

Energy distribution of protons. The solid line represents the experimental data of Perkins. The dashed line is Weisskopf's distribution.

may suppose the same circumstances will occur also in cosmic-ray stars. This seems probable since the proton goes over the barrier. So after the evaporation process, the nucleus will be highly unstable, i.e., largely proton rich. Under these circumstances it may be expected that  $\alpha$ -decay will occur, analogous to the  $\alpha$ -decay of heavy nuclei.

Assuming Geiger-Nuttall's law also to hold for the proton-decay, the lifetime of this new type of decay is estimated to be  $10^{-3}$  sec. for  $A=100$  and proton energy 3–1.5 Mev. This lifetime is much shorter than that of the  $\beta^+$ -decay.  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ -decay needs not to be considered because it does not improve the proton-excessive state. Finally, it is unlikely that the  $\alpha$ -like processes suggested by Bragge<sup>6</sup> occur in these star states, because Bohr-Wheeler theory<sup>10</sup> shows that the total energy of fission has in our case a very large value (4 Mev).

As we may conclude that the proton-decay predominates over other evaporation processes, and this will explain the existence of low energy protons in stars. Also the cloud-chamber picture of Powell<sup>11</sup> seems to support the existence of a new type of decay; i.e., his picture Fig. 7a shows the particle (proton) was emitted a few thousandths of a second after the evaporation process.

A detailed account will be published soon in *Progress of Theoretical Physics*. We should like to express our gratitude to Professor Tomonaga and Mr. Hayakawa for their kind interest in this work.

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## Pressure Change of Resistance of Tellurium

J. BARDEEN

Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey  
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BRIDGMAN<sup>1</sup> has observed that the resistivity of tellurium decreases by a factor of more than 600 at a pressure of 30,000 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>. He interprets this large change as a result of tellurium becoming more metallic with increase in pressure. Shown particularly by work at Purdue University,<sup>2</sup> tellurium is a typical semiconductor with an energy gap between the valence band and the conduction band of about 0.38 ev.

TABLE I. Relative resistance and calculated energy gap in tellurium at a function of pressure.

I P kg/cm <sup>2</sup>	II 23.5° from axis 30°C	III log <sub>10</sub> R/R <sub>0</sub> 86° from axis		IV 75°C	V E <sub>g</sub> ev
		30°C	75°C		
0	0	0	-0.311	0.29	(0.38)
2500	-0.280	-0.384	-0.696	0.29	(0.33)
5000	-0.722	-0.739	-1.035	0.275	(0.29)
7500	-1.027	-1.066	-1.330	0.246	
10,000	-1.302	-1.360	-1.590	0.214	
12,500	-1.547	-1.622	-1.818	0.182	
15,000	-1.761	-1.855	-2.020	0.154	
17,500	-1.945	-2.063	-2.197	0.125	
20,000	-2.110	-2.246	-2.353	0.100	
22,500	-2.257	-2.408	-2.490	0.076	
25,000	-2.386	-2.552	-2.610	0.054	
27,500	-2.499	-2.679	-2.715	0.034	
30,000	-2.599	-2.790	-2.806	0.015	

The purpose of this note is to point out that the large change of resistivity with pressure is a result of a decrease in the energy gap, the gap becoming very small at 30,000 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>. At a somewhat higher pressure (45,000 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>) Te undergoes a phase transition.<sup>3</sup> The high pressure modification may well be a true metallic phase.

Shown in the first four columns of Table I are Bridgman's measurements of the pressure change of resistance of a single crystal of tellurium. Measurements were made in two directions making angles of 23.5° and 86° to the axis of the crystal. In the 86° orientation measurements were made at 30°C and 75°C. Bridgman gives values of log<sub>10</sub>R/R<sub>0</sub>, where R<sub>0</sub> is the resistance at 30°C at atmospheric pressure.

Very pure samples of Te are in the intrinsic conductivity range at room temperature, the resistance varying as

$$R = R_0 \exp(E_g/2kT), \quad (1)$$

where  $T$  is the absolute temperature. The energy gap can be estimated from resistance measurements,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , made at two different temperatures  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ .

$$E_g = 2k \log(R_1/R_2) / [1/T_1 - 1/T_2]. \quad (2)$$

Using Bridgman's data for the 86° orientation at the two temperatures, values of  $E_g$  in ev have been calculated from

$$E_g = 0.93 [\log_{10}R(30^\circ\text{C}) - \log_{10}R(75^\circ\text{C})]. \quad (3)$$

The values are listed in column V of Table I and are plotted in Fig. 1. The sample is not entirely in the intrinsic range at pressures below 7500 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, at least at the lower temperature. An extrapolation of  $E_g$  from Bridgman's data obtained above 7500 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> to Miss Johnson's value of 0.38 ev at zero pressure is shown by the dotted line. Extrapolated values are given in parentheses in the table.

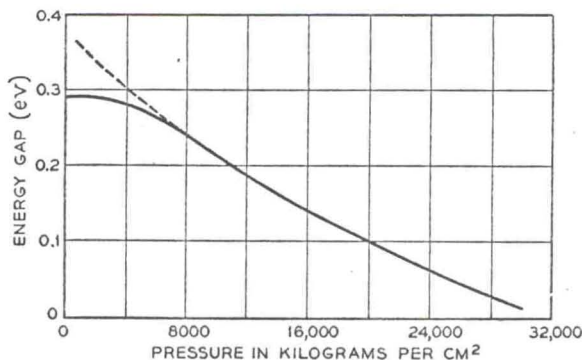


FIG. 1. Energy gap in tellurium as determined from variation of resistance with temperature at different pressures. Solid line; from Bridgman's data. Dotted line; extrapolation to  $E_g = 0.38$  ev at zero pressure.

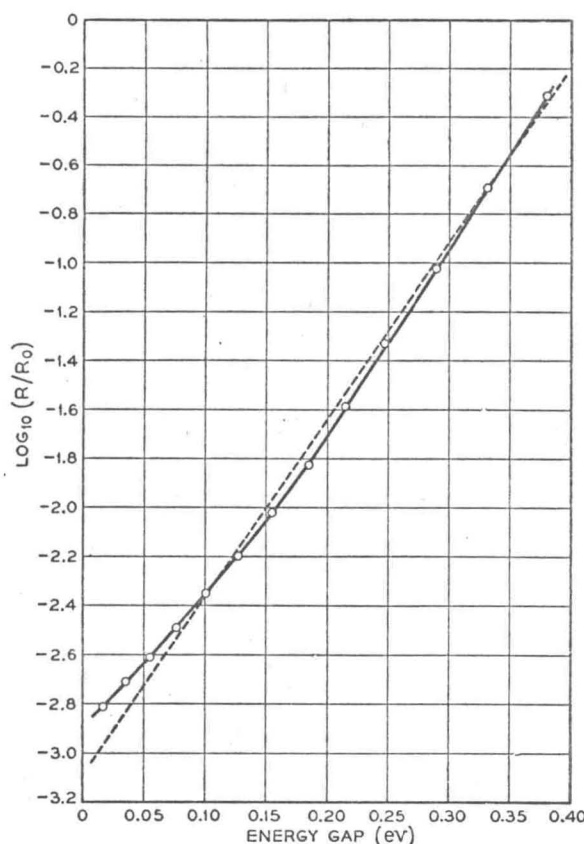


FIG. 2. Relative resistance of tellurium as a function of the energy gap. The dotted line gives the resistance change expected from the change in energy gap alone, other factors remaining constant with pressure.

As may be seen from Eq. (1), a decrease in  $E_g$  results in a decrease in  $R$  with pressure. When evaluated for  $T=348^\circ\text{K}$  ( $75^\circ\text{C}$ ), Eq. (1) may be written in the form

$$\log_{10}(R/R_0) = \log_{10}(R_\infty/R_0) + 7.3E_g. \quad (4)$$

In Fig. 2 we have plotted  $\log_{10}(R/R_0)$  from Bridgman's measurements as a function of  $E_g$ , using the extrapolated values of  $E_g$  at low pressures, and have shown for comparison a line of slope 7.3. It can be seen that the major cause of the pressure change of resistance is the decrease in the energy gap,  $E_g$ , and that changes in  $R_\infty$  with pressure are of secondary importance.

<sup>1</sup> P. W. Bridgman, Proc. Am. Acad. Sci. 72, 159 (1938). Earlier measurements to 12,000 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> which cover a larger temperature range are given by the same author in Proc. Am. Acad. Sci. 68, 95 (1933).

<sup>2</sup> V. E. Bottom, Phys. Rev. 74, 1218(A) (1948); V. A. Johnson, Phys. Rev. 74, 1255(A) (1948). Miss Johnson gives a value of 0.38 eV for the energy gap.

<sup>3</sup> P. W. Bridgman, Proc. Am. Acad. Sci. 74, 21 (1940).

### Gamma-Rays from Tantalum 182

J. M. CORK, H. B. KELLER, J. SZYNSKI, W. C. RUTLEDGE,  
AND A. E. STODDARD

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

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IN an earlier investigation<sup>1</sup> it was found that pure tantalum oxide irradiated in the Oak Ridge pile formed the radioactive tantalum isotope of mass 182, which emitted a profusion of electron groups due to several internally converted gamma-

TABLE I. Electron energies with their identification.

Electron energy	Possible interpretation	Gamma-energy	Electron energy	Possible interpretation	Gamma-energy
30.2 kev	$K_9$	99.5	90.0 kev	$M_8$	91.8
34.1	$L_1$	46.2		or $K_{18}$	119.3
37.7	$K_{10}$	107.0	96.1	$M_9$	97.9
40.0	$K_{11}$	109.3	98.2	$N_9$	99.8
43.3	$M_1$	46.1	100.0	$L_{12}$	112.1
	or $K_{12}$	112.6	102.2	$K_{19}$	117.1
46.4	$L_2$	58.5	108.3	$K_{20}$	117.4
48.4	$K_{13}$	117.7	109.2	$M_{11}$	112.0
52.7	$L_3$	64.8	127.1	$K_{21}$	126.4
53.4	$K_{14}$	122.7	137.8	$L_{16}$	149.6
54.7	$L_4$	66.8	142.2	$K_{22}$	211.0
55.3	$M_2$	58.1	147.2	$M_{16}$	150.0
56.7	$L_5$	68.8		or $L_{18}$	159.3
61.7	$M_3$	64.5	150.4	$K_{23}$	219.7
64.1	$N_3$	64.7	157.7	$K_{24}$	225.0
	or $M_4$	66.9	165.3	$L_{20}$	177.4
	or $L_6$	76.2	174.2	$M_{20}$	177.0
66.1	$M_5$	68.9	176.8	$N_{20}$	177.4
	or $N_4$	66.7	184.7	$L_{21}$	196.8
69.1	$K_{15}$	138.4	191.3	$K_{25}$	260.8
71.5	$L_7$	83.6	208.6	$L_{22}$	229.1
73.2	$M_6$	76.0	215.6	$L_{23}$	217.7
81.2	$M_7$	84.0	216.7	$M_{21}$	219.9
	or $L_8$	93.3	224.0	$M_{24}$	225.8
	or $K_{16}$	150.5	232.3	$K_{26}$	301.6
87.1	$L_9$	99.2	237.9	$K_{27}$	307.2
88.6	$K_{17}$	157.9	250.3	$L_{25}$	262.4
			259.1	$K_{28}$	319.4

rays. With the increased absolute accuracy and sensitivity now available with our photographic beta-spectrometers the emitter has been reexamined and found to yield several previously unobserved gamma-rays, all fitting into a logical decay scheme. In all, 48 electron lines are observed as shown collectively in column 1, Table I.

On applying the  $K-L-M$  differences characteristic of tungsten ( $Z=74$ ) following beta-emission from tantalum ( $Z=73$ ), the electron lines give evidence for the existence of 28 gamma-rays, as shown in column 3, Table I, and summarized in Table II. Some of the electron lines as shown in column 2 are subject to alternate or dual interpretation. The subscripts for the number of the gamma-ray are arbitrarily assigned in the order of increasing energy.

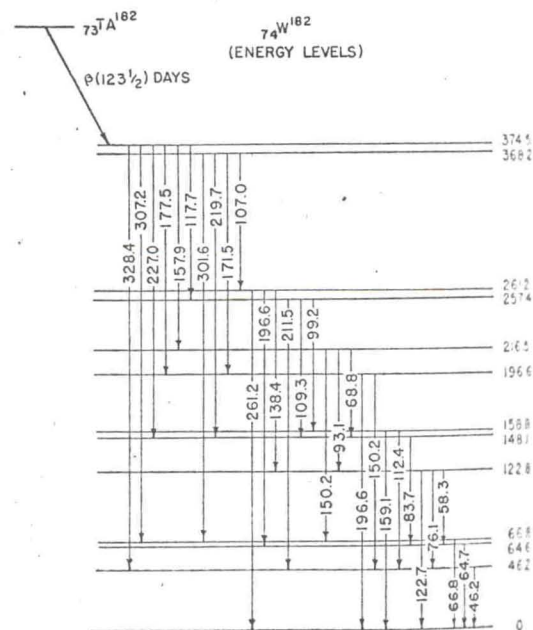


FIG. 1. Energy levels in tungsten 182 following beta-emission from tantalum.