

gas-filled X-ray detector

A cylindrical cathode with a window, an axial wire anode and an ionizable gas. The gas may be continuously replenished giving a flow-through detector or the detector may be sealed. Following an original ionizing event, electron multiplication occurs through a process of gas amplification in the high electric field surrounding the anode wire. The gain of this process is defined as the number of electrons collected on the anode wire for each primary electron produced. For X-rays having energies higher than the excitation potential of the detector gas, the *spectral responsivity function* has a second peak in addition to the main peak that is called the escape peak. The escape peak has a mean pulse height proportional to the difference between the photon energy of the incident X-rays and of the spectral characteristic line of the detector gas.

A quenching gas, a molecular gas, is added to the detector gas in order to neutralize the detector gas ions and to absorb secondary electrons as well as UV radiation resulting from neutralization of detector gas ions. According to the potential applied to the anode, the detector can work as an ionization chamber, proportional counter, or Geiger counter.

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