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Jpn. J. Appl. Phys. Vol. 32 (1993) 3964-3967 Part 1, No. 9A, 15 September 1993

DOI: 10.1143/JJAP.32.3964

Application of a Ge Detector to Search for Fast Neutrons from DD Fusion in Deuterized Pd

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(Received March 29, 1993; accepted for publication July 17, 1993)

Abstract:

A low-background high-resolution Ge detector surrounded by neutron scatterers was applied to investigate fast neutrons from the electrochemically loaded Pd-D system. The neutron flux was obtained by measuring the yields of the γ -rays following inelastic scattering of the fast neutrons from nuclei in the scatterers. The detector was shown to be very sensitive in the search for rare neutron events such as d-d fusion at room temperature. The observed spectrum shows no statistically significant excess of the γ -rays above the background. The upper limit on the fusion rate was obtained as $\lambda_f < 1.6 \cdot 10^{-24} (ddn)$ fusions/(dd)pair/s.

Keywords:

cold nuclear fusion, low-background neutron detector