

## Reexamination of isoscalar giant resonances in $^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{93}\text{Nb}$ through $^6\text{Li}$ scattering

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Inelastic  $^6\text{Li}$  scattering at 100 MeV/u on  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  has been measured with the high-resolution magnetic spectrometer Grand Raiden. The magnetic-rigidity settings of the spectrometer covered excitation energies from 10 to 40 MeV and scattering angles in the range  $0^\circ < \theta_{\text{lab}} < 2^\circ$ . The isoscalar giant monopole resonance was selectively excited in the present data. Measurements free of instrumental background and the very favorable resonance-to-continuum ratio of  $^6\text{Li}$  scattering allowed for precise determination of the  $E0$  strengths in  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{93}\text{Nb}$ . It was found that the monopole strength in  $^{12}\text{C}$  exhausts  $52 \pm 3^{(\text{stat.})} \pm 8^{(\text{sys.})}\%$  of the energy-weighted sum rule (EWSR), which is considerably higher than results from previous  $\alpha$ -scattering experiments. The monopole strength in  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  exhausts  $92 \pm 4^{(\text{stat.})} \pm 10^{(\text{sys.})}\%$  of the EWSR, and it is consistent with measurements of nuclei with mass number of  $A \approx 90$ . Such comparison indicates that the isoscalar giant monopole resonance distributions in these nuclei are very similar, and no influence due to nuclear structure was observed.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The incompressibility of nuclear matter  $K_{\text{nm}}$  is a fundamental quantity and an important parameter of the nuclear equation of state (EoS) with significant consequences in theories of nucleus-nucleus collisions [1], astrophysical phenomena such as supernova explosions, and properties of dense objects like neutron stars [2]. Measurements of the isoscalar giant monopole resonance (ISGMR) in combination with microscopic calculations provide an effective method to constrain experimentally the nuclear-matter incompressibility [3–5].

Due to the scalar-isoscalar nature of the  $\alpha$  particle, compression modes such as ISGMR are predominantly excited in inelastic  $\alpha$ -scattering experiments at small angles. The use of the  $\alpha$ -particle probe is a well-established technique that has been extensively employed in the investigation of isoscalar giant resonances in a wide range of nuclei [6–13]. Also,  $d$  and  $^6\text{Li}$  probes have been used in the past, with similar good results, in studies of isoscalar giant resonances [14,15]. In particular,  $^6\text{Li}$  experiments have an important advantage because of the better ratio between the resonance peak and the continuum [16]. As  $^6\text{Li}$  has a low particle emission threshold ( $S_\alpha = 1.47$  MeV), the breakup probability of the projectile is enhanced with the dominant channel  $d + \alpha$ . This reduces considerably the background component from the continuum and provides a better way to extract the giant resonance strengths. In addition to the continuum background, usually

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in inelastic scattering experiments at scattering angles near  $0^\circ$ , instrumental background is also present due to beam halo or scattering of unreacted beam near the focal plane of the spectrometer. Sometimes, the combination of the continuum and instrumental background is subtracted through a parametrization [10,11,15,17]. However, this parametrization carries a significant systematic error, which is difficult to estimate and can result in a substantial uncertainty in the extracted giant resonance parameters. Alternatively, the instrumental background can be subtracted by operating the spectrometer used for detecting the inelastically scattered particles in a double-focusing mode [13,18–21]. In this mode, the background events exhibit a broad (and usually flat) distribution as a function of the nondispersive angle, while events due to scattering from target have a pronounced distribution that peak at  $0^\circ$ . By using a sideband analysis, excitation-energy spectra can be extracted from which the instrumental background has been reliably removed [13,18–21]. The contributions from giant resonances associated with different units of angular-momentum transfer are then obtained by using a multipole decomposition analysis (see below).

In this work, the ISGMRs in  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  were investigated via  $^6\text{Li}$  scattering experiments. Although the  $E0$  strength of  $^{12}\text{C}$  has been studied in the past by using different probes ( $^3\text{He}$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $^6\text{Li}$ ) [22–25], the impact of the background subtraction on the extracted multipole strengths is still not well understood. In the  $^6\text{Li}$  experiment reported here, no instrumental background was present in the measurements around  $0^\circ$  scattering angle, and a subtraction through a parametrization of the instrumental background or through a sideband analysis was not necessary. In combination with the favorable ratio of resonance-to-continuum background, the  $E0$  transition strengths could be reliably extracted. Also, recent  $\alpha$ -scattering measurements on  $A \approx 90$  nuclei opened a discussion about the nuclear-structure influence on the centroid energy of the ISGMR for nuclei in this mass region [21,26]. The  $^{93}\text{Nb}(^6\text{Li}, ^6\text{Li}')$  data presented here provide an additional evaluation of the  $E0$  strength on an odd-even nucleus in this region. By using a different probe and given the favorable background conditions for the  $(^6\text{Li}, ^6\text{Li}')$  reaction, it was possible to unambiguously settle the discussion about structure effects in the  $A \approx 90$  region.

## II. EXPERIMENT

Inelastic scattering of  $^6\text{Li}$  particles was measured at the Research Center for Nuclear Physics (RCNP), Osaka University. The present data are part of a  $(^6\text{Li}, ^6\text{Li}' + \gamma)$  experiment to investigate the isovector spin-transfer response as a probe of the isovector magnetic dipole transition strengths in the inelastic-scattering channel [27]. In that experiment, not only  $^6\text{Li}' + \gamma$  events but also singles  $^6\text{Li}'$  events were recorded, the latter of which we report here. Note that the contribution from isovector excitations in the singles data is very small compared to the isoscalar excitations, as discussed in detail in Ref. [27]. In the experiment, a  $^6\text{Li}$  beam was accelerated via the coupled operation of the azimuthally varying field (AVF) and ring cyclotrons to an energy of 100 MeV/u. The beam was transported achromatically to the reaction

targets with an energy spread of 1.5 MeV in full width at half maximum (FWHM). The beam intensity was monitored throughout the measurements and was approximately 1 p nA. The targets were self-supported 15.2-mg/cm<sup>2</sup>-thick  $^{nat}\text{C}$  and 10.9-mg/cm<sup>2</sup>-thick  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  foils. Inelastically scattered  $^6\text{Li}$  particles were momentum analyzed and identified with the high-resolution magnetic spectrometer Grand Raiden [28], which was placed at  $0^\circ$  relative to the beam axis. The unreacted beam was stopped in a  $0^\circ$  Faraday cup, which was placed 12 m downstream of the focal plane.

The Grand Raiden focal-plane detectors consisted of two position-sensitive multiwire drift chambers (MWDCs) and three plastic scintillators [27]. These detectors enabled the identification of the scattered particles as well as the reconstruction of their trajectories. The overall detection efficiency for  $^6\text{Li}$  particles was 74%. This value was determined at the beginning of the experiment by injecting a very low intensity beam into the focal plane of Grand Raiden. By combining the positions in each MWDC, the angles in the dispersive and nondispersive directions were determined. A calibration measurement by using a sieve slit was used for the determination of the parameters of a ray-trace matrix for reconstructing scattering angles at the target from position and angle measurements in the focal plane [29]. The ion optics of the spectrometer was tuned to run in the underfocus mode [30] to optimize simultaneously the angular resolutions in the dispersive [2.8-mrad (FWHM)] and nondispersive [10.3-mrad (FWHM)] planes. The momentum reconstruction of the  $^6\text{Li}$  ejectiles was calibrated by measuring the elastic-scattering peak from the  $^{93}\text{Nb}(^6\text{Li}, ^6\text{Li})$  reaction at several magnetic rigidities.

The plastic scintillators in the focal plane (with thicknesses of 3, 10, and 10 mm) served to extract energy-loss signals and the time of flight (ToF) that was measured relative to the radio-frequency signal of the azimuthally-varying-field (AVF) cyclotron. A 12-mm aluminum plate was placed in between the second and the third scintillators in order to improve the particle-identification capabilities.  $^6\text{Li}$  particles were stopped in this plate, whereas  $d$  and  $\alpha$  particles from  $^6\text{Li}$  breakup punched through and deposited energy in the third scintillator. Therefore, a veto signal from this detector was used to remove the contribution from  $^6\text{Li}$  breakup in the offline analysis.

Inelastic scattering measurements at angles in the range of  $0^\circ < \theta_{\text{lab.}} < 2^\circ$  were achieved. The magnetic-rigidity settings of the spectrometer covered excitation energies ( $E_x$ ) from 10 to 40 MeV. Absolute cross sections were determined on the basis of calibration runs in which the beam intensity was measured with a Faraday cup inserted before the reaction target in between runs. The normalizations from these calibration data were then applied to the other runs. The uncertainty in the absolute cross sections determined with this procedure was estimated at 20%, which was dominated by the read-out accuracy of the Faraday cup in the calibration runs due to the relatively low current.

## III. DATA ANALYSIS

Double-differential cross sections for inelastic scattering off  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  were binned into 0.5-MeV wide intervals in  $E_x$ . The angular acceptance was divided into  $0.5^\circ$ -wide bins

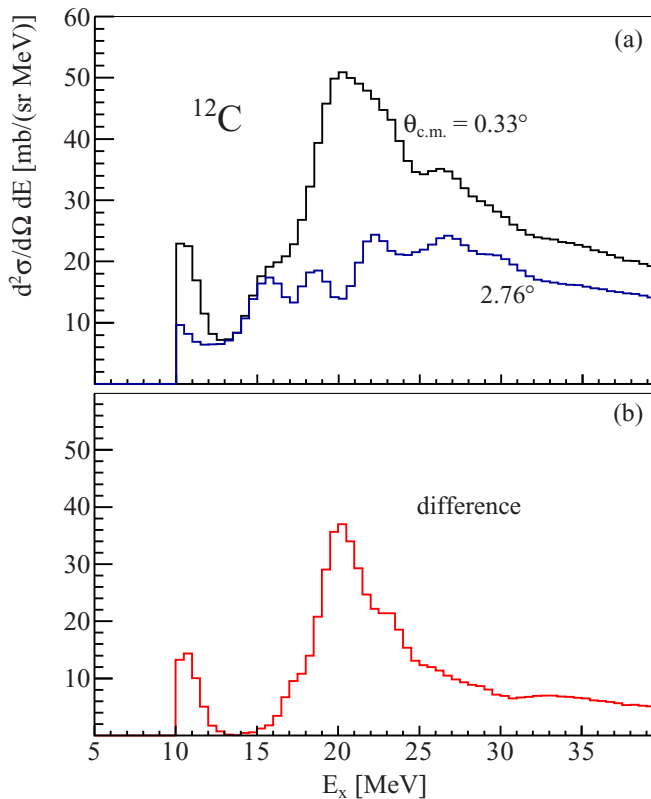


FIG. 1. Double-differential cross section for the ( $^6\text{Li}$ ,  $^6\text{Li}'$ ) reaction on  $^{12}\text{C}$ . (a) Spectra for scattering angles at  $0.33^\circ$  (close to the ISGMR maximum) and  $2.76^\circ$  (near the first minimum of the ISGMR angular distribution). (b) The difference between the above two spectra, which represents the ISGMR cross section in  $^{12}\text{C}$ .

covering scattering angles up to  $2^\circ$  in the laboratory frame. Figures 1(a) and 2(a) show examples of double-differential cross sections at different scattering angles for  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{93}\text{Nb}$ , respectively. Note that inelastically scattered  $^6\text{Li}$  particles for  $E_x < 10$  MeV were not detected because of the magnetic rigidity settings of the spectrometer. A rough estimate for the monopole contribution to the excitation energy spectra can be obtained by subtracting the spectrum around the angle where the first minimum of the ISGMR angular distribution is expected from the spectrum near  $0^\circ$  scattering angle (where the ISGMR strength is maximal) [31]. As all the other multipolarities have relatively flat distributions in this angular region, the difference spectrum more or less represents the ISGMR cross section [see Figs. 1(b) and 2(b)]. Clearly, the monopole contributions to the measured excitation-energy spectra at forward scattering angles are very strong.

A more quantitative way to extract the giant resonance strengths is from a multipole-decomposition analysis (MDA) [17]. The MDA was performed for each bin in  $E_x$  by fitting the differential cross section with a linear combination of distorted-wave Born approximation (DWBA) distributions for angular momentum transfers of  $\Delta L = 0-3$ . These theoretical cross sections were obtained assuming 100% exhaustion of the energy-weighted sum rule (EWSR) for each multipole. The DWBA calculations were performed with

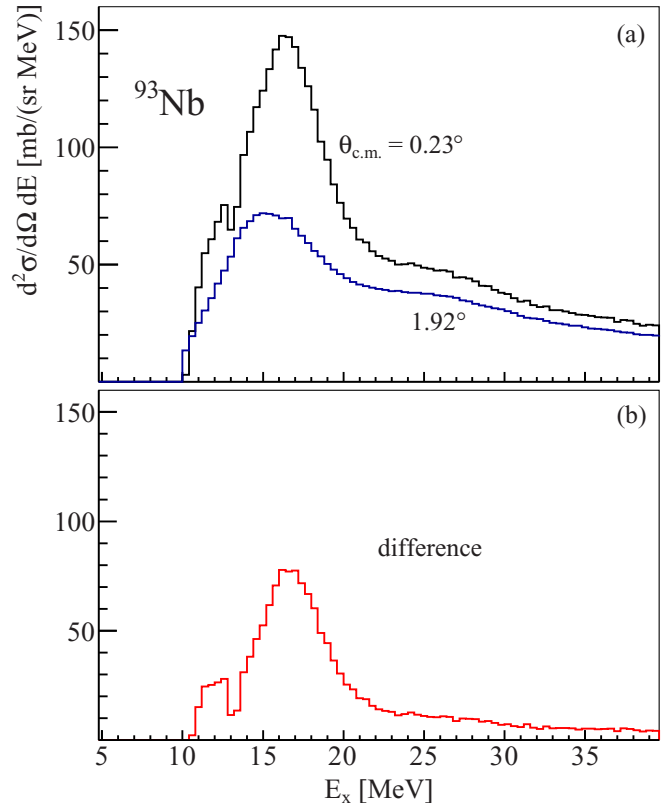


FIG. 2. Double-differential cross section for the ( $^6\text{Li}$ ,  $^6\text{Li}'$ ) reaction on  $^{93}\text{Nb}$ . (a) Spectra for scattering angles at  $0.23^\circ$  (close to the ISGMR maximum) and  $1.92^\circ$  (near the first minimum of the ISGMR angular distribution). (b) The difference between the above two spectra, which represents the ISGMR cross section in  $^{93}\text{Nb}$ .

the code CHUCK3 [32]. The transition potentials were obtained using a double-folding formalism with the M3Y-Paris nucleon-nucleon interaction [33]. A density-dependent term (BDM3Y1) was included to account for the reduction of the strength of the interaction as the density of the medium increases [34]. The ground-state density distribution used in the folding analysis for  $^{12}\text{C}$  was taken from Ref. [35], while for  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  it was taken from Ref. [36]. The depths of the resulting optical model potentials (OMPs) were adjusted to fit the elastic scattering data from Ref. [37] ( $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{90}\text{Zr}$ ). The systematic uncertainty due to the choice of the OMP in the MDA was estimated to be 2%. Parametrizations for the transition densities, sum rules, and deformation factors employed in this analysis are described in Ref. [38].

As the isovector giant dipole resonance (IVGDR) can also be excited in inelastic scattering of an isoscalar probe [39,40], this small component of the cross section (below 10% of the total at energies from 10 to 25 MeV) was subtracted from each angular distribution before performing the MDA. The IVGDR contribution was calculated on the basis of the Goldhaber-Teller model [38] in conjunction with photonuclear cross-section data [41]. The isovector spin-transfer response in the present data was studied by tagging the inelastic-scattering channel with the 3.56 MeV decay  $\gamma$  ray, as discussed in Ref. [27]. However, it was shown that this contribution is

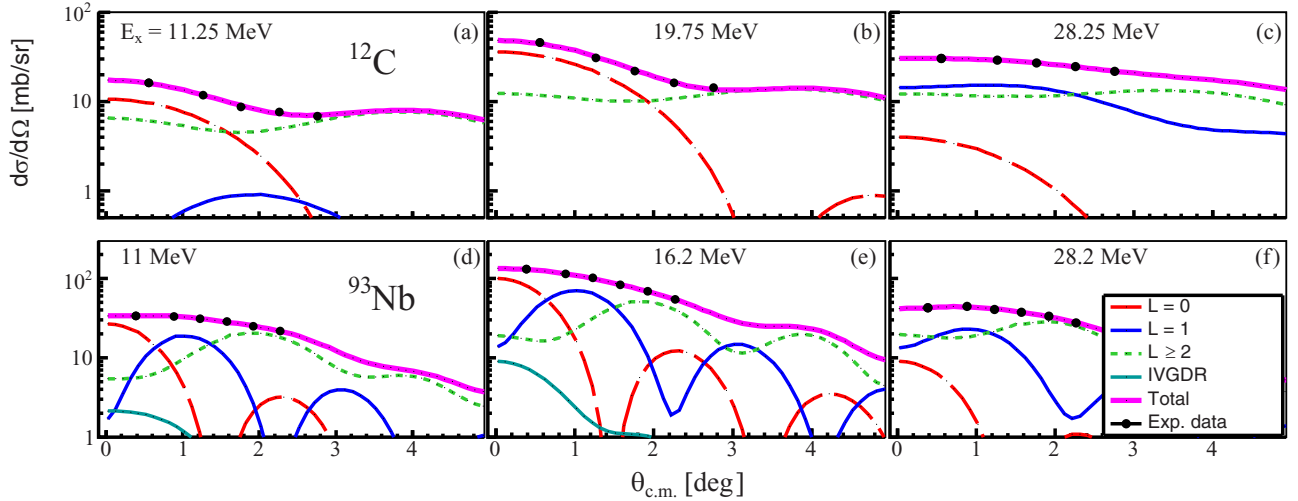


FIG. 3. Angular distributions for the ( ${}^6\text{Li}$ ,  ${}^6\text{Li}'$ ) reaction on  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  (top) and  ${}^{93}\text{Nb}$  (bottom) at different excitation energies. The experimental data were fitted with MDA using DWBA calculations for angular-momentum transfers of  $\Delta L = 0-3$ . The contribution of the IVGDR in  ${}^{93}\text{Nb}$  was subtracted from the data before applying the MDA (see the text for details).

small (less than 10%) in comparison with the excitation of isoscalar giant resonances, and does not significantly impact the present analysis.

Figure 3 shows the multipole components fitted to angular distributions at different selected  $E_x$  for  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  (top) and  ${}^{93}\text{Nb}$  (bottom). The double-differential cross sections for different angular bins as a function of  $E_x$  are shown in Fig. 4. The stacked histograms represent the contributions of each multipolarity extracted from the MDA. As can be seen, the  $L = 0$  component for each nucleus is dominant at very forward angles. The monopole strength in the excitation-energy spectrum for  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  is concentrated in the range from 14 to 30 MeV. The cross section in this region has an asymmetric distribution with a maximum around  $E_x = 20$  MeV, which is very similar to Fig. 1(b). The monopole cross section for  ${}^{93}\text{Nb}$  extends from 10 to 32 MeV with a weighted mean value at 17.5 MeV.

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. ${}^{12}\text{C}$

In light nuclei, the  $L = 0$  strength distributions are usually fragmented over a wide energy range and only exhaust a small fraction of the EWSR [10,25,42,43]. As can be noticed from Fig. 4, the  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  monopole cross section has a fragment below  $E_x = 14$  MeV, similar to that observed in  $\alpha$ -scattering experiments [25,44]. The multipole strength of  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  below 14 MeV was studied in Ref. [44], where a  $2^+$  state was found at  $E_x \approx 10$  MeV submerged into a broad  $0^+$  peak. This component may be interpreted as the  $2^+$  excitation of the Hoyle state and the  $\alpha$ -condensate state [44]. Although in the present experiment only excitation energies above 10 MeV could be observed, the data are in excellent agreement with Ref. [44] since a combination of monopole and quadrupole

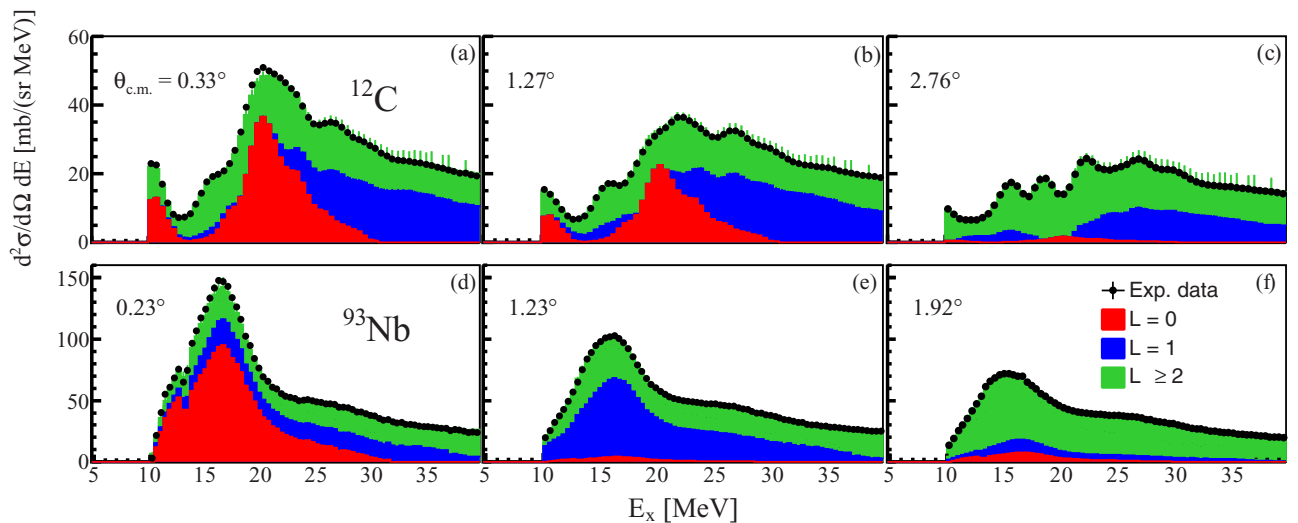


FIG. 4. Double-differential cross sections for  ${}^6\text{Li}$  scattering on  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  (top) and  ${}^{93}\text{Nb}$  (bottom) at different angles. The colors of the stacked histograms represent the contributions from excitations with different angular-momentum transfers.

TABLE I.  $0^+$  and  $2^+$  states in  $^{12}\text{C}$  extracted from the MDA.

Range	Mean $E_x$ (MeV)	RMS width (MeV)	Lit. $E_x$ (MeV)	$L$ ( $\hbar$ )
10.0–14.0	10.56	1.03	10.56 <sup>a</sup>	0
13.8–17.3	15.67	0.86	15.42 <sup>b</sup>	2
17.3–20.1	18.48	0.75	18.90 <sup>b</sup>	2
20.1–24.4	21.97	1.08	22.31 <sup>b</sup>	2
24.4–29.0	26.11	1.67		2

<sup>a</sup>From Ref. [44].

<sup>b</sup>From Ref. [25].

contributions to the excitation-energy spectrum between 10 and 14 MeV were extracted. A fit with a Gaussian function was performed for the peak partially observed at  $E_x \approx 10$  MeV. The fitted peak has a mean value at  $E_x = 10.56$  MeV and RMS (root mean square) width of 1.03 MeV, which is in excellent agreement with the  $0_4^+$  state observed in Ref. [44]. Also, several  $2^+$  states were observed in the  $L = 2$  cross section extracted from the MDA. Table I lists the fitted mean  $E_x$  and RMS width for each state. The same  $2^+$  states were excited in an  $\alpha$ -scattering experiment, as reported in Ref. [25] (see Lit.  $E_x$  column in Table I).

In order to obtain information about the ISGMR it is necessary to extract the  $S_0(E_x)$  strength distribution from the fitted  $a_0(E_x)$  coefficients ( $L = 0$  component at  $E_x$  extracted with MDA) as [5,38]

$$S_0(E_x) = \frac{2\hbar^2 A \langle r^2 \rangle}{m E_x} a_0(E_x), \quad (1)$$

where  $m$ ,  $A$ , and  $\langle r^2 \rangle$  are the nucleon mass, mass number, and the mean-square radius of the ground-state density, respectively. The extracted ISGMR strength distribution for  $^{12}\text{C}$  is presented in Fig. 5. This  $E0$  distribution exhausts  $52 \pm 3^{\text{(stat.)}} \pm 8^{\text{(sys.)}}\%$  of the EWSR in the energy range 10–30 MeV, and  $49 \pm 3^{\text{(stat.)}} \pm 8^{\text{(sys.)}}\%$  from 14 to 30 MeV. The latter value is 22% larger than the 27(5)% reported in Ref. [25] from an  $\alpha$ -scattering experiment. For comparison, the  $(\alpha, \alpha')$  data from that experiment are also plotted in Fig. 5.

As can be seen, the shape of the previously extracted distribution is similar, but a large part of the ISGMR strength is missing above 18 MeV. Apparently, the model employed in Ref. [25] to subtract the continuum + instrumental background strongly affected the extracted multipole strengths and removed contributions at high excitation energy. The maximum of the  $E0$  distribution from ( $^6\text{Li}, ^6\text{Li}'$ ) data is located at  $E_m = 20.2(6)$  MeV, which was obtained from a Lorentzian fit over the  $E_x$  range 14–22 MeV (see Table II). The centroid energy of the ISGMR, which represents the collective frequency of the compression mode, is usually calculated from the ratio of different moments of the distribution. For example, the ISGMR centroid energy can be calculated as  $\sqrt{m_1/m_{-1}}$  (in the hydrodynamical model) or  $\sqrt{m_3/m_1}$  (in the generalized scaling model), where  $m_k$  is the  $k$ th moment of the distribution defined as  $m_k = \sum_i E_i^k S_0(E_i)$  [46]. The respective centroids, calculated in the energy range from 10 to 30 MeV, are presented in Table II.

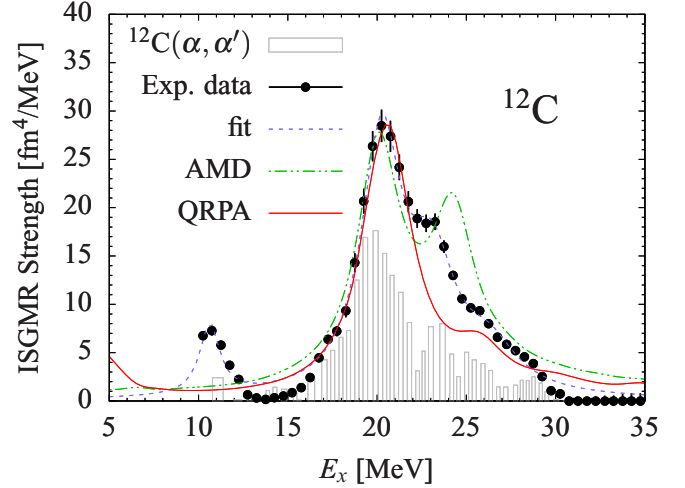


FIG. 5. ISGMR strength of  $^{12}\text{C}$ . The data are compared with results from a  $^{12}\text{C}(\alpha, \alpha')$  experiment reported in Ref. [25]. The dashed line is a sum of multiple Lorentzian functions fitted to the data (see Table II). The dash-dotted line corresponds to a theoretical calculation based on antisymmetrized molecular dynamics extracted from Ref. [45]. The solid red line is a QRPA calculation (shifted by a constant factor  $\Delta = 1$  MeV) as described in the text.

A small bump in the  $^{12}\text{C}$  monopole distribution is observed at  $E_x = 23.1$  MeV. The location of this bump is also consistent with the  $(\alpha, \alpha')$  data, as can be seen in Fig. 5. The existence of a second peak in the ISGMR around this energy has been predicted from antisymmetrized molecular dynamics (AMD) calculations in Ref. [45]. The calculation was scaled and folded with a Lorentzian distribution (2 MeV width to account for the energy spread at high excitation energy) for a better comparison with the data (see Fig. 5). Note that the AMD calculation already has 1 MeV width that comes from a time filter applied to compensate for the finite integration in the Fourier transform [45]. The qualitatively good agreement of this model with the data is an indication of an  $\alpha$ -cluster oscillation component at high excitation energies. In this theoretical approach, the  $^{12}\text{C}$  monopole resonance

TABLE II. EWSR, Lorentzian fitted parameters and energy moments of the ISGMR strengths for  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{93}\text{Nb}$ . Only statistical uncertainties are included.

Nucleus	Range (MeV)	EWSR (%)	$E_m$ (MeV)	$\Gamma$ (MeV)	$\sqrt{m_1/m_{-1}}$ (MeV)	$\sqrt{m_3/m_1}$ (MeV)
$^{12}\text{C}$	10.0–30.0	52(3)	21.2(4) <sup>a</sup>		20.7(6)	22.2(8)
	10.0–14.0	1.5(3)	10.6(1)	1.4(3)		
	14.0–22.0	27(2)	20.2(7)	2.7(2)		
	22.0–25.0	16(1)	23.1(2)	3.1(9)		
	25.0–30.0	7.5(5)	26.3(6)	3.8(9)		
$^{93}\text{Nb}$	10.0–32.0	92(4)	18.6(1) <sup>a</sup>		17.5(1)	19.9(1)
	10.0–14.0	3.2(3)	12.3(1)	0.9(4)		
	14.0–20.0	58(4)	16.8(1)	5.7(3)		
	20.0–32.0	31(3)	25.1(4)	7.6(9)		

<sup>a</sup>Weighted mean value.

can be understood as a combination of a coherent vibration (breathing mode) and an oscillation of three  $\alpha$  clusters around the center of the nucleus in a triangular structure. In the AMD, the  $\alpha$ -cluster vibration is observed as a common translation in the radial component of the single-particle wave functions with respect to their ground-state value. The breathing mode is obtained by the dynamical evolution of the widths of the single-particle wave functions (fermionic molecular dynamics).

The microscopic mean-field-based quasiparticle random-phase approximation (QRPA) provides a good description of the collective states in nuclei [47]. A consistent axially-symmetric-deformed Hartree-Fock-Bogolyubov (HFB) + QRPA approach using the D1M Gogny interaction [48,49] has been employed to calculate the ISGMR strength of  $^{12}\text{C}$ . Here, the single-particle wave functions are expanded on an optimized harmonic oscillator basis. In this approach, the intrinsic deformation of  $^{12}\text{C}$  ground state ( $\beta = -0.4$ ) was predicted by the HFB calculations as the minimum of the potential energy surface. The resulting model space configuration allowed to build coherent two-quasiparticle (2-qp) excitations and the respective transition probabilities in the QRPA calculation. The QRPA energies were shifted by a constant factor  $\Delta = 1$  MeV to account for a small energy displacement originated in the coupling between qp states and phonons. This effect has been systematically observed in comparisons to the giant dipole resonance peak with D1M + QRPA calculations for a wide range of nuclei [50,51]. The resulting QRPA monopole distribution was folded with a Lorentzian function of 3 MeV width, as shown in Fig. 5 (solid line). As can be seen, the calculation is fairly consistent with the experimental data. The deformation effects lead to a double-peak distribution concentrated in energies from 15 to 30 MeV. In particular, the calculation successfully describes the data around the centroid energy and also the asymmetric tail at high excitation energies.

### B. $^{93}\text{Nb}$

The ISGMR strength extracted for  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  is presented in Fig. 6. In contrast with  $^{12}\text{C}$ , the ISGMR distribution of  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  is not fragmented. Almost all  $E0$  strength of  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  is concentrated around 17 MeV, exhausting  $92 \pm 4^{(\text{stat.})} \pm 10^{(\text{sys.})}\%$  of the EWSR in the energy range 10–32 MeV. Recently, ISGMR studies in the  $A \approx 90$  region suggest a significant dependence of the centroid energy on nuclear structure in these nuclei [26]. However, the results from a different experiment [21] indicate that the fluctuations of the ISGMR centroids for nuclei in this region are too small to invoke a shell-structure effect. The  $E0$  strength of  $^{92}\text{Mo}$  extracted from  $\alpha$  scattering in Ref. [21] is also plotted in Fig. 6 for a better comparison with our results. As can be seen, the present data are quite consistent with this  $^{92}\text{Mo}$  ISGMR distribution. The  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  distribution at low energy (between 10 to 14 MeV) exhibits a larger strength (about 3% more of the EWSR). It has been observed that in deformed nuclei the ISGMR strength separates into two components because of the coupling to the isoscalar giant quadrupole resonance [18,38,52]. Thus, the small  $E0$  component at low energy ( $\approx 12$  MeV) in  $^{93}\text{Nb}$

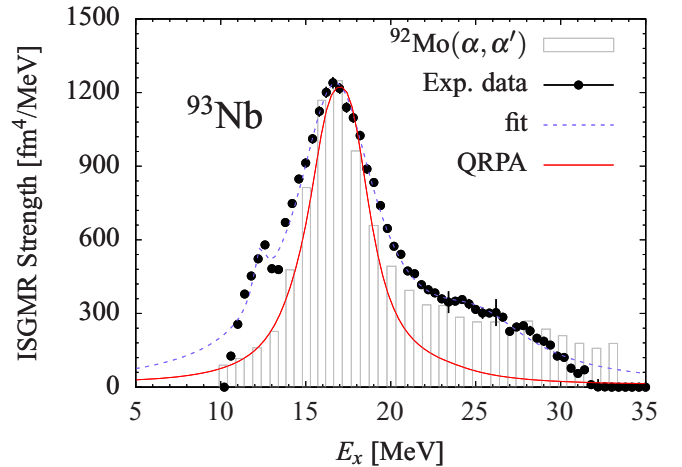


FIG. 6. ISGMR strength of  $^{93}\text{Nb}$ . The data are compared with results from a  $^{92}\text{Mo}(\alpha, \alpha')$  experiment reported in Ref. [21]. The dashed line is a sum of multiple Lorentzian functions fitted to the data (see Table II). The solid red line corresponds to a QRPA calculation (shifted by a constant factor  $\Delta = 1$  MeV) as described in the text.

can possibly be associated with deformation effects on the ISGMR distribution, similar to the recent results for the neutron-rich  $^{94,96}\text{Mo}$  nuclei [53]. Nevertheless, the deformation effects are negligible for a comparison with the ISGMR centroid energies of  $A \approx 90$  nuclei, as seen in Fig. 6 and also suggested in Ref. [53].

A Lorentzian fit over the  $E_x$  range 11–24 MeV gives a centroid located at 16.8(1) MeV (see Table II), which is in good agreement with the results for the even-even  $^{90,92}\text{Zr}$  and  $^{92,94,96}\text{Mo}$  nuclei from Refs. [21,53]. The high energy region of the spectrum was fitted with a Lorentzian function centered at  $E_x = 25.1(4)$  MeV, which contains 31(3)% of the EWSR (about one third of the total strength). This result is similar to the  $E0$  strength of  $^{92}\text{Zr}$  in Ref. [26], but inconsistent with all the other distributions of  $A \approx 90$  nuclei from the same reference. In contrast, results from Refs. [21,53] show a similar contribution at the high-energy region for several  $A \approx 90$  nuclei, which are in agreement with the present result for  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  (see Fig. 6).

The nuclear incompressibility extracted from the  $\sqrt{(m_3/m_1)}$  centroid in the scaling model for  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  corresponds to  $K_A = 178(2)$  MeV, and it is also consistent within the error bars with the values reported in Refs. [21,53]. Therefore, the present results confirm that the nuclear structure does not have a significant impact on the ISGMR strength distribution in the  $A \approx 90$  region, even for the odd-even  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  nucleus.

The ISGMR strength of  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  was also calculated by using a fully consistent axially-symmetric-deformed HFB + QRPA approach with the D1M Gogny interaction. The HFB ground state was obtained with the blocking technique for  $K^\pi = 9/2^+$ , and an oblate deformation ( $\beta = -0.02$ ) that minimized the potential energy. The calculation was performed on a harmonic oscillator basis that includes 13 major shells to reduce by 1 MeV the energy shift between the experimental and theoretical results [50]. Coupling between monopole and quadrupole states was enabled in order to account for splitting

effects in the  $E0$  strength. Similarly to the adopted procedure for the QRPA calculation of  $^{12}\text{C}$ , the energies were shifted by a constant factor of  $\Delta = 1\text{ MeV}$  and the strength was folded with a Lorentzian function of 3 MeV width to compare with the experimental data. The QRPA result for the ISGMR strength of  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  is presented in Fig. 6. As can be seen, the calculation is consistent with the experimental data. As usual, the QRPA reproduces well the centroid energy and total strength of the giant resonance but not the width. To reproduce the total width of the ISGMR, it would be necessary to enlarge the configuration space by adding 4-qp excitations [54,55].

## V. SUMMARY

Inelastic scattering of  $^6\text{Li}$  particles at 100 MeV/u off  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  have been measured at scattering angles between  $0^\circ$  and  $2^\circ$ . Measurements free of instrumental background and the very favorable resonance-to-continuum ratio of  $^6\text{Li}$  scattering enabled the precise extraction of the ISGMR distribution in  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{93}\text{Nb}$ . A multipole-decomposition analysis was performed in the excitation-energy range from 10 to 35 MeV to extract the contributions from transitions associated with the transfer of different units of angular momentum transfer. The isoscalar  $E0$  strength was strongly excited in the angular range covered in the present experiment. The ISGMR distribution obtained from the  $^{12}\text{C}$  data exhausts 22% more of the EWSR than previous measurements with  $\alpha$  scattering have reported. The difference is likely due to the method previously employed to remove background from the data. The present data are qualitatively well described by an AMD calculation that takes into account vibration modes from three  $\alpha$  clusters,

and also by an axially-symmetric-deformed HFB + QRPA calculation.

The extracted  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  ISGMR strength is concentrated at  $E_x = 17\text{ MeV}$  and exhausts  $92 \pm 4^{\text{(stat.)}} \pm 10^{\text{(sys.)}}\%$  of the EWSR in the energy range 10–32 MeV. About 4% of the strength is located in a small bump at 13 MeV, which can be associated with a deformation of the ISGMR. The  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  ISGMR distribution was compared with other results from  $A \approx 90$  nuclei. The centroid energies of the  $E0$  distributions from these nuclei are consistent, and no nuclear-structure effects were observed for the ISGMR energy location. A large-scale deformed QRPA calculation was performed to obtain the  $^{93}\text{Nb}$  monopole strength. This theoretical calculation is consistent with the experimental data.

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