Ongoing activities at Saclay

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- Micromegas using a pixellised readout works
- However the weak point is the system sensitivity to sparks
- At Saclay we work on:
 - finding a gas mixture for optimal stability
 - damping the sparks (specific supply circuit)

complementary to the resistive layer study at NIKHEF and to the improvement of the chip robustness at CERN



- Gain measurements using a Micromegas chamber
 - find the breakdown limit for many gas mixtures to avoid sparking
 - look for "Penning mixtures" and a stable state
- Study of detector-to-detector gain homogeneity

 using a microbulk
- •Measurement of ions backflow using various InGrid geometries (with Max Chefdeville)
- Involvement of the Saclay design shop in progress
- We are ready to test TimePix in gas
- Future activities and development in Saclay design for a Mini-chamber using Medipix2 readout chip
 SiTPC endplate for the Large Prototype

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Gain measurements : detector

<u>Goals</u>:

- find gas mixture comfortable gain margin to use into a Micromegas TPC
- know as much as possible the maximum gain (to avoid spark)



Description:

- Transparent plastic box of 23 cm x 23cm x 8 cm size
- "Standard" 50 μm mesh of 10 cm x 10 cm size
- Sources:
 - Fe 55 (5.9 keV)
 - COOL-X (8.1 keV)
- Monitoring of:
 - pressure
 - H₂O
- Gas mixing system with triple mixture available

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Gain measurements : summary



Mesh : 50 μm gap of 10x10 size

Mixtures of gases containing argon







Ne/Argon - Iso 5%







Ne/Argon - Iso 5%







Ne/Argon - Iso 5%





Argon/Isobutane



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Simulation vs. measurements : Ar/CO_2



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Simulation vs. measurements : Ar/C_2H_6



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Simulation vs. measurements : Ar/iC_4H_{10}



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The Medipix2 chip



Ready to test TimePix !









- Gain measurements with He, Ne mixtures (double or triple) using the same Micormegas detector
- These should help us to choose a gas mixture with a voltage providing a stable state to operate with the Medipix2 chip
- Build a small box of 20 cm x 8 cm x 4 cm to put a Medipix2 + Micromegas in the gas
- Measurements with sources...







 Continue on the understanding of the gas properties using Micromegas detector

- Observations with the Mini-chamber with Micromegas and Medipix2 readout chip
- Mini-chamber -> Large Prototype...