

A Method of the Gamma-ray Spectrum  
Analysis: FORTRAN IV Programs  
"BOB73" for Ge(Li) Detectors and  
"NAISAP" for NaI(Tl) Detectors

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June, 1973

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日本原子力研究所

Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute

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**Errata**

Page	Line(Place)	Incorrect	Correct
4	Eq. (2-4)	$ISM = (\Delta D \times \sqrt{2 \times IST + 5} - 5) / 2$	$ISM = (\Delta D \times \sqrt{IST} - 5) / 2$
4	Eq. (2-5)	$\Delta D = ISM0 / \sqrt{2 \times ICH} + 5$	$\Delta D = (2 \times ISM0 + 5) / \sqrt{ICH}$
20	Fig. 3-7	the exponential (triangles)  the cubic polynomial (inverted triangles)	the exponential (inverted triangles) the cubic polynomial (triangles)

A Method of the Gamma-ray Spectrum Analysis :  
FORTRAN IV Programs "BOB 73" for Ge(Li) Detectors  
and "NAISAP" for NaI(Tl) Detectors

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**Abstract**

The problem of the  $\gamma$ -ray spectrum analysis was treated by combining the peak-searching and peak-fitting processes. The stage of the peak recognition was built up by the first derivative method supplemented with various peak shape tests so that sufficient information was able to be supplied for the succeeding fitting step, rather independently of the types of the spectrum. By virtue of thus constructed function of the peak search and the success of the analytical representation of the response function, the low-resolution spectrum from NaI(Tl) detectors was successfully analyzed based on the photopeak method as in the case of Ge(Li) detectors. As a result of various tests, the background shape under the peak was found no less important than the peak shape for the consistent fitting result, even in the case of the Ge(Li) spectrum.

The core of either program, BOB 73 or NAISAP, consists of the peak-searching and the peak-fitting functions and is accompanied by various subprograms such as the data pretreatment, energy calibration and efficiency correction, and plotting of the spectrum. The parameter finding for the response function is also an important function in NAISAP. The time required for the spectrum analysis depends on the complexity of the spectrum rather than the data size or the total number of peaks involved in the case of BOB 73. A single spectrum with medium complexity is analyzed within the order of ten seconds. NAISAP requires about one second for analyzing one peak. The codes are described in some details and the instruction manuals are given for user's convenience.

## γ線スペクトルの解析法：Ge(Li) 検出器用のコード “BOB 73” と NaI(Tl) 検出器用のコード “NAISAP”

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(1972年12月21日受理)

### 要 旨

ピーク探索操作とピーク・フィッティング操作を組み合わせることにより、γ線スペクトル解析という課題を処理した。ピーク認識の段階は一次微係数法に種々の附随テストを組み込むことによって構成され、これによって、スペクトルの性質の違いにほとんど無関係に後段のピーク・フィッティング操作に必要なすべての情報を供給することが可能になった。このピーク探索機能のおかげで Ge(Li) 検出器のみならず、NaI(Tl) 検出器の与えるスペクトルをも光電ピーク法を基本とする方法で解析することを得た。種々のテストピークを解析した結果、ピークの波形に劣らず、ピークの下に隠されたバック・グラウンドの形も結果に重大な影響を及ぼすことが見出された。

BOB 73, NAISAP いずれのコードにおいても、その中心は、ピーク認識とピーク・フィットの機能であり、それに附随する機能として、データの前処理、エネルギー較正と計数効率補正、スペクトル・プロット等が加えられている。NAISAP の場合には、この他にも応答関数のパラメータ値を見出す操作もまた重要な部分を占めている。スペクトル解析に要する時間は、BOB 73 の場合、データ・サイズや含まれるピークの数よりもむしろスペクトルの複雑さに依存する。あまり複雑でないスペクトルに対しては、解析に要する時間は 10 秒の程度である。これに対し、NAISAP での解析所要時間は、1 ピーク当り約 1 秒のオーダーである。終わりに、解析コードの解説と使用法を記載した。

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## 1. Introduction

Automation of data analyzing processes has become an inevitable tendency in any field of science. In the analysis of  $\gamma$  spectra obtained with solid state detectors or with scintillation crystals, however, one encounters quite a difficult problem of recognizing a pattern.

The most naive attitude for this problem would be to store the standard spectra in the computer memory as they are, as carried out by HEATH *et al.*<sup>1)</sup> This is the most accurate way of reproducing the response function in a sense. However, it naturally requires very severe realization of the same condition, by the aid of supreme electronic devices, for the sample spectrum measurement as the measurement of the standard spectra. It is, therefore, desirable if the response function can be replaced by a relatively simple analytical function with sufficient accuracy.

A relatively complex analytical expression of the  $\gamma$ -ray response of NaI(Tl) detectors has first been given by CHESTER *et al.*<sup>2)</sup> with sufficient accuracy. SALMON uses the CHESTER's function in a simplified form<sup>3)</sup>. As a result of the simplification, his response function reveals appreciable deviations from observed spectra. SEKINE *et al.*<sup>4)</sup> have constructed a fairly simple analytical expression which satisfactorily reproduces observed spectra from NaI(Tl) detectors.

In contrast to the above total spectrum method or response function method, the photopeak method that is mostly applied to the high-resolution spectra from Ge(Li) detectors, concerns only the functional relationship in the peak region. More concretely, the main problems in the photopeak method are the search of peaks and the determination of the peak areas. The search of peaks is generally carried out by either the first derivative<sup>5,6)</sup> or the second derivative<sup>7,8)</sup> method. The Fourier transformation method by INOUE *et al.*<sup>9)</sup> is also placed in the category of the photopeak method.

In the determination of peak areas, the choice of the shape of the background continuum becomes a very important problem for the consistency of the peak areas. The peak area is calculated either by the summation of the surplus counts in the peak above the background continuum or by the fitting of the peak shape to an appropriate function. COVELL *et al.*<sup>10)</sup> propose quite a different method of subtracting the contribution of the background to the peak area. Finding a suitable peak-shape function becomes another important problem in the fitting process.

The two main functions, peak finding and intensity determination, involved in the photopeak method are, in fact, commonly required for all kinds of the spectrum-analyzing program. From this aspect, we would rather classify the whole subject into (i) peak recognition and (ii) intensity determination rather than into the total spectrum and the photopeak methods.

In the previous work<sup>5)</sup>, we have set forth the following three requirements concerning the function to be fulfilled by the peak-searching procedure: (1) all true peaks must be correctly discerned while minimizing the number of spurious peaks, (2) multiplicity of a given peak should be given, and (3) the boundary channel on both sides of a detected peak must be correctly determined. As a result, we have succeeded in constructing a peak-searching subprogram "PKREC" satisfying the above requirements for  $\gamma$  spectra with high resolution obtained with Ge(Li) detectors. The present work concerns further extension and generalization of the function of "PKREC" to make the succeeding peak-fitting process easier.

In contrast to the peak-searching process performed in a universal fashion, we must admit individuality of different types of spectra in the intensity-determining step. In the  $\gamma$  spectrum given by NaI(Tl) detectors, violently changing parts, such as the full-energy peak or the Comp-



ton edge, occupy an appreciable portion of the whole spectrum because of the low resolution. Therefore, a large error is generally introduced if one estimates the intensity by separating a peak from its Compton background. On the contrary, application of the response function method at least to the violently changing portion of the spectrum would produce a remarkable success in the intensity determination.

For high-resolution spectra like those from Ge(Li) detectors, the situation is absolutely different from the above-mentioned case. There, the Compton background can be regarded as a very slowly changing function except for the peak region. Therefore, the photopeak method determining peak areas above the Compton continuum expressed with a simple function assures more reasonable success in this case. As one may see later, however, one encounters rather unexpected difficulties for Ge(Li) spectra, because the response function can not be known in such a clean form as that for NaI(Tl) spectra. Solutions for these problems are discussed and given in Chapters 3 and 4.

The rest of this report is devoted to a few accompanying problems. Firstly, procedures for energy assignment and efficiency determination need to be established. Secondly, the identification of radionuclides from thus assigned full energy peaks is also an important subject. Lastly, we must solve the problem how to feed input data into a large computer. The last problem is still the most essential in many laboratories including ourselves.

## 2. Peak-searching Procedure: Generalization and Improvement of the Subprogram "PKREC"

The peak-searching process is summarized as a comparison of the first derivative of the spectrum with an appropriately established threshold. Details of the procedure and the effect of the data smoothing on the peak search are described elsewhere<sup>5)</sup>.

The questions of our concern are now focussed into the followings; (1) how to set up the threshold value and (2) how to rectify unreasonable conclusions obtained by the primary peak survey. In order to enhance the sensitivity for the detection of small peaks, the threshold must be set at a very low level. This disposition inevitably increases the frequency of picking pseudo-peaks up. In reference 5a, we have shown a set of the threshold values which proved to satisfactorily work for spectra with high resolution from Ge(Li) detectors.

The threshold was taken as the square root of the number of counts at each channel multiplied by an appropriate factor, *ATEN*. This factor naturally takes a different value depending on the peak width and the number of counts. The value of *ATEN* was empirically found for the number of counts *N* at the starting channel *IST* for the peak search as follows;

$$ATEN = A \times F \quad (2-1)$$

where *A* is given by

$$A = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 0.6 & N < 200 \\ 0.7 & 200 \leq N < 1,000 \\ 0.8 & 1,000 \leq N \leq 3,200 \\ \sqrt{N/5,000} & N > 3,200 \end{array} \right\} \quad (2-2)$$

and the factor *F* was related to the number of points used in the data smoothing, *n<sub>s</sub>*. The *n<sub>s</sub>* value was found<sup>5)</sup> to be taken roughly equal to the full width at half maximum (*FWHM*) of the peak.

Let us introduce an index, *ISM*, controlling the *n<sub>s</sub>* as follows;

$$n_s = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 2 \times ISM + 5 & \text{for } 0 \leq ISM \leq 10 \\ 3 & \text{for } ISM = 11 \\ 0 & \text{for } ISM = 12 \end{array} \right\} . \quad (2-3)$$

The values of *F* are listed in TABLE 2-1 in relation to the *ISM*. Note that Eq.(2-2) and TABLE 2-1 are slightly different from the correspondings in ref. 5a.

TABLE 2-1 Relation between *ISM* and *F*-value

<i>ISM</i>	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>F</i>	1	0.8	0.6	0.45	0.4	0.35	0.3	0.275	0.25	0.225	0.2	1.1	1.25

We noted that the main difference between the high-resolution spectrum given by Ge(Li) detectors and the low-resolution spectrum from NaI(Tl) scintillators in regard to the peak search by the first derivative method appeared in the energy dependence of the peak width. In the latter, the peak width can no longer be regarded as practically constant as in the former but must be taken to be proportional to the square root of the pulse height. Therefore, we let the index *ISM* change linearly with the square root of the channel number for the low-resolution spectrum\*);

\*) Similar consideration may be required for the spectrum from the high-resolution Ge(Li) detector for the low-energy  $\gamma$  rays.

$$ISM = (\Delta D \times \sqrt{2 \times IST + 5} - 5) / 2, \quad (2-4)$$

where  $\Delta D$  is the proportionality constant to be specified for each spectrum. It is determined by  $ISM_0$ , the specified value of  $ISM$  at the reference channel number  $ICH$  as

$$\Delta D = ISM_0 / \sqrt{2 \times ICH + 5}. \quad (2-5)$$

The reference channel number  $ICH$  is fixed at the first quarter of the whole spectrum ;

$$ICH = (INIT + IFIN) / 4 \quad (2-6)$$

with the initial channel  $INIT$  and the final channel  $IFIN$  of the spectrum. Furthermore,  $IST$  is the channel number at which the next peak-searching procedure starts.

The values of  $A$  and  $F$  have been concluded to be used as well both for the high- and low-resolution spectra.

The next problem is then how to recognize the detailed structure of each peak region which the above-mentioned procedure, simply comparing the magnitude of the first derivative with the threshold, fails to detect. For example, one must find if a detected peak end is the true end or a spuriously produced one due to the overlap of a nearby peak. How can one recognize a small shoulder or a pair of closely locating peaks of about the same size? How can one correctly point out the end of a peak superimposed on the Compton edge of another peak? Noises due to statistical deviations or hardware errors also need to be filtered out. There are abrupt changes in the spectrum, such as the cutoff of the low-energy portion or the discontinuity in the connecting part of the spectrum measured partially with different counting conditions. They should also be filtered out as much as possible.

A method usually adopted for those requirements is that of introducing the exact full width at half maximum of the full energy peaks as a measure of the multiplicity. This technique was, however, rejected in the present work from the reasons discussed in Chapter 6.

Instead, we noted the fact that every visible fine structure in the peak shape requires the existence of a characteristic rule in the value of the first derivative during the corresponding interval. Conversely, the effect of pseudo-peaks such as spikes or noises on the first derivative does not last for a long interval.

In Fig. 2-1, we have shown the results of a test for finding the sensitivity of the peak-detecting function. The spectrum of the  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  standard source, measured for 400 msec with a small geometry by using a 50 cc, coaxial-type Ge(Li) detector ( $FWHM = 2.9$  keV at 1,332 keV), was artificially shifted by an appropriate number of channels, divided by a factor of several

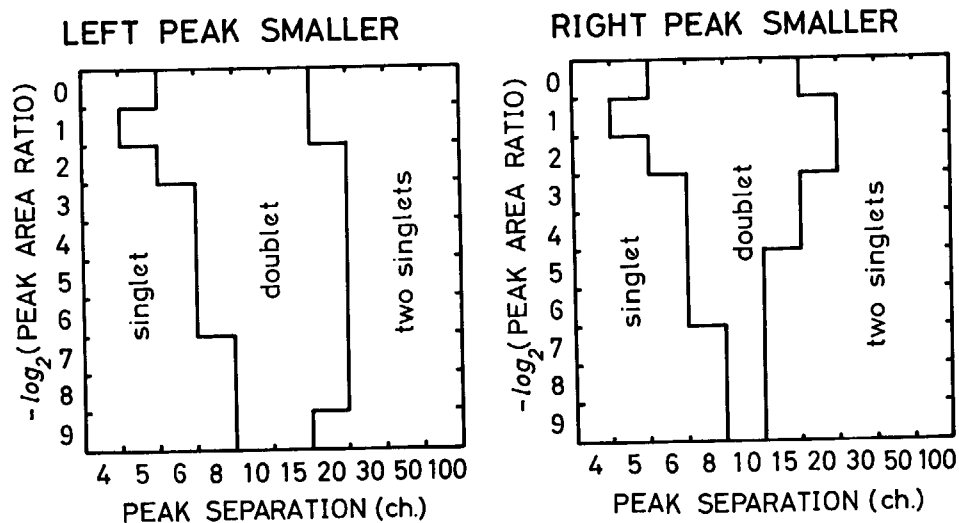


Fig. 2-1 Sensitivity of the peak-detecting function. The figure indicates how the code recognizes a doublet with a certain intensity ratio at a given peak separation. The full width at half maximum of each peak is 5.0 channels.

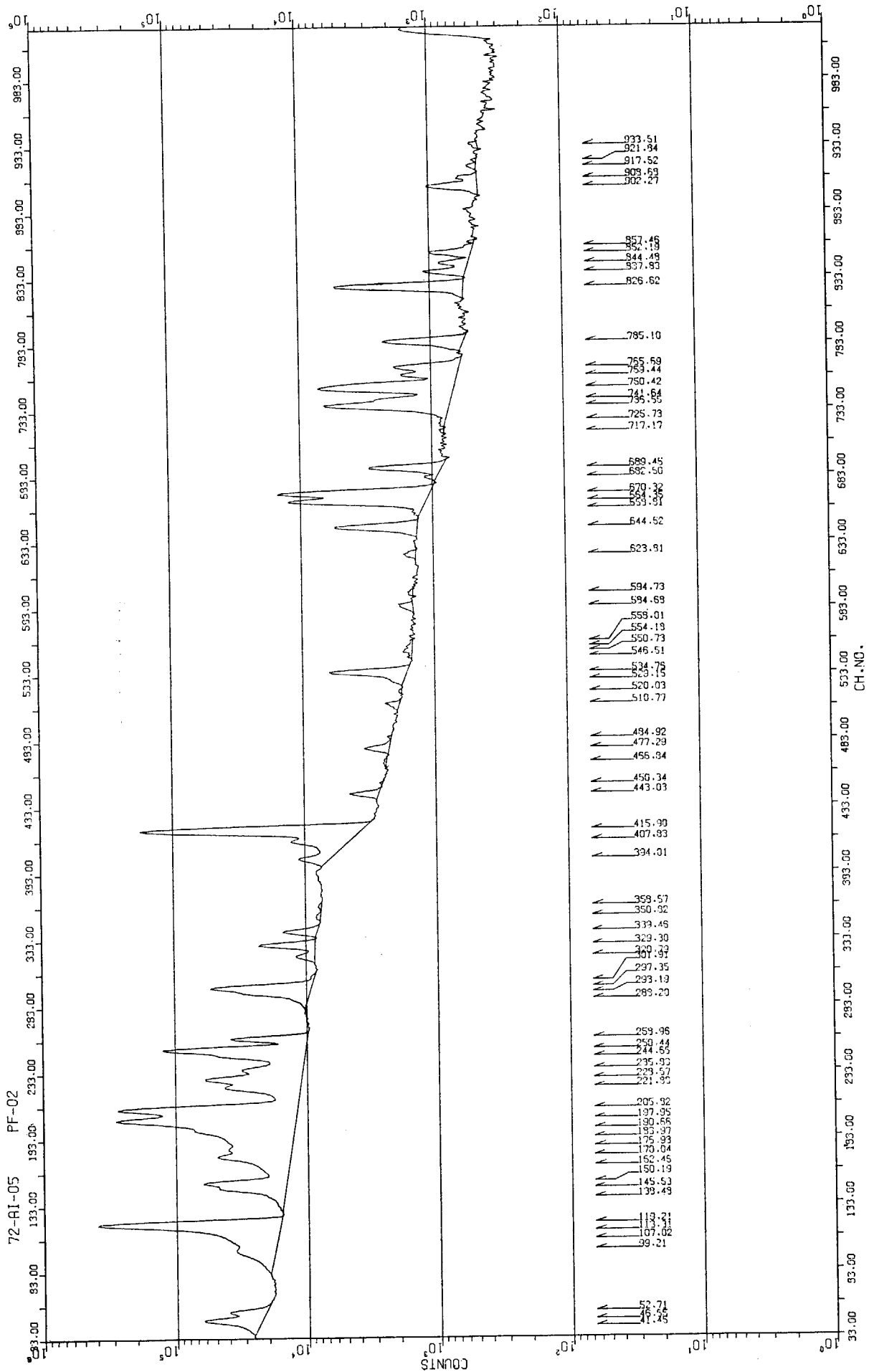


Fig. 2-2 An example of the analysis of the spectrum from the Ge(Li) detector. The predicted peak positions are indicated with vertical arrows and the determined peak regions are shown with segments of straight lines.

powers of two, and superimposed on the original spectrum. The conversion gain was set in such a way that the full width at half maximum of the 662-keV peak became 5.0 channels. Figure 2-1 visualizes the relationship between the detected multiplicity of the synthesized complex peak and the combined effect of the peak separation and the peak-area ratio. The left half of the figure represents the detected multiplicity when the low-energy peak is smaller while the right half gives that when the high-energy peak is smaller. Although "PKREC" worked correctly in most cases, the smaller peak was occasionally overlooked when the peak-area ratio and the separation are both small. Such mistakes are corrected in the succeeding peak-fitting process.

In order to illustrate the function of "PKREC", a result of the analysis of a spectrum of a plutonium sample containing the uranium and americium daughters, measured with the above-mentioned 50 cc Ge(Li) detector is displayed in Fig. 2-2. The predicted peak positions are indicated with vertical arrows and the determined peak regions are shown with segments of straight lines.

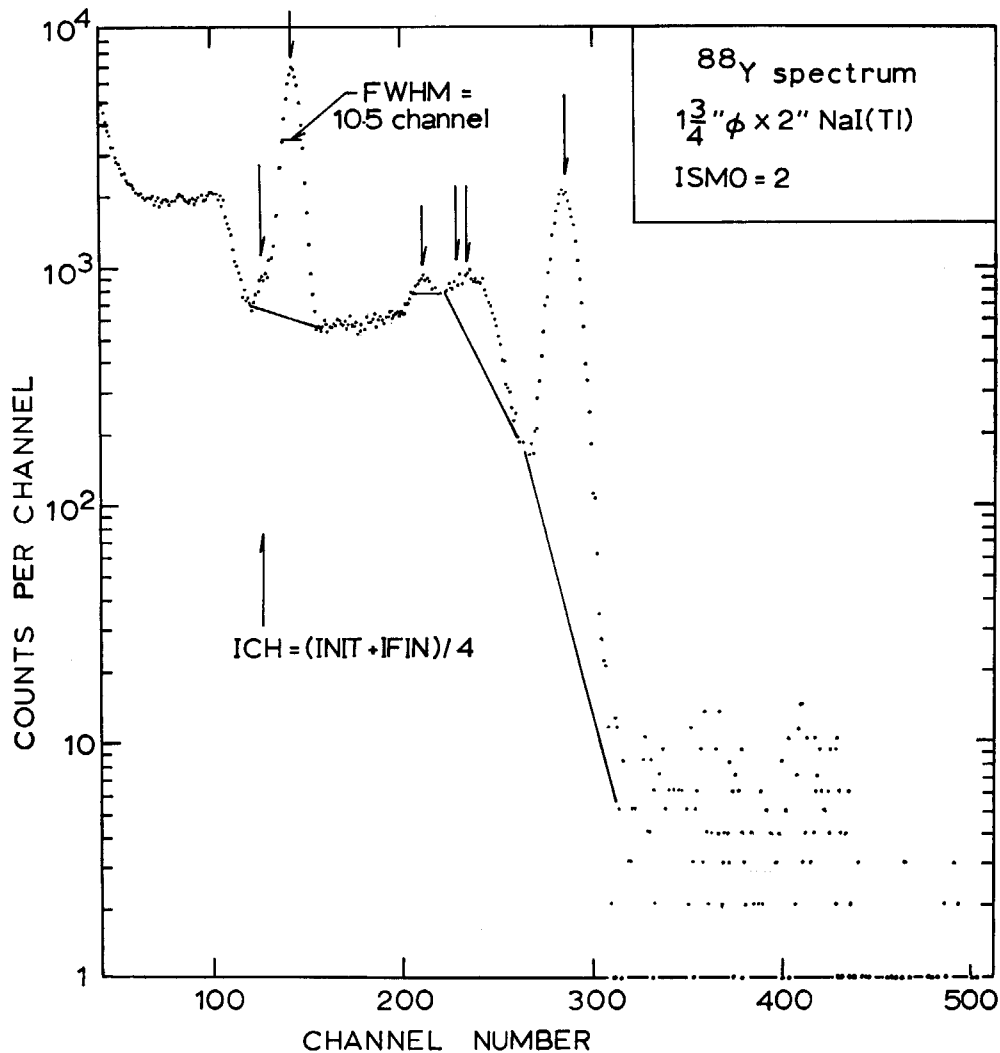


Fig. 2-3 The  $^{88}\text{Y}$  spectrum as an example of the analysis of the low-resolution spectrum from a NaI(Tl) detector.

In Fig. 2-3, shown is a result of the analysis of the  $^{88}\text{Y}$  spectrum from a  $1\frac{3}{4}$ "  $\phi \times 2$ " NaI(Tl) detector. It was further found that the modified "PKREC" could be successfully applicable to rather general types of digitalized spectra, such as photometric spectra or gas chromatograms.

The peak position was found to particularly affect the fate of the succeeding fitting. The

subroutine program "PKREC" was modified in such a way that even the centroid of a half-hidden peak was assigned at the most reasonable channel as shown in Fig. 2-2. On the contrary, only the position where the first derivative changes its sign from positive to negative is registered in the memory core in the case of BOB 70/71<sup>5)</sup>.

The final of the major modifications of "PKREC" is the introduction of the optional choice of several functions as the Compton background level below the full-energy peaks. In BOB 70/71, only the exponential function of the channel number is used. This option was required in order to attain better consistency in the intensity determination in the photopeak method, and was subsequently introduced in the peak-fitting subprogram "PKFIT". This option appears also in "PKREC" at the stage of judging whether a pair of closely locating peaks are well separated or overlapping each other, so as to maintain the consistency with the successive results in "PKFIT".

The subprogram "PKREC" accompanies a subprogram "SELECT" in option, which filters small peaks out of the memory.

The general flow chart of "PKREC" is essentially the same as that given in ref. 5b.

### 3. Peak-fitting Process "PKFIT" in the Photopeak Method for High-resolution Spectra

#### 3.1 General Problems in the Peak-fitting Procedure by the Non-linear Least Squares Method

##### 3.1.1 Mathematical formulation of the non-linear least squares method, "NONLIN" (Gauss's method)

Suppose  $Y_i(X_i)$  is a dependent variable of a set of  $m$  independent variables,  $X_i$ ;

$$X_i = (X_{1i}, X_{2i}, \dots, X_{mi}). \quad (3-1)$$

Let  $f(X; \mathbf{a})$  be a function fitted to  $Y$  with a set of  $n$  adjustable parameters,  $\mathbf{a}$ ;

$$\mathbf{a} = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n), \quad (3-2)$$

and one obtains the equation;

$$Y_i(X_i) = f(X_i; \mathbf{a}) \\ = f(X_i; \mathbf{a}^0) + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial f(X_i; \mathbf{a}^0)}{\partial \alpha_j^0} \cdot (\alpha_j - \alpha_j^0) + O(\Delta \mathbf{a})^2 \quad (3-3)$$

where  $\mathbf{a}^0$  is a set of appropriately chosen values of  $\mathbf{a}$ . The last term in Eq.(3-3) represents the residue. The condition of minimizing the sum of the squares of differences is then given by the simultaneous equations;

$$\frac{\partial \sum_{i=1}^m w_i \{Y_i(X_i) - f(X_i, \mathbf{a}^0)\}^2}{\partial \alpha_j} = 0, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n, \quad (3-4)$$

where  $w_i$  is the weight for the  $i$ th observed value. The values of the parameters to be used after the first iteration are, therefore, given by

$$\alpha_j = \alpha_j^0 + \Delta \alpha_j, \quad (3-5)$$

where  $\Delta \alpha_j$  is the solution of the secular equation;

$$A \cdot \Delta \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{B} \quad (3-6)$$

with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}, & \dots, & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{n1}, & \dots, & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}, \\ B = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Delta \mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \Delta \alpha_n \end{pmatrix},$$

$$a_{jk} = \sum_{i=1}^m w_i \frac{\partial f(X_i; \mathbf{a}^0)}{\partial \alpha_j} \cdot \frac{\partial f(X_i; \mathbf{a}^0)}{\partial \alpha_k}$$

and

$$b_j = \sum_{i=1}^m w_i \frac{\partial f(X_i; \mathbf{a}^0)}{\partial \alpha_j} \cdot (Y_i - f(X_i; \mathbf{a}^0)).$$

The fitting process is repeated until convergence is achieved.

### 3. 1. 2 Initial estimates for the parameters

A non-linear least squares method does not necessarily promise the solution. Setting up an appropriate set of the initial estimates for the adjustable parameters becomes, therefore, indispensable to assure convergence of the fitting iteration and to save a long machine time and a large memory core.

By virtue of the ability of "PKREC", we have solved the problem of the initial parametrization for the non-linear least squares peak fitting. The subprogram "PKREC" points out approximate positions of all existing peaks, which are the most essential information for the fitting procedure. Consequently, the initial value for the peak height is given by the count at the channel number nearest to the appointed peak position. To complete the initial parametrization, we must estimate an approximate peak width. The peak width was taken to be constant over a given group of peaks. The preliminary peak width was calculated on the basis of the length of the peak region,  $n$ , the number of existing peaks,  $j$ , and the relative size of the main peak with respect to the height of the Compton continuum. The initial estimate for the full width at half maximum ( $FWHM$ ) is taken as

$$FWHM = n/x \times 2 \sqrt{0.69315}, \quad (3-7)$$

where the length of the peak region  $n$  is equal to  $(f-i-1)$  with the boundary channel num-

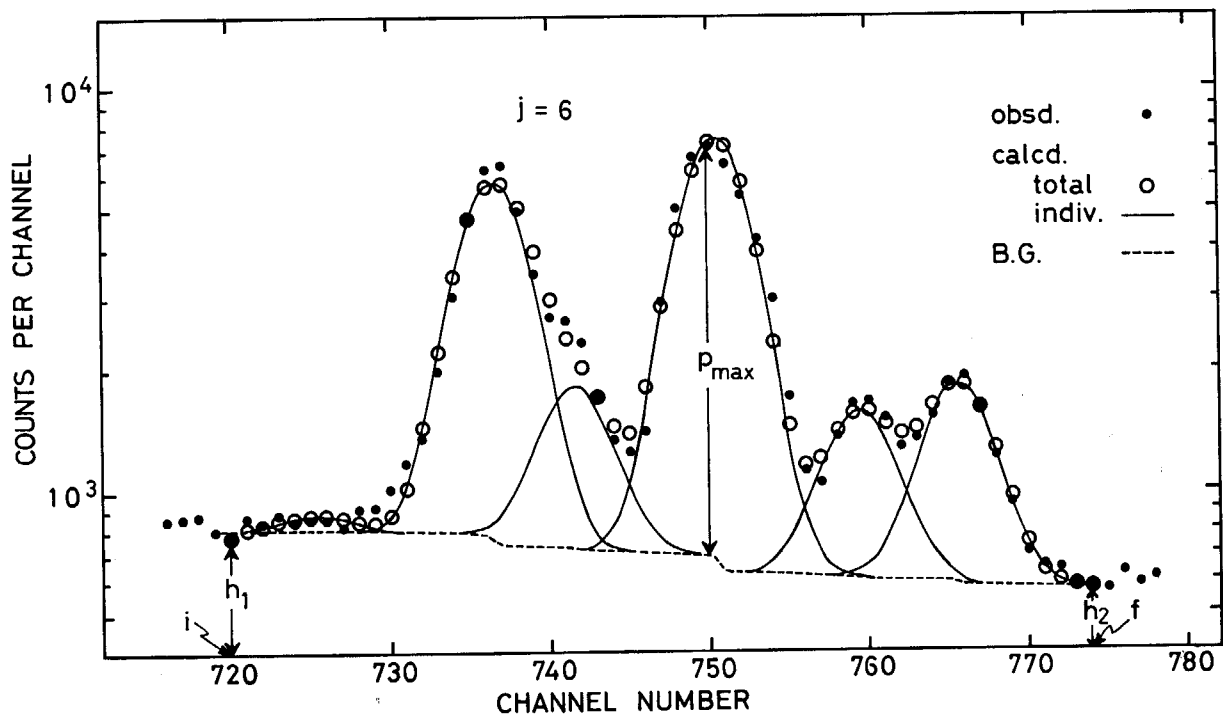


Fig. 3-1 A part of the spectrum displayed in Fig. 2-2, as an illustration of the initial estimation of the  $FWHM$  and of the result of the least squares fit.



bers,  $i$  and  $f$ , on both sides. The  $x$  is a numerical value related to the number of peaks  $j$  and the relative size of the main peak (cf. Fig. 3-1);

$$x = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 3j+3 & p_{\max}/h_1 > 0.5 \\ 2j+3 & 0.5 \geq p_{\max}/h_1 \geq 0.3 \\ j+3 & p_{\max}/h_1 < 0.3 \end{array} \right\}. \quad (3-8)$$

### 3. 1. 3 Measure of the degree of agreement

The condition for judging convergence of the fitting was set as

$$|\sigma_l - \sigma_{l+1}| \leq \sigma_0 \quad (3-9)$$

for an appropriate convergence limit  $\sigma_0$ , which is fixed to  $10^{-6}$  if no specification is given by the user. The quantity  $\sigma$  is defined by

$$\sigma = \left[ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m w_i \{Y_i - f(X_i; \mathbf{a})\}^2 / \left( n \cdot \sum_{i=1}^m w_i \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\sum_{i=1}^m Y_i} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (3-10)$$

where the suffix  $l$  denotes the  $l$ th iteration.

There are various sources of disagreement in the peak-fitting process. Among them, the deviation due to the statistical error in counting is out of our interest at present. In the peak-fitting process, we concern the following two sources of disagreement; namely, whether the functions we have chosen for the fit to the observed data are of reasonable forms and whether we are overlooking any peaks. As for the first problem, what we should worry about is finding a function correctly reproducing the peak shapes and that giving the shape of the Compton continuum in the full-energy peak region. This problem shall be discussed in the following section together with some accompanying problems.

Let us consider the second problem first. The measure of disagreement due to the overlook of a photopeak should naturally be given by the converged value,  $\sigma_\infty$ , of the standard deviation defined by Eq.(3-10). Because of the increase of the number of freedom, the  $\sigma_\infty$ 's always decreases by adding extra peaks as long as the convergence is obtained. This means that we end up with either case where the fitting is failed or a better fit is obtained when an extra peak is taken in. Therefore, we can conclude that one peak has been missed in the fitting if the  $\sigma_\infty$ 's exceeds a certain limit. In principle, one ought to be able to save any tiny half-hidden peak that "PKREC" might fail to pick up by setting the limit to a desired level.

This procedure, however, gives rise to unnecessary repetition of the fitting by failing to stop at the desirable stage, and very frequently even to misinterpretation of the spectrum by taking non-existing peaks in. That is to say, the postulate of minimizing the limit for raising the sensitivity counteracts the necessity of allowing large deviations due to the counting statistics. We have set up the above mentioned limiting condition as

$$\sigma_\infty < A_0 / \{n(p_{\max} \times 10^{-4})^{0.3}\} \quad (3-11)$$

with the quantities defined by Eqs.(3-7) and (3-8), where  $A_0$  is a constant which is generally taken as unity unless otherwise given as an input data. Such a considerably large limit was chosen because "PKREC" seldom overlooks a peak with a realistic spectrum. We were, therefore, more anxious to avoid raising the multiplicity unnecessarily in the fitting stage. We have introduced an additional judging condition; namely, one disregards the second fitting trial

after the addition of one peak if the number of iterations is not smaller than the greater of 10 and twice the number of the first iterations. This condition was introduced from the experience that our non-linear least squares method generally gives very rapid convergence when it works successfully.

#### 3. 1. 4 Fail-safe actions in the process

Since the non-linear least squares method does not always give the solution, one must build in the preventives to save the rest of the data analysis when the fitting process has ended in failure. Otherwise, the unsuccessful trial steps into a fatal error and the whole operation ceases. At the same time, one needs to extract as much information as possible even from the once failed fitting trial. We have set up a safety device at every strategic point.

First, the operation is discontinued instantly when any one of the following conditions appears; (1) the peak width becomes negative, (2) any one element of the matrix  $A$  in Eq.(3-6) protrudes over  $10^{50}$  or under  $10^{-50}$ , (3) an increment  $\Delta\alpha_j$  of any parameter appears in Eq.(3-5) becomes more than  $10^{10}$  and (4) the fitting procedure is iterated more than 20 times. The first three of the above conditions would be obvious to anybody. As stated in 3. 1. 3 the convergence is usually achieved very fast. We found that in most cases the operation reaches the convergence within 5 iterations or so, and the number of iterations never exceeds 20 even in the worst case if it is successful.

The above conditions concern the cases where we must give up the fitting procedure without completion. On the contrary, there are the cases in which the results are unreasonable even though the fitting has been completed. That is, solution giving the negative height to an assigned peak is a sign of the misfit and is, therefore, deleted. One may consider that we should also discard the result of the fitting if any peak position ends up outside the fitting region. However, such a result was found to give a fairly correct solution if one disregards the peaks whose positions are outside the fitting region. Therefore, the set of the final values for the parameters are not discarded but used as the initial values for another fitting run in which the peaks assigned at out-of-range positions are omitted.

When the first trial has not been succeeded, the second attempt is undertaken after adding one more peak (as in the case in which the agreement of Eq.(3-11) was not satisfactory in the first run). The new peak was assigned as the mid-point of the broader one of the intervals between either peak-boundary and the peak nearest to it, since it most likely happens at either end of a lump of peaks if "PKREC" would overlook a peak at all. The initial plan of setting up the remedy for missing a peak on the other side has been abandoned because "PKREC" does not practically miss more than one peak in a given group and the extra protection brings no useful results even if the convergence is attained.

Instead, we noted the possibility that "PKREC" might detect an extra peak besides actually existing ones in a group. This can happen especially when one treats a spectrum containing a large full-energy peak like that of the pure  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  source (cf. Fig. 3-2a), measured with a detecting system of relatively poor quality\*). As will be discussed in the next section, the shape of the peak given by the Ge(Li) detector is not so simple and clean as that by scintillation detectors even though the leakage current is suppressed to the least magnitude. The effect appears as the asymmetry of the peak shape and tailing at the low-energy side. It just happens

---

\*) In order to reduce the chance of detecting such a pseudo-peak, the peak-searching procedure is repeated for a peak whose height is greater than  $10^5$  counts and its ratio to the foot exceeds 20, after the threshold is raised by the factor of  $\sqrt{10}$ .

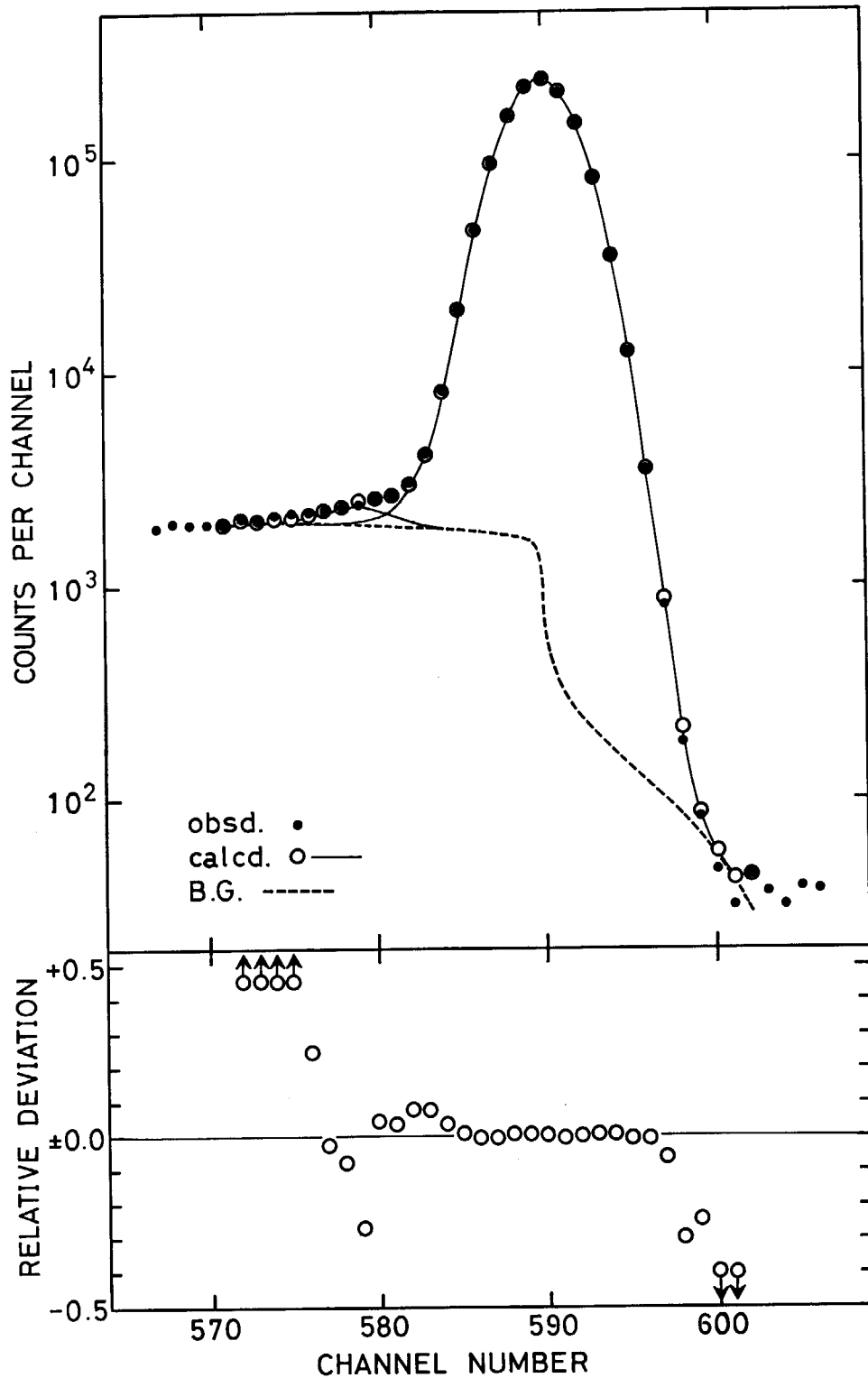


Fig. 3-2 a

Fig. 3-2 The  $^{137m}\text{Ba}$  662-keV peak given by a Ge(Li) detector. The tailing on the low-energy side causes an additional spurious peak (Fig. 3-2a). The spurious peak is removed by raising the threshold for the peak detection by a factor of  $\sqrt{10}$  (Fig. 3-2b). The relative deviation is taken for the surplus count above the base line.

at the end of this tail, if it is large enough, that an pseudo-peak is detected by "PKREC". The countermeasure will therefore be clear. We added a third trial, which is to be performed only when the preceding two trials have both failed. The trial is such that the smallest

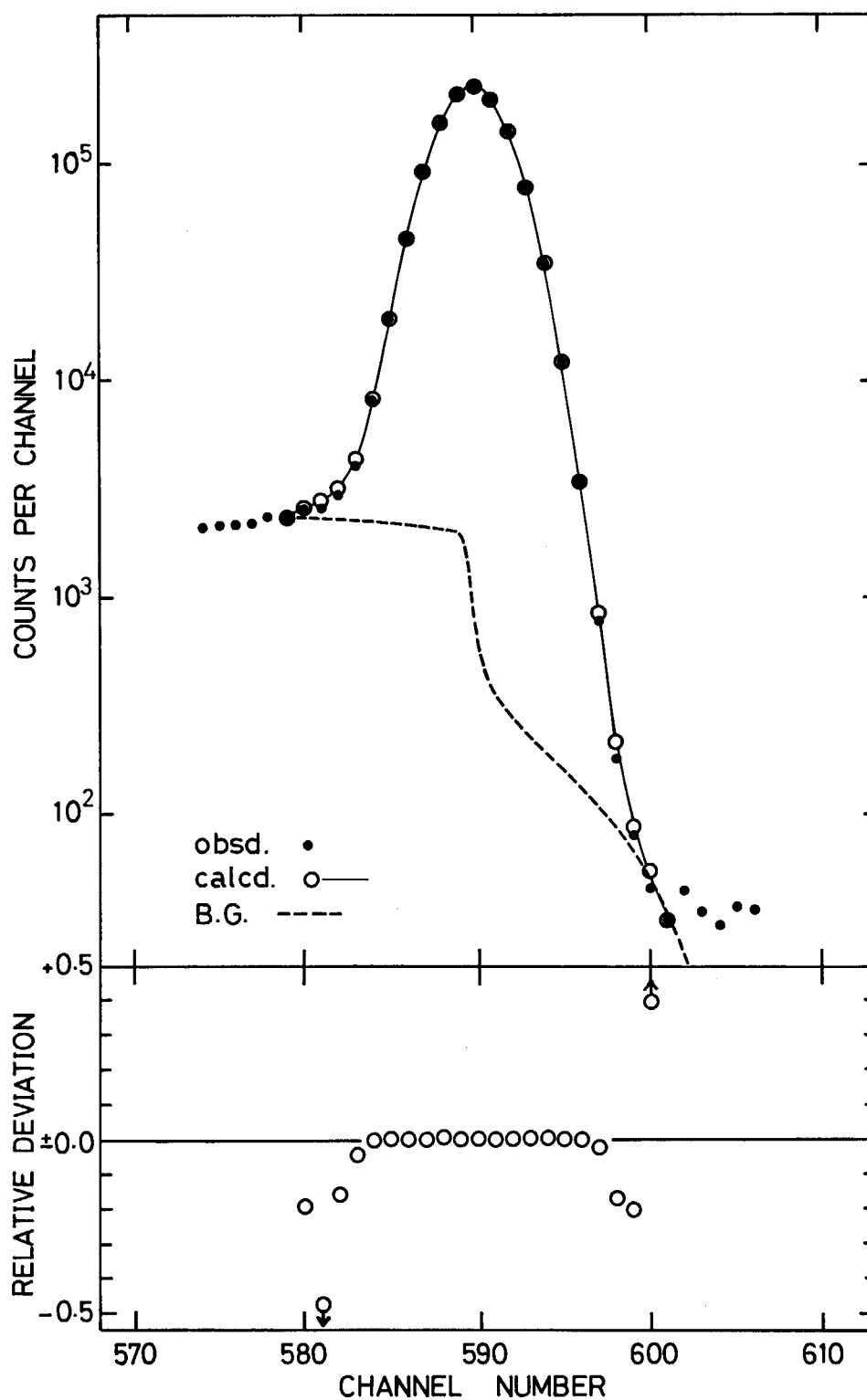


Fig. 3-2 b

among the initially appointed peaks in the group is omitted, and the fitting is started with the remaining peaks.

The flow chart of "PKFIT" is shown in Fig. 3-3.

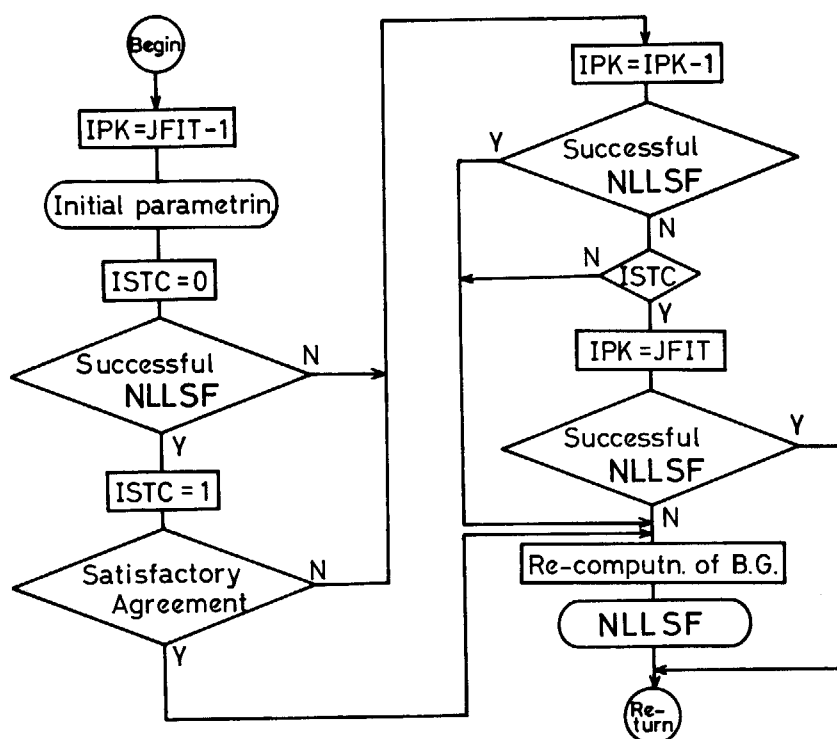


Fig. 3-3 Flow chart of "PKFIT".

### 3. 2 Special Problems in the Peak Fitting of the Ge(Li) Spectrum

#### 3. 2. 1 Effects of the data smoothing and the weight in the fitting

As stated in refs. 5, the effect of the data smoothing is quite remarkable in the peak-searching step, so that we have decided to perform data smoothing as long as possible prior to the peak search. This means that there are two sets of available data, raw and smoothed, which are to be the base of the fitting. Which of them should we choose?

On one hand, the smoothing procedure reduces statistical fluctuations. This is certainly an advantage from the viewpoint of the fitting. On the other hand, it inevitably distorts the spectrum especially in the vicinity of the full-energy peak. This effect is expected to cause a serious error when more than one peak are overlapping one another. From this reason, we have decided to perform the fitting procedure on the basis of the raw (non-smoothed) data.

The next problem is how one should weight each data point in the fitting procedure. We have chosen, as the weight of a given channel, the reciprocal of the sum of the number of counts and the background counts at the channel, or the sum of the surplus counts above the background level and twice the background counts at the channel. As a result of the comparison between the above weighting and the equal weighting, we found that the former resulted in fairly uniform fit over the fitting range whereas the latter tended to give somewhat poorer fit in the outskirts of the peak as a consequence of laying more stress on the agreement around the top of the peak. Though this difference does not cause much deviation in the determined values of the peak center and peak area for a single peak, the situation changes in a great deal for closely overlapping peaks. In Fig. 3-4, we have shown the determined values of peak positions and peak areas for the artificially superimposed spectrum in which two peaks of various intensity ratios were separated by 5 channels. The peak area is normalized to that of the pure  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  spectrum

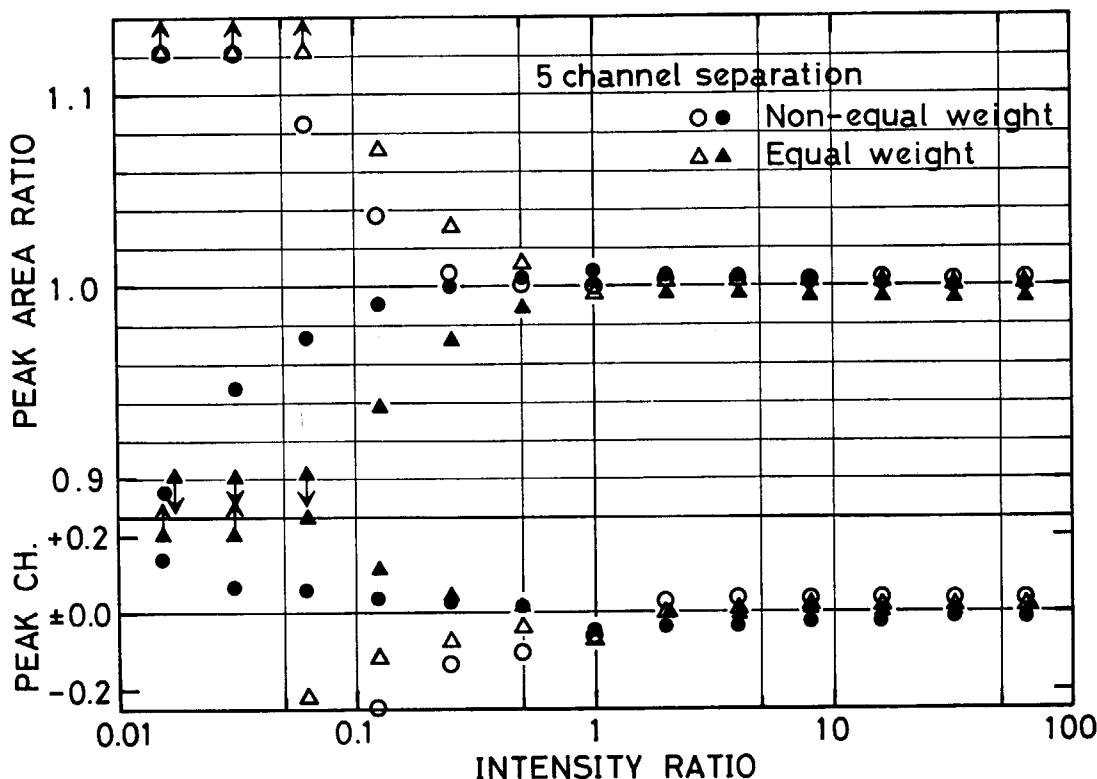


Fig. 3-4 Effect of the weight on the consistency of the peak area and the accuracy of the peak position. Results are shown for artificially composed doublets with a single peak (the <sup>137m</sup>Ba 662-keV peak) with various intensity ratios, in which the peak separation is fixed to 5.0 channels. The open marks indicate the result of the lower-energy peak, whereas the closed marks are for the higher-energy peak.

and the centroid of the <sup>137m</sup>Ba full-energy peak is taken to be the reference point of the peak position. From the result of Fig. 3-4, we have decided to generally use in the fitting process the former type of the weight rather than the equal weight.

### 3. 2. 2 Functional form of the full-energy peak

The shape of the full-energy peak may be expressed basically with the Gaussian function in the analogy of that given by the NaI(Tl) detector<sup>4)</sup>. It is, however, well known<sup>8)</sup> that Ge (Li) detectors give the peak shape with much greater distortion from the simple Gaussian form, because of the complex charge-collection mechanism. The distorted peak can be described as an asymmetric Gaussian curve with a tail on the low-energy side.

The asymmetric Gaussian curve can be constructed most simply by connecting two Gaussian curves with different widths at the top, the centroid of the peak. Let us define the degree of the asymmetry, the skewness factor, *WDR* as the ratio of the width parameter  $\sigma$  of the right-half Gaussian to that of the left-half. The full width at half maximum is then given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 FWHM &= \sqrt{1.3863} (\sqrt{\sigma_L} + \sqrt{\sigma_H}) \\
 &= \sqrt{1.3863} \sigma_L (1 + \sqrt{WDR}).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3-12}$$

The skewness factor, *WDR*, of a given detector system can be determined beforehand by using a set of the standard spectra so as to give the best fit. Figure 3-5 shows two cases of the results obtained for two Ge(Li) detectors. In Fig. 3-5a, the *WDR* can be regarded as independent of the energy, while it decreases with increasing energy in the case of Fig. 3-5b.

In SAMPO<sup>8)</sup>, ROUTTI and PRUSSIN approximate the peak shape by an analytical function that

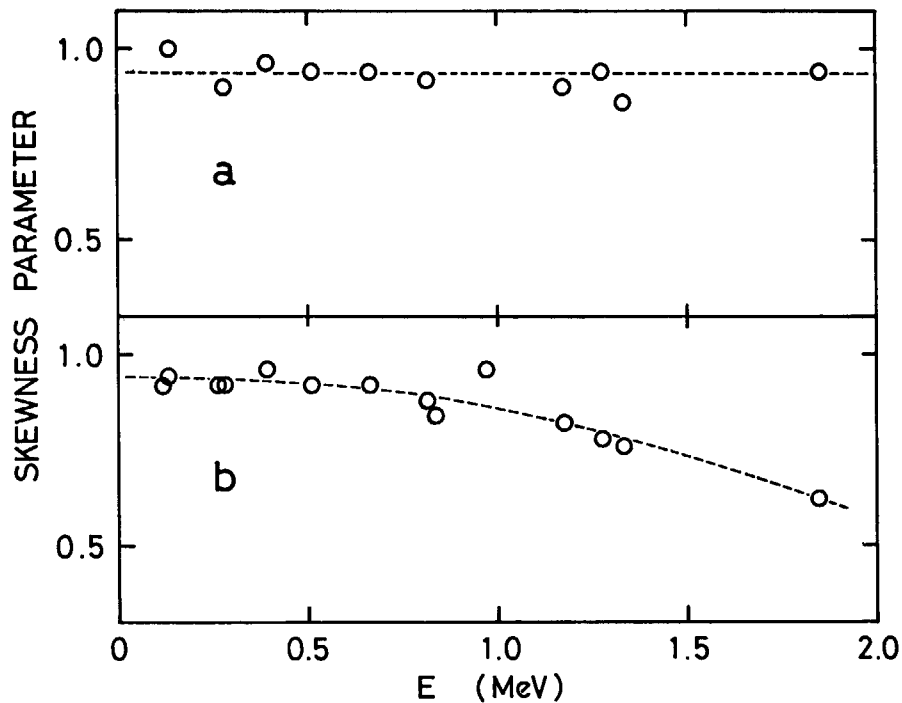


Fig. 3-5 Skewness factor as a function of the photopeak energy. Two cases are displayed; a) the skewness factor is constant and b) it decreases with the energy.

consists of a Gaussian with provisions for tailing on both low- and high-energy sides lying on an adjustable linear background. In the present work, we use a main skew Gaussian superimposed by a similar curve with the same width parameter. Therefore, additional free parameters to describe the tail are the size ratio and the separation between the centroids of the two curves. The values of the parameters should again be determined in advance with a set of the standard spectra.

The total number of the parameters to express a single peak is five in the present work, while it is seven in SAMPO. The presently proposed shape function is believed to be more flexible in adjusting itself to the peak asymmetry and tailing since the freedom is explicitly separated for them. In Fig. 3-6, the situation of the fitting is depicted for various shape functions.

### 3. 2. 3 Background continuum and peak-area determination

The remaining problem in the determination of the peak area is how to estimate the amount of the background continuum below the peak. This problem has attracted many author's attention. One may consider that the method proposed by COVELL<sup>10)</sup> succeeds in excluding the effect of the background shape. But it has some limitations; first, it can be applied only to single peaks, and second, it requires a sufficient number of channels in the peak region that is rarely realized in the measurement with Ge(Li) detectors. As seen in the following chapter (cf. Figs. 4-6 and 4-7), the COVELL's method turned out to be considerably affected by the background shape after all as pointed out by STERLINSKI<sup>11)</sup>. From these reasons, we have abandoned the method.

As a matter of fact, the choice among various types of the background shape does not make much difference in the resulting peak area as long as one concerns a singlet or the greater peak in a doublet. This is seen, for example, in Fig. 3-7. The figure indicates the consistency in the

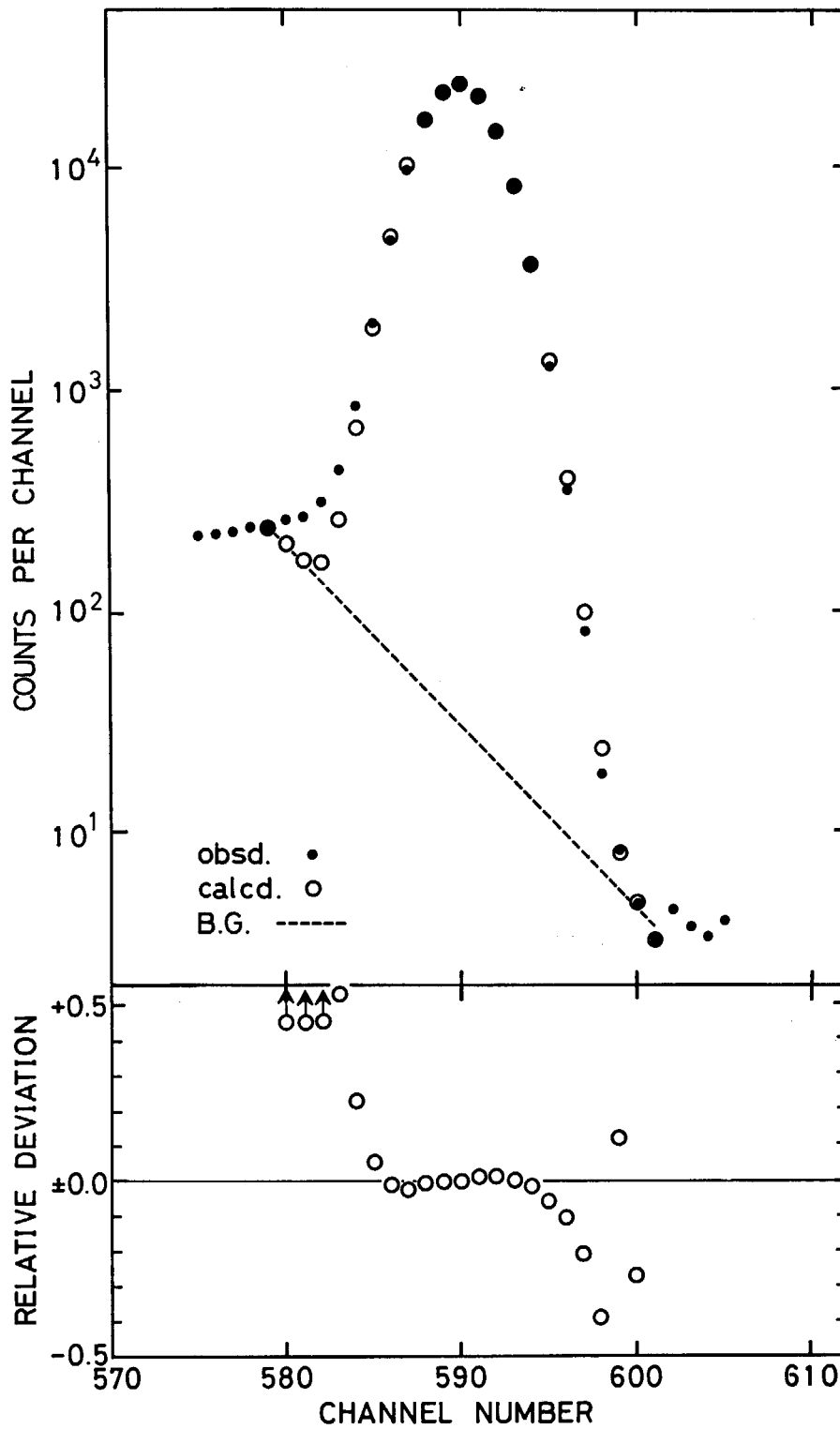


Fig. 3-6 a

Fig. 3-6 Fit of the observed full-energy peak to various shape-functions: a) a Gaussian curve on the exponential background, b) an asymmetric Gaussian curve with the skewness factor of 0.94 on the exponential background, and c) an asymmetric Gaussian curve having a tail with the skewness factor of 0.94 on the sigmoid background with  $IBG=4$  (cf. Eqs.(3-13) and (3-14)). The relative deviation is taken for the surplus count above the base line.



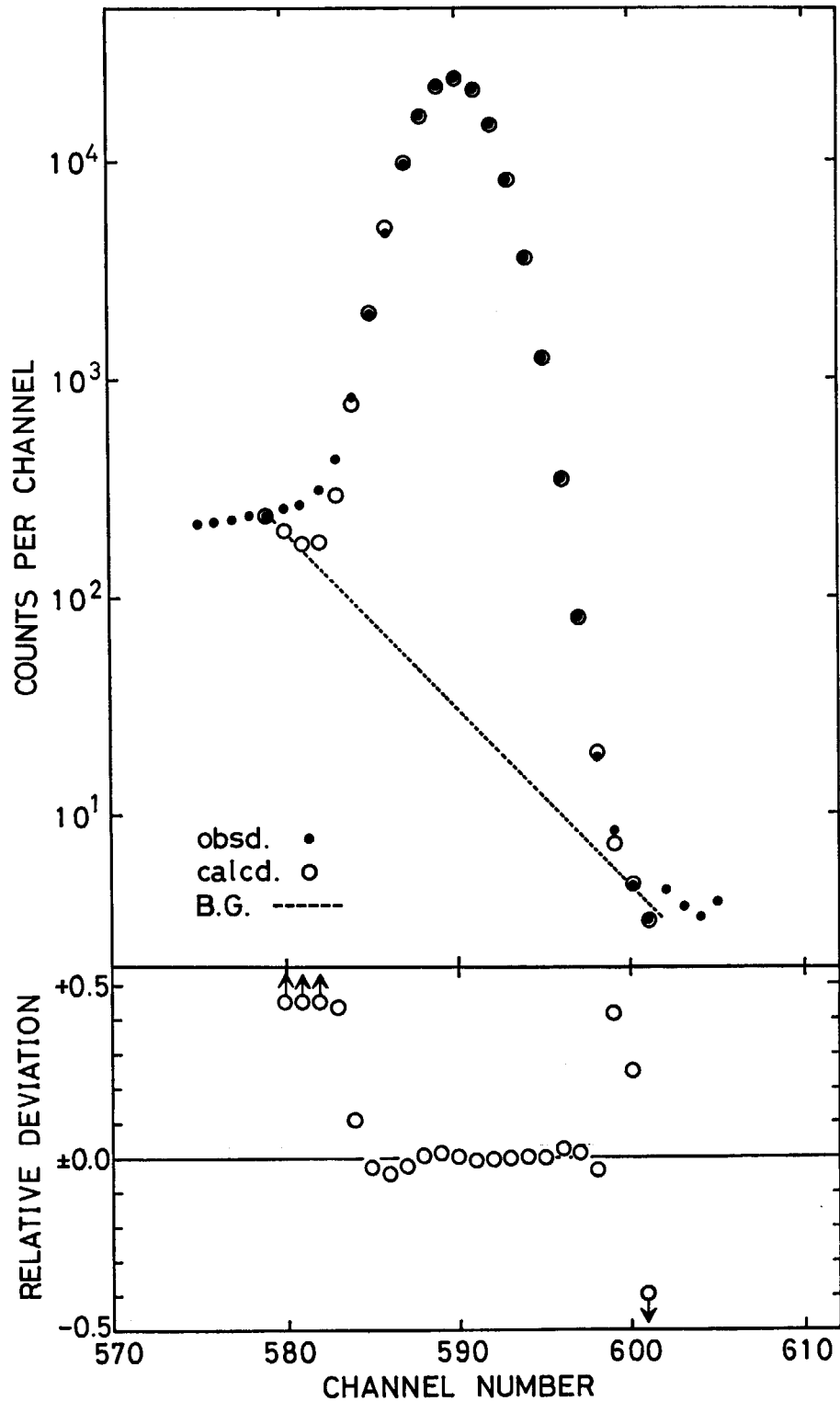


Fig. 3-6 b

evaluated peak area and the constancy of the appointed position of the centroid, found for the low-energy peak in artificially synthesized spectra with two peaks of 100 channel separation. The triangles indicate the result for the cubic background and the inverted triangles are for the exponential background, in comparison with circles for the best case of a sigmoid background,  $IBG=4$ . Here, the skew Gaussian curve of  $WDR=0.94$  with the predetermined tail was used as the fitting function in all the cases. The peak position was found to shift by 0.02 channel

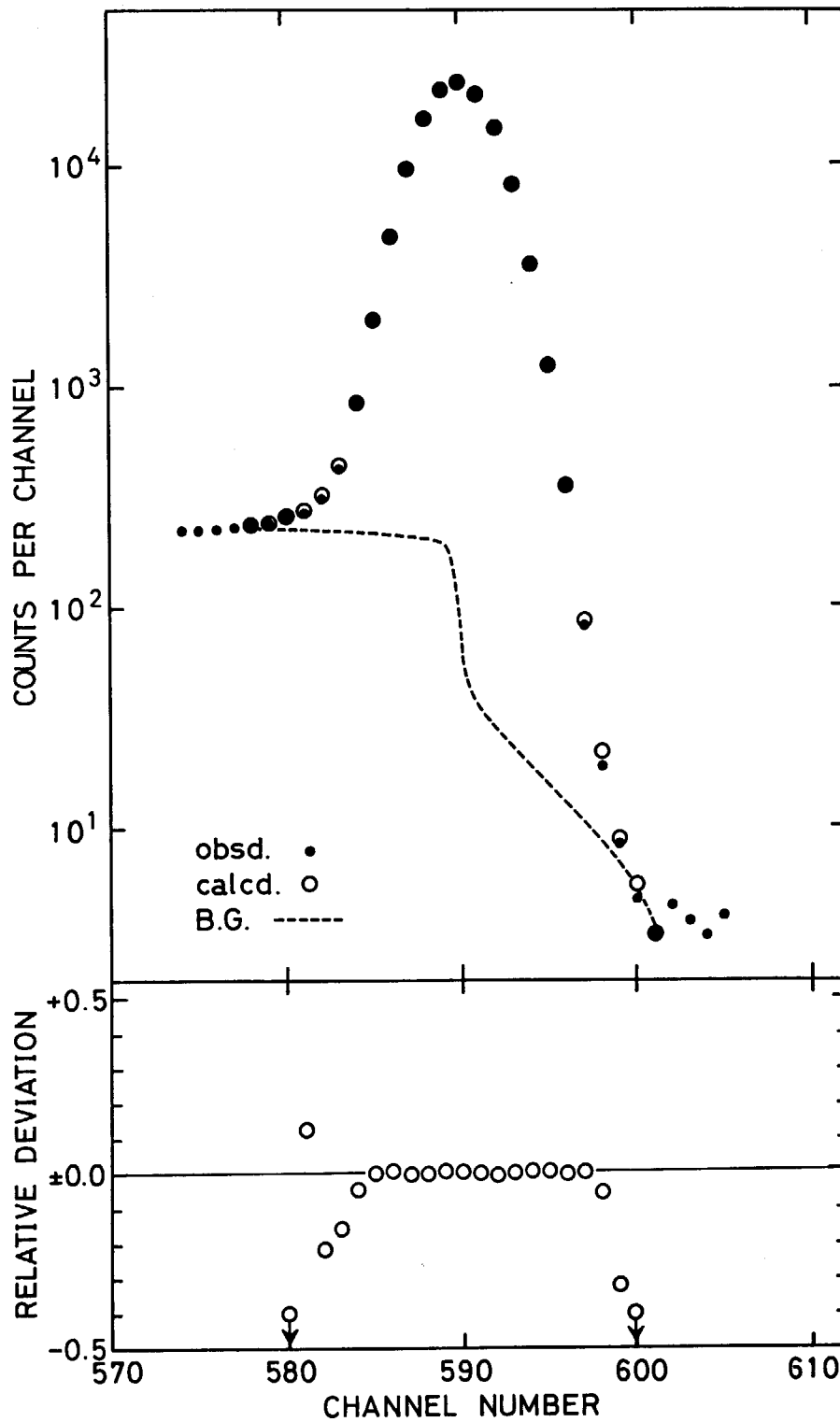


Fig. 3-6 c

when the sigmoid background was introduced. Figure 3-8 was further added in order to show that the consistency also holds between the results of "PKREC" (no fitting) and those of "PKFIT" (fitting). The difference of 0.04 channel in the determined peak positions was brought because of the difference between the parabola fitting and the fit to the skew Gaussian curve, besides the above-mentioned 0.02-channel shift due to the introduction of the sigmoid background. These deviations of the peak position, therefore, need to be corrected in the

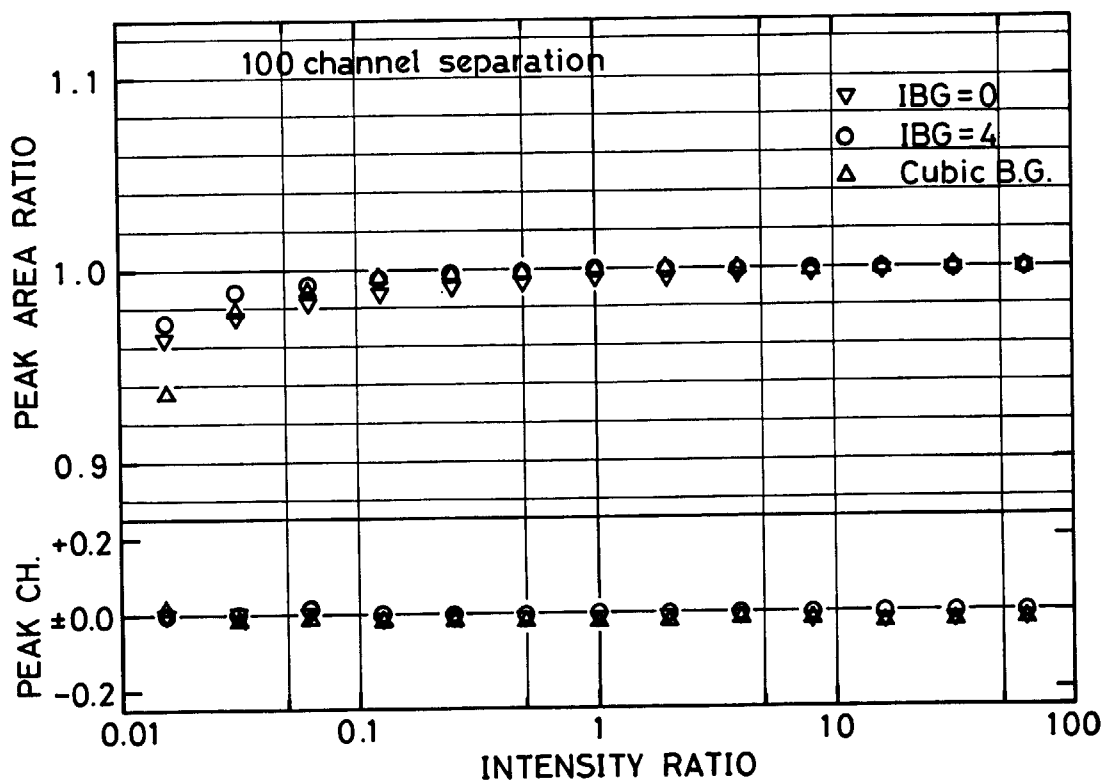


Fig. 3-7 Consistency of the evaluated peak area and the accuracy of the appointed peak position for peaks of various sizes lying on the Compton plateau. The Compton plateau underneath the peak is approximated by the exponential (triangles), the sigmoid curve with  $IBG=4$  (circles), or the cubic polynomial (inverted triangles).

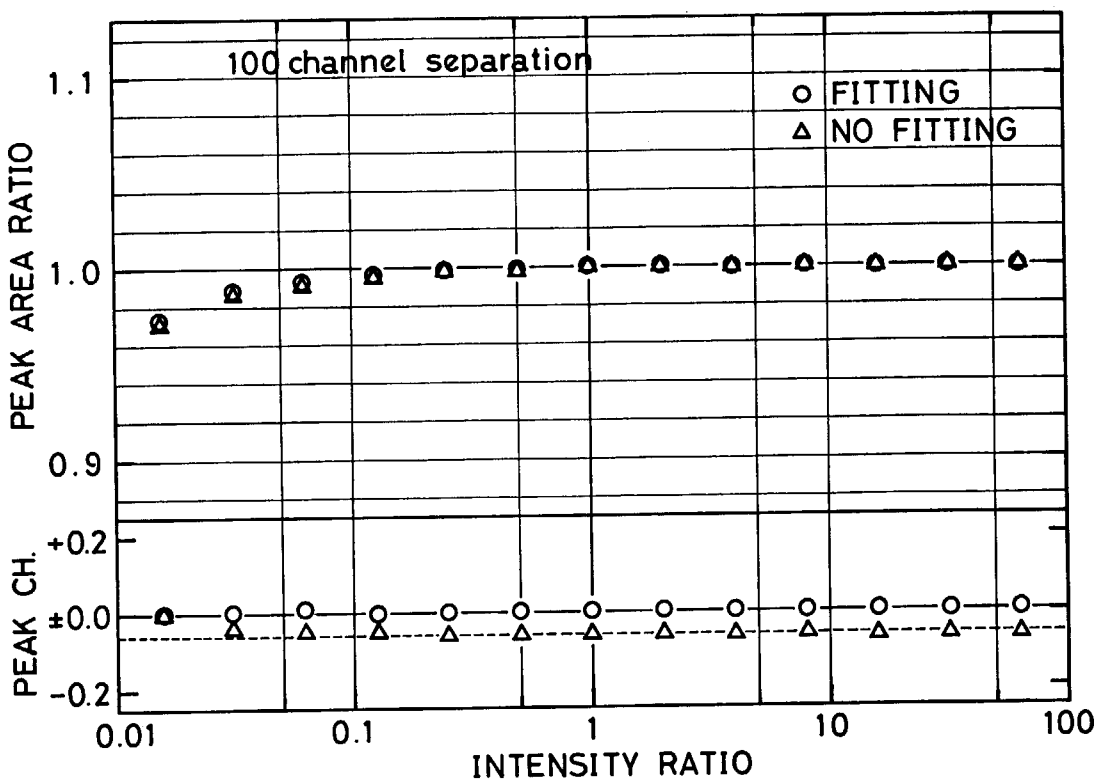


Fig. 3-8 Comparison of the results between "PKREC" (triangles) and "PKFIT" (circles) for peaks of various sizes lying on the Compton plateau. No significant discrepancy is observed between the summed and integrated peak areas, whereas there is a consistent deviation of 0.06 channel in the peak position determined in "PKREC" and in "PKFIT".

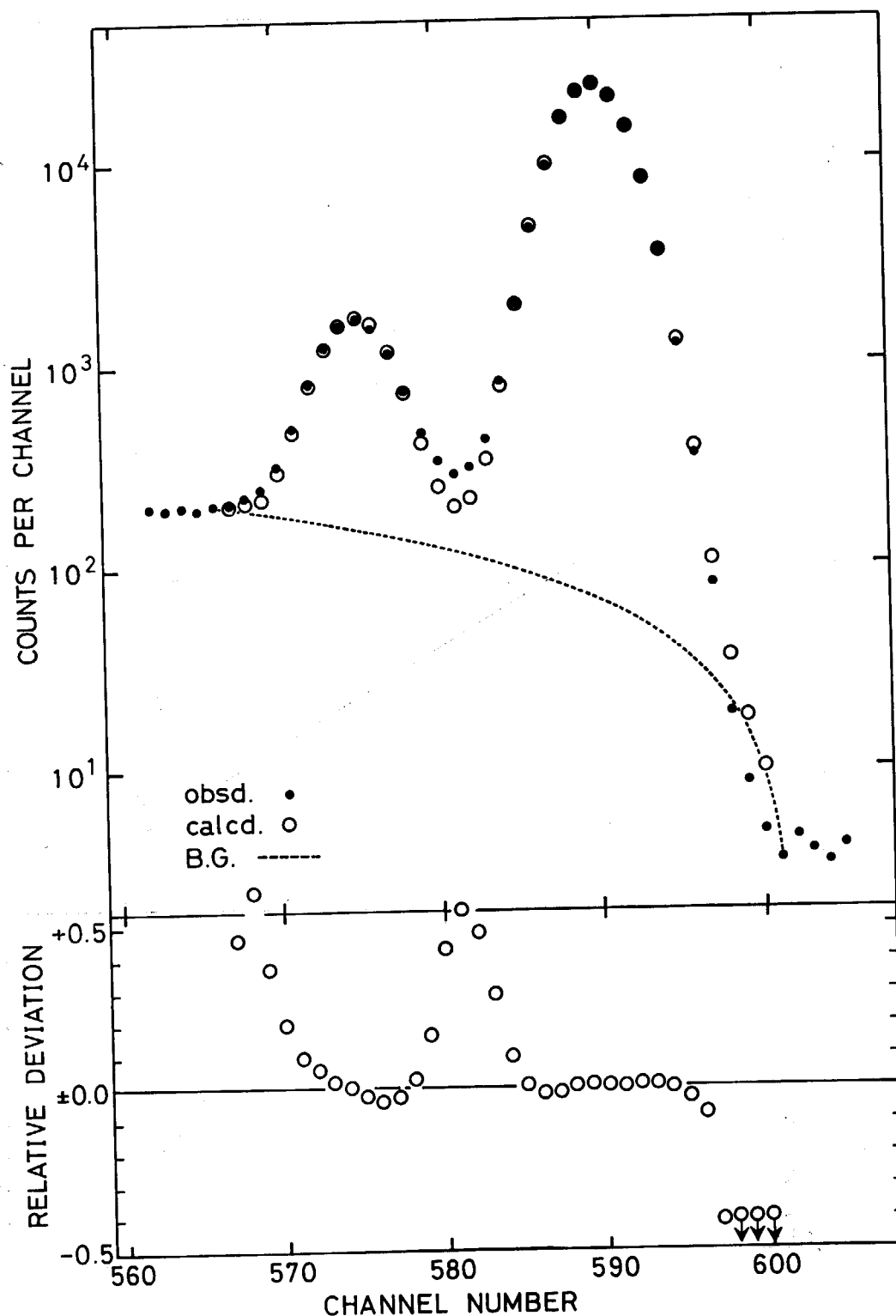


Fig. 3-9 Fit of a doublet with the intensity ratio of 1/16 and the peak separation of 15 channels (*FWHM* of each peak being 5.0 channels) to an asymmetric Gaussian curve with a tail on the linear background. The relative deviation is taken for the surplus count above the base line.

program.

For small peaks in a multiplet, different background shapes give rise to different results. The most naive function as the background continuum would be either the linear or the exponential function. Relatively speaking, the former oversubtracts the background on the high-

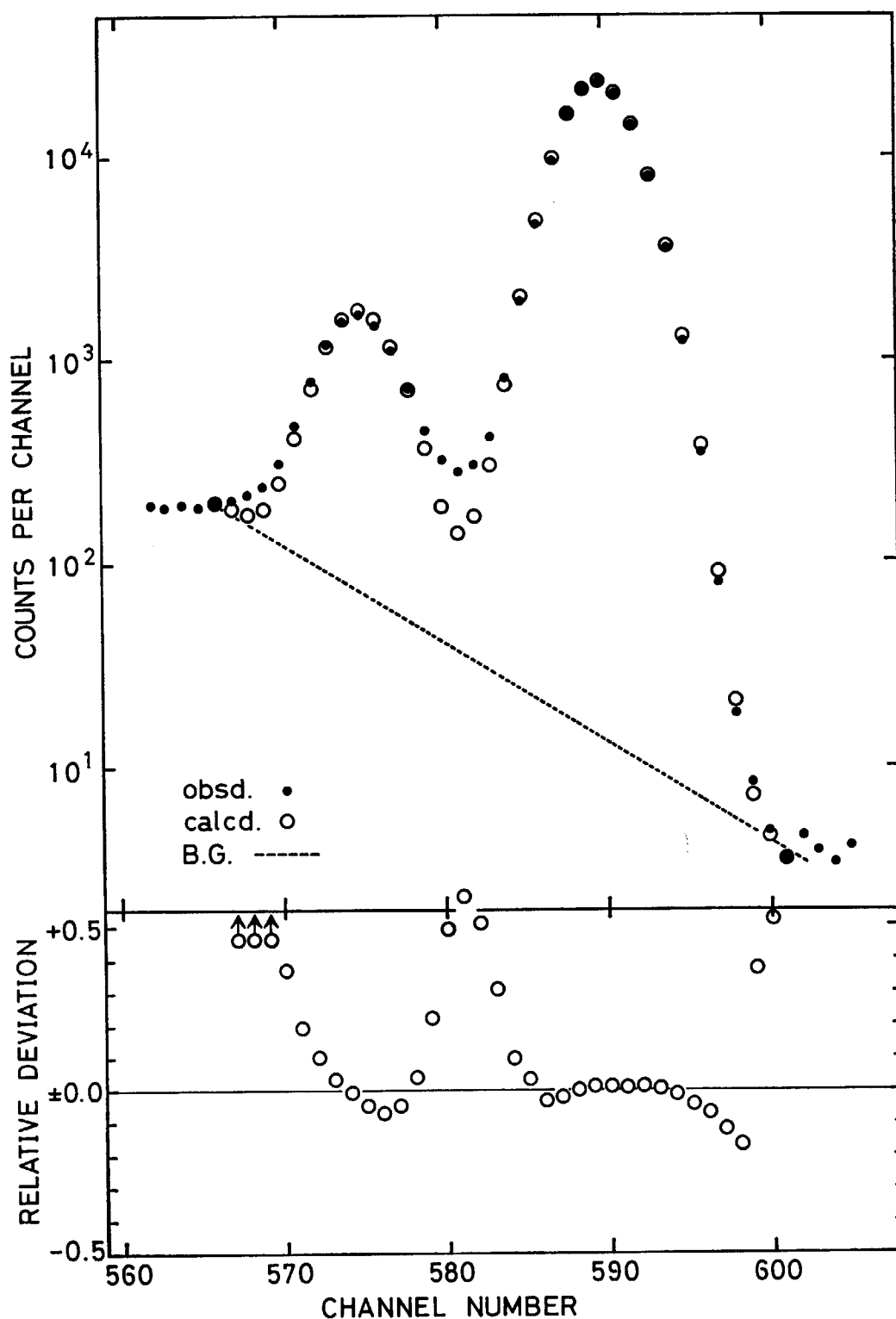


Fig. 3-10 Fit of a doublet with the intensity ratio of 1/16 and the peak separation of 15 channels ( $FWHM$  of each peak being 5.0 channels) to an asymmetric Gaussian curve with a tail on the exponential background. The relative deviation is taken for the surplus count above the base line.

energy side while the latter underestimates it on the low-energy side. This is seen in Figs. 3-9 and 3-10 where the low-energy peak is separated by 15 channels the intensity of which is one-sixteenth of the high-energy peak. More prominent disagreement is, however, observed in the trough region commonly in either figure. It indicates the background being underestimated in

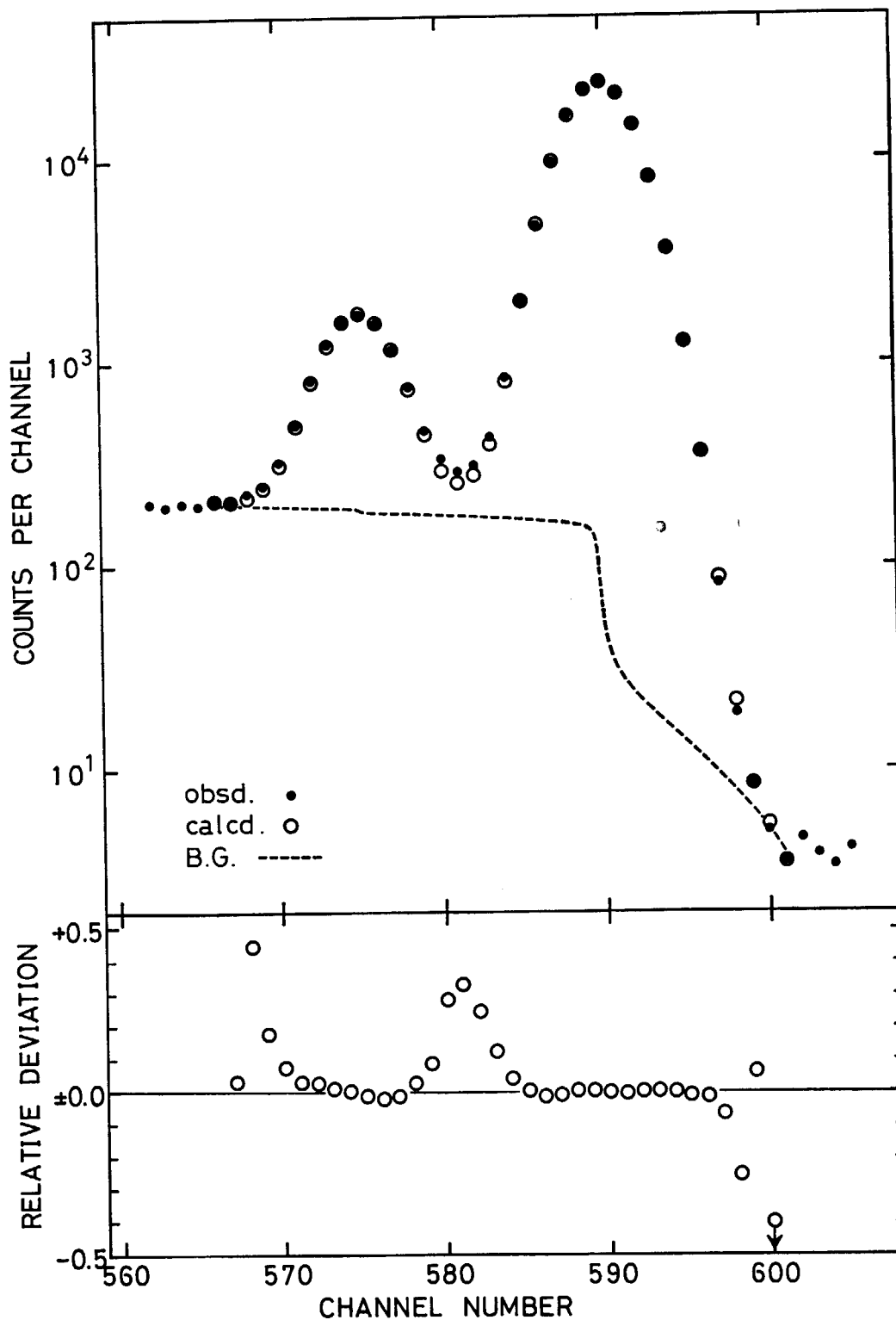


Fig. 3-11 Fit of a doublet with the intensity ratio of 1/16 and the peak separation of 15 channels (*FWHM* of each peak being 5.0 channels) to an asymmetric Gaussian curve with a tail on the sigmoid background with  $IBG=4$ (cf. Eqs.(3-13) and (3-14)). The relative deviation is taken for the surplus count above the base line.

the low-energy side. The situation is much improved when one assigns a stepwise function to the background of each peak, as shown in Fig. 3-11: The background function has been defined by

$$y(x) = \sum_{j=1}^m p_j a(x - x_j^0)^{1/n} + b. \tag{3-13}$$

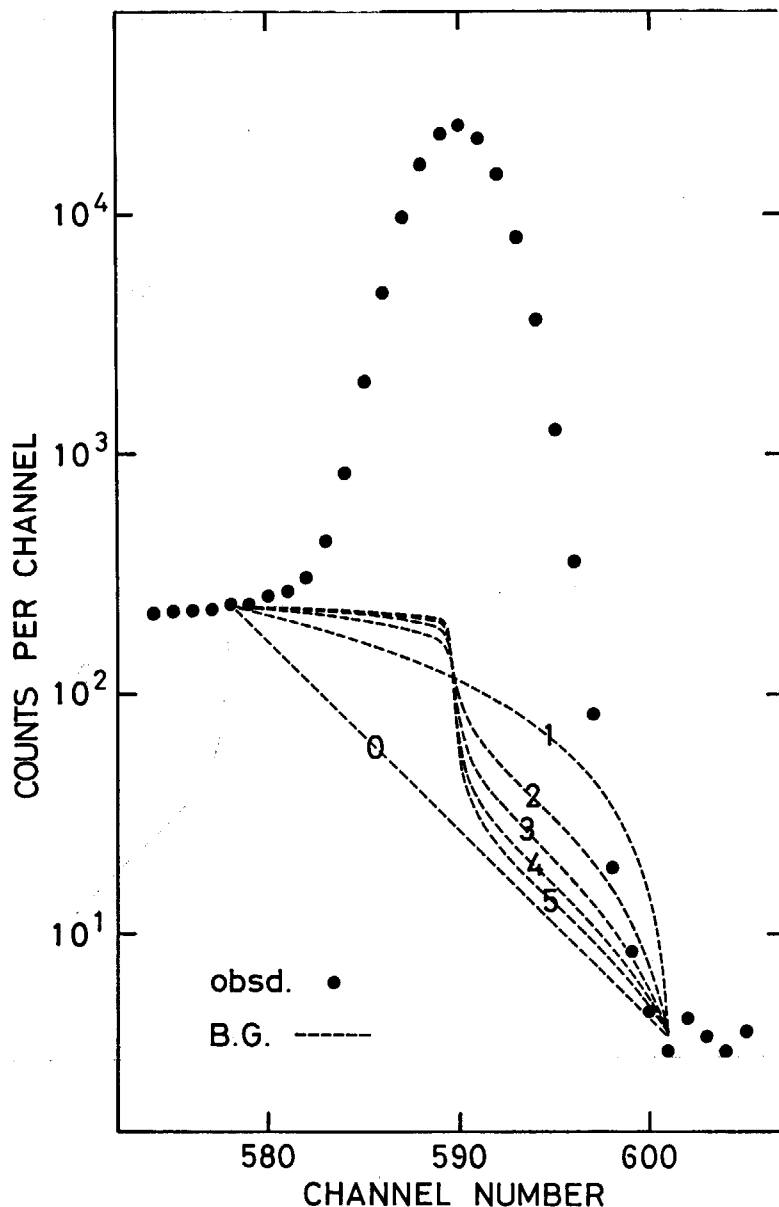


Fig. 3-12 An illustration of various background functions designated with the numbers representing the *IBG*: the exponential (*IBG*=0), linear (*IBG*=1), and various sigmoid (*IBG*=2 through 5) functions.

where the summation should be carried out for all the existing peaks whose relative intensity and centroid are denoted with  $p_j$  and  $x_j^0$ , respectively. The quantity  $n$  is related to the number *IBG* as

$$n = 2 \times IBG - 1, \quad \text{for } IBG \neq 1, \quad (3-14)$$

while  $a$  and  $b$  are determined from  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ , the numbers of counts at the peak boundary channels (cf. Fig. 3-1), as

$$a = \frac{h_2 - h_1}{\sum_{j=1}^m p_j \{ (x_j^0 - i)^{1/n} + (f - x_j^0)^{1/n} \}} \quad (3-15)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} b &= h_1 + a \sum_j p_j (x_j^0 - i)^{1/n} \\ &= h_2 - a \sum_j p_j (f - x_j^0)^{1/n}, \end{aligned} \quad (3-16)$$

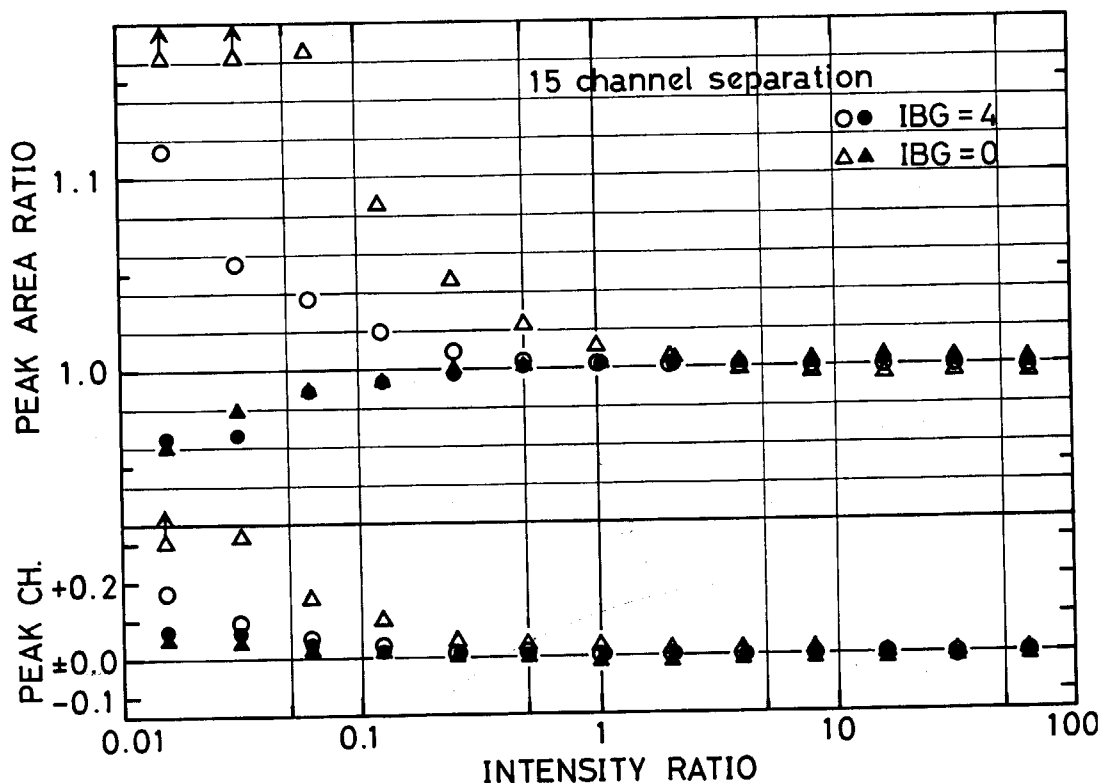


Fig. 3-13 Effect of the background shape on the estimated peak area and the determined peak position for doublets of various intensity ratios with the peak separation of 15 channels (the  $FWHM=5.0$  channels). The open marks indicate the result of the lower-energy peak, whereas the closed marks are for the higher-energy peak.

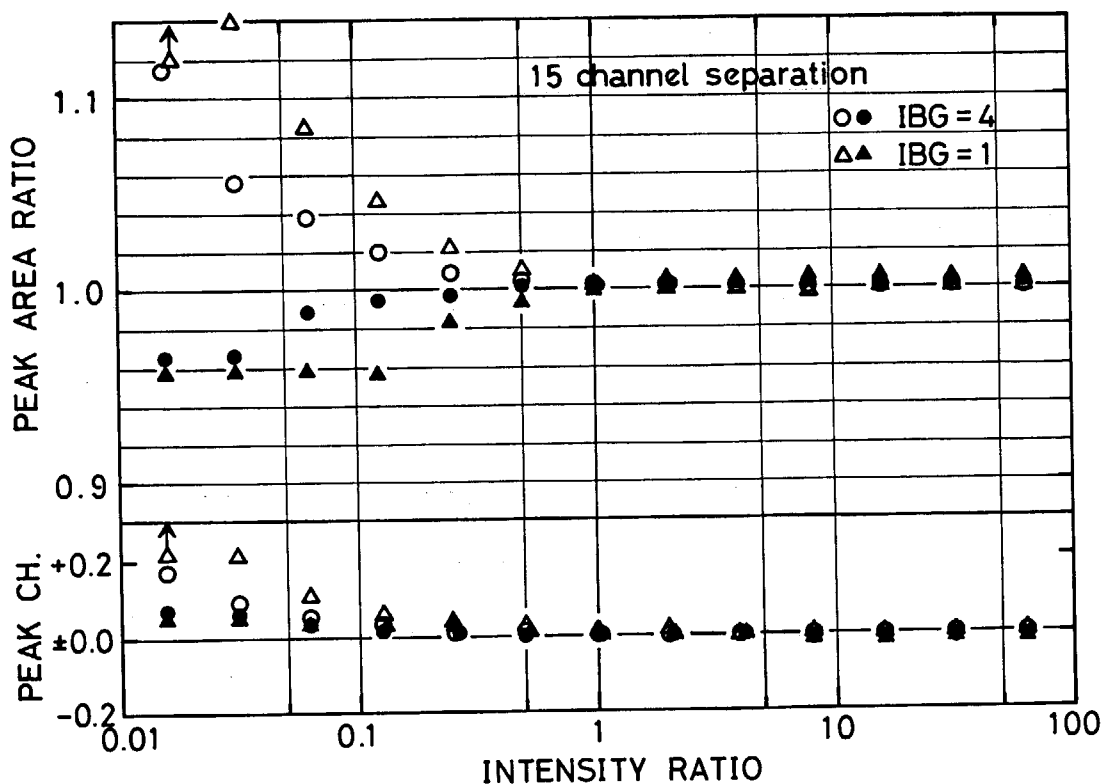


Fig. 3-14 Effect of the background shape on the estimated peak area and the determined peak position for doublets of various intensity ratios with the peak separation of 15 channels (the  $FWHM=5.0$  channels). The open marks indicate the result of the lower-energy peak, whereas the closed marks are for the higher-energy peak.



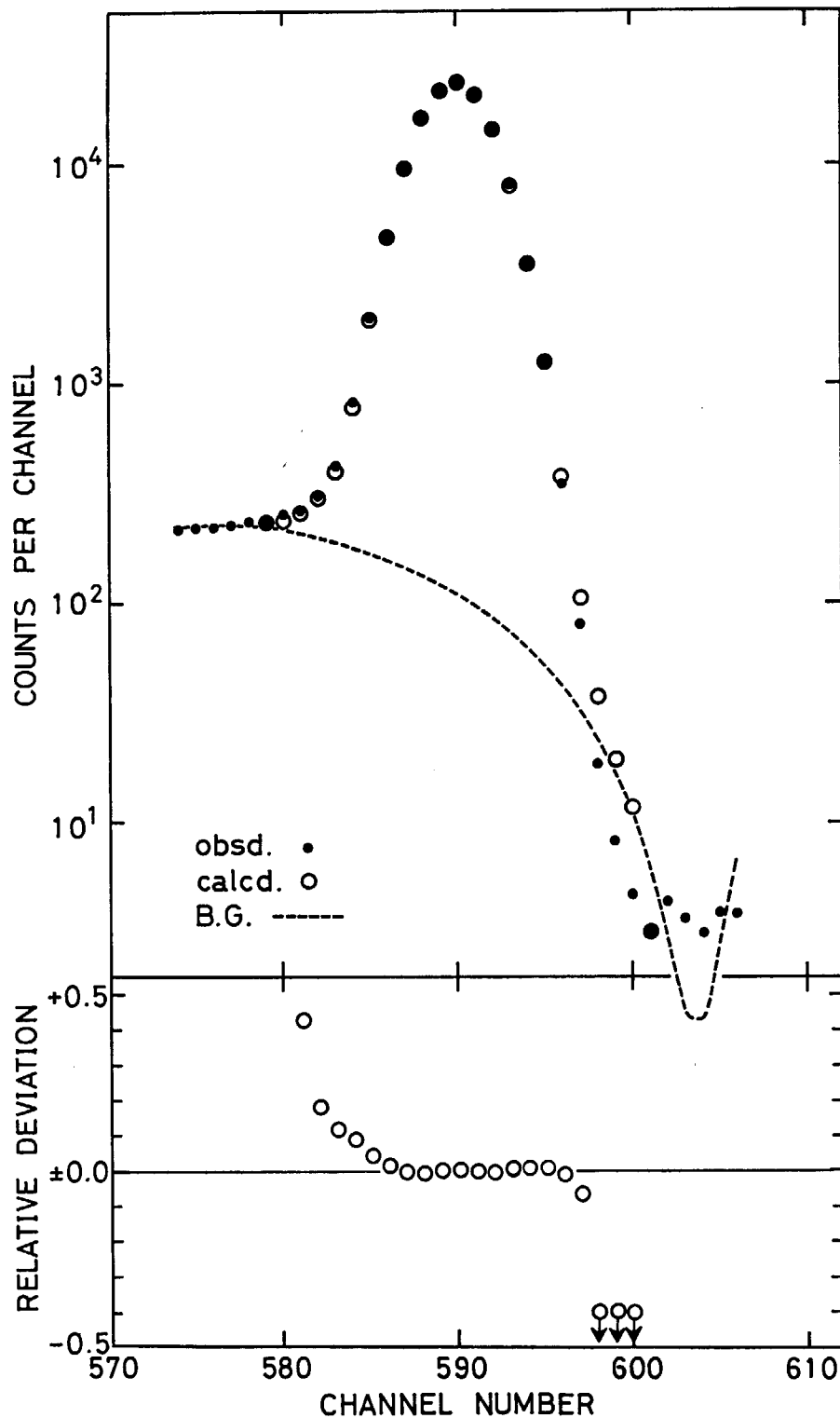


Fig. 3-15 Fit of the observed full-energy peak to the asymmetric Gaussian curve with a tail (the skewness factor being 0.94) lying on the fitted cubic polynomial background. The relative deviation is taken for the surplus count above the base line.

where  $i$  and  $f$  are the channel numbers of the peak boundary on the low- and high-energy sides, respectively. In Fig. 3-12, various background curves are illustrated in the case of a single peak. The number given to each background curve represents the parameter  $IBG$ , where the exponential curve was assigned with  $IBG=0$ . Consistency of the results was found to increase with increasing  $IBG$  from 1 to 4, whereas the situation remained more or less the same beyond  $IBG$

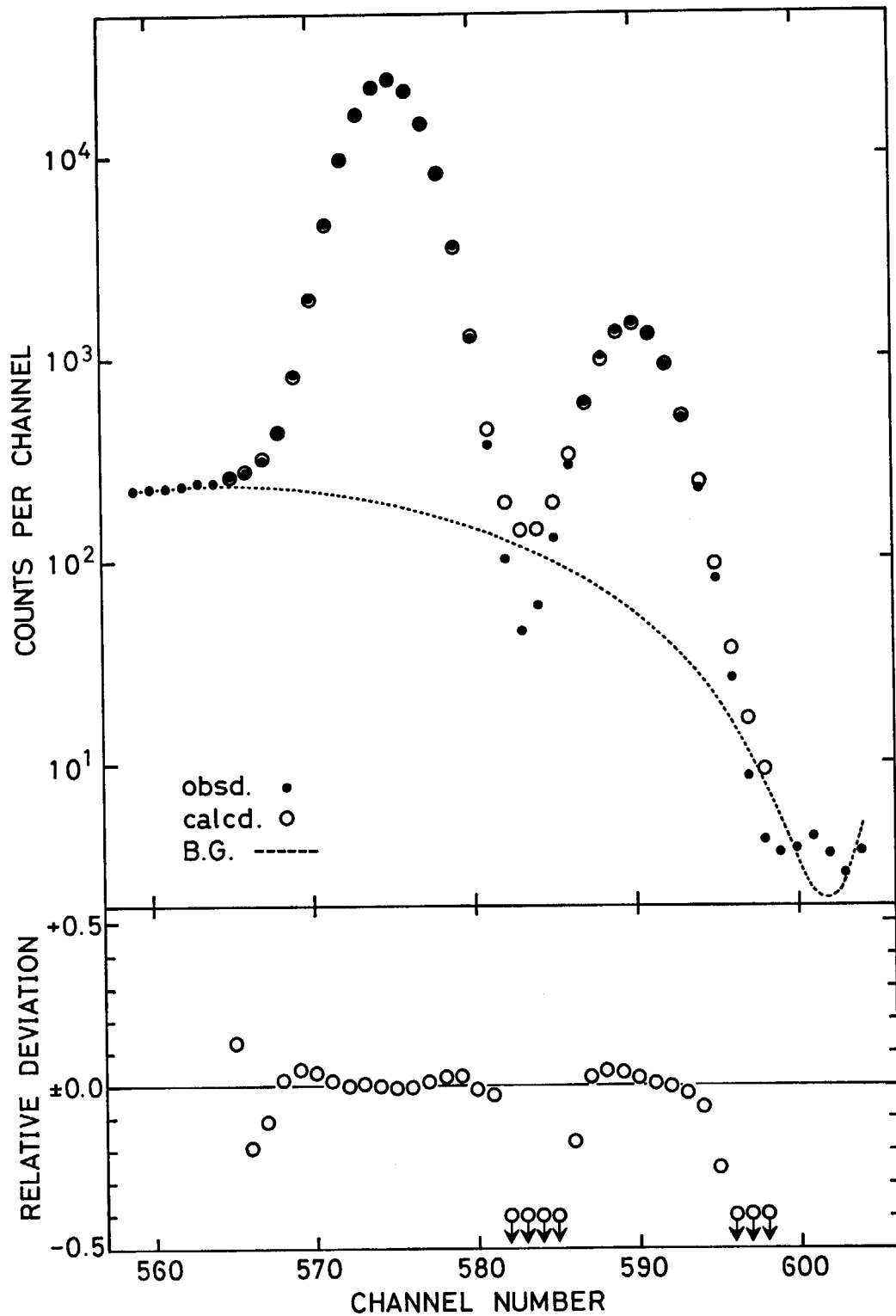


Fig. 3-16 Fit of a doublet with the intensity ratio of 1/16 and the peak separation of 15 channels (the *FWHM* being 5.0 channels) to the asymmetric Gaussian curve with a tail on the fitted cubic polynomial background. The relative deviation is taken for the surplus count above the base line.

=4. From Fig. 3-12, one may then expect that the exponential background would be the worst choice of all for a small peak on the low-energy side though it probably gives as good results as the best curve of *IBG*=4 for a small peak on the high-energy side.

On the contrary, the linear background is supposed to end up with poor agreement equally on both sides. These expectation are just shown to be correct in Figs. 3-13 and 3-14; the for-

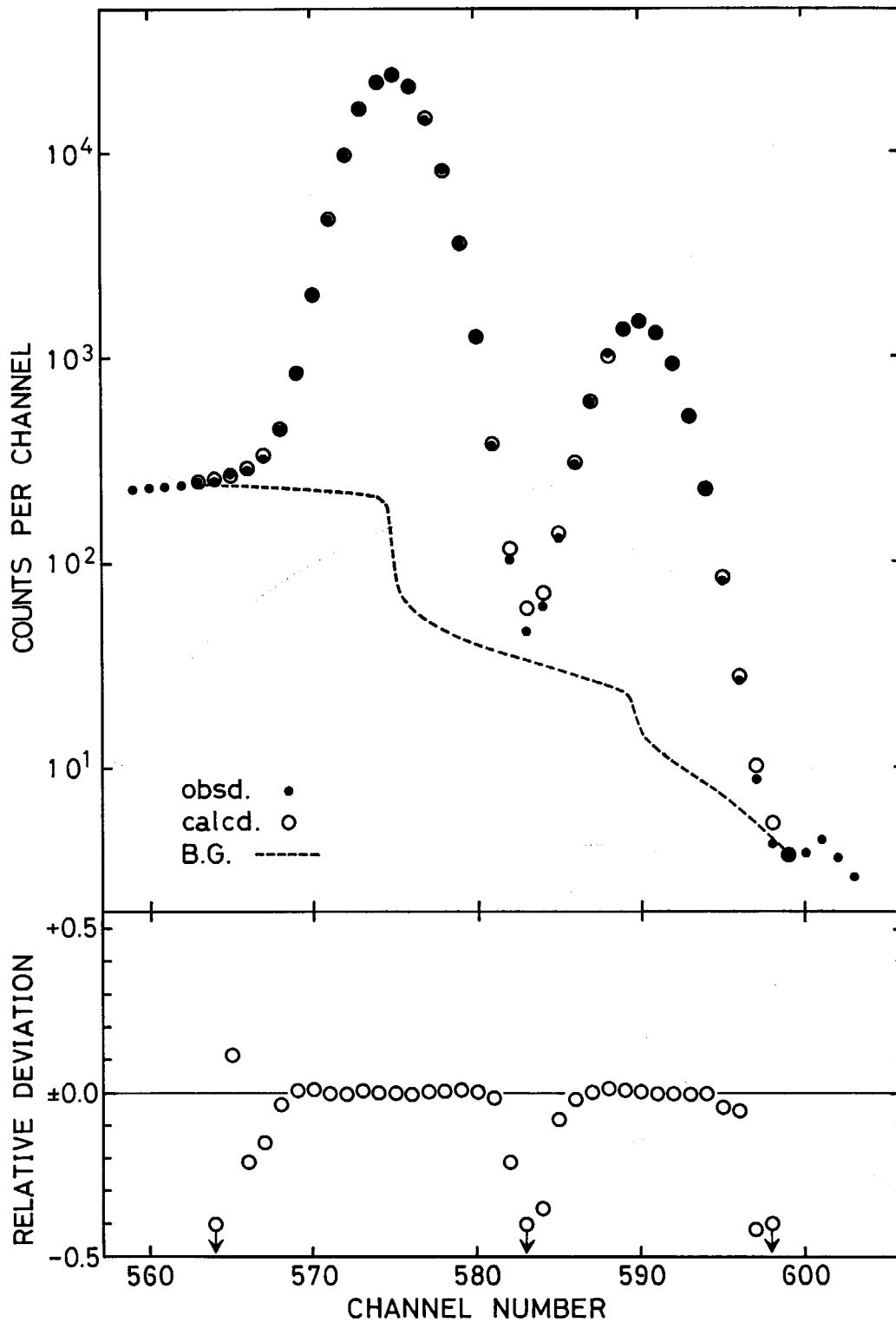


Fig. 3-17 Fit of a doublet with the intensity ratio of 1/16 and the peak separation of 15 channels (the  $FWHM$  being 5.0 channels) to the asymmetric Gaussian curve with a tail on the sigmoid background with  $IBG=4$  (cf. Eqs.(3-13) and (3-14)). The relative deviation is taken for the surplus count above the base line.

mer displays the results obtained for the exponential background with doublets of various intensity ratios whose peak separation was 15 channels, and the latter represents the results in the case of the linear background, both in comparison with the best case of  $IBG=4$ .

The most widely accepted function as the background curves is a low order polynomial. For example, the quadratic background is adopted in "SAMPO" and one can find many other codes

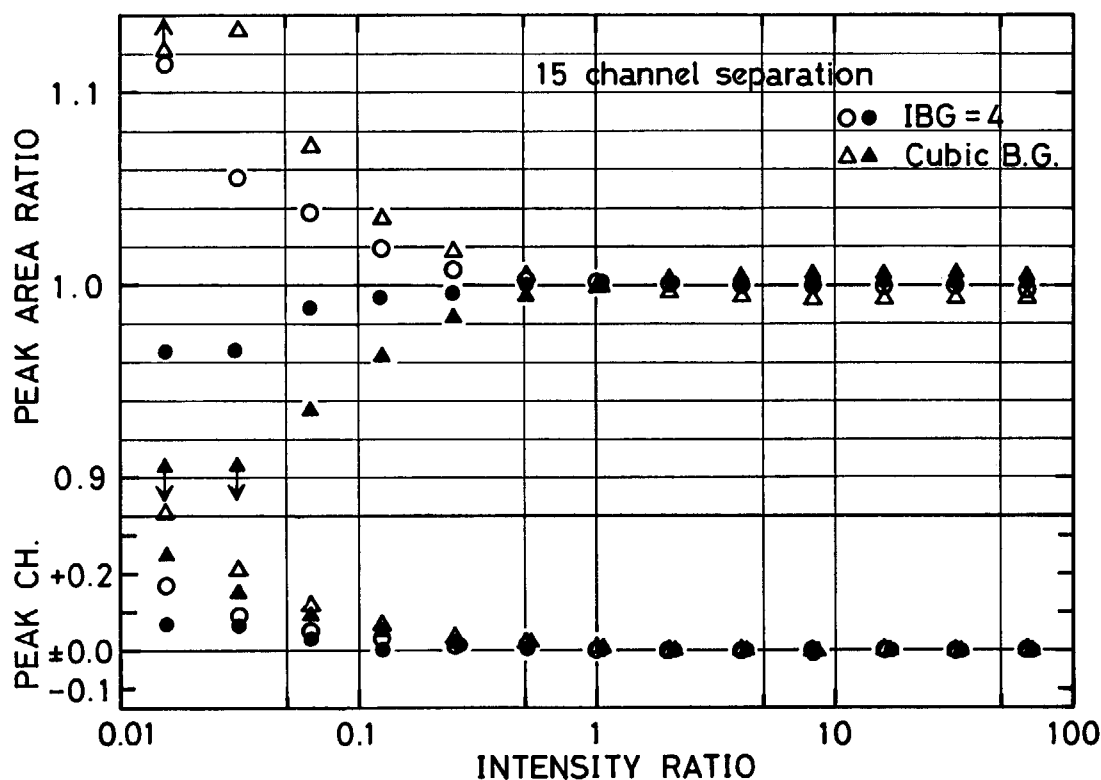


Fig. 3-18 Effect of the background shape on the estimated peak area and the determined peak position for doublets of various intensity ratios with the peak separation of 15 channels (the  $FWHM=5.0$  channels). The open marks indicate the result of the lower-energy peak, whereas the closed marks are for the higher-energy peak.

also applying the quadratic or cubic background. The quadratic polynomial seems to be fitted well to the background continuum when none of the involved peaks is too large compared with the background level as seen, for example, in Fig. 5 of ref. 8. However, the situation becomes quite discouraging when the full-energy peak is so large that the background levels are remarkably different on both sides. The cubic polynomial does not greatly improve the situation although it is expected to be more promising than the quadratic curve. Figure 3-15, which shows the least squares fit of a single peak to the skew Gaussian curve with a tail plus the cubic background, clearly indicates that the background is overestimated on the high-energy side as a result of more weight being laid on the higher background level of the opposite (low-energy) side. Consequently, one can expect no better results by the use of the cubic curve than those with the linear background for a small peak appearing on the higher-energy side of a large full-energy peak.

Figure 3-16 displays the least squares fit of a doublet, in which the peak separation is 15 channels and the high-energy peak is one-sixteenth of the low-energy one, to the skew Gaussian curve with a tail on the cubic background. Figure 3-17 shows the fit of the same doublet to the same peak shape on the stepwise background of  $IBG=4$ . In Fig. 3-16, one finds the fitted background surmounts the observed data both in the trough and the high-energy boundary. This observation supports the statement in the preceding paragraph. As is seen in Fig. 3-18, the cubic background results in the poorest agreement among various curves for a small peak on the high-energy side though it gives somewhat better result for a small peak on the opposite side.

So far we have investigated the relationship between the reliability of the result and the peak intensity ratio in a doublet of a fixed separation. Now let us consider the effect of the

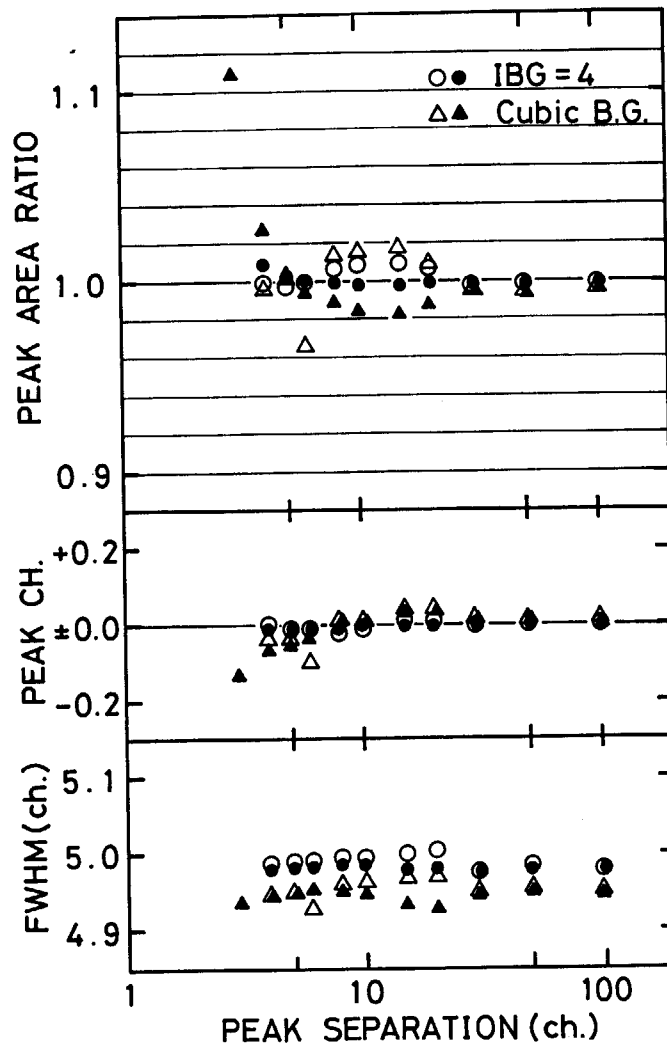


Fig. 3-19 Fluctuations of the estimated peak area, peak position, and *FWHM* in the two-peak systems with the fixed intensity ratio of 1/4 for various peak separations. The open marks indicate the results obtained for the lower-energy peak, while the closed marks are for the higher-energy peak.

peak separation on the result for a doublet with a given intensity ratio. We shall select two cases of the cubic and the sigmoid ( $IBG=4$ ) background, and plot three quantities, the peak area ratio, peak position and full width at half maximum, versus peak separation for the fixed intensity ratios of one-fourth (Fig. 3-19) and one-sixteenth (Fig. 3-20). The agreement naturally becomes poor as the separation is reduced to the smallest possible value, to nearly half the *FWHM*, because isolation into individual peaks becomes difficult. On the other hand, the increase of the separation causes disagreement because of the increase of the deviation between the adopted and optimum background functions as the peak region is enlarged. Above the 20-channel (4 *FWHM*s) separation, the two peaks are completely isolated (cf. Fig. 2-1) so that the agreement becomes excellent. Concerning the observed width, it is pointed out that the least squares fitting procedure gives much different widths for peaks in the low- and high-energy sides in the cases of poor agreement. From Fig. 3-19, we can assure the consistency of the peak area within one per cent deviation and the reproducibility of the peak position within an error of 0.02 channel for a smaller peak in a doublet with the intensity ratio of one-fourth by using the skew Gaussian curve and the stepwise background of  $IBG=4$ .

In the present code, the peak width is freely adjusted in the least squares fit. The *FWHM* values obtained for the set of IAEA standard sources are plotted versus the channel number

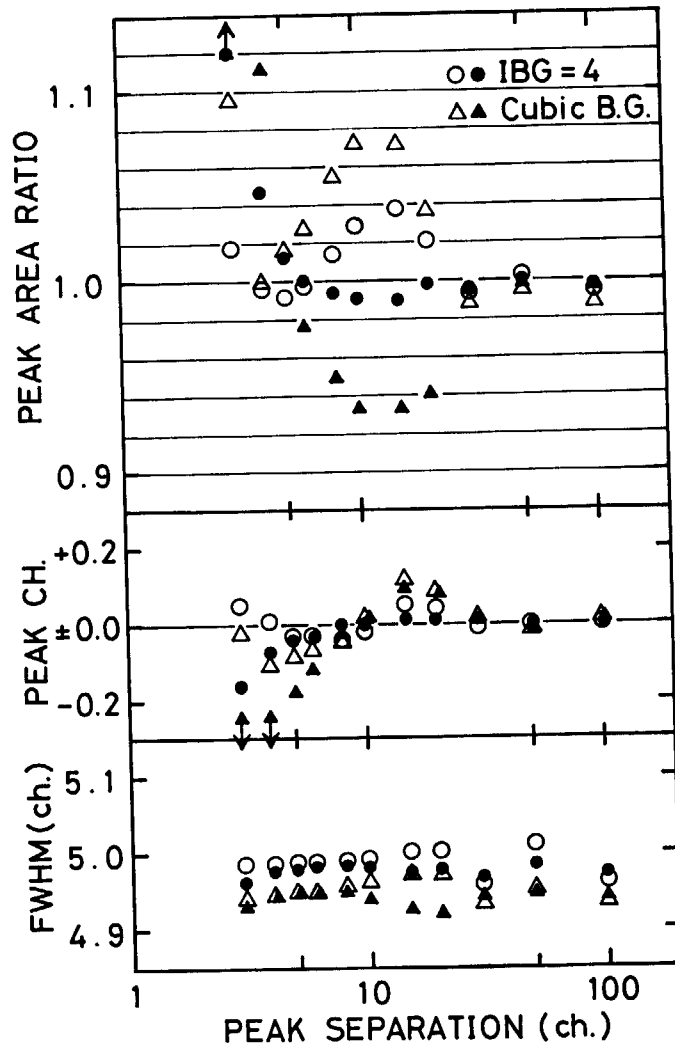


Fig. 3-20 Fluctuations of the estimated peak area, peak position, and *FWHM* in the two-peak systems with the fixed intensity ratio of 1/16 for various peak separations. The open marks indicate the results obtained for the lower-energy peak, while the closed marks are for the higher-energy peak.

or the photon energy in Fig. 3-21. Though the linear relationship is approximately observed among the points but one, there are some noticeable fluctuations among them. This tendency becomes much more prominent in the case of general spectra containing small and complex peaks. It is, however, concluded that such fluctuation in the peak width gives no discernible error in the resulting peak area and the agreement between the summed and the integrated peak area is remarkably good.

In Fig. 3-21, the exceptionally large value of *FWHM* belongs to the 511-keV annihilation peak, and this phenomenon has been known for some time<sup>12)</sup>.

The fitting procedure by previously forecasting the peak width has an advantage in finding a peak being overlooked in a multiplet by means of an extraordinarily large peak width on one hand. On the other hand, it fails to meet an abnormal situation such as the above annihilation peak. In this code, the above attitude was abandoned after all from the reasons of saving the annoyance of pre-determining the peak width and of keeping the flexibility to meet exceptional peaks. The handicap of thus losing an useful measure of detecting a dropped peak can, however, be sufficiently made up by other means (cf. section 3.1).

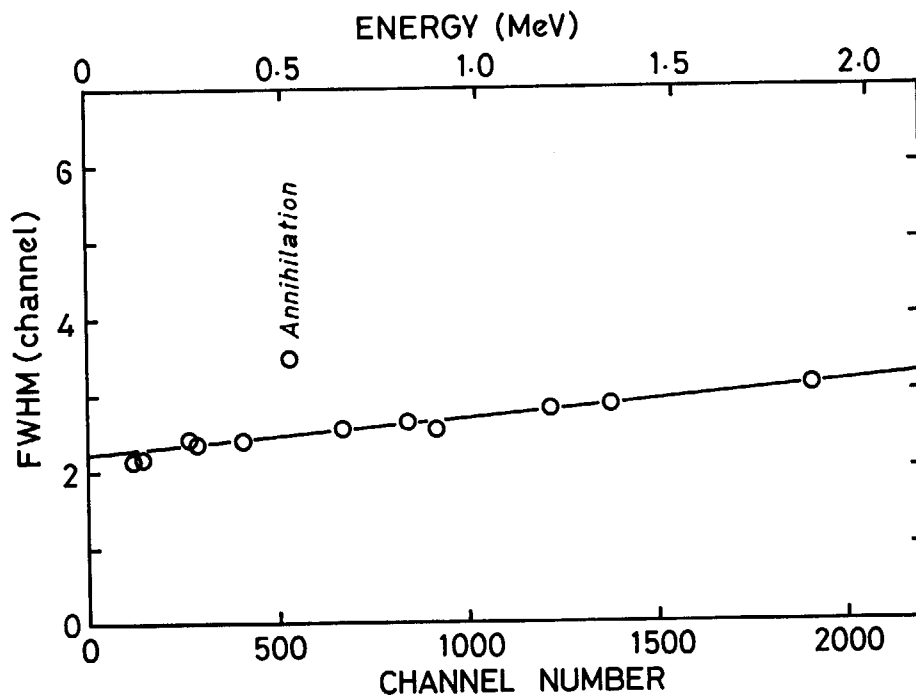


Fig. 3-21 An example of the energy dependence of the full width at half maximum resulting from the least squares peak fitting with the IAEA standard set.

## 4. Peak-fitting Process "RESFIT" in the Analysis of Low-resolution Spectra

### 4.1 Details of the Least Squares Fit

#### 4.1.1 The principle of the analysis and the structure of the subprogram "RESFIT"

For the spectrum analysis using the response function of the NaI(Tl) detector, the total-spectrum method has been adopted in which the simultaneous determination of all components is performed by means of all the peaks found in the spectrum. The total-spectrum method was thought to have superiority because statistical errors can be reduced by the use of all the data points for the fitting and it could subsequently avoid accumulation of errors which occurs seriously in the peeling-off method. It, however, requires the complete set of information on the response functions for all components such as bremsstrahlung, backscattering, escape peak due to pair production, and the sum spectrum at the high counting rate. Application of the total-spectrum method may, therefore, be rather limited. With the knowledge, we have devised a new method of the spectrum analysis using the response function<sup>4)</sup> for the full-energy peak and the Compton edge (cf. Fig. 4-1), which is a sort of the photopeak method as described below.

How to assign the fitting range is an important problem in the photopeak method. First, we examined a method of the least squares fit for each peak group separated in the peak rec-

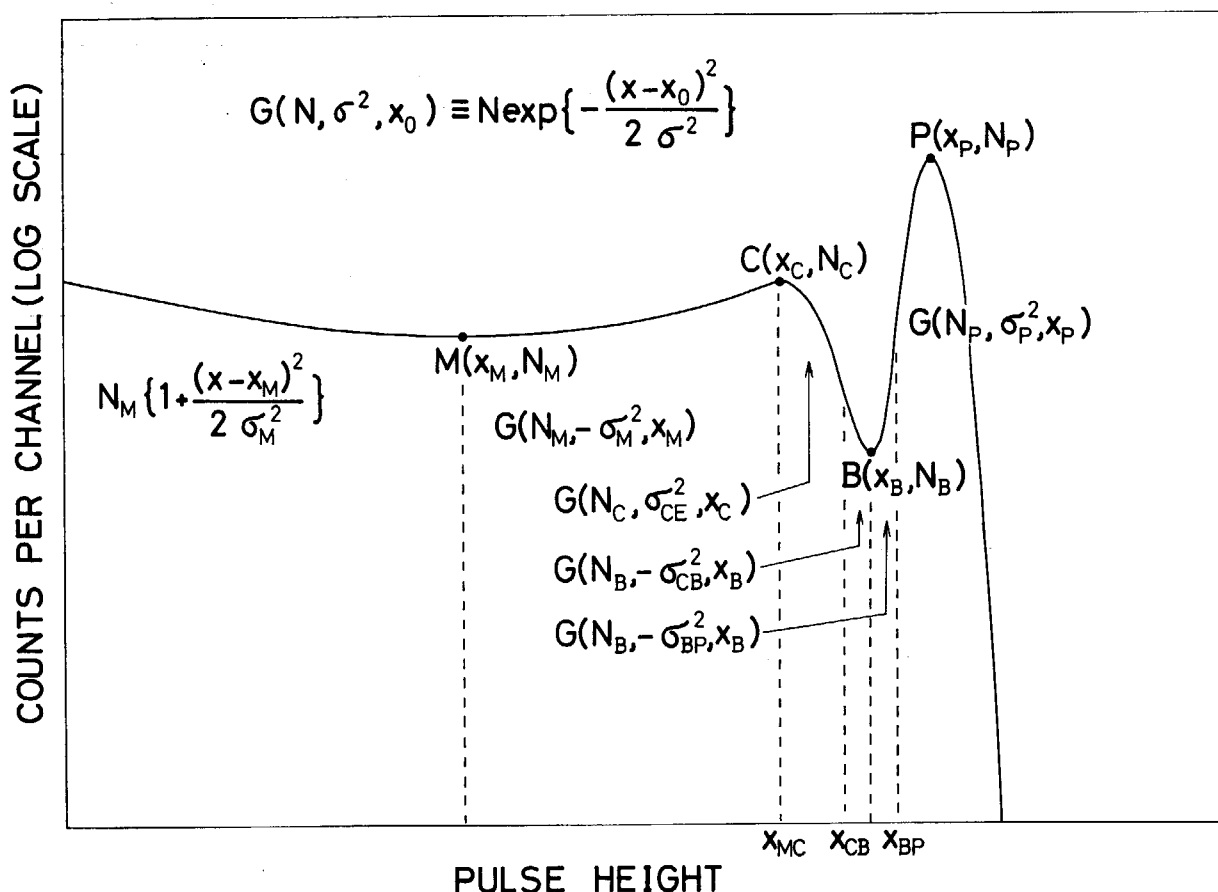


Fig. 4-1 An analytical expression of the  $\gamma$  response function given by NaI(Tl) detectors.



ognizing subprogram "PKREC", in which the Compton distribution of other peak groups at the higher energies were approximated with a quadratic polynomial. It was, then, concluded that (i) a sufficiently large number of data points are not supplied for the fit of the peak locating at the end of the cluster of peaks and (ii) for clusters of peaks containing many peaks and consequently requiring a broad fitting range, the quadratic polynomial is not always accurate enough to represent the Compton distribution of other peak groups throughout the region. One may remove the first disadvantage by extending the fitting range. This, however, amplifies the second disadvantage. Raising the order of the polynomial representing the Compton background for improving the reproducibility of the background distribution is undesirable because the number of the adjustable parameters increases.

An alternative solution was then found by repeating the fitting procedure for each peak instead of each peak group. The fitting range is now determined as shown in Fig. 4-2 around the object peak. For the  $\gamma$  components which give violently changing distributions such as full-energy peaks or Compton edges in the fitting range, their response functions are included rigorously in the least squares fit as well as the function for the object peak. The Compton distribution of the rest of the  $\gamma$  rays is approximated with a quadratic polynomial whose coefficients are determined in the least squares procedure.

The flow chart of "RESFIT" is shown in Fig. 4-3.

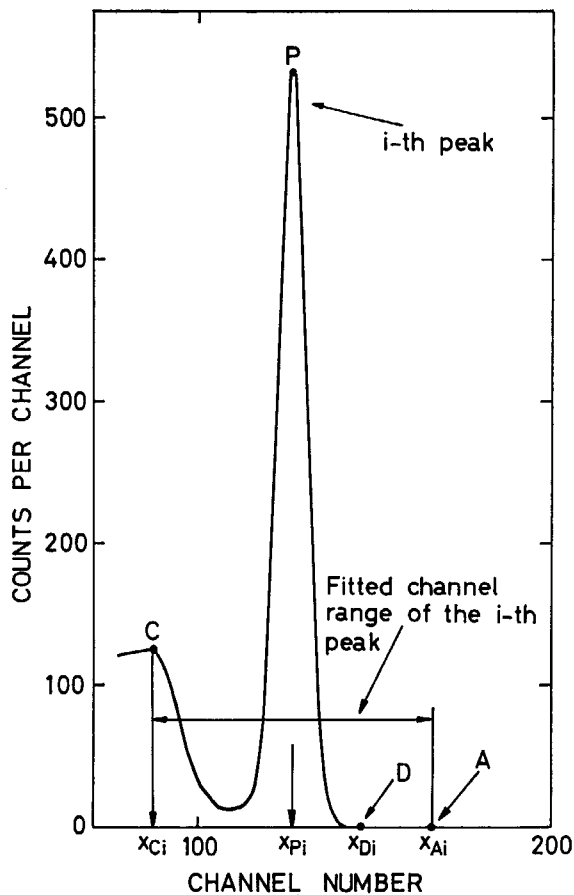


Fig. 4-2 An illustrative picture of the present photopeak method.

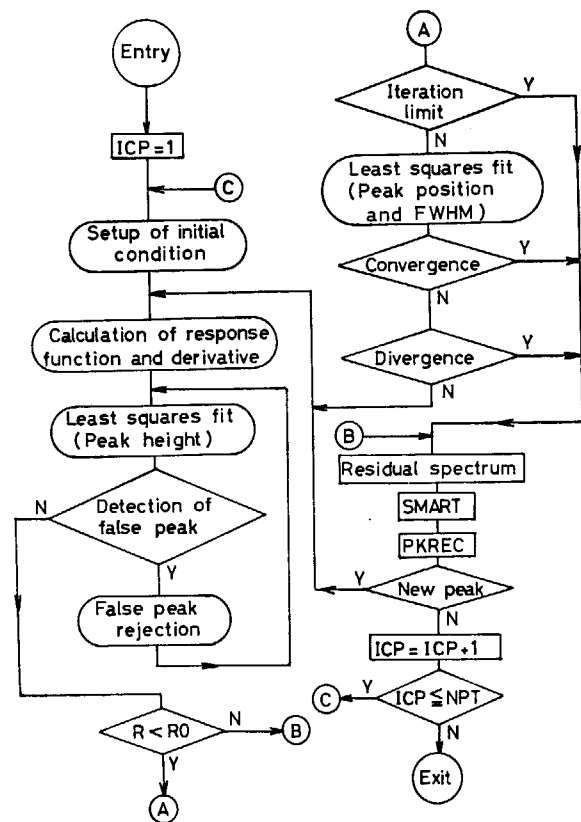


Fig. 4-3 Flow chart of "RESFIT".

#### 4. 1. 2 Initial setup for the least squares fit

Since all the peak positions are found by the use of the peak-searching subprogram "PKREC",

the photopeak energy,  $E_{Pi}$ , of the  $i$ th  $\gamma$  ray is calculated with

$$E_{Pi} = A(x_{Pi} - B), \quad (4-1)$$

where  $x_{Pi}$  is the peak position of the  $i$ th photopeak and  $A$  and  $B$  are constants to be given by the user. The conversion equation (4-1) between the energy and the channel number is also used for transforming the energy-dependent response function<sup>4)</sup> to the channel-number-dependent one  $R_i(j)$ . The function  $R_i(j)$  is normalized so that the peak height becomes unity and consequently the contribution of the  $i$ th  $\gamma$  ray to the spectrum is obtained by  $R_i(j)$  multiplied by the peak height,  $N_{Pi}$ .

The fitting interval for the  $i$ th peak was taken from the Compton edge  $C$  to a point  $A$  as shown in Fig. 4-2, where the channel number of the point  $A$  was given by

$$x_{Ai} = 2x_{Pi} - x_{Ci}. \quad (4-2)$$

This fitting interval extends about  $20\sigma_{Pi}$  which is appreciably broader than that in the ordinary photopeak method. The response function of another  $\gamma$  ray whose Compton edge  $C$  or a point  $D$  given by

$$x_{Di} = x_{Pi} + 5\sigma_{Pi} \quad (4-3)$$

lies in the above region is brought into the fitting procedure (cf. Fig. 4-2). That is, only the smoothly changing distributions are represented by a quadratic polynomial in this method.

The function to which the observed number of counts at the  $j$ th channel,  $y(j)$ , in the  $i$ th peak region is to be fitted is expressed in the form of a linear combination;

$$\bar{y}(j) = N_{Pi}R_i(j) + \sum_{k \neq i} N_{Pk}R_k(j) + C_0 + C_1j + C_2j^2. \quad (4-4)$$

The second through fifth terms on the right-hand side of Eq.(4-4) are regarded to give the background to the  $i$ th peak. Let us rewrite Eq.(4-4) in a simplified form;

$$\bar{y}(j) = \sum_k a_{kj}x_k, \quad (4-5)$$

where  $a_{kj}$  represent the known quantities of  $R_k(j)$  etc., and  $x_k$  denote adjustable parameters of  $N_{Pk}$  and  $C_r$  ( $r=0, 1$  or  $2$ ).

The solution of the simultaneous equations;

$$\frac{\partial v^2}{\partial x_k} = 0 \quad (k=1, 2, \dots, m) \quad (4-6)$$

with

$$v^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n w_j \{y(j) - \bar{y}(j)\}^2 \quad (4-7)$$

is written in a matrix representation;

$$\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{Y}, \quad (4-8)$$

where

$$\mathbf{X} = (x_k),$$

$$\mathbf{Y} = (y(j)),$$

$$\mathbf{A} = (a_{kj}),$$

and  $W$  is the diagonal matrix whose  $j$ - $j$  element is  $w_j$ . The matrix  $A^T$  is the transposed matrix of  $A$ .

The standard deviation  $d_i$  in  $x_i$  is given by

$$d_i = \sqrt{(A^T W A)_{ii}^{-1} \frac{v^2}{n-m}}. \quad (4-9)$$

The peak area  $A_i$  and its standard deviation  $D_i$  of the  $i$ th peak are expressed with  $N_{Pi}$ ,  $D_i$  and  $\sigma_{Pi}$  ( $=0.4247 FWHM$ ) as

$$A_i = \sqrt{2\pi} N_{Pi} \sigma_{Pi} \quad (4-10)$$

and

$$D_i = \sqrt{2\pi} d_i \sigma_{Pi}, \quad (4-11)$$

respectively.

In the above-mentioned least squares fit, the peak positions were fixed as given in "PKREC", so that the linearization was possible. However, the subprogram "PKREC" fails to determine accurately the position of small peaks particularly half-hidden by a nearby large peak or appearing as shoulders on a large peak or the Compton edge. The step next to the linear least squares fit should, therefore, naturally be the non-linear least squares method in which the peak positions are freely adjusted as well, following the Gauss's method (cf. section 3.1).

#### 4. 1. 3 Norm for the least squares fit

Iteration of the non-linear least squares procedure is ceased whenever any of the following conditions are realized:

- 1) The iteration is recognized as successfully converged if

$$|\Delta x_{Pk}| < 0.1 \text{ keV} \quad (4-12)$$

for the increments  $\Delta x_{Pk}$  of all the involved peak positions  $x_{Pk}$ .

- 2) If any one of the increments  $\Delta x_{Pk}$  begins to exceed 30 keV or the  $FWHM$  exceeds twice the initial guess value, the iteration is judged to have diverged.
- 3) If the  $\chi^2$  quantity;

$$\chi^2 = \sum_j \frac{\{y(j) - \bar{y}(j)\}^2}{y(j)} \quad (4-13)$$

exceeds the value obtained in the preceding iteration, the fitting is ceased in failure.

- 4) When the number of iteration reaches 20, the iteration is stopped also in failure.

#### 4. 1. 4 Rejection of false peaks

The situation that spurious peaks are detected in "PKREC" is limited in the case where the counting statistics is remarkably poor or the Compton edge forms a shoulder in the outskirts of a large peak. Inclusion of a false peak in the fitting procedure results in a poor ending, particularly concerning peak positions. On the contrary, peaks overlooked in "PKREC" if any do not cause the fatal effect to the least squares fit. What is required as the protection against the failure is, therefore, the devices of the false-peak rejection.

The following three conditions were set up empirically:

- 1) A peak whose peak height,  $N_{Pk}$ , is less than 2 counts/channel is ignored.
- 2) If the standard deviation  $d_k$  defined by Eq.(4-9) has a relation;

$$d_k > 4 \sqrt{y(x_{pk})} \times FTH, \tag{4-14}$$

the  $k$ th peak is unconditionally excluded. Here,  $y(x_{pk})$  denotes the number of counts per channel at the  $k$ th peak channel and  $FTH$  is a multiplication factor taken to be unity unless particularly specified by the user.

3) When

$$4 \sqrt{y(x_{pk})} \times FTH \geq d_k > 2 \sqrt{y(x_{pk})} \times FTH, \tag{4-15a}$$

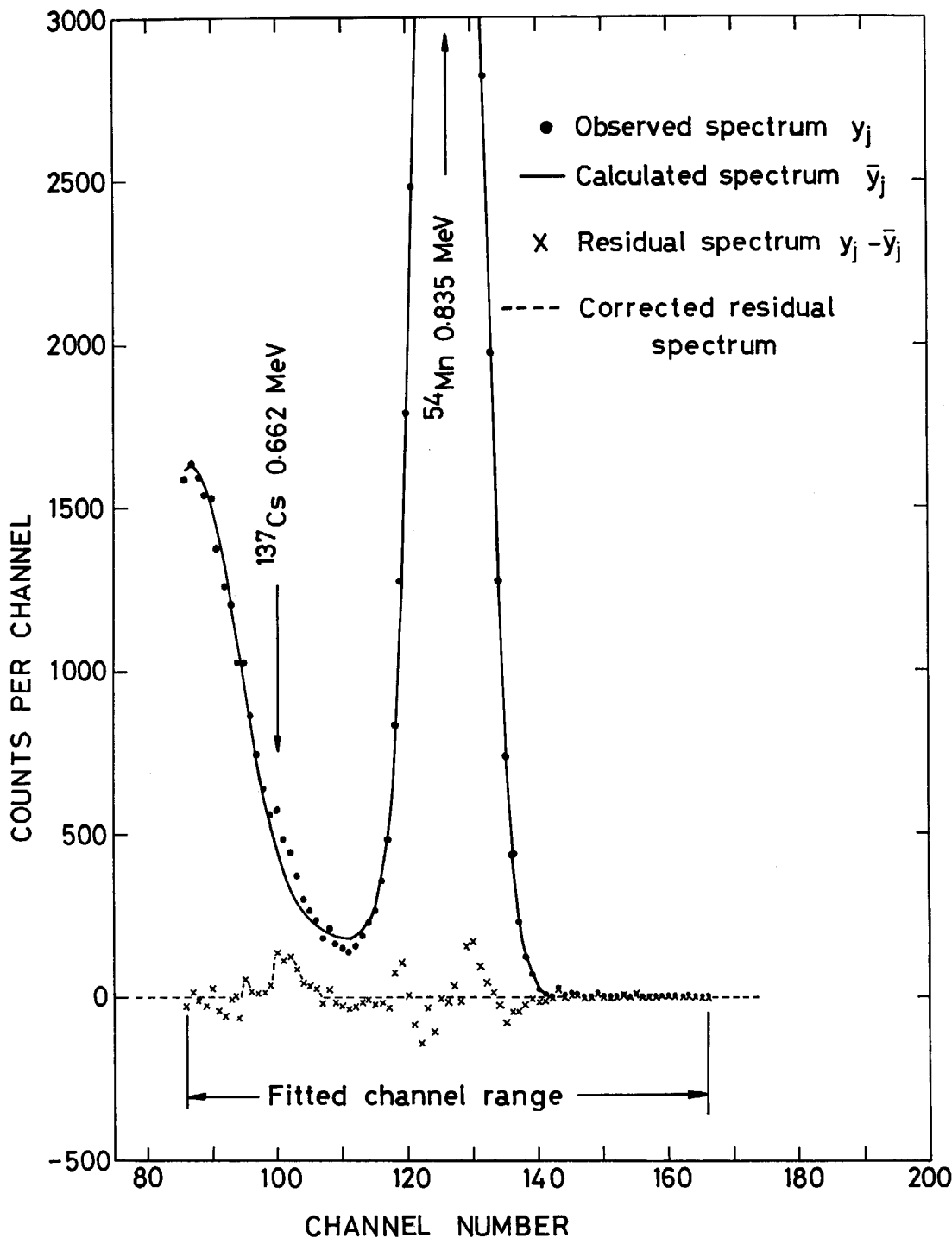


Fig. 4-4 An illustrative picture of the second peak search. The  $^{137m}\text{Ba}$  662-keV peak, once overlooked in the original spectrum, is successfully picked up in the smoothed residual spectrum.

the  $k$ th peak is dropped if the Compton edge of another peak  $k'$ ,  $x_{ck}'$ , lies within 50 keV around the peak position  $x_{pk}$ ; namely,

$$|x_{ck}' - x_{pk}| < 50 \text{ keV.} \quad (4-15b)$$

#### 4. 1. 5 Search of peaks once overlooked in "PKREC"

A small peak lying on the steep Compton edge may not appear explicitly because of the low resolution of the detector (cf. Fig. 4-4). In the least squares fit excluding such an undetected peak, however, the observed spectrum  $y(j)$  would exceed the fitted one,  $\bar{y}(j)$ , in the corresponding interval. Such disagreement is expected to clearly appear in the residue  $r(j)$ ;

$$r(j) = y(j) - \bar{y}(j). \quad (4-16)$$

Since the statistical fluctuation is greatly enhanced in the residual spectrum  $r(j)$ , it is necessary to filter the fluctuation prior to the second peak search. The low resolution of the spectrum serves this purpose; namely, the range of the positive residue should extend over a certain length, at least an order of one *FWHM* (actually  $2\sigma_{Pi}$  is taken). We have therefore introduced the following filter for the residual spectrum; the value of the residue  $r(j)$  is substituted with unity unless the positive value lasts over  $2\sigma_{Pi}$ . The resulting spectrum, depicted with a dashed line in Fig. 4-4, is then subjected to the peak search by "PKREC" once more. If a peak is found in the spectrum, the least squares fit is repeated by including the newly found peak.

## 4.2 Consistency Guaranteed by the Subprogram "RESFIT"

Although it is hardly expectable to obtain a universal measure for the consistency concerning the peak area determined by "RESFIT", a study on the reliability of the subprogram for a few typical cases would be valuable. As discussed before<sup>5)</sup>, the spectrum synthesized with spectra of the pure sources is generally superior to the measured spectrum with a mixed source from the viewpoint of investigation of the performance of the analyzing code. In the case of the spectrum from NaI(Tl) detectors, however, one can not apply the way of the spectrum synthesis carried out for those given by Ge(Li) detectors in the previous chapter because the response of the NaI(Tl) detector is sharply energy- (or channel-number-) dependent. What is recommended is to superimpose with a certain multiplication factor two spectra separately measured with two appropriate types of the pure nuclide.

In order to obtain a peak lying on the Compton plateau, the  $^{54}\text{Mn}$  spectrum was superimposed on the  $^{22}\text{Na}$  spectrum after being multiplied by a multiplication factor  $f$ . On the other hand, the spectrum from the  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  source was combined with the  $^{54}\text{Mn}$  spectrum for constructing a peak on the slope of the Compton edge. The reciprocal of the number of counts per channel was used as the statistical weight in the least squares fit. For comparison of the result, the COVELL's method<sup>10)</sup> was also carried out, in which the peak range was set to about  $4.5\sigma_{Pi}$  around the relevant peak.

Figure 4-5 indicates the result of the analysis of the spectrum constructed with the responses for the pure  $^{54}\text{Mn}$  and  $^{22}\text{Na}$  sources. The ratio of the resulting peak area to the true value for the  $^{54}\text{Mn}$  full-energy peak is plotted versus the ratio of the true peak area to that of the 1,275-keV peak of  $^{22}\text{Na}$ . As the true peak area for  $^{54}\text{Mn}$ , we adopted the value obtained with the pure  $^{54}\text{Mn}$  spectrum multiplied by the factor  $f$ . The COVELL's method gave quite large discrepancies in the computed peak area when the pure  $^{54}\text{Mn}$  spectrum was taken as the standard. Therefore, the normalizing value was determined by the peak area calculated for the

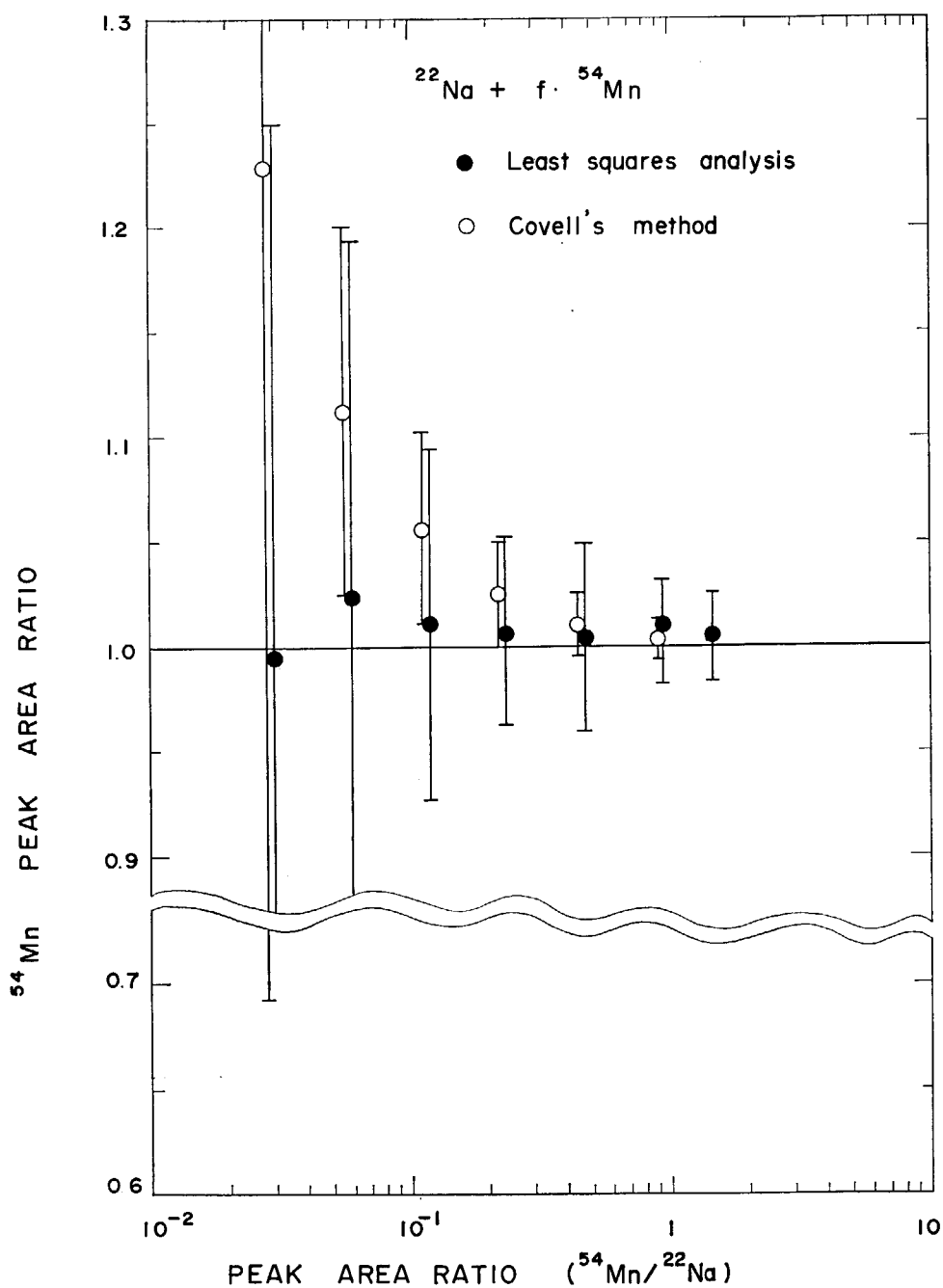


Fig. 4-5 The analyzed peak areas for the  $^{54}\text{Mn}$  835-keV full-energy peak in the synthesized spectrum by means of the pure  $^{54}\text{Mn}$  and  $^{22}\text{Na}$  spectra.

mixed spectrum with the equal photopeak intensity ( $f=1$ ). The results of similar treatments are shown in Fig. 4-6 for the case of the  $^{137\text{m}}\text{Ba}$  662-keV peak under the influence of the  $^{54}\text{Mn}$  response.

The results displayed in Figs. 4-5 and 4-6 indicate that the COVELL's method gives relatively good consistency for a peak on the Compton plateau or when the background level is nearly linear, while the consistency becomes very poor when the background shape considerably deviates from the linear function. On the other hand, the present response-function method is understood to give quite satisfactory results in either case, since the background shape can be reproduced quite accurately.

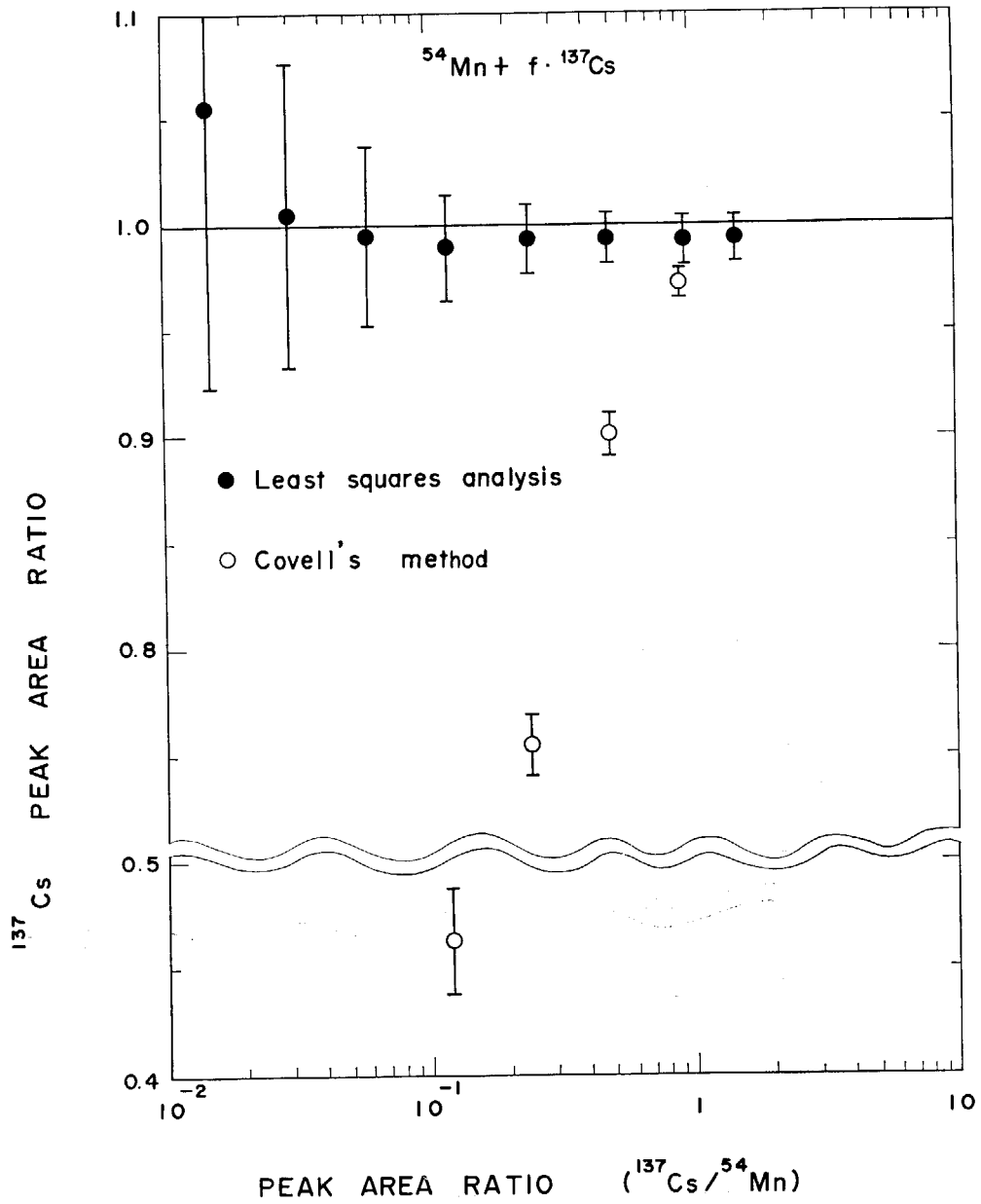


Fig. 4-6 The analyzed peak areas for the  $^{137\text{m}}\text{Ba}$  662-keV full-energy peak in the synthesized spectrum by means of the pure  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  and  $^{54}\text{Mn}$  spectra.

## 5. Description of the Codes

### 5.1 Main Program and Subprograms

#### 5.1.1 Main program and subprograms in the code "BOB 73" for the spectrum from the Ge(Li) detector

The code "BOB 73" consists of the main program and 25 subprograms as described below. MAIN: the main program which combines all the subprograms to form the complete process.

The values of the control indices are read in MAIN, which control the choices among optional conditions for the input and output formats and the way of the analysis.

CLEAR: a subroutine for the initial zero clearance of variables.

CDREAD: a subroutine for reading the input data in the form of the IBM cards, being called for  $ISFG > 0$ .

MTREAD: a subroutine for the input data in the form of the magnetic tape, being called for  $ISFG = 0$ .

LIVET: a subroutine for calculating the live counting time when the data are acquired in the clock-time mode. This subroutine is set for work if  $ITR = 0$  and all of  $ITC$ ,  $TO$  and  $TS$  are given in the CD-1 card in TABLE 5-3.

SMART: a subroutine for the data-smoothing following the SAVITZKY-GOLAY method<sup>13)</sup>.

PKREC: a subroutine for the peak search.

SELECT: a subroutine for filtering small or spurious peaks out.

FINDSK: a subroutine for determining the line shape function of a typical peak in the spectrum; the obtained information is used in the succeeding subprogram, PKFIT, for analyzing the rest of the peak groups in the spectrum. The procedure via FINDSK is, however, performed only when the peak shape remarkably changes with each data as in the case of the  $\gamma$  scanning of the nuclear fuel. Generally, the peak shape is determined beforehand with a set of the standard spectra. This subroutine is called if neither  $WDRO$  nor  $WDRC$  are given, and  $ISEL$  is set equal to 0 or 1. This subroutine requires additional information regarding the channel number of the reference peak and the confidence interval in FORMAT(2 I 4).

PKFIT: a subroutine for the peak-fitting procedure. The peak shape is approximated by an asymmetric Gaussian curve with/without a tail in the low-energy side. The asymmetry factor and/or the shape of the tail are either fixed or floated in the least squares fit. The shape of the background level can be chosen among the linear ( $IBG = 1$ ), exponential ( $IBG = 0$ ) and various sigmoid curves ( $IBG \geq 2$ ) (cf. Eqs.(3-13) to (3-16)).

NONLIN: a subroutine for the non-linear least squares fit.

LINEQ: a subroutine for calculating the inverse matrix.

NLIEQ and NLNIJ: subroutines giving the values of the fitting function and its first derivatives with respect to the involved free parameters at given values of the independent variable (the channel number).

GRAFIC: a subroutine visualizing the result of the least squares fit, being called when  $IGFT = 1$ .

ENGEF: a subroutine for the energy calibration and the counting efficiency correction. The



calibration can be carried out either by constructing the calibration curve (or the efficiency curve) with the internal or the external standard peaks, or by giving the values of the coefficients of the curve. The calibration curve for the energy is fitted to a polynomial of the channel number, while the logarithm of the counting efficiency is expressed in a polynomial of the logarithm of the energy.

STDDT: a subroutine for collecting the stored data for the energy calibration and efficiency correction, being called by setting a non-zero value to *IDEC* and/or *ISTDT*.

IURU: a function calculating the number of days elapsed, being called when *IDEC* ≠ 0 or *RINT* = 0.

DECAY: a function calculating the decay correction factor, being called when *IDEC* ≠ 0 or *RINT* = 0.

POLIN: a subroutine for calculating the values of the coefficients of the calibration or efficiency curve and the involved errors.

POLIX: a subroutine for computing the energy and the counting efficiency of a given peak.

OUTPUT: a subroutine for listing the output data.

SPECTR: a subroutine for plotting the input data with the CALCOMP 900, being called for the positive value (1, 2 or 3) of *IPLT* (full-size version only).

SUBTRX: a subroutine for detecting a weak peak buried in the natural background spectrum. The background spectrum is smoothed and then subtracted from the smoothed data of the relevant spectrum. The residues are cleared unless positive values continue over one *FWHM*. The resulting spectrum is smoothed and subjected to the succeeding peak-searching procedure. This subroutine is set for work for a non-zero value of *ISUB*, and then the background spectrum is read in SUBTRX according to the input formats in TABLE 5-3 (full-size version only). Note that the CD-1 card is unnecessary for the background spectrum.

ECHO: a dummy subroutine which can be temporarily substituted by the user for further data treatment such as the decay correction or identification of nuclides. (cf. Appendix)

FUNX: see the next section.

The flow chart of BOB 73 is outlined in Fig. 5-1.

### 5. 1. 2 Main program and subprograms in the code "NAISAP" for the spectrum from the NaI(Tl) detector

The code "NAISAP" consists of the main program and 18 subprograms as described below.

MAIN: the main program which combines all subprograms to form the complete process. The input data are fed and the output formats are given in MAIN.

LIVET: explained in the preceding subsection.

SMART: explained in the preceding subsection.

FUNX: a function determining the smoothing condition for each peak group, to be used for the NaI(Tl) spectrum.

PKREC: explained in the preceding subsection.

RESNAI: a subroutine for constructing the response function and computing its first derivative with respect to the peak position, regarding all peaks found in PKREC. The response function is defined by an analytical function containing 18 parameters (17 parameters in the case of a small crystal), which are calculated in the following subprograms, PARA and PARA 2.

PARA: a subroutine for calculating nine out of the above eighteen parameters by using empirical equations with respect to the photopeak energy<sup>4)</sup>.

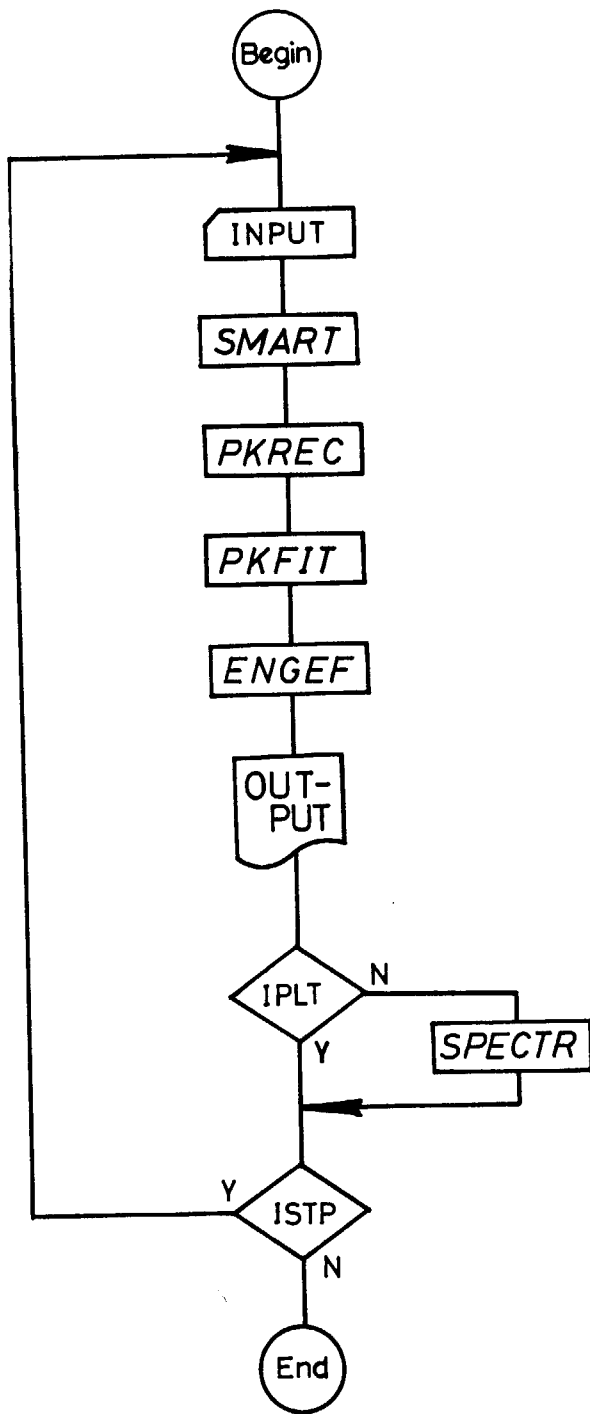


Fig. 5-1 General flow chart of BOB 73.

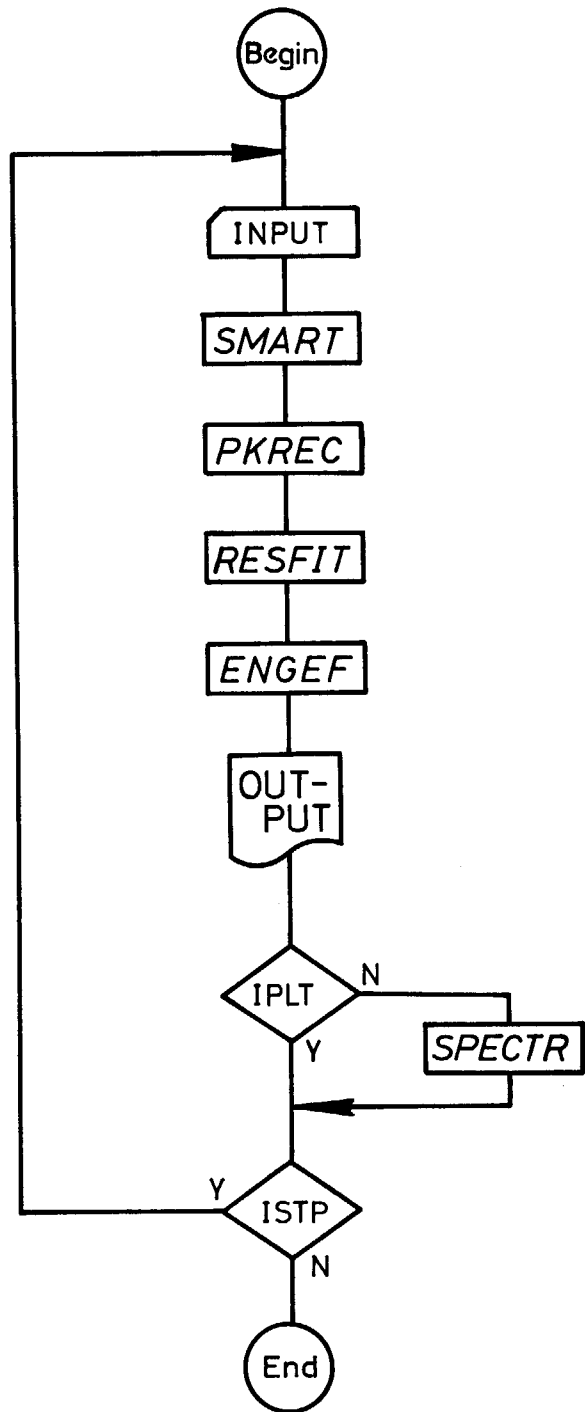


Fig. 5-2 General flow chart of NAISAP.

PARA 2: a subroutine for determining the remaining nine parameters by the condition that any part of the response function must be smoothly joined to the neighbouring parts.

RESFIT: a subroutine for determining the peak position and area by the least squares fit in terms of thus constructed response function.

LLS: a subroutine for the linear least squares method.

MAT: a subroutine for computing the product of matrices.

LINEQ: explained in the preceding subsection.

GRAFIC: explained in the preceding subsection.

ENGEF: explained in the preceding subsection.

POLIN: explained in the preceding subsection.

POLIX: explained in the preceding subsection.

OUTPUT: explained in the preceding subsection.

SPECTR: explained in the preceding subsection.

ECHO: explained in the preceding subsection.

The flow chart of NAISAP is outlined in Fig. 5-2. The thorough analogy will be noticed between NAISAP and BOB 73. Only the difference appears in substituting PKFIT with RE-SFIT.

## 5. 2 Instruction Manual for "BOB 73"

### 5. 2. 1 Directions for use

It should first be mentioned that the present code does not assure a remarkable improvement of the results beyond the quality of the input data. For example, the pile-up effect appearing in the measurement at a high counting rate causes attenuation of the peak area<sup>14)</sup>. The correction is not considered in the code. In order to eliminate the error, therefore, one must either use a pile-up rejector or avoid the measurement at a high counting rate. For users adopting the latter countermeasure, we recommend to set the time constant of the amplifier to  $1\mu$  sec or so and to reduce the total counting rate below about 3,000 cps<sup>#)</sup>. The channel shift during the measurement is not corrected by the program either. In order to reduce the amount of the channel shift, efforts should be made for keeping the room temperature and the moisture constant or maintaining a constant gain.

Since the threshold for the peak detection is devised on a delicate balance between the first derivative and the statistical variance, it is not recommended that the user raises the statistical fluctuations above the pure deviation in the disintegration rate; namely, the background spectrum should not be subtracted from the relevant spectrum. If one wants to subtract the natural background, one ought to carry out the subtraction via software with separately measured spectra of the sample and background as in the case of the search of a buried small peak by the use of "SUBTRX".

Unlike most of the prevailing codes, this program does not require the accurate *FWHM* as an input datum. A rough measure of the peak width is, however, still necessary because the conditions of the data-smooth and the threshold in the peak search loosely depend on it. An index, *ISM*, is used for denoting the measure; the correspondence between the value of *ISM* and the number of data points to be used in the smoothing is given in Chapter 2. Roughly speaking, the number of the smoothing points should be equal to the *FWHM*.

The peak-searching subprogram "PKREC" tends to pick up spurious peaks rather than overlook small real peaks, especially at the poor counting statistics. It is, therefore, recommended to filter those spurious peaks by putting *ISEL*=1 if one wants to save the computing time and does not care possible drop-out of extremely small real peaks. Furthermore, one can take out only the peaks with quite large intensities by putting *ISEL*=2.

The shape of the peaks given by the Ge(Li) detector can hardly be approximated by the pure Gaussian curve because of the complex mechanism of the charge collection. The peak asymmetry and the tailing on the low-energy side need to be taken into consideration to attain more

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#) The percentage of the dead time is not suitable as the measure of the pile-up effect since it does not uniquely correspond to the magnitude of the pile-up effect, depending on the size of the AD converter or the time constant of the amplifying circuit.

reasonable fit. The values of the parameters determining the peak shape can either be sought in the fitting process or be fixed at the previously determined values. One of the advantages of this code is that the information to be given as input is restricted to the least number. There is no parameter the initial estimate of which must be given in the fitting procedure. The shape parameters are no exceptions. However, it is not recommended to freely adjust the peak shape in the fitting procedure for each peak group because the probability of the unsuccessful fitting becomes fairly high when the peak shape is not fixed. Furthermore, in order to maintain the consistency in the shape parameters when regarded as functions of energy, the skewness factor had better be determined first with a set of the standard spectra without introducing the tail. This procedure is performed by putting  $WDR0=0.0$ ,  $ISEL=2$  and  $NIJ=0$ . The values of the parameters describing the tail are then sought for the above standard spectra by fixing the skewness factor  $WDR$  to thus determined value; giving the  $WDR0$  (and the  $WDRC$  if necessary), and putting  $ISEL=0$  or  $1$  and  $NIJ=2$ . The resulting values of the two parameters describing the tail will widely vary from peak to peak. However, one can obtain sufficient accuracy by selecting the most probable constant value for each of the parameters, since the tail is a minor correction in most cases.

### 5. 2. 2 Description of the input data for "BOB 73"

The code requires the input data either punched on the IBM cards or recorded on the magnetic tape. The input data are arranged in such a way that only two cards are read in the main program and the rest of data are parted to the corresponding subprograms.

#### i) Input data to be fed in "MAIN"

The first card, M-1, requested in the "MAIN" supplies the desired values for the control indices, and the second card, M-2, contains the constants to be used in the least squares fit. The details of them are illustrated in TABLE 5-1. The first control index,  $ISFG$ , controls the choice between the card-form ( $ISFG \geq 1$ ) and the form of the magnetic tape ( $ISFG=0$ ) of the input data; that is, the subprogram "CDREAD" is called later on in the former case, while the "MTREAD" is called in the latter. The second index,  $ISTD$ , represents the number of the standard spectra to be used for the calibration, regardless of external or internal calibration. The rest of the indices in M-1 can be given either by the integers in the M-1 or by the appointed words in a separate card, M-1', in an arbitrary order. The latter case is realized by giving  $ISFG$  in M-1 a negative number. Definition of the words is described in TABLE 5-2. The meanings of those control indices are explained by TABLE 5-1.

The first quantity,  $CONV$ , in M-2 regulates the convergence limit. If the  $CONV$  is not specified by the user, it is assigned to  $10^{-6}$ . The second and third parameters,  $WDR0$  and  $WDRC$ , define the skewness factor. The former is the extrapolated value at the zero channel and the latter determines the decrement in the skewness factor per channel; that is,

$$\text{Skewness Factor} = WDR0 - WDRD \times (\text{Channel Number}).$$

The next two quantities are the parameters specifying the tail. The first one,  $PKRTO$ , represents the ratio of the top of the tail to the peak height (cf. Chapter 3.2.2), while the second,  $POSRO$ , is the channel separation between the centers of the tail and the peak. The last quantity,  $ARMO$ , is an attenuating factor in the measure of acceptable agreement in the least squares fit (corresponding to  $A_0$  in Eq.(3-11)) and is put to unity unless particularly specified by the user.

This is all the input data to be fed in the "MAIN". The flow chart of the above input system is illustrated in Fig. 5-3.

TABLE 5-1 The formats of the input cards in "MAIN" of BOB 73

Card No.	Symbol	Columns	Format	Description
M-1	ISFG	1- 2	I 2	<0 Alphameric input of the control indices
				=0 Input via magnetic tape
				$\geq 1$ Input in the card form (the <i>ISFG</i> =1 gives the confidence interval for the final channel, <i>IFIN</i> )
	ISTD	3- 4	I 2	Number of spectrum data in the standard set
	IRP	5- 6	I 2	=0 for Ge(Li) detectors
				>0 for NaI(Tl) detectors
	IE	7- 8	I 2	=0 External calibration
				=1 Internal calibration
				=2 Calibration with the previously constructed curve
				=9 No calibration
	IENG	9-10	I 2	=0 Energy assignment and intensity determination
				=1 Energy assignment only
	IDEC	11-12	I 2	$\neq 0$ Using the stored data 'Eu-14'
	IFMT	13-14	I 2	=0 The data format fixed (F6.0, 9F7.0)
				=1 An optional format
	IPLT	15-16	I 2	=0 Skip plotting the spectrum
				=1 Plot with the scale of 2.5 channels/mm
				=2 Plot with 5 channels/mm
				=3 Plot with 1 channel/mm
	IW(1)	17-18	I 2	=0 Print the conditions of analysis
				=1 No print
	IW(2)	19-20	I 2	=0 Blockwise printing of the original data only
				=1 Blockwise printing of the smoothed data only
				=2 Blockwise printing of both original and smoothed data
				=3 Channelwise printing of the results of SMART
	IW(3)	21-22	I 2	=4 No printing of the input data
				=0 Print the results of PKREC
	IW(4)	23-24	I 2	=1 No print
				=0 Print the final results
	IBG	25-26	I 2	=1 No print
				=0 Exponential background
				=1 Linear background
	IFTG	27-28	I 2	$\geq 2$ Sigmoid background
				=0 No fitting
				=1 Fit multiple peaks only
	NIJ	29-30	I 2	=2 Fit all peaks
				=0 Fit to the (skew) Gaussian curve without tail
				=1 Fit to the Gaussian with fixed tail
	NONPR	31-32	I 2	=2 Fit to the Gaussian with floating tail
				=0 No print in NONLIN
				=1 Print the input to NONLIN
				=2 Print the output from NONLIN
	IGFT	33-34	I 2	=3 Print both input and output of NONLIN
				=0 No plotting of the peak-fitting process
				=1 Plot the process

TABLE 5-1 (continued)

	IPKW	35-36	I 2	=0 No printing of the results of PKFIT =1 Print the results
	IWT	37-38	I 2	=0 Fit with the built-in weight =1 Fit with equal weight
	ISEL	39-40	I 2	=0 No filtration of small peaks =1 Filter the small peaks =2 Pick up the large peaks only
	LVL	41-42	I 2	=0 Natural level =1 Add 100 counts to each channel =2 Add 1000 counts to each channel
	ISUB	43-44	I 2	≠0 Background spectrum subtraction
M-2	CONV	1-10	E10.4	Convergence limit
	WDR0	11-20	E10.4	Constant term in the skewness factor
	WDRC	21-30	E10.4	Channel-number dependent term in the skewness factor
	PKRTO	31-40	E10.4	Ratio of the tail to the peak height
	POSRO	41-50	E10.4	Separation between the peak and the tail center
	ARM0	51-60	E10.4	Parameter determining the upper limit for allowable disagreement

TABLE 5-2 Description of the alphanumeric input in the card M-1'

These symbols may be disorderly given in any sequential 4 columns starting from the  $(4n+1)$  th column. As long as the symbol is not given, the corresponding index remains to be zero.

Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description
TAPE	ISFG=0	RSUL	IW(3)=1
CARD	ISFG=1	FINL	IW(4)=1
LOWR	IRP>0	BACK	IBG=4
INTL	IE=1	PFIT	IFTG=2
COEF	IE=2	TAIL	NIJ=1
NCAL	IE=9	FOUT	NONPR=2
ENGY	IENG=1	GRAF	IGFT=1
DECY	IDEC=1	RITE	IPKW=1
FMAT	IFMT=1	WEIT	IWT=1
PLOT	IPLT=1	FILT	ISEL=1
LIST	IW(1)=1	LEVL	LVL=2
DATA	IW(2)=2		

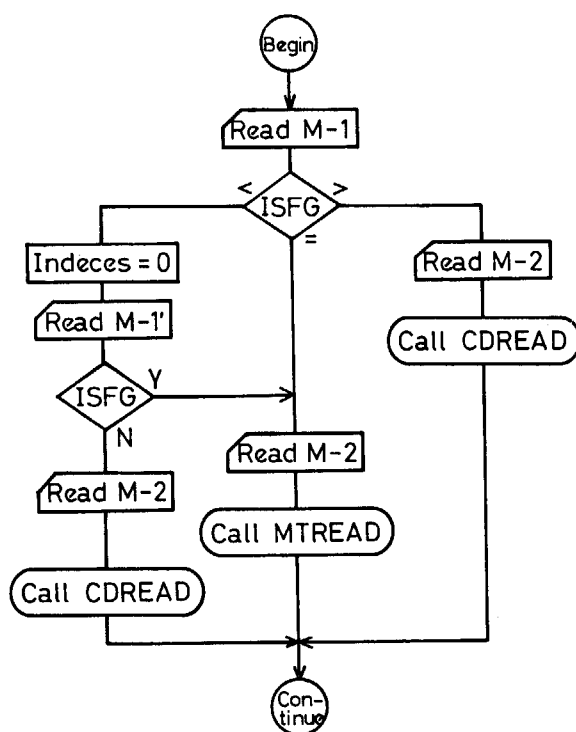


Fig. 5-3 Flow chart of the data-input part in "MAIN" of BOB 73.

ii) Input data to be fed in "MTREAD"

The subprogram "MTREAD" is called if  $ISFG=0$ . The format of the data stored in the magnetic tape is exemplified in Fig. 5-4. The four characters in the top line are the assigned name of the relevant data with which the identification between the wanted and the stored set of data is attempted. The second line contains all the necessary information, such as the identification number of the data, comments, the date of measurement, the counting duration, etc. The third line specifies the initial and the final channel of the input data, the starting channel of the analysis, the smoothing parameter  $ISM$ , and the parameter  $ISTP$  controlling the cycle of the analysis.

The fourth line and downward give the content of the measured data with the FORMAT (F 6.0, 9 F 7.0), together with the ID name (A4) and the sequential number (I4) starting from 30 advancing by 10. The last line is the sign of the data-ending.

The first input card in "MTREAD" gives the ID name of the data, which the user wants to pick up, and the number of the lines,  $IXCN$ , the contents of which are to be substituted temporarily. The  $IXCN$  must not exceed 10. If  $IXCN \neq 0$ , the  $IXCN$  numbers specifying the lines to be substituted are fed by the cards.

iii) Input data to be fed in "CDREAD"

The subprogram "CDREAD" is called when  $ISFG$  is equal to or greater than 1 (cf. TABLE 5-3). First, the title card, CD-1, and the card specifies  $INPT$  etc., CD-2, are read in. The measured data start from CD-3. If  $ISFG=1$ , the value of  $IFMT$  is examined. The non-zero value of  $IFMT$  implies the format of the measured data is different from (F6.0, 9F7.0) and then the variable format must be given (C-2').

Sometimes, the final channel,  $IFIN$ , of the input data may not be obvious. In this situation, one can set up a safety device against the possible misinformation on the final channel by giving  $ISFG$  an appropriate number greater than 1, and by adding an extra card punched with 999999 from the first to the sixth column at the end of the data deck. Here, the  $(ISFG \times 10)$





TABLE 5-3 The formats of the input cards in "CDREAD"

Card No.	Symbol	Columns	Format	Description	
CD-1	IDN	1- 8	2A4	Data-identification index	
	COM	9-32	6A4	Comments on the data	
	ITR	33-38	I 6	Counting duration in the live-time mode	
	IUNT	39	I 1	=0	<i>ITR</i> and <i>ITC</i> (kilo sec)
				=1	<i>ITR</i> and <i>ITC</i> (hecto sec)
				=2	<i>ITR</i> and <i>ITC</i> (sec)
				=3	<i>ITR</i> and <i>ITC</i> (min)
	ITC	40-45	I 6	Counting duration in the clock-time mode	
	IDATE	46-51	I 6	Date of the measurement	
	ITIME	52-55	I 4	Time of the measurement	
	PDT	56-60	F 5.2	Ratio of the dead time (%)	
T0	61-66	F 6.2	Constant term in the dead time equation ( $\mu$ sec)		
TS	67-72	F 6.3	Channel-proportional term in the dead time equation ( $\mu$ sec)		
CD-2	INPT	1- 4	I 4	Initial channel of the input data	
	IFIN	5- 8	I 4	Final channel of the input data	
	INIT	9-12	I 4	Initial channel of the analysis	
	ISM	13-14	I 2	<11	$(2 \times ISM + 5)$ -point smoothing
				=11	3-point smoothing
				=12	No smoothing
ISTP	15-16	I 2	=0	Continuation of the executing condition	
			=1	End of execution	
			=2	Renewal of the executing condition	
CD-2'	FORM	1-80	20A4	(Input format of the data)	
CD-3	DATA(I)	1-69	F 6.0, 9F 7.0	The number of counts at each channel, $I = INPT, IFIN$	
CD-3'	DATA	1- 6	F 6.0	The end-mark of input data, 999999	

works as the upper limit of the confidence interval on the *IFIN*. It should, however, be mentioned that this routine is prepared only for the fixed format of (F6.0, 9F7.0).

iv) Input data to be fed in "ENGEF"

The input data concerning the energy and the efficiency calibration are read in "ENGEF" (cf. TABLE 5-4). The input forms are different between the cases of giving the standard spectra ( $IE=1$ ) and of supplying the calibration curve ( $IE=2$ ).

In the former ( $IE=1$ ), the first card, E-1, should contain the number of the peaks *NP* prepared as the standard, the order of the polynomial of the energy calibration, approximate energies (keV) corresponding to the *INIT* and *IFIN* channels of the (last) standard input data, and an index controlling whether the necessary information on the resulting calibration curve is punched out or not. A group of cards starting from E-2 carry the energies of the given *NP* standard peaks and as the end of them the allowance, *WCH*, for the error in the readings of the corresponding peaks in keV. If the finite *WCH* is not given, 10 keV is assigned to it. In case where the counting efficiency is also required, the disintegration rate of the source and the branching ratio of the relevant peaks are added in the succeeding set of cards.

In the latter ( $IE=2$ ), the coefficients of the calibration curves and the matrix elements for computing the standard deviations are supplied. The first card, E-5, gives the numbers of the coefficients and the variances in the fit of the observed data to the calibration curves. The

TABLE 5-4 The formats of the input cards in "ENGEF" of BOB 73

Card No.	Symbol	Columns	Format	Description
(In the case of IE=1)				
E-1	NP	1- 5	I 5	Number of peaks prepared as the standard
	M	6-10	I 5	The order of polynomial as the energy calibration curve
	EINT	11-20	E10.3	Energy corresponding to <i>INIT</i> (keV)
	EFIN	21-30	E10.3	Energy corresponding to <i>IFIN</i> (keV)
	IPCH	31-32	I 2	=0 No punchout of the results of ENGEF =1 Punch the results
	ISTDT	33-34	I 2	≠0 Calling the stored data for the standard spectra
	UNIT	35-44	E10.3	Unit of the activity (10 <sup>4</sup> dps unless particularly specified)
	WCH	45-54	F10.3	Confidence interval in approximated energies of the standard peaks
E-2	EST(I)	1-80	8F10.3	Energies of the standard peaks (keV), I=1, NP
E-3	SACTY(I)	1-80	8F10.3	Activities of the standard sources, I=1, NP
E-4	GRATIO(I)	1-80	8F10.3	Branching ratios of the standard peaks, I=1, NP
(In substitution of, or in addition to, E-2 to E-4)				
E-2'	NUC	1- 2	I 2	Number of the standard nuclides to be referred
E-3'	NAME(I)	1-40	20A4	Labeled name for the standard, I=1, NUC AM41 for Am-241 CO57 for Co-57 HG03 for Hg-203 SN13 for Sn-113 CS37 for Cs-137 MN54 for Mn-54 NA22 for Na-22 CO60 for Co-60 Y88 for Y-88 EU52 for Eu-152 (14 peaks) EU2F for Eu-152 (19 peaks)
E-4'	RINT(I)	1-80	8E10.5	Intensity of the activity, I=1, NUC
(In the case of IE=2)				
E-5	ICEE	1- 5	I 5	Number of the coefficients in the energy-calibration polynomial
	ICEF	6-10	I 5	Number of the coefficients in the efficiency-calibration polynomial
	ES	11-21	E11.5	Variance in the fitting of the channel-energy curve to the polynomial (if <i>ES</i> is not given, the following E-7 is not required)
	FS	22-32	E11.5	Variance in the fitting of the energy-efficiency curve to the polynomial (if <i>FS</i> is not given, E-9 is not required)
	UNIT	33-42	E11.5	Unit of the activity (10 <sup>4</sup> dps unless particularly specified)
E-6	C(I)	1-75	5E15.8	Coefficients in the energy-calibration polynomial, I=1, ICEE
E-7	XI(I, J)	1-69	3D23.16	Elements of the inverse matrix for energy assignment, I=1, M+1; J=1, M+1
E-8	CF(I)	1-75	5E15.8	Coefficients in the efficiency-calibration polynomial, I=1, ICEF
E-9	XFI(I, J)	1-69	3D23.16	Elements of the inverse matrix for efficiency assignment, I=1, M; J=1, M

second card, E-6, defines the coefficients of the energy calibration curve. The following cards, E-7, supply the matrix elements to be used in the error estimation (cf. Eq.(15) of ref. 5 a). This set of cards is omitted when  $ES=0$ . If the efficiency correction is required as well, the coefficients of the efficiency curve and the matrix elements are added by the cards, E-8 and E-9. The set of the cards E-9 is omitted if  $FS=0$ . The whole set of the input of E-5 through E-9 can be prepared by the punched cards in the previous run in which  $IE=1$  and  $IPCH=1$ . If one wants to use the calibration curves already known by other means, one can introduce only the coefficients of the calibration curves by leaving  $ES$  or  $FS$  as zero.

### 5. 3 Instruction Manual for "NAISAP"

#### 5. 3. 1 Directions for use

Differences of NAISAP from BOB 73 appear in choosing the "PKREC" function for the low-resolution spectrum ( $IRP=1$ ) and in applying the response function in the fitting procedure. The rest of the code is almost identical to that of BOB 73, or we may rather say that the both codes are attempted to be unified as much as possible.

As stated in Chapter 2, the user is required to give the  $ISM$  value appropriate at the first quarter of the entire spectrum. As an example, the suitable value of  $ISM$  is 0 for the spectrum with  $INIT=1$ ,  $IFIN=256$  and the conversion ratio being 10 keV/channel. This is because the NaI(Tl) detector usually possesses the resolving power of 7 to 8% at the 662-keV peak from  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ , which locates at about one-fourth of the spectrum.

The values of the parameters defining the response function of the  $1\frac{3}{4}''\phi\times 2''$  or  $3''\phi\times 3''$  NaI(Tl) crystal are contained in the subroutine program "PARA," which can be taken out by means of the  $IDET$  value; namely,

$$IDET = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{for } 1\frac{3}{4}''\phi\times 2'' \text{ NaI (Tl)} \\ 3 & \text{for } 3''\phi\times 3'' \text{ NaI (Tl)}. \end{cases}$$

The effect that the response function slightly changes with the distance between the detector and the source is not taken into consideration in the present code.

The subprogram "PARA" can also be applied to general types of the NaI(Tl) detector by putting  $IDET=1$  and by feeding empirical equations expressing the energy dependence of the required parameters. Though the response function is almost identical for the NaI(Tl) detectors with the same size, the full width at half maximum differs from crystal to crystal and depends on the electronic setup as a whole. Since the  $FWHM$  affects the most the value of the peak area, the most appropriate peak width is searched in the least squares fitting procedure. However, it is still desirable giving the initial guess as accurate as possible. The energy dependence of the width parameter  $\sigma_p (=0.4247 FWHM)$  is given in "PARA" as

$$\sigma_p = \begin{cases} 0.0291 \cdot FWID \cdot E_\gamma^{0.557 FP} & \text{for } 1\frac{3}{4}''\phi\times 2'' \\ 0.0266 \cdot FWID \cdot E_\gamma^{0.557 FP} & \text{for } 3''\phi\times 3'' \end{cases}, \quad (5-1)$$

where  $E_\gamma$  is the photon energy expressed in unit of MeV and  $\sigma_p$  is also given in MeV. The factors  $FWID$  and  $FP$  are the correction factors for individual systems.

As mentioned in 4. 1. 1, the peak-searching subprogram "PKREC" tends to pick up spurious peaks while it hardly overlooks small true peaks. Judgement of a peak being true or false

is performed through Eqs.(4-14), (4-15a) and (4-15b). One ought to assign a small value ( $<1$ ) to  $FTH$  if one wants to select large peaks only.

### 5. 3. 2 Description of the input data for "NAISAP"

In this code, the input data are read in the form of the IBM cards. All data but those for the energy and efficiency calibration are read in the main program. The style of the input substantially follows that of BOB 73, except for the second card M-2.

#### i) Input data to be fed in "MAIN"

The first card M-1 possesses the identical contents with those of the M-1 card in TABLE 5-1, though many of the contained indices (denoted as "dummy" in TABLE 5-5) are not used in NAISAP. The second card M-2 specifies the  $FTH$ ,  $FWID$ ,  $FP$ ,  $A$  and  $B$  values, and an index  $IWID$ . Here,  $A$  and  $B$  are the constants determining the primary linear conversion relation between channel number  $x$  and energy  $E$ ;

$$E=A(x-B). \quad (5-2)$$

In the case where the  $FTH$ ,  $FWID$  or  $FP$  is not given, the value of unity is assigned to them.

The index  $IWID$  controls the choice between the fixed and non-fixed  $FWHM$  in the least squares fitting. The  $FWHM$  is fixed when  $IWID=0$ .

The cards M-3 to M-5 in TABLE 5-5 correspond to CD-1 to CD-3, respectively, in TABLE 5-3.

#### ii) Input data to be fed in "ENGEF"

The input data required for the energy and efficiency calibration are practically the same as those in the case of BOB 73 (cf. TABLE 5-6). Only the difference exists in the format of the second card E-2 and in the fact that  $EINT$  and  $EFIN$  in the first card E-1 need not be given because they are calculated by means of Eq.(5-2). Furthermore, the confidence interval  $WCH$  for energy assignment to the peak is taken to be 30 keV, instead of 10 keV in BOB 73, unless particularly given.

TABLE 5-5 The formats of the input cards in "MAIN" of NAISAP

Card No.	Symbol	Columns	Format	Description	
M-1	ISFG	1- 2	I 2	Dummy	
	ISTD	3- 4	I 2	Number of spectrum data in the standard set	
	IRP	5- 6	I 2	Dummy	
	IE	7- 8	I 2	=0	External calibration
				=1	Internal calibration
				=2	Calibration with the previously constructed curve
				=9	No calibration
	IENG	9-10	I 2	=0	Energy assignment and intensity determination
				=1	Energy assignment only
	IDEC	11-12	I 2	Dummy	
IFMT	13-14	I 2	Dummy		
IPLT	15-16	I 2	=0	Skip plotting the spectrum	
			=1	Plot with the scale of 2.5 channels/mm	
			=2	Plot with 5 channels/mm	
			=3	Plot with 1 channel/mm	
IW(1)	17-18	I 2	=0	Print the conditions of analysis	
			=1	No print	

TABLE 5-5 (continued)

	IW(2)	19-20	I 2	=0 Blockwise printing of the original data only =1 Blockwise printing of the smoothed data only =2 Blockwise printing of both original and smoothed data =3 Channelwise printing of the results of SMART =4 No printing of the input data
	IW(3)	21-22	I 2	=0 Print the results of PKREC =1 No print
	IW(4)	23-24	I 2	=0 Print the final results =1 No print
	IBG	25-26	I 2	Dummy
	IFTG	27-28	I 2	Dummy
	NIJ	29-30	I 2	Dummy
	NONPR	31-32	I 2	Dummy
	IGFT	33-34	I 2	=0 No printing of fitting process =1 Print
	IPKW	35-36	I 2	=0 No printing of the results of RESFIT =1 Print
	IWT	37-38	I 2	=0 Fit with the built-in weight =1 Fit with equal weight
	ISEL	39-40	I 2	Dummy
	LVL	41-42	I 2	Dummy
M-2	IDET	1	I 1	=1 Response function parameters for user's detector =2 $1(3/4)''\phi \times 2''$ NaI(Tl) detector =3 $3''\phi \times 3''$ NaI(Tl) detector
	A	2-10	F 9.5	Channel width (keV)
	B	11-20	F10.5	Zero-shift in energy calibration equation; $E=A(x-B)$
	FTH	21-30	F10.5	Threshold factor
	FWID	31-40	F10.5	Correction factor for <i>FWHM</i> stored in PARA
	FP	41-50	F10.5	Correction factor for <i>FWHM</i> stored in PARA
	IWID	51-52	I 2	=0 <i>FWHM</i> floated =1 <i>FWHM</i> fixed
M-3	IDN	1- 8	2A4	Data-identification index
	COM	9-32	6A4	Comments on the data
	ITR	33-38	I 6	Counting duration in the live-time mode
	IUNT	39	I 1	=0 <i>ITR</i> and <i>ITC</i> (kilo sec) =1 <i>ITR</i> and <i>ITC</i> (hecto sec) =2 <i>ITR</i> and <i>ITC</i> (sec) =3 <i>ITR</i> and <i>ITC</i> (min)
	ITC	40-45	I 6	Counting duration in the clock-time mode
	IDATE	46-51	I 6	Date of the measurement
	ITIME	52-55	I 4	Time of the measurement
	PDT	56-60	F5.2	Ratio of the dead time (%)
	T0	61-66	F6.2	Constant term in the dead time equation ( $\mu$ sec)
	TS	67-72	F6.3	Channel-proportional term in the dead time equation ( $\mu$ sec)
M-4	INPT	1- 4	I 4	Initial channel of the input data
	IFIN	5- 8	I 4	Final channel of the input data
	INIT	9-12	I 4	Initial channel of the analysis

TABLE 5-5 (continued)

	ISM0	13-14	I 2	<11 ( $2 \times ISMO + 5$ )-point smoothing =11 3-point smoothing =12 No smoothing
	ISTP	15-16	I 2	= 0 Continuation of the executing condition = 1 End of execution = 2 Renewal of the executing condition
M-5	DATA(I)	1-69	I 6, 917	The number of counts at each channel, $I=INPT, IFIN$

TABLE 5-6 The formats of the input cards in "ENGEF" of NAISAP

Card No.	Symbol	Columns	Format	Description
(In the case of IE=1)				
E-1	NP	1- 5	I 5	Number of peaks prepared as the standard
	M	6-10	I 5	The order of polynomial as the energy calibration curve
	EINT	11-20	E10.3	Dummy
	EFIN	21-30	E10.3	Dummy
	IPCH	31-32	I 2	=0 No punchout of the results of ENGEF =1 Punch the results
	ISTDT	33-34	I 2	Dummy
	UNIT	35-44	E10.3	Dummy
	WCH	45-54	F10.3	Confidence interval in approximated energies of the standard peaks
E-2	EST(I)	1-80	8F10.3	Energies of the standard peaks (keV), I=1, NP
E-3	SACTY(I)	1-80	8F10.3	Activities of the standard sources, I=1, NP
E-4	GRATIO(I)	1-80	8F10.3	Branching ratios of the standard peaks, I=1, NP
(In the case of IE=2)				
E-5	ICEE	1- 5	I 5	Number of the coefficients in the energy-calibration polynomial
	ICEF	6-10	I 5	Number of the coefficients in the efficiency-calibration polynomial
	ES	11-21	E11.5	Variance in the fitting of the channel-energy curve to the polynomial (if ES is not given, E-7 is not required)
	FS	22-32	E11.5	Variance in the fitting of the energy-efficiency curve to the polynomial (if FS is not given, E-9 is not required)
E-6	C(I)	1-75	5E15.8	Coefficients in the energy-calibration polynomial, I=1, ICEE
E-7	XI(I, J)	1-69	3D23.16	Elements of the inverse matrix for energy assignment, I=1, M+1; J=1, M+1
E-8	CF(I)	1-75	5E15.8	Coefficients in the efficiency-calibration polynomial, I=1, ICEF
E-9	XFI(I, J)	1-69	3D23.16	Elements of the inverse matrix for efficiency assignment, I=1, M; J=1, M

## 6. Discussion

The character of the resulting code is roughly controlled by the way grasping the  $\gamma$ -ray spectrum analysis. If one regards it as a mere curve fitting, one will put a heavy stress on the peak fitting process. However, it is not easy at all to construct a satisfactory peak detecting process faithfully reflecting fine structures in the spectrum. The function of recognizing a pattern which is the most elementary function of the human eyes is yet one of the functions that the electronic computer of the current type lacks. The graphic display system is devised just for reinforcing the computer in this respect.

Although visual inspection with the graphic display system with a light pen has solved the problem of the spectrum analysis in a sense, the situation is far from the full automation. Above all, one should realize that not many laboratories can afford such facilities.

When one intends to achieve the problem of recognizing a pattern with an electronic computer, one must content oneself with transforming any information on the given pattern into a digital quantity. A group of thus extracted quantities needs, in turn, to be recognized in a functional form. Various attempts for the  $\gamma$ -spectrum analysis just follow this pattern of procedure.

The guiding principle of the peak search is summarized as the comparison of the first or second derivative of the spectrum with an appropriately established threshold. There are, of course, some differences in the effectiveness between the first and the second derivative method. Which one of the two will be chosen is, however, a matter of the personal preference after all. Generally speaking, the latter is believed to be more sensitive in finding half-hidden small peaks. This also means that one tends to pick up pseudo-peaks more often by the second derivative method and, therefore, one needs to prepare appropriate preventives against the errors. On the contrary, the performance of the first derivative method is more intuitively understandable although it certainly has some disadvantages compared to the second derivative method. In other words, one can fairly easily extract from a certain fine structure in the spectrum the characteristic rule which exists among the first derivatives in the given region. This is just the reason why we have chosen the first derivative method.

The presently available codes impose more weight on the peak-fitting process rather than the peak-finding one. In these codes, the full width at half maximum *FWHM* plays an important role. The multiplicity of a given peak is determined by comparing the length of the peak region with the *FWHM*. This method was, however, rejected in the present work from the following three reasons: First, it was believed to be inferior in the ability of recognizing a narrow doublet or a small shoulder to the method described in Chapter 2. Second, it can give only the multiplicity and is ignorant of the peak positions that would be a serious handicap in the succeeding fitting process. Third, the most definite of all, we wanted to reduce any procedures retrograde against the full automation as least as possible throughout the whole process.

The present version BOB 73 possesses several advantages over the previous version BOB 70/71, which were not expected to be attained at the moment of the publication<sup>5)</sup>. First of all, the capability of "PKREC" is much improved so that better consistency can be obtained with BOB 73. This can be seen, for example, from the results of Fig. 3-8 with the equivalent figure, Fig. 10 in ref. 5b. Secondly, the function of the peak recognition is extended so as to be applied not only to the spectrum from Ge(Li) detectors but also to the spectra of other types. The modified "PKREC" and an analytical representation<sup>4)</sup> of the  $\gamma$ -ray response function of the

NaI(Tl) detector has been combined to form an analyzing code NAISAP for the NaI(Tl) spectrum from a unique viewpoint. Finally, particular considerations are introduced into the peak-fitting process which had not been foreseen at the moment. The stepwise background, peak-asymmetry and tailing are introduced in a unique manner.

Note that such special considerations for the peak shape and background are required to acquire better consistency in the peak position and the peak area for small nearby peaks. For a well separated peak or the greatest one in a cluster of peaks, more or less the same result can be obtained even with the combination of the simple Gaussian curve and a simple background shape.

Another advantage of the present code, either BOB 73 or NAISAP, is that practically no input data are required as the initial estimates in the peak-fitting procedure.

As the concluding remark, one ought to remember that the final result is essentially regulated by the quality of the input data after all.



## 7. Summary

The problem of the spectrum analysis has been solved by combining the peak-recognizing and peak-fitting processes.

The stage of the peak recognition was set up in such a way that the peak position, the multiplicity and the peak boundaries are predicted for a detected peak group. Such functions were realized by adding, to the ordinary first derivative method, various shape tests for detecting fine structures. The most prominent uniqueness of the present peak-recognizing procedure may lie in the fact that the peak width needs not be known for judging the multiplicity. Only a rough value of the *FWHM* is necessary as a measure of the condition for data smoothing and the choice of the threshold in the peak detection. The difference in the peak recognition between the Ge(Li) and the NaI(Tl) spectra was reduced only to the difference in the energy dependence of the peak width. The *FWHM* was regarded as practically constant in the former spectrum, whereas it was approximated to be proportional to the square root of the channel number in the latter.

It was pointed out that the most difficulties in the peak-fitting problem lay in the determination of the peak shape and the construction of a reasonable background shape. It should be mentioned that the photopeak method popularly applied to the Ge(Li) spectrum proved to be also quite a promising technique for the analysis of the NaI(Tl) spectrum, contrary to the general understanding. A successful attempt<sup>4)</sup> of describing the NaI(Tl) response function with a fairly simple analytical form made this idea practical. In the Ge(Li) spectrum, the Compton continuum is regarded as background. The surplus part of the relevant peak group is subjected to the fitting procedure as a whole. On the contrary, the residual spectrum except for the response of the objective gamma ray whose intensity is to be determined is considered the background in the case of the NaI(Tl) spectrum. Therefore, the background is expressed by a compound of response functions and a smoothed curve in the latter. The establishment of the generalized peak-searching process has brought its advantage into full play, in the prosecution of the photopeak method.

Once the above course had been established, the most difficult part of the peak fitting was removed in the case of the NaI(Tl) spectrum. Difficulties were rather found in quantitatively dissolving the complex peaks in the Ge(Li) spectrum. The response given by the Ge(Li) detector turned out to be hardly expressed in an analytical form in spite of its apparent simplicity.

First, we had to solve the question how the peak shape would be best approximated. The peak shape is usually described with the Gaussian curve in the first approximation. However, asymmetry in the peak shape is rather commonly observed for Ge(Li) detectors and, therefore, it needs to be taken into account to attain better approximation. We introduced the asymmetric property by connecting two half-Gaussian curves with different widths at the peak position. It is also known<sup>8)</sup> that the full-energy peak exhibits tailing, especially on the low-energy side. In the present code, the tail on the low-energy side was satisfactorily reproduced by superimposing a similar curve on the main asymmetric Gaussian.

Secondly, we faced a still unsolved question of estimating the background underneath the peak consistently. A popular way<sup>8)</sup> of adopting a polynomial fitted to the outskirts of the relevant peak was found undesirable because it could cause a fatal error both in the peak position

and area of a small peak close to a huge peak. The simple linear or exponential function connecting the peak boundaries on both sides brought better results than the fitted polynomial background on the whole. A sigmoid curve (or a stepwise function) has given so far the best consistency both in the peak position and area. After all, the background shape is chosen as the superposition of the sigmoid curves each one of which is attributed to one peak in the peak compound.

Two versions of BOB 73 are prepared. The full-size version can handle a complex peak with the multiplicity of up to 18 (or up to 19 in the case of no tailing) and a spectrum containing up to 200 peaks, and the size is 103k words. The small-size version was intended so that the size was restricted below 64k words, with maintaining the same quality as the full-size version. It can handle a complex peak with the multiplicity of up to 8 (or up to 9 in the case of no tailing) and a spectrum containing up to 100 peaks, but does not accompany the plotting subroutine program "SPECTR" and also the subprogram "SUBTRX". The size is just 64k words.

The data size (the number of channels) is practically unlimited in either version. The time required for the spectrum analysis by BOB 73 depends on the number of peaks existing in the spectrum and their complexity rather than the size of the spectrum. Roughly speaking, the analysis of one compound peak with moderate complexity by FACOM 230-60 takes one second or a fraction of one second, and the energy calibration and efficiency correction need additionally an order of 10 seconds.

Two versions are prepared also for NAISAP: the 76k-word version can accept a spectrum of up to 1024 channels while the 60k-word one handles a spectrum with channels not greater than 300. Either version requires an order of one second for the analysis of each peak.

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## Appendix 1

Either code, BOB73 or NAISAP, is stored in the permanent RB file of the computer center for user's convenience. Users who wish to recall the program should prepare the following set of the control cards:

STATEMENT NUMBER	FORTRAN STATEMENT	DECK ID	LINE
1 5 6 7	10 20 30 40 50 60 70	73 76 78 80	
\$NO			
\$GJOB			
\$FORT			
	SUBROUTINE ECHO(K)		
	RETURN		
	END		
	\$LIEDFP ([Label])		
	\$LIEDK ([Label])		
	SELECT RELBIN		
	FIN		
	\$RUN		
	( \$PLOT)		
	( \$PUNCH)		
	\$DATA		
	(Data set)		
	\$TEND		

Here, the ([Label]) in the seventh line is to be substituted with the corresponding name among the followings.

- J0458. BOB73S for the small size version of BOB 73 in the system # 1,
- J0458. BOB73 for the full size version of BOB 73 in the systems # 1 and # 2,
- J2619. NAISAP for the small size version of NAISAP in the system # 1 and the full size version of NAISAP in the system # 2,
- J2619. NAISAL for the full size version of NAISAP in the system # 1.

As stated in the text, the content of the subroutine "ECHO" can be substituted temporarily with a user's program.

## Appendix 2. Examples of the output listings

Fig. A-1 Table of the counting and analyzing conditions.

```

73-04-07      ***** GAMMA SPECTRUM ANALYSIS OF U(3)-4      1-1024
                                     BY BOB73      *****      MO-F-1 - 1

MO-F-1 = BCB73 IDENTIFICATION
1 = INITIAL CHANNEL OF DATA
1024 = FINAL CHANNEL OF DATA
1024 = NUMBER OF DATA POINTS
54 = INITIAL CHANNEL OF ANALYSIS
1020 = FINAL CHANNEL OF ANALYSIS
967 = NUMBER OF ANALYZING POINTS
5 = POINTS USED IN SMOOTHING
5 = POINTS USED IN DERIVATIVE
NO = STORED STANDARD
YES = PEAK FITTING

NO = LIVE TIME CORRECTION
10 = COUNTING DURATION (LIVE TIME) (CSEC)
0.0 = PERCENT DEAD TIME
NO = PLOTTING
YES = ENERGY ASSIGNMENT
YES = EFFICIENCY CORRECTION
5 = ORDER OF ENERGY ASSIGNMENT POLYNOMIAL
4 = ORDER OF EFFICIENCY CORRECTION POLYNOMIAL
YES = COEFFICIENTS EVALUATED INTERNALLY
NO = COEFFICIENTS GIVEN EXTERNALLY

ALL PEAKS WERE FITTED TO THE FUNCTION WITH FOLLOWING PROPERTIES
1/7 POWER = BACK-GROUND SHAPE
1.0000 = SKEWNESS OF GAUSSIAN FUNCTION
NO = TAILING
BUILT-IN WT. = WEIGHT IN FITTING PROCESS

COEFFICIENTS OF ENERGY ASSIGNMENT POLYNOMIAL (ENERGY VS CHANNEL)
C( 1)=-2.3785471E 00+- 4.796E-01      C( 2)= 5.0565648E-01+- 2.918E-03
C( 3)=-7.0426076E-06+- 5.731E-06      C( 4)= 5.2685308E-09+- 4.738E-09
C( 5)=-1.8896696E-12+- 1.731E-12      C( 6)= 2.5027253E-16+- 2.305E-16

COEFFICIENTS OF EFFICIENCY CORRECTION (LOG(EFCY) VS LOG(ENFRGY))
C( 1)= 3.4336499E 00+- 4.938E 01      C( 2)= 1.7493696E 00+- 3.346E 01
C( 3)= 3.9294700E-02+- 8.442E 00      C( 4)=-7.5262811E-02+- 9.403E-01
C( 5)= 5.5881388E-03+- 3.902E-02
    
```

Fig. A-2 List of the input data.

```

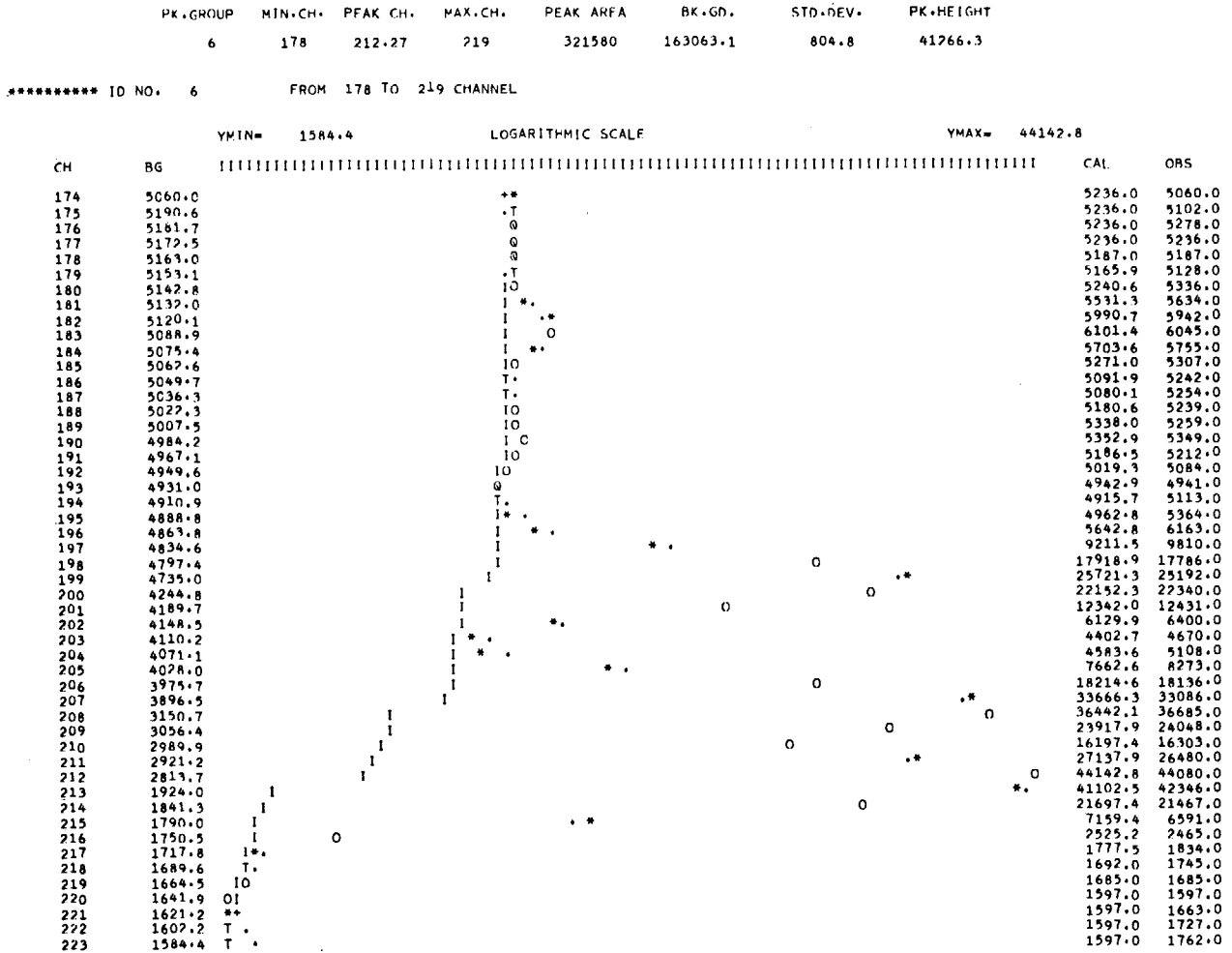
73-04-07      ***** GAMMA SPECTRUM ANALYSIS OF U(3)-4      1-1024
                                     BY BOB73      *****      MO-F-1 - 2

                                     INPUT DATA (FROM 1 CH. TO 1024 CH.)

CH. NO.
1 - 1000      0      0      1      5      0      0      0      0      0      2      6      10      16      20      35      45      69      75
21 - 131      172      261      685      2578      4958      5085      5097      5045      4962      4927      5066      5228      5214      5467      5698      5178      4474      3912      3788
41 - 3853      4043      4295      3956      3725      3430      3268      3105      3252      3356      3416      3314      3518      3591      3720      3968      4242      4213      3973      4050
61 - 4301      4369      3770      3151      2821      2683      2609      2659      2640      2986      3056      3077      2752      2437      2234      2297      2470      2510      2267      2140
81 - 2088      2180      2119      2123      2024      1999      2075      2121      2134      2228      2110      2126      2070      2097      2121      2119      2123      2426      2728      2844
101 - 2563      2295      2256      2166      2262      2275      2327      2236      2323      2413      2425      2493      2514      2773      3018      2871      2615      2677      2776      2792
121 - 3077      3871      4474      4261      3376      2958      2867      2847      2819      2860      2874      3019      2916      3128      3152      3163      3331      3177      3058      3171
141 - 3362      3431      3393      3591      3617      3658      3827      3924      4002      4170      4275      4152      4159      4206      4186      4126      4152      4263      4378      5145
161 - 6777      8929      8335      6055      4735      4439      4433      4626      4669      4772      4943      5035      5004      5060      5102      5278      5236      5187      5128      5336
181 - 2634      5942      6045      5755      5307      5242      5254      5239      5259      5349      5212      5084      4941      5113      5364      6163      9810      17786      25192      22340
201 - 12431      6400      4670      5108      4273      18136      33086      36685      24048      16303      26480      44080      42346      21467      6591      2465      1834      1745      1685      1597
221 - 1463      1727      1762      1788      1713      1616      1705      1733      1818      2230      3790      6321      9083      10886      9799      6269      3220      2008      2265      3467
241 - 4588      4837      3625      2631      1806      1456      1321      1244      1198      1241      1198      1198      1247      1189      1256      1203      1163      1245      1125      1153
261 - 1155      1159      1233      1199      1180      1308      1270      1299      1212      1214      1232      1170      1200      1178      1164      1208      1271      1504      2811      5326
281 - 7410      5880      3034      1429      1088      1011      996      1230      1457      2252      2537      2072      1388      1101      938      912      930      932      982      986
301 - 974      882      968      906      929      973      940      903      867      883      860      887      925      917      903      867      912      877      921      890
321 - 842      907      993      1118      1251      1201      953      937      886      884      814      833      895      854      821      866      821      870      856      829
341 - 816      885      854      852      809      875      867      843      764      804      816      815      790      783      765      786      818      808      770      875
361 - 1053      1255      1173      939      843      822      753      772      762      742      796      770      765      731      753      730      766      731      740      743
381 - 748      696      787      740      747      691      705      732      705      664      667      713      644      679      633      634      701      626      679
401 - 613      648      657      642      626      633      601      608      607      600      588      702      602      624      628      832      1356      2855      4300      3796
421 - 2188      983      606      586      538      515      501      515      507      519      491      539      507      523      480      533      505      490      946      512
441 - 550      539      494      553      543      507      539      581      613      680      775      1122      1958      4869      10553      15093      11967      5745      1699      577
461 - 388      423      379      391      368      395      358      346      364      360      341      358      326      356      369      412      367      403      343      365
481 - 353      341      355      383      355      331      338      349      292      305      296      312      325      305      314      307      300      305      281      253
501 - 321      283      338      317      305      289      339      428      387      389      332      320      288      303      294      281      294      284      304      300
521 - 300      307      306      319      334      337      282      279      307      293      329      304      331      309      318      292      280      272      292      340
541 - 323      302      297      351      392      378      355      369      397      487      751      2018      5258      10091      11494      7587      9001      739      268      238
561 - 213      245      211      233      214      244      323      398      651      869      762      495      304      234      210      220      181      208      175      206
581 - 192      242      237      341      540      645      541      366      240      225      189      184      211      206      192      182      192      190      179      210
601 - 197      209      197      190      193      218      244      267      288      301      254      217      203      158      188      179      186      208      220      204
621 - 187      171      214      191      211      170      216      257      485      854      1238      1052      586      298      199      168      239      208      220      204
641 - 173      164      179      183      157      149      138      144      179      161      156      188      197      261      383      673      746      616      553      211
661 - 144      141      178      240      326      580      1131      1413      1104      613      275      151      154      146      150      148      138      133      143      184
681 - 134      139      141      145      138      142      155      178      145      152      133      143      123      131      137      144      143      119      143      184
701 - 206      160      186      149      178      145      118      123      130      122      130      116      131      132      116      135      130      144      127      134
721 - 128      126      151      177      240      496      858      1260      1167      674      307      192      154      113      137      144      143      119      143      184
741 - 123      115      103      96      114      112      84      114      130      115      102      108      105      120      120      92      105      124      105      117
761 - 110      124      96      106      108      93      112      109      105      111      98      88      92      100      113      124      96      84      95      101
781 - 114      105      107      132      109      49      83      103      97      102      117      98      88      106      132      93      100      94      104      107
801 - 105      92      88      109      90      113      96      96      90      97      102      103      92      111      105      105      102      106      98      79
821 - 116      111      109      106      90      96      109      101      116      101      107      96      87      109      100      99      83      112      100      119
841 - 96      94      101      102      128      144      150      146      120      104      82      70      82      105      92      93      94      111      114      108
861 - 113      119      147      158      158      138      112      101      99      94      94      90      125      117      128      108      110      96      96      106
881 - 102      91      79      110      103      91      113      88      116      86      89      106      112      125      92      128      96      84      98      84
901 - 107      87      101      104      89      83      90      105      87      107      87      91      89      81      89      82      92      103      86      91      101      100
921 - 123      89      102      86      110      99      98      75      77      102      91      94      81      107      99      93      91      93      85      77
941 - 73      92      101      83      108      113      103      111      92      85      102      86      87      84      106      102      125      86      92      89
961 - 87      105      115      95      87      91      86      92      121      208      362      669      838      725      464      220      105      84      97      100
981 - 91      85      90      74      79      80      83      82      92      112      208      258      329      324      238      108      88      86      68      69
1001 - 67      74      80      82      81      86      67      86      88      121      156      115      90      80      77      94      73      64      76      89
1021 - 88      77      94      71
    
```



Fig. A-4 Graphic display of the peak fitting by the line-printer.



5 PEAKS WITH FWHM = 2.97088E 00  
 DEGREE OF THE OVERALL FIT = 1.58124E-04 AND BACKGROUND = 163063.1 COUNTS  
 CONVERGENCE LIMIT = 1.61496E-02 IRG = 4 SKEWNESS FACTOR = 1.00

PEAK NO.	PK POSITION	PK HEIGHT	PEAK AREA	STANDARD DEVIATION
9	187.74	1034.12	3270.	56.84
10	189.67	381.21	1206.	34.50
11	199.25	21394.00	67657.	258.57
12	207.67	34326.21	108553.	327.78
13	212.42	43564.72	137769.	369.50





### Appendix 3. An example of the application of "ECHO"

In the case where one needs to treat the results from BOB 73 as a whole for a series of the spectrum data, the subroutine "ECHO" can be utilized as follows: the final results of the analysis of each spectrum are written one by one on a given file (disk) of the computer with the necessary information of the spectrum, such as ID name, counting duration and counting data. Thereafter the file is called by the objective program.

STATEMENT NUMBER	FORTRAN STATEMENT	DECK ID	LINE
1		73	76 78 80
	SUBROUTINE ECHO(K)		
C			
C	K = NO. OF PEAKS DETECTED		
C	APK = PEAK POSITION		
C	AREA = PEAK AREA		
C	SIGAR = STANDARD DEVIATION IN THE AREA		
C	IDN = IDENTIFICATION NO.		
C			
	COMMON/PKF/LAREA(100), TIGAR(100), MBGD(200), BK(200), AREA(200),		
1	APK(200), SIGAR(200), PKHT(100), ET(100)		
	COMMON/OUT/ILT, INPT, ILAST, IMIT, IFIN, ISM, IPLT, ICDEF, IENG, ME, MF,		
1	IDEC, IUNT, TR, PDT, IDATE, ITIME, IBG, IETG, MIJ, WDRO, PKRTO, POSRO,		
2	IWT, ISKEW, ISEL, LVL, TC, IASH		
	COMMON/SPT/DATA(4150), COM(6), IDN(2)		
	DATA ITC, TO, TS/0, 2*0.0/		
	ITR = TR		
	WRITE(4) IDN, COM, ITR, IUNT, ITC, IDATE, ITIME, PDT, TO, TS		
	WRITE(4) K		
	WRITE(4) (AREA(I), APK(I), SIGAR(I), I=1, K)		
	WRITE(6, 10)		
10	FORMAT(/ /40X, 45H***** FINAL RESULTS WERE WRITTEN ON F04 *****)		
	RETURN		
	END		