



## Short\_Oral\_25: Conceptual design of a Cherenkov based gamma-ray diagnostic for measurement of 17 MeV gamma rays from $T(D, \gamma)^5\text{He}$ in magnetic confinement fusion plasmas

Thursday, 9 September 2021 17:20 (10 minutes)

At present, the only method for assessing the fusion power throughput of a reactor relies on the absolute measurement of 14 MeV neutrons produced in the D-T nuclear reaction. [1]

For ITER and DEMO, however, at least another independent measurement of the fusion power is required.

The  $^5\text{He}$  nucleus produced in the D-T fusion reaction has two de-excitation channels. The most likely is its disintegration in a particle and a neutron,  $D+T \rightarrow ^5\text{He} \rightarrow \alpha+n$ , by means of the nuclear force. There is however also an electromagnetic channel, with a branching ratio  $\sim 10^{-5}$ , which leads to the emission of a 17 MeV gamma-ray, i.e.  $D+T \rightarrow ^5\text{He}^* \rightarrow ^5\text{He}+\gamma$ . [2] The detection of this gamma-ray emission could serve as an independent method to determine the fusion power.

In order to enable 17 MeV gamma-ray measurements, there is need for a detector with some coarse energy discrimination and, most importantly, capable to work in a neutron rich environment.

Conventional inorganic scintillators, such as  $\text{LaBr}_3(\text{Ce})$ , have comparable efficiencies to neutrons and gamma rays and they cannot be used for 17 MeV gamma-ray measurements without significant neutron shielding.

In order to overcome this limitation, we here propose the conceptual design of a gamma ray counter with a variable energy threshold based on the Cherenkov effect and designed to operate in intense neutron fields.

The detector geometry has been optimized using Geant4 so to achieve a gamma-ray to neutron efficiency ratio better than 105. The design is based on a gas Cherenkov detector and uses a CsI coated scintillating GEM (Gas Electron Multiplier) as photon pre-amplifier, together with a wavelength shifter to minimize the sensitivity to neutrons.

Photons produced in the GEM are collected by an optical window and a bundle of optical fibers, which guides them towards an array of silicon photomultipliers (SiPMs) located further away from the plasma, in a region at low nuclear radiation.

### References

- [1] L. Bertalot et al., "Fusion Power Measurement at ITER," in IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science, vol. 63, no. 3, pp. 1682-1687, June 2016, doi: 10.1109/TNS.2016.2553125.
- [2] F. E. Cecil et al., "Measurement and application of  $\text{DD}\gamma$ ,  $\text{DT}\gamma$  and  $\text{D}^3\text{He}\gamma$  reactions at low energy." Netherlands: N. p., 1985. Web.
- [3] S. Agostinelli et al. "Geant4—a simulation toolkit", Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A: Accelerators, Spectrometers, Detectors and Associated Equipment, V 506, Issue 3, 2003, 250-303.

**Primary authors:** PUTIGNANO, Oscar (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare); CROCI, Gabriele; MURARO, Andrea (IFP-CNR); Ms CANCELLI, Stephanie (Unimib); GIACOMELLI, Luca (ISTP-CNR); GORINI, Giuseppe (Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca); Dr GROSSO, Giovanni (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto per la Scienza e Tecnologia dei Plasmi, Milano); KUSHORO, Matteo Hakeem (Università degli Studi Milano Bicocca); Ms GIULIA, Marcer (UNIMIB); NOCENTE, Massimo (Dipartimento di Fisica - Università di Milano-Bicocca); PERELLI CIPPO, Enrico (Istituto per la Scienza e Tecnologia dei Plasmi - CNR); REBAI, Marica (MIB); TARDOCCHI, Marco

(Istituto di Fisica del Plasma "Piero Caldirola",CNR); TARDOCCHI, Marco (Istituto di Fisica del Plasma "Piero Caldirola",CNR)

**Presenter:** PUTIGNANO, Oscar (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare)