

Operation of a 10bar/1kg Penning-Fluorescent Xenon TPC:

x- and γ -ray reconstruction in charge mode.

Diego Gonzalez Diaz for the NEXT collaboration

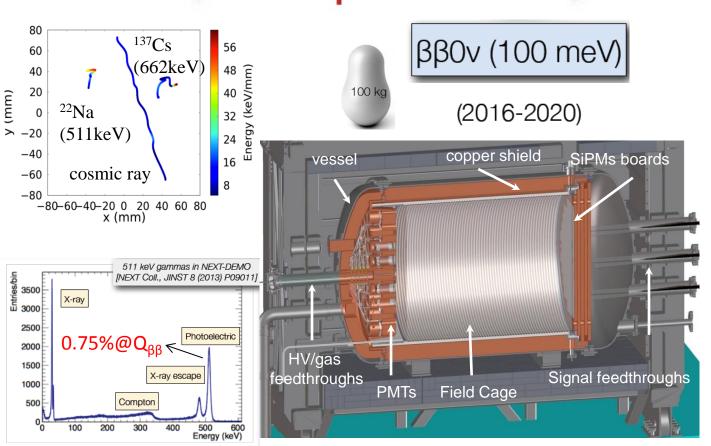


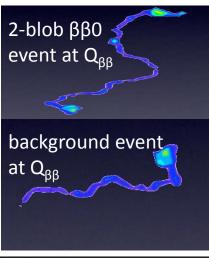


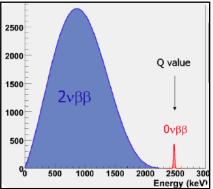


Conceived to simultaneously optimize energy resolution and tracking (specifically: double-blob recognition) for \$\beta 0\$ reconstruction

Neutrino Experiment with a Xenon TPC









200

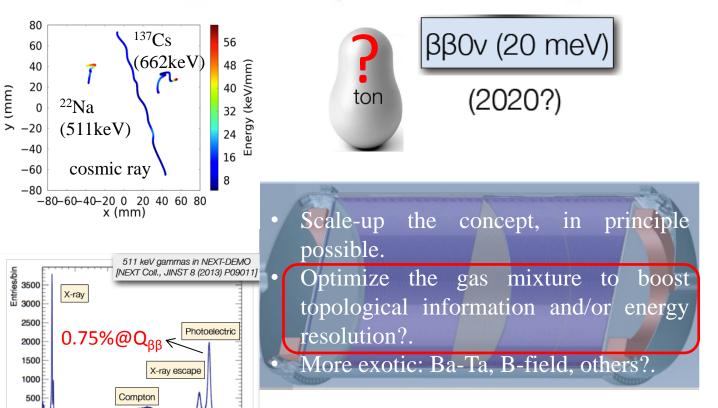
300

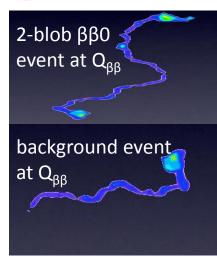
Energy (keV)

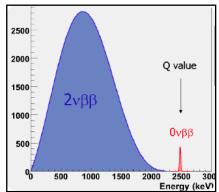


Conceived to simultaneously optimize energy resolution and tracking (specifically: double-blob recognition) for \$\beta 0\$ reconstruction

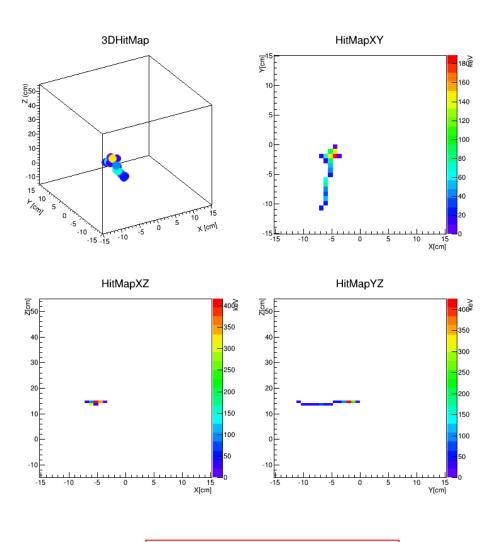
Neutrino Experiment with a Xenon TPC







this is how typical electrons with energy $\varepsilon = Q_{bb0}/2 \sim 1.25 MeV$ look like in 10bar Xe

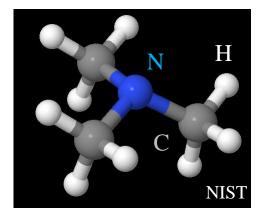


This is **not** a simulation!



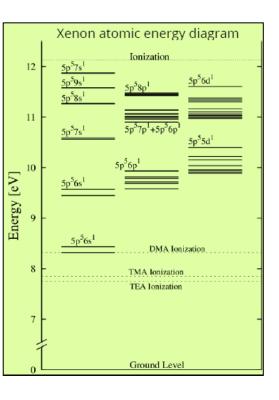
A family of mixtures with potential in $\beta\beta$ 0-searches: 'Penning-Fluorescent mixtures'

(Dave Nygren)



Trimethylamine (TMA)

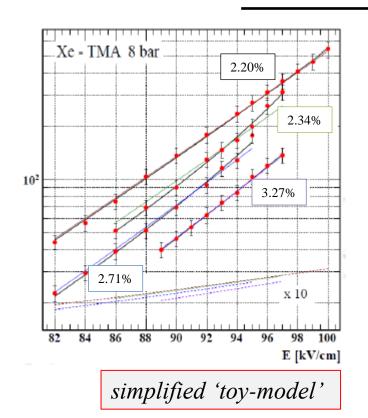
(the most readily usable at HP in virtue of its relatively high v.p.)

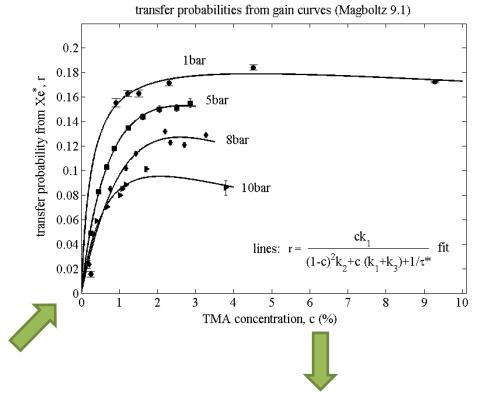


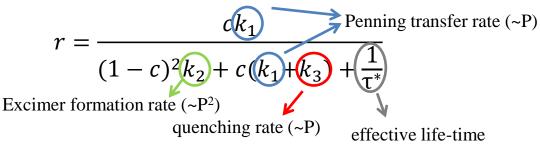
- 1. Suitable for Penning transfer. Can potentially reduce Fano factor.
- 2. Strongly fluorescent with large Stokes shift.
- 3. Able to reduce electron diffusion in gas.
- 4. UV-quencher, facilitates the imaging of the e- cloud.
- 5. May allow for EL due to low-lying TMA excited states.

Penning transfer rate in Xe-TMA

from Magboltz modeling (PPC approximation)

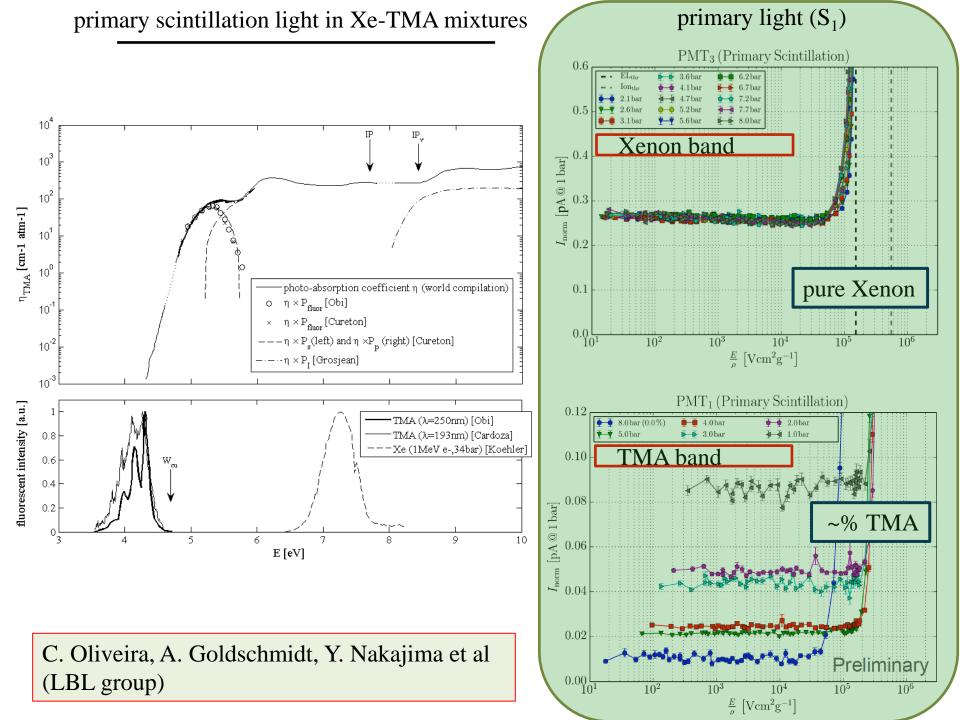




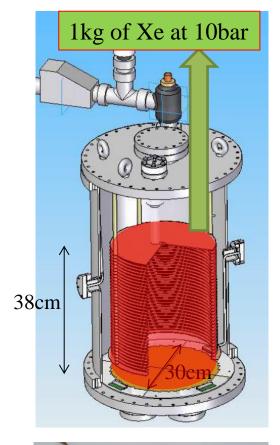


- Non-trivial decrease with P can be reproduced by the fit.
- Natural explanation in that Penning transfer from excimers disfavored due to energetic considerations (E<IP_v).
- Two-body collisions effectively represent a quenching channel for Penning transfer!!.

with O. Sahin, R. Veenhof (CERN-Bursa group)



MM+TPC





MASS SPECTROMETER

ΔĞ





GAS MIXER

OXISORB

PURIFICATION SUBSYSTEM

RECIRCULATION SUBSYSTEM



Recirculation pump

HIGH PRESSURE SUBSYSTEM



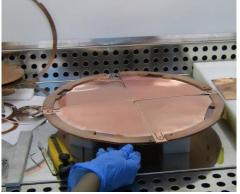
EXHAUST

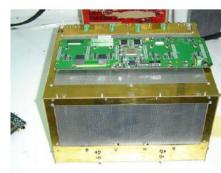
TURBO PUMP

VACUUM SUBSYSTEM

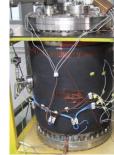
Experimental

Volume (TPC)





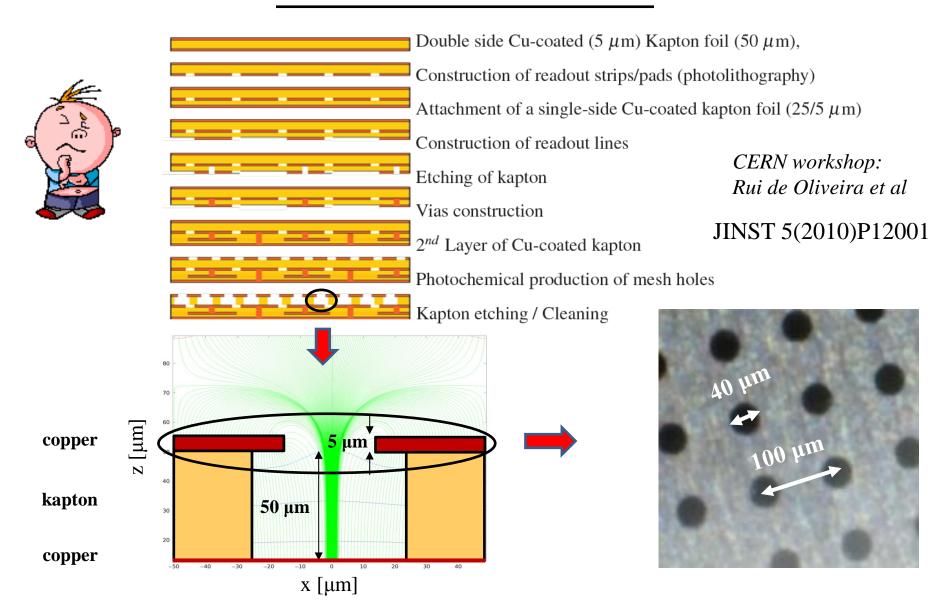




details in:

JINST 9(2014)P03010, JINST 9(2014)C04015

micro-pattern hole-amplification structure ('microbulk MicroMegas')



(highly radiopure: $<30 \mu Bq/cm^2$ for ^{235}U , ^{238}U , ^{232}Th chains)

Astropart. Phys. 34 (2011) 354-359

~100 holes

Largest Micromegas manufactured in the microbulk.

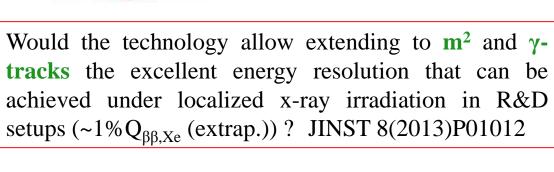
No existing experience in a similar system.

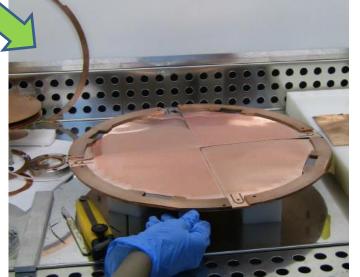
5900 holes/pixel



8mm

6796800 holes, 1152 pixels, 700cm²

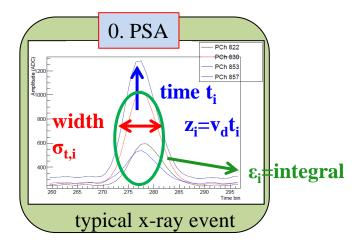




calibration and analysis strategy

procedure analogous to: JINST 9(2014)C04015

based on Gaussian fits



$$\vec{r}_{evt} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{pixels}} \frac{\varepsilon_i}{\varepsilon_{evt}} \vec{r}_i$$



start-time obtained from coincidence with ancillary detector

1. Calibration

(on \sim 20keV< ε < \sim 40keV isolated charge deposits)

- 1. Determination of v_d and D_L.
- 2. Sector equalization (10-20%)
- 3. Pixel equalization (10%)
- 4. Transient correction (5-10%)

2. Track quality cut

(on the sample to analyze)

- 1. Cosmic ray cut (z-extension<5cm).
- 2. Baseline quality.
- 3. Event energy in expected range.

3. Suppression of random coincidences

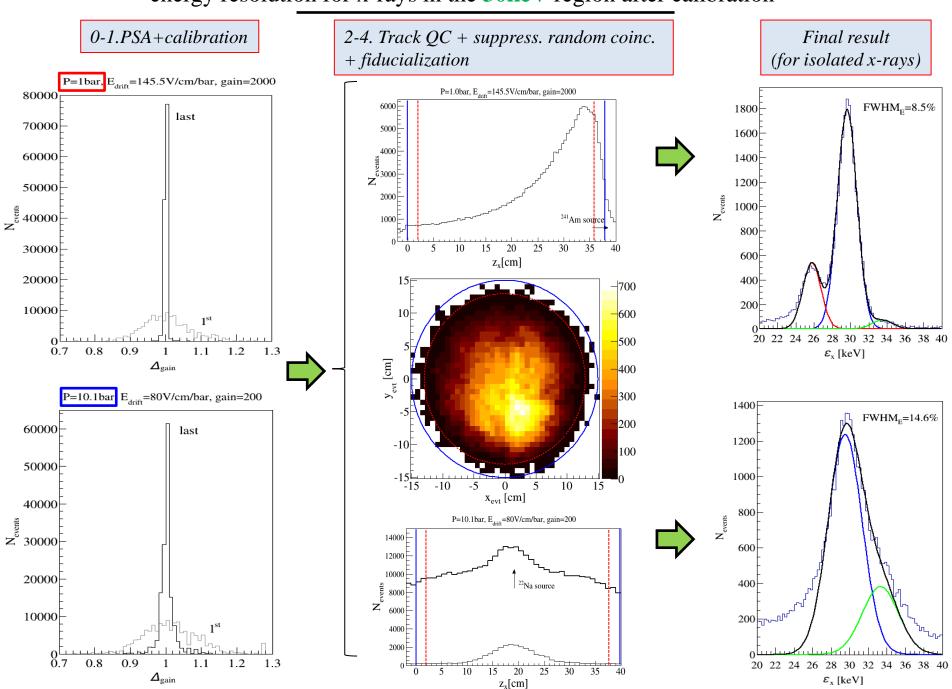
Impose a physical criteria (longitudinal diffusion) for the correlation between signal width and drift distance.

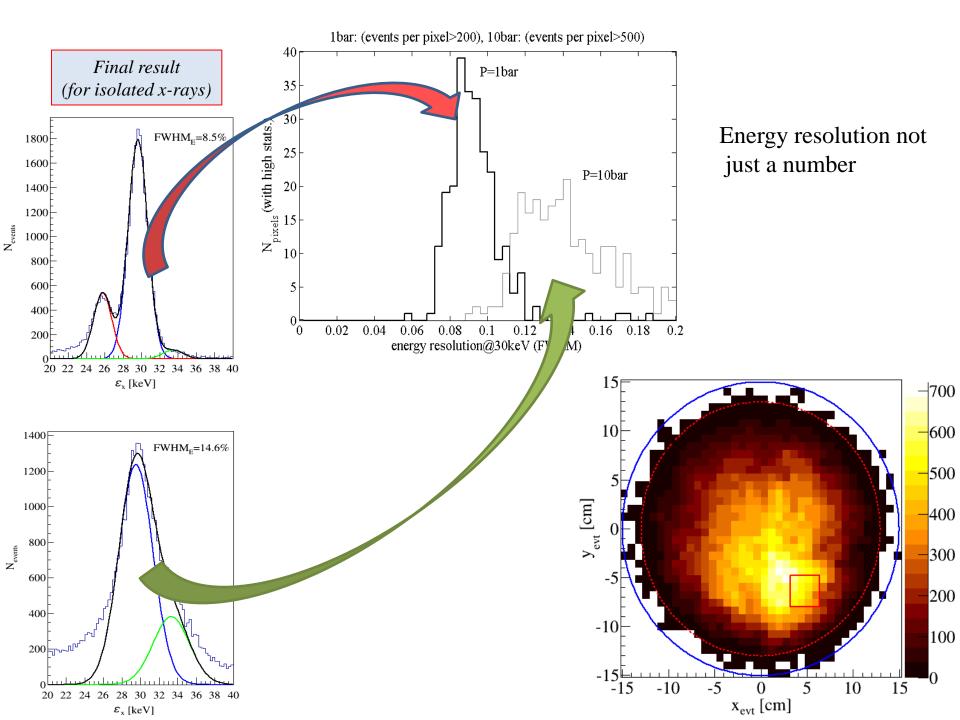
4. XYZ-fiducialization

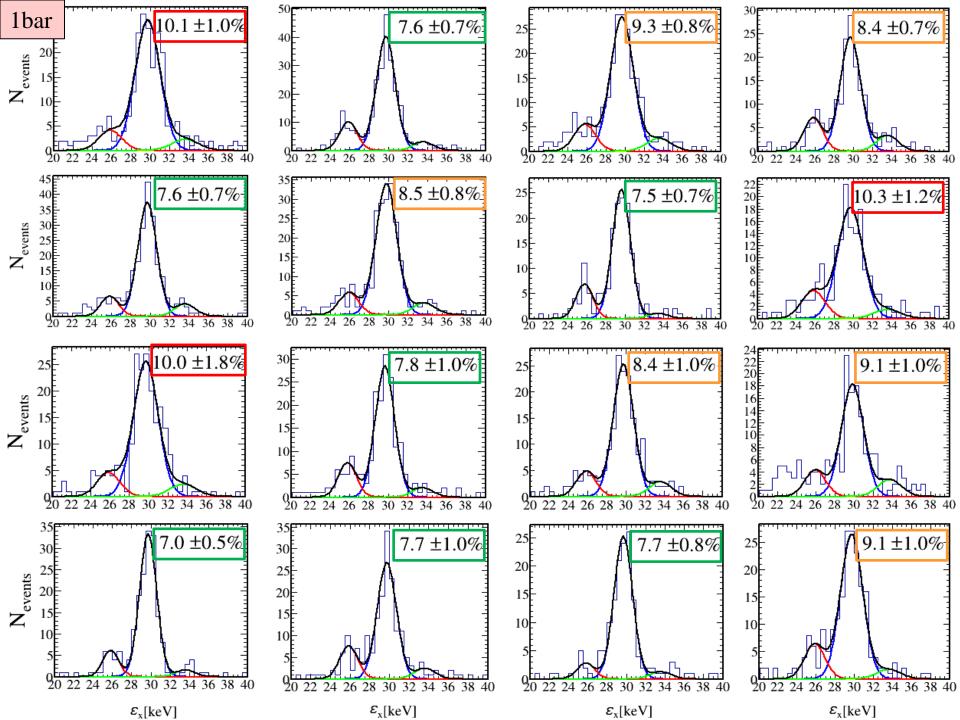
Cut out external 2cm in z and R.

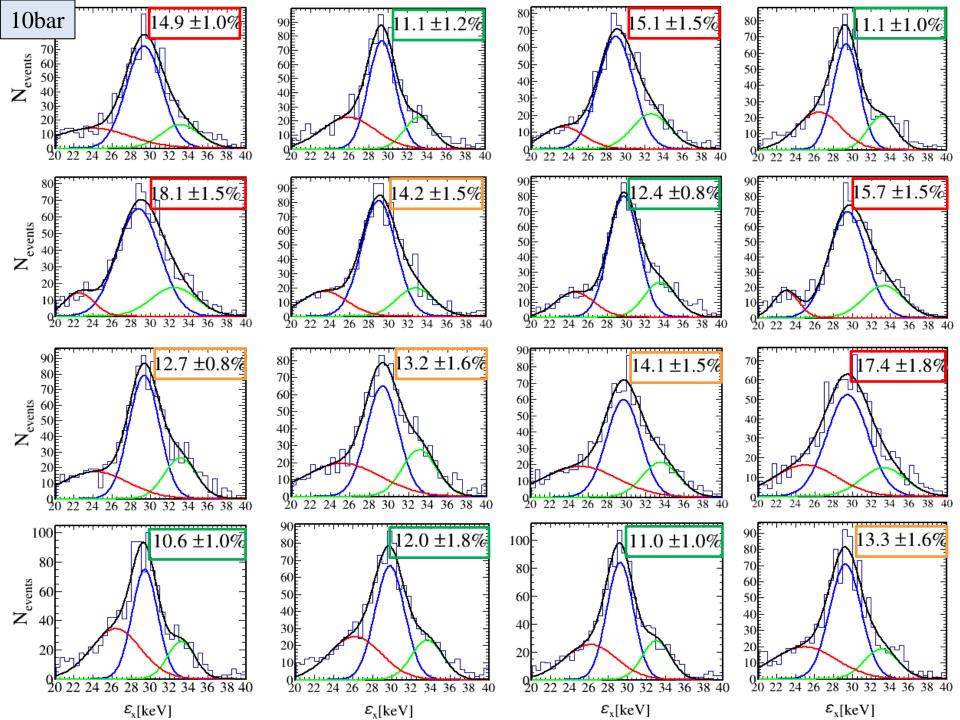
x-rays

energy resolution for x-rays in the 30keV region after calibration

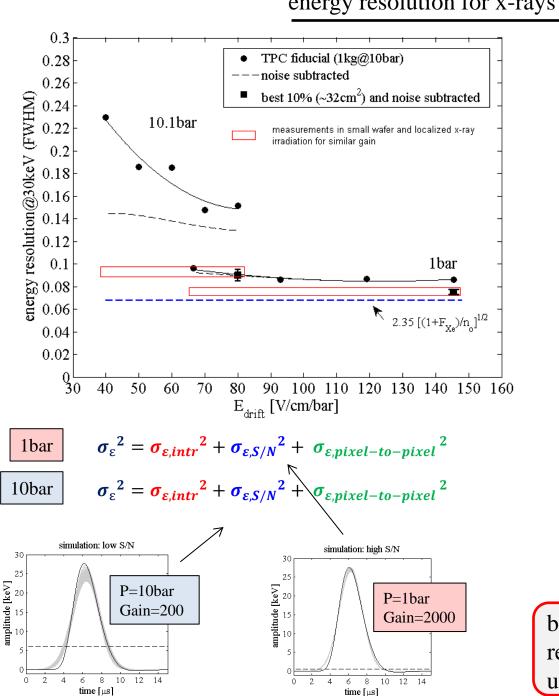


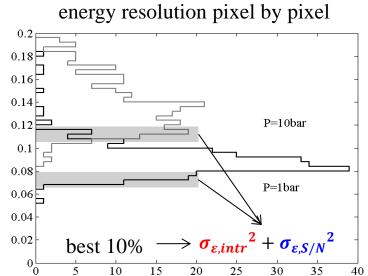






energy resolution for x-rays in a nutshell

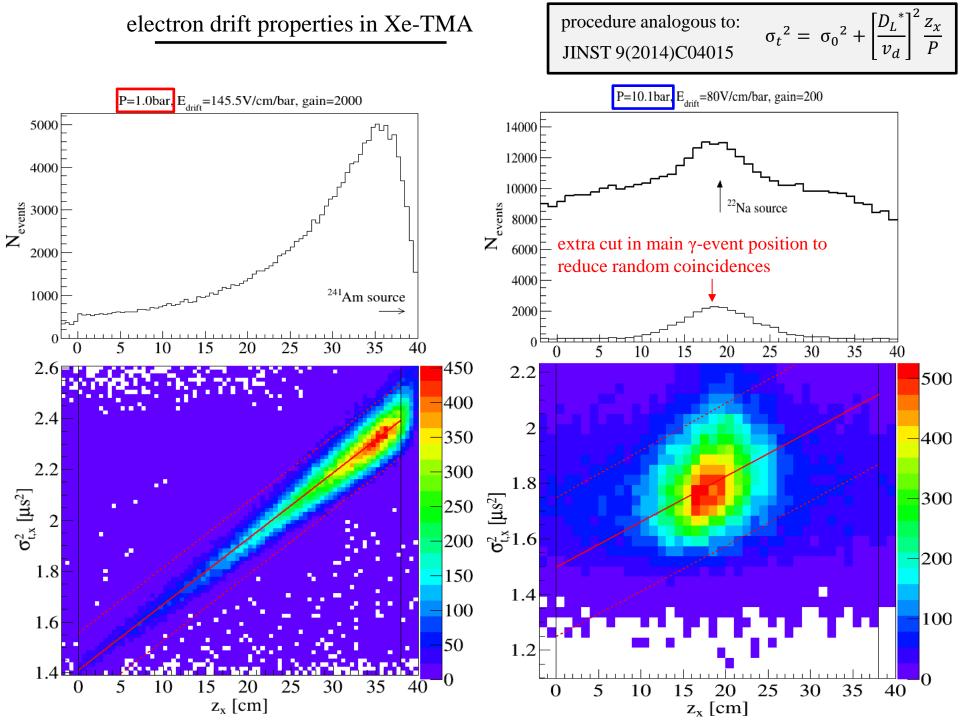




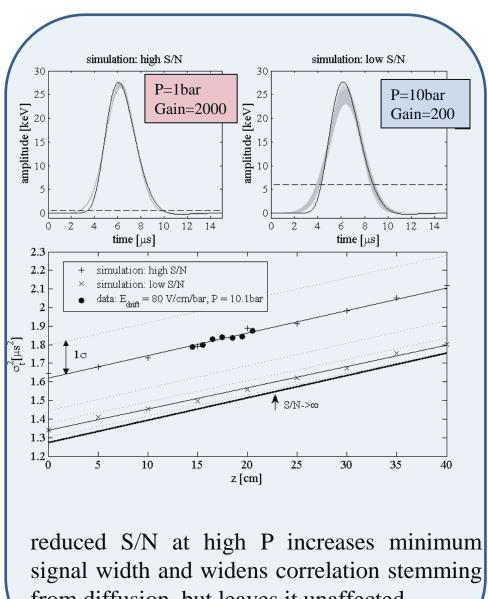
(0.075, 0.002, 0.035)

(0.09, **0.07**, **0.09**)

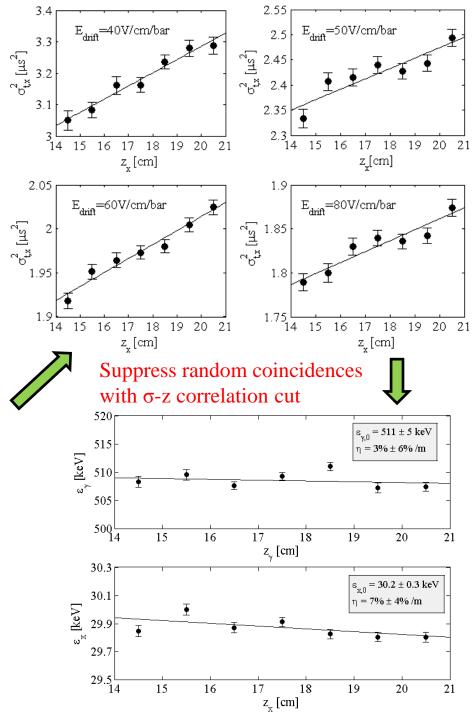
being **point-like** events and their response reasonably **understood**, use them to characterize the TPC



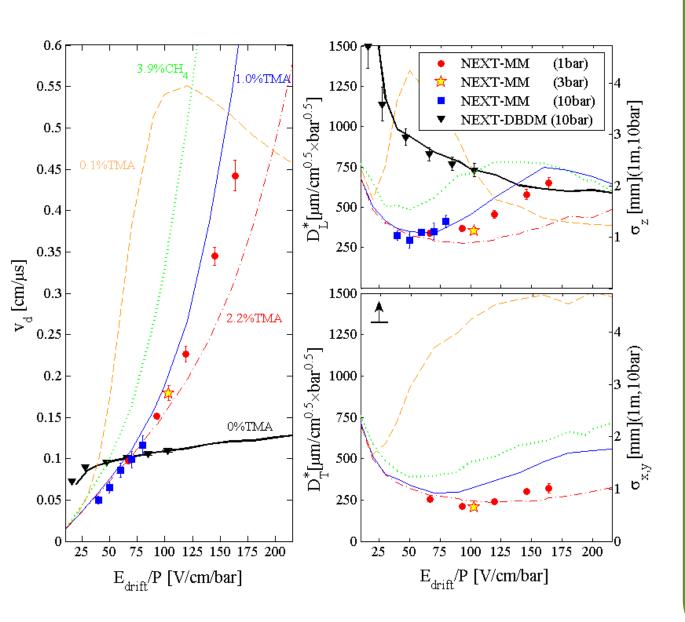
electron drift properties (analysis)



from diffusion, but leaves it unaffected.



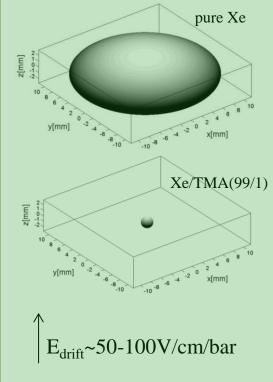
electron drift properties in Xe-TMA in a nutshell



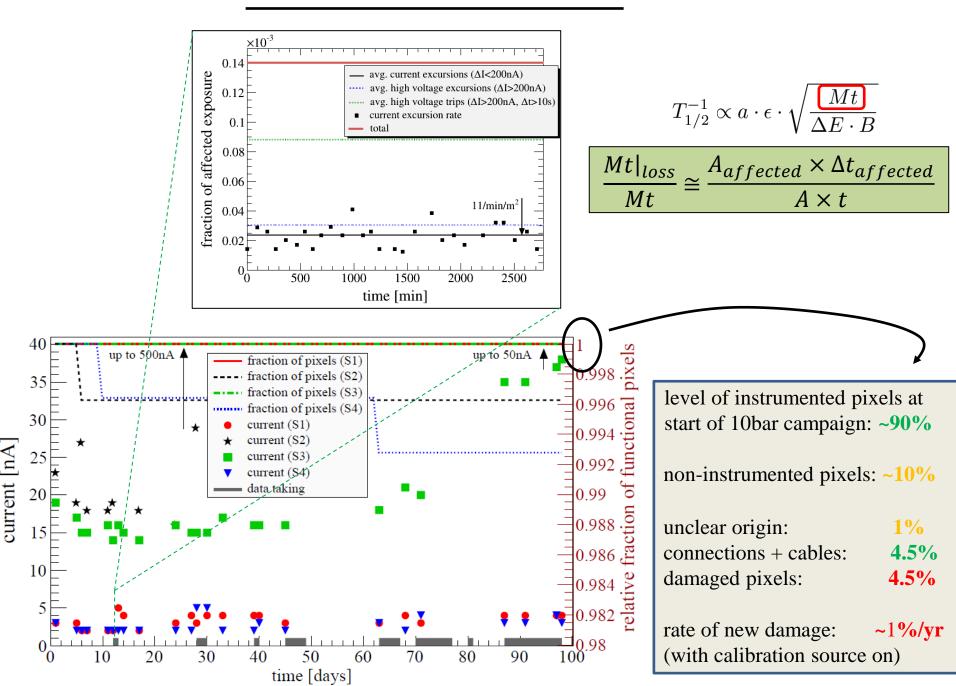
$$\sigma_{\mathsf{z},\mathsf{x}\mathsf{y}} = D_{L,T}^* \frac{\sqrt{z}}{\sqrt{P}}$$

Spatial spread of pointlike charge deposits

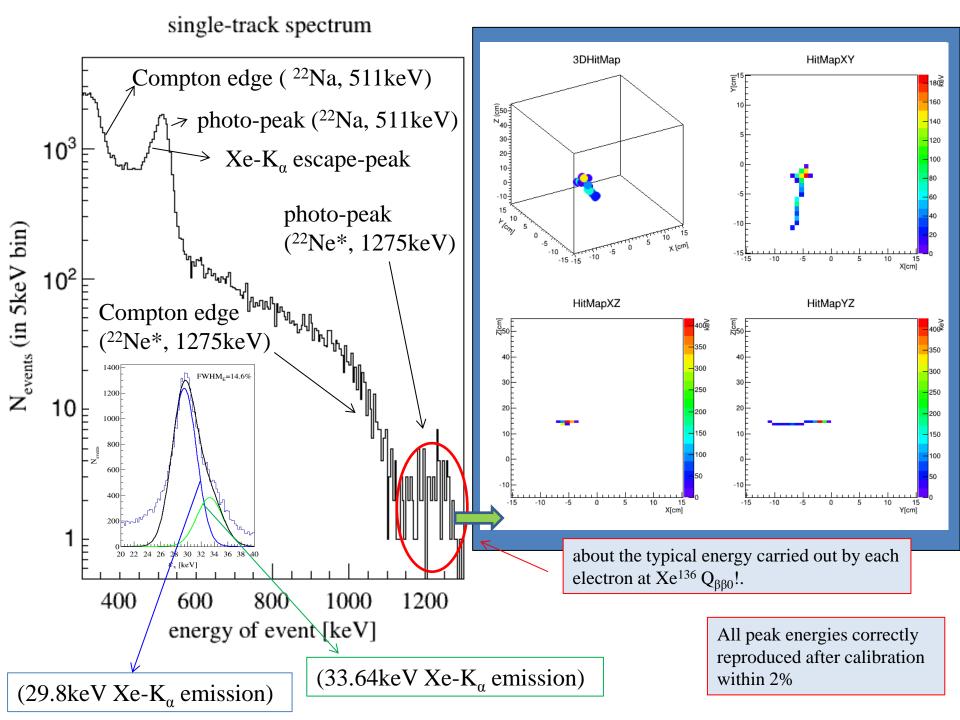
z_{drift}=100cm, P=10bar



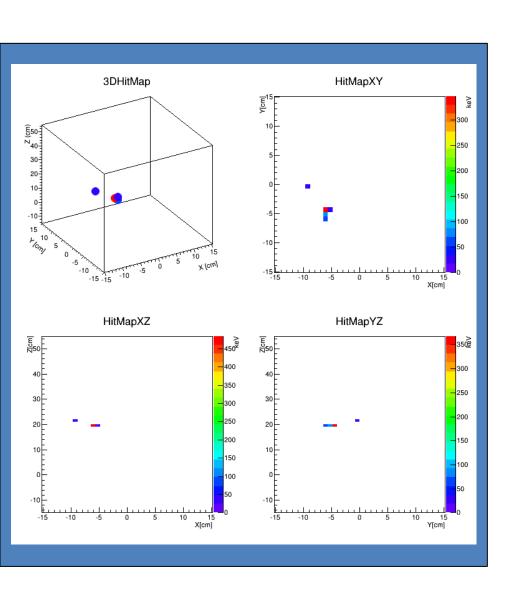
stability of readout plane (continuously running for 100days+)

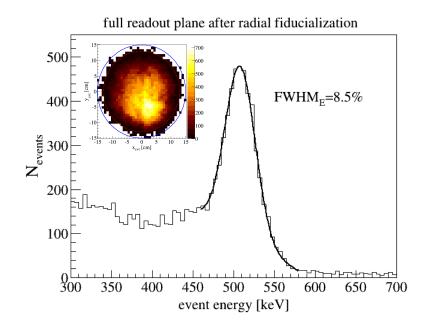


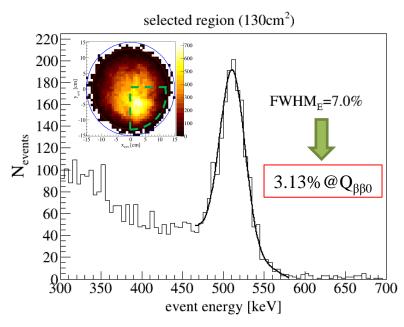




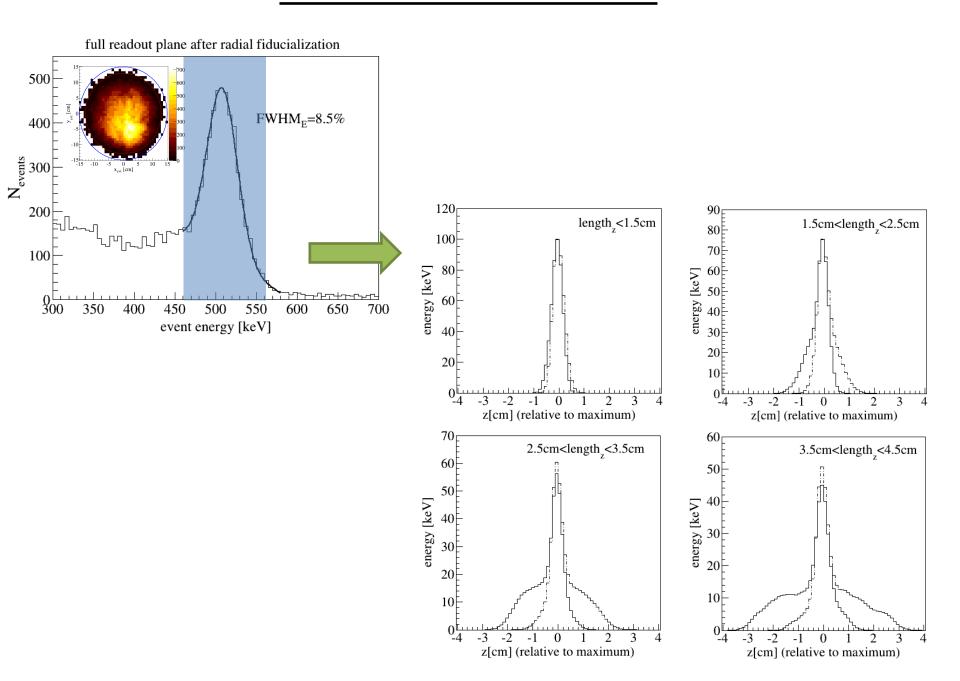
For analysis select 511 events with displaced x-ray



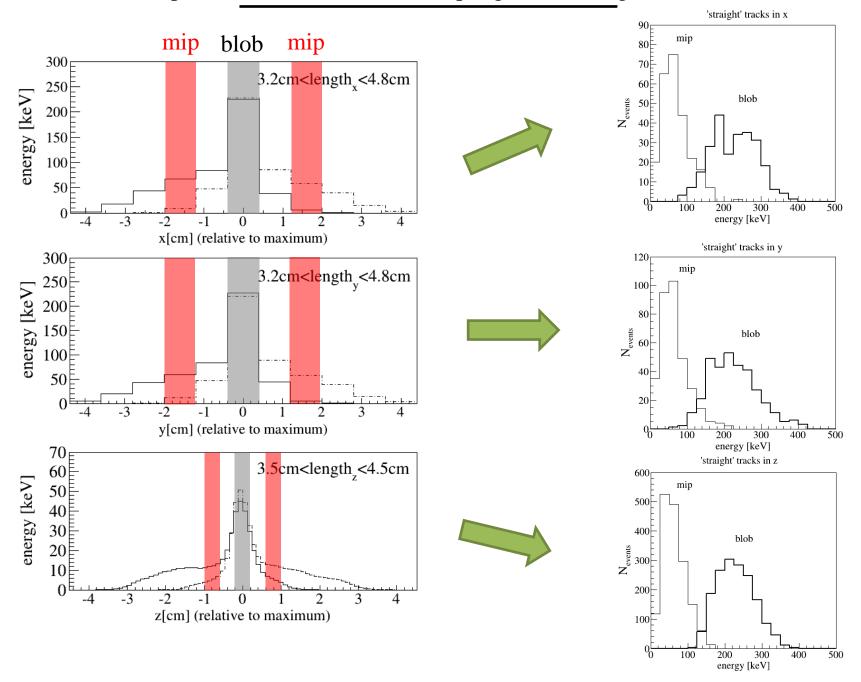




Separation between blob and mip region for straight tracks (I)



Separation between blob and mip region for straight tracks (II)

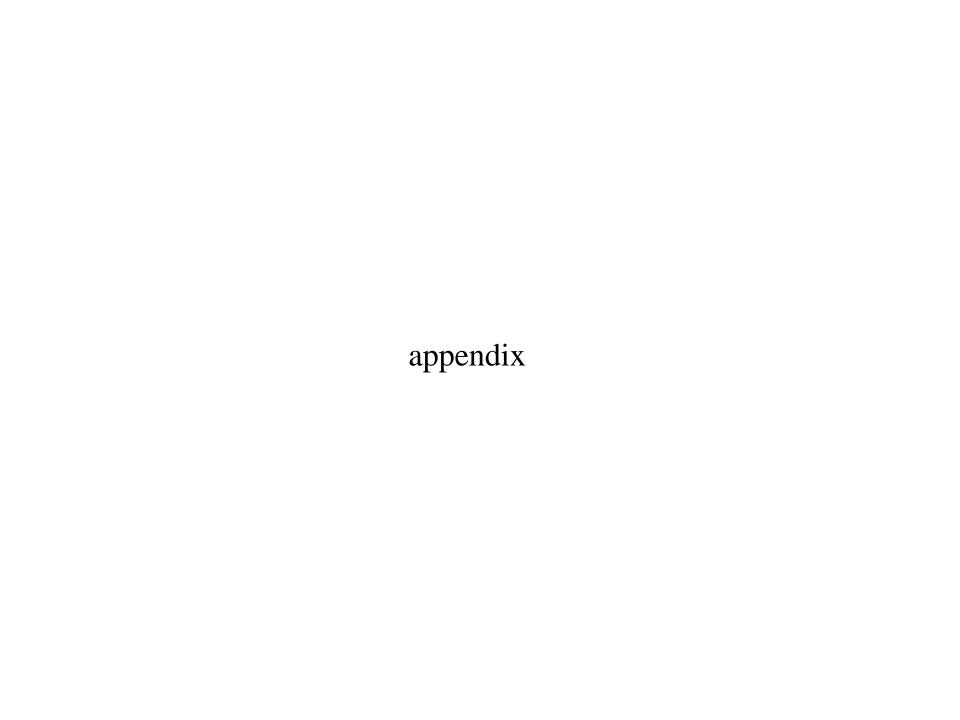


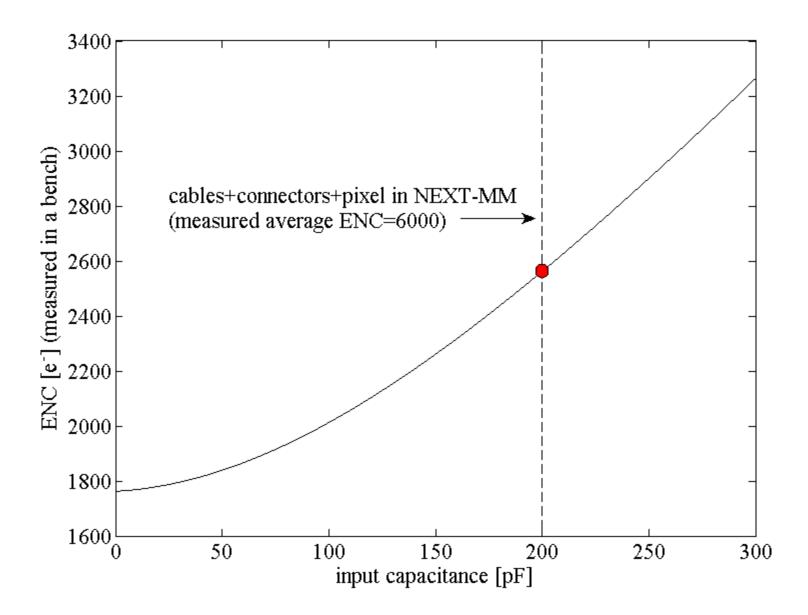
conclusions

- 1. NEXT-MM is truly a 'Penning-fluorescent Xenon-TPC', housing 1kg of Xenon in its active region, and operating at 10bar.
- 2. As compared to Gotthard's approach, **Xe-TMA** + **Micromegas** +**AFTER-FEE** offers lower electron-diffusion, better energy resolution (a factor x2 at 511keV), better z-sampling (x5) true x-y readout and (limited) primary scintillation at ~300nm, as well as ability to work at higher pressure. A clear mip-blob separation is visible in all x,y,z projections for 511keV tracks.
- 3. The achieved value extrapolates to $3.1\%Q_{\beta\beta0}$. There is some indication of the influence of noise in this value. If the nominal ENC noise of the AFTER chip (x3 lower) could be achieved by proper cable+connection design, a value closer to the anticipated 1-1.5% $Q_{\beta\beta0}$ might be obtained. MM-optimization (e.g. gain-compensation) could bring this value slightly down.
- 4. About 5% of the readout plane was damaged during commissioning. This fact, together with the observed variations in response from pixel-to-pixel suggest the implementation of tighter QA procedures.
- 5. Blob and mip region clearly recognizable for 511keV energy deposits in z and (although limited due to lower granularity) also in x-y plane. A slightly finer segmentation will help to improve on this + decrease the fraction of damaged area.
- 6. Chamber operating stable over 100+ days with more than 99% live time.

- 1. MM truly a fantastic tracking device for high pressure Xenon already with today's performance. Would be great to include it in a future NEXT-1T if the remaining system performances (e.g. electroluminescence yield and variance) can be kept when using admixtures.
- 2. In any case, these results suggest more than ever that for obtaining near-intrinsic energy resolutions in gas and over large areas one has to operate in conditions where dead channels and noise have no impact on performance. Electroluminescence suffers only marginally from those.

Thanks for your attention!



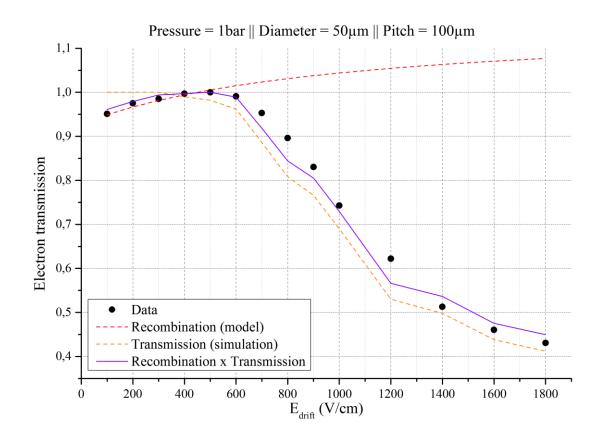


energy resolution for x-rays in a nutshell

$$\sigma_{\varepsilon,intr}^2 = \sigma_{\varepsilon,MM-gain}^2 + \sigma_{\varepsilon,Fano}^2 + \sigma_{\varepsilon,reco}^2$$

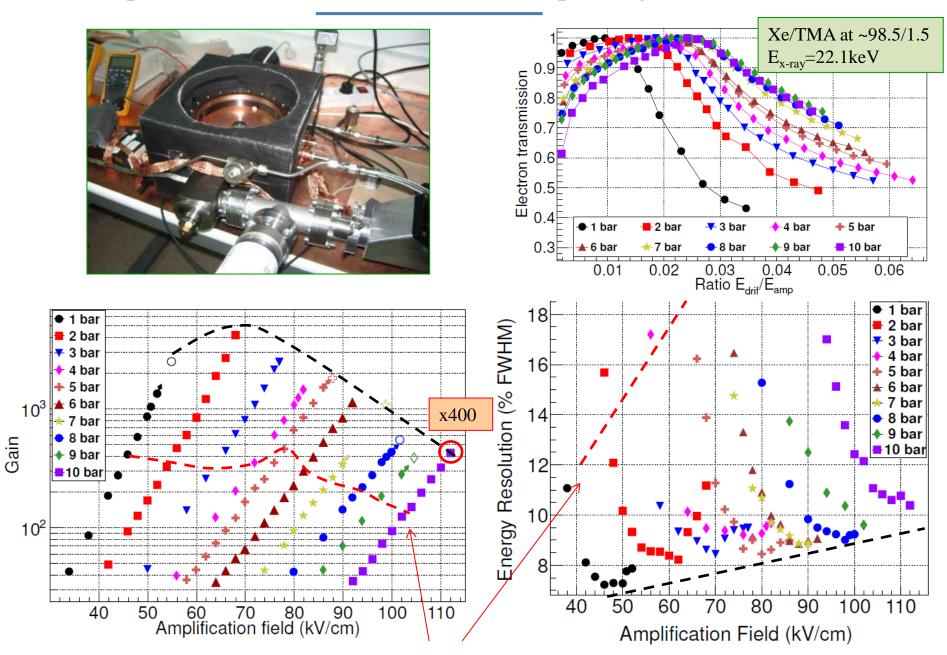
inherent to the mixture

10bar



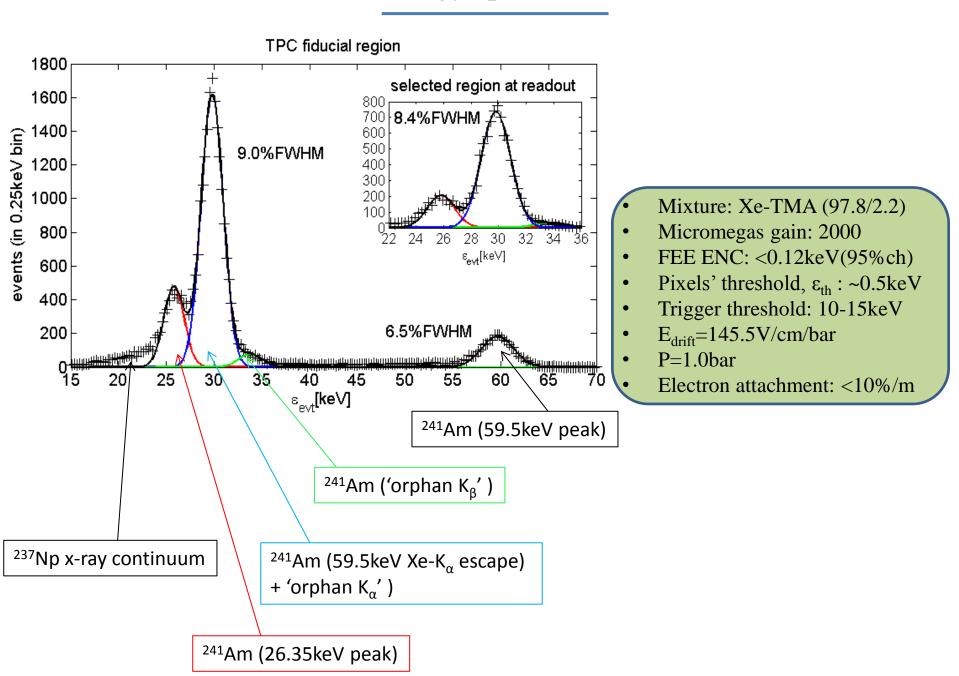
work in progress

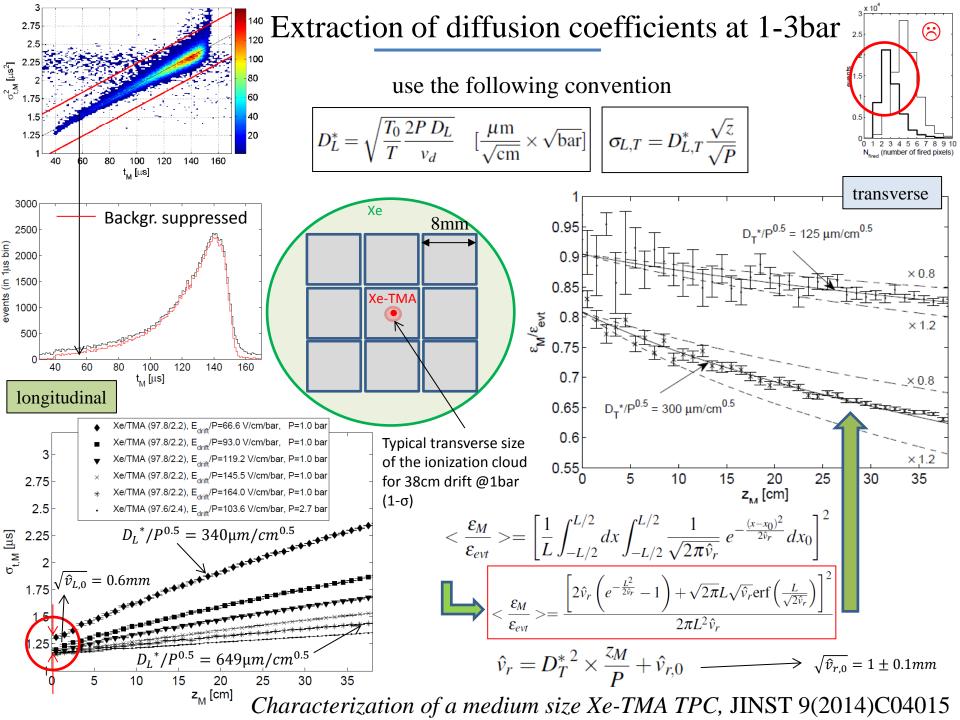
step 0: measurements in a small setup and general behavior

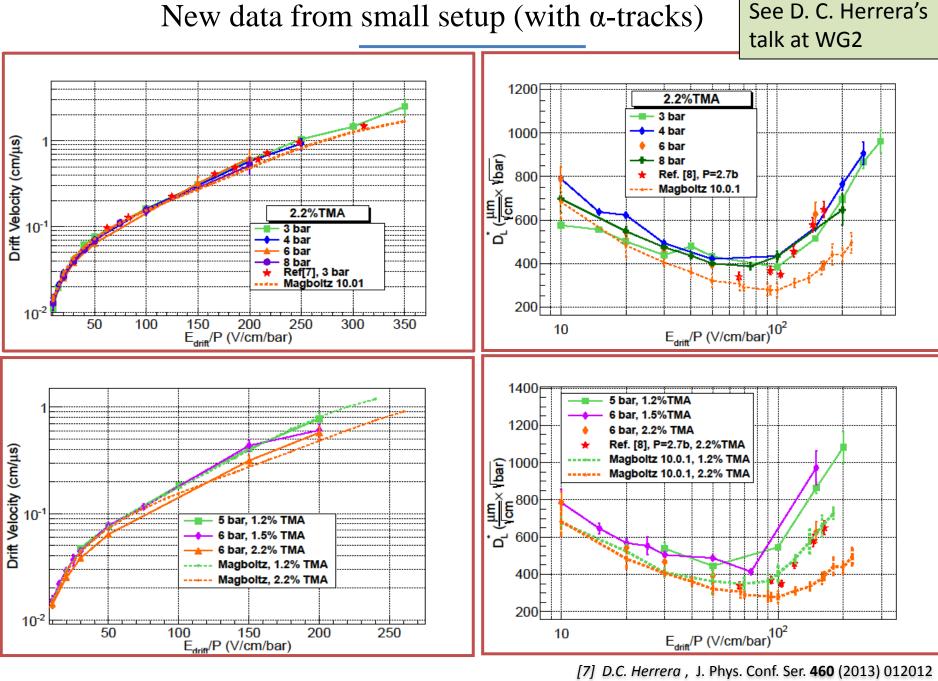


Measurements in pure Xe (Coimbra+Saclay)

Calibrated energy spectrum at 1-3bar

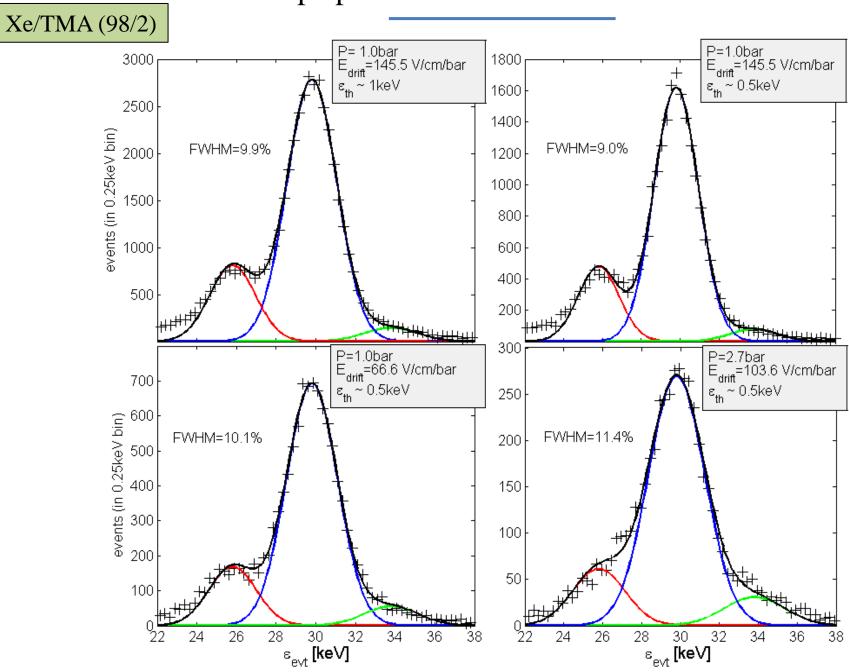




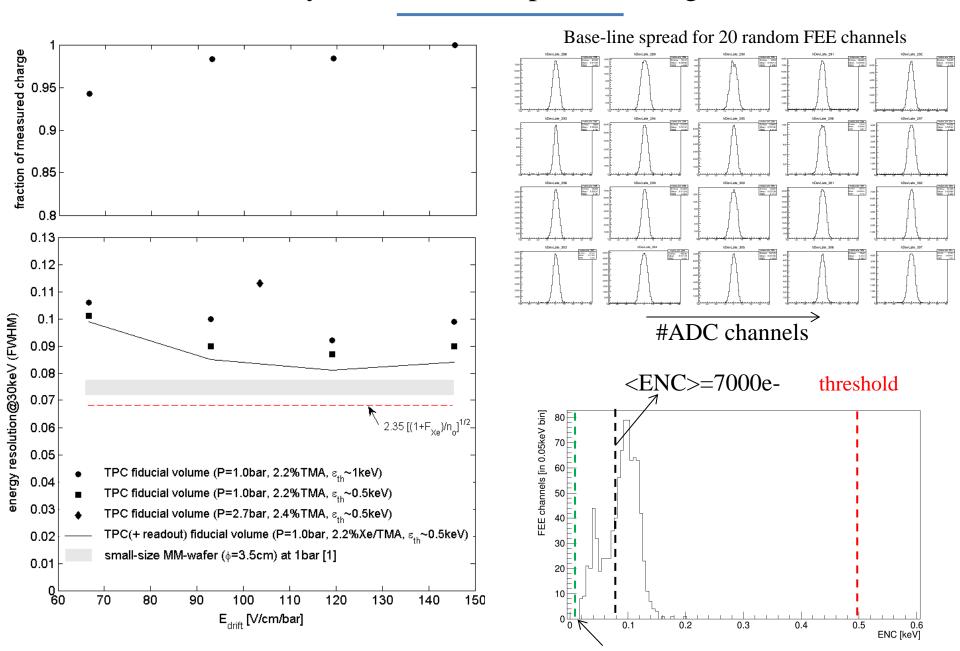


[8] V Álvarez et al, JINST **9** C04015 (2014)

Xenon escape peaks for ²⁴¹Am in various conditions



Drift field systematics in the pressure range 1-3bar

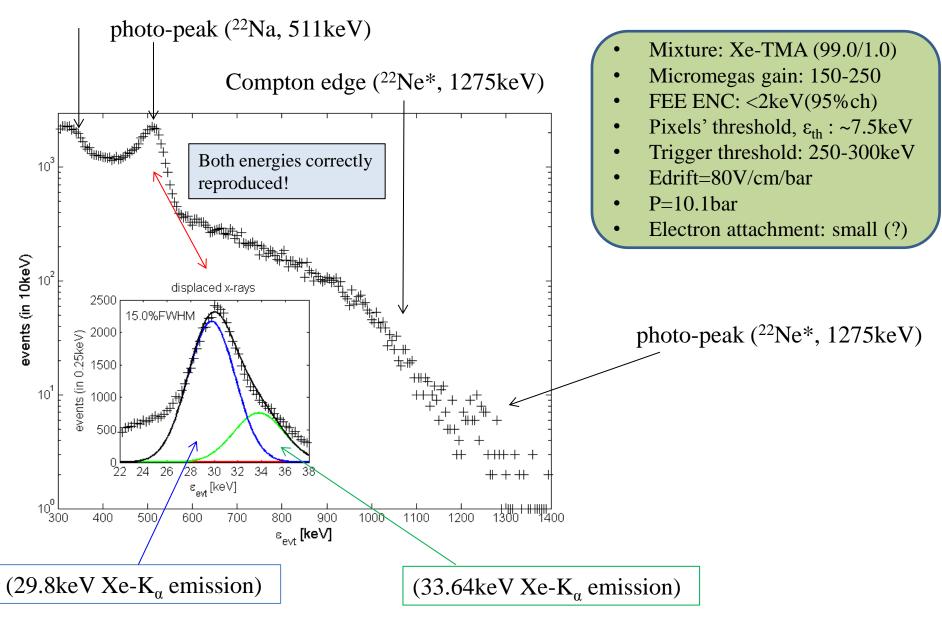


Typical AFTER values (1000e-) for optimized system

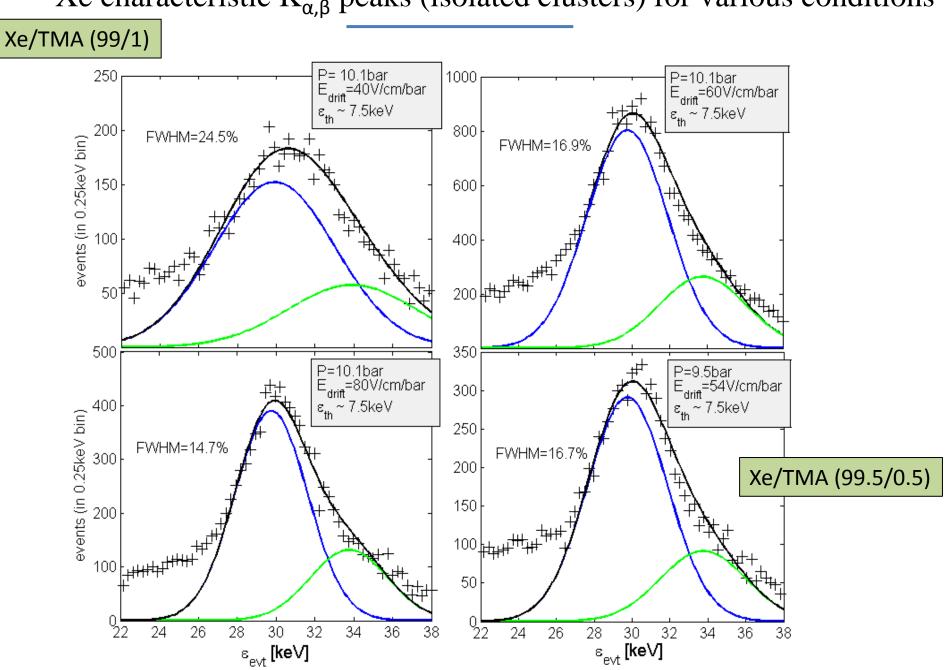
10bar

Energy spectrum after calibration at 1-3bar

Compton edge (²²Na, 511keV)

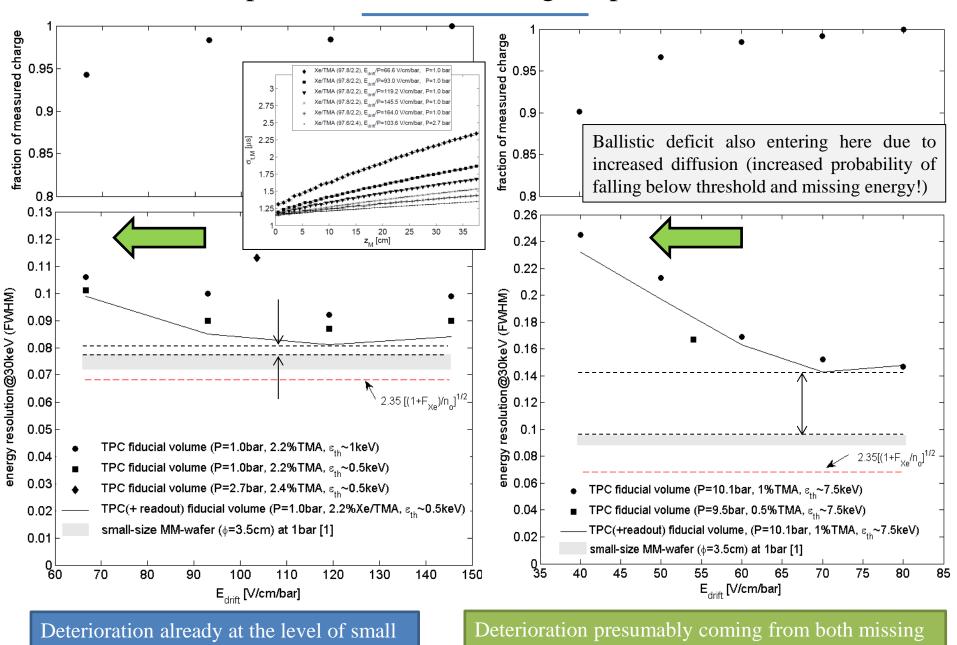


Xe characteristic $K_{\alpha,\beta}$ peaks (isolated clusters) for various conditions



 $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\text{evt}} \, \text{[keV]}$

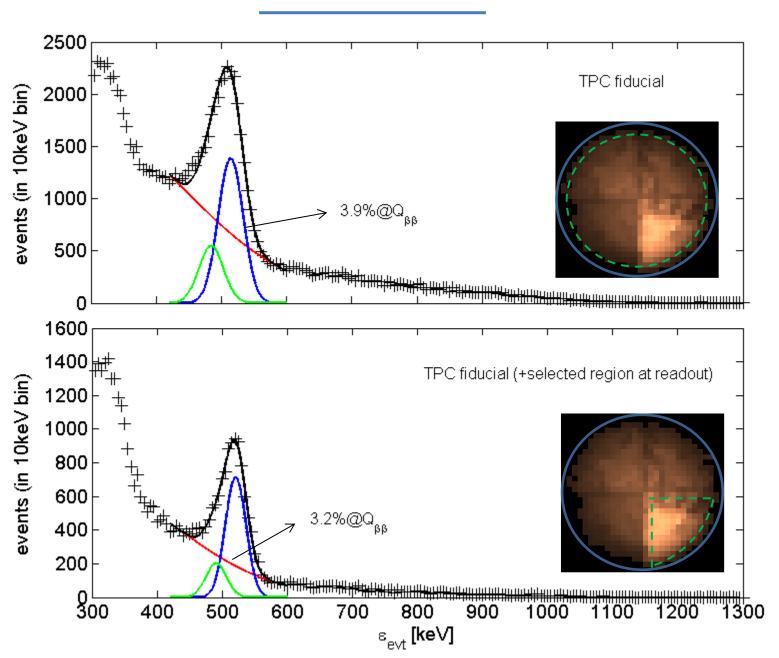
Comparison for 30keV charge deposits (1-10bar)



variations in the technological process

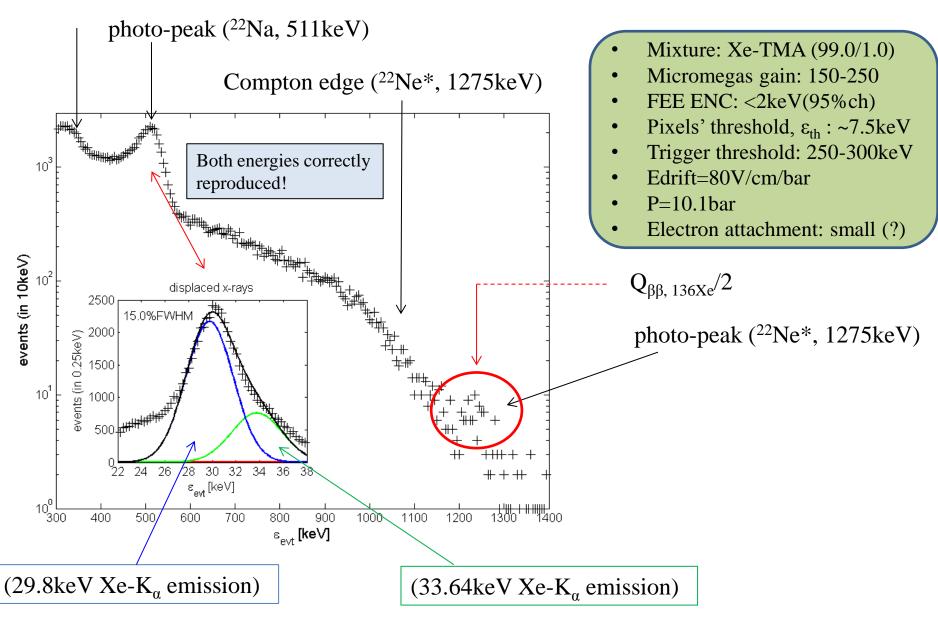
energy (ε_{th} ~7.5keV) and higher recombination at HP

Energy resolution at the 511 annihilation peak

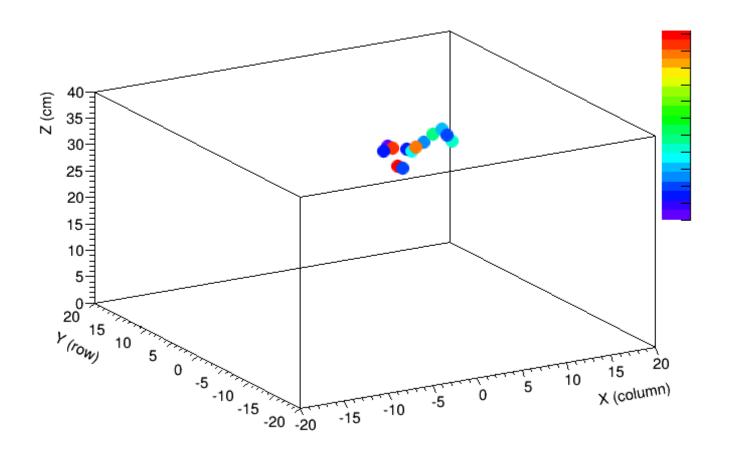


Energy spectrum after calibration at 1-3bar (reminder)

Compton edge (²²Na, 511keV)



selected events in the 1.2MeV region (from ²²Ne*)



End-blob clearly identified

Status

1-3bar campaigns (6months/30live days)

level of connectivity: 92%

unconnected pixels: 8%

of which

unclear origin: 1% understood(solvable): 5.2% damaged pixels: 1.8%

sector 1 not functional.

P=1-2.7bar

%TMA=2.2-2.4

 E_{driff} =66-170 V/cm/bar

gain=1600-2000

 $\eta < 10\%/m$

Am-source (30-60keV)

HP campaigns (3months/40live days)

level of connectivity: ~90%

unconnected pixels: 10%

of which

unclear origin: 1% understood(solvable): 4.5%

damaged pixels: 4.5%

full plane operative

P=9.5-10bar

%TMA=0.45-1%

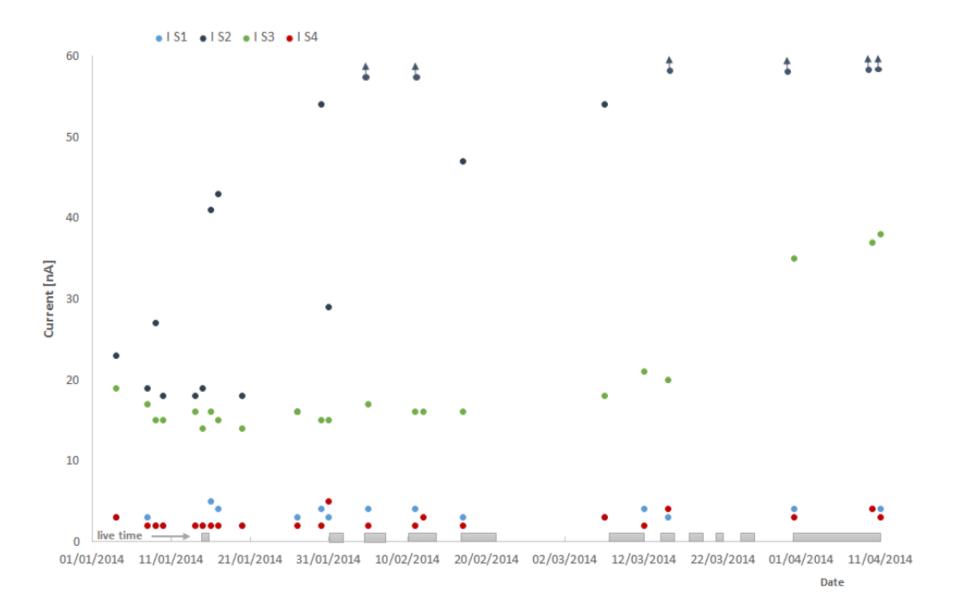
E_{driff}=40-80 V/cm/bar

gain=200

 $\eta=?$ (no strong indications)

Na-source (511-1270keV)

Behavior of current with time



Stability and effective exposure

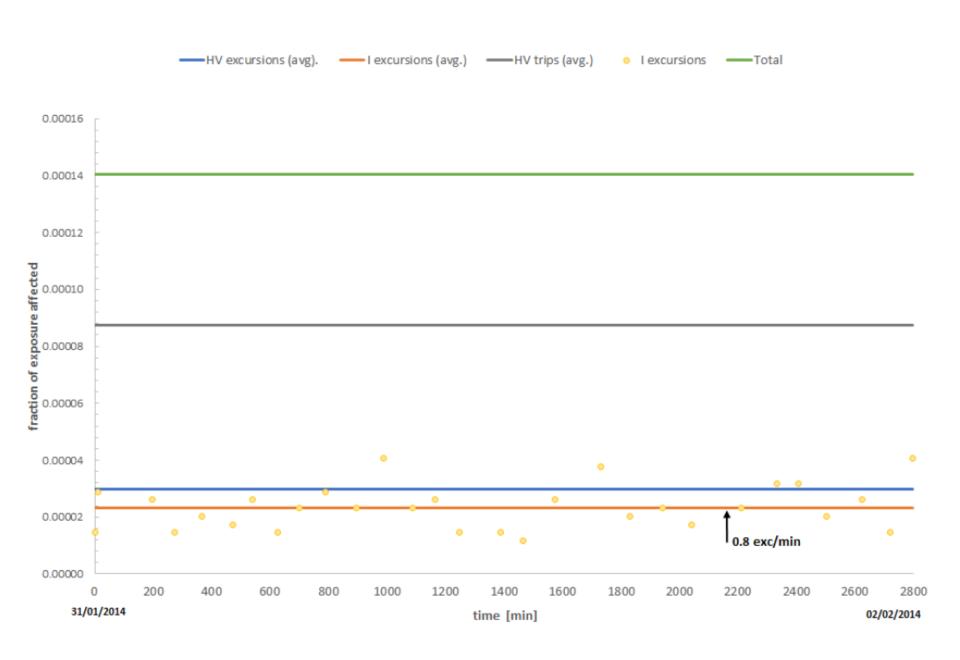
$$T_{1/2}^{-1} \propto a \cdot \epsilon \cdot \sqrt{\frac{Mt}{\Delta E \cdot B}} \end{exposure}$$
 exposure

Besides general maintenance and calibration activities, assume 3 main sources of loss of exposure connected to the readout plane:

- Current excursions. Only a hole/pixel is affected during ~2s.
- HV excursions. The voltage of a whole sector ramps down for ~5-10s.
- HV trips. Full ramp-down/up cycle needed, ~1-2min.

$$\frac{Mt|_{loss}}{Mt} \cong \frac{A_{affected} \times \Delta t_{affected}}{A \times t}$$

Stability and effective exposure



Supra-intrinsic energy resolution in Xe-TMA

The basic idea (details omitted)

$$\frac{W_{xe-TMA}}{W_{xe}} \cong \frac{1}{(1+rN_{ex}/N_I)(1-R)}$$
Recombination (electron dynamics)

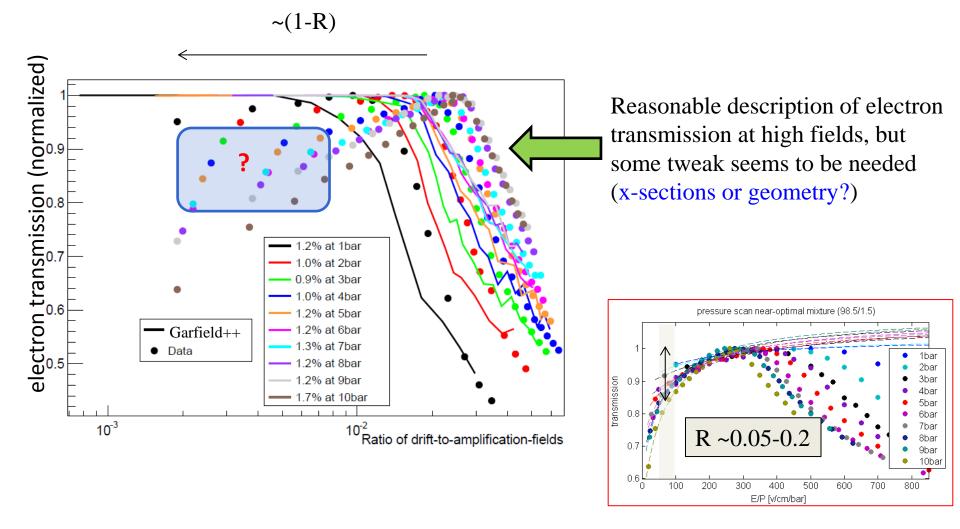
Penning transfer (ion dynamics)

Penning will decrease W as long as recombination stays low and does not over-compensate

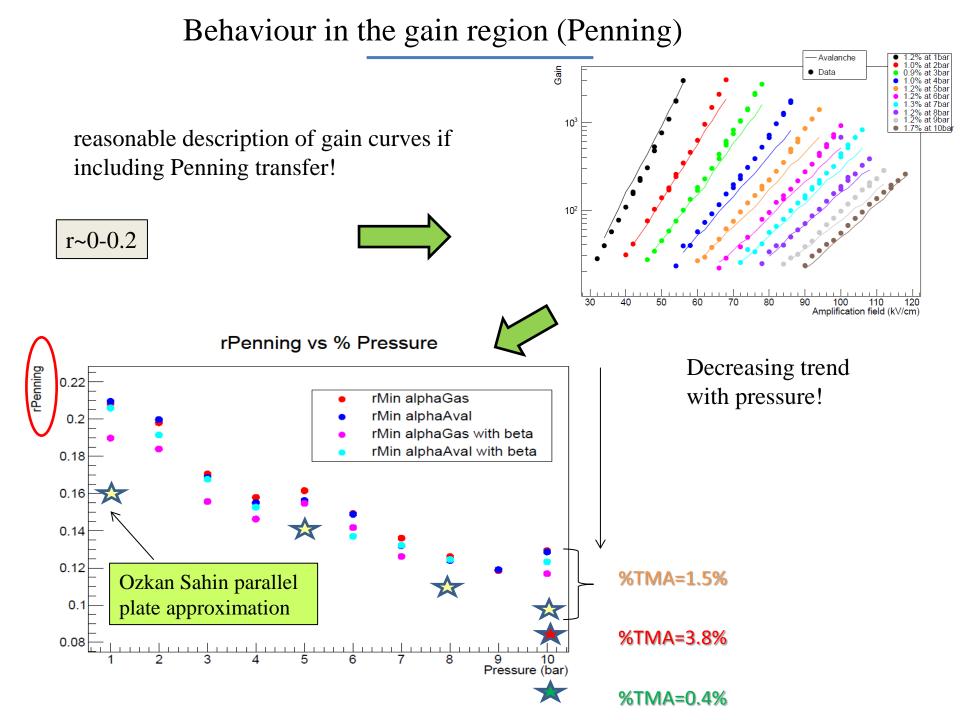


$$\frac{\sigma_{xe-TMA}}{\sigma_{xe}} \ge \sqrt{(1-r) + R/F_{Xe}}$$

Behavior in the drift region (recombination)



Region at low fields connected to recombination (see talk of D. C. Herrera at WG2).



r~0-0.2

R ~0.05-0.2

Plenty of room for recombination compensating Penning 8.

Was nature so unfair with us or are we missing something?

An experimental campaign with INGRID foreseen!.

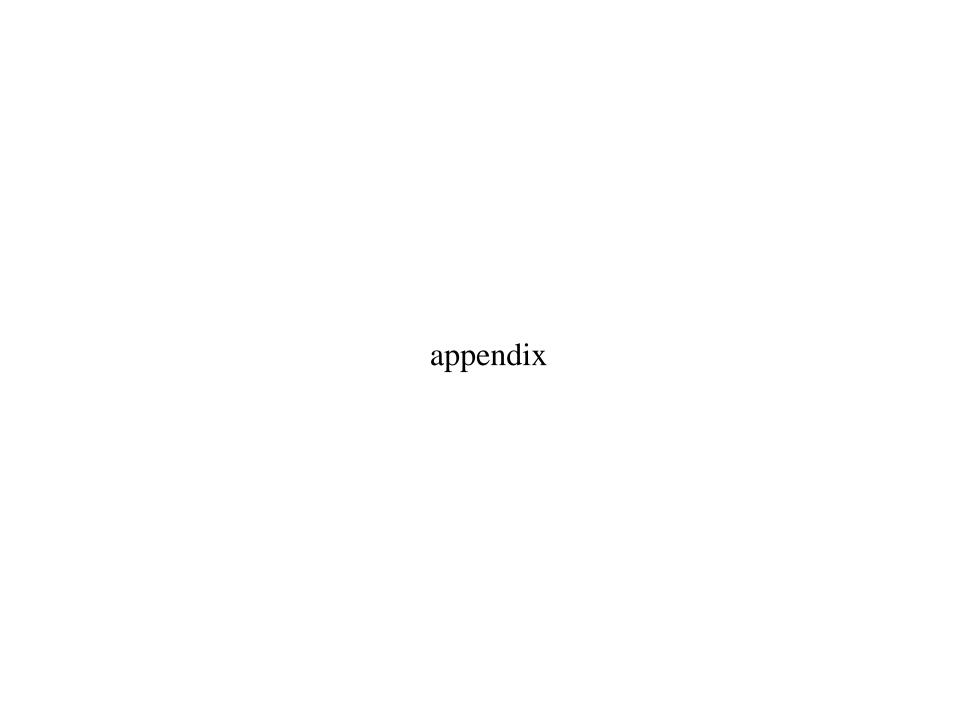
Conclusions and outlook

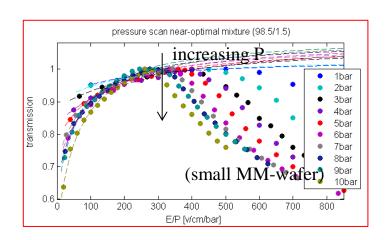
- 1. NEXT-MM working **stable** (24/7) at 10bar, for 40 live days+, in a Xe/TMA mixture at 99/1. Virtually no experiment-shifts except for safety (pressure, high voltage, leaks). Loss of exposure due to instrument imperfections (damaged pixels, excursions, HV-trips) quantified to be **0.014%**.
- 2. Assigning the observed pixel damage (4.5%) to defects in the micro-fabrication of the sensor, it translates to a probability of a defect of 8ppm. A further reduction can be envisaged, specially since part of the damaged was certainly caused during sensor manipulation. *Higher pixelization will reduce the probability of pixel damage proportionally.* An inspiring option!.
- 3. Energy resolution a bit shy of $3\%Q_{\beta\beta}$, a factor x2 far from the $1/\sqrt{E}$ scaling. Improved PSA and track-geometry studies will follow to clarify if the limitation comes from the drift region or the MM-sensor (recombination, finite threshold or calibration). It is unclear whether MM can contribute to the energy estimate coming from the EL region in NEXT, however it offers an excellent performance as a tracking plane.
- 4. NEXT-MM is probably **the best possible test-bed to date** (?) for topological studies of high energy e- tracks in low-diffusion Xenon-mixtures. There is a claim that this particular setup can increase the γ-suppression in at least a factor x3 as compared to pure Xenon [J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 40 125203], *encouraging*!.
- 5. Ongoing experimental and simulation efforts towards modelling Xe-TMA mixtures in order to address the ultimate energy resolution for this Penning mixture (Penning, recombination, Fano). However, some (small) discrepancies with Magboltz existing at the moment.

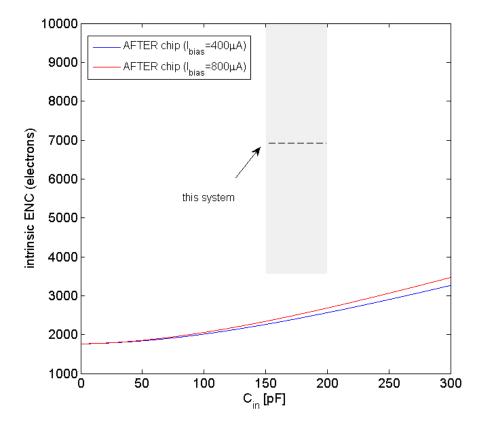
the Zaragoza group

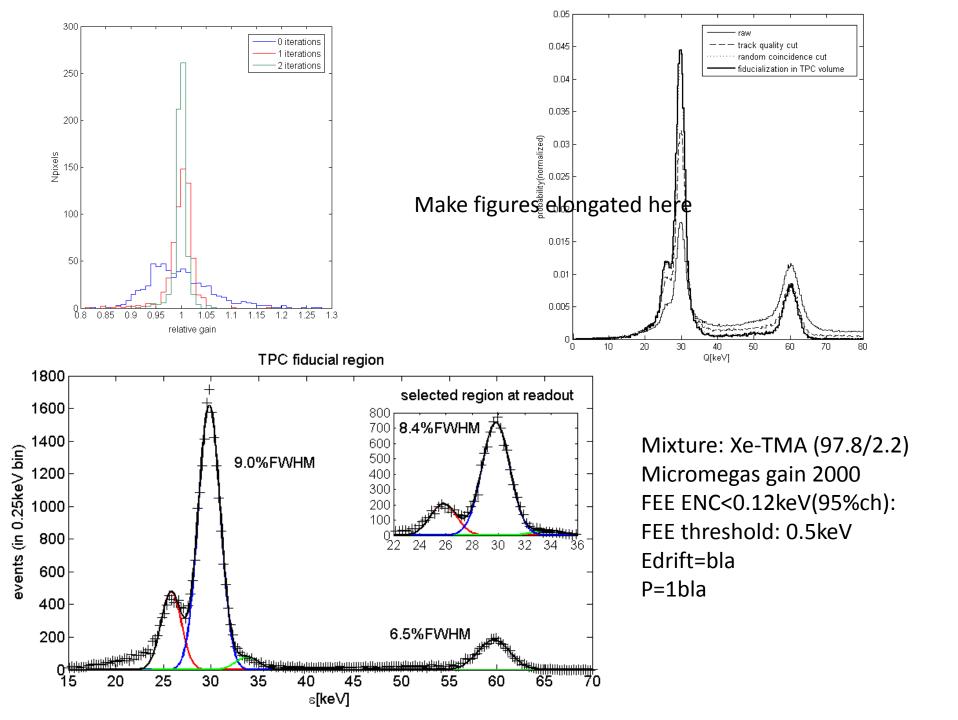
Theopisti Dafni Igor Irastorza Juan Antonio Garcia Juan Castel Angel Lagraba Diego Gonzalez-Diaz Francisco Iguaz Gloria Luzon Susana Cebrian Elisa Choliz Javier Gracia Diana Carolina Herrera

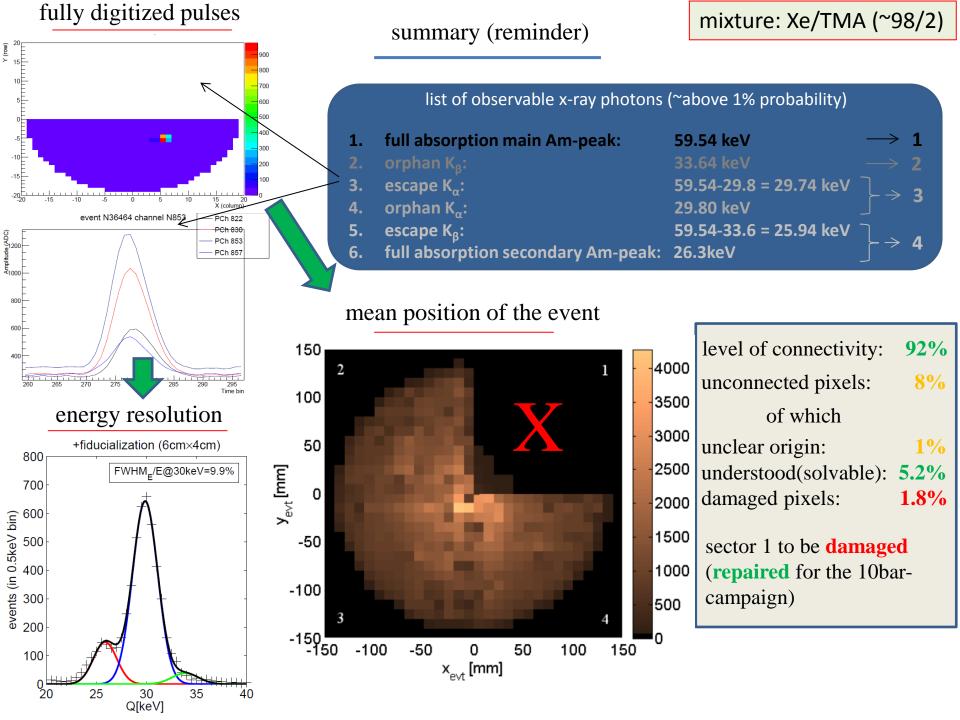
special thanks to Saclay-IRFU and to the CERN workshop

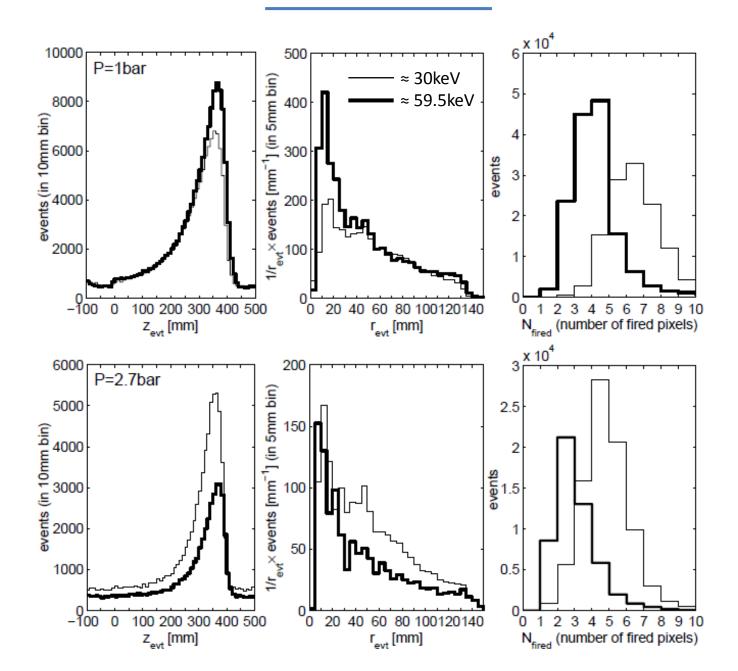




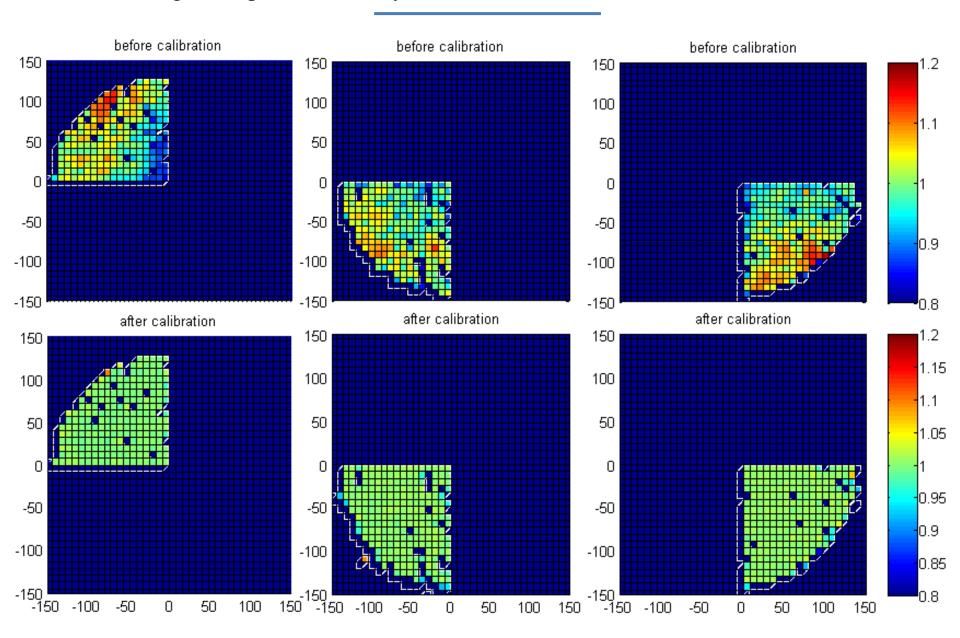




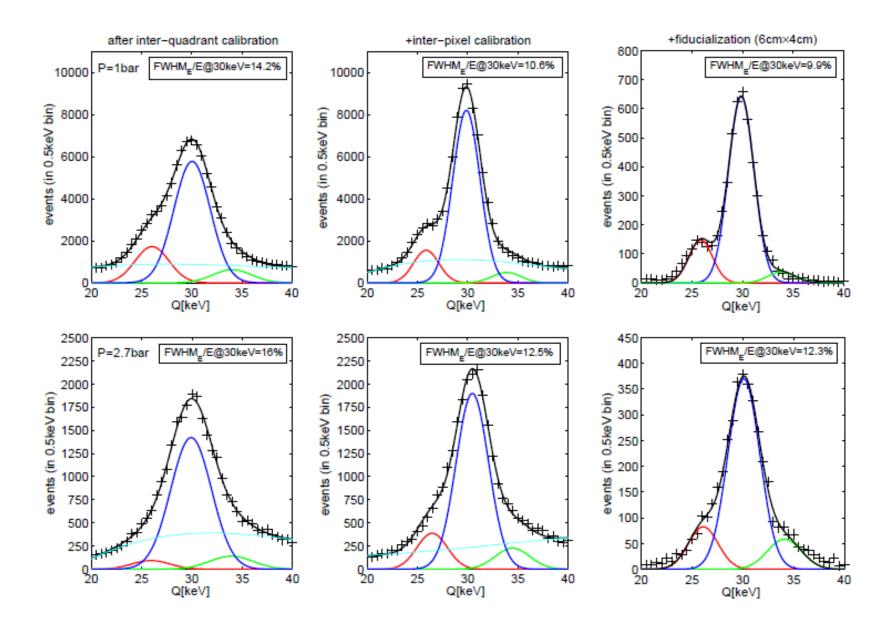


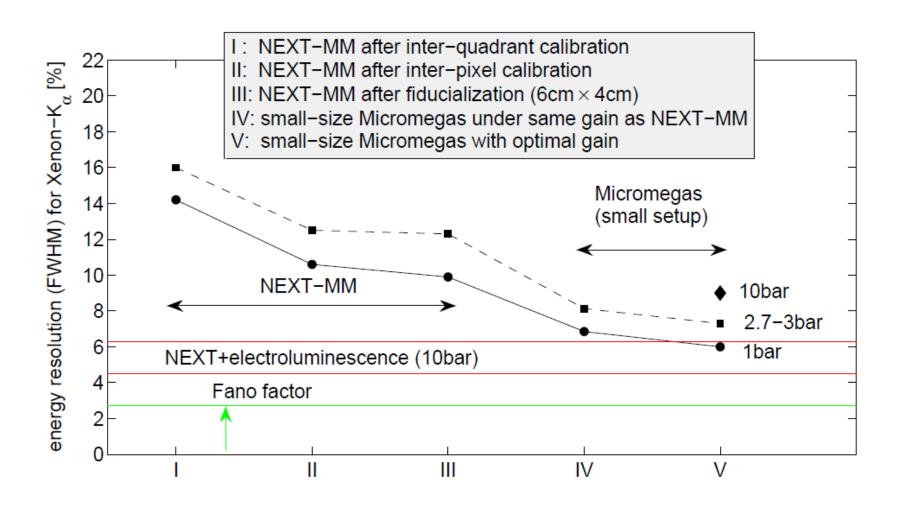


gain maps are necessary in order to achieve ultimate resolution

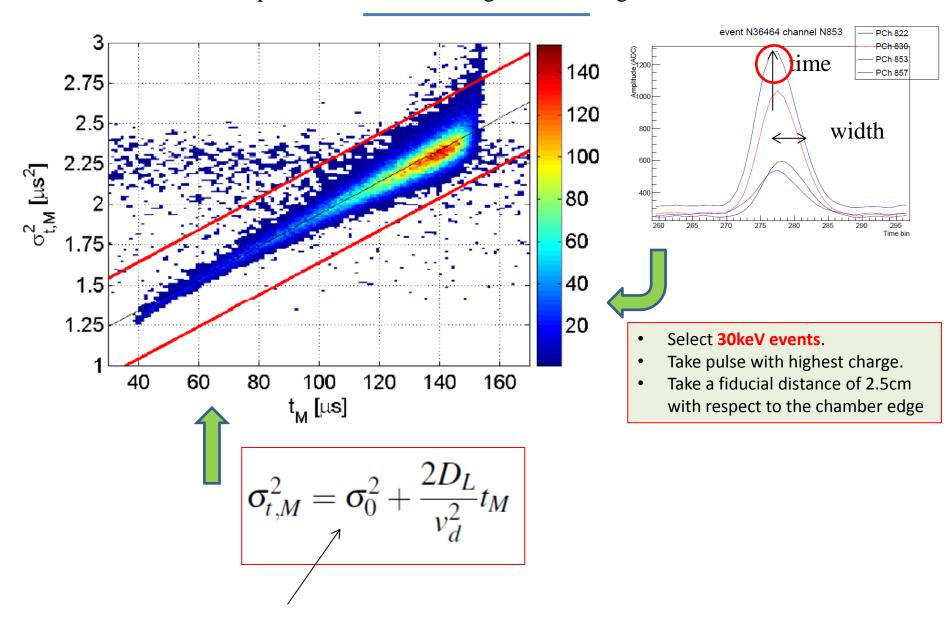


obtained by aligning the 30keV peak pixel by pixel



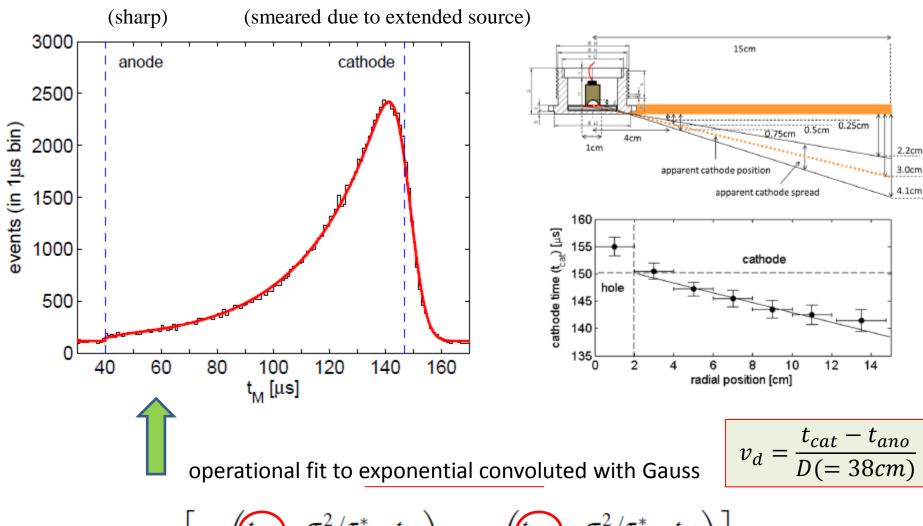


time-width pulse correlations through drift & longitudinal diffusion



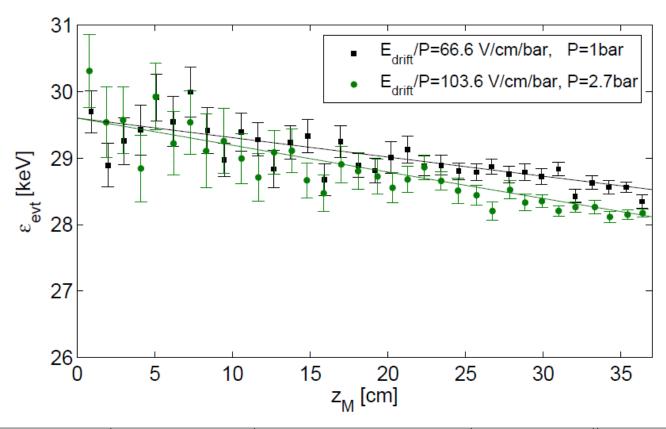
electronics response function + size of ionization cloud (+ ion transit time)

determining the total drift time (and hence the drift velocity)



$$f(t_M) = \mathcal{C}e^{t_M/\tau^*} \left[\operatorname{erf} \left(\underbrace{t_{cat} - \sigma_g^2/\tau^* - t_M}_{\sqrt{2}\sigma_g} \right) - \operatorname{erf} \left(\underbrace{t_{ano} - \sigma_g^2/\tau^* - t_M}_{\sqrt{2}\sigma_g} \right) \right] \Theta(t_M - t_{ano}) + B$$

attachment coefficient



E/P[V/cm/bar]	v_d [cm/ μ s]	$D_L^*[\mu\mathrm{m}/\sqrt{\mathrm{cm}}\times\sqrt{\mathrm{bar}}]$	η [m ⁻¹]	TMA(%)	P[bar]
66.6 ± 1.3	0.097 ± 0.005	340 ± 19	0.10 ± 0.01	2.2	1.0
93.0 ± 1.9	0.151 ± 0.007	368 ± 20	0.08 ± 0.02	2.2	1.0
119.2 ± 2.4	0.227 ± 0.011	456 ± 25	0.08 ± 0.01	2.2	1.0
145.5 ± 2.9	0.345 ± 0.017	579 ± 32	0.10 ± 0.01	2.2	1.0
164.0 ± 3.3	0.442 ± 0.022	649 ± 36	0.07 ± 0.04	2.2	1.0
103.6 ± 2.1	0.179 ± 0.009	351 ± 18	0.14 ± 0.01	2.4	2.7

new hardware

new bottles and piping

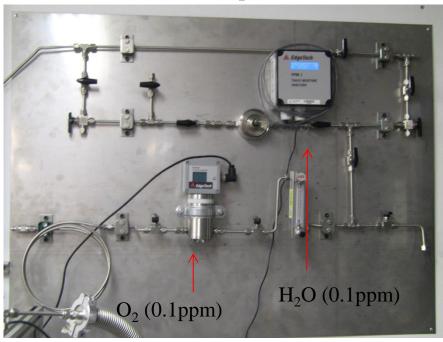


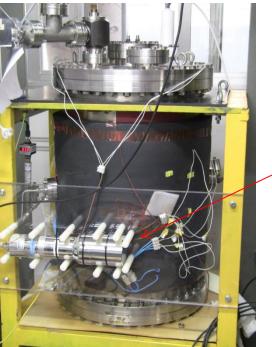
TREX-light (pure Xenon line)

NEXT-MM recovery bottle

NEXT-MM expansion chamber

sensor panel





NaI detector and Na source