



# The Basics of Particle Detection

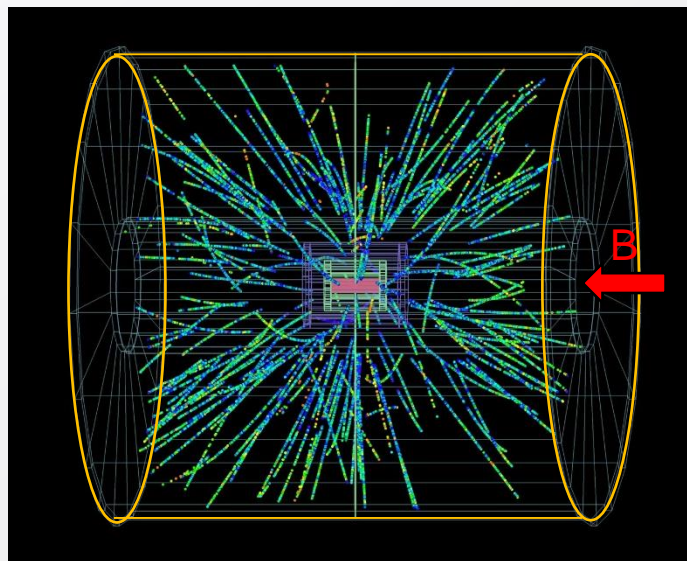
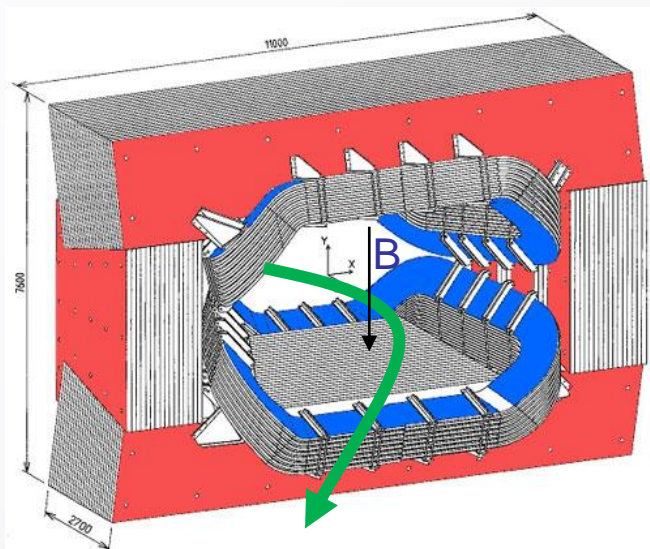
**Christian Joram / CERN**

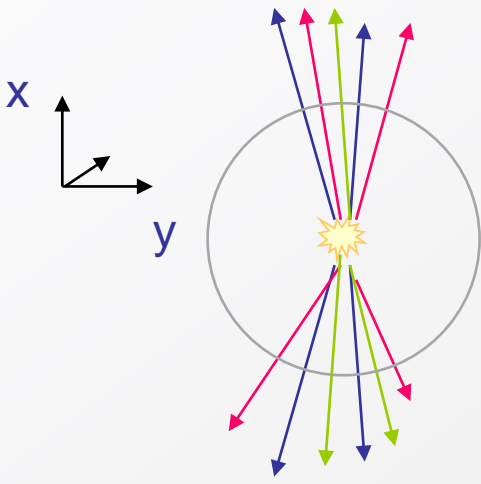
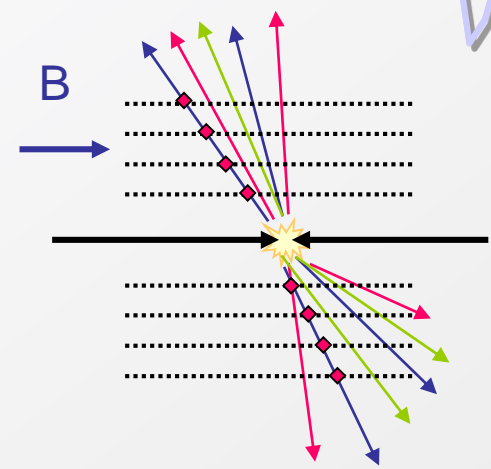
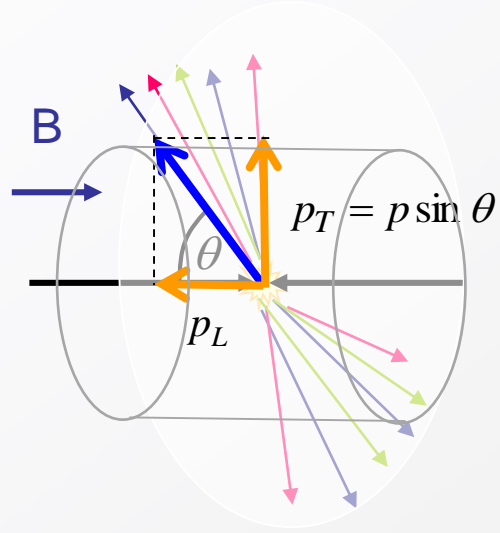
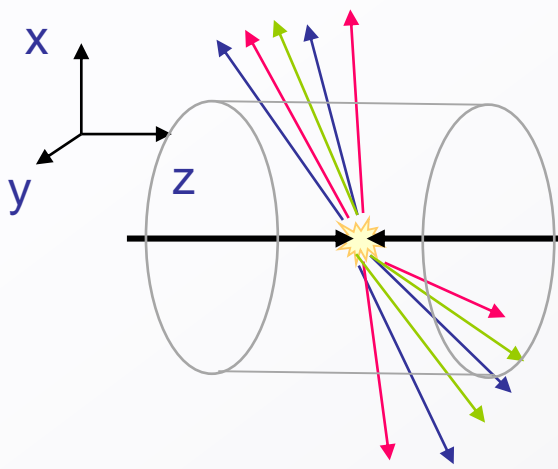
# Outline

- **Lecture 1 – Interaction of charged particles**
- **Lecture 2 – Gaseous and solid state tracking detectors**
  - Concept of momentum measurement
  - Gas detectors
  - Solid state (Silicon) detectors
  - More interactions of charged particles and photons
- **Lecture 3 – Calorimetry, scintillation and photodetection**

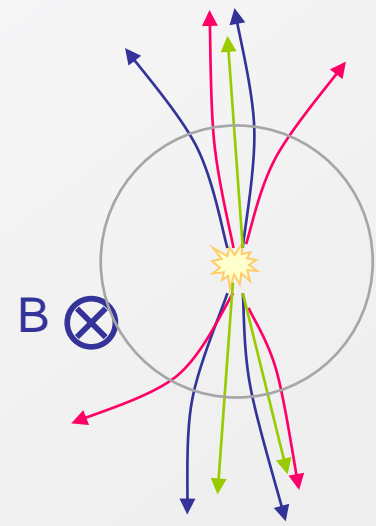
## Momentum $p$

Measure the radius of curvature  $\rho$  in a magnetic field

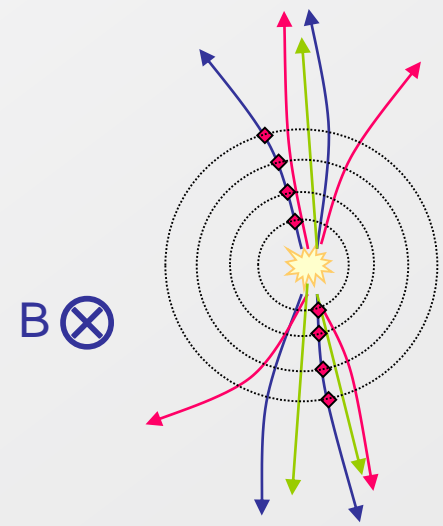




$B=0$

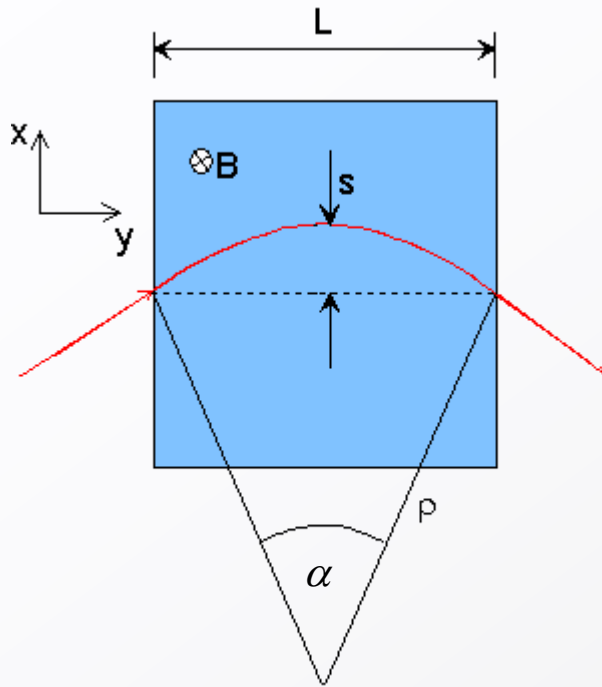


$B>0$



$B>0$





We measure only p-component transverse to B field !

$$p_T = qB\rho \quad \rightarrow \quad p_T \text{ (GeV/c)} = 0.3B\rho \quad (\text{T} \cdot \text{m})$$

$$\frac{L}{2\rho} = \sin \alpha/2 \approx \alpha/2 \quad \rightarrow \quad \alpha \approx \frac{0.3L \cdot B}{p_T}$$

$$s = \rho(1 - \cos \alpha/2) \approx \rho \frac{\alpha^2}{8} \approx \frac{0.3}{8} \frac{L^2 B}{p_T}$$

the sagitta s is determined by 3 measurements with error  $\sigma(x)$ :

$$s = x_2 - \frac{x_1 + x_3}{2} \quad \left. \frac{\sigma(p_T)}{p_T} \right|^{meas.} = \frac{\sigma(s)}{s} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\sigma(x)}{s} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\sigma(x) \cdot 8p_T}{0.3 \cdot BL^2} \quad \boxed{\left. \frac{\sigma(p_T)}{p_T} \right|^{meas.} \propto \frac{\sigma(x) \cdot p_T}{BL^2}}$$

for N equidistant measurements, one obtains (R.L. Gluckstern, NIM 24 (1963) 381)

$$\left. \frac{\sigma(p_T)}{p_T} \right|^{meas.} = \frac{\sigma(x) \cdot p_T}{0.3 \cdot BL^2} \sqrt{720/(N+4)} \quad (\text{for } N \geq \sim 10)$$

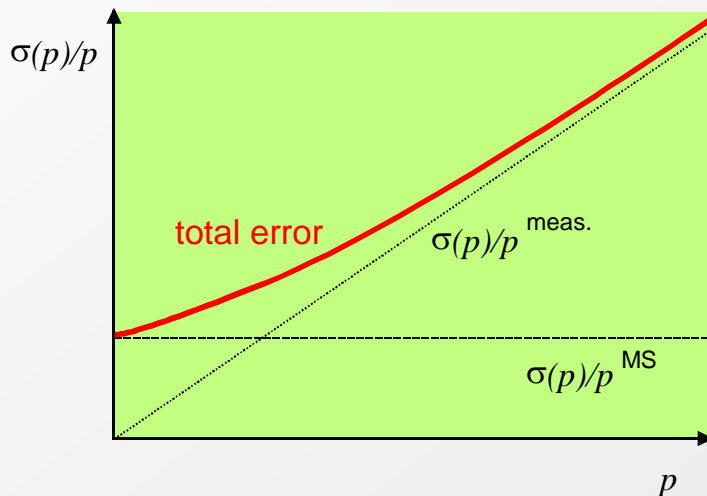
What is the contribution of **multiple scattering** to  $\frac{\sigma(p)}{p_T}$  ?

remember  $\frac{\sigma(p)}{p_T} \propto \sigma(x) \cdot p_T$

$\sigma(x)|^{MS} \propto \theta_0 \propto \frac{1}{p}$

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{\sigma(p)}{p_T} \propto \sigma(x) \cdot p_T \\ \sigma(x)|^{MS} \propto \theta_0 \propto \frac{1}{p} \end{array} \right\} \frac{\sigma(p)}{p_T} \Big|^{MS} = \text{constant, i.e. independent of } p !$

More precisely:  $\frac{\sigma(p)}{p_T} \Big|^{MS} = 0.045 \frac{1}{B \sqrt{L X_0}}$



Example:

$p_t = 1 \text{ GeV}/c, L = 1 \text{ m}, B = 1 \text{ T}, N = 10$

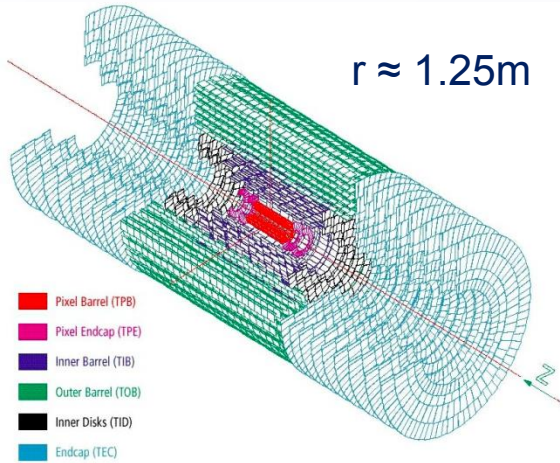
$\sigma(x) = 200 \text{ } \mu\text{m}: \frac{\sigma(p_T)}{p_T} \Big|^{meas.} \approx 0.5\%$

Assume detector ( $L = 1 \text{ m}$ ) to be filled with 1 atm. Argon gas ( $X_0 = 110 \text{ m}$ ),

$\frac{\sigma(p)}{p_T} \Big|^{MS} \approx 0.5\%$

Optimistic, since a gas detector consists of more than just gas!

# A more realistic example: CMS Silicon Tracker

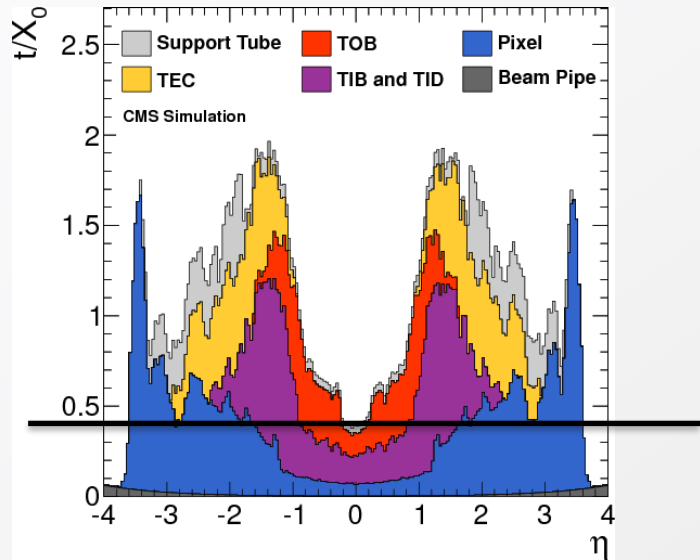


- $B=3.8T$ ,  $L=1.25m$ , average  $N \approx 10$  layers,
- Average resolution per layer  $\approx 25\mu m$ ,

$$\left. \frac{\sigma(p_T)}{p_T} \right|^{meas.} = \frac{\sigma(x) \cdot p_T}{0.3 \cdot BL^2} \sqrt{720/(N+4)}$$

- $\sigma_p/p = 0.1 \%$  momentum resolution (at 1 GeV)
- $\sigma_p/p = 10 \%$  momentum resolution (at 1 TeV)

## Material budget (Si, cables, cooling pipes, support structure...)

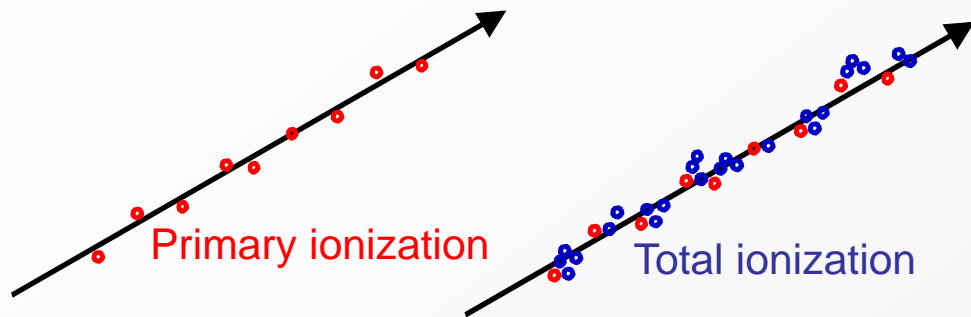


- $B=3.8T$ ,  $L=1.25m$ ,  $t/X_0 \approx 0.4-0.5$  @  $\eta < 1$

$$\left. \frac{\sigma(p)}{p_T} \right|^{MS} = 0.045 \frac{1}{B\sqrt{LX_0}} = 0.045 \frac{1}{B \cdot L} \sqrt{\frac{t}{X_0}}$$

- $\sigma_p/p = 0.7\%$  from multiple scattering

( $\eta =$  pseudo rapidity:  $\eta = -\ln(\tan \frac{\theta}{2})$ )



Number of primary electron/ion pairs in frequently used gases.

Fast charged particles ionise atoms of gas.  
Often, the resulting primary electrons will have enough kinetic energy to ionize other atoms.

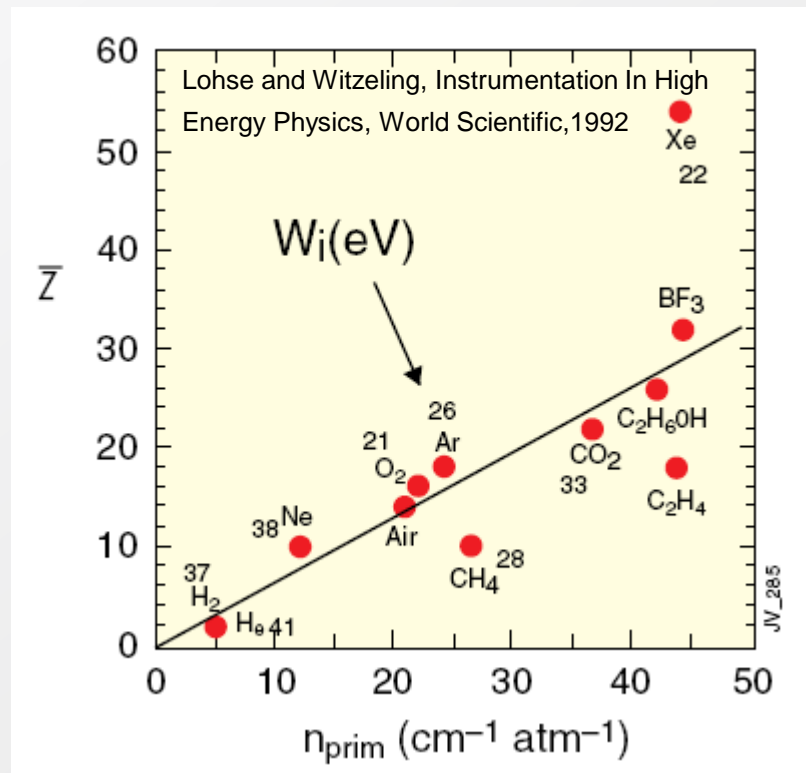
$$n_{total} = \frac{\Delta E}{W_i} = \frac{\frac{dE}{dx} \Delta x}{W_i}$$

$$n_{total} \approx 3 \dots 4 \cdot n_{primary}$$

$n_{total}$  - number of created electron-ion pairs

$\Delta E$  = total energy loss

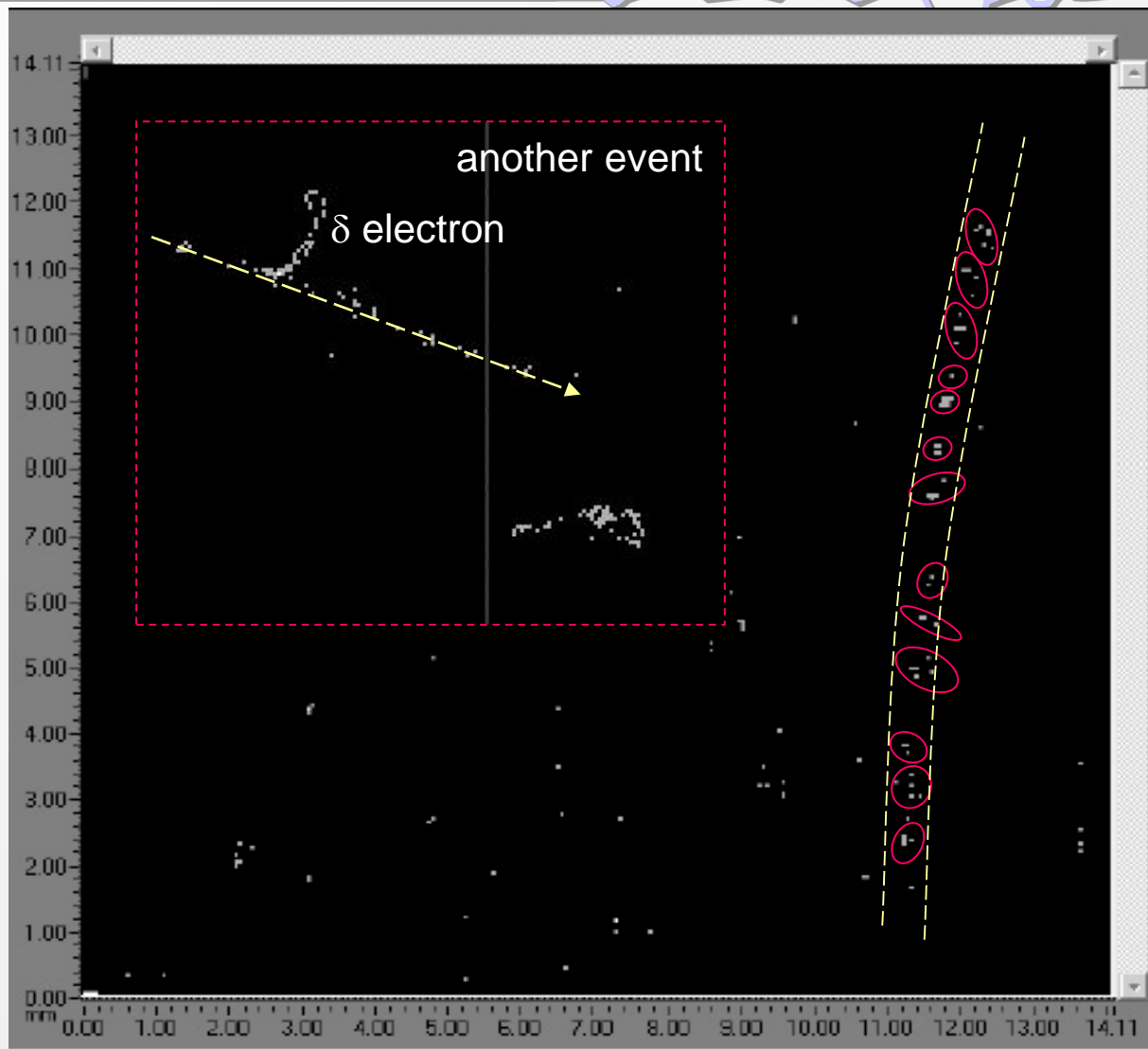
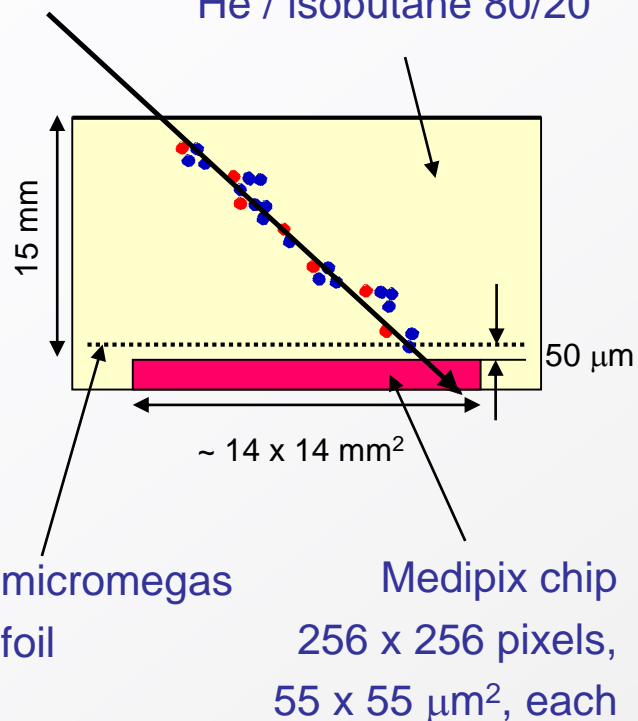
$W_i$  = effective <energy loss>/pair





Cluster counting with a hybrid gas detector: pixel readout chip + micromegas

He / isobutane 80/20



M. Campbell et al., NIM A 540 (2005) 295

track by cosmic particle (mip): 0.52 clusters / mm,  $\sim 3$  e<sup>-</sup>/cluster

- The actual number of **primary** electron/ion pairs is **Poisson** distributed.

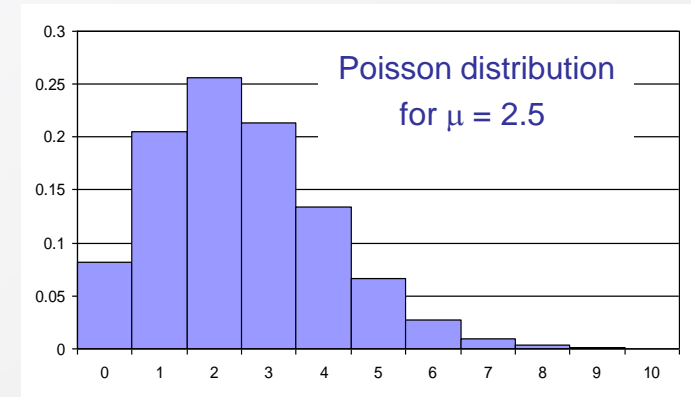
$$P(m) = \frac{\mu^m e^{-\mu}}{m!}$$

The detection efficiency is therefore limited to :

$$\varepsilon_{\text{det}} = 1 - P(0) = 1 - e^{-\mu}$$

For thin layers  $\varepsilon_{\text{det}}$  can be significantly lower than 1.

For example for 1 mm layer of Ar  $n_{\text{primary}} = 2.5 \rightarrow \varepsilon_{\text{det}} = 0.92$ .

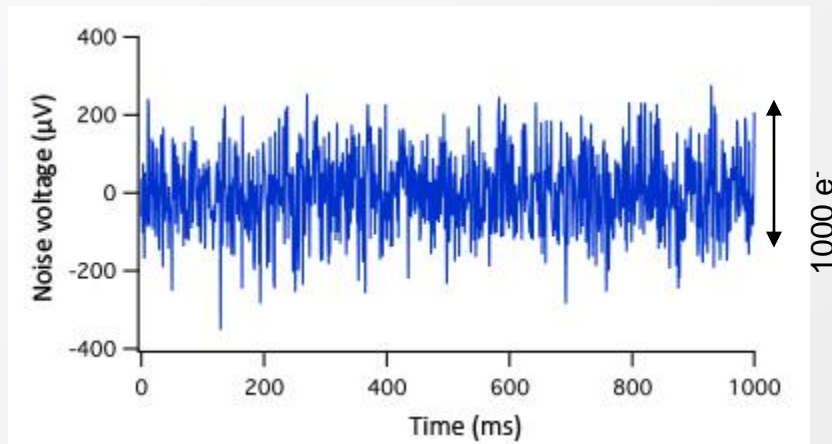
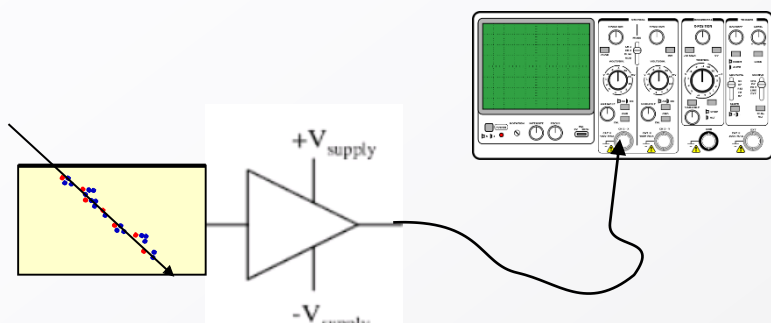


Consider a 10 mm thick Ar layer

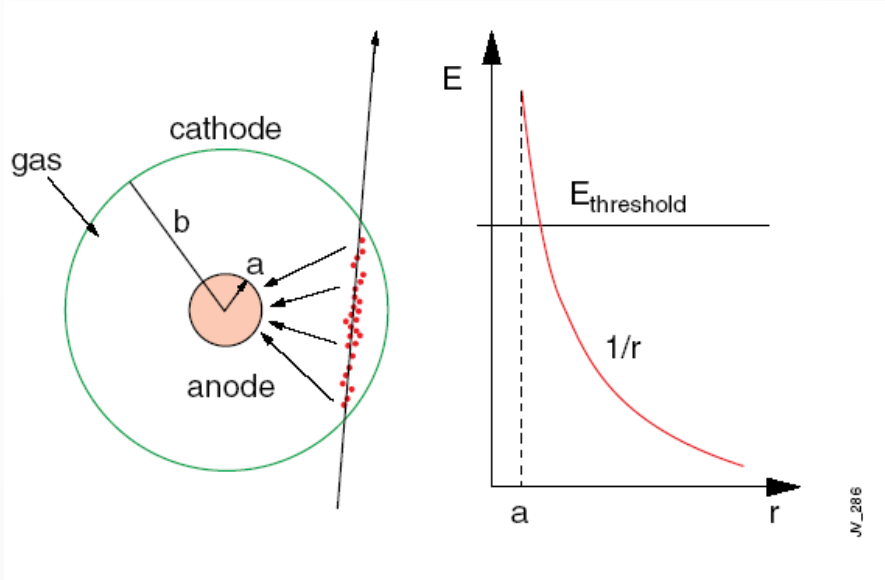
$$\rightarrow n_{\text{primary}} = 25 \rightarrow \varepsilon_{\text{det}} = 1$$

$$\rightarrow n_{\text{total}} = 80-100$$

100 electrons/ion pairs created during ionization process are not easy to detect.  
 Typical (equivalent) noise of an electronic amplifier  $\approx 1000 e^-$



→ we will increase the number of charge carriers by **gas amplification** .



JV\_2816

Electrons liberated by ionization drift towards the anode wire.

Electrical field close to the wire (typical wire  $\varnothing$ ~few tens of  $\mu\text{m}$ ) is sufficiently high for electrons (above 10 kV/cm) to gain enough energy to ionize further

→ **avalanche** → exponential increase of number of electron ion pairs → several thousands.

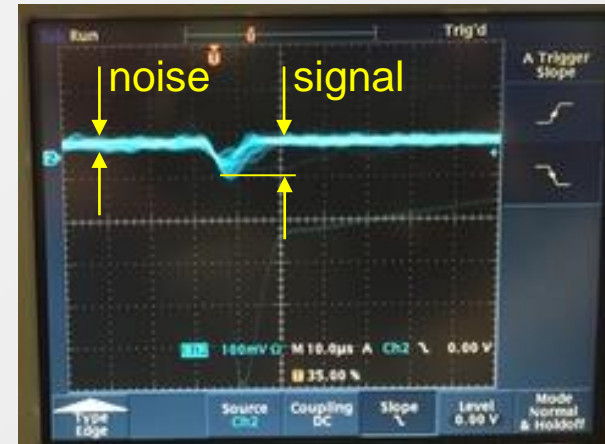
→ the signal becomes detectable.



$$E(r) = \frac{CV_0}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{r}$$

$C$  – capacitance/unit length

$$V(r) = \frac{CV_0}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \ln \frac{r}{a}$$



Multiplication of ionization is described by the first Townsend coefficient  $\alpha(E)$

$$dn = n \cdot \alpha dx \quad \alpha = \frac{1}{\lambda} \quad \lambda - \text{mean free path}$$

$$n = n_0 e^{\alpha(E)x} \quad \text{or} \quad n = n_0 e^{\alpha(r)x}$$

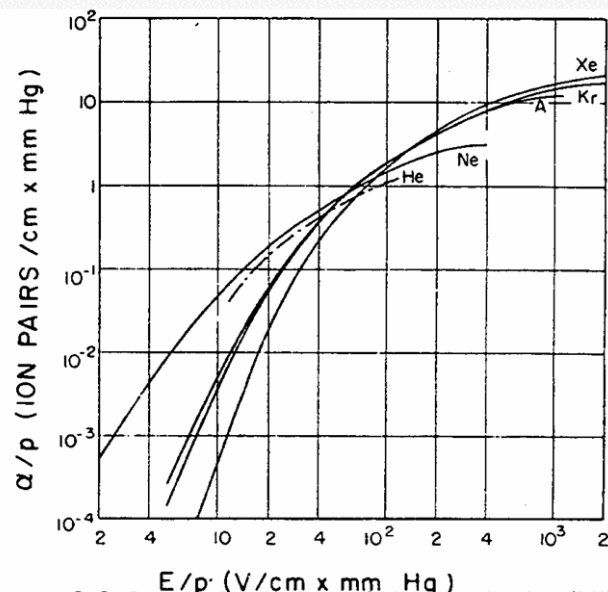
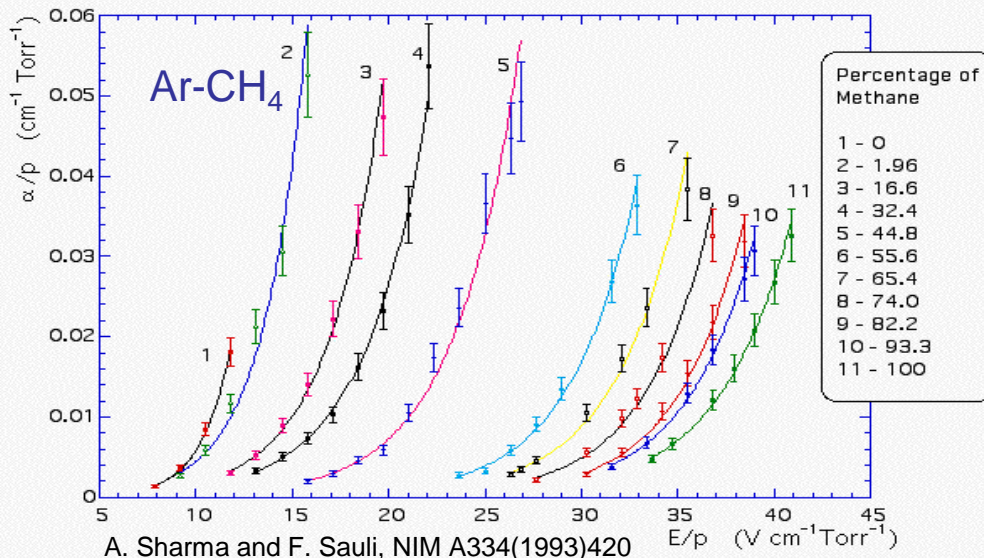
$\alpha(E)$  is determined by the excitation and ionization cross sections of the electrons in the gas.

It depends also on various and complex energy transfer mechanisms between gas molecules.

There is no fundamental expression for  $\alpha(E)$  → it has to be measured for every gas mixture.

$$M = \frac{n}{n_0} = \exp \left[ \int_a^{r_c} \alpha(r) dr \right] \quad \text{Amplification factor or Gain}$$

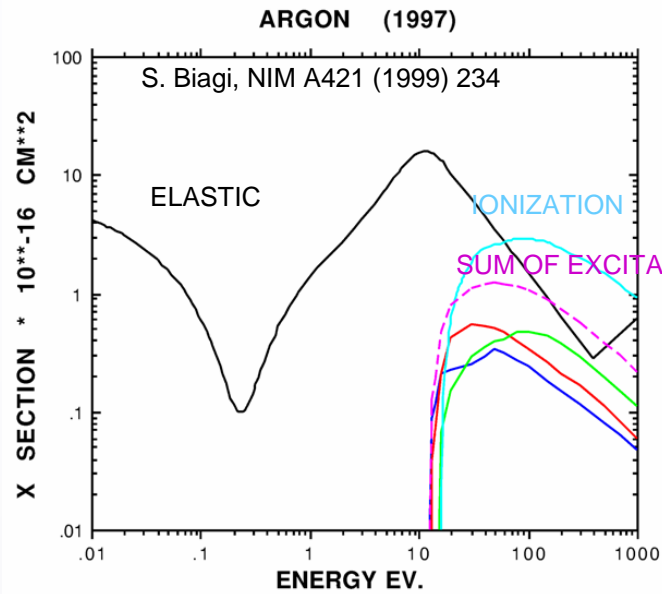
$(E/p = \text{reduced electric field})$



S.C. Brown, Basic data of plasma physics (MIT Press, 1959)



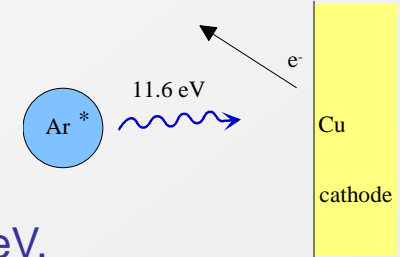
In noble gases, ionization is the dominant process, but there are also excited states.



De-excitation of noble gases only via emission of photons; e.g. 11.6 eV for Ar.

This is above ionization threshold of metals, e.g. Cu 7.7 eV.

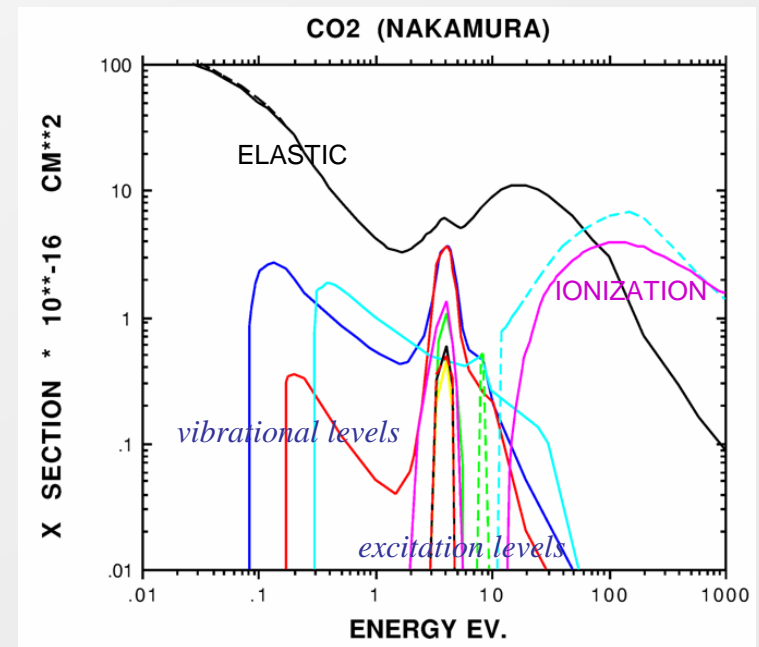
→ new avalanches → permanent discharges !



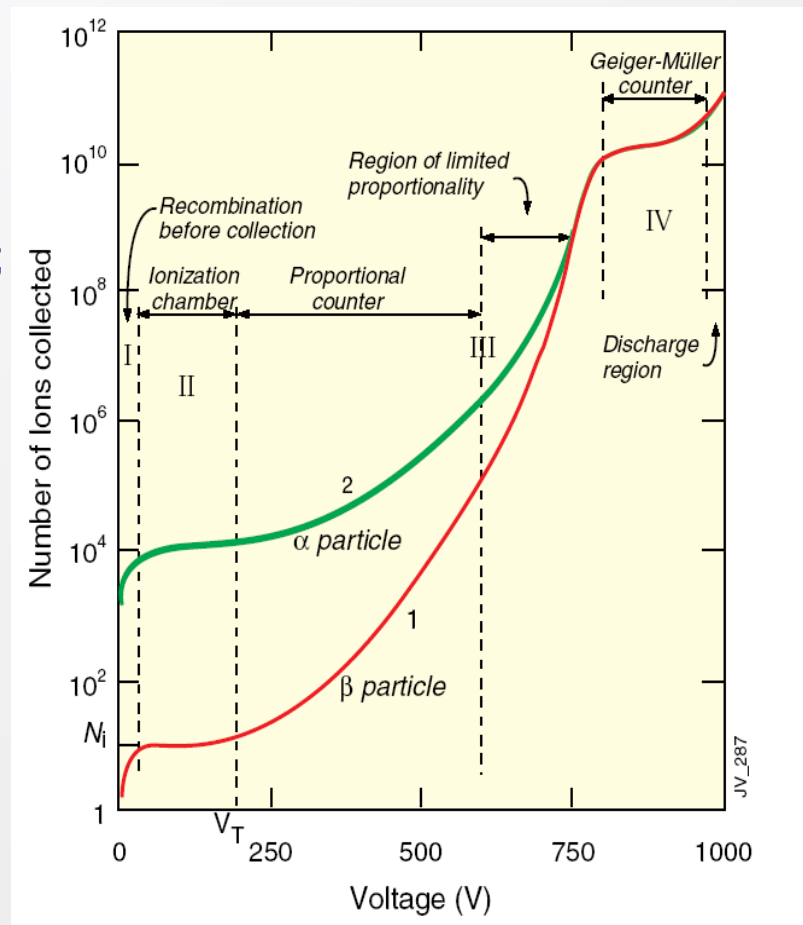
**Solution:** addition of polyatomic gas as a **quencher**

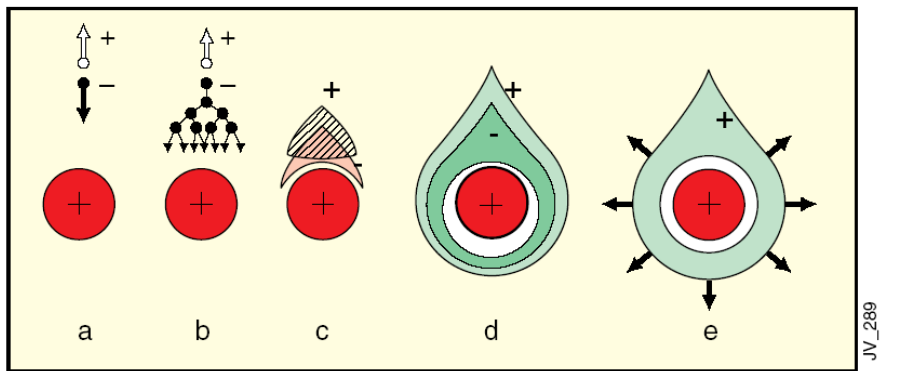
Absorption of photons in a large energy range (many vibrational and rotational energy levels).

Energy dissipation by collisions with gas molecules or dissociation into smaller molecules.



- ionization mode** – full charge collection, but no charge multiplication; gain  $\sim 1$
- proportional mode** – multiplication of ionization starts; detected signal proportional to original ionization  $\rightarrow$  possible energy measurement ( $dE/dx$ ); secondary avalanches have to be quenched; gain  $\sim 10^4 - 10^5$
- limited proportional mode** (saturated, streamer) – strong photoemission; secondary avalanches merging with original avalanche; requires strong quenchers or pulsed HV; large signals  $\rightarrow$  simple electronics; gain  $\sim 10^{10}$
- Geiger mode** – massive photoemission; full length of the anode wire affected; discharge stopped by HV cut; strong quenchers needed as well





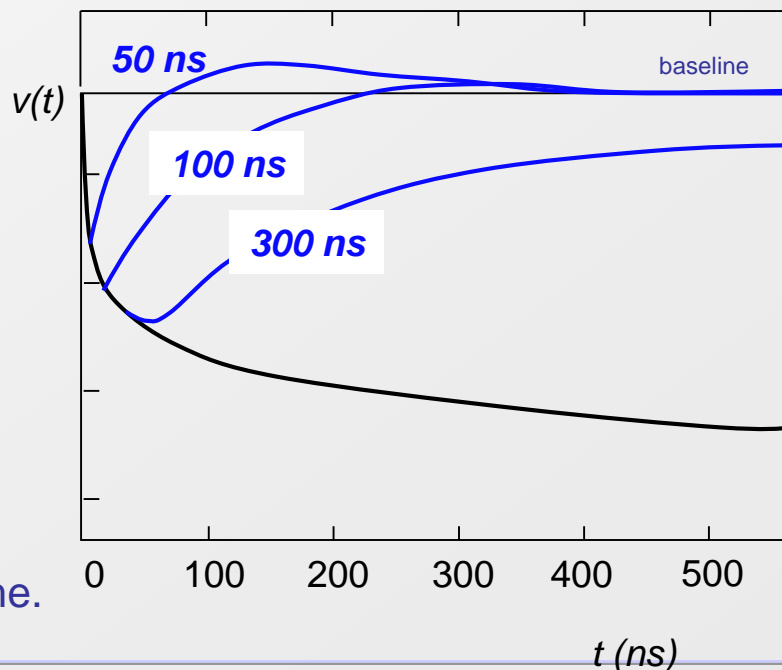
**Electrons** collected by the anode wire i.e.  $dr$  is very small (few  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Electrons contribute only very little to detected signal (few %).

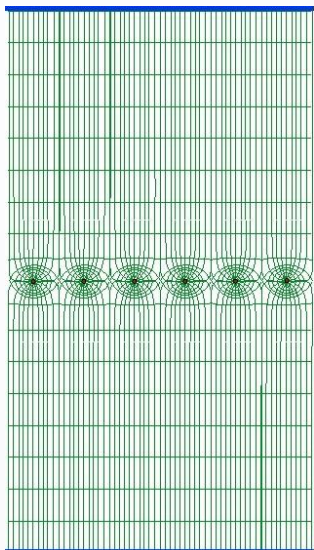
**Ions** have to drift back to cathode i.e.  $dr$  is large (few mm). Signal duration limited by total ion drift time.

Need electronic signal differentiation to limit dead time.

Avalanche formation within a few wire radii and within  $t < 1$  ns.  
Signal induction both on anode and cathode due to moving charges (both electrons and ions).

$$dv = \frac{Q}{lCV_0} \frac{dV}{dr} dr$$





Simple idea to multiply SWPC cell : Nobel Prize 1992



First electronic device allowing high statistics experiments !!

Typical geometry  
5mm, 1mm, 20 μm

Normally digital readout :  
spatial resolution limited to

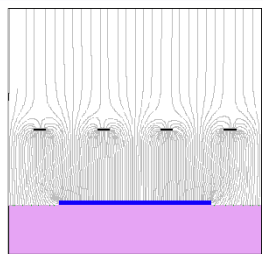
$$\sigma_x \approx \frac{d}{\sqrt{12}}$$

for  $d = 1 \text{ mm}$   $\sigma_x = 300 \text{ μm}$

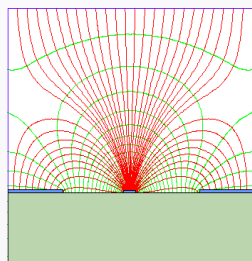


G. Charpak, F. Sauli and J.C. Santiard

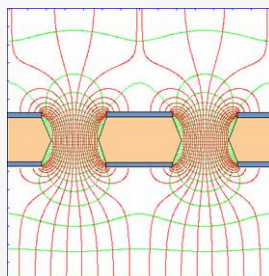
Cylindrical geometry is not the only one able to generate strong electric field:



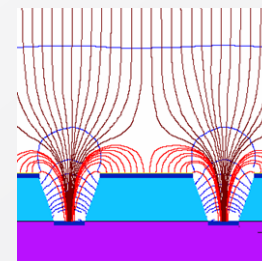
parallel plate



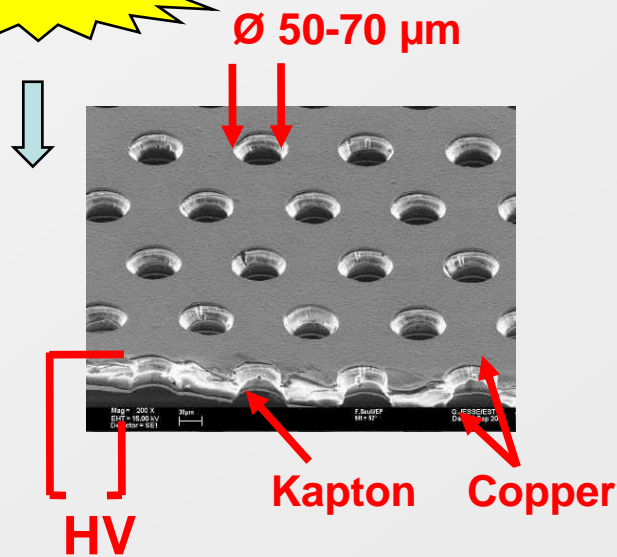
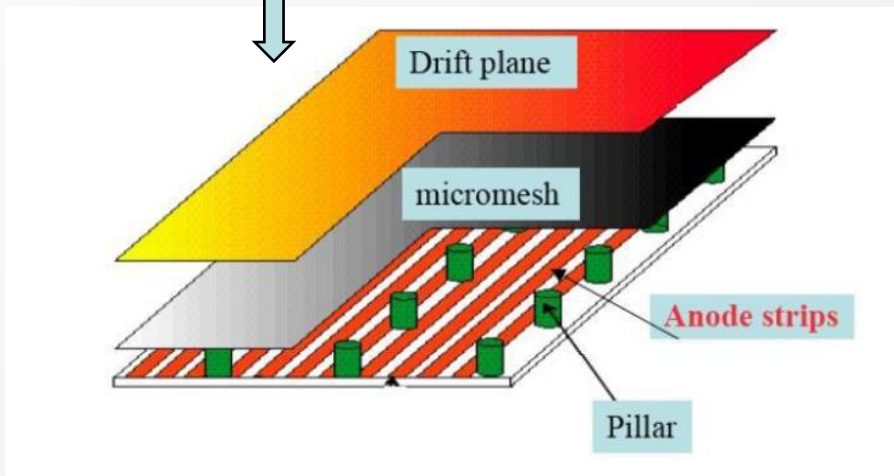
strip



hole

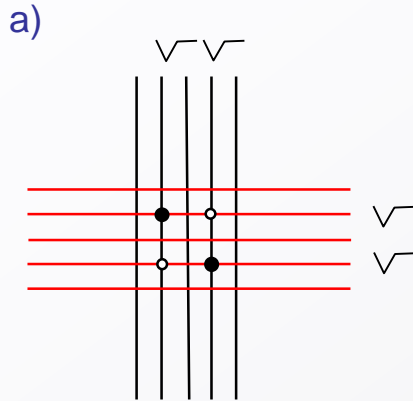


groove

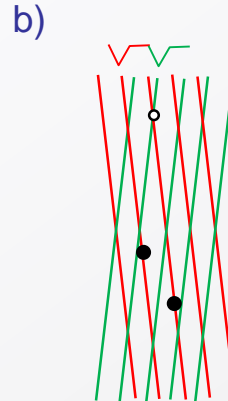




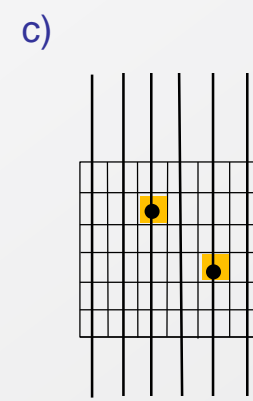
# From 1D to 2D detectors



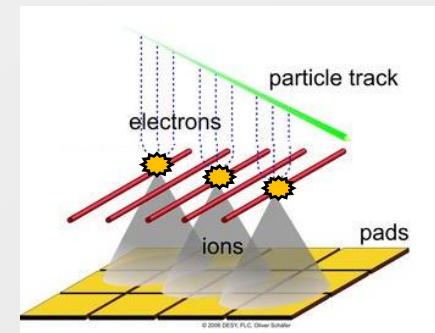
Crossed wire plane  
 →  $2N$  channels  
 However: ghost hits ( $\geq 2$  particles)



Stereo geometry  
 (e.g.  $\pm 5^\circ$ )  
 →  $2N$  channels.  
 One coordinate has worse resolution than other.  
 Ghost hits only local.

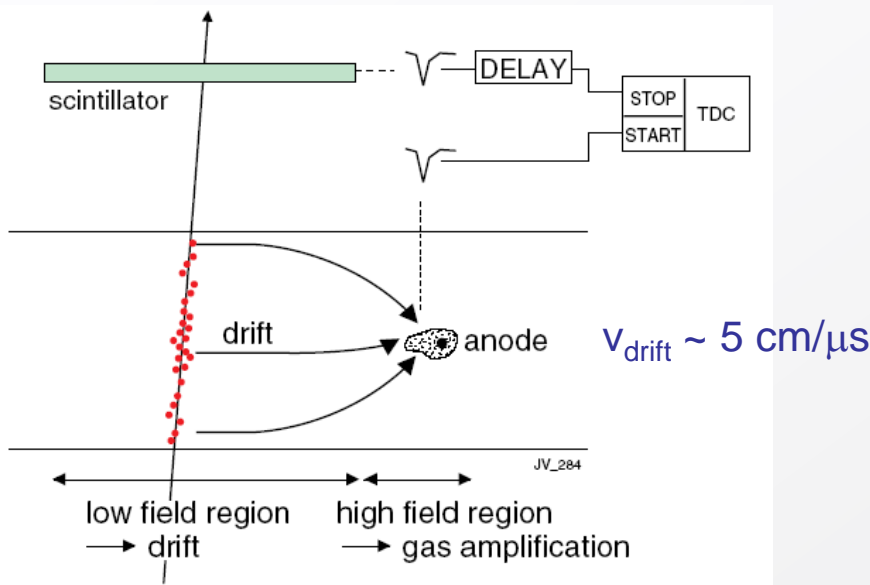


True 2D readout. Signals from wires are induced on readout plane just behind wires.  
 →  $N^2$  channels!



Spatial information obtained by measuring **time of drift** of electrons

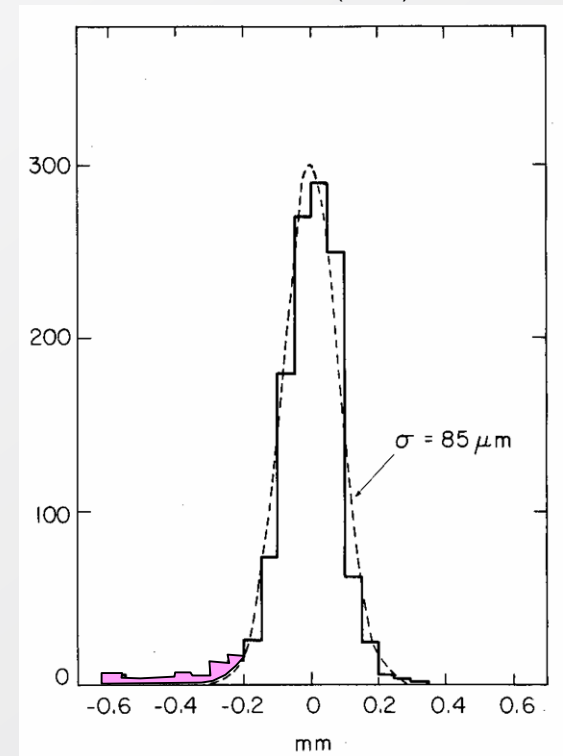
- Measure arrival time of electrons at sense wire relative to a time  $t_0$ .
- Need a trigger (bunch crossing or scintillator).
- Drift velocity independent from  $E$ .

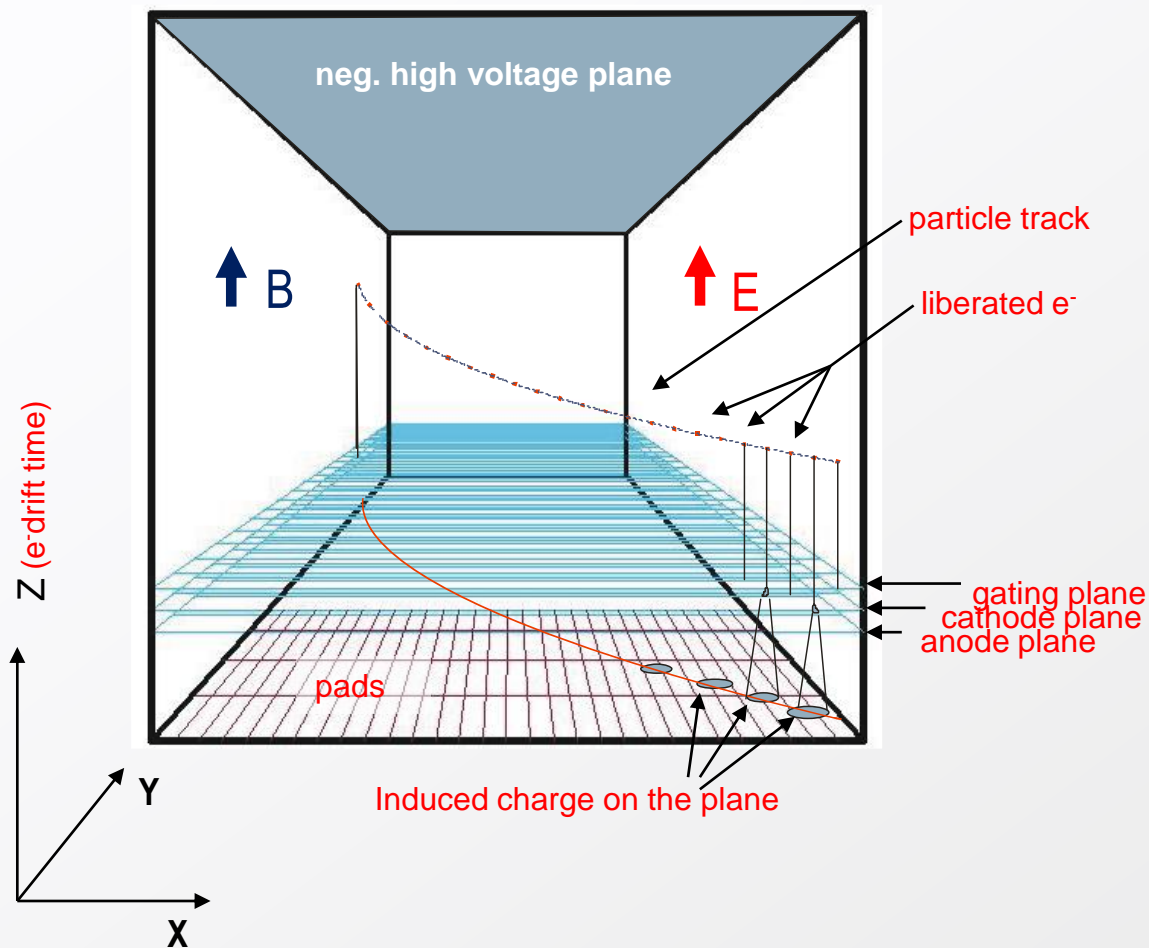


Advantages: smaller number of wires  
 → less electronics channels.

Resolution determined by diffusion, primary ionization statistics, path fluctuations and electronics.

F. Sauli, NIM 156(1978)147

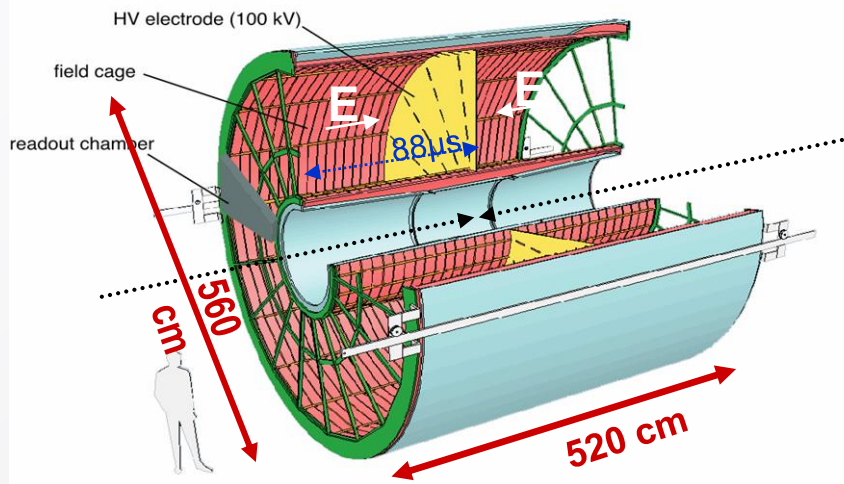
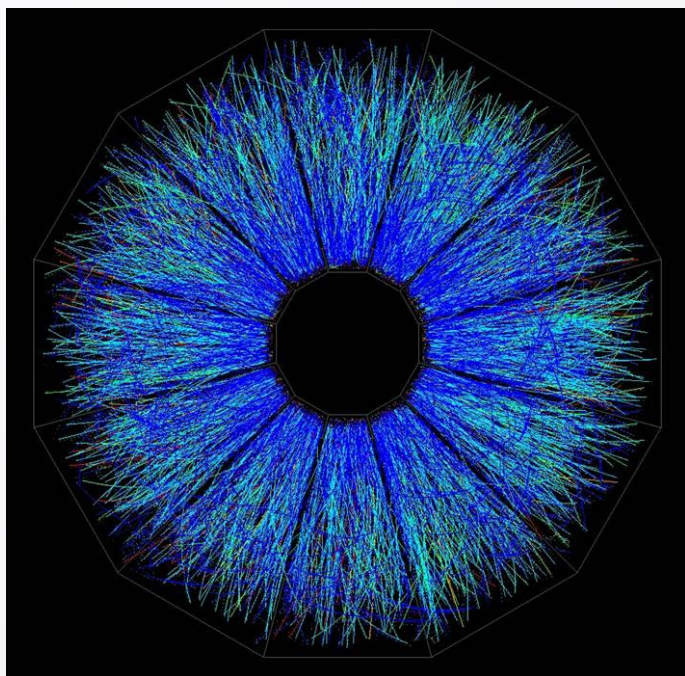
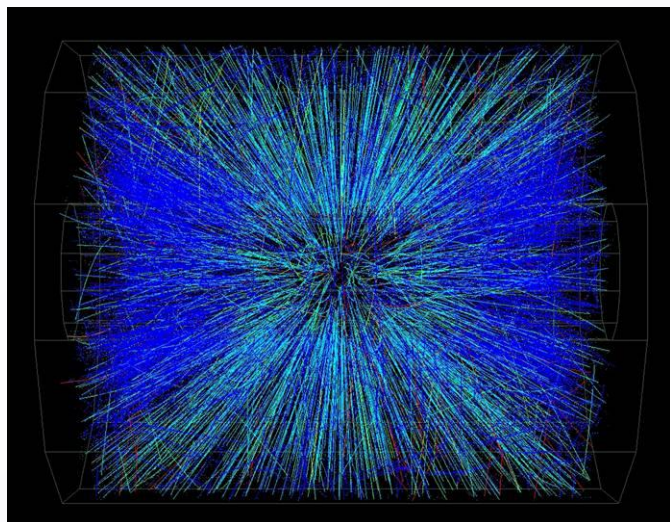




## Time Projection Chamber full 3D track reconstruction:

- **x-y** from wires and segmented cathode of MWPC (or GEM)
- **z** from drift time
- **momentum** measurement:  
space resolution + B field (multiple scattering)
- **dE/dx** measurement:  
measurement of primary ionization  $\rightarrow \sim \beta$
- **Particle ID**

$$m_0 = p/\beta\gamma c$$



## Alice TPC

HV central electrode at  $-100$  kV

Drift length  $250$  cm at  $E = 400$  V/cm

Gas Ne-CO<sub>2</sub> 90-10

Space point resolution  $\sim 500$   $\mu$ m

$dp/p = 2\%$ @1GeV/c;  $10\%$ @10 GeV/c

Events from **STAR TPC** at RHIC

Au-Au collisions at CM energy of  $130$  GeV/n

Typically  $\sim 2000$  tracks/event

- ALICE:** TPC (tracker), TRD (transition rad.), TOF (MRPC), HMPID (RICH-pad chamber), Muon tracking (pad chamber), Muon trigger (RPC)
- ATLAS:** TRD (straw tubes), MDT (muon drift tubes), Muon trigger (RPC, thin gap chambers)
- CMS:** Muon detector (drift tubes, CSC), RPC (muon trigger)
- LHCb:** Tracker (straw tubes), Muon detector (MWPC, GEM)
- TOTEM:** Tracker & trigger (CSC , GEM)

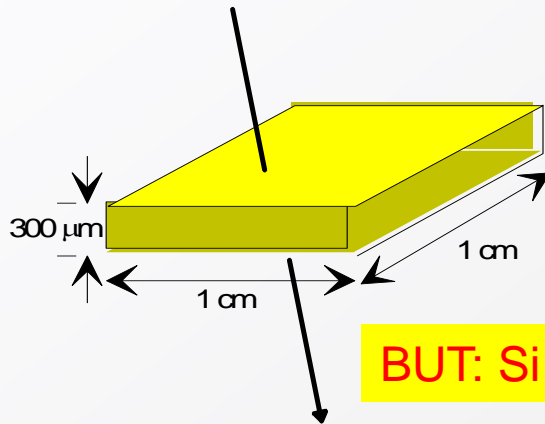




We are looking for a detector to overcome some of the limitations of the gaseous detectors

- Small primary signal → need of gas amplification (not discussed: aging, rate limitations)
- Moderate spatial resolution (100  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- Massive frames, high voltage, gas circulation

**Silicon** (also GaAs, diamond) is a very promising material



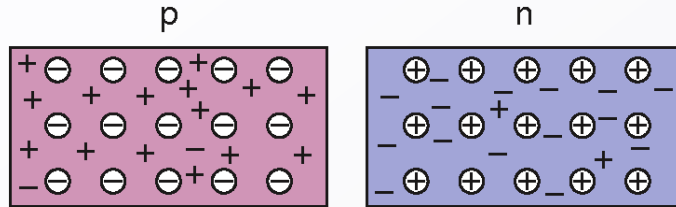
- ultra pure crystalline material
- $\rho_{\text{Si}} = 2.33 \text{ g/cm}^3$
- Energy loss of particles in Si = 3.8 MeV/cm
- $E(\text{e-h pair}) = 3.6 \text{ eV}$  ( $\approx 20\text{-}30 \text{ eV}$  for gas detectors)
- A particle traversing 300  $\mu\text{m}$  of Si creates  **$\sim 30'000$**  e/h pairs

**BUT: Si is a semiconductor. It contains already free charge carriers.**

At room temperature, in  $1 \times 1 \times 0.03 \text{ cm}^3$ , there are  **$4.5 \cdot 10^8$**  free charge carriers. We have to eliminate the free charges (= deplete the detector), such that our signal can be seen.

**→ Use the principle of the pn junction**

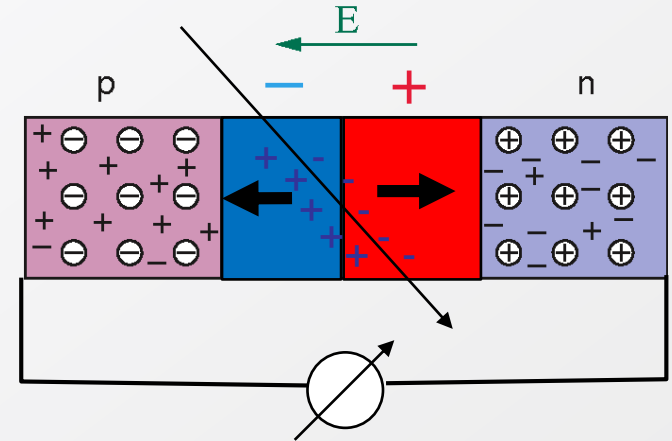
1. Dope Silicon with acceptor and donor atoms



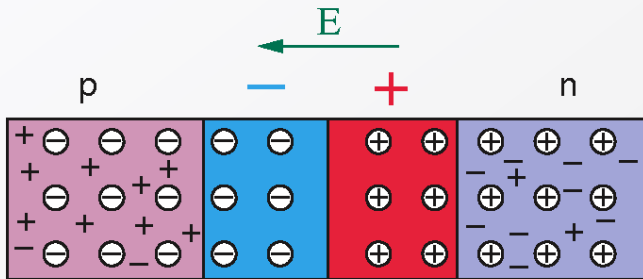
Boron: extra free holes  
→ p-Si

Phosphor: extra free electrons  
→ n-Si

4. The resulting electric field separates newly created free charges → signal current

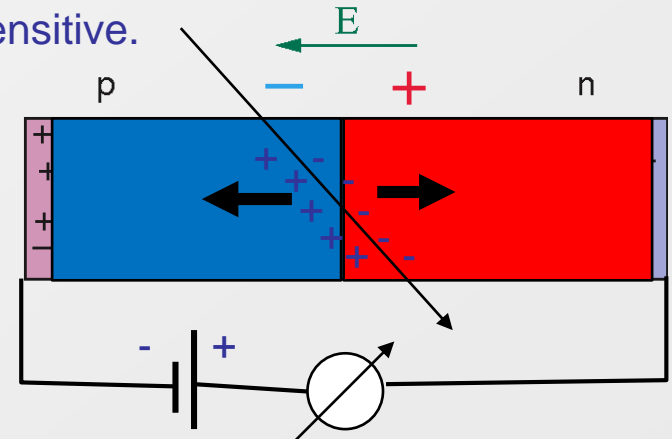


2. Bring the two doped regions in contact



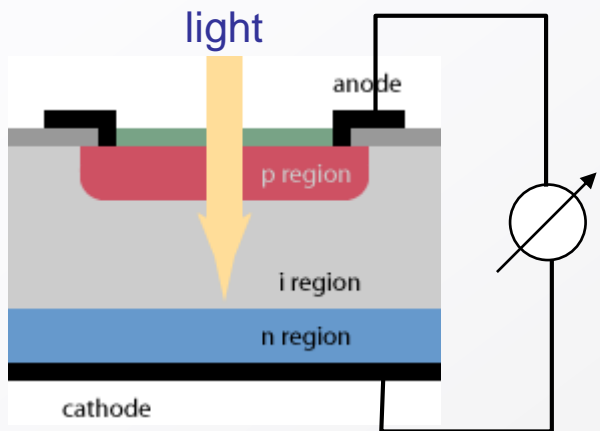
3. In the interface region holes and electrons will neutralise each other and create a depleted zone without any free charge carriers.

5. An external (reverse bias) voltage depletes the whole volume and makes it sensitive.

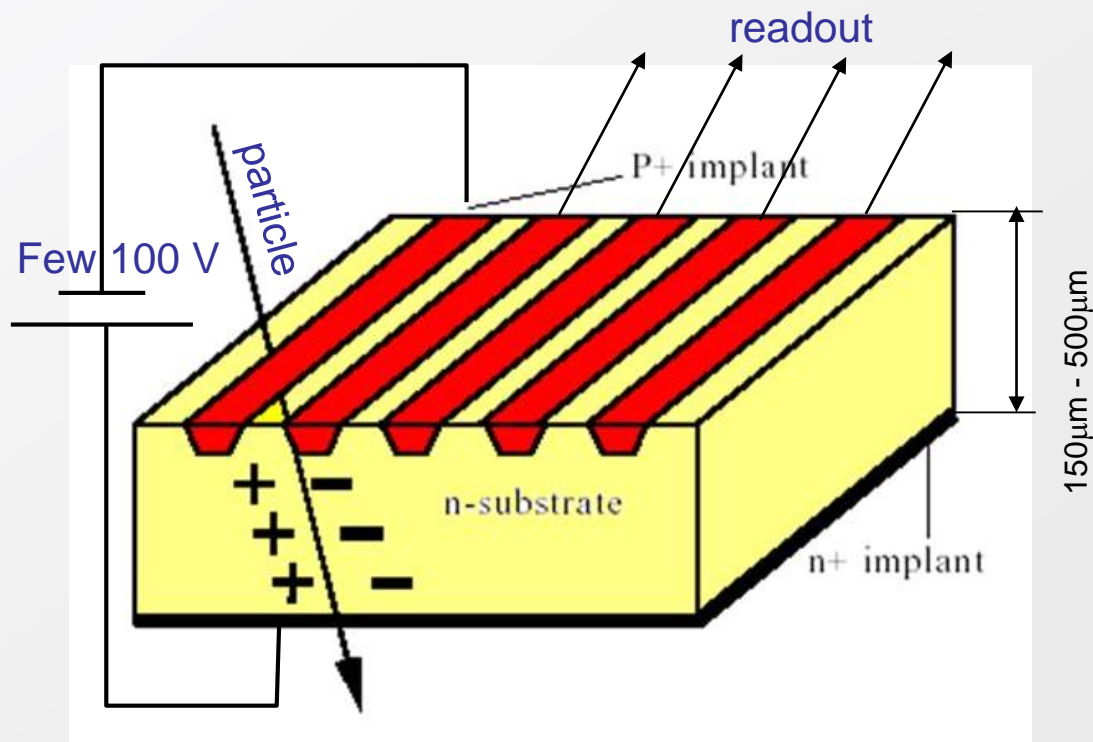


In the real world, Si-sensors are not produced by joining p and n doped material, but by implanting acceptors in a n-doped bulk (or donors in a p-doped bulk)

### Simplest example: (PIN) photodiode



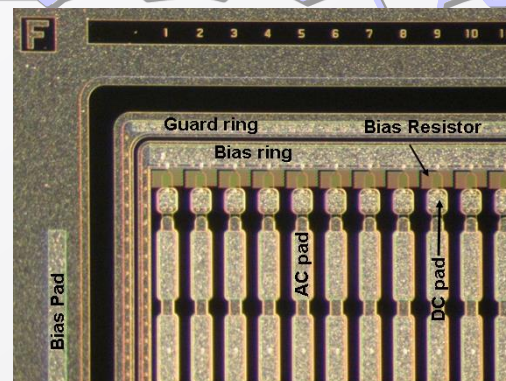
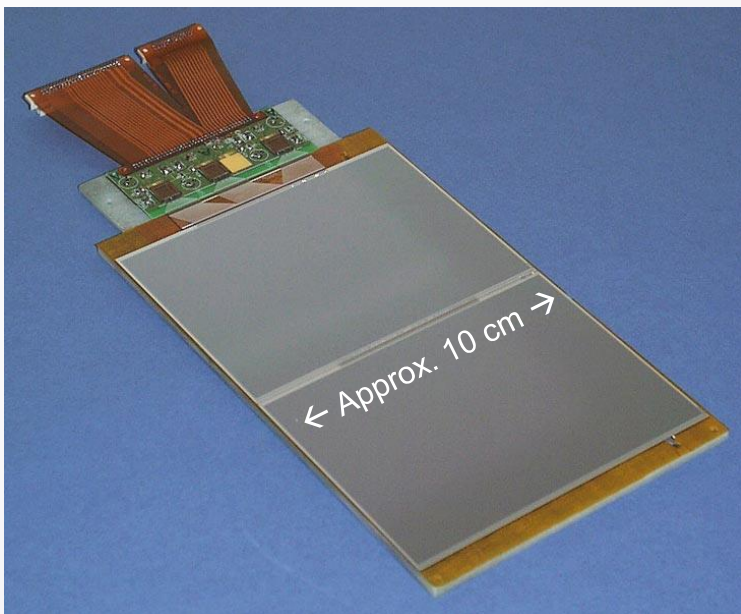
### More complex: Si microstrip detector



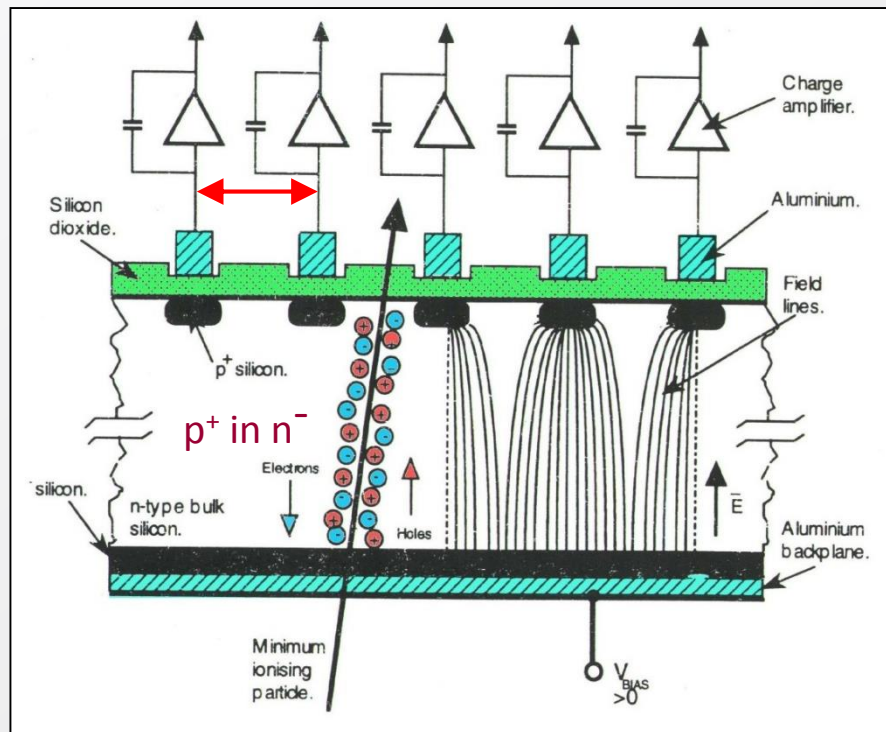
Highly segmented silicon detectors have been used in Particle Physics experiments for 30 years.

They are favourite choice for Tracker and Vertex detectors (high resolution, speed, low mass, relatively low cost)

A real detector with 2 sensors, pitch adaptor, readout electronics and flex cable



Pitch  $\sim 50\mu\text{m}$

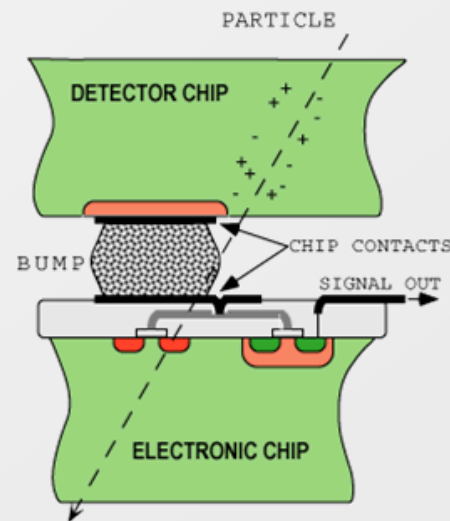
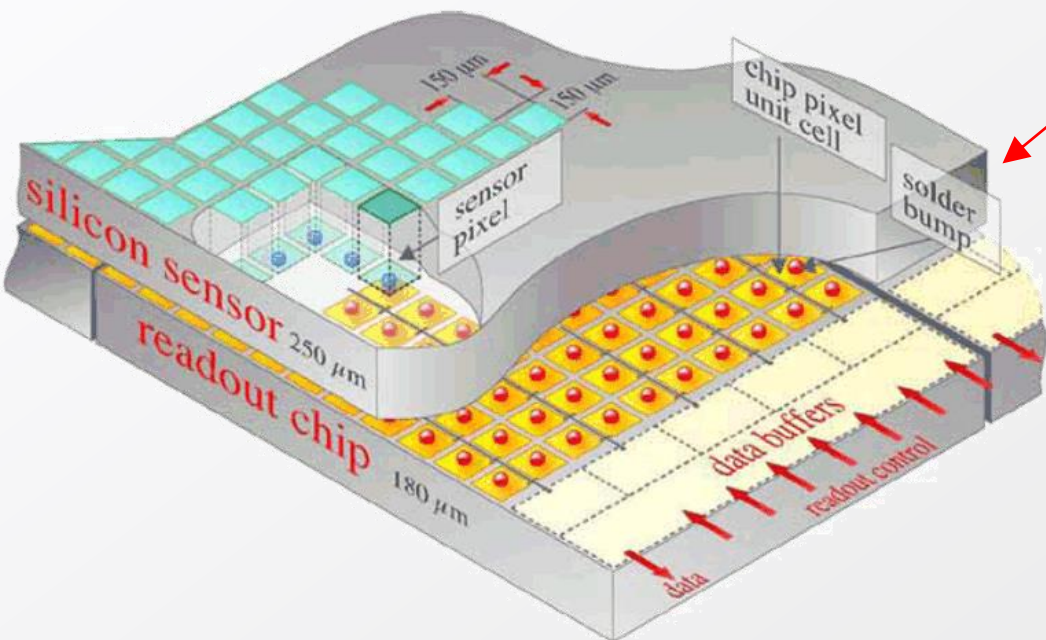
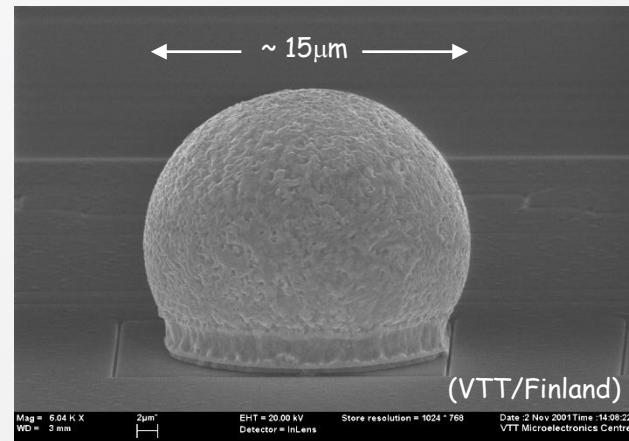


Resolution  $\sim 5\mu\text{m}$



- HAPS – Hybrid Active Pixel Sensor
- segment silicon to diode matrix with high granularity readout ( $\Rightarrow$  true 2D, no reconstruction ambiguity)
- electronic with same geometry (every cell connected to its own processing electronics)
- connection by “bump bonding”
- requires sophisticated readout architecture
- Hybrid pixel detectors are/will be used in LHC experiments: ATLAS, ALICE, CMS and LHCb

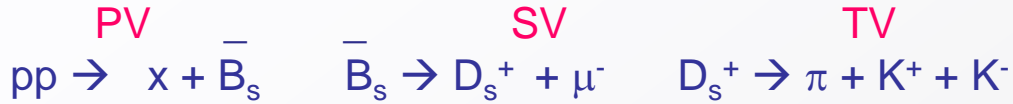
## Solder Bump: Pb-Sn



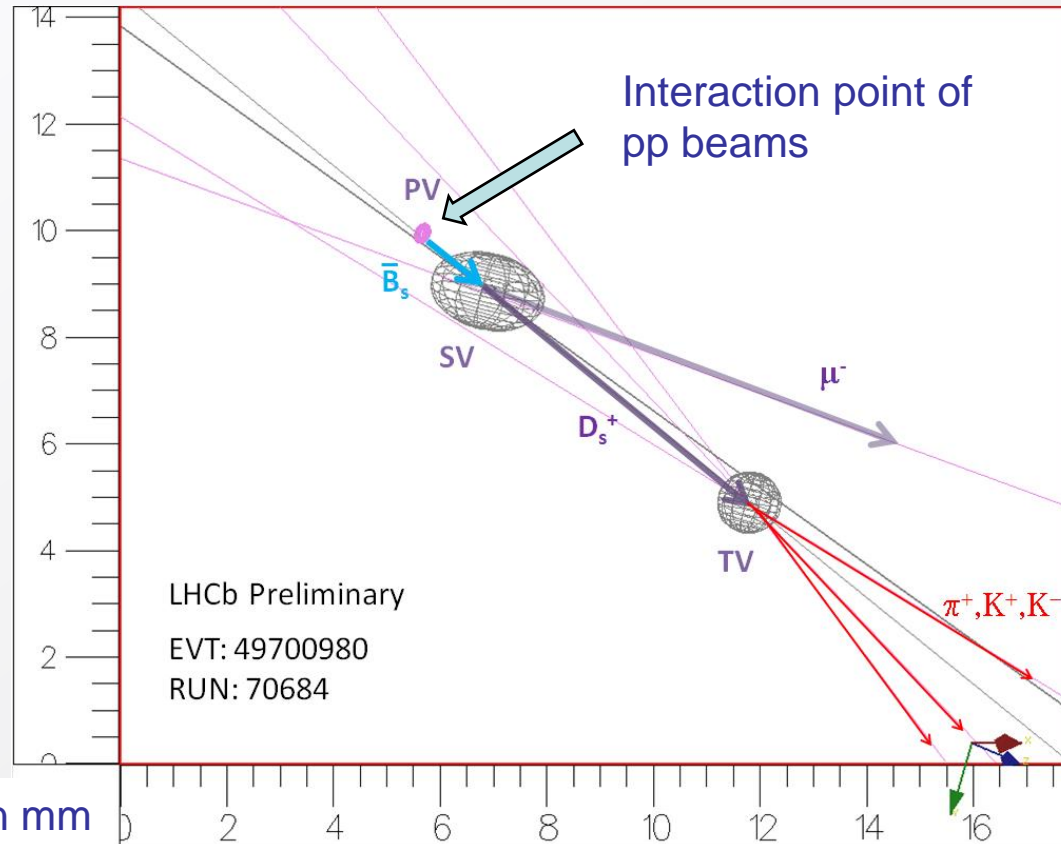
## Flip-chip technique



High resolution silicon detectors allow to observe secondary and tertiary vertices.



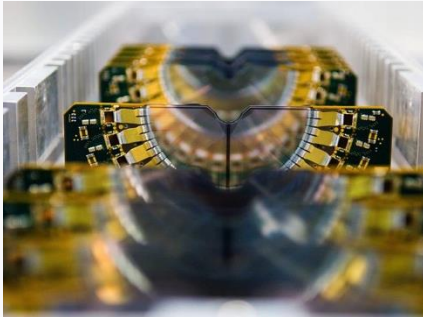
$\tau_0(B_s) \approx 1.5 \text{ ps}$   
 $\tau_0(D_s^+) \approx 0.4 \text{ ps}$



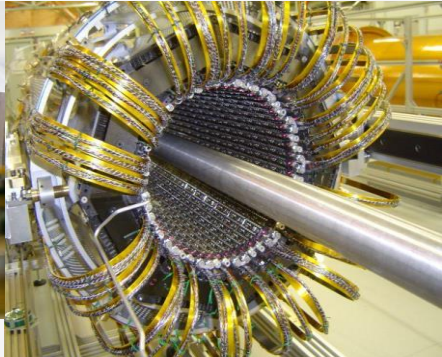
Silicon tracking detectors are used in all LHC experiments:  
Different sensor technologies, designs, operating conditions,....



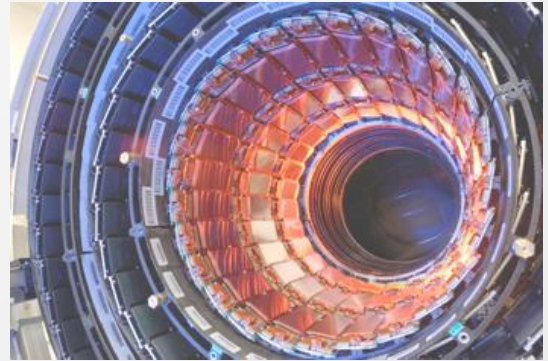
ALICE Pixel Detector



LHCb VELO



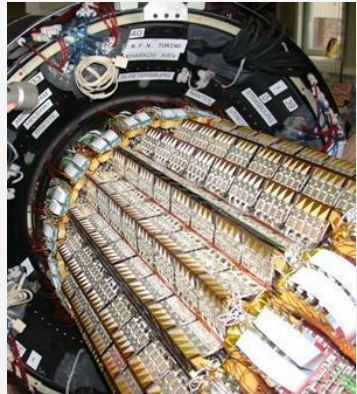
ATLAS Pixel Detector



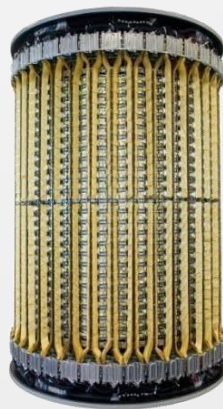
CMS Strip Tracker IB



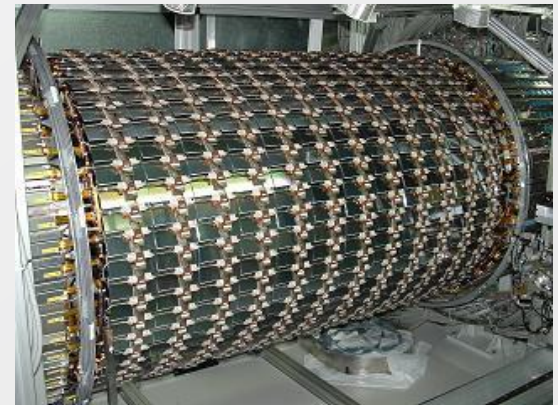
CMS Pixel Detector



ALICE Drift Detector



ALICE Strip Detector

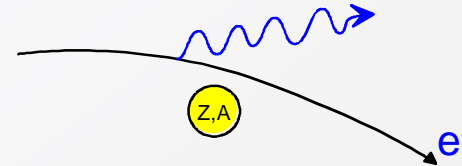


ATLAS SCT Barrel

# Interaction of charged particles

## ■ Energy loss by Bremsstrahlung

Radiation of real photons in the Coulomb field of the nuclei of the absorber medium



$$-\frac{dE}{dx} = 4\alpha N_A \frac{Z^2}{A} z^2 \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^2}{mc^2} \right)^2 E \ln \frac{183}{Z^{1/3}} \propto \frac{E}{m^2}$$

Effect is only relevant for  $e^\pm$  and ultra-relativistic  $\mu$  ( $>1000$  GeV)

$$\frac{m_\mu^2}{m_e^2} = \frac{105^2 \text{ MeV}^2}{0.5^2 \text{ MeV}^2} = 4.4 \cdot 10^4$$

For electrons:

$$-\frac{dE}{dx} = 4\alpha N_A \frac{Z^2}{A} r_e^2 E \ln \frac{183}{Z^{1/3}}$$

$$\frac{dE}{dx} = \frac{E}{X_0}$$

energy loss is proportional to actual energy

$$\longrightarrow E = E_0 e^{-x/X_0}$$

$$X_0 = \frac{A}{4\alpha N_A Z^2 r_e^2 \ln \frac{183}{Z^{1/3}}}$$

radiation length [g/cm<sup>2</sup>]

(divide by specific density to get  $X_0$  in cm)

# Interaction of charged particles

## ■ Critical energy $E_c$

$$\left. \frac{dE}{dx}(E_c) \right|_{Brems} = \left. \frac{dE}{dx}(E_c) \right|_{ion}$$

For electrons one finds approximately:

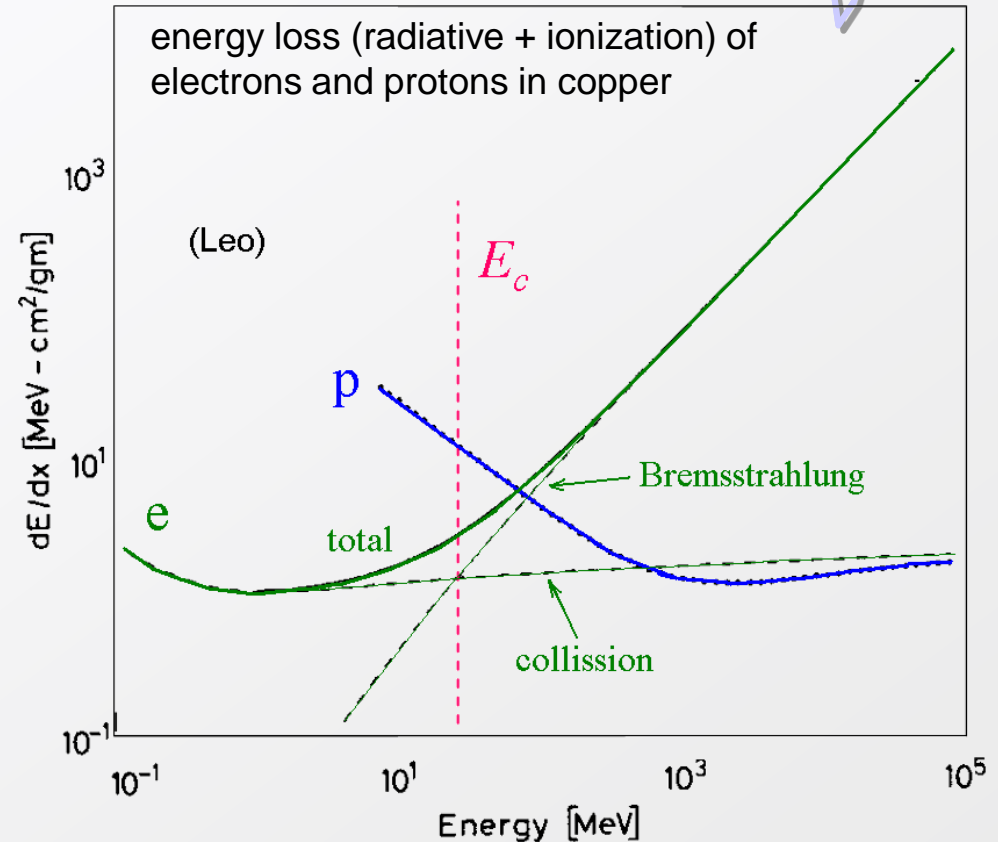
$$E_c^{solid+liq} = \frac{610 \text{ MeV}}{Z + 1.24} \quad E_c^{gas} = \frac{710 \text{ MeV}}{Z + 1.24}$$

$E_c(e^-)$  in Cu ( $Z=29$ ) = 20 MeV

For muons  $E_c \approx E_c^{elec} \left( \frac{m_\mu}{m_e} \right)^2$

$E_c(\mu)$  in Cu  $\approx 1 \text{ TeV}$

Unlike electrons, muons in multi-GeV range can traverse thick layers of dense matter.  
Find charged particles traversing the calorimeter ?  $\rightarrow$  most likely a muon  $\rightarrow$  Particle ID

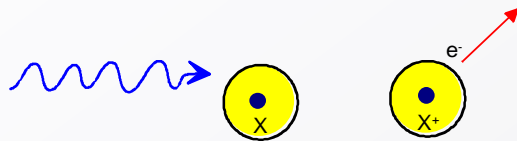




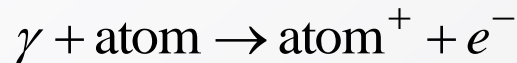
# Interaction of photons

In order to be detected, a photon has to create charged particles and / or transfer energy to charged particles

## ■ Photo-electric effect:



Only possible in the close neighborhood of a third collision partner → photo effect releases mainly electrons from the K-shell.



Cross section shows strong modulation if  $E_\gamma \approx E_{shell}$

$$\sigma_{photo}^K = \left(\frac{32}{\epsilon^7}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \alpha^4 Z^5 \sigma_{Th}^e \quad \epsilon = \frac{E_\gamma}{m_e c^2} \quad \sigma_{Th}^e = \frac{8}{3} \pi r_e^2 \quad (\text{Thomson})$$

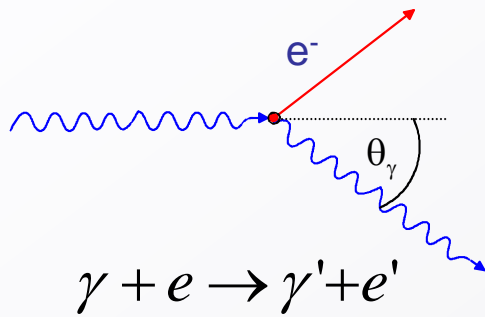
At high energies ( $\epsilon \gg 1$ )

$$\sigma_{photo}^K = 4\pi r_e^2 \alpha^4 Z^5 \frac{1}{\epsilon} \quad \boxed{\sigma_{photo} \propto Z^5}$$



# Interaction of photons

## Compton scattering:



$$E'_\gamma = E_\gamma \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon(1 - \cos\theta_\gamma)}$$

$$\varepsilon = \frac{E_\gamma}{m_e c^2}$$

$$E_e = E_\gamma - E'_\gamma$$

Compton cross-section (Klein-Nishina)  
example:  $E_\gamma = 0 \dots 511$  keV

Assume electron as quasi-free.

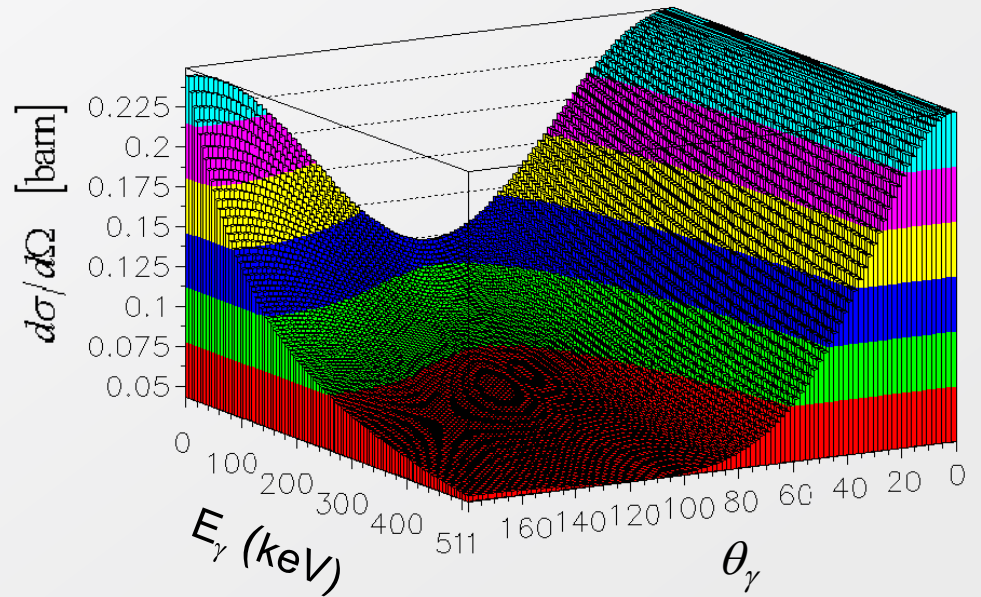
**Klein-Nishina**  $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(\theta, \varepsilon)$   $\rightarrow$

At high energies approximately

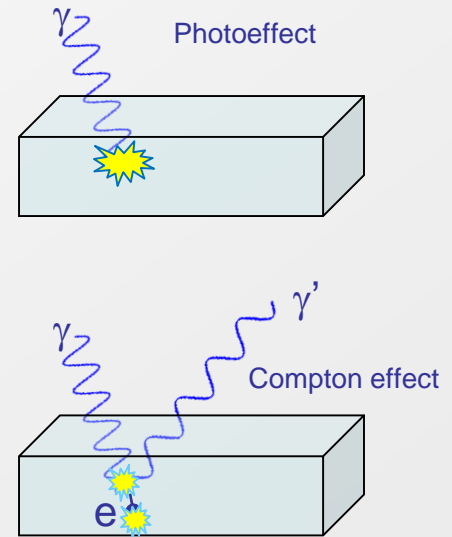
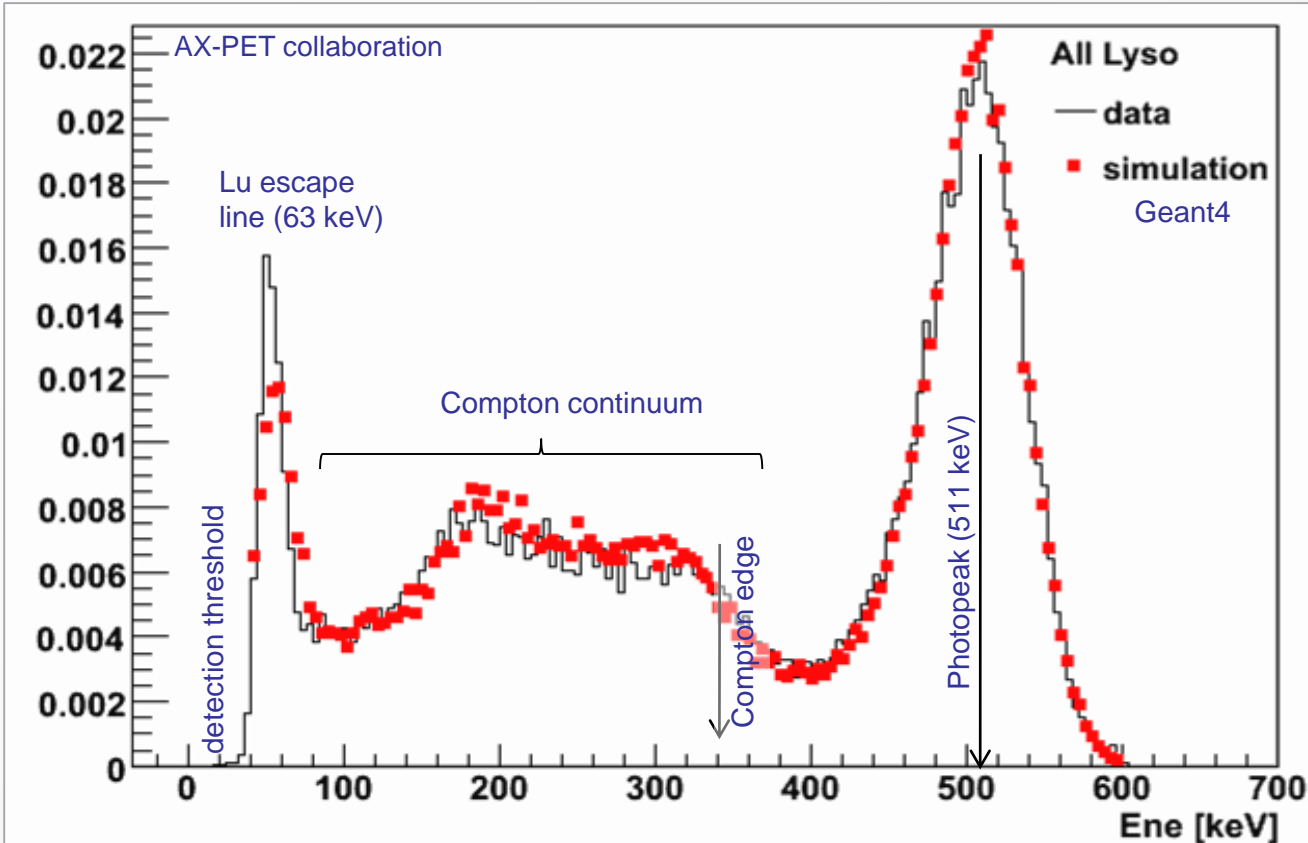
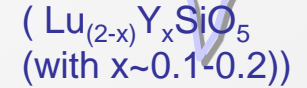
$$\sigma_c^e \propto \frac{\ln \varepsilon}{\varepsilon}$$

Atomic Compton cross-section:

$$\sigma_c^{atomic} = Z \cdot \sigma_c^e$$



# Detection of 511 keV (annihilation) photons in a LYSO crystal scintillator



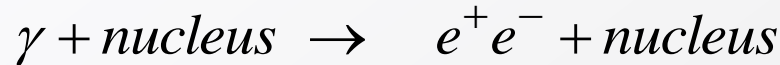
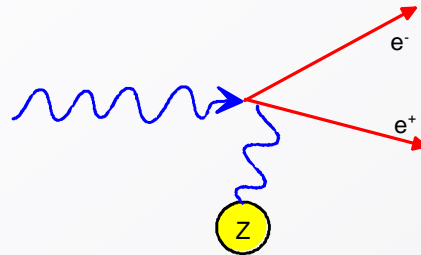
Relative strengths of photopeak and Compton continuum depend on  $Z_{\text{eff}}$  of scintillator and geometry.

Compton:  $E'_\gamma = E_\gamma \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon(1 - \cos \theta_\gamma)}$       $\varepsilon = \frac{E_\gamma}{m_e c^2}$       $E_\gamma = 511 \text{keV} \rightarrow \varepsilon = 1$

$E_\gamma^{\text{min}} = E'_\gamma(\theta = 180^\circ) = E_\gamma \frac{1}{1 + 2\varepsilon} = E_\gamma / 3 \approx 170 \text{keV}$       $E_e^{\text{max}} = E_\gamma - E_\gamma^{\text{min}} = 511 - 170 = 340 \text{keV}$

# Interaction of photons

- **Pair production**



Only possible in the Coulomb field of a nucleus (or an electron) if  $E_\gamma \geq 2m_e c^2$

Cross-section (high energy approximation)

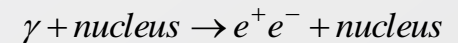
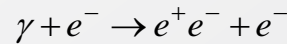
$$\sigma_{pair} \approx 4\alpha r_e^2 Z^2 \left( \frac{7}{9} \ln \frac{183}{Z^{1/3}} \right) \text{ independent of energy !}$$

$$\approx \frac{7}{9} \frac{A}{N_A} \frac{1}{X_0}$$

$$\approx \frac{A}{N_A} \frac{1}{\lambda_{pair}}$$

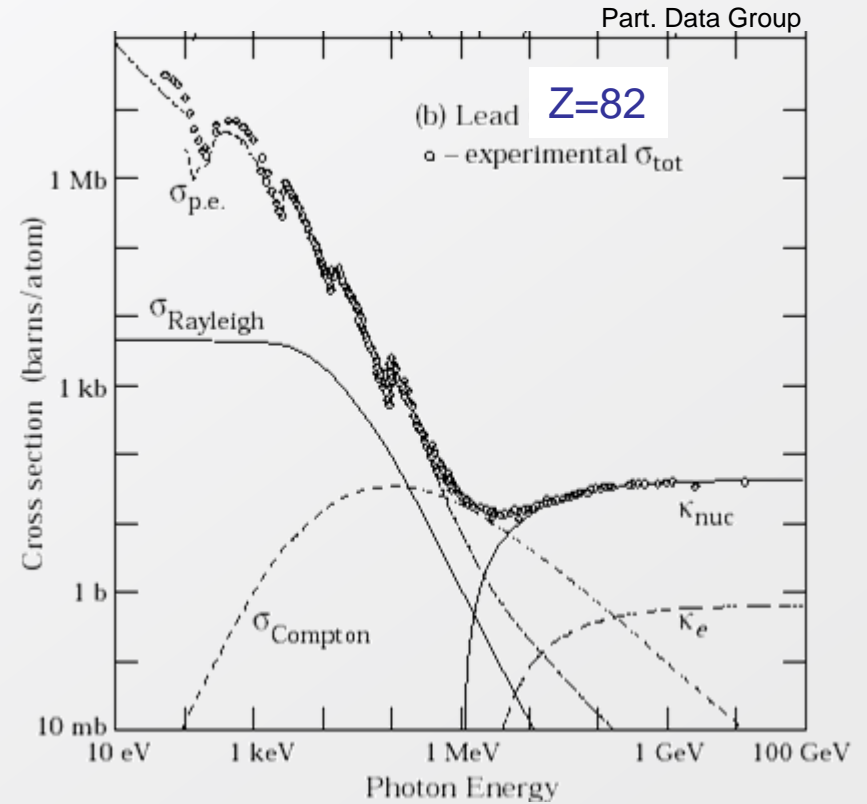
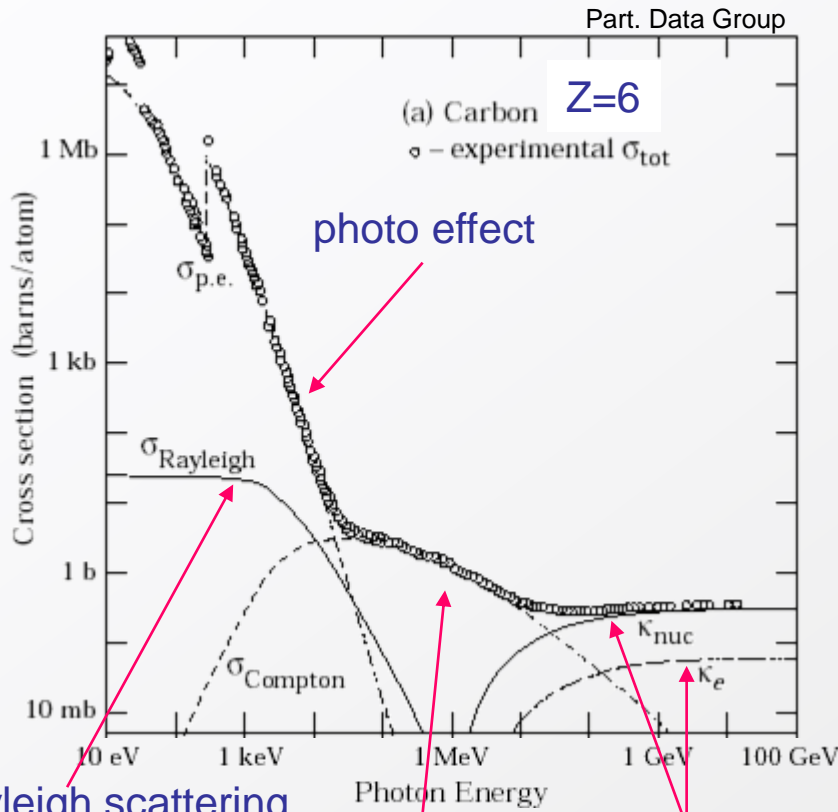
$$\lambda_{pair} = \frac{9}{7} X_0$$

Energy sharing between  $e^+$  and  $e^-$  becomes asymmetric at high energies.



In summary:  $I_\gamma = I_0 e^{-\mu x}$

$\mu$ : mass attenuation coefficient  $\mu_i = \frac{N_A}{A} \sigma_i \quad [cm^2 / g] \quad \mu = \mu_{photo} + \mu_{Compton} + \mu_{pair} + \dots$



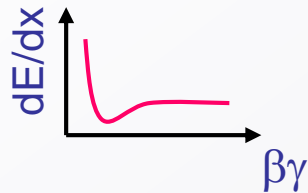
Rayleigh scattering  
 (no energy loss !)

Compton scattering

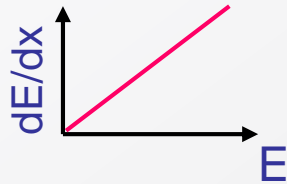
pair production

## $e^+ / e^-$

- Ionisation

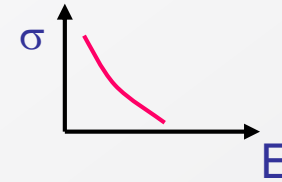


- Bremsstrahlung



## $\gamma$

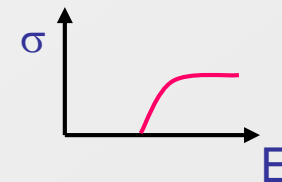
- Photoelectric effect



- Compton effect



- Pair production







Backup slides

Free ionization charges lose energy in collisions with gas atoms and molecules (thermalization). They tend towards a Maxwell - Boltzmann energy distribution:

$$F(\epsilon) \propto \sqrt{\epsilon} \cdot e^{-\frac{\epsilon}{kT}}$$

Average (thermal) energy:

$$\epsilon_T = \frac{3}{2} kT \approx 0.040 eV$$

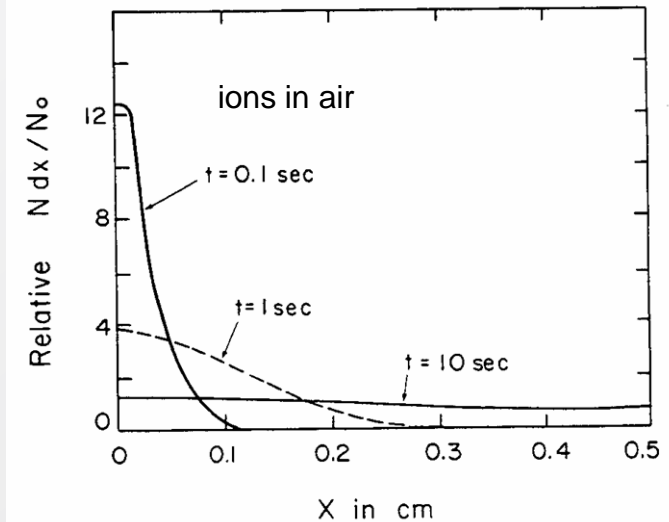
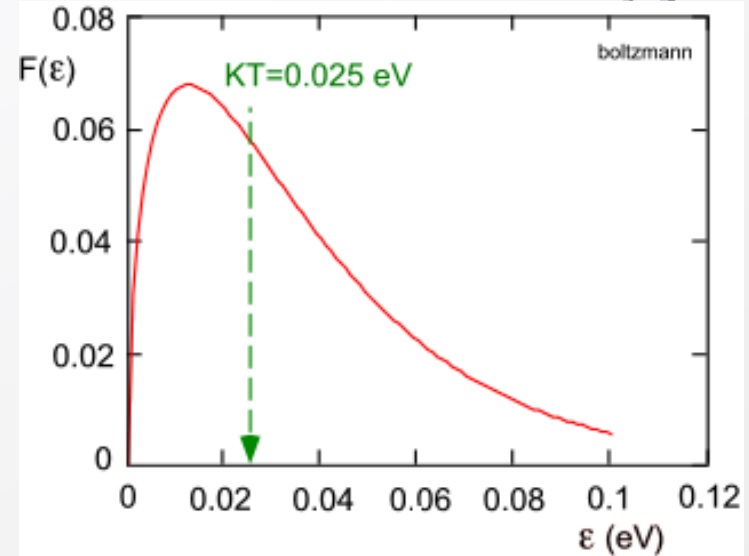
Diffusion equation:

Fraction of free charges at distance  $x$  after time  $t$ .

$$\frac{dN}{N} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi Dt}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{4Dt}} dt \quad D: \text{diffusion coefficient}$$

RMS of linear diffusion:

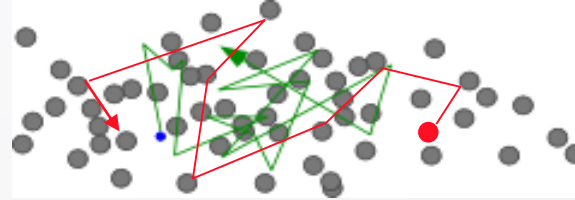
$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{2Dt}$$



L.B. Loeb, Basic processes of gaseous electronics  
Univ. of California Press, Berkeley, 1961

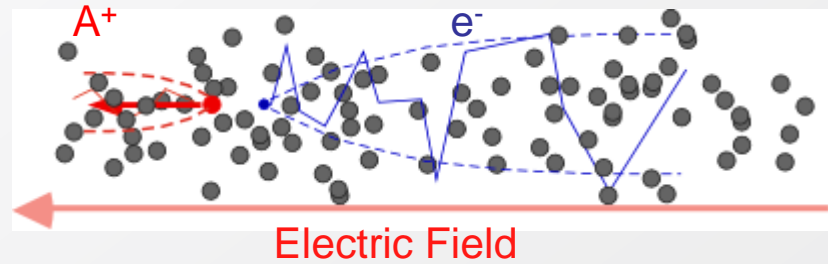
$E=0$  thermal diffusion

$$\langle v \rangle_t = 0$$



$E>0$  charge transport and diffusion

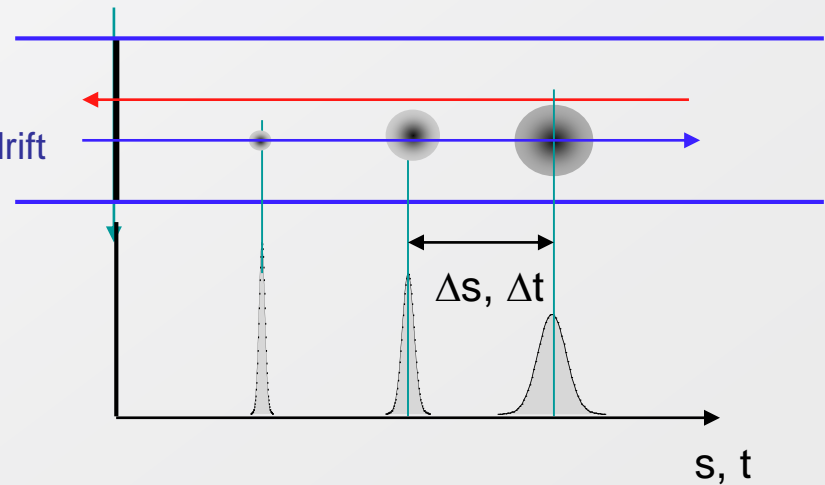
$$\langle v \rangle_t = v_D$$



$$v_D = \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} \quad \text{Drift velocity}$$

Electron swarm drift

$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{2Dt} = \sqrt{2D \frac{s}{v_D}} \quad \text{Diffusion}$$



**Townsend expression:**  $v_D = a\tau = \frac{eE}{m}\tau = \mu E$  ①  $\tau =$  time between collisions  $\tau = \frac{1}{N\sigma(\varepsilon)v}$  ②

**energy balance:**  $\frac{x}{v_D\tau}\lambda(\varepsilon)\varepsilon_E = eEx$  ③ collision losses = energy gained in E-field

$\frac{x}{v_D\tau}$  number of collisions;  $\lambda(\varepsilon)$  fractional energy loss per collision

$\varepsilon_E$  equilibrium energy (excl. thermal motion)  $\varepsilon_E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$  ④  $v$  instantaneous velocity

Insert ② in ① and then use ③ and ④ →

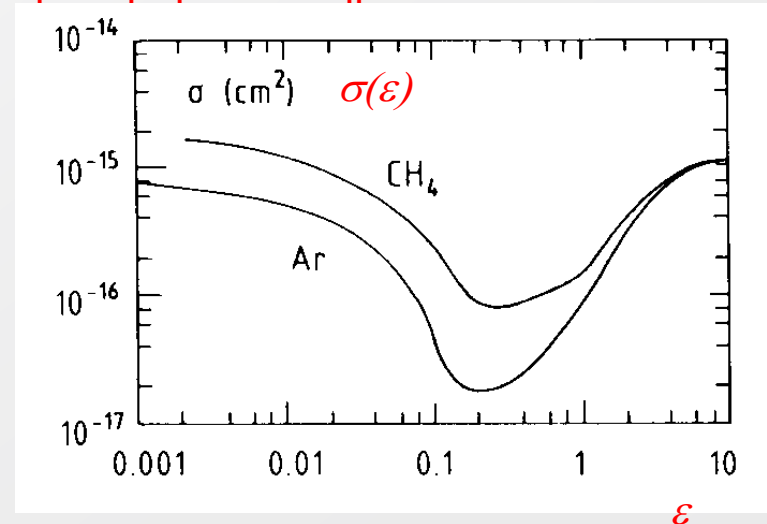
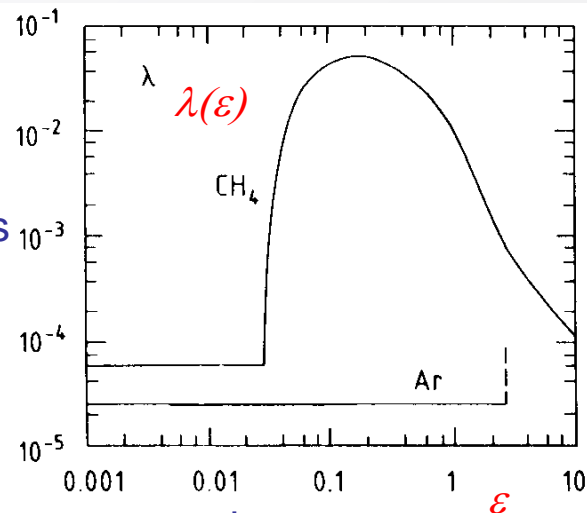
$$v_D^2 = \frac{eE}{mN\sigma(\varepsilon)}\sqrt{\frac{\lambda(\varepsilon)}{2}}$$

Drift is only possible if  $\lambda(\varepsilon) > 0$  !

$\sigma(\varepsilon)$  large → slow gas  
 $\sigma(\varepsilon)$  small → fast gas

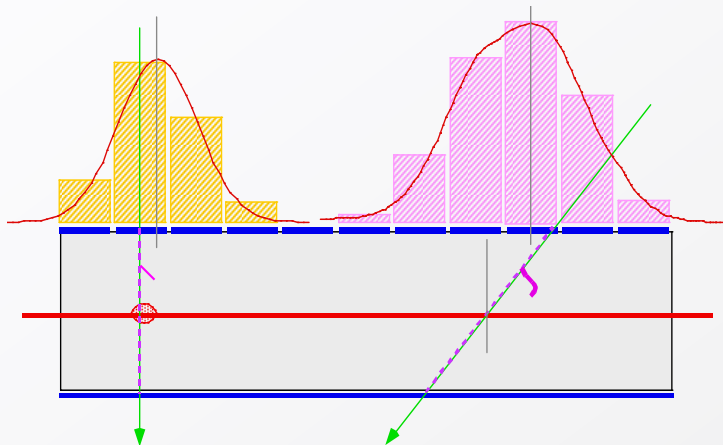
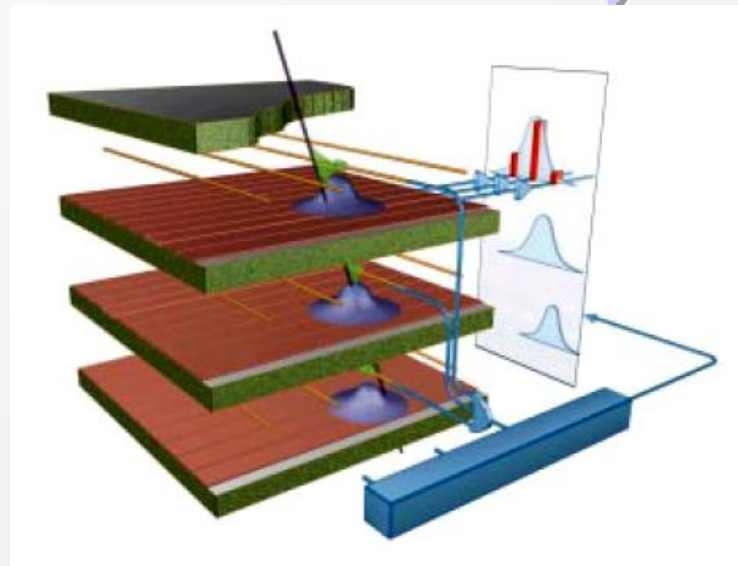
$\sigma$  and  $\lambda$  are both functions of energy!

→ Parameters must be measured

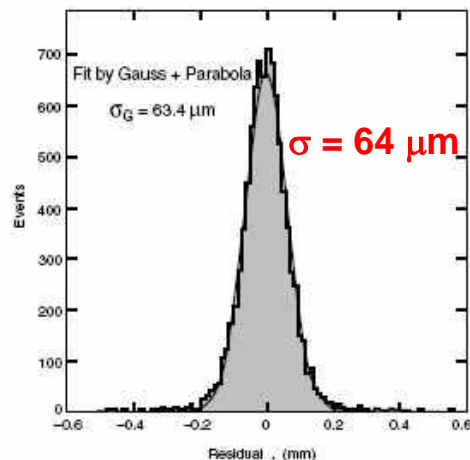


B. Schmidt, thesis, unpublished, 1986

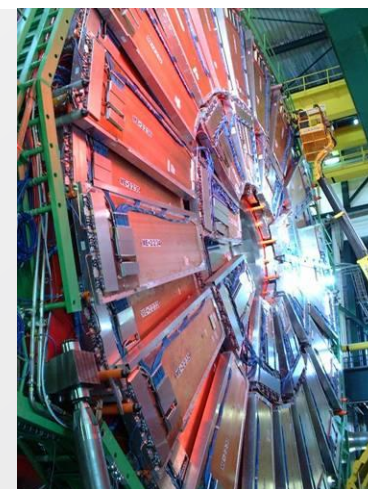
Precise measurement of the second coordinate by interpolation of the signal induced on pads.  
 Closely spaced wires makes CSC fast detector.



Center of gravity of induced signal method.

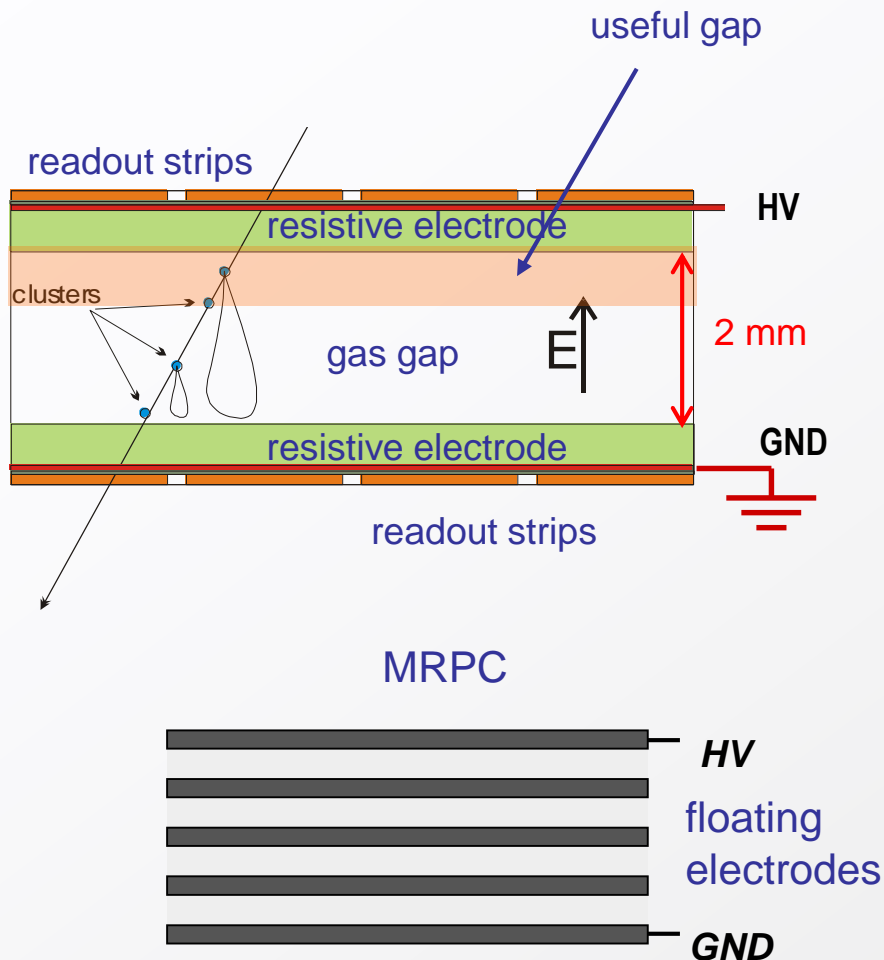


Space resolution



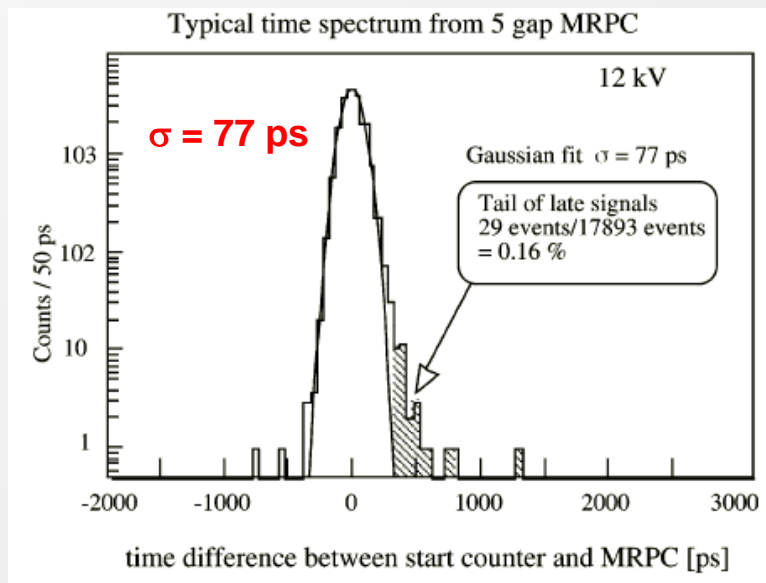
CMS





Operation at high E-field  $\rightarrow$  streamer mode.  
 Rate capability strong function of the resistivity of electrodes.

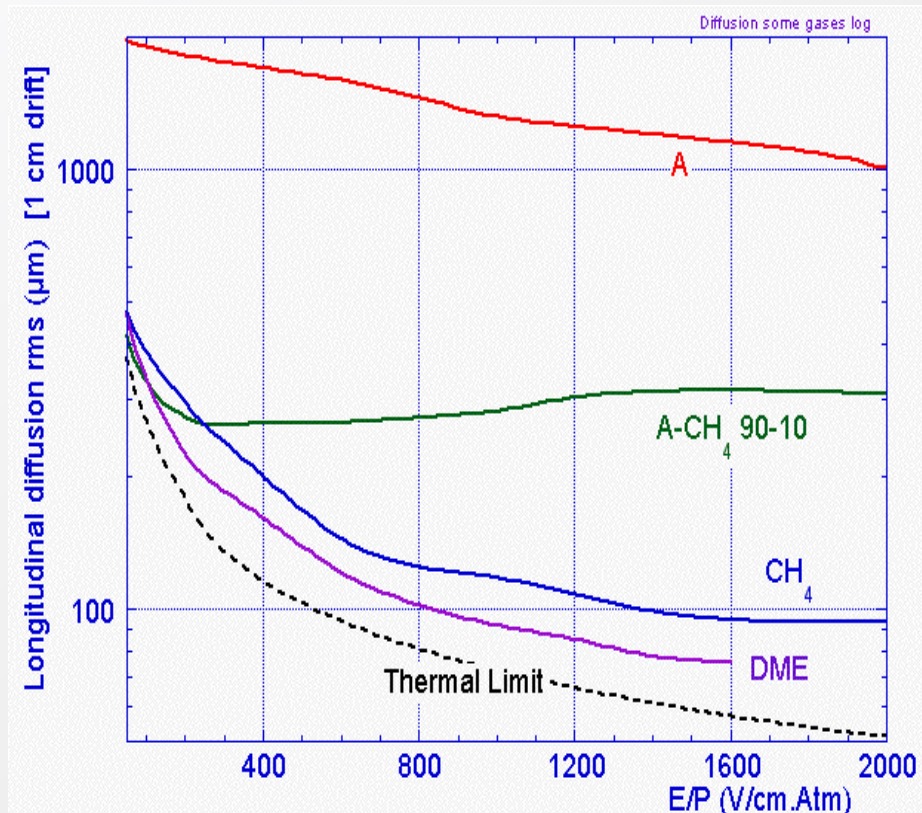
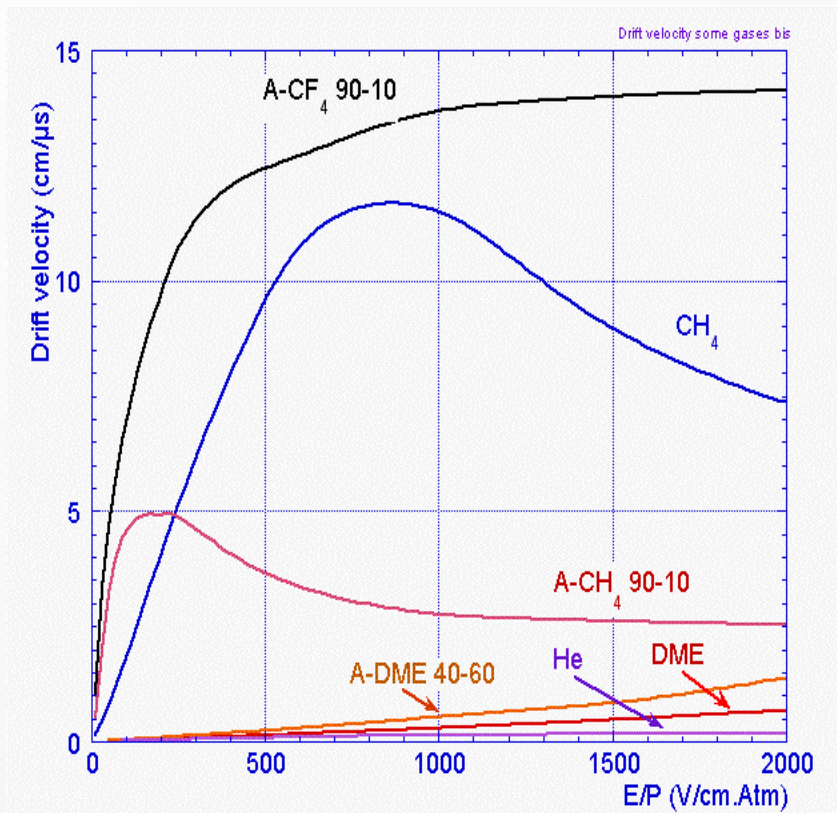
A. Akindinov et al., NIM A456(2000)16



Time resolution

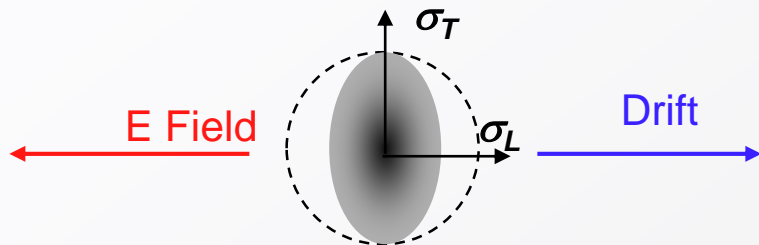
Multigap RPC - exceptional time resolution suited for TOF and trigger applications

## Large range of drift velocity and diffusion:

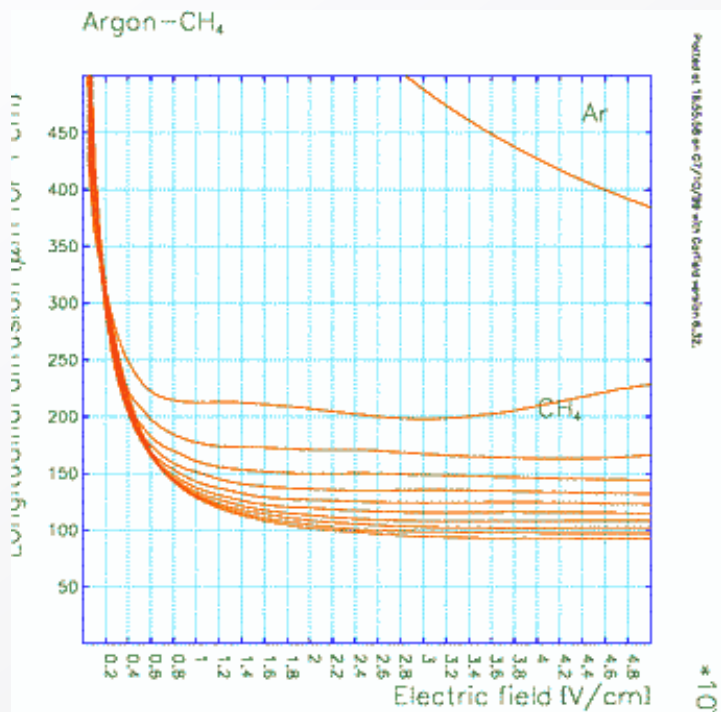


F. Sauli, IEEE Short Course on Radiation Detection and Measurement, Norfolk (Virginia) November 10-11, 2002

Rule of thumb:  $v_D$  (electrons)  $\sim 5 \text{ cm}/\mu\text{s} = 50 \text{ } \mu\text{m} / \text{ns}$ . Ions drift  $\sim 1000$  times slower.

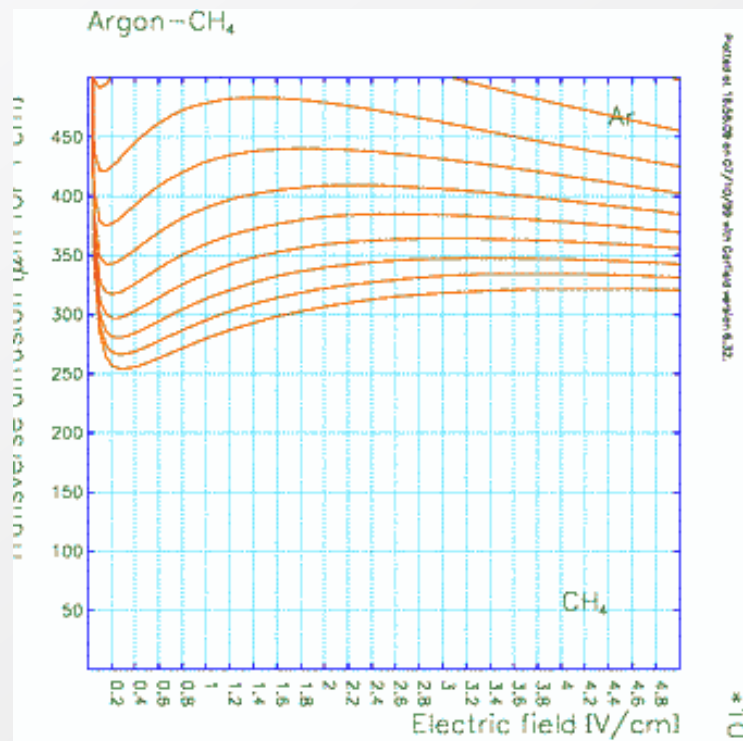


Longitudinal diffusion (  $\mu\text{m}$  for 1 cm drift)



E (V/cm)

Transverse diffusion (  $\mu\text{m}$  for 1 cm drift)

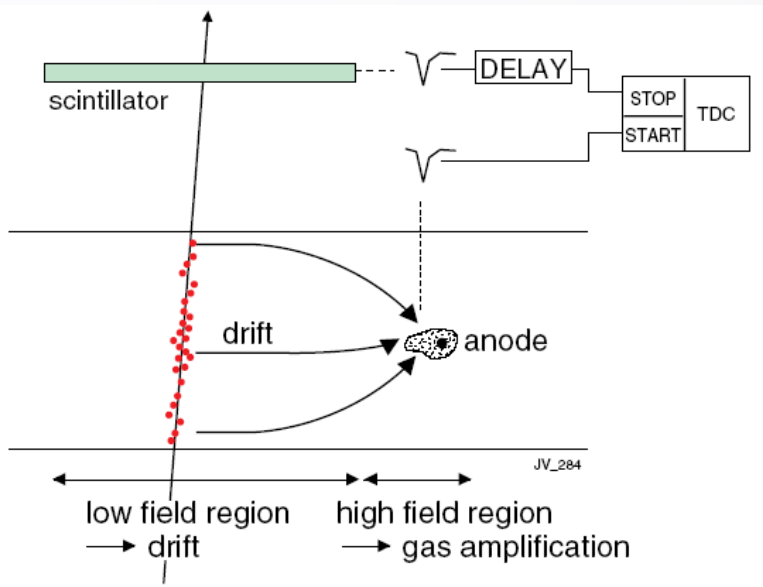


E(V/cm)

S. Biagi <http://consult.cern.ch/writeup/magboltz/>

Spatial information obtained by measuring **time of drift** of electrons

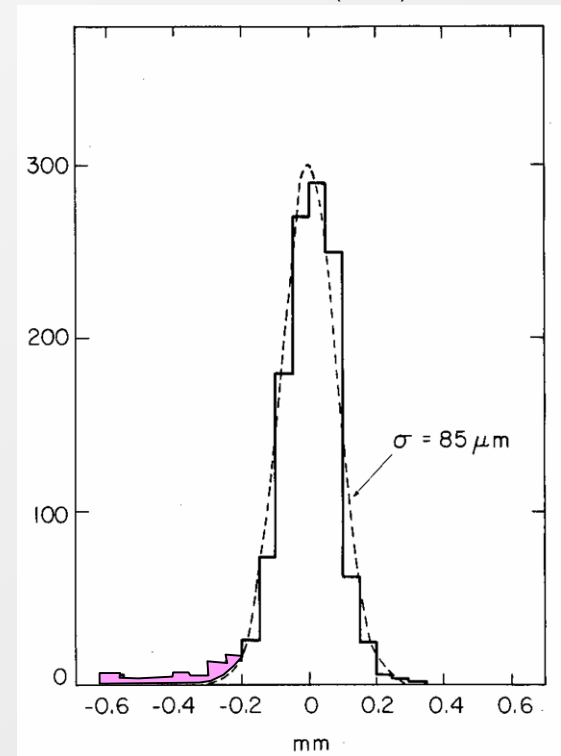
Measure arrival time of electrons at sense wire relative to a time  $t_0$ .  
Need a trigger (bunch crossing or scintillator).  
Drift velocity independent from  $E$ .



Advantages: smaller number of wires → less electronics channels.

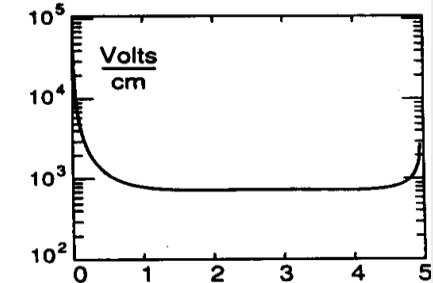
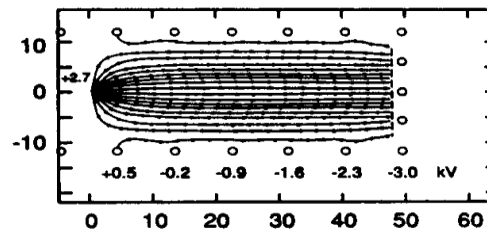
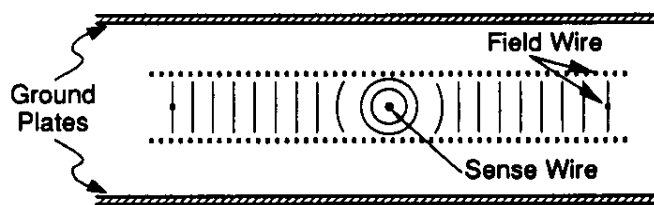
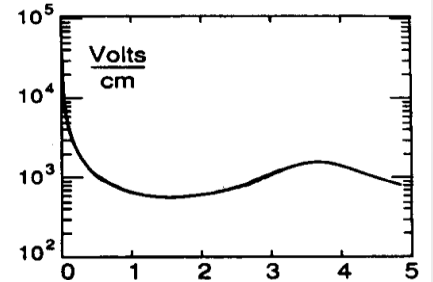
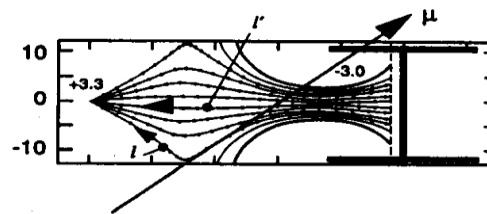
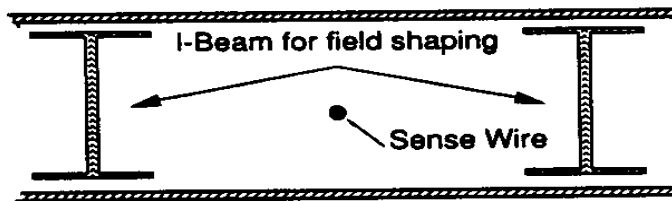
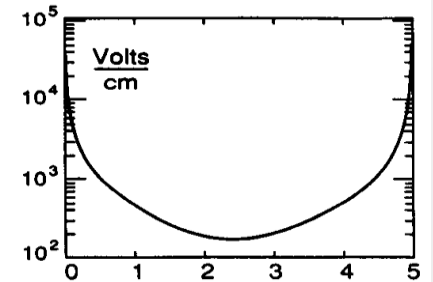
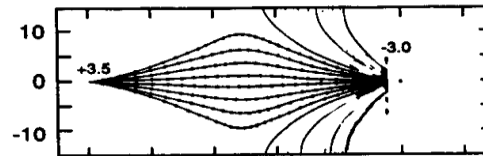
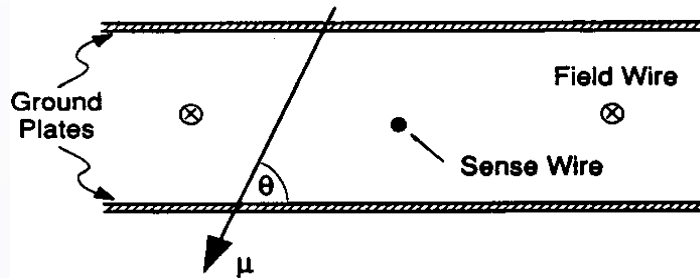
Resolution determined by diffusion, primary ionization statistics, path fluctuations and electronics.

F. Sauli, NIM 156(1978)147



## Planar drift chamber designs

Essential: **linear space-time relation**; constant E-field; little dependence of  $v_D$  on E.



[mm]

[cm]

U. Becker in Instrumentation in High Energy Physics, World Scientific



Equation of motion of free charge carriers in presence of E and B fields:

$$m \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = e\vec{E} + e(\vec{v} \times \vec{B}) + \vec{Q}(t) \quad \text{where } \vec{Q}(t) \text{ stochastic force resulting from collisions}$$

Time averaged solutions with assumptions:  $\vec{v}_D = \langle \vec{v} \rangle = \text{const.}$ ;  $\langle \vec{Q}(t) \rangle = \frac{m}{\tau} \vec{v}_D$  friction force

$$\left\langle \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} \right\rangle = 0 = e\vec{E} + e(\vec{v}_D \times \vec{B}) - \frac{m}{\tau} \vec{v}_D \quad \tau \text{ mean time between collisions}$$

$$\vec{v}_D = \frac{\mu |\vec{E}|}{1 + \omega^2 \tau^2} \left[ \hat{E} + \omega \tau (\hat{E} \times \hat{B}) + \omega^2 \tau^2 (\hat{E} \cdot \hat{B}) \hat{B} \right]$$

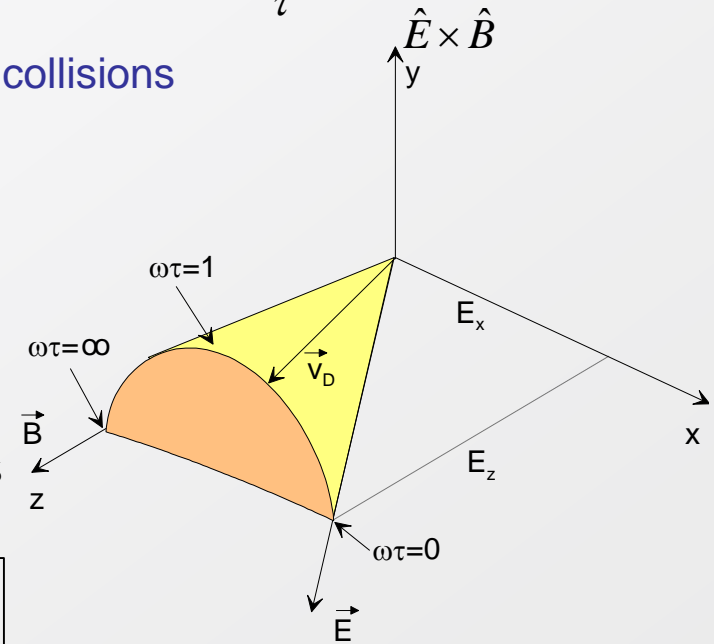
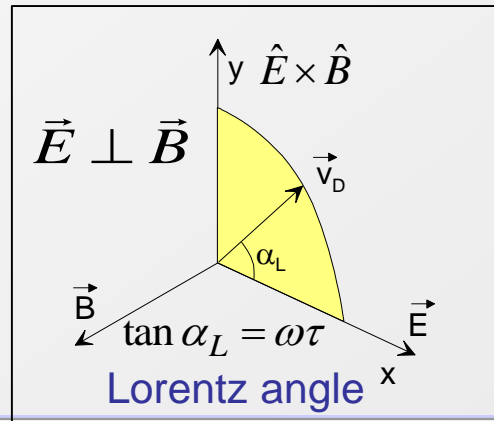
$$\mu = \frac{e\tau}{m} \quad \text{mobility} \quad \omega = \frac{eB}{m} \quad \text{cyclotron frequency}$$

In general drift velocity has 3 components:  $\|\vec{E}\|; \|\vec{B}\|; \|\vec{E} \times \vec{B}\|$

$$B=0 \rightarrow \vec{v}_D^B = \vec{v}_D^0 = \mu \vec{E}$$

$$\vec{E} \parallel \vec{B} \rightarrow v_D^B = v_D^0$$

$$\vec{E} \perp \vec{B} \rightarrow v_D^B = \frac{E}{B} \frac{\omega \tau}{\sqrt{1 + \omega^2 \tau^2}}$$

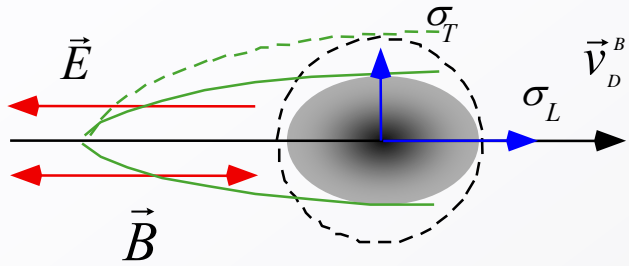


$\omega \tau \ll 1$  particles follow E-field

$\omega \tau \gg 1$  particles follow B-field

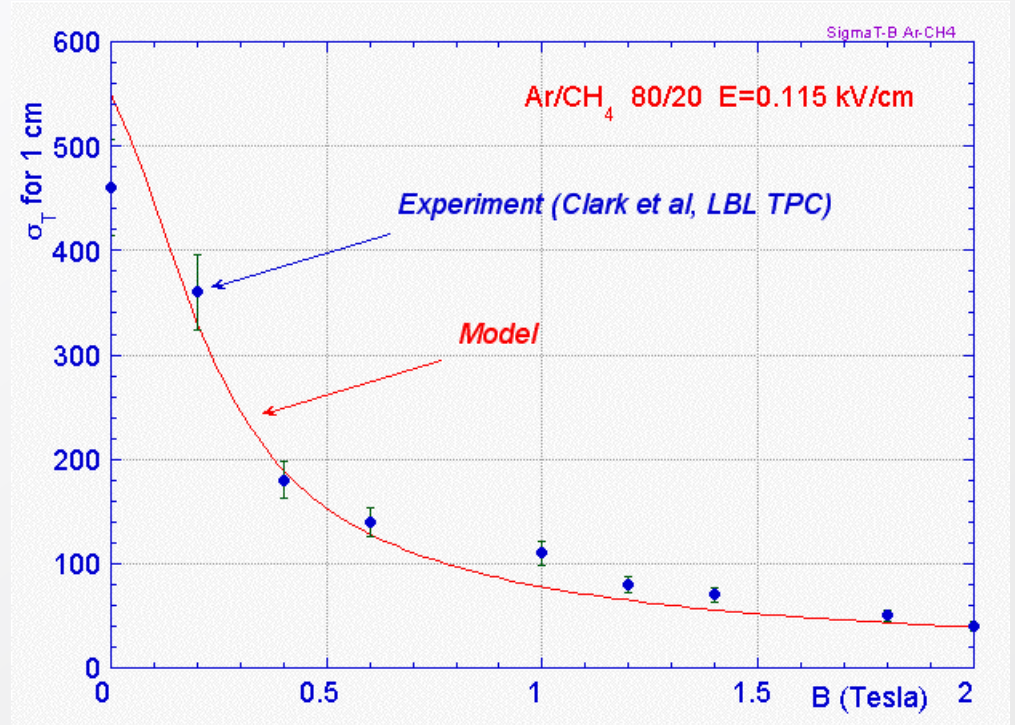
# Diffusion Magnetic Anisotropy

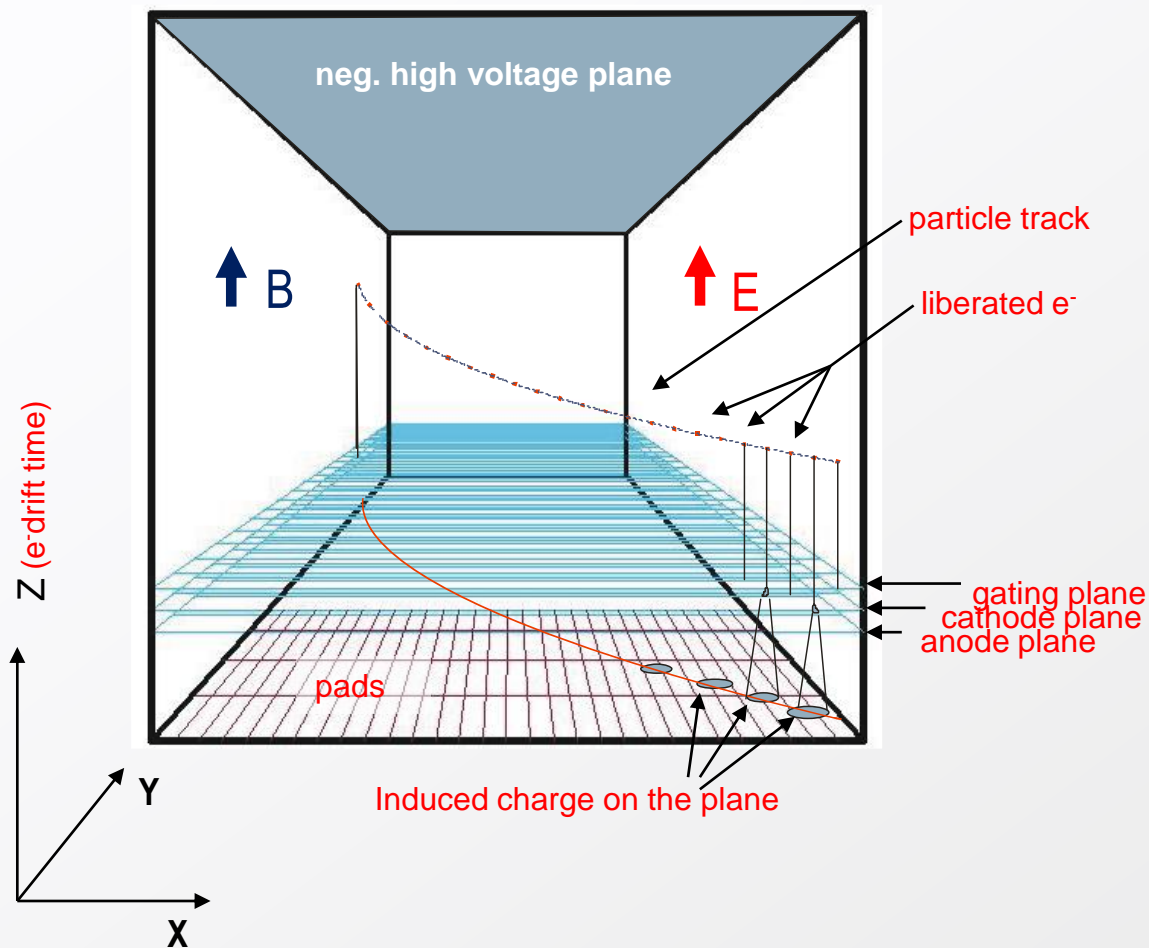
$$\vec{E} \parallel \vec{B}$$



$$\sigma_L = \sigma_0$$

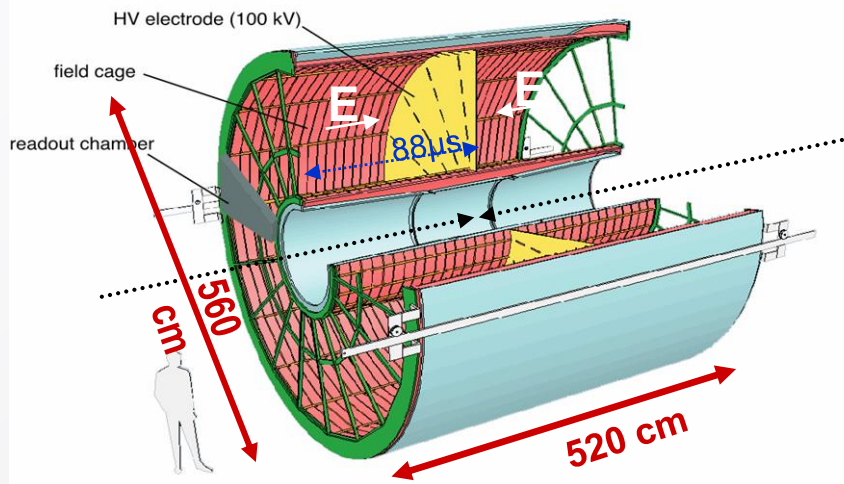
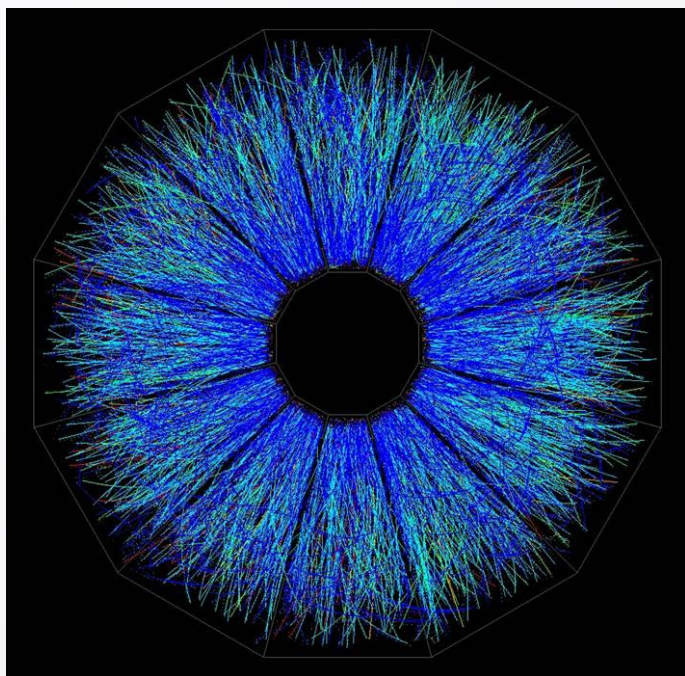
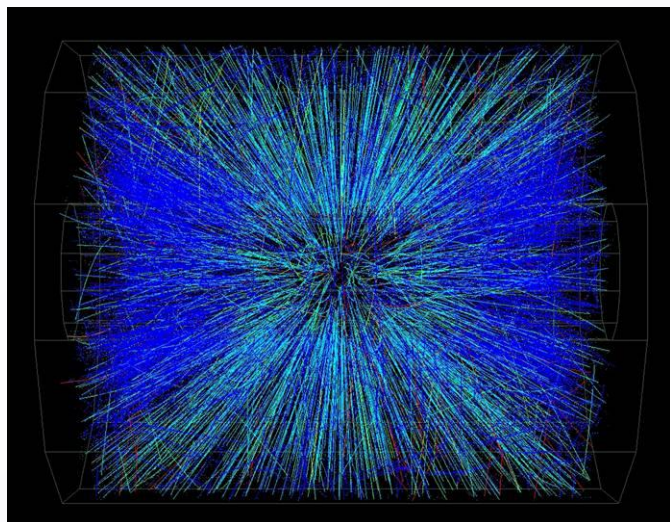
$$\sigma_T = \frac{\sigma_0}{\sqrt{1 + \omega^2 \tau^2}}$$





Time Projection Chamber  
 full 3D track reconstruction:  
**x-y** from wires and segmented cathode of MWPC (or GEM)  
**z** from drift time

- **momentum** resolution  
 space resolution + B field  
 (multiple scattering)
- **energy** resolution  
 measure of primary ionization



## Alice TPC

HV central electrode at  $-100$  kV

Drift length  $250$  cm at  $E = 400$  V/cm

Gas Ne-CO<sub>2</sub> 90-10

Space point resolution  $\sim 500$   $\mu$ m

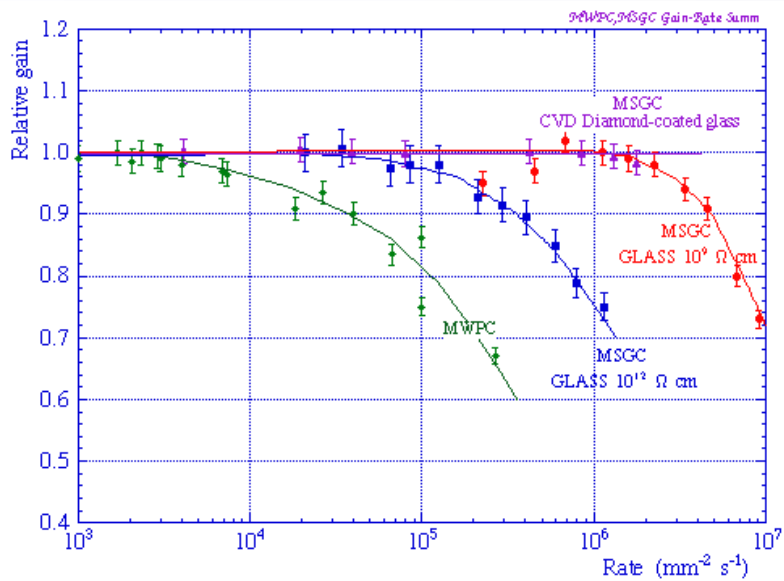
$dp/p = 2\%$ @1GeV/c;  $10\%$ @10 GeV/c

Events from **STAR TPC** at RHIC

Au-Au collisions at CM energy of  $130$  GeV/n

Typically  $\sim 2000$  tracks/event





## General advantages of gas detectors:

- low mass (in terms of radiation length)
- large areas at low price
- flexible geometry
- spatial, energy resolution ...

## Main limitation:

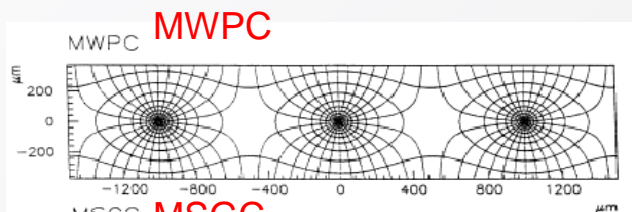
- rate capability limited by space charge defined by the time of evacuation of positive ions

## Solution:

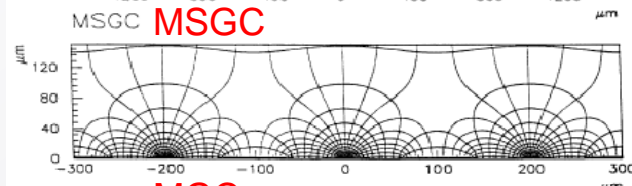
- reduction of the size of the detecting cell (limitation of the length of the ion path) using chemical etching techniques developed for microelectronics and keeping at same time similar field shape.

scale factor

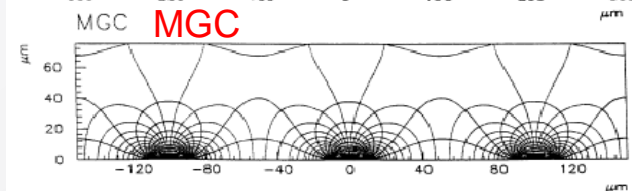
1



5

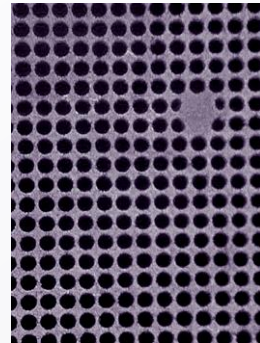
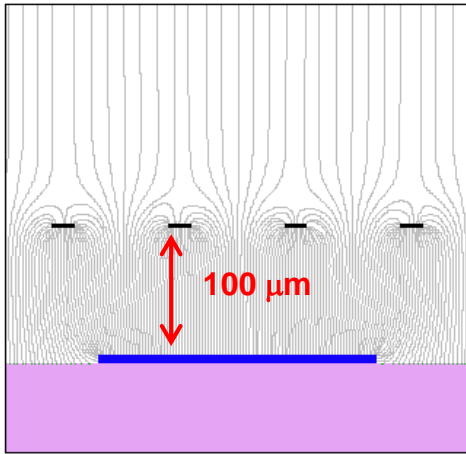


10



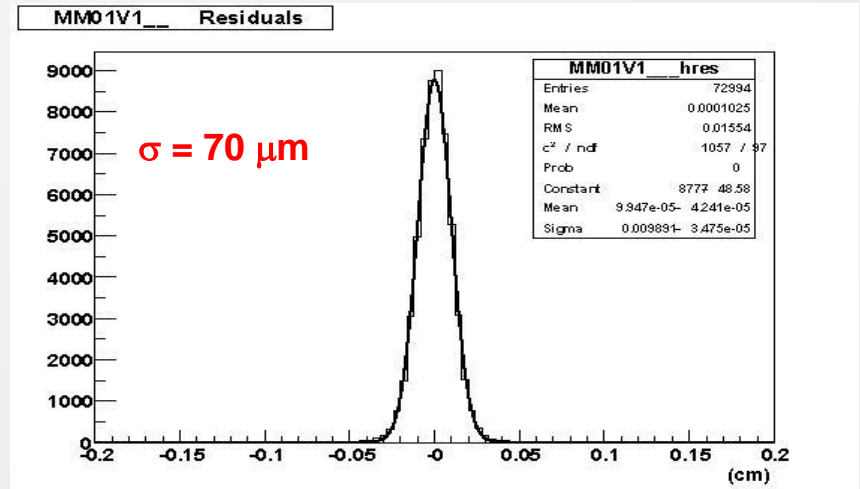
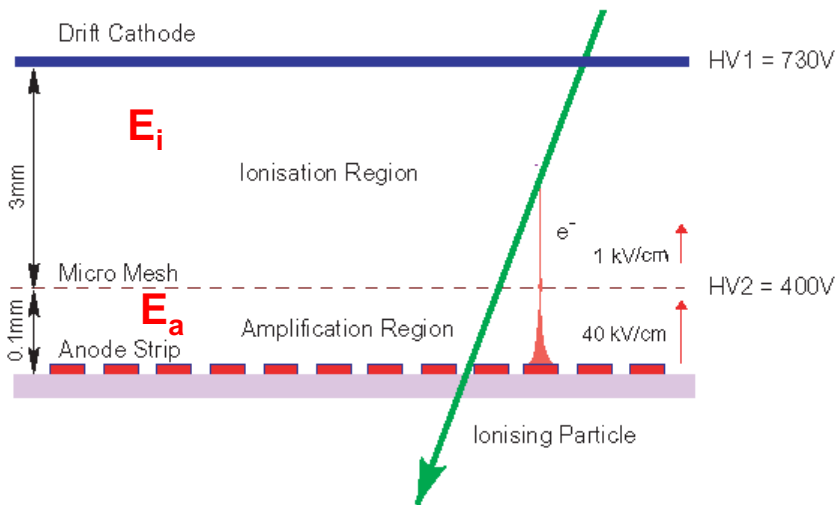
R. Bellazzini et al.



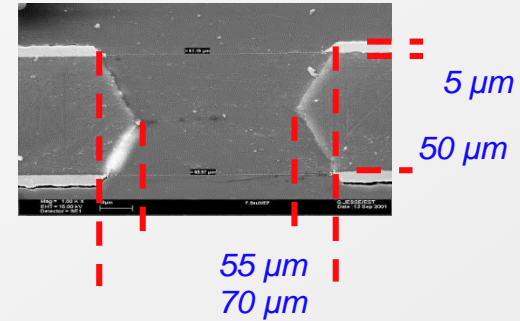
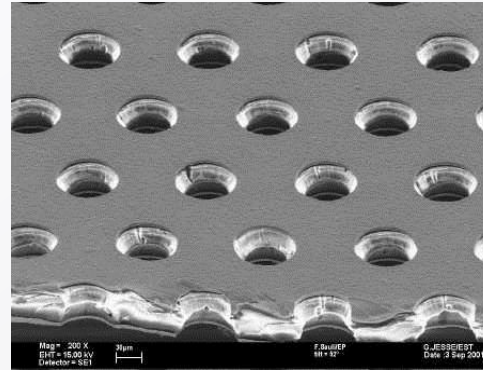
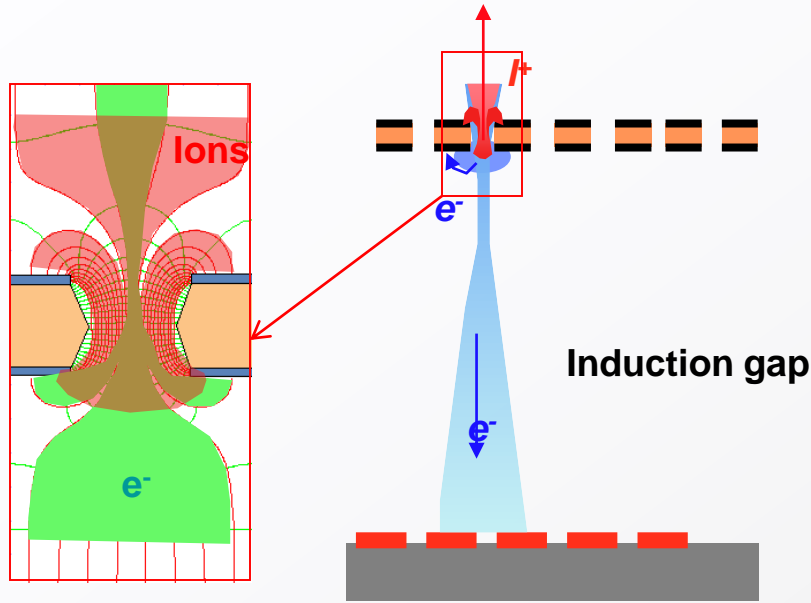


micromesh

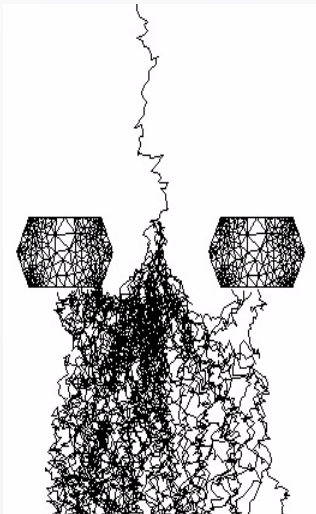
Metal micromesh mounted above readout structure (typically strips).  
 E field similar to parallel plate detector.  
 $E_a/E_i \sim 50$  to ensure electron transparency and positive ion flowback suppression.



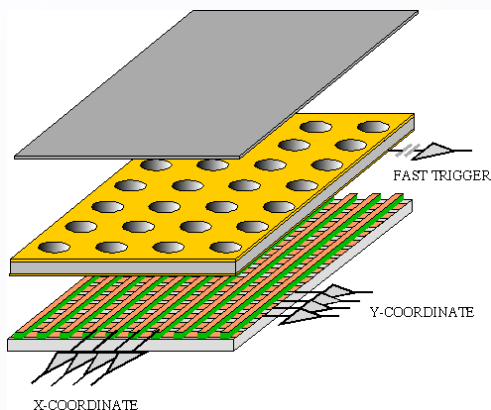
Space resolution



Thin, metal coated polyimide foil perforated with high density holes.

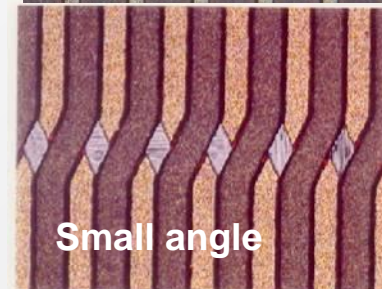


Electrons are collected on patterned readout board.  
 A fast signal can be detected on the lower GEM electrode for triggering or energy discrimination.  
 All readout electrodes are at ground potential.  
 Positive ions partially collected on the GEM electrodes.

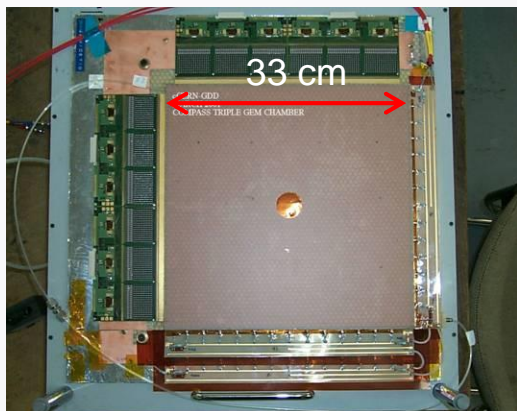


Full decoupling of the charge amplification structure from the charge collection and readout structure.

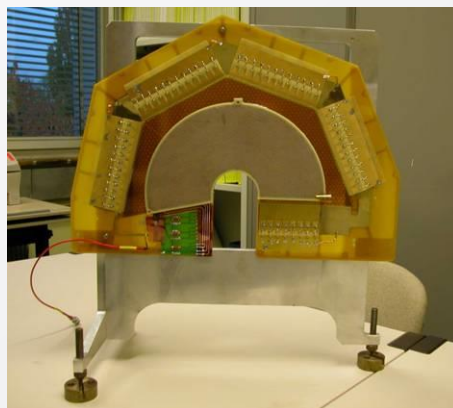
Both structures can be optimized independently !



A. Bressan et al, Nucl. Instr. and Meth. A425(1999)254



Compass



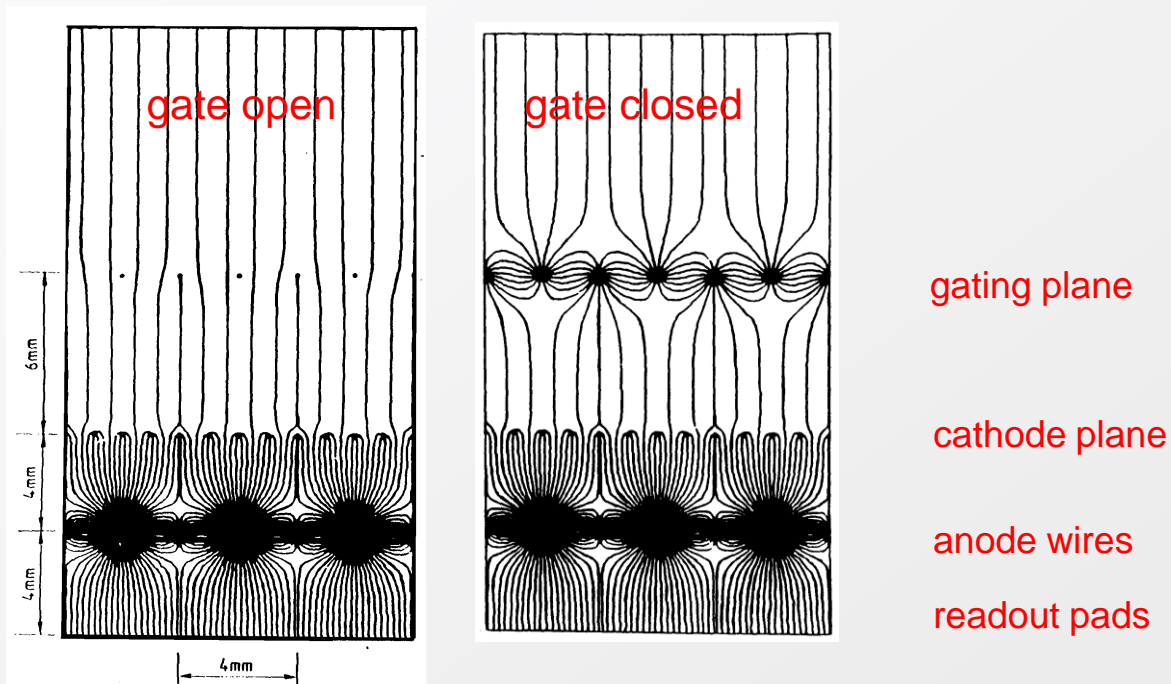
Totem

Both detectors use three GEM foils in cascade for amplification to reduce discharge probability by reducing field strength.

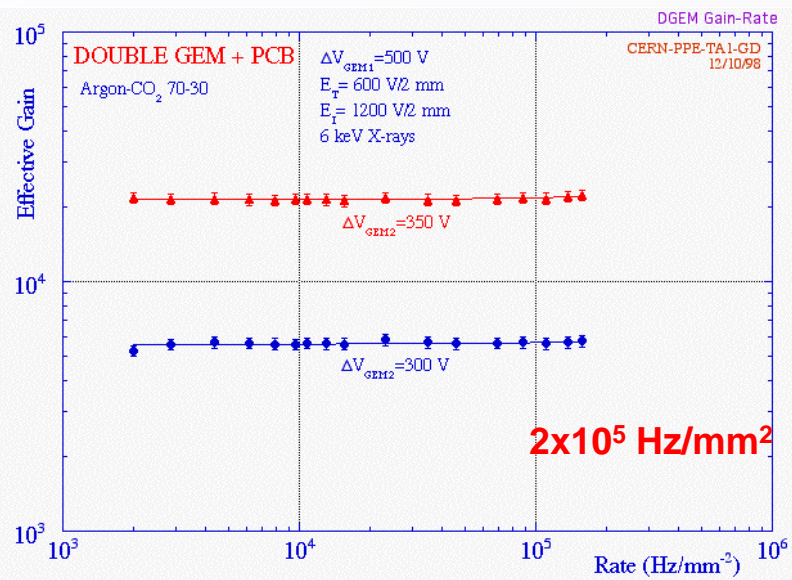
Positive ion backflow modifies electric field resulting in track distortion.

**Solution** : gating

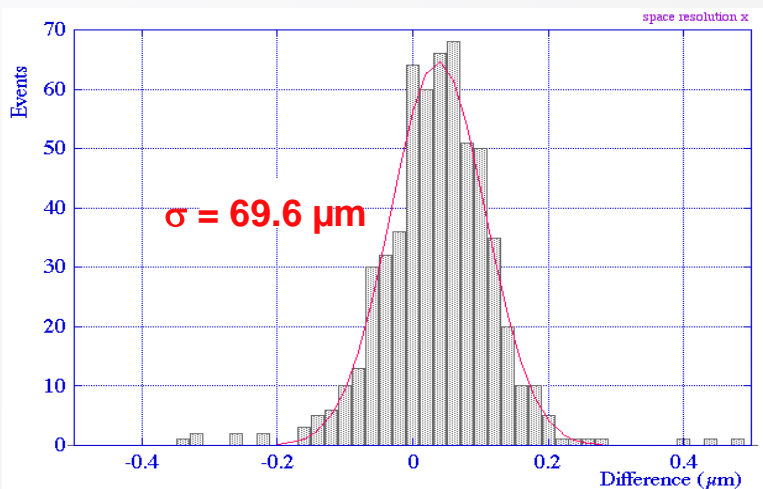
- Prevents electrons to enter amplification region in case of uninteresting event;
- Prevents ions created in avalanches to flow back to drift region.



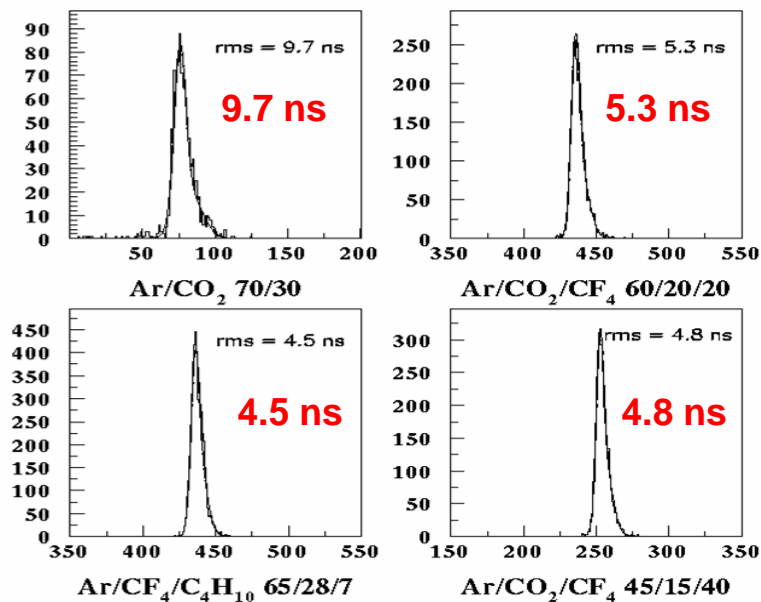




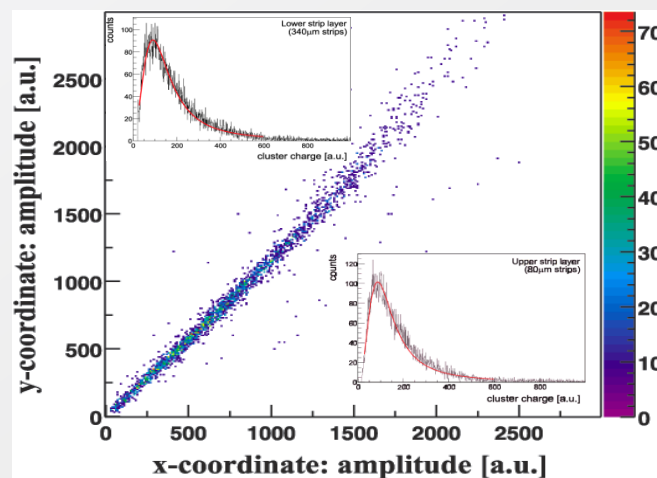
Rate capability



Space resolution



Time resolution



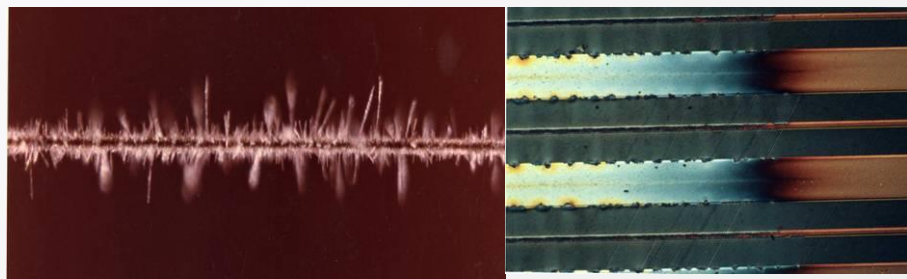
Charge correlation (cartesian readout)



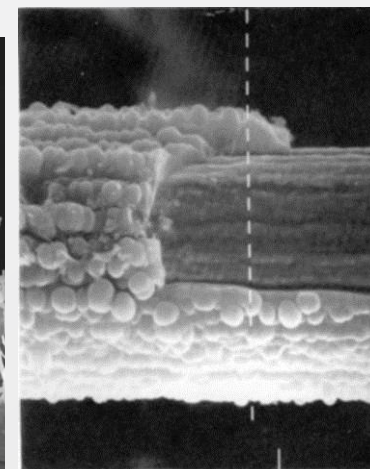
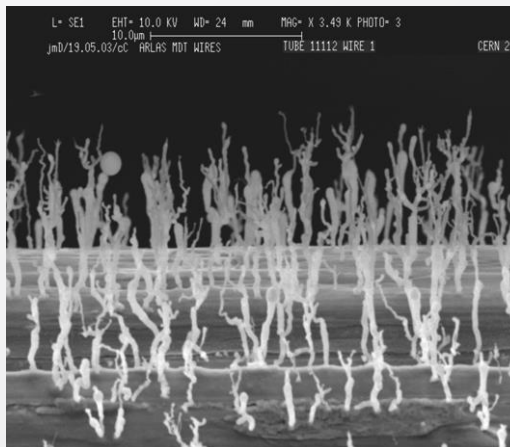
## Classical ageing

Avalanche region → plasma formation  
(complicated plasma chemistry)

- Dissociation of detector gas and pollutants
- Highly active radicals formation
- Polymerization (organic quenchers)
- Insulating deposits on anodes and cathodes



**Anode:** increase of the wire diameter, reduced and variable field, variable gain and energy resolution.



**Cathode:** formation of strong dipoles, field emission and microdischarges (Malter effect).

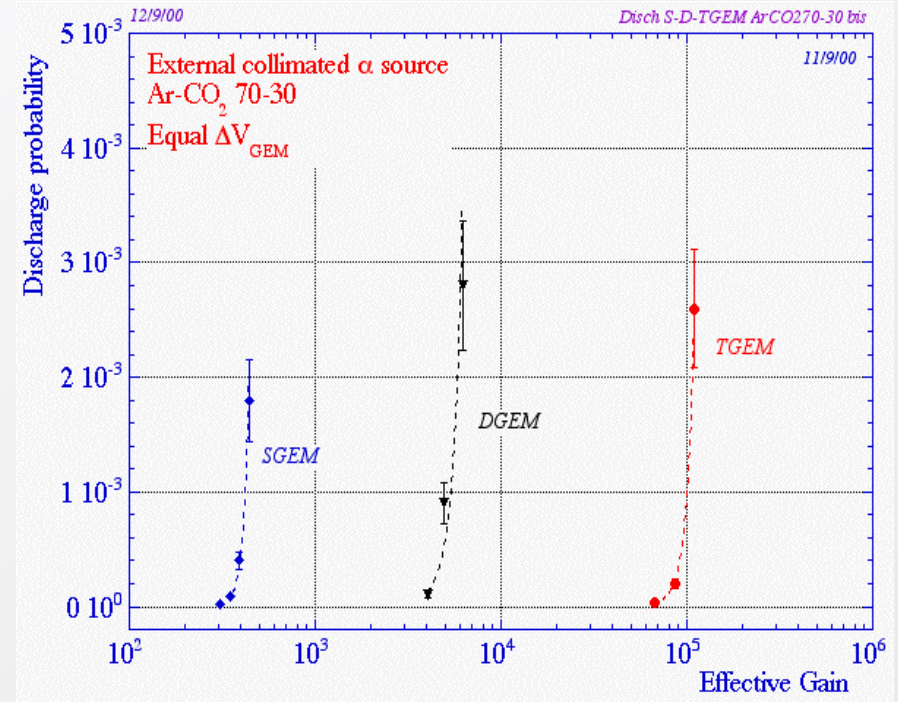
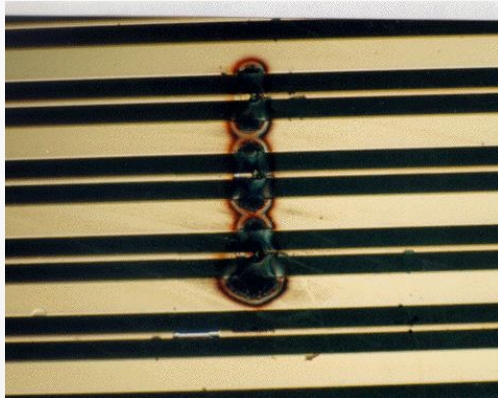


**Solutions:** careful material selection for the detector construction and gas system, detector type (GEM is resistant to classical ageing), working point, non-polymerizing gases, additives suppressing polymerization (alcohols, methylal), additives increasing surface conductivity ( $H_2O$  vapour), cleaning additives ( $CF_4$ ).

## Discharges

Field and charge density dependent effect.

**Solution:** multistep amplification



**Space charge** limiting rate capability

**Solution:** reduction of the length of the positive ion path

**Insulator charging up** resulting in gain variable with time and rate

**Solution:** slightly conductive materials