# 1.9 Source calibration system

Calibration and monitoring during data-taking is an important ingredient if the best possible performance of the crystal calorimeter is to be realized. A suitable system must provide precise, independent crystal-by-crystal calibration. The use of radioactive sources is a proven technique for accomplishing such a calibration. Most long-lived sources, are, however, limited to an energy around 1 MeV, which makes it difficult to secure a signal significantly above electronic noise, and furthermore, sources that can be deployed individually are not practical with a system of ~2000 crystals. The solution devised for the BaBar electromagnetic calorimeter produces a 6.13 MeV photon line from a short-lived 16O transition that can be arbitrarily switched on and off. This system was successfully used for routine weekly calibrations of the BaBar calorimeter, and it is an ideal match to the Mu2e requirements. We, therefore, have started the process of obtaining the BaBar system through salvage from SLAC and propose to refurbish it for use in Mu2e. [DONE]

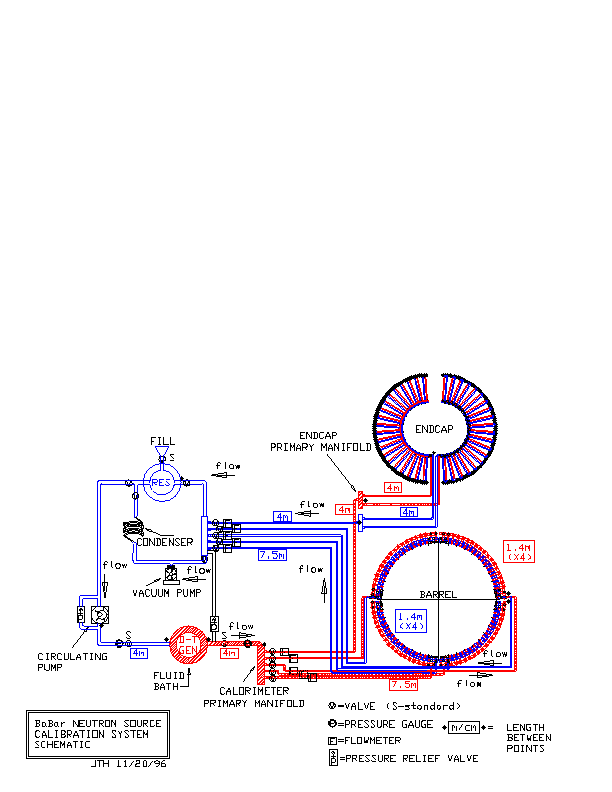
The decay chain producing the calibration photon line is

The fluorine, a component of Fluorinert™ coolant liquid, is activated with a fast neutron source, producing the 16N isotope. This isotope then β-decays with a half-life of seven seconds to an excited state 16O, which in turn emits a 6.13 MeV photon as it cascades to its ground state.



The source spectrum, as seen with a BaBar CsI(Tl) crystal with PIN diode readouts is shown at right. There are three principal contributions to the overall peak, one at 6.13 MeV, another at 5.62 MeV, and the third at 5.11 MeV, the latter two representing e+e- annihilation photon escape peaks. Since all three peaks have well-defined energies, they simultaneously provide both an absolute calibration and a measure of the linearity of response at the low end of the energy scale.

The fluorine is activated using neutrons provided by a commercial deuterium-tritium (DT) generator, which produces 14.2 MeV neutrons by accelerating deuterons onto a tritium target, at typical rates of several times $10^8$ neutrons/second. The DT generator is surrounded with a bath of the fluorine-containing liquid Fluorinert™, which is then circulated in a manifold to the calorimeter crystals. Many suitable fluorine-containing liquids available; Fluorinert™ “FC-77” was used in BaBar.

The Fluorinert™ is stored in a reservoir near the D-T generator. When a calibration run is started, the generator and a circulating pump are turned on. Fluid is pumped from the reservoir through the DT bath to be activated, and then to the calorimeter. The system is closed, with fluid returning from the calorimeter to the reservoir. A schematic of the BaBar system is shown below. In BaBar, the fluid was pumped at 3.5 l/s, producing a counting rate of ~40 Hz in each of the ~6500 BaBar crystals, which were about 12 m from the DT generator. This produced a calibration with a statistical uncertainty of ~0.35% on peak positions in a single crystal in a 10-15 minute calibration run.

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In BaBar, the fluid transport manifold consisted of thin-wall (0.5 mm) aluminum tubing (3/8 inch diameter), flattened to meet space constraints. One millimeter of Al represents 1.2% of a radiation length. This material was placed in front of the BaBar crystals, as was an additional 2 mm of Al in the structural support of the tube assemblies, which were deployed as a set of curved panels. This system can be reused for the barrel in \superb, or it could be rebuilt to better integrate into the barrel structure, reducing the amount of material and providing additional radial space. The endcap manifold can likewise be used as is if the \babar\ mechanics are retained, or could be rebuilt with less material if a new mechanical design is adopted.

The DT generator is a small accelerator; radiation safety protocols factor into the mechanical design of the system. Operation of the source will be done remotely, in a no-access condition. The half-life of the activated liquid is 7 s, hence residual radioactivity is not a substantial concern when the DT generator is not operating. The DT generator produces 14 MeV neutrons, at a rate of $\sim 10^9$/s. It will be shielded according to INFN radiation safety regulations. The shielding will be interlocked such that the DT generator cannot be operated if the shielding is not in place. The reservoir is capable of holding the entire volume of fluorinert fluid. Operation of the system is anticipated to be approximately weekly. In the event of a fluid leak, the maximum exposure for the similar \babar\ system was calculated to result in a maximum integrated dose of less than 1 mrem. A detailed hazard analysis will be performed in collaboration with INFN radiation safety experts.