

# Ageing studies for CSC detectors and ageing methodology

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DRD1 Collaboration Meeting  
December 2024

# Longevity studies for (wired) detectors

- ageing is a well known potential problem of all gaseous detectors  
([summary by F. Sauli at Ageing Phenomena - 2023](#))
- the nature of the ageing phenomena is chemical reactions between molecules of the detector material and/or gas mixture **in plasma conditions of the avalanche (or other) discharges**
- there is no strict theory of detector ageing processes, but quite a lot of **proved empirical experience**
- there are two directions in longevity studies
  - **methodological** - direct studies of ageing effects in their correlation to the gas and detector materials and to the detector operation condition
    - Large contribution by CERN during the detector construction phase of LHC experiments
      - [for example, in this overview](#) (and many others)
  - **practical** - pre-production longevity tests for a given detector kind/chosen material/gas/gas equipment etc

## Detector operation time

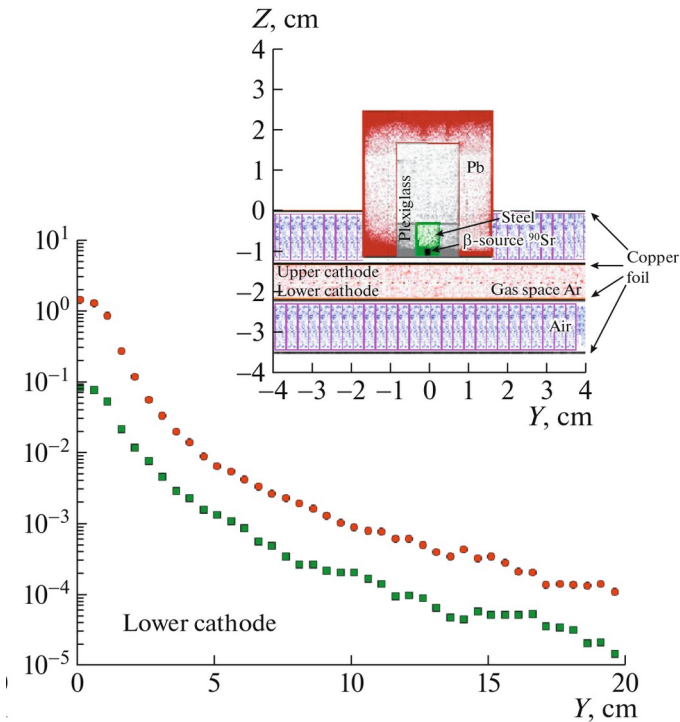
- Upon given conditions, the number of “operation cycles” of the detector is defined by **the number of avalanche discharges**, and the operation time is defined by the integral of the detector current, or so-called “**accumulated charge**”
- If the **irradiation is uniform** (GIF++ :), the characteristic value is the charge per anode wire length for wired detectors, or charge per unit of the detector area for wireless detectors
- For non-uniform irradiation (**local irradiation** with laboratory radioactive source) it is important (and a bit conditional...) to define the size of the irradiation spot to characterize the accumulated charge

# Local irradiation – definition of the irradiation zone

Can be defined different ways

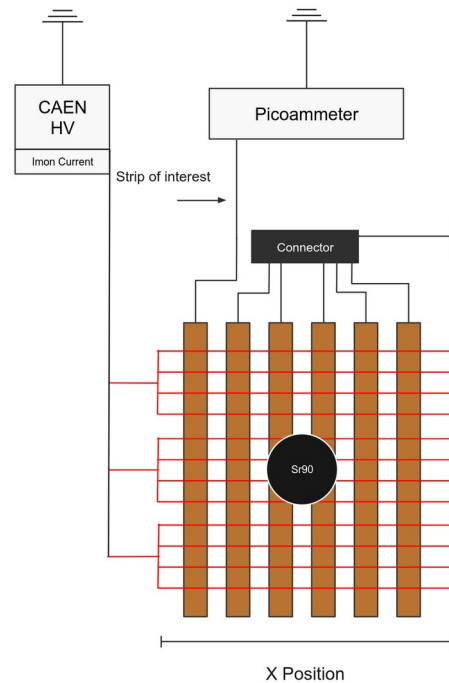
## • MC

BUZOVERIA et al.  
PHYSICS OF ATOMIC NUCLEI Vol. 82 No.9 2019

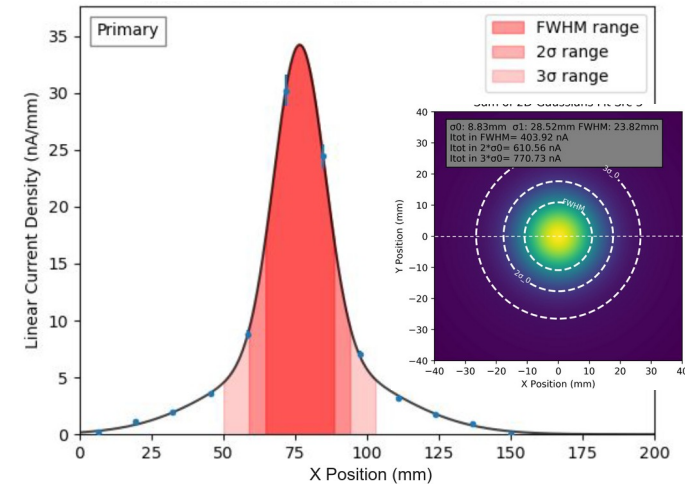


## • Measurements

- Usually no way to use electronics read-out due to too high rate
- Current measurement – if possible (for example, CSC :)
- Emulsions? Other detectors?



## Current Measured From Strips



# Accelerated longevity tests

- Upon given conditions, the number of “operation cycles” of the detector is defined by **the number of avalanche discharges...**
- We never have possibility to perform one-to-one irradiation study
  - Have to irradiated with higher intensity (so-called **accelerated longevity test**)
- Many factors will influence reliability of the (always!) accelerated longevity test. Just some of them:
  - Even if the production of the reactive radicals/ions/molecules is proportional to the irradiation intensity (not always), **the distribution of their concentration (non-uniform!) depends on...** presence of other molecules/ions/radicals (recombination), gas flow, electrical field, etc (**can not be avoided**)
  - Sometimes the high irradiation intensity results in presence of the **space charge** → lower gas gain → different distribution of the reactive species around the anode wire (**can be checked and, probably, avoided**)
  - Some of the detectors have relatively large resistance in the HV circuit and **high irradiation current** causes the voltage drop changing the actual operation voltage (**can be easily avoided**)

# Accelerated longevity tests

## Gas gain and space charge effects in aging tests of gaseous detectors

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### Abstract

We present the results of investigations of the gas gain in straw drift-tubes under different irradiation intensities from a <sup>90</sup>Sr β-source. Tests were performed with a gas mixture of 70% Xe+10% CO<sub>2</sub>+20% CF<sub>4</sub>. The goal of this investigation was to show how to optimize the choice of high voltage for quick aging studies of modern gaseous detectors. In order to perform aging tests within a reasonable time period, the rate of accumulating charge must be at least 10 times higher than what is expected in a real experiment. This means a reasonably quick charge accumulation of about 0.1–0.2 C/cm per day (1–2.3 μA/cm). In order to be as close as possible to the real experimental conditions, the high voltage should be chosen so as to compensate for the space charge effect, which changes the gas gain in such quick aging tests. It is shown that the limited streamer mode becomes quite noticeable starting at a gas gain of  $4.5 \times 10^4$ .

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[Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research A 515 \(2003\) 283–287](#)

45% of the space charge was compensated by HV

Is the result of such over-accelerated test reliable?

May be still useful for comparative studies?

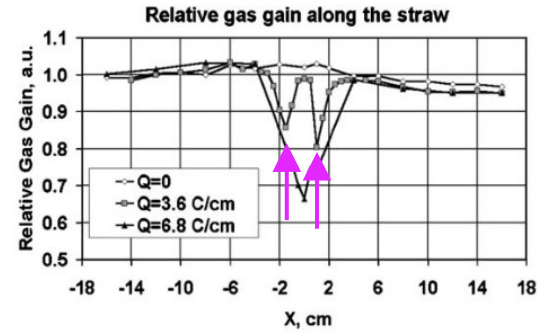


Fig. 5. Relative gas gain along the straw-tube for different accumulated doses.

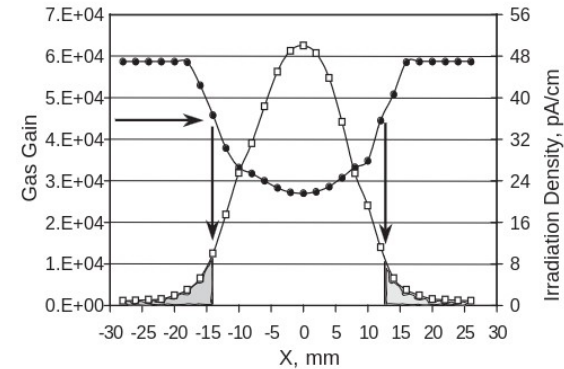


Fig. 6. The gas gain distribution across the beam profile. The beam profile was studied by measuring the irradiation current density for different straw position across the beam. Gray background labels two zones where the LSM can appear.

## How scaling for longevity tests works?

- But even if we don't have the space charge, irradiate at the nominal gas gain and use a moderate acceleration factor... Still, can we scale?
- Primitively, just considering the reaction rate law:

Reaction  $aA + bB \rightarrow \dots$

rate =  $k(T) [A]^n [B]^m$ , but  $n$  and  $m$  depend on the reaction and has to be defined experimentally

- What about plasma conditions?..
- Probably comparative studies to choose the detector material and gas still can be performed with relatively large acceleration factors? **... but at least at the same conditions.**
- However, the final pre-production longevity test have to be performed **with the smallest reasonable acceleration factor**

## What about the gas flow?

- We never can do accelerated aging test for the conditions identical to the operational. In this case we should choose **the worst conditions**
- “identical conditions” for volume scaling (small prototype studies) = the same replenishment rate (what about the local irradiation? :)
- Are there “identical conditions” for the accelerated irradiation?
- What we expect more from the gas flow?
  - To bring potentially dangerous outgassing/permeability products inside the gas volume?
    - Scaling the replenishment rate with the irradiation acceleration factor may be the solution
  - To remove dangerous products from the irradiation zone?
    - Keeping the same replenishment rate may be the solution
- Still should be some reasonable limits...
- If possible, several gas flow values can be tested



# What about the gas flow?

## Aging studies of CMS muon chamber prototypes

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E. Lobachev<sup>b</sup>, G. Mitselmakher<sup>c</sup>, L. Schipunov<sup>b</sup>

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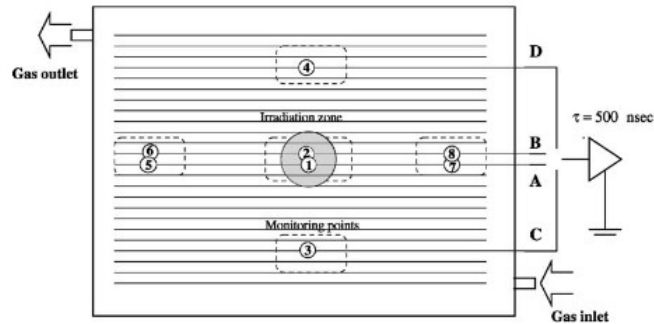
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Received 21 March 2001; received in revised form 7 January 2002; accepted 7 January 2002

[Nucl. Instrum. Methods Phys. Res., A 488 \(2002\) 240-257](#)

Longevity tests with small CMS CSC prototype  
Acceleration factor (source spot) – more than 1000!  
Q expected  $\sim 0.1$  C/cm



- 1 – flow not scaled (not too much informative)
- 2 – replenishment 40 times lower! Gas pollution
- 3 – replenishment rate comparable to expected - OK

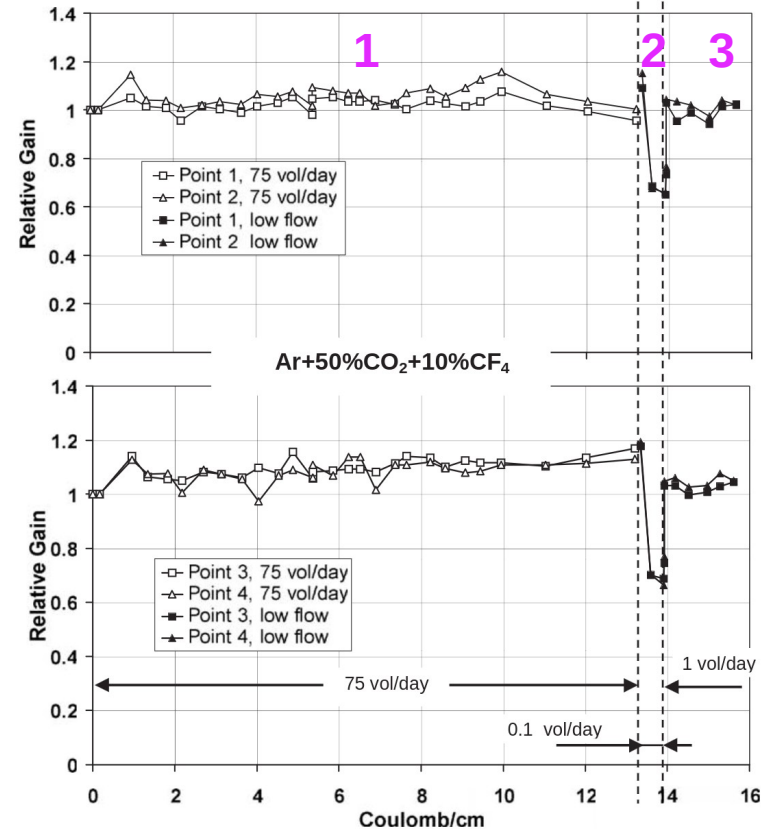


Fig. 16. Relative gas gain versus accumulated charge at points 1, 2 (top) and 3, 4 (bottom).

Actual CMS CSC - 3(4) chambers per line, replenishment - 4V/day

# Parameter monitoring during irradiation tests

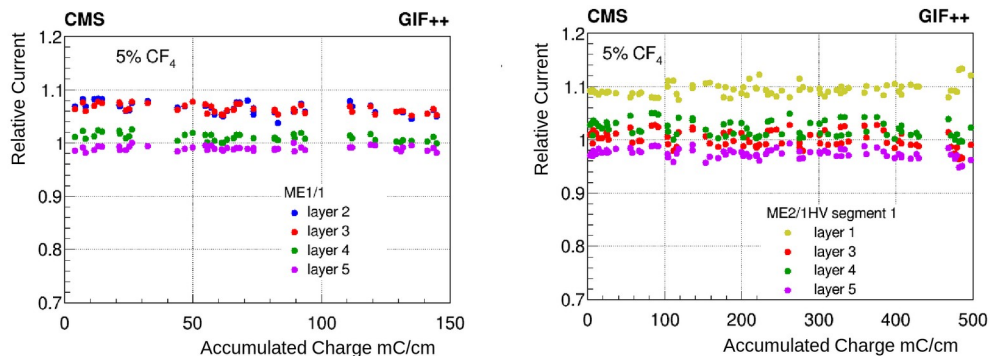
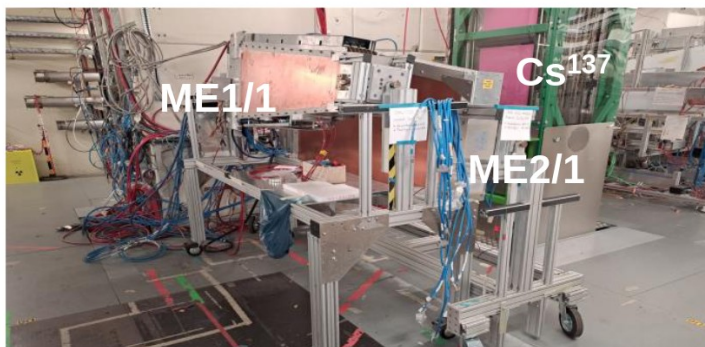
- Basic detector characteristics (both lab and pre-production tests)
  - Gas gain (absolute or relative)  
pressure/temperature dependent => relative wrt reference points/chamber/gaps
  - Dark current, dark rate
  - Current instabilities (Malter current ) (lower intensity)
  - CSC: resistance between strips
- Operation characteristics (pre-production tests, better if with the original electronics)
  - Efficiency
  - Spatial/time resolution

# Gas gain monitoring during irradiation

## CMS-CSC example

[CMS-CSC talk at ICPA-2024](#)

### Full-scale chamber irradiation at GIF++ - detector current monitoring

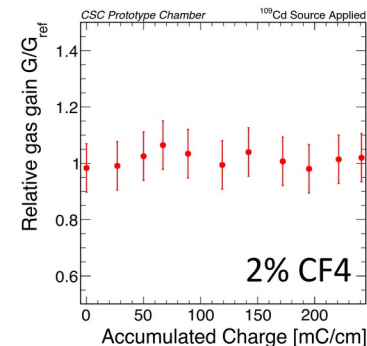
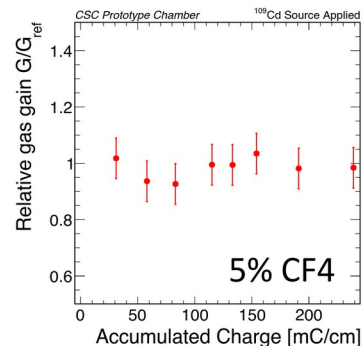
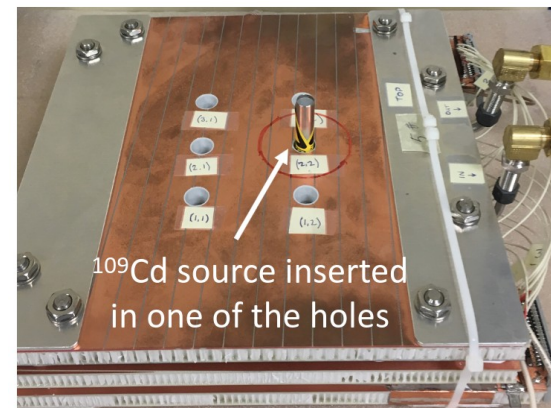
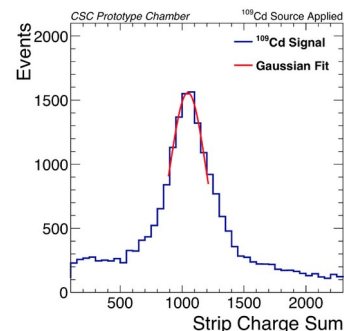


ME1/1 (left) and ME2/1 (right) plots of the relative currents in irradiated layers vs the accumulated charge. The relative current is a ratio of a value of the current in **irradiated** layer and an averaged current value of the two **reference** layers. During irradiation, the reference layers have HV=0. The closer the layer is to the Source, the higher current it has.

The data refers to the period of irradiation with 40%Ar+55%CO<sub>2</sub>+5%CF<sub>4</sub> gas mixture. Each layer of the ME2/1 active area is divided into three independent high voltage zones – HV segments. Right plot is for ME2/1 segment 1.

[CMS-CSC talk at DPF-2019](#)

### Small prototype local irradiation <sup>109</sup>Cd peak position



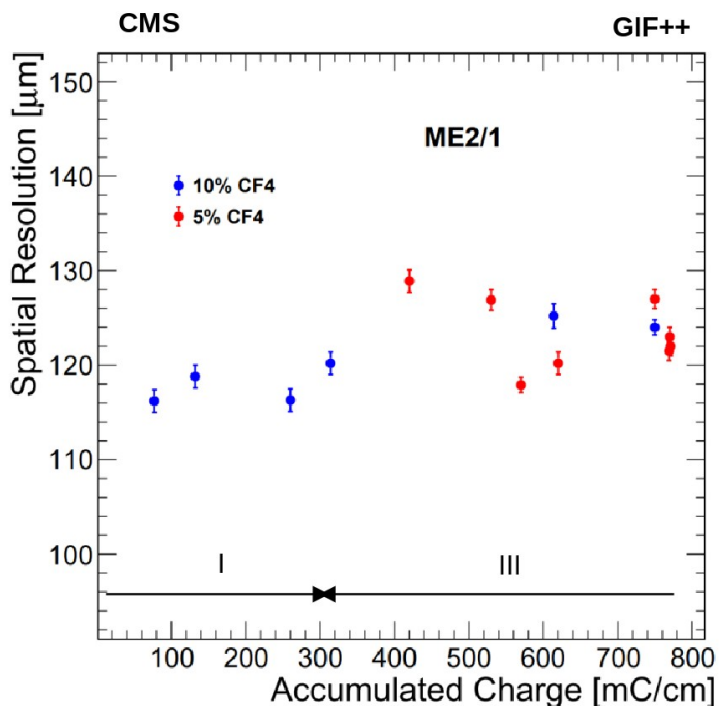
# Performance monitoring at GIF++ test beam

## CMS-CSC examples

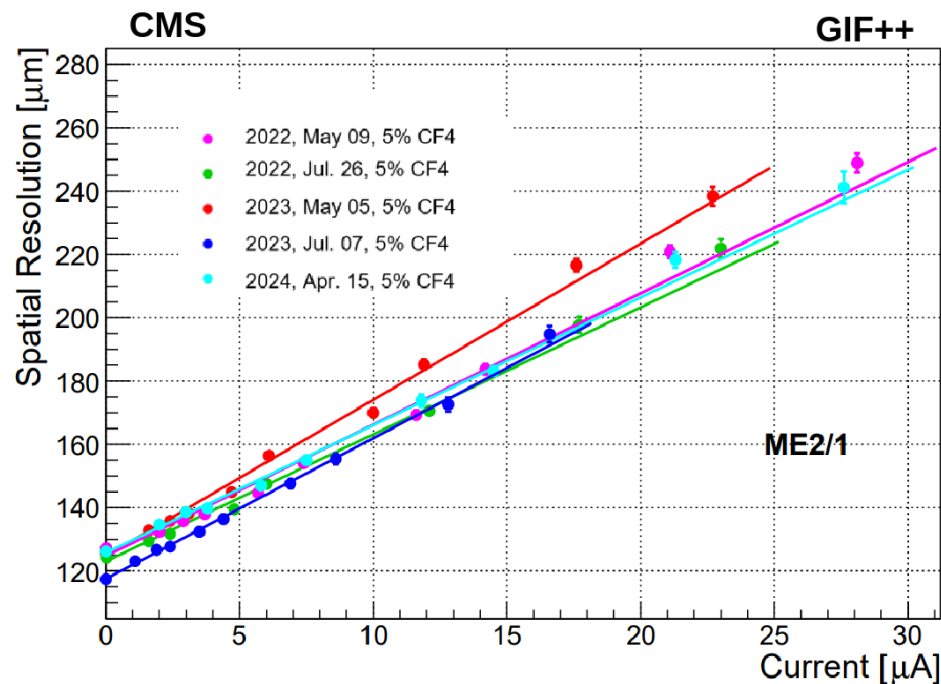
[CMS-CSC talk at ICPA-2024](#)

Full-scale chamber irradiation at GIF++ - detector current monitoring

Muons only



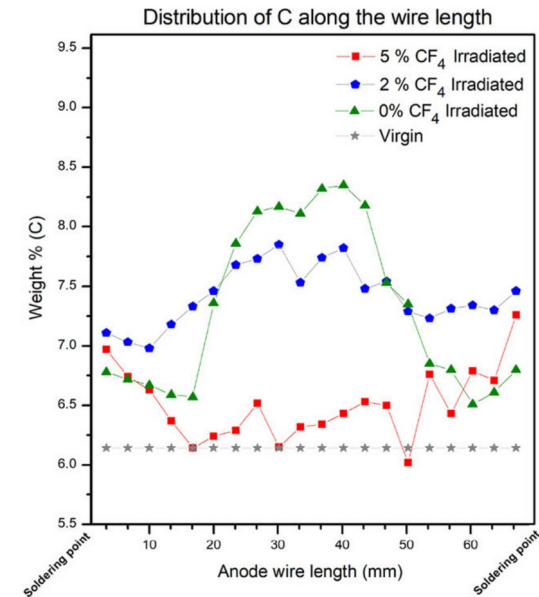
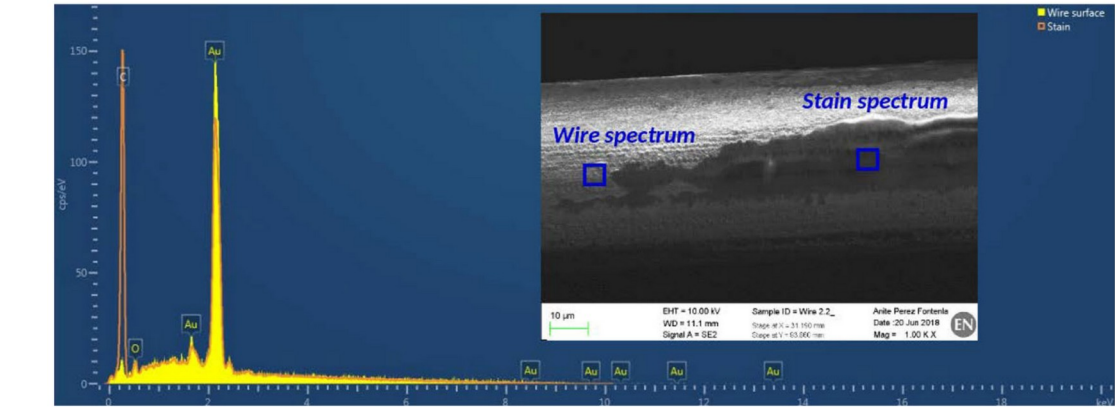
Muons + gamma background for different accumulated charges - performance in realistic conditions - **unique for GIF++!**



# Material analysis after the irradiation CMS-CSC examples

## comparative studies with CSC prototypes

- Comparison of chamber material after irradiation tests with 0,2 and 5% CF<sub>4</sub> - usual set of material analysis – visual inspection, SEM/EDS (CERN-MME-MM)
- But how to make them quantitative or at least comparable?
- 1. Irradiation runs are made in identical conditions up to the same accumulated charge
- 2. Averaging weight% measured in grid (not biased to any special features on the surface) – done by IGPC (Belgrade) :

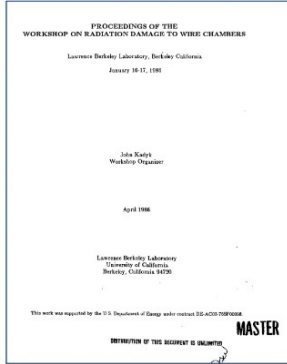


- Only reasonable methodology can provide adequate results – but still not a guarantee!! (usually a safety factor  $\sim 3$  is considered to make the longevity prediction more reliable)
- There are quite a lot of studies and results, especially from the LHC experiment construction time, and quite a lot of new experience
- Close communication with chemists may be very useful not only in explaining the longevity test results but also for better organization of irradiation test
- Intensive experience exchange is very helpful!

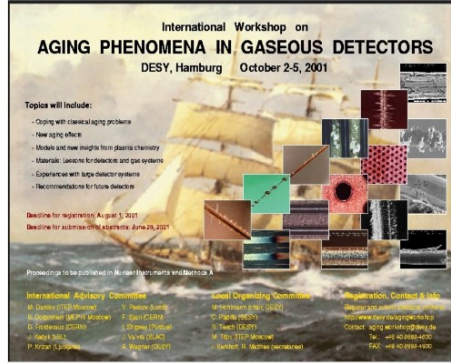
## **DRD1 R&D Collaboration**

### **Development of Gaseous Detectors Technologies**

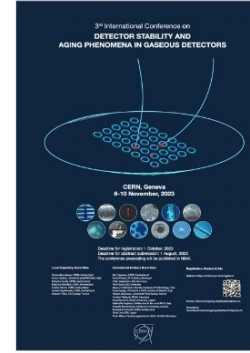
While we study aging on gas detectors ...



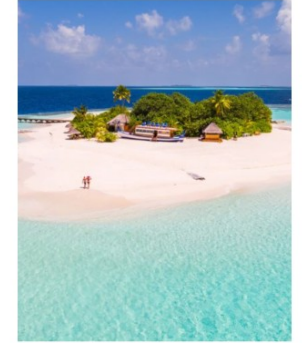
1986



2001

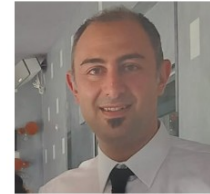


2023



When?

... its effects may also appear elsewhere



**Don't wait too long!!!**



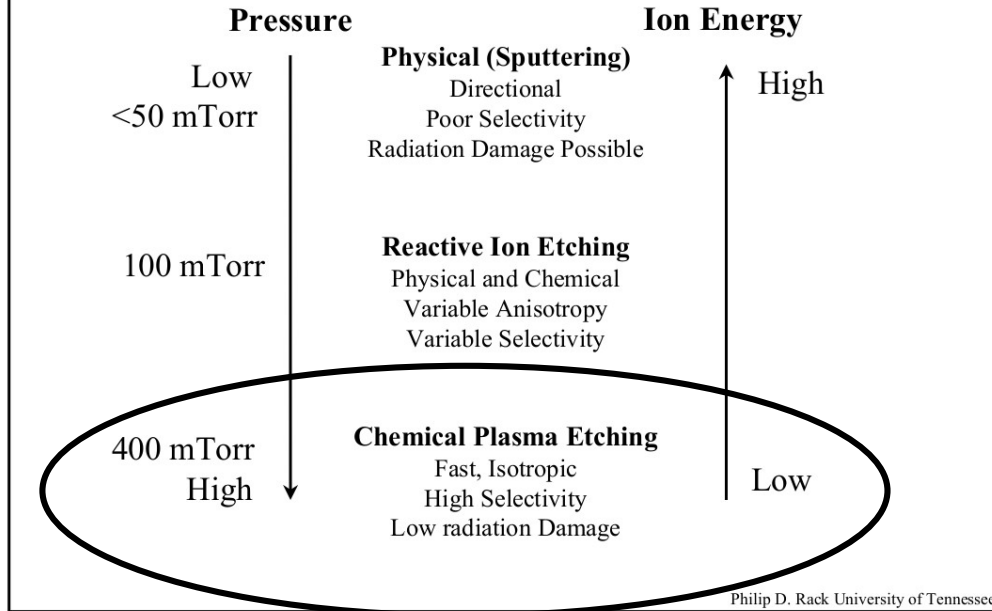
M. Bianco, 3rd International Conference on Detector Stability and Aging Phenomena in Gaseous Detector, 6th-10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 CERN

**BACKUP**



# CF4 and dry etching

## Dry Etching Spectrum



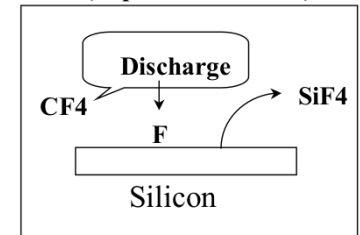
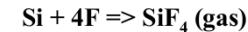
## Basic Principle of Plasma Etching

CF<sub>4</sub> is inert gas (Freon 14)

add electron impact:



To produce chemically reactive fluorine radicals. Then at the surface:



Philip D. Rack University of Tennessee

Not really the same

But can we learn something from them?

In a very naive consideration...

## A combination of tools, approaches and models

- (1) description of the reactor and temperatures

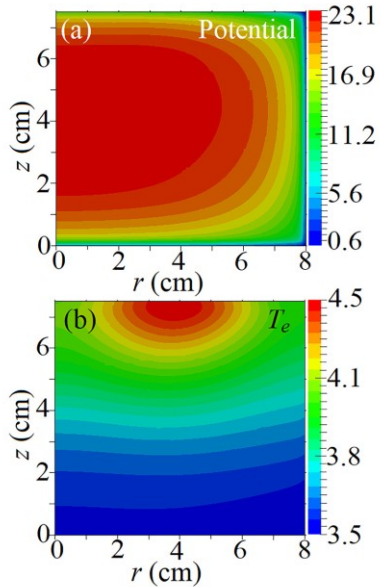


FIG. 2. (a) Electrostatic potential (in V) and (b) electron temperature (in eV) obtained for the gas pressure of 20 mTorr, discharge power of 100 W,  $CF_4/O_2/Ar$  ratio of 70:5:25, and gas residence time of 0.01 s.

- (2) a process model and reaction rates

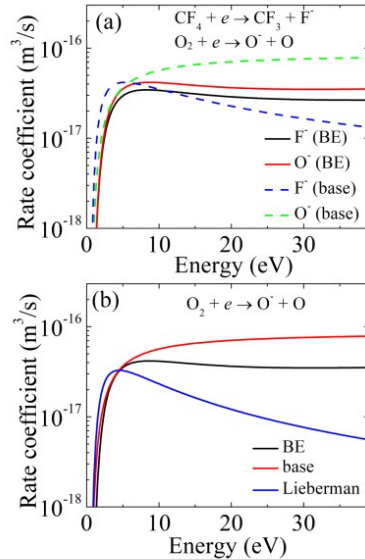


FIG. 2. (a) Rate coefficients of electron attachment reactions calculated using the Boltzmann equation solver and taken from Ref. 6 (base mechanism). (b) The rate coefficients of the reaction of electron attachment to  $O_2$  obtained by solving the BE and taken from Ref. 2 (Lieberman) and Ref. 6 (base).

## Computational study of plasma dynamics and reactive chemistry in a low-pressure inductively coupled $CF_4/O_2$ plasma

Cite as: J. Vac. Sci. Technol. B 39, 042202 (2021); doi: 10.1116/1.5042202  
Submitted: 15 March 2021 · Accepted: 2 June 2021 · Published Online: 29 June 2021

Dmitry Levko,<sup>1,a)</sup> Chandrasekhar Shukla,<sup>1</sup> Rochan

## Optimization of silicon etch rate in a $CF_4/Ar/O_2$ inductively coupled plasma

Cite as: J. Vac. Sci. Technol. B 40, 032203 (2022); https://doi.org/10.1116/1.5032203  
Submitted: 11 January 2022 · Accepted: 24 March 2022 · Published Online: 18 April 2022

Dmitry Levko and Laxminarayan L. Raja

TABLE I. List of reactions considered in the full model. The units of rate coefficient are  $s^{-1} m^3$ ,  $m^3 s^{-1}$ , or  $m^2 s^{-1}$ . The asterisk in the first column denotes the reactions added in the present work.

Reaction	Rate coefficient	Reference
1 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_3 + F^-$	Bohag	24
2 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_3 + F^- + e$	Bohag	24
3 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
4 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
5 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
6 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
7 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
8 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
9 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
10 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
11 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
12 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
13 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
14 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
15 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
16 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
17 $e + CF_4 \rightarrow CF_2 + CF_2 + e$	Bohag	24
18 $e + F_2 \rightarrow F^- + F$	Bohag	28
19 $e + F_2 \rightarrow F^- + F$	Bohag	28
20 $e + F_2 \rightarrow F^- + F$	Bohag	28
21 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	29
22 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	29
23 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	29
24 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	29
25 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	29
26 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	29
27 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$9 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-11.6/T_e)$	6
28 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$2.2 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-20/T_e)$	6
29 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$3.6 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-2.2/T_e)$	6
30 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$4.2 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-4.6/T_e)$	6
31 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	30
32 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	31
33 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	31
34 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	32
35 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	32
36 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	Bohag	32
37 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$3.68 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-11.6/T_e)$	7
38 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$10^{-17}$	7
39 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$3.99 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-11.6/T_e)$	7
40 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$6 \times 10^{-17}$	6
41 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$5.2 \times 10^{-17} \exp(-11.6/T_e)$	6
42 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$5 \times 10^{-17}$	7
43 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$3 \times 10^{-17}$	7
44 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$2 \times 10^{-17}$	7
45 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$10^{-17}$	7
46 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$10^{-17}$	7
47 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$10^{-17}$	7
48 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$4 \times 10^{-17}$	6
49 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$4 \times 10^{-17}$	6
50 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$4 \times 10^{-17}$	6
51 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$4 \times 10^{-17}$	6
52 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$2 \times 10^{-17}$	6
53 $e + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O$	$2.7 \times 10^{-17}$	6

TABLE I. (Continued)

Reaction	Rate coefficient	Reference
54 $O^- + O_2^- \rightarrow O + O_2$	$1.5 \times 10^{11}$	6
55 $O^- + CF_2 \rightarrow O + CF_2$	$1.5 \times 10^{11}$	6
56 $O^- + CF_2 \rightarrow O + CF_2$	$1.5 \times 10^{11}$	6
57 $O^- + O \rightarrow O_2$	$2 \times 10^{10} \exp(-5.5/T_e)$	6
58 $O^- + O \rightarrow O_2$	$3 \times 10^{10}$	7
59 $O^- + O \rightarrow O_2$	$1 \times 10^{10}$	7
60 $O^- + O \rightarrow O_2$	$4 \times 10^{10}$	7
61 $O^- + O \rightarrow O_2$	$5 \times 10^{10}$	7
62 $CF_2 + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + CF_3$	$4 \times 10^{10}$	7
63 $CF_2 + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + CF_3$	$1.4 \times 10^{11}$	7
64 $CF_2 + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + CF_3$	$1.4 \times 10^{11}$	7
65 $CF_2 + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + CF_3$	$2.06 \times 10^{11}$	7
66 $CF_2 + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + CF_3$	$1.0 \times 10^{11}$	7
67 $CF_2 + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + CF_3$	$1.8 \times 10^{11}$	7
68 $CF_2 + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + CF_3$	$1.71 \times 10^{11}$	7
69 $F + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + F$	$10^{11}$	7
70 $F + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + F$	$10^{11}$	7
71 $F + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + F$	$10^{11}$	7
72 $F + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + F$	$2.9 \times 10^{11}$	7
73 $F + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + F$	$2.28 \times 10^{11}$	7
74 $F + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + F$	$10^{11}$	7
75 $F + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_3 + F$	$10^{11}$	7
76 $F + O_2 \rightarrow OF + F$	$10^{11}$	7
77 $F + O_2 \rightarrow OF + F$	$7.14 \times 10^{10}$	7
78 $F + O_2 \rightarrow OF + F$	$5.08 \times 10^{10}$	7
79 $F + O_2 \rightarrow OF + F$	$10^{11}$	7
80 $F + O_2 \rightarrow OF + F$	$10^{11}$	7
81 $O^- + M \rightarrow O^- + M$	$10^{11}$	7
82 $O^- + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O_2$	$10^{11}$	7
83 $O^- + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O_2$	$1.4 \times 10^{11}$	7
84 $O^- + CF_2 \rightarrow O^- + CF_2$	$10^{11}$	7
85 $O^- + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O_2$	$2.8 \times 10^{12} \exp(-4800/T_e)$	7
86 $O^- + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O_2$	$8.4 \times 10^{11}$	7
87 $O^- + O_2 \rightarrow O^- + O_2$	$5.2 \times 10^{11}$	7
88 $O_2^- + CF_2 \rightarrow CF_2 + O_2 + F$	$9 \times 10^{12} \exp(-41790/T_e)$	7
89 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$5 \times 10^{11}$	7
90 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$1.6 \times 10^{11}$	7
91 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$9.62 \times 10^{10}$	7
92 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$1.4 \times 10^{11}$	7
93 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$1.2 \times 10^{11}$	7
94 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$10^{11}$	7
95 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$7 \times 10^{10}$	7
96 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$7 \times 10^{10}$	7
97 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$7 \times 10^{10}$	7
98 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$8 \times 10^{10}$	7
99 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$4.2 \times 10^{10}$	7
100 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$8 \times 10^{10}$	7
101 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$5 \times 10^{10}$	7
102 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$2.1 \times 10^{11}$	7
103 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$3.1 \times 10^{11}$	7
104 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$1.4 \times 10^{11}$	7
105 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$4 \times 10^{10}$	7
106 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$2 \times 10^{10}$	7
107 $O_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2 + O_2$	$8 \times 10^{10}$	7

- (3) densities and fluxes
  - Electron drift + diffusion
  - Ion drift

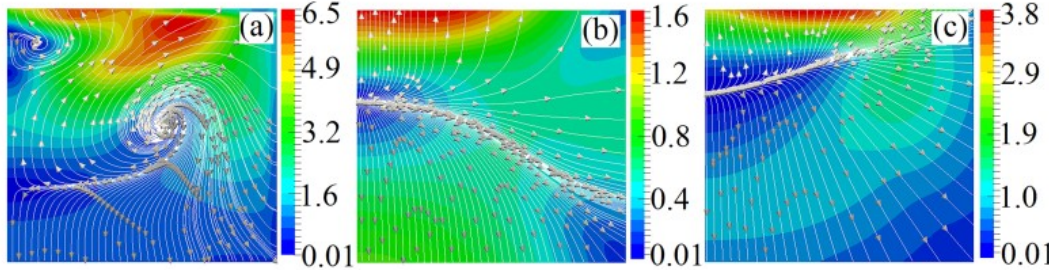


FIG. 6. Number fluxes of (a) electrons, (b) ions  $CF_3^+$ , and (c) ions  $O^+$  in  $m^{-2} s^{-1}$ . All the fluxes shown in the figure should be multiplied by the factor of  $10^{20} m^{-3}$ .

- (4) predictions vs measurements

## Computational study of plasma dynamics and reactive chemistry in a low-pressure inductively coupled $CF_4/O_2$ plasma

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## Optimization of silicon etch rate in a $CF_4/Ar/O_2$ inductively coupled plasma

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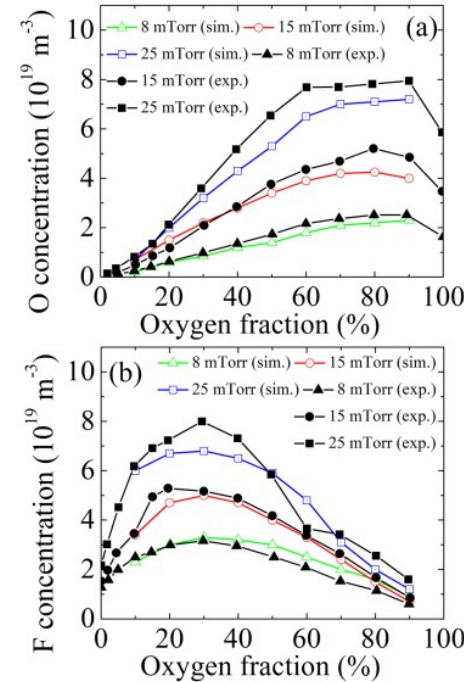


FIG. 8. Comparison between the simulation and experimental results (Ref. 6) for the atomic (a) oxygen and (b) fluorine concentrations obtained at various total gas pressures. The experimental data were reproduced from Ref. 6.