

Fig. 2. Not only the magnitude of the shift, but also the relative positions of odd and even isotopes, are incompatible with the results of Kopfermann and Wessel.

In the BaI line $6s^2\ ^1S_0-6s6p\ ^1P_1$ both the odd isotopes are to the high frequency side of the three even isotopes, but in the BaII lines $6s\ ^2S_{1/2}-6p\ ^2P_{3/2}$ the odd-even shift is approximately only half as great relative to the two-mass-unit shift, and 137 is situated between 136 and 134. In finding the deduced positions

of the isotopes in the BaI line, it was necessary to assume that the even isotopes were evenly spaced, as was found to be the case in the BaII lines.

The investigations are being continued in an attempt to determine the shift in the transitions $6s^2\ ^1S_0-6s6p\ ^3P_1^0$ and $6s6p\ ^3P_1^0-6p^2\ ^3P_{0,1,2}$.

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Li⁸ Splinters from Nuclear Bombardments*

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Li⁸ has been produced by 340-Mev proton and 190-Mev deuteron bombardments of C, N, Ne, A, Kr, and Xe. The target element formed the gas of a proportional counter. The 0.88-second beta-decay of Li⁸ produces Be⁸* which disintegrates into two alpha-particles with a half-life of 10⁻²¹ seconds. Li⁸ was detected by observation of these alpha-particles and identified by its half-life. Deuteron excitation functions for the production of Li⁸ are given for C, N, Ne, and A. In the case of 190-Mev deuterons the cross section varies from about 13×10⁻²⁸ cm² for C to 4×10⁻²⁹ cm² for Xe. For 340-Mev protons the variation is from about 7×10⁻²⁸ cm² for C to 3×10⁻²⁹ cm² for Xe. A discussion of the process involved is given.

I. INTRODUCTION

SINCE the discovery of Li⁸ by Crane *et al.*,¹ in 1935, its characteristics have been studied extensively. The ground state of Li⁸ is probably 3P_2 according to Feenberg and Wigner.² It beta-decays with a 0.88 second half-life³ to several excited states of Be⁸. The maximum energy of the beta-particle is about 13 Mev. According to Wheeler⁴ the principal Be⁸ level involved is a 1D_2 state situated 3.3 Mev above the ground state and with a width of 1.8 Mev. The Be⁸ nucleus breaks up promptly (10⁻²¹ seconds) into two alpha-particles. The total energy spectrum of the two alpha-particles gives a picture of the parent Be⁸ level, apart from a small recoil energy from the original beta-decay. Recent experiments by Bonner *et al.*,⁵ and Christy *et al.*,⁶ tend to confirm Wheeler's views although some of the finer details are still in doubt. An extensive review of these questions can be found in the paper on energy levels in light nuclei by Hornyak and Lauritsen.⁷

Segrè and Wiegand⁸ in an unsuccessful search for delayed proton emitters corresponding to the delayed neutron emitter N¹⁷ observed an alpha-particle activity of approximately 1 sec. half-life in 190-Mev deuteron bombardments of several elements. They ascribed this activity to Be⁸ formed from Li⁸. Their identification of this activity was based on the absence, apart from samarium, of other alpha-emitters in elements below lead and the similarity between the observed half-life and that of Li⁸.

The purpose of this experiment was to study the systematics of Li⁸ production in high energy bombardments of various elements. Li⁸ has a convenient half-life and the alphas from its disintegration^{8a} may be easily detected in the presence of other beta-activities. These factors make this isotope an amenable fragment to study in high energy nuclear disintegrations.

The average range of the alphas from Li⁸ is about 1.3 mg/cm² of Al. This combined with the low cross section made the use of solid targets impractical. By the use of gaseous targets the yield in the counter was increased by a factor of 50 as will be described below. These gaseous targets also formed the counter gas. The absolute cross sections for Li⁸ production in 340-Mev proton and 190-Mev deuteron bombardments of C, N, Ne, A, Kr, and Xe were determined. The deuteron excitation functions were obtained for all gases men-

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¹ Crane, Delsasso, Fowler, and Lauritsen, *Phys. Rev.* **47**, 971 (1935).

² E. Feenberg and E. Wigner, *Phys. Rev.* **51**, 95 (1937).

³ Lewis, Burcham, and Chang, *Nature* **139**, 24 (1937).

⁴ J. A. Wheeler, *Phys. Rev.* **59**, 27 (1941).

⁵ Bonner, Evans, Malich, and Risser, *Phys. Rev.* **73**, 884 (1948).

⁶ Christy, Cohen, Fowler, Lauritsen, and Lauritsen, *Phys. Rev.* **72**, 698 (1947).

⁷ W. F. Hornyak and T. Lauritsen, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **20**, 191 (1948).

⁸ E. Segrè and C. Wiegand, private communication.

^{8a} In the future for brevity the intermediate Be⁸ state will be omitted in references to the decay of Li⁸; i.e. Li⁸ beta-decays to two alpha-particles.

tioned except Kr and Xe in which cases the yield was too small to make the measurement of a complete excitation function feasible.

Very recently Alvarez⁹ has reported a 0.5 second activity which he ascribed tentatively to B⁸ or C⁹. Alpha-particles similar to those from Be⁸ are involved in this decay and if the B⁸ identification is correct it is likely that the alphas have the same origin as those from the decay of Li⁸. In this case some of the alphas observed in the experiment reported here have probably been incorrectly assigned as originating from Li⁸. Because of the increased barrier for the expulsion of B⁸ over that for Li⁸ the error involved should not be important for the heavier elements. For the light elements where it is believed that the Li⁸ produced is the residue of a nucleus which has evaporated the necessary number of protons and neutrons, the error may become more important. However the half-life determinations show that in any event the effect of B⁸ is small.

Lately the expulsion of heavy charged particles from nuclei has been receiving increasing attention. Experiments dealing with this phenomenon have been carried out in cosmic-ray studies using the recently developed electron-sensitive photographic emulsions. The identification of the charge of the fragments has been accomplished by an analysis of the delta-rays. Previous to these studies only Li⁸ could be positively identified. Its trademark is a "hammer" track—the handle caused by the expelled Li⁸, the head by the resultant alphas. An example of such an event is given by Freier *et al.*¹⁰ The work of Hodgson and Perkins,¹¹ Bonetti and Dilworth,¹² Sorensen,¹³ and Freier *et al.*,¹⁰ indicates that most of the events involve several hundred Mev and their lack of isotropy points toward a knock-on process rather than to evaporation. It is hoped that the cross sections for Li⁸ production found in this experiment will be of use in the clarification of these newly found reactions.

II. EXPERIMENTAL

Once Li⁸ had been observed to be produced in deuteron bombardments the principal problem became one of intensity. The alphas used to detect Li⁸ have a most probable energy of 1.5 Mev each. Thus with a thick carbon target in an ionization chamber, a 1 mbarn cross section, and a beam of 3×10^{-5} μ amp., only about 3 Li⁸ atoms will exist in the counting volume of the chamber under equilibrium conditions. This is too few atoms with which to deal effectively. However if the target is CH₄ at 1 atmos. in a proportional counter of effective counting length A cm and the counter axis is along the path of the beam, the number of Li⁸ atoms

existing under similar conditions will be $7A$, an adequate number for this experiment. The gaseous target has the following advantages over the solid target: (1) a factor of four is gained in geometry over the thick target; (2) there is no self-absorption; (3) the thickness of the target is limited only by the length of the counter; and (4) possible targets, especially the rare gases, are available in a high state of purity. However, there are certain disadvantages, namely: (1) the number of target elements is limited since each must perform the role of a proportional counter gas; and (2) the characteristics of a proportional counter will vary with each gas used, which is deleterious in this case because the natural spread in energy of the Li⁸ alphas will produce a flat bias curve below 1 Mev only under ideal conditions.

The essence of the experiment was the following. A proportional counter filled with the gas under investigation was traversed axially by the cyclotron beam. When Li⁸ equilibrium was almost reached the beam was turned off and, after a short delay, the alphas were counted for nine half-lives of Li⁸. This process was repeated periodically. The number of Li⁸ atoms present at the end of a bombardment will be proportional to $\int I(t)e^{-\lambda t} dt$ where $I(t)$ is the current at the time t before the end of the bombardment and λ is the disintegration constant of Li⁸. $\int I(t)e^{-\lambda t} dt$ will in future be called the effective charge. It is that charge which will, if delivered instantaneously at the end of the bombardment, produce the same quantity of Li⁸ as the actual current used in the experiment. The measurement of the effective charge can be performed naturally or numerically as will be described below. The former method of integration was used in the measurement of relative yields, the latter in the determination of absolute cross sections. In practice all yields per unit effective charge were referred to that from carbon using the full energy beam. The absolute cross section was later measured for carbon itself. In this way all the cross sections were placed on an absolute scale.

The experimental arrangement employed was that schematically illustrated in Fig. 1. Proportional counter A had a 2 inch i.d. and an effective counting length of

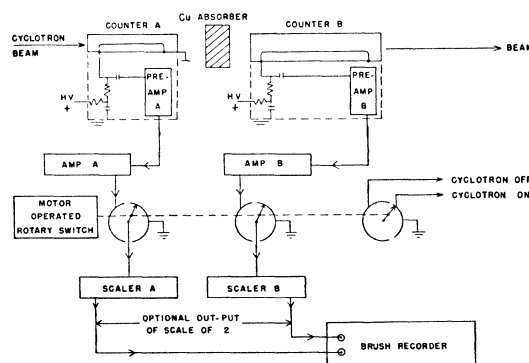


FIG. 1. Schematic diagram of the apparatus.

⁹ L. Alvarez, unpublished work.

¹⁰ Freier, Lofgren, Ney, Oppenheimer, Bradt, and Peters, *Phys. Rev.* **74**, 213 (1948).

¹¹ P. E. Hodgson and D. H. Perkins, *Nature* **163**, 439 (1949).

¹² A. Bonetti and C. Dilworth, *Phil. Mag.* **40**, 585 (1949).

¹³ S. O. C. Sorensen, *Phil. Mag.* **40**, 947 (1949).

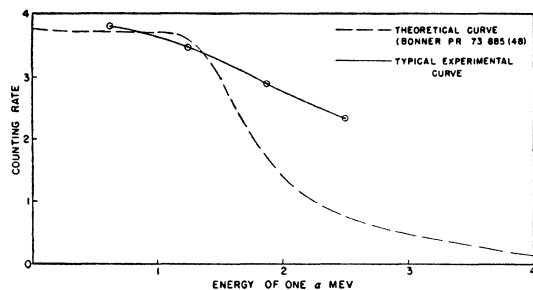


FIG. 2. Bias curve of a single Be^8 alpha-particle.

25 cm. Proportional counter *B* had a 3 inch i.d. and an effective counting length of 37 cm. The effective counting length was assumed to be the length of the central wire of the counter. Rossi and Staub¹⁴ have shown that this assumption is accurate within a few millimeters. Thus, since the counters used in this experiment were very long, any errors introduced into the absolute cross-section measurements from this source were negligible. These two counters were employed for the following reason. While the beam of the cyclotron is relatively constant over successive periods exceeding several seconds, it varies within a factor of approximately two in successive periods of 0.2 sec., so that relative yields can only be compared if the effective charge integral is integrated over the period of the bombardment. This integration can be performed either numerically, if the current is measured on a recording ammeter during each bombardment, or naturally; i.e., since the effective charge is a common factor in the yields from both counters *A* and *B* in Fig. 1, counter *A* can be kept under constant conditions in all bombardments and form a relative measure of the effective charge, its purpose being merely to perform the integration. Counter *A*, which in the future will be called the monitor, was filled with CH_4 and, as may be seen in Fig. 1, was always traversed by the full energy beam.

During bombardments the cyclotron was first switched on for 10 sec., then switched off and 0.2 sec. later the counters were turned on. After 8 sec. the counters were switched off and following a short delay the cycle was repeated. One complete operation consumed 20 sec. This cycling process was carried out continuously during bombardments by a motor operated rotary switch as illustrated in the diagram.

Since Li^8 is easily ionized, it was probably drawn to the counter wall in most cases before counting began. Nevertheless, the fact that two alphas are produced traveling in approximately antiparallel directions will still allow 100 percent counting efficiency. Unfortunately the bias curves will suffer from this effect. The theoretical integral energy spectrum arising from a single alpha-particle in the decay of Li^8 is illustrated by the broken curve of Fig. 2. The solid curve in the

figure represents a typical bias curve obtained in this experiment. If only one alpha from the decay of each Li^8 atom penetrates the counter gas, and all the ions produced along its path lie in the counting volume of the chamber, then the bias curves obtained should agree with the theoretical integral energy spectrum. The dissimilarity of the two curves can probably be accounted for by the following considerations. Firstly, an alpha-particle, if directed approximately parallel to the counter wall, will often spend the last part of its range in the chamber wall. Secondly, some alphas produced at the ends of the counter can lose part of their energy in the counting volume of the chamber and part outside of it. These forms of decay will affect the bias curve by tilting the low energy part away from the horizontal. Thirdly, the angle between the paths of the two alphas may differ from 180° by as much as 6° owing to the recoil from the Li^8 beta-decay so that in some cases both alphas may lose all or a fraction (as above) of their energy by gas ionization. And lastly, if Li^8 becomes a neutral atom during its travel toward the counter wall, it will stop in the gas, causing the ionization from both its alphas to be recorded. These latter types of disintegration will alter the high energy region of the bias curve and fill in the dip near 2 Mev.

All counters had small internal sources of polonium to calibrate the pulse heights in Mev except in the cases of krypton and xenon in which the yields were so low that any background at all would have been detrimental to the experiments. The pulse heights for these two elements were calibrated against an external 10 mg Ra-Be source placed one meter from the center of the counter in a direction perpendicular to the axis. The pulse heights to be expected from the Ra-Be source were found by placing the source in the position described with respect to a counter calibrated by polonium alphas.

In order to check the half-life of the alphas from each element investigated the monitor was filled with one atmosphere of CH_4 (the most copious Li^8 producer found) and counter *B* with the gas being studied. One pen of a Brush recorder was connected to the scale of two output of counter *A* scaler and the other pen to that of counter *B*, and the bombardment cycle started. The Brush recorder is a two-channel recording oscilloscope with a frequency response from d.c. to 100 cycles. Each input signal to the recorder is passed through an amplifier before it activates the magnetically operated pen unit. Both of the pens record on the same moving tape, the speed of which may be adjusted to 0.5, 2.5, or 12.5 cm per sec. The medium speed was used in this experiment. Since the two pens are in symmetric positions and the abundant supply of Li^8 from the monitor always produced pulses on the tape in the first 0.1 sec. of counting, the monitor pen provided a zero of time on the tape for the half-life measurement of the element in question.

In the measurement of excitation functions, mechan-

¹⁴ B. Rossi and H. Staub, *Ionization Chambers and Counters* (McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1949).

ical counters were linked to the scale of 256 output from each scaler. Copper absorbers placed between the monitor and counter *B* reduced the energy of the beam the amount required before it entered counter *B*. Relative excitation functions were obtained by comparison of the Li⁸ counts in counter *B* with those from counter *A*, the latter being produced by the full energy deuteron beam. In the 184-inch Berkeley cyclotron the beam, after deflection from the tank is passed through a steering magnet which acts as a fine energy spectrometer. It is then collimated and emerges from a vacuum port ready for use. The energy of the deuterons has been measured repeatedly by observing their mean range in some absorber with the aid of a faraday cup. It turns out to be 18.85 ± 0.1 g/cm² of Al. This corresponds to 192.7 ± 0.4 Mev. This is the value which has been used in these experiments. The energy of the deuterons after passing through a given thickness of copper absorber was computed with the aid of tables prepared by Aron, Hoffman, and Williams of the theoretical group at the Radiation Laboratory based on the standard range energy formulas.¹⁵

The original collimation of the beam is reduced by multiple scattering when several grams of absorber are used. In order to avoid as much as possible errors in the excitation functions from this effect, counter *B* was built with an i.d. of 3 inches. In all of the experiments the original beam was confined in a circle 1 inch in diameter by the initial collimating system. After the deuteron beam has been reduced in energy to a few Mev, its energy will be inhomogeneous by approximately 5 Mev. This inhomogeneity is caused by straggling and in the case of 340-Mev protons may amount to as much as 40 Mev. Straggling in terms of range as defined by Bethe¹⁵ is the difference between the mean and the extrapolated ranges. It is approximately equal to the standard deviation of the range. In deuteron excitation functions the effects of straggling and multiple scattering are not too important, although they should be considered in dealing with the low energy range of the excitation functions. However, the inaccuracies caused by these two effects will make it quite impracticable to determine proton excitation functions by this method.

In the reduction of the deuteron energy by absorbers the production of neutrons and protons by stripping¹⁶ must be considered. At the energies involved neutrons should be about as efficient in the production of Li⁸ as protons. With enough copper to absorb all of the charged particles in the beam, no Li⁸ atoms were detected in counter *B*. This demonstrated that the neutrons from stripping had a negligible effect in this experiment. Since protons formed by stripping will quickly lose their energy in the absorber, it was assumed that they would be even less effective than neutrons.

¹⁵ M. S. Livingston and H. A. Bethe, Rev. Mod. Phys. 9, 245 (1937).

¹⁶ R. Serber, Phys. Rev. 72, 1007 (1947).

TABLE I. Absolute cross sections for Li⁸ production from 340-Mev proton and 190-Mev deuteron bombardments of various elements (units of 10⁻²⁹ cm²).

	C	N	Ne	A	Kr	Xe
(<i>p</i> , Li ⁸)	70±20	55±16	20±6	22±7	5.5±2	2.6±0.8
(<i>d</i> , Li ⁸)	135±40	68±20	25±7	22±7	4.1±1.3	3.6±1.0

The absolute cross section for carbon was measured in the following manner. A thin-walled ionization chamber of approximately 1-inch thickness, filled with air at atmospheric pressure, was placed before a single proportional counter containing CH₄ in the path of the beam. The chamber output was fed to one input of the Brush recorder and, after amplification, appeared on the recording tape. The input time constant was made to be 0.1 sec. by placing a 0.01 μf condenser in parallel with the 10 megohm input resistance of the recorder amplifier. This allowed the beam current to be amplified satisfactorily with the low frequency response amplifier of the Brush recorder, although the pulsed beam from the synchro-cyclotron appears at the deflection port for an interval considerably less than 1 μsec. 60 times per sec. The scale of two output on the scaler connected to the lone proportional counter in parallel with the ionization chamber was fed to the remaining pen of the Brush recorder. During bombardment cycles the recorder tape was run continuously. The beam current appeared on one pen of the recorder, the Li⁸ counts appeared on the other. The instant the cyclotron beam was turned off was taken as zero on the time scale. A decay curve of the Li⁸ counts was extrapolated back to this zero time in order to determine the number of Li⁸

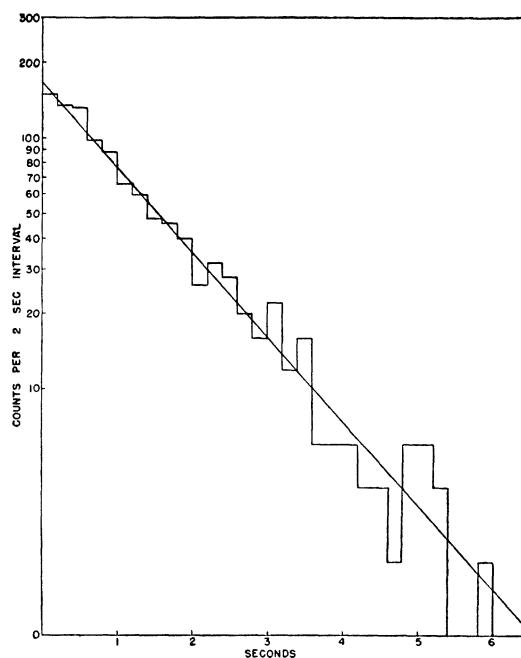


FIG. 3. Decay curve of Li⁸ from 340-Mev protons on methane (CH₄).

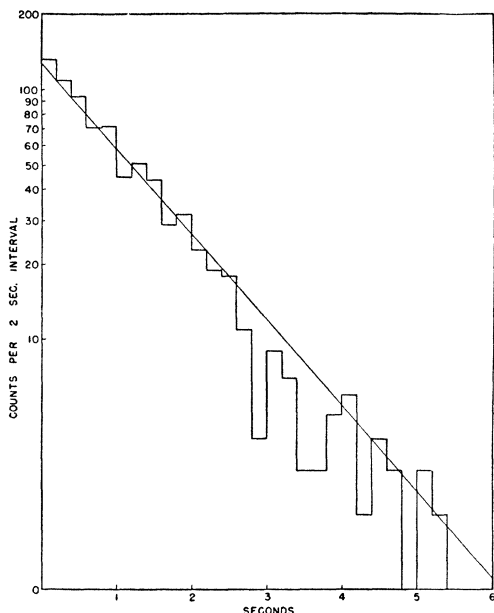


FIG. 4. Decay curve of Li^8 from 190-Mev deuterons on nitrogen.

atoms existing at the end of the bombardment and to account for the delay between stopping the cyclotron and turning on the counters. The effective charge integral $\int I(t)e^{-\lambda t} dt$ integrated over the bombardment period was calculated numerically from the recorder tape. This calculation required knowledge of the amplification factor of the ionization chamber and also that of the recorder amplifier. The former was measured directly with a faraday cup. The latter was ascertained with a potentiometer and a knowledge of the input resistance of the recorder. The cross section can then be determined from the Li^8 atoms available at zero time, the gas pressure and effective counting length of the proportional counter, and the effective charge integral. This cross section was found for bombardments of carbon with 190-Mev deuterons and 340-Mev protons. It is recorded in Table I under carbon. The cross sections for the other elements were then found from these values as mentioned before.

III. RESULTS

No effect was found from helium outside of the background statistics from a small polonium source within the chamber. In terms of cross sections, the result was $(0.5 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-29} \text{ cm}^2$. This was true with bombardments of 340-Mev protons and 190-Mev deuterons. This showed that any production of Li^8 from the central wire and windows (2 mil stainless steel) could be disregarded. Also no effect was found after the deuteron beam energy had been reduced considerably by copper absorbers placed in front of the chamber. The latter experiment showed that contributions due to the multiply scattered beam hitting the walls of the chamber could be neglected.

The decay curves of the alphas from C, N, Ne, A, Kr, and Xe are given in Fig. 3 to Fig. 8. They are plotted as histograms, the ordinate being the number of counts in a 0.2 sec. interval. This was the time interval used in reading the Brush recorder tapes. Since there is no apparent change in half-life in deuteron or proton bombardments, a single decay curve of each element is given. The straight lines on the graphs correspond to the ideal decay curve with a half-life of 0.88 sec. and the same total number of counts as in the experimental curve. It is seen that the agreement is excellent in all

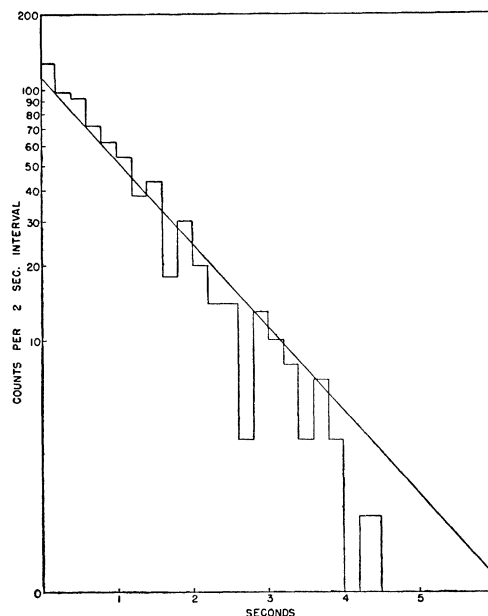


FIG. 5. Decay curve of Li^8 from 340-Mev protons on neon.

cases save that of neon, where some improvement is to be desired. However, even in this latter case the agreement with the Li^8 half-life is within statistical error. To give an idea of the counting rates in this experiment it may be remarked that the yield with Xe was so low that it required the counts from 150 equilibrium bombardments to produce the decay curve shown in Fig. 8.

The absolute cross sections for C, N, Ne, A, Kr, and Xe with 340-Mev protons and 190-Mev deuterons are collected in Table I. The difficulties mentioned in Section II in producing a flat bias curve and the change in counter characteristics with each new gas probably make these values accurate to no more than 30 percent. The values listed are those found with the scalers set to discriminate against alphas of less than 0.7 Mev. Much less discrimination would risk the acceptance of pulses originating from beta-disintegrations, since the counters were very long (45 cm). The theoretical integral energy spectrum of Fig. 2 makes it seem preferable, in view of the gaseous nature of the target and consequent lack of self-absorption, to determine the yield at a fixed low discrimination rather than to extrapolate the curves to zero bias. The cross sections found for Ne, A, Kr, and

Xe cannot be due to impurities of gases with a lower mass number. The argon used was 99.7 percent pure. Spectroscopic Ne, Kr, and Xe were used in which the only important impurity was N₂, present in quantities less than 0.05 percent of the total. Ne, Kr, and Xe, obtained in liter flasks at atmospheric pressure, were transferred to the counters by the use of a Toepler pump after the counters had been evacuated to a few microns pressure with a diffusion pump.

The deuteron excitation functions of C, N, Ne, and A are shown in Fig. 9 to Fig. 12. Statistical counting errors only are marked on the graphs. In the lower energy region some of the deuterons, multiply scattered by the copper absorber may be lost in the counter wall before traversing the whole counter. This would make the cross section at these low energies appear to be lower than it actually is.

IV. DISCUSSION

It is interesting to speculate on what process is involved in the production of Li⁸ as described here. The graph of the cross section for Li⁸ production with 190-Mev deuterons plotted against *A*, the mass number of

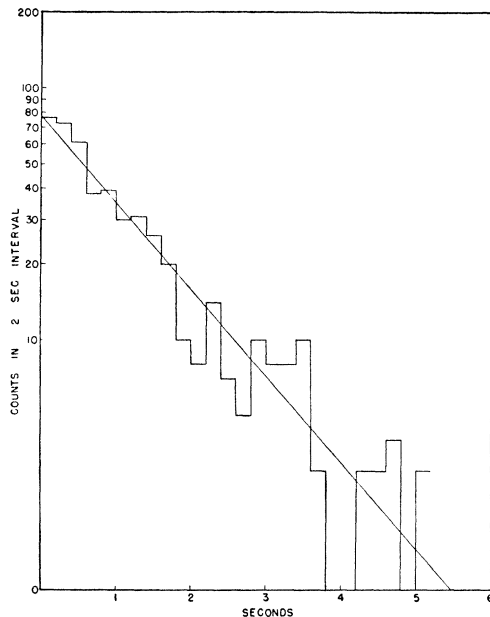


FIG. 6. Decay curve of Li⁸ from 190-Mev deuterons on argon.

the target element, in Fig. 13, provides some clues. It is seen that there is a sharp discontinuity in slope between the light nuclei (carbon, nitrogen, and neon) and the heavy nuclei (argon, krypton, and xenon). The curve drawn in the figure has no significance other than to emphasize this discontinuity. This indicates that different mechanisms are at work in the two regions. A plausible assumption is that the process for the light group is one in which the compound nucleus boils off the necessary number of neutrons and protons to leave a residue consisting of Li⁸. This type of mechanism is obviously not applicable to the heavy group. There is not enough energy available to boil off thirty or more

particles. Here it is more likely that Li⁸ is expelled from the compound nucleus in a manner similar to evaporation.

In the previous paragraph the formation of the compound nucleus was implicitly assumed. In other words, all of the energy of the incident particle was assumed to be distributed among the nucleons of the struck nucleus before any evaporation occurred. It has been pointed out by Serber¹⁷ that this not always the case when the mean free path of the incident particle in nuclear matter is of the order of the nuclear dimensions. When such "transparency" conditions are met, as in this experiment, a whole range of excitation energies can be expected of the struck nucleus. If a collision involves only one or two nucleons which promptly remove themselves from the neighborhood of the nucleus, a small excitation energy will result. Other types of collisions, less "local" in character, will provide higher excitation energies. Sometimes the incident particle will be completely absorbed by the nucleus and a maximum excitation will occur. The treatment of the evaporation process which follows is so qualitative that the range of excitation energies of the struck nucleus will be neglected, and a compound nucleus with the maximum excitation will always be assumed.

Evaporation is a very difficult problem to treat theoretically in the case of light nuclei. It simplifies considerably if a temperature can be defined for the compound nucleus. Such is the case in heavy nuclei. By employing the principle of detailed balancing, Weisskopf¹⁸ has derived a general formula for the evaporation of particles from a compound nucleus in terms of the cross section for the inverse process of capture. Let $W_n(E_A, \epsilon)d\epsilon$ be the probability per second of a nucleus *A*, excited to E_A Mev above the ground state, emitting a particle *n* of energy between ϵ and

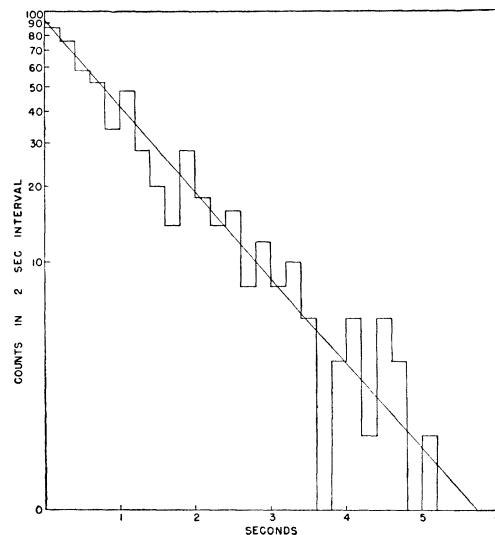


FIG. 7. Decay curve of Li⁸ from 190-Mev deuterons on krypton.

¹⁷ R. Serber, Phys. Rev. **72**, 1114 (1947).

¹⁸ V. Weisskopf, Phys. Rev. **52**, 296 (1937).

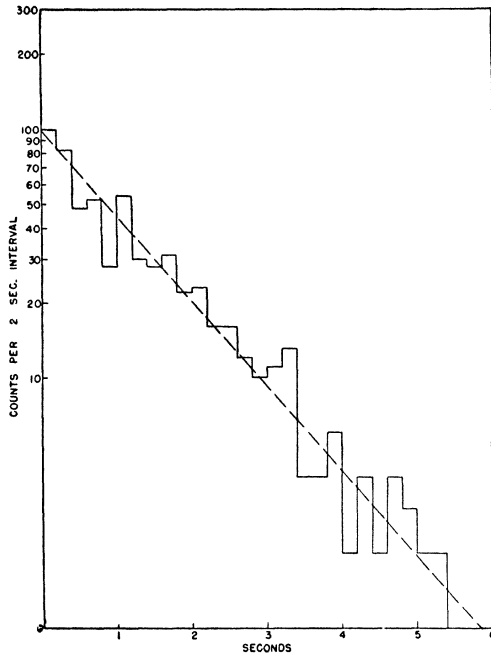


FIG. 8. Decay curve of Li^8 from 190-Mev deuterons on xenon.

$\epsilon + d\epsilon$ and leaving a residual nucleus B . For the inverse process, the capture of the particle with energy ϵ Mev by the nucleus B to form the nucleus A with excitation E_A , the probability per second is equal to $v\sigma(E_A, \epsilon)/\Omega$, where $\sigma(E_A, \epsilon)$ is the capture cross section under the stated conditions, v is the velocity of the particle, and Ω is the volume in which the whole system is enclosed. The principle of detailed balancing leads to the following relation among these quantities:

$$W_n(E_A, \epsilon) = \sigma(E_A, \epsilon) (gm\epsilon/\pi^2\hbar^3) \times \exp[S_B(E_A - E_0 - \epsilon) - S_A(E_A)]. \quad (1)$$

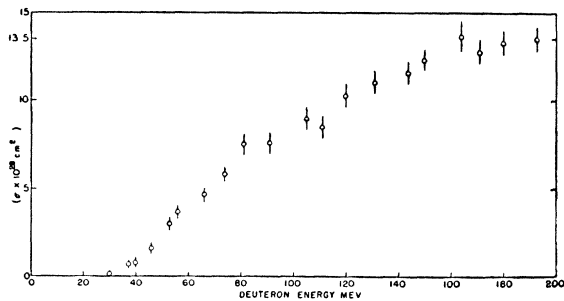


FIG. 9. Excitation function of the reaction $\text{C}(d, \text{Li}^8)$.

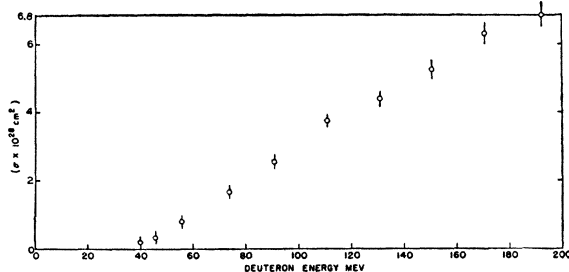


FIG. 10. Excitation function of the reaction $\text{N}(d, \text{Li}^8)$.

This is Weisskopf's general evaporation formula. Here g is the statistical weight, m the mass of the particle, and E_0 is the binding energy of the particle to nucleus A . The entropy $S_A(X)$ of a nucleus of mass number A with excitation X in Mev is defined as the logarithm of the density of states of that nucleus with excitation X .

If the expression (1) is integrated over all possible values of ϵ for a given E_A , the result is the total probability per unit time for emission of the particle; i.e., the width Γ divided by \hbar . If the entropy

$$S_A(X) = (A \cdot X/2.2)^{3/2}$$

derived from the free particle model of the nucleus¹⁹ is used in the calculation of the widths for proton, neutron, and Li^8 emission from argon, the following result is obtained:

$$\begin{aligned} (\Gamma_n + \Gamma_p)/\Gamma_{\text{Li}^8} &\approx (10^4/5)_{200 \text{ Mev } d}, \\ &\approx (10^4/2.2)_{80 \text{ Mev } d} \\ \sigma_{\text{geom}} &= 0.8 \times 10^{-24} \text{ cm}^2. \end{aligned}$$

This ratio should be near that of the cross sections for proton or neutron emission (about the geometrical) to the cross section for Li^8 emission. It is evident that the Li^8 cross section turns out to be about a factor of 2 higher than found, for E_A equal to 190 Mev and its reduction at E_A equal to 80 Mev is half of the experimental decrease. In the calculation, the classical formula

$$\sigma(E_A, \epsilon) = \sigma_{\text{geom}}(1 - V/\epsilon)$$

for the cross section was used. V is the potential barrier of the particle with respect to the nucleus B . The influence of the barrier on the evaporation process is described in this term.

It is surprising that the order of magnitude of the results can be predicted on such a crude model. The

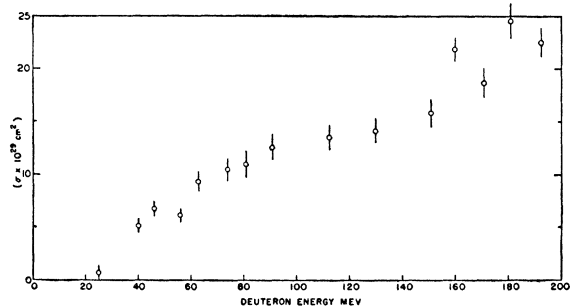


FIG. 11. Excitation function of the reaction $\text{Ne}(d, \text{Li}^8)$.

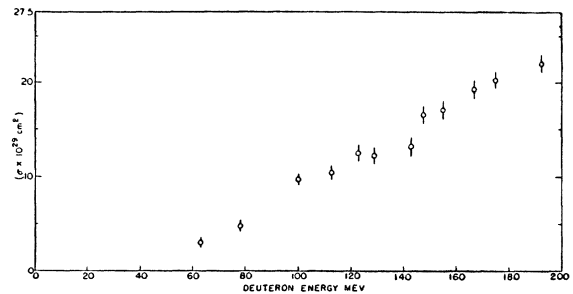


FIG. 12. Excitation function of the reaction $\text{A}(d, \text{Li}^8)$.

¹⁹ H. A. Bethe, Phys. Rev. **50**, 322 (1936).

important quantity in these calculations is, of course, the entropy. There is practically no experimental knowledge of its variation at the high energies here involved and the free particle model was used rather arbitrarily in the calculations.

Further experiments will be needed to fully justify the Li^8 production processes here advanced. For example, additional Li^8 cross sections for elements in the neighborhood of neon could verify the transition between the "residue" and evaporation reactions. Also more accurate and detailed excitation functions with light elements near the threshold should exhibit irregular features due to the fact that Li^8 can be reached from the compound nucleus by several alternate routes. These various routes will compete as they become energetically possible. For example, energetically Li^8 can be reached from C^{12} plus a proton most cheaply by emission of a deuteron and three protons, more expensively by emission of a deuteron and three protons, and most expensively by emission of four protons and one neutron.

The production of Li^8 in nitrogen, a good cloud-chamber gas, may make it possible to test the conservation of momentum in the beta-decay of Li^8 more successfully than hitherto if the background difficulties can be circumvented.

The author wishes to thank Mr. C. Wiegand for a

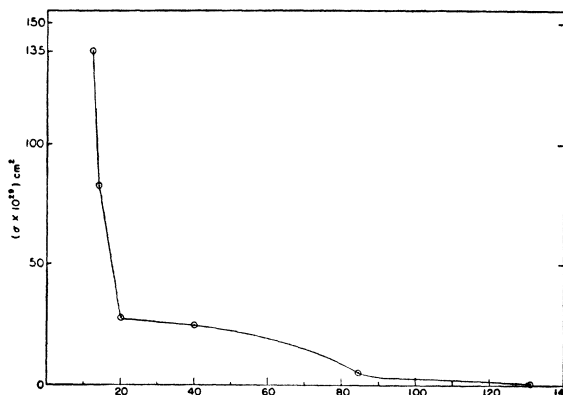


FIG. 13. Variation of the Li^8 cross section for 190-Mev deuterons as a function of A .

number of helpful suggestions during the course of the experiment and Mr. T. Thompson for help during the cyclotron bombardments. He is indebted to Professors R. Serber and G. Wick for discussions on the applicability of the evaporation formula to this case. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the stimulating guidance throughout the whole course of the investigation of Professor E. Segrè, who originally suggested this problem.

Theory of the Superconducting State. I. The Ground State at the Absolute Zero of Temperature

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In Bloch's theory of electronic conductivity the scattering of electrons by lattice vibrations is connected with the absorption or emission of vibrational quanta. As in field theories this gives rise to a self-energy which can be calculated by application of perturbation theory. The most interesting term as a result of the Pauli principle has the form of an interaction between electrons in momentum (k) space. The interaction between two electrons whose energy difference is small compared with their energy has a most interesting angular dependence. Roughly speaking, it is repulsive for equal energies but different directions of \mathbf{k} , and attractive otherwise. If strong enough it leads in the ground state to a distribution in momentum space which is different from the normal (Fermi) distribution. If this is the case then excited states exist in which some (ΔZ) electrons in view of their interaction in momentum space are concentrated in a narrow region in \mathbf{k} -space. These states are stable in the sense that it requires energy to

remove one of the electrons. Their energies are higher than the ground state by a term proportional to $(\Delta Z)^2$.

The condition that the above-mentioned ground state (identified with the superconducting state) is realized requires that the interaction between electrons and lattice vibrations exceeds a certain value. With the help of the theory of high temperature conductivity, this condition can be expressed in terms of the resistivity ρ at 0°C . It is found that $\rho n \nu^{5/3}$ ($1/n$ = atomic volume; ν = number of free electrons per atom) must exceed a value depending on universal constants only. If $\nu=1$ is assumed, all monovalent metals except lithium do not satisfy the required condition, but most superconductors do. The energy difference between the normal and the superconducting state at absolute zero is about $m s^2$ (s = velocity of sound) per electron. It has thus the correct magnitude corresponding to a temperature of a fraction of a degree absolute. No application to higher temperatures or to the influence of external fields has been made yet.

I. INTRODUCTION

IN the theory of the electric conductivity of metals first developed by Bloch¹ electrons are considered

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¹ F. Bloch, *Zeits. f. Physik* **52**, 555 (1928).

to move freely through the lattice except for occasional scattering by the lattice vibrations. This scattering is connected with the absorption or emission of a vibrational quantum. Anyone who is familiar with modern field theories will conclude at once that an electron will have a self-energy in this vibrational field since it