Simulation of Caliste-SO response

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ABSTRACT

Caliste-SO is CdTe X-ray detector designed for STIX (Spectrometer/Telescope for Imaging X-rays) instrument. In semiconductor detector various effect like hole tailing can affect measured spectra. Additionally, detectors anode is divided into 12 pixels arranged in 4 stripes in order to measure Moiré pattern. In such type of detector charge sharing between pixels occurs and also influence on measured photon energy. Our main purpose was to calculate the charge sharing with regard to incoming photon energy. We present the simulation of Caliste-SO response using Geant4 toolkit and written software dedicated in Interactive Data Language (IDL). Geant4 was used to simulate particles interactions with the detector and dedicated software to calculate instrumental effect: Fano and electronic noises, hole tailing and damage layer. We report here the results of this simulation.

Spectrometer/Telescope for Imaging X-rays (STIX)

STIX provide us with images and spectra of the Sun in 4-150 keV energy range with high spatial and spectral resolutions. The principle of the image reconstruction relies on measuring Fourier components in different set of grid pairs. Each pair of grids generates a Moiré pattern and encode direction of incoming photons. Next, the pixelised CdTe semiconductor detector detect large-scale intensity distribution of the pattern, which is a Fourier component of the image. An image can be reconstructed using many such Fourier components.

The simulated photon source was planar and cover whole detector area. Photons were monoenergetic and felt at the right angle to the crystal surface. The distribution on the surface was uniform.

The Livermore physics list was used in the simulation, which is dedicated to low energy physics. Following physical processes were included in our simulations:
- for photons:
  - Photoelectric effect,
  - Compton scattering,
  - Gamma conversion,
  - Rayleigh scattering,
- for electrons:
  - Multiple scattering,
  - Coulomb scattering,
  - Ionisation,
  - Bremsstrahlung.

Caliste-SO detectors

Caliste-SO is a special designed for STIX instrument X-ray detector. It is based on CdTe in the 3D flux technology and consist of: CdTe sensor and the dedicated front-end electronics. It provides good spectral resolution in hard X-rays. The CdTe crystal size is 10x10 mm and its thickness is 1 mm. The sensor is divided into 12 pixels arranged into 4 stripes (Figure above). Disabling pixels in strips allow to limit too high photon flux observed during large solar flares, by reducing an active area of the detector. Additionally, entire crystal is surrounding by guard ring designed to eliminates edge effects.

There are two electrodes in the CdTe sensor (Figure above):
- cathode made of 15 mm thick platinum layer,
- the multiplier anode, consisting of 50 nm thick aluminium, 15 nm titanium and 80 nm gold layers.

The Caliste-SO is developed by CEA/Irfu (France) and Paul Scherrer Institute (Switzerland).

Geant4

Geant4 is a toolkit to simulate particle interaction with matter by Monte Carlo method. There are implemented physical process, which are used in many fields of science like nuclear physics, particle physics, accelerators, space engineering, and medical physics. This tool is useful for simple simulations as well as analysis of whole large experiments like the Large Hadron Collider.

The package contains a broad suite of physical models (including electromagnetic, hadronic and optical), which covers a wide range of energies from ~250 eV up to several TeV. Existing physical models are being improved and extended continuously.

Results

Graph in the middle column shows:
- charge sharing dependence on energy of incoming photon. This effect is strongly energy dependent and for Caliste-SO detectors reaches 3.5% for 150 keV photons.
- The probability of fluorescent counts is shown by a red colour. This phenomena starts from 27 keV (cadmium emission line) and grows rapidly in 31 keV (tellurium emission line). Next, it constantly grows with photons energy.
- The probability of splitted counts is marked by a blue colour. It starts from 8 keV because this is a minimal energy necessary to register two counts from one photon (~4 keV threshold) and grows with energy of incoming photons up to 50 keV. The growth is caused by the increasing size of carriers clouds. Above 50 keV the growth is neutralised by a higher probability of deeper photon absorption.

Charge sharing strongly dependent on energy of incoming photon. In STIX instrument double events will be not registered in the collected spectra. This will affect measured energy spectrum. Therefore, it is necessary to develop proper models of this effect and dedicated software which will reduce the influence of charge sharing effect on scientific data.

References


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