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sur les lois fondamentales

Measurement of a polarised gamma ray beam from 1.7 to 74 MeV with the HARPO TPC



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A Gaseous detector for gamma-ray detection, need and performance

- Rich physics in gamma astronomy
 - Understanding acceleration processes
 - Potential for new physics (Dark Matter, Lorentz Invariance Violation, ...)

- never measured above 1MeV

Polarimetry powerful at



- Sensitivity gap around 1-100MeV
 - Too high for Compton scattering, too low for pair conversion
 - limited by angular resolution
 - Pair tracking limited by scattering in converter
- Gas detector necessary below 100MeV
 - Up to 10x better resolution than FERMI



lower energies

- limited by nucleus recoil at low energy

The NewSUBARU beam



NewSUBARU, U. Hyōgō, LASTI, Japan

- Associated to the SPring8 facility
- 0.6 to 1.5 GeV electron storage ring

Polarised γ

- Multiple scattering, overlapping tracks, ...





• Pair conversion of γ in the gas

 $\gamma A \rightarrow e^+e^-A$

- e⁺, e⁻ tracking
- γ beam aligned with drift field
- Strip readout => projections X-time and Y-time

Measurement goals

- Angular resolution for γ beam
- Polarimetry from azimuthal angle of conversion plane

Event Geometry in the TPC

Trigger system



RAW Event examples

Selection of events. The two projection X-Time and Y-Time are shown. The dashed lines represent the limits of the 30x30x30cm³ TPC



A trigger was built using

- 6 surrounding scintillators
- signal from the laser
- timing of the micromegas mesh direct signal

The main goal of the trigger is to

- reject tracks from interactions of the beam with upstream material (>99% of events)
- Keep as many conversion in the gas volume as possible
- Extra trigger lines for efficiency studies



Signal constituting the trigger:

- laser starting pulse defines t_0 (when available)
- downstream scintillators (define t_0 if no laser)
- veto on upstream scintillator
- veto on mesh signal less than 1μ s after t_o

First Analysis Results

Beam-gas event rate and trigger efficiency

Estimate the vertex position

Ongoing developments

Advanced reconstruction



We can identify events with a vertex on the beam axis. This gives us a first estimate of the "good events" rate

• Before any event

reconstruction, we can estimate with good accuracy the amount of recorded event that correspond to interactions of the photons with the gas (pair conversions or Compton scattering)

 Validation of the trigger performance

- Rejection of **>99%** of background
- Selection of **>50%** of good events
 - => ~100Hz acquisition, >50Hz are signal

- Track reconstruction with multiple scattering
- Robust X-Y maps matching for 3D event reconstruction
- Geant4 simulations
- Test of reconstruction performance

Perspectives

- Development of a self triggered TPC
- Radiation hardened AGET electronics
- Multiple HARPO size modules
- balloon flight module with gas volume $>1m^3$
- Studies towards a space mission

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