Nathan Barba Mentor: Dr. Craig Hardgrove Arizona State University Mechanical Engineering

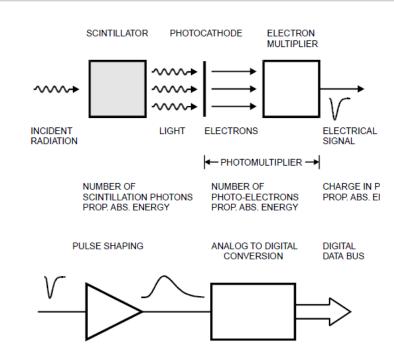
# Pulse Shape and Signal Processing for Neutron and Gamma Energy Sources





#### Neutron Spectroscopy Using CLYC

- Cs<sub>2</sub>LiYCl<sub>6</sub>:Ce (CLYC) is an inorganic scintillator that has dual sensitivity to neutron and gamma rays.
- Scintillation detectors produce light when exposed radiation.
- The light generated is converted to electrical energy using a photomultiplier tube (PMT). The waveform signals that are output from the PMT are called pulses.
- The signal from the pulses can be pre-processed using analog and/or digital electronics.



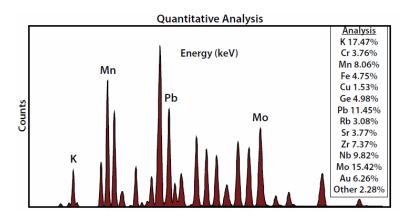
Source: Spieler, H., Front-End Electronics and Signal Processing

#### **Applications**

Radioactive Material Detection



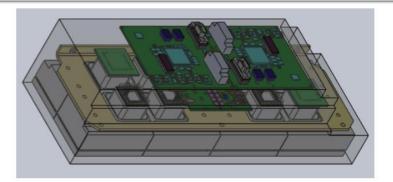
- Quantitative Analysis
- Soil composition
  - Oil and Gas
- Hydrogen Detection
  - Space applications



Source: Amptek

#### Space Based Neutron Detectors

- LunaH-Map
  - MiniNS Detector
- Mars Science Laboratory (Curiosity)
  - Dynamic Albedo of Neutrons (DAN)
- DAWN Mission
  - Gamma Ray and Neutron Detector (GRaND)



MiniNS Source: Hardgrove Labs



**DAN Instrument Source: ROSCOSMOS** 

#### **CLYC Laboratory Setup**



Hardgrove Lab

- Analog Electronics
- •Digital FGPA
- Source: Potassium

Holbert Lab
 Analog Electronics
 Digital FGPA
 Source: Cesium

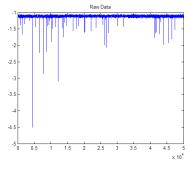


### Signal Processing Hardware

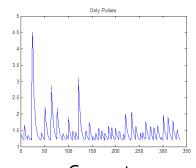
- Analog
  - Charge Sensitive Preamplifier
  - Gaussian Shaper
  - Analog/Digital Converter (MCA)
- Outputs:
  - Histogram

- Digital
  - Analog/Digital Converter (MCA)
  - FPGA and Software Processing
- Outputs:
  - Raw Waveform
  - Integrals
  - Histogram
  - Pulse ShapeDiscrimination

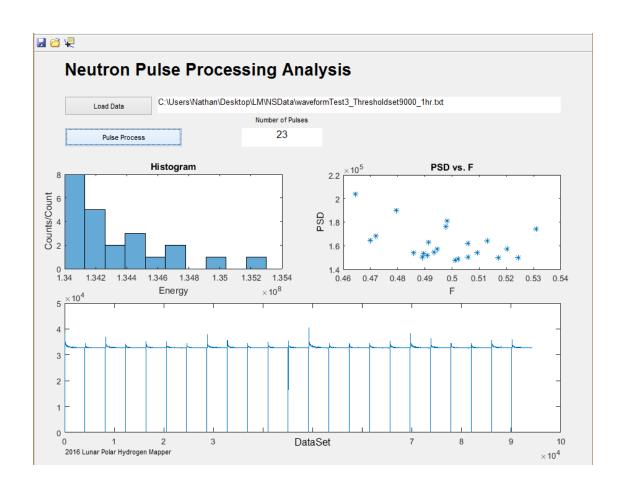
#### **Neutron Pulse Processing Software**



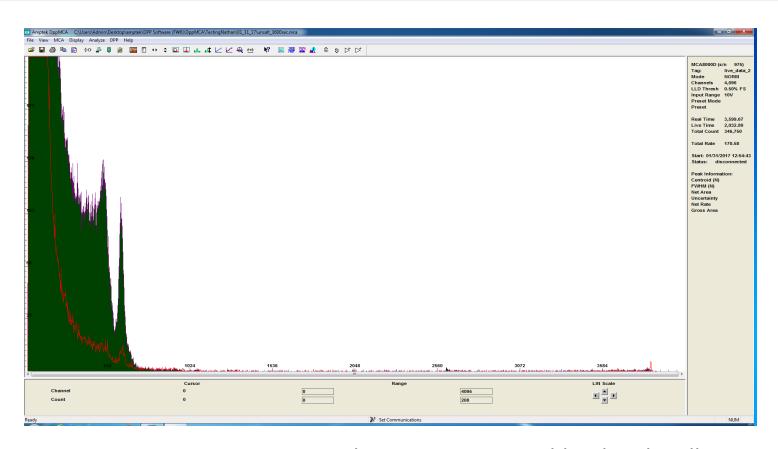
#### Convert to Integrals



Generate



## Pulse Processing Results



3600 sec experiment control versus potassium chloride salt pellets Green: Potassium (K-40) Red: Background radiation

#### Acknowledgements

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(RMD)
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#### Thank you!

Questions??

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