

THE LIQUID ARGON DETECTOR(S)

- Argon: the active medium
 - Ionization Charge
 - recombination, drift, e-attachment (el.negative impurities)
 - Scintillation Light
 - propagation (Rayleigh scattering), quenching & absorption (impurities)
- The LAr TPC
 - the Neutrino detector ``style"
- LAr TPC at work: Event reconstruction
 - imaging
 - calorimetry
 - Particle Identification
- A visual analysis session:
 - single particle identification
 - neutrino event topology
- The new wave ...
- The LAr TPC
 - the Dark Matter detector ``style"

Noble Elements

He: :Ne: :Ar: :Kr: :Xe: :Rn:

- The Noble elements are characterized by their inertness, which is a reflection of their completely filled valence shells.
- These are compact atoms that hold on to their electrons tightly.
- Their almost nonexistent electron affinity indicates that free electrons in a highly purified noble liquid environment will be capable of traveling long distances under the influence of an electricfield.





Refs: 1.) image from <u>periodtable.com</u>

Noble Liquids



Refs: 1.) images from <u>periodtable.com</u>

Kind of like making a snowball out of very "powdery" snow

Table 1 Liquid Argon chemical and physical properties [1,2], [3–5].

Atomic number, mass	18, 40
Atomic weight	$39.948~\mathrm{m}_u$
$\langle Z/A angle$	0.45059
Concentration in air	0.934~%

Most abundant isotope of argon on Earth? Ar40 Ar40 is primarily produced by decay (electron capture) of potassium in Earth's crust.

 $^{40}_{19}K + ^{0}_{-1}e^{-} \rightarrow ^{40}_{18}Ar + v_{e}$



Table 2

Liquid Argon thermal and physical properties [6], [2].

	Pressure	Temperature	Density
Solid phase:		83. K	$1.625 \mathrm{~g/cm^3}$
Triple point:	$0.689 \mathrm{\ bar}$	83.8 K	
Liquid phase:	1.00 bar	87.2 K	$1.396 \mathrm{g/cm^3}$
Boiling point (@ 1 atm =)	1.013 bar	87.3 K	$1.395 \mathrm{~g/cm^3}$
	$1.15 \mathrm{\ bar}$	88.5 K	$1.388 \mathrm{g/cm^3}$
	1.20 bar	88.9 K	$1.385 \mathrm{~g/cm^3}$
	1.25 bar	89.3 K	$1.383 \mathrm{~g/cm^3}$
Critical point:	48.63 bar	$150.7~\mathrm{K}$	$0.553 \mathrm{~g/cm^3}$
Heat capacity $[Cp]$ (boiling point) 0.2670 cal/g			$0.2670~{\rm cal/g~K}$
Thermal conductivity (boiling point)		$3.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cal/s cm K}$	
Latent heat of vaporization (boiling point)		38.4 cal/g	
Gas/liquid ratio (1 atm, $15^o/BPT$)			835 vol/vol
e^- Mobility (boiling point)		$500 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V s}$	
e^- Drift velocity (500 V/cm - nominal field, 89 K)		$1.55~\mathrm{mm}/\mathrm{\mu s}$	
e^- Diffusion coefficient (89 K)		$4.8 \ {\rm cm}^2/{\rm s}$	
e^- – O ₂ Trapping rate (500 V/cm, 89 K)		\sim 7.× 10^{10} l/mol s	

Liquid Argon as Active Target for Particle Detectors

Mechanisms of Ionization Charge release and Scintillation Light emission Charged particle traversing a volume of (liquid) Argon loose energy primarily (but not exclusively) via **lonization** (e⁻,Ar⁺⁾ AND **Scintillation** Light production.

Charge recombination and de-excitation processes quickly follow the passage of the ionizing ptcls. This changes the amount of both light and charge available for detection.

Solid Argon is characterized by the existence of an electron band structure and it is usually assumed that the same **band structure** also exists **in the liquid state**

Most of what we know is due to the original work of Japanese groups, led by **Prof. Doke (Waseda U.)** since mid '70.

Table 4

Liquid Argon Ionization and Scintillation properties [3,4,11],[4,7–9].

Mean energy loss (mip)	$\langle dE_{mip}/dx \rangle = 1.519 \text{ MeV cm}^2/\text{g}$
Average energy for (e^-, Ar^+) pair production	$W_{ion} = 23.6 \text{ eV}$
Free e^- yield [@ > 15 kV/cm]	$\mathrm{Y}_{ion} = 4.2 \times ~10^4 ~e^{-}/\mathrm{MeV}$
[@ 500 V/cm] (mip)	$\mathrm{Y}_{ion} = {\sim}2.9{\times}~10^4~e^-/\mathrm{MeV}$
[@ 0-Field] (mip)	$\mathrm{Y}_{ion} = {\sim}1.1{\times}~10^4~e^-/\mathrm{MeV}$
Energy gap (Band Structure)	$E_{gap}{=}14.3~{ m eV}$
Average energy per ionizing collision	$E_+=15.4 eV$
Average energy per excited atom	$E_*=12.7 eV$
Average kinetic energy of subionization electron	ϵ_{kin} =6.3 eV
Number of excited atoms to the number of ions Ratio	$N_*/N_+{=}0.21$
Fano Factor	0.107
Ar_2^* excited dimer states (<i>M</i> -band)	Singlet ${}^{1}\Sigma_{u}$, Triplet ${}^{3}\Sigma_{u}$
Decay γ Energy	$\langle E_{ph} \rangle = 9.7 \text{ eV}$
Decay γ Spectrum	$\langle \lambda_{ph} angle = 127 \ { m nm} \ ; \ \ \sigma_\lambda \simeq 3 \ { m nm}$
Decay Time constant (singlet)	$ au_S \sim 6 { m ns} \left(\sim 5 { m ns} [10] ight)$
Decay Time constant (triplet)	$ au_T \sim 1.6~\mu { m s}~(\sim 1.3~\mu { m s}~[10])$
Decay Intensity Ratio (mip)	$I_S/I_T = 0.3 \ (23\%/77\%)$
Decay Intensity Ratio (α -ptcl)	$I_S/I_T = 3 \ (75\%/25\%)$
Average energy for γ production	$\mathrm{W}_{ph} = 19.5~\mathrm{eV}$
Photon yield [@ 0-Field] (ideal)	$\mathrm{Y}_{ph} = 5.1 \times \ 10^4 \ \gamma/\mathrm{MeV}$
[@ 0-Field] (mip)	$\mathrm{Y}_{ph} = \sim 4.0 \times \ \mathrm{10^4} \ \gamma/\mathrm{MeV}$
[@ 500 V/cm] (mip)	$\mathrm{Y}_{ph} = \sim 2.4 \times \ \mathrm{10^4} \ \gamma/\mathrm{MeV}$
$[@>15~{ m kV/cm}]~(mip)$	$\mathrm{Y}_{ph} = \sim 1.3 \times \ \mathrm{10^4} \ \gamma/\mathrm{MeV}$
Dielectric constant (@128 nm, 89 K)	$\epsilon_{Ar} = 1.5$
Refractive Index (@128 nm, 89 K)	$n_{Ar} = 1.38$
Rayleigh scattering length (@128 nm, 89 K)	$\ell_R = 90 \text{ cm}$
Attenuation length (ultra-high purity)	∞

IONIZATION

LAr valence band negligibly small and conduction band with E_{gap} =14.3 eV

 $W_{ion} = E_+ + \epsilon_{kin} + E_*(N_*/N_+)$

(**Note:** the LAr band gap energy E_{gap} corresponds to the ionization potential I of the gaseous phase)

SCINTILLATION

Ar* excited atoms and Ar⁺ ions produced by ionizing radiation lead to Ar^{*}₂ low excited dimer ("self-trapped" excitons in Singlet and Triplet state) formation through collision with Ar atoms.

 $Ar_{\gamma}^* \rightarrow 2Ar + 1\gamma$



Ionization trail (''track'') drifting to Anode

Liquid Argon is used as active target in particle detectors operated as **Ionization Chambers**

(LAr being the dielectric medium)

When no EF is applied (EF=0) all N+ ions recombine

 \Rightarrow for a deposited energy $E_{dep} = W_{ion}$

(1+N*/N+) photons are emitted, i.e.

Free el-Yield: $Y_e = 10^6/W_{ion} [e-/MeV]$ Photon Yield: $Y_{\gamma} = 10^6/W_{ph} [\gamma/MeV]$

 $W_{ph} = W_{ion} / (1 + N*/N_{+})$







At a given EF value, the fraction **R** of ion. charge **surviving Recombination** depends (non-linearly !) on the ionization density (dE/dx).

Note: different ptcls have same dE/dx at different kin. energy

Light Production

- Prompt light from particles traversing the LArTPC allow determination of the t₀ of the interaction, as well as complimenting the TPC information during reconstruction.
- LAr is a very bright scintillator, though its predominant wavelength is deep in the UV (128nm).





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When an electric field (EF) is applied to the LAr medium the increase of the EF strength results in a reduction of scintillation light balanced by an increase of free electron charge.

The LET value (i.e. dE/dx) determines the relative amount of charge and light. Note: Scint. Suppression due to escape electrons Se.e.=0.78

[Top] LET dependence of the scintillation yield, [Bottom] EF dependence of the free-electron yield and of the scintillation yield for a mip. Shaded bands indicate the nominal EF in LArTPC detectors.



let's try a calculation. Assumptions: EF=0.5 kV/cm, Crossing ptcl: muon with $T_{\mu} = 300 \text{ MeV}$ kin energy (MIP regime) constant dE/dx = 2.1 MeV/cm along a track of length $\Delta x = 100$ cm, - Fraction of e⁻ surviving recombination at EF: R=0.7 (at 0.5 kV/cm) (R equiv to $Q(EF)/Q_0$) Reduction of photons at EF F = 0.6 (at 0.5 kV/cm) (F equiv to $S_r(EF)/S_{r0}$)

Free electrons

 $R \cdot Y_e (e/MeV) \cdot E_{dep}(MeV) =$ $R \cdot 10^6/W_{ion} \cdot dE/dx \cdot \Delta x = 6.2 \cdot 10^6 e (=1000 \text{ fC}) = Q_{free}$

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Emitted VUV Photons} \\ F \cdot Y_{ph}(\gamma/MeV) \cdot S_{e.e.} \cdot E_{dep}(MeV) = \\ F \cdot 10^{6} \cdot (1+N*/N+)/W_{ion} \cdot S_{e.e.} \cdot dE/dx \cdot \Delta x = 5.0 \cdot 10^{6} \gamma_{vuv} \end{array}$

Charge transport and **Light propagation** through the LAr (detector) Volume

Charge Transport

from Qfree to QDet

- Free e-charge under influence of the EF (assumed uniform):
 - ''drift'' from Cathode to Anode at constant velocity, v_{D}
 - •NB: the drift velocity in LAr is LOW ($v_D \sim 1.5 \text{ mm}/\mu s$ at nominal EF 0.5 kV/cm)
- The charge at the end of its drift is eventually collected
 by the Anode Plane
 however



... however:

- e-charge is progressively reduced during drift time $t_{\rm D}$ due to
 - "attachment" to el-negative impurities (e.g. O_2) diluted in LAr:

 $e^- + O_2 \rightarrow O_2^-$; rate constant $k_e \approx 3.1 \text{ ppb}^{-1} \text{ ms}^{-1}$

$$\Rightarrow \quad Q_{\text{Det}}(\mathbf{t}_{\text{D}}) = Q_{\text{free}} * \exp(-\mathbf{t}_{\text{D}}/\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\text{e}})$$

where τ_e is the "electron Lifetime" in LAr with el-negative impurity concentration

 $[O_2]$ in ppb:

 $\tau_{\rm e} = 1 / k_{\rm e} [O2]$

since \mathbf{k}_{e} is a known, measuring the elifetime means measuring the impurity concentration.



LAr Purity

- · The electron lifetime is one of the most important detector parameters.
- In 100% pure LAr, the electron lifetime should be almost infinite.
- Electronegative impurities, such as Oxygen and Water, will attach to electrons before they reach anode planes, reducing the recorded signal.





1.) Drift Velocity of Free Electrons in Liquid Argon, W. Walkowiak, NIM A Vol. 449, July 2000, pp 288-294

Refs:

LAr Purity

- Achieve desired purity level by passing argon through filters containing molecular sieve (to remove water) and copper (to remove oxygen).
- Detector components must also be chosen to minimize contamination.
- Continuous recirculation necessary to reach/maintain ultimate purity requirements.



Refs:

1.) A Regenerable Filter for Liquid Argon Purification, A. Curioni et al, NIM A Vol. 605, July 2009, pp 306-311

2.) ICARUS takes flight beneath the Gran Sasso, CERN Courier, July 2011



Light Propagation

 LAr is transparent to its own scintillation light (128 nm VUV photon = 9.8 eV, not enough energy to re-excite another Ar atom) ⇒

VUV photons freely propagate through LAr

... however...

- undergo "frequent" elastic interactions with Ar atoms (*Rayleigh Scattering*): $\ell_{\rm R} \approx 60 \text{ cm} (\text{at } \lambda = 128 \text{ nm})$
- Absorption by photo-sensitive molecules (impurities, like O_2 and H_2O) diluted in LAr: $\ell_A = 1 / k_A [O2]$





Charge **Collection** and Light **Collection** at/by the Charge- or Light-Sensitive devices.

Charge Co

• The anode electrode of the lon "detectable" charge at the end

NB1: in LAr there is **no charge-multiplicat** (as in GAr detectors), i.e. Q_{det} is the actual amount of ionization charge surviving Recombination ($Q_{lon} \rightarrow Q_{free}$) and Attachment ($Q_{free} \rightarrow Q_{det}$)

NB2: the shape and geometry of the anode electrode can be chosen in a variety of ways: the one relevant here is the **Time Projection Chamber geometry** with the anode plane formed by a succession of two (or more) parallel planes of wires oriented at different angles:

the LArTPC concept





LArTPC



- Field-cage of TPC creates uniform drift region from cathode to a anode plane.
- Excellent dielectric properties of noble liquids allow for sustaining high cathode voltages.
 Example: MicroBooNE has a 2.5m drift, so a 500V/cm field requires: I25,000V on Cathode.
- Recombination of electron-ion pairs diminishes signal. Can compensate by increasing field, but this increases demand on cathode voltage.



MicroBooNE at FNAL

The TPC - cathode and field cage



Field cage:

64 stainless steel tubes at different potential to create a uniform electric field inside "loops around the TPC volume" Anode wire plane

Wire readout electronics boards

and Light **Collection**

 Any "PhotoCathodic" area can collect the LAr Scintillation Light ["PhotoCathodic" area is the active surface of an optical sensor where photons generate an electronic signal, typically a (photo-)electron current: e.g. **PMT, SiPM, ...**]



NB1:VUV (128 nm) light need to be wavelength-shifted into visible to be detected by PMTs (e.g. blue-sensitive). Coating PMT window with wls-material (e.g.TPB) is the most common solution.

NB1: detected light is mostly DIRECT light impinging upon PMT photo-cathode ⇒ collection efficiency usually very low

 $\epsilon_{coll} \approx 10^{-5}$ (for typical photo-cathodic coverage $\approx 1\%$)

VUV (128 nm) light is only marginally reflected by inner detector surface (metallic cathode and field-shaping system - R≈20%)

Light Collection

- Light collection devices (PMT, scintillator bar, SiPM, etc...) immersed in the LAr, which puts constraints on their robustness to cold.
- Argon scintillation light is deep in UV, so need to shift wavelength to regime where device has good efficiency.



Abosrption/Emission Spectrum of Tetraphenyl butadiene (TPB)

MicroBooNE PMTs behind TPB-coated plates



Prompt Scintillation Light (fast component ~5 ns) is detected (after VUV-Vis w.l. down-conversion) by arrays of PMTs/SiPM:

* used for Triggering

* used for determining t_0 of event (time of passage of ptcl in LAr) necessary for TPC event reconstruction: drift coordinate x_D

$$t_D = (t_{hit} - t_0); \quad x_D = v_D * t_D$$



LArTPC technology at work

LArTPC

- One of the attractive aspects of this technology is we don't need to instrument the entire volume. Just drift liberated ionization over to anode plane.
- This allows us to scale the detector to very large sizes.

NB:

The longer the drift length, the higher the demands on LAr purity and high-voltage capability.



Operating Principle of the LArTime Projection Chamber

The LArTPC technology allows for *three-dimensional image reconstruction* and *calorimetric measurement* of the ionizing events.

When a uniform electric field is applied, the ionization *electron tracks are projected onto the anode* along the electric field lines.

The read-out of the electron track image is obtained by configuring the anode as a system of parallel wire-planes (number of planes \geq 2), biased at specific potentials to enhance <u>"transparency"</u> of the successive wire plane to drifting electrons.

With this configuration, each **segment** of a track induces a pulse signal (**"hit"**) on one wire in each plane.

The coordinate of the wire in the plane provides the hit position, so that multiple and independent localizations (y, z) of the track segment can be accomplished ("non-destructive" read-out).

Timing of the pulse (t_o from Prompt Scintillation Light), combined with the drift velocity information, **determines the drift-coordinate** of the hit (**x**), thus providing full three dimensional (**3D**) image reconstruction capability.



Signals from wires in different planes sensing the same track segment

Transparency is established when $E_{g2} \ge r_T E_{g1}$ and $E_{g1} \ge r_T E_d$ with $r_T \ge 1.3-1.4$ The electronics implemented for the LArTPC wire signal readout is structured as a *multi-channel waveform recorder* that continuously records charge information collected by each sense wire during the drift of ionization electrons inside the TPC.



LArTPC at work



time

TPCs

- Drifting charge induces current in wires it is approaching/receding from.
- Wireplanes act as "Frisch" grids that shield subsequent planes from drifting charge.
- Transparency of Induction planes, and opaqueness of Collection plane, is achieved through anode geometry and bias voltages applied to wires: $E_{g2} \ge r_{T2} E_{g1}$ and $E_{g1} \ge r_{T1} E_{d}$ ($r_{T} = 1.4$)



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Refs:



LArTPC: calorimetry

The hit amplitude (in ADC counts) in a wire of the Collection plane corresponds to the charge Q_{det} (in fC units) in the track segment δx detected on that wire (need calibration ADC to fC)

a first correction is applied to obtain the free charge after recombination $Q_{\text{free}} = Q_{\text{det}}/\exp(-t_D/\tau_e)$

a second correction is applied to obtain the total charge released $Q_{ion} = Q_{free} / \textbf{R}$

The charge Q_{ion} released is directly related to the energy deposited $\delta E = W_{ion} Q_{ion}$ in the track segment δx . Note: ($\delta E/\delta x$) is a measure of the energy loss of the ptcl.

The total energy deposited E_{dep} is obtained by summing over all the segments along the track, $E_{dep} = \sum (\delta E / \delta x)i * \delta x$

Note: $E_{dep} = T$ kinetic energy of the ptcl

LArTPC: Particle Identification

When incident particle slows down and stops in the LArTPC active volume, the energy loss as a function of the residual range (the path length to the end point of the track) is used as a powerful method for particle identification (Pld).

Charged particles of different mass (or charge) have in fact different increasing stopping power at decreasing distance from the track end,



FROM BUBBLE CHAMBER TO ARGONEUT



Ready for studying neutrino-nucleus interactions ??



40 YRS LATER

ArgoNeuT

observation of a similar neutrino event in a LArTPC

Collection view

Accessing so far undetectable features of neutrino interactions with target material is the new path to the next generation Neutrino Oscillation Experiments



MicroBooNE at FNAL

Installation: a picture series

TPC insertion: Dec 23rd, 2013

PMT system installation: Dec 2013





Moving day! June 23rd, 2014



Foamed in! July 2014



MicroBooNE's home in the beam line: The LAr Test Facility





Cabled up! Sept. 2014

All electronics in! Dec. 10, 2014

Backup Lecture I

Electronics

- Signals from each wire are sampled/amplified/shaped/digitized for a duration longer than the maximum drift time (milliseconds). This is an eternity compared to usual HEP experiments.
- Small signal sizes demand low-noise electronics.
- Placing the amplification circuit in the LAr, directly on the TPC, increases S/N performance.



The LArTPC concept FOR N PHYSICS

Wire planes Wires 3D view Time -- drift Reconstructed event ionization Liquid argon neutrino ionization 00 ns sampl 40 cm JΕ Scint Light & PMT's 2D views 3D Viev Collection View Induction View Wire Interaction Hits in Time wire Preamplifier Shaping Amplifie ADC signals Full 3D Image Collection wires. (128 wires: 32 cm. ICARUS 50 L in WANF neutrino beam

(Neutrino) interactions inside the LAr-TPC

- Prompt Scintillation Light is detected (after VUV-Vis w.l. down-conversion) by array of PMTs.

* Scintillation light collected by PMTs is used for

- Free Ionization electrons tracks in EF drift towards anode planes of wires

* Track segments induce hits on corresponding wires: the wire coordinate in the wire plane provide hit position.

* Multiple (

* Timing of pulse (T

 \Rightarrow Multiple

* Collection of the ionization charge on wires of the last plane (hit amplitude) measures the deposited energy

Time projection chambers

LAr-Time Projection Chambers allow multiple 2D and the 3D reconstruction of charged particles tracks.

• Charged particles crossing the detector ionize the liquid, producing free electrons that are drifted towards the readout wire-planes and produce digitized signals.

- The 3rd coordinate is determined from measuring the drift time. Scintillation light gives the reference to time.
- The total charge is prop to the deposited Energy ⇒ calorimetry. (note: also scintillation light is prop to dep Energy)

• dE/dx along the track \Rightarrow PId

Lar Worldwide

Far too m

to much activity to cover each of these, so I'll focus on the general aspects of LArTPCs

CALORIMETRIC RECONSTRUCTION & PID

Low energy proton reconstruction

150 200 "Off-Line SW R&D" muon muon proton threshold Short (2 wires) track with high ionization is 21 MeV of 1500 superimposed to the muon track 1000 **Kinetic Energy** 500 (ArgoNeuT) 100 200 ()¹⁰⁰ 90 * Kinetic energy vs track length (data) 80 The short track behaves like proton NIST predictions 70 50 6666666666666666 The event is (CCQE) $1p - 1 \mu^{-1}$ ArgoNeuT 30 20 KE=22±3 MeV 10 -----4.5 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 total range (cm) Length=0.5 cm

