

FLUCTUATION OF THE DECAY PRODUCTS FROM UNSTABLE SYSTEM

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Abstract: *A fluctuation of decay products of radioactive isotopes was studied theoretically and experimentally on the example of ^{52}V . It was recommended to use for interpretation of data processing especially in the low-level counting.*

Introduction

It is very difficult to make general statement on the accuracy of available data as uncertainties vary depending on a number of factors, especially the historical importance of data. Nevertheless, the question is sufficiently relevant to justify some comment, but it must be emphasized that the uncertainties quoted are mainly guidelines and the situation for particular nuclide interactions may be different.

The nuclear data in the evaluated files can be divided in two broad categories:

- (a) One for which experimental measurements exist, and
- (b) One for which measured data are scarce, or not available.

In case (a), the uncertainties in the data are related to uncertainties in the measurements and each case has to be considered individually. In (b), theoretical models must be used to provide the required values and in this case it is possible to make some general comments on achievable accuracies.

The follow level radiation measurements usually relate to decay products of the isotopes with very long half-lives and the measured data are really scarce.

The present work is aimed at consideration of possible fluctuation of the decay products related to non-exponential components and distribution of which probably influences the accuracy of measured data.

The vanadium-52 was taken for example for the study.

Decay of an unstable system

The behavior of a system consisting of a large number of particles is governed by the statistical laws, which differ from the laws obeyed by each of the particles making up the macroscopic system. The behaviors of a single particle turn out to be in significant contrast to a statistical description. Hence the study of the properties of a system is reduced to

a determination of average values of the physical quantities that characterize the state of the system as a whole.

The state of an unstable system can be attained with a non-undergoing decay probability that the unstable system is in non-undergoing decay state coincides with probability that the quantity of non-undergoing decay nuclei at moment t will take value $N(t)$. If N_0 is the total number of non-undergoing decay nuclei at moment $t = 0$, then probability L will be defined as [1-4/

$$L = e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \left[1 + \alpha \sin \frac{\beta t}{\tau} \right],$$

where τ is lifetime of the decaying system, α and β are the amplitude and frequency respectively, of the non-exponential contribution to the decay process.

3. Kinetic function of the non-undergoing decay probability

In the simple form, the kinetic function of the non-undergoing decay probability is given as

$$S(t_i, l) = \frac{\int_{t_i}^{t_i+l} L(t) dt}{\int_{t_i+2l}^{t_i+l} L(t) dt},$$

where t_i is the given moment of the observation and l is the magnitude of the time bin to be searched.

In the case of pure exponential decay it was shown that

$$S(t_i, l) = S(t, l) = Se(l) = e^{-\frac{l}{\tau}},$$

where $Se(l)$ is the kinetic function of pure exponential decay.

The deviation from decay with maximum probability could be found by following expression

$$\Delta S = \frac{S - S_{\max}}{S},$$

where ΔS is fluctuation of kinetic function.

Essential of the kinetic function is a comparison of the decay products in a given time bin l with that in the same time bin next to it. In other words, the kinetic function is the ratio of non-decay probability at contiguous time bins. In principle, the kinetic function $S(t_i, l)$ is the ratio of the decay probabilities also.

It is clear that the decay with maximal probability must be considered as a process which is determined by the smallest fluctuation ΔS . So that the state of an unstable system is characterized by a certain variable S , the probability of small fluctuations as a result of which variable S may vary in the range from S to $S + dS$, is expressed by the kinetic function distribution.

Let consider a distribution of the decay probability in the form of kinetic functions example of ^{52}V .

Distribution of the decay probabilities of ^{52}V

The isotope ^{52}V was produced by reaction $^{52}\text{Cr}(n,p)^{52}\text{V}$ with 14MeV neutrons. Immediately after irradiation the samples were transferred to $\text{Ge}(\text{Hp})$ detector to record gamma rays of 1.434 MeV in multiscaling mode by multichannel analyzer. Timing data were taken in different duration time bins. The acquired data were processed with computer by kinetic function method (5). Fig(1) shows the fluctuation of decay products of ^{52}V in the form of kinetic functions.

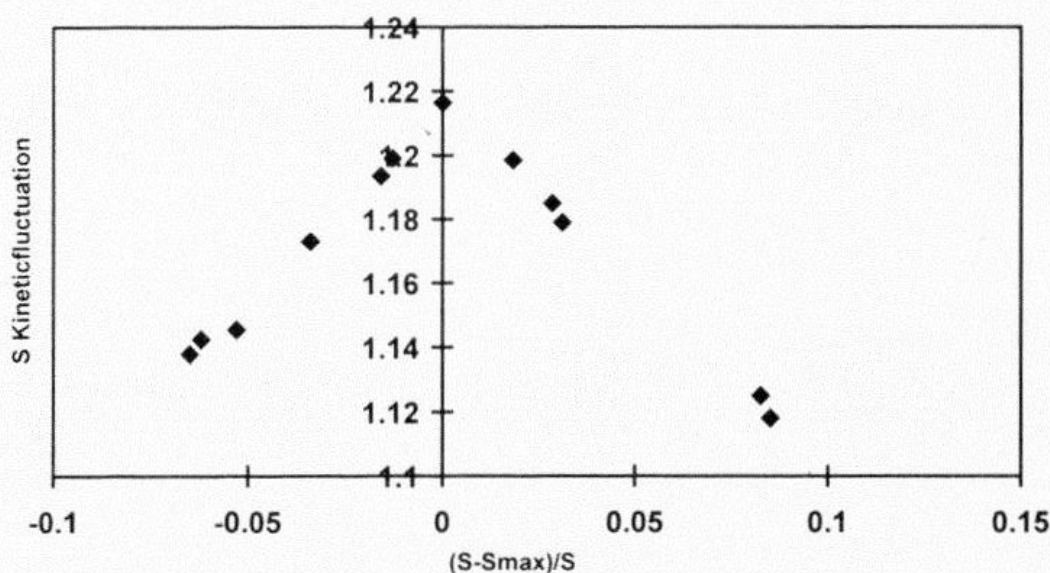


Fig 1. Typical time distribution of the decay products of ^{52}V .

Because the kinetic function is continuously changing, it is necessary to deal, not only with long time in compare with the moment of creation of the given isotope. In other side it relates also to decay product of the other isotopes in the surrounding medium, which have a very long half-lives. The variation of these products is introduced in Table 1, where the exponential feature is not clear. In the table, the experiment date of decay products of ^{52}V at very long time after irradiation (number channel 151 is equivalent to 1890s) is fully considered as background.

Conclusion

The fluctuation of the experimental data have a statistical behavior of a system on basis of molecular - kinetic concepts and the method of mathematical statistics. On modern concepts of nuclear physics it probably concerns with non-exponential effects which are characterized by radioactive decays and must be corrected fairly.

This work supported by the National Basic Research Program in Natural Sciences.

Table 1: Gamma rays of 1.434 MeV in decay of ^{24}V

Number Channel	Counts per channel time bin t=10s				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
151	12	15	6	11	11
156	10	7	10	5	12
161	8	12	7	3	6
166	5	8	14	3	3
171	4	7	10	6	3
176	5	11	5	4	3
181	11	5	8	5	6
186	5	1	5	1	5
191	2	2	1	4	2
196	1	4	4	2	4
201	5	2	4	2	2
206	2	2	2	2	3
211	0	0	2	0	1
216	2	2	1	0	2
221	3	1	3	1	0
226	1	2	2	2	1
231	3	1	3	2	0
236	1	0	1	1	0
241	0	1	0	3	2
246	1	0	1	1	3
251	0	0	1	0	1
256	2	0	1	0	1
261	1	0	0	0	1
266	1	2	0	0	0
271	1	0	0	0	2
276	1	0	0	0	0
281	0	1	0	0	2
286	0	1	0	0	1
291	0	0	0	1	1
296	0	1	0	0	0
301	0	0	0	0	0
306	1	0	2	0	0
311	0	0	0	0	0
316	1	0	1	0	1
321	2	1	0	1	0
326	0	1	0	0	1
331	0	0	0	0	0
336	0	0	0	1	1
341	0	0	0	0	0
346	1	1	0	0	0
351	0	0	0	0	0
356	0	1	0	0	0
361	0	0	1	0	0
366	0	1	0	0	0
371	0	0	0	0	0
376	0	0	1	0	0
381	0	0	0	0	0
386	0	0	0	0	0
391	0	0	0	0	0
396	0	1	1	0	0
401	0	0	0	0	0
406	0	0	1	0	0
411	0	0	0	0	1
416	1	0	0	0	0
421	0	1	0	0	0

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PHI KHOA HỌC ĐHQGHN, KHTN, t.XVI, n⁰4 - 2000

THĂNG GIÁNG CÁC SẢN PHẨM PHÂN RÃ CỦA MỘT HỆ KHÔNG BỀN

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Khoa Lý, Đại học Khoa học Tự nhiên - ĐHQG Hà Nội

Sự thăng giáng các sản phẩm phân rã của một hệ không bền đã được khảo sát về lý thuyết và thực nghiệm trên ví dụ của đồng vị vanadium-52 và có thể được giới thiệu để ứng dụng trong xử lý số liệu, đặc biệt là trong các phép đo phóng thấp.