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RESEARCH REPORT
NIFS Series

**Clear detection of negative pionlike particles from
H₂ gas discharge in magnetic field**

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Abstract

Electron density outside H₂ gas discharge plasma along magnetic field, is abruptly reduced as H⁻ ions are produced. From the region, negative pionlike particles π^- are extracted together with H⁻ ions. Then, as decay products of the π^- , negative muonlike particles μ^- are also observed with high energy electrons. These particles are clearly detected by a magnetic mass analyzer MA utilizing secondary electrons generated in the beam collector of MA and secondary positive ions within MA. The production mechanism of π^- is explained by interaction between an electron bunch and a positive ion bunch in the outside of the plasma.

Keywords: negative pionlike particle π^- , secondary electron, positive ion

In ordinary plasmas, no strong electrical interactions between electron bunches and positive ion bunches are generated due to charge neutralization between electron space charge and positive ion space charge. But, in the outside region of H_2 gas discharge plasma along magnetic field, the electron density is abruptly reduced in comparison to the positive ion density by the volume produced H^- ions^{1,2,3)} which absorb the low energy electrons quickly. Therefore, some strong electrical interactions between the electron bunches and the positive ion bunches are expected to produce some elementary particles.

Schematic diagrams of the experimental apparatus are shown in Figs. 1. The apparatus is constructed from a H_2 gas discharge plasma in magnetic fields, three extraction electrodes (with an aperture of 3 mm in diameter) to extract some negatively charged particles and a magnetic mass analyzer (90° deflection-type).

A sheet plasma⁴⁾ is produced to generate H^- ions effectively and in wide area. That is, the discharge (cylindrical) plasma flow of about 1 cm in diameter is transformed into a sheet plasma flow of about 3 mm in thickness and about 20 cm in width, while the electron components in the initial discharge plasma are accelerated near 55 eV. The sheet plasma flow enters the electron acceleration anode through the main chamber (50 cm long). A uniform magnetic field of about 50 gauss is applied along the sheet plasma flow in the main chamber where the H_2 gas pressure is about 1.5×10^{-3} Torr. The electron acceleration anode current I_A is 20A. A distance between the sheet plasma center and the first extraction electrode (L) is 7.5 cm. The plasma density in the center of the sheet plasma is about 10^{11} /cc and the electron temperature is about 20 eV. The positive ion density in front of the first extraction electrode is estimated to be about 10^{10} /cc from a positive ion saturation current as H_3^+ , while the electron density from the Langmuir probe characteristic is about 10^9 /cc and the electron temperature is about 3.0 eV. That is, the electron density in front of the first extraction electrode is reduced near 1/10 of the positive ion density.

The negatively charged particles extracted from the H_2 gas discharge plasma, are injected into the ordinary magnetic mass analyzer (MA) through the slit (3 mm \times 1 cm) while each mass of the negatively charged particle is estimated by the following relations: From the analyzing magnetic field B_M where the negative current to the beam collector BC shows a peak, the curvature radius r of the mass analyzer and the extraction (acceleration) voltage V_E , we can estimate the mass m of

the negatively charged particle by,

$$\begin{aligned}
 m &= \frac{Ze (B_M r)^2}{2V_E} \\
 &= \frac{8.8 \times 10^{-2} Z (B_M r)^2 m_e}{V_E}, \dots\dots\dots (1)
 \end{aligned}$$

where e is the electron charge, B_M is in gauss unit, r is in cm unit, V_E is in volt unit and m_e is the electron mass and Z is the charge number. For the curvature radius $r = 4.3$ cm of this mass analyzer, the Eq. (1) is rewritten by

$$m = \frac{1.63 Z B_M^2}{V_E} m_e, \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

In the extraction of negatively charged particles, the first extraction electrode (L) is electrically floated, whose potential V_L is about $-10V$ with respect to the electron acceleration anode. A potential V_M of the second extraction electrode (M) is kept at $300V$ or $75V$. A potential V_E of the final extraction electrode (E) is $800V$.

In this experiment, it is noted that the back space of the beam collector is shielded⁵⁾ perfectly from the diffusion of positive ions as shown in Fig. 1 (B). The dependences of the negative current I^- to the beam collector on the analyzing magnetic field B_M are shown in Figs. 2 (A) and 2 (B) for the beam collector potential $V_{BC} = 0V$ and $V_{BC} = 75V$. Obviously, in a case (1) of Fig. 2 (A) or Fig. 2 (B) at the second extraction electrode potential $V_M = 300V$, a peak of I^- at the analyzing magnetic field $B_M \approx (4.0 \times 240)$ gauss = 960 gauss is corresponding to H^- ion, assuming that $Z = 1$ in Eq. (2). That is, we obtain $m \approx 1880 m_e$ (near the true mass of $H^- = 1842 m_e$) as $V_E = 800V$. Then, we find that another main peak of I^- at $B_M \approx (1.54 \times 240)$ gauss ≈ 370 gauss is corresponding to a negative pion, assuming that $Z = 1$ in Eq. (2). That is, we obtain $m \approx 278 m_e$ (near the true pion mass = $273 m_e$) as $V_E = 800V$.

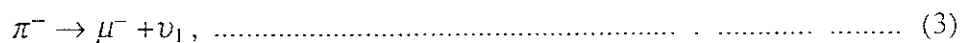
In another case (2) of Fig. 2 (A) or Fig. 2 (B) at $V_M = 75V$, a peak of I^- at $B_M \approx 960$ gauss is also corresponding to H^- ion. Then, we find that another main peak of I^- at $B_M \approx (1.33 \times 240)$

gauss \approx 320 gauss is corresponding to a negative muon, assuming that $Z = 1$ in Eq. (2). That is, we obtain $m \approx 209 m_e$ (near the true muon mass = $207 m_e$) as $V_E = 800V$.

A special peak e_H of I^- is observed at $B_M \approx (0.6 \times 240)$ gauss = 144 gauss as seen in Figs. 2 (A) or 2 (B). We consider that this peak e_H is caused by high energy electrons which come directly from the outside of the sheet plasma. Because the e_H peak position of B_M does not depend on the final extraction voltage V_E while the H^- , π^- , μ^- peaks depend exactly on V_E in Eq. (2). The energy eV_H of high energy electron e_H is estimated to be $eV_H \approx 33.8$ keV, if we take $m = m_e$, $V_E = V_H$ and $B_M \approx 144$ gauss at the e_H peak) in Eq. (2).

When a positive potential $V_{BC} = 75V$ is applied to the beam collector BC, their peaks of I^- increase, as seen in Fig. 2 (B), about 1.3 times for H^- ion, about 200 times for π^- or μ^- and about 50 times for e_H . These large apparent increments of negative current peaks under the positive potential $V_{BC} > 0$ of the beam collector BC, may be explained by the following mechanism due to positive ions within the mass analyzer MA and secondary electrons inside BC: The mechanism is shown in Figs. 3 (A) and (B). For $V_{BC} = 0$ of Fig. 3 (A), the negative current I_1^- appears through a closed circuit (H^- , π^- , μ^- , e_H) — BC — MA. Thus, the I_1^- shows a net current of (H^- , π^- , μ^- , e_H). Here, we observe a positive ion current to BC when a deep negative bias voltage ($V_{BC} < -300V$) is given to BC. The positive ions are produced secondarily from the extracting H^- ions. On the other hand, the negative muonlike particle μ^- (decay product of π^- or direct μ^-) inside BC may generate secondary low energy electrons through high energy electrons of the decay process from μ^- . The (back ground) positive ions within MA and the secondary electrons inside BC are shown by +Ion and e_S in Fig. 3 (B). Thus, for $V_{BC} > 0$ of Fig. 3 (B), another closed circuit of negative current I_2^- appears through BC (e_S) — V_{BC} — MA — (+Ion). A total charge of secondary electrons (e_S) due to μ^- may be extremely larger than that of π^- or μ^- . By the above mechanism, the apparent negative current I_2^- for π^- or μ^- increases abruptly in comparison with the net negative current I_1^- .

Thus, the π^- particles inside the beam collector can generate the large electron current. These processes may be expressed by, according to the elementary particle theories.



$$\mu^- \rightarrow e_H + \nu_2 + \nu_3, \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

$$e_H \rightarrow Ne_S, \dots\dots\dots (5)$$

where e_H and (ν_1, ν_2, ν_3) are high energy electron and various neutrinos, and where e_S and N are secondary electron and multiplied number inside metal plate (BC).

We consider that secondary electrons due to H^- ions are produced on the surface of BC at only a small rate, and that the apparent current (I_2^-) does not increase particularly for the net H^- ion current (I_1^-).

A flight time of π^- from the final extraction electrode E to the beam collector BC is estimated to be about 8×10^{-8} sec by the flight distance $\overline{E, BC} \approx 8.75$ cm and the π^- velocity $\approx 1.1 \times 10^8$ cm/sec at $V_E = 800V$ acceleration. This flight time is comparable with the typical pion life time 2.6×10^{-8} sec. However, as shown in Figs. 2 (A) and 2 (B), the decay product-like particle μ^- depends greatly on the second extraction electrode voltage V_M . This experimental facts show that the decay products (μ^- and e_H) can be generated also between the first extraction electrode L and the second extraction electrode M, if a local velocity of π^- is reduced by a low voltage of V_M .

When the final extraction voltages V_E are reduced below 500V, the π^- peak of I^- does not appear and only the μ^- peak of I^- appears exactly for V_E in Eq. (2), even if the second extraction voltage V_M is 300V. We consider that the π^- decays into the μ^- as the flight time of π^- much exceeds 10^{-7} sec.

A power source for the net current I_1^- of π^- as shown in Fig. 2 (A), must be considered in the outside of the sheet plasma. To produce one pion, an energy of $E_\pi = 139.6$ MeV or 2.2×10^{-11} Joule is required. Thus, a net current I_1^- of the produced π^- is estimated from an effective power W_{ef} (W) which may be caused by the electron-positive ion bunches interaction in the outside of the sheet plasma. That is, if the kinetic energy of π^- is neglected, the net current I_1^- (μA) is expressed by

$$I_1^- = \frac{eW_{ef}}{E_\pi} = 7.1 \times 10^{-3} W_{ef} (\mu A) \dots\dots\dots (6)$$

Since the net current I_1^- is about $0.01 \mu A (= I_1^-)$ from Fig. 2 (A), the effective power W_{ef} must be

about 1.5W from Eq. (6). On the other hand, the electron (or positive ion) density is about $10^9/\text{cc}$ (or $10^{10}/\text{cc}$) in the outside of the sheet plasma and the extraction area of π^- is about 0.07 cm^2 (for 0.3 cm in diameter). As an estimation, we can obtain $W_{ef} \approx 1.5W$ easily in the extraction area of 0.07 cm^2 if an effective potential and current of about 165V and 9 mA are induced for the electron bunch ($\sim 10^9/\text{cc}$) from the ion bunch. For this physical mechanism of negative pion production, we have proved already^{6,7)} that negative pionlike particles are produced from a low energy electron beam of (100 eV ~ 1200 eV in a few mA) and its secondary positive ion beam whose beam-electrons are magnetically (in cyclotron motions) bunched and beam-ions are electrically bunched. A schematic diagram⁷⁾ for that physical mechanism of the negative pionlike particle production, is shown in Fig. 4, where the positive ion beam is produced secondarily by decelerating the first electron beam and introducing a neutral gas G to produce a plasma region between S and A in Fig. 4.

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Figure Captions

Fig. 1 (A) Schematic diagram of experimental apparatus.

1: Cylindrical plasma in discharge anode. 2: Discharge cathode. 3: H_2 gas flow. 4: Discharge power supply. 5: Electron acceleration power supply. 6: Vacuum pump. 7: Area where cylindrical plasma is transformed into sheet plasma. 8: Insulation tube. 9: A pair of permanent magnets. 10: Magnetic field coils. 11: Electron acceleration anode. I_A : Current to electron acceleration anode. CP: Cylindrical plasma. SP: Sheet plasma. B_Z : Magnetic field. L: First extraction electrode. M: Second extraction electrode. E: Final extraction electrode. V_M : Potential (variable) of second extraction electrode with respect to electron acceleration anode. V_E : Potential (800V) of final extraction electrode with respect to electron acceleration anode. MA: Magnetic deflection (90°) mass analyzer. B_M : Magnetic field intensity of MA. BC: Beam collector of MA. V_{BC} : Positive potential of BC with respect to MA. Γ^- : Negative current to BC. H_0^- : Hydrogen negative ions outside of sheet plasma. H^- : Accelerated hydrogen negative ions. π_0^- : Negative pionlike particles outside of sheet plasma. π^- : Accelerated negative pionlike particles.

Fig. 1 (B) Schematic diagram of mass analyzer.

S: Entrance slit position. X: Entrance of uniform magnetic field.
Ins: Insulator behind BC. + Ion: Positive ions in front of BC. Fe: shows Iron.
(See Fig. 4 as resemblance mechanism).

Fig. 2 (A) Dependences of negative current Γ^- to BC on magnetic field intensity B_M of MA under beam collector potential $V_{BC} = 0V$.

(1): Potential of second extraction electrode $V_M = 300V$. (2): $V_M = 75V$. H^- : Peak of Γ^- corresponding to hydrogen negative ion. π^- : Peak of Γ^- corresponding to negative pionlike particle. μ^- : Peak of Γ^- corresponding to negative muonlike particle. e_H : peak of Γ^- corresponding to high energy electron.

Fig. 2 (B) Dependence of Γ^- to BC on B_M of MA under $V_{BC} = 75V$.

(1): $V_M = 300V$. (2): $V_M = 75V$. H^- , π^- , μ^- , e_H : See captions of Fig. 2 (A).

Fig. 3 (A) Closed circuit of negative charged particle current under $V_{BC} = 0V$.

I_1^- : Net current of negative charged particle. (H^- , π^- , μ^- , e_H): See captions of Fig. 2 (A). BC: Beam collector. MA: Magnetic mass analyzer.

Fig. 3 (B) Increment circuit of negative current under $V_{BC} > 0$.

+Ion: Positive ions within MA. e_S : secondary electrons inside BC. I_2^- : Increased negative current.

Fig. 4 A schematic diagram as a physical mechanism.

F: Filament as electron emitter. K: Cathode of electron gun. A: Anode of electron gun. V_A : Initial electron acceleration voltage. I_A : Total negative current. F.E.B.: First electron beam. G: Neutral gas. D: Decelerator of F.E.B. S: Entrance slit. Ins: Insulator. I.B.: Ion beam. S.E.B.: Second electron beam. e: Electrons with cyclotron motions. μ^- : Negative muonlike particle. (MA): Magnetic mass analyzer. Fe: Iron. C: Magnetic Coil. (N): North pole of electro-magnet. (S): South pole. B_M : Analyzing magnetic field. BC: Beam collector. Γ^- : Negative current to BC. V_S : Bias voltage of BC with respect to mass analyzer body. i: Ion bunch. π^- : Negative pionlike particle. Ins: Insulator.

Appendix

As shown in Figs. A1 (A) and A1 (B), if the back metal plate (BMP) of the magnetic mass analyzer MA (of Fig. 1 (B) in this paper) is arranged, H^+ ions will be generated secondarily within MA by the H^- ion beam arriving to BMP. This fact is confirmed from a current characteristic to the beam collector BC of MA under a deep negative bias voltage $V_{BC} < 0$. A dependence of the current to BC on the mass analyzing magnetic field B_M is shown in Fig. A2 under $V_{BC} = -300V$. Obviously, positive currents I^+ are observed for $B_M < 3.0 \times 240$ gauss while a peak of I^+ appears near $B_M \approx 1.3 \times 240$ gauss corresponding to the arrival of the muonlike particle beam on BC.

Next, as shown in Figs. A3 (A) and A3 (B), if the back metal plate (BMP) is removed, the H^+ ions will be reduced abruptly. This fact is confirmed also from current characteristics to BC under various BC bias voltages. Dependences of the current to BC on B_M are shown in Figs. A4 (A) and A4 (B) under $V_{BC} = -300V$ and $V_{BC} = 75V$. It should be noted that negative current peaks corresponding to the high energy electron (e_H) and the negative muonlike particle (μ^-) appear even if the deep negative bias voltage is applied to BC. Moreover, even if the positive bias voltage ($V_{BC} = 75V$) is applied to BC, the increased negative current peak as seen in Fig. 2 (B) of this paper, does not appear. That is, if the positive ions (H^+) does not exist around the beam collector BC, the large increment of the negative peak current corresponding to the negative muonlike particle does not occur.

Results in this Appendix are the same also for the pionlike particle under the second extraction voltage $V_M = 300V$.

Figure Captions of Appendix

- Fig. A1 Schematic diagram of mass analyzer (MA) with BMP.
BMP: Back metal plate. E: Final extraction electrode. V_E : Applied voltage of E (800V). M: Second extraction electrode ($V_M = 75V$). L: First extraction electrode ($V_L = -10V$). Fe: Shows Iron. C: Magnetic coil. (N): North pole of electro-magnetic. (S): South pole. B_M : Analyzing magnetic field of MA. BC: Beam collector of MA. V_{BC} : Potential of BC with respect to MA. Ins: Insulator behind BC. I: Current to BC. S: Entrance slit position. X: Entrance of uniform magnetic field (B_M). $\pi^{\bar{0}}$: Negative pionlike particle outside of sheet plasma. π^- : Accelerated negative pionlike particle. $H^{\bar{0}}$: Hydrogen negative ions outside of sheet plasma. H^- : Accelerated hydrogen negative ions. H^+ : Hydrogen positive ions generated secondarily from H^- ions.
- Fig. A2 Dependence of current to BC on B_M under $V_{BC} = -300V$ in a case with BMP.
(B_M : Analyzing magnetic field of mass analyzer MA). (BMP: Back metal plate within MA). (V_{BC} : Bias voltage of beam collector BC). I^+ : Positive current to BC. I^- : Negative current to BC. H^- : Hydrogen negative ion. (μ^-): Show a positive ion peak corresponding negative muonlike particle decayed from negative pionlike particle π^- .
- Fig. A3 Schematic diagram for mass analyzer (MA) without BMP.
See captions of Fig. A1.
- Fig. A4 (A) Dependence of current to BC on B_M under $V_{BC} = -300V$ in a case without BMP.
 e_H : High energy electron from outside of sheet plasma. (See caption of Fig. A2).
- Fig. A4 (B) Dependence of current to BC on B_M under $V_{BC} = 75V$ in a case without BMP.
 e_H : High energy electron. (See caption of Fig. A2).

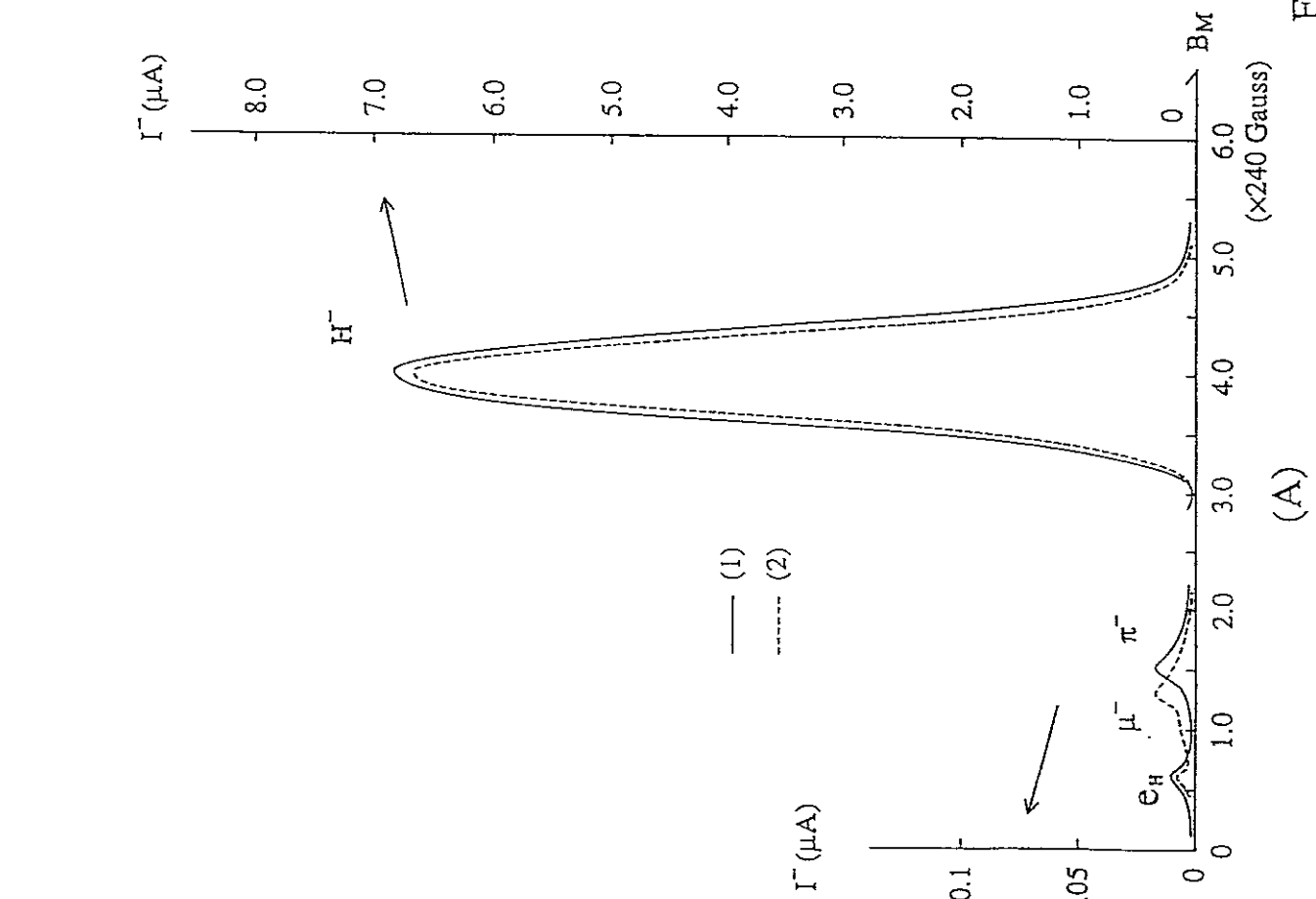
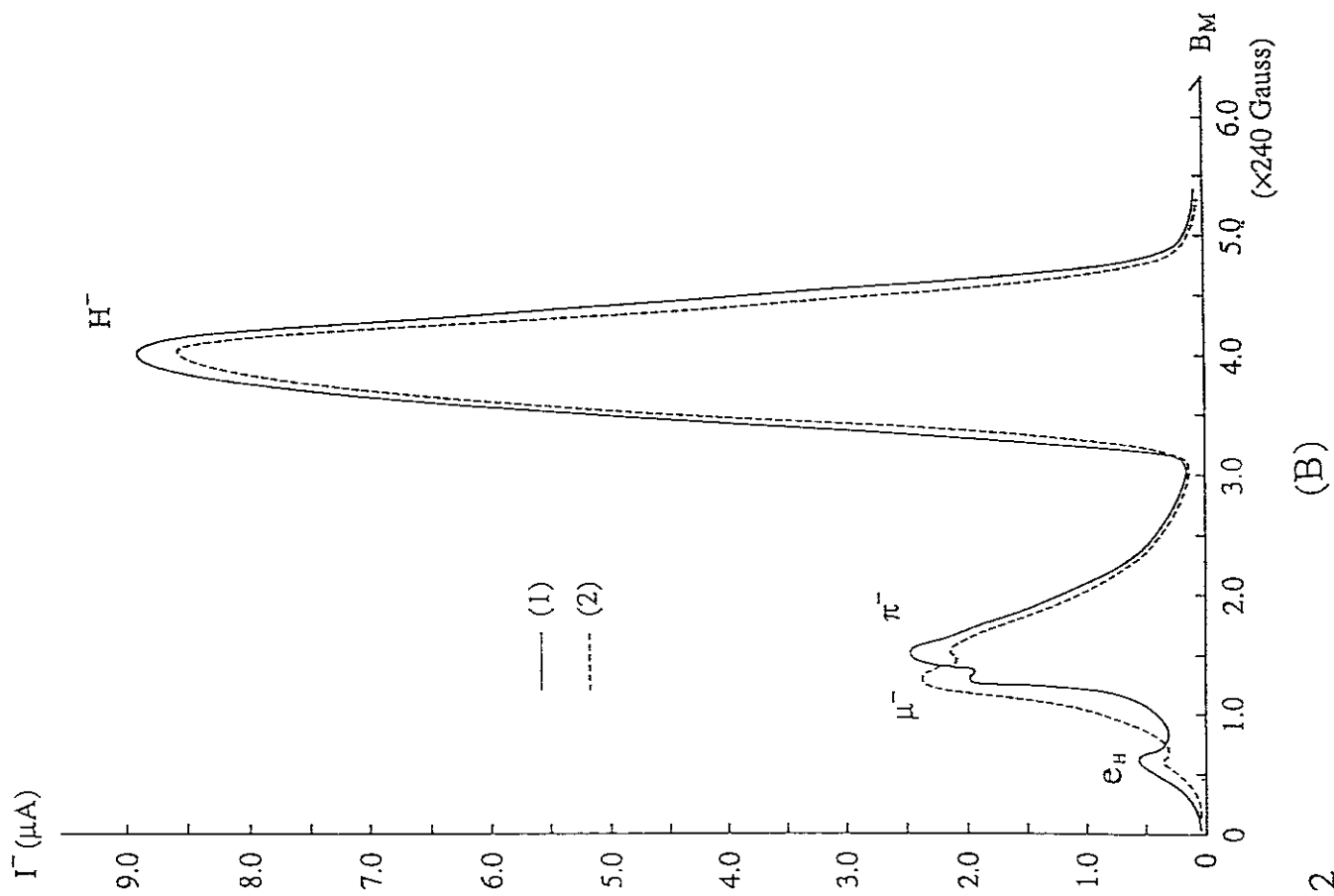
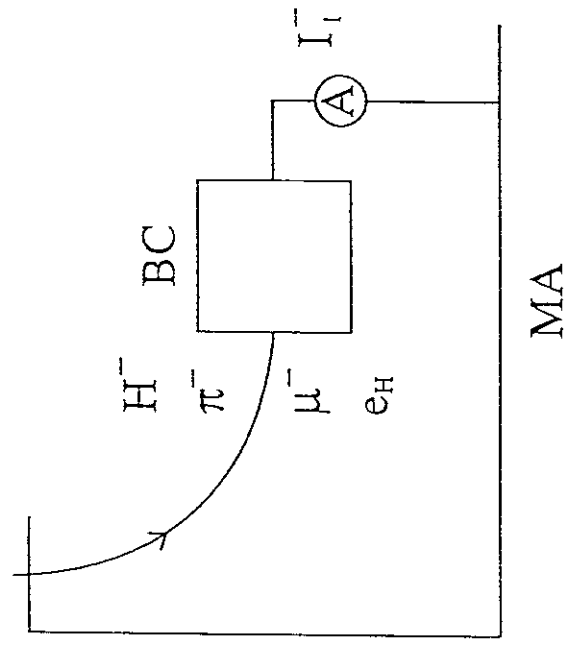
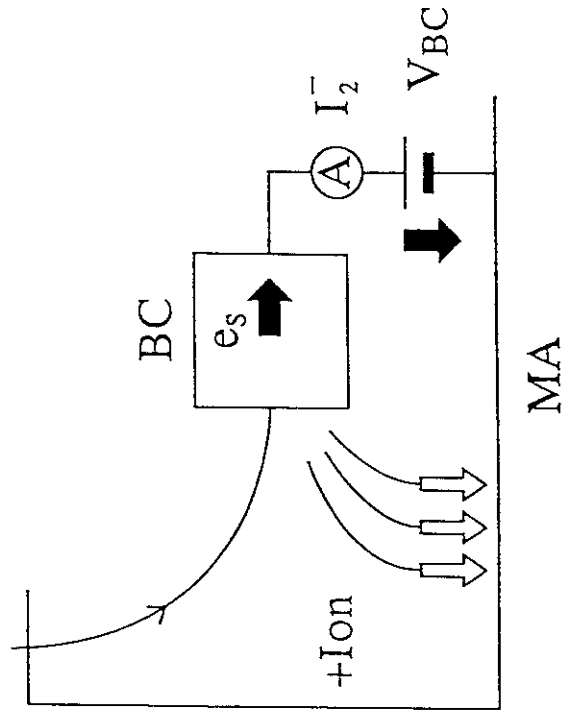


Fig. 2



(A)



(B)

Fig. 3

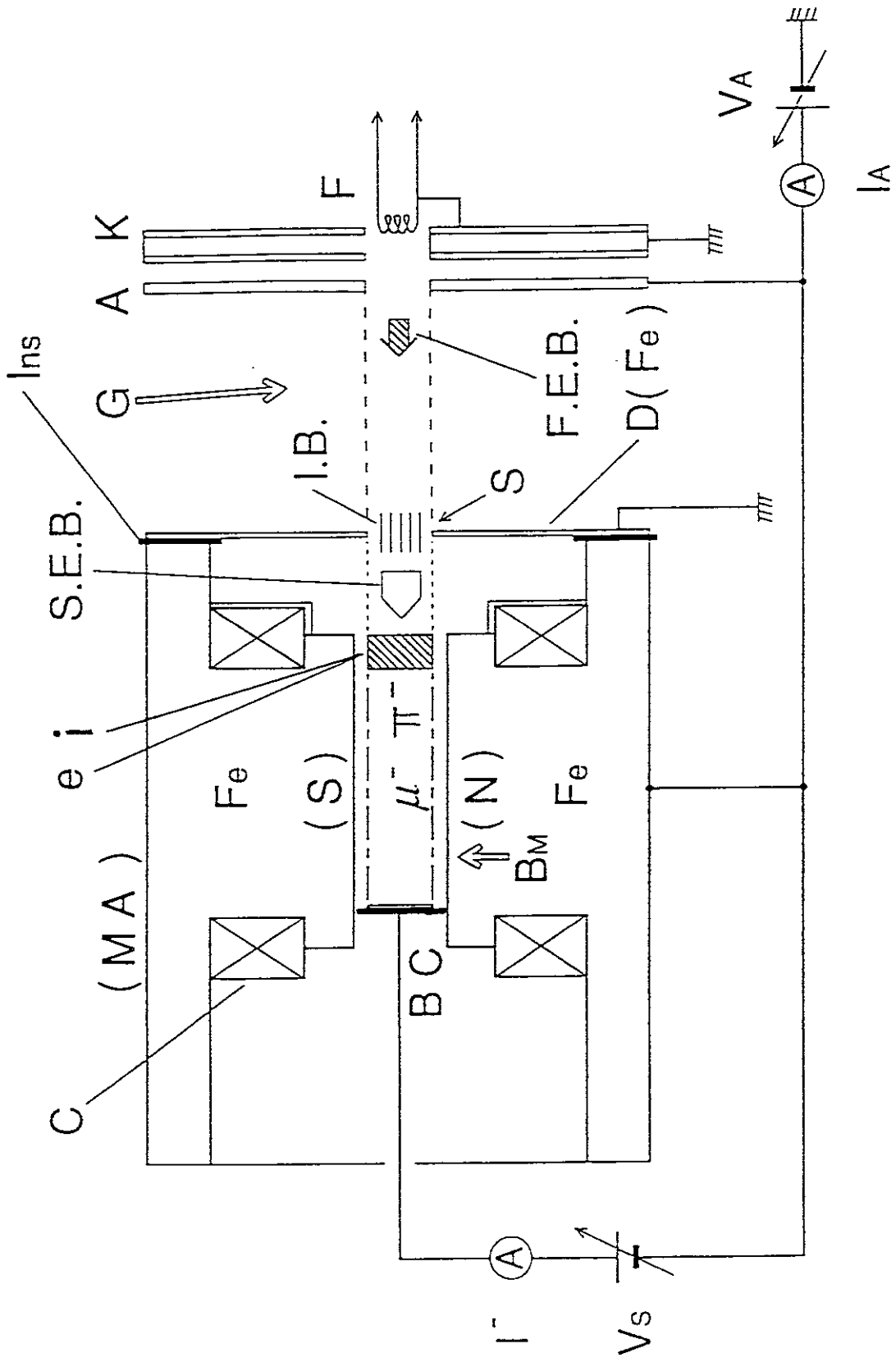


Fig.4

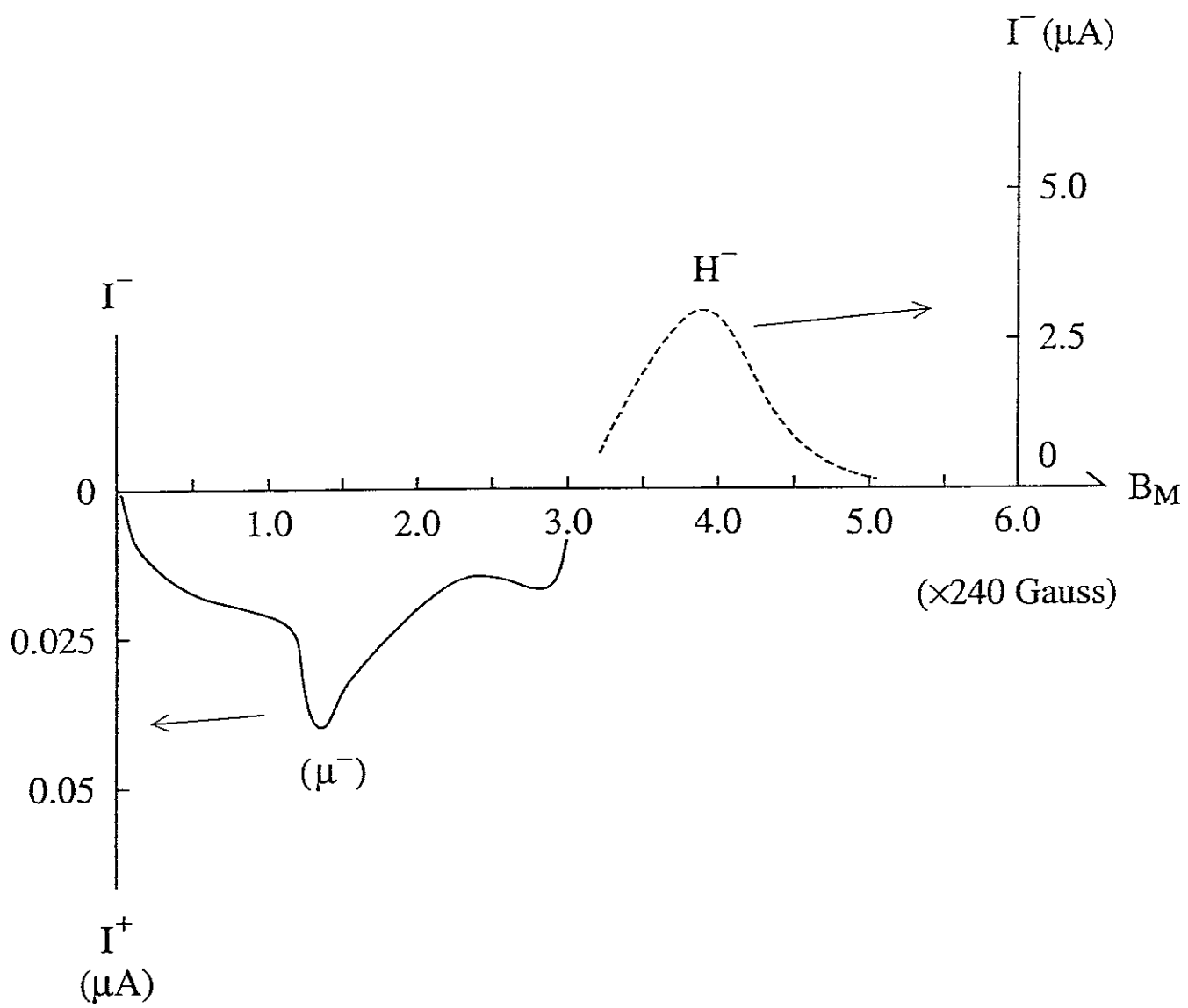


Fig. A2

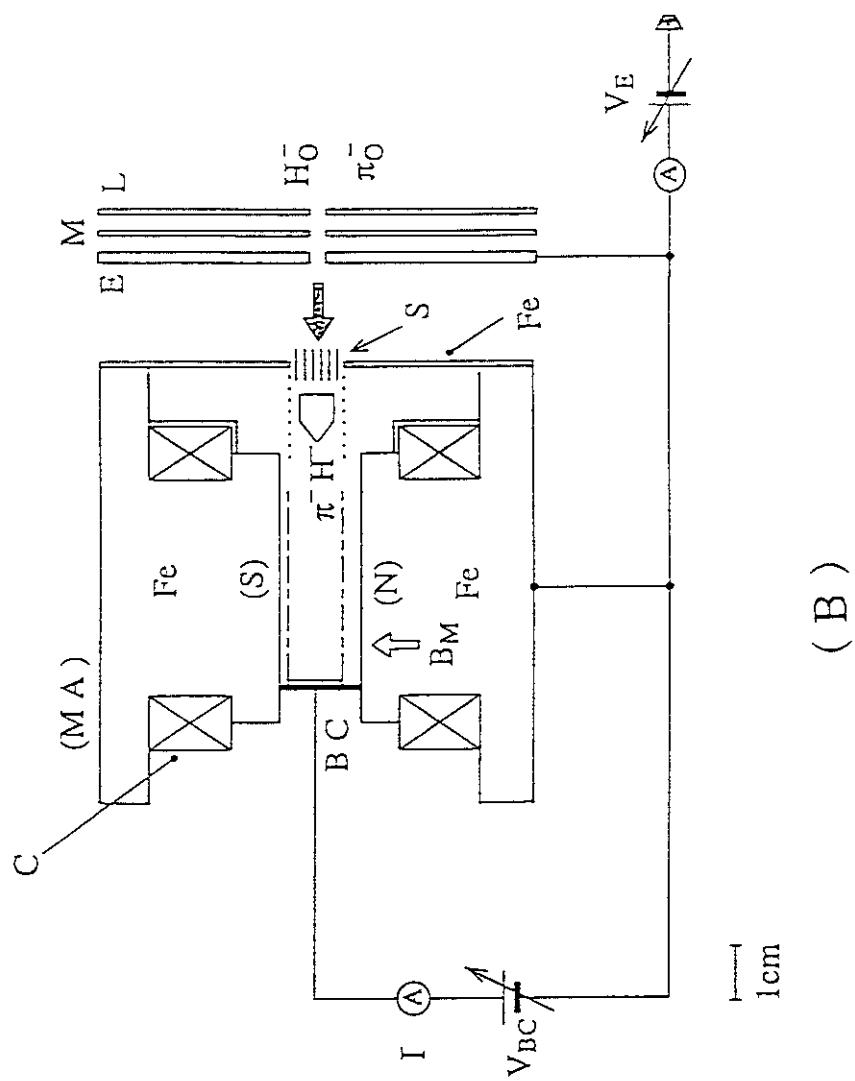
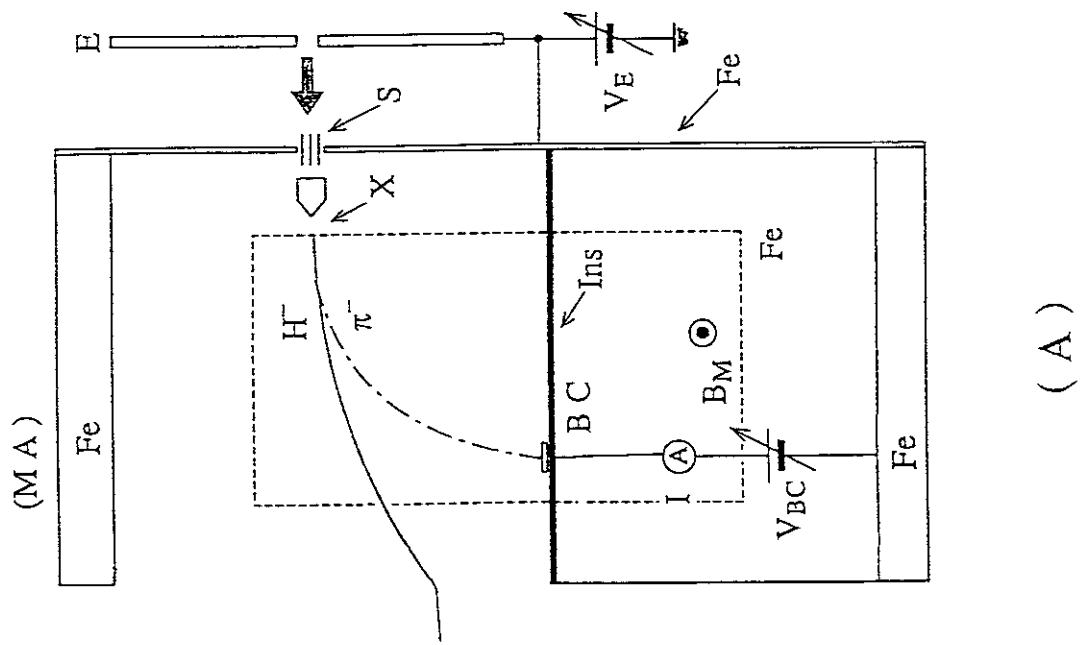


Fig. A3

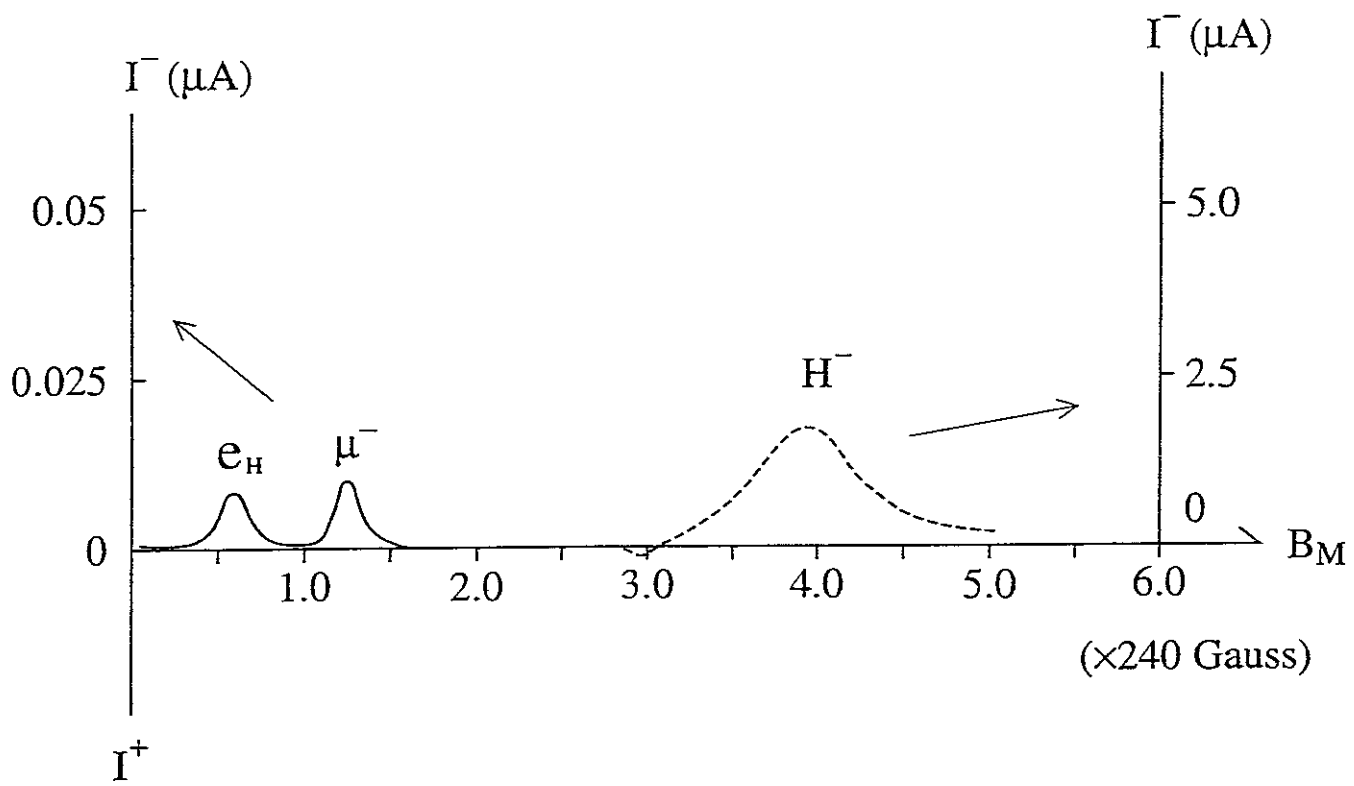


Fig. A4 (A)

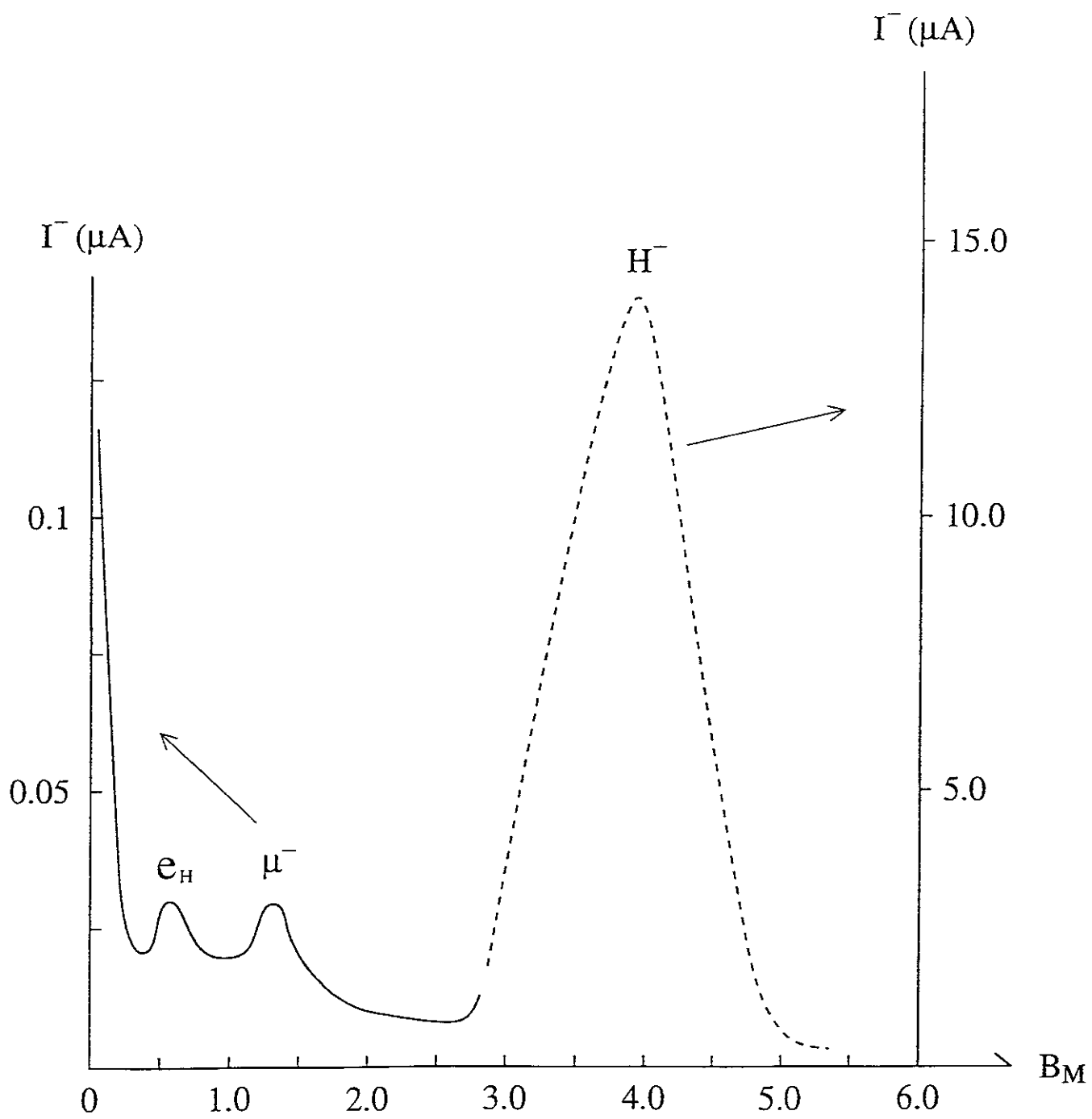


Fig. A4 (B)

($\times 240$ Gauss)

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