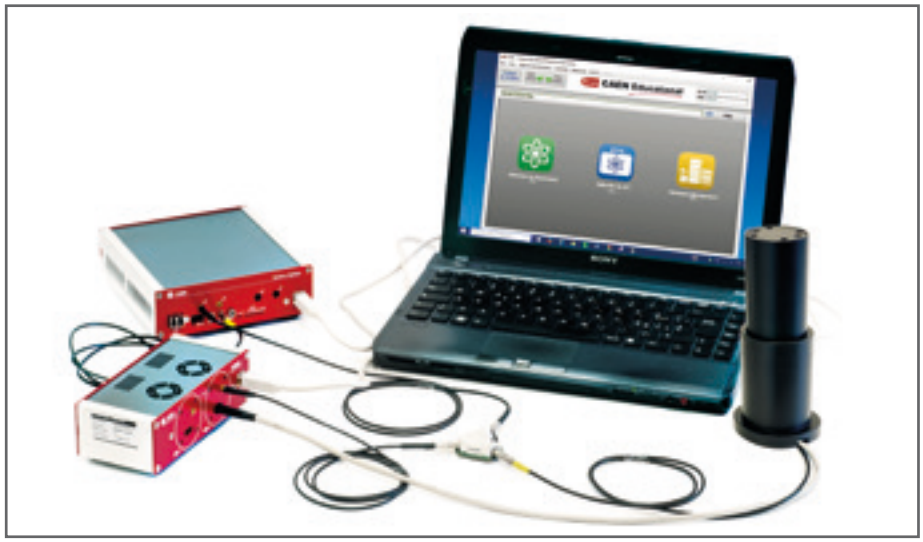
B.1.6 γ-Radiation Absorption

SG6116



Difficulty	Execution Time	Data Analysis	Radioactive Sources
		NO	YES

Dedicated kit	
Description	pp.
SP5600C Educational Gamma Kit	179

Requirements

Gamma Radioactive Source

Equipment

SP5600C - Educational Gamma Kit

Model	SP5600	DT5720A	A315	SP5606	SP5607
Description	Power Supply and Amplification Unit	Desktop Digitizer 250 MS/s	Splitter	Mini-Spectrometer	Absorption tool
					
	p. 190	p. 190	p. 192	p. 192	p. 193

Purpose of the experiment

The main goal of the experiment is the measurement of the γ radiation attenuation coefficient for different materials and different energies.

See the Application

Fundamentals

The attenuation of a γ radiation flux passing through matter is described by the exponential law

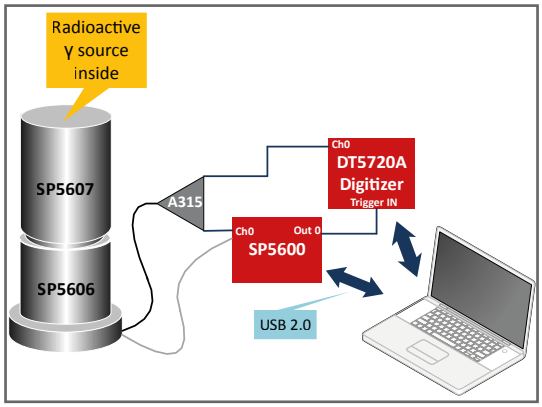
$$I(x)=I_0 * e^{-\mu x}$$

where I0 is the incident photon flux and I(x) measures the flux of γ rays emerging from a layer x of material without having interacted. The coefficient μ depends on the material properties (atomic number, density) and on the energy of the impinging photon.

The student is guided towards the development of complementary measurement techniques based on counting and on the analysis of the spectrum, performing the experiment for different materials (including PMMA, a water equivalent solid state organic material used in medical dosimetry).

Carrying out the experiment

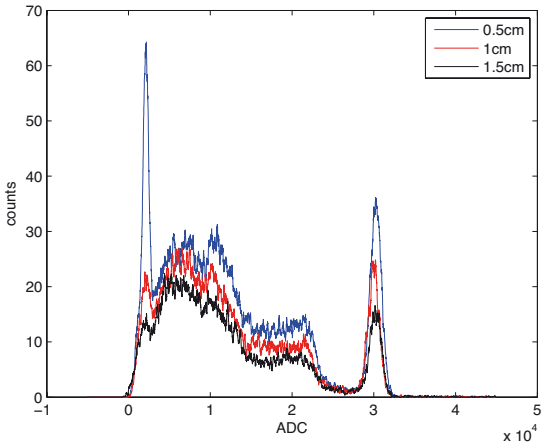
The scintillator crystal shall be coupled to the SiPM in the SP5607, through a thin layer of index matching grease to maximize the light collection. In order to avoid saturation, the output of the SiPM is divided using the A315 splitter: one branch is connected to the DT5720A and will be digitized. The other branch will be amplified by the SP5600 module, generating the trigger for the integration signal by the on-board leading edge discriminator. The discriminator threshold shall be defined looking at the spectrum and evaluating the dark count rate. Once this is set the SP5609 absorption tool shall be mounted. The experiment can be performed for every absorber thickness in counting mode and analysing the spectrum, measuring the events in the photo-peak for a constant predefined time interval.



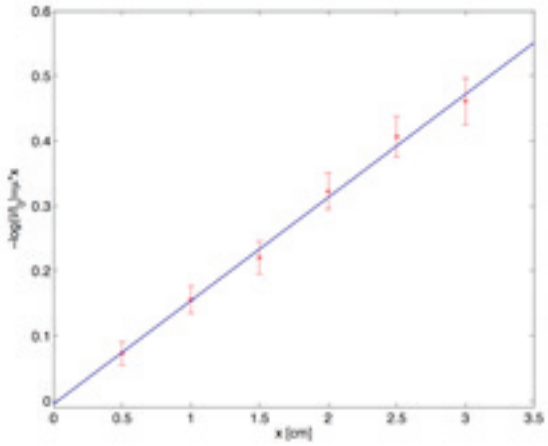
Experimental setup block diagram.

Results

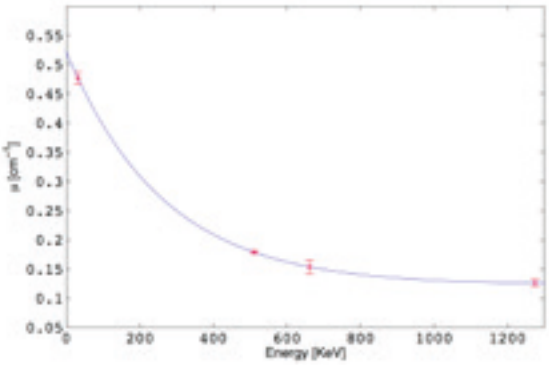
Exemplary results are shown below, reporting the variation of the events in the photopeak for different absorber thickness, a plot verifying the exponential absorption law and the dependence of the absorption coefficient on the energy.



Gamma spectra acquired with different absorber thicknesses.



Linear dependence of logarithmic intensity of gamma rays as a function of penetration thickness.



Gamma attenuation coefficient as a function of energy.

This experiment is also possible with the following kits

B SP5600AN
Educational kits

see p. 179

C SP5640
GammaEDU

see p. 183

E SP5630ENP
Environmental kit Plus
PREMIUM

see p. 181