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- 1) Brief introduction of IEAP CTU
- 2) Specialized double beta decay experiments
- 3) Selected technologies for deep underground laboratories



Special stamp of the Czech Post





18.4.1869: Czech Polytechnical School in Prague, and Deutsche Technische Hochschule in Prag.



Advertisement of Prague:

- high level of Czech science and education
- very good connections of Prague with many airports
- attractive location



Main research subjects in IEAP CTU:

- (1) CERN experiments ATLAS (ATLAS TPX radiation field measurement, luminosity monitoring, theory, data processing), MoEDAL, AFP, ISOLDE (nuclear physics at CERN)
- (2) Neutrino physics theory, 2vEC/EC decay of ¹⁰⁶Cd (experiment TGV necessity to upgrade), experiment COBRA (finished), detection of 0v and 2vββ decay of ⁸²Se (experiment SuperNEMO), experiment LEGEND (USA/Germany 0vββ decay of ⁷⁶Ge); detection of atmospheric neutrinos in experiments KM3NeT and Baikal-GVD); detection of reactor antineutrinos
- (3) Detection of dark matter experiment PICO in SNOLAB (Canada), neutralino
- (4) Detection of high-energy cosmic rays detection of radiation from universe (8 Timepix detectors on ISS, NASA; Timepix detector on Proba-V and RISESAT satellites; small unit VZLUSat), new projects with ESA (HardPix on-board GOMX-5 Cubesat mission, 12U, 20 kg. Launch 2023; 2x HardPix outside Lunar Gateway as part of ESA ERSA. Launch 2024).
- (5) Applications pixel and strip detectors, imaging (X-rays and neutrons), biomedicine, hadron therapy, study of material.....

IEAP is not "big" institute => all our activities are based on international cooperation IEAP is financed by projects and results (articles, citations, patents...)

IEAP CTU gaseous detectors

 Micro Pattern Gaseous Detectors MPGD (for experiments on VdG accelerator)
 Implementation of SAMPA readout (designed for ALICE) integrated in general purpose electronics for MPGD (collaboration with University of São Paulo, Brazil)
 GAČR grant GA21-21801S (with FEE UWB Pilsen): combining TPX3 detector, Multiwire proportional chambers, Time projection chambers.
 Member of CERN/RD51; 5 senior scientists, 1 Bachelor student.









Selected applications of pixel detectors

1) Imaging of biological objects using X-ray (high resolution): living termites (5s exposure, 0.7mGy dose)

2) Micro-CT of mouse brain







Reference histological section of a mouse brain. Stephenson D.T. et al: in: Molecular Autism **2**(1):7 (2011).



Micro-CT slices can be used for virtual histology with isotropic spatial resolution. Data acquired with large area Timepix PCD at imaging laboratory of IEAP CTU (sample from 3FM CU).

IEAP CTU detectors in space

1) Personal dosimetry and human crew safety (ISS, Gateway)



6 miniature Timepix-Lite online dosimeters developed by IEAP CTU placed on ISS in 2012.



2 HardPix radiation monitors detectors onboard Lunar Gateway station



2) Science (Space weather monitoring, Heliophysics)



SATRAM onboard ESA Proba-V since 2013, still functional after 10 years! High resolution mapping of space radiation at altitude 820 km



Timepix detector onboard Czech VZLUSAT-1 cubesat since 2017.



2xTimepix detector onboard Japanese RISESAT since 2019.



HardPix is part of UK SWIMMR programme. Planned launch 2023

3) Prospecting (neutron and gamma spectrometers)

HardPix neutron spectrometer can be placed in lunar rovers (due to its size and mass even in very small ones) and map water presence in lunar subsurface. Neutron detection already tested by network of Timepix detectors in the ATLAS detector at CERN LHC.

Timepix/ESA Proba-V (LEO, 820 km): highly energetic heavy charged particles (ions)





Timepix/ESA Proba-V: energetic light charged particles





Half-life for $0\nu\beta\beta$:



• background as low as possible (B)

Example of fruitful cooperation (broad collaboration, our strict responsibility for dedicated tasks)

SuperNEMO:measurement of double beta decay in the LSM underground laboratory inModane, France (4 800 m w.e.) – cooperation of institutions (France, UK, Czechia, Slovakia,Russia, Ukraine, JINR); DEMONSTRATOR = 1 module (7 kg of 82 Se)Calorimeter submoduleSuperNEMO:Calorimeter submoduleTracker submoduleModane, France, UK, Czechia, Slovakia,

The goal is to reach a zero background level in the region of interest of $0\nu\beta\beta$.

Demonstrator sensitivity for $0\nu\beta\beta$:

 $T_{1/2} > 5.9 \text{ x}10^{24} \text{ y} (90\% \text{ C.L.}) \text{ and } (m) < 0.2 - 0.55 \text{ eV}$





Calorimeter (712 Optical Modules, plastic scintillator, PMT) is ready. Tracking detector (2034 cells running in Geiger mode and filled with a gas mixture (95% He, 4% ethanol, 1% Ar) is ready. A magnetic field is installed. Gamma and neutron shielding under installation. Data taking. Start of measurement: 6/2024.

<u>Our contribution:</u> delivery of plastic scintillators (NUVIA company), delivery of steel construction, delivery of part of neutron shielding, cooperation in develoment of SW for calibration and tracking (3 students are involved), development of circulation system of inner gas (headed by J. Busto, removing Rn from He, Ar).

<u>"Specialized" double beta decay experiments</u>
a) Excited states of 2vββ decay
b) 2vEC/EC decay

Detector "Obelix" (JINR/IEAP CTU/LSM)

P type coaxial HPGe detector (U-type ultra low background cryostat located at LSM (4800 m w.e.) Sensitive volume 600 cm³ Efficiency 162% Energy resolution ~1.2 keV at 122 keV (⁵⁷Co), ~2 keV at 1332 keV (⁶⁰Co) 12 cm of arch. Pb, 20 cm of low active Pb, Radon free air The price of such detector was 250 kEUROs => we needed international cooperation

Excited states of 2\nu\beta\beta decay of ¹⁰⁰Mo:

- Mass of ¹⁰⁰Mo 2517,15 g
- Total measurement time 2288 h





Process	T1/2 [years]
$2\nu 2\beta^{-}$ decay to O^{+}_{1} [1130 keV]	7.5 x 10 ²⁰
$2\nu 2\beta^{-}$ decay to 2^{+}_{1} [540 keV]	$> 2.5 \text{ x } 10^{21}$





Excited states of $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay ⁸²Se by OBELIX (international cooperation – JINR, ITEP, IEAP CTU, ...)

6,501 kg of ⁸²Se was installed on OBELIX (October of 2021), search for $\beta\beta$ decay into excited states of the daughter nucleus ⁸²Kr, which have not yet been observed by anyone.



- No clear effect was observed in 15000 hours of measurement (10.12.2021-5.10.2023)
- Some ,,indication" on the effect -0^+_1 state
- We reached sensitivity level $T_{1/2} \sim 5-9 \ge 10^{22} \ge 10^{22}$
- Measurements are in progress to reach $T_{1/2} \sim 10^{23}$ y...

Y 1		Limit T _{1/2} (90% CL)10 ²² y			
Level	Gammas with efficiencies	present	MPI	[1]	
2+ ₁ (776.5 keV)	776.5 (2.416%)	8.93	1.19	1.3	
2 ⁺ ₂ (1474.9 keV)	776.5 (1.341%)+1474.9 (0.756%)	6.37	1.02	1.0	
0 ⁺ 1 (1487.6 keV)	711.1 (2.129%)	2.82	0.95		
	776.5 (2.076%)	7.67	1.10		
	711.1 (2.129%) + 776.5 (2.076%)	5.51	1.38	3.4	



[1] J. W. Beeman et al., Eur.Phys. J. 75 (2015) 591

2vEC/EC decay TGV-2 Double beta decay of ¹⁰⁶Cd (international cooperation – JINR, IEAP CTU)

32 HPGe planar detectors \emptyset 60 mm x 6 mm, with sensitive volume: 20.4 cm² x 6 mm Total sensitive volume and mass of detectors: ~400 cm³, ~3 kg Total area of sources : 330 cm²

E-resolution : $3 \div 4 \text{ keV}$ @ ^{60}Co

LE-threshold : $5 \div 6 \text{ keV}$

Double beta emitters:

16 sources (~70µm) of 106 Cd (enrichment 99.57%) ~23.2 g (~ 1.3 x 10²³ atoms) of 106 Cd

•





	Polyedylene Po	$T_{1/2}$ theor. (2vEC/EC) ~ 10 ²⁰ – 10 ²²				
Cu box box Lead > 10 cm Polyethylene filled with boron 16 cm		Decay mode	Final level of ¹⁰⁶ Pd	T _{1/2} , y Phase II* (2012)	T _{1/2} , y Phase III (2021)*	T _{1/2} , y Phase III (2022)*
-	Polyethyleno	1	0+g.s.	4.2×10^{20}	$7.2 imes 10^{20}$	1.7×10^{21}
	Steel Laboratory, France (4800 m w.e.) 4 muons /day / m ²		2+,511.9 keV	1.2×10^{20}	8.9×10^{20}	1.2×10^{21}
0.1 keV		2VEC/EC	0 ⁺ ₁ ,1134 keV	1.0×10^{20}	7.2×10^{20}	9.6× 10 ²⁰
Counts/I			0+g.s.	1.1×10^{20}	6.6×10^{20}	8.4×10^{20}
		$2\nu\beta^+/EC$	2+,511.9 keV	1.1×10^{20}	7.9×10^{20}	1.0×10^{21}
		-	0^{+}_{1} ,1134 keV	1.6×10^{20}	9.0×10^{20}	1.2×10^{21}
		$2 \cdot R + R +$	$0^{+}g.s.$	1.4×10^{20}	3.9×10^{20}	4.9×10^{20}
		Zvp*p*	2+,511.9 keV	1.7×10^{20}	4.7×10^{20}	6.0×10^{20}

Fit of experimental data (45160 h)

Experiment is stopped, we plan: new detector part (32 HPGe detectors with better energy resolution, new electronics).

Selected technologies for deep underground laboratories (cooperation with industrial partners)

- Sensitive background detection (using HPGe detectors tens of µBq/kg) e.g. selection of radiopure materials for construction of underground facilities
- 2) Suppression of radon final source of radioactive background after removing gammas, neutrons, muons....

Example of sensitivity: Air-filters close to nuclear power station (measured in LSM, responsible institution NRPI)

	Sample	II measurement	I measurement
⁵⁴ Mn and ⁶⁰ Co were first time seen in the spectrum	Time of measurement	33,3 days	22.3 days
	Nuclide (KeV)	MDA (Bq/m3)	MDA (Bq/m3)
	Mn-54 (834)	3.39E-009	8.79E-009
	Co-60 (1173)	3.85E-009	1.5E-008
	Co-60 (1332)	2.94E-009	9.9E-009
	Ag-110M (884)	7.61E-009	2.01E-008







Why we need to suppress Rn caused background?

Search for $\beta\beta$ decay on excited levels of ⁸²Se with the OBELIX spectrometer and the influence of radon background:

- Look at radon peaks (the sum of the 351 keV, ²¹⁴Pb, and 609 keV, ²¹⁴Bi, lines from the ²²²Rn) we observe anomalous spikes.
- The reason is unknown (open shielding, stop clean air flushing???), but it cost us a month of exposure, which we had to reject.



Suppression of Rn from air

Radon trapping on charcoal => Radon decays during trapping reduction factor $100 \Rightarrow$, retention time" T = 606 hours (~ 25 days) T (hours) = K (m^{3}/kg) * m (kg) / f ($m^{3}/hour$) T – retention time of Radon in charcoal; m – mass of charcoal, f – flux of gas K – depends on charcoal type, temperature, pressure (J. Busto, CPPM): t (°C) 20 -30 -40 -50 -60 0 $K(m^{3}/kg)$ 4 12 53 78 152 272



A(222Rn) in LSM ~ 10-20 Bq/m³, Antiradon setup: 500 kg charcoal @ -50°C, 7 bars Activity: A(²²²Rn) < 10 mBq/m³ !!! Flux: 150-250 m³/h (ATEKO company, Czech Republic), delivered to USA, Korea,

Italy, China...







Sensitive detection of Rn: stainless steel (50 l); electrostatic collection (HV 12 kV), PIN diode.

1 mBq/m³ means 86 decays of Rn in m³ per day

Energy spectra measured at the beginning (5 Bq/m³) and the end of background measurement (2 months, 11±1 events/day in the ROI (6.2-7.8 MeV, ²¹⁴Po)



R&D for antiradon system:

- Radon infrastructure in CPPM, Marseille (prof. J. Busto):

Testing equipment (in broad range of temperature) for new absorption materials in air, He+Ar atmosphere, influence of alcohol ...

Sensitive Rn detectors

New sorption material Ag-ETS-10:

r _{mes} , °C	Ag-ZSM-5	Ag-13X	Ag-ETS-10	13X	ETS-10
18	7±2	15±2	1400±279		
-12	26±4	114±15	9952±2405		
-30	80±11	247±30	19940±5981		
-50	172±22	632±85		3±1	11±2
-80	2221±329	4519±788		15±2	26±4
-30 -50 -80	80±11 172±22 2221±329	247±30 632±85 4519±788	1994010901	3±1 15±2	11±2 26±4

https://academic.oup.com/ptep/advancearticle/doi/10.1093/ptep/ptad160/7504754



Based on the obtained results, together with ATEKO we received grant support (Technological Agency of CR) – application of new absorbent, smaller equipment, lower energy consumption...



Clean room in LSM (ISO 5, zero-dose environment for multipurpose research)

- Anti-radon system and clean room (ISO 5) was installed in NRPI and in LSM

- Suppression of all types of radioactivity (including Radon) for biological studies, preparation of detectors, enriched foils.....

Low Rn clean room ("ZERO DOSE" radiation condition)–company CRAC (our article - https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2020.589891/full)

Long-term storage HDF (human dermal fibroblast) cells in LN_2 at reduced radiation background conditions

- \circ Reference cells stored in Czech Republic on the surface (no shielding),
- □ Reference cells stored in LSM, France on the surface (no shielding),
- Δ Cells stored in LSM, France under the ground (with shielding).

Start of experiment = March 2022; 3 cells retrievals; analysis = cell viability, cell cycle, apoptosis and proliferation study;

gH2AX analysis and gene expression studies by qPCR upon cells thawing (0 h) and incubation (24 h) Responsible persons: M. Davídkova (NRPI), O. Veselska (IEAP CTU, oleksandra.veselska@cvut.cz)



Cytometric analysis shows that all three cells' groups undergo similar changes. gH2AX and qPCR results are upcoming, Re-installation of clean room with suppressed Rn: ideal location for cells experiments (no α)





Home infrastructure for testing of technologies for LSM-CZ: everything must be prepared at home, "only" application in LSM (financial effective), based on reciprocity

1) Radon infrastructure:

Testing antiradon facility (providing 20 m³/h of air with Rn activity < 10 mBq/m³) Testing and research low Rn clean room at NRPI Prague Sensitive Rn detectors (e.g. volume of 50 litres) and radon concentration line (100 mBq/m³) Radon testing and research chamber at NRPI (range 10 mBq/m³ till 1 GBq/m³)

2) Low background detection infrastructure:

Sensitive HPGe detectors in low background environment (gamma and alpha spectrometry, whole body counter for internal contamination) at NRPI

Ultra sensitive detection technology with pixel detectors for LSM - determination of 137 Cs and 90 Sr in water samples (<1 mBq/l) to study vulnerability of hydrogeological districts in radiation accident

3) Radiobiology and radioecology infrastructure:

Radiobiological NRPI and NRI research laboratories equipped with automated analysis of DNA damage METAFER, incubators, irradiation facility for cells experiments. On-site experimental facilities for radionuclide migration (soil, plants)

Automatic system for changing of samples for HPGe detectors (NUVIA company)





Student activities: measurement of half-life time of Po-214 (also Po-212) with high precision using TPX3 detector (J. Jelínek)

- Measurement was done in NRPI, Timepix3 into barrel with high activity of Rn-222 (units to tens of MBq m⁻³) for 140 hours
- Daughter nuclei attach to Timepix3 surface and subsequent decays were observed. .





The overal result of measurements is: $T_{1/2} = 163,565 \pm 0,034(\text{stat}) \pm 0,022(\text{syst}) \,\mu\text{s}$ Other recent experimental values:

 $T_{1/2} = 163,58 \pm 0,29$ (stat) $\pm 0,10$ (syst) µs (Bellini et al., 2013)

 $T_{1/2} = 163,47 \pm 0,03 \,\mu s$ (Alexeyev et al., 2020, no proper error discussion)

Spatial resolution of Timepix3 allowed to collect large data set (order of 10⁷ events) in short time (approx. 6 days) while maintaining reasonable signal to noise ratio.



Visualizations of the Rn caused radioactivity of the paper tissue used as an air filter at home. The filtering took 5 minutes and exposure time was 10 minutes in both cases.

Not-ventilated room





Ventilated room



Uranium

Measurement of particles in a plane with the pixel detector



Measurement during flight (30 s exposition): muon track

Example of proton track:

Time before landing = 15 minutes







Measurement in conference room (30 minutes exposition)



Time before landing = 3 minutes

Conclusions:

- 1) **Big vs Small experiments:** The most important are "flagship" experiments. Important position for small experiments (e.g. data for special modes of $\beta\beta$ decay, R&D of emerging technologies, education..)
- 2) Theory: support for experimentalists (e.g. nuclear structure theory in neutrino physics, F. Simkovic)
- **3)** Cooperation with EuCAPT (European Consortium of Astroparticle Theory): IEAP CTU (A. Smetana) organizes a second Czech EuCAPT unit (3 institutions, 21 people), e.g EuCAPT workshop of Astroparticle theory
- 4) Industrial companies: for our activities in LSM we have close cooperation with technological companies (common projects). NUVIA, CRYTUR, ADVACAM, ATEKO.
- 5) Infrastructures outside DUL: efficient way to attract new staff and support interest of different institutions, reduction of costs.
- 6) **Organization of collaborations:** example Medipix/Timepix collaboration (headed by M. Campbell), ~20 institutions, "fee" for common R&I (new readout chips), applications are responsibility of teams.
- 7) Financial support for running of DUL: to support the sustainability (10 years), to cover running costs.

e.g. Timepix3 (256x256 pixels): Each pixel can be configured to operate in different mode independently to other pixels Measuring Energy and Time-stamping (1.56 ns, new generation 200 ps) simultaneously Readout modes: a) Frame-based mode (max~1300 fps); b) Data-driven mode (~40Mhits/s), dead time per pixel min. 475ns Max. data rate= 5.12 Gbps Successful story in technology transfer: spin-off company ADVACAM (https://advacam.com/) Baie dankie vir u aandag en uitnodiging

SESTRA - School Education Set with Timepix for Radiation Analysis

- Particle Camera MiniPixEDU (*Timepix detector, calibrated*)
- Control Software *Pixelman Simple preview & Pixet basic* (acquisition, online visualisation, etc.,)
- Alfa source
 (241Am, α and γ source, 9.5 kBq)
- Gamma source
 (241Am, γ source, 300 kBq, optional)
- Potassium Salt
 (β and γ source)
- Thoriated Tungsten Electrode $(\alpha, \beta \text{ and } \gamma \text{ source})$



- Uranium Glass (α , β and γ source)
- Mounting Rails
- Source Holder
- Camera Holder
- Aluminium, Stainless, Copper, Brass and Lead Shielding Plates
- Radiography Adapter Head +Samples with Hidden Patterns
- Vacuum Cleaner Grate Adapter
- USB Cable
- Book of detailed guidelines
 "Experiments Using Pixel Detector in Teaching Nuclear and Particle Physics"



DEMONSTRATION OF BACKGROUND RADIOACTIVITY CAUSED BY RADON





Visualizations of the Rn caused radioactivity of the paper tissue used as an air filter at home. The filtering took 5 minutes and exposure time was 10 minutes in both cases.



Not-ventilated (left) room

Ventilated (right) room



IEAP CTU pixel detectors: Medipix/Timepix collaboration (headed by M. Campbell, CERN):



Typical response of Timepix device to natural background radiation:



Recognizable tracks and traces of

- X-rays
- electrons
- alpha particles
- muon
- electron-positron pair,

e.g. Timepix3

Each pixel can be configured to operate in different mode independently to other pixels Measuring Energy (TOT, dead time per pixel 475 ns) and Time-stamping (TOA, 1.56 ns) simultaneously Readout modes: a) Frame-based mode (max~1300 fps); b) Data-driven mode (~40Mhits/s), dead time per pixel min. 475ns Output data: up to 8 serial lines, 640MHz => max. data rate= 5.12 Gbps

Successful story in technology transfer: spin-off company ADVACAM (https://advacam.com/)

2021 Czech Republic Technology Category

Tracks of Pb ions as measured on SPS beam at CERN (rear-side glancing angular incidence about 4.1 degree) (left – low threshold; right – high threshold)









• Particle type identification (size, roundness, linearity,...)



²¹⁴Bi $\xrightarrow{\beta}$ ²¹⁴Po $\xrightarrow{\alpha}$ ²¹⁰Pb

Timepix SATRAM/ESA Proba-V in Open Space Quantum imaging detection/monitoring of space radiation

Low Earth Orbit (LEO), 820 km altitude





2. ABSORPTION OF ALPHA PARTICLES IN WATER:



Droplet of water



3. X-RAY RADIOGRAPHY:

What is hidden inside?

Block of expanded polystyrene foam



paperclip



smiley



airgun pellet

