MASTER DI II LIVELLO IN RADIOPROTEZIONE

Neutron measurements around accelerators



Adolfo Esposito Data 18/04/2015

Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma - Via Álvaro del Portillo, 21 - 00128 Roma – Italia www.unicampus.it

Neutron measurements around accelerators

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Introduction

Since the discovery of the natural and artificial radioactivity, at the end of the 19th century, the use of ionizing radiation in all human practices has known an increase without any break.

Concerning only activities with particles accelerators, a number not less of about 18000 machines are in operation worldwide mainly distributed in industrial countries

Category of accelerators	Number in use (1994)	Number in use (2002)
Research accelerators	≈ 112	≈ 120	
Accelerators in industry	≈ 1500	>1500	80% of
Ion implanters+surface modification	n ≈ 3000	> 7000	increase
Synchrotron radiation source	≈ 50	≈ 50	in 8
Radiotherapy	≈ 4000	> 7500)	years
Medical Research	≈ 800	≈ 1000	
Radioisotope production	~ 200	≈ 200	

Total	≈ 9962	≈17370

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During the operation of accelerators, stray radiation fields are generated by beam loss in beam line components and other material that may hit the beam.

At electron machines the secondary radiation is dominated by bremsstralhung photons and high energy electron in the electromagnetic cascade.

At high energy proton accelerators the secondary radiation is dominated by hadronic cascade containing neutrons, charged hadrons, muons, photons and electrons.

Monitoring of ionising radiation around high-energy particle accelerators is a difficult task due to the complexity of the radiation field.

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The ability to distinguish between the high-LET and the low-LET components of the radiation field at workplace and to measure them is of primary importance to evaluate the exposure of the personnel as well as the environmental impact of the accelerators operation.

At proton machines

The ambient dose equivalent outside a thick shield is due

At high-energy electron accelerators

mainly to neutrons minor extent to photons and to charged particles

mainly to neutrons minor extent to photons

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Medical accelerators

The measurement points in the treatment room of the 18 MV Elekta Precise LINAC, installed in the Hospital S. Maria della Scaletta (AUSL Ravenna, Italy) are shown in the figure nearby.

All points are located in the isocenter plane. The isocenter point is P1. P2 (on the patient couch) and P3 are respectively located at 1 m and 1.5 m from P1. P4 is located at 5 m in the maze entrance.

The combined technique was used in P2, P3 and P4, only gold foils were used at the isocenter (P1). Here the copious amount of photons would have probably masked the neutron signal on TLDs.

All spheres were subsequently irradiated to a corresponding isocenter photon dose of 1000 Monitor Units (10 Gy) with a square 15cm x 15cm field at the isocenter plane. The yield of the accelerator was (161±3) MU·min⁻¹.





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Results The fe

The following quantities, considered important for the radiation protection of either patient or workers, were derived for all studied points and reported in Table 1.

> The total neutron fluence per unit photon absorbed dose at the isocenter, $\mathbf{\Phi}$, measured in cm⁻²·Gy⁻¹;

> the evaporation, epithermal and thermal components of the neutron fluence (expressed as a fraction of the total fluence) P_{ev} , P_{evi} and P_{th} ;

> the fluence to ambient dose equivalent average conversion factor, $h'(10) = H'(10)/\Phi$, measured in pSv·cm²;

➤ the ambient dose equivalent per unit photon absorbed dose at the isocenter, H⁽¹⁰⁾, measured in mSv·Gy⁻¹;

BSS type	Point	$\Phi \ (\mathrm{cm}^{-2} \mathrm{Gy}^{-1})$	Pev (%)	P _{epi} (%)	P _{th} (%)	$h^*(10) \text{ (pSv cm}^2)$	$H^*(10) \text{ (mSv Gy}^{-1})$
Gold foils	1	$9.11 \times 10^6 \pm 2.1\%$	64	27	9	$214 \pm 3\%$	1.95 ± 0.07
	2	$4.36 \times 10^6 \pm 2.1\%$	48	38	14	$141 \pm 7\%$	0.61 ± 0.05
	3	$3.98 \times 10^6 \pm 2.4\%$	36	47	17	$125 \pm 7\%$	0.50 ± 0.04
	4	$1.35\times10^6\pm4\%$	33	33	34	$98 \pm 11\%$	0.130 ± 0.015
TLDs	2	$4.15 \times 10^{6} \pm 4\%$	45	41	14	$144 \pm 14\%$	0.60 ± 0.09
	3	$3.89 \times 10^6 \pm 4\%$	37	47	16	$136 \pm 10\%$	0.53 ± 0.05
	4	$1.33\times10^6\pm4\%$	32	35	33	$90 \pm 11\%$	0.120 ± 0.014

Dosimetric and field quantities derived in the measurement points with the gold foil or TLD pairs-based BSSs

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All spectra have an evaporation peak at 0.3 – 0.4 MeV, in agreement with most of the literature works (Thomas et al., 2002; Zanini et al., 2004; Kralik and Turek, 2004; Howell et al., 2005).

The spectra in the treatment room become softer as the distance from the isocenter increases.

In fact the factor $h^*(10)$ decreases from about 200 at the isocenter down to 100 at 5 m distance as shown in the previous table.

It is worth noticing that, whilst the fluence due to the direct "evaporation" component roughly decreases with the inverse square distance from the isocenter, the thermal fluence is roughly constant. This agrees with the formulation from McGinley (1998).

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The neutron spectra in points 20, 25 and 27 of the active monitoring network around DA Φ NE complex have been measured with BSS spectrometer.

Points 20, 25 and 27 were chosen as representative of different neutron spectra possible.



Irradiation geometry of point 20

Point 25 is located inside a building at 5 m height from ground and 8 m from the big window. It has the same geometry of point 20



Point 27 is located inside DA ΦNE building. It faces the accelerator

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The spheres plus the bare detector have been sequentially exposed in the measurement point for one day each.

All BSS reading have been normalized to an independent monitor, in order to eliminate any time variation of the neutron fluence rate.

A rem counter ALNOR 2002B has been used as monitor instrument. Its counts are called "Monitor Units", MU.



The monitor instrument (1) and the complementary devices used in spectrometric / dosimetric measurements around the DA Φ NE accelerator complex. The lead loaded LB6411-Pb (3) in presented with only half lead shielding. The Automess 6150 AD-b (4) has been used to estimate the photon dose.

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Point 20 : Spectrometric and dosimetric				
es				
0.16				
1.1				
56				
16.9±0.6				
$(9.5\pm0.3)\cdot10^{-4}$				
0.108±0.016				
1.8±0.3				
0.37±0.06				

Point 20: complementary measurements				
$LB6411^{norm}$ (µSv.MU ⁻¹)	$(8.2\pm0.4)\cdot10^{-4}$			
$LB6411-Pb^{norm}$ (μ Sv.MU ⁻¹)	$(8.5\pm0.4)\cdot10^{-4}$			
AUTOMESS ^{norm} (µSv.MU ⁻¹)	$(4.8\pm0.2)\cdot10^{-4}$			

Quantity	Watt	Simple	Evaporation
		evaporation	+ high energy
h_{φ}^{*} (pSv.cm ²)	56	60	58
Φ (cm ⁻² .MU ⁻¹)	16.9 ± 0.6	17.1 ± 0.6	17.0 ± 0.6
Fluence below 0.4 eV	32%	33%	31%
Fluence above 10 MeV	-	-	1%
<i>H</i> *(10) above 10 MeV	-	-	6%
Δ	2.56	3.98	2.03
Smax	0.56	0.91	0.54

Comparison of three different unfolding model

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Point 25: summary of the results					
Φ (cm ⁻² .MU ⁻¹)	12.4 ± 0.4				
Monitor unit rate (MU.s ⁻¹)	0.070 ± 0.017				
•	0.87 ± 0.21				
φ (cm ² .s ⁻¹)					
$H'(10) (\mu Sv \cdot h^{-1})$	0.20 ± 0.05				
$H^{*}(10)^{norm}$ (µSv.MU ⁻¹)	$(7.8\pm0.2)\cdot10^{-4}$				
$LB6411^{norm}$ (μ Sv.MU ⁻¹)	$(7.1\pm0.4)\cdot10^{-4}$				
$LB6411-Pb^{norm}$ (μ Sv.MU ⁻¹)	$(7.5\pm0.4)\cdot10^{-4}$				
$AUTOMESS^{norm}$ (μ Sv.MU ⁻¹)	$(6.6\pm0.3)\cdot10^{-4}$				

Quantity	Watt	Simple evaporation	Evaporation + high energy
h_{φ}^{*} (pSv.cm ²)	56	58	63
Φ (cm ⁻² .MU ⁻¹)	12.5 ± 0.4	12.3 ± 0.4	12.4 ± 0.4
Fluence below 0.4 eV	37%	37%	37%
Fluence above 10 MeV	-	-	1.6%
<i>H</i> *(10) above 10 MeV	-	-	8.6%
Δ	6.00	5.90	5.20
S ^{max}	1.70	1.45	1.38

Comparison of three different unfolding model

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Point 27: sum	Point 27: summary					
Φ (cm ⁻² .MU ⁻¹)	27.8±1.0					
Monitor unit rate (MU.s ⁻¹)	2.3±0.4					
$\frac{1}{\Phi}$ (cm ⁻² s ⁻¹)	64±11					
$\Psi^{*}(10)$ (uSv·h ⁻¹)	36 ± 7					
$H^{*}(10)^{norm}$ (µSv.MU ⁻¹)	(4.31±0.15)·10 ⁻³					
$LB6411^{norm}$ (µSv.MU ⁻¹)	$(3.3\pm0.2)\cdot10^{-3}$					
$LB6411-Pb^{norm}$ (μ Sv.MU ⁻¹)	$(3.9\pm0.2)\cdot10^{-3}$					
AUTOMESS ^{norm} (µSv.MU ⁻¹)	$(1.40\pm0.07)\cdot10^{-3}$					

The neutron spectrum as expected cover the whole range included in sorce term

Quantity	Watt	Evaporation	High energy
h_{φ}^{*} (pSv.cm ²)	124	122	155
Φ (cm ⁻² .MU ⁻¹)	28.1 ± 1.0	28.3 ± 1.0	27.8 ± 1.0
Fluence below 0.4 eV	30%	33%	29%
Fluence above 10 MeV	-	-	5%
<i>H*(10)</i> above 10 MeV	-	-	11%
Δ	7.70	8.73	4.90
gnax S	1.90	1.77	1.32

Comparison of three different unfolding model

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Comparisons of spectra measured in position 20, 25 and 27



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Measurements at $DA\Phi NE$



How to select the points for measuring the neutron spectra?

We chose for measurements some "weak point" from the point of view of the radiation shielding.

All these points are located in the non shielded upper window of the DA Φ NE building (around 12 meters from ground), from which some skyshine radiation arises.



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		Quantity	Point A	Point B	Point C
Measurement	S at DAPINE	h_{φ}^{*} (pSv.cm ²)	58	63	155
		Fluence below 0.4 eV	31%	37%	29%
Quantity	(pSv.cm ²)	🧩 Fluence above 10 MeV	1%	1.6%	5%
$Doint \Lambda - 20$		<i>H</i> *(<i>10</i>) above 10 MeV	6%	8.6%	11%
PUIII A-20	30	$\boldsymbol{\Phi}$ (cm ⁻² .MU ⁻¹)	17.0 ± 0.6	12.4 ± 0.4	27.8 ± 1.0
Point B=25	63	$H^{*}(10)$ (µSv.MU ⁻¹)	$(9.5\pm0.3)\cdot10^{-4}$	$(7.8\pm0.2)\cdot10^{-4}$	$(4.31\pm0.15)\cdot10^{-3}$
Point C=27	155	$LB6411 (\mu Sv.MU^{-1})$	$(8.2\pm0.4)\cdot10^{-4}$	$(7.1\pm0.4)\cdot10^{-4}$	$(3.3\pm0.2)\cdot10^{-3}$
	199	LB6411- Pb (µSv.MU ⁻¹)	$(8.5\pm0.4)\cdot10^{-4}$	$(7.5\pm0.4)\cdot10^{-4}$	$(3.9\pm0.2)\cdot10^{-3}$
		$AUTOMESS\mu Sv.MU^{-1}$)	$(4.8\pm0.2)\cdot10^{-4}$	$(6.6\pm0.3)\cdot10^{-4}$	(1.40±0.07)·10 ⁻¹
spectrum avera	ged fluence-to-ambient	Monitor unit rate (MU.s	¹) 0.108 ± 0.016	0.070 ± 0.017	2.3±0.4
doco oquivalant		•	1.8 ± 0.3	$0.87{\pm}0.21$	64±11
uose equivalent	conversion coefficient	$\boldsymbol{\Phi}$ (cm ⁻² .s ⁻¹)			
		$H^{*}(10)$ (uSv.h ⁻¹)	0.37 ± 0.06	0.20 ± 0.05	36 ± 7



Point B. As expected, the giant resonance peak is more evident here than in point A

Point C. The main difference between this point and points A and B is the importance of the evaporation peak, due to the unshielded irradiation condition

The so called "workplace specific
calibration factor" of the LB6411 in pointA is 1.16B is 1.10C is 1.31

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Measurements at $DA\Phi NE$

Some special run of the DA Φ NE complex was devoted to a neutron spectrometry benchmark. The aim of such measurements was to study the neutron spectrum in an unshielded irradiation condition using only e- or e+. The ERBSS was placed inside the DA Φ NE building, along the main axis of the collider.

Particle	Φ/n_2	$H^{*}(10)/n_{2}$	h*(10)	Fluence fraction			H [*] (10) fraction		
injected	$(cm^{-2} \mu Sv^{-1})$		$(pSv \cdot cm^2)$	(Energy in MeV)			(Er	nergy in M	leV)
				< 0.1	0.1-10	>10	< 0.1	0.1-10	>10
e	$(7.54\pm0.19)\cdot10^{3}$	1.20 ± 0.06	159±7	58.6%	40.4%	1%	5.3%	91.7%	3%
e^+	$(6.99 \pm 0.24) \cdot 10^3$	1.22 ± 0.07	176±12	55.4%	44.5%	0.1%	4.4%	95.5%	0.1%



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ISIS is the multi-purpose spallation neutron source of the *Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxfordshire, UK*.

At ISIS, an accelerator complex formed by an H⁻ injector and a synchrotron allows bombarding a W/Ta target with 800 MeV protons.



The target is surrounded by four reflector/moderator assemblies (H_2O , liquid $CH_4@100$ K and liquid H_2 @ 20 K)

Chip Irradiation Beamline

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The thermal neutron detector for the ERBSS was chosen according to:

Intensity of the field
 photon component
 Pulsed time structure of the field

□ Active counters could not be used.

□ TLD pairs (⁶Li/⁷Li) could be affected by large uncertainties due to the presumably large photon component.

□ Activation foils:

The traditional gold-foils based BSS has several advantages (well established, validated) but the activation signal, especially in large or metal loaded spheres (high-energy component) could be insufficient to be counted in situ, with good statistics, using a portable counter.

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A Dy-foils based ERBSS for rapid, in-situ measurements in medium-high intensity fields (> 10^2 cm⁻²s⁻¹) such as medical LINACs, PET cyclotron or nuclear plants were used for Vesuvio measurements

The foils have diameter 12.7 mm, 25 μ m thickness and purity > 99.9%.

With respect to Au: **Higher** σ_{act} (2700 barn vs. 99 barn) **Lower** T_{1/2} (2.34 h vs. 2.7 d)





The percentage of the saturation activity reached by Au or Dy is 0.2% or 4.8% respectively. The effective advantage in terms of measurable activity is therefore 9 * 4.8/0.2 ~ 220

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The ISIS proton current ranged from 170 to 190 μ A. Each sphere was exposed for about 20 minutes.

The Dy foils were counted and corrected for: (1) exposure to counting delay, (2) decay during counting, (3) saturation.

The saturation specific activities (10³ to 10⁵ Bq.g⁻¹) were normalized to the proton current and unfolded with FRUIT

Integral quantities related to the neutron spectrum of the VESUVIO beam-line.

Total fluence normalized to one incident proton	$(1.07\pm0.06)\times10^{-8}cm^{-2}$
Fluence fraction ($E < 0.4 \text{eV}$)	46.9%
Fluence fraction $(0.4 \text{ eV} < E < 100 \text{ keV})$	40.9%
Fluence fraction ($100 \text{ keV} < E < 10 \text{ MeV}$)	11.5%
Fluence fraction ($E > 10 \text{ MeV}$)	0.7%

The uncertainty of the total fluence (about 5%) is mainly due to the uncertainty of the ¹⁵²Eu source (4%) used to calibrate the beta counter.



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adolfo.esposito@Inf.infn.it



The European Commission is funding within is 6th Framework Program a three year project (2005-2007) called CONRAD, Coordinated Network for Radiation Dosimetry.

One task within the CONRAD project was to provide

1) the development of new techniques and the improvement of current techniques for the characterization of complex workplace fields;

2) measurement and calculation of particle energy and direction distributions.

Within this task a benchmark irradiation at GSI facility was planned and held during the last week of July 2006, in order to compare measurement and calculations.

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The GSI (Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung) accelerator laboratory in Darmstadt, Germany, delivers all type of ion beam, up to and including uranium.



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Participants

- **INFN-LNF-Italy**
- Enea-CR Frascati-Italy
- Politecnico of Milan-Italy
- **GSI** -Germany
- **GSF**-Germany
- **PTB**-Germany
- **IRSN** France
- NPI-AS Czech Republic
- IAE Poland
- **PSI-Switzerland**
- Cern -Switzerland
- **ARC-Austria**

UAB - Spain

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Dr Adolfo Esposito adolfo.esposito@lnf.infn.it



Instruments

TEPC

Active and passive BSS

LIULIN LET spectrometers

Elettronic personal dosimeters

Conventional and extended range rem-counter

Fission track detectors

Bubble detectors

Solid state dosimetry (TLDs, PADC)

Measurement Points



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Beam monitoring Cave A



- Sec. Electron Monitor (SEM)
- > 10E8 pps (no saturatio 10E5 -1E8 pps

Scintillator (SC)

< 5x10E5 pps

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FRUIT code & INFN-LNF results

Point OC-11 & MCNP-X



	BSS	Simulated	BSS
	INFN-LNF	spectrum	simulated
$\Phi < 0.1 \text{ MeV}$	35%	21%	23%
Φ in [0.1 – 10] MeV	31%	25%	25%
$\Phi > 10 \text{ MeV}$	34%	54%	52%
Φ (cm ⁻²)	$(151\pm5)\cdot10^{9}$	1	1.00 ± 0.01
h*(10) pSv.cm ²	242±13	282	276±6

Spectra normalized to 1 cm⁻² and in equilethargic representation

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FRUIT code & INFN-LNF results

Point OC-11 & FLUKA



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Measurements at GSI

Comparison OC-10 & OC-11



uantity	OC-11
MGU	
/cm ⁻² nC ⁻¹	1425 ± 1.2
thm/Φ/%	13.1
int/Φ/%	19.5
sal 4/%	28.5
$heb/\Phi/\%$	38.9
IFN (act. BSS)	
/cm ⁻² nC ⁻¹	146 ± 4
_{thm} /Φ/%	6.2
int/Φ/%	28.6
sa/Φ/%	33.1
$hgh/\Phi/\%$	32.1
В	
/cm ⁻² nC ⁻¹	139.2 ± 6.3
_{thm} /Φ/%	15.6
int/Φ/%	18.6
sa/Φ/%	30.7
$h_{gh}/\Phi/\%$	35,1
UVA DACAURY	
UKA/MCNPX	
cmnc	151.7 ± 7.6
1m/Φ/%	9.7
int/Φ/%	11,9
Sal 47%	28,5
hgh/Φ/%	49,9



Hg. 6. Neutron spectra at position OC-10, measured by INFN and PTB and calculated with FLIKA/MCNPX.



Hg. 7. Neutron spectra at position OC-11, measured by HMGU, INFN and PTB and calculated with FLUKA/MCNPX.

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Intercomparison of radiation protection devices in a high-energy stray neutron field. Part III: Instrument response

Radiation Measurements Volume 44, Issues 7-8, August-September 2009, Pages 660-672

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The spherical spectrometer

based on LiF:Mg,Cu,P thermoluminescent dosemeters

^a CIEMAT, Edif. 36, Av. Complutense 22, E-28040 Madrid, Spain ^b IFNF, LNF Frascati National Laboratory, U.F. Fisica Sanitaria, via E. Fermi n. 40, 00044 Frascati, Italy



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com



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Adolfo Esposito^b



Radiation Measurements

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/radmeas

Design and validation of a single sphere multi-detector neutron spectrometer

José María Gómez-Ros^{a,*}, Roberto Bedogni^b, Montserrat Moraleda^a, Ana Romero^a, Antonio Delgado^a,



Design and feasibility of a multi-detector neutron spectrometer for radiation protection applications based on thermoluminescent ⁶LiF:Ti,Mg (TLD-600) detectors

> M. Lis^{a,*}, J.M. Gómez-Ros^a, R. Bedogni^b, A. Delgado^a ^aCIEMAT. Ar. Complatence 22, 28940 Madrid, Spain ^bIFNF, LNF Frascati National Laboratory, U.F. Fisica Sanitaria, Via E. Fermi n. 40, 00044 Frascati, Italy

Nucl.Instrum.Meth. A 584 (2008) 196-203







Fig.4. Measured/simulated response ratio for: a) monodirectional response matrix; b) isotropic response matrix. Experimental uncertainties are around 5% for each data point.

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Future improvements

NESCOFI

NEutron Spectrometry in COmplex Fleids

(SP)² SPherical SPectrometer







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Stesso spettrometro con lamine di attivazione



Design and validation of a photon insensitive multidetector neutron spectrometer based on Dysprosium activation foils Radiation Measurements (2011), doi: 10.1016/ j.radmeas.2011.06.037

Test performed at the FNG



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Number and positon of detectors

Energy response functions to monoenergetic incident neutrons, averaged over the detectors located at the same distance from the center, for three different irradiation geometries:

along the (1 0 0) axis (dashed lines), - isotropic (continuous lines)
along the (1 1 1) axis (dotted lines)

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Energy response function to monoenergetic incident neutrons, averaged over the detectors located on the surface of the sphere, for three different irradiation geometries:

- along the (1 0 0) axis (dashed lines) - isotropic (continuous lines)

- along the (1 1 1) axis (dotted lines)
 - a) Without Cadmiumb) With Cadmium

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Simulated exposure to a high energy neutron field (unshielded high energy electron source).

Simulated exposure to a high energy neutron field (shielded high energy proton source).

neutron spectrum		total fluence (cm ⁻²)	h*(10) (pSv.cm²)	fluence fractions (%)			
				E < 0.4 eV	0.4 eV < E < 10 keV	10 keV < E < 20 MeV	E > 20 MeV
high-E electrons unshielded point	reference	1	216	12.6	26.2	57.2	4.0
	unfolded	0.98±0.02	218±11	14.0	24.2	56.9	4.9
high-E protons shielded point	reference	1	247	12.8	21.8	35.1	30.3
	unfolded	1.07±0.05	238±15	11.6	22.9	29.5	36.0

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CYSP CYlindrical **SP**ectrometer

CYSP is a cylindrical moderator with seven TNDs located at different depths along the axis. An internal 1-cm-thick lead shell allows detecting high-energy neutrons. The CYSP response is sharply directional, and its collimating aperture defines the acceptance solid angle.

The dimensions of the cylinder as well as the location of detectors have been optimized to achieve spectral resolution and practically eliminate the eventual contribution from epithermal neutrons coming from lateral directions. The collimator and the additional shielding made in borated plastic are included to eliminate such lateral contributions over the whole energy range.

The first part of the CYSP is a collimator 50 in diameter 30 cm in length made of polyethylene. The hole diameter is 8 cm, and is covered by 5-mm-thick borated plastic SWX-238. The main body of the spectrometer (right part in the figure) is a 35-cm-diameter polyethylene cylinder with seven detectors located along the axis. A lead disc has been inserted between 6th and 7th positions to increase the response to high-energy neutrons.







Profile of the count rate along the seven measurement positions of the CYSP. Uncertainty bars are 3%.

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"n@BTF"

Produzione di neutroni alla Beam Test Facility (BTF) dei Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati



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