# "Single Photon Detection with gaseous detectors"

Stefano Levorato

*Limited to the PID applications of gaseous photon detectors………* 

**1908: FIRST WIRE COUNTER** USED BY RUTHERFORD IN THE STUDY OF NATURAL RADIOACTIVITY





Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1908

**Walther Bothe Nobel Prize in** 1954 for the "coincidence method"

**1968: MULTIWIRE PROPORTIONAL CHAMBER** 



G. Charpak, Proc. Int. Symp. Nuclear Electronics<br>(Versailles 10-13 Sept 1968)



More than 100 years of tradition on gaseous detectors development and operation











lams, H. E. and B. Salzburg, "The secondary emission phototube," Proc. IRE 23, 55 (1935).

…the discovery and the exploit of the photoelectric phenomenon and the Cherenkov effect ….

**John Sealy Townsend** 



Pavel Cherenkov 1904-1990 **Nobel Prize in 1958** 











Tom Ypsilantis 1928-2000

### The motivation

### **Needed for π-K identification from HEP Experiments**

Large momentum acceptance  $\rightarrow$  Cherenkov angle measurement technique Large angular acceptance  $\rightarrow$  large area of efficient single photon detection



Gaseous detectors: 1) cheap, 2) magnetic insensitive, 3) low material budget



- 1970s: large area position sensitive gaseous detectors available
- Suitable photo-ionizing agent: Benzene: Seguinot-Ypsilantis NIM 142 (1977) 377, TEA (7.6 eV) NIM 173 (1980) 283, TMAE (5.3 eV) NIM 178 (1980) 125.



- a gas gain high enough to detect single photoelectrons
- conflicting requirements because of the copious UV emission by the multiplication avalanche.
- solution: multistep avalanche chamber

(Charpak-Sauli Phys. Lett. B 142 (1977) 377) or TPC

### Photoconverting Vapor based RICH coupled to large MWPC: the first generation





*DELPHI TMAE(Tetrakis-Dimethylamine-Ethylene)*





### TMAE gas



NIMA Volume 433, Issues 1–2, 21 August 1999, Pages 92-97 ( HERA-B RICH)

### The revolution of the CsI, the conversion on solid photocathode

1956: CsI layer has large QE for photons with hν > 6 eV (Philipp and Taft)







(c) thin film evaporated in presence of excess Cs.



J. Phys. Chem. Solids. Pergamon Press 1956. Vol. 1. pp. 159-163.

#### PHOTOELECTRIC EMISSION FROM THE VALENCE **BAND OF CESIUM IODIDE**

H. R. PHILIPP AND L. A. TAFT

General Electric Research Laboratory, Box 1088, Schenectady, New York





### Semitransparent and reflective mode, photoelectron escape probability from thin film photocathodes





#### CsI reflective photocathodes and their use for RICH detectors Experimental studies

J. Séguinot<sup>a,\*</sup>, T. Ypsilantis<sup>a</sup>, J.P. Jobez<sup>a</sup>, R. Arnold<sup>b</sup>, J.L. Guyonnet<sup>b</sup>, E. Chesi<sup>c</sup>, J. Tischhauser<sup>c</sup>, R.J. Mountain<sup>d</sup>, I. Adachi<sup>e</sup>, T. Sumiyoshi<sup>e</sup> \* Collège de France, Paris, France <sup>b</sup> CRN, IN2P3-CNRS/Louis Pasteur University, Strasbourg, France <sup>c</sup> CERN/ECP Division, CH-1211 Genève 23, Switzerland Department of Physics, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-1130, USA <sup>e</sup> KEK, National Laboratory for High Energy Physics, 1-1 Oho, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 305, Japan

A large number of investigations have been performed over the last five years on CsI photocathodes (CsI-PCs) working in the reflective mode with electron extraction into a gaseous medium for application to Ring Imaging Cherenkov (RICH) detectors as well as X-ray imaging detectors. Both use gas filled multi-wire chambers (MWCs) as photon detectors with pad (or wire and cathode strip) readout.

Large discrepancies in the measured quantum efficiency (OE) have been published. These contradictions largely reflect the difficulty of the technique which is strongly dependent on the choice and preparation of the PC substrate, the conditions of the CsI vacuum deposition and any eventual exposure of the CsI-PC to air. In addition, absolute OE measurements require precise calibration of the incident light flux and moreover are electric field, temperature and gas dependent. Lack of control of these many conditions can partially explain the contradictory conclusions. Presently, as it will be shown, the most recent works on CsI-PCs are converging and show that a large OE can be attained but imposing some restrictions on their use with MWC detectors.





### RD26: MWPC coupled to CsI for the large area fast rich detectors

*1992, F. Piuz et al. Development of large area advanced fast-RICH detector for particle identification at LHC operated with heavy ions*





Fig. 1. The QE of CsI PCs produced at CERN for ALICE and at TUM for HADES, compared to that measured at the W.I.S. on small samples (reference for RD-26). PC32 is one of the four PCs equipping the ALICE-RICH prototype used in STAR at BNL. *A. Di Mauro, NIM A 525 (2004) 173.*

#### **TO ACHIEVE HIGH CsI QE:**

#### **Substrate preparation:**

**Cu clad PCB coated by Ni (7 µm) and Au(0.5 µm), surface cleaning in ultrasonic bath, outgassing at 60 <sup>o</sup>C for 1 day**

#### **Slow deposition of 300 nm CsI film:**

**1 nm/s (by thermal evaporation or e- -gun) at a vacuum**

**of ~ 10-7 mbar, monitoring of residual gas composition**

#### **Thermal treatment:**

**after deposition at 60 <sup>o</sup>C for 8 h**

#### **Careful Handling:**

**measurement of PC response, encapsulation under dry Ar, mounting by glove-box.**

#### *Schematic structure of the Photon Detector:*



### MWPCs with solid state photocathode (the RD26 effort)



Table 1: Technical specifications for the TIC photon detection chambers





COMPASS RICH-1 2002 CsI > 5 m<sup>2</sup>





JLAB-HALL A





### The ALICE RICH photodetectors

RADIATOR: 15 mm liquid C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>14</sub>,  $n \approx 1.2989$  @ 175nm,  $β_{th} = 0.77$ 

**PHOTON CONVERTER:** Reflective layer of CsI (QE ~ 25% @ 175 nm)

**PHOTOELECTRON DETECTOR:** MWPC with  $CH<sub>4</sub>$  at atmospheric pressure (4 mm gap)  $HV = 2050 V.$ 

- Analogue pad readout







### Photoelectron extraction from a CsI film, the role of gas and E





### Severe recovery time  $($   $\sim$  1 d) after detector trips

*Ion accumulation at the photocathode* 

Feedback pulses

*Ion and photons feedback from the multiplication process 2pi 50%*

Aging after integrating a few mC / cm<sup>2</sup>

*Ion bombardment of the photocathode 50, 60 %*

Operation at moderate gain  $< 10<sup>5</sup>$ 





**Degradation not well understood – physical and chemical mechanisms competing? Evaporation? Cesiation?..**

H. Hoedlmoser et al., NIM A 574 (2007) 28.



### **MPWC based signal**

**slow signal formation µs and low gain "slow" electronics (signal integration, low noise level)**

- *Gassiplex FE : integration time ~ 0.5*  $\mu$ *s, time res> 1*  $\mu$ *s*
- *APV (COMPASS RICH-1 upgrade) : resolution ~ 400 ns*

 *Detector memory, i.e. not adequate for high rates*

### An option for the ALICE HMPID upgrade



### The MPGD era

- The Micro Pattern Gaseous Detector technology triggered new possibilities for Gaseous PD performance
- Intrinsic mitigation of the photon feedback
- Strategies for Ion backflow reduction
- High gain
- High position resolution
- Fast signals
- Visible sensitivity
- Nano/Pico second resolution



- **High Rate Capability**
- **High Gain**  $\bullet$
- **High Space Resolution**
- **Good Time Resolution**
- **Good Energy Resolution**
- **Excellent Radiation Hardness**
- **Good Ageing Properties**
- Ion Backflow Reduction
- Photon Feedback Reduction
- Large Size
- **Low Cost**







A. Breskin and R. Chechik, NIM A 595 (2008) 116

ions

electrons

## No photon feedback, reduced ion feedback



Gain

### IFB in GEM-based detectors





IBF: a few % level in effective GEM-based photon detectors



## LARGE GAIN RELEVANT FOR SINGLE PHOTON DETECTION

### GEM-based PDs in laboratory studies

for single photoelectron detection, they have been operated at gains  $> 10^5$  (see, for instance, the plots of the previous slides)

### GEM-based detectors in experiments

Always a MIP flux and small rates of heavily ionizing fragments crossing the detectors (even when the detectors are used as photon detectors)

At COMPASS:  $G \sim 8000$  (B. Ketzer, private comm.) At LHCb: G ~ 4000 (M.Alfonsi NIMA 581 (2007) 283) At TOTEM:  $G \sim 8000$  (G. Catanesi, private comm.) **Phenix HBD: G ~ 4000** (W. Anderson et al., NIMA 646 (2011) 35)

## $\rightarrow$ In experiments, small chances

## to operate GEM-based PDs at gains  $> 10<sup>4</sup>$

## PCB technology, thus:

## robust

## mechanically self supporting

industrial production of large size boards

large gains can be easily achieved (rim!)

Gain stability is challenging

## Comparing to GEMs

Geometrical dimensions X ~10

But e<sup>-</sup> motion/multiplic. properties do not! Larger holes:

dipole fields and external fields are strongly coupled

e - dispersion plays a minor role

### About PCB geometrical dimensions:





### introduced in // by different groups:

L. Periale et al., NIM A478 (2002) 377. P. Jeanneret, PhD thesis, Neuchatel U., 2001. P.S. Barbeau et al, IEEE NS50 (2003) 1285 R. Chechik et al, .NIMA 535 (2004) 303

### THGEM-based PD

### High-rate device



M. Alexeev et al. JINST 10 (2015 ) P03026



photoelectron trajectories from a THGEM photocathode,simulation, multiplication switched off thickness 0.6 mm, diam. 0.4 mm, pitch: 0.8 mm,  $ΔV = 1500 V$ 







Photoelectron extraction from THGEM PC fully confirmed by direct observation with "Leopard"





G.Hamar and D.Varga, NIMA 694(2012) 16

### THGEM R&D for RICHes

#### Ne+10%CH4, used with  $\overline{\Delta V}$  at 650-750 V Quartz windo Amm thicknoce ALICE VHMPID TGEM: THGEM & HYBRID (97% transparency 6.0 mm **TELEVISION IN THE THICK GEN**  $-4.5$  mm  $1.5 \text{ mm}$ V.Peskov et al., NIMA 695 (2012) 154 y [pad]

### N of detected photons is ~60-70% of MWPCs with CsI

#### 5. Conclusions and Outlook

We report the first successful implementation of a set of CsI-TGEMs with a liquid radiator where a Cherenkov ring has been observed. The results obtained are encouraging and suggest that the present performance could be improved in the future by optimizing elements of the design. We are launching now systematic studies on TGEM geometry optimization allowing increasing the value of  $\eta_{\text{rel}}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{\text{col}}$  and  $A_{\text{eff}}$ . We also are planning to investigate



### THGEMs+Resitive Micromegas combination



THGEM 1- provide support for the CsI *pc*, gain and partial block of ions and photons

THGEM 2 -extra gain and extra ion blocking and **charge splitting**

Micromegas – discrete element approach efficient for ion trap and provide extra gain and spark mitigation





# The future...

### RICH at the EIC, exploiting the COMPASS hybrid PD upgrade



- $-1$  <n> (barrel) : sPHENIX + Compact-TPC + DIRC
- $-4$  <n < -1 (e-going) : High resolution EM calorimeter + GEM trackers
- $+1$  <n>  $-1$  (h-going) :
	- 1<η<4 : GEM tracker + Gas RICH
	- 1<n<2 : Aerogel RICH
	- 1<n<5 : EM Calorimeter + Hadron Calorimeter
- Along outgoing hadron beam: ZDC and roman pots



High-tech, expensive mirrors, gas transparency issues at 120 nm

Different lever arm w.r.t. COMPASS requires pads of small size to improve the space resolution(3mmx3mm)





Studies performed with Ar/CH4 mixtures, towards a windowless approach using CF4  $\rightarrow$ *Chandradoy Chatterjee*  and different photoconverters *Daniele D'Ago*

# Innovative approaches to single photon detection with GPD, R&D

### InGrid – Micromegas integrated in a Timepix







X (column num)

Fig. 3. Extraction efficiency of photoelectrons from a CsI photocathode into various gas mixtures (reference to vacuum). All gases were maintained at 1 atm.

- Very interesting performance for imaging (high granularity)
- Compact system with integrated electronics
- Limited to small detection areas timePix limitation

*Melai et al., NIMA 628 (2011)133*

### MM-TGHEM – Multi-Mesh

First performance evaluation of a Multi-layer Thick Gaseous Electron Multiplier with in-built electrode meshes—MM-THGEM





*Oliveira and Cortesi., JINST 13 (2018) P06019*



### Carbon based photocathodes coupled to Gaseous Detectors, HND and THGEMS

. Very promising photocatode for VUV

- . very interesting QE
- . high radiation hardness
- . spray technique hidrogenated ND powder







Figure 6. Quantum efficiency as a function of wavelength for fresh and various charge accumulations  $(0.263mC/cm^2, 2.895mC/cm^2, 5.527mC/cm^2$  and  $8.159mC/cm^2$  due to ion bombardment on H-ND coated Au\_PCB substrate.

**Still presenting some ageing →** ●**Ion bombardment resistance !** ●**Compatible with MPGD operation !**

*Velardi et al., Diamond & RM 76(2017)1 ; Valentini et al. Patented* 

Below Quartz cutoff Windowless approach for RICH

 $\rightarrow$  Daniele D'Ago Talk

PICOSEC Collaboration aims for the development of a Micromegas based detector coupled to a photocathode for time resolution in the **ten pico second** time scale, not single ph.



Advances in DLC films triggered the possibility of producing photocathodes to operate in gas medium for MPGDs

• **DLC – Diamond-like carbon**



- –Widely used in industry as a solid lubricant
- –Recently introduced to the MPGD field as excellent resistive electrodes
- –Tested with success in the **PICOSEC** Collaboration
- A breakthrough in **carbon based photocathodes** would favour:
- GPMs performance in general
- RICH detectors for PID for future NP/HEP experiments: i.e. **HND nanodiamonds**

# Innovative approaches to single photon detection with GPD, R&D , visible range

Chemical reactivity (gas purity better than ppm level needed  $\rightarrow$  UHV materials and sealed detectors PC stability under ion bombardment - work function lower than CsI one



## More complex geometries needed with extra electrodes to trap the ions:



### Visible range single photon detection, GEM approach





The gas system allows filling the *detection chamber* with high-purity two-component gas mixtures. Prior to gas filling, the gas manifold is evacuated for 48 hours with a turbo-molecular pump, under bake out at 200<sup>0</sup>C, down to  $3 \cdot 10^{-6}$  Torr. The gas flow and the mixture ratio are regulated by mass-flow controllers. In all experiments Ar of 99.9999% purity and CH<sub>4</sub> of 99.9995% purity were used, filled into the *detection chamber* through a filter; the latter (GateKeeper 35K, Aeronex Inc.) is capable of purifying noble gases,  $N_2$  and CH<sub>4</sub> to ppb levels at a maximum flow of 1 liter per minute.

*Lyashenko et al., JINTS 4(2009)P07005*

### Visible range single photon detection, GEM approach

## the GEM approach



### Poor compatibility of Bialkali and GEM material?

#### F. Tokanai et al., NIMA 610 (2009) 164

Extremely poor QE of the Bialkali PC: the material of the GEM chemically reacts with the bialkali metals





### GASEOUS PHOTON DETECTORS

Most effective approach to instrument large surfaces at affordable costs

### MPGD-BASED PHOTON DETECTORS

Allow to overcome the limitations of open geometry gaseous PDs A wide effort to refine and consolidate the technology

### MANY APPLICATIONS OF MPGD-BASED PHOTON DETECTORS

From PID to  $v$ , DM, medical applications ... First step toward large area: Hybrid THGEM+MM for COMPASS

### BRIGHT FUTURE FOR:

Inventions: new ideas, new techniques Technology consolidation, new applications Large scale projects