

Neutron response function of CeBr₃-NaI(Tl) phoswich spectrometer for 1.0 ÷ 5.5 MeV neutron energy range

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The γ -spectrometer [1] which was assembled from 9 CeBr₃-NaI(Tl) phoswich detectors [2] is a unit of the MULTI facility at the FLNR, JINR (Dubna) for studying the γ -emission in exotic decay of neutron-rich weakly bound nuclei like β -decay through giant dipole and pygmy resonances. It was reported [1] a high time and energy resolution, high peak and suppression efficiency of this spectrometer operated in the Compton suppression mode. This report is devoted to neutron detection efficiency and influence of neutron background on γ -spectra, particularly spectra obtained in the Compton suppression mode.

The energy dependence of neutron detection efficiency at $E_n = 1.0$ – 5.5 MeV energy range has been investigated. The measurements were carried out by the method of tagged neutrons and ²³⁹Pu/⁹Be source. The α -decay of ²³⁹Pu is not accompanied by γ emission. Only γ quanta $E_\gamma = 4.43$ MeV from the ⁹Be(α , n)¹²C* reaction can accompany the neutrons in about 60% of reaction events. These γ quanta can be used as a trigger in the method of tagged neutrons and for E_n measuring by Time-of-Flight.

The main characteristics of the γ -ray spectrometer are presented: energy resolutions ΔE , n- γ detection efficiency $\delta\gamma(E)$ and $\delta n(E)$ depending on the γ and n energy, respectively. The special attention was focused on the studying of neutron detection efficiency $\delta n(E)$ of the CeBr₃ component of phoswich detectors for Compton suppression mode. The pulse shape analysis of phoswich detector scintillation pulses was carried out by VME unit Mesytec MDPP-16 QDC pulse processor [3]. The neutron detection efficiency was obtained from tagged neutron spectra normalized to published [4] neutron spectra from a ²³⁹Pu/⁹Be source.

1. Zh. Zeinulla, Yu.G. Sobolev, S.S. Stukalov, I. Sivacek, Yu.E. Penionzhkevich, Gamma-ray spectrometer assembled from 9 CeBr₃-NaI(Tl) phoswich detectors, Acta Physica Polonica B, Vol.14, N4, pp. 755-760, (2021);
2. M. Gierlik et al., IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science 53, 1737 (2006).
3. A. Ruben et al., «A New, Versatile, High-performance Digital Pulse Processor with Application to Neutron/Gamma-Ray Pulse-Shape Discrimination in Scintillator Detectors», DOI:10.13140/RG.2.2.14187.18727.
4. Van der Zwan, L. 1968. Can. J. Phys., 46, 1527.

The speaker is a student or young scientist

Yes

Section

1. Applications of nuclear methods in science and technology

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