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# Precise absolute $\gamma$ -ray and $\beta^-$ -decay branching intensities in the decay of $^{67}\text{Cu}$

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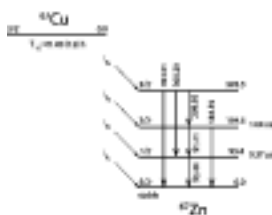
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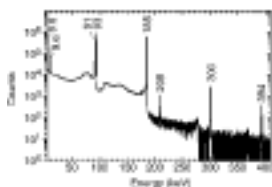
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## ABSTRACT

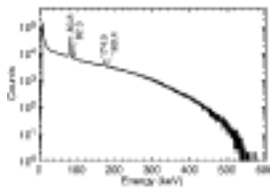
Absolute  $\gamma$ -ray emission probabilities in the  $\beta^-$  decay of  $^{67}\text{Cu}$  were measured by means of  $\gamma$ -ray and  $\beta^-$ -decay singles and  $\beta^-$ - $\gamma$  coincidences. The new results, together with the known decay scheme of  $^{67}\text{Cu}$ , were used to determine absolute  $\beta^-$ -decay branching intensities. The present data differ significantly from previously published values. In addition, the half-life of the  $I_{\pi}=12^-$  isomer in  $^{67}\text{Zn}$  was measured as  $T_{1/2}=9.37(4) \mu\text{s}$ , in a good agreement with earlier measurements. From the analysis of the Fermi-Kurie plots,  $Q_{\beta^-(\text{g.s.})}=560.3(10) \text{ keV}$  was deduced, which differs from the previously measured value of  $577(8) \text{ keV}$  but is in good agreement with  $Q_{\beta^-(\text{g.s.})}=561.3(15) \text{ keV}$  recommended in the latest Atomic Mass Evaluation.



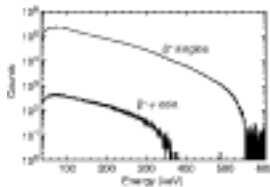
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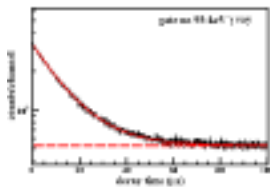
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ARTICLE TEXT

I. INTRODUCTION

The neutron-rich  ${}^{67}\text{Cu}$  ( $N=38$ ) nucleus decays by emission of  $\beta^-$  particles to the ground state and to the first three excited levels of the daughter  ${}^{67}\text{Zn}$  nucleus, as indicated in the decay scheme of Fig. 1. Early work of Easterday [1] measured the  $\beta^-$ -decay branching intensities, with  $I_{\beta_0} \approx 20\%$  reported for the ground state to ground state branch. By using this value, the absolute  $\gamma$ -ray emission probabilities were determined in the subsequent  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy studies of Raman *et al.* [2] and

Meyer *et al.* [3]. The latter were adopted in the most recent nuclear data evaluation [4]. It should be noted, however, that although the absolute  $\gamma$ -ray intensities in Refs. [3,4] are rather precise, this is somewhat misleading since they are deduced by using the less accurate  $I_{\beta_0}$  value of Easterday [1].

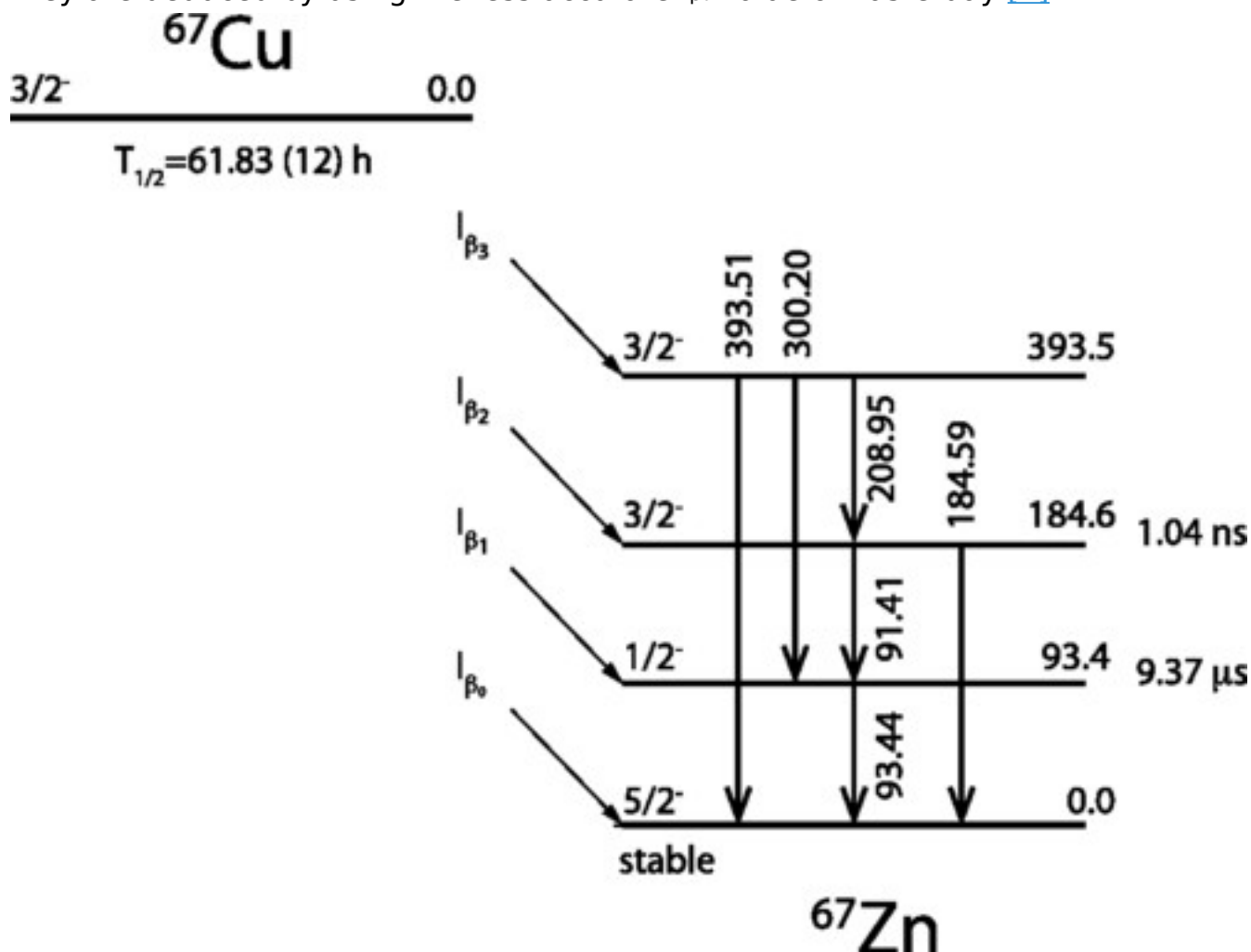


FIG. 1.

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Decay scheme of  $^{67}\text{Cu}$  [4]. The  $\gamma$ -ray energies and the half-life of the  $\pi_{\pi=12^-}$  level shown the are from the present work.

There are several motivations for a precise knowledge of the absolute decay properties of  $^{67}\text{Cu}$ . For example, the  $\beta^-$  decay to the  $^{67}\text{Zn}$  ground state involves a  $\pi(p_{3/2})_1 \rightarrow \nu[(f_{5/2})_5, (p_{3/2})_4]$   $l$ -forbidden, Gamow-Teller (GT) transition and the precise branching intensity is needed to determine the corresponding  $B(\text{GT})$  value that can be used to validate shell-model predictions in this region located near the  $N=40$  subshell closure.

The  $\beta^-$  branching intensities are also of interest in measurements of the  $\beta$ -asymmetry parameter in the decay of  $^{67}\text{Cu}$ , which can provide information on the search for physics beyond the standard model [5]. Lastly,  $^{67}\text{Cu}$  is a

promising radionuclide for cancer diagnostics and radio-immunotherapy (see, for example, Ref. [6] and references therein). Although it has favorable decay properties, its wide application is still hampered by difficulties in production and, as a consequence, the lack of reliable supply [7]. Thus, precise knowledge of the absolute  $\gamma$ -ray-emission probability of the strongest 184 keV  $\gamma$  ray is needed in order to accurately determine the resultant activity, and the corresponding production cross sections for this isotope. Other decay properties, such as the absolute  $\beta$ --decay branching intensities, for example, are important in therapeutic applications and in quantifications of radiation doses.

In this paper, we report on precise measurements of absolute  $\gamma$ -ray emission probabilities in the  $\beta$ --decay of  $^{67}\text{Cu}$ . By using the new data and the adopted decay scheme of  $^{67}\text{Cu}$  [4],  $\beta$ --decay branching intensities were also determined. Our results differ significantly from those reported by the previous measurements [1-4].

## II. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

## IV. CONCLUSIONS

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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