

**Single-particle configurations of the excited states of  $^{203}\text{Po}$** S. Chatterjee<sup>1</sup>, B. Mondal, A. Ghosh,<sup>\*</sup> D. Arora<sup>1</sup>,<sup>†</sup> S. Das, S. Samanta, R. Raut<sup>1</sup>,<sup>‡</sup> and S. S. Ghugre  
*UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Kolkata Centre, Kolkata 700098, India*P. C. Srivastava<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, Roorkee 247667, India*A. K. Sinha<sup>1</sup>,<sup>§</sup>*UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, University Campus, Khandwa Road, Indore 452017, India*U. Garg<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556, USA*H. K. Singh<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Mumbai 400076, India*Neelam and K. Rojeeta Devi<sup>¶</sup>*Department of Physics and Astrophysics, University of Delhi, New Delhi 110007, India*A. Sharma<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla 171005, India*S. S. Bhattacharjee, R. Garg<sup>1</sup>, I. Bala, R. P. Singh<sup>1</sup>, and S. Muralithar*Inter University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi 110067, India*

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Excited states of the  $^{203}\text{Po}$  ( $Z = 84, N = 119$ ) have been investigated after populating them through  $^{194}\text{Pt}(^{13}\text{C}, 4n)$  fusion-evaporation reaction at  $E_{\text{beam}} = 74$  MeV and using a large array of Compton-suppressed HPGe clover detectors as the detection setup for the emitted  $\gamma$  rays. Standard techniques of  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy have been applied towards establishing the level structure of the nucleus. Twenty five new  $\gamma$ -ray transitions have been identified therein, through  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  coincidence measurements, and spin-parity assignments of several states have been determined or confirmed, following the angular correlation and linear polarization measurements on the observed  $\gamma$  rays. The excited states have been interpreted in the framework of large basis shell-model calculations, while comparing their calculated and experimental energies. They have been principally ascribed to proton population in the  $h_{9/2}$  and  $i_{13/2}$  orbitals outside the  $Z = 82$  closure and neutron occupation of the  $f_{5/2}$ ,  $p_{3/2}$ , and  $i_{13/2}$  orbitals in the  $N = 126$  shell.

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The shell model of the nucleus has remained its most credible microscopic description through more than seven decades now. Testing the model across the nuclear chart and refining the inputs, towards accomplishing better overlap with data, has been an agenda of nuclear structure studies through their evolving practice. The exercise is facilitated by developments in computational resources that help circumvent the dimensional challenges incurred in the application of the shell model, particularly to heavier systems such as those around Pb ( $Z = 82$ ). It may be noted that the very validity of the shell model for describing level structures around the proton  $Z = 82$  closure was a subject of early investigations in the

<sup>\*</sup>Present address: ONGC, Cinnamara Complex, Jorhat, Assam 785704, India.

<sup>†</sup>Present address: Inter University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi 110067, India.

<sup>‡</sup>rajjarshi.raut@gmail.com

<sup>§</sup>Present address: Department of Physics, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India.

<sup>¶</sup>Present address: Grand Accélérateur National d'Ions Lourds (GANIL), CEA/DRF-CNRS/IN2P3, BP 55027, 14076 Caen cedex 5, France.

region. While the closure at  $Z = 82$  was identified to be sufficiently stable against collective excitations [1], it was also observed that light Hg ( $Z = 80$ ) isotopes do exhibit collectivity and there were predictions of similar phenomena in the proton-rich side of the ( $Z = 82$ ) closure, for the light Po ( $Z = 84$ ) nuclei [2]. The studies undertaken towards resolving the proposition, however, froze on describing the excitations of light-Po isotopes, such as  $^{199-201}\text{Po}$ , within the framework of the shell model. This was also commensurate with the systematically calculated [2] shapes of the Pb isotopes starting from  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  ( $Z = 82, N = 126$ ) and extending to the lighter ones. Doubly magic  $^{208}\text{Pb}$ , quite expectedly, exhibited deep energy minimum for a spherical shape; the minimum became shallower for lighter systems in the isotopic chain and eventually evolved into a double minima corresponding to both prolate and oblate deformations for nuclei as light as  $^{190}\text{Pb}$  ( $Z = 82, N = 108$ ). Such a scenario, however, was not established in  $^{198}\text{Pb}$  or  $^{202}\text{Pb}$  that still manifested near spherical shapes and it was found valid to interpret the excitation schemes of the neighboring light Po isotopes from the perspectives of the shell model. The merits of such interpretation notwithstanding, it was largely extracted from the evolution of experimentally observed level energies and their spacings across the isotopic and/or the isotonic chains. That was presumably owing to the limited wherewithal then available for computational endeavors but, nevertheless, could provide insights into the particle excitations underlying the level scheme of the nuclei being studied. The experimental findings in these studies mostly followed population of the nuclei of interest in  $\alpha$ - or heavy-ion-induced fusion-evaporation reactions and detection of the  $\gamma$  rays using modest setups of a few Ge detectors and, at times, using conversion electron measurements.

The only existing precedence of spectroscopic study of the  $^{203}\text{Po}$  ( $Z = 84, N = 119$ ) nucleus, following its population in a fusion-evaporation reaction, was by Fant *et al.* [3]. The nucleus was populated using  $\alpha$ -induced reaction on  $^{204}\text{Pb}$  and the deexcitation  $\gamma$  rays were detected using small planar Ge(Li) detectors, large coaxial Ge(Li) detectors and intrinsic Ge detectors. Conversion electrons were also measured in conjunction. The level scheme of the nucleus was established up to an excitation energy of  $\approx 4.4$  MeV and spin  $\approx 18\hbar$ . However, only a selected number of  $\gamma$ -ray transitions, presumably the strongest ones, and levels were identified above the  $25/2^+$  state; the spin-parity assignments were considerably tentative therein. The configurations of the excited states were largely ascribed to the coupling of an odd neutron hole to the excitations of the even  $^{204}\text{Po}$ -core ( $Z = 84, N = 120$ ). Two configurations, based on proton excitations outside the closed proton shell of the  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  core, were identified in the latter. These were  $\pi h_{9/2}^2$  and  $\pi h_{9/2}i_{13/2}$  that resulted in maximum spins 8 and 11, respectively. The available single-particle orbitals for the odd neutron are  $2f_{7/2}, 1h_{9/2}, 1i_{13/2}, 3p_{3/2}, 2f_{5/2}, 3p_{1/2}$  and the first  $5/2^-, 3/2^-, 1/2^-, 13/2^+$  states in  $^{203}\text{Po}$  were identified with single-neutron excitations therein. The  $17/2^+, 21/2^+$ , and  $25/2^+$  yrast states in odd- $A$  Po isotopes were attributed to the odd neutron hole  $\nu i_{13/2}^{-1}$  coupled to the excitations of the

corresponding Pb core or of the two valence protons of the Po core, resulting in states  $2^+ - 8^+$ . This followed the systematics of the yrast states in odd- $A$  Pb and Po isotones. It may be noted that the yrast  $17/2^+$  and the  $21/2^+$  states in isotopes  $^{199-205}\text{Pb}$  had been ascribed to pure neutron excitations, such as  $\nu p_{1/2}^{-1}f_{5/2}^{-1}i_{13/2}^{-1}$  and  $\nu f_{5/2}^{-2}i_{13/2}^{-1}$ . However, such (pure neutron) excitations would result in states of higher excitation energies than those of the yrast  $17/2^+$  and the  $21/2^+$  levels in odd- $A$  Po isotopes. It was thus found reasonable to assign the pure neutron excitations to the respective nonyrast states. The  $27/2^+$  and the  $29/2^+$  levels in the odd Po nuclei were identified with three-quasiparticle configurations  $\pi h_{9/2}^2 \otimes \nu i_{13/2}^{-1}$ . The configurations for the isomeric  $25/2^-$  and  $29/2^-$  were derived from their overlap with the systematics of these states observed in the Pb isotopes. Accordingly, their configuration in  $^{203}\text{Po}$  was identified to be similar to that in  $^{201}\text{Pb}$  and the same is  $(\pi (h_{9/2}^2)_{0+} \otimes \nu p_{1/2}^{-2}f_{5/2}^{-3}(i_{13/2}^{-1})_{12^+})_{25/2^-29/2^-}$ . The findings in  $^{203}\text{Po}$  thus upheld the interpretation of its excitation scheme within the framework of the single-particle excitations, as had been established for the still lighter isotopes of the nucleus [2]. This was also a continuing trend from the heavier isotopes such as  $^{205,207}\text{Po}$  [1]. The absence of collectivity was further corroborated by the absence of enhanced  $B(E2)$  in these nuclei [3].

The present paper reports a spectroscopic investigation of the level structure of  $^{203}\text{Po}$ , using the updated experimental facilities as well as contemporary framework for the shell-model calculations. The objective was to explore possible features in the excitation scheme of the nucleus, through the use of a large array of high-resolution  $\gamma$ -ray detectors in the setup, and to test the reproducibility of the observed level energies in the calculations carried out within the shell-model framework. The computational exercise is a validation of the model Hamiltonian used for the purpose as well as of facility in identifying and quantifying the single-particle excitations that contribute to the observed level scheme.

## II. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS AND DATA ANALYSIS

Excitations of the  $^{203}\text{Po}$  nucleus were investigated following its population in the  $^{194}\text{Pt}(^{13}\text{C}, 4n)$  reaction at  $E_{\text{lab}} = 74$  MeV. The target was 13 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> thick self-supporting foil of enriched (99%)  $^{194}\text{Pt}$ . The beam was delivered by the 15 UD Pelletron at IUAC, New Delhi and the beam energy was so chosen after an excitation function measurement at the commencement of the experiment. As per the predictions of the statistical model calculations, at this beam energy, the aforementioned reaction would be of dominant cross section among the possible compound nucleus fusion-evaporation channels while the fission (exit) channel would amount to  $\approx 25\%$  of the total fusion cross section. Indeed, the yield of  $^{203}\text{Po}$  was observed to be maximum when compared with the other fusion-evaporation products, which principally included isotopes of Po ( $Z = 84$ ), Bi ( $Z = 83$ ), and Pb ( $Z = 82$ ), as illustrated in Fig. 1. The detection system used was the Indian National Gamma Array (INGA) setup at IUAC [4] and (then) consisted of eighteen Compton suppressed HPGe clover detectors positioned at  $148^\circ$  (four detectors),

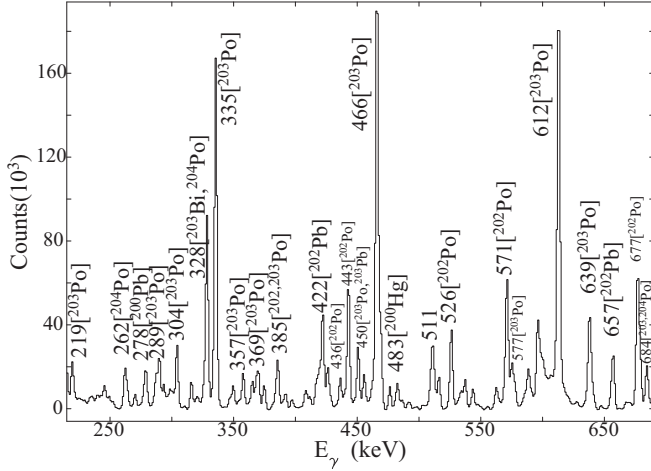


FIG. 1. Part of the  $\gamma$ -ray spectrum corresponding to the full projection of a  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  symmetric matrix and illustrating the different product nuclei populated in the present experiment.

123° (four detectors), 90° (six detectors), 57° (two detectors), and 32° (two detectors). An assembly of three absorber sheets of lead, tin, and copper was fixed on the face of the hevimet collimator of the anti-Compton shield (ACS) in each detector. The absorbers facilitated in reducing the intensity of the x rays, from the thick target, being incident on the detectors (and thus contributing in the event trigger). Data were principally acquired under the condition that at least two Compton-suppressed HPGe clover detectors needed to fire in coincidence for generating the event trigger. The number of two- and higher-fold events acquired was  $\approx 2 \times 10^9$ .

The data were sorted into spectra, symmetric and asymmetric (angle dependent)  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  matrices as well as a  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  cube using the SPRINGZ [5] code. The sorted data were subsequently analyzed using different routines of the RADWARE [6] package. The methodology and the objectives of the exercise were identical to that of any regular investigation of nuclear level structure using  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy. These have been detailed in numerous papers, such as Refs. [7,8], and are briefly mentioned herein. The coincidence relationships between the observed  $\gamma$ -ray transitions were extracted from the symmetric  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  matrix and  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  cube. The coincidences along with the intensity considerations were applied for the placement of the  $\gamma$ -ray transitions in the level scheme of the nucleus. The assignment of multiplicities of the  $\gamma$  rays followed determination of their  $R_{\text{ADO}}$  (ratio of angular distribution from oriented nuclei) values using

$$R_{\text{ADO}} = \frac{I_{\gamma_1} \text{ at } 32^\circ \text{ (Gated by } \gamma_2 \text{ at all angles)}}{I_{\gamma_1} \text{ at } 123^\circ \text{ (Gated by } \gamma_2 \text{ at all angles)}}, \quad (1)$$

where  $I$  is the intensity of the transition (of interest)  $\gamma_1$  in the above equation in the relevant gated spectrum that is generated from the appropriate angle-dependent matrix. As far as this analysis is concerned, the  $R_{\text{ADO}}$  value for the stretched dipole ( $\Delta J = 1$ ) transitions is  $0.73 \pm 0.01$  while for the stretched quadrupole ( $\Delta J = 2$ ) ones, it is  $1.34 \pm 0.01$ . These values were derived from  $R_{\text{ADO}}$  of transitions with previously established multiplicities and belonging to other Po

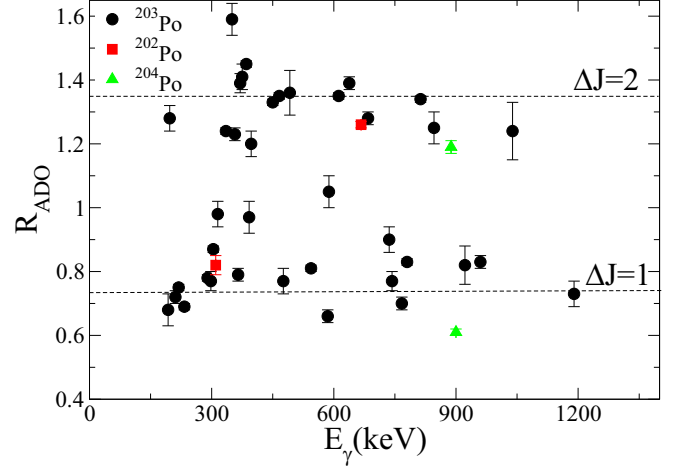


FIG. 2.  $R_{\text{ADO}}$  values for transitions of  $^{203}\text{Po}$ , as determined in the current analysis. Those for selected transitions of  $^{202,204}\text{Po}$  are plotted as reference.

isotopes populated in the same experiment. The  $R_{\text{ADO}}$  values determined for different  $\gamma$ -ray transitions, observed in this study, are represented in Fig. 2.

The electromagnetic nature of the transitions were assigned on the basis of their polarization asymmetry evaluated using

$$\Delta = \frac{aN_{\perp} - N_{\parallel}}{aN_{\perp} + N_{\parallel}}, \quad (2)$$

where  $N_{\perp}$  and  $N_{\parallel}$  are respectively the number of photons of the  $\gamma$  rays of interest that are scattered perpendicular to and parallel to the reference plane. The latter is defined by the beam direction and the direction of emission of the  $\gamma$  ray. Each of the four crystals of a HPGe clover detector operates as scatterer while the two adjacent ones, parallel and perpendicular to the scatterer, operate as absorbers and facilitate the identification of the scattering events in the respective directions. The asymmetry between the two scattering possibilities is known to be maximum at 90°. Thus, the  $N_{\perp}$  ( $N_{\parallel}$ ) for  $\gamma$  rays is extracted from a matrix that has been constructed with the perpendicular (parallel) scattering events in the detectors at 90° on one axis and the coincident detections in detectors at all other angles on the other axis. The coincidences aid in the unambiguous identification of the  $\gamma$ -ray transition being analyzed. The  $a$  in Eq. (2) represents the asymmetry that is characteristic to the geometry of the detection setup. It was determined from the asymmetry between  $N_{\perp}$  and  $N_{\parallel}$  for  $\gamma$  rays of (unpolarized) radioactive sources, such as  $^{152}\text{Eu}$ , and using  $a = N_{\parallel}/N_{\perp}$ . The typical plot of  $a$ , as a function of  $\gamma$ -ray energy, for the present setup is illustrated in Fig. 3(a). The polarization asymmetry [ $\Delta$ , as defined by Eq. (2)] values of the transitions of  $^{203}\text{Po}$  are plotted in Fig. 3(b). The observed asymmetry between  $N_{\perp}$  and  $N_{\parallel}$  for polarized  $\gamma$  rays, such as those emitted by spin oriented ensemble of nuclei produced in fusion-evaporation reactions, depends on the degree of their polarization  $P$  and the sensitivity  $Q$  of the measurement setup. These are related through

$$P = \frac{\Delta}{Q}, \quad (3)$$

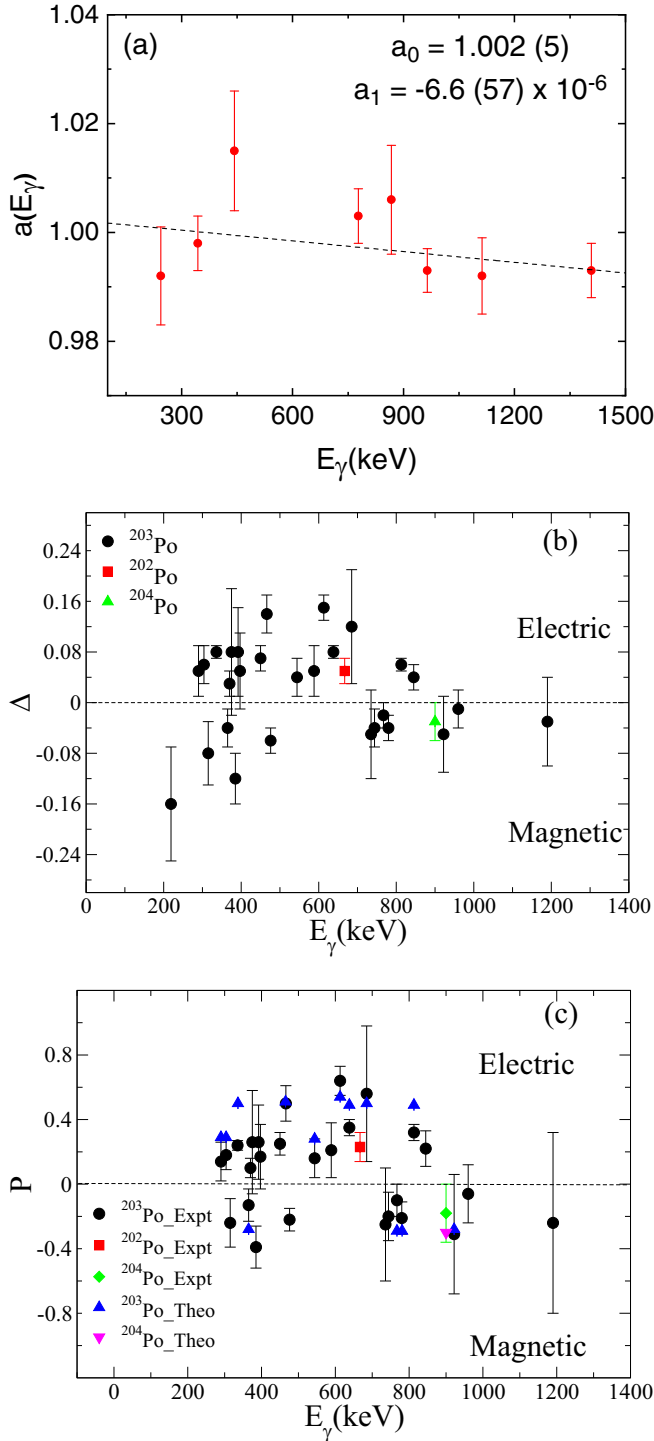


FIG. 3. (a) Plot of geometrical asymmetry as a function of  $\gamma$ -ray energy. (b) Polarization asymmetry of transitions of  $^{203}\text{Po}$ . (c) Linear polarization values for transitions of  $^{203}\text{Po}$  along with the corresponding theoretical estimates for some of them (of pure multipolarity). The  $\Delta$  and  $P$  values for selected transitions of other isotopes, which were populated in the same experiment, are included for validation.

with

$$Q(E_\gamma) = Q_0(E_\gamma)(CE_\gamma + D), \quad (4)$$

where

$$Q_0(E_\gamma) = \frac{\alpha + 1}{\alpha^2 + \alpha + 1}, \quad (5)$$

$\alpha$  being  $E_\gamma/m_e c^2$ ,  $m_e c^2$  is the electron rest mass energy. The  $C$  and  $D$  parameters for the purpose were adopted from those following the work by Palit *et al.* [9] and are  $C = 0.000\,099\text{ keV}^{-1}$  and  $D = 0.446$ . Figure 3(c) illustrates the plot of the  $P$  values determined for different transitions of  $^{203}\text{Po}$ .

As per the regular methodology of nuclear structure studies, using  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy, the information on coincidence relationships between the  $\gamma$  rays along with their intensities, multiplicities, and electromagnetic nature, as resulting from the aforementioned analysis, were used to identify the excitation scheme of the nucleus and the same is discussed in the next section.

### III. RESULTS

The excitation scheme of  $^{203}\text{Po}$ , as established or confirmed in the present investigation, is illustrated in Fig. 4. Figures 5 and 6 illustrate the representative gated spectra respectively projected from  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  matrix and  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  cube. The observed coincidences have been used to identify the placement of transitions in the level scheme. Twenty five new  $\gamma$ -ray transitions have been placed in the level scheme of the nucleus and the following modifications have been made in the existing [3,10] assignments therein. The details of the  $\gamma$ -ray transitions are recorded in Table I. (The energies of the transitions and the levels are rounded off to the nearest integer in the discussions herein.)

- (1) The placement of 397-keV transition has been changed with respect to that assigned in the literature, as deexciting a  $\approx 1527$ -keV level [11]. The level and the  $\gamma$  ray was not reported by Fant *et al.* while in the present study the placement of the transition has been modified to one deexciting the  $\approx 3264$ -keV state. The level has been marked as a new one in the level scheme (Fig. 4) while the  $\gamma$ -ray transition is identified to have been observed previously, albeit with a different placement.
- (2) The 219-keV transition deexciting the 2274-keV level has been identified as a  $M1$  and the state has been identified to be of spin-parity  $27/2^+$ . There was no spin-parity assignment for this level, identified as  $\approx 2277$  keV by Fant *et al.* [10], in the previous studies.
- (3) The 959-keV transition, deexciting the 3014-keV state, has been tentatively assigned an ( $M$ )1 nature, following the present measurements. Accordingly, the state has been assigned a spin-parity of  $27/2^{(+)}$  that is at variance with the assignment by Fant *et al.* [10]. The latter had identified the  $\gamma$  ray as a pure  $E2$  one and had tentatively assigned the spin-parity of the state ( $\approx 3018$  keV, as per Fant *et al.*) as  $(29/2^+)$ .
- (4) The 543-keV  $\gamma$  ray, from the 3066-keV state, has been assigned a multipolarity of  $E1$  in this study. It was tentatively identified as  $M1$ , by Fant *et al.*, and the spin of the level (at  $\approx 3070$  keV, as per Fant *et al.*) was accordingly assigned to be  $29/2$ .

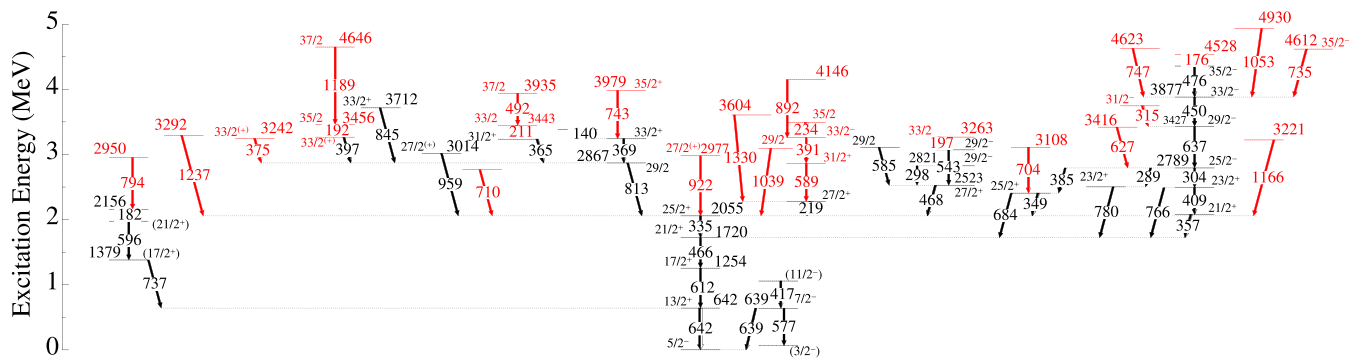


FIG. 4. Excitation scheme of  $^{203}\text{Po}$ . The  $\gamma$ -ray transitions and the energy levels that have been newly identified in this study are indicated in red. The corresponding energy values are also indicated in red. The level energies, rounded off to the nearest integer, are mentioned for most (not all) of the states.

- (5) The 585-keV transition deexciting the 3108-keV state has been established as a pure dipole in this study. However, the electromagnetic nature of the same could

not be unambiguously determined in the present investigation. The multipolarity of the transition was undetermined in the work by Fant *et al.* and consequently there was no spin assignment for the state (at  $\approx 3112$  keV, as quoted by Fant *et al.*) therein.

- (6) The spin-parity of the 3236-keV state, deexcited by the 369-keV transition, has been confirmed to be  $33/2^+$  in this study. The assignment for the level (at  $\approx 3241$  keV, as per Fant *et al.*) was only tentative in the previous work [10].
- (7) The spin-parity of the 3712-keV level has been assigned as  $33/2^+$  in this work, following the  $E2$  assignment of the 845-keV  $\gamma$  ray that deexcites the state. There was no multipolarity assignment for the transition or spin-parity assignment for the state (at  $\approx 3717$  keV, as per Fant *et al.*) in the previous studies [10].
- (8) The 3877-keV state has been assigned spin-parity of  $33/2^-$ , in this measurement. This is following the identification of the 450-keV transition, that deexcites

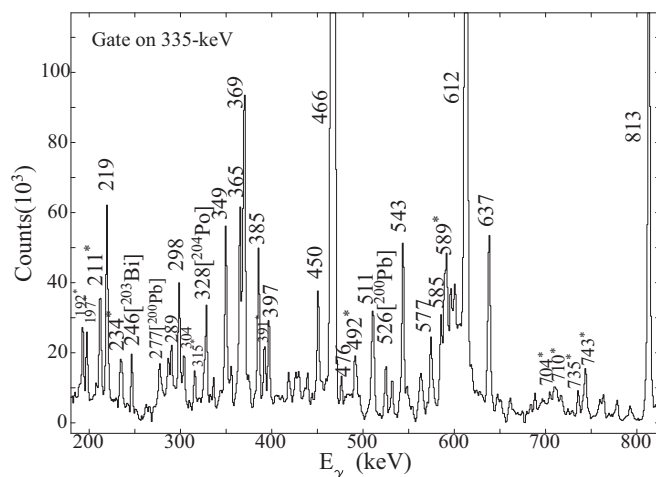
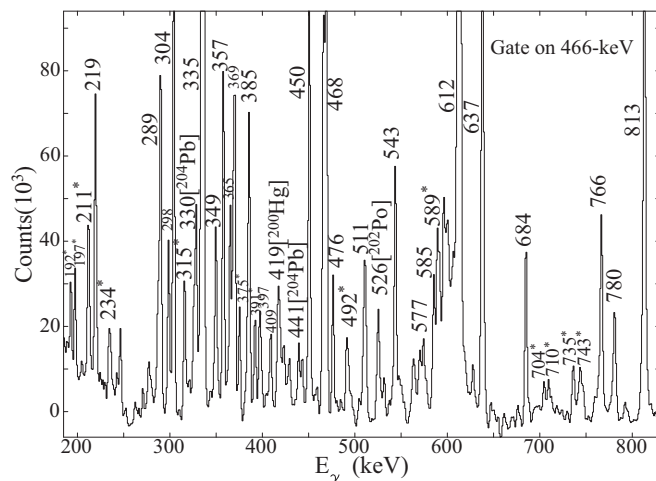


FIG. 5. Representative spectra projected out of  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  matrix with gate on transitions of  $^{203}\text{Po}$ , as indicated in the inset of the respective spectrum. The  $\gamma$  rays newly identified in the present work are marked with \*. Those resulting from overlapping coincidences in other nuclei, populated in the same experiment, are also labeled accordingly.

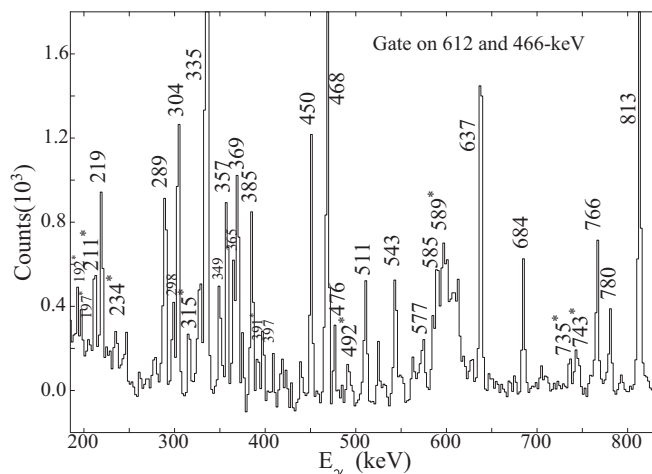


FIG. 6. Representative spectrum projected out of  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  cube with double gate on transitions of  $^{203}\text{Po}$ , as indicated in the inset of the spectrum. The  $\gamma$  rays newly identified in the present work are marked with \*.

TABLE I. Details of the levels and the  $\gamma$ -ray transitions of  $^{203}\text{Po}$  nucleus observed in the present work. The energy of a  $\gamma$ -ray transition is the weighted average of its value in multiple gates. The relative intensities  $I_\gamma$  of the  $\gamma$ -ray transitions are normalized with respect to the intensity of 466-keV transition as observed in 612-keV gated spectrum. The ADO ratios  $R_{\text{ADO}}$ , polarization asymmetry  $\Delta_{\text{pol}}$ , and linear polarization  $P$  of the transitions are determined by using the procedure described in Sec. II. The  $D$  and  $Q$  in the column for multipolarity respectively represents dipole and quadrupole transitions; the polarization measurement could not be carried out for these transitions and thus their electromagnetic nature remains unassigned. The  $N$  superscript indicates the assignments that have been adopted from the data evaluation of  $A = 203$  nuclei by Kondev [10].

$E_i$ (keV)	$E_\gamma$ (keV)	$E_f$ (keV)	$I_\gamma$	$J_i^\pi$	$J_f^\pi$	$R_{\text{ADO}}$	$\Delta_{\text{pol}}$	$P$	Multipolarity
638.7 $\pm$ 0.1	577.2 $\pm$ 0.1	61.5	11 $\pm$ 1	7/2 <sup>-</sup>	(3/2 <sup>-</sup> )				$E2^N$
	638.7 $\pm$ 0.1	0.0	48 $\pm$ 1	7/2 <sup>-</sup>	5/2 <sup>-</sup>				$M1^N$
641.7 $\pm$ 0.2	641.7 $\pm$ 0.2	0.0		13/2 <sup>+</sup>	5/2 <sup>-</sup>				$M4^N$
1055.2 $\pm$ 0.1	416.5 $\pm$ 0.1	638.7	59 $\pm$ 1	(11/2 <sup>-</sup> )	7/2 <sup>-</sup>				$E2^N$
1254.0 $\pm$ 0.2	612.3 $\pm$ 0.1	641.7		17/2 <sup>+</sup>	13/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.35 $\pm$ 0.01	0.15 $\pm$ 0.02	0.64 $\pm$ 0.09	$E2$
1378.8 $\pm$ 0.3	737.1 $\pm$ 0.2	641.7	127 $\pm$ 3	(17/2 <sup>+</sup> )	13/2 <sup>+</sup>				$(E2)^N$
1719.8 $\pm$ 0.2	465.8 $\pm$ 0.1	1254.0	1000	21/2 <sup>+</sup>	17/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.35 $\pm$ 0.01	0.14 $\pm$ 0.03	0.50 $\pm$ 0.11	$E2$
1974.5 $\pm$ 0.3	595.7 $\pm$ 0.1	1378.8	118 $\pm$ 3	(21/2 <sup>+</sup> )	(17/2 <sup>+</sup> )				$E2^N$
2054.7 $\pm$ 0.2	334.9 $\pm$ 0.1	1719.8	643 $\pm$ 14	25/2 <sup>+</sup>	21/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.24 $\pm$ 0.01	0.08 $\pm$ 0.01	0.24 $\pm$ 0.03	$E2$
2077.0 $\pm$ 0.2	356.8 $\pm$ 0.1	1719.8	64 $\pm$ 2	21/2 <sup>+</sup>	21/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.23 $\pm$ 0.02			$M1^N$
2156.4 $\pm$ 0.3	181.9 $\pm$ 0.1	1974.5	75 $\pm$ 2		(21/2 <sup>+</sup> )				
2273.6 $\pm$ 0.2	219.1 $\pm$ 0.1	2054.7	58 $\pm$ 1	27/2 <sup>+</sup>	25/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.75 $\pm$ 0.01	-0.16 $\pm$ 0.09	-0.43 $\pm$ 0.24	$M1$
2404.2 $\pm$ 0.2	349.2 $\pm$ 0.1	2054.7	36 $\pm$ 1	25/2 <sup>+</sup>	25/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.59 $\pm$ 0.05			$M1^N$
	684.1 $\pm$ 0.1	1719.8	71 $\pm$ 2	25/2 <sup>+</sup>	21/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.28 $\pm$ 0.02	0.12 $\pm$ 0.09	0.56 $\pm$ 0.42	$E2$
2485.8 $\pm$ 0.2	408.6 $\pm$ 0.2	2077.0	21 $\pm$ 1	23/2 <sup>+</sup>	21/2 <sup>+</sup>				$M1^N$
	765.9 $\pm$ 0.1	1719.8	76 $\pm$ 2	23/2 <sup>+</sup>	21/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.70 $\pm$ 0.02	-0.02 $\pm$ 0.02	-0.10 $\pm$ 0.10	$M1$
2500.2 $\pm$ 0.2	780.1 $\pm$ 0.1	1719.8	40 $\pm$ 1	23/2 <sup>+</sup>	21/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.83 $\pm$ 0.01	-0.04 $\pm$ 0.02	-0.21 $\pm$ 0.10	$M1$
2523.0 $\pm$ 0.2	468.3 $\pm$ 0.1	2054.7	176 $\pm$ 4	27/2 <sup>+</sup>	25/2 <sup>+</sup>				$M1^N$
2765.1 $\pm$ 0.4	710.4 $\pm$ 0.3	2054.7	8 $\pm$ 1		25/2 <sup>+</sup>				
2789.1 $\pm$ 0.2	289.3 $\pm$ 0.1	2500.2	35 $\pm$ 1	25/2 <sup>-</sup>	23/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.78 $\pm$ 0.01	0.05 $\pm$ 0.04	0.14 $\pm$ 0.12	$E1$
	303.5 $\pm$ 0.1	2485.8	102 $\pm$ 2	25/2 <sup>-</sup>	23/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.87 $\pm$ 0.01	0.06 $\pm$ 0.03	0.18 $\pm$ 0.09	$E1$
	385.1 $\pm$ 0.1	2404.2	54 $\pm$ 2	25/2 <sup>-</sup>	25/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.45 $\pm$ 0.01	-0.12 $\pm$ 0.04	-0.39 $\pm$ 0.13	$E1^a$
2820.9 $\pm$ 0.2	297.7 $\pm$ 0.1	2523.0	28 $\pm$ 1	29/2 <sup>-</sup>	27/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.77 $\pm$ 0.03			$(E1)^N$
2863.0 $\pm$ 0.2	589.4 $\pm$ 0.1	2273.6	55 $\pm$ 2	31/2 <sup>+</sup>	27/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.05 $\pm$ 0.05	0.05 $\pm$ 0.04	0.21 $\pm$ 0.17	$E2(+M3)$
2867.2 $\pm$ 0.2	812.5 $\pm$ 0.1	2054.7	226 $\pm$ 5	29/2 <sup>+</sup>	25/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.34 $\pm$ 0.01	0.06 $\pm$ 0.01	0.32 $\pm$ 0.05	$E2$
2950.0 $\pm$ 0.4	793.6 $\pm$ 0.2	2156.4	4 $\pm$ 1						
2976.7 $\pm$ 0.3	922.2 $\pm$ 0.2	2054.7	13 $\pm$ 1	27/2 <sup>(+)</sup>	25/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.82 $\pm$ 0.06	-0.05 $\pm$ 0.06	-0.31 $\pm$ 0.37	$(M)1$
3013.5 $\pm$ 0.2	959.1 $\pm$ 0.1	2054.7	44 $\pm$ 1	27/2 <sup>(+)</sup>	25/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.83 $\pm$ 0.02	-0.01 $\pm$ 0.03	-0.06 $\pm$ 0.19	$(M)1$
3066.1 $\pm$ 0.2	542.7 $\pm$ 0.1	2523.0	46 $\pm$ 1	29/2 <sup>-</sup>	27/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.81 $\pm$ 0.01	0.04 $\pm$ 0.03	0.16 $\pm$ 0.12	$E1$
3093.2 $\pm$ 0.4	1038.5 $\pm$ 0.3	2054.7	16 $\pm$ 3	29/2	25/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.24 $\pm$ 0.09			$Q$
3107.5 $\pm$ 0.2	584.5 $\pm$ 0.1	2523.0	21 $\pm$ 1	29/2	27/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.66 $\pm$ 0.02			$D$
3108.3 $\pm$ 0.4	704.1 $\pm$ 0.3	2404.2	11 $\pm$ 1		25/2 <sup>+</sup>				
3220.5 $\pm$ 0.4	1165.8 $\pm$ 0.3	2054.7	6 $\pm$ 1		25/2 <sup>+</sup>				
3231.8 $\pm$ 0.2	364.5 $\pm$ 0.1	2867.2	40 $\pm$ 1	31/2 <sup>+</sup>	29/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.79 $\pm$ 0.02	-0.04 $\pm$ 0.03	-0.13 $\pm$ 0.10	$M1$
3236.3 $\pm$ 0.2	368.8 $\pm$ 0.1	2867.2	79 $\pm$ 2	33/2 <sup>+</sup>	29/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.39 $\pm$ 0.03	0.03 $\pm$ 0.02	0.10 $\pm$ 0.06	$E2$
3241.9 $\pm$ 0.2	374.7 $\pm$ 0.1	2867.2	15 $\pm$ 1	33/2 <sup>(+)</sup>	29/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.41 $\pm$ 0.04	0.08 $\pm$ 0.10	0.26 $\pm$ 0.32	$(E)2$
3254.4 $\pm$ 0.2	390.9 $\pm$ 0.1	2863.0	18 $\pm$ 1	33/2 <sup>-</sup>	31/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.97 $\pm$ 0.05	0.08 $\pm$ 0.07	0.26 $\pm$ 0.23	$E1(+M2)$
3262.9 $\pm$ 0.2	196.6 $\pm$ 0.1	3066.1	16 $\pm$ 1	33/2	29/2 <sup>-</sup>	1.28 $\pm$ 0.04			$Q$
3264.0 $\pm$ 0.2	397.0 $\pm$ 0.1	2867.2	22 $\pm$ 1	33/2 <sup>(+)</sup>	29/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.20 $\pm$ 0.04	0.05 $\pm$ 0.06	0.17 $\pm$ 0.20	$(E)2$
3292.0 $\pm$ 0.3	1237.2 $\pm$ 0.2	2054.7	5 $\pm$ 1		25/2 <sup>+</sup>				
3376.5 $\pm$ 0.4	140.2 $\pm$ 0.4	3236.3	11 $\pm$ 1		33/2 <sup>+</sup>				
3416.1 $\pm$ 0.3	627.4 $\pm$ 0.2	2789.1	11 $\pm$ 1		25/2 <sup>-</sup>				
3426.5 $\pm$ 0.2	637.3 $\pm$ 0.1	2789.1	140 $\pm$ 3	29/2 <sup>-</sup>	25/2 <sup>-</sup>	1.39 $\pm$ 0.02	0.08 $\pm$ 0.01	0.35 $\pm$ 0.05	$E2$
3443.2 $\pm$ 0.3	211.4 $\pm$ 0.2	3231.8	29 $\pm$ 1	33/2	31/2 <sup>+</sup>	0.72 $\pm$ 0.02			$D$
3456.2 $\pm$ 0.2	192.3 $\pm$ 0.1	3264.0	14 $\pm$ 1	35/2	33/2 <sup>(+)</sup>	0.68 $\pm$ 0.05			$D$
3488.8 $\pm$ 0.3	234.3 $\pm$ 0.2	3254.4	15 $\pm$ 1	35/2	33/2 <sup>-</sup>	0.69 $\pm$ 0.01			$D$
3603.8 $\pm$ 0.3	1329.9 $\pm$ 0.2	2273.6	9 $\pm$ 1		27/2 <sup>+</sup>				
3711.9 $\pm$ 0.2	844.7 $\pm$ 0.1	2867.2	29 $\pm$ 1	33/2 <sup>+</sup>	29/2 <sup>+</sup>	1.25 $\pm$ 0.05	0.04 $\pm$ 0.02	0.22 $\pm$ 0.11	$E2$
3741.7 $\pm$ 0.2	315.1 $\pm$ 0.1	3426.5	34 $\pm$ 1	31/2 <sup>-</sup>	29/2 <sup>-</sup>	0.98 $\pm$ 0.04	-0.08 $\pm$ 0.05	-0.24 $\pm$ 0.15	$M1 + E2$
3876.6 $\pm$ 0.2	450.3 $\pm$ 0.1	3426.5	97 $\pm$ 2	33/2 <sup>-</sup>	29/2 <sup>-</sup>	1.33 $\pm$ 0.01	0.07 $\pm$ 0.02	0.25 $\pm$ 0.07	$E2$
3934.7 $\pm$ 0.3	491.5 $\pm$ 0.2	3443.2	21 $\pm$ 1	37/2	33/2	1.36 $\pm$ 0.07			$Q$

TABLE I. (Continued.)

$E_i$ (keV)	$E_\gamma$ (keV)	$E_f$ (keV)	$I_\gamma$	$J_i^\pi$	$J_f^\pi$	$R_{ADO}$	$\Delta_{pol}$	$P$	Multipolarity
$3979.4 \pm 0.3$	$742.9 \pm 0.2$	3236.3	$23 \pm 1$	$35/2^+$	$33/2^+$	$0.77 \pm 0.03$	$-0.04 \pm 0.03$	$-0.20 \pm 0.15$	$M1$
$4146.2 \pm 0.2$	$891.8 \pm 0.1$	3254.4	$4 \pm 1$		$33/2^-$				
$4352.3 \pm 0.2$	$475.9 \pm 0.1$	3876.6	$27 \pm 1$	$35/2^-$	$33/2^-$	$0.77 \pm 0.04$	$-0.06 \pm 0.02$	$-0.22 \pm 0.07$	$M1$
$4528.2 \pm 0.4$	$175.9 \pm 0.3$	4352.3	$13 \pm 1$		$35/2^-$				
$4612.0 \pm 0.3$	$735.4 \pm 0.2$	3876.6	$26 \pm 1$	$35/2^-$	$33/2^-$	$0.90 \pm 0.04$	$-0.05 \pm 0.07$	$-0.25 \pm 0.35$	$M1 + E2$
$4623.3 \pm 0.4$	$746.7 \pm 0.3$	3876.6	$8 \pm 1$		$33/2^-$				
$4645.6 \pm 0.2$	$1189.3 \pm 0.1$	3456.2	$11 \pm 1$	$37/2$	$35/2$	$0.73 \pm 0.04$	$-0.03 \pm 0.07$	$-0.24 \pm 0.56$	$(M)1$
$4929.8 \pm 0.5$	$1053.2 \pm 0.4$	3876.6			$33/2^-$				

<sup>a</sup> $\Delta J = 0$  transitions exhibit negative (positive) value of polarization for electric (magnetic) nature [16].

the level, as an  $E2$  one herein. Previously [10], the transition was assigned as  $M1$  and the spin-parity of the state (at  $\approx 3882$  keV, as quoted by Fant *et al.*) as  $31/2^-$ . Figure 7 represents the spectra of the transition corresponding to the perpendicular and the parallel scattering events and illustrates the dominance of the former that leads to positive value of polarization asymmetry [Eq. (2)] or polarization [Eq. (3)].

- (9) The spin-parity of the 4352-keV level has been confirmed to be  $35/2^-$  in the present work. The assignment was tentative for the state (at  $\approx 4358$  keV, quoted by Fant *et al.*) in the previous studies. The 476-keV transition, deexciting the state, has been identified as  $M1$  in this study and this is different from the  $E2$  assignment by Fant *et al.*

An additional proposition can be put forth on the multipolarity assignment of the 182-keV transition deexciting the 2156-keV state. Since the state is known to be an isomer of  $T_{1/2} > 200$  ns [3], the multipolarity of the transition could not be ascertained from its  $ADO$  ratio and its polarization asymmetry. These measurements are valid for transitions emitted by a spin-oriented ensemble of nuclei, such as produced in fusion-evaporation reactions, while the aforementioned iso-

meric lifetime is sufficient to induce dealignment. If the observed intensity of this 182-keV transition is corrected for electron conversion, using codes such as BrICC [12], it is  $\approx 60\%$  increased if the transition is an  $E2$  one and  $\approx 300\%$  enhanced if it is an  $M1$ . The latter would result in an unbalanced intensity across the 1975-keV state that is fed by the 182-keV transition and deexcited by the 596-keV one. If the 182-keV transition is thus interpreted to be of  $E2$  nature, the 2156-keV level can be assigned a spin-parity of  $25/2^+$ . However, since there is no direct experimental evidence for the same, this proposition has not been indicated in the level scheme (Fig. 4) and the assignment has not been included in the table (Table I). Similar perspective can also be assumed for the electromagnetic character of the 234-keV transition that deexcites the 3489-keV state and feeds the level at 3254 keV. It has been identified to be a dipole  $D$  following its  $R_{ADO}$  value. If it is an  $E1$  transition, the conversion is  $\approx 6\%$  while if it is  $M1$ , the same is  $\approx 100\%$ . The latter would offset the intensity balance between the feeding and the decay of the 3254-keV level. This implies that the 234-keV transition is likely to be an  $E1$  and the spin-parity of the 3489-keV state is possibly  $35/2^+$ . Nevertheless, in the absence of any direct experimental justification, the electromagnetic assignment of the 234-keV transition and the parity assignment of the  $35/2$  state at 3489 keV have not been included in Table I. The sharp decrease in the relative intensity of the  $\gamma$ -ray transitions across the 2156-keV state is also noteworthy and can be ascribed to the state being an isomer of  $T_{1/2} > 200$  ns [3].

Previous studies [3,13] on the Po isotopes had reported a number of isomers therein. Some of these, with half-lives around few ns, have been reexamined in the current study using the centroid shift method [14,15]. In the present implementation of the technique, the time difference between the feeding and the decaying  $\gamma$ -ray transitions of a state is histogrammed alternately by defining one as the start (stop) and the other as stop (start). The timing information of the detections, as recorded by the time-to-digital converter (TDC), have been used for the purpose. The difference between the centroids of the two (aforementioned) distributions is known to be  $2\tau$ ,  $\tau$  being the average lifetime of the state. Figure 8 illustrates the time difference spectra between the (i) 788- and 262-keV transitions that respectively feeds and deexcites the 3387-keV state in  $^{204}\text{Po}$  [13], also populated in the present experiment, and (ii) 637- and 304-keV transitions that respectively feed and deexcite

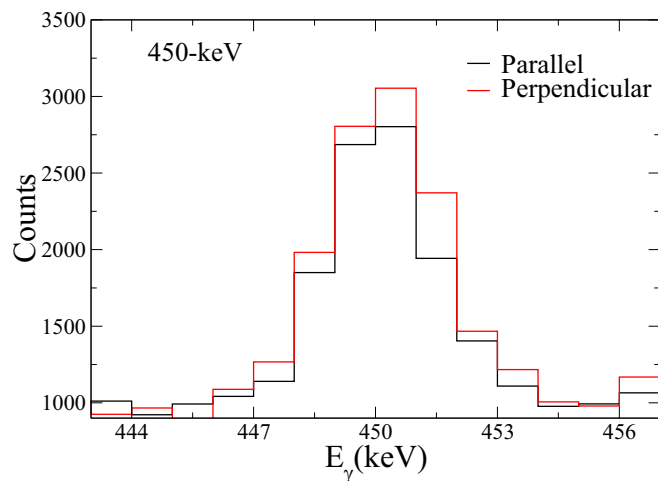


FIG. 7. Spectra of 450-keV transition peak corresponding to the perpendicular and the parallel scattering events in the HPGe clover detectors at  $90^\circ$ .

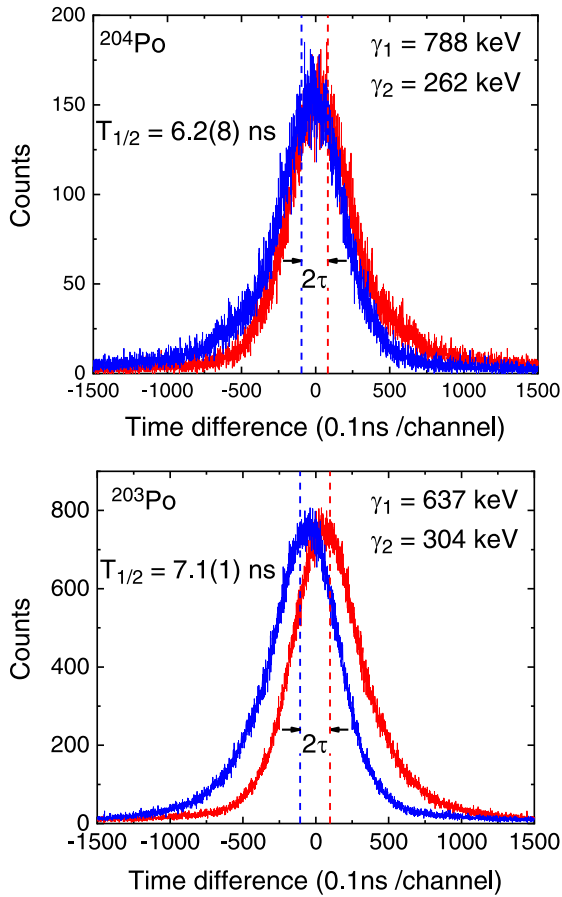


FIG. 8. Time difference spectra between transitions indicated in the inset, for determining isomeric lifetimes. The upper panel corresponds to the state at 3387-keV state in  $^{204}\text{Po}$  while the bottom panel is for 2789-keV state in  $^{203}\text{Po}$ . Please refer to the text for details.

the 2789-keV state in  $^{203}\text{Po}$ . The half-life of the 3387-keV state in  $^{204}\text{Po}$  was determined by Fant *et al.* [13] as  $9 \pm 3$  ns, presumably following an analysis of the time profile of the decaying transition with respect to the rf of the accelerator. The present analysis has resulted in  $T_{1/2} = 6.2 \pm 0.8$  ns, which is within the limits of uncertainty on the previous estimate and validates the present analysis. The latter carried out for the 2789-keV state in  $^{203}\text{Po}$  yields its  $T_{1/2} = 7.1 \pm 0.1$  ns, which is less than the previous value, also reported by Fant *et al.* [3], of  $12 \pm 2$  ns.

The long-lived (isomeric) states are known to effect de-alignment in the spin oriented ensemble of nuclei that are produced in fusion-evaporation reactions. The extent of de-alignment will presumably depend on the lifetime of the state and the “sufficiently” long-lived ones would de-align the population of nuclei to the extent that the angular distributions of the emitted  $\gamma$  rays therefrom are obliterated. However, a rigid limit on the level lifetime that can benchmark the requisite for significant de-alignment to set in, is still not quoted. As far as the current analysis is concerned,  $R_{\text{ADO}}$  and polarization values have been determined for the  $\gamma$  rays that directly or indirectly deexcite the isomers in  $^{203}\text{Po}$ , with  $\tau \approx$  few ns. The resulting assignments have been established to be in overlap

with those in the literature [10]. It follows that the few ns of level lifetimes do not cause considerable de-alignment of the spin oriented population of nuclei that still retain the angular distribution and linear polarization characteristics of the emitted  $\gamma$  rays. It’ll be interesting to pursue if the time required for the de-alignment is also dependent on the mass region and if the same lifetimes, that preserve the angular distribution characteristics in these heavy nuclei, will cause de-orientation in the lighter ones.

The experimentally observed level scheme of the  $^{203}\text{Po}$  nucleus has been interpreted through single-particle excitations in the framework of the shell model. The same is detailed in the next section.

#### IV. DISCUSSIONS

One of the objectives of this endeavor has been to probe the efficacy of the shell model in interpreting the excitation scheme of the nuclei in the  $A \approx 200$  region. There have been similar efforts, in recent times, wherein level structures of nuclei around the  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  core are calculated in the shell-model framework. Bothe *et al.* [17] have reported such calculations for the isomeric states in  $^{203}\text{Tl}$  ( $Z = 81, N = 122$ ) while Yadav *et al.* [15] and Madhu *et al.* [14] have used them for deciphering the particle excitations associated with the observed states of  $^{215,216}\text{Fr}$  ( $Z = 87, N = 128, 129$ ) nuclei. These studies have identified a general overlap, between the experimental and the calculated level energies, of within  $\approx 250$  keV as reasonable.

Large basis shell-model calculation has been carried out in the present work using the KHH7B [18] Hamiltonian in the model space spanning  $Z = 58\text{--}114$  and  $N = 100\text{--}164$ . The model space includes proton orbitals  $d_{5/2}, h_{11/2}, d_{3/2}$ , and  $s_{1/2}$  below  $Z = 82$  and the  $h_{9/2}, f_{7/2}$ , and  $i_{13/2}$  above; the neutron orbitals are  $i_{13/2}, p_{3/2}, f_{5/2}$ , and  $p_{1/2}$  below  $N = 126$  and the  $g_{9/2}, i_{11/2}$ , and  $j_{15/2}$  above. Proton excitations across  $Z = 82$  closure and neutron excitations across the closure at  $N = 126$  have not been allowed in the calculations. The matrix diagonalization has been carried out using the OXBASH [19] code. The comparison between the calculated and the experimental level energies is illustrated in Figs. 9 and 10. The dominant particle configurations along with the energy values of the states are recorded in Table II.

The calculated energies of the negative-parity states with spin  $< 29/2$  are excellent overlap with their experimental values, even within  $\approx 100$  keV for some of them. The  $25/2^-$  level is an exception for which the theoretical and the measured level energies differ by  $\approx 800$  keV. The dominant particle configurations associated with these states negative-parity states have been calculated to be  $\pi(h_{9/2}^2) \otimes \nu(f_{5/2}^{3,2} p_{3/2}^{2,3} i_{13/2}^{14})$ . The negative-parity states at higher spins,  $\geq 31/2$ , are poorly represented in the calculations wherein their energies are deviant by as much as 500 keV to 1 MeV with respect to the experimental values. The energy of the calculated yrast  $33/2^-$  state, however, reasonably overlaps with the measured energy within  $\approx 250$  keV. The most probable particle configurations for the negative-parity states at higher spins correspond to  $\pi(h_{9/2}^1 i_{13/2}^1) \otimes \nu(f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 i_{13/2}^1)$ .





TABLE II. Main partitions of wave functions of the positive- and negative-parity states in  $^{203}\text{Po}$  for KHH7B interaction. The probability of the most dominant configuration is expressed in % of the total wave function of the state.

Level energy					
Expt.	SM	$J^\pi$	Probability	Proton	Neutron
Negative parity					
0	0	$5/2^-$	29.33	$h_{9/2}^0 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^3 p_{3/2}^2 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{14}$
62	181	$(3/2^-)$	39.21	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^3 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{14}$
639	755	$7/2^-$	19.96	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^3 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{14}$
1055	993	$(11/2^-)$	37.64	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^3 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{14}$
2789	1987	$25/2^-$	39.78	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^3 p_{3/2}^2 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{14}$
2821	2715	$29/2^-$	70.95	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^3 p_{3/2}^2 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{14}$
3066	2758	$29/2^-$	31.65	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^3 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{12}$
3254	2999	$33/2^-$	26.06	$h_{9/2}^1 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^1$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
3427	2812	$29/2^-$	24.93	$h_{9/2}^1 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^1$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
3742	2851	$31/2^-$	25.53	$h_{9/2}^1 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^1$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
3877	3402	$33/2^-$	42.34	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^3 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{12}$
4352	3465	$35/2^-$	24.51	$h_{9/2}^1 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^1$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
4612	3671	$35/2^-$	29.32	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^3 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{12}$
Positive parity					
642	700	$13/2^+$	24.13	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
1254	1365	$17/2^+$	28.43	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
1379	1861	$(17/2^+)$	23.95	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
1720	1745	$21/2^+$	23.00	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
1975	1947	$(21/2^+)$	30.87	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^4 p_{3/2}^2 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
2055	1981	$25/2^+$	32.32	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
2077	2023	$21/2^+$	27.80	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
2404	2347	$25/2^+$	35.75	$h_{9/2}^1 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^1$	$f_{5/2}^3 p_{3/2}^3 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{14}$
2486	2001	$23/2^+$	29.66	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
2500	2337	$23/2^+$	26.50	$h_{9/2}^1 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^1$	$f_{5/2}^3 p_{3/2}^2 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{14}$
2274	2318	$27/2^+$	22.42	$h_{9/2}^1 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^1$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
2523	2375	$27/2^+$	26.22	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
2977	2667	$27/2^{(+)}$	31.61	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^3 p_{3/2}^3 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
2867	2620	$29/2^+$	35.78	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
2863	2758	$31/2^+$	53.28	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
3232	2949	$31/2^+$	32.75	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^4 p_{3/2}^2 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
3236	2782	$33/2^+$	52.68	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
3242	3185	$33/2^{(+)}$	57.96	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^3 p_{3/2}^3 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
3264	3226	$33/2^{(+)}$	30.14	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$
3979	3230	$35/2^+$	51.41	$h_{9/2}^2 f_{7/2}^0 i_{13/2}^0$	$f_{5/2}^2 p_{3/2}^4 p_{1/2}^0 i_{13/2}^{13}$

If the 2156-keV state is assigned a spin-parity of  $25/2^+$ , as discussed in the previous section, following an  $E2$  assignment for the 182-keV transition (that deexcites the level), the level is then the yrare  $25/2^+$  and exhibits a reasonable overlap, within  $\approx 200$  keV, with the calculated energy (2347 keV). The current yrare  $25/2^+$  at 2404 keV is then the third  $25/2^+$  state

and its energy is in excellent agreement with the theoretical value of 2383 keV. Once again, since there is no direct experimental evidence to corroborate the spin-parity assignment of the state at 2156 keV, this has not been included in the table.

It may thus be summed up that the observed excitation scheme of the  $^{203}\text{Po}$  nucleus could be satisfactorily interpreted within the framework of the large basis shell-model calculations. The specific deviations might have resulted from the limitations of the Hamiltonian that requires further refinements. The latter is expected to be facilitated by the availability of experimental data through endeavors such as the present study.

## V. CONCLUSION

The level structure of the  $^{203}\text{Po}$  nucleus has been probed following its population in  $^{194}\text{Pt}(^{13}\text{C}, 4n)$  reaction at  $E_{\text{lab}} = 74$  MeV. The excitation scheme of the nucleus has been established up to  $\approx 5$  MeV and spin  $\approx 18\hbar$ . Twenty-five new  $\gamma$ -ray transitions have been added in the level scheme of the nucleus and spin-parity assignments have been either made or confirmed for a number of states therein. The observed level scheme has been satisfactorily interpreted within the framework of large basis shell-model calculations wherein the excited states of the nucleus have been ascribed to proton excitations in  $h_{9/2}$  and  $i_{13/2}$  orbitals outside the  $Z = 82$  closure and neutron excitations in  $f_{5/2}$ ,  $p_{3/2}$ , and  $i_{13/2}$  orbitals in the  $N = 126$  shell. The overlap between the experimental and the calculated level energies, of  $^{203}\text{Po}$ , upholds the credibility of the shell model in catering to a microscopic description of the excitation scheme even for heavy nuclei in the  $A \approx 200$  region and in model space consisting of high- $j$  orbitals. Further refinements in the model calculations are envisaged to follow the availability of experimental data.

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