Secondary Emission Monitor for keV Ion and Antiproton Beams

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Abstract

Beam profile monitoring of low intensity keV ion and antiproton beams remains a challenging task. A Secondary electron Emission Monitor (SEM) has been designed to measure profiles of beams with intensities below 10^7 and energies as low as 20 keV. The monitor is based on a two stage microchannel plate (MCP) and a phosphor screen facing a CCD camera. Its modular design allows two different operational setups. In this contribution we present the design of a prototype and discuss results from measurements with antiprotons at the AEgIS experiment at CERN. This is then used for a characterization of the monitor with regard to its possible future use at different facilities.

Secondary Emission Monitor (SEM)

- Primary beam hits the Al foil at 45°
- Secondaries emitted on the surface are accelerated through the MCP
- The two-stage MCP amplifies the e-signal with a gain of 10^5 @ 2 kV
- Phosphor screen converts e-signal into visible light registered by a CCD camera

Experimental Results

In the second setup (foil/mesh), only secondary particles arrive to the monitor, yielding a more indirect image of the beam. No significant improvement of the image was achieved by changing the voltage of either the MCP or the phosphor screen. Closing the gate valve upstream of the monitor allowed high energy particles (pions) to reach the monitor, despite its thickness. This confirmed that the beam seen in the foil/mesh setup is mostly antiprotons.

Conclusion

These measurements are destructive for either configuration of the device. No collimator tests were performed, but previous studies account for <2 mm spatial resolution for the foil-based configuration [4]. For the first time, the stand-alone MCP configuration was successfully tested, showing clear beam images, but introducing some background noise from high energy secondary particles.

The SEM was the only online monitor in the latest AEgIS run and the only one sensitive enough for the initial (low intensity) beam steering. This monitor has proven to work both with protons and antiprotons, yielding promising results as a detector for future installations such as the accelerator FLAIR at GSI, Darmstadt [5].

More studies are needed in order to fully characterize the SEM capabilities as a permanent monitor for low energy ion and antiproton beams.

References


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