

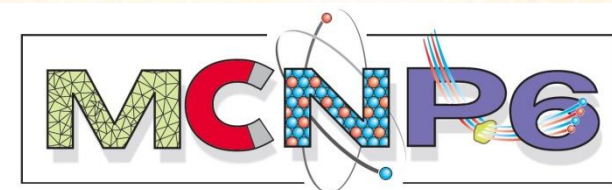


Virtual Presentation

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CONFERENCE ON RADIATION
IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF RESEARCH

June 14-18, 2021 | Hunguest Hotel Sun Resort | Herceg Novi | Montenegro

SuperSYNTH



Monte Carlo Simulation Methods for Gamma-ray Metrology

GESPECOR

EFFTRAN

Ciprian Coşar^{1,2}, Aurelian Luca², Cătălin Matei³, Maria Sahagia^{1,2}



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3. Department ELI-NP, Horia Hulubei National Institute for R&D in Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Măgurele, România



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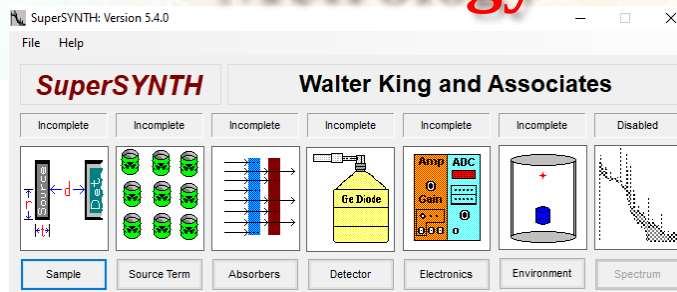
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Content

- Software for Gamma-ray Metrology
- (SuperSYNTH, MCNP 6.2, FITZPEAKS Gamma-ray Analysis Software, EFFTRAN, GESPECOR)
- Europium Standardized Source ^{152}Eu Data
- Uranium Ore Data (^{234}U , ^{235}U , ^{238}U)
- Thorium Ore Data (^{232}Th)
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- Discussions
- Conclusions
- References



Software for Gamma-ray Metrology



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The software is window based, each one is designed to define the setup.

- **Sample Window**, here we tell how our source is (point, sphere, cylinder, disc,) also the distance from source to detector.
- **Source Term Window**, is where we set the chemical element, radionuclide, activity,
- **Detector Window** is where we describe the detector characteristics and material of the active part
- **Electronic Window** here we define the energy calibration of the setup, gain of the setup, ADC channel number & live time,
- **Environment window** is where we define the shield surrounding the detector.
- After all the **6 windows** are parametrized correctly than we proceed to running them in MCNP.

- Monte Carlo N-Particle Transport is a general-purpose, continuous-energy, generalized-geometry, time-dependent, Monte Carlo radiation transport code designed to track many particle types over broad ranges of energies and is developed by Los Alamos National Laboratory.
- Specific areas of application include, but are not limited to, radiation protection and dosimetry, radiation shielding, radiography, medical physics, nuclear criticality safety.
- Important standard features that make MCNP very versatile and easy to use include a powerful general source, criticality source, and surface source; both geometry and output tally plotters; a rich collection of variance reduction techniques; a flexible tally structure; and an extensive collection of cross-section data.
- The key value MCNP provides is a predictive capability that can replace expensive or impossible-to-perform experiments. It is often used to design large-scale measurements providing a significant time and cost savings to the community.



Correction for coincidence summing

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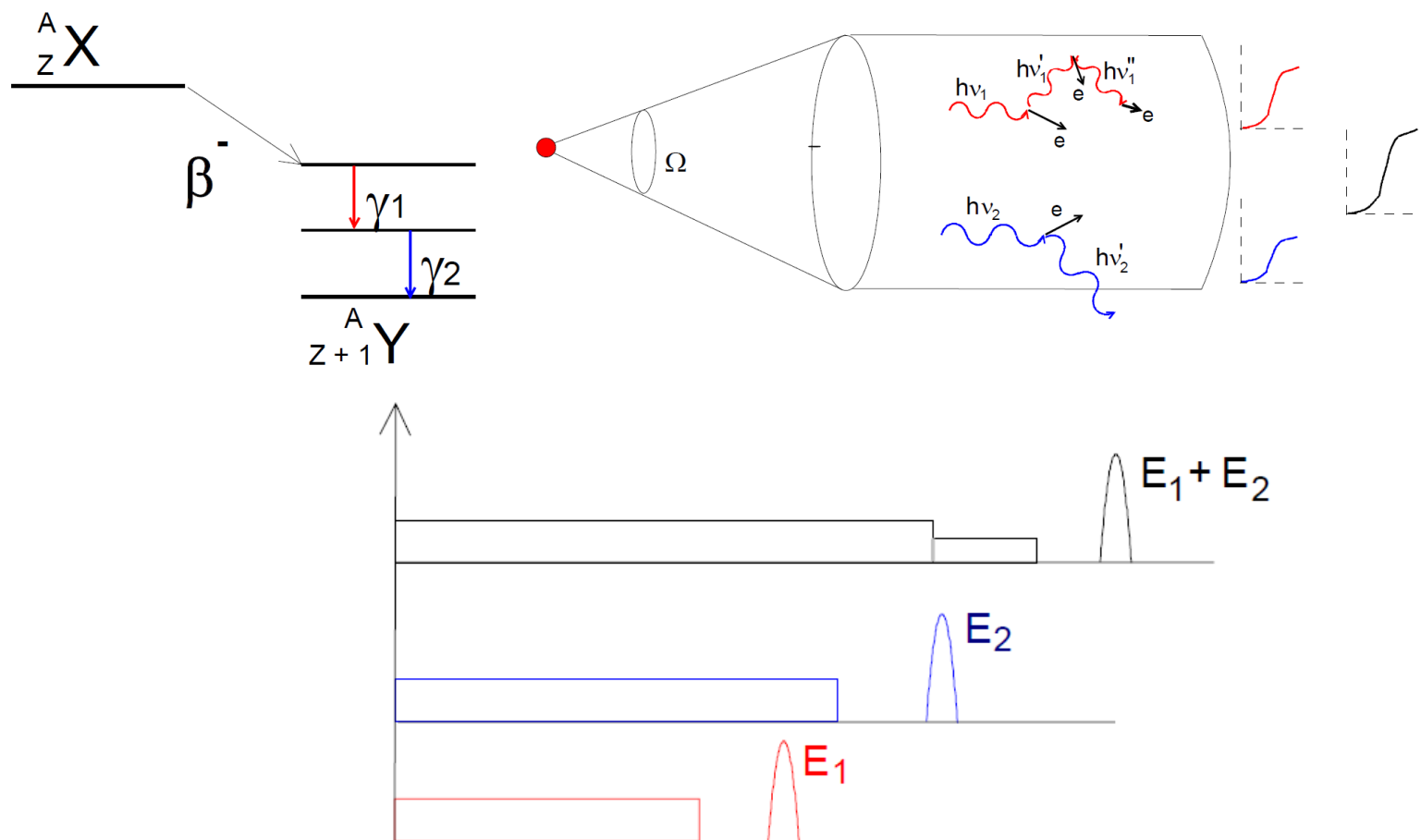
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In many experiments, it has been observed that the relative areas of the peaks change with the distance between source and detector, some increasing, others diminishing.

This effect is the result of simultaneous detection of X and gamma-ray lines in true coincidence.

When a radionuclide has a complex decay scheme, and there can be simultaneous detection of pulses resulting from transition cascades.

- This phenomenon has two different types of effects: loss of counting in the corresponding full-energy peaks and spectra,
- and creation of additional pulses in the background noise together with energy “sum” peaks equal to the sums of the energies



Effects of coincidence summing in a photon spectrum courtesy of ETNA Software Manual (English Format)



Coincidence Summing Correction Software Employed

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Efftran software

A deterministic code was developed for the calculation of true coincidence summing correction factors and has been incorporated into the EFFTRAN tool and was verified against the results of a state-of-the-art full Monte Carlo code. The two sets of results matched on average within 1%. The EFFTRAN code is free software, available from the authors on request.^{1,2,3}

Gespecor Software

In GESPECOR two methods for the computation of coincidence correction factors are provided. The first is a general Monte Carlo computation. This method is accurate, can be applied to any experimental situation included in GESPECOR, but it is time consuming. This method is called STANDARD and it is the default method implemented in GESPECOR. The other method is restricted to the case of well type detector measurements. This method is called ANALYTICAL or FAST METHOD FOR WELL DETECTORS (FAST W.D.).

1. Vidmar, T. EFFTRAN - A Monte Carlo efficiency transfer code for gamma-ray spectrometry. Nucl. Instruments Methods Phys. Res. Sect. A Accel. Spectrometers, Detect. Assoc. Equip. **550**, 603–608 (2005).
2. Vidmar, T. & Kanisch, G. Intrinsic error of the point-source and the LS-curve approximations in treatment of true coincidence summing. Appl. Radiat. Isot. **68**, 1785–1788 (2010).
3. Vidmar, T. et al. Equivalence of computer codes for calculation of coincidence summing correction factors - Part II. Appl. Radiat. Isot. **109**, 482–486 (2016).

- Arnold, D., & Sima, O. (2004). Extension of the efficiency calibration of germanium detectors using the GESPECOR software. *Applied Radiation and Isotopes*, 61(2–3), 117–121. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apradiso.2004.03.031>
- Arnold, D., & Sima, O. (2004). Application of GESPECOR software for the calculation of coincidence summing effects in special cases. *Applied Radiation and Isotopes*, 60(2–4), 167–172. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apradiso.2003.11.011>
- Arnold, D., & Sima, O. (2006). Calculation of coincidence summing corrections for X-ray peaks and for sum peaks with X-ray contributions. *Applied Radiation and Isotopes*, 64(10–11), 1297–1302. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apradiso.2006.02.051>
- Sima, O., & Arnold, D. (2000). Accurate computation of coincidence summing corrections in low level gamma-ray spectrometry. *Applied Radiation and Isotopes*, 53(1–2), 51–56. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0969-8043\(00\)00113-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0969-8043(00)00113-5)
- Sima, O., & Arnold, D. (2008). A tool for processing decay scheme data that encompasses coincidence summing calculations. *Applied Radiation and Isotopes*, 66(6–7), 705–710. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apradiso.2008.02.007>
- Sima, O., & Arnold, D. (2012). Precise measurement and calculation of coincidence summing corrections for point and linear sources. *Applied Radiation and Isotopes*, 70(9), 2107–2111. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apradiso.2012.02.082>



Software for Gamma-ray Metrology

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The FitzPeaks Gamma-ray Analysis Software is a combined research and general purpose gamma-ray spectroscopy analysis and calibration program capable of operating on spectral data from a variety of different manufacturer's systems. It is designed to run under all 32 bit versions of Microsoft® Windows™

The main algorithms used for finding and fitting peaks, and performing the quantitative analysis are based on methods presented in a paper describing the program SAMPO80 produced by M.J. Koskelo, P.A. Aarnio and J.T. Routti of the Helsinki University of Technology, Finland.

The peak fitting is performed using a linear least squares routine, fitting the data to a Gaussian function with an exponential tail on either the low energy, or both sides of a peak.

M.J.KoskeloP.A.AarnioJ.T.Routti, **SAMPO80: Minicomputer program for gamma spectrum analysis with nuclide identification**, Comp. Phy. Com., Vol 24, Issue 1, Sept–Oct 1981, Pages 11-35

<https://www.jimfitz.co.uk/fitzpeak.htm>

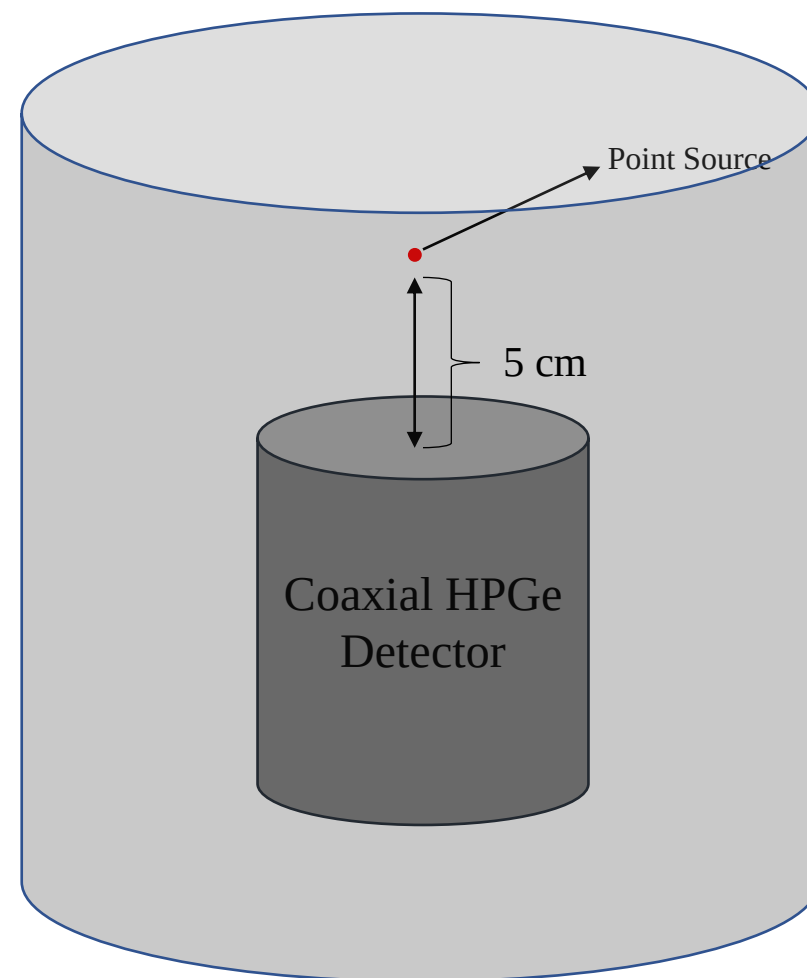


Simulation Details

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- Detector material: High-Purity Germanium (HPGe)
- Source type: Point Source
- Distance Detector-to-Source: 5 cm
- Activity of the sources: 10.000(Bq)/0.27 (μCi)
- Gain selector: 1 keV/channel
- Counting time: 200.000 seconds, 2.3 days
- Channel number: 4096
- Absorber details: N/A, no absorber used!
- The whole experiment was conducted under a simulated lead shield, much like the real detector is placed
- Sources used in Experiment:
 1. ^{152}Eu ,
 2. ^{226}Ra in secular equilibrium,
 3. Uranium ore ($^{234}\text{U}+^{235}\text{U}+^{238}\text{U}$) in secular equilibrium,
 4. Thorium Ore (^{232}Th) in secular equilibrium





Detector Crystal Parameters

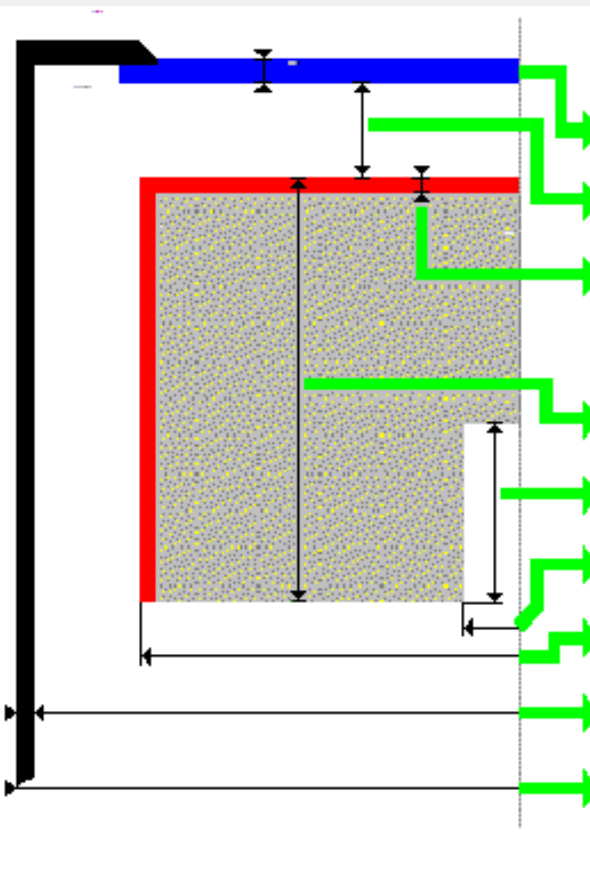
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S/N 47-TP22323A

HPGe model GEM25P4

Detector properties



Detector window material identifier:

Detector window thickness: ± mm

Detector crystal - window distance: ± mm

Detector crystal dead zone thickness: ± μm

Detector crystal material identifier:

Detector crystal thickness: ± mm

Detector crystal hole depth: ± mm

Detector crystal hole diameter: ± mm

Detector crystal diameter: ± mm

Detector side cap thickness: ± mm

Detector side cap diameter: ± mm

Detector side cap material identifier:

Image courtesy of ETNA Software

<http://www.lnhb.fr/rd-activities/spectrum-processing-software/>

ORTEC
AMETEK



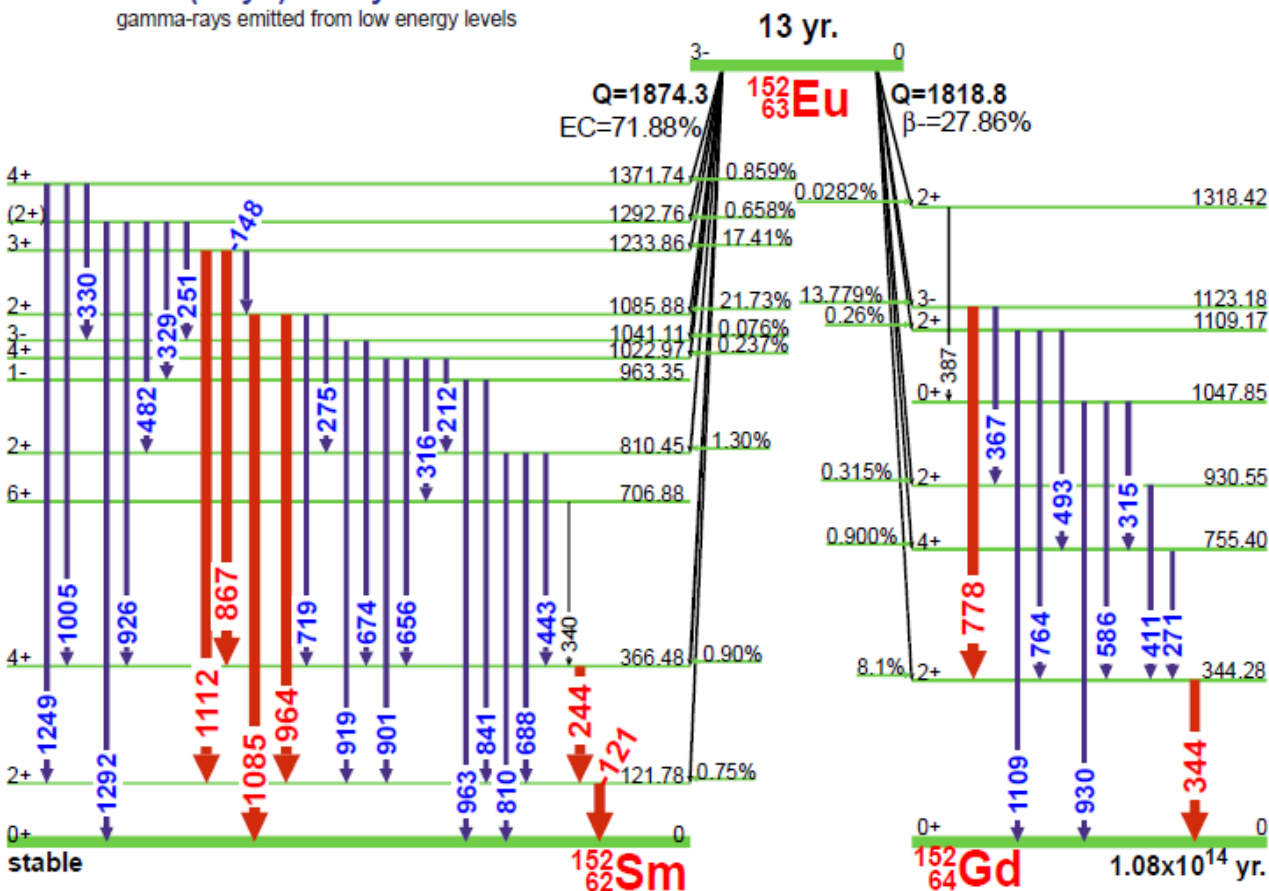
Europium Eu-152

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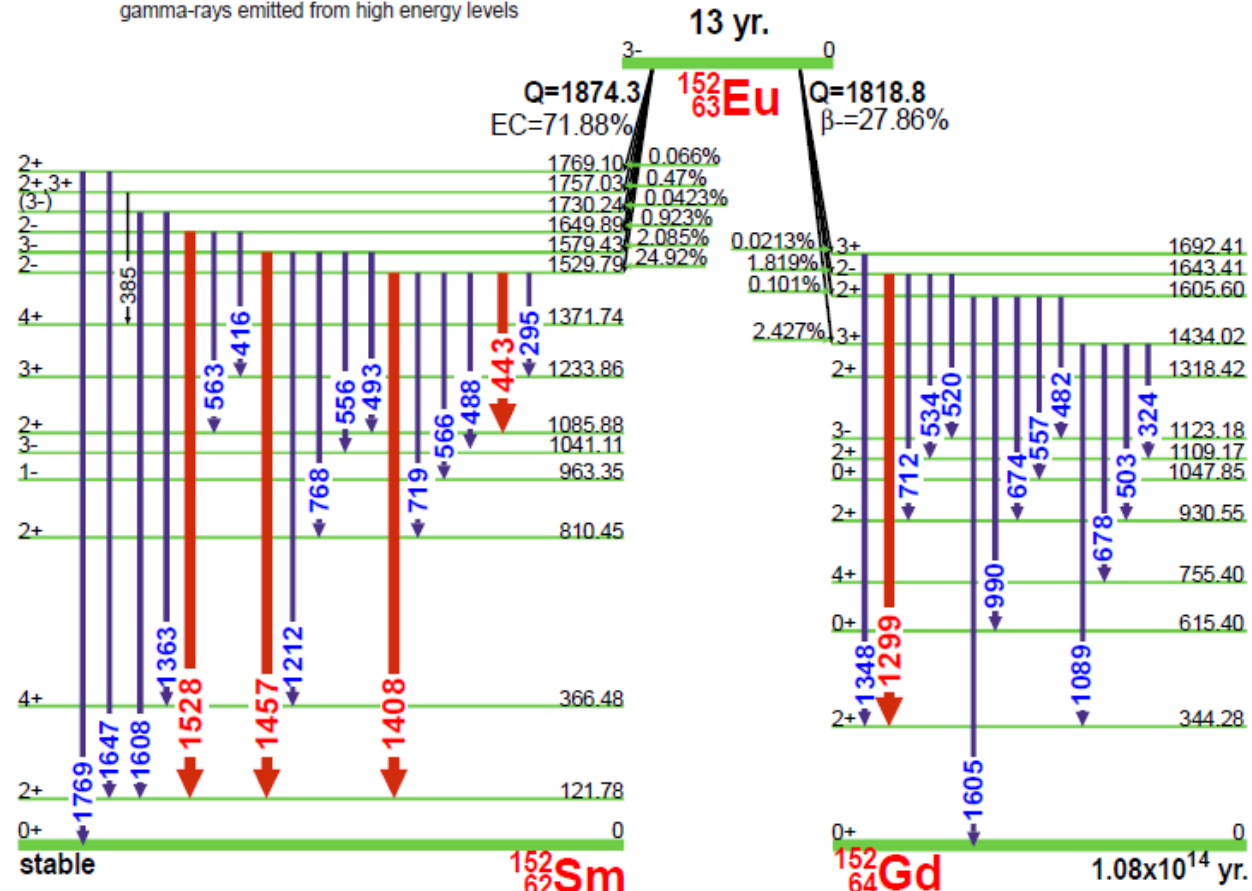
^{152}Eu (13 yr.) Decay Scheme

gamma-rays emitted from low energy levels



^{152}Eu (13 yr.) Decay Scheme

gamma-rays emitted from high energy levels





Europium Eu-152

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	Eu-152					EFFTRAN	GESPECOR	
Chemical Element	Nuclide	Type of Decay	Energy	Area	Err.(%)	Correction Factor	Correction Factor	Err.(%)
Europium	EU-152	EC	121.780	1.22E+07	0.20	1.0751	1.0858	0.0350
Europium	EU-152	EC	244.700	2.50E+06	0.30	1.1103	1.1167	0.0630
Europium	EU-152	EC	295.940	1.06E+05	5.80	1.1204	1.1373	0.0900
Europium	EU-152	BETA- ($-\beta$)	344.280	6.56E+06	0.20	1.0255	1.0538	0.1200
Europium	EU-152	BETA- ($-\beta$)	367.790	1.56E+05	6.50	1.0799	1.1616	0.1100
Europium	EU-152	BETA- ($-\beta$)	411.120	4.56E+05	1.00	1.0631	1.1268	0.0870
Europium	EU-152	EC	443.960	5.77E+05	0.90	1.0969	1.1020	0.0760
Europium	EU-152	BETA- ($-\beta$)	586.270	1.77E+05	3.90	1.0534	1.1088	0.1600
Europium	EU-152	BETA- ($-\beta$)	678.620			1.0798	1.1628	0.1500
Europium	EU-152	EC	686.610	1.36E+05	4.20	1.0889	1.0973	0.1400
Europium	EU-152	EC	688.670			1.0678	1.0290	0.0620
Europium	EU-152	BETA- ($-\beta$)	778.900	1.50E+06	0.50	1.0377	1.0728	0.1700
Europium	EU-152	EC	810.450			0.9792	0.9303	0.1200
Europium	EU-152	EC	867.380	5.89E+05	0.90	1.1250	1.1293	0.1600
Europium	EU-152	EC	919.340			1.0972	1.0870	0.1800
Europium	EU-152	EC	963.390	1.42E+06	0.50	1.0452	1.0425	0.0960
Europium	EU-152	EC	964.080			1.0822	1.0562	0.1800
Europium	EU-152	EC	1005.270	4.22E+04	13.70	1.1233	1.1267	0.2200
Europium	EU-152	EC	1085.840	1.06E+06	0.40	1.0089	0.9709	0.0990
Europium	EU-152	BETA- ($-\beta$)	1089.740			1.0311	1.0551	0.1000
Europium	EU-152	BETA- ($-\beta$)	1109.170			0.9876	0.9654	0.1800
Europium	EU-152	EC	1112.080	1.26E+06	0.30	1.0685	1.0291	0.1500
Europium	EU-152	EC	1212.950	1.46E+05	2.60	1.1217	1.1268	0.1800
Europium	EU-152	BETA- ($-\beta$)	1299.140	9.60E+04	2.30	1.0380	1.0731	0.1700
Europium	EU-152	EC	1408.010	1.47E+06	0.20	1.0740	1.0408	0.2000
Europium	EU-152	EC	1457.640	3.15E+04	4.00	0.9930	0.8838	0.1900
Europium	EU-152	EC	1528.100	1.57E+04	7.10	1.0507	0.9805	0.2600



Europium

Eu-152

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Eu-152				
Corrected Peak Area (EFFTRAN)	Total Err.(%)	Corrected Peak Area (Gespecor)	Total Err.(%)	Difference
1.31E+07	0.2350	1.32E+07	0.2350	1.88E+06
2.78E+06	0.3630	2.79E+06	0.3630	5.37E+05
1.19E+05	5.8900	1.21E+05	5.8900	2.56E+04
6.72E+06	0.3200	6.91E+06	0.3200	5.02E+05
1.68E+05	6.6100	1.81E+05	6.6100	3.41E+04
4.85E+05	1.0870	5.14E+05	1.0870	8.00E+04
6.33E+05	0.9760	6.36E+05	0.9760	1.09E+05
1.86E+05	4.0600	1.96E+05	4.0600	2.68E+04
0.00E+00	0.1500	0.00E+00	0.1500	0.00E+00
1.48E+05	4.3400	1.49E+05	4.3400	2.42E+04
0.00E+00	0.0620	0.00E+00	0.0620	0.00E+00
1.56E+06	0.6700	1.61E+06	0.6700	1.59E+05
0.00E+00	0.1200	0.00E+00	0.1200	0.00E+00
6.63E+05	1.0600	6.65E+05	1.0600	1.41E+05
0.00E+00	0.1800	0.00E+00	0.1800	0.00E+00
1.49E+06	0.5960	1.48E+06	0.5960	1.22E+05
0.00E+00	0.1800	0.00E+00	0.1800	0.00E+00
4.74E+04	13.9200	4.76E+04	13.9200	9.95E+03
1.07E+06	0.4990	1.03E+06	0.4990	-2.24E+04
0.00E+00	0.1000	0.00E+00	0.1000	0.00E+00
0.00E+00	0.1800	0.00E+00	0.1800	0.00E+00
1.35E+06	0.4500	1.30E+06	0.4500	1.22E+05
1.64E+05	2.7800	1.64E+05	2.7800	3.42E+04
9.97E+04	2.4700	1.03E+05	2.4700	1.02E+04
1.57E+06	0.4000	1.53E+06	0.4000	1.66E+05
3.13E+04	4.1900	2.78E+04	4.1900	-4.36E+03
1.65E+04	7.3600	1.54E+04	7.3600	4.83E+02



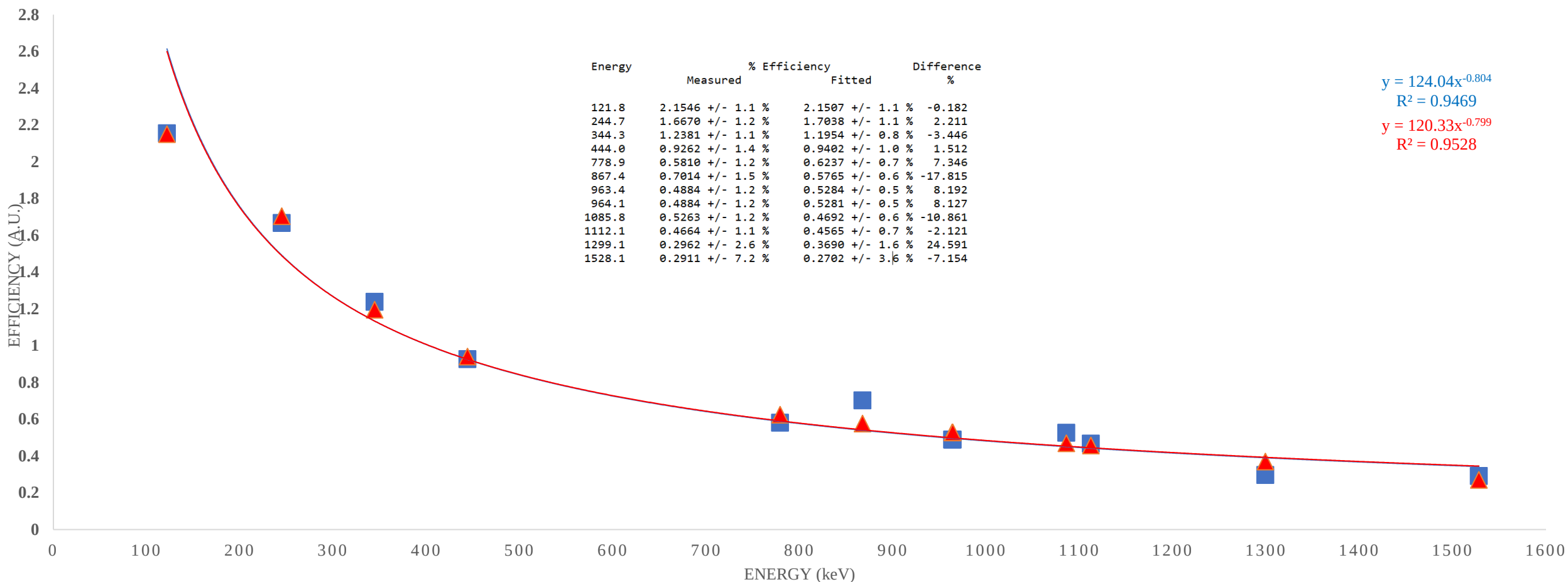
Europium Eu-152

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EUROPIUM (EU-152)

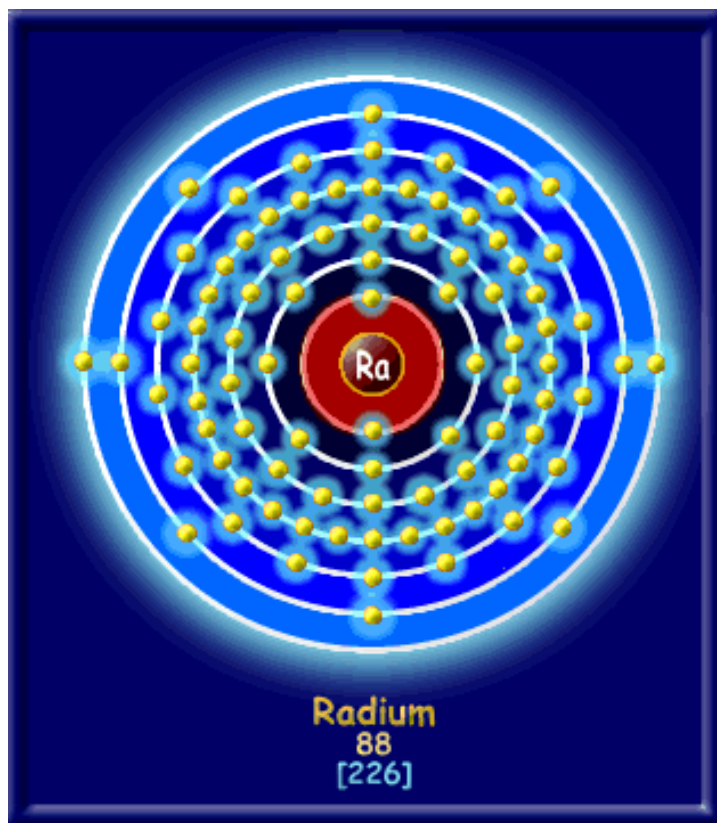
■ Measured ▲ Fitted — Power (Measured) — Power (Fitted)



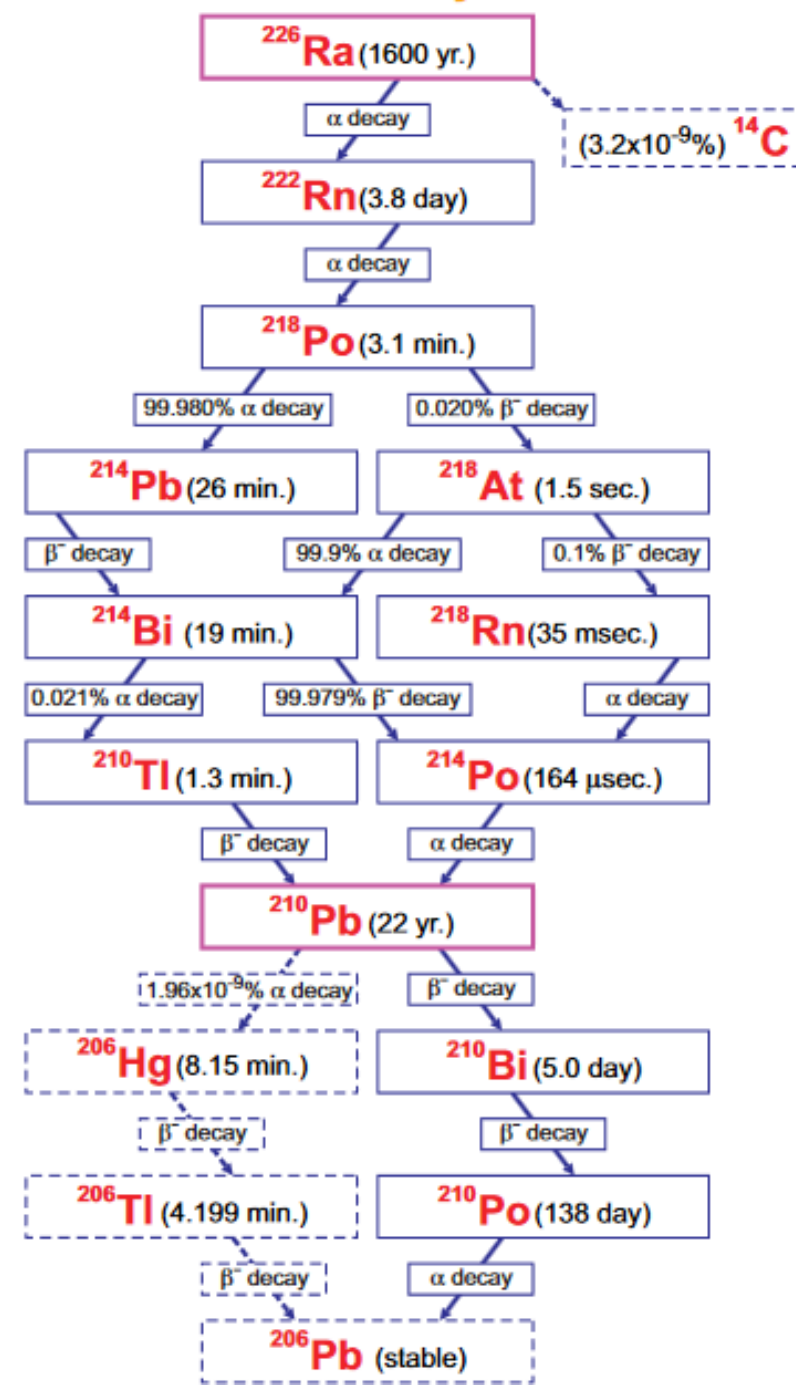


Radium Ore Ra-226

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²²⁶Ra Decay Chain





Radium Ore

Ra-226

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	Radium & Daughter Nuclides					EFFTRAN	GESPECOR	
Chemical Element	Nuclide	Type of Decay	Energy	Area	Err.(%)	Correction Factor	Correction Factor	Err.(%)
Uranium/Radium	RA-226	ALPHA	186.21	1.66E+06	1.0	1.0000	1.0000	0.0570
Uranium	U-235	ALPHA	205.31			1.0000	1.0057	0.0540
Uranium/Radium	PB-214	BETA-	351.93	8.49E+06	0.1	1.0000	1.0007	0.0850
Uranium/Radium	BI-214	BETA-	609.32	6.44E+06	0.1	1.0330	1.0709	0.1600
Uranium	PA-234M	BETA-	1001.03			0.9990	0.9956	0.1300
Uranium/Radium	BI-214	BETA-	1120.29	1.29E+06	0.5	1.0370	1.0776	0.1500
Uranium/Radium	BI-214	BETA-	1238.11	4.43E+05	0.8	1.0350	1.0728	0.2000
Uranium/Radium	BI-214	BETA-	1377.67	3.18E+05	1.0	0.9840	0.9518	0.1800
Uranium/Radium	BI-214	BETA-	1764.54	9.08E+05	0.8	0.9990	0.9960	0.1700
Uranium/Radium	BI-214	BETA-	2204.07	2.46E+05	0.9	0.9990	0.9962	0.2900

Radium & Daughter Nuclides				
Corrected Peak Area (EFFTRAN)	Total Err.(%)	Corrected Peak Area (Gespecor)	Total Err.(%)	Difference
1.66E+06	1.0570	1.66E+06	1.0570	0.00E+00
0.00E+00	0.0540	0.00E+00	0.0540	0.00E+00
8.49E+06	0.1850	8.50E+06	0.1850	5.60E+03
6.65E+06	0.2600	6.89E+06	0.2600	6.38E+05
0.00E+00	0.1300	0.00E+00	0.1300	0.00E+00
1.34E+06	0.6500	1.39E+06	0.6500	1.40E+05
4.59E+05	1.0000	4.76E+05	1.0000	4.56E+04
3.13E+05	1.1800	3.03E+05	1.1800	-2.12E+04
9.07E+05	0.9700	9.05E+05	0.9700	-4.54E+03
2.46E+05	1.1900	2.45E+05	1.1900	-1.18E+03



Radium Ore

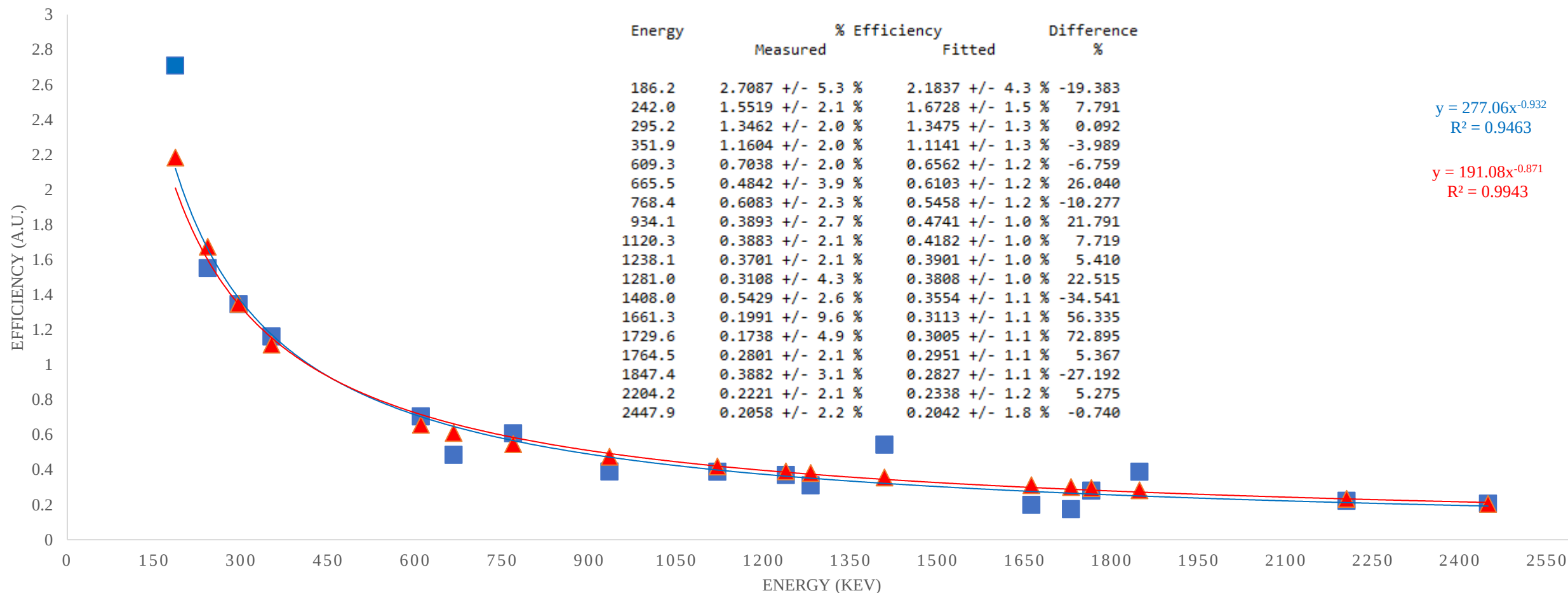
Ra-226

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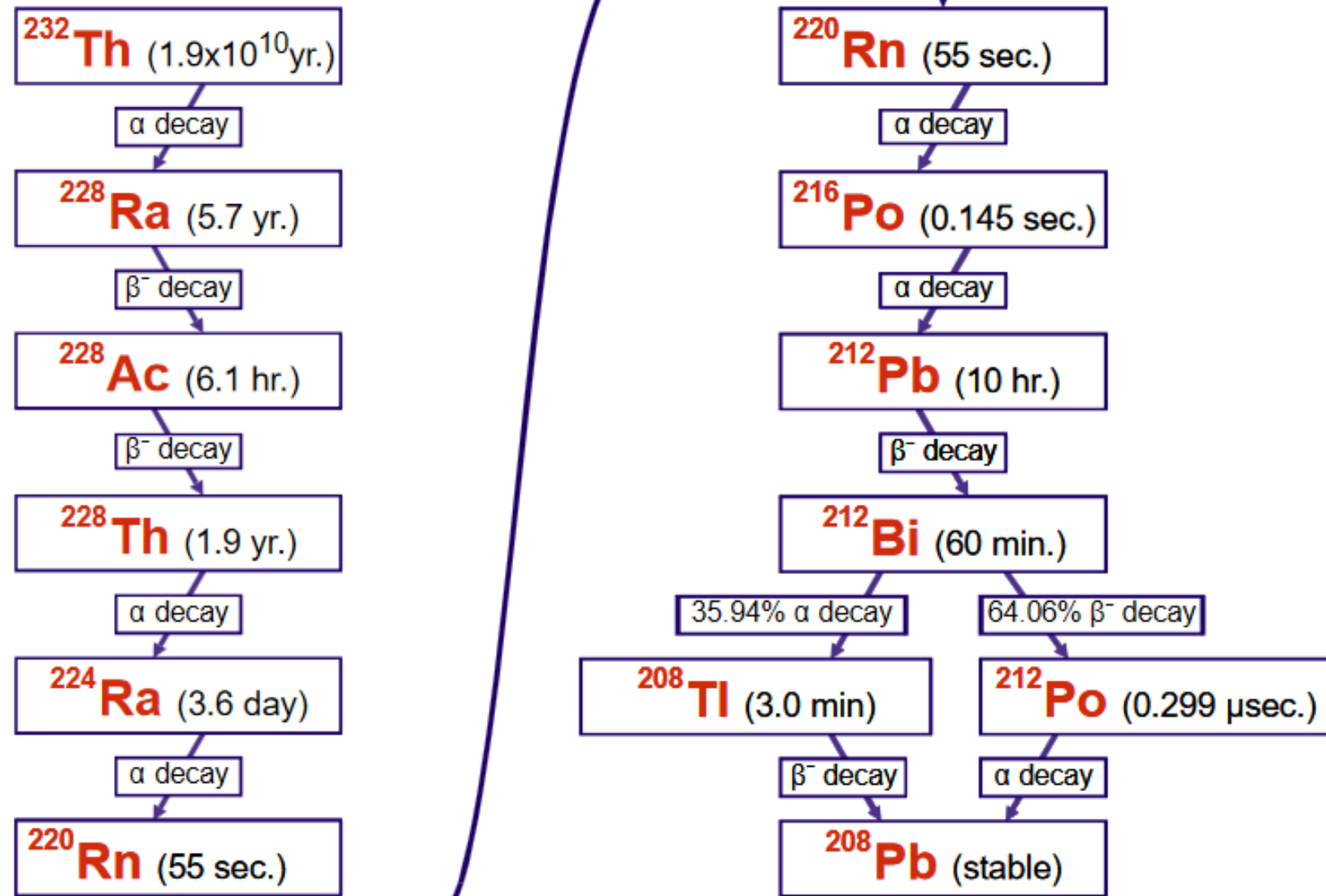
RADIUM AND DAUGHTER NUCLIDES (RA-226)

■ Measured ▲ Fitted — Power (Measured) — Power (Fitted)



Thorium Ore

Th Ore Decay Chain





Thorium Ore

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Chemical Element	Thorium Ore					EFFTRAN	GESPECOR	Err.(%)
	Nuclide	Type of Decay	Energy	Area	Err.(%)	Correction Factor	Correction Factor	
Thorium	AC-228	BETA-	18.420			1.0720	1.1159	0.0900
Thorium	AC-228	BETA-	99.500			1.0700	1.0182	0.0630
Thorium	PB-212	BETA-	238.630	9.09E+06	0.3	1.0000	1.0148	0.1100
Thorium	AC-228	BETA-	338.320	2.35E+06	1	1.0080	1.0146	0.2000
Thorium	TL-208	BETA-	583.190	2.67E+06	0.3	1.0410	1.1721	0.0340
Thorium	BI-212	BETA-	727.330	5.72E+05	2.8	1.0110	1.0001	0.0430
Thorium	TL-208	BETA-	860.560	2.05E+05	7.3	1.0070	1.0220	0.1700
Thorium	AC-228	BETA-	911.200	1.94E+06	0.9	1.0090	1.1038	0.1600
Thorium	AC-228	BETA-	968.970	1.39E+06	0.4	1.0090	1.0879	0.0820
Thorium	TL-208	BETA-	2614.510	7.89E+05	0.2	1.0510	1.0160	0.1400

Thorium Ore				
Corrected Peak Area (EFFTRAN)	Total Err.(%)	Corrected Peak Area (Gespecor)	Total Err.(%)	Difference
0.00E+00	0.0900	0.00E+00	0.0900	0.00E+00
0.00E+00	0.0630	0.00E+00	0.0630	0.00E+00
9.09E+06	0.4100	9.23E+06	0.4100	1.33E+05
2.37E+06	1.2000	2.38E+06	1.2000	5.25E+04
2.78E+06	0.3340	3.13E+06	0.3340	5.02E+05
5.78E+05	2.8430	5.72E+05	2.8430	6.33E+03
2.07E+05	7.4700	2.10E+05	7.4700	5.85E+03
1.96E+06	1.0600	2.14E+06	1.0600	2.00E+05
1.40E+06	0.4820	1.51E+06	0.4820	1.25E+05
8.29E+05	0.3400	8.02E+05	0.3400	5.27E+04



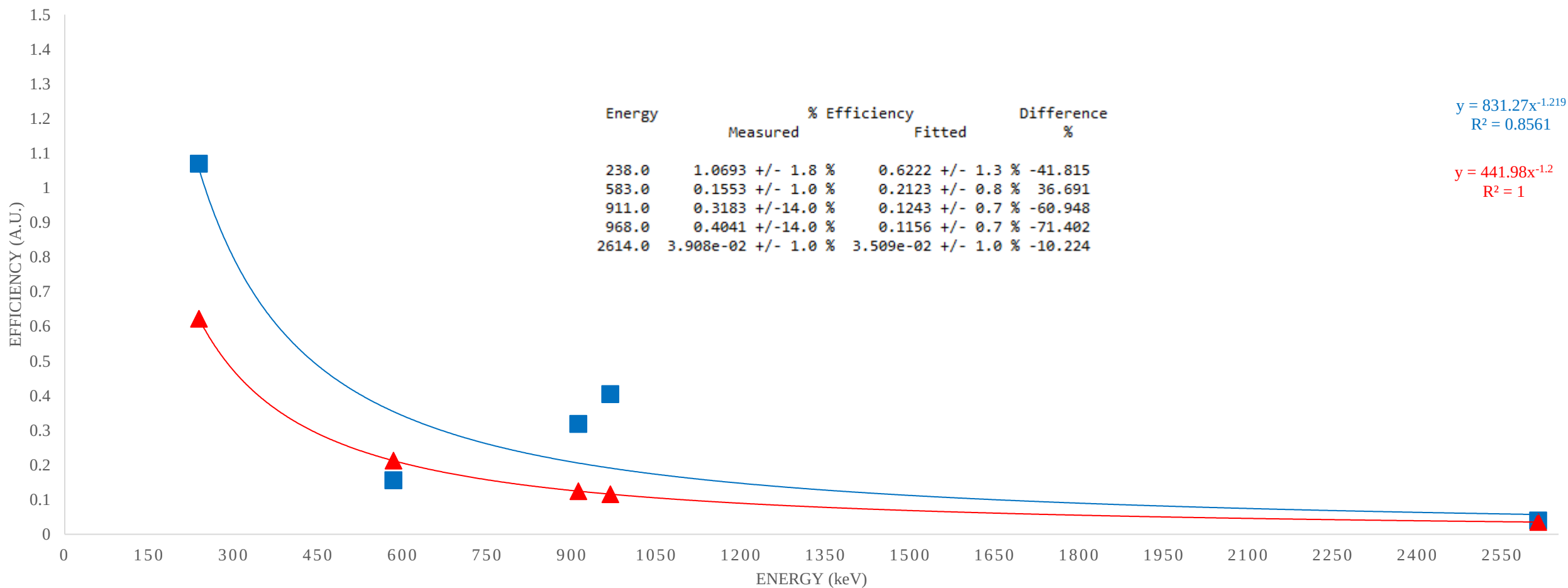
Thorium Ore

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THORIUM ORE (Th-232)

■ Measured ▲ Fitted — Power (Measured) — Power (Fitted)



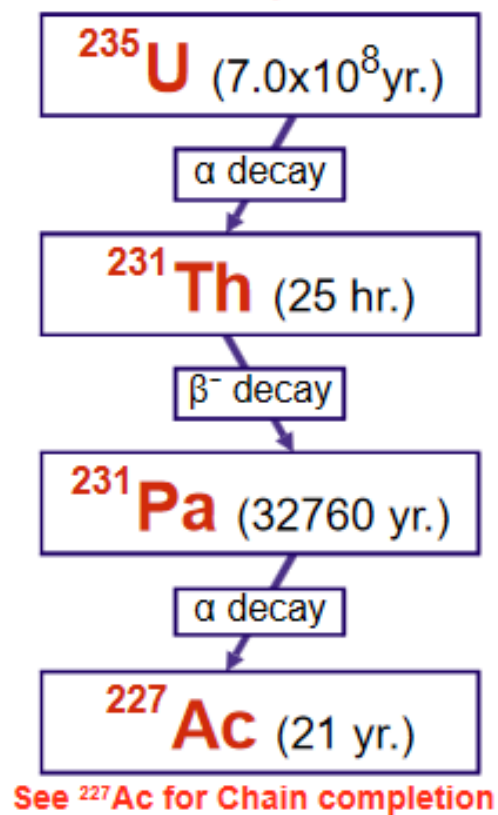


Uranium Ore

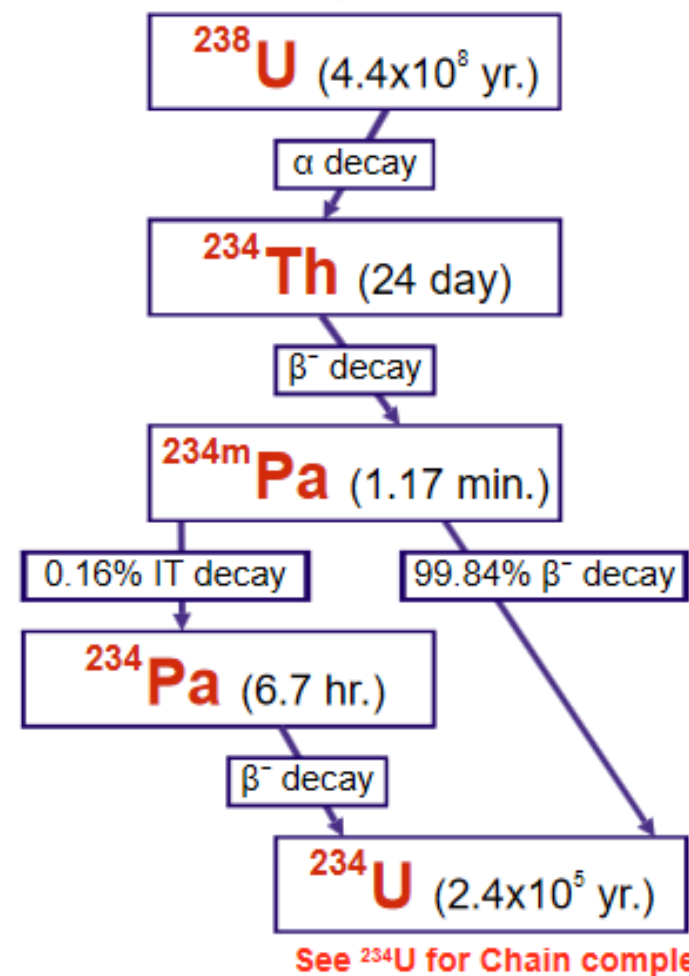
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^{235}U Decay Chain



^{238}U Decay Chain





Uranium Ore

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Uranium Ore					EFFTRAN	GESPECOR	
Nuclide	Type of Decay	Energy	Area	Err.(%)	Correction Factor	Correction Factor (1/Fc)	Err.(%)
TH-234	BETA-	63.29			1.0010	1.0000	0.0170
TH-234	BETA-	92.38			1.0000	1.0000	0.0210
U-238	ALPHA	113.5			1.0010	1.0000	0.0440
U-235	ALPHA	143.76	5.30E+06	0.6	1.0040	1.0034	0.0480
U-235	ALPHA	163.33	2.79E+06	1.1	1.0020	1.0093	0.0510
U-235	ALPHA	185.71	2.39E+07	0.2	1.0040	1.0034	0.0530
RA-226	ALPHA	186.21			1.0000	1.0000	0.0570
U-235	ALPHA	205.31	2.10E+06	1.6	1.0000	1.0057	0.0540
PB-214	BETA-	351.93			1.0000	1.0007	0.0850
BI-214	BETA-	609.32			1.0330	1.0709	0.1600
PA-234M	BETA-	1001.03	7.80E+04	0.7	0.9990	0.9956	0.1300
BI-214	BETA-	1120.29			1.0370	1.0776	0.1500
BI-214	BETA-	1238.11			1.0350	1.0728	0.2000
BI-214	BETA-	1377.67			0.9840	0.9518	0.1800
BI-214	BETA-	1764.54			0.9990	0.9960	0.1700
BI-214	BETA-	2204.07			0.9990	0.9962	0.2900



Uranium Ore

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Uranium Ore				
Corrected Peak Area (EFFTRAN)	Total Err.(%)	Corrected Peak Area (Gespecor)(1/Fc)	Total Err.(%)	Difference
0.00E+00	0.0170	0.00E+00	0.0170	0.00E+00
0.00E+00	0.0210	0.00E+00	0.0210	0.00E+00
0.00E+00	0.0440	0.00E+00	0.0440	0.00E+00
5.32E+06	0.6480	5.31E+06	0.6480	3.92E+04
2.80E+06	1.1510	2.82E+06	1.1510	3.14E+04
2.40E+07	0.2530	2.40E+07	0.2530	1.77E+05
0.00E+00	0.0570	0.00E+00	0.0570	0.00E+00
2.10E+06	1.6540	2.11E+06	1.6540	1.19E+04
0.00E+00	0.0850	0.00E+00	0.0850	0.00E+00
0.00E+00	0.1600	0.00E+00	0.1600	0.00E+00
7.79E+04	0.8300	7.76E+04	0.8300	-4.21E+02
0.00E+00	0.1500	0.00E+00	0.1500	0.00E+00
0.00E+00	0.2000	0.00E+00	0.2000	0.00E+00
0.00E+00	0.1800	0.00E+00	0.1800	0.00E+00
0.00E+00	0.1700	0.00E+00	0.1700	0.00E+00
0.00E+00	0.2900	0.00E+00	0.2900	0.00E+00



Results Discussions

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Eu – 152

Performed very good main peaks
could be analyzed with the help of the
Fitzpeaks

Ra – 226 & Daughter Nuclides

Performed well main peaks were
found with the help of Fitzpeaks

Thorium Ore (Th - 232)

Main peaks found with Fitzpeaks but no other
peaks

Uranium Ore (U-234, U-235, U-238 & Daughter
Nuclides)

Few peaks have been found comparing the
method used with other sources it's a clear indication that
we need to revisit the Uranium source



Conclusions

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An all spectra the same method was applied, but Uranium source was a tricky one as it did not behave as expected but if we look into the daughter chain of the Uranium we can see that there are number of radioisotopes which have low probability of emission compared to the probabilities of ^{152}Eu .

The results for both Thorium and Uranium would need a rethinking and reevaluation and based on these new methods we will proceed further.

One assumption for the Uranium side was low activity chosen for this experiment, (10.000 Bq) which is rather low for the entire chain.

Second assumption was the acquisition time used of 200.000 sec (2.3 days).

Third assumption is that based on the low activity+low acquisition time it could happen that not all radionuclides from the decay chains of Thorium and Uranium ores to get accounted for.

So the next step prior to publishing the Thorium and Uranium Data we will like to make some adjustments to the activities and acquisition time of the proposed spectra



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M. C. Lépy et. al. 2019



Thank You!
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