

SU(3) symmetry breaking in lower *fp*-shell nuclei

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Results of shell-model calculations for lower *fp*-shell nuclei show that SU(3) symmetry breaking in this region is driven by the single-particle spin-orbit splitting. However, even though states of the yrast band exhibit SU(3) symmetry breaking, the results also show that the yrast band $B(E2)$ values are insensitive to this fragmentation of the SU(3) symmetry; specifically, the quadrupole collectivity as measured by $B(E2)$ transition strengths between low lying members of the yrast band remain high even though SU(3) appears to be broken. Results for $^{44,46,48}\text{Ti}$ and ^{48}Cr using the Kuo-Brown-3 two-body interaction are given to illustrate these observations.

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I. INTRODUCTION

SU(3) is a special algebraic structure because it is the compact symmetry group of the three-dimensional isotropic harmonic oscillator [1] which is a good first-order approximation to any attractive potential. This applies in nuclear physics and is the underpinning to the Elliott SU(3) model [2]. In the latter case the highest symmetry group is SU($\kappa\Omega$), where Ω denotes the degeneracy of the spatial degrees of freedom and κ counts the number of internal degrees of freedom (for example, $\kappa=2$ for identical spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particles and $\kappa=4$ for a spin-isospin system). SU(3) enters in this picture through a reduction of SU($\kappa\Omega$) into spatial [SU(Ω)] and spin or spin-isospin degrees of freedom [SU(κ)], namely, SU($\kappa\Omega$) \supset SU(Ω) \otimes SU(κ), followed by a reduction of the spatial degrees of freedom through SU(3) to SO(3); that is, SU(Ω) \supset SU(3) \supset SO(3). Interactions that are not functions of the SU(3) generators induce SU(3) symmetry breaking. The spin-orbit interaction, which is needed for a correct description of shell and subshell closures [3], is an example of a one-body SU(3) symmetry breaking interaction while the pairing interaction, which is required for a correct description of binding energies [4], is an example of a two-body SU(3) symmetry breaking interaction.

It is well known that SU(3) is a very useful symmetry in the lower *sd* shell [2]. This is most easily understood by noting that the leading irreducible representation (irrep) of SU(3) normally suffices to achieve a good description of the low-lying eigenstates of these nuclei. In the lower *fp* shell, however, leading SU(3) irreps do not provide satisfactory results for low-lying eigenstates. Beyond the *fp* shell, the concept of pseudospin symmetry [5] allows one to identify another so-called pseudo-SU(3) structure that again yields a good description of low-lying eigenstates of strongly deformed nuclei [6]. Questions that remain regarding the lower *fp* shell are: What parts of the interaction are responsible for the SU(3) symmetry breaking? Is it the one-body part, the two-body part, or a combination of these two? And if it is a combination, to what extent does each interaction contribute

to SU(3) symmetry breaking? Also, what is the effect of the SU(3) symmetry breaking on the electromagnetic transition rates? Enhanced $B(E2)$ transition rates [7] are normally considered to be a good indicator of quadrupole collectivity and the SU(3) structure of the corresponding initial and final states. It has been suggested that strong $B(E2)$ values may survive an ‘‘adiabatic’’ mixing of SU(3) irreps due to quasi-SU(3) dynamical symmetry [8]. A signature for this type of mixing is $B(E2)$ values that are similar to those obtained when the SU(3) symmetry is good. Is the SU(3) symmetry breaking in the lower *fp*-shell adiabatic?

In this paper we show for lower *fp*-shell nuclei that whereas the spin-orbit interaction is the primary driver of SU(3) symmetry breaking the $B(E2)$ values between the first few yrast states remain strong, signaling an adiabatic mixing of SU(3) irreps. The realistic monopole-corrected Kuo-Brown-3 two-body interaction [9] is used in calculations for $^{44,46,48}\text{Ti}$ and ^{48}Cr with single-particle energies corresponding to realistic spin-orbit splitting. The spectrum of the second-order Casimir operator C_2 of SU(3) is used as a measure for gauging the SU(3) fragmentation along the yrast band of these nuclei. The results show that the spin-orbit splitting is the primary cause for SU(3) symmetry breaking; the leading SU(3) irrep regains its importance as the spin-orbit splitting is turned off. A similar recovery of the SU(3) symmetry has been reported in the case of ^{44}Ti with degenerate $f_{7/2}-p_{3/2}$ shells [10].

To fix the notation, in the following section a parameterization of the Hamiltonian in terms of one-body spin-orbit and orbit-orbit single-particle interactions, as well as a general two-body interactions, is given. In our applications of the theory, the realistic Kuo-Brown-3 interaction is chosen for the two-body interaction [9]. Computational methods used in the analyses are discussed in the third section. This is followed by characteristic results for ^{44}Ti , ^{46}Ti , ^{48}Ti , and ^{48}Cr in the fourth section. A conclusion that recaps outcomes is given in the fifth and final section.

II. INTERACTION HAMILTONIAN

The one- plus two-body Hamiltonian is used in standard second-quantized form:

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$$H = \sum_i \varepsilon_i a_i^\dagger a_i + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i,j,k,l} V_{kl,ij} a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_k a_l.$$

The summation indexes range over the single-particle levels included in the model space. We only consider levels of the fp shell which have the following radial (n), orbital (l), and total angular momentum (j) quantum numbers: $nl_j = \{0f_{7/2}, 0f_{5/2}, 1p_{3/2}, 1p_{1/2}\}$. In what follows the radial quantum number (n) is dropped since the l_j labels provide a unique labelling scheme for single-shell applications. It is common practice to replace the four single-particle energies ε_i in the fp shell by the l^2 and $l \cdot s$ interactions: $\sum_i \varepsilon_i a_i^\dagger a_i \rightarrow \epsilon(n_i - \alpha_i l_i \cdot s_i - \beta_i l_i^2)$, where ϵ is the average binding energy per valence particle, n_i counts the total number of valence particles, and α and β are dimensionless parameters giving the interaction strength of the l^2 and $l \cdot s$ terms. For realistic single-particle energies used in the KB3 interaction (1), these parameters are $\epsilon = 2.6$ MeV, $\beta = 0.0096$, $\alpha_p = 1.3333$, and $\alpha_f = 1.7143$. The small value of β signals small l^2 splitting (2).

A significant part of the two-body interaction $V_{kl,ij}$ maps onto the quadrupole-quadrupole $Q \cdot Q$ and the pairing P interactions. Since $Q \cdot Q$ can be written in terms of SU(3) generators, it induces no SU(3) breaking and hence serves to re-enforce the importance of the Elliott model [2], when the pairing interaction mixes different SU(3) irreps. In this analysis the two-body part of the Hamiltonian $V_{kl,ij}$ is fixed by the Kuo-Brown-3 (KB3) interaction matrix elements while the single-particle energies, ε_i , are changed as described below.

The following single-particle energies are normally used with the KB3 interaction [9]:

$$\text{KB3 [MeV]: } \varepsilon_{p_{1/2}} = 4, \quad \varepsilon_{p_{3/2}} = 2, \quad (1)$$

$$\varepsilon_{f_{5/2}} = 6, \quad \varepsilon_{f_{7/2}} = 0.$$

For the purposes of the current study, it is important to know the single-particle centroids of the p and f shells. For example, the energy centroid of the p shell is given by

$$\varepsilon_p = \frac{\varepsilon_{p_{1/2}} \dim(p_{1/2}) + \varepsilon_{p_{3/2}} \dim(p_{3/2})}{\dim(p_{1/2}) + \dim(p_{3/2})}.$$

In what follows, we label by KB $3p_f$ that Hamiltonian which uses the KB3 two-body interaction with single-particle p - and f -shell energies set to their centroid values:

$$\text{KB}3p_f \quad [\text{MeV}]: \varepsilon_{p_{1/2}} = \varepsilon_{p_{3/2}} = 2.6670, \quad (2)$$

$$\varepsilon_{f_{5/2}} = \varepsilon_{f_{7/2}} = 2.5710.$$

We use KB $3pf$ for the case when the single-particle energies are set to their overall average:

$$\text{KB}3pf \quad [\text{MeV}]: \quad \varepsilon_p = \varepsilon_f = 2.6. \quad (3)$$

Due to the near degeneracy of the single-particle energies of the KB $3p_f$ interaction (2), the results for the KB $3pf$ case are very similar to those for KB $3p_f$.

III. COMPUTATIONAL PROCEDURES

The computational procedures and tools used in the analysis are described in this section. In brief, the Hamiltonian and other matrices are calculated using an m -scheme shell model code [11] while the eigenvectors and eigenvalues are obtained by means of the Lanczos algorithm [12]. All the calculations are done in the full fp -shell model space.

First, the Hamiltonian H for each interaction [KB3 (1), KB $3p_f$ (2), and KB $3pf$ (3)] is generated. Then the eigenvalues and eigenvectors are calculated and the yrast states identified. Next, the matrix for the second order Casimir operator of SU(3), namely $C_2 = \frac{1}{4}(3L^2 + Q \cdot Q)$, is generated using the shell model code and a moments method [13] is used to diagonalize the C_2 matrix by starting the Lanczos procedure with specific eigenvectors of H for which an SU(3) decomposition is desired. Finally, $B(E2)$ values in $e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ units are calculated from one-body densities using Siebert's theorem with a typical value for the effective charge [14], $q_{eff} = 0.5$, so $e_p = (1 + q_{eff})e = 1.5e$ and $e_n = (q_{eff})e = 0.5e$.

Although the used procedure can generate the spectral decomposition of a state in terms of the eigenvectors of C_2 of SU(3), this alone is not sufficient to uniquely determine all irreducible representation (irrep) labels λ and μ of SU(3). For example, C_2 has the same eigenvalue for the (λ, μ) and (μ, λ) irreps. Nevertheless, since for the first few leading irreps (largest C_2 values) the λ and μ values can be uniquely determined [15] this procedure suffices for our study.

Usually, when considering full-space calculations, a balance between computer time and accuracy has to be considered. While the Lanczos algorithm [12] is known to yield a good approximation for the lowest or highest eigenvalues and eigenvectors, it normally does a relatively poor job for intermediate states. This means, for example, that higher states, in particular high total angular momentum states, may be poorly represented or, in a worst case scenario, not show up at all when these states are close to or beyond the truncation edge of the chosen submatrix. An obvious way to maintain a good approximation is to run the code for each M_J value, that is, $M_J = 0, 2, 4, 6, \dots$. However, this might be a very time consuming process, but nonetheless one which could be reduced significantly if only a few M_J values are used for each run. For the calculations of this study, we used $M_J = 0, 6, 10$, and 14. To maintain high confidence in the approximation of the intermediate states which have $J = 2, 4, 8, 12, \dots$ we required that they be within the first half of all the states produced. The code was set up to output 29 states. A further verification on the accuracy of the procedure is whether the energies of the same state calculated using different M_J runs are close to one another. For example, as a consistency check the energy of the lowest $J = 6$ state in the $M_J = 0$ run was compared to the energy of the same state obtained from the $M_J = 6$ run.

TABLE I. Space dimensions for m -scheme calculations in full fp -shell model space. The computer code uses even parity and even isospin basis states with no restrictions on the total angular momentum J except for $M_J=0$ case where the computer code selects only states with even J values.

Nucleus	$M_J=0$	$M_J=6$	$M_J=10$	$M_J=14$
^{44}Ti	1080	514	30	
^{46}Ti	43630	32297	4693	134
^{48}Ti	317972	278610	57876	3846
^{48}Cr	492724	451857	104658	8997

IV. RESULTS

Results for the SU(3) content of yrast states and their $B(E2)$ values for representative fp -shell nuclei are reported in this section. We focus on ^{44}Ti , ^{46}Ti , ^{48}Ti , and ^{48}Cr because these are fp -shell equivalents of ^{20}Ne , ^{22}Ne , ^{24}Ne , and ^{24}Mg , respectively, which are known to be good SU(3) sd -shell nuclei. Furthermore, data on these nuclei are readily available from the National Nuclear Data Center (NNDC) [16] and full fp -shell calculations are feasible [17]. The model dimensionalities for full-space calculations increase very rapidly when approaching the mid-shell region; those for the cases considered here are given in Table I.

In the following, we use four different graphic representations to illustrate our results. The first set, Figs. 1 and 2, demonstrates the recovery of the SU(3) symmetry as the single-particle spin-orbit interaction is turned off, that is, in going from the KB3 to the KB $3p_f$ interaction. Corresponding results for the KB $3p_f$ interaction are not given since they are similar to the KB $3p_f$ results. In each graph, C_2 values of SU(3) are given on the horizontal axis with the contribution of each SU(3) state on the vertical axis. The bars within each cluster are contributions to the yrast states starting with the ground state ($J=0$) on the left. Hence the second bar in each cluster is for the $J=2$ yrast state, etc.

We have chosen ^{44}Ti for an in-depth consideration of the fragmentation of the C_2 strength in yrast states. The results on the nondegenerate KB3 interaction are shown in Fig. 1. In

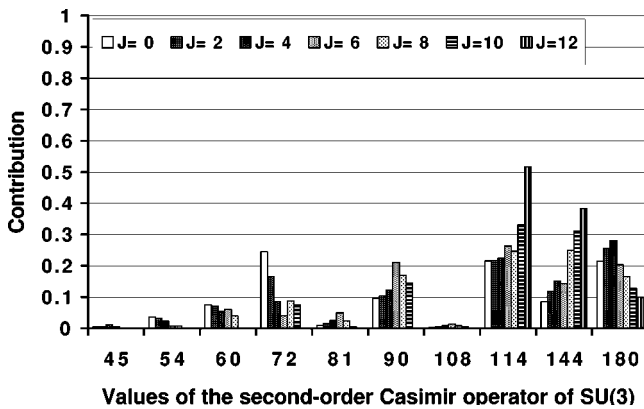


FIG. 1. Strength distribution of C_2 of SU(3) in yrast states of ^{44}Ti for realistic single particle energies with Kuo-Brown-3 two body interaction (KB3).

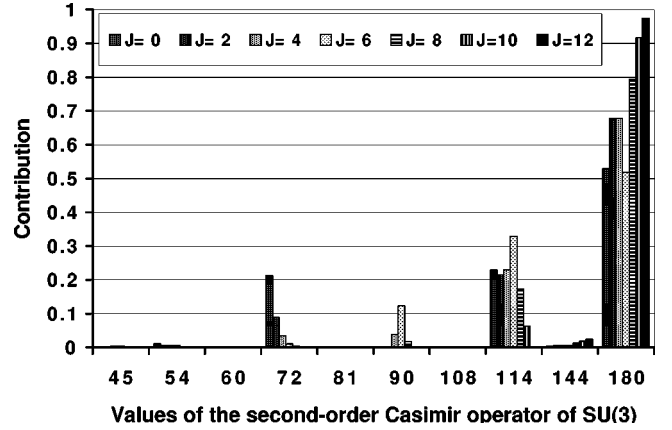


FIG. 2. Strength distribution of C_2 of SU(3) in yrast states of ^{44}Ti for degenerate single particle energies with Kuo-Brown-3 two body interaction (KB $3p_f$).

this case the highest contribution (biggest bar) is more than 50% which corresponds to a C_2 value of 114 for the $J=12$ state. The $C_2=114$ value is for $(\lambda, \mu)=(8,2)$ which is two SU(3) irreps down from the leading one, $(\lambda, \mu)=(12,0)$ with $C_2=180$. The leading irrep only contributes about 10% to the $J=12$ yrast state. The contribution of the next to the leading irrep, $C_2=144$ for $(\lambda, \mu)=(10,1)$, is slightly less than 40%. Thus, for all practical purposes, the first three irreps determine the structure of the $J=12$ yrast state. This illustrates that the high total angular momentum J states are composed of only the first few SU(3) irreps. This is easily understood because high J values require high orbital angular momentum L which are only present in SU(3) irreps with large C_2 values. The high J states may therefore be considered to be states with good SU(3) symmetry. However, this is not the case with the ground state of ^{44}Ti which has very important contributions from states with C_2 values 60, 72, 90, 114, 144, and 180 with respective percentages, 7.5, 25, 10, 21, 8, and 21%. This shows that the leading irrep is not the biggest contributor to the $J=0$ ground state; there are two other contributors with about 20%, the third ($C_2=114$) and seventh ($C_2=72$) SU(3) irrep.

When the spin-orbit interaction is turned off, which yields nearly degenerate single-particle energies since the single-particle orbit-orbit splitting is small, one has the KB $3p_f$ interaction and in this case the structure of the yrast states changes dramatically, as shown in Fig. 2. From Fig. 2 one can see that the leading irrep plays a dominant role as its contribution is now more than 50% of every yrast state. As in the previous case, the high total angular momentum J states have the biggest contributions from the leading irrep, for example, more than 97% for $J=12$, 91% for $J=10$, and 80% for $J=8$. The ground state is composed of few irreps with C_2 values 72, 114, and 180, but in this case the leading irrep with $C_2=180$ makes up more than 52% of the total with the other two most important irreps contributing 21% [$C_2=72$, $(\lambda, \mu)=(4,4)$] and 23% [$C_2=114$, $(\lambda, \mu)=(8,2)$].

An alternative way to show these results is given in Figs. 3 and 4. These figures show the centroid, width, and skew-

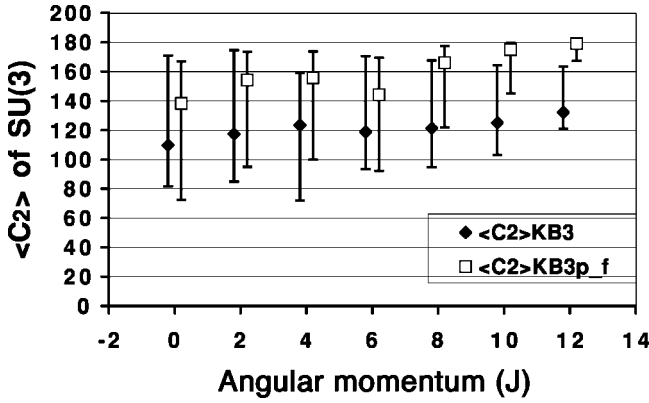


FIG. 3. Average C_2 values for KB3 and KB $3p_f$ interactions in ^{44}Ti .

ness of the C_2 distributions. The J values are plotted on the horizontal axis with the centroids given on the vertical axis. The width of the distribution is indicated by the length of the error bars which is just the rms deviation, $\Delta C_2 = \sqrt{\langle (C_2 - \langle C_2 \rangle)^2 \rangle}$, from the average value of the second-order Casimir operator $\langle C_2 \rangle$. The third central moment, $\delta C_2 = \sqrt[3]{\langle (C_2 - \langle C_2 \rangle)^3 \rangle}$, which measures the asymmetry, is indicated by the length of the error bar above, $\Delta C_2 + \delta C_2/2$, and below, $\Delta C_2 - \delta C_2/2$, the average value.

Note that the recovery of the leading irrep when the spin-orbit interaction is turned off is clearly signaled not only through an increase in the absolute values of the first centroid $\langle C_2 \rangle$ but also through the skewness δC_2 . For example, in ^{44}Ti with the KB3 interaction (spin-orbit interaction turned on) the ground state $J=0$ has $\langle C_2 \rangle = 110$ and skewness $\delta C_2 = 33$. This changes for the KB $3p_f$ interaction to $\langle C_2 \rangle = 139$ and a skewness of $\delta C_2 = -37$, as shown in Fig. 3. The equivalent of the ^{44}Ti graph for the ^{48}Ti case is shown in Fig. 4. As for the ^{44}Ti case, the results show the recovery of the SU(3) symmetry in ^{48}Ti when the single-particle spin-orbit interaction is turned off.

We now turn to a discussion of the coherence nature of the yrast states. First notice that the widths of the distributions as defined by $\Delta C_2 = \sqrt{\langle (C_2 - \langle C_2 \rangle)^2 \rangle}$ are surprisingly unaffected (Figs. 3 and 4) by turning the spin-orbit interaction

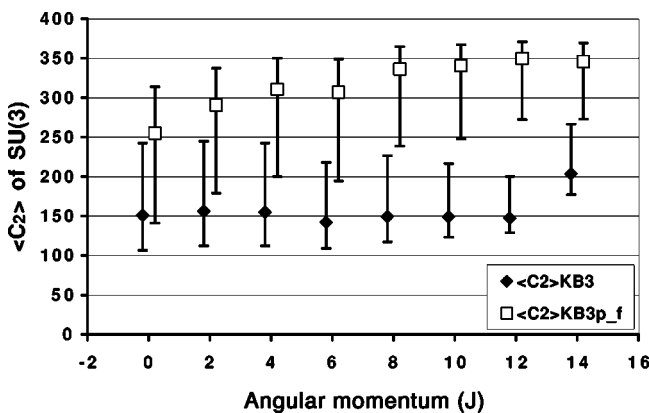


FIG. 4. Average C_2 values for KB3 and KB $3p_f$ interactions in ^{48}Ti .

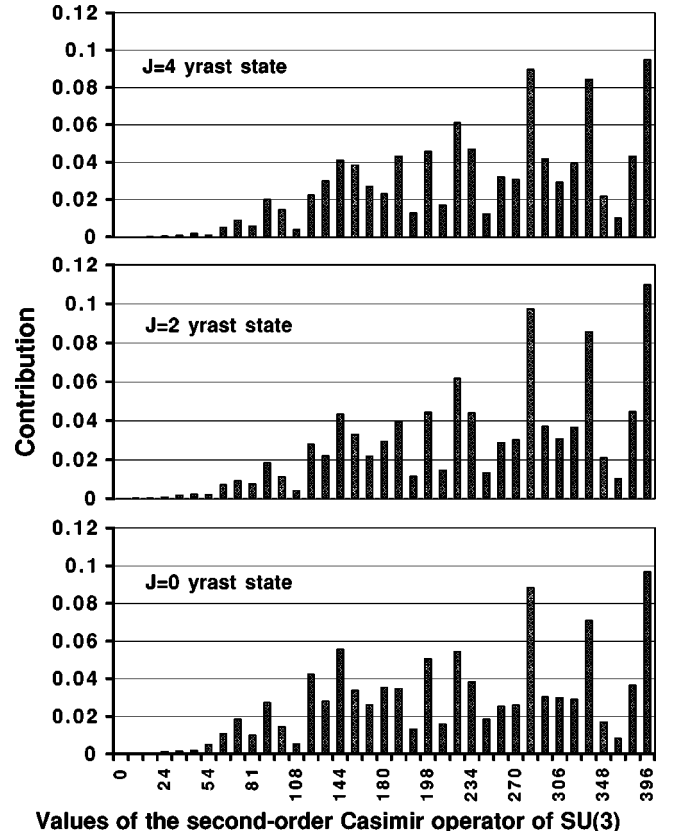


FIG. 5. Coherent structure of the first three yrast states in ^{48}Cr calculated using realistic single particle energies with Kuo-Brown-3 two body interaction (KB3). On the horizontal axis is C_2 of SU(3) with contribution of each SU(3) state to the corresponding yrast state on the vertical axis.

on and off. This effect occurs in all cases studied: ^{44}Ti , ^{46}Ti , ^{48}Ti , and ^{48}Cr . The more detailed graphs, Figs. 1 and 2, offer an explanation in terms of the fragmentation of the C_2 distribution. As can be seen from these graphs, the irreps that are presented in the structure of a given yrast state in the presence of the spin-orbit interaction (Fig. 1) remain present, even though with reduced strength, in the structure of the state when the spin-orbit interaction is turned off (Fig. 2). As a consequence, $\Delta C_2 = \sqrt{\langle (C_2 - \langle C_2 \rangle)^2 \rangle}$ which measures the overall spread of contributing irreps, is more or less independent of the spin-orbit interaction. One can see a sharp decrease in the width of the distribution only for high spin states like $J=12$ in the graph for ^{44}Ti in Fig. 3.

The third type of graph, Fig. 5, demonstrates the coherent nature of the states within the yrast band. The three graphs shown give the spectrum of the second-order Casimir operator C_2 of SU(3) for the $J=0, 2$, and 4 yrast states in ^{48}Cr . The axes are labeled the same way as in Figs. 1 and 2, but in this case all bars are for a single yrast state. In this figure there are three peaks surrounded by smaller bars that yield a very similar enveloping shape for the given yrast states. The fragmentation and spread of C_2 values is nearly identical for these states with no dominant irrep, indicative of severe SU(3) symmetry breaking.

Graphs for the KB $3p_f$ case, when the spin-orbit inter-

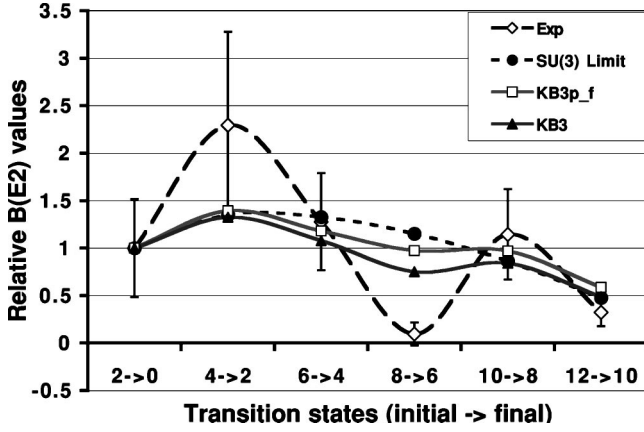


FIG. 6. Relative $B(E2)$ values $[B(E2:J_i \rightarrow J_f)/B(E2:2^+ \rightarrow 0^+)]$ for ^{44}Ti . The $B(E2:2^+ \rightarrow 0^+)$ transition values are $122.69e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ from experiment, $104.82e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ for the KB3 interaction, and $138.58e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ for the KB $3p_f$ case.

action is turned off, are not shown since the results are similar to the results for ^{44}Ti shown in Fig. 2. For example, when the spin-orbit interaction is on (KB3) the leading irrep for ^{48}Cr has a C_2 value of 396 and this account for only around 10% of the total strength distribution (see Fig. 5), but when the spin-orbit interaction is off (KB $3p_f$) the leading irrep is the dominant irrep with more than 55% of the total strength.

The last type of graph, Figs. 6, 7, and 8, shows relative $B(E2)$ values, that is, $B(E2)$ strengths normalized to the $B(E2:2^+ \rightarrow 0^+)$ value. For isoscalar transitions the relative $B(E2)$ strengths are insensitive to the effective charges which may be used to bring the theoretical $B(E2:2^+ \rightarrow 0^+)$ numbers into agreement with the experimental values. Whenever an absolute $B(E2:2^+ \rightarrow 0^+)$ values are given they are in $e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ units and the effective charges are $1.5e$ for protons and $0.5e$ for neutrons ($q_{eff}=0.5$).

The first graph on relative $B(E2)$ values (Fig. 6) recaps our results for ^{44}Ti . Calculated relative $B(E2)$ values for

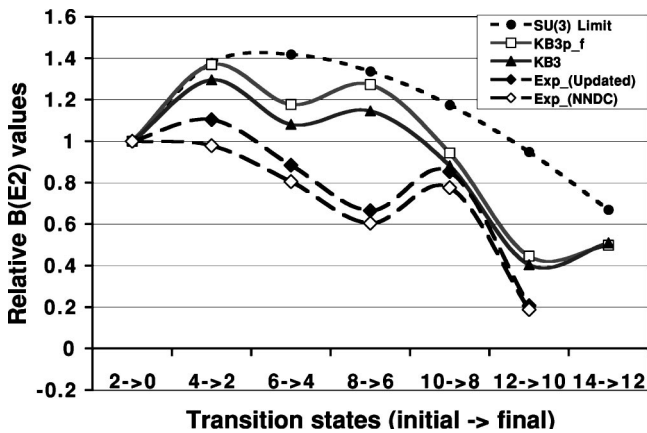


FIG. 7. Relative $B(E2)$ values $[B(E2:J_i \rightarrow J_f)/B(E2:2^+ \rightarrow 0^+)]$ for ^{46}Ti . The $B(E2:2^+ \rightarrow 0^+)$ transition values are $199.82e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ from experimental data, $181.79e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ from updated experimental data, $208e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ for KB3 interaction, and $299.83e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ for KB $3p_f$.

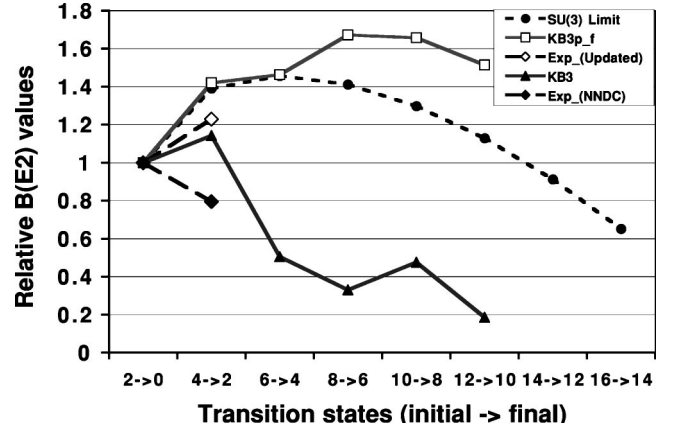


FIG. 8. Relative $B(E2)$ values $[B(E2:J_i \rightarrow J_f)/B(E2:2^+ \rightarrow 0^+)]$ for ^{48}Ti . The $B(E2:2^+ \rightarrow 0^+)$ transition values are $144.23e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ from experimental data, $155.5e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ from updated experimental data, $202.4e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ for KB3 interaction, and $445.32e^2 \text{ fm}^4$ for KB $3p_f$.

^{44}Ti corresponding to the spin-orbit interaction turned on (KB3) and spin-orbit interaction off (KB $3p_f$) are very close to the pure SU(3) limit. The agreement with experiment is very satisfactory except for the $4^+ \rightarrow 2^+$ and $8^+ \rightarrow 6^+$ transitions. However, the experimental data [16] on $8^+ \rightarrow 6^+$ transition gives only an upper limit of 0.5 ps to the half-life. We have used the worse case, namely a half-life of 0.5 ps, as a smaller value would increase the relative $B(E2)$ value. For example a half-life of 0.05 ps will agree well with the relative $B(E2)$ value for the KB $3p_f$ interaction. This example supports the adiabatic mixing which seems to be present for all the yrast states of ^{44}Ti .

Figure 7 shows $B(E2)$ values for ^{46}Ti . In this case there are deviations from adiabatic mixing for the $6^+ \rightarrow 4^+$, $10^+ \rightarrow 8^+$, and higher transitions. Two experimental data sets are shown in Fig. 7: data from the NNDC is denoted as Exp_(NNDC), and updated data on $2^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ and $4^+ \rightarrow 2^+$ transitions from Ref. [18] is denoted as Exp_(Updated). For ^{46}Ti the agreement with the experiment is not as good as for ^{44}Ti , however the experimental situation is also less certain. However, the coherent structure is well demonstrated for the first three yrast states 0^+ , 2^+ , and 4^+ via relative $B(E2)$ values for the KB3 and KB $3p_f$ interactions which are very close to the SU(3) limit.

We conclude this section by showing the recovery of the SU(3) symmetry; this time via relative $B(E2)$ values as shown for ^{48}Ti in Fig. 8. In Fig. 8 we see that for the degenerate single particles case (KB $3p_f$) the first few transitions have relative $B(E2)$ values which follow the SU(3) limit very closely. On other hand, the interaction involving spin-orbit splitting (KB3) is far from the SU(3) limit. The $B(E2:4^+ \rightarrow 2^+)$ transition is strongly enhanced due to the adiabatic mixing which is missing in the higher than $J=4$ yrast states.

V. CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

The results reported in this paper show that the single-particle spin-orbit splitting is the primary interaction respon-

sible for breaking of the SU(3) symmetry for nuclei in the lower fp shell. When the spin-orbit splitting is reduced, as in the KB $3p-f$ case, the importance of SU(3) as seen through the dominance of the leading irrep represented in each yrast state is revealed. It is important to note in this regard that the p and f shells are nearly degenerate, which implies a small l^2 splitting.

Although the SU(3) structure of the states is lost in the lower fp -shell, the results also show the mixing of SU(3) irreps that occurs displays enhanced $B(E2)$ strengths. This adiabatic mixing results in a coherent structure that is represented in all yrast states for the ^{44}Ti case, while for the other nuclei studied this coherence breaks down after the first few yrast states. In particular, even though the yrast states are not dominated by a single SU(3) irrep, the $B(E2:4^+ \rightarrow 2^+)$ val-

ues remain strongly enhanced with values close (usually within 10–20%) to the SU(3) symmetry limit.

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