

## High-spin states and possible chirality in the odd- $A$ $^{133}\text{Cs}$ nucleus

H. Wang (王豪),<sup>1</sup> K. Y. Ma (马克岩),<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup> D. Zhao (赵迪),<sup>1</sup> J. Y. Li (李纪元),<sup>1</sup> H. Y. Ye (叶欢仪),<sup>1</sup> X. J. Zhao (赵新洁),<sup>1</sup> J. X. Teng (滕佳欣),<sup>1</sup> Z. Qiao (乔政),<sup>1</sup> Y. C. Hao (郝宜春),<sup>1</sup> Z. H. Zhao (赵子豪),<sup>1</sup> H. C. Zhang (张会成),<sup>1</sup> Y. K. Pan (潘禹坤),<sup>1</sup> Y. J. Ma (马英君),<sup>1</sup> J. B. Lu (陆景彬),<sup>1</sup> Y. Zheng (郑云),<sup>4</sup> C. B. Li (李聪博),<sup>4</sup> T. X. Li (李天晓),<sup>4</sup> X. G. Wu (吴晓光),<sup>4</sup> H. Y. Wu (吴鸿毅),<sup>4</sup> J. Z. Li (李金泽),<sup>4</sup> R. Hong (洪锐),<sup>4</sup> Z. Y. He (贺子阳),<sup>4</sup> M. Zheng (郑敏),<sup>4</sup> and Y. Q. Li (李韵秋)<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>College of Physics, Jilin University, Changchun 130012, China

<sup>2</sup>Chongqing Research Institute, Jilin University, Chongqing 401120, China

<sup>3</sup>Yibin Research Institute, Jilin University, Sichuan 644000, China

<sup>4</sup>China Institute of Atomic Energy, Beijing 102413, China



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High-spin states of  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  have been studied using the fusion-evaporation reaction  $^{130}\text{Te}(^7\text{Li}, 4n)^{133}\text{Cs}$  at a beam energy of 32 MeV. The previously reported level scheme of  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  is extended and modified with the addition of nearly 30 new  $\gamma$  transitions. A pair of nearly degenerate positive-parity doublet bands are identified and assigned the same  $\pi d_{5/2} \otimes \nu h_{11/2}^2$  configuration. The properties of both bands show general agreement with the fingerprints of chiral rotation, and thus the bands are suggested as candidate chiral doublet bands. This interpretation is also supported by the particle rotor model calculations. In addition, the high- $j$  intruder  $\pi h_{11/2}$  band is extended to the  $27/2^-$  state. A new decoupled  $\Delta I = 2$  sequence and a weak positive-parity band with magnetic dipole ( $M1$ ) transitions are observed. The former is tentatively assigned the  $\pi d_{5/2} h_{11/2}^2$  configuration. Meanwhile, the systematic studies of the  $\pi d_{5/2}$ ,  $\pi g_{7/2}$ , and  $\pi h_{11/2}$  bands in odd- $A$  Cs isotopes are also discussed in the present work.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Chiral symmetry exists commonly in chemistry, biology, particle physics, etc. In nuclear physics, the existence of chirality is one of the intriguing questions of high-spin nuclear structure studies, which was originally predicted by Frauendorf and Meng in 1997 [1]. A spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry can take place in a rotating triaxial nucleus when the Fermi level lies in the lower part of valence proton (neutron) high- $j$  (particle-like) subshell and in the upper part of valence neutron (proton) high- $j$  (hole-like) subshell. In the laboratory frame, the restoration of the broken chiral symmetry may give rise to pairs of nearly degenerate  $\Delta I = 1$  bands with the same parity, which are called chiral doublet bands [1]. So far, more than 50 candidate chiral nuclei have been reported, mainly in the  $A \approx 80$  [2–4], 100 [5–9], 130 [10–29], and 190 [30–34] mass regions.

Since the first chiral doublet bands were reported in the  $A \approx 130$  mass region, much effort has been made both experimentally and theoretically to investigate this phenomenon. Particularly, the  $Z = 55$  Cs isotopes, wherein  $^{128}\text{Cs}$  is proposed as the best known example revealing the chirality [19], have attracted a lot of attention. Up to now, candidate chiral doublet bands have been suggested in odd-odd nuclei  $^{122,124,126,128,130,132}\text{Cs}$  [16–21] and odd- $A$  nuclei

$^{121,123,125,127,129,131}\text{Cs}$  [35–38]. As mentioned above, it is clear that the exploration for chirality in Cs isotopes has been extended to  $^{132}\text{Cs}$  ( $N = 77$ ) [21]. Therefore, it is interesting to investigate the systematic properties of chiral symmetry along the cesium isotopic chain to heavier nuclei. For this purpose, we try to extend the study of chiral rotation to neighboring isotope  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  ( $N = 78$ ), and explore the border of chirality for nuclei when the neutron number approaches the closed shell at  $N = 82$ .

Additionally, the known level structure of  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  is relatively scarce, and there are still some confusions in the level scheme reported in previous works [39,40]. Thus, it is necessary to extend the information about excited states and clarify the level scheme in nucleus  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ .

### II. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

High-spin states in  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  are populated through the  $^{130}\text{Te}(^7\text{Li}, 4n)^{133}\text{Cs}$  reaction. A 32 MeV  $^7\text{Li}$  beam is provided by the HI-13 tandem accelerator at China Institute of Atomic Energy. The target consists of  $2.96 \text{ mg/cm}^2$  of  $^{130}\text{Te}$  (enriched to 99.4%) backed with  $10.6 \text{ mg/cm}^2$  of natural Pb. A total of approximately  $1.1 \times 10^9$   $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  coincidence events are accumulated by 24 HPGe detectors and two clover detectors during the experiment. These detectors are placed at  $60^\circ$ ,  $90^\circ$ ,  $120^\circ$ , and  $150^\circ$  with respect to the beam direction, respectively. In order to extract the coincidence relationships with  $\gamma$  rays and the multipolarities of the transitions, the data

\*Contact author: mky@jlu.edu.cn



TABLE I. The energies, relative intensities, DCO ratios, initial and final state spins, and multiplicities for transitions assigned to  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  in the present experiment.

$E_\gamma^a$ (keV)	$I_\gamma^b$	$R_{\text{DCO}}^c$	$R_{\text{DCO}}^d$	$I_i^\pi - I_f^\pi$	Multiplicity
81.0	> 100			$5/2^+ \rightarrow 7/2^+$	$M1/E2$
114.9	41(4)		1.04(10)	$(23/2^+) \rightarrow 21/2^+$	$(M1/E2)$
152.5	1.4(6)		0.8(3)	$(29/2^+) \rightarrow (27/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
160.6	4.1(15)	0.46(18)		$(27/2^+) \rightarrow (25/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
174.1	3.8(15)	0.9(3)		$15/2^- \rightarrow 15/2^+$	$E1$
190.8	17(3)	0.52(12)		$(25/2^+) \rightarrow (23/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
233.2	39(3)	0.56(6)		$21/2^+ \rightarrow 19/2^+$	$M1/E2$
257.5	4.9(17)	0.8(3)		$(19/2^+) \rightarrow 19/2^+$	$(M1/E2)$
275.0	1.9(8)		0.9(4)	$(25/2^+) \rightarrow 23/2^-$	$(E1)$
291.4	15(3)	0.49(9)		$(23/2^+) \rightarrow 21/2^+$	$(M1/E2)$
303.5	16(3)	0.56(10)		$11/2^- \rightarrow 9/2^+$	$E1$
318.9	44(3)	0.89(6)		$(19/2^-) \rightarrow 15/2^-$	$(E2)$
319.5	11(3)		1.0(3)	$(27/2^+) \rightarrow (25/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
320.1	3.9(15)	0.44(16)		$(21/2^+) \rightarrow (19/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
348.4	< 1			$(23/2^+) \rightarrow 19/2^+$	$(E2)$
351.0	1.3(6)	0.6(3)		$15/2^- \rightarrow 13/2^+$	$E1$
355.8	15(3)	0.53(12)		$(25/2^+) \rightarrow (23/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
366.0	73.1(15)	0.63(6)		$11/2^- \rightarrow 9/2^+$	$E1$
378.5	3.1(12)	0.6(3)		$(29/2^+) \rightarrow (27/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
458.2	1.4(7)	0.6(3)		$(23/2^+) \rightarrow (21/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
471.0	< 1			$(25/2^+) \rightarrow 21/2^+$	$(E2)$
474.0	< 1			$(23/2^-) \rightarrow (21/2^-)$	$(M1/E2)$
485.0	1.5(7)		0.9(4)	$(27/2^+) \rightarrow (25/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
491.2	1.3(5)		1.1(5)	$(31/2^+) \rightarrow (29/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
499.1	1.8(7)		0.9(3)	$(29/2^+) \rightarrow (27/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
502.2	22(3)	0.50(9)		$17/2^+ \rightarrow 15/2^+$	$M1/E2$
508.4	1.8(8)		1.6(8)	$(25/2^+) \rightarrow (25/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
533.1	65(2)	0.95(6)		$15/2^- \rightarrow 11/2^-$	$E2$
538.5	3.0(12)	0.7(3)		$(25/2^+) \rightarrow (23/2^-)$	$(E1)$
539.0	< 1			$(29/2^+) \rightarrow (25/2^+)$	$(E2)$
553.0	17(3)	1.0(2)		$17/2^+ \rightarrow 13/2^+$	$E2$
569.6	< 1			$(33/2^+) \rightarrow (31/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
571.1	7(2)	0.55(16)		$(21/2^-) \rightarrow (19/2^-)$	$(M1/E2)$
577.8	1.5(7)	0.6(3)		$(21/2^+) \rightarrow 19/2^+$	$(M1/E2)$
582.7	< 1			$(31/2^+) \rightarrow (29/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
595.3	27(4)	1.02(19)		$21/2^+ \rightarrow 17/2^+$	$E2$
604.3	13(2)	0.66(13)		$21/2^+ \rightarrow (19/2^-)$	$E1$
612.5	2.6(11)	0.9(3)		$(37/2^+) \rightarrow (33/2^+)$	$(E2)$
624.4	95.8(3)	1.07(4)		$9/2^+ \rightarrow 5/2^+$	$E2$
632.9	100	0.93(5)		$11/2^+ \rightarrow 7/2^+$	$E2$
637.3	11(3)	1.0(3)		$(29/2^+) \rightarrow (25/2^+)$	$(E2)$
659.1	10(3)	1.0(2)		$15/2^- \rightarrow 11/2^-$	$E2$
668.5	1.7(7)	0.6(3)		$(27/2^+) \rightarrow (25/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
673.3	3.2(13)		2.0(7)	$(25/2^+) \rightarrow (25/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
674.1	35(4)	0.94(14)		$13/2^+ \rightarrow 9/2^+$	$E2$
675.6	4.1(16)	1.0(4)		$(27/2^+) \rightarrow (23/2^+)$	$(E2)$
687.5	4.7(16)		1.3(5)	$(25/2^+) \rightarrow (23/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
705.5	33(4)	0.67(11)		$9/2^+ \rightarrow 7/2^+$	$M1/E2$
716.2	6(2)	0.9(3)		$19/2^- \rightarrow 15/2^-$	$E2$
737.7	2.0(9)	0.5(2)		$23/2^- \rightarrow (21/2^-)$	$(M1/E2)$
746.5	4.0(15)	0.49(18)		$13/2^+ \rightarrow 11/2^+$	$M1/E2$
767.9	17(3)	0.58(12)		$9/2^+ \rightarrow 7/2^+$	$M1/E2$
785.5	1.6(7)	0.9(4)		$23/2^- \rightarrow 19/2^-$	$E2$
797.4	95.6(5)	1.09(7)		$15/2^+ \rightarrow 11/2^+$	$E2$
819.0	< 1			$(29/2^+) \rightarrow (25/2^+)$	$(E2)$
821.0	1.2(6)	0.8(4)		$27/2^- \rightarrow 23/2^-$	$E2$

TABLE I. (*Continued.*)

$E_\gamma^a$ (keV)	$I_\gamma^b$	$R_{\text{DCO}}^c$	$R_{\text{DCO}}^d$	$I_i^\pi - I_f^\pi$	Multipolarity
864.2	54(3)	1.06(10)		$19/2^+ \rightarrow 15/2^+$	$E2$
864.4	2.2(9)		1.0(5)	$(25/2^+) \rightarrow (23/2^+)$	$(M1/E2)$
870.0	< 1			$(31/2^+) \rightarrow (27/2^+)$	$(E2)$
951.2	< 1			$(33/2^+) \rightarrow (29/2^+)$	$(E2)$
1025.0	1.0(5)		1.7(7)	$(27/2^+) \rightarrow (23/2^+)$	$(E2)$
1044.9	6.8(17)	1.1(4)		$(23/2^-) \rightarrow (19/2^-)$	$(E2)$
1082.3	1.0(5)	0.9(4)		$(31/2^+) \rightarrow (27/2^+)$	$(E2)$
1121.5	2.1(8)	1.2(5)		$(19/2^+) \rightarrow 15/2^+$	$(E2)$
1159.4	5.1(16)	0.9(3)		$(33/2^+) \rightarrow (29/2^+)$	$(E2)$

<sup>a</sup>The energy uncertainty is about 0.2 keV for strong transitions ( $I_\gamma \geq 15$ ) and about 0.5 keV for weak transitions ( $I_\gamma < 15$ ).

<sup>b</sup>Intensities are corrected for detector efficiency and normalized to 100 for the same 632.9 keV transition as in Refs. [39,40].

<sup>c</sup>DCO ratios from a gate on the quadrupole transition.

<sup>d</sup>DCO ratios from a gate on the dipole transition.

keV transition is provided in Fig. 2(c). Multipolarity analysis indicates that the 821 keV transition has quadrupole character, as can be seen from Table I. Thus, the spin of band 6 is

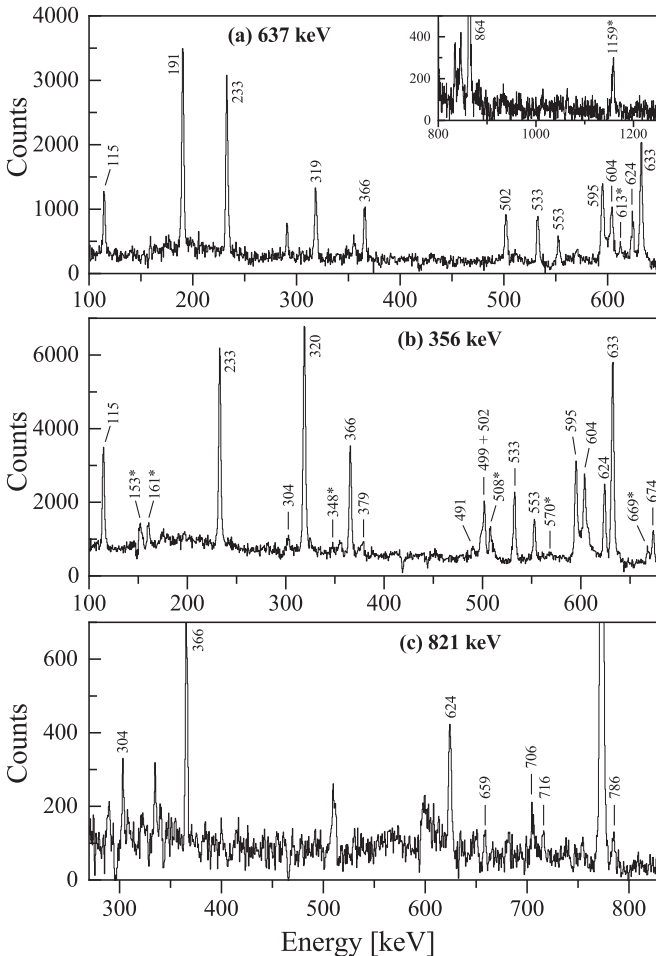


FIG. 2.  $\gamma$ -ray coincidence spectra gated on the (a) 637 keV, (b) 356 keV, and (c) 821 keV transitions. Inset shows the higher-energy part of the spectra. The newly identified  $\gamma$  rays are marked with the asterisks.

extended from  $I^\pi = 23/2^-$  to  $I^\pi = 27/2^-$ , and  $2\hbar$  higher than the earlier work.

Band 7 is observed for the first time. It feeds into the positive-parity band 1 via several linking transitions. Multipolarity analysis indicates that the 1122 keV linking transition is of  $\Delta I = 2$  character, and the 578 keV transition is of  $\Delta I = 1$  character. Thus, band 7 is suggested as a positive-parity band as that of band 1.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

The positive-parity bands 1 and 2 have been reported as  $\pi g_{7/2}$  and  $\pi d_{5/2}$  configurations, respectively [39,40], and are suggested as a pair of pseudospin partner bands in the early work [40].

Sequence 3, consisting of  $E2$  transitions, is a new structure having the positive parity. This sequence is expected to be mainly based on three-quasiparticle configuration, due to the fact that it exhibits a high excitation energy and large initial spin of  $(25/2)\hbar$ . Meanwhile, sequence 3 mainly decays to the  $\pi d_{5/2}$  band 2 with the same parity through a strong transition of 191 keV, and thereby three-quasiparticle configuration with an odd proton particle in the  $d_{5/2}$  orbital is considered for sequence 3. Additionally, the decoupled characteristic demonstrated by sequence 3 indicates that the high- $j$  and low- $\Omega$  orbital  $\pi h_{11/2}$  may be involved in its configuration. Hence, sequence 3 of  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  is tentatively assigned the  $\pi d_{5/2}h_{11/2}^2$  configuration. Indeed, similar decoupled structure with the same configuration has also been observed in neighboring isotope  $^{131}\text{Cs}$  [41].

Band 4 decays directly to the  $\pi g_{7/2}$  and  $\pi d_{5/2}$  bands probably due to the alignment of the two  $h_{11/2}$  neutrons [39,40], i.e., the underlying configuration being  $\pi(g_{7/2}/d_{5/2}) \otimes \nu h_{11/2}^{-2}$ . The newly established band 5 decays to band 4 via several dipole and quadrupole transitions, having the same positive-parity as band 4, as shown in Fig. 1. The existence of several  $M1/E2$  and  $E2$  linking transitions between bands 4 and 5 indicates that band 5 is likely to have the same configuration as band 4 [14,21,23]. Additionally, bands 4 and 5 lying close to each other in energy, we speculate that band 5 might be a chiral partner band of band 4. To check this conjecture,

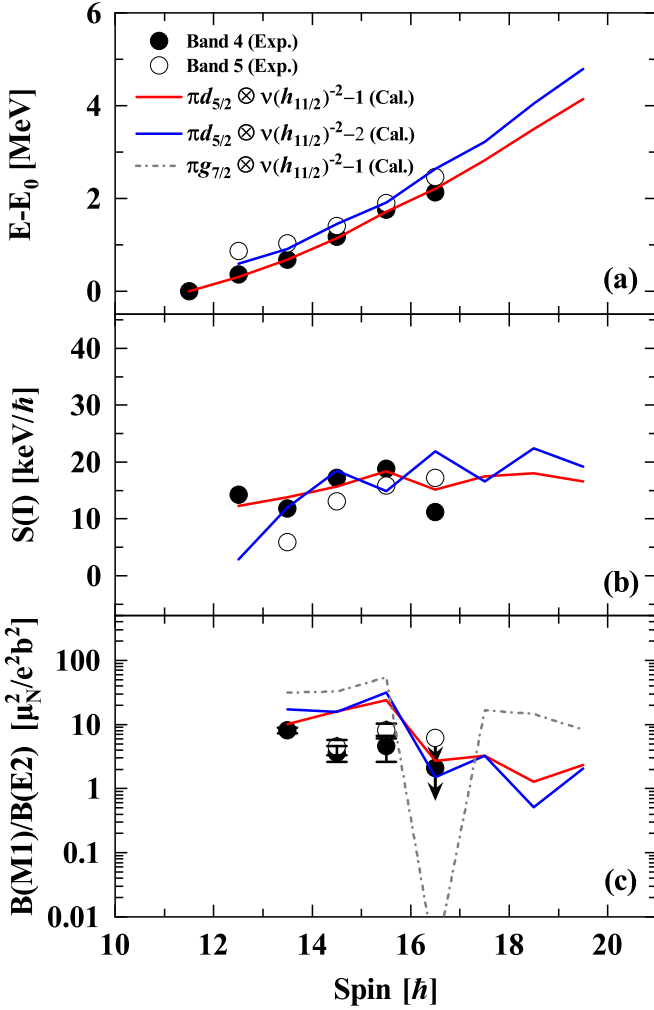


FIG. 3. (a) Experimental excitation energies  $E(I)$ , (b) energy staggering parameters  $S(I)$ , and (c)  $B(M1)/B(E2)$  ratios for bands 4 and 5 in  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  as a function of spin in comparison with the PRM calculations. The deformation parameter  $\beta = 0.20$  [40] and the triaxial deformation parameter  $\gamma = 31^\circ$  are adopted as input to the PRM. The energies are relative to the band head  $E_0$  of the chiral double bands.

the fingerprints of chiral doublet bands [5,22,42,43], i.e., the excitation energies  $E(I)$ , energy staggering parameters  $S(I) = [E(I) - E(I - 1)]/2I$ , and reduced transition probability ratios  $B(M1)/B(E2)$  for bands 4 and 5 are extracted and presented as functions of spin in Figs. 3(a), 3(b), and 3(c), respectively.

As can be seen from Fig. 3(a), the experimental excitation energies of band 5 are slightly higher than those of band 4, and the two bands show a small energy difference within the observed spin interval. In Fig. 3(b), the doublet bands have similar  $S(I)$  values, and the  $S(I)$  exhibits a smooth variation versus spin. Moreover, the extracted  $B(M1)/B(E2)$  ratios of bands 4 and 5 show odd-even staggering with the same phase as a function of spin in Fig. 3(c). These experimental properties are consistent with the fingerprints of chiral doublet bands [5,22,42,43]. Indeed, similar bands with the  $\pi d_{5/2} \otimes \nu h_{11/2}^{-2}$

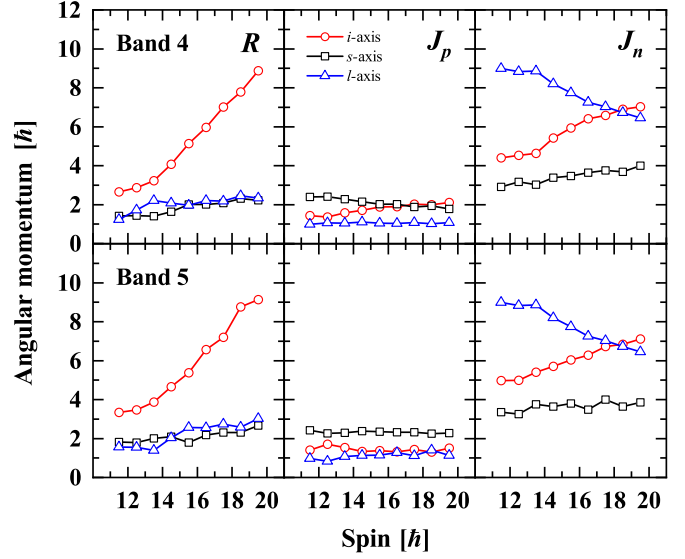


FIG. 4. The root mean square components along the intermediate ( $i$ , circles), short ( $s$ , squares), and long ( $l$ , triangles) axes of the core ( $R$ ), valence proton ( $J_p$ ), and valence neutrons ( $J_n$ ) angular momenta calculated as functions of spin  $I$  by means of the PRM for bands 4 and 5 in  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ .

configuration have been reported as chiral doublet bands in neighboring  $^{133}\text{La}$  nucleus [25]. Thus, the doublet bands 4 and 5 in  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  are interpreted by the same reasoning.

To further examine the chirality in  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ , calculations based on the particle rotor model (PRM) [43–49] have been performed. The calculated  $E(I)$ ,  $S(I)$ , and  $B(M1)/B(E2)$  ratios for positive-parity doublet bands 4 and 5 with  $\pi d_{5/2} \otimes \nu h_{11/2}^{-2}$  configuration are shown in Fig. 3, in comparison with the corresponding experimental data. As illustrated in Fig. 3, the small energy differences between bands 4 and 5 are well reproduced, and the calculated  $S(I)$  and  $B(M1)/B(E2)$  ratios are in reasonably agreement with the experimental data. The agreement between the experimental data and theoretical calculations supports the present configuration assignment and allows us to further investigate the chiral geometry for bands 4 and 5 in  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ .

The chiral geometry can be derived from the eigenfunctions calculated by PRM. In Fig. 4, the root mean square values of the angular momentum components of the core  $R$ , of the  $d_{5/2}$  valence proton  $J_p(d_{5/2})$ , and of the  $h_{11/2}^{-2}$  valence neutrons  $J_n(h_{11/2}^{-2})$  are calculated and presented for bands 4 and 5. As can be seen, the angular momentum of the collective core for both bands 4 and 5 is aligned along the intermediate axis ( $i$  axis), which corresponds to the largest moment of inertia. Meanwhile, the angular momentum of the  $d_{5/2}$  valence proton particle and the angular momentum of the  $h_{11/2}^{-2}$  valence neutron holes align along the short axis ( $s$  axis) and long axis ( $l$  axis), respectively. The chiral geometry of bands 4 and 5 supports the existence of possible chiral doublet bands in  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ .

Furthermore, in view of the mixing of  $d_{5/2}$  and  $g_{7/2}$  orbitals, an alternative interpretation of the bands 4 and 5, in which the odd proton occupies either the  $d_{5/2}$  or the

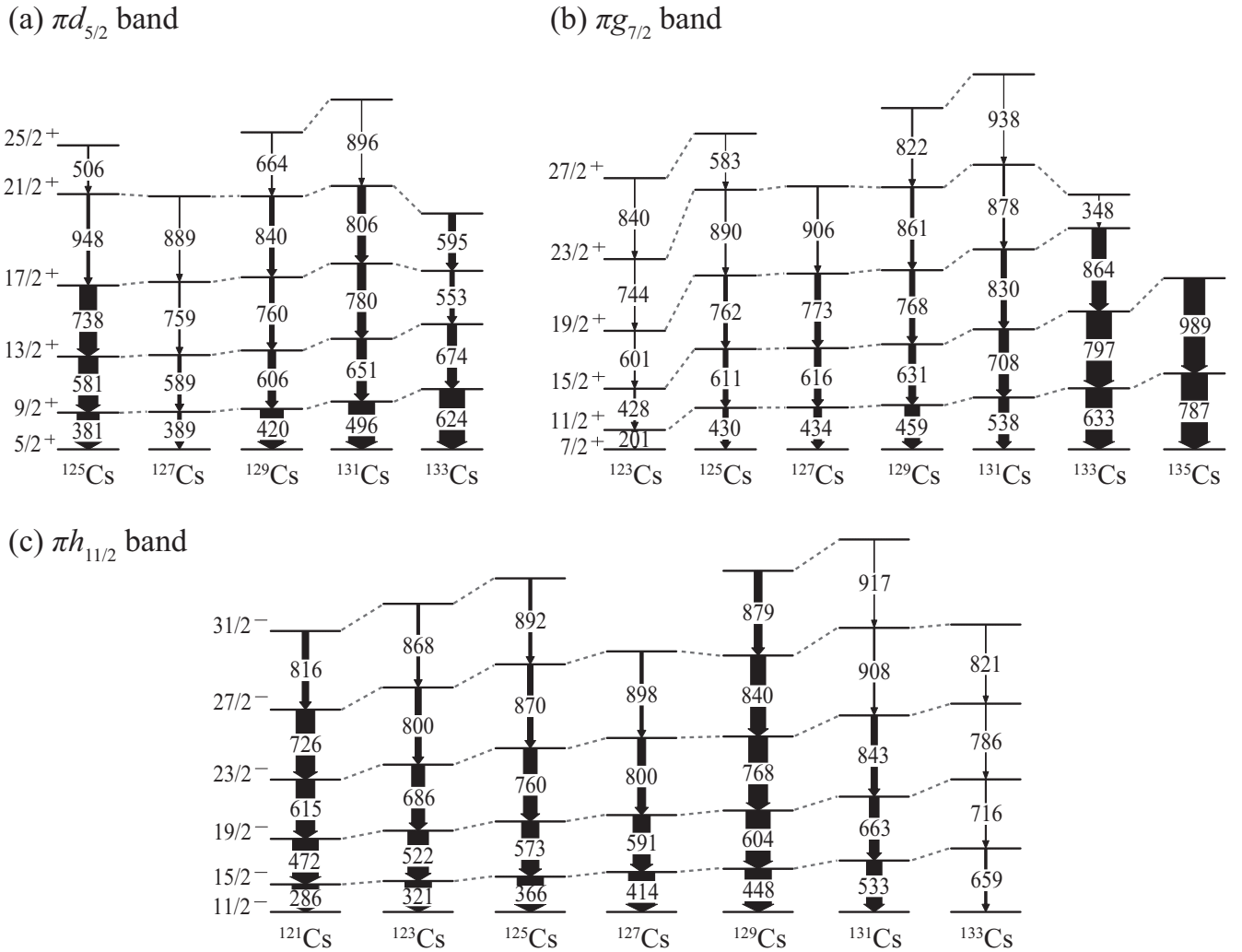


FIG. 5. Systematics comparison of  $\Delta I = 2$  bands with the (a)  $\pi d_{5/2}$ , (b)  $\pi g_{7/2}$ , and (c)  $\pi h_{11/2}$  configurations in the odd-A Cs isotopes. The  $\gamma$ -ray energies are in keV. The data of  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  are from the present work, and of other nuclei are from Refs. [36,41,50–54].

$g_{7/2}$  orbital, should also be considered. In order to examine this hypothesis, the predicted  $B(M1)/B(E2)$  ratios with the  $\pi d_{5/2} \otimes \nu h_{11/2}^{-2}$  and  $\pi g_{7/2} \otimes \nu h_{11/2}^{-2}$  configurations are presented in Fig. 3(c), where the calculated results using the  $\pi d_{5/2} \otimes \nu h_{11/2}^{-2}$  configuration reasonably reproduce the experimental values of bands 4 and 5, while those using the  $\pi g_{7/2} \otimes \nu h_{11/2}^{-2}$  configuration deviate significantly from the experimental data. Thus, we infer that the both bands are probably based on predominantly  $d_{5/2}$  proton, which also supports the chiral interpretation of bands 4 and 5.

Band 6, composed of quadrupole transitions, has previously been assigned negative parity via polarization analysis [39,40]. Considering the Fermi surface for both protons and neutrons of the  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  nucleus, band 6 built on the previously known  $11/2^-$  state might be viewed as an intruder band with  $\pi h_{11/2}$  character [39,40]. Band 7 decaying to band 1 is observed for the first time. This band has higher excitation energies compared with band 1, implying that band 7 is likely to be built on a multi-quasiparticle configuration.

It is worth mentioning that the  $\Delta I = 2$  bands based on the  $\pi d_{5/2}$ ,  $\pi g_{7/2}$ , and  $\pi h_{11/2}$  configurations are observed systematically in the odd-mass cesium isotopes. To further understand the systematics of the  $\Delta I = 2$  bands along the cesium isotopic chain, the level schemes of the bands are presented in Fig. 5. As illustrated in Fig. 5(a), the relative level excitation energies of the  $\pi d_{5/2}$  bands increase from  $^{125}\text{Cs}$  to  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  till spin  $13/2^+$ , but decrease above those in the case of  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ , implying that the irregular band structures start to dominate, as the neutron number approaches towards the  $N = 82$  core. Indeed, similar behaviors also occur in the same-parity  $\pi g_{7/2}$  bands in the odd-mass Cs isotopes, as shown in Fig. 5(b).

Figure 5(c) shows the systematics of the  $\pi h_{11/2}$  bands in the odd-mass cesium isotopic chain until  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ . The energy level spacings across the series of Cs isotopes reflect the decrease of quadrupole deformation as the neutron number increases [55–58]. Because of this, the high- $j$  intruder  $\pi h_{11/2}$  orbital moves away from the proton Fermi surface, and as a result, the  $\pi h_{11/2}$  orbital becomes highly nonyrast relative

to  $\pi d_{5/2}$  and  $\pi g_{7/2}$  orbitals. It is clear from Fig. 5 that the population strength of the  $\pi h_{11/2}$  band in  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  is already significantly less than that of the  $\pi d_{5/2}$  or  $\pi g_{7/2}$  bands. Thus, the  $\pi h_{11/2}$  band is more difficult to be populated in the heavier odd- $A$  Cs isotope than it is in  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ .

## V. SUMMARY

Excited states of  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  nucleus are populated by using the  $^{130}\text{Te}(^7\text{Li}, 4n)^{133}\text{Cs}$  reaction at a beam energy of 32 MeV. Compared with the previous work, the level scheme of  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  is extended with the addition of nearly 30 new  $\gamma$  rays. A pair of nearly degenerate positive-parity doublet bands are identified and assigned the same  $\pi d_{5/2} \otimes \nu h_{11/2}^{-2}$  configuration. The experiment excitation energies, the energy staggering parameters  $S(I)$ , and the  $B(M1)/B(E2)$  ratios of the two bands show general agreement with the fingerprints of chiral rotation. The PRM calculations have been performed and reproduce the experimental results well, supporting the

chiral interpretation of the doublet bands. In the present experiment, the high- $j$  intruder band with  $\pi h_{11/2}$  character is extended to spin  $27/2^- \hbar$ . A new decoupled  $\Delta I = 2$  sequence and a weak positive-parity band consisting of magnetic dipole transitions are observed, and the decoupled sequence is tentatively assigned the  $\pi d_{5/2} h_{11/2}^2$  configuration. Furthermore, the systematics of the  $\pi d_{5/2}$ ,  $\pi g_{7/2}$ , and  $\pi h_{11/2}$  bands in odd- $A$  Cs isotopes are also investigated in the present work.

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