



Study the Effect of Table Salt Concentration in Water on the Absorptivity of Gamma Rays Emitted from the Radioactive Source Cs-137.

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دراسة تأثير ملح الطعام في الماء على إمتصاصية أشعة كاما المنبعثة من
المصدر المشع Cs-137

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ABSTRACT

This research investigated the influence of table salt concentration in water on the absorption of gamma rays emitted from a cesium-137 (Cs-137) radioactive source. The measurements were performed using the Universal Computer Spectrometer (UCS-30), which represents the latest generation of nuclear spectroscopy systems developed by Spectrum Techniques LLC, following earlier versions such as UCS-20.

The experimental results demonstrated that the gross area and net area of the gamma-ray energy spectrum decrease progressively with increasing salt concentration in a fixed volume of water (200 ml). In contrast, the photopeak centroid, full width at half maximum (FWHM), and energy resolution were found to increase as the salt concentration increased. These findings indicate that the absorptivity of water for gamma radiation is enhanced by the addition of salt, leading to reduced photon counts and degraded spectral resolution.

The study highlights the significant role of solution density in modifying gamma-ray attenuation and detector response, providing useful insights for applications in radiation shielding, environmental monitoring, and nuclear physics experiments.

Keywords: Cs-137 Gamma-ray absorption, NaI(Tl) scintillation detector , Salt concentration in water, Energy resolution (FWHM).

resulting amplified pulse, collected at the anode, serves as a direct indicator of the ionizing radiation that interacted with the crystal [12]. Figure (3) illustrates the electron multiplication process within the dynodes.

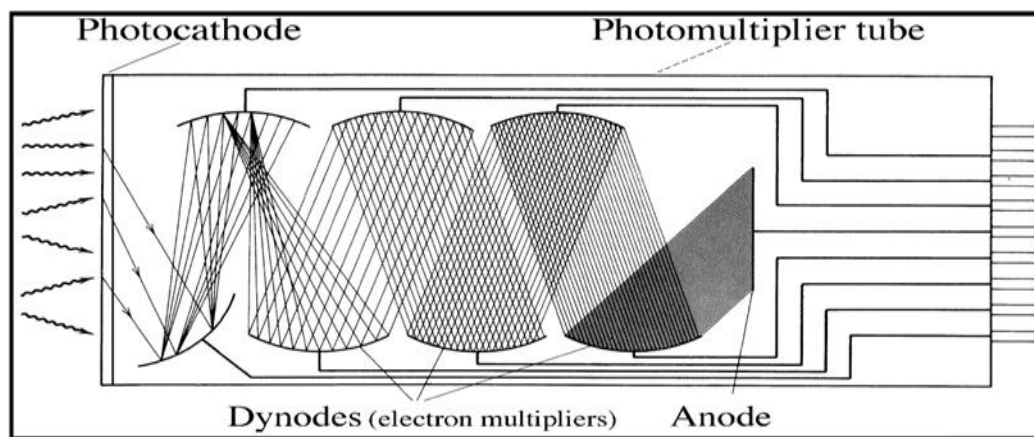


Figure (3): Electron multiplication during dynodes [12].

2.2 .High Voltage Power Supply:

The photomultiplier tube requires a stable high-voltage supply to operate effectively. In this study, a power supply with a range of 0–2000 volts was used. The voltage was delivered through a divider network to ensure proper biasing of the dynodes.

2.3 Photomultiplier Base and Preamplifier Base :

The photomultiplier base distributes the high voltage evenly across the dynodes, ensuring uniform electron multiplication. The preamplifier, located close to the detector, receives the weak charge pulses generated by the scintillation crystal and converts them into current pulses, which are then transformed into voltage pulses. These signals are amplified to a level suitable for further processing by the main amplifier, without distortion of their amplitude.

In addition to amplification, the preamplifier performs pulse shaping, which is essential for distinguishing true radiation signals from electronic noise. Proper shaping reduces noise, improves the definition of the pulse, and enhances the pulse-to-noise ratio, thereby improving the detector's energy resolution [14] , [15].

The preamplifier also ensures impedance matching between the detector and the subsequent electronic circuitry, particularly the main amplifier. This prevents signal loss and distortion. Because the pulses generated by the detector are extremely weak, the preamplifier is mounted very close to the detector to minimize attenuation during transmission through connecting wires[16].

2.4. Main Amplifier:

The main amplifier further amplifies the shaped pulses from the preamplifier to a level that can be accurately measured and analyzed by the multichannel analyzer (MCA). It improves the signal-to-noise ratio, filters out unwanted noise, and ensures that the output pulse amplitude is



directly proportional to the input pulse amplitude. This proportionality, known as gain, is critical for accurate spectral analysis. The main amplifier is integrated within the MCA system [17].

2.5. Multichannel Analyzer :

The multichannel spectrum analyzer(MCA) is an advanced device designed for gamma-ray spectroscopy. Its primary advantage lies in its ability to analyze large numbers of pulses with high precision. The MCA performs three main functions: pulse amplitude analysis, multichannel sorting, and data storage. It processes the amplified pulses, records them, and displays the resulting gamma-ray spectrum as a visual output. The MCA integrates a main amplifier and can be configured to operate with different channel capacities (256, 512, 1024, 2048, or 4096), depending on the resolution required [18].

3. Radioactive source:

The radioactive source used in this study was cesium-137 (Cs-137), prepared in a disc-shaped form with a diameter of 2.5 cm. Table (1) summarizes its main properties, including activity, half-life, and gamma-ray energy.

Table (1) Radioactive source used in the research.

Radioactivity Source	Activity (μCi)	Half-Life	Energy (MeV)
Cs-137	0.9121	30.2 Years	0.662

The radioactive efficiency (A) is calculated from the following equation. [19]

$$A = A_0 \cdot e^{-\lambda T_d} \dots\dots\dots(10)$$

where A₀ is the efficiency of the radioactive source at the time of manufacture. T_d is the delay time.

λ is the decay constant and is given by the following equation. [20]

$$\lambda = \ln 2 / T_{1/2} \dots\dots\dots(11)$$

where T_{1/2} is the half-life of the radioactive source.

4. Gamma ray spectrum:

The NaI(Tl) scintillation detector produces an energy spectrum that contains peaks and continuous distributions depending on the type of photon interaction. Each interaction contributes to the appearance of one or more peaks, depending on the photon energy. Figure (4) shows a typical Cs-137 spectrum, illustrating the main spectral regions [21].



component of gamma-ray spectra, and its analysis is essential for understanding the interaction processes and for distinguishing the true photo peak from background contributions [21].

4.4. Photo Peak:

The Photopeak corresponds to the complete absorption of the energy of a gamma-ray photon within the scintillation crystal of the detector. This feature arises from the photoelectric effect, in which the entire photon energy is transferred to an electron in the detector material. The photopeak is the most significant region of the gamma-ray spectrum because it provides the most accurate representation of the incident photon energy.

The position of the photopeak (its centroid) and its width are critical parameters for energy calibration and resolution. These parameters vary directly with the photon energy, as well as with instrumental factors such as applied high voltage, amplifier gain, and the number of channels in the multichannel analyzer. Because of its central role in energy determination, the photopeak is used as the primary reference for most calculations in gamma spectroscopy. Accurate identification and measurement of the photopeak are therefore essential for evaluating the performance of the detector and for conducting precise nuclear radiation analyses [22].

4.5 Escaping Peaks that follow the production of the pair:

Escaping Peaks These peaks appear in gamma-ray spectra with energy greater than 1.02MeV. When the pair is generated and annihilated and the two annihilation photons are generated and absorbed into the detector, a peak will appear at energy E_γ (incident photon energy), or a peak will appear at energy $(E_\gamma - 0.511)$ MeV, when one photon escapes from the detector and is called the single escape peak, or a peak appears at $(E_\gamma - 1.02)$ MeV when both photons escape from the detector and is called the double escape peak[22].

5. Energy Resolution:

Energy Resolution is the ability of the detector to distinguish particles or photons with different and converging energies, and the performance of any detector used to measure energy is represented by the width of the pulse distribution of the single-energy source, and the width is measured at the middle of the peak and is called Full Width at Half Maximum (FWHM) and the energy resolvability in analyzers is given by the following relationship [23]. As in Figure (5).

$$E. R = \frac{FWHM}{C} \times 100 \% \quad \dots\dots\dots(12)$$

where **C** is the location of the optical peak.

The experimental conditions were standardized with an applied voltage of 575 V, an amplifier gain of 2, and a counting time of 120 seconds.

Table (2): Effect of salt concentration on gamma-ray spectral parameters

Mass/200 ml (gm/cm ³)	Gross area	Net area	F.W.H.M	Centroid	E.R%
0	45643	43593	39	87	44.82759
5	41453	39 403	137	242	56.61157
10	36328	32911	102	244	41.80328
15	33589	32907	325	217	149.7696
20	33202	32861	227	199	114.0704

2.1 Effect of salt concentration on Gross Area

The relationship between the added salt mass and the gross area of the gamma-ray spectrum is illustrated in Figure (6). The data show a clear inverse relationship: as the salt concentration increases, the gross area decreases. This behavior is attributed to the enhanced absorptivity of the medium, as the dissolved salt increase the density of the solution , thereby attenuating more of the incident gamma radiation before it reaches the detector.

2.2 Effect of Salt Concentration on Net Area

Similarly, the variation of the net area with salt concentration is depicted in Figure (7). The results confirm that the net area decreases with increasing salt mass. This further supports the conclusion that the absorptivity of the solution increases with higher salt content, leading to reduced photon counts recorded by the detector.

2.3 Effect of Salt concentration on FWHM

The influence of salt concentration on the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the energy spectrum is presented in Figure (8). The results demonstrate that the FWHM increases as the salt mass increases. This broadening of the peak indicates that the detector's resolution is affected by the increased density of the medium, which introduces additional scattering and absorption processes that degrade the sharpness of the photopeak.

2.4 Study of the Gamma-Ray Spectrum Regions

The effect of salt concentration on the centroid position of the photopeak and the corresponding energy resolution (E.R%) is shown in Figure (9). The results reveal that both the centroid position and the energy resolution vary significantly with the added salt mass. Specifically, the energy resolution increases with higher salt concentrations, reflecting the

deterioration of spectral clarity due to enhanced scattering and absorption. The observed broadening of the optical peak can be explained by the fact that the FWHM increases with the density of the medium. As the salt concentration rises, the NaI(Tl) scintillator becomes more sensitive to variations in photon interactions, leading to a proportional increase in both peak width and energy resolution.

2.1 Effect (change in mass of salt added to 200 ml of pure water) on gross area

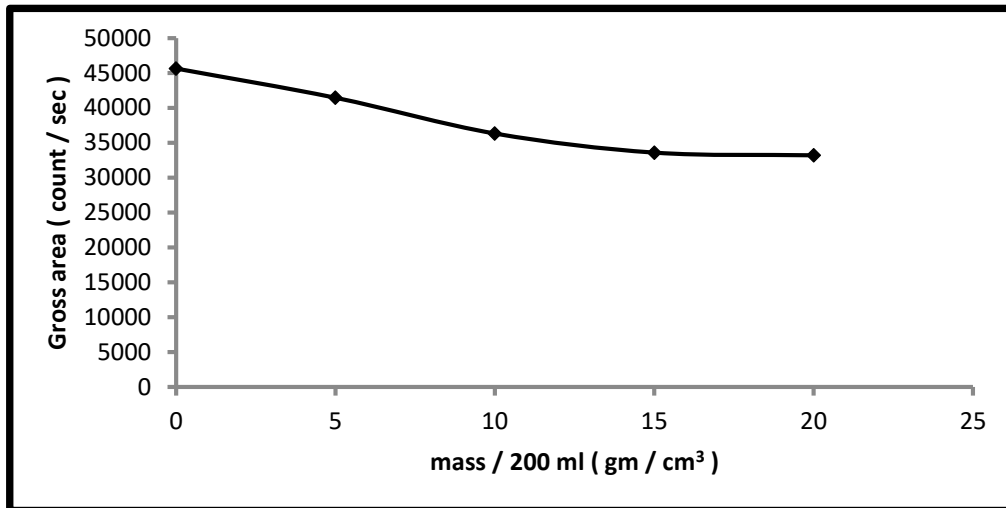


Figure (6): Shows the relationship between the change in mass of salt added to 200 ml of pure water and the gross area.

2.2 Effect of salt concentration change on net area of energy spectrum

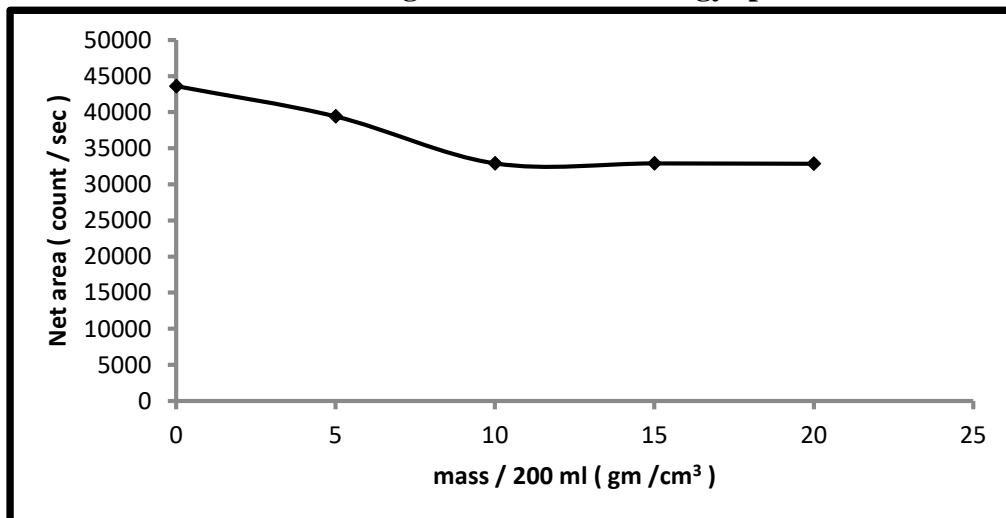


Figure (7): Shows the relationship between the change in salt mass added to 200 ml of pure water and the net area.

From the results in Table (2), Figures (6) and (7) were drawn between the added salt mass and the gross and net areas, respectively. It shows that the relationship between the mass of salt and the gross and net areas of the spectrum is inverse because the absorptivity of water for radiation passing through it increases with increasing salt concentration, which leads to a decrease in the two areas with increasing added mass.

2.3 Effect of salt mass change on the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the energy spectrum.

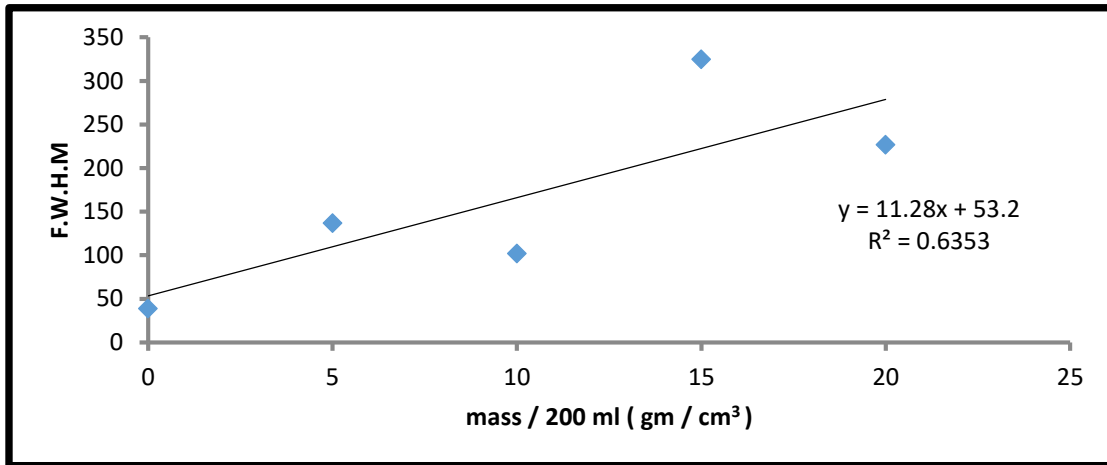


Figure (8): The relationship between the change in salt mass added to 200 ml of pure water and the full width at half maximum.

2.4. Effect of energy change on the center of the peak (CENTROID) and the energy resolution E.R %

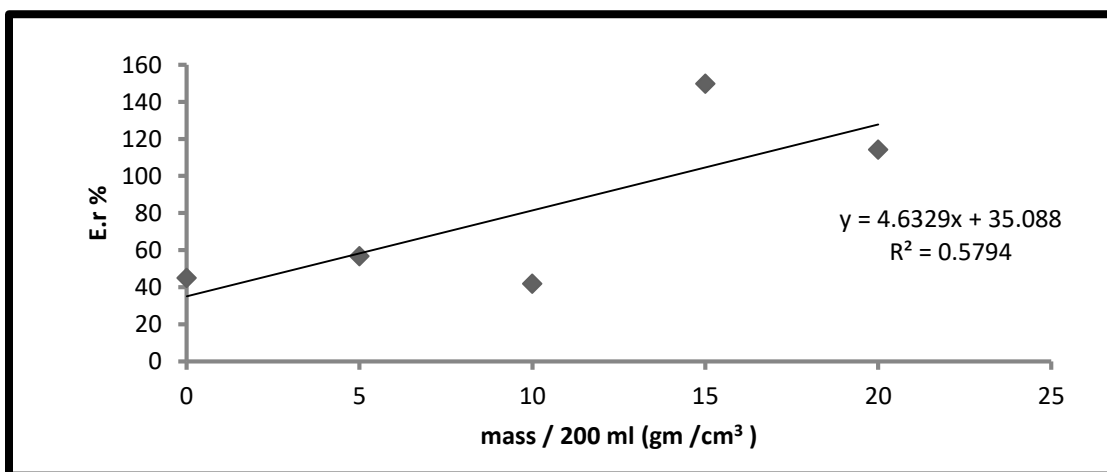


Figure (9): The relationship between the change in salt mass added to 200 ml of pure water and the energy resolution.



Based on the data presented in Table (2), Figures (8) and (9) illustrate the relationship between the mass of salt dissolved in 200 ml of water and two key spectral parameters: the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the photopeak and the corresponding energy resolution (E.R%). The results clearly demonstrate a direct proportionality, where both the peak width and the energy resolution increase progressively with the addition of salt mass.

The observed broadening of the photopeak can be attributed to the increase in FWHM as the salt concentration rises. This effect is explained by the fact that the NaI(Tl) scintillation detector becomes increasingly influenced by the density of the medium through which the gamma radiation passes. As the density of the water–salt solution increases, the probability of photon scattering and partial energy deposition also increases, leading to a wider distribution of detected energies. Consequently, the detector exhibits a broader peak and a higher energy resolution value, both of which reflect the enhanced absorptivity and scattering effects introduced by the added salt.

CONCLUSION

The results showed that increasing the concentration of table salt in water leads to higher density and thus increases the medium's absorptivity of gamma rays emitted from the Cs-137 source, which reduces the number of photons recorded and leads to a broadening of the optical peak and a deterioration in spectral accuracy. This confirms that the composition of the surrounding medium directly affects the detector's response, which opens up prospects for applications in radiation protection, environmental monitoring and nuclear experiments.

Conflict of interests.

There are non-conflicts of interest.

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الخلاصة

بحثت هذه الدراسة تأثير تركيز ملح الطعام في الماء على امتصاص أشعة جاما المنبعثة من مصدر مشع للـسيزيوم-137 (Cs-137). أجريت القياسات باستخدام مطياف الكمبيوتر العالمي (UCS-30)، الذي يمثل أحدث جيل من أنظمة التحليل الطيفي النووي التي طورتها شركة Spectrum Techniques LLC، بعد الإصدارات السابقة مثل UCS-20.

أظهرت نتائج التجربة أن المساحة الإجمالية والمساحة الصافية لطيف طاقة أشعة جاما تتخفف تدريجياً مع زيادة تركيز الملح في حجم ثابت من الماء (200 مل). في المقابل، وجد أن مركز الذروة الضوئية والعرض الكامل عند نصف الحد الأقصى (FWHM) ودقة الطاقة تزداد مع زيادة تركيز الملح. تشير هذه النتائج إلى أن امتصاص الماء للأشعة جاما يتحسن بإضافة الملح، مما يؤدي إلى انخفاض عدد الفوتونات وتدهور دقة الطيف.

تسلط الدراسة الضوء على الدور المهم لكثافة المحلول في تعديل توهين أشعة جاما واستجابة الكاشف، مما يوفر رؤى مفيدة للتطبيقات في مجال الحماية من الإشعاع ومراقبة البيئة وتجارب الفيزياء النووية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: السيزيوم-137، (Cs-137) امتصاص أشعة غاما، كاشف ومبضي، NaI(Tl) تركيز ملح الطعام في الماء ، الدقة الطاقية (عرض منتصف القمة)