Gas Detectors Physics 1

Basic Detection Processes

- Energy Loss: Coulomb Interactions
- Drift and Diffusion of Charges
- Collisional Excitation and Ionization
- Avalanche Charge Multiplication

Charged Particles Coulomb Interactions: Excitations and Ionizations





H. Fischle et al, Nucl. Instr. and Meth. A301 (1991) 202

Charged Particles δ Electrons

4000 Energy Loss Asymmetry: $\sigma_{\text{core}} = (60.1 \pm 0.3) \; \mu\text{m}$ Core Gaussian + Tails $\sigma_{tail} = (167.1\pm2.1)~\mu\text{m}$ 3000 $\sigma_{\text{comb}} = (75.6 \pm 0.5) \ \mu\text{m}$ Perpendicular Tracks Counts 2000 1000 -200 200 400 -4000 Position residuals / µm

L. Scharenberg, MPGD 2022

Energy loss asymmetry: large incidence angles

Position Accuracy vs Incidence Angle:



Differential Energy Loss in thin Gas Samples:



Charged Particles Energy Loss Statistics: Gauss vs Landau



Charged Particles Particle Identification

Alice GEM-TPC Differential Energy Loss (Truncated mean)



Photons Photoelectric, Compton, Pair Production



A. Thompson et al, X-RAY DATA BOOKLET (2001)

Soft X-Rays

Absorption Length in Gases at NTP



Soft X-Rays ESCAPE PEAK



Soft X-Rays Absorption Radiography

2001: GEM with Electronic Readout









2018: GEM with Optical Readout



F. Sauli Nucl. Instr. Meth. A461(2001)47 F. Brunbauer et al, JINST13 (2018)T02006

Detection of Neutrons



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Detection of Neutrons

 ${}_{2}^{3}He + n \rightarrow {}_{1}^{3}H + p$

Ionization Chamber with Otical GEM Readout



F.A.F. Fraga et al, Nucl. Instr. and Meth. A478 (2002) 357

 $^{10}_{5}B + n \rightarrow ^{7}_{3}Li + \alpha$

Thermal Neutrons Radiography ¹⁰B Coated GEM



M. Klein and Ch. Schmidt Nucl. Instr. and Meth. A628 (2011) 9

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Drift and Diffusion of lons



Drift and Diffusion of lons

GAS	ION	$\mu (cm^2 V^{-1} s^{-1})$
He	He ⁺	13.0
Ar	Ar^+	1.7
CH_4	CH_4^+	2.22
Ar	CH_4^+	1.87
Ar	CO_2^+	1.72

Collisional Charge Transfer:

If $E_i(B) < E_i(A)$:

 $A^{+} + B --> A + B^{+}$

Blanc's Law:

$$\frac{1}{\boldsymbol{\mu}_i} = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{P_j}{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{ij}}$$



Drift and Diffusion of Electrons

Drift Velocity $w^{-} = s/t$



Piet Verwilligen and Djunes Janssens: MODELLING AND SIMULATIONS

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Drift and Diffusion of Electrons

Longitudinal and Transverse Diffusion



Drift of Electrons in Magnetic Field



Drift of Electrons in Magnetic Field: E // B

Time Projection Chambers: Longitudinal Position Accuracy vs Drift Length



Depends from Gas and Fields

Electron-Molecule Collisions

Eletron-Molecule Cross Section at Increasing Electric Fields:



https://nl.lxcat.net/home/

Electrons Energy Distribution



Electrons Energy Distribution

"Cooling" Effect of Molecular Gas Additions



Major Outcomes of the Electron-Molecule Collisions



Fluorescence ad Scintillation

Noble Gases and Low Ionization Potential Vapors:



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Fluorescence ad Scintillation

CF4 Scintillation:



F. Brunbauer, CERN GDD (2020)

Davide Pinci: OPTICAL AND HYBRID READOUT TECHNIQUES

High Fields : Charge Multiplication



$$n(x) = n_0 e^{ax}$$
 $\alpha = \alpha(E)$: Townsend coefficient

$$M(x) = \frac{n}{n_0} = e^{\partial x}$$
 Charge Gain

Cloud chamber Images of Avalanches:



H. Raether Electron Avalanches and Breakdown in Gases (Butterworth 1964)

Charge Multiplication







A. Sharma and F. Sauli, Nucl. Instr. and Meth. A334(1993)420

Charge Multiplication



PROPORTIONAL COUNTER



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Charge Multiplication

Avalanche Size Probablility for 1 Primary Electron (Furry Law):

$$P(N) = \frac{1}{\overline{N}}e^{-\frac{N}{\overline{N}}}$$

Avalanche Size Probablility for *n* Primary Electrons:

$$P(n,N) = \left(\frac{N}{\overline{N}}\right)^{n-1} \frac{e^{-\frac{N}{\overline{N}}}}{(N-1)!}$$



Charge Multiplication

Avalanche Size Probability at High Fields (High Gains) Polya function:



Single Electron Avalanche Size at Increasing Gains (Experimental):



H. Sclumbohm, Zeit. Physik 151(1958)563

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GASEOUS COUNTERS: MWPCs TO MPGDs

MWPC



MICROMEGAS





MiroGroove, MicroGap, MicroPixel Resistive Plate Well

Esther Ferrer Ribas: MPGD TECHNOLOGIES

Very High Fields: Transition Avalanche → Streamer → Discharge

The field is Increased in Front and Behind the Avalanche Photons are Emitted and Reconverted in the High Field:



Secondary Avalanches Formation:





Tansition to Forward-Backward Streamer:



DISCHARGE !

Raether Limit: ~ 10⁷ electrons-ions

Discharge

Destructive Effects of Discharges:



Drift Chamber (1974)

MSGC (1994)



Discharge Prevention and Mitigation in MPGDs:

Piotr Gasik: GAS DETECTORS PHYSICS 2

To Know More on Gaseous Detectors:



F. Sauli and E. Oliveri: Gas Detectors Handbook

http://fabio.home.cern.ch/fabio/handbook.html

.... and the other lectures at this School!