BETA SPECTRUM SHAPE MEASUREMENTS@WISARD





ISOL FRANCE SIMON VANLANGENDONCK 28 May 2024

KU LEUVEN



Theoretical calculations

WHY SPECTRUM SHAPES?

Beyond Standard Model physics

• Fierz interference term *Cirgiliano, V., et al. ArXiv:1907.02164.*

Reactor neutrino anomaly

• Calculations assume $\frac{b}{Ac} = 5$ Wang X. B. et al. PRC 95 (2017)

Nuclear theory

• Effective value of g_A Haaranen M. et al. PRC 93 (2016)

Metrology, neutrino physics, etc.



Energy [MeV]

THEORETICAL DESCRIPTION





- ✓ Kinematics
- ✓ Electrostatics
- ✓ Radiative corrections (QED)

- ✓ Atomic and molecular effects
- ✓ Nuclear effects: recoil-order corrections
- ✓ Beyond Standard Model physics?

NUCLEAR EFFECTS

Look for the influence of nuclear effects on the decay

• Weak-Magnetism (b_{WM})



High precision analytical description of the allowed β spectrum shape L. Hayen et al., Reviews of Modern Physics 90(1), 15008 (2018).



PRECISION SPECTRUM MEASUREMENT

Goal:

Measure as precise as possible the energy distribution of the electron emerging from beta decay

Intrinsic problem:

Backscattering:



Partial energy deposition...



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Count at a given energy (spectrometers)

Encapsulate the electrons (bSTILDED)

Use a magnetic field (WISArD)

. . .

INTEGRATION TIME



 \vec{B}



SIMULATIONS



Make a digital twin of the set-up



WHICH ISOTOPE?

Measure the beta-spectrum shape of ¹¹⁴In

- Pure Gamow-Teller decay
- Favorable endpoint for BSM
- Weak-Magnetism (b_{WM}) not known for A > 70

Long half-life of isomer and commercially available

- Off-line measurements
- High radionuclidic purity
- Use IT for energy calibration



Ft values of mirror *β* transitions and weak magnetism induced current in allowed nuclear *β* decay N. Severijns *et al.*, Physical Review C 107, 015502 (2023) The AME 2020 atomic mass evaluation (II). Tables, graphs and references. M. Wang *et al.* Chinese Physics C 45, 3 (2021), 030003. Brookhaven National Nuclear Data Center. https://www.nndc.bnl.gov/nudat3/.



DATA ANALYSIS: ONGOING



SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES ON WM

	Effect	Uncertainty	Δb_{WM}
Theory	Endpoint energy	$0.3 { m keV}$	0.1
	ho, R and d/Ac		None
Geant4	Detector threshold	$3.75 { m ~keV}$	1.2
	Source position		
	Rotation	1°	0.1
	Source diameter	$1 \mathrm{mm}$	0.3
	QDC time window	$50 \mathrm{ns}$	None
	Foil thickness	$\pm 10\%$	None
Energy resolution	σ_1	σ_{fit}	< 0.1
	σ_2	σ_{fit}	< 0.1
SiPM non-linearity	E/pixel	$0.16 { m ~keV}$	1.1
	$P_{crosstalk}$	Unknown	
(Auto-)calibration	a_0	σ_{fit}	< 0.1
	a_1	σ_{fit}	0.3
Total PRELIN	IINARY		1.7

Detector characterization = limiting factor

→ To be improved (SiLi)



IMPORTANCE OF THIS RESULT?

This proof-of-principle experiment provided the first measurement of the beta energy spectrum shape with WISArD.

¹¹⁴In is the first isotope in this mass range with the weak magnetism form factor determined:
 → see also miniBETA (*ArXiv:2404.0314*)



Ft values of mirror β transitions and weak magnetism induced current in allowed nuclear β decay N. Severijns *et al.*, Physical Review C 107, 015502 (2023) Weak magnetism correction to allowed β decay for reactor antineutrino spectra X. Wang and A. Hayes, Physical Review C 95, 064313 (2017)

ISOL?







ISOL EXAMPLE: ¹⁴0





Superallowed $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ nuclear β decays: 2020 critical survey, with implications for V_{ud} and CKM unitarity, J. Hardy and I. Towner, Physical Review C 102(4), 1-29 (2020)

CONCLUSION & OUTLOOK

This proof-of-principle experiment provided the first measurement of the beta energy spectrum shape with WISArD.

¹¹⁴In is the first isotope where the weak magnetism form factor is determined in a previously uncharted mass range.

We are currently upgrading the detection set-up and plan to make ISOL experiments possible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



And thanks to all collaborators for their support during this project:









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EXPERIMENTAL CAMPAIGN

November-December 2020

Set-up characterization + actual measurements

- ²⁰⁷Bi
- ¹³⁷Cs
- ⁹⁰Sr
- ¹¹⁴In (1 kBq + 5 kBq)
- Background

SIPM NON-LINEARITY



Saturation:



Crosstalk:



SIPM NON-LINEARITY







WM & FIERZ IN THE SPECTRUM

When taking both the Beyond Standard Model Fierz term and the Standard Model WM term into account, the β spectrum shape for an allowed Gamow-Teller decay can be written as:

$$W(E_e)dE_e = \frac{F(\pm Z, E_e)}{2\pi^3} p_e E_e (E_0 - E_e)^2 dE_e \,\xi \left(1 + b_{\text{Fierz}} \frac{m_e}{E_e} \pm \frac{4}{3} \frac{E_e}{M_n} \frac{b_{\text{WM}}}{Ac}\right),\tag{1}$$

THEORETICAL DESCRIPTION: SPECTRUM SHAPE

Table 4.1: An overview of the different terms in the analytical description of the beta spectrum shape and their corresponding size. All terms are grouped in the categories described in the text. The relative importance of some terms can change depending on the atomic number or the endpoint energy. This table is adapted from Refs. [102, 103].

Category	Effect	Formula	Magnitude
Phase space		$pW(W_0 - W)^2$	Unity or larger
Electrostatic	Fermi function	F_0	
	Finite size nucleus	L_0	
Radiative corr.		R	
Recoil-order	Shape factor	C	
	Isovector correction	C_I	
Atomic	Atomic exchange	X	$10^{-1} - 10^{-2}$
	Atomic mismatch	r	
	Atomic screening	S	
	Shake-up & Shake-off	included in r	
Higher order	Diffuse nucl. surface	U	
	Nuclear deformation	$D_{FS} \& D_C$	
	Recoil Coulomb corr.	Q	$10^{-3} - 10^{-4}$
	Recoiling nucleus	R_N	
	Molecular screening	ΔS_{Mol}	
	Molecular decay	Case by case	
	Bound state β decay	Γ_b/Γ_c	$< 1 \times 10^{-4}$
	Neutrino mass	negligible	

High precision analytical description of the allowed β spectrum shape L. Hayen et al. 2018 Reviews of Modern Physics

THEORETICAL SPECTRUM SHAPE 114 In



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SHAPE FACTOR

$${}^{A}C(Z,W) \approx 1 + {}^{A}C_{0} + {}^{A}C_{1}W + {}^{A}C_{-1}/W + {}^{A}C_{2}W^{2}$$

$${}^{A}C_{0} = -\frac{1}{5}(W_{0}R)^{2} + \frac{4}{9}R^{2}\left(1 - \frac{1}{10}\Lambda\right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{3}\frac{W_{0}}{M_{N}}\left(\mp 2\frac{b}{Ac_{1}} + \frac{d}{Ac_{1}}\right) \pm \frac{\alpha Z}{M_{N}R}\left(\pm 2\frac{b}{Ac_{1}} + \frac{d}{Ac_{1}}\right) \qquad (4.3)$$

$$+ \frac{2}{35}\alpha ZW_{0}R(1 - \Lambda) - \frac{233}{630}(\alpha Z)^{2},$$

$${}^{A}C_{1} = \pm \frac{4}{3M_{N}}\frac{b}{Ac_{1}} + \frac{4}{9}W_{0}R^{2}\left(1 - \frac{1}{10}\Lambda\right) \mp \frac{3}{5}\alpha ZR\left(1 - \frac{2}{21}\Lambda\right), \qquad (4.4)$$

$${}^{A}C_{-1} = -\frac{1}{3M_{N}}\left(\pm 2\frac{b}{Ac_{1}} + \frac{d}{Ac_{1}}\right) - \frac{2}{45}W_{0}R^{2}(1 - \Lambda) \mp \frac{\alpha ZR}{70}, \qquad (4.5)$$

$${}^{A}C_{2} = -\frac{4}{9}R^{2}(1 - \frac{1}{10}\Lambda) \qquad (4.6)$$

High precision analytical description of the allowed β spectrum shape L. Hayen et al. 2018 Reviews of Modern Physics

ENERGY RESOLUTION



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	a	b	с	d	χ^2_{red}
Ι	0.0000(17)	0.134(2)			1479
Π	0.069(11)	0.004(14)		0.043(2)	7.8
III		0.0908(6)		0.0285(4)	15.9
IV		0.0138(16)	0.1080(14)		43.4
	σ_0'	σ_1'	σ_E'	σ_2'	
II	0.029(13)	0.101(5)		0.0507(10)	6.7
III		0.1065(5)		0.0497(3)	5.3
IV		0.043(3)	0.1136(8)		43.9

Figure 7.3: Results for the energy resolution during the detector characterisation using an electron spectrometer and LED at LP2i. The fits are explained in the text and in Table 7.3.

BACKGROUND



The background subtraction behaves as expected





SOURCE PREPARATION



Figure B.5: Front and backside of a $^{114m}\mathrm{In}$ source prepared at KU Leuven.

