The EXACRAD Project in context









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Experimental Evaluation of ATHENA Charged Particle Background from Secondary Radiation and Scattering in Optics

Activity dedicated to an improved understanding of physical processes responsible for the instrumental background on ATHENA

Why are interested in the instrumental bkg?

ATHENA's ability to carry out designated Science Goals will depend critically upon the properties of the instrumental background

An example from XMM-Newton

- Radial Temperature profile of a Galaxy Cluster measured with XMM-Newton
- 3 different profiles measured adopting 3 different values for the instrumental bkg
- Huge Systematic errors, much larger than statistical ones





Why EXACRAD?

ATHENA's ability to carry out designated Science Goals will depend critically upon the properties of the instrumental background

ATHENA instrumental background is due to particles interacting with the detectors, its surrounding and the X-ray optics



Major ATHENA Bkg components as seen with XMM-EPIC MOS

- Secondaries generated by high energy particle (E>100 MeV) mostly Cosmic Rays p+
- Low energy ions (E<100 KeV) concentrated by mirrors, often_ refered to as Soft Protons



Major components GCR

- GCR p+ e- a
- EPHIN on board SOHO which is @ L1
- Very tight correlation btwn EPIC instrumental background and EPHIN measurements firmly establishes GCR as cause



Galactic Cosmic Rays induced bkg



Galactic Cosmic Rays induced bkg Soft protons highly variable

- Supra-thermal ions with energies few 10 few 100 keV scattered off X-ray optics in a quasi-specular fashion
- X-ray telescopes act as concentrators
- The larger the telescope the more the concentrated protons
- ATHENA largest X-ray telescope



Activities

Several activities have been undertaken

- Study of Archival data from X-ray missions
- Study of particle environment non X-ray missions SOHO etc.
- Laboratory Experiments to investigate key physical processes
- Proposed a dedicated ATHENA particle monitor AHEPaM
- Development of Magnetic Diverter
- Optimizing instrument design (graded shielding, Anti-Coincidence , Self Anti-Coincidence...)



Study of background data from active X-ray missions

Study of particle environment in L1 and L2 & comparison btwn 2

Definition of SPACE Physics list to be adopted when performing GEANT4 simulations of ATHENA instruments



Within AREMBES identified 3 key physical interactions by particles and matter for which experimental data is scarce or inconclusive. EXACRAD has been set up to investigate them

Goal is include results in Physics List to improve simulations

- Soft proton Scattering off X-ray optics
- Secondary electron production
- Electron Backscattering

WBS



WP3 Soft proton Scattering off X-ray optics E.Perinati UT

2.5 MV single-ended Van de Graaff (HVEC ANS/200)

- Located at the Stern-Gerlach-Zentrum of Univ. Frankfurt/Main
- Nominal operating voltage 0.3-2.5 MV
- Available ion types: p, d, ³He, ⁴He, C, O





Geometry & Conventions



Measurements

α [°]	~150 keV	~250 keV	~350 keV	~450 keV
0.5	x	x	x	X
0.65	X (?)	X(?)	X(?)	X(?)
0.82	X (?)	X(?)	X(?)	X(?)
0.9	X (?)	X(?)	X(?)	X(?)
1.16	X(?)	X(?)	X(?)	X(?)



Difficulties with normalization Review of WP3 activities by EXACRAD managemet Nov 2019 New normalization strategy agreed upon 4 calibration runs by March 2020

WP4 Secondary electron production - P.Laurent CEA

- Measurement of secondary electrons production yield
- Several materials/thicknesses tested
- The test at PSI occurred from March 13th to 18th, 2019. The irradiation lasted 32 hours. The beam had an energy of 230,3 MeV and a Gaussian profile with a FWHM of 1,5 cm. The beam was stable and the mean proton flux was 1.5x10⁷ p/s/cm2

Name	Thickness (µm)	Purity (%)
	10	99.0
Aluminum	100	99.0
	1000	99.0
	10	99.9
Niobium	500	99.9
	1000	99.9
	75	99.8
Carbon	125	99.8
	1000	99.8
	13	DuPont™ Kapton
Kapton	250	DuPont™ Kapton
	500	DuPont™ Kapton
	10	99.99
Titanium	100	99.99
	1000	99.99
	10	99.99
Copper	100	99.99
	1000	99.99

DETECTOR HARDWARES

All detectors worked well during the runs, with some minor problems. Also used a plastic racket to monitor the particles background in the room which was found to be high but stable.



Measurement at 22,5°



Measurement at 70°

DATA

For each run, got spectra of the detectors (Si, BGO, Plastic and Micromegas) and timing info of the delay between the plastic (fastest detector) and the others.



PRE-TREATMENT

1. Energy calibration :

- Detector calibrations with radioactive sources at the start, middle and end of the test.
- Gain/offset value for each detector (Energy = gain*Channel + Offset) were computed from these measurements.
- These values were shown to vary by about 10 % during the tests.



SOURCE



PRE-TREATMENT

2. Background subtraction:

- Tests without the target holder and with an empty target holder to see the effect of this holder. It was shown that the spectra were not affected by the holder presence.
- These runs were used to subtract the background from the on-target runs. Again, for each run, used the closest background file.
- During this pre-processing phase, it was shown that the BGO detector was completely blinded by the background, probably induced in the beam stopper.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS



Fit of data with power-law model convolved with response matrix for instrument

WP5 ELECTRON BACK SCATTERING T. Paulmier ONERA

- Induced current on sample
- Incident current measured by Faraday cup
- Yield is relative diff. btwn the two



Experimental setup



Figure 1. The SIRENE irradiation test facility



Figure 3. View of the rotative sample holder with Faraday cup, sample and biased system

SIRENE facility in ONERA: 7-400keV monochromatic e- beam

Results

- Difference btwn high Z/density and low Z/density material
- Composite material behaves like highZ/dendity



Simulations of penetration







Results

- Difference btwn high Z/density and low Z/density material
- Composite material behaves like highZ/dendity



G4 simulations by Fan Lei in excellent agreement

BSE Spectrum



BSE energy spectra measured on the composite sample at incident energies ranging between 50 and 100 keV

backscattered electrons suffer only modest energy loss

BSE Spectrum



backscattered electrons suffer siginficant energy lossese

BS: implications for XIFU and WFI

Composite sample ~ XIFU sensors

- ~ $\frac{1}{2}$ e- are backscattered
- only small fraction of energy ~ keV left on sensor

Si sample ~ WFI sensors

- <20% e- are backscattered
- substatial fraction of energy left on sensor

Unrejected background associated to BSe- much larger for XIFU than WFI



Measures within EXACRAD vital but not complete

- electron backscattering at small angles to surface not performed
- soft proton measures limited to E > 100 keV



A solid characterization of instrumental background is key to carrying out several ATHENA science goals

Predictions for ATHENA instrumental background rely heavily on understanding of physical processes

AREMBES - Definition of SPACE Physics list

EXACRAD - Carrying out experiments to characterize key physical interactions btwn particles and matter

These activities are part of a larger and coherent structure whose ultimate goal is to afford a low and highly reproducible background for ATHENA instruments