

# Gas scintillation Glass GEM detector for high-resolution X-ray imaging and CT

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5th International Conference on Micro-Pattern Gas Detectors (MPGD2017)

# Summary of this work

## 1. *Developing X-ray imager for low energy X-rays (5 keV ~ 40keV)*

- For imaging low Z material
- Deposits small energy to detector

## 2. *Using gas for medium to detect X-rays.*

- Large in volume, cost effective
- Low detection efficiency, low spatial resolution

## 3. *Using “**Glass GEM (gas electron multiplier)**” for electron multiplication.*

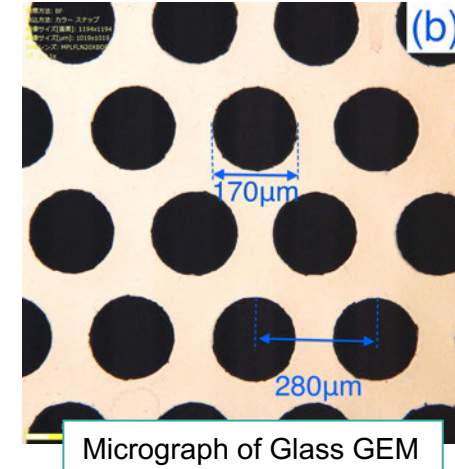
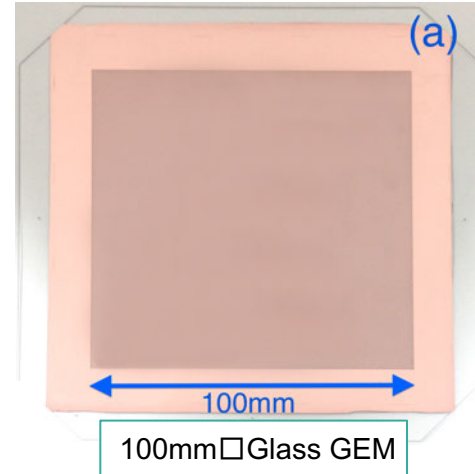
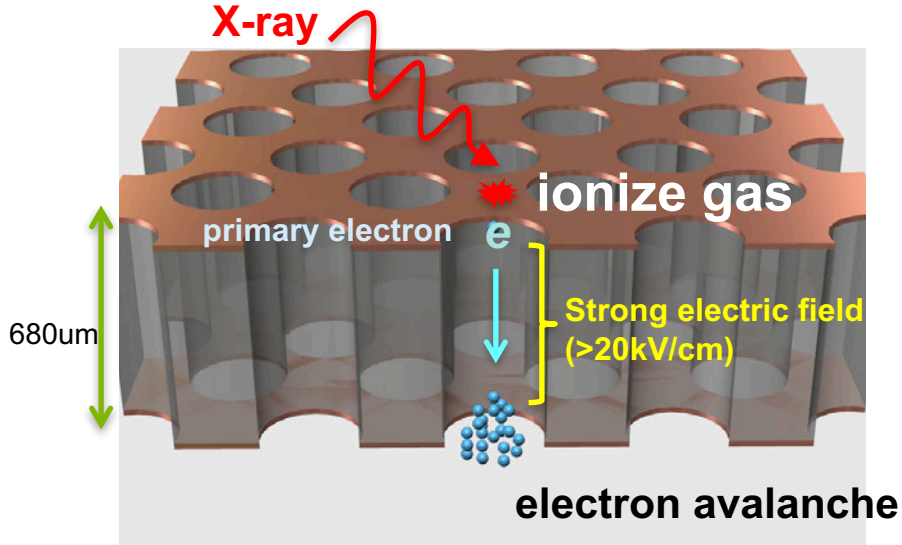
- High gain
- Enables rapid imaging ( $\approx$ image intensifier, MCP)

## 4. *Optical readout with scintillating gas.*

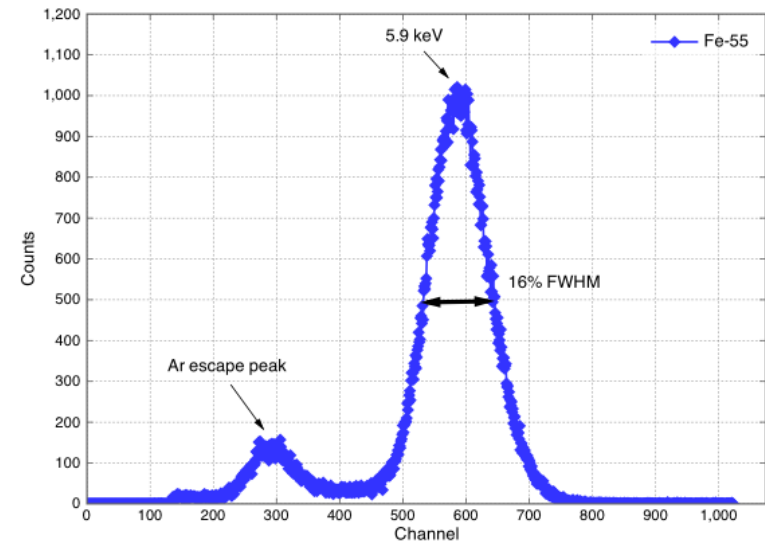
- Simple and powerful.

**New digital imaging device based on gaseous detector**  
“Scintillating Glass GEM”

# X-ray detection scheme with Glass GEM



- ▶ We fabricated a new type of Gas Electron Multiplier (GEM)<sup>[1]</sup> with “glass substrate” (Glass GEM)<sup>[2]</sup>
- ▶ Electron multiplication in each tiny holes
- ▶ Gas is used for medium to detect X-rays
- ▶ Small amount of primary charge are multiplied to  $10^3 \sim 10^5$
- ▶ Able to detect low energy depositing radiation
- ▶ Gas is cost effective, uniform, and easy to fabricate large in volume



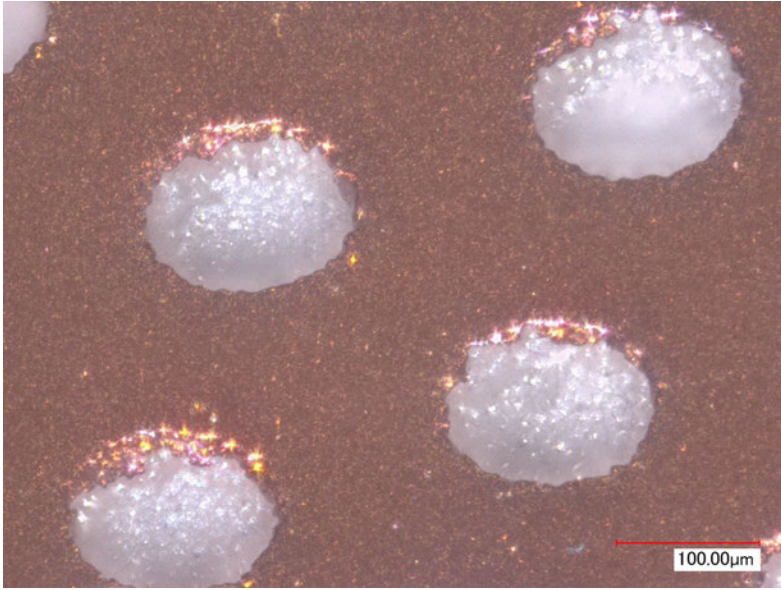
5.9keV Energy spectrum obtained with Glass GEM  
Energy resolution was 16% (FWHM) with uniform irradiation (gas gain =  $1 \times 10^4$ )<sup>[3]</sup>

[1] F. Sauli, NIM A, vol. 386, no. 2, pp. 531–534, (1997)

[2] H. Takahashi, et al., NIM A, vol. 724, pp. 1–4, (2013)

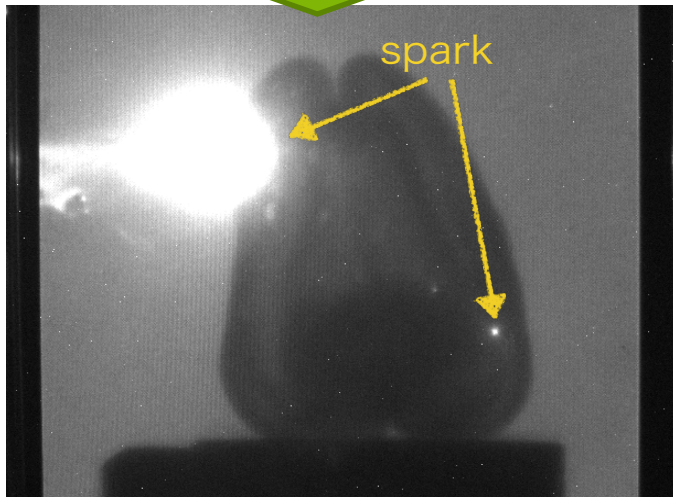
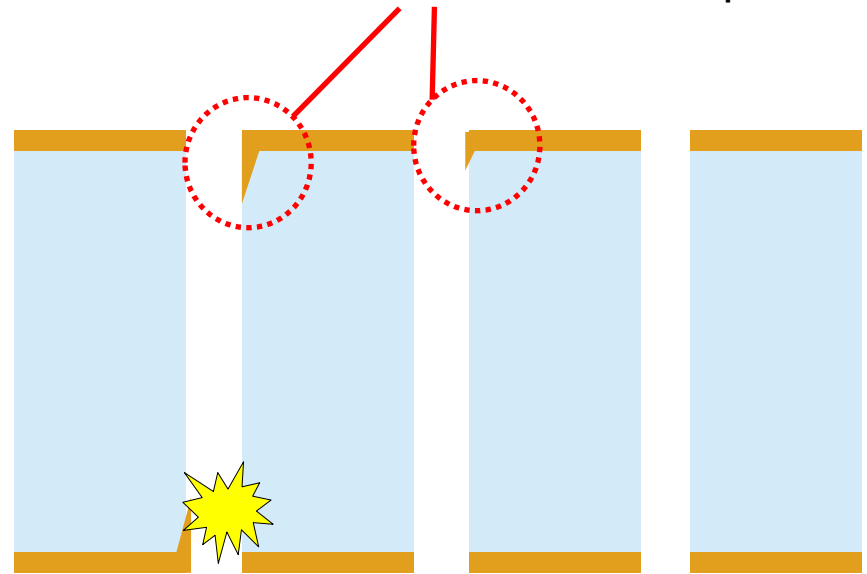
[3] T. Fujiwara, et al., JINST, vol. 9, pp. 11007 - 11007, (2014)

# Avoid sparks



Micrograph of early Glass GEM.

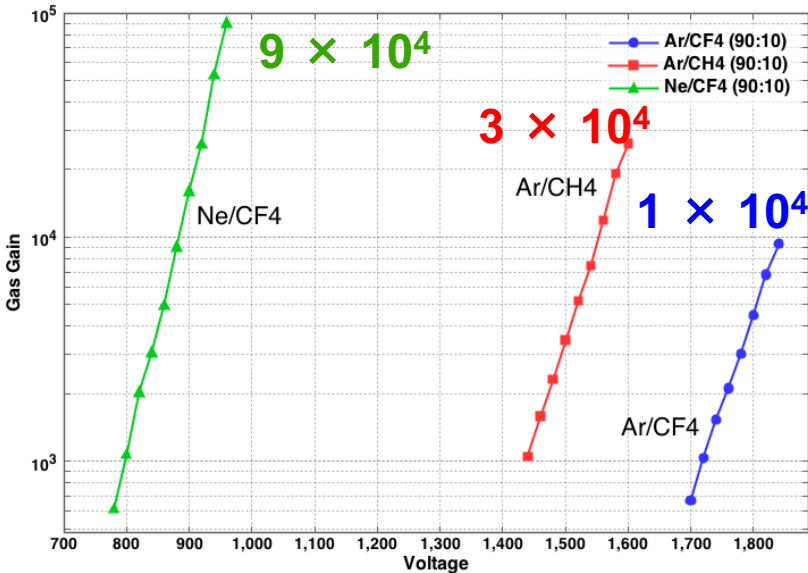
Metals inside via causes sparks



Burnt electrode

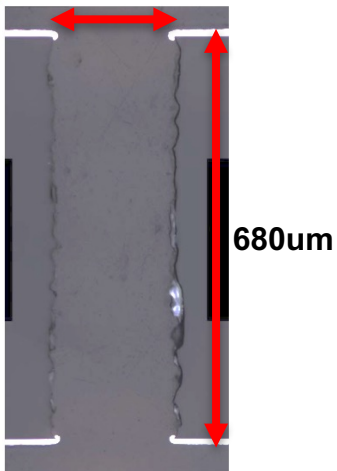


# High gas gain of Glass GEM<sup>[5]</sup>



Gain curve of single Glass GEM

170um



Cross-sectional view of single via



Gapless Glass GEM (easily tiled)

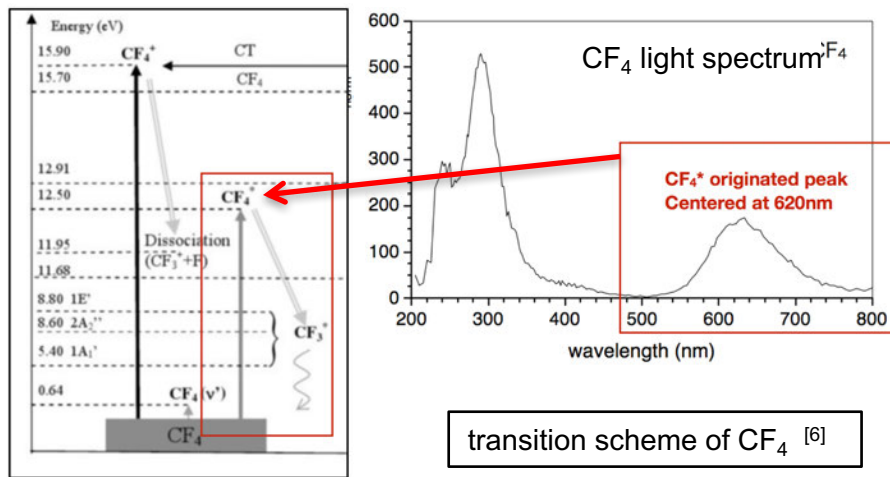
Effective area 100mm

Substrate 101mm

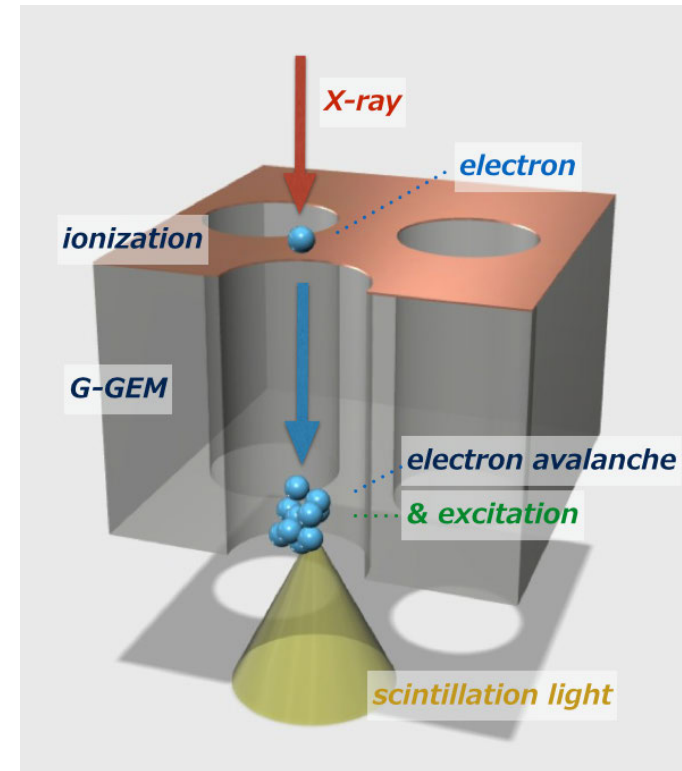
- high gain with single GEM
- rigid assembly (needs no support)
- minimize charge spread, high spatial resolution
- Cylindrical hole
- Spark tolerance

- ▶ Succeed in operating Glass GEM in various gas mixtures
- ▶ Effective size: 100 \* 100mm<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ **High gain is achievable with single Glass GEM**
  - ▷ Gas gain :  $3 \times 10^4$  @Ar/CH<sub>4</sub> (90:10, 1bar)
  - ▷ Gas gain :  $1 \times 10^4$  @Ar/CF<sub>4</sub> (90:10, 1bar)
  - ▷ Gas gain :  $9 \times 10^4$  @Ne/CF<sub>4</sub> (90:10, 1bar)
- ▶ Energy resolution: 18% to 23%

# Scintillation gas with Glass GEM

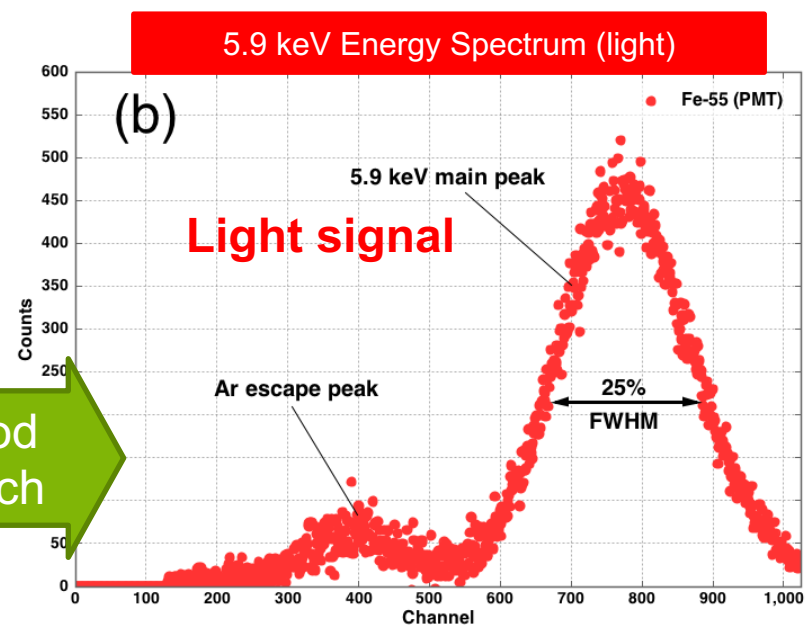
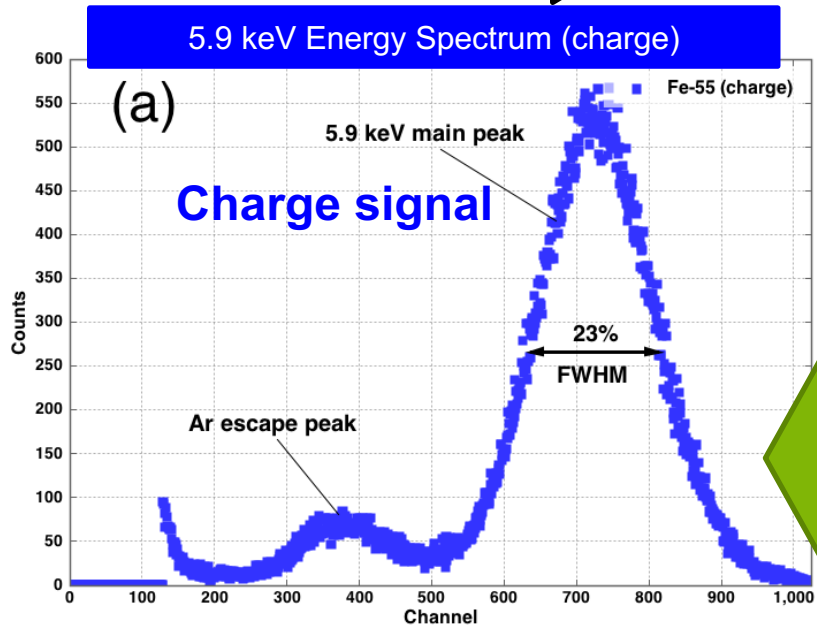
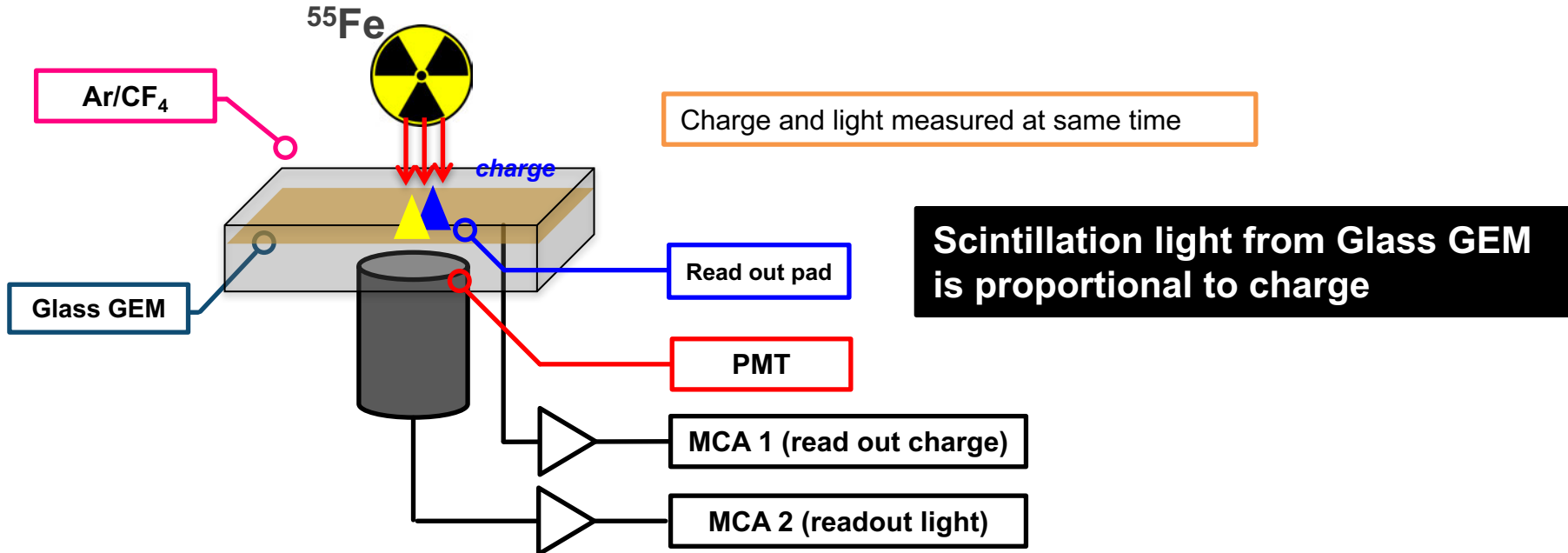


- CF<sub>4</sub> molecules are excited with electron avalanche
- Emits UV and 620nm peak centered visible photons during the dissociation process  $\text{CF}_4^* \rightarrow \text{CF}_3^*$



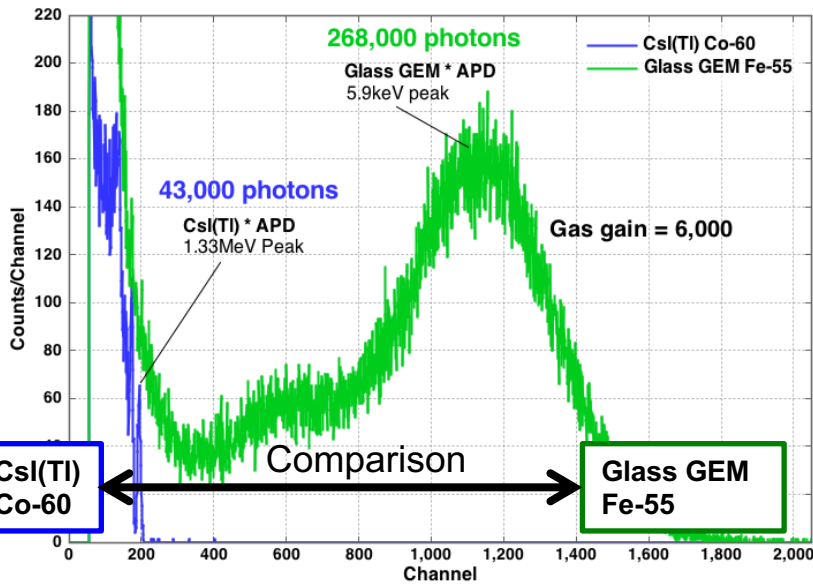
- ▶ CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> are popular gas for quenching gas.
- ▶ CF<sub>4</sub> is known as a good scintillation gas [6] and more (Fraga etc.)
- ▶ Large amount of scintillation photons would be produced during Glass GEM's high gain avalanche process
- ▶ Develop a radiation imager with scintillation gas × Glass GEM

# Initial experiment: $^{55}\text{Fe}$ (5.9keV X-rays) & PMT<sup>[7]</sup>



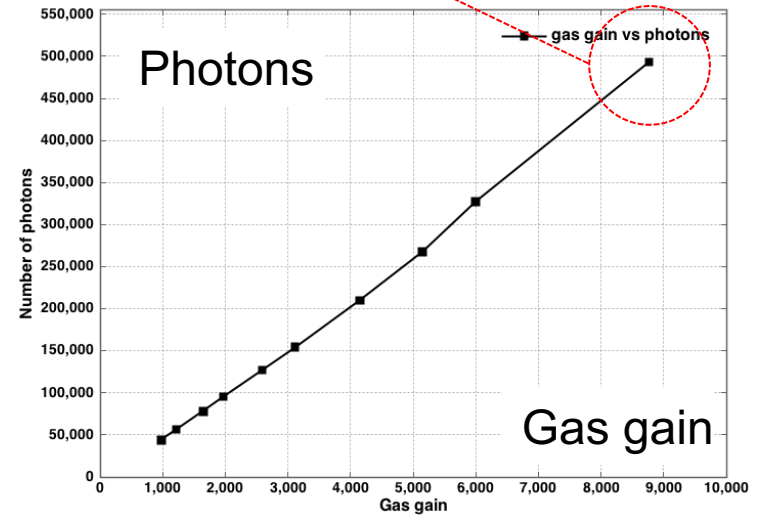
Good match

# How bright is it?<sup>[7]</sup>



Comparison with calibrated CsI(Tl) (energy spectrum with APD)\*

Max: 500,000 photons @5.9keV



Photons vs gas gain

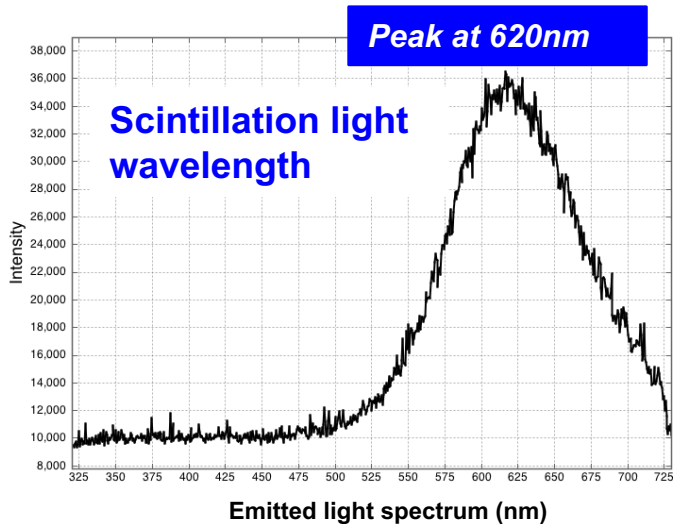


Table 1. Comparison with inorganic scintillators

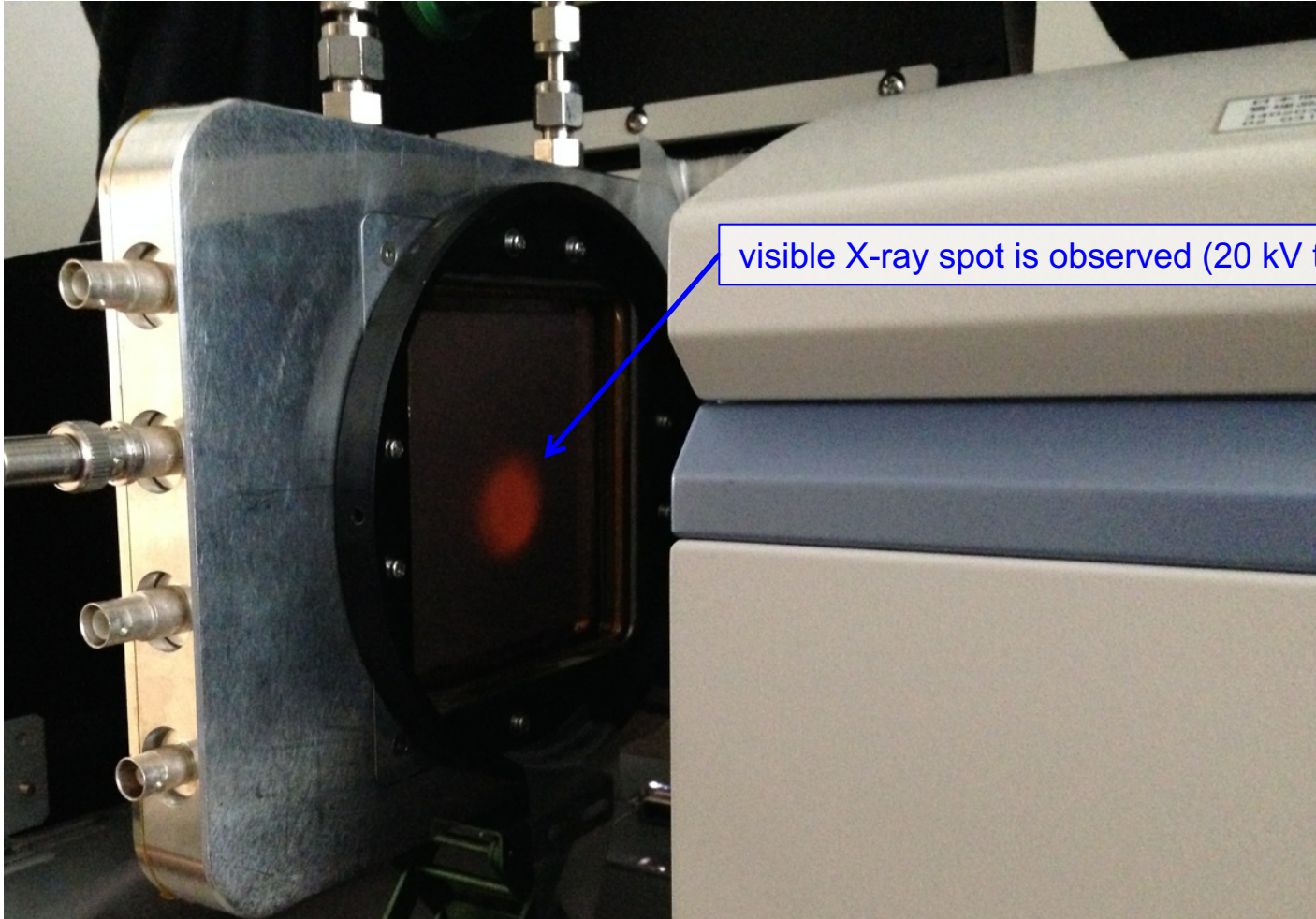
Scintillator	Photons
CsI(Tl)	59,000 ph/MeV
NaI(Tl)	38,000 ph/MeV
SrI	115,000 ph/MeV
Glass GEM + Ar/CF <sub>4</sub>	85,000 ph/keV

Ultra high yield (orders of three)

high photon yield with low energy depositing radiation

[7] T. Fujiwara, et al., Jpn. J. Appl. Phys., vol. 55, no. 10 (2016)

# How bright is it?

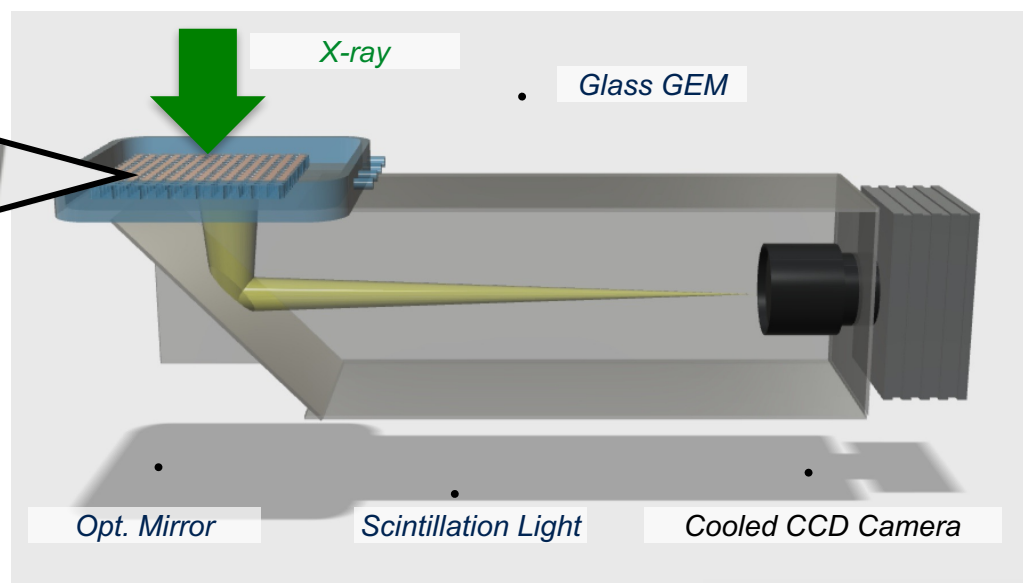
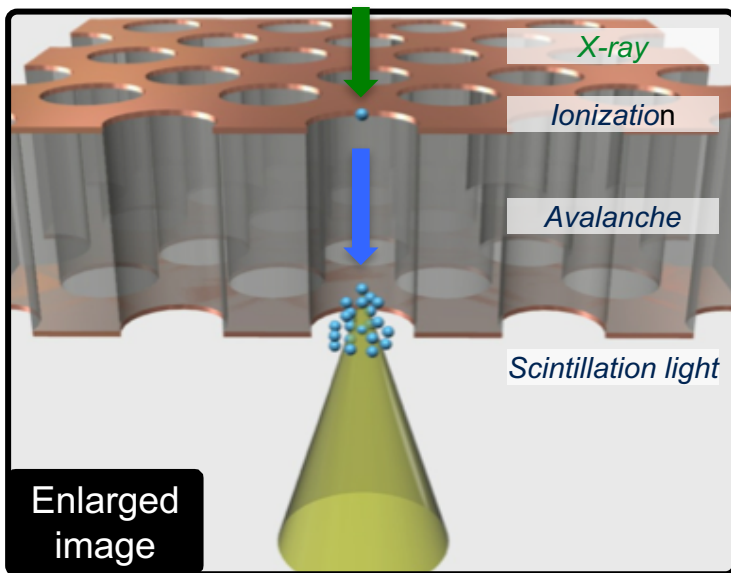


visible X-ray spot is observed (20 kV tube)

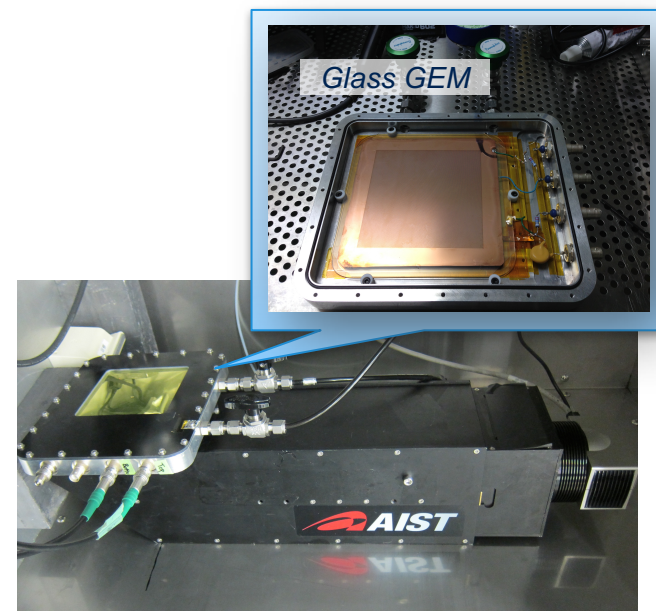
Looking from backside of chamber



# The detector design<sup>[8]</sup>



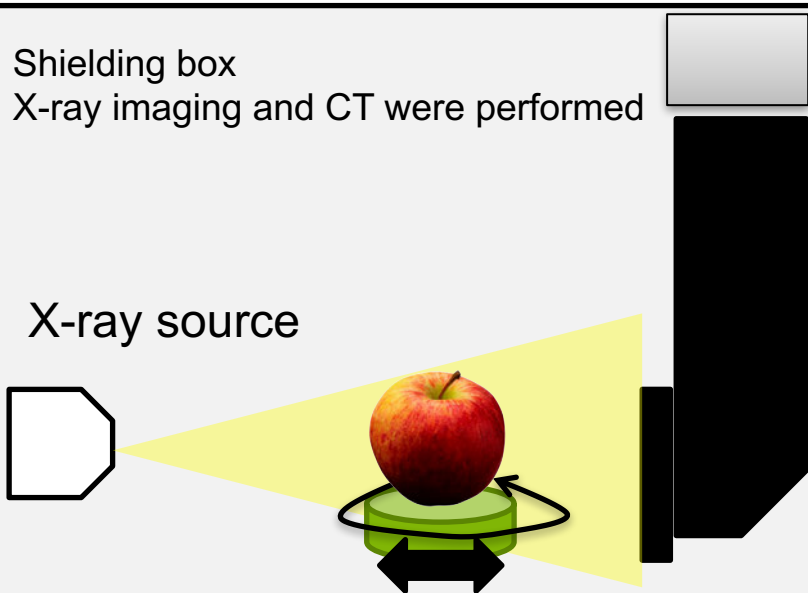
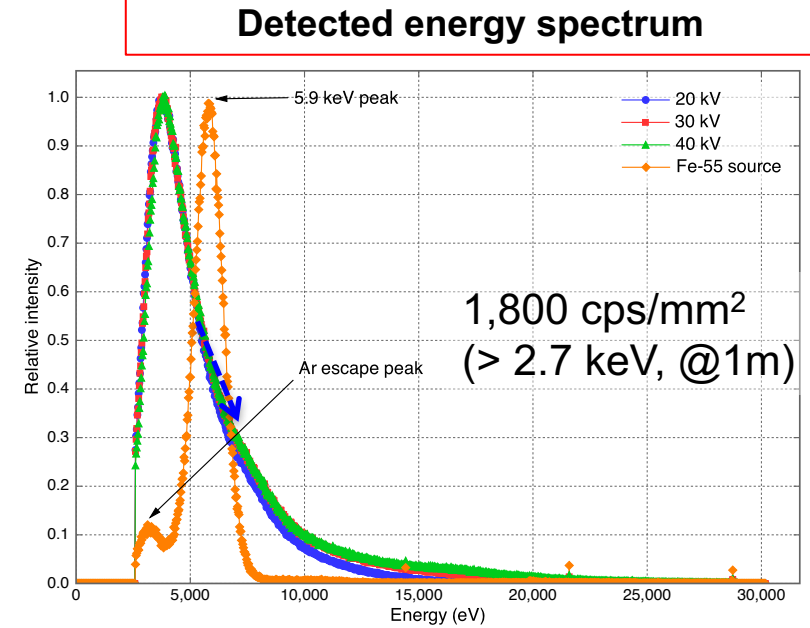
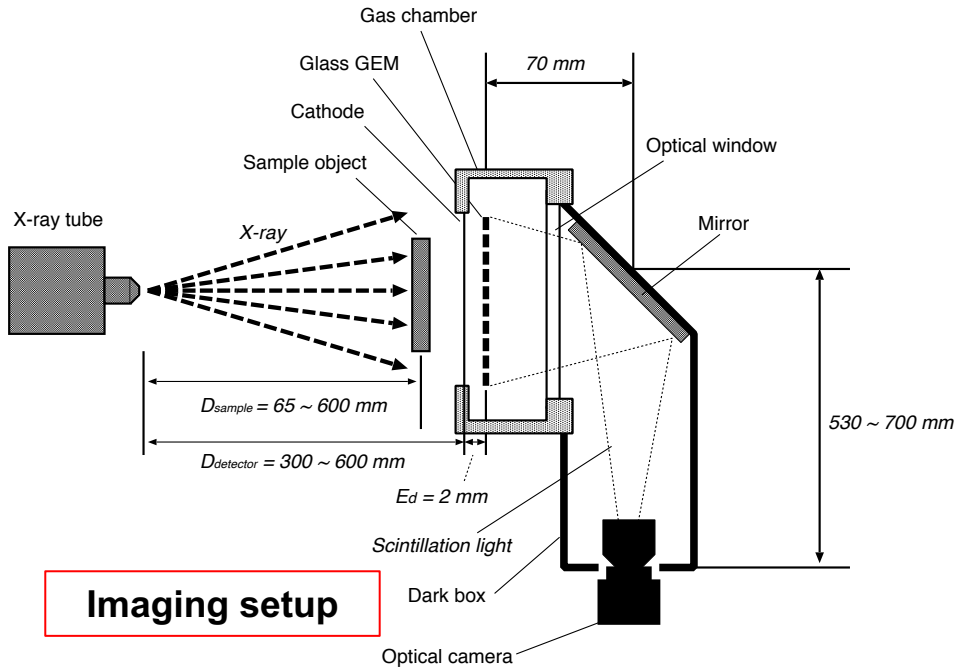
- ▶ Glass GEM × scintillation gas × mirror × optical camera
- ▶ Convert radiation into visible light
- ▶ Optical mirror to prevent the CCD from irradiated directly with X-rays
- ▶ ITO coated transparent electrode were used as an anode & optical window



[8] T. Fujiwara, et al., JINST, Vol. 8, No. 7 (2013)

[9] T. Fujiwara, et al., NIM A, 850 (2017)

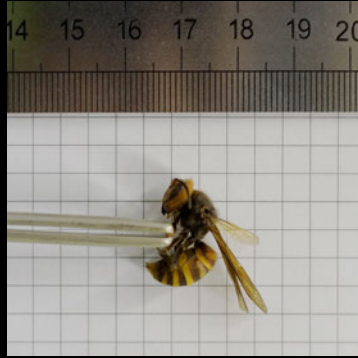
# Imaging setup & result



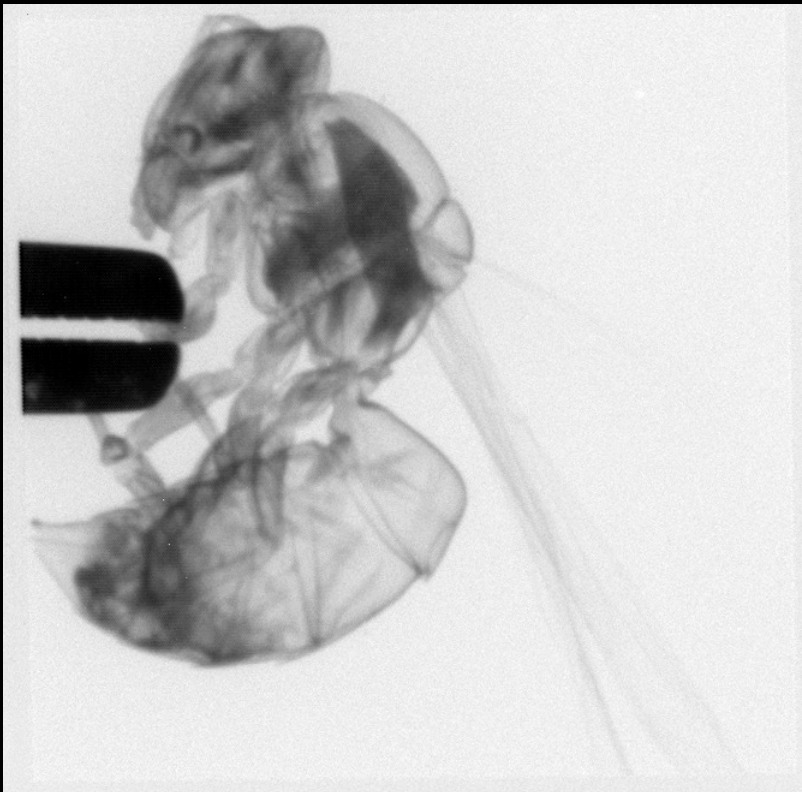
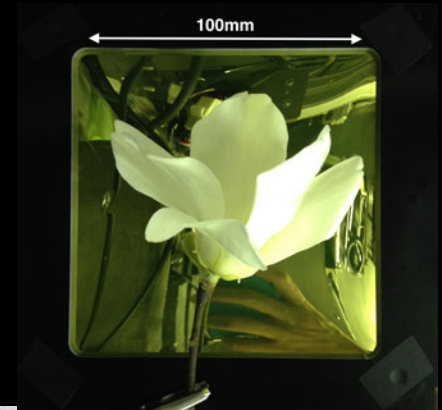
Gas multiplier	<b>Glass GEM</b> (phi=180 um hole, 280 um pitch, 680 um thick)
Scintillation Gas	<b>Ar/CF<sub>4</sub> (90:10)</b>
Sensitive area	<b>100 × 100 mm</b>
Camera	<b>Cooled CCD Camera</b> <b>BITRAN BU-52LN</b> <b>16bit 4M pixels</b>
Lens	<b>Nikon 50mm F1.4</b>
X-ray source	<b>Micro-focus X-ray tube</b> <b>Hamamatsu L9631</b> <b>20~30 kV 450uA</b>

# Imaging performance of Glass GEM

100 × 100 mm



100 × 100 mm

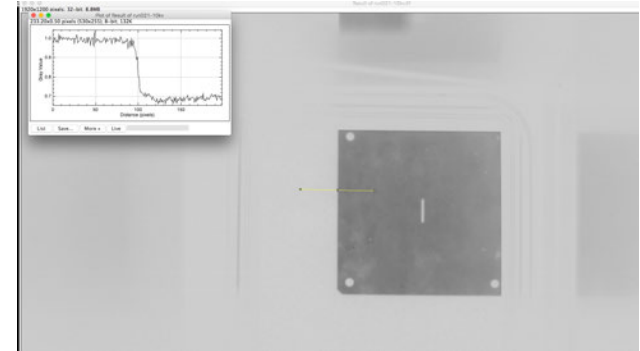
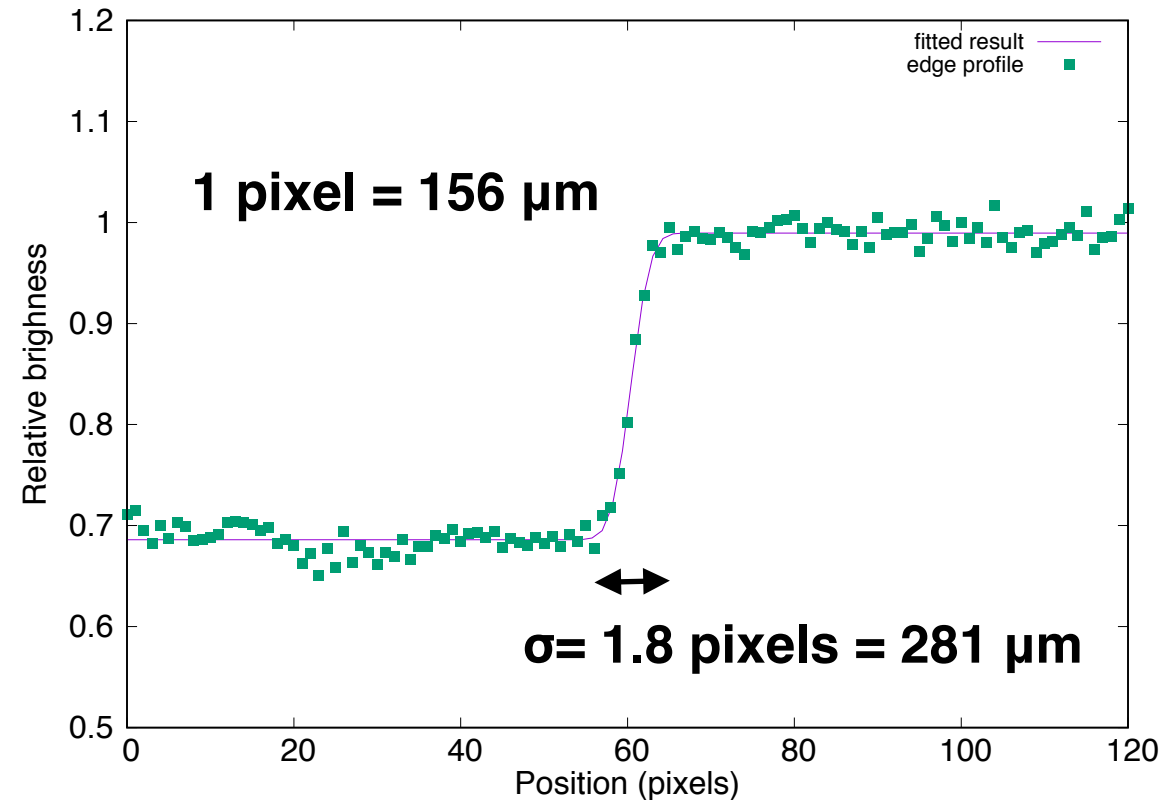


**Bee (× 3 enlarging)**



**Flower (without enlarging)**

# Spatial resolution



Spatial resolution: 281  $\mu\text{m}$  (rms)

Fitting with error function

$$a \cdot \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right) + c$$

Spatial resolution evaluation

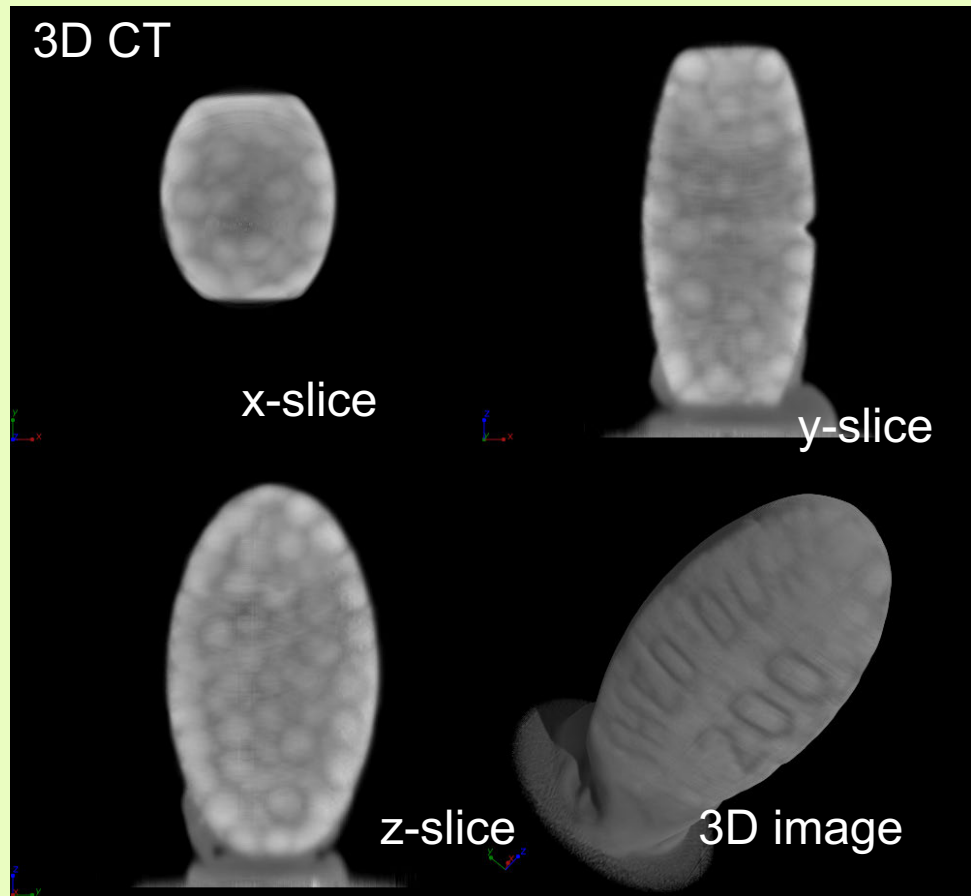
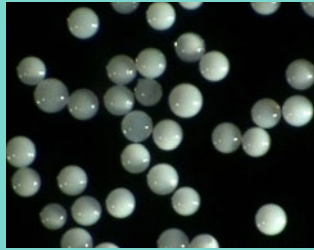
Edge of aluminum plate imaging with X-ray tube : 20 kV)

Analyzed with *ImageJ*

## 3D CT of medicine tablet

### *Micro-sphere medicine tablet*

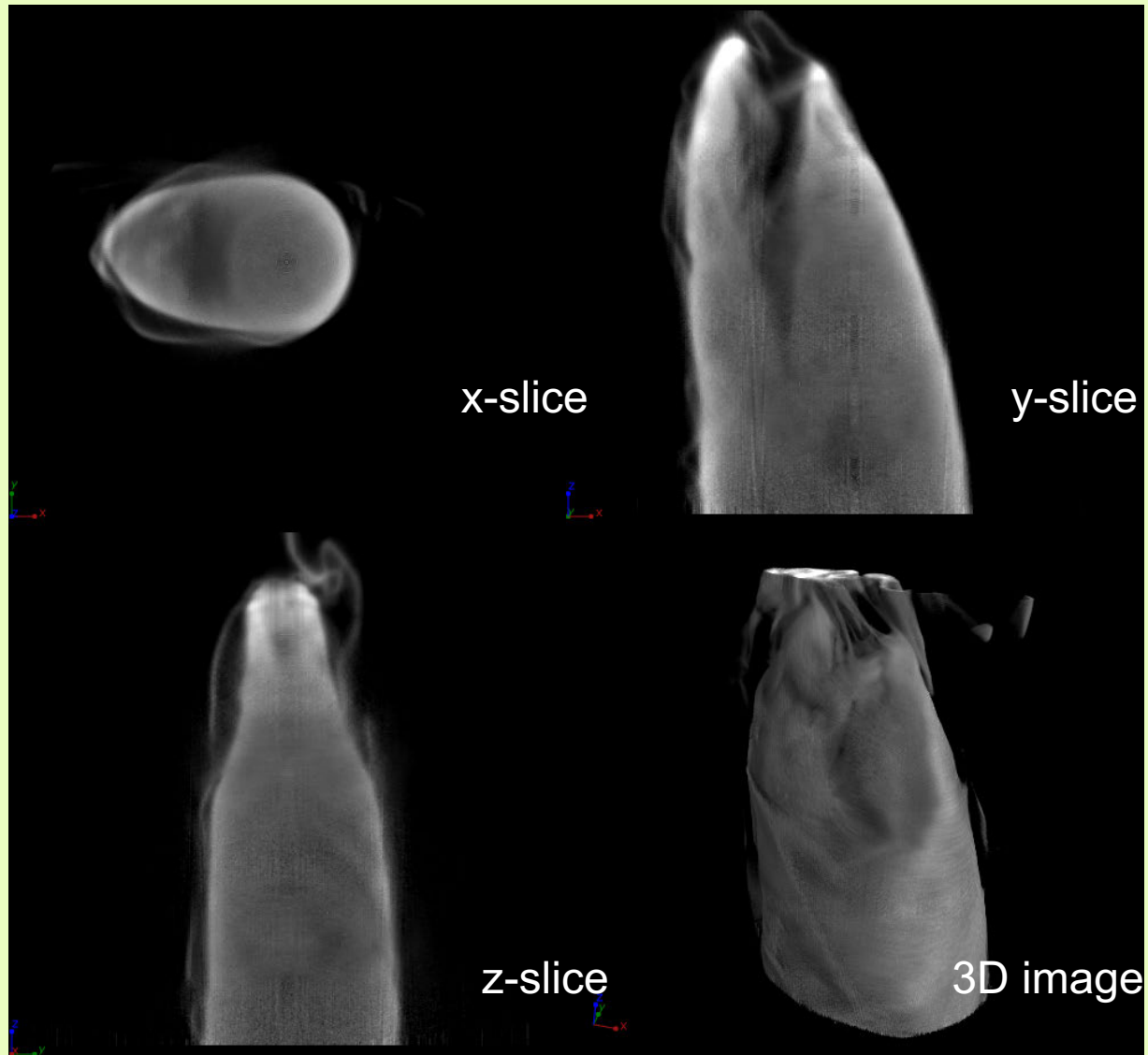
Micro-spheres  
medicine inside  
the medtab



Using 20kV micro-focus X-ray source  
 Taken in 30 minutes. (360° scan, 0.5 pitch° )  
 Reconstructed with filtered-back-projection algorithm  
 High contrast achieved with low Z number materials

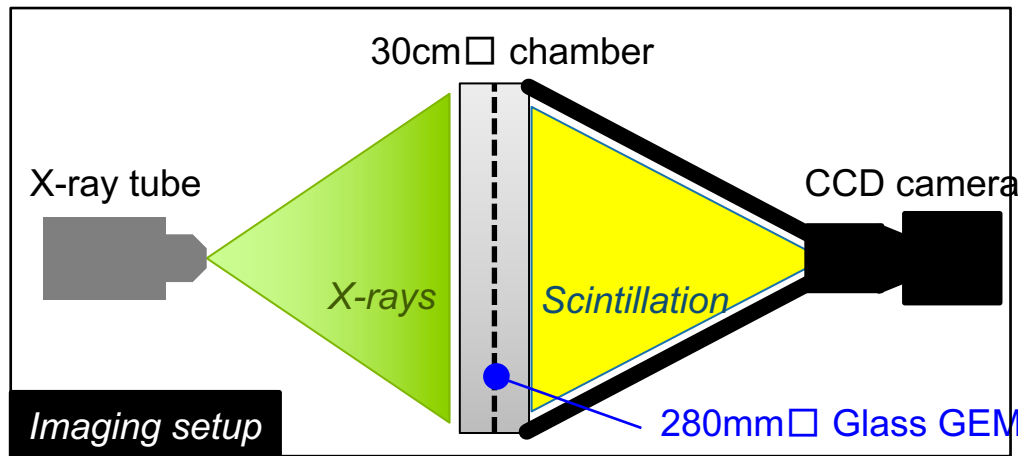
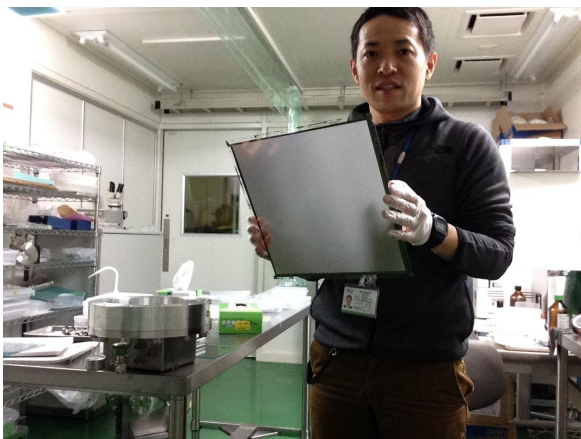


# 3D CT of fish head



# Large area: 280mm $\square$ Glass GEM

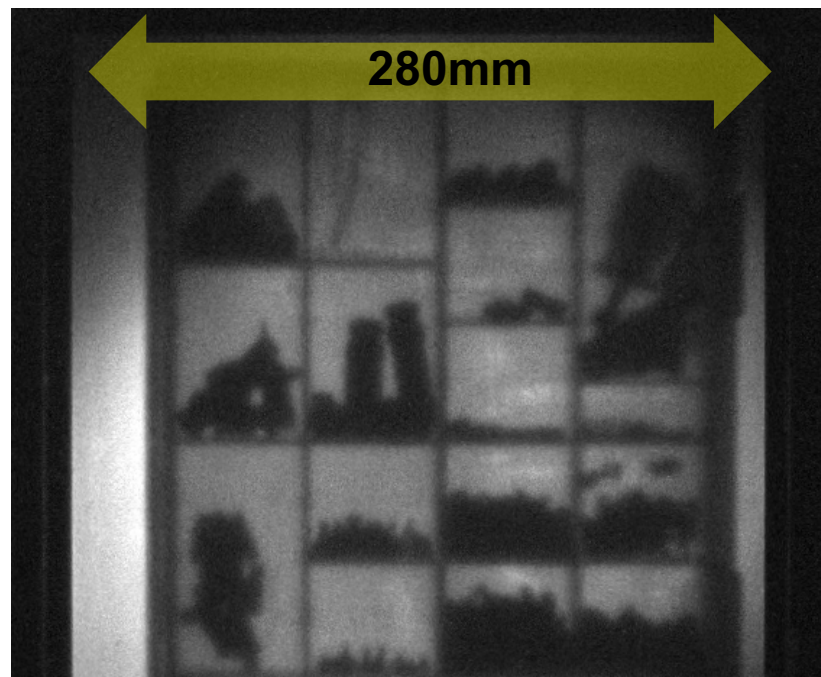
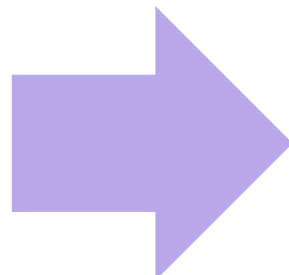
preliminary



300mm $\square$  Glass GEM (1,154,423 holes)



Toolbox



X-ray transmission image of a toolbox

# Imaging with Kr/CF<sub>4</sub> gas filling

Preliminary

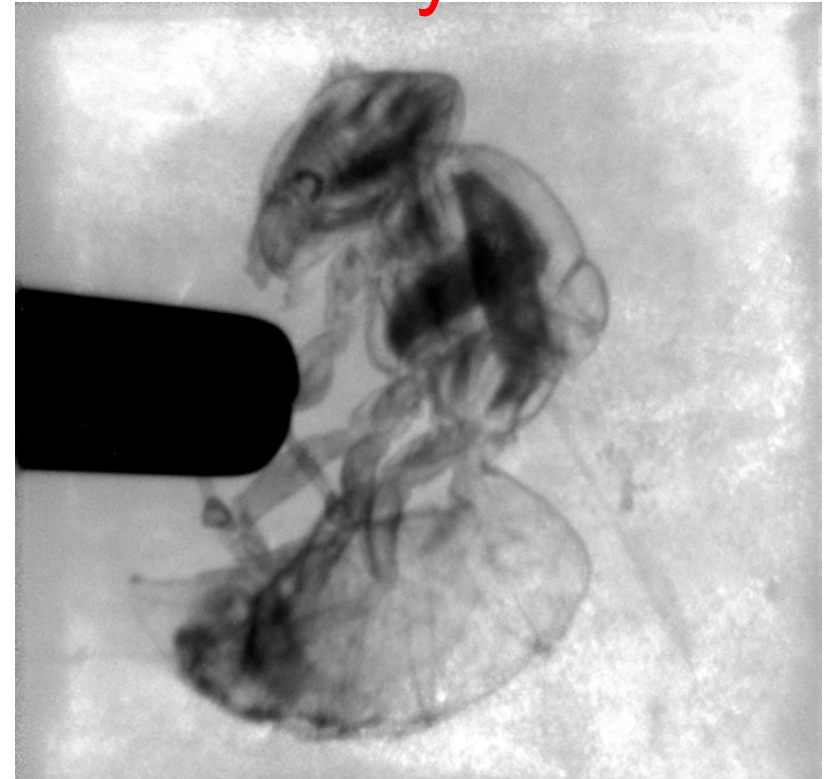
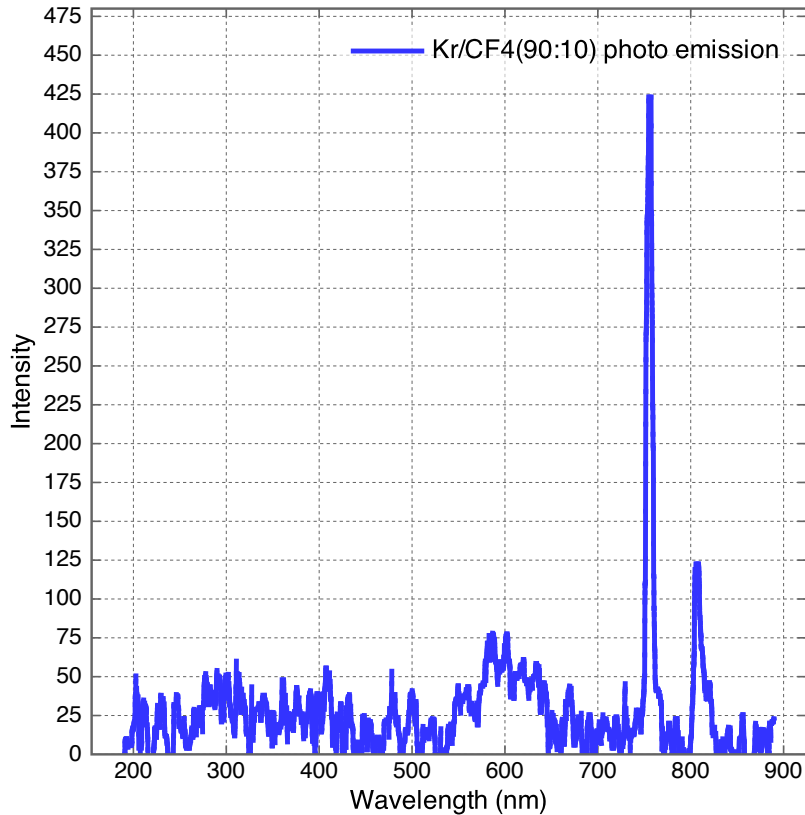


Photo emission spectrum of Kr/CF<sub>4</sub> gas filled Glass GEM

Radiograph taken with 40 kV, 200 uA x-ray tube

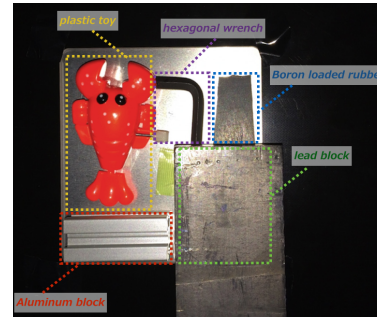
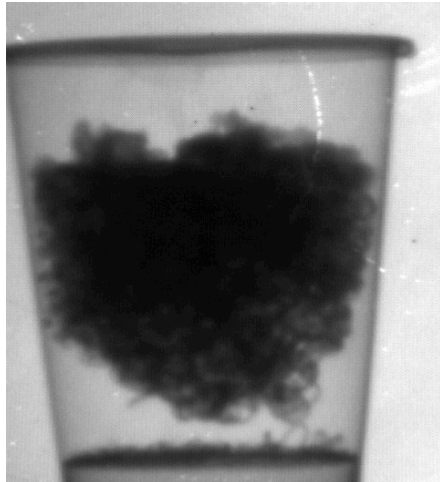
- Photons emitted from Kr/CF<sub>4</sub> is much less than Ar/CF<sub>4</sub>.
- Spatial resolution did not significantly improved.
- Strange pattern appeared around the sample.



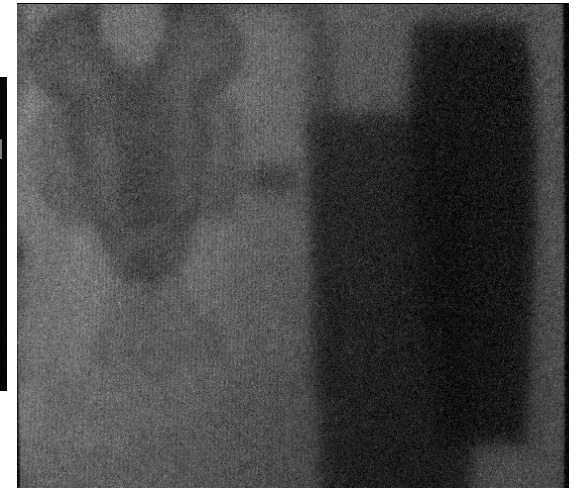
# Succeed in taking radiograph with various radiation



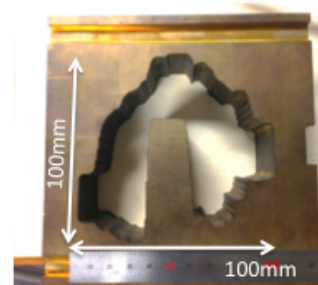
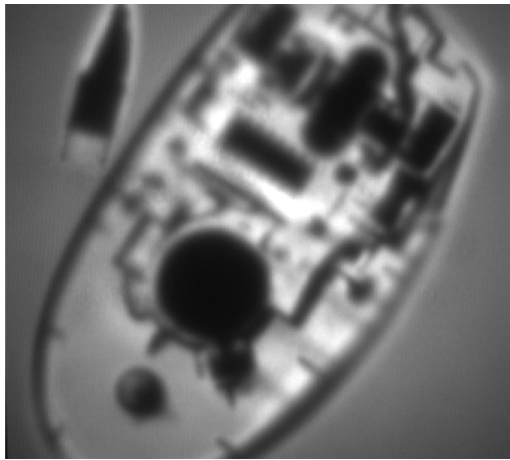
**X-rays**



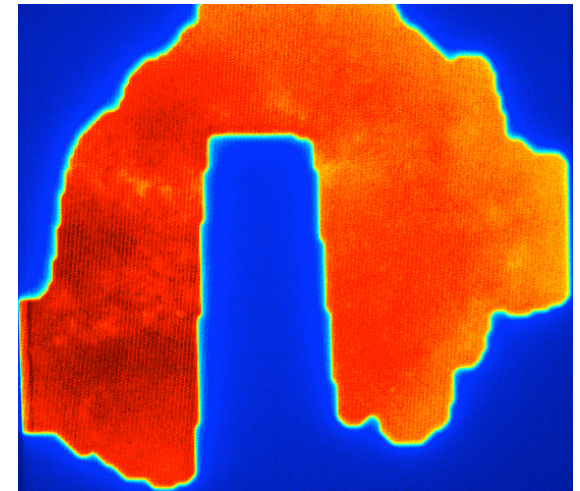
**Neutrons<sup>[9]</sup>**  
**(Coupling with B-10 foil)**



**80MeV**  
**proton beam**



**290 MeV**  
**Clinical**  
**Carbon beam**



# Summary

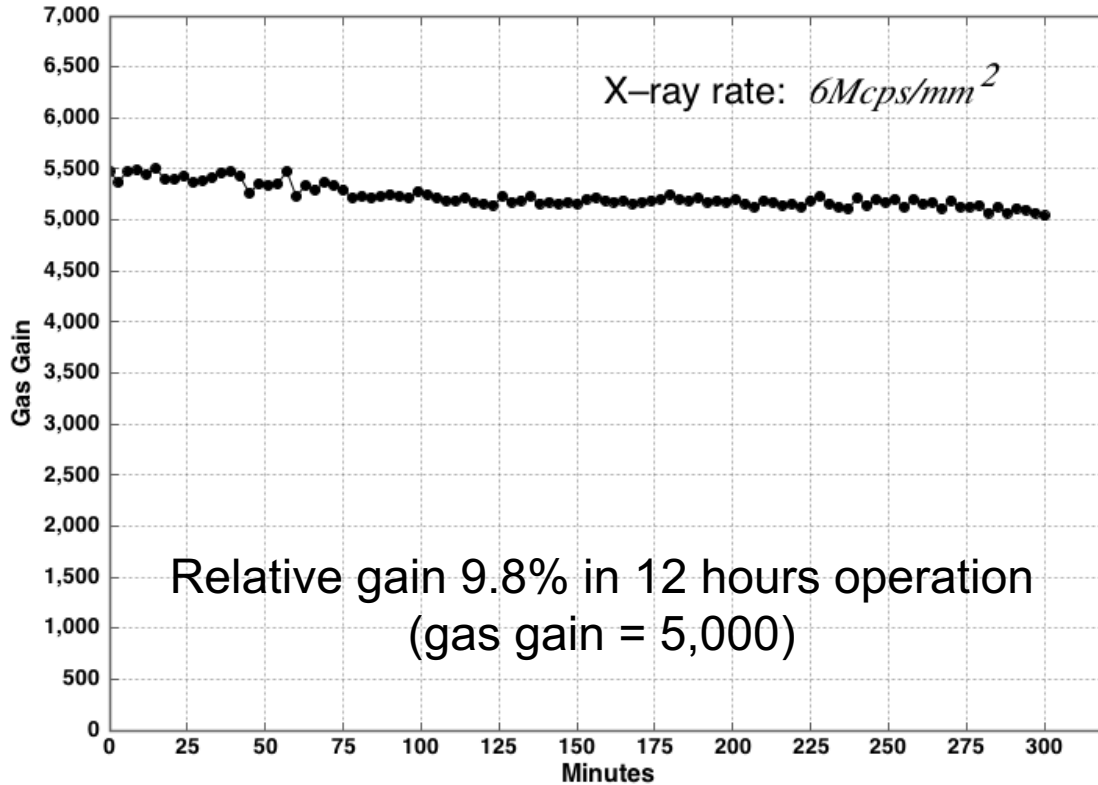
- ▶ X-ray imaging and X-ray CT were performed with ***“Scintillating Glass GEM”***
- ▶ **85,000 photons (per keV)** (ex. CsI:TI = 59,000 ph/MeV)
- ▶ **Ultra high yield photons enables rapid imaging with low energy depositing X-rays**
  - **High speed imaging and high contrast with low Z materials**
  - **May results to minimize the dose for medical imaging**
- ▶ 280mm $\square$  Glass GEM imager is now being developed
- ▶ Glass GEM can also be used for imager for neutron and proton/carbon beam therapy.



**Thank you for your kind attention.**



# Gain stability in high intensity X-ray source



***Tested in synchrotron radiation  
(6 Mcps/mm<sup>2</sup>)***

Low volume resistivity of the substrate enables stable operation in high count rate.  
**(no charge-ups)**

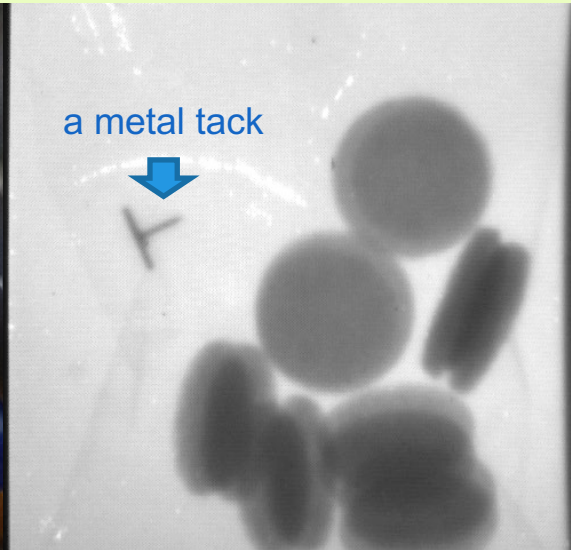
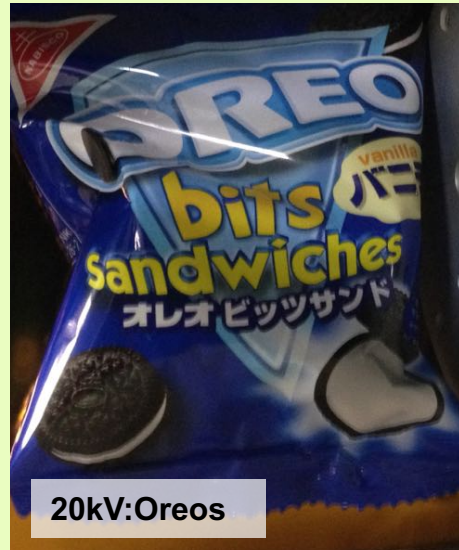
<i>Item</i>	<b>PEG3</b>	<b>Polyimide</b>	<b>Glass</b>
Volume resistivity ( $W \text{ cm}$ )	<b><math>8.5 \times 10^{12}</math></b>	$\sim 10^{18}$	$\sim 10^{15\sim 20}$

## X-ray image of earphone



***40kV Micro-focus X-ray tube***

# X-ray images with Scintillating Glass GEM



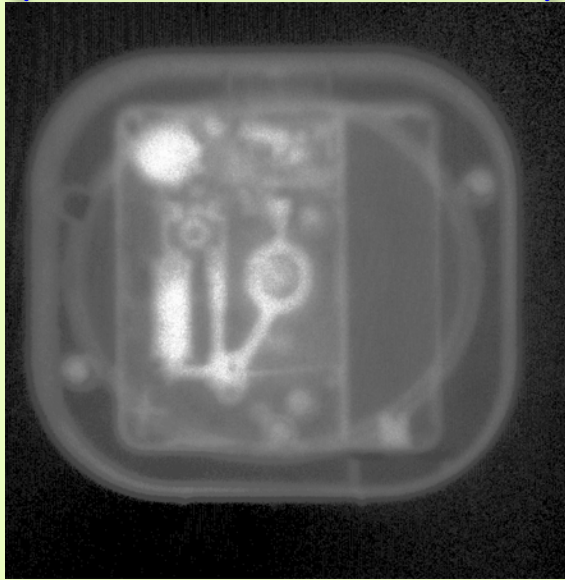
# X-ray transmission image

## Non-destructive inspection



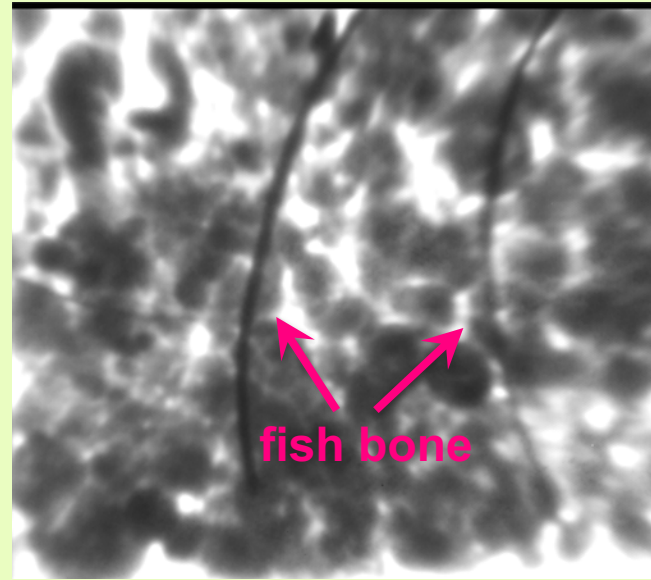
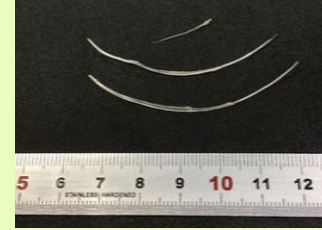
clock@30kV

10cm



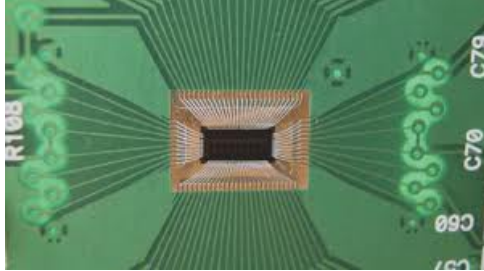
X-ray transmission image of a clock

## Food inspection



Inspecting fish bones

# Scintillating GlassGEM × Optical camera



**ASIC**

Needs 40000 channels of amps and ADCs to readout 100mm × 100mm effective area in 0.5 mm spatial resolution.

Creating thousands of feed-throughs to a chamber is an issue.

- Development of optical camera is rapid
- CMOS technology is not suitable for large size
- Optical lens would be a solution



**2003**

Sensor: 22.7 × 15.1mm APS-C CMOS Sensor  
 Pixels: 6.5M  
 ISO: 100~1600



Higher sensitivity  
 More pixels  
 Low price



**2014**

Sensor: 36.1 × 24.1mm full size CMOS  
 Pixels: 12M  
 ISO: 50~**409600**