

# Index

References to images and figures are given in italic type. References to tables are given in bold type.

- Absorption 27–9
    - in detector cap 47–9
    - within sample, correction 154–7
    - and signal attenuation 26
    - in special nuclear material analysis 335
  - Abundance, definition 11
  - Action levels 298
  - Algorithms
    - peak detection 176–80
    - peak width estimation 143
  - Alpha decay 7–8
  - Aluminium, in shielding 224
  - Amplifier
    - baseline shift 76–7
    - common mode rejection 248
    - gain 78–80
      - stabilization 94–5
    - gated integrator 284–5
    - high count rate 279
    - overload recovery 286
    - overview 70–1
    - pile-up rejection 77–9
    - pole-zero cancellation 75–6, 234, 239, 292
    - schematic 79
    - scintillation detector 212
    - and throughput 283–4
  - Analogue-digital converter (ADC) and digital signal processing (DSP) 97
  - input gate 83–4
  - linearity 138–41
  - selection 82–3
  - successive approximation type 84–5, 85
  - and throughput 288–9
  - Wilkinson 84–5, 84
- Annihilation radiation 5, 12
  - Apollo software 196
  - Applications
    - and detector selection **222**
    - nuclear waste testing 333–40
  - ARSA (Automated Radioxenon Sampler/Analyser) 332
  - Artefacts, as result of gamma ray interaction with shielding 33–5
  - Atomic number 1
  - Attenuation
    - and absorption 26
    - calculation 36–8
    - by shielding materials 36, 37
    - Auger effect 6
  - Background 108
    - and atmospheric gases 266
    - channel assignment in software 186
    - and control chart setup 299
    - environmental, and detector size 255–7
    - estimation, and peak area 108
    - and FWHM determination 232
    - and low count rates 251–3
    - and minimum detectable activity (MDA) 251
    - natural, and environmental sampling 319
    - peaked 111
      - correction, software 198
    - reduction
      - Compton suppression 270–3
      - extreme 273–6
      - and resolution 131
      - and scintillation detector impurities 207
    - sources 262
    - from cosmic radiation 266
    - see also* Noise
  - Backscatter, and graded shielding 265–6
  - Ballistic deficit 74, 284–5
  - Band structure 40
    - and impurities 43
  - Barium fluoride, as scintillation detector 209–10
  - Baseline restoration 230
  - Beryllium, measurement 365
  - Beryllium window 225
    - thickness index 238
  - Beta decay 2–6
    - list of emitters **4**
    - negatron decay 3–5
    - positron decay 5–6
  - Binomial distribution 102–4
  - Bismuth germanate, as scintillation detector 206–7
  - Bremsstrahlung 13
    - in shielding 35
  - BriLanCe 210
  - Bulletization 47, 53
  - Cabling 64–6
    - health and safety 223
    - installation 222–3
  - Cadmium, in shielding 37
  - Cadmium telluride detectors 42
  - Caesium
    - decay scheme 5
    - from nuclear explosions 330–1
  - Caesium fluoride detector 208
  - Caesium iodide detector 208
  - Calibration
    - control charts 298–302
    - efficiency

- Calibration (*Continued*)  
  full energy peak 151–2  
  software 162–3, 188–9  
  energy  
    and peak detection software 185  
    software 185–6  
  overview 138–40  
  peak width 138–41  
    software 185–7  
  peak width 147–9, 189–92  
    software 189–91  
  radiation sources 144  
  reference data 143–4  
  sample distance 171–2  
  source, for summing 171–4  
  standards **351–7**  
  and summing 171–2  
  summing, sample distance, close geometry 173–4  
  uncertainty budgeting 126–8  
Calibration curves 152  
Capacitance, detectors 49–50  
Characterisation, using X-rays 14  
Charge collection 50–1  
  and resolution 134–5  
  and throughput 280–1  
  time, and noise 72–3  
Charge migration  
  and collection within detector 51  
  trapping 53–4  
Chemical information 347–8  
Chernobyl disaster 330–331  
Close geometry, and summing 165–8, 167  
Clover detector 57  
Coaxial detectors 53  
Cobalt, decay scheme 5  
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) 329–33  
Compton scattering 28–9  
  active suppression 270–1  
  shielding 34  
  *see also* Background  
Confidence limits 105–6  
Contaminants, detector, and background 263–5  
Conversion time, analogue-digital converter (ADC) 85  
Cooling 55, 222  
  electrical 59  
  failure 58–9, 240  
Cosmic rays 251, 253–6  
  shielding, underground detectors 269, 273–6  
Costs, multiple detectors 253  
Counting  
  background 111–12  
  confidence limits 105–6  
  decision limit  
    confidence limits 117  
    critical limit 114–15  
    detection limit 117–18  
    upper limit 116–17  
  distributions  
    non-Poisson 121  
    Poisson and Gaussian 104–6  
  efficiency, improving 253–7  
  error correction 92–4  
    loss correction 199  
    using pulser 92–3  
  loss-free (LFC) 93–4  
  low count numbers 121–2  
  rate, and sample height 152  
  time 113–14  
    calibration 143  
    and uncertainty budgeting 125  
Covell method, peak measurement 109  
Coverage factor 106  
Critical limit 114–16  
  nuclear test detection 330  
CRT monitors 247–8  
CTBTO test spectra 303  
Current leakage, preamplifier 243–4  
Czochralski method 45–6  
Damage  
  radiation 54–5  
  scintillation detectors 214–15  
Databases  
  off-line 346  
  on-line 345  
  nuclear information 344–5  
  peak searching 185  
  setting-up 201  
DC adjustment 228  
Dead layer 47–9  
Dead time 84  
  and high count rates 281–3  
  and throughput 280  
Decay  
  correction 159–60  
  curve 16  
  during sampling time 121–2  
  and gamma emission rates 11  
  master equation 15–16  
  types  
    alpha decay 7–8  
    beta decay 2–7  
    other 8  
  *see also* Half-life  
Decay constant 101  
Decay Data Evaluation Project 344  
Decay scheme, beta emitters 4–5, 4  
Deconvolution 195–6  
Depletion region 44  
Detector  
  attributes 217–18  
  background reduction 263–7  
  bias supply 66  
  cap 48–9  
    carbon composite 264  
  capacitance 49–50  
  charge collection, *see* Charge collection  
  charge migration 44  
  configurations 47  
  cooling 55  
  demountable 58  
  distance from source 151, 166–7, 173–4  
    and efficiency 150–2  
  electric field variations 52–3  
  endcap 261  
  energy range 221  
  germanium, resolution 131–2  
  hand-held and portable 338–9  
  interactions within 30–2  
  intrinsic 45  
  lithium-drifted 47  
  low background 263–5  
  low energy 49  
  manufacture 45–9  
  mounting 55–6  
  peak-to-Compton ratio 237  
  performance data sheet 229  
  powering down 228  
  pulse shape 51–2  
  radiation damage 54–5  
  requirements 39  
  resolution 221  
    and nuclide identification 11–12  
  room choice 222–3  
  setup  
    installation 222–3, 225  
    power-up 225–7  
  shape 221  
    and efficiency, for low energy measurements 257–8  
  shielding 55  
    and background 263  
  signal timing 52  
  size  
    and background 256–7  
    and efficiency 253–7

- and minimum detectable activity (MDA) 254
  - and throughput 280
- sodium iodide, resolution 134
- specialised 57
- throughput 280–1
- troubleshooting
  - frosted detector cap 246
  - thermal cycling 244–6
- well detector 49
- see also* Multichannel analyser (MCA)
- Dewar flasks, filling 223
- Differential linearity, multichannel analyser (MCA) response 88
- Differential pulse height spectrum 82
- Differentiator 71
- Digital signal processing (DSP)
  - and analogue-digital converter (ADC) 96
  - compared with analogue signal processing 287, 288–9
  - and high count rate applications 285–8
  - multichannel analyser (MCA) 96–8
- Distribution
  - binomial 102–4
  - charge production, and full width at half maximum (FWHM) 131
  - Gaussian 104
    - and resolution 233, 234
  - normal, and uncertainty 123–4
  - skewing, and loss-free counting 122
  - and uncertainty budgeting 123
- Efficiency
  - calibration
    - software 158–60, 188–91
    - source distance 150–1
  - checking 235–7
  - curves, and activity estimation 195
  - definition of terms 148
  - detectors, and size 45
  - relative 236
  - scintillation detectors 205
- Electrical cooling 58–9
- Electromagnetic (EM) spectrum 9
- Electron capture (EC) 6–7
- Electronics
  - DC adjustment 230
  - optimisation, overview 230
  - schematic 62
  - scintillation systems 216–18
- Electrons, creation by gamma radiation 41
- Energy
  - calibration 143–6
  - range, setting 228–30
  - and scintillator resolution 214
- Enrichment meters 336
- Environmental measurements, and summing 171–2
- Equilibria, of energy states 17–19
- Errors
  - count correction 197–8
  - due to sample geometry variation 152–3
  - peak energy determination 144–5
  - as result of software use 184
  - and uncertainty budgeting 123
- Exciton 205
- Failure
  - cooling systems 57–8
  - preamplifiers 68
- Fano factor 133
- Fault-finding
  - equipment 236
  - guide **240–2**
  - preamplifiers 243–4
- Field consistency, detectors 52–3
- Fission
  - and Karlsruhe Chart of the Nuclides 21–2
  - spontaneous 8
- Fitzpeaks 186
- Flicker noise 137
- Fluorescence 6
- Frenkel defect 54, 55, 135
- Full width at half maximum (FWHM)
  - and channel number 234, 235
  - and charge distribution 134
  - and energy
    - modelling 138–41
    - software 188
  - estimation 147–9
  - and multiple peak discrimination 149
  - and peak discrimination from background 150
- Full energy peak 31
- Gamma-rays 9
  - emission
    - beta decay, negatron 4–5
    - other processes 12–15
  - energy levels 9
  - interactions
    - attenuation coefficients 29–30
    - Compton scattering 28–9
    - with detector 30–2
    - overview 25–6
    - pair production 5, 11, 29, 34–5
    - photoelectric absorption 26–8
    - prompt gammas 13
- Gammatool 157
- GammaTrac 187
- GammaVision 186, 188, 192, 319
  - count loss correction 199–200
- Gases, atmospheric, and background 266
- Gating, multichannel analyser (MCA) 95
- Gaussian distribution 104
  - and peak shape checking 234
- Gedke-Hale count correction 92
- Genie 2000 186, 192
  - count loss correction 199
- Germanium 42
  - crystals, manufacture 45–6, 46
  - detector performance
    - compared with sodium iodide 218
    - resolution 133–4
  - neutron interactions 267–8, 268
- GESPECOR 179
- Ground loops 246–7
- Ground states
  - and beta decay 4
  - multiple 7
- Guard detector 271–3
- Gunnink calibration 193
- Gypsum 327–8, 327
- Half-life 16
  - and nuclide identification 12
  - plutonium 338
  - and thorium measurement 325–6
- Harms procedure 93
- Health and safety
  - cadmium handling 37
  - liquid nitrogen 223
- Holes
  - mobility 40
  - see also* Charge collection
- Homogeneity, of sample 124–5
- Hypermet-PC software 196
- IAEA TECDOC 619 report 144
- IAEA test spectra 303–6, 304
- Impedance
  - in electronics 64
  - matching 65–6

- Impurities  
  in lead shielding 265  
  scintillation detector 207  
  in semiconductors 43
- Insulators 40
- Integral linearity, multichannel analyser (MCA) response 88
- Integrator 71
- Intercomparison exercises 310–312
- Internal conversion 11
- International Monitoring System (IMS) 329–30
- Iron, in shielding 36
- Isomeric state 10
- K-capture 6
- Karlsruhe Chart of Nuclides 2, 3, 12  
  reading 19–23
- Lanthanum halides, as scintillation detectors 210
- Lead  
  attenuation factors **267**  
  impurities 267  
  in shielding 36–7, 224
- Library data 344–6  
  and multiple peak discrimination 195  
  peak searches 187  
  setting up 202
- Limits, and software 199
- Linearity, multichannel analyser (MCA) 88–9
- Liquid nitrogen 223
- Live time 83–4  
  clock (LTC) 91–2
- Lock up, preamplifiers 68, 281–2
- Lorentzian broadening 15
- Loss-free counting (LFC) and distribution skewing 122–3
- Lower level discriminator (LLD), definition 90
- marine samples 251
- Marinelli beakers, dimensions 260–1, 260
- Mass change, from radioactive decay 2
- MCNP (Monte Carlo N-Particle transport code) 157–8
- Mean  
  of excited state life 206  
  of multiple measurements 107  
  and software 200
- Memory storage time, analogue-digital converter (ADC) 87
- Metastable state 10
- Minimum detectable activity (MDA) 119–20  
  and detection limit 253  
  setting using software 198  
  and upper limit 120–1
- Monte Carlo simulations, efficiency modelling 161
- Mounting, detectors, demountable 58
- Moving source method, random summing correction 158–9
- Multichannel analyser (MCA) 61  
  analogue-digital converter (ADC), input 83  
  analysis functions 91  
  conversion time, and dead time 86–7, 87  
  digital signal processing (DSP) 96–8  
  emulators 183  
  gating 95  
  overview 81–2  
  pulse height discrimination 82–3  
  response linearity 88–9  
  schematic 83–4  
  scintillation detector 215–16  
  spectrum size and resolution 89–90  
  terms and definitions 90  
  throughput 94  
  and throughput 288
- Multiplets 149–50  
  deconvolution 195–6  
  and mean 200–1  
  peak stripping 196–7, 196
- Multiplexing 95–6
- Multiscaling 96
- n-type semiconductors, radiation damage 55
- Negatron decay 3–5
- Neutron damage, to detectors 54–5
- Neutrons  
  cosmic 267–70  
  from special nuclear materials 337
- Nitrogen, liquid 223
- Noise  
  electronic 62–4  
  ground loops 246–7  
  Johnson noise 69  
  lighting 224  
  parallel 136–7  
  pick-up 247–9  
  from power supply 242–3  
  from preamplifiers 69–70  
  and pulse shape 73–4  
  reduction, pole-zero cancellation 75–6  
  and resolution 134–8  
  microphonic 50, 55, 249–50  
  from liquid nitrogen 223
- Noise corner 73
- NORM (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials)  
  chemically modified 324–35  
  gamma-rays emitted **320–1**  
  overview 313  
  spectral interference **323**
- NPL, intercomparison exercises 310–311
- Nuclear data  
  environmental samples 324  
  Karlsruhe Chart of the Nuclides 19–22  
  quality assurance 292  
  sources of information 343–5
- Nuclear Instrumentation Module (NIM) system 61
- Nuclear reactors  
  activity growth 16–17  
  atmospheric gas radiation 266
- Nuclear states  
  ground states, *see* Ground state lifetimes 9  
  transitions, overview 9–10  
  width 10–11, 15
- Nuclear waste 333–40
- Nuclear weapons, monitoring 329–33
- Nucleus, constitution 1–2
- Nuclide  
  concentrations in detector component materials **264**  
  definition 1  
  standards 296–7  
  uranium decay series, measurement 318–19
- Nuclides, from nuclear explosions 330–1
- Oscilloscope  
  for fault-finding 239  
  and noise reduction 76  
  in pole-zero cancellation setup 230–1
- P-type semiconductors 43–4  
  radiation damage 54
- Pair production 5, 11, 29  
  within shielding 34–5

- PeakMaker 306
- Peaks  
 area  
 and peak limits 189  
 uncertainty, and spectral resolution 112–13  
 broadening  
 beta decay 5–6  
 Lorentzian 15  
 and stabilisation  
 analogue 94–5  
 digital 95  
 centroid estimation 188  
 FWHM, *see* Full width at half maximum(FWHM)  
 height, calibration 149  
 identification software 183–5  
 limits 191–2  
 measurement 109–11  
 area, simple peak integration 109–11  
 multiple overlapping  
 deconvolution 195–6  
 and mean 200–1  
 peak stripping 196–7, 196  
 shift, and throughput 285  
 software search, quality assessment 308  
 width  
 anomalous 149–50  
 calibration 147–9  
 estimation, software 192  
 X-ray spectra 14–15  
*see also* Full width at half maximum(FWHM)
- Photocathode 211–12
- Photoelectric interactions 26–8  
 with shielding 33–4
- Photomultiplier tube 211–12, 211
- Pick-up, electromagnetic 247–9
- Pile-up 77–9  
 calibration 158–9  
 and count distribution skewing 122  
 preamplifier, resistive feedback 67  
 and throughput 284
- PINS (portable isotopic neutron spectrometry) 340
- Plutonium 334  
 aged samples 338  
 decay schemes **339**  
 spectra 336–8
- Poisson distribution 104  
 and charge production 133  
 and long count time 121
- Pole-zero cancellation 75–6  
 setup 228–9  
 and throughput 285
- Positron 5  
 annihilation 12
- Potassium, measurement 318
- Power supply 223  
 detector bias provision 66  
 noise 247  
 scintillation detector 216–17
- Preamplifier 56  
 connectors and status LEDs 226  
 fault-finding 243–4  
 impedance matching 66–7  
 lock-out 68, 281–2  
 mounting 56  
 powering up 226–8  
 reset type 69  
 resistive feedback 67–9  
 and pulse generator 231  
 scintillation detector 215  
 test point 243  
 throughput 281–3  
 types compared **282**
- Probability, of emission 11
- Pulse  
 discrimination 77–8  
 reflection down cables 65  
 rise time 64–5  
 shape 63–4, 63  
 in amplifiers 71–2  
 optimum 72–3  
 baseline shift 76–7  
 and digital signal processing (DSP) 96–8  
 parameters 72  
 pole-zero cancellation 75–6  
 preamplifier, resistive feedback 67  
 time constant 73–4  
 width, and electronic noise 62–3
- Pulse generator 92–3  
 for fault-finding 239  
 installation and setup 231
- Purity, scintillator crystals 215–16
- QCY/QCKY 168–9, 169, 170–1, **170**
- Quality assurance  
 accreditation 312–13  
 equipment setup 297–8  
 intercomparison exercises 310–311  
 nuclear data 306  
 overview 305–6
- record keeping 311–12  
 software 301  
 spectral analysis 307–10, 309
- Radiation sources, for calibration 144
- Radioactive decay  
 correction 159–60  
 definition 2
- Radiochemical Manual* 324
- Radium, in gypsum 327–8
- Radon 7, 266, 317–18  
 and uranium, peak interference 322
- Random summing 77–9, 77  
 calibration 158–9  
 and distribution skewing 122  
 correction using pulse generators 93  
 preamplifier, resistive feedback 67  
 and throughput 283–4
- RASA (Radionuclide Aerosol Sampler/Analyser) 331–2
- Record-keeping, quality assessment 311–12
- Reference data, calibration 143–4
- Reflection (of pulses down cabling) 65
- Regions of interest (ROI) 185
- Relative conversion efficiency, scintillation detectors 207
- Repair, detectors 55, 58
- Resolution  
 analogue-digital converter (ADC) 86  
 and background 111–12  
 and ballistic deficit 74  
 and charge collection 134–6  
 checking 233–7  
 and electronic noise 136–8  
 enhancement, in amplifier 79–80  
 germanium detector 133–4  
 and minimum detectable activity (MDA) 256  
 and noise 62–3  
 planar vs. coaxial detectors 50  
 and plutonium 336–7  
 scintillation detectors 214–15  
 and energy 216  
 and temperature 134  
 and throughput  
 amplifier stability 285–6  
 preamplifier 283
- Rise time 64–5  
 preamplifiers 70–1

- Room choice, for detector 222–3
- Rounding errors, count correction  
199–200
- Sample  
density  
and calibration 155–8  
and summing 171–2  
distance from detector, and  
summing 167  
geometry  
and calibration errors 153–4  
and minimum detectable  
activity (MDA) 259–62  
and summing 173–4  
height, efficiency correction  
154–5  
preparation, and uncertainty  
budgeting 122–3  
size, and uncertainty 102–3
- Sampling, statistics, overview  
102–3
- Sanderson test spectra 301–2
- Scintillation activators 206
- Scintillation detector 39  
and Compton suppression 270–3  
construction 213–14  
detector materials 207–11  
materials 207–11, 208  
requirements 205–6  
optical coupling 213–14  
photomultiplier tubes 211  
process overview 205–6  
resolution 214–16  
shape 213
- Secular equilibrium 18–19
- Semiconductors  
band structure 40  
for detectors 41–3  
new, charge-collection 80–1  
radiation damage 54–5  
types 43–4
- Series noise 137
- Set up, and quality assurance 295
- Shield detector 265
- Shielding  
active 266  
and background 263  
design 36–8  
graded 265–6  
installation 222–3  
photoelectric interactions 33–4  
underground detectors 269–70
- Signal processing  
analogue, *see* Amplifier;  
Preamplifier  
digital, *see* Digital signal  
processing (DSP)
- Signal timing, detectors 52
- Silicon, in detectors 41–2
- Single channel analyser (SCA) 81
- Sodium iodide  
detector performance compared  
with germanium 218  
as scintillation detector 205–6
- Software  
analysis 91  
efficiency calibration 160–1  
ISOCS 161–2  
LabSOCS 162  
other programmes 162  
energy calibration 188–9  
final report 200–1  
general considerations 183–4  
nuclide identification 198  
peak identification 183–4  
purchasing considerations 200–1  
quality assurance 301  
sample density correction 157–8  
spectral analysis 193–5  
and summing correction  
178–80  
test spectrum generation 301–2  
true coincident summing  
correction 180
- Solid angle, and summing 166–7
- Sources, for calibration 143
- Special nuclear materials (SNM)  
335–40
- Specification sheet 229, 232–3  
physical parameters 238
- SpecMaker* 306
- Spectra  
comparison 199  
evidence for true coincident  
summing 167–8  
interpolative fit 175  
test 301–2  
computer-generated 302–6
- Spectrum size, multichannel  
analyser (MCA) 89
- Spontaneous fission (SF) 8
- Stable isotopes, multiple on isobaric  
chain 7
- Standard deviation 102
- Statistics  
counting, and loss-free counting  
93–4  
covariance 102  
distributions, *see* Distributions  
multiple measurements 107–8  
standard deviation 102
- Steel, in shielding 224
- Summing  
correction, mathematical 176–8,  
178  
and environmental analysis 319  
random 77–8, 77, 93, 122–3,  
158–9, 279  
'summing-free' measurement  
175–6  
in test spectra 301–2  
true coincident  
overview 165  
correction 159  
and sample geometry 166–7  
and well detector shape  
258–9  
and uranium measurement  
318–19
- System checks, high count rate  
292–3
- Temperature  
and detector efficiency 218–19  
and resolution 134  
and scintillator response variation  
207
- Test spectra, from counting 301–2
- Thorium  
artificial 324–5  
decay series 315–16  
separated 325–6
- Throughput  
detector 280–1  
and detector size 253–5  
limitations, by  
component **280**  
multichannel analyser (MCA)  
94  
overview 279–80
- Timing errors 160
- Tin, as shielding material 37
- Transistor reset preamplifier (TRP)  
69
- Transitions  
causes 11  
gamma emission, *see* Gamma  
emission  
isomeric 10
- Troubleshooting, *see* Fault-finding
- True coincidence summing  
correction 159–60  
overview 165  
and sample geometry 174–5
- u*-score 311
- UKAS (United Kingdom  
Accreditation Service)  
312–13

- 
- Uncertainty  
  charge collection 134–6  
  confidence limits 105–6  
  individual count 131  
  and intercomparison exercises 310  
  peak area, and spectral resolution 112–13  
  and scintillation detection 210–211  
  Types A and B 124
- Uncertainty budgeting  
  accuracy 124  
  and calibration 126  
  and counting 125  
  example 126, 127  
  introduction 123–4  
  and sample preparation 124–5  
  and uncertainty distributions 124
- Underground detectors 269–70
- Upper limit  
  assigning, using software 198  
  uncertainty, and minimum detectable activity (MDA) 119–20
- Upper level discriminator (ULD) 89
- Uranium 315–16  
  decay series 316  
  enriched 333  
  isotopic analysis 333  
  in nuclear waste 327  
  and radon, peak interference 324–6  
  separated 325
- Variance, external 107
- Veto detector 273
- Vibration 50, 55, 249–50
- Virtual pulse generator 93
- Warning levels 298
- Waste drums, scanning 334–5, 334
- Well detectors 49, 236–7  
  detector shape, and minimum detectable activity (MDA) 257–62
- Wilkinson analogue-digital converter (ADC) 84–6
- Window thickness index 238
- Wood, radioactivity 225
- X-rays, overview 13–15
- Yield 11
- Zone-refining 45

