HARPO: 1.7 - 74 MeV gamma-ray beam validation of a high-angular-resolution high-polarisation-dilution gas telescope and polarimeter

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Japan-France ILC HARPO TPC meeting, CEA Saclay, 24 October 2016

 $llr.in2p3.fr/{\sim}dbernard/polar/harpo-t-p.html$











Non polarized astronomy



Improve angular resolution – crowded sky regions





Fermi/LAT



- Solve sensitivity gap between Compton and pair telescopes
 - Actually Fermi is publishing mostly in the range $0.1-300{
 m GeV}$
 - Improvement expected from PASS8

γ -ray sensitivity gap: HBL PKS 2155-304 example



Grey points: dedicated Multiwavelength campaign 2013:

- NuSTAR satellite (3-79 keV),
- the Fermi Large Area Telescope (LAT, 100 MeV-300 GeV)
- (H.E.S.S.) array phase II

D. A. Sanchez et al., 5th Fermi Symposium: Nagoya, Oct 2014 arXiv:1502.02915v2 [astro-ph.HE]

D. Bernard et al.

Science Case: Polarimetry: Astrophysics

- Blazars: decipher leptonic synchrotron self-Compton (SSC) against hadronic (proton-synchrotron) models
 - high-frequency-peaked BL Lac (HBL)
 - X band: 2 -10 keV
 - γ band: 30 200 MeV
- SED's indistinguishable, but
- X-ray: $P_{\text{lept}} \approx P_{\text{hadr}}$
- γ -ray: $P_{\text{lept}} \ll P_{\text{hadr}}$

H. Zhang and M. Böttcher, A.P. J. 774, 18 (2013)



DV 10649 7 1516

Pulsars : Phase-averaged polarization

- Transition between synchrotron and curvature radiation at 1 100 MeV in Crab-like pulsars
- Look for drop in polarization degree at transition



A. K. Harding, Future Space-based Gamma-ray Observatories Workshop, NASA GSFC 2016.

- But spin-flip curvature radiation important in (Crab like) young pulsars
- spin-flip curvature radiation becomes dominant in magnetars,
- contrary to classical radiation, spin-flip (QED) curvature radiation mostly unpolarized
- G. Voisin, "gamma2016", 2016 Heidelberg Germany.

LIV: Search for Lorentz Invariance Violation

- Particle (photon) dispersion relations modified in LIV effective field theories (EFT)
- Additional term to the QED Lagrangian parametrized by $\xi/M, \ M$ Planck mass.
- ξ bounds:
 - time of flight from the Crab: $\Delta t = \xi (k_2 k_1) D/M$, $\xi \leq \mathcal{O}(100)$.
 - birefringence $\Delta \theta = \xi (k_2^2 k_1^2) D/2M$ LIV induced birefringence would blurr the linear polarization of GRB emission.

 $\xi \le 3.4 \times 10^{-16}$ with IBIS on Integral (250 – 800 keV) D. Götz, *et al.*, MNRAS 431 (2013) 3550

• Bound $\propto 1/k^2$!

Photon angular resolution

$$\gamma~Z \to e^+~e^-~Z$$

$$\vec{k} = \vec{p_{e^+}} + \vec{p_{e^-}} + \vec{p_r}$$

Contributions:

- Single-track angular resolution,
- Un-measured nucleus recoil momentum
- Single-track momentum resolution

Single-track angular resolution

Hypotheses:

- Thin homogeneous detector;
- Tracking with optimal treatment of multiple-scattering-induced correlations (e.g., à la Kalman);
- Low energy, multiple-scattering-dominated, regime

$$\sigma_{\theta t} = (p/p_1)^{-3/4}$$
 with $p_1 = p_0 \left(\frac{4\sigma^2 l}{X_0^3}\right)^{1/6}$,

With:

- p track momentum [MeV/c];
- $p_0 = 13.6 \,\mathrm{MeV}/c$, multi-scattering constant;
- p_1 detector "multiple-scattering momentum" parameter [MeV/c];
- σ single measurement detector spatial resolution [cm];
- *l* track longitudinal sampling (pitch) [cm].

D.B., NIM A 701 (2013) 225, NIM A 729 (2013) 765

1/6

Single-track angular resolution

- Dependence of the RMS photon angular resolution on photon energy
- Sampling pitch l = 1 mm, point resolution $\sigma = 0.1 \text{ mm}$,



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Angular resolution: From Single-track to single photon

- Small angle approximation: $\theta_{x,\gamma} = r\theta_{x,+} + (1-r)\theta_{x,-}$,
- r fraction of energy carried away by the positron, $r = E_+/E$,



- multiple scattering dominated regime: $\sigma_{\theta\gamma} = \sigma_{\theta t} \sqrt{\sqrt{r} + \sqrt{1-r}}$
- high energy regime: $\sigma_{\theta\gamma} = \sigma_{\theta t} \sqrt{r^2 + (1-r)^2}$
- track to photon factor close to unity: neglected in the following.

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Angular resolution: Wrap up

• Argon-based gas, P = 10 bar

$$X_0 = 1180 \,\mathrm{cm}$$





Thin detectors: Effective area

• $A_{\text{eff}} = H \times M$,

H photon attenuation



Argon, nucl.: $A_{\rm eff}/M = 27 \, {\rm cm}^2/{\rm kg}$ @ $E = 100 \, {\rm MeV}$

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Performances with Thin Homogeneous Detector and Optimal Fits

Angular resolution

- nucleus recoil $\propto E^{-5/4}$
- multiple scattering (optimal fits) $\propto E^{-3/4}$

point-source differential sensitivity

limit detectable $E^2 dN/dE$, à la Fermi: 4 bins/decade, 5σ detection, T = 3 years, $\eta = 0.17$ exposure fraction, $\geq 10\gamma$. "against" extragalactic background



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Polarimetry

• Photon has $J^{PC} = 1^{--}$: Modulation of azimuthal angle distribution

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}\phi} \propto (1 + \mathcal{A}P \cos\left[2(\phi - \phi_0)\right]), \qquad \qquad \sigma_P \approx \frac{1}{\mathcal{A}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{N}},$$



- P source linear polarisation fraction
- \mathcal{A} Polarization asymmetry
- ϕ azimuthal angle

Multiple Scattering: Dilution of the Asymmetry



homogeneous detector with optimal tracking $D \equiv \frac{\mathcal{A}_{\rm eff}(p_1)}{\mathcal{A}(p_1 = 0)}$



Developed, Validated, Event Generator

- Development of a full (5D) exact (down to threshold) polarized evt generator
- Variables: azimuthal (ϕ_+, ϕ_-) and polar (θ_+, θ_-) angles of e^+ and e^- , and $x_+ \equiv E_+/E$





- Uses:
 - HELAS amplitude computation
 - SPRING event generator

H. Murayama, et al., KEK-91-11.

S. Kawabata, Comput. Phys. Commun. 88, 309 (1995).

D.B., NIM A 729 (2013) 765

Characterisation of available event generators : see P. Gros's talk

Polarimetry Performance

- Crab-like source, T = 1 year, $V = 1 \text{ m}^3$, $\sigma = l = 0.1 \text{ cm}$, $\eta = \epsilon = 1$).
- \mathcal{A}_{eff} (thin line), σ_P (thick line);



- Argon, 5 bar, $\mathcal{A}_{\rm eff} \approx 15\%$, $\sigma_P \approx 1.0\%$,
- With experimental cuts applied $\Rightarrow \sigma_P \approx 1.4\%$,

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The HARPO (Hermetic ARgon POlarimeter) instrument project

• France: the detector

Denis Bernard, Philippe Bruel, Mickael Frotin, Yannick Geerebaert, Berrie Giebels, Philippe Gros, Deirdre Horan, Marc Louzir, Patrick Poilleux, Igor Semeniouk, Shaobo Wang ^a ^aLLR, Ecole Polytechnique and CNRS/IN2P3, France

> David Attié, Denis Calvet, Paul Colas, Alain Delbart, Patrick Sizun ^b ^bIRFU, CEA Saclay, France

Diego Götz b,c c AIM, CEA/DSM-CNRS-Université Paris Diderot, IRFU/SAp, CEA Saclay, France

Japan: the beam.

S. Amano, T. Kotaka, S. Hashimoto, Y. Minamiyama, A. Takemoto, M. Yamaguchi, S. Miyamoto^e

^e LASTI, University of Hyôgo, Japan

S. Daté, H. Ohkuma^f ^f JASRI/SPring8, Japan

HARPO: the Demonstrator

- Time Projection Chamber (TPC)
- $(30 \text{cm})^3$ cubic TPC
- Up to 5 bar.
- Micromegas + GEM gas amplification
- Collection on x, y strips, pitch 1 mm.
- AFTER chip digitization, up to 100 MHz.
- Scintillator / WLS / PMT based trigger





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Gas amplification: micromegas + 2 GEM

Gas Electron Multiplier"bulk" micromegas $50 \,\mu\mathrm{m}$ Kapton, copper clad,gap $128 \,\mu\mathrm{m}$ pitch $140 \,\mu\mathrm{m}$, $\Phi70 \,\mu\mathrm{m}$ (x, y) strips, pitch 1 mm, width 0.4 mm





F. Sauli, NIM A 386, 531 (1997)



I. Giomataris et al., NIM A 560, 405 (2006)

Micromegas + 2 GEM assemblies: characterization





Ph. Gros et al., TIPP2014, PoS(TIPP2014)133

Signal digitization

- 2 directions x, y, 288 strips (channels) / direction
- 72 channels / AFTER chip
- 4 chips / direction
- 511 time bins, "circular" SCA (Switched Capacitor Array)
- Input: 120 fC to 600 fC
- Up to 100 MHz sampling
- Shaping time 100 ns to $2 \, \mu s$
- 12 bit ADC.

Our set-up: 1/(30 ns) sampling,



100 ns shaping time, digitization (dead-time) 1.67 ms.

P. Baron *et al.*, IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci. 55, 1744 (2008).

Data Taking Nov. 2014 NewSUBARU, LASTI, Japan

- Linearly polarized γ beam from Laser inverse Compton scattering, e^- beam 0.6 1.5 GeV.
- 0.532 μm and 1.064 μm 20 kHz pulsed Nd:YVO₄ (2ω and 1ω), 1.540 μm 200 kHz pulsed Er (fibre) and 10.55 μm CW CO₂ lasers



Monochromaticity by collimation on axis

- Fully polarized or random polarization beams (P = 1, P = 0)
- 2.1 bar Ar: iso C_4H_{10} 95:5 (+ a 1.0 4.0 bar scan).

A. Delbart et al., ICRC2015, The Hague, 2015

Beam trigger system



- S_{up} upstream scintillator
- O one of the 5 other scintillators
- M_{slow} : a delayed (> 1 $\mu
 m s$) signal on the $\mu
 m M$ mesh
- L laser trigger pulse

"Main line":
$$T_{\gamma, laser} = \overline{S}_{up} \cap O \cap M_{slow} \cap L$$

Y. Geerebaert, et al., RT2016, 2016 IEEE-NPSS



- signal efficiency 51 %
- background rejection 99.3 %
- incident rate 2 kHz
- signal on disk 50 Hz

Japan beam Data: gallery



Sample of γ -rays from 74 to 1.7 MeV converting to e^+e^- in 2.1 bar Ar:Isobutane 95:5 detected by the HARPO TPC (pre-beam-calibration γ -ray energy on plots)

D. B. et al., Future Space-based Gamma-ray Observatories Workshop , NASA GSFC 2016.

Polarization Asymmetry : beam results

• ICS of $1.55 \,\mu\mathrm{m}$ photons from Er laser on 0.974 GeV $e^- \Rightarrow 11.8 \,\mathrm{MeV} \,\gamma$ -rays



- Ratio of P = 1 to P = 0 azimuthal angle distributions for 11.8 MeV γ -ray photons converting to e^+e^- in 2.1 bar 95:5 argon-isobutane.
- First demonstration of the measurement of the linear polarisation of a $\gamma\text{-ray}$ beam with pairs at low energy.
- P. Gros et al., SPIE2016 9905-95, arXiv:1606.09417

Conclusion

- Gas TPC is THE choice detector for ultimate angular resolution $\gamma \to e^+e^-$ astronomy and polarimetry in the MeV-GeV energy range
- Robust detector used in HEP since the 1980's from sub- $m cm^3$ to multi- $m m^3$
- From the lowest (eg. T2K) to the highest (eg. ALICE) rate, radiation, track multiplicity
- Use of a low-diffusion, "fast" gas $(v_{\sf drift}\gg 1\,{
 m cm}/{
 m \mu s})$ mitigates background pile-up
- 4π acceptance, \approx isotropic performances (x, y, z), < 30 ns event time resolution
- Low number of electronics modules by use of projections strips.
 - induced track matching issue easily solved.
- Ability to cope with intense GRB dedicated buffer needed
- Key issue is self-triggering: Self Triggered TPC as Gamma-ray Telescope "ST3G" scheme under study
 - radhard and upgraded version of digitizing chip : prototypes produced
 - balloon flight prototype under study.
- Data taken:
 - with a $(30 \text{ cm})^3$ TPC prototype, mostly @ 2.1 bar, 1-4 bar scan.
 - with a P=1 and P=0, 1.7 74 MeV, γ beam
 - : analysis in progres.

ST3G: Self Triggered TPC as Gamma-ray Telescope

- proton flux $20 \, \mathrm{kHz}/\mathrm{m}^2$
- drift duration $10 \ \mu s$
- digitization duration $1.6\,\mathrm{ms}$
- must use information as it arrives after drift in real time !
 - \Rightarrow change digitizing chip AFTER \rightarrow AGET
- ST3G trigger mechanism.
 - goal is to decipher one single through track (proton) from a pair that originates inside the gas volume ($\gamma \rightarrow e^+ e^-$)
 - remember that entering tracks look like exiting tracks very much !

AGET: ASIC for Generic Electronics for TPC

- Input current polarity: positive or negative
- 64 analog channels
- 4 charge ranges/channel: 120 fC to 10 pC
- shaping: 16 peaking time values: 70 ns to $1\mu s$
- 512 analog memory cells / channel
- Fsampling: 1 MHz to 100 MHz; Fread: 25 MHz
- Auto triggering: discriminator + threshold (DAC)
- Real time (25 MHz) Multiplicity signal: analog OR of the 64 discri Outputs
- Readout:
 - Address of the hit channel(s)
 - 3 readout modes: All, hit or specific channels
 - Predefined number of analog cells / trigger (1 to 512)
- AGET → radhard ASTRE: "Asic with SCA & Trigger for detector Readout Electronics": presently being designed; submission to foundry hopefully end 2016.



D. Bernard et al.

S. Anvar et al., NSS/MIC, 2011 IEEE 745 - 749.

ST3G scheme validation : prototype for a balloon test



- A $4 \times 4 \times 4 = 64$ set of $(30 \text{ cm})^3$ modules.
- modules back-to-back 2-by-2 with common cathode.

ST3G trigger mechanism: signal from a single bloc



Simulation of the multiplicity signal for a γ -ray conversion in the present HARPO-prototype.

ST3G trigger: multi-bloc scheme





- $4 \times 4 \times 4 = 64$, $(30 \text{cm})^3$, modules
- Sensitive volume $(1.2m)^3$
- L0 trigger: coincidence of several modules (≥ 2) that see signal at the same time.
- Complete trigger mechanism to be designed and optimized
- geant4 simulation well advanced.

"Nuclear" and "triplet" conversions



74 MeV γ -rays from NewSUBARU conversions in 2.1 bar Ar:Isobutane 95:5

Back-up Slides

Single-track angular resolution with Optimal fits: Validation with a Kalman filter

• Validation with parameters: 5 bar argon, $\sigma = l = 0.1 \text{cm}$; $p_1 = 13.6 \text{ MeV}/c \left(\frac{4\sigma^2 l}{X_0^3}\right)^{1/6} = 112 \text{ keV}/c$

• 40 MeV/c electrons, $\sigma_{\theta t} = (p/p_1)^{-3/4} = 12.2 \,\mathrm{mrad}$



Track Momentum Measurement in TPC Alone from Multiple Estimations of Multiple Scattering

- multiple scattering $heta_0 \propto 1/p \Rightarrow p \propto 1/ heta_0$ G. Molière, Zeit. Naturforschung A, 10 (1955) 177.
- optimization of track step size

relative precision



E range of interest



A Kalman-filter based measurement should do a factor ≈ 2 better. NIM A 701 (2013) 225

Evt Generator: One Example of Validation Plot

• Triplet conversion: cross section for recoil electron momentum larger than q_0 , $\sigma(q > q_0)$, as a function of q_0/mc , for various photon energies E;

Compared with:

• High photon energy asymptotic expression by M. L. Iparraguirre and G. O. Depaola, Eur. Phys. J. C 71, 1778 (2011).



Gas purity on the long term

- HARPO pressure vessel extremely dirty: scintillator, WLS, PVC box, PCB, epoxy, O-rings ...
- We have observed the evolution of the gaz quality in sealed mode [Fev. Jun.] 2015 (2.1 bar).



Cumulative charge drift-length-distribution of one-hour cosmic-rays (through-tracks) runs.

- O_2 fraction peaked at 180 ppm on Jul. 08. $O_2/(O_2 + N_2) = 0.225$, compatible with air.
- Then we switched an oxisorb recirculation to operation. O_2 fraction disappeared (< 20 ppm)

M. Frotin et al., arXiv:1512.03248 [physics.ins-det], MPGD2015, EPJ Web of Conferences

Gas purity on the long term: results



vertical lines: amplification voltage ajustments.

Time evolution of the amplification gain, of the electron capture and of the drift velocity as measured with cosmic-rays through [Fev. - Sept.] 2015.

- Interpreted as air leak or air outgassing, with complete gas cleaning upon purification
- Good prospects to run a TPC for years with a simple oxisorb cleaning

M. Frotin et al., arXiv:1512.03248 [physics.ins-det], MPGD2015, EPJ Web of Conferences

Search for Axions

- Scalar field associated with U(1) symmetry devised to solve the strong CP problem.
- Couples to 2 γ through triangle anomaly.
- γ propagation through $B \Rightarrow$ Dichroism \Rightarrow E dependant rotation of linear polarization \Rightarrow linear polarization dilution.

$$g_{a\gamma\gamma} \le \pi \frac{m_a}{B\sqrt{\Delta\omega L_{GRB}}}$$

• Saturation over
$$L = 2\pi\omega/m_a^2 > L_{GRB}$$
 for $m_a \leq \sqrt{\frac{2\pi\omega}{L_{GRB}}}$

and the limit $g_{a\gamma\gamma}$ reaches a ω -independent constant.

A. Rubbia and A. S. Sakharov, Astropart. Phys. 29, 20 (2008)



Polarimetry: Effects of Experimental Cuts

- opening angle, $\theta_{+-} > 0.1 \operatorname{rad}$ (easy pattern recognition
- source selection $\theta_{pair} < 10^{\circ}$
- kinetic leptons energy $E_{kin} > 0.5 \,\mathrm{MeV}$, (path length in 5 bar argon $\approx 30 \,\mathrm{cm}$)



• All cuts: $\epsilon = 45\%$, (1D) $\mathcal{A}_{\text{eff}} \approx 16.6\% \sigma_P \approx 1.4\%$,

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Polarimetry: Optimal Measurement

- Remember, fit of $\frac{\mathrm{d}\Gamma}{\mathrm{d}\phi} \propto (1 + \mathcal{A}P \cos[2(\phi)])$ yields $\sigma_P \approx \frac{1}{\mathcal{A}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{N}}$,
- Optimal measurement; Ω
 - let's define $p(\Omega)$ the pdf of set of (here 5) variables Ω
 - search for weight $w(\Omega)$, E(w) function of P, and variance σ_P^2 minimal;
 - a solution is $w_{\text{opt}} = \frac{\partial \ln p(\Omega)}{\partial P}$ e.g.: F. V. Tkachov, Part. Nucl. Lett. 111, 28 (2002)
 - polarimetry: $p(\Omega) \equiv f(\Omega) + P \times g(\Omega)$, $w_{opt} = \frac{g(\Omega)}{f(\Omega) + P \times g(\Omega)}$.

• If
$$\mathcal{A} \ll 1$$
, $w_0 \equiv 2 \frac{g(\Omega)}{f(\Omega)}$, and
• for the 1D "projection" $p(\Omega) = (1 + \mathcal{A}P \cos [2(\phi)])$:
 $w_1 = 2 \cos 2\phi$, $E(w_1) = \mathcal{A}P$, $\sigma_P = \frac{1}{\mathcal{A}\sqrt{N}}\sqrt{2 - (\mathcal{A}P)^2}$,

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Polarization asymmetry and measurement uncertainty



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• Asymptotically $\mathcal{A} \approx 1/7 \approx 14\%$. $\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma}{\mathrm{d}\phi} \propto \alpha r_0^2 \left(\left[\frac{28}{9} \ln 2(E/m) - \frac{218}{27} \right] - P \cos \left[2(\phi - \phi_0) \right] \left[\frac{4}{9} \ln \left(2E/m \right) - \frac{20}{27} \right] \right)$

Polarimetry: Track matching issue

- Many foreseen project use $2 \times 2D$ projections, not true 3D imaging (gas TPC, silicon strip detectors)
- Ambiguity:

 $(\mathsf{track}_{1,x},\mathsf{track}_{1,y})(\mathsf{track}_{2,x},\mathsf{track}_{2,y})\leftrightarrow(\mathsf{track}_{1,x},\mathsf{track}_{2,y})(\mathsf{track}_{1,x},\mathsf{track}_{2,y})$



- Ruins the azimutal angle information
- Assignment must be performed before multiple scattering blurs the picture



Observed angular distribution

- for fully polarised pairs ($P_{\rm eff}=1$),
- in a fixed direction wrt the detector $(\omega_{pola} \omega_{det})$
- for different values of the matching efficiency ε .

Philippe.Gros @ Ilr.in2p3.fr

Track matching issue: results

• Time (means $\omega_{\mathsf{pola}} - \omega_{\mathsf{det}}$) integrated distributions



Azimutal distribution for different matching efficiencies

Dilution as a function of matching efficiency.

• A factor of 2 is at stake !

Philippe.Gros @ Ilr.in2p3.fr

x, y Matching

• A 16.7 MeV γ -ray converting to e^+e^- in 2.1 bar Ar:Isobutane 95:5 raw "maps" track time spectra



- x, y two-track ambiguity solved by track time spectra matching
- 1 channel = 1 mm.

• 1 time bin
$$=$$
 30 ns, $v_{\sf drift}pprox 3.3\,{
m cm}/{
m \mu s}$ \Rightarrow 1 time bin $\propto 1\,{
m mm}$

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"Beam" trigger system: additional lines

• Additional trigger lines:



Designed to characterize the performance (signal efficiency, background rejection) of each component of main trigger line

Y. Geerebaert & P. Gros et al., VCI 2016, NIM A, arXiv:1603.06817

"Beam" trigger system: conversion point distributions

- signal efficiency 51 %
- background rejection 99.3 %
- incident rate 2 kHz
- signal on disk 50 Hz



Y. Geerebaert, et al., RT2016, 2016 IEEE-NPSS

Towards a space detector: some elements

- Gas composition
- Gas pressure
- Temperature range
- Gas purity on the long term
- • •

Towards a space detector: Gas composition: drifting species ?

- TPC's to some extent imune to pile-up
- $2 \times 1D$ orthogonal strips given the (small) available electronic powering (i.e., not pads)
- proton flux $20 kHz/m^2$ at Fermi/LAT orbit.
- need "fast gas":

drifting species	example	$v_{\sf drift}$	$t_{\sf drift}$	pile-up fraction	
electron	$Ar:isoC_4H_{10}$	$3.3\mathrm{cm}/\mathrm{\mu s}$	10µs	0.2 proton $/\mathrm{m}^2$	manageable
negative ion	$Ar:CS_2$	$3.3\mathrm{cm/ms}$	$10\mathrm{ms}$	200 proton $/\mathrm{m}^2$	nope



• Note that $M_{
m vessel} \propto P$ and $M_{
m gas} \propto P$ so $M_{
m vessel} \propto M_{
m gas}$

 $M_{\rm vessel}/M_{\rm gas} \approx 0.36$ for Ti alloy sphere at elastic limit / Argon.

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Gas composition, quencher







- Gas detectors need limitation of breakdown from UV photoelectric effect on the cathode: add poly(n > 2)molecular "quencher" gas (alcanes, CO₂ ...)
- Mitigates diffusion $\sigma = \sigma_x/\sqrt{z}$, $\sigma_x = 200 \,\mu\text{m}/\sqrt{\text{cm}}$, ($\sigma \approx 0.6 \,\text{mm}$ after $z = 9 \,\text{cm}$ drift)
- Diffusion is needed to minimize the TPC spatial resolution ! $C_D \equiv \sigma_x$, w strip pitch.

Pressure, Quencher fraction, e⁻ transport properties

• Argon-iso-butane mixture with (2,5,10)% iso-butane and pressure $1,2,4\,\mathrm{bar}$



• v_{drift} max value does not depend on P;

E value for $v_{\sf drift}$ maximum is $\propto P_{\sf C4H10}.$

- $C_{D,T} \propto 1/\sqrt{P_{\mathsf{C4H10}}}$,
- $C_{D,L}$ fn of E,

Transverse diffusion coefficient determined by quencher partial pressure Longitudinal diffusion coefficient determined by drift field

 ${\tt garfield.web.cern.ch}/$

Temperature variation, Temperature range

- TPC parameters depend on gas density ρ , not on (pressure P, temperature T)
- Thermal vessel volume variations corrected by small (drift, amplification) voltages. (We operated the same set-up in the range 1-4 bar by simple voltage ajustments)
- Maximal temperature ?
 - check your electronics !
 - plastic scintillator dome will soften at $pprox 80^\circ$
- Minimal temperature ?
 - avoid quencher partial liquefaction

gas	Ar	Xe	CH_4	C_2H_6	iso C_4H_{10}
boiling point at $1.013\mathrm{bar}~(^\circ\mathrm{C})$	-185.8	-108.1	-161.5	-89	-11.7

alcanes have similar quencher properties.

Which Pressure ?

- **Science**. Rising the pressure:
 - degrades the angular resolution and (mildly) point like source sensitivity
 - Increases the effective area improves the precision on the polarization
- Maximum micropattern gas amplification gain (micromegas, GEM) known to decrease with pressure .. but dE/dx increases ..



D. C. Herrera, et al., "Micromegas-TPC operation at high pressure in Xenon-trimethylamine mixtures," J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 460, 012012 (2013).

micropattern gas amplification above 10 bar a concern, unless very small gap devices can be produced.

- Vessel Mass \propto gas mass to 1rst order.
 - For a given mission: which limit will we touch first (volume, mass) ?

In this talks, examples given at 1, 5, 10 bar. Data taken mostly at 2.1 bar, + a 1-4 bar scan.