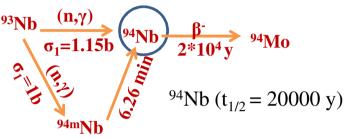
## Studies on Sorption of <sup>231</sup>Pa and <sup>94</sup>Nb on oxides

> <sup>231</sup>Pa is acting as breeder material of <sup>232</sup>U, daughter product of it causes strong activity during

Thorium spent fuel processing  ${}_{^{232}g_0}Th \xrightarrow{(n,2n)}{}_{^{231}g_0}Th \xrightarrow{\beta^-}{}_{^{231}g_1}Pa \xrightarrow{(n,\gamma)}{}_{^{232}g_1}Pa \xrightarrow{\beta^-}{}_{^{232}g_2}U \xrightarrow{^{231}Pa} (t_{1/2} = 32700 \text{ y})$ 

- > <sup>231</sup>Pa (alpha emitter): half-life and Radio toxicity comparable to <sup>239</sup>Pu
- ➢ Nb a chemical analog of Pa
- ➢ <sup>94</sup>Nb produced in Zr-Nb pressure tube (PT) of PHWR
- Discharged Zr-Nb PT contains high <sup>94</sup>Nb activity (10<sup>4</sup>R/h)
- Facing difficulty in handling of these discharged PT

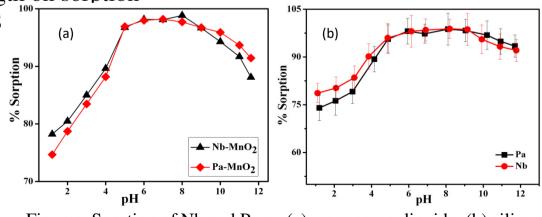


Knowledge of aqueous chemistry of Pa and Nb is important for Physico-chemical behaviour in waste matrix and natural environment

## Sorption study of <sup>231</sup>Pa and <sup>94</sup>Nb on aquatic colloids

- 1. Sorption study of Nb and Pa on hydrous colloidal silica, iron oxides & manganese dioxide
- 2. The effect of various chemical parameter like pH, ionic strength, humic acid were studied
- 3. Effect of temperature & ionic strength on sorption
- 4. Sorption mechanism study: EXAFS

J. Radioanal Nucl Chem. **2015**, 306/1, 147-153 J. Environ. Radioactivity, **2017**, 178/179, 101-109 Appl. Radiat. Isot. 154., **2019**,108887(1-8). Environ. Earth Sci. **2020**, 79, 32(1-12).



Figures: Sorption of Nb and Pa on (a) manganese dioxide; (b) silica