

Triaxiality in the IVBM

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Abstract. The dynamical symmetry limit of the two-fluid Interacting Vector Boson Model (IVBM), defined through the chain $Sp(12, R) \supset U(3, 3) \supset U_p(3) \otimes \overline{U}_n(3) \supset SU^*(3) \supset SO(3)$, is considered and applied for the description of nuclear collective spectra exhibiting axially asymmetric features. It is shown that the inclusion of a Majorana interaction to the $SU^*(3)$ model Hamiltonian produces a stable triaxial minimum in the ground state energy surface. The effect of the Majorana perturbation on the structure of the γ band is studied in detail as well. It is shown that by taking into account the full symplectic structures in the considered dynamical symmetry of the IVBM, the proper description of the low-lying energy spectra and the γ -band energy staggering in the full range from γ -unstable to γ -rigid nuclei can be achieved. The theoretical predictions are compared with the experimental data for some even-even nuclei assumed to be axially asymmetric.

1 Introduction

It has been known for a long time that in certain mass regions nuclei with static deformation show deviations from a rigid axially symmetric picture. The possibility of static triaxial shapes for the ground state of nuclei is a long-standing problem in nuclear structure physics despite the fact that very few candidates have been found experimentally [1, 2]. In the geometrical approach the triaxial nuclear properties are usually interpreted in terms of either the γ -unstable rotor model of Wilets and Jean [3] or the rigid triaxial rotor model (RTRM) of Davydov *et al.* [4]. These models exploit the geometrical picture of nucleus according to the Collective Model of Bohr and Mottelson, expressed in terms of the intrinsic variables β and γ where the former specifies the ellipsoidal quadrupole deformation and the latter the degree of axial asymmetry. To describe the deviations from axial symmetry the model of Wilets and Jean assumes that the potential energy is independent of the γ -degree of freedom, while in the model of Davydov *et al.* one considers a harmonic oscillator potential with a minimum at finite values of γ producing a rigid triaxial shape of the nucleus.

The question of whether asymmetric atomic nuclei are γ -unstable or γ -rigid has been an ongoing and active issue in nuclear structure physics for over half a century. A number of signatures of γ -unstable and γ -rigid structures in nuclei has been discussed [1, 2, 5]. While it might be thought that the potential energy surfaces that are nearly γ -flat or display deep minima for some value of γ would produce rather different nuclear spectra, this is in fact not the case. Indeed, the predictions for γ -unstable and γ -rigid potentials are nearly identical for most observables if the average value of γ in the first case, γ_{rms} , is equal to the γ_{rigid} in the second, a situation occurring for example in the Os-Pt region. However, a clear distinction arises in the γ band, where both the γ -unstable and γ -rigid models exhibit an opposite energy staggering. The comparison of a γ -rigid rotor and a γ -unstable models yields similar ground state band energies, but the levels of γ -band are grouped as 2^+ , $(3^+, 4^+)$, $(5^+, 6^+)$, ... in γ -unstable and as $(2^+, 3^+)$, $(4^+, 5^+)$, ... in γ -rigid models, respectively. Thus, obviously the structure of the γ band is crucial for the identification of the shape in the real nuclei and hence for the manifestation of the γ degree of freedom.

In Ref. [6] a dynamical symmetry limit of the two-fluid Interacting Vector Boson Model (IVBM) introduced for the general case in [7], was considered and found to be appropriate for the description of deformed even-even nuclei, exhibiting triaxial features. It was shown there that the addition of Majorana interaction to the $SU^*(3)$ model Hamiltonian produces a stable triaxial minimum. In this paper, we develop further our theoretical approach initiated in Ref. [6] by considering in more details the spectra of some even-even transitional nuclei, supposed to be axially asymmetric, in the framework of the symplectic IVBM with $Sp(12, R)$ as a group of dynamical symmetry. We focus on the γ -band properties and show how the γ -band energies (and the corresponding energy staggering) are affected by the presence of the introduced interaction. The theoretical predictions are compared with the experimental data for the two isotopes ^{192}Os and ^{190}Os , respectively. It is shown that by taking into account the full symplectic structures in the considered dynamical symmetry of the IVBM, the proper description of the energy spectra and the γ -band energy staggering of the nuclei under considerations can be achieved.

2 The Algebraic Structure of the $U(3,3)$ Dynamical Symmetry

It was suggested by Bargmann and Moshinsky [8] that two types of bosons are needed for the description of nuclear dynamics. It was shown there that the consideration of only two-body system consisting of two different interacting vector particles will suffice to give a complete description of N three-dimensional oscillators with a quadrupole-quadrupole interaction. The latter can be considered as the underlying basis in the algebraic construction of the *phenomenological* IVBM.

The algebraic structure of the IVBM [9] is realized in terms of creation and annihilation operators of two kinds of vector bosons $u_m^\dagger(\alpha)$, $u_m(\alpha)$ ($m =$

$0, \pm 1$), which differ in an additional quantum number $\alpha = \pm 1/2$ (or $\alpha = p$ and n)—the projection of the T -spin (an analogue to the F -spin of IBM-2 or the I -spin of the particle-hole IBM). We consider the following reduction chain of the dynamical symmetry group $Sp(12, R)$ of the IVBM for studying the triaxiality in atomic nuclei:

$$\begin{aligned} Sp(12, R) &\supset U(3, 3) \\ &\quad \nu \\ &\supset U_p(3) \otimes \overline{U_n(3)} \supset SU^*(3) \supset SO(3), \quad (1) \\ &\quad [N_p]_3 \quad [-N_n]_3 \quad (\lambda, \mu) \quad K \quad L \end{aligned}$$

where the labels below the different subgroups are the quantum numbers corresponding to their irreducible representations (irreps). As it was shown in Ref. [6], this dynamical symmetry is appropriate for nuclei in which the one type of particles is particle-like and the other is hole-like.

All bilinear combinations of the creation and annihilation operators of the two vector bosons generate the boson representations of the non-compact symplectic group $Sp(12, R)$:

$$F_M^L(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{k,m} C_{1k1m}^{LM} u_k^+(\alpha) u_m^+(\beta), \quad (2)$$

$$G_M^L(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{k,m} C_{1k1m}^{LM} u_k(\alpha) u_m(\beta), \quad (3)$$

$$A_M^L(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{k,m} C_{1k1m}^{LM} u_k^+(\alpha) u_m(\beta), \quad (4)$$

where C_{1k1m}^{LM} , which are the usual Clebsch-Gordan coefficients for $L = 0, 1, 2$ and $M = -L, -L + 1, \dots, L$, define the transformation properties of (2),(3) and (4) under rotations. We also introduce the following notations $u_m^\dagger(\alpha = 1/2) = p_m^\dagger$ and $u_m^\dagger(\alpha = -1/2) = n_m^\dagger$. In terms of the p - and n -boson operators, the Weyl generators of the ladder representation of $U(3, 3)$ are [6]

$$p_k^\dagger p_m, \quad p_k^\dagger n_m^\dagger, \quad -n_k p_m, \quad -n_m^\dagger n_k, \quad (5)$$

which are obviously a subset of symplectic generators (2)–(4). The first-order Casimir operator of $U(3, 3)$ is

$$C_1[U(3, 3)] = \sum_k (p_k^\dagger p_k - n_k^\dagger n_k), \quad (6)$$

and does not differ essentially from the operator T_0 defined in [7, 9]: $T_0 = \frac{1}{2}C_1[U(3, 3)] + \frac{3}{2}$. The $U(3, 3)$ irreps (ladder irreducible representations) contained in either (even) $\langle (1/2)^6 \rangle$ or (odd) $\langle (1/2)^5 3/2 \rangle$ irrep of $Sp(12, R)$ are denoted by the shorthand notation ν , and their branching rules are given in [6]. In the present application we consider only the even irreducible representation of $Sp(12, R)$.

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The direct product $U_p(3) \otimes \overline{U_n(3)}$ subalgebra is defined by the subset of the number preserving generators (5) of $U(3, 3)$, namely

$$p_k^\dagger p_m, \quad -n_m^\dagger n_k. \quad (7)$$

Then, the combined (particle-hole) algebra $U^*(3)$ is simply expressed by the linear combination operators $A_{km} \equiv \{p_k^\dagger p_m - n_m^\dagger n_k\}$ of (7), which can also be defined in the following way [6]

$$M = N_p - N_n, \quad L_M = L_M^p + L_M^n, \quad Q_M = Q_M^p - Q_M^n. \quad (8)$$

The second order Casimir operator of $U^*(3)$ can be defined by

$$C_2[U^*(3)] = \sum_{ij} A_{ij} A_{ji}. \quad (9)$$

The $SU^*(3)$ algebra is obtained by excluding the operator M which is the single generator of the $O(2)$ algebra, whereas the angular momentum algebra $SO(3)$ is generated by the generators L_M only.

We can label the basis states according to the chain (1) as:

$$|\nu; N_p, N_n; (\lambda, \mu); KL \rangle, \quad (10)$$

where ν is the eigenvalue of the $U(3, 3)$ first order Casimir operator, N_p and N_n label the $U_p(3) \otimes \overline{U_n(3)}$ irreps, (λ, μ) are the $SU^*(3)$ quantum numbers, K is the multiplicity index in the reduction $SU(3) \supset SO(3)$, and L is the angular momentum of the corresponding collective state.

The basis states associated with the even irreducible representation of the $Sp(12, R)$ can be constructed by the application of powers of raising generators

Table 1. Symplectic classification of the $SU^*(3)$ basis states.

$N \setminus \nu$...	6	4	2	0	-2	-4	-6	...
0					(0, 0)				
2				(2, 0)	(1, 1)	(0, 2)			
4			(4, 0)	(3, 1)	(2, 2)	(1, 3)	(0, 4)		
6		(6, 0)	(5, 1)	(4, 2)	(3, 3)	(2, 4)	(1, 5)	(0, 6)	
6			(4, 0)	(3, 1)	(2, 2)	(1, 3)	(0, 4)		
6				(2, 0)	(1, 1)	(0, 2)			
6					(0, 0)				
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

$F_M^L(\alpha, \beta)$ of the same group on the boson vacuum state. Each raising operator will increase the number of bosons N by two. The $Sp(12, R)$ classification scheme for the $SU^*(3)$ boson representations is shown on Table 1. The ladder representations of the non-compact algebra $U(3, 3)$ act along the columns (“ladders”) in the space of the boson representation of the $Sp(12, R)$ algebra, defined through the eigenvalues $[\nu]$ of the first Casimir operator (6) of the $U(3, 3)$ algebra. There exists a connection between this ladder representation (“vertical classification”) and the boson representation of $U(6) \subset Sp(12, R)$ (“horizontal classification”). Each row (fixed N) of the table corresponds to a given irreducible representation of the $U(6)$. Note that the number of bosons $N = N_p + N_n$ is not a good quantum number along the ladder representations of $U(3, 3)$.

3 The Energy Spectrum

The most general Hamiltonian with $SU^*(3)$ symmetry consists of the Casimir invariants of $SU^*(3)$ and its subgroup $SO(3)$

$$H = aC_2[SU^*(3)] + bC_2[SO(3)], \quad (11)$$

where $C_2[SU^*(3)] = \frac{1}{6}Q^2 + \frac{1}{2}L^2$ and the quadrupole operator $Q_M = Q_M^p - Q_M^n$. The spectrum of this Hamiltonian is determined by

$$E = a(\lambda^2 + \mu^2 + \lambda\mu + 3\lambda + 3\mu) + bL(L + 1). \quad (12)$$

We point out that there are very large degeneracies in the resulting energy spectrum caused by the large values of λ and μ , which is not observed in the real nuclear spectra. In the present application we consider $Sp(12, R)$ to be the group of the dynamical symmetry of the model and use of the following Hamiltonian:

$$H_{U(3,3)} = a_1M^2 + b(N_n^2 - N_p^2) + a_3C_2[SU^*(3)] + b_3C_2[SO(3)], \quad (13)$$

expressed as a linear combination of the Casimir operators of the different subgroups in the chain (1). The Hamiltonian (13) is diagonal in the basis (10). Then its eigenvalues that yield the spectrum of the nuclear systems are:

$$E(\nu; N_p, N_n; (\lambda, \mu); L) = a_1\nu^2 + b(N_n^2 - N_p^2) + a_3(\lambda^2 + \mu^2 + \lambda\mu + 3\lambda + 3\mu) + b_3L(L + 1). \quad (14)$$

The energy spectrum determined by Eq.(14) will be the starting point for our further calculations.

4 Triaxial Shapes in the IVBM

In Ref. [6] it has been shown that the addition of different types of perturbations to the $SU^*(3)$ energy surface, in particular the addition of a Majorana interaction

and an $O(6)$ term to the $SU^*(3)$ model Hamiltonian, produces a stable triaxial minimum in the potential energy surfaces. In present work we consider only the inclusion of a Majorana interaction to the model Hamiltonian and study the influence of the latter on the produced low-lying energy spectra. We expect that many experimental properties of some deformed even-even nuclei, exhibiting axially asymmetric features, to be explained with the perturbed Hamiltonian under consideration.

We present a schematic calculations starting with the Hamiltonian H (13) to which a perturbation term is added. The Hamiltonian which contains Majorana interaction is written in the form

$$H = H_{U(3,3)} + aM_3, \quad (15)$$

where the Majorana operator $M_3 = 2(p^\dagger \times n^\dagger)^{(1)} \cdot (p \times n)^{(1)}$ is related to the $U(3)$ second order Casimir invariant $C_2[U(3)]$, defined in Ref. [9], via the relation $C_2[U(3)] = N(N + 2) - 2M_3$. The Hamiltonian H contains the pure $SU^*(3)$ symmetry, when only $a_3 \neq 0$ in Eq.(13).

In our application, the most important point is the identification of the experimentally observed states with a certain subset of basis states from symplectic extension of the model (Table 1). As in our previous applications of the symplectic IVBM, we use the algebraic concept of ‘‘yrast’’ states, introduced in [10]. According to this concept we consider as yrast states the states with given L that minimize the energy with respect to the number of vector bosons N that build them. Since, the GSB in the triaxial nuclei is supposed to belong to the $SU^*(3)$ irreps of the type $(\lambda = N_p, \mu = N_n)$, we map the states of the GSB onto the ladder representation of $U(3, 3)$ with $\nu = 0$ (the middle column of Table 1). The presented mapping of the experimental states onto the $SU(3)$ basis states, using the algebraic notion of yrast states, is a particular case of the so called ‘‘stretched’’ states [11], which in our case are defined as the states of the type $(\lambda, \mu) = (\lambda_0 + k, \mu_0 + k)$, where $k = 0, 2, 4, \dots$. In the symplectic extension of the IVBM the change of the number k , which is related in the applications to the angular momentum L of the states, gives rise to the collective bands. Thus, explicitly the states of the GSB are identified with the $SU^*(3)$ multiplets $(\lambda, \mu) = (k, k)$, where $k = L$. The same type of stretched states $(\lambda_0 + k, \mu_0 + k)$ are associated with the states from the γ band, where the symplectic band head structure of the considered band is determined by the initial number of phonons $N_0 = \lambda_0 + \mu_0 = 6$ ($\lambda_0 = 2, \mu_0 = 4$). Additionally, for the γ band to each single $SU^*(3)$ irrep (λ, μ) (k -fixed) we put into correspondence two consecutive states with angular momentum L and $L + 1$, respectively. This choice allows us to reproduce the doublet structure of the γ -band. We note that the present choice of the $SU^*(3)$ multiplets associated with the states of the γ -band is quite similar to the phonon multiplet structure of the γ -band states within the framework of the IBM-1 in its $O(6)$ limit, where the states cluster in doublets differing in the $O(5)$ label τ , which corresponds to the phonon-like quantum number Λ in the γ -unstable model of Wilets and Jean [1]. The Majorana term in the Hamilto-

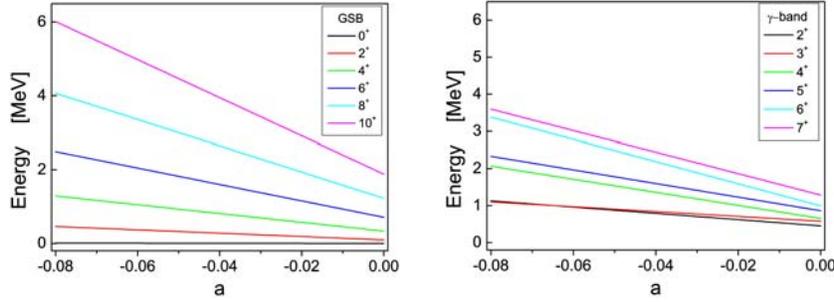


Figure 1. Energies of the ground and γ bands as a function of the strength parameter a . The values of the rest model parameters are $a_1 = 0.10343$ MeV, $b = -0.00274$ MeV, $a_3 = -0.00116$ MeV and $b_3 = 0.02092$ MeV.

nian H (15) is not diagonal in the basis (10), and hence mixes different $SU(3)$ multiplets.

To show the influence of the Majorana interaction on the energy spectrum, we present the model calculations with the IVBM Hamiltonian (15) in which the Majorana term is included and diagonalized numerically. The evolution of the ground and γ bands as a function of the strength parameter a is shown in Figure 1. From the figure one can see that the inclusion of the Majorana term does not change the level spacings of the ground state band and hence preserves its character. It can be also seen that the γ -rigid-like doublet structure of the γ -band is conserved for a wide interval of negative values of the parameter a , but for $a = 0$ MeV (no mixing of the $SU(3)$ irreps) one obtains the well known γ -unstable-like structure. For $a \simeq -0.005$ MeV we obtain an intermediate situation with more regular spacing of the energy levels.

5 Numerical Results

We apply our theoretical considerations for the calculation of the excitation energies of the ground and γ bands in the following two nuclei ^{192}Os and ^{190}Os , which are assumed in the literature to be axially asymmetric. The values of the model parameters a_1 , b , a_3 , b_3 and a are determined by fitting the energies of the ground and γ -bands for the corresponding isotopes to the experimental data [12], using a χ^2 -procedure. The theoretical predictions, compared with experiment, are presented in Figure 2. From the figure one can see that the doublet structure, predicted by the model, is slightly more pronounced than the experimentally observed one. Nevertheless, the calculated energy levels of both ground and γ bands agree rather well with the observed data.

There is a long-standing debate about the nature of the spectra of Os and Pt isotopes. Some groups consider these nuclei as being γ -unstable [13]- [15], while other as asymmetric rotor [4], which assumes rigidity in the γ degrees of freedom. The Os and Pt isotopes have been treated in terms of the IBM in the

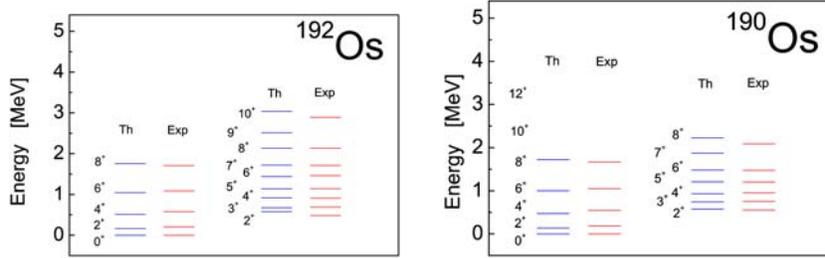


Figure 2. Excitation energies for GSB and γ band in ^{192}Os and ^{190}Os , respectively.

transition region from the rotor to the γ -unstable limit [16]. In Ref. [17], these isotopes are considered as a textbook example of this transition. In Ref. [18] it was shown that the empirical deviations from the $O(6)$ limit of the IBM, in the Os-Pt region, can be interpreted by introducing explicitly triaxial degrees of freedom, suggesting a more complex and possibly intermediate situation between γ -rigid and γ -unstable properties. Indeed, as it can be seen from the presented examples, the experimentally observed level spacings in the γ band are more regular. In terms of the potentials, this means that the true potentials are γ -dependent.

A number of signatures of γ -unstable and γ -rigid structures in nuclei has been discussed [1, 2, 5]. Many authors investigated the transition from the γ -unstable regime to a triaxial behavior. The two nuclear phases, as was mentioned, are characterized by different doublet structures in the γ band. A useful quantity that distinguishes these two cases is the energy staggering signature [1, 2]:

$$S(L) = \frac{[E(L) - E(L-1)] - [E(L-1) - E(L-2)]}{E(2_g^+)}, \quad (16)$$

where $E(L)$ stands for the energy of the state L^+ belonging to the γ band. The doublet structure is reflected in the sawtooth shape of the function $S(L)$.

Analysis of the experimental staggering in different isotopic chains reveals several different patterns [2] that can be categorized based on the standard limits discussed in the IBM. Just to mention few cases, the Xe , Ba and Ce nuclei are well-known examples [18–20] of the transition between vibrational and γ -unstable structures that show strong staggering with negative $S(L)$ values at even- L and positive $S(L)$ values at odd- L spins. The heavy rare-earth nuclei ($N > 82$), known to display an axially symmetric behavior, show a similar staggering pattern with a smaller overall magnitude than that observed in the Xe , Ba and Ce isotopes. Nuclei that display staggering patterns very different from those described above are scarce and include, for example, ^{192}Os , ^{192}Pt , and ^{112}Ru . These nuclei develop a staggering pattern where $S(L)$ is positive for even- L and negative for odd- L values, *i.e.* with the opposite phasing than in the

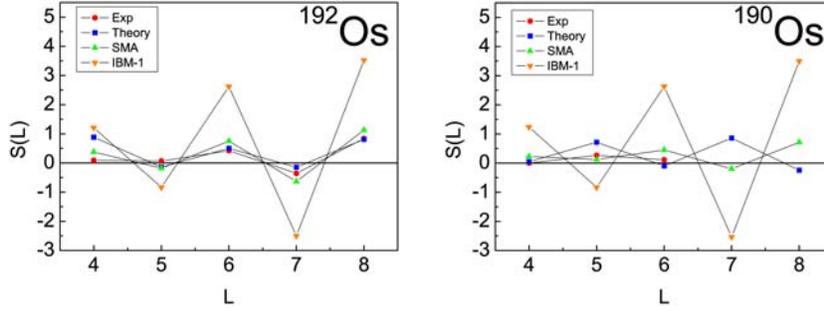


Figure 3. Calculated and experimental staggering $S(L)$ (16) of the γ band in ^{192}Os and ^{190}Os , respectively. The predictions of the sextic and Mathieu approach (SMA) [22] and the IBM-1 with a term quadratic in $(Q \otimes Q \otimes Q)_0$ [21] (IBM-1) are also shown.

other two cases mentioned above.

As shown in Ref. [2] the geometrical models and the IBM-based models can describe the basic trends observed in the experimental staggering. It is shown that the geometrical models that incorporate rigid triaxiality are characterized by strong staggering with positive values for even- L and negative values for odd- L spins. The staggering is largest for the RTRM where it increases linearly with L and smallest for the models that use a harmonic-oscillator β^2 potential. Similarly, the IBM shows a jump over to the triaxial region along the transition from $U(5)$ to $SU(3)$, characterized by the same staggering pattern as the one found in the geometrical models but with a smaller overall magnitude.

To see whether this signature is captured by the present approach, we plotted the function $S(L)$ within the framework of the IVBM for the nuclei under consideration in Figure 3, compared with the experimental data for ^{192}Os and ^{190}Os . The predictions of the IBM-1 with a term quadratic in $(Q \otimes Q \otimes Q)_0$ [21] and sextic and Mathieu approach (SMA) [22] that incorporate γ -rigid structures are also shown. As can be seen from the figure, the present approach gives a staggering pattern for ^{192}Os similar to the one observed in the geometrical models and the IBM that incorporate triaxiality, and γ -unstable type for ^{190}Os , respectively. For the two nuclei under considerations, the phases of the observed staggering patterns are correctly reproduced (in contrast to the SMA and IBM-1 in the case of ^{190}Os). For the nucleus ^{192}Os , the γ -rigid staggering is well developed in the region $L \geq 5$ where also its magnitude increase with the spin. The latter suggests that the triaxiality evolves together with the collectivity.

The geometry associated with a given Hamiltonian can be obtained by the coherent state method. The standard approach to obtain the geometrical properties of the system is to express the collective variables in the intrinsic (body-fixed) frame of reference. Then the ground-state energy surface is obtained by calculating the expectation value of the boson Hamiltonian (15) with respect to the corresponding coherent states. In the case of IVBM, the (scaled) energy sur-

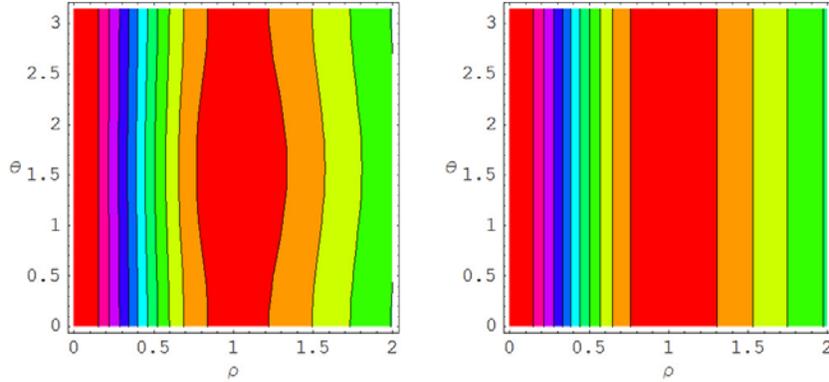


Figure 4. A contour plot of the scaled energy surface $\varepsilon(\rho, \theta)$ corresponding to the Hamiltonian (15) for ^{192}Os and ^{190}Os , respectively. Only the region $\rho > 0$ is depicted.

faces $\varepsilon(\rho, \theta)$ depend on two coherent state parameters ρ and θ , determining the “shape” of the nucleus [6, 9]. The latter are related to the standard collective model “shape” parameters β and γ . For more details we refer the reader to the Refs. [6, 9].

We plot the ground state energy surfaces in ^{192}Os and ^{190}Os with the model parameters obtained in the fitting procedure in the form of contour plots in Figure 4. From the figure one sees a nearly γ -flat potential with a very shallow triaxial minimum for the ground state in ^{192}Os , while for ^{190}Os a typical for the $O(6)$ limit θ -unstable (or in IBM terms a γ -flat) potential is observed, as should be for nuclei that show strong staggering with negative $S(L)$ values at even- L and positive $S(L)$ values at odd- L spins (see Figure 3). The triaxial minimum is obtained at $\rho_0 = 1$ and $\theta_0 = 90^\circ$ which corresponds to $\gamma_{eff} = 30^\circ$ [6]. In other words, the potential obtained in the present approach for ^{192}Os is indeed γ -dependent, representing the case of mixing of γ -flat and γ -rigid structures.

6 Summary

In the present work, we apply one of the dynamical symmetry limits of the two-fluid Interacting Vector Boson Model, defined through the chain $Sp(12, R) \supset U(3, 3) \supset U_p(3) \otimes \overline{U_n(3)} \supset SU^*(3) \supset SO(3)$, for the description of some even-even nuclei, possessing axial asymmetry. We have investigated the effect of the introduction of a Majorana interaction to the $SU^*(3)$ model Hamiltonian. It is shown that the latter introduces a potential which has a minimum at $\gamma = 30^\circ$ and change the γ -band doublet structure from that of γ -unstable to that of γ -rigid type. This allows for the description of these two limiting cases, as well as the situation in between, which is characterized by more uniform energy level spacings in the γ -band, and described actually by γ -dependent potentials.

The theoretical predictions are compared with the experimental data for the

two isotopes ^{192}Os and ^{190}Os , respectively. It is shown that by taking into account the full symplectic structures in the considered dynamical symmetry of the IVBM, the proper description of the energy spectra and the γ -band energy staggering of the nuclei under considerations can be achieved. The obtained results show that the potential energy surface for ^{192}Os possesses almost γ -flat potential with a very shallow triaxial minimum, suggesting a more complex and intermediate situation between γ -rigid and γ -unstable structures.

Acknowledgments

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