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Further confirmation of octupole deformation in <sup>144</sup>Ba W.A. YZA-GUIRRE, J.H. HAMILTON, S.H. LIU, A.V. RAMAYYA, Vanderbilt University, J.K. HWANG, Y.X. LUO, Vanderbilt University, J.O. RASMUSSEN, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, S.J. ZHU, Tsinghua University — The energy levels in <sup>144</sup>Ba have been studied with our high statistics  $5.7 \times 10^{11}$  triple- and higherfold coincidence data taken with Gammasphere. There are reinforcing shell gaps for  $\beta_2 = 0.13$  for Z = 56 and Z = 88, so octupole deformation is expected in <sup>144</sup>Ba. The even parity ground state band is seen to high spin with crossing E1 transitions from an odd spin, negative parity band earlier, the expected  $s_i = 1$  band. Limited evidence for the expected  $s_i = -1$  band with the same spins and opposite parities has been reported.  $s_i = -1$  band has been clearly established now with the expected crossing transitions between the even and odd spins members. In addition, numbers of new crossing transitions in the  $s_i = 1$  band and between the  $s_i = -1$  band and +1 are seen. These data firmly established the octupole deformation of  $^{144}$ Ba. Work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy under Grants and Contract Nos. DE-FG05-88ER40407 and DE-AC03-76SF00098.

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