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How to determine the shape of nuclear molecules with polarized gamma-rays

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A method has been recently proposed on Phys.Rev. C 99 (2019) 031302 to establish the geometry of the alphacluster arrangement in 12C making use of polarized gamma-rays. The ratio of intensities of scattered radiation at 90 degree along and perpendicular to the initial direction of the electric field vector, called depolarization ratio, is a key quantity that allows to underpin the nature of totally symmetric modes of vibrations. This allows to connect with the underlying point-group structure and therefore to the geometric shape of the nuclear molecule.

This method is reviewed for 12C and extended to other configurations, such as three unequal clusters and four identical clusters (e.g. 16O).

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