Relativistic Behavior Detection through Electron Acceleration

Henry Shackleton

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1 / 16

Classical Mechanics

1 / 16

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1 / 16

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1 / 16

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1 / 16

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1 / 16

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Special Relativity

- Developed by Einstein in 1905
- The speed of light, c, is constant in all reference frames
- The velocity of any particle is capped at c

1 / 16

Classical and Relativistic Kinetic Energies are Different

Classical Kinetic Energy

$$K=\frac{p^2}{2m}$$

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Classical Kinetic Energy

$$K = \frac{p^2}{2m}$$

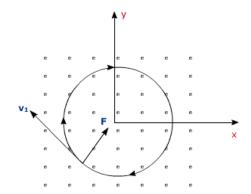
Relativistic Kinetic Energy

$$K = \sqrt{p^2c^2 + m^2c^4} - mc^2$$

Electrons in Magnetic Fields are Accelerated in Circular Orbits

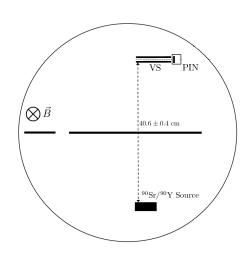
$$\bullet \ \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{p}}{\mathrm{d}t} = e\left(\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v}}{c} \times \mathbf{B}\right)$$

- Electrons follow a circular orbit with radii proportional to their momentum
- $p = \frac{\rho e}{c} B$



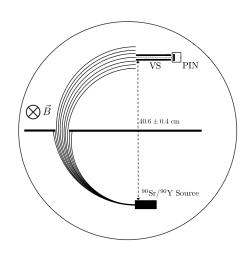
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Experimental Setup Constrains Radius of Electron Orbit

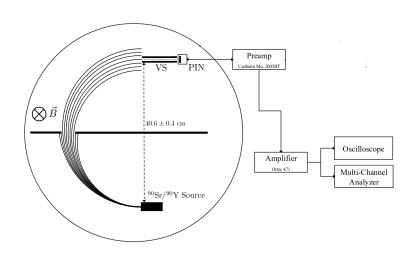




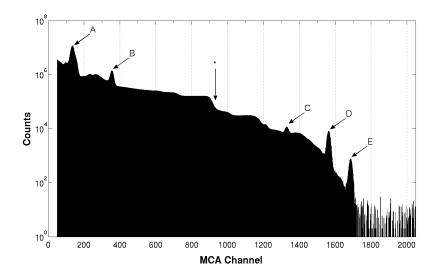
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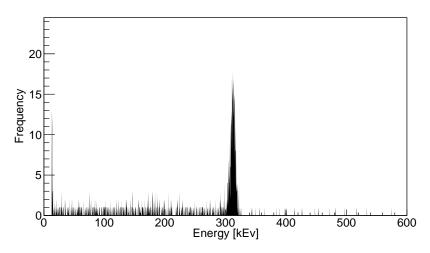
Experimental Setup Constrains Radius of Electron Orbit



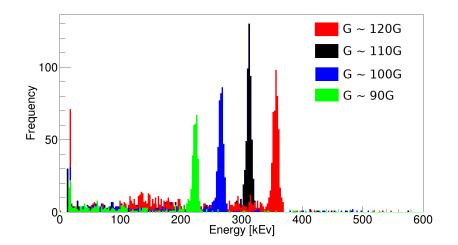
Barium-133 Produces MCA Peaks at Known Energies



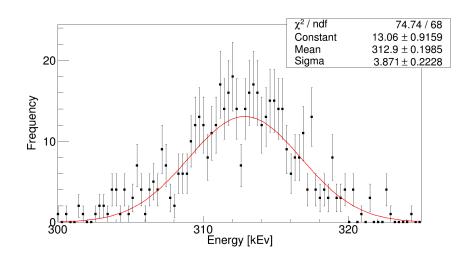
MCA Readout for Sr-90/Y-90 Sharply Peaked around Energy Range



Magnetic Field Affects Peak Energy Range



Kinetic Energy Determined through Gaussian Fitting



10 / 16

Gaussian Fits Bring Uncertainty in Kinetic Energy

B_{approx} (G)	K (kEv)	σ_K (kEv)
90	222	.2
100	265	.2
110	312	.4
120	355	.3

11 / 16

Uncertainties in Magnetic Field

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Uncertainties in Magnetic Field

- Variations during individual runs from coil heating
- Variations between runs

Uncertainties in Magnetic Field

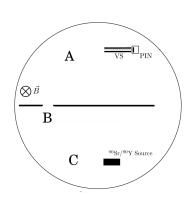
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Uncertainties in Magnetic Field

- Variations during individual runs from coil heating
- Variations between runs
- Inhomogeneous magnetic field during individual runs
- Systematic uncertainty in magnetometer

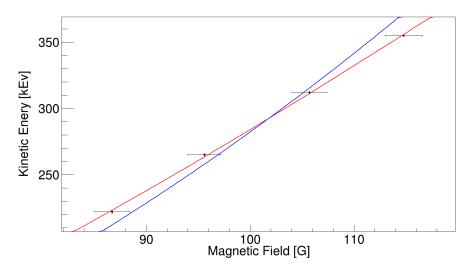
Inhomogeneity Addressed by Averaging over Multiple Points

- Measured at point C during experimental runs
- Determined correspondance between magnetic field at point C and the average magnetic field over the path of the electron

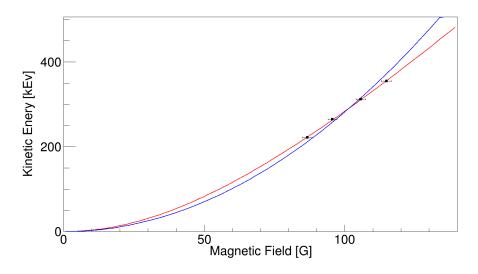


13 / 16

Data Follows Relativistic Trend



Shapes of Fit Separate at Large Kinetic Energies



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