

Coulomb excitation - a tool for nuclear shapes and more



- Introduction
- Theoretical aspects of Coulomb excitation
- Experimental considerations, set-ups and analysis techniques
- Recent highlights and future perspectives

Lecture given at the Ecole Joliot Curie 2012 Wolfram KORTEN CEA Saclay

	Coulomb excitation - the different energy regimes						
Irfu CCC saclay		Low-energy regime (< 5 MeV/u)		High-energy regime (>>5 MeV/u)			
	Energy cut-off	$\Delta E_{max} = -$	$\frac{\hbar v_{\infty}}{a \varepsilon} \approx 2 \mathrm{MeV}$	$\Delta E_{max} =$	$=\hbar c \frac{\beta \gamma}{a \varepsilon}$	$\approx 10 \text{MeV}(\beta = 0.4)$	
	Spin cut-off:	L _{max} :	up to 30ħ		mainly s	ingle-step excitations	
	Cross section:	$d\sigma/d\theta \sim \langle I_i M(\sigma \lambda) I_f \rangle$ differential			$σ_λ$ ~ (Z _p e ² /ħc) ² B(σλ, 0→λ) integral		
	Luminosity: Beam intensity	low : high	mg/cm ² targets >10 ³ pps		<mark>high</mark> Iow	g/cm ² targets a few pps	
		Comprel low-lyin	hensive study of g exitations	Fi st	First exploration of excited states in very "exotic" nuclei		

Coulomb excitation with stable beams

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Early experimental approach, until ~1970: light ion beams (p,α ,¹²C,¹⁶O, ...) Particle spectroscopy using spectrometers or Si detectors



Method limited to light beams (α , ¹²C, ¹⁶O, ²⁰Ne) since energy resolution scales with mass (E/A~const.)

Coulomb excitation with stable beams

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1970/80: Particle-gamma coincidence spectroscopy using Nal and/or Ge detector arrays in conjunction with charged particle detectors

Advantages: high resolution (few keV with Ge detectors) combined with high efficiency (close to 100% with Nal arrays)

Disadvantages :

Energy resolution limited by Doppler effect

➔ high granularity for detection of both particle and gamma rays

Need to detect particle-gamma coincidences

→ 4π arrays or reduced (coincidence) efficiency

Indirect measurement $Y_{\gamma}(I_i \rightarrow I_f) \rightarrow \sigma(I_i, \theta_{cm})$

 \rightarrow need to take into account branching ratios, particle- γ angular distribution,

→ corrections needed for efficiencies, etc.



Experimental setup for multi-step Coulomb excitation experiments with stable beams



Advantage: 4π array for both particles and γ rays ; good spatial resolution (few °) Identification of reaction partners through Time-of-Flight Limitation: low resolution for Nal scintillators, low efficiency for Ge detectors (~0.5%) due to large distance (~25cm)

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Example for a multi-step Coulomb excitation experiment with a stable heavy ion beam



ex.: 90 Zr + 232 Th @ 396 MeV (4.44 MeV/u) backward angle scattering ($\theta > 100^{\circ}$) \rightarrow favours multi-step excitation (I~20ħ) and higher lying states (β , γ , oct. vibration)

Excellent energy resolution (4keV@1MeV) but low Ge-Ge coincidence efficiency

Nal-Ge concidences and γ -ray multiplicity still allow to disentangle the level scheme

Multiple rotational band structure in ²³²Th



Multiple rotational band structure in ²³²Th



Multiple "vibrational" bands incl. inter-band $B(\sigma\lambda)$ and intra-band B(E2) values (rotational model assumptions within the bands)

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4π HPGe arrays with charged particle detectors

From ~1995: Ex. Chico 4π PPAC array (Univ. Rochester) and Gammasphere



M.W.Simon, D. Cline, C.Y. Wu et al., Nucl. Inst. Meth. A452 (2000) 205

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Performance of Chico PPAC



Some results from Chico and Gammasphere





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Experimental results from Coulomb excitation

- Need to deduce:
- Velocity vectors of recoiling ions (eventually also masses and reaction Q-value)
 - Correct for Doppler shift of de-excitation γ-rays on an event-by-event basis
 - Identify γ -rays which were emitted by each recoiling ion on an event-by-event basis
 - Normalize projectile yields using an accurately known B(E2): target or low-lying state
 - Determine Coulomb excitation cross sections to excited states as function of impact parameter.
 - Use computer codes to extract individual electromagnetic matrix elements from measured yields for both target and projectile excitation.

Expected results

- Observation of (new) excited states, in particular (higher lying) collective states (2₁⁺ 4₁⁺ 2₂⁺, ...)
- **B(E2)** and **B(M1)** values between (all) low-lying states, eventually also higher $B(E\lambda)$ values
- Sign and magnitude of static E2 moments of excited states
- Signs and magnitudes of observable products of $E\lambda$ matrix elements
- M1 moments of excited states may be obtained from the measured attenuation of the γ-ray angular correlations for ions recoiling in vacuum



Rochester - Warsaw GOSIA computer code

I) Excitation stage:

- 1) Semi-classical approximation and pure electromagnetic interaction
 - > max. 5% deviation from full quantal calculation at η ~30
- 2) Classical hyperbolic trajectories
 - ➤ symmetrised in energy : $v_{\infty} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(v_i + v_f)$
 - atomic screening, vacuum polarization, relativistic effects ignored
 change in distance of closest approach <0.2%
- 3) Virtual excitation of unobserved states
 - Include higher lying (unobserved) states
 - Include Giant E1 Resonance through dipole polarisation term (12%)
- 4) Mutual excitation of colliding nuclei
 - Monopole-multipole interaction of either the target or projectile
 multipole-multipole correction very small (0.05% in mass-70)
 - Mutual excitation explicitly treated in new code (Gosia2)
- 5) Particle solid angle and target thickness
 - Numerical integration over solid angle of particle detectors and energy loss in the target
 - ➔ excitation probability and statistical tensor for ALL excited states



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II) Decay stage:

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- 1) Use statistical tensors calculated in the excitation stage
 - Information on excitation probability and initial sub-state population
- 2) Include cascade feeding from higher-lying states
- 3) Include deorientation of the angular distribution (due to recoil in vacuum)
 - two-state model by Brenn and Spehl to model hyperfine interactions
- 4) Include Relativistic transformation of solid angles
- 5) Include solid angle of gamma-ray detectors
 - Simplified (cylindrical) detector geometry with attenuation factors
- 6) Possibility to include in-flight decays for long-lived states
- → calculate gamma ray yields for all possible transitions



Lifetimes, branching and mixing ratios from independent sources can be added as additional constraints

Rochester - Warsaw GOSIA computer code

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GOSIA is a semi-classical coupled-channel Coulomb excitation code using a two-stage approach and a least-squares search to reproduce experimentally observed gamma-ray intensities





Coulomb excitation studies using radioactive beams

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Production and reacceleration schemes for ISOL beams at different facilities

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ISOLDE/REX: Proton beam (1.4 GeV, 3.10¹³/pulse) & HI Linac (3 MeV/u)

TRIUMF/ISAC: Proton beam (500 MeV, 0.1 mA) & HI Linac (2/5 MeV/u)

ORNL/HRIBF: Low-energy proton induced fission & Tandem (2-5 MeV/u)

Principal differences in

production preparation availability acceleration

- \rightarrow fragmentation, spallation, fission
- \rightarrow extraction, selection, ionisation
- → elements & mass range, purity
- → beam energy & possible reactions

"Ideal" ISOL facility does not yet exist, soon SPIRAL2, HIE-ISOLDE, ISAC2 Highest yields over largest part of the nuclear chart (not only fission fragm.) Largest variety and best purity of beams with well-defined beam energy

Experimental considerations for RIB experiments

Principle

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- **Scattering of a (radioactive) ion beam on a (high-Z) target at "safe" energy**
 - Choice of target depends (mainly) on available beam energy and state(s) of interest

Experimental Method:

- Use thin targets so that excited nuclei (and the unscattered beam) recoil in vacuum
- Measure scattering angles and velocities of recoiling ions over a wide range of scattering angles
- Detect deexcitation γ-rays in coincidence with the scattered ions

Principal difficulties

- Background from radioactive decay of beam particles (Rutherford)
- Beam contaminants (isobars)
- Low beam intensity and limited statistics (in particular of higher lying states)



Shape coexistence in N=28 isotones



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Coulomb excitation set-up for RIBs (ex. SPIRAL)

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16 large Ge Clover detectors 4×4 segmented photopeak efficiency $\varepsilon = 20\%$

> Double-sided Si detector 48 rings × 16 sectors



Coulomb excitation of ⁴⁴Ar at SPIRAL / GANIL



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Determination of quadrupole moments



Coulomb excitation of ⁴⁴Ar at SPIRAL / GANIL



Shape coexistence around A=70



Possible O⁺ shape isomers and configuration mixing

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Coulomb excitation of 74,76Kr at SPIRAL



Acta Phys. Pol. B 36, 1281 (2005)

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Shape coexistence in ⁷⁴Kr





- ➢ ⁷⁴Kr + ²⁰⁸Pb at 4.7 MeV/u (SPIRAL)
 - → multi-step Coulomb excitation
- γ-ray yields as function of scattering angle (differential excitation cross section)
- experimental spectroscopic data (lifetimes, branching ratios)
- least squares fit of ~ 30 matrix elements (transitional and diagonal)

E. Clément et al., Phys. Rev. C 75, 054313 (2007)

Sensitivity to quadrupole moments



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direct confirmation of the prolate – oblate shape coexistence
 first reorientation measurement with radioactive beam

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Coulomb excitation at Rex-Isolde (CERN)

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Coulomb excitation of ⁷⁰Se at Rex-ISOLDE

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Lifetimes in ⁷⁰Se revisited GASP and Köln Plunger at Legnaro







Coulomb excitation of 74-80Zn at Rex-Isolde



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Quadrupole collectivity of the Zn isotopes



Coulomb excitation of ⁷⁴Zn at Rex-Isolde

Life time measurements possible after multi-nucleon transfer reactions by using RDDS technique : reduce B(E2) error and determine Q_0 $\tau(2^+) \sim 28.5 \pm 3.6 \text{ ps}$ \Rightarrow slight preference for oblate shape

Shapes in neutron-rich A=100 nuclei

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Shape transition in Sr isotopes

Coulomb excitation of ⁹⁶Sr at Rex-Isolde

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 $B(E2\downarrow)$

1506

2+

 0^{+}

399 (₋₃₉⁶⁷) e²fm4

- Coulomb excitation on $^{120}\mathrm{Sn}\,$ and $^{109}\mathrm{Ag}\,$
- Coulex normalisation through the target gamma line
- Differential and integrated cross section
 → GOSIA analysis

4+

2+

 0^+

 $Q_{0s} = -6 (9) \text{ efm}^2$

 $< 625 e^{2} fm4$

 $(9\overline{7}8)$

462 (11) e²fm4

 \rightarrow No quadrupole

 \rightarrow Weak mixing

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deformation

Coulomb excitation results on ⁹⁸Sr

E. Clement et al., to be published

2 targets : ²⁰⁸Pb & ⁶⁰Ni
 Clean kinematic separation

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Coulomb excitation results on ⁹⁸Sr

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Coulomb excitation on 98Sr ($\gamma - \gamma$ analysis)

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 6^{+}

500

600

144

8+

566

Coulomb Excitation of ¹³²Sn at HRIBF

- Opportunity to study a new doubly magic nucleus
- Study collectivity of N=82, Z=50 core excitation
- High E(2⁺) ~ 4MeV + small B(E2) + weak beam (10⁴ pps)
 → very low event rate

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- Employ high efficiency $BaF_2 \gamma$ -array
 - ~ 40% full-energy at 4 MeV
- Use high-Z target (⁴⁸Ti)
- Run at higher ("unsafe") energies (495 MeV and 470 MeV)
- Limit distance of closest approach by looking only at forward angles in center of mass

courtesy of D. Radford

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courtesy of D. Radford

First results on ¹³²Sn

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- saclay ¹³²Sn beam, doubly stripped
 - 96% pure
 - 1.3 x 10⁵ ions/s
 - 3.75 & 3.56 MeV/u
 - ⁴⁸Ti target
 - High γ efficiency (~ 40%) •
 - Two-week experiment ٠
 - Fast γ -ion coincidences • to suppress background

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Sample gamma-ray spectrum:

- ~30% of data
- Crystal gain matching & background suppression not yet optimum

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B(E2; 0⁺→2⁺) ~ 0.11(3) e²b²

R. Varner *et al.,* EPJ. A 25, s01, 391 (2005) Sample gamma-ray spectrum:

- ~30% of data
- Crystal gain matching & background suppression not yet optimum

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Coulomb Excitation Results for Sn isotopes

Coulomb excitation studies with low-energy RIBs

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Drip lines and shell structure in light nuclei

- ✓ Drip-line nuclei: ^{10,11}Be, ...
- ✓ Mirror nuclei : ^{20,21}Na, ²¹Ne
- ✓ The "island of inversion" : 29,30 Na, 30,31,32 Mg

Coulomb excitation studies with low-energy RIBs

Coulomb excitation studies with low-energy RIBs

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