DE LA RECHERCHE À L'INDUSTRIE



X and Gamma Ray Detectors

Principles and application

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Outline

Introduction

- Definitions,
- Interaction with matter (addressed on Monday by T. Patzak)

Detectors

- Scintillators / photodetector based sensors. (SiPM addressed on Monday by V. Puill)
- Gaseous and semiconductor based sensor.
- Forming an image

Applications

- Medical radiography
- Scintigraphy, emission tomography
- 1 example per domain : present, SOA
- Conclusion

Apologies

- Not all detectors covered. Only imaging detectors
- Electronic non treated
- No all applications covered (unfair choice)
- Not a review





Introduction



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X and Gamma ray : definitions

- Historical : X-ray energy range from 100eV to 1MeV while gamma rays range from 100keV to 10MeV.
- Physics : X-rays are emitted by electrons (either in orbitals outside of the nucleus, or while being accelerated to produce bremsstrahlung-type radiation), while gamma rays are emitted by the atomic nucleus.
- All are ambiguous and convention depends on the community. At the end: high energy electromagnetic ionizing radiation.



Source : wikipedia

Source : Mediso.hu

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Photon absorption is probabilistic and depends on photon energy and material.

Photoelectric absorption : the photon energy is transferred to an atomic electron, which is ejected at high velocity. Proportional to Z^{4,5}/E³ (except at absorption edges). The atomic relaxation produces either a characteristic X-ray photon or an Auger electron.





Photon absorption is probabilistic and depends on photon energy and material.

- Photoelectric absorption
- Compton scattering : inelastic scattering of the X-ray photon by an outer shell electron with a characteristic angle. Proportional to Z/E. The angle probability is given by the Klein-Nishina formula. (Most probable : 0°)





Photon absorption is probabilistic and depends on photon energy and material.

- Photoelectric absorption
- Compton scattering
- Rayleigh scattering : elastic scattering by an inner shell electron.





Photon absorption is probabilistic and depends on photon energy and material.

- Photoelectric absorption
- Compton scattering
- Rayleigh scattering
- Pair production : Production of an electron-positron pair with kinetic energy which could produce much ionization themselves. The positron annihilate and produces two 511keV gamma photon in coincidence. Proportional to Z²





Photon absorption is probabilistic and depends on photon energy and material.

- Photoelectric absorption
- Compton scattering
- Rayleigh scattering
- Pair production

➔ Photons interact with matter (multiple interactions) and produce photoelectrons.
Photoelectrons loose their energy in ionizing atoms (i.e. producing electrons) in short distance.



Source : XCOM: Photon Cross Sections Database





Detector principles



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What do we want to measure?

- The photon **direction** (imaging) collectively (integration mode) or individually (counting mode)
- Their individual energy (spectroscopy)
- Their time of arrival (timing, coincidence, anticoincidence)
- Their polarity (astrophysics)
- With a good sensitivity for the energies of interest
- Other gain parameters: Noise, gain, linearity, time response







Sensor types

- Sensors families :
- 1 Scintillators and photodetector.

Photocathode and vacuum transport of electrons : PMT, MCP, EBCMOS Solid state photo-sensor : PD, CCD, EMCCD, CMOS, APD, SiPM, OPD

2 - Drift chambers

Gaseous ionization chambers (Xe, GEM...)

Solid state sensors : Si, Ge, GaAs, Cd(Zn)Te, diamond, SiC







Scintillators and photodetectors



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Converts the electrons kinetic energy into detectable light.



• Converts the electrons kinetic energy into detectable light.







Converts the electrons kinetic energy into detectable light







Converts the electrons kinetic energy into detectable light

The number of created photons varies *linearly* with the X-ray energy (noise = $\sqrt{\text{number of photons}}$)



Criteria of performance :

X-ray absorption: Stopping power (Z, density)

<u>Optical</u>: Transparency. Light yield, homogeneity, linearity \rightarrow intrinsic energy resolution

: wavelength, decay time, refractive index.

Manufacturing: (size/price)

Could be organic, inorganic, liquid





A few examples.

	Light yield Phot/keV	λ nm	Refract. index	Decay time ns	Thick. to stop 50% of 662keV photons cm	Comments
Impact on	Sensitivity Noise	Detector QE (λ)	Reflection	Timing	Detection Efficiency	
Nal:Tl	38	415	1.85	250	2.5	Spectrometry Large volume
CsI:TI	54	550	1.8	1000	2	Spectrometry. Spatial resolution (needles)
BGO	9	480	2.15	300	1	low afterglow
LYSO	32	420	1.8	40	1.1	Timing
CdWO ₄	15	470	2.3	14000	1	High Z, low afterglow
LaBr ₃ (Ce)	63	380	1.9	16	1.8	Spectrometry
BC400	11	425	1.6	2	11.5	Very low Z. Large area counter
Source : http://www.crystals.saint-gobain.com/						

The outgoing light must be converted to electrons in second step

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Photocathode and vacuum transport of electrons

- The light produced by the scintillator crystal passes through the entry window.
- The photocathode emits electrons by photoelectric effect (yield 1-20%).
- Photoelectrons are accelerated and multiplied by secondary emission. High applied voltage.
- Photoelectrons are finally collected by the anode(s).







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Photocathode and vacuum transport of electrons

- Photomultiplier Tubes (PMT): series of dynodes
- Photoelectrons are focused, accelerated onto dynodes, and multiplied by secondary emission.



- Pro : Very high Gain (10⁶), low noise, sensitive to singe photon, timing perf., high volume production, large wavelength range (110-1100 nm). Could be position sensitive.
- Cons : Bulky, high voltage, fragile, sensitive to magnetic field



Photocathode and vacuum transport of electrons

- Electron Bombarded image sensor. Photoelectrons are accelerated onto a semiconductor sensor and multiplied by secondary emission.
- Could be **ebCMOS**, **ebCCD**, array of avalanche photodiodes (**APD**) (multiplied by impact)



Source : H. Aihara in Single-Photon Imaging, Springer

- Pro : imager, spatial resoltuion, High gain (10⁴⁻⁵), no afterpulse, fast
- Cons : dark noise



Photocathode and vacuum transport of electrons

- Micro Channel Plate (MCP-PMT) : millions of glass capillaries (2-20μm) bundles in parallel.
- Photoelectrons are accelerated onto the MCP. A primary electron impinges the inner wall and are multiplied by secondary emission
- Inner wall has secondary emission properties : each channel acts as electron multiplier.
- Emitted photoelectron while maintaining spatial information.
- Could be coupled to a **phosphor screen, direct electrical signal, PD array, APD array, CCD camera**



http://www.photonis.com/en/content/88-nightvision-movies



Source: photon is.com

- Pro : High gain (10⁴), low noise, fast, spatial resolution, low power consumption.
- Cons : high voltage



- Silicon PhotoDiode (PD). 1 visible photon = 1 electron hole paire (QE). Charge carriers are collected by drift/diffusion.
- Pinned photodiode : burried PD, lower kTC noise, dark current, lag



- Pro : Solid state : robustness, compactness, MRI compatible. Arrays.
- Cons : no gain (no single photon sensitivity), slow



- Silicon PhotoDiode (PD).
- Array of PD : **amorphous silicon-on glass**. One Thin-Film Transistor (TFT) per pixel



- Pro : Very large surface. Low cost.
- Cons : slow, image lag, no on-chip integration



- Silicon PhotoDiode (PD) :
- Array of PD : (Electron Multiplied) Charge Coupled Devices



- Pro : Very large number of pixels. Reduction in electronics. Very low noise for EMCCD.
- Cons : Reading time



- Silicon PhotoDiode (PD) :
- Array of PD : Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor. Active pixel : one amplifier in each pixel



- Pro : Small pixels, high integration. Low noise, high speed. Benefit from consumer market.
- Cons : Small surface (<1cm² most time, limited to 8"-12" wafer size)



- Silicon Avalanche PhotoDiode (APD): multiplication of charge carrier by impact ionization
- One can achieve a current gain of 2-10,000



Source : E. Charbon & P. Seitz, <u>http://aqua.epfl.ch</u>

- Pro : gain (10²), fast, arrays.
- Cons : excess noise factor, gain variation is exponential with bias



- Silicon Avalanche PhotoDiode in Geiger Mode (SPAD). self-sustained avalanche : binary component.
- Gain is meaningless







- Silicon Avalanche PhotoDiode in Geiger Mode (SPAD). self-sustained avalanche : binary component.
- Virtually "infinite" gain : gain variability is meaningless
- Quenching the avalanche



Cons : Dark counts, afterpulse, deadtime



 Silicon PhotoMultiplier (SiPM) : array of SPADs to recover the dependence of output current with input light. Common cathode and anode.



- Pro : Mimick an APD. Timing performances
- Cons : cross talk, afterpulse, deadtime, noise (dark count), light yield non proportionality.



- Digital Silicon PhotoMultiplier : Implementation of the SiPM concept in conventional CMOS technology : digitalize each counted photon. The SPAD becomes like any other digital device but it is triggered by a photon. Takes benefit of the CMOS dynamics
- Advanced signal treatment can be embedded in the chip
 - Active quenching/recharge to reduce deadtime
 - Gamma event recognition (triggering)
 - Time to Digital Converter
 - Point Of Interaction computation





- Pro : scalable, advanced function on chip (TDC, triggering), Timing performances
- Cons : afterpulse, crosstalk, deadtime, noise (dark count), light yield non proportionality



- **Organic Photodiodes (OPD):** Bulk heterojunction concept: nanoscale mixing of electron-donor and electron-acceptor organic materials. Deposition by microelectronic or imprint technologies
- a:Si/CMOS/Organic backplane



- Pro : large scale, conformable, EQE>70%, low dark reverse current (nA/cm²), ease of exotic integration on flexible and lightweight plastic substrates, large wavelength range (400-1000nm),
- Cons : early R&D development. Low response time, sensitive to temperature (> 130°C), require barrier against oxygen and humidity
 → See next talk by J.M. Verilhac



Light guides

Match geometry of scintillator to photodetector. Total internal reflection and external reflector.
 Example : large area square scintillator, a small area round detector (cost, noise). Efficiency limited by space phase conservation (Liouville Theorem).





source: saint-gobain.com

- Spatial separation of scintillator and detector (magnetic field)
- Wavelength Shifter (WLS) plastic bars absorbs light at one wavelength and emit it at a longer wavelength. A portion of this light is guided by TIR along the bar to readout at one end. Useful to build a 1D or 2D readout of a large scintillator plaque.



source: saint-gobain.com





Direct detector



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Gaseous detector

- Ionisation of a **gas** by x-rays, directly or by secondary electrons produced in the walls of the tube
- Free electrons and ions drift under an external electric field
- Ionization chambers: steady current proportional to the dose rate the gas is exposed to.







Gaseous detector

- Ionisation of a **gas** by x-rays, directly or by secondary electrons produced in the walls of the tube
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- Proportional counters: thin positively anode wire in the center of a cylindrical chamber → avalanche effect → spectroscopy




Gaseous detector

- Ionisation of a **gas** by x-rays, directly or by secondary electrons produced in the walls of the tube
- Free electrons and ions drift under an external electric field
- Ionization chambers: steady current proportional to the dose rate the gas is exposed to.
- Proportional counters: thin positively anode wire in the center of a cylindrical chamber → avalanche effect → spectroscopy
- **Geiger–Müller counters :** avalanche spread by UV photons. Very strong signal. No spectroscopy.





- Converts the electrons kinetic energy directly into electron-holes pairs.
- Electron-hole pair creation : 3 × bang gap. Fano Noise $\sqrt{FN_{pair}}$ with F=0.1 \rightarrow energy resolution
- Charge carriers drift (and diffuse) in a high electric field → spatial resolution
- Currents are induced on each electrodes <u>during</u> the charge carrier drift





- Non complete charge collection : dependence of the induced charge to the Depth of Interaction
- Measuring drift time can lead to Depth Of Interaction (DOI)



Much less semi-conductors than scintillators for detection

		Si	Ge	Cd(Zn)Te	GaAs	
Band Gap	eV	1.12	0.66	1.5	1.2	Temperature
Z		14	32	48-52	31-33	
Absorption coef @100keV	cm	2.33	0.34	0.1	0.34	1. X-ray absorption
Electron mobility . lifetime	cm²/V	1.4	4	1-4 10 ⁻³	85 10 -6	2. Charge carrier
Hole mobility . lifetime	cm²/V	0.5	1.9	80.10 ⁻⁶	4 10 ⁻⁶	Transport
Max thickness	mm	0.7 - 2	100	5-10		

- Silicon : low energy photon (1-12 (20) keV) / high spectroscopic resolution
- Germanium : cryogenic spectrometric detector Very high spectroscopic resolution
- Cd(Zn)Te : 20keV-200keV(1MeV), small volumes, single carrier.
- GaAs : outsider. 10-30 keV
- Hgl₂, Pbl₂, TlBr : future material for high energy?



- Pixelated detectors.
- Small pixel effect : signal mainly induced close to electrodes
- Silicon, germanium, Cd(Zn)Te



- Weighting field cross talk → noise (or correction)
- Charge sharing : blurring (and false count) if not correct
- Multi-electrode signal treatment. Fine localization (x, y, z). Energy correction. Multi-event recognition (Compton)
- Pro : energy resolution, counting photons at high flux
- Cons : price, surface, hybridization



- Double-sided Drift Detector
- Reduction of the readout circuit compared to pixelated solution \rightarrow fine segmentation



- Pro : low cost, reduced electronic, large surface/volume
- Cons : low count rate (multi-hits)







Forming an image





Transmission imaging

- Emission by a source (tube generator, synchroton..)
 - Radiography, CT. Medical imaging : From 20 keV to 160keV. Non Destructive Testing : up to MeV
 - Scientific imaging : from keVto ...
- Transmission / absorption in / scattering by the object is responsible of the contrast.
 - Anti-scatter grid







- Emission in the object is responsible to the image.
 - Medical imaging : radiotracer injection. From 50keV to 511keV.
 - Astrophysics : Emission imaging of far light source coming form black body emission (cosmic background, stars), nucleosynthesis (supernovae), bremsstrahlung (black holes). From keV to TeV
- Necessity to form an image : collimator







- Emission in the object is responsible to the image.
- Necessity to form an image : collimator
- Parallel hole collimator : simple, spatial resolution and efficiency uniforms over the entire field of view. Low sensitivity. Can be convergent.

VOIR FRANCOISE







- Emission in the object is responsible to the image.
- Necessity to form an image : collimator
- Parallel hole collimator
- Pinhole : Magnification. Small field of view. High spatial resolution , low sensitivity. Mutlipinhole.







- Emission in the object is responsible to the image.
- Necessity to form an image : **collimator**
- Parallel hole collimator
- Pinhole
- Coded mask : more efficient. Reconstruction. "punctual sources"







- Emission in the object is responsible to the image.
- Necessity to form an image : collimator
- Parallel hole collimator
- Pinhole
- Coded mask
- Electronic: Positron sources gives, after annihilation with one electron two 511 keV gamma photons in coincidence. High sensitivity.







- Emission in the object is responsible to the image.
- Necessity to form an image : collimator
- Parallel hole collimator
- Pinhole
- Coded mask
- Electronic collimation
- Compton detector : 0.1-1MeV photons. Compton diffusion in the first sensor. Photoelectric effect in the second sensor. Compton formula gives the angle .







- Emission in the object is responsible to the image.
- Necessity to form an image : collimator
- Parallel hole collimator
- Pinhole
- Coded mask
- Electronic collimation
- Compton detector
- Pair production : > 10 MeV photons. Conversion in an heavy absorber. Tracking by position sensitive sensors. Energy measurement by a calorimeter







Where are we?

System requirements

Irradiation

- Surface. Tile possible?
- Energy range / Detection Efficiency
- Photon flux

What to measure?

- Individual energy / count
- Image
- Depth of Interaction
- Timing

Environment

- Radiation tolerance
- Magnetic compatibility
- Power consumption
- Compactness

Forming the image

Lets see some examples, per application

Detector parameters

Detection mode

- Indirect : Scintillator + photodetector
- Direct : Gas, Semiconductor

Interaction type

- Photoelectric
- Compton
- Pair production

Readout mode

- Integration
- Counting
- Spectrometric

Collimator

- Parallel, pinhole, coded mask
- Electronic
- Compton, Pair production





Applications





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Medical radiography

- Anatomic imaging. Contrast : photoelectric attenuation coefficient higher for bones than for soft tissues. Higher for fat tissues than for water (muscle, liver). Compton scattering dominate for soft tissues.
- Contrast could be enhanced using dual energy imaging (two shots) or using a contrast agent like iodine (Kedge 33.2 keV) : digital subtraction.



Source : wikipedia

Requirement	Solution
High flux	Integration mode readout
Mean energy 50keV	High Z
Large area (until 42x42cm ²), no dead space	Evaporated or ceramic scintillator Amorphous silicon backplane
Spatial resolution 120-200 µm	Scintillator could be structured in needle



- Current detector: Flat panel. Scintillator CsI:Tl (vapor deposition, needle structure, light yield), or Gadolinium Oxides on an amorphous silicon backplane (PD / TFT) (large area, small pixels) working in integration mode.
- Compton scattering : antiscatter grid





- Next generation : Large area CMOS flat panel sensor and scintillator? Example : Teledyne DALSA or Dexela
- Advantage of wafer-scale X-Ray CMOS image sensor designs compared to a-TFT :
 - Smaller pixel pitches (20 to 100 microns), surface up to to 13x13 cm².
 - Claims compared to a-TFT : No image lag, low readout noise levels, superior dynamic ranger, higher speed. Better contrast (Detective Quantum Efficiency (DQE))





Source : <u>http://www.teledynedalsa.com/</u>

23X28CM Teledyne Dalsa FULL FIELD DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY CMOS DETECTOR, FEATURING A 2X3 ARRAY OF CMOS IMAGE SENSOR TILES WITH A 33 MICRON PIXEL PITCH. TOTAL RESOLUTION: 60MP



- Next generation : **indirect X-ray photon counting** flat panel sensor?
- Advantage of photon counting sensor :
 - Suppression of electronic noise
 - Photon energy discrimination : better use of the dose (1 channel) and physiologic/contrast agent visualization
- Example : Caeleste small prototype. CMOS counting imager + scintillator (GdOs or CsI)
 - 92x90 pixel array, 100μm pixel pitch
 - Two channels





Fig. 5. X-ray image in two channels (left, right) of a DHL socket. Single frame (upper) and averaged over 61 frames (lower). Illumination 40kVp, 25mA, shielding 10mm AL t_{brane}=180ms, dose=232µGy.

Source : <u>http://www.caeleste.be/</u>





- Mammography : 20-50keV X-ray, spatial resolution : 50μm, breast compressions
- Philips MicroDose Mammography : two collimators (scatter rejection), edge on crystalline silicon strip (50 µm pitch) (direct conversion), ASIC in counting mode (electronic noise rejection). Solution limited to low energy.
- Average dose reduction of 40% claims compared to other digital mammography system



Source : http://www.healthcare.philips.com/



Figure 3 Crystalline Silicon strip detectors with edge-on geometry.





- Example : medical radiography. Other systems
- Mammography : Direct detection : better FTM claims compared to scintillator. direct detection (FTM) and Amorphous selenium flat panel system with amorphous silicon TFT readout integration in integration mode. aSe seems to suffer from image lag and material instability.
- Intraoral dental radiography : small size CsI + CMOS





Computed Tomography

 3D anatomic imaging: fast rotation and translation of the x-ray-generator / curved detector around the patient. Helical acquisition.







Requirement	Solution		
High flux	Integration mode readout		
Energy 160 kV (70keV)	High Z		
Reconstruction of moving image	Detector without afterglow		
Dynamic acquisition (2000-6000 f/s)	Fast scintillator		
Surface until 13 x 100 cm ² (polygonal)			
Pixel size 1 mm	Silicon photodiodes		



Computed Tomography

- Fast scintillator with low afterglow: GOS (Gd₂O₂S), CdWO₄. Silicon photodiodes. Antiscatter grid
- State of the art detectors : dual energy for material decomposition, separate imaging of several marked organs, lower reconstruction noise and contrast increasing



2 tubes



Fast switch



Dual detector



- Next step : Photon counting and direct detection using CdTe sensor ?
- Example : assessment by Siemens (S. Kappler et al., Proc. SPIE, 2012) : compared to conventional CT scanner, iodine contrast increased by 20%, dose reduction by up to 32%
- Philips and GE have also prototypes



Scintigraphy

- Emission in the object is responsible to the image.
- Metabolic imaging of injected radioisotopes : could be alone, coupled to a molecule, an hormone, antibody.
 - Bones (<u>Technetium-99m : 140keV</u>) : Technetium is attached to a ligand which is taken up by bones.
 Increased tracer concentration = increased physiological function (fracture).
 - Heart (Thallium 201 : 70, 80keV) : thallium binds the K⁺ pumps and is transported into the cells : amount of ²⁰¹Tl correlates with tissue blood supply. Perfusion study, myocardial viability.
 - Thyroid: (Technetium-99m : 140keV or iodine-131 : 364keV). Morphological and functional info.
 - Lung : (Xenon 133 : 233keV) evaluate the circulation of air within lungs (embolism)
- 2D or 3D images: Single Photon Emission Tomography (SPECT)
 - Necessity to form an image : collimator
 - Parallel hole. Pinhole. Coded mask. Electronic

gamma-ray (monochromatic)	Requirement	Solution
	Energy 80-350 keV	High Z
	Large surface (40x40cm ²)	Scintillator
	Distinguish radioisotopes	Energy resolution
Collimator	Pixel size 1 mm	Photomultiplier
Sensor		



Scintigraphy

 Gamma camera. Example : Mediso Nucline. Luminous and large volume scintillator : Nal(Tl) (585 x 470 x 9.5 mm) and Photomultiplier



Source : http://www.mediso.com/

 State of the art new gamma camera for cardiac imaging : Direct detection using CdTe sensor and dynamic collimation (spectrum Dynamics: D-SPECT, GE: Discovery) : Better energy resolution, new geometry







Positron Emission Tomography

- The radioisotope (18-Fluor) emits a positron. The positron annihilates with an electron, giving two 511 keV photons emitted back to back. Electronic collimation.
- Coupled to CT images for reconstruction and attenuation correction
- Oncology: diagnosis and monitoring of tumors. High sensitivity (electronic collimation).



Requirement	Solution		
Energy 511 keV	Very High Z		
Large surface (x*ycm ²)	Scintillator		
Scattered discrimination	Energy resolution		
Coincidence	Timing resolution		
Pixel size 1 mm	Photomultiplier		





Positron Emission Tomography

 Example : Mediso Anyscan. Fast scintillator : arrays of 4x4x20mm LYSO crystals (decay : 40ns) and Time of Flight - Photomultiplier







- Siemens : Biograph mMR : simultaneous acquisition of whole-body MR (3T) and TOF-PET. Detectors:
 APD.
- Philips : Vereos PET/CT. « Digital PET » : Detectors: d-SiPM 1:1 coupling to crystals. Claims : 2x improved volumetric resolution, sensitivity gain, quantitative accuracy (compared to analog)



Source : <u>www.healthcare.siemens.com</u>





Astrophysics

- INTErnational Gamma-Ray Laboratory mission : exploration of celestial sites that emit gamma radiation in the spectral range from 20 keV to 8 MeV.
- Coded mask.
- Background radiation : anticoincidence system. Mask shield : plastic scintillator behind the tungsten tiles. Detector shield : BGO scintillator around the sides and back of the SPI.
- SPI : energy resolution



IBIS : angular resolution



ISGRI : CdTe (20keV-1MeV) PICsiT : CsI (150keV-10MeV)



Astrophysics

 The COMPton TELescope: exploration of celestial sites that emit gamma radiation in the spectral range from 0.75-30 MeV





Synchrotron

Detectors @ ESRF: overall picture and foreseen evolution







Homeland Security

- Detect radioactive materials : large volume plastic scintillators + PMT
- Identify radioactive materials : crystalline scintillator (NaI:TI) + PMT













Questions ?







Backup slides





Practical Gaseous Ionisation Detector Regions

Variation of ion pair charge with applied voltage in a wire cylinder system with constant incident radiation.



Voltage applied—linear scale




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