

Emission of γ rays by x-ray electron-nuclear transitions

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We estimate the cross section of processes in which a transition effected by an inner atomic electron takes place simultaneously with a nuclear electromagnetic transition, for electric and magnetic interactions of various multipole orders. We calculate the rate of deexcitation of isomeric nuclei induced by processes of this type for the case when the holes in the atomic shells are produced by incident ionizing electrons and find that the induced nuclear deexcitation rate becomes comparable to the natural decay rate for ionizing fluxes of the order of 10^{14} W cm $^{-2}$. We show that for $E1$ and $M1$ nuclear processes for which there is a matching between the electron and the nuclear transition energies, these electron-nuclear transitions can be used to produce pulses of Mössbauer radiation, with yields of the order of 10^4 Bq mA $^{-1}$. [S0556-2813(97)04106-X]

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Electron-nuclear (double) transitions are a class of processes in which a transition effected by an atomic electron takes place simultaneously with a nuclear electromagnetic transition. There are several types of electron-nuclear transitions, depending on the range of energies for the electron and nuclear transition energies. Thus, the application of a radio-frequency magnetic field to a sample generates additional lines in the Mössbauer spectra [1–8]. In the case of the electron-nuclear double resonance [9–11], a microwave magnetic field interacts with the Zeeman sublevels of electrons from incomplete atomic shells while a radio-frequency magnetic field interacts resonantly with the magnetic sublevels of the ground nuclear state. Another possibility [12,13] is that the electron transition takes place between the Zeeman substates of incomplete electron shells while the nucleus makes a gamma-ray transition. These electron-nuclear double transitions, also involving microwave magnetic fields, produce additional lines in the Mössbauer spectra and may have applications for research on the amplification of gamma rays without inversion of the nuclear population and for the identification of the position of lines in complex Mössbauer spectra. In the case of the electron-nuclear double transitions at optical frequencies, the optical pumping of atomic hyperfine transitions by a laser induces an anisotropy in the angular distribution of gamma rays emitted by the nucleus [14].

In the case of x-ray electron-nuclear transitions, the electrons make transitions to fill the holes created in the atomic shells by a beam of incident electrons or by the electrons of a dense hot plasma. In the process of nuclear excitation by an electron transition first described by Morita [15–23], an electron from a higher electron shell makes a transition to fill a hole in an inner electron shell while at the same time the nucleus makes a transition from the ground nuclear state to an excited nuclear state. The nuclear excitation by an electron transition competes with the conventional atomic deexcitation via x-ray emission or Auger emission. The branching ratio for nuclear excitation by an electron transition depends on the energy of the interaction between the inner-shell electron and the protons of the nucleus, and since the inner electrons are rather close to the nucleus, this energy of the inter-

action is relatively large. The branching ratio for nuclear excitation by an electron transition is inversely proportional to the square of the difference between the electron transition energy and the nuclear transition energy. Therefore, nuclear excitation by an electron transition becomes important when there is a matching between the transition energy from a populated nuclear state, like the ground state or an isomeric state, and an x-ray transition energy. Typical transition energies are of the order of a few tens of keV's, and the detuning between the electron and nuclear transition energies may be of about 1 keV. The nucleus can also make a transition from an excited state to a lower state while an electron is raised from an inner shell to a hole in a higher shell. This process may be called nuclear deexcitation by an electron transition. The process of nuclear excitation by an electron transition has been observed in ^{189}Os [16,17,21], ^{235}U [18], ^{237}Np [19], and ^{197}Au [22]. Although the cross sections for nuclear excitation by an electron transitions are rather small, these processes are interesting because they represent a way to control a nuclear transition by actions exerted at the atomic level.

In this work we give expressions for the cross sections of electric and magnetic x-ray electron-nuclear (double) transitions (XENDT's) and study the application of these processes to the problem of induced gamma emission. If the nucleus is initially in a long-lived isomeric state $|i\rangle$, the electron-nuclear transitions open a new deexcitation channel for the isomeric state, in addition to the regular gamma-ray emission and internal conversion. One possibility is the direct deexcitation of the isomeric nucleus by a transition from the isomeric state $|i\rangle$ to a lower state $|l\rangle$, while an electron is raised to fill a hole in a higher electron shell. Another possibility is the two-step deexcitation of the isomeric nucleus by a transition from the isomeric state $|i\rangle$ to a higher nuclear state $|h\rangle$ while an electron from a higher shell makes a transition to a hole in an inner electron shell. The nuclear intermediate state $|h\rangle$ then decays by the emission of a gamma-ray photon to the lower nuclear state $|l\rangle$. These alternative nuclear paths for the deexcitation of an isomeric state by an electron transition are shown in Fig. 1. The rate of the electron-nuclear process is proportional to the electron flux

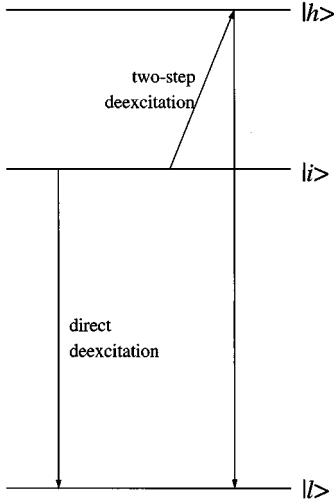


FIG. 1. Nuclear paths for the deexcitation of an isomeric state by electron transition. The two possibilities are the direct deexcitation from the isomeric state $|i\rangle$ to a lower state $|l\rangle$ via a nuclear deexcitation by electron transition and the two-step deexcitation, when the nucleus goes from the isomeric state $|i\rangle$ to a higher state nuclear state $|h\rangle$ via a nuclear excitation by electron transition; then, it decays to the lower state $|l\rangle$ by regular gamma-ray emission.

which produces the holes in the atomic shells, and for sufficiently large ionizing electron fluxes the deexcitation rate by the electron-nuclear process becomes comparable to the natural decay rate of the isomer. Another application of the x-ray electron-nuclear transitions is the possibility of producing pulsed Mössbauer gamma radiation for isotopic elements where there is a matching between the electron transition energy and the resonant nuclear transition energy.

We shall calculate the probability of an x-ray electron-nuclear double transition for electric or magnetic interactions of arbitrary multipole orders and shall estimate the cross section for the production of these transitions for the case when the holes in the atomic shells are produced by incident ionizing electrons. We shall estimate the ionizing electron fluxes for which the rate of the electron-nuclear process becomes equal to the natural decay rate of the isomeric state, both for a direct deexcitation $|i\rangle \rightarrow |l\rangle$ and for a two-step deexcitation $|i\rangle \rightarrow |h\rangle \rightarrow |l\rangle$. Then we shall list the isotopic species for which it is possible to generate resonant Mössbauer radiation by electron-nuclear transitions and shall estimate the corresponding yields.

The initial state of the electron-nuclear process is prepared when an electron hole is created in a certain atomic subshell, for example, by electron impact. We designate this initial atomic state by $|a_1\rangle$ and its energy by $E_1^{(a)} > 0$, as shown in Fig. 2. Moreover, we designate the initial nuclear state by $|n_1\rangle$ and the energy of the initial nuclear state by $E_1^{(n)}$. The initial state of the electron-nuclear process is thus $|a_1 n_1\rangle$. In the course of the electron-nuclear transition, an electron from another atomic subshell fills the initial hole, thereby creating a new hole in a different subshell and thus leaving the atom in the final state $|a_2\rangle$ of energy $E_2^{(a)} > 0$. The electron transition $|a_1\rangle \rightarrow |a_2\rangle$ takes place simultaneously with a nuclear transition $|n_1\rangle \rightarrow |n_2\rangle$ from the initial

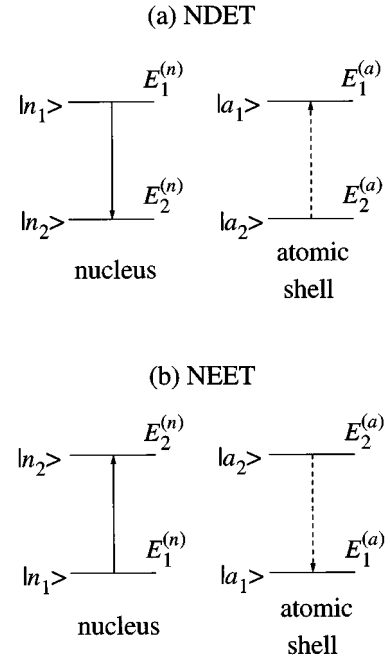


FIG. 2. The two cases of XENDT's. (a) Nuclear deexcitation by electron transition (NDET), when an electron from an inner shell makes a transition to fill a hole in a higher electron shell. (b) Nuclear excitation by electron transition (NEET) when an electron from a higher electron shell makes a transition to fill a hole in an inner shell. The subscripts 1 and 2 indicate the initial state and final state, respectively. The higher electron shells are represented by the upper lines in the atomic level schemes. The arrows in the atomic schemes suggest the path of the electron which fills the hole in the initial state.

nuclear state $|n_1\rangle$ to the final nuclear state $|n_2\rangle$ of energy $E_2^{(n)}$. The final state of the electron-nuclear process is thus $|a_2 n_2\rangle$. If $E_1^{(n)} > E_2^{(n)}$, we have a nuclear deexcitation by an electron transition, as shown in Fig. 2(a), and if $E_1^{(n)} < E_2^{(n)}$, we have a nuclear excitation by an electron transition, as shown in Fig. 2(b).

The probability of the electron-nuclear process depends on the detuning Δ between the total initial energy $E_1^{(n)} + E_1^{(a)}$ and the total final energy $E_2^{(n)} + E_2^{(a)}$,

$$\Delta = E_1^{(n)} + E_1^{(a)} - (E_2^{(n)} + E_2^{(a)}). \quad (1)$$

The widths Γ_1, Γ_2 of the atomic states $|a_1\rangle, |a_2\rangle$ are determined by the x-ray emission and the Auger and Coster-Kronig emission of electrons. We shall represent these processes by imaginary terms $-i\Gamma_1/2, -i\Gamma_2/2$ in the Hamiltonian matrix of the electron-nuclear system. If $c_1(t)$ and $c_2(t)$ are the amplitudes to find the electron-nuclear system in the states $|a_1 n_1\rangle$ and $|a_2 n_2\rangle$, respectively, the Hamiltonian equations for this system are [24]

$$i\hbar \frac{dc_1}{dt} = -\frac{i\Gamma_1}{2} c_1 + V_{12} e^{i\Delta t/\hbar} c_2, \quad (2)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{dc_2}{dt} = V_{12}^* e^{-i\Delta t/\hbar} c_1 - \frac{i\Gamma_2}{2} c_2, \quad (3)$$

where $V_{12} = \langle a_1 n_1 | V | a_2 n_2 \rangle$ is the matrix element for the interaction between the electrons and the nucleus, and V_{12}^* is the complex conjugate of V_{12} . The solution of Eqs. (2) and (3) with the initial conditions $c_1 = 1, c_2 = 0$ at $t = 0$ is

$$c_1(t) = e^{i\Delta t/\hbar - (\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)t/4\hbar} \left(\cos\Omega t - \frac{i\Delta + (\Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2)/2}{2\hbar\Omega} \sin\Omega t \right), \quad (4)$$

$$c_2(t) = -\frac{iV_{12}^*}{\hbar\Omega} e^{-i\Delta t/\hbar - (\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2)t/4\hbar} \sin\Omega t, \quad (5)$$

where

$$\Omega^2 = \frac{1}{4\hbar^2} \left(\Delta - i \frac{\Gamma_1 - \Gamma_2}{2} \right)^2 + \frac{|V_{12}|^2}{\hbar^2}. \quad (6)$$

The fact that $c_1(t) \rightarrow 0$ and $c_2(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ is due to the presence of the imaginary diagonal terms in the Hamiltonian equations (2) and (3).

The probability P to have the nucleus in the state n_2 at the end of the process can be obtained by multiplying the probability $|c_2(t)|^2$ of finding the electron-nuclear system in the state $|a_2 n_2\rangle$ by the probability $\Gamma_2 dt$ of an electron transition from the state $|a_2 n_2\rangle$ to other states $|a'_2 n_2\rangle$,

$$P = \int_0^\infty |c_2(t)|^2 \Gamma_2 dt. \quad (7)$$

Usually we have $|\Delta| \gg \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, |V_{12}|$, so that $\Omega^2 \approx \Delta^2/4\hbar^2$, and then

$$P = \frac{\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2}{\Gamma_1} \frac{|V_{12}|^2}{\Delta^2}. \quad (8)$$

This is in agreement with the expression given in [17]. The $1/\Delta^2$ dependence is characteristic of nonresonant Rabi oscillations in two-state systems [25]. The phase of the state $|a_1 n_1\rangle$ is the sum of the phase of the atomic state $|a_1\rangle$ and of the phase of the nuclear state $|n_1\rangle$, and similarly the phase of the state $|a_2 n_2\rangle$ is the sum of the phase of the atomic state $|a_2\rangle$ and of the phase of the nuclear state $|n_2\rangle$. The probability P , Eq. (8), is independent of these phases.

We shall assume that in the initial atomic state $|a_1\rangle$ the hole is in the nl_j subshell of principal quantum number n , orbital angular momentum l , and total angular momentum J . An atomic electron can make a transition to fill this hole, thereby creating the final state $|a_2\rangle$ having a hole in the subshell $n'l'_j$. If the angular momentum and parity of the nuclear states $|n_1\rangle, |n_2\rangle$ are respectively $I_1^{\pi_1}, I_2^{\pi_2}$, then the angular momentum F_1 of the state $|nl_j, n_1\rangle$ is such that $|J - I_1| < F_1 < J + I_1$ and the parity of the state $|nl_j, n_1\rangle$ is $\Pi_1 = \pi_1(-1)^l$. The angular momentum F_2 of the state $|n'l'_j, n_2\rangle$ is such that $|J' - I_2| < F_2 < J' + I_2$ and the parity of the state $|n'l'_j, n_2\rangle$ is $\Pi_2 = \pi_2(-1)^{l'}$.

In Eq. (8) we have assumed that *one* electron interacts with the nucleus to produce the electron-nuclear transition. There are, however, $2J' + 1$ electrons which can make a transition from the $n'l'_j$ subshell to fill the hole in the nl_j subshell, so that the total transition probability is

$$P_{\text{tot}} = (2J' + 1)P. \quad (9)$$

We shall estimate the matrix element V_{12} appearing in Eq. (8) as the energy of the interaction between two electric multipoles of the same order or between two magnetic multipoles of the same order. In the case of the interaction between electric multipoles of order L , the energy of the interaction [26,27] can be estimated as

$$V_{12}^{(EL)} = \frac{3f_E e^2 r_A^L \langle n'l'_j | r^{-L-1} | nl_j \rangle}{(4\pi)^{1/2} \epsilon_0 (2L+1)(L+3)}, \quad (10)$$

where r_A is the radius of a nucleus of mass number A , $r_A = r_0 A^{1/3}$, $r_0 = 1.2 \times 10^{-15}$ m, and the dimensionless factor f_E is of the order of unity. In the independent-particle nuclear model used in this work the energy of the interaction $V_{12}^{(EL)}$ is not proportional to the proton number Z .

The energy of the interaction between two magnetic multipoles of order L can be estimated as

$$V_{12}^{(ML)} = f_M \left(\frac{\hbar}{m_p c r_A} \right) \frac{3e^2 r_A^L}{(4\pi)^{1/2} \epsilon_0 (2L+1)(L+3)} \times \langle n'l'_j | (m_e^2 c^2 r^2 / \hbar^2 + 1)^{-1/2} r^{-L-1} | nl_j \rangle, \quad (11)$$

where m_e is the electron mass, m_p the proton mass, and the dimensionless factor f_M has values of a few units. The factor $\hbar/m_p c r_A$ is of the order of v_p/c , where v_p is the proton velocity, and gives approximately the ratio between the magnetic and the electric multipole moments [27], and the factor $(m_e^2 c^2 r^2 / \hbar^2 + 1)^{-1/2}$ is of the order of $v_e(r)/c$, where $v_e(r)$ is the electron velocity at a distance r from the origin. For $r \gg \hbar/m_e c r$ the factor $(m_e^2 c^2 r^2 / \hbar^2 + 1)^{-1/2}$ is approximately equal to $\hbar/m_e c r$, while for $r \rightarrow 0$ it converges to 1.

The total transition probability in the electric case is then

$$P_{\text{tot}}^{(EL)} = \frac{\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2}{\Gamma_1} \frac{(2J' + 1) |V_{12}^{(EL)}|^2}{\Delta^2}, \quad (12)$$

and the total transition probability in the magnetic case is

$$P_{\text{tot}}^{(ML)} = \frac{\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2}{\Gamma_1} \frac{(2J' + 1) |V_{12}^{(ML)}|^2}{\Delta^2}. \quad (13)$$

In this work we shall assume that $f_E = 1$, $f_M^2 = 10$, as in the Weisskopf estimate of gamma-ray transition rates [27]. As in the case of the Weisskopf estimates, the probabilities in Eqs. (12) and (13) may differ from the real transition probabilities by about two orders of magnitude.

The cross section of an x-ray electron-nuclear double transition is then

$$\sigma = \sigma_{\text{hole}} P_{\text{tot}}, \quad (14)$$

where σ_{hole} is the cross section for the production of the initial hole in the atomic subshell nl_j . We shall estimate σ_{hole} according to Gryziński [28] as

$$\sigma_{\text{hole}} = \frac{\pi e^4 (2J+1)}{16\pi^2 \epsilon_0^2 E_{nl_j}^2} g_i(E_{e1}/E_{nl_j}), \quad (15)$$

TABLE I. Direct deexcitation of isomeric nuclei induced by XENDT's.

Nuclide	E_{il} (keV)	EL/ML	t_i (s)	nl_J	$n'l'_{J'}$	V_{12} (eV)	Δ (keV)	P_{tot}	σ (cm ²)	E_{el} (keV)	Φ_I (W cm ⁻²)
⁸⁵ Sr	6.96	E3	4.06×10^3	$3d_{5/2}$	$2p_{3/2}$	3.27×10^{-9}	5.15	3.12×10^{-23}	7.50×10^{-41}	0.213	7.76×10^{19}
⁸⁶ Y	10.2	E3	2.88×10^3	$3d_{5/2}$	$2p_{3/2}$	4.04×10^{-9}	8.23	2.06×10^{-23}	3.51×10^{-41}	0.253	2.78×10^{20}
⁹⁹ Tc	2.17	E3	2.16×10^4	$3d_{5/2}$	$2p_{3/2}$	9.47×10^{-9}	-0.251	6.30×10^{-20}	4.19×10^{-38}	0.405	4.96×10^{16}
¹⁶² Ho	10	E3	4.02×10^3	$4d_{5/2}$	$2p_{3/2}$	3.97×10^{-8}	2.09	2.69×10^{-21}	4.42×10^{-39}	0.258	1.61×10^{18}
¹⁷⁴ Lu	59.1	M3	1.23×10^7	$4d_{5/2}$	$1s_{1/2}$	9.73×10^{-8}	-4.04	6.89×10^{-21}	7.63×10^{-39}	0.314	3.72×10^{14}
¹⁸⁸ Re	2.63	M3	1.12×10^3	$4f_{5/2}$	$3p_{1/2}$	4.40×10^{-12}	-0.009	6.25×10^{-23}	1.44×10^{-39}	0.069	4.76×10^{18}

where E_{el} is the energy of the ionizing electron and where the expression of the function g_i is given in Ref. [28]. We shall assume that $E_{\text{el}} = 1.6E_{nl_J}$, and we have $g_i(1.6) = 0.109$.

In the case of a direct nuclear transition from state $|i\rangle$ to state $|l\rangle$ the rate of the electron-nuclear process is

$$R_I = \sigma N_{\text{el}}, \quad (16)$$

where N_{el} is the number of ionizing electrons per unit surface and unit time. The relative deexcitation rate for an isomeric state of half-life t_i is then

$$T_I = \sigma N_{\text{el}} t_i / \ln 2. \quad (17)$$

In the case of a two-step nuclear transition $|i\rangle \rightarrow |h\rangle \rightarrow |l\rangle$, the induced deexcitation rate of the state $|i\rangle$ is

$$R_{\text{II}} = \sigma N_{\text{el}} B, \quad (18)$$

where B is the branching ratio for the gamma-ray transition $|h\rangle \rightarrow |l\rangle$. We have determined B from the Weisskopf estimate of the radiative widths Γ_{hi}, Γ_{hl} and from the internal conversion coefficients α_{hi}, α_{hl} of the transitions $|h\rangle \rightarrow |i\rangle, |h\rangle \rightarrow |l\rangle$ as

$$B = \frac{(1 + \alpha_{hl})\Gamma_{hl}}{(1 + \alpha_{hi})\Gamma_{hi} + (1 + \alpha_{hl})\Gamma_{hl}}. \quad (19)$$

The relative deexcitation rate for an isomeric half-life t_i is then

$$T_{\text{II}} = \sigma N_{\text{el}} B t_i / \ln 2. \quad (20)$$

The induced gamma emission becomes significant when the induced and natural decay rates are equal, so that $T_I = 1$ or $T_{\text{II}} = 1$. In the case of a direct deexcitation process the energy flux Φ_I of the ionizing electrons for which $T_I = 1$ is

$$\Phi_I = \frac{\ln 2 E_{\text{el}}}{\sigma t_i}. \quad (21)$$

In the case of a two-step deexcitation process the energy flux Φ_{II} of the ionizing electrons for which $T_{\text{II}} = 1$ is

$$\Phi_{\text{II}} = \frac{\ln 2 E_{\text{el}}}{\sigma t_i B}. \quad (22)$$

In Table I we have given the results of calculations on the direct deexcitation of isomeric nuclei by x-ray electron-

nuclear double transitions, for several isomeric nuclides having a half-life $t_i > 10$ min, and for which there is a downward transition $|i\rangle \rightarrow |l\rangle$ of energy $E_{il} < 100$ keV. We have used the total atomic level widths as given by Keski-Rahkonen and Krause [29], which include the radiative width, the Auger width, and the Coster-Kronig width. In order to evaluate the matrix elements in Eqs. (10) and (11) we have represented the atomic states $|nl_J\rangle, |n'l'_{J'}\rangle$ by screened hydrogenic wave functions. The values of the screening constants have been determined according to the rules of Slater [30]. In Tables I, II, and III we have used the values of the gamma-ray transition energies, energy levels, and half-lives adopted by the IAEA Nuclear Data Information System, and for the atomic energy levels we have used the values listed by Lederer and Shirley [31]. We see from Table I that for direct induced emission the lowest values of the ionizing electron energy flux Φ_I are of the order of 10^{15} W cm⁻², for ^{174m}Lu and ^{99m}Tc.

In Table II we have given the results of calculations on the two-step deexcitation of isomeric nuclei by x-ray electron-nuclear double transitions, for several isomeric nuclides having a half-life $t_i > 10$ min, and for which there is an upward transition $|h\rangle \rightarrow |i\rangle$ of energy $E_{hi} < 100$ keV. We have used the theoretical internal conversion coefficients of Band *et al.* [32] and of Rössel *et al.* [33]. The values of the branching ratio B are calculated according to Eq. (19). We see from Table II that for the two-step induced emission the lowest values of the ionizing electron energy flux Φ_{II} are of the order of 10^{14} W cm⁻², for ^{174m}Lu and ^{188m}Re.

In the case of ^{99m}Tc the energy of the isomeric transition is $E_{il} = 2.1$ keV, and the ⁹⁹Tc nucleus makes a transition from the $|l\rangle$ level to the ground state with the emission of an 140.5 keV photon. In the case of ^{188m}Re the energy of the upward transition is $E_{hi} = 10.7$ keV; then, the ¹⁸⁸Re nucleus emits 26.7 keV, 63 keV, and 156 keV photons. In the case of ^{174m}Lu the energy of the upward transition is $E_{hi} = 29.1$ keV; then, the ¹⁷⁴Lu nucleus emits 44.7 keV, 67.1 keV, and 88.2 keV photons. Thus, the emission of gamma-ray-induced electron-nuclear processes may be regarded in these cases as an upconversion of the incident electron energy. The efficiency of the upconversion process is, however, very low.

A preliminary step in the direction of the observation of gamma-ray emission from nuclear isomers via electron-nuclear processes would be the generation of resonant Mössbauer gamma radiation by electron-nuclear transitions. In this case, a transition of a nucleus to an excited state is induced by an electron transition to a hole in an inner atomic shell, the hole being produced by incident ionizing electrons.

TABLE II. Two-step deexcitation of isomeric nuclei induced by XENDT's.

Nuclide	E_{il} (keV)	EL/ML (il)	t_i (s)	E_{hi} (keV)	EL/ML (hi)	E_{hl} (keV)	EL/ML (hl)	B	nI_j	$n'I'_j$	V_{12} (eV)	Δ (keV)	P_{tot}	σ (cm^2)	E_{ed} (keV)	Φ_{II} ($W\ cm^{-2}$)
^{58}Co	24.9	M3	3.29×10^4	28.3	M1	52.9	E2	2.90×10^{-5}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2s_{1/2}$	6.52×10^{-2}	-21.5	9.16×10^{-11}	2.18×10^{-32}	12.3	6.57×10^{16}
^{99}Tc	142.6	M4	2.16×10^4	38.4	M2	181.1	E2	1	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{3/2}$	1.50×10^{-4}	-20.1	2.88×10^{-16}	9.24×10^{-39}	33.7	1.87×10^{19}
^{111}Cd	150.8	E3	2.91×10^3	20.5	M2	171.3	M1	1	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{3/2}$	2.32×10^{-4}	2.69	3.75×10^{-14}	7.45×10^{-37}	42.7	2.18×10^{18}
^{133}Ba	275.9	M4	1.40×10^5	2.93	E3	278.8	M1	1	$2p_{3/2}$	$3d_{3/2}$	6.78×10^{-8}	1.52	9.97×10^{-21}	1.03×10^{-41}	8.39	6.48×10^{20}
^{162}Ho	10.0	E3	4.02×10^3	65.7	M2	75.6	M1	1	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{3/2}$	8.66×10^{-4}	-18.1	1.03×10^{-14}	4.74×10^{-38}	89.0	5.18×10^{19}
^{174}Lu	59.1	M3	1.23×10^7	29.5	E2	88.5	M1	1	$2p_{3/2}$	$3p_{3/2}$	1.02×10^{-3}	-22.2	2.78×10^{-14}	9.23×10^{-36}	14.8	1.45×10^{13}
^{186}Re	50	E5	6.31×10^{12}	37	M2	86.6	M3	5.34×10^{-6}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{3/2}$	1.34×10^{-3}	24.1	1.37×10^{-14}	3.79×10^{-38}	114.7	9.98×10^{15}
^{188}Re	15.9	M3	1.12×10^3	10.7	E2	26.7	M1	1	$2s_{1/2}$	$3d_{5/2}$	-9.79×10^{-5}	-0.026	1.07×10^{-10}	9.67×10^{-33}	20.0	2.06×10^{14}
^{191}Os	74.4	M3	4.72×10^4	57.6	M1	131.9	E2	2.26×10^{-4}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2s_{1/2}$	8.54×10^{-1}	3.34	1.55×10^{-7}	4.02×10^{-31}	118.2	3.06×10^{15}
^{202}Pb	129.5	E4	1.27×10^4	38.6	E2	168.1	E2	0.829	$2p_{3/2}$	$3p_{3/2}$	1.82×10^{-3}	-28.6	4.31×10^{-14}	7.20×10^{-36}	20.8	3.05×10^{16}

This type of Mössbauer source would be active only as long as it is excited by incident electrons. The gamma-ray line is much more narrow than the x-ray line, so that a Mössbauer scatterer can be used to distinguish between the gamma-ray photons and the x-ray photons.

If ionizing electrons of suitable energy are incident on a thin layer of surface S and thickness d_e containing the Mössbauer nuclei, the number N_γ of resonant gamma-ray photons emitted per second by the nuclei in the layer is

$$N_\gamma = \frac{INd_e}{(1+\alpha)e} \sigma, \quad (23)$$

where I is the incident electron current, $e > 0$ is the electron charge, N the concentration of Mössbauer nuclei in the foil, and α the internal conversion coefficient for the transition under study. The number of Mössbauer gamma-ray photons generated per second via electron-nuclear transitions per unit of incident electron current is then N_γ/I . We have estimated the thickness d_e as

$$d_e = a \frac{A}{Z\rho} E_{nl_j}^2, \quad (24)$$

where $a = 5.63 \times 10^{-3}$ when d_e is in μm , the density ρ of the target in $g\ cm^{-3}$, and E_{nl_j} in keV, A and Z being the mass number and the proton number for the nuclei in the target.

In Table III we have listed the stable nuclides and the nuclides having a half-life greater than 100 days for which the detuning is $|\Delta| < 10$ keV. We have also required that the spectral gamma-ray intensity at the center of the Mössbauer line produced by electron-nuclear transitions should be greater than the spectral intensity of the bremsstrahlung generated by the ionizing electrons and should also be greater than the spectral intensity due to nonresonant x-ray emission. We have used the x-ray emission rates calculated by Scofield [34]. The aforementioned conditions are fulfilled by $E1$ and $M1$ transitions when there is a matching between the x-ray transition energy and the nuclear transition energy. We have evaluated the induced Mössbauer activity per unit of incident electron current N_γ/I for a target concentration $N = 10^{22}$ nuclides cm^{-3} . The nuclides in Table III which have a significant recoilless fraction at room temperature are ^{119}Sn , ^{161}Dy , ^{189}Os , and ^{193}Ir . For the $E1$ and $M1$ transitions listed in Table III, the energy of the interaction V_{12} is of the order of 1 eV, the probability P_{tot} of the electron-nuclear process is in the 10^{-7} – 10^{-4} range, the cross section of the electron-nuclear process with respect to the incident ionizing electrons is in the range 10^{-30} – 10^{-28} cm^2 , and the Mössbauer activity per unit of incident electron current N_γ/I is of the order of 10^4 Bq/mA. This would be a rather weak continuous gamma-ray source, but the interesting property of such a Mössbauer source is that it can produce *pulses* of Mössbauer radiation.

We have assumed so far that the holes in the atomic shells are produced by electrons. The generation of Mössbauer radiation by electron-nuclear transitions can be also be studied with incident protons having an energy of the several MeV. The smaller cross sections for the generation of the holes in

TABLE III. Emission of Mössbauer radiation induced by XENDT's.

Nuclide	Nat. ab./half-life (s)	E_γ (keV)	EL/ML	Half-life (s)	$n l_J$	$n' l'_{J'}$	V_{12} (eV)	Δ (keV)	P_{tot}	$\sigma/(1+\alpha)$ (cm ²)	E_{el} (keV)	N_γ/I (Bq mA ⁻¹)
¹¹⁹ Sn	8.6%	23.9	<i>M1</i>	1.80×10^{-8}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2s_{1/2}$	0.316	0.86	4.30×10^{-7}	7.16×10^{-30}	46.7	1.43×10^4
¹²⁹ I	4.95×10^{14}	27.8	<i>M1</i>	1.68×10^{-8}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2s_{1/2}$	0.364	0.17	1.16×10^{-5}	1.49×10^{-28}	53.1	5.09×10^5
¹⁵² Eu	4.27×10^8	89.8	<i>E1</i>	3.84×10^{-7}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{1/2}$	1.85	-48.9	3.38×10^{-9}	2.04×10^{-32}	77.6	5.61×10^2
¹⁵⁴ Eu	2.71×10^8	68.2	<i>E1</i>	2.2×10^{-6}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{1/2}$	1.86	-27.3	1.10×10^{-8}	6.62×10^{-32}	77.6	1.42×10^3
¹⁵³ Gd	2.09×10^7	41.5	<i>M1</i>	4.08×10^{-9}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2s_{1/2}$	0.571	0.30	8.64×10^{-6}	4.85×10^{-29}	80.4	2.51×10^5
¹⁵⁷ Gd	15.7%	63.9	<i>E1</i>	4.6×10^{-7}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{1/2}$	1.94	-21.6	1.89×10^{-8}	1.06×10^{-31}	80.4	1.49×10^3
¹⁶¹ Dy	18.9%	25.6	<i>E1</i>	2.91×10^{-8}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{1/2}$	2.08	19.6	2.64×10^{-8}	1.29×10^{-31}	86.1	1.13×10^3
¹⁶¹ Dy	18.9%	43.8	<i>M1</i>	8.3×10^{-10}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2s_{1/2}$	0.614	0.92	1.08×10^{-6}	5.28×10^{-30}	86.1	2.86×10^4
¹⁷⁹ Ta	5.65×10^7	30.7	<i>E1</i>	1.42×10^{-6}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{1/2}$	2.67	25.6	2.47×10^{-8}	7.71×10^{-32}	107.8	6.57×10^2
¹⁸¹ Ta	99.9%	6.24	<i>E1</i>	6.05×10^{-6}	$2p_{3/2}$	$3s_{1/2}$	0.0968	0.94	1.09×10^{-7}	3.17×10^{-29}	15.8	5.17×10^2
¹⁸⁹ Os	16.1%	69.6	<i>M1</i>	1.62×10^{-9}	$1s_{1/2}$	$3s_{1/2}$	0.413	1.28	2.93×10^{-7}	7.63×10^{-31}	118.2	3.45×10^3
¹⁹³ Ir	62.7%	73.0	<i>M1</i>	6.09×10^{-9}	$1s_{1/2}$	$3s_{1/2}$	0.426	-0.10	4.93×10^{-5}	1.21×10^{-28}	121.8	4.23×10^5
¹⁹⁵ Au	1.61×10^7	61.5	<i>M1</i>	3.0×10^{-9}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2s_{1/2}$	0.934	4.91	8.79×10^{-8}	1.91×10^{-31}	129.2	8.41×10^2
¹⁹⁷ Au	100%	77.3	<i>M1</i>	1.91×10^{-9}	$1s_{1/2}$	$3s_{1/2}$	0.454	-0.054	1.97×10^{-4}	4.29×10^{-28}	129.2	3.27×10^6
²³¹ Pa	1.03×10^{12}	84.2	<i>E1</i>	4.51×10^{-8}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{1/2}$	4.62	8.07	7.22×10^{-7}	8.07×10^{-31}	180.2	4.97×10^4
²³⁷ Np	6.77×10^{13}	102.9	<i>E1</i>	8.0×10^{-10}	$1s_{1/2}$	$2p_{3/2}$	4.88	-1.91	2.83×10^{-5}	2.85×10^{-29}	189.9	1.57×10^6

the atomic shells are compensated by the larger proton range in the target.

In this paper we have investigated the possibility of inducing nuclear deexcitation rates comparable to the natural emission rates from nuclear isomeric states by using the relatively large energy of the interaction extant between the nuclear protons and the inner atomic electrons. The calculations of the present work show that significant induced emis-

sion rates could be obtained for ionizing energy fluxes of the order of 10^{14} W cm⁻². An application of x-ray electron-nuclear transitions which requires lower electron fluxes is the generation for certain elements of pulses of Mössbauer gamma radiation.

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