

**Tracker-In-Calorimeter (TIC) project:  
a calorimetric new solution to tracking gamma rays  
in space experiments**

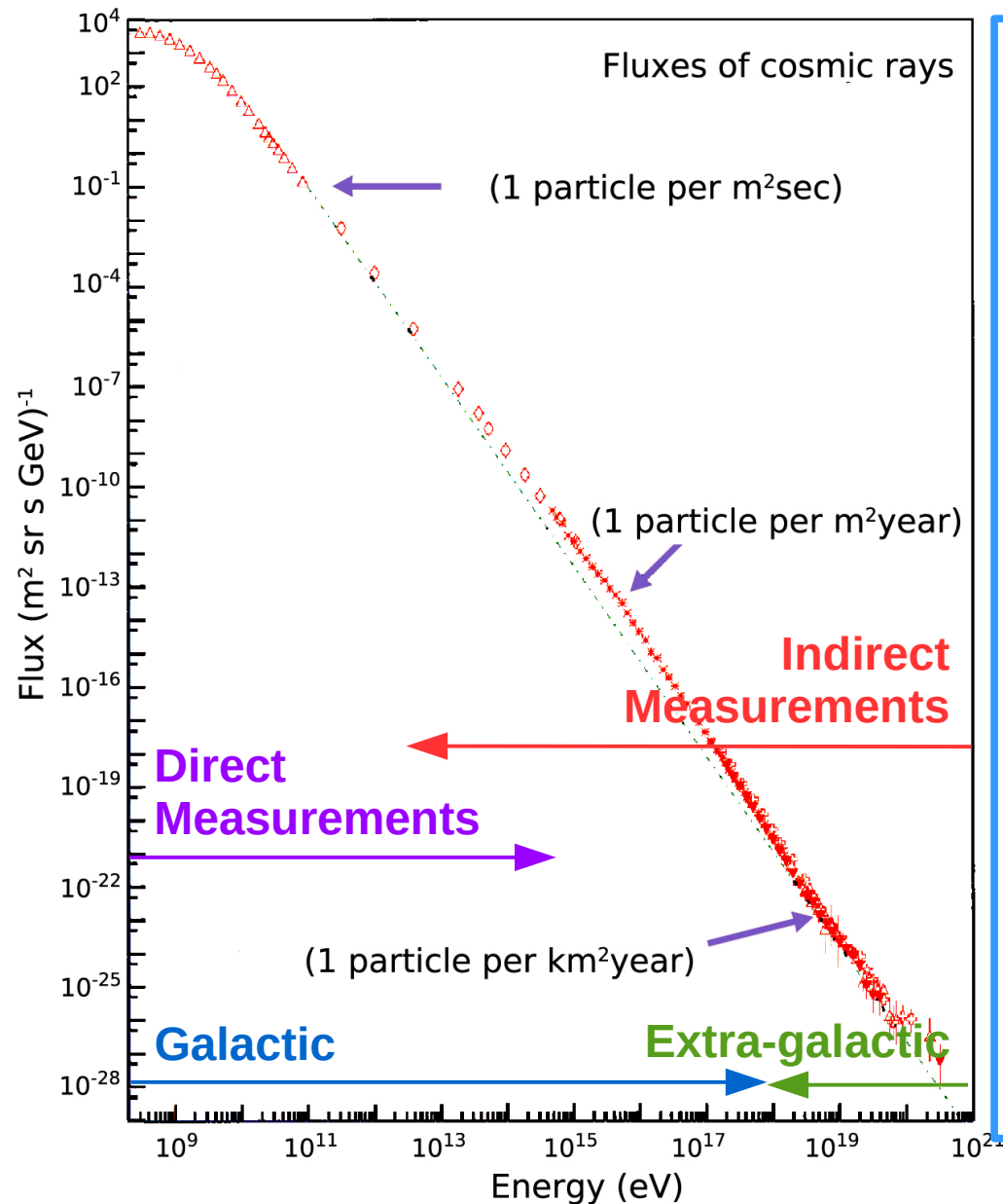
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**University of Siena & INFN-Pisa**  
*on behalf of the TIC Collaboration*

**Brighton, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2022**

# Outline

- Cosmic rays
- Space-based cosmic ray experiments
- The TIC project:
  - Simulations
  - Prototype
  - Beam test results

# Cosmic rays



## Open problems

- Identification of astrophysical sources responsible for acceleration
- Understanding of acceleration, propagation and interaction mechanisms
- Location of the transition region between galactic and extra-galactic origin
- Search for dark matter sources

## Direct

### Measurements

#### Advantage

Individual particle identification

#### Disadvantage

Payload limitation  
 $\Rightarrow$  small statistics

## Indirect

### Measurements

#### Advantage

Large arrays  
 $\Rightarrow$  large statistics

#### Disadvantage

Large model systematics

# Space-based experiments

## charge particle physics

In order to improve past measurements and extend them to higher energy, future space experiments must fulfill several requirements

**Protons and Nuclei up to 3 PeV/n**

$$\sigma_E/E < 40\%$$

$$G_{\text{eff}} \times T > 2.5 \text{ m}^2 \text{ sr} \times 5\text{yr}$$

$$\text{Dynamic Range} > 10^7$$

$$\sigma_z < 0.2\text{-}0.3 \text{ e}$$

**Electrons and positrons up to 30 TeV**

$$\sigma_E/E < 2\%$$

$$G_{\text{eff}} \times T > 3.6 \text{ m}^2 \text{ sr} \times 5\text{yr}$$

$$\text{Dynamic Range} > 10^5$$

$$\text{e/p separation} > 10^6$$

**Geometric factor**

$$G = \frac{dN_{\text{detected}}}{dt} / I$$

**Typical limitations**

Mass  $\sim 10^3$  Kg

Power  $\sim 10^3$  W

Down link  $\sim 10^2$  Gb/d

Volume  $\sim 1 \text{ m}^3$

**Effective geometric factor**

$$G_{\text{eff}} = \epsilon_{\text{sel}} \times G$$

**Need to find new design for future experiments in order to fulfill requests**

# The TIC project

In a large space satellite experiment, we are interested in collecting signals from **different channels**: electron, proton, nuclei and also  $\gamma$ -rays.

**Need a good compromise between**

**good angular  
resolution** for  $\gamma$ -rays

**large acceptance** for  
charged particles

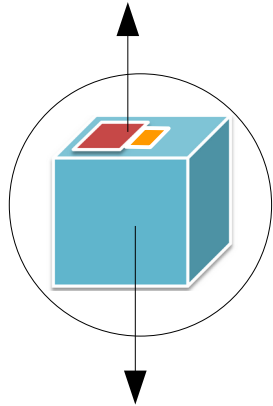
A possible approach could be the **TIC** project, an R&D project financed by INFN in Italy

The aim of the project is the design and optimization of a ***tracker integrated inside a calorimeter (Tracker In Calorimeter)***

# The Calocube idea:

an innovative proposal for a homogeneous and isotropic calorimeter [4]

Photodiodes



Crystal

$N \times N \times N$  cubic crystals with 1 Moliere radius side

Signal read by two PDs and double gain electronics

In case of CsI,  $N=20$ , side=3.6 cm,  $L=39X_0$  ( $1.8 \lambda_1$ )

Deep homogeneous isotropic calorimeter

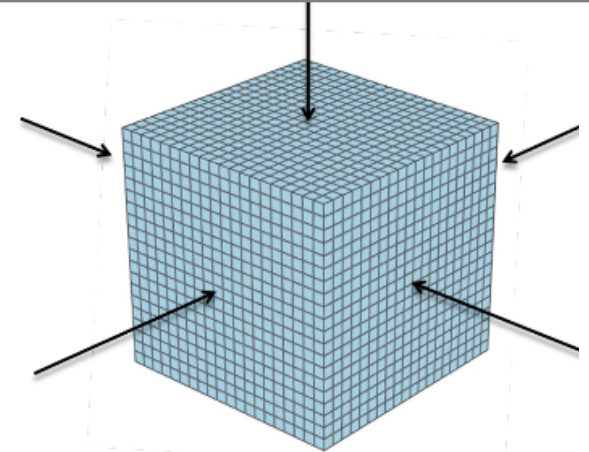
Good energy resolution

Cubic geometry with 5 face detection

Large geometrical acceptance

Shower imaging with 3D segmentation

Good e/p rejection, identification of shower axis and of shower starting point



This design has been chosen with some modifications for the future HERD experiment [5]

# Gamma-Ray physics: tracking reference technique

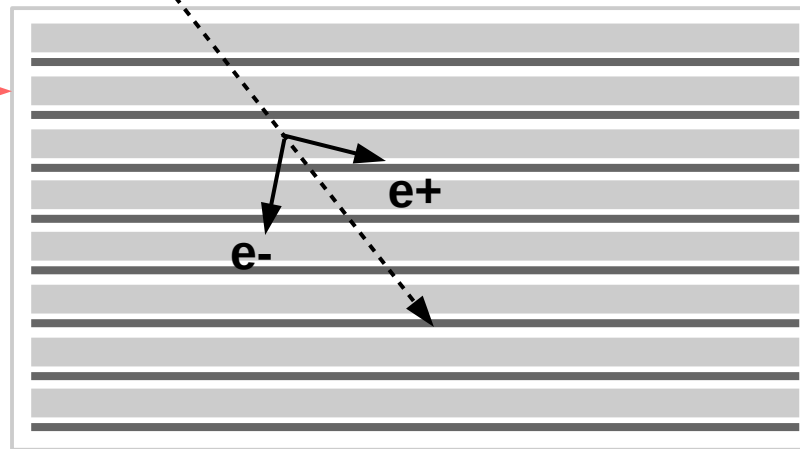
Performed using a **pair-conversion telescope**:  
composed by several planes, each one composed by

a layer of **passive material** (e.g. tungsten)  
→ to convert the primary photon into an  
e<sup>+</sup>/e<sup>-</sup> pair

**coupled with**

a **sensitive layer**  
(e.g. silicon microstrip detector)  
→ to measure the impact position of the  
electron and the positron

- the planes are stacked
  - to increase the photon conversion probability
  - to provide multiple position measurements along the e<sup>+</sup>/e<sup>-</sup> trajectory
    - from these measurements the track of the incident photon is reconstructed
- and suitably spaced apart from each other
  - lever arm and spatial resolution of the position measurements provide the required tracking resolution



This concept has been successfully implemented in recent space-borne gamma-ray detectors:  
Fermi [2] and AGILE [3]

# Space-based experiments

## Gamma-Ray physics

### Fermi LAT performances

Quantity	LAT (Minimum Spec.)
Energy Range	20 MeV - 300 GeV
Peak Effective Area <sup>1</sup>	> 8000 cm <sup>2</sup>
Field of View	> 2 sr
Angular Resolution <sup>2</sup>	< 3.5° (100 MeV) < 0.15° (>10 GeV)
Energy Resolution <sup>3</sup>	< 10%
Deadtime per Event	< 100 μs
Source Location Determination <sup>4</sup>	< 0.5'
Point Source Sensitivity <sup>5</sup>	< 6 x 10 <sup>-9</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> After background rejection

<sup>2</sup> Single photon, 68% containment, on-axis

<sup>3</sup> 1-σ, on-axis

<sup>4</sup> 1-σ radius, flux 10<sup>-7</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> (>100 MeV), high |b|

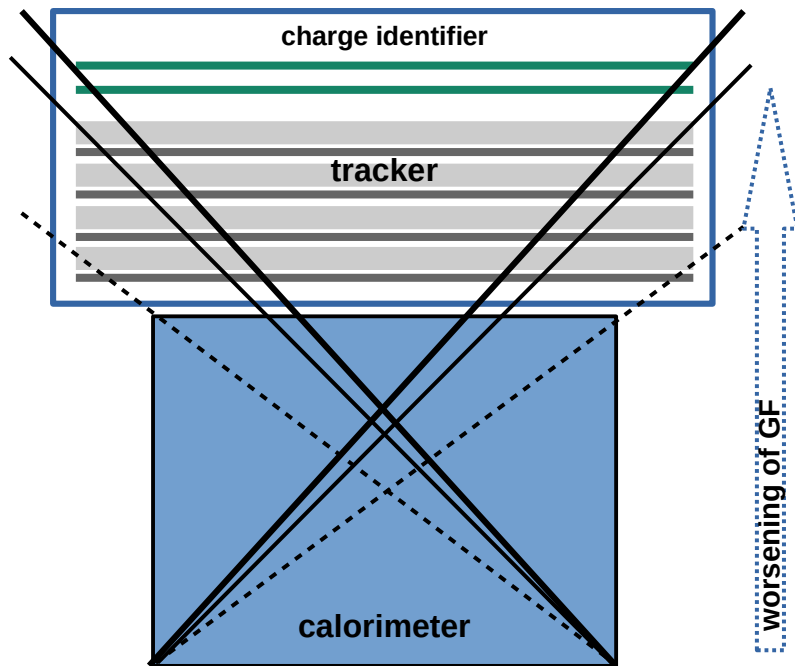
<sup>5</sup> > 100 MeV, at high |b|, for exposure of one-year all sky survey, photon spectral index -2



# Charge particle physics: accurate measurement of the charge is mandatory

a pair-conversion telescope is in principle also able to track charged primary particles  
It is actually used in detectors for charged particles (e.g. DAMPE [4])

charge of a relativistic particle can be measured by exploiting the  $Z^2$  scaling of the energy deposited by ionization on the sensitive layers



a non-negligible amount of passive material increases the fragmentation probability of the nucleus

worsening of the charge identification performance

## Simplest solution:

a dedicated charge identifier externally to the telescope  
(e.g. a set of silicon detectors with a minimal amount of passive material)

## Charge detector+tracker geometry:

- degradation of the geometric factor
- limit on the energy range covered by the instrument

The mass budget of a space experiment is severely constrained:

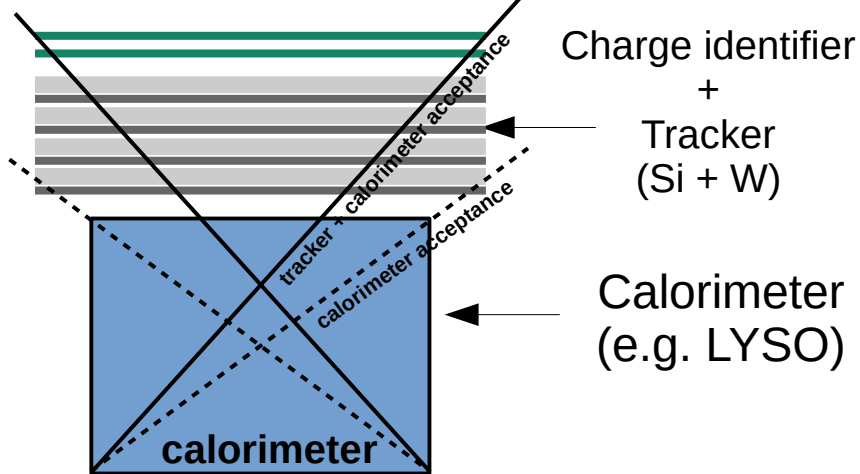
- limit on the maximum weight and dimension of the calorimeter
- allocating a significant fraction of the budget to the tracker reduces the instrument performance.

# TIC Tracker design

The angle can be measured using two different approaches

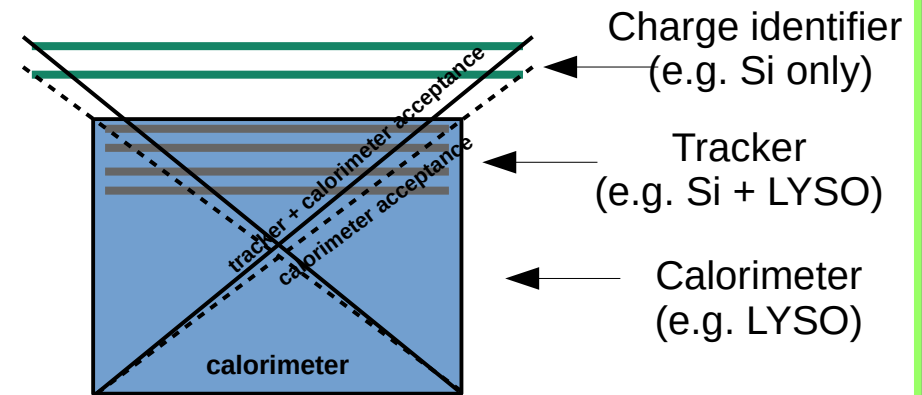
## Standard approach

Exploiting conversion of  $\gamma$  in  $e^+e^-$  pair in W



## TIC approach

Exploiting transverse profile of shower



## Advantages of TIC design are to

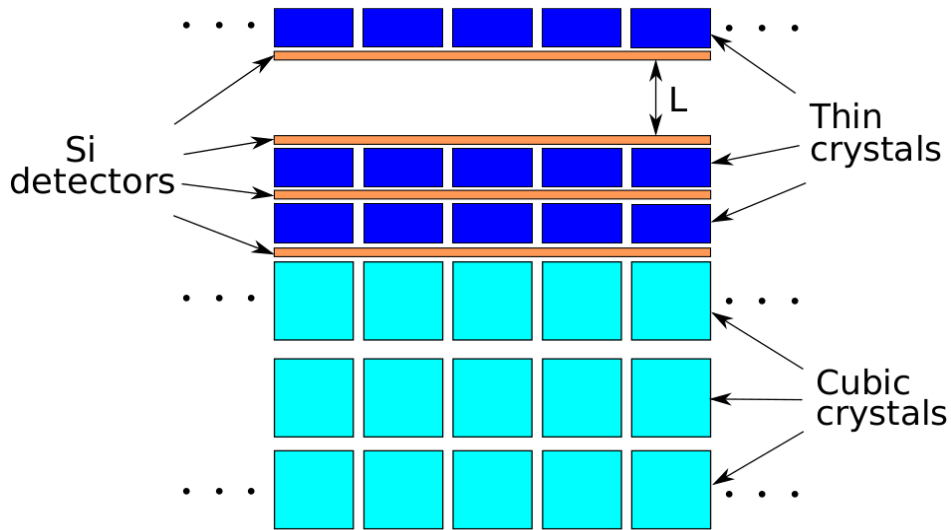
- decrease the amount of mass used for passive material (W)
  - reduce hadron fragmentation in passive material
  - increase the geometric acceptance

# Detector Geometry

Starting from a tracking calorimeter (e.g. CaloCube or HERD design):

- provides sizeable information about the development of the electromagnetic shower

that can be further enhanced by instrumenting one side with silicon microstrip detectors interleaved with the first layers of scintillating crystals



From top to bottom:

1. the upper layers made of thin crystals
2. gap between the first two silicon detectors.
  - to reduce the material traversed by the e<sup>+</sup>/e<sup>-</sup> pair
  - two consecutive silicon detectors without material in between
  - to mitigate the impact of multiple scattering on the tracking performance
3. two subsequent layers of crystals made of thin elements and silicon detectors
  - to limit the amount of material between other precise position measurements
4. the basic calorimeter design made of cubic scintillators is restored.

The simulated geometry:

- 21x21x21 mesh of LYSO cubic crystals (3/1.5 cm)
- gap between the first two Si detectors 7 cm
- inter-crystal gaps 5 mm
- total depth along the up-down direction  $\sim 3.2 \lambda_1$  and  $\sim 58 X_0$
- thickness and pitch for Si detectors set to 300  $\mu\text{m}$  and 50  $\mu\text{m}$
- gaps between the cubes filled with carbon fiber to mimic the presence of a support structure

A similar approach has been adopted in other detector design, e.g. silicon detectors interleaved with tungsten plates to build a sampling calorimeter with tracking capabilities.

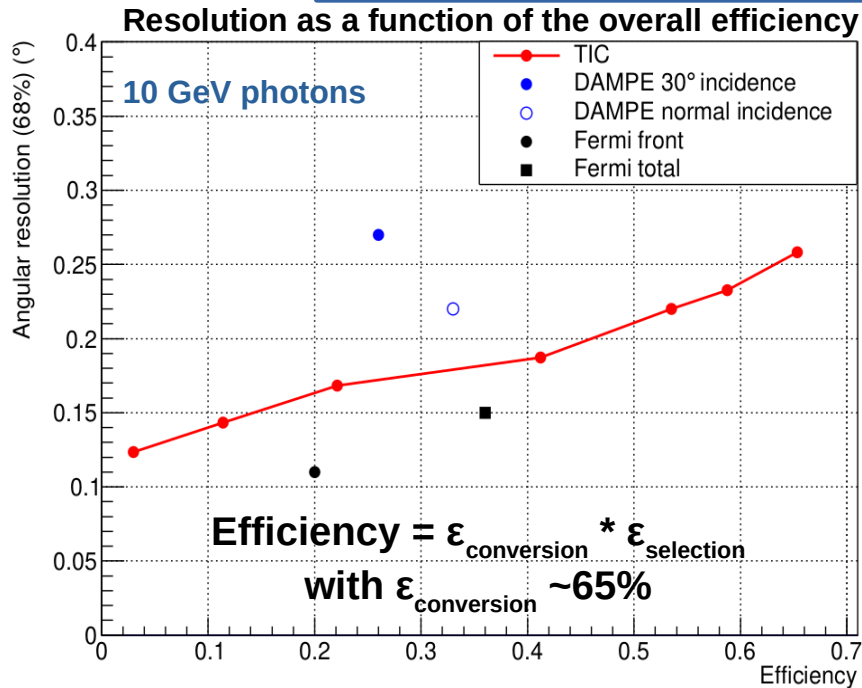
The novelty is the use of an active material as gamma-ray converter to maximize the energy resolution.

# TIC Simulated performances

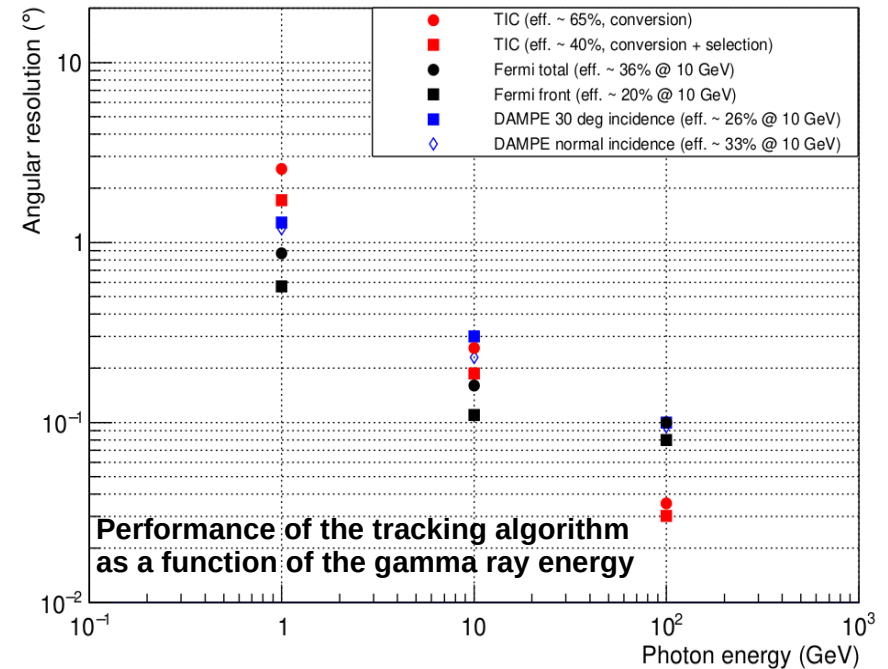
a FLUKA Monte Carlo simulation has been set up.

Simulated input spectra:

- **monochromatic gamma rays** at different energies (**1, 10 and 100 GeV**)
- isotropic angular distribution
- initial direction limited in the  $\pm 30^\circ$  region around the zenith direction
- the whole top face is uniformly illuminated by incoming photons.



- resolution worse than Fermi (efficiency of  $\sim 36\%$ )
- It can match Fermi by reducing the efficiency to  $\sim 14\%$
- It is generally better than DAMPE.



- performance improves with increasing energy
- at 100 GeV the performance is better than Fermi and DAMPE  
→ (with comparable or better efficiency)

Basic TIC design will be optimized in the future

Current performances:  $\Delta\theta = 0.12-0.26^\circ$  for  $\epsilon = 2-65\%$

Changing the event selection, the analysis of a given data sample can be optimized according to desired requirements on  $\Delta\theta$  and  $\epsilon$

## Si layers



# TIC Prototype

## CsI layers

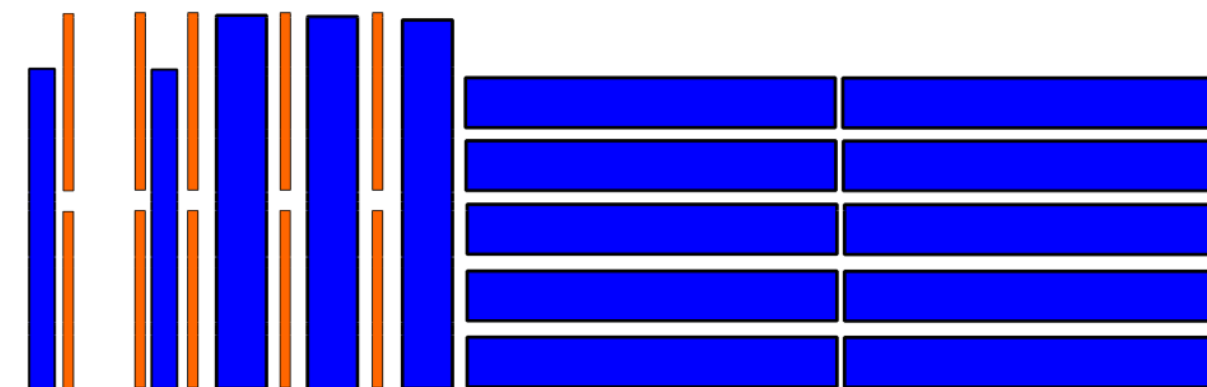


detector was built:

- by refurbishing the CaloCube prototype
  - layers of thin crystals obtained by **sawing some spare CaloCube cubic scintillators**
- spare one-sided **silicon microstrip detectors from the DAMPE experiment**

← Front → ← Middle → ← Back →

Beam  
→



### Front part:

- two trays of thin crystals (25 detectors per tray with 1.7 cm thickness)
- three layers of silicon microstrip detectors.

### Middle part:

- three trays of 6x5 cubic elements
- interleaved by two silicon layers

### Back part:

- made of 10 trays of cubes
  - arranged longitudinally with respect to the beam
    - two blocks of 5 trays each.

CaloCube crystals made of CsI(Tl):

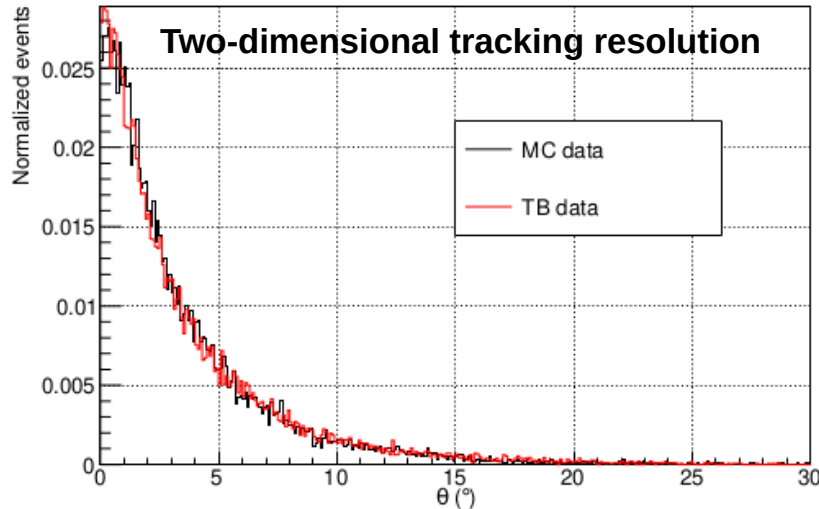
- different sizes wrt full-scale detector
- dedicated simulation of the prototype detector

The prototype have been tested **at the CERN PS+SPS with 1-100 GeV electrons** at different incident angles

# TIC Prototype Performances: 1 GeV & 10 GeV electrons with normal incidence

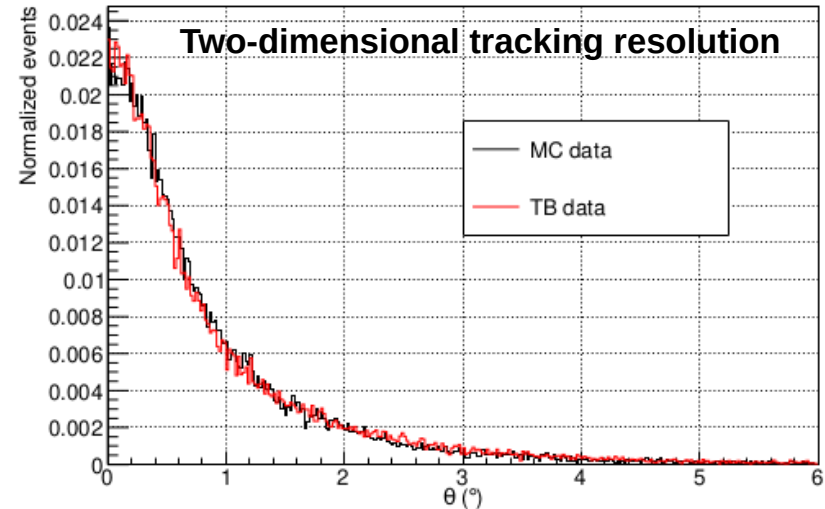
accurate simulation of the experimental setup realized using FLUKA (detector geometry + experimental effects)

1 GeV, normal incidence



■ Data:  $\Delta\theta_{68\%} = 3.72^\circ$ ,  $\Delta\theta_{95\%} = 10.63^\circ$   
■ MC:  $\Delta\theta_{68\%} = 3.87^\circ$ ,  $\Delta\theta_{95\%} = 11.44^\circ$

5 GeV, normal incidence



■ Data:  $\Delta\theta_{68\%} = 0.985^\circ$ ,  $\Delta\theta_{95\%} = 3.3^\circ$   
■ MC:  $\Delta\theta_{68\%} = 0.955^\circ$ ,  $\Delta\theta_{95\%} = 3.28^\circ$

## Experimental effects due to:

- segmented beam pipe + air + trigger scintillators
- angular and spatial distribution of the real beam
- capacitive couplings between the silicon microstrips
- spread induced by residual rotation misalignment of the silicon sensors

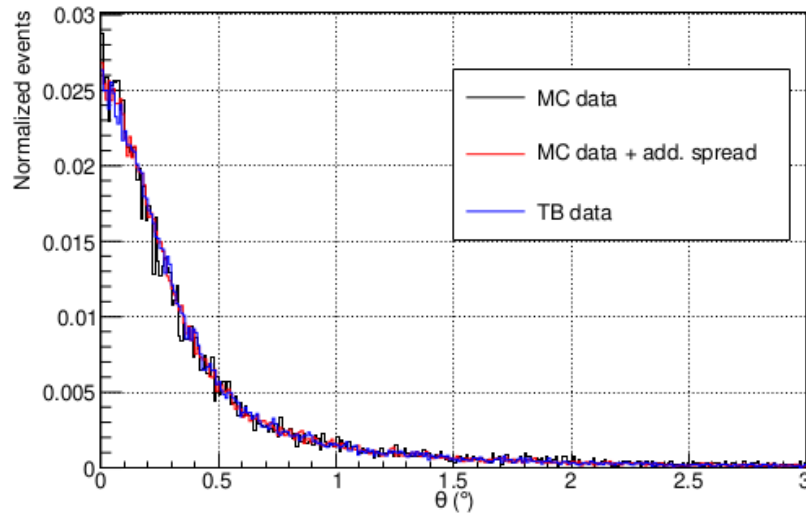
Good agreement between data and MC

Track reconstruction algorithm explained in a spare slide

# TIC Prototype Performances:

## 10 GeV, 50 GeV, 100 GeV electrons with normal incidence

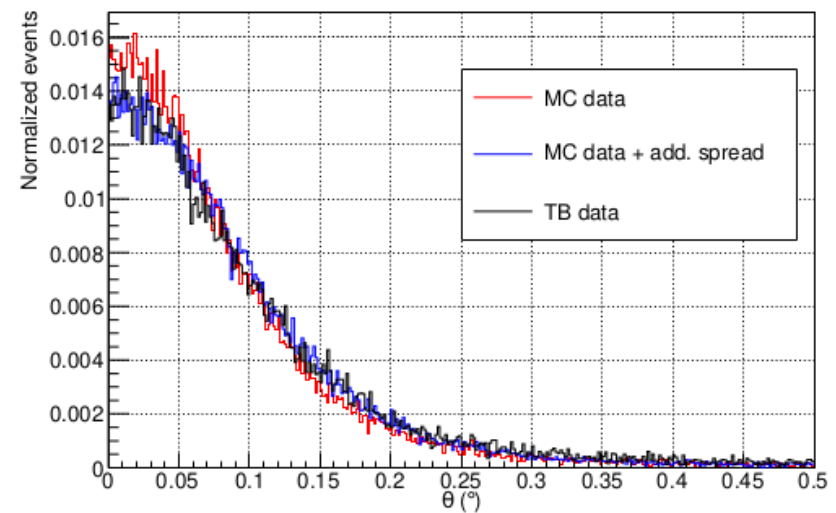
10 GeV, normal incidence



■ Data:  $\Delta\theta_{68\%} = 0.41^\circ$ ,  $\Delta\theta_{95\%} = 1.95^\circ$

■ MC:  $\Delta\theta_{68\%} = 0.40^\circ$ ,  $\Delta\theta_{95\%} = 1.79^\circ$

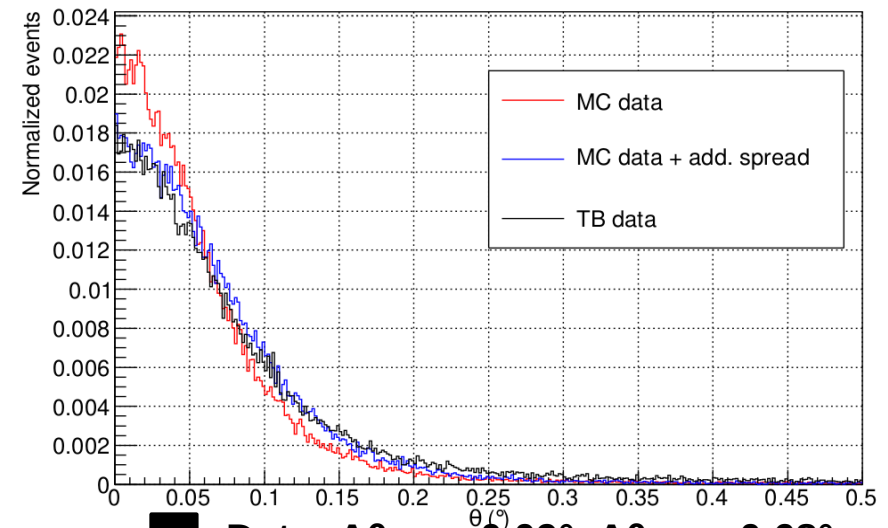
50 GeV, normal incidence



■ Data:  $\Delta\theta_{68\%} = 0.12^\circ$ ,  $\Delta\theta_{95\%} = 0.92^\circ$

■ MC:  $\Delta\theta_{68\%} = 0.10^\circ$ ,  $\Delta\theta_{95\%} = 0.71^\circ$

100 GeV, normal incidence



■ Data:  $\Delta\theta_{68\%} = 0.09^\circ$ ,  $\Delta\theta_{95\%} = 0.68^\circ$

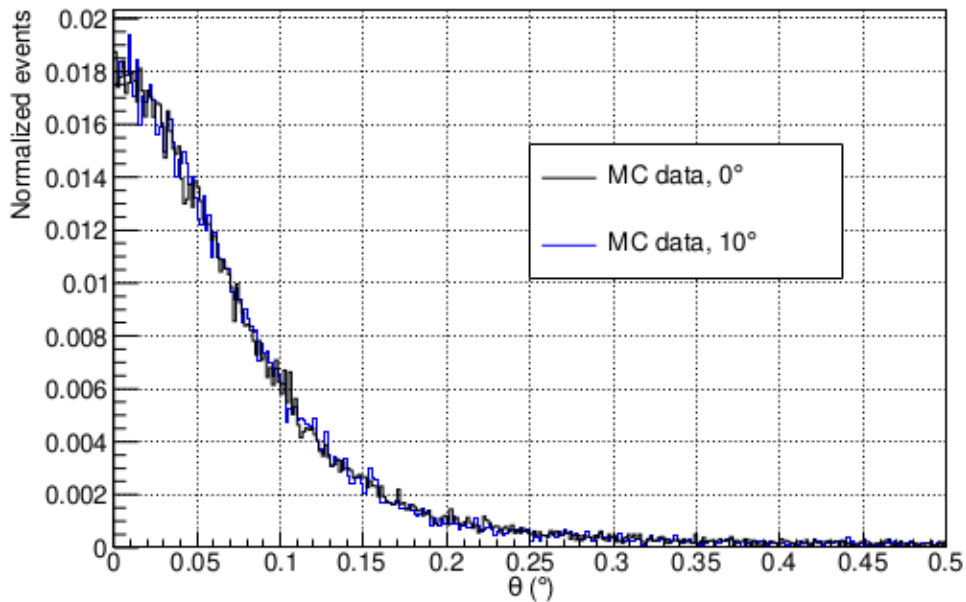
■ MC:  $\Delta\theta_{68\%} = 0.07^\circ$ ,  $\Delta\theta_{95\%} = 0.31^\circ$

- to fully reconcile test beam and Monte Carlo data at higher energies
  - additional spread of about  $0.04^\circ$  added to the nominal spread of the simulated beam
  - this correction accounts for unknown residual systematic effects at all energies
  - the residual BT-MC resolution difference taken as a systematic error.

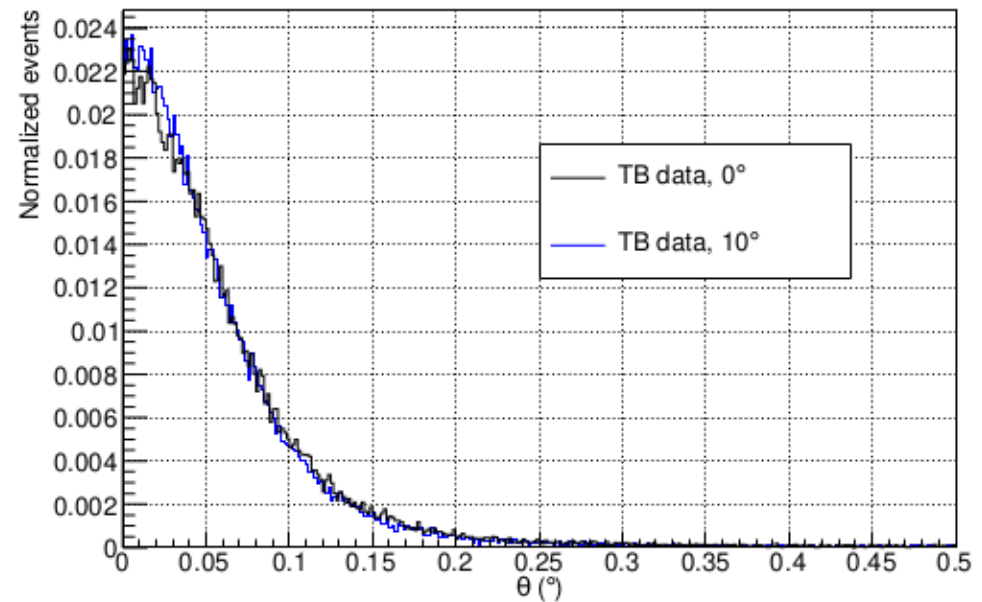
# TIC Prototype Performances: angular resolution @ different angles

The tracker performances have been tested at different incident angles:  
0, 10, 30 degrees

100 GeV, test beam data



100 GeV, Monte Carlo data



The angular resolution seems not depending on incidence angle:  
→ by comparing the resolution plots for 0° and 10° incidence angles no sizeable difference was found;  
→ this was confirmed by Monte Carlo simulations



## TIC Prototype Performances: result summary

Energy (GeV)	Angle (deg)	Res. 68% (deg) - TB	Res. 68% (deg) - MC
1	0	$3.72 \pm 0.11$	$3.87 \pm 0.12$
5	0	$0.985 \pm 0.016$	$0.955 \pm 0.014$
10	0	$0.4095 \pm 0.0087$	$0.3971 \pm 0.0050$
50	0	$0.1205 \pm 0.0023$	$0.0995 \pm 0.0050$
100	0	$0.0897 \pm 0.0010$	$0.0680 \pm 0.0008$
100	10	$0.0884 \pm 0.0013$	$0.0646 \pm 0.0004$

**The agreement between test beam and Monte Carlo data is quite satisfactory, especially at lower energies for 68% containment of the two-dimensional Point Spread Function (PSF).**

Energy (GeV)	Angle (deg)	Res. 95% (deg) - TB	Res. 95% (deg) - MC
1	0	$10.63 \pm 0.15$	$11.44 \pm 0.33$
5	0	$3.300 \pm 0.063$	$3.282 \pm 0.054$
10	0	$1.946 \pm 0.062$	$1.790 \pm 0.068$
50	0	$0.921 \pm 0.029$	$0.710 \pm 0.058$
100	0	$0.678 \pm 0.033$	$0.3077 \pm 0.0099$
100	10	$0.662 \pm 0.036$	$0.259 \pm 0.019$

At 95% PSF the agreement gets worse:

→ likely due to residual instrumental effects

→ not-so-good modeling of the tails of the distribution by the Monte Carlo

# Summary

The **TIC R&D project** is a proposal for a new instrument design for tracking gamma rays in cosmic-ray space experiments

**A prototype made of CsI(Tl) crystals and Si micro-strips** have been built and tested, good angular resolutions, as expected from simulations

- **$\Delta\theta = 1.94^\circ$  with 10 GeV electrons**
- **$\Delta\theta = 0.68^\circ$  with 100 GeV electrons**

The TIC tracking calorimeter has comparable tracking performance with respect to the current generation of gamma-ray experiments (Fermi, DAMPE) for energies from 1 GeV to  $\sim 50$  GeV, and better performance above 50 GeV, while allowing for important design optimizations for multi-particle detection.

Data acquired with a detector prototype at CERN test beam facilities showed a reasonable agreement with the Monte Carlo simulation, providing a deep insight on the relevant instrumental effects and a robust validation of the measurement principle.

# References

- [1] O. Adriani et al., *CaloCube: An isotropic spaceborne calorimeter for high-energy cosmic rays. Optimization of the detector performance for protons and nuclei*, *Astropart.Phys.* 96 (2017) pg. 1-17
- [2] W.B. Atwood et al., *Design and initial tests of the Tracker-converter of the Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope*, *Astropart. Phys.* 28 (2007) pg. 422-434
- [3] A. Bulgarelli et al., *The AGILE silicon tracker: Pre-launch and in-flight configuration*, *Nucl. Inst. and Meth. in Phys. A* 614 (2010) pg. 213-226
- [4] J. Chang et al., *The DArk Matter Particle Explorer mission*, *Astropart. Phys.* 95 (2017) pg.6-24
- [5] S. Zhang et al., *Introduction to the High Energy cosmic-RadiationDetection (HERD) Facility onboard China's FutureSpace Station*, *Proc. of Sc.* 301 (2017)

**Thank you!**

# **Spare slides**

# Track reconstruction algorithm

Iterative algorithm based on all the information obtained by the calorimeter signals (both crystals and Si detectors).  
The Principal Component Analysis method (PCA) has been used.

**First step** based on the crystal signals only: building of the **3D covariance matrix of the crystal coordinates**

$$M_{ij}^{CAL} = \frac{1}{\sum_{n=1}^N W_{CAL}^{(n)}} \sum_{n=1}^N W_{CAL}^{(n)} (c_i^{(n)} - C_i)(c_j^{(n)} - C_j), \quad \longrightarrow \quad C_i = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N W_{CAL}^{(n)} c_i^{(n)}}{\sum_{n=1}^N W_{CAL}^{(n)}} \quad \mathbf{C}_i \text{ is the center of the distribution of the signals}$$

- N crystals with signal above a given threshold
- $c_i^{(n)}$  crystal coordinates
- $W_{CAL}^{(n)}$  weight = equal to the signal  $S_{CAL}^{(n)}$  on  $n^{\text{th}}$  crystal

the eigenvector with the largest eigenvalue is considered as estimator of the primary track

**Second step** based on the Si signals: building of the **3D covariance matrix of the Si strip coordinates**

$$M_{ij}^{SIL} = \frac{1}{\sum_{k=1}^J W_{SIL}^{(k)}} \sum_{k=1}^J W_{SIL}^{(k)} (d_i^{(k)} - D_i)(d_j^{(k)} - D_j), \quad \longrightarrow \quad D_i = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^J W_{SIL}^{(k)} d_i^{(k)}}{\sum_{k=1}^J W_{SIL}^{(k)}} \quad \mathbf{D}_i \text{ is the center of the distribution of the signals}$$

- $i/j = X-Z$  or  $Y-Z$  view
- J strips with signal above a given threshold
- $d_i^{(k)}$  strip coordinates
- $W_{SIL}^{(k)}$  weight for the  $k^{\text{th}}$  silicon channel

the spatial dispersion of the CAL track intersection in the  $P^{\text{th}}$  plane can be approximated by a Gaussian function. Then the weight is defined by:

$$W_{SIL}^{(k)} = \frac{S^{(k)}}{S_P} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_P} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{d_{xy}^{(k)} - X_P}{\sigma_P} \right)^2 \right]$$

$S^{(k)}/S_P$  ratio takes into account the increasing angular dispersion of the electromagnetic shower

- $X_P$  intersection on the  $P^{\text{th}}$  plane from of CAL track
- $\sigma_P$  STD estimated by simulation
- $S_P$  total signal from  $P^{\text{th}}$  plane
- $S_{SIL}^{(k)}$  signal of the  $k^{\text{th}}$  strip (part of  $P^{\text{th}}$  plane)

the eigenvector with the largest eigenvalue is considered as best estimator of the primary track. Since this new estimate depends on the previous one, the procedure can be repeated by using the new estimate as the previous one until convergence.