

^{103m}Rh – Comments on evaluation of decay data**by A. L. Nichols¹, T. Kibédi²**¹ Department of Physics, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, UK² Department of Nuclear Physics, The Australian National University (ANU), Canberra ACT, Australia**Reviewer: S. Leblond**

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Evaluated: May 2013, January 2015, March/April 2021, April 2023, June 2024**^{103m}Rh IT decay separated from ¹⁰³Pd (100% EC decay)****Decay Scheme**

^{103m}Rh undergoes 100% IT decay ($T_{1/2} = 56.115$ minutes) to the ground state of ¹⁰³Rh ($Q_{IT} = 39.753$ (6) keV). A simple decay scheme can be proposed on the basis of the depopulation of the metastable state by means of the single 39.753-keV gamma ray to the ground state of ¹⁰³Rh.

Nuclear Data

There is a strong interest in the nuclear structure of ¹⁰³Rh and the IT decay of ^{103m}Rh because of the adoption of ^{103m}Rh as a neutron flux monitor.

Half-life of ^{103m}Rh

The measurements of 1967VuZZ, 1969KoZW, 1973Gu06, 1974Sa15, 1978La21 and 1981Va11 were adopted to give a weighted mean half-life of 56.115 (16) min based on LWM-NRM-Rajeval analyses (Avetools code, version 3.0, and V.AveLib 06-22 code, both ENSDF utility programs).

Reference	Half-life (min)	Selected detail, issues and uncertainties
1944Fl01	48 ± 5	¹⁰³ Rh(n _i ,n') reaction – outlier (Chauvenet criterion), and therefore not included in analytical procedures
1945Wi03/1945Wi12	45 ± 1	¹⁰³ Rh(X,γ) reaction – outlier (Chauvenet criterion), and therefore not included in analytical procedures
1947Fl03	52 ± 2	¹⁰³ Rh(d,d') reaction – outlier (Chauvenet criterion), and therefore not included in analytical procedures
1950Me26	56	separation of Pd target and ^{103m} Rh – uncertainty not specified, and therefore not included in analytical procedures
1957Jo19	57.5 ± 0.5	¹⁰³ Rh(n,n') reaction – outlier (Chauvenet criterion), and therefore not included in analytical procedures
1967VuZZ	<u>56.6 ± 0.4</u>	¹⁰³ Rh(n,n') reaction; 4π proportional counter and thin NaI crystal
1969KoZW	<u>56.6 ± 0.6</u>	¹⁰² Ru(n,γ) ¹⁰³ Ru(β ⁻) ^{103m} Rh; radiochemical separation, NaI(Tl) scintillation counter
1972Pa10	57.5	¹⁰³ Rh(n _{14.7keV} ,n') reaction, Si(Li) detector – uncertainty not specified, and therefore not included in analytical procedures
1973Gu06	<u>56.116 ± 0.009</u>	^{nat} Pd(n,xn') ¹⁰³ Pd(EC) ^{103m} Rh; three counting techniques: liquid scintillation counter, 2π-methane flow counter, and NaI(Tl) crystal – weighted mean of three sets of measurements is 56.116 (7), compared with a value of 56.116 (9) quoted by 1973Gu06; uncertainty adjusted to ± 0.016 to reduce weighting to ~ 0.50
1974Sa15	<u>56.3 ± 0.6</u>	¹⁰³ Rh(n,n') reaction; decay curve followed over many half-lives, NaI(Tl) X-ray detector
1978La21	<u>56.112 ± 0.028</u>	ion exchange of ^{103m} Rh from ¹⁰³ Pd solutions; decay curves involving 15 sources followed over three half-lives by means of an ill-defined photon spectrometer
1979VaZE	56.1 ± 0.1	preliminary measurement - replaced by half-life determined by 1981Va11
1981Va11	<u>56.114 ± 0.020</u>	ion exchange of ^{103m} Rh from ¹⁰³ Pd solutions; decay curves followed over two and three half-lives, NaI(Tl) detector – weighted mean of two sets of measurements is 56.114 (12), compared with a value of 56.114 (20) quoted by 1981Va11
Recommended value	56.115 ± 0.016	recommended uncertainty adjusted from ± 0.011 to ± 0.016, to align with smallest uncertainty of the values used to calculate weighted-mean value

Limitation of relative statistical weight method (LWM), normalized residual method (NRM), Rajeval technique, expected value method (EVM), bootstrap method and Mandel-Paule approach were considered in the analysis of the data set.

Analytical method	Half-life (min)	$\chi^2/(N-1)$	$\chi^2/(N-1)_{\text{critical}}$
UWM	56.31 ± 0.16	–	–
LWM	56.115 ± 0.011	0.45	2.21 for rejection at 95.0% confidence level
NRM	56.115 ± 0.011	0.45	2.21 for rejection at 95.0% confidence level
Rajeval	56.115 ± 0.011	0.45	2.21 for rejection at 95.0% confidence level
EVM	56.13 ± 0.08	–	97.0% confidence level
Bootstrap	56.22 ± 0.17	15.8	–
Mandel-Paule	56.115 ± 0.011	0.45	–

Half-life of (56.115 ± 0.016) minutes recommended for ^{103m}Rh, as quantified by LWM-NRM analytical procedures (1973Gu06 uncertainty increased to ± 0.016 in order to adjust weighting to ~ 0.50).

Q value

A Q_{IT} value for ^{103m}Rh of 39.753 (6) keV has been adopted (2021Ko07).

Gamma-ray energies and emission probabilities

Energies

The well-defined nuclear level energy for the first-excited metastable state was adopted from the Q_{IT} value, along with the recommended energy and associated uncertainty of the gamma-ray emission to the ground state of ¹⁰³Rh (2021Ko07).

Adopted energies, spins and parities for the relevant nuclear levels of ¹⁰³Rh (see also 2009De29, 2000KoZT).

Nuclear level number	Nuclear level energy (keV)	Spin and parity	Half-life
0	0.0	1/2 –	stable ¹⁰³ Rh
1	39.753 $\pm$ 0.006	7/2 +	56.115 (16) min ^{103m} Rh

Emission Probabilities

A simple decay scheme has been assembled for the IT decay of ^{103m}Rh. The 39.753-keV gamma transition depopulates the ^{103m}Rh nuclear level 100%, and is defined as (99.935%E3 + 0.065%M4) from spin and parity considerations ($7/2^+ \rightarrow 1/2^-$), internal conversion coefficients, and shell and subshell ratios (1950Ko10, 1952Co16, 1955Av11, 1955Dr43, 1967Br04, 1967VuZZ, 1968Ma08, 1969Gr13, 1969Le17, 1970NiZV, 1970Pe04, 1972Br02, 1972Pa10, 1974CzZY, 1975Cz03, 1975Ma32, 1976Ma37, 1979VaZE, 1999Sa78, 2018Ni14). Recommended internal conversion coefficients have been determined by means of the BrIcc code (frozen orbital approximation) of Kibédi *et al.* (2008Ki07), based on the theoretical model of Band *et al.* (2002Ba85, 2002Ra45).

Gamma-ray emission from 100% IT decay of ^{103m}Rh: multipolarity and theoretical internal-conversion coefficients (frozen orbital approximation).

E_γ (keV)	Multipolarity	α_K	α_L	α_{L1}	α_{L2}	α_{L3}	α_M	α_N	α_O	α_{total}
39.753 (6)	99.935%E3 + 0.065%M4 $\delta = 0.025^{+10}_{-15}$	142 (7)	1051 (30)	13 (5)	423 (6)	615 (18)	214 (6)	31.4 (9)	0.024 (11)	1440 (40)

Recommended gamma-ray energy, absolute emission probability, and transition probability from 100% IT decay of ^{103m}Rh.

E_γ (keV)	P_γ^{abs} (%)	Transition probability (%)	Δ (TP – P_γ^{abs}) (%)
$\gamma_{1,0}$ 39.753 (6)	0.0694 (15)	100.0	99.9306 (15)

Electron energies were determined from electron binding energies tabulated by Larkins (1977La19) and the evaluated gamma-ray energies. Absolute electron emission probabilities were calculated from the evaluated absolute gamma-ray emission probabilities and associated internal conversion coefficients.

Energies and emission probabilities of internal conversion electrons from 100% IT decay of ^{103m}Rh.

	Energy (keV)	Electrons per 100 disint.
eC _{1,0} T (Rh)	16.533 – 39.751	99.9306 (15)
eC _{1,0} K (Rh)	16.533 (6)	9.85 (+50-40) $\rightarrow$ 9.85 (45)
eC _{1,0} L (Rh)	36.341 – 36.749	73 (3)
eC _{1,0} M (Rh)	39.126 – 39.446	14.9 (5)
eC _{1,0} N+ (Rh)	39.672 – 39.751	2.18 (8)

Atomic Data

X-ray decay data and related parameters for ^{103m}Rh have been measured experimentally over many years (e.g., 1973In07, 1974Sa15, 1975Cz03, 1981Va22, 1994Sc43), and most recently by Riffaud *et al.* (2017Ri10, 2018Ri01, 2021Ri01). The ¹⁰³Rh(n,n')^{103m}Rh reaction is important for reactor dosimetry studies because of the generation of suitable data traceable to reactor operations. This radionuclide emits only X-rays for which emission probabilities can be determined by means of the single gamma-ray transition probability and fluorescence yields. While these ω_K , ω_L , etc. have been measured as well as calculated by means of semi-empirical and theoretical models, available experimental data are rather limited as implied in the following table (1936Ba01, 1937St02, 1954Ro45, 1957Ro58, 1990Si19, 1992Ga24, 2017Ri10). Both the X-ray and Auger-electron data have been subsequently calculated on the basis of the evaluated gamma-ray data, along with atomic data from 1996Sc06, 1998ScZM, 1999ScZX, 2000Sc47 (Rh: $\omega_K = 0.809$ (4); $\omega_L = 0.0494$ (12); $n_{KL} = 0.987$ (4)).

Fluorescence yields for Rh.

Reference	ω_K	ω_L	ω_M	Comments
1936Ba01	0.801 ^a	–	–	experimental measurements
1937St02	0.77 ^a	–	–	experimental measurements
1954Ro45	0.779 ^a	–	–	experimental measurements
1957Ro58	0.786 $\pm$ 0.015 ^b	–	–	experimental measurements
1990Si19/1994Hu23	0.829 $\pm$ 0.058	–	–	based upon 1990Si19 measurements of ω_K
1992Ga24/1994Hu23	–	0.051 $\pm$ 0.005	–	based upon 1992Ga24 measurements of ω_L
2017Ri10	0.814 $\pm$ 0.041	–	–	experimental measurements
Mean or only value	0.803 $\pm$ 0.024	0.050 $\pm$ 0.002^c	0.00135^d	
1972Bb16	0.807 $\pm$ 0.031	–	–	assessment/evaluation of ω_K models
1994Hu23	0.792	0.0499	0.00135	assessment/evaluation of ω_K , ω_L and ω_M models
	0.8086	0.0459	0.00135	development of existing fitted functions
1996Sc06	0.809 $\pm$ 0.004	0.0494 $\pm$ 0.0012	–	assessment/evaluation of ω_K and ω_L models
2011Ka49	0.80205	–	–	assessment/evaluation of ω_K models

^a Unspecified uncertainty – not included in weighted-mean analyses of experimental data set.

^b Uncertainty adjusted from ± 0.015 to ± 0.034 to reduce weighting to no more than 0.50.

^c Estimation, as guided by a single measurement (1992Ga24) and assessments/evaluations (1994Hu23, 1996Sc06).

^d Estimation, as proposed by assessment/evaluation (1994Hu23).

Measured LX-ray decay data: ^{103m}Rh.

	Levels	Energy (keV)	Relative P _{LX}
2021Ri01	L3-M1	2.370	2.67 (14)
	L2-M1	2.513	1.73 (9)
	L3-M4,5	2.695	100 (5)
	L2-M4	2.891	48.5 (24)
	L1-M2	2.891	8.23 (41)
	L1-M3	2.915	–
	L3-N1	2.934	–
	L3-N4,5	3.012	8.00 (40)
	L1-M4,5	3.101	4.94 (25)
	L2-N4	3.154	0.841 (43)
	L1-N2,3	3.373	0.848 (44)

X-ray and Auger-electron spectra for the IT decay of ^{103m}Rh were determined by means of BrIccEmis calculations within the NS_RadList program, as described in 2012Le09, 2013LeZX, 2016Le19, 2020TeZY and 2023Texx. Transition energies within each propagation step were derived from the atomic binding energies determined by adopting the relativistic Dirac-Fock approach employed in the RAINE code (2002Ba85), along with the application of a semi-empirical correction procedure that aligns these energies more fully with known spectral data. Fixed transition rates were obtained from the EADL database (1991PeZY, 1993Cu08). Resulting X-ray and Auger-electron energies and emission probabilities are listed below for ^{103m}Rh probabilities (both sets of energies are listed as mean energies and ranges of energies at the 95% confidence level, with additional extensions of these energy ranges in italics for specific X-ray and Auger electron emissions). The number of simulated nuclear events is 10⁶, and the intensity cut-offs for both the X-ray and Auger-electron listings are 0.01 per 100 decays. As defined by 1991PeZY, uncertainties in these theoretical X-ray emission probabilities are $\sim 10\%$ for the K and L shells and 30% for the outer shells, whereas uncertainties in the theoretical Auger-electron emission probabilities are $< 15\%$ for the K and L shells (except for Coster-Kronig and super Coster-Kronig transitions) and 30% for the outer shells.

X-ray energies and emission probabilities from IT decay of ^{103m}Rh (BrIccEmis/NS_RadList).

		Mean energy (keV)	Energy (keV) 95% confidence range/extension	Photons per 100 decays ^a
X _{tot}	(Rh)	14.255	2.378 – 22.725	12.5 (4)
XK _{tot}	(Rh)	20.599	20.073 – 23.167/23.173	8.1 (4)
XKL2	(Rh)	20.073	20.073	2.33 (10)
XKL3	(Rh)	20.215	20.215	4.41 (20)
XKM	(Rh)	22.717	22.699 – 22.725	1.11 (5)
XKM2	(Rh)	22.699	22.699	0.375 (17)
XKM3	(Rh)	22.725	22.725	0.730 (33)
XKN	(Rh)	23.171	23.167 – 23.173	0.219 (10)
XKN2	(Rh)	23.167	23.167	0.0746 (34)
XKN3	(Rh)	23.173	23.173	0.144 (6)
XL _{tot}	(Rh)	2.743	2.378 – 3.067	4.27 (10)
XM _{tot}	(Rh)	0.321	0.189 – 0.546	0.1184 (23)

^a Quoted uncertainties include direct contributions from only the internal-conversion electrons (2023Texx) – these data do not include significant uncertainties from the more complex but less well-defined atomic radiation probabilities as considered semi-quantitatively in EADL, whereby uncertainties in the theoretical X-ray radiative rates are $\sim 10\%$ for the K and L shells, and can be of the order of 30% for the outer shells (1991PeZY).

Auger-electron energies and emission probabilities from IT decay of ^{103m}Rh (BrIccEmis/NS_RadList).

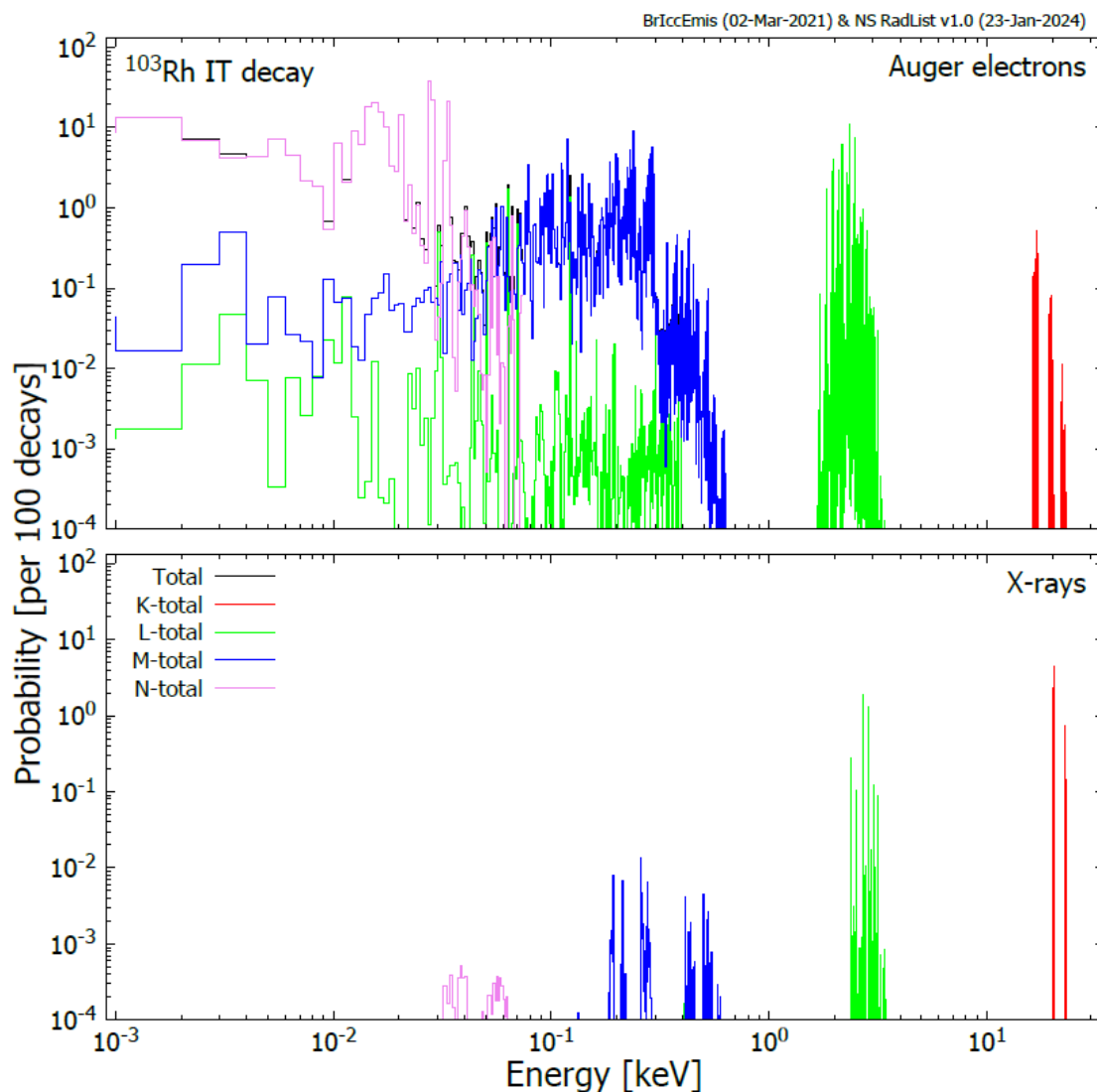
		Mean Energy (keV)	Energy (keV) 95% confidence range/extension	Electrons per 100 decays ^a
Auger total	(Rh)	0.461	0.002 – 2.490	582 (12)
Auger K _{tot}	(Rh)	17.708	16.281 – 21.922/22.838	1.92 (9)
Auger KLL	(Rh)	16.811	16.281 – 17.083	1.34 (6)
Auger K LX	(Rh)	19.574	19.133 – 20.146	0.525 (24)
Auger KXY	(Rh)	22.275	21.922 – 22.838	0.0495 (22)
Auger L _{tot}	(Rh)	2.139	0.004/0.064 – 2.768/3.133	85.4 (19)
Auger Coster-Kronig LLM	(Rh)	0.038	0.004 – 0.051	0.94 (+22-17)
Auger Coster-Kronig LLX	(Rh)	0.098	0.031 – 0.313	5.36 (15)
Auger LMM	(Rh)	2.239	1.842 – 2.490	66.2 (15)
Auger LMX	(Rh)	2.600	2.383 – 2.824	12.25 (28)
Auger LXY	(Rh)	2.969	2.851 – 3.133	0.620 (14)
Auger M _{tot}	(Rh)	0.200	0.021/0.054 – 0.368/0.390	235 (5)
Auger Coster-Kronig MMX	(Rh)	0.103	0.021 – 0.178	69.0 (13)
Auger MXY	(Rh)	0.240	0.141 – 0.390	166.1 (34)
Auger N _{tot}	(Rh)	0.019	0.001 – 0.034/0.064	259 (5)
Auger super Coster-Kronig NNN	(Rh)	0.019	0.001 – 0.034	249 (5)
Auger Coster-Kronig NNX	(Rh)	0.020	0.002 – 0.064	9.94 (21)

^a Quoted uncertainties include direct contributions from only the internal-conversion electrons (2023Texx) – these data do not include significant uncertainties from the more complex but less well-defined atomic radiation probabilities as considered semi-quantitatively in EADL, whereby uncertainties in the theoretical Auger-electron radiative rates are < 15% for the K and L shells (except for Coster-Kronig and super Coster-Kronig transitions), and can be of the order of 30% or more for Coster-Kronig and super Coster-Kronig transitions and the outer shells (1991PeZY).

Total energy release per decay as determined from the BrIccEmis/NS_RadList studies:

Radiation	Total energy (keV per decay)	Total intensity (%)
Gamma rays	0.0276 (8)	0.0694 (19)
Conversion electrons	35.3 (12)	100.3 (35)
Auger electrons	2.67 (6)	582 (12)
X-rays	1.77 (6)	12.5 (4)
Summed total	39.8 (12)	
Q(IT)	39.753 (6)	

The final X-ray and Auger-electron spectra were effectively evaluated from one million simulated nuclear decay events. Both component spectra of the Auger-electron and X-ray emissions as calculated by the BrIccEmis code for the IT decay of ^{103m}Rh are shown in the following figure.

Auger-electron (upper panel) and X-ray (lower panel) spectra of ^{103m}Rh IT decay:**Main Production Modes for ^{103}Pd and ^{103m}Rh**

^{103m}Rh : $^{103}\text{Rh}(n,n')^{103m}\text{Rh}$, $^{103}\text{Rh}(d,d')^{103m}\text{Rh}$, $^{103}\text{Rh}(\alpha,\alpha')^{103m}\text{Rh}$, $^{103}\text{Rh}(\gamma,\gamma')^{103m}\text{Rh}$
 parent $^{103}\text{Pd}(\text{EC})^{103m}\text{Rh}$
 parent $^{103}\text{Ru}(\beta^-)^{103m}\text{Rh}$: $^{102}\text{Ru}(n,\gamma)^{103}\text{Ru}$, $^{102}\text{Ru}(d,p)^{103}\text{Ru}$, $^{104}\text{Ru}(d,t)^{103}\text{Ru}$, $^{100}\text{Mo}(\alpha,n)^{103}\text{Ru}$

Data Consistency **^{103m}Rh**

A Q_{IT} -value of 39.753 (6) keV for the IT decay of ^{103m}Rh from NUBASE2020/AME2020 (2021Ko07, 2021Wa16) has been similarly compared with a calculated Q-value of 39.8 (6) keV to give a percentage deviation of $-(0.1 \pm 1.5)\%$, which supports the derivation of a consistent decay scheme with a modest variant.

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65 references and three errata – 68 items

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The above codes have undergone and will continue to undergo various forms of modification and improvement, which will be reflected in changes to the version number and date of issue into the public domain. Assistance from Tibor Kibédi (ANU, Australia – particularly BrIccEmis and NS_RadList) concerning improved operational features of some of the above codes is gratefully acknowledged by ALN.