Single-Particle Transition (Weisskopf Estimate)

For an electric single-particle transition we assume excitation of only one proton in an average central potential that changes its orbit from j_i to j_f . A magnetic transition takes place when the intrinsic spin is flipped, i.e., $j_i = \ell_i \pm 1/2 \rightarrow j_f = \ell_f \mp 1/2$, respectively. For a magnetic transition the multipolarity λ is given by $|j_i - j_f| = \lambda$ and $|\ell_i - \ell_f| = \lambda - 1$.

A useful scale of $B(E\lambda)$ - and $B(M\lambda)$ -values are the Weisskopf units which allow a rough estimate of the number of nucleons contributing to radiation. For a transition from an excited state I_i to the ground state I_{gs} we find in the electric (E λ) and magnetic (M λ) case

$$B(E\lambda; I_i \to I_{gs}) = \frac{(1.2)^{2\lambda}}{4\pi} (\frac{3}{\lambda+3})^2 A^{2\lambda/3} e^2 (fm)^{2\lambda}$$
(1)

$$B(M\lambda; I_i \to I_{gs}) = \frac{10}{\pi} (1.2)^{2\lambda - 2} (\frac{3}{\lambda + 3})^2 A^{(2\lambda - 2)/3} \ \mu_N^2 (fm)^{2\lambda - 2}$$
(2)

For the first few values of λ , the Weisskopf estimates are

$$B(E1; I_i \to I_{gs}) = 6.446 \ 10^{-4} \ A^{2/3} \ e^2(barn)$$
(3)

$$B(E2; I_i \to I_{gs}) = 5.940 \ 10^{-6} \ A^{4/3} \ e^2 (barn)^2 \tag{4}$$

$$B(E3; I_i \to I_{gs}) = 5.940 \ 10^{-8} \ A^2 \ e^2 (barn)^3$$
(5)

$$B(E4; I_i \to I_{gs}) = 6.285 \ 10^{-10} \ A^{8/3} \ e^2 (barn)^4 \tag{6}$$

$$B(M1; I_i \to I_{gs}) = 1.790 \quad (\frac{e\hbar}{2Mc})^2 \tag{7}$$