

# Beam Loss Monitors



When energetic beam particles penetrates matter, secondary particles are emitted:

this can be  $e^-$ ,  $\gamma$ , protons, neutrons, excited nuclei, fragmented nuclei...

⇒ Spontaneous radiation and permanent activation is produced.

⇒ Large variety of Beam Loss Monitors (**BLM**) depending on the application.

**Protection:** Sensitive devices e.g. super-conducting magnets to prevent quenching  
(energy absorption by electronic stopping)

→ **interlock signal for fast beam abortion.**

**Beam diagnostics:** Alignment of the beam to prevent for activation

→ **optimal transmission to the target.**

**Accelerator physics:** **using these sensitive particle detectors.**

- Several devices are used, depending on particle rate and required time resolution
- Some applications for usage

# Basic Idea of Beam Loss Monitors



## Basic idea for Beam Loss Monitors BLM:

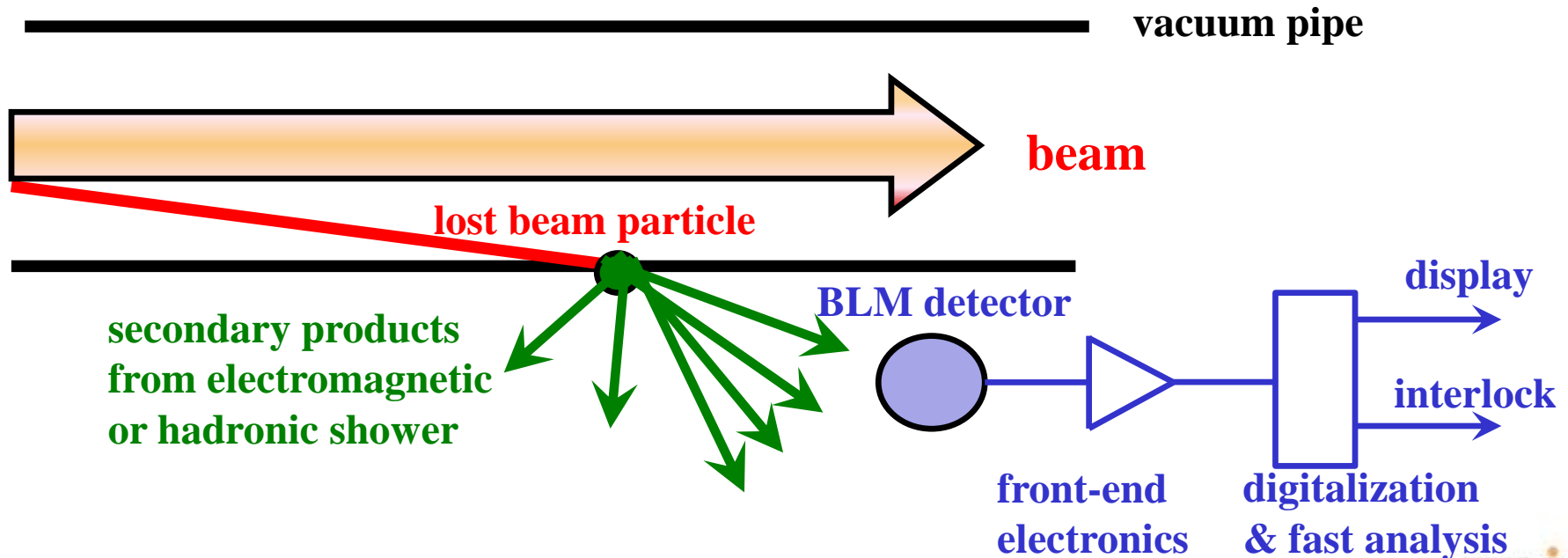
A loss beam particle must collide with the vacuum chamber or other insertions

⇒ Interaction leads to some shower particle:

$e^-$ ,  $\gamma$ , protons, neutrons, excited nuclei, fragmented nuclei

→ detection of these secondaries by an appropriate detector outside of beam pipe

→ relative cheap detector installed at many locations



# Secondary Particle Production for Electron Beams



## Processes for interaction of electrons

For  $E_{kin} > 100$  MeV:

Bremsstrahlungs-photon dominated

$\Rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$  or  $\mu^\pm, \pi^\pm$  ....

$\rightarrow$  electro-magnetic showers

$\Rightarrow$  excitation of

nuclear giant resonances  $E_{res} \approx 6$  MeV

via  $(\gamma, n)$ ,  $(\gamma, p)$  or  $(\gamma, np)$

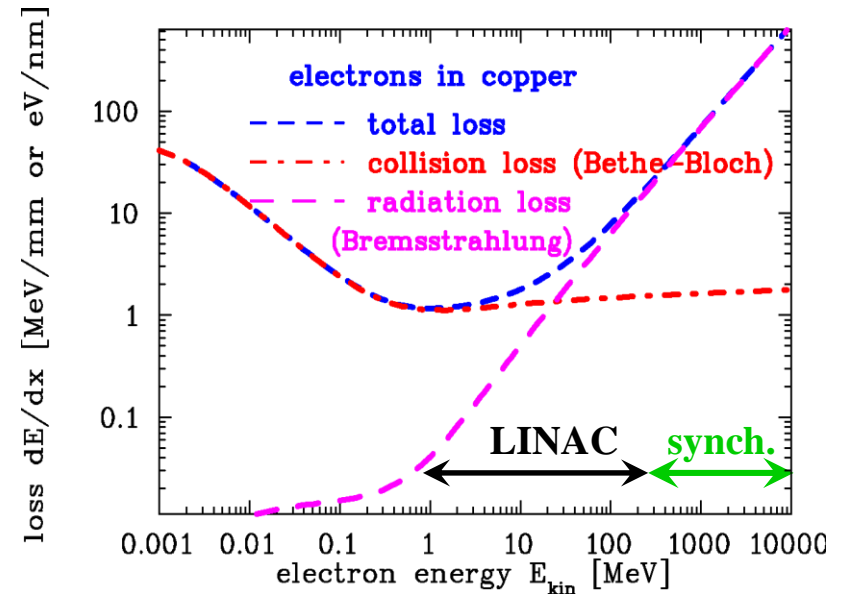
$\rightarrow$  fast neutrons emitted

$\rightarrow$  neutrons: Long ranges in matter  
due to lack of ele.-mag. interaction.

For  $E_{kin} < 10$  MeV:

$\Rightarrow$  only electronic stopping

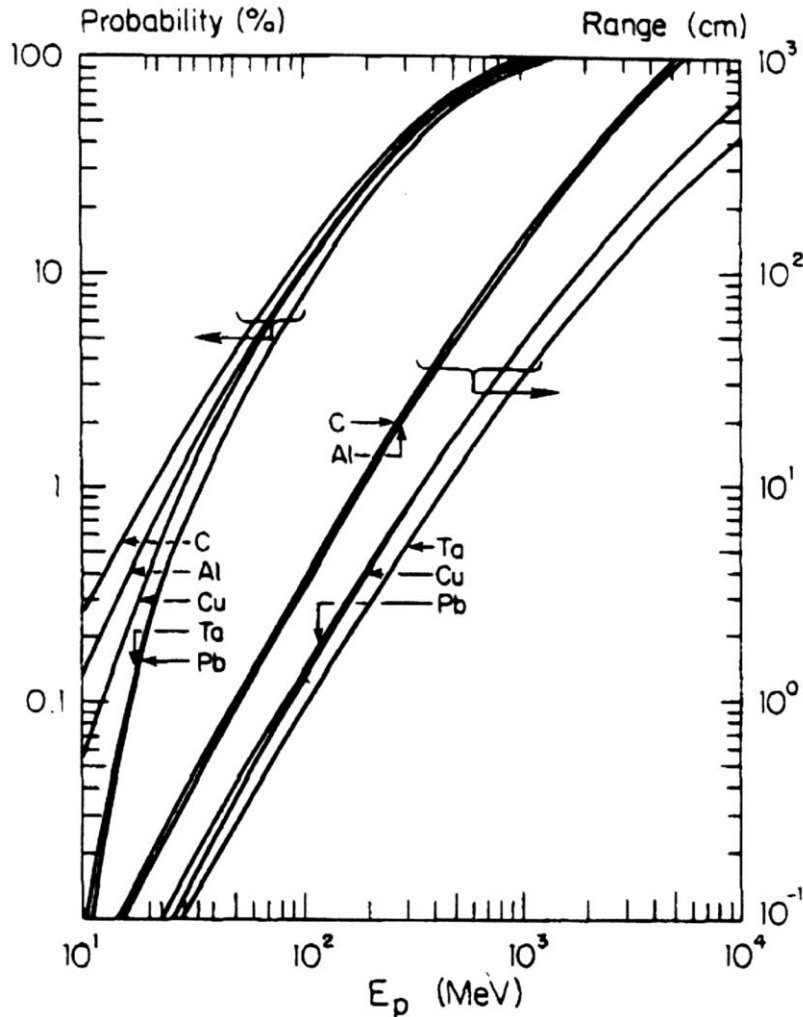
(x-rays, slow  $e^-$ ).



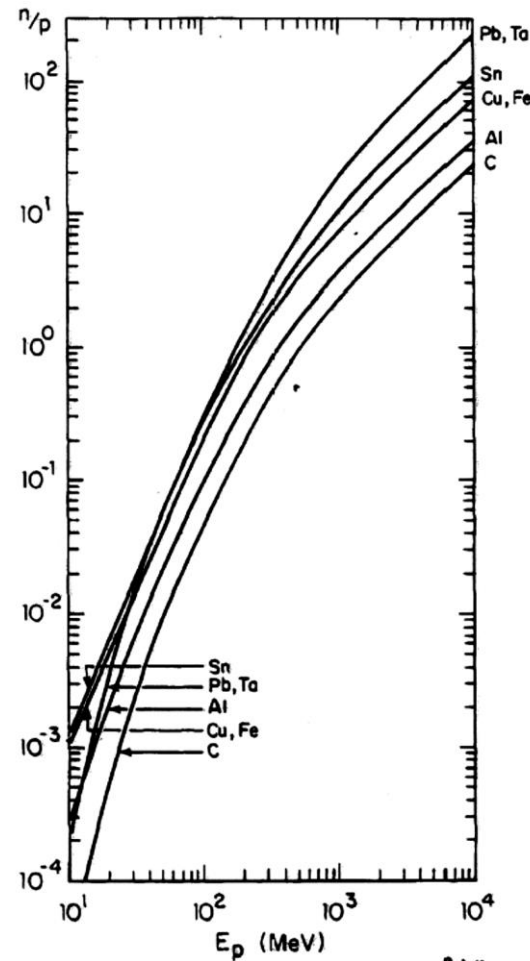
# Secondary Particle Production for Proton Beams



*Nuclear reaction probability:*



*Neutron yield per proton:*

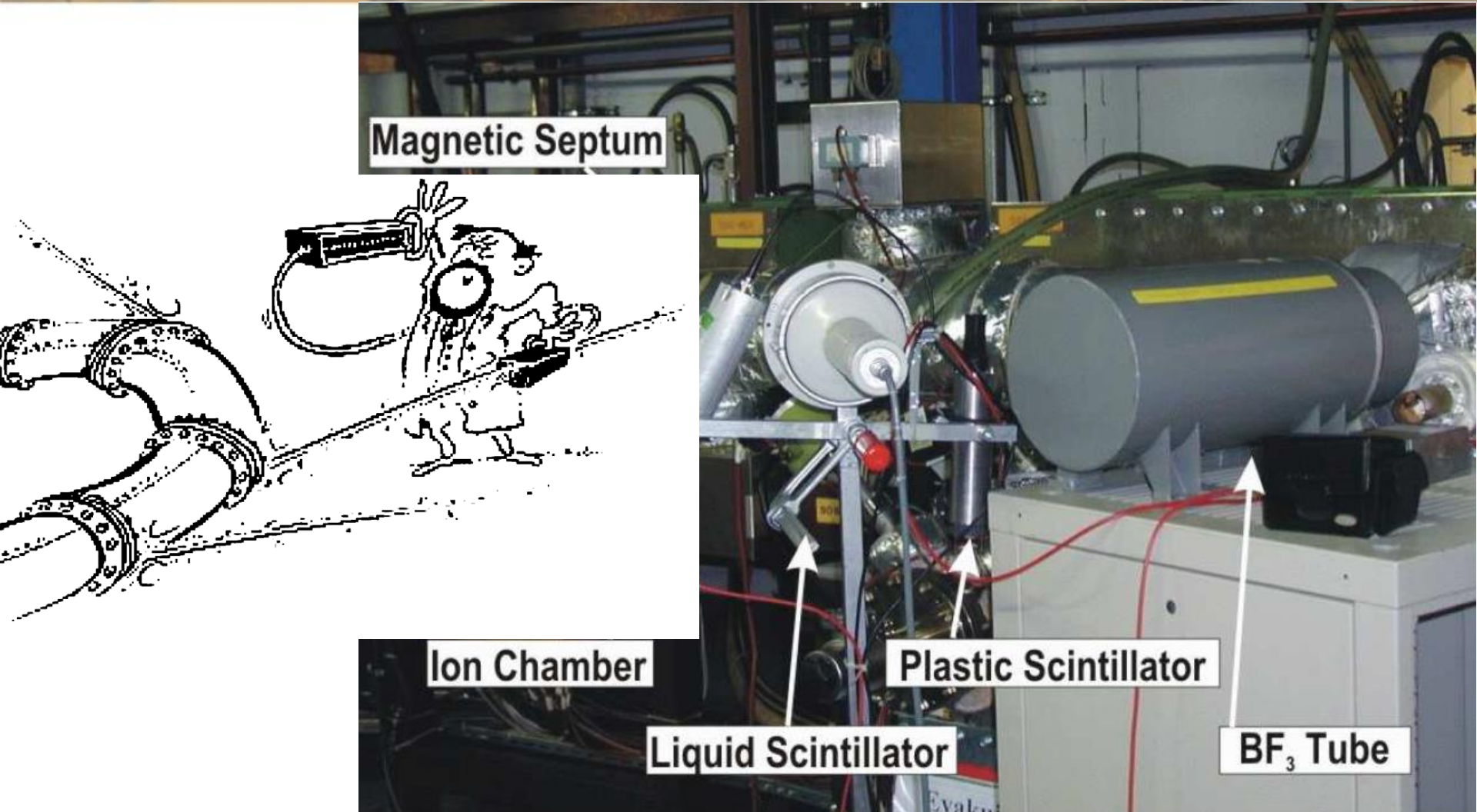


***Thick target:***

Penetration depth  
comparable to range  
→ different types of  
nuclear reaction .

⇒ high rate of neutron with broad energy and angular distribution.

# Various Beam Loss Monitors at the GSI-Synchrotron





## Outline:

- Physical process from beam-wall interaction
- **Different types of Beam Loss Monitors**  
**different methods for various beam parameters**
- Machine protection using BLMs
- Summary

# Scintillators as Beam Loss Monitors



## Plastics or liquids are used:

- detection of **charged particles**  
by electronic stopping
- detection of **neutrons**  
by elastic collisions n on p in plastics  
and fast p electronic stopping.

## Scintillator + photo-multiplier:

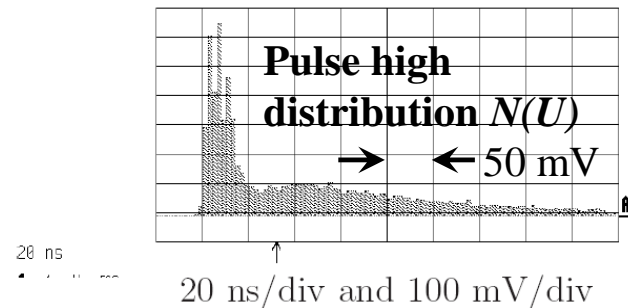
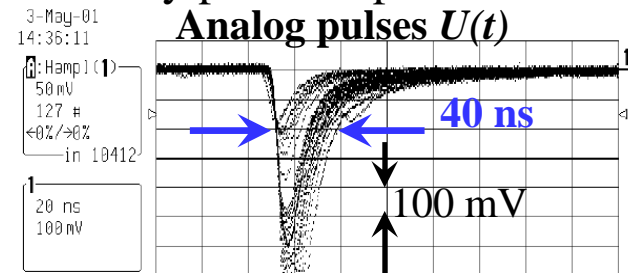
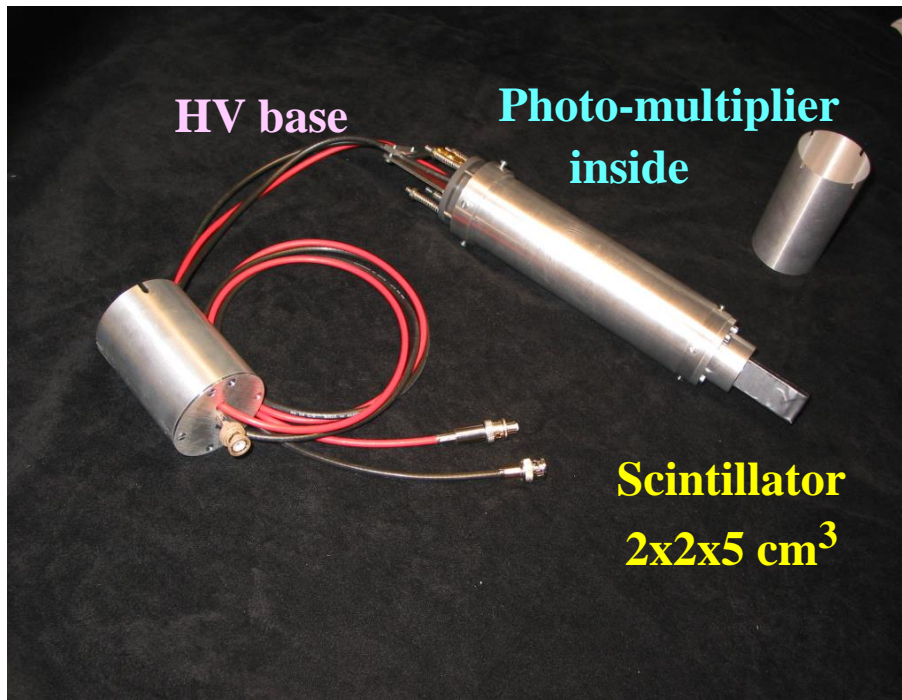
counting (large PMT amplification)  
or analog voltage ADC (low PMT amp.).

Radiation hardness:

plastics 1 Mrad =  $10^4$  Gy

liquid 10 Mrad =  $10^5$  Gy

*Example:* Analog pulses of plastic scintillator:  
⇒ broad energy spectrum  
due to many particle species and energies.



# Low Current Measurement: Particle Detectors



Electronic **solid state amplifier** have finite noise contribution

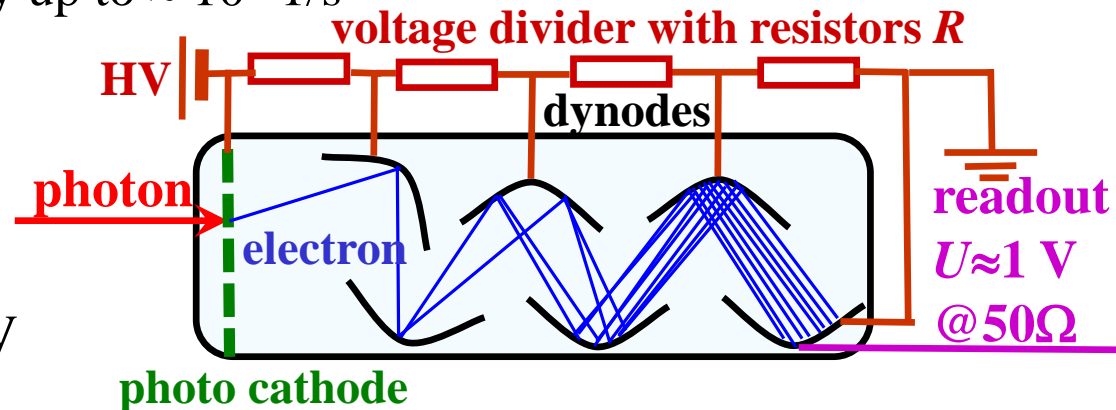
Theoretical limit:  $U_{eff} = \sqrt{4k_B \cdot R \cdot \Delta f \cdot T}$

Signal-to-Noise ratio limits the minimal detectable current

**Idea:** Amplification of single particles with photo-multiplier, sec. e<sup>-</sup> multiplier or MCPs and particle counting typically up to  $\approx 10^6$  1/s

Scheme of a photo-multiplier:

- Photon hits photo cathode
- Secondary electrons are acc. to next dynode  $\Delta U \approx 100$  V
- Typ. 10 dynodes  $\Rightarrow 10^6$  fold amplification



**Advantage:** no thermal noise due to electro static acceleration  
Typical 1 V signal output





# PIN-Diode (Solid State Detector) as BLM

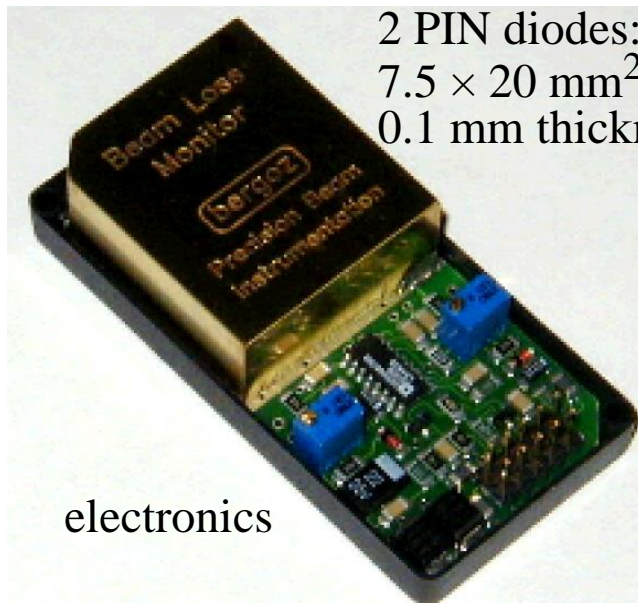


Solid-state detector: Detection of charged particles.

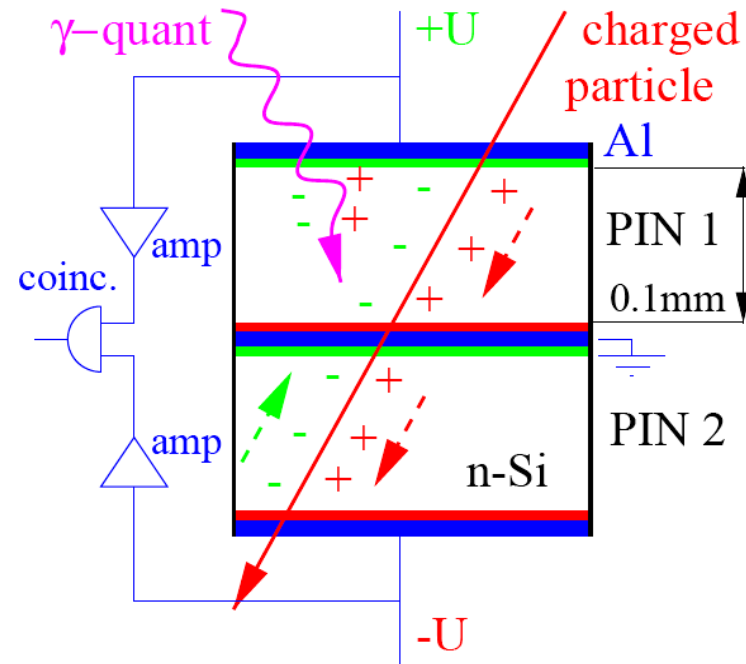
## Working principle

- About  $10^4$  e<sup>-</sup>-hole pairs are created by a Minimum Ionizing Particle (MIP).
- A coincidence of the two PIN reduces the background due to low energy photons.
- A counting module is used with threshold value comparator for alarming.

→ **small and cheap detector.**



2 PIN diodes:  
 $7.5 \times 20 \text{ mm}^2$   
0.1 mm thickness.



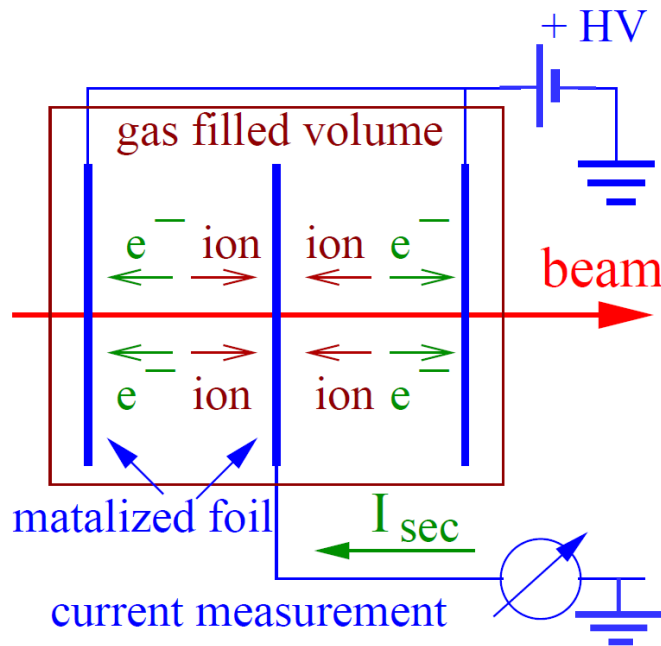
# Excuse: Ionization Chamber (IC)



Energy loss of charged particles in gases → electron-ion pairs → low current meas.

$$I_{\text{sec}} = \frac{1}{W} \cdot \frac{dE}{dx} \Delta x \cdot I_{\text{beam}}$$

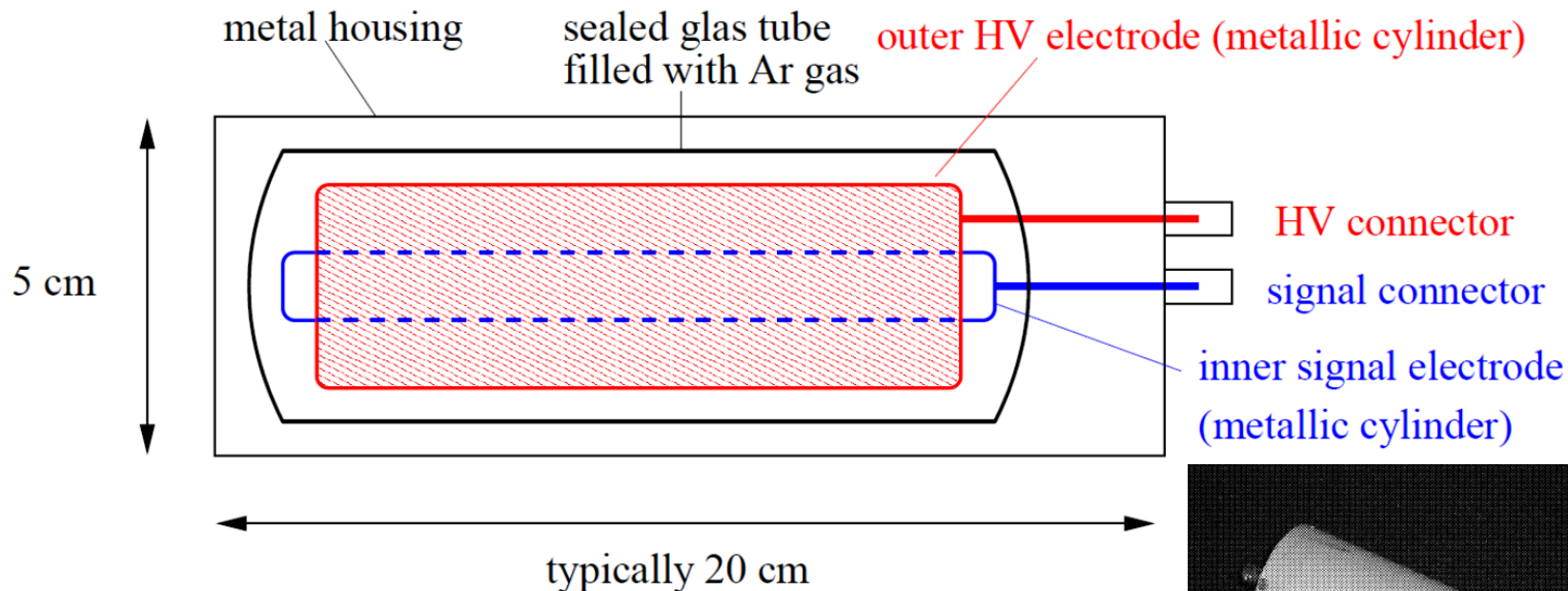
$W$  is average energy for one  $e^-$ -ion pair:



Gas	Ionization Potential [eV]	W-Value [eV]
He	24.5	41.3
Ar	15.7	26.4
H <sub>2</sub>	15.6	36.5
N <sub>2</sub>	15.5	34.8
O <sub>2</sub>	12.5	30.8
CH <sub>4</sub>	14.5	27.3
Air		33.8

# Ionization Chamber as BLM

## Main detection of charged particles



### Sealed tube Filled with Ar or N<sub>2</sub> gas:

- Creation of Ar<sup>+</sup>-e<sup>-</sup> pairs, average energy  $W=32$  eV/pair
- measurement of this current
- Slow time response due to 100  $\mu$ s drift time of Ar<sup>+</sup>.

**Per definition: direct measurement of dose.**



# Ionization Chamber as BLM: TEVATRON and CERN Type



## TEVATRON, RHIC type

20cm,  $\varnothing$  6 cm

Ar at 1.1 bar

three

1000 V

3  $\mu$ s

**size**

**gas**

**# of electrodes**

**voltage**

**reaction time**

**# at the synchr.**

**aver. distance**

## CERN type

50 cm,  $\varnothing$  9 cm

N<sub>2</sub> at 1.1 bar

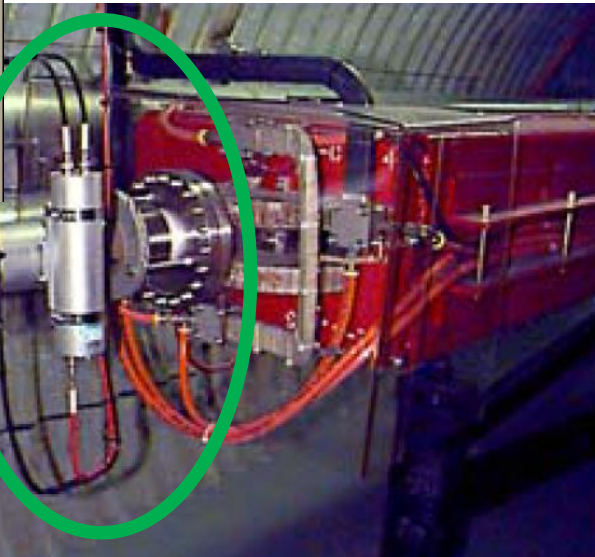
61

1500 V

0.3  $\mu$ s

4000 at LHC

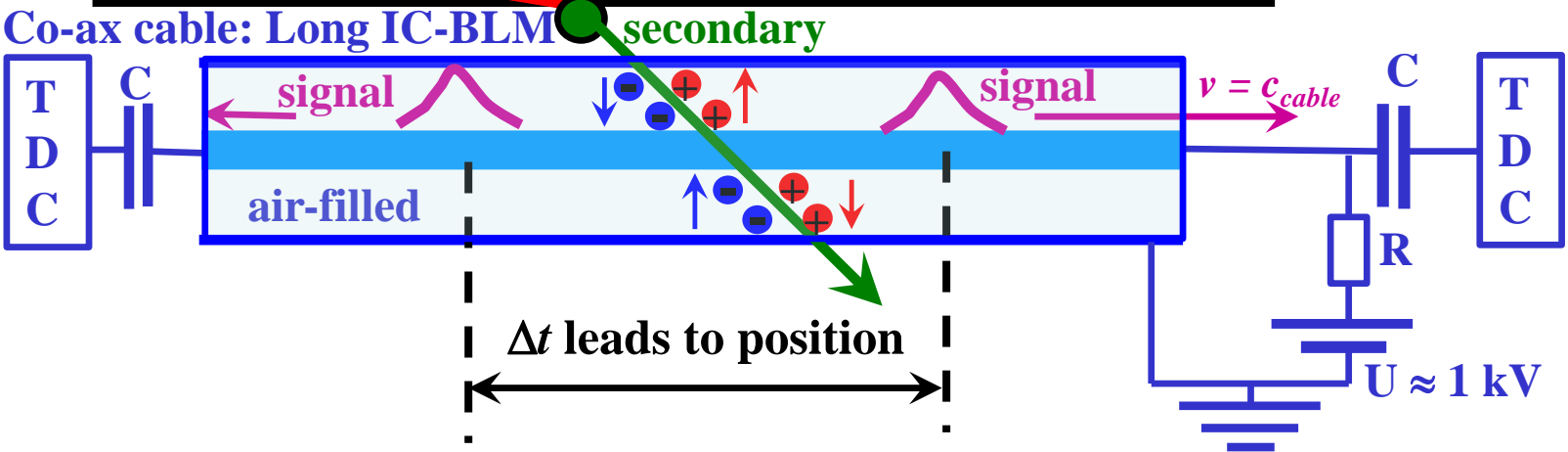
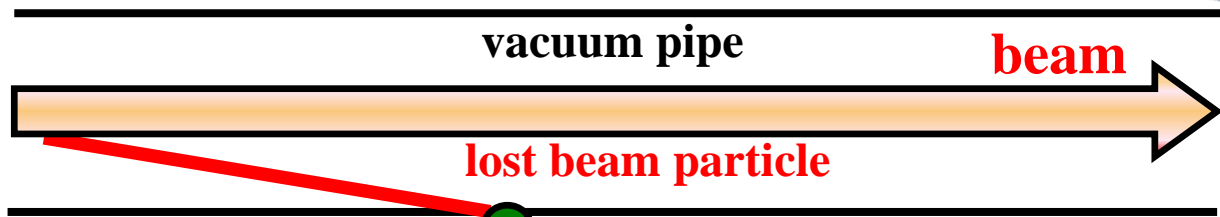
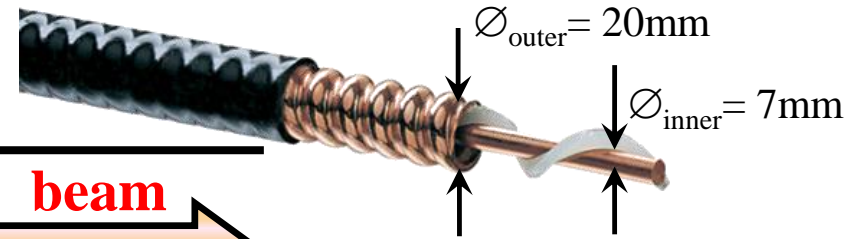
1 BLM each  $\approx$  6 m



# The long, cable-based Ionization Chamber



An air-filled ionization chamber IC can be realized by a cheap, air-filled co-axial cable: **Air-filled co-ax cable** e.g. Andrew HJ4.5-50

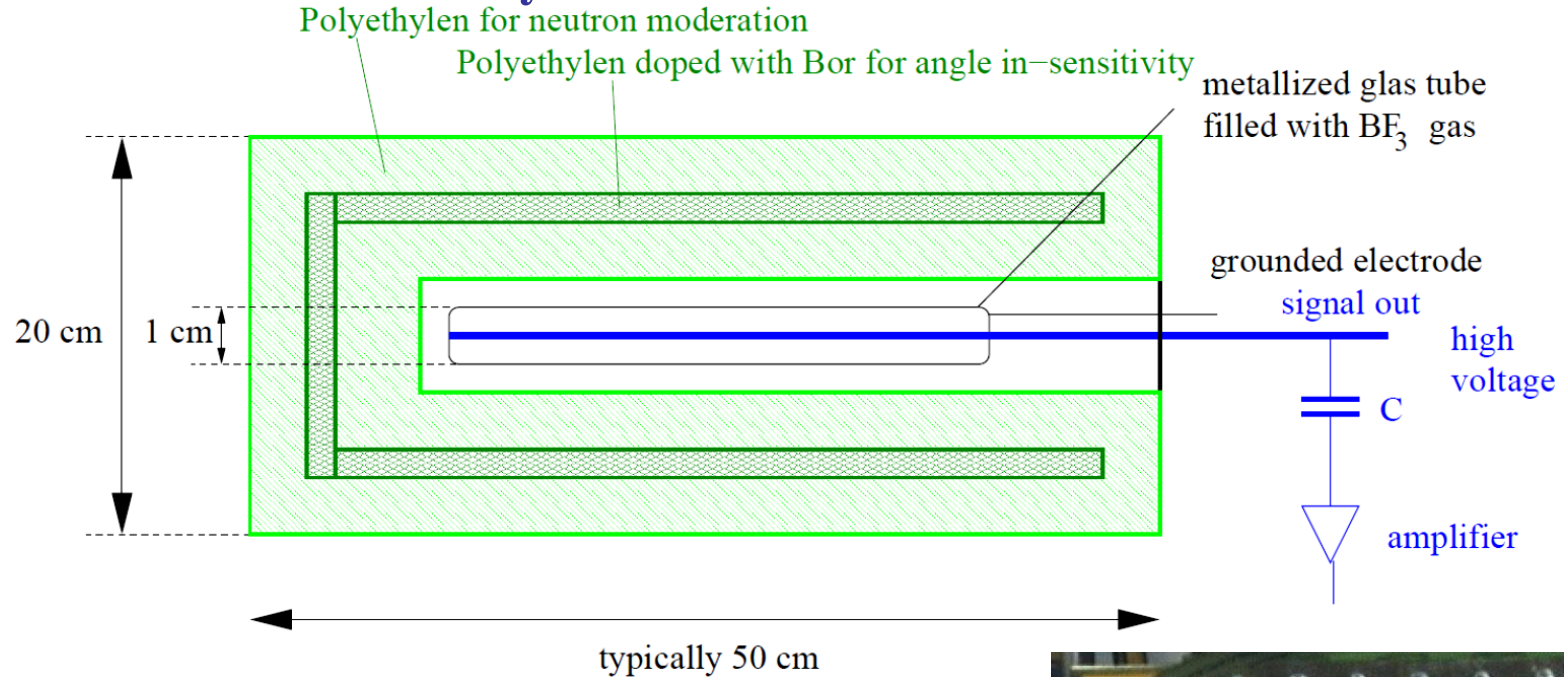


Realization: long cable along beam line  $\Rightarrow$  spatial resolution via time-of-flight measurement: determination of signal arrival at both ends leads to  $\Delta t$   
 typical signal resolution of time-of-flight  $\Delta t \approx 10 \text{ ns} \Rightarrow$  position resolution  $\Delta x = c_{cable} \cdot \Delta t = 1.5 \text{ m}$

**Advantage of long IC:** cheap, good spatial resolution

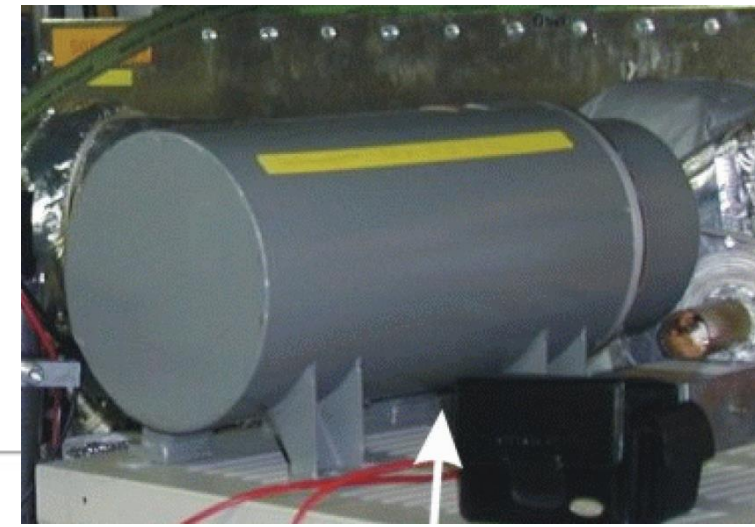
# BF<sub>3</sub> Proportional Tubes as BLM

## Detection of neutrons **only**.



## Physical processes of signal generation:

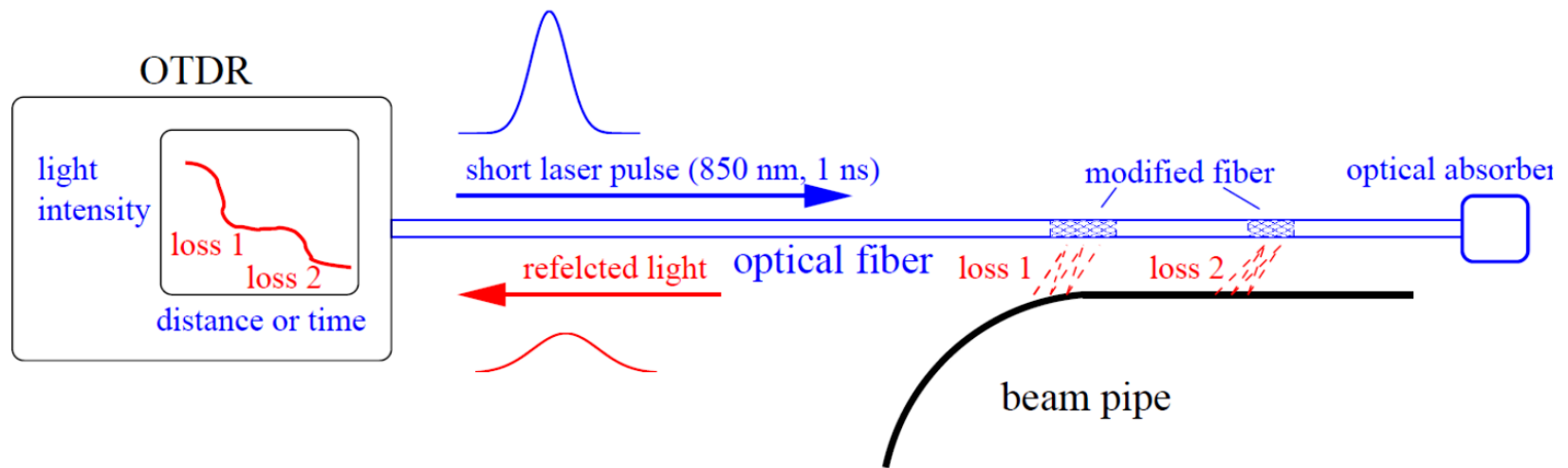
1. Slow down of fast neutrons by elastic collisions with p
2. Nuclear reaction inside BF<sub>3</sub> gas in tube:  
$$^{10}\text{B} + \text{n} \rightarrow ^7\text{Li} + \alpha \text{ with } Q = 2.3 \text{ MeV.}$$
3. Electronic stopping of <sup>7</sup>Li and α leads to signal.



# Optical Fibers as BLM



Modification of fiber material is used as a measure of dose.



- several km long fibers (cheap due to use in tele-communication)
- 1 ns infra-red laser pulse
- OTDR (optical time domain reflector):  
time and amplitude of reflected light  $\Rightarrow$  location of modification.

## Example for Optical Fibers BLM



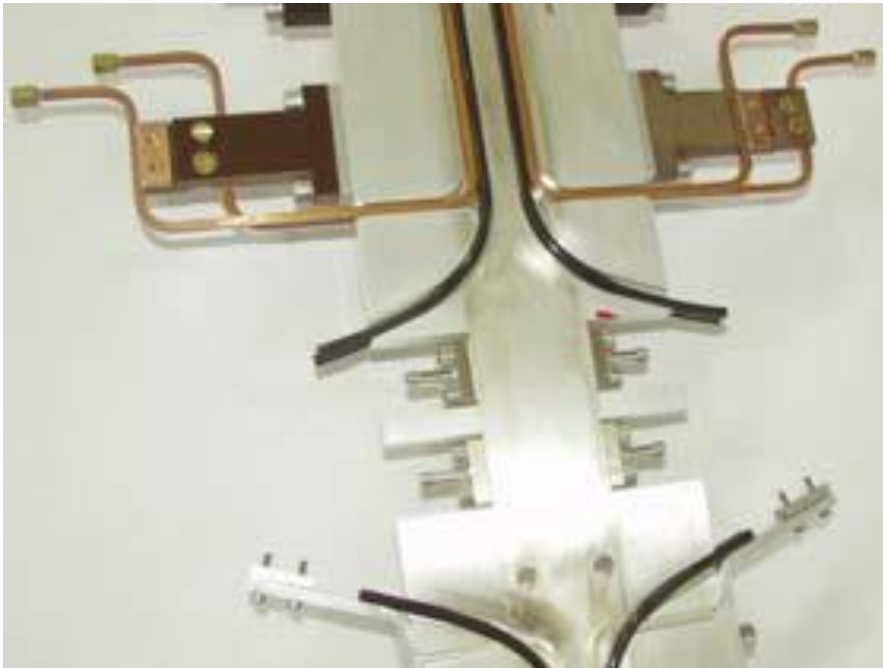
**Advantage of optical fibers:** Good spatial resolution with *one* detector

→ Installation parallel to beam pipe

→ low distance to loss

⇒ high solid angle for small volume

*Example:* Beam pipe of undulator at FLASH



Alternative detection principle:  
Cherenkov light by fast transversing particle



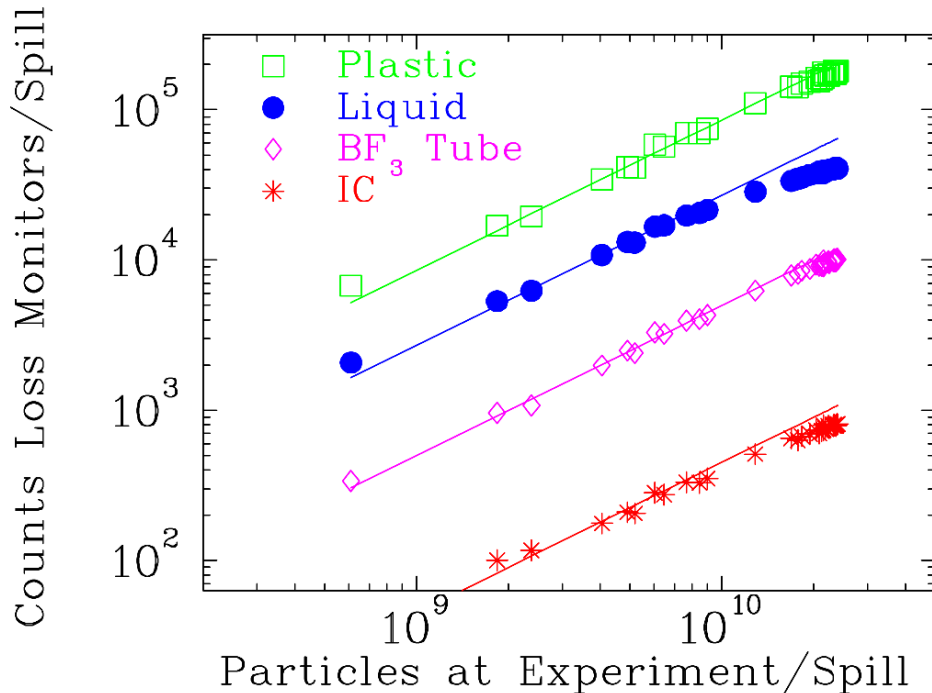


# Comparison of different Types of BLMs



Different detectors are sensitive to various physical processes.

**Example:** Beam loss for 800 MeV/u O<sup>8+</sup>  
with different BLMs at GSI-synchr.:



⇒ Linear behavior for all detectors  
but quite different count rate:

$$r_{\text{IC}} < r_{\text{BF}_3} < r_{\text{liquid}} < r_{\text{plastic}}$$



## Outline:

- **Physical process from beam-wall interaction**
- **Different types of Beam Loss Monitors**  
different methods for various beam parameters
- **Machine protection using BLMs**  
**interlock generation for beam abort**
- **Summary**

# Machine Protection Issues for BLM



Losses lead to permanent activation  $\Rightarrow$  maintenance is hampered  
and to material heating (vacuum pipe, super-cond. magnet etc.)  $\Rightarrow$  destruction.

## Types of losses:

- **Irregular** or fast losses by malfunction of devices (magnets, cavities etc.)  
→ BLM as online control of the accelerator functionality and **interlock generation**.
- **Regular** or slow losses e.g. by lifetime limits or due to collimator  
→ BLM used for alignment.

## Demands for BLM:

- **High sensitivity** to detect behavior of beam halo e.g. at collimator
- **Large dynamic range:**
  - low signal during normal operation, but large signal in case of malfunction
  - detectable without changing the full-scale-range  
e.g. scintillators from  $10^2$  1/s up to  $10^7$  1/s in counting mode.

Monitoring of loss rate in control room *and* as interlock signal for beam abortion.

# Application: BLMs for Quench-Protection



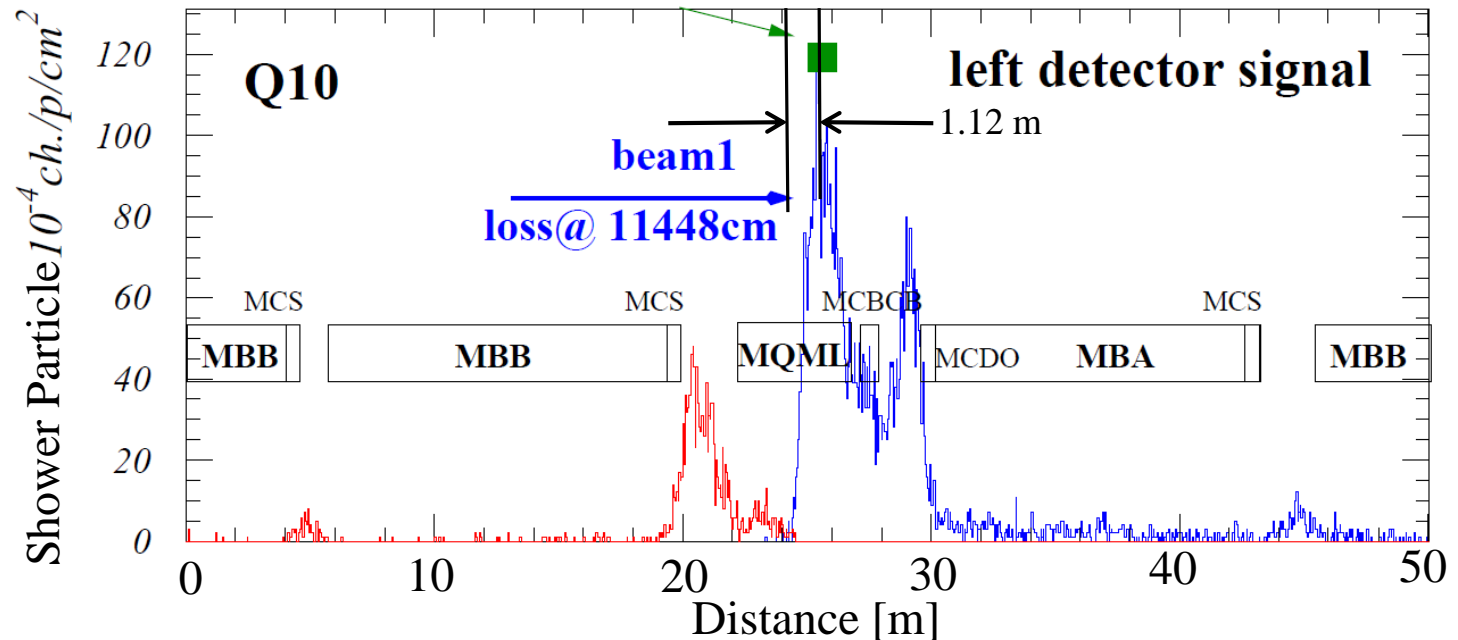
Super-conducting magnets can be heated above critical temperature  $T_c$  by the lost beam  
⇒ breakdown of super-conductivity = 'quenching'

⇒ Interlock within 1 ms for beam abortion generated by BLM.

Position of detector at quadrupoles due to maximal beam size.

High energy particles leads to a shower in forward direction → Monte-Carlo simulation.

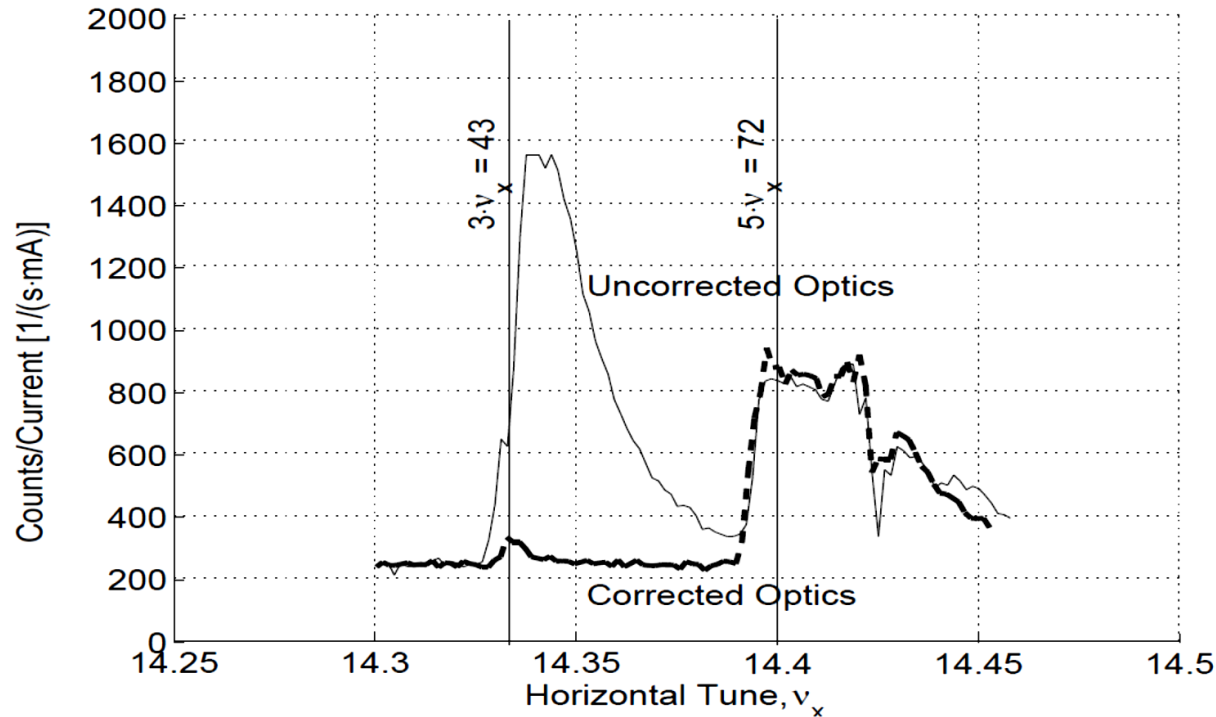
*Example:* LHC proton beam at 7 TeV: **shower maximum @ 11560cm**



# Application: BLMs for optimal Tune Alignment



**Example:** Loss rate at a scraper inside the synchrotron as a function of the tune (i.e. small changes of quadrupole setting):

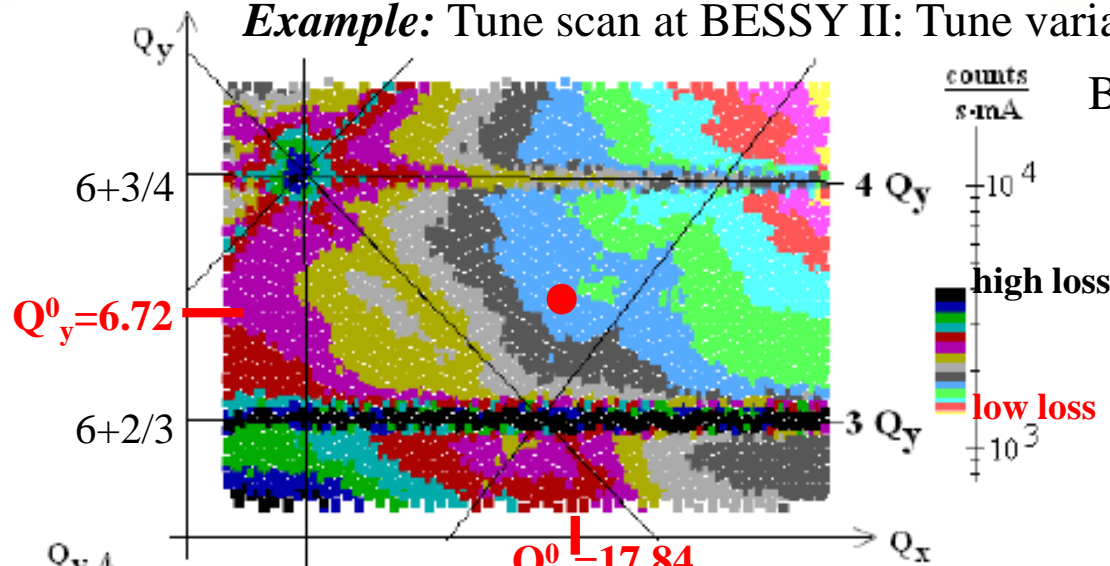


Beam blow-up by weak resonances can be avoided by proper tune value  
→ very sensitive device for optimization.

# Application: BLMs for optimal Tune Alignment

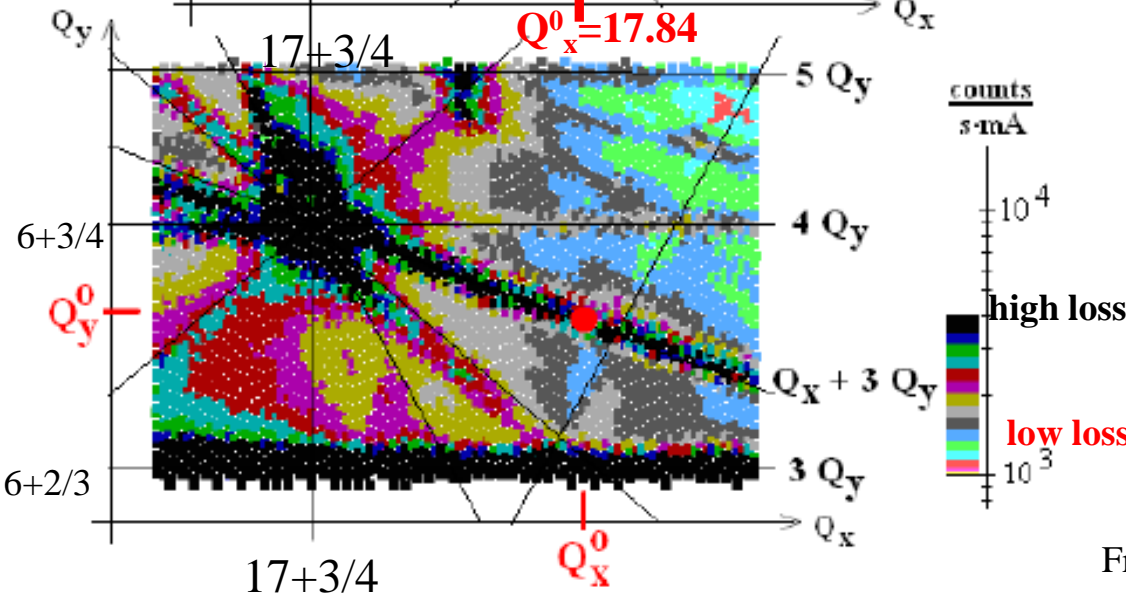


*Example:* Tune scan at BESSY II: Tune variation & determination of losses



BLM: Plastic scintillator & PMT

Loss rate with **open** undulator  
 → low loss (=long lifetime)  
 at working point  $Q_x^0, Q_y^0$



Loss rate with **closed** undulator  
 (16mm, 6T)  
 → high loss (=long lifetime)  
 → excitation of coupling resonance  
 → working point must be modified

From P. Kuske et al., DIPAC 2001 and PAC 2001

# Summary Beam Loss Monitors



## Measurement of the lost fraction of the beam:

- detection of secondary products
- sensitive particle detectors are used outside the vacuum
- cheap installations used at many locations

**Used as interlock in all high current machines for protection.**

**Additionally used for sensitive ‘loss studies’.**

## Depending on the application different types are used:

### Frequently used:

- **Scintillators:** very sensitive, fast response, largest dynamics, not radiation hard
- **PIN diode:** insensitive, fast response, not radiation hard, cheap
- **IC:** medium sensitive, slow response, radiation hard, cheap, absolute measurement of dose

### Used for special application:

- **(Electron Multiplier:** medium sensitive, fast response, radiation hard)
- **BF<sub>3</sub> tube:** only neutrons, slow response, radiation hard, expensive
- **Optical fibers:** insensitive, very slow, radiation hard, very high spatial resolution.