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# GridPixes and their Application

Jochen Kaminski  
University of Bonn

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

MPGD conference  
Tel Aviv  
13.12.2022

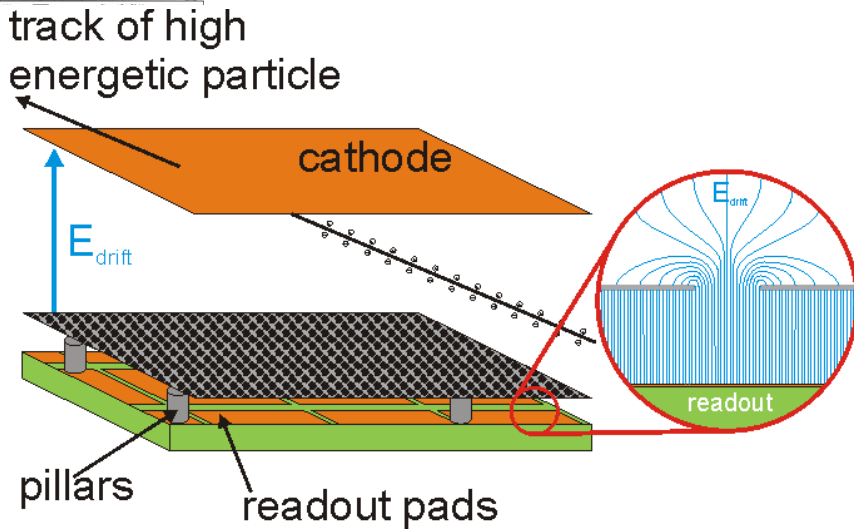


# Content



- GridPix Detectors
- X-ray Photon Detector for Axion Searches
- TPC Readout at future Higgs factories
- GridPix for X-ray Polarimetry
- GridPix in Neutron Detectors
- GridPix in a Negative Ion TPC
- GridPix in educational detectors

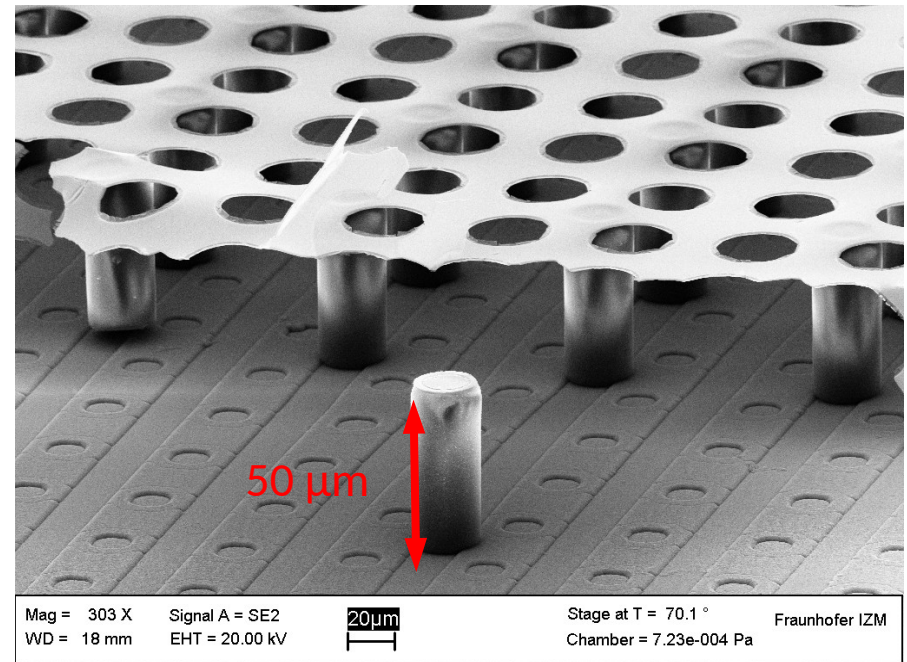
# From Micromegas to GridPix



Standard charge collection:

Pads / long strips

Instead: Bump bond pads are used as charge collection pads.



Could the spatial resolution of single electrons be improved?

Diffusion in amplification region:

Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> 80:20 →  $\sigma = 11 \mu\text{m}$

Ar:iC<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub> 95:5 →  $\sigma = 11 \mu\text{m}$

Ar:CF<sub>4</sub>:iC<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub> 95:3:2 →  $\sigma = 11 \mu\text{m}$

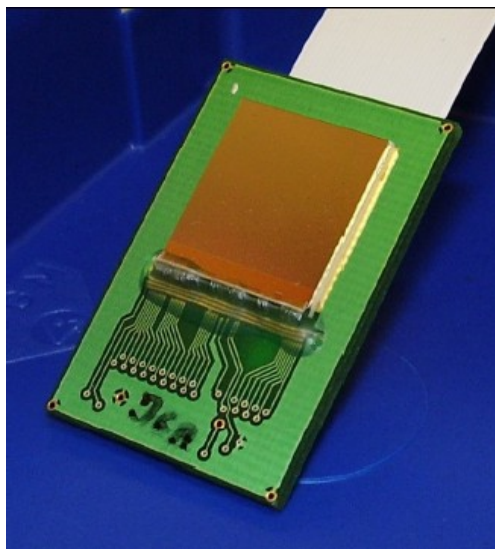
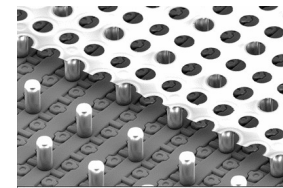
**Smaller pads/pixels could result in better resolution!**

**At NIKHEF the GridPix was invented.**

Charge avalanche is collected by one pixel

→ one hit corresponds to one primary electron

# The ASICs - Timepix(3)



**Timepix:** Available for tests since Nov. 2006

Number of pixels:  $256 \times 256$  pixels

Pixel pitch:  $55 \times 55 \mu\text{m}^2$

Chip dimensions:  $1.4 \times 1.4 \text{ cm}^2$

ENC:  $\sim 90 e^-$

Limitations: no multi-hit capability.

Each pixel can measure either charge or time.

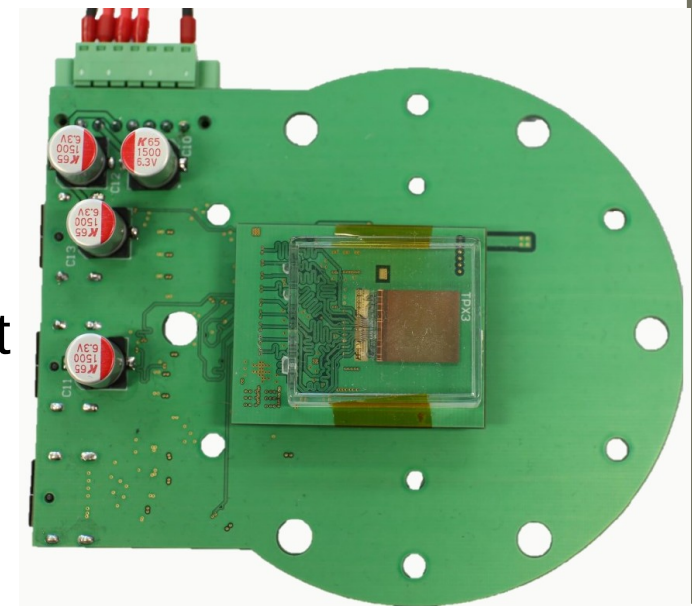
**Timepix3:** Available for tests since 2012

Number of pixels:  $256 \times 256$  pixels

Pixel pitch:  $55 \times 55 \mu\text{m}^2$

ENC:  $\sim 70 e^-$

- Charge (ToT) and time (ToA) available for each hit
- Timing resolution: 1.56 ns for duration of  $\sim 410 \mu\text{s}$
- Zero suppression on chip (sparse readout)
- Multi-hit capable
- Output rate up to 5.12 Gbps



Timepix(3) in the SRS:  
NIM A830 (2016) 75-81  
JINST 17 (2022) C04015

MPGD 2022  
J. Kaminski



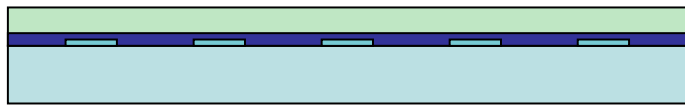
Medipix collaboration:  
NIM A581 (2007) 485-494 4  
JINST 9 (2014) C05013

# GridPix - Production

A wafer-based production was set up at the Fraunhofer Institut IZM at Berlin. One wafer (107 chips) is processed at a time.



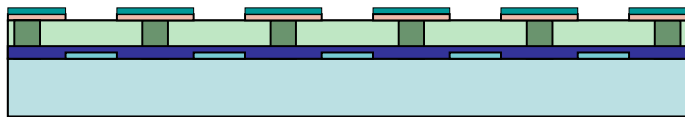
1. Formation of  $\text{Si}_x\text{N}_y$  protection layer



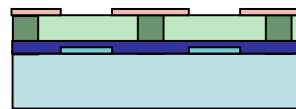
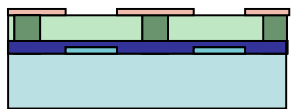
2. Deposition of SU-8



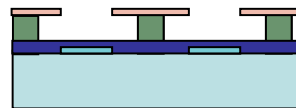
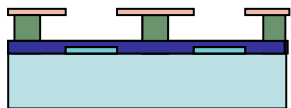
3. Pillar structure formation



4. Formation of Al grid

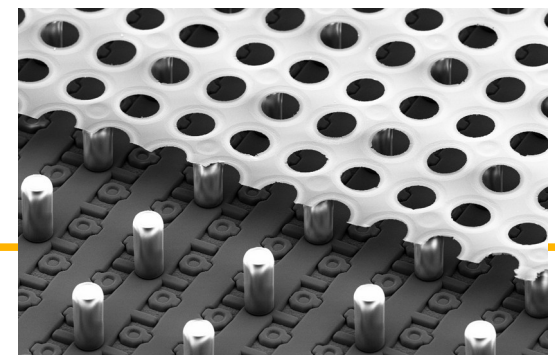
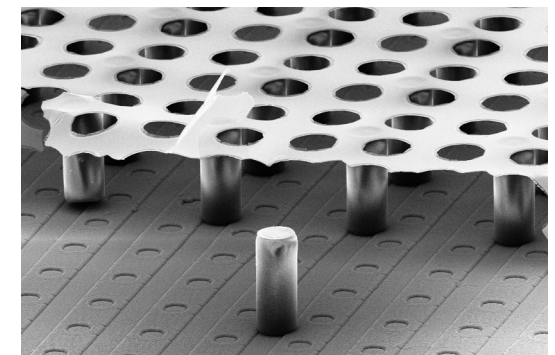
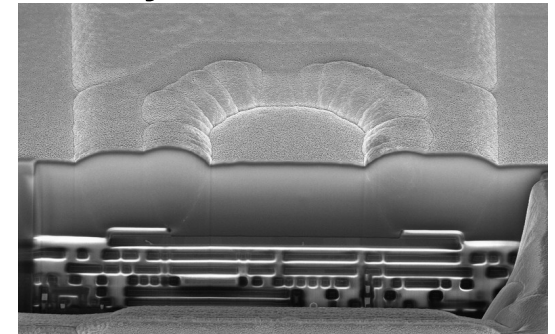
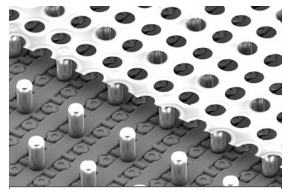


5. Dicing of wafer



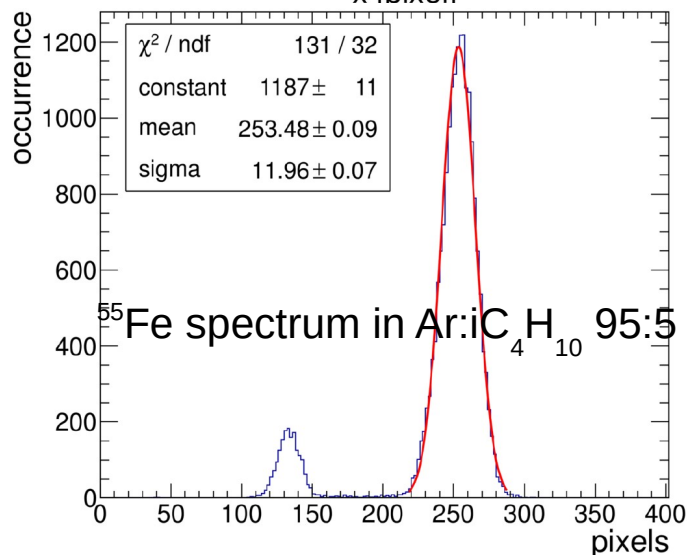
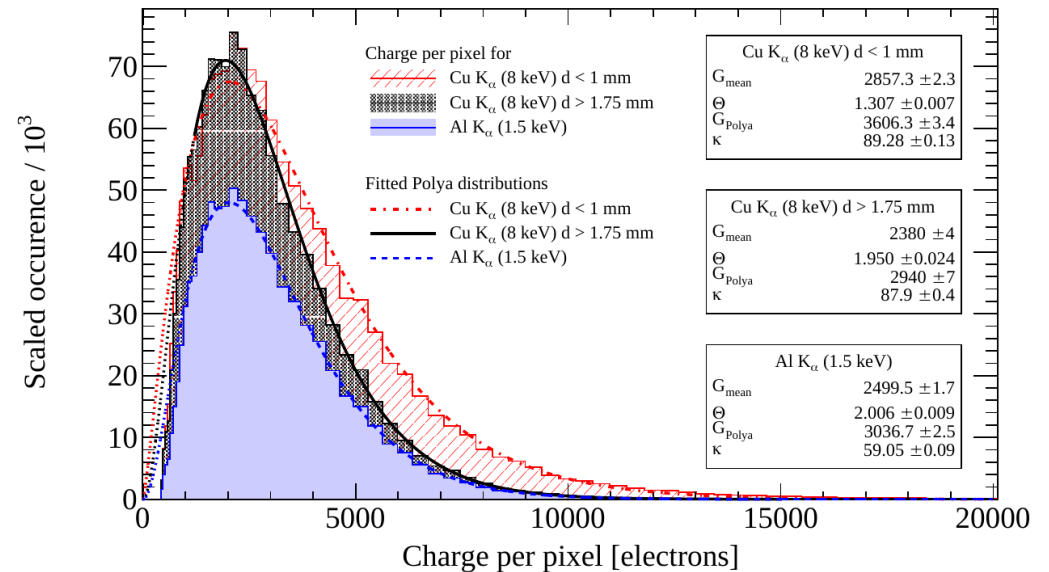
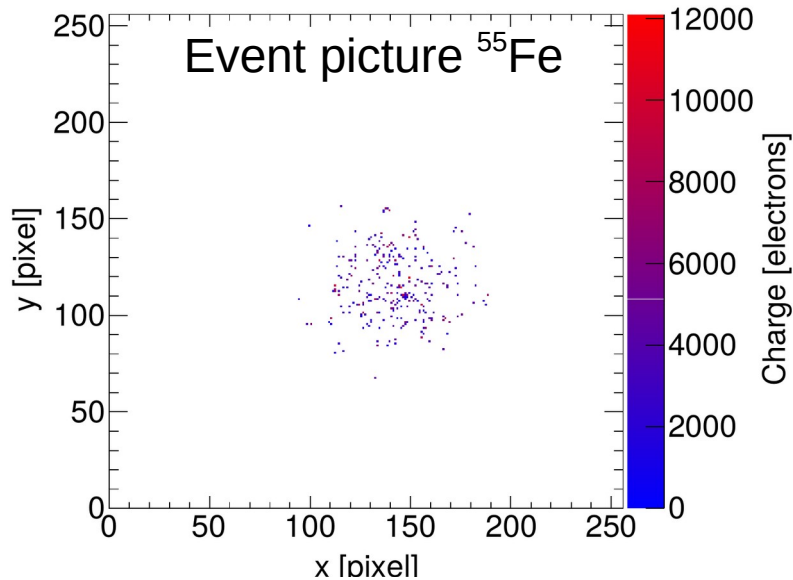
6. Development of SU-8

The process will be transferred to the FTD at Bonn in 2023/24.

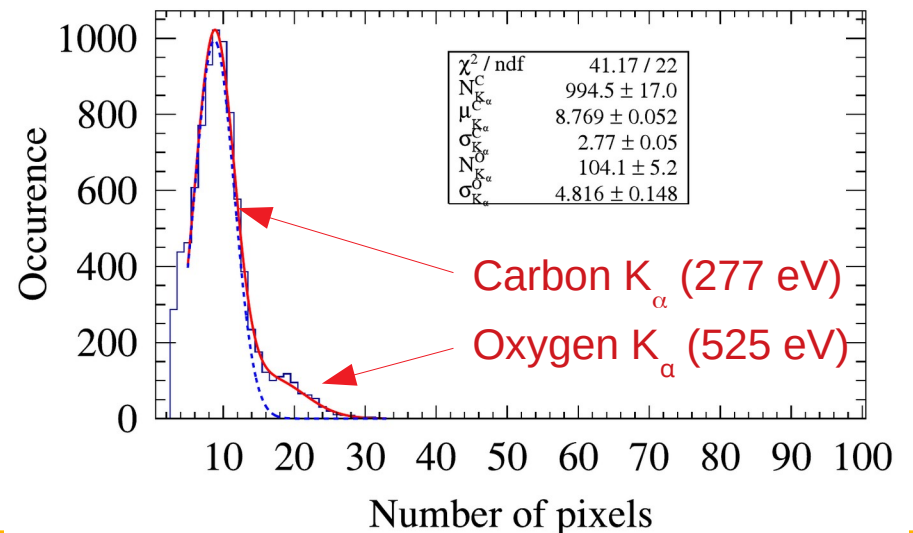


# GridPix – Single Primary Electrons

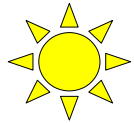
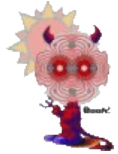
Single primary electrons can be counted leading to excellent energy resolution.



Energy resol.  
 $\sigma_E/E$  of down  
 to 3.85 % was  
 reached in  
 $\text{Ar}:\text{iC}_4\text{H}_{10}$  90:10  
 at 5.9 keV.

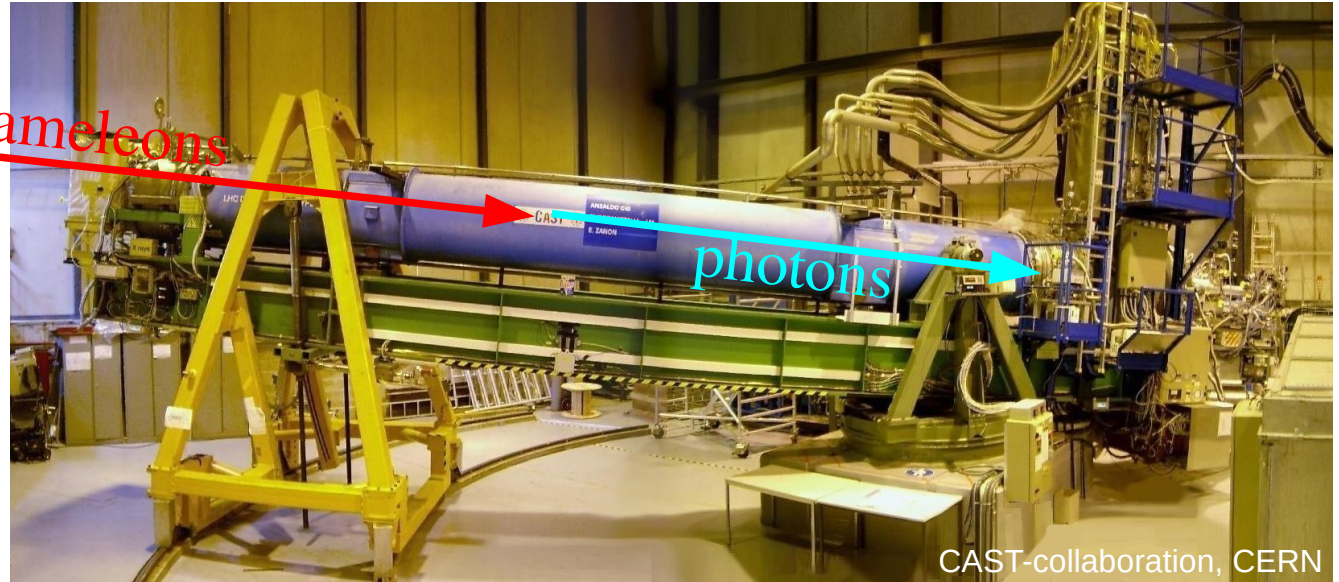


# CAST/IAXO – Search for Solar Axions

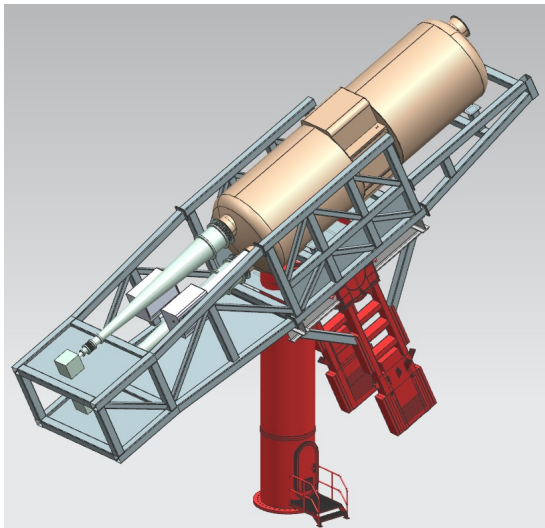


*Axions / chameleons*

CAST: Decommissioned LHC-magnet is pointed to the Sun. Axions and Chameleons produced in the Sun convert into X-ray photons.

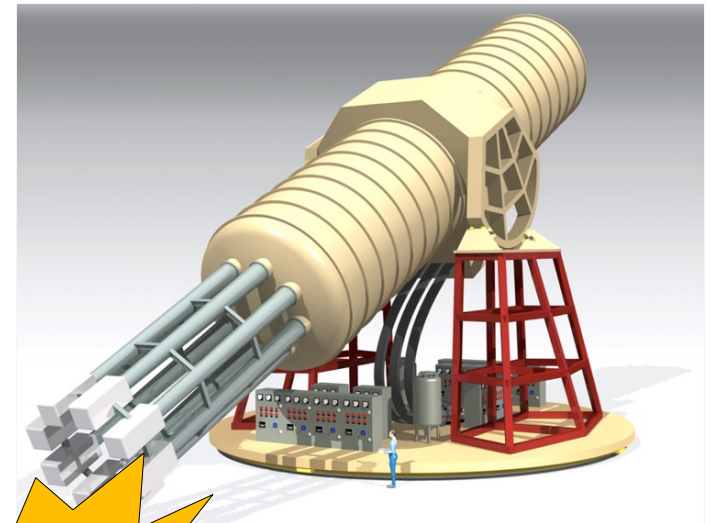


CAST-collaboration, CERN



Successor experiment (Baby-)IAXO is planned to be built at DESY.

- X-ray detectors with
- Low energy threshold
- High spatial resolution
- High radiopurity
- Shielded by lead



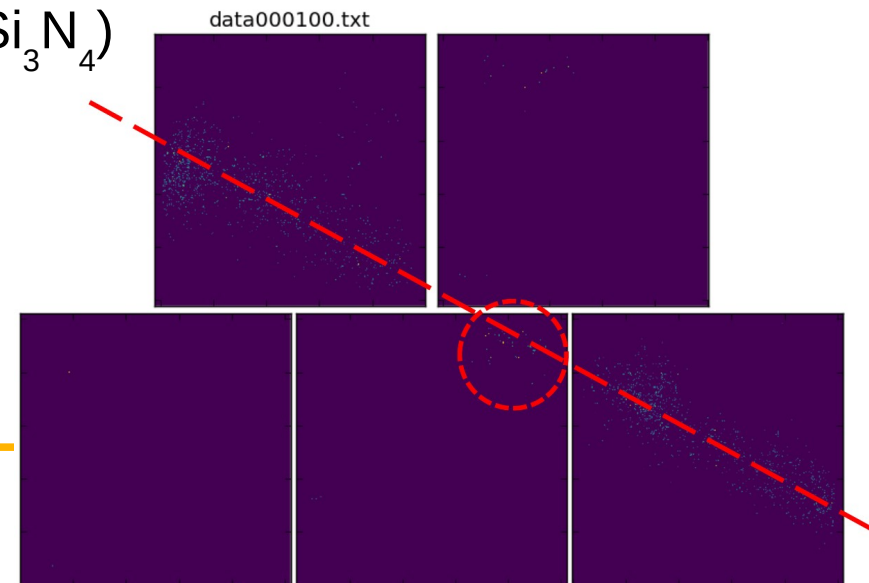
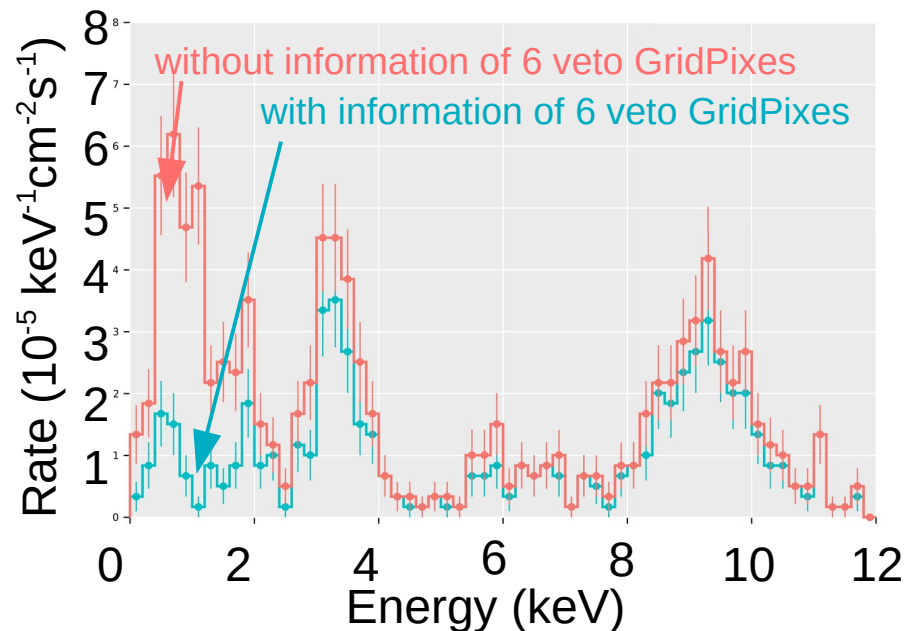
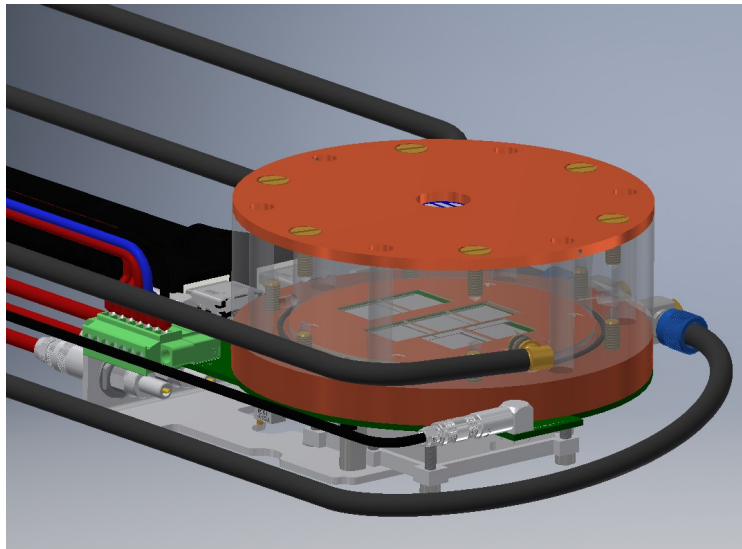
See talk by  
E. Ferrer Ribas

# CAST

1. data run 2014/15 → Data published
2. data run 2017/18 → Analysis is finalized

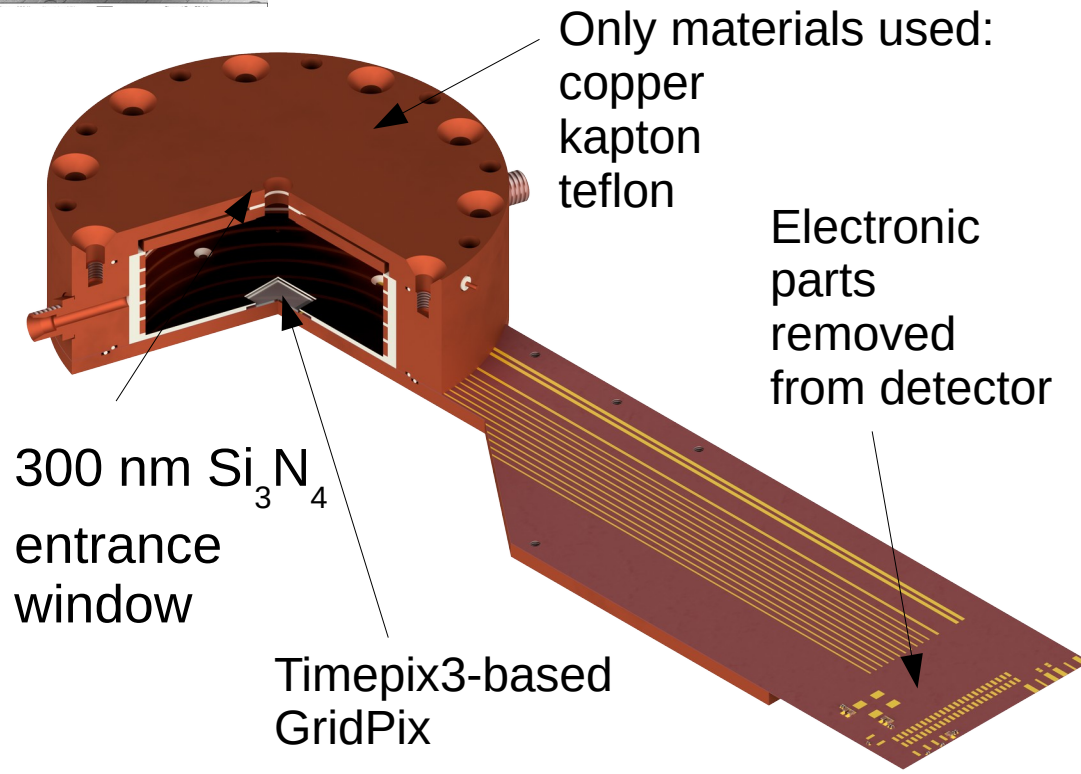
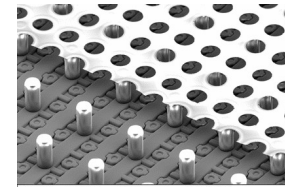
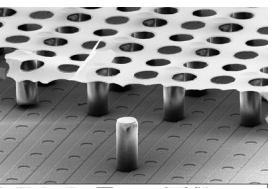
Data Run 2 had several improvements in the detector:

- 7 GridPix arrangement (central main detector + 6 veto detectors)
- Signal decouple from grid and digitized by FADC
- 2 veto scintillators (behind GridPix and on top of lead shielding)
- Low material budget entrance window (300 nm  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ )





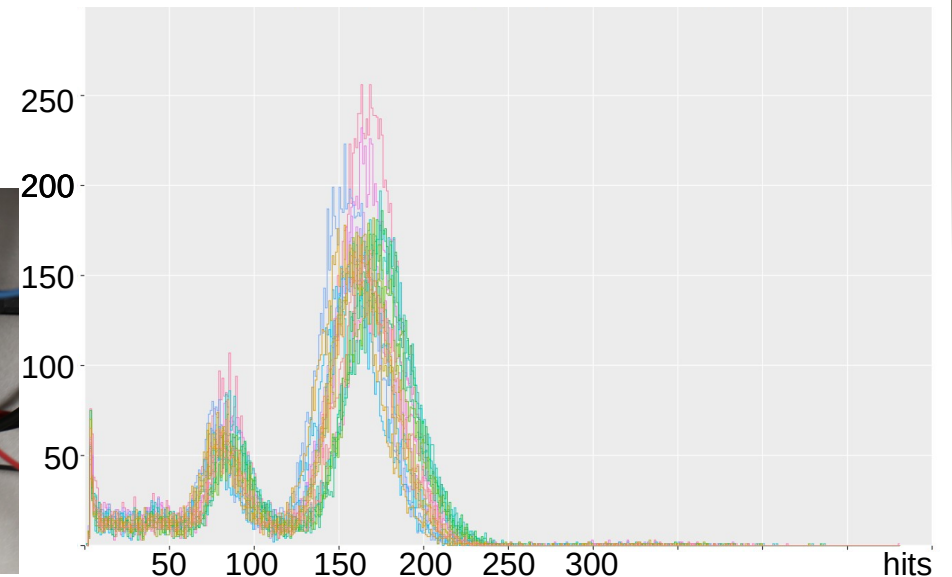
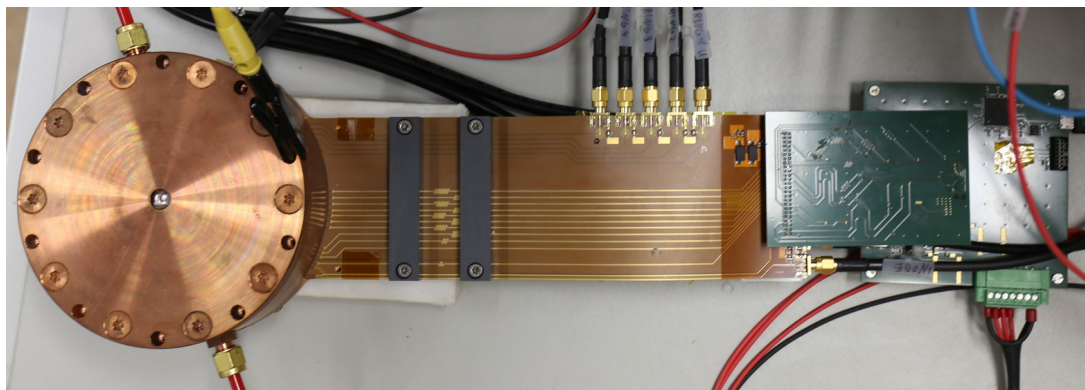
# BabyIAXO Prototype Detector



Further improvements of the CAST detector:

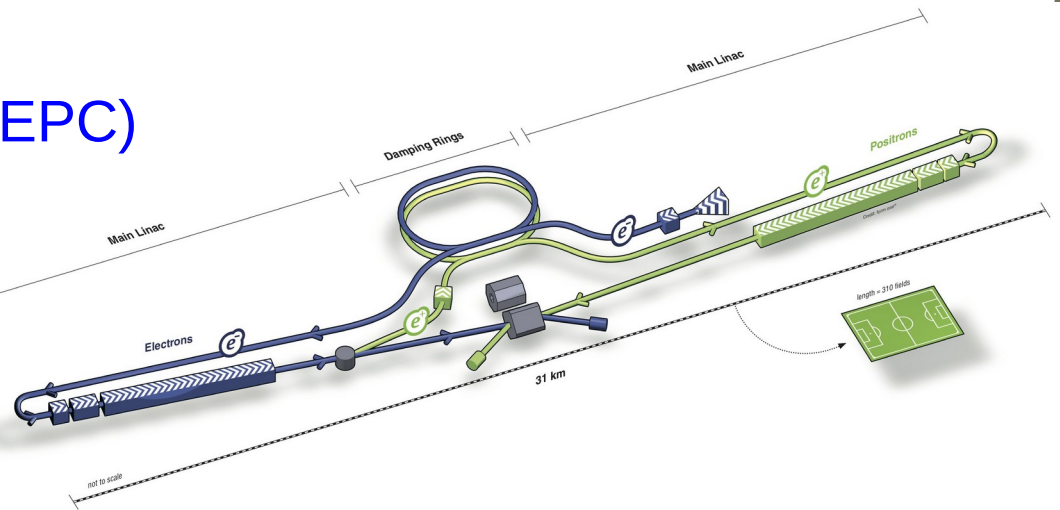
- Timepix3 (currently only one)
- Use of radiopure materials only (copper, teflon, kapton)
- Move non-essential parts further away

Currently first prototype without radiopure copper/cleaning.



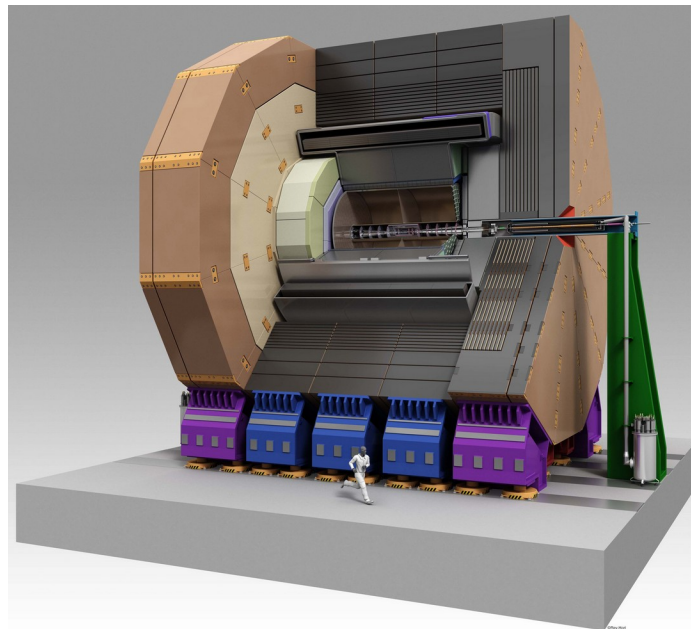
# Tracker for Future Higgs Factories

International Linear Collider (ILC) /  
 Chinese Electron Positron Collider (CEPC)  
 Future Circular Collider (FCCee)  
 are  $e^+e^-$  colliders with:  
 $\sqrt{s} = 90 \text{ GeV} - 1 \text{ TeV} / 90\text{-}240 \text{ GeV}$   
 Overall length of 21-50 km / 100 km



## Requirements of TPC from ILC TDR vol. 4

Parameter	$r_{in}$	$r_{out}$	$z$
Geometrical parameters	329 mm	1808 mm	$\pm 2350 \text{ mm}$
Solid angle coverage	up to $\cos\theta \simeq 0.98$ (10 pad rows)		
TPC material budget	$\simeq 0.05 X_0$ including outer fieldcage in $r$ $< 0.25 X_0$ for readout endcaps in $z$		
Number of pads/timebuckets	$\simeq 1\text{-}2 \times 10^6/1000$ per endcap		
Pad pitch/ no.padrows	$\simeq 1 \times 6 \text{ mm}^2$ for 220 padrows		
$\sigma_{point}$ in $r\phi$	$\simeq 60 \mu\text{m}$ for zero drift, $< 100 \mu\text{m}$ overall		
$\sigma_{point}$ in $rz$	$\simeq 0.4 - 1.4 \text{ mm}$ (for zero - full drift)		
2-hit resolution in $r\phi$	$\simeq 2 \text{ mm}$		
2-hit resolution in $rz$	$\simeq 6 \text{ mm}$		
dE/dx resolution	$\simeq 5 \%$		
Momentum resolution at B=3.5 T	$\delta(1/p_t) \simeq 10^{-4}/\text{GeV}/c$ (TPC only)		



- International Large Detector**
- Standard layout HEP detector with improved performance
  - TPC as main tracker

In addition: very high efficiency for particle of more than 1 GeV.

# PixelTPC for tracking at Colliders

A pixelTPC has some advantages compared to a conventional pad TPC

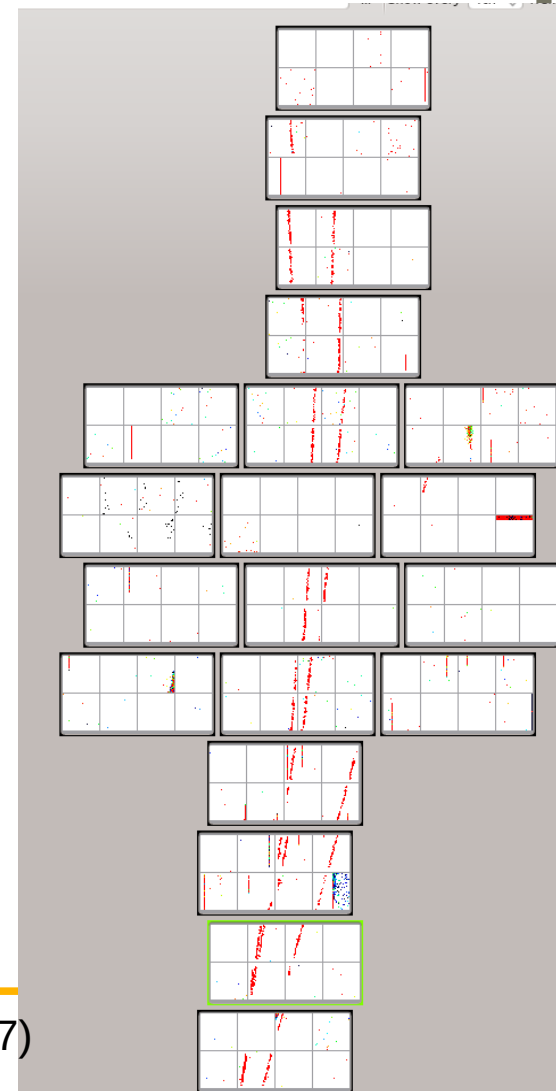
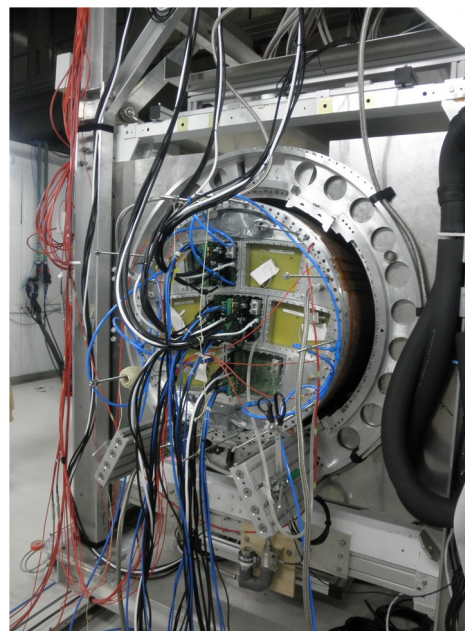
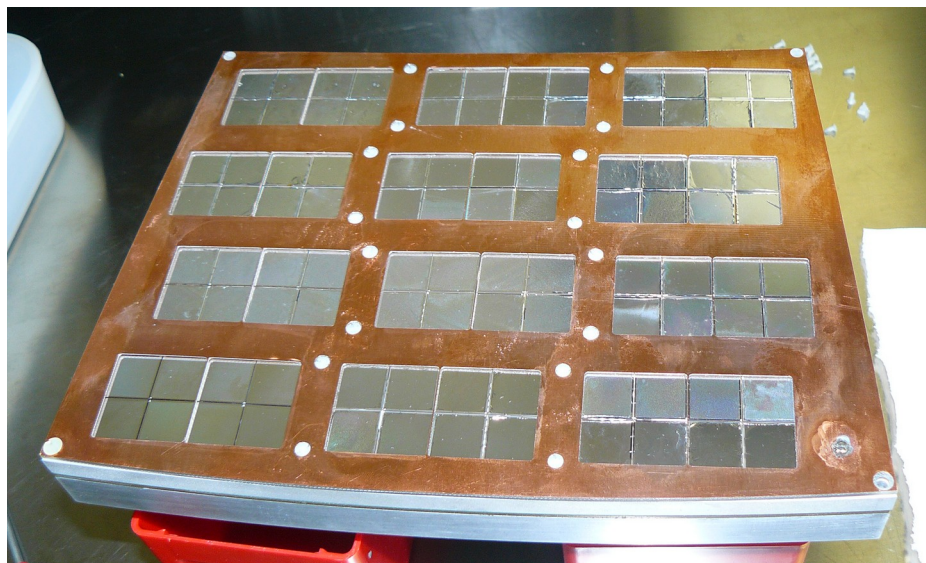
- Lower occupancy → easier track reconstruction at higher backgrounds
- Improved  $dE/dx$ :  $<4\%$  seems possible with electron or even cluster counting
- Removal of  $\delta$ -rays and kink removal
- No angular pad effect

To readout a large TPC: ~50000 GridPixes needed

→ Demonstrator with 160 GridPixes (Timepix) in 2015

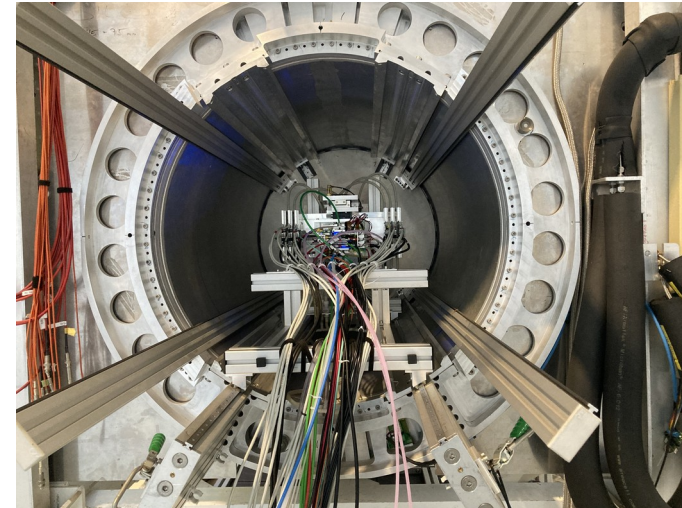
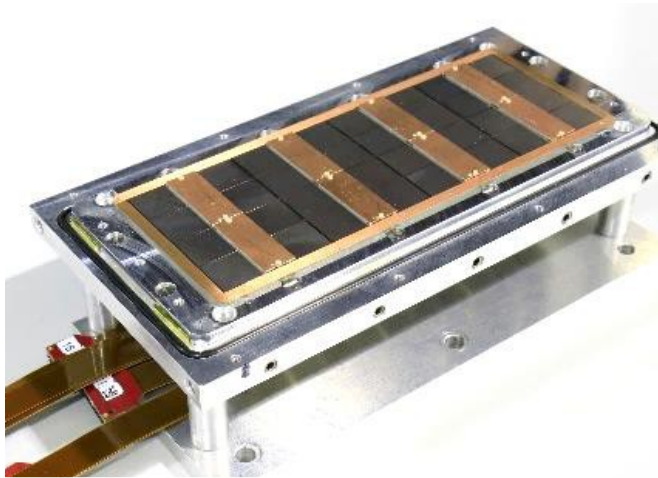
Central module with 96 GridPixes (coverage 50%)

2 weeks of successful test beam.

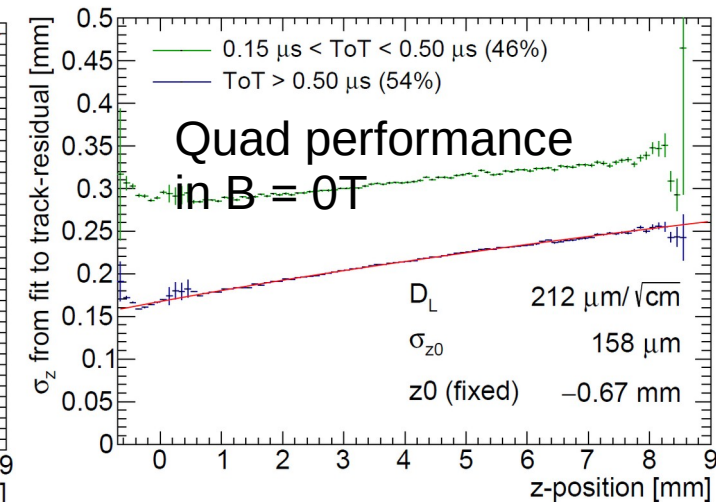
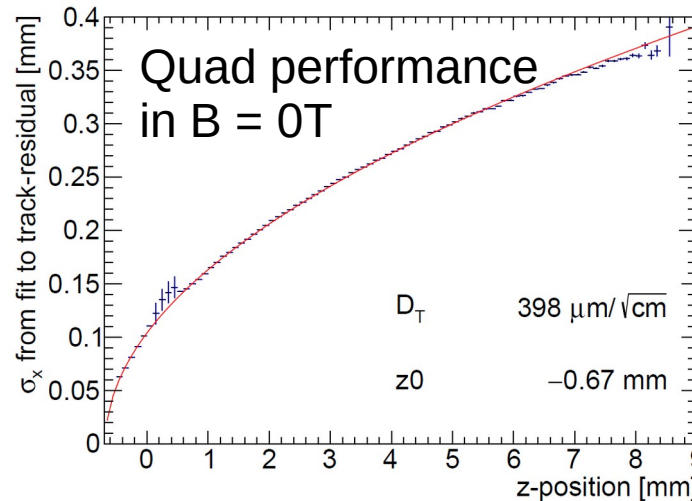
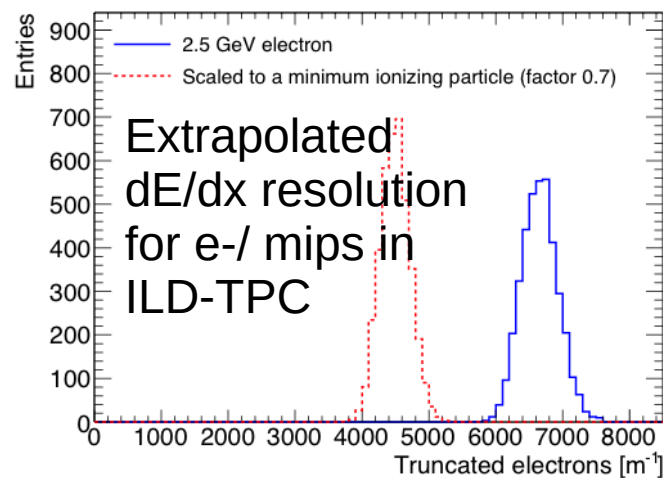


# Tracking with Timepix3

New effort to build larger modules with Timepix3 based GridPixes:  
 First single chip (2017), then quads (2018), finally 8 quads (June 2021).



Quad coverage:  
68.9 %



# Tracking with Timepix3

DESY LCTPC-Pixel Testbeam

Run 6916 Event 12

Bfield 0 T beam momentum 6 GeV/c

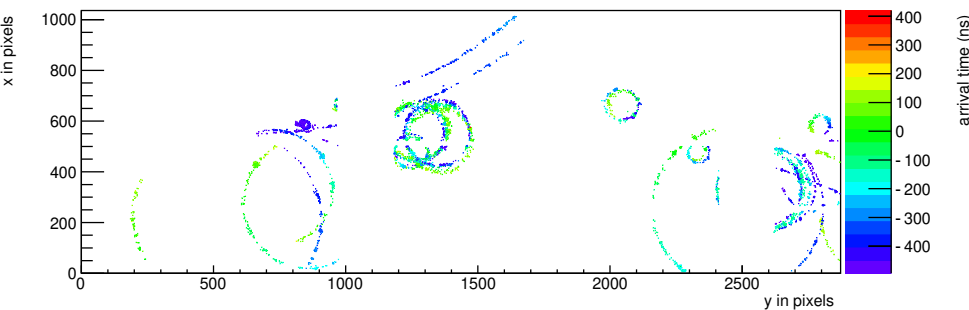
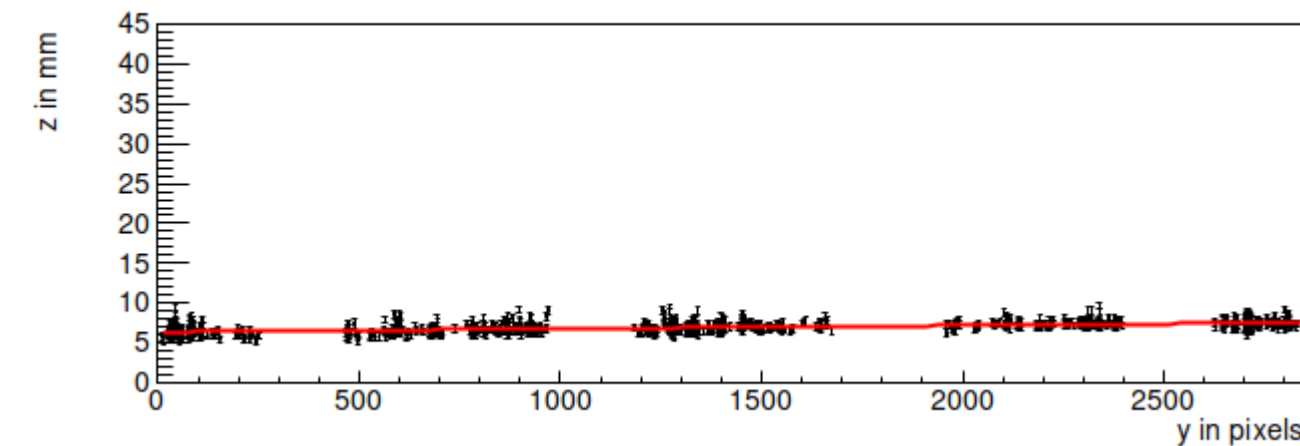
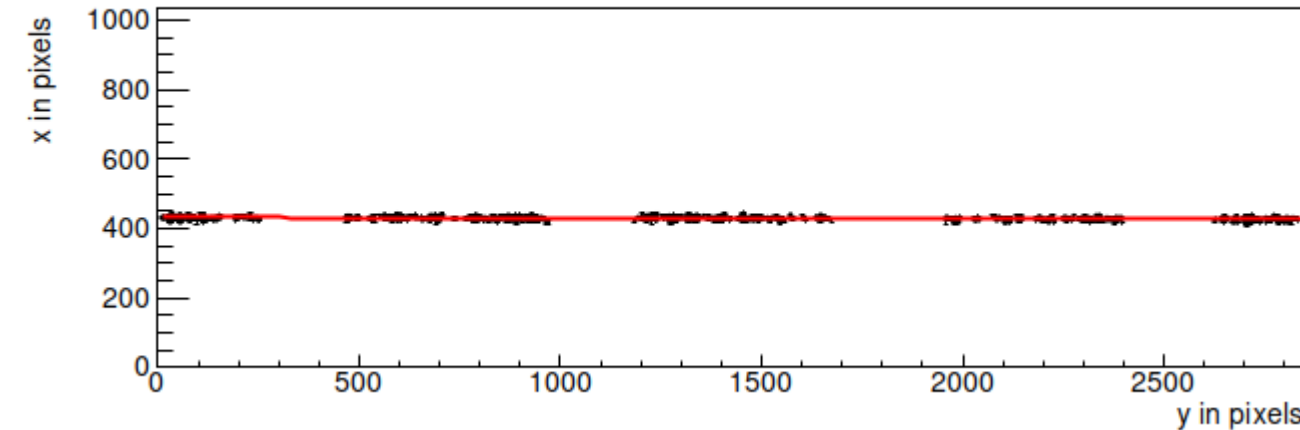
Track with 1050 hits:

$$\chi^2_{xy} = 912/1048$$

$$\chi^2_z = 1740/1048$$

No asymmetric tail (z time slewing) or outlier removal applied yet.

Many tests performed  
in B = 0/1 T  
with various beam energies  
with various rates  
with various angles  
For the complete data  
taking a high precision  
external tracker was  
available

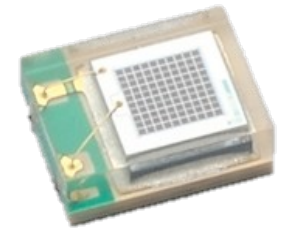
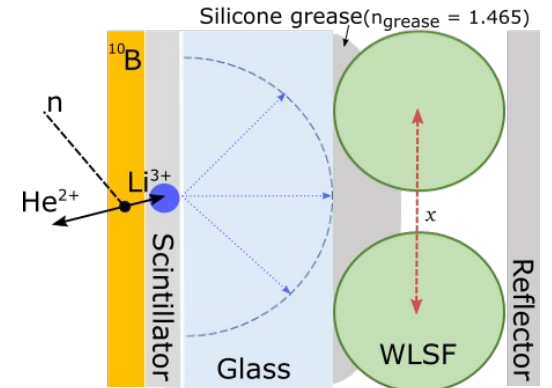
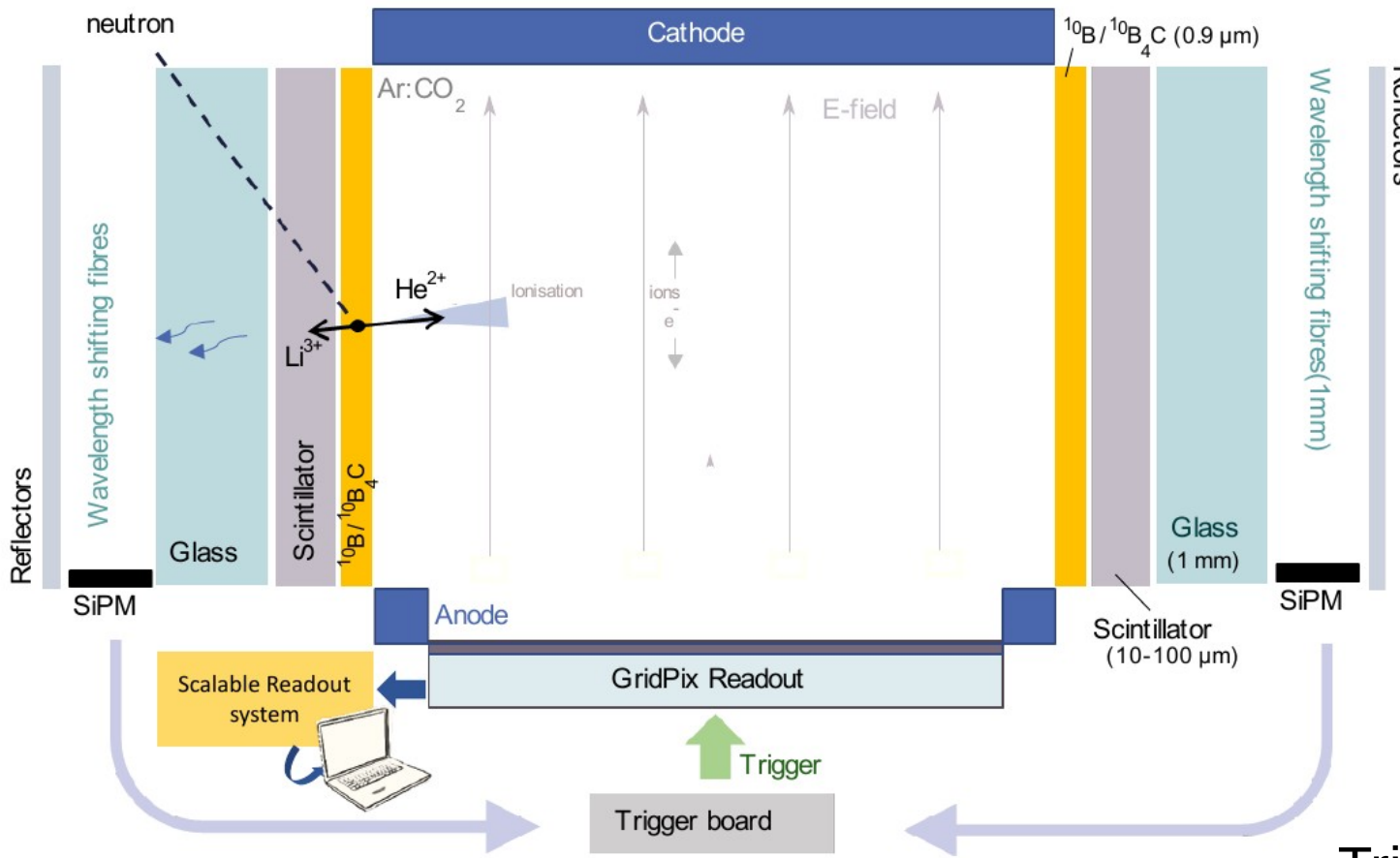


# Neutron TPC

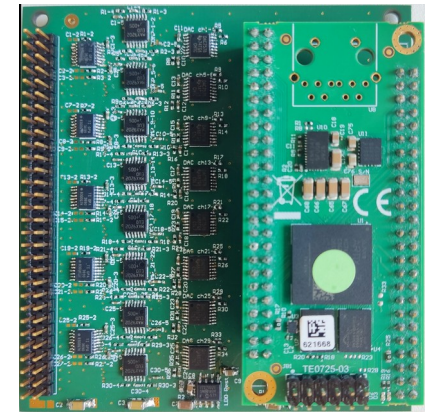
TPC with solid state converter on side walls



Side walls:  $^{10}\text{B}$ , scintillator, glass, WLSF

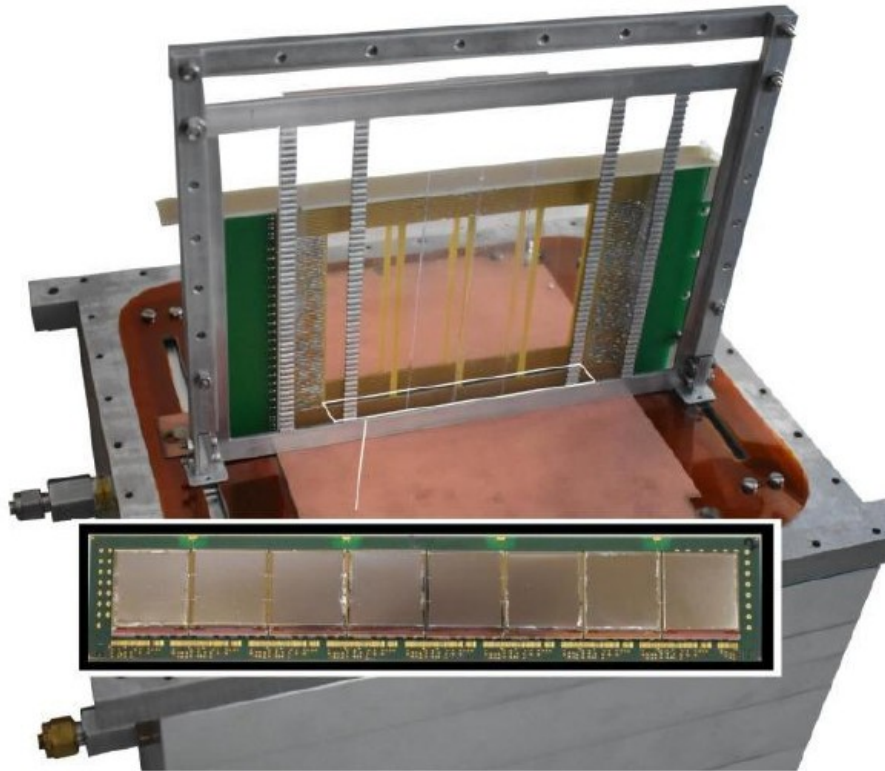


MPPC S13360-1375PE

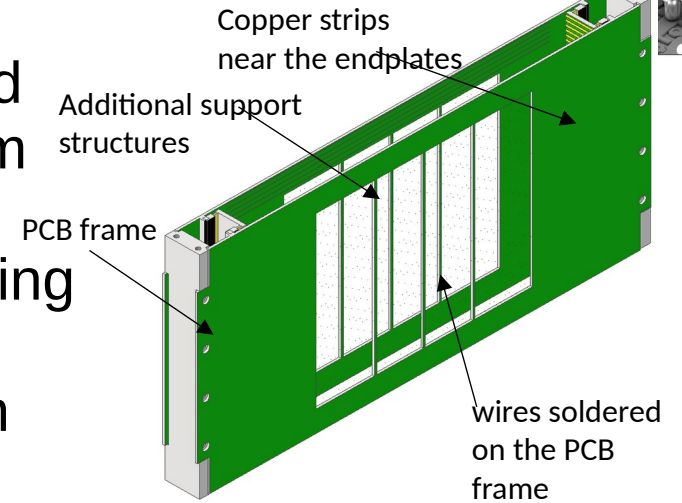


Trigger board for 30 SiPMs

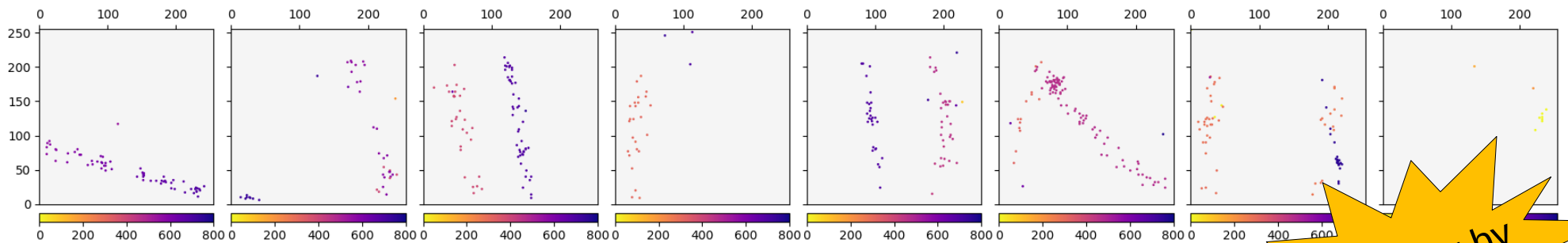
# Neutron TPC



Current field cage: 30  $\mu\text{m}$  thick wires with a spacing of 2 mm soldered on PCB.



First tracks of cosmic muons recorded with the TPC and external trigger. Analysis shows, that there are no track distortion in the xy-plane seen. Some distortions in the drift direction are seen close to the wires.



See poster by M. Lupberger

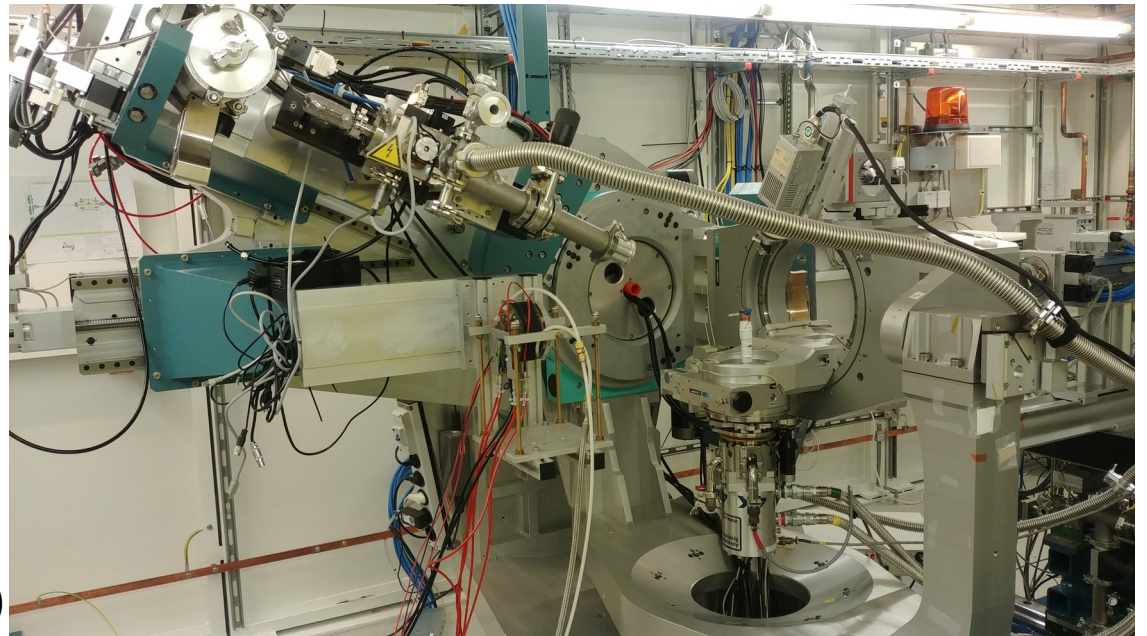
# X-ray Polarimetry

Polarization is interesting to measure, since it gives information about materials or physical processes.

→ Difficult to measure at low X-ray energies with standard techniques

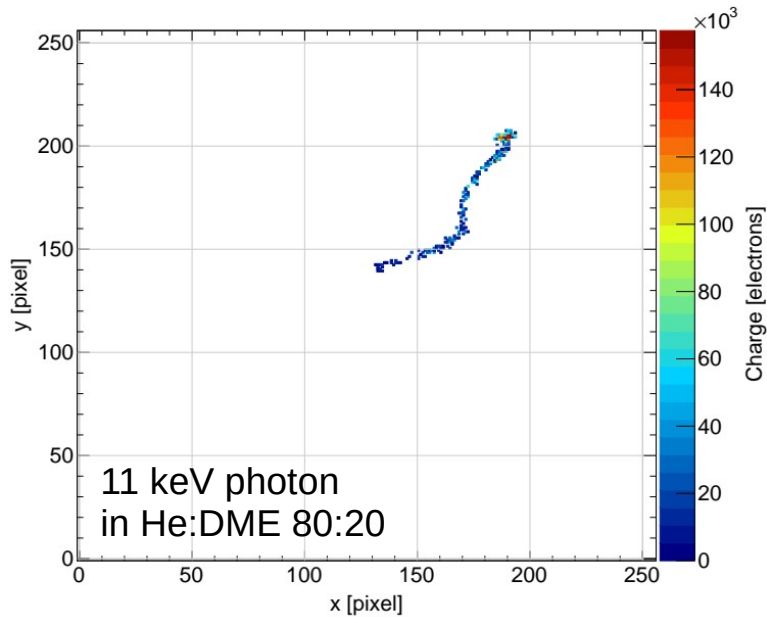
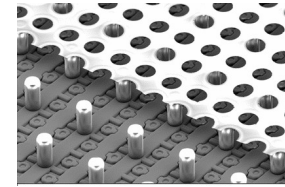
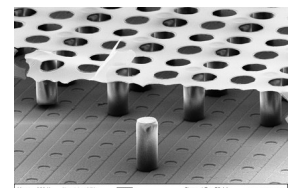
**Photoelectrons follow E-field of polarization**  
=> need gaseous detectors with high resolutions (GridPixes 😊)

- CAST type detector with 3 cm drift
- Different He-based gas mixtures with CO<sub>2</sub> or DME
- Test beam at PETRA III (DESY) and KARA (KIT)
- Beam energies 4-11 keV
- Beam is >95 % linearly polarized  
→ reconstructed polarization 76% (sofar)



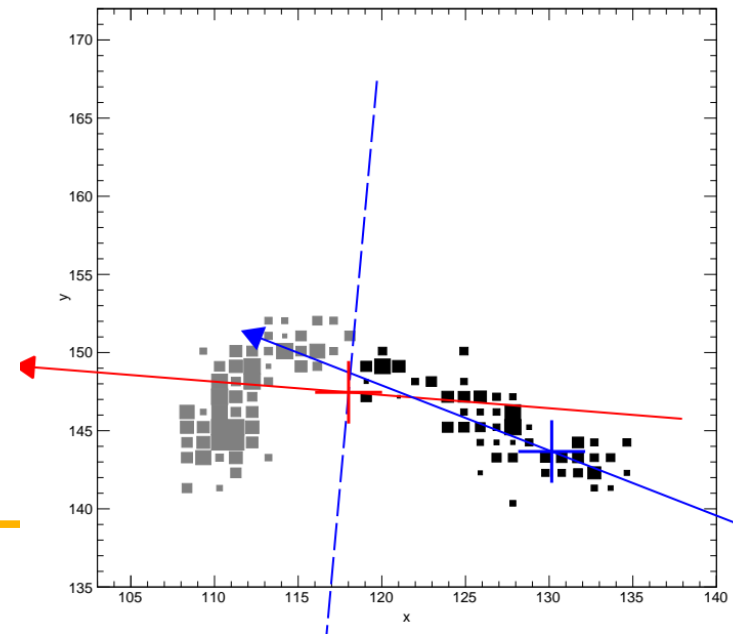
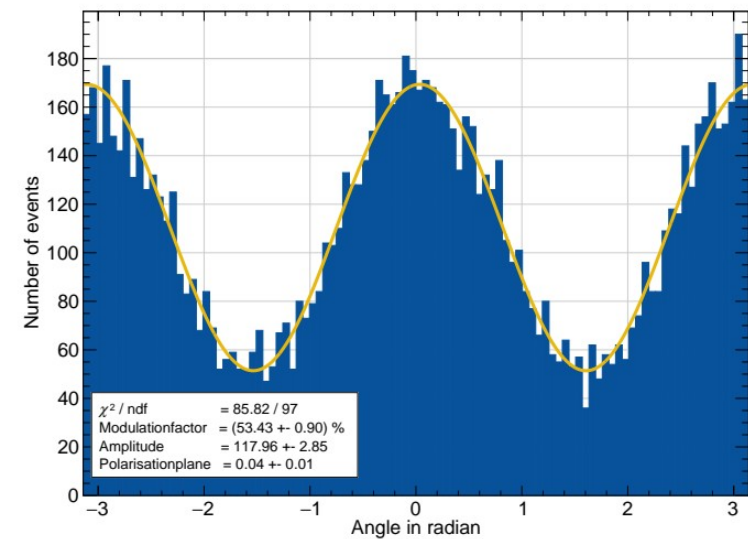
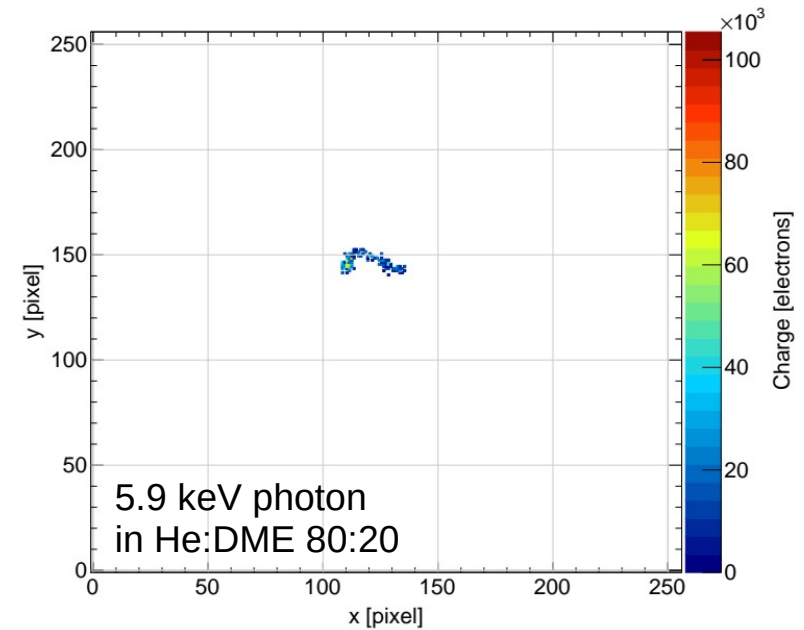


# X-ray Polarimetry



## Reconstruction:

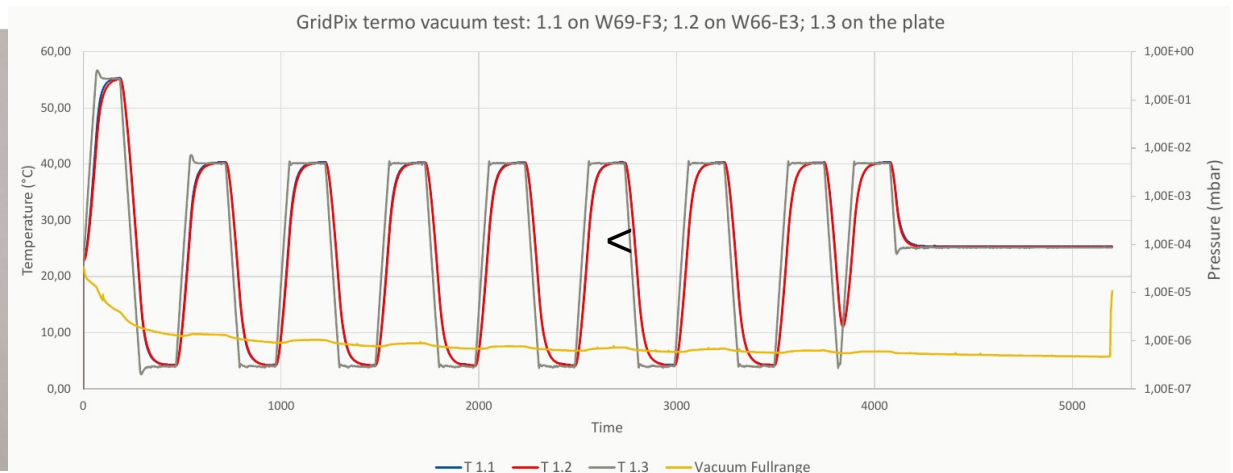
- Find center of event
- Split track
- Find end with higher ioniz.
- Reconstruct the other end
- Determine direction



# X-ray Polarimetry in Astrophysics

Project by the X-ray polarimetry group at INAF-IAPS (lead by Paolo Soffitta). Idea is to prepare and propose a follow-up mission of the IXPE satellite, potentially using a GridPix instead of a Gas Pixel Detector. Important first tests have been performed with 2 standard GridPixes:

## 1.) Thermo vacuum tests



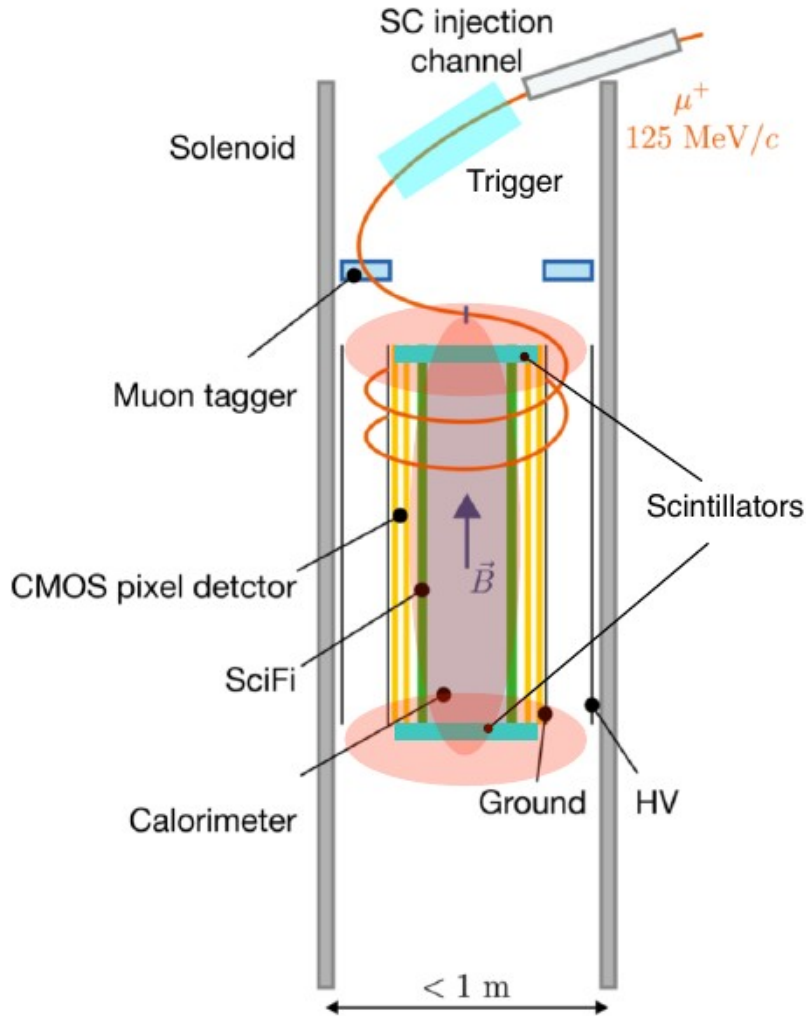
## 2.) random vibration test → no resonances found up to 2 kHz



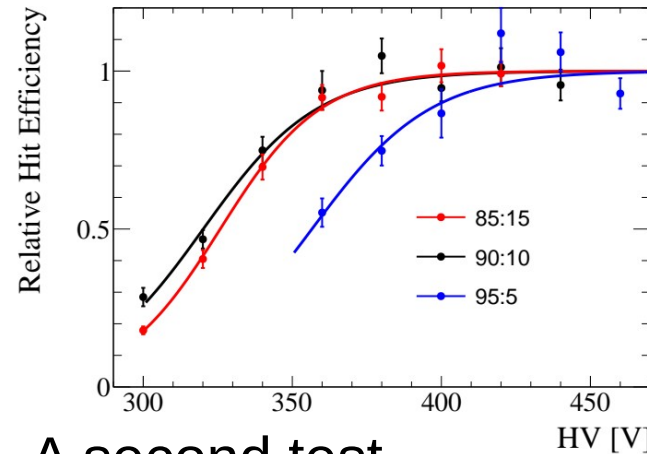
Before and after the two environmental tests high resolution pictures of the grid were taken and the ASICs were tested electronically → no differences were found

# Muon EDM at PSI

A new project for a dedicated measurement of the muon EDM

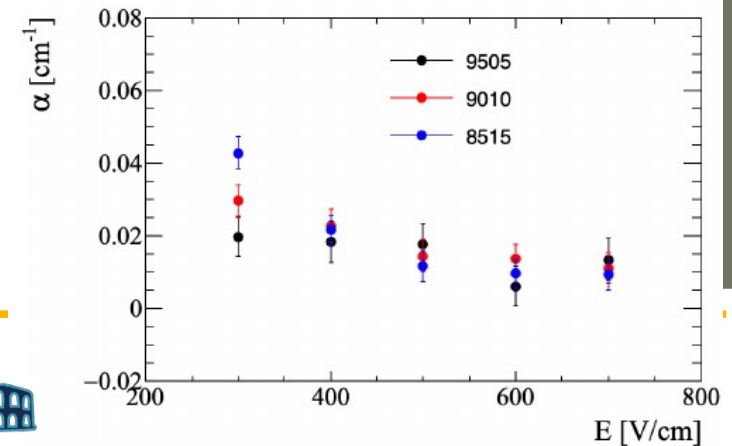


First tests to evaluate GridPix-TPC (F. Renga, INFN Roma) to characterize the muon beam during the commissioning of the phase-I experiment (2025-2026).  
 Test beam with different mixtures of  $\text{He}:\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$  (95:5, 90:10, 85:15)

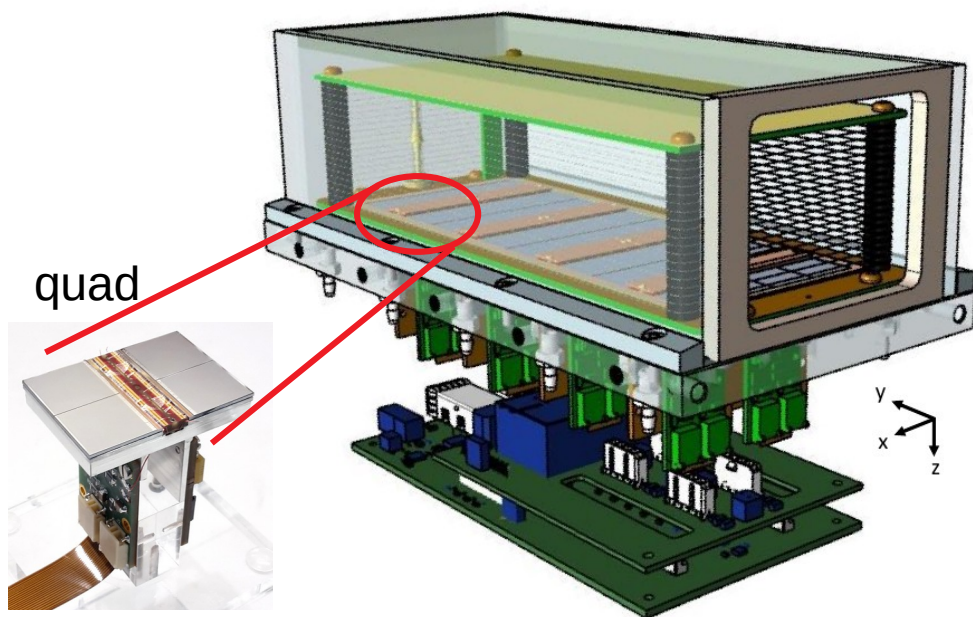
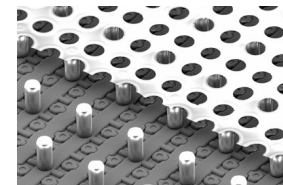
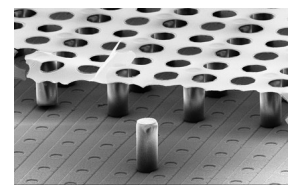


Rich study of gas parameters:  
 $V_{\text{drift}}$ ,  $D_T$ ,  $D_L$ ,  
 attachment  $\alpha$

A second test beam with  $\text{He}:\text{CO}_2$  mixtures just took place.



# Negative Ion TPC



Detector with 32 GridPixes based on Timepix3

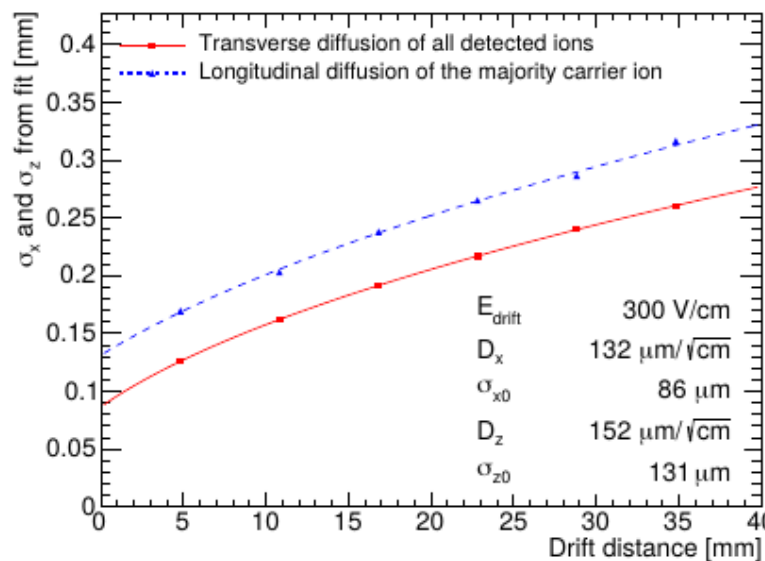
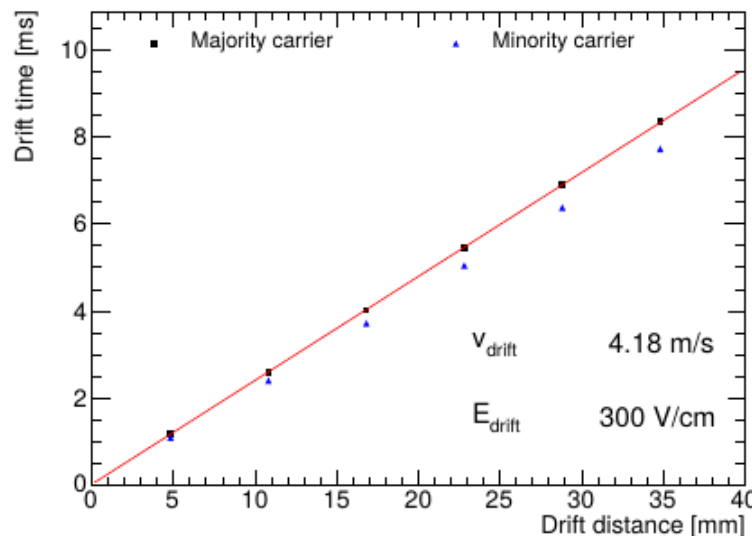
UV laser (337nm) used to generate tracks.

Gas mixtures:

Ar: $C_4H_{10}$ :CS<sub>2</sub> 93.6:5.0:1.4

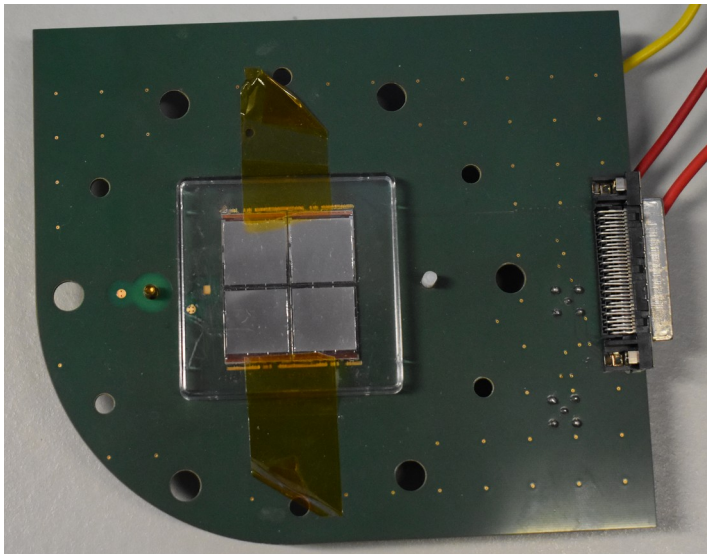
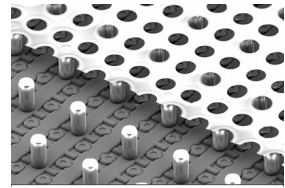
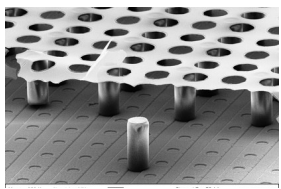
+ O<sub>2</sub> (650-1150 ppm) -minority carrier

+ TMPD (to enhance sensitivity to laser)



- Gas at atmospheric pressure
- Both majority (CS<sub>2</sub>) and minority (O<sub>2</sub>) carriers observed
- Transverse diffusion at thermal limit
- Have to optimize gas mixture.

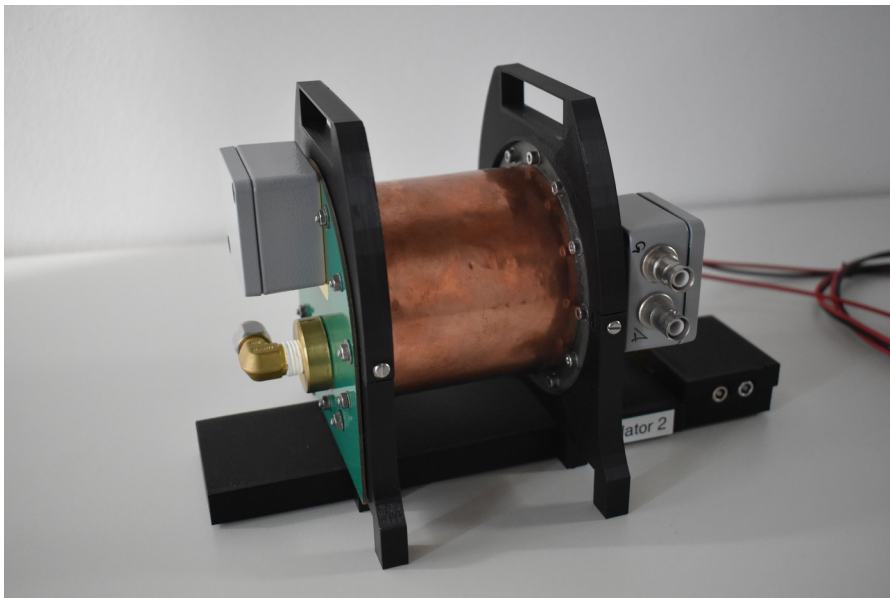
# SchulTPC



Compact, flexible and mobile detector for educational purposes such as: exhibitions, school projects, workshops at schools

Setup consists of (partially planned)

- TPC: 10 cm length, 8 cm inner diameter
- 4 GridPixes
- Compact readout system (FitPix)
- 2 trigger scintillators
- Possibly small, compact HV supply
- Operated with welding gas (cheap)
- Currently developing an educational concept for schools
- Thinking about a small magnet





# Summary and Outlook



GridPixes are seeing a transition from Timepix to Timepix3.

The grid production can soon be done in Bonn, which will open possibilities for new ideas and R&D.

More projects are becoming interested in testing the devices and evaluate them for their applications.

There is quite a large interest in the possible PID performance of GridPixes in particular if cluster counting can be exploited.



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