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Development of a gaseous PMT with micro-pattern gas detectors

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In the last few years, considerable effort has been devoted to the development of gaseous photomultiplier tubes (PMTs) with micro-pattern gas detectors (MPGD) which are sensitive to visible light. The potential advantage of such a gaseous PMT is that it can achieve a very large effective area with moderate position and timing resolutions. Besides it can be easily operated under a very high magnetic field (~ 1.5 Tesla). Since photon and ion feedbacks cause faster degradation for the bi-alkali photocathode, the maximum achievable gain might be limited at a level 100. Several recent developments, however, have successfully achieved a long-term high sensitivity for a photon detection by using hole-type MPGDs such as a gas electron multiplier (GEM) and a glass capillary plate (CP).

We constructed a double Micromegas detector with a bi-alkali photocathode. The gain of this device was studied by measuring the signal currents at the anode, first mesh, second mesh and the photocathode while varying the applied voltage of the first and second meshes. The gain reached 2×10^3 without a large deviation from the exponential curve. However, at a gain above 2×10^3 we observed a rapid gain rise due to secondary effects.

In order to develop a gaseous PMT having no substantial secondary effects up to 10^5 with a bi-alkali photocathode we tried some combinations of a hole-type MPGD and a Micromegas. We developed a hole-type MPGD with Pyrex glass by a micro-blasting method, which allows the problem-free production of bi-alkali photocathode while a kapton GEM reacts with the photocathode materials.

Basic performance tests of the Pyrex CP gas detector were carried out with a gas mixture of Ne (90%) + CF₄ (10%) at 1 atm. We successfully obtained a gain of up to 1.5×10^4 and an energy resolution of 23% for 5.9 keV X-rays. Further tests are being carried out and results of them will be presented at the workshop.

Please indicate "poster" or "plenary" session. Final decision will be made by session coordinators.

plenary session

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Classification de thématique: Photon detection for Cherenkov counters