



# MPGD applications to fundamental research beyond HEP

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MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science

# Preamble: Constraints, Limitations, and Assumptions

During preparation



After slides has been completed



Goal



Reality



Warning: the task has a massive scope!

- Constrain: Time Boundary!
- Limitation: Personal (limited) experience is the basis for the materials here presented!
- Assumption: I most probably miss something important!

# “Speculative & Ambitious” Program Outline

- **General intro MPGD applied to other field than HEP**
  - Example of requirements HEP vs LBNP / Rare Event search / etc.
- **Application to HENP/LBNP**
  - R&D project with MPGD for EIC
  - Active Target TPC, inverse kinematic nuclear reactions study
    - ) physics, technology, challenges, ...(Operation pure elemental gas)
    - ) Examples of Active Target TPC project
  - Fission Fragment imaging system
- **Rare Event Search Applications & Neutrino Physics**
  - Exotic decays with MPGD-TPC (Dark Decay, X17 boson, etc..)
  - Cryogenic detector: mostly exotic ideas
  - T2K and DUNE with MPGDs

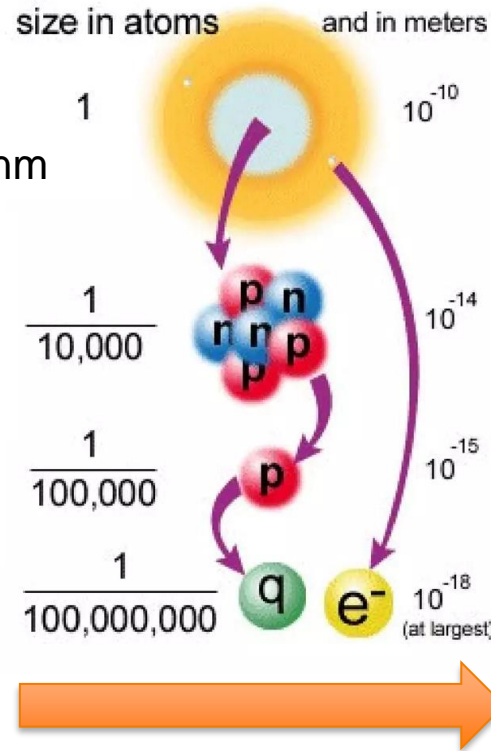


# Studying smaller and smaller things...

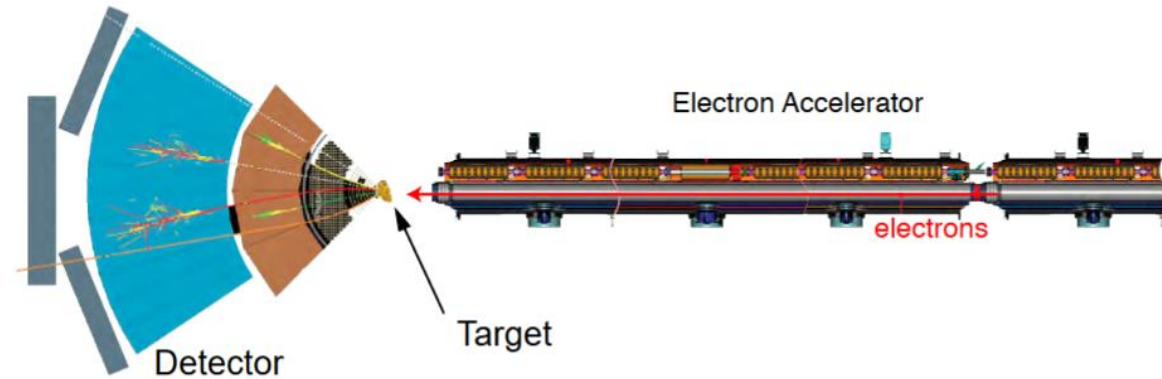
21 century nuclear science → probe the nuclear matter in all its forms and explore their potential for applications  
 Build powerful microscope using particle accelerators

$$\text{Resolution} \sim \lambda = \frac{h}{2\pi p}$$

Optical microscope →  $\lambda_{\text{photons}} \sim 380\text{-}740 \text{ nm}$   
 Resolution > 200 nm



Fixed Target Particle Accelerator experiment →  $\lambda_{\text{electron}} \approx 0.062 \text{ fm}$  (20 GeV)  
 Resolution  $\approx 0.1 \text{ fm}$



Example: In the 1960s Experiments at SLAC established the quark model and our modern view of particle physics “the Standard Model”

Electron microscope →  $\lambda_{\text{electron}} = 2.5 \text{ pm}$  (200 keV)  
 Resolution > 0.1 nm (limited by objective lens system)



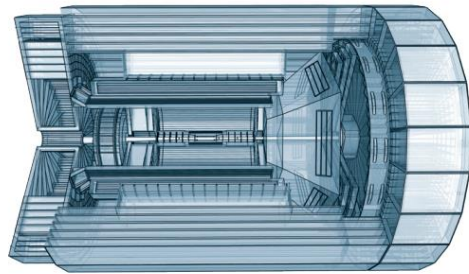


# Electron Ion Collider (EIC)

## EIC science program:

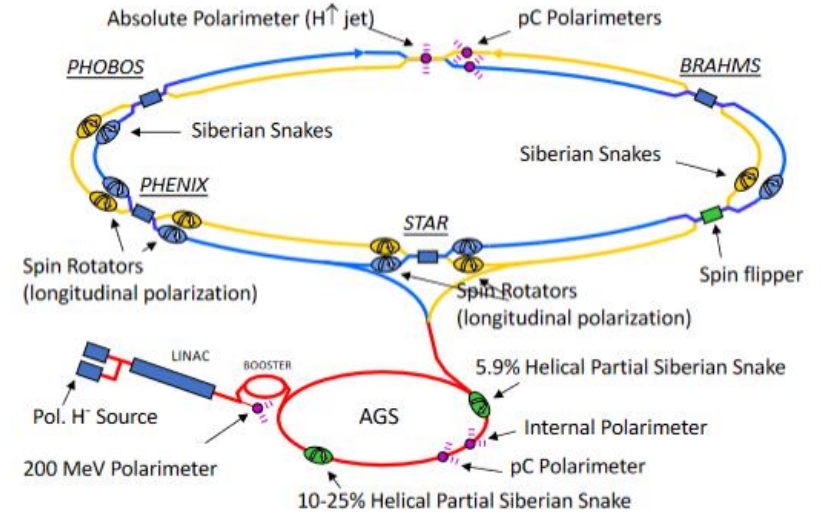
- ) Precision 3D imaging of protons and nuclei
- ) Solving the proton spin puzzle
- ) Search for saturation
- ) Quark and gluon confinement
- ) Quarks and gluons in nuclei

At least one large-acceptance detector that can capture most of the particles scattering from the collisions in all directions and at wide range of energies.

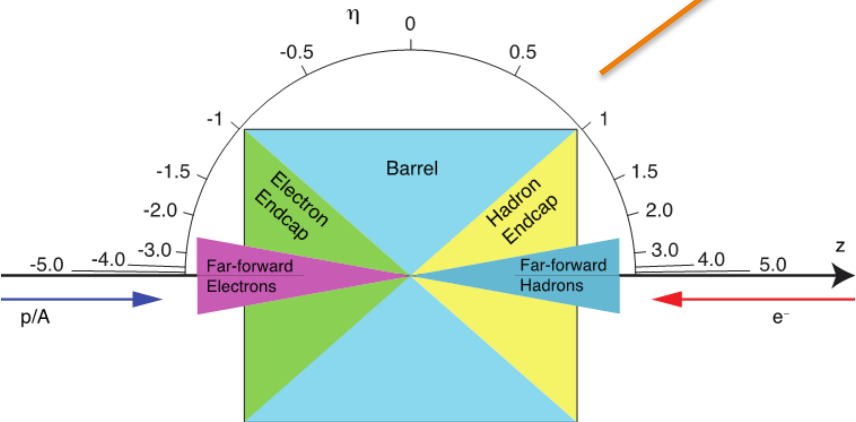


- High-precision tracking systems for reconstructing the trajectories of charged particles
- High-resolution systems for measuring the energies of particles
- Components for precision particle identification
- Efficient data acquisition systems incorporating machine learning and artificial intelligence
- Advances in software and computing for analyzing data

## Polarized electron-proton/light ion & electron-Nucleus collider



Many baseline EIC detector designs involved various gaseous detectors technologies for tracking in the central as well as end cap region



Study of internal structure of a watermelon:

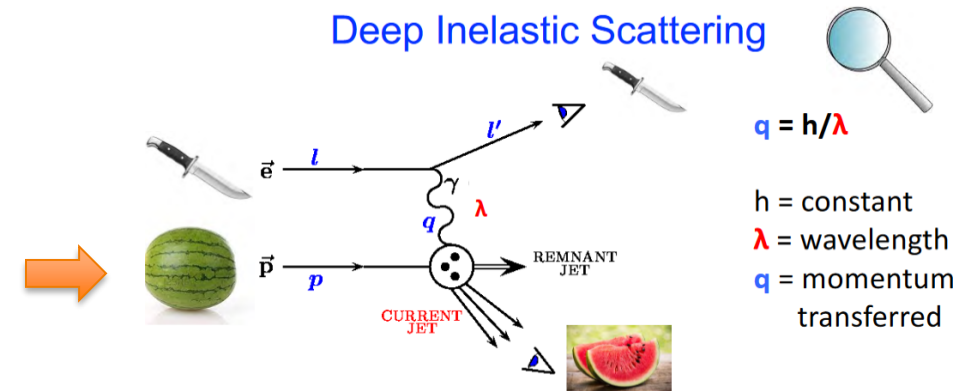


A-A (RHIC/LHC)  
1) Violent collision of melons



2) Cutting the watermelon with a knife  
Violent DIS e-A (EIC)

## Deep Inelastic Scattering



$$q = h/\lambda$$

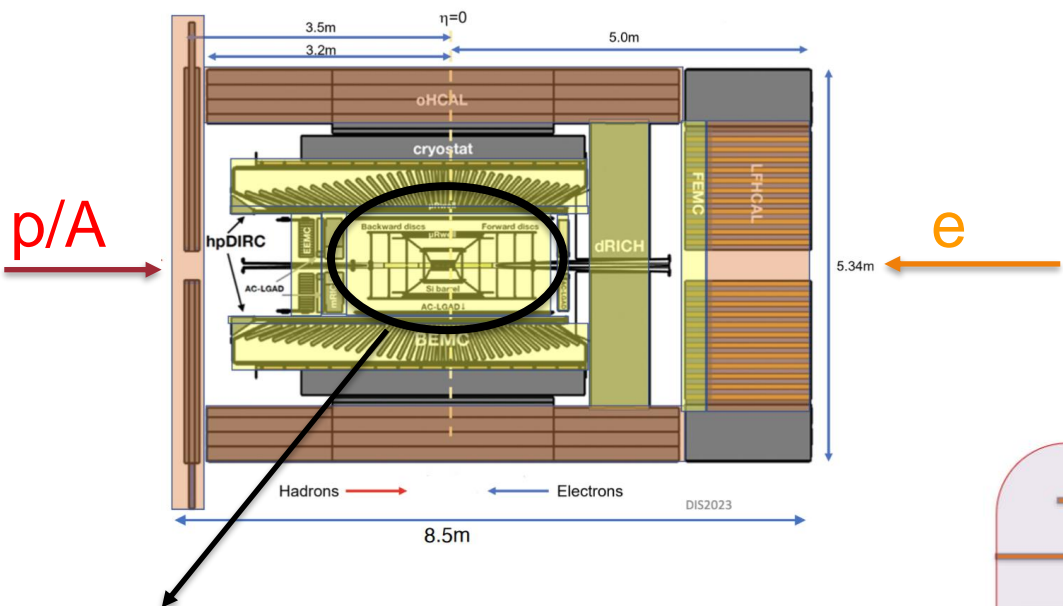
$h$  = constant  
 $\lambda$  = wavelength  
 $q$  = momentum transferred

Deep Inelastic: ( $\lambda \ll$  Proton Size)

NPSS at U. of Tennessee, Lecture on Electron Ion Collider, Abhay Deshpand



# EIC detector and tracking requirements

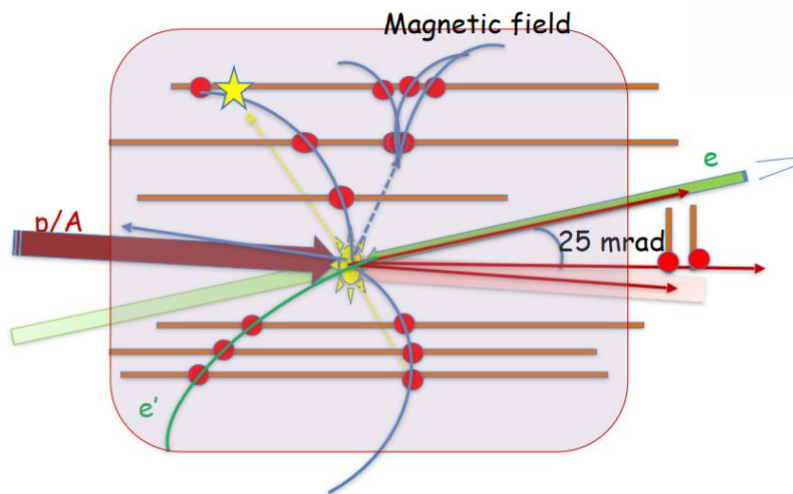


## Tracking detectors provide:

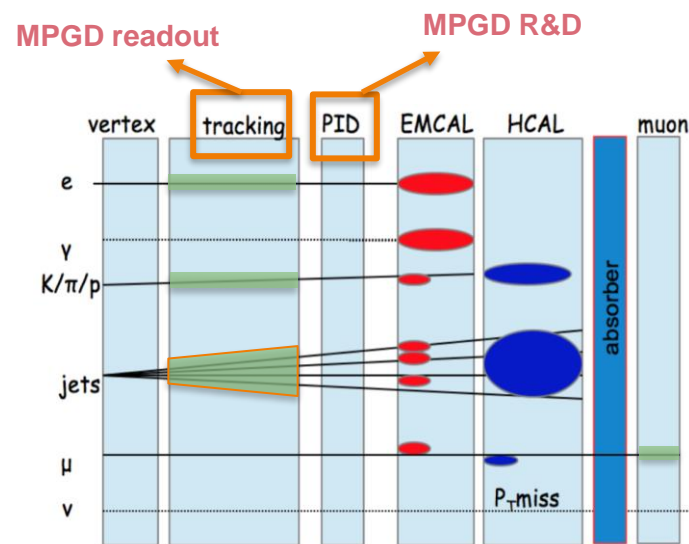
- Space point coordinates and trajectory of charged particles → Vertex
- Momentum measurements in magnetic (B) field
- Angle measurements
- Measurements of primary and secondary vertices
- Multitrack separation
- Particle identification (if possible)
- Low material budget to minimize scattering and secondary interactions.

## Selected tracking detector technologies:

Hybrid tracking detector design: Monolithic Active Pixel Sensor (MAPS, ITS3) based silicon vertex/tracking subsystem, the **MPGD tracking subsystem** and the AC-LGAD outer tracker, which also serves as the ToF detector.



Electron – photon separation: charged particles leave a track while the photon interact at most once



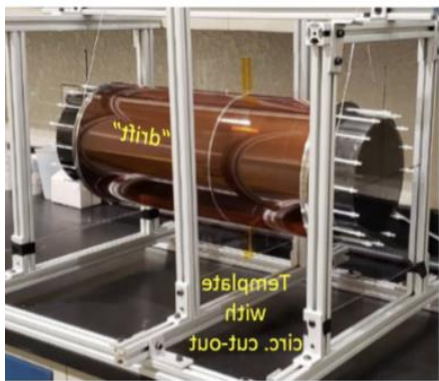
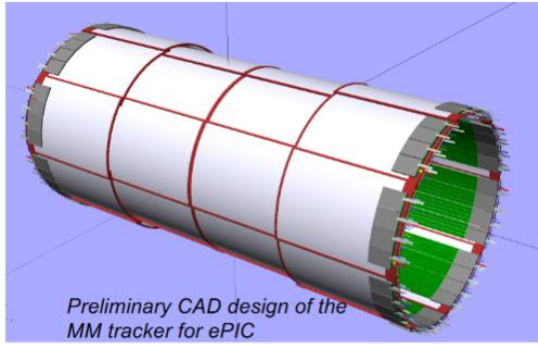
Central Detector Layout



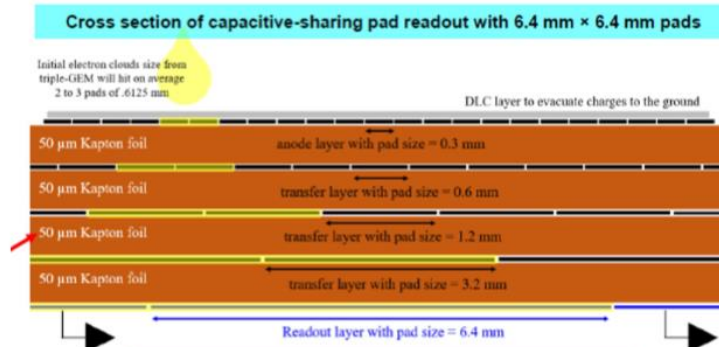
# MPGD for tracking/Vertex

## Barrel Main Tracker

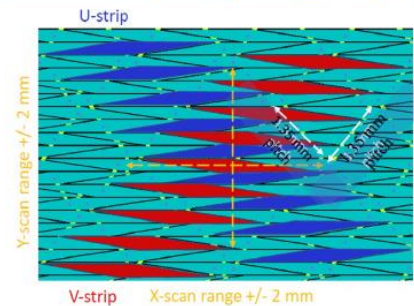
- Hermetic coverage, close to  $4\pi$  acceptance
  - ⇒ pseudorapidity range up to  $\pm 1$
  - ⇒ Large area detectors
- Low material budget on the level of 3-5% of  $X/X_0$  for the central tracker region
  - ⇒ Gaseous detectors
- Spatial resolution below  $100 \mu\text{m}$



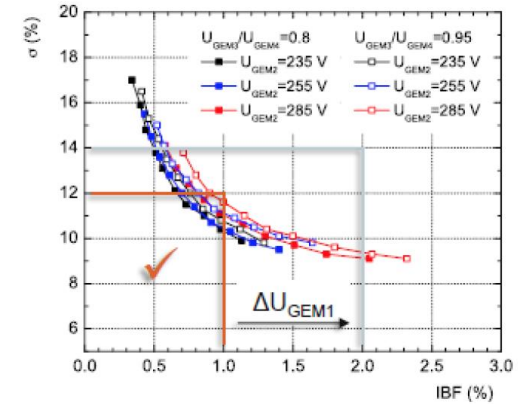
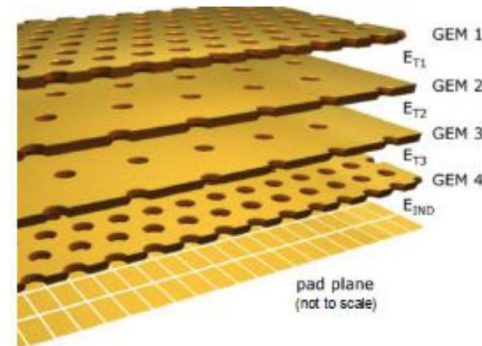
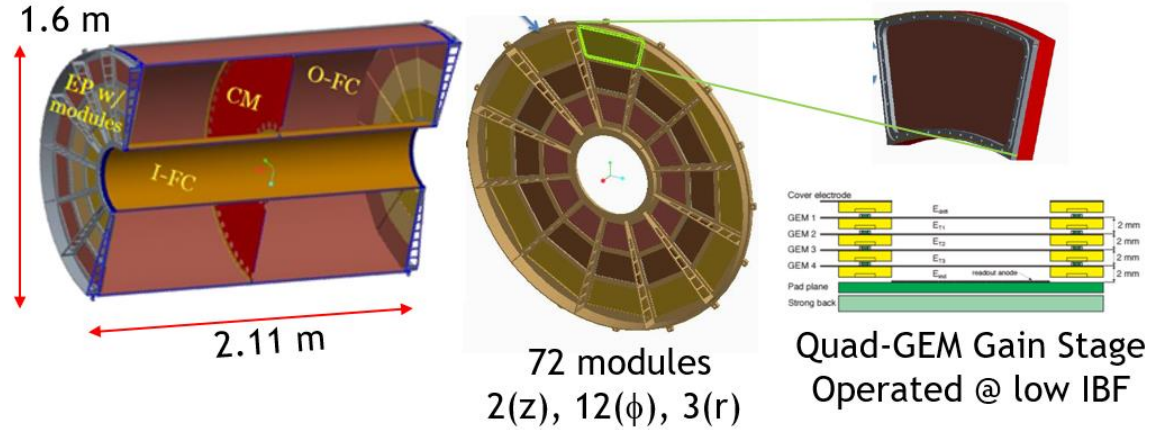
## Readout based on $\mu\text{RWELL}$ and capacitive coupling



Ref: [K. Gnanvo et al., NIM A, 1047 \(2023\) 167782](#)



## Example of proposed concept: GEM for gas amplification



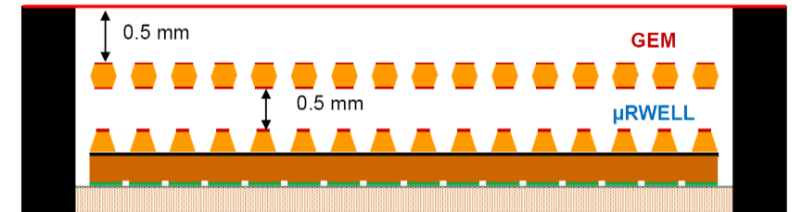
## Minimization of ion back flow with quad-GEM (ALICE TPC)



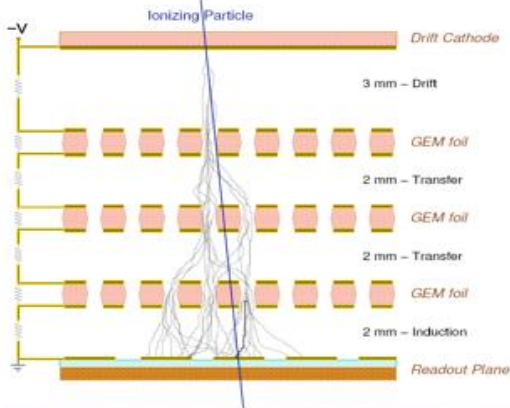
# EIC Focused R&D projects

- ❖ Large area and low mass MPGD trackers (GEMs, MMs, and  $\mu$ RWells)
  - ❑ Cylindrical and planar
- ❖ High resolution and low channel count readouts
  - ❑ Resistive and capacitive sharing
  - ❑ 2 and 3 coordinate readout structures
- ❖ Modeling and simulation of resistive elements

hybrid amplification GEM- $\mu$ RWELL with 0.5 mm drift gap

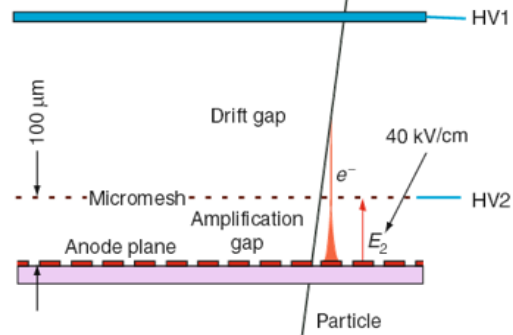


GEM: Gas Electron Multipliers



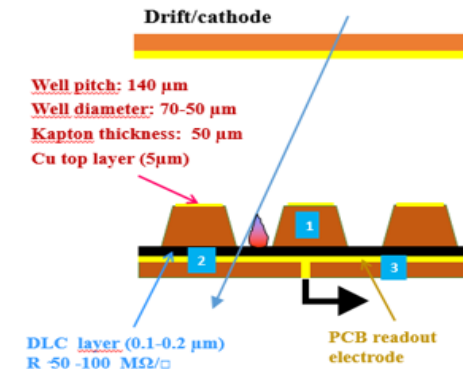
F. Sauli, Nucl. Instr. and Meth. A386 (1997) 531

Micromegas:  
Micro Mesh Gaseous Structure



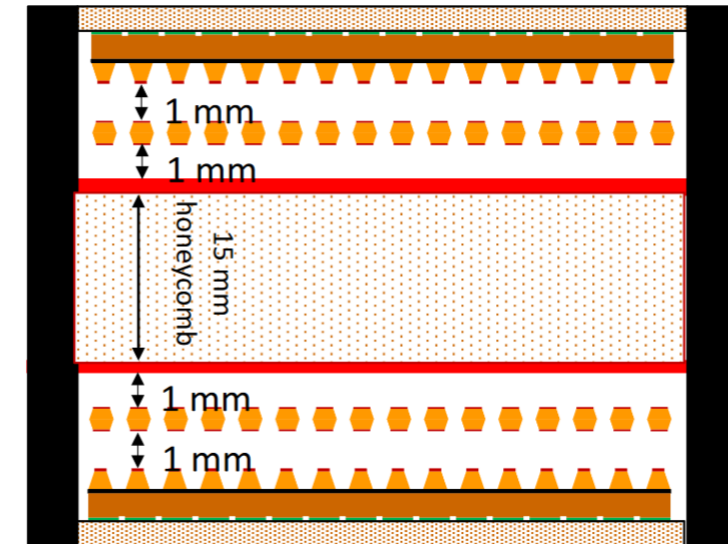
Giometaris, Nucl. Instr. and Meth. A419 (1998) 239

$\mu$ RWELL:  
Resistive micro-WELL Detector



G. Bencivenni et al., 2015\_JINST\_10\_P02008

Double sided Thin Gap MPGD tracker

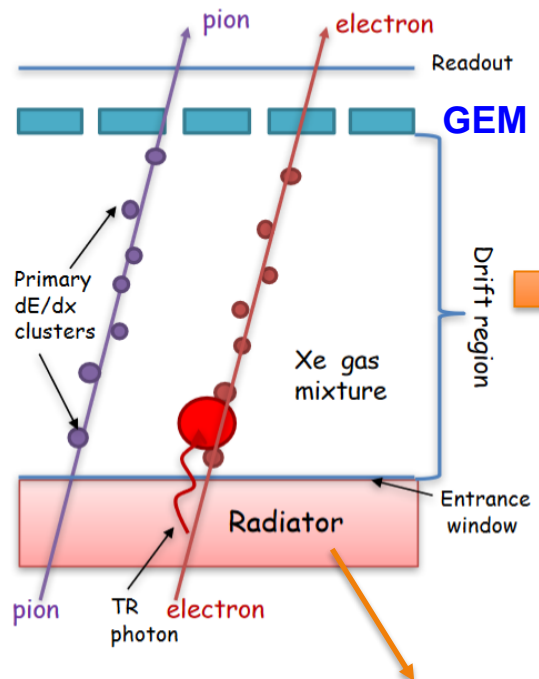


Sourav Tarafdar, MPGD as tracker for EIC. CPAD workshop Stanford 2023

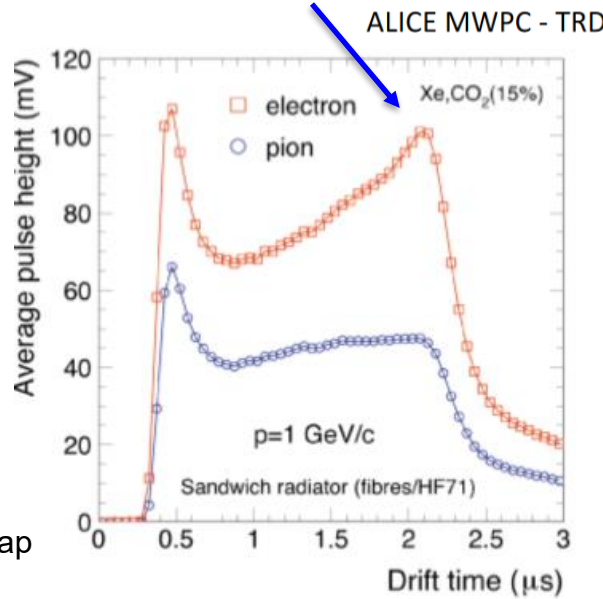


# R&D GEM based Transition Radiation Detector/tracker for EIC

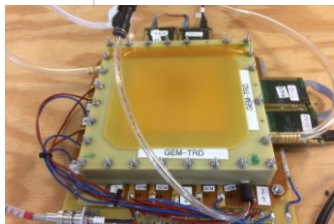
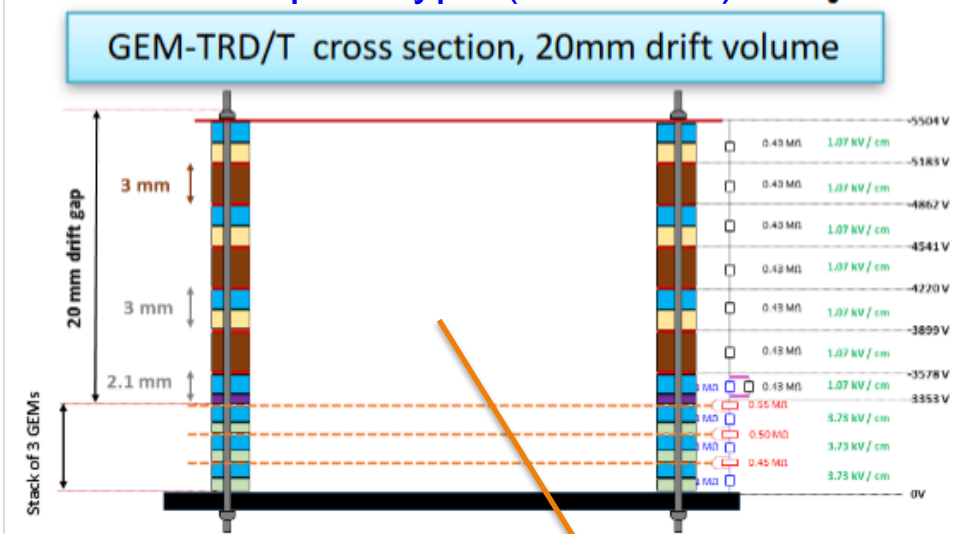
- Problem: High multiplicity heavy Ion collisions, large number of pions and Kaons in forward region  
 → need to improve e-identification for leptonic/semi-leptonic decays
- Goal: Tracker combined with TRD/PID function: which could provide additional e/hadron rejection 10-100 and will cover energy range 1-100 GeV => GEM based transition radiation detector/tracker GEM-TRD/T



For electron: significant increase in the average pulse height at later drift times, due to the absorption of the transition radiation near the entrance of the drift chamber.



## UVA prototype (G. Kondo)



Xe-based mixture (high Z) to absorb the TRD emissions

Conventional: 20-30μ Mylar foils & 200-300μ air gap  
 Propose EIC: multi-layer graphene radiator

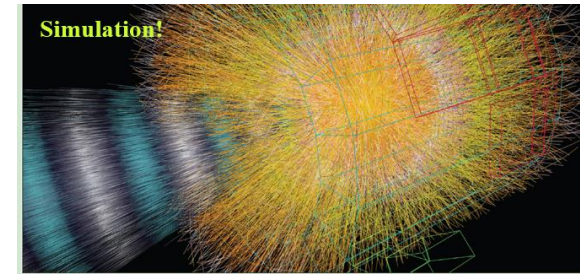
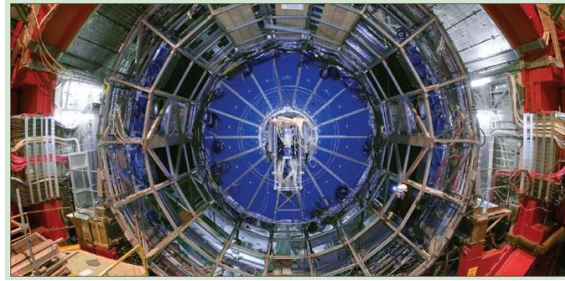




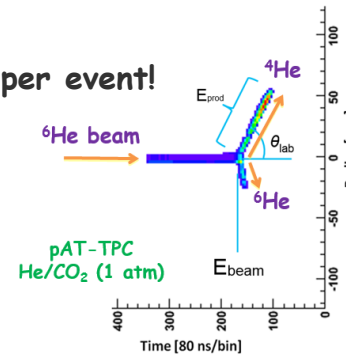
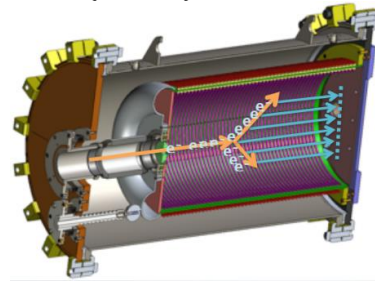
# Experimental requirements: HEP vs LENP with RIBs

## High-E Particle Physics

- ) High gain (MIPs, Photons, etc.)
- ) High Multiplicity
- ) Specificity
- ) High rate
- ) Large & complex
- ) IBF → mostly from the gas avalanche readout
- ) ...



pAT-TPC (NSCL) → few tracks per event!



## Low-E Nuclear Physics

- ) Modest gain (heavy charged particles)
- ) Low Multiplicity
- ) Versatility (one setup many experiments)
  - large dynamic range (different pressure)
  - active target mode (pure elemental gas)
- ) Low/moderate rate
- ) Small setup, simple
- ) IBF → mostly from the beam particles
- ) ...

## Most common MPGD Applications and R&D Projects in LENP

- Fast beams Tracking (position, angle): FP Drift Chamber readout in high rigidity spectrometer for  $B_p$  measurement
- Study of Inverse-Kinematic Nuclear Reaction:
  - position-sensitive TPC readout in active target mode, optical (scintillation-based) TPC readout, Exotic decay TPC
- Fission Fragment imaging
- Large-area Gaseous PhotoMultiplier

# Low-Energy Nuclear Physics with RIBs

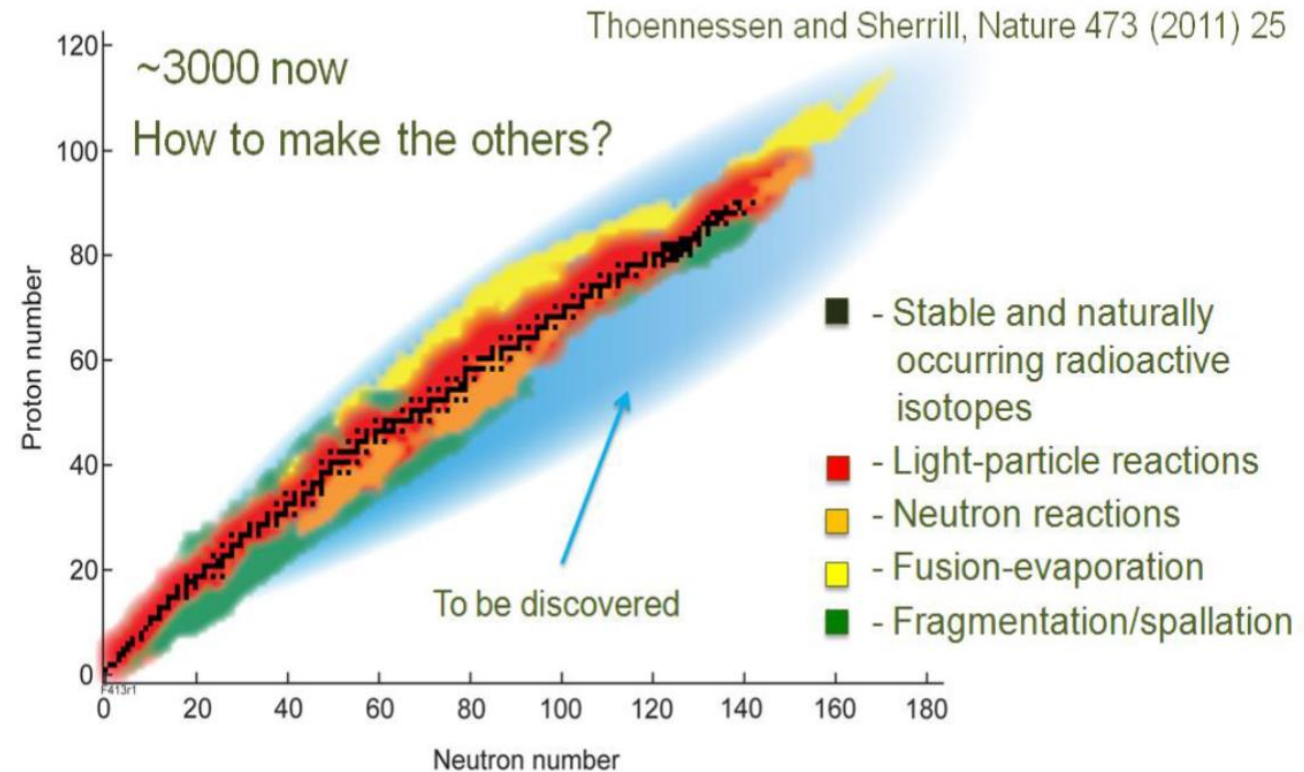
## Science Program:

- **Properties of atomic nuclei**  
Study of predictive model of nuclei & their interactions, Many-body problem & physics of complex system
- **Astrophysics: Nuclear Processes in the Cosmos**  
Origin of the elements, energy generation in stars, stellar evolution & the resulting compact objects
- **Use atomic nuclei to tests of laws of nature**  
Effects of symmetry violations are amplified in certain nuclei
- **Societal applications and benefits**  
Medicine, energy, material sciences, national security, etc. etc.



## Main MFGD applications:

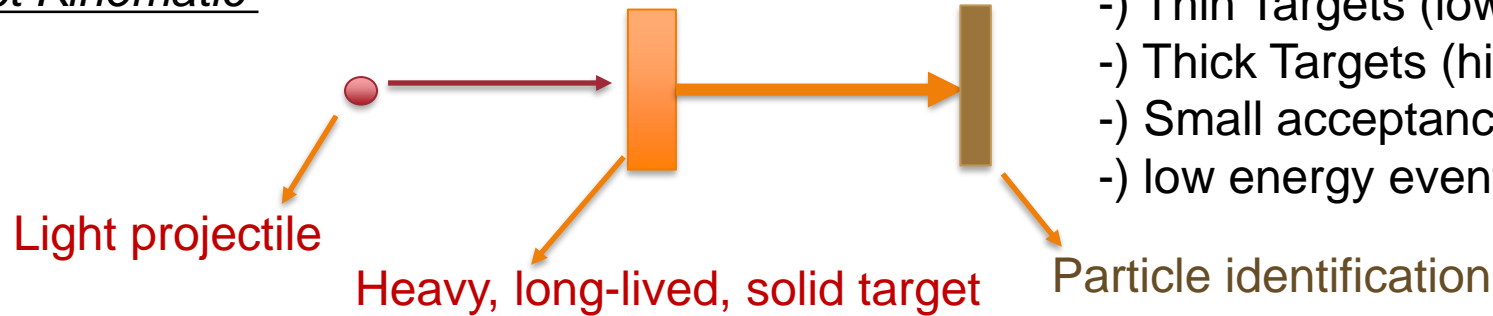
- ) Active Target TPC with fast & slow beam
- ) Tracking of exotic decay with stopped beams
- ) Fission Fragment tracking (fission reactions)
- ) Focal-plane tracking for fast beam in spectrometers



# Inverse Kinematic with gaseous detector targets

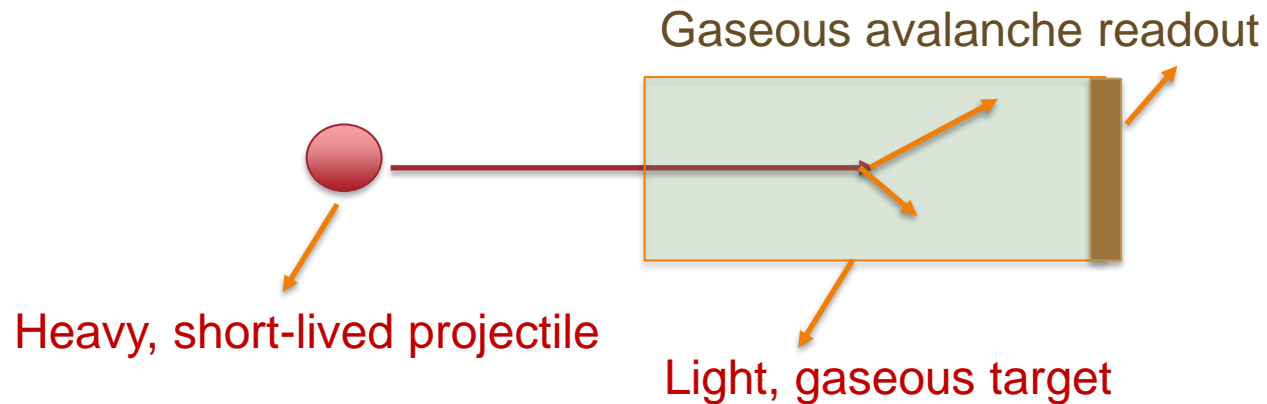
**Goal:** Study of inverse-kinematic nuclear reactions with resolutions equal to the one achieved in direct kinematics with high-resolution spectrometers + higher efficiency & thicker targets

## Direct Kinematic



- ) Thin Targets (low luminosity, low straggling, good  $\Delta E/E$ )
- ) Thick Targets (high luminosity, high straggling, poor  $\Delta E/E$ )
- ) Small acceptance angle
- ) low energy event trapped in the target

## Inverse Kinematic (AT-TPC) → **gas is simultaneously the target and the tracking medium**



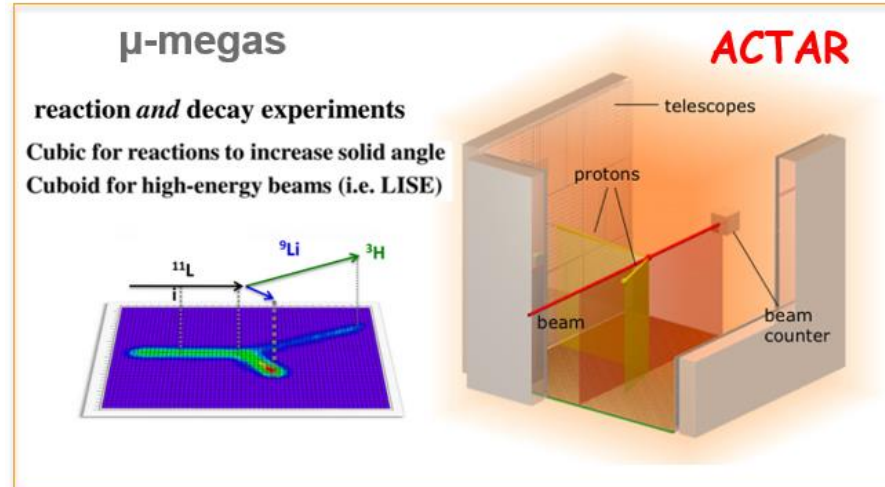
- )  $4\pi$  acceptance of reaction products
- ) Energy loss like thin target = excellent  $\Delta E/E$
- ) Very high effective thickness → high luminosity
- ) Detection efficiency  $\sim 100\%$  (+ low energy events)
- ) Event-by-event reconstruction in 3 dimensions
- ) Different target pressure → Large dynamic range



# TPC operated in active target mode → MPGDs

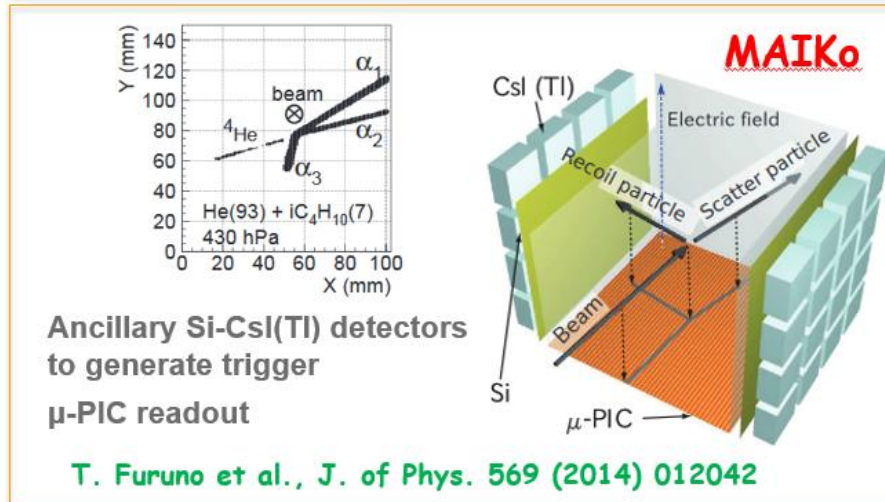
## Science program with AT-TPCs

Measurement	Physics	Beam Examples	Beam Energy (A MeV)
Transfer & Resonant Reactions	Nuclear Structure	$^{32}\text{Mg}(d,p)^{33}\text{Mg}$ $^{26}\text{Ne}(p,p)^{26}\text{Ne}$ $^{66,\dots,70}\text{Ni}(p,p)$	3
Astrophysical Reactions	Nucleosynthesis	$^{25}\text{Al}(^3\text{He},d)^{26}\text{Si}$	3
Fusion and Breakup	Nuclear Structure	$^8\text{B}+^{40}\text{Ar}$	3
Transfer	Pairing	$^{56}\text{Ni}+^3\text{He}$	5-19
Fission Barriers	Nuclear Structure	$^{199}\text{Tl}, ^{192}\text{Pt}$	20 - 60
Giant Resonances	Nuclear EOS, Nuclear Astro.	$^{54}\text{Ni}-^{70}\text{Ni}$ , $^{106}\text{Sn}-^{127}\text{Sn}$	50 - 200
Heavy Ion Reactions	Nuclear EOS	$^{106}\text{Sn}-^{126}\text{Sn}$ , $^{37}\text{Ca}-^{49}\text{Ca}$	50 - 200



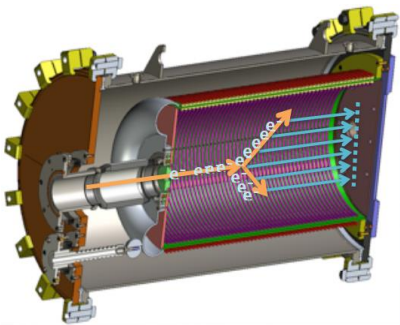
Same goal, different paths:

- ) geometry:
  - Cylindrical vs cubicle
- ) Gas avalanche readout:
  - Micromegas
  - Hole-Types (GEM, ...)
  - μ-PIC
  - Hybrid .....
- ) Coupled to Ancillary detector
  - Isomer tagging
  - Triggering
  - Particle identification
  - Neutron detection
- ) With/Without magnetic field



and many more ....

Suzuki et al., NIM A, 691 39 (2012)



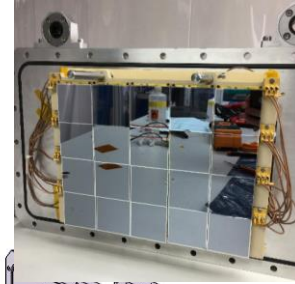
Micromegas +  
M-THGEM

Cylindrical geometry  
Readout > 10k pads

# ACTive TARget and Time Projection Chamber (ACTAR TPC)

Two operational modes:

ACTAR mechanical design



TPC designed to include additional detectors (e.g. Si-PIN):

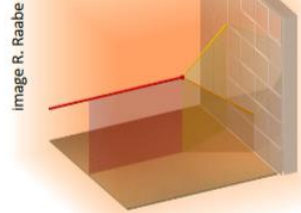
- tracking of particles escaping the drift region  
→ reaction studies and active target mode
- additional position and energy information  
→ used also for commissioning

Commissioning of the **128x128 pads full detector** tests @ GANIL (11/2017 & 04/2018)

$^{18}\text{O}(p,p)$  and  $^{18}\text{O}(p,\alpha)$  excitation functions  
→ reaction kinematics  
part. tracks & energy  
→ absolute cross section

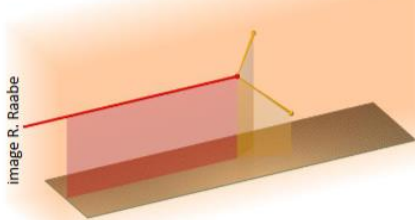
## “reaction” chamber

128x128 pads collection plane  
large transverse tracks

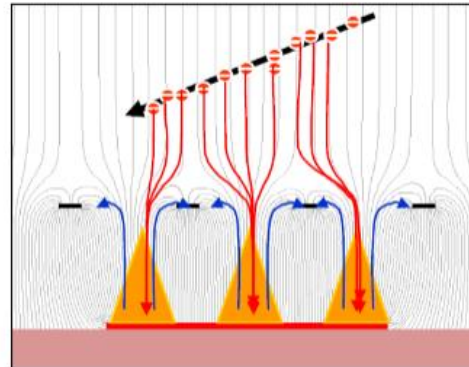
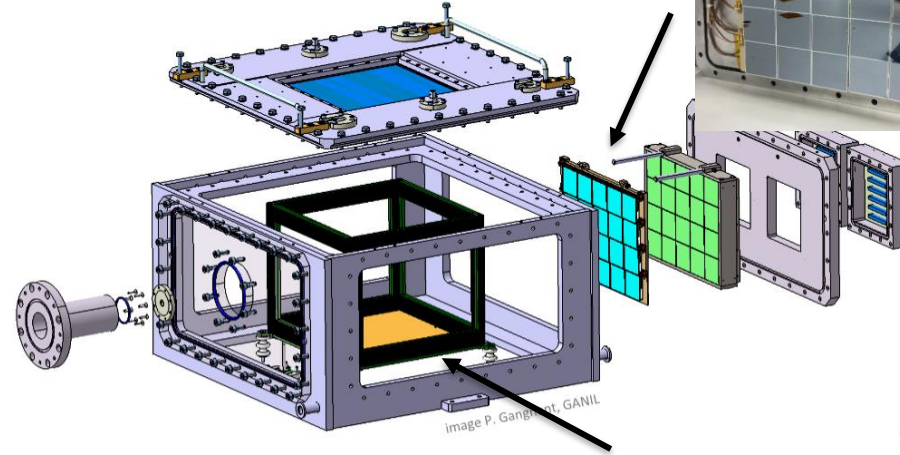


## “decay” chamber

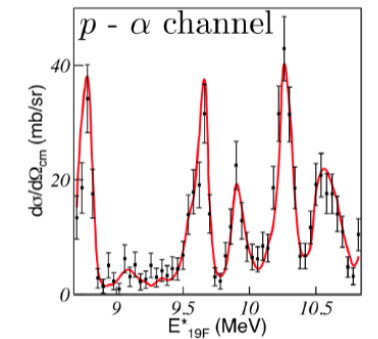
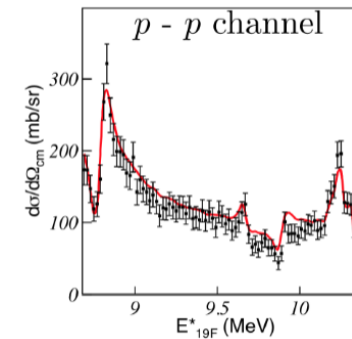
256x64 pads collection plane  
short transverse tracks, larger implantation depth



**Bulk micromegas**  
**220 um avalanche gap**  
**(also possibility to use GEM)**



( $i\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$ ) gas at 100 mbar



B. Mauss, PhD thesis (GANIL)

B. Mauss et al., NIM A 940 (2019), 498-504.



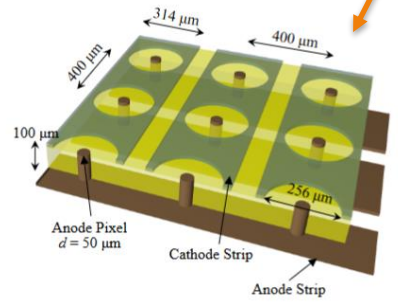
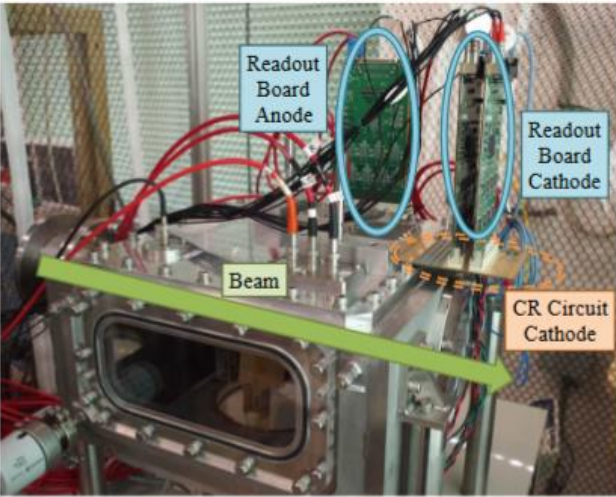
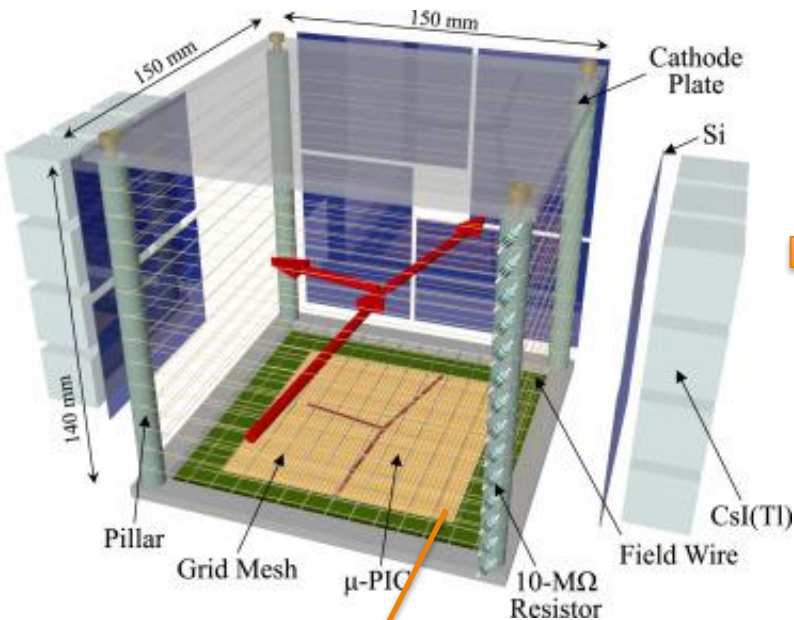


# Mu( $\mu$ )-PIC based Active target for Inverse Kinematics (MAIKo)

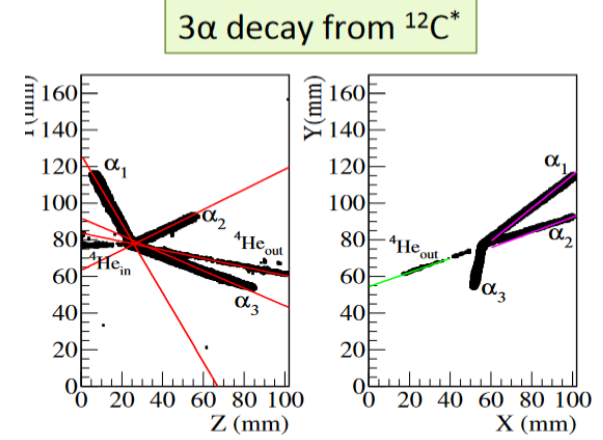
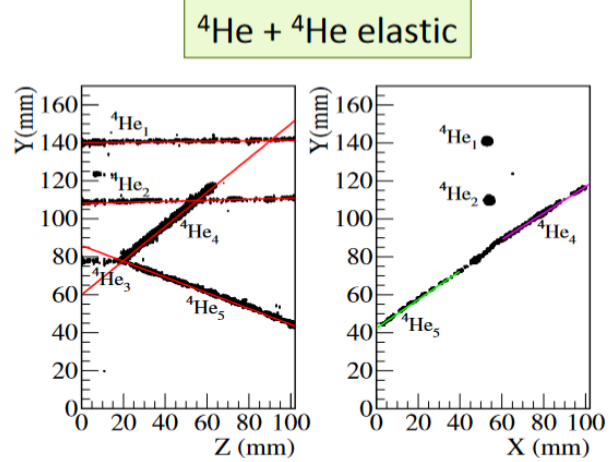
T. Furuno et al., NIM A 908 (2018), 215-224.

Ancillary Si-CsI(Tl) detectors used to generate trigger  
And measure Energy of particle escaping the volume

✓ beam:  $^4\text{He}$  @50 MeV  
✓ gas: He(93%) +  $i\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$ (7%) @430 hPa

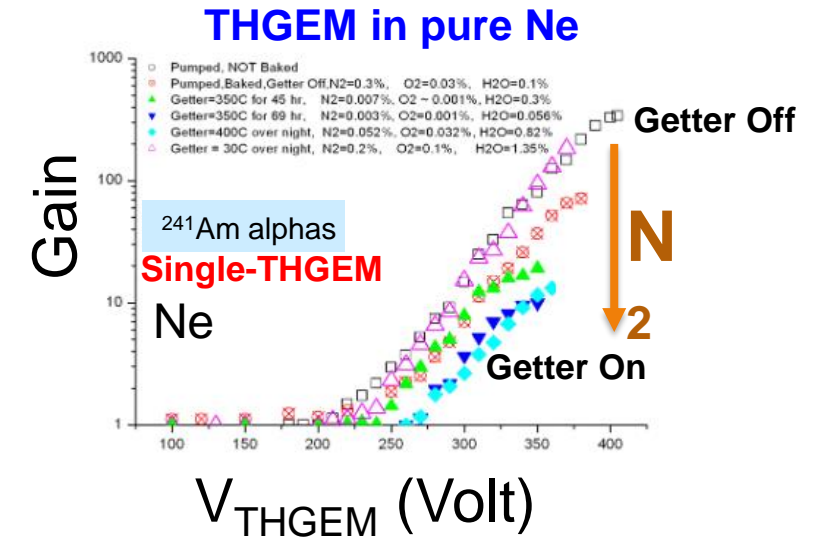
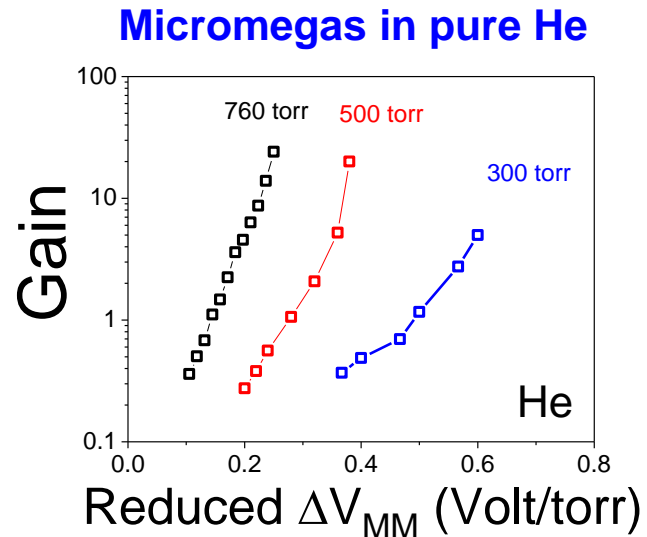


- ◆ Detection gas (He) = target gas → Detectable low-energy particles!
- ◆ Gas: He + CO<sub>2</sub>(7%) @0.5 – 2.0 atm
- ◆ Introduce  $\mu$ -PIC + GEM.
  - $\mu$ -PIC (gain~1000): 2-dimensional strip readout (400  $\mu\text{m}$  pitch).  
256A+256C = 512 ch.
  - GEM (gain~30): 140  $\mu\text{m}$  pitch, d=70  $\mu\text{m}$ , t=100  $\mu\text{m}$  (thick GEM)
- ◆ TPC track →  $\theta_\alpha$ , range in the gas / Si+CsI →  $E_\alpha$



# Stability issues in pure elemental gas

- **H<sub>2</sub> as proton target**
  - 1 neutron pickup (p,d)
  - 2 neutron pickup (p,t)
  - p-scattering
- **D<sub>2</sub> as deuteron target**
  - 1 neutron transfer (d,p)
  - 1 proton pickup (d,<sup>3</sup>He)
  - Inelastic scattering (d,d')
- **<sup>3</sup>He**
  - 1 proton transfer (<sup>3</sup>He,d)
- **<sup>4</sup>He as alpha-particle target**
  - Inelastic scattering (<sup>4</sup>He, <sup>4</sup>He')
  - Isoscalar Giant Resonances excitations ...
  - Alpha-induced reactions for astrophysical p-process
- **Etc. . .**



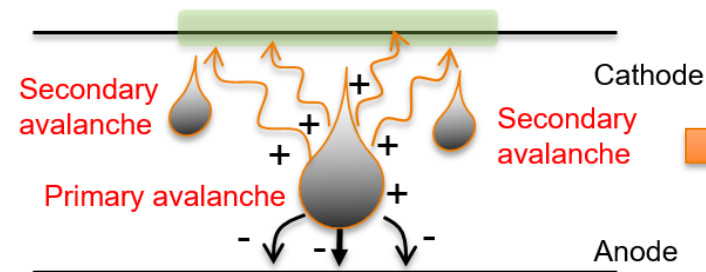
Miyamoto et al. 2010 JINST 5 P05008

- ) Purity (no quencher) → High Reaction Yield
- ) Low-Pressure Operation → Large Dynamic Range



**Endcap Detector Performance:**  
**Gas Gain, Energy Resolution, Spatial Resolution,**  
**Counting Rate Capability, Stability etc...**

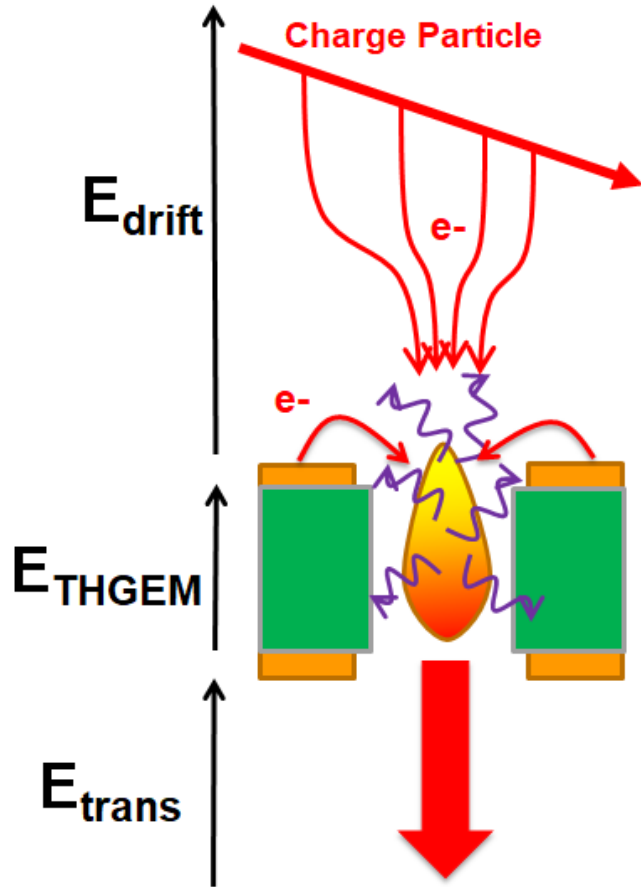
## Photon-feedback



## Problem:

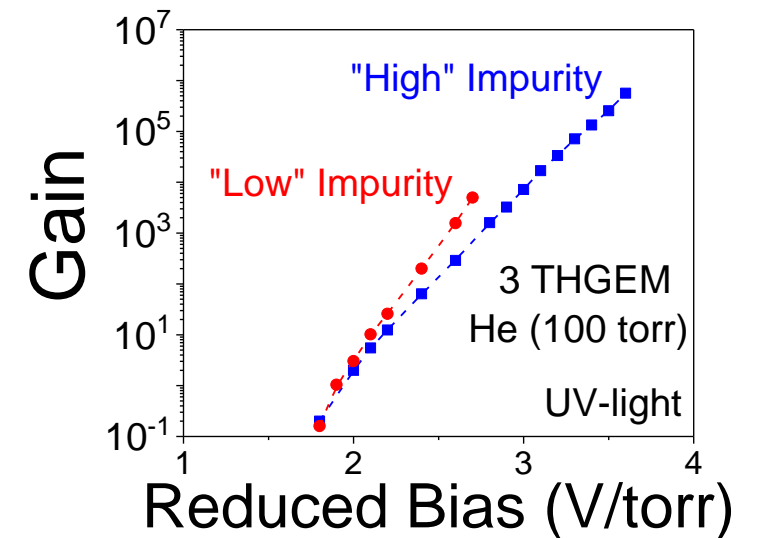
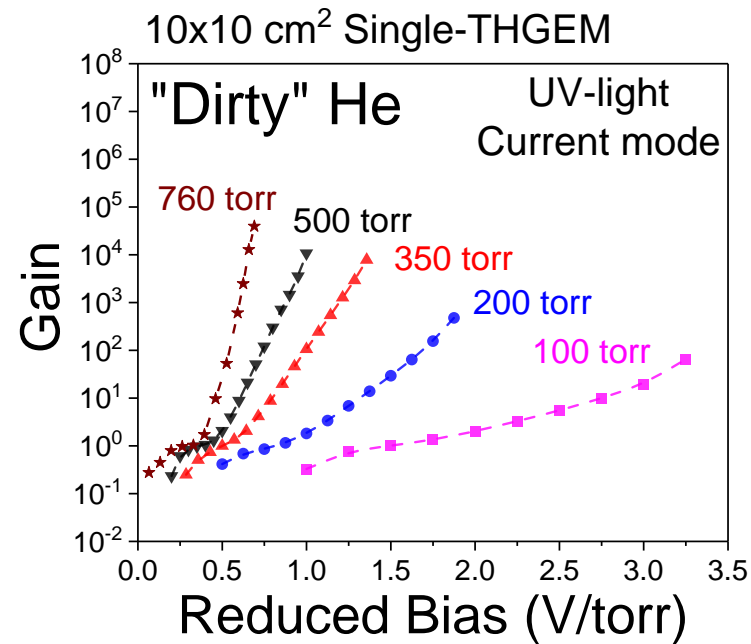
Photo-mediated secondary effects induce a transition from the proportional mode to streamer (sparks) in poor quenched gas mixtures!

# Stability issue for hole-type multipliers in pure elemental gas

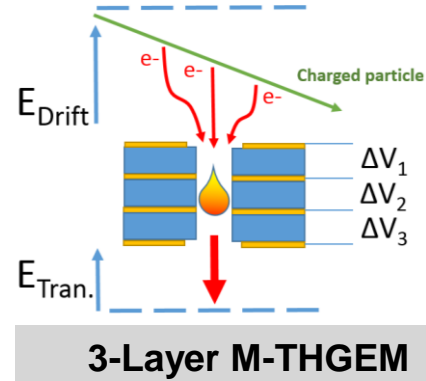
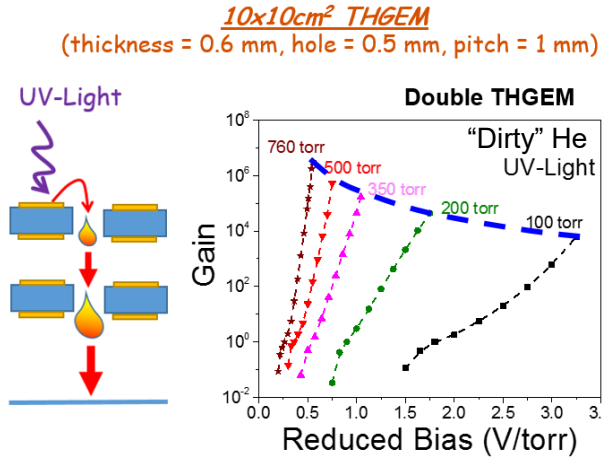
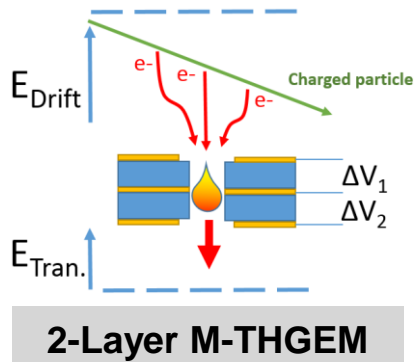


## The Problem:

- Drop of GEM-like max. achievable gain in pure elemental gas
- loss of electron avalanche confinement (within the holes) that results in photo-mediated secondary effects
- transition from proportional mode to streamer

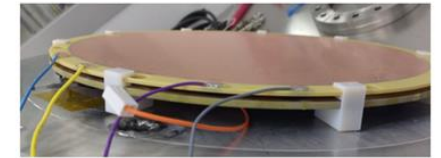
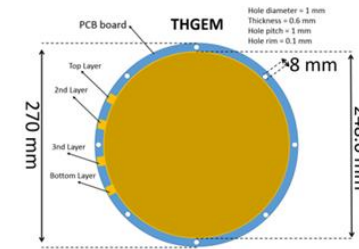


# Slow breakdown mitigation using M-THGEM structure

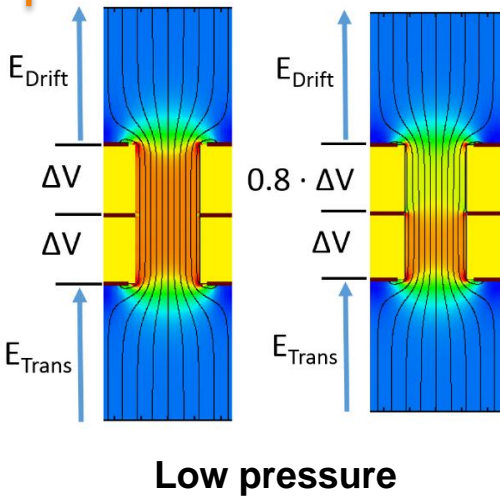
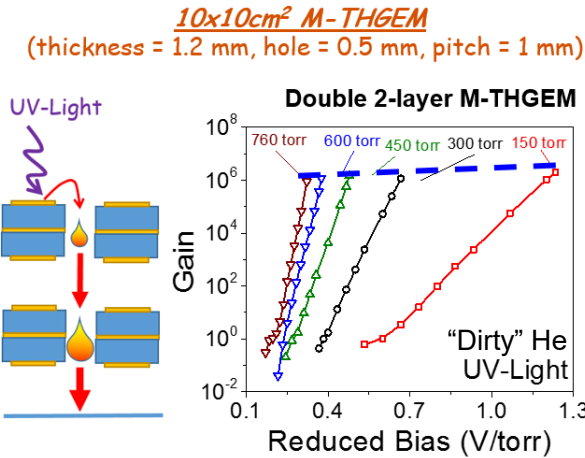
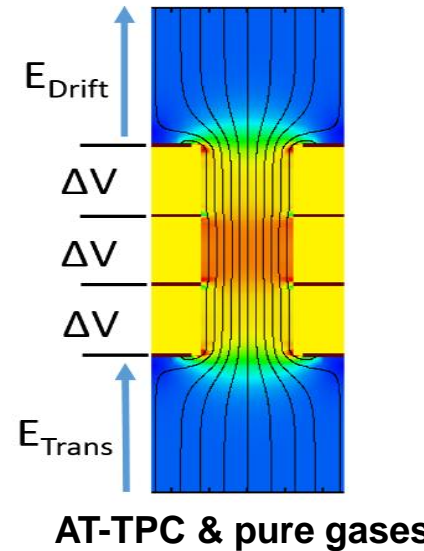
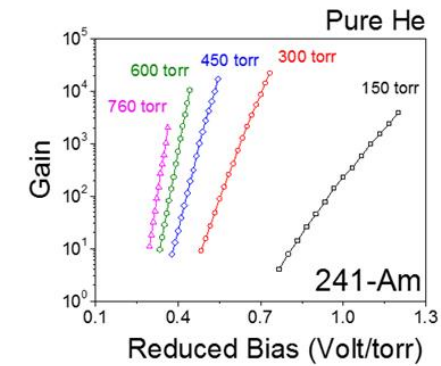
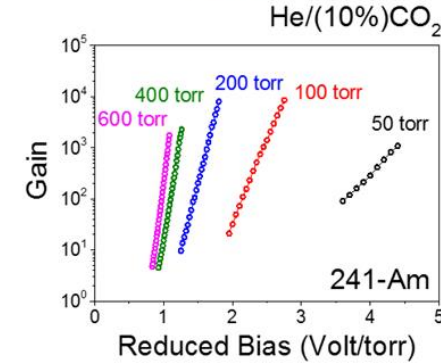


- ) No loss of charge → high gain @ low voltage
- ) Robust avalanche confinement → lower secondary effects
- ) Long avalanche region → high gain @ low pressure
- ) Field geometry stabilized by inner electrodes → reduced charging-up

Cortesi et al., Rev. Sci. Ins. 88, 013303 (2017)



Single 3-layer M-THGEM





# Active-Target TPC @ Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB)

Cylindrical configuration:

Use with solenoid

→ Magnetic field for PID

Problem:

Need to suppressed beam!

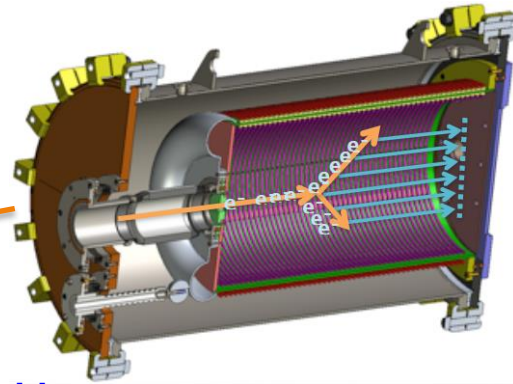
→ Smart-ZAP



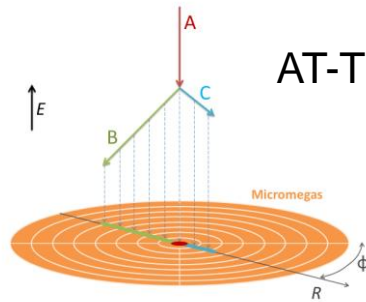
Field Cage

## pAT-TPC

- ❖ Active volume 25 liters  
(L = 50 cm, Ø = 25 cm)
- ❖ Cylindrical pad plane (1,000 pads)

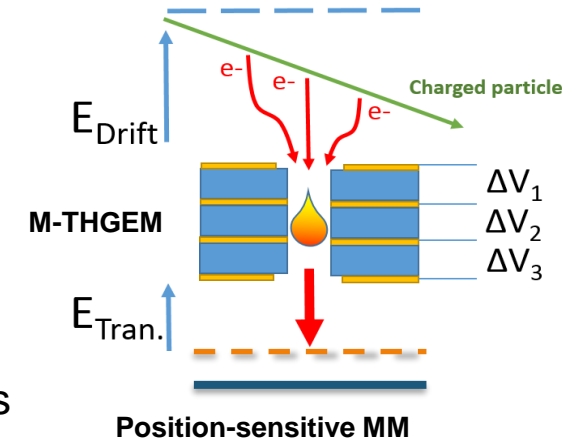
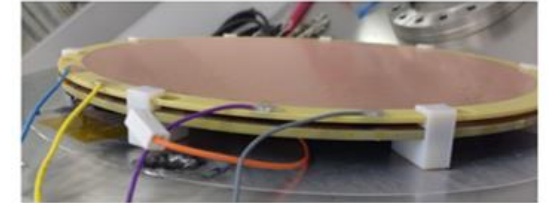


Position-sensitive micromegas pad



## Full scale AT-TPC

- ▶ Active volume 200 liters  
(L = 100 cm, Ø = 50 cm)
- ▶ 10,240 triangular pads
- ▶ Placed inside 4 Tesla solenoid



AT-TPC Readout pad → GET electronics

Gain Provided mainly by M-THGEM  
Position-sensitive MM for track encoding

Cortesi *et. al.* EPJ Web of Conferences 174, 01007 (2018)

Ayyad *et al.* Eur. Phys. J. A (2018) 54: 181

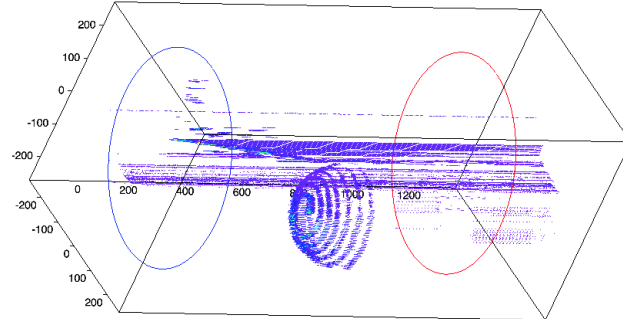


# AT-TPC project @ FRIB: the Multi-layer THGEM



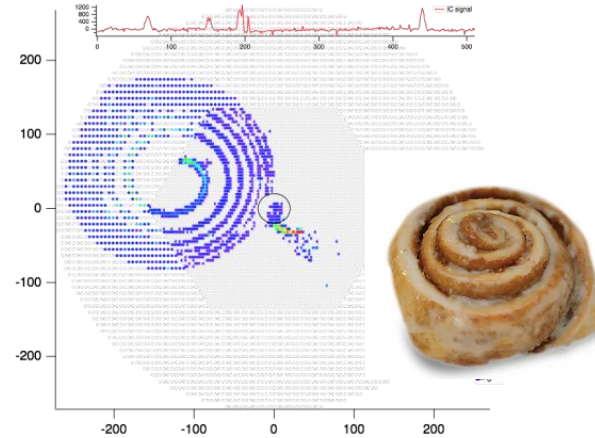
SOLARIS (up to 4 Tesla)

E20009 → pure D<sub>2</sub> (760 Torr)  
<sup>10</sup>Be(d,p)<sup>11</sup>Be

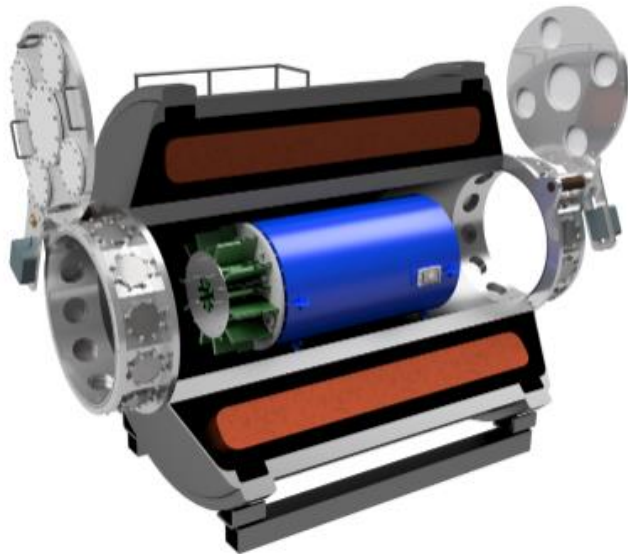
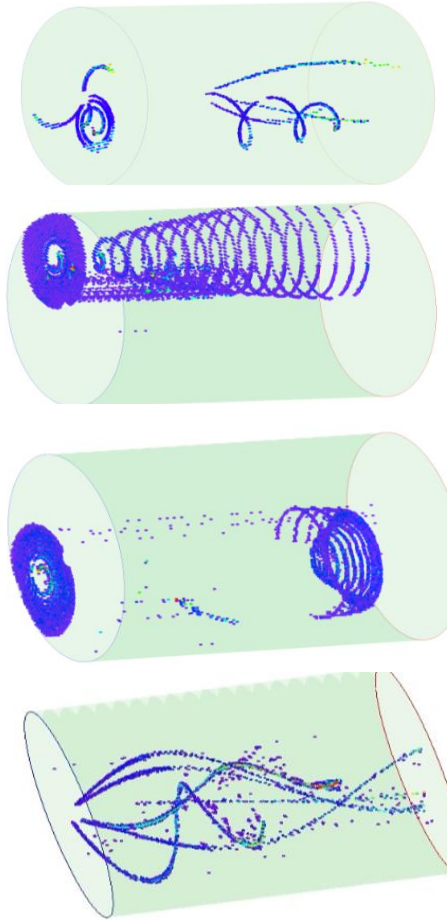


The cinnamon roll: 8 MeV p (5 m range)

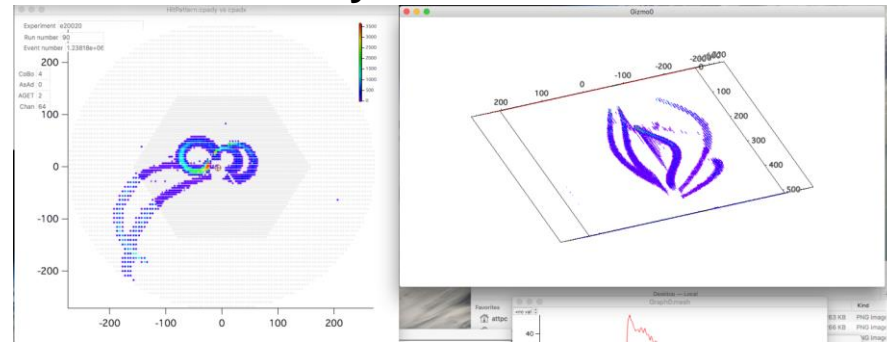
Spokesperson: Daniel Bazin



More Tracks  
 D. Bazin Courtesy



E20020 → pure He (700 Torr)  
 4 α decay of <sup>16</sup>O



The big Kraken: 5 α-particle tracks

Spokesperson: Clementine Santamaria



# MPGD: Tracking for Heavy-Ion/Nuclear Physics

Name (Lab)	MPGD Technology	Volume Area	Pressure (atm)	Operation Performance	Status
<b>ACTAR</b> (GANIL)	$\mu$ -megas	8000 cm <sup>3</sup>	0.01-3	Counting rate < 10 <sup>4</sup> nuclei but higher if some beam masks are used	Under Construction
<b>MAIKo</b> (RNCP)	$\mu$ -PIC	2750 cm <sup>3</sup>	0.4-1	FADC electronics 2*256 channles	Test
<b>PANDA</b> (FAIR)	$\mu$ -megas/GEM	22500 cm <sup>2</sup>	1	Continuous-wave operation: 10 <sup>11</sup> interaction/s	Under Construction
<b>CAT</b> (CNS)	GEM	2000 cm <sup>3</sup>	0.2-1	FADC electronics 400 channels	Test
<b>pAT-ATP</b> (NSCL)	$\mu$ -megas (+THGEM)	2000 cm <sup>3</sup>	0.01-1	GET electronics 256 channels	Operational
<b>AT-TPC</b> (NSCL)	$\mu$ -megas (+THGEMs)	8000 cm <sup>3</sup>	0.01-1	GET electronics >10'000 channels	Operational
<b>TACTIC</b> (CNS)	GEM	8000 cm <sup>3</sup>	0.25-1	Low beam energy (<2 MeV/u)	Test
<b>MINOS</b> (CNS)	$\mu$ -megas	6000 cm <sup>3</sup>	1	# of Channel= 600	Operational
<b>SuperFRS</b> (FAIR)	GEM	Few m <sup>2</sup>	1	High dynamic range Particle detection from p to Uranium	Under Construction Run: 2018-2022
...	...	...	...	...	...



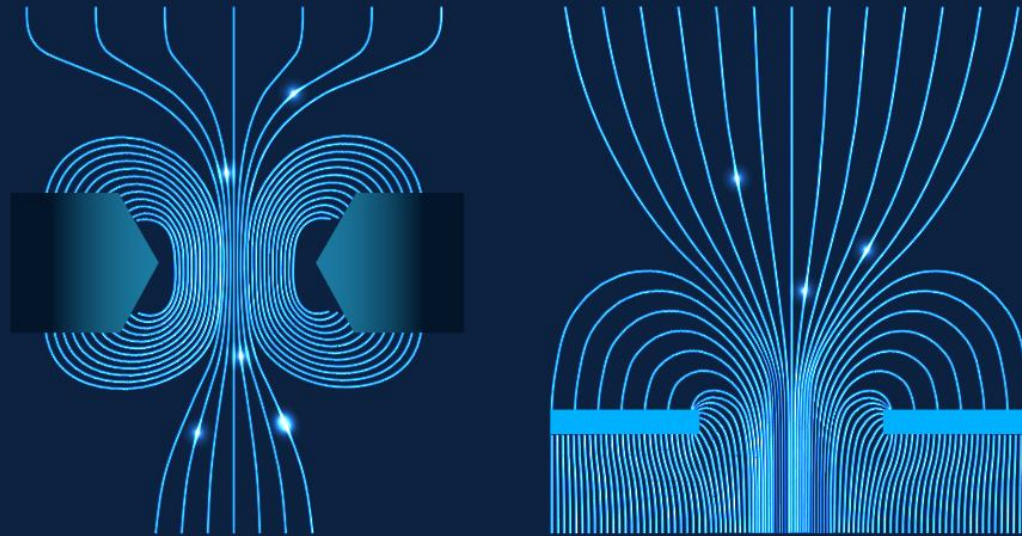
# RD51

## Micro Pattern Gaseous Detectors

### ~~School~~ Family

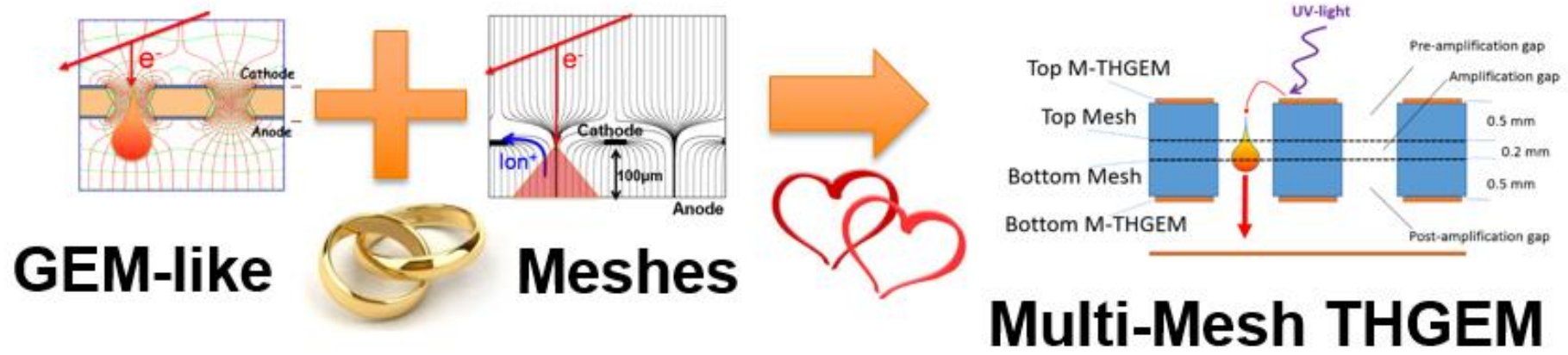
CERN

27 November - 1 December 2023



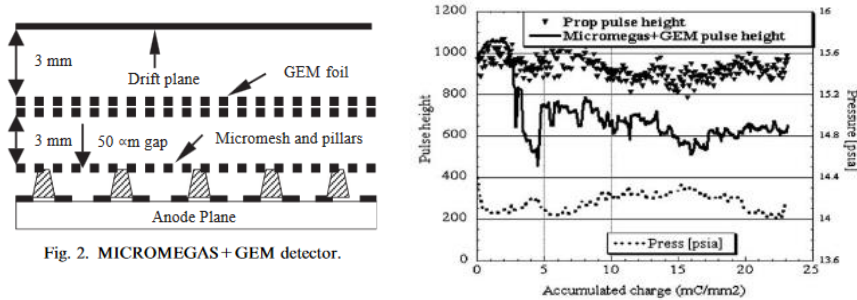


# The Battle for the Throne



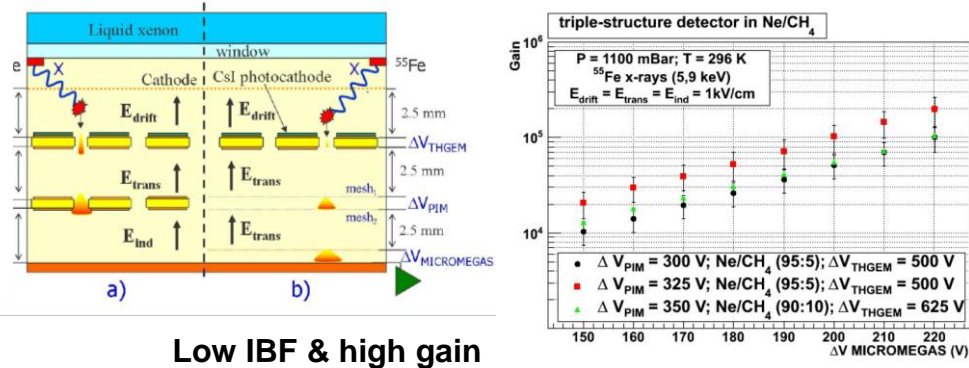
# Example of “Hybrid”-MPGD configurations

S. Kane et al. NIM515 (2003) 261–265



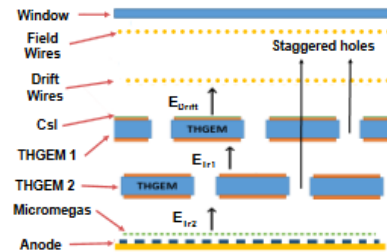
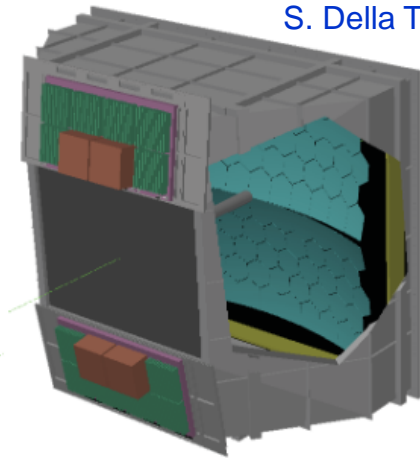
Increase Micromegas stability at high gain

S. Duval et al. 2011 JINST 6 P04007



The MPGD-Based GPM for the upgrade of COMPASS RICH-1

S. Della Torre, MPGD2019, La Rochelle 2019

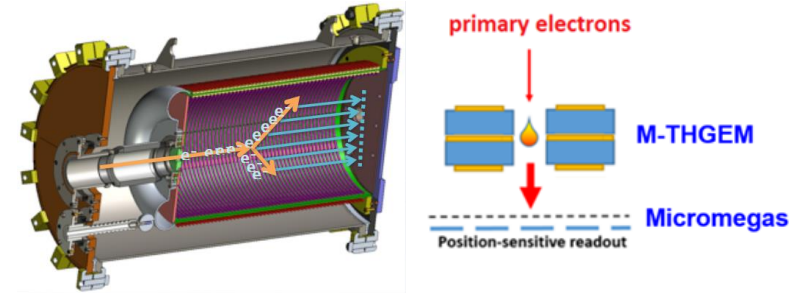


Technological achievement - for the **FIRST TIME**:

- **single photon detection is accomplished by MPGDs**
- THGEMs used in an experiment
- First resistive MM used in an experiment
- For the first time MPGD gain > 10k in an experiment

AT-TPC for low-E nuclear physics/astrophysics experiments

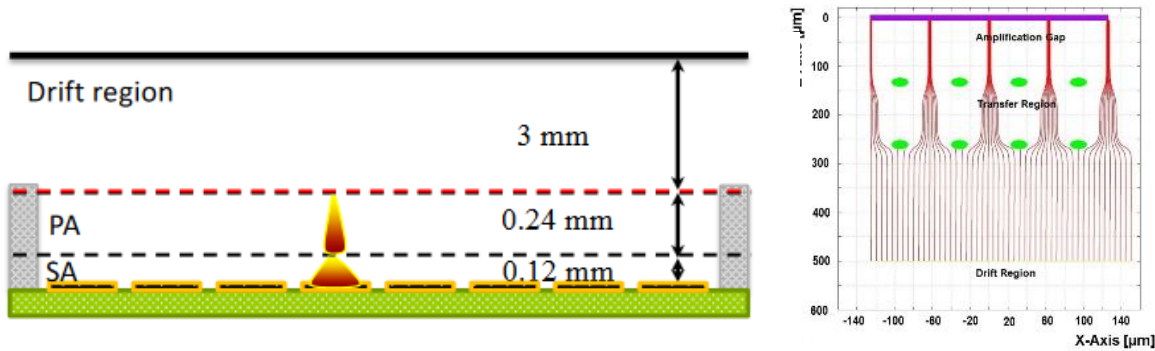
M. Cortesi, MPGD2019, La Rochelle 2019



First MPGD operated in “pure” elemental gas & used in several NP experiments in different irradiation conditions

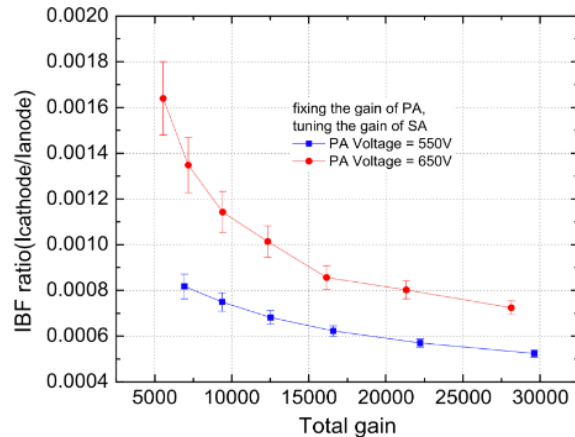
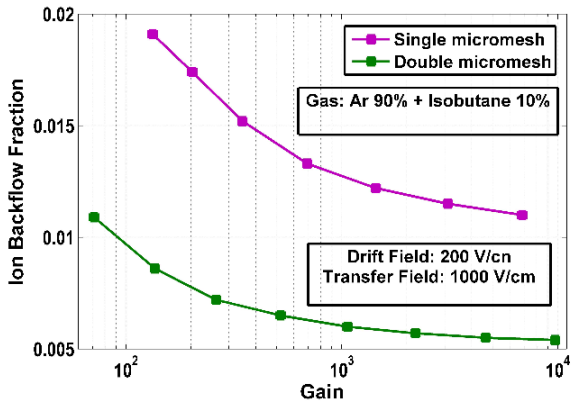


# The idea: M-THGEM as support for the Double-MicroMegas



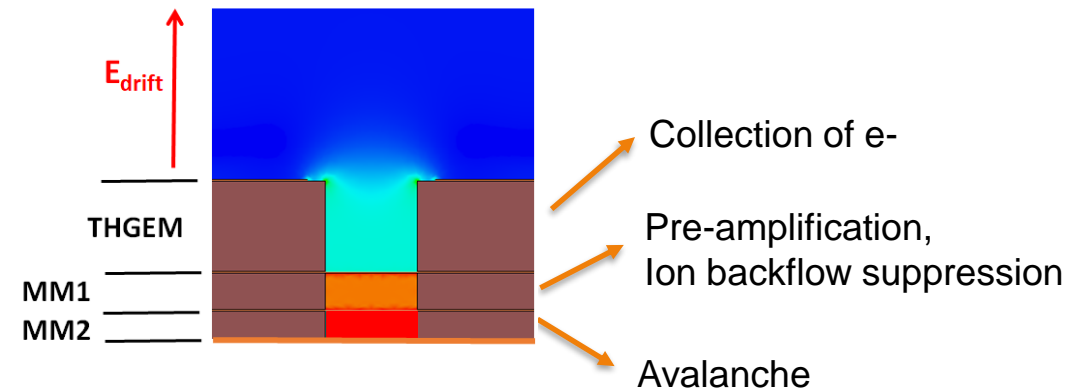
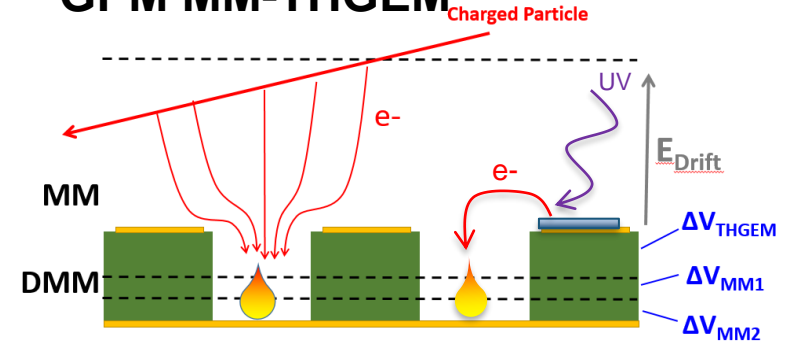
Problem: mechanical stability of DMM over large area

P. Bhattacharya et al 2015 JINST10 P09017



More recent results → IBF ~ 10<sup>-4</sup> (B. Qi et al. NIMA 976 (2020) 164282)

## GPM MM-THGEM



### Features:

- ) M-THGEM as mechanical support for the meshes
- ) Reduced ion backflow
- ) Uniform field → Good energy resolution
- ) Photocathode on the THGEM top surface for GPM

# MM-THGEM for Fission Fragment experiment

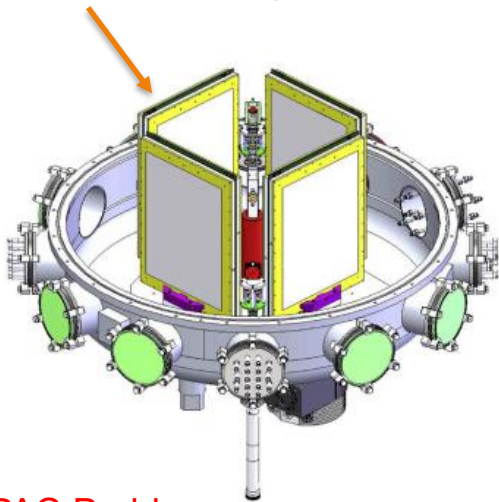
- Goal: Understand Fusion-Fission and quasi-Fission reaction mechanisms → production of super-heavy elements

CFFD (NSCL)

Heavy-ion Imaging system:

Velocity vector

→ Mass/Angle distribution

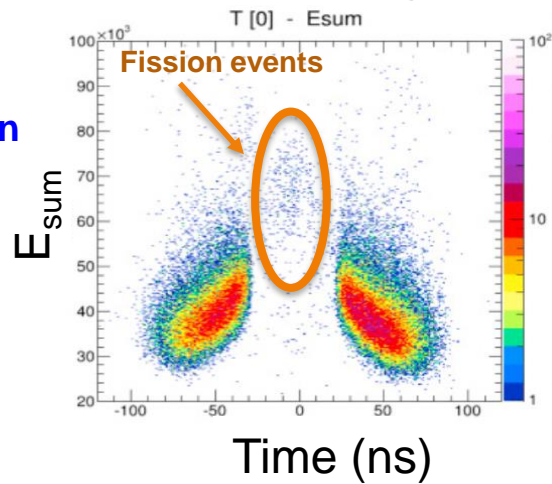


PPAC Problems

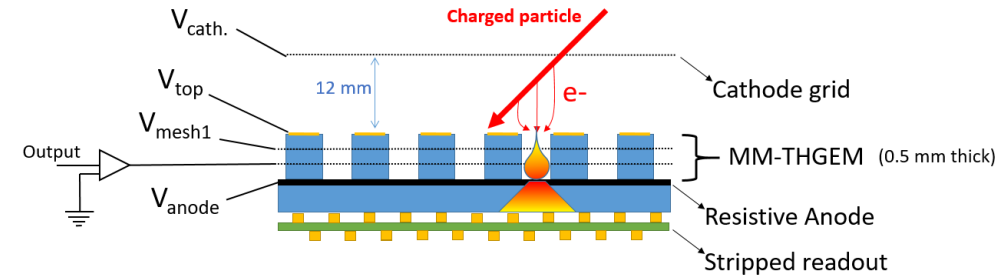
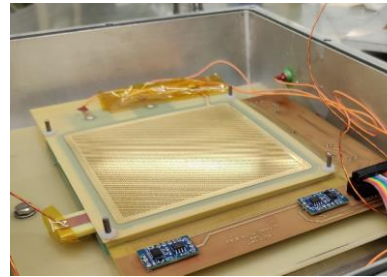
- ) Large area → Fragile, difficult to maintain
- ) Poor spatial resolution ~ 4 mm (FWHM)
- ) Modest rates (up to a few kHz)

→ Test new technology to improve resolution

PPAC-based tracking system



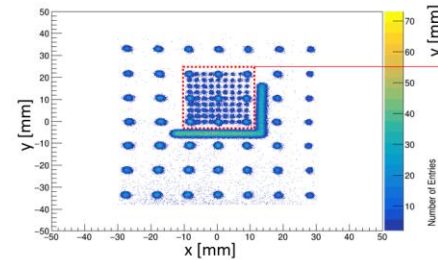
MM-THGEM imaging detector prototype (10x10 cm<sup>2</sup>)



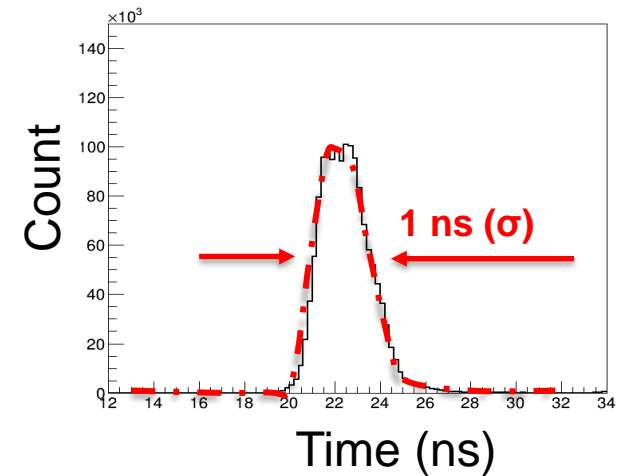
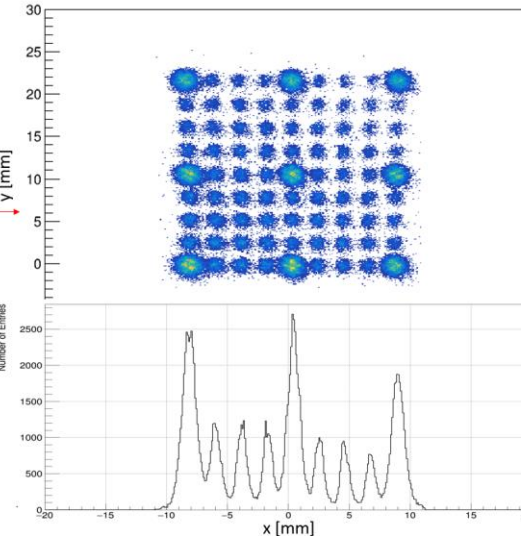
Performance:

- ) Spatial Resolution < 0.5 mm ( $\sigma$ )
- ) Time resolution ~ 1 ns ( $\sigma$ )

10x10 cm<sup>2</sup>



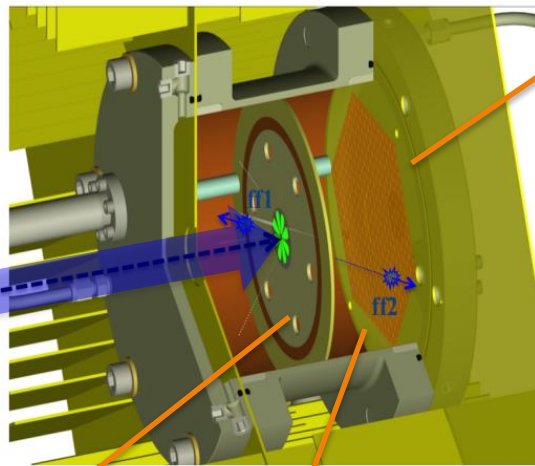
Isobutane (7 Torr)



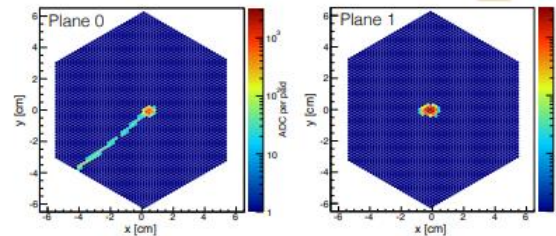
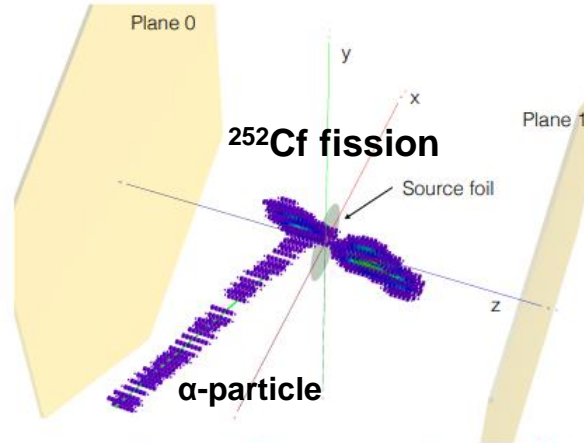
# Neutron Induced Fission Fragment Tracking Experiment

Motivation: Study and improve cross section ratio systematics

NIFFTE: two-chamber MICROMEGAS TPC → precision cross section measurements of neutron-induced fission



Position-sensitive MM board with 2976 pad (2 mm wide)

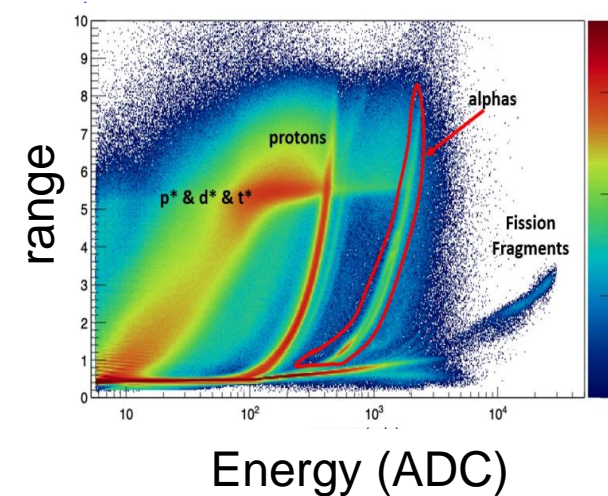
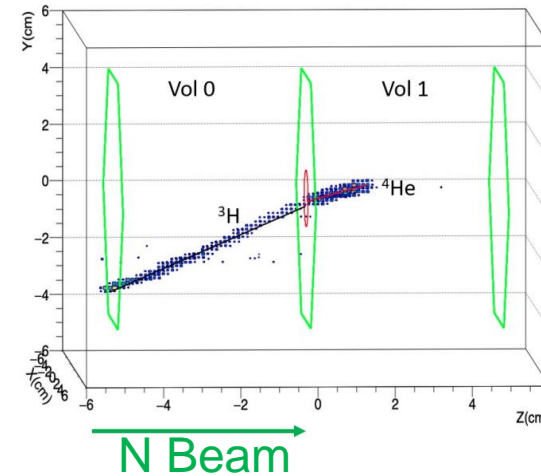


Fixed target

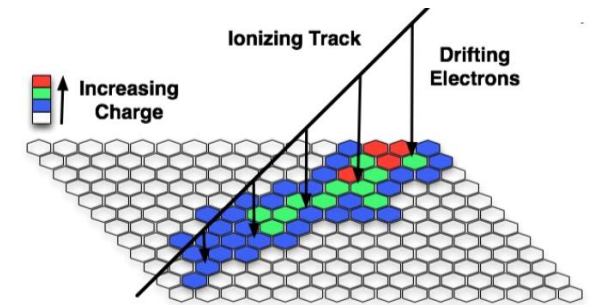
Gas: 95% argon, 5% isobutane

Extensive details can be found in:  
**NIM A 759 (2014) 50-64**

## ${}^6\text{Li}(n,t)\alpha$ Reaction Event Identification



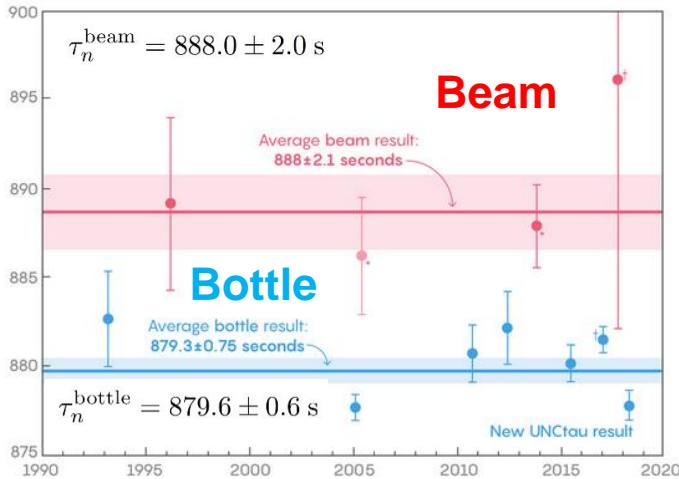
- Neutron time-of-flight measured
- 3D ionization profile for individual tracks provides:
  - Track length
  - Total energy
  - Track direction
  - Bragg Peak
  - Interaction vertex





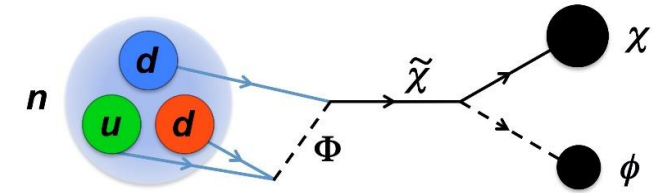
# Applications to exotic decays: Neutron lifetime puzzle & Dark decay

Motivation: Free neutron lifetime measured in beam and in bottle are  $\sim 4\sigma$  away!  
 Different observables measuring different decay modes?



Possible explanation (Fornal and Grisntein):

- ) the neutron decay to a dark matter particle  
 → 3 different decay mechanisms could be possible
- ) A branching ratio of  $\sim 1\%$  would explain the n lifetime puzzle



Fornal and Grisntein  
 PRL 120, 191801(2018)

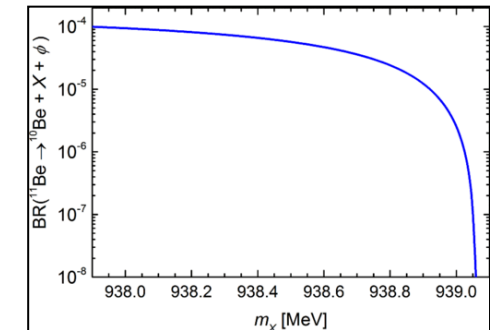
**Suggestion:** Dark decay also possible in halo nuclei (weakly bound n) →  $S_n < 1.572$  MeV

Possible candidates:  ${}^6\text{He}$ ,  ${}^{11}\text{Li}$ ,  ${}^{11}\text{Be}$ ,  ${}^{15}\text{C}$ , and  ${}^{17}\text{C}$

→ branching ratio upper limit of  $10^{-4}$  depending on the dark particle mass.

${}^{11}\text{Be} \rightarrow {}^{10}\text{Be}$  ( $\beta$ -delay proton emission + dark decay)

→ measured using AMS with a branching ratio of  $8.3(9) \cdot 10^{-6}$

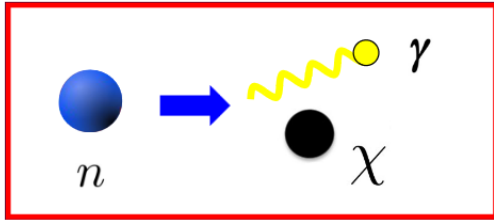


Pfutzner, PRC 97, 042501 (2018)



# Dark decay Scenarios

Scenario 1

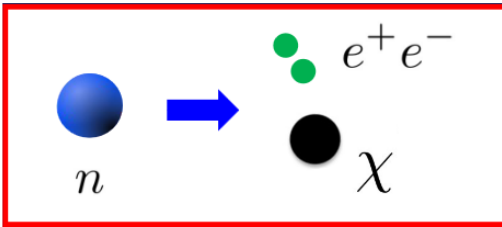


X

Tang et al., *Phys Rev Lett*  
121 (2018), 022505

$$0.782 \text{ MeV} < E_\gamma < 1.664 \text{ MeV}$$

Scenario 2

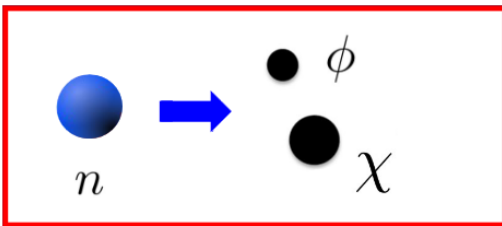


X

Sun et al., *Phys. Rev. C*  
97 (2018), 052501

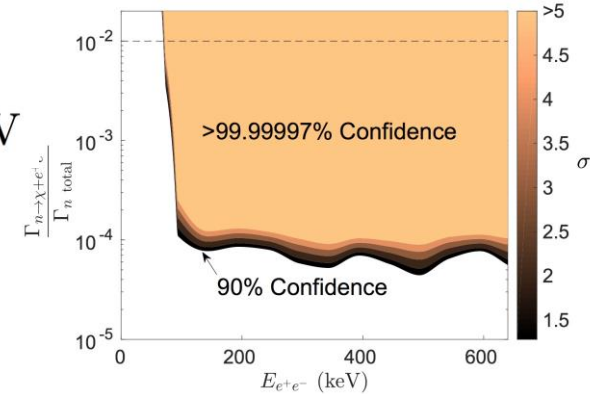
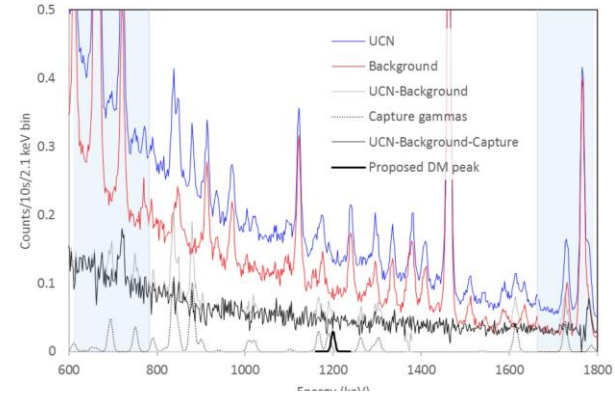
$$2 m_e + 100 \text{ keV} \leq E_{e^+e^-} < 1.665 \text{ MeV}$$

Scenario 3



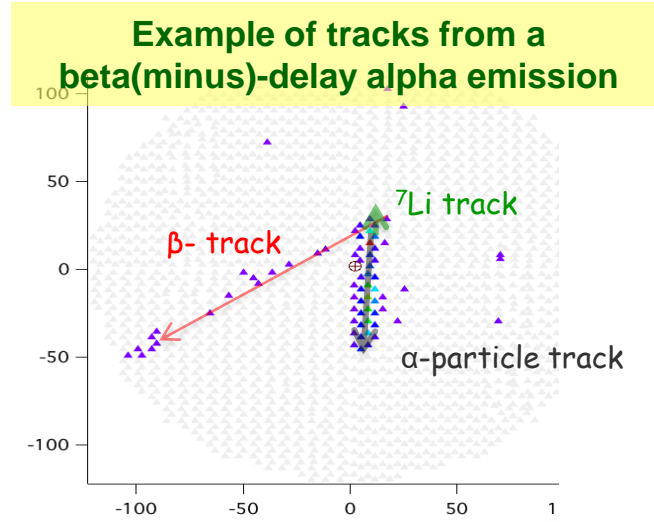
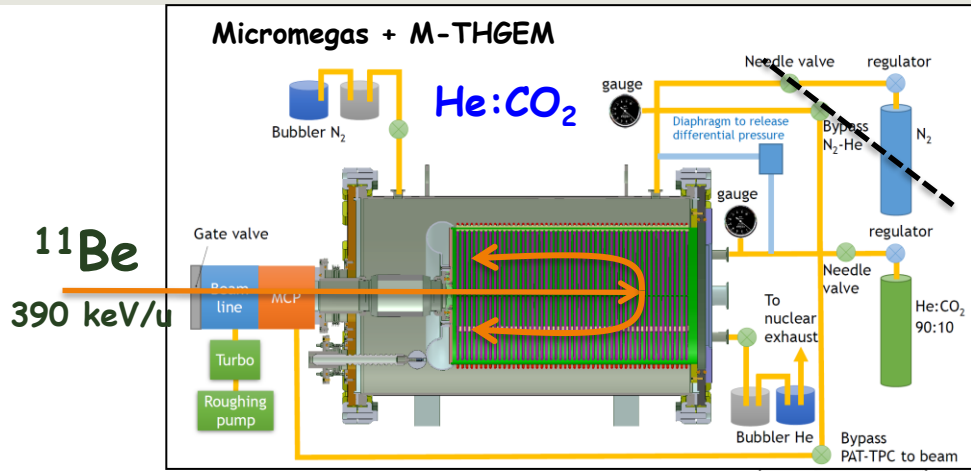
—————> (?)

Fornal and Grisstein, PRL 120, 191801(2018)



# MPGD-based TPC readout for dark decay search

First observation of a  $\beta^-$  delay proton emission!



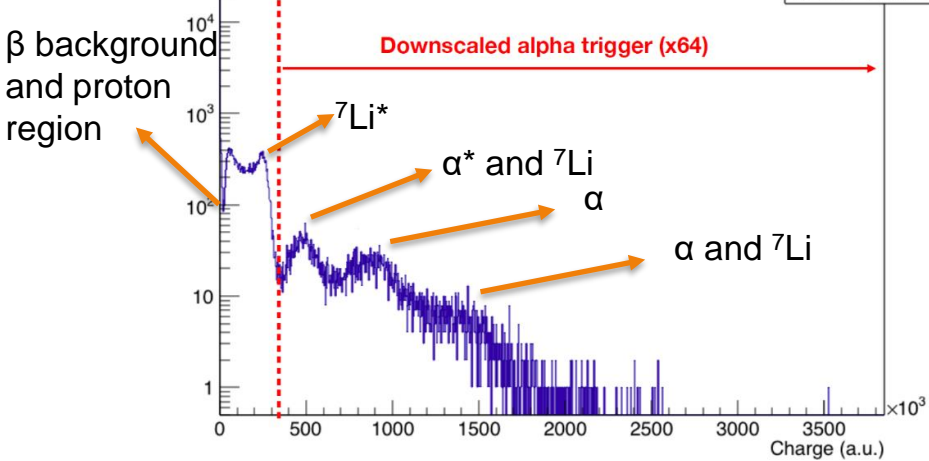
Y. Ayyad (NSCL) et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 082501

pAT-TPC → tracking of particles with two order of magnitude difference in specific ionization density

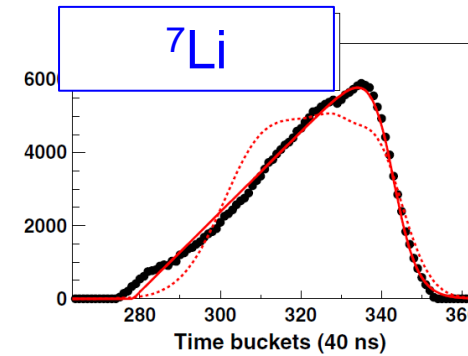
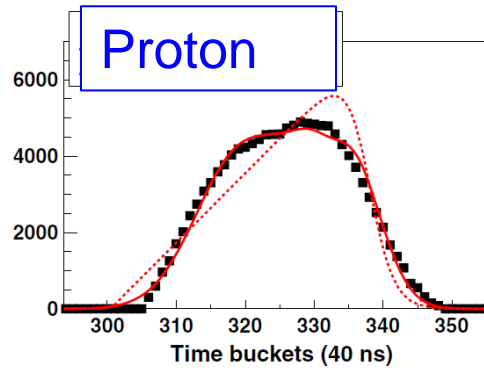
Beta-delayed proton decay of  $^{11}\text{Be}$  explained by an exotic near-threshold resonance that favors proton decay  
 → No room for dark decay!

E. Lopez-Saavedra et al., PRL 129 (2022), 012502

Calorimetry is not enough for PID!



PID based on analysis of dE



$(^{11}\text{Be} \rightarrow ^{10}\text{Be} + p)$  branching ratio results ( $10^{-5}$ -  $10^{-6}$ ) compatible with AMS  $^{11}\text{Be} \rightarrow ^{10}\text{Be}$  value ( $8.3 \cdot 10^{-6}$ ).





# Applications to exotic decays: The X17 Boson

PRL 116, 042501 (2016)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
29 JANUARY 2016

## Observation of Anomalous Internal Pair Creation in $^8\text{Be}$ : A Possible Indication of a Light, Neutral Boson

A. J. Krasznahorkay,\* M. Csatlós, L. Csige, Z. Gácsi, J. Gulyás, M. Hunyadi, I. Kuti, B. M. Nyakó, L. Stuhl, J. Timár, T. G. Tornyai, and Zs. Vajta  
Institute for Nuclear Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA Atomki), P.O. Box 51, H-4001 Debrecen, Hungary

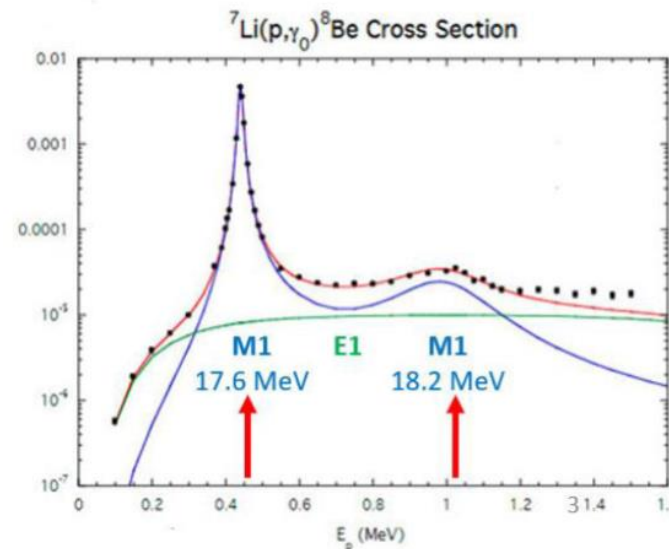
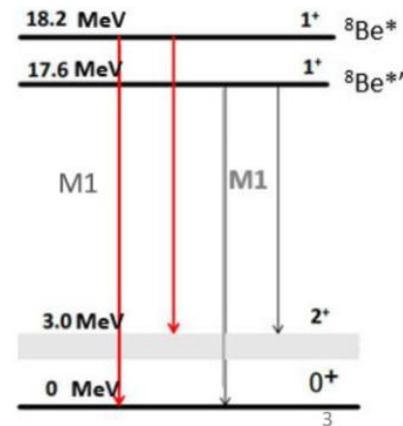
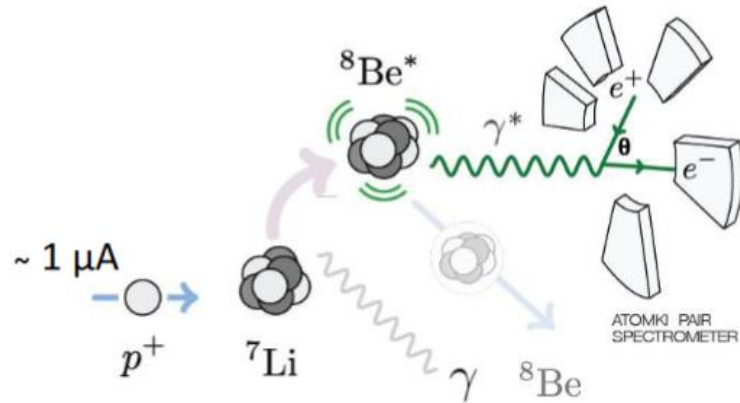
T. J. Ketel

Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics, Science Park 105, 1098 XG Amsterdam, Netherlands

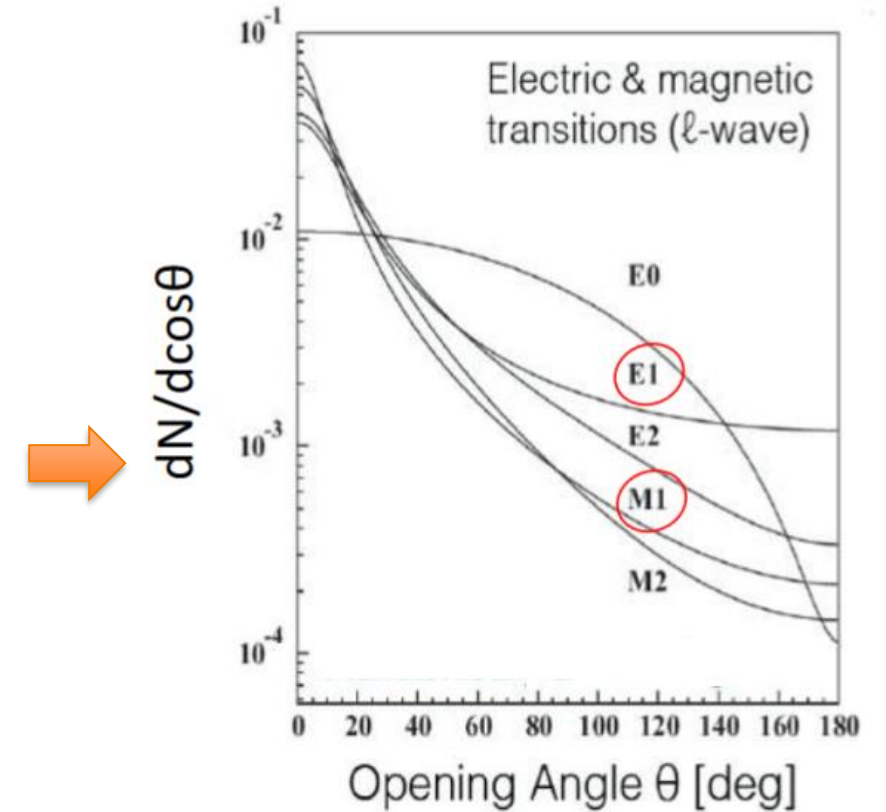
A. Krasznahorkay

CERN, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland and Institute for Nuclear Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA Atomki), P.O. Box 51, H-4001 Debrecen, Hungary

(Received 7 April 2015; published 26 January 2016)



P. Schlüter et al, Physics Reports 75 (1981), pp 327-392.

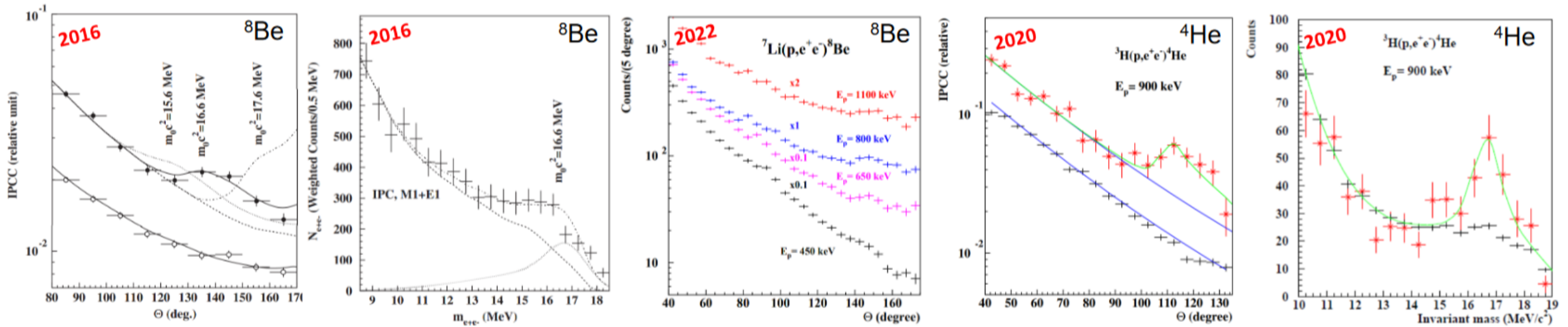


- ) Photo-production in  $^8\text{Be}^*$  via  $p+^7\text{Li}$
- ) Fraction of the photons converted into  $e^+e^-$  by IPC
- ) Measure angular distribution of the  $e^+e^-$  pair

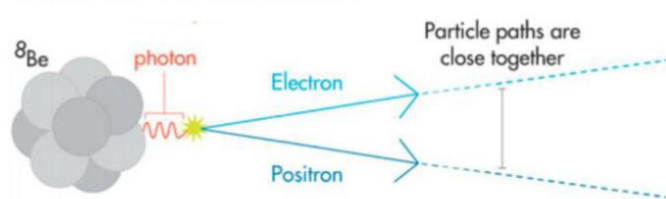
# Decay and Internal Pair Creation (IPC): ATOMKI's Anomaly

A.J. Krasznahorkay et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 116 (2016) 042501

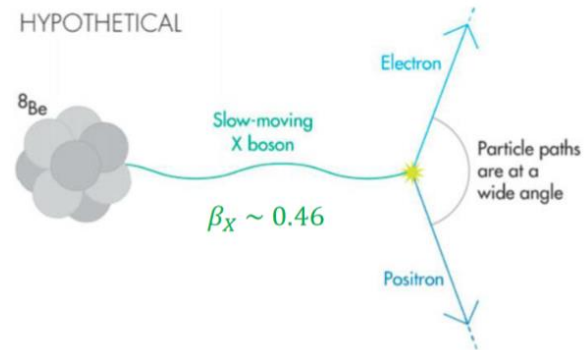
A.J. Krasznahorkay et al, J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 1643 (2020) 012001



EXPECTED  $^8\text{Be}$  TRANSITION



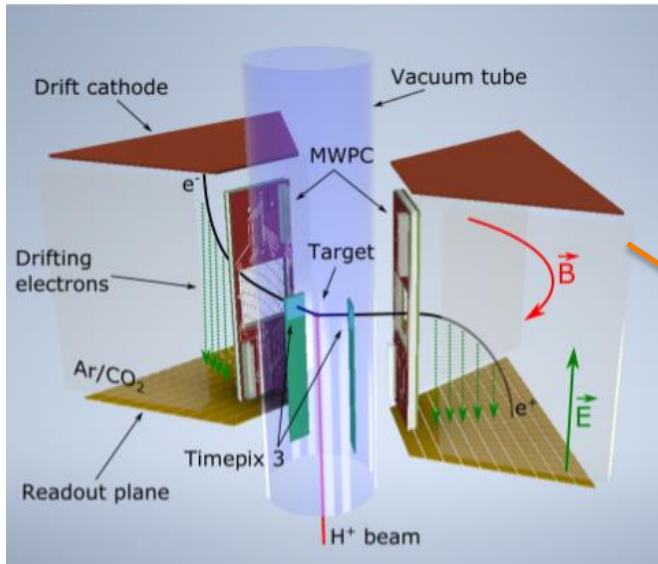
HYPOTHETICAL



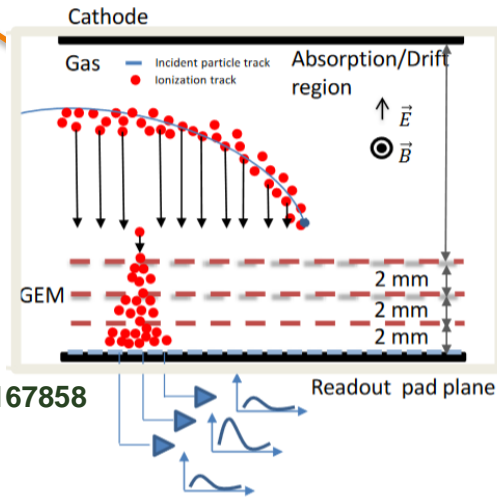
# Example of X17 search with MPGD tracking

## X17 spectrometer at CTU

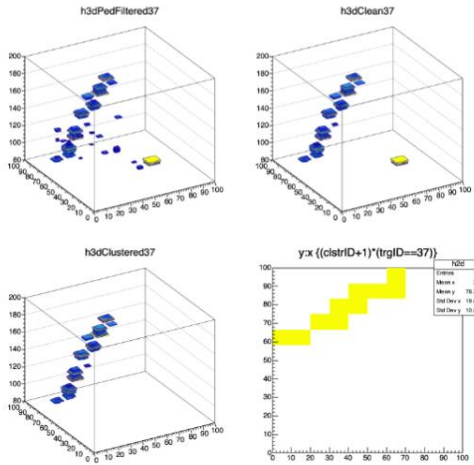
Proposed Detector concept → Three detectors:  
 1) Timepix3 → angle measurement  
 2) MWPC → angle and scattering measurement  
 3) MPGD-TPC → energy measurement and PID



### TPC readout based on 3 GEM foils



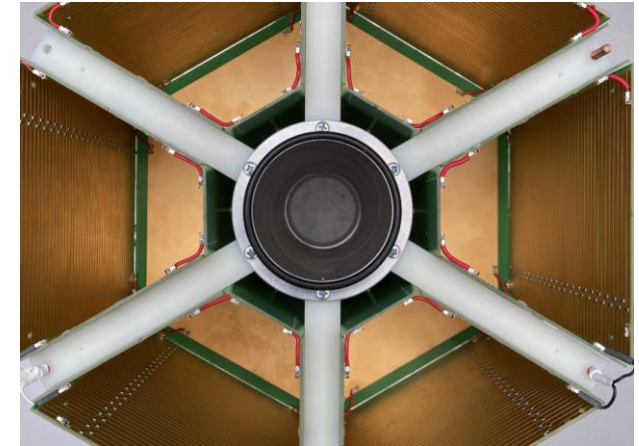
A.F.V. Cortez *et al.*, NIMA 1047, February 2023, 167858



Track recognition with machine learning techniques

1) Unusual  $\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}$  configuration:

→ Physics reconstruction under development from simulated tracks



- Voltage divider's SMD resistors in foils
- Readout with SAMPA chip (developed by USP for ALICE).

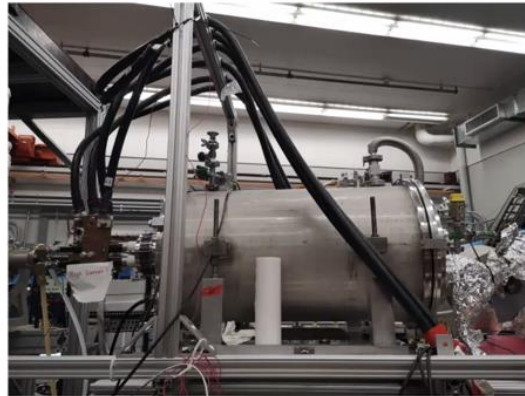
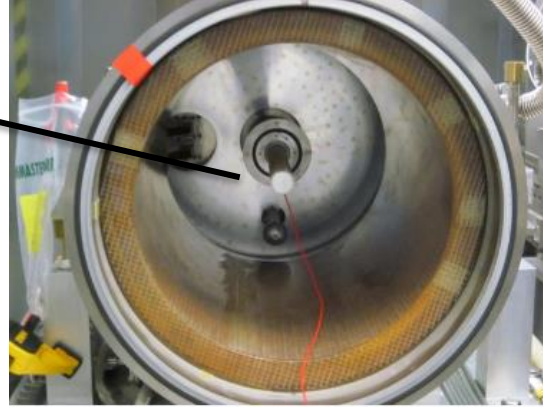
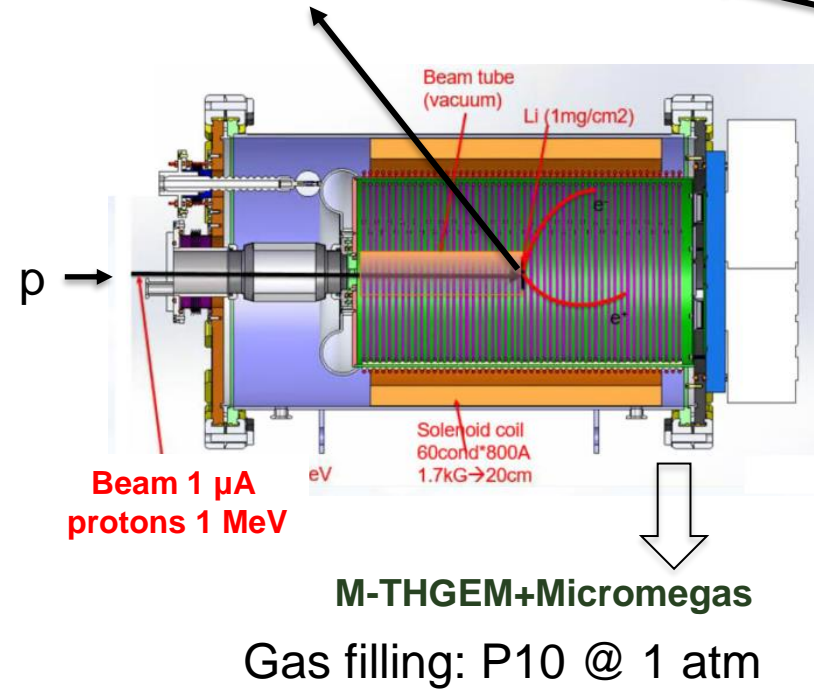




# TPC with solid target for X17 boson search

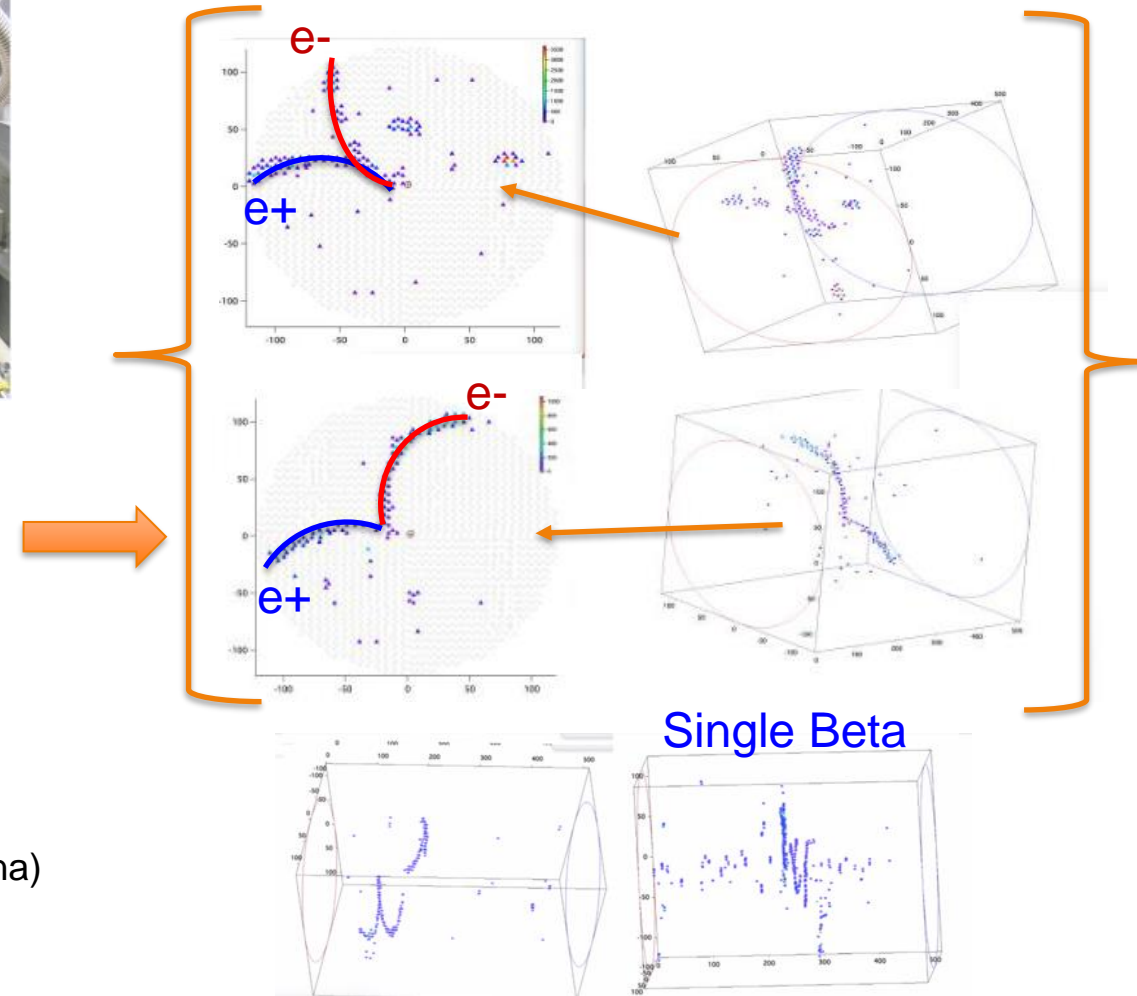
Target:

- ) 400  $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}$  Lithium Hydroxide (LiOH)
- ) 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}$  Lithium Fluoride (LiF)



TwinSol – Notre Dame University (Indiana)

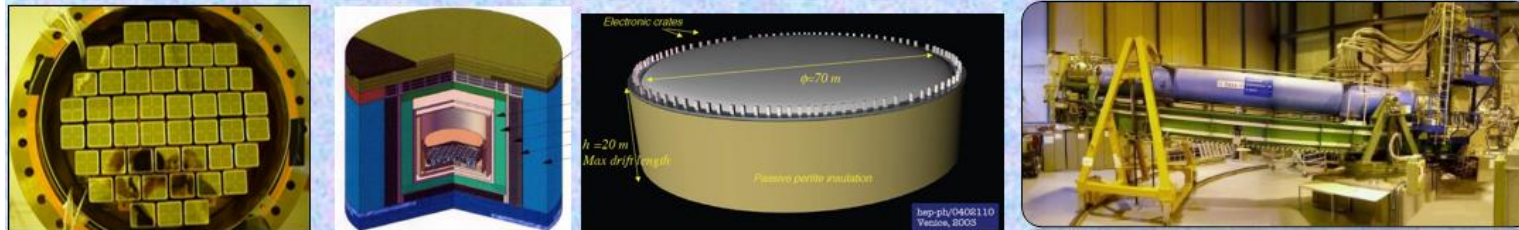
Courtesy Y. Ayyad (AT-TPC collaboration)



# MPGD: Rare event search

from M. Titov MPGD2017

Experiment / Timescale	Application Domain	MPGD Technology	Total detector size / Single module size	Operation Characteristics / Performance	Special Requirements / Remarks
<b>DARWIN</b> (multi-ton dual-phase LXe TPC) Start: >2020s	Dark Matter Detection	THGEM-based GPMT	Total area: ~30m <sup>2</sup> Single unit detect. ~20 x20 cm <sup>2</sup>	<b>Max.rate:</b> 100 Hz/cm <sup>2</sup> <b>Spatial res.:</b> ~ 1cm <b>Time res.:</b> ~ few ns <b>Rad. Hard.:</b> no	Operation at ~180K, <u>radiopure materials</u> , dark count rate ~1 Hz/cm <sup>2</sup>
<b>PANDAX III @ China</b> Start: > 2017	<u>Astroparticle physics</u> <u>Neutrinoless double beta decay</u>	TPC w/ <u>Micromegas</u> <u>μbulk</u>	Total area: 1.5 m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Energy Res.:</b> ~ 1-3% @ 2 MeV <b>Spatial res.:</b> ~ 1 mm	<u>High radiopurity</u> High-pressure (10b Xe)
<b>NEWAGE@ Kamioka</b> Run: 2004-now	Dark Matter Detection	TPC w/ <u>GEM+μPIC</u>	Single unit det. ~ 30x30x41(cm <sup>3</sup> )	Angular resolution: 40° @ 50keV	
<b>CAST @ CERN:</b> Run: 2002-now	AstroParticle Physics: Axions, <u>Dark Energy/Matter</u> , Chameleons detection	<u>Micromegas</u> <u>μbulk</u> and <u>InGrid</u> (coupled to X-ray focusing device)	Total area: 3 MM μbulks of 7x 7cm <sup>2</sup> Total area: 1 <u>InGrid</u> of 2cm <sup>2</sup>	<b>Spatial res.:</b> ~100μm <b>Energy Res:</b> 14% (FWHM) @ 6keV  <b>Low bkg. levels (2-7 keV):</b> μMM: 10-6 cts s-1keV-1cm-2 <u>InGrid:</u> 10-5 cts s-1keV-1cm-2	<u>High radiopurity</u> , good separation of <u>tracklike bkg.</u> from X-rays
<b>IAXO</b> Start: > 2023 ?	AstroParticle Physics: Axions, <u>Dark Energy/Matter</u> , Chameleons detection	<u>Micromegas</u> <u>μbulk</u> , <u>CCD</u> , <u>InGrid</u> (+ X-ray focusing device)	Total area: 8 μbulks of 7 x 7cm <sup>2</sup>	<b>Energy Res:</b> 12% (FWHM) @ 6keV  <b>Low bkg. Levels (1-7 keV):</b> μbulk: 10-7cts s-1keV-1cm-2	<u>High radiopurity</u> , good separation of <u>tracklike bkg.</u> from X-rays



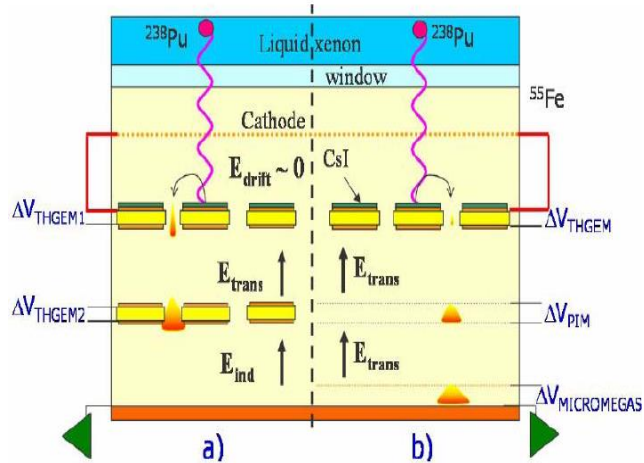


# The Cryogenic Frontier for Rare Event Search

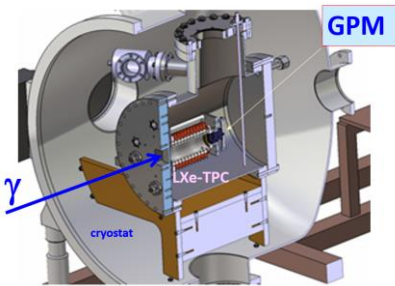
Read-out elements of cryogenic noble liquid detectors → Rear event detectors (n, DM) & Medical Physics (PET)

- Detecting the scintillation light produced in the noble liquids
- Options of scintillator light and ionization charge detection by a same detector!

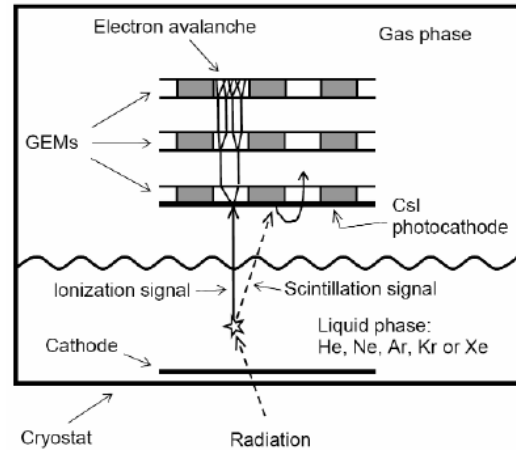
with windows



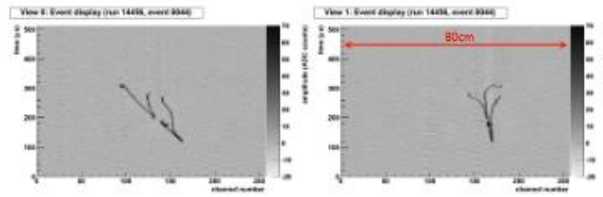
S. Duval et al., JINST 6 (2011) P04007



Windowless (2-phases)

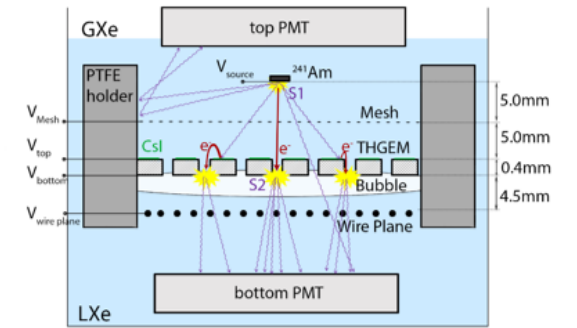


A. Bondar et al., NIMA 556 (2006) 273  
B. & Rubbia group ETHz - LArTPC

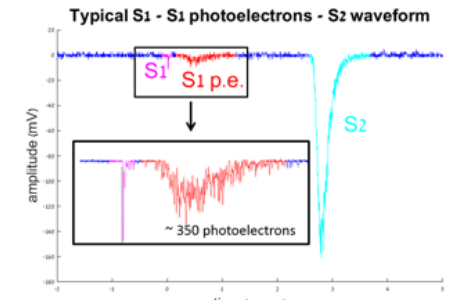


Operated in Cryogenic Liquid

Bubble-assisted Liquid Hole-Multipliers



Erdal et al. arXiv:1509.02354





# Noble liquid detectors

- **Why noble-liquid detectors?**

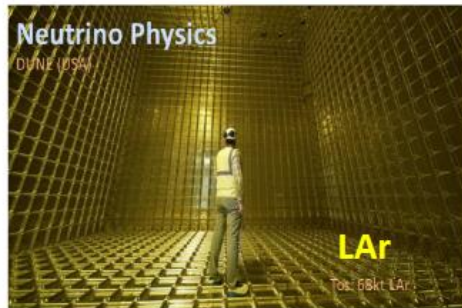
- High density → higher interaction probability (gamma, n, rare events);
- High scintillation and ionization yields → VUV photons & Ionization-electrons
- Scalability (Xe cost >>> Ar)

- **What are the challenges ?**

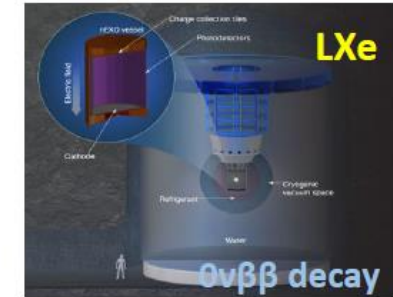
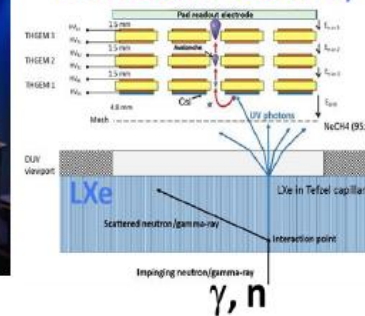
- Rare events → large volumes, high radiopurity & background discrimination, very high sensitivity

- **How?**

- Charge readout (with/without multiplication)
- Light readout (primary scintillation & electroluminescence) with PMTs, SiPMs etc.

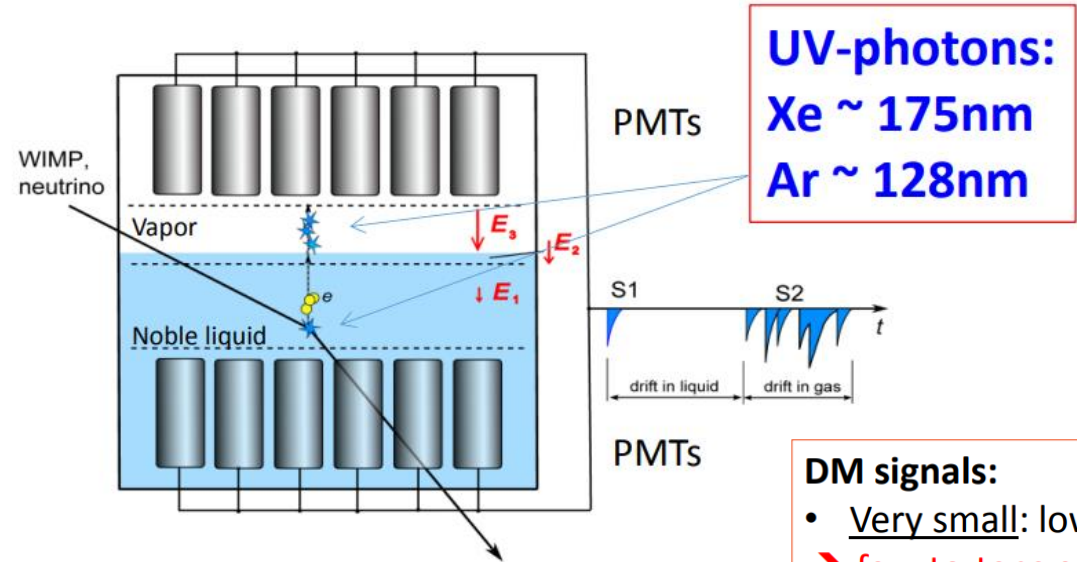
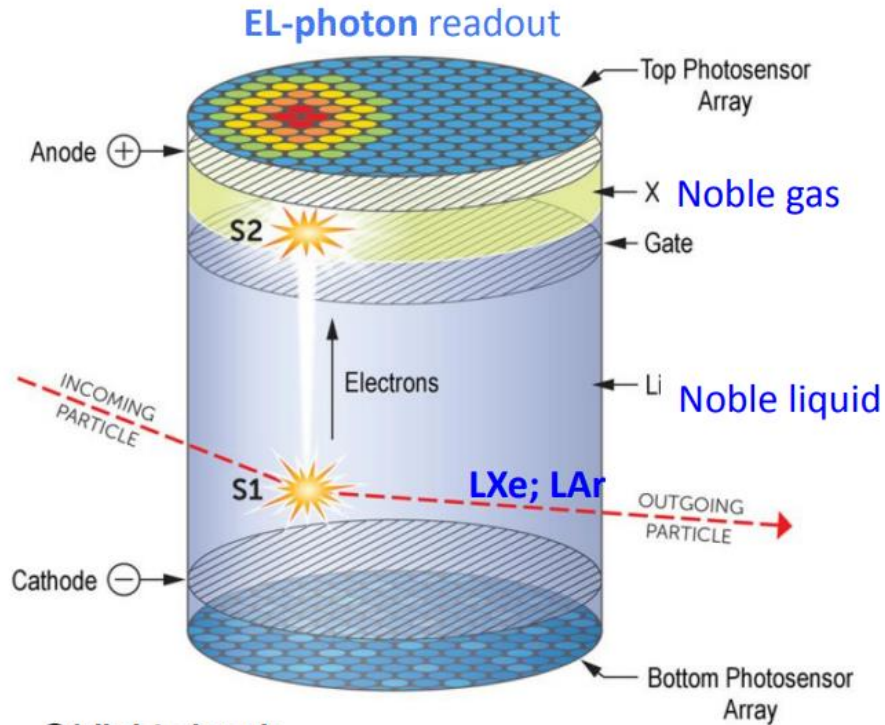


## Homeland security



A. Breskin, FRIB seminar 2023

# Dual-phase liquid noble-gas TPC



**UV-photons:**  
Xe ~ 175nm  
Ar ~ 128nm

The **EL-photon** readout can be substituted by **charge readout**: electron avalanche multiplication. e.g. in: **LEM (THGEM)**.  
**Proto-DUNE: too low gain.**

### S1 light signal:

- prompt scintillation photons

### S2 charge signal:

- secondary scintillation photons from electroluminescence in GXe due to drifted electrons

### 3D event position reconstruction:

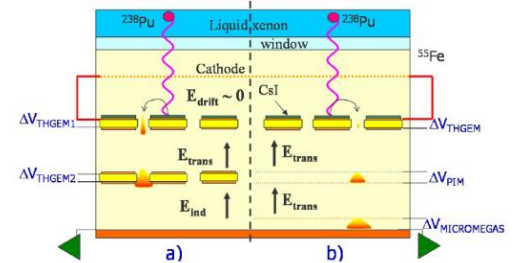
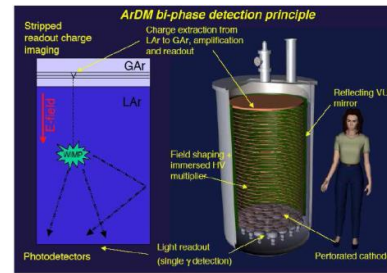
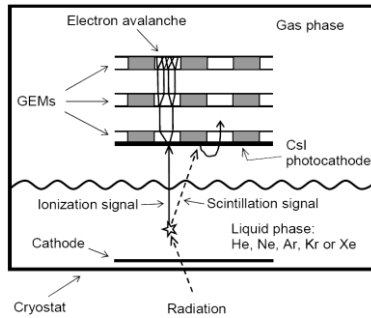
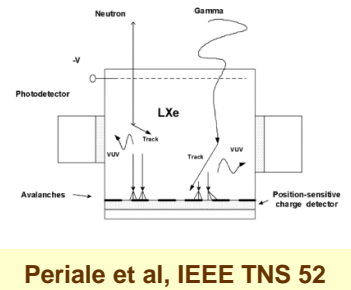
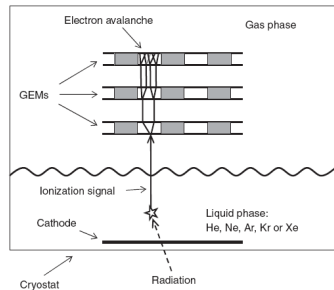
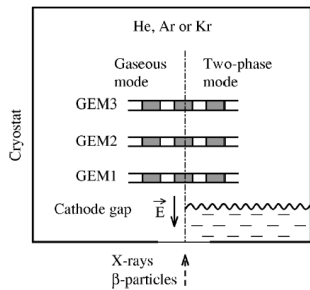
- X,Y: S2 hit pattern
- Z: drift time S2-S1

### DM signals:

- Very small: low-E recoils **eV-KeV**  
→ **few-to-tens electrons in noble-liquid**
- Very rare:  
1 event/Kg Y @ low mass  
**1 event/t Y @ high mass in LXe**
- Buried in huge background:  
→ **> 10<sup>6</sup>-fold higher rates**  
→ Underground  
→ Low-radioactivity materials/gas  
→ cosmics VETO

A. Breskin, FRIB seminar 2023

# MPGD: cryogenic R&D (Concept Gallery)



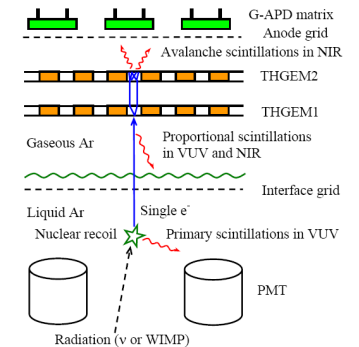
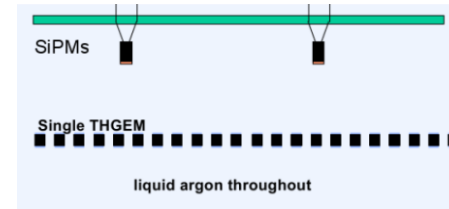
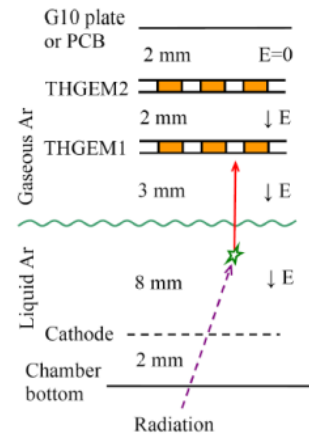
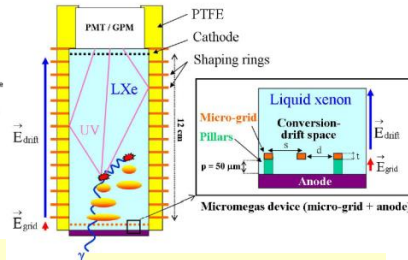
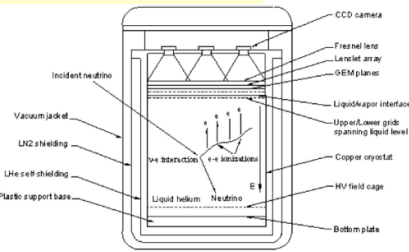
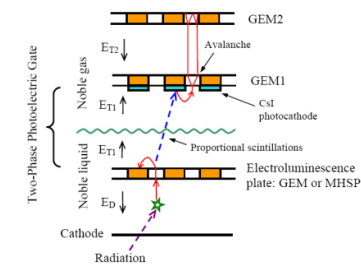
A.Buzulutskov et al, IEEE TNS 50 (2003) 2491;  
A.Bondar et al, NIMA 524 (2004) 130

Periale et al, IEEE TNS 52 (2005) 927

A.Bondar et al, NIMA 556 (2006) 273

A.Rubbia, J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 39 (2006) 129

S. Duval et al, JINST 6 (2011) P04007



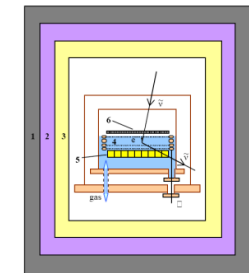
A.Buzulutskov, A.Bondar, JINST 1 (2006) P08006

Y.L.Ju et al, Cryogenics 47 (2007) 81

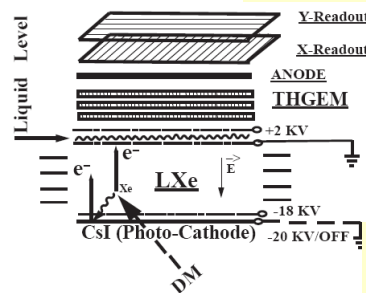
S. Duval et al, JINST 4 (2009) P12008

Lightfoot et al, JINST 4 (2009) P04002

A. Bondar et al, JINST 5 (2010) P08002  
A.Buzulutskov et al, EPL 94 (2011) 52001

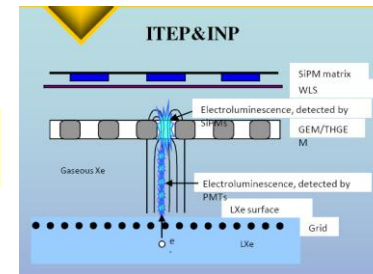


D.Akimov et al, JINST 4 (2009) P06010



M.Gai et al, Eprint arxiv:0706.1106 (2007)

A.Bondar et al, JINST 3 (2008) P07001



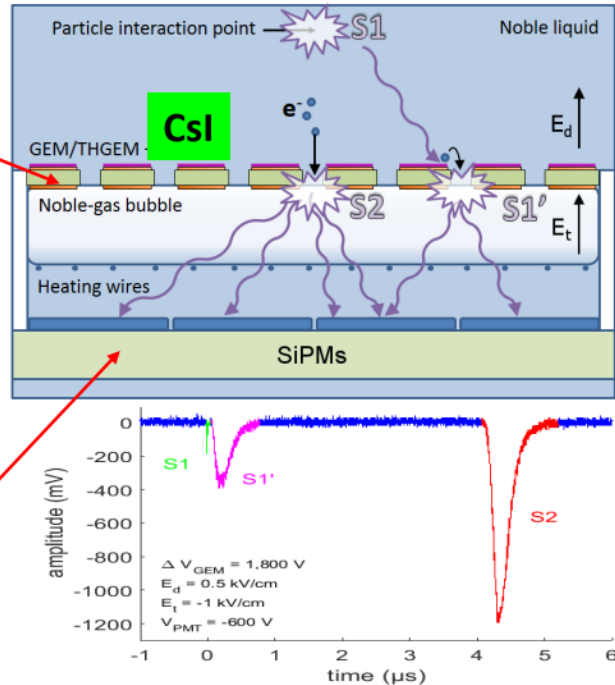
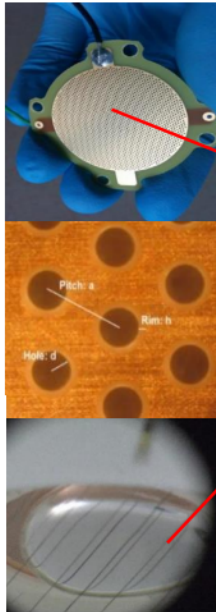
D.Akimov, NIMA 628 (2011) 50





# Bubble-assisted Liquid Hole Multiplier LHM

Principle: Radiation-induced electroluminescence from a bubble trapped in noble liquid



- Creating a local “vapor bubble” underneath a perforated electrode, immersed within a large noble-liquid volume.
- The electrode is coated by **CsI UV-photocathode**.
- **BOTH: S2 Electrons and S1-induced S1' photoelectrons** drift from the liquid into the bubble.
- ELECTROLUMINESCENCE within the bubble → **Energy, 2D localization.**
- **Demonstrated in both LXe & LAr.**

Photo-yield: **~400 photons /e-/4π**

- Arazi et al., 2015\_JINST 10 P08015
- Arazi et al., NIM A 845 (2017) 218
- Erdal et al., 2019 JINST 14, P01028
- Erdal et al., 2018 JINST 13 P12008
- Erdal et al., 2019 JINST 14 P11021

Precise control of the liquid-gas interface, expected:

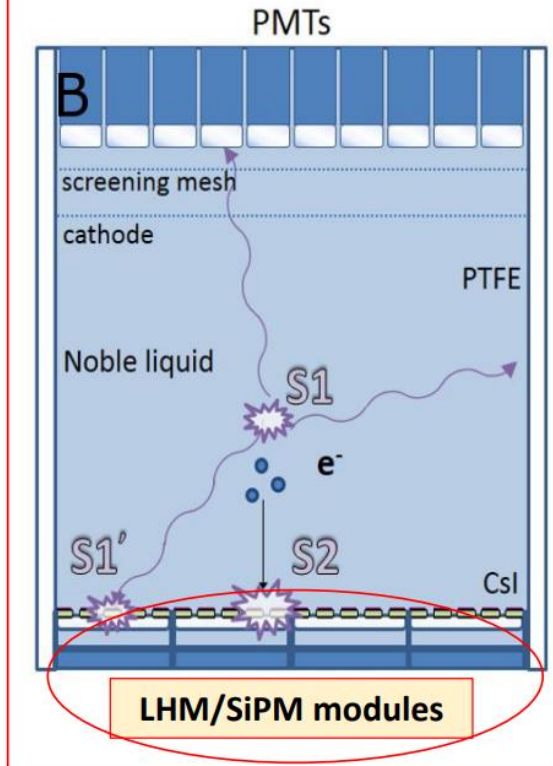
- better S2 resolution
- potentially better S2/S1-based background discrimination



A predecessor of single phase!

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1088/1475-7516/2016/11/017>

Potential DARWIN LHM-TPC



23

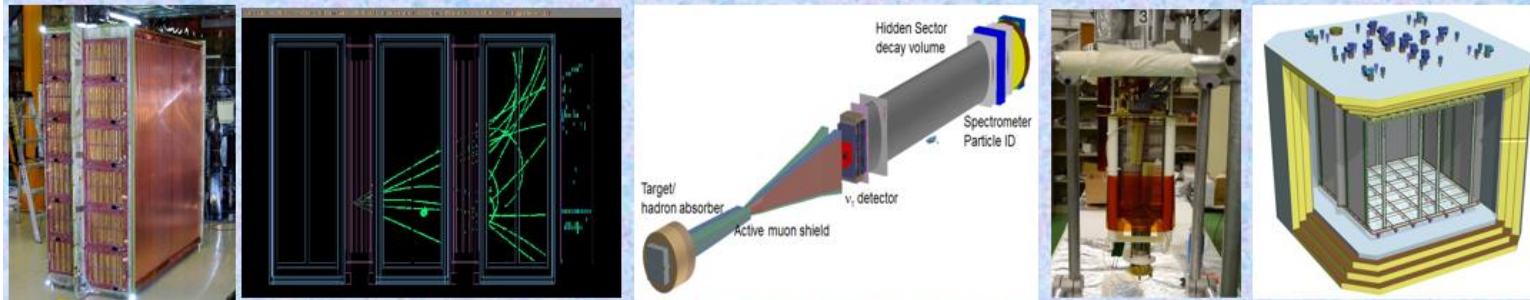
A. Breskin, FRIB seminar 2023



# MPGD: application to Neutrino physics

from M. Titov MPGD2017

Experiment / Timescale	Application Domain	MPGD Technology	Total detector size / Single module size	Operation Characteristics / Performance	Special Requirements / Remarks
<b>T2K @ Japan</b> Start: 2009 - now	Neutrino physics (Tracking)	TPC w/ <u>Micromegas</u>	Total area: ~ 9 m <sup>2</sup> Single unit detect: 0.36x0.34m <sup>2</sup> -0.1m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Spatial res.:</b> 0.6 mm <b>dE/dx:</b> 7.8% (MIP) <b>Rad. Hard.:</b> no <b>Moment. res.:</b> 9% at 1 GeV	The first large TPC using MPGD
<b>SHiP @ CERN</b> Start: 2025-2035	Tau Neutrino Physics (Tracking)	<u>Micromegas</u> , <u>GEM</u> , <u>mRWELL</u>	Total area: ~ 26 m <sup>2</sup> Single unit detect: 2 x 1 m <sup>2</sup> ~ 2m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Max. rate:</b> < low <b>Spatial res.:</b> < 150 μm <b>Rad. Hard.:</b> no	Provide time stamp of the neutrino interaction in brick"
<b>LBNO-DEMO (WA105 @ CERN):</b> Start: > 2016	Neutrino physics (Tracking+ Calorimetry)	LAr TPC w/ THGEM double phase readout	Total area: 3 m <sup>2</sup> (WA105-3x1x1) 36 m <sup>2</sup> (WA105-6x6x6) Single unit detect. (0.5x0.5 m <sup>2</sup> ) ~0.25 m <sup>2</sup>	WA105 3x1x1 and 6x6x6: <b>Max. rate:</b> 150 Hz/m <sup>2</sup> <b>Spatial res.:</b> 1 mm <b>Time res.:</b> ~ 10 ns <b>Rad. Hard.:</b> no	Detector is above ground (max. rate is determined by muon flux for calibration)
<b>DUNE Dual Phase Far Detector</b> Start: > 2023?		LAr TPC w/ THGEM double phase readout	Total area: 720 m <sup>2</sup> Single unit detect. (0.5x0.5 m <sup>2</sup> ) ~ 0.25 m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Max. rate:</b> 4*10 <sup>-7</sup> Hz/m <sup>2</sup> <b>Spatial res.:</b> 1 mm <b>Rad. Hard.:</b> no	Detector is underground (rate is neutrino flux)



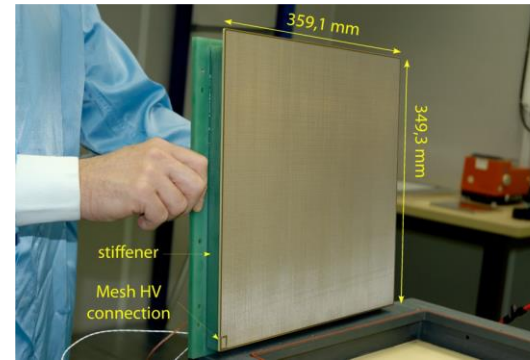


# T2K - Tokai to Kamioka

T2K Neutrino Oscillations: **FIRST** and the **LARGEST** TPCs equipped with MM

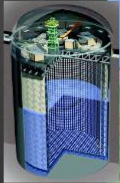
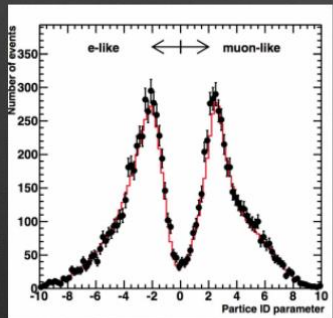
~9 m<sup>2</sup> with 72 bulk MM (120k ch.) operated since 2009

ND280 GOAL: Measure beam spectrum & flavor composition before the oscillations



J-PARC accelerator:  
Design power: 750 kW  
(1.3 MW for HK)

Super-Kamiokande

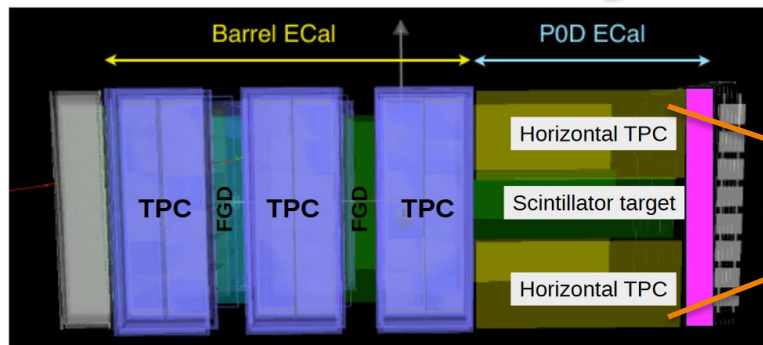


ND280



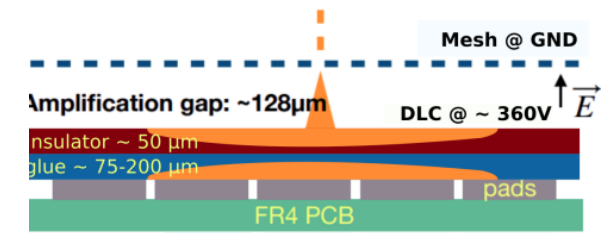
2

3 Time Projection Chambers: reconstruct momentum & charge of particles, PID based on measurement of ionization



Two new HA-TPC (from 2022)  
→ reconstruction of high angle leptons

Resistive Micromegas



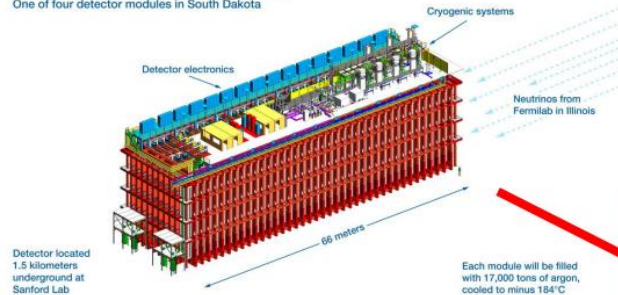


# Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment

DUNE is the US-based next generation of Long Baseline Experiment

- ▶ 1300 km between FERMILAB (*beam, near detectors*) and SURF (*far detector*)

Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment  
One of four detector modules in South Dakota

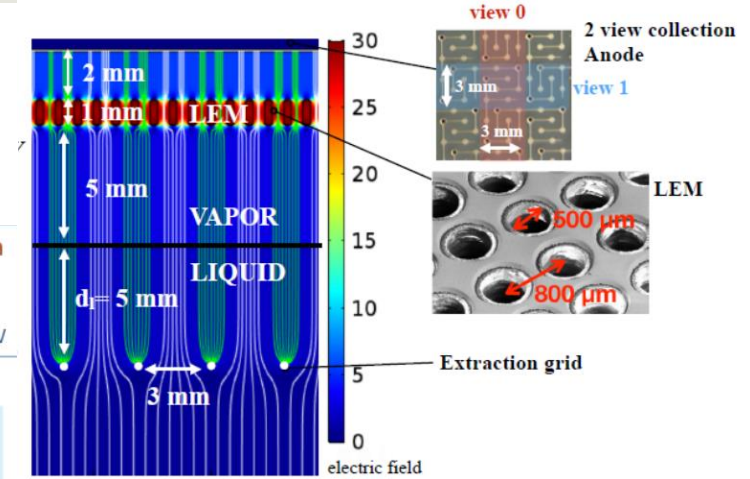
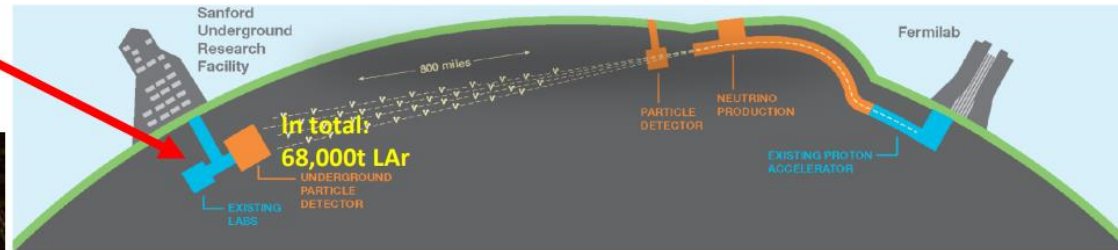


**Far Detector**  
**LAr-TPC**  
Measurement of  
Oscillated neutrino beam

**Neutrino Travel**  
through the Earth  
**1300 km**

**Near Detector**  
Monitoring  
unoscillated neutrino  
energy spectra &  
composition

**Muon neutrino beam**  
LBNF Neutrino Beam  
1.2 MW beam power  
→ Upgradeable to 2.4 MW

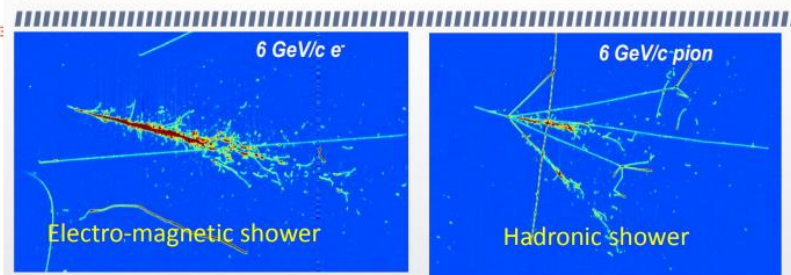


- ▶ Homogeneous drift field thanks to cathode and field cage
- ▶ Extraction field between grid and LEM bottom electrode
- ▶ Amplification in LEMs holes
- ▶ Readout in two directions by induction on the anode by field between LEM top electrode and anode



Inside a **single proto-DUNE** module...

protoDUNE run 1 - events



The Far Detector is made of 4 giant LArTPC modules

- ▶ Each module has ~17 kt of LAr
- ▶ About 60 m × 12 m × 12 m of active volume
- ▶ FD cavern is 1.5 km underground
- ▶ Four module -> Four possible designs:
  - Module-1 : Horizontal Drift design
  - Module-2 : Vertical Drift design
  - Module 3-4 : Under discussions

# “Speculative & Ambitious” Program Outline

- **General intro MPGD applied to other field than HEP**
  - Example of requirements HEP vs LBNP / Rare Event search / etc.
- **Application to HENP/LBNP**
  - R&D project with MPGD for EIC
  - Active Target TPC, inverse kinematic nuclear reactions study
    - ) physics, technology, challenges, ...(Operation pure elemental gas)
    - ) Examples of Active Target TPC project
  - Fission Fragment imaging system
- **Rare Event Search Applications & Neutrino Physics**
  - Exotic decays with MPGD-TPC (Dark Decay, X17 boson, etc..)
  - Cryogenic detector: mostly exotic ideas
  - Directional DM (Negative-ion TPC, high pressure TPC, etc.)
  - T2K and DUNE with MPGDs

