

EBSS 2019 – Experimental Techniques

Nuclear Experimental Techniques with Rare Isotope Beams





By the end of this lecture, you should be able to answer:

- How detectors actually work.
- Which parameters are actually measured, and which are inferred or calculated?
- How to process signals from detectors.
- Advantage of multi-channel signal processing.
- → Detectors and Electronics Experts!!





The Bible

Believe what this text book says...



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Story Line of Lecture

- ✓ Properties of nuclei we want to know
- \checkmark How to study the properties
- ✓ How to detect particles
- ✓ Signal Processing
- ✓ Online Data Acquisition
- ✓ How put together for actual experiments
- ✓ Summary





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Nuclear Mass



Excitation energy, Spin and parity



Mass differences between measurement and models for Zr isotopes H. Schatz, TAL

H. Schatz, TALENT 2014

Monte-Carlo variations of nuclear properties. Dark shaded region represents σ_{mass} = 100 keV. Mumpower *et al.*, 2015





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Reaction Cross Sections (Reaction Rates) •



⁸⁶Se(a,n) reaction rate ratios w/ various alpha OMP J. Pereira and F. Montes, Phys Rev C 93, 034611 (2016)

> Calculated light curves of X-ray burst within a factor of 100 R. H. Cyburt et al., 2016

> > Ε R S





Monte-Carlo variations of (n, γ) rates within a factor 100 - 10 - 2 (light - darker - dark bands)





• Half-life of β -decay



Comparison of theoretical β -decay half-lives to measured values from the NNDC database







• Excitation function



Measured excitation function for ⁸B+*p* elastic scattering in the angular range of 164±7 degree compared to R-matrix calculations G.V. Rogachev *et al.*, 2006

Nuclear Level densities and gamma-ray strength



The level density of 145 Nd is normalized to known discrete levels at low energies and to (*Sn*) at the binding energy K O Ay *et al.*, 2016

→ Will improve the statistical model (e.g. Hauser-Feshbach) for compound reaction cross section calculation.



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Sensitivity Studies for Significance



Nuclei that significantly impact final r-process abundances Mumpower *et al.*, 2015



Nuclear chart with most sensitive (α, p) reaction rates R. H. Cyburt *et al.*, 2016

✓ Nuclear properties of rare isotopes are important!





• ToF Mass, MR-ToF, Penning Trap, Q-value of g.s.



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Excitation Energy Study



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Nuclear Spin and Parity Study

• Spin and parity: level scheme, angular distribution



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Reaction Cross Section Study

• Total Cross Sections: Yields





Decay Half life Study

• Half life of nuclear decay: △Time of implants and (decay products, gamma ray or neutrons)



Spin and Parity of Resonance Levels

• Excitation function: Yields over CoM energy

J. Hooker et al. 2019





Nuclear Level Densities

Total Absorption of γ-ray using NaI scintillators
MTAS at ORNL, CACTUS at Oslo, SuN at NSCL





- Interactions with matter!
- Ionizations, Scintillations, Heat, Reactions



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AE+e

Silicon strip detectors

Conduction band

n type

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Electric Field

Force on electrons

Depletion

region

Valence band

p type

- Ionization energy = 3.62 eV
- Room temp (performance gains with cooling)
- Thin particle detectors (thicknesses ~20µm ~2 mm)
- Highly segmented

Conduction band

Electric Field

Force on

Large area

Valence

band

p type







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Time

500 O



Silicon strip detectors

- Paschen's law: breakdown voltage necessary to start a discharge or electric arc, between two electrodes in a gas as a function of pressure and gap length.
- Check the pressure and DO NOT bias detector if uncertain!!
- (small bias ~ 5V should be okay for testing anytime.)
- Monitor leakage current when biasing.





Germanium detectors

- Ionization energy = 2.96 eV
- Operation Temperature = 77 K LN2
- Energy resolution ~ eV
- Planar Ge detectors (similar to Si det):
 - Thin entrance window
 - Measuring low energy $\gamma\text{-rays}$ and x-rays
 - Beta decay (implant)
- Coaxial Ge detectors:
- Large volume for measuring higher energy $\boldsymbol{\gamma}\text{-rays}$
- Some have coarse position from sidechannels
- Large arrays (e.g. Gammasphere)
- Often Compton suppressed wt BGO





60-80 mm









Germanium detectors

Clover detectors:

- Four close-packed crystals in one cryostat

- Segmented readout for better position (Doppler) correction
- e.g. Exogam, Clarion, Clovershare
- Highly segmented tracking detectors:
- High segmentation
- Digital readout allows event reconstruction (tracking) using pulse shapes
- First point of interaction (Compton reconstruction) for Doppler correction
- Can dispense with Compton suppression to make higher efficiency possible











Ionization Counter

Ionization Counter:





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MUSIC detector at ANL



anode



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- First ionization potential = energy to remove valence electron
- W-Value = average energy per e- ion pair (nonionizing excitations, removal of more deeply bound electrons, etc)
- Energy resolution ~ $\sqrt{N} \sim \sqrt{E/w} \rightarrow \sqrt{F * E/w}$ (*F*: Fano factor)
- $F \sim 0.2$ for gasses, ~ 0.1 for semiconductors







Proportional Counter and PPAC

The high electric field produces Townsend avalanches.
P-10 gas (90% argon and 10% methane mixture)



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Micromegas and GEM

- High Electric field between gap
- Watch leakage currents for possible sparks





Diagrams of Micromegas



Micromegas

GEM

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Scintillators

• Inorganic scintillators: NaI(Tl), BGO, LaBr(Ce), BaF2, CsI, also noble gases

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- Organic scintillators: plastics (solid and liquid)
- Photomultiplier tube (PMT) or photo diode
- High voltage required on PMT



Csl crystal





Low Energy (slow) Neutron Detector

- Neutrons are generally detected through nuclear reactions that result in prompt energetic charged particles such as protons, alpha particles, and so on.
- $\dot{E_{kin}^{H}}$ =191keV $\overset{\bigcirc}{}_{^{3}\text{He}} + \overset{\circ}{n} \xrightarrow{}^{^{3}\text{H}} \overset{\overset{\frown}{}_{kin}}{\xrightarrow{}} \overset{\overset{\bullet}{}_{kin}}{\xrightarrow{}} \overset{\overset{\bullet}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset{\bullet}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset{\bullet}{}} \overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{}}{\overset{}_{kin}}{\overset{\overset}{}_{kin}}{\overset{}$ • Slow neutron: $E_n < 0.5 \text{ eV}$. (b) (c) Q-value (a $\frac{3}{2}$ He + $\frac{1}{0}$ n $\rightarrow \frac{3}{1}$ H + $\frac{1}{1}$ p 0.764 MeV 191 573 764 deposited energy (keV) ¥ ³He[n,p] Q-value ⁶Li[n, alpha] ${}^{\$}Li + {}^{1}_{0}n \rightarrow {}^{3}_{1}H + {}^{4}_{2}\alpha$ 4.78 MeV 10 B[n, alpha] oss-section (barns) O-value 2.792 MeV (ground state) ${}^{10}_{5}\mathrm{B} + {}^{1}_{0}\mathrm{n} \rightarrow \begin{cases} {}^{7}_{3}\mathrm{Li} + {}^{4}_{2}\alpha \\ {}^{7}_{3}\mathrm{Li}^{*} + {}^{4}_{2}\alpha \end{cases}$ 2.310 MeV (excited state) 1 x 10⁻² 1 × 10⁻¹ 1 x 101 1 × 10⁶ 1 × 10 1 × 10 Energy (eV)

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High Energy (fast) Neutron Detector

- 1 keV < E_n < a few MeV
- Moderation technique: Design of tube matrix determines efficiency.
- neutron time-of-flight (nToF) technique: Good PSD is critical.





- 1 keV < E_n < a few MeV
- Moderation technique: Design of tube matrix determines efficiency.
- neutron time-of-flight (nToF) technique: Good PSD is critical.

HabaNERO Neutron Counter





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VANDLE Plastic Scintillator W.A. Peters *et al.* 2016

SABRE Liquid Scintillator



M. Febbraro et al. 2018

S. Ahn et al. 2017





Micro-channel Plate (MCP)

• Micro-channel Plate: electron multiplication using high potential



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Z. Meisel et al., PoS (NIC XIII) 124 (2014).



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Micro-channel Plate (MCP)

• Micro-channel Plate: electron multiplication using high potential



MCP tracking detector used for ToF Mass experiment



MCP tracking detector used for ⁸⁴Se(d,p) experiment



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Detectors Summary

- Silicon Strip Detector: depletion region by pn-junction, measuring charged particles, low rates, E_{ionization} = 3.62 eV, running in room temp., highly segmented (or resistive strip), large area
- Germanium Detector: measuring higher energy γ-rays, operation temp. = 77 K LN2, energy resolution ~ eV, high segmentation, digital readout
- Ionization Counter: E_{ionization} = 30 eV, electron drift velocity and distance between anode and cathode determines resolution of energy and position and beam rate.
- Proportional Counter: townsend avalanches,
- Parallel Plate Avalanche Counter: two plates with P-10 gas, commonly used for particle tracking
- Micromegas and GEM: active target and particle track of light charged particles.

* Micromegas: Micromesh Gaseous Detector

* GEM: Gaseous Electron Multiplier





Detectors Summary

- Inorganic scintillators (NaI(TI), BGO, LaBr(Ce), BaF2, CsI): emiting lights from γrays, converting lights to electric signals by PMT, high voltage
- Slow Neutron Detectors: 3 He(n,p), 6 Li (n,α) , 10 B (n,α) in the proportional counter.
- Fast Neutron Detectors (Organic scintillators): combination of moderation with slow neutron detectors, neutron time-of-flight (nToF) technique (Pulse Shape Discrimination)
- Micro-channel Plate (MCP): electron multiplication using high potential. measuring beam particle track, high vacuum required.





Signal Processing Diagram

Conventional ways to process detected signals



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Preamplifiers

- Remember output is voltage.
- For charge sensitive, output is proportional to charge integrated of C_f , if signal is fast compared to R_fC_f .
- Noise is proportional to C_d.

Voltage sensitive

preamplifier

R₁

Vin









Shaping Amplifier

• Long tail of the preamp signal might overlap with the following signals to appear larger than it is.

• Shaping time (or peaking time) can be chosen from several values.



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Discriminator

- Leading Edge Discriminator:
- Noise makes a bad timing of the trigger signal.
- timing sensitive to rise time of the signal.





Time Analog Converter (TAC)

• Using trigger signals from each detectors, the time difference between the signals can be recorded for coincidences.





Scaler and Time-stamp

- Counting triggers and signal rates is important.
- Recording time of events is also important.

- 250 MHz counting rate
- 32 bit channel depth
- 48bit timestamp
 wt internal clock (= 13 days wt 4ns time resolution)
- [Any important Logic Signals] Clock LiveClock Master Trigger Raw Trigger 1 Raw Trigger 2 Ion Counter Trig. Prescaled Ion Counter Trig.







Signal Processing

commonly used modules (Linear/Logic FIFO(inverterd), Logic Unit, GDG, ECL/NIM/TTL converter, LATCH module, Scale-down module (prescaler))
NIM Logic = true when V < -0.8V, while TTL Logic = true when V > +1.5V



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Analog Digital Converter (ADC)

- Peak sensing ADC
- Switched Capacitor Array for waveform recording



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Signal Processing Summary

• From the preamp signal to DAQ readout



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System Live Time (or Dead Time)



- ✓ Live Time = 28/50 = 56 %
- ✓ Dead Time = 22/50 = 44 %





Integrated Circuits (ASICs)



Conventional ways to process detected signals ...



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Integrated Circuits (ASICs)

- Large number of channels from the detector setup:
 - ✓ Conventional Electronics: space and cost problems, complicated setup, easy signal tracing. ✓ ASIC Electronics: low cost (~1/10) and small space (~1/5), simple setup.
- HINP (Heavy Ion Nuclear Physics) Chip: 16 channels per chip, 512 channels per motherboard
- GET (Generic Electronics for TPC): 64 channels per chip, 256 channels per AsAd board





A picture for HINP16C chip and motherboard G.L. Engel, CAARI Conference (2010) A picture for µTCA crate and AsAd board (4 AGET chips) G. Rogechev, Gas Detections Systems Workshop (2018)





Signal Processing Diagram

• From the preamp signal to DAQ readout









Signal Processing with HINP ASICs

• For processing signals from 1000 channels,



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Signal Processing with GET ASICs

• For processing signals from 1000 channels,



Signal processing diagram using GET electronics

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Signal Processing with GET electronics







Photos of GET Data Acquisition Hardware





Too Many Setting Parameters

However, ...

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Name Nam Name Name	configure-run0718a-Production.xcfg	In the second	×	
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Photos of GET Data Acquisition Hardware

Module-enableMem2pMode: true or false AsAd-Global-Reg1-SCA_Splitting: true or false

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Difficult Troubleshooting



Sample waveforms spectrum of GET electronics





- Single Channel Signal Processing (Self Trigger) \rightarrow almost no dead-time!!
- Recording amplitude and timing (100MHz/250 MHz/a few GHz Sampling rate)
- Correlation in time can be done later.
- We can record the waveform (trace) of the preamp signals for better pulse shape analysis.



Sample preamp output signals S.D. Pain, EBSS2016







- Single Channel Signal Processing (Self Trigger) \rightarrow almost no dead-time!!
- Recording amplitude and timestamp using Trapezoidal filter (100MHz/250 MHz/a few GHz Sampling rate)
- Correlation in time can be done later.
- We can record the waveform (trace) of the preamp signals for better pulse shape analysis.

$$LV_{x,k} = -\sum_{i=k-2L-G+1}^{k-L-G} V_i + \sum_{i=k-L+1}^{k} V_i$$



Figure 6-3: Trapezoidal filtering of a preamplifier step with L=1 μ s and G=0.4 μ s.





- Single Channel Signal Processing (Self Trigger) → almost no dead-time!!
- Recording amplitude and timing (100MHz/250 MHz/a few GHz Sampling rate)
- Correlation in time can be done later.
- We can record the waveform (trace) of the preamp signals for better pulse shape analysis. (~ $\mu sec)$



















Online Data Acquisition

• Digitized Data Transfer:



- Slow Control for parameter settings
- Fast Control for Start/Stop taking data

 \leftarrow Don't worry! This is done by C/S Engineers! Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) programming (so called firmware).





DAQ Graphic User Interface





NSCL DAQ









• Each hit channel contains 2 KB.

→ For 100 evts/s wt 100 channels per evt, total data rate = 2*100*100 = 20MB/s or 70GB/hr.







Experimental Techniques





RIB beam productions

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Beam production and delivery at CARIBU, Argonne National Laboratory

Projected beam rate by future FRIB

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Challenges on Reaction in Inverse Kinematics



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Challenges on Reaction in Inverse Kinematics



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To-Do List





Checklist for Data Analysis

- 1D and 2D hit patterns over channels are useful for system diagnostics.
- Beam normalization and Particle Identification (PID) plot
- Don't forget to measure length and distance!
- Do energy and solid angle calibration!
- Correlation is important! (among detected particles/gammas)
- Check Data Rate and System Live Time and your disk space!
- Do you have theoretical calculations to compare with data online?
- Error Analysis:
- Resolution (FWHM)
- Statistical error
- Systematic error
- Theoretical error



2D Hit Pattern of ADC amplitude vs electronics channels





⁸⁴Se(*d*,*p*) Neutron Transfer Reaction Experiment







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⁸⁴Se(*d*,*p*) Neutron Transfer Reaction Experiment







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⁸⁴Se(*d*,*p*) Experiment Set-up





ORNL Rutgers University Barrel Array (ORRUBA)



Conventional Electronics Set-up









Polypropylene

Phosphor

 C_2D_4 Beam Spot



⁸⁴Se(*d*,*p*) Experiment Histograms

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Raw Light particle Energy vs angle





on S800 events

1D correlated Energy spectrum

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Experiments in ReA3/NSCL







JENSA Setup for ${}^{34}Ar(\alpha, p)$ Reaction







JENSA: Jet Experiments in Nuclear Structure and Astrophysics

• JENSA gas jet target: Chemically pure, highly localized He target with high density and low energy straggling.



K. Schmidt, NPA8 2017

Conceptual Design of the gas jet

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JENSA: Jet Experiments in Nuclear Structure and Astrophysics



Diaphragm compressor



Target chamber and pumps

K. Schmidt, NPA8 2017



Photos of the gas jet system



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JENSA Setup for ${}^{34}Ar(\alpha, p)$ Reaction

- Beam: ³⁴Ar Fragmentation \rightarrow Gas Stopping \rightarrow ReA3 (E_{com} = 5.822 and 6.13 MeV/u)
- Beam intensity: 3,000 ions/s
- Target: 6x10¹⁸ atom/cm²







Photos of ³⁴Ar(a,p) experiment setup









JENSA Setup for ${}^{34}Ar(\alpha, p)$ Reaction





• 75 Ga reaccelerated beams by ReA3, NSCL, bombard 4 He gas target (T=355ug/cm²) in the middle of the HABANERO.

• Position Sensitive Ionization Chamber (PSIC) provides beam current and PID.



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He gas cell target

- 2um thickness Ti window foil
- large gas volume





Experimental Setup for 75 Ga(α ,xn) Reaction

- RIB (75Ga²⁶⁺) beam of five energies (4.0, 3.79, 3.58, 3.14 and 2.91 MeV/u)
- Beam intensity: 6,000 ions/s
- Purity: ⁷⁵Ga = 95%



Experimental Setup Photo





Data Analysis of ⁷⁵Ga(α ,xn) Reaction Study





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TexAT Active Target Experiments at Texas A&M



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A picture for TexAT and GET setup G. Rogechev, Gas Detections Systems Workshop (2018)



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TexAT Active Target



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TexAT Active Target





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TexAT Active Target Experiments at Texas A&M

- Structure of ⁹C -

- Reaction: ${}^{8}B$ + p with 7.5 MeV/u ${}^{8}B$ beam and 10³ pps from MARS
- Target: Methane at 500 Torr

- Looking for "Y"s -

- Reaction: ${}^{12}N \rightarrow {}^{12}C^* \rightarrow {}^{8}Be + a \rightarrow a + a + a$
- TexAT for measuring decay a particles
- CO_2 gas stops ¹²N beams in the chamber.







Summary

Properties of nuclei we want to know: Nuclear Mass, Excitation energy and Spin and parity, Reaction Cross Sections, Half life of nuclear decay, Excitation function and level densities

→ Experimental measurements are necessary to reduce the uncertainties.

- How to study the properties
- How to detect particles
 - Semiconductor (Silicon and Germanium)
 - Gaseous detectors
 - Scintillators
 - Neutron Detectors
 - Micro Channel Plate (Beam Tracker)



- Signal Processing: Conventional, ASICs and Digital (Advantages and Disadvantages!)
- Data Acquisition System
- Some examples of experiments focused on techniques





This is the end of my lecture. Can you answer below questions?

- How detectors actually work.
- Which parameters are actually measured, and which are inferred or calculated?
- How to process signals from detectors.
- Advantage of multi-channel signal processing.
- \rightarrow If so, You are a Detectors and Electronics Expert!!





The End. Good luck with your journey of the Nuclear Physics Studies!

Good luck with your journey of the Nuclear Physics Studies!

