

SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS (SPS) EVENT

The Interactions of Pennies and X-rays

Jim Pitchford
Cleveland State University

Abstract:

When tasked with understanding the operation and interactions of an X-ray energy detector is there any better way to learn than shooting X-rays at something? Of course not! While the prospect of irradiating targets with high frequency photons is often appealing, the choice of targets is important. In this case the target was something simple to find, simple to work with, and simple to find information on; a United States Penny. Now, what's better than shooting X-rays at one target? Shooting them at more than one target! Fortunately, as the composition of pennies has changed over their existence, that provides just cause for continued experimentation. Not to neglect the learning potential here, we do see how the composition of the target affects the X-rays striking them and better learn what our X-ray detector can do.

WHERE

SI – 117

WHEN

Noon- 1pm

Tuesday, October 27, 2009