

# APPLICATIONS OF THE MEDIPIX AND TIMEPIX ASICS

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A. Dorda, E.H.M. Heijne, I. Kremastiotis, X. Llopart, M. Piller,  
V. Sriskaran, and L. Tlustos**

**CERN, EP Department  
1211 Geneva 23  
Switzerland**

**<sup>1</sup> Honorary Professor at Glasgow University**



### Medipix2 (1999 -> )

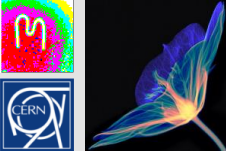
Albert-Ludwig Universität Freiburg, Germany  
 CEA, Paris, France  
 CERN, Geneva, Switzerland  
 Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czechia  
 ESRF, Grenoble, France  
 IEAP, Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic  
 IFAE, Barcelona, Spain  
 Mid Sweden University, Sundsvall, Sweden  
 MRC-LMB Cambridge, England, UK  
 NIKHEF, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
 University of California, Berkeley, USA  
 Universität Erlangen-Nurnberg, Erlangen, German  
 University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK  
 University of Houston, USA  
 University and INFN Section of Cagliari, Italy  
 University and INFN Section of Pisa, Italy  
 University and INFN Section of Napoli, Italy

### Medipix3 (2005 -> )

Albert-Ludwig Universität Freiburg, Germany  
 AMOLF, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
 Brazilian Light Source, Campinas, Brazil  
 CEA, Paris, France  
 CERN, Geneva, Switzerland  
 DESY-Hamburg, Germany  
 Diamond Light Source, England, UK  
 ESRF, Grenoble, France  
 IEAP, Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic  
 KIT/ANKA, Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Germany  
 Mid Sweden University, Sundsvall, Sweden  
 NIKHEF, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
 Univesridad de los Andes, Bogota, Columbia  
 University of Bonn, Germany  
 University of California, Berkeley, USA  
 University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand  
 Universität Erlangen-Nurnberg, Erlangen, German  
 University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK  
 University of Houston, USA  
 University of Leiden, The Netherlands  
 Technical University of Munich, Germany  
 VTT Information Technology, Espoo, Finland

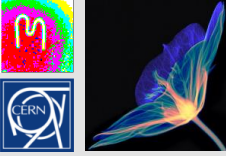
### Medipix4 (2016 -> )

CEA, Paris, France  
 CERN, Geneva, Switzerland  
 DESY-Hamburg, Germany  
 Diamond Light Source, England, UK  
 IEAP, Czech Technical University, Prague, Czeciah  
 IFAE, Barcelona, Spain  
 JINR, Dubna, Russian Federation  
 NIKHEF, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
 University of California, Berkeley, USA  
 University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand  
 University of Geneva, Switzerland  
 University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK  
 University of Houston, USA  
 University of Maastricht, The Netherlands  
 University of Oxford, England, UK  
 INFN, Italy



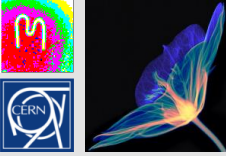
# Acknowledgements – Commercial Partners

| COLLABORATION NAME                                | Medipix2 |         |          | Medipix3 |          | Medipix4 |          |
|---|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ASICS   | Medipix2 | Timepix | Timepix2 | Medipix3 | Timepix3 | Medipix4 | Timepix4 |
| ADVACAM s.r.o., Czech Republic                    | X        | X       | X        | X        | X        |          | X        |
| Amsterdam Scientific Instruments, The Netherlands | X        | X       | X        | X        | X        |          | X        |
| Kromek, UK  | X        | X       | X        |          |          |          |          |
| Malvern-Panalytical, The Netherlands              | X        | X       | X        | X        |          |          | X        |
| MARS Bio Imaging, New Zealand                     |          |         |          | X        |          |          |          |
| PI TEC, Brazil                                    |          |         |          | X        |          |          |          |
| Quantum Detectors, UK                             |          |         |          | X        | X        |          | X        |
| Technologies de France, France                    |          |         |          |          | X        |          |          |
| X-ray Imaging Europe, Germany                     | X        | X       | X        |          |          |          |          |
| X-spectrum, Germany                               |          |         |          | X        |          |          | X        |

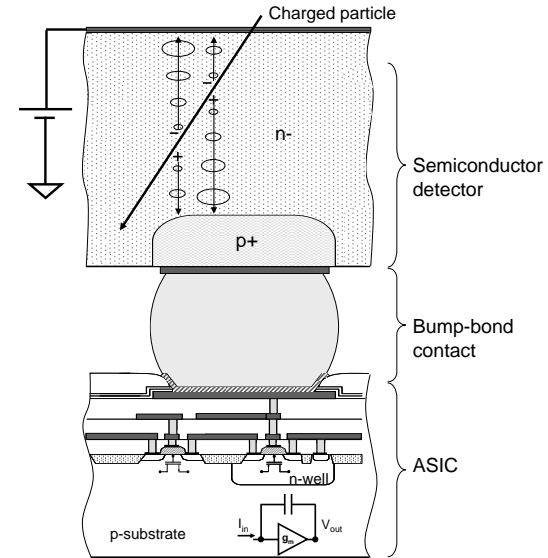
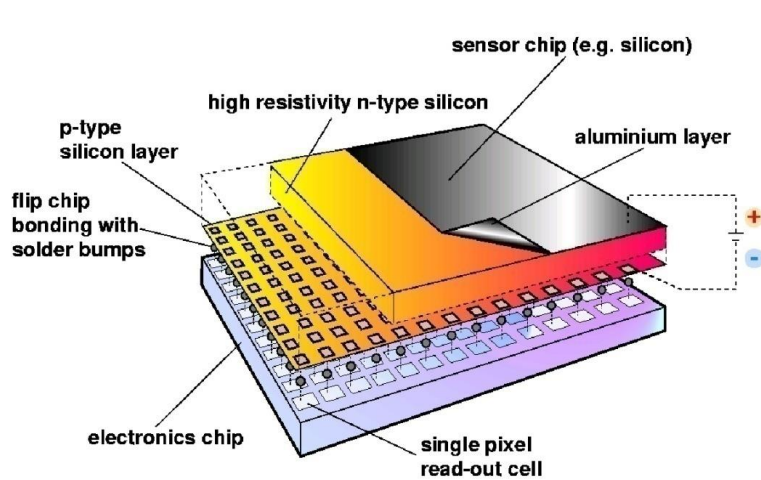


# Outline

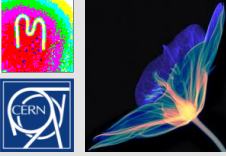
- Introduction
- Spectroscopic X-ray imaging
  - Art authentication
  - Medical computed tomography
- Timepix3
  - Use in teaching
  - Thyropix Compton camera
  - Visible light detection and imaging
  - Neutrino physics
- Timepix4
- Some words on timing
- Summary and conclusions



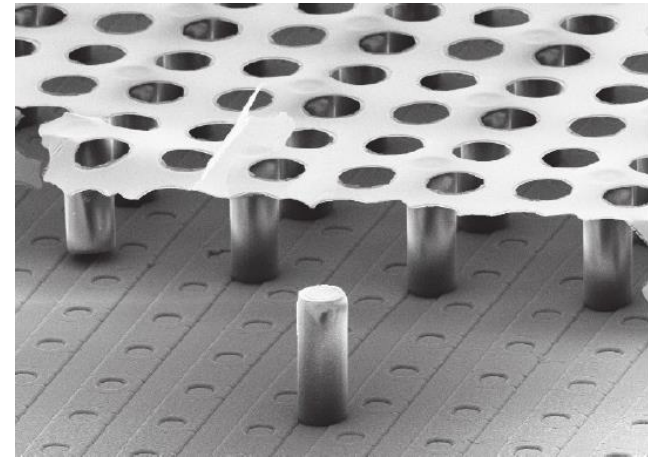
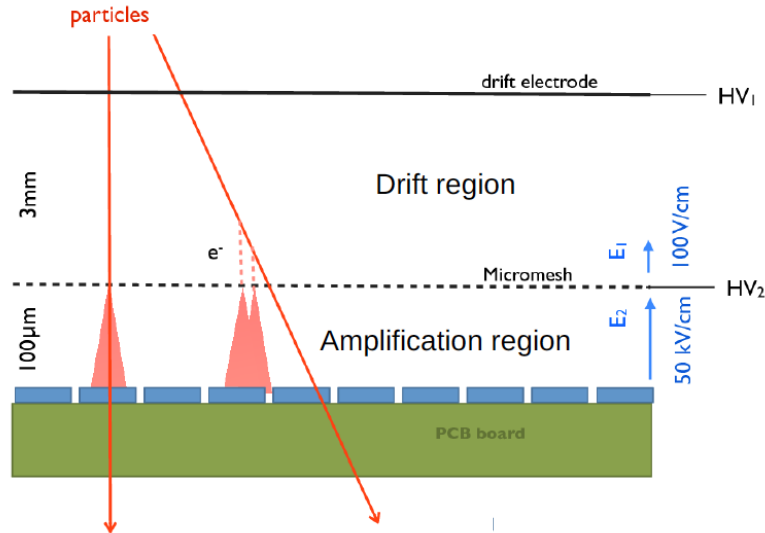
# Hybrid Silicon Pixel Detectors



- Noise-hit free images possible (high ratio of threshold/noise)
- Standard CMOS can be used allowing on-pixel signal processing
- Sensor material can be changed (Si, GaAs, CdTe..)
- Semiconductor sensor can be replaced by a gas gain grid or MCP

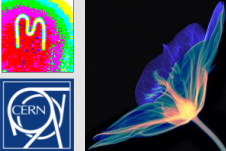


# Gas detector readout - InGrid



Semiconductor detector is replaced with charge amplification grid  
Permits lower energy events to be detected

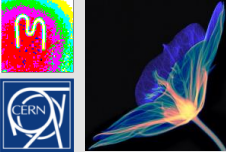
NB: GEM foils may be used in place of the InGrid foils



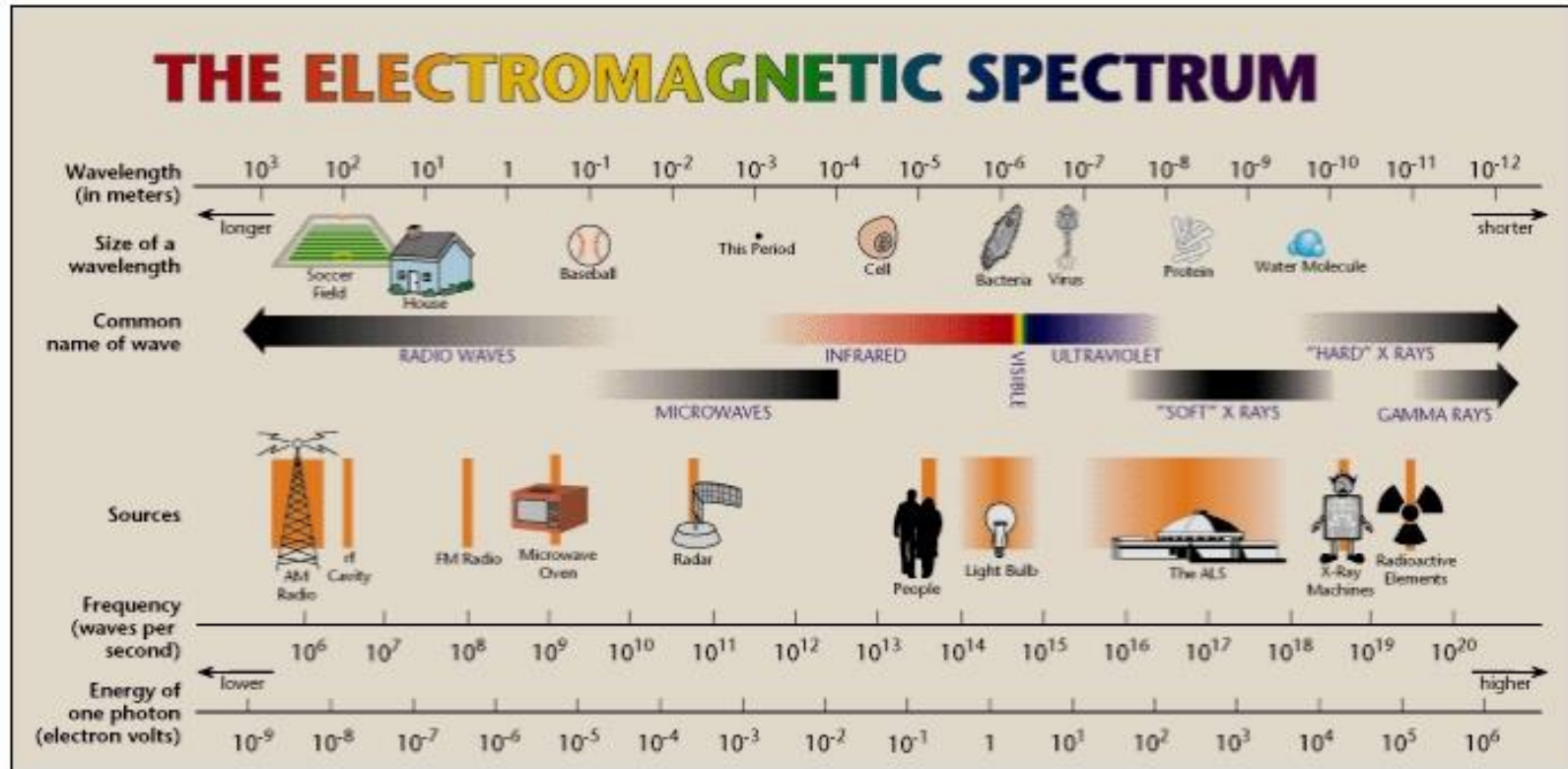
# The Medipix and Timepix ASICs - Timeline

| Collaboration | 2003     | 2006    | 2013     | 2014     | 2017 | 2018     | 2020     | 2021     | 2025? |
|---------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| Medipix2      | Medipix2 | Timepix |          |          |      | Timepix2 |          |          |       |
| Medipix3      |          |         | Medipix3 | Timepix3 |      |          |          |          |       |
| Medipix4      |          |         |          |          |      |          | Timepix4 | Medipix4 |       |

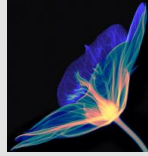
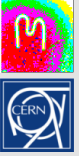
- Medipix chips aim at energy sensitive photon counting and typically use frame-based readout
- Timepix chips are more oriented towards single particle detection
- The Timepix3 design team developed the VELOpix chip for LHCb. Work has (just) started on an ASIC a future upgrade (~50ps time bin per pixel)



# Spectroscopic X-ray imaging

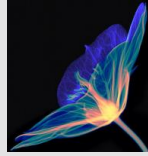
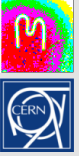




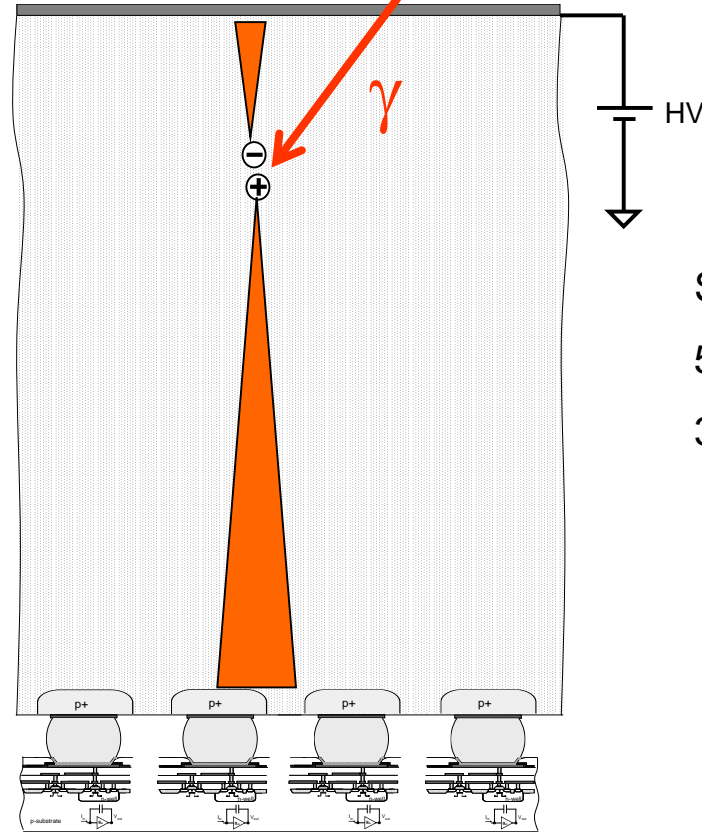


# Medipix readout chips – photon counting

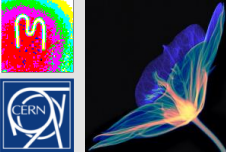
|                                       | Medipix        | Medipix2       | Medipix3                        |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Tech. node (nm)                       | 1000           | 250            | 130                             |
| Year                                  | 1997           | 2003           | 2013                            |
| Pixel size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )          | 170            | 55             | 55 / 110                        |
| # pixels (x x y)                      | 64 x 64        | 256 x 256      | 256 x 256 /<br>128 x 128        |
| # thresholds(counters)                | 1(1)           | 2(1)           | Up to 8 (up to 8)               |
| Charge summing mode                   | No             | No             | Yes                             |
| Readout architecture<br>(Frame based) | Sequential R/W | Sequential R/W | Sequential or<br>continuous R/W |
| Number of sides for tiling            | 0              | 3              | 3                               |



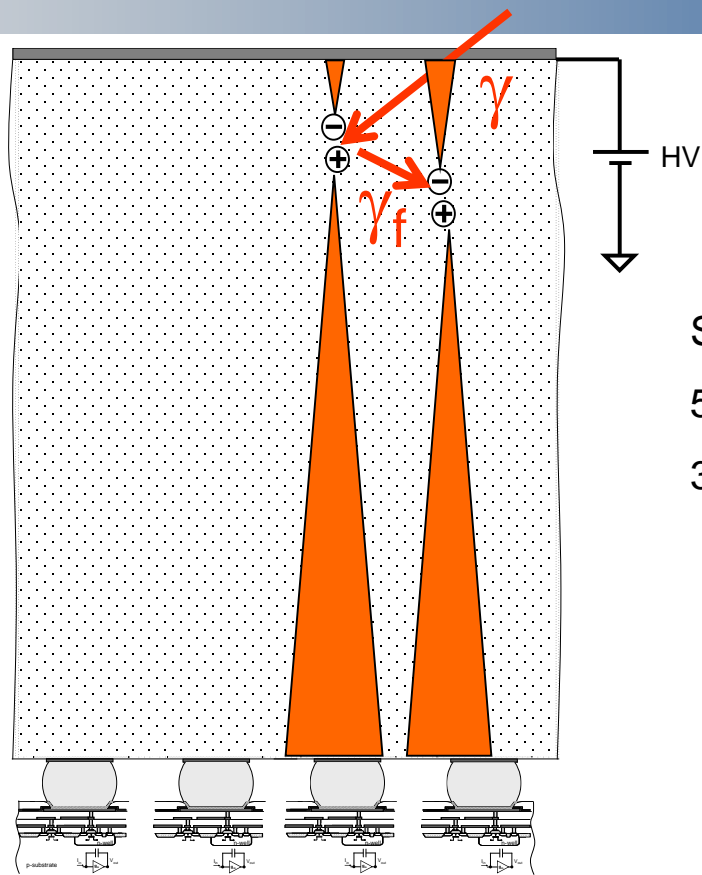
# Cross section of a Hybrid Pixel Detector system (X-ray photon energy deposition)



Sensor dimensions to scale:  
55  $\mu\text{m}$  pixel pitch  
300  $\mu\text{m}$  thick sensor



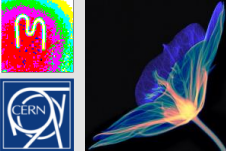
# Fluorescence in high-Z materials



Sensor dimensions to scale:

55  $\mu\text{m}$  pixel pitch

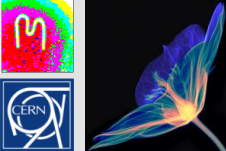
300  $\mu\text{m}$  thick sensor



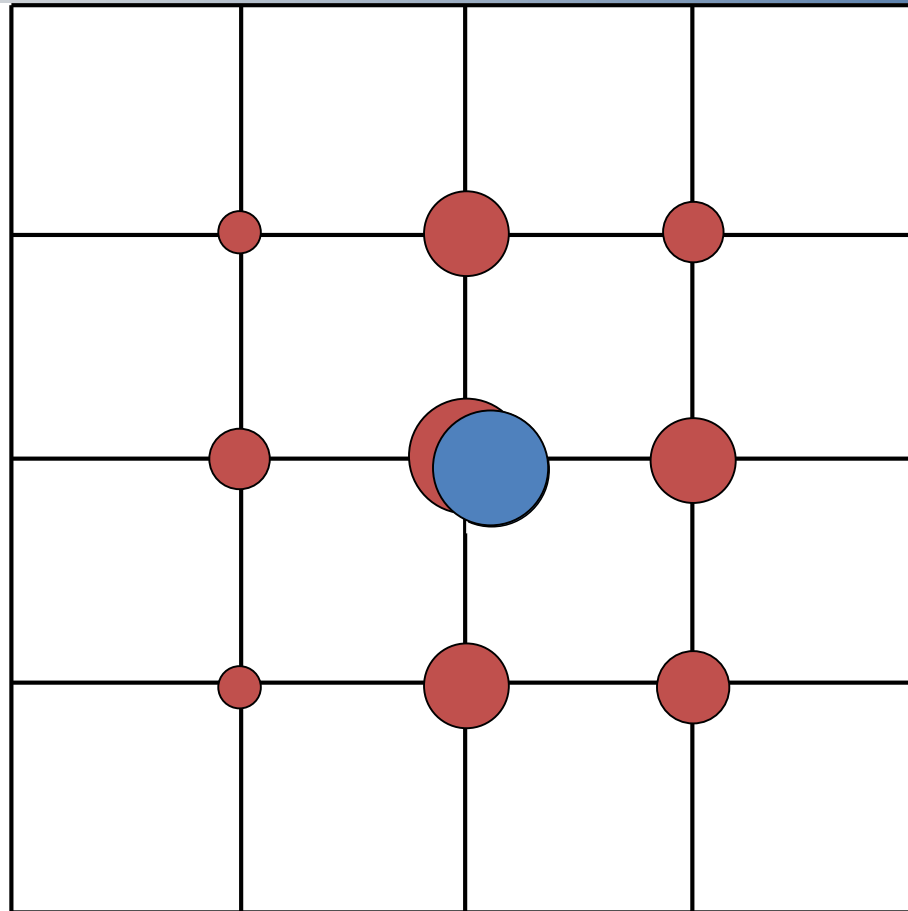
# Fluorescence in high-Z detectors

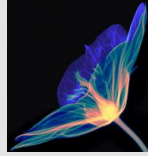
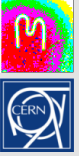
|              | <b>N</b> | <b>k-edge (keV)</b> | <b>K<math>\alpha</math> energy (keV)</b> | <b>d<math>\alpha</math> (<math>\mu</math>m)</b> | <b><math>\eta</math> [%]</b> |
|--------------|----------|---------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Si</b>    | 14       | 1.84                | 1.74                                     | 12  | 5                            |
| <b>Ge</b>    | 32       | 11.11               | 9.89                                     | 51  | 55                           |
| <b>GaAs:</b> |          |                     |  |   |                              |
| <b>Ga</b>    | 31       | 10.38               | 9.25                                     | 42  | 51                           |
| <b>As</b>    | 33       | 11.87               | 10.54                                    | 16  | 57                           |
| <b>CdTe:</b> |          |                     |  |   |                              |
| <b>Cd</b>    | 48       | 26.73               | 23.17                                    | 128   | 84                           |
| <b>Te</b>    | 52       | 31.82               | 27.47                                    | 64  | 87                           |

Journal of Instrumentation Volume 6 June 2011  
D Pennicard and H Graafsma 2011 *JINST* **6** P06007  
doi:10.1088/1748-0221/6/06/P06007



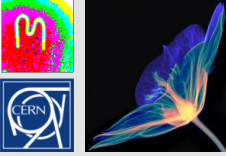
# The algorithm for charge reconstruction and hit allocation: Charge Summing Mode



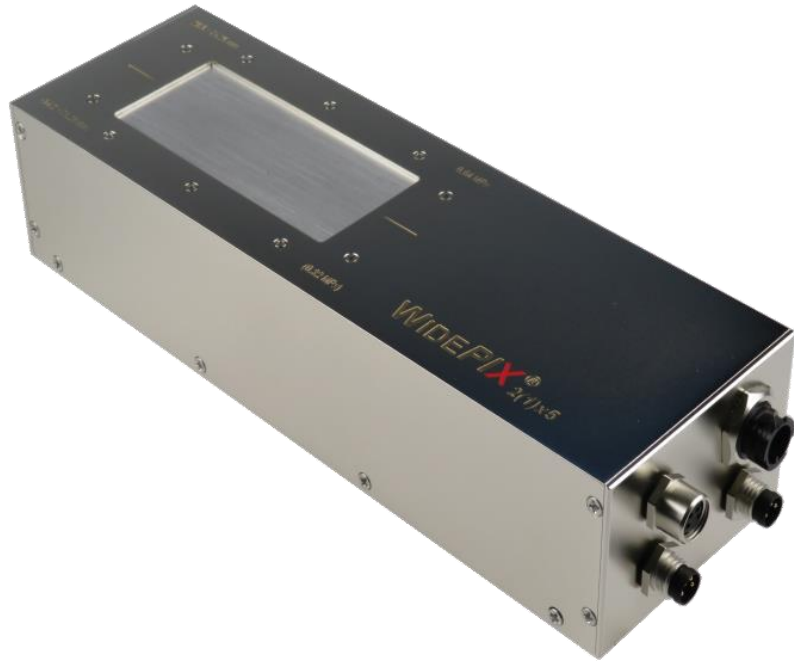


# Medipix readout chips – photon counting

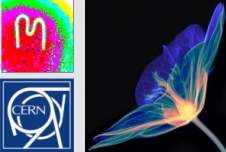
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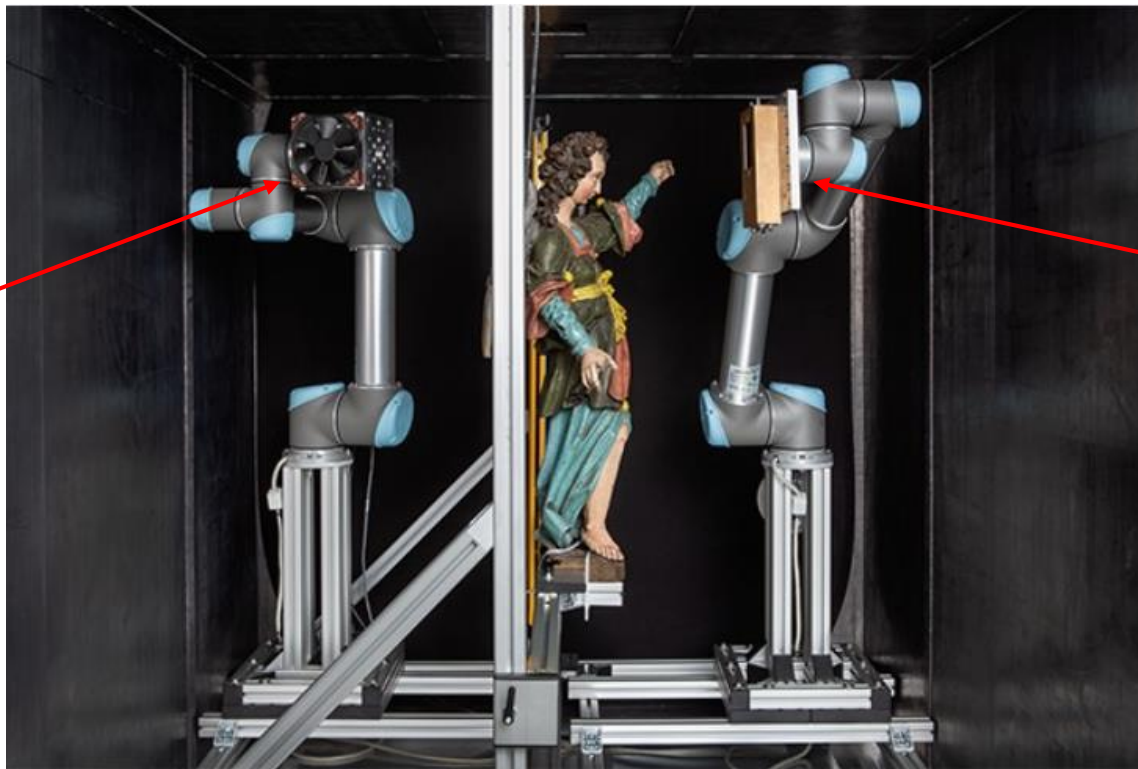
# Large area detectors for Art inspection



WIDEPIX (now Advacam s.r.o.) is a spin-off of IEAP, Czech Technical University



# Combined with robots



Micro-focus X-ray source

Timepix/Medipix3 spectroscopic imaging camera

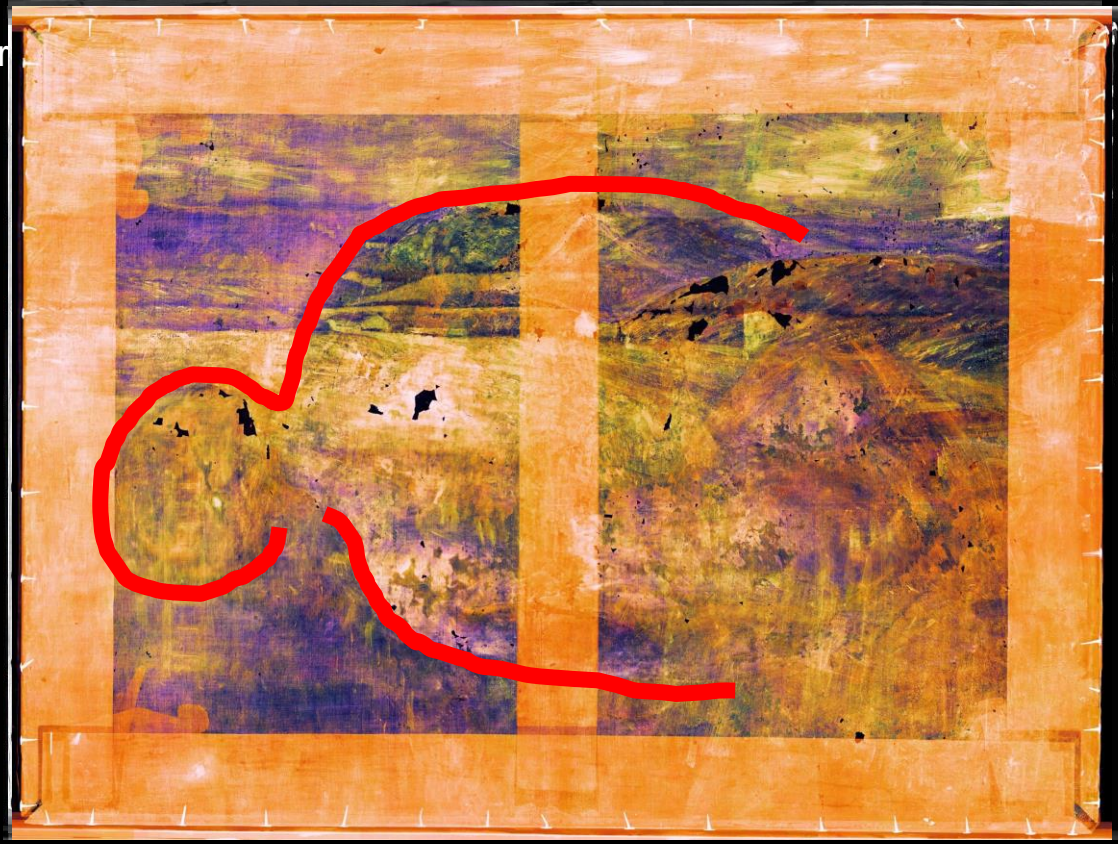
Source InsightART ([insightart.eu](http://insightart.eu))

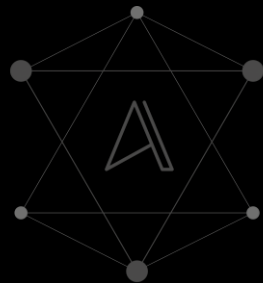
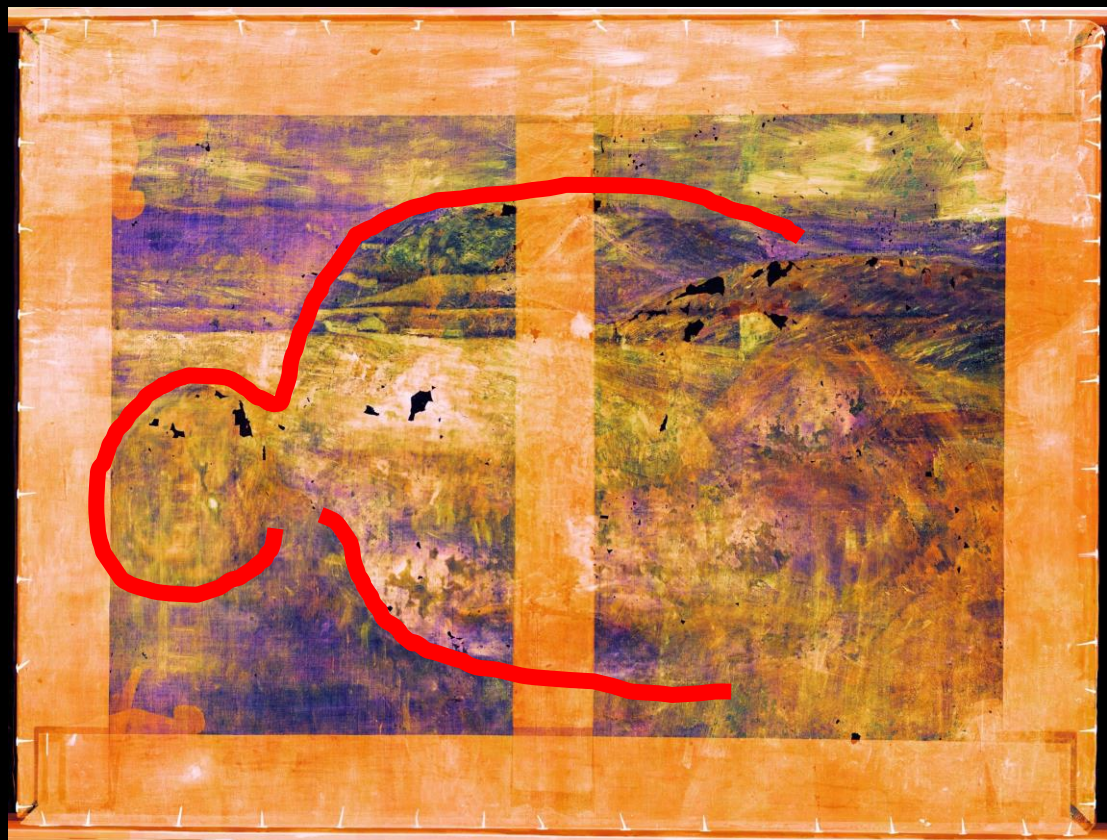


Signed  
Vincent van Gogh

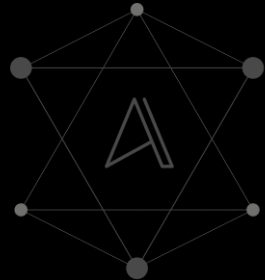
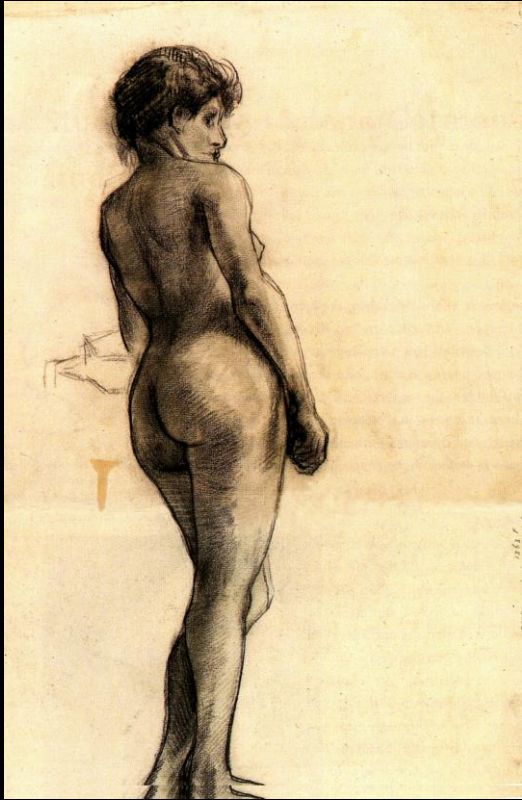
La Crau with Montmajour  
in the background

~1888

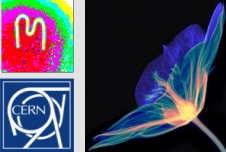




INSIGHTART



INSIGHTART



# Raphael Santi: Madonna with Child



Signed:  
RAPHAEL VRBINAS  
PINGEBAT  
(MDXVII, R O M A)

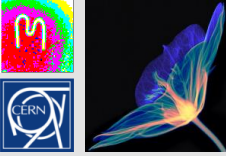
**Madonna with child**

DATE  
About 1517

TECHNIQUE  
Oil on canvas

DIMENSIONS  
157 x 127 cm

J. Uher, InsightArt, Prague, Czech Republic



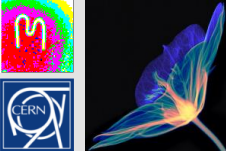
# The most challenging scan we did



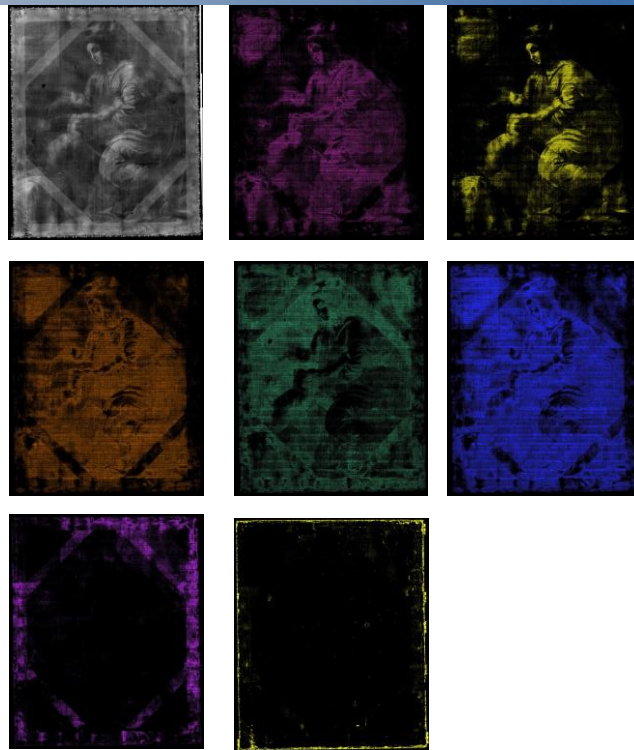
- Scanner transported to the storage
- Assembled
- All had to run on 100%



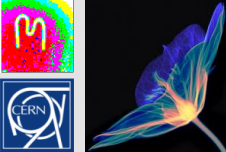
J. Uher, InsightArt, Prague, Czech Republic



# Madonna with child



J. Uher, InsightArt, Prague, Czech Republic



News › News › Topic: Knowledge sharing

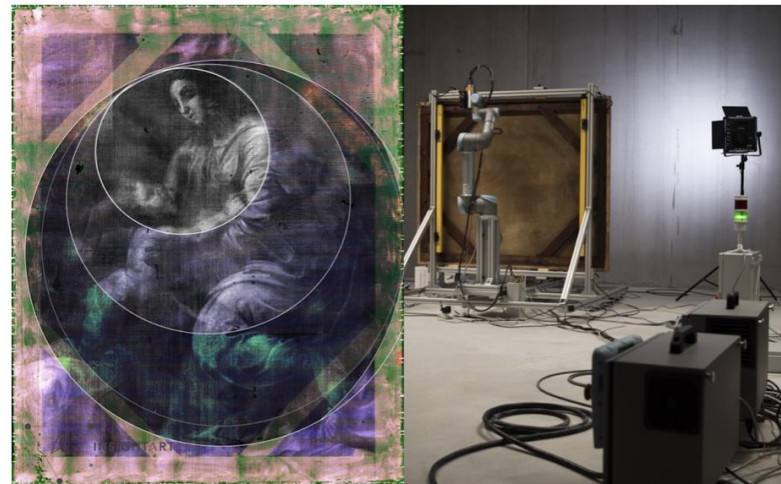


Voir en [français](#)

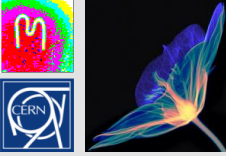
## CERN technology helps rediscover lost painting by Raphael

CERN's Timepix particle detectors, developed by the Medipix2 Collaboration, help unravel the secret of a long-lost painting by the great Renaissance master, Raphael

21 SEPTEMBER, 2020 | By [Antoine Le Gall](#)



Left: Graphic combining energy spectra measured by RToo scanner (© InsightART, 2019); Right: RToo scanning the painting Madonna and Child (© Jifi Lauterkranc, 2019). (Image: CERN)



# MARS Bio-scanner now commercial

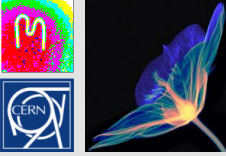


Notre Dame imaging lab

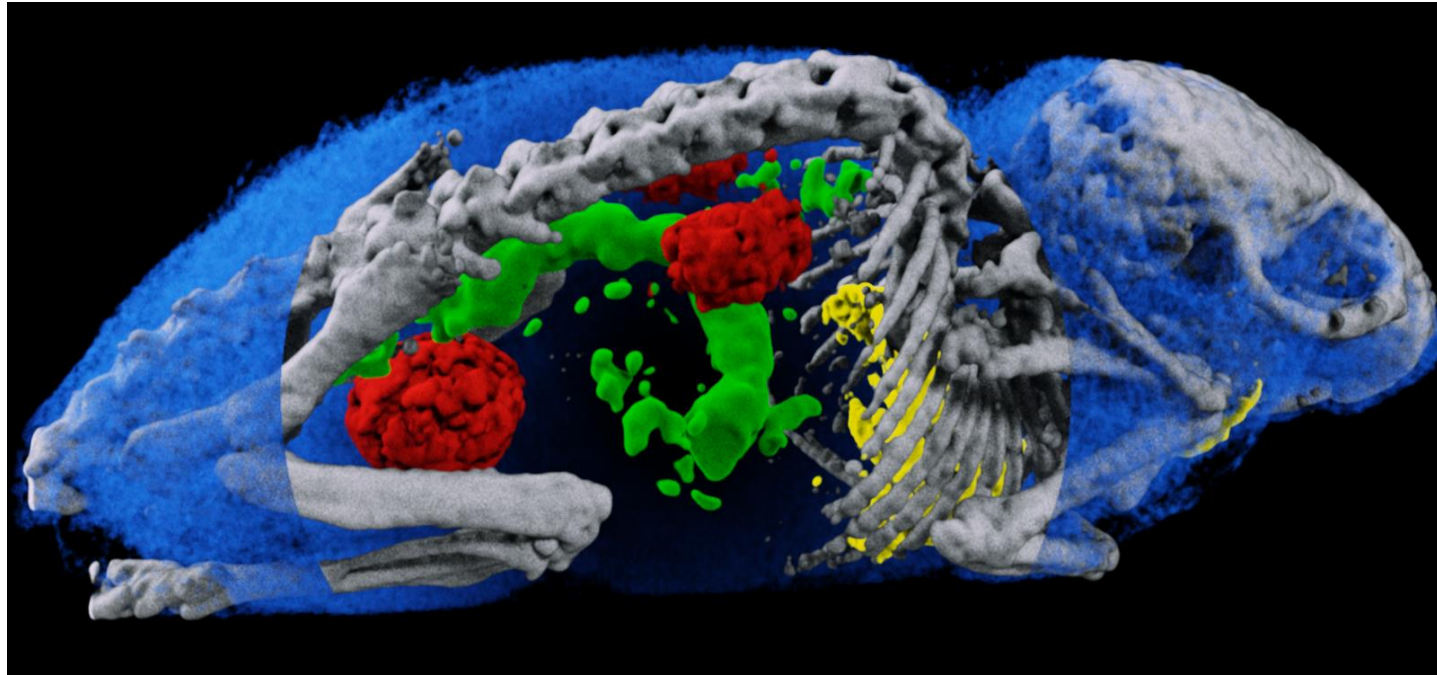
Slide courtesy of A. Butler, University of Canterbury







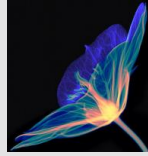
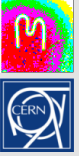
# Spectroscopic information permits material separation



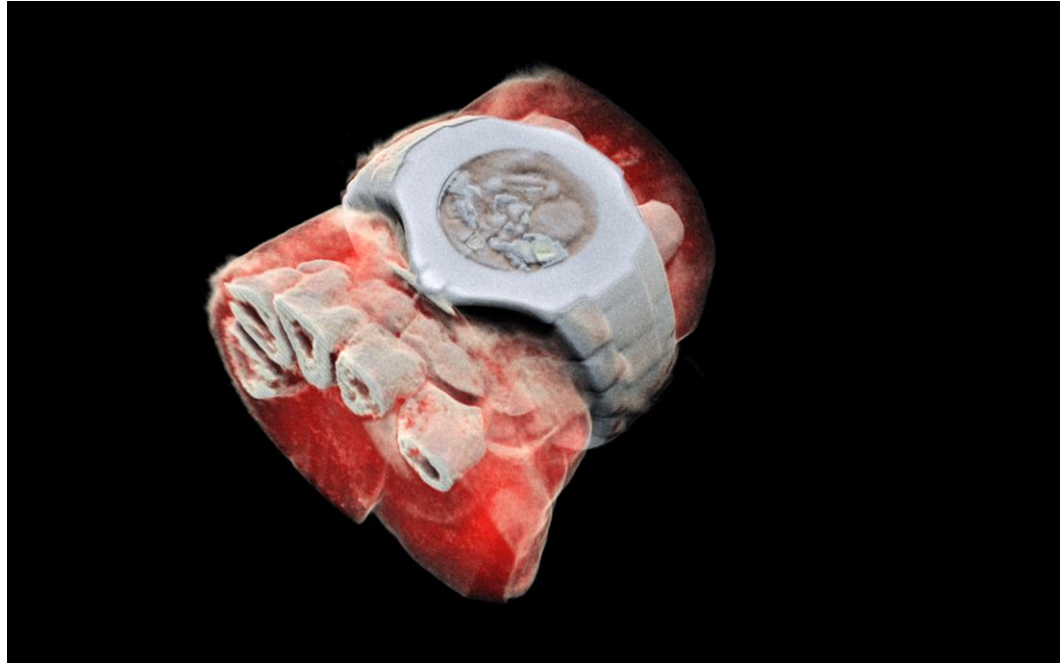
The water has been partly cut away to reveal the bone, gold, gadolinium and iodine

A. Butler, University of Canterbury

Images presented at the European Congress of Radiology, Vienna, March 2017.

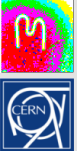


# CT image of Phil Butler's wrist



World's first colour X-ray of live human body part

- Clearer images
- Less dose
- Material separation



# Slice through Phil's ankle

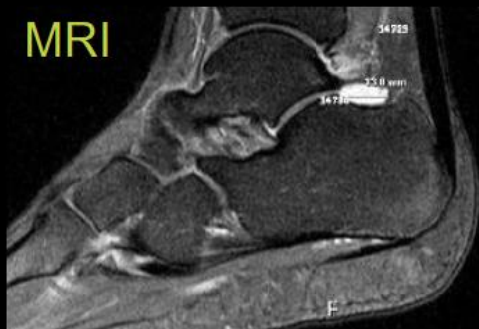


## Library images:

CT



MRI

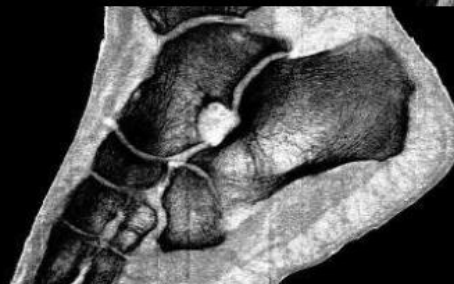


## MARS images:

Calcium,  
colour it white

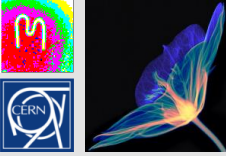


Fat,  
colour it yellow

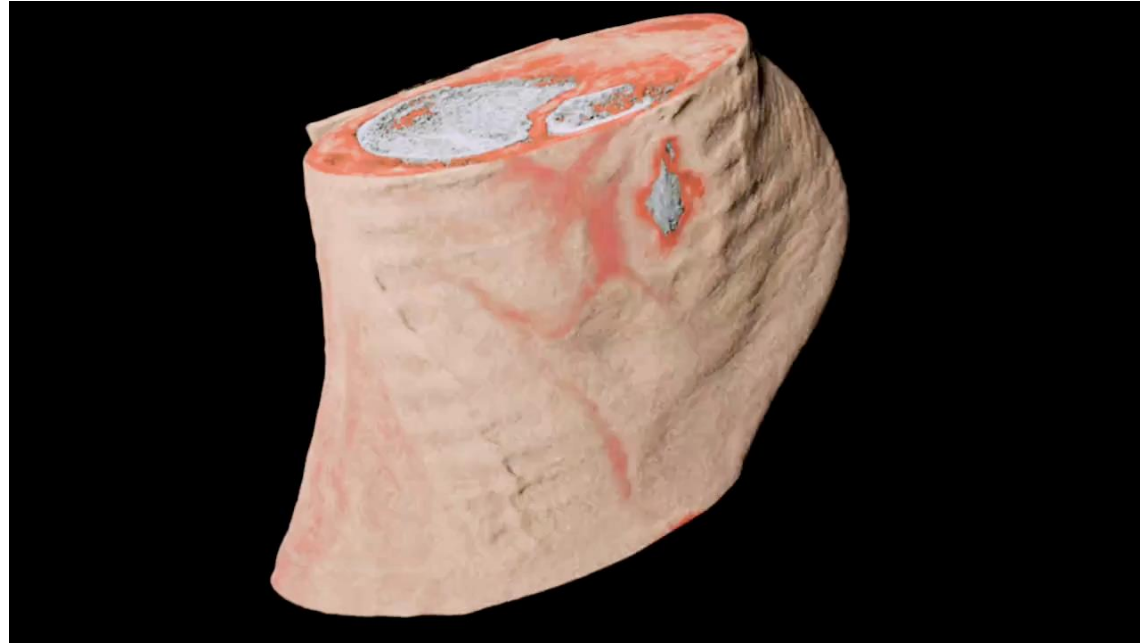


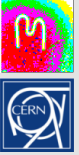
Water,  
colour it red and  
semi-transparent red





# Slice through of Phil Butler's Ankle





News › › News › Topic: Knowledge sharing

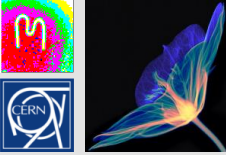
## First European hospital receives 3D colour X-ray scanner using CERN technology

MARS Bioimaging's 3D colour X-ray scanner has arrived in Europe to undertake clinical trials that will lead to its medical use.

22 JUNE, 2021 | By [Antoine Le Gall](#)



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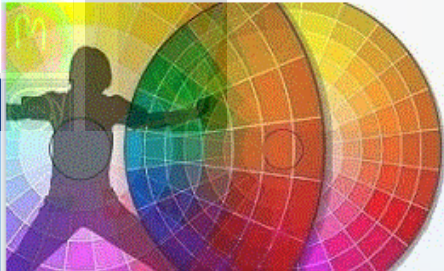
# MARS scan of diseased carotid artery

**nature**  
REVIEWS

September 2019 volume 1 no. 9  
[www.nature.com/natrevphys](http://www.nature.com/natrevphys)

**PHYSICS**





## Workshop on Medical Applications of Spectroscopic X-ray Detectors

CERN, 13-16 May 2019

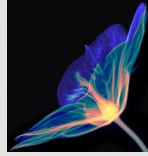
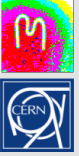


~120 invited participants of which ~50 were from industry

All large medical equipment suppliers represented: Canon, GE, Philips, Siemens

Also major research institutes present :Johns Hopkins, Massachusetts General Hospital, Mayo Clinic, Royal Marsden, TU Munich etc

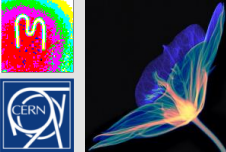
Medipix Collaboration plays a 'pathfinding' role in this community



# Timepix readout chips - single particle detection

|                              | Timepix                            | Timepix2   | Timepix3   |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Tech. node (nm)              | 250                                | 130  | 130  |
| Year                         | 2005                               | 2018   | 2014   |
| Pixel size ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) | 55                                 | 55   | 55   |
| # pixels (x x y)             | 256 x 256                          | 256 x 256  | 256 x 256  |
| Time bin (bin size in ns)    | 10                                 | 10   | 1.5  |
| Readout architecture         | Frame based<br>(sequential<br>R/W) | Frame based<br>(sequential or<br>continuous R/W) | <u>Data driven or</u><br>Frame based<br>(sequential R/W) |
| Number of sides for tiling   | 3                                  | 3  | 3  |

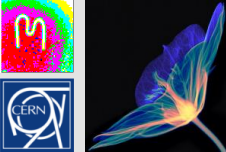




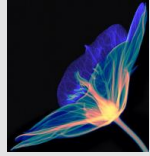
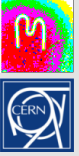
# Timepix3 miniaturised readout



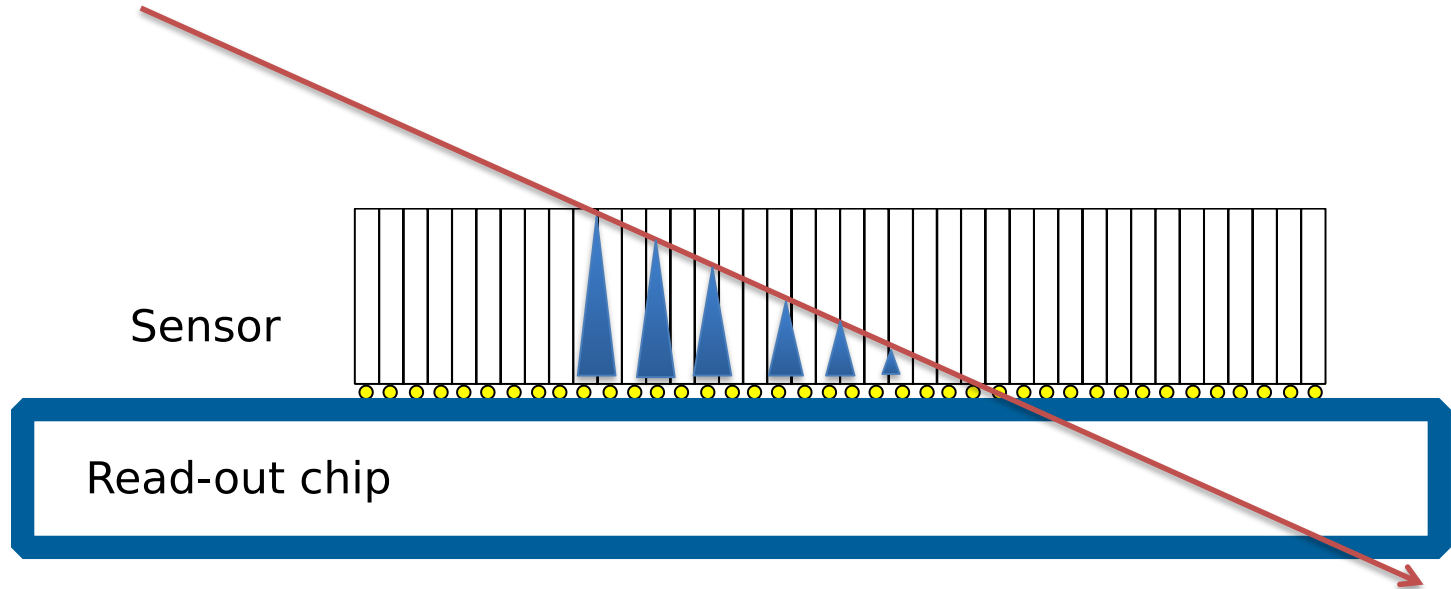
Advacam s.r.o., Prague

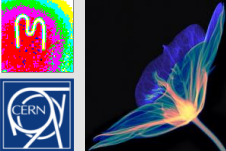


# Demo Timepix3

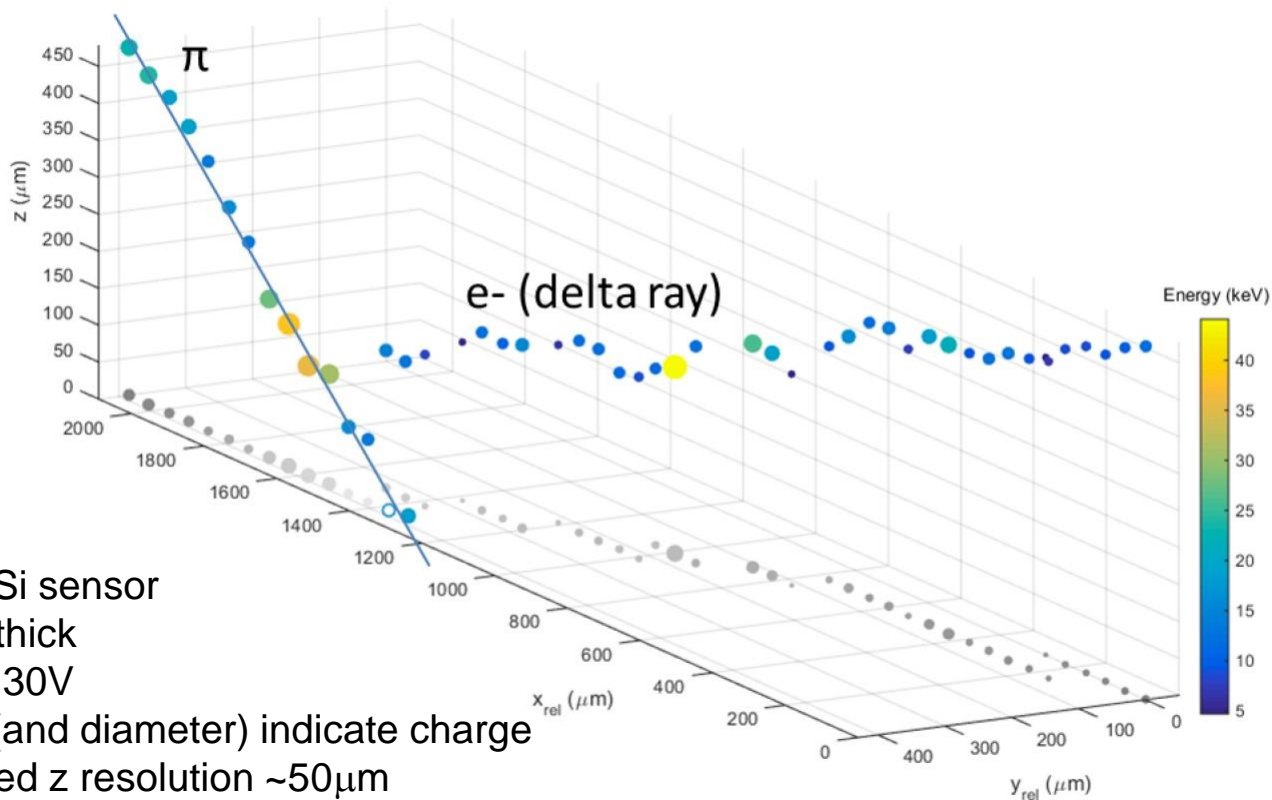


# Using charge collection time to track in a single Si layer



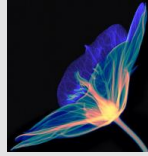
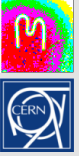


# Test with 120GeV/c Pion Track



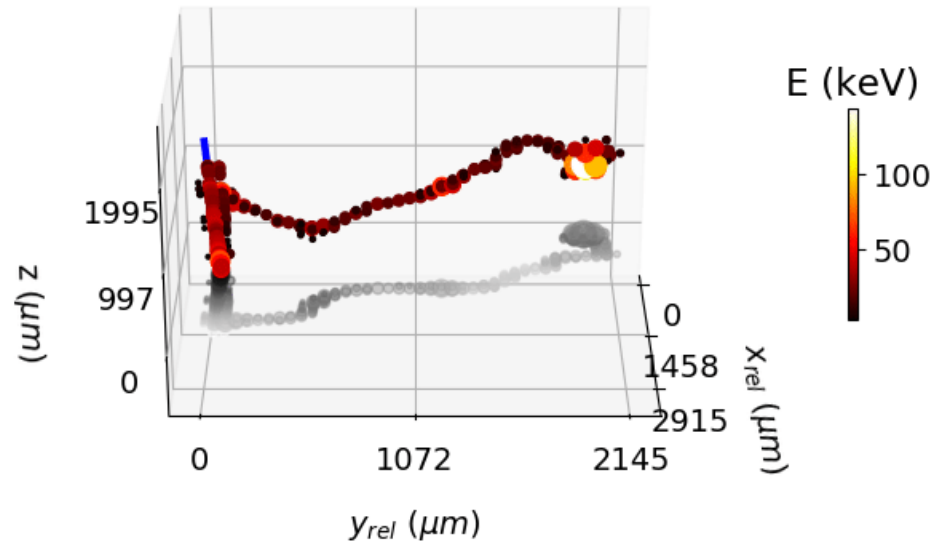
60 deg  
p+ in n Si sensor  
500 $\mu$ m thick  
 $V_{bias} = 130V$   
Colour (and diameter) indicate charge  
Measured  $z$  resolution  $\sim 50\mu$ m

Slide courtesy of B. Bergmann, S. Pospisil, IEAP, CTU, Prague



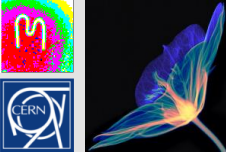
# 3D rendering of traversing particle with delta electron

$$\frac{dE}{dx} = 3.39 \frac{\text{MeVcm}^2}{\text{g}}$$



45 deg  
CdTe sensor  
2mm thick  
 $V_{\text{bias}} = 130\text{V}$   
Colour (and diameter) indicate charge

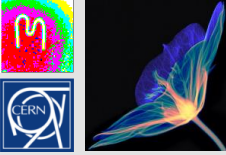
Slide courtesy of B. Bergmann, S. Pospisil, IEAP, CTU, Prague



# CERN@school



Simon Langton School, Canterbury, England



- **ADMIRA:** Activitats amb Detectores Medipix per Investigar la Radiació a l'Aula
- **Goals (Essentially: bringing closer Research Centers, Universities and Schools)**
  - Build a network of schools that share 2 Timepix devices (courtesy of Microelectronics Section CERN)
  - Teachers share devices/experiences
  - Offer high quality training to teachers and students by experts (motivating teachers and students)
  - Promote CERN@School/IRIS activities to have secondary students do real science
  - 4 sessions of training scheduled in 2020, final student conference in December 2020
    - First session 10<sup>th</sup> January (~75 School teachers, ~50 secondary students)
- **Team:**
  - Lluís Casas, Rosa Maria Giralte (Institut Ciències de l'Educació-UB)
  - Eugeni Graugés, Marta Martín, Surinye Olarte, Esther Pallarès (Institut de Ciències del Cosmos UB)
  - Daniel Parcerisas (Sagrada Família School Gavà)
  - Rafael Ballabriga (CERN)





# ADMIRA project

CERN Accelerating science

Signed in as: mcampbel (CERN)

Sign out Directory



Knowledge Transfer  
Accelerating Innovation

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## Timepix-based detectors bring particle physics in the classroom

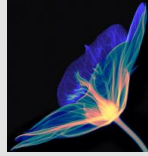
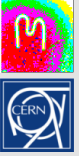
The ADMIRA project uses Timepix-based detectors to help students experiment with particle physics and contributes to transforming STEM education.

29 MARCH, 2021 | By [Rafael Ballabriga](#) & [Antoine Le Gall](#)



Xènia Turró, from INS Vilafant measuring natural radiation in Tapis (Maçanet de Cabrenys). She identified the various particles in the environment coming from different sources and compared the measured radiation dose with the recommendations from the International Commission on Radiological Protection.





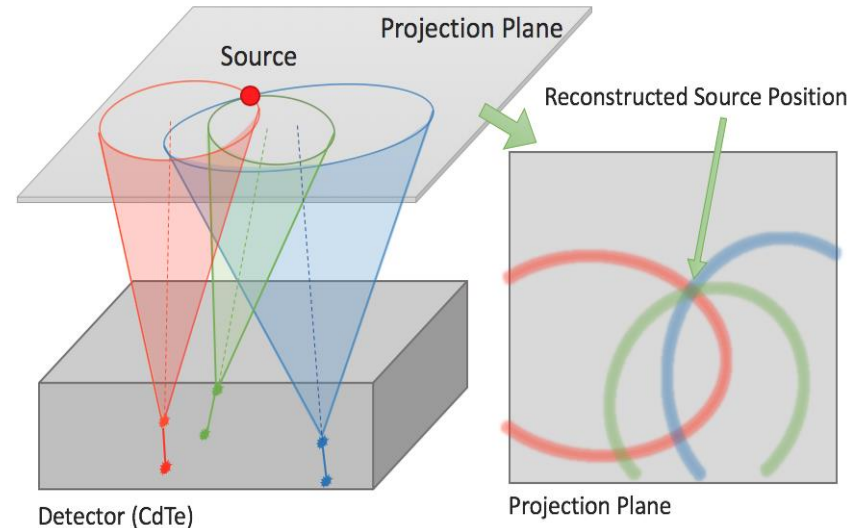
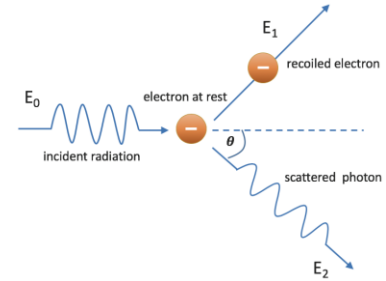
# Single Layer Compton Camera with MiniPIX TPX3

## Compton camera principle

- Typical two detectors
- primary gamma is scattered in first detector (position and energy recorded), scattered gamma continues to second detector (absorbed, position and energy recorded)
- from energies - > scattering angle calculated
- from position and energies -> possible position of the source on the surface of a cone
- Multiple cones intersection - > source position
  
- Single Timepix3 layer camera
  - Instead of 2 detectors, only single TPX3
  - Using time of charge collection to determine relative depth

$$\cos \theta = 1 - m_e c^2 \frac{E_1}{E_0(E_0 - E_1)}$$

$$E_0 = E_1 + E_2$$



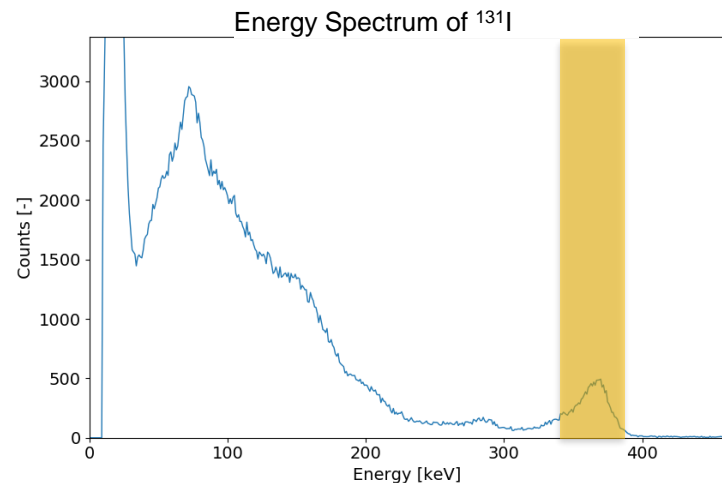
Courtesy of D. Turecek, Advacam s.r.o



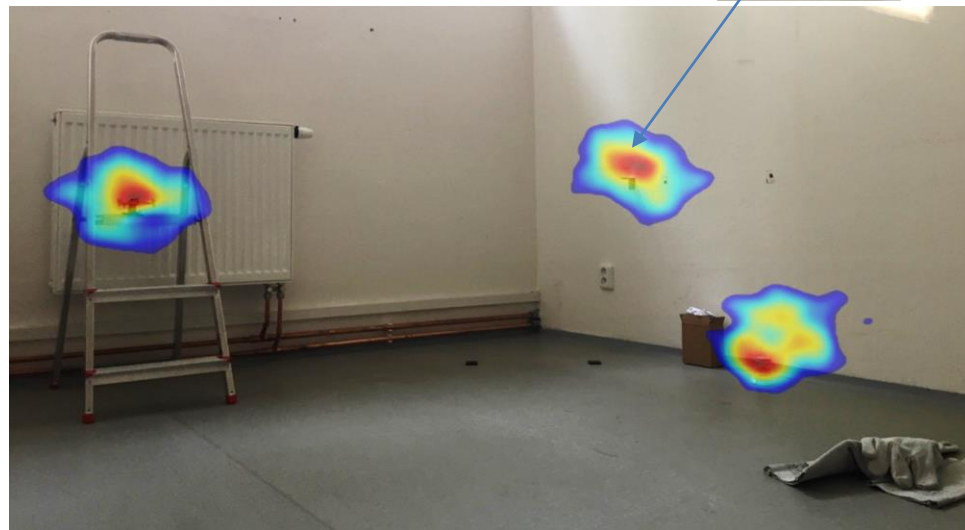
# Single Layer Compton Camera with MiniPIX TPX3

## $^{131}\text{I}$ Iodine gamma source

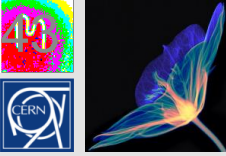
- 3 different Iodine solution in small bottles positioned in a room at different positions
- Distance from detector 3.5 m (activity 10's of MBq)
- Mapped on photograph of the room
- Sources located correctly within minutes
- Image took hours to collect



Courtesy of D. Turecek, Advacam s.r.o



Reconstruction of position of three  $^{131}\text{I}$  gamma sources (364 keV)

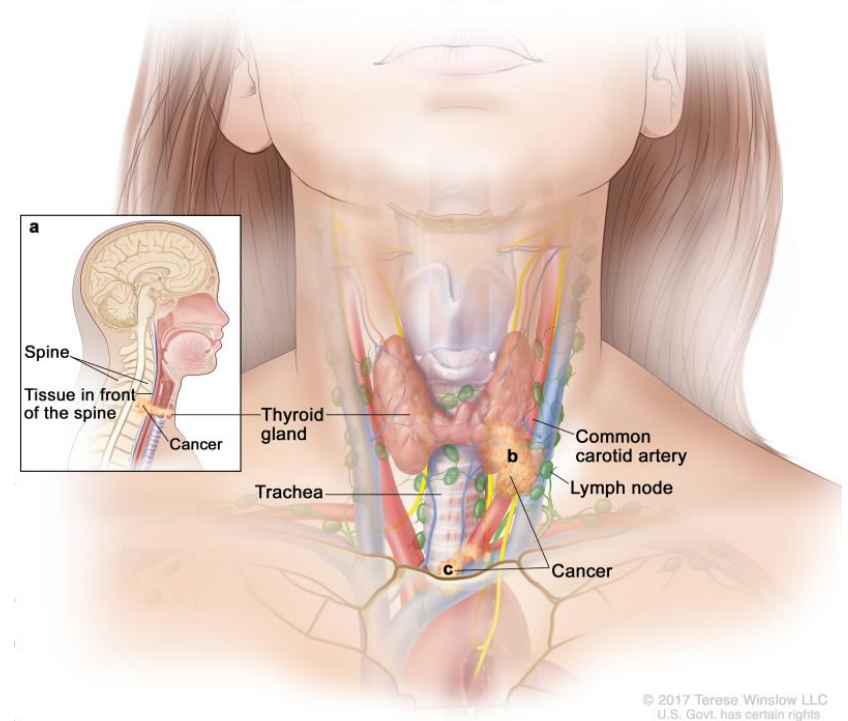


# Gamma camera application: Thyroid diagnostics

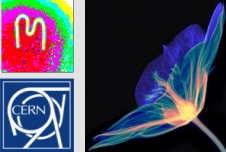
Stage IVB Medullary Thyroid Cancer

Thyroid cancer diagnostics and treatment monitoring:

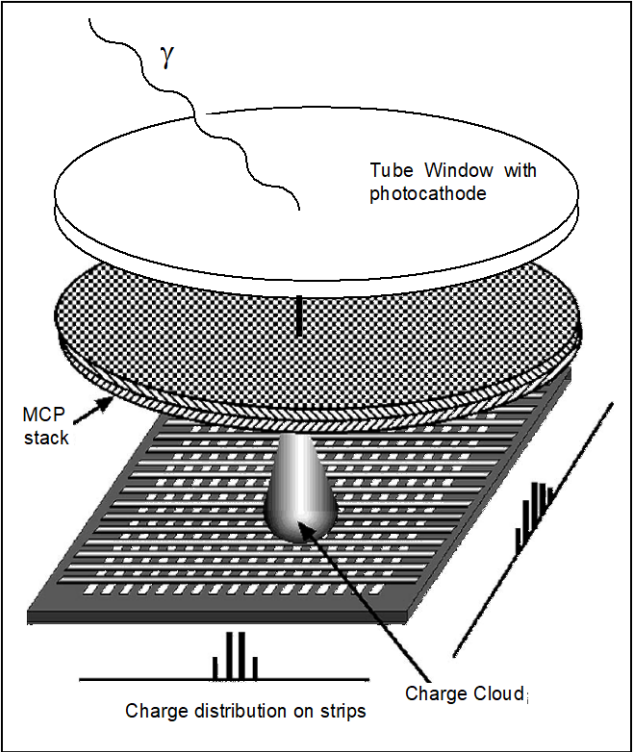
- The second most frequent cancer for women (after breast cancer)
- Current imaging methods offer resolution of about 12 mm in 2D
- Our technology allows
  - 5 times better resolution and 3D (2.5 mm)
  - 4 times lower dose

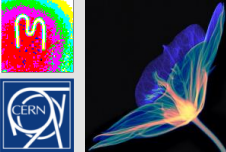


Courtesy of D. Turecek, Advacam s.r.o

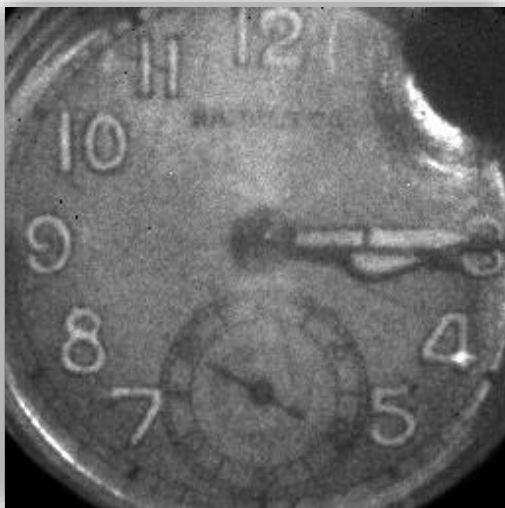


# Micro-channel plate readout





# Optical MCP image tube using Medipix readout

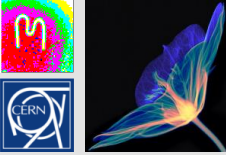


White light illumination  
(90 MHz ct. rate)



Radium fluorescence  
(100 cps)

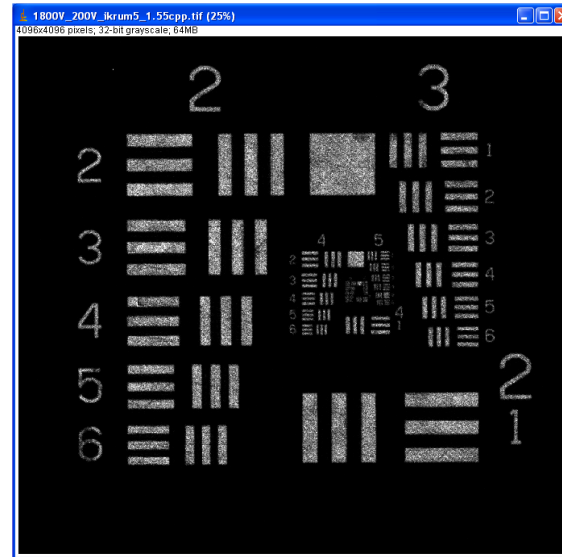
J. Vallerga and co-workers, UC Berkeley, USA



# High spatial resolution using Timepix “Time over Threshold” mode + center of gravity algorithm



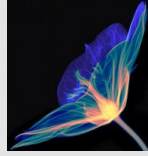
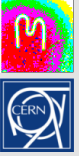
9 lp/mm  
Medipix2



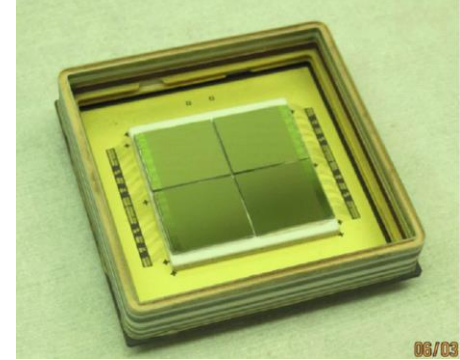
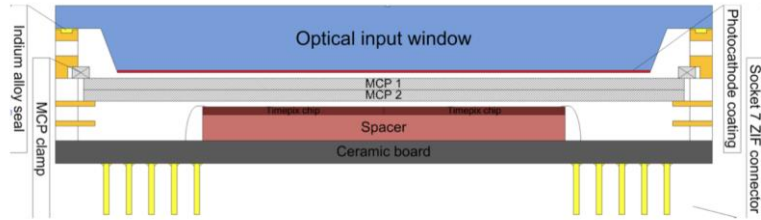
57 lp/mm  
Timepix



J. Vallerga and co-workers, UC Berkeley, USA

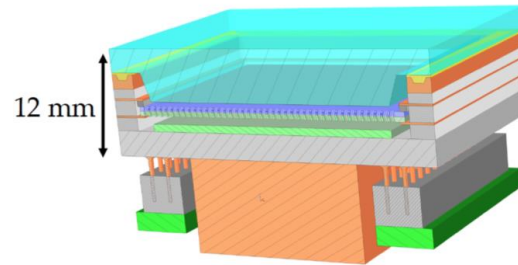
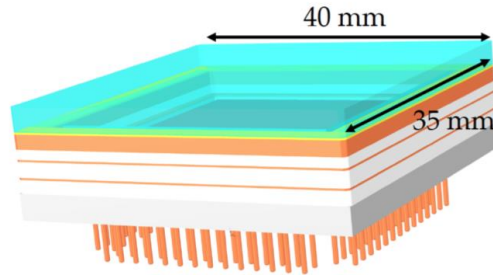


# Integrate Timepix4 in a photo tube



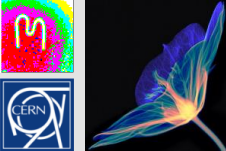
Concept already proven with 4 Timepix chips

See: J Vallerga et al. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-0221/9/05/C05055>

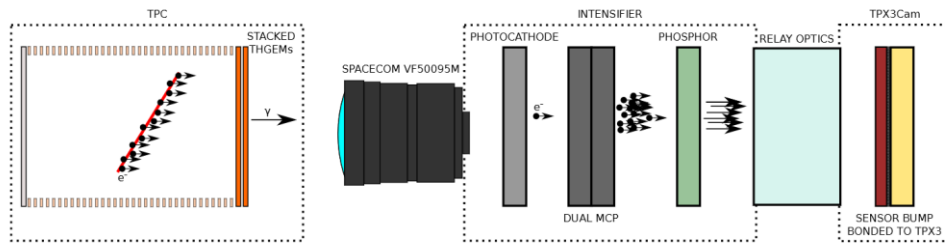


Ongoing effort with Timepix4 started

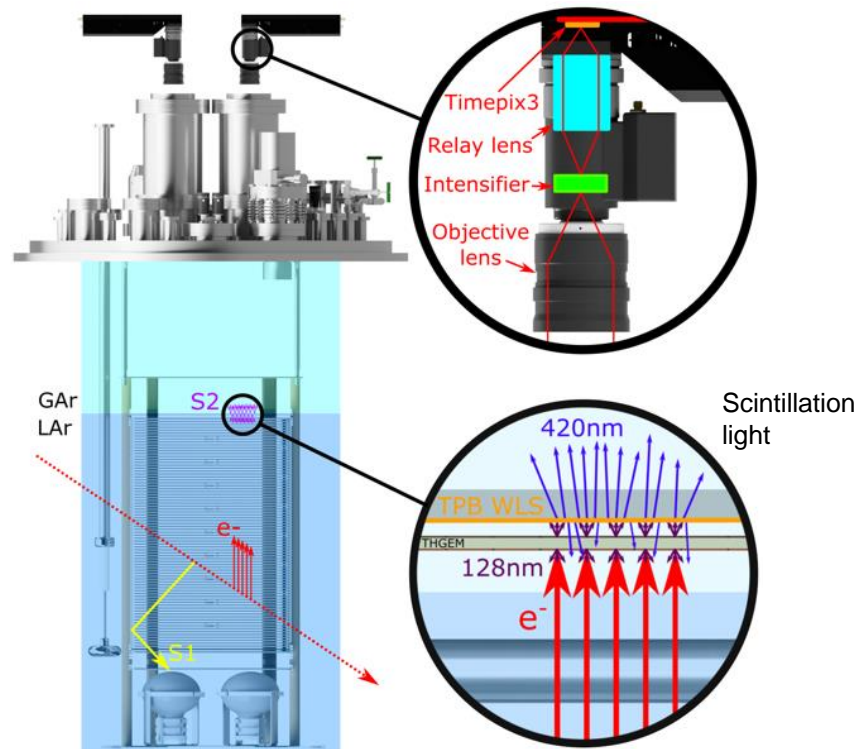
See: M. Fiorini et al. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-0221/13/12/C12005/pdf>



# Setup TPIX3CAM test

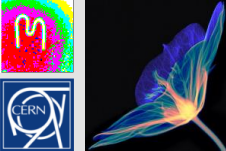


- A TimePix3 camera was mounted on the ARIADNE prototype TPC we have in Liverpool.
- The TPC was filled with 100mb CF4 and the detection/operation principle is the same like in ARIADNE. The light detection efficiency has been directly compared to the EMCCD camera and found to be very similar.
- 32 cm x 32 cm area read out by a single TPIX3Cam

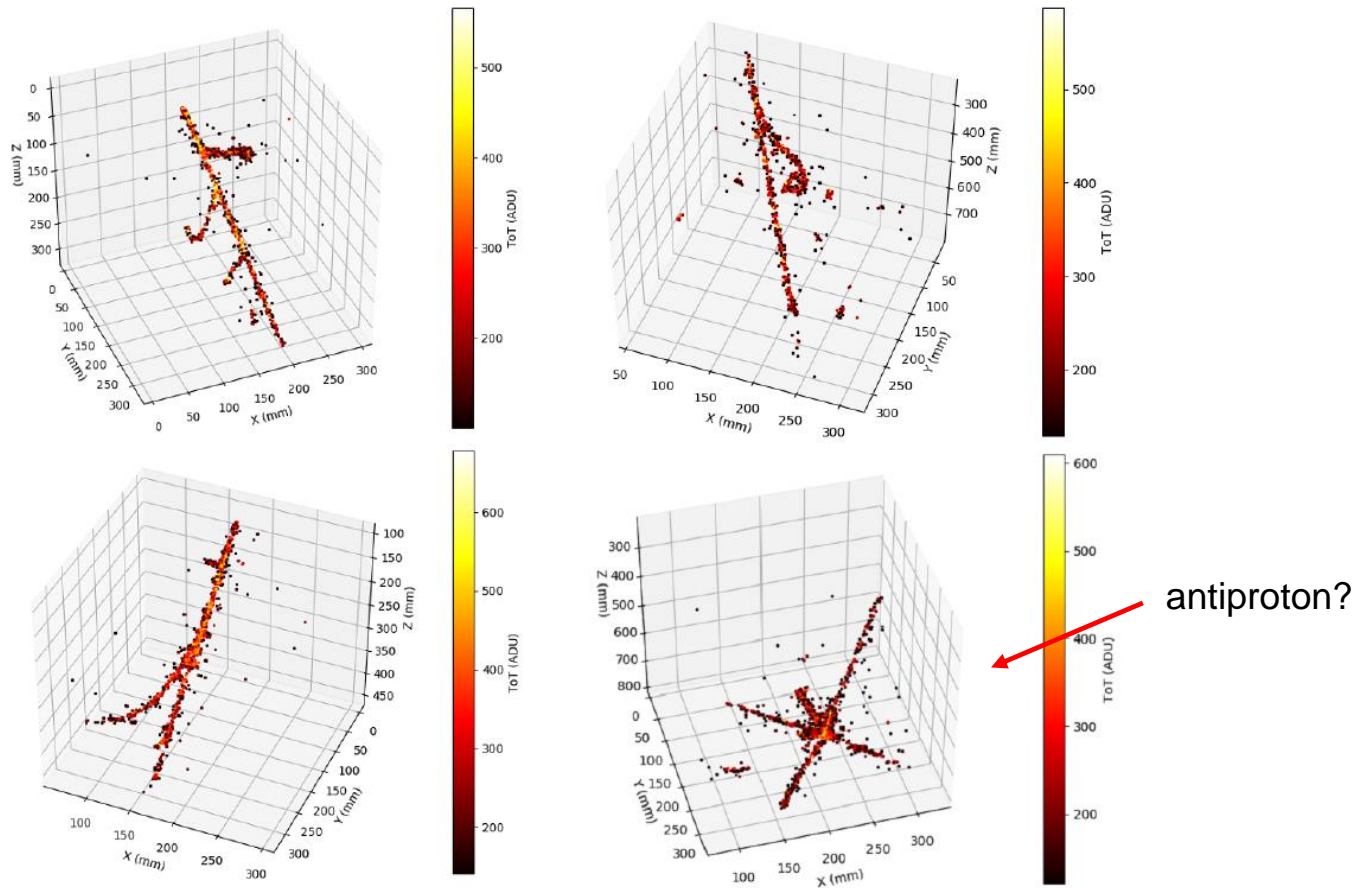


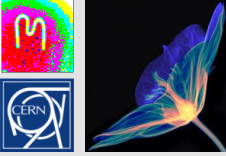
Slide courtesy of K. Mavrokoridis



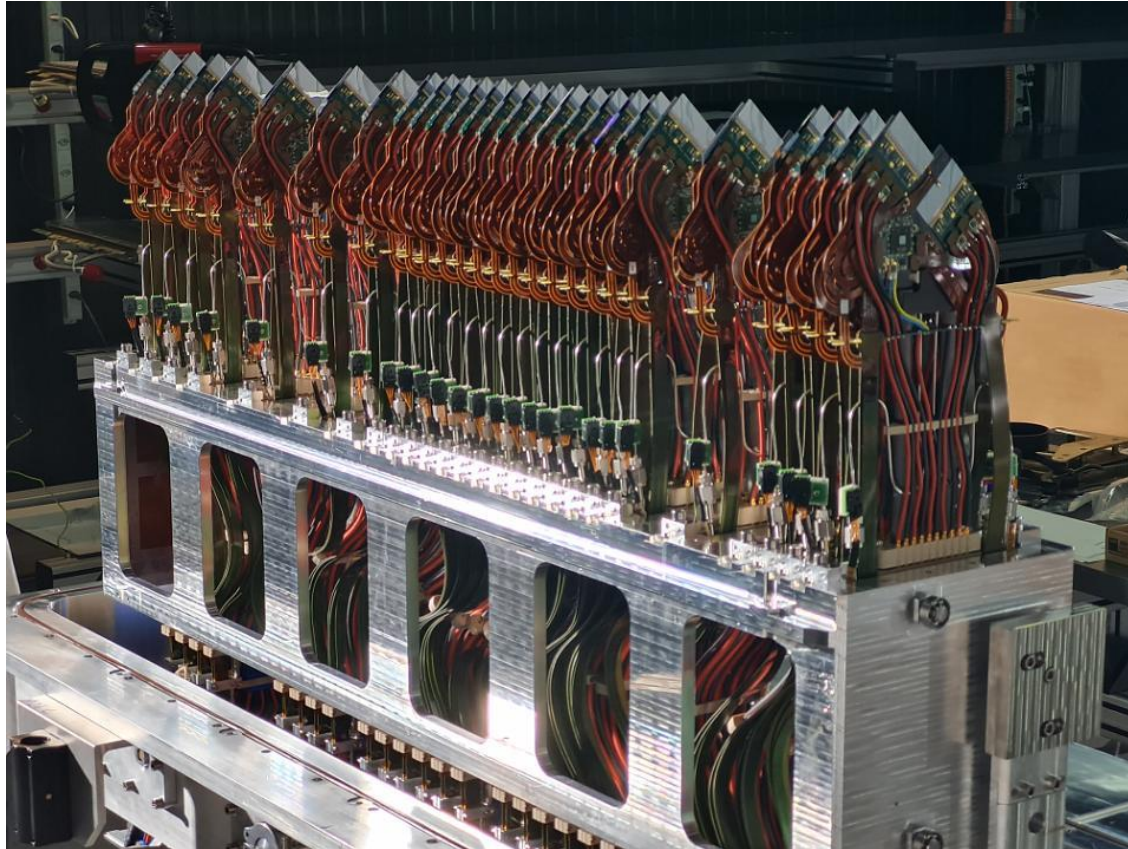


# A selection of cosmic muon events ARIADNE TPIX3Cam

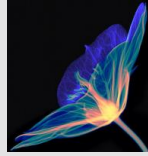
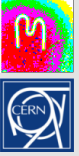




# Image of $\frac{1}{2}$ of Velopix tracker for LHCb

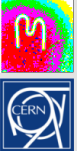


April 2022



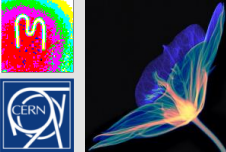
# Timepix readout chips - single particle detection

|                              | Timepix                            | Timepix2   | Timepix3  | Timepix4  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Tech. node (nm)              | 250                                | 130  | 130   | 65  |
| Year                         | 2005                               | 2018   | 2014  | 2019  |
| Pixel size ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) | 55                                 | 55   | 55  | 55  |
| # pixels (x x y)             | 256 x 256                          | 256 x 256  | 256 x 256   | 448 x 512   |
| Time bin (bin size in ns)    | 10                                 | 10   | 1.5   | 200ps   |
| Readout architecture         | Frame based<br>(sequential<br>R/W) | Frame based<br>(sequential or<br>continuous R/W) | Data driven or<br>Frame based<br>(sequential R/W) | Data driven or<br>Frame-base<br>(sequential or<br>continuous R/W) |
| Number of sides for tiling   | 3                                  | 3  | 3   | 4   |



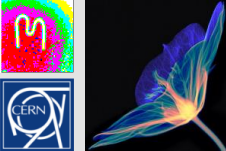
# Timepix3 → Timepix4

|  |                           | Timepix3 (2013)              | Timepix4 (2018/19)                |   |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Technology</b>                      |                           | 130nm – 8 metal              | 65nm – 10 metal                   |   |
| <b>Pixel Size</b>                      |                           | 55 x 55 $\mu\text{m}$        | 55 x 55 $\mu\text{m}$             |   |
| <b>Pixel arrangement</b>               |                           | 3-side buttable<br>256 x 256 | 4-side buttable<br>512 x 448      |   |
| <b>Sensitive area</b>                  |                           | 1.98 $\text{cm}^2$           | 6.94 $\text{cm}^2$                |   |
| <b>Readout Modes</b>                   | Data driven<br>(Tracking) | Mode                         | TOT and TOA                       |   |
|  |                           | Event Packet                 | 48-bit                            | 64-bit  |
|  |                           | Max rate                     | <80 Mhits/s                       | <365 MHz/ $\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$  |
|  |                           | Max pix rate                 | 1.3kHz/pixel                      | 10.6kHz/pixel   |
|  | Frame based<br>(Imaging)  | Mode                         | PC (10-bit) and iTOT (14-bit)     | CRW: PC (8 or 16-bit)   |
|  |                           | Frame                        | Zero-suppressed (with pixel addr) | Full Frame (without pixel addr)<br>CRW (8-bit / 16-bit)<br>Up to 44 KHz frame @8b |
|  |                           | Max count rate               | 82 Ghits/ $\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$  | ~800 Ghits/ $\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$  |
| <b>TOT energy resolution</b>           |                           | < 2KeV                       | < 1Kev                            |   |
| <b>Time resolution (bin size)</b>      |                           | 1.56ns                       | ~200ps                            |   |
| <b>Readout bandwidth</b>               |                           | ≤5.12Gb (8 x SLVS@640 Mbps)  | ≤163 Gbps (16 x 10.24 Gbps)       |   |
| <b>Target global minimum threshold</b> |                           | <500 $e^-$                   | <500 $e^-$                        |   |

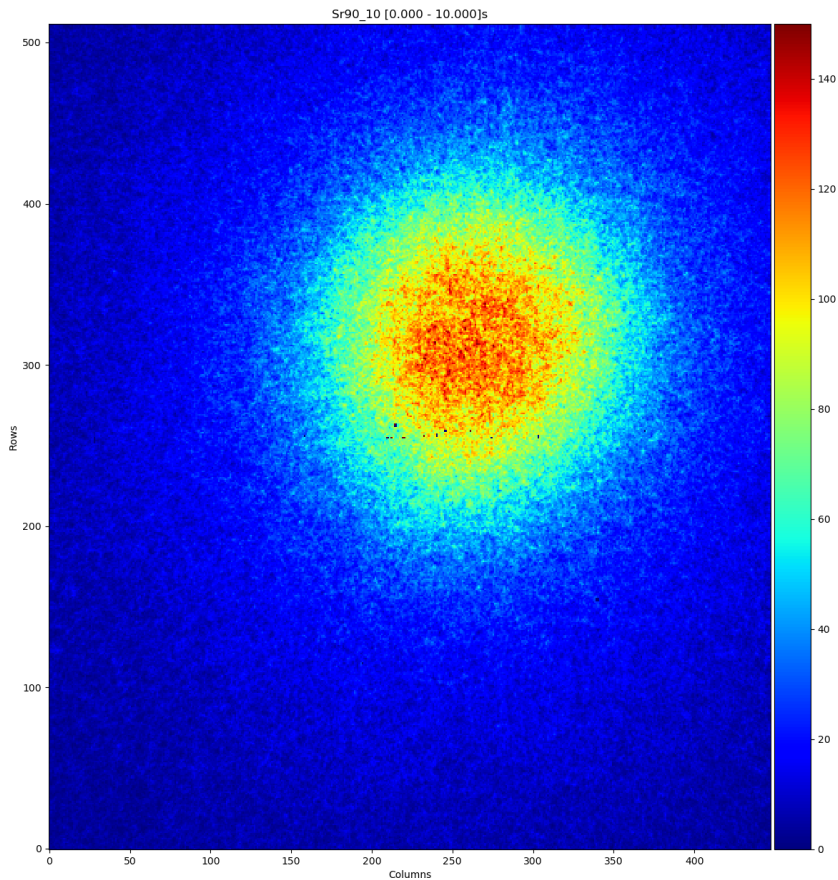


# Timepix4 assembly (300 $\mu$ m Si sensor)



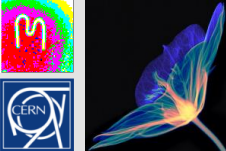


# Timepix4 – works! 😊

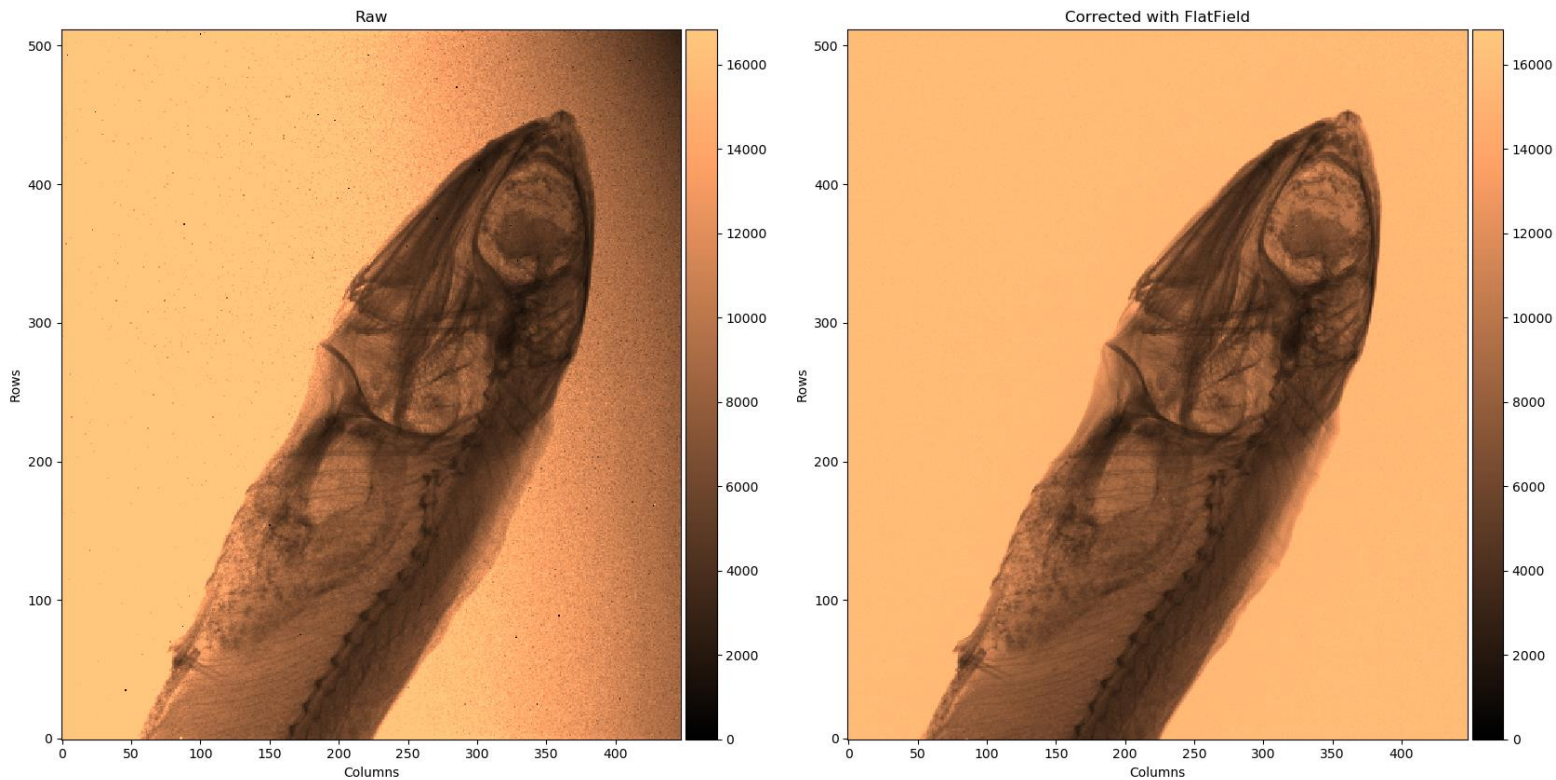


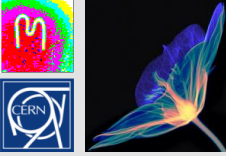
10s exp.  $^{90}\text{Sr}$

Threshold  $\sim 800e^-$   
6.1 M packets @ 5 Gbps



# Photon counting image Timepix4





# Some words on time stamping

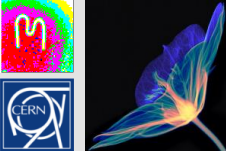
## Analog front-end timing optimization

- maximize input charge (sensor with gain) BUT be careful of fill factor and uniformity
- maximize input transconductance BUT watch power density
- minimize  $C_{in}$  and  $C_{out}$  of prepamp

## Time stamp distribution

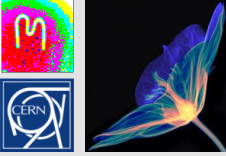
- Every pixel should be referred to the same precisely distributed clock
- It is basically impossible to distribute high frequency clocks over a large pixel matrix because of power consumption
- Distribution of a single phase provokes power supply bounce
- In Timepix4 the clock edge 'seen' by each pixel is precisely controlled by a column-based DLL but the phase varies from pixel to pixel.





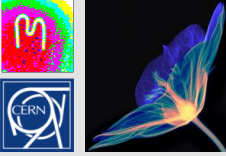
# Medipix readout chips – photon counting

|                                       | Medipix        | Medipix2       | Medipix3                        | Medipix4                        |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Tech. node (nm)                       | 1000           | 250            | 130                             | 130                             |
| Year                                  | 1997           | 2003           | 2013                            | 2020                            |
| Pixel size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )          | 170            | 55             | 55 / 110                        | 70/140                          |
| # pixels (x x y)                      | 64 x 64        | 256 x 256      | 256 x 256 /<br>128 x 128        | 400 x 400/<br>200 x 200         |
| # thresholds(counters)                | 1(1)           | 2(1)           | Up to 8 (up to 8)               | >8                              |
| Charge summing mode                   | No             | No             | Yes                             | Yes                             |
| Readout architecture<br>(Frame based) | Sequential R/W | Sequential R/W | Sequential or<br>continuous R/W | Sequential or<br>continuous R/W |
| Number of sides for tiling            | 0              | 3              | 3                               | 4                               |



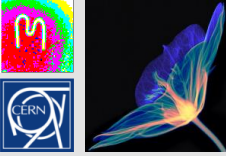
# Examples of other applications

- Large area X-ray cameras for synchrotrons
- X-ray materials analysis
- X-ray non-destructive testing
- X-ray dosimetry - dosepix chip development
  
- Dosimetry and space weather (ISS and multiple satellites)
  
- High resolution neutron detection and imaging
  
- Low Energy Electron Microscopy
- Electron Backscattering diffraction (EBSD)
- Transmission electron microscopy and cryo em
  
- Time-of-Flight mass spectrometry
  
- Dose deposition tracking in hadron therapy
- Gamma (and Compton) camera for power plant decommissioning and homeland security



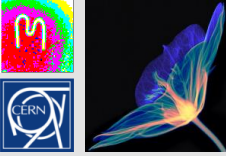
# Applications for CERN/Physics

- LHCb Timepix3 telescope – 80 Mhits/cm<sup>2</sup>/sec
- Sensor studies for CLIC/LHCb
- Background radiation monitoring at ATLAS and CMS
- Beam monitoring in UA9
- Positron annihilation in Aegis
- ASACUSA experiment
- Beam Gas Interaction real time monitor at SPS
- Breit-Wheeler experiment at RAL
- Beta particle channeling in ISOLDE
- Axion search at CAST (with InGrid)
- Large area TPC (with InGrid)
- Transition radiation measurements for ATLAS
- GEMPIX development for radiation therapy beam monitoring
- GEMPIX for <sup>55</sup>Fe waste management
- Developments for CLIC: CLICpix, CLICpix2, C3PD



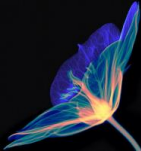
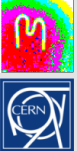
# Conclusions

- Hybrid pixel detectors were initially developed as tracking detectors of LHC and the Medipix Collaborations have taken the technology into many other fields
- Timepix chips are actively detecting background radiation in school classrooms, in airplanes, in labs and in space
- “Colour” X-ray imaging using Medipix3 has helped authenticate ancient art and has significant potential for medical diagnostic imaging
- The technology has permitted a number of high-tech start ups to develop in CERN member states and elsewhere.



# Conclusions

- Many novel scientific applications and experiments have been made possible by the very generic architecture of the Timepix chips. This helps contribute to a diverse physics programme.
- CERN experiments have benefitted directly from use of our chips and indirectly from the development of technologies and know-how which can be applied to HEP experiments. Unique instruments for beam instrumentation have also been developed
- Technology transfer is not a one-way process and can actually stimulate innovation in HEP instrumentation
- The Medipix4 Collaboration is developing high resolution pixel readout chips (Timepix4 and Medipix4) which can be tiled on 4 sides.



# Some references and links

“An introduction to the Medipix family ASICs,” R. Ballabriga, M. Campbell, X. Llopart, *Radiation Measurements* 136 (2020) 106271

“VeloPix: the pixel ASIC for the LHCb upgrade,” T. Poikela et al. *Journal of Instrumentation*, Volume 10, January 2015

[MARS Bio-imaging](#)

[InsightArt](#)

[Advacam cameras](#)

[Diamond Light Source detector group](#)

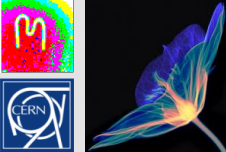
[Admira project](#)

“Development of a rest gas ionisation profile monitor for the CERN Proton Synchrotron based on a Timepix3 pixel detector,” S. Levasseur et al., *Journal of Instrumentation*, Volume 12, February 2017

“Optical Readout of the ARIADNE LArTPC Using a Timepix3-Based Camera,” Adam Lowe et al *Instruments* 2020, 4(4), 35;

“Registration of the transition radiation with GaAs detector: Data/MC comparison,” J Alozy et al, 2020 J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 1690 012041

3D reconstruction of particle tracks in a 2 mm thick CdTe hybrid pixel detector,” Bergmann, B., Burian, P., Manek, P. *et al. Eur. Phys. J. C* 79, 165 (2019).



# Thank you for your attention!



Energy (keV)

