



Generations Of Nuclear Activity (G.I.N.A)  
Manual & Programming Documentation  
Version – 1.001  
(Document continually under development)

Developer: Antonius Torode  
Michigan State University  
Department of Physics & Astronomy  
National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory

Latest update: October 23, 2017

© 2016 Antonius Torode  
All rights reserved.

This work may be distributed and/or modified under the conditions of Antonius' General Purpose License.

The Original Maintainer of this work is: Antonius Torode.

The Current Maintainer of this work is: Antonius Torode.

This document is designed for the sole purpose of providing documentation for the Generations of Nuclear Activity (GINA) program. GINA is a program written for and created at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL). Throughout this document, "GINA" will be used as a reference to the "Generations of Nuclear Activity" program. This acronym is solely designed for use in conjunction with the program and was originally created by the creator of this document. GINA is designed for specific purposes at the NSCL. It can be adapted to work in other situations and for alternate purposes. GINA is not to be used for gaining profit. GINA may be freely used and adapted to be used solely at Michigan State University and the NSCL.

This document is continually in development as GINA is. The version number of this document is to correspond with the version of GINA it covers.

Most Current Revision Date: October 23, 2017

Torode, A.  
National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory.  
2017, Undergraduate Researcher.  
Includes Source Code and References  
ISBN: NONE  
Book designed in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Generations of Nuclear Activity (GINA)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Original GINA Calculations</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Preamble . . . . .	2
2.2	Introduction . . . . .	2
2.3	Analysis - Decays Over Time . . . . .	2
2.3.1	Important Relations . . . . .	4
	<b>Appendix I: Useful Coding Features</b>	<b>7</b>

*This page intentionally left blank.  
(Indeed, this is a contradiction.)*

## Generations of Nuclear Activity (GINA)

# Original GINA Calculations

## Preamble

This chapter was the original document designed to go along with the python code it was written for (the original GINA program). For this reason, relevant the code was attached in code blocks. It is not updated to include references to the GINA program which is the C++ implementation. The derivations in this chapter were originally done on scrap paper and had a  $\text{\LaTeX}$ document to keep relevant solutions.

## Introduction

The rate of decay of a material is given by

$$\frac{dN(t)}{dt} = -\lambda N(t) = -\frac{N(t)}{\tau}, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $N$  is the number of radioactive nuclei,  $\lambda$  is the decay constant and  $\tau$  is the mean lifetime of the particles within the material. The decay relates to the half life  $T_{1/2}$  by

$$\lambda T_{1/2} = \ln(2) \implies T_{1/2} = \tau \ln(2). \quad (2.2)$$

From Eq. 2.1, we can say

$$\frac{dN(t')}{N(t')} = -\frac{1}{\tau} dt' \implies \int_{N(t)}^{N(t+\Delta t)} \frac{dN(t')}{N(t')} = -\int_t^{t+\Delta t} \frac{1}{\tau} dt' \implies \ln \left[ \frac{N(t+\Delta t)}{N(t)} \right] = -\frac{\Delta t}{\tau}. \quad (2.3)$$

We can re-write Eq. 2.3 in exponential form which gives

$$N(t+\Delta t) = N(t)e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{\tau}} = N(t)e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}} \ln(2)} \implies N(\Delta t) = N(0)e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}} \ln(2)}. \quad (2.4)$$

## Analysis - Decays Over Time

### RADIOACTIVE PARTICLE NUMBERS

Let the superscripts  $m$ ,  $d$  and  $gd$  denote a mother, daughter and granddaughter (the nuclei the daughter nuclei decays into) nuclei respectively and  $T$  represent the total time that has passed. Consider a steady beam that is depositing radioactive particles onto a material at a constant rate of  $R(t)$  (particles/second). Initially assume there are no radioactive particles on the material. That is

$$N_0^m = 0 \qquad N_0^d = 0 \qquad N_0^{gd} = 0 \quad (2.5)$$

Over some small amount of time<sup>1</sup>  $\Delta t$  ( $T = \Delta t$ ), the total particles placed on the material will be

$$N_1^m = R(t)\Delta t. \quad (2.6)$$

None of the radioactive particles will have decayed yet so  $N_1^d = 0$  and  $N_1^{gd} = 0$ . The mother nuclei may decay into the daughter nuclei at this point but the daughter nuclei will not have yet had a chance to decay and thus  $N_2^{gd} = 0$ .

```
#[PYTHON CODE]#
#Sets the initial conditions.
N_m[0]=0
N_m[1]=R*del_t
N_d[0]=0
N_d[1]=0
N_gd[0]=0
N_gd[1]=0
```

After another small amount of time  $\Delta t$  ( $T = 2\Delta t$ ), the total radioactive particles on the material will increase by  $R(t)\Delta t$  and decrease by some amount

$$N_2^d = D_1^m = N_1^m \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^m} \ln(2)} \right), \quad (2.7)$$

as the radioactive particles decay into the daughter nuclei. Thus, the total radioactive mother nuclei after  $T = 2\Delta t$  is

$$N_2^m = 2N_1^m - N_1^m \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^m} \ln(2)} \right). \quad (2.8)$$

After yet another small amount of time  $\Delta t$  ( $T = 3\Delta t$ ), the total radioactive particles on the material will increase by  $N_1^m = R(t)\Delta t$  and decrease by some amount

$$D_2^m = N_2^m \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^m} \ln(2)} \right), \quad (2.9)$$

as the radioactive particles decay into the daughter nuclei. At this point, the total number of mother nuclei will be

$$N_3^m = N_2^m + N_1^m - N_2^m \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^m} \ln(2)} \right) \quad (2.10)$$

$$= N_1^m + N_2^m e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^m} \ln(2)}. \quad (2.11)$$

At this point, the number of radioactive daughter nuclei will increase by  $\Delta N_3^d$  and decrease by some amount based on the decay time. Thus at  $T = 3\Delta t$  we will have

$$N_3^d = N_2^d + \Delta N_3^d - N_2^d \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^d} \ln(2)} \right) \quad (2.12)$$

$$= N_2^d + N_2^m \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^m} \ln(2)} \right) - N_2^d \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^d} \ln(2)} \right) \quad (2.13)$$

$$= N_2^m \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^m} \ln(2)} \right) + N_2^d e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^d} \ln(2)}. \quad (2.14)$$

---

<sup>1</sup>For sufficiently small  $\Delta t$  or  $R(t)$ , we can neglect the decays that happen between  $\Delta t$  time increments.

At this stage, there will also be daughter nuclei that decay and so

$$N_3^{gd} = N_2^d \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^d} \ln(2)} \right). \quad (2.15)$$

For sufficiently large  $T_{1/2}^{gd}$ , we can ignore any further decays and still maintain a good approximation for our system. At this point, any possible increase/decrease in particles and all possible decays are accounted for. Since we can represent the particle numbers at  $T = 3\Delta t$  using terms for the previous time steps, we can generalize this to some  $T = n\Delta t$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  giving

$$N_n^m = N_1^m + N_{n-1}^m e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^m} \ln(2)} \quad (2.16)$$

$$N_n^d = N_{n-1}^m \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^m} \ln(2)} \right) + N_{n-1}^d e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^d} \ln(2)} \quad (2.17)$$

$$N_n^{gd} = N_{n-1}^{gd} + N_{n-1}^d \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^d} \ln(2)} \right). \quad (2.18)$$

These relations can be proven by trivial induction.

```
#[PYTHON CODE]#
#Calculation of particle number
for n in range(2, size):
    N_m[n]=N_m[1]+N_m[n-1]*np.exp(-del_t*np.log(2)/HL_m)
    N_d[n]=N_m[n-1]*(1-np.exp(-del_t*np.log(2)/HL_m))+N_d[n-1]*np.exp(-del_t*np.
        log(2)/HL_d)
    N_gd[n]=N_gd[n-1]+N_d[n-1]*(1-np.exp(-del_t*np.log(2)/HL_d))
```

**Addition.** Instead of using m, g and gd for mother, daughter and granddaughter respectively, suppose we allow the superscript to denote the generation as a number, where  $(0) \equiv m$ ,  $(1) \equiv d$  and  $(2) \equiv gd$  and so on such that  $(i)$  would represent the  $i$ -th generation. Using this scheme, this process can be generalized for  $i$  number of generations as

$$N_n^{(0)} = N_1^{(0)} + N_{n-1}^{(0)} e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^{(0)}} \ln(2)} \quad (2.19)$$

$$N_n^{(i)} = N_{n-1}^{(i-1)} \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^{(i-1)}} \ln(2)} \right) + N_{n-1}^{(i)} e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^{(i)}} \ln(2)}. \quad (2.20)$$

If we assume the lats stage has a near infinite half life, the limiting case will produce a final step to be equivalent to that of Eq. 2.18.

## Important Relations

### DECAY RATES - METHOD I

The values  $N_n^m$ ,  $N_n^d$  and  $N_n^{gd}$  all represent a total number of particles of a specific nuclei. If we are interested in the decays  $D$  of the radioactive particles, we can represent them based on the number of particles are present. That is

$$D_n^m = N_n^m \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^m} \ln(2)} \right) \quad (2.21)$$

$$D_n^d = N_n^d \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta t}{T_{1/2}^d} \ln(2)} \right). \quad (2.22)$$



These represent the today decays per unit  $\Delta t$ . The contamination is then defined as the number of decays the daughter is producing with respect to the number of decays the mother nuclei is producing.

$$C_n = \frac{D_n^d}{D_n^m} \times 100\% = \text{contamination } \%. \quad (2.23)$$

```
#[PYTHON CODE]#
#Calculation of decay rate (devided by del_t to make the units per second)
for n in range(0,size):
    D_m[n]=N_m[n]*(1-np.exp(-del_t*np.log(2)/HL_m))/del_t
    D_d[n]=N_d[n]*(1-np.exp(-del_t*np.log(2)/HL_d))/del_t
    if D_m[n] > 0:
        C[n]=D_d[n]/D_m[n]*100
    t[n]=n*del_t
```

## DECAY RATES - METHOD II

An alternate, and nicer method of calculating the decay rate can be found from Eq. 2.1. By definition this is the decay rate, so using the total particle numbers we calculate in Eq. 2.16 - 2.18, we can determined the decay rate (note that we are taking the absolute value because we are interested in the decays per second) as

$$D_n^m = \frac{dN_n^m}{dt} = \frac{N_n^m \ln(2)}{T_{1/2}^m} \quad (2.24)$$

$$D_n^d = \frac{dN_n^d}{dt} = \frac{N_n^d \ln(2)}{T_{1/2}^d}. \quad (2.25)$$

These represent the today decays per second. Using this method, the contamination will still be calculated in the same way using Eq. 2.23.

```
#[PYTHON CODE]#
#Alternate calculation of decay rate
for n in range(0,size):
    D2_m[n]=N_m[n]*np.log(2)/HL_m
    D2_d[n]=N_d[n]*np.log(2)/HL_d
    if D2_m[n] > 0:
        C2[n]=D2_d[n]/D2_m[n]*100
```

**Addition.** Begin with the notation from the previous ‘Addition’. The decay rate for any generation would simply be

$$D_n^{(i)} = \frac{dN_n^{(i)}}{dt} = \frac{N_n^{(i)} \ln(2)}{T_{1/2}^{(i)}}, \quad (2.26)$$

and the contamination of the original implant would be given by

$$C_n = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} D_n^{(k)}}{D_n^{(0)}} \times 100\% = \text{contamination } \%. \quad (2.27)$$

## BEAM CUTOFF & PARTICLE LOSS

We will introduce a new variable  $T_c$  which will represent a cutoff of the beam that is implanting the radioactive particles. After this time, the system will reset and the original system will be instantaneously<sup>2</sup> moved to a new location. So, when  $T = iT_c$  for  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , we will have our particle number values reset to zero, and thus

$$N_i^m = 0 \quad N_i^d = 0 \quad N_i^{gd} = 0. \quad (2.28)$$

This will of course occur at the  $n$  values such that  $n = \frac{iT_c}{\Delta t}$ . Let the total particles that have decayed be denoted by  $\bar{N}$ . The total decayed particles can be determined by

$$\bar{N}_n^m = N_n^d + N_n^{gd}. \quad (2.29)$$

The ratio of total particles implanted to the particles that have decayed is then simply

$$\frac{nN_1^m}{\bar{N}_n^m} = \frac{nN_1^m}{N_n^d + N_n^{gd}}. \quad (2.30)$$

The deposited implant loss  $B_n^\ell$  (representing the total % of the implanted particles that have been decayed) is then the inverse

$$B_n^\ell = \frac{\bar{N}_n^m}{nN_1^m} \times 100\% = \frac{N_n^d + N_n^{gd}}{nN_1^m} \times 100\%. \quad (2.31)$$

The deposited implant health  $B^h$  is then the percentage of original implant that still exists and is given simply by

$$B_n^h = 100\% - B_n^\ell. \quad (2.32)$$

```
#[PYTHON CODE]#
#Determines the implant loss and Health
for n in range(1,size):
    B_l[n] = 100*(N_d[n]+N_gd[n])/(n*N_m[1])
    B_h[n]=100-P_l[n]
```

**Addition.** Considering an arbitrary number of generations, the decayed particles would be given by

$$\bar{N}_n^{(i)} = \sum_{k=i+1}^{\infty} N_n^{(k)}, \quad (2.33)$$

to which it follows that the implant loss be given by

$$B_n^\ell = \frac{\bar{N}_n^{(0)}}{nN_1^{(0)}} \times 100\% = \frac{1}{nN_1^{(0)}} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} N_n^{(k)} \times 100\%. \quad (2.34)$$

The implant health would still be given by

$$B_n^h = 100\% - B_n^\ell. \quad (2.35)$$

---

<sup>2</sup>In reality this would not be instantaneous.

## Appendix I: Useful Coding Features

## References

- [1] Definition of Beta Decay: <http://www2.lbl.gov/abc/wallchart/chapters/03/2.html>
- [2] Half life values: <http://www.nndc.bnl.gov/chart/>