



Electrons emission from crystals of inert gases

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AXIOMA Meeting Padova, 20 June 2017



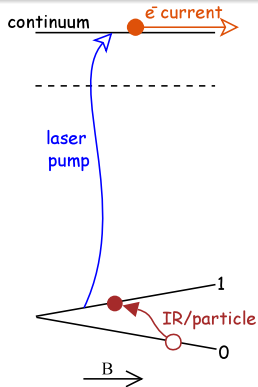
1 Idea

2 Apparatus

3 Tests

4 Conclusions

## Scheme



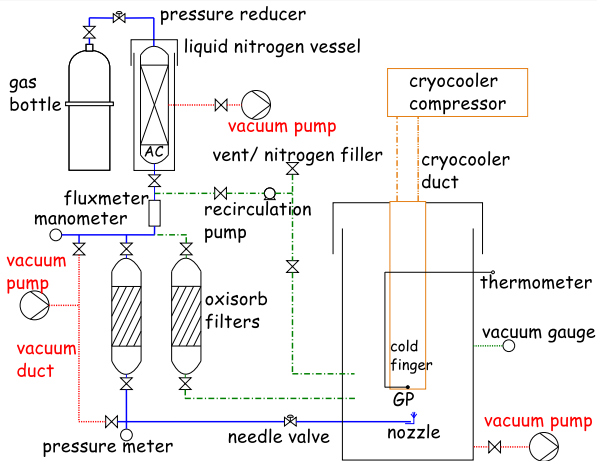
## Features

- ▶ Matrix isolation technique [*J. Chem. Phys.* 22, 11 (1954)]
- ▶ matrix of inert gas (Ne, para-H<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>)
- ▶ Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs embedded in
- ▶ first ionization energy [3.89-5.39] eV
- ▶  $\sigma_{ionization} \sim 10^{-10} - 10^{-14} \text{ cm}^2$
- ▶ low interaction host-guest  $\rightarrow$  low linewidth broadening
- ▶ AXION mass:  $m_a$  tuned to the  $0 \rightarrow 1$  transition ( $E_1 - E_0$ )
- ▶ **electron signal**: high collection efficiency

## Matrices parameters

matrix	a (Å)	$E_{gap}$ (eV)	$V_0$	$\mu_e$ (cm <sup>2</sup> V <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
Ne	~ 4.4	~13	+1.1	600
CH <sub>4</sub>	~ 8	~24.5	-0.18	100
para - H <sub>2</sub>	~ 3.7		+2	

## gas purification



## Features:

- ▶ activated charcoal filter
  - ▶ Oxyorb filter
- ⇒
- $O_2$  impurities < 5ppb in Ne and  $CH_4$

## crystal growth



## Characteristics

- ▶ 1 W pulse tube He cryocooler @ 4K
- ▶ fine tuning temperature control
- ▶ chamber cleaning & baking
- ▶ Oxyorb filter
- ▶  $P_{chamber} \sim 10^{-8}$  mbar

## growing parameters:

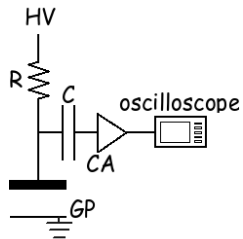
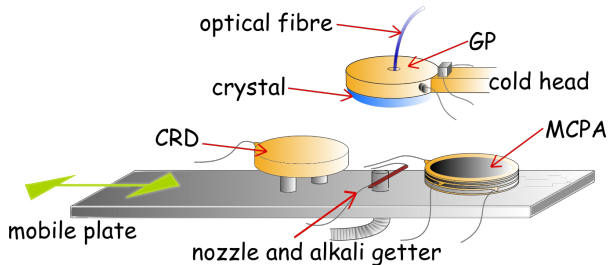
- ▶  $P_{growth} \sim 2 \cdot 10^{-5}$  mbar
- ▶  $t_{growth} \sim 2$  h
- ▶  $T_{growth} \sim 9$  K
- ▶  $t_{annealing} \sim 15$  min



25 mm diameter, 2 mm  
thickness crystals

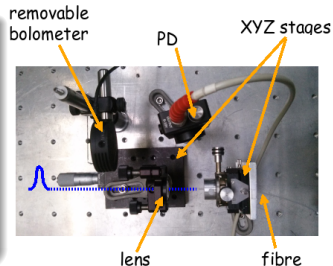


## electrons injection &amp; collection

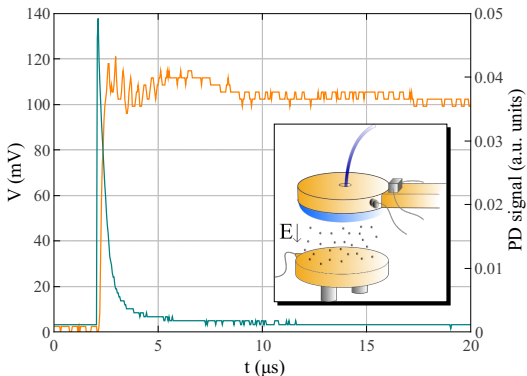


## Characteristics

- ▶ Au photocathode in the cold head
- ▶ fused silica fibre
- ▶ 10 ns laser pulses @ 266 nm
- ▶ energy up to 1 mJ
- ▶ charge receiver disk or microchannel plate assembly

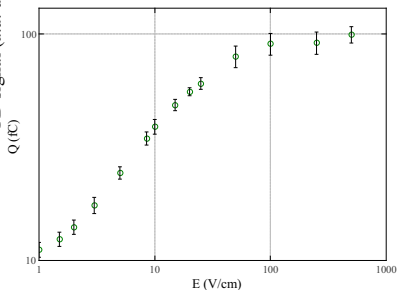


# electrons extraction



## Measurements

electrons injection and emission in s-Ne & s-CH<sub>4</sub> for different electric field applied



long time (hours)  
stability signal



no charge  
space effect!



no trapping  
sites!

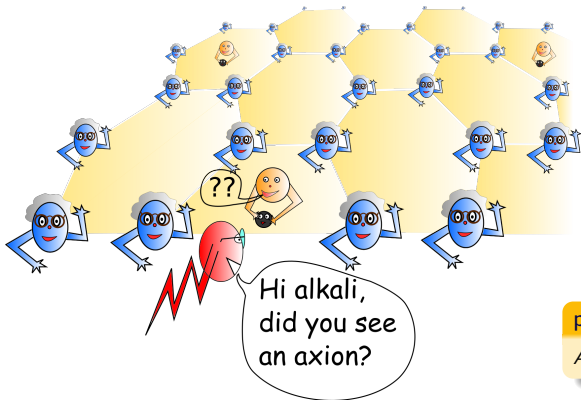


high quality  
crystals!

## conclusions

## further steps

- ▶ cosmic rays detection in s-Ne & CH<sub>4</sub>
- ▶ electrons focusing (test in progress)
- ▶ tests with silicon detector, channeltron and phosphor scintillator (test in progress)
- ▶ alkali doping and spectroscopy



paper reference

*ArXiv* 1703, 10880 (2017)



the end

**Thanks for your attention**

## People

C. Braggio, R. Calabrese, G. Carugno, A. Dainelli, A. Khanbekyan,  
M. Guarise, E. Luppi, E. Mariotti, M. Poggi, L. Tomassetti

