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# Precision measurement of the magnetic octupole moment in $^{45}\text{Sc}$ as a test for state-of-the-art atomic- and nuclear-structure theory

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## ABSTRACT

We report on measurements of the hyperfine  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$ -constants of the  $3d4s^2\ ^2D_{5/2}$  and  $3d4s^2\ ^2D_{3/2}$  atomic states in  $^{45}\text{Sc}$ . High-precision atomic calculations of the hyperfine fields of these states and second-order corrections are performed, and are used to extract  $C_{5/2} = -0.06(6)$  kHz and  $C_{3/2} = +0.04(3)$  kHz from the data. These results are one order of magnitude more precise than the available literature. From the combined analysis of both atomic states, we infer the nuclear magnetic octupole moment  $\Omega = -0.07(53)\mu_N b$ , including experimental and atomic structure-related uncertainties. With a single valence proton outside of a magic calcium core, scandium is ideally suited to test a variety of nuclear models, and to investigate in-depth the many intriguing nuclear structure phenomena observed within the neighbouring isotopes of calcium. We perform nuclear shell-model calculations of  $\Omega$ , and furthermore explore the use of Density Functional Theory for evaluating  $\Omega$ . From this, mutually consistent theoretical values of  $\Omega$  are obtained, which are in agreement with the experimental value. This confirms atomic structure calculations possess the accuracy and precision required for magnetic octupole moment measurements, and shows that modern nuclear theory is capable of providing meaningful insight into this largely unexplored observable.

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## 1. Introduction

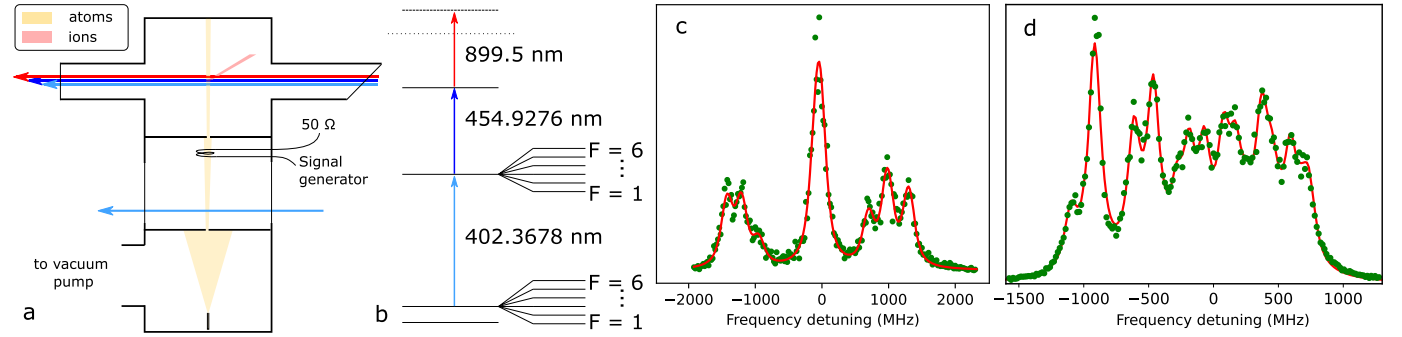
The application of laser spectroscopic techniques to elucidate the subtle perturbations of atomic energy levels due to the nuclear electromagnetic properties has given rise to the study of fundamental nuclear structure, in particular magnetic dipole moments ( $\mu$ ), electric quadrupole moments ( $Q$ ) and changes in the mean-squared nuclear charge radii  $\delta\langle r^2 \rangle$ . These methods, in combination with modern radioactive ion beam (RIB) facilities, offer a powerful probe of changes in the structure of exotic nuclei. They provide information on nuclear shell evolution, nuclear shapes and sizes, and single-particle correlations [1–6]. The majority of the experimental techniques in current use at RIB facilities provide measurements of hyperfine frequency splittings with a precision of the order of

1 MHz [7]. This limitation restricts the sensitivity to higher order terms in the electromagnetic multipole expansion of the nuclear current densities, as well as to higher order radial moments of the charge density distribution. The progress in the development of higher precision methods along with ongoing development of theoretical tools has the potential to provide new perspectives which could help shape our understanding of the atomic nucleus.

Recently, high-precision isotope shift measurements combined with improved atomic calculations were proposed for a determination of the fourth-order radial moment of the charge density [8], which can in turn be directly linked to the surface thickness of nuclear density [9]. The hyperfine anomaly, only measured for a handful of radioactive isotopes (see e.g. [10–14]), would shed light on the distribution of magnetisation inside the nuclear volume [15,16]. In addition to the M1 and E2 moments,  $\mu$  and  $Q$  respectively, the M3 magnetic octupole moment  $\Omega$  is in principle accessible using existing techniques for radioactive isotopes. To our knowledge, this observable has only been measured for 18

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**Fig. 1.** a) Schematic illustration of the experimental setup. The atom beam is produced from a tantalum oven mounted in the bottom vacuum vessel, intersects with the optical pumping laser beam, and then crosses the RF interaction region in the second vessel. After passing through a collimating slit, the atoms are then ionized using three lasers and subsequently counted using an ion detector. The laser ionization scheme used to study the  $D_{5/2}$  state is shown in b), indicating also the hyperfine structure schematically. Figures c) and d) show an example spectra obtained by scanning the first step in the laser ionization scheme, for the transitions starting from the  $D_{3/2}$  and  $D_{5/2}$  states respectively.

stable isotopes [17–30]. The general features of these values can be understood in terms of the Schwartz limits [31]. There are a few notable exceptions: the recently measured  $\Omega$  of  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  [24] and  $^{173}\text{Yb}$  [27] are significantly larger than expected from shell model theory. For  $^{173}\text{Yb}$ , we recently performed an experiment to validate the earlier measurements, where a value of  $\Omega$  which is zero within experimental uncertainties was obtained [32]. In this Letter, we aim to further contribute to this ongoing work with an experimental and theoretical investigation of the hyperfine structure and nuclear electromagnetic moments of  $^{45}\text{Sc}$ .

Our approach is threefold. Firstly, we describe a measurement protocol which combines the efficiency of resonance laser ionization spectroscopy (RIS) [4,33,34] with the precision of radio-frequency (RF) spectroscopy [35]. The efficiency provided by the RIS method is vital for future applications on radioactive ion beams due to limited production rates of radioactive ion beams at on-line facilities. The combination with RF spectroscopy offers a dramatic improvement in the precision as compared to conventional optical methods, by at least three orders of magnitude. We demonstrate this with a high-precision measurement of three nuclear electromagnetic moments of  $^{45}\text{Sc}$ .

Secondly, we combine these measurements with state-of-the-art atomic-structure calculations to evaluate the sensitivity of the  $3d4s^2\ ^2D_{3/2,5/2}$  states in neutral scandium to the nuclear octupole moment  $\Omega$ . We evaluate the impact of off-diagonal HFS effects, essential to extract  $\Omega$  from the measurements. We note that both the  $D_{3/2}$  and meta-stable  $D_{5/2}$  state are expected to be well-populated in a fast-beam charge exchange reaction [36]. Therefore, radioactive scandium isotopes could be studied using collinear laser-double resonance methods [35,37] in the future.

Thirdly, with a single proton outside a doubly-magic calcium ( $Z = 20$ ) core, comparison of  $\Omega$  for a chain of scandium isotopes provides a first important testing ground for nuclear theory calculations. Furthermore, such measurements could help shed light on the many intriguing nuclear structure phenomena observed in the calcium isotopes [3,38–40]. The proximity to proton- and neutron shell closures makes it possible to perform both e.g. shell-model and Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations. As we seek to eventually examine all existing values of  $\Omega$  in one consistent framework, with measurements for nuclei scattered throughout the nuclear landscape, developing a reliable global theory for magnetic properties would be highly advantageous. So far, very little is known regarding the overall performance of standard nuclear DFT in describing  $\mu$ , cf. Refs. [41–43], and nothing is known about the DFT values of  $\Omega$ . Here, we thus start this investigation with  $^{45}\text{Sc}$ . The comparison to nuclear shell-model calculations, which have a more well-established track record in computing both  $\mu$  and  $\Omega$  (see e.g. [44]), serves to benchmark these developments.

These three aspects are all required ingredients for a systematic study of  $\Omega$  throughout the nuclear chart. The extraction of a higher-order electromagnetic moment from the evaluation of atomic spectra in a nuclear-model independent manner has the potential to provide new insight into the distribution of protons and neutrons within the nuclear volume.  $\Omega$  is affected by correlations (core polarization and higher order configuration mixing) differently than the magnetic dipole moment, as was highlighted via calculations of the nuclear magnetization distribution of  $^{209}\text{Bi}$  [45]. Measurements of  $\Omega$  may thus furthermore help to address open questions related to e.g. effective nucleon  $g$ -factors and charges.

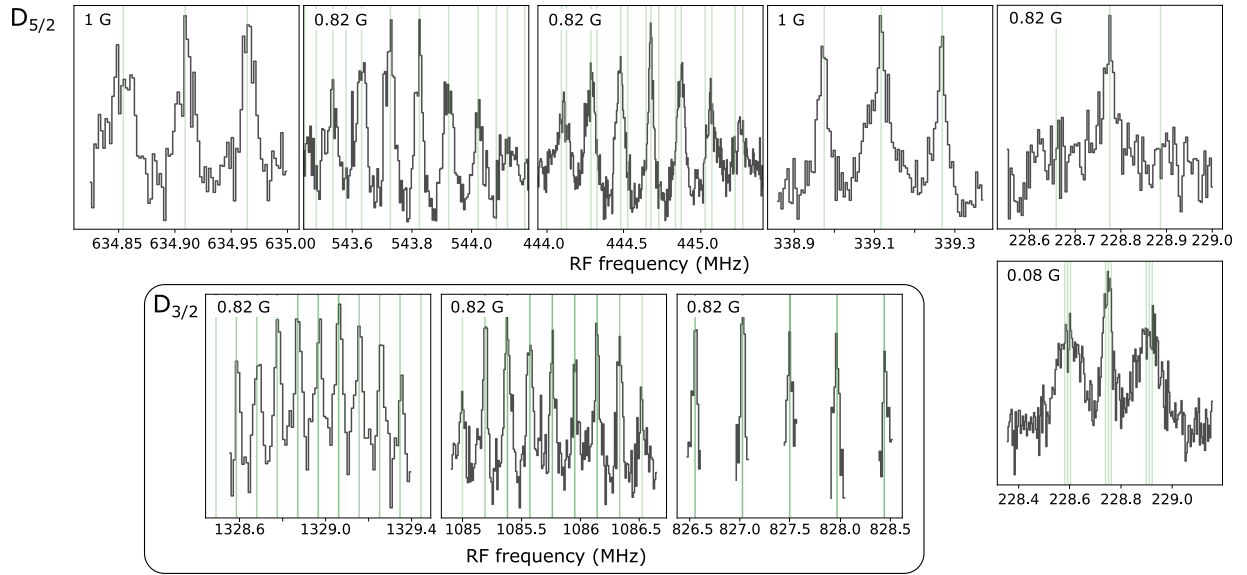
## 2. Overview of the experiment

The value of  $\Omega$  can be extracted from the first-order shift ( $E_F^{(1)}$ ) in the hyperfine structure (HFS) interval, governed by the hyperfine interaction Hamiltonian:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{hyp}} = A\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{J} + B \frac{3(\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{J})^2 + \frac{3}{2}(\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{J}) - I(I+1)J(J+1)}{2I(2I-1)J(2J-1)} + C \left[ \frac{10(\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{J})^3 + 20(\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{J})^2}{I(I-1)(2I-1)J(J-1)(2J-1)} + \frac{2\mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{J}\{I(I+1) + J(J+1) - 3N + 3\} - 5N}{I(I-1)(2I-1)J(J-1)(2J-1)} \right], \quad (1)$$

where  $N = I(I+1)J(J+1)$ , and noting  $\langle F, m_F | \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{J} | F, m_F \rangle = \frac{1}{2}[F(F+1) - I(I+1) - J(J+1)]$ . In these expressions,  $I$ ,  $J$  and  $F$  are the nuclear, atomic, and total angular momentum, while  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are the magnetic dipole (M1), electric quadrupole (E2) and magnetic octupole (M3) HFS constants, respectively. These are all proportional to their corresponding nuclear moment, in a way which depends on the field distribution generated by the electrons at the site of the nucleus. Thus, accurate atomic structure calculations of  $C/\Omega$  have to be performed to extract  $\Omega$  from  $C$ .

There are three stages in our experiment, schematically illustrated in Fig. 1. First, by tuning a continuous wave (cw) laser into resonance with a transition from one of the hyperfine levels ( $F$ ) of the atomic ground state into a corresponding hyperfine level of an excited  $J$  state, population may be optically pumped. Through de-excitation from the excited state into either another level ( $F'$ ) of the ground-state hyperfine manifold, or into other dark states, the population of the state  $F$  is depleted. If RIS is subsequently performed starting from the same  $F$  state, a reduced ion count rate is observed. If now, prior to the laser ionization stage, an RF field is tuned into resonance with a  $(F, m_F) \rightarrow (F-1, m_F)$  transition, the observed ion count rate increases. By scanning the frequency of the RF and recording the ion count rate, the hyperfine spacing



**Fig. 2.** RF scans of several  $(F, m_F) \rightarrow (F-1, m_F)$  transitions in the  $D_{5/2}$  and  $D_{3/2}$  hyperfine manifolds. Green vertical lines indicate the  $\Delta m_F = 0$  resonance locations governed by Eq. (3) with the best-fitting hyperfine constants and magnetic field values. The y-axis represents the ratio of RF-on and RF-off datapoints, as described in the text.

between the levels  $F$  and  $F'$  of the ground-state manifold can thus be measured precisely. Due to the relative orientation of the oscillating magnetic field and the earth's magnetic field, both pointing along the atom beam axis, only  $\Delta m_F = 0$  resonances are observed.

The vacuum chamber used for the experiments is shown in Fig. 1a. It consists of three cylindrical vessels, one to produce the atom beam, a second one for optical pumping and RF spectroscopy, and the third and final one for laser ionization and ion detection. These vessels are separated by metal walls with a thin slit (1x20 mm) used to collimate the atom beam. We produced an atomic beam of stable scandium in the bottom chamber by resistively heating a tantalum furnace. In the second chamber, up to 15 mW of cw laser light crossed the atom beam orthogonally, in order to optically pump the atoms. This light was produced with a frequency-doubled Sirah Matisse Ti:Sapphire laser, focused to a  $\sim 1$  mm spot. The laser was tuned to drive either the  $25\,014.190\text{ cm}^{-1}$   $3d4s(^3D)4p\ ^2D_{5/2}^\circ$  state or the  $24866.172\text{ cm}^{-1}$   $3d4s(^3D)4p\ ^2D_{3/2}^\circ$ , starting from respectively the thermally populated  $3d4s^2\ ^2D_{5/2}$  state at  $168.3371\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the  $3d4s^2\ ^2D_{3/2}$  ground state. The atomic beam then passed through a loop of wire, 8 cm above the optical pumping region. This wire was terminated with  $50\ \Omega$  in order to ensure good impedance matching, minimizing reflected RF power. The voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR) was measured using a Rhode&Schwarz ZVL Network analyser, and was found to vary negligibly within the scan range. The generator is a DS instruments DS6000 pro PureSine signal generator, referenced to an internal 10 MHz reference with a quoted accuracy of 280 parts per billion. For the measurements, the generator was set to output 5 mW of RF power. The atoms are exposed to the RF field for an estimated few  $10\ \mu\text{s}$ , which thus leads to expected linewidths of a few 10 kHz.

The atoms are then further collimated and orthogonally overlapped with the ionization lasers which are focused into a  $1 \times 1\text{ mm}^2$  spot, 13 cm above the RF interaction region, in the third chamber. A three-step resonant laser ionization scheme was used to ionize the scandium atoms, derived from the scheme in [46], shown in Fig. 1b. The first step is provided using a  $\sim 5\%$  pick-off from the cw laser beam used for the optical pumping stage. The other two steps were produced by pulsed Ti:Sapphire lasers (10 kHz repetition rate), tuned to the  $25014.190\text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 46989.493\text{ cm}^{-1}$  transition or the  $24866.172\text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 46914.540$

$\text{cm}^{-1}$  transition, and to a broad auto-ionizing state at  $\sim 58104\text{ cm}^{-1}$  or  $58037\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The laser powers used for the laser ionization were approximately 0.75 mW, 50 mW and 500 mW for the first, second and third steps, respectively.

Prior to performing any double-resonance measurements, an estimate of the HFS constants can be obtained by scanning the frequency of the first laser step, as shown in Fig. 1c, d. During the RF scans, the laser wavelength was kept fixed to pumping wavelengths suitable for the different RF lines, and the RF field was introduced and scanned. Fig. 2 shows examples of the RF lines which were obtained. The Zeeman splitting observed in wider-range scans can be used to determine the magnetic field strength. As the measurements presented in this work were performed over a time scale of two years, different values of this field are obtained between the different datasets: 1.03 G for the first set of measurements, 80 mG for a second set, and 0.83 G for the third. The measurements with a field of 80 mG were performed only for the  $(1, 0) \rightarrow (2, 0)$  transition of the  $D_{5/2}$  state, where the external field was partially shielded with mu-metal foils. This was done in order to evaluate possible systematic errors, since this line is more sensitive to the B-field than the others (e.g. at 1 G the  $(1, 0) \rightarrow (2, 0)$  line shifts by as much as 39 kHz). The data from all measurements was found to be consistent, indicating the measurement protocol is reliable and the magnetic field strengths can be accurately assessed from the Zeeman splitting.

### 3. Analysis

Extracting accurate HFS constants requires atomic structure calculations to estimate the second-order shift ( $E_F^{(2)}$ ) due to M1-M1, M1-E2 and E2-E2 interactions. These calculations will be discussed first.

#### 3.1. Calculation of hyperfine constants and second-order shifts

The relativistic coupled-cluster (RCC) theory, known as the gold-standard of many-body theory [47], is used to evaluate  $C/\Omega$  and the matrix elements involving the second-order hyperfine interaction Hamiltonians. In this work, we expand on earlier calculations [48] presenting  $A/g_I$  (with  $g_I = \mu/I$ ),  $B/Q$  and  $C/\Omega$  with a larger set of orbitals, using up to 19s, 19p, 19d, 18f, 17g, 16h and 15i orbitals in the singles- and doubles-excitation approximation

**Table 1**

Theoretical HFS constants of the  $3d4s^2\ ^2D_{3/2,5/2}$  state. The dominant off-diagonal reduced matrix elements  $T_k = \langle 3/2 || T_e^{(k)} || 5/2 \rangle = -\langle 5/2 || T_e^{(k)} || 3/2 \rangle$  required for the estimation of the second-order corrections to the hyperfine intervals are provided in the last two rows.

	Dirac-Fock	RMBPT(2)	RCCSD	+ Triples	+ QED	+ Breit	+ BW	Extrapolation	Total	
$D_{3/2}$										
$A/\mu$	49.520	54.008	56.172	0.656	0.013	0.153	-0.002	0.055	57.0(6)	MHz/ $\mu_N$
$B/Q$	107.037	122.824	126.343	-0.787	0.000	-0.046	0.000	0.000	125(2)	MHz/b
$C/\Omega$	1.91	-5.85	-4.86	-0.65	-0.02	-0.35	0	0.09	-5.8(3)	$10^{-2}$ kHz/ $(\mu_N \text{ b})$
$D_{5/2}$										
$A/\mu$	21.066	19.744	22.416	0.179	0.013	0.057	0.002	0.021	22.7(4)	MHz/ $\mu_N$
$B/Q$	151.39	173.84	176.11	-1.30	0.05	0.09	$\sim 0$	-0.60	175(2)	MHz/b
$C/\Omega$	0.78	2.33	-17.09	0.58	$\sim 0$	0.80	$\sim 0$	-0.14	-15.9(2)	$10^{-2}$ kHz/ $(\mu_N \text{ b})$
$T_1$	83.52	176.18	145.03	10.15	-0.1	0.61		0.1	156(6)	MHz/ $\mu_N$
$T_2$	311.27	355.29	376.17	-11.27	0.19	0.48		0.02	366(7)	MHz/b

**Table 2**

Experimental and theoretical HFS constants and  $\Omega$  values, without and with the second-order corrections. HFS constants beyond the octupole term were found to be zero within errors, and were thus not included in the fit.

		Theory this work	Expt. Ref. [17]		Expt. this work	
			Uncorrected	Corrected	Uncorrected	Corrected
$D_{3/2}$	A [MHz]	271(3)	269.556(1)	269.558(1)	269.55817(5)	269.55844(7)[3]
	B [MHz]	-27.5(5)	-26.346(4)	-26.360(8)	-26.3531(9)	-26.3596(5)[5]
	C [kHz]		-	-	-0.010(22)	0.039(28)[2]
	$\Omega$ [ $\mu_N \text{ b}$ ]		-	-	0.17(38)	-0.68(49)[6]
$D_{5/2}$	A [MHz]	108(2)	109.032(1)	109.033(1)	109.03275(7)	109.03297(5)[3]
	B [MHz]	-38.5(5)	-37.387(12)	-37.373(15)	-37.3954(12)	-37.3745(8)[15]
	C [kHz]		1.7(10)	1.5(12)	0.31(8)	-0.062(59)[17]
	$\Omega$ [ $\mu_N \text{ b}$ ]		-10.7(63)	-9.4(75)	-1.92(51)	0.39(37)[11]

in the RCC theory (RCCSD method). Due to limitations in computational resources, we correlate electrons up to  $g$ -symmetry orbitals in the singles-, doubles- and triples-excitation approximation in the RCC theory (RCCSDT method). We quote the differences in the results from the RCCSD and RCCSDT methods as '+Triples'. Contributions from the Breit and lower-order quantum electrodynamics (QED) interactions are determined using the RCCSD method, and added to the final results as '+Breit' and '+QED', respectively. Contributions due to the Bohr-Weisskopf (BW) effect are estimated in the RCCSD method considering a Fermi-charge distribution within the nucleus and corrections are quoted as '+BW'. We also extrapolated contributions from an infinite set of basis functions and present these as 'Extrapolation'.

The  $A/\mu$ ,  $B/Q$  and  $C/\Omega$  values of the  $3d4s^2\ ^2D_{3/2,5/2}$  states are tabulated in Table 1. To obtain  $A$  and  $B$ , listed in Table 2, recommended literature values of the moments were used ( $\mu = +4.75400(2)\ \mu_N$  [49] and  $Q = -0.220(9)\ \text{b}$  [50]). Uncertainties are estimated from the neglected higher-level excitations of the RCC theory. The shift  $E_F^{(2)}$  due to M1-M1, M1-E2 and E2-E2 interaction term is given by [51]:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_F^{(2)} &= E_F^{M1-M1} + E_F^{M1-E2} + E_F^{E2-E2} \\
 &= \sum_{J'} \left| \begin{Bmatrix} F & J & I \\ 1 & I & J' \end{Bmatrix} \right|^2 \eta \\
 &+ \sum_{J'} \begin{Bmatrix} F & J & I \\ 1 & I & J' \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} F & J & I \\ 2 & I & J' \end{Bmatrix} \zeta \\
 &+ \sum_{J'} \left| \begin{Bmatrix} F & J & I \\ 2 & I & J' \end{Bmatrix} \right|^2 \epsilon
 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where

$$\eta = \frac{(I+1)(2I+1)}{I} \mu^2 \frac{|\langle J' || T_e^{(1)} || J \rangle|^2}{E_J - E_{J'}},$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \zeta &= \frac{(I+1)(2I+1)}{I} \sqrt{\frac{2I+3}{2I-1}} \mu Q \frac{\langle J' || T_e^{(1)} || J \rangle \langle J' || T_e^{(2)} || J \rangle}{E_J - E_{J'}} \\
 &\text{and} \\
 \epsilon &= \frac{(I+1)(2I+1)(2I+3)}{I(2I-1)} Q^2 \frac{|\langle J' || T_e^{(2)} || J \rangle|^2}{E_J - E_{J'}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

In these expressions,  $T_e^{(k)}$  is the spherical tensor operator with rank " $k$  ( $> 0$ )" in the electronic coordinates. We quote numerical values for these second-order matrix elements in Table 1. We only consider the dominant contributing matrix elements between the  $3d4s^2\ ^2D_{5/2}$  state and the  $3d4s^2\ ^2D_{3/2}$  state. Intermediate results from the zeroth-order calculation using the Dirac-Fock method and the second-order relativistic many-body perturbation theory (RMBPT(2) method) are presented to demonstrate the propagation of electron correlation effects from lower to all-order RCC methods.

### 3.2. Analysis of hyperfine resonances

The data is processed and analysed as follows. For each value of the rf frequency, the number of ion counts is recorded for a time interval of typically one second, once with the output of the rf generator on, and once with the output of the generator off. By repeating this procedure for the desired range of frequencies, a spectrum is obtained by taking the ratio of the two measured counts. If needed, a rebinning of the data is performed in order to improve the signal-to-noise ratio. All spectra obtained in this way are then fitted by explicitly diagonalizing the following Hamiltonian:

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_{\text{hyp}} + B_0 \cdot (g_J \mu_B J_z + g \mu_N I_z), \quad (3)$$

with  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{hyp}}$  given in Eq. (1) and  $B_0$  the external magnetic field, and then correcting these eigenvalues using the expressions for the second-order shift given in Eq. (2). Resonance locations can then be calculated as differences of these eigenvalues,  $\Delta F = \pm 1$ ,  $\Delta m_F = 0, \pm 1$ . The best-fitting values of the hyperfine constants  $A$ ,  $B$  and



C are found by comparing the calculated resonance locations with those observed in the experimental data using least-squares minimization. Additional free parameters in the fit are the value of the magnetic field  $B_0$  and the heights of the resonances predicted by the above procedure, all of which are allowed to vary from one spectrum to the next in order to obtain the best goodness-of-fit. Note that the influence of the nuclear  $g$ -factor on the total Zeeman splitting is negligible, but the effect was included explicitly for completeness.

The hyperfine constants of  $^{45}\text{Sc}$ , with and without use of second-order shifts, are given in Table 2, and the values extracted for the octupole moment are shown in Fig. 4. The systematic uncertainty due to the atomic calculations is given in square brackets. This uncertainty was estimated by the change in hyperfine constants obtained by varying the values of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  within the theoretical error bar. Our results for  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  agree well with literature [17], and are at least an order of magnitude more precise.

#### 4. Results and interpretation

Since scandium has a single proton outside of the magic shell of  $Z = 20$ , a single-particle shell model estimate for  $\Omega$  [31] would be expected to be fairly good. We find  $\Omega_{\text{sm}} = 0.46 \mu_N b$ , using  $\langle r^2 \rangle^{1/2} = 4.139 \text{ fm}$  as the radius of the  $f_{7/2}$  orbit (obtained from DFT calculations discussed later). This value is in good agreement with the experimental values. As a step towards a more complete understanding of  $\Omega$  for  $^{45}\text{Sc}$ , and as a step towards understanding this observable in general, we examine it in more detail using more realistic nuclear models.

##### 4.1. Nuclear shell-model

Shell-model calculations were performed using different interactions in a  $(sd)pf$ -shell model space [52–55]. The values of  $\Omega$  are calculated by the nuclear shell model through the code KSHELL [56]. The expression of  $\Omega$  is defined as

$$\Omega = -M_3 = -\sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{7}} \begin{pmatrix} J & 3 & J \\ -J & 0 & J \end{pmatrix} \times (g_p^{(l)} l_p + g_n^{(l)} l_n + g_p^{(s)} s_p + g_n^{(s)} s_n)$$

where  $l_{p(n)}$  and  $s_{p(n)}$  are the proton (neutron) angular momentum and spin terms of nuclear matrix elements, respectively, and  $g_{p(n)}^{(l)}$  and  $g_{p(n)}^{(s)}$  are corresponding proton (neutron)  $g$  factors. The structure of  $^{45}\text{Sc}$  is calculated using seven Hamiltonians, GXPF1 [52], GXPF1A [53], KB3 [54], and KB3G [55] for the  $pf$ -shell model space, and SDPF-M [57], SDPF-MU [58], and SDPFUSI [59] for the  $sdpf$ -shell model space.

The  $\Omega$  for  $^{45}\text{Sc}$  is dominated by the proton contribution, with the angular momentum and spin contributions having the same sign. We obtain values in the range  $0.41\text{--}0.49 \mu_N b$  with free  $g$ -factors and  $0.28\text{--}0.35 \mu_N b$  with a spin-quenching factor of 0.6 for the different shell model calculations. The inclusion of cross-shell excitations from the  $sd$ -shell to the  $pf$ -shell enhances the correlation beyond the single  $f_{7/2}$  proton configuration, which results in small increases in  $\Omega$ .

##### 4.2. Nuclear density functional theory

We determined values of  $\mu$ ,  $Q$ , and  $\Omega$  for oblate states in  $^{45}\text{Sc}$ . We used constrained intrinsic mass quadrupole moments  $Q_{20} = \langle 2z^2 - x^2 - y^2 \rangle$  varying between  $-1 \text{ b}$  and  $0$ , with points at  $-1 \text{ b}$  marked by stars, see Fig. 3. The obtained unpaired mean-field

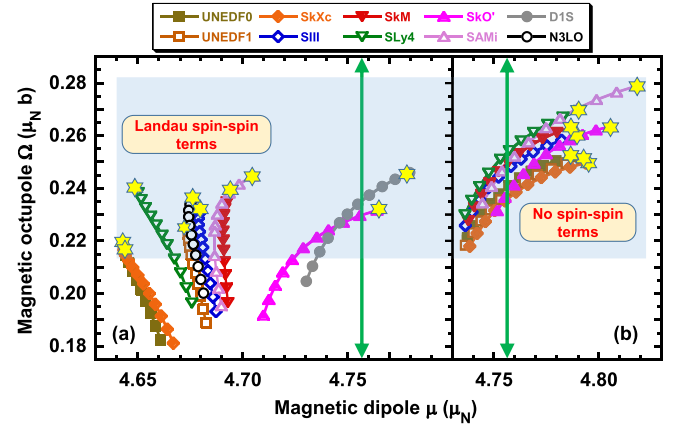


Fig. 3. Values of  $\mu$  and  $\Omega$  of the  $I = 7/2^-$  angular-momentum-projected ground states of  $^{45}\text{Sc}$ . Panels (a) and (b) show results obtained with Skyrme functionals supplemented by the Landau spin-spin terms and with no spin-spin terms, respectively. Arrows mark the experimental value of  $\mu$  and visualize the experimental error bars of  $\Omega = -0.07(53)$ , which are outside the scale of the figure.

solutions were projected on the  $I = 7/2^-$  ground-state angular momentum. Proton and neutron configurations were fixed at  $\pi 3^1$  and  $\nu 3^4$ , where  $3^l$  represents the occupied  $n$  lowest oblate orbitals in the  $\ell = 3$   $f_{7/2}$  shell. No effective charges or effective  $g$ -factors were used.

Results of the DFT calculations were obtained using the code HFODD (version 2.95j) [60]. To represent single-particle wave functions, we used the basis of  $N_0 = 14$  spherical harmonic oscillator shells. We run the code in the mode of conserved parity along with broken simplex and broken time reversal. We used an infinitesimal angular frequency of  $\hbar\omega = 1 \text{ keV}$  aligned along the  $z$  direction. Simultaneously, the nucleus was oriented in space so that the axial-symmetry axis was also aligned along the  $z$  direction. This allowed for splitting single-particle energies according to their projections of the angular momentum  $K$  on the symmetry axis, without affecting their wave functions. At the same time, all single-particle wave functions acquired good  $K$  quantum numbers.

To stabilize the convergence, during the self-consistent iterations the total wave functions were additionally projected on the axial symmetry [60]. Occupied single-particle wave functions were fixed by distributing the neutrons and protons according to the partitions of numbers of occupied states in individual blocks of given  $K$  [60]. This defined specific intrinsic configurations  $\pi 3^1$  and  $\nu 3^4$  in  $^{45}\text{Sc}$ . We note here that the configurations fixed for  $^{45}\text{Sc}$  pertain to deformed orbitals; therefore, they represent much richer correlations than the spherical  $f_{7/2}$  configurations usually defined in the context of the shell model.

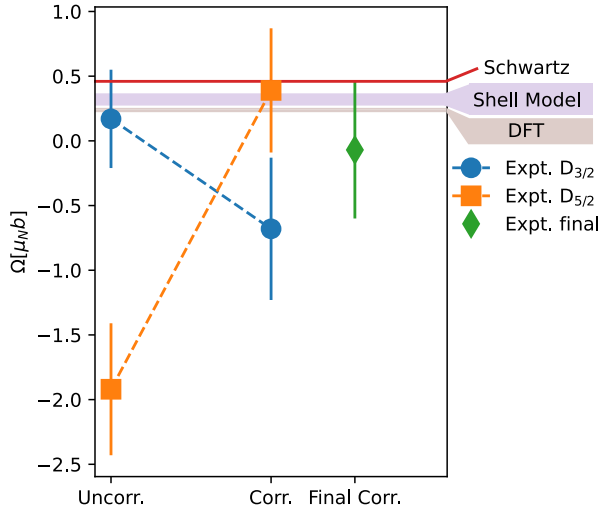
Calculations were performed for eight zero-range Skyrme-type functionals, UNEDF0 [61], UNEDF1 [62], SkXc [63], SIII [64], SkM\* [65], SLy4 [66], SAMi [67], and SkO' [68], and for two finite-range functionals, D1S [69] and  $N^3\text{LO}$  REG6d.190617 [70]. The goal of trying several different variants of functionals was to estimate the order of magnitude and spread of the results. For all functionals, the experimental value of the electric quadrupole moment of  $Q = -0.216(9) \text{ b}$  was reached near  $Q_{20} = -1 \text{ b}$ .

The calculated values of  $\mu$  and  $\Omega$  strongly depend on several input ingredients of the calculation. First, even at  $Q_{20} = 0$  these values lie far from the Schmidt [71] and Schwartz [31] single-particle estimates. This can be attributed to a strong quadrupole coupling to the occupied neutron  $f_{7/2}$  orbitals, which decreases both  $\mu$  and  $\Omega$ . Second, the spin polarization, which acts for the Landau spin-spin terms included, also significantly decreases  $\mu$  and  $\Omega$ . Following Ref. [72], we parametrized the spin-spin terms by the standard isoscalar and isovector Landau parameters  $g_0 = 0.4$

**Table 3**

Experimental and theoretical values of  $\Omega$ . The experimental value obtained in this work is the dispersion-corrected weighted mean of the values for the two  $D_J$  states, where the total (statistical + systematic) was used in the weighting and to compute the total uncertainty.

		$\Omega$ [ $\mu_N$ b]
Expt.	Literature [17]	-9.4(75)
	This work	-0.07(53)
Theory	Schwartz $g_s = 1/0.6$	0.65 / 0.46
	SM $g_s = 1/0.6$	0.45(4) / 0.32(4)
	DFT	0.245(17)



**Fig. 4.** Graphical comparison of experimental values of  $\Omega$ , with and without second-order corrections, and the theoretical predictions. The coloured bands indicate the theoretical uncertainties.

and  $g'_0 = 1.2$ , respectively. The value of  $g'_0$  was confirmed in global adjustments performed in Ref. [73], which gave  $g'_0 = 1.0(4)$ ,  $1.3(4)$ , and  $1.7(4)$  for functionals SkO', SLy4, and UNEDF1, respectively. Third, with increasing intrinsic oblate deformation, both  $\mu$  and  $\Omega$  increase. The latter effect can be removed by pinning down the intrinsic deformation to the experimental value of  $Q$ , see stars in Fig. 3. The shaded area in Fig. 3 covers the range of results given by all starred points, and thus represents a very rough estimate of the averages and rms deviations of the DFT results:  $\mu_{\text{DFT}} = +4.74(6) \mu_N$  and  $\Omega_{\text{DFT}} = +0.245(17) \mu_N$  b.

#### 4.3. Interpretation

We summarize our experimental and theoretical results in Table 3 and graphically in Fig. 4. The inclusion of the second-order shifts brings the extracted value of  $\Omega$  obtained for the two different  $D_J$  states into reasonable agreement, providing a measure of confidence that these second-order shifts and the values of  $C/\Omega$  are calculated accurately. The final value, obtained as the dispersion-corrected weighted mean of the two values, is also shown on the figure, alongside the theoretical values, which are shown as shaded bands.

The final experimental value agrees well with all theory values. It is interesting to note however that the large-scale shell model and DFT calculations yield smaller values of  $\Omega$  than the single-particle Schwartz estimate, bringing these more refined models into closer agreement with experiment. A reduction of the experimental error bar by at least one order of magnitude would be required to provide a more stringent test of the different theoretical approaches.

## 5. Conclusion

We have measured the magnetic octupole moment  $\Omega$  in  $^{45}\text{Sc}$ , using a high-precision experimental technique and state-of-the-art atomic calculations. Our shell-model and DFT calculations (with no parameter adjustments) reproduce the values of  $\Omega$ , of  $Q$  up to about 10%, and of  $\mu$  up to 3%. Further work is required to improve the experimental precision further in order to stringently test nuclear theory. An increase in precision of about a factor of 10 would likely be required to do so, which is out of reach of our current experimental apparatus. A longer rf-interaction region and finer control of the external magnetic field strength would be required. Future experimental work on extending the measurements to other elements, and also to radioactive isotopes, would be very beneficial. This experimental effort should be matched by accurate atomic structure and nuclear structure calculations. As illustrated in this work, atomic and nuclear theory are capable of producing results with sufficient accuracy for such future programs. As a next experimental step, we are currently designing and constructing a collinear RIS laser-RF apparatus which we will use to perform measurements on radioactive isotopes. Candidates for future studies on radioactive isotopes include In and Bi, both having a single proton (hole) outside (inside) of a closed shell, which furthermore feature comparatively larger values of the hyperfine C-constant [21,29].

#### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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