Beam Loss Monitors

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

this can be e^-, γ, 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 B LM:

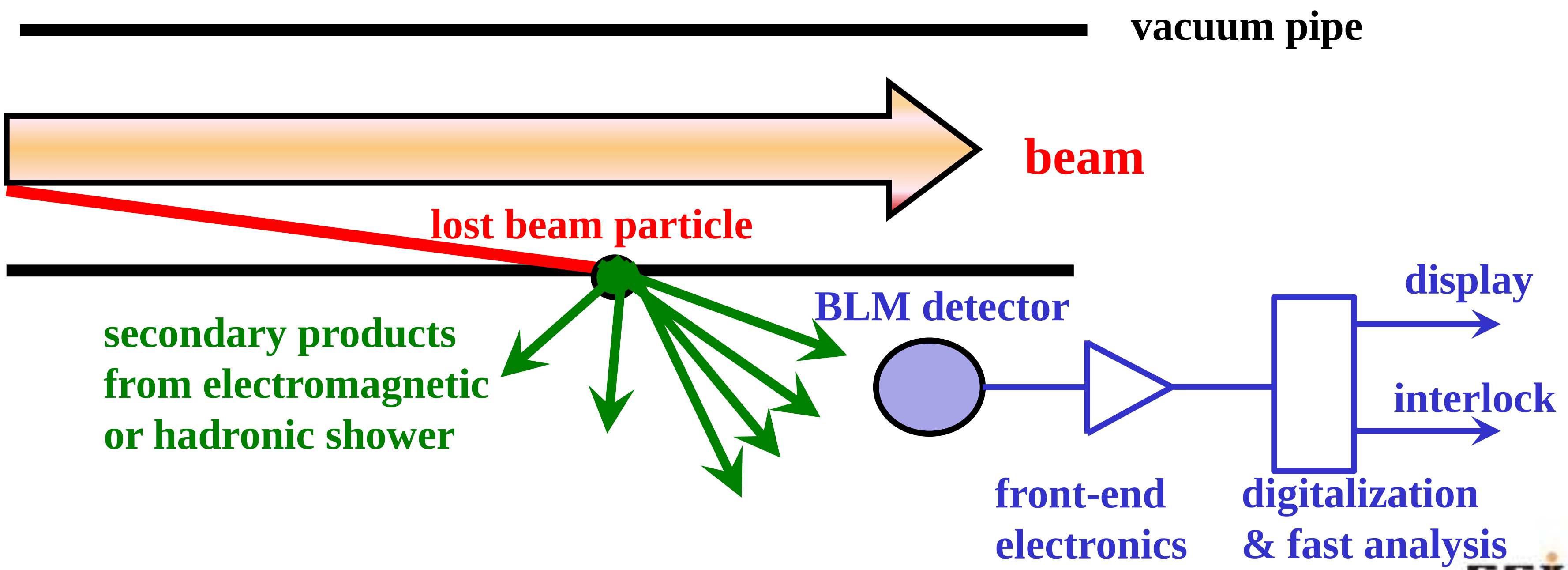
A loss beam particle must collide with the vacuum chamber or other insertions

⇒ Interaction leads to some shower particle:

e^-, γ, 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

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

→ electro-magnetic showers

⇒ excitation of

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

via (γ, n), (γ, p) or (γ, np)

→ fast neutrons emitted

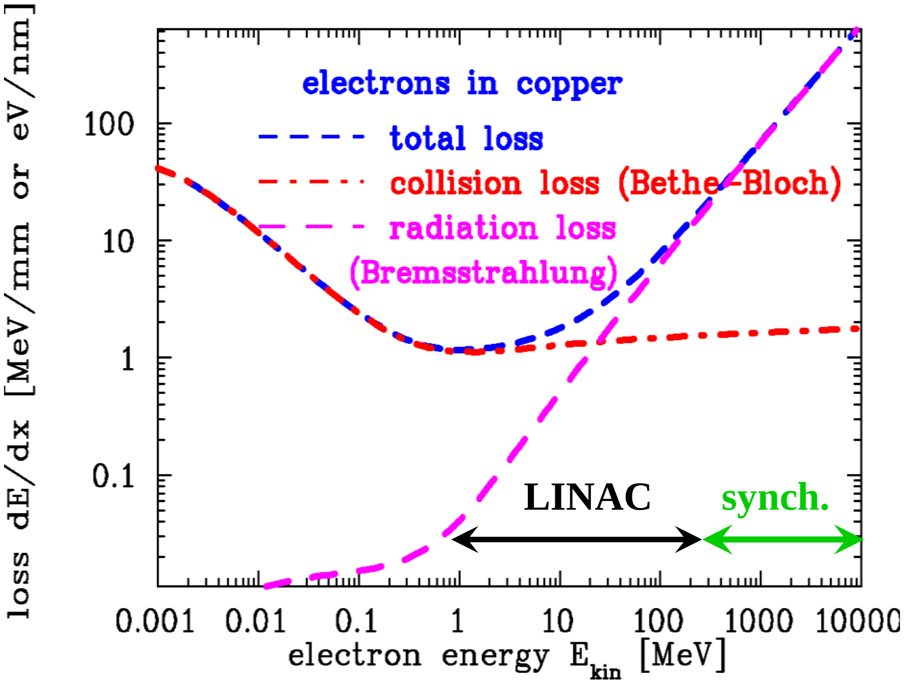
→ neutrons: Long ranges in matter

due to lack of ele.-mag. interaction.

For E_{kin} < 10 MeV:

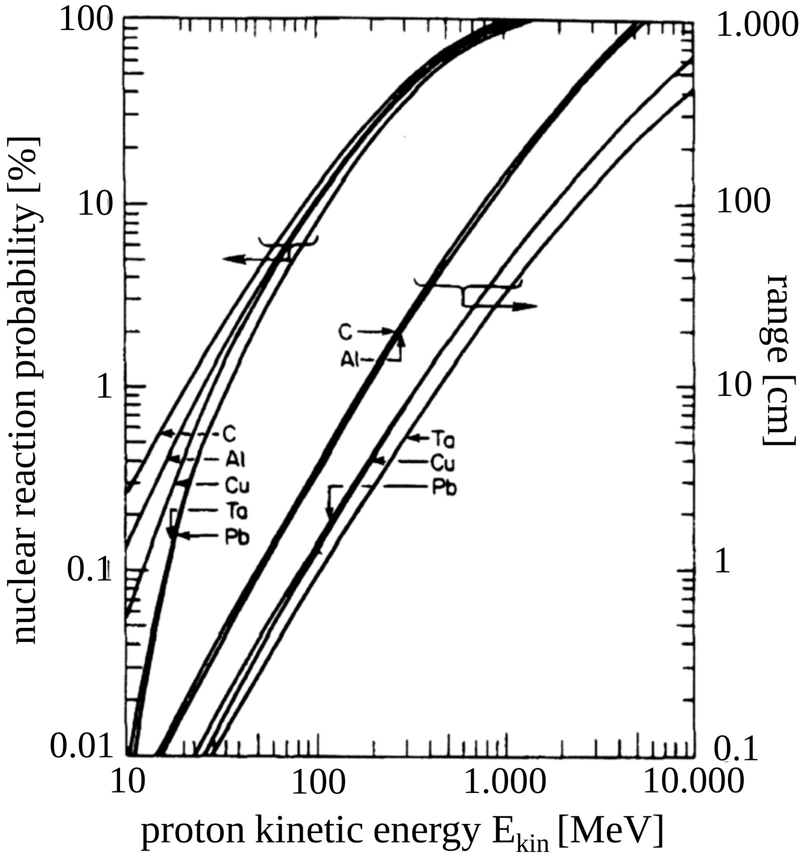
⇒ only electronic stopping

(x-rays, slow e^-).

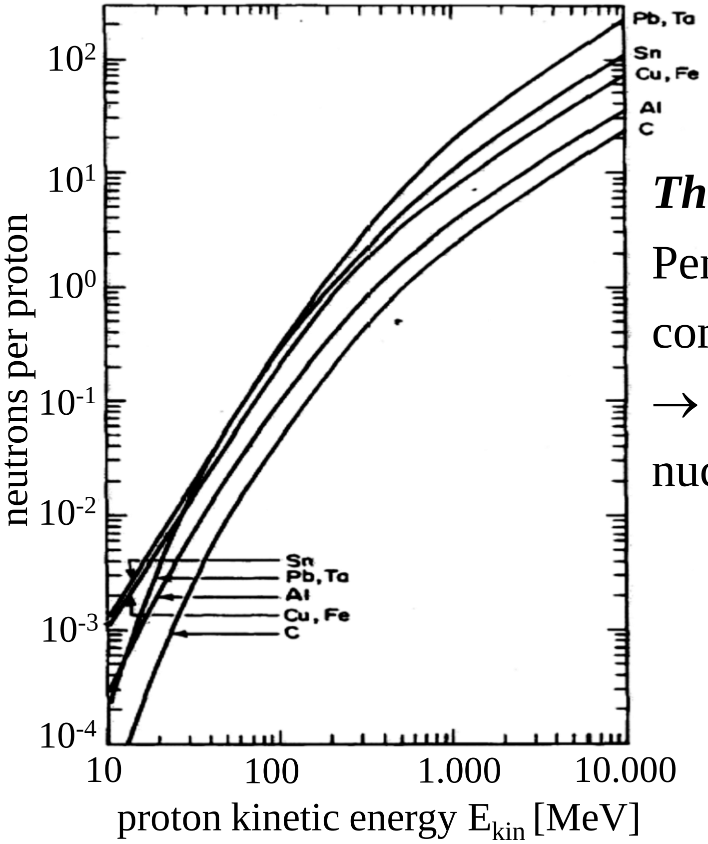


Secondary Particle Production for Proton Beams

Nuclear reaction probability:



Neutron yield per proton:



Thick target:

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

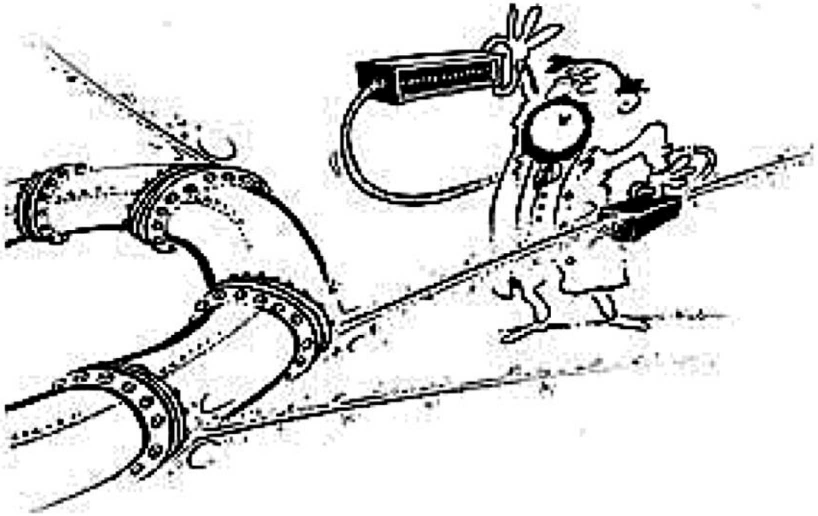
⇒ **High rate of neutron with broad energy & angular distribution**

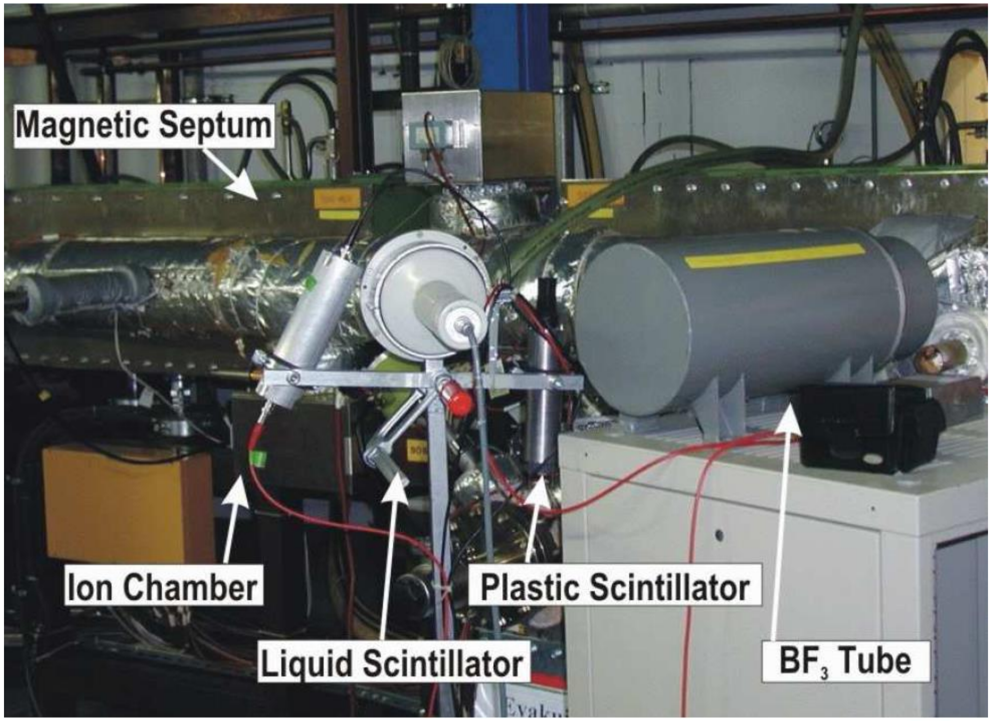
⇒ **Role of thumb for protons: Sufficient count rate for beam loss monitoring only for $E_{kin} \geq$ 100 MeV**

Outline:

- ➢ Physical process from beam-wall interaction
- ➢ **Different types of Beam Loss Monitors**

  different methods for various beam parameters
- ➢ Machine protection using BLMs
- ➢ Summary

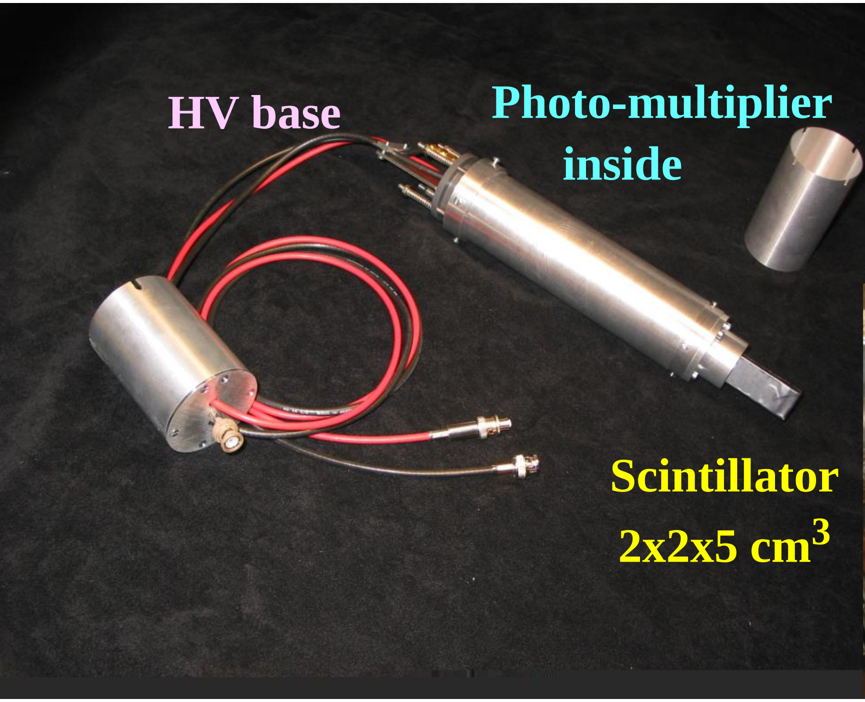




Scintillators as Beam Loss Monitors

Plastics or liquids are used:

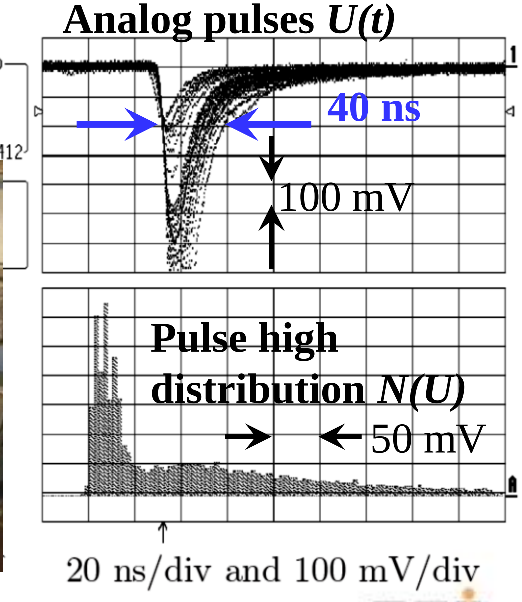
- detection of **charged particles** by electronic stopping
- detection of **neutrons** by elastic collisions n on p in plastics and fast p electronic stopping.



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:
$\Rightarrow$ broad energy spectrum
due to many particle species and energies.



Low Current Measurement: Particle Detectors

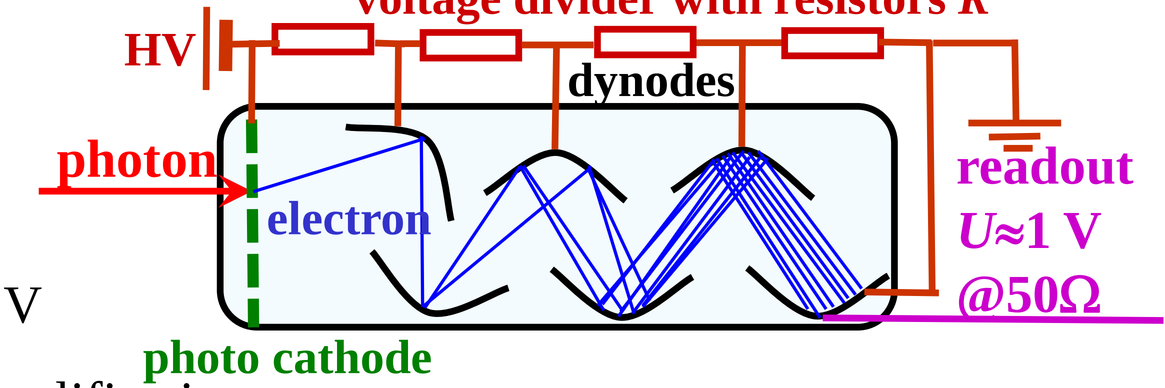
Electronic **solid state amplifier** have finite noise contribution

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^- 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

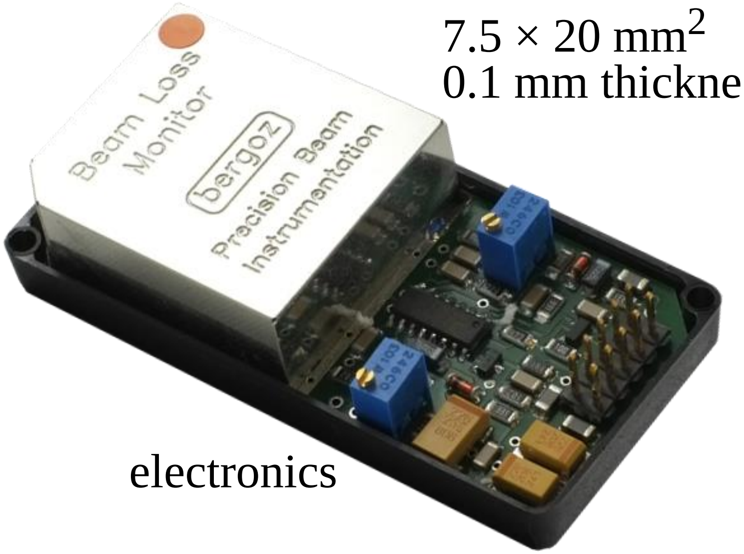
Solid-state detector: Detection of charged particles.

Working principle

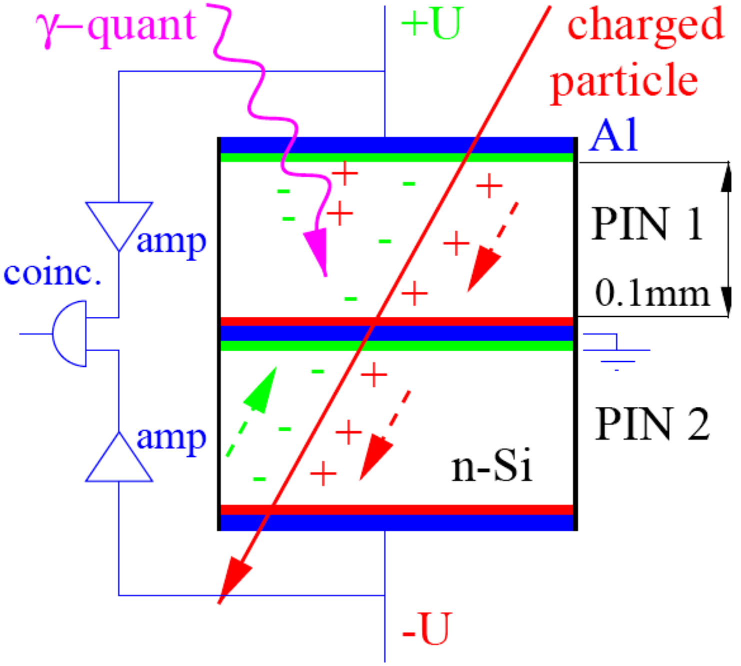
- About 10^4 e^--hole pairs are created by a Minimum Ionizing Particle (MIP).
- A coincidence of the two PIN reduces the background due to low energy photons.
- A counting module is used with threshold value comparator for alarming.

→ **small and cheap detector.**

2 PIN diodes:
7.5 × 20 mm^2
0.1 mm thickness.



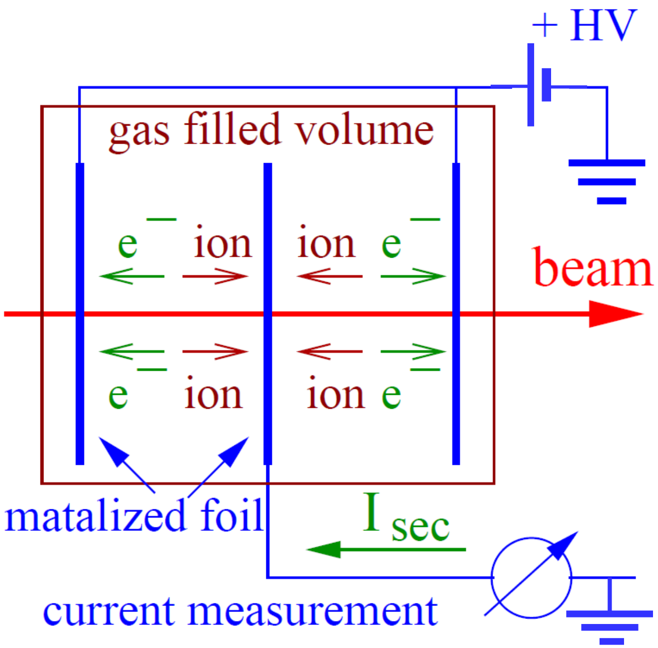
electronics



Excurse: Ionization Chamber (IC)

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

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

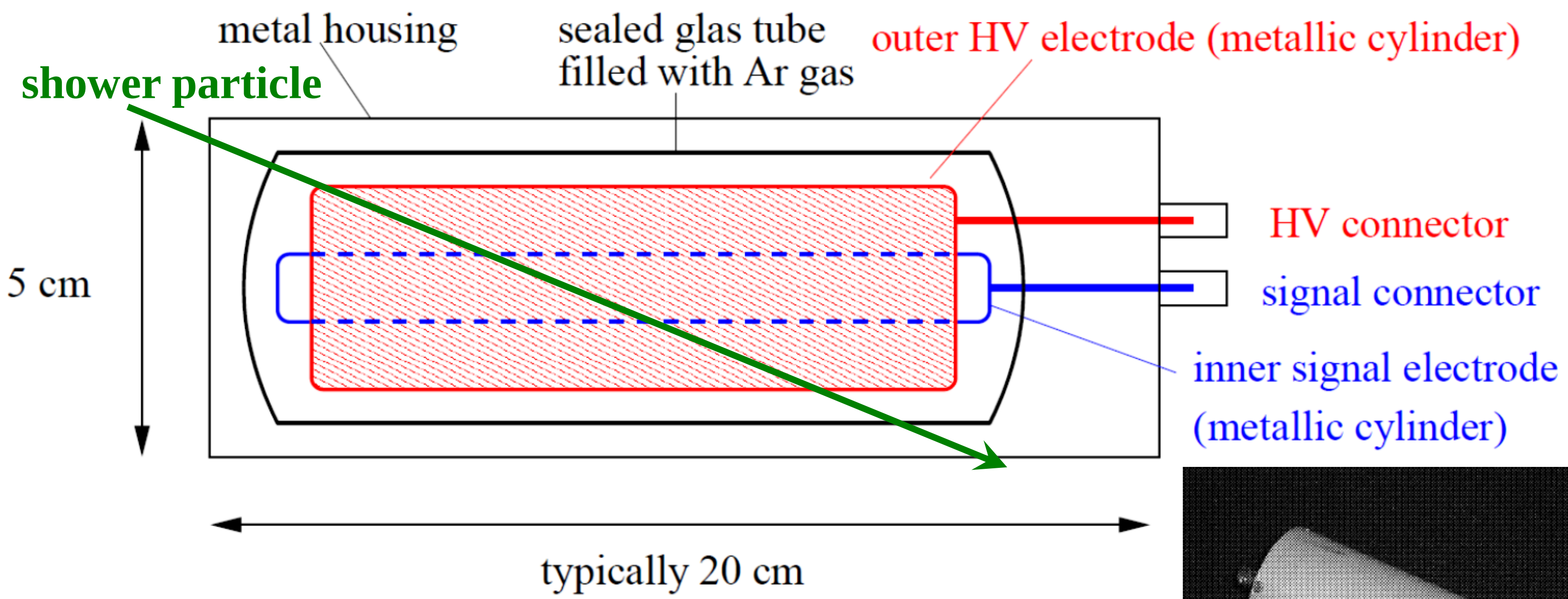


W is average energy for one e^- -ion pair:

Gas	Ionization Potential [eV]	W-Value [eV]
He	24.5	41.3
Ar	15.7	26.4
H_2	15.6	36.5
N_2	15.5	34.8
O_2	12.5	30.8
CH_4	14.5	27.3
Air		33.8

Ionization Chamber as BLM

Main detection of charged particles



Sealed tube Filled with Ar or N_2 gas:

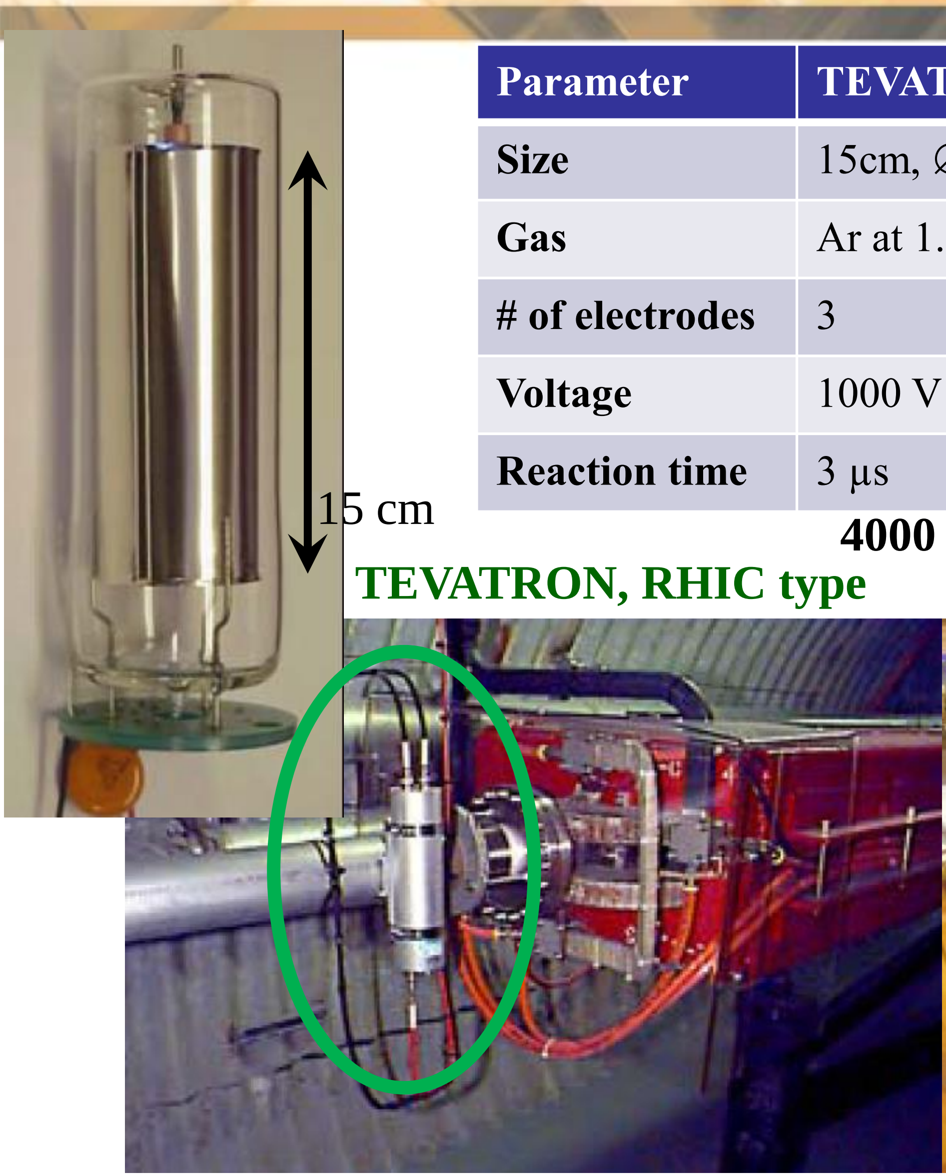
- Creation of Ar^+-e^- pairs, average energy *W*=32 eV/pair
- measurement of this current
- Slow time response due to 100 μs drift time of Ar^+.

Per definition: direct measurement of dose.

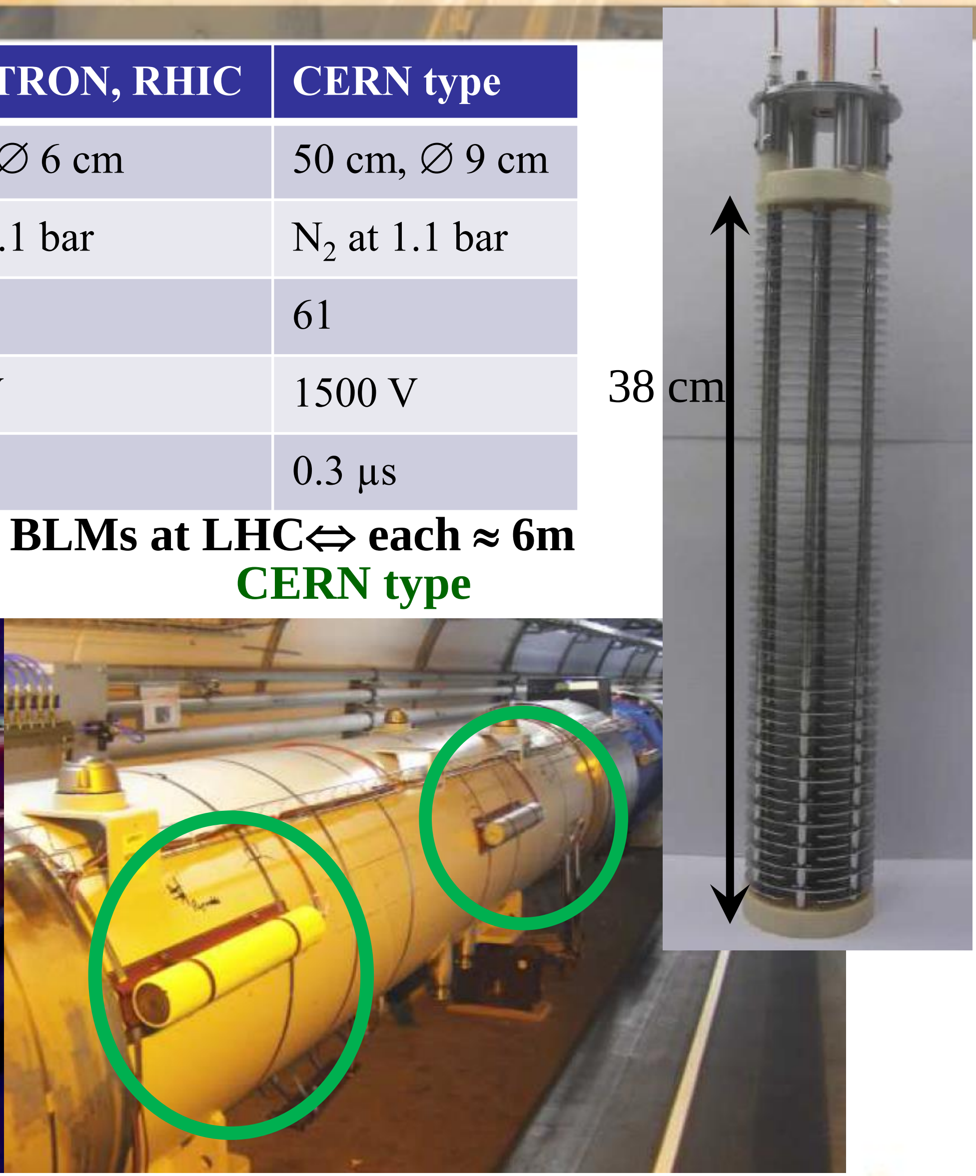
Ionization Chamber as BLM: TEVATRON and CERN Type

Parameter	TEVATRON, RHIC	CERN type
Size	15cm, ∅ 6 cm	50 cm, ∅ 9 cm
Gas	Ar at 1.1 bar	N_2 at 1.1 bar
# of electrodes	3	61
Voltage	1000 V	1500 V
Reaction time	3 µs	0.3 µs

4000 BLMs at LHC⇔ each ≈ 6m



TEVATRON, RHIC type

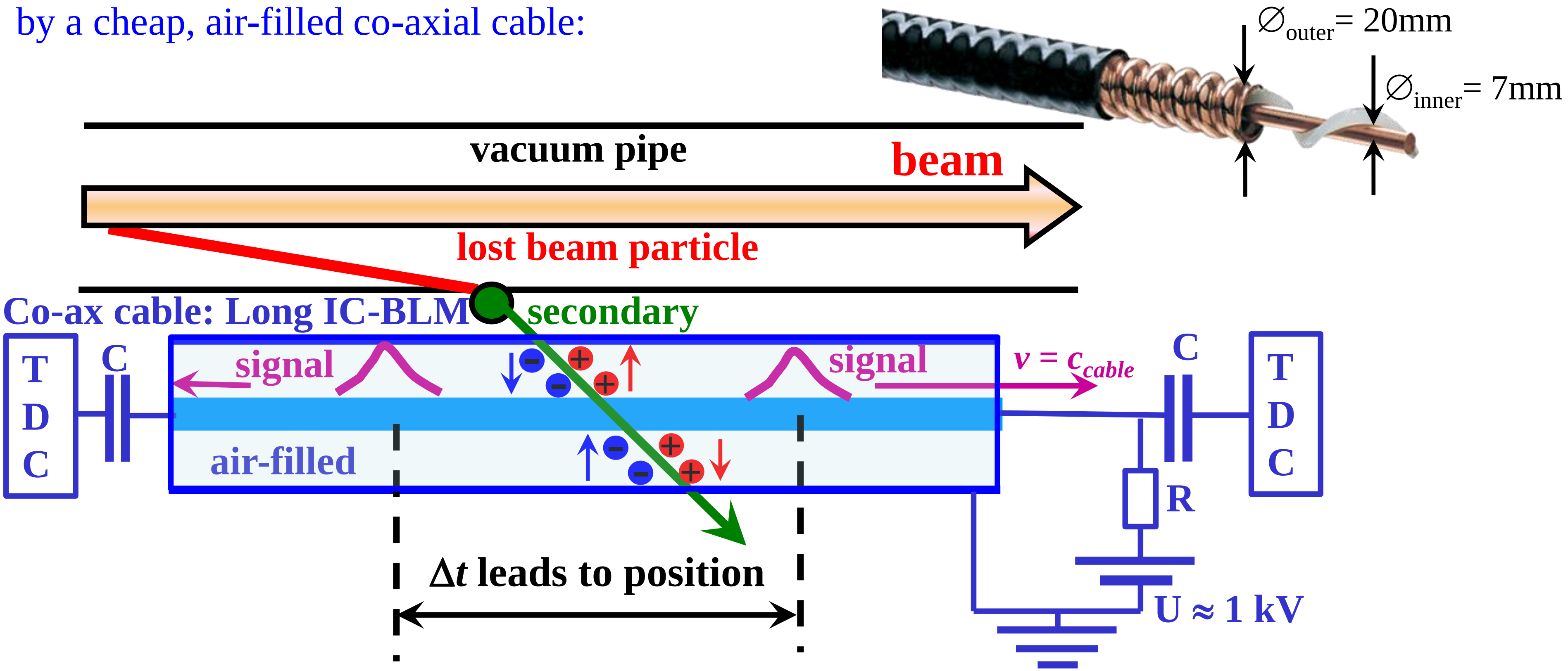


CERN type

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 ⇒ spatial resolution via time-of-flight measurement: determination of signal arrival at both ends leads to Δt

typical signal resolution of time-of-flight $\Delta t \approx 10$ ns ⇒ position resolution $\Delta x = c_{cable} \cdot \Delta t = 1.5$ m

Advantage of long IC: cheap, good spatial resolution

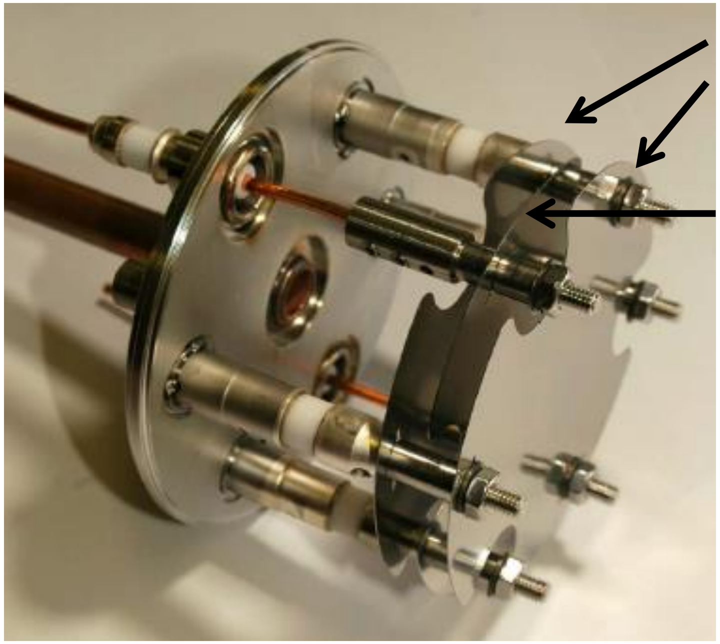
Secondary Electron Monitor as BLM

Ionizing radiation liberates secondary electrons from a surface.

Working principle:

- Three plates mounted in a vacuum vessel (passively NEG pumped)
- Outer electrodes: biased by $U \approx +1$ kV
- Inner electrode: connected for current measurement (here current-frequency converter)

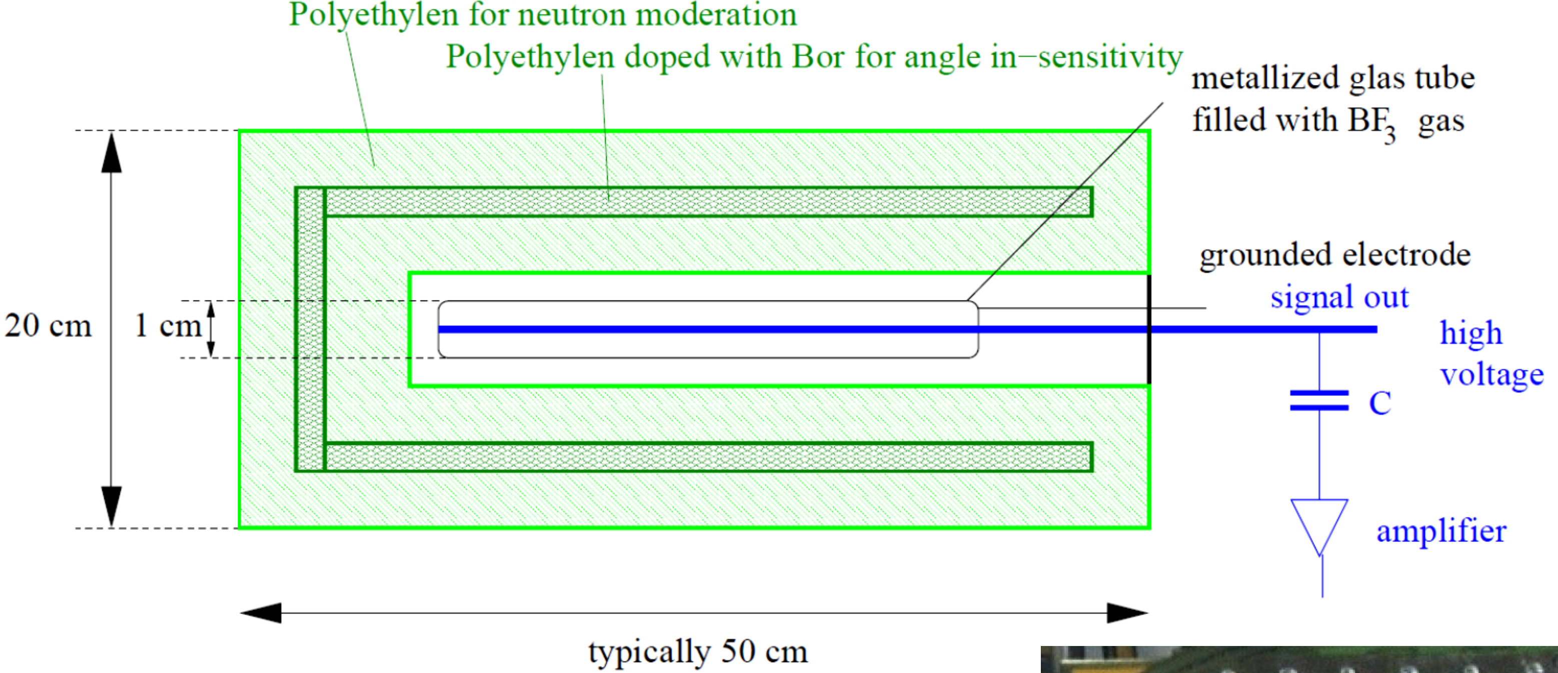
→ small and cheap detector, very insensitive.

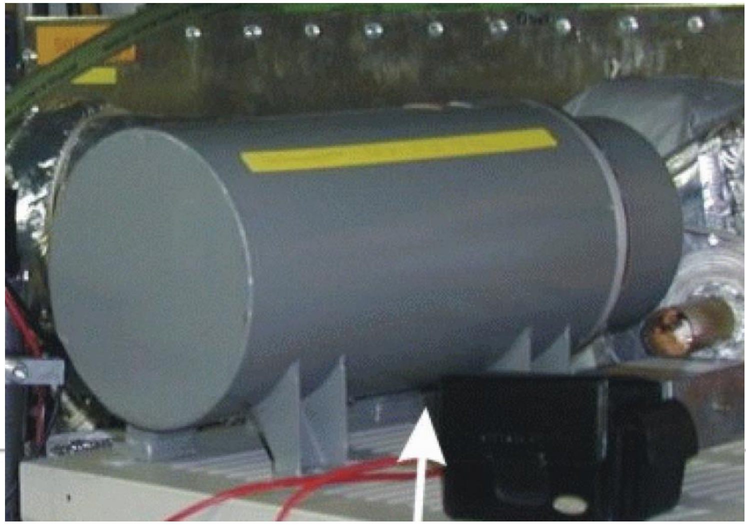


Detector with intrinsic amplification:
Secondary electron multiplier
i.e. a ‘photo-multiplier without photo-cathode’

BF_3 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_3 gas in tube:

   $^{10}\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{n} \rightarrow {}^{7}\mathbf{Li} + \boldsymbol{\alpha}$ with $Q = 2.3$ MeV.
3. Electronic stopping of ^{7}Li and α leads to signal.

Example for Optical Fibers BLM

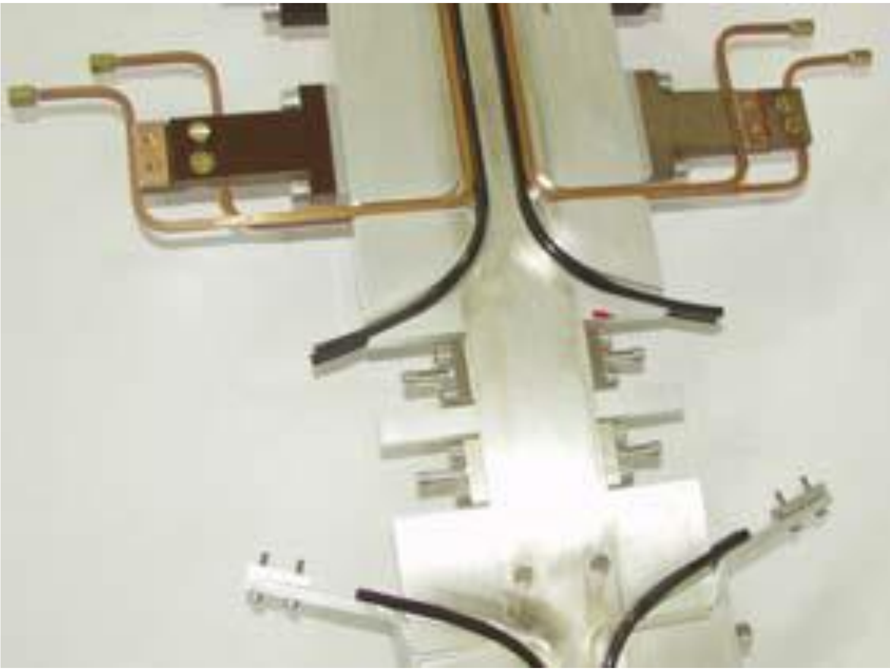
Advantage of optical fibers: Good spatial resolution with ***one*** detector

→ Installation parallel to beam pipe

→ low distance to loss

⇒ high solid angle for small volume

Example: Beam pipe of undulator at FLASH



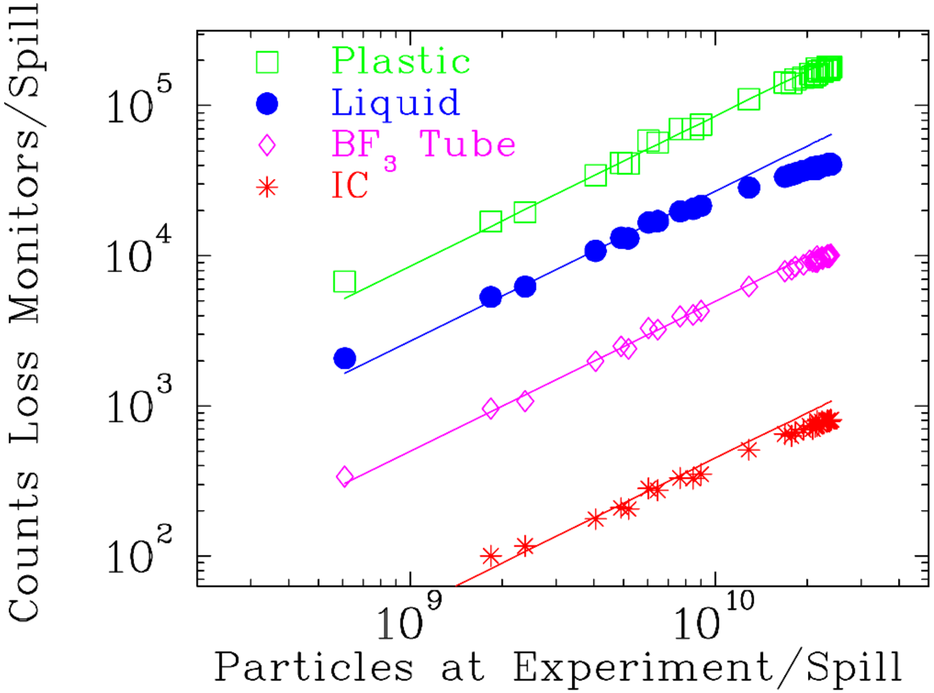
Alternative detection principle:
Cherenkov light by fast transversing particle

Comparison of different Types of BLMs

Different detectors are sensitive to various physical processes.

Example: Beam loss for 800 MeV/u O $^{8+}$

with different BLMs at GSI-synchr.:



⇒ Linear behavior for all detectors

but quite different count rate:

$r_{IC} < r_{BF3} < r_{liquid} < r_{plastic}$

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 ⇒ maintenance is hampered

and to material heating (vacuum pipe, super-cond. magnet etc.) ⇒ 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

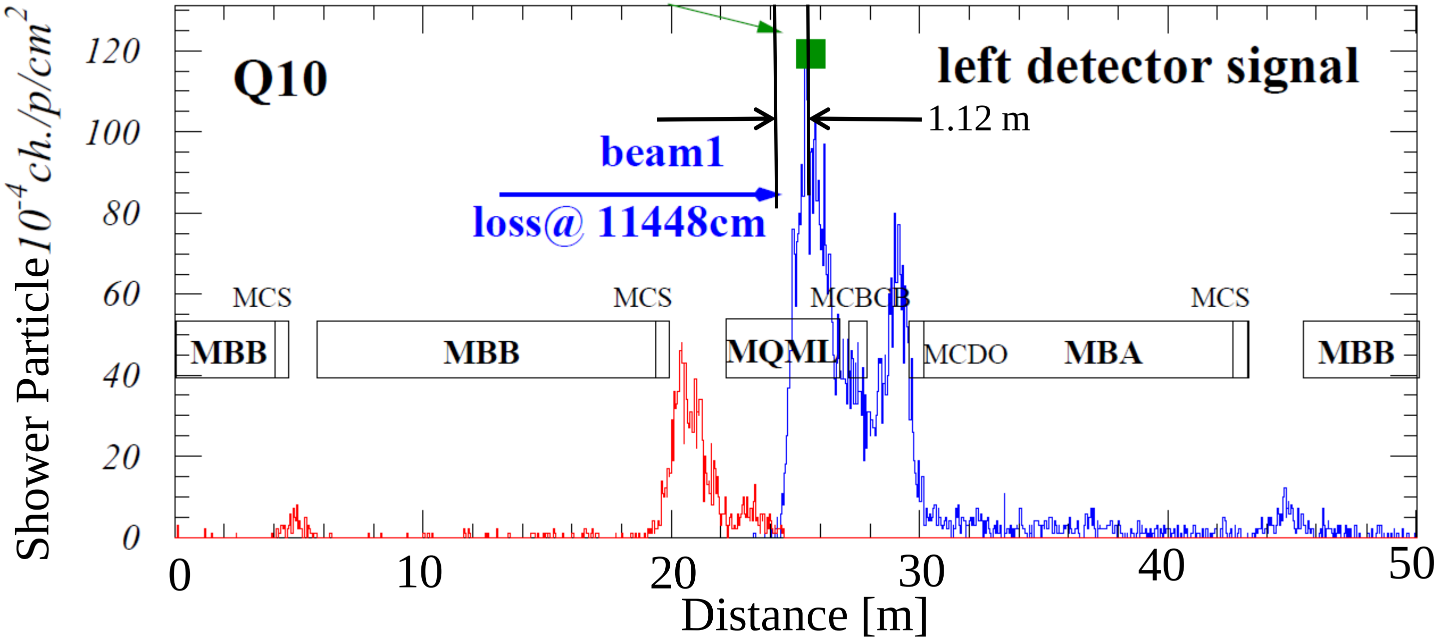
⇒ breakdown of super-conductivity = 'quenching'.

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

Position of detector at quadruples due to maximal beam size.

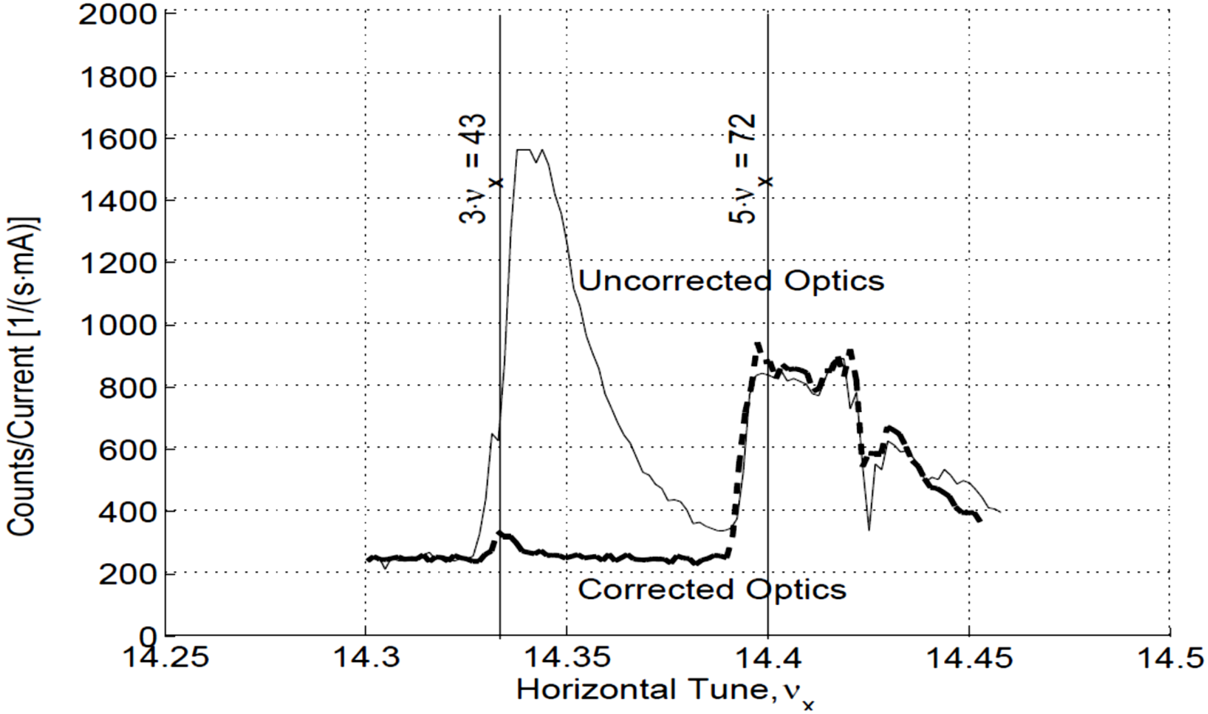
High energy particles leads to a shower in forward direction → Monte-Carlo simulation.

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):

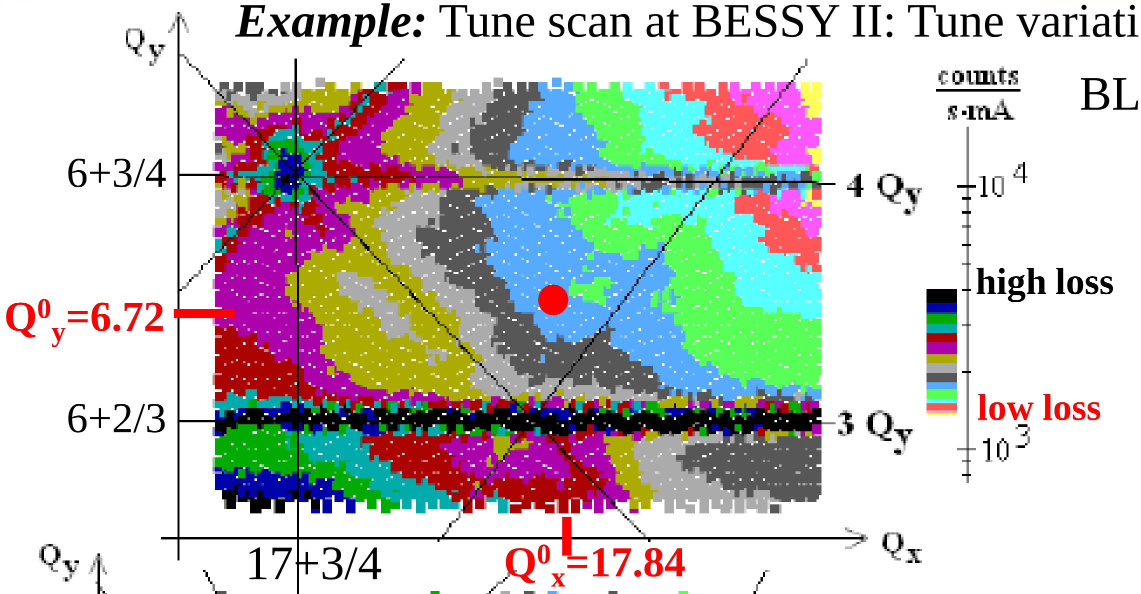


Beam blow-up by weak resonances can be avoided by proper tune value
→ very sensitive device for optimization.

Application: BLMs for optimal Tune Alignment

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

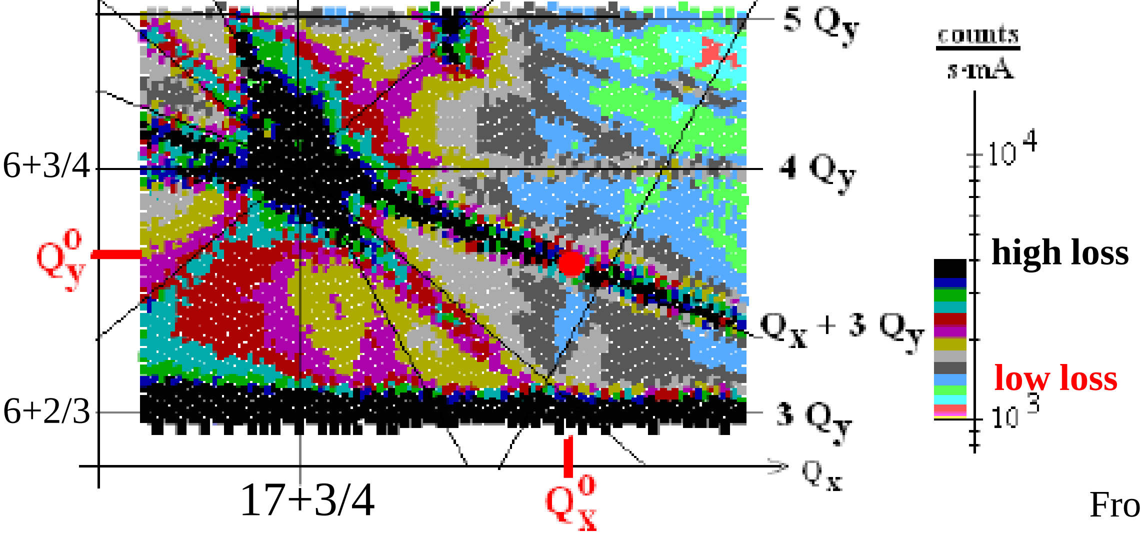
BLM: Plastic scintillator & PMT



Loss rate with **open** undulator

→ low loss (= long lifetime)

at working point at Q^0_x , Q^0_y



Loss rate with **closed** undulator (16mm, 6T)

→high loss (= short 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$_3$ tube**: only neutrons, slow response, radiation hard, expensive
- **Optical fibers**: insensitive, very slow, radiation hard, very high spatial resolution.