Photo-detectors

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Example: photon detection in RICH counters

RICH counter: measure photon impact point on the photon detector surface

- \rightarrow detection of single photons with
- sufficient spatial resolution
- high efficiency and good signal-to-noise ratio
- over a large area (square meters)



Special requirements:

- Operation in magnetic field
- High rate capability
- Very high spatial resolution
- Excellent timing (time-of-arrival information)

Parameters of photo-sensors

Photon detection efficiency (PDE)

- quantum efficiency
- collection efficiency / Geiger discharge probability Granularity
- Time resolution (transient time spread TTS)
- Long term stability
- Operation in magnetic field
- Dark count rate
- + ...



Detection of light

Vacuum

- Photomultiplier tubes (PMT)
 - Microchannel plate photomultiplier tubes

Solid-state photon detectors

Hybrid detectors

- HPDs and HAPDs
- Other hybrid photosensors

Gaseous photon detectors

Photomultipler tube (PMT)





2) Measure current

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Photocathode



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Fig.1.5 Transmission (%) as a function of wavelength λ for various glasses used in photomultiplier input windows (thickness 3 mm)



Fig. 8.2. Quantum efficiency of various photocathode materials (from *EMI Catalog* [8.2])

Table 8.1.	Photocathode	characteristics	(from	RTC	catalog	[8.3])
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Composition	λ at peak response [nm]	Quantum efficiency at peak	
Ag - O - Cs	800 -	0.36	
SbCs	400	16	
SbCs	440	17	
SbCs	440	22	
SbCs	440	17	
SbNa – KCs	420	20	
SbNa – KCs	550	8	
SbNa – KCs	420	20	
SbRb – Cs	420	26	
Sb - K - Cs	400	26	
Sb - K - Cs	400	26	
Cs – Te	235 _	10	
	Composition Ag-O-Cs SbCs SbCs SbCs SbCs SbNa-KCs SbNa-KCs SbNa-KCs SbNa-KCs SbRb-Cs SbRb-Cs Sb-K-Cs Sb-K-Cs Cs-Te	Composition λ at peak response [nm] Ag - O - Cs 800 - SbCs 400 SbCs 440 SbCs 420 SbNa - KCs 550 SbNa - KCs 420 SbRb - Cs 420 Sb - K - Cs 400 Sb - K - Cs 400 Cs - Te 235 -	

Photocathode material: usually semiconductors

e.g. antimony (Sb) + alkaline metals (K, Cs, Rb, Na ...)

• Photoelectron suffers energy losses in a metal because of many collisions with free electrons ($\eta \approx 0.1$ %)

• Semiconductors: conduction band has only a few free electrons \rightarrow few collisions \rightarrow smaller energy loss before reaching the surface, $\eta = 10 - 30\%$.

• Material with negative electron affinity (like GaP doped with Zn+Cs) for electrons in the conduction band, $\eta \approx 80$ %.



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Quantum efficiency



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Extending PMT sensitivity to lower wavelengths

CBM RICH R+D: Wavelength-shifter coating of the PMT window



Collection of photoelectrons

Use a suitably formed electric filed between the photocathode and the first dynode

Requirements:

• high efficiency for the photo-electron collection (for different paths, exit energies, directions).

• the collection efficiency should not depend on the photoelectron exit point

• the time of flight to the first dynode should also not depend on the photoelectron exit point (impact on time resolution)



Multiplication system (dynodes)

• secondary emission: number of secondary electrons per incoming electron $\delta \approx 3\text{-}5$

• dynode material: usually semiconductors or isolators (same reason as for the photocathode)

• semiconductor on a metal substrate (electric contact needed for E field for acceleration)



Dynode configuration



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Pulse height distributions for single photoelectrons

(multiple photons: convolution)









Noise in a photomultiplier tube

thermionic emission from the photocathode and from the dynodes (most important contribution)

 $I \propto T^2 \exp(-e\phi/kT)$, Richardson

- 2) Current from the base contacts ("leakage")
- 3) Contamination of PMT materials with radioactive isotopes



Fig. 8.19. Dark noise vs. temperature for various photocathodes (from *Wardle* [8.10])

"afterpulsing"

- Ionized molecules of the residual gas in the PMT volume hit the photocathode, kick out an electron \rightarrow new pulse, $\Delta t \approx 100 \text{ ns} 1 \mu \text{s}$
- "electrode glow": the dynodes at the end of the dynode chain can emit light \rightarrow hits the photocathode \rightarrow new photoelectron; $\Delta t \approx 30-60$ ns.

Enviromental effects

1) Exposure of the PMT to the ambient light

- if PMT under HV, this can destroy the PMT, or at least increase the dark current / dark counts

- no HV when exposed to ambient light: noise level will first increase (deexcitations in the PMT window), but will eventually decrease with time

2) <u>B field (see next slide)</u>

- modifies the path of photoelectrons and of the secondary electrons
- reduction of gain and of the photoelectron collection efficiency
- most sensitive: path from the photocathode to the first dynode
- partial mitigation with a μ -metal shield

3) Temperature

- increase of the thermionic noise
- QE depends on the T (typically -0.5%/K)

PMT in a B field: reduction of gain and of the photoelectron collection efficiency



Fig. 8.17. Effect of magnetic fields on the anode current of an unscreened PM for different field orientations (from *Schonkeren* [8.1])

3

25

partial mitigation with a μ -metal shield



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2) Multianode PMTs



FIGURE 2. Hamamatsu multianode photomultipliers (L16, M16, M16 from left to right).





POSITION SENSITIVE PMT'S - EXAMPLES

Philips mesh and foil types

Hamamatsu fine mesh



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FIGURE 4. Metal channel type PMT [8].

First fast multianode sensor for single photons: MA PMT

Multianode PMT Hamamatsu R5900 with metal foil dynodes



- •Excellent single photon pulse height spectrum
- •Low noise (few Hz/ch)
- •Low cross-talk (<1%)



Light collection for a multianode PMT



Flat pannel multianode PMTs

Problem of vacuum based sensors: active area fraction One possible solution: make a larger sensor

Hamamatsu: flat pannel PMT H8500

- 52 x 52mm², 89% effective coverage
- 64 channels, pixel size 5.8 x 5.8 mm2
- 12 dynodes, metal foil type
- Bialkali cathode, max 25% quantum efficiency
- single photon pulse height distribution not as good as in the smaller R5900 (and related tubes like 7600)



Flat pannel MA PMTs

First used in a prototype RICH for Belle II, with aerogel radiator.



array of 16 H8500 PMTs



Clear rings, little background





Used for the proof-of-principle test of the focusing radiator configuration





- Fast
- Immune to an axial magnetic field



Fig. 8.6. Schematic diagram of a microchannel plate. The many channels act as continuous dynodes (from *Dhawan* [8.4]; picture © 1975 IEEE)



Mikrokanalne plošče

- pore diameter 10-100 μm
- channel length $\approx 1 \text{mm}$
- multiplication G $\approx 10^{5}$ - 10^{7} ("chevron")
- time resolution <100 ps
- spatial sensitivity
- 25 μ m pores: up to B \approx 0.8T
- 10 μm: up to B≈1.5T

Figure 9-9 Elements of a PM tube based on microchannel plate electron multiplication.

MCP PMT timing

MCP PMTs: main peak with excellent timing accompanied with a tail





- Inelastic back-scattering
- Elastic back-scattering

→good agreement with a simple model → \rightarrow NIMA 595 (2008) 169 \rightarrow JINST 4 (2009) P11017

Elastically backscattered photoelectrons





Results of a simple modeling: we assume that the photoelectron back-scattering by the angle β is uniform over the solid angle.

→ NIMA 595 (2008) 169 JINST 4 (2009) P11017

MCP PMT: processes involved in photon detection



→ NIMA 595 (2008) 169 JINST 4 (2009) P11017

MCP PMTs in magnetic field

Gain vs B field for different tilt angles



→ NIMA 639 (2011) 144



MCP PMT: improved performance in magnetic field





Number of detected hits on individual channels as a function of light spot position.

> B = 0 T, HV = 2400 V

B = 1.5 T, HV = 2500 V

Backscattered photoelectrons get "locked" to the B field lines

In the presence of magnetic field, charge sharing and cross talk due to long range photoelectron back-scattering are considerably reduced.
MCP PMTs ageing

MCP PMT ageing: a serious problem in most of the planned aplications.

Cures:

- Better cleaning of the MCPs, better vacuum
- Al foil between PC and first MCP
- Al foil between two MPC stages
- Atomic layer deposition (ALD)





Semiconductor light sensor: photodiode



Semiconductor light sensor: CCD

• In cameras and phones - but not useful for single (or few) photons...

Semiconductor light sensors

Photodiodes (PD)

- •High QE (also in the IR region),
- No multiplication
- Can be used in cases with large light yields (calorimeters)

Avalanche photodiodes APD

- region with high E field -> multiplication in an avalanche, $G\approx 10^2\text{--}10^{3.}$
- signal/noise still poor compared to a PMT
- used for calorimeters



Figure 9-14 A comparison of the quantum efficiency of a silicon photodiode (labeled #458) with representative bialkali and S-20 photocathode quantum efficiencies. The emission spectrum from a BGO scintillator is shown for reference. (From Groom.⁵³)

Semiconductor light sensor: SiPM

Geiger mode avalanche photo-diode (G-APD), also known as SiPM – Silicon Photomultiplier



Figure 9: Schematic drawing of a cross-section of a SiPM: metal electrode (1),

silicon oxide layer (2), p-n junctions/micro-cell (3) and individual quenching re-

sistor (4) (23).

SiPM is an array of APDs operating in the Geiger mode. Characteristics:

- \bullet low operation voltage \sim 10-100 V
- gain ~ 10⁶
- peak PDE up to 65%(@400nm) PDE = QE x ε_{geiger} x ε_{geo} (up to 5x PMT!)
- ε_{qeo} dead space between the cells
- time resolution ~ 100 ps
- works in high magnetic field
- dark counts ~ few 100 kHz/mm²
- radiation damage (p,n)

SiPMs as photon detectors



SiPM as photon detector?

- Can we use SiPM (Geiger mode APD) as the photon detector in a RICH counter?
- +immune to magnetic field
- +high photon detection efficiency, single photon sensitivity
- +easy to handle (thin, can be mounted on a PCB)
- +potentially cheap (not yet...) silicon technology
- +no high voltage

-very high dark count rate (100kHz – 1MHz) with <u>single</u> photon pulse height

-radiation hardness

Can such a detector work?

Improve the signal to noise ratio:

- •Reduce the noise by a narrow (<10ns) time window
- •Increase the number of signal hits per single sensor by using light collectors and by adjusting the pad size to the ring thickness
- E.g. light collector with reflective walls





or combine a lens and mirror walls

Detector module design



Photon detector with SiPMs and light guides



A new SiPM device

Array of SiPMs: Hamamatsu MPPC S11834-3388DF

- A novel type of a multi-pixel Photon Counter (MPPC)
- 8x8 SiPM array, with 5x5 mm² SiPM channels
- Active area 3x3 mm²
- Cell size: 50 µm
- Rather low dark count rate (~100 kHz/mm²)
- Operating voltage: (70 ± 10) V



Detector module

Consists of the MPPC, light concentrator and support

Measured gain: \sim 3.5 x 10⁵ @ 72.8 V





Pulse height distribution for low light levels



Figure 8: Pulse height spectrum of low intensity light pulses recorded with a VLPC (left, adopted from (20)), SiPM (middle, adopted from (21)) and HAPD (right)

SiPM: time resolution for single photons



hit timing w.r.t. fitted event timing, ns

Analog SiPMs: typically 80 ps (sigma), 200 ps FWHM Digital SiPMs: main peak 48 ps (sigma)!

New player: digital dSiPM

DPC: Front-end Digitization by Integration of SPAD & CMOS Electronics



T. Frach, G. Prescher, C. Degenhardt, B. Zwaans, IEEE NSS/MIC (2010) pp.1722-1727 C. Degenhardt, T. Frach, B. Zwaans, R. de Gruyter, IEEE NSS/MIC (2010) pp.1954-1956

hits.yindex:hits.xindex dSiPM in beam tests 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 5 Hits/0.02ns Entries Mean 0.06901 3.5 RMS 0.2349 2.5 0 1.5 0.5 θ_{-I} -0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 hit time with mean event time no -0.8 -0.6 -0.4 VCI 2013 Sergey Kononov jana

Radiation damage



Expected fluence at 50/ab at Belle II: 2-20 10^{11} n cm⁻² \rightarrow Worst than the lowest line

→Very hard to use present SiPMs as single photon detectors in many applications (including Belle II) because of radiation damage by neutrons

→ Also: could only be used with a sofisticated electronics – wave-form sampling

Hybrid photodetectors



Hybrid photodetector: LHCb RICHes

Photon detector: hybrid PMT (R+D with DEP) with 5x demagnification (electrostatic focusing).

Hybrid PMT: accelerate photoelectrons in electric field (~20kV), detect it in a pixelated silicon detector.





NIM A553 (2005) 333

Aerogel RICH

Endcap PID: Aerogel RICH (ARICH)

Hamamatsu HAPD

+ new ASIC

Need: Operation in 1.5 T magnetic field Pad size ~5-6mm

Photosensor: large active area HAPD of the proximity focusing type





6.6 σ p/K at 4GeV/c ! → NIM A595 (2008) 180

ARICH photon detector: HAPD

Hybrid avalanche photo-detector developed in cooperation with Hamamatsu Photonics K.K. (proximity focusing configuration):

- 12 x12 channels (~ 5 x 5 mm²)
- size ~ 72 mm x 72 mm
- $. \sim 65\%$ effective area

total gain > 4.5x10⁴ (two steps:
 bombardment > 1500, avalanche > 30)

detector capacitance ~ 80pF/ch.
super bialkali photocatode,

typical peak QE ~ 28% (> 24%)

 works in mag. field (~ perpendicular to the entrance window)







multi-channel APD



HAPD QE

- peak QE improved by Hamamatsu with super bialkali photocathode: $25\% \rightarrow >30\%$

• typically QE is somewhat lower at the edges of the HAPD



HAPD performance @ B=0T

- excellent photon counting affected only by photo-electron back-scattering \rightarrow high single photon counting efficiency
- sharp transition between channels
- image distortion due to a non-uniform electric field at the edges
- back-scattering induced cross-talk
- $\mbox{.}$ optical cross-talk by reflection from APD surface \rightarrow weak echo ring





Another hybrid photo-detector: add a fast scintillator



Figure 14: Hybrid photon detector with a scintillating crystal QUASAR-370 (31).

4) Gas chamber based photosensors

=MWPC + (TMAE, TEA or CsI)

gas additive to the MWPC gas

• -TEA ; $E_{ion} = 7.5 \text{ eV}$, $p_n = 5 \text{ tor}$, $\lambda \approx 0.6 \text{ mm pri } 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ -TMAE; $E_{ion} = 5.4 \text{ eV}$, $p_n = = 0.35 \text{ tor}$, $\lambda \approx 23 \text{ mm pri } 20^{\circ}\text{C}$

Csl

- evaporate \approx 500 nm onto the chamber cathode plane

Gas chamber based photosensors



Works in high magnetic field!

CsI based RICH counters: HADES, COMPASS, ALICE

HADES and COMPASS RICH: gas radiator + CsI photocathode – long term experience in operation



CERN CsI deposition plant

Photocathode produced with a well **monitor** defined, several step procedure, with CsI vaccum deposition and subsequent heat conditioning





Examples of applications



HERA-B RICH

← Little noise, ~30 photons per ring

Typical event \rightarrow





Very good performance:



Kaon efficiency and pion fake probability









Instead of a 2D image in two coordinates ('ring^{μ}) measure:

- One (or two coordinates) with a few mm precision
- Time-of-arrival
- → Excellent time resolution < 100ps (incl. read-out) required for single photons in 1.5T B field



Fast photon detection

New generation of Cherenkov counters: precise time information needed to further improve performance:

- Reduce chromatic abberation in a RICH detector (measure group velocity): Focusing DIRC
- Combine TOF and RICH techniques: TOP (Time-ofpropagation counter), TORCH
- Dedicated TOF

New possibilities in medical imaging: TOFPET with Cherenkov light

\rightarrow Need photo sensors with excellent timing

DIRC counters for PANDA (FAIR, GSI)

Two DIRC-like counters are under preparation for the PANDA experiment


PANDA barrel DIRC



PANDA endcap DIRC



LHCb PID upgrade: TORCH



New possibilities in medical imaging: TOFPET with Cherenkov light

Time-of-Flight difference of annihilation gammas is used to improve the contrast of images obtained with PET:

- localization of source position on the line of response
- reduction of coincidence background
- improvement of S/N

Novel photon detectors – MCP-PMT and SiPM – have excellent timing resolution \rightarrow TOF resolution limited by the scintillation process



TOF-PET with Cherenkov light

Two detectors in a back-to-back configuration with 25x25x15 mm³ crystals coupled to MCP-PMT with optical grease.



5 mm long crystal: → FWHM ~ 70 ps



→ NIM A654(2011)532-538

 \rightarrow Talk by P. Križan - tomorrow

Summary

- Low light level detection is at the hearth of many detectors in particle and nuclear physics
- New methods require very fast timing in radiation harsh environments
- A number of new detectors has been developed recently to cope with these requirements
- A very active field!



ALD for MCP PMTs: born in Chicago area. ALD can turn a borosilicate glass substrate into an MCP

() E

Borosilicate Substrate Atomic Layer Deposited Microchannel Plates

Micro-capillary arrays (Incom) with 10µm, 20 µm or 40µm pores (8° bias) – borosilicate glass. I/d typically 60:1, but can be much larger. Open area ratios from 60% to 83%. Fabricated with using hollow tubes (no etching). Separate resistive and secondary emissive layers are applied (ANL, Arradiance) using atomic layer deposition to allow these to function as MCPs. ALD secondary emissive layers can also be applied to "standard" MCPs to improve yield.



Photo of a 20 µm pore, 65% open area borosilicate microcapillary ALD MCP (20cm).

Pore distortions at multifiber boundaries, otherwise very uniform. Photo of a 10 µm pore, 60% open area borosilicate micro-capillary ALD MCP.

LAPPD – Large Area Picosecond Photon Detector

MCP by Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD)



Beneq reactor for ALD @Argonne National Laboratory A.Mane, J.Elam









University

of Chicago

33mm plate



Key Issues for ALD Borosilicate MCPs

Current MCP devices have specific limitations due to the nature of the structure and processing of conventional MCPs. Atomic layer deposited (ALD) MCPs made on borosilicate substrates provide a unique way to improve on current devices or make new device types.

Borosilicate substrate:-Large areas can be made Larger open area ratios Low/no radioactive content Low outgassing High temperatures de

Atomic layer deposition:-Resistance tailored to suit

High secondary emissive layer Stable secondary emissive layer

Strong & clean compared with standard MCP glass large detectors for security applications – higher photon /electron/ion detection efficiency nt lower background for security applications longer device lifetimes, shorter process/fab times deposit materials & cathodes not otherwise possible

Decoupled from substrate, many materials possible can make a wider range than standard <u>MCPs</u> allowing high local counting rates better pulse height at low gain, better gain faster gain burn-in, or none needed – very long lifetime & durability – compatibility with alkali cathodes

20cm ALD-MCP & Sealed Tube Development

LAPPD collaboration development of 20cm ALD MCPs and sealed tube with bialkali cathode and stripline anode for 2D imaging and <10ps timing.



Also see Incom poster.

First tube did not seal, making new tubes this summer



20cm, 20µm pore, Al₂O₃ SEY, MCP pair image with 185nm non-uniform UV illumination. Cross delay line photon counting anode. Image striping is due to the anode period/charge cloud size modulation.

 \rightarrow Extremely important development, many talks in this workshop

Ring image, background contributions (B=0T)



HAPD: operation in 1.5 T

Tests in 1.5 T magnetic field show improved HAPD performance:

- no photoelectron back-scattering cross-talk
- increase of detection efficiency photoelectron energy deposited at
 one place
- effect of non-uniformity of electric
 field disappears
 B=1.5 T





Test in magnetic field 1.5 T

- distortion of electric field lines at HAPD edge produces irregular shapes of areas covered by each channel
- in magnetic field photoelectrons circulate along the magnetic field lines and distortion disappears





Photo-electron backscattering, light reflection from the APD etc

