Radiation hard scintillators

Thursday 1 June 2017 14:30 (30 minutes)

Future circular and linear colliders as well as the Large Hadron Collider in the High-Luminosity era have been imposing unprecedented challenges on the radiation hardness of particle detectors that will be used for specific purposes e.g. forward calorimeters, beam and luminosity monitors.

We performed research on the radiation-hard active media for such detectors, particularly calorimeters, by exploring intrinsically radiation-hard materials and their mixtures. The initial samples that we probed were thin plates of Polyethylene Naphthalate (PEN) and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) and thin sheets of HEM. The previous studies indicate towards promising performance under high radiation conditions. We will report on the necessary process of mixing the PEN and PEN for optimized scintillation and signal timing properties preserving the high radiation resistance.

Recently we developed a new plastic scintillator material. The scintillation yield of SiX sample was compared to a BGO crystal using a setup with 90Sr source and a Hamamatsu R7525-HA photomutiplier tube (PMT). The SiX was measured to yield roughly 50% better light production compared to the BGO crystal.sample SiX was irradiated at the CERN PS radiation facility with 24 GeV/c protons. The samples received a fluence of 1.2 x 1015 p/cm2 which corresponds to 4 x 105 Gy radiation doses. The comparison of the transmission spectra of SiX sample before and after the irradiation exhibits a loss of roughly 7% light transmission after 4 x 105 Gy proton irradiation.

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Session Classification: FCC-hh experiments and detectors