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Response of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator to charged particles compared with the CsI(Tl) scintillator

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ABSTRACT: GAGG(Ce) is a novel scintillator with a fast response and high light output without a hygroscopic nature. It is expected to be a useful detector for charged particles at high-counting rates. However, the response of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator to charged particles has not been fully examined. In the present work, the light output and energy resolution of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator were measured for protons and alpha particles at $E_p = 5\text{--}68$ MeV and $E_\alpha = 8\text{--}54$ MeV as well as gamma rays at $E_\gamma = 662$ keV from a ^{137}Cs source. The results were compared with those of the CsI(Tl) scintillator. The scintillation efficiencies dL/dE of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators were obtained and parametrized as a function of linear energy transfer dE/dx .

KEYWORDS: Scintillation and light emission processes; Particle detectors

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1 Introduction

Ce-doped $\text{Gd}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Ga}_3\text{O}_{12}$ [GAGG(Ce)] is a novel scintillation material developed by Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University and Furukawa CO., LTD [1–3]. The main decay time constant of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator is reported as 60–100 ns [4–6], thus it seems to be appropriate for measurements at high-counting rates. The GAGG(Ce) scintillator has been employed as gamma-ray detectors for numerous purposes such as Compton camera [7, 8], positron emission tomography [9], and radiation imaging [10].

So far, the Tl-doped alkali iodides such as NaI(Tl) and CsI(Tl) scintillators have been commonly used not only for gamma-ray measurements [11, 12] but also for charged particle detections [13–15]. The properties of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator are compared with those of the NaI(Tl) and CsI(Tl) scintillators in Table 1 [16].

The NaI(Tl) scintillator has a light output of about 40,000 photons/MeV. The scintillation light of NaI(Tl) can be efficiently detected with a photomultiplier tube owing to its emission peak located at 415 nm. The decay time of the NaI(Tl) scintillator is faster than that of the CsI(Tl) scintillator, making it tolerant of high-counting rates. However, the NaI(Tl) scintillator has a strong hygroscopic nature, and it must be packed in an airtight container, which makes a dead layer in charged particle detections.

The CsI(Tl) scintillator has a high light output larger than the NaI(Tl) scintillator. Because its emission wavelength matches to the Si-based photon detectors such as a PIN photo diode and avalanche photo diode (APD), the CsI(Tl) scintillators are often used with them. It has a slight hygroscopic nature but can be used without a package to prevent hygroscopy, which makes it useful for charged particle detection. The major disadvantage of the CsI(Tl) scintillator is its slow decay time of the scintillation, thus it is not suitable for a measurement at high-counting rates.

Among the three scintillators, presented in Table 1, the GAGG(Ce) scintillator has the fastest decay time. The light output and energy resolution for gamma rays are comparable with those of the NaI(Tl) and CsI(Tl) scintillators. Moreover, it does not have a hygroscopic nature and can be used without any package. Therefore, the GAGG(Ce) scintillator would be useful for a charged particle detection at high-counting rates. However, the response of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator to charged particles has not been fully examined. The particle identification between alpha particles at $E_\alpha = 5.48$ MeV from an ^{241}Am source and gamma rays at $E_\gamma = 662$ keV from a ^{137}Cs source by a pulse shape discrimination was investigated in Refs. [16, 17]. The light output and non-proportionality for low-energy alpha particles at 1.5–8.8 MeV were reported in Ref. [18].

Table 1. Properties of the GAGG(Ce), NaI(Tl), and CsI(Tl) scintillators [16].

	GAGG(Ce)	NaI(Tl)	CsI(Tl)
Density (g/cm^3)	6.63	3.67	4.53
Light output (photons/MeV)	46,000	40,000	50,000
Emission-peak wavelength (nm)	530	415	540
Decay time (ns)	95(79%), 351(21%)	230	680
Hygroscopic nature	None	Strong	Slight

In this article, we report the responses of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator to protons and alpha particles at $E_p = 5\text{--}68$ MeV and $E_\alpha = 8\text{--}54$ MeV. The results were compared with those of the CsI(Tl) scintillator. First, we acquired the pulse shapes from the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators for gamma rays. Then we investigated the pulse heights and the energy resolutions with changing the time constants of a shaping amplifier. Finally, we obtained the incident-energy dependence of the light outputs using the protons and alpha particles. The scintillation efficiencies dL/dE of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators were analyzed as a function of the linear energy transfer (LET) dE/dx .

2 Performance test with a ^{137}Cs gamma-ray source

The responses of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators to gamma rays were investigated using a ^{137}Cs gamma-ray source. Figure 1 shows the geometry of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators used in the measurement. The crystals have sizes of $18 \times 18 \times 25$ mm³. The back side of the crystals was tapered so that the crystals can be attached to photon detectors with a sensitive area of 10×10 mm². The photon detectors were HAMAMATSU S8664-1010 APDs. These crystals were frosted on the surface and wrapped with 65- μm -thick enhanced specular reflector (ESR) films [19] to increase the light collection efficiency.

The electrical signal from the APD was amplified by a Mesytec MPR-16 preamplifier followed by a Mesytec MSCF-16 shaping amplifier. The decay time of the preamplifier is 25 μs . The shaping amplifier has a 5th order CR-RC⁵ filter circuit with a selectable time constant of 0.25, 0.50, 1.0, and 2.0 μs . The MSCF-16 shaping amplifier also has a function of a fast amplifier with a shorter time constant for timing measurements. The pulse height from the MSCF-16 shaper output was measured with a Mesytec MADC-32 peak sensing analog to digital converter (ADC).

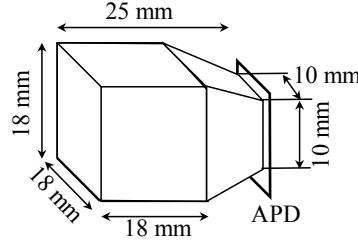


Figure 1. Geometry of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators.

2.1 Pulse shape

The pulse shapes from the preamplifier and shaping amplifier for 662-keV gamma rays were acquired with an oscilloscope. The time constant of the shaping amplifier was set at 250 ns. The differentiation and integration time constants of the fast amplifier were set at $\tau_{\text{dif}} = 70$ ns and $\tau_{\text{int}} = 20$ ns, respectively.

The output signals from the preamplifier are shown in Fig. 2. The red solid and blue dashed lines represent the pulse shapes of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators, respectively. The pulse heights of the preamplifier outputs in Fig. 2 are comparable between the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators. This means that the light outputs from the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators for gamma rays are comparable. We define the signal rise time as the period of time during which the pulse height changes from 10% to 90% of the peak. The rise time of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator was $0.13 \mu\text{s}$, which is about 1/10 of that of the CsI(Tl) scintillator of $1.86 \mu\text{s}$. This rise time reflects the decay times of the scintillation process.

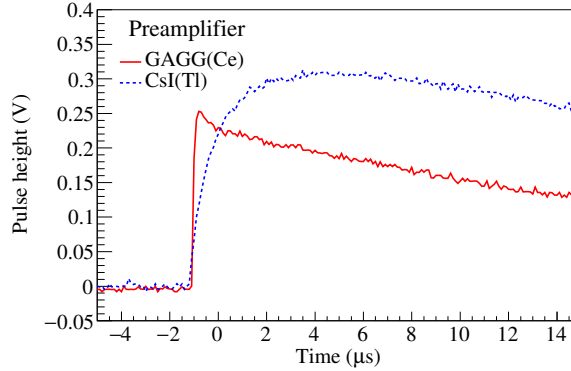


Figure 2. Pulse shapes of the preamplifier outputs for 662-keV gamma rays acquired with an oscilloscope. The red solid and blue dashed lines represent the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators, respectively.

The outputs from the fast and shaping amplifiers in MSCF-16 are shown in Fig. 3. Although the light outputs from the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators are comparable, the pulse heights of the shaping and fast amplifiers of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator are about twice and four times larger than those of the CsI(Tl) scintillators, respectively. Because the decay time of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator is much shorter than that of the CsI(Tl) scintillator, the GAGG(Ce) scintillator has the

advantage that its output signal is efficiently processed with the shaping and fast amplifiers with a short time constant for high-counting-rate measurements.

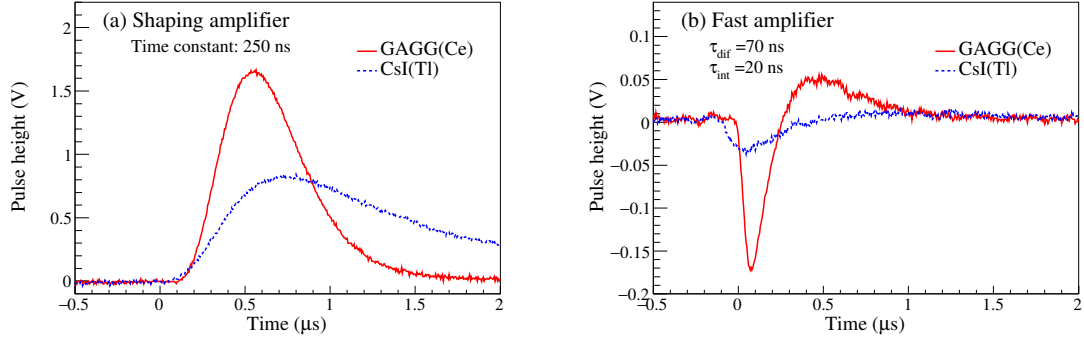


Figure 3. Comparison of (a) shaping amplifier and (b) fast amplifier outputs between the GAGG(Ce) (red solid lines) and CsI(Tl) (blue dashed lines) scintillators.

2.2 Pulse height and energy resolution

The pulse-height spectra of the scintillators for gamma rays from the ^{137}Cs source are shown in Fig. 4. The red and blue spectra represent the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators, respectively. The time constant of the MSCF-16 shaping amplifier was set at $2\ \mu\text{s}$. The pulse height and the energy resolution were estimated by fitting the spectra by Gauss functions.

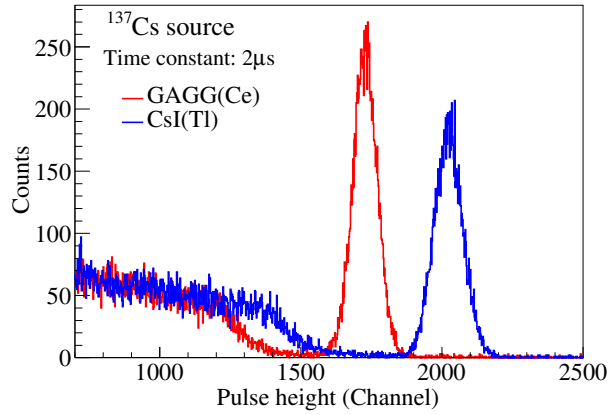


Figure 4. Pulse-height spectra of the GAGG(Ce) (red) and CsI(Tl) (blue) scintillators for gamma-rays from a ^{137}Cs source.

Figure 5 shows the measured pulse heights (left) and energy resolutions (right) in FWHM when the time constant of the MSCF-16 shaping amplifier was set at 0.25, 0.50, 1.0, and $2.0\ \mu\text{s}$. The red circles and the blue squares represent the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators, respectively. The pulse heights of both the scintillators decrease with the shorter shaping times. The pulse height of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator decreases less than that of the CsI(Ce) scintillator. The energy resolutions of the gamma-ray measurements with the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators are comparable when the time constant is set at $2.0\ \mu\text{s}$. This means that the intrinsic energy resolutions of the

scintillators are almost the same. On the other hand, when the time constants become shorter, the energy resolution with the CsI(Tl) scintillator is worse than that with the GAGG(Ce) scintillator because the pulse height of CsI(Tl) from the shaping amplifier with a short time constant is no longer sufficiently larger than the photodetector noise. The energy resolution with the GAGG(Ce) scintillator shows little change with a shorter time constant of the amplifier, making it useful in high-counting-rates experiments where the time constant must be short to avoid pile-ups.

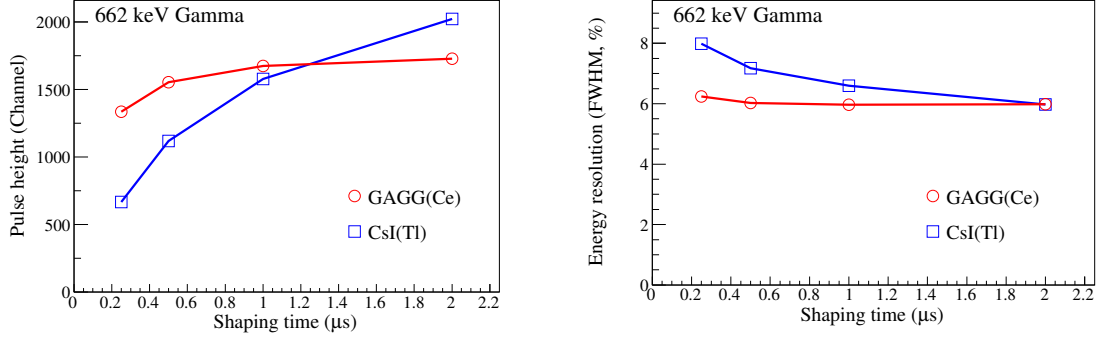


Figure 5. Pulse height (left) and energy resolution (right) of the scintillators at different shaping times of the shaping amplifier. The red circles and blue squares represent the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators, respectively. The solid lines connecting the data points are drawn for guiding eyes.

3 Performance test with proton and alpha beams

We investigated the responses of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators to charged particles using 70-MeV proton and alpha beams. The beams were scattered from targets and the scattered particles were detected by the scintillators. The energy of the particles at the detectors was changed by placing the detectors at different angles. We measured the relative light outputs of the scintillators as a function of the incident energy.

3.1 Experimental procedure

The measurement was carried out at the 41 course of Cyclotron and Radioisotope Center (CYRIC), Tohoku University. Figure 6 shows a schematic view of the experimental setup. The proton and alpha beams were accelerated to 70 MeV with a $K = 110$ MeV azimuthally varying-field cyclotron and focused on a natural carbon or a CH_2 foil target installed at the center of the scattering chamber. The scattered particles were detected by an $E-\Delta E$ telescope consisting of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators and a silicon strip detector (SSD).

The setup of the $E-\Delta E$ telescope is shown in Fig. 7. For the ΔE detector at the front, we used a SSD with a thickness of 500 μm. The sensitive area of the SSD was $50 \times 50 \text{ mm}^2$. The SSD sensitive area was divided into 10 vertical strips whose widths are 5 mm. The SSD was used to measure the energy loss and the hit position of the charged particles on the scintillators. The three strips (#2–#4 or #6–#8) on the SSD were used for the GAGG(Ce) scintillators, and the five strips (#4–#8) were used for the CsI(Tl) scintillator.

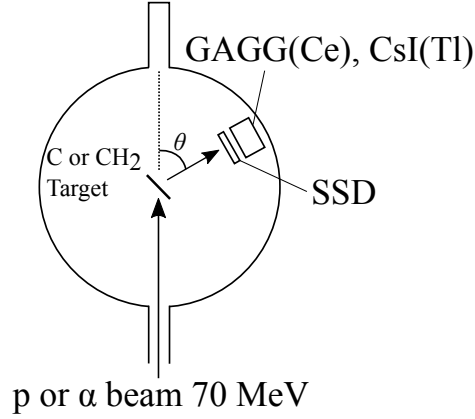


Figure 6. Experimental setup in the scattering chamber at the CYRIC 41 course.

For the E detectors, we used two GAGG(Ce) and one CsI(Tl) scintillators. The GAGG(Ce) scintillators were the same as those used in the gamma-ray measurement reported in Sec. 2. One GAGG(Ce) was attached to the APD as in Sec. 2 and the other was attached to a HAMAMATSU S3590-08 PIN photo diode with a sensitive area of $10 \times 10 \text{ mm}^2$. Using the two GAGG(Ce) scintillators, we confirmed that the photodetector resolutions with the APD and PIN photo diode were almost same for relatively high-energy particles inducing much larger signals than the noise. Unlike the GAGG(Ce) scintillators, the CsI(Tl) scintillator was different from one used in the gamma-ray measurement. The CsI(Tl) scintillator has a volume of $30 \times 30 \times 40 \text{ mm}^3$ and the back side of the crystal was tapered to attach to a HAMAMATSU S3204-08 PIN photo diode with a sensitive area of $18 \times 18 \text{ mm}^2$. These crystals were frosted on the surface and wrapped with the ESR films in the same manner as in the gamma-ray measurement. We note that the measurements using the gamma-ray source reported in Sec. 2 were carried out after the present experiment in CYRIC. Because the CsI(Tl) scintillator with the same geometry as the GAGG(Ce) scintillator was prepared after the experiment in CYRIC, it was not used in the present measurement.

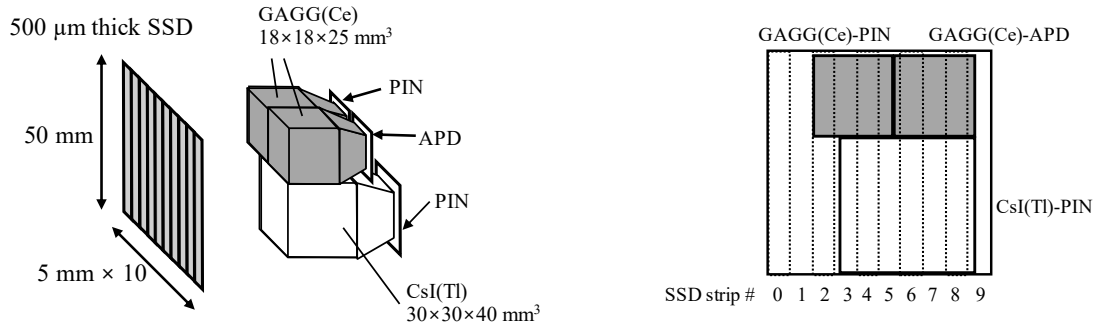


Figure 7. Schematic view of the E - ΔE telescope. The left figure shows the perspective view and the right figure shows the front view.

Because the gain of the APD changes depending on temperature, the temperature of the

detectors was monitored with a Pt-100 thermometer during the measurement. The temperature was stable at 23 ± 0.1 °C. The same preamplifier, shaping amplifier, and ADC modules as those described in Sec. 2 were used. The preamplifier was installed inside the scattering chamber to reduce electrical noise.

Figure 8 shows the pulse height of the output signals from the shaping amplifier for the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators versus the energy measured by the SSD when the alpha beams bombarded the CH₂ target. The left and right figures represent the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators, respectively. In both of the scintillators, events due to protons, deuterons, tritons, ³He, and alpha particles were clearly separated. In the following analysis, we selected only the proton and alpha-particle events.

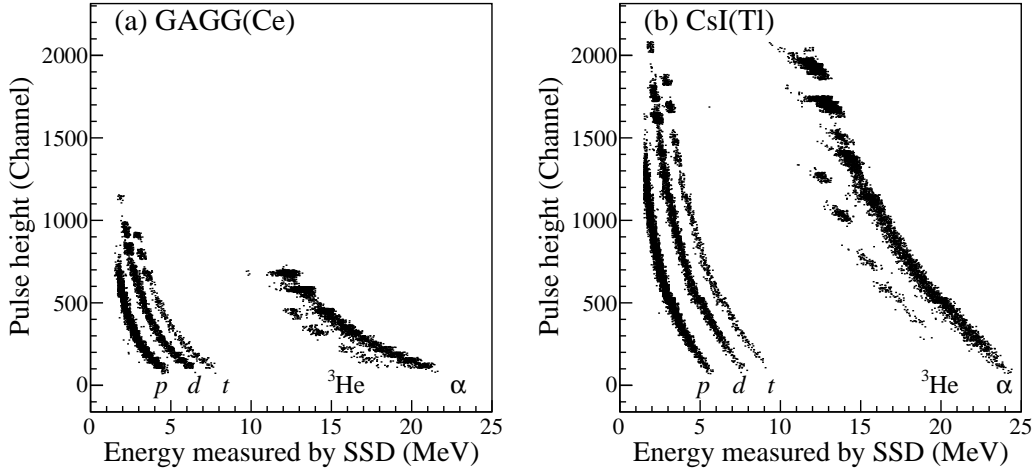


Figure 8. Correlation between the pulse height of the output signal from the shaping amplifier for the scintillators and the energy measured by the SSD. (a) GAGG(Ce) and (b) CsI(Tl).

By changing the angle of the detectors (θ in Fig. 6), the energy of the incident particles to the scintillators was varied in an increment by about 5 MeV. For the measurement with the proton beam, we analyzed the $p + p$ elastic scattering and the $p + {}^{12}\text{C}$ elastic scattering. For the measurement with the alpha beam, we analyzed the $\alpha + {}^{12}\text{C}$ elastic scattering and the $\alpha + {}^{12}\text{C}$ inelastic scattering to the 2_1^+ state at $E_x = 4.44$ MeV. The incident energies to the scintillators were calculated from the scattering kinematics taking into account the energy losses through the SSD and the ESR film. The energy losses were estimated using the SRIM simulation code [20].

3.2 Pulse height and energy resolution

Figures 9 and 10 present the shaping time dependencies of the pulse heights and the energy resolutions (FWHM) for protons at (a) 10 MeV and (b) 68 MeV. The red circles and the blue squares represent the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators, respectively. The shaping time was set at 0.25, 0.50, 1.0, and 2.0 μs .

The pulse height of the CsI(Tl) scintillator drastically decreases with the shorter shaping times compared with the GAGG(Ce) scintillator. The significant reduction of the pulse height of the CsI(Tl) scintillator is due to its decay time longer than the GAGG(Ce) scintillator. This reduction

was observed both for protons and gamma-rays as seen in Figs. 5 and 9. The slopes of the CsI(Tl) scintillator for the protons at 68 MeV and gamma rays are slightly steeper than that for the protons at 10 MeV. This is explained by the fact that the decay time of the CsI(Tl) scintillator becomes slightly longer as the LET decreases [21].

When the shaping time is set at $2\ \mu\text{s}$, the pulse height of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator for the 68-MeV protons is slightly smaller than that of the CsI(Tl) scintillator as seen in Fig. 9 (b). On the other hand, the pulse height of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator for the 10-MeV protons is much smaller compared with the CsI(Tl) scintillator as seen in Fig. 9 (a). This suggests that the light output of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator quenches as the LET becomes large. This quenching effect is discussed in detail in Sec. 3.4.

When the pulse height is sufficiently high, the energy resolution is determined by the statistical fluctuation of the scintillation process rather than the photodetector noise. This is why the energy resolutions of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators for the 68-MeV protons are less dependent on the shaping times as seen in Fig. 10 (b). When the proton energy is at 10 MeV, however, the energy resolution of the CsI(Tl) scintillator becomes worse with shorter shaping time as seen in Fig. 10 (a) affected by the noise because the pulse height of the CsI(Tl) scintillator severely decreases. The energy resolution of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator at 68 MeV becomes slightly better with shorter shaping time because the dominant frequency component of the noise is filtered out at the shorter shaping time.

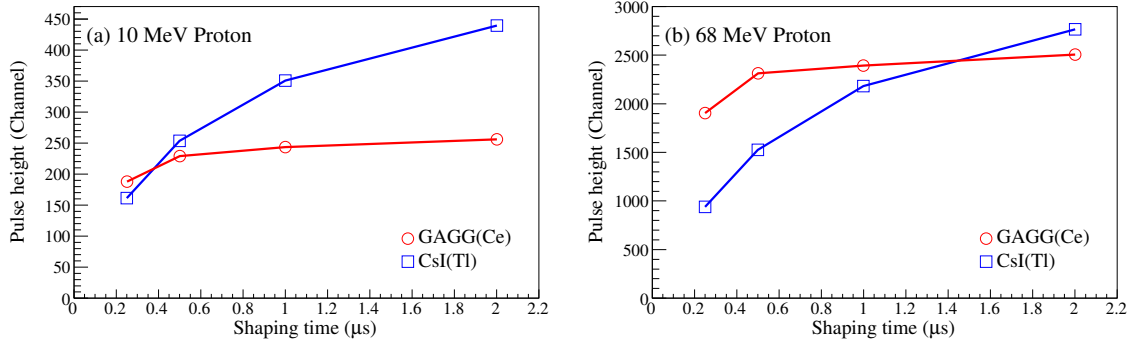


Figure 9. Pulse heights of the output signals from the shaping amplifier as a function of the shaping time for (a) protons at 10 MeV and (b) protons at 68 MeV. The red circles represent the GAGG(Ce) scintillator and the blue squares represent the CsI(Tl) scintillator. The solid lines connecting the data points are drawn for guiding eyes.

3.3 Relative light output for protons and alpha particles

The light outputs from the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators for protons and alpha particles can be evaluated as relative values to those for electrons in units of MeV electron equivalent (MeVee). 1 MeVee corresponds to the light output when 1 MeV of energy is given to a scintillator by electrons. We determined the relative light outputs for protons and alpha particles by comparing the pulse heights with that for a gamma ray at 2.62 MeV emitted after the beta decay of ^{208}Tl from the thorium series under the assumption that the light output for the gamma ray is 2.62 MeVee. The relative light outputs as a function of the incident energy for the protons at $E_p = 5\text{--}68\text{ MeV}$ and alpha particles at

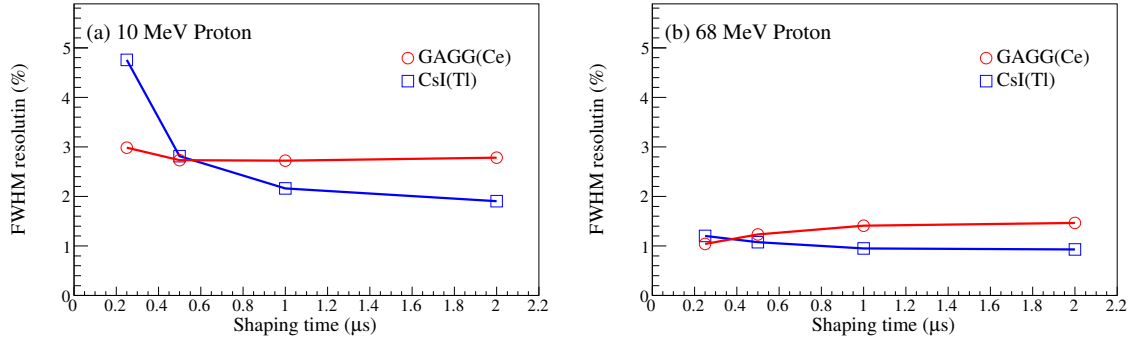


Figure 10. Energy resolution of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators at FWHM for (a) protons at 10 MeV and (b) protons at 68 MeV. The red circles represent the GAGG(Ce) scintillator and the blue squares represent the CsI(Tl) scintillator. The solid lines connecting the data points are drawn for guiding eyes.

$E_\alpha = 8\text{--}54$ MeV are shown in Fig. 11. The red solid circles and open squares represent the relative light outputs from the GAGG(Ce) scintillator for protons and alpha particles, respectively, whereas the blue solid circles and open squares represent those from the CsI(Tl) scintillator for the protons and alpha particles. The unit of the vertical axis is given in MeVee ($\gamma: 2.62$). The suffix of ($\gamma: 2.62$) means that the calibration reference of the relative light output is a gamma ray at 2.62 MeV.

As discussed in Ref. [22], the light outputs for the charged particles relative to gamma rays would be different depending on the time constant of the shaping amplifier used. In the present measurement, the time constants of the shaping amplifier or the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators were 0.25 and 2.0 μs , respectively.

The relative light outputs from the GAGG(Ce) scintillator are systematically smaller than those from the CsI(Tl) scintillator. The relative light outputs for the alpha particles, which provide larger LETs than protons, are smaller than those for the protons from the same scintillator. This shows that the light outputs for both of the scintillators are quenched with larger LETs.

3.4 Scintillation efficiency

In order to evaluate the quenching effect of the scintillators, we investigated the relation between the light output per unit energy loss dL/dE (scintillation efficiency) and the LET dE/dx . The dL/dE values were obtained using the light outputs for two different energies measured at different angles as

$$\frac{dL}{dE} = \frac{L(\theta) - L(\theta')}{E(\theta) - E(\theta')}. \quad (3.1)$$

$L(\theta)$ and $E(\theta)$ are the relative light output and the incident energy to the scintillators when the telescope detector was placed at the angle θ . The light-collection efficiency slightly changes depending on the hit position of the incident particle on the scintillator. Therefore, $L(\theta)$ and $L(\theta')$ were determined for particles which hit the same strip of the SSD at different angles.

The dE/dx values were evaluated at the mean energy $[E(\theta) + E(\theta')]/2$ using the two different codes; SRIM and PSTAR [23]. The dE/dx values in the CsI(Tl) scintillator given by the SRIM code were systematically 3% smaller than those by the PSTAR code. In the present analysis, we used the dE/dx values given by the SRIM code because the GAGG(Ce) scintillator was not included in the material listing of the PSTAR code.

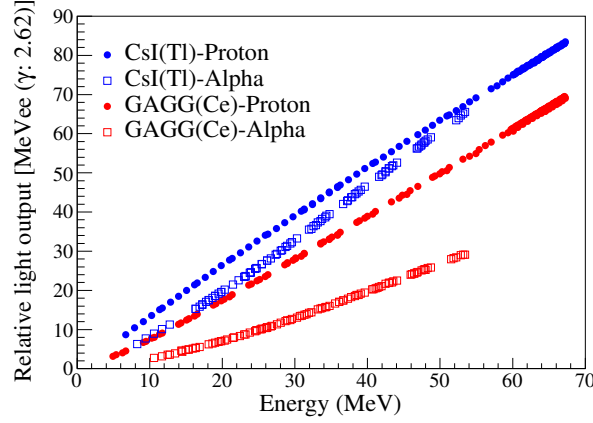


Figure 11. Relative light outputs for protons and alpha particles from the GAGG(Ce) and the CsI(Tl) scintillators in units of MeVee as a function of the incident energy. The red solid circles and open squares represent the light outputs from the GAGG(Ce) scintillator for protons and alpha particles, respectively. The blue solid circles and open squares represent the light outputs from the CsI(Tl) scintillator for protons and alpha particles. The relative light outputs were calibrated by a gamma ray at 2.62 MeV.

The correlation between the dL/dE and dE/dx values is shown in Fig. 12. The red circles and the blue squares represent the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators, respectively. The data points at $dE/dx > 30 \text{ MeV}/(\text{g}/\text{cm}^2)$ were obtained with the alpha beam, while those at $dE/dx < 30 \text{ MeV}/(\text{g}/\text{cm}^2)$ were obtained with the proton beam. The uncertainties of dL/dE were estimated from the residuals when the data points in Fig. 11 were fitted by polynomials. These uncertainties are considered to stem from inaccuracies of scattering angles caused by misalignment of the detector position and non-uniformity of the light-collection efficiency. It should be noted that the dL/dE values for protons and alpha particles behave as a smooth function of dE/dx for each scintillator as shown in Fig. 12. The scintillation efficiency of the CsI(Tl) scintillator is larger than unity. Similar result is reported for ^{12}C ions in Ref. [24]. The scintillation efficiency of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator is also larger than unity at $dE/dx < 20 \text{ MeV}/(\text{g}/\text{cm}^2)$.

It would be useful to determine an empirical formula of dL/dE as a function of dE/dx . Birks introduced the following formula to investigate the scintillation efficiency of organic scintillators [25]:

$$\frac{dL}{dx} = \frac{S(dE/dx)}{1 + kB(dE/dx)}. \quad (3.2)$$

In this formula, it is assumed that the number of scintillation photons per unit length produced by the incident particle is proportional to the energy loss per unit length dE/dx . The denominator was empirically introduced so that the scintillation efficiency decreases with larger dE/dx values. The factor kB is called Birks factor. This Birks formula reasonably fits the experimental results of the anthracene scintillators. Dividing this equation by dE/dx , the relation between dL/dE and dE/dx is obtained as

$$\frac{dL}{dE} = \frac{a_0}{1 + a_1(dE/dx)}. \quad (3.3)$$

The Birks function was fitted to the experimental data of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators as plotted with the solid lines in Fig. 12. The obtained parameters are tabulated in Table 2. The

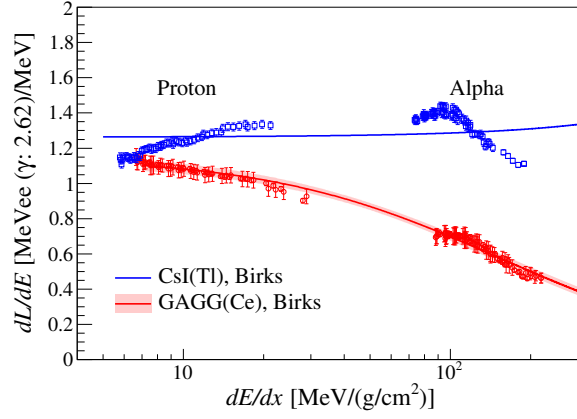


Figure 12. dL/dE as a function of dE/dx . The red circles and the blue squares represent the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators, respectively. The solid lines represent dL/dE given by the Birks formula. The error band around the fitted line for the GAGG(Ce) scintillator indicates the confidence interval of the fit at 68%.

Birks formula reasonably reproduces the dL/dE vs dE/dx plot of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator. The error band around the red solid line for the GAGG(Ce) scintillator indicate the confidence interval of the fit at 68%. On the other hand, the Birks formula cannot reproduce the non-monotonous trend for the CsI(Tl) scintillator at all.

Table 2. Fit parameters of the Birks, modified Birks, and Romero formulae for the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators.

	GAGG(Ce)	CsI(Tl)
Birks		
a_0	1.15	1.27
a_1	6.5×10^{-3}	-1.1×10^{-4}
Modified Birks		
a_0	1.11	1.74
a_1	6.1×10^{-3}	2.6×10^{-3}
a_{-1}	-3.2×10^{-1}	3.7
Romero		
a_0	4.68	4.20
a_1	-5.84	-5.32
a_2	3.81	3.53
a_3	-1.22	-1.11
a_4	1.89×10^{-1}	1.72×10^{-1}
a_5	-1.14×10^{-2}	-1.06×10^{-2}

Koba *et al.* modified the Birks formula as

$$\frac{dL}{dE} = \frac{a_0}{1 + a_1(dE/dx) + a_{-1}(dE/dx)^{-1}}, \quad (3.4)$$

to reproduce the scintillation efficiency of the CsI(Tl) scintillator [24]. Romero *et al.* introduced

another empirical formula to fit the scintillation efficiency of the NaI(Tl) scintillator [26]:

$$\frac{dL}{dE} = \sum_{j=0}^5 a_j \left(\ln \frac{dE}{dx} \right)^j. \quad (3.5)$$

In the present analysis, we fitted Eqs. (3.4) and (3.5) to dL/dE of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators at $dE/dx = 5\text{--}200 \text{ MeV}/(\text{g}/\text{cm}^2)$ as shown in Fig. 13. The fitted lines are drawn with the solid lines (modified Birks) and the dashed lines (Romero) associated with the error bands. The blue dash-dotted line represents the previous fit result with the modified Birks formula for the CsI(Tl) scintillator reported by Koba *et al.* [24]. The present result of the CsI(Tl) scintillator is systematically 20% larger than the previous result. This discrepancy is probably because of the concentration of Tl doped in the CsI crystal. Murray and Meyer reported that the dL/dE values vary up to 100% with the Tl concentration from 0.01% to 0.2% [27].

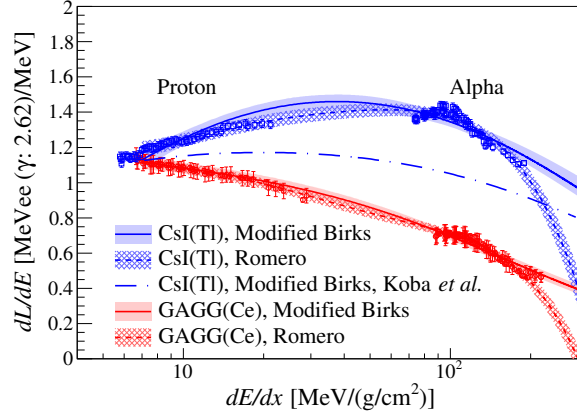


Figure 13. Same as Fig. 12, but the experimental data was fitted by the modified Birks (solid lines) and Romero formulae (dashed lines). The blue dash-dotted line represents dL/dE given by the modified Birks formula for the CsI(Tl) scintillator reported by Koba *et al.* [24].

The scintillation efficiency of the CsI(Tl) scintillator is more stable over the wide dE/dx range than the GAGG(Ce) scintillator, making the CsI(Tl) scintillator useful as a charged particle detector. However, its slow response would cause a pile-up at high-counting rates. The GAGG(Ce) scintillator is a good candidate for light charged particles such as protons and alpha particles thanks to the fast response as well as the good energy resolution although the scintillation efficiency notably decreases with the larger dE/dx .

Recently, we constructed a GAGG(Ce) based light-ion telescope (Gion) which consists of 24 GAGG(Ce) scintillators with the same geometry as shown in Fig. 1 and a double-sided silicon strip detector. Gion was successfully employed to detect recoil protons emitted from $^{12}\text{C}(p, p')$ reaction in inverse kinematics. Using Gion, the rare radiative-decay probability of the 3_1^- state at $E_x = 9.64 \text{ MeV}$ in ^{12}C was determined to estimate the triple alpha reaction rate in high temperature environments [28].

4 Summary

The light output and energy resolution of the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators were compared using 662-keV gamma-ray quanta from a ^{137}Cs source, 2615-keV gamma-ray quanta of ^{208}Tl from environmental radioactivity, and accelerated beams. For gamma rays, the light outputs from the GAGG(Ce) and CsI(Tl) scintillators are comparable. The energy resolution of the two scintillators are also comparable when the time constant of the shaping amplifier is $2\ \mu\text{s}$. However, at shorter time constants, the energy resolution of the GAGG(Ce) scintillator is better than that of the CsI(Tl) scintillator because the GAGG(Ce) scintillator has a significantly shorter decay time of the scintillation than the CsI(Tl) scintillator. These results demonstrated that the GAGG(Ce) scintillator is more suitable in measurements at high-counting rates than the CsI(Tl) scintillator.

The light outputs for charged particles were measured using protons at $E_p = 5\text{--}68\ \text{MeV}$ and alpha particles at $E_\alpha = 8\text{--}54\ \text{MeV}$. The empirical formulae to describe the scintillation efficiencies dL/dE as a function of dE/dx were obtained at $dE/dx = 5\text{--}200\ \text{MeV}/(\text{g}/\text{cm}^2)$.

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