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Neutron Field Measurements by GFPC Based Monitors at the Carbon Beam of IHEP U-70 Proton Synchrotron

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The main goal of these measurements was:

rather testing of the recently developed neutron monitors [1] in a typical neutron field of a high energy accelerator,
than a comprehensive study of the neutron field at the Radiobiological Stand (RBS) facility [2].

The measurements were strongly supported by the set of extensive simulations using the well-known FLUKA code [3].



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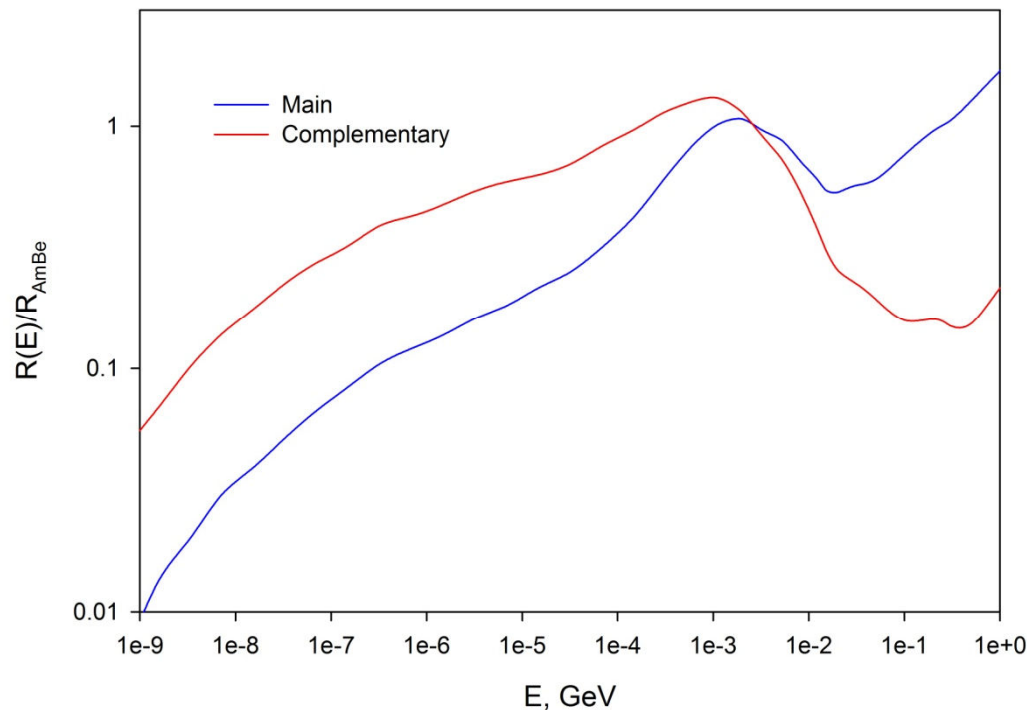
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Neutron monitors with gas filled proportional counters (GFPC) inside were presented at RuPAC-2018.



MONITOR A (Main) –
CH₂ +PB+CD, $K_{\text{AmBe}} = 1.002$

MONITOR B (Complementary) –
CH+CD, $K_{\text{AmBe}} = 3.218$



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Intended Use:

1. Monitoring of neutron field intensity and spectrum.
2. Fast neutron fluence ($E > 100$ keV) measurements, using main monitor A (~ 15 % in typical accelerators spectra).
3. Use complementary monitor B for correction in soft spectra.



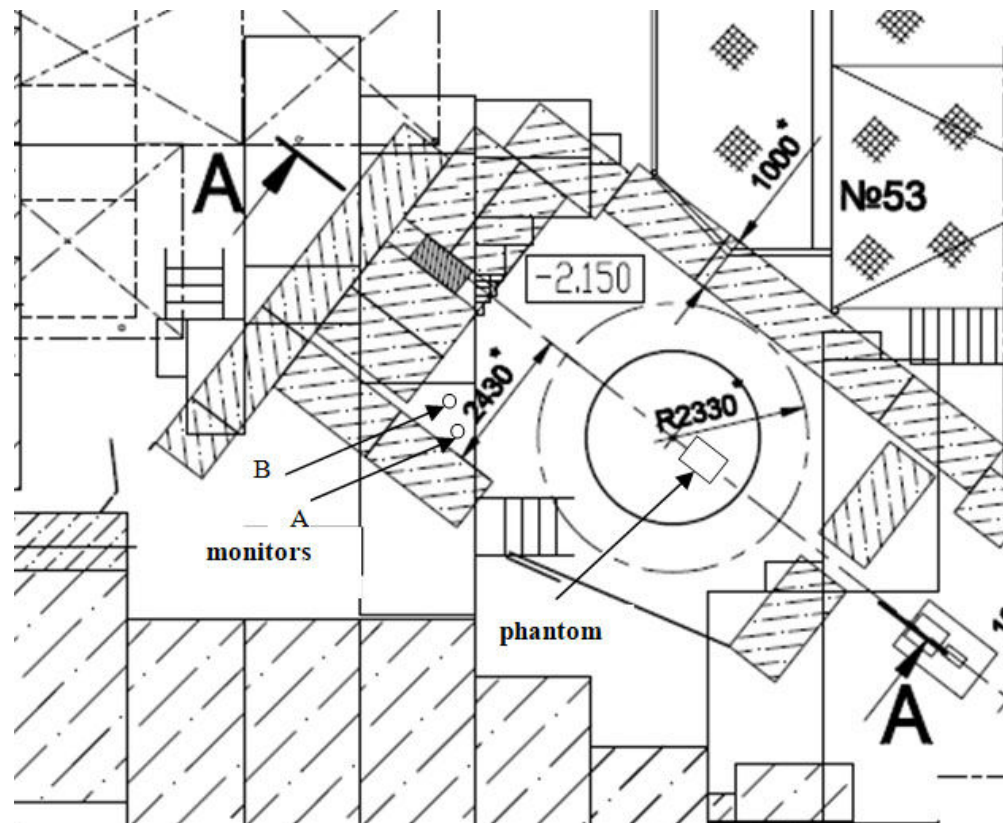
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Schematic top view of the RBS facility



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BEAM:

Wide beam of C12 ions with energy 434 MeV/n.

Collimator 1 is opening of 5x5 cm (~ 50 % ions through).

Timing: 236 cycles, consisting of 0.6s long pulses with 8s spacing between them.

Beam intensity was monitored by a flat air filled ionisation chamber of 200×200 mm area.

TARGET:

Water filled phantom IHEP, placed on the table at beam axis.

Internal size – 33x35x53 cm

Walls – polycarbonate, bottom and side – 1.5 cm, front and end – 3 cm.

Water level – 30 cm.



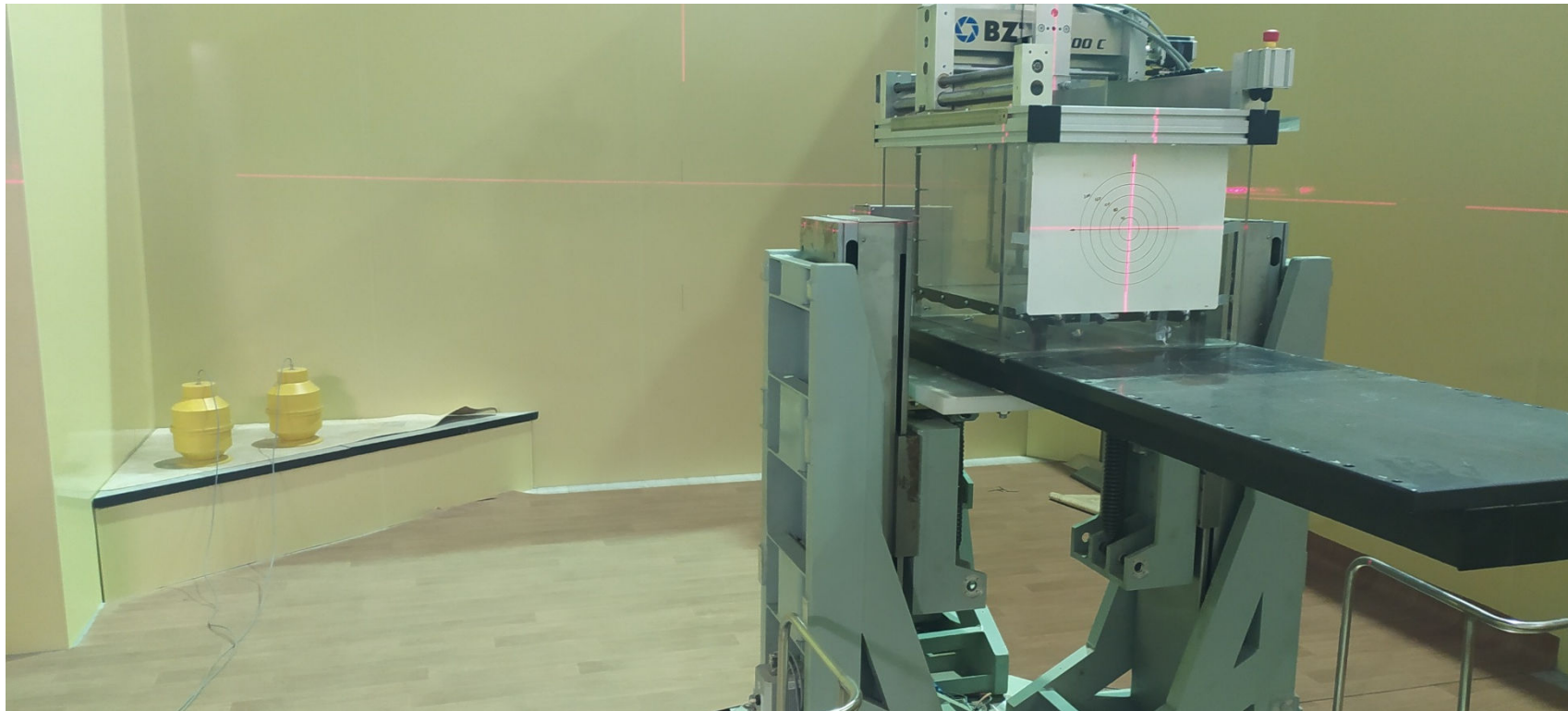
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View inside the RBS facility before measurements.



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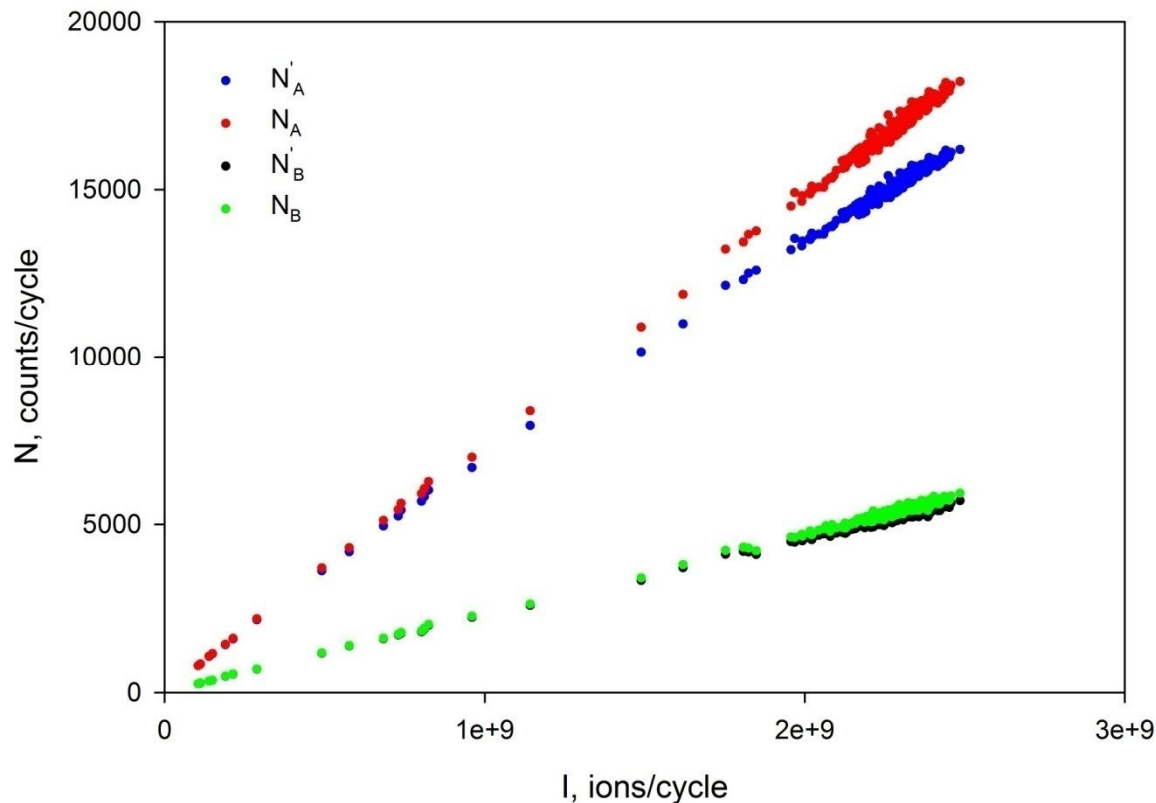
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MEASUREMENTS



The dependence of the measured rates N'_A and N'_B is linear within 3% at the count rates below 6000 counts/cycle or 10 kHz.

At higher rates the effect of the counter “**dead time**” breaks this linearity.



“Dead time” correction:

$$\frac{N'}{T} = \frac{N}{T} \cdot \exp \left(-\tau \cdot \frac{N}{T} \right),$$

where T is the pulse duration, τ is the “dead time”, N'/T is the measured count rate and N/T is the “true” count rate.

$$r(N_B) = \frac{N'_A}{N'_B} = \frac{N_A}{N_B} \cdot \exp \left(-N_B \cdot \frac{\tau}{T} \cdot \left(\frac{N_A}{N_B} - 1 \right) \right) = R \cdot \exp \left(-N_B \cdot \frac{\tau}{T} \cdot (R - 1) \right),$$

where r and R are the ratios of the measured and “true” counts respectively.

Fit the dependence $r(N_B)$ by the function $a \cdot \exp (-b \cdot N_B)$, where $a=R$, $b= \tau/T (R-1)$.



“True” counts – N_B is unknown, so we need iterate N_B .

$$N_{B0} = N'_B$$

$$N'_B = N_{Bi} \cdot \exp \left(-N_{Bi} \cdot \frac{\tau_{i-1}}{T} \right).$$

N_0	$\langle N_A/I \rangle$	$\langle N_B/I \rangle$	$\langle N_A/N_B \rangle$	R	τ/T
0	$6.64 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$2.27 \cdot 10^{-6}$	2.921	3.142	$6.724 \cdot 10^{-6}$
1	$7.42 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$2.36 \cdot 10^{-6}$	3.152	3.141	$6.455 \cdot 10^{-6}$
2	$7.39 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$2.35 \cdot 10^{-6}$	3.141	3.141	$6.465 \cdot 10^{-6}$
3	$7.39 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$2.35 \cdot 10^{-6}$	3.141	3.141	$6.464 \cdot 10^{-6}$



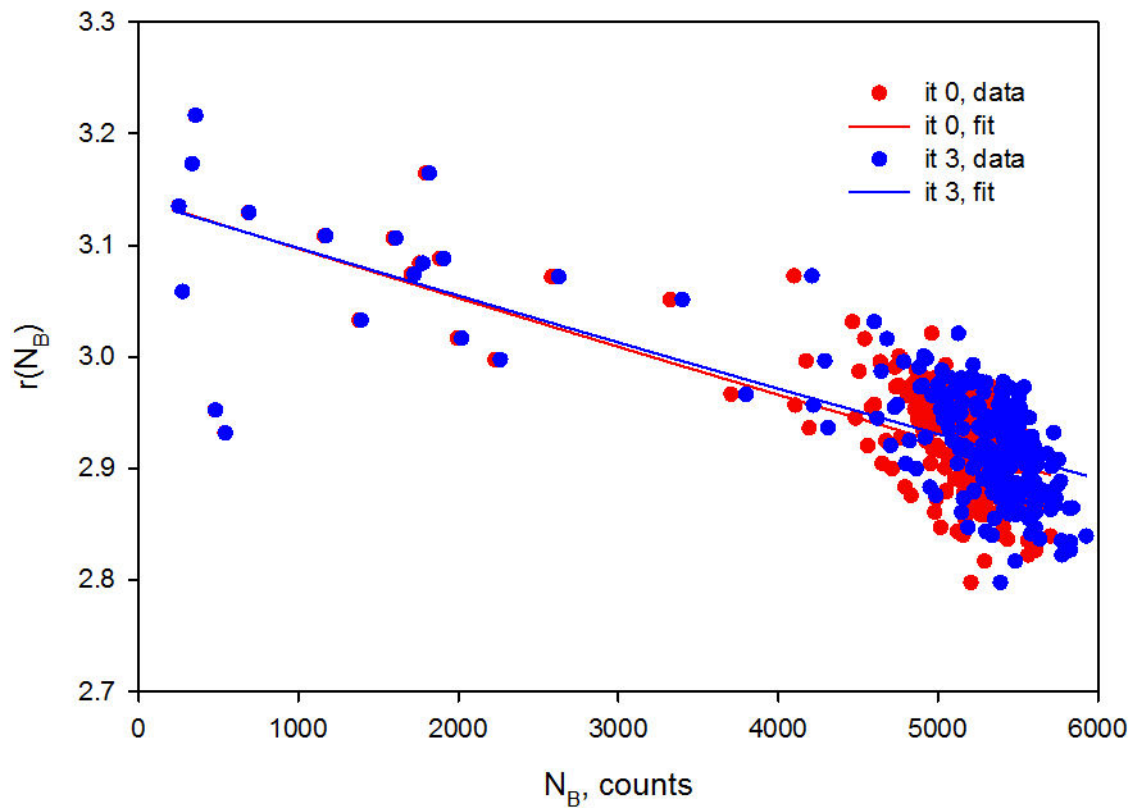
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Ratio of the monitor counts
vs “true” counts of the
monitor B in iterative
procedure.



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The estimated “**dead time**”:

$$\tau = 3.87 \mu\text{s}.$$

“TRUE” COUNTS correction:

$$N' = N \cdot \exp(-N \cdot \tau/T)$$

$$\frac{N}{N'} = 1.006 + 2.571 \cdot 10^{-6} \frac{N'}{T} + 6.167 \cdot 10^{-11} \left(\frac{N'}{T}\right)^2 \quad (1 - 100 \text{ kHz}, \sim 1\%)$$

Based on the “true” counts Neutron fluence at the location of the monitor A:

$$7.4 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ per beam ion.}$$



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SIMULATIONS

Spectra at the location of our monitors A and B were calculated on the base of simulations of ion beam initiated nuclear cascades in the RBB area using the well-known code FLUKA.

They were used to obtain the value of the fast neutrons fluence and to estimate the expected monitor count rates:

$$N_0 = \frac{1}{K_{AmBe}} \int \Phi(E) \cdot R(E)/R_{AmBe} \cdot dE$$



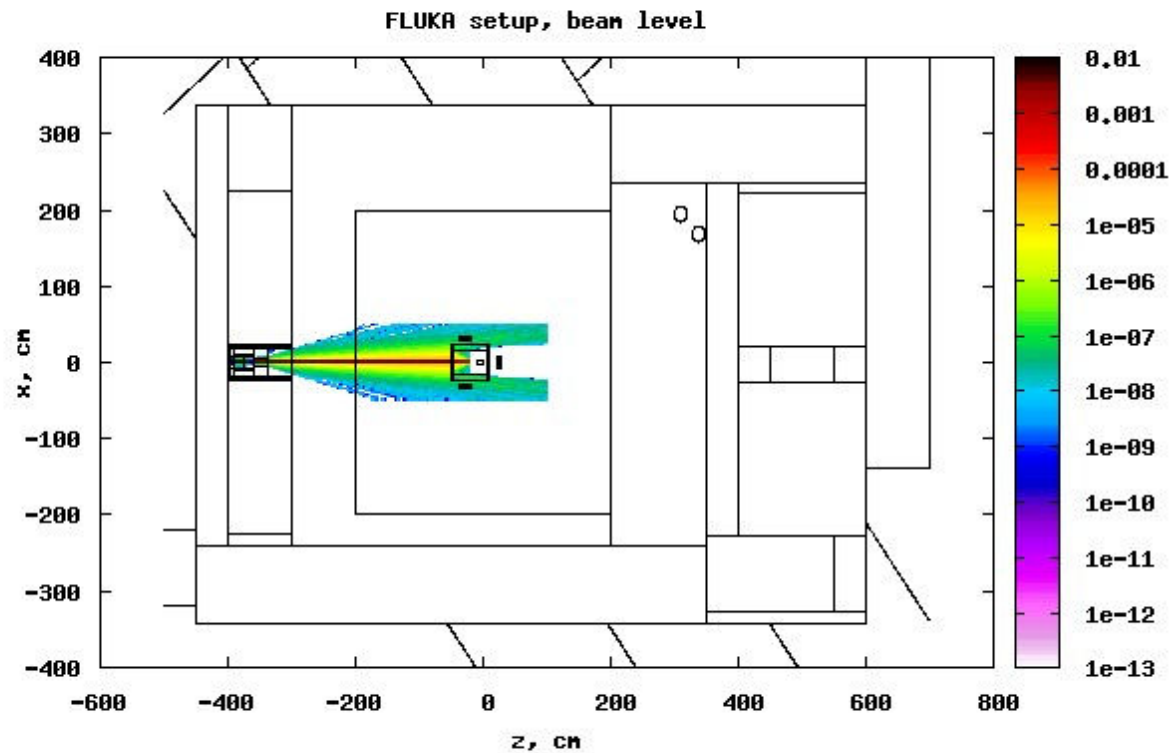
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FLUKA simulation setup
at beam level with
phantom, beam and
monitors positions.



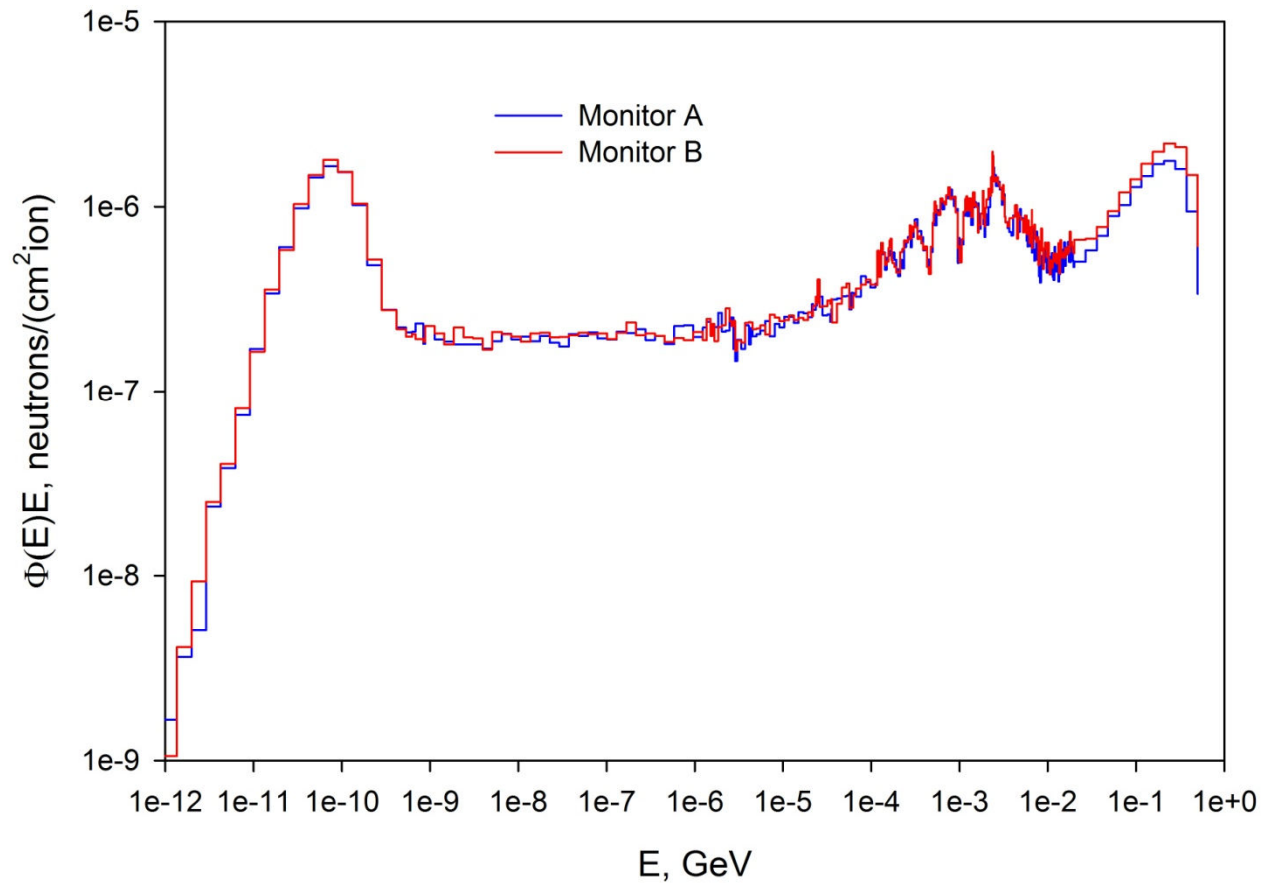
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Neutron energy spectrum
at the location of
monitors A and B.
FLUKA simulation.



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Comparison of calculated and measured values.

value	Measured	calculated
Fast neutron fluence, $\text{cm}^{-2}/\text{ion}$, monitor A location.	7.40×10^{-6}	7.69×10^{-6}
counts/ion, monitor A	7.39×10^{-6}	7.91×10^{-6}
counts/ion, monitor B	2.35×10^{-6}	2.05×10^{-6}
Counts ratio, monitor A / monitor B	3.14	3.87



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CONCLUSION

Two recently developed neutron monitors were used for measurements in the area of the Radiobiological Stand facility at IHEP: the monitor A - to measure the fluence of fast neutrons, the monitor B – to estimate the GFPC “dead time” and thus to correct the readings of monitor A at the count rates exceeding 10 kHz. A good agreement of the simulated with FLUKA and measured values gives us a preliminary validation of our interpretation of the main monitor as a fluence meter, though the interpretation efforts must be continued.



REFERENCES

- [1] I.L. Azhgirey, I.S. Bayshev, I.A. Kurochkin, V.A. Pikalov, O.V. Sumaneev, V.S. Lukanin, “Neutron Monitors for High Energy Accelerators”, TUPSA38, Proceedings RuPAC2018, Protvino, Russia, pp.224-226.
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