

Study of the K quantum number of pygmy states in ^{154}Sm

Refilwe Emil Molaeng



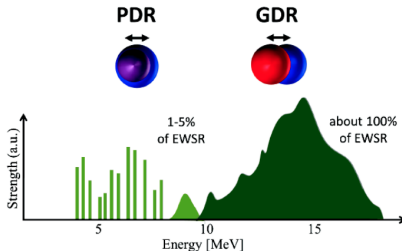
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November 24, 2025

Pygmy Dipole Resonance (PDR)

- ▶ Three-Fluid Hydrodynamical Model of Nuclei → Out of phase oscillation of a core with **Z protons** and **Z neutrons** against a **N-Z neutron skin**.
- ▶ A concentration of $J^\pi = 1^-$ states located around the neutron threshold.
- ▶ Lies well below the Giant Dipole Resonance (GDR).

A. Zilges, J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 590 (2015) 012006

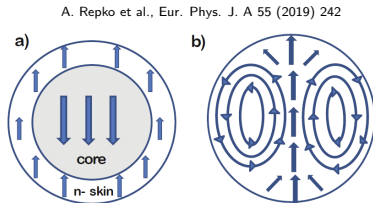


The splitting of the $E1$ strength into the PDR and the GDR.

Objections and Open questions on the PDR

- Some studies show $E1$ strength in the PDR region in nuclei with little or no neutron skin. → Alternative excitation? e.g. Toroidal mode?

- The toroidal mode is associated with a **current transition density distribution** that has a vortex structure. (Predicated by Semenko *et.al*, 1981)



PDR

TDR

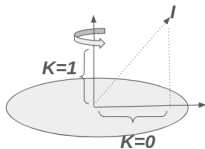
A demonstration of the current flow between the PDR and TDR.

- Is the simplistic collective picture of the PDR valid?
- What is the role of nuclear deformation on the PDR?
- The features of the PDR are currently debated and the landscape of low-lying $E1$ states remains open.

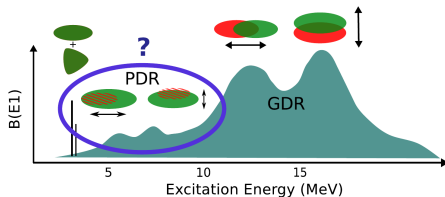
Role of nuclei deformation on the PDR-Objectives of the study

- ▶ PDR defies interpretation → affecting mostly predictive power for exotic nuclei.
- ▶ Role that nuclear deformation plays is yet to be understood.
- ▶ The main objective of this study is to **investigate the impact of ground-state deformation on the properties of PDR in ^{154}Sm .**
 1. Determine **Spins and Parities, Cross-Sections** and the **Branching Ratios** in ^{154}Sm .
 2. **Compare results** of ^{154}Sm with ^{150}Nd (*O. Papst, Ph.D. thesis, TU Darmstadt, 2024.*)

Collective picture of the PDR → A possible double-hump structure in the PDR, resembling that observed in the GDR.



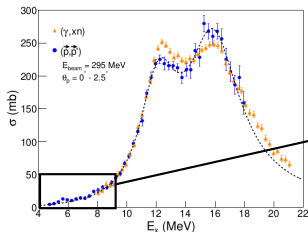
Angular K quantum numbers for a deformed nucleus.



Demonstration of the $B(E1)$ response in heavy deformed nuclei.

Experimental signatures of the PDR in ^{154}Sm

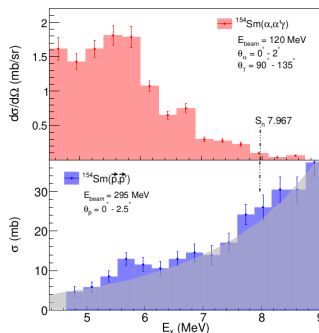
- PDR Single-hump structure observed in ^{154}Sm through (p,p') on the IVGDR dataset.



GDR study

- PDR Single-hump structure observed through $^{154}\text{Sm}(\alpha, \alpha'\gamma)$.
 - IS probe

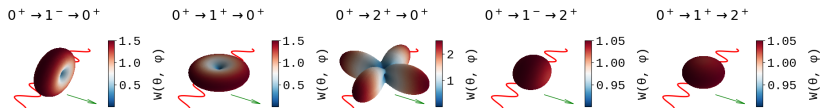
L. Pellegri, H. Jivan, P. von Neumann-Cosel, A. Tamii et al.



Comparisons of $^{154}\text{Sm}(\alpha, \alpha'\gamma)$ and $^{154}\text{Sm}(p, p')$.

- The current study is expected to give **complementary information** on the role of deformation in the PDR region.

Experimental Setup at the High Intensity γ -ray Source (HI γ S).



γ -ray detectors around the target position, target holder inside the pipe and the target.

- ▶ 2.5g of ^{154}Sm in oxide form, enriched to $>90\%$ for the isotope of interest
- ▶ $^{154}\text{Sm}(\gamma, \gamma')$ with Laser Compton Scattered (LCS) beam energy ranging from 3.83 to 7.05 MeV.
- ▶ 3 hours of beam time for every beam energy.
- ▶ 5 HPGe detectors, 4 $\text{LaBr}_3:\text{Ce}$ and 3 CeBr_3 detectors.
- ▶ 1 HPGe at 0° for beam profiling measurements.

Beam Energy Profile: Photon flux

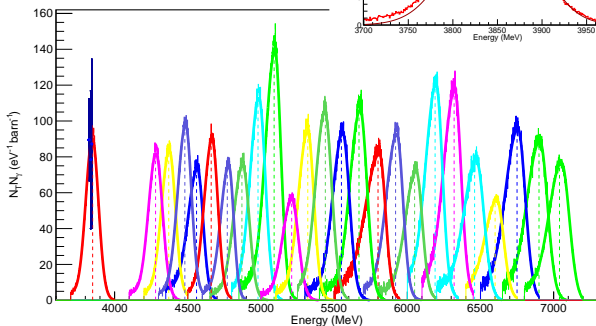
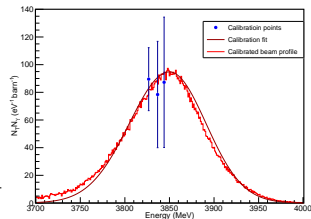
- ▶ 25 different beam energies.
- ▶ Good overlap-continuous scan of the excitation energy.
- ▶ Photon flux calibration points from *Ziegler et.al, 1993*

Nuclear Physics A564 (1993) 366-382
North-Holland

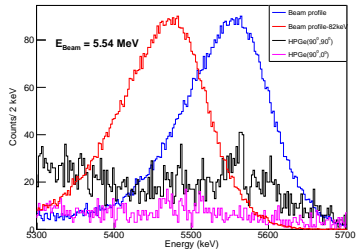
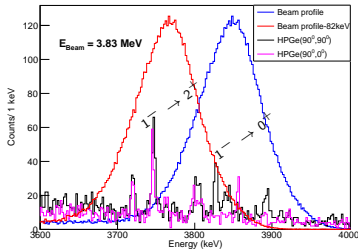
NUCLEAR
PHYSICS A

Low-energy dipole-strength distributions in $^{148,150,152,154}\text{Sm}^*$

W. Ziegler ¹, N. Huxel, P. von Neumann-Cosel, C. Rangacharyulu ²,
A. Richter, C. Spieler
Institut für Kernphysik, Technische Hochschule Darmstadt, D-64289 Darmstadt, Germany



HPGe clover detectors γ -decay spectra



- ▶ **Mono-energetic LCS** \rightarrow Selectivity of the excitation energy.
- ▶ Measurements by the asymmetry method in the two perpendicular detectors for J^π assignments.

Assignments of Spin-Parity: Measurements by the asymmetry method

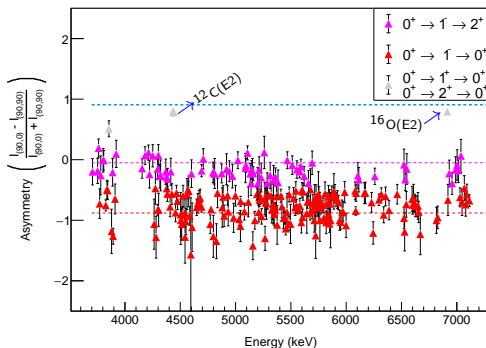
For extraction of the asymmetry values

$$\epsilon = \frac{A_{\parallel} - A_{\perp}}{A_{\parallel} + A_{\perp}} = p\Sigma \quad (1)$$

The analysing power

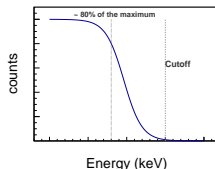
$$\Sigma = \frac{W_{\parallel} - W_{\perp}}{W_{\parallel} + W_{\perp}} \quad (2)$$

measures the sensitivity to the parity quantum number of a γ -ray transition while p accounts for detector effects.



Average Branching Ratios: Spectral Convolution

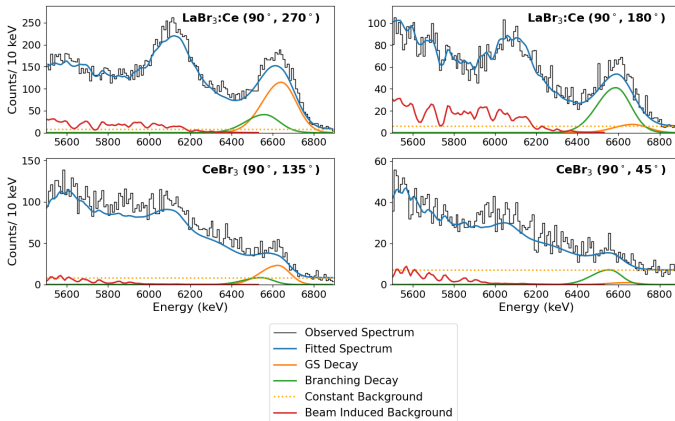
- ▶ Measurements of average properties: **Convolution fitting procedure to extract and separate the different contributions from NRF reactions:** In our case $0^+ \rightarrow 1^- \rightarrow 0^+$ and $0^+ \rightarrow 1^- \rightarrow 2^+$.
- ▶ Required: Detector response from GEANT4 simulations: $R_{0_1^+}$, $R_{2_1^+}$, R_{BG}
- ▶ Each decay branch resembles the shape of the photon beam: **Asymmetric Gaussian**
- ▶ Beam-induced background: **Sigmoid function**



- ▶ Constant-background model: **Single scaling parameter**
Simultaneous Bayesian fit of all detectors.!!

Fit code courtesy of Dr. Jörn Kleemann.

Simultaneous Spectral convolution @ 6.6 MeV

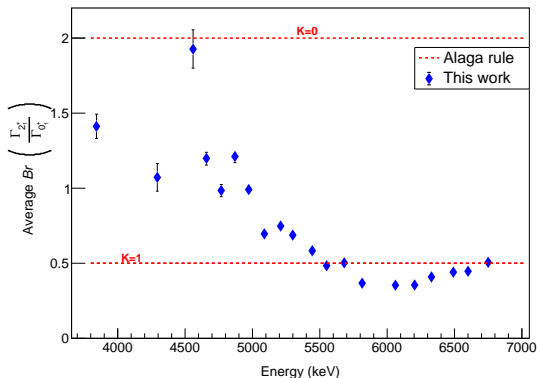


Preliminary - Average Branching ratio and the associated K quantum numbers

- The ratio of the areas of corresponding peaks allows a simple identification of K=0 and K=1 transitions.

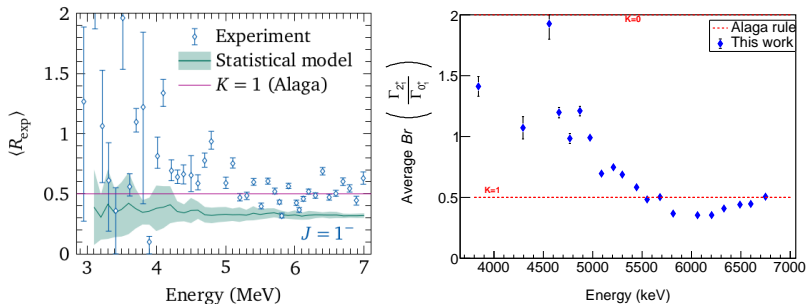
$$R = \frac{B(1^- \rightarrow 2_1^+)}{B(1^- \rightarrow 0_{g.s.}^+)} = \frac{I_\gamma(1^- \rightarrow 2_1^+)}{I_\gamma(1^- \rightarrow 0_{g.s.}^+)} \left(\frac{E_\gamma(1^- \rightarrow 2_1^+)}{E_\gamma(1^- \rightarrow 0_{g.s.}^+)} \right)^{-3} \quad (3)$$

is **0.5** for **K=1** and **2** for **K=0**.



Preliminary - Comparison of the average branching ratios with ^{150}Nd

Figure adapted from: O. Papst, *Exploration of Nuclear-Structure Effects on Averaged Decay Quantities in the Quasicontinuum*, Ph.D. thesis, TU Darmstadt, 2024.

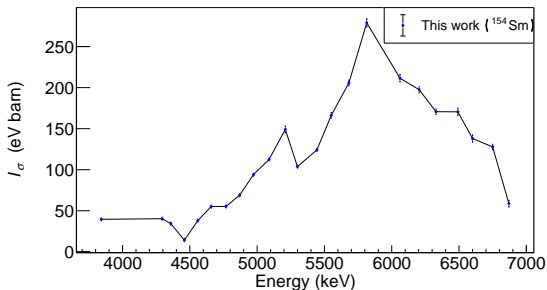


Comparison of the branching ratios obtained for ^{150}Nd (left) and ^{154}Sm (right)

Pre-liminary - Average Integrated Cross-Sections

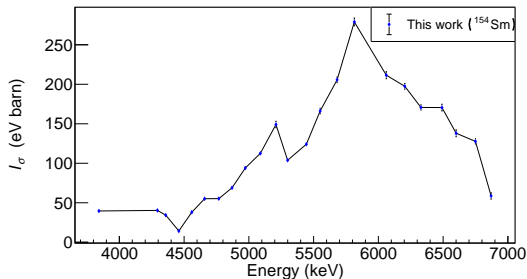
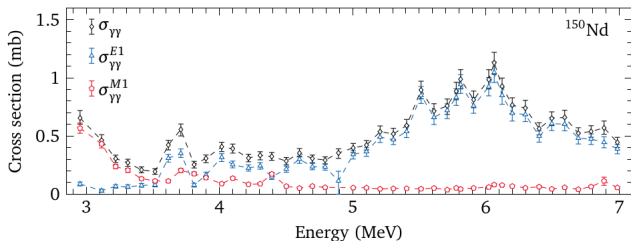
- Average cross-sections were determined using the the standard NRF Breit-Wigner integrated cross-section formula:

$$I_{\sigma} \equiv \int \sigma(E) dE = \frac{2J+1}{2J_0+1} \left(\frac{\pi \hbar c}{E_{\gamma}} \right)^2 \frac{\Gamma_0^2}{\Gamma} \quad (4)$$



Preliminary - Comparison of the Average Integrated Cross-Sections with ^{150}Nd

Figure adapted from: O. Papst, *Exploration of Nuclear-Structure Effects on Averaged Decay Quantities in the Quasicontinuum*, Ph.D. thesis, TU Darmstadt, 2024.



Comparison of the cross sections obtained for ^{150}Nd (top) and ^{154}Sm (bottom)

Summary and outlook

- ▶ **Challenge:** Previous efforts have not provided a clear interpretation of PDR concerning deformation effects in nuclei.
- ▶ **Objective:** Understand the Pygmy dipole resonance (PDR) in the deformed ^{154}Sm nucleus.
- ▶ **Methodology:** Utilize the (γ, γ') technique to investigate dipole states in the PDR region.
- ▶ **Experimental Setup:** Employ the γ^3 setup at the HIγS facility.
- ▶ **Identification:** Determine the spins and parities, K quantum number and cross sections of excited states in the PDR region.
- ▶ **Comparative Analysis:** Comparison of results with data from other experiments is an effective way to fully understand PDR in deformed neutron-rich nuclei.

R.E. Molaeng^{1,2}, L. Pellegrini^{1,2}, L.M. Donaldson², I.T. Usman¹, P. Adsley³,
A.D. Ayangeakaa^{4,5}, J.J. Carroll⁶, C.J. Chiara⁶, S.W. Finch^{5,7}, D. Gribble^{5,4},
A. Gupta⁸, M. Heumüller⁸, J. Isaak⁸, X.K. James^{4,5}, R.V.F. Janssens^{4,5},
S.R. Johnson^{4,5}, J. Kleemann⁸, T. Kowalewski^{4,5}, B. Löher⁹, O. Papst⁸, N. Pietralla⁸,
K. Prifti⁸, J. Santucci³, A. Saracino^{4,5}, D. Savran⁹, B. Wellons³, V. Werner⁸

¹ School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 2050, South Africa

² SSC Laboratory, iThemba LABS, Faure, 7100, South Africa

³ Texas A&M University, College Station 77843, Texas, USA

⁴ Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 27599, North Carolina, USA

⁵ Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory, Durham, North Carolina 27708, USA

⁶ U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory, Adelphi, Maryland 20783, USA

⁷ Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708, USA

⁸ Technische Universität Darmstadt, Department of Physics, Institute for Nuclear Physics, 64289 Darmstadt, Germany

⁹ GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH, 64291 Darmstadt, Germany

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