Radiopure electronics for the Micromegas detector for IAXO

C. Cogollos

ICCUB//SiUB, University of Barcelona







Electronics for IAXO and background levels



- Next generation "axion helioscope" after CAST
 - Purpose-built large-scale magnet
 - 8 conversion bores of 60 cm Ø, ~20 m long
 - Sun-tracking time is ~50% day
- Detection systems (XRT+detectors)
 - Low-background techniques for detectors

- Up to now, background levels have been reduced using high radiopure materials, shielding and muon vetos.
- Main goal of new readout electronics detector: reduce noise as much as possible to maximize sensitivity for IAXO.
 - Reduce Micromegas detector to electronics distance
 - Use radiopure components



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Radiopure FE for IAXO micromegas detector

New electronics partition and placement

- Detector and electronics placement inside the shielding
- Radiopurity and components
 - Kapton PCB
 - Face to Face connector
 - Selection of radiopure packaging for the AGET ASIC
 - Spark protection circuits (R, C, diodes)
 - Coupling capacitors

New partition of the electronics

- Based on the FEC-Feminos cards (Saclay)
- Move sensitive, AGET, in Front End Card (FEC) as close as possible to the detector to optimize S/N
- Back End Card (BEC), with FPGA+ADC, separated tens of cm by extra shielding

Redesign of the cards

- Different partition
- Component selection and validation

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Electronics simulated activity

• Simulations to study the effects of the electronics on the detector

- Replicate the design (boards and components)
- Emission events generated via Monte Carlo
- Estimate the energy deposited by impurities
- REST framework
- Previous studies of background models and data analysis on the CAST experiment by the group of the University of Zaragoza.
- Search for FEC optimal placement: check several positions of the board and distances from the detector
- The elements included in the FEC simulation and their activity
 - Measured activities of components and materials obtained from a screening program of the TREX project
 - If not already measured, worst cases of known similar components are used.

Component	Quantity (per board)	Dimensions	⁴⁰ K	⁶⁰ Co	¹³⁷ Cs	²²⁶ Ra	²²⁸ Ra	²²⁸ Th	²³² Th	²³⁵ U	²³⁸ U
Capacitors	106	mBq/unit	5.29	<0.036	<0.043	5.29		8.75	8.52		10.4
Resistances	128	µBq/unit	83.6	<0.2	104	4.1		4.4	4.4		85
AGET Chip	1	mBq/unit	0.83			0.48	0.16	0.47			8.77
Diodes	64	µBq/unit							2.9	2.6	1.4

Deposited energy in gas due to radiation emmited from the electronics

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- The proposed Micromegas detection system for BabyIAXO places the Front-End electronics inside the Pb shielding for reducing signal degradation.
- Approaching the electronic components increases background due to radioactive impurities:
 - The larger sources of radiation coming from the electronics are impurities of the capacitors (238U, 228Th, 232Th) and of the encapsulation of the AGET chip (238U).
 - A smaller fraction comes from resistors and diodes from the spark protection system.
- Total integrated effect of electronics at ¼ distance from the Micromegas inside the shielding has been simulated to be less than the environment contamination in underground laboratory conditions at Laboratorio Subterráneo de Canfranc (LSC).

