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New excited 2^+ and 3^- two-proton states in $^{210}_{84}\text{Po}_{126}$ populated by two-proton transfer

E. Dupont, A. Astier*, C. M. Petrache, B. F. Lv, I. Deloncle, and J. Kiener
*Centre de Sciences Nucléaires et Sciences de la Matière, CNRS/IN2P3,
Université Paris-Saclay, Bât. 104-108, 91405 Orsay, France*

R. Orlandi, H. Makii, K. Nishio, K. Hirose, M. Asai, T. K. Sato, K. Tsukada, Y. Ito, and K.R. Kean
Japan Atomic Energy Agency, Tokai, Ibaraki 319-1195, Japan

R. Yanagihara
Research Center for Nuclear Physics (RCNP), Osaka University, Osaka 567-0047, Japan

G. Scamps†
Center for Computational Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba 305-8571, Japan

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Five new 2^+ levels have been established in the semi-magic ^{210}Po nucleus, from a $^{208}\text{Pb}(^{12}\text{C}, ^{10}\text{Be})$ two-proton transfer experiment, performed at energies close to the Coulomb barrier at JAEA Tokai. A setup combining Ge, LaBr₃, and Si telescopes was used to detect both in-beam gamma-rays and ejectile residues. The new 2^+ states have been established by means of the transitions towards the 0^+ ground state which are present in the gamma spectra produced by properly selecting the excitation energy in ^{210}Po after kinematical reconstruction. $(f_{7/2})^2$, $h_{9/2} \otimes f_{5/2}$, $(i_{13/2})^2$, $f_{7/2} \otimes p_{3/2}$ and $f_{7/2} \otimes f_{5/2}$ two-proton configurations are assigned to these states. In addition, a new 3^- level has also been established in this nucleus, very likely originating from the $f_{7/2} \otimes i_{13/2}$ configuration. Shell model calculations strongly support these assignments.

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I. INTRODUCTION

With only two protons more than the doubly-magic ^{208}Pb nucleus, ^{210}Po is an ideal test bench for refining nuclear structure theories and models developed for the region around the doubly-closed magic shell ($Z=82$, $N=126$). In order to determine the effective two-body matrix elements to be used in realistic calculations, the most complete experimental information is therefore required. In particular, the identification of excited two-proton states can allow to extract the mixings between the involved configurations.

As one can expect, single-particle type excitations of the two valence protons are responsible of almost all levels identified in ^{210}Po at low excitation energy. Actually, only the known 3^- state located at 2387 keV has a collective nature and stands out in this landscape governed by valence protons. This

3^- state was identified and its collectivity measured in the early seventies, from the electron-capture decay of ^{210}At [1] and inelastic scattering reactions (p,p') , (d,d') , and (t,t') on ^{210}Po targets [2]. It is only above ~ 3 MeV that particle-hole core excitations start to show up in addition to the proton configurations.

From proton transfer (stripping) reactions such as $(^3\text{He},d)$, $(^4\text{He},t)$, and $(t,2n)$ on ^{209}Bi targets, most of the proton states have been characterized in the works of R. Groleau *et al.* [3] and of L.G. Mann *et al.* associating in-beam gamma-ray and conversion-electron measurements [4].

However it is worth noting that, because ^{209}Bi has its last proton on the $h_{9/2}$ orbit, the proton-stripping reactions populate preferentially states whose configuration contains this orbit too. Thus, the $(h_{9/2})^2$, $h_{9/2} \otimes f_{7/2}$, $h_{9/2} \otimes f_{5/2}$, and $h_{9/2} \otimes i_{13/2}$ multiplets of states have been very well identified [5]. The states originating from the $\pi(f_{7/2})^2$ configuration are more difficult to be evidenced, their direct population being possible only through a small component of the wavefunction. Nevertheless, despite their weak production, L.G. Mann *et al.* succeeded to firmly identify the 0^+ , 4^+ , and

*Corresponding author: Alain.Astier@csnsm.in2p3.fr

†Present address: Institut d'Astronomie et d'Astrophysique, Université Libre de Bruxelles, CP-226, BE-1050 Brussels, Belgium

6^+ members of this multiplet, thanks to their decay properties towards lower-lying states in ^{210}Po [4]. The 2^+ state of the $\pi(f_{7/2})^2$ multiplet is even more difficult to be identified; indeed, its de-excitation is expected to proceed entirely by a $E2$ transition to the ground state and therefore cannot be established by gamma-gamma coincidences. However, among the "orphan" single gamma rays, L.G. Mann *et al.* mention in their paper the presence of three transitions with energies compatible to the one expected for this 2^+ state, the transition of 2867.9 keV being the best candidate.

The two-proton transfer to ^{208}Pb should enhance the population of configurations such as $\pi(f_{7/2})^2$ and $\pi(i_{13/2})^2$, with respect to the population of these orbits in the one-proton stripping reaction on ^{209}Bi . Such a $2p$ -transfer reaction was already performed by Becchetti *et al.* using ^{12}C and ^{16}O beams, at energies ~ 20 MeV above the Coulomb barrier, and many levels were established up to 8 MeV from the particle spectra [6]. In particular, a level at $E^* = 2.85(3)$ MeV was identified and proposed to be the 2^+ state of the $\pi(f_{7/2})^2$ multiplet. However this level is not included in the latest data evaluation of the ^{210}Po nuclear levels [5].

More recently the $^{208}\text{Pb}(^{12}\text{C},^{10}\text{Be})$ two-proton transfer was studied by D. Kocheva and collaborators [7] at Coulomb barrier energy, aiming to lifetime measurements. The lifetimes of the 2_1^+ , 2_2^+ , 3_1^- states of ^{210}Po have been measured, and the $B(E2; 2_1^+ \rightarrow 0_1^+)$ reduced transition probability was notably revised to $B(E2) = 136(21) e^2\text{fm}^4$. This paper reports on the localization of most of the two-proton 2^+ excited states expected in ^{210}Po , obtained with the $^{208}\text{Pb}(^{12}\text{C},^{10}\text{Be})$ $2p$ -transfer reaction. New results concerning the two-proton 3^- states present in this nucleus have also been obtained in this work.

II. EXPERIMENTAL METHODS AND DATA ANALYSIS

In our work, excited states in ^{210}Po have been populated by two-proton transfer using the $^{208}\text{Pb}(^{12}\text{C},^{10}\text{Be})$ reaction. The target was composed of a $200 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ enriched ^{208}Pb material deposited on a thin $30 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ carbon layer. The ^{12}C beam was provided by the 18 MV tandem at JAEA Tokai. For the main purpose of the experiment, four beam energies have been studied: 58, 60, 62, and 63.7 MeV in the laboratory frame, slightly be-

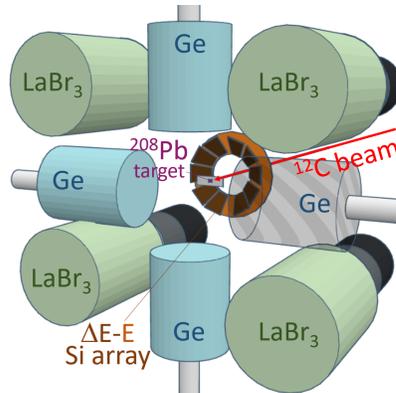


FIG. 1: (Color online) Schematic view of the experimental setup used in this work.

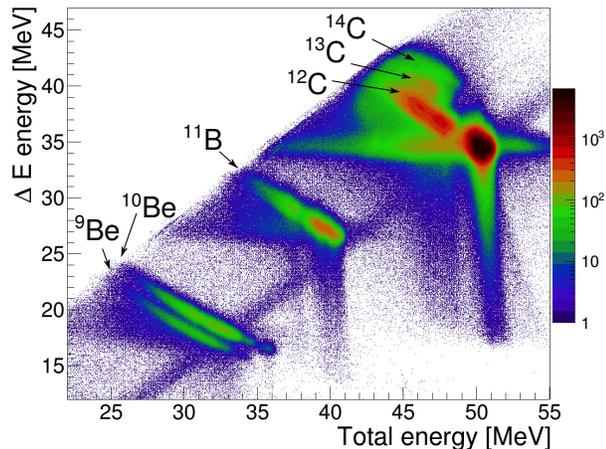


FIG. 2: (Color online) $\Delta E - E$ spectrum for ejectiles measured by one pair of the $\Delta E - E$ Si telescopes at $E_{\text{beam}} = 63.7$ MeV. Beam-like identified reaction products are labeled.

low and above the Coulomb barrier. In the analysis devoted to the study of the structure of ^{210}Po , the four data sets have been summed.

A schematic view of the experimental setup is displayed in Fig. 1. Ten segmented Si $\Delta E - E$ telescopes located at backward angles (122° to 141°) with respect to the beam direction were used to identify the light beam-like ejectile and determine the kinematics of the reaction on an event by event basis, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The excitation energy of the heavy target-like partner was therefore fully reconstructed, with a Gaussian standard deviation of $\sigma \sim 230$ keV. It is worth mentioning that only the two telescopes having the low-

est ΔE thickness ($50 \mu\text{m}$) were used in the ^{210}Po data analysis. Indeed the eight other telescopes did not allow a complete characterization of the ^{10}Be ejectile, the larger ΔE thickness ($75 \mu\text{m}$) being enough to stop the ^{10}Be ions. This device was already used successfully to identify transfer channels, as described in Refs. [8, 9].

In parallel, the γ -rays were detected by four HPGe and four LaBr₃ detectors placed at 90° with respect to the beam axis. The LaBr₃ scintillator characteristics can be found in Ref. [10], these detectors having been used for the measurement of high-energy prompt γ rays emitted during the neutron-induced fission of ^{235}U . In this experiment, the absolute γ detection efficiency at 1.3 MeV was $\epsilon_\gamma=6.8(2)\%$ ($5.1(2)\%$ for the LaBr₃ scintillators, and $1.67(2)\%$ for the Ge detectors).

Timestamped data recorded with a triggerless mode allowed us to perform the subsequent data analysis relying on coincidences between charged particles and gamma rays. Of particular importance, coincidence matrices (E^*, E_γ) were built between the reconstructed excitation energy of ^{210}Po (E^*) and the detected Doppler-corrected gamma rays (E_γ). It is here worth noting that the gamma ray information from the Ge or LaBr detectors is not an ingredient of the reconstruction of the excitation energy which is fully obtained by the measurement of the ^{10}Be ejectile. Therefore the correlations contained in these matrices are physically meaningful. As an illustration, the (E^*, E_γ) matrix containing the gamma rays detected by LaBr₃ is displayed in Fig. 3. The similar matrix containing the Ge information was also built.

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

A. Identification of excited 2^+ two-proton states in ^{210}Po

Excited 2^+ levels in ^{210}Po are expected to decay predominantly to the 0^+ ground state, as it is the case for the 2_1^+ and 2_2^+ states, with 100% and 90% branching rates, respectively. Furthermore, contrary to the 2_1^+ and 2_2^+ states, the $\pi h_{9/2}$ orbit is not involved in the configurations of the next 2^+ two-proton states, therefore the direct decay of these states to the ground state may be the unique decay mode to be observed. For each 2^+ state, the energy of the corresponding $E2$ transition is therefore identical to the level energy, which

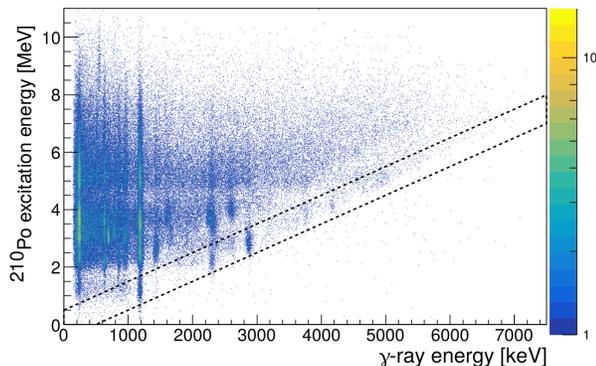


FIG. 3: (Color online) Two-dimensional plot of the $[E^*(^{210}\text{Po}), E_\gamma]$ matrix, i.e. associated with a ^{10}Be identification in the Si telescopes (see text for details). The gamma rays have been detected in the LaBr₃ scintillators. The dashed lines are the contour limit of ± 500 keV around the $E^* = E_\gamma$ line which is used to obtain the projected gamma-ray spectrum shown in Fig. 4(a).

is nothing else than the excitation energy of the nucleus. Therefore, these gamma-rays should appear in the (E^*, E_γ) matrix displayed in Fig. 3, just on the $E^* = E_\gamma$ diagonal line. By selecting the events within ± 500 keV around this line, we obtain the LaBr₃ and Ge gamma-ray spectra displayed in Figs. 4(a) and 4(b), respectively.

Combining the Ge information, more precise, with the LaBr₃ one, more efficient especially at high energy, the following transitions are identified: 1181(1), 2290(2), 2869(3), 3763(20), 4170(20), and 4943(50) keV. The three peaks of 3763, 4170, and 4943 keV can only be observed in the LaBr₃ spectrum, being out of the energy range defined for the Ge detectors. The large width of the 4943-keV peak also suggests that it is actually composed of two unresolved peaks.

The first two peaks of 1181 and 2290 keV are the known $2_1^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ and $2_2^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ transitions in ^{210}Po , respectively. The other transitions, and especially the relatively strong one at 2869 keV, were not observed previously. One could wonder whether these transitions are correctly assigned to ^{210}Po . For that, it is worth mentioning that these spectra are particle-gated, so that the charge selection provided by the Si telescopes definitely guarantees a correct Be assignment for the light ejectile. Only ^9Be ejectiles, and therefore ^{211}Po gamma-rays, could be envisaged; the corresponding $2pn$ -transfer cross-section is measured ~ 3 times smaller

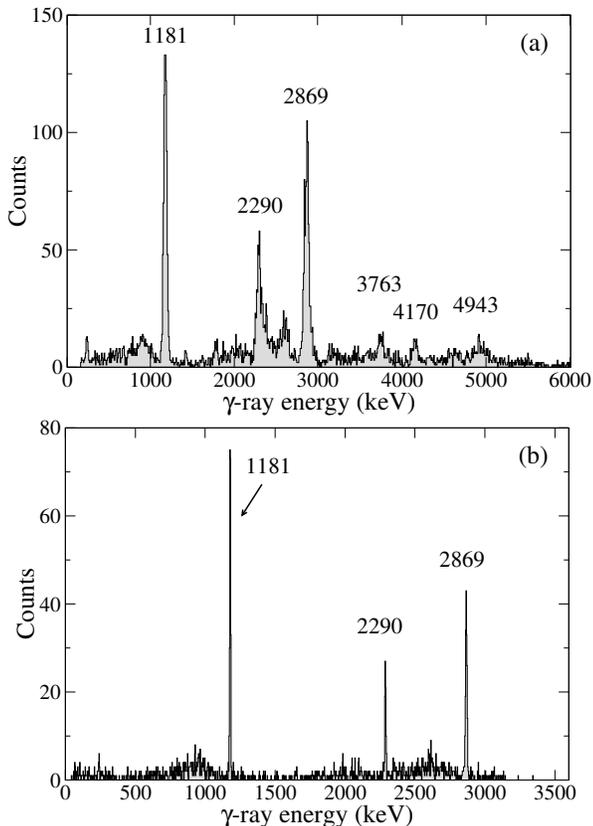


FIG. 4: γ -ray spectra obtained by slice of the $[E^*(^{210}\text{Po}), E_\gamma]$ matrix close to the $E^* = E_\gamma$ line as defined on Fig. 3, in order to isolate the direct gamma de-excitations towards the ^{210}Po ground state. (a) LaBr₃ data, (b) Ge data.

than the $2p$ -transfer cross-section. The broad peak located around 2620 keV in the LaBr₃ spectrum corresponds to the Compton edge of the 2869-keV transition and to the 2615-keV $3^- \rightarrow 0^+$ transition of ^{208}Pb , randomly coming from the huge background of quasi-elastic collisions of ^{12}C on ^{208}Pb .

The 2869-keV gamma ray cannot be the $5^- \rightarrow 3^-$ transition in ^{208}Pb , since it is not present neither present in the $[E^*, E_\gamma]$ matrix relative to ^{208}Pb , nor in coincidence with the 2615-keV gamma ray in the $[E_\gamma, E_\gamma]$ matrix. We can therefore safely conclude that the 2869 keV transition belongs to ^{210}Po , and de-excites a level at 2869 keV excitation energy.

The 1181-keV and 2290-keV transitions which de-excite the 2_1^+ and 2_2^+ states to the ground state of ^{210}Po have to be distinguished from the other transitions. These two transitions can be

observed in coincidence with a wide range of excitation energy of ^{210}Po . This is related to the fact that the 2_1^+ and 2_2^+ levels collect, in addition to their direct populations, almost all the de-excitation flows from higher-lying states before decaying to the ground state. This is not the case for the other newly observed transitions: the corresponding events are present only in a narrow excitation energy range around the $E^* = E_\gamma$ line in the $[E^*(^{210}\text{Po}), E_\gamma]$ matrix. This suggests that the de-excited states are only directly populated in the reaction and decay towards the ground state. The intensities extracted from the spectra in Fig. 4 have therefore to be considered as the direct populations of the corresponding states. From the Ge spectrum in Fig. 4(b), the cross-sections of the direct populations of the 2_2^+ and 2_3^+ states are measured to $\sim 70\%$ and $\sim 150\%$, respectively, compared to the cross-section to the 2_1^+ state.

B. Identification of the $\pi f_{7/2} \otimes i_{13/2} 3^-$ state in ^{210}Po

In the quest towards the complete knowledge of the two-proton states of ^{210}Po , let us now consider 3^- levels. From two-proton configurations, 3^- states are present in two multiplets: $h_{9/2} \otimes i_{13/2}$ and $f_{7/2} \otimes i_{13/2}$. Experimentally only the former is known, at 2846 keV, the latter being not reported up to now [5]. According to our SM calculations detailed in the next section, their excitation energies are 2998 and 3577 keV, respectively.

We have been looking for this missing 3^- state, guided by the following criteria: its excitation energy should be close to ~ 3500 keV, and its possible gamma de-excitation should proceed mainly by a parallel decay towards the 2_1^+ state at 1181 keV (via a $E1 + M2$ transition of ~ 2320 keV) and towards the 3_1^- collective state at 2387 keV (via a $M1$ transition of ~ 1100 keV), as it is reported for the other two-proton $h_{9/2} \otimes i_{13/2} 3^-$ level.

In order to identify this $\pi f_{7/2} \otimes i_{13/2} 3^-$ state, we have proceeded as follows:

i) We have first analyzed the excitation energy spectrum of ^{210}Po obtained by gating on the 1181-keV $2_1^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ transition in the (E^*, E_γ) matrix, after having subtracted the contribution from the 245-keV $4_1^+ \rightarrow 2_1^+$ transition. So, this spectrum selects the non-yrast levels decaying towards the 2_1^+ level, and must therefore contain the missing 3^- one. This spectrum is displayed in Fig. 5(a).

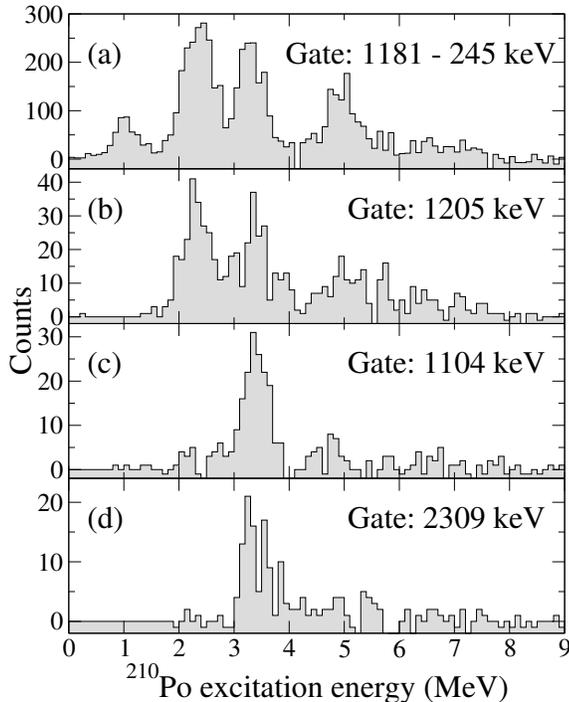


FIG. 5: ^{210}Po excitation energy distribution spectra obtained by slices of the $[E^*(^{210}\text{Po}), E_\gamma]$ matrix: (a) LaBr₃ gate on the $2_1^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ 1181-keV transition with subtraction of the feeding from the $4_1^+ \rightarrow 2_1^+$ 245-keV transition, (b) Ge gate on the $3_1^- \rightarrow 2_1^+$ 1205-keV transition, (c) Ge gate on the 1104-keV transition, (d) Ge gate on the 2309-keV transition.

One can clearly observe the first peak at 1.1 MeV which is the direct population of the 2_1^+ state at 1181 keV. The second peak is broader and can be fitted by two gaussians centered at ~ 2.3 MeV and ~ 2.6 MeV. A third peak is evidenced at ~ 3.5 MeV and a fourth structure is visible at ~ 5.1 MeV. Similarly, the excitation energy spectrum obtained by gating on the 1205-keV $3_1^- \rightarrow 2_1^+$ known transition is displayed in Fig. 5(b). The three observed structures (at ~ 2.3 , 3.5, and 5 MeV) are in common with those found in the spectrum obtained by gating on to the 1181-keV $2_1^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ transition [Fig. 5(a)], which indicates that states feeding the 3_1^- state are also among those feeding the 2_1^+ state.

ii) In a second step we have built the γ -ray spectra in coincidence with each of the peaks in the excitation energy spectra. Thus, the gamma rays (registered by the Ge detectors) associated to the second structure between 2 and 3 MeV are displayed in Fig. 6(a). All gamma rays observed in this spectrum are already known [5]. In particular the two

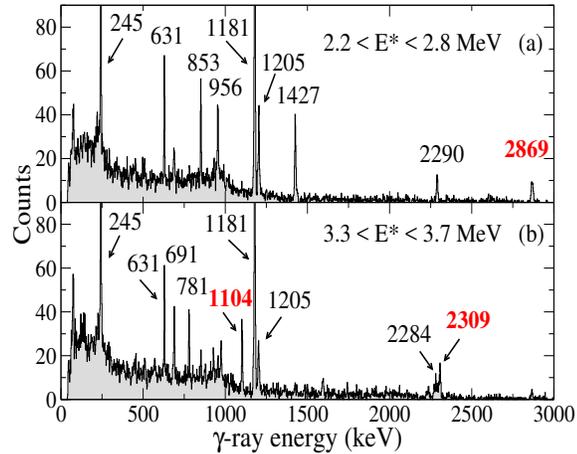


FIG. 6: (Color online) Gamma ray spectra obtained by slices of the $[E^*(^{210}\text{Po}), E_\gamma]$ matrix, (a) $E^* \in [2.2, 2.8]$ MeV, (b) $E^* \in [3.3, 3.7]$ MeV. For clarity reason, the spectra have been vertically expanded, the peaks at 1181 keV ($2_1^+ \rightarrow 0^+$) and 245 keV ($4_1^+ \rightarrow 2_1^+$) are therefore cut. The new transitions observed in this work are labeled in bold.

transitions of 1205 keV ($3_1^- \rightarrow 2_1^+$) and 1427 keV ($0_2^+ \rightarrow 2_1^+$) are clearly visible, which confirms that this second structure of Fig. 5(a) does contain the 3_1^- (at $E^*=2387$ keV) and 0_2^+ (at $E^*=2609$ keV) states decaying via these two transitions. It is also worth noting that the newly identified 2869-keV $2_3^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ transition is present in this spectrum too. However the 1664- and 459-keV gamma rays de-exciting the 3_2^- state at 2846 keV are not present in this spectrum. This will be discussed in the next section.

The gamma rays associated with the ~ 3.5 MeV excitation-energy peak are displayed in Fig. 6(b). In addition to all the already known transitions, two new gamma rays are observed, with energies of 1103.5(15) and 2309(2) keV. These two energies perfectly match with a unique level that would be located at 3490(2) keV, and de-exciting towards both the 2_1^+ and the 3_1^- states with 45(8)% and 55(8)% of the decay, respectively. It is worth pointing out that no low-spin level corresponding to this energy is known in the literature [5]. One level is reported at 3.477 MeV but it decays only to a 8^+ state. Two other levels stand at 3429 keV and 3525 keV, but they have well-established spins and parities of 5^- and 6^- . Furthermore none of their known gamma de-excitations are present in our gamma-ray spectrum displayed in Fig. 6(b).

iii) In a third step we have analyzed the excitation-energy spectra of the states associated with these

two new gamma rays, displayed in Fig. 5(c,d). Only the peak at $E^*=3.5$ MeV is observed when gating on either transition. Thus, the two transitions must be associated with the de-excitation of this level at 3.5 MeV. The two spectra also prove that this level is populated directly in the $2p$ stripping reaction.

IV. DISCUSSION

In this section we discuss now the spin and configuration assignments of the newly discovered states. Concerning the states decaying to the 0^+ ground state *via* gamma emission (see section III A), only spin values of 1, 2, or 3 may be considered *a priori*. Moreover, because of the reaction mechanism used in this work ($2p$ transfer) only natural-parity states ($\pi = +$ for even spins, $\pi = -$ for odd spins) can be directly populated [11]. The direct population of non-natural-parity states is only possible through a two-step process involving a ^{208}Pb excited state, which is unlikely. And indeed it is the case: the known 2394-keV $1^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ M1 transition is not present in the spectra, its direct population being not allowed. Therefore, from an experimental point of view, the possible assignments to the newly observed states are: 1^- , 2^+ , or 3^- . One may also exclude 3^- assignments, since the de-excitations of all known 3^- levels in ^{210}Po do not populate directly the 0^+ ground state through $E3$ transitions, but proceed through $E1$ transitions to the 2_1^+ level at 1181 keV.

In order to go further, we will now examine the shell model (SM) calculations which should well describe the expected low-spin states in ^{210}Po . Dedicated shell model calculations for the $N = 126$ isotones ^{210}Po , ^{211}At , and ^{212}Rn were performed by Coraggio *et al.* using a realistic effective interaction, with an excellent agreement with the experimental findings [12]. We also performed shell model calculations with the NuShellX code [13], using the "jj67pn" interaction and the "khp" model space, in which the proton valence orbits outside a ^{208}Pb core are successively: $0h_{9/2}$, $1f_{7/2}$, $1f_{5/2}$, $2p_{3/2}$, $p_{1/2}$, and $0i_{13/2}$. We performed the present calculations in order to extend the results published in Ref. [12], especially for the 2^+ excited states. In this full valence space, 92 states originating from 21 possible two-proton configurations are calculated: 62 with positive parity, and 30 with negative parity. Among the negative-parity states, it is worth noting that there are no possible 1^-

states from the two-proton configurations in the valence space. Among the positive-parity states, twelve 2^+ states are predicted. All these 2^+ states are listed in Table I for the sake of completeness, bearing in mind that the considered valence space is certainly no more relevant for the highly-excited 2_{8-12}^+ calculated levels.

TABLE I: Experimental ([5] and this work in bold) and calculated excitation energies of the 2^+ two-proton states in ^{210}Po . For each state, the main component of the SM configuration is displayed.

Level	E^* (keV)		SM configuration main component
	SM	Expt	
2_1^+	1200	1181	$(h_{9/2})^2$ (96%)
2_2^+	2370	2290	$h_{9/2} \otimes f_{7/2}$ (94%)
2_3^+	2923	2869(3)	$(f_{7/2})^2$ (83%)
2_4^+	3848	3763(20)	$h_{9/2} \otimes f_{5/2}$ (63%)
2_5^+	4557	4170(20)	$(i_{13/2})^2$ (67%)
2_6^+	5164	4943(50)*	$f_{7/2} \otimes p_{3/2}$ (60%)
2_7^+	5228	4943(50)*	$f_{7/2} \otimes f_{5/2}$ (66%)
2_8^+	7111		$(f_{5/2})^2$ (93%)
2_9^+	7476		$f_{5/2} \otimes p_{3/2}$ (74%)
2_{10}^+	7530		$(p_{3/2})^2$ (69%)
2_{11}^+	7901		$f_{5/2} \otimes p_{1/2}$ (81%)
2_{12}^+	8110		$p_{3/2} \otimes p_{1/2}$ (75%)

* unresolved

Combining both the present experimental and theoretical information, we are confident to safely assign 2^+ configurations for all the new states established by their $E2$ de-exciting transitions to the ground state, as indicated in Table I. In particular, the 2^+ state of the $(f_{7/2})^2$ configuration is now clearly established at 2869 keV.

According to [3], the highest (2^+) level observed in ^{210}Po is located at 3792(4) keV, with a $h_{9/2} \otimes f_{5/2}$ assignment. Our results suggest a 3763(20)-keV energy for the $h_{9/2} \otimes f_{5/2}$ 2^+ state. In the original work of R. Groleau *et al.* [3], this (2^+) assignment was based on the ratio value of the cross sections measured at two angles, but the value reported at 40° seems questionable. It is not possible to conclude without further experimental investigations if this is the same state.

The other new excited 2^+ states cannot be found in the literature. It is worth noting that our experimental energies are very close to the calculated ones displayed in Table I. The experimental energy of the $(i_{13/2})^2$ 2^+ state has the largest discrepancy (387 keV) with the calculations. This claims for more theoretical investigations, especially in the $(i_{13/2})^2$ two-body matrix elements. The possible two states composing the broad structure at

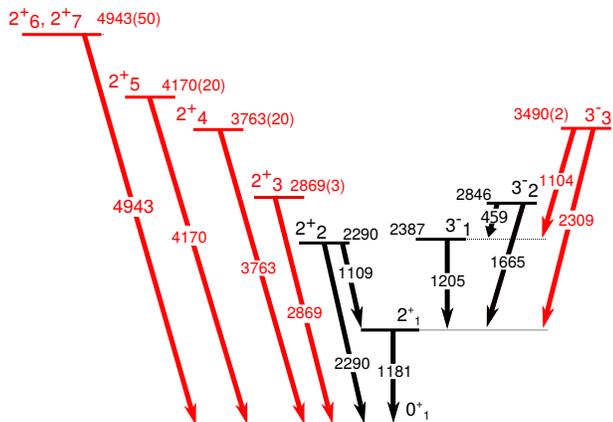


FIG. 7: (Color online) Partial level scheme of ^{210}Po exhibiting all the known 2^+ and 3^- excited states. Levels and γ rays identified in this work are displayed in color. All arrow widths are identical and do not represent the relative γ intensities.

4.94 MeV can be assigned to the two 2^+ states of $f_{7/2} \otimes p_{3/2}$ and $f_{7/2} \otimes f_{5/2}$ two-proton configurations.

Similarly, spin and parity assignments $J^\pi = 3^-$ are proposed to the new level established at 3490-keV excitation energy (see section III B), based on one hand on the J^π values of the levels fed by its de-excitation, and on the other hand by the fact that only natural-parity states can be directly populated, excluding 1^+ , 2^- , and 3^+ assignments. This 3^- state is very likely the one expected from the $\pi f_{7/2} \otimes i_{13/2}$ configuration. It is in very good agreement with the calculated state, the experimental energy being 87 keV lower than

the calculated one at 3577 keV. It is worth noting that among the two possible two-proton 3^- states ($h_{9/2} \otimes i_{13/2}$ and $f_{7/2} \otimes i_{13/2}$), only the latter, lying at ~ 650 keV above the former, is evidenced in our work. This may be explained by the difference in transferred angular momentum leading to the population of the respective states. This feature is also observed in the higher population of the $(f_{7/2})^2 2^+_3$ state than the population of the $(h_{9/2})^2 2^+_1$ yrast state. All the levels established in this work are displayed in Fig. 7.

V. SUMMARY

In the analysis of the $^{208}\text{Pb}(^{12}\text{C}, ^{10}\text{Be})$ two-proton stripping reaction, new information have been obtained on the structure of ^{210}Po . All possible 2^+ states issued from the valence two-proton configurations are now established through their gamma de-excitation towards the 0^+ ground state up to ~ 5 MeV excitation energy. Furthermore, the expected two-proton 3^- level originating from the $f_{7/2} \otimes i_{13/2}$ configuration has been very likely localized at 3490 keV excitation energy. It would be important to study again this reaction with much larger statistics in order to obtain precise, quantitative comparisons of the ^{210}Po populations obtained by $2p$ and $1p$ stripping reactions.

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