

Irina Zarubina "Recent applications of nuclear track emulsion "



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Layers of thickness of 50 to 200 μm on a glass base

Nuclear track emulsion: 0.5 µm resolution





Exposure of Nuclear Track Emulsion to ⁸He Nuclei at the ACCULINNA Separator

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Mosaic macrophotography of a hammer-like decay of ⁸He nucleus (horizontal track) stopped in nucle track emulsion. Pair of electrons (point-like tracks) and pair of α -particles (short opposite tracks). On insertic (top): enlarged decay vertex. To illustrate special resolution the image of the decay is superimposed macrophotography of a human hair of thickness of 60 µm.





http://becquerel.jinr.ru/miscellanea/8He





Correlation of α-particle triples in disintegrations of carbon nuclei by 14.1 MeV neutrons



triton (dt target) 4He 120 keV deutron

14.1 MeV neutron











JINR IBR-2 Pulsed Reactor











Figure 3. Example of disintegration of boron nucleus by thermal neutron to the Li and He n_{th} (a) and steps of image recognition via the ImageJ program (a-c). Distribution of mean range of Li (solid line) and He (dotted line) (d).





Tank

Chamber

IC-100 cross-section

witchvard

1m

Beam line

Irradiation Chamber

NTE is exposed to ions 86 Kr⁺¹⁷ and 124 Xe⁺²⁶ accelerated to energy of about 1.24 MeV at the cyclotron IC-100 of the Flerov Laboratory of Nuclear Reactions, JINR. Since energy of these ions is small the exposure of NTE is performed without a light protective paper. Therefore, fixing of the NTE plates in the irradiation chamber was performed at lighting which is ordinary for a photographic laboratory. For 5 seconds of exposure the track density amounted to about $10^5 - 10^6$ cm⁻².

Xe x10 1.2 A MeV

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Kr ~3 A MeV 40 sec x10



Fig. 5. Stages of computer analysis: (a) initial close-up, (b) finding of track images, (c) description of them as ellipses and (d) ion range distribution in computer (solid line) and manual (dashed line) analysis.





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A large-scale NTE scanning is suggested to be performed on the microscope HSP-1000 of the Department of radiation dosimetry (DRD) of Nuclear Physics Institute of the Academy of Czech Republic. The use of the NTE resolution will be full if the microscope will be adapted to operate with lenses of the highest magnification. Development of algorithms for automatic search and analysis of short tracks of heavy ions in NTE will be required. On the experimental side, ion ranges in NTE must be calibrated in the a-decay and fission energy scale. Progress of the preparatory phase of the proposed study is summarized below.











Cf x90 3 fragments

Cf x90 3 fragments



















IHEP, Protvino ¹²C 450 A MeV – 35 A GeV



x20

x10

x60





Conclusions

In spite of the fact that half a century passed since its development nuclear track emulsion retains the status of a universal and inexpensive detector. With a record spatial resolution this technique provides complete observation of tracks starting from fission fragments and down to relativistic particles. Nuclear emulsion method deserves further applications in fundamental and applied research in modern accelerators and reactors, and sources of radioactivity, including natural ones. **Application of NTE is especially justified in those** pioneering experiments in which nuclear particle tracks cannot be reconstructed with the help of electronic detectors.

Conclusions

The NTE technique continues to be based on intelligence, vision and performance of researchers using traditional microscopes.

Despite wide interest, its labor consumption causes limited samplings of hundreds of measured tracks which present as a rule only tiny fractions of the available statistics.

Application of computerized and fully automated microscopes in the NTE analysis allows one to bridge this gap.

These are complicated and expensive devices of collective or even remote use allow one to describe a record statistics of short nuclear tracks.

To make such a development purposeful it is necessary to focus on such topical issues of nuclear physics the solution of which can be reduced to simple tasks of recognition and measurement of tracks in NTE to be solved with the aid of already developed programs.