

A tribute to Vincent Lepeltier

Our friend and colleague Vincent passed away suddenly after a cerebral vascular accident stroke him on March 17, 2008

He made very important contributions in understanding the operation of MPGDs and worked in the last years for a TPC for the Linear Collider.



Vincent started his work in 1969 in Vivargent's group at IPN Orsay, and defended his thesis on K^0 physics in 1975. He took part in experiments at CERN and studied the rule $\Delta S = \Delta Q$.

When a part of the the group went to Annecy to start the LAPP, Vincent moved to the LAL at Orsay.

Vincent has been committed to e+e- physics since its early times, from DM2 at the Orsay storage ring to the preparation of the linear collider. He was an active member of the Delphi and Babar collaborations and also contributed to the SLAC FFTB.

He contributed to several important papers on gas studies, especially one, with Bernard Jean-Marie in 1979, which remained a reference for the LEP TPCs.



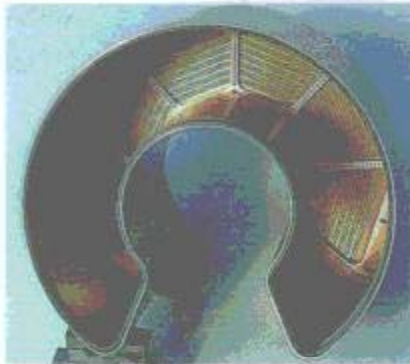
Vincent in June 1996

He then worked on a mini-TPC with Guy Wormser and Mike Ronan.

Mini Time-Projection Chamber

Measures tracks at low radius with high-precision and good coverage.

Gain and grid wires. 8 x 4 cathode pads / sector, 6 sectors. Slot for installation around beampipe and SVT module.



length = 20 cm, radius = 4.5 - 10 cm.

Built and operated by Orsay, LBL, U. Cincinnati. Construction completed. Starting tests with source & laser.

CERN test beam in Sept. Deliver to SLAC Nov 97.

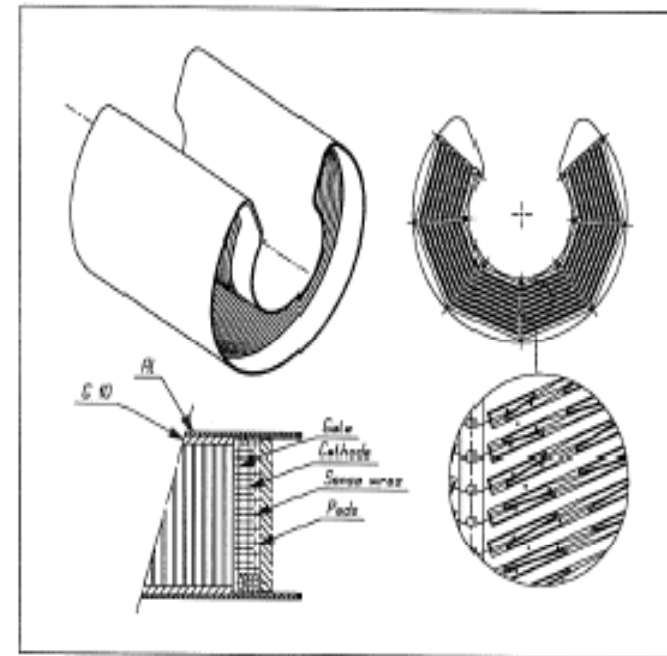


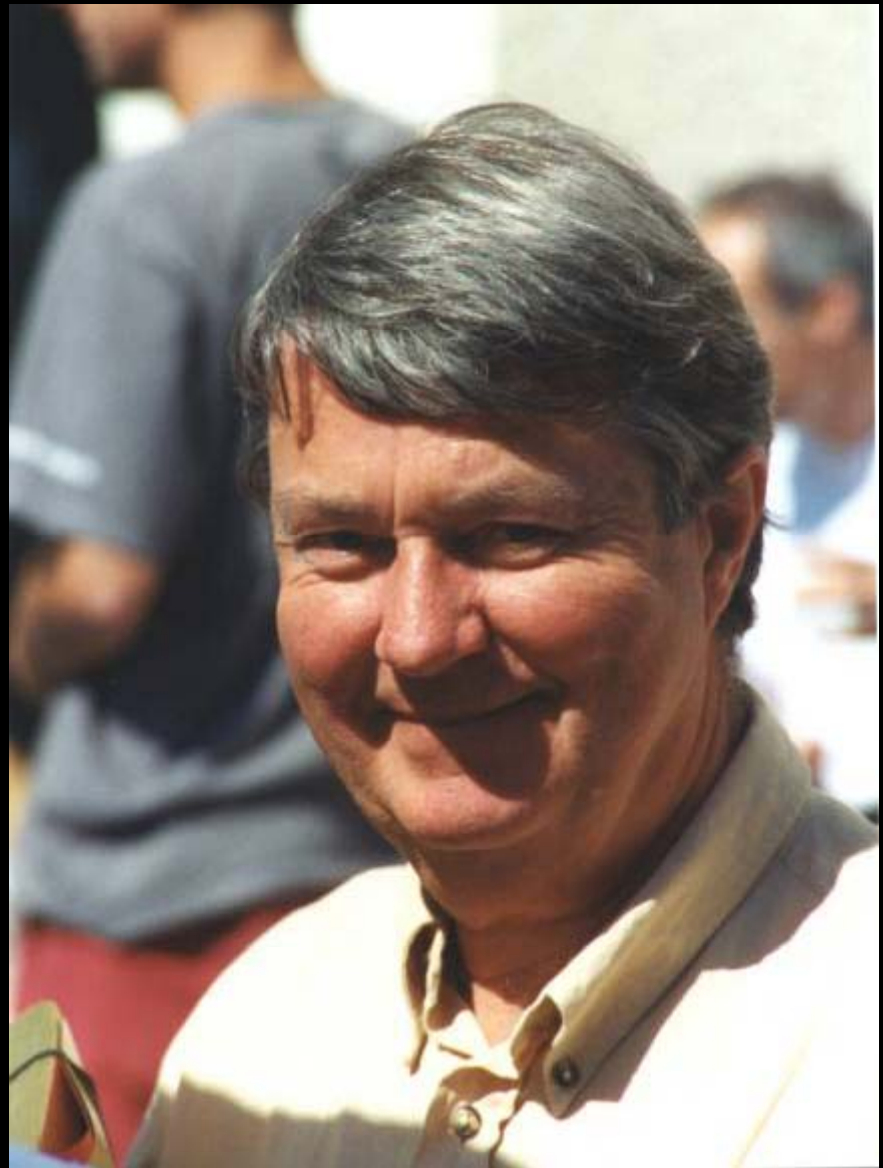
Figure 1: Some views of the mini-TPC: electrostatic cage, transverse view of the wire region and pad arrangement.

Their TPC saw the first event from the PEP-II collider.

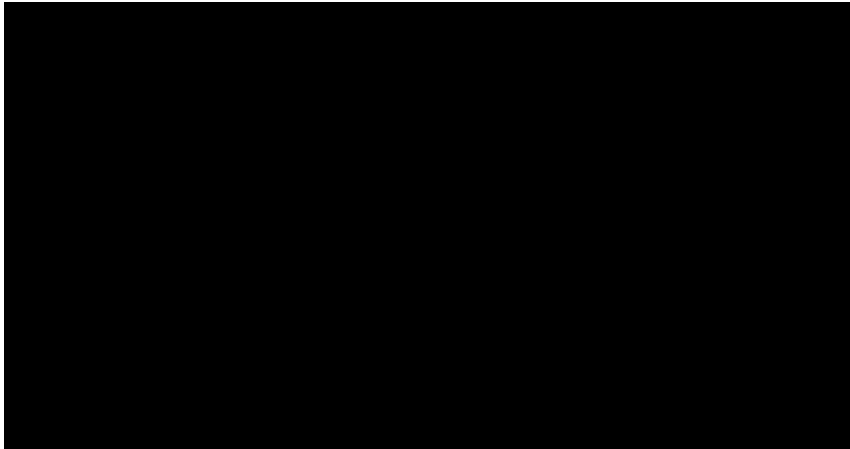
It was used for the commissioning of the High Energy beam line and the interaction region

I got in touch with them in 1998, at the time I started to think of building a prototype of a Micromegas TPC. They had just built a MSGC TPC. With Vincent, we used this small cage and equipped it with a Micromegas read out by DELPHI electronics.

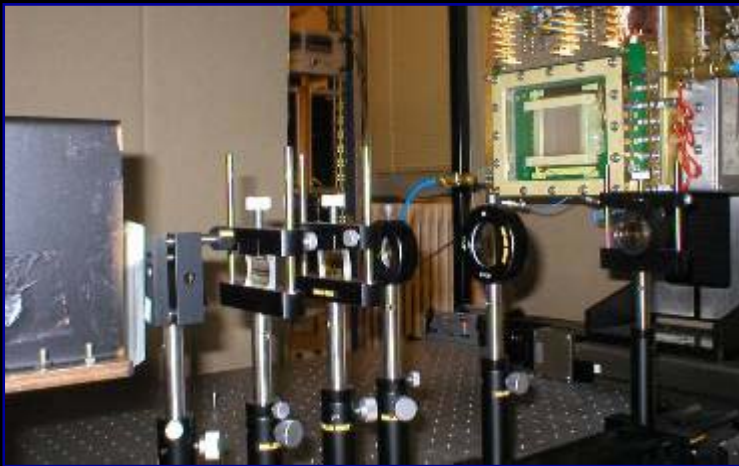
We then started with Mike and Ioannis Giomataris the Berkeley-Orsay-Saclay TPC.



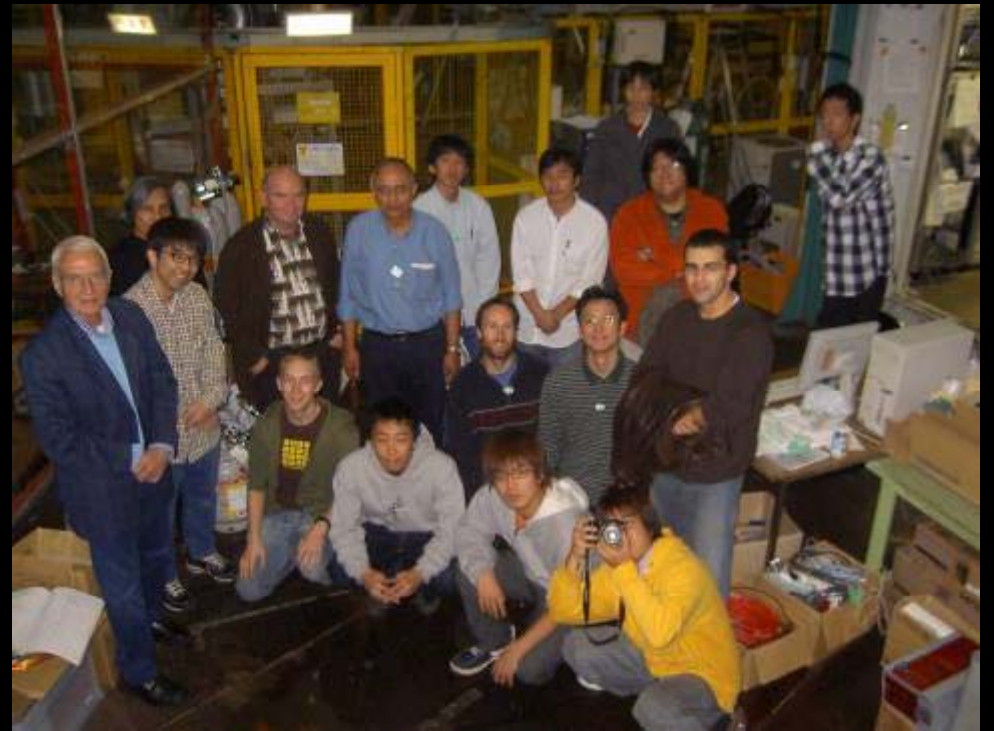
Vincent in May 2002



In 2005, we carried out a beam test at KEK and this was the time of very fruitful discussions that lead us to a good understanding of the resolution of a MPGD TPC.



Since then, we worked together on ion backflow measurement. He worked on attempts to make double-mesh detectors with Nantes and Saclay people, and on observation of single electrons in Micromegas with Thomas Zerguerras.



Vincent's decease was received as a shock in the community. Here are a few witnesses, among dozens from all over the world

He was so friendly
and made our TPC
discussions enriching
and exciting

Rose L. Reserva

Vincent was one of our most
highly regarded and respected
colleagues...his friendly,
outgoing personality made him
well liked by everybody

Ron Settles

A gentle, dedicated,
competent, and
delightful
collaborator is gone,
in the blink of an eye.

Dave Nygren

Je garderai un souvenir ému
de la distinction naturelle et
de la gentillesse de Vincent.

Olivier Napoly

What a loss.
Jerry Va'vra

He was very thoughtful when discussing
about LC-TPC, based on his rich
experience. We could imagine he met
Mike in Heaven and is now talking about
our TPC project with zeal.

Makoto and Machiko Kobayashi

Our thoughts go to his family:

His wife Caroline

Their children Rémi, Charlotte, Aurélie and Thomas

He was about to retire and to have more time to devote to them.