

# Elementary Nuclear Physics

## Laboratory course

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$10^{-14}$  meters

10 femtometers

$10^{-14}$  m :  
radius of nucleus

$10^{-10}$  m :  
radius of first  
electron orbit

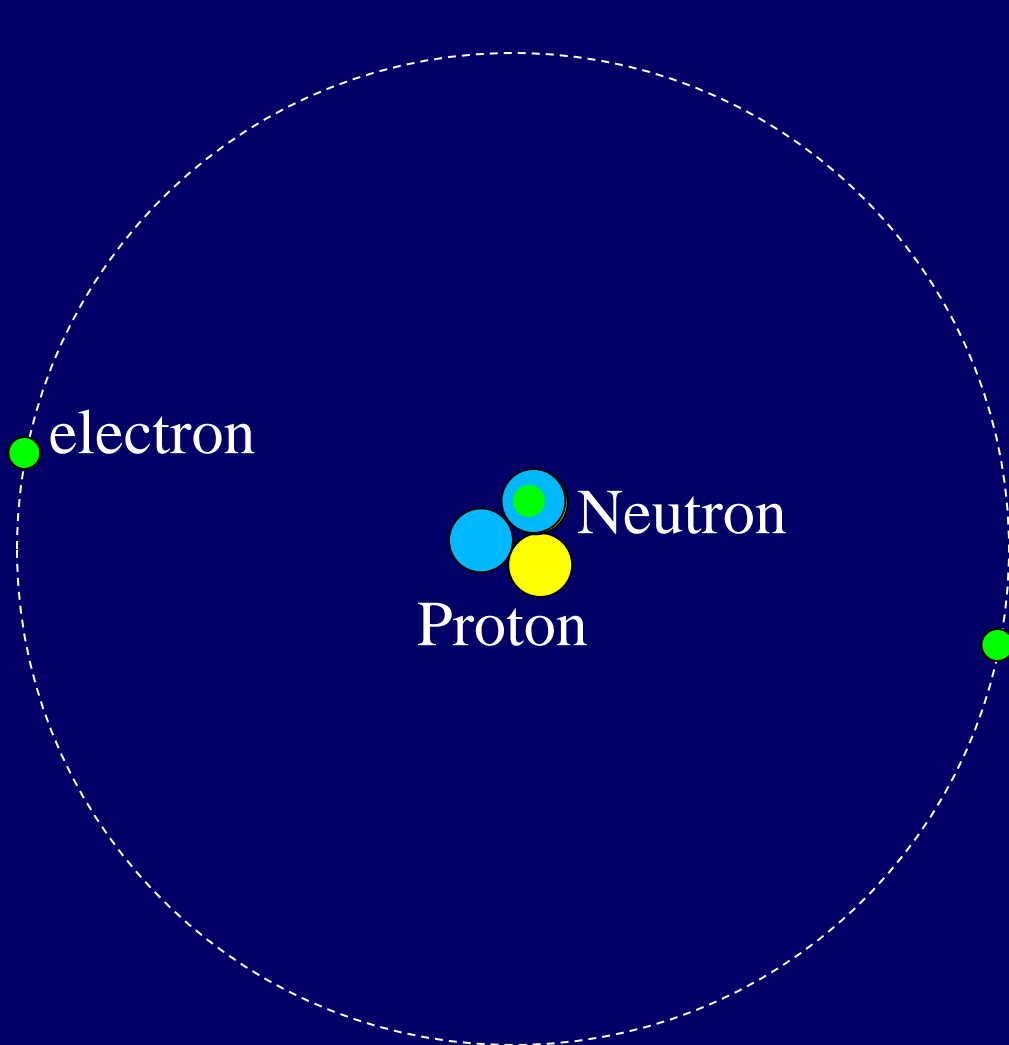


A ball of 10 cm radius:-

Electron :- a ball-bearing at a distance of 100000 cm = 1km of radius 1mm

A ball of 1 mm radius:-

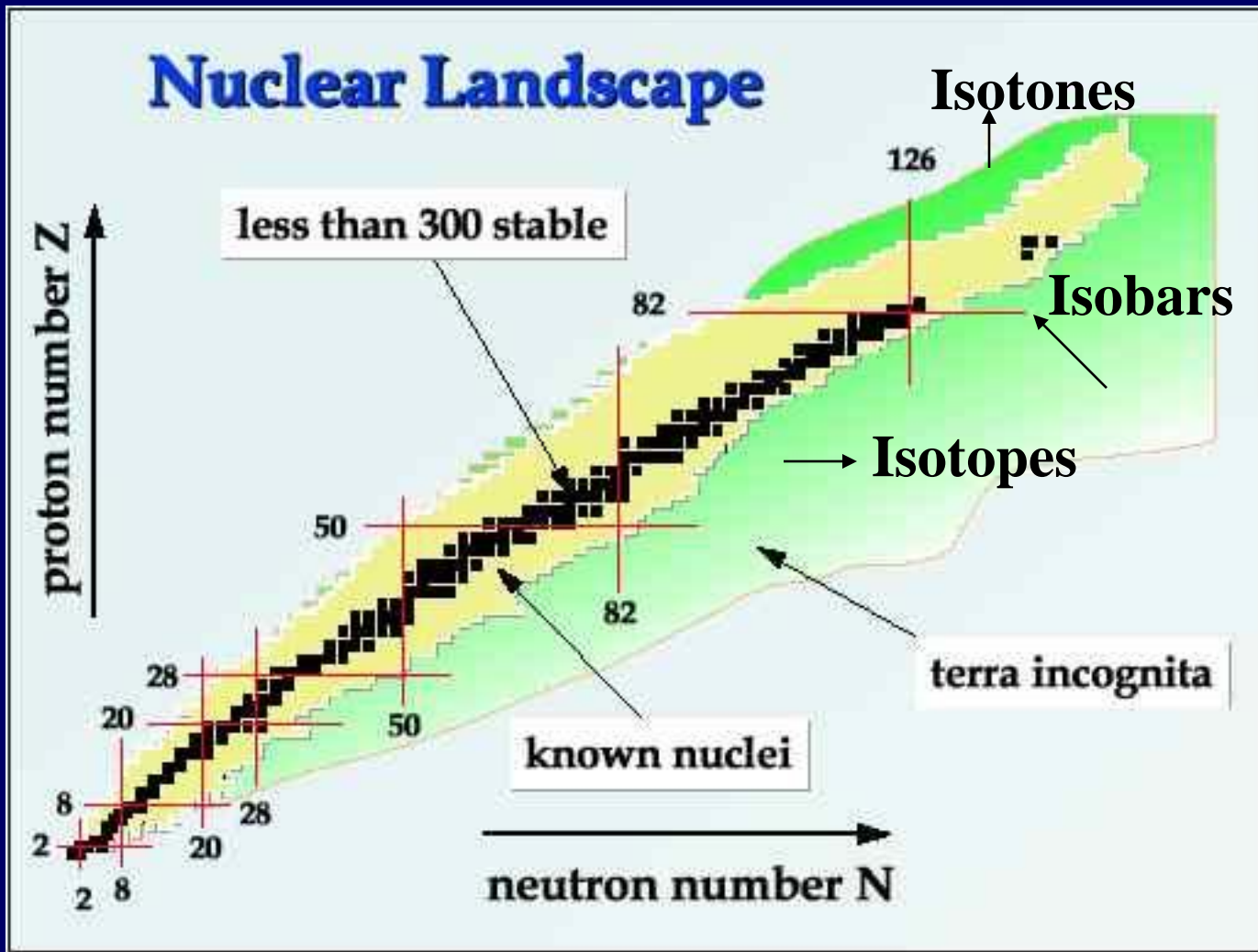
Electron :- a spec of dust at a distance of 1000 cm = 10 m of radius .01mm



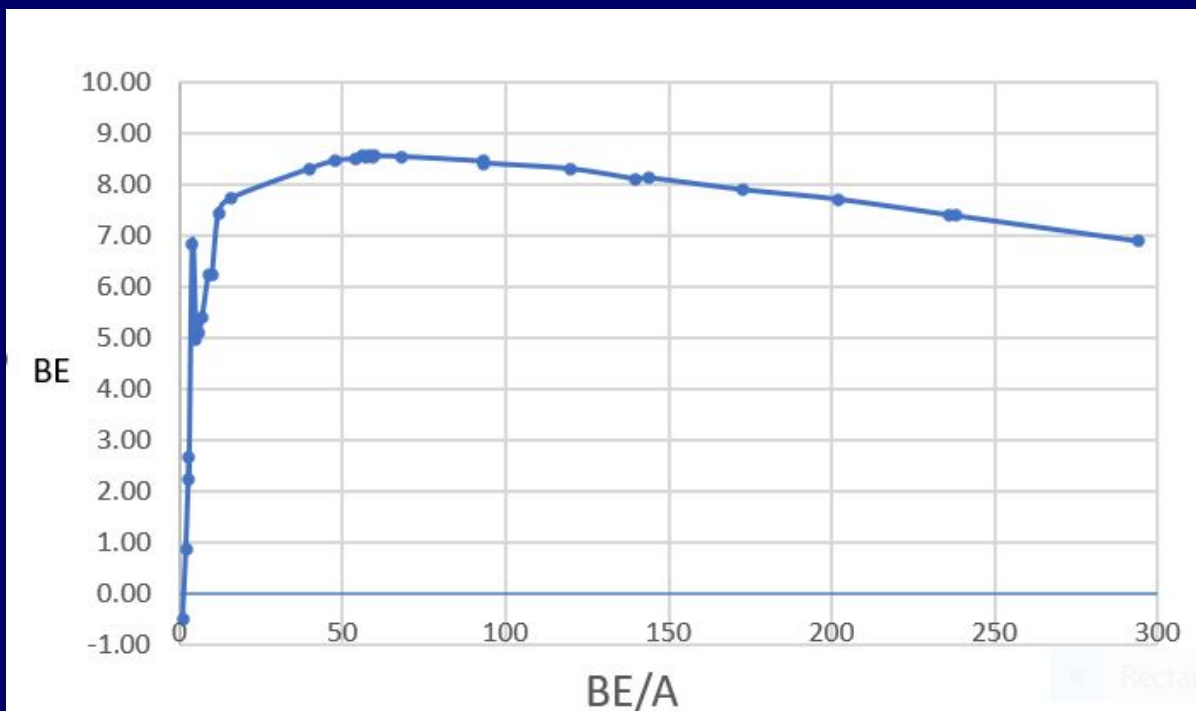
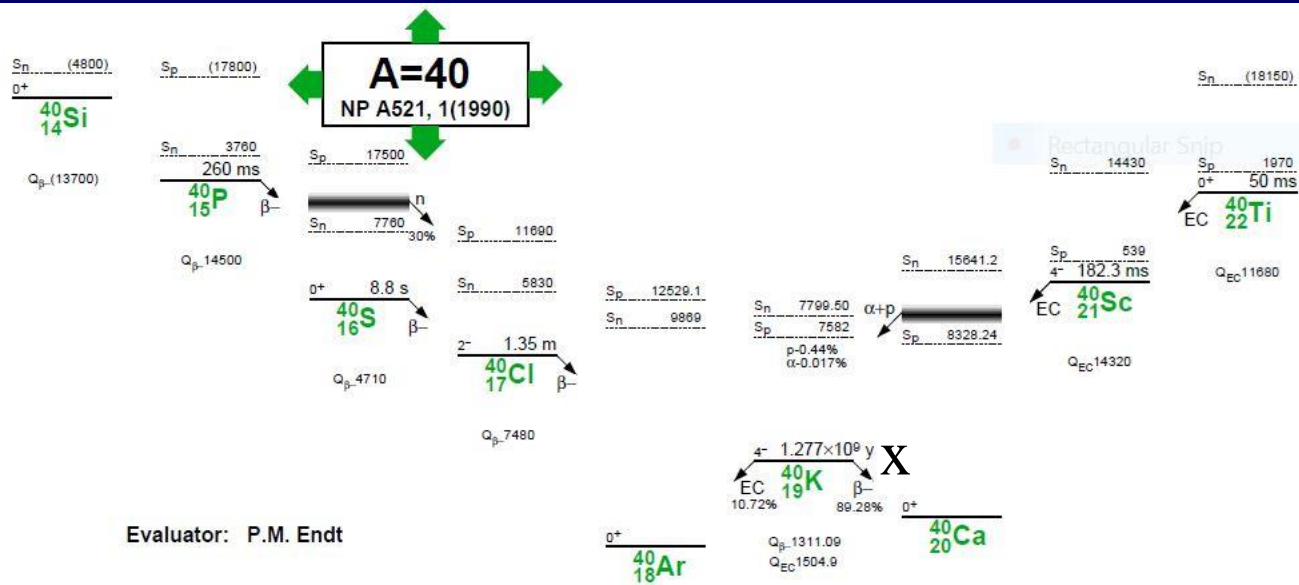
Deuttrron (stable)

Tritium ( 12.3y)

${}^3\text{He}$  (stable)



Odd Z Odd N :- 9      Even Z Odd N :- 57  
 Odd Z even N :- 52    Even Z Even N :- 167  
 Total :~ out of about 3300 isotopes



# Forces in nature

➤ Gravity ;  $1/r$  ; 1 unit

➤ Weak interaction

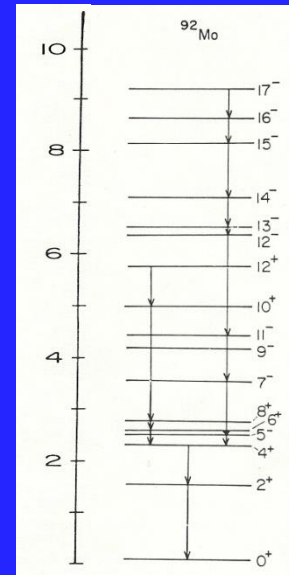
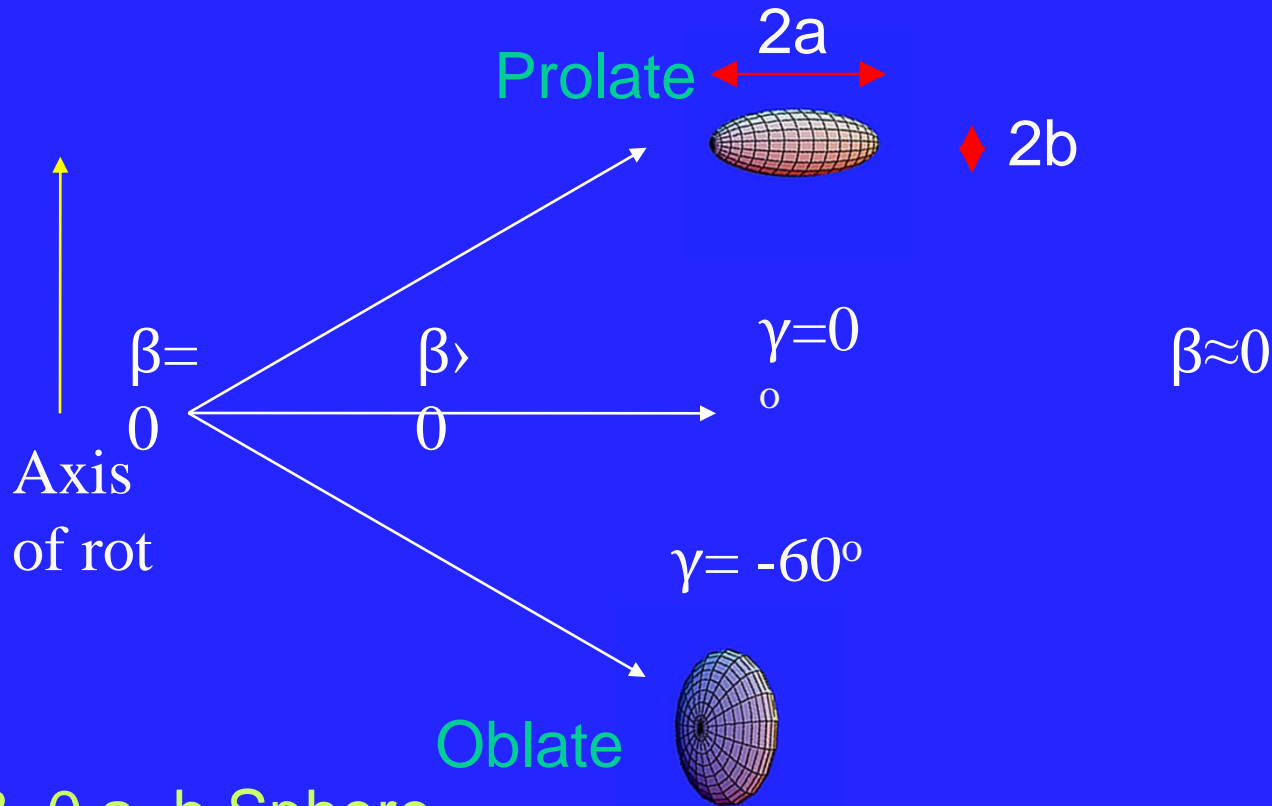
➤ Electromagnetic ;  $1/r$  ;  $10^{19}$  units

➤ Nuclear force ;  $\sim e^{-\mu r} / r$  ;  $10^{38}$  units ;  
*Extremely short ranged*

# Nuclear Force

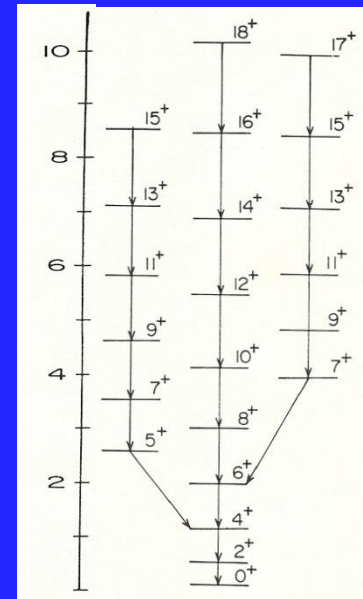
- The basis of formation of stars and other heavenly bodies
- Nuclei to touch each other for fusion to trigger, but cross-section?
- Stellar dust → star → white dwarf/neutron star/blackhole
- Supernova explosions leading to heavy elements
- Solar energy sources to several phenomena on earth

$$\beta = 3(a-b)/(3a-b)$$



- $\beta=0$   $a=b$  Sphere
- $\beta=0.6$   $a=2b$
- Superdeformation
- $\beta=0.8$   $a=3b$
- Hyperdeformation

$$\beta > 0$$





Nucleon-nucleon interaction  
Inside a nucleus



Shape of nucleus



Transition probabilities

Nuclear  
experiments



Transition energies &  
lifetimes



Accelerators  
and  
detectors



# How does photon interact with matter

Photo-electric effect

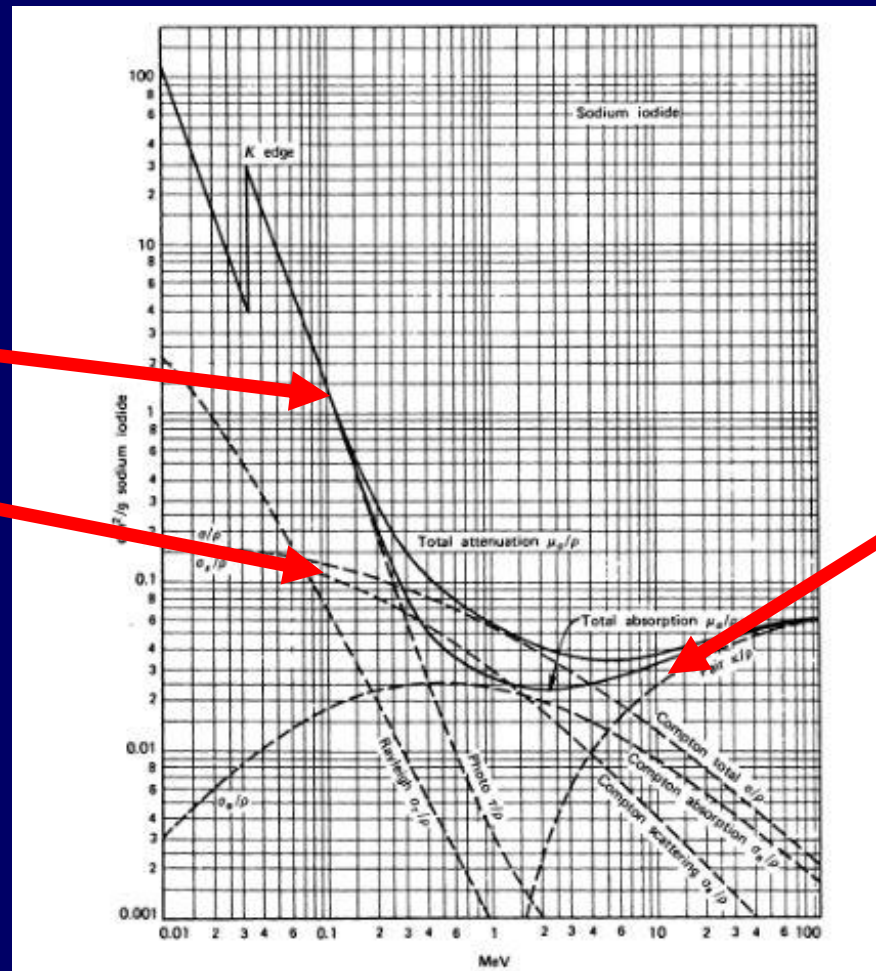
Compton

Pair-production

PE

COMPTON

PP





The study of gamma-ray interaction with matter: Leads to

- a) Nuclear medicine
- b) imaging techniques
- c) Food irradiation programmes
- d) Higher quality agricultural products

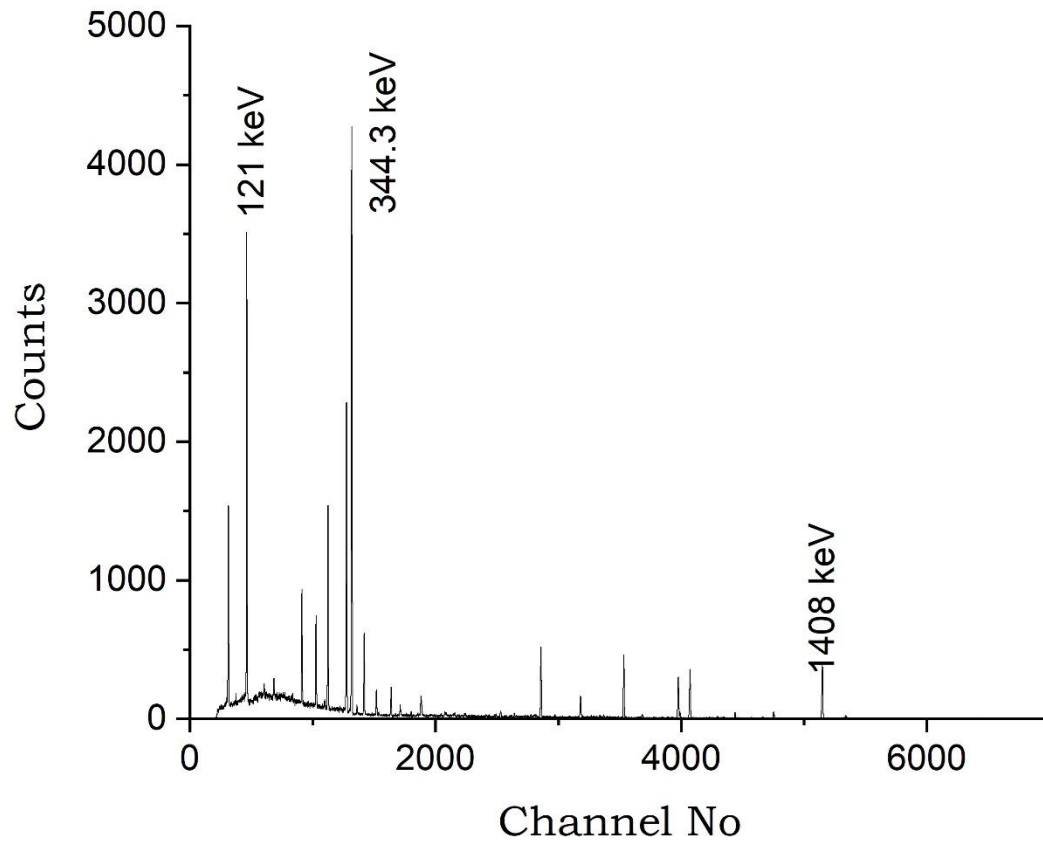
The radioactive decay studies lead to techniques like carbon dating

# Health effects

| No | Dosage<br>mSv/year | Dosage<br>mR | Possible health effects                                                           |
|----|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 15                 | 1,500        | Prescribed upper limit for individual in 1 year                                   |
| 2  | 100                | 10,000       | No detectable effects/ first sign of increased risks of cancer                    |
| 3  | 400                | 40,000       | Radiation sickness, immediate med attention is required                           |
| 4  | 2,000              | .2 mil       | Sever poisoning, maybe fatal, skin burns/cataracts ( Case in New Delhi last year) |
| 5  | 4,000              | .4 mil       | Risk of death sever                                                               |
| 6  | 8,000              | .8 mil       | fatal                                                                             |
| 7  | 10                 | 1000         | Fukushima max dose / hour                                                         |
| 8  | 87000              | 8.7 mil      | Fukushima max dose / year                                                         |

# Health effects

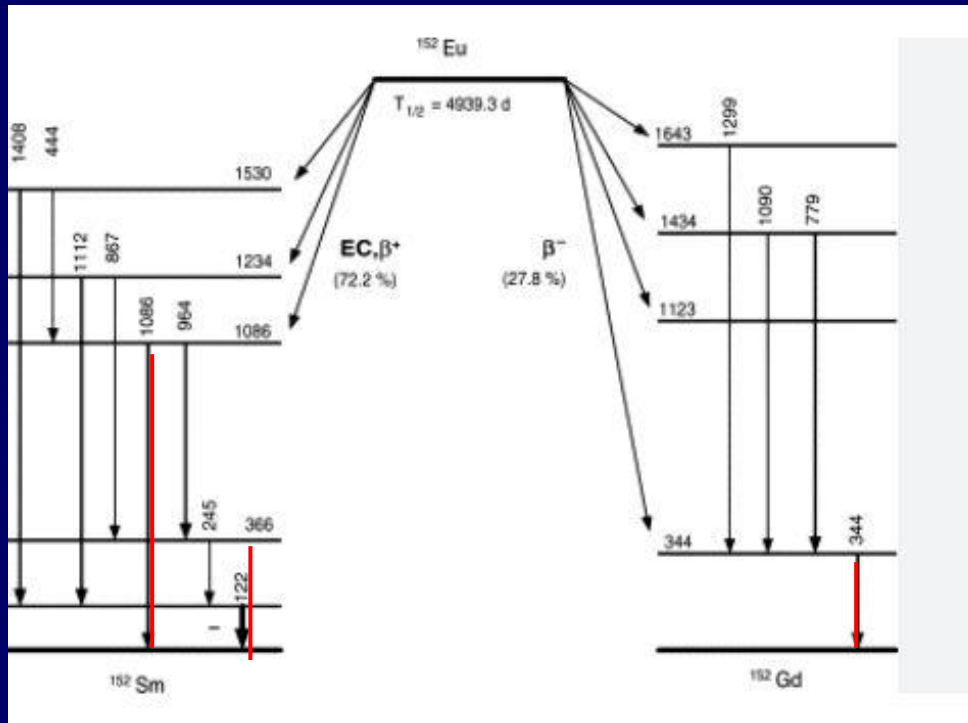
- What happens when radiation hits body
- Radiation can ionize atoms inside body by knocking out electrons from atoms
- Gamma and neutrinos pass through the body. Relatively less harmful
- Beta radiation locally more harmful. Short range
- Neutrons 2-11 times more ionizing, but very few natural sources around. Very little neutron radiation from such accidents
- Alpha particles 20 times more ionizing/dangerous. Extremely local. Some hazards in this kind of accident. Smoking.



$$E = a + b x x + c x x^2$$

Usually  $c$  is negative

$$C \approx 10^{-4} \text{ to } 10^{-6} \times b$$



| $E_\gamma$  | $I_g$     |
|-------------|-----------|
| 121.7817 3  | 28.58 6   |
| 244.6975 8  | 7.583 19  |
| 295.9392 17 | 0.447 5   |
| 344.2785 12 | 26.5 4    |
| 367.7887 16 | 0.861 5   |
| 411.1163 11 | 2.234 4   |
| 443.965 3   | 2.821 19  |
| 563.990 7   | 0.489 6   |
| 678.623 5   | 0.471 4   |
| 688.670 5   | 0.857 8   |
| 778.9040 18 | 12.942 19 |
| 867.378 4   | 4.245 19  |
| 919.330 3   | 0.427 6   |
| 964.079 18  | 14.605 21 |
| 1085.869 24 | 10.207 21 |
| 1112.074 4  | 13.644 21 |
| 1212.948 11 | 1.422 6   |
| 1299.140 10 | 1.623 8   |
| 1408.006 3  | 21.005 24 |

Table 1.1: Intensities of data

| $E_\gamma$ (keV) | $I_g$ | $\alpha_k$ | Total Intensity |
|------------------|-------|------------|-----------------|
| 121.78           | 28.58 | 1.155      | 61.6            |
| 1085.8           | 10.27 | 0.0026     | 10.3            |
| 344.28           | 26.5  | 0.04       | 27.6            |
| Total            |       |            | 99.46           |

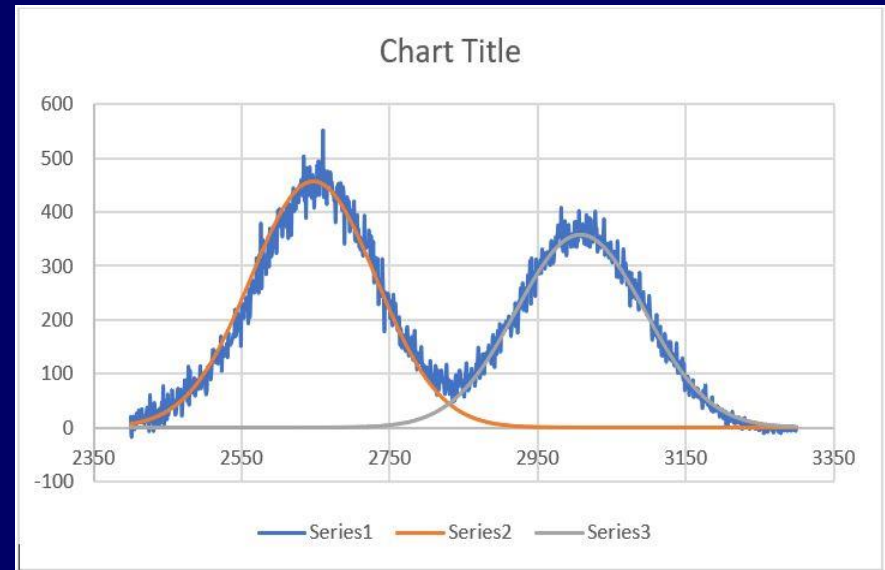
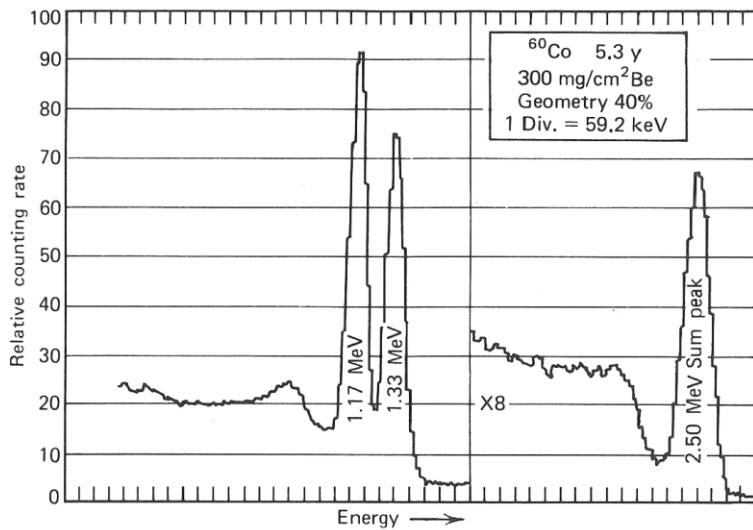


# Scintillation Detectors



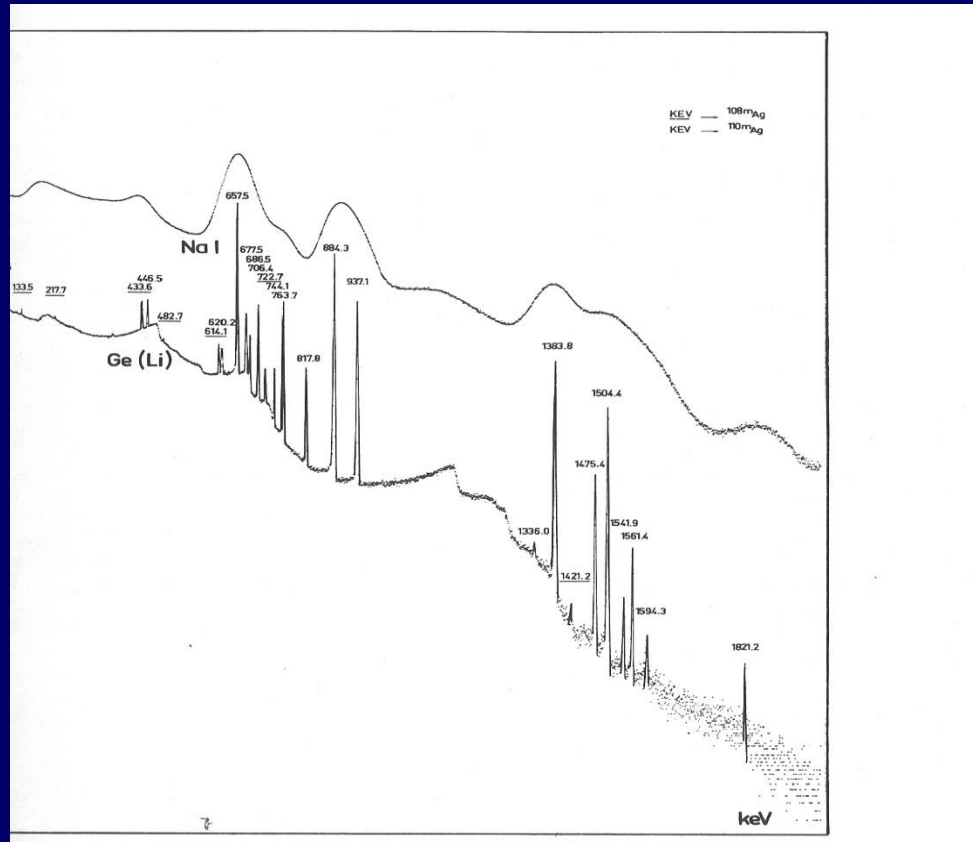
- But PMT 20 % eff, Photo cathode ~12 % eff :- implying average excitation energy 0.1 keV
- 1 keV ~ 40 photons
- 1.1 MeV = 40,000 photons
- Random statistics: error =  $\sqrt{N} = \sim 3.5\%$  error
- Energy resolution around 7% for NaI(Tl), 13 % for BaF<sub>2</sub> and 16 % for BGO

# $^{60}\text{Co}$ spectrum in a NaI(Tl) Detector



# Comparison of NaI(Tl) and HpGe detector spectra

Counts



Energy

# Analysis

- Calibrate the channel using  $E=a+bx$  for  $^{152}\text{Eu}$  data provided.
- Resolution: Plot data and Gaussian simultaneously. Measure and minimize to find best centroid and FWHM.
- Similarly, find calibration and resolution for Cs(I) detector data collected in lab manually without any readymade softwares .
- Background subtraction.