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HV and calibration system of the PTOLEMY detector

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PTOLEMY Experimental Layout

Electron focusing

1st E measurement by RF tracker



Schematic drawing of the HV system

Field Mill where an electrostatic measurement of the V is realized

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Standard HV power supply to charge up the electrodes.

Computer / driven actuator Exploded view of the field mill where the electrostatic measurement of V is realized.

Electrodes bias point

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HV biasing and monitoring system of the PTOLEMY detector electrodes

Voltage provided by a locking capacitor
→ not a resistive divider
Field Mill voltage monitoring
→ On path to supersede all precision voltage systems



Locking capacitor 200 nF

Connection to the Field Mill

Detector/electrode side. The HV connection is still missing.

Side view of the Field Mill-

HV switch to charge up the capacitor (bottom position), to discharge (yop). Normal position (middle) while measuring.



Dry N pipe. In future also SF6 to prevent discharge in air. The plexi-box is also important for safety.

> Connection to DC power supply

More details



What we measure



Two issues to investigate and fix: long decay time and signal variation correlated to T instability.

Voltage variation as function of T

V measured versus time



Quadratic function Fit? No reason for such a behavior. We expect an exp decay if the internal capacitor leak is the main responsible of the decay.

The second order pol behavior is probably the result of two linear decay with different rate.

> Mean decay rate 2x 10⁻⁵ V/h at 5000 V bias voltage corresponding to ~ 0.3 V/h Discharge of the electrode.

Voltage variation correlated to T

V measured versus time 90015 1.001 1.001 1.001 00005 0.9995 0.999 0.9985 50 100 150 200 250 0 t(h) temp vs time 23.5 23 22 21.5 21 20.5 20 19.5 ⊑ 0 150 t(h)³⁰⁰ 50 100 200 250

Temperature stabilization is necessary. We aim at having 0.1 C stability. This should be sufficient to reach 10⁻⁶ signal stability that we aim at achieving.

Effect of stable T

temp vs time



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Which are next steps

- Test in vacuum to definitively check if air ionization by cosmic rays and Rn decays have an effect on the voltage stability.
- Test underground to prof if ionization on electrodes has an effect.
- A T stabilization system is needed. We are working on it.
- Improve the grounding of the shutter.
- We think that performance one order of magnitude better than the present one is in a reach.

How to check efficiency and energy scale.





Construction and assembling ongoing

Beam direction







Quartz support with Gold coating (10 nm) Kindly provided by Chris. Tully from Princeton.

E-field simulation



Ey-component



To Conclude

Good idea inherited by KATRIN collaboration.

(Behrens, J., Ranitzsch, P.CO., Beck, M. et al. Eur. Phys. J. C (2017) 77: 410.)

- Part of eV in energy distribution can easily be achieved. We aim at achieving ~ 0.1 eV
- A system to trigger the out coming electrons is mandatory for precise measurement of the efficiency of the PTOLEMY detector. More options are under consideration such as Josephson Junction or also more classical setup (Novelty feature w.r.t. KATRIN device).