

## Particle Detectors

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- Introduction (why? where? how?)
- Working Principle of Detectors
- Scintillating detectors (organic & inorganic)
- Some Examples



# Why?



## Particles cannot be measured directly!



## Scientific Method





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## Keep Pushing Boundaries!





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Philosophy



## "A physicist is an atom's way of knowing about atoms." George Wald, Neurobiologist 1967 Nobel Prize







## Where?

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### Where are Detectors on Earth?









## The Radiation Assessment Detector, or RAD



will monitor naturally occurring radiation that can be unhealthful if absorbed by living organisms. It will do so on the surface of Mars, where there has never before been such an instrument, as well as during the trip between Mars and Earth.

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## Curiosity's Radiation Assessment Detector





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## Exactly 100 Years ago :)





Victor Hess received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1936 for his discovery The Hess balloon flight took place on 7 August 1912. By sheer coincidence, exactly 100 years later on 7 August 2012, the Mars Science Laboratory rover used its RAD instrument to begin measuring the radiation levels on another planet for the first time.



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## Voyager + Pioneer





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## How & What?

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## Only the result of an interaction with matter will be observed



The detection of particles happens via their  $\Delta E$  in the material it traverses ... Charged particles: Ionization, Bremsstrahlung, Cherenkov ... Photons: EM  $\rightarrow$  Photo, Compton, pair production Hadrons: Strong, EM, Weak interactions

## Bethe-Bloch





## **Detection Principle**





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• Ionizing (Gaseous & Semiconductor)

• Scintillating (Organic & Inorganic)

• Cherenkov (VETO, RICH & DIRC)

## **Detector Types**





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### Gaseous





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## Wire Chambers











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## ALICE - TPC (MWPC)





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## Semiconductors



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## Working Principle





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### How to Interpret the Spectrum





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## Scintillators



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### Photosensors





(1) Circular-cage Type



(3) Linear-focused Type



(5) Mesh Type



(6) Microchannel Plate Type

(2) Box-and-grid Type

(4) Venetian Blind Type



(8) Eelectron Bombadment Type

(7) Metal Channel Dynode Type















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## Scintillation Process



The light emission is governed by the electronic transitions in the molecule. The electronic levels have a typical energy spacing of ~4 eV. The vibrational levels of the molecule (dE ~ 0.2 eV) also play a role. Electrons in high levels typically deexcite to the lowest excited state without emission of radiation.



## Light Guides



Types: (RT) rectangular, (FT) "fish tail," (TW) two twisted strips,
The bottom figure shows a photomultiplier
tube assembly (PM) with base (B), standard coupling piece of light guide (L), mu
metal shield (dotted lines), and soft iron shield (I).
(After G. D'Agostini et al., Nuc. Instr. Meth, 185: 49, 1981.)

## 







## Liouville's Theorem



- presents a fundamental limitation on the transmission of light through the pipe. The theorem requires that the light flux per unit solid angle not increase while propagating in the pipe. This has the consequence that the maximum fraction of light that can be transmitted is Apm/Asc, where Apm (Asc) is the area of the PMT face (scintillator edge) and Apm < Asc.





## Birk's Law

The amount of light produced for a given energy loss is not constant but depends on the production of quenching centers. These are activated molecules raised to excited vibrational levels. The number of produced photons roughly follows the equation

$$dL/dX = \frac{A \cdot dE/dX}{1 + B \cdot dE/dX}$$



where A and B are constants and dE/dx is the ionization energy loss. The parameter B is sometimes referred to as the a to b ratio. Note that the light output saturates for large energy losses.

## Light Collection via Total Internal Reflection



The fraction of the emitted light transmitted via total internal reflection in one direction along the slab is

$$f = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{0}^{\theta} 2\pi \cdot \sin \theta \, d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{n} \sqrt{n^{2} - 1} \right)$$

Note that this result is independent of the slab dimensions. For typical plastic scintillator with n = 1.58, Eq. gives f = 0.113.

An improvement in light transmission in small counters can be achieved by using a reflector on the end of the scintillator opposite to the collection direction.

The reflectors may be either specular or diffuse and may be in direct contact with the medium or separated by a small air gap. Reflectors on the other four sides of the slab will in general have a much smaller influence on the collection efficiency.

## Attenuation Length





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## Source Position





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## Focusing Effect



![](_page_34_Figure_2.jpeg)

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## Example

![](_page_35_Picture_1.jpeg)

Rough design values

Energy loss in plastic = 2 MeV/cm

Scintillation efficiency = 1 photon/100 eV

Collection efficiency = 0.10% (large counter)

Quantum efficiency = 0.25%

 $Y = Y_{lab} \cdot (1-a) \cdot \epsilon_{cov} \cdot \epsilon_{PMT} = 10^4 / MeV \cdot 0.42 \cdot 0.75 \cdot 0.25 = 1100 / MeV$ 

 $\Delta E/E = \Delta Y/Y \approx \sqrt{Y}/Y \approx 0.03$ 

## Crystal Ball-TAPS

![](_page_36_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_2.jpeg)

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## Commonly Used Inorganic Scintillators

![](_page_37_Picture_1.jpeg)

Scintillator	Light yield (photons/keV)	Light ouput (%) of Nal(TI) bialkali pmt	Temperature coefficient of light output (%/C) 25°C to 50°C	1/e Decay time (ns) (10-3µs)	Wavelength of maximum emission γm (nm)	Refractive index at γm	Thickness to stop 50% of 662 keV photons (cm)	Thermal expansion (°/C) x 106	Hardness (Mho)	Density g/cm 3	Hygroscopic	Comments
BrilLanCe™380 LaBr (Ce) 3	63	165	0	16	380	~1.9	1.8	8		5.08	yes	General purpose, best energy resolution, rate of change of light output w/ temperature is small
Nal(TI)	38	100	-0.3	250	415	1.85	2.5	47.4	2	3.67	yes	General purpose, good energy resolution
Polyscin®Nal(TI)	38	100	-0.3	250	415	1.85	2.5	47.4	2	3.67	yes	Polycrystalline Nal(TI), for extra strength
BrilLanCe™350 LaCl (Ce) 3	49	70 - 90	0.7	28	350	~1.9	2.3	11		3.85	yes	General purpose, excellent energy resolution
Csl(Na)	41	85	-0.05	630	420	1.84	2	54	2	4.51	yes	High Z, rugged
PreLude™420 Lu_Y SiO (Ce) 1.8.2 5	32	75	-0.28	41	420	1.81	1.1			7.1	no	Bright, high Z, fast, dense, background from 176u activity
CdWO <sub>4</sub>	12 - 15	30 - 50	-0.1	14000	475	~2.3	1	10.2	4 - 4.5	7.9	no	High Z, low afterglow, for use with photodioides
CaF (Eu)	19	50	-0.33	940	435	1.47	2.9	19.5	4	3.18	no	Low Z, $\alpha$ & $\beta$ detection
CsI(TI)	54	45	0.01	1000	550	1.79	2	54	2	4.51	slightly	High Z, rugged, good match to photodiodes
BGO	8 - 10	20	-1.2	300	480	2.15	1	7	5	7.13	no	High Z, compact detector, low afterglow
YAG(Ce) Y Al O (Ce) 3 5 12	8	15		70	550	1.82	2	~80	8.5	4.55	no	β-ray, X-ray counting, electron microscopy
CsI(pure)	2	4 - 6	-0.3	16	315	1.95	2	54	2	4.51	slightly	High Z, fast emission
BaF_2	1.8	3	0	0.6 - 0.8	220 (195)	1.54	1.9	18.4	3	4.88	slightly	Fast component (subnanosecond)
	10	16	-1.1	630	310	1.50	1.9	18.4	3	4.88	slightly	Slow component
ZnS(Ag)	~50	130	-0.6	110	450	2.36				4.09	no	Multicrystal, $15\mu$ stops 5.5 MeV $\alpha$ (n detection with $\alpha$ )

The data presented are believed to be correct but are not guaranteed to be so.

### Modern Particle Detector

![](_page_38_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_2.jpeg)

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AMS-2

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_2.jpeg)

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AMS-2

![](_page_40_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Figure_2.jpeg)

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## JEDI Polarimeter

![](_page_42_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_2.jpeg)

## 2D Drawings

![](_page_43_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Purpose of the Detectors
- Working Principle of the Detectors
- How to choose the Detector Types/Materials
- Some Examples