Joint session of the PAC for Particle Physics and the PAC for Nuclear Physics for the assessment of JINR neutrino physics projects 21 January 2021

Investigation of the 2β-decay processes of ⁸²Se with the SuperNEMO detector

Extension of the SuperNEMO project for the period 2022-2024

Speaker: Victor Tretyak (DLNP, JINR)

supernemo



collaboration

supernemo





SuperNEMO – successor of NEMO-3 is international collaboration 95 participants from 7 countries, 22 institutions

10 Depth, Feet of Standard Rock 4000 2000 6000 8000 10000 0 Münste sen WIPP 105 OBonn Soudan olenz O Wiesbade Canfranc C Kamioka Muon Intensity, m⁻² y⁻¹ 104 **Boulby Mine** Gran Sasso Homestake CI-Ar 10³ Baksan Frejus Sudbury Bay of Biscay 10 Deep Underground Laboratory Aix-en-Provence Marseille O Toulon 0 2000 4000 6000 8000 Depth, meters water equivalent

> <u>Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane</u> (LSM) Modane, France (Tunnel Frejus, depth of ~4,800 mwe)

Main purpose – search for $0\nu\beta\beta$ decay





Tracker-Calorimeter Technique

- Source separated from detector: (almost) any solid isotope can be hosted.
- Generally poorer energy resolution and efficiency than "homogeneous" detectors such as HPGe and bolometers.
- Full topological event reconstruction including e^{\pm} , γ -ray and α -particle identification.





- Strong background suppression by particle identification, event characterisation & timing.
- Ability to disentangle different mechanisms for 0vββ, by looking at variables other than ΣE.

The NEMO-3 Experiment



- 5" low activity PMT coupled to PS scintillator blocks.
- Energy resolution :

$$\frac{\Delta E(\text{FWHM})}{E} = \frac{14\%}{\sqrt{E(\text{Me})}}$$

- Source strips.
 Motallic or comr
- Metallic or composite structure.
- Calibration tubes.
 Host ²⁰⁷Bi and other sources.
- Cathode rings surrounding each vertical anode wire.
- 3D tracker hits from transverse drift and longitudinal plasma propagation.
- 25 Gauss B-field

• Cu/Fe structure.



- Ran from 2003 to 2011.
- Surrounded by shielding and anti-radon enclosure.
- Located at 4800 m.w.e. at the Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane (LSM).
- ¹⁰⁰Mo (7kg) ; ⁸²Se (1kg)
- ¹¹⁶Cd, ¹⁵⁰Nd, ⁴⁸Ca, ⁹⁶Zr, ¹³⁰Te

Particle Data Book

Half-life measurements of the two-neutrino double- β decay

The measured half-life values for the transitions (Z,A) \rightarrow (Z+2,A) + 2 e^- + 2 $\overline{\nu}_e$ to the 0⁺ ground state of the final nucleus are listed. We also list the transitions to an excited state of the final nucleus (0⁺_i, etc.). We report only the measuremetnts with the smallest (or comparable) uncertainty for each transition.

$t_{1/2}(10^{21} \text{ yr})$			ISOTOPE TRANSITION METHOD		DOCUMENT ID			
• • • \	We do not	use the fol	lowing da	ata for avera	ges, fits, limi	ts, etc.	• • •	
> 0.87			^{134}Xe		EXO-200	1	ALBERT	17C
0.82	± 0.02	± 0.06	¹³⁰ Te		CUORE-0	2	ALDUINO	17
0.00690	0 ± 0.00015	5 ± 0.00037	100 Mo		CUPID	3	ARMENGAUD	17
0.0274	±0.0004	±0.0018	^{116}Cd		NEMO-3	4	ARNOLD	17
0.064	$^{+0.007}_{-0.006}$	$^{+0.012}_{-0.009}$	⁴⁸ Ca		NEMO-3	5	ARNOLD	16
0.00934	4±0.00022	$2^{+0.00062}_{-0.00060}$	$^{150}\mathrm{Nd}$		NEMO-3	6	ARNOLD	16A
1.926	± 0.094		76 _{Ge}		GERDA	7	AGOSTINI	15A
0.00693	3 ± 0.00004	1	100 Mo		NEMO-3	8	ARNOLD	15
2.165	± 0.016	±0.059	¹³⁶ Xe		EXO-200	9	ALBERT	14
9.2	$^{+5.5}_{-2.6}$	± 1.3	⁷⁸ Kr		BAKSAN	10	GAVRILYAK	13
2.38	± 0.02	± 0.14	136 _{Xe}		KamLAND-	Zen 11	GANDO	12A
0.7	± 0.09	± 0.11	¹³⁰ Te		NEMO-3	12	ARNOLD	11
0.0235	± 0.0014	±0.0016	⁹⁶ Zr		NEMO-3	13	ARGYRIADES	10
0.69	$^{+0.10}_{-0.08}$	± 0.07	$100{\rm Mo}$	$0^+ \rightarrow 0^+_1$	Ge coinc.	14	BELLI	10
0.57	$^{+0.13}_{-0.09}$	± 0.08	100_{Mo}	$\mathbf{0^+} \rightarrow \mathbf{0^+_1}$	NEMO-3	15	ARNOLD	07
0.096	± 0.003	±0.010	⁸² Se		NEMO-3	16	ARNOLD	05A
0.029	$^{+0.004}_{-0.003}$		^{116}Cd		116 CdWO ₄	scint.17	DANEVICH	03

Ability to disentangle $\beta\beta$ -decay mechanisms



The HSD model is excluded with high confidence, while the SSD model is consistent with the NEMO-3 data.

EPJ C79(2019)440

Quadrupole neutrinoless $0v4\beta$ -decay

- Neutrinoless quadruple beta decay
 - Proposed by Heeck and Rodejohann [1]
 - Lepton number violating process
 - Neutrinos are Dirac particles and $0\nu\beta\beta$ is forbidden
 - The best candidate is $^{150}\mathrm{Nd} \rightarrow ^{150}\mathrm{Gd} + 4\mathrm{e}$ (Q_{4\beta} = 2.079 MeV)
- Exploit the unique ability of NEMO-3 to reconstruct the kinematics of each e-
- No evidence of this decay

$$T_{1/2}^{0\nu4\beta} > (1.1 - 3.2) \times 10^{21} \text{ y}$$

According the model

World's first limit on this process

[1] J. Heeck, W. Rodejohann, Europhys. Lett. 103, 32001 (2013).





Phys.Rev.Lett. 119(2017)041801

Possibility to determine the effective axial-vector coupling constant

70.4

70.2

70

69.8

69.6

69.4

69.2

69

0.54

1σ

2σ 3σ

0.56

0.58

0.6

0.64

0.66

0.62

 $^{00}\text{Mo}~\text{2v}\beta\beta$ decays / (kg x hour)

Following the paper F.Šimkovic et al. Phys. Rev. C 97, 034315 (2018) the $2\nu\beta\beta$ decay rate may be expressed as: $\left[T_{1/2}^{2\nu\beta\beta}\right]^{-1} \simeq \left(g_A^{\text{eff}}\right)^4 \left|M_{GT-3}^{2\nu}\right|^2 \frac{1}{|\xi_{31}^{2\nu}|^2} \left(G_0^{2\nu} + \xi_{31}^{2\nu}G_2^{2\nu}\right)$ The parameter $\xi_{31}^{2\nu} = \frac{M_{GT-3}^{2\nu}}{M_{GT-1}^{2\nu}}$

may be determined from the fit of measured $2\nu\beta\beta$ -decay energy distributions.



From NEMO-3 to SuperNEMO

		supernemo collaboration
NEMO-3		SuperNEMO
¹⁰⁰ Mo	lsotope	⁸² Se (or ¹⁵⁰ Nd or ⁹⁶ Zr)
7 kg	lsotope mass M	100+kg
²⁰⁸ Tl: ~ 100 µBq/kg ²¹⁴ Bi: < 300 µBq/kg Rn: 5 mBq/m ³	Contaminations in the ββ foil Rn in the tracker	²⁰⁸ Tl ≤ 2 µBq/kg ²¹⁴ Bi ≤ 10 µBq/kg Rn ≤ 0.15 mBq/m ³
8% @ 3MeV	Energy resolution (FWHM)	4% @ 3 MeV
T _{1/2} (ββ0v) > 1.1 x 10 ²⁴ y <m<sub>v> < 0.3 - 0.6 eV</m<sub>	Sensitivity	T _{1/2} (ββ0v) > 1 x 10 ²⁶ y <m<sub>v> < 0.04 - 0.1 eV</m<sub>

SuperNEMO Demonstrator



Change isotope ¹⁰⁰Mo

Reduce radon in gas

Improved efficiency,

"BiPo" Detector

Measure source foil contamination to ²⁰⁸TI

 $\leq 2 \mu Bq/kg$

²¹⁴Bi \leq 10 µBq/kg

Also:

--> ⁸²Se

by factor 30

calibration etc.







Search for $0\nu\beta\beta$

• Sensitivity goal of Demonstrator Module (2.5 year run) 17.5 kg×yr initial exposure for the standard mass mechanism:

 $T_{1/2}^{0\nu} > 5.9 \times 10^{24} \text{ yr } \langle m_{\nu} \rangle < 0.20 - 0.55 \text{ eV}$

 Searches for the 0v signal for other mechanisms including heavy composite Majorana neutrinos, Majorons, RH currents, R-parity violating SUSY models.

Detailed study of $2\nu\beta\beta$

- Disentangle Single-state vs Higher-state mechanism in the $^{82}Se~2\nu\beta\beta$ decay @ $5\sigma.$
- The measurement of g_A parameter, essential for the NME calculation (*F.Šimkovic et al. Phys. Rev. C* 97, 034315 (2018)
- Precision measurements on 2νββ decay (energy of each electron, angular correlation) to look for deviations from standard model and the search of exotic decays including Lorenz invariance violation, bosonic neutrino, exotic charge currents (*Frank F. Deppisch, Lukas Graf, Fedor Simkovic, Phys.Rev.Lett.* 125 (2020) 17, 171801)



SuperNEMO Future Directions





Status of SuperNEMO Demonstrator





Working schedule

- The first half of 2021 completion of assembly and commissioning of the Demonstrator without external shielding. The calibration of the Demonstrator, the launch of data taking in a configuration without external shielding.
- The second half of 2021 the creation of external shielding of the Demonstrator.
- 2022 start calibration and data collection in the full configuration of the Demonstrator.
- 2022-2024 data taking, data analysis, background assessment, control of backgrounds, publication of results for the Demonstrator.
- During the whole period R&D on the centrifuge method of ⁹⁶Zr enrichment, improvement of the purification technique of ⁸²Se (100 kg) and mass production of plastic scintillators.

JINR contribution

- R&D and production of 720 plastic scintillator blocks for the Demonstrator calorimeter (in cooperation with the University of Prague).
- Manufacturing of 60 optical modules for the VETO system (scintillator + PMN 5" R6594 HAMAMATSU).
- Acquisition of 100 PMT 8" R5912-03 HAMAMATSU for the calorimeter.
- Purchase of 7 crates for the electronics of the calorimeter.
- Purchase 1.5 kg of enriched ⁸²Se to create sources.
- A unique ⁸²Se purification technique has been developed and implemented. A clean room has been built , and 3.5 kg of ⁸²Se has been purified, used to create the sources of the Demonstrator.
- Manufacturing of signal and HV cables for the tracker.
- Development, creation and maintenance of equipment for low-background measurements: germanium, radon, neutron detectors in LSM.
- Iron passive shielding against gammas is now being developed and will be created.
- Essential contribution in software development, simulations, data base creation and data analysis.

SWOT analysis

Strengths

- The complete kinematics of the double beta decay process is reconstructed.
- Full topological event reconstruction including e^+ , e^- , γ -ray and α -particle identification.
- Excellent background suppression by particle identification, event characterisation and timing. Radon suppression by anti-radon factory.
- Modular design (20 independent modules) allows to increase the number of modules as they are ready.

Weaknesses

- Low efficiency of recording the process of $0\nu\beta\beta$ -decay 25%.
- Low energy resolution of the calorimeter, FWHM = 8% for 1 MeV electrons. As a result the non-removable background from the continuous spectrum of $2\nu\beta\beta$ -decay.

Threats

Opportunities

- In case of 0v signal discovery the SuperNEMO may provide the way for the full characterisation of 0vββ, to determine the underlying physics mechanism. Almost any solid isotope can be hosted in SuperNEMO detector.
- The main threats and risks to the project are associated with further restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, due to travel restrictions of the personnel as well as restrictions for the underground laboratory access that may lead to further delays with completion of the shielding construction and physics data taking.

Human resources

N	Person	Status	Subjects	FTE
1	O.I. Kochetov	JINR Project Leader	calorimeter, data analysis, databases	1.0
2	Yu.A.Shitov Senior Researcher		software, data analysis, databases	0.1
3	V.B.Brudanin	Senior Researcher	calorimeter, data analysis	0.1
4	A.A. Smolnikov	Senior Researcher	calorimeter, data analysis, simulation	0.3
5	A.A. Klimenko	Senior Researcher	software, data analysis	0.3
6	V.I. Tretyak	Senior Researcher	software, data analysis, simulation	1.0
7	D.V. Karaivanov	Researcher	radiochemistry, ⁸² Se- purification, sources	0.4
8	A.V. Rahimov	PhD student	radiochemistry, ⁸² Se purification, sources	0.6
9	D.V. Filosofov	Senior Researcher	radiochemistry, ⁸² Se purification, sources	0.3
10	N.A. Mirzaev	Researcher	radiochemistry, ⁸² Se purification, sources	0.4
11	A.V. Salamatin	Senior Researcher	electronics, cables	0.4
12	V.V. Timkin	Researcher	calorimeter, VETO system and cables	1.0
13	I.B. Nemchenok	Senior Researcher	PS production, calorimeter and VETO system	0.2
14	I.I. Kamnev	I. Kamnev Engineer PS production, calorimeter and VETO system		0.3
15	O.I. Vagina	Engineer	PS production, calorimeter and VETO system	0.3
In total				6.7

Financial resources

Schedule proposal and resources required for the implementation of the

Estimated expenditures for the SuperNEMO project

SuperNEMO Project

			Cost of	Allocati	Allocation of resources and		
			parts (K		money		
List of parts and devices; Resources;			US\$),				
Financial sources			resourc	1 st voor	2 nd vear	3rd year	
			es	туса	z year	5 year	
			needs				
ent	1. Materials for Demonstrator ironshielding (radioactively pure iron)		200	200	0	0	
ЪШ							
qui	2. Spectr	oscopic electronics for test	20	20	0		
ē	stands of PS&PMTs		20	20	0	0	
ani	3. Borate	d polystyrene for neutron	30	30	0	0	
rts	shielding	of the Demonstrator	50	50	Ŭ		
ра	4. Materials&Equipment for		60	20	20	20	
ain	Demonst	Demonstrator maintenance under					
Σ	JINR res	ponsibility (2 Radon					
	detectors, two HPGe spectrometer,) and carrying out calibrations, including creation of calibration						
						I I	
	including	creation of calibration					
	sources.	creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment.					
	sources.	creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment.	310	270	20	20	
	sources.	creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment.	310	270	20	20	
ces	Total	creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment. JINR workshop	310	270 0	20	20 0	
ources	Total	creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment. JINR workshop	310	270	20	20 0	
esources	Total	creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment. JINR workshop DLNP workshop	310 0 600	270 0 300	20 0 150	20 0 150	
Resources	Total	creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment. JINR workshop DLNP workshop	310 0 600	270 0 300	20 0 150	20 0 150	
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ncial sources Resources	Including sources. Total es pudget Norm-hours	creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment. JINR workshop DLNP workshop Budget spending Grants;	310 0 600 310	270 0 300 270	20 0 150 20	20 0 150 20	
inancial sources Resources	ncluding sources. Total Norm-hours budget Norm-hours	creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment. JINR workshop DLNP workshop Budget spending Grants; Other sources	310 0 600 310	270 0 300 270	20 0 150 20	20 0 150 20	
Financial sources Resources	Including sources. Total Norm-hours budget Sources	creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment. JINR workshop DLNP workshop Budget spending Grants; Other sources (these funds are not	310 0 600 310 <i>30</i>	270 0 300 270 10	20 0 150 20 10	20 0 150 20 10	
Financial sources Resources	Off-budget JINR Norm-hours sources	Creation of calibration Radiochemical equipment. JINR workshop DLNP workshop Budget spending Grants; Other sources (these funds are not currently guaranteed)	310 0 600 310 30	270 0 300 270 10	20 0 150 20 10	20 0 150 20 10	

#	Designation for outlays	Total cost	1 year	2 year	3 year			
	Direct expenses for the project							
1.	Networking	6.0 KUS\$	2.0	2.0	2.0			
2.	DLNP workshop	600 norm-hour	300	150	150			
3.	JINR workshop	0	0	0	0			
4.	Materials	290.0 KUS\$	250.0	20.0	20.0			
5.	Equipment	20.0 KUS\$	20.0	0.0	0.0			
6.	Collaboration fee	60.0 KUS\$	20.0	20.0	20.0			
7.	Travel expenses	60.0 KUS\$	30.0	15.0	15.0			
	Total	436.0 KUS\$	322.0 KUS	\$ 57.0 KUS\$	57.0 KUS\$			

Expected salary of SuperNEMO team is 113.9 kUS\$ per year taking into account 1FTE=17kUS\$. It includes spending on technical personnel not listed in the project. 1US\$ = 64RUB assumed in the estimation.

Summary

- The NEMO/SuperNEMO experiments are based on a unique track-calorimetric method for the investigation of ββ-processes, which has been successfully developed for decades. It allows to reconstruct the complete pattern of ββ-decay and to test its mechanism.
- The main task of Demonstrator (the first module) of the SuperNEMO is to validate the technique of background suppression, as well as physical measurements. With 7 kg of ⁸²Se in 2.5 years it is planned to achieve sensitivity to the effective neutrino mass at the level of 0.20 - 0.55 eV.
- The Demonstrator is in the final stages of commissioning in the underground laboratory and will start this year.
- The creation of the Demonstrator became possible with the decisive contribution of JINR to a number of working tasks: calorimeter, tracker, sources, shielding, etc.
- The success of the Demonstrator opens the opportunity for the full SuperNEMO detector: measurement of 100 kg of the source in 20 modules with a sensitivity of 40-110 meV to the effective Majorana neutrino mass.

Backup slides

Detailed study of ¹⁰⁰Mo $2\nu\beta\beta$



Recent publication of the SuperNEMO 2017-2020

[1] A.S. Barabash on behalf of the NEMO-3 and SuperNEMO collaborations, "Double beta decay experiments: present and future", J. Phys.: Conf.Ser.**1390 (2019)** 012048. DOI: 10.1088/1742-6596/1390/1/012048.

[2] R. Arnold et al., "Detailed studies of Mo-100 two-neutrino double beta decay in NEMO-

3", Eur. Phys. J. C (2019) 79:440. DOI: 10.1140/epjc/s10052-019-6948-4

[3] Alimardon V.Rakhimov et al., "Development of methods for the preparation of radiopure Se-82 sources for the SuperNEMO neutrinoless double-beta decay experiment", Radiochimica Acta, 2020; 108(2): 87-97. DOI: 10.1515/ract-2019-3129.

[4] R. Hodak et al., "Charactirization and Long-term Performance of the Radon Trapping Facility Operating at the Modane Underground Laboratory", Journal of Physics G: Nuclear and Particle Physics 46 (2019)115105 (17pp). DOI: 10.1088/1361-6471/ab368e.

[5] R. Arnold et al., NEMO-3 Collaboration, "Search for the double beta decay Se-82 to the excited states of Kr-82 with NEMO-3", Nuclear Physics A v 996 (2020) 121701. DOI: 10.1016/j.nucl.physa.2020.121701.

[6] Thibaud Le Noblet on behalf of the NEMO-3 and SuperNEMO collaborations, "Latest results from NEMO-3 and commissioning status of the SuperNEMO demonstrator", J. Phys.: Conf.Ser. **1342 (2020)** 012029. DOI: 10.1088/1742-6596/1342/1/012029.

[7] A.S. Barabash et al., "Calorimeter development for the SuperNEMO double beta decay experiment, Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A 868 (2017) 98-108

[8] A.S. Barabash et al., "The BiPo-3 detector for the measurement of ultra low natural radio activities of thin materials", JINST 12 (2017) no.06, P06002

[9] S. Calvez, on behalf of the SuperNEMO collaboration, " $0\nu\beta\beta$ -sensitivity with the SuperNEMO demonstrator, 52nd Rencontres de Moriond EW 2017, La Thuile, Italy, Mars 18-25, 2017

[10] R. Arnold et.al., "Measurement of the double beta-decay half-life and search for the neutrinoless double beta-decay of Cd-116 with the NEMO-3 detector", Phys. Rev. D95 (2017) 012007-1 - 012007-12.

[11] R. Arnold et.al., "Measurement of the double beta-decay half-life of Nd-150 and a search for neutrinoless double beta-decay processes with the full exposure from the NEMO-3 detector", Phys. Rev. D94 (2016) 072003.

[12] H. Gomes for the NEMO-3&SuperNEMO Collaborations, "Latest results of NEMO-3 experiment and present status of SuperNEMO", Nuclear and Particle Physics Proceedings (2016) 1765-1770.

[13] P.Povinec on behalf of the SuperNEMO Collaboration, "SuperNEMO – a new generation of underground experiments for double beta-decay investigations", The 14th Vienna Conference on Instrumentation 15-16 Feb., 2016.

[14] A.S. Barabash et. al.,"Calorimeter development for the SuperNEMO double betadecay experiment", NIM A868 (2017) 98-108.

[15] R. Arnold et al. from NEMO-3 Collaboration, "Search for neutrinoless quadrupole-b decay of the Nd-150 with the NEMO-3 detector" Phys. Rev. Lett. 119 (2017) 041801.

Reports of Dubna group at international conferences in 2019

Yu.A. Shitov "The Final Results of the NEMO-3 Experiment and Status of the SuperNEMO Project", Nucleus-2019, Dubna, 1-5 July 2019.

V.I. Tretyak "Investigation of Mo-100 two-neutrino double beta decay in NEMO-3", MEDEX-2019, Prague, 27-31 May 2019.

SuperNEMO Demonstrator



SuperNEMO Calorimeter

• 520 main wall optical modules

- 8" high QE radiopure PMTs
- σ_t = 400 ps at 1 MeV
- Energy resolution FWHM=8%/√E(MeV)







SuperNEMO Tracker



Nucl.Instrum.Meth. A824 (2016)

- Multi-wire drift chamber in Geiger mode
- Ultrapure materials: copper, steel, duracon
- Robotic production of 2034 drift cells
- Radiopure gas flow, anti-radon sealing
- <1% dead channels





SuperNEMO Source foils

- 36 foils made of ⁸²Se powder mixed with PVA glue + mylar mechanical support (200 um thick)
- 7 kg of ⁸²Se (Q_{ββ}=2.996 MeV)
- Target limits (challenging) on foil contamination: $^{208}TI \le 2 \mu Bq/kg$ $^{214}Bi \le 10 \mu Bq/kg$
- BiPo detector in Canfranc laboratory to measure source foil contamination: preliminary results indicate levels of ²⁰⁸TI [10-30] mBq/kg (90% C.L.)











⁸²Se foils radio-purity measurements

Nucleus	T1/2, y, 90%	<mv>, eV, QRPA +</mv>	
Inucleus	C.L.	others	Experiment
Ge-76	> 1.8×10^{26}	< 0.07 - 0.16	GERDA – I + II
Ge-76	> 1.9×10^{25}	< 0.24 - 0.52	Majorana
Xe-136	$> 1.1 \times 10^{26}$	< 0.061 - 0.165	KamLAND-Zen I + II
Xe-136	> 1.8×10^{25}	< 0.147 - 0.398	EXO-200 I + II
Te-130	$> 3.2 \times 10^{25}$	< 0.075 - 0.350	CUORE
Mo-100	> 1.1×10^{24}	< 0.310 - 0.620	NEMO-3
Se-82	$> 5.0 \times 10^{24}$	< 0.311 - 0.638	CUPID-0

Best present limit on < m_v>



Demonstrator SuperNEMO: $< m_v > < 0.20 - 0.55 \text{ eV}$

Full SuperNEMO $< m_v > < 0.04 - 0.11 \text{ eV}$

⁸²Se purification, Radioch. Acta, 2020; 108(2): 87-97.

A radiochemical method for producing ⁸²Se sources with an ultra-low level of contamination of natural radionuclides (⁴⁰K, decay products of ²³²Th and ²³⁸U) has been developed.

The technique developed was then used to produce 2.5 kg of radiopure enriched selenium (⁸²Se).

The radiopurity of the final ⁸²Se foils has been measured by BiPo-3 spectrometer: ²⁰⁸TI : $8 - 54 \mu Bq/kg$

²¹⁴Bi \leq 600 µBq/kg

This corresponds to an improvement in the radiopurity of the selenium foils by about a factor of 10 for ²⁰⁸Tl and at least by about a factor of 3 for ²¹⁴Bi in comparison with the NEMO-3 experiment.



Figure 1: Chromatographic separation (purification) scheme of selenium by the reverse method. 1–6 – polypropylene vessels with the solutions; 7, 9, 11, 13 – triple valves; 8, 12 – peristaltic pumps; 10 – ion exchange column.

Clean room for ⁸²Se purification (DLNP, JINR)



Radon Trapping Facility, J.Phys. G46 (2019)115105







The Radon Trapping Facility (RTF) installed in 2004 at the Modane Underground Laboratory (LSM) has been running for nine years providing radon-purified air at a level of 10 mBq m⁻³ for several experiments.

After disassembling of the RTF, the 2.6 m high charcoal column has been divided into several layers in order to study the dynamic adsorption coefficient (the K-factor) as a function of the depth and the radon spatial trapping profile by measuring the ²¹⁰Pb activity.

Radon Trapping Facility, J.Phys. G46 (2019)115105



The activity of ²¹⁰Pb is exponentially decreasing with depth. The radon mean retention time τ_R of (47.6 ± 1.2) days and the radon mean free path of (28.9 ± 0.4) cm have been derived and found to be consistent at 1 σ with the ones obtained from the K-factor study. The radon suppression factor of the RTF of 6790+1720-2370 has been also estimated with a value consistent at 2 σ with the suppression factor measured during the RTF operation. It has been demonstrated that after almost a decade of running, the K-factor of the activated charcoal remains constant except for the first few cm of the column.



Measured activities of ²¹⁰Pb as a function of the MLD