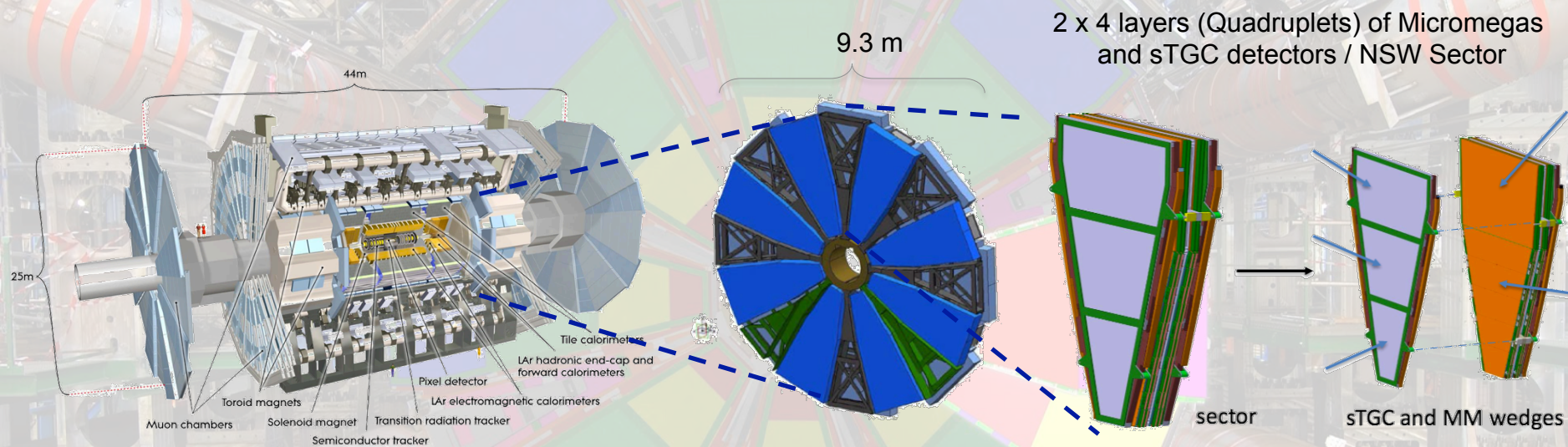


Quality Control (QC) preparation for the NSW Micromegas anode board production

Fabian Kuger^{1, 2}, for the ATLAS Micromegas group

¹Julius Maximilians Universität Würzburg (Germany), ²CERN

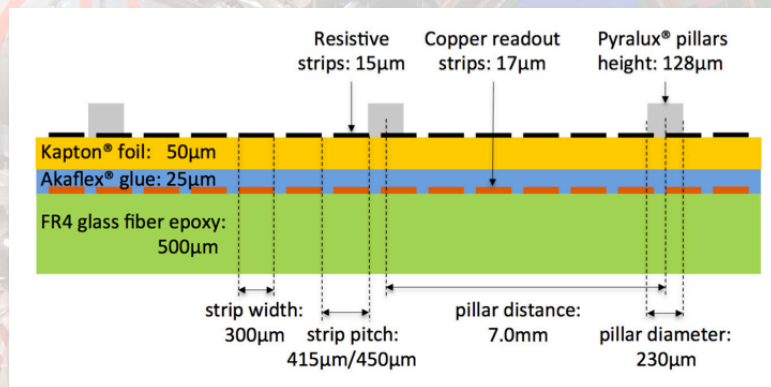
The innermost forward detector wheels of the ATLAS Muon system will undergo an upgrade during LHC Long Shutdown 2 (2019/2020) → **New Small Wheels (NSW)**



The NSWs will comprise an active detector area of **2x1280m²**, divided in **128 MM Quadruplets** of 4 different types and **192 sTGC Quadruplets** of 6 different types with more than **2 M channels**.

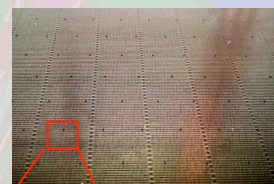
The NSWs shall provide Muon p_T measurement with **10% resolution at 1 TeV** (offline) and contribute to the improved **Level 1** (1mrad accuracy).

The readout PCBs are the critical item for the Micromegas construction, which have to be produced in industries



- 415/450 μ m strip pitch 300 μ m width
- 1022 strips/board
- Screen-printed resistive pattern (~1 M Ω /□, 415/450 μ m pitch 300 μ m width, interconnections every 10 mm)
- Two HV sectors for each board: resistive strips interrupted in the middle
- Pillars 128 μ m height, 280 μ m diameter
- Strips routed to the left (bottom half) and right (top half) to pads for elastomeric connector (Zebra)

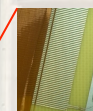
Surface structure of the board, with regular patterns of pillars and interconnections of resistive strips



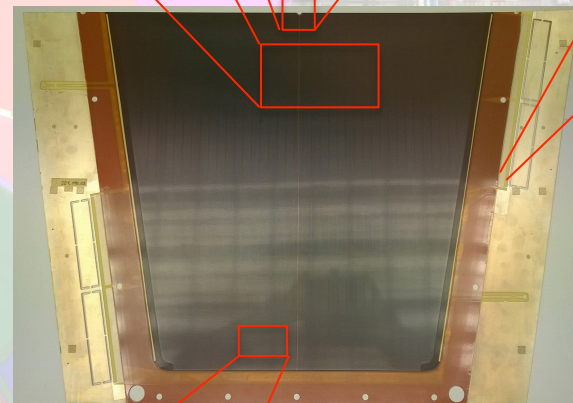
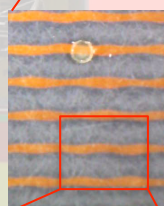
Centre-top hole for detector assembly. Visible are the routing of the readout strips around the hole and the central separation of the resistive pattern



Pads for elastomeric connector (Zebra)

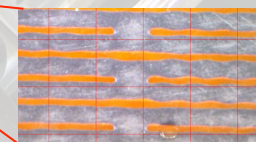
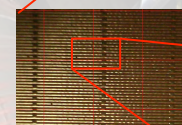


Zoom of the board surface with a pillar



Example of NSW Micromegas anode board (smallest type)

Zoom of the resistive strip interconnections

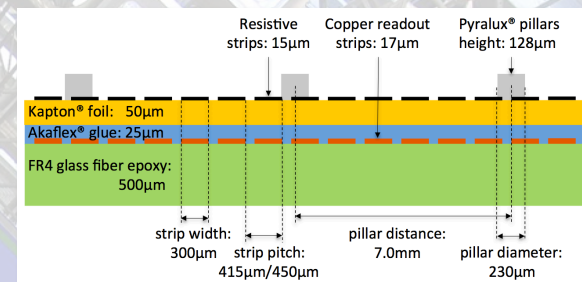


- All production steps are standard in industries, still
 - the combination of these steps is rather uncommon,
 - the **large size** (0.6 x 2.2m²) complicates production,
 - the **stringent quality requirements** result in a considerable challenge for PCB producers.

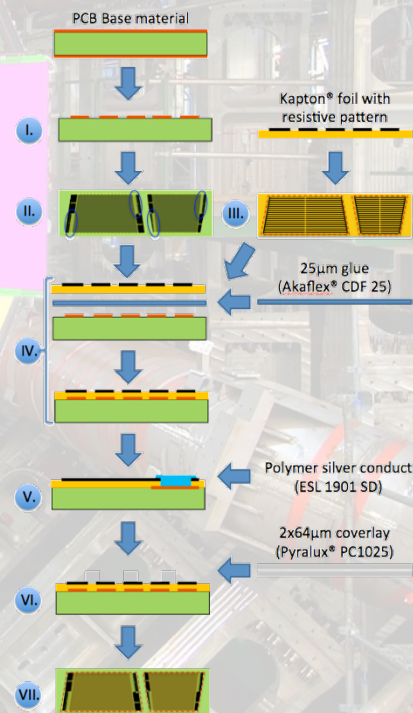
→ Significant delays for Module-0 PCB order due to production faults / insufficient quality / very low yield.

Lessons learned and actions taken on the PCB production:

- Strengthen the In-Industry QC (→ increase yield)
- Insist on quality requirements, delivery schedules (Improved situation in pre-series / full production contract)
- Follow-up more closely and more regularly at the producers premises. (Module0, Pre-series, full production)



Schematic of the **NSW Micromegas anode board** layers and dimensions of its main structures (not to scale).



Process chart of the anode board construction:

I. Copper pattern creation; II. Connector pad plating; III. Kapton® foil cutting; IV. Kapton® -PCB gluing; V. Silver conduct application; VI. Pillar pattern creation; VII. Cutting and drilling.

The multitude of QC tests for final anode PCB acceptance at CERN can be grouped in:

- **Visual inspection**
- **Dimension validation**
- **Drilling and Cutting Accuracy tests**
- **Electrical properties and Resistivity**
- **Pillar pattern & - height**

PCB QC Protocol - CERN acceptance QC (Version 5)

Board ID: _____ Delivery: Shipped on ___/___/20___ from ELTUS ELVIA
 Received on ___/___/20___ by _____

The QC report provided by PCB company are:
 Complete and state compliance with all requirements? Yes No
 (Check and tick the box against comments attached to this QC report)

Visual inspection
 Diligent visual inspection of the board, revealed:
 bubble / bump pin / dent enclosure
 local dirt area wide dirt dried detergent
 broken covers damaged edges scratches
 resistive layer damages (compare to plate \rightarrow user?)
 insufficient connector plating
 Kapton® foil is accurately cut, correctly installed and homogeneously glued? Yes No
 # dark-bright transitions in interf. pattern: _____ (<5)
 Alignment targets show an accuracy of: _____

Dimension & Accuracy
 No rejection-reason observed in visual inspection QC? Yes No
 (to be used)

ResMask measurement confirms overall dimension accuracy? Yes No
 ConnectorPad measurements confirm local strip width accuracy? Yes No
 Edges: Distance between cutting-edge and copper strip: _____
 Edges are cut cleanly? Yes No

Electrical Properties & Resistivity
 Holes are centered within the circle on the copper pattern? Yes No
 No rejection-reason observed in Dimension & Accuracy QC? Yes No

Resistivity mapping (final) and comparison to foil measurements (initial, Japan)
 Final mapping started? Yes No
 Mean Resistivity: _____ M Ω /cm²
 RMS Resistivity: _____ M Ω /cm²
 Regular distribution? Yes No
 Critical spots? Yes No

The board is compliant with PCB production requirements and accepted w.r.t. the supplier. Yes No

The board is accepted for NSW Macrolog construction (after repair as stated above) Yes No

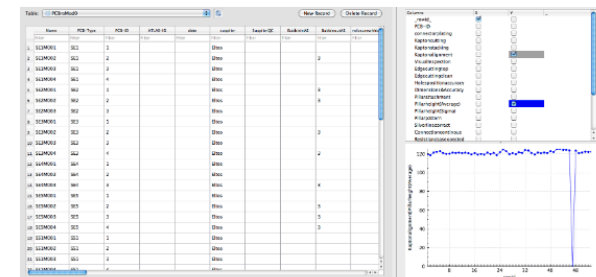
Copying results from paper report to DB

Module-0 PCB QC was based on paper forms:

- + Copy of the report 'travels' with the board to ensure information transfer before DB setup
- + Changes are quickly implemented (6 Iterations)
- Systematic search for faults is difficult
- Waste of time in copying to DB

For Module0:

- o QC reports are stored together with the pillar height maps and published on a dedicated twiki to be easily accessible for construction sites
- o Results are summarized in a (local) SQLite DB for bookkeeping



The testing structure is maintained (although more elaborated in some details) during *NSW production*.

- **Visual inspection**
- **Dimension validation**
- **Drilling and Cutting Accuracy tests**
- **Electrical properties and Resistivity**
- **Pillar pattern & - height**

The reports will be filled digitally with a custom User Interface, providing a direct link to measurement software (speeding up QC) and to the DataBase (proper storing).

PCB QC Protocol - CERN acceptance QC

ID and logistic

PCB Identifier:

Shipped on:

Manufactured by:

Received on:

Received by:

Supplier report

Is the report complete and for it the board comply with all requirements?

Yes No

Visual Inspection

Digilent Visual Inspection of the board revealed:

Kapton foil is accurately cut, correctly stacked and homogeneously glued? Yes No

Number of dark-bright transitions in start. pattern:

Alignment targets show an accuracy of:

No rejection reason observed in visual inspection QCT? Right! It's flawed

Details and comments

Show error map

Pillars

Pillars pattern - visual inspection:

Tape test confirms good pillars attachment? Yes No

Pillar height mapping

Mean pillar height (exc. data)

RMS pillar height (exc. data)

Systematic shift >5um observed? Yes No

No rejection reason due to Pillar pattern or Pillar attachment observed? Right! It's flawed

Dimensions and Accuracy

HV connectors

Online report to be filled



PCB QC Protocol - CERN acceptance QC

ID and logistic

ID:

Shipped on:

Manufactured by:

Received on:

Received by:

Supplier report

Is the report complete and for it the board comply with all requirements?

Yes No

Comment:

You said the Manufacturer report is not good. Please write a comment about:

Visual Inspection

Digilent Visual Inspection of the board revealed:

Kapton foil is accurately cut, correctly stacked and homogeneously glued? Yes No

Number of dark-bright transitions in start. pattern:

Details and comments

March 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18

Pillars

Pillars pattern - visual inspection:

Tape test confirms good pillars attachment? Yes No

Pillar height mapping

Mean pillar height (exc. data)

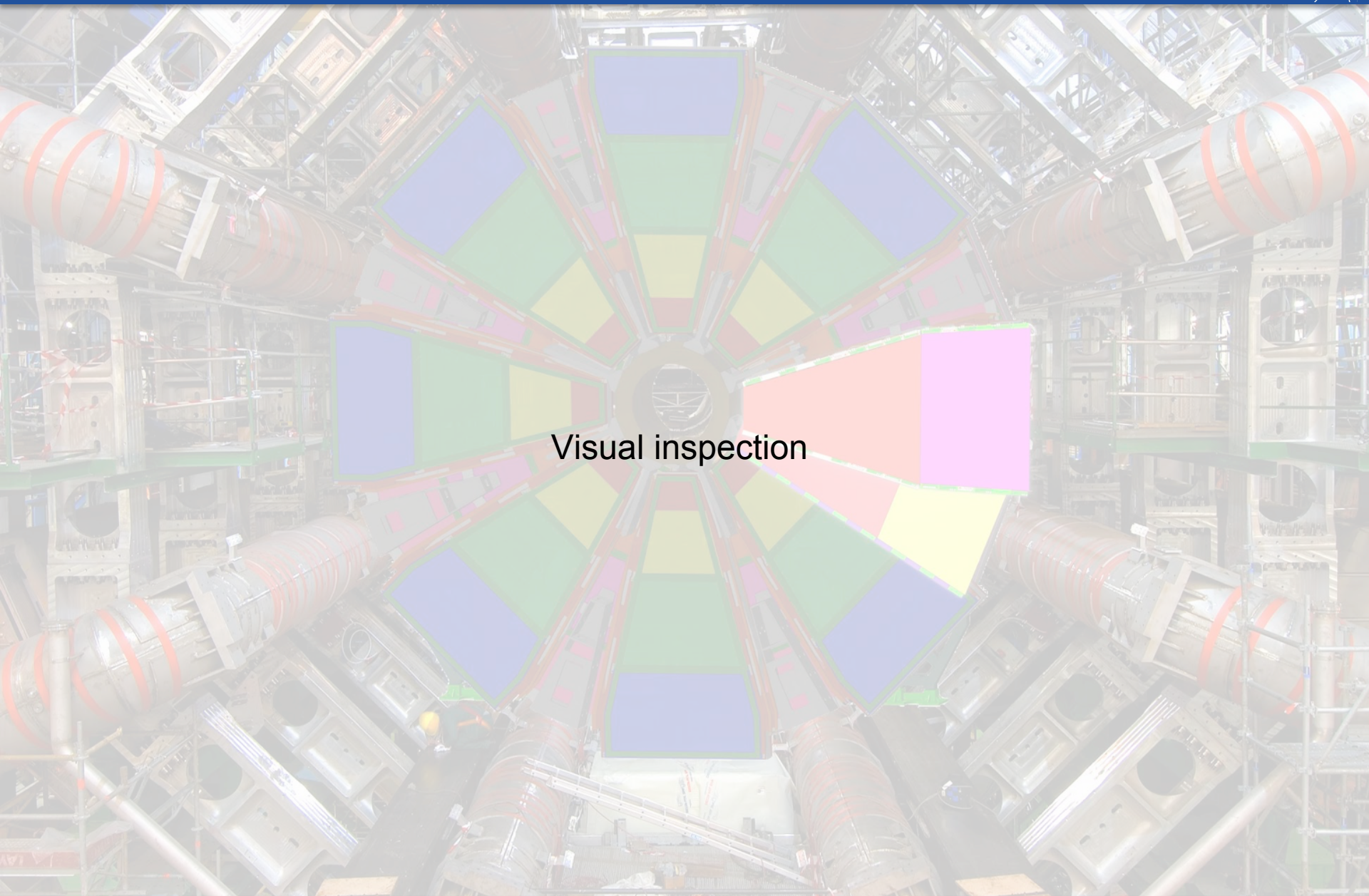
RMS pillar height (exc. data)

Systematic shift >5um observed? Yes No

No rejection reason due to Pillar pattern or Pillar attachment observed? Right! It's flawed

Dimensions and Accuracy

HV connectors



Visual inspection

A large variety of defects has been observed on the Module-0 anode boards.

They are rated case-by-case as either:

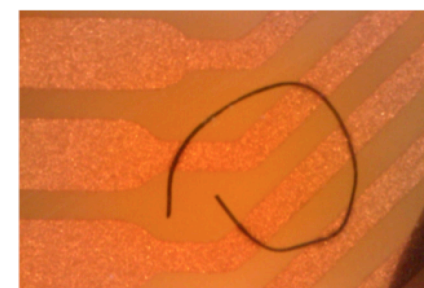
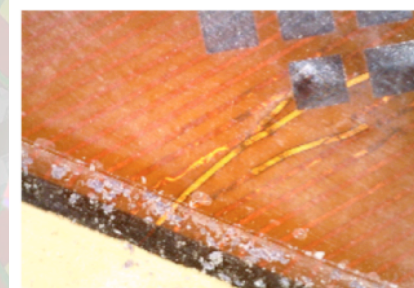
- **Minor:** if repairable or only localized effect on the detector, if any
 - Non-conformity acceptance considered
- **Major:** non-repairable and effect on the full detector / plane / larger area
 - Rejection mandatory

Only a careful visual inspection by a trained operator can reveal all kind of occurring imperfections.

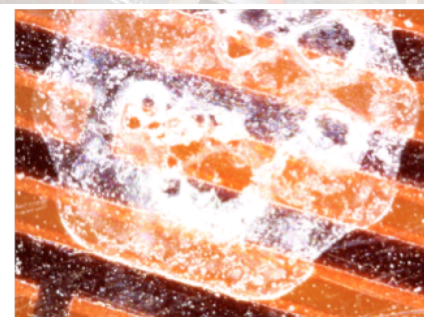
Localization and classification (if possible) is mandatory.



Bubbles on the resistive surface, caused by air enclosures between the PCB and the Kapton foil (left) and a series of folds in the foil.



Strip repairs causing a bump in the active area (middle) and fiber enclosed in the glue between PCB and Kapton (right).



Two examples of contaminations: A piece/drop of metalized glue or silver printing paste (left), detergent remnants (right).

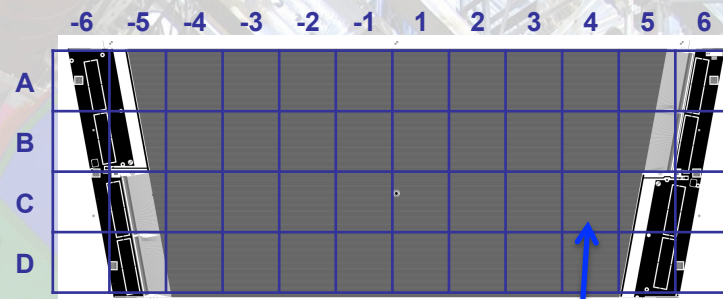
- Visual inspection remains a key QC, although a lower number of ‘new’ defects is expected.

(valuable experience from Module-0 in classification of blemishes and test on repair possibilities)

- Localization is done with a coarse $\approx 10 \times 10$ cm² ‘coordinate system’, referring to the center of each board.

- Classification is supported by choices of known / observed blemishes

- For in-classifiable cases (microscope) pictures can be added



Simplified ‘square-coordinate system’ for localization of defects on NSW MM anode boards

Visual Inspection C4

Diligent Visual Inspection of the board revealed:

bubble/bump

pit/dent

enclosures

local_dirt

area_dirt

dried_det

brok_corn

dam_edges

scratches

res_layer_dam

lack_plating

Kapton foil is accurately cut, correctly stacked and homogeneously glued? Yes No

Details for sector -16a

Comment:
Add the comment BEFORE selecting the relative image, if any.

Select files Uploads only images

Browse... No files selected. The queue

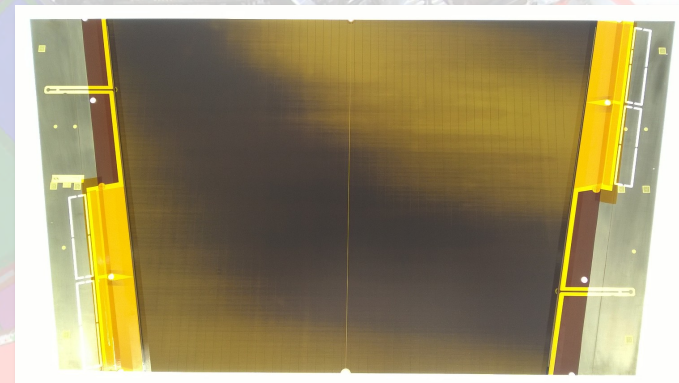
Queue length: 0

Name	Size	Progress	Status	Actions
<small>Queue progress:</small>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;"> Upload all Cancel all Remove all </div>				

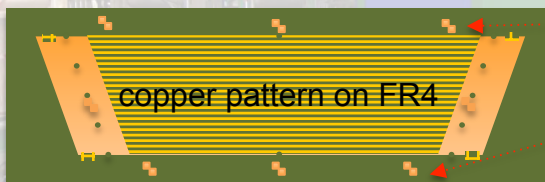
OK Cancel

The Alignment between resistive pattern and readout strips can be checked:

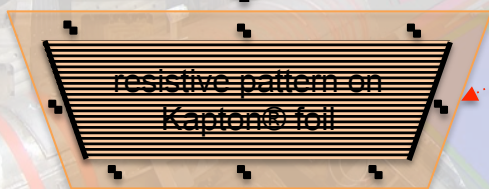
- Very quick by looking at the interference pattern on a light table
- Measured visually by using Alignment Markers on the foil and board



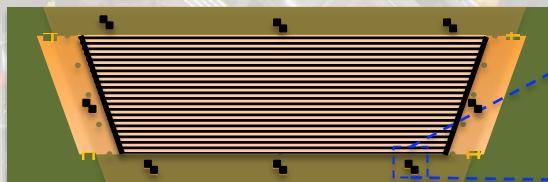
Backside Illuminated PCB showing the interference pattern between resistive layer and readout strips, corresponding to a $\approx 600\mu\text{m}$ left-right misalignment.



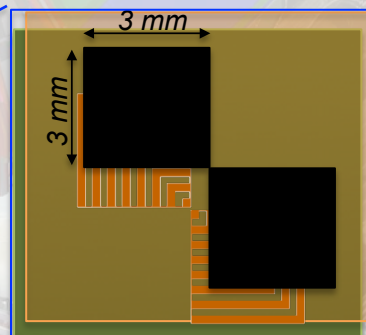
Module0: 2x3 for use in company



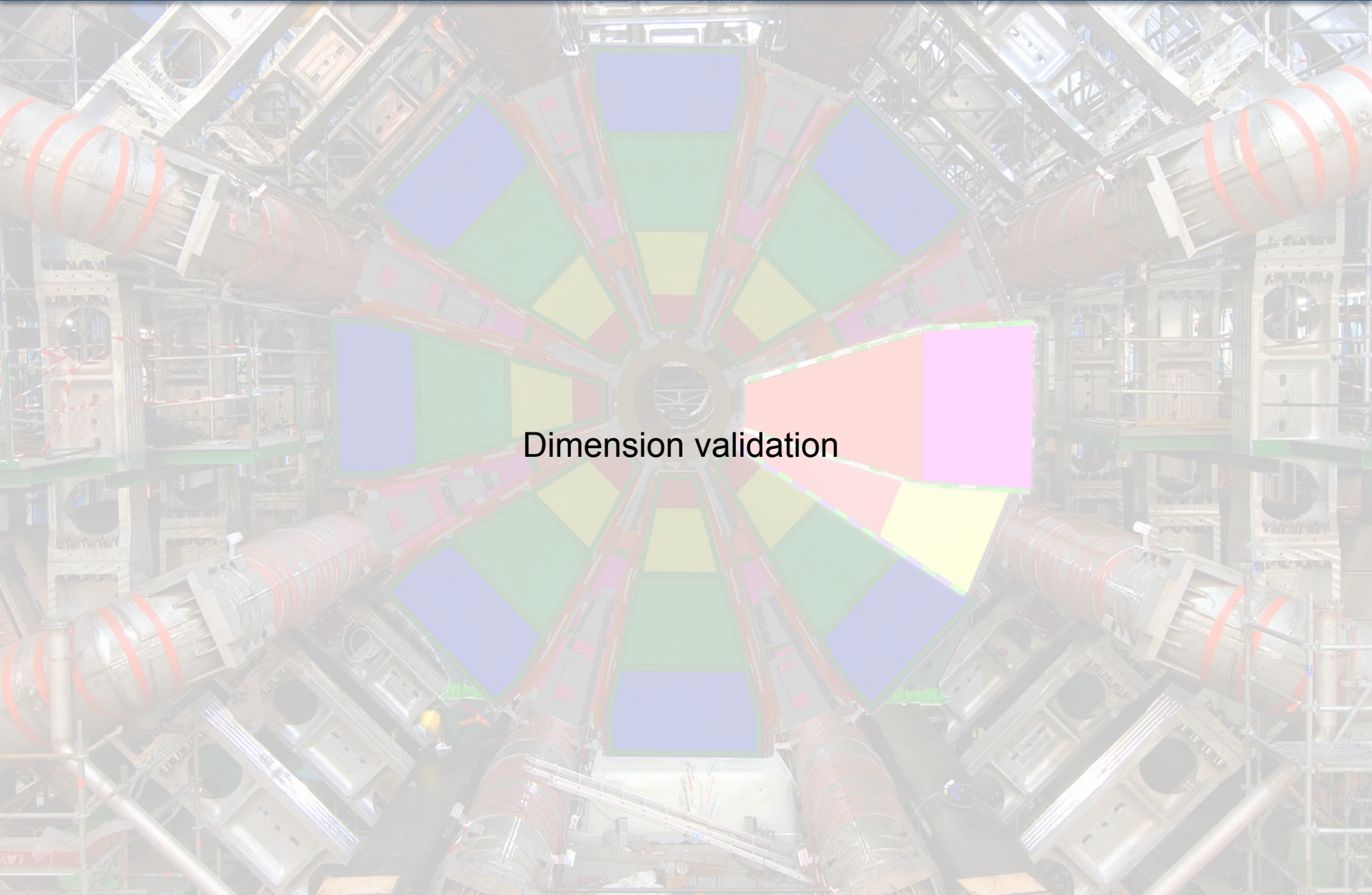
New: +2 targets for CERN QC



Alignment of copper- to resistive pattern is directly measurable counting $200\mu\text{m}$ wide lines / spaces.



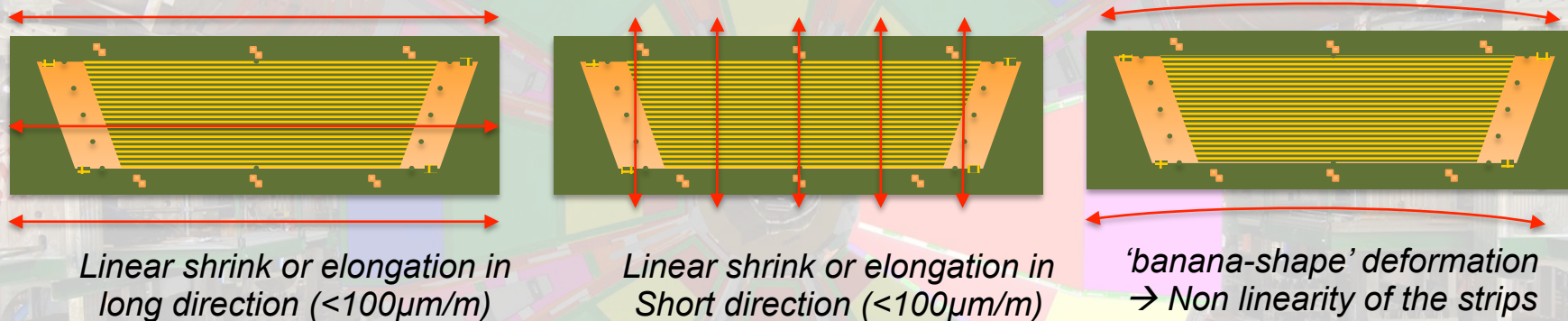
In this example:
 $\Delta x = +1.0\text{mm}$
 $\Delta y = +0.4\text{mm}$



Dimension validation

Inaccuracy / deformations in the cu pattern are critical blemishes of the boards. Although measurement during production (AOI) are required we need a method to cross-check these results.

Only 'global' pattern deformations are likely, not local displacements

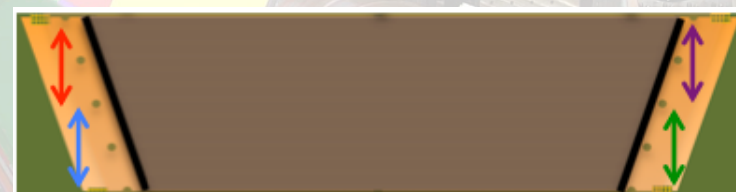
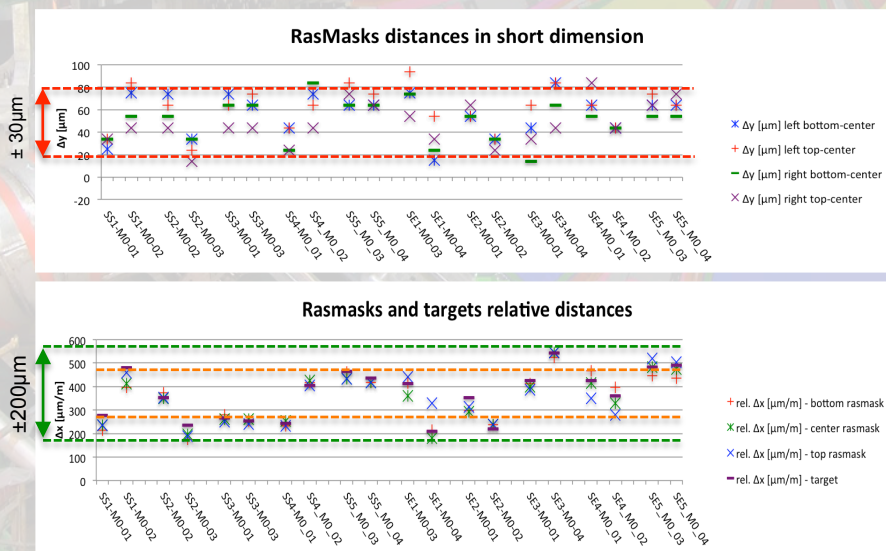


Testing the three parameters: x-elongation, y-elongation and strip linearity (on with sufficient high granularity) could identify all modes of global deformation

During *Module-0 PCB* QC dimensions have been measured using a microscope table (1,80 x 1,20) with an accuracy of $\pm 20\mu\text{m}$.

→ Very time consuming ($\approx 30\text{min}$ / board)

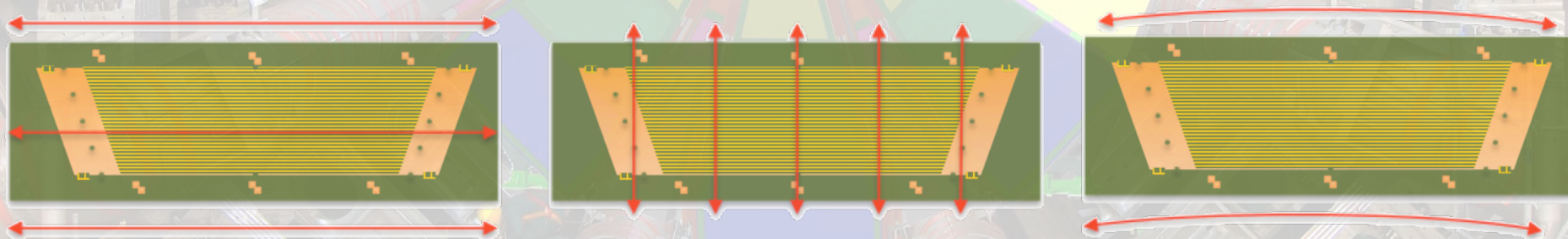
→ Repeatability of measurements is limited, accordingly only distances are measured.



For *NSW production* the position of Rasnik Masks (3x left, 3x right – both coordinates) + Anode strips in the center (one coordinate only) are measured simultaneously using a precision table with in-built C-CCDs.

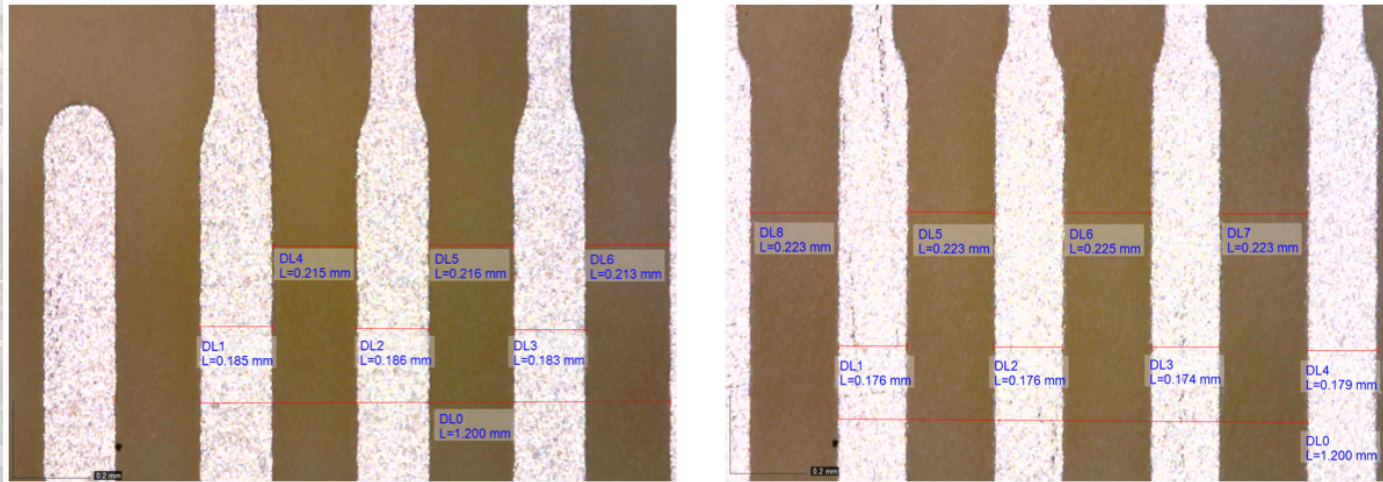


In this configuration we have good control over x-elongation, y-elongation and 'limited' access to and strip linearity (3 points over up to 2m length)



Tooling and Software development is ongoing, expected time <3min / board.

Additionally the **local strip / gap width accuracy** has to be checked.
 (e.g. on the Zebra-Connector Pads an accuracy of $\pm 20\mu\text{m}$ is required.)



Systematic width deviation
 of $15\mu\text{m}$ → **acceptable**

Width of by $24\mu\text{m}$
 → **Not within specification**

Module-0: Measurements with a calibrated Microscope and manual image evaluation has been performed (2-3min / picture → >5min / board)

NSW production: Pattern recognition for automatized measurements (c-CCD) (<1min per point → 1-2min / board)

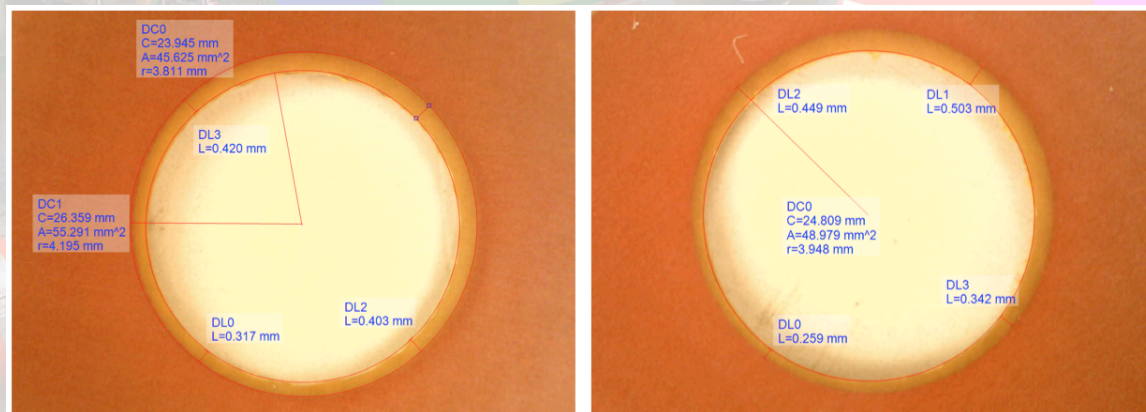


Drilling and Cutting Accuracy

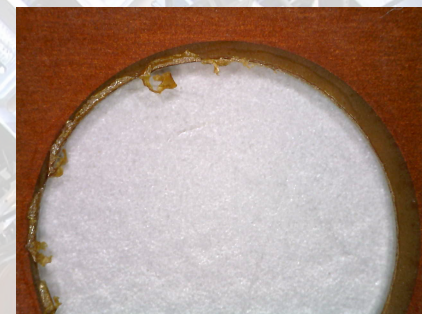
The position of the (no-precise / mechanical) holes in the PCB is required to be accurate to $\pm 100\mu\text{m}$.

Judging this visually is difficult, especially in regions where no concentric Cu-pattern is around.

Measurements with a calibrated microscope are time consuming $>1\text{min}$ / hole.

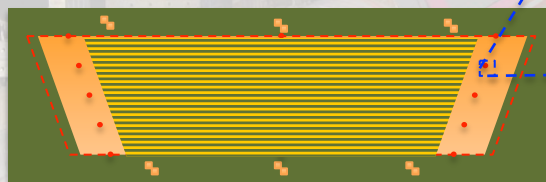
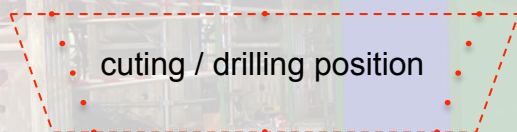


Example measurements of the hole accuracy: The distance between copper pattern hole and drilled hole varies between 300-420 μm (left) resp. 250-510 μm (right), equivalent to a $\approx 60 \mu\text{m}$ (accepted) resp. 130 μm (non-conform) displacement of the hole centers.



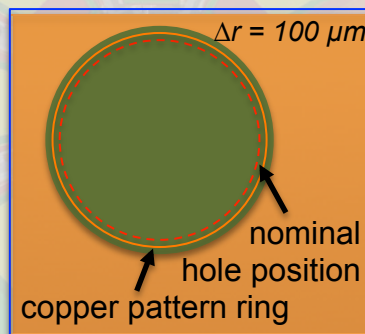
Examples of inaccurately drilled holes on Module-0 PCBs.

For *NSW production* we added an extra ring in the Cu pattern around the nominal hole position allows for quicker visual QC tests:

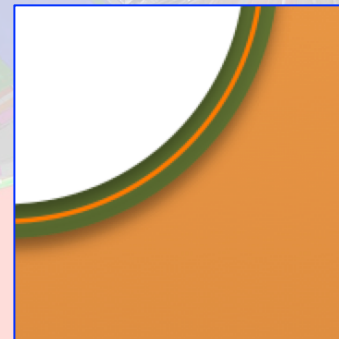


Before drilling:

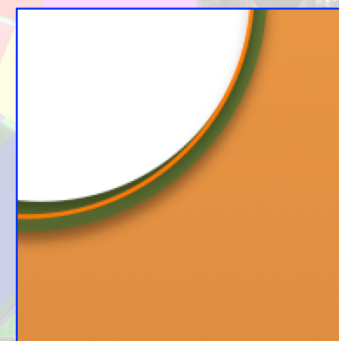
The copper ring inner-diameter is 100 μ m wider than the concentric hole



After drilling:



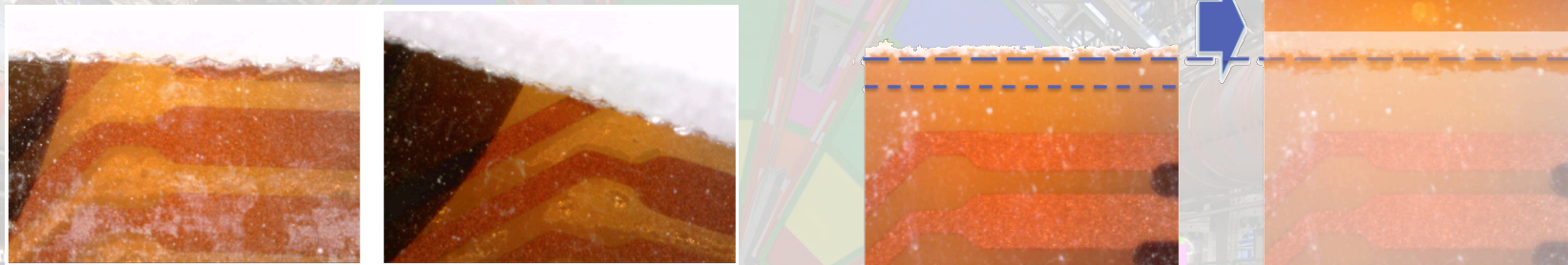
The hole is either within the ring,
→ **acceptable**



... or touching / violating it
→ **Not within specification**

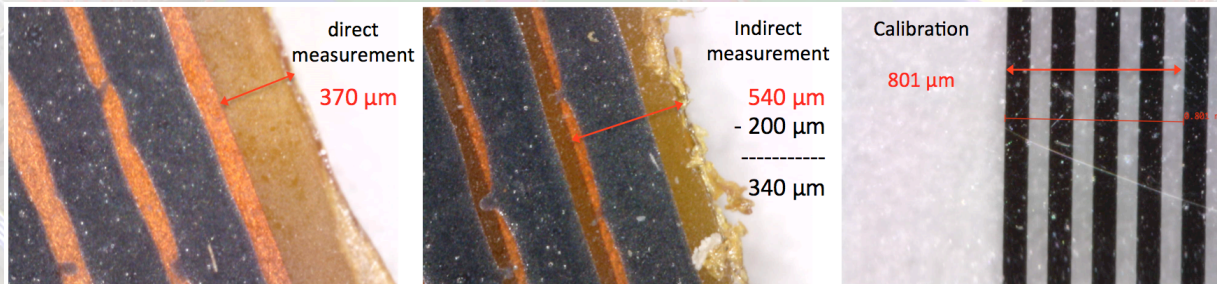
During *NSW production* all hole positions can be checked visually to be within / out of specifications in less than 1min.

The distance between the last r/o strip and the PCB edge is required to be $300 \pm 100\mu\text{m}$.



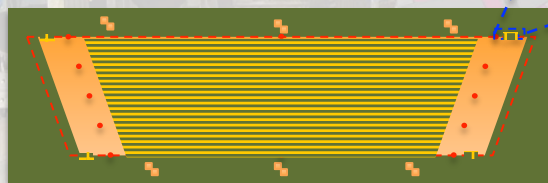
Cutting Edge too close (left) to the last strip, violating or removing a r/o strip or too far (right) causing interference when joining two boards.

During *Module-0 PCB* QC the distance between last r/o strip and PCB edge has been measured with a calibrated microscope manual image evaluation has been performed ($\approx 1/2$ min / picture \rightarrow 5 min / board)



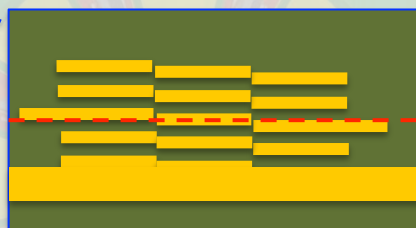
Examples for direct (left) and indirect (middle) strip-edge to cutting-edge measurement and a calibration measurement (right). The left picture shows a clean cut while in the middle picture the cut is full of Kapton splinters.

To speed up this procedure additional QC markers have been added on the Cu-pattern for *NSW production*.



Before cutting:

The nominal cutting line goes through the center of the pattern



Line /gap width 100 μ m, shift of 50 μ m

After cutting:

The cut chops part of the pattern away and the deviation can be counted by counting lines



One line on the right the full gap in the middle are visible, indicating an $\approx 150\mu$ m shifted cut.

The cut position is checked on the sides and the linearity of the cut is tested by pressing against a rectified bar on an illuminated table.

→ A quick acceptance decision can be taken visually within < 1min.



Electrical properties and Resistivity

QC tests on the electrical properties of the anode boards comprise:

- Insulation test between R/O strips and resistive layer (≈ 4 min)
- Conductivity of the HV-distribution line (≈ 2 min)
- R-mapping of the resistive layer (point-point or point to HV-distr.) (20-30 min)
- ~~Capacitance Measurement between between R/O strips and resistive layer (≈ 2 min)~~

Strong correlation to violated / cut strips. Important test for the functionality of the detector

Turned out to be dominated by fluctuations in R.

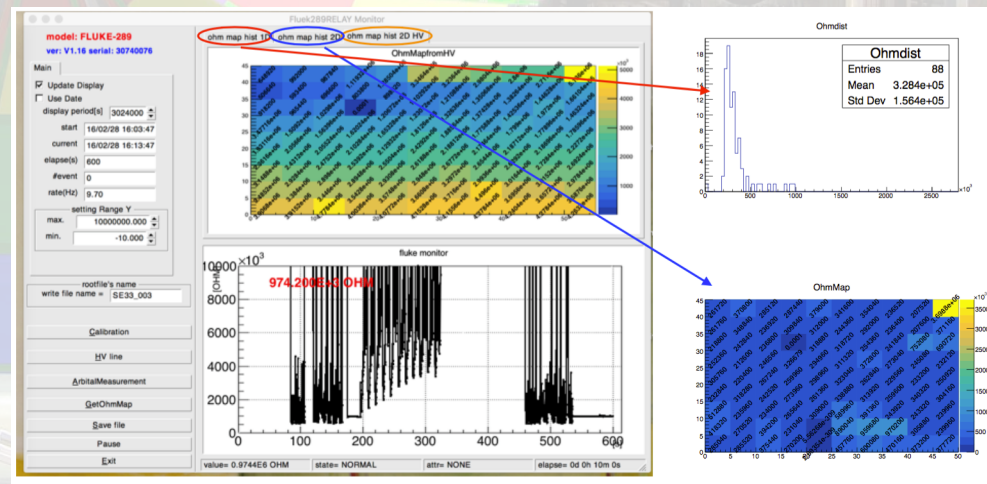
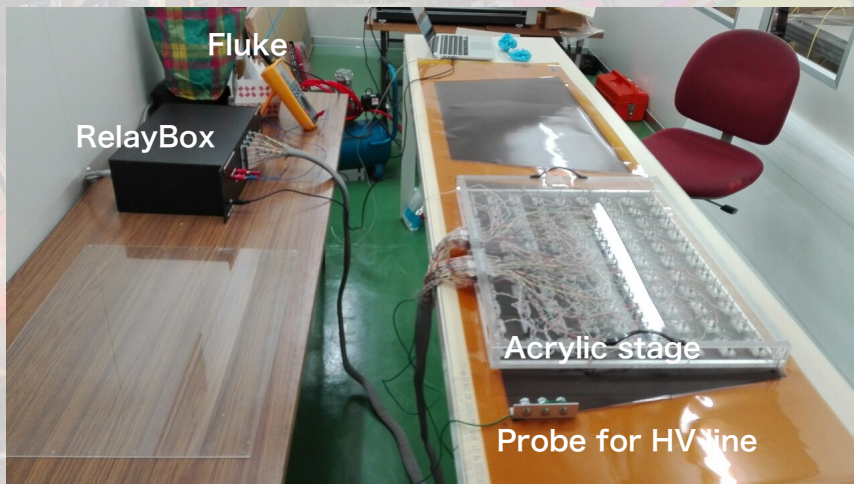
QC tests on the electrical properties of the anode boards comprise:

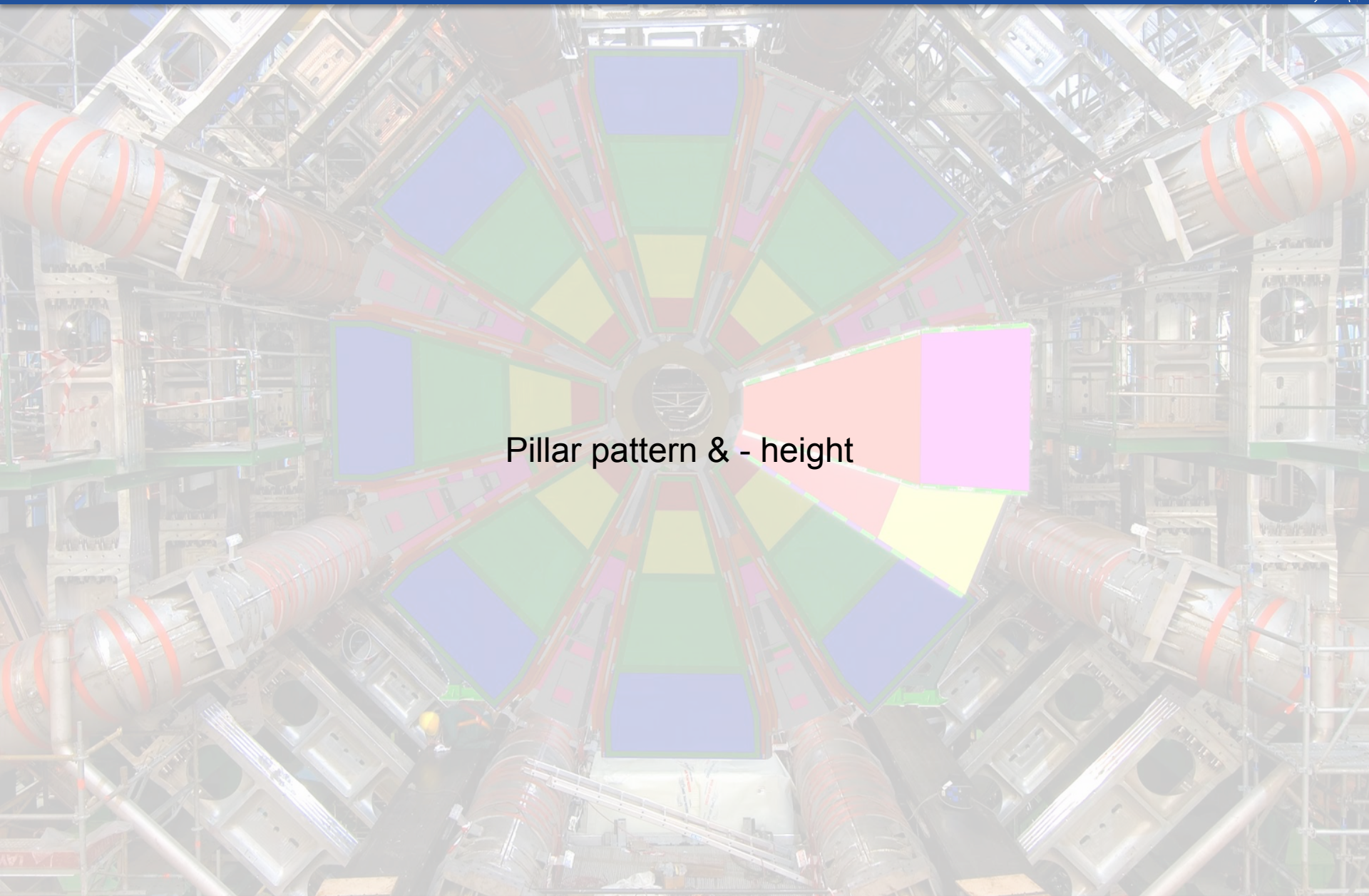
- Insulation test between R/O strips and resistive layer
- Conductivity of the HV-distribution line
- R-mapping of the resistive layer (point-point or point to HV-distr.)
- Capacitance Measurement between between R/O strips and resistive layer

Combined in one measurement

Fruitful collaboration between Kobe (Japan), Würzburg (Germany) and CERN resulted in a very elaborated R-mapping tool & software.

→ < 5 min / foil or board (both mappings)



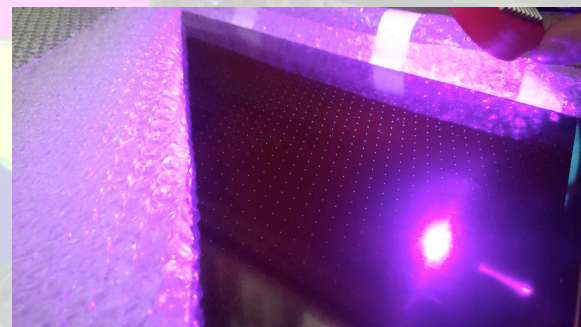
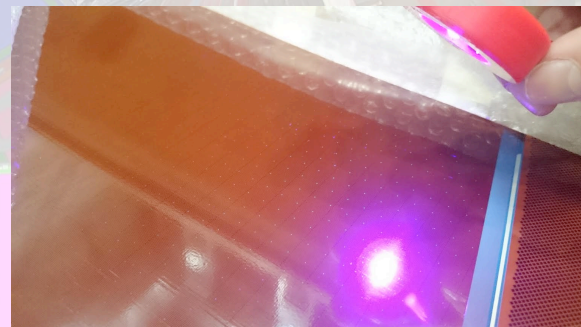


Pillar pattern & - height

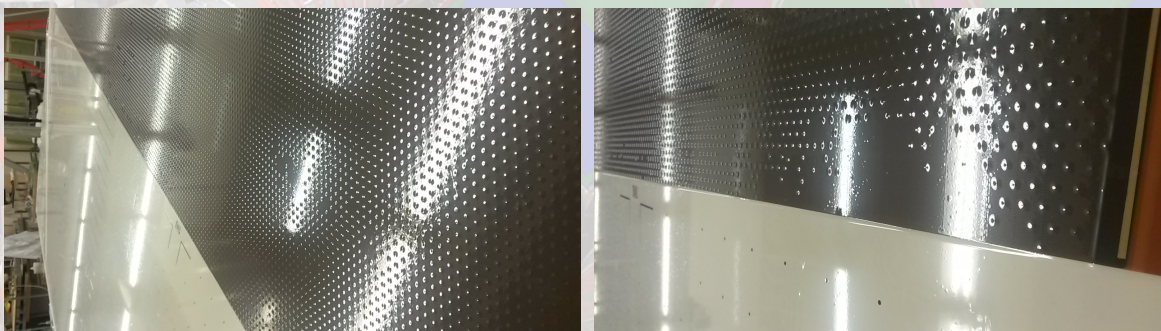
Missing pillars turned out to be one of the major problems during Module-0 PCB production.

Completeness of the pillar pattern can be best checked visually using light reflection.

- The test can be simplified by using **UV-light**.
(requiring darkness, difficult to achieve homogeneous UV illumination over the full PCB surface)
- With normal light, the reflection can be magnified with a foil sucked over the PCB
(vacuum bag / vacuum table)



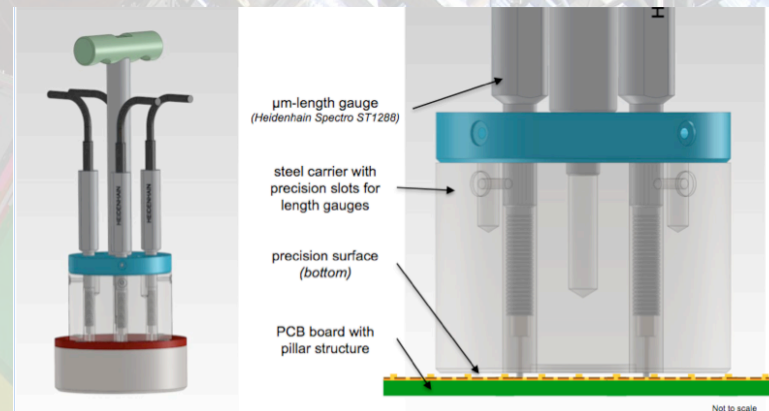
Pillar visibility under UV illumination.



Enhanced visibility of the pillar pattern under a vacuum sucked Mylar foil.

The height of the pillars defined the Micromegas amplification gap and accordingly the gas gain of the chamber.

Few μm variation can have a large impact on the response-homogeneity / efficiency.



The mean pillar height is mapped over the full surface of each board:

Module-0: 3-6min (measurements)
+ 3-4min (data processing)
per board

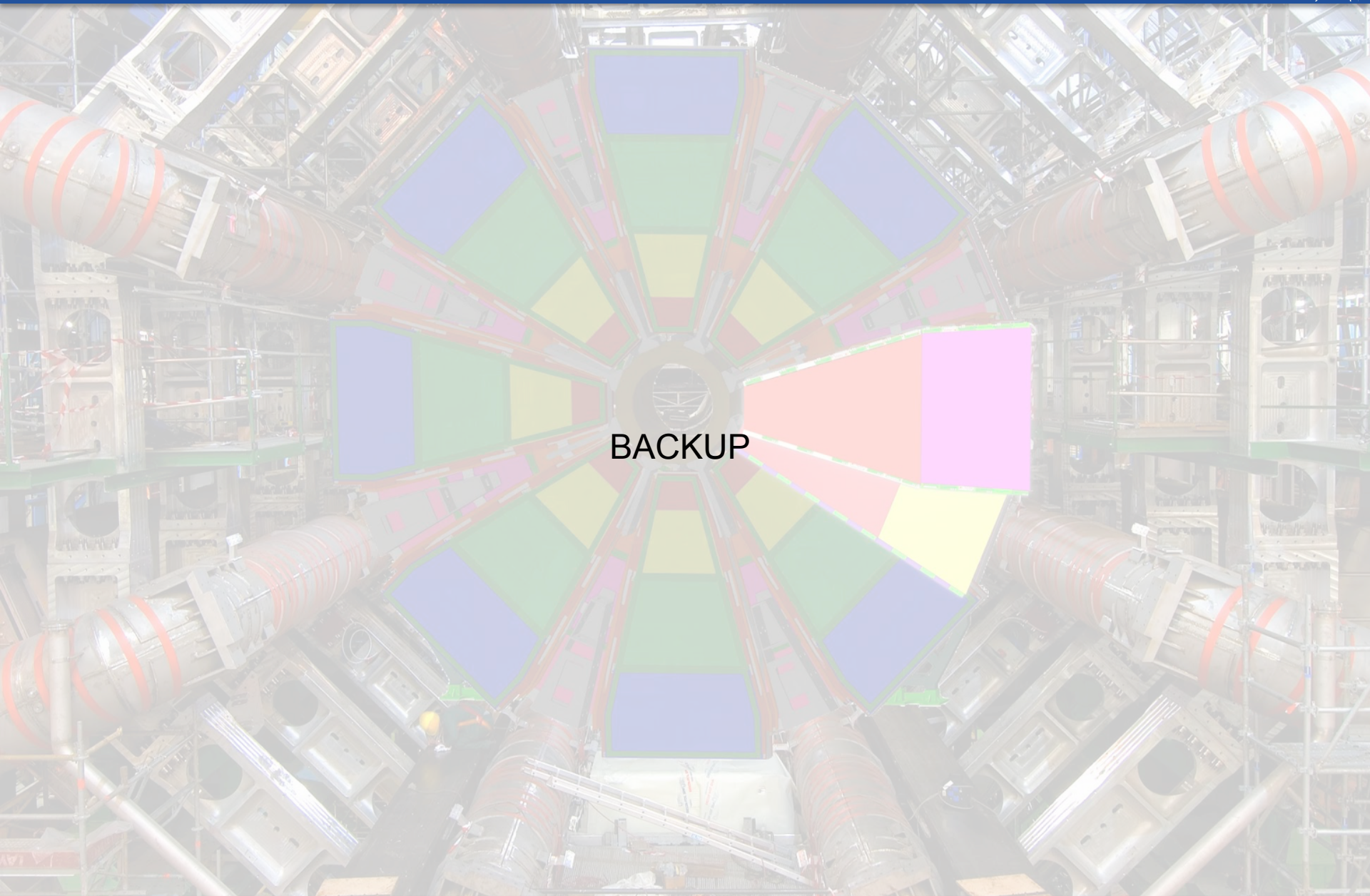
NSW production:

Direct interface between analysis program and measurement tool speeds up the Measurement significantly. (<5min / board)

	L10	L9	L8	L7	L6	L5	L4	L3	L2	L1	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10													
Top					145	123	103	128	141	119	126	125	123	125	124	126	130	124	130	124	130	129	125	130	125	130	127	128	121	128			
Mid-Top					132	142	121	128	117	123	121	121	120	124	123	124	126	123	128	119	124	120	123	128	125	122	122	132	122	125			
Mid-Bottom					131	119	126	119	126	119	123	123	120	125	124	125	125	125	128	121	124	128	123	125	129	124	134	134	124	124			
Bottom					143	120	126	120	124	122	116	120	119	120	125	129	128	127	121	122	127	126	124	120	124	126	124	126	124	124			
					119	126	122	122	118	128	121	135	130	123	126	129	125	121	128	121	124	128	123	125	129	124	134	134	124	124			
					122	126	117	127	121	132	128	131	124	123	124	129	129	104	121	124	123	124	124	123	115	124	114	124	114	124			
					125	126	120	126	123	127	120	126	124	129	126	126	123	122	119	121	124	121	122	117	122	122	122	122	122	122	122		
					123	127	120	125	125	124	126	130	137	142	131	129	126	124	127	124	121	126	127	131	127	128	128	128	128	128	128		
Average L10-L9	Average L8-L7		Average L6-L5		Average L4-L3		Average L2-L1		Average R2-R1		Average R3-R4		Average R5-R6		Average R7-R8		Average R9-R10																
#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	124,6	123,7	125,6	124,1	124,5	124,7	124,7	124,5	124,7	124,5	124,7	124,5	124,7	124,5	124,7	124,5	124,7	124,5	124,7	124,5	124,7	124,5	124,7	124,5	124,7	124,5	124,7	124,5	124,7	
Average L9-L8	Average L7-L6		Average L5-L4		Average L3-L2		Average L1-R1		Average R2-R3		Average R4-R5		Average R6-R7		Average R8-R9		Average R10																
#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	127,2	123,2	124,3	125,8	123,3	124,8	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	125,2	
Average TOP	Average Mid-TOP	Average Mid-Bottom	Average Bottom	Average (excl)	Sigma (excl)	Δ Average top-bottom	Δ Average left-right																										
124,9	124,4	123,7	125,1	124,5	5,5	1,3	4,0																										

Average (excl)	Sigma (excl)	Δ Average top-bottom	Δ Average left-right
124,5 μm	5,5 μm	1,3 μm	4,0 μm

- Module-0 experience has proven very valuable in terms of QC optimization
 - Measurement ideas have been tested (HV insulation, C-measurement...)
 - Visual inspection has become more systematic and ‘more objective’
 - Methods have been optimized (R-measurements, pillar height...)
- Introduction of QC-Markers in the PCB design facilitates QC significantly
- All QC methods/ processes are ‘speeded up’
(≈2h / board for Module-0 → 30-40 min / board envisaged during NSW production)
- Last tools are currently build and will become available in the next months
- Digitalization (+ DB interface) of all processes is ongoing and will be ready before start of NSW mass production.



I. Copper pattern creation by photolithography

→ Standard operation for PCB manufacturer except for board size (length; width is standard)

II. Selective plating on connector pads

→ Standard operation for PCB manufacturer

III. Cutting of Kapton foils with resistive pattern

→ Non-standard operation but not critical (accuracy ± 1 mm)

IV. High pressure Gluing of Kapton foil on the PCB

→ High pressure gluing is part of PCB manufactures, complexity arises from board size and non-standard material (Kapton with resistive pattern)

V. Connection between HV input line and resistive strips (screen printed: silver conductive paste)

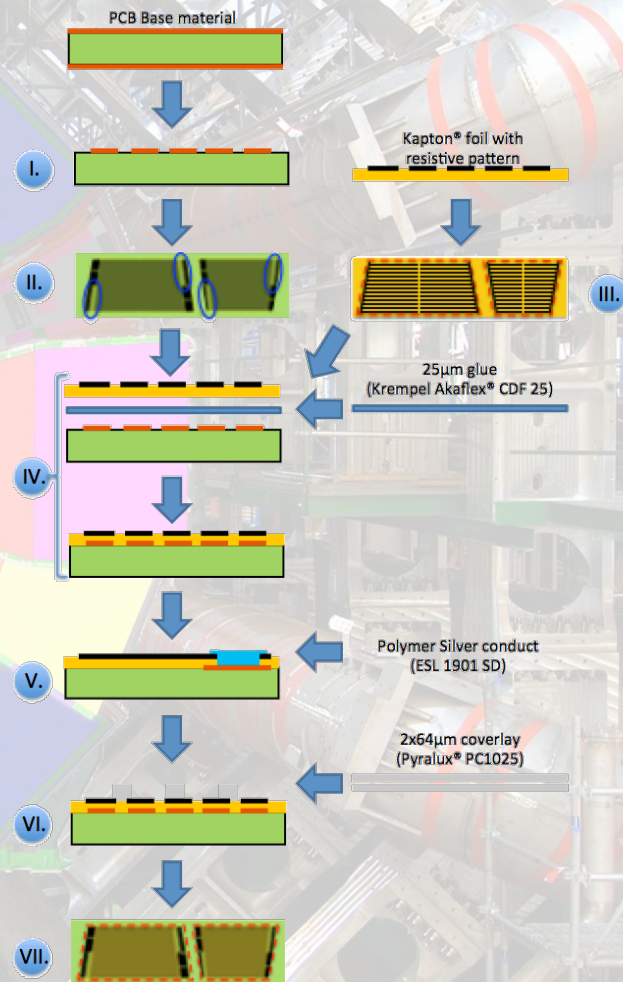
→ Simple operation to be done manually

VI. Pillar creation (2x 64 μ m Pyralux coverlay)

→ Standard operation with a highly ‘non-standard’ pattern (pillars)

VII. Cutting of the boards and drilling of the non-precision holes (holes for mechanical assembly and alignment)

→ Standard operation on CNC machine



Production done in industry – stringent requirements

I. Copper pattern creation by photolithography

- Copper pattern absolute accuracy: $<30\ \mu\text{m}$ for the short side and $<100\ \mu\text{m}/\text{m}$ for the long side
- Line and space accuracy 20% w.r.t. the design file
- Maximum 1% of cut on the copper lines, as long as cuts are not on neighboring lines
- Maximum of 0.1% of shorts between two lines, as long as no more than two successive lines are shorted

II. Selective plating on connector pads

- Layer thickness depending on plating choice: Au/Ag/Pd

III. Cutting of Kapton foils with resistive pattern

- Cutting accuracy shall be better than $\pm 1\text{mm}$

IV. High pressure Gluing of Kapton foil on the PCB

- Alignment accuracy shall be better than $\pm 0.5\text{mm}$

V. Connection between HV input line and resistive strips (screen printed: silver conductive paste)

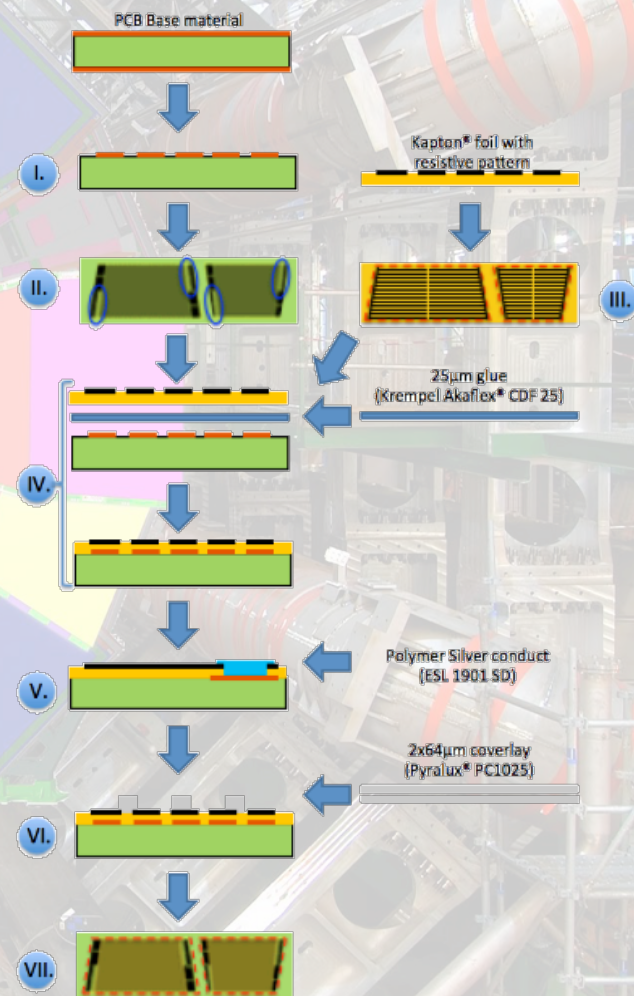
- Position accuracy w.r.t. the copper pattern $< \pm 1\text{mm}$
- Resistance of the silver HV connection line $< 10\ \Omega$

VI. Pillar creation (2x 64 μm Pyralux coverlay)

- Coverlay pattern absolute accuracy $< \pm 1\ \text{mm}$
- Accuracy of the diameter of the pillars $\pm 25\ \mu\text{m}$
- Missing pillars maximum 0,1% of the total number, as long as no neighboring pillars are missing
- Max. 10 extra coverlay structures of a size $< 1\text{mm}$ in each dimension are tolerated per square meter
- The mean height of the coverlay layer / pillars in different 25x25 cm² regions has to be homogeneous on a level of $< 5\ \mu\text{m}$ over the full surface of the board

VII. Cutting of the boards and drilling of the non-precision holes (holes for mechanical assembly and alignment)

- Cutting absolute accuracy w.r.t. the copper pattern shall be better than $\pm 100\ \mu\text{m}$
- Holes absolute position accuracy referring to the copper pattern shall be at least $\pm 100\ \mu\text{m}$



- **Conduct QC tests as fine-meshed as possible**

The complexity of the process and lacking experience of large-area PCB production in industries requires **multiple QC steps** during the different steps of PCB production. This as well avoids unqualified parts to be further processed.

- **Shifting QC as close to industries as possible**

QC/QA shall be performed in industries and by industries personal whenever possible.

This requires setups to be exported to industries which are **reliable** , **simple** and **time efficient to use** and provide accurate and repeatable QC results independent of the testing person.

These requirements lead to largely automatized measurements, minimizing processes involving human handling.

- **Keeping track of QC tests and results**

Giving QC measurements to industries fortifies the need of proper bookkeeping. A database developed centrally by the NSW collaboration will be used to store all the information and results of each QC steps, including visual inspection of components with passed/not passed results.

- **Maintaining QC pressure on industries**

Minimizing the risk of negligent performed test in industries, CERN will requiring the possibility to re-test individual batches. This requires producing **two sets of testing tools** and manpower/responsible to keep track of the production and QA/QC. **Regular visits** to the industry premises are also foreseen to verify the respect of the defined procedures.