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Characterisation of the charging up effect in Micromegas detectors

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During the last decade, a major improvement in the field of the Micro-Pattern

Gaseous Detectors has been reached by adding a layer of resistive strips above the readout strips to reduce drastically the effect of discharges. The resistive strips are separated from the readout strips by a thin layer of insulator. When the detector is operated at high rate some gain reduction is observed over the first seconds or minutes after switch-on, stabilising after some time. Is this related to the presence of the insulator or are there other mechanisms at work?

We report here the results of a detailed study of this effect and compare resistive-strip and standard Micromegas detectors. We will present and quantify the main characteristics of this effect, i.e, the absolute and relative gain drop and the time to reach a stable regime, as a function of the detector configuration and current. In addition we measured the time to go back to initial conditions after stopping the exposure of the detector.

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