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SPIN ASSIGNMENTS OF NEUTRON RESONANCES IN ODD-  
-ODD SILVER COMPOUND NUCLEI.

by

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ABSTRACT

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SILVER COMPOUND NUCLEI

The gamma-rays following the reaction  $^{107,109}\text{Ag}$  ( $n,\gamma$ )  $^{108,110}\text{Ag}$  have been studied with a time of flight neutron spectrometer.

The method for determining spins of neutron resonances based on the gamma-ray cascade multiplicity dependence on the spin of the initial compound state, previously applied only to even odd target nuclei with relatively high spin, is successfully used in the case of silver odd even isotopes with spin 1/2. Single and coincidence  $\gamma$  rays counts were compiled separately, for a neutron energy range from 7 to 440 eV. Spin 0 is ascribed to the 139.7 eV level of  $^{110}\text{Ag}$  compound nuclei.

## R E S U M O

Os raios  $\gamma$  emitidos após a reação  $^{107,109}\text{Ag}(n\gamma)$   $^{108,110}\text{Ag}$  foram estudados em um espectrômetro de tempo de voo de neutrons sendo a região de energia escolhida a que vai de 7 a 440 eV. A totalidade das contagens simples e em coincidência dos raios  $\gamma$  foram registradas separadamente e a partir de limiares de energia pré-fixados.

O método de atribuição de spin a ressonâncias de neutrons baseado na dependência da multiplicidade da cascata  $\gamma$  com o spin do estado composto inicial, previamente aplicado a núcleos alvos par-ímpar com spin relativamente alto, foi empregado com sucesso no caso dos isótopos ímpar-par de Ag com spin 1/2.

Spin 0 foi atribuído ao nível 139.7 eV do núcleo composto  $^{110}\text{Ag}$ .

SPIN ASSIGNMENTS OF NEUTRON RESONANCES IN ODD-ODD  
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INTRODUCTION

It is well known that spin assignments of neutron resonances based on total cross sections and scattering measurements are hard to carry out, especially with weak resonances or high spin nuclei. Transmission techniques using polarized neutron beams, as well as polarized targets, provide a powerful tool for these determinations but require very elaborated apparatus<sup>(1)(2)</sup>.

Spin assignments making use of gamma-ray spectrum characteristics are generally reached in a simple and rather straight forward way. They have been performed initially by means of intensity measurements of low-energy lines<sup>(3)(4)</sup> or E1 high-energy transitions of gamma-ray spectra<sup>(5)</sup>.

The two-step cascade method<sup>(6)(7)</sup> is useful for spin determinations because it measures the relative intensity of the cascades, proceeding by just two transitions from the compound state to some low-lying level, which maintain a spin and parity dependence on the initial state. Other kinds of cascade measurements<sup>(8)</sup> or further systematic investigations concerning correlations between resonance parameters<sup>(9)(10)</sup> are also used successfully for this purpose.

In addition to the above mentioned methods, Coceva et al<sup>(11)(12)(13)(14)</sup> also have attempted to determine

the spin of neutron resonances assuming that the average gamma-ray cascade multiplicity maintains a remarkable dependence on the spin of the initial compound state. This dependence is the basis of the gamma-ray cascade multiplicity method, the application of which can be qualitatively understood for even-even compound nuclei, if the initial part of the cascade is governed by a simple statistical relationship and the low-energy states have a band structure. In odd-odd compound nuclei there is no energy gap, so a prompt statistical equilibrium must be reached after neutron capture and a weak dependence on the spin parameter is expected<sup>(15)</sup>.

The present experimental investigation was undertaken with the aim to provide additional information that might allow a wider and more critical utilization of this method.

$^{108}\text{Ag}$  and  $^{110}\text{Ag}$  nuclei were chosen because they are odd-odd nuclei having low spin (both with  $I = 1/2$ ). These characteristics do not favour the application of the method. On the other hand, spins were also attributed to resonances of  $^{108,110}\text{Ag}$  in previous experiments, using several experimental methods: self-induction, transmission and scattering. Such methods provide reliable values in the case of nuclei with low ground state spin. So, the application of the  $\gamma$  ray cascade multiplicity method to the resonances of  $^{108,110}\text{Ag}$  and the comparison between its results and those obtained by the remaining methods allow the effective verification of the applicability of the method

for nuclei with similar characteristics as  $^{108,110}\text{Ag}$ .

### OUTLINE OF THE METHOD

The method in discussion is extensively described in papers (11)(12). We will confine ourselves here to a brief summary.

The gamma-ray cascade multiplicity method consists of the study of the cascade originating from the de-excitation of the compound nucleus formed by neutron capture. The assumption that the difference between the spin of the initial state and the spin of the final state after each transition must be 1 or 0 is based on the fact that dipole radiation prevails in  $\gamma$  ray capture spectra, except in transitions between low-lying levels.

Such conclusions justify the hypothesis that the spin difference  $\Delta J$  between the initial and final states of the cascade affects the average multiplicity, if isomeric states are not present. Indeed, in several nuclides (16) variations of as much as 25% on multiplicity have been found.

A quantity directly related to average multiplicity can be obtained compiling simultaneously, for s-wave resonances, the single and coincidence counting rates from two gamma-ray detectors placed symmetrically to the target. Since good energy resolutions is not required, very efficient gamma-ray detectors can be used.

Single and coincidence counting rates ( $A_Y^S$  and  $A_Y^C$ )

related to a resonance  $\lambda$  are equal to:

$$A_{\lambda}^S = k_J^S \cdot I_0(E_n) \cdot Y_{\lambda}(E_n, E_0, \tau_0, \Gamma)$$

$$A_{\lambda}^C = k_J^C \cdot I_0(E_n) \cdot Y_{\lambda}(E_n, E_0, \tau_0, \Gamma)$$

where:

$I_0(E_n)$  - incident neutron flux with energy  $E_n$ , integrated over the target surface;

$Y_{\lambda}(E_n, E_0, \tau_0, \Gamma)$  - number of radiative capture per incident neutron observed at the neutron energy  $E_n$ ;

$E_0, \tau_0$  and  $\Gamma$  - parameters of the resonance  $\lambda$ ;

$k_J^S$  and  $k_J^C$  - single and coincidence average numbers of counts per radiative capture.

The coefficient  $k_J^C$  depends on the cascade characteristics, that is, on the average multiplicity  $r_J$ . Consequently, it is affected directly by the spin  $J$ .

The ratio  $r_J$  of  $A_{\lambda}^S$  to  $A_{\lambda}^C$  corresponds to the ratio of the coefficients  $k_J^S$  and  $k_J^C$ , since both counting rates are proportional to the same factor  $I_0(E_n) \cdot Y_{\lambda}(E_n; E_0, \tau_0, \Gamma)$ :

$$r_J = \frac{A_{\lambda}^S}{A_{\lambda}^C} = \frac{k_J^S \cdot I_0(E_n) \cdot Y_{\lambda}(E_n, E_0, \tau_0, \Gamma)}{k_J^C \cdot I_0(E_n) \cdot Y_{\lambda}(E_n, E_0, \tau_0, \Gamma)} = \frac{k_J^S}{k_J^C}$$

The ratio  $r_J$ , depends strongly on the spin resonance through the average multiplicity. This results in the separation of its values into two different groups, related

to the two possible spin values.

The determination of the  $r_j$  - value distribution, then, allows spin assignments for the s-wave resonances.

The absolute  $r_j$  values, because of its dependence on the characteristics of the detection system used, are normalized relative to the average value  $\bar{r}$ , that is:

$$\bar{r} = \frac{\langle r_0 \rangle + \langle r_1 \rangle}{2}$$

$$R_j = \frac{r_j}{\bar{r}}$$

where  $\langle r_0 \rangle$  and  $\langle r_1 \rangle$  are the average values of the ratios  $r_j$ , each one associated to a spin resonance family.

It is then possible to define the spin effect index as being equal to the difference between the normalized average values:

$$d = \langle R_0 \rangle - \langle R_1 \rangle$$

#### EXPERIMENTAL CONDITIONS

Our measurements were obtained using the C.B.P.F. electron linear accelerator with:

electron energy - 28 MeV

r m s current - 25  $\mu$ A

pulse width - 500 ns

repetition frequency - 360 Hz



The experimental set-up is shown in Fig. 1 . Neutrons are produced by Bremsstrahlung radiation in a water cooled Pb target, 6.5 cm high and 2.5 cm in diameter, as shown in Fig. II. These neutrons, after being moderated by a 2 cm thick polyethylene slab, strike a silver sample placed at about 12 m from the neutron moderator. Pb absorbers were conveniently placed on the axis of the neutron beam in order to reduce the gamma flash due to Bremsstrahlung in the target and the fast neutron flux viewed by the detector.

The detection system is shown in Fig. III.

Two NaI(Tl) crystals were used, with 12,5 cm x 12,5 cm, connected to 56 AVP photomultipliers. A 1mm thick lead foil and a 1,5 cm absorber of borated paraffin were used to shield the crystals from scattered neutrons in the detectors and in surrounding building materials.

In order to get a better separation between the two groups of  $R_j$  values, energy thresholds in the gamma-ray measurements are introduced in both detection systems ( $E_s$  and  $E_c$ ). The choice of their most convenient values depends on the nuclei studied. There is a compromise between the emphasis given to the effect of spin dependence by the choice of convenient thresholds values and the internal dispersion of the two  $R_j$  groups due to the reduction of the number of transitions which contribute to the cascade.

The selected value of  $E_s$  was obtained with the aid of Fig. IV and the data of ref. (11). (The threshold values indicate in Fig. IV always allowed a complete separation between the two groups of resonance).

The  $E_s$  and  $E_c$  values were 2.5 MeV and 300 KeV respectively. The choice of the  $E_s = 2.5$  MeV energy threshold is justified by the fact that, for this value, the ratio  $\frac{\langle R_0 \rangle}{\langle R_1 \rangle}$  has a well-marked spin effect. Although intensity considerations would favour a coincidence energy threshold as low as possible, its value must be such that it prevents several low energy effects which tend to increase the random coincidence counting rate.

Background measurements under comparable conditions were obtained and subtracted from the spectra.

The radiative background caused by a small superposition of the wings of close resonances was also subtracted and areas were calculated using only a narrow region near the peak of the resonances.

Fig. V and VI show the typical time-of-flight neutron resolution obtained.

The neutron energy range was 7-440 eV. However, in the coincidence spectrum it was only possible to analyse the peak resonances up to 210 eV, due to insufficient statistics in the high energy region of this spectrum.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the quantitative analysis of spectra and spin assignments are listed in table I. The first two columns indicate the resonance energies and the

respective isotopes. The normalized ratio  $R_j$  are shown in the third column, while the fourth one shows the deviation from the third column value  $\langle R_j \rangle$  or  $\langle R_0 \rangle$ . Our results are shown in the last column, spin 0 being assigned to the  $139.7 \pm 0.2$  eV level.

In order to facilitate resonance identification table II shows energy values obtained in this experiment and those compiled from ref. 20.

In table III, the results of present work are compared to those of previous measurements. Resonances marked by \* are p-wave levels and hence were not analysed in present work. The  $40.1 \pm 0.1$ ,  $41.5 \pm 0.1$  and  $173.1 \pm 0.2$  eV resonances could not be analysed. The two first ones were not sufficiently resolved in the coincidence count spectrum, while the third one overlaps with the  $169.8 \pm 0.2$  eV. The  $83.5 \pm 0.2$  eV resonance which is extremely weak, was not observed in our spectra. As can be seen from this table there is an encouraging agreement between our results and the current experimental information.

It is also worth noticing that a large number of different gamma-rays were collected from each resonance even using our experimental conditions. Thus, Porter and Thomas fluctuations of  $\Gamma_{\lambda i}$ <sup>(17)</sup> are negligible. There was no marked isotope effect in  $^{108,110}\text{Ag}$  radiation widths<sup>(18)</sup> and the characteristic parameters of each one are the same<sup>(19)</sup>.

The  $R_j$  values for different resonances are

grouped around two values, Fig. VII, with a dispersion probably due to statistical fluctuations in the partial radiative widths. The relative separations of the two resonance groups is 23%.

### CONCLUSION

For silver odd-odd compound nuclei, the clear separation between the two  $R_j$ -value groups and the agreement of our results with those of other authors show the successful application of the method. Spin 0 was assigned to the  $139.7 \pm 0.2$  eV resonance. Such assignment could be made in this paper since the  $\gamma$  ray cascade multiplicity method only needs capture measurements and also since this resonance has a large  $r_\gamma$  value ( $r_\gamma = 133 \pm 46$  meV)<sup>(20)</sup>. Besides that, its extremely small  $r_n$  value ( $2gr_n = 2.2 \pm 0.3$  meV)<sup>(20)</sup> makes the application of methods based on transmission measurements extremely difficult.

The excellent results obtained in the present experiment stimulate future applications of the method.

Also, it would be desirable that more experimental information could be made available in order to obtain a definitive conclusion as to the validity of the extension of the method. If it shows applicability to all nuclei, it will probably be the most effective tool (up to now) for spin assignments of low energy neutron resonances (15). This method has also been applied to other odd-odd compound nuclei such as  $^{76}\text{As}$  and  $^{134}\text{Cs}$ , and these results will be published in a later paper.

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Paper n<sup>o</sup> 65.



ENERGY (eV)	Isotope	$R_J$	$R_J - \langle R_J \rangle$	J
$16.30 \pm 0.05$	107	$1.09 \pm 0.02$	- 0.02	0
$30.4 \pm 0.1$	109	$0.90 \pm 0.02$	+ 0.01	1
$44.8 \pm 0.1$	107	$1.12 \pm 0.05$	+ 0.01	0
$51.3 \pm 0.1$	107	$0.88 \pm 0.02$	- 0.01	1
$55.6 \pm 0.2$	109	$1.13 \pm 0.03$	+ 0.02	0
$70.6 \pm 0.2$	109	$0.85 \pm 0.02$	- 0.04	1
$87.4 \pm 0.2$	109	$0.87 \pm 0.03$	- 0.02	1
$133.9 \pm 0.2$	109	$0.89 \pm 0.02$	0.00	1
$139.7 \pm 0.2$	109	$1.10 \pm 0.07$	- 0.01	0
$144.2 \pm 0.2$	107	$1.13 \pm 0.06$	+ 0.02	0
$202.5 \pm 0.2$	107	$0.91 \pm 0.04$	+ 0.02	1
$209.6 \pm 0.2$	109	$0.92 \pm 0.04$	+ 0.03	1

TABLE I

$\langle R_J \rangle$  is the average value associated to the J spin resonance family.

ENERGY (eV) This work	ENERGY (eV) Ref. (20)
16,3 ± 0,1	16,30 ± 0,05
30,3 ± 0,2	30,4 ± 0,1
40,5 ± 0,3	40,1 ± 0,1
41,6 ± 0,3	41,5 ± 0,1
44,9 ± 0,3	44,8 ± 0,1
51,6 ± 0,4	51,3 ± 0,1
55,9 ± 0,5	55,6 ± 0,2
71,4 ± 0,7	70,6 ± 0,2
88,0 ± 0,9	87,4 ± 0,2
134 ± 2	133,9 ± 0,2
139 ± 2	139,7 ± 0,2
144 ± 2	144,2 ± 0,2
173 ± 3	173,1 ± 0,2
201 ± 3	202,5 ± 0,2
208 ± 3	209,6 ± 0,2
249 ± 4	251,3 ± 0,3
261 ± 5	264,7 ± 0,3
287 ± 5	290,9 ± 0,3
311 ± 6	310,9 ± 0,2
323 ± 6	327,8 ± 0,3
356 ± 7	361,8 ± 0,2
381 ± 8	387,0 ± 0,4
397 ± 9	398,0 ± 0,4
420 ± 9	428,4 ± 0,4

TABLE II

$E_0$ (eV)	Garg (21)	Rae (22)	Singh (23)	Moxom (24)	Fluharty (25)	Chrien (26)	Desjardins (27)	Asghars (28)	This Work
$16.3 \pm 0.5$		0	0	0				0	0
$30.4 \pm 0.1$		1	1	1		(1)		1	1
$40.1 \pm 0.1$		1		1		(1)		1	
$41.5 \pm 0.1$				1				1	
$44.8 \pm 0.1$				0				0	0
$51.3 \pm 0.1$		1	1	1		(1)		1	1
$55.6 \pm 0.2$		0	0	0	0	(0)		0	0
$70.6 \pm 0.2$		1	1	1	1	(1)		1	1
$83.5 \pm 0.2$									
$87.4 \pm 0.2$		0		0		(1)		1	1
$106.3 \pm 0.2$									
$110.9 \pm 0.2$							*		
$133.9 \pm 0.2$	1	1	1	1		(1)	1	1	1
$139.7 \pm 0.2$									0
$144.2 \pm 0.2$				(0), (1)			(0)	0	0
$169.8 \pm 0.2$									
$173.1 \pm 0.2$			1	1		(1)	1		
$183.6 \pm 0.2$ *							*		
$202.5 \pm 0.2$				1					
$309.6 \pm 0.2$				1		(1)	1	1	1

TABLE III

FIGURE AND TABLE LEGEND

Fig. I - Experimental Set-up.

Fig. II - Pb Target.

A - Electron beam

B - Window

C - Safety window

D - Pressurer

E - Wings

F - Water in

G - Thermometer

H - Water out

Fig. III - Detection System Block Diagram.

Fig. IV - Variation of the ratio  $\frac{\langle R_0 \rangle}{\langle R_1 \rangle}$  as function of

gamma-ray energy threshold for single counts  
( $E_s$ ).

Fig. V - Single gamma-ray spectrum.

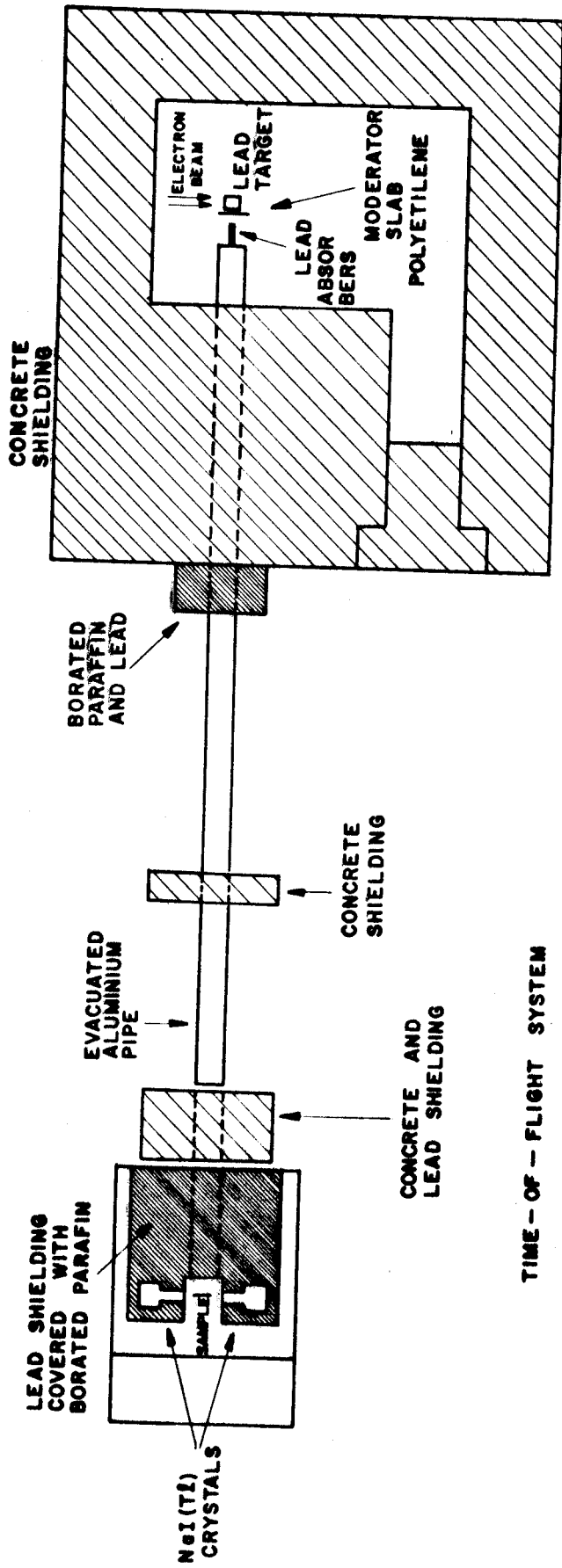
Fig. VI - Coincidence gamma-ray spectrum.

Fig. VII - Frequency distribution of  $R_j$  values for 0 and  
1 spin resonances.

Table I - Spin assignments by the cascade multiplicity  
method.

Table II - Resonance Identifications.

Table III - Comparison among the spin attributions of  
different authors.



TIME - OF - FLIGHT SYSTEM

Fig. I

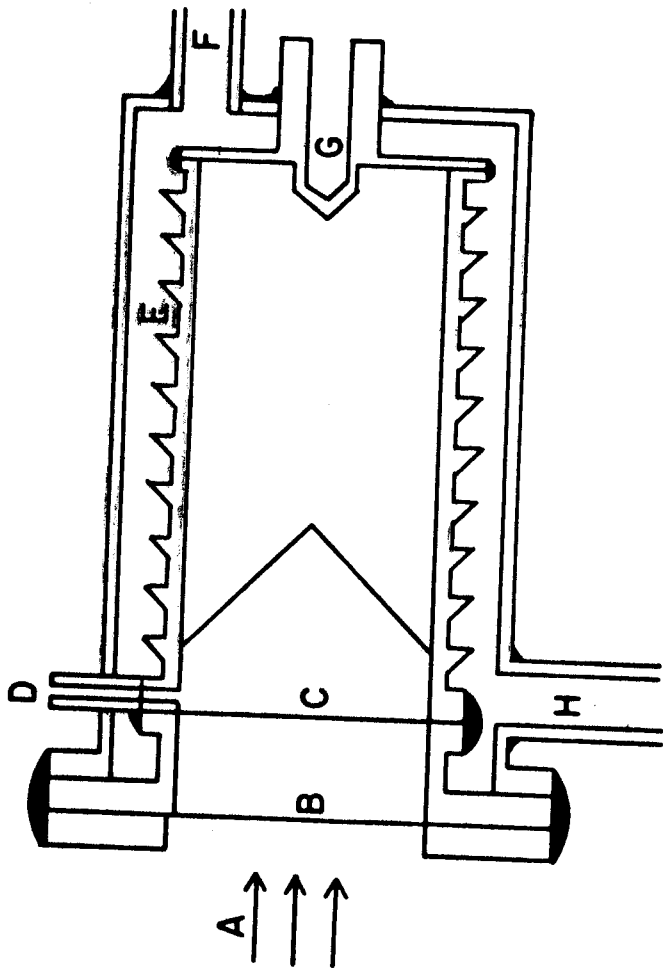


Fig. II

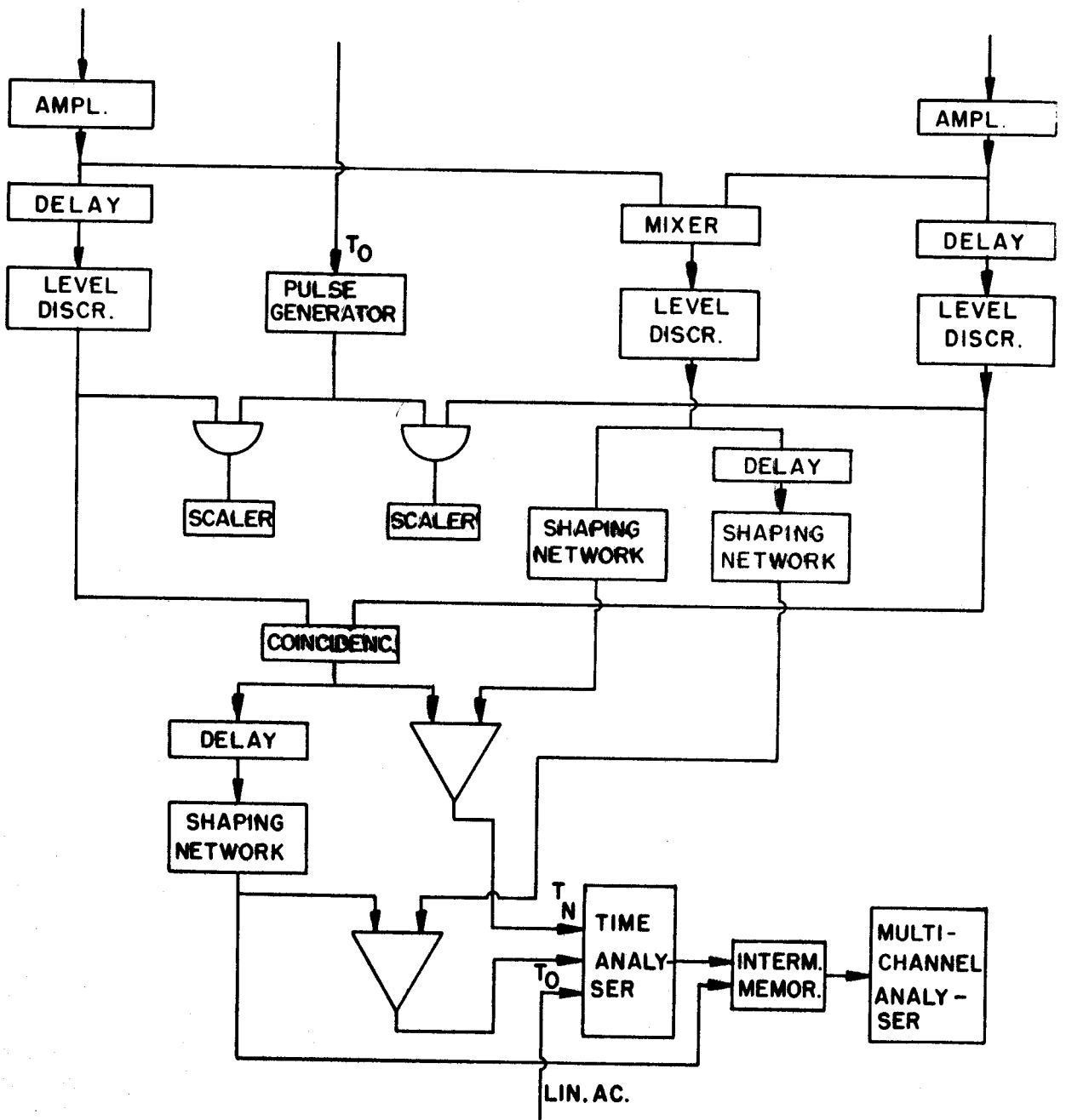


Fig. III

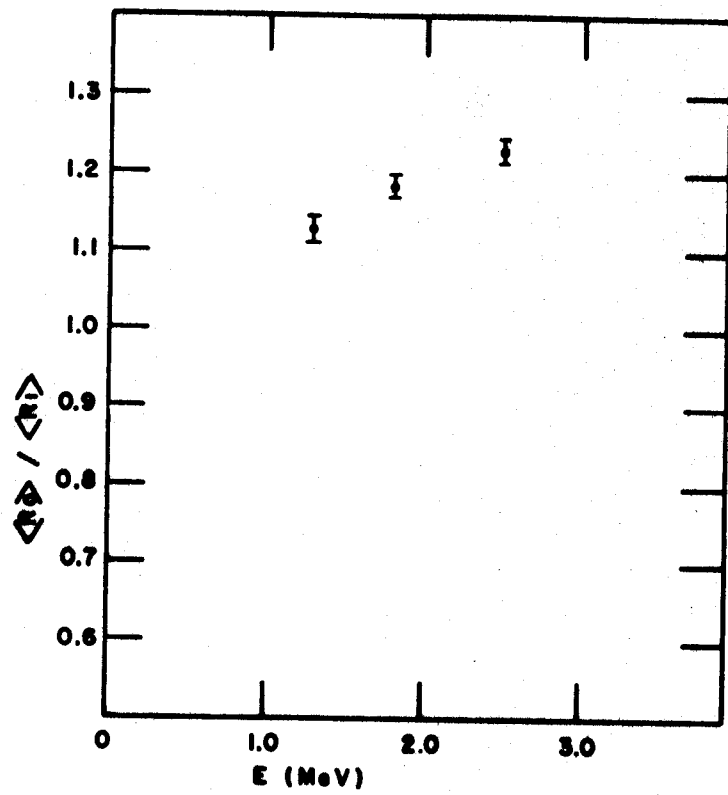


Fig. IV



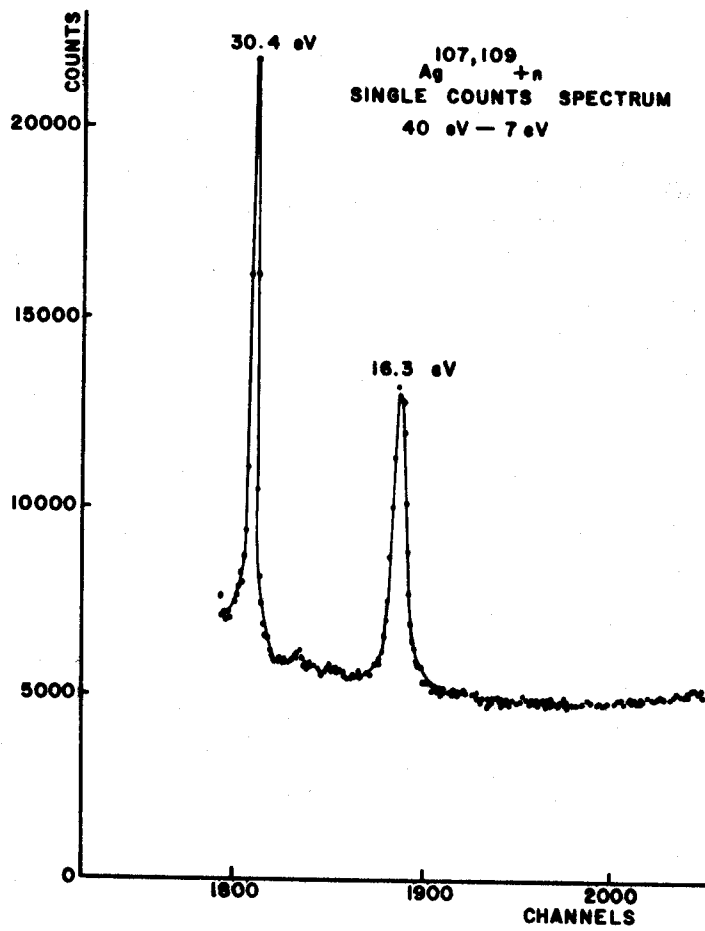


Fig. V a

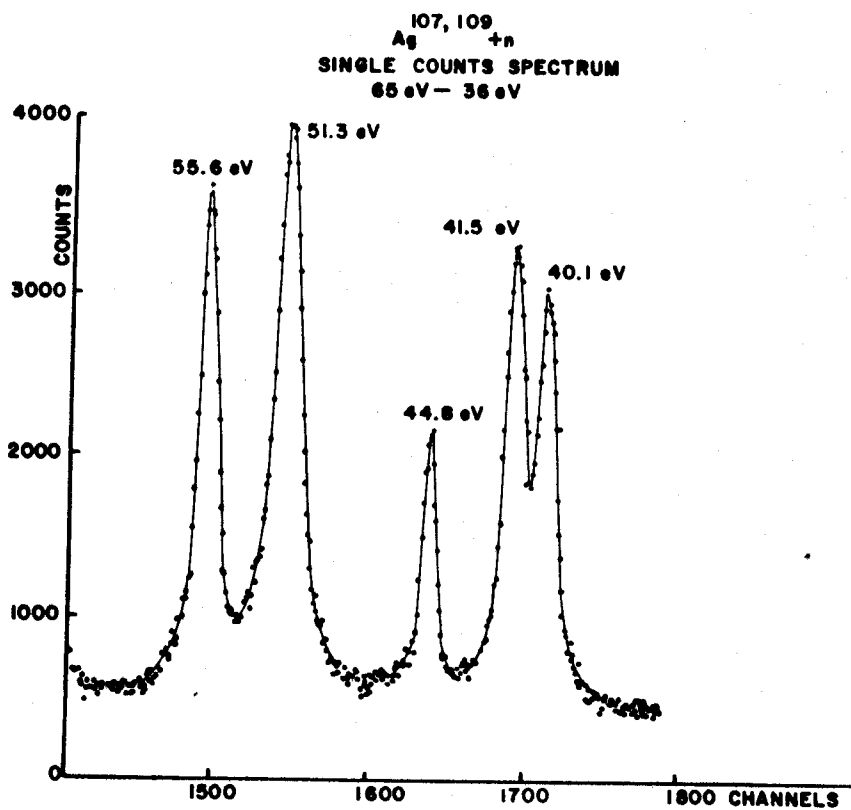


Fig. V b

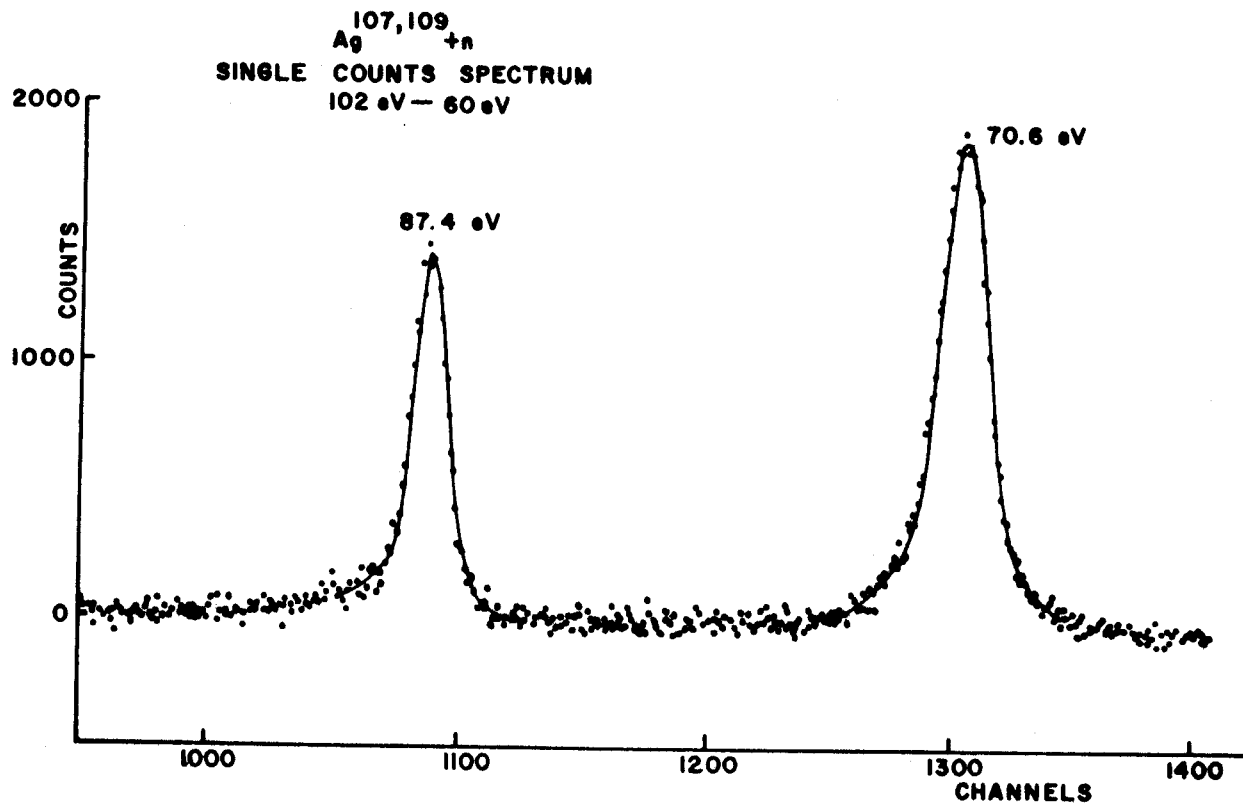


Fig. V c

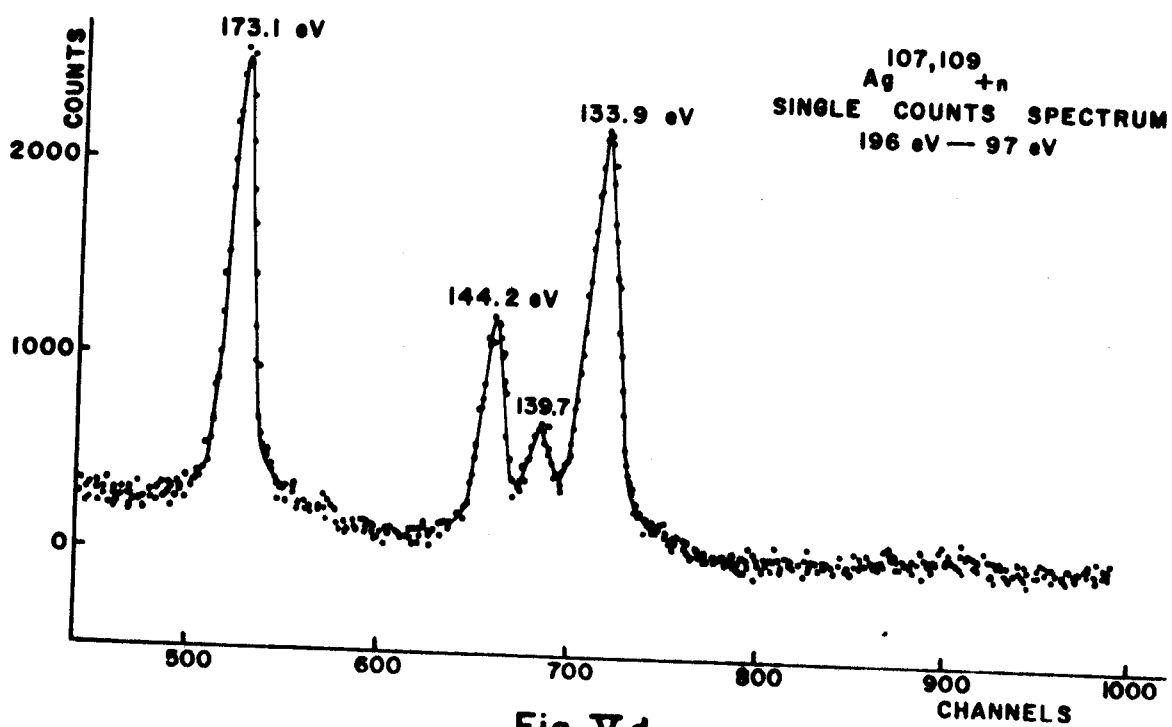


Fig. V d

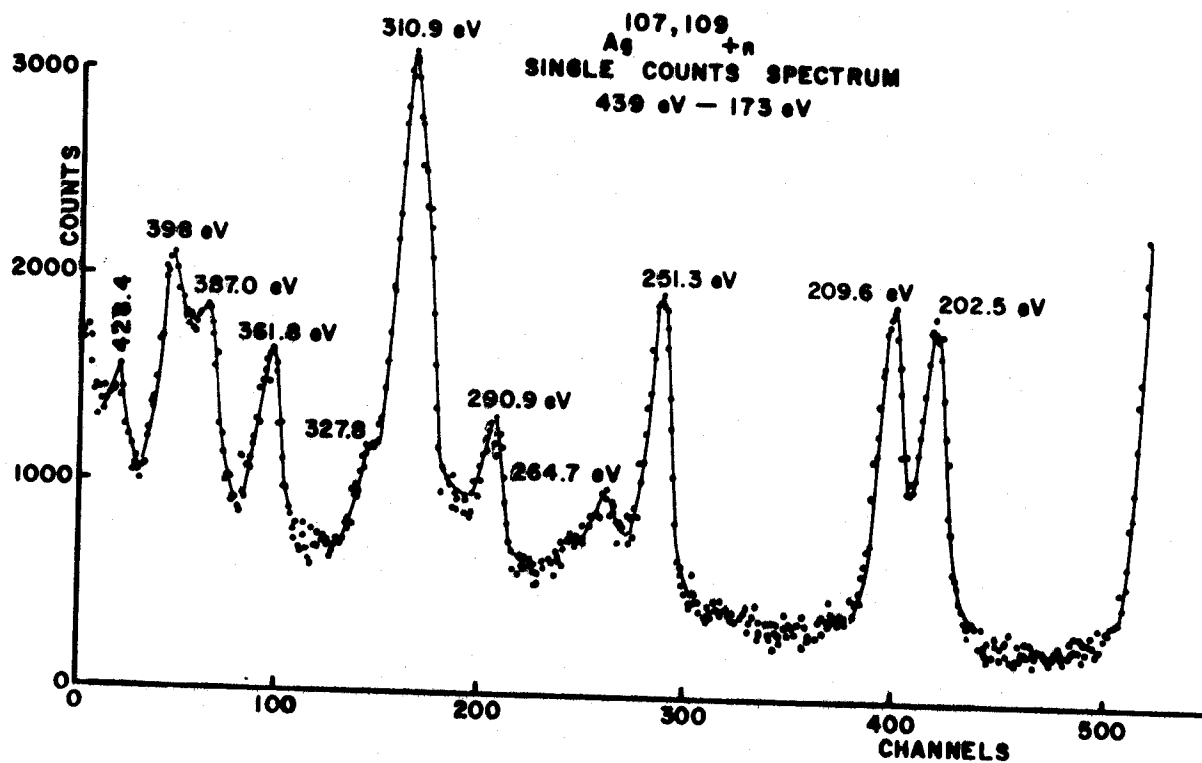


Fig. V e

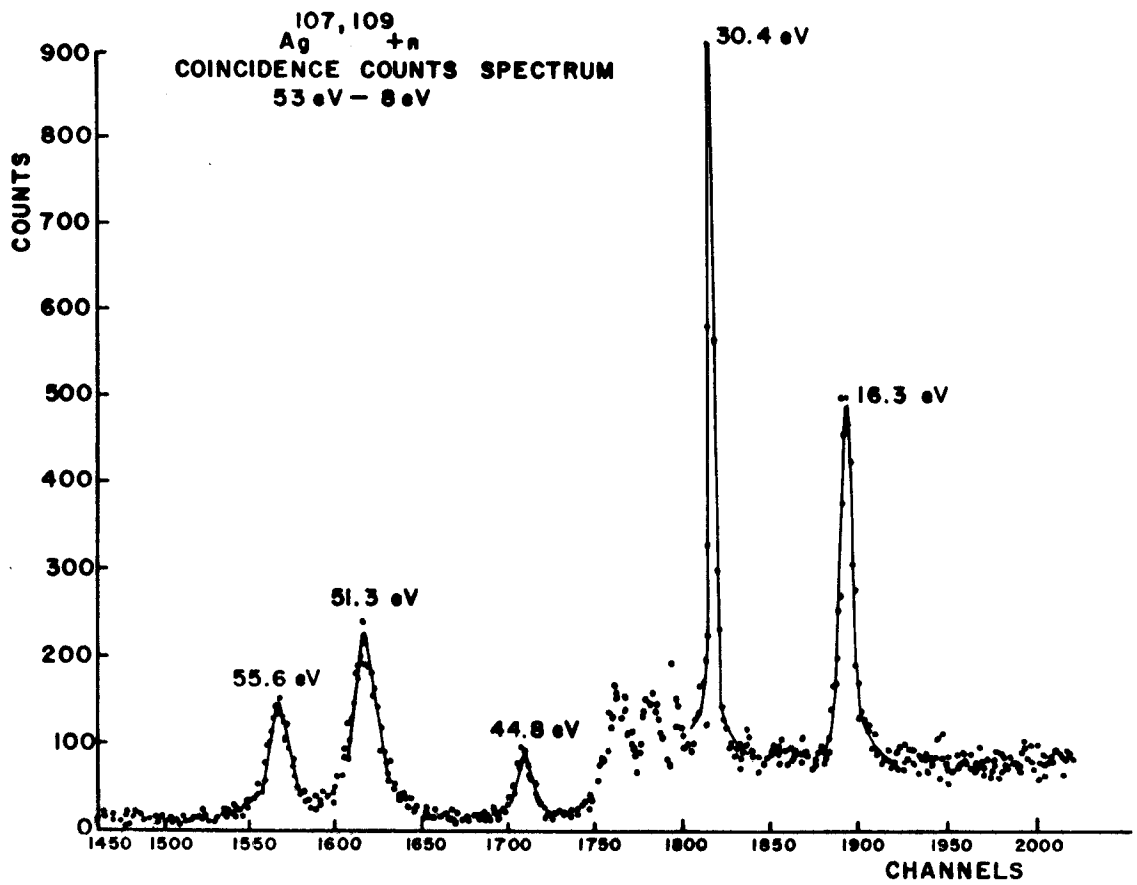


Fig. VI a

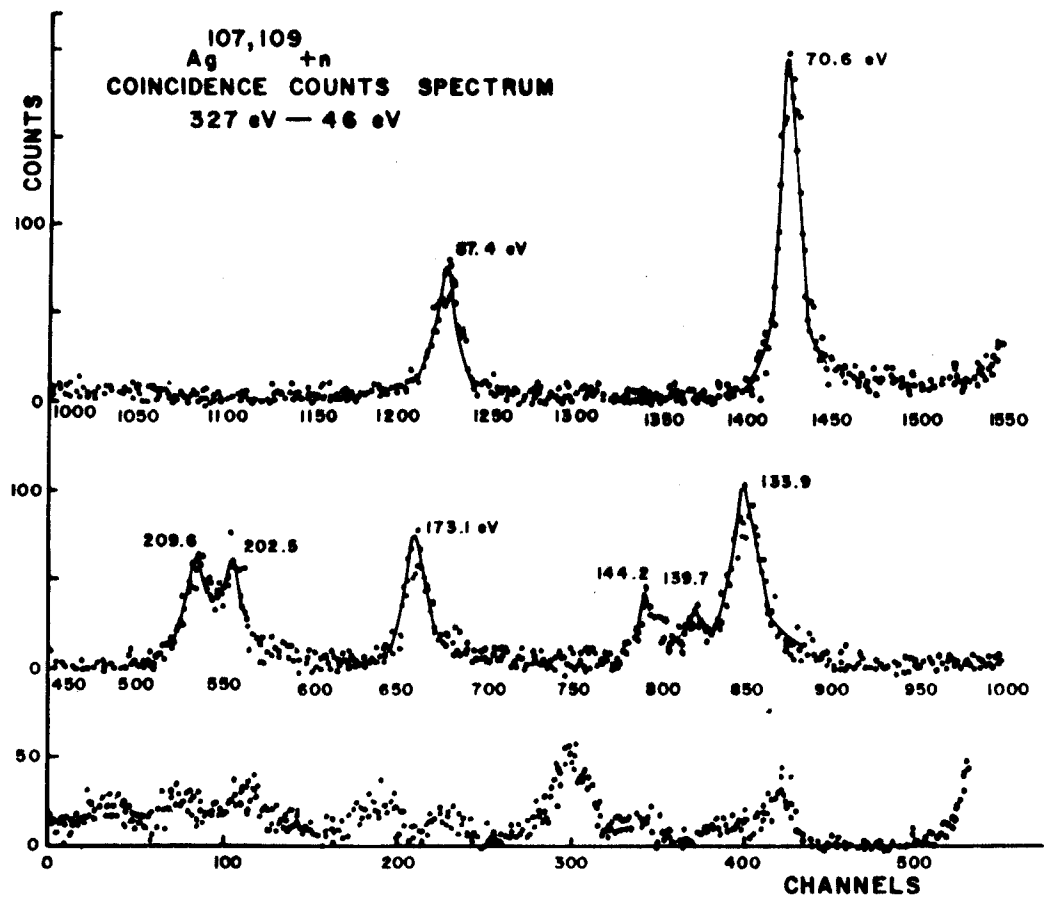


Fig. VI b

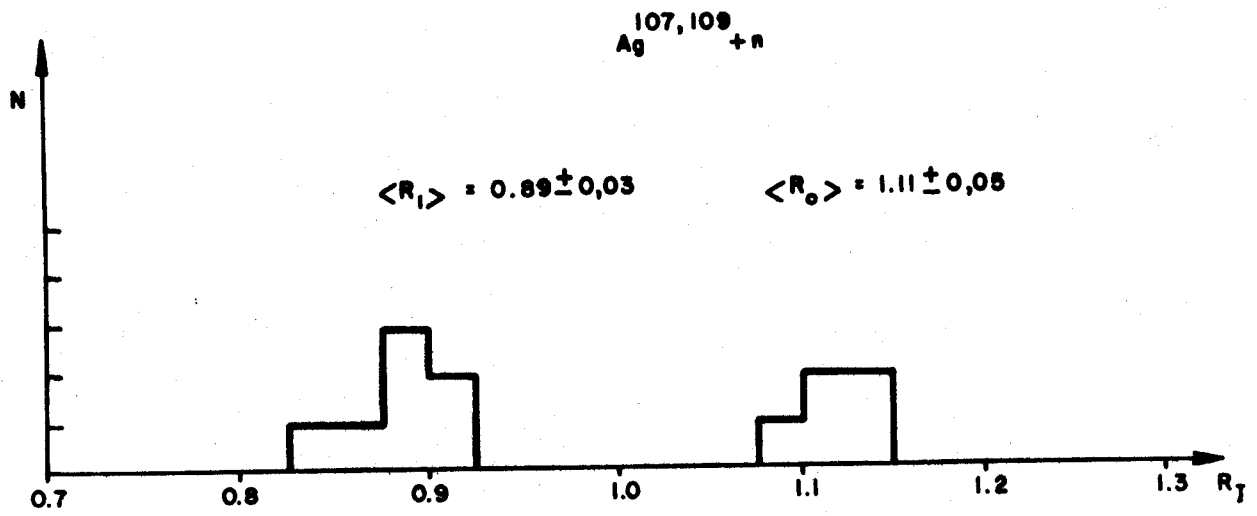


Fig. VII