# MULTICHORD TIME-RESOLVED ELECTRON TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENTS BY THE X-RAY ABSORBER-FOIL METHOD ON TETR

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#### ABSTRACT

Absorber foils have been installed in the TFTR X-Ray Imaging System to permit measurement of the electron temperature along 10-30 chords spaced at 5-12.5 cm with a time resolution of less than 100 Ms. The technique uses the ratio of X-ray fluxes transmitted through two different foils. The ratio depends mainly on electron temperature. Simulations show that strong impurity line radiation can distort this ratio. To correct for these effects, special beryllium-scandium filters are employed to select the line-free region between 2 and 4.5 keV. Other filter pairs allow corrections for Fe L and Ni L line radiation as well as Ti K and Ni K emission. Good accuracy is also obtained with simple beryllium filters, provided that impurity corrections are incorporated in the analysis, taking line intensities from the X-ray pulseheight analysis diagnostic. A description of modeling calculations and a comparison of temperature values from this diagnostic with data from the X-ray pulse height analysis; the electron cyclotron emission, and the Thomson scattering diagnostics are presented. Several applications of the absorber foil electron temperature diagnostic on TPTR are discussed. In particular, it was found in compression discharges that unusually large internal sawtooth disruptions occurred during or shortly after compression. The large sawteeth cause a redistribution of the plasma energy and may be partly responsible for deviations from adiabatic scaling.

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#### INTRODUCTION

X-ray imaging arrays are an important diagnostic for magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) instabilities on most tokamaks. A selectable multifoil absorber system has provided the X-ray Imaging System (XIS)<sup>1</sup> of the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor (TFTR) with the additional capability to measure electron temperature profiles by means of the two-foil technique.<sup>2-6</sup>

The X-ray Imaging System is essentially a one-dimensional slot-hole A-ray camera, illustrated schematically in Fig. 1. The plasma X-ray emission is viewed through a slot by an array of 64 silicon surface barrier diodes lying on a circular arc. The slot aperture is at the center of curvature of the arc. An individual detector views the plasma along a chord of tangent radius r. The current generated in the sensitive volume of a detector is proportional to the absorbed X-ray power. The spectral composition of the chordally integrated X-ray emission monitored by a given detector in the array depends on plasma parameters along the line of sight, such as the electron temperature  $T_{\alpha}(r)$ , the electron density  $n_{\alpha}(r)$ , and the concentration of impurities. 7,8 The spectral sensitivity of a detector is determined by the absorber foil, the detector dead layer, the detector material, and the depth of the depletion region. The basis of the absorber foil method is that the ratio of detector signals for two detectors with different absorbers depends mainly on the peak electron temperature along the chord. With suitably chosen absorber pairs, a comparison of the measured intensity ratios with numerical simulations, which account for profile effects and impurity line radiation, provides a measurement of the electron temperature To with very good time and spatial resolution.

The TFTR XIS hardware is described in Sec. I. Section II discusses briefly the simulation technique for the evaluation of the electron

temperature  $T_e$ . In Sec. III, a comparison with  $T_e$  measurements from other diagnostics and the first results with this diagnostic on compression and MHD fluctuations are presented.

#### I. THE TFTR X-RAY IMAGING SYSTEM

The silicon surface-barrier detectors of the horizontal XIS are arranged in two parallel rows; each row consists of 32 detectors. The detectors have a  $7 \times 30 \text{ mm}^2$  sensitive area and a 300  $\mu_B$  depletion layer thickness. front of each row, there is a remotely controllable foil-ladder system permitting four choices of foils for every detector. The absorber foils are arranged on the full ladder in such a fashion that the XIS system can be operated in two distinct modes. In the conventional imaging mode, beryllium foils are positioned in front of the detectors. The foil thickness varies for each row, and the operator can choose between the foil pair combinations 25  $\mu$ m Be/125  $\mu$ m Be or 125  $\mu$ m Be/1250  $\mu$ m Be. In the temperature mode, the following foils are put in an alternating sequence before the detectors: 25 µm Be + 5 µm Sc, 250 ym Be + 10 ym Sc, 125 µm Be + 5 µm Sc, 125 µm Be + 2.9  $\mu_{m}$  Ti, and 125  $\mu_{m}$  Be. The scandium and the titanium are coatings that are evaporated on the beryllium. The function of the scandium and titanium is to emphasize line-free regions of the X-ray spectrum with the help of absorption edges. This function will be explained in detail in the next section. The current generated in each detector of the array is amplified by a low-noise wide-band amplifier. The gain settings are separately programmable for all channels. Between shots, the leakage current of each detector is compensated by a feedback circuit which automatically zeros the preamplifier output. This servo loop is disabled just before a TFTR shot, and the leakage-current compensation remains constant for the duration of the discharge.

amplified detector signals are sampled by transient digitizers with a selectable sampling rate up to 40 kHz, at present, and are stored in 2 k of local memory per channel. After the shot, the data are archived to a disk file. Presently, the TFTR KIS has 64 detectors and 40 electronic channels implemented. Additional electronic channels will be installed in the near future, as well as 60 fast digitizers with a 500 kHz maximum sampling rate. Figure 1 shows a schematic illustration of the X-ray Imaging System on TFTR. Figure 2 shows the diagram of one channel of the XIS signal processing and data acquisition electronics. Figure 3 is a photograph of the XIS installed on TFTR.

#### II. THEORY

The plasma X-ray emission is a superposition of bremsstrahlung, recombination radiation, and impurity line radiation. The local X-ray emissivity and the spectral composition of the radiation are determined by such quantities as the electron temperature, the electron density, the impurity concentrations, and the charge-state distributions of the impurities; the last one, in turn, depends on electron density, electron temperature, and impurity transport. The slope of the radiated power as a function of photon energy on a semilogarithmic plot is inversely proportional to the electron temperature. Thus, one can determine the electron temperature of the plasma by comparing the X-ray intensity transmitted through two filters having different low-energy cutoffs with simulations. The computation of the temperature has to take into account the fact that the measured radiation is integrated along the line of eight of a detector. In addition, corrections have to be made for the effect of inpurity line radiation.

The choice of absorber foils for the T<sub>e</sub> measurement was influenced by several criteria: (1) The transmitted intensity ratio should vary sufficiently with T<sub>e</sub> to give adequate sensitivity to T<sub>e</sub> changes; (2) the transmission bands should exclude strong impurity L and K line radiation; and (3) enough radiation power should be transmitted to produce a sufficiently high detector signal-to-noise ratio. In order to optimize the KIS filters according to these criteria and in order to generate signal ratios for different filter combinations as a function of peak temperature and impurity concentration along a chord, a computer model was used.

The continuum radiation was approximated by a bremsstrahlung formula,

$$\frac{\Delta W}{\Delta E} \sim n_e^2(r) [T_e(r)]^{-1/2} \exp[-E/T_e(r)],$$
 (1)

where  $\Delta w$  is the power radiated in the photon energy interval  $\Delta E$ . In order to calculate the detector signal, we numerically integrate Eq. (1) over photon energy and along the detector line of sight  $\ell$ , taking into account the effects of absorbers and detector dead layers as well as the detector spectral sensitivity,

$$I_{\text{det}} \sim \int_{\mathfrak{L}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{n_{\text{e}}^{2}(\mathfrak{L})}{T_{\text{e}}^{1/2}(\mathfrak{L})} \exp \left[-\mathbb{E}/T_{\text{e}}(\mathfrak{L})\right] \exp \left[-\sum_{\underline{i}} \mu_{\underline{i}}(\mathbb{E}) \times_{\underline{i}}\right]$$

$$x \{1 - \exp[-\mu_{Si}(E) x_{Si}]\} I(E, \ell) dE d\ell,$$
 (2)

where  $\mu_{i}(E)$  is the absorption coefficient  $^{9}$  of the i-th absorber at photon energy E,  $x_4$  is the absorber thickness, and  $\mu_{S,i}$  is the absorption coefficient of silicon. I(E, £) is a function which represents the relative intensity of impurity lines to the continuum at a position along the line of integration. Electron density and temperature profiles are assumed to be parabolas raised to the powers  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , respectively, i.e.,  $n_e(r) = n_o (1 - r^2/a^2)^{\alpha}$  and  $T_a(r) = n_o (1 - r^2/a^2)^{\alpha}$  $T_{\alpha}$  (1 -  $r^2/a^2$ )<sup> $\beta$ </sup>. Although values of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  inferred from other diagnostics may range from 0.5 to 3, the values  $\alpha = 1$  and  $\beta = 2$  were used in most of the measurements because the ratio of detector signals depends mainly on the peak temperature value along the chord and is relatively insensitive to the profile shape of temperature and density and to the tangent radius. The measurement, however, can be appreciably affected by intense impurity (fi, Cr, Fe, Ni) K line radiation. At line-averaged electron densities  $\bar{n}_e$  below 2 × 10<sup>19</sup> m<sup>-3</sup>, the impurity peaks generally are so large that they give a significant contribution to the X-ray signal for foils with a low energy cutoff above 3 keV. Two techniques are used to account for this effect. One is to include in the simulation measured line-to-continuum ratios from the X-ray pulseheight analysis (PHA) diagnostic. 7,10 The second technique is to include matched Ross filter pairs, 13 which have a well-known sensitivity to specific line radiation, on the foil ladder in order to obtain a direct measurement of that part of the radiation that originates from impurity lines.

The important impurity lines are shown in Fig. 4, which represents a typical X-ray PHA spectrum for a low density discharge in TFTR. Generally, there is a region, free from impurity lines, between  $h^{\nu}=2$  keV and 4.5 keV. Below 2 keV, iron and nickel L lines distort the spectrum; above 4.5 keV, the titanium  $K_{C}$  line is very strong. Sulphur and chlorine lines appear between 2 keV and 3 keV but are expected to decrease in intensity with time as the

machine cleans up. The basic idea is to use the line-free region between 2 and 4.5 keV for temperature measurements. The Ti K radiation and the Ni L and Fe L radiation are independently measured and are used to correct the temperature measurements. In order to accomplish this goal, special scandium filters have been designed (125  $\mu m$  Be  $\div$  5  $\mu m$  Sc, 250  $\mu m$  Be + 10  $\mu m$  Sc, 25 um Be + 5  $\mu_{m}$  Sc) which block the titanium radiation because of the scandium K absorption edge, and which are sufficiently thick to impede the low energy Ni L and Fe L radiation. The 25  $\mu m$  Be and 125  $\mu m$  Be filters are most sensitive in the energy region between 1.5 and 2 keV and will be used to determine the Ni-L and Fe-L radiation. In addition, these filters can be used for electron temperature determination at low temperatures (i.e., at the outer radii) where the Ni L and Fe L radiation tends to be unimportant. The balanced Ross filter pair  $^{13}$  (125  $\mu m$  Be + 5  $\mu m$  Sc and 125  $\mu m$  Be + 2.9  $\mu m$  Ti) is used to measure the intensity of Ti K radiation. (The Ti K line is located between the absorption edges of Ti and Sc.) Since the impurity concentrations decrease sharply with ne, the K line can be neglected at higher electron density, and the 125 µm Be/1250 µm Be pair can be used for the central electron temperature measurement without corrections, due to the line radiation in the high density region.

Figures 5, 6, and 7 show the calculated detector sensitivity (absorption in the sensitive layer of detector) as a function of photon energy for detectors filtered by various foils installed in the YFTR XIS system. Figure 5 represents the normal Be filters used in the XIS. Most of the measurements were performed with this set of foils. Figure 6 shows combination sets of beryllium and scandium. The purpose of these filters is to deemphasize the spectral region above 4.5 keV, where the titanium, chromium, iron, and nickel K lines are located. Scandium has a K edge at

4.49 keV, and the X-ray transmission is significantly reduced above that energy. Figure 7 displays the transmission characteriztics of the balanced filter pair for the determination of the Ti concentration. Figure 8 shows the calculated detector response (energy absorption in the sensitive layer of the detector) as a function of photon energy for Be filters of different thicknesses at 1 keV, 2 keV, and 3 keV electron temperature. These curves illustrate which part of the X-ray spectrum gives the largest contribution to the detector current measured with a particular foil. Figure 9 shows the ratio of detector signals as a function of electron temperature, using 125 µm and 1250 µm Be foils, calculated by the model described above. From this and similar graphs, the electron temperature is deduced. The four curves illustrate the effect of various metal impurity concentrations on the Ta measurement. The curve with the open triangles represents a case of strong line contamination in TFTR. Under these unfavorable circumstances, the error in the temperature measurement without impurity corrections can be as large as a factor of almost two. The parameter of the curves in Fig. 9 is the ratio of line intensity to continuum intensity. This ratio is proportional to the impurity concentration in lowest order. So long as the impurity concentration does not change, the double foil temperature represents a fairly accurate measurement, particularly for relative changes, because the slope of the curve does not show appreciable variation with impurity content.

#### III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Preliminary electron temperature measurements have been made for a number of chords using the 125  $\mu m$  and 1250  $\mu m$  Be filter pair. The absorber foil  $T_e$  diagnostic played an important role on TFTR when the time evolution of the central electron temperature was studied during plasma compression

experiments, 11 and we consequently will use data from these discharges to demonstrate the usefulness of the diagnostic. Figure 10 shows the time evolution of the central electron temperature T<sub>p</sub> for two discharges when a plasma with major radius R = 3.0 m, minor radius a = 0.55 m, plasma current  $T_p = 400$  kA, and electron density  $\overline{n}_p = 2 \times 10^{19}$  m<sup>-3</sup> was adiabatically compressed during a time of approximately 20 ms to a discharge with R = 2.1 m; a = 0.53 m,  $I_p$  = 600 kA, and  $\bar{n}_e$  = 3.3 × 10<sup>19</sup> m<sup>-3</sup>. The compression was initiated at time t = 2.5 sec. An initial temperature increase of  $\sim 700$  eV is observed at time t = 2.52 sec. The peak temperature after the compression is close to the value predicted by adiabatic scaling. 11 A rapid temperature decrease of 300-400 eV follows, which coincides with a large "sawtooth" relaxation in the soft X-ray emission. The two graphs of Fig. 10 depict situations with different phasing of the compression with respect to the sawtooth activity. In the top graph, the compression takes place after the sawtooth crash, whereas in the bottom graph it occurs before the crash. A three-dimensional display of these events is given in Fig. 11b, which shows the time evolution of the soft X-ray profile during compression measured by detectors filtered with 125 Mm Be. The fact that the central stored plasma energy was rearranged at a sawtooth oscillation was less visible on other fast electron-temperature diagnostics, such as the fast-scanning electron-cyclotron emission (ECE) radiometer, because the plasma center was moving rapidly in major radius, complicating interpretation of the ECE data. For the X-ray measurement, the plasma center stays on the line of sight of the central detectors, and the temperature evaluation is independent of plasma position in first order. The ECE emission in Fig. 10 is averaged over 50 ms; the actual time resolution of the scanning radiometer on TFTR is 4 ms (this graph does not do justice to the true measuring capability of the ECE diagnostic,

Without correction for impurity K-line radiation, the  $T_{\rm e}$  values from the absorber foil method agree well, in general, with the values measured by other diagnostics like the Thomson scattering measurement or the various ECE measurements (shown in Fig. 10). The somewhat higher values from the foil method after t = 2.55 sec are due to increasing impurity line radiation which was negligible before this time. The time evolution of the spatial temperature profile from five XIS chords is shown in Fig. 11a. The flattening of the  $T_{\rm e}$  profile after the large sawtooth drop demonstrates the rapid expulsion of energy from the center to the outside of the plasma column. A similar situation, where unusually large sawtooth disruptions affect the transport, occurred in a TFTR discharge scenario that involved a weak compression from R = 3.05 m to 2.5 m, followed by a free expansion. The relevant XIS data are shown in Fig. 12.

The effect of impurity  $K_{\alpha}$  lines on the absorber foil temperature data is demonstrated by the results in Fig. 13, which were taken during a steady-state, low-density discharge ( $I_p = 1$  MA,  $\bar{n}_e = 1.1 \times 10^{19}$  m<sup>-3</sup>), where these effects were particularly severe. The double foil temperature measurement shown in Fig. 13b was performed with 125 µm and 1250 µm beryllium foils and was corrected for the  $K_{\alpha}$  lines. The relative line-to-continuum intensity ratios were taken from the PHA spectrum of Fig. 13a for this same shot and were included in the simulation. The XIS results agree well with the PHA  $T_e$  measurement of 3.0 keV in the 2.5-3 sec interval and with the ECE measurement shown in Fig. 13c. For this case, with an intense impurity line contribution, the uncorrected XIS  $T_e$  values are too high by about a factor of two. Figure 13d shows the sawtooth modulation of the  $T_e$  profile measured by the XIS for the same shot in the time interval 2.5 - 2.65 sec.

Another situation, where rapid temperature changes occur and where the XIS temperature has been very useful, is during neutral beam injection. Figure 14, for example, shows the central electron temperature measured by the XIS for a shot with 1.5 MW neutral beam injection in the time interval 2.3-2.8 sec into a discharge with  $I_p=1$  MA,  $\bar{n}_e=2.0\times10^{19}-2.4\times10^{19}$  m<sup>-3</sup>. The modulation on the XIS trace is again due to sawtooth oscillations. The figure also shows the electron-temperature values measured by the PHA which agree well with the values measured by the XIS.

The most important role for the XIS temperature measurement will be in the study of MHD fluctuations and disruptions, where rapid temperature changes and radial in-out motions occur. Figure 15 shows a comparison of the central electron temperature evolution measured by different diagnostics for a disruptive shot. The main disruption occurs at approximately 700 ms. The resulting temperature decay entails several secondary disruptions, e.g., at ~ 1200 ms, ~ 1420 ms, etc. The temperature values given by the absorber-foil method using the scandium filters are again in very good agreement with other methods over a wide temperature range (1-5 keV). The slightly higher XIS data after 1000 ms are due again to the fact that no impurity correction has been applied for computing the XIS temperature.

## IV. CONCLUSIONS

Simulation codes have been developed to permit electron temperature profile measurements by the two-absorber method with the existing TFTR X-ray Imaging System. The potential time resolution is 2 µs, and the spatial resolution is approximately 5 cm. The fast time resolution and multichord capability may permit studies of phenomena involving fast T<sub>e</sub> profile evolution previously inaccessible to researchers. Preliminary results look promising.

The absorber foil diagnostic has been particularly useful during plasma compression discharges on TFTR, where it has been shown that internal sawtooth disruptions occurred after the compression and caused a strong relaxation of the temperature profile. The measured, central temperature increases in agreement with adiabatic scaling before the internal disruption, but it lies considerably below the theoretically predicted values after disruption. A careful analysis of the transport including sawtooth effects and a systematic investigation of different discharge conditions has not yet been performed, so it is not clear to what extent the sawteeth are responsible for the deviations from adiabatic scaling reported in Ref. 11.

From the diagnostic point of view, more detailed comparisons with other diagnostics over a wide range of temperatures and densities for different impurity levels and with a variety of profiles are needed to check the simulations and the impurity corrections. Recently installed additional electronic channels to utilize all 64 detectors and faster transient digitizers (up to 500 kHz) will permit a more complete realization of the multichord and fast time resolution capabilities of this diagnostic.

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## FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Schematic illustrations of the X-ray Imaging System (XIS) installed on TFTR. Detector lines of sight are depicted for large plasma and pre- and post-compression plasmas. The indicated neutron and gamma-ray shielding will be added in the future.
- Fig. 2 Schematic diagram of one channel of the XIS signal processing and data acquisition electronics.
- Pig. 3 Photo of the X-ray Imaging System installed on the TFTR tokamak. Preamplifiers and cables which connect the preamplifiers to amplifiers in the data acquisition room can be seen, as well as the vacuum equipment.
- Fig. 4 X-ray spectrum from TFTR plasma measured by the X-ray pulse-height analysis system showing the exponentially decreasing continuum from which electron temperature is measured and K lines from metal impurities which can affect the two-foil temperature measurements.
- Fig. 5 Calculated detector sensitivity (ratio of photons absorbed in the sensitive layer of the detector to incident photons) as a function of photon energy for detectors with different beryllium filters.

Fig. 6 Calculated detector sensitivity as a function of photon energy for detectors with different beryllium-scandium filters.

Fig. 7 Detector sensitivity as a function of photon energy for the filter pair (125  $\mu$ m Be + 5  $\mu$ m Sc and 125  $\mu$ m Be + 2.9  $\mu$ m Ti) to measure the Ti Ka line radiation.

Fig. 8 The spectral contribution of the plasma continuum radiation to the detector signal for different electron temperatures and for different beryllium filters.

Fig. 9 Ratios of detector signals computed according to Eq. (2) for detectors with 1250 µm and 125 µm Be filters, as a function of electron temperature for different impurity line radiation. The label of the curve indicates the type and the amount of line contamination of the spectrum. The numbers represent the ratio line height over continuum from the X-ray PHA spectrum.

Pig. 10 Time history of the central electron temperature measured by different diagnostics for strong compression discharges R = 3.05 to 2.17 m. The values from the absorber foil method using the 125 µm and the 1250 µm Be pair show that the peak temperature after the compression is close to the value predicted by adiabatic scaling, but is followed by a sharp drop of 300-400 eV which coincides with a large sawtooth relaxation in the soft X-ray emission.

Fig. 11a Time evolution of spatial T<sub>e</sub> profile from five chords measured by XIS for the same shot as in Fig. 10. The flattening of the T<sub>e</sub> profile after the large sawtooth drop demonstrates the rapid expulsion of energy from the center to the outside of the plasma column. Detector position 25 corresponds to a minor radius of 32 cm before compression and to 48 cm after compression.

Fig. 11b Time evolution of the line integrated soft X-ray profile measured by detectors filtered with 125 µm Be for a compression shot.

Fig. 12 Time history of the central electron temperature measured by different diagnostics for weak compression discharges R = 3.05 to 2.5 m followed by free expansion. The temperature explution measured with the absorber foil method, using the 125 µm and the 1250 µm Be pair, again shows a sharp drop of 300-400 eV which coincides with a large sawtooth relaxation in the soft X-ray emission.

Fig. 13a X-ray spectrum from a TFTR lcw density ( $\overline{n}_e = 1.1 \times 10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3}$ ) discharge measured by the pulse-height-analysis system showing the strong Ti, Cr, Fe, and Ni impurity K-line radiation which affect the absorber-foil temperature measurement.

Fig. 13b-13c Comparison of central T<sub>e</sub> vs time measured by (b) XIS and (c)

ECE radiometer for same discharge as in Fig. 13a. Correction

for impurity lines with relative intensity as shown in

Fig. 13a reduces the ratio by ~ 50% so that it agrees well

with the ECE temperature, and with the PMA value of 3.0 keV

measured in the 2.5 - 3 sec interval.

Fig. 13d Electron temperature vs tangent radius and time for the same discharge as in Figs. 13a, 13b, and 13c.

Fig. 14 The central electron temperature measured by XIS for a shot with 1.5 MW neutral beam injection in the time interval 2.3 - 2.8 sec.  $I_p = 1$  MA,  $\bar{n}_e = 2.0 \times 10^{19} - 2.4 \times 10^{19}$  m<sup>-3</sup>. The figure also shows the electron temperature values measured by the PHA, which agree well with the values measured by the XIS.

Fig. 15 Comparison of the central electron temperature evolution measured by different diagnostics for a disruptive shot. The  $T_{\rm e}$  values given by the XIS agree very well in wide  $T_{\rm e}$  range (1-5 keV) with the values from other methods.

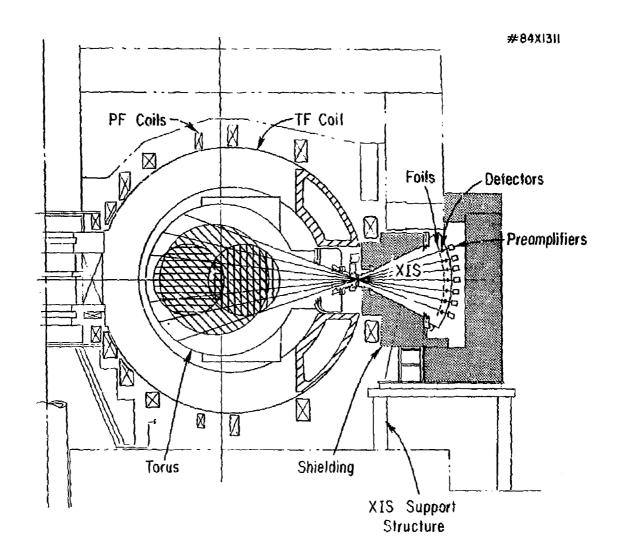


Fig. 1

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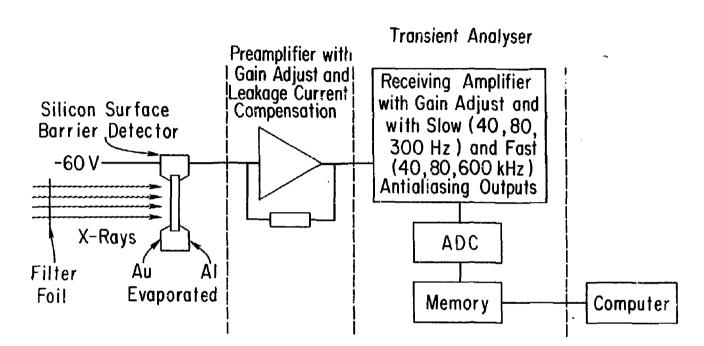
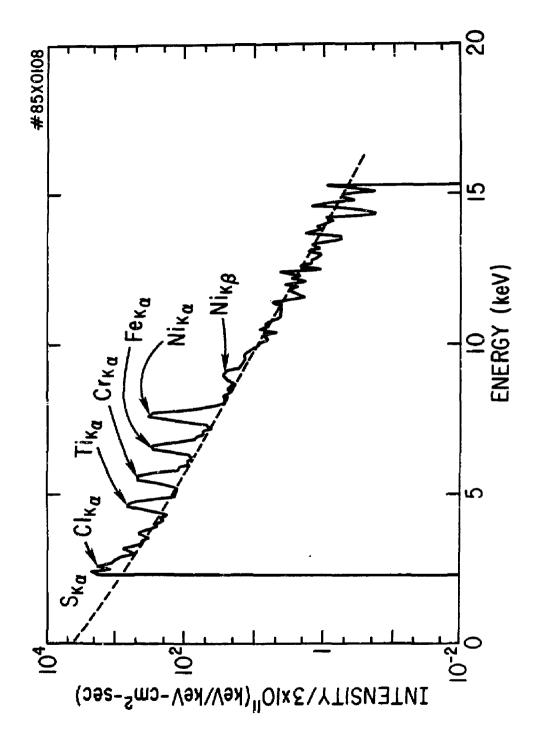


Fig. 2



Fig. 3





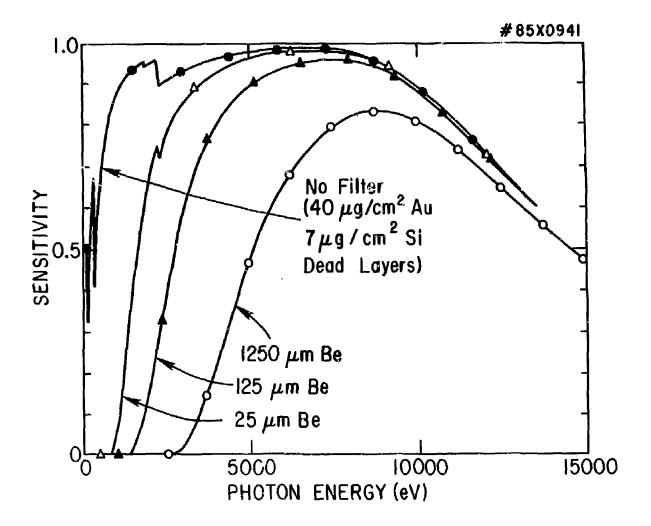


Fig. 5

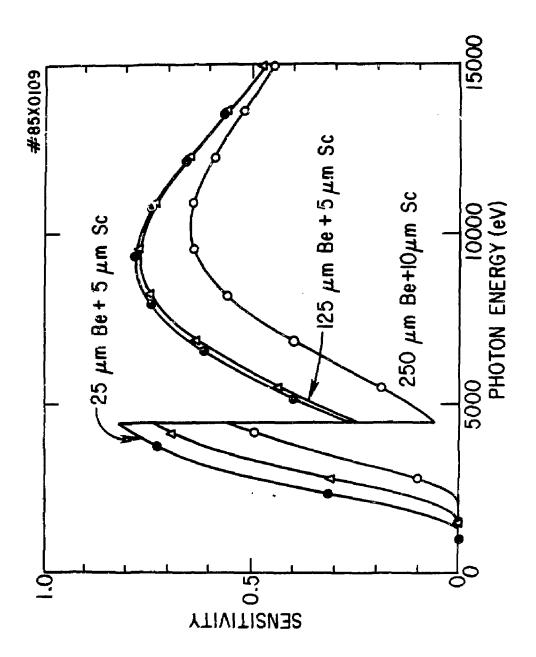
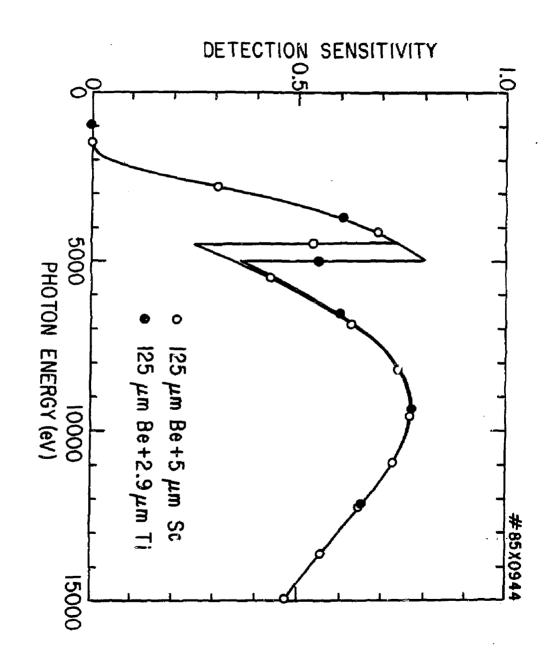


Fig. 6



F1g. 7

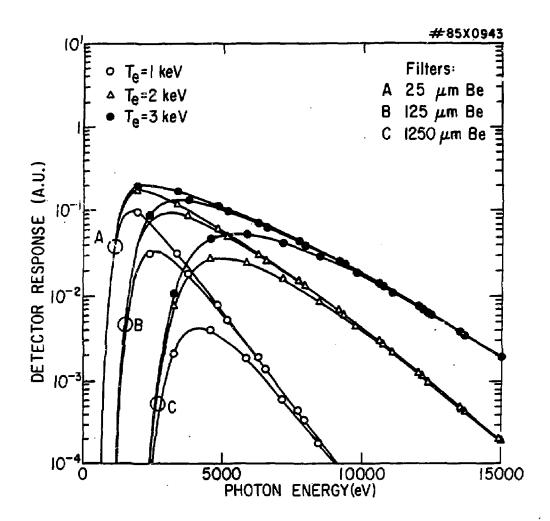
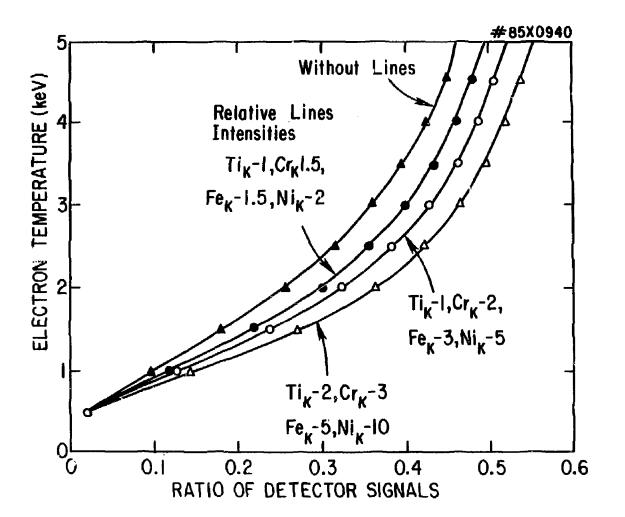


Fig. 8





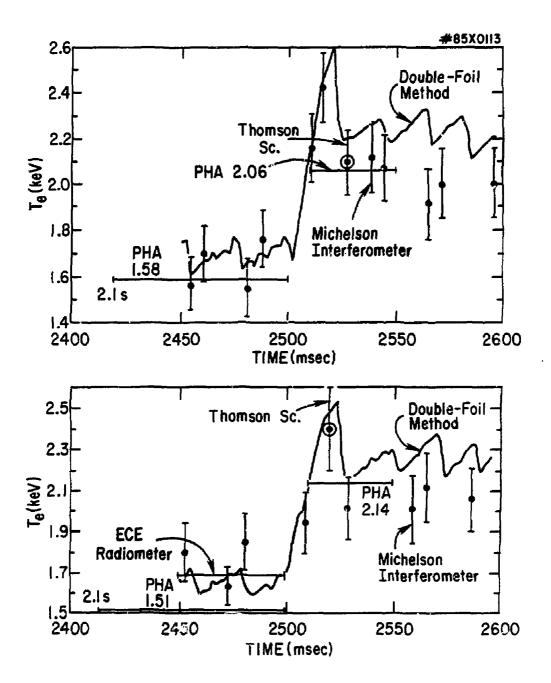
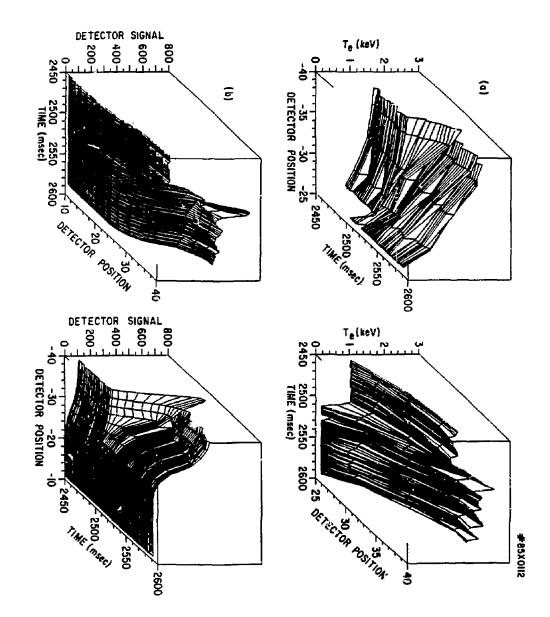


Fig. 10



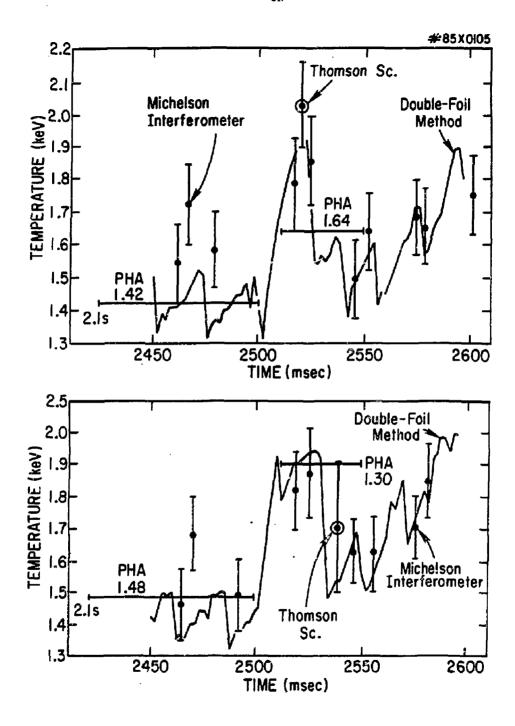
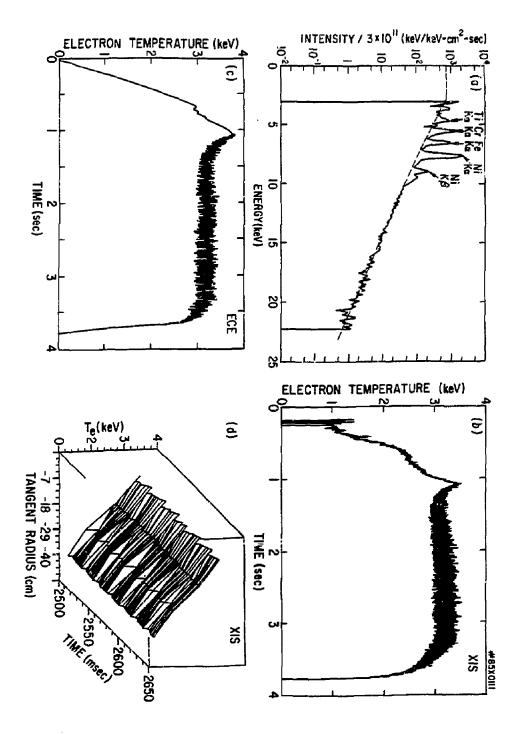
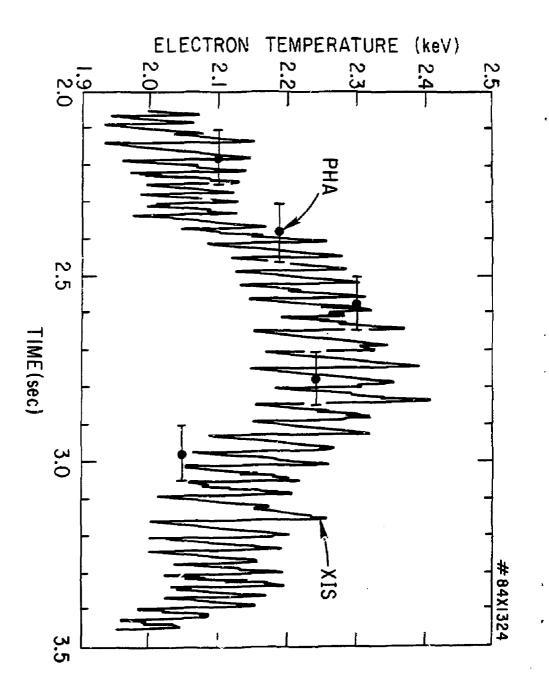


Fig. 12





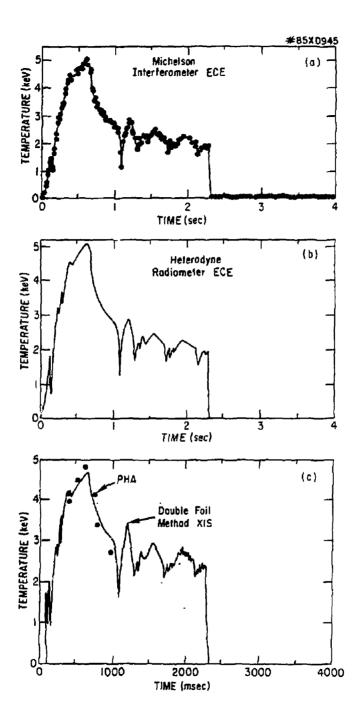


Fig. 15

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