

GRIDPIX DETECTOR DEVELOPMENTS FOR BABYIAXO

Johanna von Oy

X-ray DEtector Technologies for Physics Workshop







Low energy X-rays

Low signal count





Low energy X-rays

Low signal count





- X-rays travel through vacuum tight window
- Ionize atoms in argon isobutane mixture
- Electrons are accelerated in electric field towards detection chip



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- Aluminium grid with one hole above each pixel of the Timepix3 chip
- Allows single electron detection



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- Silicon nitride window supported by silicon strips
- Withstands a pressure difference of up to 1.5 bar

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DETECTOR PRINCIPLE - VACUUM TIGHT WINDOWS





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DETECTOR PRINCIPLE - VACUUM TIGHT WINDOWS

Window measurements at SOLEIL





RADIOPURE DETECTOR CONCEPT

- Low signal calls for radiopure materials like lead, copper, teflon or kapton
- Move away as many electronic parts as possible
- No soldering close to chip -> knot copper wires
- Build lead housing setup
- Clean and test all materials





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First prototype, non-radiopure

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DETECTOR CALIBRATION WITH ⁵⁵FE

- Data taking for about
 750 h
- 18 calibration runs with
 ⁵⁵Fe and no shielding
- Shows iron peak at expected around 220 pixels per event





BACKGROUND REDUCTION THROUGH SHAPE





BACKGROUND REDUCTION THROUGH SHAPE





New background reduction with Timepix3: → ToA (Time of Arrival) is more spread out for muon events





ΔTOA OF ⁵⁵FE EVENTS VS BACKGROUND

⁵⁵Fe 50000 -3.5e+05 -45000 -3e+05 -40000 -2.5e+05 -35000 -30000 Counts 2e+05 -Counts 25000 -1.5e+05 -20000 -15000 -1e+05 -10000 -50000 -5000 · 0 -

Background

0

0

10

20

30

40

ΔToA [25ns]

50

60

70

80

90

100

10

0

20

30

40

50

ΔToA [25ns]

70

60

100

90

80



BACKGROUND RUN SPATIAL RESOLUTION

- Centers of round events displayed on the chip dimensions
- Already cut non-round background events
- Defects visible







- Red: HEW=7.83mm
- Yellow: W90=16.83mm
- Black: Timepix3 chip size

BACKGROUND RUN SPATIAL RESOLUTION





BACKGROUND REDUCTION THROUGH 7 CHIPS





BACKGROUND RATE

- Peak in front is under investigation, probably due to the bad chip
- Rate for the rest looks fine
- No radiopure material here, no shielding



GridPix3 IAXO prototype background rate background time=747.989 h

CLEANING THE RADIOPURE PARTS



- Cleaning the radiopure materials to get rid of:
 - ⁴⁰K from human contact
 - ²¹⁰Pb from ²²²Rn from surfaces
 - Oxidation of copper
- Storage in sealed or N₂ flushed areas



MUON VETO TEST STAND

- Test stand for GridPix tests will be built in underground lab
- Movable lead shielding for easy access
- Muon veto scintillators covering the sides and top





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CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

- Axion detection challenges approached with a GridPix detector with:
 - Radiopure materials
 - Ultra thin windows
- First runs with first prototype detector successful
- ToA as newly accessible feature of Timepix3 helps reduce the background
- Build second prototype from radiopure Cu-OFE and PTFE









Plots and CAD models in collaboration with Sebastian Schmidt and Tobias Schiffer

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Following the cleaning protocol from Zaragoza:

- 1. Brush with an **abrasive scouring pad** (portable grinding machine if possible)
- 2. Etch in a solution of 0.5 Molar super-pure **Nitric Acid** in ultrasonic bath for 30 min at 40°C
- 3. Rinse in **distilled water**
- 4. Passivate with a solution of 10% **citric acid** ($C_6H_8O_7$) for 1 hour at 60°C
- 5. Rinse in **distilled water**
- 6. Dry ideally by a N₂ flush (or hairdryer)



CLEANING A TEST PIECE OF RADIOPURE COPPER





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BACKGROUND RUN SPATIAL RESOLUTION

