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Improvement of Cl-36 measurements at the Tsukuba 6 MV AMS facility

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Long-lived nuclides 10 Be, 14 C, 26 Al, 36 Cl, 41 Ca, 90 Sr, and 129 I have been successfully detected with the 6 MV accelerator mass spectrometer at the University of Tsukuba [1]. 36 Cl is one of the most difficult radionuclides to measure due to contamination with the interfering isobaric ³⁶S. Sulfur itself is easily present in the environment, making its removal difficult. In order to separate and discriminate ³⁶S, we have studied acceleration conditions, methods to reduce 36S in the beam itself emitted from the Cs sputtering ion source, and to separate and identify the spectrum between ³⁶Cl and ³⁶S incident on the detector [2]. To reduce ³⁶S, we compared the material of the cathode in which the sample is loaded, a copper cathode filled with AgBr powder and a cathode with Ta metal attached. The sample cathode made of Cu, filled with AgBr, and with a 1 mm diameter hole had the lowest contamination of ³⁶S. When the sample volume is large, AgCl is placed on the entire surface. In addition, we attempted to suppress 36S contamination by covering the surface of the wheel disk with a 0.5 mm Ta plate. As a result, the contribution of ³⁶S was reduced by a factor of 50. ³⁶Cl detection performances of Cl^{5+} (30.0 MeV), Cl^{7+} (48.0 MeV), and Cl^{8+} (54.0 MeV) were compared by acceleration at 6 MV. We also compared how the spectrum separation changes with the gas pressure in the gas ionization chamber. As a result, background values were $^{\sim}3 \times 10^{-15}$ for all charge numbers q=5+, 7+, and 8+. Cl⁷⁺ (48.0 MeV) is commonly used for 36Cl AMS at the University of Tsukuba because the beam transmittance is as high as about 14% and the effect of interfering nuclides on the spectrum is small. In this presentation, we will report on progress in ³⁶Cl AMS detection techniques and applied researches with the 6 MV tandem accelerator. References

- [1] K. Sasa et al., Nucl. Instrum. Methods Phys. Res. B, 437 (2018) 98.
- [2] S. Hosoya, K. Sasa et al., Nucl. Instrum. Methods Phys. Res. B, 438 (2018) 131.

Student Submission

No

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