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## New structure features revealed in isomeric spectroscopy in the $Z \sim 82$ , $N \sim 104$ region

Neutron-deficient nuclei around mid-shell at  $N \sim 104$  in the lead region provide many examples of shape coexistence and shape isomers. In order to study shape coexistence in this region, prompt and delayed  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy of the  $^{187}\text{Pb}$ ,  $^{183}\text{Hg}$  and  $^{188}\text{Bi}$  isotopes produced in the reaction  $^{50}\text{Cr}+^{142}\text{Nd} \rightarrow ^{192}\text{Po}^*$  has been performed at the Argonne Gas-Filled Analyzer.

In  $^{187}\text{Pb}$ , a new 5.15(15)- $\mu\text{s}$  isomeric state at 308 keV above the spherical  $3/2^-$  ground state was identified. A strongly-coupled band is observed on top of this isomer, which is nearly identical to the one built on the prolate  $7/2^-$  [514] Nilsson state in the isotone  $^{185}\text{Hg}$ . Based on this similarity and on the result of the potential-energy surface calculations, the new isomer in  $^{187}\text{Pb}$  was proposed to be prolate with  $J^\pi = 7/2^-$  and classified as a shape isomer. The retarded character of the 308-keV ( $7/2^- \rightarrow 3/2^-_{gs}$ ) transition with a deduced  $B(E2) = 5.6(2) \times 10^{-4}$  W.u. can be well explained by the significant difference between the prolate parent and spherical daughter configurations, leading to the shape isomerism.

In  $^{183}\text{Hg}$ , the decay of the nearly spherical  $13/2^+$  isomeric state was first observed following the  $\alpha$  decay of the  $13/2^+$  isomer in  $^{187}\text{Pb}$ . By the  $\alpha - \gamma$  correlation measurement, the half-life of this isomer was measured to be  $T_{1/2} = 290(30) \mu\text{s}$ . This isomer was proposed to deexcite by retarded  $M2$  transition, which can be explained by the notable shape change between the initial and the final states.

Recently, a strong shape staggering was found in the charge radii of  $^{187,188,189}\text{Bi}$ . To further characterize this phenomenon in  $^{188}\text{Bi}$ , its in-beam and decay spectroscopy was studied in the same experiment. A new 0.25(5)- $\mu\text{s}$  isomeric state decaying via a 243-keV transition to the  $(10^-)$   $^{188m}\text{Bi}$  was identified.

- [1] P. Möller et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 212501 (2009)
- [2] W. Q. Zhang et al., submitted to Physics Letters B.
- [3] A. Barzakh et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 192501 (2021).

**Primary authors:** ZHANG, W. Q. (Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences); ANDREYEV, A. N.; LIU, Z.; HUANG, H.; Prof. SEWERYNIAK, D. (Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA); LI, Z. H. (State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, School of Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China); LI, J. G. (Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, China); GUO, C. Y. (State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, School of Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China); DOHERTY, D. T. (Department of Physics, University of Surrey, Guildford, GU2 7XH, United Kingdom); BARZAKH, A. E. (Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, NRC Kurchatov Institute, 188300 Gatchina, Russia); DUPPEN, P. Van. (KU Leuven, Instituut voor Kern- en Stralingsfysica, 3001 Leuven, Belgium); CUBISS, J. G. (Department of Physics, University of York, York, YO10 5DD, United Kingdom); ANDEL, B. (KU Leuven, Instituut voor Kern- en Stralingsfysica, 3001 Leuven, Belgium); ANTALIC, S. (Department of Nuclear Physics and Biophysics); BLOCK, M. (Helmholtz-Institut Mainz, Mainz, 55128, Germany); BRONIS, A. (Department of Nuclear Physics and Biophysics); CARPENTER, M. P. (Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA); COPP, P. (Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA); DING, B. (Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences); FAVIER, Z. (IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France); GIACOPPO, F. (Helmholtz-Institut Mainz, Mainz, 55128, Germany); HUANG, T. H. (Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, China); KINDLER, B. (GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung Darmstadt, Darmstadt, 64291, Germany); KONDEV, F. G. (Physics

Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA); LAURITSEN, T. (Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA); LI, G. S. (Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, China); LOMMEL, B. (GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung Darmstadt, Darmstadt, 64291, Germany); LU, H. Y. (Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, China); MONTHERY, M. A. (Department of Physics, University of York, York, YO10 5DD, United Kingdom); MOˆSAˆT, P. (Department of Nuclear Physics and Biophysics); NIU, Y. F. (Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, China); RAISON, C. (Department of Physics, University of York, York, YO10 5DD, United Kingdom); REVIOL, W. (Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA); SAVARD, G. (Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA); STOLZE, S. (Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA); WILSON, G. (Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439, USA); WU, H. Y. (State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, School of Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China); WANG, Z. H. (Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, China); XU, F. R. (State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, School of Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China); YU, X. H. (Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, China); ZENG, Q. B. (Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, China); ZHOU, X. H. (Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou 730000, China)

**Presenter:** ZHANG, W. Q. (Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences)