

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

**Code:** 43302  
**Name:** Experimental techniques in nuclear and particle physics  
**Cycle:** Master's Degree  
**ECTS Credits:** 6  
**Academic year:** 2026-27

**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
2150 - Master's degree in Advanced Physics	Facultat de Física	1	First quarter

**SUBJECT-MATTER**

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
2150 - Master's degree in Advanced Physics	Nuclear and particle physics	ELECTIVES

**COORDINATION**

CASTILLO GIMENEZ M VICTORIA

GONZALEZ DE LA HOZ SANTIAGO

ZUÑIGA ROMAN JUAN

**SUMMARY**

The course Experimental Techniques for Nuclear and Particle Physics includes a first part where we study the particle detection techniques used in the experiments of Nuclear Physics and High Energy as calorimetry, Cerenkov radiation detectors, semiconductor detectors, etc. and event reconstruction techniques and particle tracks. The second part is devoted to the techniques of analysis and treatment of experimental data and includes the study of probability distributions, error propagation, central limit theorem, fitting of experimental data, determination of parameters, hypothesis testing, introduction to the Monte Carlo methods and its applications. The course is complemented by 1.5 ECTS laboratory where the student will practice using particle detectors and where you the knowledge acquired in theory sessions is needed.

**PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE****RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE**

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS****COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES****2150 - Master's degree in Advanced Physics**

Analizar una situación compleja extrayendo cuales son las cantidades físicas relevantes y ser capaz de reducirla a un modelo parametrizado.

Comprender de una forma sistemática el campo de estudio de la Física y el dominio de las habilidades y métodos de investigación relacionados con dicho campo.

Concebir, diseñar, poner en práctica y adoptar un proceso sustancial de investigación con seriedad académica.

Conocer los procesos más importantes de la interacción de la radiación con la materia, las técnicas de detección de la radiación, el funcionamiento de los detectores y la instrumentación utilizada actualmente en los experimentos de Física Nuclear y de Partículas.

Elaborar una memoria clara y concisa de los resultados de su trabajo y de las conclusiones obtenidas en el área de la Física.

Estar en disposición para seguir los estudios de doctorado y la realización de un proyecto de tesis doctoral.

Evaluar la validez de un modelo o teoría propuesto por otros miembros de la comunidad científica.

Exponer y defender públicamente el desarrollo, resultados y conclusiones de su trabajo en el área de la Física.

Ostentar la preparación para tomar decisiones correctas en la elección de tareas y en su ordenación temporal en su labor investigadora y/o profesional.

Poseer la capacidad para el desarrollo de una aptitud crítica ante el aprendizaje que le lleve a plantearse nuevos problemas desde perspectivas no convencionales.

Realizar un análisis crítico, evaluación y síntesis de ideas nuevas y complejas en el área de la Física.

Saber interpretar los datos experimentales u obtenidos mediante simulaciones y efectuar los análisis pertinentes mediante técnicas estadísticas para la obtención de los resultados finales y las magnitudes físicas que se pretende medir en el ámbito de la Física Nuclear y de Partículas.

Saber modelizar matemáticamente los problemas físicos sencillos nuevos, conectados con problemas conocidos. Ser capaz de expresar en términos matemáticos nuevas ideas.

Saber organizarse para planificar y desarrollar el trabajo dentro de un equipo con eficacia y eficiencia.



Ser capaz de gestionar información de distintas fuentes bibliográficas especializadas utilizando principalmente bases de datos y publicaciones internacionales en lengua inglesa.

Students should apply acquired knowledge to solve problems in unfamiliar contexts within their field of study, including multidisciplinary scenarios.

Students should be able to integrate knowledge and address the complexity of making informed judgments based on incomplete or limited information, including reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities associated with the application of their knowledge and judgments.

Students should communicate conclusions and underlying knowledge clearly and unambiguously to both specialized and non-specialized audiences.

Students should demonstrate self-directed learning skills for continued academic growth.

Students should possess and understand foundational knowledge that enables original thinking and research in the field.

Utilizar con soltura aplicaciones y equipos informáticos para el tratamiento, simulación y análisis de datos experimentales en Física Nuclear y de Partículas.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1. Detectors in High Energy Physics. Calorimetry

Detection mechanisms. Definition and interest. Classification and fundamental differences. Basic Mechanisms. Electromagnetic cascade. Rossi-Heitler model. Hadronic cascade. Signal / Power. Compensation. Energy resolution. Instrumental Effects

### 2. Cherencov detectors

Introduction. The techniques. Cerenkov counters. RICH detectors

### 3. Semiconductor detectors

Introduction. Basic characteristics. Semiconductors doped. The pn junction: formation of the desertification region. Characteristics of semiconductors as detectors Diode structure for the construction of silicon detectors. Position detectors



## **4. Data analysis. Preliminary concepts**

Definition of probability, Random variables. Calculus of probabilities. Bayes Theorem.

## **5. General properties of probability functions.**

The probability density function. The cumulative distribution function. Properties of the probability density function. The characteristic function. Distributions of more than one random variable.

## **6. Propagation of errors**

Linear functions of random variables. Change of variable. Propagation of errors. lineales de varias variables. Cambio de variable. Generalisation to several functions. Matrix notation.

## **7. Probability distributions**

Binomial distribution. Poisson distribution. Uniform distribution. Exponential distribution. Gaussian distribution. Distributions binomial and multinomial. Sampling Distributions: The distribution of  $\chi$ -square, Student's t-distribution, the F distribution

## **8. Law of large numbers and Central Limit Theorem**

Sampling. Inference. Law of large numbers. Inequality of Chebysev. Central Limit Theorem. Random generator

## **9. Monte Carlo methods**

Introduction. Random number generators. Congruent methods. Sampling distributions. Inverse transformation method. Rejection method. Composite method. Sampling discrete distributions. Poisson distribution.

## **10. Parameter Estimation**

Introduction. Properties of estimators. Minimum variance limit. Rao-Cramér inequality.

## **11. The method of maximum likelihood (ML)**

Maximum likelihood principle. Properties of ML estimators. Asymptotic properties. Changing variables. Variance of the ML estimators. Extended maximum likelihood method.



## 12. The method of least squares (LS)

Definition. Models linear in the parameters. Examples. Nonlinear Models. Least squares adjustments. Goodness of fit. Least squares with classified data.

## 13. Statistical errors, confidence intervals and limits

Introduction. Belts and confidence intervals. Confidence limits. Gaussian confidence intervals. Confidence intervals on the maximum likelihood method. Confidence intervals for various parameters. Limits near a physical boundary. Bayesian intervals. Poisson confidence intervals. Upper limit background existence.

## 14. Statistical tests

Basic concepts and properties. Hypothesis simple. Neyman-Pearson lemma. Assumptions made. Parametric test for normal variables. Goodness of settings. Chi-square test. Kolmogorov-Smirnov Tes. Consistency test and randomness. Test of independence.

## 15. Laboratory of experimental techniques

Students will do one of the laboratory practices described below. Depending on the number of students, they will be carried out in pairs or individually.

- Study of cosmic radiation and measurement of the half-life of the muon: Angular dependence of the cosmic ray flux. Hard and soft components of cosmic rays. Time measurements: determination of the muon half-life.

-Nuclear beta decay: study of beta decay spectra and internal conversion of various sources (Bi-207, Cs-137, Sr-90, Pm-147, Cl-37), response function of surface barrier silicon detector, deconvolution of Spectra, Kurie Plot.

- Gamma-gamma coincidence with a Na22 or Co60 sources: study of the coincidence technique with sodium iodide detectors and a two-gamma emitting source. Study of the angular correlation of the gammas.

-Study and calibration of a microstrips multidetector - ALIBAVA practice

## WORKLOAD

### PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Seminar	3,00
Other activities	4,00



<b>Total hours</b>	<b>37,00</b>
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**NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	20,00
Independent study and work	21,00
Preparation of lessons	30,00
Preparation for assessment activities	30,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>101,00</b>

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

MD1 - Standar theory lecture

MD2.- Experiments at lab.

MD3 - Problems solving

MD4 - Problems

MD5 - Seminars.

MD6 - Visit to external scientific facilities and companies

**EVALUATION**

The evaluation of the course is based on:

- (A) Written examination on the lectures and practices: based on learning outcomes and specific objectives of the course (40%).
- (B) Continuous evaluation of the student in the classes of theory and practice: participatory assistance, conducting exercises in the classroom, resolution of proposed problems (40%).
- (C) Evaluation of the activities of the laboratory sessions: attendance, instrumentation and handling equipment, work organization, understanding and use of the lab guides, performing calculations, analysis of results, teamwork, memories and / or reports of the the lab work (20%).

A minimun of 3,5 in (A) is required to succeed the subject.



This evaluation system will be used for both the first and second call.

## REFERENCES

- W.R.Leo. Techniques for Nuclear and Particle Physics Experiments. Springer-Verlag, 1987, Segunda edición 1994.
- Radiation Detection and Measurement. Glenn F. Knoll. Ed. John Wiley & Sons. New York, 3ª Edición. 1999.
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- J.V.Jelly, Cerenkov Radiation and Its Applications (Pergamon: London, 1958).
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- G. Cowan, Statistical Data Analysis, Oxford University Press
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- U. Amaldi. Fluctuations in calorimetry measurements. CERN-EP-/80-212
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- T. Ypsilantis and J. Seguinot, Nucl. Instrum. Meth. Phys. Res. 142 (1977) 377
- D. Treille, The physics potencial of the RICH, Nucl. Instrum. Meth. Phys. Res A(1996) 178



- C.J.S Damarell. Vertex Detectors: The state of the art and Future prospects. RAL-P-95-008 (Preprint).
- S. Brandt, Data Analysis: Statistical and Computational Methods for Scientists and Engineers, Springer 1999
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