

Picosec Micromegas detector for precise muon timing in the Muon Collider detector

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On behalf of the Muon Collider Physics and Detector working group

FAST2023 Workshop, Biodola 28 May-1 Jun 23

1. Introduction to the Muon Collider

- Requirement for Muon timing in Muon collider

2. Picosec concept and issues

3. Picosec development towards Muon Collider detector

- Timing with different photocathodes
- Timing with eco-friendly gases
- Electronics

4. Future perspective

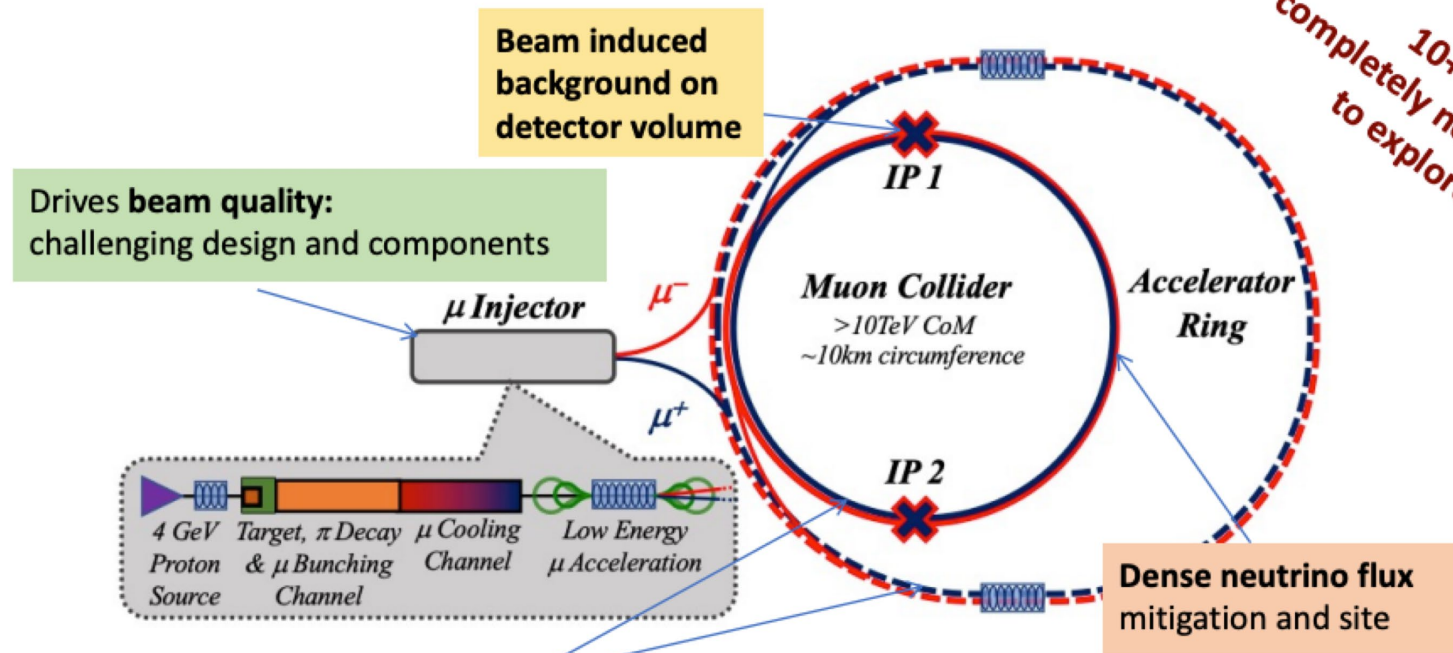
International Design Study facility

Proton driver production as baseline



- Focus on two energy ranges:
 - 3 TeV technology ready for construction in 10-20 years
 - 10+ TeV with more advanced technology

10+ TeV completely new regime to explore!



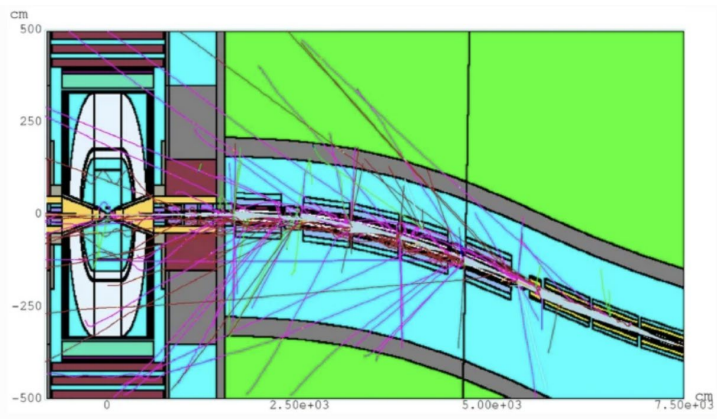
- Simulations available for $\sqrt{s}=1.5\text{TeV}$
- Production ongoing for $\sqrt{s}=3\text{TeV}$

Cost and power consumption drivers, limit energy reach e.g. 30 km accelerator for 10/14 TeV, 10/14 km collider ring

Design phase of the Muon Collider Detector

For the muon endcaps, a **Muon tracking and timing station** based on **Picosec+MPGD** has been proposed

Shielding from Beam Induced background (from decaying muons) limits the coverage in eta ($\theta > 8^\circ$, $\eta < 2.7$ available)



hadronic calorimeter

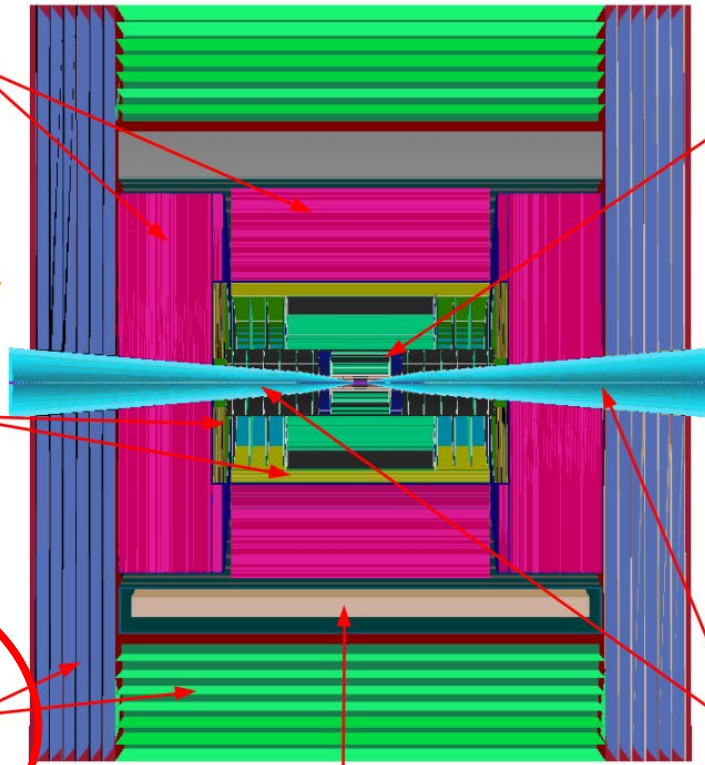
- ◆ 60 layers of 19-mm steel absorber + plastic scintillating tiles;
- ◆ 30x30 mm² cell size;
- ◆ 7.5 λ_I .

electromagnetic calorimeter

- ◆ 40 layers of 1.9-mm W absorber + silicon pad sensors;
- ◆ 5x5 mm² cell granularity;
- ◆ 22 $X_0 + 1 \lambda_I$.

muon detectors

- ◆ 7-barrel, 6-endcap RPC layers interleaved in the magnet's iron yoke;
- ◆ 30x30 mm² cell size.



superconducting solenoid (3.57T)

tracking system

- ◆ **Vertex Detector:**
 - double-sensor layers (4 barrel cylinders and 4+4 endcap disks);
 - 25x25 μm^2 pixel Si sensors.
- ◆ **Inner Tracker:**
 - 3 barrel layers and 7+7 endcap disks;
 - 50 μm x 1 mm macro-pixel Si sensors.
- ◆ **Outer Tracker:**
 - 3 barrel layers and 4+4 endcap disks;
 - 50 μm x 10 mm micro-strip Si sensors.

shielding nozzles

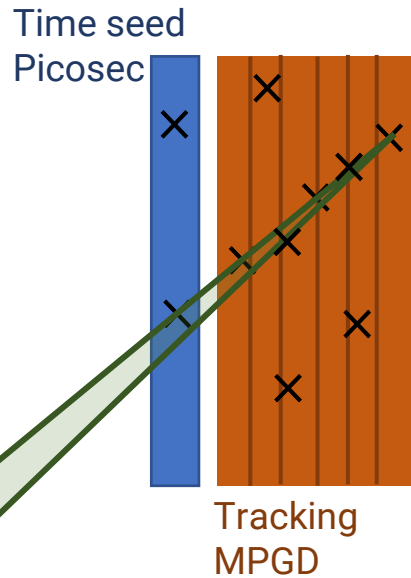
- ◆ Tungsten cones + borated polyethylene cladding.

Muon endcap

Out-to-In muon tracking approach currently under study

Resolve muon in the muon system to close the track in the tracker system
reducing the combinatory background

Time resolution ~100ps

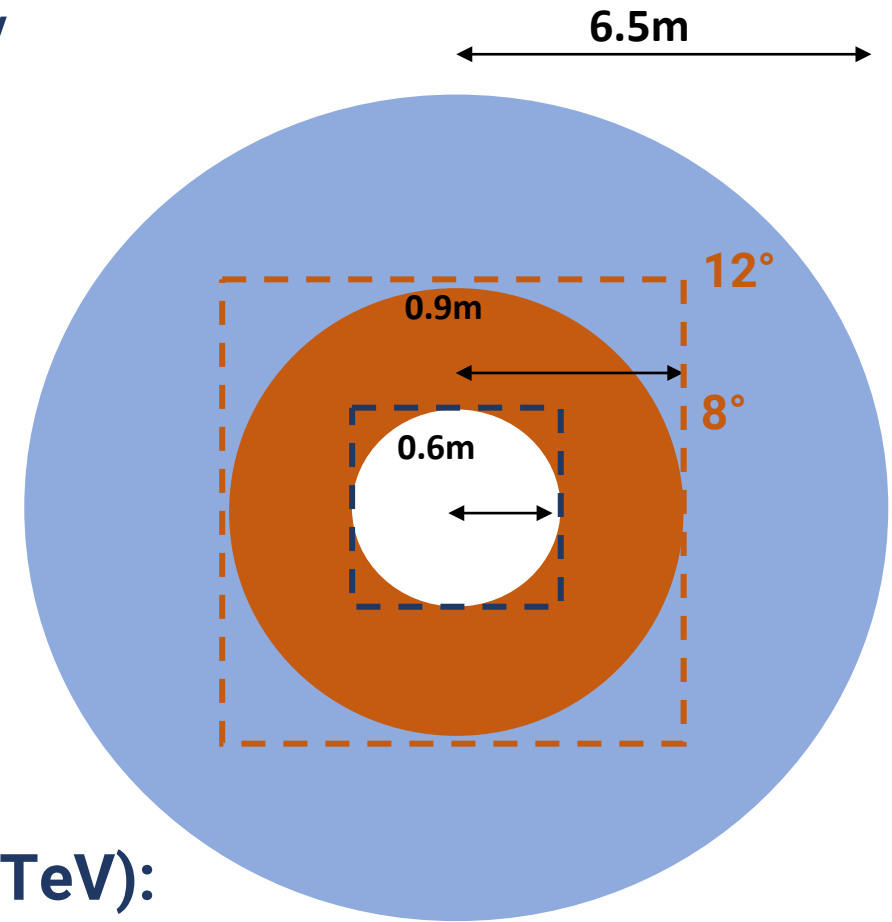


Operation in a heavily ionising particle environment

$\approx 1.5 \text{ m}^2$ per endcap

Rate capability ($\sqrt{s}=1.5\text{TeV}$):

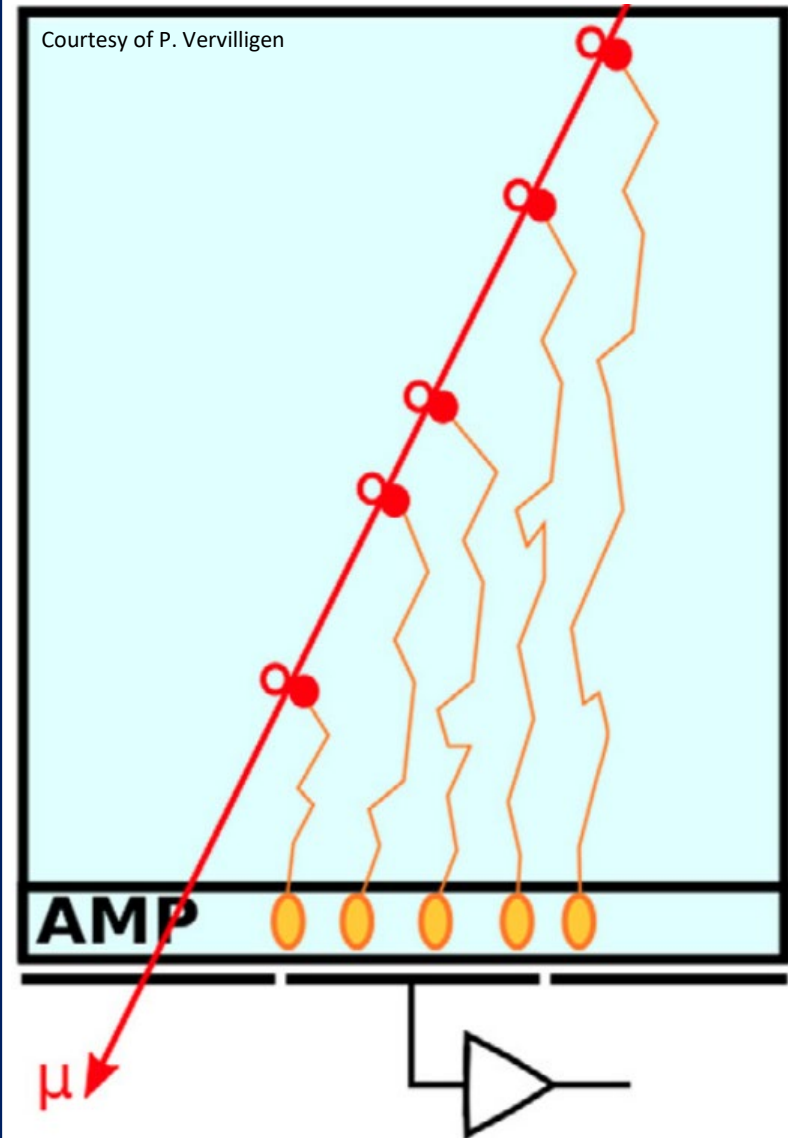
- **60 kHz/cm² $8^\circ < \theta < 12^\circ$**
- **2 kHz/cm² $\theta > 12^\circ$**



Endcap – not in scale

Timing in MPGDs

Courtesy of P. Vervilligen



Time resolution is dominated by the fluctuation in the position of the primary ionisation cluster created closest to the amplification region.

$$\sigma_t \propto \frac{1}{\lambda v_d}$$

λ ionization density (cluster/ μm^{-1})
 v_d electron drift velocity ($\mu\text{m}/\text{ns}$)

MPGD time resolution > several ns

ORGANISATION EUROPÉENNE POUR LA RECHERCHE NUCLÉAIRE
CERN EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH

PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION OF MULTIWIRED
 PROPORTIONAL AND DRIFT CHAMBERS

F. Sauli

Lectures given in the
 Academic Training Programme of CERN
 1975-1976

GENEVA
 1977

The Physics of Ionization offers the means for precise spatial measurements (high spatial resolution) but **inhibits precise timing measurements**

which is represented in Fig. 8, for $n = 34$, as a function of the coordinate across a 10 mm thick detector. If the time of detection is the time of arrival of the closest electron at one end of the gap, as is often the case, the statistics of ion-pair production set an obvious limit to the time resolution of the detector. A scale of time is also given in the figure, for a collection velocity of 5 cm/ μ sec typical of many gases; the FWHM of the distribution is about 5 nsec. There is no hope of improving this time resolution in a gas counter, unless some averaging over the time of arrival of all electrons is realized.

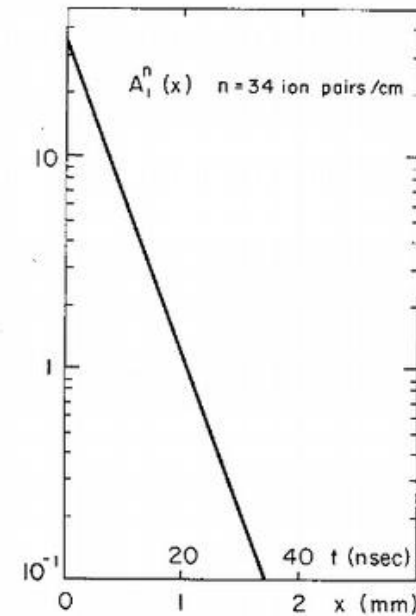


Fig. 8

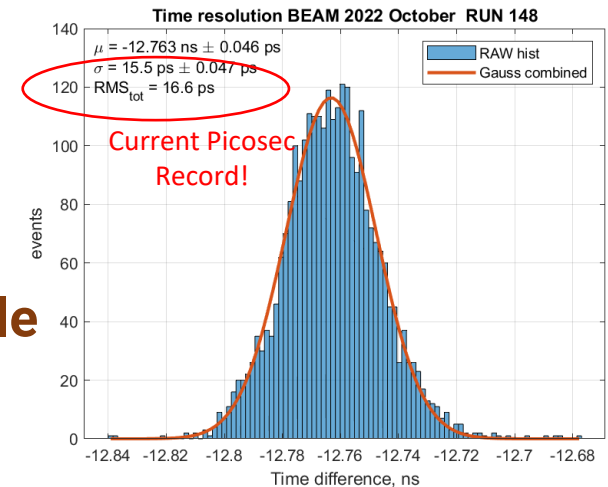
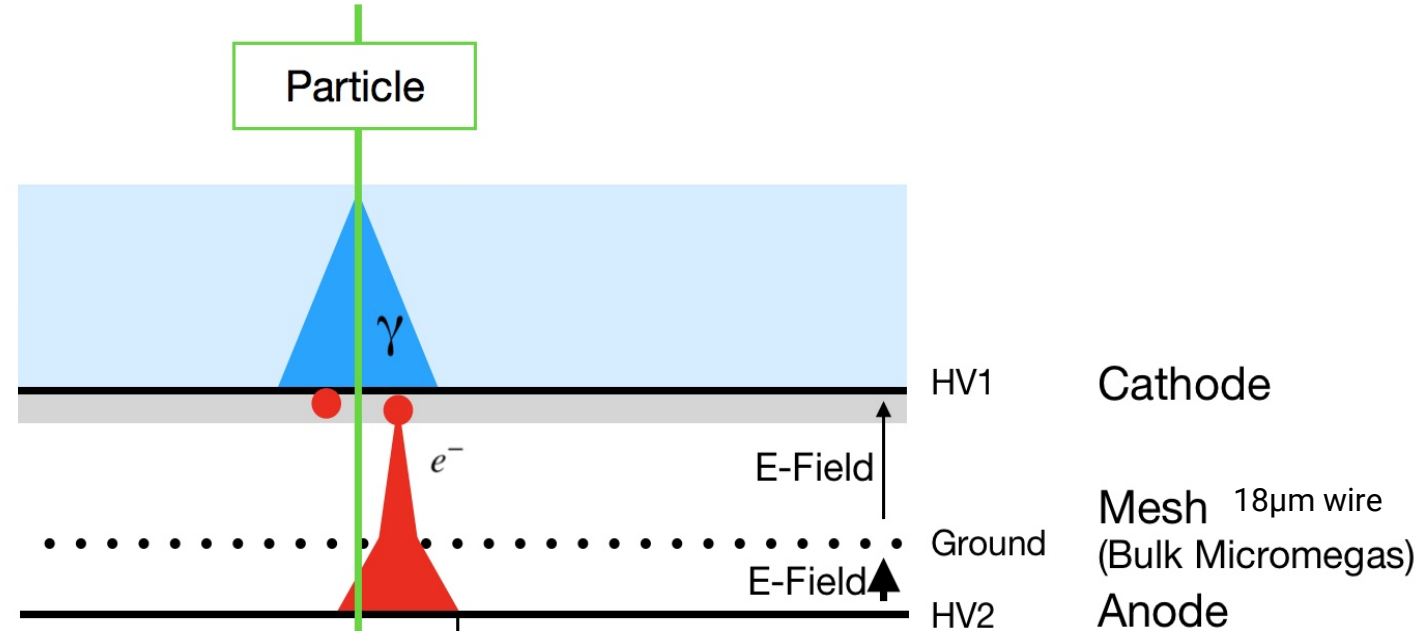
Statistics of primary ion pair production: probability of finding the closest pair at a distance x from one electrode in a counter, in argon-isobutane 70-30. The corresponding electron minimum collection time is shown, for a typical drift velocity of electrons of 5 cm/ μ sec.

Picosec Concept

Gas Mixture:
Ne/C₂H₆/CF₄
80/10/10

Field(kV/cm)	Gain
~40	~10 ³
~20	~10 ²

Cherenkov Radiator MgF₂ 3mm
 Photocathode CsI 18nm
 Drift 100-200 μm
 Amplification 128μm

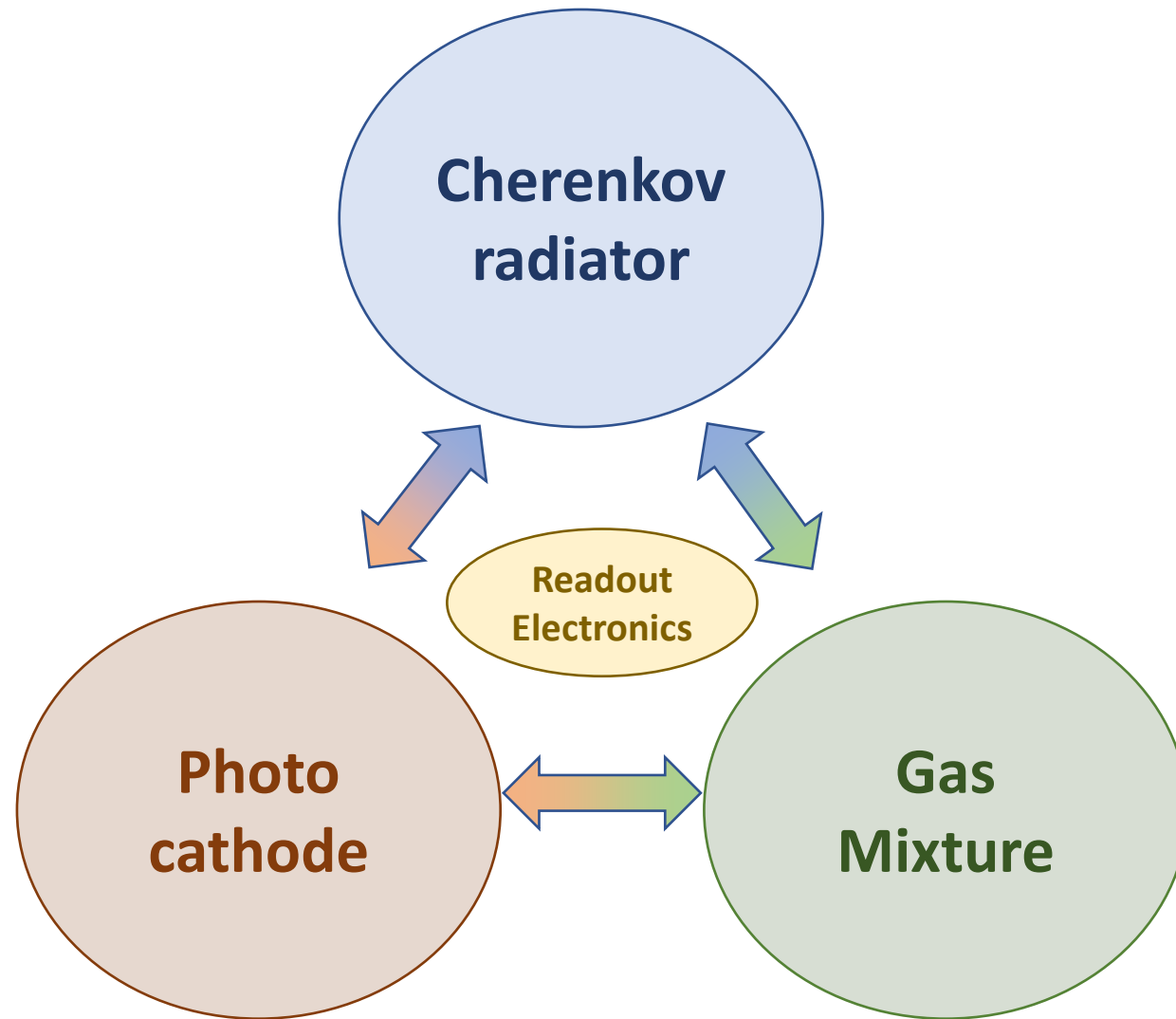


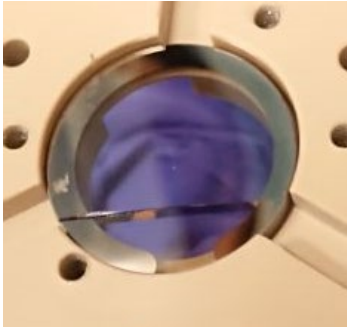
1 readout pad over 100
 Detector average
 ~20ps
 A. Utrobicic, A large area 100
 channel PICOSEC Micromegas
 detector with sub 20 ps time
 resolution, MPGD2022

- 1. Look at Cherenkov, not the ionisation**
 Photo-electrons created promptly with the MIP passage
- 2. Remove the drift gap and start the avalanche as soon as possible**
 Avalanche propagate faster

Bortfeldt, J., et al. "PICOSEC: Charged particle timing at sub-25 picosecond precision with a Micromegas based detector." *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A: Accelerators, Spectrometers, Detectors and Associated Equipment* 903 (2018): 317-325.

Towards a robust and scalable detector





Broken MgF₂ crystal

Cherenkov cross section

$$\frac{d^2 N}{dx d\lambda} = \frac{2\pi\alpha z^2}{\lambda^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2(\lambda)} \right)$$

Transparency in the UV÷VUV region is fundamental!

Cherenkov radiator – Baseline MgF₂

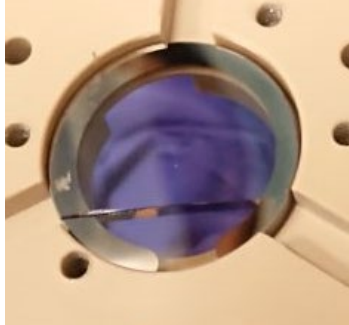
- High UV transparency (>120nm)
- Fragile
- High cost (≈12€/cm²)
- No technology for large areas (100cm² max)

Quartz (≈5€/cm², >180nm)

Sapphire (≈6€/cm², hard, large area, >170nm)

other F-based crystals must be studied!

Cherenkov Radiator



Broken MgF₂ crystal

October 2022 test beam:

- Tested a **UV rated Quartz** crystal as a radiator
- Same photocathode wrt to MgF₂ (3nm Chromium + 18nm CsI)
- Photoelectrons yield **one order of magnitude lower**

Cherenkov cross section

$$\frac{d^2 N}{dx d\lambda} = \frac{2\pi\alpha z^2}{\lambda^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2(\lambda)}\right)$$

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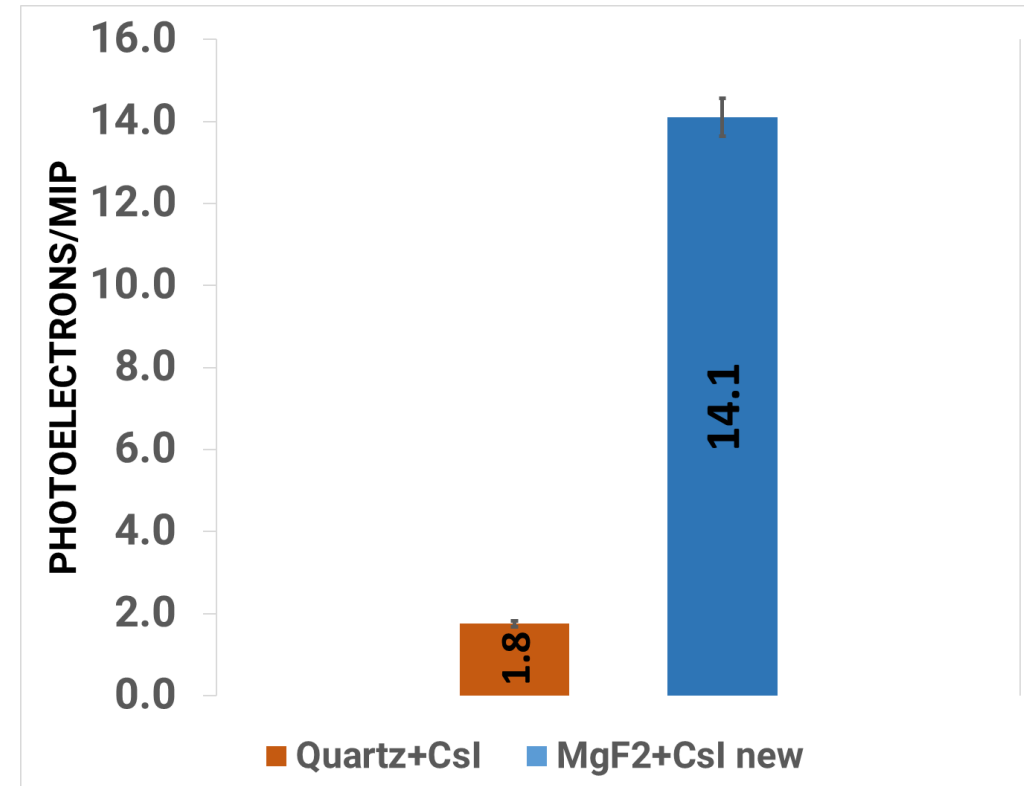
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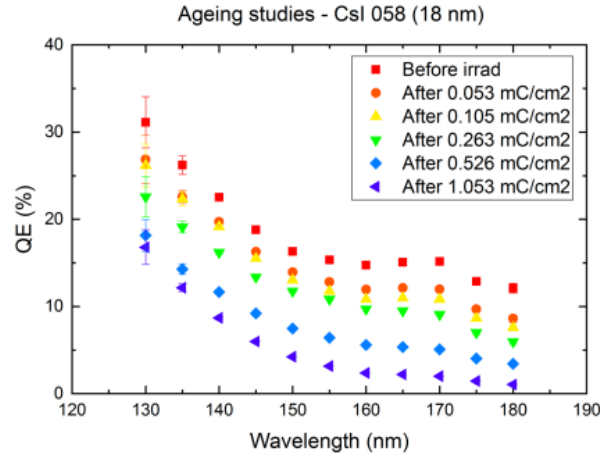
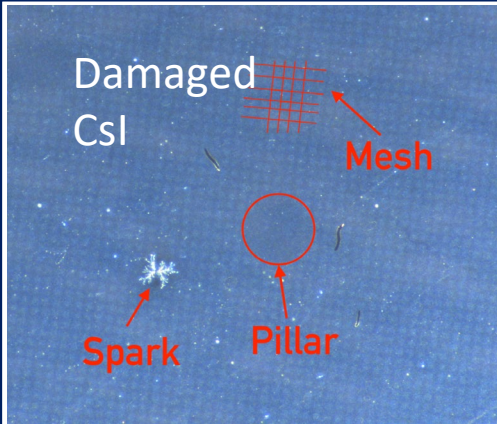
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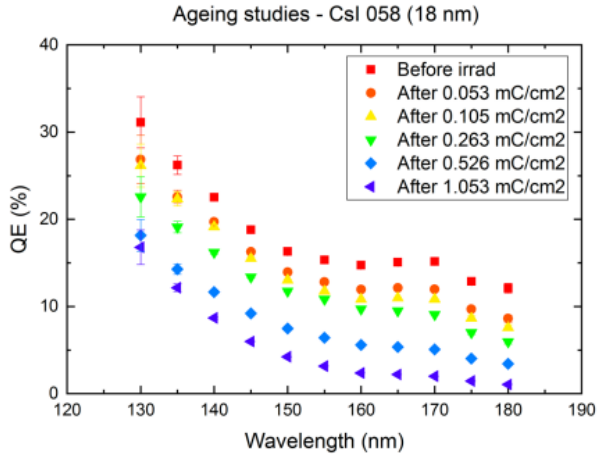
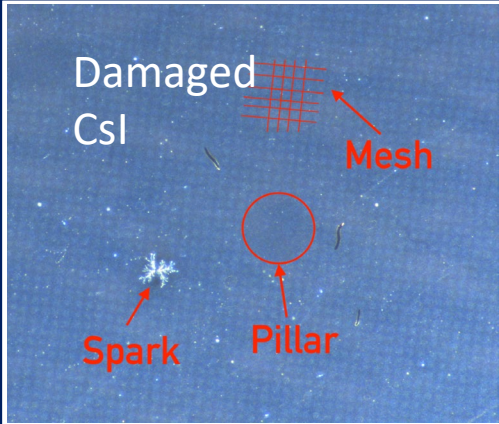
other F-based crystals must be studied!





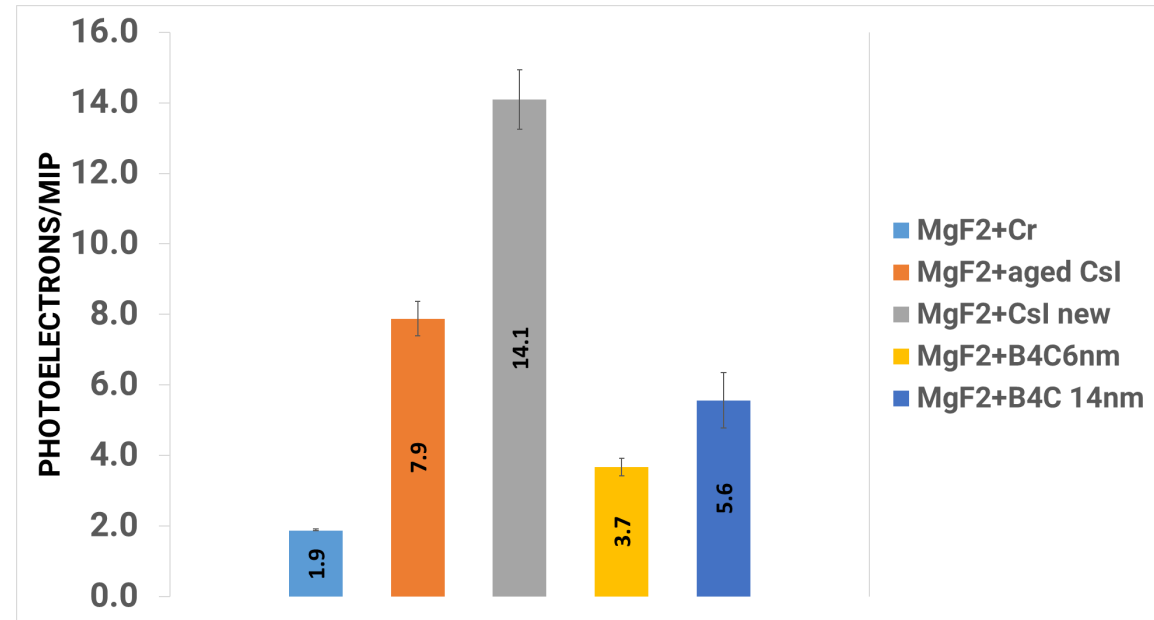
Photocathode – Baseline CsI

- High quantum efficiency to UV (≈ 10 p.e./MIP)
- Easy to coat by Chemical Vapour Deposition
- Hygroscopic (sealed operation, dry gas)
- Damage by ion bombardment
- Metallic (Al, Cr, Au...) \rightarrow easy to coat, non-resistive (pro and cons), lower QE (1-2 p.e./MIP)
- Carbon-based (DLC, B4C) \rightarrow dedicated sputtering machine, resistive (pro and cons), lower QE (factor 3-4 p.e./MIP)



October 2022 & April 2023 test beams:

- Tested pure Chromium photocathode
- Tested B₄C photocathode (6 and 14nm)
- Other preliminary measurements made on DLC ([here](#)) and B4C ([here](#)) were made by other groups in the collaboration



Photocathode – Baseline CsI

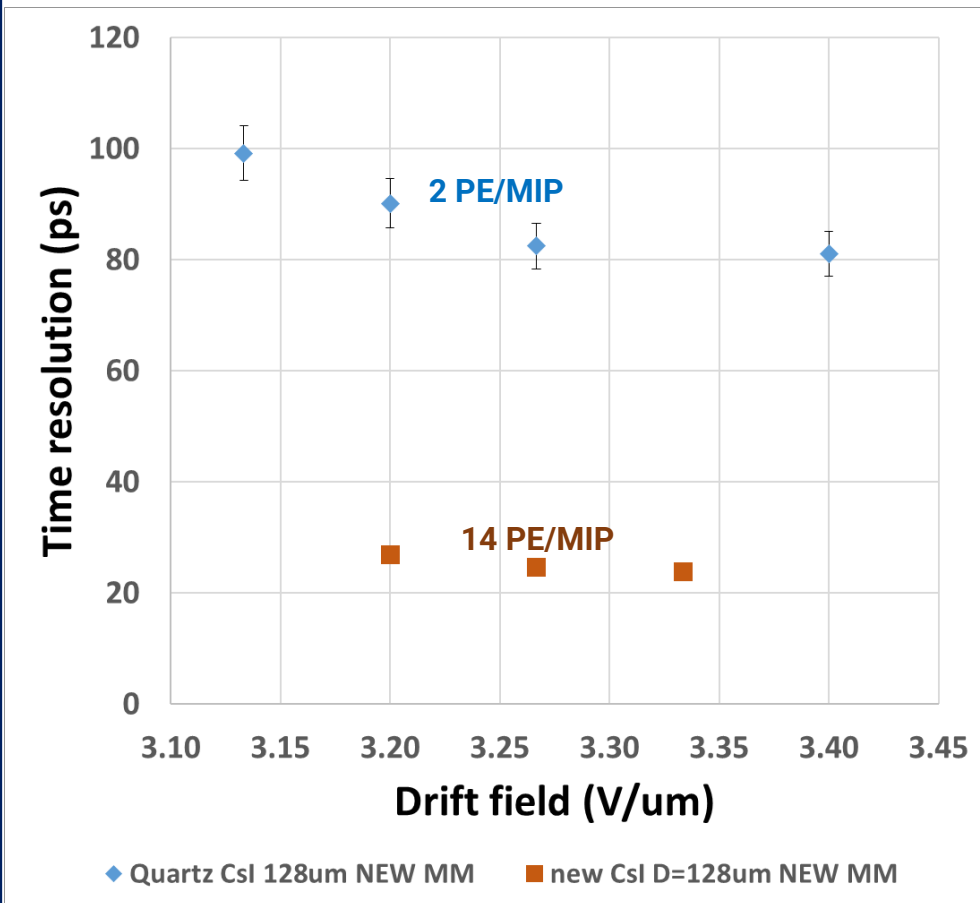
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- **CsI aging** may undermine the detector performance
- **Pure Chromium** is not a good photocathode

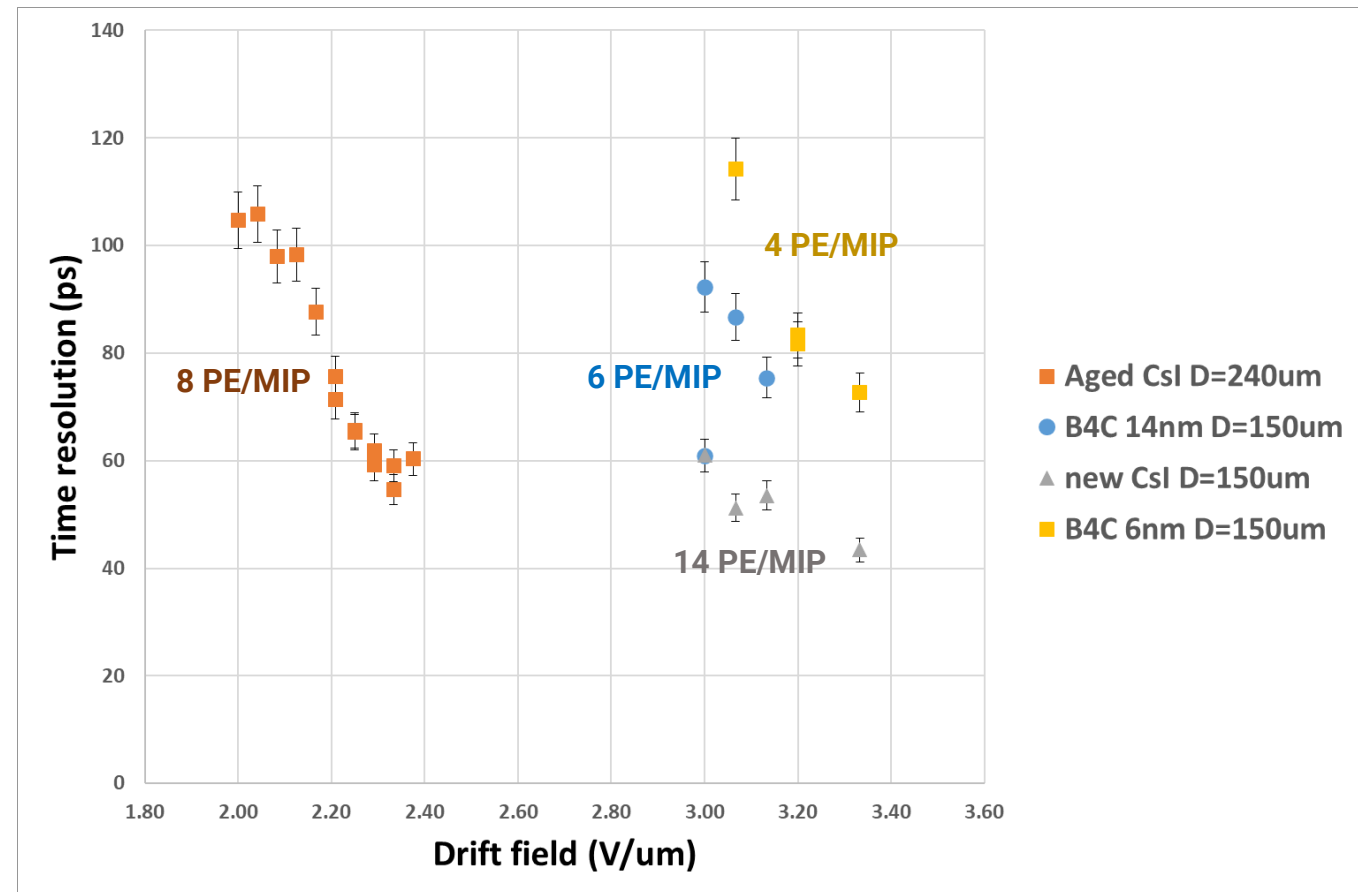
- **Carbon-based** material may be a suitable solution (confirmed by other groups)
- **Robust and resistive**

Effect of photoelectrons on timing

Radiator Comparison



Photocathode Comparison



NB → the top right plot shows data taken with a **Micromegas from a faulty batch** (large gap, way too high capacitance between mesh and ground)

Gas Mixture– Baseline Ne/C₂H₆/CF₄

- High gain and discharge quenching (up to $2\text{-}3 \times 10^5$)
- High drift velocity ($10\div 15$ cm/ μ s)
- Very costly (Ukraine was the main producer of Ne, CF₄ is heavily taxed for its GWP)
- Not eco-friendly (GWP \approx 740)

C₂H₆ (3k€ bottle, GWP=10.2) can be substituted with other quenchers :

- CO₂ (0.7k€ bottle, GWP=1, small quenching)
- iC₄H₁₀ (1.5k€ bottle, GWP=3, good quenching)

CF₄ (5k€ bottle, GWP=7390) is difficult to replace:

- drop it
- R1234ze (1.5k€ bottle, GWP=7, candidate substitute for fluorinated gas in RPC and CMS-CSC)

New mixtures with new gases

- ALICE TPC GEM Ne-N₂-CO₂ (relatively high drift velocity, negligible GWP)

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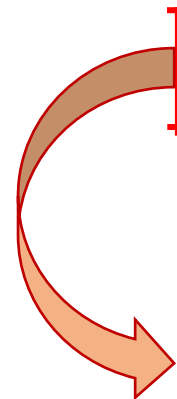
New mixtures with new gases

- ALICE TPC GEM Ne-N₂-CO₂ (relatively high drift velocity, negligible GWP)

April 2023 test beam:

- First test with non-standard gas mixtures

Gas mixture used	Global Warming Potential 100-years (normalized to CO ₂)
Ne/C ₂ H ₆ /CF ₄ (80/10/10)	740
Ne/iC ₄ H ₁₀ (94/6)	0.2
Ar/CO ₂ (93/7)	0.07
Ar/CO ₂ /iC ₄ H ₁₀ (93/5/2)	0.11



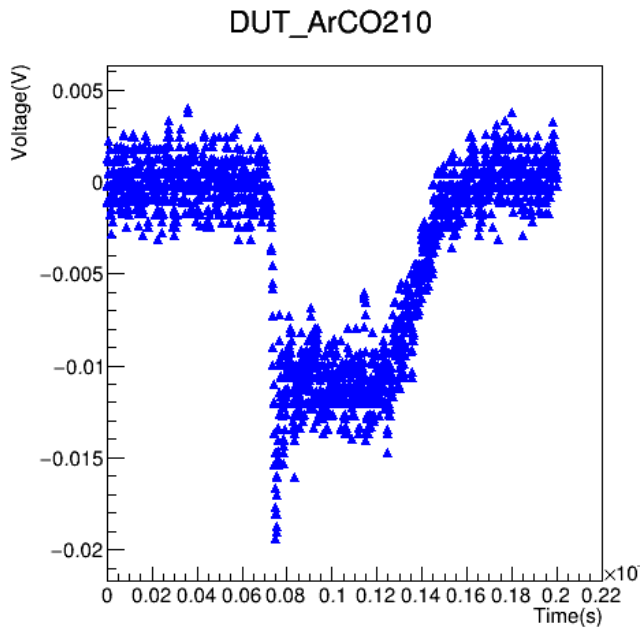
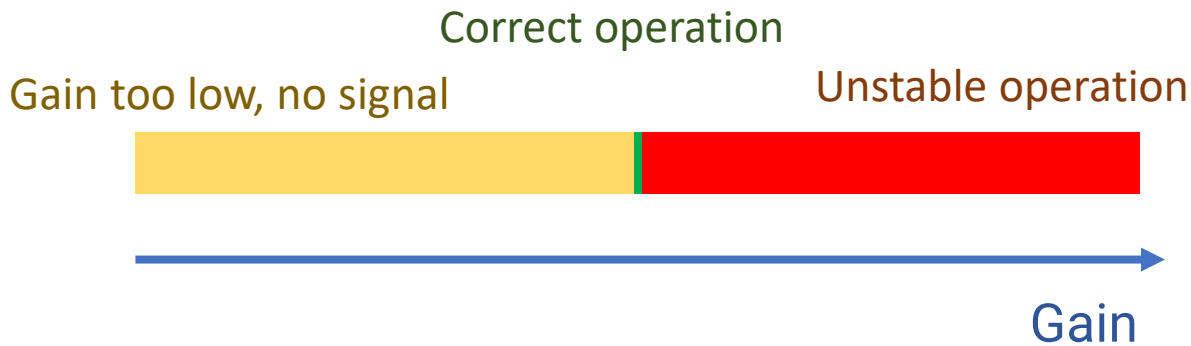
'Standard' and ATLAS Micromegas gas mixtures

Eco-friendly gas operation

-Ar based mixtures-

Gas mixture used	Global Warming Potential 100-years (normalized to CO ₂)
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Ar/CO₂/iC₄H₁₀ (93/5/2)	0.11

- MIPs signal is on the order of several photoelectrons (depending on photocathode)
- We failed to find a suitable working point for such mixtures
- Immediate passage between np-signal region to spark region
- Such mixtures are not quenched enough to control the avalanche
- (more quencher needed)



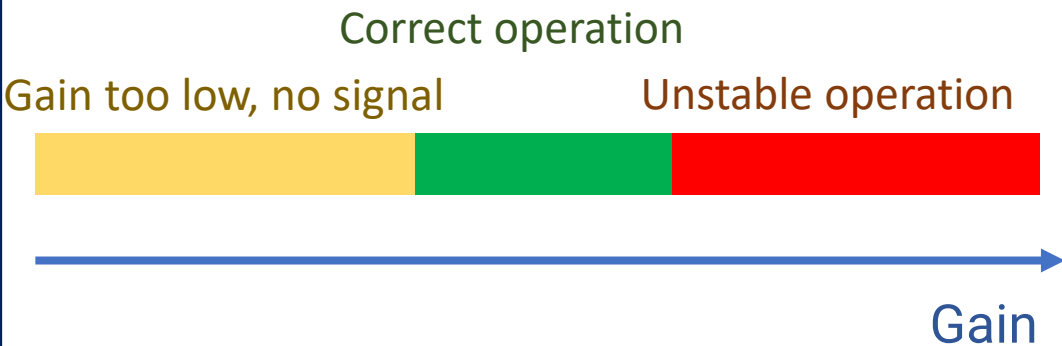
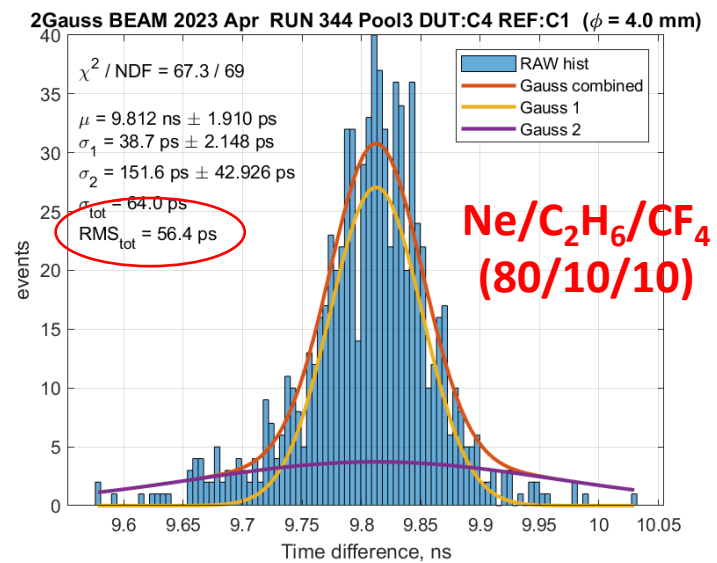
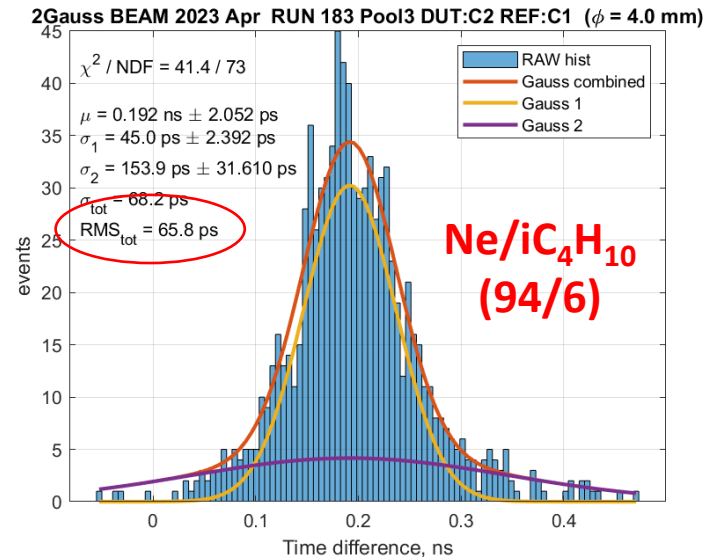
- We can see single-photoelectron signals in the lab
- Unstable detector (Sparks)
- Amplifier killed ☹️

Eco-friendly gas operation

-Ne based mixtures-

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Ne/C ₂ H ₆ /CF ₄ (80/10/10) -standard-	740
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- Photocathode used was **B4C 6nm (3 PE/MIP)**
 - Photoelectron yield is around Lower time resolution wrt Csl is expected (with Csl ≈25ps)
- The two distributions are measured at **similar gains** for the two mixture
- The impact of CF₄ in timing is **visible but not drastic (≈15%)**
- Still, the 3-component gas mixture has a wider operational range because it is more quenched



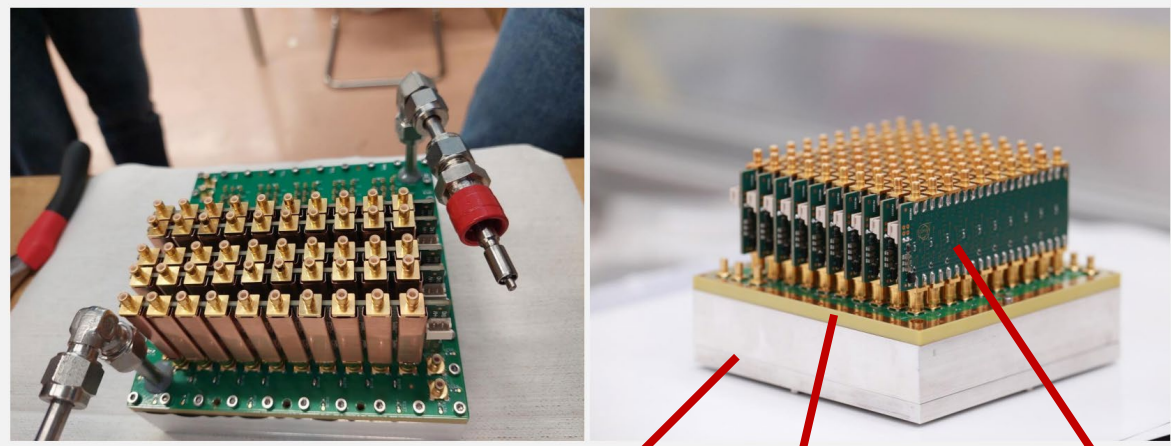
Amplifier

[A. Utrobicic, A large area 100 channel PICOSEC Micromegas detector with sub 20 ps time resolution, MPGD2022](#)

Custom made 10 channel preamplifier board for PICOSEC MM detector

- Gain 38.5dB @100MHz
- HF -3dB cut-off 650 MHz, LF -3dB cut-off 4 MHz
- Input impedance 44 Ohm
- Negative pulses linear up to -1 V.
- Tested to sparks by shorting the input at 350 V bias.
- Power dissipation 75 mW per ch., Single supply 4 V.

No degradation of signal wrt other commercial linear amplifiers



100 pad detector

Readout board

10ch amplifier board

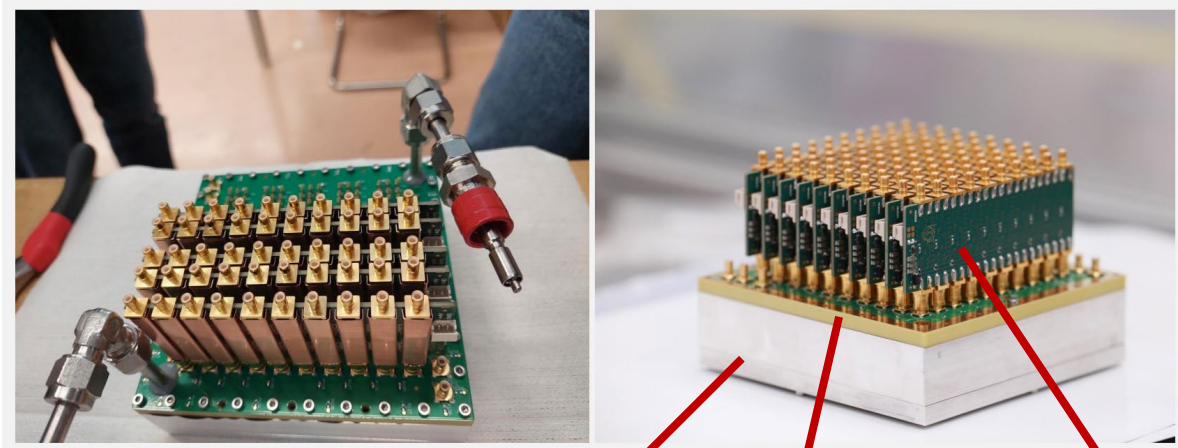
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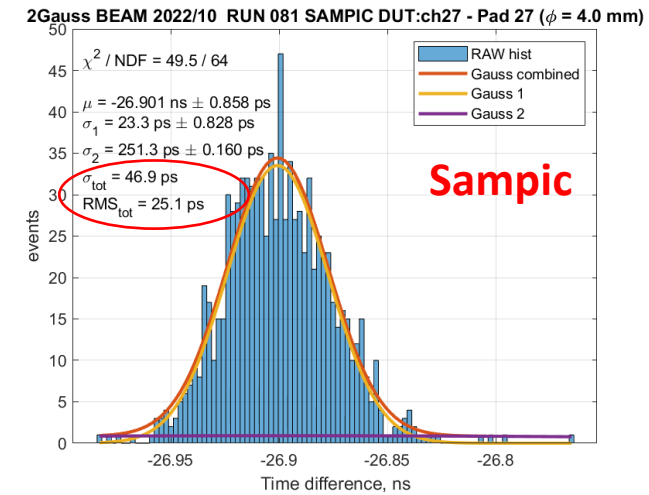
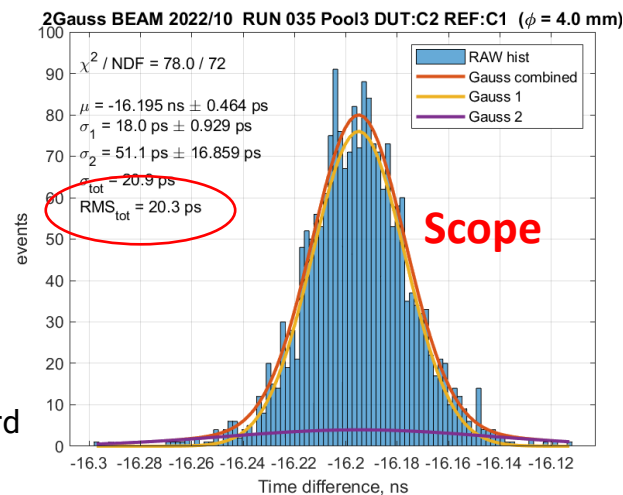
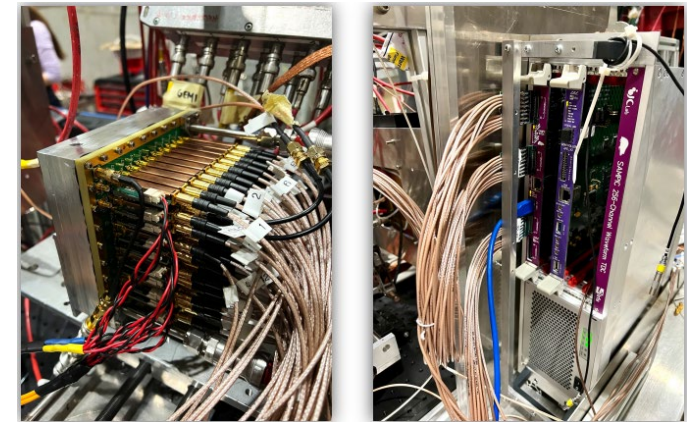
10ch amplifier board

Fast ADC

1GHz 10Gs/s Scope was used for all previously shown measurement

SAMPIC 128-channel digitiser under test

- 8.5 GS/s sampling frequency
- 64 samples maximum digitalisation



Picosec Micromegas demonstrated sub-20ps time resolution on a 10x10 cm² detector.



Development for Muon Collider detector → robust and scalable detector

- **Cherenkov radiator** (baseline *3mm MgF₂*)
 - MgF₂ still is the most transparent crystal
 - No evident options
- **Photocathode** (baseline *18nm CsI*)
 - Resistive carbon-based photocathodes are very promising
 - Lower yield than CsI but radiation harder and resistive (spark quenching)
- **Gas mixture** (baseline *Ne/C₂H₆/CF₄*)
 - Heavily quenched mixture without CF₄ showed good performance (Ne/iC₄H₁₀)
 - Substitutes for CF₄ to be tested
- **Electronics**
 - Scalability may be ensured by custom amplifiers and SAMPIC readout
 - Integration of such a system on a large scale is still to be verified

RD51 PICOSEC Micromegas Collaboration

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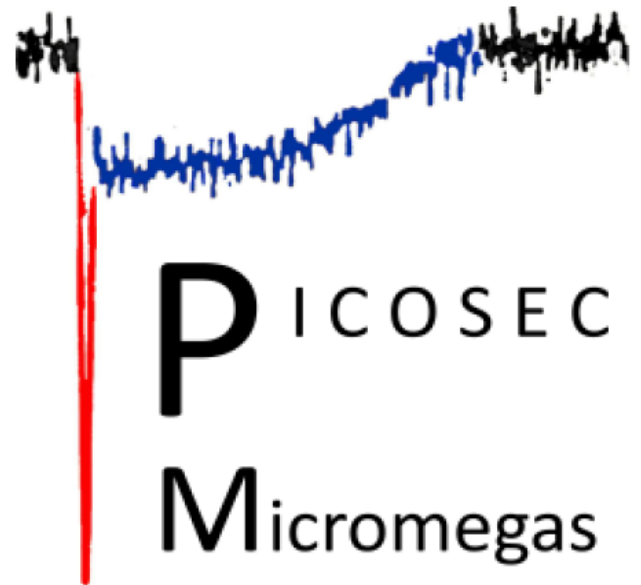
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²²National Technical University of Athens, Athens, Greece,

²³Bursa Uludag University, Görükle Kampusu, 16059 Niüfer/Bursa, Turkey,

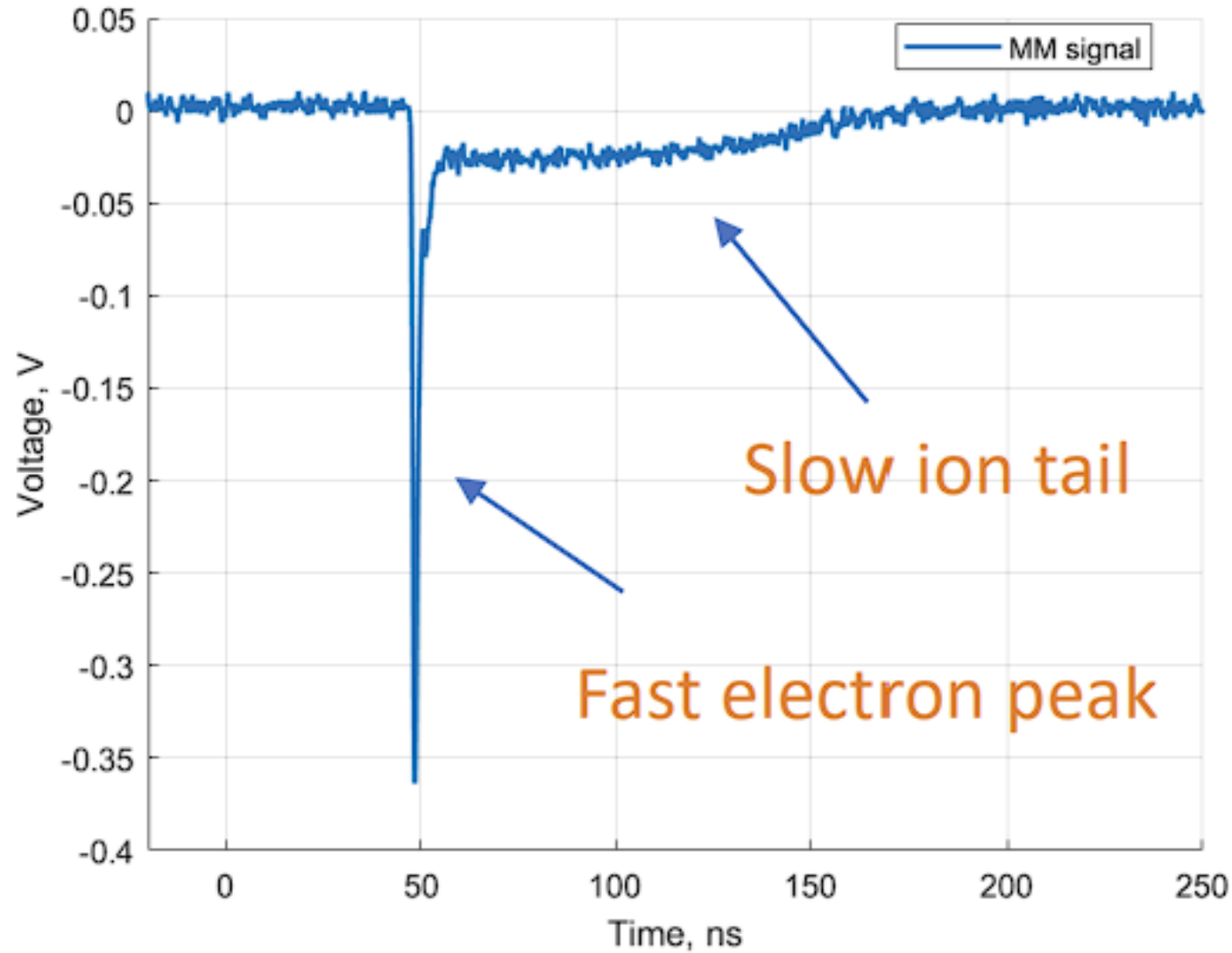
²⁴University of Virginia, USA,

²⁵Université Paris-Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France



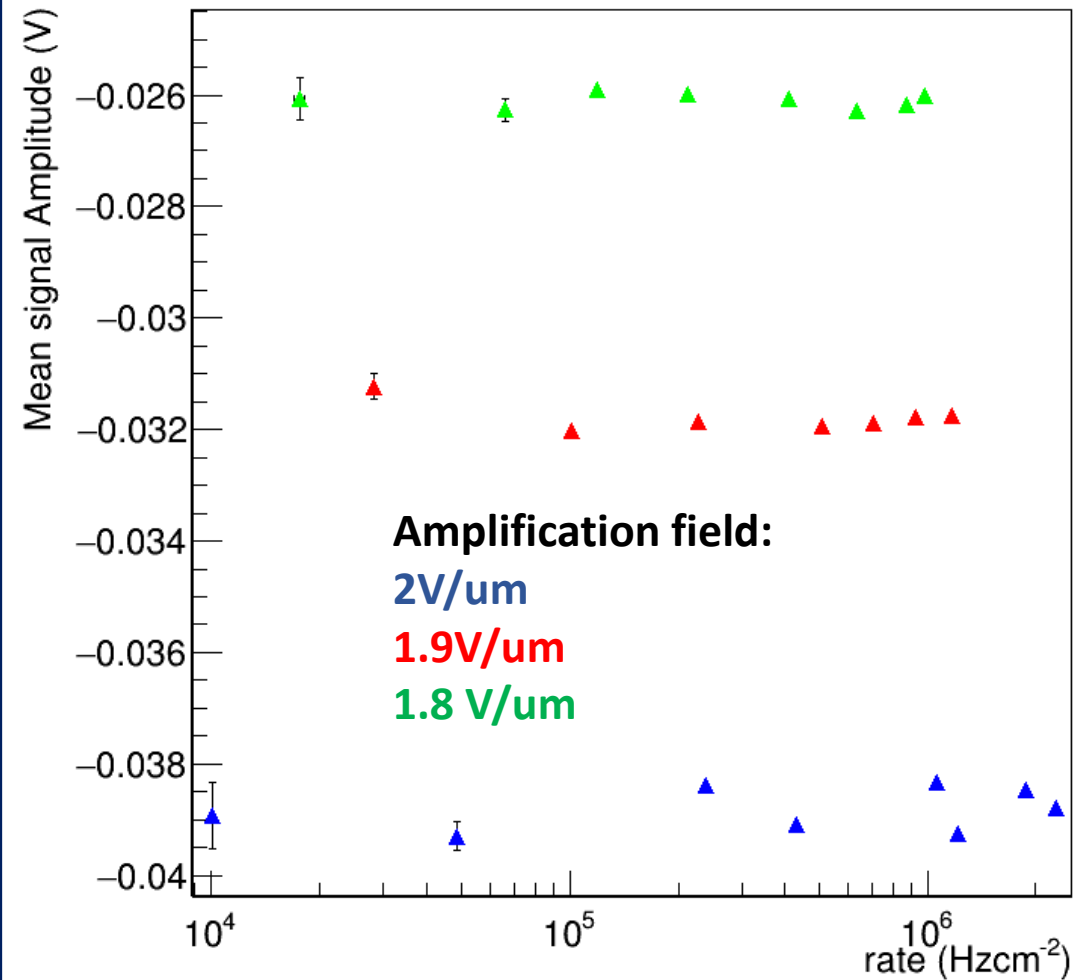
BACKUP

Picosec detector signal



Rate capability to single PEs -work in progress-

Mean signal Amplitude (V) vs rate (Hzcm⁻²)

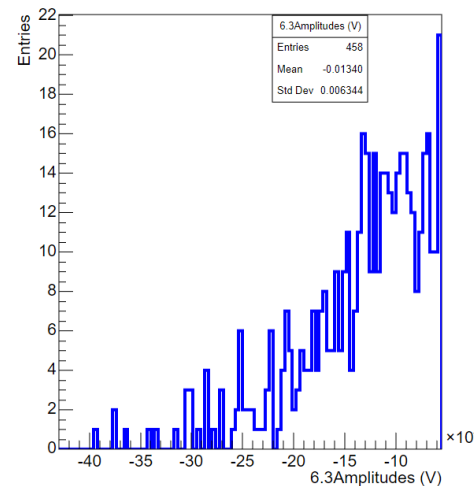


Irradiation with UV LED to generate **single-photoelectrons** signals

- CsI photocathode
- Counts signals and measures the average amplitudes
- Drift field: 3.13 V/um

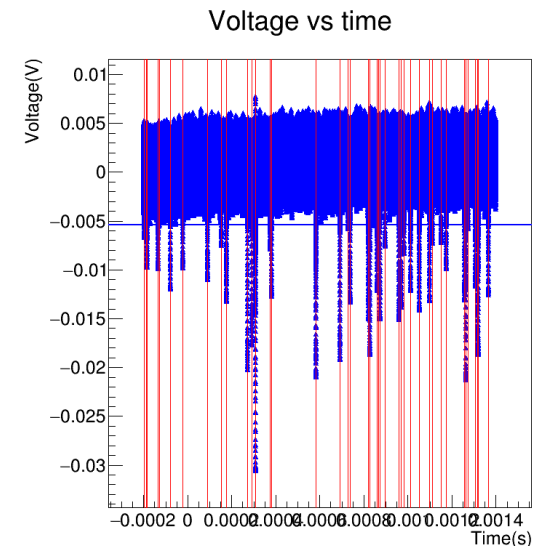
Detector performance stays **stable up to 2MHz/cm²** for single-photoelectron

- One can roughly scale a factor of 10 for Muons
- We can go higher with the rate, but we have to fight against CsI degradation

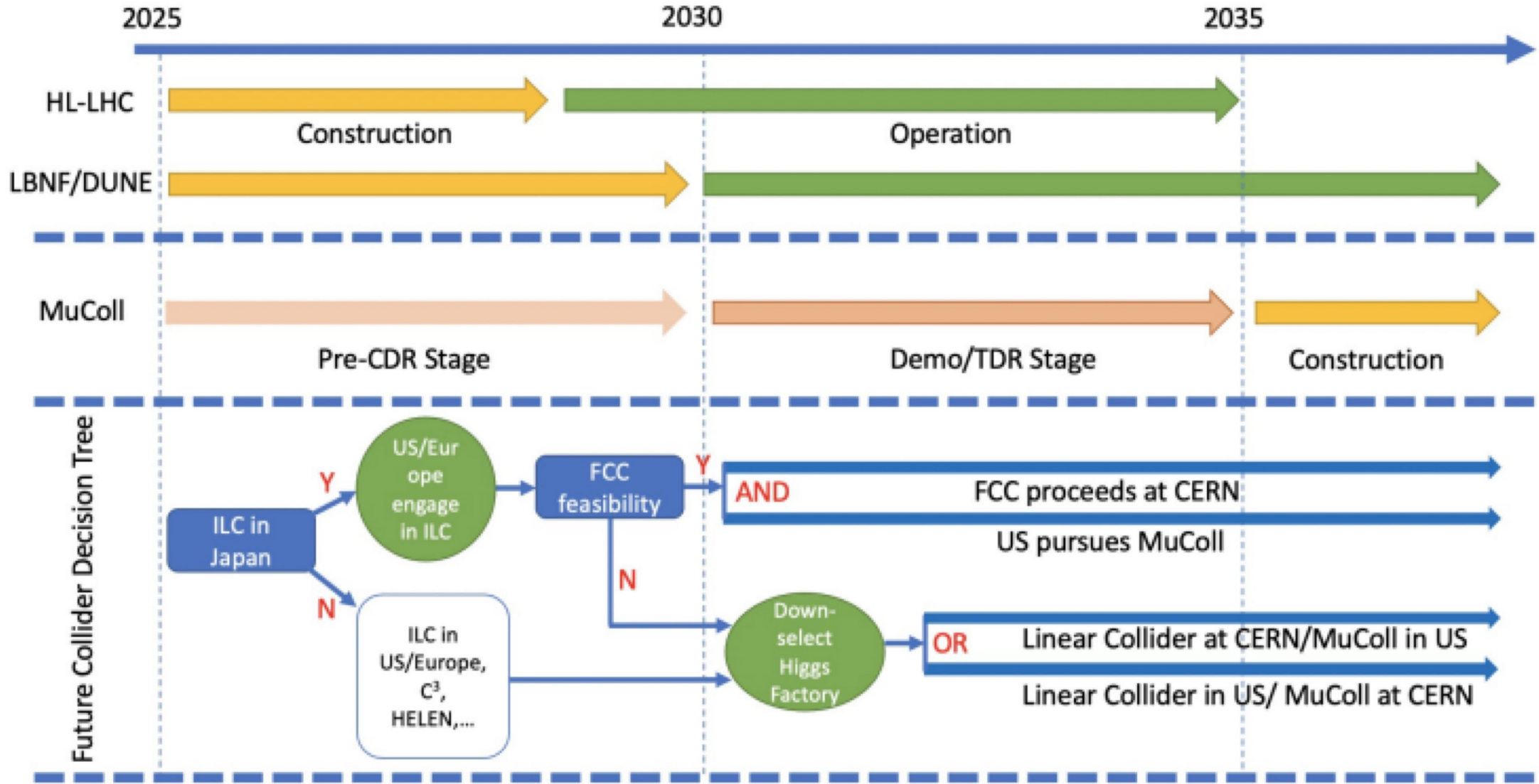


← Example of an amplitude spectrum

Example of 1.6ms of acquisition →

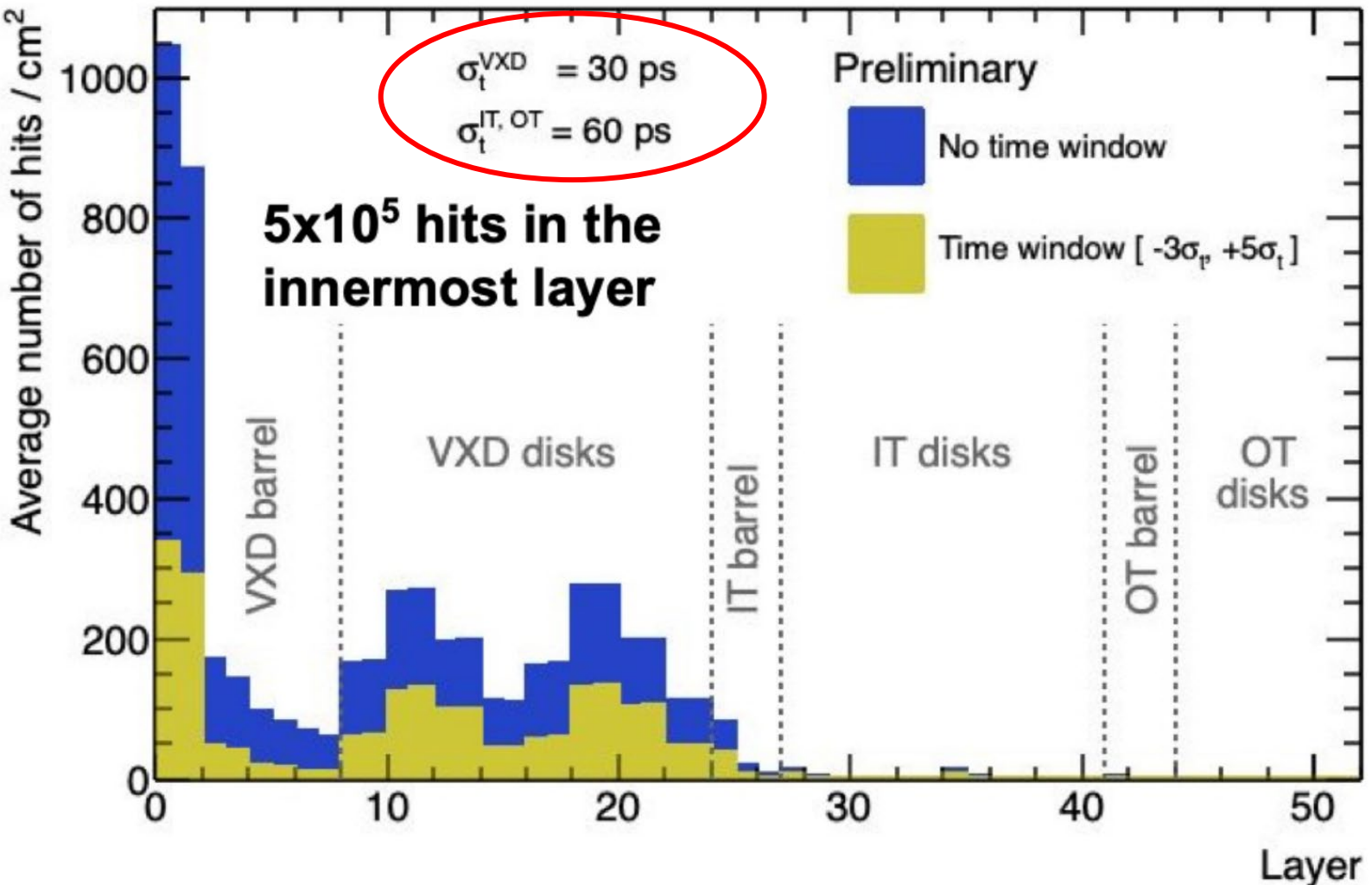


Timeline



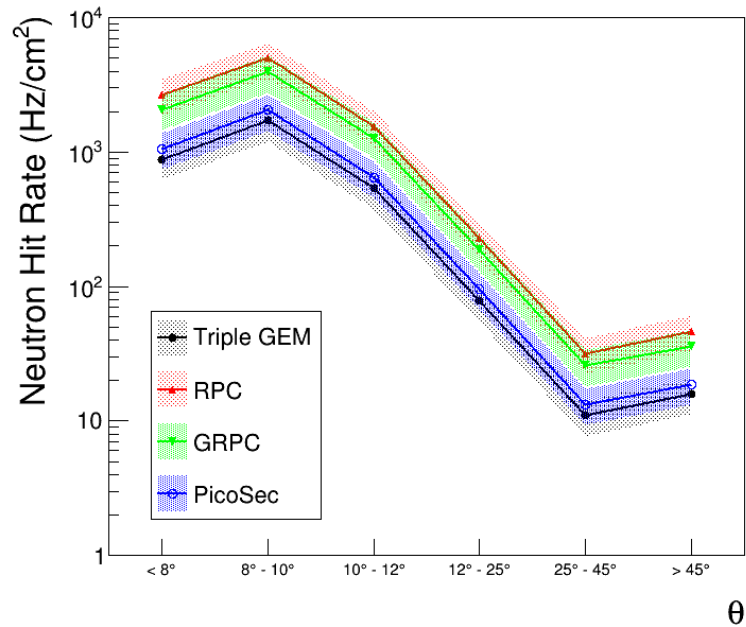
BIB hit tracker

Background hits overlay in [-360, 480] ps range $\sqrt{s} = 1.5$ TeV

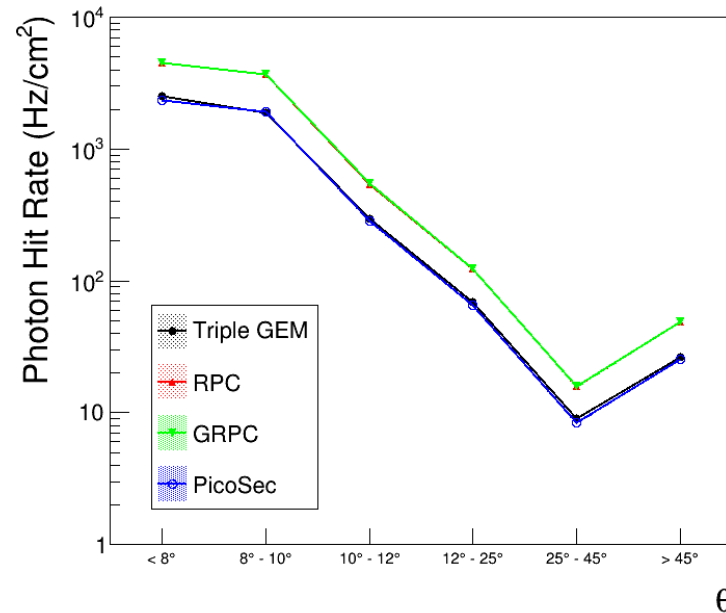


Simulation background

Muon Collider 1.5 TeV - Neutron Hit Rate vs θ



Muon Collider 1.5 TeV - Photon Hit Rate vs θ

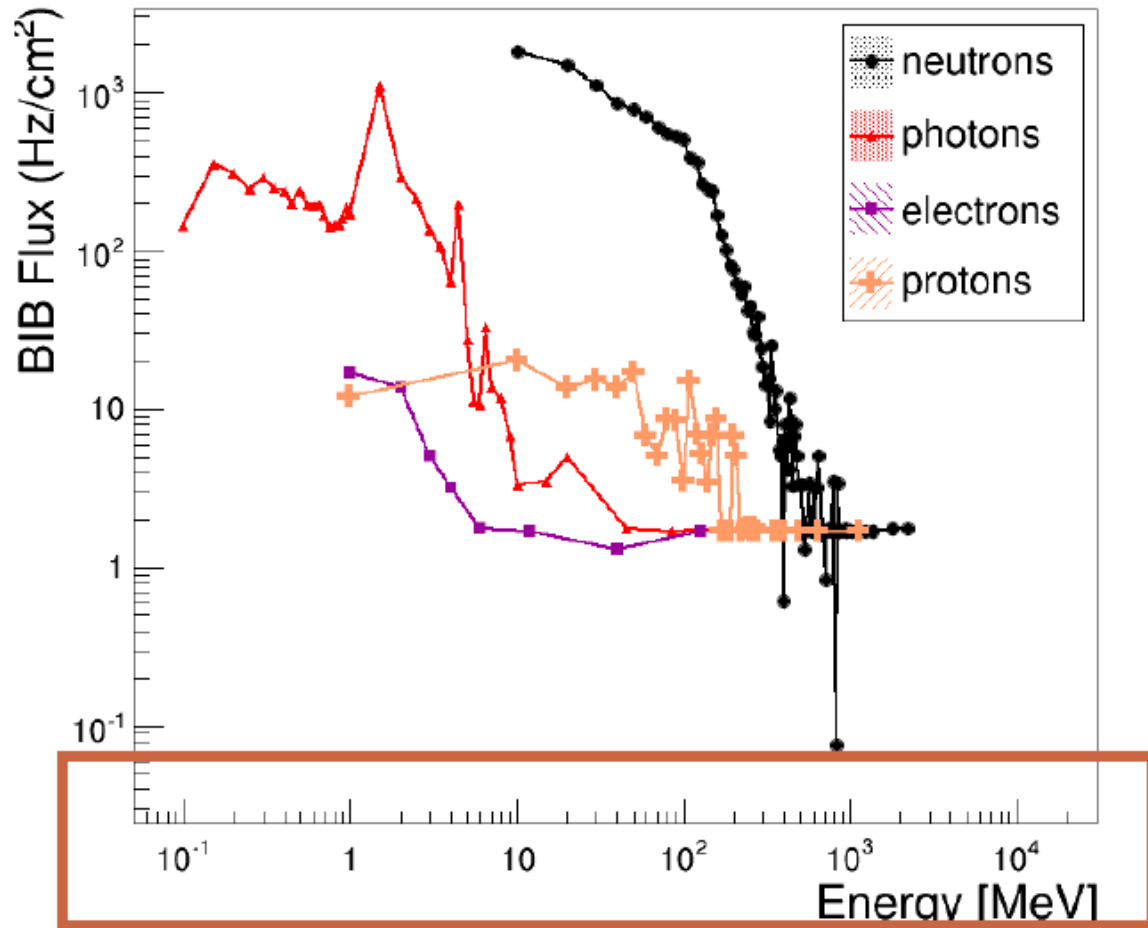


BIB particles flux [Hz/cm²] in different regions (bunch crossing time 10 μ s):

Particle	Endcap ($\theta > 12^\circ$)	Endcap ($8^\circ < \theta < 12^\circ$)	Endcap ($\theta < 8^\circ$)	Barrel
neutrons	$1.2 \cdot 10^3$	$5 \cdot 10^4$	$1.2 \cdot 10^6$	$1.4 \cdot 10^2$
protons	16	$3 \cdot 10^2$	$2.4 \cdot 10^4$	----
photons	$6.2 \cdot 10^2$	$1 \cdot 10^4$	$7.2 \cdot 10^5$	5
e+ e-	3	$3.3 \cdot 10^2$	$5 \cdot 10^3$	< 1
$\mu+$ $\mu-$	3	$3.7 \cdot 10^2$	$1.2 \cdot 10^4$	----
pions, kaons	< 1	70	$1 \cdot 10^3$	----
Total	$\approx 2 \text{ kHz/cm}^2$	$\approx 60 \text{ kHz/cm}^2$	$\approx 2 \text{ MHz/cm}^2$	$\approx 200 \text{ Hz/cm}^2$

- Background interaction with the detector was simulated in Geant4
- Convolved with the response of different gaseous detector technologies (hit when a charged particle is found in the drift gap)
- Simulated PicoSec: 3mm MgF2 radiator, 18nm CsI photocathode, 200um drift gap
- **PicoSec can potentially operate in high-rate environments and give timing information with higher precision wrt other technologies**

BIB Energy distribution - Entire Endcap



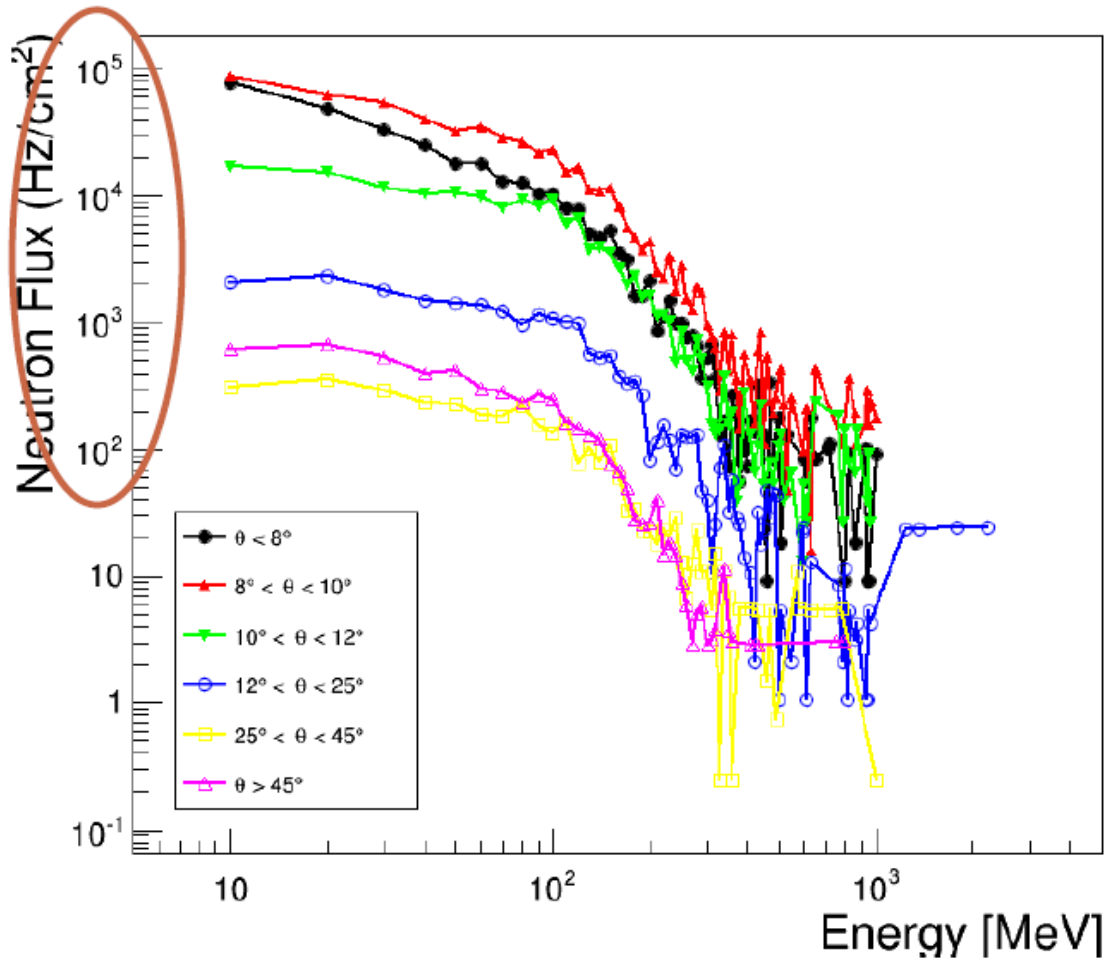
$$f(E) = \frac{p(E) \times BX^{-1}}{A}$$

where

- $p(E)$ = number of particles of a given type and energy reaching the muon system in a BX
- BX^{-1} = number of BX/s (10^5)
- A = considered area

This plot shows the flux on the entire endcap – not to be used to evaluate the actual fluxes on the detectors – but it gives us an overview of particle types and energy ranges.

BIB Energy distribution - Neutrons vs θ



We have divided the endcap region in six sub-regions based on θ (or r):

- In the inner regions, the neutron flux is almost 3 orders of magnitude higher than in the outer regions
- The energy goes from few MeV up to 2.5 GeV → *is there any cut on the lower energies?*
- The highest fluxes are for energies below 100 MeV

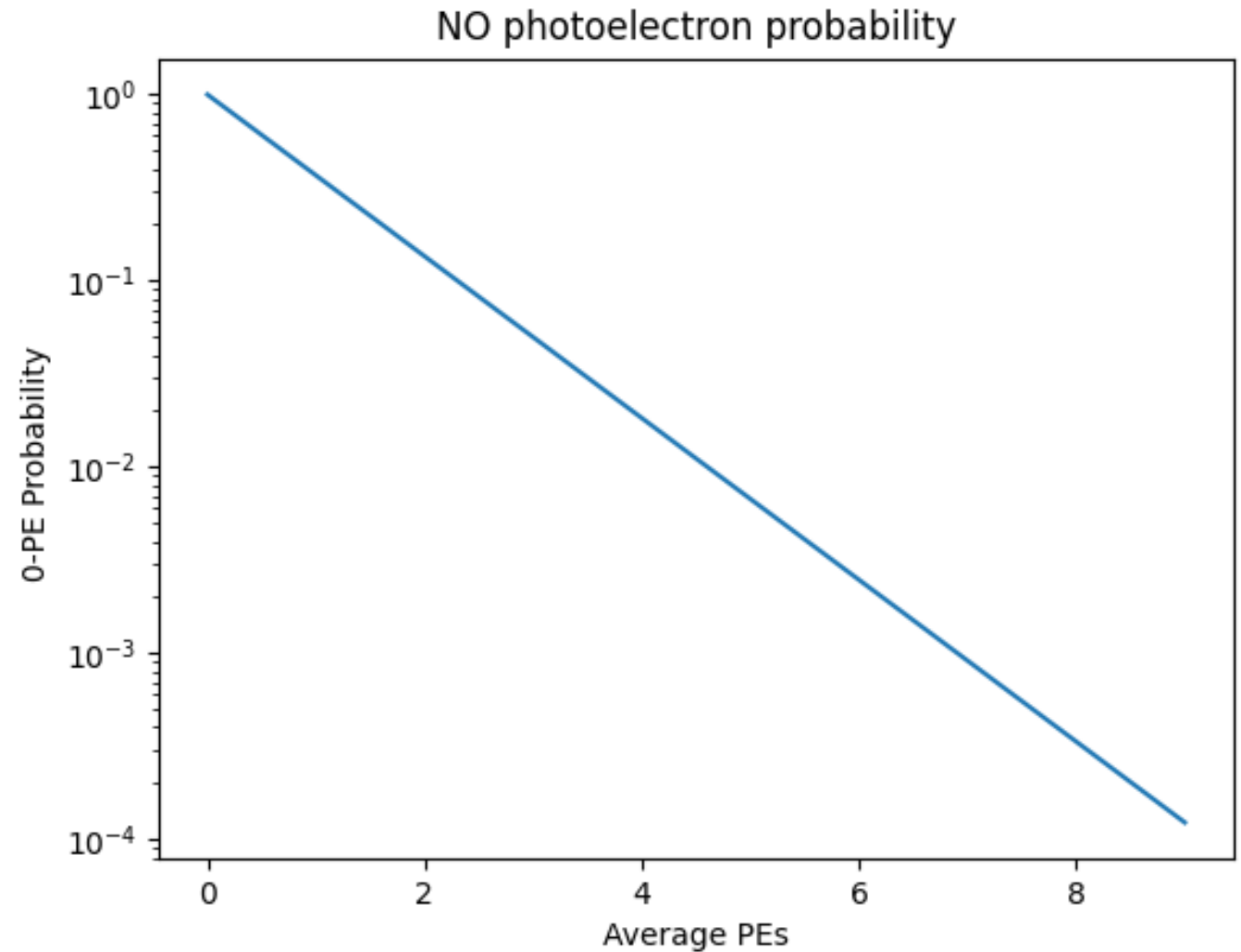
zero photoelectron probability

Poisson probability of having zero PE when the mean is:

- $2 \rightarrow P_2(0)=0.14$
- $5 \rightarrow P_5(0)=0.007$

4.6 PE/MIP is considered the lowest acceptable value, i.e. 1% inefficiency

Comparison with test beam data not yet validated



Pion/Muon comparison

PIONS ($\approx 1\text{MHz/cm}^2$)

Ref: MCP1 2400V

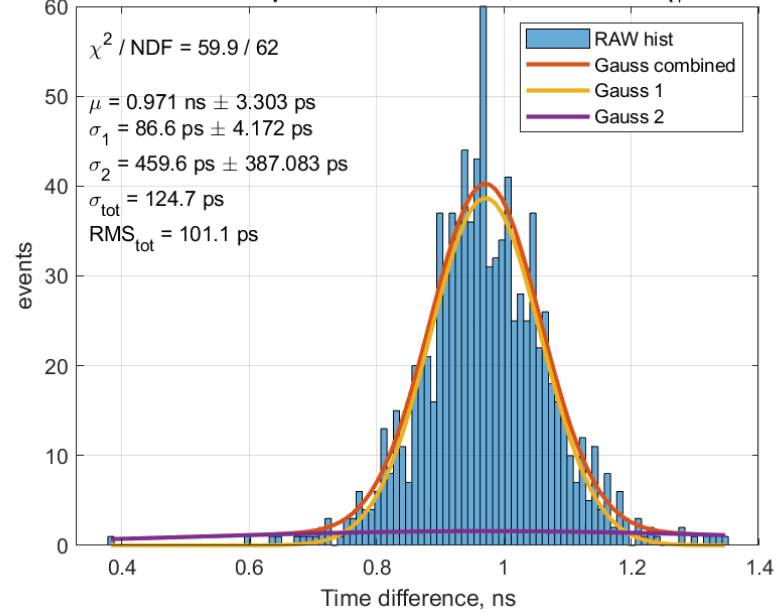
DUT: MM2 Davide non-res 7nm B4C 275/430V

MUONS

Ref: MCP2 3200V

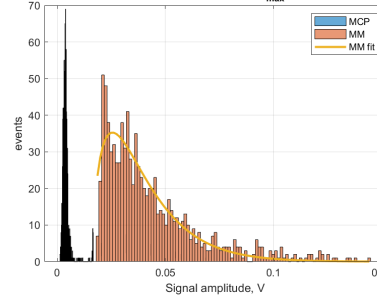
DUT: MM2 Davide non-res 7nm B4C 275/430V

2Gauss BEAM 2023 Apr RUN 239 Pool3 DUT:C2 REF:C1 ($\phi = 4.0$ mm)

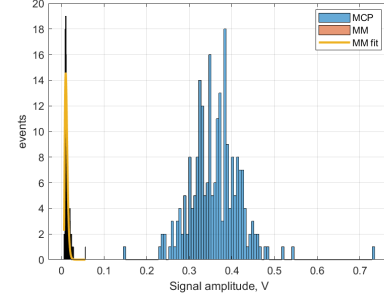


No tracking, trigger on MCP

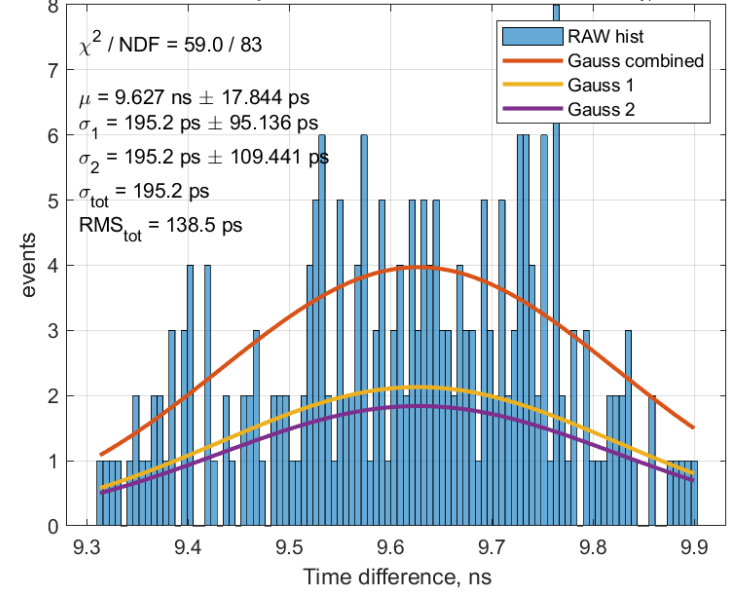
BEAM 2023 Apr RUN 239 Pool3 DUT:C2 REF:C1
e-peak amplitude $\mu = 0.0401$ V $U_{max} = 0.0250$ V



BEAM 2023 Apr RUN 243 Pool3 DUT:C4 REF:C1
e-peak amplitude $\mu = 0.0116$ V $U_{max} = 0.0103$ V



2Gauss BEAM 2023 Apr RUN 243 Pool3 DUT:C4 REF:C1 ($\phi = 4.0$ mm)

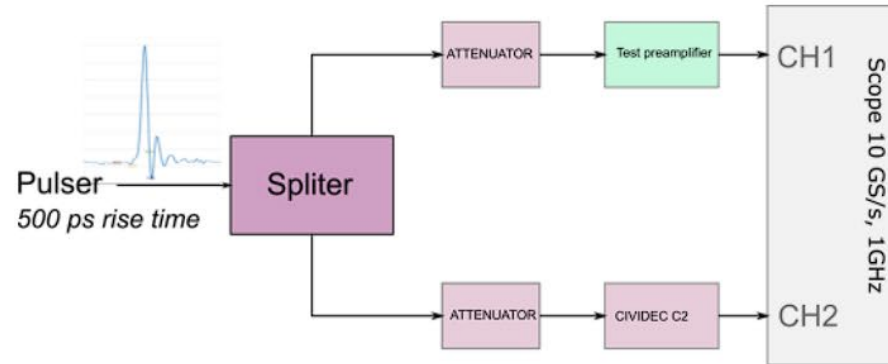


Tracking,
trigger on MCP

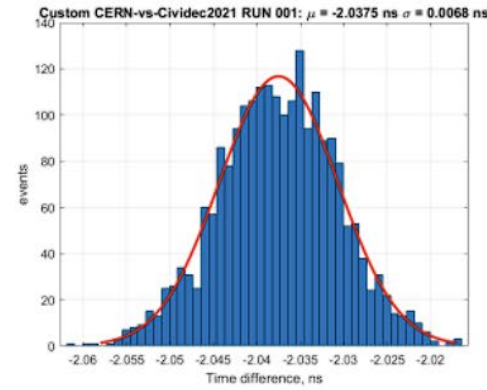
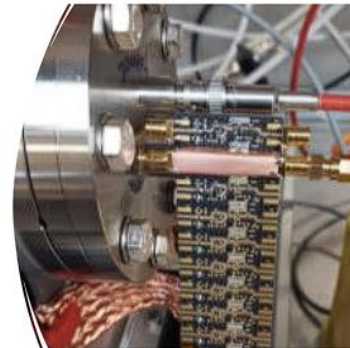
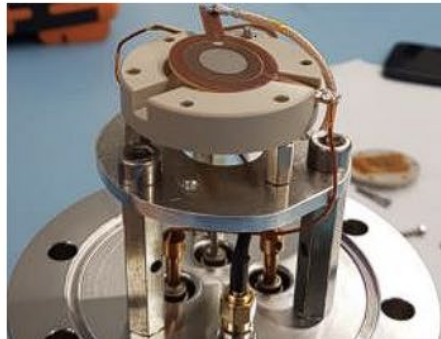
SAMPIC test

10 channel preamplifier boards
 ordered from LPSC.

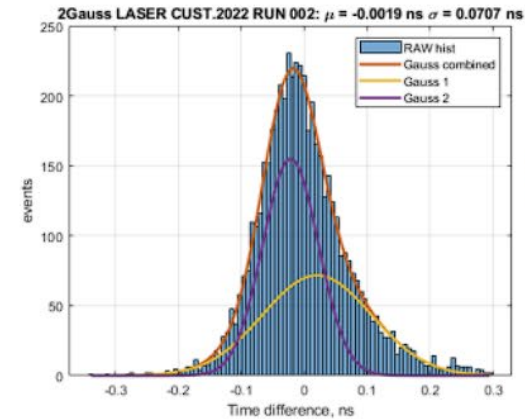
Timing test with pulser



Timing test with laser
 (connected on single channel detector): single
 photoelectron time response



$\sigma = 6.8 \text{ ps}$



$\sigma_{\text{SPE}} = 70.7 \text{ ps}$

9

Non-resistive MM1 ThinGap Csl

Same Csl from May/July, 275A/465C
 Analysed pad per pad, combined by nominal location per pad

