

**<sup>144</sup>Ce – Comments on evaluation of decay data  
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### Evaluation Procedures

*Limitation of Relative Statistical Weight Method (LWM)* and other analytical techniques were applied to average numbers throughout the evaluation. The uncertainty assigned to the average value was always greater than or equal to the smallest uncertainty of the values used to calculate the average.

### Decay Scheme

<sup>144</sup>Ce ( $T_{1/2} = 284.89$  days) undergoes 100%  $\beta^-$  decay ( $Q(\beta^-) = 318.6$  (8) keV) via various excited levels of <sup>144</sup>Pr to the metastable state of <sup>144m</sup>Pr (branching fraction of 0.0115 (20), and <sup>144m</sup>Pr half-life of 7.2 min) and to the ground state of <sup>144</sup>Pr (branching fraction of 0.9885 (20), and <sup>144</sup>Pr half-life of 17.29 min). A reasonably well-defined decay scheme was derived from the gamma-ray measurements of 1969Gu15, 1970An15, 1970Fa03, 1970Po09, 1975De17, 1976Ch33, 1977Ge12, 1981O104, 1982Yu02, 1983E114 and 1984Da13, coupled with comprehensive studies of conversion-electron spectra and extensive efforts to determine unambiguously the spin and parity of the ground state and the half-lives of the excited states of <sup>144</sup>Pr (1957Pa51, 1958Hi76, 1959Fr54, 1959Se57, 1960Ge05, 1961Ge09, 1962B105, 1962Bu09, 1962Bu22, 1962Fo04, 1963Co18, 1963Fu16, 1963Iw02, 1963Si10, 1963Cr11, 1963Kn05, 1963Bh11, 1964Az02, 1964Be36, 1964Mc22, 1965Re13, 1965Co19, 1966Be11, 1966Da04, 1967Gu17, 1968Da12, 1969Ge01, 1969Ma24, 1970An15, 1971Sa20 and 1975Ba32). While <sup>144</sup>Ce( $\beta^-$ ) <sup>144m</sup>Pr amounts to only 1.15 (20) % of the total decay, daughter <sup>144m</sup>Pr undergoes 99.94 (2) % isomeric-transition decay to <sup>144</sup>Pr by emission of a single 59.03(3)-keV gamma ray, and 0.06 (2) %  $\beta^-$  decay to <sup>144</sup>Nd. As a consequence of the short-lived decay of <sup>144m</sup>Pr the 59.03-keV M3 gamma transition has been included in both the <sup>144</sup>Ce and <sup>144m</sup>Pr decay-data files. Thus, the proposed decay scheme for <sup>144</sup>Ce consists of three  $\beta^-$  transitions and seven gamma-ray emissions, of which one gamma transition originates from <sup>144m</sup>Pr IT decay. Weighted-mean relative emission probabilities were calculated for some of the gamma rays, while equivalent data for other gamma transitions were primarily adopted from the comprehensive measurements of 1984Da13. All of these relative emission probabilities were defined in terms of the 133.515-keV gamma ray (100%).

### Nuclear Data

<sup>144</sup>Ce has been adopted as a burn-up monitor for irradiated fuel, and as a brachytherapy source in specific forms of cancer treatment. The  $\beta^-$  decay of daughter <sup>144</sup>Pr is important in decay heat assessments, design of irradiated fuel storage facilities, and other facets of radwaste management.

### Half-life

The measurements of 1956Sc87, 1957Me47, 1965Fl02, 1968La10, 1968Re04, 1980Ho17, 1983Wa26, 1986O101, 1997Ma75 and 2014Un01 were analysed by means of the limitation of relative statistical weight method (LWM), normalised residual method (NRM), Rajeval technique, bootstrap method, and Mandel-Paule approach.  $\chi^2/(N-1)$  obtained from the LWM, bootstrap and Mandel-Paule analyses are significantly higher than the values obtained from the equivalent data manipulation by means of the NRM and Rajeval techniques. While NRM resulted in adjustments to the half-life data measured by 1980Ho17 and 1997Ma75, the equivalent Rajeval analysis consisted of a small adjustment to the uncertainty of 1965Fl02, and more substantial changes to the uncertainties quoted by 1980Ho17, 1983Wa26 and 1997Ma75. Under these circumstances, a half-life value of  $(284.89 \pm 0.06)$  days was preferred and recommended, as quantified by the Rajeval analytical procedure.

Reference	Half-life (d)
1956Sc87	284.5 ± 1.0
1957Me47	285 ± 2
1960Ea02	277 ± 4*
1965Fl02	283.8 ± 0.6
1968La10	284.8 ± 1.0
1968Re04	284.9 ± 0.8
1980Ho17	285.8 ± 0.1
1983Wa26	284.45 ± 0.14
1986Ol01	284.893 ± 0.008 <sup>§</sup>
1992Un01	284.558 ± 0.038 <sup>‡</sup>
1997Ma75	286.14 ± 0.09
2002Un02	284.534 ± 0.032 <sup>‡</sup>
2012Fi12	284.35 ± 0.08 <sup>Ⓞ</sup>
2014Un01	284.35 ± 0.40
<b>Recommended value</b>	<b>284.89 ± 0.06<sup>†</sup></b>

\* Defined as an outlier, and therefore not adopted in the analytical procedures.

<sup>§</sup> Uncertainty adjusted to ± 0.06 to reduce weighting to no more than 0.50.

<sup>‡</sup> Superseded by study of 2012Fi12 after the discovery of problems in maintaining constant detector-source geometry within the NIST ionization chamber.

<sup>Ⓞ</sup> Replaced by 2014Un01 – uncertainty increased from ± 0.08 to 0.40 in the most recent NIST paper.

<sup>†</sup> Recommended value adopted from Rajeval analysis, with uncertainty increased from ± 0.008 to 0.06 in alignment with the smallest uncertainty adopted to calculate the average value.

Analytical method	Half-life (d)	$\chi^2/(N-1)$	$\chi^2/(N-1)_{\text{critical}}$
UWM	284.86 ± 0.22	–	–
LWM – WM	284.91 ± 0.05	31.85	2.41
LWM – WM <sup>#</sup>	285.3 ± 0.4	23.22	2.41
NRM	284.64 ± 0.16	2.01	1.88
Rajeval	284.892 ± 0.008	1.56	–
Bootstrap	284.79 ± 0.21	57.74	–
Mandel-Paule	285.0 ± 0.6	46.43	–

<sup>#</sup> Uncertainty of measurement by 1986Ol01 increased from ± 0.008 to 0.06 to reduce weighting to no more than 0.50.

## Q values

The 59.03-keV IT gamma decay of <sup>144m</sup>Pr has been handled as part of the decay scheme of <sup>144</sup>Ce, with 100% β<sup>-</sup> decay to <sup>144</sup>Pr and adoption of a Q<sup>-</sup>-value of 318.6 (8) keV (2012Wa38).

## Gamma-ray energies and emission probabilities

### Energies

The well-defined nuclear level energies of 2001So16 were used to calculate the gamma transition energies and their uncertainties. Greater confidence was placed on this approach because of the more wide-ranging origins of the gamma transition data even though the energies of the gamma-ray emissions have been measured by 1960Ge05, 1960Sa22, 1970An15, 1976Ch33, 1976Ra22, 1982Yu02, 1983El14 and 1984Da13. Daughter <sup>144m</sup>Pr undergoes 99.94 (2) % isomeric-transition decay to <sup>144</sup>Pr by means of a single 59.03(3)-keV gamma ray, and 0.06 (2) % β<sup>-</sup> decay to <sup>144</sup>Nd – the 59.03-keV M3 gamma transition has been included in both the <sup>144</sup>Ce and <sup>144m</sup>Pr decay-data files.

### Adopted energies, spins and parities for the nuclear levels of <sup>144</sup>Pr (2001So16).

Nuclear level number	Nuclear level energy (keV)	Spin and parity
0	0.0	0 – 17.29 (4) min <sup>144</sup> Pr
1	59.03 ± 0.03	3 – 7.2 (2) min <sup>144m</sup> Pr
2	80.120 ± 0.004	1 – 136 (11) ps <sup>*</sup>
3	99.952 ± 0.009	2 – 0.67 (6) ns <sup>#</sup>
4	133.5152 ± 0.0020	1 – 7 (4) ps <sup>†</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> Weighted mean of 125 (14) ps (1962Bu22 (same value also reported by 1962Bu09)) and 143 (11) ps (1964Mc22); uncertainty increased from ± 9 to 11, in alignment with the smallest measured uncertainty of the values used to calculate the weighted-mean value.

<sup>#</sup> Weighted mean of 0.69 (14) ns (1962Bu22 (same value also reported by 1962Bu09)) and 0.66 (6) ns (1964Be36).

<sup>†</sup> Determined by 1962Bu22 (same value also reported by 1962Bu09).

Measured and recommended gamma-ray energies.

E <sub>γ</sub> (keV)													
1957Pa51*	1959Fr54	1959Se57	1960Ge05†	1960Sa22	1970An15	1976Ch33	1976Ra22	1978Mo22	1979Bo26	1982Yu02	1983El14	1984Da13	Recommended#
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5.012 (50)	Pr X L <sub>α1</sub> + L <sub>α2</sub>
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5.486 (50)	Pr X L <sub>β1</sub> + L <sub>β3</sub> + L <sub>β4</sub>
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5.851 (50)	Pr X L <sub>β2,15</sub>
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6.297 (50)	Pr X L <sub>γ1</sub>
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6.594 (50)	Pr X L <sub>γ2,3</sub>
33.7	35 (X-ray)	36 (2)	33.57 (3)	34 (3)	33.6 (1)	33.622 (10)	33.6	–	–	33.552 (20)	33.56	33.568 (10)	33.563 ± 0.009
–	–	–	–	–	35.9 (1)	35.554 (10)	–	–	–	35.558 (20)	–	35.547 (10)	Pr X K <sub>α2</sub>
–	–	–	–	–	–	36.030 (10)	–	–	–	36.033 (20)	–	36.026 (10)	Pr X K <sub>α1</sub>
–	–	–	–	–	40.7	40.676 (10)	–	–	–	–	40.72	40.739 (20)	Pr X K <sub>β1</sub>
41.0	–	–	40.93 (3)	–	41	40.892 (50)	40.8 (4)	–	–	–	–	40.98 (10)	40.92 ± 0.03
–	–	–	–	–	41.7 (1)	41.759 (10)	–	–	–	41.756 (15)	–	41.778 (10)	Pr X K <sub>β2</sub>
53.0	–	–	53.41 (5)	54 (4)*	53.4 (1)	53.432 (10)	53.4 (1)	–	–	53.436 (10)	53.40	53.395 (5)	53.395 ± 0.005
–	–	–	59.03 (3)	–	59.0 (3)	–	58.5 (2)	–	–	–	58.96	58.98‡	59.03 ± 0.03 <sup>144m</sup> Pr IT decay
81.0	80	81 (4)	80.12 (3)	80 (3)	80.1 (1)	80.106 (5)	80.09 (8)	–	–	80.119 (10)	79.95	80.120 (5)	80.120 ± 0.004
100.6	–	–	99.95 (5)	101 (5)*	100.0 (1)	99.963 (20)	99.85 (8)	–	–	99.922 (15)	99.80	99.961 (15)	99.952 ± 0.009
134.1	133	134 (4)	133.53 (3)	134 (2)	133.5 (1)	133.544 (5)	133.51 (10)	133.515 (5)	133.528 (13)	133.514 (9)	133.29	133.515 (4)	133.5152 ± 0.0020

# Determined from the nuclear level energies of 2001So16.

\* Gamma-ray energies derived from coincidence measurements.

† Gamma-ray energies determined from conversion-electron measurements.

‡ Inadequate data arising from insufficient statistics for  $P_{\gamma}^{rel} \leq 0.01$  (normalized with respect to a relative emission probability of 100% for the 133.515-keV gamma ray).

Emission Probabilities

Relative gamma-ray emission probabilities have been partially or fully determined or derived from the measurements of 1970An15, 1970Po09, 1976Ch33, 1977Ge12, 1982Yu02, 1983E114 and 1984Da13, and limited and complete studies of the absolute gamma-ray emission probabilities have been performed by 1960Ge05, 1969Gu15, 1970Fa03, 1975De17, 1976Ra22 and 1981O104. While considerable emphasis was placed on the comprehensive and well-defined measurements of 1984Da13, data from the studies of 1960Ge05, 1970An15, 1970Fa03, 1970Po09, 1976Ch33, 1977Ge12, 1982Yu02 and 1983E114 were also used in the weighted-mean analyses of the 33.563-, 40.92-, 53.395-, 80.120- and 99.952-keV gamma-ray emissions. All of the relative emission probabilities were suitably refined and quantified in terms of the emission probability of the 133.515-keV gamma ray (100.0%). Considerable difficulty has been experienced in resolving the 40.92-keV gamma-ray emission from Pr K<sub>β</sub> X-rays (40.65 – 41.97 keV); hence, a speculative  $P_{\gamma}^{rel}(40.92 \text{ keV})$  weighted-mean value of 2.94 (50) was adopted to achieve a gamma population-depopulation balance in conjunction with an assumed zero  $\beta^{-}$  population of the 99.952-keV nuclear level of <sup>144</sup>Pr. A weighted-mean normalization factor ( $F$ ) of  $0.1083 \pm 0.0012$  was adopted for the relative gamma-ray emission probabilities, as determined from the conversion-electron and gamma spectroscopic studies of Geiger *et al.* (1960Ge05), Debertain *et al.* (1975De17) and Olomo and MacMahon (1981O104) by means of a well-characterised  $\beta$  spectrometer and Ge(Li) detector systems.

**Absolute emission probability of 133.515-keV gamma ray (normalization factor).**

Reference	$P_{\gamma}^{abs}(133.515 \text{ keV})$
1960Ge05	0.108 (4) <sup>#</sup>
1975De17	0.1109 (16)
1981O104	0.1069 (12)
<b>Recommended</b>	<b>0.1083 (12)<sup>†</sup></b>

<sup>#</sup> Calculated from theoretical internal conversion coefficients, measured conversion-electron and  $\gamma$  intensities, and  $(K(133.515 \text{ keV}) / ^{144}\text{Pr } \beta \text{ spectrum})$  ratio of 0.053 (2), as specified in Table 2 and Section 6 of 1960Ge05.

<sup>†</sup> Recommended uncertainty adjusted from  $\pm 0.0009$  to 0.0012 to align with the smallest uncertainty of the values used to calculate the weighted mean value.

Multipolarities, and Internal Conversion Coefficients

The nuclear level scheme specified by Sonzogni has been used to define the multipolarities of the gamma transitions on the basis of known spins and parities (2001So16). Extensive conversion-electron, e- $\gamma$ ,  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  coincidence and directional angular correlation studies throughout the 1960s/1970s focused on defining gamma multipolarities and spin-parity assignments for the nuclear levels of <sup>144</sup>Pr (particularly for the 0 – ground state). The detailed conversion-electron measurements of Geiger *et al.* are particularly noteworthy (1960Ge05, 1961Ge09, 1969Ge01), along with equivalent studies of 1959Se57, 1963Iw02, 1965Co19, 1966Be11, 1966Da04, 1969Ma24, 1970An15, 1971Sa20, 1975Ba32 and 1976Ch33. Adopted multipolarities are 100%M1 for the 33.563-, 40.92-, 53.395-, 80.120-, and 133.515-keV gamma rays, and E2 for the 99.952-keV gamma ray. More specifically, evidence of 100%M1 for the 40.92-keV gamma transition arises from measurements of the relative conversion-electron emission probabilities of 1960Ge05, and the  $\alpha_L$  value of 1.8 (6) determined by 1970An15. Recommended internal conversion coefficients have been determined from the frozen orbital approximation of Kibédi *et al.* (2008Ki07), based on the theoretical model of Band *et al.* (2002Ba85, 2002Ra45).

The observation of a low-intensity, 59.03-keV gamma ray was identified with the subsequent IT decay of <sup>144m</sup>Pr (half-life of 7.2 (2) min. – defined as M3 transition).

**Branching fractions for <sup>144</sup>Ce( $\beta^{-}$ )<sup>144</sup>Pr and <sup>144</sup>Ce( $\beta^{-}$ )<sup>144m</sup>Pr**

<sup>144</sup>Ce undergoes  $\beta^{-}$  decay predominantly to the ground state of <sup>144</sup>Pr via both  $\beta^{-}$  population of the ground state, 80.120- and 133.5152-keV nuclear levels of <sup>144</sup>Pr, and  $\gamma$  depopulation/population of the ground state, 80.120-, 99.952- and 133.5152-keV nuclear levels of <sup>144</sup>Pr. However, there is also evidence for the existence of a small branch that populates the 59.03-keV nuclear level of <sup>144m</sup>Pr by means of the 40.92-keV  $\gamma$  transition, which arises as part of the 33.563–40.92(–59.03)  $\gamma$  cascade embracing the 133.5152-, 99.952- and 59.03-keV nuclear levels.

Adopting a recommended relative  $\gamma$ -ray emission probability of 2.94 (50) % for the 40.92-keV  $\gamma$  ray, and a normalisation factor of 0.1083 (12):

$$\text{BF}(^{144}\text{Ce}(\beta^{-})^{144m}\text{Pr}) = [P_{\gamma}^{rel} \times F] \times (1 + \alpha_{total})$$

where  $P_{\gamma}^{rel}$  is the relative  $\gamma$ -ray emission probability,  $F$  is the normalisation factor, and  $\alpha_{total}$  is the total internal conversion coefficient.

Therefore,  $\text{BF}(^{144}\text{Ce}(\beta^{-})^{144m}\text{Pr}) = [2.94 (50) \times 0.1083 (12)] \times 3.61 (4) = 1.149 (195) \%$ .

$\text{BF}(^{144}\text{Ce}(\beta^{-})^{144m}\text{Pr}) = 0.0115 (20)$  when rounded-up and expressed as a fraction [i.e. 1.15 (20) %];

$\text{BF}(^{144}\text{Ce}(\beta^{-})^{144}\text{Pr}) = 0.9885 (20)$  when expressed as a fraction [i.e. 98.85 (20) %].

**Published gamma-ray emission probabilities.**

<b>E<sub>γ</sub> (keV)</b>	<b>P<sub>γ</sub> (%)</b>										
	<b>1954Kr40*</b>	<b>1959Fr54*</b>	<b>1959Se57*</b>	<b>1960Ge05<sup>▲</sup></b>	<b>1960Sa22*</b>	<b>1969Ma24*</b>	<b>1969Gu15<sup>0</sup></b>	<b>1970An15*</b>	<b>1970Fa03<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>1970Po09*</b>	<b>1975De17<sup>0</sup></b>
33.563 (9)	–	includes X-rays	144 (10)	0.23 (1)	95	80 (8)	–	2.0 (5)	0.15 (5)	2.3 (2)	–
40.92 (3)	–	–	–	0.36 (1)	–	–	–	4.4 (15)	0.50 (25)	5 (4)	–
53.395 (5)	–	–	–	0.127 (5)	–	–	–	1.2 (2)	0.09 (4)	1.1 (1)	–
59.03 (3) <sup>144m</sup> Pr IT decay	–	–	–	0.0011	–	–	–	~ 0.01	not observed	–	–
80.120 (4)	28.7 (43)	24 (5)	24 (5)	1.6 (1)	35	22 (2)	1.51 (15)	14.8 (10)	1.54 (15)	16 (1)	–
99.952 (9)	–	–	–	0.042 (2)	–	10 (2)	–	0.36 (5)	0.038 (4)	0.39 (4)	–
133.5152 (20)	100	100 (10)	100 (6)	10.8 (4)	100	100	11.0 (3)	100 (5)	(10.8)	100 (6)	11.09 (16)

<b>E<sub>γ</sub> (keV)</b>	<b>P<sub>γ</sub> (%)</b>						
	<b>1976Ch33*</b>	<b>1976Ra22<sup>‡</sup></b>	<b>1977Ge12<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>1981O104<sup>0</sup></b>	<b>1982Yu02*</b>	<b>1983El14*</b>	<b>1984Da13*</b>
33.563 (9)	2.62 (15)	includes X-rays	–	–	2.14 (17)	1.77 (26)	1.8 (2)
40.92 (3)	3.59 (40)	0.72 (4)	–	–	3.76 (65) <sup>Δ</sup>	3.22 (230) <sup>#</sup>	1.38 (20)
53.395 (5)	0.86 (5)	0.07 (1)	7.8 (4)	–	1.05 (11)	0.84 (8)	0.90 (7)
59.03 (3) <sup>144m</sup> Pr IT decay	not observed	0.003 (2)	–	–	not observed	≈ 0.01	≤ 0.01
80.120 (4)	10.20 (100)	1.50 (4)	112 (6)	–	13.6 (10)	12.58 (100)	12.25 (49)
99.952 (9)	0.35 (3)	0.06 (1)	–	–	0.36 (4)	0.50 (7)	0.36 (4)
133.5152 (20)	100 (4)	10.0 (1)	836 (25)	10.69 (12)	100	100	100.0 (10)

\* Emission probabilities expressed relative to P<sub>γ</sub>(133.515 keV) of 100%.

<sup>▲</sup> Absolute emission probabilities calculated from theoretical internal conversion coefficients, measured conversion-electron and γ intensities, and (K(133.515 keV) / <sup>144</sup>Pr β spectrum) ratio of 0.053 (2), as specified in Table 2 and Section 6 of 1960Ge05.

<sup>0</sup> Measured absolute emission probability (and probabilities).

<sup>†</sup> Absolute emission probabilities expressed on the basis of an absolute emission probability of 10.8% for the 133.515-keV gamma ray.

<sup>‡</sup> Emission probabilities expressed relative to an absolute emission probability of 10.0 (1) % for the 133.515-keV gamma ray.

<sup>+</sup> Emission probabilities expressed relative to P<sub>γ</sub>(696.5 keV) of 100% which is identified with the decay of daughter <sup>144</sup>Pr/<sup>144m</sup>Pr.

<sup>Δ</sup> Authors state that relative emission probability obtained by subtracting theoretical relative emission probability of Pr X K<sub>α1</sub> from measured composite peak.

<sup>#</sup> Authors state that relative emission probability obtained by subtracting theoretical relative emission probabilities of Pr X K<sub>β1</sub> and K<sub>β2</sub> from measured composite peak.

**Measured and recommended gamma-ray emission probabilities relative to P<sub>γ</sub>(133.515 keV) of 100%.**

E <sub>γ</sub> (keV)	P <sub>γ</sub> <sup>rel</sup> (%)									
	1954Kr40	1959Fr54	1959Se57	1960Ge05*	1960Sa22	1969Ma24	1969Gu15*	1970An15	1970Fa03*	1970Po09
33.563 (9)	–	–	144 (10) <sup>#</sup>	2.1 (1)	95 <sup>#</sup>	80 (8) <sup>#</sup>	–	2.0 (5)	1.4 (5)	2.3 (2)
40.92 (3)	–	–	–	3.3 (1)	–	–	–	4.4 (15)	4.6 (23)	5 (4)
53.395 (5)	–	–	–	1.18 (5)	–	–	–	1.2 (2)	0.8 (4)	1.1 (1)
59.03 (3) <sup>144m</sup> Pr IT decay	–	–	–	0.01	–	–	–	~ 0.01	not observed	–
80.120 (4)	28.7 (43)	24 (5)	24 (5)	14 (1)	35	22 (2)	13.7 (14)	14.8 (10)	14.3 (14)	16 (1)
99.952 (9)	–	–	–	0.39 (2)	–	10 (2)	–	0.36 (5)	0.35 (4)	0.39 (4)
133.5152 (20)	100	100 (10)	100 (6)	100 (4)	100	100	100	100 (5)	(100)	100 (6)

E <sub>γ</sub> (keV)	P <sub>γ</sub> <sup>rel</sup> (%)							Recommended <sup>†</sup>
	1976Ch33	1976Ra22*	1977Ge12*	1982Yu02	1983El14	1984Da13		
33.563 (9)	2.62 (15)	–	–	2.14 (17)	1.77 (26)	1.8 (2)	2.08 (10) <sup>+</sup>	
40.92 (3)	3.59 (40)	7.2 (4)	–	3.76 (65) <sup>‡</sup>	3.22 (230) <sup>0</sup>	1.38 (20)	2.94 (50) <sup>▲</sup>	
53.395 (5)	0.86 (5)	0.7 (1)	0.93 (6)	1.05 (11)	0.84 (8)	0.90 (7)	0.93 (5) <sup>Δ</sup>	
59.03 (3) <sup>144m</sup> Pr IT decay	–	0.03 (2)	–	not observed	≈ 0.01	≤ 0.01	0.0087 (18) <sup>Φ</sup>	
80.120 (4)	10.20 (100)	15.0 (4)	13.4 (8)	13.6 (10)	12.58 (100)	12.25 (49)	12.9 (5) <sup>×</sup>	
99.952 (9)	0.35 (3)	0.6 (1)	–	0.36 (4)	0.50 (7)	0.36 (4)	0.38 (2) <sup>§</sup>	
133.5152 (20)	100 (4)	(100 (1))	100	100	100	100.0 (10)	100	

\* Emission probabilities adjusted in order to be expressed relative to P<sub>γ</sub>(133.515 keV) of 100%.

# Unable to resolve 33.563-keV gamma transition from X-ray emissions – data not included in subsequent evaluation.

† LWM weighted-mean values adopted when judged appropriate.

\* Stated as obtained by subtracting the theoretical Pr K<sub>α1</sub> X-ray emission probability (36.033 keV) from the experimentally-measured composite peak.

<sup>0</sup> Stated as obtained by subtracting the theoretical Pr K<sub>β1</sub> and K<sub>β2</sub> X-ray emission probabilities (40.739 and 41.778 keV) from the experimentally-measured composite peak.

<sup>+</sup> Rajeval value adopted, with the recommended uncertainty adjusted from ± 0.07 to 0.10 to align with smallest uncertainty of the data used to calculate this weighted-mean value.

<sup>▲</sup> Considerable difficulty has been experienced in resolving the 40.92-keV gamma-ray emission from Pr K<sub>β</sub> X-ray emissions (40.65 – 41.97 keV) – hence, a speculative P<sub>γ</sub><sup>rel</sup>(40.92 keV) weighted-mean value of 2.94 (50) was adopted to achieve a gamma population-depopulation balance in conjunction with an assumed zero β<sup>+</sup> population of the 99.952-keV nuclear level of <sup>144</sup>Pr.

<sup>Δ</sup> Rajeval value adopted, with the recommended uncertainty adjusted from ± 0.03 to 0.05 to align with smallest uncertainty of the data used to calculate this weighted-mean value.

<sup>Φ</sup> Calculated from the recommended relative transition probability of 10.61 (215) % for the 40.92-keV γ ray which populates the 59.03-keV nuclear level of <sup>144</sup>Pr, and M3 total internal conversion coefficient of 1221 (18).

<sup>×</sup> Recommended uncertainty adjusted from ± 0.3 to 0.5 to align with smallest uncertainty of the data used to calculate the weighted-mean value.

<sup>§</sup> Recommended uncertainty adjusted from ± 0.01 to 0.02 to align with smallest uncertainty of the data used to calculate the weighted-mean value.

**Gamma-ray emissions: multiplicities, and theoretical internal-conversion coefficients (frozen orbital approximation).**

$E_\gamma$ (keV)		Multipolarity	$\alpha_K$	$\alpha_L$	$\alpha_{L1}$	$\alpha_{L2}$	$\alpha_{L3}$	$\alpha_M$	$\alpha_N$	$\alpha_{O+}$	$\alpha_{total}$
33.563 (9)	(Pr)	M1	–	3.70 (6)	3.35 (5)	0.289 (4)	0.0603 (9)	0.780 (11)	0.1744 (25)	0.031	4.69 (7)
40.92 (3)	(Pr)	M1	–	2.06 (3)	1.87 (3)	0.1585 (23)	0.0329 (5)	0.434 (7)	0.0971 (14)	0.0168	2.61 (4)
53.395 (5)	(Pr)	M1	6.75 (10)	0.942 (14)	0.856 (12)	0.0710 (10)	0.01464 (21)	0.199 (3)	0.0444 (7)	0.0076	7.94 (12)
59.03 (3)	(Pr)	M3	408 (6)	618 (9)	233 (4)	34.9 (5)	351 (5)	155.0 (23)	34.7 (5)	5.20 (8)	1221 (18)
80.120 (4)	(Pr)	M1	2.08 (3)	0.288 (4)	0.263 (4)	0.0209 (3)	0.00427 (6)	0.0608 (9)	0.01359 (19)	0.0030	2.45 (4)
99.952 (9)	(Pr)	E2	1.214 (17)	0.710 (10)	0.1085 (16)	0.288 (4)	0.313 (5)	0.1599 (23)	0.0346 (5)	0.0049	2.12 (3)
133.5152 (20)	(Pr)	M1	0.486 (7)	0.0668 (10)	0.0613 (9)	0.00456 (7)	0.000919 (13)	0.01408 (20)	0.00315 (5)	0.00055	0.571 (8)

**Recommended gamma-ray energies, relative and absolute emission probabilities, and transition probabilities, and conversion-electron probabilities.**

	$E_\gamma$ (keV)	$P_\gamma^{rel}$	$P_\gamma^{abs}$ (%)	Transition probability (%)	$P_{ce}^{abs} = (TP - P_\gamma^{abs})$ (%)
$\gamma_{4,3}$	33.563 (9)	2.08 (10)	0.225 (11)	1.28 (6)	1.05 (6)
$\gamma_{3,1}$	40.92 (3)	2.94 (50)	0.32 (5)	1.16 (18)	0.84 (19)
$\gamma_{4,2}$	53.395 (5)	0.93 (5)	0.101 (5)	0.90 (4)	0.80 (4)
$\gamma_{1,0}$	59.03 (3)	0.0087 (18)	0.00094 (19)	1.15 (23)	1.149 (230)
$\gamma_{2,0}$	80.120 (4)	12.9 (5)	1.40 (5)	4.83 (17)	3.43 (18)
$\gamma_{3,0}$	99.952 (9)	0.38 (2)	0.041 (2)	0.128 (6)	0.087 (6)
$\gamma_{4,0}$	133.5152 (20)	100	10.83 (12)	17.01 (19)	6.18 (22)

**β<sup>-</sup> energies and emission probabilities**Energies

All β<sup>-</sup> energies were derived from the structural details of the proposed decay scheme. The nuclear level energies of 2001So16 and evaluated Q-value of 318.6 (8) keV (2012Wa38) were used to determine the recommended energies and uncertainties of the β<sup>-</sup> emissions.

Emission Probabilities

Emission probabilities were derived for the population-depopulation imbalances of the relative emission probabilities of the gamma rays, their theoretical internal-conversion coefficients, and the normalization factor of (0.1083 ± 0.0012) for the gamma-ray emissions, as noted above. β<sup>-</sup> decay directly to the 99.952-keV nuclear level of <sup>144</sup>Pr and the 59.03-keV metastable state (<sup>144m</sup>Pr) were both assumed to be zero on the basis of spin and parity considerations that would have resulted in first forbidden unique and third forbidden non-unique transitions, respectively. Logft values and average E<sub>β<sup>-</sup></sub> energies were determined by means of the LOGFT code.

**Recommended energies and emission probabilities for the β<sup>-</sup> decay of <sup>144</sup>Ce.**

	E <sub>β</sub> (keV) <sup>*</sup>	Av. E <sub>β<sup>-</sup></sub> (keV)	P <sub>β</sub>	<sup>144</sup> Ce	<sup>144</sup> Pr	transition type	log ft
β <sup>-</sup> <sub>0,4</sub>	185.1 (8)	50.29 (24)	19.2 (1)	0 +	1 -	first forbidden non-unique	7.27
β <sup>-</sup> <sub>0,2</sub>	238.5 (8)	66.24 (25)	3.9 (2)	0 +	1 -	first forbidden non-unique	8.31
β <sup>-</sup> <sub>0,0</sub>	318.6 (8)	91.3 (3)	76.9 (3)	0 +	0 -	first forbidden non-unique	7.424
			Σ 100				

<sup>\*</sup> Determined from the nuclear level energies of 2001So16 and Q-value of 318.6(8) keV (2012Wa38).

**Energies and emission probabilities of noteworthy internal-conversion electrons.**

		Energy (keV)	Electrons per 100 disint.
ec <sub>4,3</sub> T	(Pr)	26.728 – 33.563	1.05 (6)
ec <sub>4,3</sub> L	(Pr)	26.728 – 27.599	0.83 (5)
ec <sub>4,3</sub> M	(Pr)	32.052 – 32.632	0.175 (10)
ec <sub>4,3</sub> N	(Pr)	32.259 – 33.561	0.039 (2)
ec <sub>4,3</sub> O+	(Pr)	33.526 – 33.563	0.0069 (4)
ec <sub>3,1</sub> T	(Pr)	34.09 – 40.90	0.84 (19)
ec <sub>3,1</sub> L	(Pr)	34.09 – 34.96	0.66 (15)
ec <sub>3,1</sub> M+	(Pr)	39.41 – 40.90	0.18 (4)
ec <sub>4,2</sub> T	(Pr)	11.404 – 53.393	0.80 (4)
ec <sub>4,2</sub> K	(Pr)	11.404 (5)	0.68 (3)
ec <sub>4,2</sub> L	(Pr)	46.560 – 47.431	0.095 (5)
ec <sub>4,2</sub> M+	(Pr)	51.884 – 53.393	0.025 (1)
ec <sub>1,0</sub> T	(Pr)	17.04 – 59.03	1.15 (23)
ec <sub>1,0</sub> K	(Pr)	17.04 (3)	0.38 (8)
ec <sub>1,0</sub> L	(Pr)	52.20 – 53.07	0.58 (12)
ec <sub>1,0</sub> M+	(Pr)	57.52 – 59.03	0.18 (4)
ec <sub>2,0</sub> T	(Pr)	38.129 – 80.12	3.43 (18)
ec <sub>2,0</sub> K	(Pr)	38.129 (4)	2.91 (15)
ec <sub>2,0</sub> L	(Pr)	73.285 – 74.156	0.403 (21)
ec <sub>2,0</sub> M	(Pr)	78.609 – 79.189	0.085 (4)
ec <sub>2,0</sub> N	(Pr)	79.816 – 80.118	0.0190 (10)
ec <sub>2,0</sub> O+	(Pr)	80.083 – 80.12	0.0042 (2)
ec <sub>4,0</sub> T	(Pr)	91.524 – 133.515	6.18 (22)
ec <sub>4,0</sub> K	(Pr)	91.524 (2)	5.26 (19)
ec <sub>4,0</sub> L	(Pr)	126.680 – 127.551	0.723 (25)
ec <sub>4,0</sub> M	(Pr)	132.004 – 132.584	0.152 (5)
ec <sub>4,0</sub> N	(Pr)	133.211 – 133.513	0.0341 (12)
ec <sub>4,0</sub> O+	(Pr)	133.478 – 133.515	0.00595 (21)



A consistent decay scheme was derived that contains three  $\beta^-$  transitions and seven gamma-ray emissions, of which one gamma transition originates from the IT decay of <sup>144m</sup>Pr. While the 59.03-keV gamma transition constitutes the major IT-decay mode of <sup>144m</sup>Pr, this emission has been adopted as part of the  $\beta^-$  decay scheme of <sup>144</sup>Ce, and can be found in the decay-data files of both <sup>144</sup>Ce and <sup>144m</sup>Pr.

### Atomic Data

The X-ray and Auger-electron data have been calculated using the evaluated gamma-ray data, and atomic data from 1996Sc06, 1998ScZM and 1999ScZX. Both the X-ray and Auger-electron emission probabilities were determined by means of the EMISSION computer program (version 4.02, 28 February 2012), as described in 2000Sc47. This program incorporates atomic data from 1996Sc06 and the evaluated gamma-ray data.

### K and L X-ray energies and emission probabilities of <sup>144</sup>Ce.

			Energy (keV)	Photons per 100 disint.	Relative probability
XL	(Pr)		4.453 – 6.617	1.54 (4)	35.0
		XL <sub>1</sub>	4.453	0.0282 (9)	
		XL <sub><math>\alpha</math></sub>	5.013 – 5.033	0.711 (21)	
		XL <sub><math>\eta</math></sub>	4.929	0.0107 (4)	
		XL <sub><math>\beta</math></sub>	5.489 – 5.851	0.673 (15)	
		XL <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub>	6.327 – 6.617	0.116 (3)	
XK <sub><math>\alpha</math></sub>		XK <sub><math>\alpha</math>2</sub>	35.5506 (2)	2.41 (5)	54.8
		XK <sub><math>\alpha</math>1</sub>	36.0267 (2)	4.40 (9)	
XK' <sub><math>\beta</math>1</sub>		XK <sub><math>\beta</math>3</sub>	40.6533 (7)	)	30.5
		XK <sub><math>\beta</math>1</sub>	40.7487 (5)	) 1.34 (3)	
		XK <sub><math>\beta</math>5</sub>	41.050	)	
XK' <sub><math>\beta</math>2</sub>		XK <sub><math>\beta</math>2</sub>	41.774 (2)	)	7.80
		XK <sub><math>\beta</math>4</sub>	41.877	) 0.343 (10)	
		XKO <sub>2,3</sub>	41.968	)	

### Auger-electron energies and emission probabilities of <sup>144</sup>Ce.

		Energy (keV)	Electrons per 100 disint.	Relative probability
e <sub>AK</sub>	(Pr)		0.80 (4)	
	KLL	28.162 – 29.890	0.514 (26)	100
	KLX	33.576 – 36.004	0.254 (13)	49.4
	KXY	38.97 – 41.95	0.0313 (17)	6.1
e <sub>AL</sub>	(Pr)	2.90 – 4.91	9.88 (10)	1922

Pr:  $\omega_K = 0.914$  (4);  $\omega_L = 0.132$  (5);  $n_{KL} = 0.871$  (4) were taken from 1996Sc06.

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.

### Data Consistency

An effective  $Q_{\beta^-}$ -value of 318.6 (8) keV has been adopted from Wang *et al.* (2012Wa38), and compared with the Q-value calculated by summing the contributions of the individual emissions to the <sup>144</sup>Ce  $\beta^-$ -decay process (i.e.  $\beta^-$ , conversion electrons,  $\gamma$ , etc.):

$$\text{calculated Q-value} = \sum (E_i \times P_i) = 318.5 \text{ (13) keV}$$

The percentage deviation of the calculated Q-value from the effective Q-value is  $(0.0 \pm 0.5) \%$ , which supports the derivation of an extremely consistent decay scheme with a relatively modest variant.

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