

LA-UR- 11-05666

Approved for public release;
distribution is unlimited.

Title: An Overview of Stockpile Stewardship Research at Los Alamos

Author(s): Susan J. Seestrom, ADEPS

Intended for: GSI, Darmstadt Germany
October, 10, 2011



Los Alamos National Laboratory, an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, is operated by the Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the National Nuclear Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy under contract DE-AC52-06NA25396. By acceptance of this article, the publisher recognizes that the U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, royalty-free license to publish or reproduce the published form of this contribution, or to allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes. Los Alamos National Laboratory requests that the publisher identify this article as work performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy. Los Alamos National Laboratory strongly supports academic freedom and a researcher's right to publish; as an institution, however, the Laboratory does not endorse the viewpoint of a publication or guarantee its technical correctness.

Abstract

An Overview of Stockpile Stewardship research at Los Alamos

Since 1992 the U.S. Nuclear deterrent has been maintained without nuclear testing. The science in the Stockpile Stewardship Program (SSP) has enabled this change, which is an important step in reducing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The advances made in the SSP have allowed the U.S. Government to sign first the START, and recently the new Start treaty, which commit to significant reductions in the nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia. I will discuss why science improvements are needed to accomplish this mission, and discuss the new experimental techniques that we are applying to the difficult scientific challenges of the SSP. Many of the advanced techniques are the direct result of previous basic science investments at Los Alamos. I will also discuss a set of new applications resulting from the capabilities developed for stockpile stewardship.



The Viewgraphs submitted for publication entitled "Hitchhiker's guide to stockpile stewardship: the interesting story of Los Alamos influence on U.S. science", first author Susan J Seestrom, 092217 has been reviewed and received the following release number: LA-UR 11-05140. The abstract is U and the text is U
Please call 7-5013 if you have questions.

Susan,

I transferred a copy of the jeep pic to LANL some time ago for Doug's Physics news. The picture was taken by my father abt 1946 on the pipeline road. Hans Bethe on the left front seat. Enrico Fermi behind him. Henry Bethe behind me.

Nick

Los Alamos started as part of the Manhattan Project

- The Cold War nuclear stockpile was created using a extensive series of nuclear tests (??? worldwide)
- The ability to maintain a safe, secure, and reliable nuclear deterrent without nuclear testing is important to reducing the proliferation of nuclear weapons
- The path to a world without nuclear weapons passes thru "few" weapons – confidence in those few will be important
- Improved techniques for verification will be also needed – and these require similar a skill base to stockpile stewardship



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



2

References – e.g APS report:

Science and technology (S&T) will play a critical role in advancing the US plan to balance deterrence

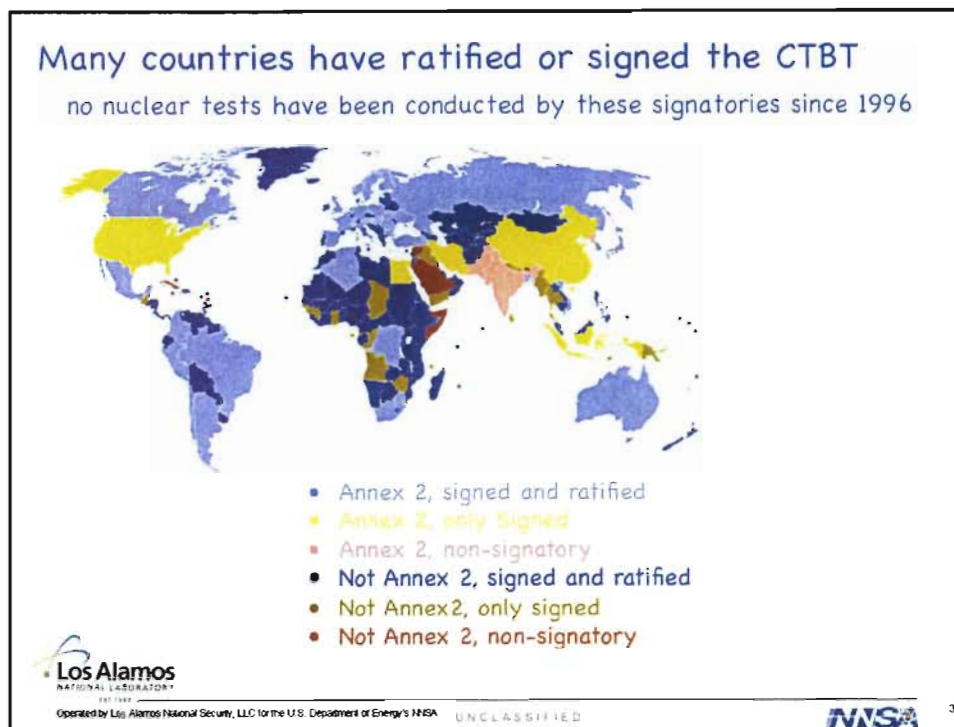
with downsizing the US nuclear arsenal. In particular, S&T are essential to enable three key

goals associated with this plan:

- 1) **verifying the process of downsizing and dismantling stockpiles;**
- 2) **sustaining the capability and expertise to ensure that the remaining arsenal is safe, secure, reliable and effective for as long as is necessary; and,**
- 3) **ensuring the peaceful use of fissile materials.**

LANL and stockpile stewardship is too broad to cover in a single talk- I will present a particular slice through the subject based on my experience of 30 years as scientist and later leader at LANL

I will also focus on the impact of a single large facility – LAMPF (now LANSCE)



Last nuclear test: ???

US UK Soviet Union last test 1992

China, France tested thru 1996 (when China signed)

Since only India, Pakistan, N Korea

English: Participation in the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as of May 26, 2010

Annex 2, signed and ratified light blue

Annex 2, only signed yellow

Annex 2, non-signatory pink

Not Annex 2, signed and ratified dark blue

Not Annex 2, only signed green

Not Annex 2, non-signatory red

Date 27 May 2009

Annex 2 – states having reactors... [Algeria](#), [Argentina](#), [Australia](#), [Austria](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Belgium](#), [Brazil](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Canada](#), [Chile](#), [China](#), [Colombia](#), [Democratic People's Republic of Korea](#), [Egypt](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Hungary](#), [India](#), [Indonesia](#), [Iran \(Islamic Republic of\)](#), [Israel](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [Mexico](#), [Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [Pakistan](#), [Peru](#), [Poland](#), [Romania](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [Russian Federation](#), [Slovakia](#), [South Africa](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [Switzerland](#), [Turkey](#), [Ukraine](#), [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#), [United States of America](#), [Vietnam](#), [Zaire](#)

THE SPIRIT OF PRAGUE

"By upholding our own commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, we strengthen our global efforts to stop the spread of these weapons, and to ensure that other nations meet their own responsibilities."
— President Barack Obama

Elements of U.S. Strategy

The United States supports the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its underlying bargain consisting of three basic pillars: countries without nuclear weapons

- New START's verifiable reduction of deployed strategic nuclear warheads by the world's two largest nuclear powers reflects

New START

The New START treaty with Russia advances the goal of bolstering the nuclear nonproliferation regime through

New S
Treaty
Ratified
U.S. S
22 De
2010

While we seek to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons, we will continue to maintain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent for as long as nuclear weapons exist in the world. However, the United States will not test nuclear weapons, not develop new nuclear weapons, and not seek new missions or capabilities for existing nuclear weapons. The fact that we are maintaining this arsenal does not increase the likelihood that it will be used. We are determined to see that nuclear weapons are never used again. Our objective: maintaining a credible deterrent as we pursue a world free of nuclear weapons.

 **Los Alamos**
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operating for Los Alamos National Security, LLC for

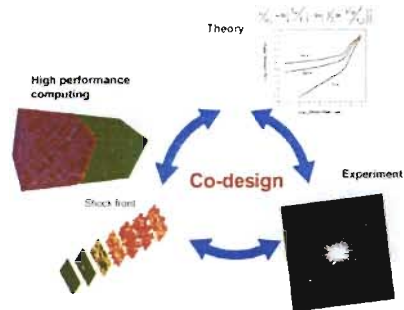
weapons, not develop new nuclear weapons, and not seek new missions or capabilities for existing nuclear weapons. The fact that we are maintaining this arsenal does not increase the likelihood that it will be used. We are determined to see that nuclear weapons are never used again. Our objective: maintaining a credible deterrent as we pursue a world free of nuclear weapons.

- The Summit reinforced the principle that all states are responsible for ensuring the best security of their materials.
- The Summit Communiqué strengthened nuclear security and reduced the threat of nuclear terrorism.

Please visit <http://www.state.gov/t/bs/npt/index.htm>

Stockpile Stewardship uses the science of prediction & uncertainty quantification for complex systems and networks

- Quantitative tools for decision makers
- Common to multiple areas
 - climate modeling,
 - electric grid, etc.



A number of scientific disciplines are needed to achieve a predictive capability



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



5

Stockpile stewardship requires integration of key tools and disciplines

- Tools
 - High performance computing
 - Experimental facilities
 - Manufacturing facilities
 - Computer codes
- Scientific Expertise
 - Materials, including actinides
 - Nuclear Physics
 - Plasma Physics
 - High Explosives
 - Hydrodynamics/turbulence



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



6

Find an open slide on stockpile numbers

Find some references to CTBT and New start (look at the popa stuff)

First ingredient: nuclear physics

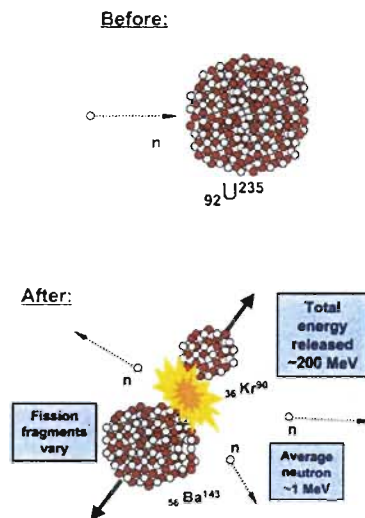
- Nuclear physics was important
 - Energy release
 - Chain reaction
 - Critical size, tamper, & efficiency
 - Cross sections
 - Efficiency, detonation, & predetonation



Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
EST. 1943

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



NNSA

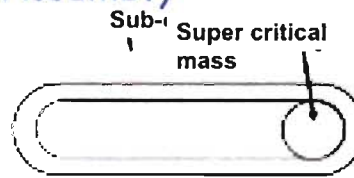
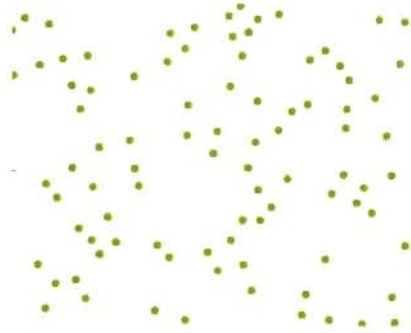
7

Better picture – include Hahn/Meitner/Strassmann – reference to date

Creating a Super-Critical Assembly

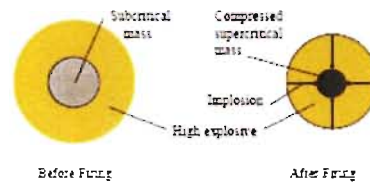
Each fission releases ~2.5 neutrons+200 MeV of kinetic energy

10^{24} Atoms (250 gm) = 10 kilo tons of TNT



Explosive

THE IMPLOSION WEAPON



Achieving an implosion requires expertise in high explosives and shock physics

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

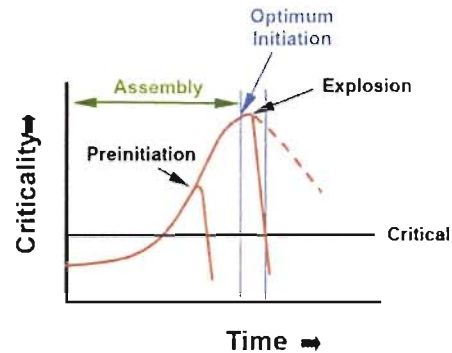
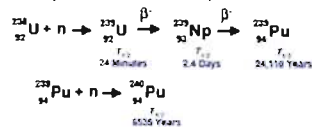
NNSA

8

Useful to have a reactor example?

Thin Man Crisis

- First samples of reactor produced Pu were received from Oak Ridge for analysis at Los Alamos in April 1944
- Analysis by Segre's group showed high neutron background rate due to spontaneous fission in ^{240}Pu (5X Seaborg's initial sample)
- Assembly speed of Thin Man wasn't fast enough and the plutonium gun was abandoned
- Los Alamos refocused toward development of the implosion weapon



Neutron background rates:
 HEU : ~1 neutron/kg/second
 WGPu : ~60,000 neutrons/kg/second
 RGPu : ~300,000 neutrons/kg/second



Critical Assembly - A Technical History of Los Alamos during the Oppenheimer Years, 1943-1945,
 republished by Cambridge University Press in 2004

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



9

Reactors produce large neutron production rates

- Large neutron flux also results in production of ^{240}Pu via additional neutron capture reactions
- ^{240}Pu has high spontaneous fission rate, resulting in a large neutron background

Plutonium, the most complex metal

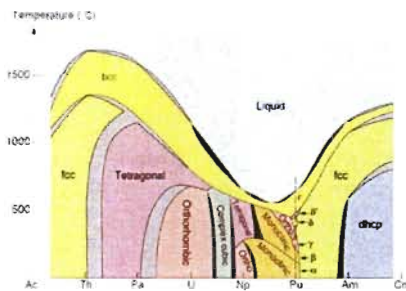
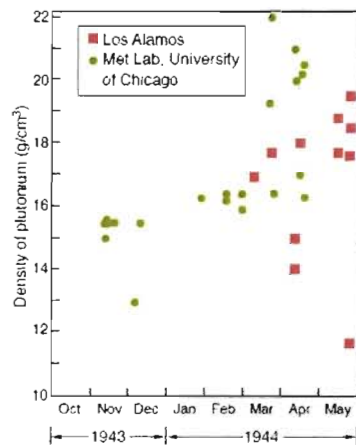


Table 1. Physical Properties of Plutonium Compared with Other Metals

Metal	Thermal Conductivity (cal/cm·K)	Electrical Resistivity (Ω·cm · 10 ⁻⁶)	Compressibility (GPa ⁻¹)	Young's Modulus (GPa)
Aluminum	9.530	2.9	0.015	70
Stainless Steel	0.036	70	0.0007	180
α-Plutonium	0.010	145	0.000	100
β-Plutonium (Pu-Ga)	0.022	100	0.003	42

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA

10

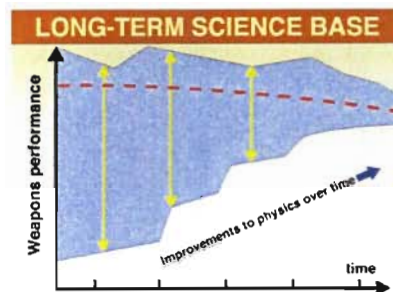
All these pictures are from LA Science on PU

Variations in Pu density baffled MP chemists and metallurgists until about midway thru 1944 – discovered no less than five allotropic phases

Connected binary phase diagram of the actinides illustrates transition from typical metallic behavior at thorium to complex behavior at PU and back to typical metal past americium

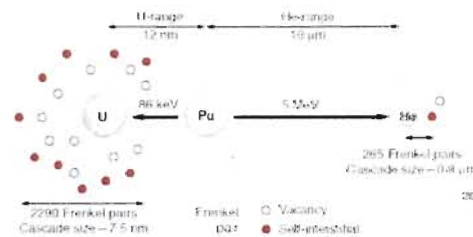
Future certification will depend on increasingly on a science-based assessment of performance

- Quantification of Margins and Uncertainties (QMU) is a methodology to quantify weapon performance at a level of confidence (risk).
- We are presently using QMU to assess changes that are small perturbations on the tested configurations
- Science-based predictive capability must improve as we move farther from the tested regime



Our science base increases in importance as uncertainty about future stockpile requirements increases!

Aging stockpile, new pits and refurbishments all cause change that must be understood

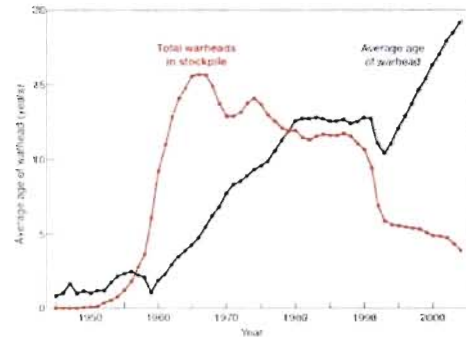


Radiogenic decay of Pu

New manufacturing techniques

New materials

Nuclear Posture Review (2010):
The science, technology and engineering base, vital for stockpile stewardship as well as providing insights for non-proliferation, must be strengthened.



Los Alamos
 NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA

12

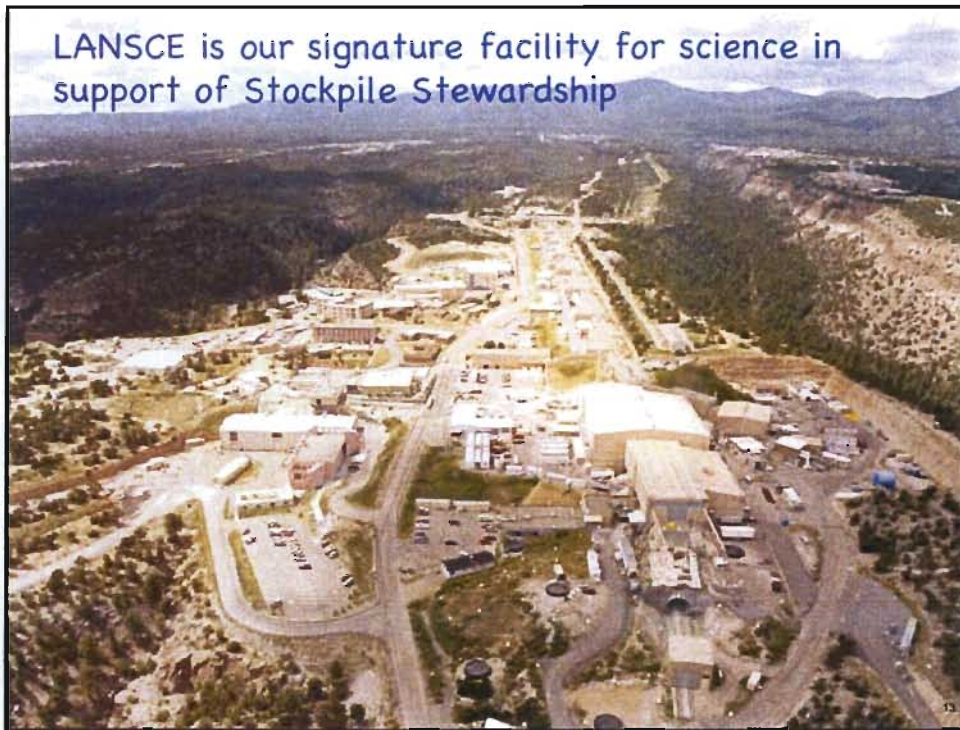
When a plutonium nucleus undergoes α -decay, the recoiling uranium and helium nuclei knock plutonium atoms from their lattice sites. Displaced plutonium atoms come to rest at interstitial sites and leave lattice vacancies behind. Each displaced plutonium atom creates a Frenkel pair—consisting of a vacancy and a self-interstitial. Each decay event creates more than 2000 Frenkel pairs. The cascade size is the space occupied by the Frenkel pairs created during a certain decay event.

From the NPR: Second, implementation of the Stockpile Stewardship Program and the nuclear infrastructure investments recommended in the NPR will allow the United States to shift away from retaining large numbers of non-deployed warheads as a hedge against technical or geopolitical surprise, allowing major reductions in the nuclear stockpile. These investments are essential to facilitating reductions while sustaining deterrence under New START and beyond.

The NPR concluded:

- The science, technology and engineering base, vital for stockpile stewardship as well as providing insights for non-proliferation, must be strengthened.
- Increased investments in the nuclear weapons complex of facilities and personnel are required to ensure the long-term safety, security, and effectiveness of our nuclear arsenal. New facilities will be sized to support the requirements of the stockpile stewardship and management plan being developed by the National Nuclear Security Administration.
- Increased funding is needed for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory to replace the existing 50-year old facility, and to develop a new Uranium Processing Facility at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

LANSCCE is our signature facility for science in support of Stockpile Stewardship



A history - LAMPF

- Bethe Panel 1964
- Full energy beam 1972
- Scientific highlights
 - Pure neutron/proton states
 - Neutrino Oscillations
 - Parity Violation (p,p)
 - Discovery IVMR in CEX
 - Double analog states in heavy nuclei
 - New proton rich nuclei
 - Spin structure functions
 - Quenching Gamow-Teller
- 1996 - LAMPF becomes LANSCE
 - Focus on neutrons and materials science

Theme: a facility with unprecedented capability leads to unimagined applications!

Alvarez – high power linac – in the 50s he was trying to build a high power accelerator at LLNL to breed fissile materials and make tritium – high power neutron source
Put a pion picture in here?

Need dates

A roadmap (pions (pure n, P), pion DCX, mu-e gamma, LSND/neutrino oscillations – neutron source WNR->Lujan n scattering, parity violation/resonance spectroscopy (->Prad ->muon and UCN in parallel

LANSCe today provides a unique set of research tools



Unique, highly-flexible beam delivery to multiple facilities 6 mo/yr @ 24/7 with 1200 user visits

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

Lujan Center

- Materials science and condensed matter physics
- Bio-science, nuclear science
- National security research
- A National BES user facility

WNR

- Nuclear national security research
- Semiconductor irradiation

Ultra-cold Neutron Facility

- Fundamental nuclear physics

Proton Radiography

- HE science
- Dynamic materials science
- Hydrodynamics

Isotope Production Facility

- Nuclear medicine
- Research isotope production

NNSA

15

LANSCe is a unique and diverse set of premier research facilities for addressing complex challenges facing our Nation in national security, energy security, medicine, and fundamental research to highlight a few

Presently composed of five facilities that are driven in common by the 800 MeV proton linac

At the Lujan center - the 800 MeV protons impact a W target and make lots of neutrons - roughly 20 to one. The neutrons are moderated by water (rt) and liquid hydrogen (20 kelvin) and used as a world class materials probe and for investigating low energy nuclear science.

IPF:ur primary products are Sr-82 (cardiac imaging) and Ge-68 (Positron Emission Tomography calibration). Domestically, LANL produces roughly 70% of these isotopes with BNL producing the balance. INR in Russia provides some raw Sr-82 material that is solely processed by LANL. Nordion (Canada) and iThemba (South Africa) are the only other viable suppliers of Sr-82. We produce at much higher volumes.

Ge-68 is also produced at BNL and a couple Russian sources (Mayak).

Demand for Sr-82 is growing - up 350% since 2005. Ge-68 is also growing as the daughter isotope Ga-68 is being accepted as a new clinical imaging agent. The Mo-99 shortage has accelerated the move from CT scans (employing Tc-99m) to PET. Once clinics have made the investment in PET, they will not likely return to CT. The Sr-82 is used in a generator technology. Currently 110 generators are fielded each month.....the owner of the generator technology anticipates that by Sept 2011 that the number of generators will be close to 180....the growth potential for Sr-82 is staggering. Operated as a DOE national user facility - all research performed is competitively selected by a national committee of peers

WNR - unmoderated target -

UCN - further cools neutrons to nano electron volts - used for fundamental nuclear physics research - like probing the standard model of nuclear weak interactions.

pRad - uses the protons directly to dynamically image matter under extreme condition

I will focus on three areas

- Nuclear Science
- Dynamic materials
- Neutrons, materials science



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



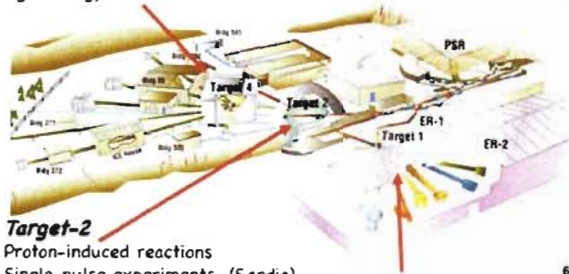
16

Nuclear Science research is performed at many experimental areas at LANSCE

Weapons Neutron Research Facility

Target-4

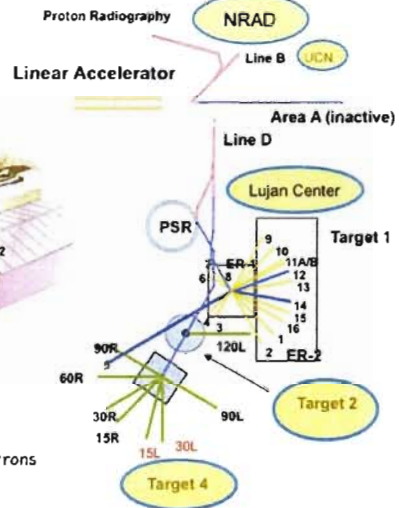
High-energy neutron research



Target-2

Proton-induced reactions
Single-pulse experiments (Sandia)
Lead Slowing-Down Spectrometer
SNS target testing
Isotope production testing

Lujan Center
Low-energy neutrons



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

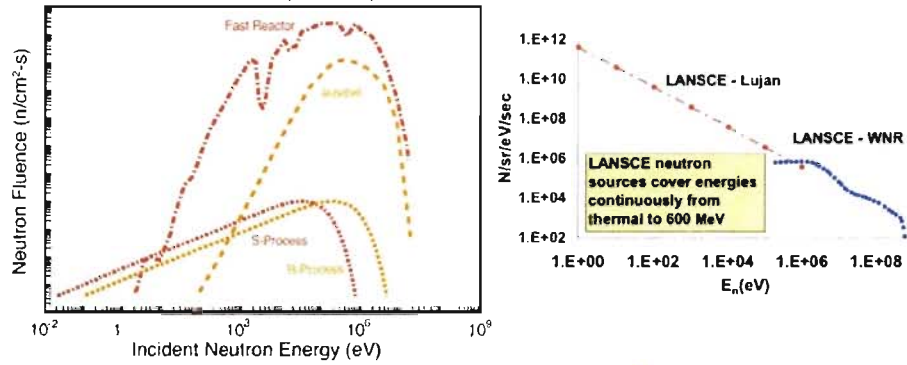
UNCLASSIFIED



17

Fast reactors, stockpile stewardship, and nuclear astrophysics have similar nuclear data needs

Neutron Fluence Shape Comparisons



LANSCE neutron sources at the Lujan Center and WNR cover the entire spectrum necessary to provide high-accuracy nuclear cross sections from thermal to 600 MeV

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA Slide 18

Quote some relevant neutron energies:

Fission neutrons

Fusion neutrons

Rad Chem is a diagnostic of yield

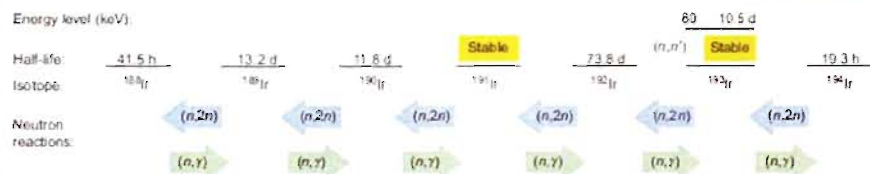


Figure 1. Chain of Neutron-Induced Reactions on Iridium Used in Radiochemical Analysis

Neutron-induced reactions on iridium isotopes are used to infer neutron fluence by radiochemical analysis of the amount of the radioactive isotopes produced. Natural iridium consisting of the stable isotopes 191 and 193 was placed in the device. The radioactive isotopes produced in the test live long enough so that they can be recovered by drill-back procedures and then analyzed in the laboratory. The (n,2n) reactions have thresholds of approximately 6 MeV and therefore indicate the fluence of neutrons above this energy. The (n,) reactions have zero threshold and indicate the neutron fluence generally below 1 MeV. The (n,n') reaction on iridium-193 producing the 10.5-day excited state at 80 keV is sensitive to neutrons between 1 and 5 MeV, which is the major energy range for neutrons produced in fission.



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



Many instruments have been developed for nuclear data measurements at LANSCE

GEANIE (n,x γ)



FIGARO (n,xn+ γ)



DANCE (n, γ)



N,Z (n,charged particle)



LSDS



Fission

fission ion chamber



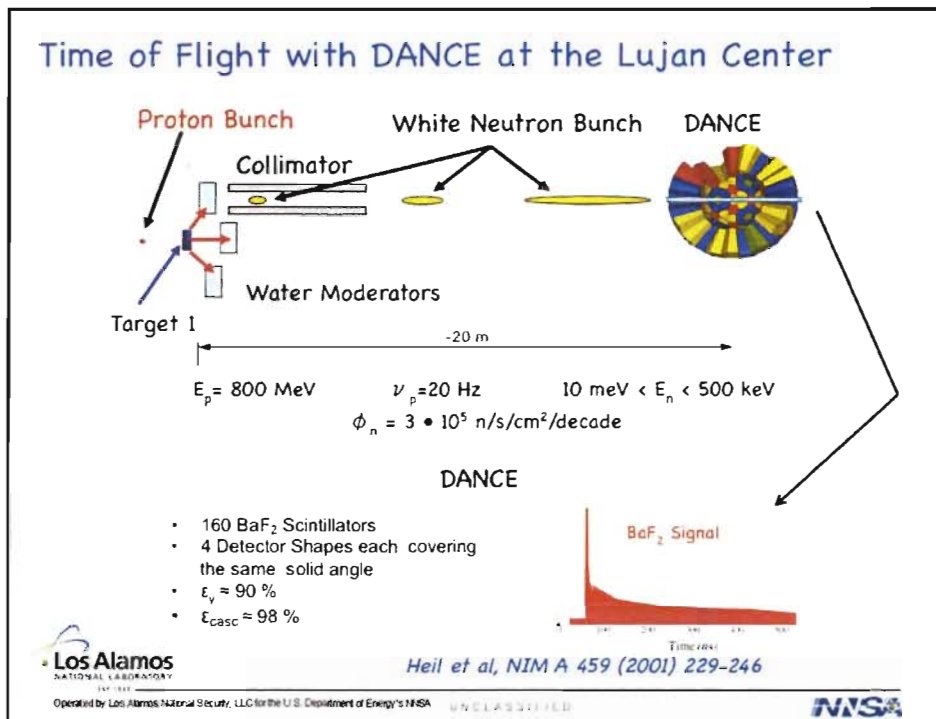
Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
EST. 1943

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA

20

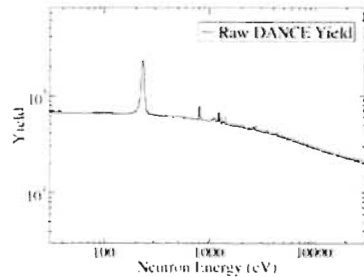


It's actually supposed to be an ϵ_γ and ϵ_{casc} for efficiency of a gamma and a cascade respectively. The first is the total efficiency for detecting a 1 MeV gamma ray, which is basically geometric and thus the same as solid angle.

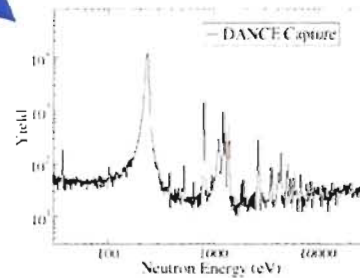
The second is efficiency for detecting at least _something_ from the cascade (which is the geometric efficiency for a single gamma folded with 3-4 gammas)--the efficiency of detecting the full cascade is actually quite a bit lower--I'd guess it is about 40%, but that's a really rough number. The first is the total efficiency for detecting a 1 MeV gamma ray, which is basically geometric and thus the same as solid angle.

The second is efficiency for detecting at least _something_ from the cascade (which is the geometric efficiency for a single gamma folded with 3-4 gammas)--the efficiency of detecting the full cascade is actually quite a bit lower--I'd guess it is about 40%, but that's a really rough number. The first is the total efficiency for detecting a 1 MeV gamma ray, which is basically geometric and thus the same as solid angle.

Effect of DANCE Selection on Q-Value and Multiplicity



Mult and Q Cuts



- All measurements are from a 50 mg sample of ^{203}Tl .
- No subtraction of elastic background has been done.
- While the losses in efficiency are large, the enhanced S/N is worth it.

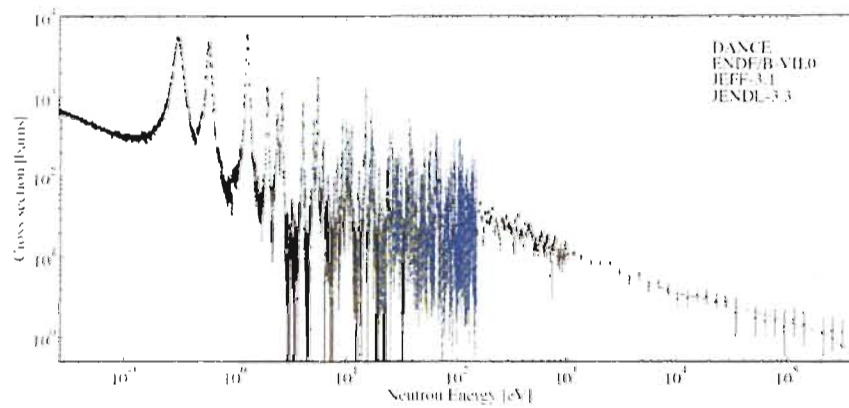
Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA Slide 22

Cross Section Measurement of $^{241}\text{Am}(n, \gamma)$



Los Alamos
 NATIONAL LABORATORY

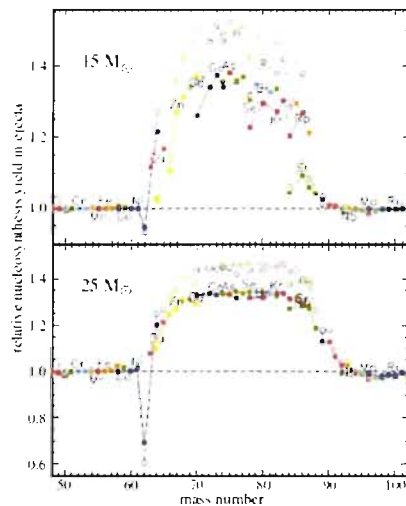
Jandel *et al.* *Phys. Rev. C* **78** 034609 (2008)

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA Slide 23

Measurements for the weak s process



- New activation measurement on ^{62}Ni adjusted abundances 30 mass units down-stream
- Cross sections for the weak s process are
 - small
 - difficult to calculate
 - likely non-statistical
 - Individual resonances and DC likely play a role
 - Impact propagates
- Multiple measurement techniques may be needed to understand the weak s process

Nassar *et al.* PRL 2005

NATIONAL LABORATORY

1997-1998

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

Slide 24

These are abundance calculations from the weak s-process. The weak s-process operates in $> \sim 8$ an shell carbon burning. It is responsible for the s-process production of isotope in the $60 < A < 90$ panels is that the upper used a 15 solar mass star for the calculations and the lower used a 25 solar mass star but it is cluttered as for any given element, it can have multiple masses and for any given mass, element, and the line connects isotopes of the same elements.

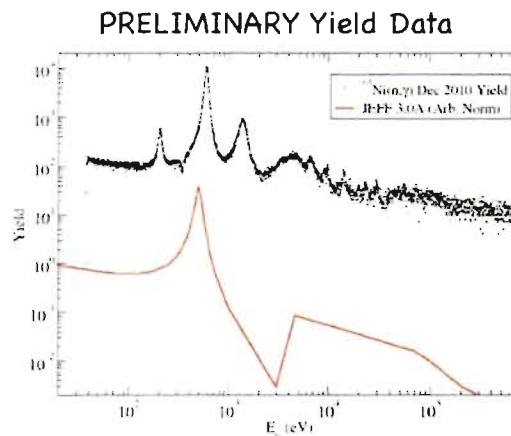
Each dot is actually the ratio between two calculations--the only change between the two is the axis is the ratio between the abundances calculated using "standard" cross section and the new abundance of a certain isotope is unaffected by the ^{62}Ni cross section (Fe and Mn e.g.). A ratio isotope is produced with the new cross section than the standard one.

The solid dots are from a cross section of 28.4 mb (which was the value measured in this work, of 35.5 mb. The standard cross section was 12.5 mb. These are all Maxwellian averaged cross sections.

There are (at least) two things that were really surprising about this work. First, for the main s-process, changing a single cross section, even by more than a factor of two, usually only affects the abundances because the mass flow is in equilibrium. The fact that one cross section changed so many isotopes is a nuclear physics challenge of the weak s-process. The other surprise is that the cross section for ^{62}Ni accepted uncertainty in the case of ^{62}Ni was about 20%. There was a reason to re-visit it as the abundances they were not reflected in the uncertainties. Some of the challenges have been listed on the slide. Isotopes in this region exhibit similar propagation effects and there are several cases in this mass region.

December 2010 DANCE Measurement on ^{63}Ni

- ^{63}Ni controls the abundance of ^{63}Cu , setting the local production scale
- Resonances sit in the regime of astrophysical interest
- This first measurement was performed with a sample 11% enriched in ^{63}Ni



Ph. D. project of M. Weigand, Univ. of Frankfurt



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

Slide 25

he ^{63}Ni is recent work for the weak s-process. That work was done with Rene Reifarh and Mario Weigand who may well be in the audience.

I will focus on three areas

- Nuclear Science
- **Dynamic materials**
- Neutrons, materials science



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy by NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

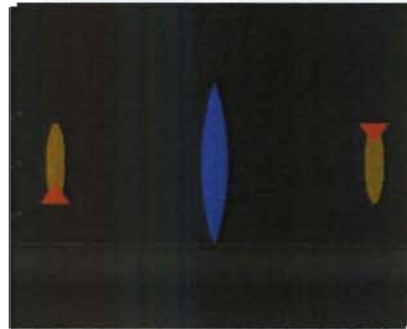


26

LANSCÉ 800 MeV proton radiography facility



$$t = e^{-\frac{l}{\lambda_2}} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{\theta_c^2}{X}} \right)$$



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy by NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



27

pRad allows unique studies of high explosive detonation and equation of state



- Corner Turner
- Rate Stick
- Colliding Detonation Waves
- Failure Cone

• Measure the detonation and shock wave locations as a function of time.

- EOS parameters
- HE detonation dynamics



Operating by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

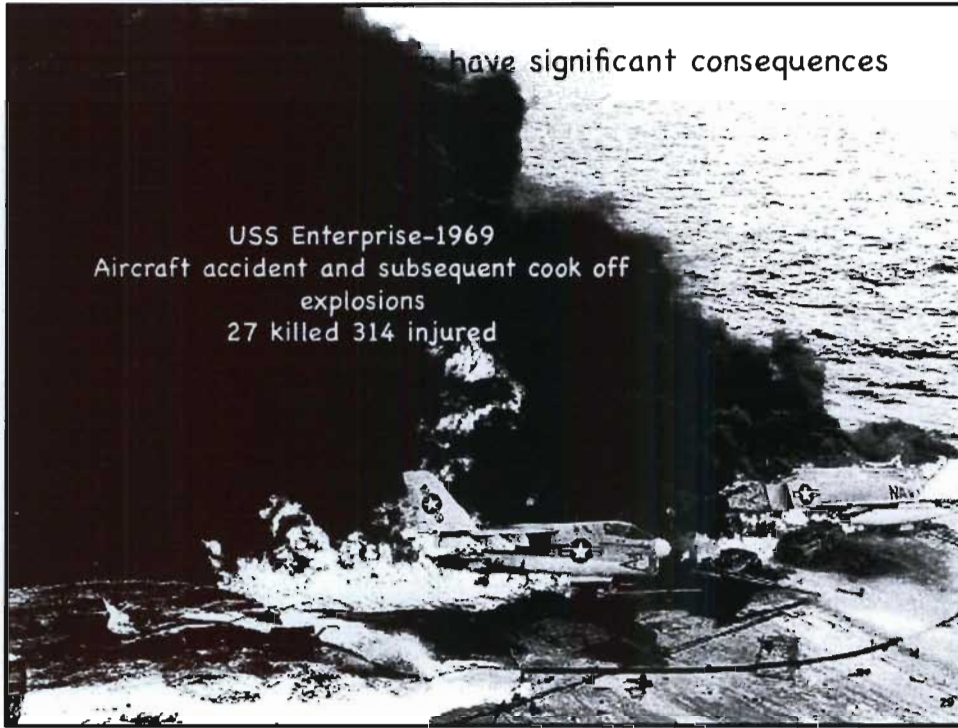
Eric Ferm

NNSA

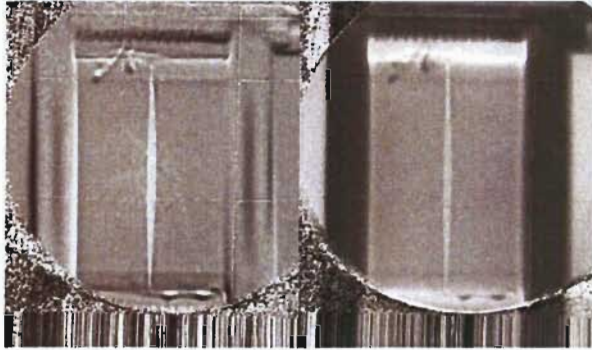
28

have significant consequences

USS Enterprise-1969
Aircraft accident and subsequent cook off
explosions
27 killed 314 injured



A recent proton radiography movie shows features of the ignition mechanism



- Hot spot develops, initiated by laser pulse
- Ignition propagates along cracks
- Reaction burns remaining material



L. Smilowitz and B. Henson

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



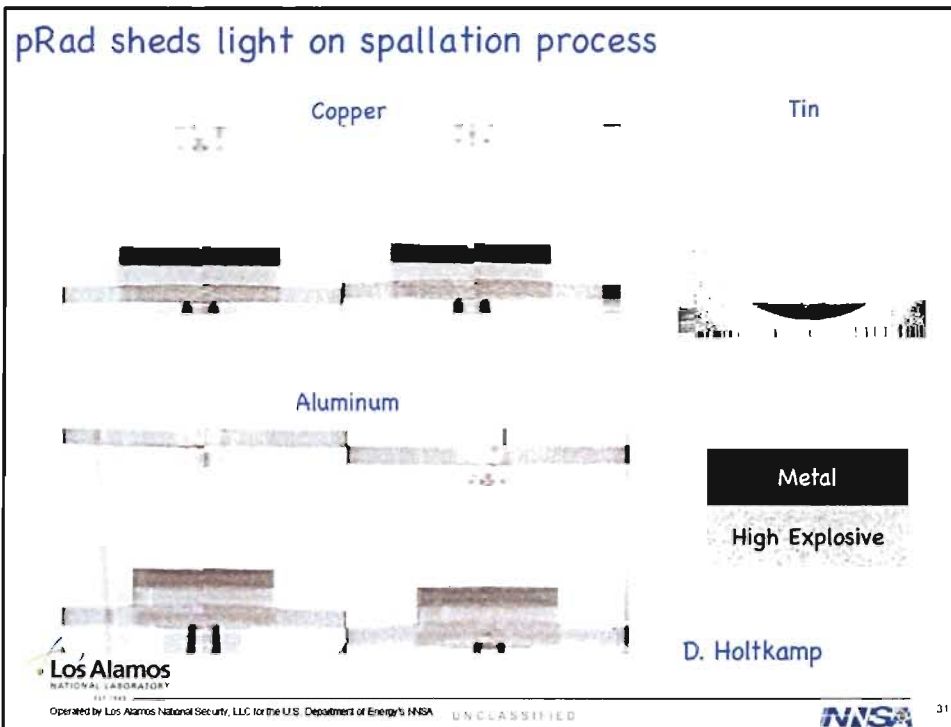
30

Heated with heating coils

Starts to thermally run away (T increases exponentially)

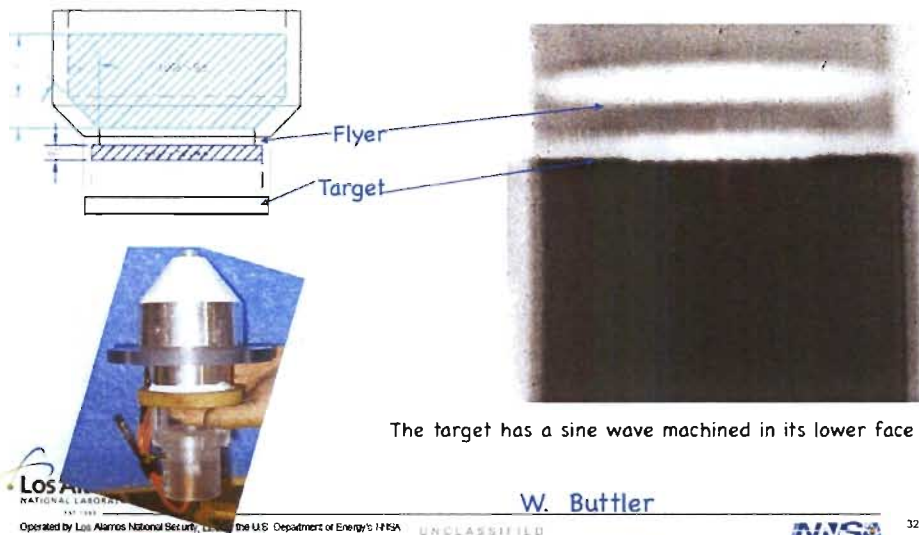
Laser pulse injected at midpoint to ensure it initiates in coincidence with beam

Proton with a ring – more flexibility in when a pulse is delivered – would help this work



82,83 upper copper
84,85 lower Aluminum
90 right Tin

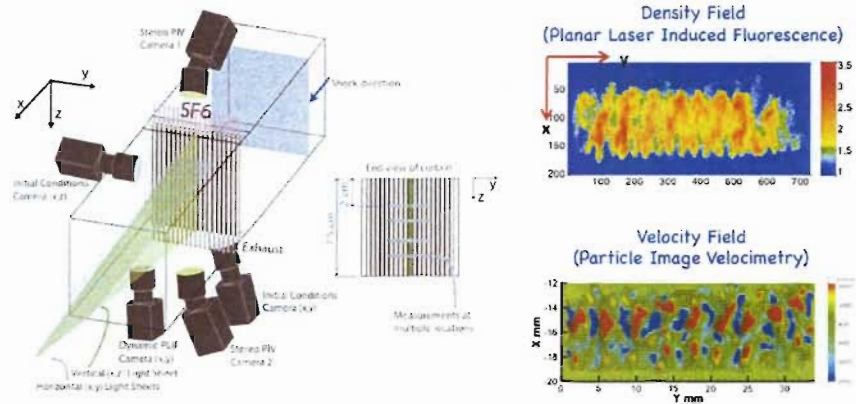
pRad has been used to study the development of a Richtmyer-Meshkov (RM) instability in molten tin



Prad181.avi

(W. Buttler)

We use gas shock tube measurements to understand the physics of mixing, transition and turbulence in shock-driven unstable flows



First experimental measurements of turbulent Reynolds stress in shocked Richtmyer-Meshkov turbulent flows have been made at the gas shock tube in Los Alamos

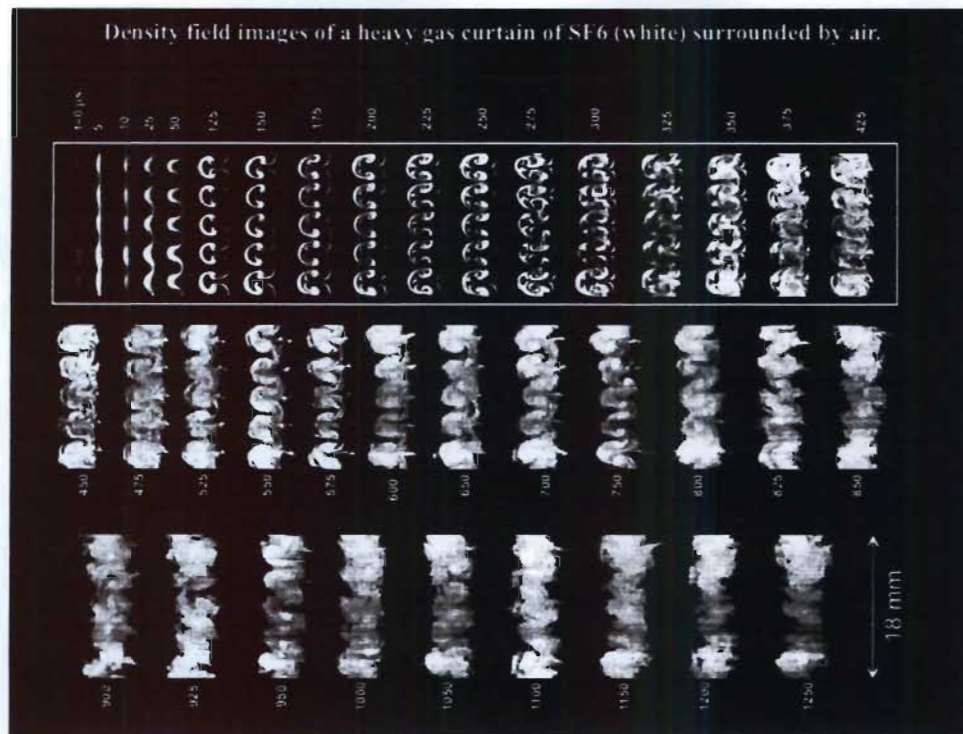
Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

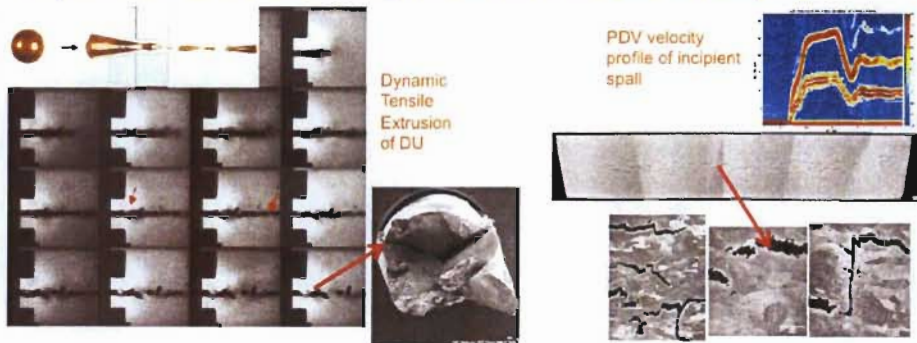
NNSA

The horizontal shock tube uses optical laser diagnostics to look at the evolution of the mixing of a heavy gas curtain of SF₆ surrounded by air. The shock moves along the tube in the x direction (streamwise). Y is the spanwise direction, and z is the vertical direction. Measurements of density and velocity are in the x-y plane.



Shock moves from left to right, then the flow evolves over time to become turbulent.

Dynamic tensile extrusion and incipient spallation experiments are informing predictive model development



- Unlike similar experiments on Cu and Ta, DU breaks up into greater than 5 pieces and break appears to be shear dominated during dynamic extrusion
- Incipiently spalled DU shows tensile cracking and severe plastic shearing often associated with inclusions and no evidence of microvoid formation and coalescence

Predictive modeling of dynamic damage evolution in DU requires complex shear processes to be described in next generation coupled strength / damage models under development

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

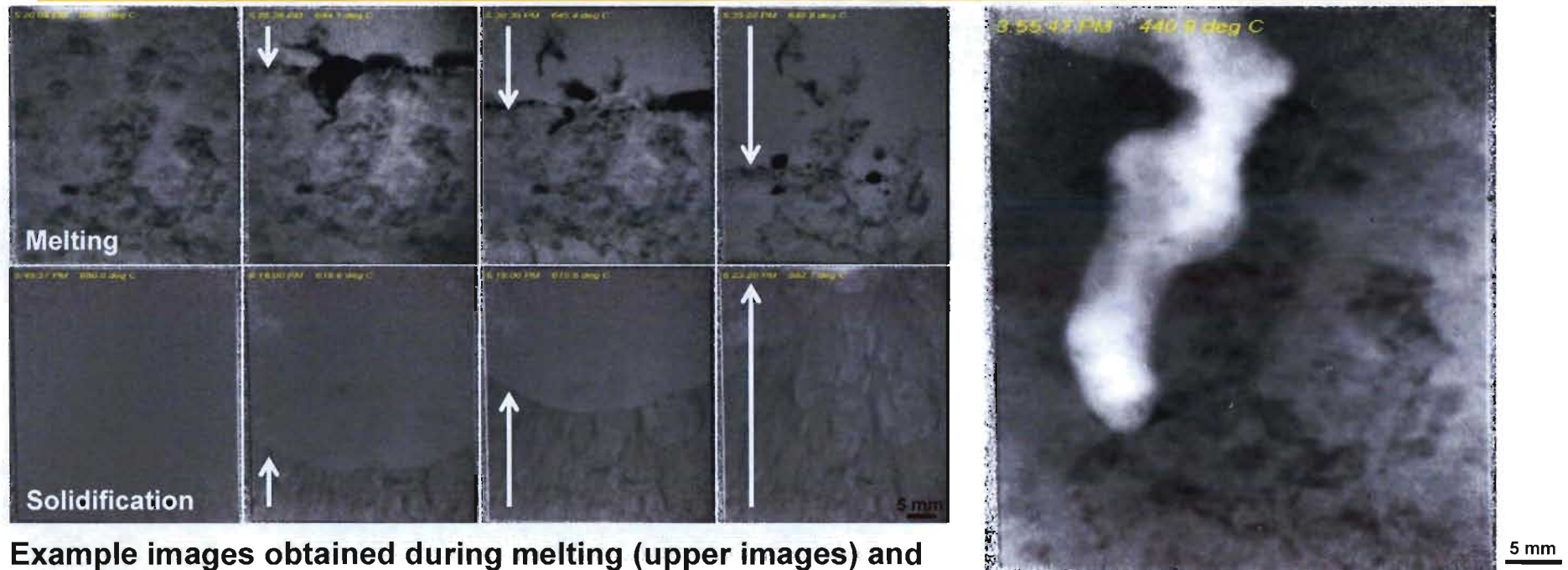
Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA

35

In-situ Monitoring of Melting and Solidification at Temperature Extremes Using 800 MeV Proton Radiography (pRad) at LANL (August 2011); Al-In, Ga-Bi, Al-Cu, Sn-Bi



Example images obtained during melting (upper images) and solidification (lower images) for a 6 mm thick Al-In sample using pRad. Darker regions are In-rich. A movie is provided on the right.

Approximately 10 micron resolution would be achievable using 4.5 GeV proton radiography at GSI...

Advantages of pRad at LANL:

- Time-resolved imaging
- Large field of view
- Interrogation of thick samples (1 - 6 mm examined in the current work)
- Ability to examine high density materials

Disadvantage of pRad at LANL:

- Spatial resolution of ~65 microns

I will focus on three areas

- Nuclear Science
- Dynamic materials
- Neutrons, materials science

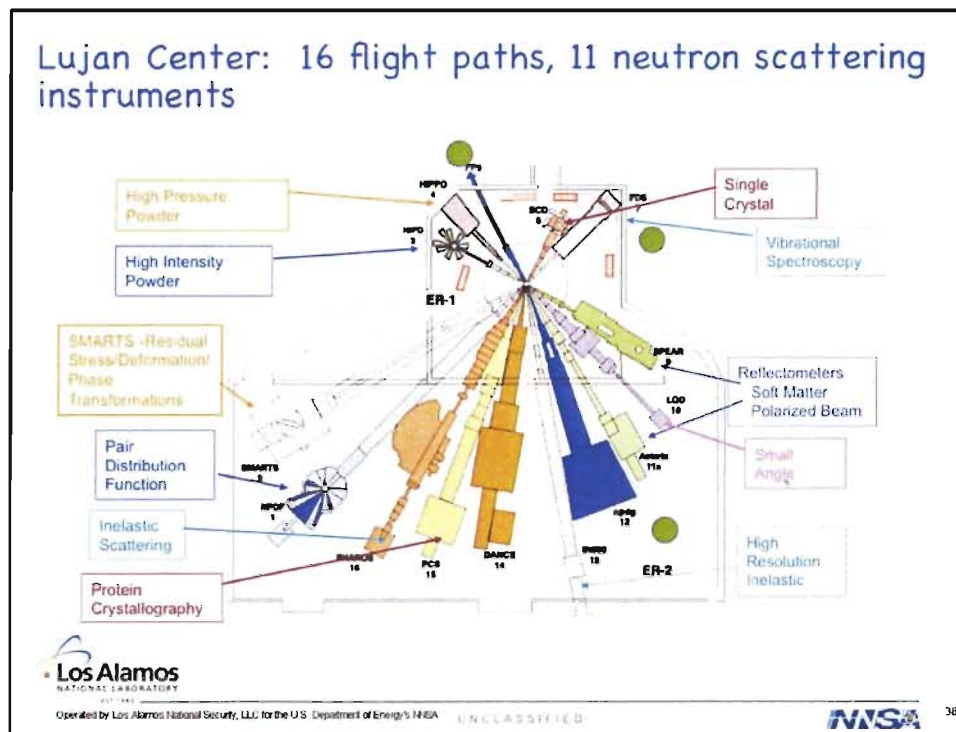


Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



37



Transition to materials story

Why neutrons? (get Mason Physics today)

- thick samples - penetrating power
- sensitivity to different materials (not z^2); can see light stuff (I.e. Hydrogen)
- wavelength -

What is Lujan

Uniqueness:

Instruments

Source (# neutrons)

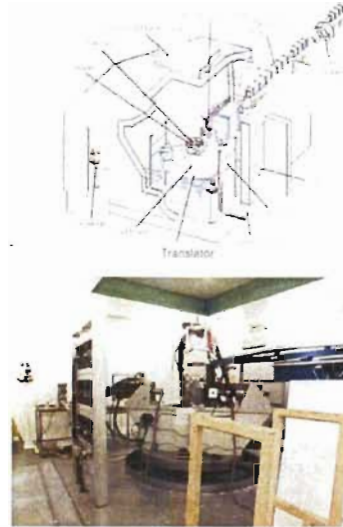
Actinides

Classified

Environments

SMARTS: Spectrometer for Materials Research at Temperature and Stress

- Neutron powder diffractometer optimized for engineering structural material research.
 - Stresses to 2GPa.
 - 90K-2000K
 - Tension, compression, fatigue
 - 1 mm spatial resolution
- Materials application examples
 - Residual Stress
 - Deformation mechanisms
 - Phase transitions
- User program
 - ~50 external user experiments
 - ~10 DP experiments
 - Competitive selection



Operating by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

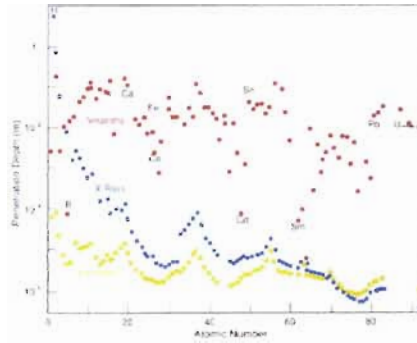
UNCLASSIFIED



39

LANL and SMARTS have unique capabilities

- Neutrons will characterize the bulk structure allowing analysis of engineering components.
- X-ray radiation will characterize only the surface which often contains a damaged layer.
- Non-destructive
- Ability to perform complicated *in situ* experiments.
 - Temperature
 - Tensile and compressive loading
 - Hydrostatic Pressure
- Demonstrated ability to perform experiments on classified components.



Integration with other capabilities at LANL, e.g. manufacturing, characterization, code development, is required for us to succeed in our stockpile stewardship mission.



Slide 40

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



Campaign 4.2 (Radiation Case Dynamics)

Developing valid constitutive models for use
in latest codes predicting performance

Enhanced Surveillance Campaign

Lifetime prediction of U-Nb alloys

Deformation prediction of U-Nb alloys

Material Characterization for Hydrodynamic
Testing

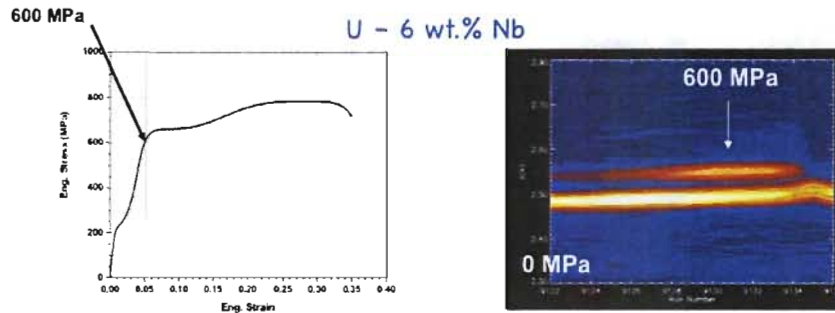
Deformation prediction of test components

Helping to resolve manufacturing issues

Pit Certification

Measurement of Be weld residual stresses.

Neutron diffraction shows importance of twinning



Constitutive materials models must include these twinning mechanisms.

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA

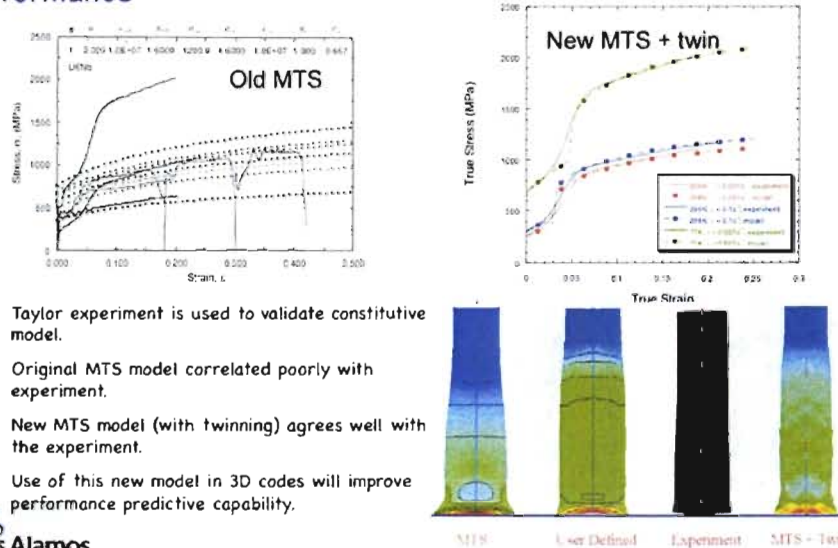
41

Change in the intensity of lines corresponding to either d spacing (or 2 theta) and a function of strain

In situ tensile straining of U – 6 wt.% Nb part shows twinning to be the predominant deformation mechanism at low strains

Twin boundaries occur when two crystals of the same type intergrow, so that only a slight misorientation exists between them. It is a highly symmetrical interface, often with one crystal the mirror image of the other; also, atoms are shared by the two crystals at regular intervals. This is also a much lower-energy interface than the grain boundaries that form when crystals of arbitrary orientation grow together. Twin boundaries are partly responsible for shock hardening and for many of the changes that occur in cold work of metals with limited slip systems or at very low temperatures. They also occur due to martensitic transformations: the motion of twin boundaries is responsible for the pseudoelastic and shape-memory behavior of nitinol, and their presence is partly responsible for the hardness due to quenching of steel.

Incorporation of twinning in the mechanical threshold stress (MTS) constitutive model will improve 3D code simulations of performance



- Taylor experiment is used to validate constitutive model.
- Original MTS model correlated poorly with experiment.
- New MTS model (with twinning) agrees well with the experiment.
- Use of this new model in 3D codes will improve performance predictive capability.

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA

42

Taylor test – rt circular cylindiner into an anvil (u6Nb)

Color – intensity of strain

Old – simple monotonic

Understanding deformation behavior of shape memory materials

U-6%Nb (LANL)

NiTi based materials (U. Central Florida and NASA)

Residual Stress Measurements in Welds

Be (LANL)

Zr (Australiian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization)

Understanding Twin Deformation Mechanisms

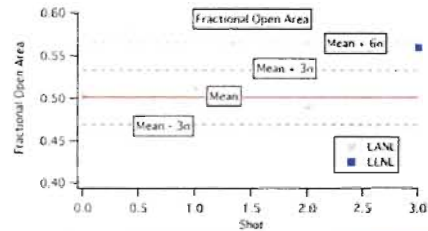
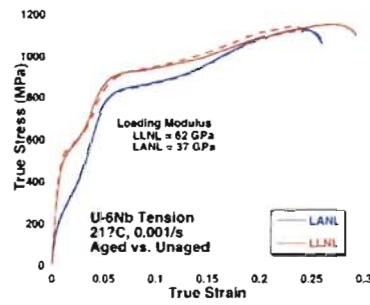
U-6%Nb and Be (LANL)

Mg (U. Virginia)

Mechanical behavior and HE-driven fragmentation of U-6Nb show strong influence of metallurgical state

LANL = Solution treated / Quenched

LLNL = Solution treated / Quenched + Aged



Process-aware understanding of materials performance is lacking

Basic Science -> Application -> Additional Application

- The basic science experimental capabilities left by LAMPF were developed into important new tools for stockpile stewardship
- These capabilities were applied to a variety of other applied problems
- In addition – a spectrum of basic research is still supported by these facilities

I will present two examples: Single Event Upset studies and Muon Tomography



EST. 1944
Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy by NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

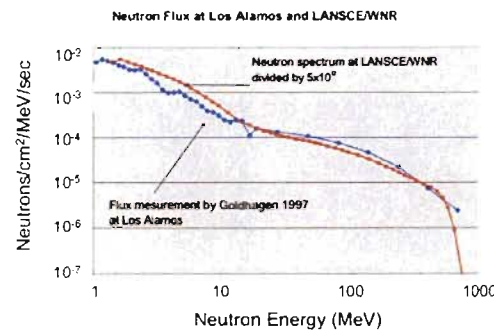
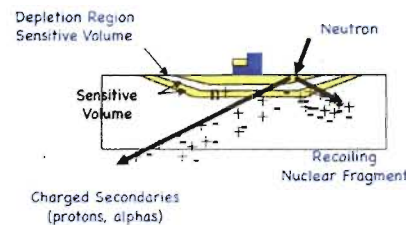


44

Isotope production???

Single-Event effects are an important concern for the semiconductor industry

- Neutrons are produced by cosmic rays in the upper atmosphere
- Neutrons have long mean-free paths so they penetrate to low altitudes
- Neutrons interact with Si and other elements in the device to produce charged particles
- Charged particles deposit charge in the sensitive volume which can cause the state of a node to change



Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA

45

Neutron Single Event Effects (SEE) are faults in electronic devices caused by neutrons from cosmic rays

Types of single-event effects

Soft errors

Single event upset

Multiple event upset (a few % of SEU rate)

Hard errors

Single event latchup

Single event burnup, gate rupture, etc.

High power devices: IGBTs

First experiments were performed by the Boeing Co. for 777 certification

Industry trends to lower voltages and smaller feature size are thought to increase the failure rate due to SEE

Similar devices have very different failure rates

The failure rate due to SEU is equal to all the other failure modes combined

Semiconductor reliability is growing concern in industry

Neutrons induced nuclear reactions create charged particles. Generated charge collects in depletion region and generates a logic upset.

Current border protection for nuclear threats is weak

- Shielding can obscure passive signal
 - Portal monitors are great for detecting innocuous radioactivity
 - The absence of a signal doesn't prove the absence of a threat
- Radiography should be the primary screening method



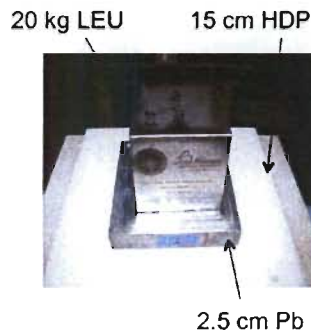
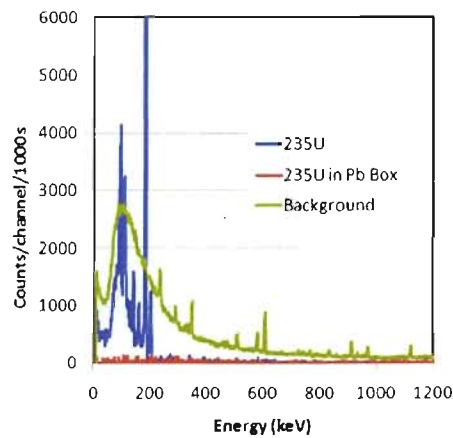
LOS ALAMOS
NATIONAL LABORATORY
EST. 1943

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



^{235}U shielded by 2.5 cm of lead cannot be passively detected!



- Data were obtained by subtracting background and the ^{238}U signal from a 20% enriched 20 kg sample of uranium.
- There is no practical detectable passive signal from shielded ^{235}U

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operating by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

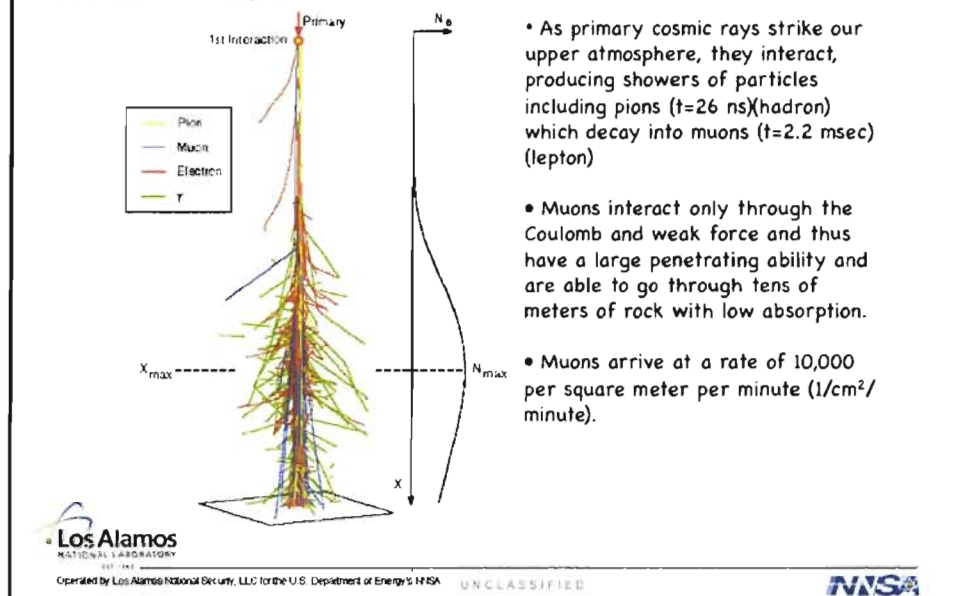
NNSA

20 minutes of running

The amount of ^{235}U in LEU U

Skin thickness – couple mm – all gamma rays come from the surface

Charged particle radiography with cosmic rays



Range

Useful for pyramids

Energy loss

Most sensitive but expensive

Multiple scattering

Cost effective and simple

What does a scanner look like?

- **Technical approach:**
 - Measure passive radiation
 - Use muons to generate "scattering density" image
 - » Built in momentum measurement
 - » Automatic calibration using flux through empty detector
 - Combine signals to identify threats
- **Advantages over other methods:**
 - No radiation
 - Simple technology
 - Inexpensive
 - Can penetrate thick cargos
 - Automatic Identification



Decision Sciences Corporation

 **Los Alamos**
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

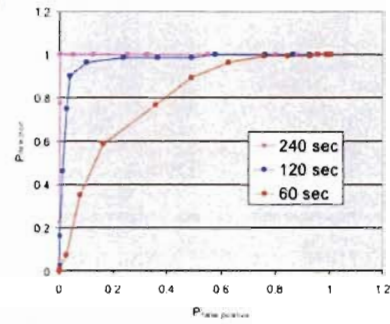
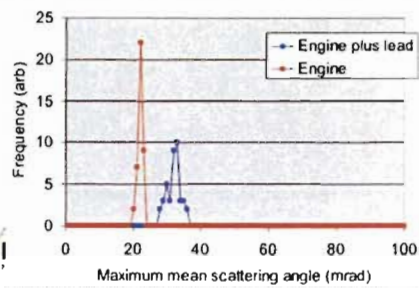
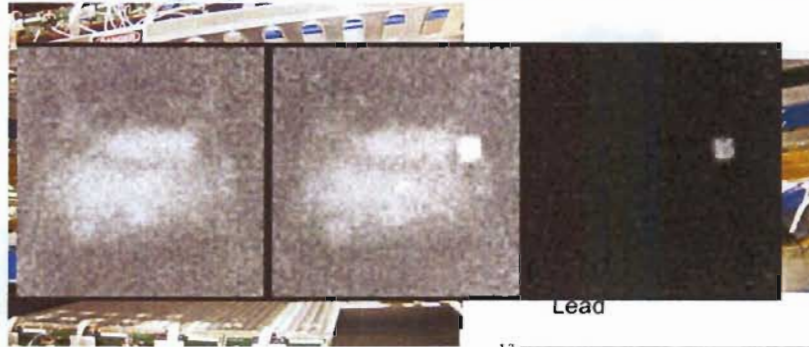


Briefly Describe:

- 1) Technical approach/ method
- 2) Key technical challenges / risks
- 3) Risk management strategy

Include a sketch if possible

Muon Tomography has been demonstrated at scale



Open work by Los Alamos National Security, LLC, for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

Summary

- The science and technology applied to stockpile stewardship is essential in maintaining CTBT
- This work builds on basic science work, e.g. LAMPF
- SSP includes furthering our understanding of certain physical phenomena (e.g. material behavior in dynamic extremes) and well as improved physical data (e.g. cross sections)
- All this is incorporated in computational models requiring extensive high performance computing capability (e.g. Roadrunner)
- The new capabilities developed lead to further applications and new basic science capability



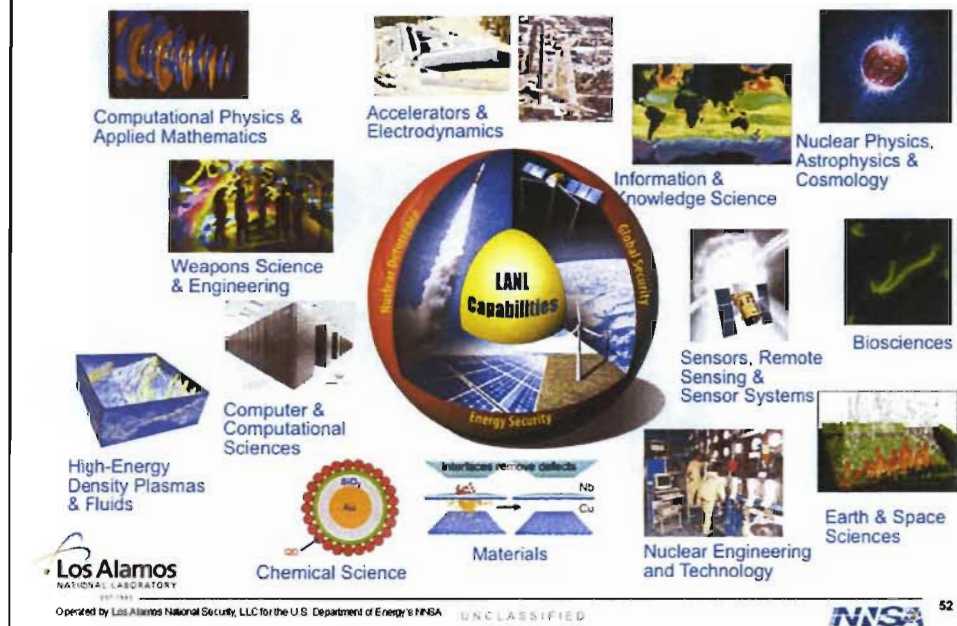
Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



51

LANL's science capabilities



Thirteen total capabilities in 2011.

Additional HED, computer and computational sciences, NPAC, nuclear engineering and tech, and sensors, remote sensing and sensor systems.

spares



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



53

Boosted fission weapons use fusion to enhance the chain reaction

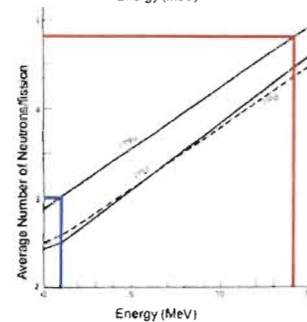
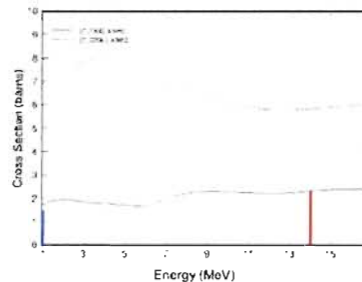
Example: ${}^2_1\text{H} + {}^3_1\text{H} \rightarrow {}^4_2\text{He} + n$
 $(T + D \rightarrow {}^4_2\text{He} + n)$

Before: ${}^2_1\text{H}$ \rightarrow ${}^3_1\text{H}$

After: (14.1 MeV) n \rightarrow (3.5 MeV) ${}^4_2\text{He}$ **17.6 MeV released**

Other reactions of interest:

$D + D \rightarrow {}^3_2\text{He} + n + 3.2 \text{ MeV}$
 $D + D \rightarrow T + p + 4.0 \text{ MeV}$
 $D + {}^3_2\text{He} \rightarrow p + {}^4_2\text{He} + 18.3 \text{ MeV}$
 $T + T \rightarrow {}^4_2\text{He} + 2n + 11.3 \text{ MeV}$



- Mixture of deuterium and tritium (boost gas) is introduced from a reservoir to pit's central cavity
- During implosion, boost gas is compressed along with the fissile material
- Driven by energy from fission, D-T fusion occurs, flooding compressed pit with high energy neutrons
- These neutrons produce additional fissions, driving nuclear yield to much higher values

Los Alamos
 NATIONAL LABORATORY
 1943-1993

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

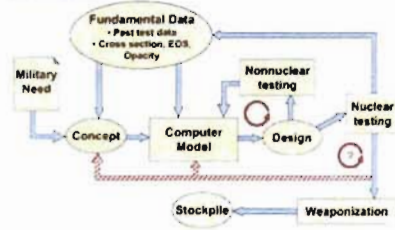
UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA

54

As incident neutron energy increases,
 the cross section (and probability) for
 causing a fission event increases

Then and now: how we take care of the stockpile



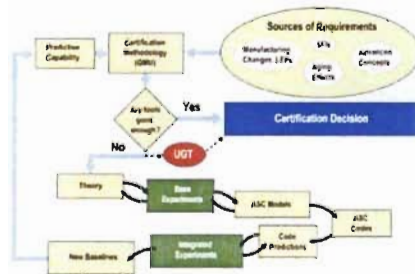
- **Computational Models** – sets of equations describing various weapons phenomenology and numerical solution techniques

Radiation/Hydrodynamics
Neutronics
Thermonuclear burn

- **Physical Data** – unique for each material
Neutron cross sections
Equation of state
Opacities

- **Nonnuclear and Nuclear Test Data** – needed to overcome our lack of full

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

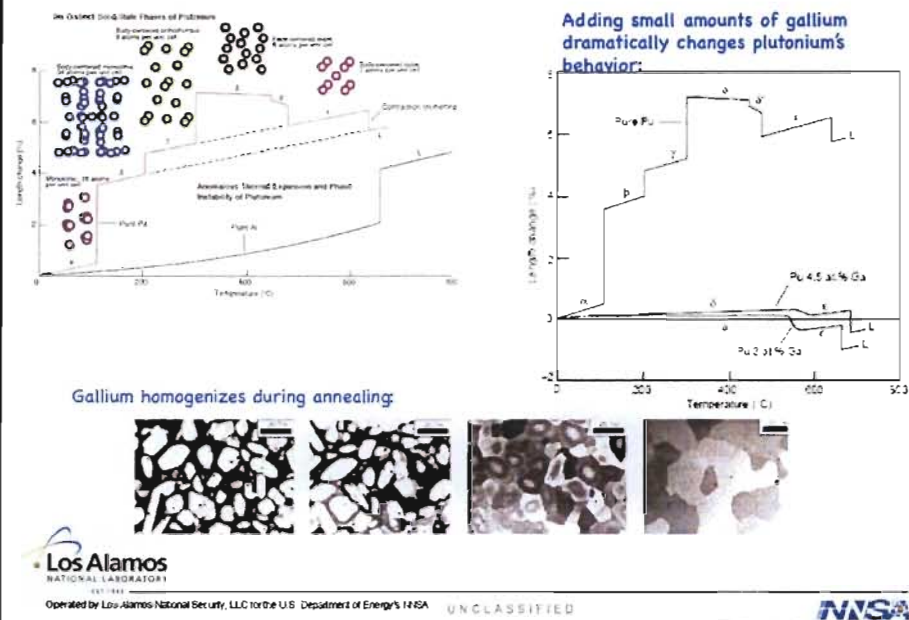
UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA

55

Castle/Bravo: tested 2/28/54 at Bikini
Largest US detonation at 15 Mt

Techniques to stabilize Pu were required

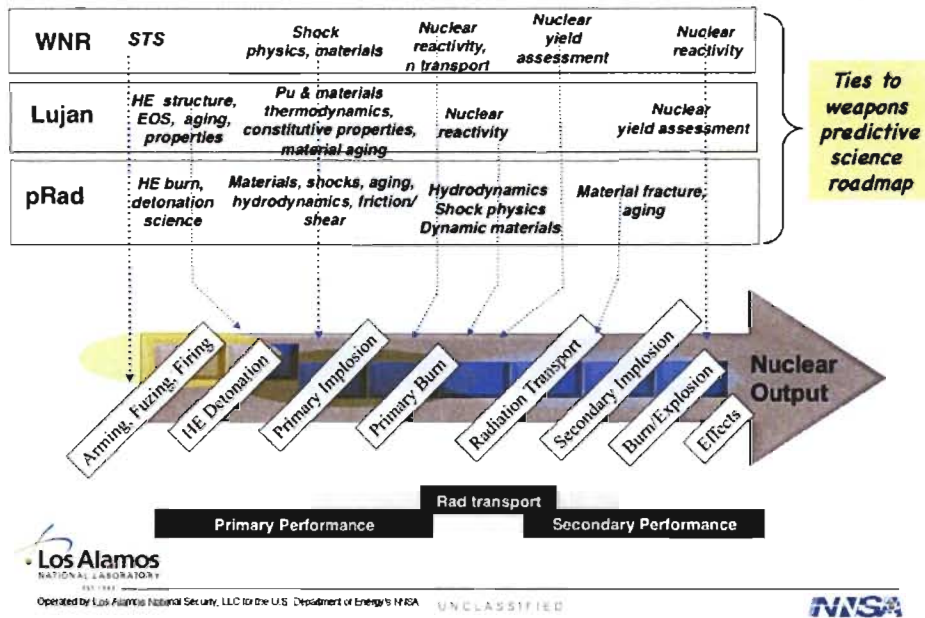


few atomic percent gallium is typically added to plutonium to retain the facecentered-cubic phase, which is easily shaped into components. However, as Pu-Ga alloys cool during casting, gallium segregates and leaves a nonuniform distribution across the metallic grains.

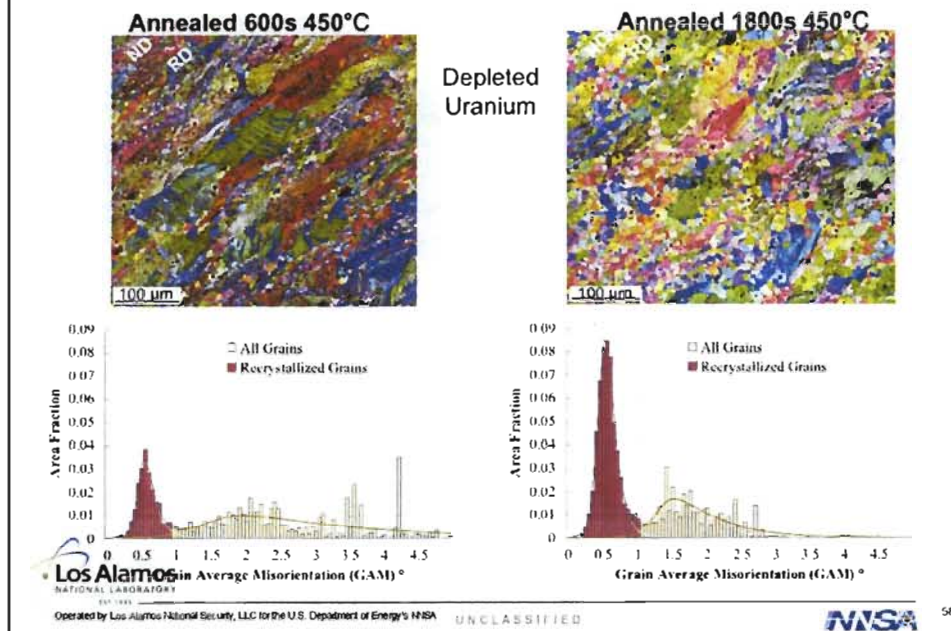
This sequence of micrographs demonstrates gradual gallium homogenization during annealing for long times at 460°C.

The as-cast sample on the left exhibits regions high in gallium in the grain centers (etched to appear very light). At longer times, the gallium concentration becomes more uniform, as demonstrated by the more uniform coloration within the grains. After 720 h, the sample is completely uniform—the variations from grain to grain result strictly from differences in crystalline orientation.

LANSCCE contributes to multiple weapons physics issues



Orientation imaging Microscopy is a powerful tool to guide process optimization



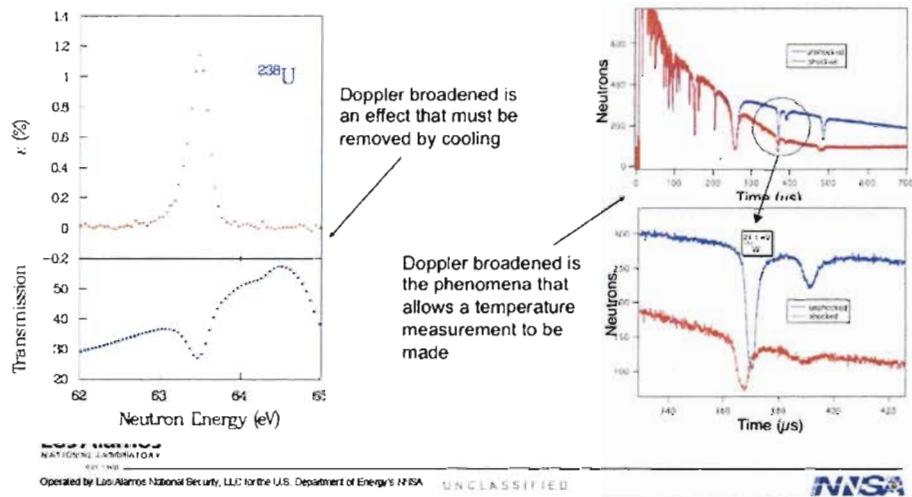
This shows how we are using OIM generated by Electron Backscatter Detection (EBSD) to optimize the heat treatment schedule for wrought DU used in hydro experiments.

GAM measures the deviation from ideal atomic alignment, which tells us if there is retained plastic strain within a given grain. GAM has enabled quantification of the recrystallization process, including statistical analysis, as shown. Even in ideal conditions, there are defects, which is why anything below 1 is considered recrystallized (never gets to zero).

On left, note deformed crystal structure still reflecting wrought condition in early stages of recrystallization. There are patches of small equiaxed grains starting to form.

On the right is a longer heat treatment in which there is a tight distribution of small equiaxed grains and much fewer of the deformed grains remain. It takes ~100,000 seconds at 450 C to become fully recrystallized which is the desired condition.

Parity Violation to Neutron Resonance Spectroscopy



On the left:

Lower figure is neutron transmission through a thick ^{238}U sample. Dip is a specific p-wave resonance.

Upper figure is the asymmetry the difference in helicity states divided by sum $(T_+ - T_-)/(T_+ + T_-)$

A non zero value indicates parity violation. Many cases were observed in U, Th, Cd, etc at LANSCE flight path 2

These were made with sample cooled to LN2 temperature to reduce Doppler broadening.

On Right:

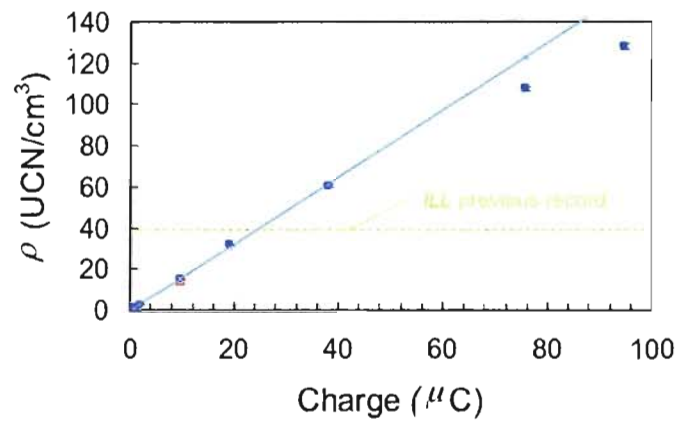
Same detector setup measures transmission through sample doped with resonance containing isotope.

Width and location of resonance changes in shocked material - indicating heating. Width changes due to Doppler broadening.

World Record Ultra Cold Neutron Density

6/29/00

EPICS counting house - on-line results



Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
EST. 1947

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

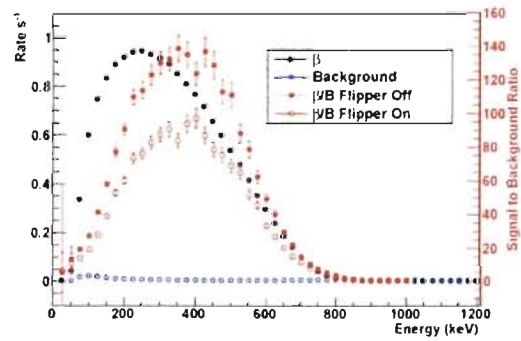
UNCLASSIFIED

NNSA

60

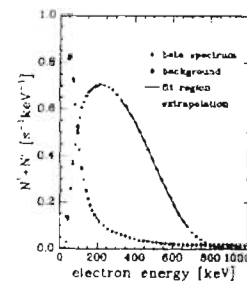
Results from UCNA

UCNA 2010



$$S/B [200 < E \text{ keV} < 625] = 105$$

PERKEO II (2002)



$$S/B \sim 7$$

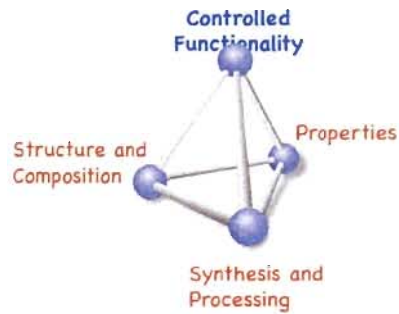


Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



Controlled functionality in materials would reduce cost and increase confidence for the stockpile



- Current Stockpile
 - Prediction of materials lifetime & failure
- Rebuild & Lifetime Extension
 - Materials 'by design' rather than re-learning old processes
- Weapon performance
 - Effects of microscale materials properties on dynamic performance for key physics

Move from process-based certification towards product-based certification



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy by NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



62

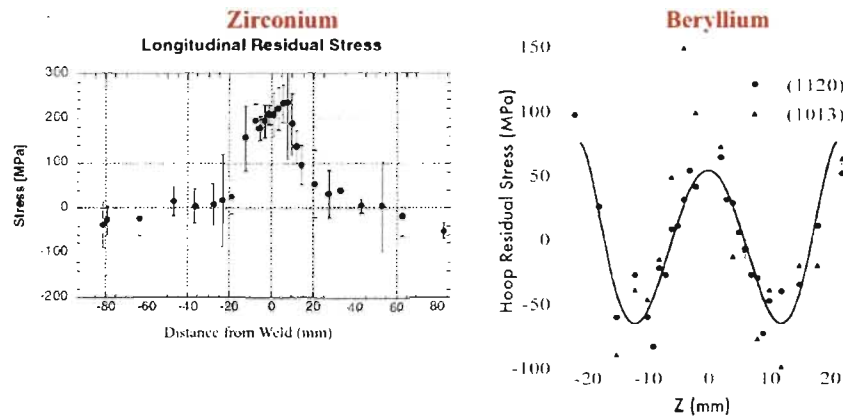
For fixing issues, extending lifetime, or considering advanced concepts

Remind about NPR

We must move from structure → property paradigm

To a new paradigm of function → structure

Neutron diffraction measures residual stresses in zirconium and beryllium welds



Diffraction measurement of residual stress is complicated in hexagonal close packed metals by the anisotropy of the crystal structure.



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy's NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



63

User: Maurice Ripley (ANSTO in Australia)

- relevant to cladding of nuclear fuel rods.

User: Don Brown (LANL)

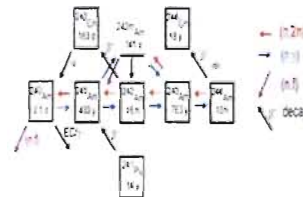
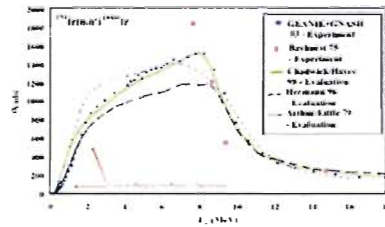
- relevant to pit certification.

Improved cross section data is needed for reducing uncertainties

Nuclear data is needed for:

- Energy production
 - Fission cross sections on ^{239}Pu
 - Neutron and gamma ray outputs following fission
 - Neutron-induced reactions on ^6Li - tritium production
 - Reaction rates on fission products
 - Effects of isomeric states
- Radiochemical diagnostics
 - Early time (n,2n) reactions give information on device performance
 - Late time (n, γ) reactions are important for understanding (n,2n) reactions and late time neutrons
- Other diagnostics

Experiment and theory for 10.5-day half-life ^{193}Ir



Difficult new measurements of nuclear reaction rates help us reduce simulation uncertainties and better exploit data from past nuclear tests

NATIONAL LABORATORY

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy by NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED

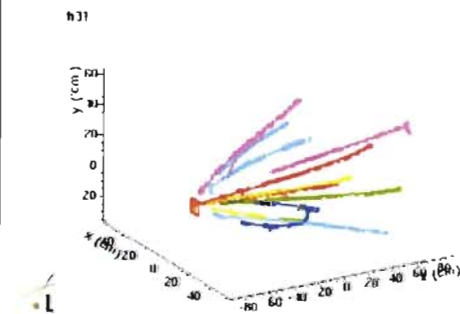
Slide 64

MeV neutrons important for weapons

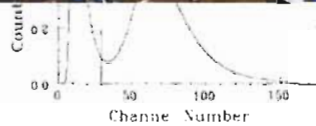
WNR unique in its ability to simultaneously cover the entire energy range (white source)

Higher precision is needed in $^{239}\text{Pu}(n,f)$ reaction

- Current uncertainties are at least 2-3% below 14 MeV. Goal is a 1% absolute measurement.
- Past fission measurements used ion chambers
- Ion chambers only record pulse height and time
- The Time Projection Chamber will not be subject to the systematic errors associated with past measurements



Prototype TPC with one electronic chain connected



Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy, NNSA

UNCLASSIFIED



- **TPC will provide 3D "pictures" of the charged particle trajectories**
 - Alpha backgrounds removed
 - Sample auto-radiograph (α particles)
 - Beam non-uniformities
 - Multi-actinide targets
- **TPC will use thin backing foils ($<50\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$)**
 - Minimize beam interaction backgrounds
 - Maximize efficiency
 - Minimize multiple scattering of fragments
 - H_2 drift gas will also minimize scattering
- **TPC will provide data on both fission fragments simultaneously**
 - Random backgrounds removed (vertex requirement)
 - Fission vertex with $<100\mu\text{m}$ resolution (fission radiograph)

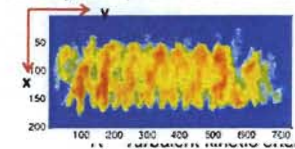
Turbulence models require experimental validation

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\rho} K}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \bar{\rho} K \tilde{u}_n}{\partial x_n} = \underbrace{a_n \frac{\partial \bar{p}}{\partial x_n} - R_{in} \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial x_n}}_{\text{Production (exact)}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} \left(\bar{\rho} v_i \frac{\partial K}{\partial x_n} \right)}_{\text{Diffusion}} - \underbrace{\bar{\rho} \frac{K^{3/2}}{S}}_{\text{Dissipation}}$$

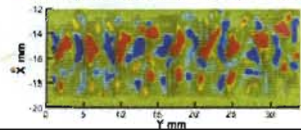
$$R_{ij} = \rho u_i u_j = \overline{\rho u_i u_j} (1) - \overline{\rho \alpha_i \alpha_j} (2) + \overline{\rho u_i u_j} (3)$$

In order to measure components of the Reynolds Stress, R_{ij} , simultaneous density and velocity measurements are needed:

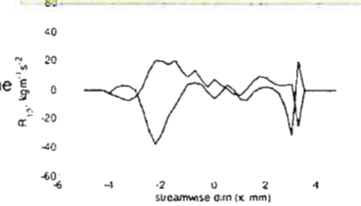
Density Field (Planar Laser Induced Fluorescence)



Velocity Field (Particle Image Velocimetry)



First experimental measurements in the world of turbulent Reynolds stress in shocked Richtmyer-Meshkov turbulent flows have been made at the gas shock tube in Los Alamos



* D. Bessard, F. Harlow, R. Rauenzahn, C. Zarnach, 1992, "Turbulence Transport Equations for Variable-Density Turbulence and Their Relationship to Two-Field Models, Los Alamos Report LA-12303-MS.

LANL RAGE code uses a variable-density turbulence RANS model that was developed at Los Alamos*— but it needs high-resolution turbulence measurements for validation