

Faculty of wamen for Art, Science and Education, Ain Shams University

## "Assessment of natural radioactivity levels and radiation hazards of radionuclides released from granite and different sedimentary rock types"

Ву

Asma mohammed abdulrahman osman

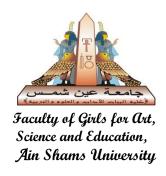
Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Ph.D. Degree in Nuclear Physics

To

Physics Department
Faculty of women for Art, Science and
Education, Ain Shams University

M.Sc. Degree in Nuclear Physics, 2010

2018



## "Assessment of natural radioactivity levels and radiation hazards of radionuclides released from granite and different sedimentary rock types"

By

Asma mohammed abdulrahman osman Thesis

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Ph.D.

Degree in Nuclear Physics

To

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Faculty of Girls for Art, Science
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"M.Sc. Degree in Nuclear Physics, 2010".

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#### Acknowledgement

Thanks to Allah and him alone, I should thank him for giving me the strength to complete this work.

Special thanks to my home, despite all situations war, and economic difficulties, it gave me the chance to achieve my dreams and goals, may God protects Libya and her people.

Words cannot describe how I feel, special thanks to the person who took my own hands to the right path. And existed next to me during my works to my source of light I really greatful for you Prof. Dr. Nadia El\_sayed Walley El-Dine Professor of Nuclear physics, Ain Shams University, Faculty of Women for Arts, Science and Education.

Particular gratitude and heartily thanks to Prof. Dr.

Ibrahim E.El-Aassy, Prof. of Nuclear ore materials,

Nuclear Materials Authority, for the excellent supervision, stimulating suggestions, fruitful discussion and valuable revision.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Prof. Dr. Samia.M. El-Bahi, professor of nuclear physics Faculty of Women for Arts, Science, and Education, Ain Shams University, for her supervision, honest guidance, continuous encouragement

My special thanks and deep gratitude to Dr. Enass M. El-Sheikh, Prof. of Nuclear ore materials, Nuclear Materials Authority.

Also my deep gratitude to Dr. Eman Samir Abd-El Moaty, Lecture of Nuclear physics College of women Ain Shams University for the help and support she offered to me.

I also extend my sincere thanks to the source of optimism **prof**. **Dr**. **amany taha sroor** for the help and support they offered to me.

My greet thanks to the head master of Physics Department, Faculty of Women for Art, Science and Education, Ain Shams University, for valuable assistance during the progress of this work.

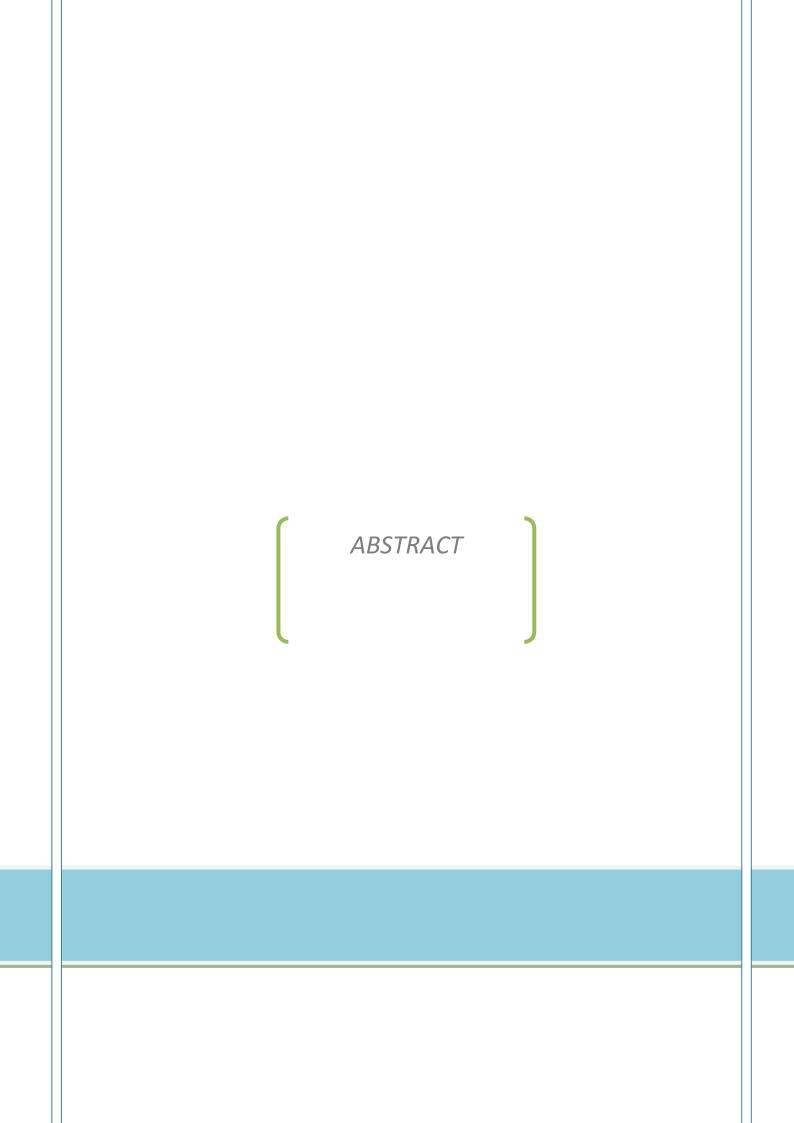
Finally, I want to express my best thanks to all those who helped me to finish this work.

To my dear husband, who supports me during my difficult days my greatest support, my biggest comfort, I really appreciate your patience, may God bless you

To my lovely kids May God protects you

Asma

# To the Spirit of my Father To My Mother, my Brothers and Sisters.



#### **ABSTRACT**

Eighteen samples of sediments from Um Bogma, South western Sinai and twelve granite samples collected and from Gabal Gattar, North Eastern Desert in Egypt have been investigated. This work has stressed on the distribution of radionuclides and their ratios in the three phases; original sample, leachate and residual. The concentrations of trace and major elements were determined to compare with the radionuclide, distribution. These have been done throw three stages:

- First stage; radiometric analysis using Hyper Pure Germanium detector for different radionuclides and their isotopes and daughters.
- Second stage; chemical analyses of uranium after Leaching experiments for the choice samples to follow the behavior of radionuclides in different media (original, leachate and residual).
- Third stage; determination Of trace elements using X-ray fluorescence.

In first stage: Concentrations of radionuclides in sediment and granite samples were determined by  $\gamma$ -ray spectrometer using HPGe detector with a specially designed shield. The value of uranium was high in sediments and granite samples where the value of  $^{40}$ K in granite was higher than that in sediments where it depends on the chemical composition of rock types. The absorbed dose rate ranged from (419 to 3908) nGy/h for sediment samples and from (1002 to 1307) nGy/h for granite samples. The representative external hazard index values (Hex) for sediment and granite samples were estimated. In the present work, the state of radioactive disequilibrium in the U-series at Um Bogma and Gabal Gattar area were studied. The activity ratios between

<sup>214</sup>Pb/<sup>226</sup>Ra, <sup>214</sup>Pb/<sup>214</sup>Bi and <sup>226</sup>Ra/<sup>238</sup>U were calculated. The thorium to uranium concentration ratios (Clark value) was also estimated. The total excess life-time cancer risk (ELCR) was measured

In second stage: The residual, produced from leaching processes, constitute most of the original rock materials and contain most of the radioactivity emitted from <sup>226</sup>Ra and its daughters <sup>222</sup>Rn, <sup>214</sup>Pb and <sup>214</sup>Bi. Six different rock samples (four sediments and two granites) were subjected to sulfuric acid leaching with the same parameters of solid-liquid fluid ratio (S / L), acid concentration and leaching time. After the leaching process, the solution was separated from the residue and the latter was dried. The two units, namely the solutions (leachate), and residues were measured by the germanium detector to determine the activity concentration (Bq / kg) of different radionuclides in the two units of the six samples. The results showed that the relationship between the total activities of solution and the residual have three categories. In the first one for sediment samples, the activity of solution + residual was 72.37% from the original of siltstone (3S), the activity of solution + residual was 90.02% from the original claystone sample (17S), the activity of solution + residual was 92.6% from original of shale (2S), the activity of solution + residual was 74.07% from original claystone (7S). In the second for granite samples, the activity of solution + residual was 130.39% from original (2G) and the activity of solution + residual was 142.3% from original (5G). These variations depend mainly on the grain surfaces in the different rock types. This phenomenon varied in magnitude within the different radionuclides in each sample. Also the leachability of U by the chemical analysis using several acidic leaching experiments for uranium have been performed by sulfuric acid. The measurements of leaching efficiency% of uranium by using HPGe detector, we found the values of leachability are almost equality.

In third stage; Trace elements in the studied samples were determined, by using a Philips X-ray unit. These analyses have revealed the presence of interesting values of REEs and U; namely more than 500 and 250 ppm respectively. While the uranium chemically recorded about 240 ppm for (3S), the values of REEs and U which present in the sample (17S) are more than 1000 and 1020 ppm respectively, and the uranium chemically recorded about 420 ppm, for (2S) namely more than 500 and 1050 ppm respectively, while the uranium chemically recorded about 600 ppm, and finally (7S) more than 1000 and 300 ppm respectively, while the uranium chemically recorded about 300 ppm.

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