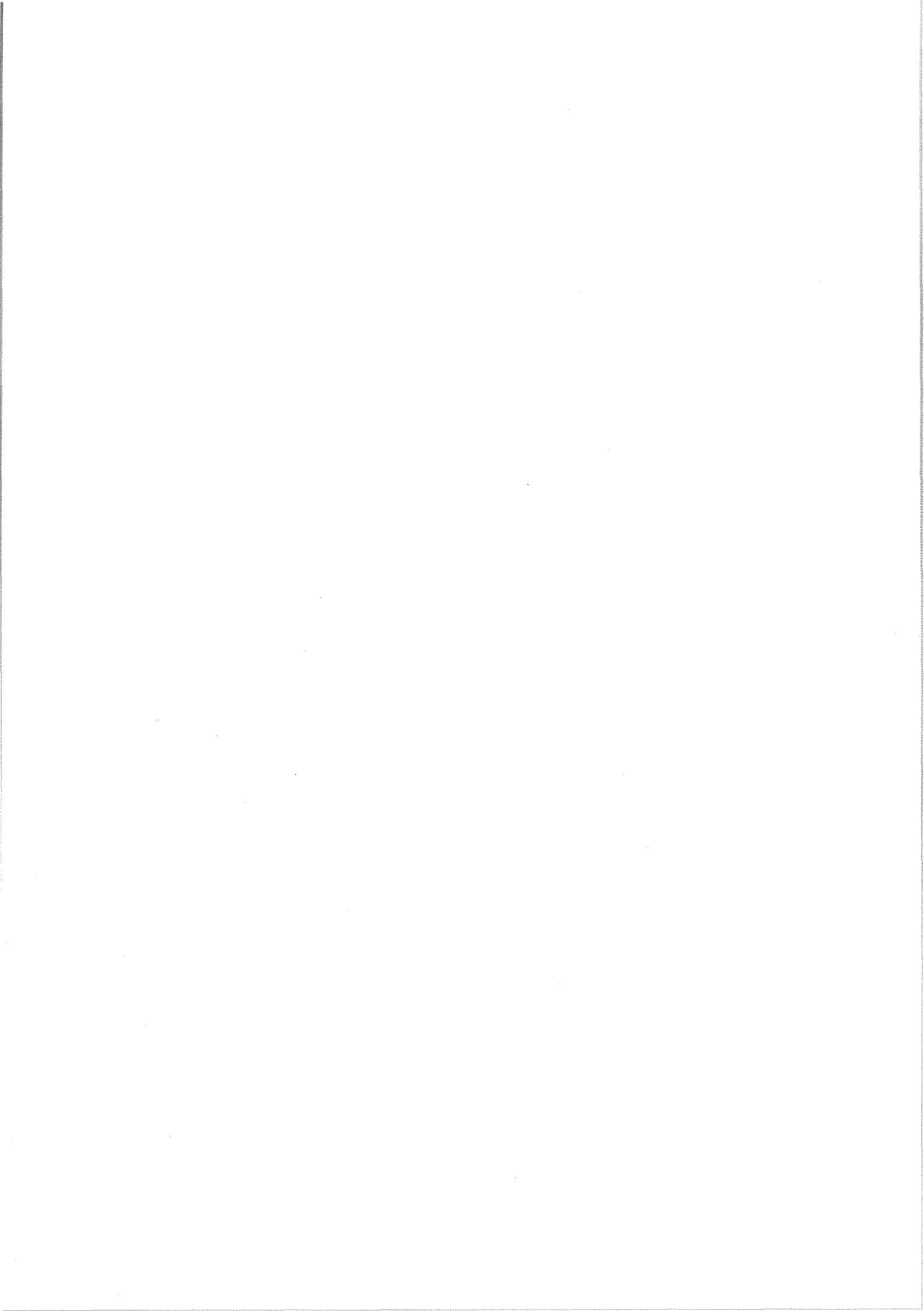


BIBLIOGRAPHY ON DEAD-TIME EFFECTS

(1981 edition)

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## Bibliography on dead-time effects

(1981 edition)

### Abstract

An updated bibliography of more than 580 references has been assembled. They treat questions of measuring dead times, correcting for corresponding counting losses, and related problems.

### Introduction

The main reason for assembling a list of references on dead-time effects, as set forth in the first edition of this bibliography (75 BIP 2), seems to be still valid. Therefore, it will simply be repeated in what follows.

"The steady demand for increased accuracy as well as the necessity to perform measurements at higher count rates have resulted, among other things, in a renewed interest in the corrections due to dead times. The number of papers published in recent years on this theme - and no sign of a decline can yet be observed - makes it increasingly difficult for anyone working in this field to survey the publications, as is evidenced by much repetitious work. For this reason the Working Party "Principles of the Coincidence Method", a subgroup of Section II (Mesure des radionucléides) of the CCEMRI (Comité Consultatif pour les Etalons de Mesure des Rayonnements Ionisants) decided to assemble a bibliography of the publications dealing with the measurement of dead times, the corresponding corrections and closely related subjects".

Unfortunately, a critical evaluation of all the listed references was a task far beyond the possibilities for our Working Party six years ago, and it is even more so today when the number of references has nearly doubled. On the other hand, most people who are suddenly confronted with a list of references on dead-time effects which has over 580 entries will find themselves in a rather embarrassing situation when they try to use it for their own purpose. This has led Section II to ask that for this second edition a selection be made of those papers which can help to overcome this difficulty. We fully realize that singling out some references in favour of others is a dangerous enterprise, as it inevitably involves some subjective judgment which may be ill-founded. However, and in spite of this danger, it seems to us that the expected advantage for the user should outweigh the editor's risk.

In order to render the present bibliography more useful not only for newcomers to the field, but also for those interested in more specific questions, it was thought necessary to list first some general review articles before indicating selected papers dealing with some more specialized problems.

As regards general introductions to the whole field of dead times, the choice has been made very simple by an excellent review (prepared by J.G.V. Taylor), published in NCRP Report No. 58 (78 NCR). It presents a very objective summary of essentially the whole field, with numerous recent references, all on less than 15 pages. There are a few earlier surveys, but they are not so well balanced: (48 Bla) is outdated now, Evans' often-quoted introduction (55 Eva) is only concerned with the simplest cases, and the same holds for Andresen (65 And 1,2). Müller's Herceg-Noví paper (73 Mül 1) was essentially a progress report on recent developments. A much more technical presentation is offered by De Lotto et al. in a series of articles in Energia Nucleare (e.g. 64 DeL 1,2; 65 DeL 1,3,4). An interesting, somewhat personal account, can be found in Vincent's book (73 Vin). The lengthy monograph by Goldanskii et al. (62 Gol), although largely outdated, may occasionally still be of interest as it provides full derivations.

Any subdivision into special problems is obviously a rather subjective matter and therefore open to criticism. Let us try the following approach:

a) Dead-time imposing circuits

The literature on this subject is surprisingly scarce; it seems that most laboratories do not think it worthwhile to publish details of their electronic devices. One of the more recent descriptions concerns Bréonce's circuit for a non-extended dead time (75 Bré). Other useful hints may be found in (67 Vat), (70 Her) and (78 Rhei).

b) Measuring methods for dead times

The classical methods (e.g. by means of a decaying source or using two sources) are so slow and of so low precision that they are nowadays seldom applied in metrology. The two modern methods in practical use are the source-pulser method (cf. 65 Bae and 76 Mül 3) and the two-oscillator method (cf. 73 Mül 1, 78 Gos and 79 Car). For the latter an automatic version (81 Bré) is also available.

c) Evaluation and correction of counting losses

The papers belonging to this group can be roughly subdivided into those using some electronic method for direct loss compensation, and those applying to the results of measurements a numerical correction formula which is based on some theoretical model.

The automatic or electronic approach usually relies either on live-timing (cf. e.g. 63 Gan, 64 Rau, 69 Por, 69 Sed and 75 Mad) or on the pulser method, which is the preferred method for gamma spectrometry. For an excellent review see Wiernik (71 Wie 1). Additional information may be found e.g. in (71 Deb) or (71 Wie 2).

As for the formulae available for numerical correction, the choice is embarrassingly large. Let us therefore confine ourselves to those applicable to an original Poisson process. The basic approach is still best described in Feller's paper (48 Fel); all the later publications are in some way ramifications of this classic. The modified counting statistics can be characterized by the first two or three moments. A recent collection of relevant asymptotic expressions is given in (77 Mül 1); for the third moment see (78 Mül 2).

d) Dead times in series

Literature on this item is scarce and deals only with the influence on count rate. The relevant formulae are given e.g. in (73 Mül 1); for an interesting application see (74 Bru).

e) Dead times with decaying sources

Here the key paper is still the one by Axton and Ryves (63 Axt). Other useful references include (71 Por) and (73 Bae). For the effect on counting statistics see (81 Mül 1).

f) Corrections for coincidence counting

These corrections are notoriously difficult to evaluate and they have given rise to many papers. Among the older ones which are still often quoted, we may mention (59 Cam), (62 Gan) and in particular (63 Bry). For high count rates, the more accurate formulae given by Smith (78 Smi) will be preferred. The much simpler situation prevailing for extended dead times is treated in (77 Mül 2,3). Anticoincidence counting is fully covered in (76 Bae).

g) Corrections for correlation counting

The best introduction to these problems is still the one by Lewis et al. (73 Lew). However, for more accurate corrections, see now (77 Cox), (77 Kin) and (81 Ber).

Let us recall that, for nearly all the items considered, additional references and useful comments can be found in (78 NCR).

As for the first edition, the coordinator responsible for assembling this bibliography is happy to acknowledge the efficient cooperation of the members of the Working Party, in particular J.-J. Gostely (Lausanne), D.D. Hoppe (Washington), D. Smith (Teddington) and J.G.V. Taylor (Chalk River). Much valuable help has also been received from J. Libert (Mons), J.S. Merritt (Chalk River), A. Spernol (Geel) and M.C. Teich (New York), who are all well known as very active experts in some of the fields covered by the bibliography.

Some readers may be interested to hear that a bibliography on problems related to pulse pile-up (81 BIP), similarly organized as the present one, is also available from BIPM.

The editor is fully aware that, in spite of the efforts made to achieve some degree of completeness, serious gaps still must exist as several journals could not be scanned. He would, therefore, very much appreciate being informed by the readers on additions and corrections; as the present list is stored on magnetic tape, this information could be easily included in a possible later edition. Reprints of new work would be highly welcome.

Jörg W. Müller

(December 1981)

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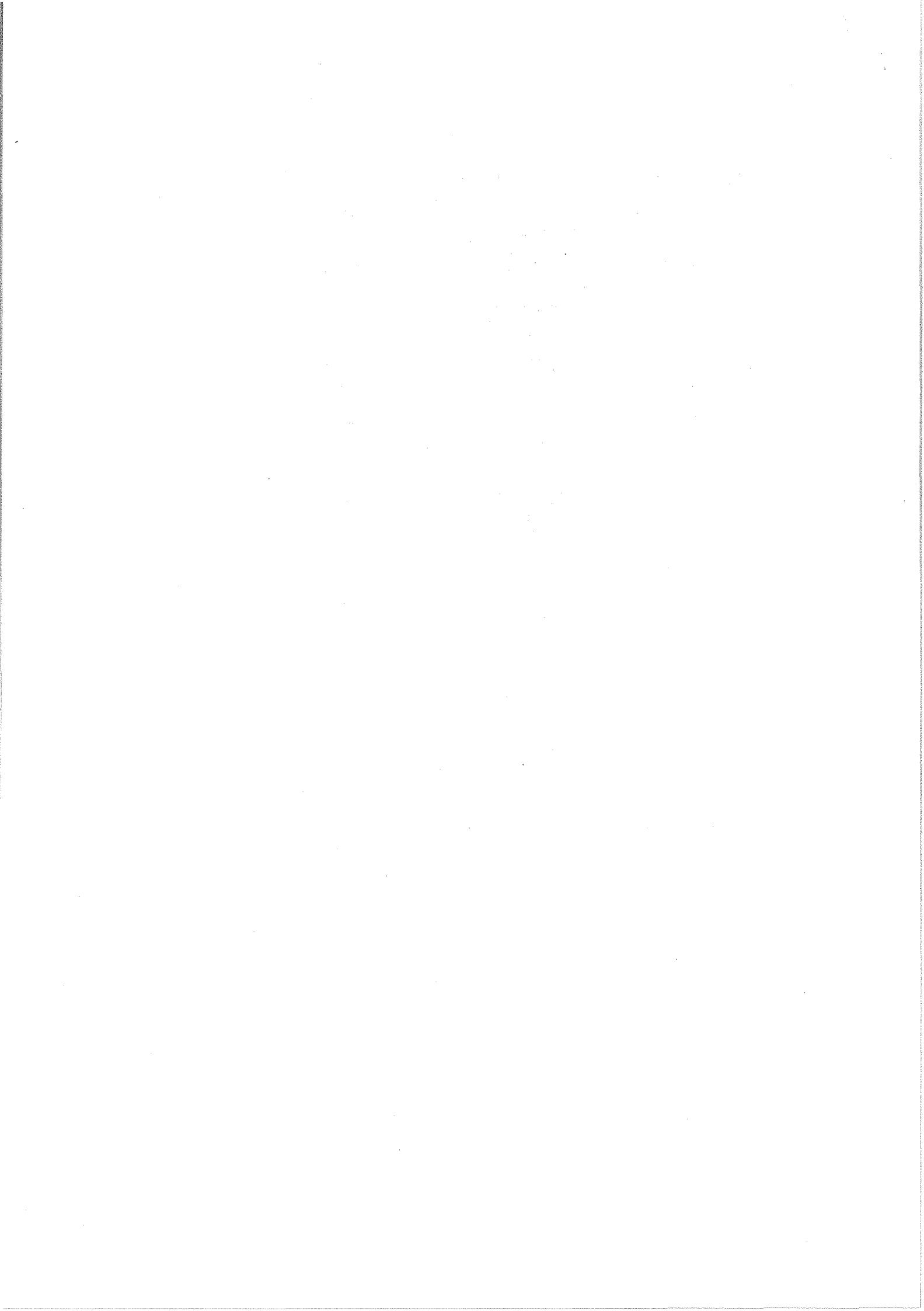
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