

²⁴²Am α decay (141 y) [1990Ho02,1979Ba67](#)

Type	Author	History Citation	Literature Cutoff Date
Full Evaluation	E. Browne, J. K. Tuli	NDS 127,191 (2015)	1-Jun-2014

Parent: ²⁴²Am: E=48.63 5; J π =5⁻; T_{1/2}=141 y 2; Q(α)=5588.50 25; % α decay=0.459 12

²⁴²Am-Q(α): From [2012Wa38](#).

²⁴²Am-[Additional information 2](#).

²⁴²Am-% α decay: % α =0.459 12.

[Additional information 3](#).

The α decay branching of ^{242m}Am is 0.459% 12; 98.54% decays by an isomeric transition (IT).

²³⁸Np Levels

E(level) [†]	J π [@]	T _{1/2}	Comments
0	2 ⁺		
26.450 [#] 16	3 ⁺		
62.344 [#] 22	4 ⁺		
86.651 [#] 15	3 ⁺		
106.13 [#] 3	5 ⁺		
121.659 [#] 23	4 ⁺		
136.021 14	3 ⁻	6.0 ns	T _{1/2} : from $\alpha\gamma(t)$ of 1966As06 .
161.68 4	6 ⁺		
165.518 23	5 ⁺		
179.145 18	4 ⁻		
182.885 16	2 ⁻		
215.503 16	3 ⁻		
218.7 6	(6 ⁺)		
232.82 3	5 ⁻		
250.33 3	(1 ⁺)		
258.83 3	4 ⁻		
275.505 23	5 ⁺		
297.01 5	(6 ⁻)	&	
299.25 6	(3 ⁺)	&	
300.726 25	(6 ⁻)	&	
300.79 5	1 ⁻ ,2,3,4 ⁻	&	
312.75 5	5 ⁻		
328.77? 3	6 ⁺		
334.8? \ddagger	1 ⁻ to 3 ⁻		
342.390 18	5 ⁻		
374.7? 10	(5 ⁺)		E(level): from (d,p). Additional information 4 .
376.68 7	(6 ⁻)		
389.2 6	7 ⁺		
397.3 \ddagger 15			
407.58 7	6 ⁻		
459.6 \ddagger 6	(6 ⁺)		
470 \ddagger 2	1 ⁻ to 4 ⁻		
484 \ddagger 3	7 ⁻		
525.3 \ddagger 15	(7 ⁺)		
578.7 \ddagger			

Continued on next page (footnotes at end of table)

²⁴²Am α decay (141 y) **1990Ho02,1979Ba67 (continued)**

²³⁸Np Levels (continued)

† From a least-squares fit to the E γ data, except where noted otherwise.

‡ From E α and Q(α).

Rounded-off values from Adopted Levels.

@ From Adopted Levels.

& **1966As06** report T_{1/2}=50 ns for a level at 300 keV from an $\alpha\gamma(t)$ experiment. No details are given, in particular the γ transition selected is not given, so which of the four levels at 300 keV is involved cannot be determined.

α radiations

Additional information 5.

E α &	E(level)	I α ‡b	HF†	Comments
4974.7#	578.7	≈0.002#	≈2400	E α : from 1979Ba67 . Not reported in 1990Ho02 . HF: HF=2.4×10 ³ 3.
5027.2 15	525.3	0.02 1	≈700	E α : weighted average of 5026.9 keV 15 from 1979Ba67 , and 5031 keV 5 from 1990Ho02 . HF: symmetrized uncertainty. HF=540 +509–210.
5068 3	484	0.25 7	88 30	E α : unweighted average of 5064.0 keV 15 from 1979Ba67 , and 5072 keV 3 from 1990Ho02 .
5082# 2	470	0.03#	8.3×10 ² 11	E α : from 1979Ba67 . Not reported in 1990Ho02 .
5091.8 6	459.6	0.21 7	158 60	E α : weighted average of 5088.2 keV 15 from 1979Ba67 and 5093 keV 4 from 1990Ho02 .
5143.0 13	407.58	5.6 2	11.1 16	E α : 5141.4 keV 5 (1979Ba67), 5144.4 keV 9 (1990Ho02).
5153.1# 15	397.3	0.02#	3.6×10 ³ 5	E α : from 1979Ba67 . Not reported in 1990Ho02 .
5173.31 @ 26	376.68	≤0.04 @	≥2000	
5175.3 @ 10	374.7?	≤0.04 @	≥2100	
5207.06 25	342.390	89.0 7	1.79 24	E α : 5206.6 keV 5 (1979Ba67), 5208.4 keV 8 (1990Ho02).
5214.5#c	334.8?	0.03#	5.9×10 ³ 8	E α : reported only in 1979Ba67 as a questionable line.
5248.12 ^a 26	300.79	≤1.1 ^a	≥220	
5248.01 ^a 25	300.726	≤1.1 ^a	≥220	
5249.50 ^a 26	299.25	≤0.04 ^a	≥6100	
5251.67 ^a 26	297.01	≤0.04 ^a	≥6300	E α : 4251.67 corrected to 5251.67.
5272.85 25	275.505	1.1 1	420 41	E α : ≈5273 keV (1979Ba67), 5271 keV 3 (1990Ho02).
5314.83 25	232.82	0.6 1	376 70	E α : 5313.3 keV 10 (1979Ba67), 5313.6 keV 10 (1990Ho02).
5331.85 25	215.503	0.15 10	≈11×10 ³	E α : 5331 keV 5 (1990Ho02). Not reported in 1979Ba67 . HF: symmetrized uncertainties. HF=6×10 ³ +14–3.
5367.61 25	179.145	1.1 2	1.5×10 ³ 4	E α : 5367.0 keV 10 (1979Ba67), 5369.1 keV 18 (1990Ho02).
5410.03 25	136.021	1.0 2	2.9×10 ³ 8	E α : 5409.1 keV 10 (1979Ba67), 5412.4 keV 21 (1990Ho02).
5458.58# 25	86.651	0.14#	3.9×10 ⁴ 5	E α : 1979Ba67 report 5458.1 keV 15. Not reported in 1990Ho02 . HF: uncertainty in HF does not include the contribution from I α .
5517.79#	26.450	≤0.006#	≥1.7×10 ⁶	E α ,I α : 1979Ba67 report 5517.1 keV but this α peak may include a contribution from ²⁴² Cm α decay not reported in 1990Ho02 . E α : uncertainty of 0.25 keV omitted in view of general footnote for I α .

† r₀=1.508 5.

‡ From **1990Ho02**, except where noted otherwise. Uncertainties are not given in **1979Ba67**; however, their values agree well with those given in **1990Ho02**, except for the branch to the 300-keV level (or doublet).

From **1979Ba67**, not reported in **1990Ho02**.

@ **1979Ba67** report a doublet with E≈5173 and 5173.5 15 with I α =0.04. One of these lines corresponds to the 376.71 6 level. The other may correspond to a 374.7 keV 10 level reported in (d,p).

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 ^{242}Am α decay (141 y) [1990Ho02](#), [1979Ba67](#) (continued) α radiations (continued)

[&] From $Q(\alpha)$ and $E(\text{level})$, except where noted otherwise. Experimental values have been measured in [1990Ho02](#) and [1979Ba67](#) and are given in comments. Note that for [1979Ba67](#), the authors' original values have been decreased by 0.2 keV, as recommended in [1991Ry01](#), to account for changes in calibration energies. The authors assign $\Delta(E\alpha)=0.5$ keV to the two most intense lines, and state that uncertainties do not exceed 1.0- to 1.5 keV for most of the other lines. Based on this statement, the evaluators have assigned uncertainties of 1.0 keV for lines with $I\alpha$ between 0.6- and 1.2%, and 1.5 keV for lines with $I\alpha$ between 0.02 and 0.2. No uncertainties have been assigned to the two lines with $I\alpha < 0.01\%$.

^a $E\alpha=5249.8$ keV *I5* (with $\%I\alpha=0.04$) in [1979Ba67](#) gives $E(\text{level})=298.9$ keV *I5*. Based just on energy, this α branch could correspond to those to the 299.24 keV and possibly to the 297.04- or 300.65 keV levels. The branch with $E=5248.1$ keV *I2*, is a weighted average of 5248.0 keV *I5*, from [1979Ba67](#), and 5248.4 keV *I22* from [1990Ho02](#), gives $E(\text{level})=300.7$ keV *I2* which could correspond to the the 299.24 level. [1979Ba67](#) give $I\alpha \approx 0.11\%$ and [1990Ho02](#) give 1.0% *I* for this branch. [1990Ho02](#) assign the first branch to the 297.04 level, and the second to the 299.24 and 300.65 levels. Evaluators suggest that the 300.755-keV level also may be fed.

^b For absolute intensity per 100 decays, multiply by 4.59×10^{-3} *I2*.

^c Existence of this branch is questionable.

²⁴²Am α decay (141 y) ^{1990Ho02,1979Ba67} (continued)

$\gamma(^{238}\text{Np})$

I γ normalization, I(γ +ce) normalization: [Additional information 1.](#)
[Additional information 6.](#)

E_γ [‡]	I γ ^{‡e}	E _i (level)	J π _i	E _f	J π _f	Mult. [†]	δ [†]	α ^f	Comments
(24.31 ^c) x26.32 3	1.36 10	86.651	3 ⁺	62.344	4 ⁺	E1(+M2)			Additional information 7. I γ : It probably contains contribution from contamination with ²⁴¹ Am alpha decay. Mult.: the multipolarity is mainly E1 since I(γ +ce) should be <100. This limit gives $\delta(M2/E1)<0.05$.
(26.44 ^c)		26.450	3 ⁺	0	2 ⁺				
(32.62 ^c)		215.503	3 ⁻	182.885	2 ⁻				
(35.01 ^c)		121.659	4 ⁺	86.651	3 ⁺				
(35.89 ^c)		62.344	4 ⁺	26.450	3 ⁺				
(43.12 ^c)		179.145	4 ⁻	136.021	3 ⁻				
(43.33 ^c)		258.83	4 ⁻	215.503	3 ⁻				
(43.79 ^c)		106.13	5 ⁺	62.344	4 ⁺				
(43.86 ^c)		165.518	5 ⁺	121.659	4 ⁺				
(46.87 ^c)		182.885	2 ⁻	136.021	3 ⁻				
49.35 2	29.1 9	136.021	3 ⁻	86.651	3 ⁺	E1		0.828	
(53.2 ^c)		218.7	(6 ⁺)	165.518	5 ⁺				
53.69 3	0.45 6	232.82	5 ⁻	179.145	4 ⁻	M1+E2	0.271 4	50.1 4	
(53.92 ^c)		312.75	5 ⁻	258.83	4 ⁻				
57.54 ^d 6	0.21 5	179.145	4 ⁻	121.659	4 ⁺				
(59.32 ^c)		121.659	4 ⁺	62.344	4 ⁺				
60.13 6	1.19 11	86.651	3 ⁺	26.450	3 ⁺	M1+E2	0.08 2	24.5 3	
(62.34 ^c)		62.344	4 ⁺	0	2 ⁺				
66.89 2	3.25 10	342.390	5 ⁻	275.505	5 ⁺	E1		0.369	Additional information 8.
67.93 3	0.87 7	300.726	(6 ⁻)	232.82	5 ⁻				E γ : duplicated γ ray, the unplaced one has been omitted.
73.66 2	1.71 12	136.021	3 ⁻	62.344	4 ⁺	E1		0.290	
(75.95 ^c)		258.83	4 ⁻	182.885	2 ⁻				
(79.48 ^c)		215.503	3 ⁻	136.021	3 ⁻				
(79.68 ^c)		106.13	5 ⁺	26.450	3 ⁺				
84.9 2	0.21 7	300.79	1 ⁻ ,2,3,4 ⁻	215.503	3 ⁻				
86.65 2	4.97 15	86.651	3 ⁺	0	2 ⁺	M1+E2	0.112 3	8.56 1	
x89.60 5	0.29 7								
92.52 3	0.61 7	179.145	4 ⁻	86.651	3 ⁺				
93.82 3	0.79 9	215.503	3 ⁻	121.659	4 ⁺				
(95.21 ^c)		121.659	4 ⁺	26.450	3 ⁺				

²⁴²Am α decay (141 y) **1990Ho02,1979Ba67** (continued)

$\gamma(^{238}\text{Np})$ (continued)

E_γ ‡	I_γ ‡e	$E_i(\text{level})$	J_i^π	E_f	J_f^π	Mult. †	δ^\dagger	α^f
95.7 6		182.885	2 ⁻	86.651	3 ⁺			
(96.80 ^c)		232.82	5 ⁻	136.021	3 ⁻			
98.0 6		312.75	5 ⁻	215.503	3 ⁻			
109.59 ^h 2	≤ 4.3 ^{h#}	136.021	3 ⁻	26.450	3 ⁺	E1+M2	0.026 7	0.142 20
109.59 ^h	≤ 4.3 ^{h#}	342.390	5 ⁻	232.82	5 ⁻			
111.16 5	0.55 9	232.82	5 ⁻	121.659	4 ⁺	(E1)		0.099
113.7 6		389.2	7 ⁺	275.505	5 ⁺			
^x 114.3 6								
117.2 ^g 6		300.79	1 ⁻ ,2,3,4 ⁻	182.885	2 ⁻			
117.2 ^g 6		459.6	(6 ⁺)	342.390	5 ⁻			
117.8 6		376.68	(6 ⁻)	258.83	4 ⁻			
121.3 6		300.726	(6 ⁻)	179.145	4 ⁻			
(121.66 ^c)		121.659	4 ⁺	0	2 ⁺			
122.5 6		258.83	4 ⁻	136.021	3 ⁻			
126.83 ^d 5	0.028 14	342.390	5 ⁻	215.503	3 ⁻			
131.49 8	0.059 31	297.01	(6 ⁻)	165.518	5 ⁺			
132.6 6		407.58	6 ⁻	275.505	5 ⁺			
135.19 2	1.47 8	300.726	(6 ⁻)	165.518	5 ⁺			
136.03 2	2.05 6	136.021	3 ⁻	0	2 ⁺	E1		0.251
139.05 ^h 2	≤ 0.031 ^{h&}	165.518	5 ⁺	26.450	3 ⁺			
139.05 ^h 2	≤ 0.031 ^{h&}	300.726	(6 ⁻)	161.68	6 ⁺			
151.07 4	0.018 4	312.75	5 ⁻	161.68	6 ⁺			
152.69 ^h 2	≤ 0.158 ^{h@}	179.145	4 ⁻	26.450	3 ⁺			
152.69 ^h 2	≤ 0.158 ^{h@}	258.83	4 ⁻	106.13	5 ⁺			
(153.16 ^c)		215.503	3 ⁻	62.344	4 ⁺			
153.85 2	0.721 22	275.505	5 ⁺	121.659	4 ⁺			
156.46 2	0.059 10	182.885	2 ⁻	26.450	3 ⁺	E1		0.181
^x 160.61 2	0.09 4							
163.25 ^{ij} 2	≤ 0.33 ^{ia}	328.77?	6 ⁺	165.518	5 ⁺			
163.25 ⁱ 2	3.34 ^{ia} 19	342.390	5 ⁻	179.145	4 ⁻	M1+E2	6.6 +24-12	1.90 5
164.67 7		300.79	1 ⁻ ,2,3,4 ⁻	136.021	3 ⁻			
^x 165.97 15	0.010 5							
170.50 1	0.136 10	389.2	7 ⁺	218.7	(6 ⁺)			
174.76 6	0.038 10	407.58	6 ⁻	232.82	5 ⁻			
176.68 15	0.006 3	312.75	5 ⁻	136.021	3 ⁻			
182.86 2	0.199 7	182.885	2 ⁻	0	2 ⁺	E1		0.125
189.01 3	0.059 10	215.503	3 ⁻	26.450	3 ⁺	E1		0.116
190.88 5	0.023 5	297.01	(6 ⁻)	106.13	5 ⁺			
194.61 2	0.308 10	300.726	(6 ⁻)	106.13	5 ⁺			

²⁴²Am α decay (141 y) 1990Ho02,1979Ba67 (continued)

$\gamma(^{238}\text{Np})$ (continued)

E_γ [‡]	I_γ ^{‡e}	$E_i(\text{level})$	J_i^π	E_f	J_f^π	Mult. [†]	α^f	Comments
196.46 10	0.021 10	258.83	4 ⁻	62.344	4 ⁺			E γ : not seen in (n, γ), but assigned to this level in 1990Ho02.
206.37 2	0.34 4	342.390	5 ⁻	136.021	3 ⁻			
213.20 ^d 14	0.012 4	275.505	5 ⁺	62.344	4 ⁺			
215.52 2	0.129 21	215.503	3 ⁻	0	2 ⁺	E1	0.085	
232.40 3	0.122 7	258.83	4 ⁻	26.450	3 ⁺	E1	0.0719	
^x 233.69 10	0.028 7							
237.02 10	0.010 5	299.25	(3 ⁺)	62.344	4 ⁺			
238.53 ^d 5	0.0035 18	300.79	1 ⁻ ,2,3,4 ⁻	62.344	4 ⁺			
250.33 ^{ib} 3	0.110 ^{ib} 6	250.33	(1 ⁺)	0	2 ⁺			
250.33 ^{ib}	≤ 0.024 ^{ib}	312.75	5 ⁻	62.344	4 ⁺			
270.55 6	0.0063 18	376.68	(6 ⁻)	106.13	5 ⁺			
272.75 7	0.0081 18	299.25	(3 ⁺)	26.450	3 ⁺			
280.04 ^d 5	0.0130 14	342.390	5 ⁻	62.344	4 ⁺			
299.20 14	0.006 3	299.25	(3 ⁺)	0	2 ⁺			

[†] From adopted gammas.

[‡] From 1990Ho02, except where noted otherwise. The I_γ are per 100 α decays, obtained by measuring the intensity ratio at saturation for the 984.45-keV γ in ²³⁸Np β^- decay and the 163.25-keV γ in ²⁴²Am (141y) α decay. The uncertainties given are relative values. For absolute uncertainties add 14.3% in quadrature.

[#] 1990Ho02 report $I_\gamma=4.0$ 3 for a 109.59 keV 2 transition doubly placed from the 136- and 342-keV levels.

[@] 1990Ho02 report $I_\gamma=0.150$ 8 for a 152.79-keV 2 transition doubly placed from the 179- and 259-keV levels. The energy is probably a misprint. The authors report E=152.69 keV 3 for the same transition in (n, γ). From E(level) differences, excluding this transition, one obtains $E_\gamma=152.733$ keV 9 for placement from the 179-keV level, and 152.67 keV 4 for placement from the 259-keV level.

[&] 1990Ho02 report $I_\gamma=0.024$ 7 for a 139.05 keV 2 transition doubly placed from the 166- and 300.755 keV levels.

^a 1990Ho02 report $I_\gamma=3.50$ 10 for a 163.25 keV 2 transition doubly placed from the 329- and 342-keV levels. From $I_\gamma/I_\gamma(66.9\gamma)$ in (n, γ), one expects $I_\gamma(163\gamma)=4.0$ 8 for placement from the 342-keV level. This leaves $I_\gamma \leq 0.32$ for placement from the 329-keV level. Evaluators adopt $I_\gamma(163.25\gamma)=3.34$ 19 and ≤ 0.32 for each placement, respectively.

^b 1990Ho02 report $I_\gamma=0.122$ 10 for a 250.33 keV 3 transition doubly placed from the 250.3- and 313-keV levels. From $I_\gamma/I_\gamma(176\gamma) \leq 2.6$ from the 313-keV level in (n, γ), one obtains $I_\gamma(250\gamma \text{ from } 313) \leq 0.024$, and thus $I_\gamma(250\gamma \text{ from } 250)=0.110$ 16.

^c γ transition included on the basis of (n, γ) results in 1990Ho02. E_γ is from level-energy difference.

^d This γ unplaced in 1990Ho02.

^e For absolute intensity per 100 decays, multiply by 4.59×10^{-3} 12.

^f Total theoretical internal conversion coefficients, calculated using the BrIcc code (2008Ki07) with Frozen orbital approximation based on γ -ray energies, assigned multipolarities, and mixing ratios, unless otherwise specified.

^g Multiply placed.

^h Multiply placed with undivided intensity.

ⁱ Multiply placed with intensity suitably divided.

²⁴²Am α decay (141 y) 1990Ho02,1979Ba67 (continued)

$\gamma(^{238}\text{Np})$ (continued)

^j Placement of transition in the level scheme is uncertain.
^x γ ray not placed in level scheme.

²⁴²Am α decay (141 y) 1990Ho02,1979Ba67

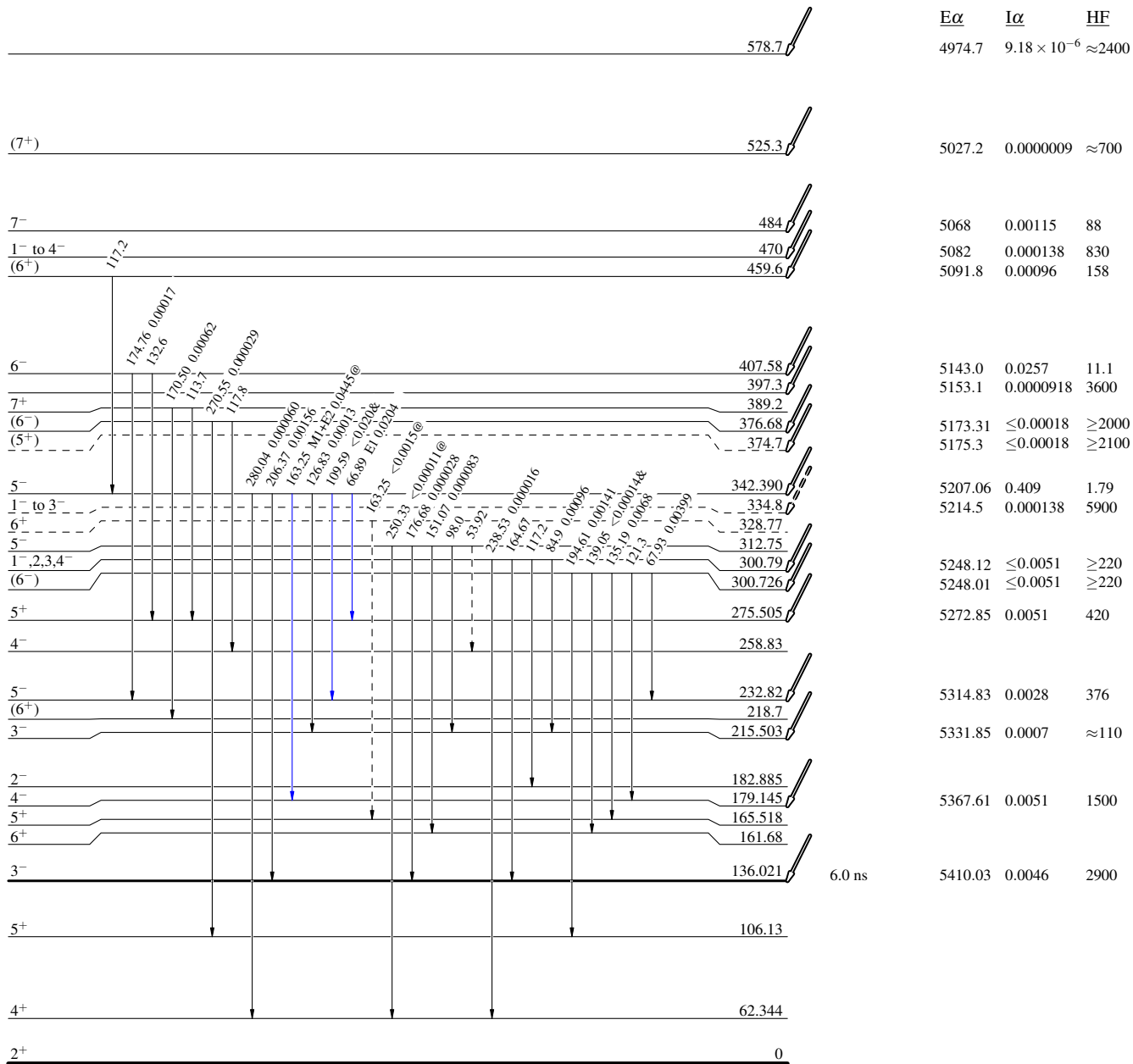
Decay Scheme

Intensities: I_(γ+ce) per 100 parent decays
& Multiply placed: undivided intensity given
@ Multiply placed: intensity suitably divided

Legend

- I_γ < 2% × I_γ^{max}
- I_γ < 10% × I_γ^{max}
- I_γ > 10% × I_γ^{max}
- - - - -→ γ Decay (Uncertain)

5⁻ 48.63 141 y 2
 Q_α=5588.50 25
²⁴²Am₁₄₇ ↓ %α=0.459



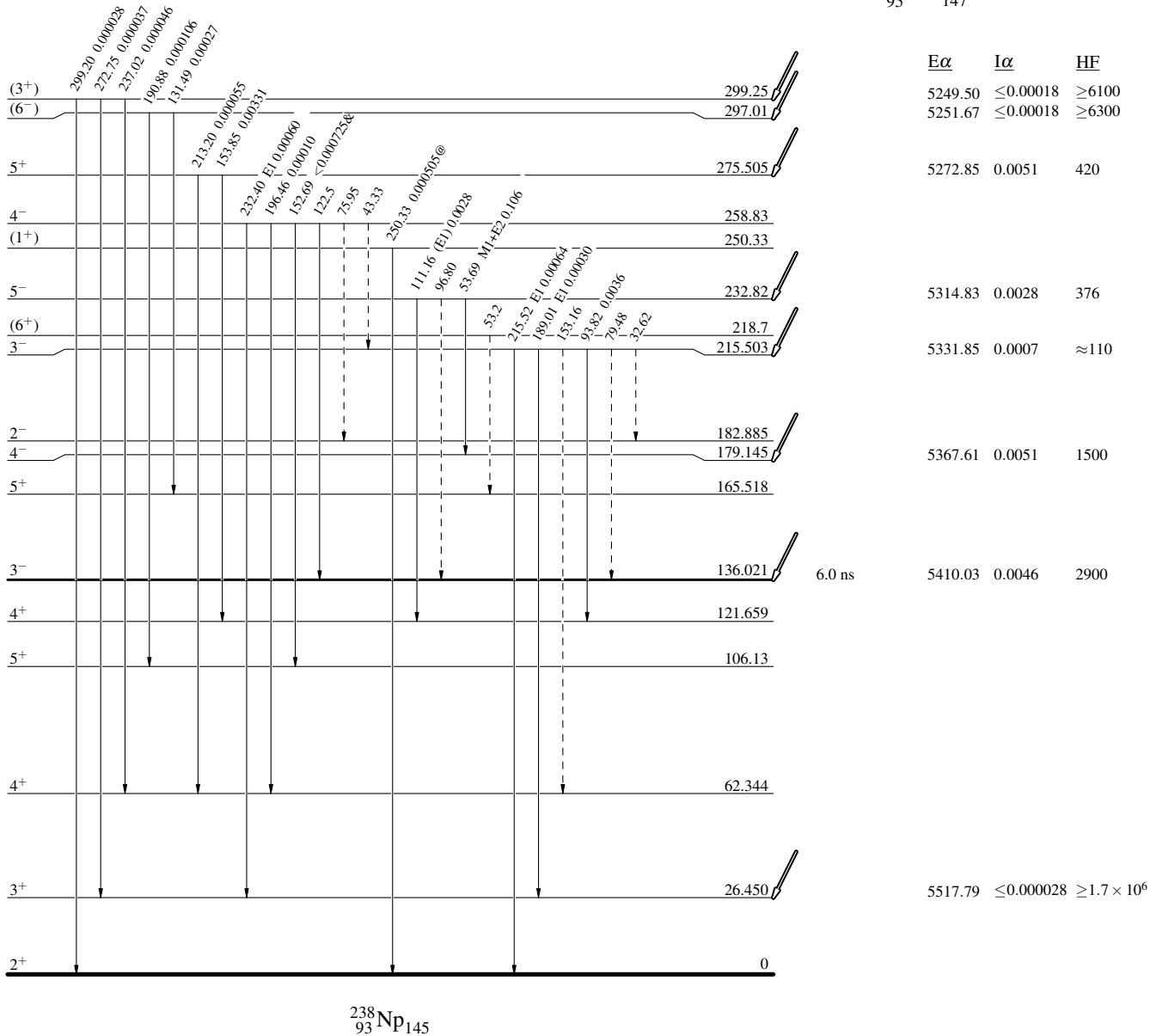
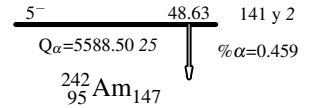
^{242}Am α decay (141 y) 1990Ho02,1979Ba67

Decay Scheme (continued)

Intensities: $I_{(\gamma+ce)}$ per 100 parent decays
 & Multiply placed: undivided intensity given
 @ Multiply placed: intensity suitably divided

Legend

- $I_{\gamma} < 2\% \times I_{\gamma}^{max}$
- $I_{\gamma} < 10\% \times I_{\gamma}^{max}$
- $I_{\gamma} > 10\% \times I_{\gamma}^{max}$
- - - γ Decay (Uncertain)



^{242}Am α decay (141 y) 1990Ho02,1979Ba67

Decay Scheme (continued)

Intensities: $I_{(\gamma+ce)}$ per 100 parent decays
 & Multiply placed: undivided intensity given
 @ Multiply placed: intensity suitably divided

Legend

- $I_{\gamma} < 2\% \times I_{\gamma}^{max}$
- $I_{\gamma} < 10\% \times I_{\gamma}^{max}$
- $I_{\gamma} > 10\% \times I_{\gamma}^{max}$
- - - γ Decay (Uncertain)

