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Crossing of large multi-quasiparticle magnetic rotation bands in ¹⁹⁸Bi

H. Pai,* G. Mukherjee,† S. Bhattacharya, C. Bhattacharya, S. Bhattacharyya, T. Bhattacharjee, S. K. Basu, S. Kundu, T. K. Ghosh, K. Banerjee, T. K. Rana, and J. K. Meena Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Kolkata 700064, India

R. K. Bhowmik, R.P. Singh, S. Muralithar Inter University Accelerator Centre, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi 110067, INDIA

> S. Chanda Fakir Chand College, Diamond Harbour, West Bengal, India

> > R. Garg

Department of Physics and Astrophysics, University of Delhi, New Delhi, INDIA

B. Maheshwari, D. Choudhury,[‡] and A. K. Jain Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee-247667, India (Dated: December 3, 2014)

High-spin states in the doubly-odd 198 Bi nucleus have been studied by using the 185,187 Re(16 O, xn) reactions at the beam energy of 112.5 MeV. $\gamma-\gamma$ coincidences, directional correlation ratio and integrated polarization asymmetry ratio were measured by using the INGA array with 15 Compton-suppressed clover HPGe detectors. Definite spins and parities were assigned to the observed levels. The high-spin structure is grouped into three bands (B1, B2 and B3), of which two (B1 and B2) exhibit the properties of magnetic rotation (MR). Tilted axis cranking calculations were carried out to explain the MR bands having large multi-quasiparticle (qp) configurations. The calculated results explain the bands B1 and B2 very nicely, confirming the shears mechanism and suggest a crossing of two MR bands in both the cases. The crossing is from 6-qp to 8-qp in band B1 and from 4-qp to 6-qp in band B2, a very rare finding. A semiclassical model has also been used to obtain the particle-hole interaction strengths below the band-crossing for the bands B1 and B2.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The "Magnetic rotation (MR)", is an interesting nuclear structure phenomenon where the rotation of a "magnetic top" is involved. Right conditions for such a rotation arise in weakly deformed configurations in which, neutron (proton) particles and proton (neutron) holes in high-j orbitals are coupled to each other [1, 2]. These MR bands were observed in significant numbers in nuclei in the mass region $A \sim 190$ with atomic number $Z \sim 82$ [3], where the proton shell closure ensures a nearly spherical shape. The high-j proton particles in the $h_{9/2}$ and $i_{13/2}$ orbitals and neutron holes in the $i_{13/2}$ orbital play important roles in the Pb, Bi and Tl isotopes in which several good examples of MR bands were found [4–10]. However, proper configuration assignment to these bands remains uncertain in many of the cases due to incomplete knowledge of the spin and parity of the bands [9, 10].

In the present work, we have investigated the high-spin states in ¹⁹⁸Bi, where only limited information about the high spin states was known. Apart from the ground state ($T_{1/2} = 10.3$ min), only two other low-lying isomeric states were known until recently. Among these, the (7^+) level ($T_{1/2} = 11.6$ min) decays by β -decay and no γ -transition from this level is known. Therefore, the excitation energy of this state remains unknown. A 10^- isomeric state was reported by Hagemann et al. [11] at an excitation energy of 248 keV with

^{*}Present Address: Institut für Kernphysik, Technische Universität Darmstadt, GERMANY; Electronic address: hari.vecc@gmail.com,hpai@ikp.tu-darmstadt.de,H.Pai@gsi.de

[†]Corresponding author; Electronic address: gopal@vecc.gov.in

[‡]Present Address: Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, INDIA

respect to the 11.6-min isomeric state. This state was interpreted as a member of the $|\nu i_{13/2}^{-1} \otimes \pi h_{9/2}; J\rangle$ multiplet. More recently, excited states in ¹⁹⁸Bi were studied by Zhou et al. [12] through γ -ray spectroscopy following ¹⁸⁷Re(¹⁶O,5n) reaction using six Compton suppressed HPGe detectors. The γ rays above the 10^- isomer in this nucleus were assigned from the γ -ray excitation function and a level scheme was proposed by them from the γ - γ coincidence measurements. In this measurement, spins and parities were assigned to a few states only and the level scheme was known upto ~ 4 MeV. The higher-lying states in ¹⁹⁸Bi have been interpreted by considering the coupling of the $h_{9/2}$ proton with the high spin states in ¹⁹⁷Pb above its $13/2^+$ isomeric state. Later on, Zwartz et al. [9] proposed three unconnected MR-type bands in ¹⁹⁸Bi, namely Band 1, Band 2 and Band 3, from the measurement of B(M1)/B(E2) ratios. In their experiment, the γ -ray transitions were assigned in ¹⁹⁸Bi by examining the associated BGO calorimeter energy spectrum. However, neither the spin-parities (J^{π}) nor the excitation energies of the states were known and hence, the configuration of these bands also remained uncertain.

In the present work, we have carried out a detailed γ -ray spectroscopy of ¹⁹⁸Bi upto high spins and established the spins and parities of the excited states. This enables us to identify three band-like structures B1, B2 and B3, of which two (B1 and B2) are proposed as MR bands. We have assigned definite configurations to both these bands. We further showed that each of the two bands (B1 and B2) represents a crossing of two bands with large multi-quasiparticle (qp) configurations. In B1, the crossing is between a 6-qp and a 8-qp MR band, whereas in B2, the crossing is between a 4-qp and a 6-qp MR band, a phenomenon very rarely observed in MR bands.

II. EXPERIMENTAL METHOD AND THE LEVEL SCHEME

The γ -ray spectroscopy of ¹⁹⁸Bi has been studied at 15-UD Pelletron at IUAC, New Delhi, India using the Indian National Gamma Array (INGA) [13]. 15 Compton-suppressed clover detectors were available in the array at the time of the experiment. The excited states of odd-odd ¹⁹⁸Bi were populated by fusion-evaporation reactions ^{185,187}Re(¹⁶O, xn)¹⁹⁸Bi at 112.5 MeV of beam energy. The target was a thick (18.5 mg/cm²) natural rhenium foil. The recoils were stopped inside the target itself. The isotopic ratio of ¹⁸⁵Re and ¹⁸⁷Re in the natural rhenium is 37:63. The average beam current was ~ 1 pnA, limited by the count rate of $\sim 10K$ in a clover detector. The clover detectors were arranged in five angles with respect to the beam direction having four clovers each at 90° and 148°, two clovers each at 123° and 57°, and three clovers at 32° angles. List mode data were recorded using γ - γ - γ trigger. The pulse height (energy) information from individual crystals of each clover detector along with the timing information (with respect to the master trigger) of each clover detector were recorded using conventional analog electronics with CAMAC based data acquisition system. An in-house developed clover detector electronics module [14] was used to process energy and timing signals from Compton-suppressed clover Ge detectors.

 E_{γ} - E_{γ} matrix and E_{γ} - E_{γ} - E_{γ} cube were constructed from the collected coincidence data. Inter-clover coincidences were considered to contrusct the matrix and the cube with energies of the γ rays were derived using the 'add-back" mode of the clovers [13, 15]. The random-subtracted E_{γ} - E_{γ} matrix was primarily used for the subsequent analysis. The final random-subtracted matrix was constructed as follows. First a "prompt" matrix was created with a prompt coincidence time-window of ± 40 ns, selected from the $\gamma - \gamma$ time generated in the software $(\Delta T \gamma \gamma)$ between any two of the clover detectors. Two additional "random" matrices were created with time gates on the delayed parts of the $\Delta T \gamma \gamma$ spectrum. The widths of the time gates were 20-ns each and were put on both sides of the prompt peak. These two "random" matrices were, then, subtracted from the "prompt" matrix to generate the final matrix. The RADWARE software [16] was used for the analysis of the matrix and the cube. About 2.4×10^8 random- and background-subtracted true $\gamma - \gamma$ coincidence events (obtained from the total projection of the above random-subtracted matrix after symmetrization and background subtraction) were recorded in this experiment. The clover detectors were calibrated for γ -ray energies and efficiencies by using 133 Ba and 152 Eu radioactive sources.

The multipolarities of the γ -ray transitions have been determined from the angular correlation analysis using the method of directional correlation from the oriented states (DCO) ratio, following the prescriptions of Krämer-Flecken et al. [17]. For the DCO ratio analysis, the coincidence events were sorted into an asymmetry matrix with data from the 90° detectors (θ_1) on one axis and 148° detectors (θ_2) on the other axis. The DCO ratios (for γ_1 , gated by a γ -ray γ_2 of known multipolarity) are obtained from the intensities

of the γ -rays (I_{γ}) at two angles θ_1 and θ_2 , as

$$R_{DCO} = \frac{I_{\gamma_1} \ at \ \theta_1, \ gated \ by \ \gamma_2 \ at \ \theta_2}{I_{\gamma_1} \ at \ \theta_2 \ gated \ by \ \gamma_2 \ at \ \theta_1} \tag{1}$$

DCO ratios for the γ rays belonging to ¹⁹⁸Bi were obtained by putting gates, on the transitions with known multipolarity, along the two axes of the above matrix. For stretched transitions, the value of R_{DCO} would be close to unity for the same multipolarity of γ_1 and γ_2 . For different multipolarities of γ_1 and γ_2 and for mixed multipolarity of any of these transitions, the value of R_{DCO} depends on the detector angles (θ_1 and θ_2) and the mixing ratio (δ). The validity of the R_{DCO} measurements was checked with the known transitions in ¹⁹⁸Bi and with the calculated values. In the present geometry, the calculated value of R_{DCO} [18] for a pure dipole transition gated by a stretched quadrupole transition is 1.81 while for a quadrupole transition gated by a pure dipole, the calculated value is 0.55. These compare well with the experimental values of 1.81(27) and 0.53(10), respectively, for the known dipole (345.5 keV, E1) and known quadrupole (468.2 keV, E2) transitions.

Definite parities of the excited states have been assigned from the integrated polarization asymmetry (IPDCO) ratio, as described in ref. [8, 19–21], from the parallel and perpendicular scattering of a γ -ray photon inside the detector medium. The IPDCO ratio measurement gives a qualitative idea about the type of the transitions (E/M). The IPDCO asymmetry parameter for a γ -ray transition has been deduced using the relation,

$$\Delta_{IPDCO} = \frac{a(E_{\gamma})N_{\perp} - N_{\parallel}}{a(E_{\gamma})N_{\perp} + N_{\parallel}},\tag{2}$$

where N_{\parallel} and N_{\perp} are the counts for the actual Compton-scattered γ rays in the planes parallel and perpendicular to the reaction plane, respectively. Correction due to the asymmetry in the array and response of the clover segments, defined by $a(E_{\gamma}) = \frac{N_{\parallel}}{N_{\perp}}$, was checked using ¹⁵²Eu source. The values of $a(E_{\gamma})$ have been obtained using the expression $a(E_{\gamma}) = a + b(E_{\gamma})$. The fitting, shown in Fig. 1, gives the values of the constants as a = 0.88(2) and $b(E_{\gamma}) = 0.00012(3)$. A positive value of Δ_{IPDCO} indicates an electric (E) type transition whereas, a negative value indicates a magnetic (M) type transition. The low energy cut-off for the polarization measurement in the present work was about 200 keV.

The polarization method was also verified from the γ rays of known electric or magnetic character. Sum gated spectra have been used for polarization measurement in the present work. The parallel (N_{\parallel}) and perpendicular $(a(E_{\gamma})^*N_{\perp})$ counts for the γ rays in ¹⁹⁸Bi are shown in Fig. 2. The 626- and 673-keV γ rays were known to decay from 11⁻ to 10⁻ state and from 12⁻ to 11⁻ state, respectively [12]. These transitions were known as mixed M1 + E2 transitions. It can be clearly seen that the counts in the parallel-scattered components are more in these two peaks than the perpendicular-scattered components. However, for the 345- and 630-keV γ rays, the situation is found to be opposite. The IPDCO ratios for several other transitions have also been obtained in this work and together with the DCO ratio measurements, firm spin-parity assignments could be made for several states.

An improved level scheme of ¹⁹⁸Bi, obtained in this work, is presented in Fig. 3. The deduced excitation energy, spin and parity of the excited levels and the multipolarity of the γ rays, together with other relevant information concerning their placement in the proposed level scheme, are summarized in Table I.

Representative single-gated γ -ray spectra are shown in Figs. 4(a) and Fig. 4(b). These spectra show the known γ -lines corresponding to the low-lying transitions and the γ -lines (242-, 297-, 318-, 226-, 331-, 501- and 577-keV) belonging to the proposed MR bands. Other weaker γ lines, those were observed in the sum-gated spectra, have been discussed later on. The 55-keV γ ray doublet, reported by Zhou et al. [12], could not be observed as the energy threshold was somewhat more than 55 keV in the present experiment. The 223-keV γ -ray, reported in [12], is not observed in the present data. So, it was not placed in the level scheme shown in Fig. 3.

The spins and parities of the levels up to the excitation energy of 1662 keV were assigned by Zhou et al. [12] from their angular distribution measurements. The 107-keV transition, placed above the 1662 keV level, has been assigned as mixed (M1 + E2) transition in our work and, hence, the spin-parity (J^{π}) of 14^{-} has been assigned for the 1769 keV level. The J^{π} assignment of the 2224 keV level is crucial for the assignment of J^{π} and configuration of the bands built on top of that level. In the previous work, J^{π} of this level was tentatively assigned as (16^{+}) . This was based on the fact that 345- and 454-keV transitions were found to be dipole and quadrupole in nature from the angular distribution measurement [12]. The 345-keV γ ray was assumed to be a mixed M1 + E2 transition as there was no polarization measurement. If this was

the case, then the 454-keV γ ray turns out to be a M2 transition. However, no evidence for a longer halflife corresponding to such a transition was obtained for the 2224 keV level.

In the present work, the DCO ratio measurement of the 345- and the 454-keV γ rays indicate that they are indeed dipole and quadrupole in nature. The polarization measurement of the 345-keV γ ray is shown in Fig 2 (inset); which clearly shows that the perpendicular counts are more than the parallel counts. The Δ_{IPDCO} value obtained for this transition suggests that it is electric type. Hence, 345-keV γ ray is assigned as an E1 transition. Therefore, $J^{\pi}=16^{-}$ is assigned for the 2224 keV level. This assignment is well supported by the E2 assignment of the 454-keV γ ray from its DCO ratio and Δ_{IPDCO} values. Three transitions above this 2224 keV level, namely 630, 379 and 403 keV have been found to be of E1 type. The angular distribution measurements in the previous work [12] and the DCO ratio measurements in our work agree in favour of the assignment of dipole character for these transitions. The polarization measurements in our work show positive values of Δ_{IPDCO} for these transitions as shown in Fig.2 for the 630-keV γ ray. Therefore, the J^{π} of the levels at 2854, 3233 and 3636 keV are assigned as 17⁺, 18⁻ and 19⁺, respectively. These assignments are also supported by the observed quadrupole nature of the 976-keV transition. The other two transitions above the 2224 keV, 16⁻ level, namely 372- and 501-keV, have been found to be of M1 and E1 types from their negative and positive Δ_{IPDCO} values, respectively. Therefore, the band B2 is assigned to be of negative parity while the band B3 is of positive parity.

The DCO ratios of the transitions belonging to the MR bands as reported by Zwartz et al [9] could not be measured in the present work due to their low intensities except for a few transitions which lie towards the bottom of the bands. These few transitions supported the assignment of ref. [9]. So, the multipolarity of the transitions in these bands were adopted from Zwartz et al. and are presented in Table-I.

Fig. 5 shows three different sum coincidence spectra which were generated by summing the spectra with suitable gates on several in-band transitions of previously known [9] three MR bands, B1 (Fig. 5(a)), B2 (Fig. 5(b)) and B3 (Fig. 5(c)). The peaks marked by * and + in these spectra belong to the MR bands and the previously known lower-lying transitions [12] in ¹⁹⁸Bi, respectively. The sum gated spectrum of 204-, 226- and 427-keV from band B1 clearly shows all the transitions of previously known MR band along with the known lower-lying transitions in ¹⁹⁸Bi. In this spectrum γ lines belonging to the other two MR bands, B2 and B3, were not observed but the lower-lying transitions 331-, 403-, 379-, 345-, 673-, 626-keV and other transitions of ¹⁹⁸Bi have been observed. Therefore, we have placed MR band B1 above the 3636-keV level.

On the other hand, the sum gated spectrum of 242-, 297- and 372-keV shows all the transitions of the band B2 along with the known lower-lying γ lines in ¹⁹⁸Bi. In this spectrum, γ lines belonging to the other two bands, B1 and B3, were not observed. The 345-, 673-, 626-keV lines and other γ lines of ¹⁹⁸Bi have also been observed in this spectrum. However, the γ lines at 331, 403, 350 and 630 keV are absent in this spectrum. Therefore, the band B2 has been placed on top of the 2596-keV level.

Two cross-over E2 transitions have been observed in band B2: a 615-keV (from the 3747 keV level) γ ray between the 318- and 297-keV M1 transitions, and a 591-keV (from the 3429 keV level) γ ray between the 297- and 294-keV M1 transitions. The B(M1)/B(E2) ratios for these two levels have been found to be 6.6 (14) and 9.2 (21) $\mu^2/(eb)^2$, respectively, which agree well with the values reported by Zwartz et al. [9].

The sum-gated spectrum in Fig. 5(c), obtained by putting gates on 577 keV and 302 keV, shows all the γ lines of the band B3 along with the known lower-lying γ lines in ¹⁹⁸Bi. In this spectrum, transitions belonging to the other two bands, B1 and B2, have not been observed. Known γ lines at 331, 403, 379, 350 and 630 keV were also not observed in this spectrum. However, 345, 673, 626 keV and other known lower-lying transitions in ¹⁹⁸Bi have been identified. Therefore, we have placed band B3 on top of the 2224-keV level. A strong 501-keV γ line has also been observed in this spectrum which connects the band B3 with the 16⁻ level at 2224 keV. There is an indication of a weak 434-keV line in the spectrum. When we gate on this 434-keV γ peak, the strong lines at 577 and 463 keV are observed along with some of the low-lying known transitions but the 501-keV line was not observed. Also, the 434-keV line can be seen, albeit small intensity, in 577-keV gate but is not present in the 501-keV gate. Therefore, we believe that the 2724-keV level decays, via the 434-keV tentative transition, to a tentatively assigned 16⁺ level at 2290 keV which is the most likely band-head of the band B3.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Bi isotopes with A > 195 are mostly near-spherical in nature. Low-lying rotational bands, corresponding to a well deformed shape, are observed only for the lighter Bi isotopes with neutron number $N \le 112$ [22]. Therefore, the low-lying states in the odd-odd Bi nuclei with N > 112 are mostly generated by the coupling

of the odd-proton and the odd-neutron in the valence orbitals near the Fermi energy. The $h_{9/2}$, $i_{13/2}$ and $s_{1/2}$ proton orbitals and the $i_{13/2}$, $f_{5/2}$ and $p_{3/2}$ neutron orbitals are available near the Fermi levels for ¹⁹⁸Bi, which is weakly oblate in shape. As for example, the 2^+ and 7^+ states are generated by parallel and anti-parallel particle-hole couplings of $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu f_{5/2}^{-1}$ orbitals. Similarly, the low-lying 10^- isomer, observed in the odd-odd nuclei in this region, has the configuration of $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-1}$. The higher-lying states may be generated by the coupling of these configurations with the two-proton or two-neutron configurations coming from the breaking of a proton pair or a neutron pair. For example, the important two-neutron negative parity configurations are, 5^- ($\nu i_{13/2}^{-1} p_{3/2}^{-1}$) and 9^- ($\nu i_{13/2}^{-1} f_{5/2}^{-1}$). Similarly, the available important proton configurations are 8^+ ($\pi h_{9/2}^2 s_{1/2}^{-2}$), 5^- ($\pi h_{9/2} s_{1/2}$) and 11^- ($\pi h_{9/2} i_{13/2} s_{1/2}^{-2}$), which are observed in the even-even Pb isotopes. In fact, the $\nu i_{13/2}$ orbital, which is the highest-j orbital in this region, is expected to play a crucial role in most of the high-spin, multi-qp configurations.

The 15⁺ isomer in ¹⁹⁸Bi [12] has been assigned a configuration of $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-2} p_{3/2}^{-1}$ which arises from a coupling of the 10⁻ $(\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-1})$ with the two-neutron 5⁻ $(\nu i_{13/2}^{-1} p_{3/2}^{-1})$ configurations. Similarly the 16⁻ state, the parity of which has been assigned in the present work, may have a configuration $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-1} f_{5/2}^{-2}$ arising from a coupling of the 7⁺ $(\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu f_{5/2}^{-1})$ with the two-neutron 9⁻ $(\nu i_{13/2}^{-1} f_{5/2}^{-1})$ configuration. The strong transitions between the band B1 and the 16⁻ level indicate that they have similar configurations.

As already been pointed out, the high-j proton-particles in $\pi h_{9/2}$ and $\pi i_{13/2}$ orbitals coupled to the neutron-holes in $i_{13/2}$ orbital $(\nu i_{13/2}^{-n})$ play important roles in the generation of MR bands in this region through the shears mechanism. Most of the MR bands in odd-A Pb isotopes have been understood in terms of the 11^- two-proton configuration coupled to the $i_{13/2}^{-n}$ neutron-holes [7]. On the other hand, the MR bands in odd-A Bi isotopes are expected to have configurations of $\pi i_{13/2} h_{9/2}^2 \otimes \nu i_{13/2} \nu j$ and $\pi i_{13/2} h_{9/2} s_{1/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2} \nu j$; where $j = (p_{3/2}, f_{5/2})$ [6, 10]. The MR-band compilation [3] lists the assigned/suggested configurations for all the known MR bands.

We have plotted the angular momentum (I) vs. rotational frequency ($\hbar\omega$) for the bands B1, B2 and B3 in Fig. 6. We have also compared these plots with the other MR bands in the neighboring nuclides namely, ¹⁹⁷Bi and ¹⁹⁷Pb [6, 7]; some similarities are noticed which are helpful in fixing the configurations of these bands.

To assign possible configuration for the band B1, we note the similarities of this band with the neighboring odd-A Pb and Bi isotopes in Fig. 6 and the fact that the band-head of this band decays strongly to the 15^+ isomer through a parity changing transition. As mentioned above, the configurations of the set of levels comprising of 16^- , 17^+ , 18^- and 19^+ (the band-head of the band B1) states above the 15^+ isomer, may be considered as successive decoupling of neutrons (or protons) in positive and negative parity orbitals. The fact that these states lie close in energy, excitation of protons may be ruled out. Successive decoupling of neutrons in $i_{13/2}$ and $(p_{3/2}, f_{5/2})$ orbitals, which lie close to each other in energy, would be the most possible configuration of these states. Therefore, the configuration for the band B1 in 198 Bi may be suggested as $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-2}(p_{3/2}, f_{5/2})^{-3}$, which is confirmed by the TAC calculations discussed later.

A backbending has been observed in this band above $24\hbar$ of spin corresponding to a rotational frequency of $\hbar\omega\sim0.29$ MeV and the band becomes a 8-qp band. This band could not be extended much after the backbending so the details about the nature of the band after the alignment is not well known. Most likely, the configuration of the new band after the band-crossing involves two more neutrons in the $i_{13/2}$ orbital, which is again confirmed by the TAC calculations reported later.

Bands B2 and B3 lie at much lower excitation energies than the band B1 in ¹⁹⁸Bi with band-head spins and parities of 17⁻ and (16⁺), respectively. The band B3 (below the band-crossing) may be compared with the low-lying band B1 in ¹⁹⁷Pb, which was assigned a configuration of two-proton 11⁻ state coupled to a neutron-hole in $i_{13/2}$ [7]. It was argued in ref. [7] that additional two neutrons decouple at the band-crossing frequency and this band continues with a three-neutron-hole configuration coupled to the two-proton 11⁻ state. The I vs. $\hbar\omega$ plot for the band B1 in ¹⁹⁷Pb is very similar to the band B3 in ¹⁹⁸Bi. The backbending in these two bands takes place also at the similar frequency. Considering the low energy of the band-head, the extra odd-proton in ¹⁹⁸Bi may be in the $h_{9/2}$ orbital. Therefore, the configuration of the band B3 in ¹⁹⁸Bi below the band-crossing is tentatively assigned as $\pi i_{13/2} h_{9/2}^2 s_{1/2}^{-2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-1}$. Two additional neutrons decouple quickly in this band and so, after the band-crossing, it may have the configuration of $\pi i_{13/2} h_{9/2}^2 s_{1/2}^{-2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-3}$. However, detailed TAC calculations are unable to reproduce the features of this band. Further, the 16⁺ level

is tentative and the nature of the band is highly depended on the presence or absence of this state. In all likelihood, it appears to be a purely shell model structure based on a multi-qp configuration.

Similarly, considering the configurations reported in the neighboring odd-A nuclei and the j^{π} of the band, the band-head configuration of the band B2 in ¹⁹⁸Bi is proposed to be $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-3}$. The proposed configuration is supported by the deduced g-factors, obtained from the measured B(M1)/B(E2) ratios of the two states in this band using the geometrical model of Dönau and Frauendorf [23] and comparing them with those calculated from the g-factors of the single-particle levels corresponding to the proposed configuration.

The Donau-Frauendorf model gives similar values of the g-factor, g1 = 0.72(10) for both 20^- and 21^- states in band B2 using the experimental B(M1)/B(E2) values for these two states. In these calculations, the term with "g2" corresponding to the aligning quasi-particles in a band-crossing could be neglected as pointed out in ref. [24], since the B(M1)/B(E2) ratios in this case are obtained only for the states below the band-crossing. Typical values of the intrinsic quadrupole moment $Q_o = 3.0eb$ and the gyromagnetic factor $g_R = 0.28$ of the rotating core were used. The values of g1 obtained for the two states are very similar, implying that they are of same configuration. This value matches well, within uncertainties, with the value of 0.64 obtained assuming the assigned configuration of the band B2 before band-crossing and thereby, supporting the proposed configuration of the band B2. The g-factors of the proton $h_{9/2}$ orbital $g_{h_{9/2}} = 0.786$ and the experimental value of $g_{i_{13/2}^{-3}} = -0.148$ for neutron $i_{13/2}^{-3}$ configuration were used [25] to calculate this value. The TAC calculations reported in the following confirm this configuration assignment for the band B2, which also has a band-crossing from a 4-qp to a 6-qp configuration.

A. Hybrid TAC Calculations

Tilted axis cranking (TAC) calculations have been performed to understand the band structures in ¹⁹⁸Bi. The hybrid TAC model as described in ref. [3, 26, 27] and references there in, has been used for the calculations. The Hybrid version combines the best results of Woods-Saxon and Nilsson models. The single-particle energies of the Woods-Saxon are taken and combined with the deformed part of the anisotropic harmonic oscillator. This has the advantage of using a realistic flat-bottom potential along with the coupling between oscillator shells. Since pairing is an important parameter in these calculations, we have calculated proton and neutron pairing gap parameters Δ_p and Δ_n from the "four-point formula" using the expression given in ref. [28]. Assuming that the pairing gets reduced for the excited configurations, we have attenuated these parameters by 20% and the proton and neutron gap parameters have been chosen to be 0.74 and 0.71 MeV, respectively.

1. Band B1

Calculations have been performed for several possible proton and neutron configurations of this band considering a 6-qp band-head with positive parity. Best results are obtained for the 6-qp configuration $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-2} (p_{3/2} f_{5/2})^{-3}$. After the backbending, it becomes a 8-qp configuration with an additional broken pair of neutrons in $i_{13/2}$ orbital and the neutron configuration changes to $\nu i_{13/2}^{-4} (p_{3/2} f_{5/2})^{-3}$. The energy minimization as a function of deformation parameters for the 6-qp configuration gives self-consistency at the values of $\epsilon_2 = -0.083, \epsilon_4 = 0.003$ and $\gamma = 6.9^{\circ}$ at tilted angle $\theta = 57^{\circ}$. The minimized values of deformation parameters for the 8-qp configuration are $\epsilon_2 = -0.085, \epsilon_4 = 0.002, \gamma = 1.1^{\circ}$ at tilted angle $\theta = 64^{\circ}$.

The spin vs. energy plot for this band is shown in Fig. 7(a). It can be seen from this plot that there is an excellent agreement of the experimental data with the calculations for the 6-qp configuration. The calculations have been extended for the 8-qp configuration as well (shown as red dashed curve in Fig. 7). It can be seen that the spin at which the crossing of the 6-qp and the 8-qp bands takes place is well reproduced in the calculations. Good agreement supports the assigned band-head configuration of this band. The calculated values of B(M1) are shown in Fig. 8(a). The decreasing trend of B(M1) values clearly indicates that the band B1 is an MR band. It may also be noted that a small and constant value of B(E2) = 0.07 eb is obtained from the calculations for this band.

In Fig. 9(a), we plot the spin vs. $\hbar\omega$ values for this band and compare them with the calculated values. A reasonable agreement is observed before the band-crossing. The calculated results after the band-crossing deviates slightly from the experimental curve but the general trend is similar.

It may be noted that the other possible configurations of this band are $\pi h_{9/2}^2 s_{1/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-3}$ and $\pi i_{13/2} h_{9/2} s_{1/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-2} (f_{5/2}, p_{3/2})^{-1}$. The former configuration can be obtained from the coupling of two-proton 5^- state with the 10^- odd-odd valence-particle state along with another two decoupled neutrons in $i_{13/2}$ orbital. The later configuration is similar to those of band B2 in 197 Pb and of the MR band in 199 Bi. However, the TAC calculations for these bands are unable to reproduce the observed band for any of these configurations.

We may also note that the observation of a 6-qp MR band and its crossing with the 8-qp MR band is a very rare phenomenon, and this is only second such observation in this mass region, the first one being in ¹⁹⁸Pb [3, 7]. A similar observation has also been made in the light mass region in ¹⁰⁸Cd [3, 29].

2. Band B2

Since the band-head of B2 is at a lower energy than the band B1, a 4-qp configuration of $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-3}$ has been assumed. After the back-bending, it becomes a 6-qp configuration by breaking an additional neutron pair in $p_{3/2}$. The 6-qp configuration for this band will then be $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-3} p_{3/2}^{-2}$. The minimization of the deformation parameters for 4-qp configuration gives self-consistency at the values $\epsilon_2 = -0.085, \epsilon_4 = 0.003$ and $\gamma = 16.4^{\circ}$ at an average tilted angle of $\theta = 70^{\circ}$. After the back-bending, the minimized values of deformation parameters for the 6-qp configuration are $\epsilon_2 = -0.090, \epsilon_4 = 0.003, \gamma = 4.5^{\circ}$ at an average tilted angle $\theta = 65^{\circ}$.

The spin vs. energy plot for this band has been shown in Fig. 7(b). Again, there is a very good agreement between the measured data and the calculated values. The band-crossing is also well reproduced. After the band-crossing at around $22\hbar$, the experimental values follow the calculations for the 6-qp configuration and, there by, supporting the configurations assigned for this band both before and after the band-crossing.

The calculated B(M1) values for the 4-qp and the 6-qp configurations corresponding to the band B2 are shown in Fig. 8(b). The decreasing values of B(M1) strongly supports the MR nature of this band as well. As the lifetime measurements were not possible in the present experiment, so it was not possible to compare the calculated B(M1) values with measured data. However, as mentioned earlier, two cross-over transitions have been observed in this band from the 20^- and 21^- states and the B(M1)/B(E2) ratios were obtained for these two states from the intensities of the $\Delta I = 2$ and the $\Delta I = 1$ transitions (assuming mixing ratio $\delta = 0$ for the MR bands). The B(M1) values can be derived from these measured ratios using the calculated values of B(E2). The B(M1) values for the two states obtained in this way are plotted in Fig. 8(b) for comparison and an excellent agreement is observed. We have also plotted the spin (I) vs. $\hbar\omega$ for the band B2 in Fig. 9(b) and compared with the calculated values. Reasonable agreement before and after the crossing supports the 4-qp and 6-qp configurations assigned for this band before and after the band-crossing.

B. Semiclassical calculations for the bands B1 and B2

As the MR nature of the bands and their microscopic structure is well understood from the TAC calculations, the bands B1 and B2 have been investigated in the frame work of a semiclassical model of magnetic rotation [1, 2, 30, 31] to get an idea about the particle-hole interaction strength. This calculation is based on a schematic model of the coupling of two long j vectors, $(j_{\pi} \text{ and } j_{\nu})$, corresponding to the proton and neutron blades. This aims at extracting the information on the effective interaction between the nucleons which are involved in the shears mechanism. In this model, the shears angle (θ) , between the two j vectors, is an important variable which can be derived using the equation

$$\cos\theta = \frac{I^2 - j_{\pi}^2 - j_{\nu}^2}{2 j_{\pi} j_{\nu}} \tag{3}$$

where, I is the total angular momentum. For the proposed configuration of $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-2} (p_{3/2} f_{5/2})^{-3}$ for the band B1, the j_{π} and j_{ν} values are $4.5\hbar$ and $17.5\hbar$, respectively. Hence, the band-head spin is calculated to be $18\hbar$ assuming perpendicular coupling between j_{π} and j_{ν} ; which is in reasonably good agreement with the observed spin of the band-head. The maximum spin for this band can be calculated as $22\hbar$ in this model. It can be seen from Fig. 7(a) that in the TAC calculations, the band-crossing (between 6-qp and 8-qp bands) takes place at around the similar spin value for this band, indicating that the semiclassical results are consistent with the TAC calculations.

According to the prescription of Macchiavelli *et al.* [30], the excitation energies of the states in shears bands correspond to the change in the potential energy because of the re-coupling of the angular momenta of the shears. The excitation energies of the states in the band with respect to the band-head energy can be written as:

$$V(I(\theta)) = E_I - E_b = (3/2)V_2 \cos^2 \theta_I$$
 (4)

where, E_I is the energy of the level with angular momentum I, θ_I is the corresponding shears angle as given in equation 3, E_b is the band-head energy and V_2 is the strength of the interaction between the blades of the shears. Therefore, V_2 can be calculated by using the experimentally observed energy levels of the shears band. $V(I(\theta))$, obtained in this way for the band B1, has been plotted as a function of θ in Fig. 10. V_2 has been extracted from this plot by a fit of equation 4. The fitted curve is shown as the solid line in Fig. 10. The extracted value of V_2 comes out to be 610 keV, leading to the interaction strength per particle-hole pair (V_2^{p-h}) as about 122 keV considering that all the five possible particle-hole pairs in this configuration are contributing to the shears mechanism. This is somewhat less compared to a typical value of $V_2^{p-h} \sim 300$ keV observed in the Pb nuclei in this region [2]. This possibly indicates that all the particle-hole pairs may not be contributing equally to the shears mechanism. A value of $V_2^{p-h} \sim 300$ keV is obtained if it is considered that the proton particles and neutron holes in the high-j $(\pi h_{9/2})$ and $\nu i_{13/2}$ orbitals are the only dominant contributors to the shears mechanism.

Similarly, for the proposed configuration of the band B2, the j_{π} and j_{ν} values are $4.5\hbar$ and $16.5\hbar$, respectively, and therefore, the calculated minimum (band-head) and maximum spin values come out to be $17\hbar$ and $21\hbar$, respectively. The observed band-head spin is, again, in very good agreement for this band also. The maximum spin corresponding to this configuration matches well with the observed backbending and with the spin value of $\sim 21.5\hbar$ at which the 4-qp band crosses the 6-qp band in the TAC calculations (see Fig. 7(b)).

After the backbending, the band has a different configuration so, in the subsequent calculations of $V(I(\theta))$ the values of θ were restricted up to the spin value of $21\hbar$ as shown in Fig. 11. The extracted value of V_2 from this plot comes out to be 865 keV, this leads to the interaction strength per particle-hole pair to be $V_2^{p-h} = 288$ keV. This is in agreement with the typical values for this mass region. It may also be noted that the configuration of this band corresponds to proton-particle and neutron-holes in high-j $\pi h_{9/2}$ and $\nu i_{13/2}$ orbitals only and hence, all the three possible particle-hole pairs contribute to the shears mechanism. Therefore, it supports the conjecture that the proton-particles and neutron-holes only in high-j orbitals have significant roles in forming MR bands by shears mechanism in this region.

IV. SUMMARY

We have investigated the high-spin structure of the odd-odd nucleus ¹⁹⁸Bi by producing them in fusion-evaporation reaction with nat Re target and a 112.5-MeV beam of ¹⁶O using the INGA array. We have presented a new and much improved level scheme of this nucleus in this paper. The DCO ratio and the polarization asymmetry measurements have also been performed to assign spins and parities of the levels. We have identified three band structures in this nucleus, labelled as bands B1, B2 and B3, which lie at high excitation energies. On the basis of a comparison with similar bands in neighboring nuclei and the TAC calculations, we conclude that the bands B1 and B2 have magnetic rotational character. One of the most significant findings of this work is the observation of the crossing of two MR bands in B1 as well as in B2 bands. In the band B1, the lower part of the band has a 6-qp configuration $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-2} (p_{3/2} f_{5/2})^{-3}$, which becomes a 8-qp configuration $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-4} (p_{3/2} f_{5/2})^{-3}$, after the band-crossing. Both the parts are MR in nature. Observation of such a crossing of two MR bands having large multi-quasiparticle configuration is a very rare finding and to the best of our knowledge, is only second such observation in this mass region. Similarly, the band B2 also undergoes a band crossing of two MR bands from a 4-qp configuration $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-3}$ to a 6-qp configuration $\pi h_{9/2} \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-3} p_{3/2}^{-2}$.

Although the measurement of B(M1) values are not available, the calculated B(M1) values perfectly fit the expected behaviour of MR bands. It is, however, strongly suggested that such measurements be carried out in future. We have also used the semiclassical model for the configurations assigned to the bands B1 and B2 and have extracted the interaction strengths of the particle-hole pairs, which fits into the previously observed trend. We conclude that the high-j proton-particle and neutron-hole pairs alone make the dominant

contribution to the shears mechanism. We also conclude that the band B3 has a pure shell model structure and is possibly not a MR band.

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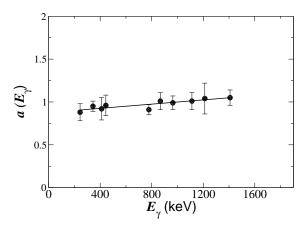


FIG. 1: The asymmetry correction factor $a(E_{\gamma})$ at different γ energies from 152 Eu source. The solid line corresponds to a linear fit of the data.

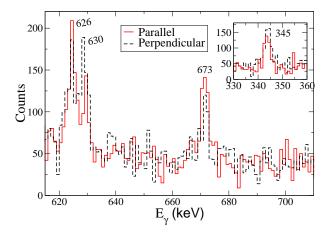


FIG. 2: (Color online) The perpendicular (dashed, black coloured) and parallel (solid, red coloured) components of 626-, 630- and 673-keV γ rays in ¹⁹⁸Bi, obtained from the IPDCO analysis in the present work. The same for the 345-keV γ ray is shown in the inset.

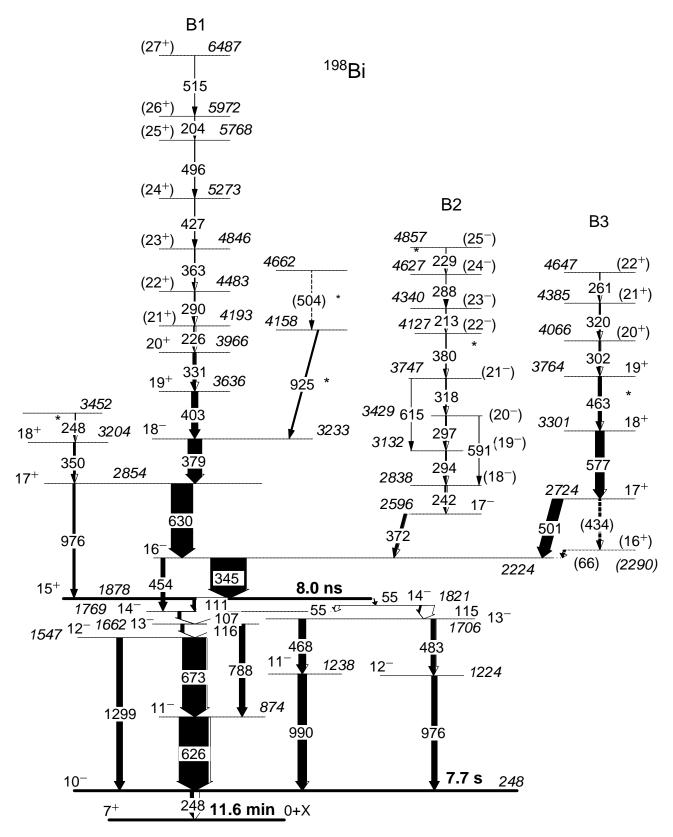


FIG. 3: Level scheme of ¹⁹⁸Bi as proposed from this work. The excitation energy of the 11.6 min isomer is not known so it has been put as 0+X. The excitation energies of all the other levels are given in reference to this isomer. The new γ rays are indicated by *.

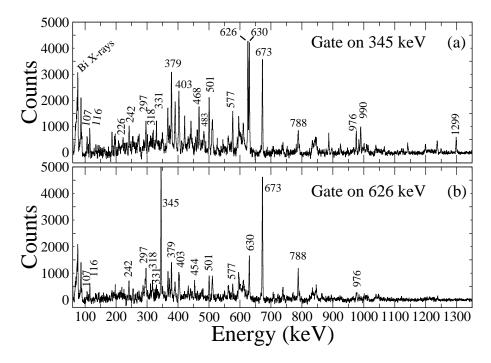


FIG. 4: Single-gated spectra of 198 Bi gated by 345-keV (a) and 626-keV (b) transitions. The marked peaks belong to 198 Bi.

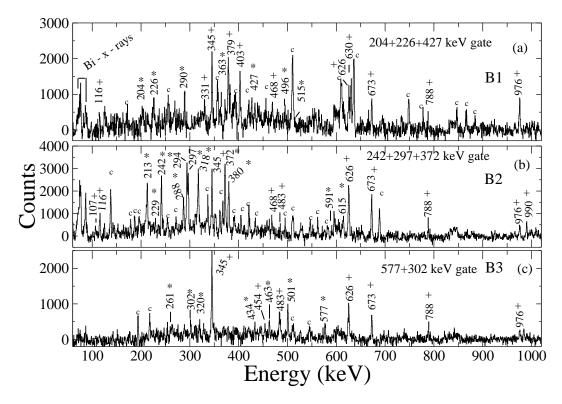


FIG. 5: Sum double gated spectra with gates on several in-band transitions belonging to bands B1 (a), B2 (b) and B3 (c) in 198 Bi. The peaks marked by * and + correspond to the in-band and the lower-lying transitions, respectively. Contaminated peaks are indicated by c.

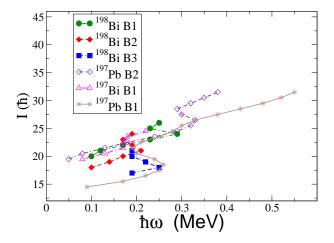


FIG. 6: (Color online) I (spin) vs. $\hbar\omega$ (rotational frequency) plot for the MR bands in ¹⁹⁷Bi [6], ¹⁹⁸Bi and ¹⁹⁷Pb [7].

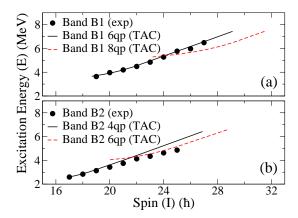


FIG. 7: (Color online) Spin vs. excitation energy plot for band B1 (a) and band B2 (b) in ¹⁹⁸Bi. The filled circles are the experimental data while the solid and the broken lines are from the TAC calculations.

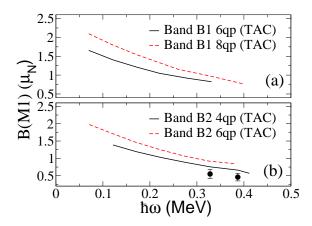


FIG. 8: (Color online) B(M1) values, obtained from the TAC calculations, as a function of rotational frequency $\hbar\omega$ for band B1 (a) and band B2 (b) in ¹⁹⁸Bi. The filled circles are obtained from the measured B(M1)/B(E2) ratios and using the B(E2) values from the TAC calculations for two of the states in band B2.

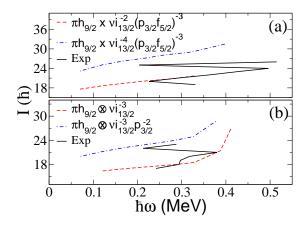


FIG. 9: (Color online) Spin (I) vs. rotational frequency $(\hbar\omega)$ plot obtained from the TAC calculations for band B1 (a) and band B2 (b) in ¹⁹⁸Bi. The calculated deformation parameters for band B1 are $\epsilon_2 = -0.083, \epsilon_4 = 0.003, \gamma = 6.9^{\circ}$ for 6-qp configuration and $\epsilon_2 = -0.085, \epsilon_4 = 0.002, \gamma = 1.1^{\circ}$ for 8-qp configuration. The same for band B2 are $\epsilon_2 = -0.085, \epsilon_4 = 0.003, \gamma = 16.4^{\circ}$ for 4-qp configuration and $\epsilon_2 = -0.089, \epsilon_4 = 0.003, \gamma = 4.5^{\circ}$ for 6-qp configuration. The experimental values are also shown.

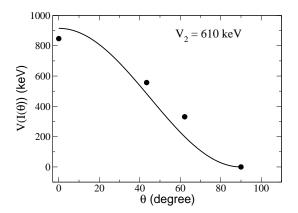


FIG. 10: The effective interaction between the angular momentum vectors, j_{π} and j_{ν} , as a function of shears angle θ for the band B1 in ¹⁹⁸Bi.

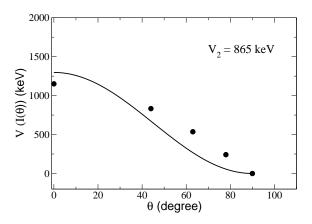


FIG. 11: Same as Fig.10 but for band B2 in $^{198}\mathrm{Bi}.$

${\bf Tables}$

TABLE I: Energies (E_{γ}) , intensities (I_{γ}) , DCO ratios (R_{DCO}) , IPDCO ratios (Δ_{IPDCO}) and deduced multipolarities of the γ rays in ¹⁹⁸Bi. The energies of initial states (E_i) , spins and parities of initial (J_i^{π}) and final (J_f^{π}) states are also given.

E_{γ}	E_i	$J_i^\pi \! o J_f^\pi$	$I_{\gamma}^{[1]}$	R_{DCO}	Δ_{IPDCO}	Deduced
(in keV)	(in keV)		±-γ	(Err)	(Err)	Multipolarity
(66)	(2290)	$(16^+) \rightarrow 16^-$	-	-	-	(E1)
106.6(2)	1769.0	$14^{-} \rightarrow 13^{-}$	9.6(12)	$0.91(24)^{[4]}$	_	M1+E2
110.8(4)	1878.2	$15^{+} \rightarrow 14^{-}$	8.6(11)	$0.98(26)^{[2]}$	_	E1
115.2(3)	1821.5	$14^{-} \rightarrow 13^{-}$	$5.1(7)^{'}$	$1.69(46)^{[3]}$	_	M1+E2
115.8(2)	1662.4	$13^- \to 12^-$	10.0(12)	$1.05(25)^{[4]}$	_	M1+E2
203.5(3)	5971.3	$(26^+) \rightarrow (25^+)$	1.0(2)	-	_	$(M1)^{[5]}$
212.9(2)	4339.7	$(23^{-}) \rightarrow (22^{-})$	1.1(2)	_	_	$(M1)^{[5]}$
226.2(6)	4192.5	$(21^{+}) \rightarrow 20^{+}$	3.0(4)	_	_	$(M1)^{[5]}$
229.2(1)	4856.7	$(25^{-}) \rightarrow (24^{-})$	0.6(1)	_	-	(M1)
242.2(2)	2838.2	$(18^{-}) \rightarrow 17^{-}$	4.3(5)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
248.3(3)	3452.2	-	0.8(1)	-	-	-
261.2(4)	4646.6	$(22^+) \rightarrow (21^+)$	1.1(2)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
287.8(3)	4627.5	$(24^{-}) \rightarrow (23^{-})$	0.8(1)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
290.3(2)	4482.8	$(22^+) \rightarrow (21^+)$	1.6(2)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
294.1(3)	3132.3	$(19^{-}) \rightarrow (18^{-})$	2.8(3)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
296.6(3)	3429.3	$(20^{-}) \rightarrow (19^{-})$	2.4(3)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
301.8(3)	4065.5	$(20^+) \rightarrow 19^+$	4.2(6)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
317.5(3)	3747.0	$(21^-) \rightarrow (20^-)$	2.1(3)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
319.8(4)	4385.3	$(21^+) \rightarrow (20^+)$	3.2(5)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
330.6(2)	3966.3	$20^{+} \rightarrow 19^{+}$	8.2(10)	$1.01(20)^{[6]}$	-0.25(10)	M1
345.5(1)	2223.6	$16^- \to 15^+$	100.0(30)	$1.81(27)^{[3]}$	0.18(5)	E1
349.9(4)	3204	$18^{+} \rightarrow 17^{+}$	5.0(4)	$0.94(26)^{[2]}$	-	M1+E2
362.9(3)	4845.7	$(23^+) \rightarrow (22^+)$	1.6(2)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
372.4(2)	2596.0	$17^- \rightarrow 16^-$	7.2(6)	$0.96(17)^{[2]}$	-0.26(15)	M1
379.1(1)	3233.2	$18^{-} \rightarrow 17^{+}$	39.0(20)	$1.80(30)^{[3]}$	0.16(7)	E1
379.8(1)	4126.8	$(22^{-}) \rightarrow (21^{-})$	1.8(2)	-	-	(M1)
402.6(4)	3635.8	$19^{+} \rightarrow 18^{-}$	18.3(12)	$0.91(10)^{[6]}$	0.16(7)	E1
426.5(3)	5272.2	$(24^+) \rightarrow (23^+)$	1.3(2)	-	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
(434)	2724.4	$17^+ \to (16^+)$	6(1)	-	-	(M1)
453.7(3)	2223.6	$16^- \rightarrow 14^-$	11.4(7)	$0.61(12)^{[4]}$	0.23(8)	E2
462.5(2)	3763.7	$19^{+} \rightarrow 18^{+}$	8.90(7)	$0.98(19)^{[2]}$	-	M1
468.2(1)	1706.3	$13^- \rightarrow 11^-$	19.8(10)	$0.53(10)^{[2]}$	0.21(6)	E2
483.4(1)	1706.3	$13^- \rightarrow 12^-$	13.0(12)	$1.01(25)^{[2]}$	-0.26(10)	M1+E2
495.5(4)	5767.8	$(25^+) \rightarrow (24^+)$	1.2(2)	- [0]	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
500.8(1)	2724.4	$17^{+} \rightarrow 16^{-}$	30.4(15)	$0.97(11)^{[2]}$	0.20(11)	E1
504	4662	-	1.0(1)	-	-	[#]
515.1(5)	6486.4	$(27^+) \rightarrow (26^+)$	0.8(2)	- \[10]	-	$(M1)^{[5]}$
576.7(1)	3301.2	$18^{+} \rightarrow 17^{+}$	23.7(15)	$1.04(26)^{[2]}$	-0.25(10)	M1
591.3(3)	3429.3	$(20^-) \rightarrow (18^-)$	0.5(1)	-	-	$(E2)^{[5]}$
615.2(5)	3747.0	$(21^-) \rightarrow (19^-)$	0.6(1)	- [9]	-	$(E2)^{[5]}$
625.8(1)	873.8	$11^{-} \rightarrow 10^{-}$	82.9(29)	$1.07(16)^{[2]}$	-0.14(6)	M1(+E2)
630.5(1)	2854.1	$17^{+} \rightarrow 16^{-}$	61.1(25)	$0.99(10)^{[2]}$	0.21(7)	E1
672.8(1)	1546.6	$12^{-} \rightarrow 11^{-}$	66.0(24)	$0.84(12)^{[2]}$	-0.24(6)	M1+E2
787.5(1)	1662.4	$13^- \rightarrow 11^-$	16.2(11)	$0.60(10)^{[2]}$	0.19(8)	E2
924.8(2)	4158.0	-	4.3(6)	- [9]	-	-
975.9(2)	1223.8	$12^{-} \rightarrow 10^{-}$	16.0(12)	$0.54(11)^{[2]}$	0.13(7)	E2
976.4(3)	2854.1	$17^{+} \rightarrow 15^{+}$	7.1(6)	$0.65(18)^{[4]}$	-	E2
990.1(2)	1238.1	$11^- \to 10^-$	24.6(10)	$1.61(29)^{[2]}$	-0.12(8)	M1+E2

Table I: Continued...

E_{γ}	E_i	$J_i^\pi \rightarrow J_f^\pi$	$I_{\gamma}^{[1]}$	R_{DCO}	Δ_{IPDCO}	Deduced
(in keV)	(in keV)	•		(Err)	(Err)	Multipolarity
1298.7(2)	1546.6	$12^- \to 10^-$	17.0(8)	$0.62(14)^{[2]}$	0.12(8)	E2

^[1] Relative γ ray intensities are estimated from prompt spectra and normalized to 100 for the from prompt spectra and normalized to total intensity of 345.5-keV γ rays. [2] From 345.5 keV (E1) DCO gate; [3] From 975.9 keV (E2) DCO gate; [4] From 625.8 keV (M1(+E2)) DCO gate; [5] Adopted from ref. [9]; [6] From 379.1 keV (E1) DCO gate; [7] From 468.2 keV (E2) DCO gate;