Low-energy dipole excitations in ^{20}O with antisymmetrized molecular dynamics

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Low-energy dipole (LED) excitations in ^{20}O were investigated by variation after K projection of deformation (β)-constraint antisymmetrized molecular dynamics combined with the generator coordinate method. A low-energy $E1$ mode, which is caused by surface neutron oscillation along the prolate deformation was obtained as the 1_2^- state. Moreover, a toroidal dipole (TD) mode with vortical nuclear current was obtained as the 1_1^- state with one-proton excitation on the relatively weak deformation. The low-energy $E1$ mode is a LED excitation peculiar to neutron-rich systems that does not appear in stable oxygen isotopes, whereas the TD (vortical) mode is a LED excitation that was obtained also in ^{16}O and ^{18}O. The TD and $E1$ modes separately appear as the $K^\pi = 1^-$ and $K^\pi = 0^-$ components of the deformed states, respectively, but couple with each other because of K mixing, and shape fluctuation. As a result of the mixing, TD and $E1$ transition strengths are fragmented into the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states. The excited bands of $K^\pi = 0^+$, $K^\pi = 0^-$, and $K^\pi = 1^-$ with cluster structures were also obtained in the energy region higher than the LED states.

I. INTRODUCTION

Low-energy dipole (LED) excitations, that appear in an energy region lower than giant dipole resonances is a topic gaining attention in experimental and theoretical research since a few decades (see, reviews [1–4] and references there in). Significant dipole strengths have been observed in stable nuclei in a wide mass-number range from ^{12}C to ^{208}Pb [5–8], and LEDs in neutron-rich nuclei were discovered in these two decades as reported for ^{20}O [9–11], ^{26}Ne [12], and ^{48}Ca [13,14]. Various types of dipole modes were considered for the LEDs such as the neutron skin mode (Pigmy mode) for $E1$ strengths [15,16], and the toroidal (also called vortical or torus) [1,17–25] and cluster [26–32] modes for isoscalar LED strengths.

A main interest is collective LEDs peculiar to neutron-rich nuclei, in which valence neutrons play important roles in low-energy excitations. In theoretical studies based on mean-field approaches, LED strengths were described as noncollective single-particle excitations on the spherical or slightly deformed ground state [33–38]. However, cluster structures have been discussed to describe LED states of O isotopes based on cluster models and antisymmetrized molecular dynamics (AMD) [32,39–44]. To clarify origins of the LEDs, isospin characters of LED strengths can be key observables, because the neutron skin mode (Pigmy mode) has the isovector character that can be observed by the $E1$ strengths while the toroidal and cluster modes tend to involve isoscalar natures rather than the isovector one. In experimental measurements of LED strengths, the isovector dipole strengths for $^{17-22}$O were observed in excitation energy $E_x \lesssim 15$ MeV region, and were found to exhaust a few percentages of the Thomas-Reiche-Kuhn sum rule [45]. Recently, the $E1$ and isoscalar dipole (ISD) transition strengths for individual 1^- states were measured for ^{20}O in Refs. [9–11] that reported a difference of isospin properties between 1_1^- and 1_2^- states suggesting existence of different types of LEDs in ^{20}O.

In our previous paper [32], we investigated LED excitations in ^{18}O using variation after K projection (K-VAP) in the framework of β-constraint antisymmetrized molecular dynamics (AMD) [46–50] combined with the generator coordinate method (GCM), which was developed for the study of LED excitations in Ref. [31]. The TD mode of a one-particle one-hole (1p-1h) excitation and a cluster mode containing a ^{14}C $+ \alpha$ structure were obtained, but the low-energy $E1$ mode was not obtained in ^{18}O. This result is understood as collective oscillation of valence neutrons in the neutron skin mode is difficult in such stable nuclei near the $N = Z$ line in the light-mass region. Instead, the neutron skin mode is expected in the further neutron-rich region such as ^{20}O, for which significant $E1$ strengths were observed for the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states.

In this paper, we investigate excited states of ^{20}O by applying the same method of K-VAP and GCM of β-constraint AMD. We focus on LED excitations and cluster states in the ^{20}O system in particular. The isospin properties of dipole transition strengths are investigated in detail, and the roles of excess neutrons in LED excitations of ^{20}O are discussed in comparison with ^{16}O and ^{18}O.

This paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, the calculation method of K-VAP and GCM of β-constraint AMD and parameter setting is explained. The calculated results for ^{20}O are shown in Sec. III. In Sec. IV, the properties of LED excitations in ^{20}O are analyzed in detail, and systematics of LED excitations along the isotope chain, ^{16}O, ^{18}O, and ^{20}O are discussed. Finally, a summary is given in Sec. V. Definitions of operators of densities and dipole transitions are given in Appendix A, and densities and matrix elements of intrinsic system are explained in Appendix B.

II. CALCULATION METHOD AND PARAMETER SETTING

To investigate LED excitations, we apply K-VAP and GCM in the framework of β-constraint AMD to ^{20}O, just as we did in our previous paper for ^{18}O [32]. For detailed formulation, the reader is referred to Ref. [32] and references therein.

We first perform energy variation for the β-constraint AMD wave function after K and parity (K^π) projection. Following the K-VAP, we superpose the obtained basis wave functions with total-angular-momentum and parity (J^π) projection by solving the GCM (Hill-Wheeler) equation for K and β, and obtain final results of the total wave functions and energy spectra of the J_k^π states of ^{20}O. The transition strengths are calculated for the J_k^π states. For a detailed discussion, we also analyze each basis wave function in the intrinsic frame before the superposition.

An AMD wave function for A-body system Φ is expressed using a Slater determinant of single-particle wave functions [48,51]:

$$\Phi = \mathcal{A}[\psi_1 \psi_2 \cdots \psi_A], \tag{1}$$

where ψ_i represents the ith single-particle wave function written by a product of spatial, spin, and isospin functions as follows:

$$\psi_i = \phi(\mathbf{Z}_i)\chi(\boldsymbol{\xi}_i)\tau_i, \tag{2}$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{Z}_i) = \left(\frac{2\nu}{\pi}\right)^{\frac{3}{4}} \exp\left[-\nu\left(\mathbf{r} - \frac{\mathbf{Z}_i}{\sqrt{\nu}}\right)^2\right], \tag{3}$$

$$\chi(\boldsymbol{\xi}_i) = \xi_{i\uparrow}|\uparrow\rangle + \xi_{i\downarrow}|\downarrow\rangle, \tag{4}$$

$$\tau_i = p \text{ or } n. \tag{5}$$

Here, $\mathbf{Z}_i$ and $\boldsymbol{\xi}_i$ are complex variational parameters for Gaussian centroids and spin directions, respectively. For the width parameter ν, a fixed value is used for all nucleons.

In the K-VAP method, the energy variation is done for the parity- and K-projected AMD wave function $|\Psi\rangle = \hat{P}_K \hat{P}^\pi |\Phi\rangle$ with the quadrupole deformation β constrains. Here, $\hat{P}^\pi$ and $\hat{P}_K$ are the parity- and K-projection operators, respectively. In the present calculation, $K^\pi = 0^+$, $K^\pi = 0^-$, and $K^\pi = 1^-$ are adopted to obtain the K^π bases optimized for the ground and dipole states. The β constraint is imposed for the AMD wave function during the energy variation. We follow the definition of the quadrupole deformation parameters β and γ adopted for the $\beta\gamma$-constraint AMD in Ref. [52], however, the constraint is imposed only on β but not on γ in the present β-constraint AMD. It means that γ is optimized for each β and can be finite.

After K-VAP with each β value, we obtained the optimized AMD wave functions $|\Phi_K^\pi(\beta)\rangle$ for $K^\pi = 0^+$, $K^\pi = 0^-$, and $K^\pi = 1^-$, which we call as $K0^+(\beta)$, $K0^-(\beta)$, and $K1^-(\beta)$ bases, respectively. To obtain the total wave functions and energy spectra of the J_k^π states of ^{20}O, the GCM calculation is performed by superposing the basis wave functions along β as

$$|\Psi^\pi(J_k)\rangle = \sum_{K,K'} \sum_\beta c_{KK'}(\beta)\hat{P}_{MK'}^J \hat{P}^\pi |\Phi_K^\pi(\beta)\rangle, \tag{6}$$

where $\hat{P}_{MK}^J$ is the angular-momentum-projection operator, and coefficients $c_{KK'}(\beta)$ are determined by diagonalizing the Hamiltonian and norm matrices. For the negative-parity states, K mixing is taken into account and mixing of the $K0^-(\beta)$ and $K1^-(\beta)$ bases were considered.

The total wave functions for the J_k^π states obtained after GCM are used to calculate the transition strengths such as the $E1$, $E2$, and $E3$ strengths. For dipole transitions from the ground state, we consider three types of dipole operators, $E1$, TD, and compressive dipole (CD) operators used in Refs. [21,53]. The $E1$ operator is the isovector dipole operator, whereas the TD and CD operators are isoscalar type operators that can measure the nuclear vortical and compressional dipole modes, respectively. For a dipole operator $D = \{E1, \text{TD}, \text{CD}\}$, the transition strength $B(D; 0_1^+ \to 1_k^-)$ is given as $|\langle 1_k^- ||\hat{M}_D||0_1^+\rangle|^2$. The definitions of dipole operators and transition strengths are given in Appendix A.

The effective Hamiltonian used in the present study is given as

$$H = \sum_i t_i - T_G + \sum_{i<j} v_{ij}^{\text{coulomb}} + V_{\text{eff}}. \tag{7}$$

Here, t_i and T_G are the kinetic energy of the ith nucleon and that of the center of mass, respectively, and v_{ij}^{coulomb} is the Coulomb potential. The effective nuclear potential V_{eff} includes the central and spin-orbit potentials. We use the MV1 (case 1) central force [54] with the parameters $W = 1 - M = 0.38$ and $B = H = 0$, and the spin-orbit part of the G3RS force [55,56] with the strengths $u_1 = -u_2 = -3000$ MeV. This set of parametrization is identical to that used for the AMD calculations of p-shell and sd-shell nuclei in Refs. [57–60]. It describes the energy spectra of ^{12}C including 1^- states. The width parameter is chosen as $\nu = 0.16$ fm^{-2}, which reproduces the nuclear size of ^{16}O with a closed p-shell configuration in the harmonic oscillator shell model.

III. RESULTS OF ^{20}O

A. Energies and band structure

By performing the energy variation for the K^π-projected AMD wave function, we obtain the wave functions of the $K0^+$, $K0^-$, and $K1^-$ bases at each β value. The K^π-projected energy curve of the $K0^+$ bases is shown in Fig. 1(a), whereas the $K0^-$ and $K1^-$ bases are shown in Fig. 1(b). Energy minimums exist around $\beta = 0.2$, which corresponds to the intrinsic states of the ground 0^+ and lowest 1^- states. In the larger β region, there is no local minimum. The intrinsic structure changes with an increase of β along the energy curves as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, which display intrinsic matter density of typical positive- and negative-parity bases, respectively. The intrinsic structure around the energy minimum has a weak deformation and changes to the prolate deformation with a cluster structure at $\beta = 0.52$, and finally a developed cluster structure of ^{16}C $+\alpha$ appears in the $K0^+(0.84)$ base as shown in Figs. 2(a), 2(b), and 2(c) for the $K0^+(0.32)$, $K0^+(0.52)$, and $K0^+(0.84)$ bases. In the negative-parity case, the $K0^-$ and $K1^-$ bases degenerate in $\beta \lesssim 0.7$ region [see Fig. 1(b)].
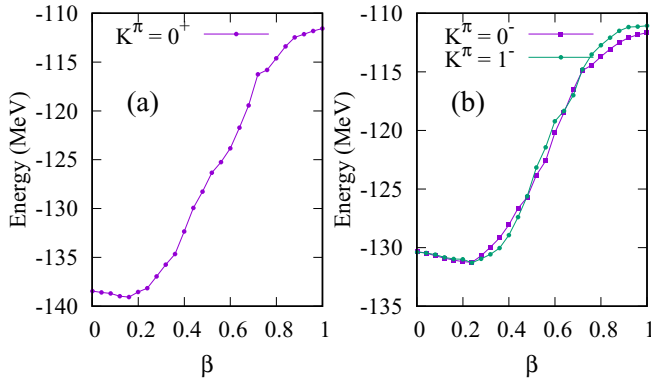
FIG. 1. K-projected energy curves of ^{20}O obtained by K-VAP of β-constraint AMD plotted as a function of quadrupole deformation β. The energy curve for the $K0^+(\beta)$ bases is shown in panel (a) and those for the $K0^-(\beta)$ and $K1^-(\beta)$ bases are shown in panel (b).

Cluster structures appear in the $K0^-$ and $K1^-$ bases as β increases. Because of this clustering, the $K0^-$ energy becomes lower than the $K1^-$ energy in the $\beta \gtrsim 0.7$ region because the developed cluster structure favors the $K0^-$ component. In the large β region, the negative-parity bases have the ^{16}C $+\alpha$ cluster structure similar to the $K0^+$ bases [see Fig. 2(c) and Fig. 3(d)].

The energy spectra of ^{20}O are obtained after the GCM calculation using the basis wave functions obtained by K-VAP of β-constraint AMD. The calculated binding energy is 141.7 MeV, which is slightly smaller than the experimental value (151.36 MeV). The positive- and negative-parity energy spectra are shown in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. To discuss band structure, we show theoretical energy spectra for band member states, which can be classified into $K^\pi = 0^+$, $K^\pi = 0^-$, and $K^\pi = 1^-$ bands, and that for the 1_2^- state along with the calculated $B(E2)$ values of in-band transitions on the left, and the experimental energy spectra and $B(E2)$ values on the right of the figures. Figures 6 and 7 show the GCM amplitudes for the band-head states, which are defined by squared overlap with each base. In the GCM calculation, we obtain many energy levels as a result of diagonalization of adopted basis wave functions. However we only focus 0^+ and 1^- states that have significant overlaps with certain bases and their band members that are identified by $E2$ transition strengths. Those states can be understood as physical excited modes that can be described by the present framework of K-VAP and GCM of β-constraint AMD.
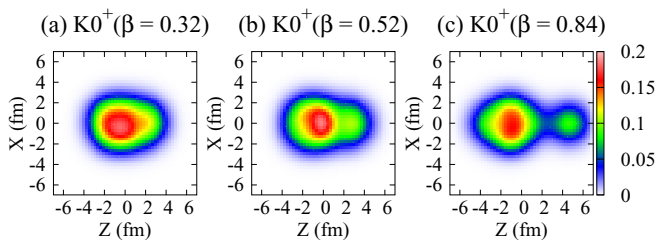

FIG. 2. The matter densities of $K0^+$ bases at (a) $\beta = 0.32$, (b) 0.52, and (c) 0.84. The intrinsic densities are integrated along the Y axis and plotted on the Z-X plane. The unit is fm^{-2}.
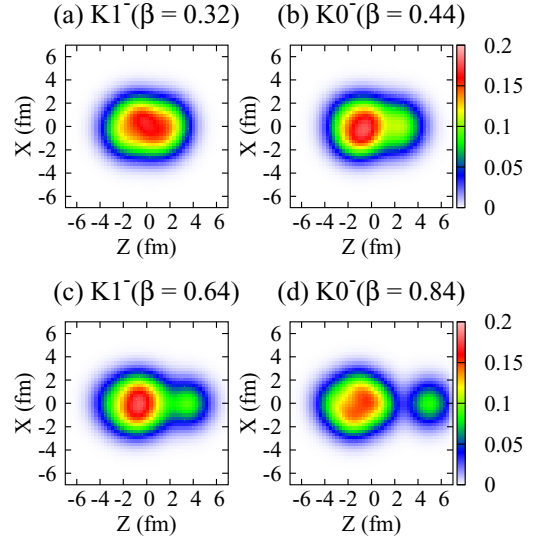

FIG. 3. The same as Fig. 2 but for the (a) $K1^-(0.32)$, (b) $K0^-(0.44)$, (c) $K1^-(0.64)$, and (d) $K0^-(0.84)$ bases.

AMD. For other 0^+ and 1^- states, the GCM amplitudes are fragmented into many basis wave functions indicating that such states have no specific character, and therefore it may not be appropriate to give quantitative discussions in the present calculation.

The ground band ($K^\pi = 0_1^+$ band), which consists of the 0_1^+, 2_1^+, and 4_1^+ states is constructed from the basis wave functions with weak deformation around the energy minimum of the $K^\pi = 0^+$ energy curve. The calculated $E2$ transition strengths in the ground band are small because of a proton shell closure feature. This result is qualitatively consistent with the experimental $B(E2)$ value, but quantitatively, underestimates the observed data.

Above the ground band, two $K^\pi = 0^+$ bands are built on the 0_2^+ and 0_4^+ states showing cluster structures. The lower and higher cluster bands on the 0_2^+ and 0_4^+ states are labeled as $K^\pi = 0_{cl,1}^+$ and $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ bands, respectively. The former ($K^\pi = 0_{cl,1}^+$) band is mainly formed by the $K0^+(0.52)$ base [Fig. 2(b)], which has a deformed structure with clustering of a parity asymmetric $6p + 2p$ (six and two protons) structure of the proton density as described later in detail. The latter ($K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$) band contains the dominant component of the $K0^+(0.84)$ base [Fig. 2(c)] with a developed ^{16}C $+\alpha$ cluster structure. Because of the largely deformed intrinsic structure for these cluster bands, strong $E2$ transitions are obtained for in-band transitions, in particular, in the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ band.

In the calculated negative-parity levels, we obtain the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states in the low-energy region (see Fig. 5). The $K^\pi = 1_1^-$ band is built on the 1_1^- state, whereas the 1_2^- state does not form a clear band structure. As shown in Fig. 7, the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states in the low-energy region contain components of basis wave functions in the $\beta \lesssim 0.6$ regions corresponding to weak or normal deformations shown in Figs. 3(a) and 3(b). The 1_1^- state is dominated by the $K1^-$ component, which contributes to the $K^\pi = 1^-$ band structure, whereas the 1_2^- state contains larger $K0^-$ component than the $K1^-$
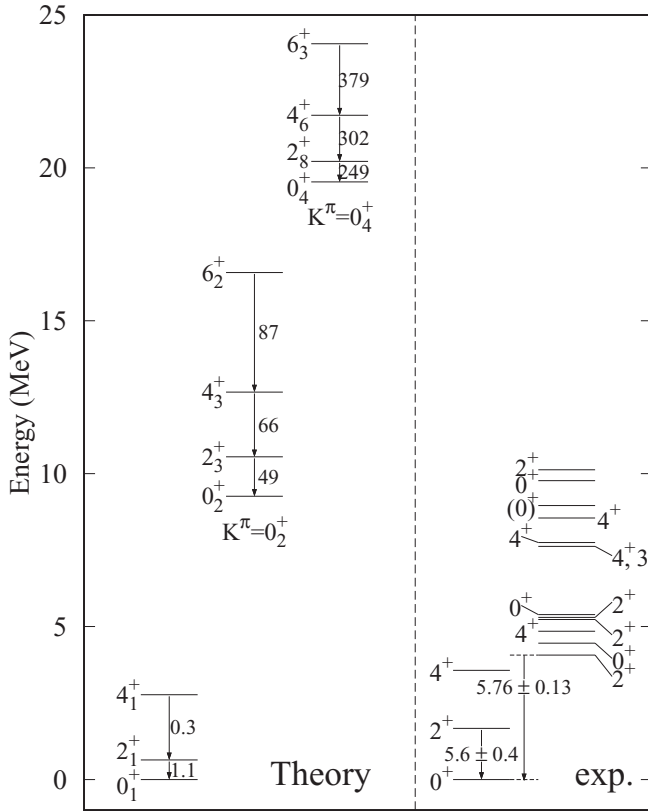
FIG. 4. Energy spectra of positive-parity states in ^{20}O obtained by GCM and those of experimental data. In the calculated spectra, the $K^\pi = 0_1^+$, $K^\pi = 0_{cl,1}^+$, and $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ bands are shown together with the $B(E2)$ values of in-band transitions. The experimental $B(E2)$ values are taken from Refs. [10,11]. The unit of $B(E2)$ is e^2fm^4.

FIG. 5. Energy spectra of negative-parity states in ^{20}O obtained by GCM and experimental negative-parity spectra. In the calculated result, spectra of the $K^\pi = 1_1^-$, $K^\pi = 1_{cl}^+$, and $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^+$ bands and that of the 1_2^- state are shown together with the $B(E2)$ (e^2fm^4) values of in-band transitions. For the $K^\pi = 1_{cl}^+$ band, spectra on a large scale are inserted in the figure.

component. Note that these two states have significant K mixing and shape fluctuation along β. In high-lying negative-parity spectra, $K^\pi = 1^-$ and $K^\pi = 0^-$ bands are formed from the 1_6^- and 1_9^- states, respectively. These bands are formed by largely deformed bases with developed cluster structures, and they can be understood as cluster bands, which we label as $K^\pi = 1_{cl}^-$ and $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ bands, respectively. The $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ band has a remarkable cluster structure of the $K0^-$ bases in $\beta > 0.8$ region in particular. The dominant component of this state is the $K0^-$(0.84) base [Fig. 3(d)], which has a developed ^{16}C$+\alpha$ structure similar to the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ cluster band, and therefore the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ and $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ are regarded as the parity partner states of the ^{16}C$+\alpha$ clustering. However, the $K^\pi = 1_{cl}^-$ band is dominated by the $K1^-$(0.64) base [Fig. 3(c)] with a weaker cluster structure than the $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ band.

Although the experimental information for negative-parity states is not enough to allocate band structures, we tentatively allocate present 1_1^- and 1_2^- states to the experimental 1_1^- (5.36 MeV) and 1_2^- (6.84 MeV) states. The $E3$ transition from the 3^- (5.62 MeV) state to the 0_1^+ state was observed to have a significant strength of $B(E3) = 170 \pm 14 \ e^2$fm^6 [11]. We obtain $B(E3; 3_1^- \rightarrow 0_1^+) = 87.5e^2$fm^6 between the $K^\pi = 1_1^-$ and ground bands in this result. This value is of the same order as the experimental data and supports our conclusion that our $K^\pi = 1_1^-$ band corresponds to the experimental
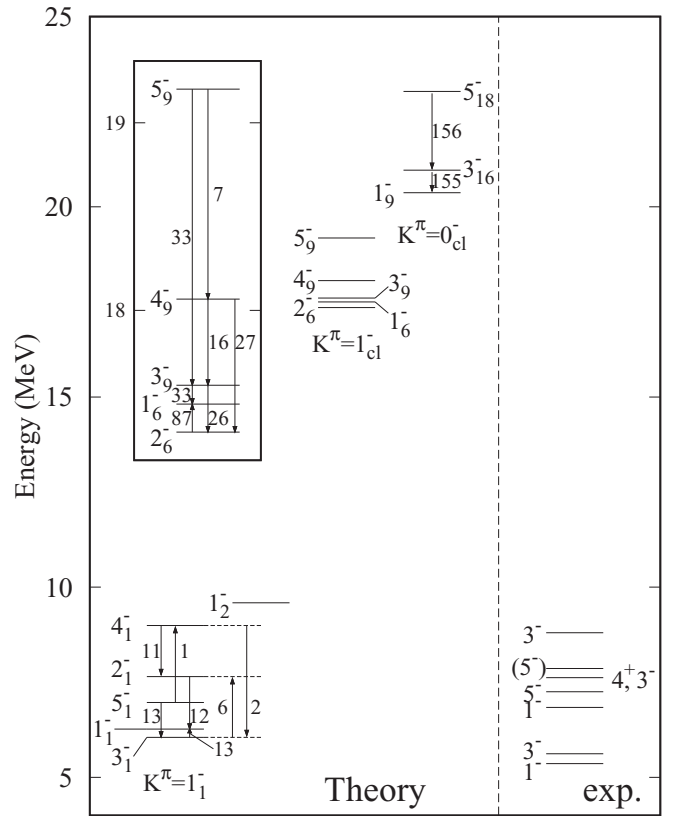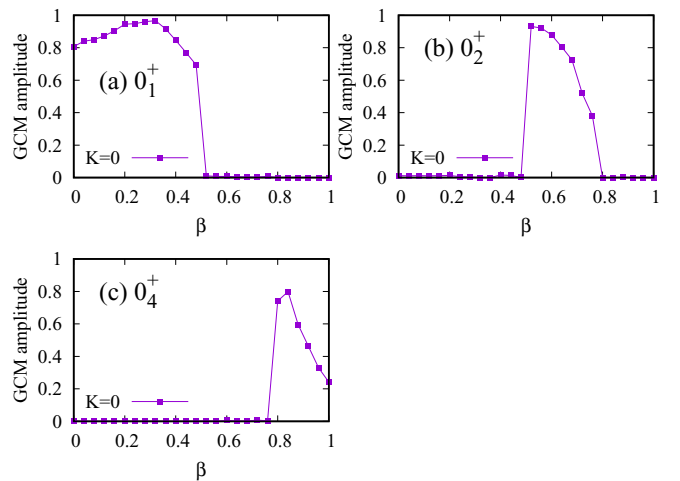

FIG. 6. GCM amplitudes of the positive-parity states. The amplitudes calculated by squared overlap with the $K0^+(\beta)$ bases are plotted as a function of β. The results for the band-head 0_1^+, 0_2^+, and 0_4^+ states of the $K^\pi = 0_1^+$, $K^\pi = 0_{cl,1}^+$, $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ bands are shown in panels (a), (b), and (c), respectively.
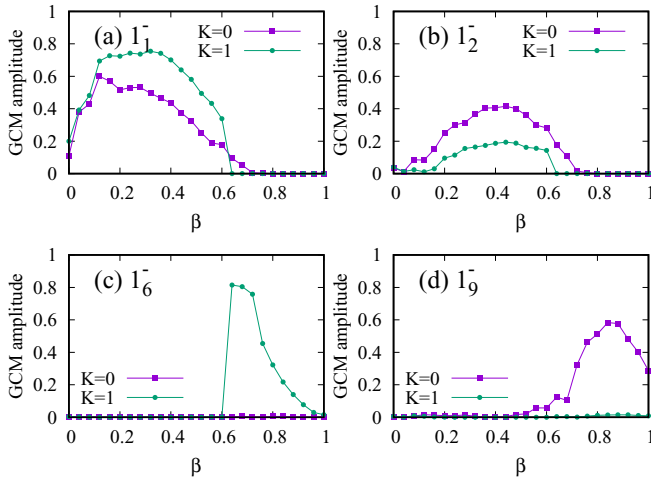
FIG. 7. GCM amplitudes of the negative-parity states. The amplitudes calculated by squared overlap with the $K0^-(\beta)$ and $K1^-(\beta)$ bases are plotted by squares and circles, respectively. Panels (a), (c), and (d) show the results for the band-head 1_1^-, 1_6^-, and 1_9^- states of the $K^\pi = 1_1^-$, $K^\pi = 1_{cl}^-$, and $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ bands, respectively, and panel (b) shows the result for the 1_2^- state.

1_1^- (5.36 MeV) and 3^- (5.62 MeV) states. For dipole transition strengths from the ground to low-lying 1^- states, we will show the result in Sec. IV A for discussions of dipole transition properties.

B. Single-particle states in deformed states

To investigate single-particle configurations in a mean-field picture, we analyze single-particle orbits in the dominant components of the band-head 0^+ and 1^- states and the 1_2^- state. For each base, the wave function is expressed by a single Slater determinant, for which the nonorthogonal set of Gaussian single-particle wave functions can be transformed into an orthogonal set of single-particle orbits in a mean-field as done in Refs. [57,61]. Figures 8 and 9 show single-particle orbits in the dominant bases of the positive- and negative-parity states, respectively. For each basis, single-particle densities (color maps) of the highest neutron and proton orbits are shown together with the total proton density (contour lines). Figures 8(a), 8(b), and 8(c) show results of the $K0^+(0.32)$, $K0^+(0.52)$, and $K0^+(0.84)$ for the $K^\pi = 0_1^+$, $K^\pi = 0_{cl,1}^+$, and $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ bands, respectively. The $K0^+(0.32)$ base for the $K^\pi = 0_1^+$ band is described by four neutrons in sd orbits around a weakly deformed core of the ^{16}O ground state, and it roughly corresponds to a $0\hbar\omega$ shell-model configuration. The $K0^+(0.52)$ base for the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,1}^+$ band has the character of two-proton excitation $p_\pi^{-2}(sd)_\pi^2$ of a $2\hbar\omega$ configuration in terms of the mean-field picture. In the cluster picture, the proton structure of this band has a parity asymmetric $6p + 2p$ structure and analogous to the proton part of the ^{16}O(0_2^+) state having a ^{12}C + α cluster structure. The $K0^+(0.84)$ base for the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ band has the developed ^{14}C + α-cluster core with two neutrons in an elongated negative-parity orbit. This neutron orbit has three nodes along the Z axis and corresponds to a molecular called the σ orbit. We label this negative-parity
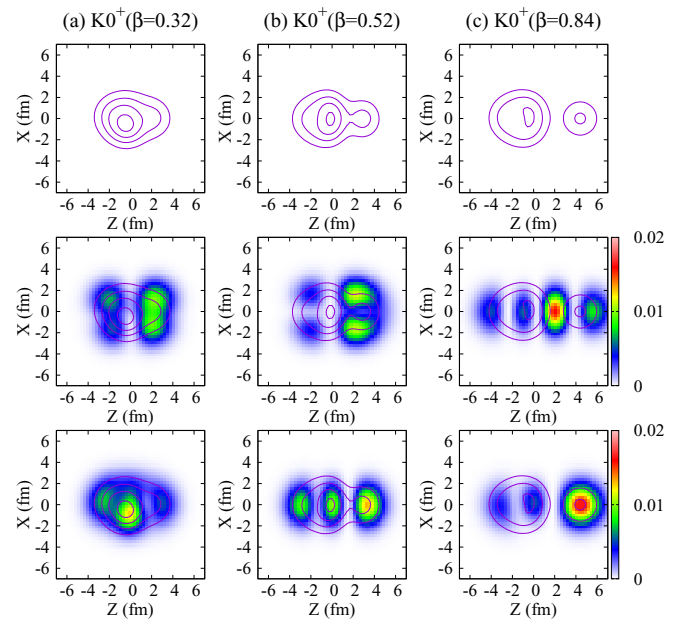

FIG. 8. Density distribution of protons and those of single-particle orbits in the (a) $K0^+(0.32)$, (b) $K0^+(0.52)$, and (c) $K0^+(0.84)$ bases, which correspond to the $K^\pi = 0_1^+$, $K^\pi = 0_{cl,1}^+$, and $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ bands, respectively. The upper panels show the proton density distributions by the contour lines. In the middle and lower panels, the density of the highest neutron and proton orbits are shown with color maps, respectively, with the total proton density (contour lines). The matter densities of these bases are shown in Fig. 2.

σ orbit as σ_{fp} in the association of a fp orbit. The $K0^+(0.84)$ base is associated with $4\hbar\omega$ configuration with two-proton and neutron excitation in the mean-field picture. Note that, after the GCM calculation, the final wave function of the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ band contains not only the $K0^+(0.84)$ component but also significant mixing of $K0^+(\beta > 0.84)$ bases with the last two neutrons not in the molecular σ_{fp}-orbit but localized around the ^{14}C cluster forming a dinuclear structure of ^{16}C + α cluster. It means that the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ band is a mixture of two types of clustering. One is the molecular orbital structure of the ^{14}C + α cluster core with two neutrons in the σ_{fp} orbit and the other is the dinuclear ^{16}C + α structure.

Figures 9(a), 9(b), 9(c), and 9(d) present the results for the $K1^-(0.32)$, $K0^-(0.44)$, $K1^-(0.64)$, and $K0^-(0.84)$ bases, which correspond to the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states, and the $K^\pi = 1_{cl}^-$ and $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ bands, respectively. The $K1^-(0.32)$ base for the 1_1^- state can be understood as one proton excitation from the p shell and associated with the $(1, 0, 0)^{-1}(0, 0, 2)^1$ [or $(0, 1, 0)^{-1}(0, 0, 2)^1$] configuration in terms of harmonic oscillator orbits (n_x, n_y, n_z). Furthermore, the $K1^-(0.44)$ base for the 1_2^- state has one proton excitation as a leading component but cannot be interpreted by a simple 1p-1h configuration. Instead, the proton excitation induces the parity asymmetric collective excitation in the proton and neutron parts as can be seen in the asymmetry of the highest neutron orbit and that of the proton density in Fig. 9(b). The $K1^-(0.64)$ base for the $K^\pi = 1_{cl}^-$ band corresponds to a $3\hbar\omega$ excitation with one neutron in the σ_{fp}-orbit around the developed cluster
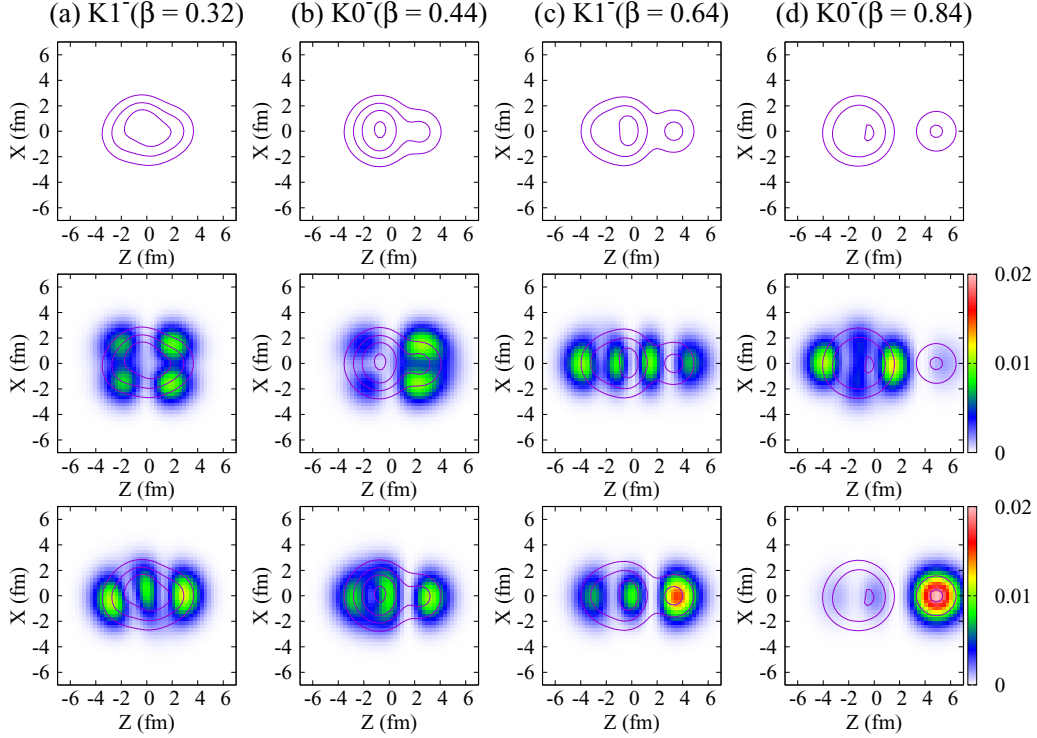
FIG. 9. The same as Fig. 8, but the results for the (a) $K1^-(0.32)$, (b) $K0^-(0.44)$, (c) $K1^-(0.64)$, and (d) $K0^-(0.84)$ bases, which correspond to the $K^\pi = 1_1^-$ band, the 1_2^- state, $K^\pi = 1_{cl}^-$, and $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ bands, respectively. The matter densities of these bases are shown in Fig. 3.

core having two-proton excitation. The $K0^-(0.84)$ base for the $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ band has the dinuclear structure of developed ^{16}C + α clustering.

Let us compare the intrinsic configurations the positive- and negative-parity cluster bands; the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,1}^+$, $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$, $K^\pi = 1_{cl}^-$, and $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ bands. In these four cluster bands, the proton density has asymmetric shapes due to the $6p + 2p$ structure and shows ^{n}C + α clustering. In terms of the neutron configuration, the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,1}^+$, $K^\pi = 1_{cl}^-$, and $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ bands have zero, one, and two neutrons in the σ_{fp} orbit around the cluster core, respectively. As the number of σ_{fp}-orbit neutrons increases from zero to two, the cluster structure develops. It is interesting that the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ band also contains significant mixing of the ^{16}C + α component, which is the dominant component of the $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ band. Therefore, an alternative interpretation is that the $K^\pi = 0_{cl,2}^+$ and $K^\pi = 0_{cl}^-$ bands form parity doublet partners of the ^{16}C + α structure.

IV. DISCUSSIONS

A. Properties of dipole excitations

1. Dipole transition strengths

The dipole transition strength function from the 0_1^+ state is calculated using the 0_1^+ and 1_k^- states obtained with the GCM calculation. Figure 10(a) shows the $E1$ strengths. The energy-weighted ISD strengths are plotted in ratio to the energy-weighted sum rule (EWSR) as shown Fig. 10(b). The transition strengths for the CD and TD operators are shown in Figs. 10(c) and 10(d), respectively. Significant $E1$

and TD transition strengths are obtained for the two LED states, 1_1^- and 1_2^- states. The 1_1^- state has a remarkable TD and significant $E1$ strengths, whereas the 1_2^- state has remarkable $E1$ strength. Compared with the TD strengths, the CD transitions to the two LED states are rather weak as 0.3% (0.15%) of the EWSR for the 1_1^- (1_2^-) states. In Table I, we compare the present results of the $E1$ and ISD transition strengths to the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states with the experimental data
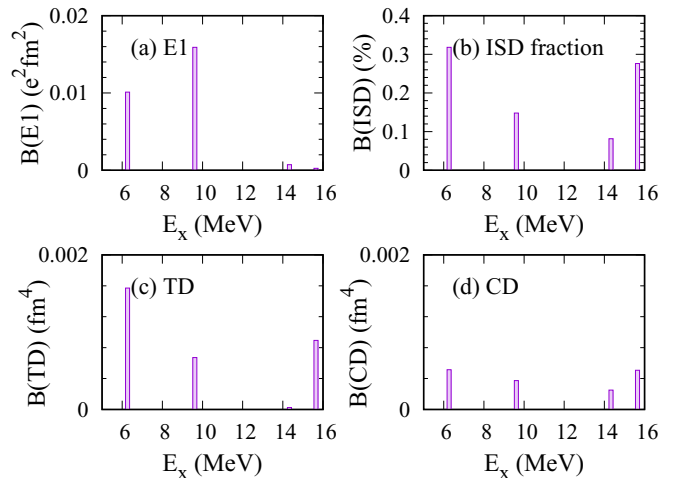

FIG. 10. Dipole transition strengths for the (a) $E1$, (b) ISD, (c) TD, and (d) CD operators from the 0_1^+ state. For the ISD operator, the energy-weighted strengths are plotted in ratio to the EWSR defined by Ref. [5].

TABLE I. Calculated and experimental values of the excitation energies of the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states and the $E1$ and ISD transition strengths from the 0_1^+ state. For the ISD transitions, the energy-weighted strength ratios (f_{ISD}) to the EWSR are listed. The experimental data are taken from Refs. [9–11].

	Calculation		
	E_x (MeV)	$B(E1)$ (e^2fm^2)	f_{ISD} (%)
1_1^-	6.25	1.11×10^{-2}	0.31
1_2^-	9.59	1.56×10^{-2}	0.15
	Experiment		
1_1^-	5.36(5)	$3.57(20) \times 10^{-2}$	2.70(32)
1_2^-	6.84(7)	$3.79(26) \times 10^{-2}$	0.67(12)

of the 1_1^-(5.36 MeV) and 1_2^-(6.84 MeV) states. This result qualitatively describes the significant $E1$ strengths measured for the 1_1^-(5.36 MeV) and 1_2^-(6.84 MeV) states, though the quantitative agreement with the data is not satisfactory. For the ISD strengths, this calculation fails to obtain significant ISD strengths as large as the observed ISD strength to the 1_1^- state reported recently [11]. Our result for weak ISD transitions to LED states agrees to a mean-field calculation [38].

2. Transition current and strength densities for LED in ^{20}O

We calculate the transition current and strength densities in the intrinsic frame using the dominant bases to discuss the properties of the low-energy dipole excitations $0_1^+ \rightarrow 1_{1,2}^-$.

The definitions for the transition current and strength densities are given in Appendix B. For the intrinsic states of the 0_1^+, 1_1^-, and 1_2^- states, we choose the $K0^+(0.32)$, $K1^-(0.32)$, and $K0^-(0.44)$ bases, respectively, to describe the leading properties of each state, and calculate the transition current densities of the $K0^+(0.32) \rightarrow K1^-(0.32)$ and $K0^+(0.32) \rightarrow K0^-(0.44)$ transitions. In the calculation, normalized K eigenstates projected from the wave functions $\Phi_K^\pi(\beta)$ are used as explained in Appendix B. Note that, the 1_1^-, and 1_2^- states significantly contain the K-mixing and shape fluctuation along β, which contributes to the final GCM results of the 1_1^-, and 1_2^- states, but such higher order effects are omitted for simplicity in the this analysis in the intrinsic frame.

The calculated transition current densities are shown in Fig. 11. Vector plots in the left, middle, and right panels show the proton and neutron parts and the isovector component of the transition current densities, respectively. The strength densities of the TD and $E1$ operators are shown in Fig. 12. The vortical flow of the proton current density is induced by the 1 proton excitation $(1, 0, 0)^{-1}(0, 0, 2)^1$ in the $K0^+(0.32) \rightarrow K1^-(0.32)$ transition, which corresponds to the 1_1^- excitation as shown in the transition current density in Fig. 11(a). This vortical proton current contributes to the remarkable TD strength density as shown in Fig. 12(a) and describes the TD nature of the 1_1^- excitation. However, the $K0^+(0.32) \rightarrow K0^-(0.44)$ transition for the 1_2^- excitation show a translational flow along the deformed (Z) axis rather than a vortical flow [see Fig. 11(b)]. The neutron part of the translational flow, in particular, is widely distributed across
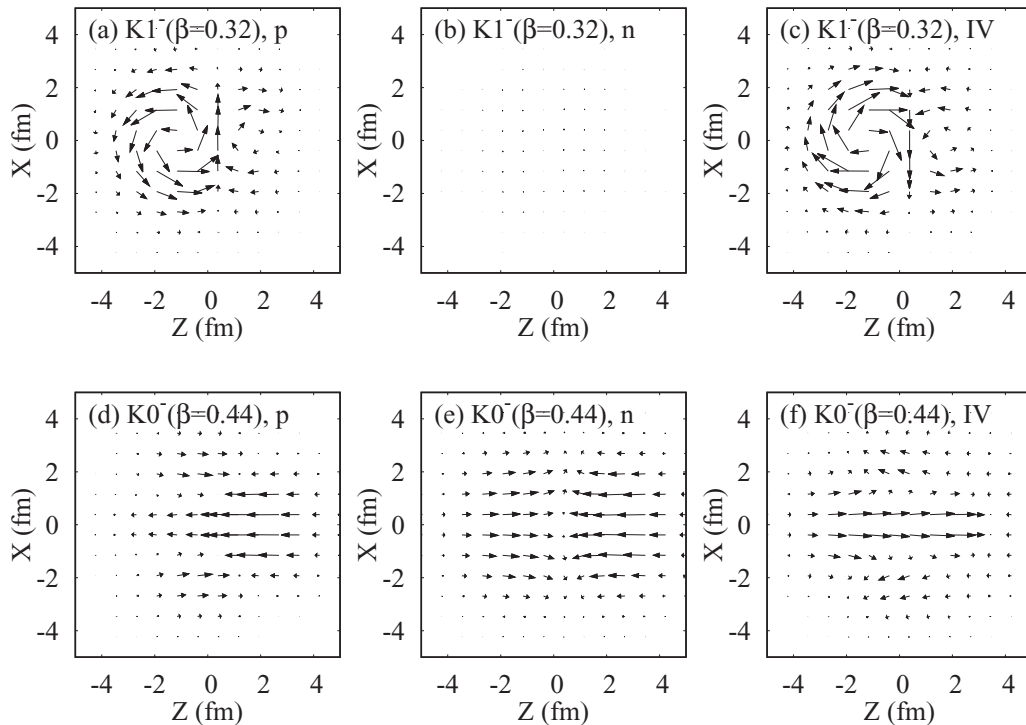

FIG. 11. (Upper) Transition current densities $\delta \boldsymbol{j}^K(\boldsymbol{r})$ from the $K0^+(0.32)$ base to the $K1^-(0.32)$ corresponding to the $0_1^+ \rightarrow 1_1^-$ transition and (lower) those to the $K0^-(0.44)$ base for $0_1^+ \rightarrow 1_2^-$. The vector plots of the densities in the Z-X plane at $Y = 0$ are shown. The proton and neutron currents are shown in the left and middle, respectively, and the isovector currents are shown in the right. The vector plots are multiplied by 30 in (a)–(c), by 50 in (d) and (e), and by 100 in panel (f).
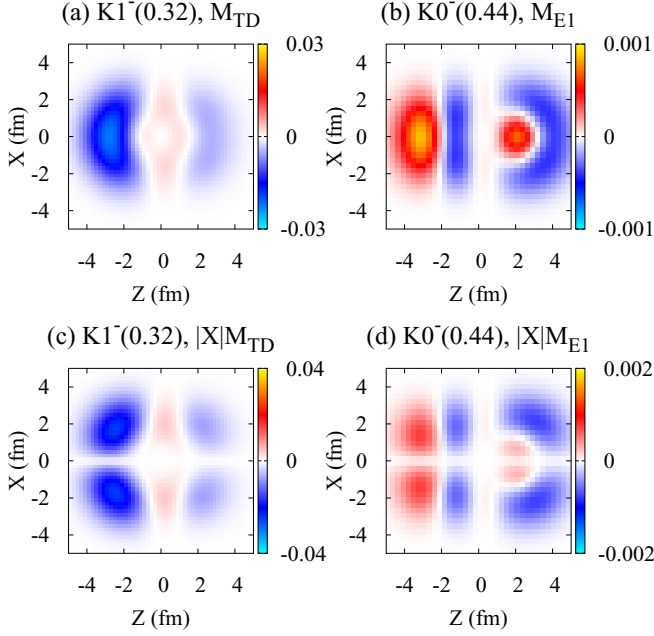
FIG. 12. (Left) TD strength densities $\mathcal{M}_{TD}^K$ for $K0^+(0.32) \to K1^-(0.32)$ and (right) $E1$ strength densities $\mathcal{M}_{E1}^K$ for $K0^+(0.32) \to K0^-(0.44)$. The former and the latter correspond to the $0_1^+ \to 1_1^-$ and $0_1^+ \to 1_2^-$ transitions, respectively. The strength densities $\mathcal{M}^K(X, Y, Z)$ and $|X|$-weighted values $|X|\mathcal{M}^K(X, Y, Z)$ on the Z-X plane at $Y = 0$ are shown in upper and lower panels, respectively.

a wide X range. The surface neutron flow in the region of $|X| = 2$–4 fm and $Z \sim 2$ fm is produced by valence neutron oscillation in the parity asymmetric orbit [Fig. 9(b)] around the prolate core, which is induced by the proton excitation. This neutron surface flow, as shown in Fig. 12(d), gives the dominant contribution to the $E1$ strength of the $K0^+(0.32) \to K0^-(0.44)$ transition and is a major source of the strong $E1$ transition to the 1_2^- state. In the internal region of the prolately deformed core, the proton and neutron flows cancel each other, but give some contribution to the $E1$ strength because of the recoil effect. This result indicates that the parity asymmetry of the cluster core and that of the valence neutron orbit, which are induced by the two-proton excitation, play an important role in the enhanced $E1$ strength of the $K0^-(0.44)$ base.

In the this analysis of the $K1^-(0.32)$ and $K0^-(0.44)$ bases, a clear difference is found in the transition properties between the two LED modes; the TD nature in the $K1^-(0.32)$ base and the $E1$ character in the $K0^-(0.44)$ base. These two LED modes, the TD and $E1$ modes appear separately as vortical and translational excitations of nuclear current in the $K^\pi = 1^-$ and $K^\pi = 0^-$ components of the deformed states, respectively. However they couple with each other in the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states after the superposition of the GCM calculation via significant K-mixing and shape fluctuation as mentioned previously. Therefore, the TD strength of the $K1^-(0.32)$ base is fragmented into the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states, and the $E1$ strength of the $K0^-(0.44)$ base is split into the two states. Nevertheless, since the 1_1^- state retains the dominant TD nature, it has a

relatively large TD strength and constructs the $K^\pi = 1^-$ band structure.

B. Systematic analysis of LED excitations in O isotopes

To clarify the roles of valence neutrons in the LED excitations in ^{20}O, we discuss systematics of dipole excitation properties in O isotopes by comparing the present results with previous results obtained using the same framework for ^{16}O and ^{18}O. Figure 13 shows the theoretical energy spectra of the $0_{1,2}^+$ and $1_{1,2}^-$ states in ^{16}O, ^{18}O, and ^{20}O. The intrinsic matter densities of the dominant bases in the excited states are also shown in the figure. In each of ^{16}O, ^{18}O, and ^{20}O, two 1^- states are obtained in the low-energy region.

These LED states have significant isoscalar dipole strengths of the TD and/or CD operators. Figure 14 shows the isoscalar, proton, and neutron components of the TD and CD strengths for the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states of the O isotopes. According to the previous analysis, we identified the ^{16}O(1_1^-) and ^{18}O(1_1^-) states as TD mode, which is characterized by the vortical flow of the transition current densities. These LED states in ^{16}O and ^{18}O correspond to the present TD mode of the ^{20}O(1_1^-) state. The TD mode is described by the $K^\pi = 1^-$ component of the 1p-1h excitation of deformed states in all three cases. The isoscalar components of the TD strengths of the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states are largest in ^{16}O because of the coherent (isoscalar) contribution from the proton and neutron parts, but relatively small in ^{18}O and ^{20}O because of the lack of contribution from the neutron part.

Figure 15 shows the $E1$ strengths for the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states of the O isotopes. The low-energy $E1$ mode is obtained only in the ^{20}O as the ^{20}O(1_2^-) state, which is produced by the previously described surface neutron oscillation on the prolate deformation induced by proton excitation. The ^{16}O(1_2^-) and ^{18}O(1_2^-) states are not $E1$ modes but have a distinct character, that is, the asymmetric cluster structure that forms parity partners with the ^{16}O(0_2^+) and ^{18}O(0_2^+) states, respectively. Note that the ^{20}O(0_2^+) state has a cluster structure but its parity doublet partner 1^- state is not obtained. In the structure change from the ^{16}O(0_2^+) state along the isotope chain, the clustering is weakened in the ^{18}O(0_2^+) state and further suppressed in the ^{20}O(0_2^+) state by excess neutrons and no longer constructs the parity doublet 1^- state of the ^{20}O(0_2^+) state.

Finally, we comment on the CD strengths in the LED states of O isotopes. As shown in Fig. 14(a), the strong CD transition was obtained in the TD mode of ^{16}O, which is consistent with the experimental observation of the ISD strength of the ^{16}O(1_1^-). However, the present calculation does not degenerate such a strong CD strength in the TD mode of ^{20}O, and fails to describe the observed ISD strength of the ^{20}O(1_1^-) state. According to the previous analysis in Ref. [31], the origin of the strong CD transition in the ^{16}O(1_1^-) state is significant K mixing of the TD mode and coupling with other deformed bases via the β fluctuation. The contribution of the CD strengths contained in the $K0^-$ component of the normal deformation is essential. However, in the present result of ^{20}O, the low-lying $E1$ appears in the $K0^-$ component of the normal deformation, which contributes only weakly to the CD strength. In the present calculation of GCM along the β
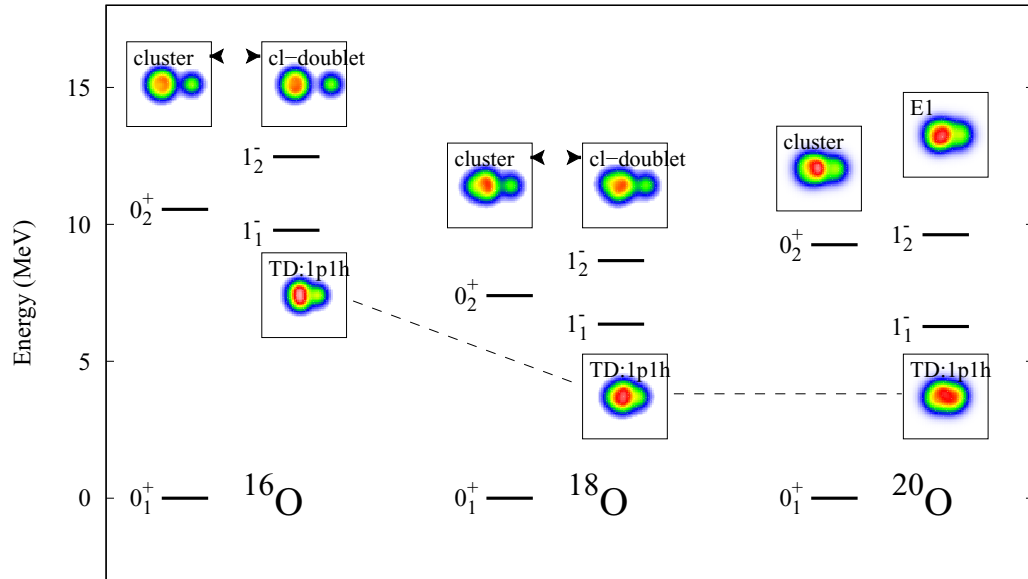
FIG. 13. Energy spectra of the $0^+_{1,2}$ and $1^-_{1,2}$ states in ^{16}O, ^{18}O, and ^{20}O calculated with K-VAP and GCM of β-constraint AMD. For excited states, intrinsic matter densities of the dominant bases are also shown with labels "TD:1p1h", "cluster", "cluster-doublet", and "E1", which indicate the TD mode with 1p-1h configuration, $K^\pi = 0^+$ cluster state, its parity doublet $K^\pi = 0^-$ state, and the $E1$ mode, respectively. The color map plotting of densities is the same as Fig. 2.
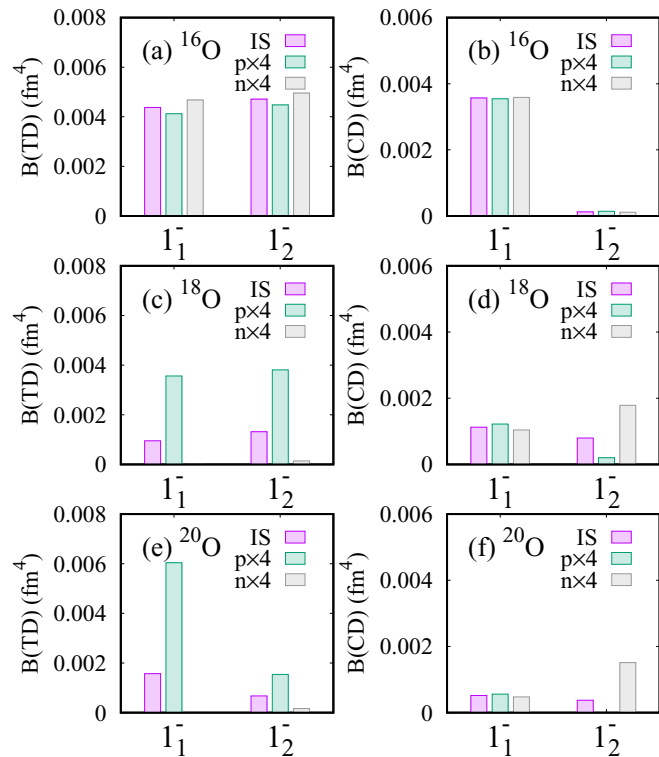

FIG. 14. The IS, proton, and neutron components of the TD and CD strengths for the 1^-_1 and 1^-_2 states of ^{16}O, ^{18}O, and ^{20}O calculated with K-VAP and GCM of β-constraint AMD. The TD strengths of (a) ^{16}O, (c) ^{18}O, and (e) ^{20}O are shown in the left, and the CD strengths of (b) ^{16}O, (d) ^{18}O, and (f) ^{20}O are shown in the right. Proton and neutron components are multiplied by a factor of four to compare the IS component. The results for ^{16}O and ^{18}O are taken from Refs. [31,32].

deformation, only the lowest base at each β is obtained by the energy optimization, and thus energetically higher bases containing the CD strength may be missing. To overcome
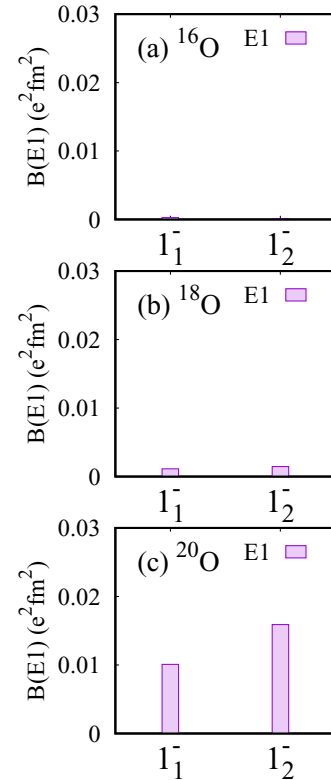

FIG. 15. $E1$ strengths for the 1^-_1 and 1^-_2 states of (a)^{16}O, (b)^{18}O, and (c)^{20}O calculated with K-VAP and GCM of β-constraint AMD. The results for ^{18}O are taken from Ref. [32].

this problem, it is necessary to extend the present framework to properly include important bases for the low-lying CD strengths.

V. SUMMARY

K-VAP and GCM of β-constraint AMD were used to investigate LED excitations in ^{20}O. Two LED states, the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states were obtained. The 1_1^- state is a weakly deformed state with one-proton excitation, whereas the 1_2^- state has a normal deformation with the parity asymmetric structure.

In a detailed analysis of the dipole transition properties of these LED states, the 1_1^- state is considered the TD mode, while the 1_2^- state is associated with a low-energy $E1$ mode. The TD strength in the former mode is produced by vortical nuclear current, whereas the $E1$ strength in the latter mode is contributed by surface neutron current on the prolate deformation induced by proton excitation. These two modes, the TD (vortical) and $E1$ modes, appear separately as the $K^\pi = 1^-$ and $K^\pi = 0^-$ components of the deformed states, but they couple with each other in the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states of ^{20}O via the K-mixing and shape fluctuation along β. Therefore, the TD and $E1$ strengths are fragmented into both 1^- states.

In comparison with the experimental data of the $E1$ and ISD transition strengths to the 1_1^-(5.36 MeV) and the 1_2^-(6.84 MeV) states, the present calculation qualitatively described the experimental $E1$ strengths for the 1_1^- and 1_2^- states, but much underestimated the significant ISD transition strengths observed for the 1_1^- state by one order.

Concerning quantitative reproduction of experimental data of transition strengths, the present calculation of ^{20}O tends to underestimate observed $B(E1)$ and $B(E2)$ values. A possible reason for the underestimation might be that the present framework is not enough to describe details of proton excitations because of the $Z = 8$ shell closed nature. Further development of the framework, for instance, deformation constraints on each of proton and neutron parts, may be useful to improve the calculation.

To clarify the roles of valence neutrons in LED excitations in ^{20}O, systematics of the LED excitations in ^{16}O, ^{18}O, and ^{20}O were discussed in comparison for the present ^{20}O result with the previous ^{16}O and ^{18}O results obtained using the same framework. The TD mode was obtained as the lowest 1^- state in ^{16}O, ^{18}O, and ^{20}O. However, the low-energy $E1$ mode was found only in the ^{20}O(1_2^-) state but not in the ^{16}O and ^{18}O systems. The previous results indicated that the ^{16}O(1_2^-) and ^{18}O(1_2^-) states differ from the ^{20}O(1_2^-) state and are parity doublet partners in the $K^\pi = 0^-$ cluster band with the 0_2^+ states in the $K^\pi = 0^+$ bands. This indicates that the low-energy $E1$ mode is a LED excitation caused by valence neutron oscillation that is peculiar to the neutron-rich O system but does not appear in O isotopes near the $N = Z$ line. Instead, the cluster mode appears in LED states in nuclei near the $N = Z$ line.

APPENDIX A: OPERATORS AND STRENGTHS OF DENSITIES, TRANSITION CURRENT DENSITIES, AND DIPOLE TRANSITIONS

Isoscalar and isovector components of the density and current density operators are defined as

$$\rho(\boldsymbol{r}) = \sum_{k=1}^{A} \delta(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}_k), \tag{A1}$$

$$\rho_{\text{IV}} = \sum_{k=1}^{A} \frac{e^{\text{eff}}}{e} \delta(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}_k), \tag{A2}$$

$$\boldsymbol{j}_{\text{nucl}}(\boldsymbol{r}) = \frac{-i\hbar}{2m} \sum_{k=1}^{A} \{\boldsymbol{\nabla}_k \delta(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}_k) + \delta(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}_k)\boldsymbol{\nabla}_k\}, \tag{A3}$$

$$\boldsymbol{j}_{\text{nucl,IV}}(\boldsymbol{r}) = \frac{-i\hbar}{2m} \sum_{k=1}^{A} \frac{e^{\text{eff}}}{e} \{\boldsymbol{\nabla}_k \delta(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}_k) + \delta(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}_k)\boldsymbol{\nabla}_k\}, \tag{A4}$$

where the factor e^{eff}/e is N/A for protons and $-Z/A$ for neutrons.

For dipole transitions, we consider three types of dipole operators, $E1$, TD, and CD operators as done in Ref. [32], which were used in Refs. [21,53],

$$\hat{M}_{E1}(\mu) = \frac{N}{A} \sum_{i\in p} r_i Y_{1\mu}(\hat{r}_i) - \frac{Z}{A} \sum_{i\in n} r_i Y_{1\mu}(\hat{r}_i), \tag{A5}$$

$$\hat{M}_{\text{TD}}(\mu) = \frac{-1}{10\sqrt{2}c} \int d\boldsymbol{r} \, (\boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \hat{\boldsymbol{j}}_{\text{nucl}}(\boldsymbol{r})) \cdot r^3 \boldsymbol{Y}_{11\mu}(\hat{r}), \tag{A6}$$

$$\hat{M}_{\text{CD}}(\mu) = \frac{-1}{10\sqrt{2}c} \int d\boldsymbol{r} \, \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \hat{\boldsymbol{j}}_{\text{nucl}}(\boldsymbol{r}) \, r^3 Y_{1\mu}(\hat{r}), \tag{A7}$$

where $\boldsymbol{Y}_{jL\mu}(\hat{r})$ are vector spherical harmonics and $\hat{\boldsymbol{j}}_{\text{nucl}}(\boldsymbol{r})$ is the convection nuclear current defined by

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{j}}_{\text{nucl}}(\boldsymbol{r}) = \frac{-i\hbar}{2m} \sum_{k=1}^{A} \{\boldsymbol{\nabla}_k \delta(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}_k) + \delta(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}_k)\boldsymbol{\nabla}_k\}. \tag{A8}$$

For the total wave functions of the J_n^π states obtained after GCM, the dipole transition strengths from the ground state are calculated. For a dipole operator $D = \{E1, \text{TD}, \text{CD}\}$, the transition strength $B(D; 0_1^+ \to 1_n^-)$ is given as $|\langle 1_n^- || \hat{M}_D || 0_1^+ \rangle|^2$. Notably, the CD transition strength corresponds to the standard ISD transition strength with the relation,

$$B(\text{CD}; 0_1^+ \to 1_n^-) = \left(\frac{1}{10} \frac{E_n}{\hbar c}\right)^2 B(\text{ISD}; 0_1^+ \to 1_n^-), \tag{A9}$$

where E_n is the excitation energy of the 1_n^- state.

APPENDIX B: DENSITIES OF INTRINSIC SYSTEM IN THE BODY-FIXED FRAME

In the present calculation with K-VAP of β-constraint AMD, each intrinsic wave function $\Phi_K^\pi(\beta)$ for a $K0^+(\beta)$, $K0^-(\beta)$, or $K1^-(\beta)$ base is expressed by a Slater determinant, and its intrinsic densities are given as the diagonal densities calculated for $|k\rangle = |\Phi_K^\pi(\beta)\rangle$ as

$$\rho(\boldsymbol{r}) \equiv \langle k|\hat{\rho}(\boldsymbol{r})|k\rangle, \tag{B1}$$

$$\rho_{\mathrm{IV}}(\boldsymbol{r}) \equiv \langle k|\hat{\rho}_{\mathrm{IV}}(\boldsymbol{r})|k\rangle. \tag{B2}$$

The transition densities and transition current densities from a $K0^+(\beta_0)$ base to $K1^-(\beta_1)$ and $K0^-(\beta_2)$ bases are calculated in the intrinsic (body-fixed) frame for the K-projected bases,

$$|i\rangle = \hat{P}^{K=0}|\Phi_{K=0}^+(\beta_0)\rangle, \tag{B3}$$

$$|f\rangle = \frac{\hat{P}^{K=-1} - \hat{P}^{K=1}}{\sqrt{2}}|\Phi_{K=1}^-(\beta_1)\rangle \equiv |f^{K=1}\rangle, \tag{B4}$$

$$|f\rangle = \hat{P}^{K=0}|\Phi_{K=0}^-(\beta_2)\rangle \equiv |f^{K=0}\rangle, \tag{B5}$$

where $|i\rangle$ and $|f\rangle$ are normalized as $\langle i|i\rangle = \langle f|f\rangle = 1$ by definition. The transition densities and transition current densities for initial $|i\rangle$ and final $|f\rangle$ states are given as,

$$\delta\rho(\boldsymbol{r}) \equiv \langle f|\hat{\rho}(\boldsymbol{r})|i\rangle, \tag{B6}$$

$$\delta\rho_{\mathrm{IV}}(\boldsymbol{r}) \equiv \langle f|\hat{\rho}_{\mathrm{IV}}(\boldsymbol{r})|i\rangle, \tag{B7}$$

$$\delta\boldsymbol{j}(\boldsymbol{r}) \equiv \langle f|\hat{\boldsymbol{j}}_{\mathrm{nucl}}(\boldsymbol{r})|i\rangle, \tag{B8}$$

$$\delta\boldsymbol{j}_{\mathrm{IV}}(\boldsymbol{r}) \equiv \langle f|\hat{\boldsymbol{j}}_{\mathrm{nucl,IV}}(\boldsymbol{r})|i\rangle. \tag{B9}$$

The local matrix elements $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{TD},E1}^K(\boldsymbol{r})$ of the TD and $E1$ operators are calculated at $Y = 0$ on the Z-X plane in the intrinsic frame as,

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{TD}}^{K=0}(X, 0, Z) = \frac{1}{10c}\sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}}\big[(2X^2 + Z^2)\delta j_Z^{K=0} \\ - ZX\delta j_X^{K=0}\big], \tag{B10}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{TD}}^{K=1}(X, 0, Z) = \frac{1}{10c}\sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}}\big[(X^2 + 2Z^2)\delta j_X^{K=1} \\ - ZX\delta j_Z^{K=1}\big], \tag{B11}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{E1}^{K=0}(X, 0, Z) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}}Z\delta\rho_{\mathrm{IV}}^{K=0}, \tag{B12}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{E1}^{K=1}(X, 0, Z) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}}X\delta\rho_{\mathrm{IV}}^{K=1}, \tag{B13}$$

where $\delta\rho_{\mathrm{IV}}^K = \langle f^K|\hat{\rho}_{\mathrm{IV}}(\boldsymbol{r})|i\rangle$ and $\delta\boldsymbol{j}^K = \langle f^K|\hat{\boldsymbol{j}}_{\mathrm{nucl}}(\boldsymbol{r})|i\rangle$ at $\boldsymbol{r} = (X, 0, Z)$. Note that $\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{TD}}^K(\boldsymbol{r})$ and $\mathcal{M}_{E1}^K(\boldsymbol{r})$ correspond to the integrand of the TD and $E1$ transition matrix elements and are termed TD and $E1$ strength densities, respectively, in this paper.

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