Exotic Nuclear Structure Mechanisms and Symmetries and their Identifications through Theory and Experiment

# **Irene Dedes**

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# **COPIN Project 23-157**

II. Identification of the collaboration				
Title of the collaboration	Exotic nuclear structure mechanisms and symmetries â€" their identifications through theory and experiment			
Number of the collaboration	23-157			
IN2P3 spokesperson	Jerzy DUDEK			
COPIN spokesperson	Irene DEDES			
Scientific Domain	Nuclear Physics			

#### In Collaboration with:

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• Symmetries from the *world of molecules* but detected in subatomic physics, such as Tetrahedral ( $T_d$ ) and Octahedral ( $O_h$ ) Symmetries  $\rightarrow$  High Rank Symmetries

Why Are We Interested in *Molecular Symmetries* in Subatomic Physics ?

• Nuclear symmetries generate unprecedented **degeneracies** in both **individual-nucleonic** and **collective-rotational levels: New Issues** !

- Thus Implied totally new spectroscopy rules in subatomic physics
- $\bullet$  We found the first experimental confirmation of  $T_d$  in  $^{152}Sm$  nucleus
- Presence of an unprecedented class of exotic shape-isomeric states

#### FURTHER CONSEQUENCES for SUBATOMIC PHYSICS

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#### FURTHER CONSEQUENCES for SUBATOMIC PHYSICS

• Give the theoretical explanations to the experimental nuclear structure phenomena observed, as well as predicting the still unknown

# How do we perform our studies?

• We describe the nuclear interior, i.e. *nuclear structure*, with a simple but very reliable and powerful theory called: **The Nuclear Mean-Field Theory** 

• We combine contemporary **mathematical tools** of group theory, inverse problem theory and graph-theory with phenomenological nuclear mean-field theory

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# Part 1

# Remarks about Our Choice of Theory Approach: Phenomenological Mean Field

Deformed Universal Woods-Saxon Hamiltonian

**Reminder about standard defintions** 

# **Introducing Woods-Saxon Hamiltonian**

• We use the phenomenological **Woods-Saxon Hamiltonian** with the so-called **'universal'** parameterisation

 $\Rightarrow$  fixed set of parameters for thousands of nuclei!

• Central Potential

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{cent}}^{\text{WS}} = \frac{V_c}{1 + \exp\left[\text{dist}_{\Sigma}(\vec{r}; r_c)/a_c\right]}$$

• Spin-Orbit Potential

$$\mathcal{V}_{\rm SO}^{\rm WS} = \frac{2\hbar\lambda_{so}}{(2mc)^2} [(\vec{\nabla}V_{\rm SO}^{\rm WS}) \wedge \hat{p}] \cdot \hat{s}, \text{ with } V_{\rm SO}^{\rm WS} = \frac{V_o}{1 + \exp[{\rm dist}_{\Sigma}(\vec{r}, r_{so})/a_{so}]}$$

• **Isospin distinction** (+  $\leftrightarrow$  protons) and (-  $\leftrightarrow$  neutrons)

$$V_{c} = V_{o} \left[ 1 \pm \kappa_{c} \frac{N-Z}{N+Z} \right]; \quad \lambda_{so} = \lambda_{o} \left[ 1 \pm \kappa_{so} \frac{N-Z}{N+Z} \right]$$

• This potential depends *only* on two sets of 6 parameters ↔ Mass Table

 $\{V_c, r_c, a_c; \lambda_{so}, r_{so}, a_{so}\}_{\pi, \nu} \Leftrightarrow$ 

$$\langle V_o, \kappa_c, r_c^{\pi,\nu}, a_c^{\pi,\nu}; \lambda_o, \kappa_{so}, r_{so}^{\pi,\nu}, a_{so}^{\pi,\nu} \rangle$$

# Part 2

# Selected Molecular Symmetries in Atomic Nuclei Example: So-called High-Rank<sup>\*)</sup> Symmetries Tetrahedral T<sub>d</sub> and Octahedral O<sub>h</sub>

\*) The only ones with 4D irreducible spinor representations – 4-fold nucleonic degeneracies

I. DEDES, IFJ Polish Academy of Sciences Exotic Nuclear Structure and Symmetries

# **Tetrahedral Symmetry:** Spherical-Harmonic Basis

- Given a nuclear surface,  $\Sigma$ :  $R(\vartheta, \varphi) = R_o c(\{\alpha\}) \left[1 + \sum_{\lambda \mu} \alpha_{\lambda \mu} Y_{\lambda \mu}(\vartheta, \varphi)\right]$
- Only special combinations of spherical harmonics may form a basis for surfaces with tetrahedral symmetry and only odd-order except 5

**Rank**  $\leftrightarrow$  Multipolarity  $\lambda$ 

**Three Lowest Order Solutions:** 

 $\lambda = 3$ :  $t_1 \equiv \alpha_{3,\pm 2}$ 

 $\lambda = 5$ : no solution possible

 $\lambda = 7$ :  $t_2 \equiv \alpha_{7,\pm 2}$  and  $\alpha_{7,\pm 6} = -\sqrt{\frac{11}{13}} \cdot \alpha_{7,\pm 2}$ 

 $\lambda = 9$ :  $t_3 \equiv \alpha_{9,\pm 2}$  and  $\alpha_{9,\pm 6} = +\sqrt{\frac{28}{198}} \cdot \alpha_{9,\pm 2}$ 

• Problem presented in detail in:

J. Dudek, J. Dobaczewski, N. Dubray, A. Góźdź, V. Pangon and N. Schunck,

Int. J. Mod. Phys. E16, 516 (2007) [516-532].

I. DEDES, IFJ Polish Academy of Sciences Exotic Nuclear Structure and Symmetries

#### Nuclear Tetrahedral Shapes – 3D Examples

Illustrations below show the tetrahedral-symmetric surfaces at three increasing values of rank  $\lambda = 3$  deformations  $\alpha_{32} \equiv t_1$ : 0.1, 0.2 and 0.3



#### Observations:

- There are infinitely many tetrahedral-symmetric surfaces
- Nuclear 'pyramids' do not resemble pyramids very much!

# **OBSERVATION:**

# Tetrahedral symmetry group, $T_d$ , is a sub-group of the octahedral one, $O_h$

# **Octahedral Symmetry:** Spherical-Harmonic Basis

- Given a nuclear surface,  $\Sigma$ :  $R(\vartheta, \varphi) = R_o c(\{\alpha\}) \left[1 + \sum_{\lambda \mu} \alpha_{\lambda \mu} Y_{\lambda \mu}(\vartheta, \varphi)\right]$
- Only special combinations of spherical harmonics may form a basis for surfaces with octahedral symmetry and only in even-orders  $\lambda \ge 4$

Three Lowest Order Solutions:				<b>Rank</b> $\leftrightarrow$ Multipolarity $\lambda$
$\lambda = 4:$	$o_1 \equiv$	$\alpha_{40}$	and	$\alpha_{4,\pm4} = -\sqrt{\frac{5}{14}} \cdot \alpha_{40}$
$\lambda = 6$ :	$o_2 \equiv$	$lpha_{60}$	and	$\alpha_{6,\pm4} = -\sqrt{\frac{7}{2}} \cdot \alpha_{60}$
$\lambda = 8:$	$o_3 \equiv$	$lpha_{80}$	and	$\alpha_{8,\pm4}=\sqrt{\tfrac{28}{198}}\cdot\alpha_{80}$
			and	$\alpha_{8,\pm8} = \sqrt{\tfrac{65}{198}} \cdot \alpha_{80}$

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Illustrations below show the octahedral-symmetric surfaces at three increasing values of rank  $\lambda = 4$  deformations  $o_1$ : 0.1, 0.2 and 0.3



#### Observations:

- There are infinitely many octahedral-symmetric surfaces
- Nuclear 'diamonds' do not resemble diamonds very much!

# Symmetries Are <u>the</u> Factors Determining Stability<sup>\*)</sup> of Atomic Nuclei

\*) ... by imposing hindrance mechanisms

# Symmetries Are <u>the</u> Factors Determining Stability<sup>\*)</sup> of Atomic Nuclei

Nuclear mean field theory and group representation theory which are used in this research belong to the most powerful tools of nuclear structure theory arsenal

\*) ... by imposing hindrance mechanisms

# Possible Measurable Signs of Nuclear Tetrahedral Symmetry

#### **Quadrupole Moments vs. Pure Octupole Shapes**

Indeed, for microscopically calculated quadrupole moments (W.S.)

$$Q_{20}(\alpha_{3\mu}) = \int \Psi_{WS}^{*}(\tau) \hat{Q}_{20} \Psi_{WS}(\tau) d\tau$$



Observe that  $Q_{20}(\alpha_{32})$  vanishes identically at T<sub>d</sub>-symmetric shapes

### The Notion of Isomeric Bands

Similarly one demonstrates that tetrahedral shapes induce B(E1)=0

One shows that the analogous rules apply for octahedral symmetry

Once those symmetries are present one may expect the presence of numerous isomers since B(E2) and B(E1) at the exact tetrahedral and/or octahedral symmetry limits – vanish!

As the result, one expects series of long living (isomeric) states with unprecedented parabolic energy-spin relation

**Isomers at:**  $E_I \propto I(I+1) \leftarrow$  **Isomeric Bands** 

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# Rotating High-Rank Symmetric Nuclei Seen Through Group-Representation Theory [Symmetry Properties of Quantum Rotors]

#### **Tetrahedral Bands Are Not Like the Others!**

As we have shown using the methods of the point-group representation theory that, for instance, rotational bands based on  $0^+$  "T<sub>d</sub> ground-state" have the structure:

 $A_1: 0^+, 3^-, 4^+, 6^+, 6^-, 7^-, 8^+, 9^+, 9^-, 10^+, 10^-, 11^-, 2 \times 12^+, 12^-, \cdots$ 

and NOT

 $I^{\pi}: 0^+, 2^+, 4^+, 6^+, 8^+, 10^+, 12^+, \cdots$ 

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 $I^{\pi}: 0^+, 2^+, 4^+, 6^+, 8^+, 10^+, 12^+, \cdots$ 

Similarly there are no analogies of the "octupole bands"

 $I^{\pi}: 3^{-}, 5^{-}, 7^{-}, 9^{-}, 11^{-}, 13^{-}, 15^{-}, \cdots$ 

### **Quantum Rotors: Tetrahedral vs. Octahedral**

- The tetrahedral T<sub>d</sub> symmetry group has 5 irreducible representations
- The ground-state  $I^{\pi} = 0^+$  belongs to  $A_1$  representation given by:



• There are no states with spins I = 1, 2 and 5. We have parity doublets:  $I = 6, 9, 10 \dots$ , at energies:  $E_{6^-} \approx E_{6^+}, E_{9^-} \approx E_{9^+}$ , etc.

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• One shows the analogue structures for the octahedral O<sub>h</sub> symmetry

 $A_{1g}: 0^+, 4^+, 6^+, 8^+, 9^+, 10^+, \dots, I^{\pi} = I^+$ 

Forming a common parabola

 $A_{2u}: 3^-, 6^-, 7^-, 9^-, 10^-, 11^-, \dots, I^{\pi} = I^-$ 

## **Experimental Data Selection for T**<sub>d</sub>

#### About criteria for the experimental data search

• Central condition followed: Nuclear states with exact high-rank symmetries produce neither dipole-, nor quadrupole moments

- Such states neither emit any collective/strong E1/E2 transitions nor can be fed by such transitions  $\rightarrow$  focus on the nuclear processes
- Therefore we decided to focus first of all on the nuclei which can be populated with a big number of nuclear reactions since we may expect that in such nuclei the states sought exist in the literature

• We had verified that the nucleus <sup>152</sup>Sm can be produced by about <u>25 nuclear reactions</u>, whereas surrounding nuclei can be produced typically with about a dozen but usually <u>much fewer reactions</u> only

• Energy-wise - tetrahedral bands form regular sequences

$$E_I \propto AI^2 + BI + C$$

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#### Announcement of the Discovery – Part I

PHYSICAL REVIEW C

VOLUME 97, 021302(R)

FEBRUARY 2018

#### Spectroscopic criteria for identification of nuclear tetrahedral and octahedral symmetries: Illustration on a rare earth nucleus

J. Dudek, D. Curien, I. Dedes, K. Mazurek, S. Tagami, Y. R. Shimizu and T. Bhattacharjee

(Received 8 June 2017)

We formulate criteria for identification of the nuclear tetrahedral and octahedral symmetries and illustrate for the first time their possible realization in a rare earth nucleus <sup>152</sup>Sm. We use realistic nuclear mean-field theory calculations with the phenomenological macroscopic-microscopic method, the Gogny-Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov approach, and general point-group theory considerations to guide the experimental identification method as illustrated on published experimental data. Following group theory the examined symmetries imply the existence of exotic rotational bands on whose properties the spectroscopic identification criteria are based. These bands may contain simultaneously states of even and odd spins, of both parities and parity doublest at well-defined spins. In the exact-symmetry limit those bands involve no E2 transitions. We show that coexistence of tetrahedral and octahedral deformations is essential when calculating the corresponding energy minima and surrounding barriers, and that it has a characteristic impact on the rotational bands. The symmetries in question imply the existence of long-lived shape isomers and, possibly, new waiting point nuclei-impacting the nucleosynthesis processes in astrophysics – and an existence of long-lived shape isomers and, possibly, new waiting point nuclei-impacting the nucleosynthesis processes in astrophysics – and an existence of long-lived shape isomers.

#### **Perfect Parabolas Represent Experimental Results**



• Sequences represent coexistence between tetrahedral and octahedral symmetries

• Curves represent the parabolic fit and are *not* meant to guide the eye. This is the first evidence of  $T_d(ashed)$  and  $O_h$  based on the experimental data

#### **Perfect Parabolas Represent Experimental Results**



FROM: Spectroscopic criteria for identification of nuclear tetrahedral and octahedral symmetries: Illustration on a rare earth nucleus J. Dudek et al., PHYSICAL REVIEW C 97, 021302(R) (2018) [DOI: https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.97.021302]

## Part 3

# **About Exotic Shape-Instabilities in Actinides**

I. DEDES, IFJ Polish Academy of Sciences Exotic Nuclear Structure and Symmetries

# Path to Exotic Symmetries: Begin with Spherical <sup>208</sup>Pb

• Consider <sup>208</sup>Pb nucleus, doubly magic, among the most stable, spherical, ...

• The first excited state is an  $I^{\pi} = 3^{-}$ , traditionally associated with the pear-shape  $Y_{\lambda=3,\mu=0}$ -oscillations

• Other negative parity octupole modes are generated by multipolarities  $Y_{\lambda=3,\mu\neq0}$ 

Multipolarity $\alpha_{\lambda=3,\mu}$	Point Group
$lpha_{30}$	$C_{\infty v}$
$\alpha_{31}$	$C_{2v}$
$\alpha_{32}$	$T_d$
$\alpha_{33}$	$D_{3h}$



 $^{208}$  Pb Level Scheme from NNDC;  $3^-$  state traditionally associated with the octupole (pear-shape) oscillations

• One can demonstrate that these are the corresponding Point Groups

#### I. DEDES, IFJ Polish Academy of Sciences

#### Exotic Nuclear Structure and Symmetries

## What structural mechanisms are expected to bring the $I^{\pi} = 3^{-}$ vibrations to the lowest position in the spectrum?

# More generally, what are the shell mechanisms responsible of lowering the negative parity collective states?

## Shell Structures at $N = 136 \rightarrow \alpha_{30}, \alpha_{31}, \alpha_{32}, \alpha_{33}$



We conclude that N = 136 plays the role of a special octupole magic-number and this – for all the 4 octupole multipolarities

<sup>\*)</sup> I. Hamamoto, B. Mottelson, H. Xie, and X. Z. Zhang,

Z. Phys. D - Atoms, Molecules and Clusters 21, 163-175 (1991)

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#### Consequences in terms of the nuclear structure<sup>\*)</sup>

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Z. Phys. D - Atoms, Molecules and Clusters 21, 163-175 (1991)

# **Evolution of Pear-Shape Instabilities: <sup>208</sup>Pb**

• Total Nuclear Energy projected on the  $(\alpha_{20}, \alpha_{30})$ -plane minimised over  $(\alpha_{22}, \alpha_{40})$  for <sup>208</sup>Pb



# **Evolution of Pear-Shape Instabilities: <sup>210</sup>Pb**

• Projection on the  $(\alpha_{20}, \alpha_{30})$ -plane minimised over  $(\alpha_{22}, \alpha_{40})$  for <sup>210</sup>Pb



# Evolution of Pear-Shape Instabilities: <sup>212</sup>Pb

• Projection on the  $(\alpha_{20}, \alpha_{30})$ -plane minimised over  $(\alpha_{22}, \alpha_{40})$  for <sup>212</sup>Pb



# **Evolution of Pear-Shape Instabilities: <sup>214</sup>Pb**

• Projection on the  $(\alpha_{20}, \alpha_{30})$ -plane minimised over  $(\alpha_{22}, \alpha_{40})$  for <sup>214</sup>Pb



# **Evolution of Pear-Shape Instabilities: <sup>216</sup>Pb**

• Projection on the  $(\alpha_{20}, \alpha_{30})$ -plane minimised over  $(\alpha_{22}, \alpha_{40})$  for <sup>216</sup>Pb



# **Evolution of Pear-Shape Instabilities: <sup>218</sup>Pb**

• Projection on the  $(\alpha_{20}, \alpha_{30})$ -plane minimised over  $(\alpha_{22}, \alpha_{40})$  for <sup>218</sup>Pb



# Comparison: $\lambda = 3$ Susceptibility in <sup>218</sup>Pb Region

• Projection on the  $(\alpha_{20}, \alpha_{3\mu})$ -plane minimised over  $(\alpha_{22}, \alpha_{40})$  for <sup>218</sup>Pb



• Appearance of strongly pronounced octupole minima for increasing neutron number  $\rightarrow$  the highest barriers separating double minima arriving at N = 136

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• Comparison of the 2D-projections onto  $(\alpha_{20}, \alpha_{3\mu})$ -planes shows that four octupole deformations produce well-pronounced double minima at  $\alpha_{20} = 0.0$  and  $\alpha_{3\mu} \neq 0.0$ 

The loss of sphericity at  $\lambda \neq 2$  multipolarity  $\leftrightarrow$  **exoticity** 

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The loss of sphericity at  $\lambda \neq 2$  multipolarity  $\leftrightarrow$  **exoticity** 

• The strongest octupole effect for <sup>218</sup>Pb (N = 136) corresponds to  $\alpha_{32} \leftrightarrow$  Tetrahedral Symmetry T<sub>d</sub>

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• The strongest octupole effect for <sup>218</sup>Pb (N = 136) corresponds to  $\alpha_{32} \leftrightarrow$  Tetrahedral Symmetry T<sub>d</sub>

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• Appearance of strongly pronounced octupole minima for increasing neutron number  $\rightarrow$  the highest barriers separating double minima arriving at N = 136

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 $\Rightarrow$  We check the Z > 82 nuclei since they are easier to access experimentally

# Exotic Symmetries for Z > 82 Nuclei: <sup>222</sup>Rn

• Projection on the  $(\alpha_{20}, \alpha_{3\mu})$ -plane minimised over  $(\alpha_{22}, \alpha_{40})$ 



#### **Observations**

- Appearance of strongly pronounced octupole minima in nuclei with Z > 82, especially those close to N = 136
- In contrast to the Pb case, some of the octupole instabilities appear for  $\alpha_{20} \neq 0.0$

• This favours the experimental identification of slightly broken tetrahedral symmetry since with  $B(E2) \neq 0$  one can hope for profiting from the Germanium multi-detector systems and identify, even if weak, quadrupole transitions

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#### $\Rightarrow$ What are the induced exotic molecular symmetries? $\Leftarrow$

#### We use Point Group and Group-Representation Theories

#### Synthetic View of Octupole Instabilities

• The octupole-shape deformations include  $\alpha_{\lambda=3,\mu=0,1,2,3}$  thus leading to 4 independent degrees of freedom (Note: minima obtained at  $\alpha_{20} = 0$ )

$$\{\alpha_{30} \neq 0, \ \alpha_{31} \neq 0, \ \alpha_{32} \neq 0, \ \alpha_{33} \neq 0\}$$

• One can demonstrate that they generate Point-Group Symmetries:

 $C_{\infty v}$ ,  $C_{2v}$ ,  $T_d$ ,  $D_{3h}$ , respectively

• It turns out that octupole static or dynamic state equilibria may lead to specific rotational band structures  $\Rightarrow$  what are these structures?

#### Molecular (Point-Group) Symmetries - $C_{2v} \Leftrightarrow \alpha_{31}$



• Symmetry induced by both  $(\alpha_{31} \neq 0)$  and  $(\alpha_{20} \neq 0, \alpha_{31} \neq 0)$ 

 $\alpha_{31} = 0.25$ 

 $\alpha_{20} = 0.15, \alpha_{31} = 0.25$ 

# Nuclear C<sub>2v</sub> Point Group Symmetry

## Molecular (Point-Group) Symmetries - $T_d \& D_{2d} \Leftrightarrow \alpha_{32}$



#### • Symmetry induced by $(\alpha_{32} \neq 0)$ and $(\alpha_{20} \neq 0, \alpha_{32} \neq 0)$

Tetrahedral T<sub>d</sub>:  $\alpha_{32} = 0.25$ 

**D**<sub>2d</sub>:  $\alpha_{20} = 0.15, \alpha_{32} = 0.25$ 

# Nuclear $T_d$ and $D_{2d}$ Point Group Symmetries

#### Molecular (Point-Group) Symmetries - $D_{3h} \Leftrightarrow \alpha_{33}$





 $\alpha_{33} = 0.25$ 

 $\alpha_{20} = 0.15, \alpha_{33} = 0.25$ 

# Nuclear D<sub>3h</sub> Point Group Symmetry

# How to proceed once we know the point group representing a certain symmetry of interest?

How to proceed once we know the point group representing a certain symmetry of interest?

Suggestion: Examine rotational properties of concerned nuclei with the help of the group representation theory

#### **Rotational Band Properties of Exotic Symmetries: Td**

The first tetrahedral symmetry evidence based on the experimental data



Tetrahedral Band :  $I_{T_d}^{\pi} = 0^+, 3^-, 4^+, 6^{\pm}, 7^-, 8^+, 9^{\pm}, 10^{\pm}, 11^-, \dots$ 

→ Published in: J. Dudek et al., PHYSICAL REVIEW C 97, 021302(R) (2018)

• The R.M.S. of the ground-state band is 15.18 keV

#### G.S.B. Predictions Overview: C<sub>2v</sub>, D<sub>2d</sub> and D<sub>3h</sub>

• Group-theory prediction of the spin-parity structure of the  $C_{2v}$  g.s.b. spin-parity sequence for  $A_1$ -representation

 $C_{2v} \to A_1: 0^+, 1^-, 2 \times 2^+, 2^-, 3^+, 2 \times 3^-, 3 \times 4^+, 2 \times 4^-, 2 \times 5^+, 3 \times 5^-, 4 \times 6^+, 4 \times 6^-, \cdots$ 

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• No  $\Delta I = 2$  sequences !!
#### **Rotational Band Properties of Exotic Symmetries**

• Each point group symmetry implies specific degeneracy patterns



I. DEDES, IFJ Polish Academy of Sciences

• Analysing NNDC experimental data for  $T_d$  symmetry in  $^{152}\mathrm{Sm}$  took 3 months of manual work

• Analysing NNDC experimental data for T<sub>d</sub> symmetry in <sup>152</sup>Sm took 3 months of manual work

• Collecting experimental evidence via NNDC for C<sub>2v</sub> in <sup>236</sup>U took 30 seconds of computer program<sup>\*</sup>)

\*) I. Dedes in collaboration with M. Martin, Simon Fraser University, Canada

#### About criteria for the experimental data search

 $C_{2v} \to A_1: 0^+, 1^-, 2 \times 2^+, 2^-, 3^+, 2 \times 3^-, 3 \times 4^+, 2 \times 4^-, 2 \times 5^+, 3 \times 5^-, 4 \times 6^+, 4 \times 6^-, \cdots$ 

• Avoid rotational bands generated by leading ellipsoidal geometry and characterised by strong  $\Delta I = 2$  quadrupole transitions

• Identified yrast-trap or *K*-isomers and related axial symmetry non-collective particle-hole excitations should be eliminated

• Energy-wise  $-C_{2v}$  bands form regular sequences

 $E_I \propto AI^2 + BI + C$ 

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• Rotational band structure of a nucleus in a C<sub>2v</sub>-symmetric configuration Attention: Experimental degeneracies for <sup>236</sup>U according to NNDC



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• Rotational band followed by 16 states with rms deviation 12.14 keV

[rms(gsb)=3.79 keV]

 $\bullet$  Rotational band of a nucleus in a  $C_{2v}\mbox{-symmetric configuration}$ 

Attention: Experimental degeneracies for <sup>236</sup>U according to NNDC

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• Conclusions:

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- 3) The  $C_{2v}$  symmetry elements are:
  - E the identity operation
  - C<sub>2</sub> a twofold symmetry axis
  - $\sigma_v$  the first mirror plane (xz)
  - $\sigma'_v$  the first mirror plane (yz)

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  - $\sigma'_v$  the first mirror plane (yz)

• H<sub>2</sub>O has C<sub>2v</sub>-symmetry:



# Exotic Symmetries for <sup>236</sup>U – Suspects for C<sub>2v</sub>



• We associate the prolate minimum at  $\alpha_{20}^{\text{th}} \sim 0.25 \text{ [r.m.s.}(\alpha_{20}^{\text{exp}}) = 0.2821(18)\text{]}^{*})$  with the ground-state,...

• ... and the oblate minimum at  $a_{20}^{\text{th}} \sim -0.12$  extended on  $a_{31}$  as the C<sub>2v</sub> symmetry

\*) S. Raman, C. W. Nestor, JR., and P. Tikkanen Atomic Data and Nuclear Data Tables, Vol. 78, No. 1, May 2001 We know that the potential energy landscapes may only give qualitative suggestions about equilibrium deformations → shapes & symmetries We know that the potential energy landscapes may only give qualitative suggestions about equilibrium deformations → shapes & symmetries

We will turn to the solutions of the collective Schrödinger equation!!

# **Collective Schrödinger Equation**

• Our group has developed<sup>\*)</sup> new concepts of adiabaticity within collective model of Bohr and related approach to collective inertia tensor

• It follows that the collective energy operator is  $(q^m \leftrightarrow \alpha_{\lambda,\mu}, B$ -mass tensor)

$$\hat{H}_{\text{coll}} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2}\Delta + V(\alpha) \iff \Delta \stackrel{df}{=} \sum_{m,n=1}^d \frac{1}{\sqrt{|B|}} \frac{\partial}{\partial q^n} \left( \sqrt{|B|} B^{nm} \frac{\partial}{\partial q^m} \right).$$

with the resulting collective Schrödinger equation

$$\hat{H}_{\text{coll}}\Psi_{\text{coll}} = E_{\text{coll}}\Psi_{\text{coll}}$$

• All the details, illustrations, comparisons with experiment can be found in: *A New Approach to Adiabaticity Concepts in Collective Nuclear Motion: Impact for the Collective-Inertia Tensor and Comparisons with Experiment* 

\*)PHYSICAL REVIEW C 99, 041303(R) (2019)

D. Rouvel and J. Dudek

### Collective Schrödinger Equation for C<sub>2v</sub>

• The most probable  $\alpha_{31}$  deformation  $\leftrightarrow$  the so-called "dynamic equilibrium"  $\leftrightarrow$  the most probable C<sub>2v</sub>-symmetric shape

$$\alpha_{31}^{\text{dyn}} \leftrightarrow \langle \alpha_{31}^2 \rangle = \int \Psi^*(\alpha_{31}) \alpha_{31}^2 \Psi(\alpha_{31}) d\alpha_{31}$$



• Resulting dynamical equilibrium values are close to typical values of the secondary deformations such as the hexadecapole one reported in many nuclei

## Theoretical Predictions for $D_{3h}$ Symmetry $\iff \alpha_{33}$



I. DEDES, IFJ Polish Academy of Sciences Exotic Nuclear Structure and Symmetries

### **Interest/Impact of Our Research**

• Just as an example, on of our latest publications on the theoretical predictions of  $D_{3h}$ -symmetry in super-heavy nuclei got 140 reads in 3 months

Islands of oblate hyperdeformed and superdeformed superheavy nuclei with D 3 h point group symmetry in competition with normal-deformed D 3 h states: "Archipelago" of D 3 h -symmetry islands New Article Full-text available May 2023 - 140 Reads	+12 Reads ☐ 7 Full-text reads Current total: 140
🍥 Jie Yang · 🌒 Jerzy Dudek · 🛞 Irene Dedes · [] · 🦚 Hua-Lei Wang	
Add full-text	

#### **EURO-LABS Project – MeanField4Exp**

#### • Our Team is developing a website to improve the cooperation between nuclear physicists



• Using the newest exp. results, we adjusted the 12 universal WS parameters common for the whole mass table employing the Inverse Problem Theory of applied mathematics to assure prediction stability especially for exotic nuclei

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 $\bullet$  We have as well presented predictions of  $D_{3h}$  symmetry in super-heavy nuclei competing with oblate hyper-deformation and super-deformation.

# **List of Publications for 2023**

• Islands of oblate hyper-deformed and super-deformed superheavy nuclei with D3h point group symmetry in competition with D<sub>3h</sub> states: "Archipelago" of D<sub>3h</sub>-symmetry islands; Phys. Rev. C107, 054304 (2023)

• From Exotic Mean-Field Symmetries to New Classes of Isomers in Atomic Nuclei 100 Years Anniversary of discovery of the Nuclear Isomerism; Invited Review, submitted to the European Physical Journal Special Topics, 2023

• Unprecedented 7th-Order Multipole Components in Nuclear Equilibrium Deformations Induced by Tetrahedral Symmetry

submitted to Phys. Rev. C Letters, 2023, under processing

• Combination of Stochastic and Group Theory Arguments for Identification of Molecular Symmetries in Subatomic Physics: Case of  $C_{2v}$  in  $^{236}U$  submitted to Phys. Rev. C Letters, 2023, under processing

• Experimental Study of Competition Between Tetrahedral and Octahedral Symmetries in <sup>152</sup>Sm Nucleus: A New Evidence from a Designed Experiment submitted to Phys. Rev. C, 2023, under processing