

$$\langle 0^+|\hat{Q}_{\ell m}|0^+\rangle=0$$

• the ℓ moment of excited states of even-even nuclei, and states of odd- and odd-odd nuclei can be measured if ℓ is even and J sufficiently large

$$\langle J^\pi | \hat{Q}_{\ell m} | J^\pi
angle
eq 0 \quad \text{if } J \geq \ell/2 \text{ and } \ell \text{ even}$$

• The diagonal matrix elements of all odd- ℓ multipole moments is zero

$$\langle J^\pi | \hat{Q}_{\ell m} | J^\pi
angle = 0 \quad ext{if } \ell ext{ odd}$$



Setting the frame II: Relevant phenomenology of nuclei

Transition matrix elements of multipole moment operators between states are in general non-zero

ullet even parity multipole moments $\ell=2n\geq 2$ (quadrupole, hexadecapole, ...)

$$\langle J_f^{\pm} | \hat{Q}_{\ell m} | J_i^{\pm} \rangle \neq 0$$

 \bullet because the photon has spin 1, there are no electromagnetic E0 transitions that lead to γ emission

$$\langle J^{\pm}|\hat{Q}_{00}|J^{\pm}\rangle=0$$

(but there are E0 transitions via conversion-electron spectroscopy, for which the transition operator is r^2)

• odd parity multipole moments $\ell = 2n + 1$ (dipole, octupole, ...)

$$\langle J_f^{\mp}|\hat{Q}_{\ell m}|J_i^{\pm}
angle
eq 0 \quad ext{if } |J_i-J_f| \geq \ell/2 \ ext{and} \ \ell \ ext{odd}$$

The reduced E2 transition probability is given by

$$B(E2; J'_{\nu'} \to J_{\nu}) = \frac{e^2}{2J' + 1} \sum_{M=-J}^{+J} \sum_{M'=-J'}^{+J'} \sum_{\mu=-2}^{+2} |\langle JM\nu | \hat{Q}_{2\mu} | J'M'\nu' \rangle|^2$$
$$= \frac{e^2}{2J' + 1} \left| \langle J\nu || \hat{Q}_2 || J'\nu' \rangle \right|^2$$

The spectroscopic quadrupole moment is given by

$$Q_s(J) = \sqrt{rac{16\pi}{5}} \left\langle JJ
u | \hat{Q}_{2\mu} | JJ
u
ight
angle$$

M. Bender (IP2I Lyon)

Systematics of quadrupole collectivity

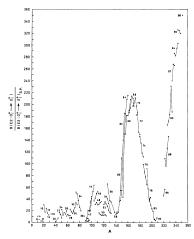


Fig. 2.16. B(E2:0 $^{\circ}_{1} \rightarrow 2^{\circ}_{1}$) values for all even-even nuclei. (Bohr, 1975.)

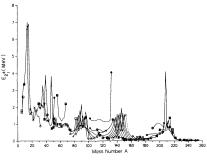


Fig. 2.12. $E_{2_1^+}$ values for all even-even nuclei (Raman, 1987).

$$E_J = \frac{J(J+1)}{2\Theta}$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Theta}$ is the nuclear rotational moment of inertia, that grows with deformation.

 $These \ are \ "old" \ plots \ to \ avoid \ overlapping \ structures \ visible \ when \ plotting \ all \ of \ today's \ available \ data$

taken from R. Casten, "Nuclear Structure from a Simple Perspective", Oxford University Press (1990)

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Schematic attribution of an intrinsic multipole moment to a multipole moment measured in the laboratory

B. Rotational model.—The phenomenological Hamiltonian for a system in which a number of nucleons are coupled to a rotator is written as

$$H = \sum \frac{\hbar^2}{2\pi} (I_r - J_r)^2 + H_{int}$$
 V.9.

where 3., 1., and J. are the 1th component of the moment of inertia, of the total angular momentum, and of the intrinsic angular momentum respectively. The last quantity is a sum of individual nucleons. The last term in Equation V.9 is the intrinsic Hamiltonian which represents the intrinsic motion. In this section the rotational motion for axially symmetric shapes is considered:

$$3_1 = 3_2 = 3$$
 V.10.

The corresponding wavefunction is given by

$$Ψ_{IMK} = \sqrt{\frac{2I+1}{16\pi^2(1+\delta_{K,0})}}$$

$$\cdot \left[\mathfrak{D}_{MK}^{I}(\theta_i)_{YK} + (-)^{I+K}\mathfrak{D}_{M-K}^{I}(\theta_i) \mathfrak{Q}_{S}(\pi)_{YK} \right]}$$
V.11.

where $\mathfrak{D}_{MK}^{I}(\theta_i)$ is the rotational matrix, K is the third component of the total angular momentum while χ_K is the intrinsic wavefunction, and the eigenvalue of J_i is assumed to be K. The operator $\mathfrak{R}_i(\pi)$ represents the rotation by π around the second coordinate axis.

taken from S. Yoshida & L. Zamick, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Sci 22 (1972) 121

In general the electromagnetic moment is now written in the rotating coordinate system

$$\mathfrak{M}(\lambda,\mu) \,=\, \sum_{i}\, \mathfrak{D}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\lambda}(\theta_i)\mathfrak{M}'(\lambda,\xi) \qquad \qquad V.12.$$

where $\mathfrak{M}'(\lambda, \nu)$ is the moment in the rotational coordinate system. In general the reduced transition rate is given as

$$B(\lambda; I_iK_i \rightarrow I_fK_f) = \frac{1}{2I_f + 1} |\langle I_fK_f || \mathfrak{M}'(\lambda) || I_iK_i \rangle|^2$$
 V.13

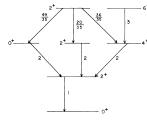
where

$$\langle I_{I}K_{\parallel}||\mathfrak{M}'(\lambda)||I_{I}K_{i}\rangle$$

= $(2I_{i}+1)^{4}[(I_{i}K_{i})K_{f}-K_{i}|I_{i}K_{i}\rangle\langle K_{f}|\mathfrak{M}'(\lambda,K_{f}-K_{i})|K_{i}\rangle$ V.14.
+ $(-)^{I_{i}-K_{i}}(I_{i}-K_{i})K_{i}+K_{i}|I_{i}K_{i}\rangle\langle K_{f}|\mathfrak{M}'(\lambda,K_{i}+K_{i})|K_{i}\rangle].$

Schematic phenomenology of quadrupole collectivity

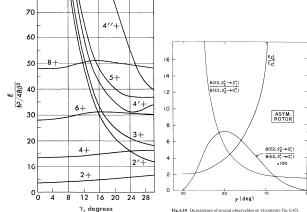
(Spherical) vibrator:



B (E2) VALUES FOR DECAY OF MULTI-PHONON STATES Fig. 6.4. B(E2) values in the harmonic vibrator model.

transition moments are relative to $B(E2,2_1^+ \rightarrow 0_1^+)$

Deformed rotor as a function of triaxiality γ



rig. 6.13. Dependence of several observations of yellothipate (1), 6-4.5.

Note: in microscopic models, the spectra might evolve quicker with $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$

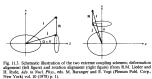
Note: real nuclei are more complicated, as are spectra predicted by microscopic models

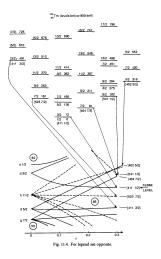
taken from R. Casten, "Nuclear Structure from a Simple Perspective", Oxford University Press (1990)

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Deformed odd nuclei

- Another phenomenon that is sensitive to deformation are the coexisting rotational bands of odd-mass nuclei.
- Coupling of single-particle states to a deformed rotational core
- Successful modeling requires internal consistency of deformed single-particle spectrum, moment of inertia of rotational motion and electromagnetic moments of in-band transitions.
- Similar (but more complicated) for odd-odd nuclei and single-particle excitations in even-even nuclei.

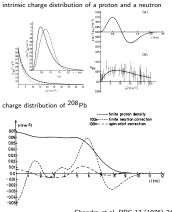




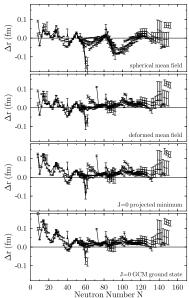
taken from S. G. Nilsson & I. Ragnarsson, "Shapes and Shells in Nuclear Structure", Cambridge University Press (1995).

Charge density \neq proton density

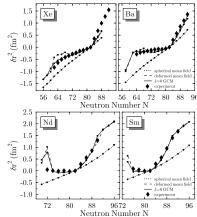
- Coupling to electromagnetic fields
 - ⇒ measures charge distribution ≠ proton distribution
 - because of their substructure, protons and neutrons have an intrinsic charge distribution of finite size
 - because of electromagnetism being manifestly Lorentz-covariant, there are relativistic corrections to the charge density, such as a contribution from the coupling to the divergence of the spin current, $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}$ of protons and neutrons, a Darwin correction etc



Another indicator of deformation: systematics of (charge) radii



difference between calculated and experimental charge radius at four levels of modelling (from spherical mean field to symmetry-restored beyond-mean-field with shape fluctuations)



M. B., G. F. Bertsch and P.-H. Heenen, Phys. Rev. C 69 (2004) 034340

Beware of coexisting conventions - Experiment

Cartesian vs spherical multipole moments

 Atomic physicists prefer to work with cartesian multipole tensors or an expansion in Legendre polynomials, for example

$$Q_0=\int\! d^3r\,
ho({f r})ig(3z^2-{f r}^2ig)=\sqrt{rac{5}{16\pi}}\,Q_{20}$$
 (axial quadrupole moment)

Nuclear spectroscopists prefer to work with spherical tensors, for example

$$Q_{20}=\int d^3 r\,
ho({f r})\, r^2\, Y_{20}({f r})=\sqrt{rac{16\pi}{5}}\, Q_0$$
 (axial quadrupole moment)

Note that there are also other definitions of spherical harmonics that differ in normalisation and phase convention.

• Dimensionless (charge) multipole moments

$$\beta_{\ell m} = \frac{4\pi}{3R^{\ell}Z} \, Q_{\ell m}$$

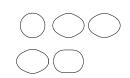
where R is usually (but not always!) taken to be $R = 1.2 A^{1/3}$ fm



Beware of coexisting conventions - Theory

Position of the nuclear surface in terms of a multipole expansion

$$R(\vartheta,\varphi) = R_d[\{\alpha_{LM}\}] \Big[1 + \sum_{LM} \alpha_{LM} Y_{LM}(\vartheta,\varphi) \Big].$$



Assuming incompressible nuclear matter, $\rho=3A/(4\pi R_0^3)$, and a sharp surface, the proportionality constant $R_d[\{\alpha_{LM}\}]$ is fixed by volume conservation

$$\begin{split} A &= \int_0^{2\pi} \! d\varphi \int_0^\pi \! d\vartheta \, \sin(\vartheta) \int_0^{R(\vartheta,\varphi)} \! dr \, r^2 \, \rho \\ &= \frac{A \, R_d^3[\{\alpha_{LM}\}]}{4\pi R_0^3} \int_0^{2\pi} \! d\varphi \int_0^\pi \! d\vartheta \, \sin(\vartheta) \left[1 + \sum_{LM} \alpha_{LM} \, Y_{LM}(\vartheta,\varphi)\right]^3 \end{split}$$

Multipole moments

$$\begin{split} \langle Q_{\ell m} \rangle &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^{\pi} d\vartheta \, \sin(\vartheta) \int_0^{R(\vartheta,\varphi)} \! dr \, r^2 \, \rho \, r^\ell \, Y_{\ell m}(\vartheta,\varphi) \\ &= \frac{3A}{4\pi R_0^3} \frac{R_d^{\ell+3}}{\ell+3} \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^{\pi} d\vartheta \, \sin(\vartheta) \, Y_{\ell m}(\vartheta,\varphi) \left[1 + \sum_{LM} \alpha_{LM} \, Y_{LM}(\vartheta,\varphi) \right]^{\ell+3} \end{split}$$

Surface deformation vs multipole moments

For a purely quadrupole-deformed surface one has

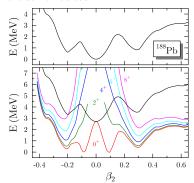
$$\begin{split} R(\vartheta,\varphi) &= R_d[\{\alpha_{LM}\}] \left[1 + \alpha_{20} \ Y_{20}(\vartheta,\varphi) \right] \\ R_d &= R_0 \left(1 + \frac{3}{4\pi} \ \alpha_{20}^2 + \frac{1}{(4\pi)^{3/2}} \frac{6\sqrt{5}}{21} \alpha_{20}^3 \right)^{-1/3} \simeq 1 - \frac{1}{4\pi} \ \alpha_{20}^2 - \frac{1}{(4\pi)^{3/2}} \frac{6\sqrt{5}}{21} \ \alpha_{20}^3 \\ \beta_{20} &= \frac{R_d^5}{R_0^5} \left(\alpha_{20} + \sqrt{\frac{5}{4\pi}} \frac{4}{7} \alpha_{20}^2 + \frac{5}{4\pi} \frac{6}{7} \alpha_{20}^3 + \frac{5}{4\pi} \sqrt{\frac{5}{4\pi}} \frac{20}{77} \alpha_{20}^4 + \cdots \right) \\ &= \alpha_{20} + \sqrt{\frac{5}{4\pi}} \frac{4}{7} \alpha_{20}^2 - \frac{5}{4\pi} \frac{1}{7} \alpha_{20}^3 - \frac{5}{4\pi} \sqrt{\frac{5}{4\pi}} \frac{94}{231} \alpha_{20}^4 + \cdots \end{split}$$

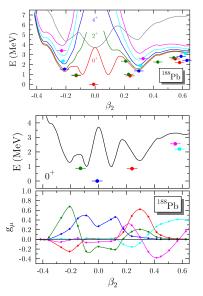
Expressions get much more complicated when the surface has also higher-order deformations.

Note: Experimentalists sometimes re-express their measurements for multipole moments in terms of surface deformation in a model-dependent way.

Do nuclei have *one* intrinsic shape?

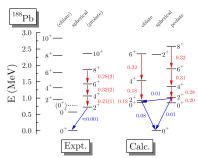
- Shape fluctuations: nuclear wave function is spread over a large range of deformation
- Shape coexistence: two or several minima yielding states of different deformation in the same nucleus





Bender, Bonche, Duguet, Heenen, PRC 69 (2004) 064303

Do nuclei have one intrinsic shape?



Bender, Bonche, Duguet, Heenen, PRC 69 (2004) 064303. Experiment: Grahn *et al*, PRL **97** (2006) 062501

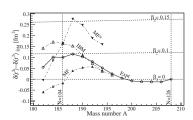


FIG. 3. Difference from the experimental mean square charge radii (Expt), the beyond mean-field calculations with normal [4] (MF) and decreased pairing [18] (MF'), and the IBM calculations (IBM) to the droplet model calculations for a spherical nucleus. Isodeformation lines from the droplet model at $\beta_2=0.1$ and 0.15 are shown.

de Witte et al, PRL 98 (2007) 112502

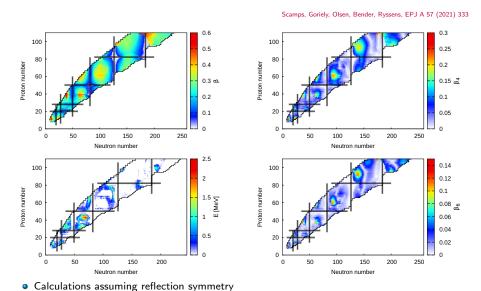
Building models that use/employ/imply the concept of intrinsic shapes

- Self-consistent mean-field models (aka Hartree-Fock (HF), HF+BCS, Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov (HFB), nuclear density functional theory, single-reference energy density functional method, . . .)
- Auxiliary product states $|\Phi\rangle$ as fundamental building block \Leftrightarrow assumption of independent single-particle (or independent quasiparticle) states

$$|\Phi_{\mathsf{HF}}
angle = \prod_{k=1}^{A} \hat{a}_k^{\dagger} |-
angle \qquad \mathsf{or} \qquad |\Phi_{\mathsf{HFB}}
angle = \prod_{k>0}$$

- Deformation energy landscapes can be constructed using constraints
- The experience of 50+ years of applications demonstrate that this approach describes many features of low-energy nuclear structure and some features of low-energy nuclear reactions.
- Symmetries can be restored with projection techniques $|\Phi\rangle$
- Shape fluctuations & shape coexistence can be modeled with configuration mixing (see some of the previous slides).

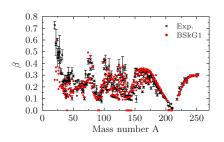
Higher-order deformations (mostly theory predictions)



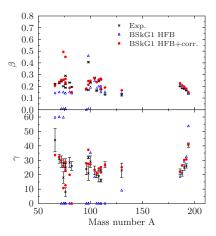
ullet \Rightarrow For systematics of reflection asymmetric shapes see talk by Luis Robledo

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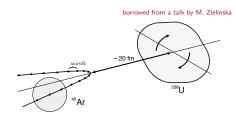
Higher-order deformations



Scamps, Goriely, Olsen, Bender, Ryssens, EPJ A 57 (2021) 333



Coulomb excitation and shape invariants



Idea: excite a nucleus in-flight by the electromagnetic potentials of another nucleus

The Cline-Flaum sum rule $^{(0,12,13)}$ is a model-independent and non-energy-weighted sum rule and provides an alternative and very useful means for examining the correlations among 'he E2 data. In analogy to the Bohr parameters (β, γ) , the E2 operators in the intrinsic frame are parameterized with (∂, δ) under this sum rule.

$$E_{2,0} = Q \cos \delta$$
, $E_{2,\pm 1} = 0$, $E_{2,\pm 2} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} Q \sin \delta$. (4)

The zero-coupled products of the E2 operators can be expressed in terms of Q and δ , e.g.,

$$[E2 \times E2]^0 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}Q^2$$
, $[[E2 \times E2]^2 \times E2]^0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2735}}Q^3\cos(3\delta)$. (5)

The expectation values of matrix elements for these rotationally invariant zero-coupled products for a given state s can be evaluated using an intermediate state expansion, e.g.,

$$\langle s| [E2 \times E2]^{J} | s \rangle = \frac{(-1)^{I_1 + I_2}}{(2I_2 + 1)^{1/2}} \sum_{i} \langle s| E2 | t \rangle \langle t | | E2 | s \rangle \left\{ \begin{array}{cc} 2 & 2 & J \\ I_1 & I_2 & I_1 \end{array} \right\}, \tag{6}$$

where

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 2 & 2 & J \\ I_s & I_s & I_1 \end{array} \right\},\,$$

is the Wigner 6j symbol. Thus the expectation values of (Q, d) for a state are determined from a set of E2 matrix beennest according to eq. (6) and the like. There are different ways to evaluate (Q, δ) for coupling of four or more E2 operators because of various intermediate couplings. The agreement among them can serve as a measure of convergence in various summations.

Triaxiality from Coulomb excitation experiments: Example of ¹³⁰Xe

Morrisson et al, PRC 102 (2020) 054304

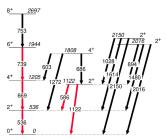


FIG. 4. Low-lying excited states in 130 Xe, considered in the present analysis. Transitions observed in the current experiment with a 94 Mo target are marked in red. Level and transition energies are given in keV.

Spectroscopic quadrupole moments:

Level	$\langle I E2 I\rangle$ (eb)	Present
2+	-0.50(+22, -18)	-0.38(+17, -14)
4_{1}^{+}	-0.55(16)	-0.41(12)
2_{2}^{+}	0.1(1)	0.1(1)

		Experiment
State	Component $E2 \times E2$	
0+	$\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_1^+\rangle\langle 2_1^+ E2 0_1^+\rangle$ $\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_2^+\rangle\langle 2_2^+ E2 0_1^+\rangle$	6240 45
	$\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_3^+\rangle\langle 2_3^+ E2 0_1^+\rangle$ $\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_4^+\rangle\langle 2_4^+ E2 0_1^+\rangle$	20 45
	(O ₁ E2 24 ·)(24 E2 O ₁ ·) (O ²)	6350(400)
	(β)	0.17(2)
	$(2_1^+ E2 0_1^+)(0_1^+ E2 2_1^+)$	1250
	$(2_1^+ E2 2_2^+)(2_2^+ E2 2_1^+)$	1440
	$(2_1^+ E2 2_3^+)(2_3^+ E2 2_1^+)$	35
	$(2_1^+ E2 2_4^+)(2_4^+ E2 2_1^+)$	5
2_{1}^{+}	(21	3350 25
	$(2_1^+ E2 4_2^+)(4_2^+ E2 2_1^+)$ $(2_1^+ E2 4_3^+)(4_1^+ E2 2_1^+)$	23
	$(2_1 E2 4_3) (4_3 E2 2_1)$ $(2_1^+ E2 4_4^+) (4_4^+ E2 2_1^+)$	
	(2+ E2 3 ₁ +)(3+ E2 2 ₁ +)	
	(2 ⁺ ₁ E2 2 ₁ ⁺)(2 ⁺ ₁ E2 2 ₁ ⁺)	430
	$\langle Q^2 \rangle$	6600(400)
	<i>(β)</i>	0.17(2)
	Component $E2 \times E2 \times E2$	
_	$\langle 0_{1}^{+} E2 2_{1}^{+}\rangle\langle 2_{1}^{+} E2 2_{1}^{+}\rangle\langle 2_{1}^{+} E2 0_{1}^{+}\rangle$	-312 050
	$\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_1^+ \rangle \langle 2_1^+ E2 2_1^+ \rangle \langle 2_2^+ E2 2_1^+ \rangle$	450
	$\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_3^+ \rangle \langle 2_1^+ E2 2_3^+ \rangle \langle 2_1^+ E2 0_1^+ \rangle$	2
	$(0_1^+ E2 2_4^+)(2_4^+ E2 2_4^+)(2_4^+ E2 0_1^+)$	0
0_{1}^{+}	$\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_1^+ \rangle \langle 2_1^+ E2 2_2^+ \rangle \langle 2_2^+ E2 0_1^+ \rangle$	45 100
	$\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_1^+ \rangle \langle 2_1^+ E2 2_3^+ \rangle \langle 2_3^+ E2 0_1^+ \rangle$	-4700
	$\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_1^+ \rangle \langle 2_1^+ E2 2_4^+ \rangle \langle 2_4^+ E2 0_1^+ \rangle$	2700
	$\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_2^+ \rangle \langle 2_2^+ E2 2_3^+ \rangle \langle 2_3^+ E2 0_1^+ \rangle$	500
	$\langle 0_1^+ E2 2_2^+ \rangle \langle 2_2^+ E2 2_4^+ \rangle \langle 2_4^+ E2 0_1^+ \rangle$ $\langle \cos(3\delta) \rangle$	500 0.4(2)
	(V)	_ 23(5)°
	4 11 12 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14	23(3)

Summary

Subjects not covered here:

- ullet Reflection-asymmetric shapes \Rightarrow talk by L. Robledo
- ullet Rigorous connection between intrinsic states and laboratory observables \Rightarrow talk by B. Bally
- Data for higher-order multipole moments (there are only very few)
- Fission
- Deformation effects in low-energy nuclear reaction with strongly-interacting probes
- Fine structure of rotational bands and vibrational states
- Neutron distributions from strongly- and weakly-interacting probes

Intrinsic shapes are non-observable for direct measurements, but they leave their fingerprint on virtually all nuclear observables and phenomena

- Structure of excitation spectrum in a given nucleus
- Evolution of excitation spectra
- "Collectivity": rotational and vibrational structures in the excitation spectra, shape coexistence, . . .
- Evolution of charge radii