



# **(Validation of Radiochemical Separation for Uranium Assay in Different Matrices)**

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**To**

**My LIFE, THE GREATEST LOVE  
(Egypt)**

**TO**

**Those who gone away from us to the real life**

**My great Father**

**My great Mother**

**(May Allah have mercy on them )**

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# **Contents**

<b>List of figures.....</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>List of tables.....</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>Abstract.....</b>	<b>V</b>
 <b>Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>1.1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2. Scoping of this work.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.3. Phenomenon of Radioactivity.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.4. Sources of Ionizing Radiation.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.4.1. Natural Radiation sources.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.4.2. Man-made Radiation sources .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>1.5. Modes of Radioactive Decay .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>1.5.1. Alpha-Decay .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>1.5.2. Beta-Decay .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>1.5.3. Gamma- Decay .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>1.6. Radiation Quantities and Units .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>1.7. Pathways of Radiation Exposure .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>1.8. Biological Effects of Radiation .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>1.9. Environmental Behavior of radionuclides in     sediments.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>1.10. Uranium .....</b>	<b>28</b>

1.10.1. Properties of Uranium .....	37
1.10.1.1. Chemical properties of Uranium .....	37
1.10.1.2. Nuclear Properties of Uranium .....	38
1.11. The nuclear fuel cycle types .....	41
1.11.1. Stages of the nuclear fuel cycle .....	42
1.12. Related Industrial Activities .....	46
1.13. Nuclear fuel wastes .....	47

## **Chapter 2: EXPERIMENTAL**

2.1. Applied Measurement Techniques of Uranium.....	49
2.2. General Aspects of Sampling Techniques .....	50
2.2.1. Composite and Individual Samples .....	51
2.2.2. Common Sampling Design .....	52
2.2.3. Samples Collection .....	53
2.3. General Properties of Radiation Detector .....	55
2.4. The systems used .....	56
2.4.1. The Non-Destructive Method (Gamma Spectrometry assay). ....	56
2.4.1.1. Sampling & Sample preparation for Gamma Spectrometry .....	56
2.4.1.2. Interaction of Gamma Ray with Matter.....	57
2.4.1.3. Setting up of Gamma spectrometry.....	60



**Chapter 4: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION....145**

**REFERENCES.....150**

**Arabic summary**



# **List of figures**

<b>Fig. (1) Natural radiation ( UNSCEAR, 2000).....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Fig. (2) Natural <math>^{238}\text{U}</math> decay series.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Fig. (3) Natural <math>^{232}\text{Th}</math> decay series.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Fig.(4) Natural <math>^{235}\text{U}</math> decay series.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Fig.(5) The natural decay series and their most important isotopes.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Fig. (6) Environmental Pathways of Radionuclides.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Fig.(7) Possible application fields for long lived.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Fig. (8 ) The process of photoelectric absorption.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Fig . (9) The process of Compton scattering.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Fig. (10) The process of pair production.....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Fig.( 11) Cross-section diagram of HPGe detector with liquid nitrogen reservoir'.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Fig. (12) HPGe detector with accompanying lead castle and data acquisition system .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Fig. (13) Schematic of electronic setup.....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Fig.(14) Planar HPGe detector (p-type).....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Fig. (15) Large volume coaxial HPGe detectors.....</b>	<b>65</b>

<b>Fig.(16) Extension of the depletion region for a coaxial detector.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Fig. (17) Electrode configurations for coaxial detectors.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Fig.(18) Gamma-ray spectrum of different radionuclides used for hyper pure germanium energy calibration.....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Fig.(19) Energy calibration curve for hyper pure germanium gamma-ray spectrometer.....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Fig. (20) Energy resolution of the HPGe detector.....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Fig. (21) Gamma-ray spectrum of mixed standard source for efficiency calibration of HPGe.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Fig. (22) Full peak efficiency curve of the used hyper pure germanium gamma-ray spectrometer.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Fig. (23) Location of peaks in samples for the radionuclides.</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Fig. (24) Relative full peak efficiency curve of hyper pure germanium gamma-ray spectrometer.....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Fig. (25) A spectrum of <math>^{60}\text{Co}</math> for peak to Compton ratio determination.....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Fig. (26) Flowchart of uranium isotope radiochemical.....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Fig. (27) Diagram of alpha particle with PIPS.....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Fig. (28) Alpha-particle spectrometer system.....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Fig. (29) The Electro deposition Cell .....</b>	<b>104</b>

<b>Fig.(30) Alpha spectrum of mixed standard source Calculation of the Chemical Yield.....</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Fig. (31) The activity concentration of <math>^{40}\text{K}</math> in Collected Sludge Samples.....</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Fig. (32) The activity concentration of <math>^{232}\text{Th}(^{228}\text{Ra})</math> in Collected Sludge Samples.....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Fig. (33) The activity concentration of <math>^{238}\text{U}(^{226}\text{Ra})</math> in Collected Sludge Samples.....</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Fig. (34) The activity concentration of <math>^{40}\text{K}</math> in Collected Soil Samples.....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Fig. (35) The activity concentration of <math>^{232}\text{Th}(^{228}\text{Ra})</math> in Collected Soil Samples.....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Fig. (36) The activity concentration of <math>^{238}\text{U}(^{226}\text{Ra})</math> in Collected Soil Samples.....</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Fig. (37) Exposure of the workers in this case is due to external radiation (modeled calculation).....</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Fig. (38) Opening hatch at the 25 m tank.....</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Fig. (39) Opening hatch at the 30 m tank.....</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Fig. (40) Manual shoveling of the sludge the 25 m tank.....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Fig. (41) Manual shoveling of the sludge the 30 m tank.....</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Fig. (43) The activity concentration of U234 in Water IAEA Reference samples.....</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Fig. (44) The activity concentration of U238 in Soil IAEA Reference samples.....</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Fig. (45) The activity concentration of U234 in Soil IAEA Reference samples.....</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Fig. (46) The activity concentration of U235 in Soil IAEA Reference samples.....</b>	<b>144</b>

## **List of tables**

<b>Table (1) Isotopic Composition of Natural Uranium.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Table (2) List of radionuclides and their half lives and photon energies of a mixed standard gamma source.....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Table (3) shows the data required for such a measurement.....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Table (4) Activity Concentrations of Collected Sludge S. ....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Table (5) Activity Concentrations of Collected soil S. ....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Table (6) The calculated effective dose for the workers (two removal times) Opening hatch at the tank.....</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Table (7) The calculated effective dose for the workers (two removal times) Manual shoveling of the sludge.....</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Table (8) The results of Water IAEA Reference samples.....</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Table (9) The results of Soil IAEA Reference samples .....</b>	<b>141</b>

# Abstract

Uranium is the fuel for about 1000 nuclear reactors of various kinds that exist in the world. These reactors produce electricity, nuclear and thermo nuclear weapons, In addition to the natural uranium, uranium is discharged into the environment due to mining activities, using special military weapons and liquid and gaseous effluents from nuclear facilities.

In the radiochemical equilibrium, it consists of the isotopes  $^{234}\text{U}$ ,  $^{235}\text{U}$  and  $^{238}\text{U}$  with the natural activity ratio of 1:0.0462:1, corresponding to a mass ratio of 0.0054:0.711:99.2836 percent.

All of these three nuclides are alpha-emitters. From nuclear facilities, additional amounts of uranium are discharged into the environment. In effluents from nuclear facilities, the ratios of uranium isotopes differ very much. To be able to compare them with that from natural background,

Study of natural radiation background and exposure of human beings are of great importance, not only for practical reasons but also for radiological impact of nuclear activities. It is necessary to determine the baseline of natural radiation and radioactivity so as to distinguish man-made contamination in time and take appropriate measures to protect the environment. Secondly, the accumulation of information on natural radiation is of great value for drawing up rules and regulations on radiation protection standards. Thirdly, natural radiation is the source of exposure of human being: studies of the dose from natural radiation and its effects on health could advance

the understanding of radiation damage. Lastly, some natural radionuclides are trace elements, which play important roles in the fields of meteorology, hydrology, geology and astronomy

The main objective of the present study is to determine the uranium isotopes  $^{234}\text{U}$ ,  $^{235}\text{U}$ ,  $^{238}\text{U}$  in the different samples matrices in the environment by using destructive assay alpha spectrometry and non destructive assay gamma spectrometry.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Introduction

An increasing interest has been shown in the actinide elements analysis since World War II, the determination of natural and artificial actinide isotopes is of great interest because of the potential impact of these elements on the public health, environmental and safeguards. (uranium especially ).

The fallout due to weapon testes in the mid of this century, nuclear reactors effluents, planes, ships, transporting nuclear materials, satellites effluent discharges from nuclear facilities e. g uranium reprocessing plants and plutonium handling facilities, are potential sources of these isotopes.

Many radiochemical procedures for actinide determination are described, but only few of them are suitable for different types of environmental samples to be measured by destructive assay. This can be achieved by alpha spectrometry assay or by other techniques after chemical preparation of actinides, Accurate conclusions