



Spins, Electromagnetic Moments, and Isomers of $^{107-129}\text{Cd}$

D. T. Yordanov,^{1,2,*} D. L. Balabanski,³ J. Bieroń,⁴ M. L. Bissell,⁵ K. Blaum,¹ I. Budinčević,⁵ S. Fritzsche,⁶ N. Frömmgen,⁷ G. Georgiev,⁸ Ch. Geppert,^{6,7} M. Hammen,⁷ M. Kowalska,² K. Kreim,¹ A. Krieger,⁷ R. Neugart,⁷ W. Nörterhäuser,^{6,7} J. Papuga,⁵ and S. Schmidt⁶

¹Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik, Saupfercheckweg 1, D-69117 Heidelberg, Germany

²CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research, Physics Department, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland

³INRNE, Bulgarian Academy of Science, BG-1784 Sofia, Bulgaria

⁴Instytut Fizyki imienia Mariana Smoluchowskiego, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Reymonta 4, 30-059 Kraków, Poland

⁵Instituut voor Kern-en Stralingsfysica, KU Leuven, Celestijnenlaan 200D, B-3001 Leuven, Belgium

⁶GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH, D-64291 Darmstadt, Germany

⁷Institut für Kernchemie, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, D-55128 Mainz, Germany

⁸CSNSM-IN2P3-CNRS, Université de Paris Sud, F-91405 Orsay, France

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The neutron-rich isotopes of cadmium up to the $N = 82$ shell closure have been investigated by high-resolution laser spectroscopy. Deep-uv excitation at 214.5 nm and radioactive-beam bunching provided the required experimental sensitivity. Long-lived isomers are observed in ^{127}Cd and ^{129}Cd for the first time. One essential feature of the spherical shell model is unambiguously confirmed by a linear increase of the $11/2^-$ quadrupole moments. Remarkably, this mechanism is found to act well beyond the $h_{11/2}$ shell.

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When first proposed, the nuclear shell model was largely justified on the basis of magnetic-dipole properties of nuclei [1]. The electric quadrupole moment could have provided an even more stringent test of the model, as it has a very characteristic linear behavior with respect to the number of valence nucleons [2,3]. However, the scarcity of experimental quadrupole moments at the time did not permit such studies. Nowadays, regardless of experimental challenges, the main difficulty is to predict which nuclei are likely to display this linear signature. The isotopes of cadmium, investigated here, proved to be the most revealing case so far. Furthermore, being in the neighborhood of the “magic” tin, cadmium is of general interest for at least two additional reasons. First, theory relies on nuclei near closed shells for predicting other, more complex systems. Second, our understanding of stellar nucleosynthesis strongly depends on the current knowledge of nuclear properties in the vicinity of the doubly magic tin isotopes [4]. Moreover, specific questions concerning the nuclear structure of the cadmium isotopes require critical evaluation, such as shell quenching [5,6], sphericity [7], deformation [8,9], or whether vibrational nuclei exist at all [10]. Some of these points will be addressed here quite transparently, while others require dedicated theoretical work to corroborate our conclusions. In this Letter we report advanced measurements by collinear laser spectroscopy on the very neutron-rich cadmium isotopes. Electromagnetic moments in these complex nuclei are found to behave in an extremely predictable manner. Yet, their description goes beyond conventional interpretation of the nuclear shell model.

The measurements were carried out with the collinear laser spectroscopy setup at ISOLDE-CERN. High-energy protons impinging on a tungsten rod produced low- to medium-energy neutrons inducing fission in a uranium carbide target. Proton-rich spallation products, such as cesium, were largely suppressed in this manner. Further reduction of surface-ionized isobaric contamination was achieved by the use of a quartz transfer line [11], which allowed the more volatile cadmium to diffuse out of the target while impurities were retained sufficiently long to decay. Cadmium atoms were laser ionized, accelerated to an energy of 30 keV, and mass separated. The ion beam was injected into a gas-filled radio-frequency Paul trap [12] and extracted typically every 100 ms as short bunches with a temporal width of about 5 μs . The ratio of the above time constants equals the factor of background suppression and therefore results in an increase of the overall sensitivity by the square root of that factor ($\approx 10^2$).

The ion of cadmium was excited in the transition: $5s\ ^2S_{1/2} \rightarrow 5p\ ^2P_{3/2}$ at 214.5 nm. Continuous-wave laser light of this wavelength was produced by sequential second-harmonic generation from the output of a titanium-sapphire laser, pumped at 532 nm. The combined fourth-harmonic generation is characterized by a conversion efficiency of up to 2%. Optimal laser power of about 1 mW was supplied for the measurements. Using the ion for laser excitation increased the overall sensitivity by more than an order of magnitude with respect to the neutral atom. The improvement can be accounted for by the faster transition, the higher quantum efficiency of detection, and the absence of ion-beam neutralization. Such establishment of deep-uv laser beams could potentially provide

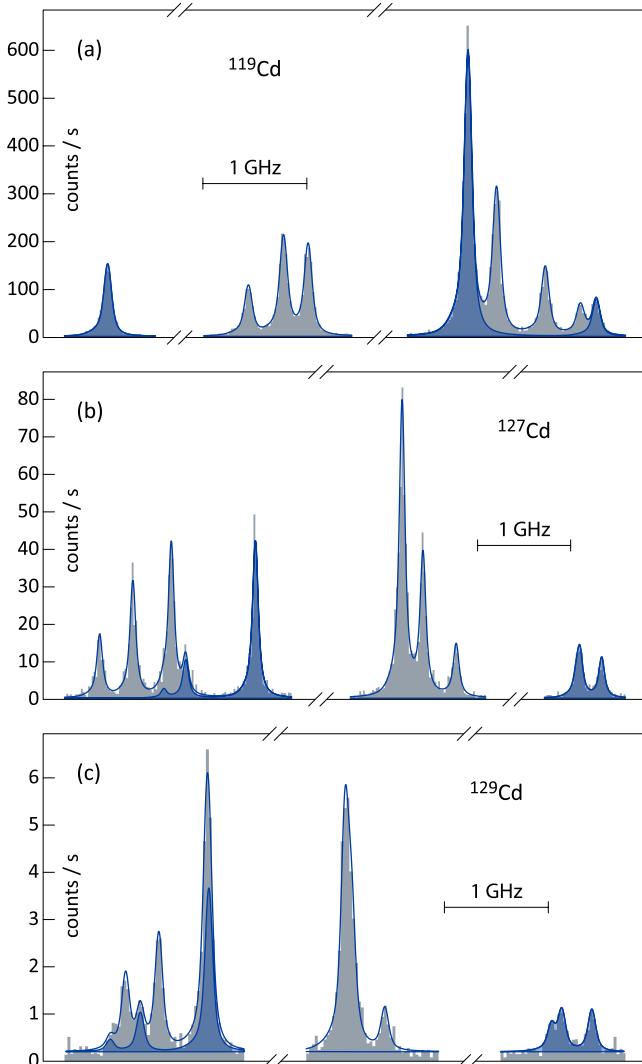


FIG. 1 (color online). Example hfs spectra of ^{119}Cd (a), ^{127}Cd (b), and ^{129}Cd (c). Only frequency regions containing hfs components are displayed. The fitted curve incorporates two states on a common background. The lower-spin state is indicated by a semitransparent fill.

access to isotopic chains thus far unstudied due to demanding transition wavelengths.

In the conventional manner the atomic hyperfine structure was detected by the ion-beam fluorescence as a function of the laser frequency scanned via the Doppler effect. This method is to a large extent insensitive to contaminant beams. However, care has been taken not to exceed 10^6 ions accumulated in the Paul trap in order to avoid space-charge effects. This condition was not a limiting factor for the experiment.

An important accomplishment of this work is the discovery of long-lived isomers in ^{127}Cd and ^{129}Cd . Representative spectra are displayed in Figs. 1(b) and 1(c) where the presence of two nuclear states is clearly identified. It is impossible to determine from the optical measurements alone which of the two is the ground state

and what their respective decay modes are. Spins and electromagnetic moments, on the other hand, were determined successfully for both states in each of the isotopes. The presence of such isomers has been suggested in previous studies [13–15].

The experimental results are presented in Table I. Some comments on the spin measurements apply here. The hyperfine structure clearly identifies a ground-state spin of $5/2$ for ^{107}Cd and ^{109}Cd . Spin $1/2$ is assigned to all ground states from ^{111}Cd to ^{119}Cd due to the reduced number of hfs components, three instead of six. A typical example is ^{119}Cd in Fig. 1(a), whose spin adopted in the literature [21] is therefore incorrect. The $3/2$ assignments in 121 – ^{129}Cd are strongly supported by χ^2 analysis of relative hfs intervals and line intensities. Furthermore, the magnetic moments are consistent with an odd-neutron occupation of the $d_{3/2}$ orbital. The hyperfine structure offers limited sensitivity to high spins. Nevertheless, all $11/2$ assignments are rather firm, since the corresponding electromagnetic moments in Fig. 2 are clearly of $h_{11/2}$ origin.

The $S_{1/2}$ hyperfine parameters A are measured with precision on the level of detectable hyperfine anomaly. Accurate results were deduced with the following procedures. For the observed spins of $1/2$, $5/2$, and $11/2$, there are isotopes in the cadmium chain studied by NMR. The hyperfine anomaly within a set of states with identical spins was neglected and each set was assigned a high-precision value of the corresponding spin as a reference. The resulting magnetic moments are in good agreement with NMR measurements, as evident from Table I. For the $3/2$ magnetic moments a hyperfine-anomaly correction was applied with the semiempirical approach of Moskowitz and Lombardi [16]:

$$\frac{A}{A_0} \frac{I}{I_0} \frac{\mu_0}{\mu} - 1 = \frac{\alpha}{|\mu_0|} - \frac{\alpha}{|\mu|}. \quad (1)$$

Quadrupole moments were derived from the hyperfine parameters B using the relation $B = e Q V_{JJ}$, where V_{JJ} is the electric field gradient at the nucleus and e is the electron charge. Dirac-Hartree-Fock [22] calculations provided the field gradient in the $5p\ ^2P_{3/2}$ state of the cadmium ion. The finite-difference code GRASP [23] was used to generate the numerical-grid wave functions in conjunction with tools and methodology for hyperfine-structure applications previously described [24–26]. The theoretical error bar was evaluated by applying several methods of orbital generation. Details on the applied computational procedure will be published elsewhere. The obtained electric field gradient is presented in Table I along with the quadrupole moments thus determined independent of previous studies. Note that the literature values are about 14% larger in magnitude as they are all referenced to a semiempirical calculation of the electric field gradient for ^{109}Cd [27]. Much of this discrepancy can be accounted for by the

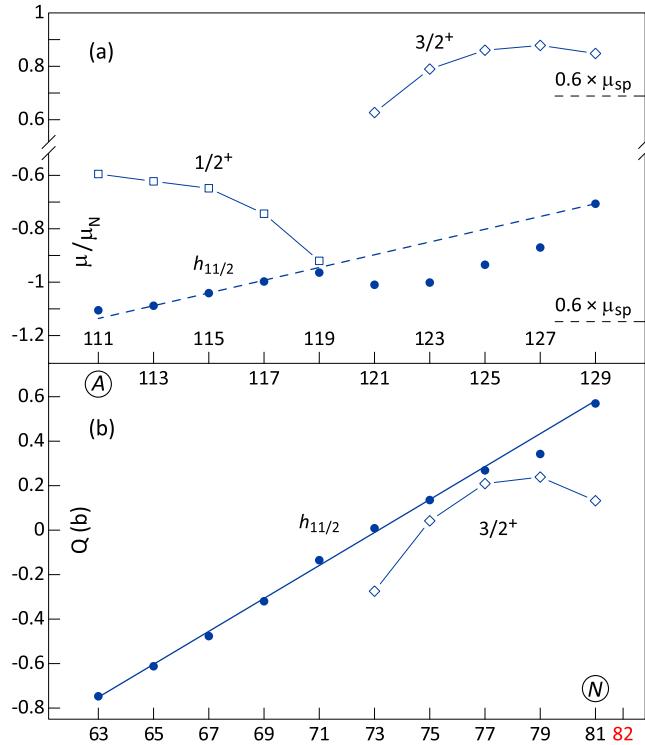


FIG. 2 (color online). Magnetic (a) and quadrupole (b) moments of $^{111-129}\text{Cd}$ from this work. The experimental error bars are smaller than the markers. A straight line is fitted through the $h_{11/2}$ quadrupole moments, consistent with Eq. (2). The dashed line indicates the effect of core polarization.

Sternheimer shielding, which is intrinsically included in our calculation, but not in the above-mentioned work.

The linear behavior of the $11/2^-$ quadrupole moments is the most striking and revealing feature of the cadmium nuclei. Moreover, the trend is found to persist uninterruptedly over a sequence of ten odd-mass isotopes, as shown in Fig. 2(b). The most likely cause behind this phenomenon is the unique parity of the $h_{11/2}$ orbital, which would favor simpler shell-model configurations for the $11/2^-$ states. Indeed, in the jj -coupling shell model by Mayer and Jensen [2] single-shell proton states would exhibit a linear increase with respect to the number of protons. Horie and Arima justified a similar dependence for neutrons [3] by taking into account their interaction with protons. In a more general sense, we consider here the seniority scheme and its formalism by de-Shalit and Talmi [28]:

$$\langle j^n | \hat{Q} | j^n \rangle = \frac{2j + 1 - 2n}{2j + 1 - 2\nu} \langle j' | \hat{Q} | j' \rangle. \quad (2)$$

The origin of Eq. (2) is easier to understand in the particular case of seniority $\nu = 1$, or “normal coupling” [1,2], when all but one particle are coupled to spin zero. By definition the quadrupole moment corresponds to the state with maximum angular-momentum projection; therefore, the magnetic substates $m = \pm j$ are not available for nucleon pairs. This will produce a quadrupole moment

dependent on the number of nucleons n . Since the number of j^n configurations is $(2j + 1)/2$, Eq. (2) could explain the alignment of only six quadrupole moments for spin $11/2$. Furthermore, the possibility of configurations with different seniorities following the same trend can be excluded. For instance, the matrix element $\langle j' | \hat{Q} | j' \rangle$ for seniority $\nu = 3$, calculated with the aid of tabulated coefficients of fractional parentage [29], is -8% of the single-particle quadrupole moment $Q_{\text{sp}} = \langle j | \hat{Q} | j \rangle$. Such values would greatly deviate from the experimental trend. Clearly, one has to surrender the integer nature of n and interpret it as the actual neutron occupation. This is possible if one assumes that the population of neutron pairs ($I = 0$) is shared between the neighboring orbitals: $s_{1/2}$, $d_{3/2}$, $d_{5/2}$, and $h_{11/2}$, suggesting a kind of degeneracy in terms of total energy per pair. The odd particle, on the other hand, must always occupy $h_{11/2}$, as migration to any other orbital in the shell would result in a change of parity. Finally, assuming no particle-hole excitations across $N = 82$, one can substitute: $n = 1 + p(A - n_0)$, where $n_0 = 111$, $A = N + Z$, and $p = 5/9$. The probability p for pair occupation of $h_{11/2}$ is calculated as the capacity of $h_{11/2}$ for neutron pairs in addition to an odd neutron, divided by the number of pairs filled between ^{111}Cd and ^{129}Cd . It can be easily verified that with this substitution there is exactly one $h_{11/2}$ neutron in ^{111}Cd and eleven in ^{129}Cd . An examination of Eq. (2) shows that the quadrupole moments should cross zero in the middle of the shell, which in the current description corresponds to $A = 120$. Indeed, the crossing point was determined at ^{121}Cd , very close to that prediction. In order to account for the small deviation of one mass unit, the data in Fig. 2(b) are fitted with an offset term Q_{const} representing a constant quadrupole-moment contribution from correlations with the core. The resulting fit parameters are $Q_{\text{sp}} = -667(31)$ mb and $Q_{\text{const}} = -85(8)$ mb. For comparison, the single-particle quadrupole moment of $h_{11/2}$ can be estimated by $-\langle r^2 \rangle (2j - 1)/(2j + 2) = -269$ mb. Here, under the assumption of a uniformly charged spherical nucleus, the mean square radius of the last orbital is approximated by $5/3$ of the mean square charge radius of ^{111}Cd [30]. The ratio of the two values implies a relatively large effective charge $e_n = 2.5e$. This result is commented on below in connection with the magnetic moments. The line of quadrupole moments crossing zero essentially in the middle of the $h_{11/2}$ shell indicates a spherical shape for the $11/2^-$ states. However, one has to acknowledge the deviation from the straight line at ^{127}Cd . It is a small negative effect occurring between ^{126}Cd and ^{128}Cd , for which abnormal first 2^+ energies are reported [5]. The meaning of this observation should be further evaluated in light of possible shell quenching [5,6] against suggested deformation [8,9]. The n dependence of the nuclear quadrupole moment has been investigated in the past [31] and more recently reviewed in the $i_{13/2}$ isomers of lead and mercury [32]. The results

TABLE I. Spins, hyperfine parameters, and electromagnetic moments derived from this work. Experimental uncertainties (uncorrelated) are quoted in parentheses. Uncertainties on the quadrupole moments due to the electric field gradient (correlated) are enclosed in square brackets. Correction for the hyperfine anomaly is applied to the magnetic moments by using separate NMR references for the states with spin 1/2, 5/2, and 11/2, and by the Moskowitz-Lombardi rule [16] for the states with spin 3/2. High-precision magnetic moments calculated from NMR frequency ratios [17,18] relative to the proton [19] and corrected for diamagnetism [20] are displayed for comparison.

Z + N	I	$A_{(5p\ ^2P_{3/2})}$ (MHz)	$A_{(5s\ ^2S_{1/2})}$ (MHz)	μ (μ_N)	$\mu_{(NMR)}$ (μ_N)	$B_{(5p\ ^2P_{3/2})}$ (MHz)	Q (mb)
107	5/2	-82.3 (3)	-3009.8 (7)	-0.6151 (2)	-0.6150554 (11)	401 (2)	601 (3)[24]
109	5/2	-111.4 (2)	-4051.0 (7)		-0.8278461 (15) ^a	403 (1)	604 (1)[25]
111	1/2	-398.2 (5)	-14535.0 (23)		-0.5948861 (8) ^{a,b}		
111	11/2	-67.2 (2)	-2456.9 (5)	-1.1052 (3)		-498 (3)	-747 (4)[30]
113	1/2	-418.5 (6)	-15208.0 (23)	-0.6224 (2)	-0.6223009 (9)		
113	11/2	-66.4 (2)	-2419.3 (6)	-1.0883 (3)	-1.0877842 (17)	-408 (2)	-612 (3)[25]
115	1/2	-434.1 (10)	-15840.6 (30)	-0.6483 (2)	-0.6484259 (12)		
115	11/2	-63.7 (2)	-2314.2 (4)		-1.0410343 (15) ^a	-317 (3)	-476 (5)[19]
117	1/2	-499.2 (11)	-18168.5 (32)	-0.7436 (2)			
117	11/2	-60.8 (3)	-2217.5 (8)	-0.9975 (4)		-213 (4)	-320 (6)[13]
119	1/2	-615.5 (13)	-22482.0 (39)	-0.9201 (2)			
119	11/2	-59.0 (2)	-2143.3 (4)	-0.9642 (3)		-90 (2)	-135 (3) [5]
121	3/2	139.7 (15)	5106.2 (34)	0.6269 (7)		-183 (5)	-274 (7)[11]
121	11/2	-62.0 (3)	-2245.3 (8)	-1.0100 (4)		6 (4)	9 (6)
123	3/2	175.5 (13)	6435.6 (27)	0.7896 (6)		28 (3)	42 (5) [2]
123	11/2	-61.7 (2)	-2226.3 (5)	-1.0015 (3)		90 (3)	135 (4) [6]
125	3/2	193.5 (7)	7012.6 (19)	0.8603 (6)		139 (3)	209 (4) [9]
125	11/2	-57.0 (2)	-2077.9 (4)	-0.9347 (2)		179 (5)	269 (7)[11]
127	3/2	195.3 (12)	7159.6 (31)	0.8783 (7)		159 (3)	239 (5)[10]
127	11/2	-52.6 (3)	-1934.5 (5)	-0.8702 (3)		228 (7)	342 (10)[14]
129	3/2	187.7 (23)	6912.9 (48)	0.8481 (8)		88 (5)	132 (7) [5]
129	11/2	-44.1 (5)	-1570.2 (11)	-0.7063 (5)		380 (9)	570 (13)[23]

Electric field gradient: $e V_{JJ}/h = 666 (27)$ (MHz/b)

^aMagnetic moment used as a reference for the states with the corresponding spin [μ_0 in Eq. (1), with $\alpha = 0 \mu_N$].

^b μ_0 for the 3/2 states ($\alpha/\mu_N = 1.7\%$). The experimental uncertainties of the 3/2 magnetic moments are convoluted with $5 \times 10^{-4} \mu_N$ representing the standard deviation of the scatter when the hyperfine anomaly is neglected and different reference values are used.

reported here are the first to demonstrate persistence of that mechanism beyond a single shell. Furthermore, the exceptionally high experimental precision achieved here provides a far more stringent definition of a linear trend.

The nuclei of cadmium exhibit yet another simple trend. Their 11/2⁻ magnetic moments, as shown in Fig. 2(a), increase linearly from ¹¹¹Cd to ¹²⁹Cd. Four isotopes in the range ¹²¹⁻¹²⁷Cd make an exception, which appears to be correlated with the spin change of the second long-lived state. Seemingly, this linear dependence is inconsistent with our description of the quadrupole moments since any odd number of nucleons in a single shell would produce the same magnetic moment as a single nucleon [1,2]. In this respect one may consider ¹²⁹Cd where all neutron orbitals apart from a single $h_{11/2}$ hole are fully occupied with no apparent possibility of “configuration mixing” [33]. It is then expected that the 11/2⁻ magnetic moment of ¹²⁹Cd should be the most consistent one with the single-particle value, yet it deviates the most. Clearly, an accurate

description of the cadmium isotopes should account for the two holes in the Z = 50 proton core. First-order core polarization does indeed generate a linear n dependence of the magnetic moment [34], though higher-order contributions may be important as well [35]. The quadrupole moments, on the other hand, are influenced by this proton-core polarization only through the effective charge, whose large value can now be understood.

In summary, advanced laser spectroscopy provided access to the very exotic odd-mass isotopes of cadmium within the $N = 82$ shell. Long-lived 11/2⁻ states are identified in ¹²⁷Cd and ¹²⁹Cd for the first time. Remarkably, all quadrupole moments associated with the unique-parity $h_{11/2}$ orbital increase linearly with respect to the number of neutrons, as predicted by the extreme shell model. Yet, this linear trend is found to extend well beyond the single $h_{11/2}$ shell. Interpretation of both magnetic and quadrupole moments is offered in simple terms and in a common framework.

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*Deyan.Yordanov@cern.ch

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