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GAMMA-RAY SPECTROSCOPY OF $^{191,193}$Bi*

P. Nieminen$^a$, J.F.C. Cocks$^a$, O. Dorvaux$^a$, P.T. Greenlees$^a$
K. Helariutta$^a$, P.M. Jones$^a$, R. Julin$^a$, S. Juutinen$^a$
H. Kankaanpää$^a$, H. Kettunen$^a$, P. Kuusiniemi$^a$, M. Leino$^a$
M. Muikkul$^a$, P. Rahkila$^a$, A. Savelius$^a$, J. Uusitalo$^a$
A.N. Andreyev$^b$, F. Becker$^c$, K. Eskola$^d$, K. Hauschild$^c$
M. Houry$^c$, M. Huyse$^b$, W. Korten$^c$, Y. Le Coz$^c$, R. Lucas$^c$
T. Lönroth$^e$, Ch. Theisen$^c$, K. van de Vel$^b$, P. van Duppen$^b$
N. Amzal$^f$, P.A. Butler$^f$, N. Hammond$^f$
C. Scholey$^f$ and R. Wyss$^g$

$^a$Department of Physics, University of Jyväskylä
P.O. Box 35 (Y5), 40351 Jyväskylä, Finland
$^b$Instituut voor Kern- en Stralingsfysica, K.U. Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
$^c$DAPNIA/SPbN, CEA Saclay, France
$^d$Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
$^e$Åbo Akademi, Turku, Finland
$^f$Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK
$^g$Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden

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Very neutron-deficient $^{191,193}$Bi nuclei have been studied at the Department of Physics, University of Jyväskylä, Finland (JYFL) employing the Jurosphere II Ge-detector array coupled to the gas-filled recoil separator RITU and different tagging techniques. For the first time in heavy odd-mass nuclei, a collective band (oblate) is identified above the $2p-1h$ (1/2$^+$) proton intruder state in $^{191}$Bi. In both $^{191,193}$Bi, a band based on isomeric 13/2$^+$ state has been observed and oblate deformation for this state has been deduced.

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1. Introduction

Low lying proton intruder states are known in many odd-Z nuclei near the $Z = 82$ shell closure and associated with oblate-deformed shapes. Intruder $2p-1h$ ($1/2^+$) states in odd-mass Bi isotopes are observed between the closed neutron shell nucleus $^{209}$Bi and the mid-shell nucleus $^{187}$Bi [1, 2] (Fig. 1). The excitation energy of these states decreases with decreasing neutron number and the reduction continues even at the mid-shell. This is unique compared to other odd-mass nuclei (see, for example, Tl in Fig. 1), where the excitation energies of intruder states have a parabolic behaviour as a function of neutron number with a minimum close to the mid-shell. One possible explanation for this behaviour in Bi isotopes is that near the mid-shell, instead, a prolate $1/2^+$ state is observed [3].

![Fig. 1. Behaviour of the 13/2$^+$ isomeric and the 1/2$^+$ intruder state in Bi and the 9/2$^-$ intruder state in Tl as a function of neutron number with respect to the ground state.](image)

In Bi isotopes, an isomeric 13/2$^+$ state feeding the 9/2$^-$ ground state is seen and interpreted as a $\pi i_{13/2}$ state coupled to the even-even Pb core. The reason for the sudden reduction of excitation energy of this state with decreasing neutron number (see Fig. 1) could be either the increasing interaction of the $\pi i_{13/2}$ state with the $\nu i_{13/2}$ hole states which open up below $A = 197$, or a change in the underlying Pb core.

In this contribution, observation of states built on the 1/2$^+$ state in $^{191}$Bi, isomeric transitions de-exciting the 13/2$^+$ states and band structures built on these states in $^{191,193}$Bi, are reported.
2. Experimental methods

The heavy ion beams used in the present work were delivered by the K130 cyclotron and fusion evaporation residues were separated using the gas-filled separator RITU [4]. Prompt \( \gamma \)-rays were observed with 27 Compton suppressed HPGe detectors in the Jurosphere II array with absolute photopeak efficiency of \( \sim 1.7\% \) at 1.3 MeV. At the focal plane, recoils were implanted into a position sensitive silicon detector and \( \gamma \)-rays were detected with five Compton suppressed HPGe detectors close to the silicon detector. A Multiwire Proportional Avalanche Counter (MWPAC) was installed upstream from the silicon detector to separate recoil- and \( \alpha \)-particle-like events with overlapping energies.

In the Recoil-Decay Tagging (RDT) method, recoils of interest are identified by observing their characteristic \( \alpha \)-decay in the same silicon detector pixel within a time window depending on the \( \alpha \)-decay half-life and implant rate. Prompt \( \gamma \)-rays observed in coincidence with the recoil and delayed \( \gamma \)-rays in coincidence with the \( \alpha \)-decay are associated with the nucleus of interest. If a prompt or a delayed \( \gamma \)-ray is known, method of recoil gating or isomer tagging can be used.

3. Results

The nucleus \(^{191}\text{Bi}\) was produced in the \(^{142}\text{Nd}(^{52}\text{Cr},2\alpha\gamma)\) reaction and \( \sim 340000 \) \( \alpha \)-decays of the \( 9/2^- \) ground state and \( \sim 60000 \) \( \alpha \)-decays of the \( 1/2^+ \) intruder state were observed. An RDT analysis was performed to find states built on the \( 1/2^+ \) state. A collective band was observed (Fig. 2(a)). A 429 keV \( \gamma \)-ray line in the focal plane spectrum was assigned to the isomeric \( 13/2^+ \) to \( 9/2^- \) transition, for which a half-life of 533(7) ns was deduced. Recoil gating was used to build the tentative level scheme feeding the isomer (Fig. 2(b)).

The nucleus \(^{193}\text{Bi}\) was produced by bombarding a \(^{165}\text{Ho}\) target with a \( ^{32}\text{S} \) beam at energies from 144 to 159 MeV in 5 MeV steps. About 230000 \( \alpha \)-decays of the \( 9/2^- \) state and \( \sim 170000 \) \( \alpha \)-decays of the \( 1/2^+ \) state were observed. Due to the long \( \alpha \)-decay half-life of the \( 9/2^- \) state (67 s), no correlation methods for this decay could be used. Knowing the energies of the \( 13/2^+ \) to \( 9/2^- \) transitions in \(^{195}\text{Bi}\) [5] and in \(^{191}\text{Bi}\) and by comparing the excitation functions of candidate \( \gamma \)-ray lines in the expected energy range to that of the \( \alpha \)-decay of the \( 9/2^- \) state, a 605 keV \( \gamma \)-ray line was assigned to this transition in \(^{193}\text{Bi}\). The tentative level scheme feeding the isomer is shown in Fig. 2(c).
Fig. 2. (a) Prompt $\gamma$-rays tagged with the $^{191}\text{Bi}$ $1/2^+$ intruder state $\alpha$-decay, the level scheme as an inset. (b) Band built on the $13/2^+$ state in $^{191}\text{Bi}$ and (c) in $^{193}\text{Bi}$.

4. Discussion

The sequence of levels in the band based on the $1/2^+$ state in $^{191}\text{Bi}$ is quite similar to the extrapolated oblate band based on the $0^+$ intruder state in $^{192}\text{Po}$ [6]. This implies that indeed, also the $1/2^+$ intruder state in $^{191}\text{Bi}$ is oblate deformed and that the predicted crossing of two different $1/2^+$ states [3] has not yet taken place in $^{191}\text{Bi}$.

The energies of the observed $13/2^+$ isomeric states in $^{191,193}\text{Bi}$ continue the decreasing trend (Fig. 1). Strongly coupled bands identified above these $\pi_{13/2}^+$ states indicate oblate deformation. The reason for the reduction of excitation energy could be better understood if information concerning this state in still more neutron-deficient Bi isotopes could be obtained.
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