The Practice of Gamma-ray Spectroscopy: Here & Now

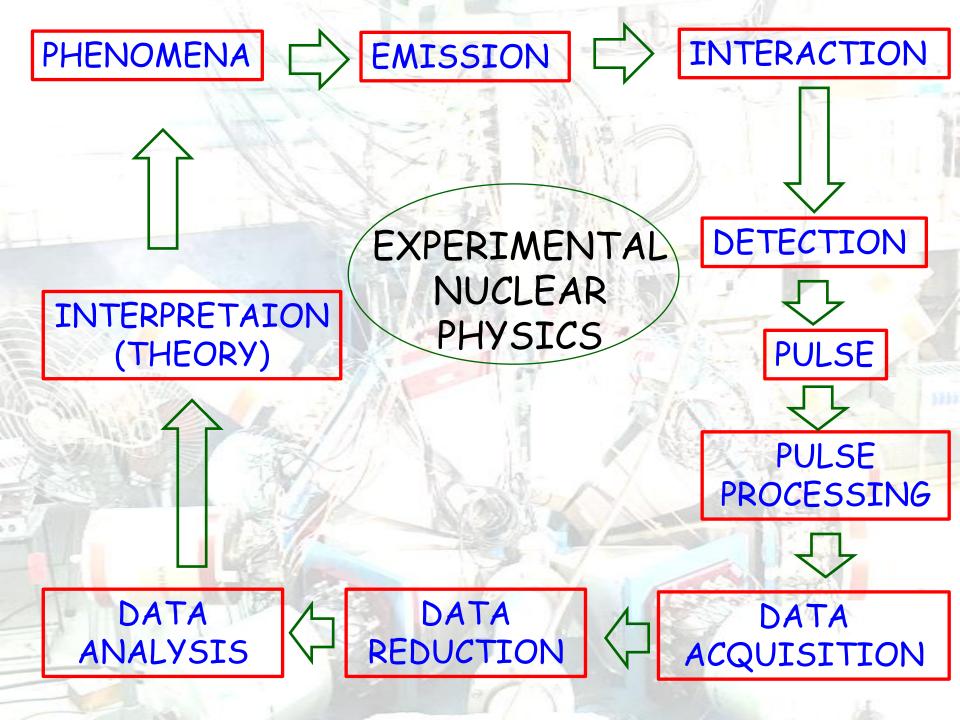
Rajarshi Raut

UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Kolkata Centre

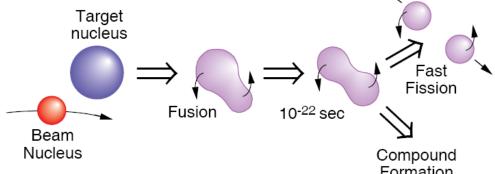
rraut@alpha.iuc.res.in, rajarshi.raut@gmail.com

RAPID 2021 (ONLINE)

@ University of Jammu, 25-29 October, 2021.



Production of Excited Nuclei



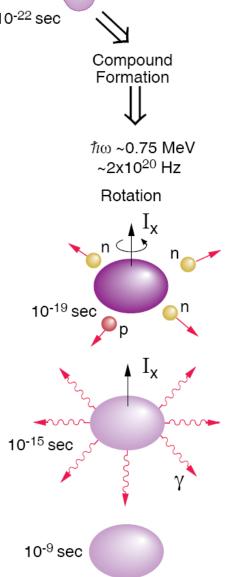
Nucleus: many-body quantum system.

Nuclear Structure Studies: nucleus at excited states (energy & angular momentum).

Angular momentum generation mechanisms: single particle & collective

Phenomena: Bands, shapes, shells, deformations, evolutions & coexistence

Theory: Model calculations to interpret & understand the observed level structures. (Shell Model, for instance)



Groundstate

beam from accelerators (cyclotron@ VECC, pelletron@ IUAC, TIFR)

reactions, radiation detection (HPGe)

pulse from detection

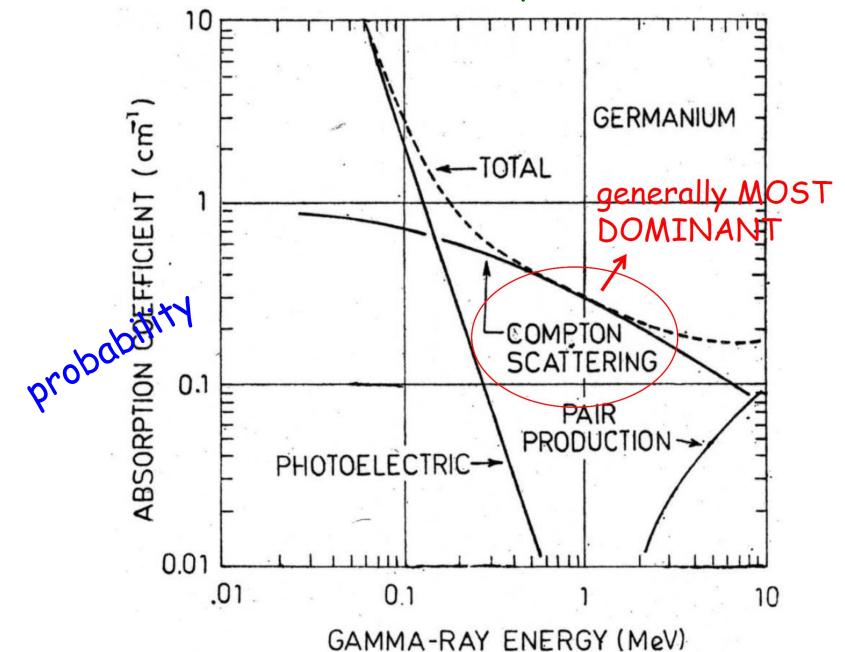
gamma-ray interactions:
photoelectric, Compton, pairproduction; full energy
deposition, Compton
suppression for spectroscopy

pulse from detectors
processed, data
recorded in
acquisition system

pulse processing electronics: analog, digital

data: reduced & analyzed to extract the excitation scheme of nuclei and interpret the associated

Interaction of Gamma-rays with Matter



Radiation Detectors: General Properties

Incident Radiation Energy

- -> Charge Carriers -> Transit of Carriers under Electric Field
 -> Collection of Charge Carriers -> Pulse -> Processing ->
 Amplitude Read-out ->
 Incident Radiation Energy
 - Number of Charge Carriers ~ energy resolution of the detector (spectroscopy) -> width of the transition peak

Variance/fluctuations in the number of charged carriers:

Fano factor (F) = (observed variance) / (E/W)

[Poisson predicted variance on the no. of carriers = no. of charge carriers = (E/W)]

Good energy resolution -> small F

Radiation Detectors: General Properties

Transit of charge carriers in the electric field -> time of collection -> rise time of the pulse -> timing characteristics of the detector

Example:

Gas Detectors: electron-ion pair are charge carriers
+ve ion-slow -> collection ~ ms
electrons-fast -> collection ~ us

Operate the detector in PULSE MODE

(each individual DETECTION is DISCERNED)

for SPECTROSCOPIC applications

(Current Mode operation: average current flow in the detector.....field applications, particularly for higher countrates)

Radiation Detectors: General Properties

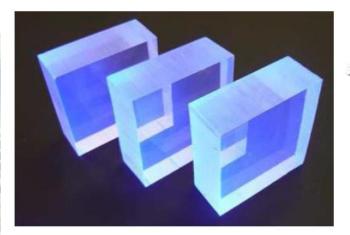
Can be based on different detection media gas (oldest, still used, particularly for particles-fission fragments)

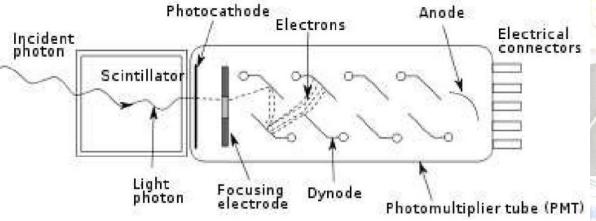
liquid (scintillators, example of usage - neutron detection)
solid (widely used in contemporary nuclear physics
measurements)

Use of solid state detectors are of great advantage in the detection of radiation densities of solids ~ 1000 times that of gas (larger number of interaction points in smaller dimensions) particularly significant for gamma-ray detection

Solid State Detectors Scintillators

Poor energy resolution and do not befit spectroscopic applications.





Average energy / carrier (electron) ~ 100 eV.
no. of charge carriers in a typical radiation interaction ~
maximum few thousands.

Statistical fluctuations on such "small" number imposes a limitation on the energy resolution obtained.

NaI(TI): 6-7% at 662 keV

Solid State Detectors Semiconductors

Widely used in spectroscopic applications, owing to the superior energy resolution.

Fundamental information carriers: electron (e) - hole (h) pairs.

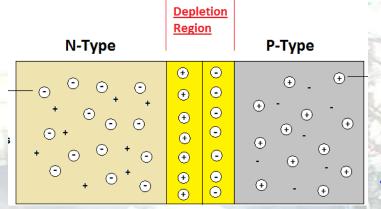
Si: for charged particle & Ge: for γ -rays (Why?)

Energy required to produce an e-h pair in Si/Ge: W ~ 3 eV (compare with

30 eV for an electron-ion pair in gas detector; 100 eV for an electron in the scintillator)

more no. of carriers -> better resolution (as much as ~ 0.2% at 1 MeV)

Semiconductor Detectors General characteristics



Based on properties created near the junction of a p-type and a n-type semiconductor: the depletion region.

It is "depleted" in the concentration of electrons & holes. (only charge remaining: ionized donor sites & filled acceptor sites -> immobile)

e-h pairs created by the passage of radiation are swept out of the depletion region by the existing electric field and the motion constitutes the electrical signal.

Thermal generation of e-h pair? Leakage current?

Semiconductor Detectors General characteristics

Unbiased pn-junction, no external voltage applied: can operate as radiation detector, IN PRINCIPLE, but with VERY VERY POOR PERFORMANCE.

The contact potential across the junction ~ 1V -> electric field is too small to make the charge carriers move rapidly -> loss of carriers due to trapping & recombination.

Thickness of depletion region ~ small -> high capacitance -> poor noise characteristics

THUS, junctions used as radiation detectors are <u>REVERSE</u>

<u>BIASED</u> -> enhances the potential difference across the junction

Reverse Biased p-n Junction

Reverse bias accentuates the potential difference across the junction -> extend to greater distances on either side of the junction

- -> thickness of the depletion region is increased $[d = (2 \epsilon V/eN)^{1/2}, N \text{ is dopant concentration}]$
- -> capacitance (depletion region <-> charged capacitor) = $\epsilon/d \cong (e \epsilon N/2V)^{1/2}$
- decreases with increase in reverse bias -> improved detector performance
 - -> operated with largest possible applied reverse bias to achieve a FULLY DEPLETED DETECTOR $[V_d = eNT^2/2 \epsilon, T \text{ is the wafer thickness}]$

Germanium Detectors for Gamma-ray Spectroscopy

Si/Ge of normal purity can produce depletion region ~ few mm's, insufficient for gamma-ray detection.

Depletion depth \rightarrow d = $(2 \epsilon V/eN)^{1/2}$, N is dopant concentration (low N, greater d for same applied V)

How low in N do we think of ? 10¹⁰ atoms/cm³! (compare with Avogadro's number.....)

Possible in Ge but not in Si ->
High Purity Germanium (HPGe) detectors
for gamma-ray spectroscopy.

Operational Characteristics of HPGe Detectors

Reverse Bias

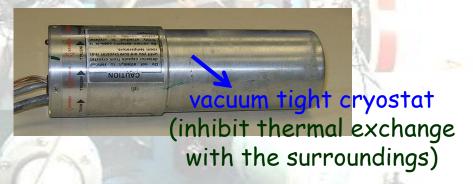
As in case of semiconductor detectors, these are operated under reverse biased condition.

Typical dimensions of crystals are ~ few cm & corresponding bias ~ few thousand V.

Temperature

Small band gap (0.7 eV) of Ge results in a substantial thermally induced leakage current, at room temperature. They are operated at liquid nitrogen temperature (77 K), to suppress the leakage current.





Efficiency Characteristics of HPGe Detectors

Efficiency ~ Energy Dependent (intuitive)

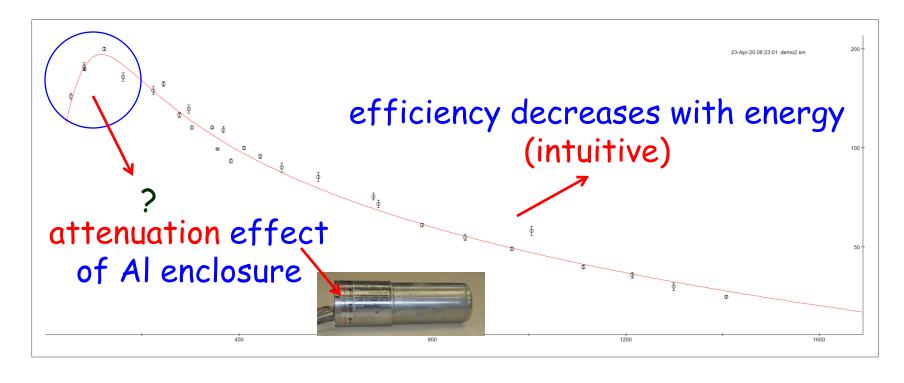
At a given incident gamma-ray energy

Absolute Efficiency = No. of full energy counts/ No. of photons emitted

Intrinsic Efficiency = No. of full energy counts/ No. of photons incident

Absolute Efficiency = Solid Angle Coverage ($\Omega/4\pi$) * Intrinsic Efficiency [Ω = area of the detector (face)/ r^2 , r being the radius of the sphere centered on the gamma-ray source]

Efficiency Characteristics of HPGe Detectors



Efficiency calculated at different energies using standard radioactive sources

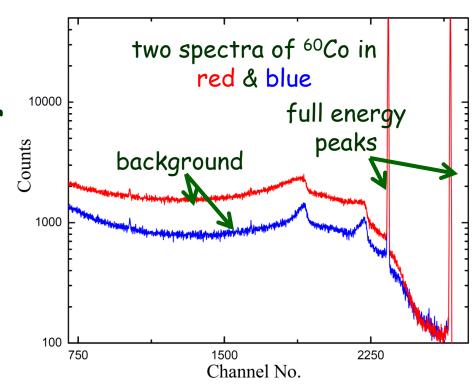
Area = Intensity * Efficiency (intensity -> relative intensity -> relative efficiency)

Fitted with a function to extract efficiency at all energy values.

Gamma-ray Spectrum of HPGe Detectors

Full Energy Peaks
Deposition of the complete
incident energy in the detector
medium.

Background
Compton interactions in the detector medium -> incomplete deposition of incident energy.
(Unwanted!)



Gamma-rays

From the sources / nuclei produced in an experiment (full energy peaks & partial depositions primarily owing to Compton interaction)

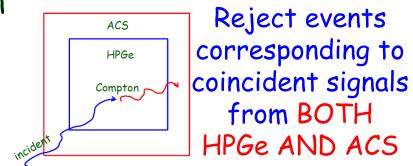
From atmospheric /cosmic origin (very high energies -> partial depositions -> background)

Background Suppression

Cosmic background: passive shielding with high-Z canopy (Pb, W) / rock coverage in underground labs

HPGe inside ACS

Experimental background: Compton suppression implemented through use of Anti Compton Shield (ACS) in conjunction with HPGe



ACS: scintillator (high efficiency) detector. BGO, NaI(Tl) [ACS has NO SPECTROSCOPIC PURPOSE. It is only to detect the presence of Compton scattered gamma-ray]

Quality of Suppression:

Peak-to-Total Ratio (P/T) characterizes a gamma-ray

detection setup

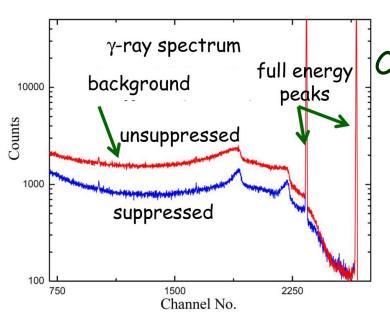
Quality of Compton Suppression

Peak-to-Total Ratio (P/T) (w.r.t. to 60 Co spectrum) =

[Area(1173.2) + Area(1332.5)] / Counts(100 to 1350)

$$(P/T)_{Suppressed}$$
 > $(P/T)_{UnSuppressed}$
[$(P/T)_{UnSuppressed}$ / $(P/T)_{Suppressed}$ ~ 0.5]

Because $(T)_{Suppressed} < (T)_{UnSuppressed}$ Compton Suppression is not expected to affect peak areas (P)



Shortfalls in Suppression Logic

Compton scattered gamma-rays might not interact in the ACS.

(Compton event in HPGe gets recorded)

ACS might detect independent gamma-rays.

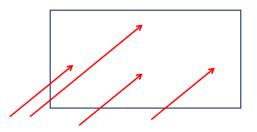
(Full energy event may be rejected)

Improving the Efficiency of HPGe Detectors

LARGE Crystals (!) -> More interaction points -> Greater probability of interaction -> Higher efficiency

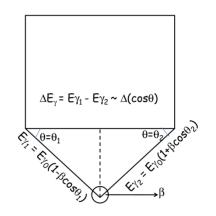
BUT

- (1) Technological challenge to fabricate large HPGe crystals. That'll make them very expensive.
- (2) Larger crystal -> more interaction points
 -> pulses of varied rise times -> detrimental to the timing characteristics



(3) Doppler broadening that afflicts the energy resolution (even when we are not asking for it!)

But larger volume -> better efficiency. So?



Composite HPGe Detectors: Clover

Clover detector. Four HPGe crystals (each 50 mm x 70 mm) mounted on a common cryostat.

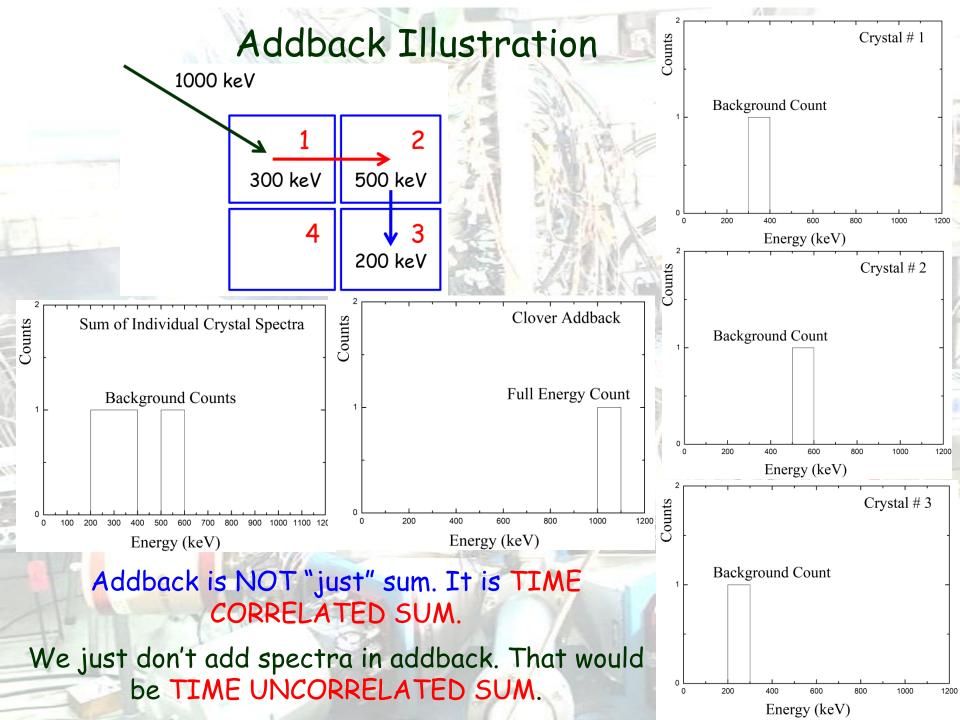
Photopeak Efficiency:
Not just four times but six times a single crystal HPGe at ~ 1 MeV

Addback:

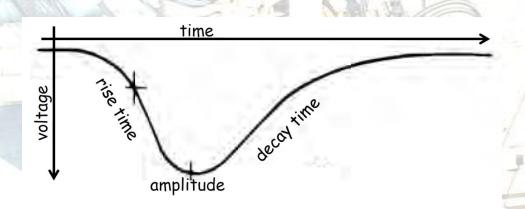
Reconstructing the photopeak from Compton scattering between individual crystals

Time CORRELATED Sum
Identifying energy deposition by a
single incident gamma-ray in multiple
crystals



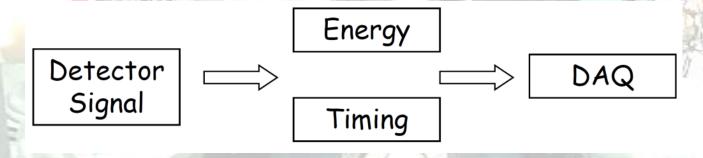


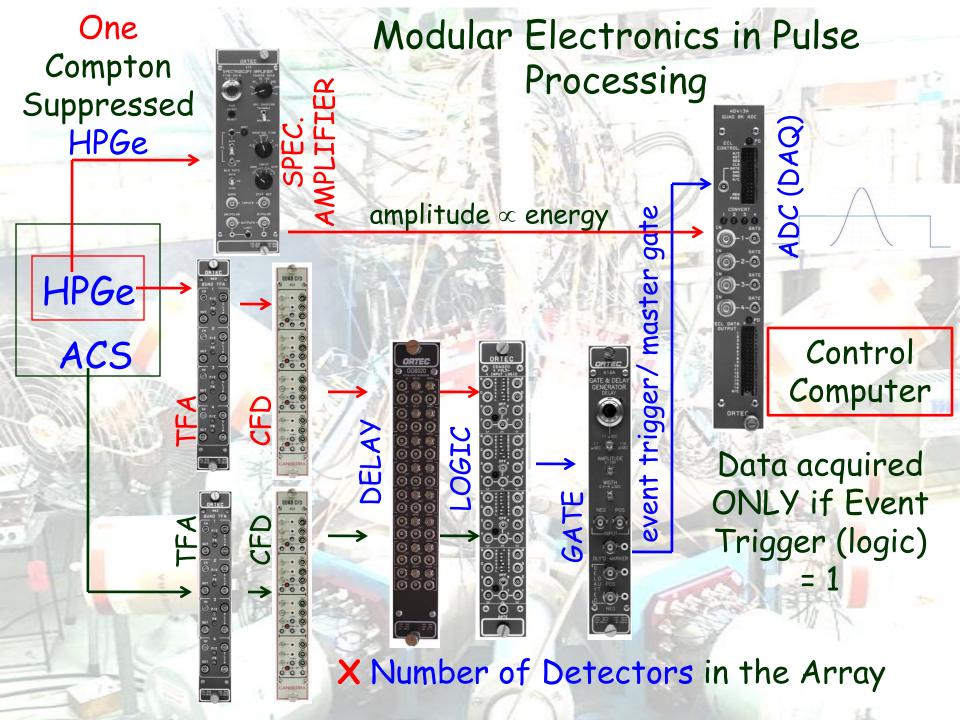
Pulse from the detector -> to be processed for energy & timing information



amplitude -> energy deposited in the detection

rise time -> time marker for detection





Digital Revolution in Gamma-ray Spectroscopy





Firmware

Recursive Algorithms (Filter)



NUCLEAR INSTRUMENTS



Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research A 345 (1994) 337-345 North-Holland

Digital synthesis of pulse shapes in real time for Migh resolution radiation spectroscopy

Valentin T. Jordanov *, Glenn F. Knoll.

Department of Nuclear Engineering, The University of Digital September 1953 (1994) 21 254

Nuclear Instruments and Methods in thesics Research 1953 (1994) 21 254

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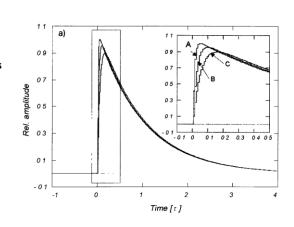
Nuclear Instruments and Methods in thesics Research 1953 (1994) 21 254

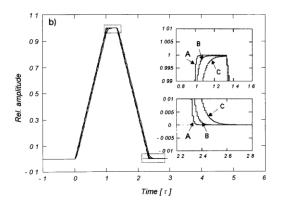
Nuclear Instruments and Methods in thesics Research 1953 (1994) 21 254



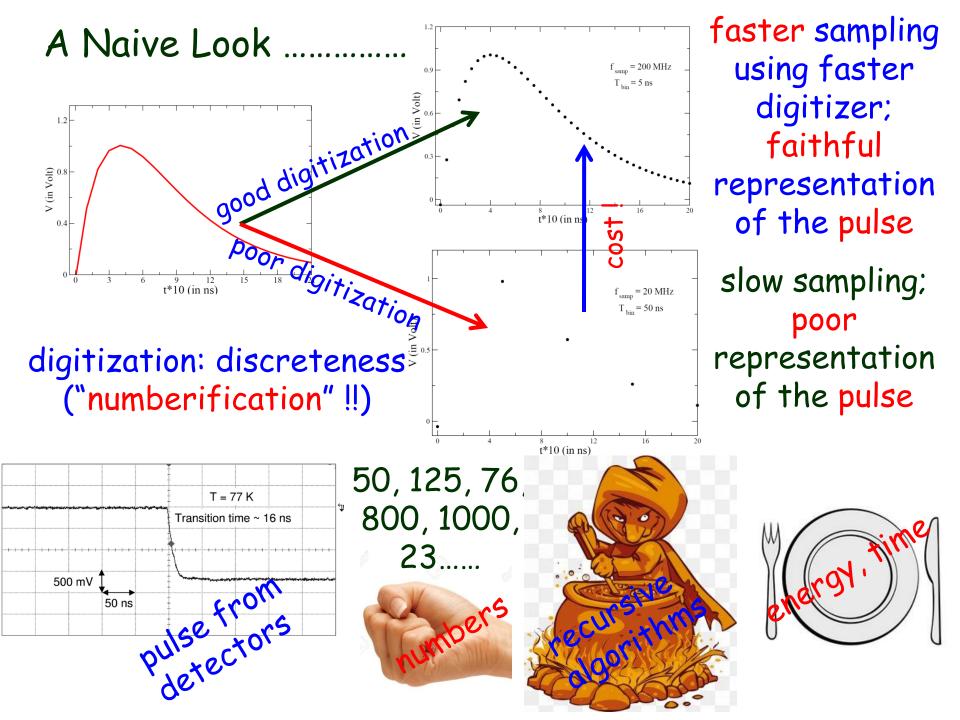
in radiation measurements

Valentin T. Jordanov a,*, Glenn F. Knoll b, Alan C. Huber a, John A. Pantazis a





^a Amptek Inc., 6 De Angelo Dr., Bedford, MA 01730, USA ^b The University of Michigan, Department of Nuclear Engineering, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA



Data Format

List Mode

EVENT-BY-EVENT information recorded in data files

Remember
Event is the fulfillment of a user defined condition

For each event ->

which detectors have fired, what are the respective energies (channel numbers), time correlation info

Data files are STRUCTURED/ORGANIZED into EVENTS.
They are read event wise, for subsequent reduction and data analysis

Appropriate for multi-detector setups, multi-parameter acquisition and generally used in actual experiments

Measurements in Gamma-ray Spectroscopy

Gamma-ray energies (calibration of the data)

Gamma-Gamma coincidence relationships (from gamma-gamma matrix)

Gamma-ray multpolarities: dipole, quadrupole.... (angular distribution/correlation measurements)

Gamma-ray electromagnetic character: electric, magnetic.. (polarization measurements)



Level Characteristics
Energies, Sequence, Spins, Parities
[Level lifetimes from Doppler effect on transition peaks]

HPGe detectors with superior energy resolution for spectroscopy.

Large arrays of detectors to optimize the efficiency.

Advances in detector technology, pulse processing techniques.
Advent of modern detectors.



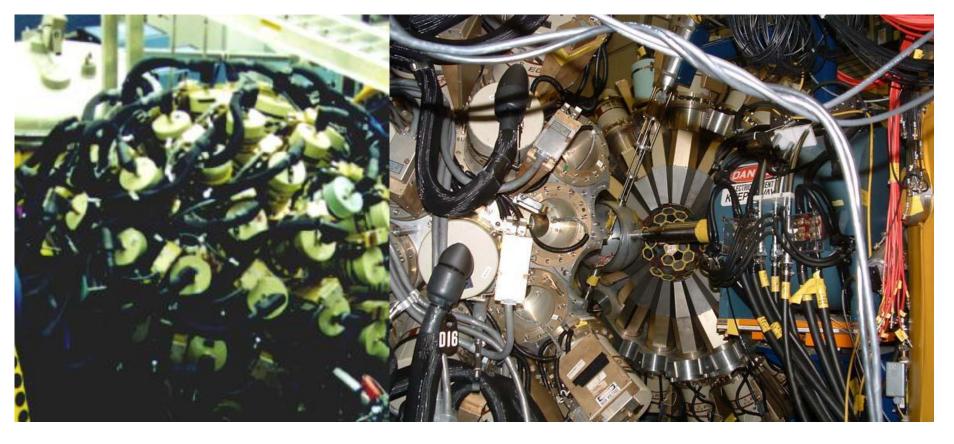
Setup of one or different kind of detectors, depending on the physics being addressed

Efficient background reduction. Compton suppression using ACS.

Coincident measurements for unambiguous identification and assignments. (Typical in γ -ray detector array)

Compact electronics, data acquisitions capable of handling more event rates.

GAMMASPHERE@ANL, USA



110 Compton Suppressed HPGe detectors + Auxiliary Detectors (charged particles, neutrons, FMA)

Setup at Argonne Tandem Linac Accelerator System (ATLAS) @ Argonne National Laboratory (ANL)

Indian National Gamma Array (INGA)

National facility for gamma spectroscopy.

Operational since ~ 2000

An array of Compton Suppressed Clover detectors + available ancillary detection systems.

Resources from BARC, UGC-DAE CSR, SINP, IUAC, VECC and TIFR.

Setup at the three accelerator facilities in the country at IUAC, VECC and TIFR.

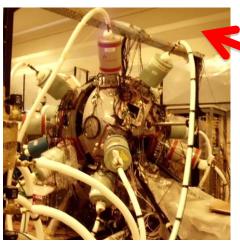
Experiments carried out by research groups from universities & institutes in the country & abroad.

150+ publications, 40+ Ph.Ds

Partially Funded by DST (IR/S2/PF-03/2003/I, II, III)

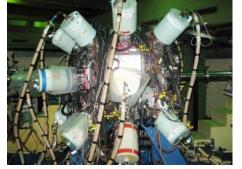
INGA Campaigns





TIFR (2000-01, 2009-13)







35+ User Groups from within & outside the country

TUAC (2002-04, 2007-09, 2016-)



VECC (2004-06, 2017-21)



https://www.tifr.res.in/~nsg/INGAC.php

INGA at TIFR (2000-02)

Nine Compton suppressed Clover detectors

Commercial electronics

DAQ: LAMPS (BARC)

INGA at IUAC (2002-04)

Eight Compton suppressed Clover detectors +

Charged Particle, Neutron
Detectors + Heavy Ion Reaction
Analyzer (HIRA)

Commercial electronics

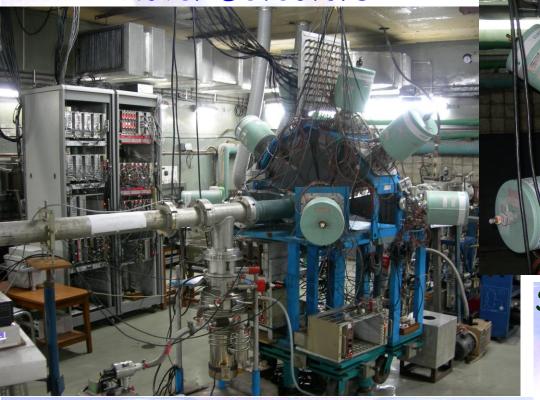
DAQ: CANDLE (IUAC)





INGA at VECC, Kolkata (2004-06)

8-10 Compton suppressed Clover Detectors



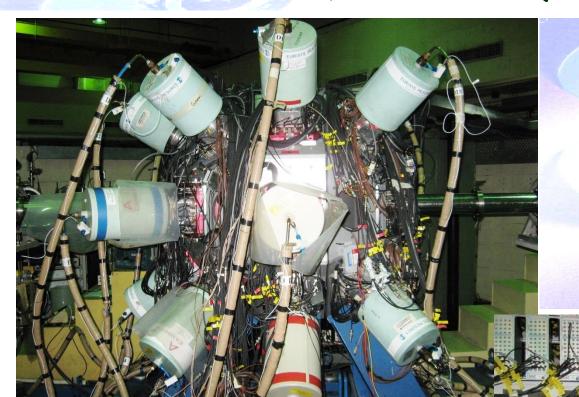
Setup at Cave-II of Room Temperature Cyclotron (RTC) @ VECC

FIRST Use of Clover electronics module designed and fabricated at IUAC

R. Raut et al.,

Proc. DAE-BRNS Symp. Nucl. Phy. 47B, 578(2004).

INGA at IUAC, New Delhi (2007-09, 2016-)



Around 22 Compton suppressed Clover detectors.

Full energy peak efficiency ~ 5% [@ 1 MeV]

Compact electronics setup using the Clover modules designed and fabricated at IUAC

Muralithar et al. [NIM A 622, 281(2010)]

INGA at TIFR, Mumbai (2009-2013)

Around twenty Compton suppressed Clover detectors.



Digitizer (Pixie16 XIA) based
pulse processing
electronics + data
acquisition
system.

The beginning of the DIGITIZER ERA in Indian Gamma-ray Spectroscopy Efforts

Palit et al. [NIM A 680, 90(2012)]

Digital INGA@VECC December, 2017 to February, 2021



6-7 CS HPGe clovers -> clovers + LEPS -> more clovers & LEPS -> 12 clovers + LaBr₃ -> 11 clovers + LEPS

digital pulse processing & DAQ: PIXIE-16 digitizers (XIA LLC)
+ firmware conceptualized by NP Group @ UGC-DAE CSR,
Kolkata Centre

CS detector multiplicity trigger (all detectors) -> optional inclusion of detectors; in situ calibration

Das et al. [NIM A 841, 17(2017)]

Physics with INGA

Example: VECC Campaign (2017-2021)

nuclear structure studies primarily with light-ion (α,p) beams clean reactions, copious yields, low-spin phenomena few experiments with ²⁰Ne beam fission spectroscopy band structures in Hg spectroscopy of Osz=82 excited states in Pr 30+ octupole states in Sm somer studies in Ho mixed symmetry in A~130 experiments near trast spectroscopy in La level structure of Xe isotopes band structures in Sb ransition≈moments in I nol-yrast states in ¹¹⁶Sn spectroscopy of Ru level structure of Se spectroscopy of 5+ publications; octupole excitations in A~70-80 2+ theses; fetimes in sd nuclei 3+ int. conf. ⊳-deformation near f_{7/2}

Physics with INGA: Highlights

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 125, 132501 (2020)

INGA@VECC

First Observation of Multiple Transverse Wobbling Bands of Different Kinds in ¹⁸³Au

S. Nandi, ^{1,2} G. Mukherjee, ^{1,2,†} Q. B. Chen, ³ S. Frauendor, ⁴ R. Banik, ^{1,2,‡} Soumik Bhattacharya, ^{1,2} Shabir Dar, ^{1,2} S. Bhattacharya, ^{1,2} C. Bhattacharya, ^{1,2} S. Chatterjee, ⁵ S. Das, ⁵ S. Samanta, ⁵ R. Raut, ⁵ S. S. Ghugre, ⁵ S. Rajbanshi, ⁶ Sajad Ali, ⁷ H. Pai, ⁸ Md. A. Asgar, ⁹ S. Das Gupta, ¹⁰ P. Chowdhury, ¹¹ and A. Goswami, ^{8,*}

 169 Tm(20 Ne,6n) 183 Au @ E_{lab} = 146 MeV

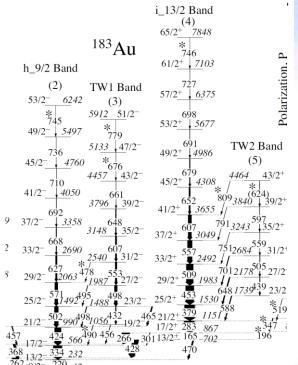
wobbling: triaxial nuclei

wobbling bands:

experimentally validated through $\Delta I = 1$ E2 transitions

(identified based on measurement of multipolarity, polarization) connecting them to the yrast bands

theoretical interpretation: PRM, HFA



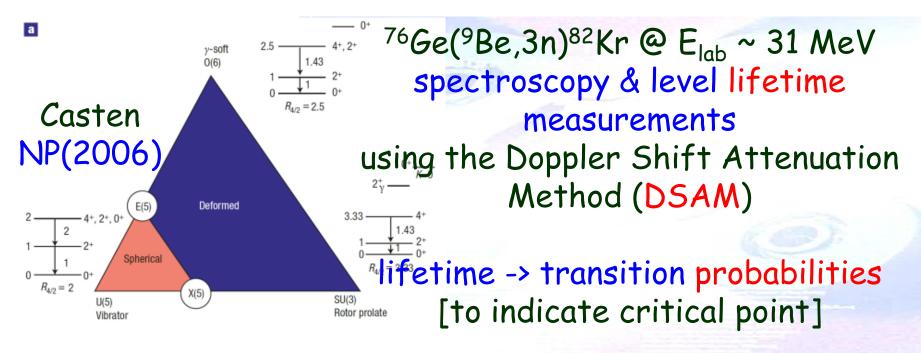
Physics with INGA: Highlights

PHYSICAL REVIEW C **104**, L031302 (2021)

Letter

INGA@TIFR

Experimental evidence of exact E(5) symmetry in ⁸²Kr



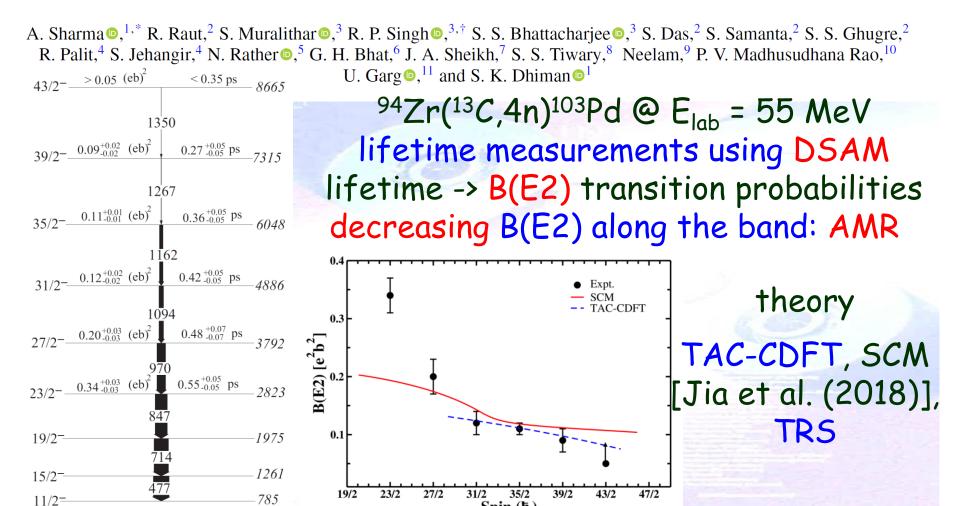
theoretical interpretation: IBA model

Physics with INGA: Highlights

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 103, 024324 (2021)

INGA@IUAC

Evidence of antimagnetic rotational motion in ¹⁰³Pd



Spin (ħ)

polarization

measurement

Transverse Wobbling in ¹³⁵Pr

J. T. Matta, U. Garg, W. Li, S. Frauendorf, A. D. Ayangeakaa, D. Patel, and K. W. Schlax *Physics Department, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556, USA*

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Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai 400 005, India

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F. Dönau

Next is What? Gamma-ray Tracking



AGATA (Europe) & GRETINA (USA): 36-segmented HPGe

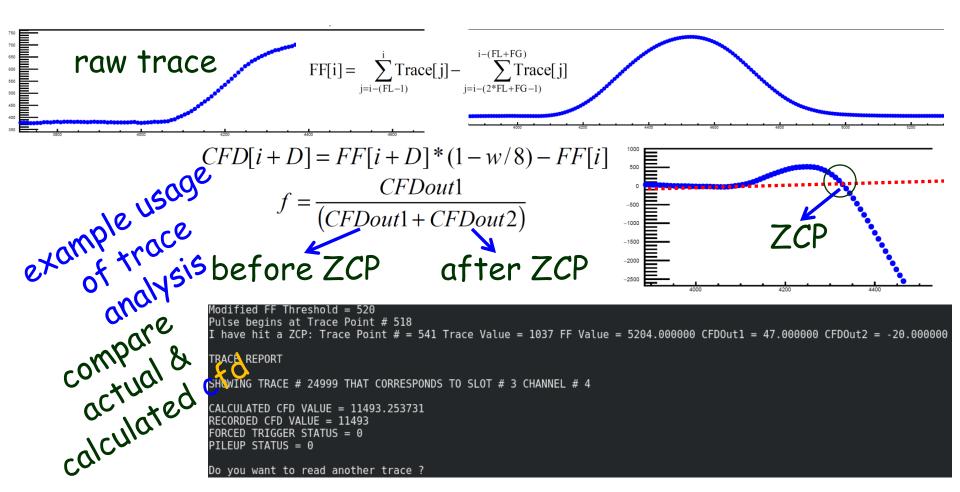


spatial coordinates & deposited energy of EACH interaction is recorded to reconstruct the scattering path to decide full/partial energy absorption

NIM A (2012,2017)

Our Endeavors towards Gamma-ray Tracking trace acquisition & analysis

merit of digital DAQ: acquisition of trace for detector pulse understanding/optimization of pulse processing algorithms



ROOT based code developed by NP Group @ UGC-DAE CSR, KC

Our Endeavors towards Gamma-ray Tracking test setups





setup: 16-segmented HPGe clover (@VECC)

Digital DAQ (UGC-DAE CSR, KC): acquire list mode data with trace (of individual segments) acquisition enabled

Plan: to correlate detection of a particular (full) energy in a crystal with the segment(s) of detection

Collaborator: G. Mukherjee et al. (VECC)

Summary the miles this far & the road ahead

Compton suppressed HPGe based detectors, single crystal & composites (clover), are fundamental in gamma-ray spectroscopy

Detector arrays operational in the country & around the globe

GAMMASPHERE, INGA

Fascinating physics outputs in the study of excited nuclei

Continuing developments in pulse processing & data acquisition

Use of digitizers -> more data

Gamma-ray tracking is the state-of-the-art AGATA, GRETINA operational initial efforts being undertaken in the country

lookup



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com



Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics 60 (2008) 283–337

Progress in Particle and Nuclear Physics

www.elsevier.com/locate/ppnp

Review

From Ge(Li) detectors to gamma-ray tracking arrays – 50 years of gamma spectroscopy with germanium detectors

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^b STFC, Daresbury Laboratory, Daresbury, Warrington WA4 4AD, UK

Gratitude

