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NUCLEAR SPECTROSCOPY FOLLOWING
 ^{40}Ar , xn REACTIONS

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June 1967

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Nuclear Spectroscopy Following $^{40}\text{Ar}, xn$ Reactions*
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We have studied the gamma rays emitted as the final step in the deexcitation of $^{40}\text{Ar}, xn$ reaction products. Previous studies of this type have used projectiles ranging from protons to ^{19}F ions.¹⁻³ The advantages of using very heavy projectiles are: (1) considerably greater linear and angular momentum are imparted to the compound system; (2) accessibility is provided to regions of the periodic table that cannot easily be reached with lighter ions, and (3) the very neutron-deficient compound systems can usually be produced with lower excitation energy, resulting in greater product specificity.

That it is feasible to make spectroscopic measurements following $^{40}\text{Ar}, xn$ reactions is shown in Fig. 1 where spectra resulting from $^{124,122,120}\text{Sn}(^{40}\text{Ar}, 4n)^{160,158,156}\text{Er}$ reactions are shown. We have also made the 88, 90, and 92 neutron Yb isotopes by bombarding separated Te targets, and the rotational transitions thus identified are shown in Table I. It is reasonably clear that the sharp discontinuity between 88 and 90 neutrons is smearing out as the proton number increases.

The peak cross sections (at ~160 MeV) for the $^{40}\text{Ar}, 4n$ reactions were measured on the assumption that the $4+ \rightarrow 2+$ transition represents the entire cross section for producing the $4n$ product. This seems very likely as there is essentially no drop in the rotational transition intensities until much higher in the bands. Our preliminary estimate is that the $^{40}\text{Ar}, 4n$ cross sections peak around 250 mb, and adding an empirical correction for the $3n$ and $5n$ reactions we obtain $^{40}\text{Ar}, xn$ cross sections of ~450 mb. This means that angular momenta up to about 50 \hbar are contributing to the xn reactions. This implies that the upper limit to the observed ground-band rotational spectra depends on the nuclear energy levels rather than being a limitation imposed by the available angular momentum.

We also have an estimate of the cross section for evaporated alpha particles from ^{40}Ar reactions on ^{124}Sn and ^{130}Te at 160 MeV, and find them to be around 100 mb. Thus it appears that most of the total reaction cross section for ^{40}Ar on Sn and Te targets at this energy still goes into compound nucleus formation and subsequently into neutron emission. Even if a considerably smaller fraction of the total reaction cross section goes into these reactions, it seems likely that spectroscopic studies will be possible following xn reactions with considerably heavier ions.

Table I

Rotational Transition Energies		N = 92		N = 90		N = 88	
		^{160}Er	^{162}Yb	^{158}Er	^{160}Yb	^{156}Er	^{158}Yb
2-0		126.2	166.5	192.7	243.0	344.4	357.9
4-2		264.3	320.2	335.7	395.3	452.9	476.0
6-4		376.3	436.2	443.8	503.8	543.2	548.3
8-6		464.6	521.2	523.8	588.7	618.2	
10-8		532.1	569.4	579.7	~636	~675	
12-10		579.4		608.7			

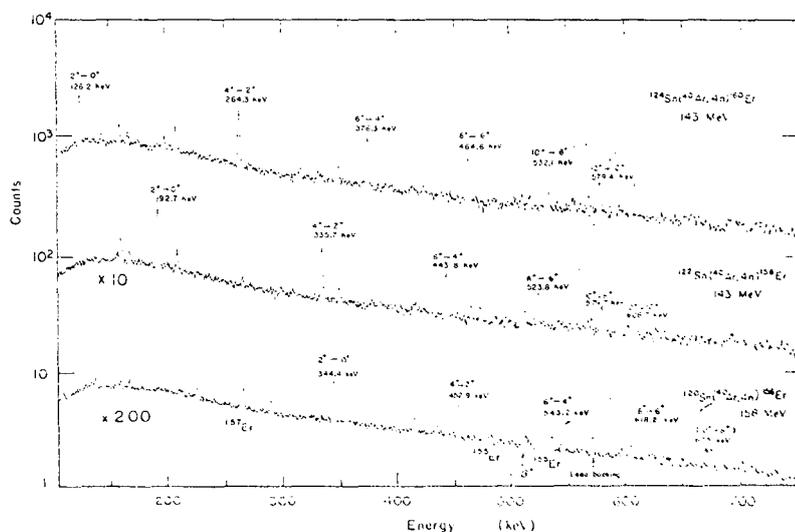


Fig. 1. Gamma-ray spectra following $^{40}\text{Ar}, 4n$ reactions, taken with a $6\text{ cm}^2 \times 0.8\text{ cm}$ deep $\text{Ge}(\text{Li})$ detector.

Footnotes and references:

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