Coexistence and B(E2)'s in even Ge nuclei

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Values of B(E2) strengths connecting low-lying 0^+ and 2^+ states in 70,72,74,76 Ge are examined in the context of an earlier coexistence model previously applied to two-neutron transfer.

I. INTRODUCTION

Evidence is overwhelming¹⁻³ that some sort of structural change takes place between the light ($A \le 70$) and heavy ($A \ge 74$) Ge nuclei. The effect is observed as an irregularity in the A dependence of several different observables: (i) absolute ground state (g.s.) (t,p) cross sections (Refs. 4-6), (ii) ratios² of excited 0⁺ to g.s. cross sections, (iii) excitation energy of the first excited 0⁺ state, (iv) proton occupancies (Refs. 7 and 8), (v) B(E2)'s connecting low-lying 2⁺ and 0⁺ states (Refs. 9–12), (vi) their ratios, (vii) alpha-transfer ratios (Refs. 13–15), and (viii) inelastic scattering (Refs. 16 and 17).

Several different explanations have been given for this transition, including shape coexistence, neutron particle-hole (ph) excitation, and proton ph excitation. It does appear^{2,3} that the structure of the ground states of the heavier Ge nuclei is contained in excited 0⁺ states in the light Ge's and vice versa. As of this date, there are three surviving candidates for a simple explanation: (i) vibrational-rotational mixing, (ii) proton 2p-2h mixing,¹⁸ and (iii) coexistence in a generalized basis.³ These are not necessarily conflicting ideas, but they are certainly not equivalent.

In (i), the light Ge's are vibrational, the heavy ones rotational. A natural extension is that the states of the other type exist at quite low excitation energy (shape coexistence). In perhaps the best of the inelasticscattering studies,¹⁶ "within the framework of coupledchannels calculations, inelastic data can be reproduced only by assuming ^{70,72}Ge are vibrational and that ^{74,76}Ge are rotational." The concept¹⁸ involving proton 2p-2h excitations was suggested primarily to explain the jump⁷ in ground state $0f_{5/2}$ proton occupancies between ⁷²Ge and ⁷⁴Ge. It also quite naturally *qualitatively* explains the jump⁴⁻⁶ in absolute g.s. (t,p) cross sections, and the peaking in (t,p) and (p,t) $0_2^+/g.s.$ cross-section ratios for $72 \leftrightarrow 74$. And, of course, it is not surprising that rotational states in an otherwise vibrational spectrum should contain excitations from the proton core.

However, much of the success of the proton coexistence idea¹⁸ depends only on the "smoothness' assumption³—i.e., that the unmixed basis states behave smoothly with A—rather than on the details of their structure. Also, the proton coexistence picture is not *quantitatively* correct in the details, but only gets the general trends. In fact, several observables are inconsistent with the basic assumptions of that model.

These considerations have led to a description³ in terms of two-state mixing between generalized basis states. With as few assumptions as possible (and all of a smoothness variety) it has been possible^{3,8,15} to parametrize existing one-, two-, and four-particle transfer data^{2,7,13,14,19-22} in terms of the one independent parameter that describes the generalized basis. We now address, in that model, the *E*2 strengths between low-lying 2⁺ and 0⁺ states.

II. THE EXPERIMENTAL B (E2) DATA IN THE Ge ISOTOPES

Existing information^{10-12,23-25} on E2 strengths connecting low-lying 2⁺ states to the g.s. and first-excited 0⁺ states in ⁶⁸⁻⁷⁶Ge is listed in Table I. Various com-

TABLE I. Experimental E2 strengths in even Ge nuclei.^a ($|M(E2)| = [(2J_i + 1)B(E2;J_i^{\pi} \rightarrow J_i^{\pi})]^{1/2}.$)

Nucleus	$J_i^{\pi} {\rightarrow} J_f^{\pi}$	$\frac{B(E2)}{(10^{-2} e^{-2} e^2 b^2)}$	(<i>E</i> 2) (<i>e</i> b)
⁶⁸ Ge	$2_1^+ \rightarrow g.s.$	2.80 ±0.42 ^b	0.374±0.028
⁷⁰ Ge	$2_1^+ \rightarrow g.s.$ $0_2^+ \rightarrow 2_1^+$ $2_2^+ \rightarrow g.s.$ $2_2^+ \rightarrow 0_2^+$	$\begin{array}{rrrr} 3.57 & \pm 0.06 \\ 6.0 & \pm 1.5 \\ 0.026 & \pm 0.020 \\ 2.51 & \pm 1.1 \ W.u.^c \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.422 {\pm} 0.004 \\ 0.245 {\pm} 0.031 \\ 0.036 {\pm} 0.014 \\ 0.146 {\pm} 0.032 \\ 0.134 {\pm} 0.058^d \end{array}$
⁷² Ge ^e	$2^+_1 \rightarrow g.s.$ $2^+_1 \rightarrow 0^+_2$ $2^+_2 \rightarrow g.s.$ $2^+_2 \rightarrow 0^+_2$	$\begin{array}{rrrr} 4.14 & \pm 0.10 \\ 2.59 & \pm 0.58 \\ 0.018 & \pm 0.004 \\ 0.0072 {\pm} 0.0008 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.455\substack{+0.009\\-0.006}\\ 0.36 \pm 0.04\\ 0.030\substack{+0.003\\-0.005}\\ 0.019\substack{+0.004\\-0.005}\end{array}$
⁷⁴ Ge	$2^+_1 \rightarrow g.s.$ $0^+_2 \rightarrow 2^+_1$ $2^+_2 \rightarrow g.s.$ $2^+_2 \rightarrow 0^+_2$	$\begin{array}{rrr} 6.09 & \pm 0.06 \\ & < 4.0 \\ 0.13 & \pm 0.05 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.552 {\pm} 0.003 \\ {<} 0.20 \\ 0.081 {\pm} 0.016 \end{array}$
⁷⁶ Ge	$2_1^+ \rightarrow g.s.$ $0_2^+ \rightarrow 2_1^+$ $2_2^+ \rightarrow g.s.$ $2_2^+ \rightarrow 0_2^+$	$\begin{array}{rrr} 5.56 & \pm 0.06 \\ & < 1.7 \\ 0.17 & \pm 0.03 \end{array}$	$0.527 {\pm} 0.003 \\ {<} 0.13 \\ 0.092 {\pm} 0.008$
^a Reference	^d Reference 23.		

^bReference 24. ^cReference 11. ^eReference 12.

(1)



FIG. 1. Absolute B(E2)'s connecting low-lying 0⁺ and 2⁺ states in ⁷⁰⁻⁷⁶Ge.

binations of these data are plotted versus mass number A in Figs. 1-3. First, in Fig. 1, it can be seen that the A dependence of the $2_1^+ \rightarrow \text{g.s. } B(E2)$'s is very similar to the A dependence observed previously⁷ for the g.s. $0f_{5/2}$ proton occupancies. Further, the E2 value between 2_1^+ and 0_2^+ sharply peaks at ⁷²Ge. [Actually, this B(E2) value is not known in ^{74,76}Ge, but stringent limits exist.] Figure 2 shows the plot of the ratio of these two B(E2)'s versus A as well as the ratio for the two 2^+ states decaying to the ground state. In a vibrational nucleus, we expect $B(E2;0_2^+ \rightarrow 2_1^+) = 2B(E2; 2_1^+ \rightarrow \text{g.s.})$, giving 0.4 for the ratio plotted here. We note that the values for ^{70,72}Ge are roughly consistent with the vibrational expectation, but those for ^{74,76}Ge are not even close. In all



FIG. 2. E2 ratios vs A for 2_1^+ to both 0^+ states (top) and both 2^+ states to ground state (bottom).



FIG. 3. E2 ratio vs A for the first two 2^+ states to summed strength to both 0^+ states.

four nuclei, 2_2^+ is barely connected to the ground state—though this B(E2) is about a factor of 10 larger in ^{74,76}Ge than in ^{70,72}Ge.

III. MODEL ANALYSIS OF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC DATA

A. Without mixing in the 2^+ states

Figure 3 contains the ratio of summed (g.s. and 0^+_2) B (E2)'s for the first two 2^+ states. In a two-state model for the 0^+ states, these quantities are independent of the 0^+ mixing. Specifically, if (as in Ref. 3) one lets

$$\Psi^{A}(g.s.) = \alpha_{A} \phi^{A}_{g0} + \beta_{A} \phi^{A}_{e0}$$

and

$$\Psi^{A}(0^{+}_{2}) = \beta_{A} \phi^{A}_{g0} - \alpha_{A} \phi^{A}_{g0}$$

represent the physical ground state and 0_2^+ state in ^AGe (with ϕ_{g0}^A and ϕ_{e0}^A denoting the 0^+ basis states), then the square of the E2 amplitude $M^2(E2; J_i^{\pi} \rightarrow J_f^{\pi})$, satisfying

$$M^{2}(E2;J_{i}^{\pi} \rightarrow J_{f}^{\pi}) = (2J_{i}+1)B(E2;J_{i}^{\pi} \rightarrow J_{f}^{\pi})$$

becomes

$$M_{A}^{2}(E2;2_{1}^{+}\rightarrow g.s.) = \langle \Psi^{a}(2_{1}^{+}) | E2 | \alpha_{A}\phi_{g0}^{A} + \beta_{A}\phi_{e0}^{A} \rangle^{2}$$
$$= (\alpha_{A}U_{gA} + \beta_{A}V_{eA})^{2}$$
(2a)

$$M_{A}^{2}(E2;2_{1}^{+}\rightarrow 0_{2}^{+}) = \langle \Psi^{A}(2_{1}^{+}) | E2 | \beta_{A}\phi_{g0}^{A} - \alpha_{A}\phi_{e0}^{A} \rangle^{2}$$

= $(\beta_{A}U_{A} - \alpha_{A}V_{A})^{2}$ (2b)

$$M_A^2(E2; 2_2^+ \rightarrow g.s.) = \langle \Psi^A(2_2^+) | E2 | \alpha_A \phi_{g0}^A + \beta_A \phi_{e0}^A \rangle^2$$
$$= (\alpha_A V_{gA} + \beta_A U_{eA})^2 \qquad (2c)$$

$$M_{A}^{2}(E2;2_{2}^{+} \rightarrow 0_{2}^{+}) = \langle \Psi^{A}(2_{2}^{+}) | E2 | \beta_{A} \phi_{g0}^{A} - \alpha_{A} \phi_{e0}^{A} \rangle^{2}$$
$$= (\beta_{A} V_{gA} - \alpha_{A} U_{eA})^{2} , \qquad (2d)$$

so that

an

$$M_A^2(E2;2_1^+ \to g.s.) + M_A^2(E2;2_1^+ \to 0_2^+) = U_{gA}^2 + V_{eA}^2$$

d (3)

$$M_A^2(E2;2_2^+ \rightarrow g.s.) + M_A^2(E2;2_2^+ \rightarrow 0_2^+) = V_{gA}^2 + U_{eA}^2$$
,

where

$$\begin{split} U_{gA} &= \langle \Psi^{A}(2^{+}_{1}) \mid E2 \mid \phi^{A}_{g0} \rangle, \quad V_{eA} &= \langle \Psi^{A}(2^{+}_{1}) \mid E2 \mid \phi^{A}_{e0} \rangle \\ V_{gA} &= \langle \Psi^{A}(2^{+}_{2}) \mid E2 \mid \phi^{A}_{g0} \rangle, \quad U_{eA} &= \langle \Psi^{A}(2^{+}_{2}) \mid E2 \mid \phi^{A}_{e0} \rangle \end{split}$$

As can be seen from Fig. 3, the peaking of the summed data at ⁷²Ge is dramatic. In this nucleus, the second 2⁺ state has extremely weak E2's to both 0⁺ states. Is this an accidental cancellation, or something more profound? We return to this point later. As mentioned, the ground state and 0_2^+ wave function is represented by Eq. (1). As in Ref. 3, the generalized basis states are determined by a single continuous variable R which represents the $(e \rightarrow e)/(g \rightarrow g)$ 2n-transfer overlap ratios between the 0⁺ basis states. The experimental (t,p) and (p,t) $0_2^+/g$.s. cross-section ratios can be used to obtain α_A and β_A as functions of that variable, R. The quantities $x_A = \alpha_A / \beta_A$ are plotted versus R (as error bands) in Figs. 4 and 5.

If we assume for the moment, that each of the *physical* 2^+ states is connected via an E2 transition to only one of the 0^+ basis states (i.e., either U_{gA} or V_{eA} above is zero), then in ^AGe, the E2 ratios are given solely in terms of the x_A 's, i.e.,

$$\frac{B(E2;2_1^+ \to 0_2^+)}{B(E2;2_1^+ \to g.s.)} = x_A^2 \text{ for } U_{gA} = 0 , \qquad (4a)$$

or

$$\frac{B(E2;2_1^+ \to 0_2^+)}{B(E2;2_1^+ \to g.s.)} = 1/x_A^2 \quad \text{for } V_{eA} = 0.$$
 (4b)

The E2 ratio data are plotted as horizontal error bands in Figs. 4 and 5. In 74,76 Ge, only limits exist, but



FIG. 4. As curved bands, the values from Ref. 3 of $x_A = \alpha_A / \beta_A$ (A = 70, 72, 74) vs R required to fit two-neutron transfer data. Horizontal bands are deduced from E2 ratios assuming each *physical* 2⁺ state is connected (via an E2 transition) to only one 0⁺ basis state.



FIG. 5. As in Fig. 4, but for 76 Ge without uncertainties, with two different assumptions about which excited 0^+ state to use.

they are consistent with the above simple assumption for values of R greater than about 1.14—provided that in ^{74,76}Ge, it is ϕ_e^A that is connected to 2_1^+ by an E2 amplitude (i.e., $U_{gA} = 0$). In ⁷⁰Ge, the E2 amplitude ratio is 1.72 ± 0.22 , suggesting R values in the range $1.13 \le R \le 1.24$, and that in ⁷⁰Ge it is ϕ_g^{70} that is connected to 2_1^+ by an E2 amplitude (i.e., $V_{eA} = 0$). In ⁷²Ge, the newer E2 measurements slightly favor ϕ_g^{72} as "belonging" to 2_1^+ , though the data are barely consistent with the other pairing. We note that the earlier¹¹ E2 ratio is about unity in ⁷²Ge—consistent with either and requiring roughly equal g, e mixing. For ^{70,72}Ge we can eliminate the parameter R and

For 70,72 Ge we can eliminate the parameter R and simply plot the x_{70} vs x_{72} contour that is required by two-nucleon transfer ratios, as done in Fig. 6. Any point within this error band will fit the (t,p) and (p,t) ratios involving 70,72 Ge. We also plot in Fig. 6 as a vertical band the value of x_{72} predicted [via Eq. (4b)] from the E2 amplitude ratio in 72 Ge and as a horizontal band, the value of x_{70} predicted [via Eq. (4b)] from that ratio in 70 Ge. We note that there *is* an overlap, i.e., the two-nucleon



FIG. 6. Relationship between x_{70} and x_{72} from two-neutron transfer (curved band), compared with values of x_{70} and x_{72} deduced from E2 ratios (with $V_{eA} = 0$), as in Fig. 4.

transfer data are consistent with 70,72 Ge E2 data within the simple assumption that each of the physical 2⁺ states is connected to only one of the basis 0⁺ states. Furthermore, this assumption then puts severe limits on the allowed value of x_{70}, x_{72} (and hence on R and the 0⁺ mixing amplitudes for all other Ge isotopes).

The analysis can be expanded to include the 2_2^+ state in ⁷⁰Ge and ⁷²Ge, in both of which all four B(E2)'s are known. Hence, for any value of the parameter R, the four experimental quantities can be used to calculate the four E2 matrix elements $(U_{gA}, U_{eA}, V_{gA}, V_{eA})$ connecting the two physical 2^+ states with the two basis 0^+ states. (It turns out that the possibility of a sign ambiguity in the E2 amplitude—i.e., $M(E2)=[(2J_i$ $+1)B(E2;J_i^{\pi}\rightarrow J_f^{\pi})]^{1/2}$, poses no problem.) These are plotted versus R in Figs. 7 and 8. We note that U_{gA} [i.e., $M(E2;2_1^+\rightarrow \phi_{g0}^a)$] is large and roughly constant, in both ^{70,72}Ge, over most of the allowed range of R, whereas in both nuclei the matrix element V_{eA} [i.e., $M(E2;2_1^+\rightarrow \phi_{e0}^a)$], changes rapidly—going through zero near R = 1.17.

In ⁷²Ge, both $M(E2; 2_2^+ \rightarrow \phi_{e0}^{72}, \phi_{g0}^{72})$ matrix elements (i.e., U_{e72} and V_{g72} , respectively) are small, and U_{e72} (through very small everywhere) passes through zero near R = 1.1. In ⁷⁰Ge, both $M(E2; 2_2^+ \rightarrow \phi_{e0}^{70}, \phi_{g0}^{70})$ matrix elements (i.e., U_{e70} and V_{g70} , respectively) are larger (in magnitude) but of opposite sign. In fact, within the uncertainties, for R in the range 1.1–1.2, three of the four matrix elements in ⁷²Ge are zero (i.e., all but U_{g72}), implying a "spherical" nature for the intruder ϕ_e^{72} . In ⁷⁰Ge, the vanishing of V_{e70} near R = 1.17 agrees

In ¹⁰Ge, the vanishing of V_{e70} near R = 1.17 agrees with the earlier assumption discussed in connection with Figs. 4-6. However, 2^+_2 is then connected to both 0^+ basis states, although by small matrix elements in com-



FIG. 7. Physical $2_1^+ \rightarrow basis 0^+ E2$ matrix elements $M(E2; 2_1^+ \rightarrow 0_g^+, 0_e^+)$ vs R for ^{70,72}Ge deduced from E2 strengths in Table I and x_A vs A curves of Fig. 4.



FIG. 8. As in Fig. 7, but for 2^+_2 .

parison to that of 2_1^+ . Perhaps the most striking feature of the raw data is that the summed strength from 2_2^+ in ⁷²Ge is only about 3.7×10^{-3} of that for 2_1^+ . Even in ⁷⁰Ge, the summed strength from 2_2^+ is only about 10% as strong as that for 2_1^+ .

B. With mixing in the 2^+ states

We now go one step further and assume that the physical 2^+ states are mixtures of two basis states, each of which is connected to only one 0^+ basis state. Specifically, we write for ^AGe

$$\Psi^A(2_1^+) = \gamma_A \phi^A_{g2} + \delta_A \phi^A_{e2}$$

and

$$\Psi^{A}(2_{2}^{+}) = \delta_{A}\phi^{A}_{g2} - \gamma_{A}\phi^{A}_{e2}$$
,

and then (see Fig. 9) define

$$\begin{split} & u_{gA} = \langle \phi_{g2}^{A} \mid E2 \mid \phi_{g0}^{A} \rangle, \quad u_{eA} = \langle \phi_{e2}^{A} \mid E2 \mid \phi_{e0}^{A} \rangle, \\ & v_{gA} = \langle \phi_{e2}^{A} \mid E2 \mid \phi_{g0}^{A} \rangle, \quad v_{eA} = \langle \phi_{g2}^{A} \mid E2 \mid \phi_{e0}^{A} \rangle. \end{split}$$

Note that in terms of these E2 basis-state overlaps, we



FIG. 9. The schematic representation of basis 0^+ and 2^+ states, and E2 matrix elements connecting them. For results in Table II, the off-diagonal amplitudes v_{gA} and v_{eA} were assumed to be zero.

(5)

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$= [B(E2;0_j^+ \rightarrow$	2_i^+) $]^{1/2}$.			
Sign	α_A^2	γ_A^2	<i>u_{gA}</i> (<i>e</i> b)	<i>u_{eA}</i> (<i>e</i> b)
		70 Ge ($A = 70$))	
+ + + +	$0.706 {\pm} 0.051$	$0.952 {\pm} 0.005$	0.500 ± 0.017	0.106 ± 0.028
+ + - +	$0.724{\pm}0.054$	0.991 ± 0.0005	0.490 ±0.017	0.144 ± 0.028
+ - + +	$0.276 {\pm} 0.054$	0.009 ± 0.0005	0.144 ± 0.028	0.490 ± 0.017
+ +	$0.294 {\pm} 0.051$	$0.048{\pm}0.005$	0.106 ± 0.028	0.500 ± 0.017
		72 Ge ($A = 72$	2)	
+ + + +	$0.615 {\pm} 0.054$	$0.996 {\pm} 0.0001$	0.581 ± 0.025	-0.0037 ± 0.0047
+ + + -	$0.616 {\pm} 0.053$	1.000 ± 0.0000	0.580 ± 0.025	-0.0335 ± 0.0044
+ +	$0.385 {\pm} 0.053$	0.004 ± 0.0001	$-0.0037 {\pm} 0.0047$	0.581 ± 0.025
+	$0.384{\pm}0.053$	0.000 ± 0.0000	$-0.0335 {\pm} 0.0044$	0.580 ±0.025

TABLE II. The calculated values of α_A^2 , γ_A^2 , u_{gA} , and u_{eA} for ^{70,72}Ge. The sign combinations^a are for M(2101), M(2102), M(2201), and M(2202) where $M(2i0j) = [5B(E2;2_i^+ \rightarrow 0_j^+)]^{1/2} = [B(E2;0_i^+ \rightarrow 2_i^+)]^{1/2}$.

^aThose sign combinations not present are discarded because they lead to solutions with negative values of γ_A / δ_A which are inconsistent with the assumed phase restrictions. (They are otherwise equivalent to the solutions shown in the table.)

have

$$U_{gA} = \gamma_A u_{gA} + \delta_A v_{gA} \quad , \tag{6a}$$

$$V_{eA} = \gamma_A v_{eA} + \delta_A u_{eA} , \qquad (6b)$$

$$V_{gA} = \delta_A u_{gA} - \gamma_A v_{gA} , \qquad (6c)$$

$$U_{eA} = \delta_A v_{eA} - \gamma_A u_{eA} \quad . \tag{6d}$$

We shall assume that $v_{gA} = v_{eA} = 0$ and without any input from two-nucleon transfer, then, we have four unknown quantities in each nucleus, viz., u_{gA} , u_{eA} , the 0⁺ mixing amplitude α_A , and the 2⁺ mixing amplitude γ_A . In 70,72 Ge, there are four known B(E2)'s, so it is worthwhile to ask if they lead to specific solutions for the unknown parameters. Results of solving Eqs. (2) and (6) with $v_{gA} = v_{eA} = 0$ for each A are given in Table II. It turns out that in ⁷²Ge, there exist two independent solutions (labeled + + + + and + + + - in Table II). The first solution has $\alpha_{72}^2 \approx 0.615 \pm 0.054$, $\gamma_{72}^2 \approx 0.996 \pm 0.0001, \quad u_{g72} \approx 0.581 \pm 0.025$ e b and $u_{e72} \approx -0.0037 \pm 0.0047$ e b, while the second solution has $\alpha_{72}^2 \approx 0.616 \pm 0.053$, $\gamma_{72}^2 \approx 1.000 \pm 0.000$, $u_{g72} \approx 0.580 \pm 0.025 \ e$ b, and $u_{e72} \approx -0.0335 \pm 0.0044 \ e$ b. We note that the major difference between the two solutions is that the first is consistent with $u_{e^{72}}=0$ while the second is not and the second solution has $\gamma_{72}^2=1$ (i.e., allows for no mixing between the 2^+ basis states) while the first solution requires some mixing, although very minute. (Note that the two solutions labeled +--+ and +--- in Table II are equivalent to these via $\alpha_A^2 \leftrightarrow \beta_A^2$, $\gamma_A^2 \leftrightarrow \delta_A^2$, and $u_{eA} \leftrightarrow u_{gA}$, and that preference for one set over another the physical ⁷²Ge ground state is mostly ϕ_g^{72} or mostly ϕ_e^{72} .) In both solutions (++++) and +++-), the value of α_{72}^2 is about 0.6155 which corresponds to $x_{72} \approx 1.265$.

In 70 Ge, there are also two *independent* solutions which very nearly overlap within the uncertainties. If

we take averages, we have $\alpha_{70}^2 \approx 0.715$, $\gamma_{70}^2 \approx 0.972$, $u_{e70} \approx 0.125 \ e$ b and $u_{g70} \approx 0.495 \ e$ b. This value of α_{70}^2 corresponds to $x_{70} \approx 1.584$. If we put these together with the analysis of (p,t) and (t,p) (i.e., Fig. 6), we see that these values of x_{70} and x_{72} lie well within the (t,p)-(p,t) band for $x_{70} - x_{72}$. We note also that in both calculations, the 2⁺ states are relatively pure, with virtually *no* mixing in ⁷²Ge and a small amount in ⁷⁰Ge, if we are to understand the basis states as having no "offdiagonal" *E*2's.

The value of x_{72} near 1.265 (i.e., *R* near 1.168) arose naturally in two independent considerations. It is at this value of *R* that the deduced potential matrix elements responsible for mixing the 0⁺ states are nearly equal for all four stable even Ge nuclei.³ It is also for this value of x_{72} that the ratio of α pickup strengths is equal to the reciprocal of the α stripping strengths in ⁷²Ge.²⁶

IV. CONCLUSION

Remembering that R is a parameter labeling the generalized 0⁺ basis states, we thus have what appears to be a "natural" choice of basis. It gives (i) mixing potential matrix elements nearly equal in ⁷⁰⁻⁷⁶Ge (the unperturbed basis-state separations are then roughly linear with A), (ii) no off-diagonal (or "cross-band") E2's among low-lying 2⁺ and 0⁺ basis states (in fact, ϕ_e^{72} in ⁷²Ge is then not connected to *either* 2⁺ basis states), and (iii) state ϕ_e^{72} in ⁷²Ge has properties of being an α particle- α hole excitation of state ϕ_g^{72} in that the α stripping and pickup ratios are inverses of one another. As of now, we have agreement for 2n transfer, α transfer, $0f_{5/2}$ proton occupancies, and B(E2)'s—though in ^{74,76}Ge the latter (so far) involve only 2⁺₁ data. It would be extremely useful to have sufficient E2 data in ^{74,76}Ge to further test this choice of basis.

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