

# Decay Data in ENSDF

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science

# Reference Material

## **$\gamma$ -ray Intensity Normalization for Radioactive Decays in**

### **Nuclear Data Sheets**

**J. K. Tuli**

National Nuclear Data Center  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Upton, NY 11973, U.S.A.

(September 1987)

## **Calculated Uncertainties of Absolute $\gamma$ -ray Intensities and Decay Branching Ratios Derived from Decay Schemes.**

**E. Browne**

*Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA*

**March 1986**

## **ENSDF Evaluators' Workshops**

Joint ICTP-IAEA Workshop on Nuclear Structure and Decay Data: Theory and Evaluation ICTP, March 24-28, 2014

Joint ICTP-IAEA Workshop on Nuclear Structure and Decay Data: Theory and Evaluation ICTP, August 6-17, 2012

Joint ICTP-IAEA Workshop on Nuclear Structure and Decay Data: Theory and Evaluation ICTP, October 11-15, 2010

Joint ICTP-IAEA Workshop on Nuclear Structure and Decay Data: Theory and Evaluation ICTP, April 28-May 9, 2008

Workshop on Nuclear Structure and Decay Data: Theory and Evaluation Manual  
Addendum - 2006

ICTP, February 20-March 3, 2006 (INDC(NDS)-496)

Workshop on Nuclear Structure and Decay Data: Theory and Evaluation Manual  
Addendum - 2005

ICTP, April 4-15, 2005 (INDC(NDS)-473)

Workshop on Nuclear Structure and Decay Data: Theory and Evaluation Manual - Part 1

ICTP, November 17-28, 2003 (INDC(NDS)-452)

Workshop on Nuclear Structure and Decay Data: Theory and Evaluation Manual - Part 2

ICTP, November 17-28, 2003 (INDC(NDS)-452)

Workshop on Nuclear Structure and Decay Data Evaluation

NDS, November 18-22, 2002 (INDC(NDS)-439. Summary Report)

ENSDF Evaluators' Training Workshop

NNDC, April 16-17, 2001 (Contributions)

# Get your calculators ready



**Today will be less talking and more  
working through examples**

Will focus on beta decay and IT decay, since alpha decay has hopefully been well covered in  $A=217$  evaluation work

Go with the flow

**What goes in must come out**

**100**



# Relevant Quantities Needed to Deduce

**NR** – relative photon intensity to photons / 100 decays

**NT** – relative transition intensity to transitions / 100 decays

**Above are through the particular decay branch**

**BR** – Convert intensity / 100 decay through this decay branch to intensity per 100 decays of the parent

**NB** – relative beta and ec intensities to intensities per 100 decays through this decay branch

**NP** – convert per 100 delayed transition intensities to per 100 decays of the precursor

# Decay Scheme Normalization Quantities

83BR 83SE B- DECAY (70.1 s) 1973FE08,1976KR20 01NDS 200105

83BR N 0.170 4 1.0 1.0 1.0

**NR**

**NT**

**BR**

**NB**

**NP**

Relative Intensity		Normalization Factor	Absolute Intensity
$I_\gamma$	x	NR x BR	=% $I_\gamma$
I (tot)	x	NT x BR	=%I (tot)
$I_\beta$ (or $\epsilon$ or $\alpha$ )	x	NB x BR	= % $I_\beta$ (or $\epsilon$ or $\alpha$ )
$I_{\beta n}$ (or $I_{\epsilon p}$ )	x	NP	= % $I_{\beta n}$ (or $I_{\epsilon p}$ )

Beta and ec are usually given as per 100 parent decays.

Since  $NB \times BR$ ,  $NB = 1/BR$



# The definitions

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<b>NR</b>	Multiplier for converting relative <i>photon</i> intensity ( <b>RI</b> in the <b>GAMMA</b> record) to <i>photons</i> per 100 decays of the parent through the decay branch or to <i>photons</i> per 100 neutron captures in an (n, $\gamma$ ) reaction. <i>Required</i> if the absolute photon intensity can be calculated.
<b>BR</b>	Branching ratio multiplier for converting intensity per 100 decays through this decay branch to intensity per 100 decays of the parent nuclide. <i>Required if known.</i>
<b>NB</b>	Multiplier for converting relative $\beta^-$ and $\epsilon$ intensities ( <b>IB</b> in the <b>B-</b> record; <b>IB</b> , <b>IE</b> , <b>TI</b> in the <b>EC</b> record) to intensities per 100 decays through this decay branch. <i>Required if known.</i>
<b>NP</b>	Multiplier for converting per hundred delayed-transition intensities to per hundred decays of precursor

# My advice

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- There is good documentation on how to normalize decay schemes ... but information on how that translates in use of NR, BR, NB, etc is lacking
- Particle decays are very tricky... take care and always check processed output
- Read the policies and go back and read again

Beta and electron-capture intensities are per 100 decays of the parent and are usually deduced from  $\gamma$  intensity imbalance for the levels fed. The separation of  $I(\epsilon+\beta^+)$  into  $I(\epsilon)$  and  $I(\beta^+)$  is based on theoretical  $\epsilon/\beta^+$  ratios. The  $\log ft$  values for nonunique transitions are calculated as for allowed transitions.

Particle transition intensities (other than  $\beta$ 's) are per 100 particle decays. The total particle branching is given both in the drawings and in the tables.



# Times have changed

## From earlier ENSDF talk on decay

1. Relative intensity is what is generally measured

2. Multipolarity and mixing ratio ( $\delta$ ).

3. Internal Conversion Coefficients

- Theoretical Values:
- From BRICC

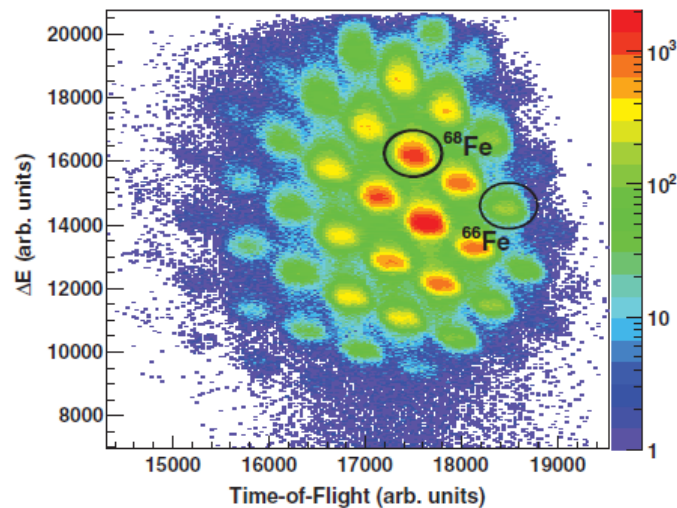
# The Future

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 85, 014328 (2012)

## Low-energy structure of $^{66}\text{Co}_{39}$ and $^{68}\text{Co}_{41}$ populated through $\beta$ decay

S. N. Liddick,<sup>1,2</sup> B. Abromeit,<sup>1</sup> A. Ayres,<sup>3</sup> A. Bey,<sup>3</sup> C. R. Bingham,<sup>3</sup> M. Bolla,<sup>1</sup> L. Cartegni,<sup>3</sup> H. L. Crawford,<sup>4</sup> I. G. Darby,<sup>5</sup>  
R. Grzywacz,<sup>3</sup> S. Ilyushkin,<sup>6</sup> N. Larson,<sup>1,2</sup> M. Madurga,<sup>3</sup> D. Miller,<sup>3</sup> S. Padgett,<sup>3</sup> S. Paulauskas,<sup>3</sup> M. M. Rajabali,<sup>5</sup>  
K. Rykaczewski,<sup>7</sup> and S. Suchyta<sup>1,2</sup>

# of ions counted  
individually



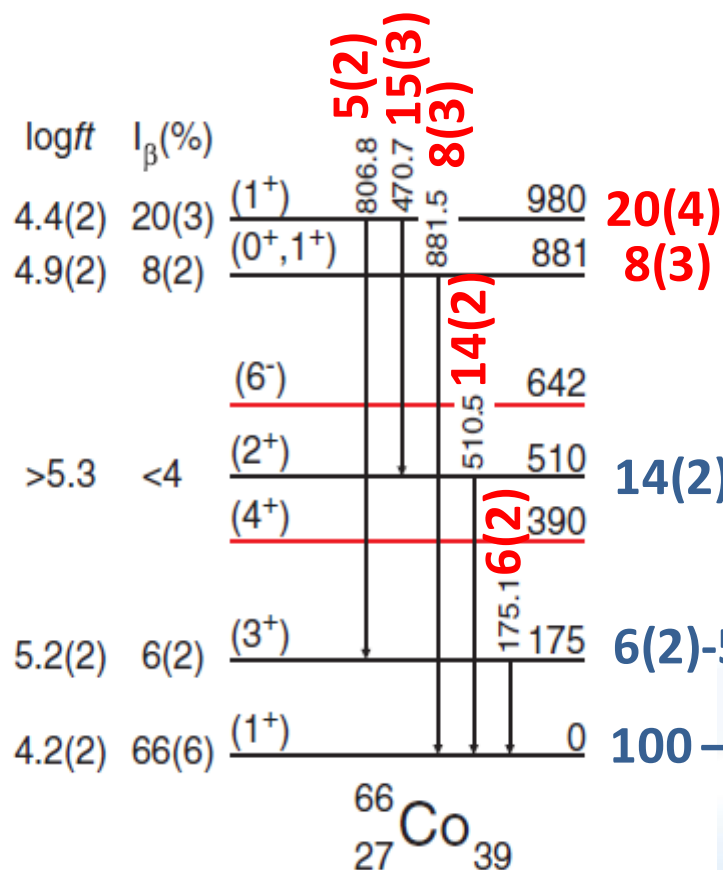
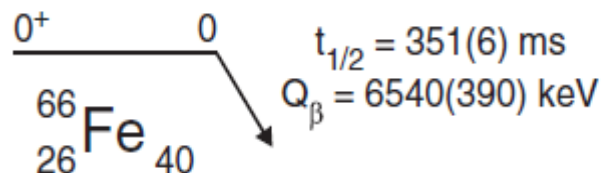
Beta-decay apparatus allows the correlation of exotic ion implants with their subsequent decays on an event-by-event basis



# But a Careful Review is Still Required

NR=1

BR= 1



E (keV)	Absolute intensity (%)	E (keV)	Absolute intensity (%)
175.1(3)	6(2)	806.8(4)	5(2)
470.7(3)	15(3)	881.5(3)	8(3)
510.5(5)	14(2) <sup>a</sup>		

For excited levels:

$$I_{\beta} = \sum I(\gamma + \text{ce})(\text{out}) - \sum I(\gamma + \text{ce})(\text{in})$$

For ground state :

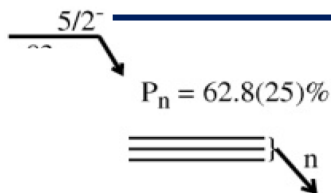
$$I_{\beta} = 100 - \sum I(\gamma + \text{ce})(\text{gs})$$

$$14(2) - 15(3) = -1(4) \rightarrow <3$$

$$6(2) - 5(2) = 1(3) \rightarrow <4$$

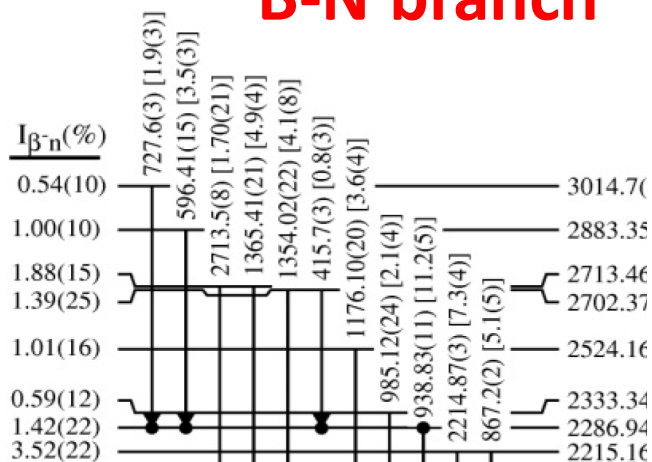
$$100 - 6(2) - 14(2) - 8(3) = 72(5)$$

# B- and B-N Example

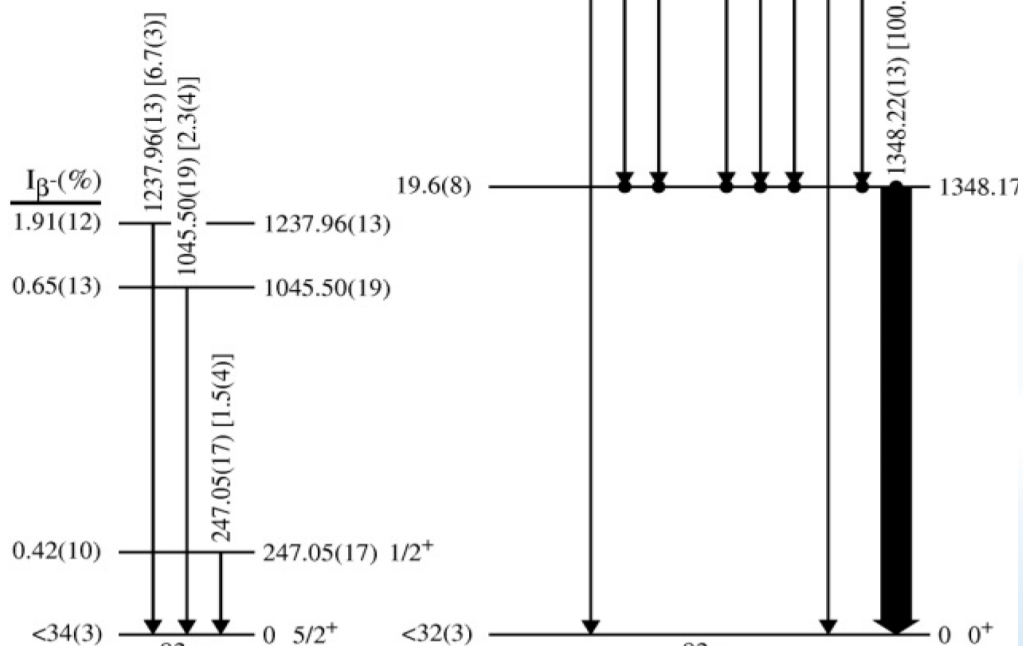


**B-N branch**

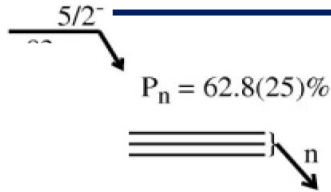
**B- branch**



Absolute Intensity  
 $1348\gamma = 28.4(10) \%$



# The easy B- branch



Absolute Intensity  
 $1348\gamma = 28.4(10) \%$

$$NR = 0.284 (10)$$

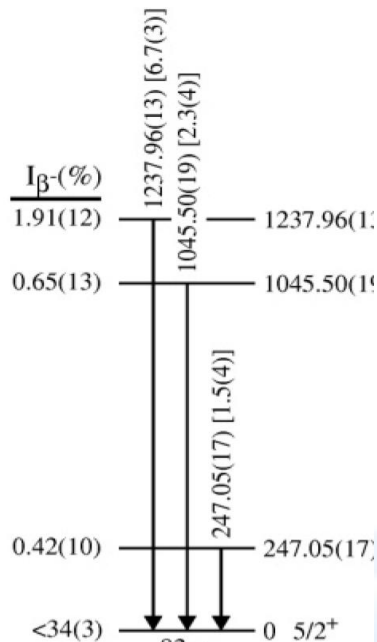
$$BR = 1.0$$

Beta feedings are

$$6.7 * 0.284 = 1.9$$

$$2.3 * 0.284 = 0.65$$

$$1.5 * 0.284 = 0.42$$



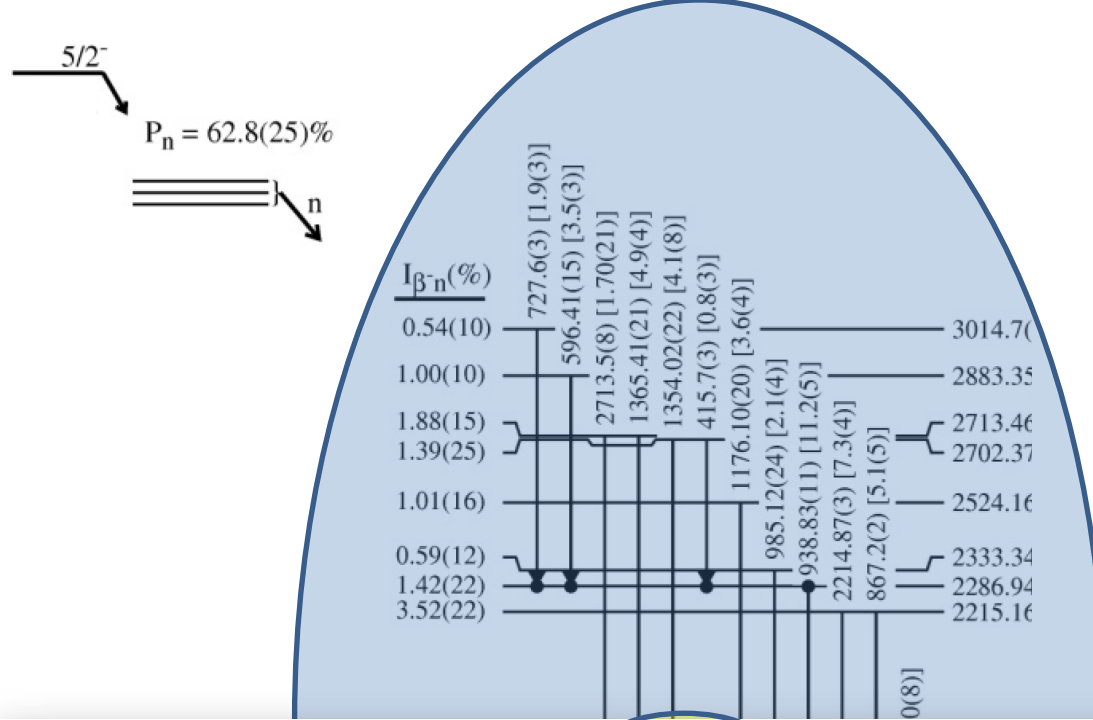
GS feeding:

Here you need to consider B-N branch

$$100 - P_n - \sum I(\gamma + ce)(gs):$$

$$100 - 62.8 - 1.9 - 0.65 - 0.42$$

$$< 34$$



Absolute Intensity of  
 $1348\gamma = 28.4(10)\%$

NR= 0.284 ?

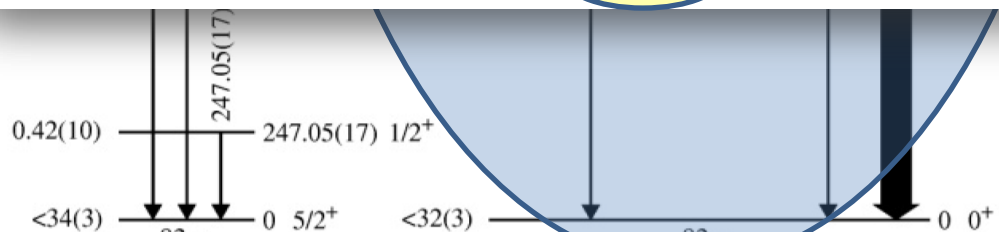
BR= 0.628 ?

**$I_\gamma$  Normalization:** From measured absolute intensity  $=28.4\%$  10 for  $1348\gamma$ .

**Branching Ratio:**  $\% \beta^- n = 62.8$  25 (2010Wi03).

$E_\gamma$	$E_{\text{level}}$	$I_\gamma^\#$	$E_\gamma$	$E_{\text{level}}$	$I_\gamma^\#$	$E_\gamma$	$E_{\text{level}}$	$I_\gamma^\#$
415.7 3	2702.27	0.8 3	938.83 11	2286.87	11.2 5	1354.02 22	2702.27	4.1 8
596.41 15	2883.28	3.5 3	985.12 24	2333.2	2.1 4	1365.41 21	2713.50	4.9 4
727.6 3	3014.5	1.9 3	1176.10 20	2524.19	3.6 4	2214.87 3	2214.91	7.3 4
867.2 2	2214.91	5.1 5	1348.22 13	1348.08	100.0 8	2713.5 8	2713.50	1.70 21

#For absolute intensity per 100 decays, multiply by 0.178 10.





# The details

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**BR** Branching ratio multiplier for converting intensity per 100 decays through this decay branch to intensity per 100 decays of the parent nuclide.  
*Required if known.*

This is Pn  
BR=0.628

**NR** Multiplier for converting relative *photon* intensity (**RI** in the **GAMMA** record) to *photons* per 100 decays of the parent **through the decay branch** or to *photons* per 100 neutron captures in an (n,γ) reaction.  
*Required if the absolute photon intensity can be calculated.*

28.4 is I<sub>γ</sub> per 100 decays

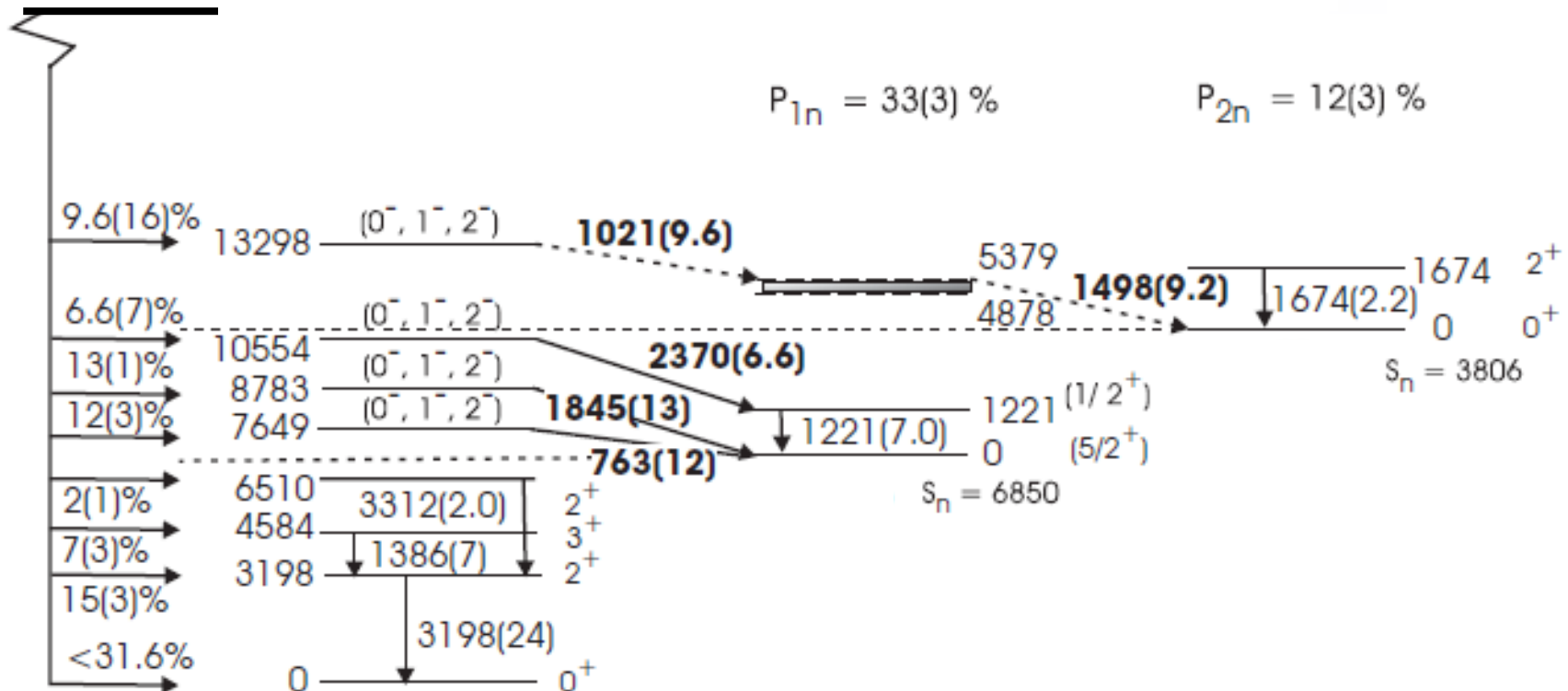
Through the decay branch,  
you need :

$$0.284/0.628 = 0.425$$

NR=0.425

# How to define NP?

## Example of B-N and B-2N Decay



# Start with the “easy” beta-decay

Intensities are again given as Absolute  $I_g / 100$  decays

$$NR = 1$$

$$BR = 1$$

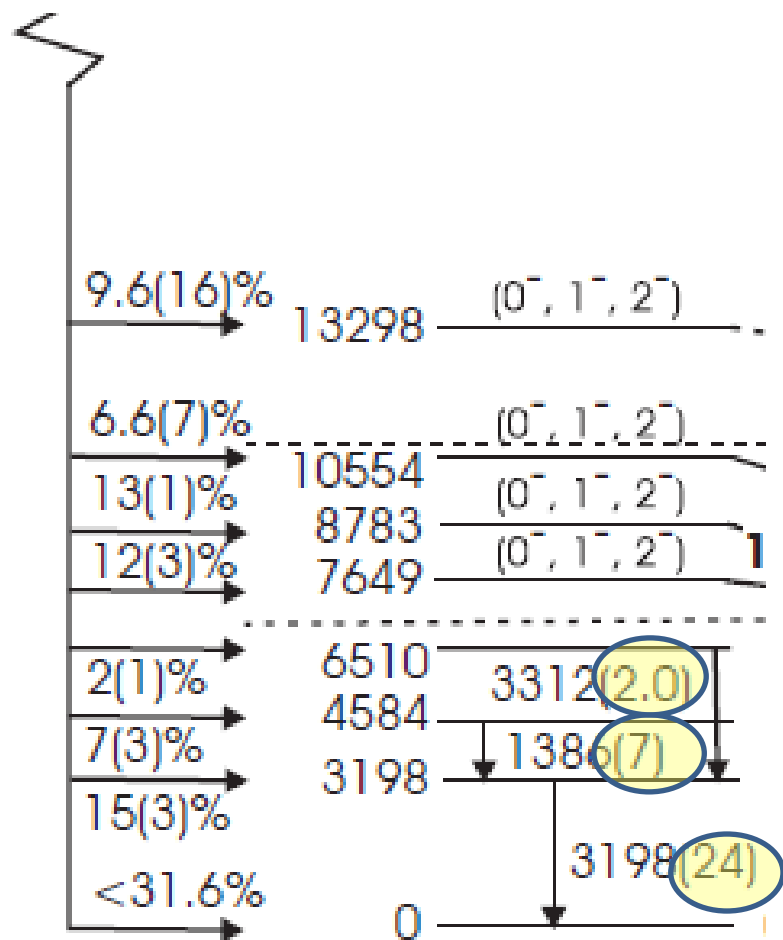
Keeping in mind that  
 $P_n = 33\%$  and  $P_{2n} = 12\%$

GS Beta Feeding is

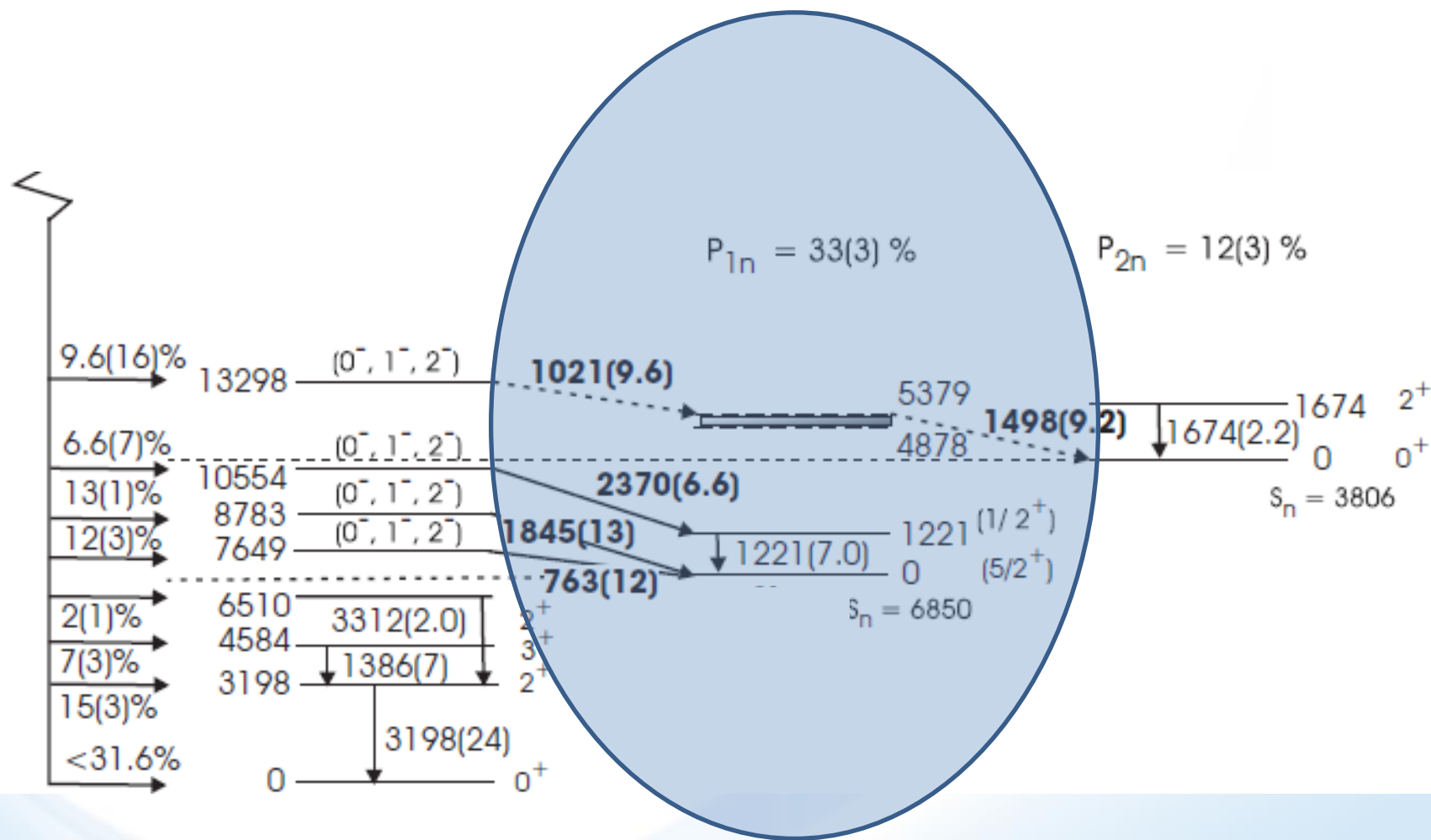
$$100 - P_n - P_{2n} - \sum I_\gamma(\text{to gs})$$

$$100 - 33 - 12 - 24$$

$$< 32$$



# The B-N Branch



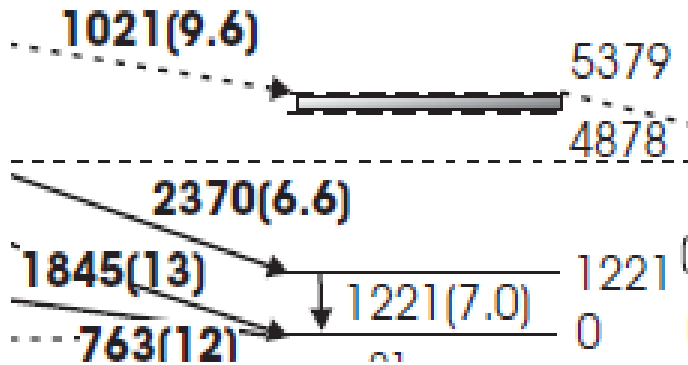
$$P_{1n} = 33(3) \%$$

Branching ratio is given

$$BR=0.33 \pm 3$$

Neutron and Gamma Intensities  
given in absolute units

What is NR ?



$E_\gamma$	$E_{\text{level}}$	$I_\gamma^\#$
1221 3	1221	7.0 11

#For absolute intensity per 100 decays, multiply by 0.33  $\pm$  3.

$$NR=1.0$$

# The details

---

**BR** Branching ratio multiplier for converting intensity per 100 decays through this decay branch to intensity per 100 decays of the parent nuclide.  
*Required if known.*

**NR** Multiplier for converting relative *photon* intensity (**RI** in the **GAMMA** record) to *photons* per 100 decays of the parent **through the decay branch** or to *photons* per 100 neutron captures in an (n,γ) reaction.  
*Required if the absolute photon intensity can be calculated.*

This is Pn  
BR=0.33

I<sub>γ</sub> is given per 100 decays  
Through the decay branch,  
you need :

$$\text{NR} = 1.0/0.33$$
$$\text{NR}=3.03$$



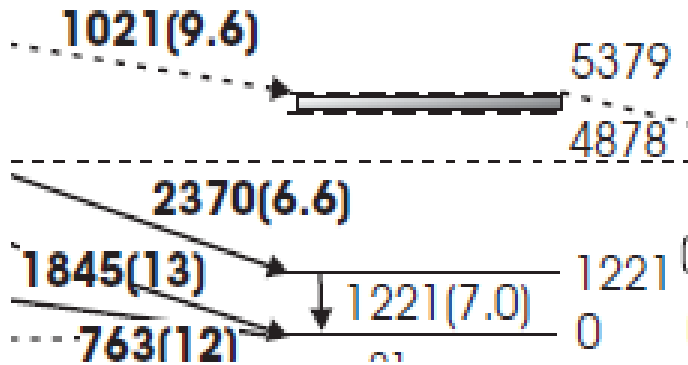
$$P_{1n} = 33(3) \%$$

Branching ratio is given

$$BR=0.33 \pm 3$$

Neutron and Gamma Intensities  
given in absolute units

What is NP?



Branching Ratio:  $\% \beta^- n = 33.3$  (2010Su03).

#### n Radiations

$E_n$	$E_{\text{level}}$	$I_n^\#$	$E_{\text{daughter}}$	Comments
763 1	0.0	12 3	7649	
1021 2	5379	9.6 16	13298	$E_n$ : assignment of 1021 and 1498 neutron groups
1845 4	0.0	13 1	8783	
2370 6	1221	6.6 7	10554	

# For absolute intensity per 100 decays, multiply by 3.03.  
@Placement in the level scheme is uncertain.

**NP=3.03**

# The details

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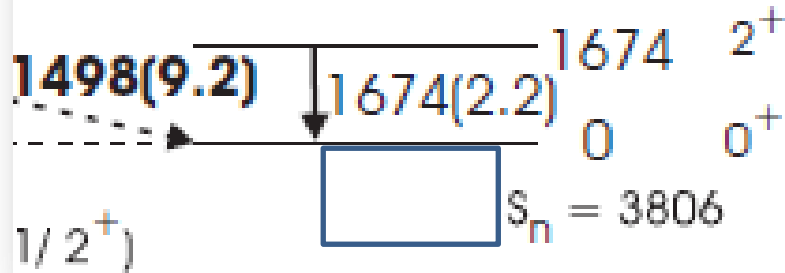
Relative Intensity	Normalization Factor	Absolute Intensity
$I_\gamma$ x	NR x BR	$= \% I_\gamma$
$I(\text{tot})$ x	NT x BR	$= \% I(\text{tot})$
$I_\beta$ (or $\epsilon$ or $\alpha$ ) x	NB x BR	$= \% I_\beta$ (or $\epsilon$ or $\alpha$ )
$I_{\beta n}$ (or $I_{\epsilon p}$ ) x	NP	$= \% I_{\beta n}$ (or $I_{\epsilon p}$ )

Particle decays are treated differently

$$NP=1$$

# Finally the B-2N Branch

$$P_{2n} = 12(3) \%$$



$$NR = ? \quad 1 \div 0.12$$

$$BR = ? \quad 0.12$$

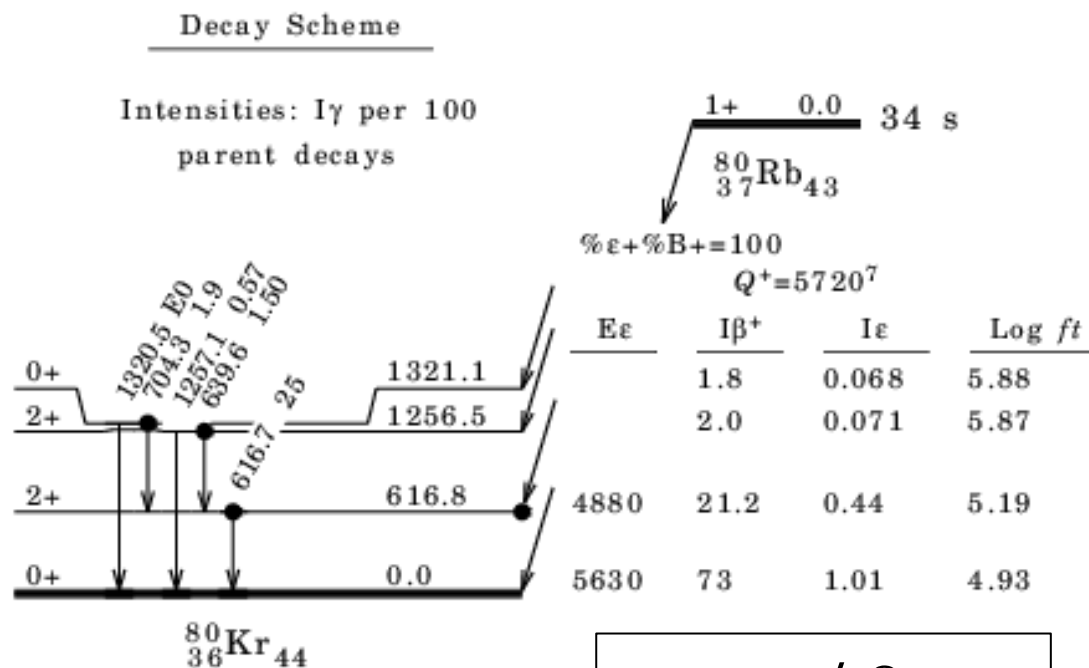
$$NP = ? \quad 1.0$$

# Use of Annihilation Radiation

$I(\gamma_{\pm})$  = relative annihilation radiation intensity

$X_i$  = intensity imbalance at the  $i$ th level

**$^{80}\text{Rb}$   $\epsilon$  Decay (34 s)    1973Br32**



We want to isolate the  $\beta_i^+$  feeding

$$X_i = \epsilon_i + \beta_i^+$$

$$X_i = \beta_i^+ (1 + r_i)$$

$$\beta_i^+ = X_i / (1 + r_i)$$

$$r_i = \epsilon_i / \beta_i^+ \\ \text{(theoretical)}$$

# Use of Annihilation Radiation

$$r_i = \varepsilon_i / \beta_i^+ \quad (\text{theoretical})$$

How many  $\gamma^\pm$  do we expect?

$$I(\gamma^\pm) = 2^* [ \beta_o^+ + \Sigma \beta_i^+ ]$$

$$I(\gamma^\pm) = 2^* [ X_o / (1 + r_o) + \Sigma X_i / (1 + r_i) ]$$

$$7.5 / (1 + 0.068 / 1.8) = 7.23$$

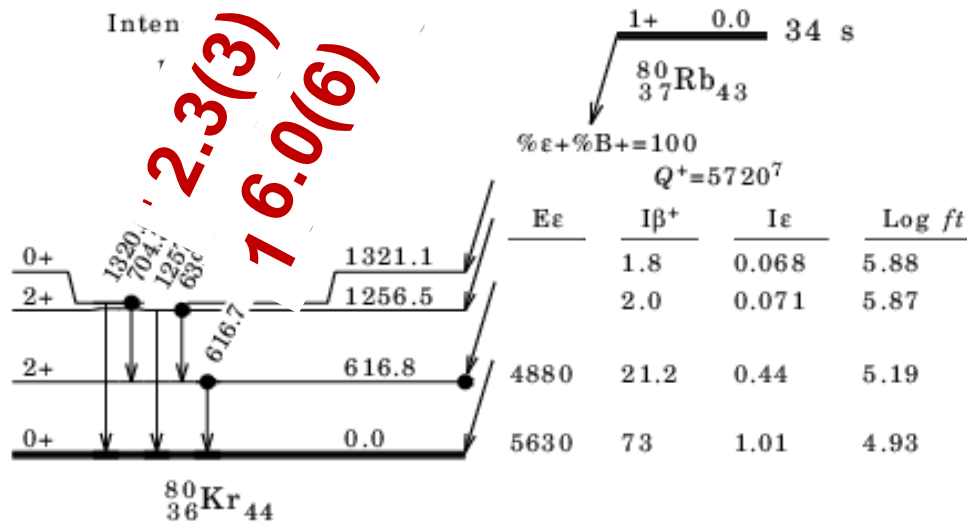
$$8.3 / (1 + 0.071 / 2.0) = 8.02$$

$$(100 - 6.0 - 7.5) / (1 + 0.44 / 21.2) = 84.7$$

$$7.2 + 8.0 + 84.7 = 99.9$$

<sup>80</sup>Rb ε Decay (34 s)    <sup>197</sup>Br32

Decay Scheme



$$I(\gamma^\pm) = 795 (80)$$

# Use of Annihilation Radiation

Solve for  $X_o$

$$I(\gamma^\pm) = 2 \left[ X_o / (1+r_o) + \sum X_i / (1+r_i) \right] \quad 99.9$$

$$X_o / (1+r_o) = (795/2) - 99.9 = 297.6$$

$$X_o = 297.6 * (1 + [1.01/73]) = 301.8$$

<sup>80</sup>Rb ε Decay (34 s)    <sup>1973</sup>Br32

Decay Scheme

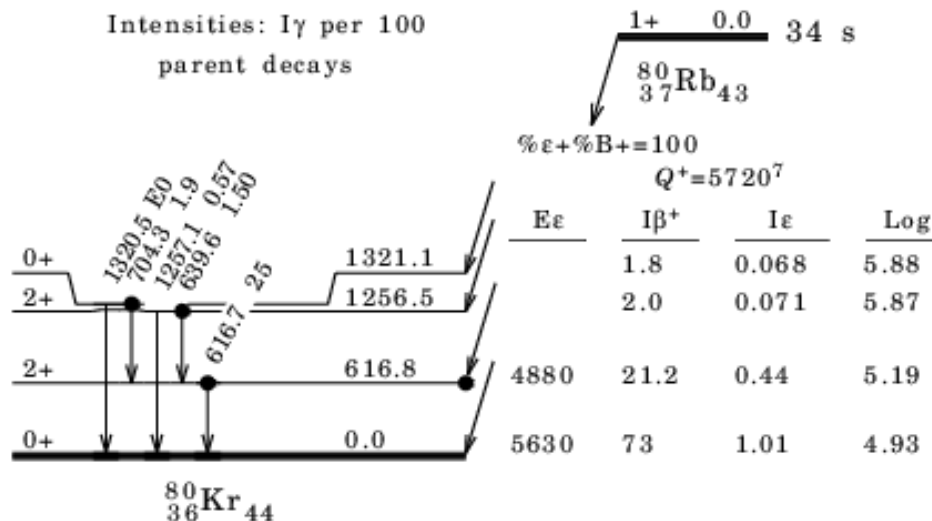
$$I(\gamma^\pm) = 795 \text{ (80)}$$

$$(X_o + \sum I(\gamma+ce)(\text{to gs})) * N = 100$$

$$(301.8 + 100) * N = 100$$

$$N = 0.25$$

Intensities:  $I_\gamma$  per 100  
parent decays

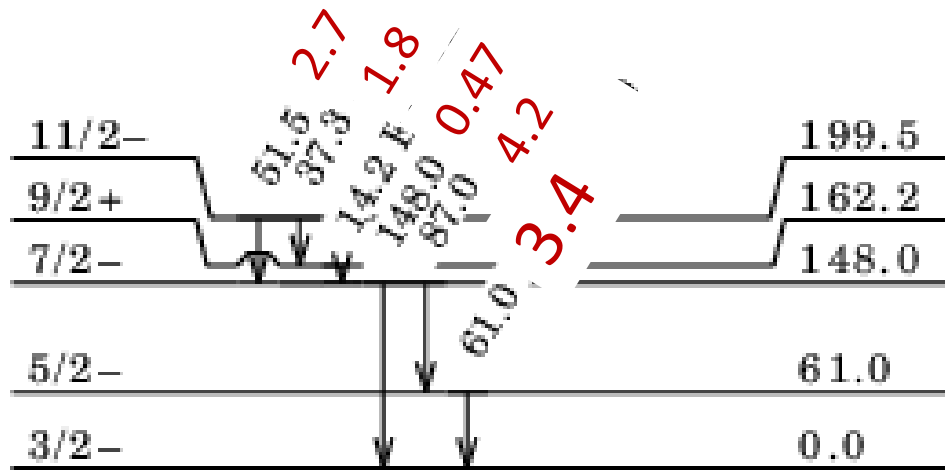




# IT Decay Normalization

Usually easy, since whatever comes out of the isomer has to reach the g.s.

**$I(\gamma+ce)$  values**



Many options:

$$\Sigma I(\gamma+ce)(\text{to gs}) = 100$$

$$N = 100 / (3.4 + 0.47) = \mathbf{25.8}$$

$$\Sigma I(\gamma+ce)(\text{out 199}) = 100$$

$$N = 100 / (2.7 + 1.8) = \mathbf{22.2}$$

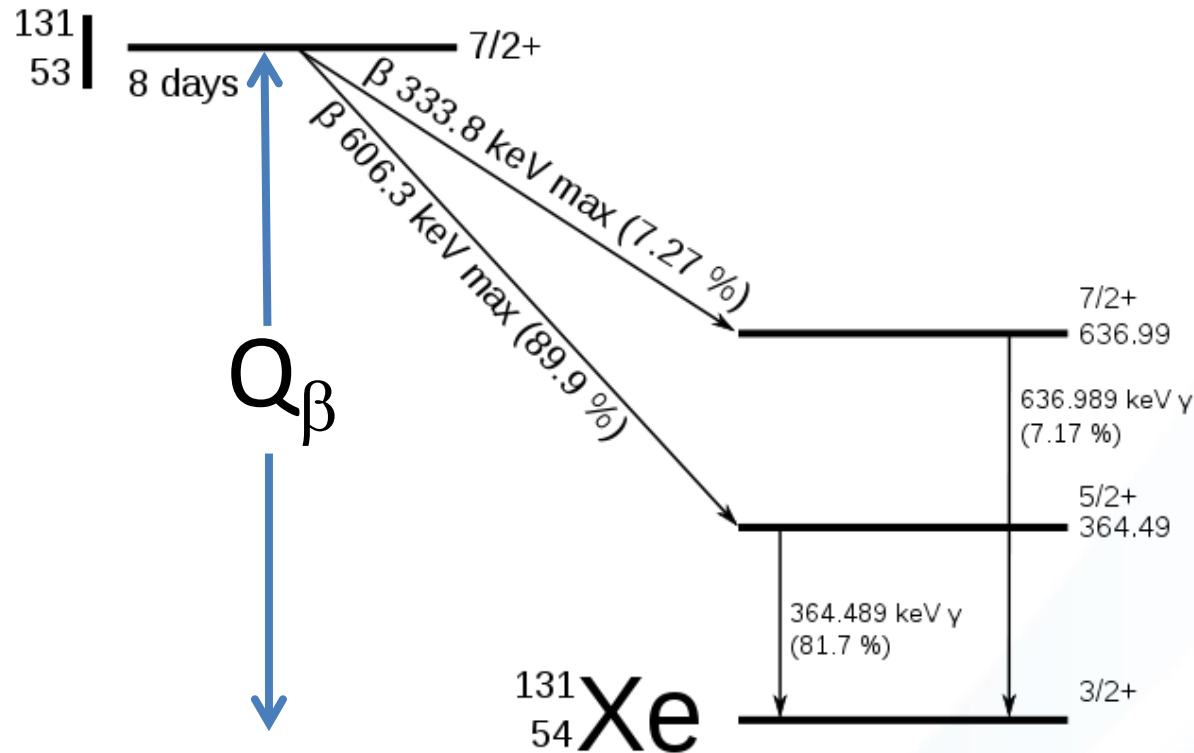
$$\Sigma I(\gamma+ce)(\text{out 148}) = 100$$

$$N = 100 / (4.2 + 0.47) = \mathbf{21.4}$$

**What's N?**

**Does it matter if not balanced?**

# Energy released in beta decay



$$\text{Electromagnetic (EM)} = \sum I_\gamma E_\gamma + \sum I_{\text{x-ray}} E_{\text{x-ray}}$$

$$\text{Light Particle (LP)} = \sum I_{\beta^-} E_{\beta^-} + \sum I_{\text{ce}} E_{\text{ce}} + \sum I_{\text{Auger}} E_{\text{Auger}}$$

$$\text{Total Energy} = \text{EM} + \text{LP} + E_{\text{neutrino}} = Q(\beta^-)$$

# RADLIST

Program to analyze decay radiation (radiation list)

Few options

- Calculate energy release for each radiation type
- Generate ENDF file
- Generate NuDat file
- Generate MIRD output

# RADLIST

## Output from the program directly

ALPHA	BETA	CE+AUGER	PHOTON	UNPL/GAM	RECOIL	NEUTRINO	NO "2 " CARD ABSORBED	TOTAL	Q*BR
0.000	267.321	0.000	2.398	0.000	0.002	491.694	269.721	761.414	769.000
0.000	6.481	0.000	1.019	0.000	0.000	11.627	6.561	13.350	4.000
INTENSITY SUMS									
0.000	49.568	0.000	1.118	0.000					
0.000	1.193	0.000	0.500	0.000					

# RADLIST

## Output from the EVP editor

Parent Nucleus	Parent E(level)	Parent J $\pi$	Parent T $_{1/2}$	Decay Mode	GS-GS Q-value (keV)
$^{52}_{25}\text{Mn}$	0.0	6+	5.591 D 3	EC: 100 %	4711.2 19

Energy Balance (keV)	
Gammas	3.46E+3 5
X-Rays	0.92 3
$\beta$ minus	0
$\beta$ plus	84 14
Conversion Electrons	0.510 7
Auger electrons	2.62 5
Neutrinos	1.17E+3 3
Recoil	0
Neutrons	0
Protons	0
Alphas	0
Sum	4.72E+3 6
Q-effective	4711.2 19
Missing Energy	0 AP
Ratio	0 % AP

Radiation Type	Energy (keV)	Absolute Intensity
$\gamma$ XR 1	0.57	0.26 9
$\gamma$ XR ka2	5.405	5.1 3
$\gamma$ XR ka1	5.415	10.1 5
$\gamma$ XR kb1	5.947	1.13 5
$\gamma$ XR kb3	5.947	0.58 3
$\gamma$ 1	200.86 10	0.063 7
$\gamma$ 2	346.02 10	0.865 20
$\gamma$ 3	398.14 10	0.164 19
$\gamma$ 4	399.61 10	0.160 10
$\gamma$ 5	501.44 10	0.161 18
$\gamma$ Annihil.	511.0	63 5
$\gamma$ 6	600.13 10	0.360 10
$\gamma$ 7	647.52 10	0.378 13
$\gamma$ 8	744.06 10	87.8 20
$\gamma$ 9	848.08 10	3.43 8
$\gamma$ 10	901.48 20	0.037 9
$\gamma$ 11	935.52 10	94.8 21
$\gamma$ 12	1246.27 10	4.17 10