Hyperfine Structure of Ionized Mercury Lines

S. Mrozowski

Ryerson Physical Laboratory, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois December 8, 1940

In connection with my work on the "hyperfine structure of the quadrupole line 2815A and some other lines of ionized mercury," Dr. L. Sibaiya published a letter2 in a recent issue of The Physical Review in which he refers to a paper on the "hyperfine structure of some Hg II lines" published by Venkatesachar and himself³ several years ago. I regret very much that I had overlooked this interesting paper and did not refer to it in my article. The structure of the line 3984A observed by me deviates much less from their findings than from the data reported in papers of several authors referred to in my article. Nevertheless, I disagree with other statements of Dr. L. Sibaiya and I should like to make here a few remarks on this matter.

Although Venkatesachar and Sibaiya³ found the correct correlation of components to the Hg isotopes in the line 3984A they were able to determine from the observed structure only the difference of separations in the two levels $6^2P_{3/2}$ and $5d^96s^2 {}^2D_{5/2}$. Therefore, they calculated the splittings from the formula of Goudsmit.4 As the calculated difference of separations did not agree closely with the measured value, for the $6^2P_{3/2}$ level they adopted the theoretical value without further explanation and then estimated the separation in the ${}^2D_{5/2}$ level from their experimental results. In contradistinction to this, all spin separations (Hg199) and isotope shifts reported in my paper are purely experimental. On photographs with overexposed main components, a very weak component at about +1.000 cm⁻¹ was observed which might permit the evaluation of the separations in each level independently. But, on account of the low accuracy of the measurements under these circumstances, this component was not reported in my paper and the analysis was carried out by using the separation of the ${}^2D_{5/2}$ level found from the measurements of the structure of the line 2815A. Since the separations found experimentally by me agree very closely with those expected from Goudsmit's formula, it is not surprising that they agree so perfectly with the value reported by Venkatesachar and Sibaiya in the case of the level $6^2P_{3/2}$ and less perfectly in the case of the level ${}^2D_{5/2}$.

My report¹ on the analysis of some allowed lines of Hg II (3984A and 2848A) was incidental, since the main purpose of my paper was the analysis of the forbidden quadrupole line 2815A. In the case of the line 2848A the structure observed by me1 differs from the results of Venkatesachar and Sibaiya.3 The last line investigated by Venkatesachar and Sibaiya³ and mentioned in Dr. L. Sibaiya's letter,2 namely the line 2262A, has also been analyzed by me, among many other lines of Hg II. My pictures show that the structure reported by Venkatesachar and Sibaiya is incomplete and is due to overlapping of orders (they used only one Lummer-Gehrcke plate for the analysis). Contrary to their conclusion, the odd isotopes have a quite considerable total spin separation in the upper state $5d^96s6p^2\bar{D}_{5/2}$ (about 0.7 cm⁻¹), which is in agreement with the presence of an unpaired 6s electron in this state. The correlation of the even isotopes is opposite to that adopted by Venkatesachar and Sibaiya. It leads to a considerably smaller isotope shift in the level ${}^{2}\bar{D}_{5/2}$ (0.3 cm⁻¹) than the value reported by them (0.68 cm⁻¹). The smaller shift is also in agreement with the presence of only one 6s electron (two 6s electrons give a shift of 0.5 cm⁻¹ in the levels $5d^96s^2 {}^2D_{3/2,5/2}$). I hope to report the results of the analysis of a considerable number of lines (about 130) of Hg II soon.

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T. OKUDA, K. OGATA, H. KURODA, S. SHIMA AND S. SHINDO Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, Osaka Imperial University, Osaka, Japan November 10, 1940

Isotopic Weights of Ni Isotopes by the

Doublet Method

There are five isotopes for Ni, their relative abundance being estimated as follows:1

MASS No. RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

While Aston² had reported the value of 57.9116±0.0020 for the isotopic weight of Ni58, we obtained the following values for mass differences of these five doublets by photographing all five doublets of Ni isotopes by the electric discharge through the vapor mixture of Ni(CO)4 and n-C7H16 with a mass-spectrograph of Bainbridge-Jordan type.

Doublet	Number of Doublets	DIFFERENCE OF MASS $(\Delta M \times 10^3)$
DOORUEI	MEASURED	$(\Delta M \times 10^{\circ})$
$C^{12}_4H_{10} - Ni^{58}$	16	137.12 ± 0.39
$C^{12}_5 - Ni^{60}$	10	69.59 ± 0.31
$C_{5}H - N_{6}$	3	73.5 ± 1.5
C125H2-Ni62	7	86.07 ± 0.37
C12. LL Ni 64	2	104 48 ±0 5/

By employing these results as well as $H^1 = 1.008131$ $\pm 0.033 \times 10^{-4}$ and $C^{12} = 12.003871 \pm 0.33 \times 10^{-4}$. the isotopic weights of Ni isotopes were obtained as follows:

ISOTOPIC WEIGHT	PACKING FRACTION
$Ni^{58} = 57.95967 \pm 4.1 \times 10^{-4}$	-6.97 ± 0.07
$Ni^{60} = 59.94977 \pm 3.5$	-8.37 ± 0.06
$Ni^{61} = 60.9540 \pm 15$.	-7.5 ± 0.3
$Ni^{62} = 61.94955 \pm 3.9$	-8.14 ± 0.06
Ni64 = 63.94740 + 5.6	-8.22 ± 0.09

With both these results and aforementioned relative abundance, we calculated chemical atomic weight of Ni as 58.69, adopting the Smyth's conversion factor 1.000275. This value shows perfect agreement with the international chemical atomic weight of Ni 58.69.

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