Canadian Association of Physicists

Association canadienne des physiciens et physiciennes

Contribution ID: **409**   Type: **Oral Competition (Graduate Student) / Compétition orale (Étudiant(e) du 2e ou 3e cycle)**

(G*) A Measurement of Zinc-65 Using Data from the KDK Experiment

Monday 7 June 2021 17:20 (10 minutes)

Zinc-65 (Zn-65) is a radionuclide of interest in the fields of medicine and gamma-ray spectroscopy, within which its continued use as a tracer and common calibration source necessitates increasingly-precise nuclear decay data. A Zn-65 dataset was obtained as part of the KDK ("potassium decay") experiment, whose apparatus consists of an inner X-ray detector and an efficient outer detector, the Modular Total Absorption Spectrometer (MTAS), to tag gamma rays. This setup allows for the discrimination of the electron capture decays of Zn-65 to the ground (EC) and excited (EC*) states of Copper-65 (Cu-65) using an emerging technique for such a measurement, exploiting the high efficiency ($\sim 98\%$) of MTAS. Techniques used to obtain the ratio ρ of EC to EC* decays are applicable to the main KDK analysis which is making the first measurement of ρ for Potassium-40, a common background in rare-event searches such as those for dark matter. The KDK instrumentation paper (under review by NIM) pre-print is available at arXiv:2012.15232. We present our current methodology and analysis procedures developed to obtain a novel measurement of the electron-capture decays of Zinc-65.

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Session Classification: M4-5 Nuclei & Astrophysics II (DNP) / Noyaux et astrophysique II (DPN)

Track Classification: Nuclear Physics / Physique nucléaire (DNP-DPN)