出國報告(出國類別:出席國際會議)

參加第八屆輻射安全與偵測技術研討會

服務機關:行政院原子能委員會輻射偵測中心

姓名職稱:劉祺章 技正兼組長

派赴國家:韓國

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摘要

第八屆國際輻射安全和偵測技術研討會是東亞地區定期舉辦的輻射相關技術交流平台。這次會議本中心發表兩篇論文,內容分別是關於台灣地區土壤中鈽同位素分析的回收率提升方法探討與台灣地區環境高能中子劑量的再評估。本次會議題其他重要的議題除日本福島事件的影響與復原現狀外,就是現場度量技術的改進與運用以及因應國際原子能總署對於眼球水晶體劑量限值調降的實務做法受到較多的討論。加強國際交流、提升現場度量技術以及注意國際間對於眼球水晶體劑量的監測方式,是目前重要的輻射安全議題。

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(一)、目的

2015 年第八屆國際輻射安全和偵測技術研討會(ISORD-8)於7月14日至16日在韓國濟州島舉行。ISORD的目的是提供一個論壇平台,讓與會者就輻射安全與偵測技術的發展與問題交流意見和資訊,也試圖提供各國執行輻射防護措施所面臨一般問題的討論。

在過去的 14 年裡,ISORD 已在韓國、日本、中國和馬來西亞等地每兩年舉行一次,每次都有超過 300 名來自東亞各地的專家參與。 ISORD-8 是第三次在韓國舉行,內容包括主題演講、衛星視訊圓桌會談和海報會議。

本次研討會由韓國輻射安全創新技術中心(ITRS)主辦,並邀請韓國、日本、中國大陸、澳大利亞、馬來西亞等國的輻射防護或保健物理學會與美洲保健物理學會台灣分會協辦,規劃的科學主題十分廣泛包括有:

- 1、輻射輸運和屏蔽
- 2、輻射劑量學
- 3、輻射偵測和感應傳輸器技術
- 4、環境輻射監測和評估
- 5、輻射風險管理
- 6、教育訓練和輻射安全政策
- 7、輻射緊急應變計劃和整備
- 8、放射性物料管理和當前輻射相關問題

涵蓋了輻射應用領域所有的課題,共計有80篇口頭報告、127篇海報論文並於7月17日舉行衛星視訊圓桌討論會議(討論主題為低劑量輻射生物效應)。本中心也利用這次機會發表兩篇海報論文於環境輻射監測和評估的主題,內容分別是關於台灣地區土壤中鈽同位素分析的回收率提升方法探討與台灣地區環境高能中子劑量的再評估。國內清華大學也發表兩篇海報論文與一篇口頭發表論文,許榮鈞教授是本次大會組織委員會的委員之一,此外他與許芳裕老師也分別擔任「輻射輸運和屏蔽」與「輻射劑量學」兩個口頭發表單元的引言人。我們希望藉此機會能夠與世界其他國家相關領域的專家們進行技術與經驗交流。並能參考其他國家研究的方向與內容以及國際間關心的課題,作為我們國內未來政策制定與相關技術發展或精進的借鏡。

(二)、行程與紀要

行程概要如下:

07月13日	由於受到中東呼吸症候群(MERS)影響,原定桃園機場直 飛濟州的班機停飛,因此改為由桃園機場經上海浦東機場轉 機到達韓國濟州國際機場,再轉搭巴士至會場報到。
07月14日 至 07月16日	於韓國濟州市參加第8屆國際輻射安全和檢測技術的研討會 (ISORD-8)。
07月17日	由濟州國際機場經上海浦東機場轉機回桃園機場。

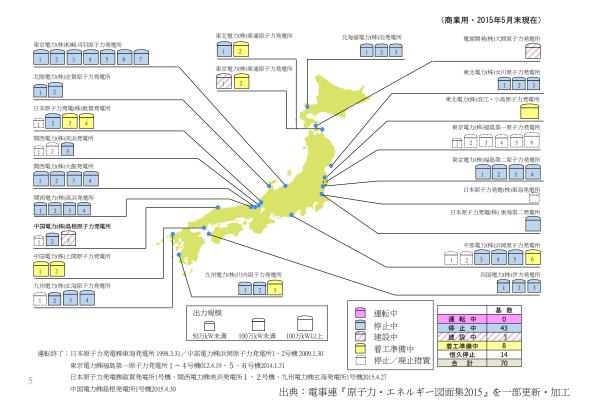
出國紀要

由於轉機延誤,7月13日抵達濟州時已是黃昏霞照。到旅館入住時才發現同機來自大陸蘭州大學的王鐵山教授與其學生,也住同一間飯店。彼此相互交換名 片與交流研究經驗後便各自休息。

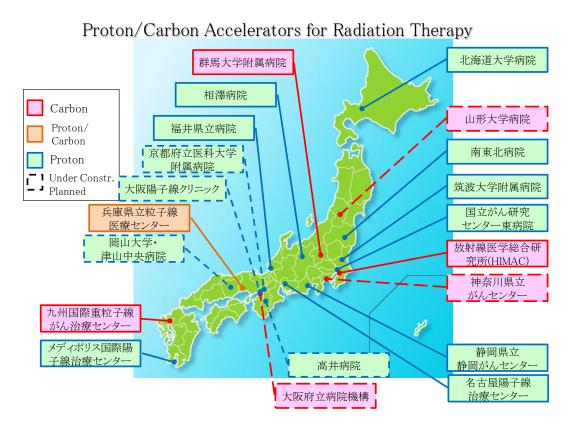
7月14日研討會議正式開始,首先由韓國承辦會議主席Dr. Kyo Youn Kim致歡迎詞,然後邀請名譽聯席主席日本中村尚司教授致詞。中村教授是ISORD研討會的原始創辦人之一,他風趣地介紹歷屆研討會舉辦的歷史,讓人印象深刻。此外,他也簡要報告目前日本核電廠的現狀,如圖一。2015年日本仍在處於零核電的狀況,43座核電廠中有三座電廠包括關西電力公司Takahama核電廠、中國電力公司Ikata 核電廠和九州電力公司Sendai核電廠已通過安全檢查,最快今年可以恢復運轉。有三座興建中的核電廠決定停止興建。除役中的電廠一座,另有13座電廠準備提出除役。未來日本仍無法完全拋棄對核能的依賴,但勢必會有一段時間為了因應越加嚴格的營運安全標準而降低核能的比重。

中村教授的專長是加速器營運,因此也報告了日本目前加速器的現況。日本 有七座多用途高能加速器支持各項基礎科學的研究,以維持與訓練在高能物理化 學領域的學術能力。醫用重粒子加速器目前有質子加速器9部(另外有4部興建 中)、碳離子加速器3部(另有3 興建中)與一部可切換使用質子/碳離子的加速 器,這也是目前日本全力發展的放射治療技術,投入的人力與資源都相當可觀,

如圖二。



圖一 目前日本核能電廠現狀(引用:中村尚司教授於ISORD-8投影片)



圖二 目前日本醫用重粒子加速器現狀(引用:中村尚司教授於ISORD-8投影片)

用來製造核醫藥物(如供應正子造影氟-18去氧葡萄糖)的小型加速器目前日本有159部有些已營運多年,評估日本國內實際核醫藥物的需求不高造成供應過剩,所以有不少小型加速器預期會在幾年內提出除役計畫。雖然小型加速器的除役作業比起核電廠的除役技術相對簡單很多,且已有相關的廢棄物之解除管制外釋標準與清除標準,但在福島事件之後,對於輻射相關設施的各項作業安全管制均要求檢討與強化,因此日本政府與相關學會正研擬小型加速器除役的指引,以作為營運單位除役作業參考。

後續的論文發表由於參與的研究人員眾多,所以論文發表同時分為兩至三個場地進行,以致無法所有的議題均參與討論,以下僅針對幾個與本中心有關的議題做摘要性的介紹:

一、福島事件相關議題

福島事件進入除污階段已經將近兩年,吉田浩子博士就她的參與經驗對於除污的現狀做了詳盡的介紹。目前的除污作業在管制區域(年劑量大於 20 毫西弗的區域)由中央政府負責,高污染區域(Intensive Contamination Survey Area, ICSA,空間劑量率大於 0.23 微西弗/小時的區域)由各地方政府負責。

除污的方式包括刨除表土(約5公分厚)、擦洗屋瓦牆壁、除草與去除落葉枯枝等。當房舍周圍方圓20公尺均已完成除污後,進行除污效果的評估,以除污比(Reduction Rate)作為指標,定義為

數值越高(越接近1)表示除污效果越好。

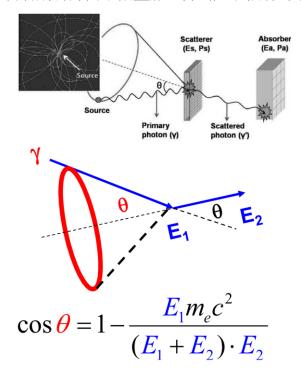
初步統計各級政府提供除污的結果數據,原本劑量率低於 1 微西弗/時的區域除污比約 32%,原本劑量率在 1~3.8 微西弗/時的區域除污比則約 43%,至於劑量率大於 3.8 微西弗/時的區域除污比則可達 51%,顯示對於室外而言,原本污染劑量率越高除污效果越好。但是吉田博士在管制區域所做的結果顯示,在高污染地區並非如此,除污比約在 50%~60%之間跟劑量率的相關性不顯著。推究原因發現各級政府的數據未扣除背景輻射的劑量,而吉田博士的團隊是利用碘化鈉值檢器做現場度量與簡易能譜解析,扣除背景輻射劑量值後只針對人工核種如放射性絕同位素的劑量率去評估,因此結果較為一致。

由室內與室外結果來看,室內的除污比平均約45%遠較室外來的低,主要受到建物屏蔽的效應,室內劑量來源中散射輻射的比例遠較室外高。室外的能譜解析發現,除污後主要能峰的劑量減少但散射輻射劑量相對比例偏高,室內也是如此,所以對於相同的除污條件下,室內除污比值相較室外略差。

由於日本政府希望最終能讓想回歸家園的民眾得以回到原來的住處,長期的 目標希望能將年劑量控制在1毫西弗以內,由於一般人在室內的時間遠多於在室 外的時間,以目前的狀況來看還需要持續觀察與評估後續的處理狀況。

二、環境輻射偵測技術相關議題

韓國 Dr. Jae Cheon Kim 發表了一篇使用密西根大學發展的新型康普吞照相儀前往福島進行輻射污染現場度量的論文。康普吞照相儀(Compton Gamma-ray Imaging Spectrometer)是利用位置敏感的鎘鋅碲(CdZnTe,以下簡稱 CZT)半導體偵檢器陣列,6 cm³ CZT 空間解析度為接近 5000 體素(11×11×40)。利用加馬輻射在晶體中康普吞散射的作用位置與散射光子沉積能量位置與能量推估入射光子的可能方向環,如圖三。再將所有方向環做疊加,得到光子輻射的來源可能方向。



圖三 康普吞照相儀成像原理(引用 Dr. Jae Cheon Kim 於 ISORD-8 投影片)。 由於半導體偵檢器的能量解析度高於碘化鈉偵檢器,所以對於光子輻射的空間分布影像還可以做輻射源種類的區分,一般常見的純鍺半導體偵檢器需要使用液態氦冷卻,攜帶十分不便,CZT 半導體可在室溫下操作,因此適合作為可攜式 值檢器,雖然能量解析度較純鍺值檢器差,但對於放射性銫的能量解析度仍有 1%,已足以區分污染核種,並可藉由能譜解析去除來自背景輻射的干擾,有效 確認人造輻射污染的可能分布,結合現場照片的數位影像處理,將輻射分布資訊 合成於現場照片影像中,能夠更清楚與快速找出污染區域。

他們選擇在福島車站前以及除污後的學校操場為例展示量測結果。車站前量 測結果顯示不同的道路鋪面材質會造成除污後污染殘留的差異,較軟且粗糙的鋪 面殘留有較高的放射性銫。操場量測結果則很輕易地看出污染熱點在草地分布的 位置。

與 Dr. Jae Cheon Kim 的討論中了解,雖然這技術已經發展約 20 年,且有商業化的產品,但其實仍有許多限制需要解決。由於低能量光子與物質作用的康普吞散射機率不高,而是以光電效應為主,所以適用於光子能量 250 keV 到 3MeV 的核種。由於低能光子對於部分核子醫學藥物與核原料的鑑識量測十分重要,目前該技術對於低能量光子的部分也在改進之中,會議中由 Dr. Young-Su Kim 報告這方面的發展現況,軟體解析的技術尚在測試中。由於康普吞量測技術運用到符合計測(Coincident counting)的技術,因此高背景或高活度的狀況下也會造成干擾,只能適用於中低活度輻射場。對於環境的量測以劑量率 1 微西弗/時的條件下測試,需要 20 分鐘才能得到比較清楚的影像,污染較低的區域則需要更長的時間,未來仍有改進的空間。

三、輻射劑量相關議題

Dr. Pil-Soo HAHN 報告國際原子能總署(IAEA)於輻射安全與監測的發展,IAEA於2014年發表基本安全標準(International Basic Safety Standards,以下簡稱BSS)中的安全要求第三部分(General Safety Requirements Part 3,以下簡稱GSR 3)。其中提到職業曝露限值中關於眼球水晶體劑量的部分,建議由原本的年等價劑量150毫西弗調降為五年平均等價劑量100毫西弗,單一年等價劑量限值50毫西弗。會做這樣的調整是基於國際輻射防護委員會2011發表的修正聲明與2013年IAEA技術手冊TEDOC No.1731新眼球劑量限值對職業輻射防護的啟示(Implications for Occupational Radiation Protection of the New Dose Limit for the Lens of the Eye)裡蒐集的實證結果所做的調整。

過去的眼球水晶劑量限值對於大部分的職業曝露情境而言,幾乎不可能會超

過,因此過去也不太被重視與討論,當劑量限值調降後就必須對於各種輻射應用的實踐加以評估,以確定是否要對工作人員進行監測。例如 2011 年歐盟 ORAMED 計畫(Optimization of RAdiation protection for MEDical staff)曾做過評估,若採新的劑量標準,心血管攝影與心導管血管整形術(cardiac angiographies and angioplasties)等心臟科常見的輻射應用,約有一半的案例可能造成工作人員眼球劑量超過每年20毫西弗。因此,在此次會議中對於這議題進行了一些討論。

對於眼球水晶體劑量的標準監測方式,是以國際輻射單位與度量委員會 (ICRU)所定義的球形假體表面以下 3 毫米(mm)位置的吸收劑量為操作標準稱為 Hp(3)。校正作法是將劑量計置於頭型假體眼睛部位做照射,以得到不同劑量計 的校正因子,監測作業則須將劑量計置於工作人員眼球附近。但是這樣的做法對實務的劑量監測來說是不切實際的。因此必須依實際作業的場合評估,如果是均 勻輻射場的曝露,可以使用平常佩戴的劑量佩章來推算,對於不均勻的曝露狀況,例如工作人員有穿著鉛衣但頭部沒有防護、工作人員頭部靠近輻射源以及眼睛必須近距離觀測使用貝他射源等狀況,就需要另外考量如佩戴佩章的位置調整、使用蒙地卡羅評估修正或是設計特殊的劑量佩章等方式來做監測,以確認工作人員所受輻射劑量是否符合法規限值。

在醫學領域中可能要注意眼球劑量的包括有執行介入性放射診療和介入性心臟病學、透視引導介入性手術、射源/放射性藥物和PET/CT的準備程序、手動近接放射治療、電腦斷層(CT)引導介入性手術與小型迴旋加速器運作。其他輻射應用領域則包括有工業非破壞性檢測、核設施熱室(hot cell)作業與核設施除役作業等。

(三)、心得與建議

這次會議與許多國際間知名學者相互討論,並聆聽其他國家目前關於輻射安 全的政策、技術與教育訓練現況,歸納心得如下:

- 一、日本福島事件至今已過四年,污染已經受到控制,除污與復原的作業也持續進行。雖然會議中對於復原與廢棄物處理的進度有學者提到進度太慢,但是也都按照計畫逐漸好轉,雖然政府目標是要讓疏散民眾能夠回歸家園,但仍謹慎評估除污的效果,而不會過於躁進。由於除污與復原的狀況並未完成,因此國內對於日本進口食品建議仍須注意並繼續進行監測。
- 二、目前日本核電廠運轉停擺,但是醫用輻射的部分卻是發展快速,例如醫用重粒子加速器的興建成為最近重要的癌症治療方法之一。日本有能力自行製造粒子加速器,因此日本國內正陸續興建,顯示日本技術基礎扎實。在這次會議有一個單元是報告各國在教育與訓練的現況,雖然並沒有較新的做法,但是各國對於教育與訓練的規劃及效能評估都持續積極的推動著,因為只有落實基礎的教育訓練才能夠談到技術的發展,不管是輻射應用技術或是輻射安全防護都是一樣,與我們國內持續推動的目標一致。
- 三、韓國是這次的主辦國,可以看到許多年輕學子參與,顯示對於核能與輻射應用領域發展的投入。韓國也積極參與國際組織,這次會議中 IAEA 與 ICRP 的與會代表都是韓國人,對於未來輻射防護與核能安全的規範訂定具有一定的影響力。海報論文發表時與韓國 KAERI 從事生物劑量計發展與低輻射劑量生物效應的專家 Dr. Jin Kyu Kim 交換意見,因為生物劑量適用於中高劑量例如緊急曝露,因此平時用途不多,技術的維持與績效的呈現相對困難,但是因為韓國透過 IAEA 執行跨國計畫,所以技術的維持可以依賴與其他國家實驗室的聯盟與測試比對來進行,經費由 IAEA 支持。台灣無法正式參與國際組織,使得相關技術的維持相對困難,但是透過學術交流與國際間量測技術比對的機會,可以了解國外技術的發展現況,是個維持國內技術的方式,值得參考。
- 四、韓國這次發表許多現場度量的報告,包括新型儀器的設計、對於福島空浮惰性氣體的監測與現場度量的評估等等。顯示面對污染的量測技術而言,現場度量技術逐漸受到重視,也因為電子與材料科技的進步,加上軟體解析演算速度越來越快,許多污染核種資訊可以直接在現場獲得,不必取樣回實驗分析,減少放射性污染物傳送的問題。然而,現場度量容易受到環境條件的干擾,因此除了技術上軟硬體的改善外,還需要實務經驗的累積研判才能避免對於量測結果的錯誤解讀,因此對於現場度量的技術應該加以重視。

- 五、眼球水晶體劑量評估在過去因為劑量限值不易達到,因此實務上不太受到重視,然而由流行病學調查與假體驗證的數據顯示,對於眼球的生物效應風險過於低估而建議調降劑量限值,在這次會議中也成為話題之一。國內目前法規尚未做調降的變更,但可以持續注意國際發展,評估國內各種輻射作業工作場所的 Hp(3)值,找出有潛在曝露風險的作業程序,並研討實務監測的機制與佩章的設計。
- 六、中國蘭州大學核科學與技術學院王鐵山教授 及其指導學生與我投宿同一旅館,幾次照會 交換學術理念與生活經驗,相談甚歡。王教 授特致贈他的著作「人生悟理-透過物理看人 生」一書。內容是他多年以放射物理學者的 角度思索人生類比的哲學意涵,並以此書為 教材在蘭州大學開設通識課程講授。對於漫 長求學過程接受理工訓練的我,閱覽該書內 容頗有共鳴。以原子的微觀現象對比個人一



生中面對各項事務,處理問題的碰撞現象、緩急輕重的拿捏與基本粒子交互作用力的闡述,尋求一個最大亂度與最低能量的平衡,結合儒家中庸的觀點說明人與人的關係。此外也利用物質的晶系與非晶系系統比擬社會的種種現象,深入淺出值得玩味深思,讓非理科背景的學子可以藉此窺探物理的原理,同時也讓理科的學生理解科學的基礎在於自然哲學的基本問題探究。由此也發現中國目前對於科普教育的重視,要求教授除了艱澀的學術專業外,也能提供學生通識化的基礎理念傳達,讓學生能夠在重視科技發展時也能省思科技與社會人性的關聯。

總結以上心得,提出建議為:

- 一、國際交流與實驗室合作進行實驗室比對是維持技術的重要方式,目前本中心 與日本分析中心進行環境樣品實驗室分析比對,應該持續進行。
- 二、近年來現場度量技術是各國所重視的污染檢測技術,國內過去已累積不少經驗,應該重視傳承與訓練。
- 三、眼球水晶體劑量限值調降已是國際趨勢,國內可可以持續注意國際發展,評

估國內各種輻射作業工作場所的 Hp(3)值,找出有潛在曝露風險的作業程序,並研討實務監測的機制與佩章的設計。

(四)、附件

- 1. 第8屆國際輻射安全和檢測技術的研討會議程。
- 2. 本中心發表之海報內容。

Program Summary

Monday, July 13

Time	Room A	Room B	Room C
15:00-18:00	Registration		
17:00-18:30	Reception		

Tuesday, July 14

Time	Room A Room B Room C					
08:00-09:00	Registration	Registration				
09:00-09:40	Opening Ceremony (Opening	g Remark, Welcome Speeches)				
09:40-10:40	Plenary Session I					
10:40-11:00	Coffee Break					
11:00-12:00	Plenary Session II	Plenary Session II				
12:00-12:10	Group Photograph	Group Photograph				
12:10-13:40	Lunch					
13:40-15:20	Special Session (Beyond Ful-	kushima)				
15:20-15:40	Coffee Break					
15:40-16:40	Session R1-(I) Session R2-(I)					
16:40-17:00	Coffee Break					
17:00-18:00	Session R1-(I) Session R2-(I)					

Wednesday, July 15

•	-		
Time	Room A	Room B	Room C
08:40-10:20	Session R1-(II)	Session R2-(II)	
10:20-10:40	Coffee Break		
10:40-12:00	Session R1-(III)	Session R2-(III)	
12:00-13:20	Lunch		
13:20-14:20	Poster Standing Session (H	Iall)	
14:20-16:00	Session R1-(IV)	Session R2-(IV)	
16:00-16:20	Coffee Break		
16:20-18:00	Session R1-(V)		
19:00-20:30	Symposium Dinner (Room A+B+C)		

Thursday, July 16

Time	Room A Room B Room C				
09:00-10:20	Session R5-(I) Session R3-(II) Session R4-(I)				
10:20-10:40	Coffee Break				
10:40-12:00	Session R5-(II) Session R3-(III) Session R4-(II)				
12:00-12:30	Closing Session				
12:30-18:00	Go To Technical Tour (Gyeongju and Pohang)				

Friday, July 17

	Time	
09:00-12:00 Satellite Meeting: Effects of Low Doses of Radiation (Room C)		Satellite Meeting: Effects of Low Doses of Radiation (Room C)
	09:00-18:00	Technical Tour (KORAD in Gyeongju and PAL in Pohang)

A Valence Control Method Based on a NaNO₂-Aided Hydrogen Peroxide Treatment for Determination of Plutonium in Soil Samples

Chi-Chang Liu*, Wen-Hsien Tsai, Chia-Yin Pan ,Ming-Chi Horng, Wen-Hsi Liu

Radiation Monitoring Center, AEC, 823 Chemg Ching Road, 833 Koahsiung, Taiwan ChiChang@trmc.aec.gov.tw*

ABSTRACT

Plutonium ions exist in several oxidation states from III to VI in nature concurrently, and the chemical behavior of Pu depends highly on these various oxidation states. Although the interferences present in the samples could be related to the recovery decrease in the separation process, an incomplete valence control of the target analytes in the sample solution often causes problems of a significant loss of them in the subsequent sample loading step. Thus, adjustment of the Pu oxidation state is a crucial step in the quantitative chemical separation of Pu for the separation methods such as anion exchange, extraction chromatography and liquid-liquid extraction. Various reducing reagents have been used for the adjustment of the Pu oxidation state. Hydrogen peroxide has been reported also capable to be used as a reducing reagent. It introduces no foreign ions, acts rapidly, is inexpensive and has been early used for adjusting oxidation states of Pu in the radiochemical separation method. However, poor and inconsistent recoveries for Pu were often observed that might due to complex environmental matrices.

This study describes a method based on a combination of H_2O_2 and $NaNO_2$ for the valence adjustment for determining Pu in soil samples.

INTRODUCTION

Plutonium (Pu) is an anthropogenic radionuclide which is analyzed mainly for the purposes of monitoring of the environment around nuclear facilities such as nuclear power plants, nuclear fuel reprocessing plants and nuclear waste storage sites, as well as for surveys of the contaminated areas resulting from nuclear weapons tests, nuclear accidents, and the discharge of nuclear waste. The most abundant of Pu isotopes, 23Ppt and 24Pu, are very long-lived in the environment with radioactive half-lives of 24,100 years and 6,564 years, respectively. Besides the content of Pu, many environmental studies have shown the measurement of the 240Pu/23Pp ratio would be useful for providing information on various sources. For instance, the ²⁴⁰Pu/23Pp ratio for reactor grade Pu can vary from 0.23 to 0.65 according to the irradiation conditions of the fuel. The weapons-grade Pu is characterized by low ²⁴⁰Pu/²³⁹Ppu atom ratios of 0.02–0.06, while the worldwide integrated global fallout Pu from the atmospheric nuclear weapons tests is characterized by a ²⁴⁰Pu/²³⁹Pu atom ratio of 0.178±0.024. In the deposition originating from the Chernobyl accident, the ²⁴⁰Pu/²³⁹Pu ratio was approximately 0.4 [1-5]. The determination of the ²⁴⁰Pu/²³⁹Pu ratio is therefore important in understanding the origin of the contamination.

For most analytical laboratories, alpha spectrometry in the past has been routinely used

For most analytical laboratories, alpha spectrometry in the past has been routinely used to determine Pu in environmental samples and it is now still the most widely used analytical technique. However, the application of this technique is limited by its difficulty to distinguish 2^{sup}pu and 2^{sup}pu due to the similarity of their alpha energies. Therefore, there is only a limited data available on the levels and distributions of 2^{sup}pu and 2^{sup}pu isotopes in environmental samples. During the last two decades, inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) has been increasingly applied in the determination of Pu isotopes in various environmental samples as a result of considerable developments in mass spectrometry technology (6).

For further information

Please contact Dr. ChiChang Liu TEL:886-7-3709206 ext 200 E-mail:chichang@trmc.aec.gov.tw



EXPERIMENTAL

Soil samples were dried at 105 °C, sieved out from small stones and plant roots and homogenized. After that, 50 g of each sample was taken and put to a muffle furnace, ashed at 500 °C for 4 h or more to decompose the organic matter. The sample was spiked with ²⁴²Pu (NIST) tracer and leached with 250 mL of hot 8 M HNO; or 2h. During the leaching step the beaker was covered with a watch-glass to prevent significant evaporation of the solution, which was occasionally stirred with a glass rod. The mixture was then filtered and evaporated to dryness. The residue was dissolved in 50 mL of 8 M HNO, again.

For the valence adjustment of Pu, distinct methods were tested and compared. The detailed valence adjustment conditions are discussed under Results and discussion. The final selected valence adjustment was performed by adding 1 mL of 30% H₂O₂ and the solution was gently heated for about 15 min, until the bubbles did not occur. After cooling at room temperature, 2g of NaNO₂ were cautiously added. The beaker was then covered, heated and left until the brown gases disappeared. Another 100 mL of 8 M HNO₃ were added to the solution and then brought to cooling. This procedure has been performed to produce a final 150 mL sample solution.

sampie solution. After the adjustment of the oxidation state of Pu to Pu(IV), the solution was added into a preconditioned anion exchange column (Dowex 1x8, 100–200 mesh, SIGMA Chemical Co.,USA). After loading the sample solution, the column was washed with 150 mL of 8 M HNO₃ and 300 mL of 9 M HCI to remove the interfering elements and Pu was eluted from the column by reduction with 50 mL of freshly prepared 9 M HCI-OH NH₄I. The eluted solution was heated to incipient dryness. In order to volatilize iodine completely, 5 mL of conc. HNO3 and 1 mL of 30% H₂O₂ were added and the solution was heated to dryness. Finally, Pu was electrodeposited on stainless planchets.



Alpha spectrometer

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

To test the conversion of all Pu into Pu(IV), H_2O_2 or NaNO₂ was added to 8 M HNO₃ sample solution extracted from 50 g soil spiked with tracer. As shown in Table 1 (Method a, c), the chemical yields obtained by H2O2 were higher than those by NaNO2. The worse results for both reagents were obtained after prolonging the time to column separation (Method b, d).

Table 1 Chemical yields for the valence adjustment using $\mathrm{H_2O_2}$ and $\mathrm{NaNO_2}$

Method	Step 1: H ₂ O ₂		Step	Step 2: NaNO ₂ Chemical yield (%)	
a	+		-		65.7
b	+	(overnight)	-		46.5
С	-		+		49.2
d	-		+	(overnight)	24.4
е	+	(overnight)	+		62.8
f	+	(overnight)	+	(overnight)	56.4
g	+		+		87.8

To assess different sample matrix effects, 5 soil samples were evaluated. The results in Fig. 2 showed that a better and more consistent recovery were observed by our proposed method compared to the method with ${\rm H_{2}O_{2}}$ alone. In our another experiment, after the conversion of Pu into Pu(IV) by ${\rm H_{2}O_{2}}$ alone in 8 M HNO₃, the solution was stand for 12 hr before the column separation and the recoveries were poor and inconsistent (14–87.8%, average: 48.8%, n=7).

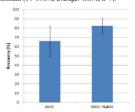


Fig. 1 Chemical yields of SRM (NIST) using H2O2 and NaNO2 for the valence adjustment

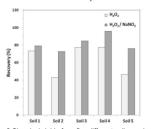


Fig. 2 Chemical yields from five different soil samples using H₂O₂ and NaNO₂ for the valence adjustment

CONCLUSION

Mean recoveries of six different soil samples were 66.0% (RSD: 16.6%) and 82.4% (RSD: 8.3%) for the method using H₂O₂ alone and our proposed method respectively. The accuracy of the method for the ²³⁹⁻²⁴⁰Pu activity and ²⁴⁰Pu/²³⁹Pu ratio was verified using reference materials of soil sample. For comparison, the proposed method was used for the determination of Pu in soil samples and the results of ²³⁹⁻²⁴⁰Pu activity obtained from SF-ICP-MS were in good agreement. The method demonstrates that a higher and more consistent recovery was obtained compared to the traditional one only using H₂O₂. Uncertainties of analyzed results could be controlled within better confidence interval.

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Measurement for the Dose-rates of the Cosmic-ray neutron on the Ground in Taiwan

Chin-Yi Fang, Ren-Jer Liu, Pei-Huo Lin, Ming-Chi Horng Radiation Monitoring Center, AEC, Taiwan, ROC

Abstract

Cosmic radiation including galactic component radiation and solar flares radiation originating from outer space generates secondary high energy radiations across the atmosphere of the earth. Those high energy secondary radiations include the cosmic neutron whose energy radiations include the cosmic neutron whose energy ranges from 0.01eV to 10GeV. In the past, limited by the neutron dosimeter energy response below 20MeV, the cosmic neutron dose contributed from high energy neutron was ignored. So with the advance of neutron detection technique to extend the energy response to the level of GeV, we try to determine the portion of the cosmic high neutron dose rate.

The aim of this research is to re-evaluate the cosmic

cosmic high neutron dose rate.

The aim of this research is to re-evaluate the cosmic neutron dose rate referring to the natural background radiation measurement in Taiwan. We utilized hand-held neutron dosimeter Berthold LB-6411—Pb, a proportional counter tube filled with 3He and methane and its neutron energy response from thermal to 1GeV.

Methods(Continue)

Because cosmic neutron flux varied with altitude, we choose 28 spots with different altitude range from 3 to 3263 meters to measure cosmic neutron dose rate. During the route, we utilized global position system and google map to record the altitude variation. And, we took the panoramic photography to evaluate the shielding effort caused by the in situ topography.





oute of in field measurement recorded by GPS and google map



In field measurement at the tropic of cance r of Chiayi County in Talwan



in field measurement at Wu-Lin(3263 meters in height)

Introduction

Neutron dose rate monitoring at neutron energies of several hundreds of MeV requires special instrumentation. Berthold Technologies has developed a new version of the widely used LB6411 neutron dose rate monitor for high energies, the LB6411-Pb. A prototype was calibrated at the CERF at CERN in Geneva/Switzerland with neutron energies ranging up to 1 GeV.

1 GeV. For comparison simultaneous measurements were made with a conventional LB 6411. The conventional neutron dose rate meter shows a underestimation, reporting only 68.9% of the reference dose. However, the results of the new version LB 6411-Pb with an additional lead layer of 10 mm thickness agree with the reference values by 98.8%⁽¹⁾.

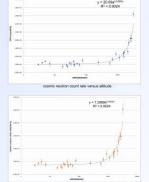






Results

Those in field measurements show that the cosmic neutron dose rate is $7.02 \sim 50.9\,$ nSv/h in Taiwan where the vertical cut-off geomagnetic rigidity is 16GV , geomagnetic latitude locate from 21°N to 25°N and in the period of 24°n solar cycle. Besides, We also find out a surge increase of dose rate around 1100 meters in height.



Methods

For the purpose of verifying the response of cosmic high energy neutron, we setup the instrument at different spots including the grassland, basement and hydroelectric power plant maintenance passage.

With increase the shielding effort by the soil above, it shows that the neutron counting rate of the new LB6411-De and the conventional LB6411 seems to gradually similar and can proof that the high energy cosmic neutron successfully been slow down and recorded by both dosimeters which have different energy response.

	LB6411-Pb (CPH)	LB6411 (CPH)	LB6411- Pb / LB6411
Grassland (with 23 meters in height)	24	14.8	1.62
Basement (underground 1.1 meter)	14.4	11.0	1.31
Zengwen Reservoir Hydroelectric power plant Maintenance passage (Shield by 230 meters soil	10.8	8.6	1.25

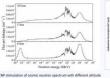




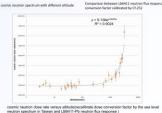


Conclusion

Furthermore, to comply with the sea level neutron spectrum of Taiwan, we recalibrated the dose rate conversion factor and estimate 9.13 nSv/h on the ground at the sea level neutron dose rate which similar to 9 nSv/h of the UNSCEAR 2000 report According to this result, it's necessary to reevaluate the neutron dose rate contributed from cosmic high energy neutrons.







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