Low Excited States of $^{19}$F, II. Lifetime Measurements

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The lifetimes of the 114-keV and 200-keV excited states of $^{19}$F have been measured by the recoil technique. For the lower state the apparatus described in reference 2 was employed. A CaF$_2$ target (~3 keV at 1 Mev for protons) was evaporated on a thin nickel foil. The incident proton energy was chosen to give an energy of 1431 keV after passing through the nickel foil. The results are shown in Fig. 1. Curve A is obtained when an additional nickel foil is placed over the CaF$_2$ layer to prevent recoils from leaving the target. It will be noted that the gamma-ray counting rate drops off completely for a movement of the target, relative to the gamma-ray collimator, of 0.1 mm. The experimental points on curve B are obtained when the recoils are free to leave the target. Because of the thinness of the CaF$_2$ layer employed, at least 75 percent of the recoils leave the target. The theoretical curves B, C, D, were computed, taking account of the isotropic distribution of the inelastically scattered protons in the center-of-mass system, and the slowing down of the recoils in leaving the CaF$_2$ layer. (The layer is about 1/7 of the maximum range of the $^{19}$F recoils.) We conclude that the mean lifetime is $(1.0 \pm 0.25) \times 10^{-9}$ sec. This value is in good agreement with that derived from the absolute cross section for excitation of this level of $^{19}$F by inelastic scattering of alpha particles, if the latter process is assumed to be electric dipole Coulomb excitation. The transition probability is of the order of 100 times smaller than predicted by the single-particle formula.

In the case of the 200-keV state, the $^{19}$F recoils (at the 1092-keV resonance) were collimated in a forward cone of half-angle 30°. The recoils were stopped on a plate 8 cm in diameter which could be observed through a collimated channel by a NaI(Tl) scintillation counter. The target was a layer ~8 keV thick of aluminum fluoride formed by exposing the back of a 0.2-mg/cm$^2$ Al foil to HF vapor. The distance between the target and recoil stopper was varied from 2 to 12 cm. The resultant curve, Fig. 2, indicates a mean lifetime of $0.8 \times 10^{-11}$ sec with an uncertainty of about a factor 2. The large uncertainty is due to the low yield and the background produced by high-energy radiation. The lifetime for this state is in satisfactory agreement with that predicted by the Coulomb excitation work on the basis of an electric quadrupole assignment to the gamma ray. The observed transition probability is of the order of magnitude of that predicted by the single-particle model for an electric quadrupole transition.

![Fig. 2. Intensity of 200-keV gamma radiation as a function of the distance travelled by the fluorine recoils before radiating.](image)

Low Excited States of $^{19}$F, III. Coulomb Excitation by α Particles

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We have investigated the yield of gamma rays resulting from the bombardment of $^{19}$F by α particles. Up to an α-particle energy of 2.8 Mev we observed only the 1.28-Mev γ ray of the reaction $^{19}$F(α, p)Ne$^{20}$, and the 114-keV and 200-keV radiations from the first and second excited states of $^{19}$F produced by inelastic scattering of the α particles. The γ rays were detected with a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. $\times \frac{1}{4}$ in. sodium iodide scintillation spectrometer. The pulse spectrum was recorded with a 10-channel analyzer.

The yield of the 1.28-Mev γ ray shows a series of narrow resonances (first observable at ~1.3 Mev) superimposed on a continuum. The yields of both resonances and continuum increase approximately exponentially with increasing energy. The 114- and 200-keV radiations also exhibit observable resonances above 2.0-Mev and 2.3-Mev, respectively. Below these energies the yields of the soft radiations decrease slowly as shown in Fig. 1. (The weak resonances at high energy have been omitted, their contribution to the total yield being negligible.) The absolute values of the cross sections have an estimated uncertainty of 20 percent arising chiefly from uncertainty in target thickness and stopping power. The 114-keV curve may have an additional uncertainty due to the difficulty of separating the 114-keV photopeak from the 200-keV spectrum; we may have underestimated the 114-keV yield by as much as 30 percent. On the other hand, the relative shape of each curve was reproducible to better than 10 percent for different targets and geometries.

![Fig. 1. Intensity of 114-keV gamma radiation as a function of the distance travelled by the fluorine recoils before radiating.](image)
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fig. 1. Excitation of the first (114-kev) and second (200-kev) excited states of 209Pb by α particles.

The excitation curves in Fig. 1 have the general character to be expected of Coulomb excitation. The curves were calculated from the theories for this process developed by Mullin and Guth, Ter-Martirosian, and Alder and Winther. These curves were chosen to fit the data at low energy. It is not clear whether the divergence at higher energy signifies inadequacy in the theory, or whether it is the result of an increasing contribution of compound nucleus effects. From the yield of the (α, p) reaction we find that the cross section for formation of a compound nucleus is comparable with the excitation cross section of the 114-kev state in the neighborhood of 1.35 Mev.

The calculations for the 200-kev state assume E2 excitation of a 5/2+ state from the ground state of 209Pb(J=1/2+). To improve the calculation near the threshold, we have replaced the parameter ξ of reference 4 by

\[ \xi = Z Z' \alpha \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} - 1 \right), \]

where ζ and ζ' are the relative velocities of the bombarding and scattered particle. At high energy, this quantity becomes identical with the expression of Alder and Winther. The absolute cross section for the excitation process is directly connected with the lifetime of the excited state. The calculated curve of Fig. 1 corresponds to a mean life \( \tau = 2.2 \times 10^{-2} \) sec, in fair agreement with the experimental measurements of the lifetime by Thirion et al., who find \( \tau = 1.5 \times 10^{-2} \) sec. Our results support the assignment by Peterson et al. of J = 5/2+ to the second excited state of 209Pb.

The calculations for the 114-kev state assume electric dipole excitation of a 1+ state. The curve of Fig. 1 corresponds to a lifetime of \( 1.4 \times 10^{-2} \) sec for electric dipole decay of this state. The agreement with the directly observed lifetime (\( \tau = 1.0 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-2} \) sec) is satisfactory. It should be noted, however, that in addition to the experimental uncertainties, there is an estimated uncertainty of a factor 2 in the theoretical Coulomb excitation cross sections (and consequently in the predicted lifetimes).

Measurements of the angular distributions of the 114- and 200-kev radiations were made for a thick target at a bombarding energy of 1.54 Mev. The 114-kev radiation was isotropic within 10 percent, while for the 200-kev radiation we obtained W(0°)/W(90°) = 1.12 ± 0.02. The theory for the reaction predicts 1.26 for the 200-kev radiation; however, finite lifetime effects may reduce this value. The isotropy of the 114-kev radiation supports the J = 1/2 assignment of Peterson et al.

The possibility that the 114-kev state is 1+ can be eliminated since magnetic dipole Coulomb excitation would have a cross section smaller than that observed by a factor of \( \alpha^2 / \alpha^2 = 10^{-2} \) when the magnetic dipole moment is chosen to fit the observed lifetime. In addition, the possibility that the state is 1+ is eliminated by the absence of the cascade transition and by the isotropy of the angular distribution in both the α-particle excitation and the proton excitation. We conclude that the first excited state of 209Pb at 114 kev is 3− (assuming the ground state to be 1−), while the second excited state at 200 kev is 5/2−.

The 5/2− state is probably predicted by the shell model for an odd proton in a 4d5/2 state. The 3− state is entirely unexpected since the shell model predicts even parities in this region from the filling of the 5s2 and 4f5/2 states. It may be related to the 5/2− state at 3.10 Mev in 207Pb, in fact the three lowest states of 207Pb are apparently 5/2−, 1/2−, and 1/2+. The most obvious interpretation of the 3− state is in terms of a proton hole in the p3/2 shell. The fact that it is almost accidental that this state is not the ground state is certainly in contradiction with the usual interpretations of the shell model.

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†† Investigations of the present reactions have also been carried out by N. P. Heydenburg and G. M. Temmer, and by G. A. Jones and D. H. Wilkinson (see publication reports).
………… Peterson, Barnes, Fowler, and Lauritsen, this issue [Phys. Rev. 94, 1075 (1954)].
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Low Excited States of 209Pb. IV. Angular Distributions*

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Fig. 1. The asymmetry coefficient Bp of inelastically scattered protons leading to the 200-kev state of 209Pb as related to the coefficient By for the angular asymmetry of the resulting ray at J = 1 resonance in 206Pb. The experimental points are plotted as dotted rectangles.