

\* Cosmic ray + low  
energy electron in  
50 L prototype \*

# Ray CMOS: a wide field of view Xray polarimeter



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D. Marques, G. Mazzitelli, F. Muleri, A. Prajapati, P. Soffitta, S. Torelli

This project has been funded by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research through the project PRIN: Progetti di Ricerca di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale "HypeX: High Yield Polarimetry Experiment in X-rays" (Prot. 2020MZ884C)



# Outline

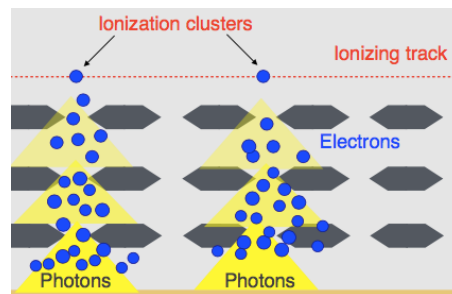
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- **Detector concept**
- **Large 50 L realisation of detector concept for directional Dark Matter searches**
  - Energy response linearity from overground commissioning
  - Low energy electrons directionality from simulation
- **Developments for X-ray polarimetry**
  - Preliminary results from simulation
  - Preliminary results from calibration with electron tracks



# High precision 3D TPC with **optical** readout via **PMT + sCMOS**

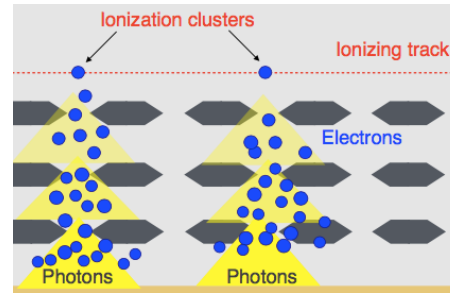
**JINST 13 (2018) no.05, P05001**



**(triple thin) GEM amplification**

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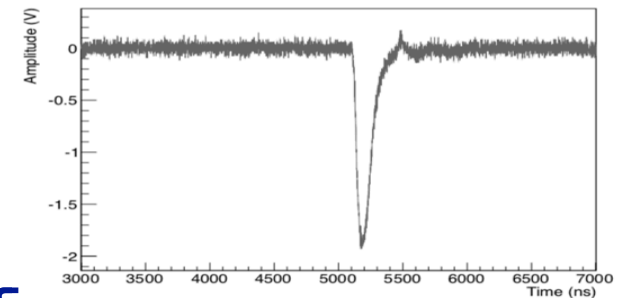
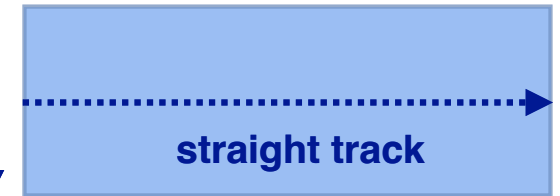


**PMT:**

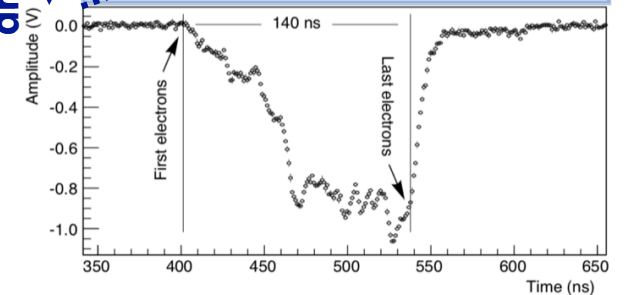
**integrated**

**Z + energy measurement**

drift direction  
↓



drift direction  
↓

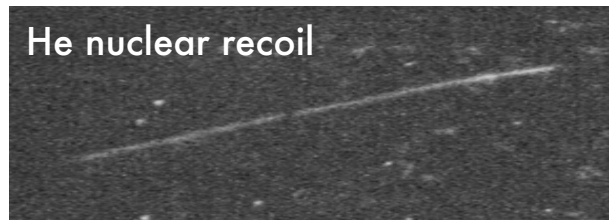
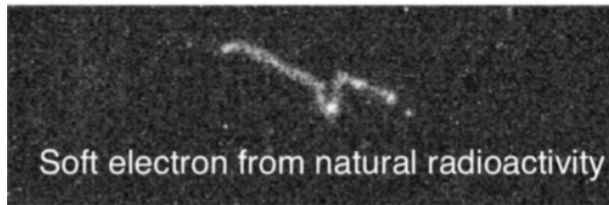


# High precision 3D TPC with **optical** readout via **PMT + sCMOS**

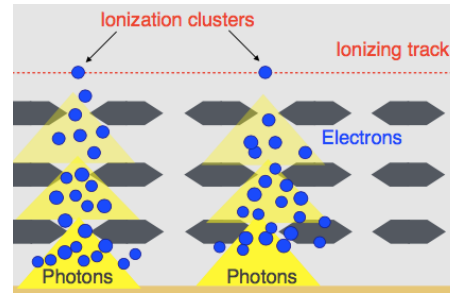
## **sCMOS:**

**high granularity**

**X-Y + energy measurements**



**JINST 13 (2018) no.05, P05001**



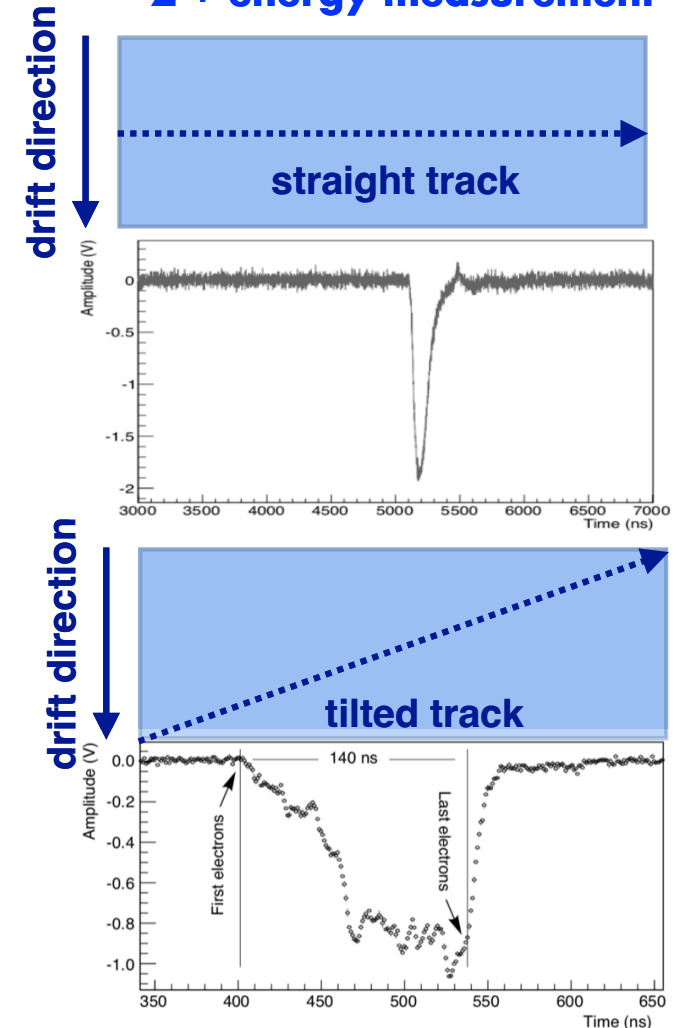
**(triple thin) GEM amplification**



## **PMT:**

**integrated**

**Z + energy measurement**



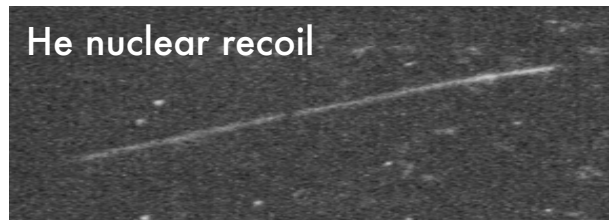
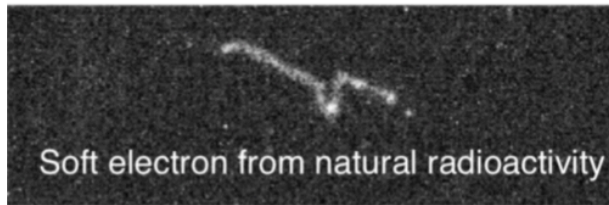
- 1/3 noise w.r.t. CCDs**
- Market pulled**
- Single photon sensitivity**
- Decoupled from target**
- Large areas with proper optics**

# High precision 3D TPC with **optical** readout via **PMT + sCMOS**

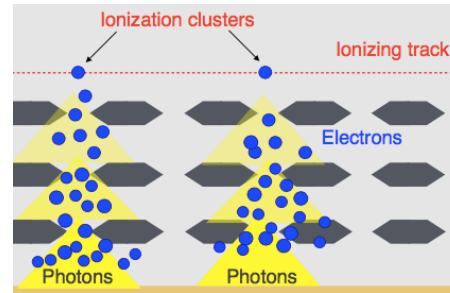
## **sCMOS:**

**high granularity**

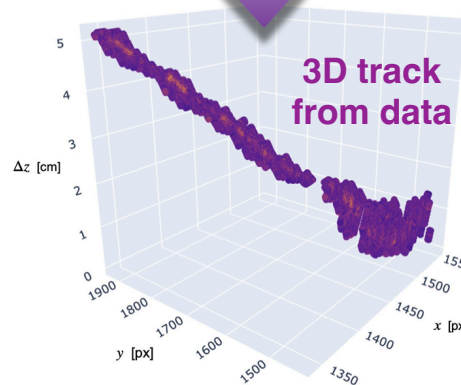
**X-Y + energy measurements**



**JINST 13 (2018) no.05, P05001**



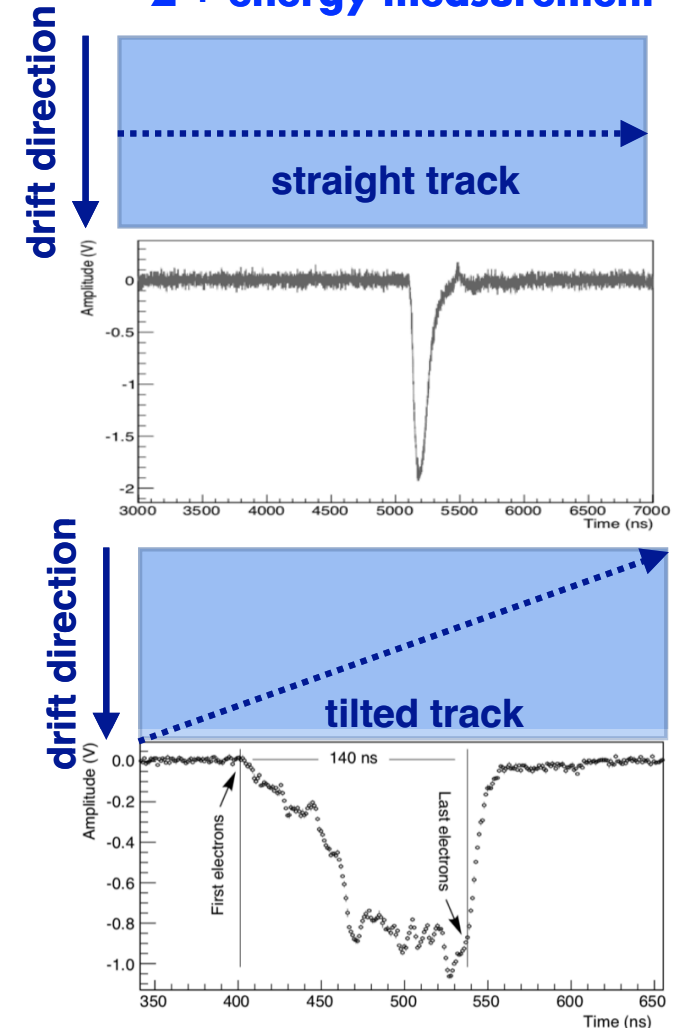
**(triple thin) GEM amplification**



## **PMT:**

**integrated**


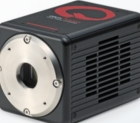
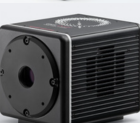
**Z + energy measurement**



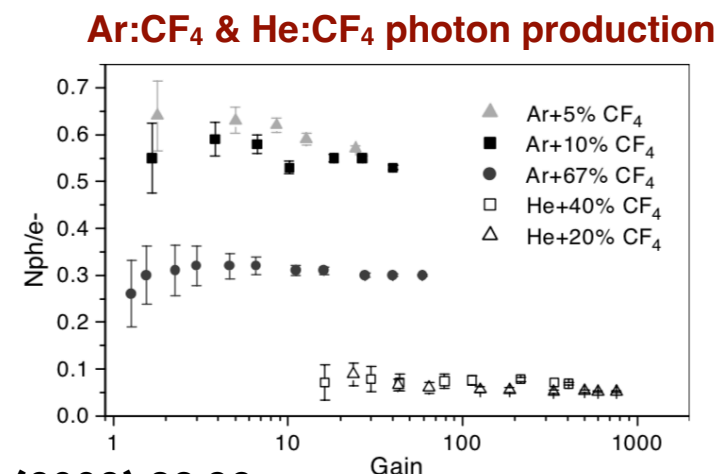
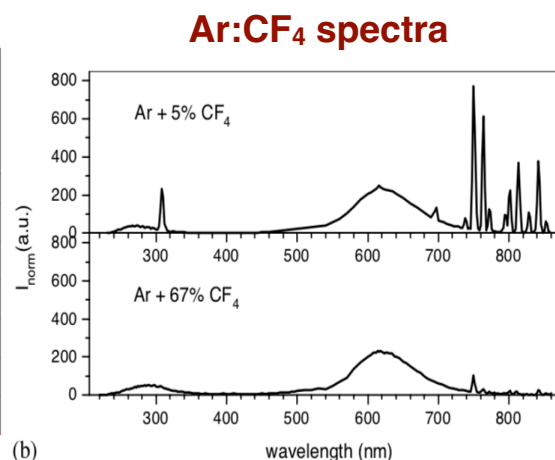
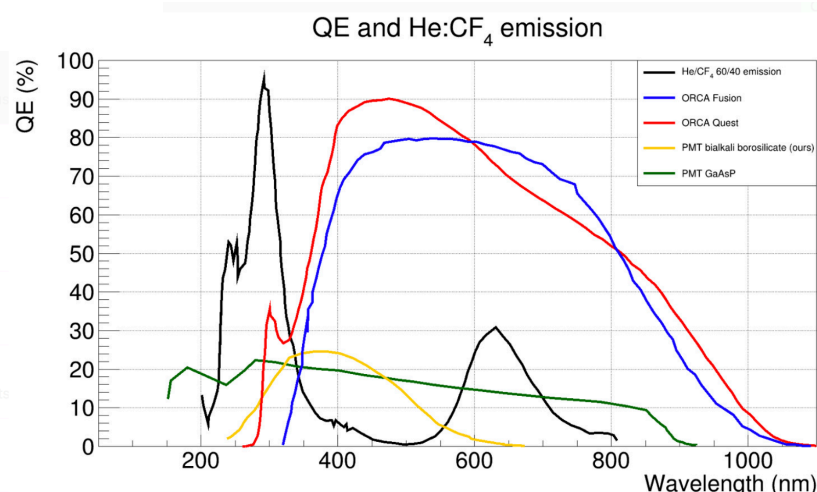
- 1/3 noise w.r.t. CCDs**
- Market pulled**
- Single photon sensitivity**
- Decoupled from target**
- Large areas with proper optics**

# sCMOS characteristics & He/Ar:CF<sub>4</sub> emission spectra

<https://www.hamamatsu.com/eu/en/product/cameras/cmos-cameras.html>

	HAMAMATSU	# of pixels	pixel size [um <sup>2</sup> ]	sensor area [cm <sup>2</sup> ]	dynamic range	readout noise (fast scan)	min exposure time (fast)	
	Orca Flash	2048 x 2048	6.5 x 6.5	1.33 x 1.33	37000:1	1.4 (1.6) rms	33 (10) us	
	Orca Fusion	2304 x 2304	6.5 x 6.5	1.498 x 1.498	21400:1	0.7 (1.4) rms	280 (17) us	Used for the results shown
	Orca Quest	4096 x 2304	4.6 x 4.6	1.884 x 1.060	25900:1	0.27 (0.43) rms	200 (7.2) us	Recently purchased

improving performances



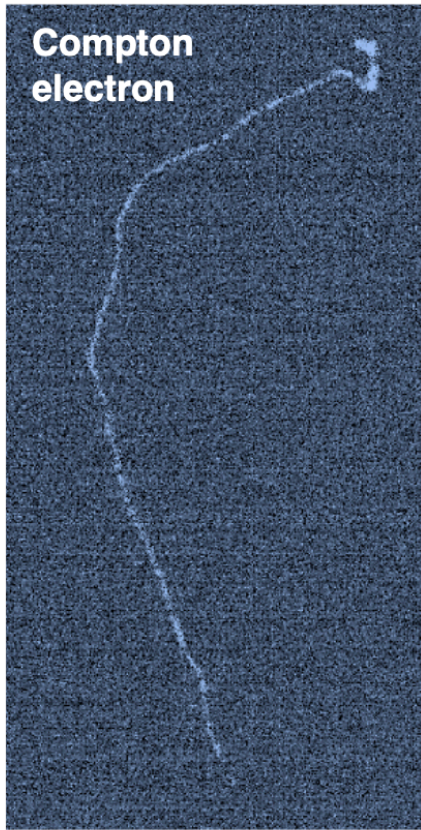
**NIM A 504 (2003) 88-92**



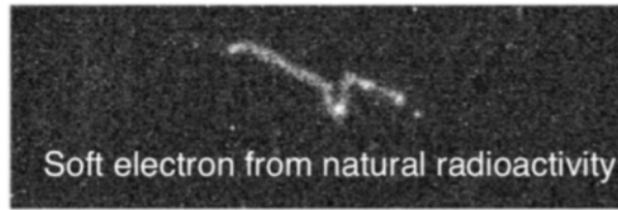
# Photographing particle tracks

*He:CF<sub>4</sub> @ 1 atm*

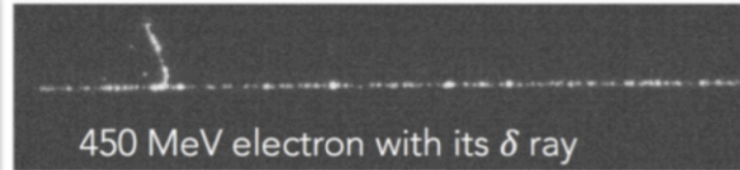
Compton electron



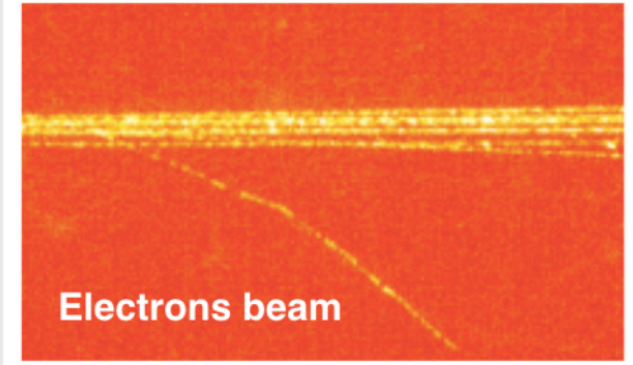
Soft electron from natural radioactivity



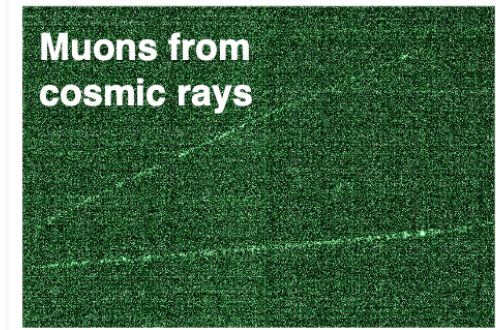
450 MeV electron with its  $\delta$  ray



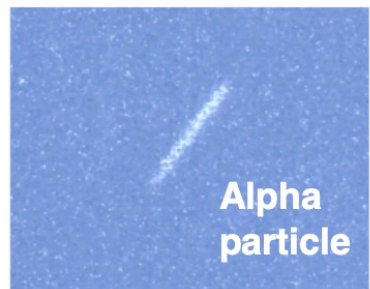
Electrons beam



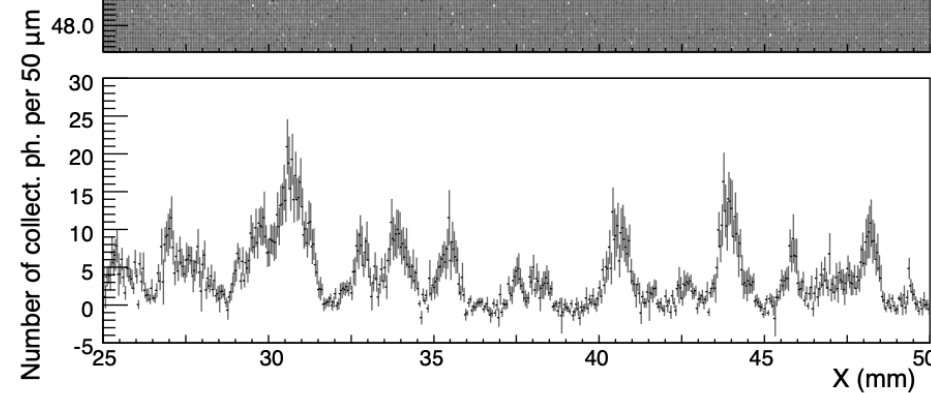
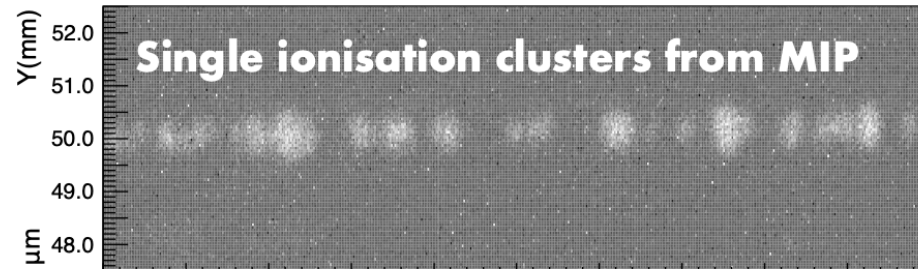
Muons from cosmic rays



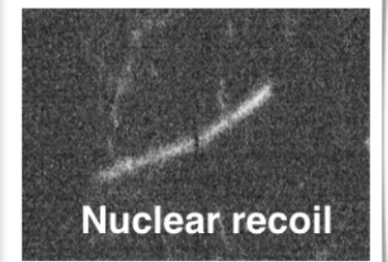
Alpha particle



Single ionisation clusters from MIP



Nuclear recoil



# Optical readout features

## 📌 Camera focused on last amplification stage

Lens de-magnification

$$\delta = \frac{f}{\textcircled{d} - \textcircled{f}}$$

sCMOS-GEM  
distance

Focal lenght  
F.L.

sCMOS sensor  
geometrical acceptance

$$\Omega = \frac{1}{(4(1/\delta + 1) \times a)^2}$$

## 📌 The further the camera, the larger the area it can image

📌 a 36 x 36 cm<sup>2</sup> area with an effective granularity of 155 x 155 μm<sup>2</sup> (large volume application)

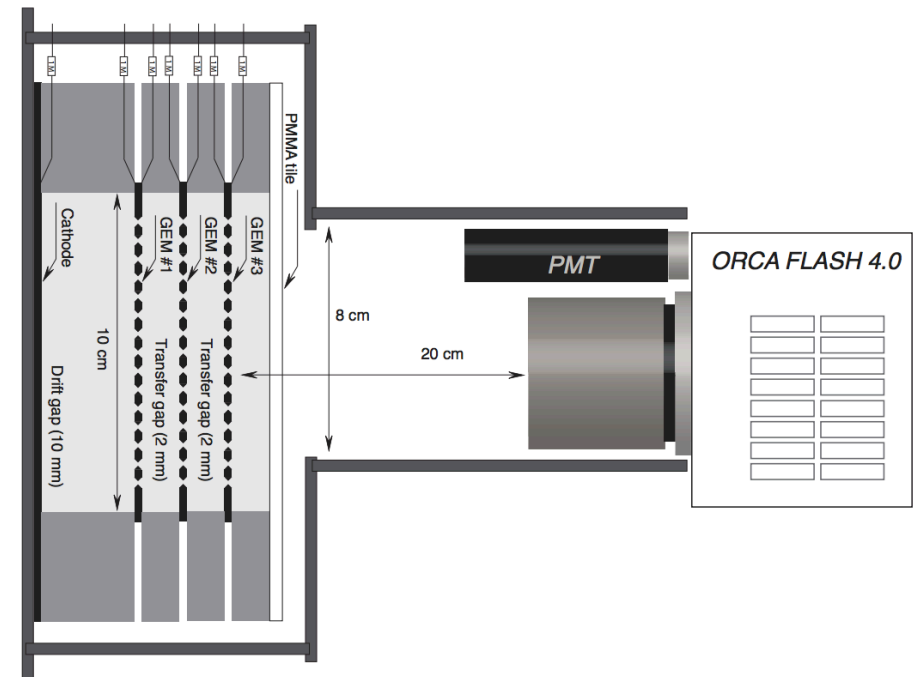
📌 a 10 x 10 cm<sup>2</sup> area with an effective granularity of 41 x 41 μm<sup>2</sup> (small volume application)

## 📌 The further the camera, the lower the light yield detectable

📌 ± 1 x 10<sup>-4</sup> coverage for large volume application

📌 ± 1 x 10<sup>-3</sup> coverage for large volume application

**Camera electronics is integrated,  
the output is an USB plug**



## • PMTs **geometrical acceptance**:

➡ critically **depends** on the **position** of the emission on the GEM plane w.r.t. the PMT position

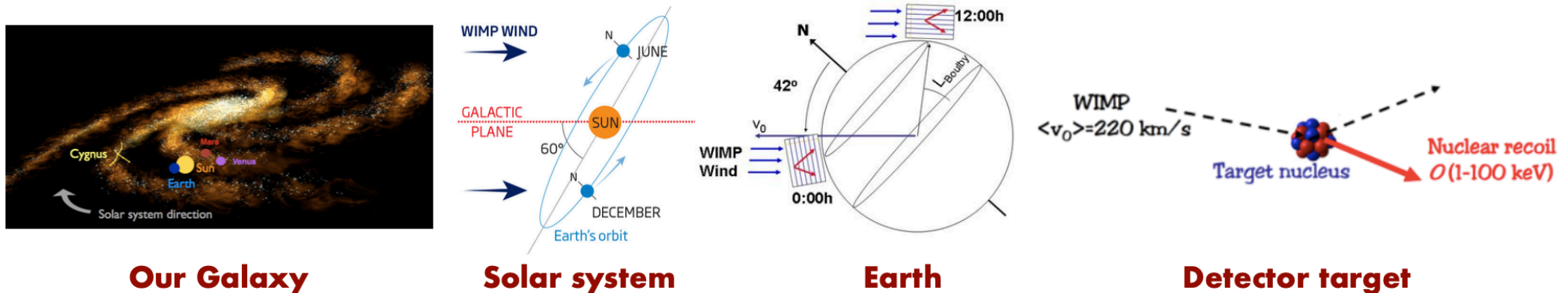
➡ Empirical measured scaling:

$$L_i = \frac{\textcircled{L} \text{ Total light emitted}}{\textcircled{R_i} \text{ Distance from the light emission}}$$

Light collected by the PMT #i

We measured  $\alpha \sim 4$

# The CYGNO/INITIUM project: large realisation of detector concept for underground directional Dark Matter searches



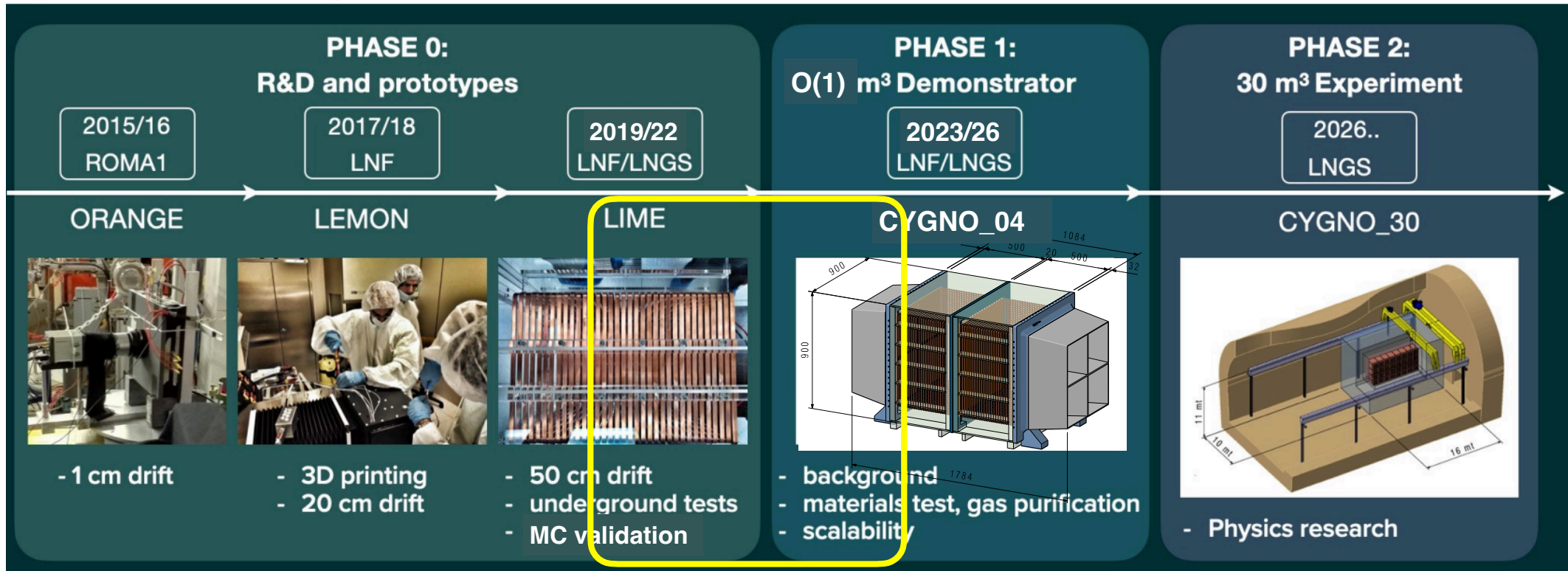
Requires capability to determine direction of O(keV) nuclear recoil



# CXGNO detectors & timeline

<https://web.infn.it/cygnus/>

F. D. Amaro et al [CYGNO Collaboration], Instruments, Volume 6, Issue 1



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This project has received fundings under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 657751 and from the European Research Council (ERC) grant agreement No 818744

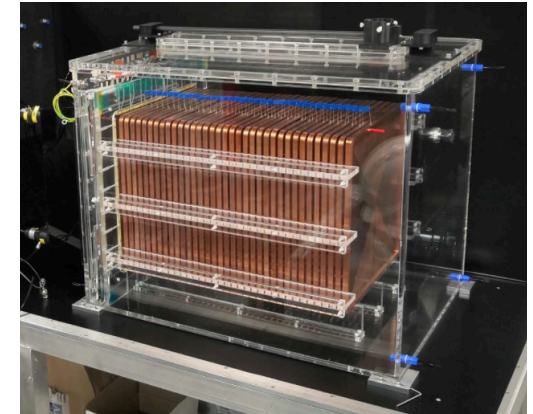
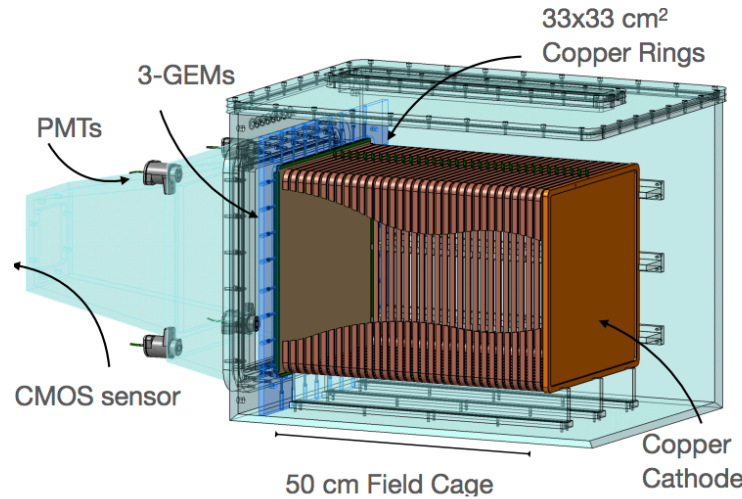
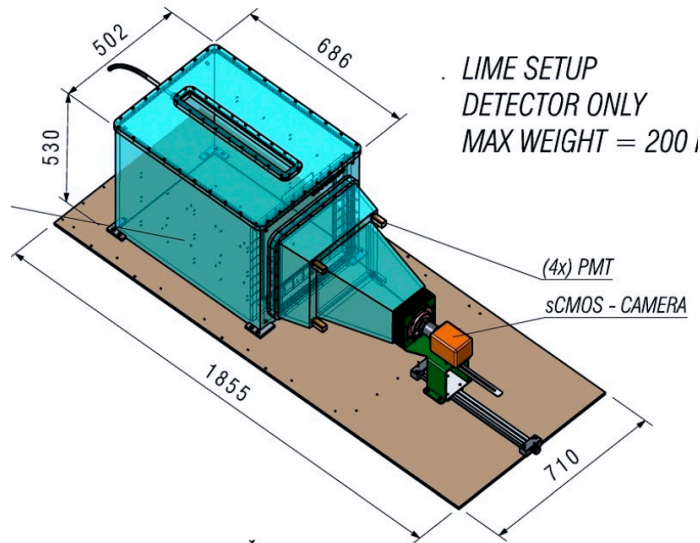
Xray CMOS: a wide field of view Xray polarimeter - ASAPP 2023 - Perugia - Elisabetta Baracchini



# LIME: Long Imaging Module



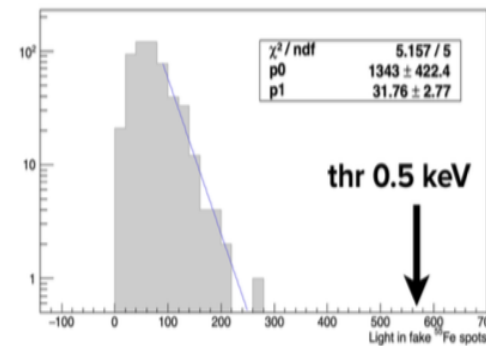
## 50 L active volume



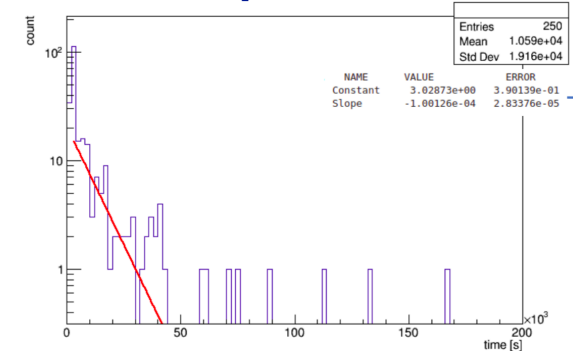
**1 sCMOS + 4 PMT + 3 GEMs**  
**33 x 33 cm<sup>2</sup> readout area**  
**50 cm drift length**

- **1.498 x 1.498 cm<sup>2</sup> sensor**
- **6.5 x 6.5  $\mu\text{m}^2$  pixels**
- **2304 x 2304 pixels**
- **Imaging 36 x 36 cm<sup>2</sup> area**
- **Effective pixel granularity 155 x 155  $\mu\text{m}^2$**
- **Sensor geometrical acceptance  $\Omega = 1.1 \times 10^{-4}$**

**1 keV = 1200 photons**



**< 2.7 spikes/hour**



**sCMOS fake cluster threshold < 0.5 keV<sub>ee</sub>**

**Stability**

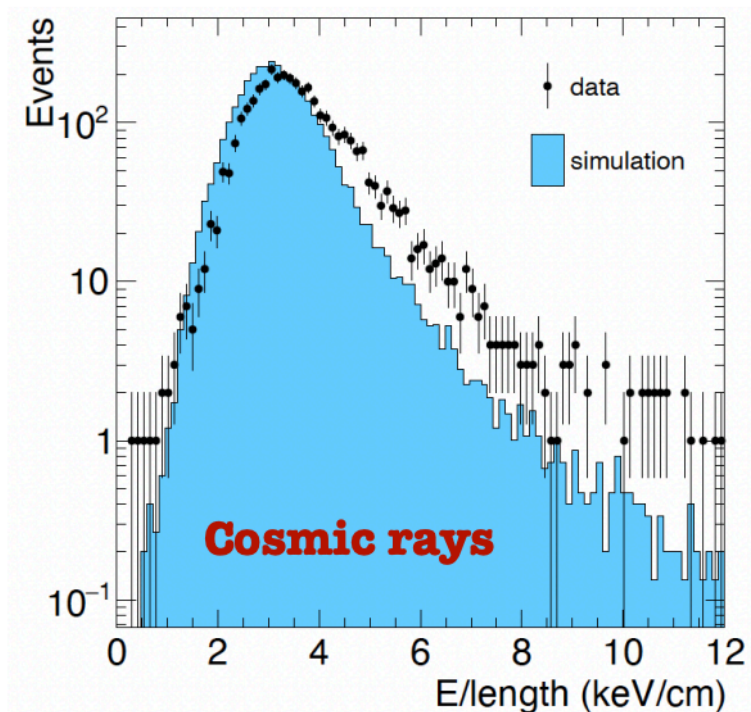
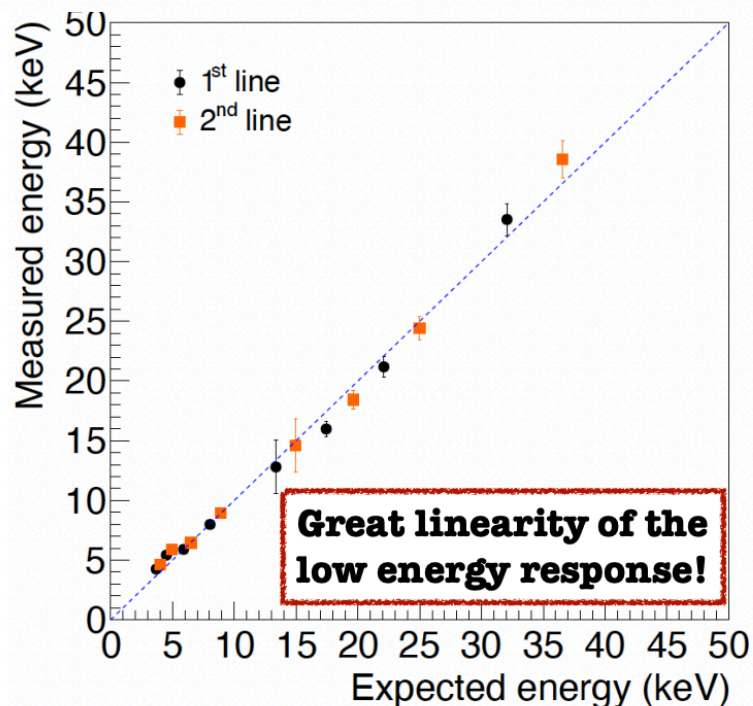
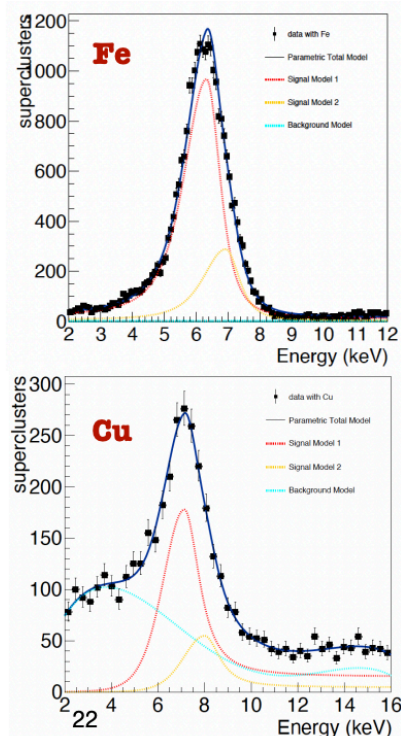
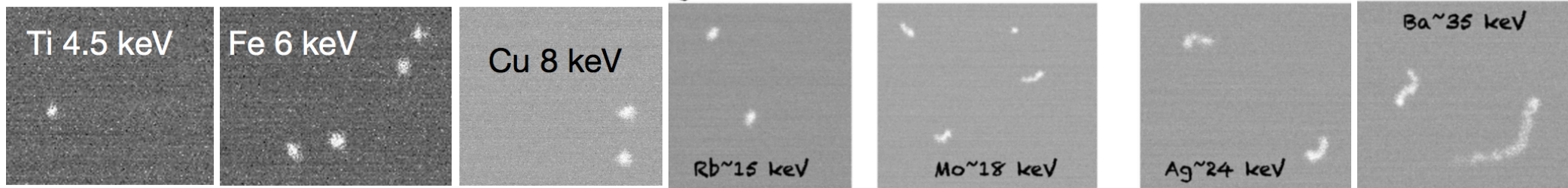




# LIME response to low energy Xrays (overground)

## Low energy electrons calibration

arXiv: 2305.06168



About 15% energy resolution ( $\sigma$ ) along the whole volume

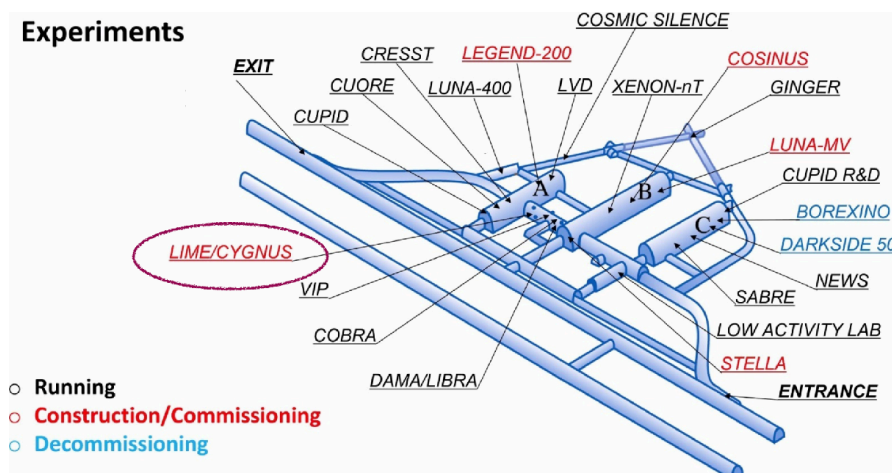




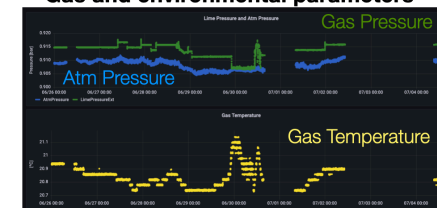
# LIME underground installation @ LNGS since May 2022



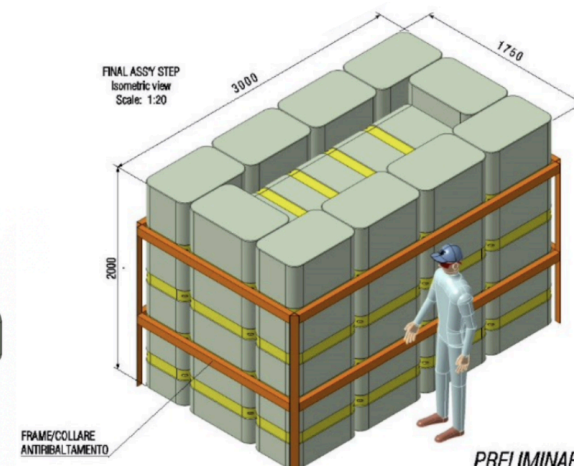
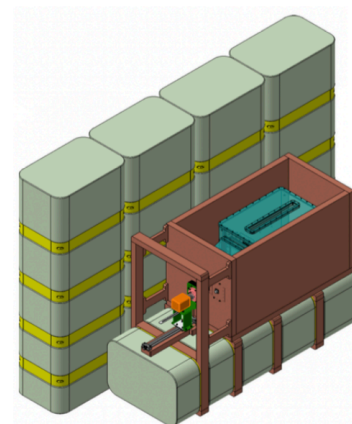
## Experiments



## Gas and environmental parameters



## Detector performance

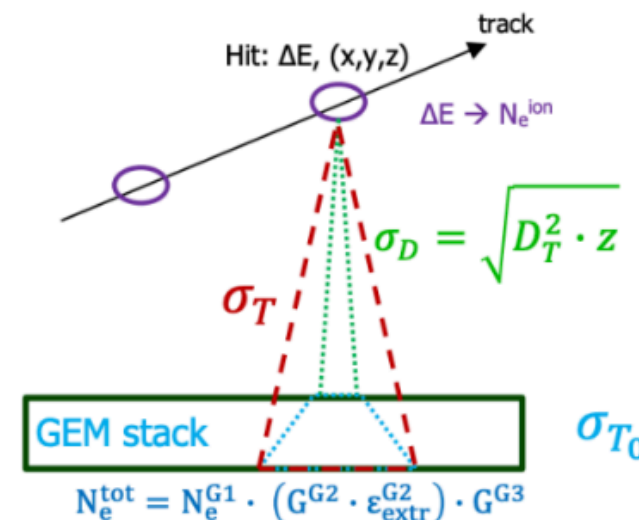


Increasing shielding configuration foreseen  
Data already acquired for no shielding & 4 Cu shielding

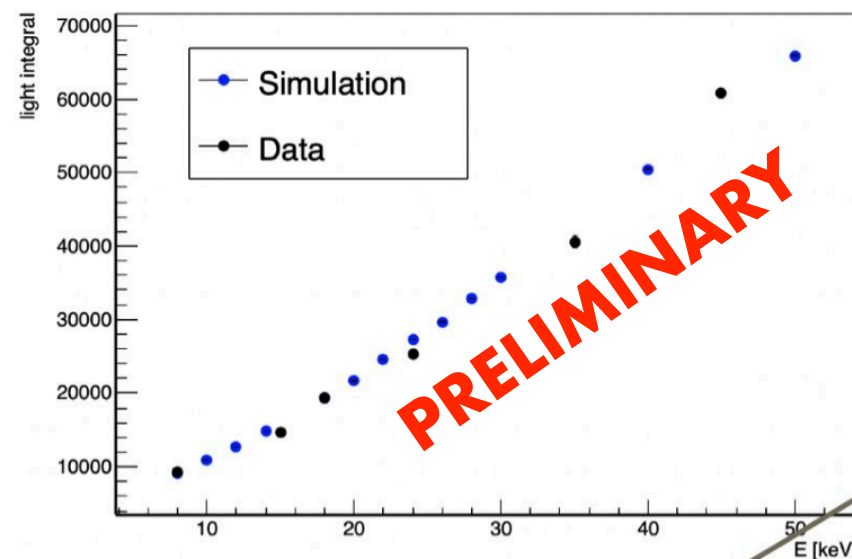


# LIME sCMOS images MC simulation

- Electron tracks generated with GEANT4
- # of primary ionisation electrons extracted from a Poisson distribution with mean  $N_e = \Delta E / W_i$  with  $W_i = 46.2$  eV/pair
- Primary ionisation electron diffused longitudinally and transversally along drift following Gaussian distribution with  $\sigma_T = \sqrt{\sigma_0^2 + D_T^2 z}$  with  $\sigma_0$  &  $D_T$  from measurements
- Electron **avalanche fluctuation** taken into account for the first GEM foil
  - For each ionisation electron  $k$ ,  $N_{e^{G1,k}}$  multiplication electron at first foil extracted from exponential distribution with mean =  $G_{GEM}$
  - Total # of multiplication electron from first foil  $N_{e^{G1}} = \sum_k N_{e^{G1,k}}$
  - $G_{GEM} = 123$  from IEEE, Vol. 65, No.1, Jan 2018
- Total electron gain  $N_e^{tot} = N_{e^{G1}} \cdot (G_{GEM})^2$
- Mean total number of photon  $N_{\gamma}^{tot}$  from Poisson distribution with mean  $N_{\gamma}^{mean} = 0.07$  γ/e
- Number of photon hitting the sensor  $N_{\gamma} = N_{\gamma}^{tot} \cdot \Omega$
- sCMOS sensor noise from real data



data/MC energy response comparison





# Low energy electron directionality on LIME simulated sCMOS images

## Original goal: feasibility of Solar neutrino measurement with elastic scattering on electrons in CYGNO

- Algorithm adapted from X-ray polarimetry:

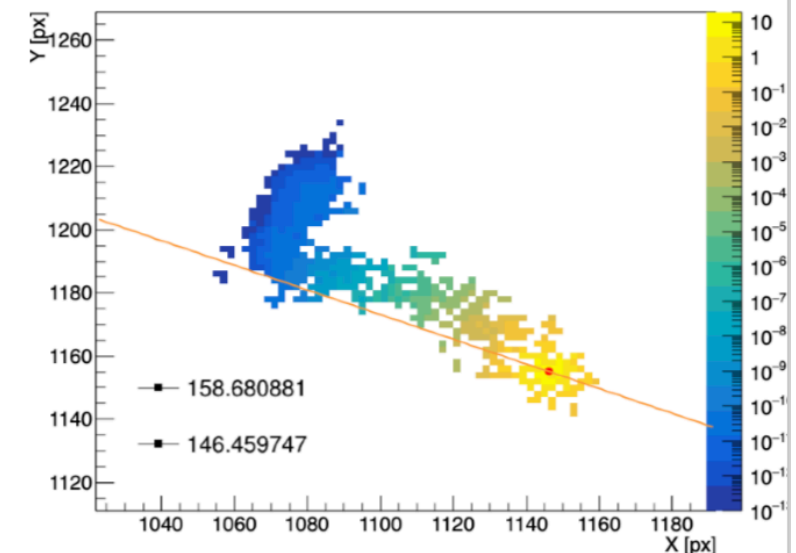
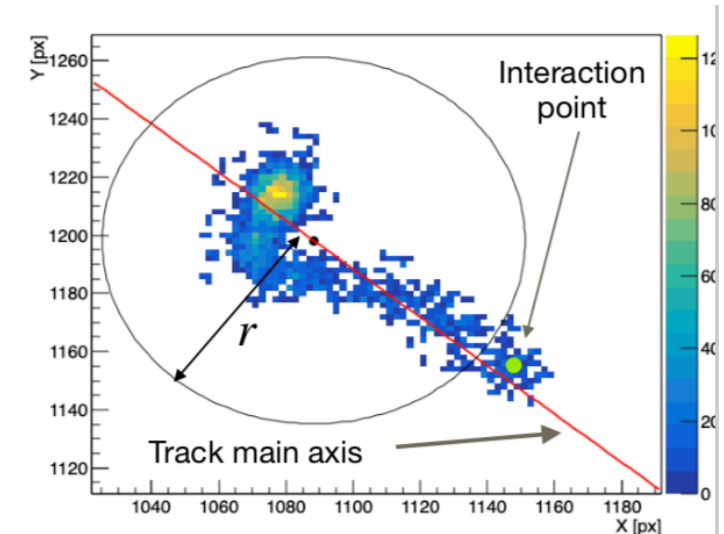
“Measurement of the position resolution of the Gas Pixel Detector”

Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A, Volume 700, 1 February 2013, Pages 99-105

- First part of the algorithm: search for the beginning of the track with:
  - Skewness
  - Distance of pixels from barycenter (farthest pixels)
- Second part of the algorithm aims to find the direction:
  - Track point intensity rescaled with the distance from the interaction point:  $W(d_{ip}) = \exp(-d_{ip}/w)$
  - Direction taken as the the main axis of the rescaled track passing from the interaction Point
  - Orientation given following the light in the Pixels

**Angular resolution evaluated as difference between real and reconstructed direction**

**Please note: for the moment, analysis developed only for sCMOS images, i.e. 2D  
PMT information can further improve results**

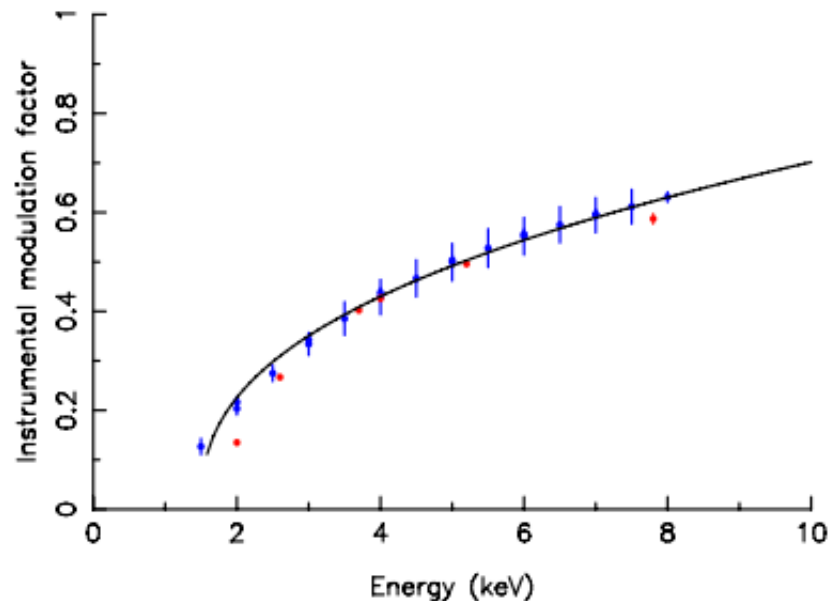




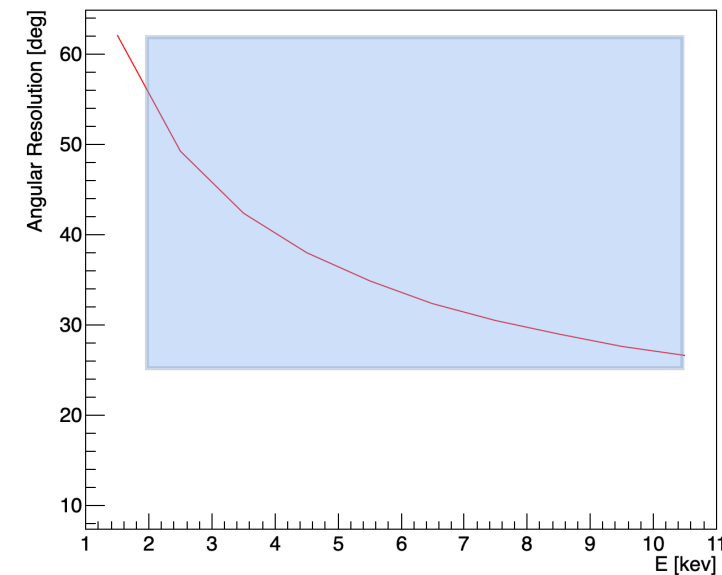
# How to compare angular resolution with modulation factor?

Practical Aspects of X-ray Imaging Polarimetry of Supernova Remnants and Other Extended Sources

J. Vink & P. Zhou, *Galaxies* 6 (2018) 2, 46



J. Vink & P. Zhou formula



● GDP modulation factor for 100% polarised source (not correcting for instrumental effect)  
Muleri et al., Nucl. Instrum. Methods Phys. Res. A 2010, 620, 285–293.

● Modulation factor from simulating with an angular resolution as in the formula:

IXPE GDP modulation factor correspond to an angular resolution between 54° and 26°

$$\Delta\alpha = 5^\circ + 35^\circ \sqrt{\frac{4\text{keV}}{E}}$$

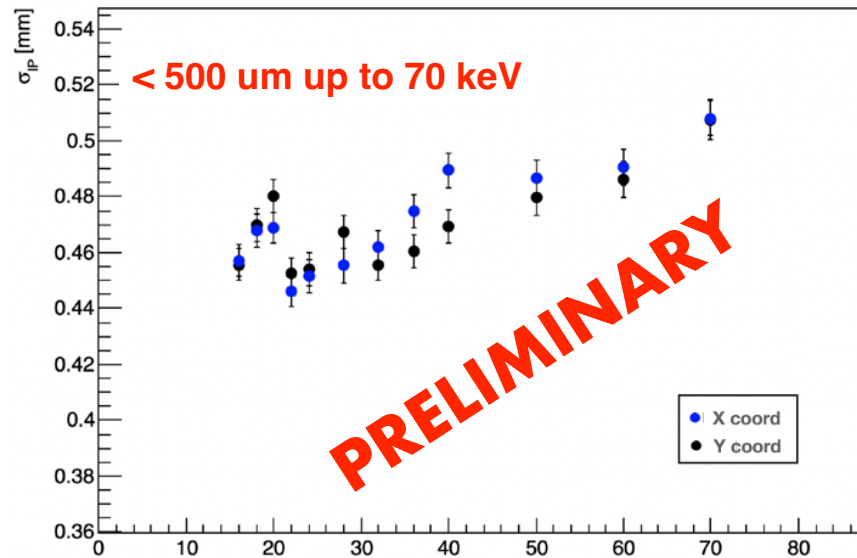
\*N.B. paper formula has typo, authors confirms this one



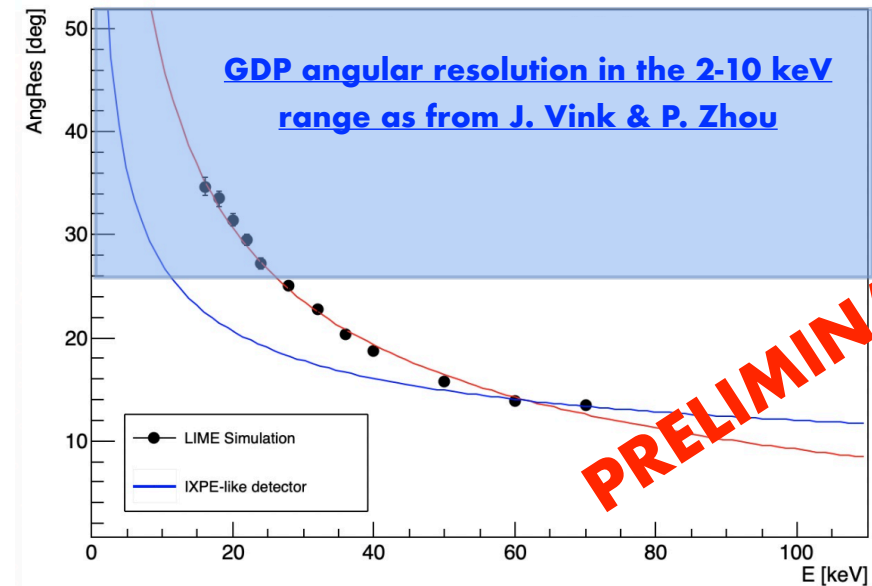
# Low energy electron directionality on LIME simulated sCMOS images

Tracks generated with random diffusion and random inclination w.r.t.  
amplification plane in the whole 50 L volume

Impact point resolution



Angular resolution



In addition, angular & impact point resolution independent from diffusion  
(i.e. good match of granularity vs drift distance for the gas of choice)

Same angular resolution than GDP > 10 keV, improved for > 30 keV

Expect similar modulation factor in 10-20 keV, improved for > 30 keV



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# **Developments towards x-ray polarimetry**



# From a LIME underground to a MANGO in space



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This project has been funded by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research through the project PRIN: Progetti di Ricerca di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale "HypeX: High Yield Polarimetry Experiment in X-rays" (Prot. 2020MZ884C)

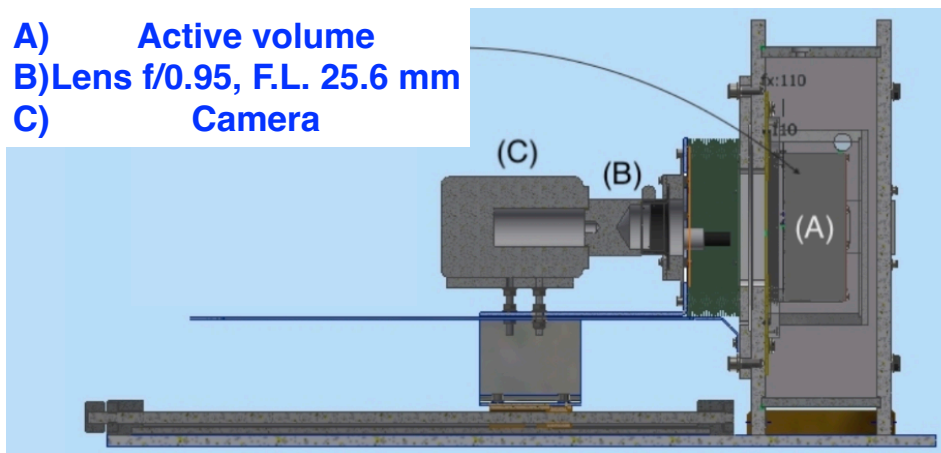


# Developments for X-ray polarimetry: the MANGO detector

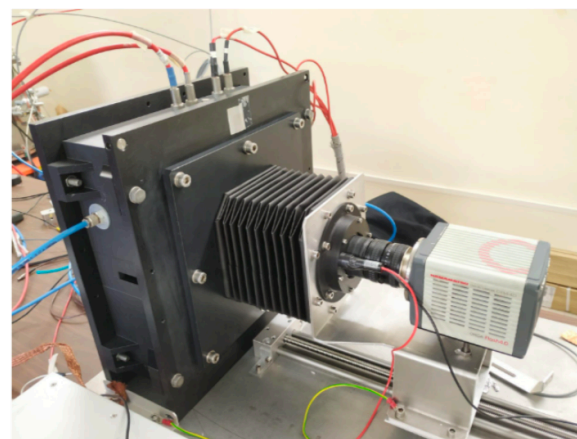
Goal: x-ray polarimeter with large field of view in the 20-60 keV energy band

## Schematics

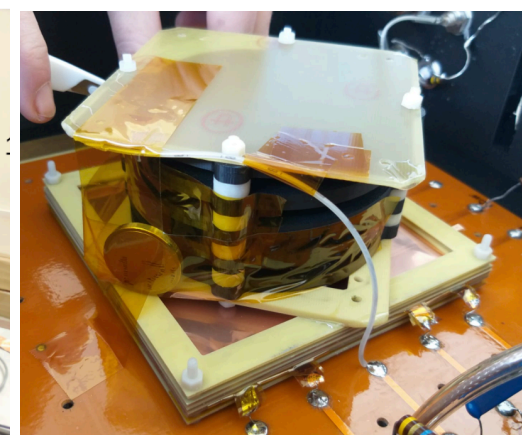
- A) Active volume  
B) Lens f/0.95, F.L. 25.6 mm  
C) Camera



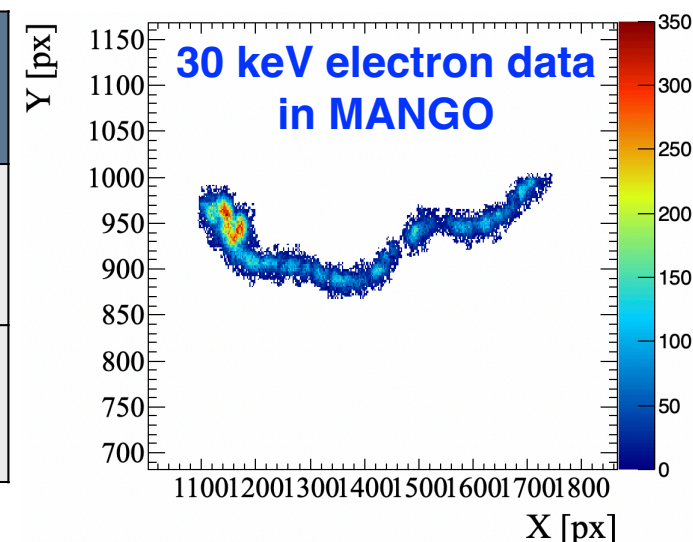
## External structure



## Internal field cage + GEMs



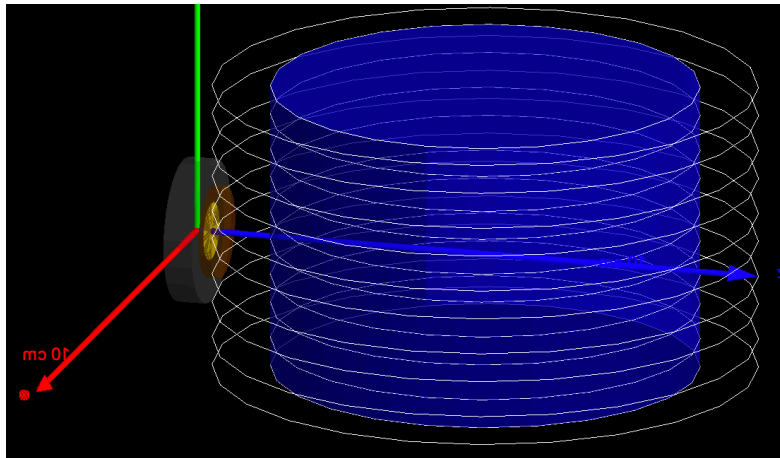
	readout area [cm <sup>2</sup> ]	drift length [cm]	active volume [L]	effective pixel size [μm <sup>2</sup> ]	sensor geometrical acceptance	notes
Used for the simulation	11.3 x 11.3	10	1.27	49 x 49	$1.1 \times 10^{-3}$	square geometry
Used in the data shown	10 x 10	5	0.22	61 x 61	$4 \times 10^{-4}$	cylindrical volume 3.75 cm internal radius



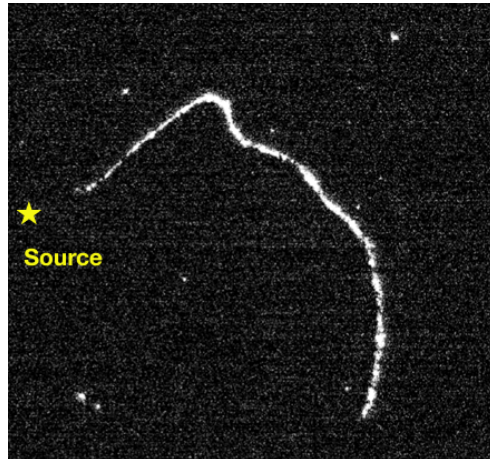


# MANGO setup at IAPS/INAF

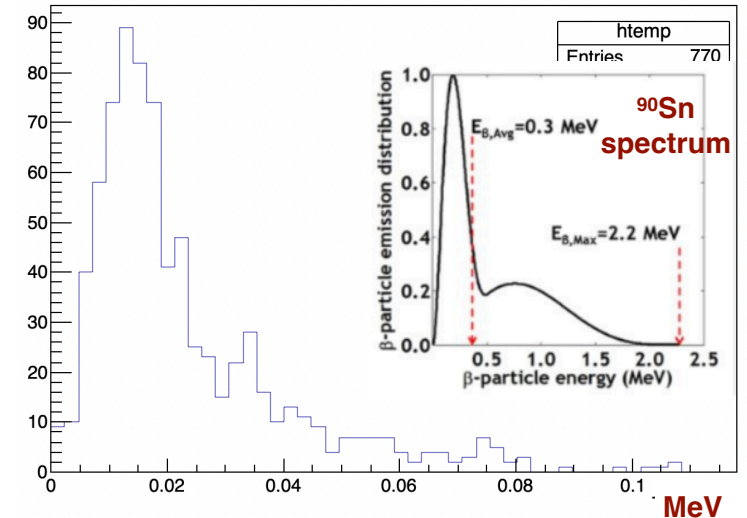
GEANT-4 simulation



MANGO data



Spectrum of contained tracks from simulation



👤 **N.B.: very first preliminary test to demonstrate feasibility of proposal, to be repeated in better optimised conditions**

👤  $^{90}\text{Sn}$  source positioned outside the field cage rings with 2 mm thick collimator with 2000  $\mu\text{m}$  hole

👤 Initial  $\pm 1 \text{ cm}$  of the track outside the sensitive volume

👤 Thin plexiglass window facing the camera had to be replaced at last minute with a thick 0.5 cm one

👤 Forced camera position to a larger distance from the GEM, reducing pixel granularity and solid angle w.r.t. proposal for polarimetry

👤 Thick window strongly affected light transparency, further reducing the light yield

👤 Forced operation above typical GEM voltages, resulting in saturation of the signal and uncertainty in the energy scale

👤 GEANT-4 simulation to evaluate efficiency of tracks **containment** and **intrinsic angular spread** of detected tracks

👤 About 20% of tracks fully contained

👤 About 20 degrees intrinsic angular spread

👤 Systematics from the uncertainties on the actual source position still to be evaluated

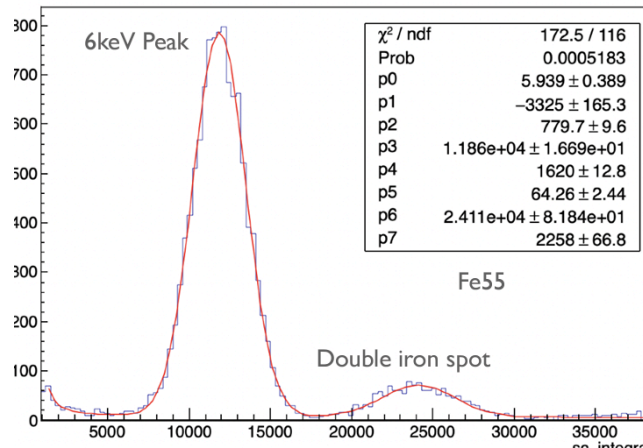
From S. Torelli PhD  
thesis work

# Energy calibration

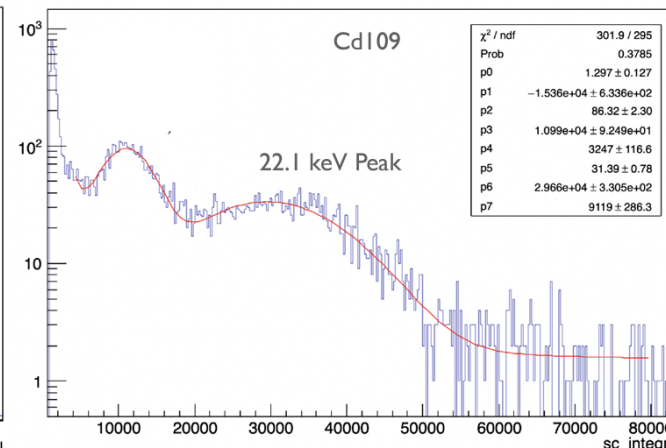
From S. Torelli PhD  
thesis workFrom S. Torelli PhD  
thesis work

- Preliminary spectra of monochromatic gamma sources for calibration purpose
- Fe55 and Cd109 used (very intense sources O(MBq) )

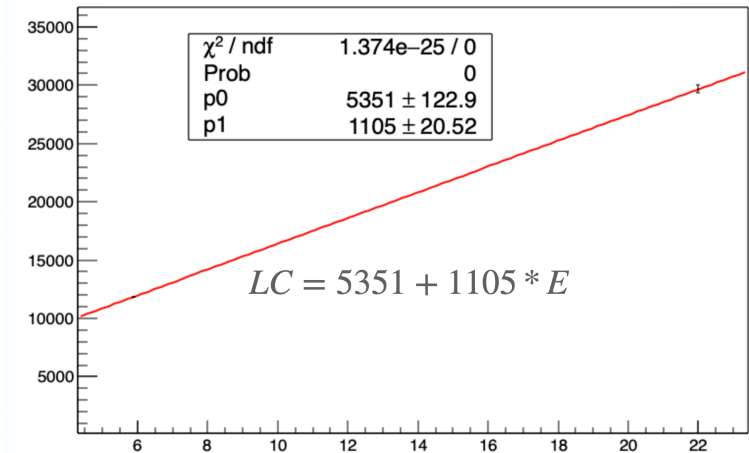
## <sup>55</sup>Fe spectrum



## <sup>109</sup>Cd spectrum



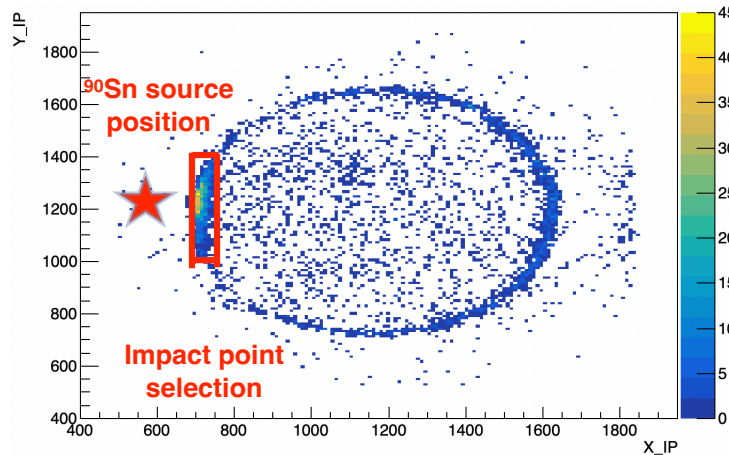
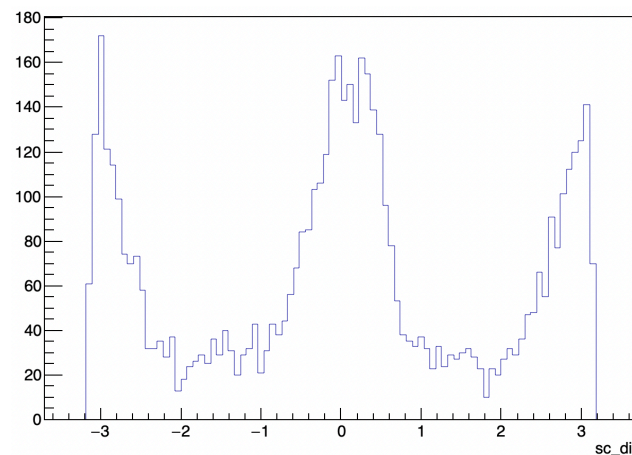
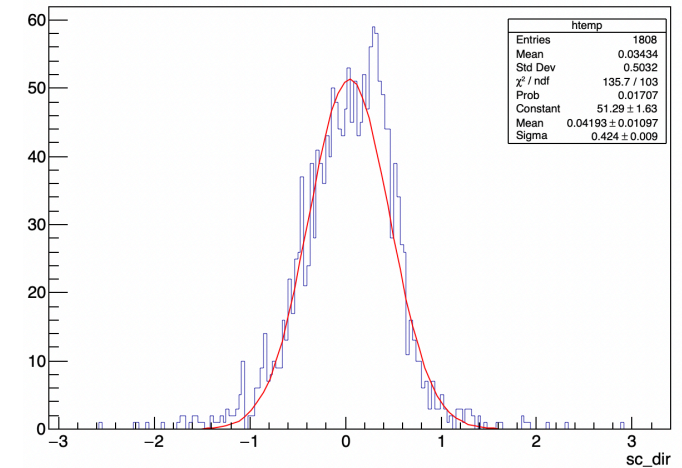
## Calibration curve



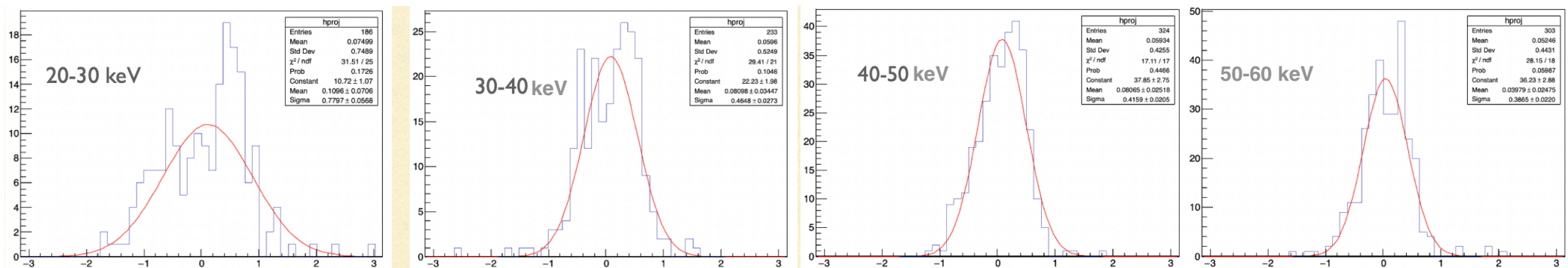
- 13% energy resolution @ 6 keV, while 30% energy resolution @ 22 keV
- Response of 2010 ph/keV from Fe55 and only 1350 ph/keV from Cd109

**clear sign of gain saturation as expected == large uncertainty in the energy scale above 22 keV**

# VERY preliminary results

Reconstructed impact  
point of all tracksReconstructed angle of all  
tracksReconstructed angle of  
tracks with selection on I.P.

Reconstructed angle of tracks with selection on I.P. at different measured energies

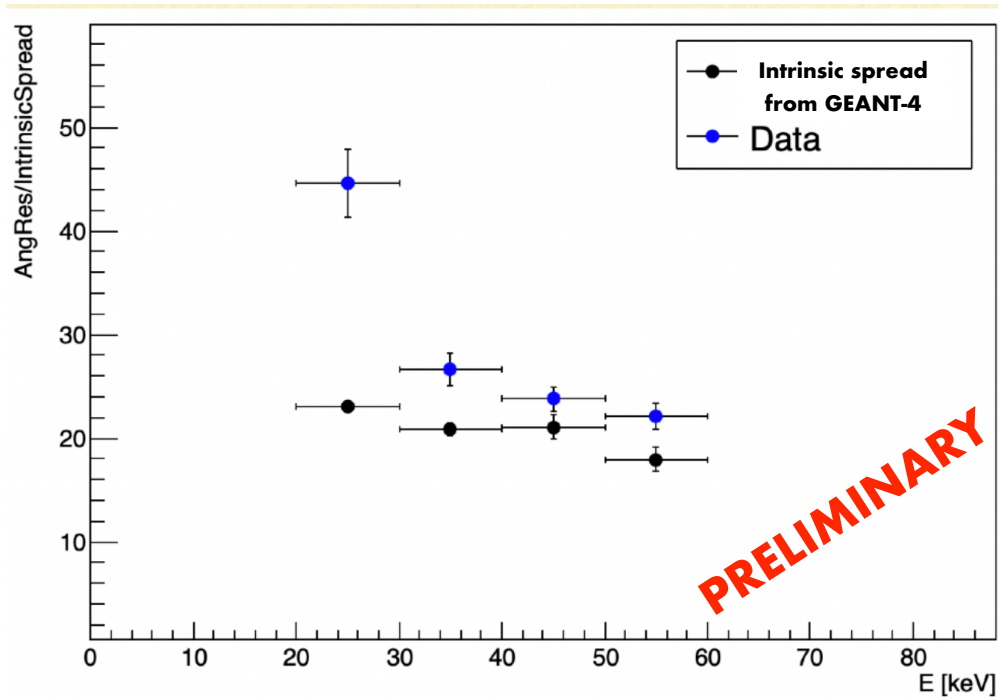


...keep in mind uncertainty on energy scale due to saturation

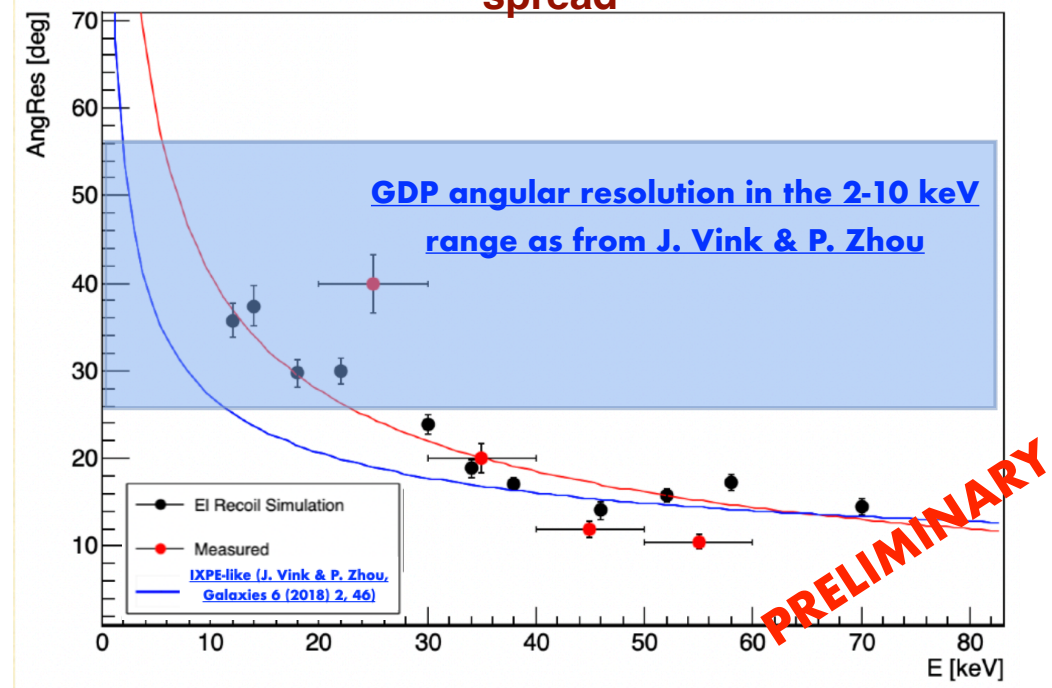


# VERY preliminary results

## Comparison of intrinsic angular spread from simulation with measured angular distribution



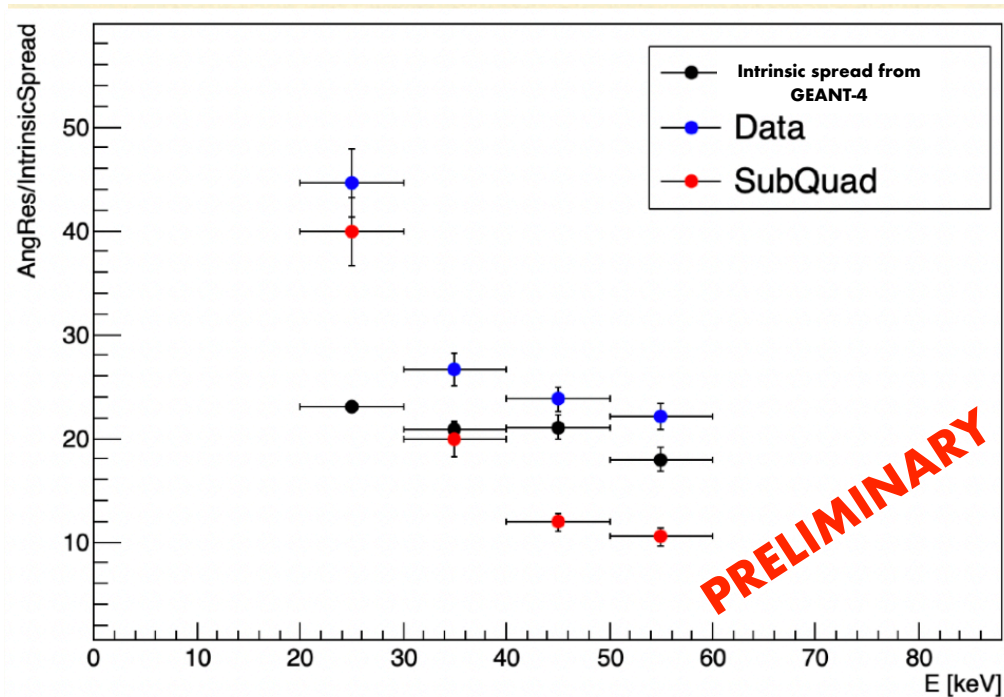
## Comparison of angular resolution from simulation with measured angular distribution after subtraction in quadrature of intrinsic angular spread



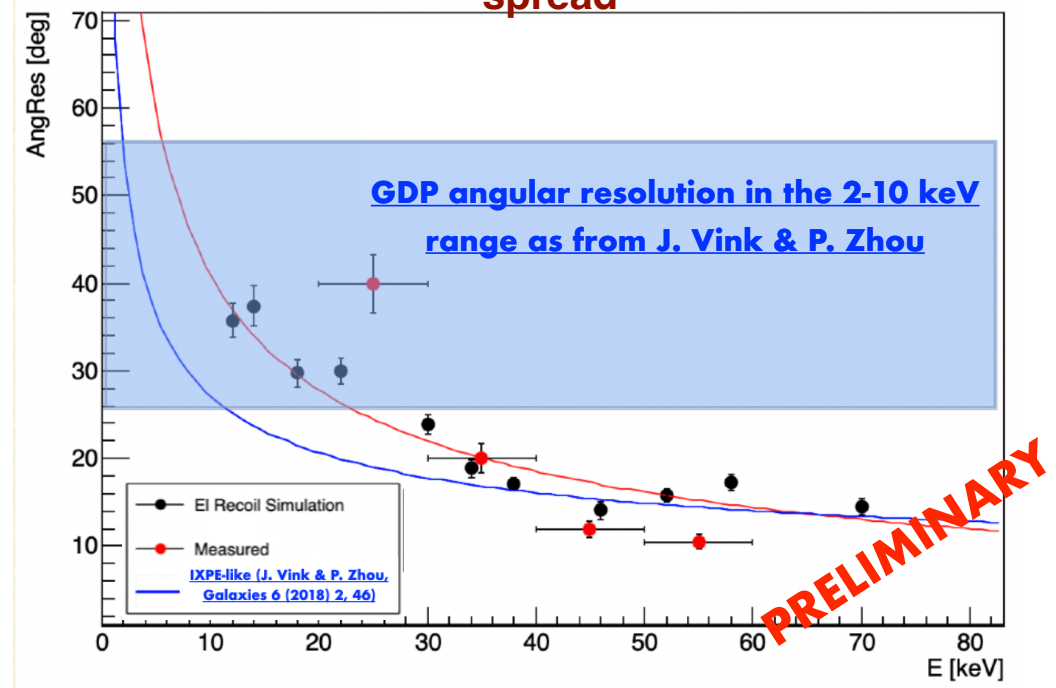
- Results affected by uncertainty in energy scale due to atypical mode of operation forced by technical reason, that will not happen in the future
- Possible additional collimation effect by field cage rings not yet taken into account
- Still, results and simulation > 5 keV close to (or even better than) GDP performances

# VERY preliminary results

## Comparison of intrinsic angular spread from simulation with measured angular distribution



## Comparison of angular resolution from simulation with measured angular distribution after subtraction in quadrature of intrinsic angular spread



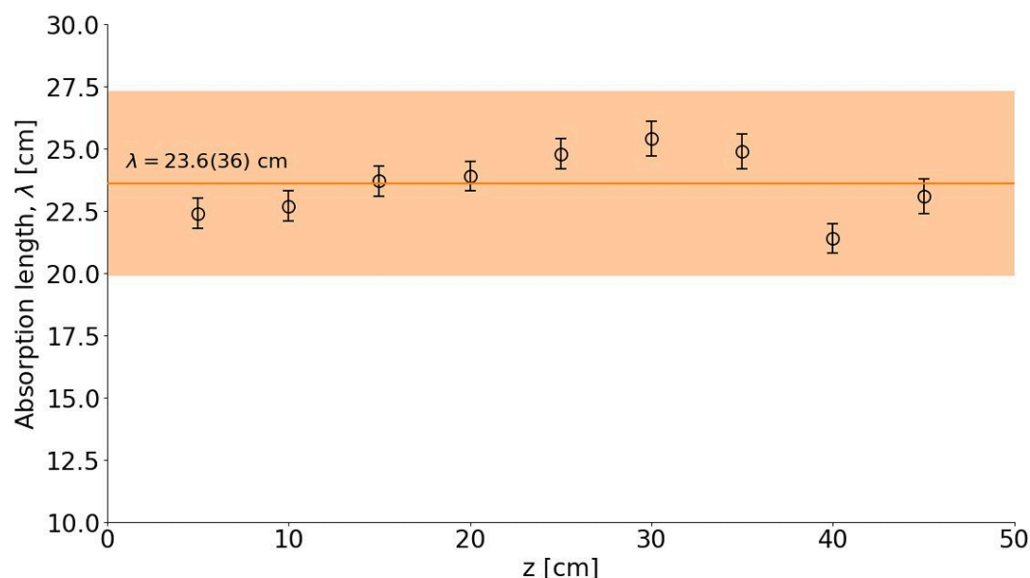
- Results affected by uncertainty in energy scale due to atypical mode of operation forced by technical reason, that will not happen in the future
- Possible additional collimation effect by field cage rings not yet taken into account
- Still, results and simulation > 5 keV close to (or even better than) GDP performances



# (rough) X-ray absorption efficiency

Absorption lenght from simulation	6 keV	8 keV	15 kev	18 keV	24 keV	30 keV	40 keV
X-ray absorption lenght [cm] in He:CF <sub>4</sub> 60:40 1 bar	20.9	50.1	337.8	565.7	1178.7	1398.2	1946.5
X-ray absorption lenght [cm] in Ar:CF <sub>4</sub> 80:20 1 bar	2.15	5.43	34.7	57.1	134.0	254.7	774.1
LIME (MANGO) efficiency with He:CF <sub>4</sub>	100 (48)%	60 (20)%	9 (3)%	5 (2)%	2.5 (0.8)%	2.1 (0.7)%	1.5 (0.5)%
LIME (MANGO) efficiency with Ar:CF <sub>4</sub>	100 (100)%	100 (100)%	88 (30)%	53 (18)%	22 (7)%	12 (4)%	4 (1)%

**For efficiency calculation, the smallest detector dimensions are assumed:**  
**—30 cm LIME**  
**—10 cm MANGO**



The average absorption length is 23.6(36) cm for <sup>55</sup>Fe x-rays in He-40%CF<sub>4</sub>

The absorption length does not seem to depend on z.

**LIME data confirm simulation**

# Conclusions & outlook

High precision TPC with optical readout with sCMOS camera appears promising technique not only for rare events searches, but also for X-ray polarimetry

Development and tailoring for X-ray polarimetry only recently started

Assuming validity of J. Vink & P. Zough formula relating angular resolution to modulation factor:

LIME simulation returns performances similar to GDP from 10 keV

MANGO simulation returns performances similar to GDP from 5 keV

Preliminary experimental tests with beta source and MANGO (in an orrible operating condition) are consistent with simulation

Beta source data acquired also with Ar:CF<sub>4</sub> 80:20, data still to be analysed

Foreseen absorption efficiency (from simulation verified at 5.9 keV with data):

10% at 15 keV with LIME (3% with MANGO) with He:CF<sub>4</sub>

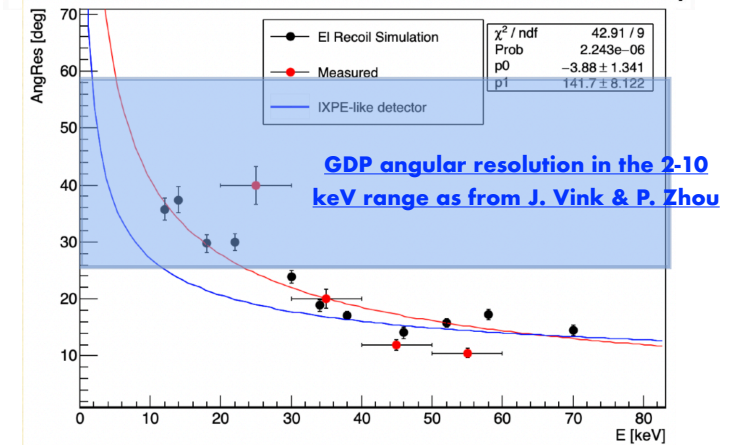
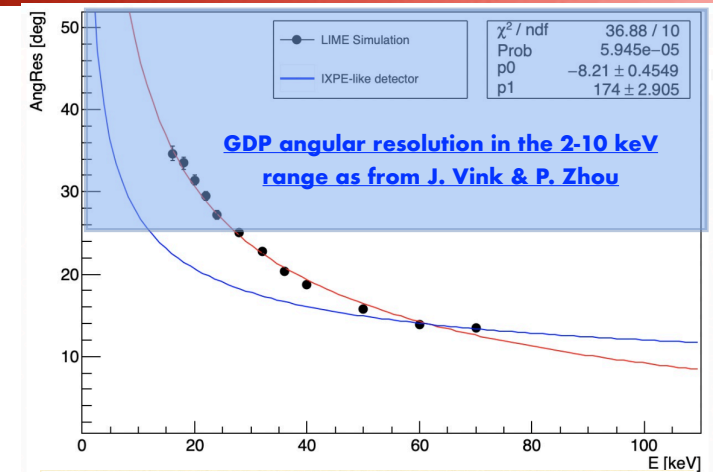
12% at 30 keV with LIME (4% with MANGO) with Ar:CF<sub>4</sub>

Project just started, large room for optimisation of:

Detector geometry

Amplification stage (thin/thick GEMs, Micromegas, MMThickGEM...)

Gas mixture/pressure



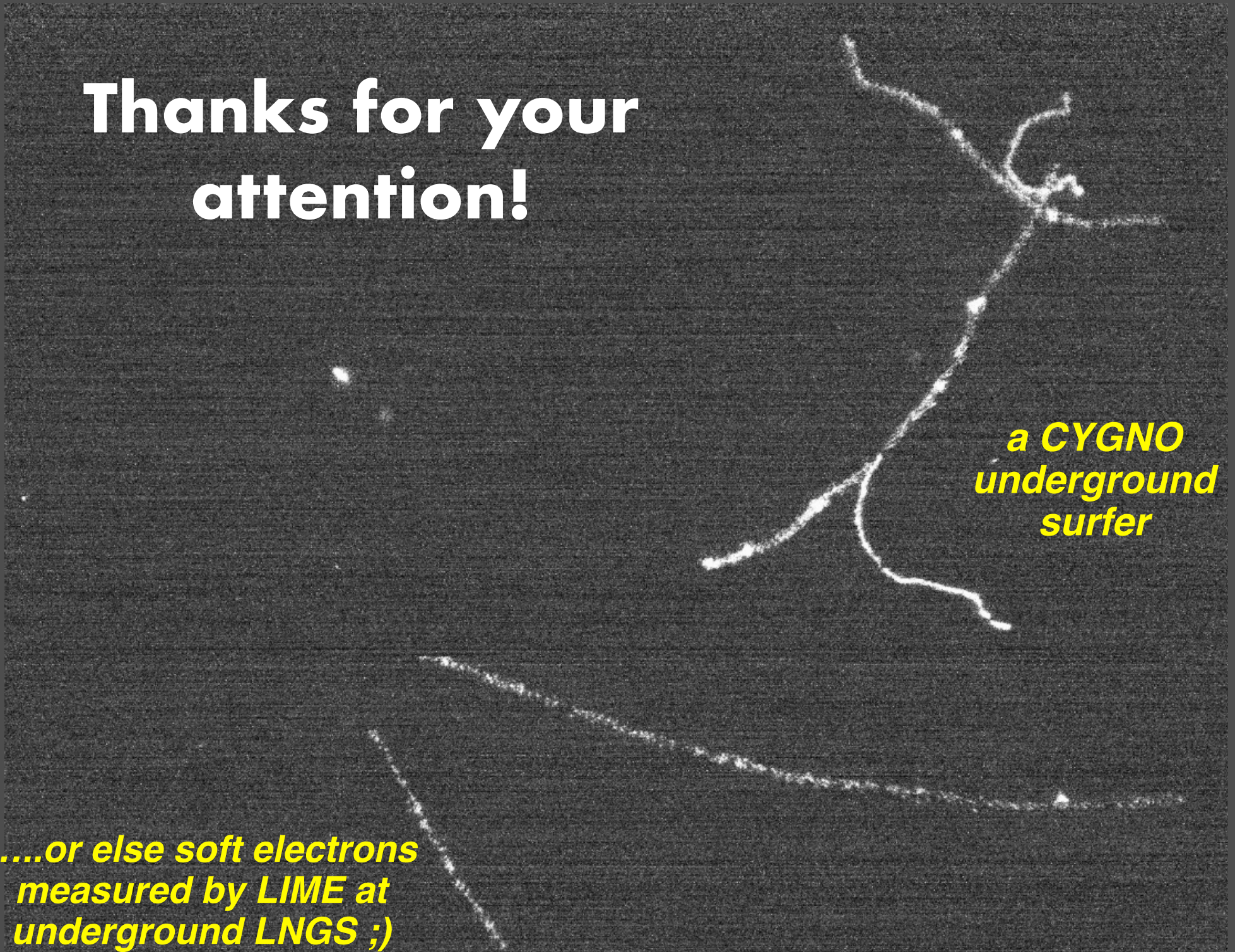
	6 keV	15 keV	24 keV	30 keV
MANGO eff He:CF <sub>4</sub>	48%	3%	0.8%	0.7%
LIME eff He:CF <sub>4</sub>	100%	9%	2.5%	2.1%
MANGO eff Ar:CF <sub>4</sub>	100%	30%	7%	4%
LIME eff He:CF <sub>4</sub>	100%	88%	22%	12%



# Thanks for your attention!

*a CYGNO  
underground  
surfer*

*.....or else soft electrons  
measured by LIME at  
underground LNGS ;)*



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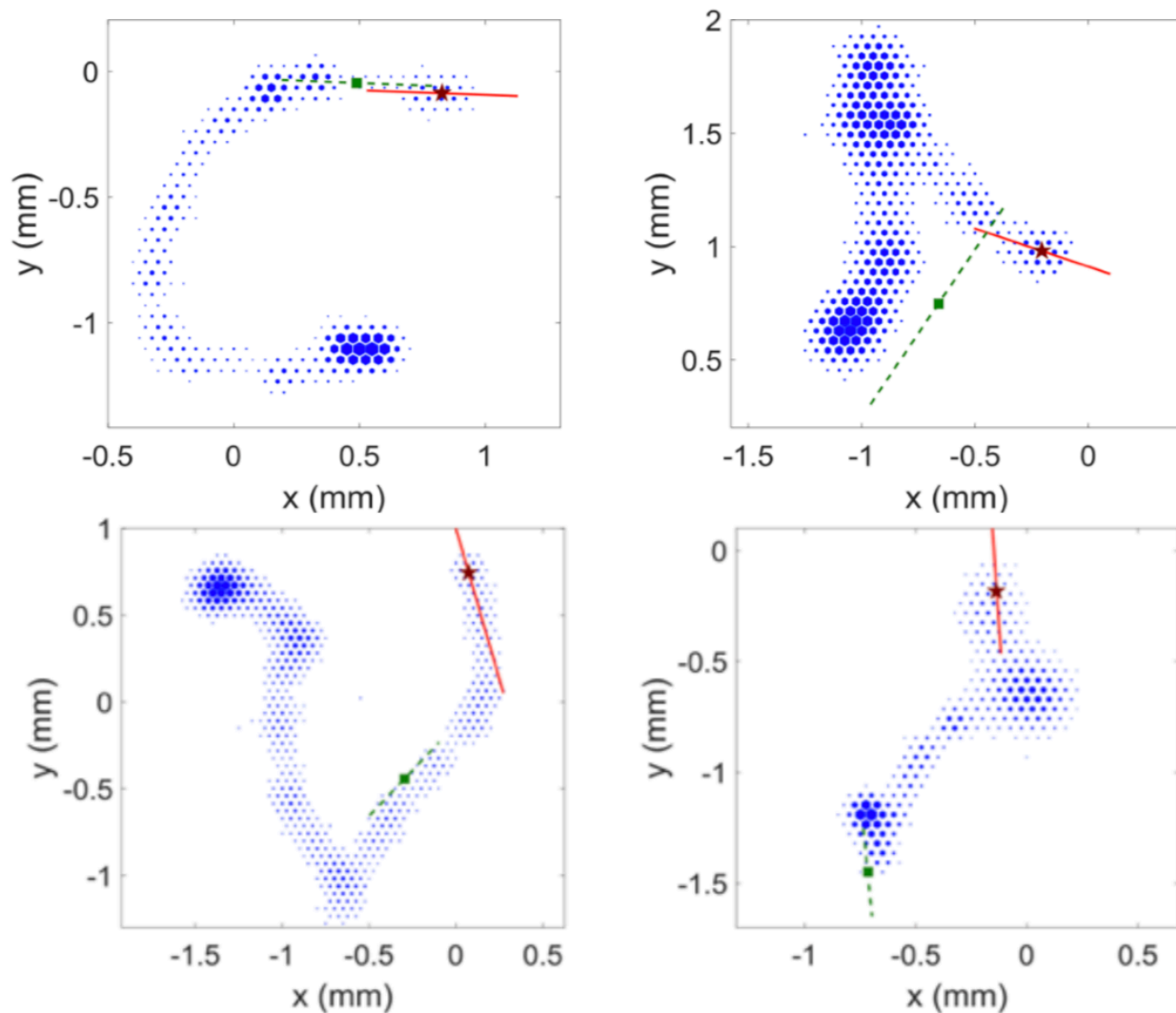
# Backup slides





# When & why algorithm fails

★ Real interaction point  
■ Calculated interaction point



+ when track is  
perpendicular to the  
amplification plane

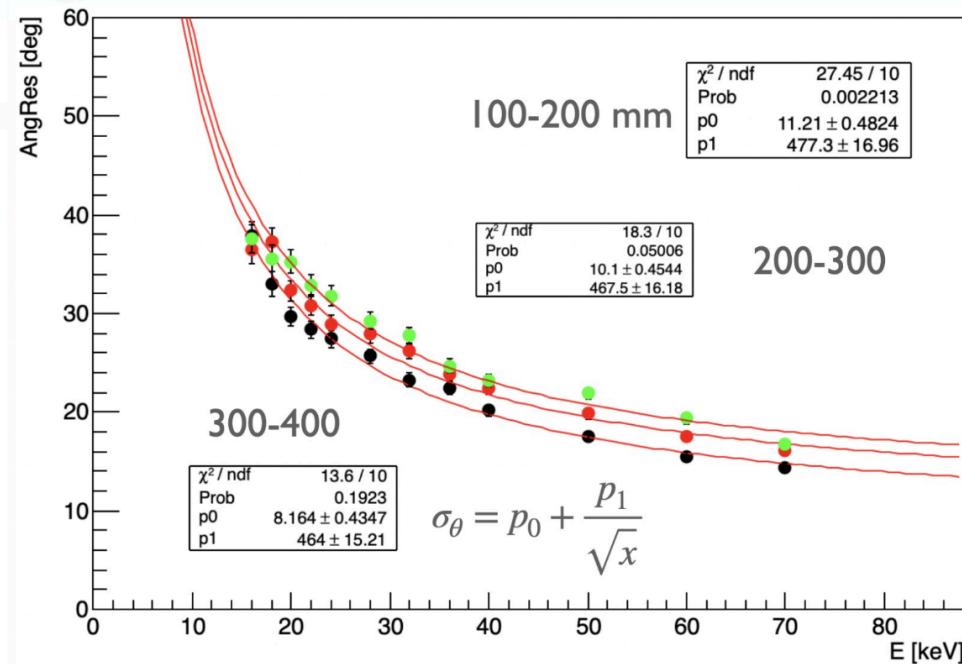
Performances to  
improve when PMT  
information is added

From S. Torelli PhD thesis work



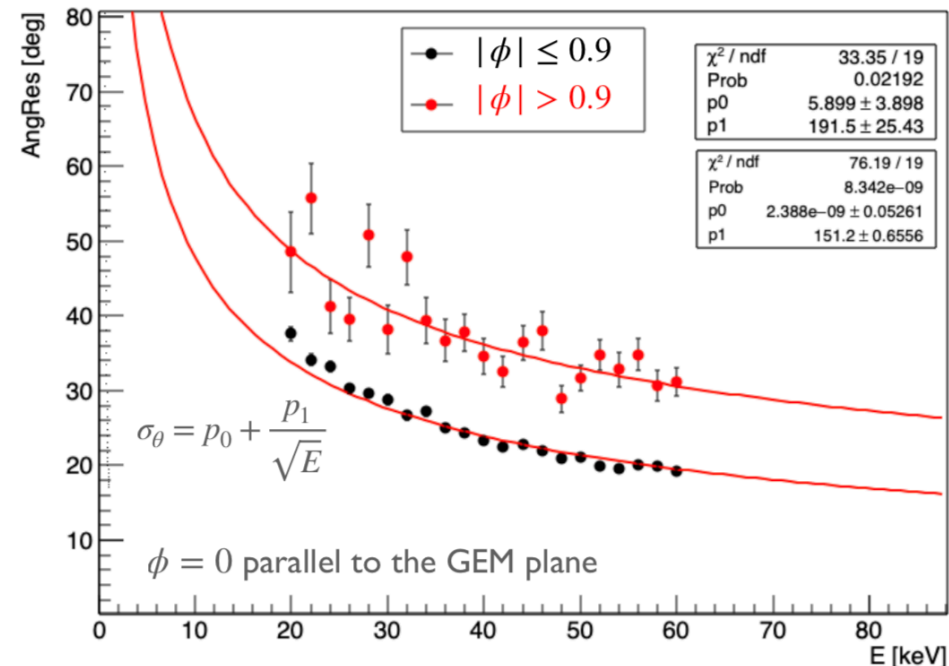
# LIME angular resolution dependences

As a function of diffusion



10-20 cm diffusion  
20-30 cm diffusion  
30-40 cm diffusion

As a function of inclination  
w.r.t. amplification plane

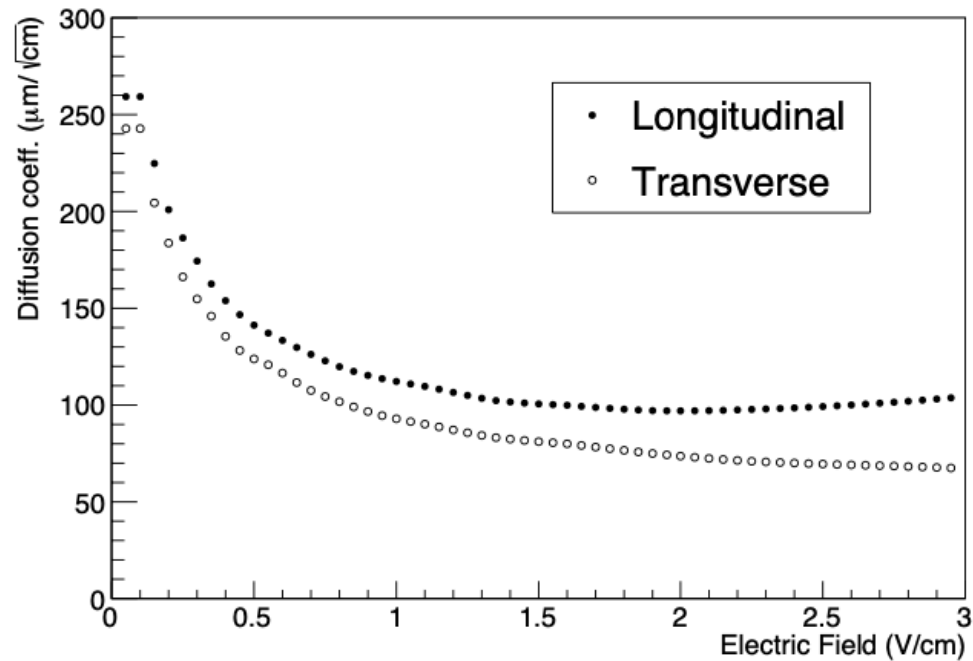


phi < 0.9  
phi > 0.9

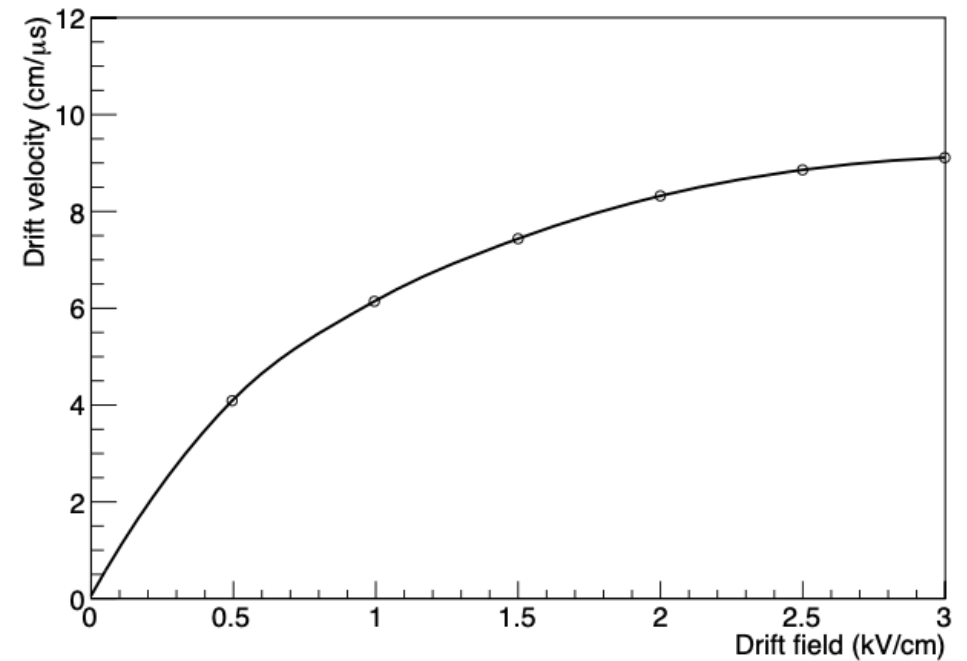
Angular & impact point resolution independent from diffusion  
(i.e. good match of granularity vs drift distance for the gas of choice)

# He:CF<sub>4</sub> properties

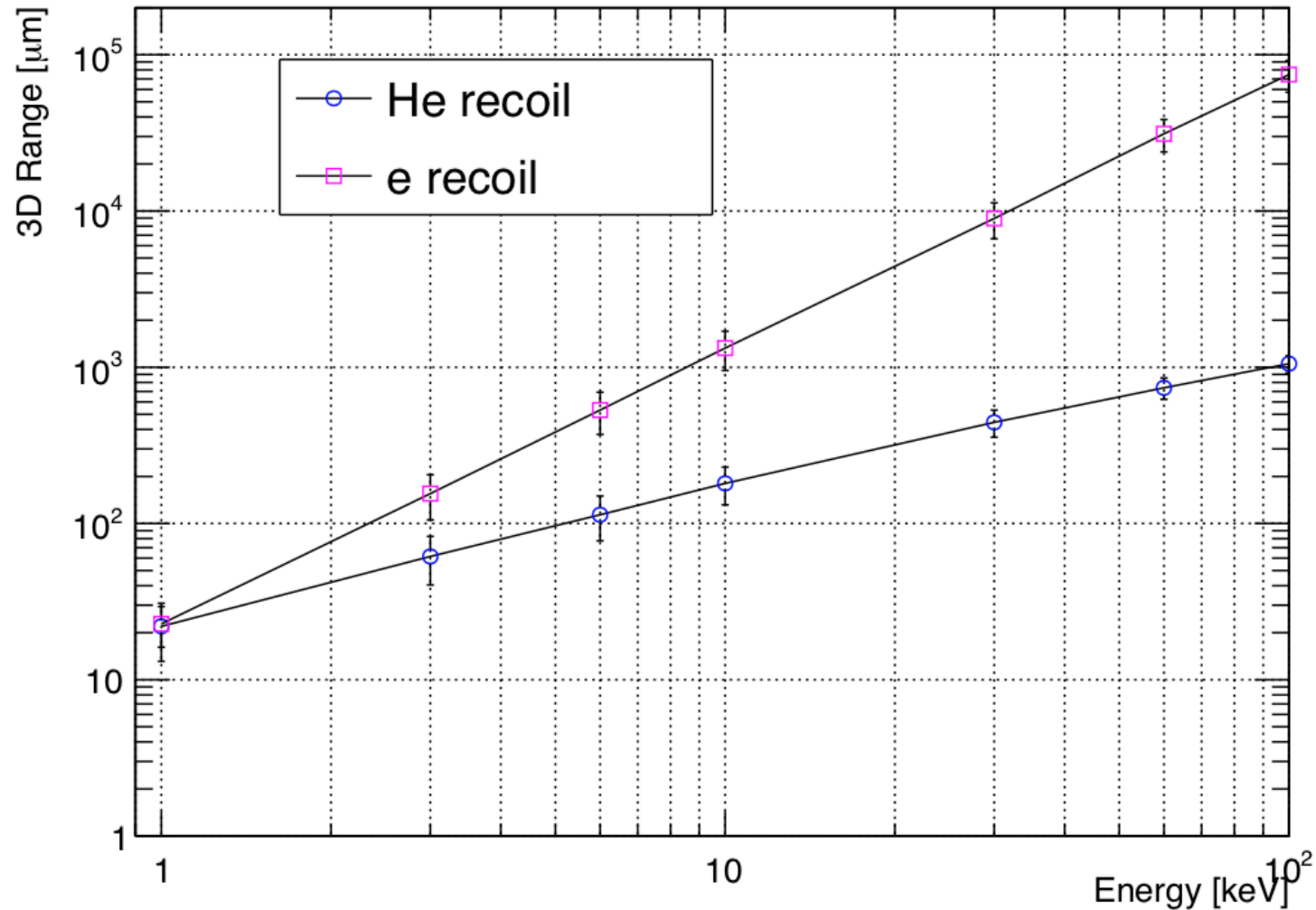
Diffusion during drift



Drift velocity



# Range in He:CF<sub>4</sub> 60:40 @ 1 bar

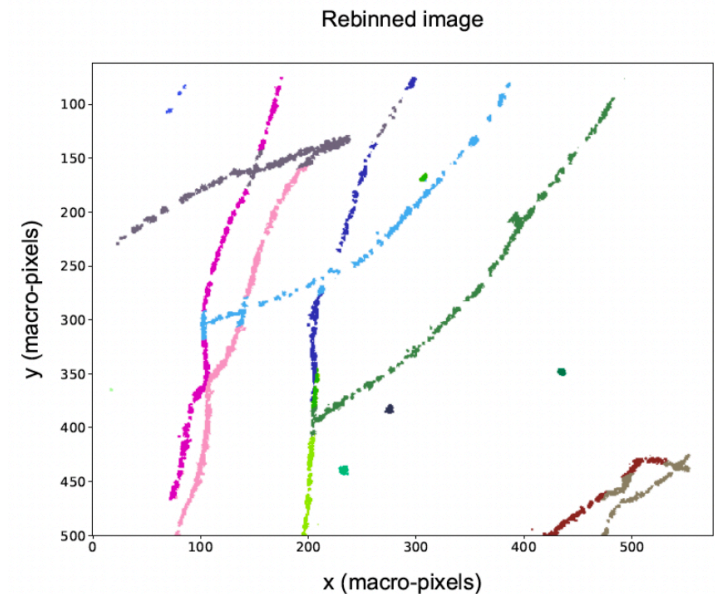
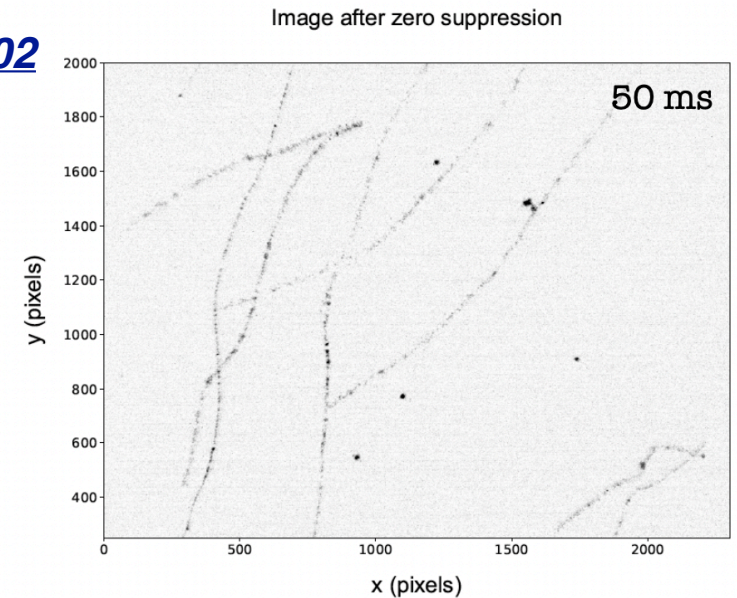




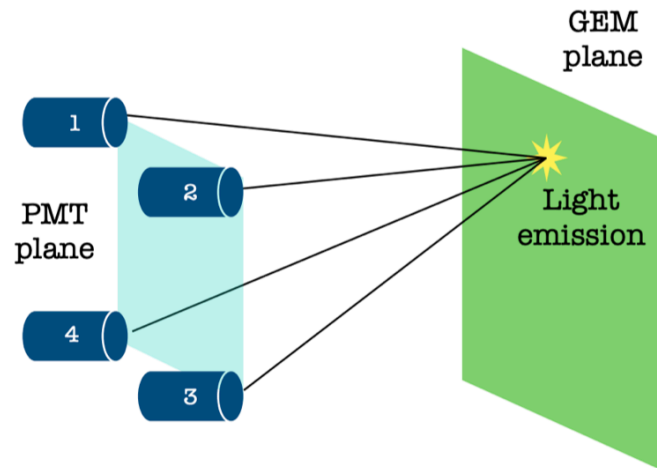
# sCMOS pictures reconstruction

*JINST 15 (2020) 12, T12003    Measur.Sci.Tech. 32 (2021) 2, 025902*

- **Reconstruction** algorithm: **clustering** + **computation of observables** (energy, length, width, etc.)
- **4 steps for clustering:**
  1. zero suppression
  2. optical corrections
  3. super-clustering for long tracks
    - ➡ generalization of RANSAC algorithm
    - ➡ needed to deal with overlapping tracks
  4. additional clustering step for small deposits
    - ➡ based on iDBSCAN algorithm

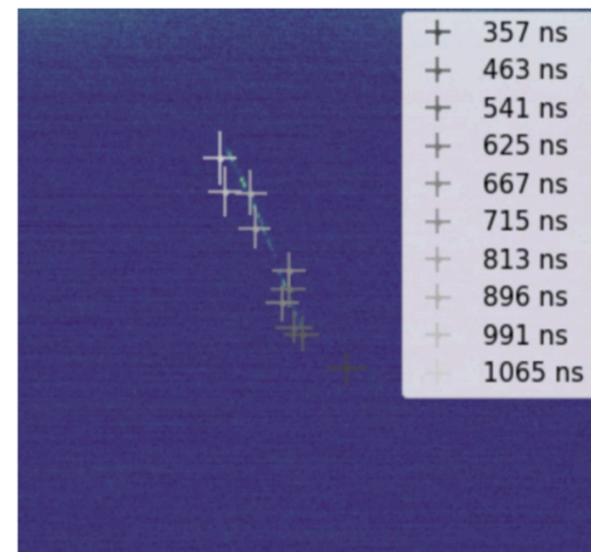
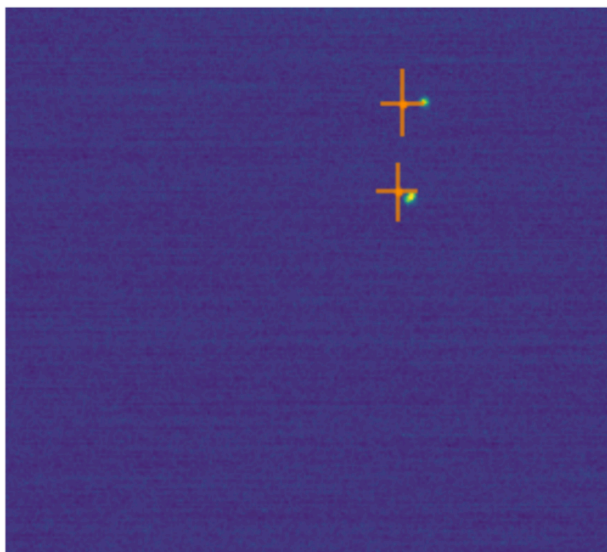
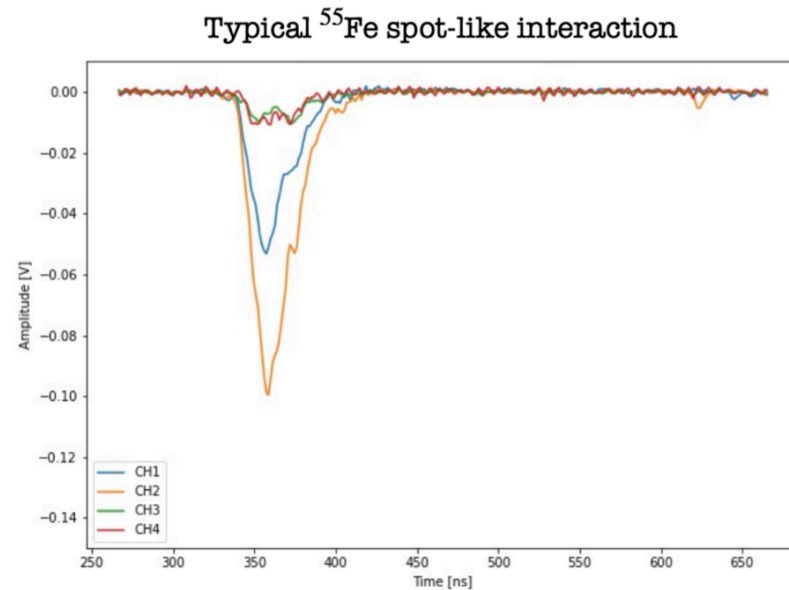


# Preliminary results from PMT reconstruction



- In principle possible to **associate** single **waveforms** to single **tracks** in the pictures!

34

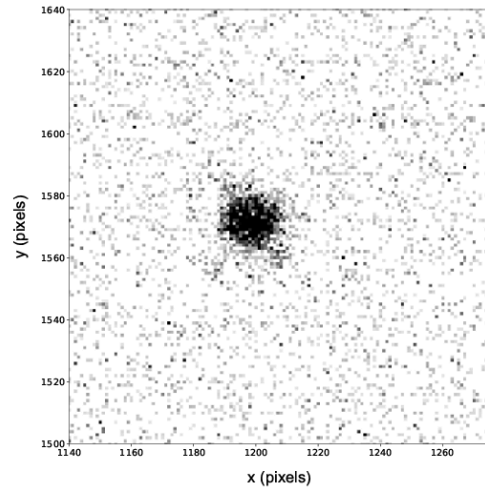




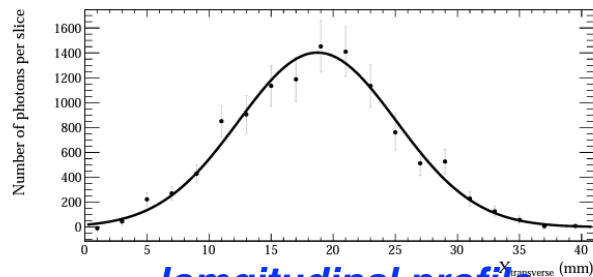
# LIME absolute Z coordinate @ 5.9 keV<sub>ee</sub> from fit to diffusion

## Iron spot

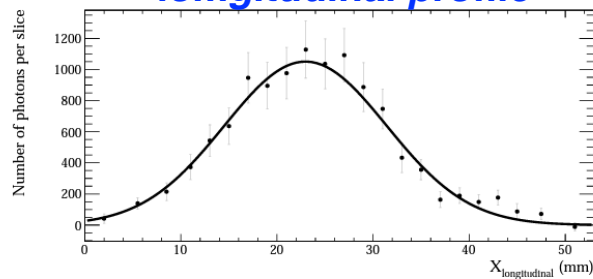
Image after zero suppression



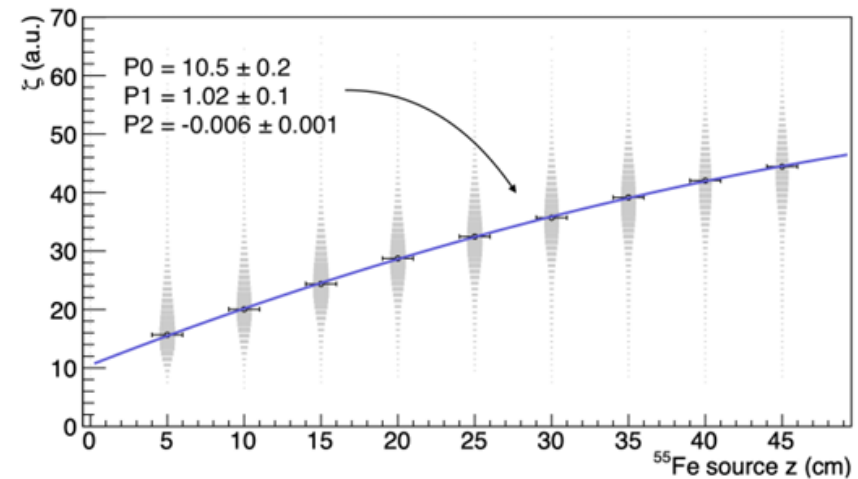
## transverse profile



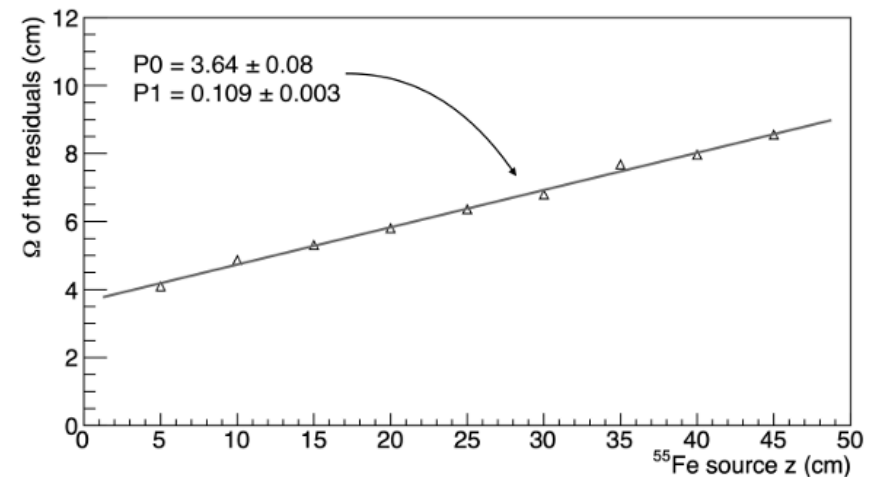
## longitudinal profile



$\zeta$  = sigma of transverse profile x  
RMS of # pixels inside the spot



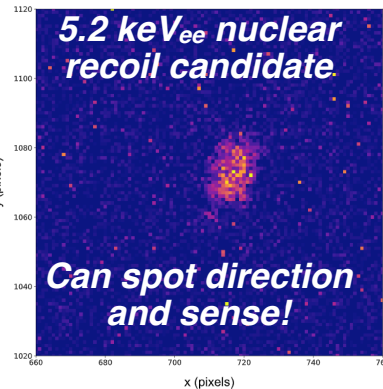
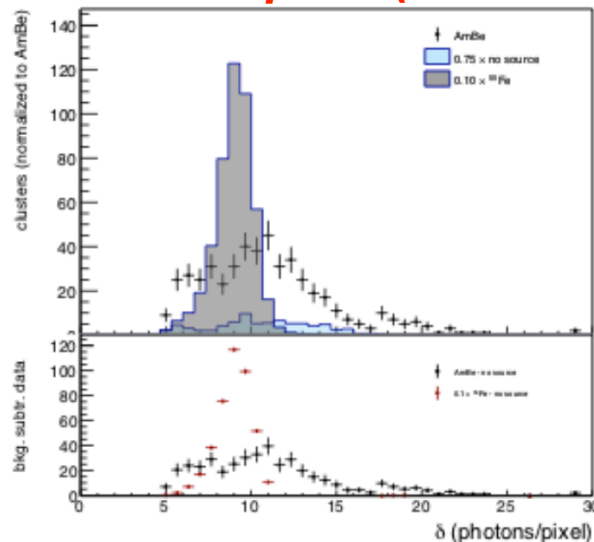
## $\zeta$ residuals



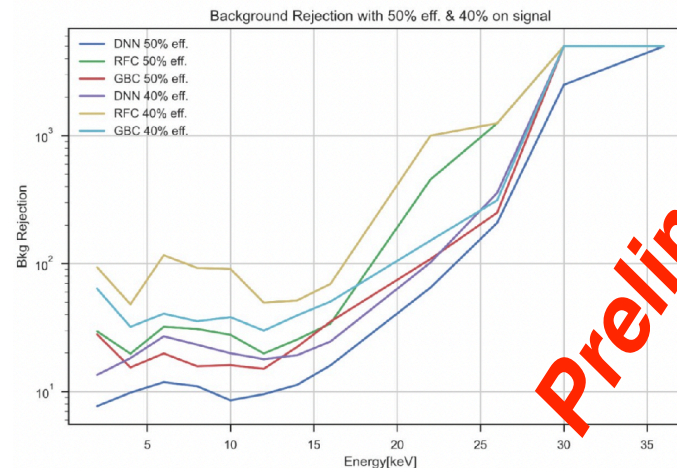


# Particle identification

**#counts/pixel (i.e dE/dx)**



**On going work on ML techniques**



**Preliminary**

**A. Prajapati PhD Thesis**

**40% nuclear recoil efficiency for energies < 20 keV<sub>ee</sub>, with 99% <sup>55</sup>Fe events rejected**

Signal efficiency			Background efficiency		
$\epsilon_S^{presel}$	$\epsilon_S^\delta$	$\epsilon_S^{total}$	$\epsilon_B^{presel}$	$\epsilon_B^\delta$	$\epsilon_B^{total}$
0.98	0.51	0.50	0.70	0.050	0.035
0.98	0.41	0.40	0.70	0.012	0.008

**Reconstruction based on custom multiple iteration of IDBSCAN + morphological geodesic active contours (GAC)**

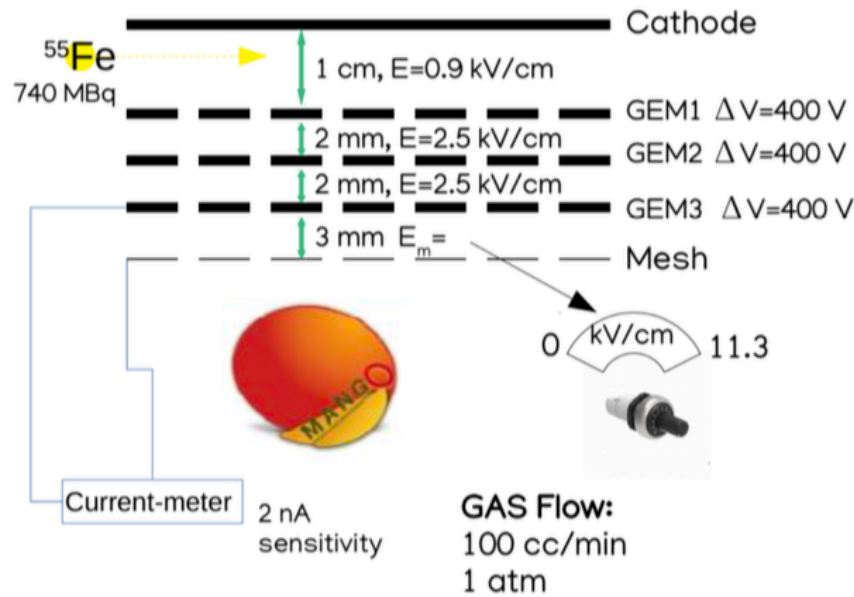
Measur.Sci.Tech. 32 (2021) 2, 025902

Models	Signal Efficiency [ $\epsilon^S$ ]%	Bkg. Rej. Efficiency [ $1-\epsilon^B$ ]%
RFC	40	99.1
	50	97.5
GBC	40	98.3
	50	96.5
DNN	40	96.6
	50	93.5

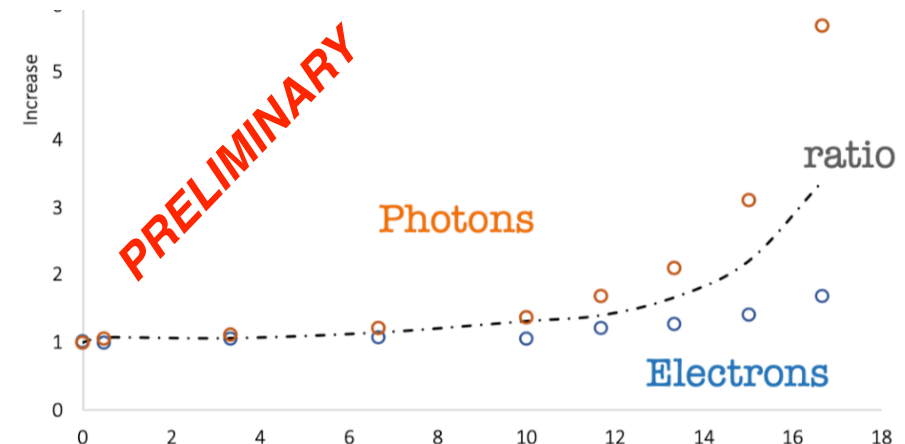
**For the full 1-35 keV energy range**



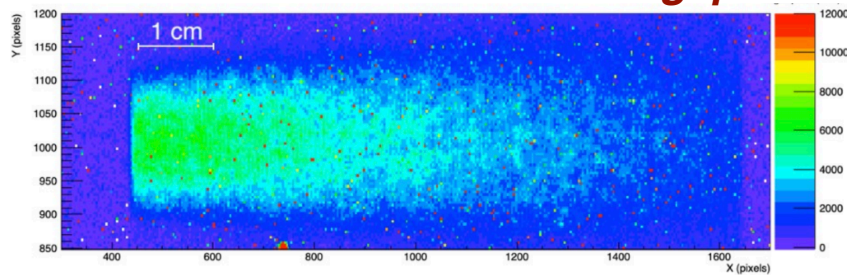
# Enhancing the light yield through electroluminescence



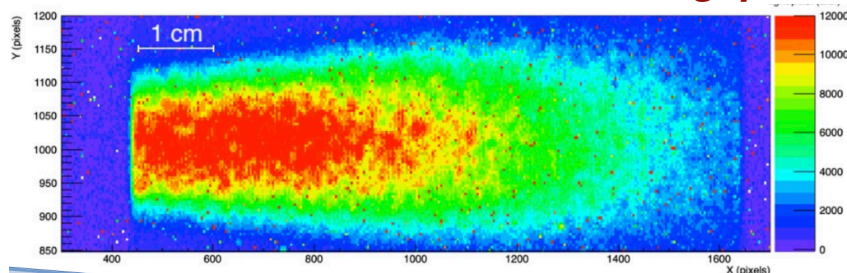
## First evidence of electroluminescence in He:CF<sub>4</sub> induced by low ionising electrons



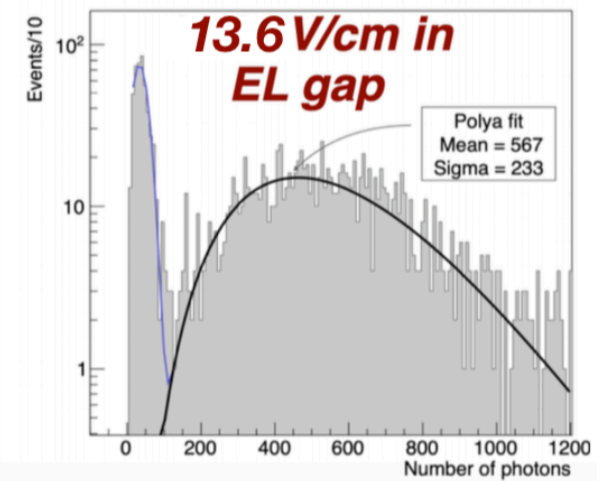
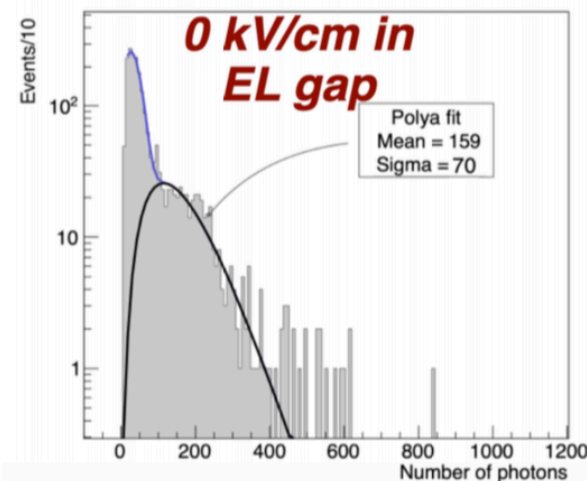
### 0 kV/cm in EL gap



### 11.3 kV/cm in EL gap



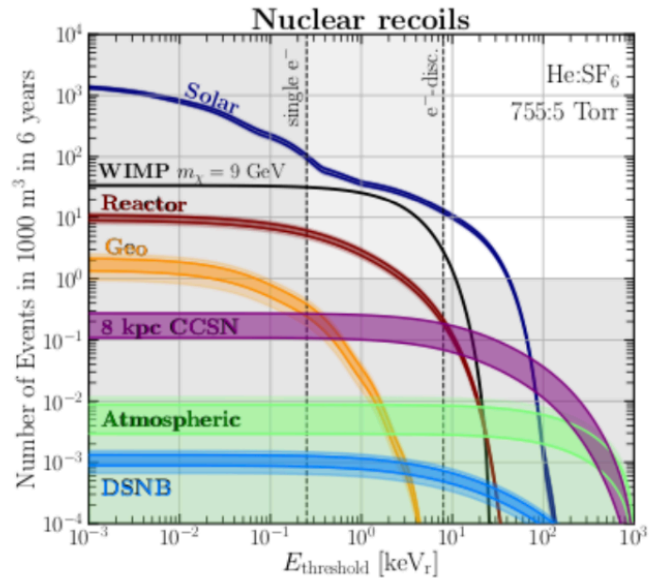
### <sup>55</sup>Fe data



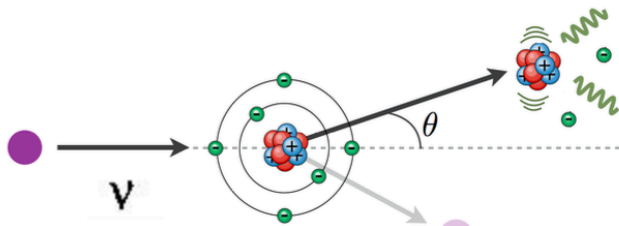
JINST 15 (2020) P08018

# Neutrinos & directionality

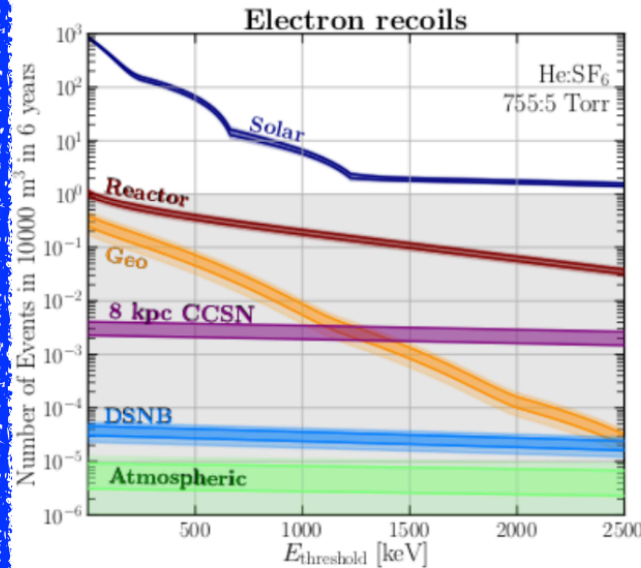
**NEW! Physics reach under study**



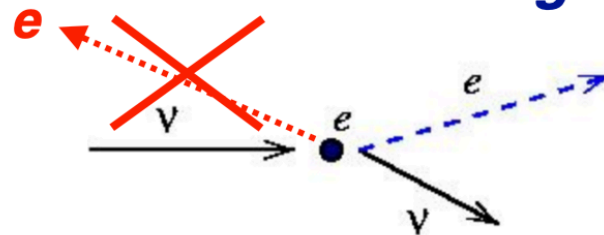
**Coherent Neutrino-Nucleus scattering**



**NOTE: only a directional DM detector can distinguish from WIMP signal**



**Elastic Neutrino-Electron scattering**



**NOTE: only a directional DM detector can distinguish from ER background**

**with event by event precise neutrino energy measurement**

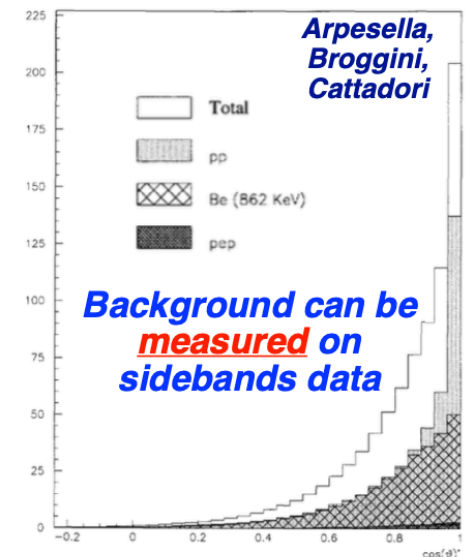
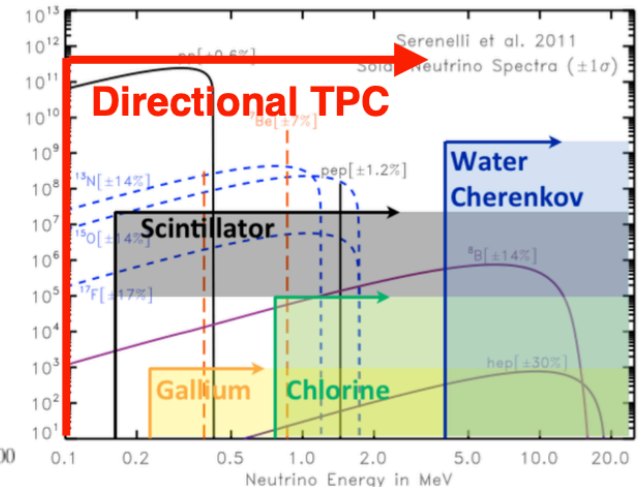
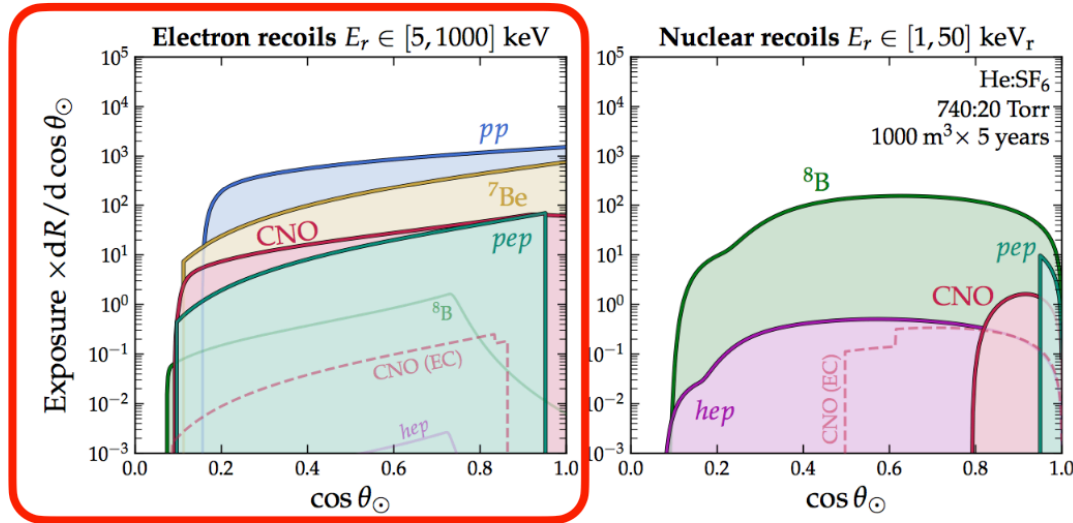


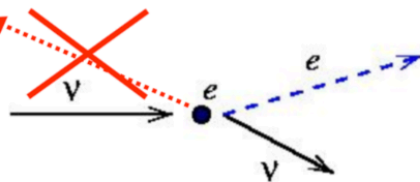
Fig. 4. The events of one year as a function of the reconstructed scattering angle.

# Solar neutrinos with elastic scattering on electrons

**Expected number of ER and NR events as a function of the cosine of the angle away from the Sun**



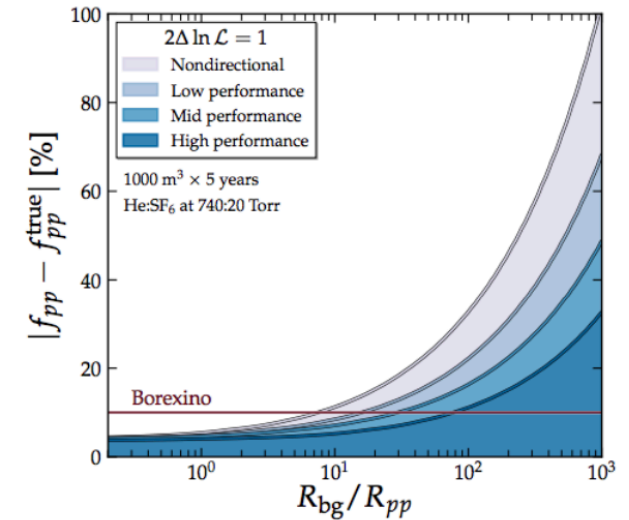
Given the Sun position, recoils in opposite direction are kinematically forbidden



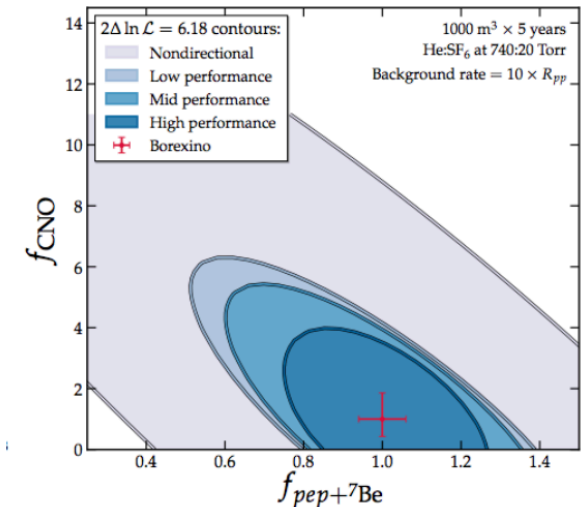
Differently from WIMPs, background can be **measured** on sidebands data

• **Electron recoils directionality in CYGNUS enables solar neutrino spectroscopy through neutrino-electron elastic scattering on an event-by-event basis**

- An O(10) m<sup>3</sup> ER directional detector could extend Borexino pp measurement to lower energy
- CYGNUS 1 ton could measure the CNO cycle by breaking the degeneracy with pep + <sup>7</sup>Be fluxes through directionality



**1  $\sigma$  sensitivity to pp flux as a function of the total non-neutrino ER background**



**2  $\sigma$  sensitivity to combined measurement of the CNO and pep + <sup>7</sup>Be pp fluxes, fixing the background rate to 10 times the pp electron recoil rate**