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Systematics of Reduced B(E3) Transition Probabilities and Configurations of Octupole ($\Delta I=3$) Isomers in Mass A \sim 200 Region

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1. Introduction

Nuclear isomers have been used as a great tool to understand the nucleon configuration in nuclear structure [1]. Nuclear isomers are already identified throughout the nuclear chart [2] and are the metastable states having life-time equal to or longer than 1 ns confronting some hindrance in their gammadecay as proposed by Weizsäcker in 1936 [3]. The hindrance can be caused by many factors such as (i) a large change in angular momentum giving rise to spin isomers [4-6] and are the most usual isomers found across the nuclear chart decaying via transitions of higher multipolarity; (ii) a large change in *K* quantum number (ΔK) probably greater than the multipole order of gamma-ray (λ) and result in a high degree of forbiddenness producing K-isomers [5, 6]. Also, shape isomers [5, 7] are reported in many nuclei due to hindrance resulting from the difference in their shape. Further, if a heavy nucleus is trapped in the secondary minimum [8] which can decay via spontaneous fission [9], it is called fission isomer

ABSTRACT

Background: Strong octupole correlations are observed in mass $A \sim 200$ region giving rise to a number of isomeric states decaying via *E3* type of transition involving $\Delta j = \Delta l = 3$ interacting orbitals. Particularly, the $g_{9/2}$ and $j_{15/2}$ neutron orbitals or the $f_{7/2}$ and $i_{13/2}$ proton orbitals are predicted to be involved in these enhanced *E3* decays.

Purpose: To report the systematics of reduced B(E3) transition probabilities and configurations of isomers that decay via E3 transition and also to compare these isomers based on their structures such as **even-even**, **even-odd**, **odd-even and odd-odd**.

Methods: The data for a total of 235 isomers is collected from the ENSDF/XUNDL Database of NNDC. The reduced B(E3) transition probabilities are evaluated and compiled using the available data on half-life and branching ratios of the isomeric states having E3 decay. In about 25 cases, the new adopted values of half-lives are obtained to get the B(E3) transition probabilities by RULER program.

Results: A systematic variation in the reduced B(E3) transition probability is discussed as a function of neutron and proton number to see the contribution/effect from the core particles. An enhancement is seen for the isomeric states involving the $g_{9/2}$ and $j_{15/2}$ neutron orbitals or the $f_{7/2}$ and $i_{13/2}$ proton orbitals.

Conclusions: The enhanced *E*3 transition rates are observed in nuclei having configurations with octupole effects such as $i_{13/2} \rightarrow f_{7/2}$ and $j_{15/2} \rightarrow g_{9/2}$. The *E*3 transitions with $i_{13/2} \rightarrow f_{5/2}$ are having lowest *B*(*E*3) (10⁻⁴ to 10⁻⁵ W. u.) values.

[5]. The seniority isomers [5] are resulted due to gammadecay between the states of same seniority. The detailed works about different isomers have already been published [2, 10] which provide an access to the experimental data on their properties such as excitation energies, spin, etc.

In mass $A \sim 200$ region, a large number of isomers are observed to decay via enhanced E3 gamma-ray transition. These isomers are mostly seen as high-spin isomers that have their origin in strong octupole effects [11-14] and are also termed as octupole isomers. The octupole-octupole interaction couples the single particle orbitals of opposite parity having $\Delta j = \Delta l = 3$ and the interaction strength increases as the energy difference between these levels decreases when these orbitals are very close to the Fermi surface. The particle numbers 34, 56, 88, and 134 lie just above the closed shell where octupole correlations result due to coupling between $lg_{19/2}$ and $2p_{3/2}$, $1h_{11/2}$ and $2d_{5/2}$, $1i_{13/2}$ and $2f_{7/2}$ & $1j_{15/2}$ and $lg_{9/2}$ orbitals, respectively. As the energy spacing between orbitals giving rise to octupole effects decreases with increasing mass number [11], the strongest octupole correlations are predicted theoretically and observed experimentally in isotopes of Z=84-90 in terms of simplex bands [11], octupole vibrational states [15] and octupole isomers [12].

2. Methodology and Policies

2.1 Methodology for Data Compilation/ Evaluation

In the present work, systematic variations of the octupole isomers are presented for (i) variation of the reduced B(E3)transition probabilities [16] as a function of proton/neutron numbers and (ii) their corresponding configurations resulting from the compilation/evaluation [17]. For the extraction of experimental data, the ENSDF (Evaluated Nuclear Structure Data Files) Database [18] and the XUNDL (Experimental Unevaluated Nuclear Data List) Database [19] available at NNDC (National Nuclear Data Centre) [20] are used which contains the information about the measured data. The spin-parity, half-lives, and reduced B(E3) transition probabilities considered for the present compilation are the adopted values given by the evaluators if no information after the cutoff date of ENSDF is available. To consider all data, the unevaluated measurements are also checked till 31st January 2022 for any new halflife, branching ratio, or reduced transition probability measurement. If new measurement(s) is/are reported in the XUNDL database which is/are not considered in ENSDF data, the new value of half-life is evaluated for such cases by considering both new and old measurements. For the

evaluation purpose, various data evaluation programs such as FMTCHK [21], GTOL [22], BrIcc [23, 24], RULER [25] are used to get the final evaluated value of reduced B(E3) transition probabilities.

For every octupole isomer considered for the present work, the configurations in terms of neutron and proton single particle orbitals [26] of initial and final states involved in the *E3* decay branch are also tabulated from various references in NSR Database [27]. In present work, the systematics of reduced *B(E3)* transition probabilities are reported for 235 isomeric states which are compiled in Ref. [17], out of which about 25 are evaluated by considering the new measurement(s) from the XUNDL data. The data is presented in four groups namely even-even (*80*), even-odd (55), odd-even (55), and odd-odd (45) nuclei having the proton number 80 < Z < 92 and having neutron 98 < N < 130. The main component of particle transitions or core excitation are also listed for these isomers.

2.2 Policies

The policies used in the compilation work are:

- Different nuclei are compiled in the reference [17] in the increasing order of their atomic number (*Z*). For a given element, the isotopes are arranged in increasing order of their neutron number (*N*).
- All *E3* decays are considered in this work, irrespective of whether they are pure or mixed. The mixed transitions are specified in [17] by superscript *. Most of them have half-life greater than *I ns* except few cases having half-life in *ps* or *fs* range decaying via *E3* transitions.



Figure 1: The variation of reduced B(E3) transition probabilities for isomeric states in even-even nuclei as a function of proton and neutron number (In ²⁰⁸*Po*, the shown value for 16⁺ isomer is the lower limit for B(E3) value).



Figure 2: The variation of reduced B(E3) transition probabilities for isomeric states in even-odd nuclei as a function of proton and neutron number (the given values for $37/2^+$ isomer in 209,211 *Po* are the lower limit on B(E3) value).



Figure 3: The variation of reduced *B(E3)* transition probabilities for isomeric states in odd-even nuclei as a function of proton and neutron number.

For the present study, the systematics of the reduced B(E3) transition probabilities and configurations are presented where the isomeric state occurs more than 2 times and has same type of spin and configurations. Further, the well-known vibrational states namely 3⁻ are not considered. The data on reduced B(E3) transition probabilities

in Weisskopf units (W. u.) are plotted as a function of neutron and proton number in Fig. 1-4 for even-even, even-odd, odd-even, and odd-odd nuclei respectively. The summary of the range of reduced B(E3) transition probabilities and particle transitions involved are listed in Table 1.



Figure 4: The variation of reduced *B(E3)* transition probabilities for isomeric states in odd-odd nuclei as a function of proton and neutron number.

Table 1: Experimentally observed ra	ange of reduced <i>B</i> (<i>E</i>)	<i>3</i>) transition prob	abilities and p	particle transitions (as given in the r	eferences)	involv	ed in
E3 decay of isomeric states in mass	<i>A</i> ~200 region.							

Group	Isomer	B(E3) value range (W. u.)	Particle Transition	Nuclei
Even-	11-	15-35	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(f_{7/2})$	¹⁹⁰ Pb [28], ¹⁹² Pb [29], ¹⁹⁴ Pb [30],
even				¹⁹⁶ Pb [#] [31], ²¹⁰ Po [32], ²¹² Rn [33], ²¹² Ra [34], ²¹⁴ Ra [35], ²¹⁶ Th [36]
		1-37	$\pi(i_{1_{3/2}}) \to \pi(b_{g/2})$	¹⁹⁰ Pb [28], ¹⁹⁶ Po [37], ¹⁹⁸ Po [38], ²⁰⁰ Po [39], ²⁰² Po [40], ²⁰⁸ Po [41], ²¹⁰ Po [32], ²¹⁰ Rn [42], ²¹² Rn [33],
				²¹² Ra [34], ²¹⁴ Ra [35], ²¹⁶ Th [36]
	17-	21-26	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(f_{7/2})$	²¹⁰ Rn [42], ²¹² Rn [33], ²¹⁴ Ra [35]
	20+	7-12	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow \pi(b_{9/2})$	²¹⁰ Rn [43], ²¹² Rn [44]
		37	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(f_{7/2})$	²¹² Rn [44]
	16+	>2.8	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(h_{9/2})$	²⁰⁸ Po [#] [41], ²¹⁰ Po [32]
Even-	15/2-	18-50	$v(j_{15/2}) \rightarrow v(g_{9/2})$	²⁰⁹ Pb [45], ²¹¹ Po [46], ²¹³ Rn [47],
odd				²¹⁵ Ra [48], ²¹⁷ Th [49]
	49/2+	30-35	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(b_{9/2})$	²¹¹ Rn [50], ²¹³ Rn [47], ²¹⁵ Ra [48]
	21/2+	1-3	$ u(g_{_{9/2}}) \longrightarrow \nu(j_{_{15/2}}) $	²¹³ Rn [47], ²¹⁵ Ra [48]
	21/2-	0.1-1.4	$v(i_{1_{3/2}})\otimes 5^{-(196}Pb) o v(i_{1_{3/2}})\otimes 2^{+(196}Pb)$	¹⁹⁵ Pb* [53], ¹⁹⁷ Pb* [54]
	41/2-	5-14	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(h_{9/2})$	²⁰⁹ Rn [51], ²¹¹ Rn [50]
	23/2+	0.7-5	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(h_{9/2})$	²⁰⁹ Po [52], ²¹¹ Rn [50]
	37/2+	>6.9	$\nu(j_{15/2}) \rightarrow \nu(g_{9/2})$	²⁰⁹ Po [52], ²¹¹ Po [46]

	19/2-	$(3-5) \times 10^{-4}$	$v(f_{5/2}^{(-1)}) \rightarrow v(i_{13/2}^{(-1)})$	²⁰⁵ Po [55], ²⁰⁷ Po [55]
	31/2-	11-25 (>0.54 for ²⁰⁹ Po)	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(h_{9/2})$	²⁰⁹ Po [52], ²¹¹ Po [46], ²¹³ Rn [47]
Odd-	9/2-	$10^{-3} - 10^{-2}$	$\pi(h_{_{9/2}}) \to \pi(d_{_{3/2}})$	¹⁸¹ Tl [#] [56], ¹⁸⁵ Tl [#] [57], ¹⁸⁷ Tl [58],
even				¹⁹³ Tl [59], ¹⁹⁵ Tl [60], ¹⁹⁷ Tl [59], ¹⁹⁹ Tl [61], ²⁰¹ Tl [62]
	29/2*	18-28	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(f_{7/2})$	²⁰⁵ At [63], ²⁰⁹ At [64], ²¹¹ At [65], ²¹¹ Fr [66], ²¹³ Fr [66], ²¹⁵ Ac [67]
	1/2+	0.01-0.3	$\pi(s_{1/2}) \longrightarrow \pi(f_{7/2})$	¹⁸⁹ Bi [68], ¹⁹¹ Bi [69], ²⁰³ Bi [70], ²⁰⁵ Bi [71], ²⁰⁹ Bi [72]
	45/2-	20-65	$\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(f_{7/2})$	²⁰⁹ Fr [73], ²¹¹ Fr [#] [66], ²¹³ Fr [66]
	3/2+	1-20	$3^{-}\otimes$ proton configurations	²⁰⁷ Bi [74], ²⁰⁹ Bi [72]
Odd-	10-	10-5- 10-4	$v(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow v(f_{5/2})$	¹⁸⁶ Tl [79], ¹⁹⁸ Tl [80] ¹⁹⁶ Bi [81],
odd				¹⁹⁸ Bi [82], ²⁰⁰ Bi [83], ²⁰⁴ Bi [84], ²⁰⁶ Bi [84], ²⁰⁸ Bi [*] [85], ²⁰⁰ At [#] [86] ²⁰² At [86], ²⁰⁴ At [87], ²⁰⁶ Fr [86]
	7*	0.1-0.3	$\pi(s_{1/2}) \otimes \nu(i_{1/2}) \to \pi(d_{3/2}) \otimes \nu(f_{5/2})$	²⁰⁰ Tl [88], ²⁰² Tl [89], ²⁰⁴ Tl [90]
	27-	35-55	$\nu(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow \nu(f_{7/2})$	²¹² Fr [66], ²¹⁴ Fr [91]

[#] The transitions for which the reduced *B*(*E3*) transition probabilities are evaluated using RULER

* Mixed transitions

Results & Discussion

For comparison, the results on the B(E3) values and configurations of E3 transitions are given in the Table 1 along with the references.

In even-even nuclei as shown in Fig. 1, the 11⁻ isomer is observed in most of the nuclei. It is found to decay by two *E3* branches, (i) $\pi(i_{13/2}) \to (f_{7/2})$ branch in ^{190,192,194,196}*Pb* $[28-31], {}^{210}Po [32], {}^{212}Rn [33], {}^{212, 214}Ra [34, 35] and {}^{216}Th$ [36] and (ii) a $\pi(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow \pi(h_{9/2})$ branch in ¹⁹⁰*Pb* [28], ¹⁹⁶, ^{198, 200, 202, 208, ²¹⁰*Po* [37-41, 32], ^{210,212}*Rn* [42, 33], ^{212,214}*Ra*} [34, 35] and ²¹⁶Th [36]. For ¹⁹⁰Pb, ²¹⁰Po, ²¹²Rn, ^{212, 214}Ra and ²¹⁶*Th* nuclei both the branches are observed. The $\pi(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow$ $\pi(f_{\tau_{12}})$ branch showed an enhancement in the reduced *B*(*E3*) transition probabilities (as shown in Fig. 1 in black color filled circle) with increasing neutron number whereas the reduced *B*(*E3*) transition probabilities for $\pi(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow \pi(b_{9/2})$ branch (as shown in Fig. 1 in red color filled square) are found to decrease with increasing neutron number. The enhancement in octupole collectivity for the $\pi(i_{_{13/2}})$ \rightarrow $\pi(h_{q/2})$ branch is attributed to the presence of the octupole $\Delta i = \Delta l = 3$ orbitals near the Fermi level. For E3 decay of 17⁻ isomer in ^{210, 212}*Rn* [42, 43] and ²¹⁴*Ra* [35], the reduced B(E3) transition probabilities are quite high and are arising from the $\pi(i_{13/2}) \to \pi(f_{7/2})$ particle transitions.

In ²¹⁰*Rn* [43] and ²¹²*Rn* [44], the 20⁺ isomer arising from the $\pi(h_{9/2}^2i_{13/2}^2)$ configuration is seen and it decays to a state with $\pi(h_{9/2}^3i_{13/2}^1)$ configuration, hence have $\pi(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow (h_{9/2})$ particle transition with reduced transition probability of order of 7-12 *W. u.* (shown in Fig. 1 in magenta color filled down triangle). Another decay branch to $\pi(h_{9/2}^2f_{7/2}^1i_{13/2}^1)$ state from

20⁺ isomer in ²¹²*Rn*[44] is also observed (shown in Fig. 1 in pink color filled right triangle) for which reduced *B*(*E3*) transition probability is 37(4) *W. u.* and hence again shows the effect of octupole interactions in terms of enhanced transition rates due to $\pi(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow \pi(f_{7/2})$ transition. The ^{208,210}*Po* have 16⁺ isomer, and found to decay via *B*(*E3*) > 2.3 *W. u.* for ²⁰⁸*Po* [41] and 18.4⁹₋₉ *W. u* for ²¹⁰*Po* [32] respectively.

In Fig. 2, the isomeric states observed in evenodd nuclei in mass $A \sim 200$ region and variation of their reduced B(E3) transition probability as a function of N $\dot{C} Z$ are shown. For $15/2^{-}$ isomer in ²⁰⁹*Pb* [45], ²¹¹*Po* [46], ²¹³*Rn* [47], ²¹⁵*Ra* [48] and ²¹⁷*Th* [49], the $v(j_{15/2}) \rightarrow v(g_{9/2})$ interacting orbitals are responsible for the high octupole transition probability of order of 18-50 W. u. which is found to increase with increasing contribution from proton core. This is expected as the Ra-Th region is known to have strong octupole admixtures. The $49/2^+$ isomer in $^{211,213}Rn$ [50, 47] and ²¹⁵*Ra* [48] is observed with $\pi(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow \pi(b_{9/2})$ kind of particle transition with B(E3) values varying between 30-35 W. u. The 41/2⁻ isomer in ²⁰⁹Rn [51] and ²¹¹Rn [50]; 23/2⁺ isomers in ²⁰⁹Po [52] and ²¹¹Rn [50] & 31/2⁻ isomer in ²⁰⁹*Po* [52], ²¹¹*Po* [46] and ²¹³*Rn* [47] for which the $\pi(i_{13/2})$ $\rightarrow \pi(h_{q/2})$ kind of interaction is involved, the transition probabilities vary over a wide range from 1-23 W. u. and are found to decrease with increasing proton number for all the cases. In ²⁰⁹Po [52], two 31/2⁻ isomers are observed having different configurations. For isomer at 4265.4 keV, the $[\pi(i_{13/2}) \otimes v(g_{9/2}^{+1} p_{1/2}^{-2})] \rightarrow [\pi(h_{9/2}) \otimes v(i_{13/2}^{-1})]$ transition result in B(E3) value of 0.40(4) W. u. and the other at 4354.1 keV with $\pi(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow (h_{9/2})$ transition has a lower limit of 0.54 W. u. on B(E3) value. In case of $21/2^{-1}$ isomer in ^{195,197}*Pb* [53, 54], the *E3* transition results from the single particle configurations having a $i_{13/2}$ neutron hole coupled to the 5⁻ and 2⁺ states of the respective core. The 37/2⁺ isomer in ^{209,211}*Po* [52, 46] is having $v(j_{15/2}) \rightarrow v(g_{9/2})$ octupole kind of particle transition with lower limits of 6.9 and 32 W. u., respectively. For 19/2⁻ isomer in ^{205,207}Po [55] and 21/2⁺ isomer in ²¹³Rn [47] and ²¹⁵Ra [48], the configurations are $v(f_{5/2}^{(-1)}) \rightarrow v(i_{13/2}^{(-1)})$ and $v(g_{9/2}) \rightarrow v(j_{15/2})$ and have low B(E3) values of order of 10^{-4} W. u. for $19/2^{-}$ isomer and 1-3 W. u. for $21/2^+$ isomer.

For odd-even nuclei, the reduced B(E3) transition probabilities are plotted as a function of neutron and proton number in Fig. 3. The 9/2- isomer is observed in ^{181,18} 5,187,193,195,197,199,201 Tl [56-62] having $\pi(b_{9/2}) \rightarrow \pi(d_{3/2})$ single particle configurations showing low B(E3) values. For ¹⁹³Tl, the gamma-ray energy is not specifically known and hence the reduced B(E3) transition probability varies from 0.005 W. u. for $E_{\sim} = 13 \text{ keV to } 0.14 \text{ W. u. for } E_{\sim} = 2.2 \text{ keV}$ (not shown in Fig. 3). The 29/2+ isomer observed in ^{205,209,211}At [63-65], ^{211,213}*Fr* [66], ²¹⁵*Ac* [67], the reduced *B*(*E3*) transition probabilities are found to vary between 18-28 W. u. showing signature of strong octupole effects. In case of 1/2+ isomer identified in 189,191,203,205,209 Bi [68-72], reduced B(E3) transition probability is found to increase while approaching N=126neutron number from mid shell. The 45/2- isomer in 209,211,213 Fr [73, 66] are showing an enhancement in B(E3) values with increasing neutron core contribution. The octupole vibrational state $3/2^+$ is also observed in $^{207,209}Bi$ isotopes [74, 72], due to coupling of 3⁻ state with $h_{9/2}$ proton. There are also $13/2^+$ isomeric states in ${}^{187,199,201,209}Bi$ [68, 69, 75-78] and ¹⁹³At [69], but their systematic variation cannot be discussed as no half-life measurements are done in case of $^{201,209}Bi$ and thus no B(E3) values can be calculated. Also, no configurations are assigned for ^{193}At [69].

In the case of odd-odd nuclei, the reduced transition probabilities are plotted in Fig. 4. The 10⁻ isomers observed in $^{186, 198}Tl$ [79, 80], $^{196,198,200,204,206,208}Bi$ [81-85], $^{200,202,204}At$ [86, 87] and ²⁰⁶Fr [86] nuclei are having very low B(E3)values for the E3 decay branch. In ¹⁸⁶Tl, the decay is due to $\pi(h_{9/2}) \rightarrow \pi(s_{1/2})$ particle transition while in all other cases the $v(i_{13/2}) \rightarrow v(i_{5/2})$ particle transition is involved in the decay. The 7⁺ isomer is observed in ^{200,202,204}Tl [88-90] isotopes having neutron number N=119, 121, and 123. The configuration involved in its decay is $[\pi(s_{1/2}) \otimes v(i_{1/2})]$ $\rightarrow [\pi(d_{3/2}) \otimes v(f_{5/2})]$ which is purely single particle and hence again the reduced B(E3) transition probabilities are quite low. The 27- state in ²¹²Fr [66] and ²¹⁴Fr [91] are having quite high *B(E3)* values due to the involvement of $\pi(i_{13/2})$ $\rightarrow \pi(f_{\tau/2})$ octupole configuration in their *E3* decay branch. There are also 14⁻ isomer in ²¹⁴Fr [91, 92], ²¹⁰Bi [93, 94] and 22⁻ isomer in ^{210,212}At [95, 96] having $v(j_{15/2}) \rightarrow v(g_{9/2})$ configurations. As there is no half-life measurement for 14⁻ state in ²¹⁰Bi and 22⁻ state in ²¹⁰At, so no reduced transition probability values are calculated, but the expected values may be as high as 25⁺⁵₋₅ W. u. for ²¹⁴Fr [91, 92] and 29⁺¹⁰₋₆ W. u. for ²¹²At [96].

Conclusion

The systematics of the reduced B(E3) transition probabilities are presented in mass $A \sim 200$ region as a function of proton and neutron number by considering the nuclear structure groups- even-even, even-odd, odd-even, and odd-odd. The particle transitions (as given in Table 1) involved in the E3 isomeric decay are discussed to see the structural role on the reduced B(E3) transition probabilities. The experimental data on reduced B(E3) transition probabilities show an enhancement for the transitions involving the $g_{9/2}$ and $j_{15/2}$ neutron orbitals and the $f_{7/2}$ and $i_{13/2}$ proton orbitals and attributed to the octupole correlations in this mass region. The systematics provided the up to date information on E3 decays in this mass region and the possibilities for existence of new isomeric states in mass $A \sim 200$ region which are not observed yet. In even-Z nuclei, the isotopes of Po, Rn, and Ra show the maximum enhancement in reduced B(E3) transition probabilities. For odd-odd nuclei, the 10⁻ isomer arising from single particle configurations has large suppression in the reduced B(E3) transition probabilities. It is seen that the intensity of the strongest decay branch in ENSDF for some of the transitions is listed without uncertainty which may result in the lower value of final uncertainties of reduced B(E3)transition probabilities. Also, the life-time measurements are required for some of the observed isomers to complete the systematics of reduced B(E3) transition probabilities. In future, the complete compilation will be published and will be extended to other mass regions. We will try to assign Nilsson configurations wherever not assigned and try to analyze the effect of deformation.

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Authorship Contribution

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Declaration

It is an original data and has neither been sent elsewhere nor published anywhere.

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