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Applications of Position-Sensitive Proportional Counters to Neutron and X-ray Scattering Experiments*

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The authors review the characteristics of position-sensitive proportional counters (PSPC) with RC line signal encoder [Borkowski, C. J. & Kopp, M. K. (1968). *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* **39**, 1515] and discuss some applications of one- and two-dimensional PSPC's to neutron and X-ray scattering experiments. Compared to other methods, the RC line signal encoding method features relative simplicity in construction and operation plus flexibility in design. Furthermore, these PSPC's show good spatial and energy resolutions, high data-acquisition rates, and good detection efficiency for low-energy (< 150 keV) gamma or X-rays and thermal neutrons. The spatial uncertainty with a 200 mm long, one-dimensional PSPC is 0·15 mm (fwhm) for 6 keV X-rays or 5 MeV α particles. For thermal neutrons, the spatial uncertainty is 0·4 mm (fwhm) with a 500 mm long, one-dimensional PSPC. A two-dimensional PSPC of 200×200 mm sensitive area has 40000 resolution elements of 1×1 mm each. The energy resolution is 760 eV (fwhm) for 6 keV X-rays. In recent work the authors have extended the data acquisition rate by reducing the signal processing time to 0·5 μ s/event while maintaining excellent spatial resolution.

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