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Radiation hardness of plastic scintillators for the Tile Calorimeter of the ATLAS detector

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Abstract content
 (Max 300 words)

The Tile Calorimeter of the ATLAS detector is a hadronic calorimeter responsible for detecting hadrons that result from the p-p collisions within the LHC. Plastic scintillators form an integral component of this calorimeter and are specifically chosen for their properties of high optical transmission and fast rise and decay time. This enables efficient data capture since fast signal pulses can be generated. The main problem encountered by plastic scintillators however, is radiation damage incurred due to their interaction with the highly ionizing particles to be detected. This damage causes a significant decrease in the light yield of the scintillator and introduces an error into the time-of flight data acquired. In lieu of the recent planned upgrade of the Tile Calorimeter, a comparative study was conducted into the radiation hardness of several grades of plastic scintillators available on the market.

In this talk, we present an analysis on the damage undergone by three PVT based plastic scintillators, EJ200, EJ208 and EJ260 obtained from ELJEN Technologies which have been subjected to 6 MeV proton irradiation using the tandem accelerator of iThemba LABS, Gauteng. The degradation in light transmission is assessed for doses over a range of kilo Grays to Mega Grays, and a Raman characterization of the change to bonding structure are presented.

Apply to be considered for a student award (Yes / No)?

Yes

Level for award (Hons, MSc, PhD)?

Hons

Main supervisor (name and email) and his / her institution

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Would you like to submit a short paper for the Conference Proceedings (Yes / No)?

Yes

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