

α -decay half-lives and α -cluster preformation factors of nuclei around $N = Z$ line

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Abstract

In this work, a microscopic effective nucleon-nucleon interaction based on the Dirac-Brueckner Hartree-Fock G matrix starting from a bare nucleon-nucleon interaction is used to explore the α -decay half-lives of the nuclei near $N = Z$ line.

Full Text

α -Decay Half-Lives and α -Cluster Preformation Factors of Nuclei Around the $N = Z$ Line

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Abstract

In this work, we employ a microscopic effective nucleon-nucleon interaction derived from the Dirac-Brueckner-Hartree-Fock G matrix, starting from a bare nucleon-nucleon interaction, to investigate the α -decay half-lives of nuclei near the $N = Z$ line. Specifically, the α -nucleus potential is constructed by doubly folding the effective nucleon-nucleon interaction with the density distributions

of both the α -cluster and the daughter nucleus. Additionally, the α -cluster preformation factor is extracted using a cluster formation model.

Our calculations demonstrate that the computed half-lives reproduce experimental data well. We then predict α -decay half-lives for nuclei around $N = Z$ where experimental data are unavailable, which will be helpful for identifying new α -decay candidates in future experiments. Furthermore, by analyzing the proton-neutron correlation energy and the two-proton-two-neutron correlation energy for $Z = 52$ and $Z = 54$ isotopes, we explain the evolution of the α -cluster preformation factor with neutron number N . We find that the two-proton-two-neutron interaction plays a more important role in α -cluster preformation than the proton-neutron interaction, while the proton-neutron interaction gives rise to the odd-even effect in the α -cluster preformation factor.

Keywords: α -decay; nuclei around $N = Z$ line; Dirac-Brueckner-Hartree-Fock approach; Cluster formation model

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Introduction

α -decay has long been recognized as a powerful tool for probing the structure and properties of unstable nuclei. Experimental observations show that α -radioactivity occurs predominantly in heavy nuclei [1]. In recent years, the mass region dominated by α -decay has been continuously expanded through rapid advances in experimental techniques, leading to the successful synthesis of numerous superheavy α emitters via cold-, warm-, and hot-fusion reactions [2-4]. In addition, α -radioactivity has been detected in several medium-mass nuclei approaching the $N = Z$ line, including $^{105-110}\text{Te}$ [5-9], $^{108-113}\text{I}$ [10, 11], $^{109-112}\text{Xe}$ [5, 6, 12, 13], $^{112, 114}\text{Cs}$ [13, 14], and ^{114}Ba [15].

Recently, the Argonne National Laboratory experimentally observed a new α -decay chain $^{108}\text{Xe} \rightarrow ^{104}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{100}\text{Sn}$, including measurements of the α -particle kinetic energy and α -decay half-lives for the new α emitters ^{108}Xe [$E\alpha = 4.4(2)$ MeV, $T_{1/2} = 58^{+106}_{-23}$ μs] and ^{104}Te [$Q\alpha = 4.9(2)$ MeV, $T_{1/2} < 18$ ns] produced via the fusion-evaporation reaction $^{54}\text{Fe}(^{58}\text{Ni}, 4n)^{108}\text{Xe}$ [16]. This represents not only the first observation of α -radioactivity leading to a heavy self-conjugate nucleus ^{100}Sn but also provides valuable insights into the physical mechanism of α -clustering near the $N = Z$ line. Consequently, studies of α -decay properties around the $N = Z$ line have attracted increasing attention [17-27], as these α emitters are crucial for understanding nuclear structure and properties approaching the $N = Z$ line as well as shell effects around $N = Z = 50$ [17-27].

α -decay was first described as a quantum tunneling phenomenon by Gamow [28] and independently by Condon and Gurney [29] in 1928. Building upon this picture, various macroscopic and microscopic approaches have been developed [30-49]. Among these, the α -cluster potential in the nuclear surface region plays a critical role in determining the half-life. Typically, the α -cluster potential

is constructed by double-folding the density distributions of the α -particle and daughter nucleus with an effective nucleon-nucleon (n-n) interaction. Numerous versions of effective n-n interactions exist, based on different physical origins such as the Skyrme interaction [43-45, 50], the Michigan-3-Yukawa interaction [46, 47, 51], and meson-exchange n-n interactions [48, 49, 52].

However, uncertainties remain in our current understanding of the n-n interaction, leading to discrepancies in computational accuracy when calculating α -decay half-lives using different versions of effective n-n interactions [43-49]. Therefore, employing a reasonable effective n-n interaction is crucial for reproducing experimental α -decay half-lives, while conversely, α -decay experimental data provide an excellent testing ground for effective n-n interactions.

In Ref. [53], an effective microscopic n-n interaction was derived through effective meson exchange within the Dirac-Brueckner-Hartree-Fock (DBHF) G matrix, starting from a bare n-n interaction. This interaction has been successfully applied to investigate nuclear structure and scattering [54-57]. Subsequently, the DBHF effective n-n interaction was used to estimate α -decay half-lives of superheavy nuclei, yielding good agreement with experimental data [58]. Given the recent discovery of numerous α emitters approaching the $N = Z$ line, it is of interest to extend the DBHF approach to this mass region to further test the effective n-n interaction. Moreover, previous studies have indicated enhanced α -particle formation probabilities around $N = Z$ nuclei due to strong overlap between neutron and proton Fermi energies [17-27], though the evolution of the α -cluster preformation probability with N remains incompletely understood. The cluster formation model (CFM) has recently been employed to extract α -cluster preformation probabilities [17, 59, 60]. Therefore, in this work we utilize both the DBHF approach and CFM to study α -decay properties of nuclei around the $N = Z$ line and the evolution of the α -cluster preformation probability with N .

This article is organized as follows: Section II presents the theoretical frameworks of DBHF and CFM, Section III provides numerical results and discussions, and Section IV concludes.

II. Theoretical Framework

The total interaction potential $V(R)$ between the α -cluster and daughter nucleus is given by

$$V(R) = V_N(R) + V_C(R) + V_l(R).$$

Here $V(R)$ comprises the nuclear potential $V_N(R)$, Coulomb potential $V_C(R)$, and centrifugal potential $V_l(R)$, respectively, where R is the distance between the mass centers of the α -cluster and daughter nucleus.

The nuclear potential $V_N(R)$ is obtained by doubly folding the effective n-n

interaction with the nucleon density distributions of both the α -particle and daughter nucleus [58]:

$$V_N(R) = \lambda \int \int \rho_\alpha(\mathbf{r}_1) \rho_d(\mathbf{r}_2) V_{\text{ILDA}}(\varepsilon, \rho, s) d\mathbf{r}_1 d\mathbf{r}_2,$$

where V_{ILDA} is the effective n-n interaction incorporating the improved local density approximation (ILDA) derived from the DBHF G matrix starting from a bare n-n interaction [53, 57, 58], expressed as

$$V_{\text{ILDA}}(\varepsilon, \rho, s) = g(s) V_{\text{eff}},$$

$$g(s) = \left(\frac{t_R}{\pi} \right)^{-3} \exp\left(-\frac{s^2}{t_R^2} \right),$$

with $s = R + r_2 - r_1$ representing the relative vector between interacting nucleon pairs (r_1 and r_2 being the coordinates of nucleons in the center-of-mass frames of the α -particle and daughter nucleus, respectively), and t_R is a range parameter.

In Eq. (2), λ , ρ , and ε denote the renormalization factor, local nuclear matter density, and kinetic energy in the nucleon-nucleon center-of-mass frame, respectively. For V_{eff} , it represents the effective n-n interaction without ILDA and is calculated via the Thomas-Fermi approximation: $V_{\text{eff}} = U_{\text{eff}}/\rho$, where U_{eff} is the nucleon self-energy in the nuclear medium.

In the DBHF approach, the real part of the nucleon self-energies is parametrized through polynomial expansions:

$$\text{Re } U_{\text{eff}}(\rho, E) = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \rho^i \varepsilon^{j-1},$$

where E refers to the total nucleon energy in the nuclear medium ($E = \varepsilon + M$), with M being the nucleon rest mass. The coefficients a_{ij} are listed in Table I [57, 58].

TABLE I: Values of the coefficients a_{ij} in Eq. (5).

i	j=1	j=2	j=3
1	-0.797×10^3	0.222×10^1	-0.825×10^{-3}
2	0.366×10^4	-0.438×10^1	-0.696×10^{-2}
3	-0.515×10^4	0.584×10^1	0.221×10^{-1}

In Eq. (2), the local density ρ is calculated using the geometric average of the density distributions of the two interacting nuclei [57, 58, 61]:

$$\rho = \sqrt{\rho_\alpha(\mathbf{r}_1)\rho_\alpha(\mathbf{r}_2)}.$$

The nucleon density distribution of the α -particle $\rho_\alpha(r)$ is given by a Gaussian form [62]:

$$\rho_\alpha(r) = \frac{4}{b_\alpha^3 \pi^{3/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{b_\alpha^2}\right),$$

where $b_\alpha = 1.1932$ fm.

The nucleon density distribution of the daughter nucleus $\rho_d(r)$ is described by a spherically symmetric Fermi function [57, 58]:

$$\rho_d(r) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + \exp[(r - c)/a]},$$

with central density $\rho_0 = 3/(4\pi c^3(1 + \pi^2 a^2/c^2))$, half-density radius $c = 1.07A^{1/3}$, and diffuseness $a = 0.54$ fm.

The renormalization factor λ is determined by the Bohr-Sommerfeld quantization condition:

$$\int_{R_1}^{R_2} \sqrt{\frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} |Q_\alpha - V(r)|} dr = (2n + 1) = (G - L + 1),$$

where n is the node number of the radial wave function, and the global quantum number $G = 16$ (for $50 < Z, N \leq 82$) [58, 63] is adopted. $R_1 = 0$ represents the first turning point, while the second turning point R_2 and third turning point R_3 are determined by solving $V(R) = Q_\alpha$.

The Coulomb potential $V_C(R)$ in Eq. (1) is given by

$$V_C(R) = \begin{cases} \frac{Z_\alpha Z_d e^2}{R} & \text{for } R > R_C, \\ \frac{Z_\alpha Z_d e^2}{2R_C} \left(3 - \frac{R^2}{R_C^2}\right) & \text{for } R \leq R_C, \end{cases}$$

where Z_α and Z_d denote the proton numbers of the α -particle and daughter nucleus, respectively, and $R_C = 1.2A^{1/3}$ is the Coulomb radius of the daughter nucleus (A_d being the daughter nucleus mass number).

The centrifugal potential $V_l(R)$ in Eq. (1) is calculated as

$$V_l(R) = \frac{l(l+1)\hbar^2}{2\mu R^2},$$

where l is the angular momentum carried by the α -cluster and μ is the reduced mass: $\mu = M_\alpha M_d / M_p$, with M_α , M_d , and M_p being the masses of the α -particle, daughter nucleus, and parent nucleus, respectively.

The α -decay half-life is calculated via

$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\hbar \ln 2}{\Gamma_\alpha},$$

where Γ_α is the α -decay width, expressed as

$$\Gamma_\alpha = P_\alpha F \exp\left(-2 \int_{R_2}^{R_3} k(R) dR\right).$$

In Eq. (13), F is the normalization factor:

$$F = \exp\left(\int_{R_1}^{R_2} 2k(R) dR\right),$$

with wave number $k(R)$ given by

$$k(R) = \sqrt{\frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} |Q_\alpha - V(R)|},$$

where Q_α is the α -decay energy.

Within the CFM approach, the preformation factor P_α of an α -cluster in a nucleus is [17, 59, 60]:

$$P_\alpha = \frac{E_{f\alpha}}{E_{\text{tot}}} = \frac{E_{f\alpha}}{E_{f\alpha} + E_r},$$

where $E_{f\alpha}$ is the α -cluster formation energy associated with interactions among the four nucleons in the α -cluster, E_r is the energy for relative motion derived from the α -particle orbiting the daughter nucleus in the parent nucleus ground state, and $E_{\text{tot}} = E_{f\alpha} + E_r$ is the total energy for the α -clustering state [17, 59, 60]. Typically, calculating P_α requires solving the corresponding Schrödinger equation for $E_{f\alpha}$ and E_{tot} . However, by analyzing surface nucleon-nucleon interactions, these values can be approximately obtained from experimental separation energies [17, 59, 60]:

$$E_{f\alpha} = \begin{cases} 2S_p + 2S_n - S_\alpha & (\text{even-even}) \\ 2S_p + S_{2n} - S_\alpha & (\text{even-odd}) \\ S_{2p} + 2S_n - S_\alpha & (\text{odd-even}) \\ S_{2p} + S_{2n} - S_\alpha & (\text{odd-odd}) \end{cases}$$

$$E_{\text{tot}} = S_\alpha(A, Z),$$

where S_p , S_n , $S_{\{2p\}}$, $S_{\{2n\}}$, and S_α represent one-proton, one-neutron, two-proton, two-neutron, and α -cluster separation energies, respectively. These are obtained from:

$$S_p(A, Z) = B(A, Z) - B(A - 1, Z - 1),$$

$$S_n(A, Z) = B(A, Z) - B(A - 1, Z),$$

$$S_{2p}(A, Z) = B(A, Z) - B(A - 2, Z - 2),$$

$$S_{2n}(A, Z) = B(A, Z) - B(A - 2, Z),$$

$$S_\alpha(A, Z) = B(A, Z) - B(A - 4, Z - 2),$$

where $B(A, Z)$ is the binding energy of a nucleus with mass number A and proton number Z . Experimental $B(A, Z)$ values are generally taken from the AME2020 atomic mass table [64]; for nuclei lacking experimental data, values are taken from the Weizsäcker-Skyrme-4 (WS4) mass table [65].

III. Results and Discussions

First, the parameter t_R in Eq. (4) must be determined through ² least-square fitting:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \left(\frac{T_{1/2,i}^{\text{expt}} - T_{1/2,i}^{\text{cal}}}{T_{1/2,i}^{\text{expt}}} \right)^2,$$

where $T_{\{1/2,i\}}^{\text{expt}}$ and $T_{\{1/2,i\}}^{\text{cal}}$ are the experimental and calculated α -decay half-lives using experimental Q_α values, respectively. Through Eq. (24), we find that ² reaches a minimum at $t_R = 0.9$ fm, which is the optimal value in our DBHF model framework.

Using ¹¹²Xe as an example, we obtain the total interaction potential $V(R)$, nuclear potential $V_N(R)$, and Coulomb potential $V_C(R)$ as functions of R , shown in Fig. 1 [Figure 1: see original paper]. The figure reveals that the well depth of $V(R)$ is approximately -115 MeV. Solving $V(R) = Q_\alpha^{\text{expt}} = 3.33$ MeV yields the second and third turning points $R_2 = 6.97$ fm and R_3

= 44.93 fm, respectively. The second turning point R_2 located within the nuclear surface region indicates that the α -particle is preformed inside the nucleus before tunneling through the barrier. In our half-life calculation, we apply the Bohr-Sommerfeld quantization condition from Eq. (9), determining the renormalization factor $\lambda = 0.60$. The resulting calculated α -decay half-life is 4.27×10^2 s, in good agreement with the experimental value $T_{1/2}^{\text{expt}} = 2.25 \times 10^2$ s.

FIG. 1: (Color online) Total interaction potential $V(R)$ (red solid curve), nuclear potential $V_N(R)$ (green dot-dash curve), and Coulomb potential $V_C(R)$ (blue dash curve) for ^{112}Xe .

Encouraged by this agreement, we extend our model to calculate α -decay half-lives for additional nuclei near $N = Z$, including Te, I, Xe, Cs, and Ba isotopes, as listed in Table II. The first column indicates transitions between initial and final α -emitter states, while the second and third columns show the spin-parity of parent and daughter nuclei. The fourth column gives the minimal orbital angular momentum (l_{\min}) carried by the α -particle, determined by spin-parity selection rules ($l_{\min} = 0$ when J^π values are unknown). Experimental Q_α values [64] appear in the fifth column, preformation factors P_α in column 6, and experimental and calculated α -decay half-lives in columns 7 and 8. The final column lists logarithmic hindrance factors $\log_{10}\text{HF} = \log_{10}(T_{1/2}^{\text{expt}}) - \log_{10}(T_{1/2}^{\text{cal}})$.

To more clearly illustrate the agreement between calculated and experimental half-lives, $\log_{10}\text{HF}$ values are plotted in Fig. 2 [Figure 2: see original paper], along with results from the generalized liquid drop model (GLDM) [20]. Generally, $\log_{10}\text{HF}$ values within ± 1.0 indicate satisfactory agreement [35, 36]. Figure 2 shows that more DBHF model results fall within this range, suggesting better agreement with experimental data. This success validates the effective n-n interaction obtained from the G matrix based on a bare n-n interaction. To quantitatively compare model accuracies, we calculate the standard deviation $\bar{\sigma}^2$ between calculated and experimental half-lives:

$$\bar{\sigma}^2 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_i (\log_{10} T_{1/2,i}^{\text{expt}} - \log_{10} T_{1/2,i}^{\text{cal}})^2}.$$

The resulting $\bar{\sigma}^2$ values are 0.62 for DBHF and 0.78 for GLDM, further confirming DBHF's superior accuracy. Additionally, we observe enhanced nuclear stability with increasing N in each isotopic chain, attributed to increasing symmetry energy [18].

Motivated by DBHF's success, we predict α -decay half-lives for $N = Z$ nuclei lacking experimental data, presented in Table III. These predictions will aid in identifying new nuclides or isotopes in future experiments.

Our calculations incorporate P_α values extracted via CFM. Tables I and II

show that most nuclei have P_{α} values of order 10^{-2} , larger than those near ^{208}Pb , consistent with previous work [17, 18, 24, 25]. Our earlier studies [18, 19] emphasized that α -cluster preformation depends not only on the mean field including pairing interactions but also crucially on higher-order nucleon correlations, particularly proton-neutron correlations [21, 25, 59, 67, 68].

Figure 3(a) [Figure 3: see original paper] shows P_{α} values for $Z = 52$ and $Z = 54$ isotopes versus N . The P_{α} values increase as nuclei approach the $N = Z$ line, indicating enhancement by proton-neutron correlations in similar single-particle states—one reason for superallowed α -decay near the doubly magic nucleus ^{100}Sn . Odd- A nuclei exhibit smaller P_{α} values than neighboring even-even nuclei, known as the odd-even effect. To understand P_{α} evolution with N , we calculate proton-neutron correlation energy $E_{\{p-n\}}$ and two-proton-two-neutron correlation energy $E_{\{2p-2n\}}$ [21, 25, 59]:

$$E_{p-n} = B(A, Z) + B(A - 2, Z - 1) - B(A - 1, Z - 1) - B(A - 1, Z),$$

$$E_{2p-2n} = B(A, Z) + B(A - 4, Z - 2) - B(A - 2, Z - 2) - B(A - 2, Z).$$

Here $B(Z, N)$ values are taken from AME2020 [64] or WS4 [65] mass tables. Figure 3(b) [Figure 3: see original paper] plots $E_{\{p-n\}}$ and $E_{\{2p-2n\}}$ for $Z = 52$ and $Z = 54$ isotopes. The $E_{\{2p-2n\}}$ values increase as N decreases, mirroring the P_{α} evolution in Fig. 3(a), and are substantially larger than $E_{\{p-n\}}$ values. This suggests that two-proton-two-neutron interactions are more essential than proton-neutron interactions for α -particle preformation, consistent with recent findings [25]. Furthermore, $E_{\{p-n\}}$ exhibits odd-even staggering with N , which produces the odd-even effect in P_{α} shown in Fig. 3(a).

FIG. 2: (Color online) Logarithmic hindrance factors $\log_{10}\text{HF}$ for nuclei around $N = Z$. Red squares and blue triangles represent DBHF and GLDM [20] results, respectively.

FIG. 3: (Color online) (a) P_{α} values for $Z = 52$ and $Z = 54$ isotopes versus N . (b) Same as (a), but for proton-neutron correlation energy $E_{\{p-n\}}$ and two-proton-two-neutron correlation energy $E_{\{2p-2n\}}$.

IV. Conclusion

In this work, we investigate α -decay half-lives of nuclei near the $N = Z$ line using a microscopic effective n-n interaction obtained within the DBHF G matrix from a bare n-n interaction. The α -cluster preformation factor P_{α} extracted via CFM is incorporated in our half-life calculations. We find that calculated α -decay half-lives agree well with experimental data, with higher accuracy than GLDM, demonstrating the success and validity of both the effective n-n interaction and CFM. We predict α -decay half-lives for nuclei around $N = Z$ lacking experimental data, which will be valuable for identifying new nuclides in future experiments. By analyzing proton-neutron correlation energy $E_{\{p-n\}}$ and

two-proton-two-neutron correlation energy $E_{\{2p-2n\}}$, we find that two-proton-two-neutron interactions are more crucial than proton-neutron interactions for α -cluster preformation, while the odd-even staggering of $E_{\{p-n\}}$ leads to the odd-even staggering of P_{α} .

Finally, we note that cluster radioactivity [43, 69–71], proton radioactivity [72–75], and two-proton radioactivity [76–80] represent important decay modes for unstable nuclei. Extending the DBHF effective n-n interaction to study these radioactivities is work in progress.

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TABLE II: Comparison of experimental and calculated α -decay half-lives for nuclei approaching $N = Z$ (in seconds). Spin-parity J^π , experimental α -decay energies (in MeV), and experimental half-lives are taken from Refs. [64, 66].

Emitter	J^π (parent)	J^π (daughter)	Q_α (MeV)	$T_{1/2}^{\text{expt}}$ (s)	$T_{1/2}^{\text{cal}}$ (s)	$\log_{10} \text{HF}$
Z =						
52						
$^{104}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{100}\text{Sn} + \alpha$	0+	0+	4.900*	$0.305 \leq 4 \times 10^{-9}$	5.84×10^{-8}	< -1.16
$^{105}\text{Te} \rightarrow ^{101}\text{Sn} + \alpha$	7/2+	5/2+	4.100*	$0.173 \leq 3.3 \times 10^{-7}$	1.22×10^{-7}	0.71

Emitter	J^{π}	J^{π}	l_{α}	Q_{α}	$T_{1/2}$	$T_{1/2}$	$\log_{10} \text{HF}$
	(parent)	(daughter)		(MeV)	(s)	(s)	
^{106}Te	0+	0+	0	3.990	$0.3327.8 \times 10^{-5}$	1.12×10^{-4}	-
\rightarrow ^{102}Sn							0.16
$+ \alpha$ ^{107}Te	5/2+	5/2+	0	3.530	$0.1904.6 \times 10^{-3}$	5.45×10^{-3}	-
\rightarrow ^{103}Sn							0.07
$+ \alpha$ ^{108}Te	0+	0+	0	3.330	$0.2264.286 \times 10^0$	5.42×10^0	-
\rightarrow ^{104}Sn							0.10
$+ \alpha$ ^{109}Te	5/2+	5/2+	0	2.880	$0.1831.128 \times 10^2$	3.42×10^{-2}	0.52
\rightarrow ^{105}Sn							
$+ \alpha$ Z = 53 ^{108}I			0	3.800*	$0.2392.653 \times 10^{-2}$	8.78×10^{-3}	0.48
\rightarrow ^{104}Sb							
$+ \alpha$ ^{109}I	1/2+, 3/2+	5/2+	2	3.400*	$0.1196.629 \times 10^{-1}$	1.58×10^0	-
\rightarrow ^{105}Sb							0.38
$+ \alpha$ ^{110}I			0	3.200*	$0.2263.906 \times 10^0$	2.05×10^2	-
\rightarrow ^{106}Sb							1.72
$+ \alpha$ ^{111}I	5/2+	5/2+	0	2.900	$0.0962.841 \times 10^3$	4.41×10^2	0.81
\rightarrow ^{107}Sb							
$+ \alpha$ ^{113}I			0	2.500*	$0.2231.994 \times 10^7$	1.83×10^7	0.04
\rightarrow ^{109}Sb							
$+ \alpha$ Z = 54							

Emitter	J^{π}	J^{π}	l_{α}	Q_{α}	$T_{1/2}$	$T_{1/2}$	$\log_{10} HF$
	(parent)	(daughter)		(MeV)	(s)	(s)	
^{108}Xe	0+	0+	0	4.400*	0.1385.8 × 10 ⁻⁵	4.30 × 10 ⁻⁸	3.13
→ ^{104}Te							
+ α							
^{109}Xe	7/2+	5/2+	2	3.700*	0.2071.3 × 10 ⁻²	2.68 × 10 ⁻⁶	3.69
→ ^{105}Te							
+ α							
^{110}Xe	0+	0+	0	3.530	0.2261.453 × 10 ⁻¹	1.97 × 10 ⁻¹	-
→ ^{106}Te							0.13
+ α							
^{111}Xe	5/2+	5/2+	0	3.330	0.0967.115 × 10 ⁰	3.87 × 10 ⁰	0.26
→ ^{107}Te							
+ α							
^{112}Xe	0+	0+	0	3.330	0.2682.25 × 10 ²	4.27 × 10 ²	-
→ ^{108}Te							0.28
+ α							
Z = 55							
^{112}Cs			0	3.200*	0.086> 1.885 × 10 ⁻¹	1.12 × 10 ⁰	>
→ ^{108}I							-0.77
+ α							
^{114}Cs			0	2.900	0.1323.167 × 10 ³	5.29 × 10 ³	-
→ ^{110}I							0.22
+ α							
Z = 56							
^{114}Ba	0+	0+	0	3.200	0.2565.111 × 10 ¹	1.52 × 10 ²	-
→ ^{110}Xe							0.47
+ α							

*Values calculated using the WS4 mass model table [65].

TABLE III: Predicted α -decay half-lives for nuclei approaching $N = Z$ (in seconds). Spin-parity J^{π} and Q_{α} values (in MeV) are taken from Refs. [64, 66].

Emitters	J^π (parent)	l_{\min}	Q_α (MeV)	P_α	$T_{1/2}^{\text{cal}}$ (s)
Z = 52					
$^{110}\text{Te} \rightarrow$	0+	0	3.100	0.239	2.31×10^6
$^{106}\text{Sn} + \alpha$					
$^{111}\text{Te} \rightarrow$	5/2+	2	2.700	0.119	4.04×10^8
$^{107}\text{Sn} + \alpha$					
$^{112}\text{Te} \rightarrow$	0+	0	2.900	0.226	2.67×10^{13}
$^{108}\text{Sn} + \alpha$					
$^{113}\text{Te} \rightarrow$	7/2+	2	2.500	0.096	3.36×10^{18}
$^{109}\text{Sn} + \alpha$					
$^{114}\text{Te} \rightarrow$	0+	0	2.700	0.223	1.15×10^{23}
$^{110}\text{Sn} + \alpha$					
Z = 53					
$^{106}\text{I} \rightarrow$		0	4.200*	0.138*	4.30×10^{-8}
$^{102}\text{Sb} + \alpha$					
$^{107}\text{I} \rightarrow$	5/2+	2	3.800*	0.207	2.68×10^{-6}
$^{103}\text{Sb} + \alpha$					
$^{114}\text{I} \rightarrow$		0	2.800	0.055	2.65×10^{12}
$^{110}\text{Sb} + \alpha$					
$^{115}\text{I} \rightarrow$	5/2+	0	2.500	0.146	4.18×10^{14}
$^{111}\text{Sb} + \alpha$					
Z = 54					
$^{113}\text{Xe} \rightarrow$	5/2+	2	3.100*	0.137	5.40×10^4
$^{109}\text{Te} + \alpha$					
$^{114}\text{Xe} \rightarrow$	0+	0	3.000	0.268	4.43×10^7
$^{110}\text{Te} + \alpha$					
$^{115}\text{Xe} \rightarrow$	5/2+	2	2.700	0.132	1.30×10^{10}
$^{111}\text{Te} + \alpha$					
$^{116}\text{Xe} \rightarrow$	0+	0	2.800	0.256	8.72×10^{14}
$^{112}\text{Te} + \alpha$					
Z = 55					
$^{111}\text{Cs} \rightarrow$	3/2+	2	3.400*	0.183*	1.65×10^0
$^{107}\text{I} + \alpha$					
$^{113}\text{Cs} \rightarrow$	3/2+	2	3.000	0.134	3.60×10^2
$^{109}\text{I} + \alpha$					
$^{115}\text{Cs} \rightarrow$	1/2+, 3/2+	0	2.600	0.149	1.12×10^9
$^{111}\text{I} + \alpha$					
$^{116}\text{Cs} \rightarrow$	9/2+	0	2.400	0.068	1.62×10^{10}
$^{112}\text{I} + \alpha$					
$^{117}\text{Cs} \rightarrow$	9/2+	0	2.200	0.143	1.24×10^{16}
$^{113}\text{I} + \alpha$					
Z = 56					
$^{113}\text{Ba} \rightarrow$	5/2+	2	3.200*	0.195*	1.24×10^1
$^{109}\text{Xe} + \alpha$					

Emitters	J^{π} (parent)	l_{\min}	Q_{α} (MeV)	P_{α}	$T_{1/2}^{\text{cal}}$ (s)
$^{115}\text{Ba} \rightarrow$	5/2+	2	2.800	0.133	2.74×10^5
$^{111}\text{Xe} + \alpha$					
$^{116}\text{Ba} \rightarrow$	0+	0	2.900	0.231	7.56×10^4
$^{112}\text{Xe} + \alpha$					
$^{117}\text{Ba} \rightarrow$	3/2+	0	2.500	0.160	2.45×10^{15}
$^{113}\text{Xe} + \alpha$					
$^{118}\text{Ba} \rightarrow$	0+	0	2.600	0.221	1.24×10^{12}
$^{114}\text{Xe} + \alpha$					

*Values calculated using the WS4 mass model table [65].

Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

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