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Novel tunable materials for resistive protection of gaseous detectors from room temperature to 90 K

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The resistive well (R-WELL) and the resistive plate well (RP-WELL) are resistive-protected gaseous detectors, capable of operation in a harsh accelerator environment in discharge-free mode. Among current room-temperature applications are digital hadron calorimetry and muon tomography. These detectors also present a potential solution for operation in cryogenic conditions, with adequate resistive materials. We hereby present the characterization results of two resistivity-tunable materials, namely DLC (diamond-like carbon) film coatings and Fe₂O₃/YSZ (iron oxide + Yttria-stabilized zirconia) plates, suitable for operation at LXe and LAr temperatures. Operation at LXe temperature (163 K) demonstrated stable operation at gains well above 10⁵, with soft x-rays. Measurements in Ar vapor near LAr temperature (90 K) provided stable avalanche gain with the protected structures, up to 5-fold larger than with thick GEM (THGEM) - opening potential prospects for operation of dual-phase time projection chambers at lower energy thresholds.

In this work we will discuss in detail the characteristics of this first-generation of cryogenic resistive materials, capable of discharge quenching in gaseous detectors down to LAr temperature. Additionally, it will be shown how they can be tailored to room-temperature operation, yet with resistivities in the range of 10-10⁴ MΩ/sq (resistive coatings) and 10⁹ - 10¹² Ω·cm (resistive plates), compatible a priori with RPC-based detectors.

Authors: Mrs OLANO, Lucía (Nanogune); LEARDINI, Sara (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (ES))

Co-authors: BRESKIN, Amos (Weizmann Institute of Science (IL)); TESI, Andrea (Weizmann Institute of Science (IL)); AZEVEDO, Carlos (University of Aveiro); Dr PECHARROMÁN, Carlos (ICCM); GONZALEZ DIAZ, Diego (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (ES)); GUITIÁN, Francisco (iMATUS); DAS NEVES DIAS CARRAMATE, Lara Filipa (University of Aveiro (PT)); MOLERI, Luca (Weizmann Institute of Science (IL)); BRESSLER, Shikma (Weizmann Institute of Science (IL)); Dr ZHOU, Yi (USTC); Prof. ALEGRÍA, Ángel (UPV/EHU)

Presenter: LEARDINI, Sara (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (ES))

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