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Evaluation of Reliability in the Determination of Tritium in Spent Pressurized Water (PWR) Reactor Fuels

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¹⁴CO₂ ¹²⁹I Ag가 silica gel ¹⁴CO₂ 1.5
M NaOH 가 ³H₂O
 97.9%, 0.9% (n=3) , 37,000 MWd/MtU
 가 가

Abstract

An analytical technique for trace amounts of tritium in spent Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) fuels has been established. Considering the effective management of radioactive wastes generated through the whole experimental process and the radiological safety for analysts, a separation condition which ¹⁴C and ³H can be sequentially recovered from a single sample was optimized. ¹⁴CO₂ evolved during dissolution of the spent PWR fuels with nitric acid, was trapped in an aliquot of 1.5 M NaOH. ¹²⁹I, a volatile beta emitter, which was recovered along with ¹⁴CO₂ was removed using a silver nitrate-impregnated silica gel absorbent. After recovering ¹⁴CO₂, ³H as ³H₂O was selectively recovered by distillation. Its recovery yield was 97.9% with a relative standard deviation of 0.9% (n=3). ³H in a spent PWR fuel with burnups of 37,000 MWd/MtU was analyzed and reliability of this analytical technique was evaluated by standard addition method.

1.

$(^3\text{H} + \text{T})$, $(^{14}\text{N} + \text{n} + ^{12}\text{C} + ^3\text{H})$
 가
¹⁾. ^3H ternary fission ^6Li
 ^{14}N ²⁾, Sellafield BNFL 1995 $2.7 \times$
 10^{15} Bq 5.90×10^{14} Bq ³⁾.
 HT ^3H
⁴⁾ 가
 ^3H 가 $(E_{\text{max}} = 18.6 \text{ keV})$
 ^3H ⁵⁾
 ^3H ^3H
 ^3H (6% /) $500 \sim 600$ CuO ⁶⁾.
 $(^3\text{H}_2\text{O})$ 6
 Hot Cell
 가
 $490 \sim 500$ 가 U_3O_8
 voloxidation ^3H (99.8%) $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ^3H
 $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ^{7,8)}. , JAERI가
 ^3H 1% 가 HT
 $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ⁴⁾. 가
 ^3H ^3H
 ^3H ^3H
 ^3H ^3H
^{9,10)}, 가
 $35,000 \text{ MWd/MtU}$ 가 ^3H
 $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ RuO_4
 $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ $37,000$
 MWd/MtU ^3H

가 가 .

2.

2.1.

$^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Fig. 1 ^3H
Packard (Tri-Carb 2500, U.S.A.) ,
EG & G ORTEC ADCAM 100 series

2.2.

Amersham Lab $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ $\text{Na}_2^{14}\text{CO}_3$ $\{^3\text{H}_2\text{O}:$
2003 9 1 : 636.7 Bq/mL $\text{Na}_2^{14}\text{CO}_3$: 238.1 Bq/mL).
Milli-Q plus Ultra Pure Water System
(Millipore) Packard Ultima Gold AB .

2.3.

10 35,000 MWd/MtU
Spex
(1,000 mg/L) U_3O_8 (NBL Certified Reference Material 129) Table 1
가 (100 mL) ^{14}C 가
 CaCO_3 가 5 g 가 $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ $\text{Na}_2^{14}\text{CO}_3$ 가 .

2.4.

2 37,000 MWd/MtU 0.849 g CaCO_3 2.5 g Hot Cell
 ^{14}C (Fig. 1) . 8 M
 HNO_3 12 가

2.5.

0.1 mL(60 mR/h) 25 mL 8 M
 HNO_3 25 mL .

2.6. $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$

4.0 mL $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Fig. 2) NaOH (1
 g) . 20 mL
 . 1 mL
 1.0 mL 가 . 가 14
 가
 5 mL 1 .
 20 mL

2.7. ^3H

15 mL 1 mL
 2 18.6 keV 30 .

2.8. 가 가

5 15 mL 1 mL 0.0 300 Bq
 $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 가 2 18.6 keV 30 .
 1 mL 0.0 300 Bq $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$
 ^3H .

3.

3.1. ^3H

^{14}C ^3H ^{14}CO HT (4,11)
 ^{14}CO $^{14}\text{CO}_2$ (12-14) ^3H $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$
 4) .
 $^{14}\text{CO}_2$ ^3H
 ^{14}C ^3H ,
 .
 $^{14}\text{CO}_2$ CO_2 CaCO_3
 가 . $^{14}\text{CO}_2$
 ^{85}Kr ^{129}I AgNO_3 가 silica gel .
 $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 가 “2.6. $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ”
 ICP- MS Table 2

“Blank”

“Test”

가 “Blank”

가

³H

⁹⁹Tc (63 Bq)

가

⁹⁹Tc

⁹⁹Tc

3.2. ³H

³H₂O

¹⁴CO₂

Fig 2

90

가

RuO₄

NaOH

³H₂O

가

가

가 가

Fig. 3

95%

³H₂O가

³H₂O 2

3.3. ³H

³H₂O

1 mL (665 Bq)

가

3

³H

Table 3

97.9%

0.9%

3.4.

³H

가

JAERI

³H

가

³H

³H

가

³H

가

³H

가

37,000 MWd/ MtU

³H

Table 4

1 g

12,891.6 KBq [348.4 μCi (0.036 μg)]

³H

ORIGEN2

[19,684 KBq [(532 μCi (0.055 μg)] ³H/g SF]

65.5%

³H

JAERI

³H

34.5%가

가

가

Fig. 4

가

가 가 12,891 KBq/g
 SF 13,527 KBq(365.6 μ Ci (0.038 μ g)/g SF 가
 - 4.7% (Table 4, Experiment - 2).

$^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 가
 가 . Fig. 5 가 가
 12,738,086 Bq [344.3 μ Ci (0.036 μ g)]/g SF 13,242,347.6 Bq [357.9 μ Ci
 (0.037 μ g)]/g SF 가 (Table 4, Experiment - 2) - 3.8%

, Fig. 6 ^3H Sb, Ce Cs
 가

^3H 가 가
 . JAERI ^3H 가
 ^3H 34.5% 가
 가 ^3H 가 가
 가 - 4.7 - 3.8%
 ^3H ,
 가

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Table 1. Chemical composition of simulated spent PWR fuel dissolver solution

Element	Spent fuel, $\mu\text{g/g}$	Element $\mu\text{g}/100\text{ mL SIM soln.}$
¹ HT	1,242.8 kBq	665.6 Bq
Ba	1,835	3,670
Cd	119.8	240
Ce	2,505	5,000
Cs	2,511	5,000
Eu	141.6	300
Gd	136.9	300
La	1,284	2,700
Mo	3,528	7,200
Nd	4,257	8,500
Pd	1,505	3,000
Pr	1,177	2,400
Rb	368.8	800
Rh	486.0	1,000
Ru	2,330	4,500
Sb	100	100
Sn	200	200
Se	59.3	120
Sm	906.9	1,810
Sr	806.6	1,610
¹ Tc	809.2	63 Bq
Te	515.5	1,030
Y	476.7	1,000
Zr	3,805	7,610
U	0.9539 g	2.002 g
CaCO ₃	2.5 g	5 g
¹ Ag	82.4	0.824
¹ I	249.3	2.5

1): Element added to a round bottom flask containing 0.5 mL of simulated spent fuel dissolver solution prior to tritium recovery experiment

Table 2. Analytical result of the recovered distillate by ICP-MS

Metal element	Blank, ng/mL	Test, ng/mL
Ba	12.2	3.7
Cd	-	-
Ce	0.1	-
Cs	0.3	0.1
Eu	4.1	-
Gd	-	-
La	1.3	-
Mo	0.9	-
Nd	0.1	-
Pd	-	-
Pr	-	-
Rb	12.9	0.1
Rh	-	-
Ru	-	-
Se	-	-
Sm	-	-
Sr	0.4	-
Te	1.1	-
Y	0.8	-
Zr	0.5	-
Sb	0.1	-
Sn	0.1	-
U	0.1	2.3

Table 3. Recovery of ^3H from simulated spent PWR fuel dissolver solutions by distillation

Test No	Added, Bq	Found, Bq	Recovery, %	Average, %	RSD, %
H- 1	665	650.5	97.8	97.9	0.9
H- 2	665	657.6	98.8		
H- 3	665	643.0	97.1		

Table 4. Analytical results obtained by standard addition method

Experiment	Standard	Result, kBq/ g Spent Fuel	Deviation, %
1	No addition	12,891.6 [348.4 μCi (0.036 μg)]	- 4.7
	Addition- 1	13,527 [(365.6 μCi (0.038 μg)]	
2	No addition	12,738,1 [344.3 μCi (0.036 μg)]	- 3.8
	Addition- 2	13,242,3 [357.9 μCi (0.037 μg)]	

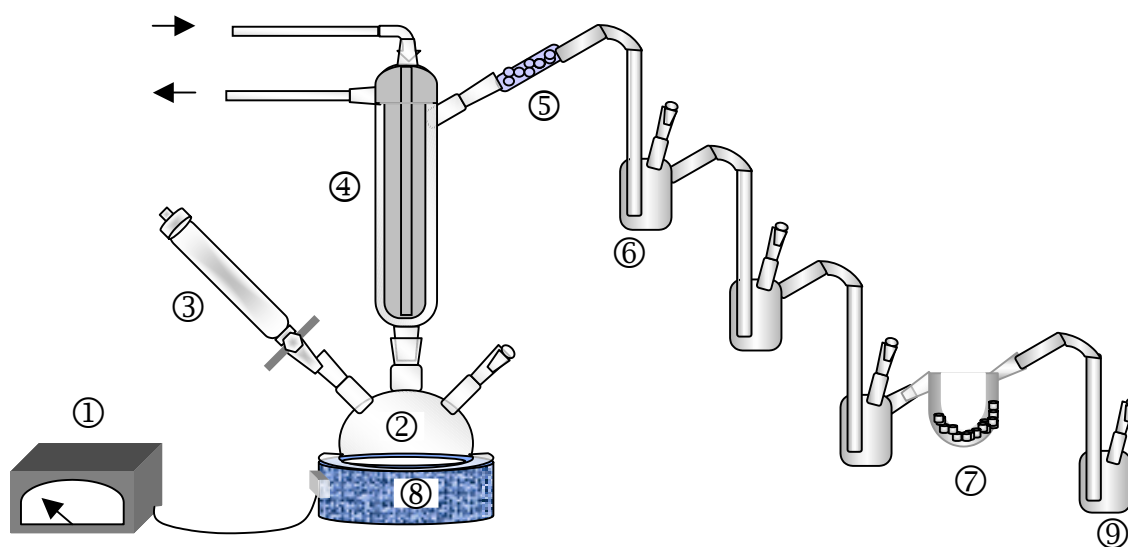


Fig. 1. Apparatus for dissolution of spent PWR fuels and ^{14}C recovery.

- ① Voltage controller
- ② 3-neck dissolution flask
- ③ Tube for introduction of $\text{HNO}_3(1+1)$
- ④ Reflux condenser
- ⑤ $\text{I}_2(\text{I}-129)$ Trap
- ⑥ Trap with 1.5M -NaOH 25mL
- ⑦ Molecular sieve13X
- ⑧ Heating mantle
- ⑨ Trap with 1.5 M -NaOH 50mL

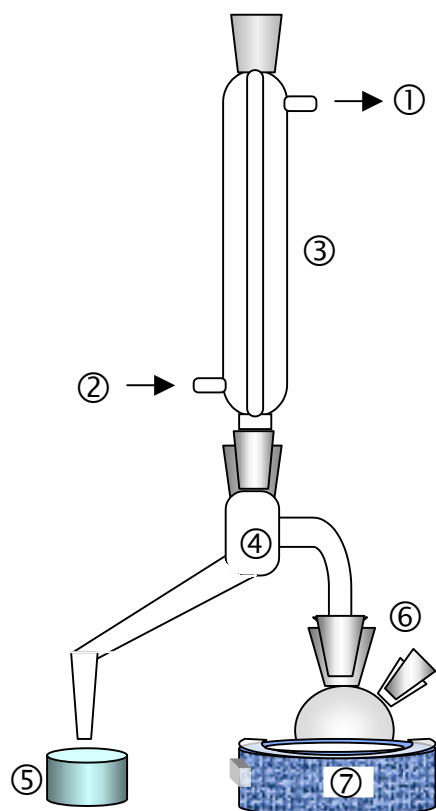


Fig. 2. Apparatus for ^3H recovery.

- ① Cooling water outlet
- ② Cooling water inlet
- ③ Cooling condenser
- ④ Distiller
- ⑤ Receiver
- ⑥ Round bottom flask
- ⑦ Heating mantle

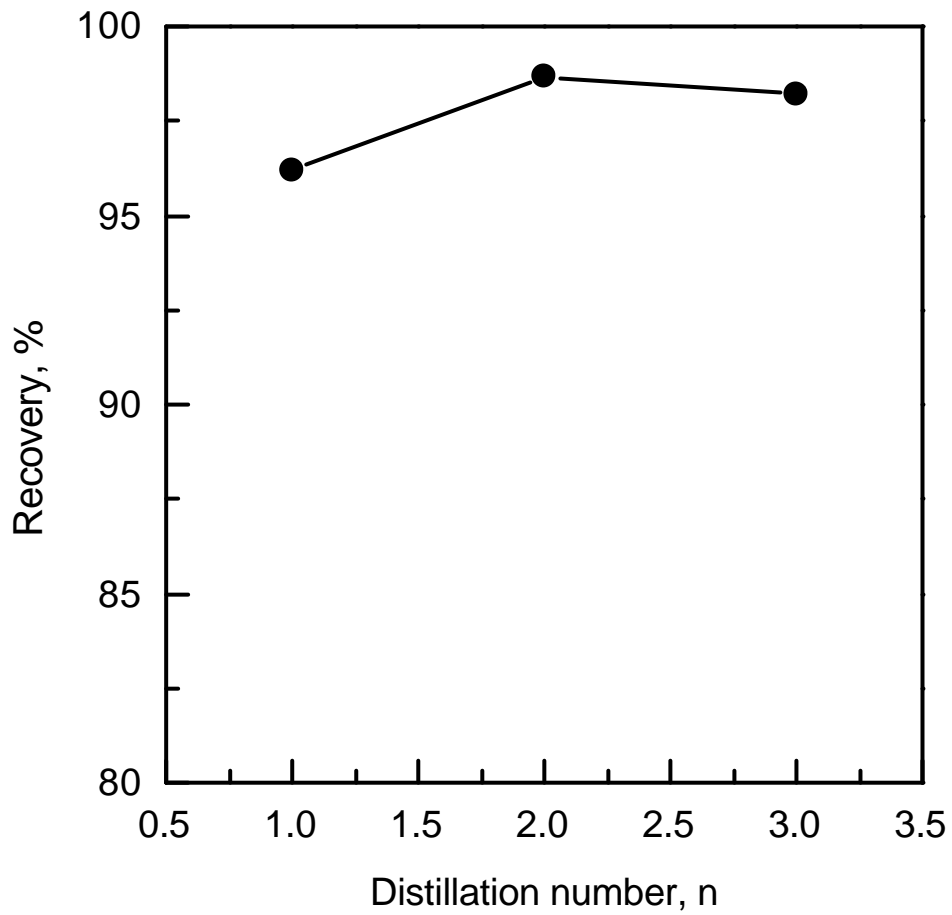


Fig. 3. Recovery behaviour of ^3H from simulated spent PWR fuel dissolver solution.

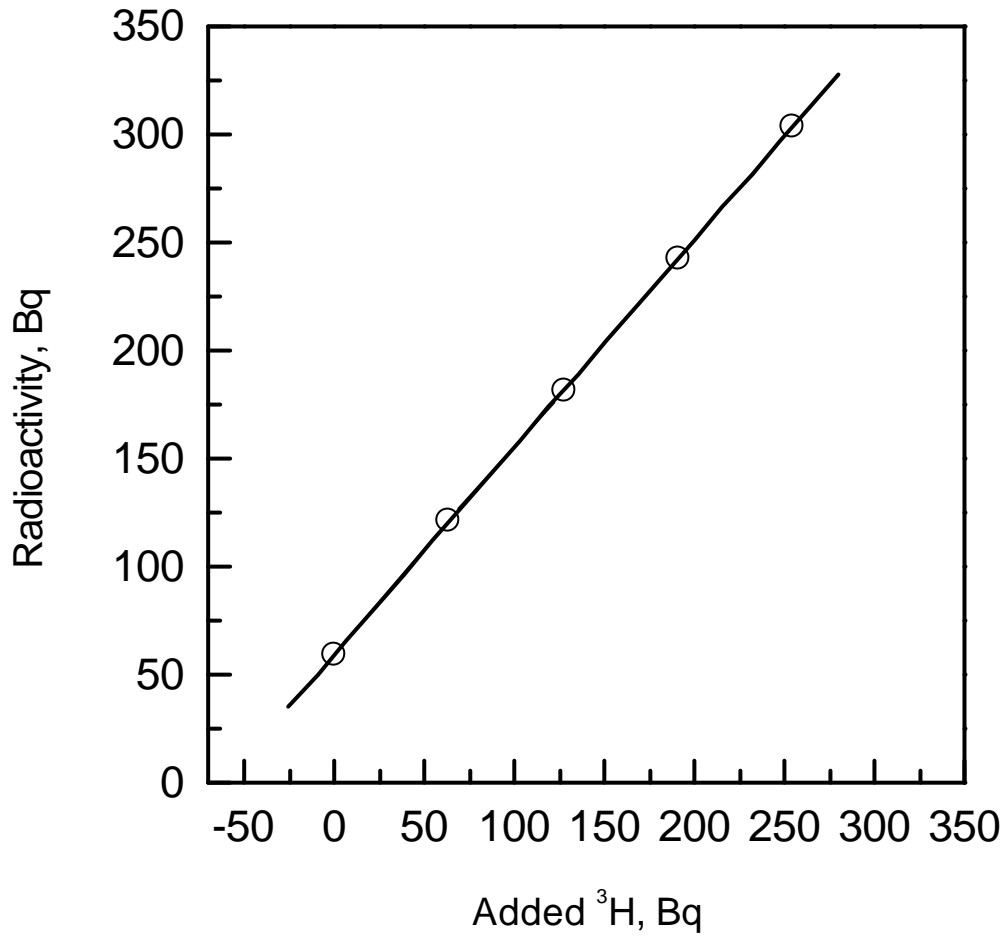


Fig. 4. Standard addition curve of tritium. $R=0.9999$, Standard deviation =0.4179. $Y=59.2400+0.9595X$

Fig. 1. Standard addition curve of tritium

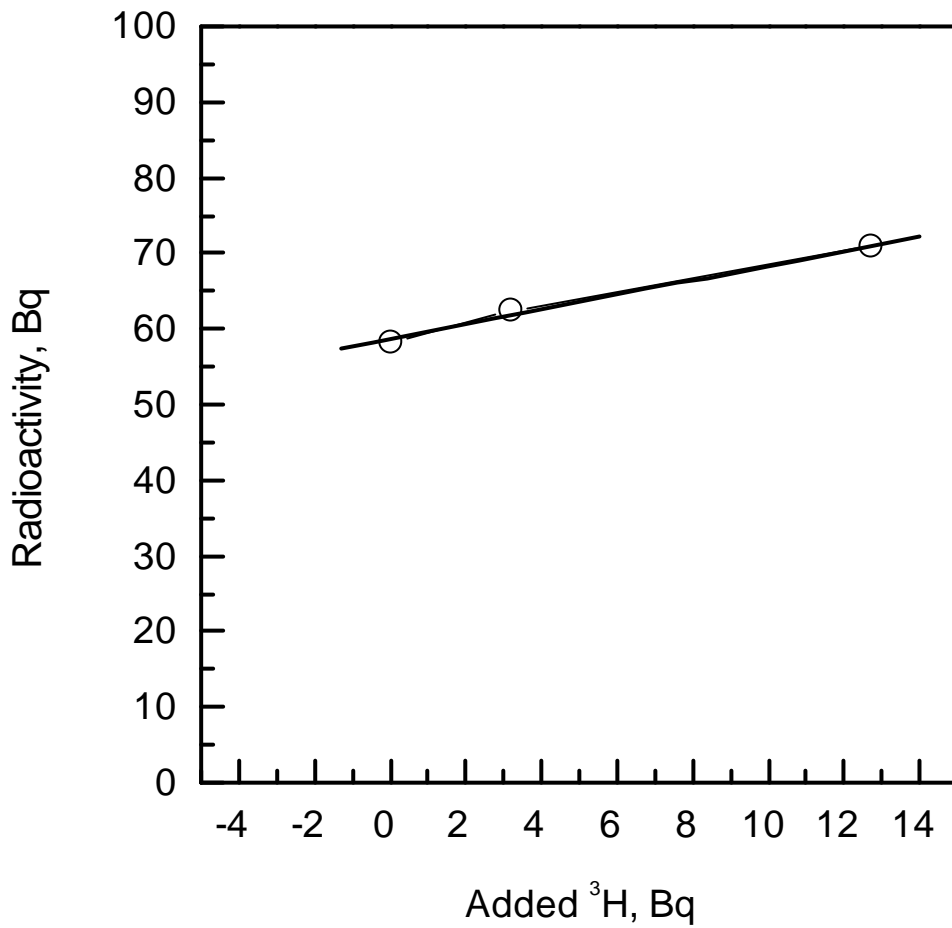


Fig. 5. Standard addition curve of tritium. $R=0.9952$, Standard deviation =0.9002. $Y=58.6496+0.9715X$

Fig. 1. Standard addition curve of tritium

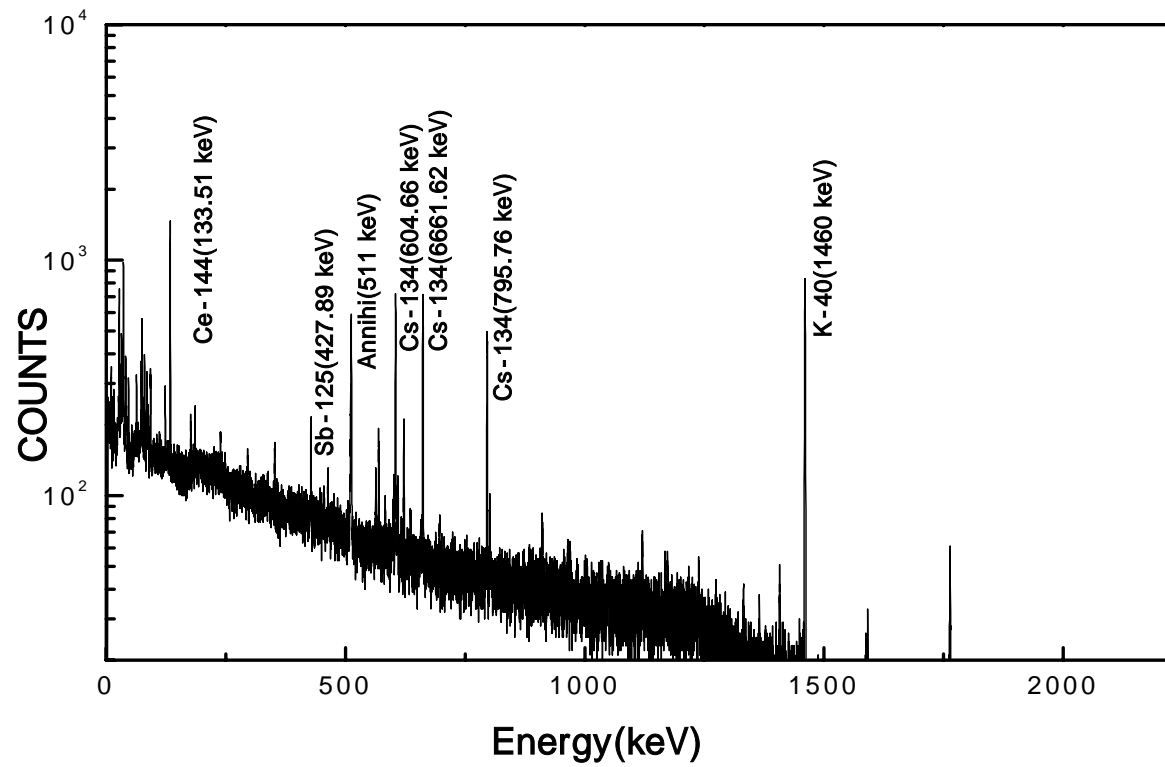


Fig. 6. Gamma spectrum detected in a distilled solution.