High-K isomer decay rates and the effect of β-deformation changes

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- different isomer types
- shape-isomer examples (²³⁸U, ²³⁸Pu)
- K-isomer examples $(^{172}Dy ^{188}Pb: N=106)$
- combination of K and shape isomerism (¹⁷⁴Re)



Nuclear isomers: energy traps

excited state half-lives ranging from nanoseconds to years



Walker and Dracoulis, Nature 399 (1999) 35



example of K isomer in the 2nd well: ²³⁸Pu



K-forbidden γ-ray transitions



 $\lambda = 1$ transition is 7-fold K-forbidden: $\nu = \Delta K - \lambda = 7$

Walker, Karlsruher Nuklidkarte 50th Anniversary Commemorative Edition (2008) 154



Watanabe et al., Phys. Lett. B760 (2016) 641







¹⁷⁴Re K=14 deformation is as large as any yet calculated for a K isomer in this mass region



E2 and M1 reduced hindrance factors for $\Delta K \ge 6$ transitions from 4qp isomers in odd-odd nuclei



Summary

Combination of shape and K isomerism is hard to pin down

¹⁷⁴Re 4-qp isomer decay could provide a good example:

- largest calculated β_2 change, with large f_v
- competition from larger-v decay with smaller f_v
- \bullet smaller f_{ν} decay has smaller calculated β_2 change

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