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## Design and characterisation of an antiproton deceleration beamline for the PUMA experiment

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We report on the design and characterization of an antiproton deceleration beamline, based on a pulsed drift tube, for the PUMA experiment at the Antimatter Factory at CERN. The design has been tailored to high-voltage (100 kV) and ultra-high vacuum (below  $10^{-10}$  mbar) conditions. A first operation achieved decelerating antiprotons from an initial energy of 100 keV down to (3898  $\pm$  3) eV, marking the initial stage in trapping antiprotons for the PUMA experiment. Employing a high-voltage ramping scheme, the pressure remains below  $2 \times 10^{-10}$  mbar upstream of the pulsed drift tube for 75% of the cycle time. The beamline reached a transmission of  $(55 \pm 3)$ % for antiprotons decelerated to 4keV. The beam is focused on a position sensitive detector to a spot with horizontal and vertical standard deviations of  $\sigma_{horiz} = (3.0 \pm 0.1)$  mm and  $\sigma_{vert} = (3.8 \pm 0.2)$  mm, respectively. This spot size is within the acceptance of the PUMA Penning trap.

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