

²³⁸Pa β⁻ decay

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

Parent: ²³⁸Pa: E=0.0; J^π=(3⁻); T_{1/2}=2.28 min 10; Q(β⁻)=3585 16; %β⁻ decay=100.0

Additional information 1.

The Gamow-Teller β-decay strength function has been calculated in 1978Iz04 and 1979KIZT.

The decay scheme is that given in 1970HeZX. It is the same as that given in 1969KaZP except that 1969KaZP show a level at 1160, not adopted here, and 1970HeZX show a level at 1243.

Delayed fission activity observed (T_{1/2}=2.3 min 1) from ²³⁸Pa source was interpreted in 1978Ga07 as due to a spontaneously fissioning level in the second minimum of ²³⁸U nuclear potential, populated in ²³⁸Pa β⁻ decay. Delayed fission probability was determined to be ≈1×10⁻⁸. Delayed fission probability more than 5×10⁻⁷ from 1977BoZO. Delayed fission probability less than 2.6×10⁻⁸ obtained by 1985Ba57. This result rules out positive evidence for this decay mode of ²³⁸Pa reported in 1977BoZO and 1978Ga07.

²³⁸U Levels

E(level)	J ^π †	T _{1/2}	E(level)	J ^π †	E(level)	J ^π †
0.0‡	0 ⁺	4.468×10 ⁹ y 6	1037@	2 ⁺	1412.95?@ 12	2 ⁺
45.0‡	2 ⁺		1059.5 ^b	(3 ⁺)	1561.4	
148.6‡	4 ⁺		1060.0 ^c	2 ⁺	1617.2	
307.3‡	6 ⁺		1105.7 ^d	(3 ⁺)	1645.1	
680.0#	1 ⁻		1128.2 ^e	(2 ⁻)	1675.5	(3 ⁻)
732.0#	3 ⁻		1167.8	(4 ⁺)	1774.6	
826.6#	5 ⁻		1168.9 ^e	3 ⁻	1934.2	(3 ⁻)
930.5&	(1 ⁻)		1223.9@	2 ⁺	1992.1	(3 ⁻)
949.9 ^a	2 ⁻		1243.1 ^e	(4 ⁻)	2063.9	(2 ⁻)
997.6&	3 ⁻		1381.1?			

† From Adopted Levels.

‡ Band(A): K^π=0⁺ ground-state band.

Band(B): K^π=0⁻ octupole-vibrational band.

@ Level proposed by evaluators based on data in Coulomb excitation and (n,n'γ).

& Band(C): K^π=1⁻. α=1.

^a Band(D): K^π=1⁻. α=0.

^b Band(E): K^π=3 ∨ 1/2(631)+∨ 5/2(622).

^c Band(F): K^π=2⁺ γ-vibrational band. α=0.

^d Band(G): K^π=2⁺ γ-vibrational band. α=1.

^e Band(H): K^π=2⁻.

β⁻ radiations

E(decay)†	E(level)	Iβ ⁻ ‡#
1200		35
1700		40
2200		20
2900		5

† From 1968Tr07 (scin).

²³⁸Pa β⁻ decay (continued)

β⁻ radiations (continued)

‡ From 1968Tr07. Intensities are per 100 β⁻ decays.
 # Absolute intensity per 100 decays.

γ(²³⁸U)

γγ: see 1969KaZP, 1970TrZZ.

x-rays (relative to I_γ(1015γ)=100 (1969KaZP,1968Tr07)):

E _γ	I _γ			
13.53	--	Lα ₁	x ray+Lα ₂	x ray
17.17		Lβ ₁	x ray	
16.44		Lβ ₂	x ray	
20.13		Lγ ₁	x ray	
94.67	60	Kα ₂	x ray	
98.42	83	Kα ₁	x ray	
110.42		Kβ ₃	x ray	
111.28	33	Kβ ₁	x ray	
114.39	11	Kβ ₂	x ray	

the intensity given for Kβ₁ x ray includes Kβ₃ x ray

E _γ [†]	I _γ ^{‡#}	E _i (level)	J _i ^π	E _f	J _f ^π	Comments
(41.4)		1168.9	3 ⁻	1128.2	(2 ⁻)	E _γ : from Coulomb excitation. Not seen in β ⁻ decay.
45.02 ^d		45.0	2 ⁺	0.0	0 ⁺	
68.1 ^{&}		1128.2	(2 ⁻)	1060.0	2 ⁺	
68.8	7	1128.2	(2 ⁻)	1059.5	(3 ⁺)	
103.4	12	148.6	4 ⁺	45.0	2 ⁺	
109.4 ^{&}		1168.9	3 ⁻	1059.5	(3 ⁺)	
^x 114.8 ^d						
^x 115.23 ^d						
^x 115.55 ^d						
130.7		1128.2	(2 ⁻)	997.6	3 ⁻	
^x 142.64 ^d						
^x 154.4	3					
158.7	4	307.3	6 ⁺	148.6	4 ⁺	
^x 164.5						
171.1		1168.9	3 ⁻	997.6	3 ⁻	
178.2	11	1128.2	(2 ⁻)	949.9	2 ⁻	
^x 189.4	≤2 ^h					
^x 193.3	≤2 ^h					
197.8	9	1128.2	(2 ⁻)	930.5	(1 ⁻)	
^x 212.9						
217.9	14	949.9	2 ⁻	732.0	3 ⁻	
^x 221.9	4					
^x 228.8						
^x 238.3						E _γ : placed by 1970HeZX from the 1169 3- level; however, this transition is not reported in Coulomb excitation or in (n,n'γ).
250.6	7	930.5	(1 ⁻)	680.0	1 ⁻	
^x 258.5	8					
^x 265.5						E _γ : placed by 1970HeZX from the 998 3- level; however, this transition is not reported in Coulomb excitation or in (n,n'γ).
269.8	12	949.9	2 ⁻	680.0	1 ⁻	

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$^{238}\text{Pa} \beta^-$ decay (continued) $\gamma(^{238}\text{U})$ (continued)

E_γ †	I_γ ‡#	$E_i(\text{level})$	J_i^π	E_f	J_f^π	Comments
^x 276						
289.1	4	1934.2	(3 ⁻)	1645.1		
^x 293.0	12					
^x 301.8	2					
317.0	7	1934.2	(3 ⁻)	1617.2		
^x 322.0						
^x 329.5						
^x 347.3						
^x 353.3						
373	≤6@	1934.2	(3 ⁻)	1561.4		
375	≤6@	1992.1	(3 ⁻)	1617.2		
^x 377	≤6@					
396.5	18	1128.2	(2 ⁻)	732.0	3 ⁻	
^x 407.5	9					
^x 422.2	6					
^x 433.0						
437.0	16	1168.9	3 ⁻	732.0	3 ⁻	
^x 442.9						
448.3	69 ^P	1128.2	(2 ⁻)	680.0	1 ⁻	
448.3	≈7 ^P	1617.2		1168.9	3 ⁻	E_γ : taken from author's spectrum. The value given on the decay scheme is 448.4.
^x 456.2	7					
^x 459.6						
^x 465.6	2					
476.2	19	1645.1		1168.9	3 ⁻	
489.0	4 ^q	1168.9	3 ⁻	680.0	1 ⁻	
489.0	16 ^q	1617.2		1128.2	(2 ⁻)	
501.9	26	1561.4		1059.5	(3 ⁺)	
^x 508.4						
^x 511						
519.3	≈1.5 ⁿ	826.6	5 ⁻	307.3	6 ⁺	
547.2	40	1675.5	(3 ⁻)	1128.2	(2 ⁻)	
557.9	≤4 ^a	1617.2		1059.5	(3 ⁺)	557.9 γ may feed the 1059.5- or 1060.0-keV level.
^x 569.6	≤6 ^l					
^x 572.1	≤6 ^l					
583.5	41	732.0	3 ⁻	148.6	4 ⁺	
605.7	10	1774.6		1168.9	3 ⁻	
^x 615.2	8					
^x 623.6	19					
635.0	88	680.0	1 ⁻	45.0	2 ⁺	
646.4	9	1774.6		1128.2	(2 ⁻)	
^x 659.8						
^x 667.7						
678 ^f	≈3 ⁿ	826.6	5 ⁻	148.6	4 ⁺	
679.9	70 ⁿ	680.0	1 ⁻	0.0	0 ⁺	
686.8	54	732.0	3 ⁻	45.0	2 ⁺	
^x 744						
^x 749						
765.3	4	1934.2	(3 ⁻)	1168.9	3 ⁻	
^x 769						
^x 797.5						
805.7	44	1934.2	(3 ⁻)	1128.2	(2 ⁻)	
^x 818.1						
823.2	9	1992.1	(3 ⁻)	1168.9	3 ⁻	

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$^{238}\text{Pa} \beta^-$ decay (continued)

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

E_γ †	I_γ ‡#	$E_i(\text{level})$	J_i^π	E_f	J_f^π	Comments
^x 836.7						
^x 839.6						
849.1	20	997.6	3 ⁻	148.6	4 ⁺	I_γ : 1968Tr07 assign $I_\gamma=14$ and $I_\gamma=6$ to peaks at 849.3 and 851.9, respectively. Only a single peak is shown in 1970HeZX.
863.6	54	1992.1	(3 ⁻)	1128.2	(2 ⁻)	
874.4	9	1934.2	(3 ⁻)	1059.5	(3 ⁺)	
885.5	45	930.5	(1 ⁻)	45.0	2 ⁺	
905.0	23	949.9	2 ⁻	45.0	2 ⁺	
911.1	17 ^m 3	1059.5	(3 ⁺)	148.6	4 ⁺	
911.1	2 ^m 2	1060.0	2 ⁺	148.6	4 ⁺	
930.5	≤6 ^b	930.5	(1 ⁻)	0.0	0 ⁺	
932.5	≤6 ^b	1992.1	(3 ⁻)	1059.5	(3 ⁺)	
943.5	7	1675.5	(3 ⁻)	732.0	3 ⁻	
952.4	21	997.6	3 ⁻	45.0	2 ⁺	
957.2	18	1105.7	(3 ⁺)	148.6	4 ⁺	
^x 961						
^x 967	≤4 ^c					
^x 969	≤4 ^c					
^x 979.6						
984.6	7	1934.2	(3 ⁻)	949.9	2 ⁻	
^x 991.1						
991.1 ^e		1037	2 ⁺	45.0	2 ⁺	
995.4	10	1675.5	(3 ⁻)	680.0	1 ⁻	
1003.6		1934.2	(3 ⁻)	930.5	(1 ⁻)	
1014.5	≤100 ^s	1059.5	(3 ⁺)	45.0	2 ⁺	
1015.2	≤100 ^s	1060.0	2 ⁺	45.0	2 ⁺	
1019	≈2 ^r	1167.8	(4 ⁺)	148.6	4 ⁺	
1020	8 ^r	1168.9	3 ⁻	148.6	4 ⁺	
^x 1032.9						
^x 1036.1						
1036.1 ^e		1037	2 ⁺	0.0	0 ⁺	
1042.4	8	1774.6		732.0	3 ⁻	
1060.1	≤45 ^t	1060.0	2 ⁺	0.0	0 ⁺	
1060.6	≤45 ^t	1105.7	(3 ⁺)	45.0	2 ⁺	
^x 1071						
^x 1074						
1083.4	50	1128.2	(2 ⁻)	45.0	2 ⁺	
^x 1090.2						
1094.5 ^u	≤5 ^u	1243.1	(4 ⁻)	148.6	4 ⁺	
1094.5 ^u	≤5 ^u	1774.6		680.0	1 ⁻	
^x 1112	≤6 ^j					
^x 1113	≤6 ^j					
1123	≈1 ^o	1167.8	(4 ⁺)	45.0	2 ⁺	
1124	4 ^o	1168.9	3 ⁻	45.0	2 ⁺	
^x 1159.5	≤5 ^k					
^x 1161.5	≤5 ^k					
^x 1178.8	6					
1178.8 ^e	6	1223.9	2 ⁺	45.0	2 ⁺	
^x 1214.8	6					
^x 1224.0	6					
1224.0 ^e	6	1223.9	2 ⁺	0.0	0 ⁺	
^x 1233.5						
^x 1306.4						

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$^{238}\text{Pa} \beta^-$ decay (continued) $\gamma(^{238}\text{U})$ (continued)

E_γ^\dagger	$I_\gamma^{\ddagger\#}$	$E_i(\text{level})$	J_i^π	E_f	J_f^π	Comments
$^{x1311.7}$						
$^{x1325.2}$						
1332.0	5	2063.9	(2 ⁻)	732.0	3 ⁻	
$^{x1336.7}$						
1336.7 ^{iv}	≈1	1381.1?		45.0	2 ⁺	
$^{x1359.3}$						
x1364						
$^{x1368.8}$	5					
1368.8 ^{iv}	5	1412.95?	2 ⁺	45.0	2 ⁺	
$^{x1377.1}$	4					
1383.9	7	2063.9	(2 ⁻)	680.0	1 ⁻	
x1394						
x1410	≤3 ^g					
1413 ^{iv}	3	1412.95?	2 ⁺	0.0	0 ⁺	
1413	≤3 ^g	1561.4		148.6	4 ⁺	
x1420						
1496.6	8	1645.1		148.6	4 ⁺	
$^{x1507.1}$						
1516.5		1561.4		45.0	2 ⁺	
1527.1	4	1675.5	(3 ⁻)	148.6	4 ⁺	
1600	3 ^a	1645.1		45.0	2 ⁺	
x1611	3					
x1620						
1626	3 ^a	1774.6		148.6	4 ⁺	
1630.5	3 ^a	1675.5	(3 ⁻)	45.0	2 ⁺	
$^{x1647.5}$						
1730	3 ^a	1774.6		45.0	2 ⁺	
x1737						
x1752						
1785.7		1934.2	(3 ⁻)	148.6	4 ⁺	
x1804						
x1841						
$^{x1872.5}$						
1889.1	17	1934.2	(3 ⁻)	45.0	2 ⁺	
$^{x1907.0}$						
x1976						
$^{x1985.5}$						
x1997	4					
x2013	3					
2019	7	2063.9	(2 ⁻)	45.0	2 ⁺	
x2048						
x2081						
x2089						
x2126						
x2529	2					

E_γ : reported only by 1968Tr07.

† From 1970HeZX, except where noted otherwise. Others: 1968Tr07 and 1969KaZP. These three references refer to work by the same group, but the spectrum of 1970HeZX is a sum of more runs than the others, and more transitions are reported. All spectra were recorded with a 60 α Ge(Li) detector. In addition, 1969KaZP show a low-energy spectrum, 5-170 keV, taken with a 0.5 α Ge(Li) detector. Only 1968Tr07 report intensities.

‡ From 1968Tr07. No uncertainties are given.

From 1968Tr07. No uncertainties are given. The decay scheme cannot be normalized since the schemes given in the papers

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^{238}Pa β^- decay (continued) $\gamma(^{238}\text{U})$ (continued)

[1970HeZX](#), [1969KaZP](#), [1968Tr07](#) are not complete. In particular, the intensities of several of the transitions among the low-lying levels are not known, and a comparison of the measured $E(\beta^-)$ of [1968Tr07](#) with the $Q(\beta^-)$ value of [1985Ba57](#) and known level energies does not allow one to determine to which levels the measured $I(\beta^-)$ correspond.

@ $I(373\gamma+375\gamma+377\gamma)=6$.

& Peak not labeled in spectrum of [1970HeZX](#), but placed in decay scheme. Peak is present in low-energy spectrum of [1969KaZP](#).

^a Estimated by evaluators from authors' spectrum.

^b $I(930.5\gamma+932.5\gamma)=6$.

^c $I(967\gamma+969\gamma)=4$.

^d Reported only in [1969KaZP](#) in their low-energy spectrum.

^e Unplaced by [1970HeZX](#), but energy agrees with transition seen in Coulomb excitation and in $(n,n'\gamma)$.

^f Peak not labeled in spectrum of [1970HeZX](#), but placed in decay scheme. This weak transition would not be resolved in singles from a strong close-lying peak.

^g $I(1410\gamma+1413\gamma)=3$.

^h $I\gamma(189.4\gamma+193.3\gamma)=2$.

ⁱ Unplaced by authors. Placement suggested by evaluators on the basis of data in Coulomb excitation or $(n,n'\gamma)$.

^j $I\gamma(1112+1113\gamma)=6$.

^k $I\gamma(1159.5\gamma+1161.5\gamma)=5$.

^l $I\gamma(569.6\gamma+572.1\gamma)=6$.

^m [1968Tr07](#) report $I\gamma=19$ for the 911 γ , deexciting the 1060 doublet. From branching in Coulomb excitation, one obtains $I\gamma\leq 4$ for placement from the 1060 2+. If one assigns an uncertainty of 10% to $I\gamma(911\gamma)$, then, with the component from the 1060 2+ taken as 2 2, one obtains $I\gamma=17$ 3 for the component from the 1060 3+.

ⁿ $I\gamma(678\gamma+679.9\gamma)=73$. The 678 γ is placed from the 827 level, and the 679.9 γ from the 680 level. From $I\gamma/I\gamma(635\gamma)=0.79$ 4 for the 680 level in Coulomb excitation, one obtains $I\gamma(679.9\gamma)=70$. Leaving $I\gamma(678\gamma)\approx 3$. From $I\gamma(519\gamma)/I\gamma(678\gamma)=0.50$ 5 for the 827 level in Coulomb excitation, one can deduce $I\gamma(519\gamma)\approx 1.5$ in β decay. [1968Tr07](#) do not report an intensity for this transition.

^o [1968Tr07](#) report $I\gamma=5$ for the 1123+1124 doublet. From Coulomb excitation, $I\gamma(1124\gamma)/I\gamma(437\gamma)=0.27$ 3 for the 1169 3- level, giving $I\gamma(1124\gamma)=4$, thus leaving $I\gamma(1123\gamma)\approx 1$ for the 1168 4+ level.

^p [1968Tr07](#) report $I\gamma=76$ for the 448.3 γ placed by them from the 1129 2- and 1617 levels. From Coulomb excitation, $I\gamma/I\gamma(396\gamma)=3.84$ 25 for placement from the 1129 level, giving $I\gamma(448.3\gamma)=69$ for this placement, leaving $I\gamma\approx 7$ for placement from the 1617 level. No uncertainties are given in [1970HeZX](#), but if the uncertainties were greater than about 5%, the data would be consistent with placing the 448 γ entirely from the 1129 level.

^q [1970HeZX](#) report a 489.0 transition with $I\gamma=20$ ([1967Tr07](#)) which they place from the 1169 3- and 1617 levels. From branching in Coulomb excitation, $I\gamma/I\gamma(437\gamma)=0.234$ 19 for placement from the 1169 level which gives $I\gamma(489\gamma)=4$ for this placement, leaving $I\gamma=26$ for placement from the 1617 level.

^r [1968Tr07](#) report $I\gamma=10$ for the 1019+1020 transitions. From Coulomb excitation, $I\gamma(1020\gamma)/I\gamma(437\gamma)=0.50$ 6 for the 1169 3- level, giving $I\gamma(1020\gamma)=8$, thus leaving $I\gamma(1019\gamma)\approx 2$ for the 1168 4+ level.

^s $I\gamma(1014.5\gamma+1015.2\gamma)=100$.

^t $I\gamma(1060.1\gamma+1060.6\gamma)=45$.

^u Multiply placed with undivided intensity.

^v Placement of transition in the level scheme is uncertain.

^x γ ray not placed in level scheme.

$^{238}\text{Pa} \beta^-$ decay

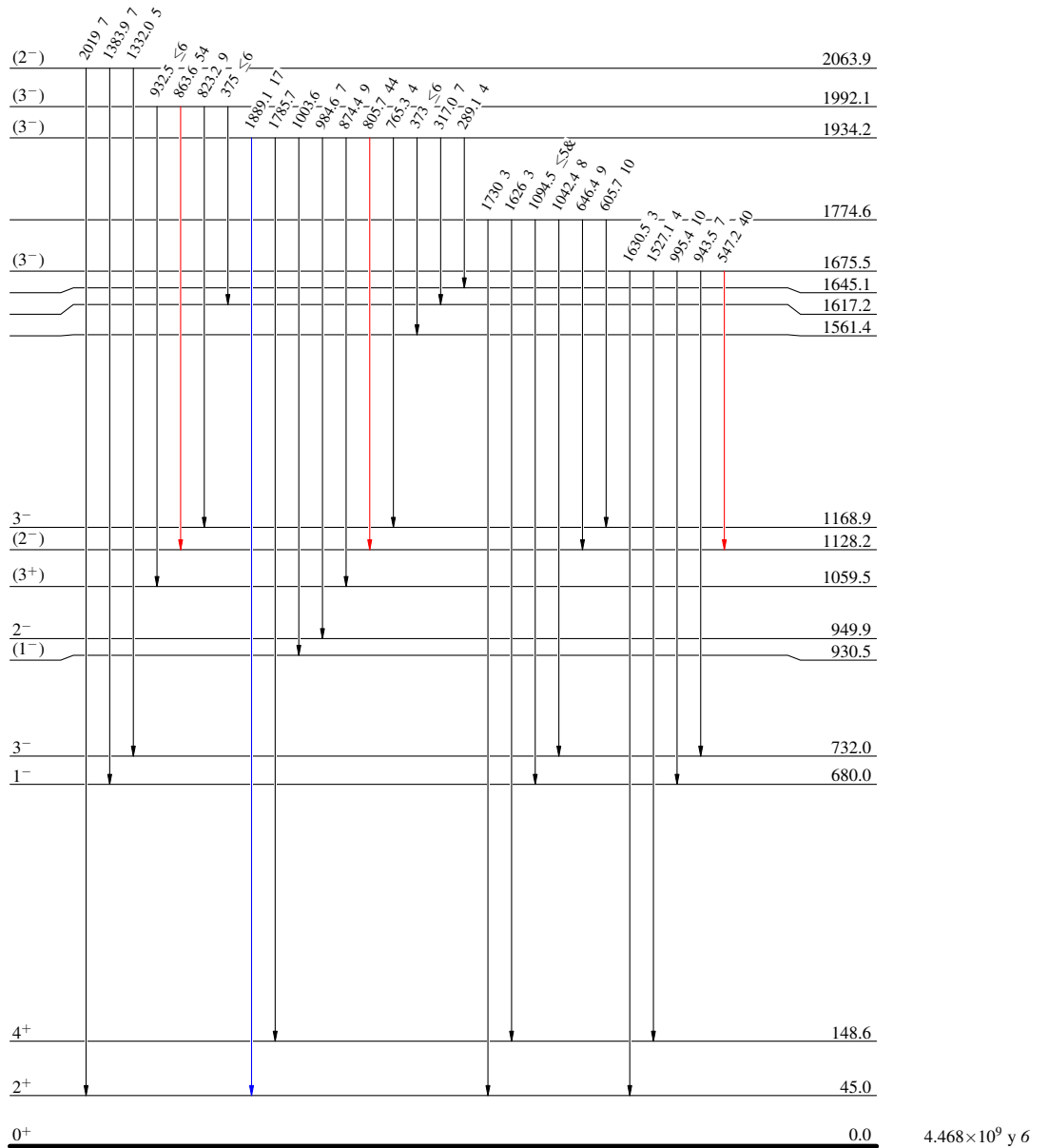
Decay Scheme

Intensities: Type not specified
& Multiply placed: undivided intensity given

Legend

- $I_\gamma < 2\% \times I_\gamma^{max}$
- $I_\gamma < 10\% \times I_\gamma^{max}$
- $I_\gamma > 10\% \times I_\gamma^{max}$

(3^-) 0.0
 $Q_\beta = 3585.16$
 $^{238}\text{Pa}_{147}$
 2.28 min $T_{1/2}$
 $\% \beta^- = 100$



$^{238}_{92}\text{U}_{146}$

^{238}Pa β^- decay

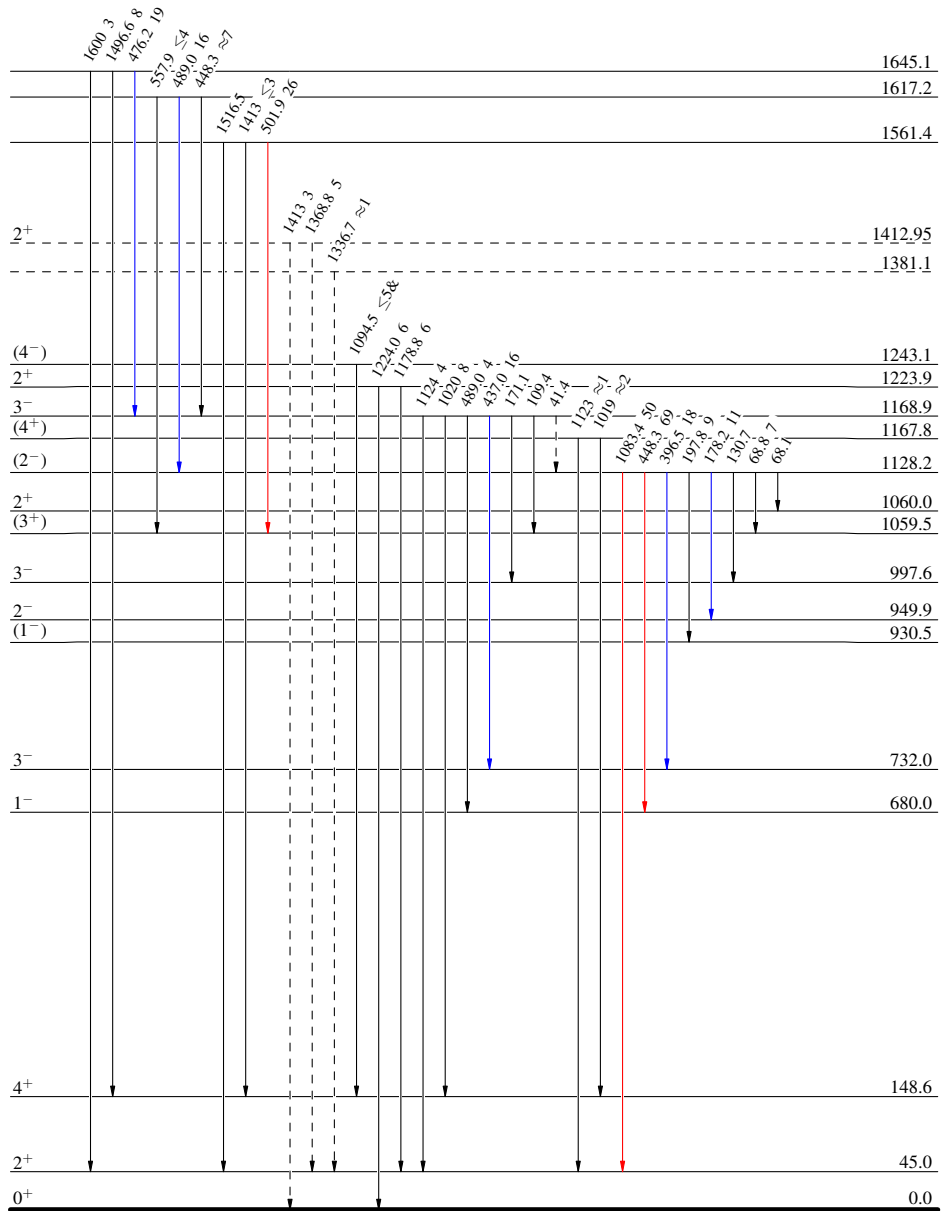
Decay Scheme (continued)

Intensities: Type not specified
& Multiply placed: undivided intensity given

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)

(3^-) 0.0 2.28 min $t_{1/2}$
 $Q_{\beta^-} = 3585.16$ % $\beta^- = 100$
 $^{238}_{91}\text{Pa}_{147}$



4.468×10^9 y $t_{1/2}$

$^{238}_{92}\text{U}_{146}$

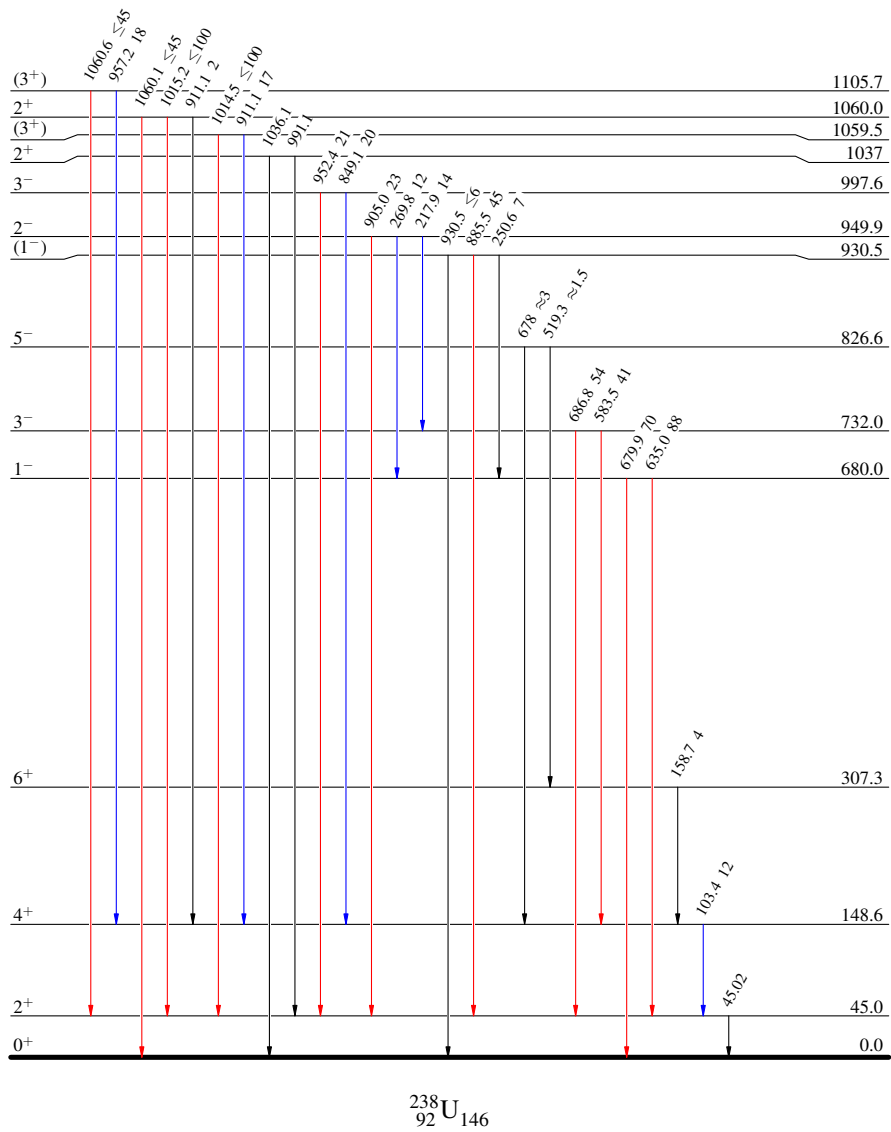
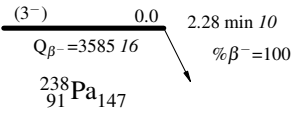
$^{238}\text{Pa} \beta^-$ decay

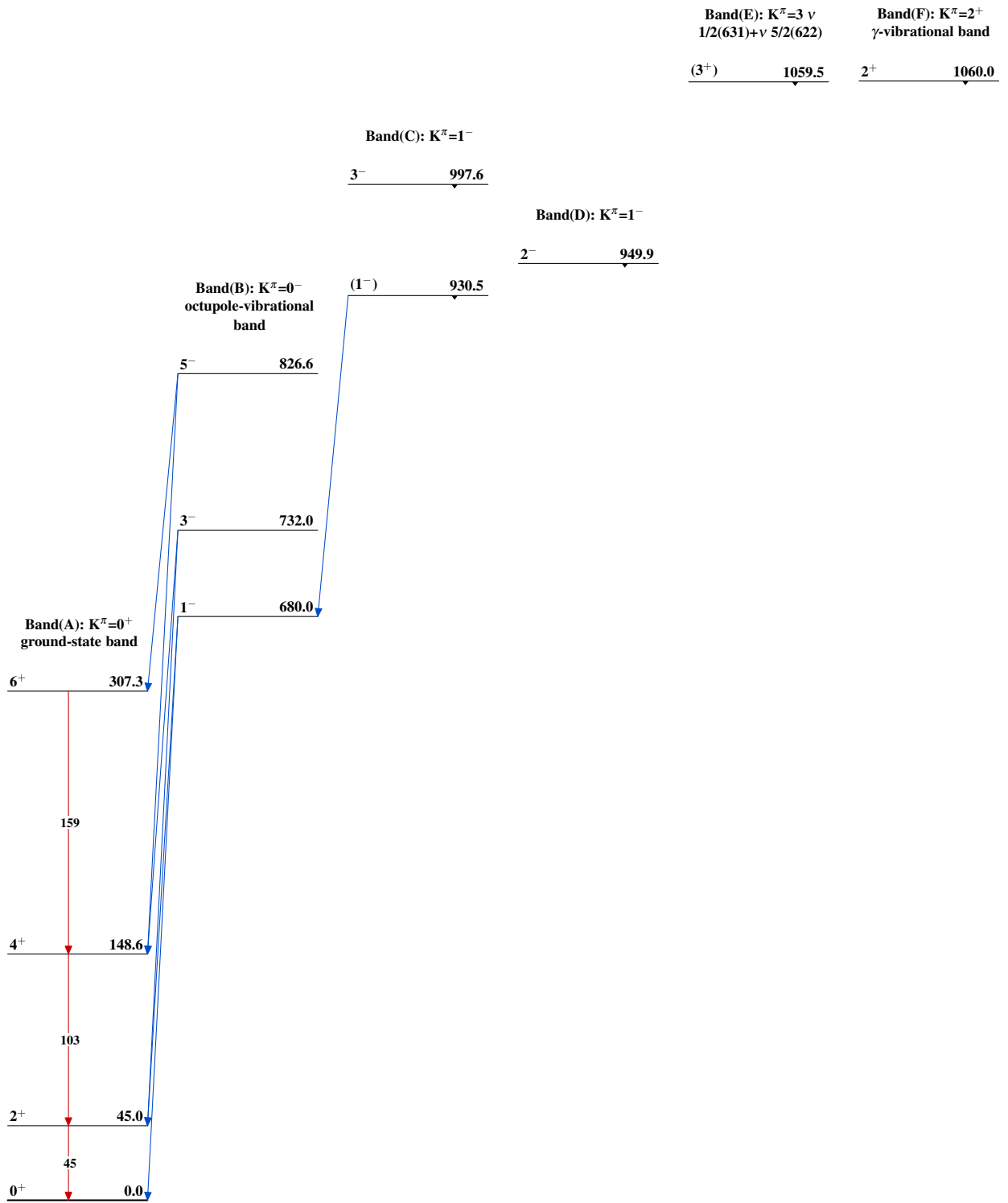
Decay Scheme (continued)

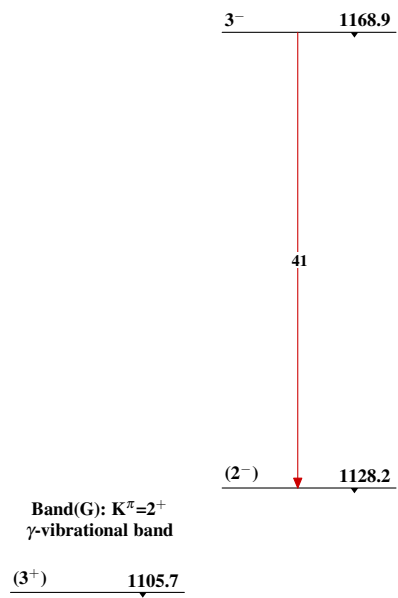
Intensities: Type not specified
& Multiplied: undivided intensity given

Legend

- $I_\gamma < 2\% \times I_\gamma^{\max}$
- $I_\gamma < 10\% \times I_\gamma^{\max}$
- $I_\gamma > 10\% \times I_\gamma^{\max}$



^{238}Pa β^- decay

$^{238}\text{Pa} \beta^-$ decay (continued)Band(H): $K^\pi=2^-$ (4^-) 1243.1 $^{238}_{92}\text{U}_{146}$