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Publication Date

1974-03-01

Submitted to Physical Review Letters

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Prepared for the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
under Contract W-7405-ENG-48

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EVIDENCE FOR ASYMMETRIC SHAPES FROM HIGH-SPIN ODD-A SPECTRA *

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March 1974

Abstract:

The model of a single- j nucleon coupled to an asymmetric rotor is applied to new experimental results on yrast bands in ^{187}Ir , ^{195}Au , and ^{197}Tl . The core asymmetry is shown to account for systematic trends in the high-spin spectra. Information on the shape dependence of moments-of-inertia is obtained which supports nuclear flow of irrotational type.

- - -

Rotational bands built on high- j states of unique parity in odd-A nuclei have a simple theoretical interpretation and can give rather detailed information about the nuclear shape and moments-of-inertia. In particular, this holds for nuclei with small deformations in the vicinity of closed shells in which the odd nucleon represents either a pure hole or a pure particle in the high- j orbital. It has been shown that a particle (hole) on a prolate (oblate) core tends to decouple from collective rotation by aligning its angular momentum to the rotation axis of the core.¹ This leads to decoupled bands with spin sequence $j, j + 2, j + 4, \dots$ and energy spacings equal to those of the core. On the other hand, a hole (particle) in the prolate (oblate) core is strongly

coupled and displays a normal rotational spectrum with spin sequence $j, j+1, j+2, \dots$.

The present calculation based on a single- j nucleon coupled to an asymmetric rotor shows that there is a continuous transition from decoupled to strongly coupled bands obtained by changing the shape of the nucleus from prolate to oblate through a series of asymmetric shapes. In this transition many levels change energy rather sharply relative to others; for example, the "unfavored" states, $I = j + 1, j + 3, \dots$ all drop considerably relative to the "favored" ones, $I = j, j + 2, \dots$. This complex pattern of levels provides a severe test of the asymmetric rotor model, and one of the objectives of this letter is to apply this test to several nuclei in the $Z = 80$ region. It is also important to realize that some new types of information can be extracted from these odd- A spectra, provided the model is applicable. This is basically because the γ -dependence enters not only through the rotational Hamiltonian as in the even-even nuclei, but also through the Hamiltonian of the single particle. One can, therefore, easily differentiate between oblate and prolate shapes, and this determines γ in a range from $0-60^\circ$ rather than only $0-30^\circ$. Furthermore, the level shifts, like the favored-unfavored one mentioned, are sensitive to the way the moments-of-inertia depend on shape, and thus can test the assumption of irrotational flow.

The model Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{n=1}^3 \frac{(J_n - j_n)^2}{2 \mathcal{I}_n} + H_p \quad (1)$$

consists of the core rotational energy and the particle's potential energy

$$H_p = k \left(\cos \gamma Y_0^2 + \frac{\sin \gamma}{\sqrt{2}} (Y_2^2 + Y_{-2}^2) \right), \quad (2)$$

where J_n , j_n are total and particle angular momenta, and the Y_μ^2 are spherical harmonics. Irrotational moments-of-inertia, $\mathcal{J}_n = 4/3 \cdot \mathcal{J}_0 \cdot \sin^2(\gamma - n \cdot 2\pi/3)$, for the axes $n = 1, 2, 3$ are chosen, and the potential energy strength is taken as $k = \sqrt{16\pi/5} \cdot 206 \cdot A^{-1/3} \cdot \beta$ [MeV] consistent with empirical single-particle spacings at $\gamma = 0$ for a nucleus with mass A . The deformation parameter β , the asymmetry parameter γ , and \mathcal{J}_0 can be connected by the first 2^+ energy of the core which is given for an asymmetric rotor² by

$$E_{2^+} = \frac{6\hbar^2}{2\mathcal{J}_0} \frac{(9 - \sqrt{81 - 72 \sin^2(3\gamma)})}{4 \sin^2(3\gamma)} \quad (3)$$

and is given, on the other hand, by $E_{2^+} \cong 1225 \cdot A^{-7/3} \cdot \beta^{-2}$ [MeV] according to a general empirical rule.³ The eigenfunctions of Eq. (1) can be written in the form

$$\psi_{IM} = \sum_{K, \Omega} C_{K, \Omega}^{(I, j)} \left(D_{MK}^{(I)} \chi_{\Omega}^{(j)} + (-)^{I-j} D_{M-K}^{(I)} \chi_{-\Omega}^{(j)} \right), \quad (4)$$

where $\chi_{\Omega}^{(j)}$ denotes the single-particle wavefunction and $D_{MK}^{(I)}$ the rotational D-functions. The underlying D_2 symmetry group⁴ restricts the summation in Eq. (4) to $|K - \Omega| = 2m$, $m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, and $\Omega > 0$. A numerical solution of this model has been published earlier by Pashkevich and Sardaryan⁵ for $I \leq 9/2$ and $j = 5/2$. We have calculated all the yrast levels up to $I = 23/2$ built on a $j = 11/2$ single-particle state and show them in Fig. 1 as functions of the asymmetry parameter γ for a typical deformation, $\beta = 5 \cdot A^{-2/3}$. The decoupled

limit at $\gamma=0$ with core energies proportional to 6, 20, 42, ... for the favored 15/2, 19/2, 23/2 states relative to the 11/2 bandhead is clearly seen as well as the strongly coupled limit at $\gamma=60^\circ$. The unfavored 13/2, 17/2, 21/2 states lie relatively high at $\gamma=0^\circ$, but come down sharply around $\gamma \approx 25^\circ$. The strongly coupled level order persists over the whole range $30^\circ \leq \gamma \leq 60^\circ$. In this region, the particle angular momentum mainly points along the 2-axis which becomes the oblate symmetry axis at $\gamma = 60^\circ$, whereas the core angular momentum is perpendicular to it, since the irrotational moment-of-inertia about the 2-axis is small and vanishes for $\gamma = 60^\circ$. The low-spin levels correspond to opposite directions of core and particle angular momentum and may also be grouped into favored 7/2, 3/2 and unfavored 9/2, 5/2, 1/2 states.

Due to the characteristic behavior of these different level groups as functions of γ , they represent a sensitive test for the shape as well as the moments-of-inertia. Unfortunately, up to now there are only a few cases known where both favored and unfavored states have been seen in experiment. In Figs. 2 and 3, a comparison with recent odd-A spectra is shown. The parameters for the calculation are determined from the adjacent even nuclei; \mathcal{J}_0 and β from the first 2^+ energy, and γ from the energy ratio of the second 2^+ level and the nearest member of the ground-state band. Thus, the calculated odd-A spectra have no adjusted parameter. For comparison, calculations with $\gamma = 0$ are also shown. All experimental spectra - both odd and even mass - are compressed as compared to the calculated ones; this reflects considerable non-adiabatic effects not taken into account by the present rigid-rotor model.

^{187}Ir (Fig. 2). A decoupled band on a $9/2^-$ state has been observed including three unfavored states.⁶ The band is consistent with an $h_{9/2}$ proton coupled to a prolate ^{186}Os core. The (β, γ) fit, which reproduces the relative

order of the ground- and γ -band levels up to 1.5 MeV in ^{186}Os , gives comparably good agreement for ^{187}Ir . In particular, the unfavored $11/2$, $15/2$, $19/2$ states appear at lower energies in the correct order with the favored states, in contrast to the $\gamma = 0^\circ$ fit.

^{195}Au (Fig 3). The observed spectrum of negative-parity states represents the unique case where both high-spin states from $(\text{HI}, \text{xn}\gamma)$ experiments⁷ and low-spin states from β decay⁸ are known. The decoupled band is consistent with an $h_{11/2}$ proton hole in an oblate ^{196}Hg core. Applying the ^{196}Hg fit to the ^{195}Au calculation, the experimental level order is almost completely reproduced for high- as well as for low-spin states. Even levels at 962 keV and 1186 keV, tentatively assigned as second $11/2^-$ and $15/2^-$, occur in the expected place. Note that all the model states calculated to be in the energy region shown have been seen experimentally except for the $(5/2^-)_1$, $(7/2^-)_2$, $(9/2^-)_2$, and $(13/2^-)_2$ states with calculated energies 1507, 1672, 1440, 1667 keV, respectively, relative to the $11/2^-$ energy. These could easily have been missed in both types of experimental population. The sharp decrease in energy of unfavored high-spin states, as compared to the $\gamma = 60^\circ$ fit, occurs in agreement with experiment and strongly supports an asymmetric shape. Again, the overall compression of the experimental spectrum as compared to the calculated one appears similar for ^{196}Hg and ^{195}Au .

^{197}Tl (Fig. 3). The negative-parity band⁹ in ^{197}Tl stems from the same ^{196}Hg core as for ^{195}Au , but now it is built on an $h_{9/2}$ particle instead of an $h_{11/2}$ hole. It represents the unique case of a strongly coupled rotational band on an oblate core, as discussed below. Although the level order would be reproduced by any γ within $30^\circ < \gamma < 60^\circ$, the characteristic approach of the $(j+1)$ and $(j+2)$ levels near $\gamma = 30^\circ$ as seen in Fig. 1 is indeed present in the experimental spectrum.

The present results not only indicate triaxial shapes, but also show that the moments-of-inertia change like those of irrotational flow as the nucleus changes shape (γ). This is most apparent in the oblate region where, at $\gamma = 60^\circ$, rigid flow would have its maximum moment-of-inertia about the oblate symmetry axis, whereas irrotational flow has a vanishing moment-of-inertia about the same axis. As a consequence, rigid flow would lead to decoupled bands at $\gamma = 60^\circ$ and, in fact, for all γ , whereas irrotational flow yields strongly coupled bands in the oblate region as is seen, in fact, in the odd-mass Tl isotopes.

An open question remains about the nature of the observed shape asymmetry. Calculations¹⁰ of potential energy surfaces in the $A = 190$ region do not show sharp minima at any γ . Therefore, one would expect soft, γ -fluctuating shapes rather than triaxial shapes with sharp γ . But it is then difficult to understand why the γ -values for adjacent even and odd nuclei and within the odd-A spectra are so stable. Dynamic stabilization of triaxial shapes is expected¹¹ for core spins $I \geq 6$; but this would affect only the highest spin states of the examples studied. An answer might be that the actual potential energy minima at $\gamma \neq 0$ are more pronounced than predicted by existing calculations.

FOOTNOTES AND REFERENCES

* Work performed under the auspices of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, and supported in part by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

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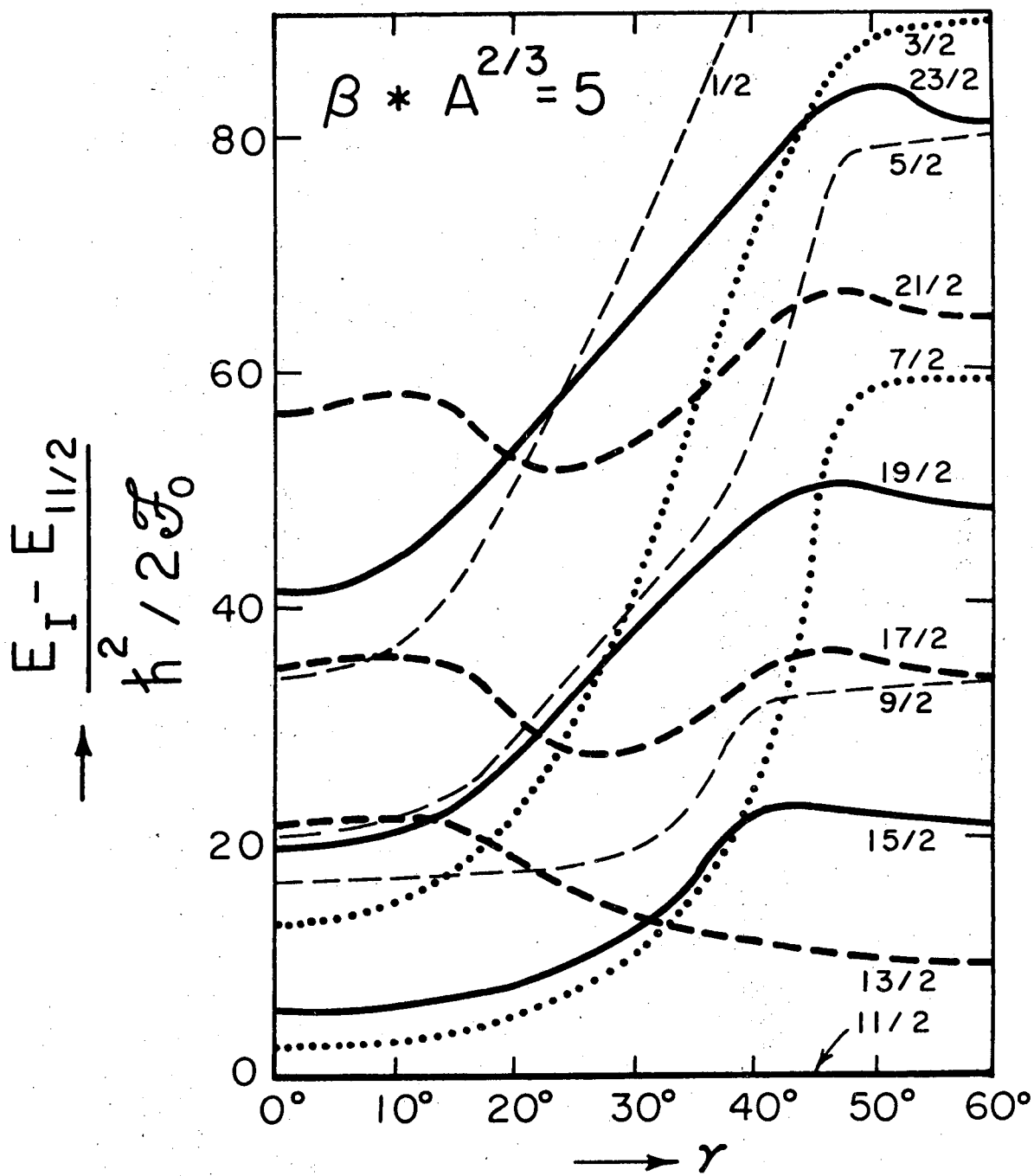
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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Fig. 1 Spectrum of a $j = 11/2$ particle coupled to an asymmetric rotor with all yrast levels $I \leq 23/2$ as functions of γ .

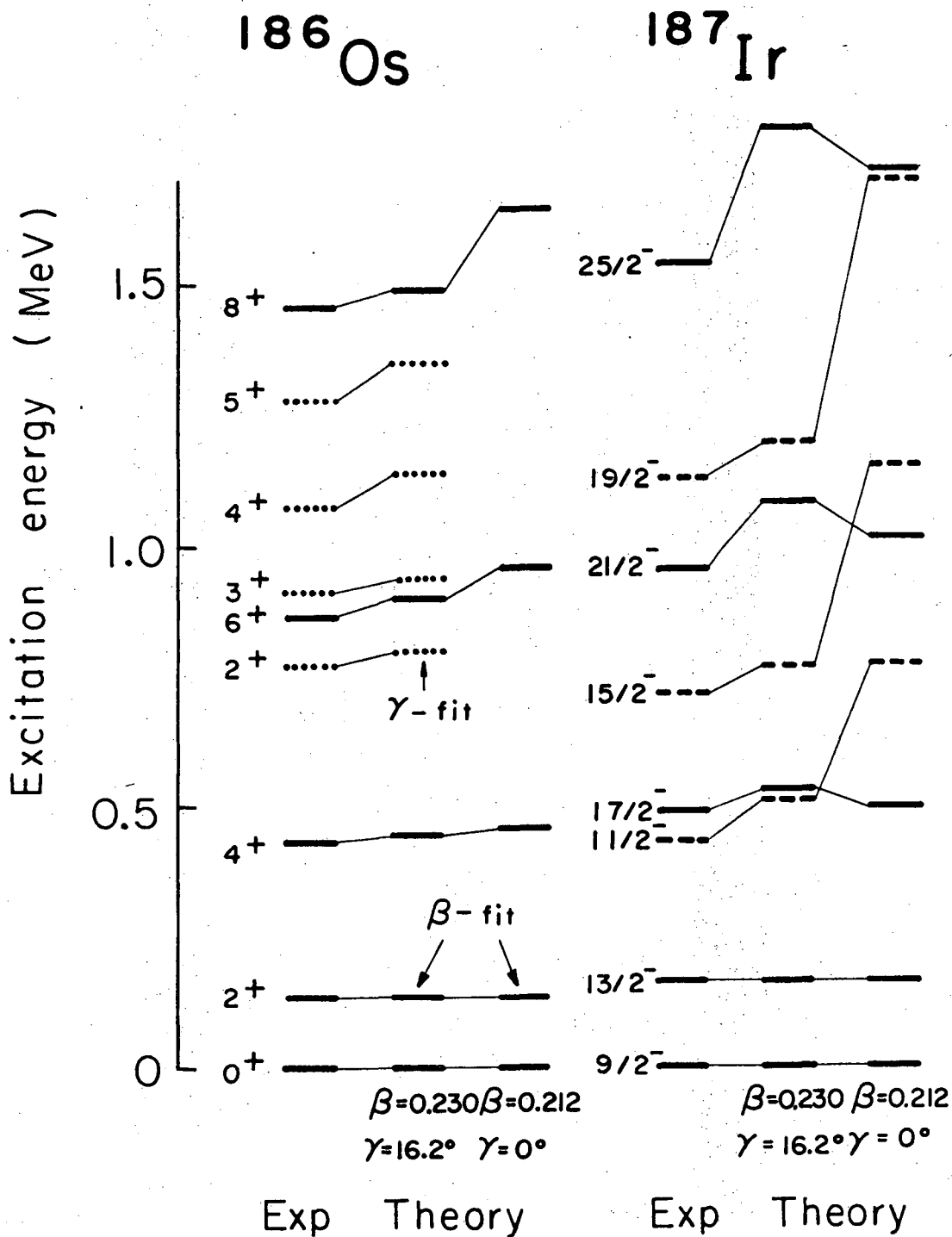
Fig. 2 Comparison of calculated and experimental spectra in ^{187}Ir with parameters β and γ fitted to ^{186}Os .

Fig. 3 Comparison of calculated and experimental spectra in ^{195}Au and ^{197}Tl with β and γ fitted to ^{196}Hg .



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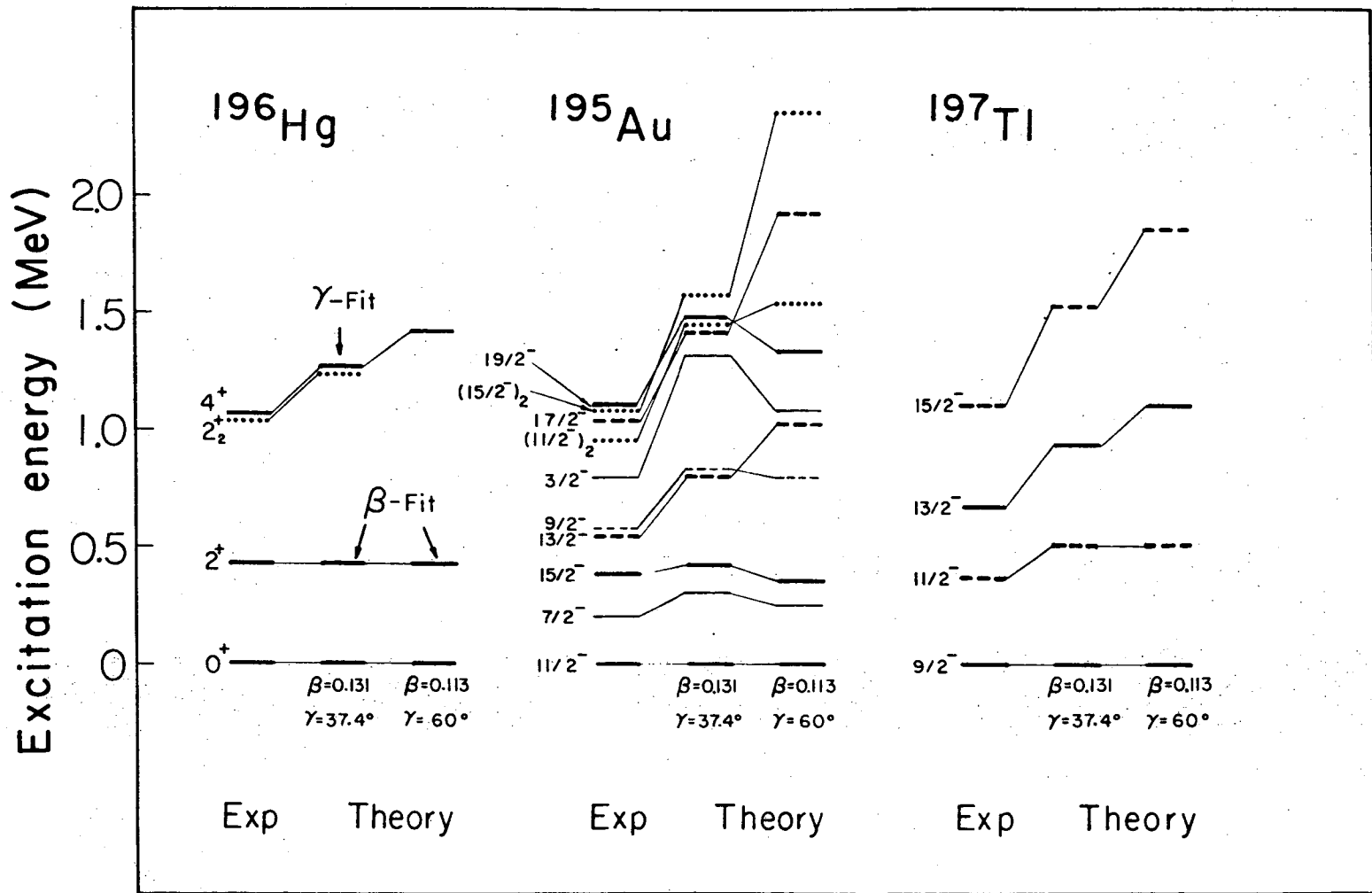
Fig. 1



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Fig. 2

Fig. 3



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