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# High-Precision Half-Life Measurements

# Motivation

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- Our goal is to provide a half-life measurement of <sup>26</sup>Na as a first experimental test of GRIFFIN for high-precision work (eg. superallowed decay studies).
- The GRIFFIN result can be compared to a previously published high-precision measurement (Grinyer, 2005).
- ~ 99% of all β decays yield the 1809 keV γ-ray (Grinyer, 2008).



Figure 1: A simplifed  ${}^{26}$ Na  $\beta^-$  decay scheme to the stable daughter  ${}^{26}_+$ Mg.  $_{=}$ 



# $\gamma$ Counting — The GRIFFIN Spectrometer





Both hemispheres of the GRIFFIN array showing the beamline and central vacuum chamber encased in a white 20 mm plastic delrin absorber.

- The S1140 Experiment was performed in November, 2017.
- · Spherical array of 16 Clover detectors each consists of 4 HPGe Crystals
- ~9.1% photopeak efficiency at 1.3 MeV

## Analysis Results and

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# Data were Collected in Cycles

# Counts vs Time in cycles

The radioactive beam is then implanted into the tape.



Figure 2: 1-D plot showing the cycle number versus the time in cycles without incomplete cycle.

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# **High-Precision Half-Life Measurements**

# <sup>26</sup>Na Energy Spectrum



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# High-Precision Half-Life Measurements



Figure 4: Typical zoomed in region (1760 - 1860 keV) from the  $\gamma$ -ray singles spectrum of <sup>26</sup>Na. The region due to pile up is clearly shown.



# **Data Selection Criteria**

the decay measurement.

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The precise values of the tape move, background, beam-on time and decay measurement were varied on a **run-by-run basis**.



# **Dead-time and Detector Pulse Pile-up Corrections**

Dead time is the total period of time during which hit detections cannot be processed even if they are present.



Figure 5: The dead time of the GRIFFIN DAQ shown by plotting the time interval of two consecutive  $\gamma$ -rays for each crystal. **8** 



# **Dead-time and Detector Pulse Pile-up Corrections**

Signal pile-up occurs when more than one energy deposition from different physics events is present in a detector element during the processing time of the initial interaction.



KValue,  $\Delta t_{SD}$ : relative time difference between two events

One can clearly see the dependence of the energy resolution on the k-value. The energy resolution worsens with decreasing integration length as expected and vice versa.

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# Looking at the Pile Up and Single Events Spectra

Single Events (blue) KValue == 700 & Pile up Events Kvalue < 700

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Figure 6: <sup>26</sup>Na Energy spectra to distinguish between single and pile-up events.



# **Dead-time and Detector Pulse Pile-up Corrections**

Dead fraction versus time in cycles



Figure 7: Left: the bin-by-bin dead fraction vs. time in cycles(s) for all events and right: the bin-by-bin pile-up probability vs. time in cycles(s) for all events.



## <sup>26</sup>Na Gated 1809keV Activity with total decay time of 30s.

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1st order pile-up + dt correction



Figure 8: Non-corrected decay curve (left) and 1st order pile-up and dead-time (dt) correction decay curve(right) obtained from a single run following a gate on the 1809-keV transition in <sup>26</sup>Mg.



Deduced half-life of 26 Na versus all the run numbers.



PileUp: Value < 700 & Not PileUp: KValue ==700

Figure 9: <sup>26</sup>Na: Deduced Half life versus run number (right). A weighted average of  $T_{\frac{1}{2}} = 1.07472 \pm 0.00023$  s is deduced from these data where the uncertainty is statistical.

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## **Leading-Channel Removal Plots**

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Half-Life

Analysis: 26<sub>Na</sub>

# **Higher Order Pile-up Corrections**

# **Rate-Dependent Refinements**

# Pile-up Time Resolution

• Corrects for pile-up events not resolved (in time) by the pile-up circuitry.

# > Trigger-Energy Threshold

• Corrects for pile-up caused by sub threshold energy events.

# Pile-up Detection Energy Threshold

• Corrects for low energy pile-up events missed by the pile-up circuitry.



## **Comparing 1st order pile-up correction to Higher order pile-up correction**

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## 1st order pile-up correction

## 

Higher order pile-up correction

Figure 11: 1st order pile-up correction (left) and Higher order pile-up correction decay curve(right) obtained from a single run following a gate on the 1809-keV transition in <sup>26</sup>Mg.

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time in seconds (s)



## <sup>26</sup>Na Deduced Half life vs Run numbers

1st order pile-up correction

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### 08 1.08 1st Order Pile up Correction falf-life (s) Half-life (s) pile-up detection efficiency, time resolution and CFD Half-life: 1.07472(23)s $T_{1/2} = 1.07294 \pm 0.00023s$ 1.078 1.078 $\frac{17.397}{20} = 0.87$ $\frac{1}{46} = \frac{20.202}{20} = 1.01$ 1.076 1.076 1.074 1.074 1.07 1.072 1.07 1.07 1.068 1.068 1.066 1.066 10500 10485 10490 10495 10500 10505 10485 10490 10495 10505 Run Numbers **Bun Numbers**

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Figure 12: <sup>26</sup>Na: 1st order pile-up correction (left) and Higher order pile-up correction (right) of the deduced Half life versus run number.

Deduced half-life of 26 Na versus all the run numbers.

## Higher order pile-up correction

Deduced half-life of 26 Na versus all the run numbers.



## Leading-Channel Removal Plots



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# **Summary and Future Work**

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- The Half life for the 1809keV activity from <sup>26</sup>Na has been determined and was found to be  $T_{\frac{1}{2}}(avg) = 1.07294 \pm 0.00023s$ .
- **2** The results from the **higher order pile-up corrections** looks promising.
- **3** Grinyer et al. (2005) measured the high-precision half-life of <sup>26</sup>Na via  $\beta$ -counting. The half-life of <sup>26</sup>Na was determined to be  $T_{\frac{1}{2}} = 1.07128 \pm 0.00025$  s.
- 4 There is still work to do  $(\sim 6\sigma)$  on refining the pile-up correction and systematic uncertainties. Also need to explore summing effects in GRIFFIN.
- **S** Analysis of <sup>14</sup>O superallowed beta decay



# **Collaborators & References**

# COLLABORATORS Thank you very much for your support !

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- Grinyer, G. (2008). High-precision half-life measurements for superallowed Fermi  $\beta$  decays (Doctoral dissertation).
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GRIFFIN

## **Regina GRIFFIN Group**



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# **Any Questions ?**

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## Tail Pile-up



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First order pulse pile-up where **pulse 2 is riding on the tail of pulse 1.** 



If the pulses **are very close in time**, the system will simply record the two pulses as a single event with a **combined pulse amplitude**.

The number of pile-up events depend strongly on the count rate of the system.



## Common types of Pile-up

## Post-piled-up

 Post pile-up is defined as the probability that the pile-up is caused by events arriving after the events of interest has been recorded.

pile-up time interval,  $\tau_p$ 



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## Common Types of Pile-up

## II. Pre-piled-up

The possibility that the event of interest is piled-up by an event that came before, in a process defined as "pre-pile-up"





# **Rejecting those Cycles with few or zero Counts**



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## Cycle Number vs Time in cycles



Figure 14: 2-D plot showing the cycle number versus the time in cycles, incomplete cycles were removed for all runs. 27



# **Higher Order Pile-up Corrections**

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# Analytical Expressions by (G. F. Grinyer, 2007)

$$P = 1 - e^{-(2-a_4)x} \left[ e^{a_4x} + (1-a_4)x \right] \qquad \mathbf{1}$$

$$P = 1 - e^{-2x}(1 + \alpha x)$$
 2

$$P = \epsilon_p \left[ 1 - e^{-2x} (1+x) \right]$$
 3

The probability of pile up with a **non zero time resolution**, **CFD** and **detection efficiency** in 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

$$P_{\text{fit-total}} = a_6 \left( 1 - e^{-(2-a_4)x} \left[ e^{a_4x} + a_5(1-a_4)x \right] \right) \ \mathbf{4}$$

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# **Higher Order Pile-up Corrections**

1. Deadfraction Correction

 $N_i^{'} = \frac{N_i}{1 - D_i}$ 

# **Bin-by-bin pile-up correction**

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# $D_i = \text{Dead fraction}$

Deadtime is the total period of time during which hit detection cannot be processed even if they are present.

2. Higher Order Pile-up Corrections  $N_{i}^{\prime\prime} = \frac{N_{i}}{(1 - D_{i}) \times (1 - P_{\text{fit-total}})}$ 



# **Higher Order Pile-up Corrections**



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Figure 15: The fit of the probability of pile up with a non zero time resolution, trigger energy threshold and detection efficiency.





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gE: pile-up, Kvalue < 700



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 Name:
 Chan1809\_1769\_to\_1849

 Centroid:
 1810.898453 +/- 0.074145

 Area:
 42637.835757 +/- 267.536881

 FWHM:
 19.244808 +/- 0.121344



gE: pile-up, Kvalue < 700

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 Name:
 Chan1805\_1780\_to\_1830

 Centroid:
 1812.317813 +/- 0.098190

 Area:
 33952.185520 +/- 461.208716

 FWHM:
 15.985993 +/- 0.166816



**1st Order Pile-up Corrections** 

# **Step-by-Step Correction**

1. Deadfraction Correction

$$N_i^{'} = \frac{N_i}{1 - D_i}$$

$$D_i = \text{Dead fraction}$$

Deadtime is the total period of time during which hit detection cannot be processed even if they are present.

2. 1<sup>st</sup> Order Pile-up Correction







# **TRIUMF-ISAC Facility**



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• Up to 100  $\mu$ A, 500 MeV protons from TRIUMF's main cyclotron are accelerated onto targets which produce high-intensity secondary radioactive ion beams by the ISOL technique.



# $\gamma$ Counting — The $8\pi$ Spectrometer

**Y** Counting — The  $8\pi$  Spectrometer



One hemisphere of the 8pi Gamma-Ray Spectrometer at ISAC-I.

The collection box and lead shielding wall (yellow) for the moving tape collector system of the 8pi Spectrometer.

Spherical array of 20 BGO Compton suppressed HPGe detectors
 ~1% photopeak efficiency at 1.3 MeV

After a decade of operation at ISAC-I, the 8pi Spectrometer was decommissioned in January 2014 to make way for the new high-efficiency GRIFFIN spectrometer.



## <sup>26</sup>Na Deduced Half life vs Run numbers



Figure 16: <sup>26</sup>Na: Reduced  $\chi^2$  vs run numbers(left) and deduced Half life versus run number (right). A weighted average of  $T_{\frac{1}{2}} = 1.07472 \pm 0.00023$  s is deduced from these data where the uncertainty is statistical.



Deduced half-life of <sup>26</sup>Na versus the electronic settings.





Figure 17: Run 10485: Deduced half-life of <sup>26</sup>Na vs. electronic settings



# **Exploring pile-up options**



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## Run # 10484: Counts vs. KValue



Figure 18: Pile option used: 1-D plot showing the counts versus the integration length. 39