



Gamma-ray Production Cross Sections for Active Neutron Interrogation with GENESIS

B.L. Goldblum, J.A. Brown, T.A. Laplace, J.M. Gordon Nuclear Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Department of Nuclear Engineering, University of California, Berkeley

> WANDA 2025 February 13, 2025



Nuclear Data Needs for Active Neutron Interrogation



Goal: Provide partial γ-ray cross sections for high priority nuclides for neutron active interrogation applications

Priority	Elements
First	C,N, <mark>O, Na</mark> Al, Si, <mark>Fe</mark> , Cu, Pb, W <mark>, U</mark> , Pu
Follow-up	He, Li, Be, B, <mark>Cl</mark> , Cr, Mn, Ni, Ge, Br, Cd, I, Cs, La
Remaining	F, Mg, P, S, Ar, K, Ca, Ti, As, Kr, Mo, Sn, Sb, Xe, Gd, <mark>Bi</mark> , Np, Am, Tm

S. McConchie, et al., Technical Report No. ORNL/TM-2021/1900, 2021.



Collaboration/Strategic Partnerships

- Stockpile Stewardship Academic Alliance (Bernstein)
- DT-API measurement program w/ NASA/JHUAPL Goddard team (Peplowski, Ayllon)
- NA-113 at LLNL (Bleuel, Vogt)
- NA-113 at LANL (Kelly, Kawano)
- DOE-SC/NP at BNL (Brown)

The GENESIS Array





Array commissioned under prior DOE-NE project (PI: Bernstein)

Expanded to include 7 dedicated mechanically-cooled HPGe detectors

¹²C(n,n' γ) has been extensively measured but uncertainties persist

- ENDF/B-VIII.0 evaluation relied on two data sets
 - Wender et al.¹ re-scaled
 - Negret et al.² re-scaled and shifted in energy
- More recent measurements shed further light:
 - Ramirez et al.³ normalized to other cross sections
 - Kelly et al.⁴ scaled cross section shape to ENDF/B-VIII.0⁵





¹²C(n,n₁'γ) Experimental Details

- $25 \text{ MeV} {}^{2}\text{H}{}^{+} \text{ beam} \text{RF} \text{ Period} = 127.236 \text{ ns}$
- 99.98% pure, 1-mm-thick graphite target,
 6.564 g
- 10 Day experiment 100 hours on target, 10 hours of "blank"
- Neutron flux measured using sTOF
 spectrometer
- Two activation foil packs fielded at array center and sTOF location
 - Au, Al, Ni, Zr, In



Neutron flux on the ¹²C target at the center of the GENESIS array

Measured ${}^{12}C(n,n_1'\gamma)$ Cross Section



Agreement with ENDF/B-VIII.0 from 8.5-16 MeV but diverges at lower energies demonstrating a cross section more consistent with Negret et al. 2014

J. Gordon, et al., " $^{12}C(n,n_1'\gamma)$ partial γ -ray cross section measured using the GENESIS array," Phys. Rev. C (submitted for publication).

²³Na(n,n'): Latest Evaluation and EXFOR data

- Lack of data above 4 MeV
- Large discrepancies (>x2) between ENDF/B-VIII.0 and other libraries at 14.1 MeV
- No ENDF update since at least 2001



Incident energy (MeV)

GENESIS Experiment on ²³Na metallic target

- 25 MeV ²H⁺, ~8 uA
- Integration of 6 new HPGes (45-160°)
- 26 organic liquid scintillators in groups of 4 (20°, 40°, 66°, 90°, 110°, and 145°)
- 115 h on ²³Na, 75 h on epoxy blank





Prominent 440 keV and 1636 transitions with many γ-rays showing significant Doppler broadening

Acknowledgments















Bethany Goldblum PI, Berkeley Lab

Lee Bernstein co-Pl, UC Berkeley Josh BrownThibaultTech Lead, UC BerkeleyRes. Engr, U

Thibault LaplaceJoseph GordonRes. Engr, UC BerkeleyPostdoc, UC Berkeley

This work was supported by the NNSA Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation R&D through the LB23-GammaProdXSwithGENESIS-PD3Ob project and performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory under Contract No. DE-AC02-05CH11231. This work was supported in part by the U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration through the Nuclear Science and Security Consortium under Award Number DE-NA0003996. The initial development of the GENESIS array was supported by DOE-NE under the NEAMS and NEUP programs. Beamtime was supported by DOE/SC-NP Through the U.S. Nuclear Data Program.

Backup Slides

Neutron flux for 25 MeV deuterons incident on a carbon breakup target as measured in Na experiment



Good agreement between integrated neutron flux obtained from sTOF spectrometer and activation foil analysis

Working with GENESIS Observables



Forward modeling approach

Successfully implemented on ⁵⁶Fe but requires generalization of codebase



J.M. Gordon, Ph.D. thesis

Forward modeling approach – successful implementation on ⁵⁶Fe for γ -ray yield



J.M. Gordon, Ph.D. thesis