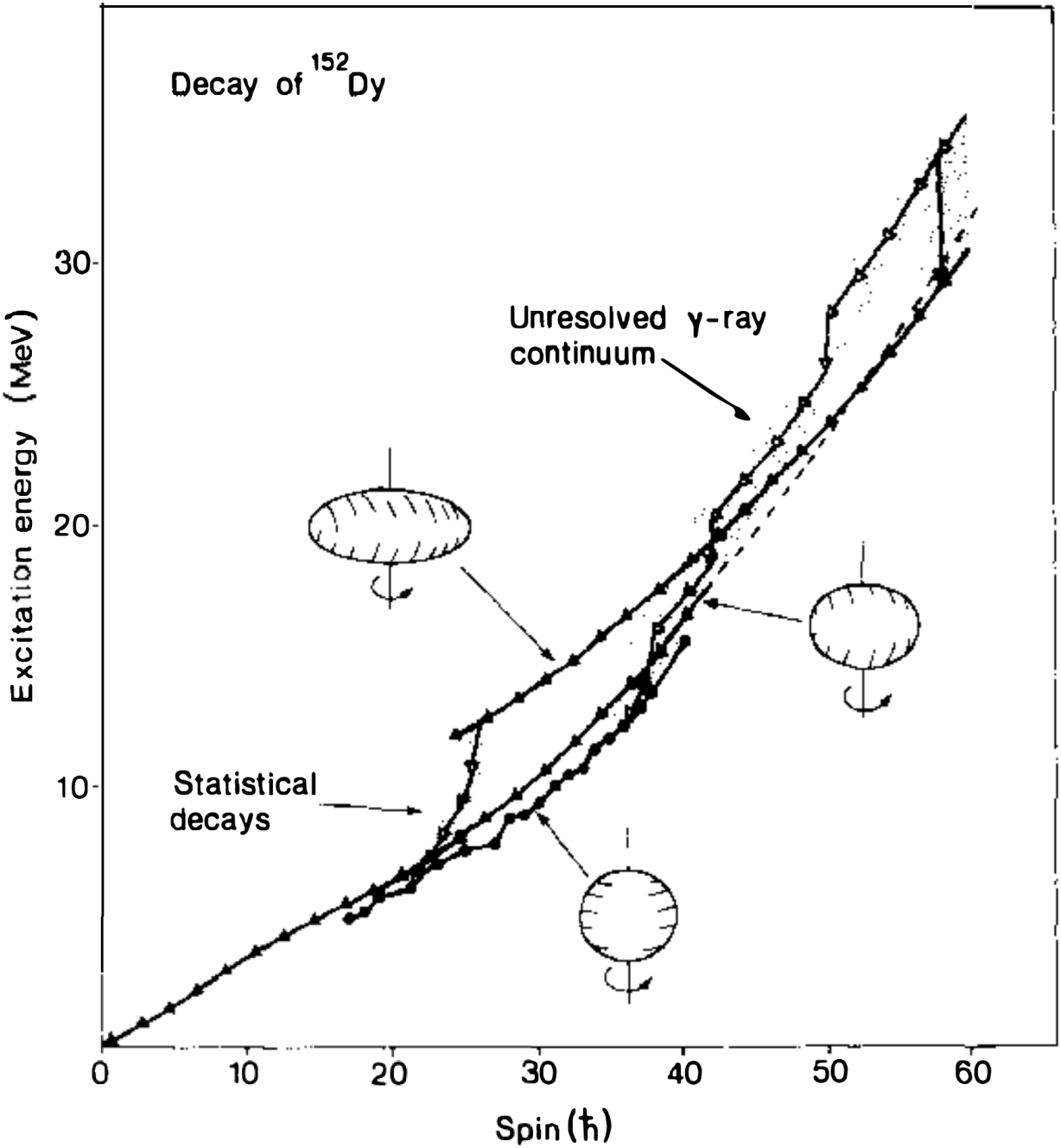

A schematic of the proposed γ-ray decay paths from a high-spin entry point in ^{152}Dy. The major initial decay flow occurs mainly via E2 transitions in the unresolved γ-ray continuum and reaches the oblate yrast structures between $30\hbar$ and $40\hbar$. A small 1% branch feeds the superdeformed band, which is assumed to become yrast at a spin of $50–55\hbar$. The deexcitation of the superdeformed band around $26\hbar$ occurs when the band is 3–5 MeV above yrast, and a statistical type of decay flow takes it into the oblate states between $19\hbar$ and $25\hbar$.