Contents

Preface *ix*
Acknowledgments *xi*
Abbreviations *xiii*
Introduction *1*

1 "Classical" Gaseous Detectors and Their Limits *5*
1.1 Ionization Chambers *5*
1.2 Single-Wire Counters Operated in Avalanche Mode *7*
1.3 Avalanche and Discharge Development in Uniform or Cylindrical Electric Fields *8*
1.3.1 Fast Breakdown *14*
1.3.2 Slow Breakdown *16*
1.4 Pulsed Spark and Streamer Detectors *16*
1.5 Multiwire Proportional Chambers *18*
1.6 A New Idea for Discharge Quenching and Localization *20*
References *24*

2 Historical Developments Leading to Modern Resistive Gaseous Detectors *27*
2.1 Introduction: the Importance of the Parallel-Plate Geometry *27*
2.2 First Parallel-Plate Counters *30*
2.3 Further Developments *34*
2.4 The First RPC Prototypes *35*
2.5 Pestov's Planar Spark Chambers *37*
2.6 Wire-Type Detectors with Resistive Cathodes *41*
References *42*

3 Basics of Resistive Plate Chambers *45*
3.1 Introduction *45*
3.2 Santonico and Cardarelli's RPCs *45*
3.3 Glass RPCs *52*
3.4 Avalanche and Streamer Modes *55*
3.4.1 Streamer Mode *55*
3.4.2 Avalanche Mode *60*

3.5 Signal Development *64*
3.5.1 Signal Formation *64*
3.5.2 Charge Distribution *74*
3.5.3 Efficiency *76*
3.5.4 Time Resolution *78*
3.5.5 Position Resolution *80*
3.6 Choice of Gas Mixtures *81*
3.6.1 Main Requirements for RPC Gas Mixtures *81*
3.6.2 Quenching Gas Mixtures *84*
3.6.2.1 General Information *84*
3.6.2.2 Historical Review about Gas Mixtures for Inhibiting Photon Feedback *86*
3.6.2.3 Some Considerations on Delayed Afterpulses *90*
3.7 Current in RPCs *92*
3.8 Dark Counting Rate *96*
3.9 Effects of Temperature and Pressure *99*
References *106*

4 Further Developments in Resistive Plate Chambers *111*
4.1 Double Gap RPCs *111*
4.2 Wide-Gap RPCs *113*
4.3 The Multi-gap RPCs *117*
4.4 "Space-Charge" Effects *127*
4.5 Review of Analytical Models of RPC Behavior *129*
4.5.1 Electron Avalanches Deeply Affected by Space Charge *131*
4.5.2 Highly Variable Currents Flowing through Resistive Materials *134*
4.5.3 Electrical Induction through Materials with Varied Electrical Properties *135*
4.5.4 Propagation of Fast Signals in Multiconductor Transmission Lines *135*
4.6 Timing RPCs *138*
4.7 The Importance of Front-End Electronics for Operation in Streamer and Avalanche Modes *143*
4.8 Attempts to Increase Sensitivity via Secondary Electron Emission *143*
References *154*

5 Resistive Plate Chambers in High Energy Physics Experiments *161*
5.1 Early Experiments Using RPCs *161*
5.2 RPCs for the L3 Experiment at LEP *169*
5.3 The Instrumented Flux Return of the BaBar Experiment *172*
5.4 The ARGO-YBJ Detector *176*
5.5 The "BIG" Experiments: ATLAS, ALICE, and CMS at LHC *180*
5.5.1 ATLAS *182*
5.5.2 CMS *187*
5.5.3 Some Common Themes to ATLAS and CMS *193*
5.5.4 ALICE *193*

5.6 The RPC-TOF System of the HADES Experiment *195*
5.7 The Extreme Energy Events Experiment *201*
5.8 Other Experiments *206*
References *208*

6 Materials and Aging in Resistive Plate Chambers *211*
6.1 Materials *211*
6.1.1 Glasses and Glass RPCs *213*
6.1.2 Bakelite *221*
6.1.3 Methods to Measure Bakelite Resistivity *223*
6.1.4 Semiconductive Materials *228*
6.2 Aging Effects *229*
6.2.1 Aging in RPCs Operated in Streamer Mode *229*
6.2.1.1 L3 and Belle *229*
6.2.1.2 Experience Gained in BaBar *230*
6.2.2 Melamine and Bakelite RPCs without linseed oil treatment *235*
6.3 Aging Studies of RPC Prototypes Operated in Avalanche Mode Designed for the LHC Experiments *237*
6.3.1 Temperature Effects *240*
6.3.2 Effects of HF and Other Chemical Species *241*
6.3.3 Other Possible Changes in Bakelite Electrodes *244*
6.3.4 Closed-Loop Gas Systems for LHC RPCs *244*
6.4 Aging Studies on Multi-Gap RPCs *246*
References *248*

7 Advanced Designs: High-Rate, High-Spatial Resolution Resistive Plate Chambers *253*
7.1 The Issue of Rate Capability *253*
7.2 The "Static" Model of RPCs at High Rate *257*
7.3 The "Dynamic" Model of RPCs at High Rate *261*
7.4 The Upgrade of the Muon Systems of ATLAS and CMS *266*
7.5 Special High Rate RPCs *269*
7.5.1 High-Rate, High-Position Resolution RPCs *276*
7.6 High-Position Resolution Timing RPCs *279*
References *282*

8 New Developments in the Family of Gaseous Detectors: Micropattern Detectors with Resistive Electrodes *285*
8.1 "Classical" Micropattern Detectors with Metallic Electrodes *285*
8.2 Spark-Proven GEM-like Detectors with Resistive Electrodes *289*
8.3 Resistive Micromesh Detectors *294*
8.4 Resistive Microstrip Detectors *298*
8.5 Resistive Micro-Pixel Detectors *300*
8.6 Resistive Microhole-Microstrip and Microstrip-Microdot Detectors *301*
References *304*

9 Applications beyond High Energy Physics and Current Trends *307*
9.1 Positron Emission Tomography with RPCs *307*
9.2 Thermal Neutron Detection with RPCs *310*
9.3 Muon Tomography and Applications for Homeland Security *314*
9.4 X-Ray Imaging *322*
9.5 Cost-Efficient Radon Detectors Based on Resistive GEMs *326*
9.6 Resistive GEMs for UV Photon Detection *331*
9.6.1 CsI-Based Resistive GEMs for RICH *332*
9.6.2 Flame and Spark Detection and Visualization with Resistive GEMs *337*
9.7 Cryogenic Detectors with resistive electrodes *338*
9.8 Digital Calorimetry with RPCs *341*
References *344*

Conclusions and Perspectives *349*

A Some Guidelines for RPC Fabrication *353*
A.1 Assembling of Bakelite RPCs *353*
A.2 Assembling of Glass RPCs *356*
A.3 Assembling of Glass MRPCs *361*
References *365*

Glossary *367*

Index *373*