



Institute of Experimental and Applied Physics Czech Technical University in Prague

Application of semiconductor pixel detectors for high resolution X-ray and neutron imaging, particle tracking and in space

Stanislav Pospíšil

on behalf of former and present Medipix/Timepix team of the Institute of Experimental and Applied Physics Czech Technical University in Prague







Main goals of the lecture

- Institute of Experimental and Applied Physics Czech Technical University in Prague
- To describe shortly family of Medipix2, Timepix and Timepix3 semiconductor pixel detectors including corresponding R/O electronics.
- To document ability of Timepix pixel detector to visualize individual particle tracks in solid state similarly to nuclear emulsions, cloud chambers, bubble chamber, Micro-Pattern Gaseous Detectors etc.
- To demonstrate capability of the devices for high resolution (micrometric and nearly nanometric) radiography, nondestructive testing and 3D imaging by means of X-rays and neutrons.
- To present results of investigation of neutron interactions in silicon sensors in a broad energy range (500 keV up to GeV region) by means of Time-of-Flight (ToF) technique.
- To show examples of broad applications of the Timepix detectors for measurements of composition and spectral characteristics of mixed radiation fields around physics experiments, in medicine and in space research.



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www.cern.ch/medipix

Medipix/Timepix hybrid pixel detector device

- Planar pixellated detector (Si, GaAs, CdTe, thickness: 300/700/1000μm)
- Bump-bonded to Medipix readout chip containing in each pixel cell:
 - amplifier,
 - double discriminator
 - and counter

α, β, γ, ...

Detector chip

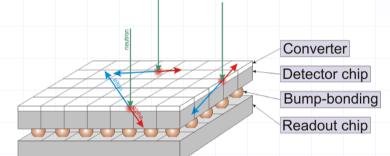
Medipix chip

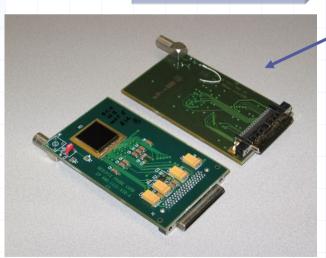
Bump-bonding

Converter materials to detect

- thermal neutrons: 6Li(n,α)T, Q=4.78MeV 10B(n,α)7Li, Q=2.78MeV

- fast neutrons: recoiled protons from PE-foil





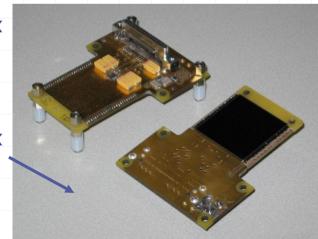
Medipix2/Timepix

Pixels: 256 x 256
Pixel size: 55 x 55 μm²
Area: 1.5 x 1.5 cm²

Medipix2/Timepix Quad

Pixels: 512 x 512 Pixel size: 55 x 55 μm²

Area: 3 x 3 cm²



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TIMEPIX3

The pixel device permitting simultaneous measurement of Time over Threshold (ToT - collected charge) and Time of Arrival (ToA) of the signal in every pixel with resolution 1.6 ns.

It can be effectively used for simultaneous measurement

- of Time-of-Flight of detected particle,
- Energy of this particle deposited in the sensor and
- a drift time of charge in the sensor
- ◆ Thickness: 300µm
- ◆ Bias: 90 V
- Triggered
- Data driven mode
- ◆ T0 synch when trigger signal was received



Timepix3 CERN chip board



About development of R/O interfaces for Medipix/Timepix devices



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HISTORY 1995-2011:

MAMOGRAPHY

- CAMAC/VME
- MUROS (NIKHEF)
- USB1 (IEAP)
- USB Lite (IEAP)
- RUIN (IEAP)
- MARS (NZ)
- USB2 (IEAP)
- TPX Lite (IEAP)



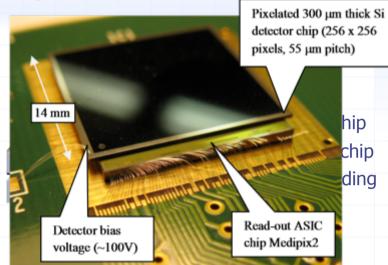
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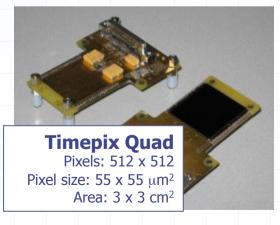
www.cern.ch/medipix

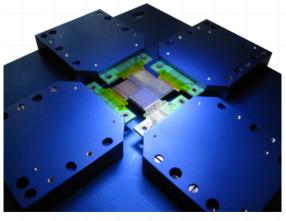
Timepix pixel device

operating as single particle counting pixel detector

- Planar pixelated detector (Si, GaAs, CdTe, thickness: 150/300/700/1000mm ...)
- Bump-bonded to readout chip containing in each pixel cell: amplifier, discriminator, Counter or ADC or Timer
- Multichip assemblies with common sensor: **Quad** (30 x 30 mm), **Hexa** (45 x 30 mm)
- Multichip detectors with edgeless sensors: **WidePIX**_{10×10} (143×143 mm)







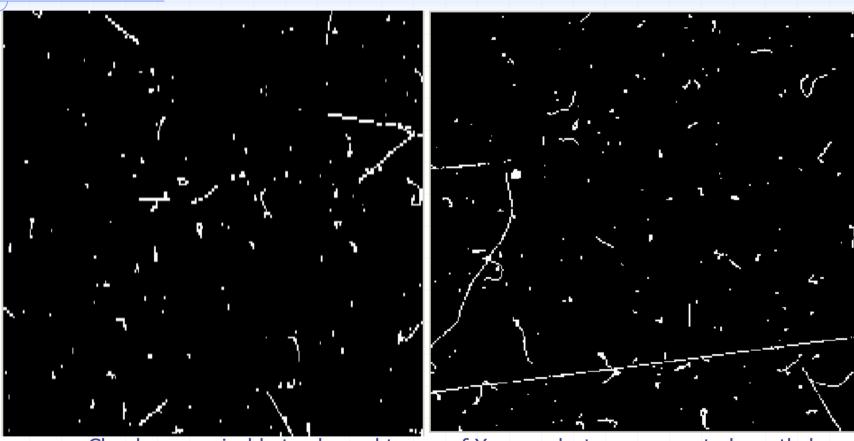




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Response of Medipix2 device to natural background radiation



Clearly recognizable tracks and traces of X-rays, electrons generated mostly by gamma rays, alpha particles, muon, Muon tracks can be recognized by submicrometric precision.

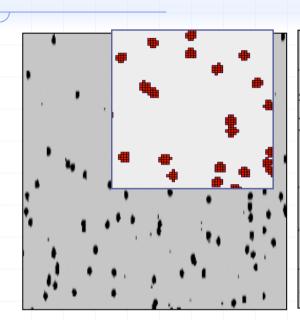


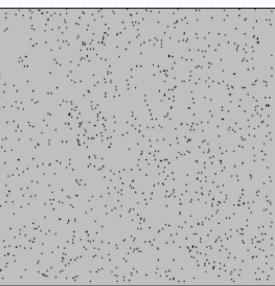
Noiseless particle detection Tracking mode of pixel detector operation

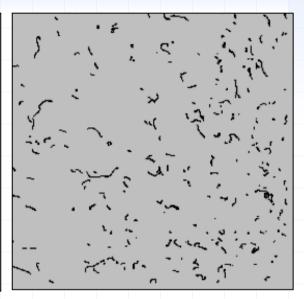
on /

(On-line imaging of tracks and traces of single radiation quanta)

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- \bullet ²⁴¹Am alpha source gives clusters of ~5x5 pixels measured with the MEDIPIX-USB device and a 300 µm thick silicon sensor. The clusters are shown in detail in the inlet. The cluster sizes depend on particle energy and threshold setting.
- ◆ Signature of X-rays from a ⁵⁵Fe X-ray source. Photons yield single pixel hits or hits on 2 adjacent pixels due to charge sharing.
- ◆ A ⁹⁰Sr beta source produces curved tracks in the silicon detector.
- ◆ A pixel counter is used just to say "YES" if individual quantum of radiation generates in the pixel a charge above the pre-selected treshold.



Charge sharing effect - clusters

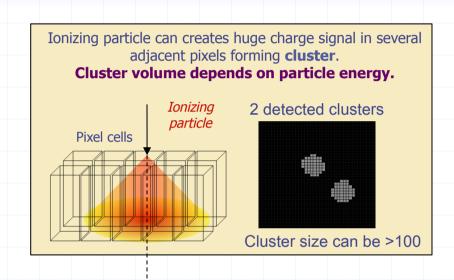


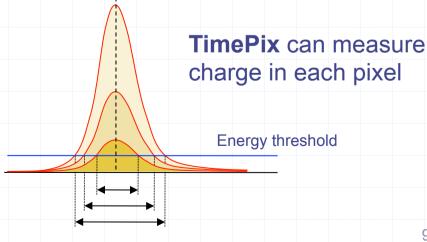
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- Ionizing particle creates a charge in the sensor.
- The charge is collected by external electric field => the process takes some time
- Due to charge diffusion the charge cloud expands
- The charge cloud can overlap several adjacent pixels => **CLUSTER**
- Pixels in a cluster will detect the charge if it is higher than certain threshold

The Cluster size depends on:

- Particle energy and range
- Depth of interaction
- **Detector Bias Voltage**
- Local CCE (e.g. due to a material inhomogeneities and radiation damage)

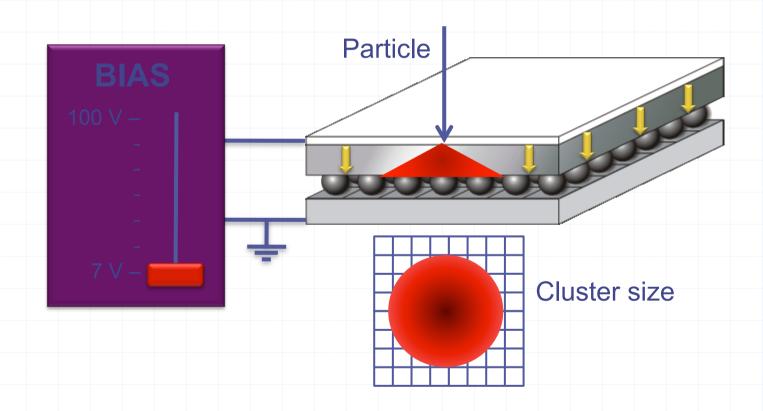




Dependence of cluster size on applied bias (on electric field in semiconductor)



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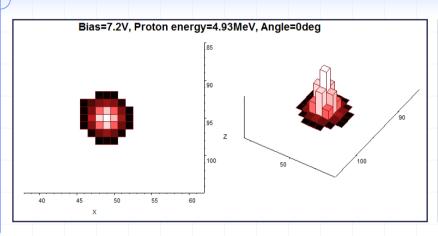


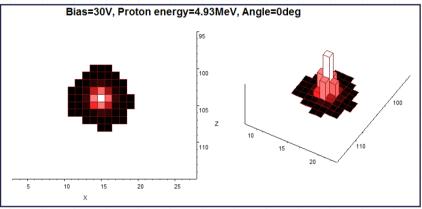


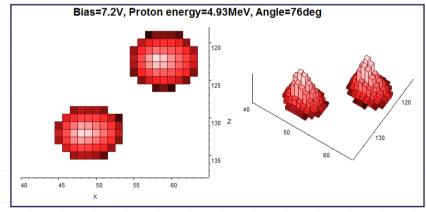
3D-visualization of proton tracks in Timepix silicon pixel detector. Illumination under different angles and different applied biases

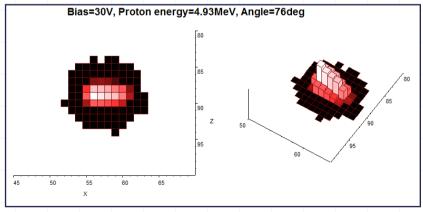


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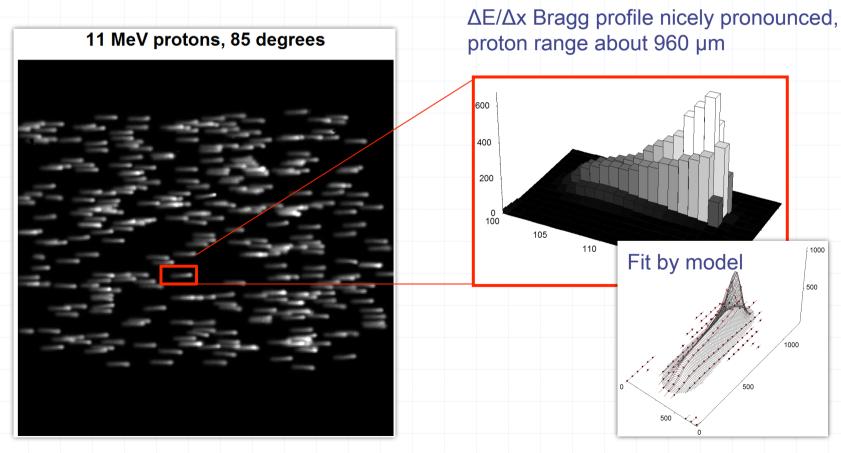
What is the spatial resolution? X- and Y-coordinates are determined with a precision of about 500nm. Determination of angle is with a precision of about 1°. It needs additional experiments.



Flock of 11 MeV protons entering the silicon sensor under 85°



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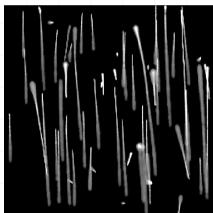


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Typical observed tracks of particles used for hadron therapy beam

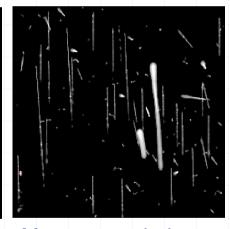


Protons 48 MeV

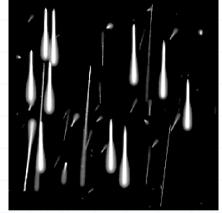


Only protons and their scattering, no secondaries.

Protons 221 MeV

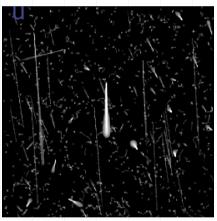


Many secondaries, (delta electrons fragments).



Carbons and protons and their scattering, no secondaries.

Carbons 89 MeV/u Carbons 430 MeV/



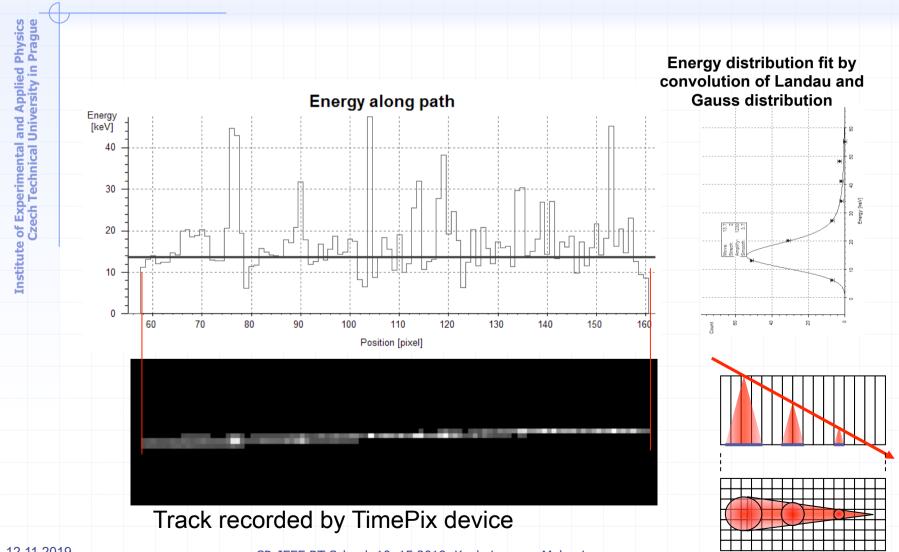
Carbons and many secondaries.



Track of MIP particle – cosmic muon



Charge sharing effect helps to determine all three track coordinates with quite high resolution (deeply submicrometric in case of x and y)





Review of the characteristic patterns Event by event processing



_		
Institute of Experimental and Applied Physics Czech Technical University in Prague	1) Dot	 Photons and electrons (10keV)
	2) Small blob	Photons and electrons
	3) Curly track	Electrons (MeV range)
	4) Heavy blob	Heavy ionizing particles with low range (alpha particles,)
	5) Heavy track	Heavy ionizing particles (protons,)
	6) Straight track	Energetic light charged

particles (MIP, Muons,...)





X-ray imaging

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High resolution X-ray radiography



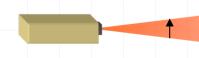
Experimental setup

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Requirements:

- Microfocus X-ray source to enable geometrical magnification
- Adjustable object holder (three translations + rotation)
- Sample stabilization (temperature, humidity)
- Equipment for automatic calibration of pixel responses
- Detector holder and detector stabilization (temperature, condensing point)

Geometric magnification



X-ray tube Object



Enlarged projection



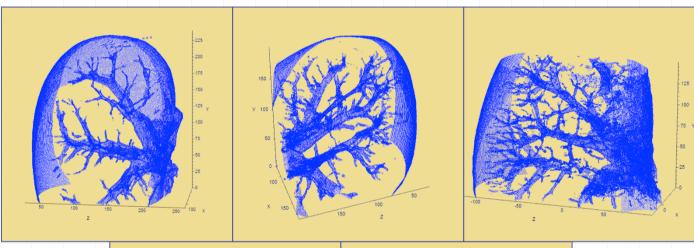
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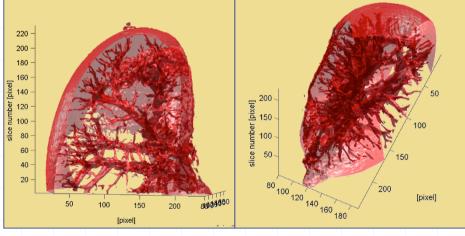
Soft tissue X-ray imaging



Mouse Kidney Tomography

Missing angles => Iterative algorithm instead of Filtered back projection (3 iterations in OSEM 5)





SP, IEEE RT School, 10.-15.2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



High resolution X-ray radiography:

Imaging of Termites







The imaging of termites as a model **soft tissue organism** is particularly difficult due to their **poorly sclerotized** cuticle making difficult to observe the anatomic structures with an optimal contrast.

Moreover, they are vulnerable to damage when they are manipulated or treated during sample preparation.

Thus, the termites represent an ideal model to optimize the accuracy and sensitivity of the developed method.



High resolution X-ray radiography:



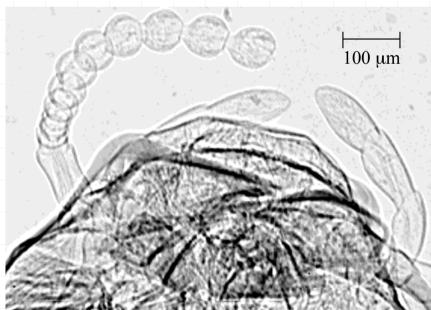
Imaging of Termites

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X-ray transmission image of termite worker body (left) and detail of its head (bottom). Even fine internal structure of the antennae is recognized.

(Magnified 15x, time=30s, tube at 40kV and $70\mu A$)



High resolution x-ray radiography:



Imaging of Living Termites



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Images of a termite worker before (left) and after (right) its metamorphosis toward the soldier caste (5s exposure ~ 0.7mGy dose)



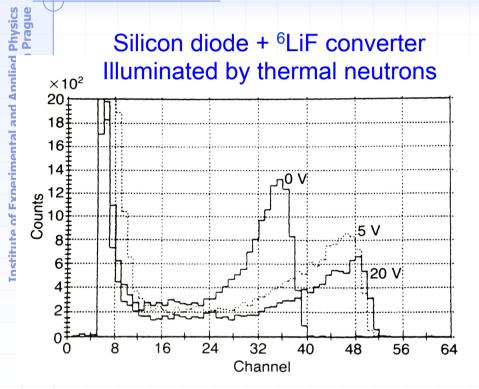


About neutrons

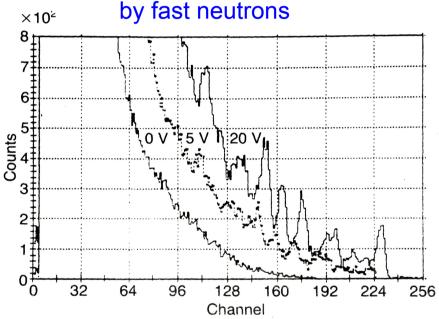
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Responses of silicon detetcors to neutrons



Silicon diode illuminated by fast neutrons

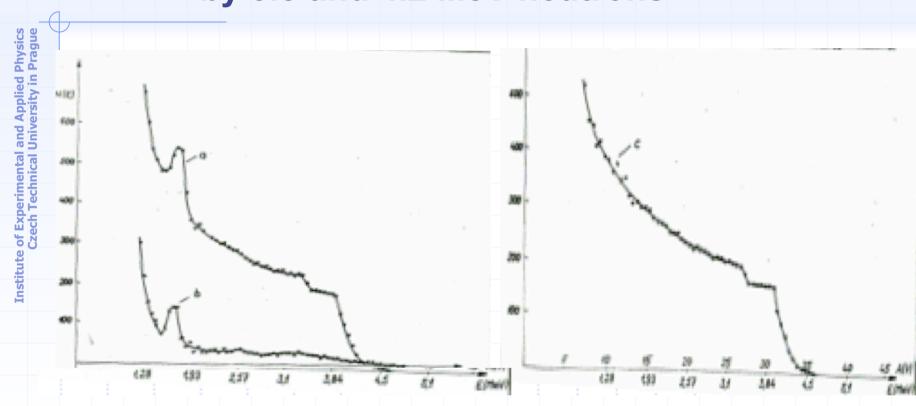


Pulse height distributions of neutron detector on thermal neutrons at different bias (0, 5, 20 V). Detector operates well in the self-biased regime.

Pulse height distributions of neutron detector when illuminated by fast neutrons (14.8 MeV) at different bias (0, 5, 20 V). Peaks from interaction of fast neutrons with ²⁸Si are clearly seen

Response of silicon diode with CH2 converter to protons recoiled by 3.8 and 4.2 MeV neutrons





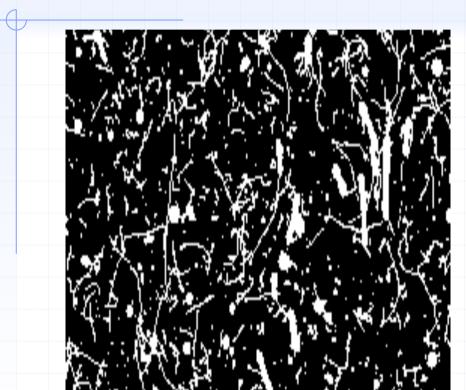
- a) PH spectrum measured by the diode with CH2 converter (up)
- b) PH spectrum measured by the diode without CH2 representing background caused by 28 Si(n, α) 25 Mg (down)

c) Pure spectrum of recoiled protons (background subtracted

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Response of MEDIPIX-USB device with polyethylene converter (on the right hand side) to fast monochromatic neutrons (17MeV)







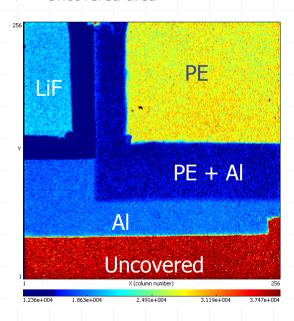
- The direction of the neutrons with respect to the image was upstream (from bottom to top). The huge background is due to gamma rays which accompany neutrons. Half of the sensor (the right-hand side) was covered with a CH2 foil about 1.3 mm thickness.
- One can clearly recognize long and rather thick tracks of recoiled protons (up to 2 mm, vertically oriented) and big tracks and clusters generated via 28Si(n,a)25Mg, 28Si(n,p)28Al nuclear reactions in the body of the silicon detector. These events are displayed on the dense background caused by tracks and traces of electrons from interactions of gamma rays. One can even recognize that proton tracks shapes follows a Bragg law.

Detail view on conversion layers

added for a neutron detection in mixed radiation fields



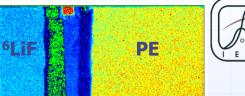
- ◆ LiF+50µm Al foil area
- ♦ 100µm Al foil area
- PE area
- ◆ PE+50µm Al foil area
- ♦ 50µm Al foil area
- Uncovered area







²⁵²Cf neutrons measured in counting mode of operation at different thresholds



PE+AI



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252Cf, low threshold (8 keV)



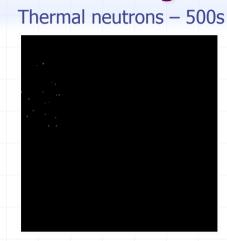
252Cf, high threshold (300 keV)

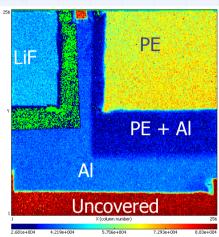




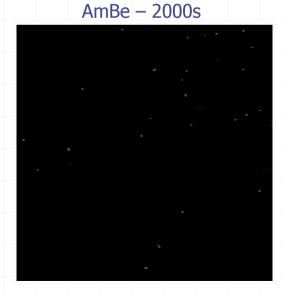
Responses to neutrons of different energies measured at high threshold in counting mode

Identification of spectral composition of incoming neutron radiation can be done by comparing responses of different sensitive regions.





252Cf - 2000s



17 MeV neutrons at 0°



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Neutron imaging

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Motivation – neutron radiography

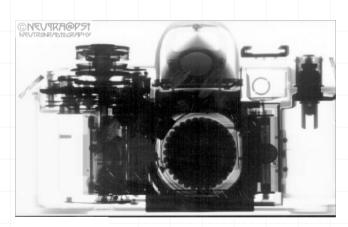


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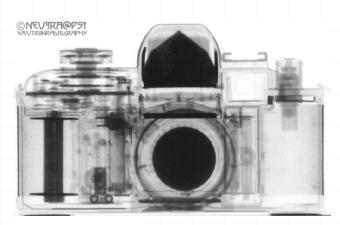
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- While X-rays are attenuated more effectively by heavier materials like metals, neutrons allow to image some light materials such as hydrogenous substances with high contrast.
- Neutron radiography can serve as complementary technique to X-ray radiography



X-rays

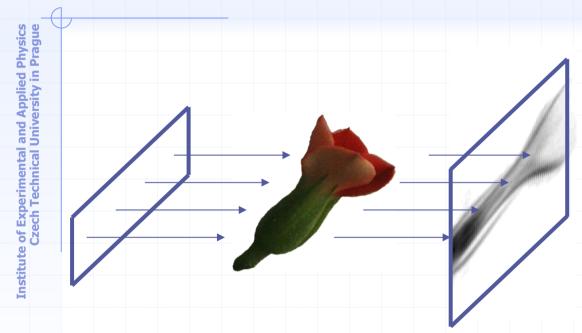


Neutrons

In the X-ray image, the metal parts of the photo camera are seen clearly, while the neutron radiogram shows details of the plastic parts (Courtesy of E. Lehmann, PSI)



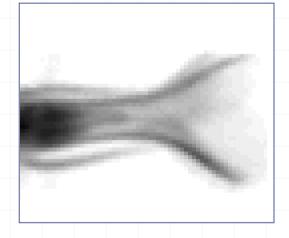
(energetic charged products define interaction with deeply subpixel resolution)



Parallel beam of thermal neutrons

Specimen attenuating the beam

Shadow on detector plane

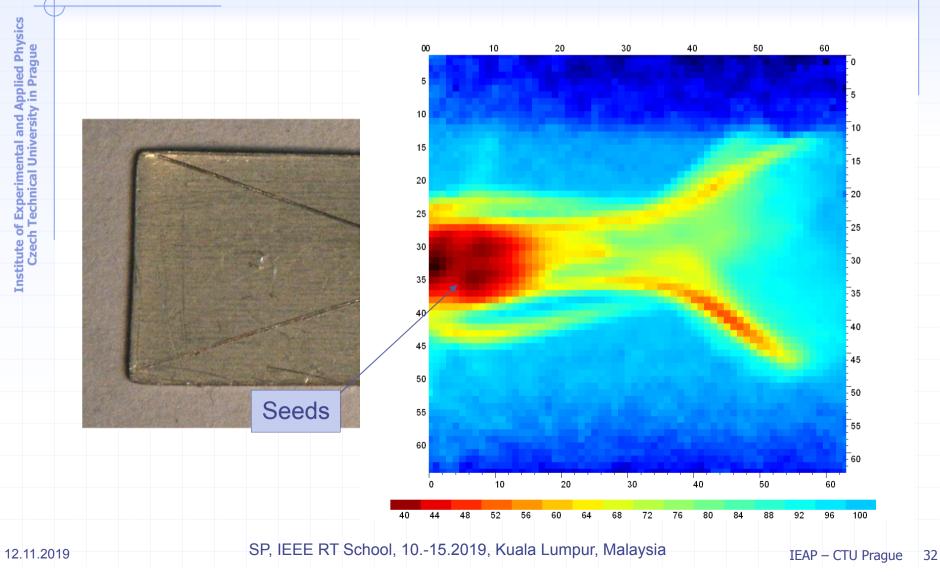


Neutronogram



Flower behind Al plate

Look through metal with thermal neutron beam at NPI Rez



Glued Al pieces

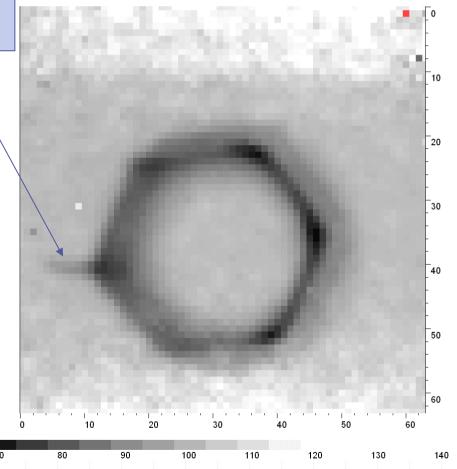


(measured at NPI Rez)

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Glue raised through capillary attraction



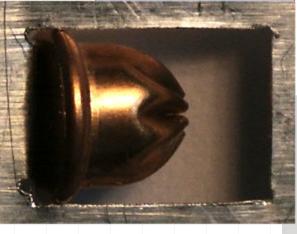


E A P

Neutron radiography with Medipix coated by ⁶LiF: Blank cartridge. Look through metals!

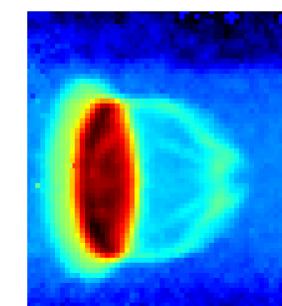
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Photography



Blank shell (cartridge)

Roentgenogram



Explosive filling

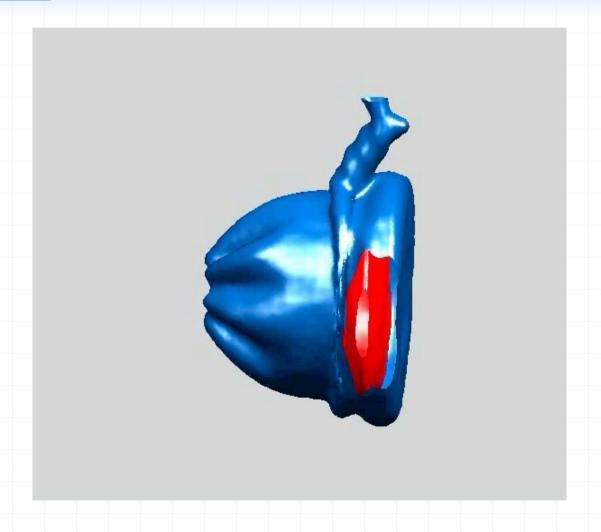
SP, IEEE RT School, 10.-15.2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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3D neutron tomography

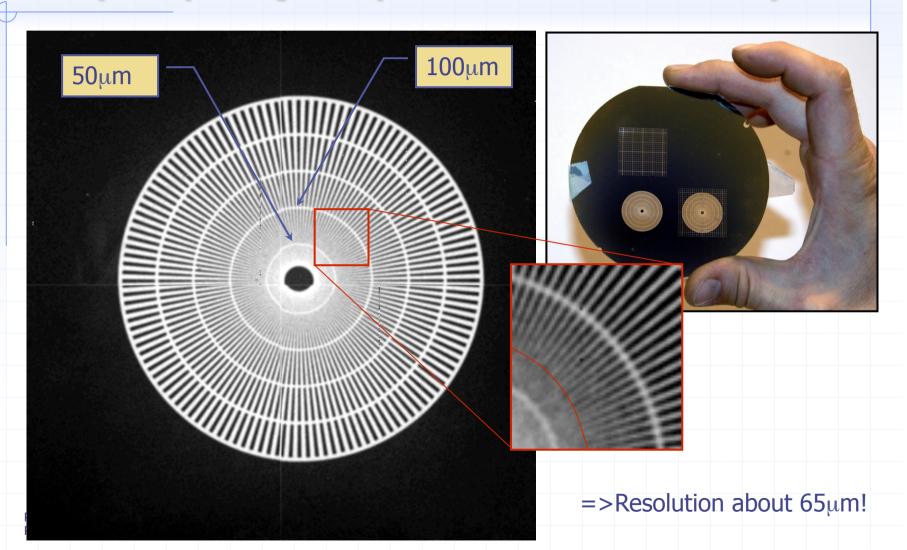
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Neutron transmission radiography (counting mode) Test of Spatial Resolution (Medipix2 Quad system and cold neutrons)



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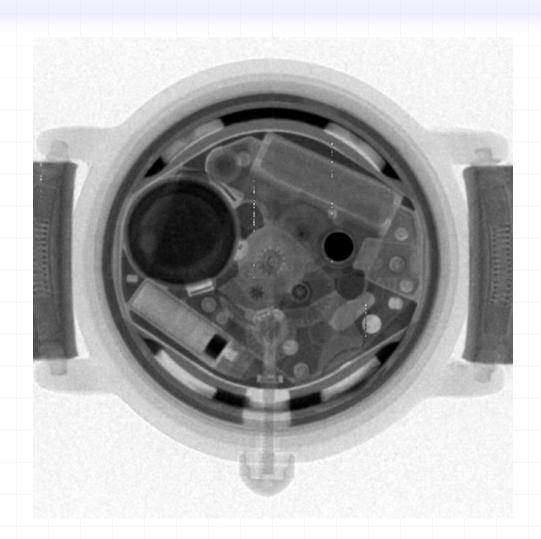
Cold neutron radiography performed at PSI Wrist watch







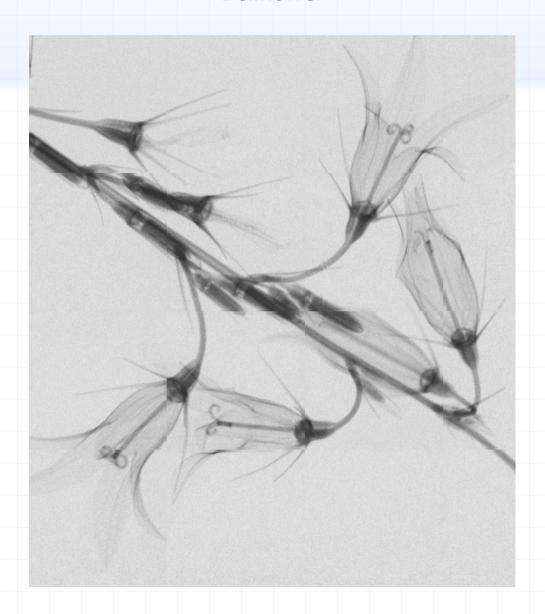




12.11.2019

Bellflower



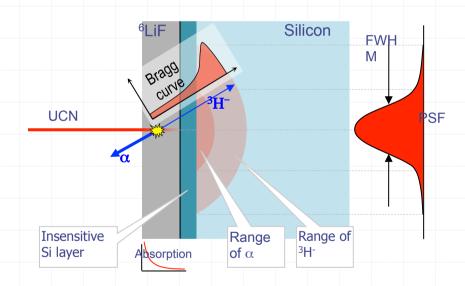


About detection efficiency and position resolution Monte-Carlo simulations and experiments



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- Simulations performed using MCNP, SRIM and Matlab
- Aim: To estimate detection efficiency and spatial resolution



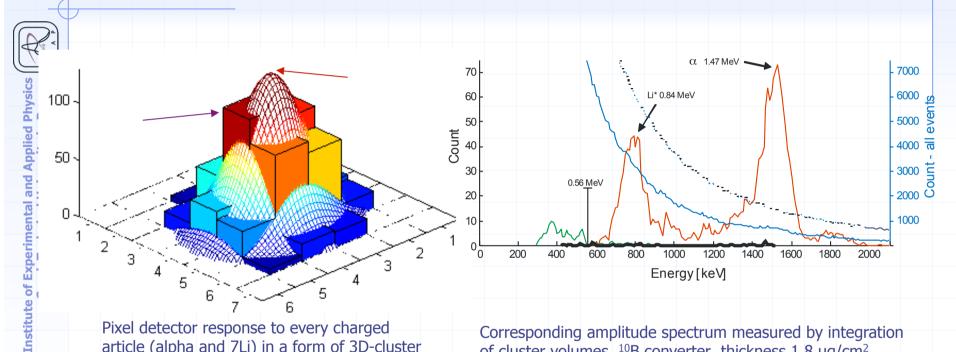
Geometry used in simulations

Expected UCNs velocity: 500 cm/s. For such neutrons the cross section of ⁶Li increases to **0.34 Mbarn**. The cross section of ¹⁰B reaches **1.67 Mbarn**.

50% of such UCNs are fully absorbed in ⁶LiF layer of 85 ug/cm² (~ 320 nm thickness). For ¹⁰B it is layer of 7 ug/cm² (~ 30 nm thickness).

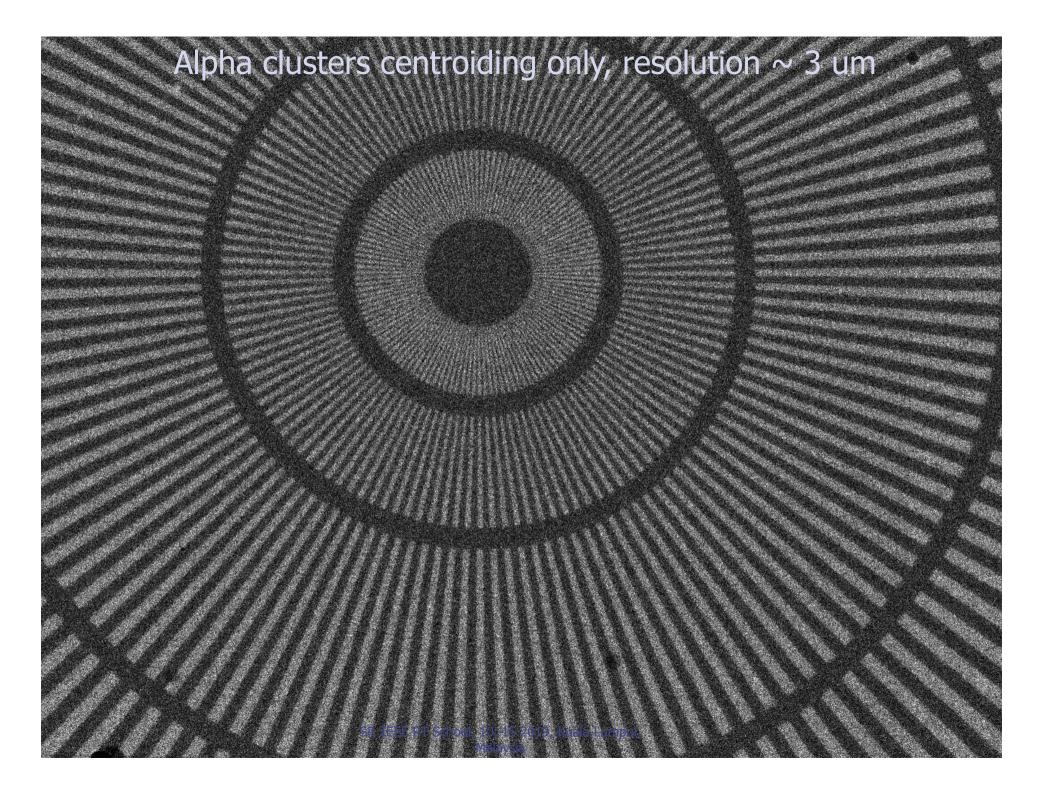
Used ⁶LiF density of 2.65 g/cm³ and ¹⁰B density of 2.35 g/cm³.

Detail view on individual clusters resulting from (n,a) reaction in ¹⁰B converter (tracking mode applicable for neutron imaging)



Pixel detector response to every charged article (alpha and 7Li) in a form of 3D-cluster with a shape corresponding to convolution of Gaussian and individual pixel responses

Corresponding amplitude spectrum measured by integration of cluster volumes. ¹⁰B converter thickness 1.8 ug/cm² $(\sim 36 \text{ nm})$



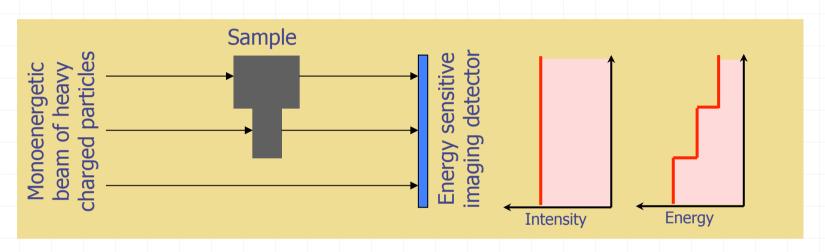
Alpha radiography





Application:

Radiography with highly ionizing particles



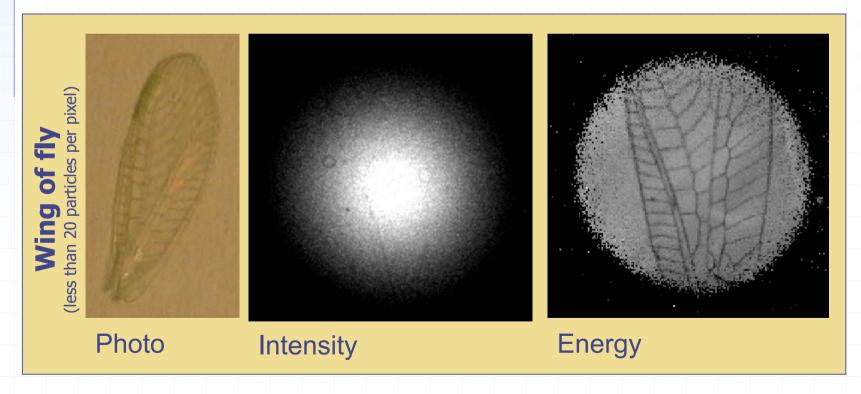
- Heavy charged particles (protons, deuterons, tritons, alphas, ions) can be used (impossible with photons, difficult with electrons due to huge change of direction).
- Instead of transmitted beam intensity the energy losses of individual particles are measured.
- Just single particle is needed to measure material "density".
- With common sources of heavy charged particles (isotopes, ion beams) it is feasible to inspect just small (thin) objects (thin layer, foils, cellular structures)
- Precision of thickness measurement can be in nanometer scale.

Radiography with heavy charged particles with Medipix2



By cluster analysis it can be determined:

- Centroid to increase spatial resolution (subpixel resolution)
 - Size as a measure of particle energy



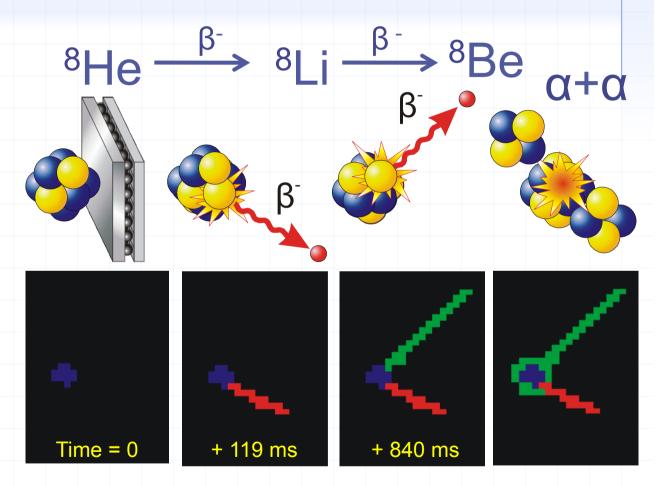
BHe ion hits the Timeprix sensor where undergoes where undergoes β-decay

Subsequent decay

Subsequent decay

of the daughter

Subsequent decays of the daughter nuclei by emission of one beta and two alpha particles follows



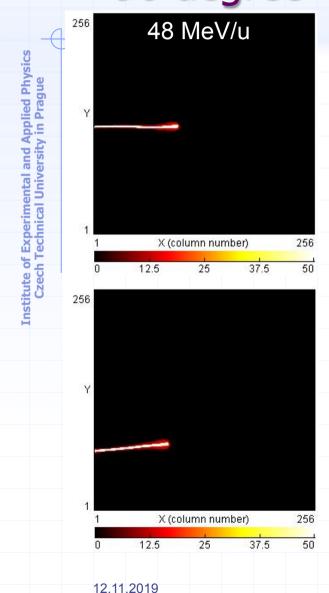
About use of Timepix pixel detectors for measurement of composition and spectral characteristics of complex radiation fields

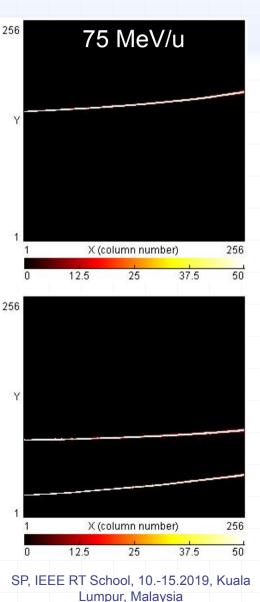
Calibration of detector responses to all available particles is required!

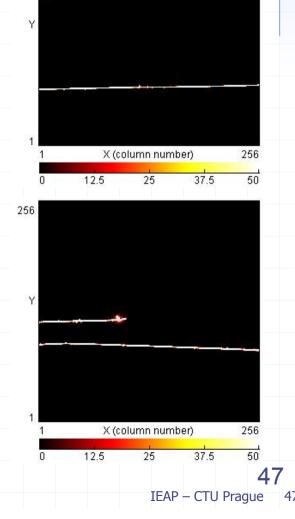




100 MeV/u



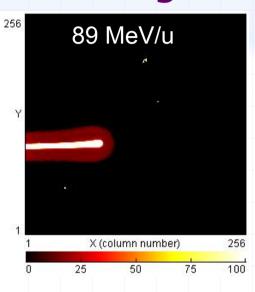


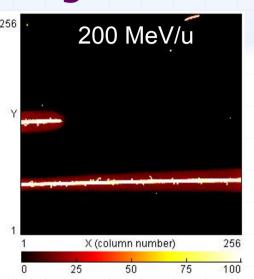


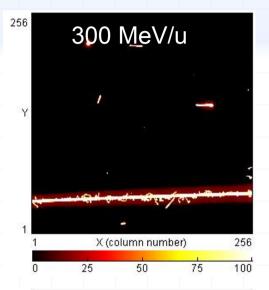
Carbon ions with different energies: 90 degrees



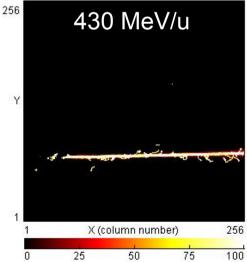






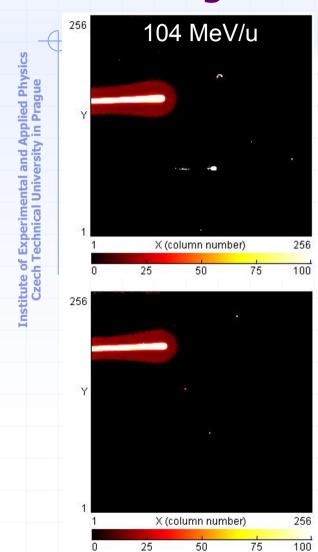


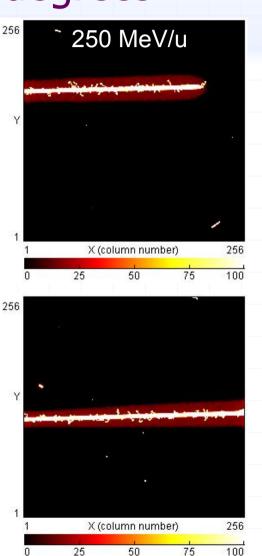
- □ Halo of pixel with low energy deposition around track - less pronounced for higher energies.
 - Number of delta rays increases with increasing energy.

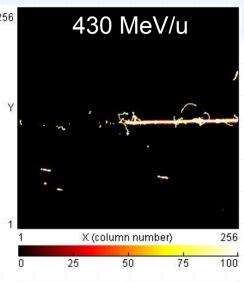


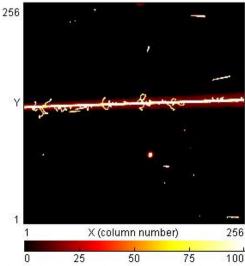
Oxygen ions with different energies: 90 degrees

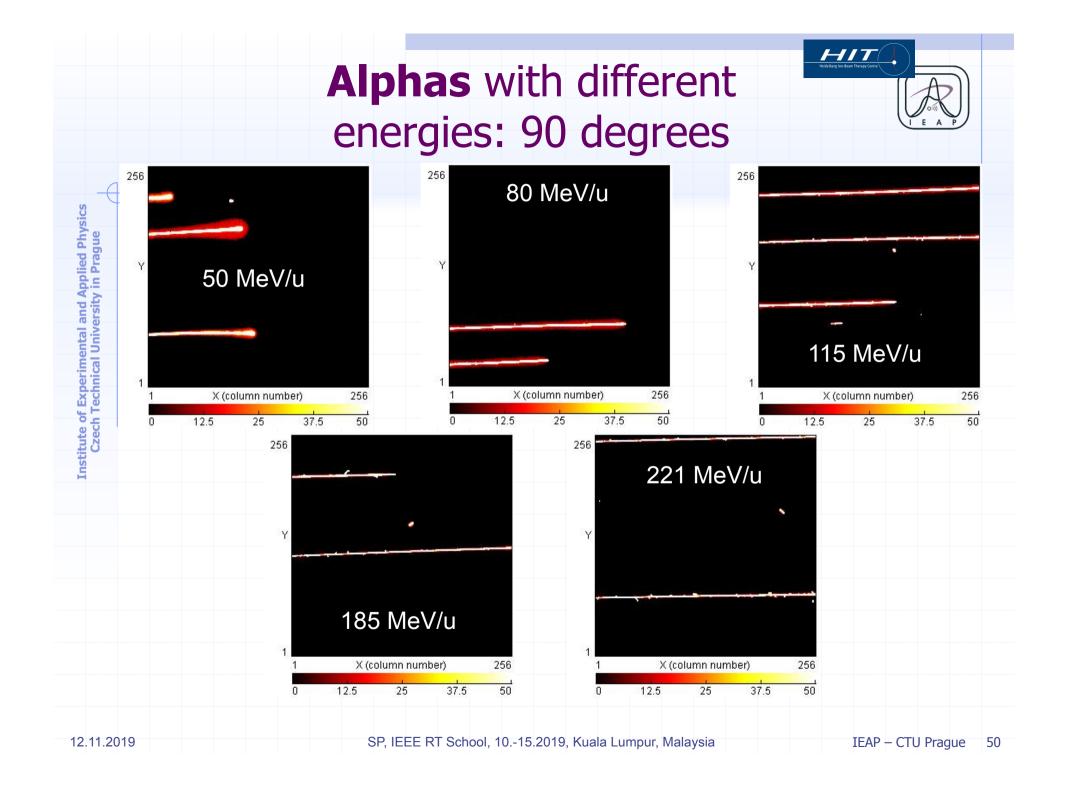




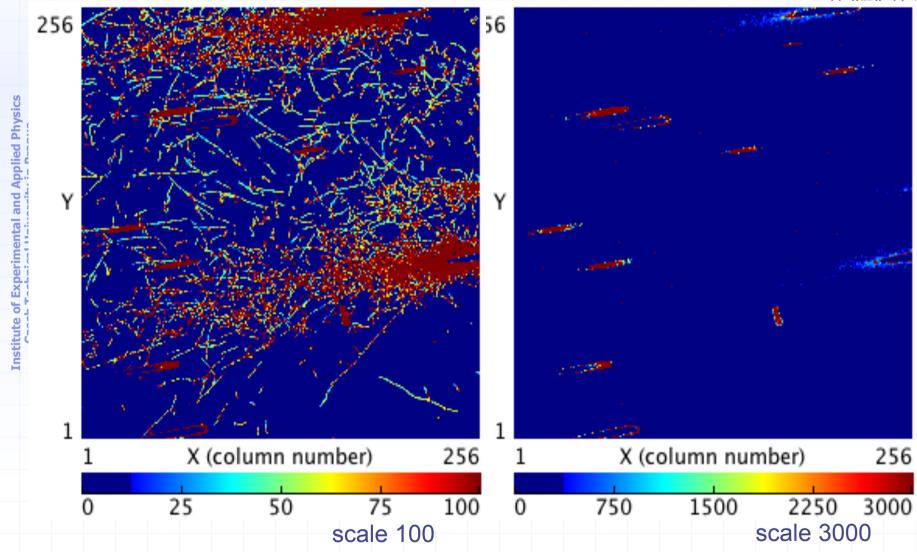












Imaged with low threshold on the left and with high threshold on the right

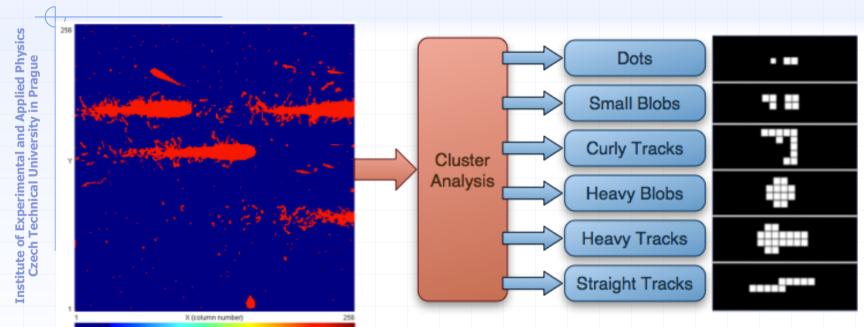
Online miniaturized Timepix Quantum Dosimeter







Single particle visualization & tracking



Frame containing 400 MeV 56Fe, 85°, measured at HIMAC, Japan

Cluster analysis algorithm is successfully working in ATLAS-MPX network



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12.11.2019

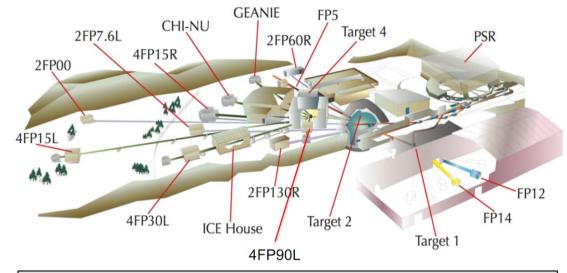


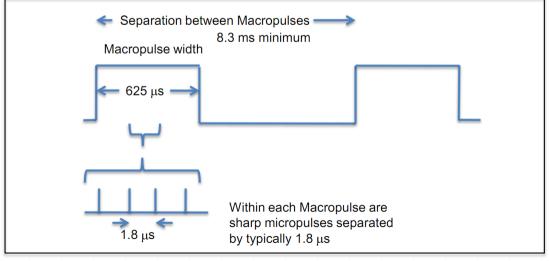
LANSCE neutron sources and nuclear science flight paths (combined ToA and ToT modes)

The layout of the LANSCE neutron sources and Nuclear Science flight paths

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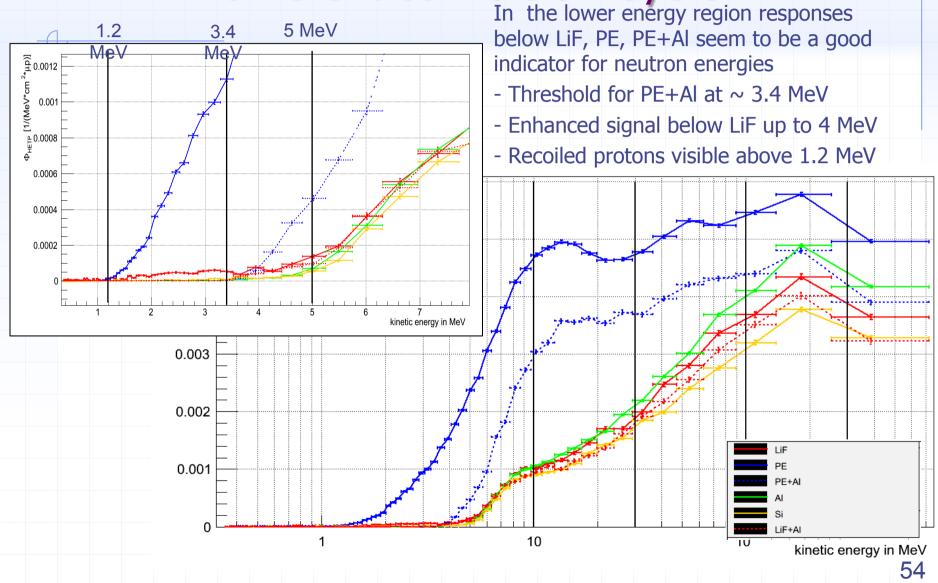
12.11.2019





Fluences below different conversion layers In the lower energy region responses

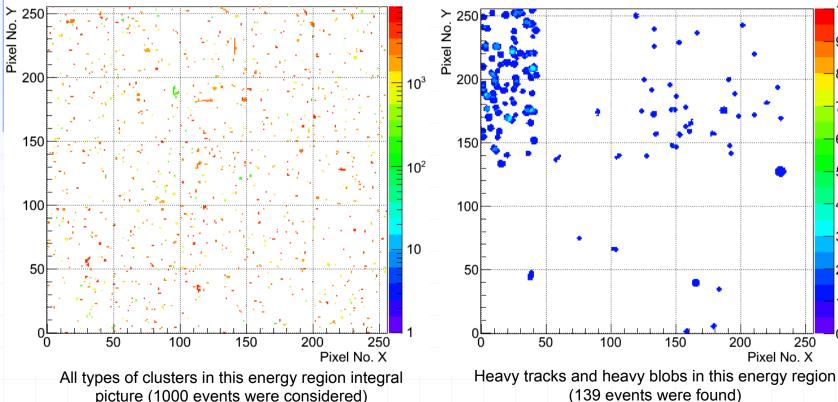




Response of Timepix: Energy region 0.4 – 1.2 MeV



- Mainly dots, curly tracks are found in this energy region
- Heavy blobs below LiF indicate presence of slow/thermal neutrons
- Also PE region shows slightly enhanced count rate



250

Pixel No. X

200

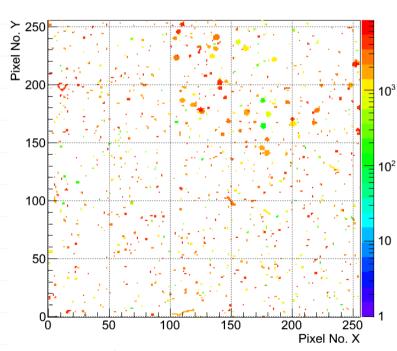
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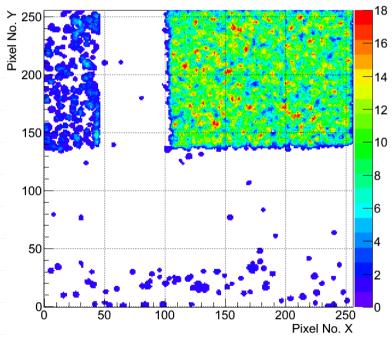
Response of Timepix: Energy region 1.2 – 3.4 MeV



- Heavy blobs below LiF indicate presence of slow/thermal neutrons
- Clear signal of High Energy Transfer Particles (HETP) below PE
- uncovered area shows also a few events



All types of clusters in this energy region integral picture (1000 events were considered)

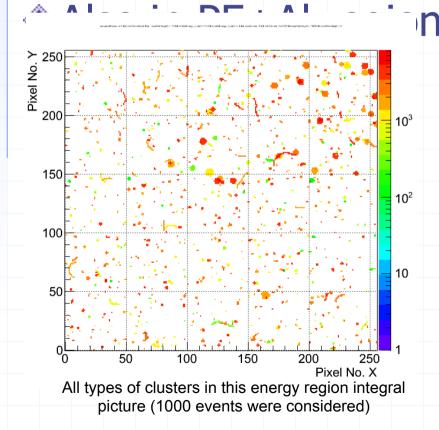


Heavy tracks and heavy blobs in this energy region (full statistics - 10259 events were found)

Response of Timepix: Energy region 3.4 – 5.0 MeV

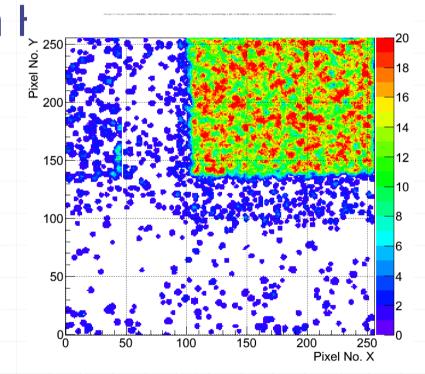


Clear signal of HETP below PE



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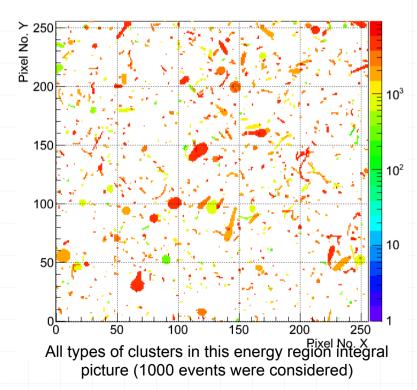
Heavy tracks and heavy blobs in this energy region (full statistics – 13406 events were found)

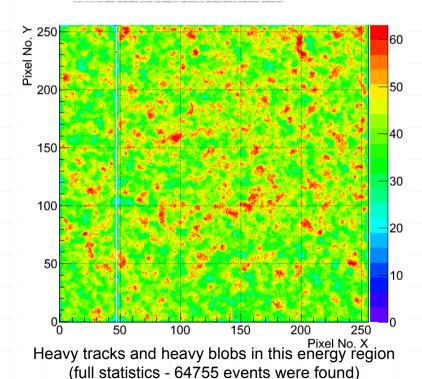
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Response of Timepix: Energy region 100 – 300 MeV



- HETP nearly equally distributed below all regions
- HETP Cluster shapes
 - Are getting bigger and more and more asymmetric
 - Round clusters with outgoing tracks are seen

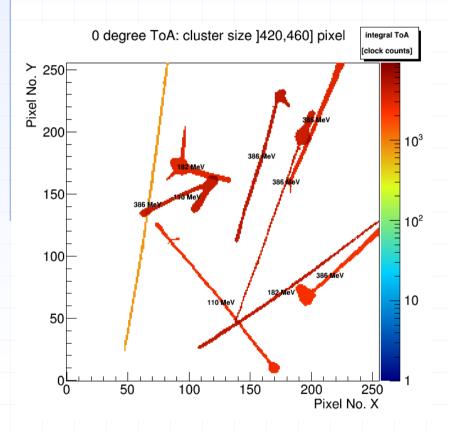


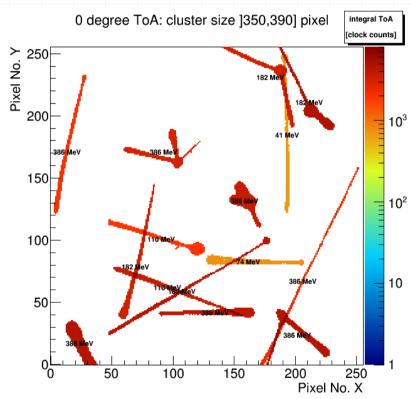


Examples of heavy ionizing events induced by neutrons of different energies selected according their cluster sizes









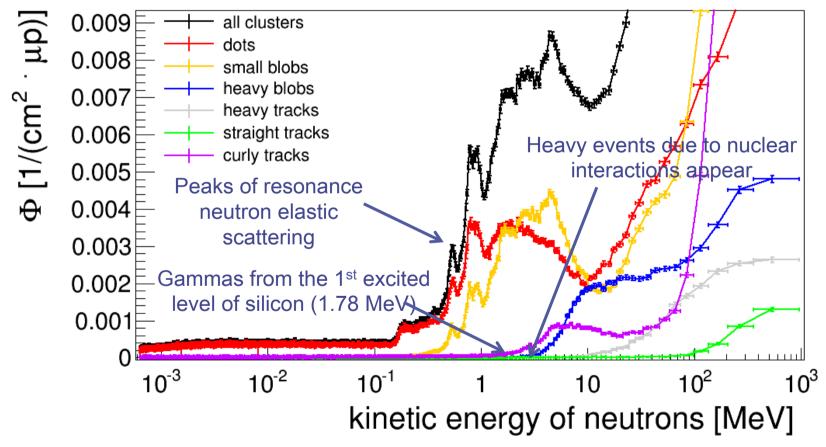
Different colors and black numbers assigned to individual clusters indicate the energy of incoming neutrons as measured by means of the TOF technique

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Cluster shapes Timepix detector responses as a function of neutron kinetic energy



The ToF technique*) was used to assign the detector responses to the corresponding neutron energies (track by track).



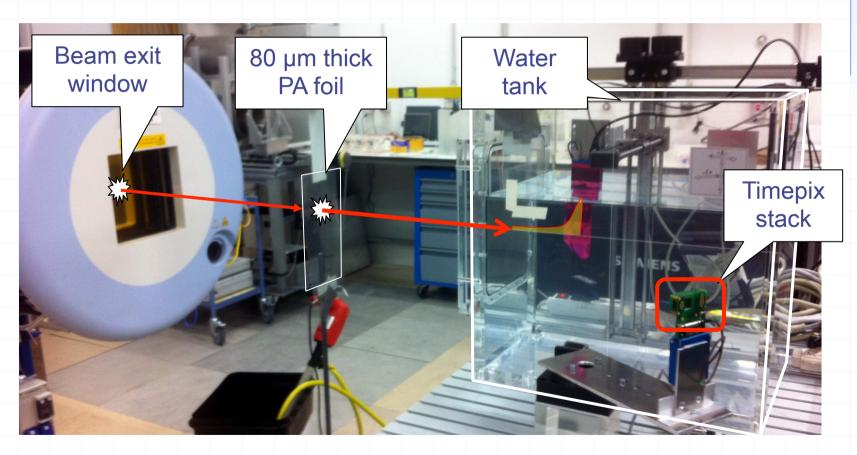
*) see: B Bergmann et al 2014 JINST 9 C05048

Heiseberger isrenstraht-Theraplexetturn



Medical application: Hadron therapy - Experimental setup

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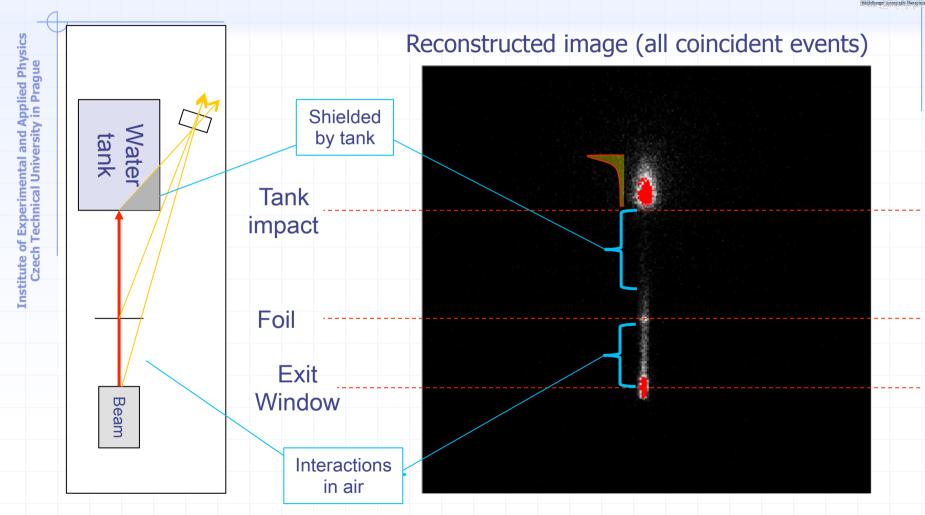


Visualization of secondary particles produced by the beam

in air and in the phantom



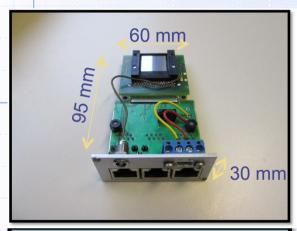


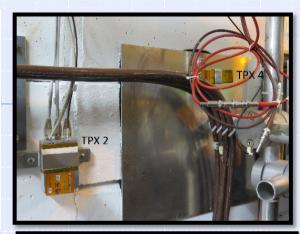


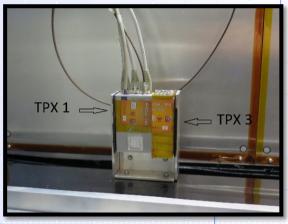
The TPX devices in the MoEDAL network

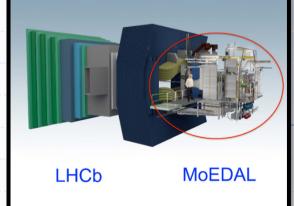
5 Timepix detectors of different thicknesses (300 μ m and 1000 μ m, 1 of them equipped with neutron converters) placed in chipboards with radiation tolerant electronics installed in the MoEDAL at LHC









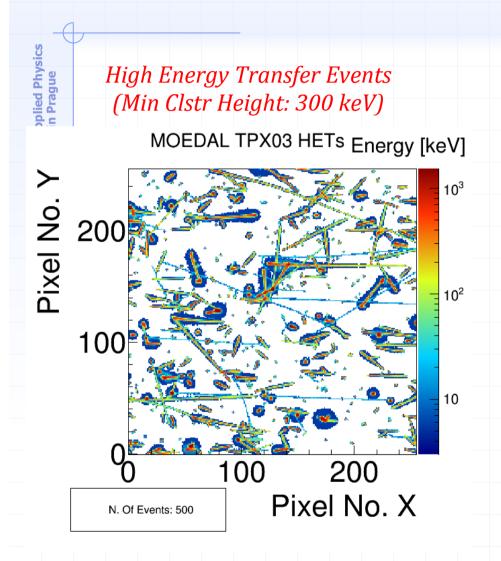




Timepix devices in the MoEDAL experiment

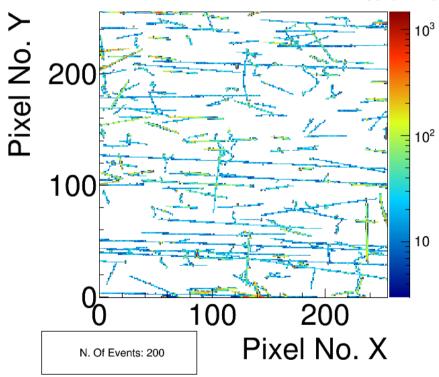


Selected tracks observed with MOEDAL TPX03 12/09/2015



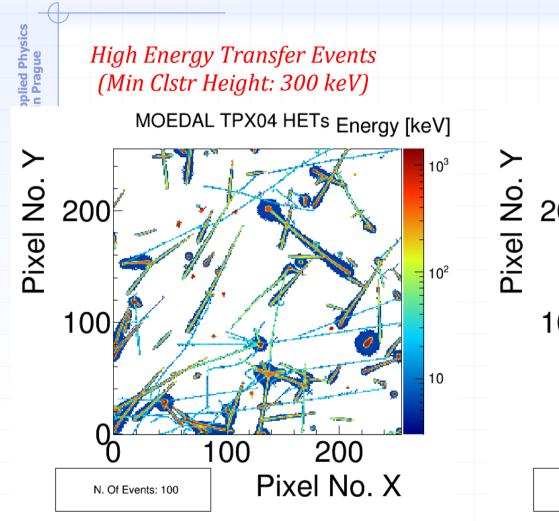
Long Tracks (Min Clstr Height: 300 keV)





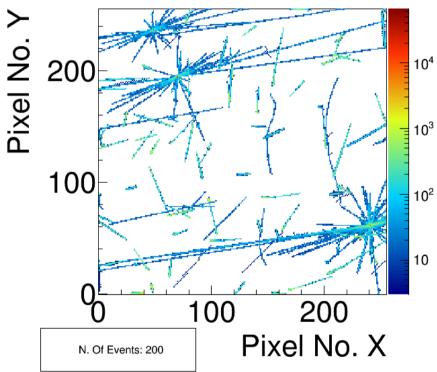


Selected tracks observed with MOEDAL TPX04 12/09/2015





MOEDAL TPX04 L TrcksEnergy [keV]

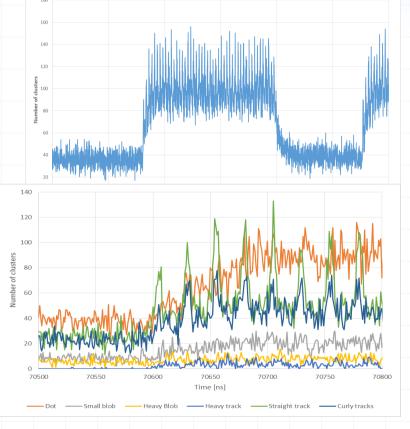


Timepix3 in ATLAS synchronized with LHC clock



Side C Side A wall_USA15

Detail view on bunch-bunch collisions recorded by TPX3

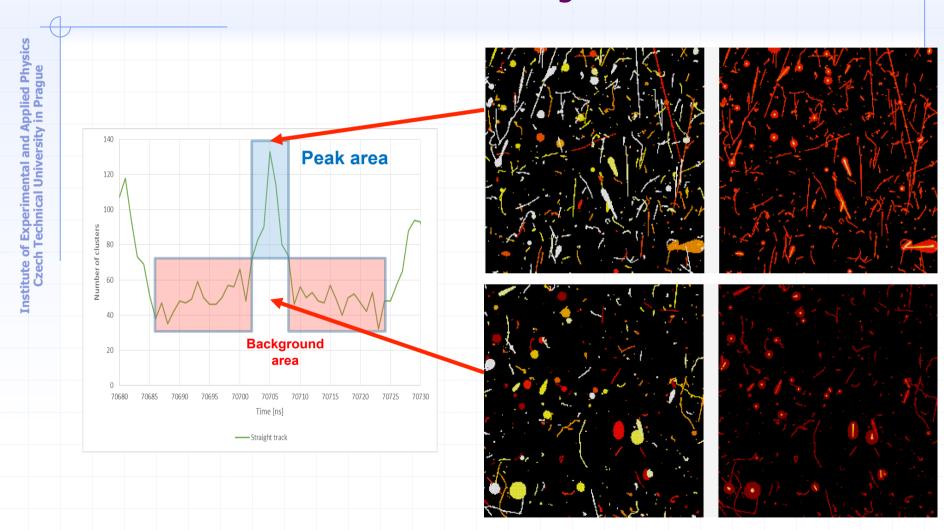


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Clusters corresponding to particles generated in the LHC bunch-bunch collisions and recorded according their ToF





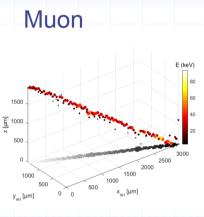
67

3D-visualisation of particle tracks in CZT detector measured at SPS



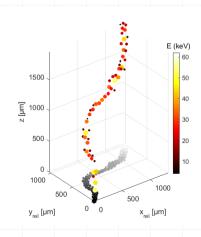
(z-coordinate determined from the drift time of charge carriers)

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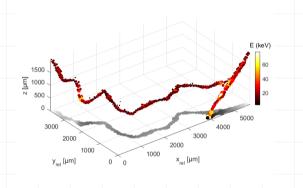


Electron

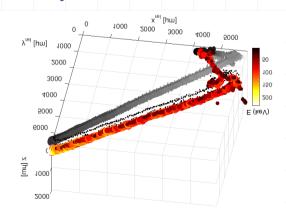
12.11.2019



Pion + delta electron

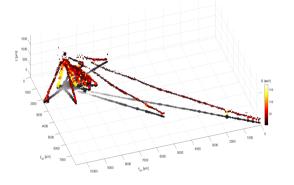


Heavy track

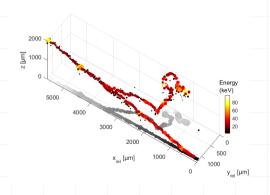


SP, IEEE RT School, 10.-15.2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Fragmentation



Pion + delta electron

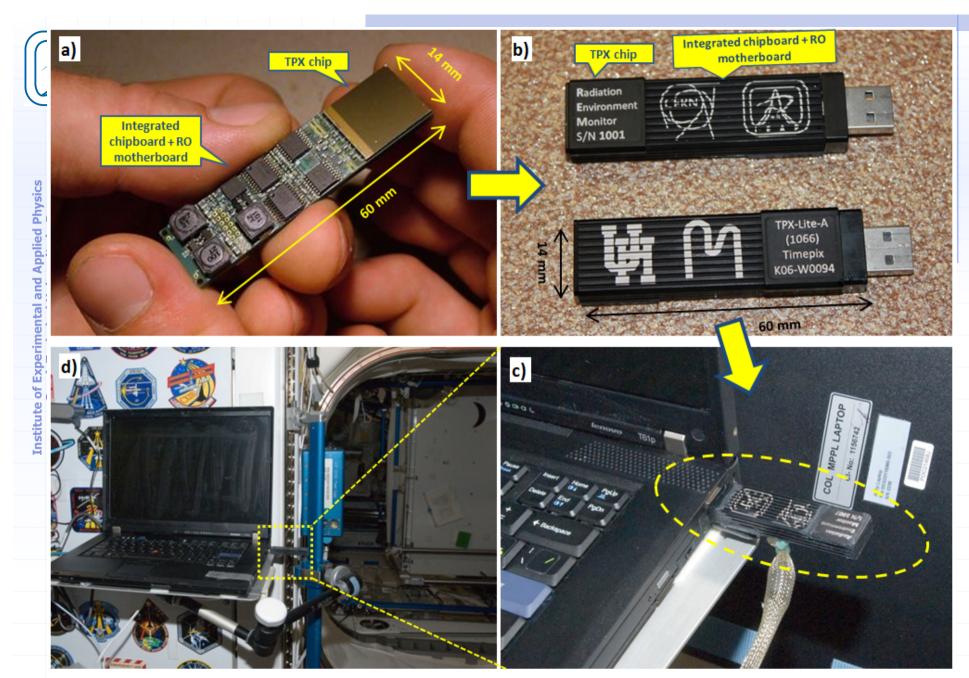






Space applications

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Timepix detector in the highly miniaturized LITE architecture (a) customized for the ISS (b) as deployed with an on-board laptop via USB port (c) in a NASA Module at the ISS (d). Work done in cooperation with NASA and the University of Houston.



The IEAP CTU Timepix based device used by NASA astronauts on ISS (courtesy of L.Pinsky, UoH)









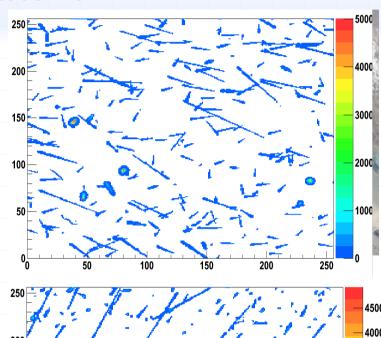
Dosimetry in space on ISS

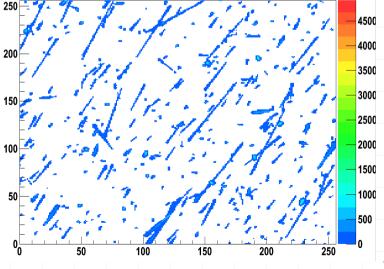
- Timepix for the first time in the space on the altitude ~400km
- 5 detectors deployed on ISS fromOctober 2012

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Dosimetry in space: SATRAM – ESA Proba-V satellite





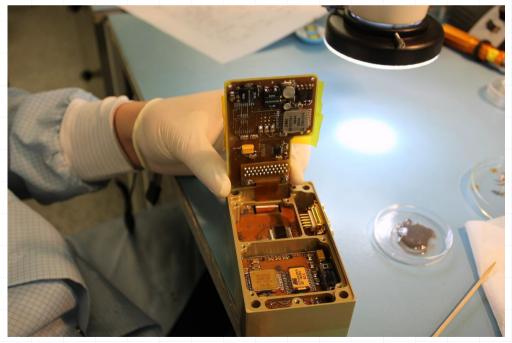
nd Applied Physics liversity in Prague

Institute of Experimental Czech Technical

Characterization of mixed radiation field on low orbit of

PROBA-V satellite

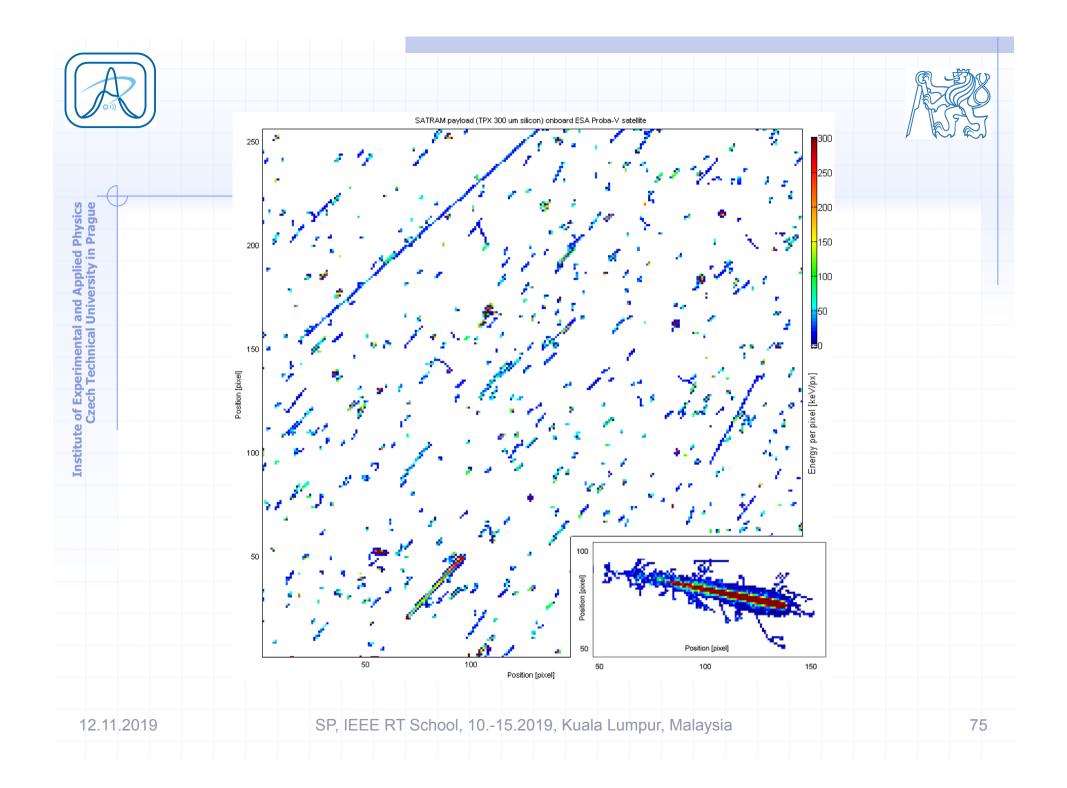
- ◆ Altitude ~ 800 km
- Timepix for the first time outside in the space
- ◆ Launched in May 2013













Timepix/ESA Proba-V: LEO space radiation @ 820 km

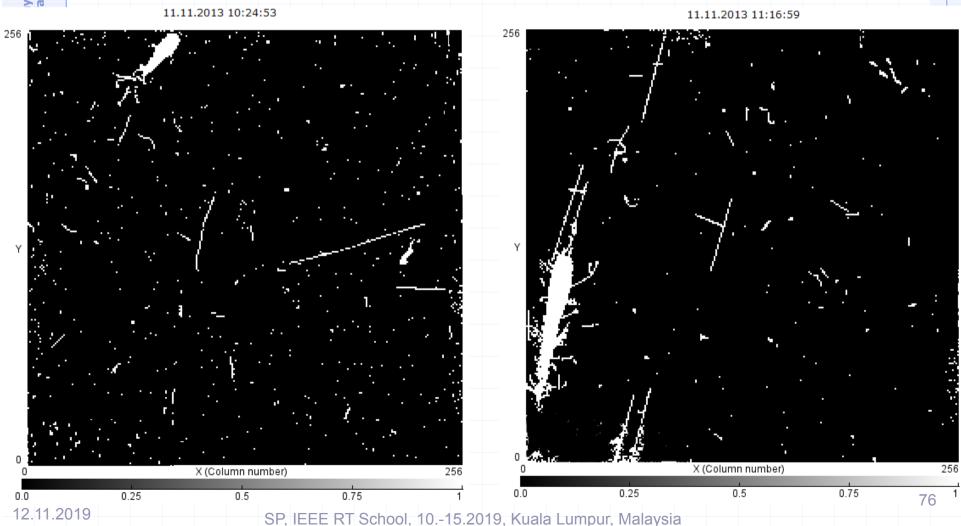






ysics

Energetic heavy charged particles (ions)





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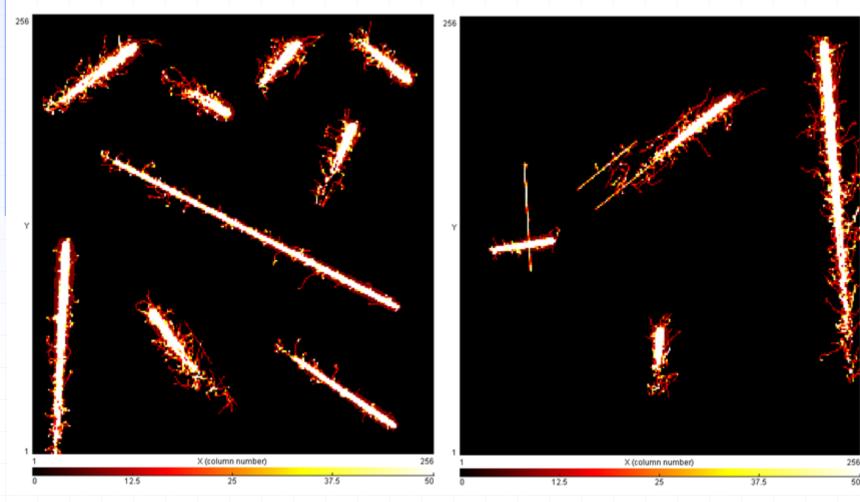
Timepix/ESA Proba-V:

esre Cesa



LEO space radiation @ 820 km

HETPs: Highly energetic heavy charged particles (ions) → HZE's





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Timepix/ESA Proba-V:

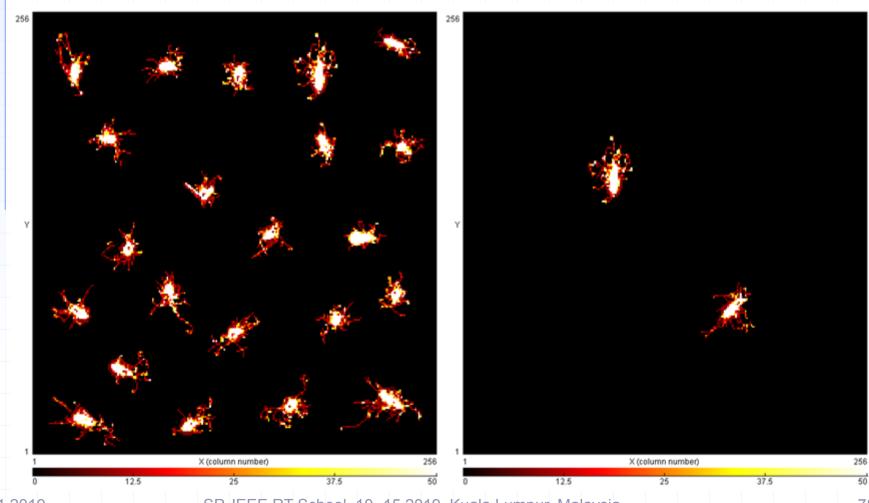






LEO space radiation @ 820 km

HETPs: Highly energetic heavy charged particles (ions) → HZE's



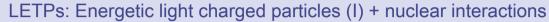


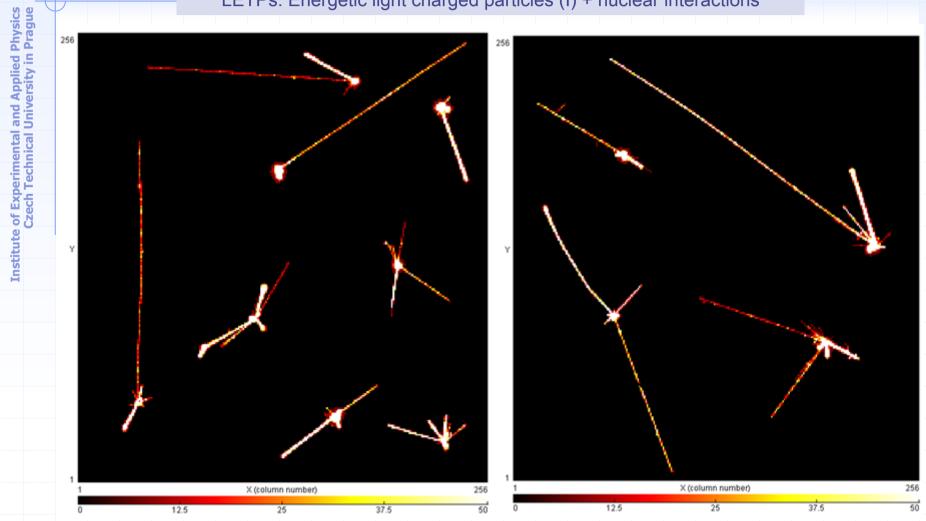
Timepix/ESA Proba-V:





LEO space radiation @ 820 km



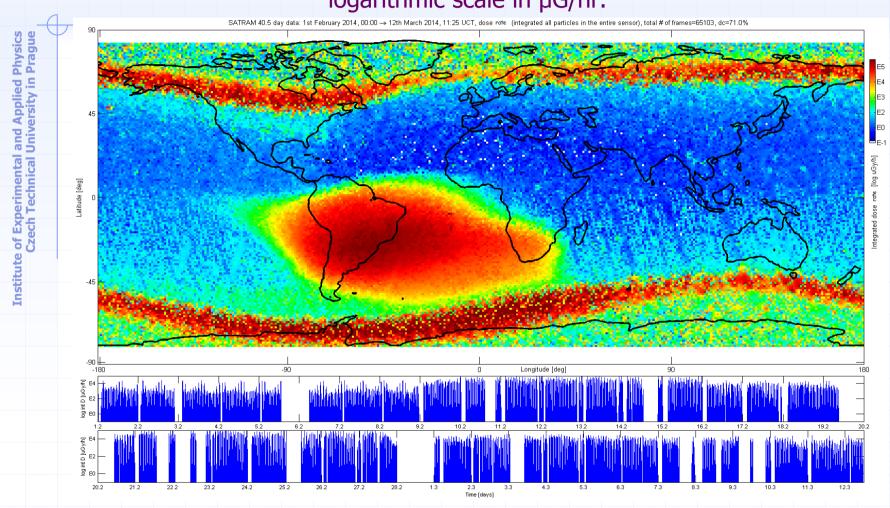


SP, IEEE RT School, 10.-15.2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Measured radiation map by Satram device in orbit around the Earth at an altitude of 820 km from the earth's surface obtained within 36 days from January 1, 2014 to February 7, 2014 logarithmic scale in µG/hr.







RISESAT

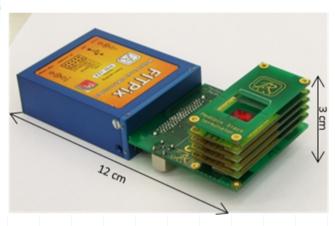
(Rapid International Experimental Satellite) 東北大学

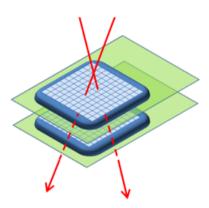


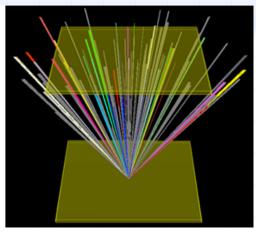


Timepix particle µ-tracker particle telescope – launched on Feb 2019

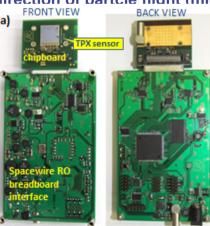


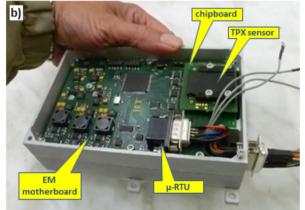


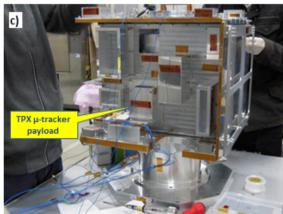




Particle micro-tracker of a stack of Timepix detector chipboards with common motherboard and single integrated R/O interface (left). Illustration of particle telescope on two pixelated sensors determining the direction of particle flight (middle) providing spatial visualization of particle trajectories (right).







Timepix μ-tracker for the RISESAT satellite consisting of two separate devices with synchronized operation. Spacewire interface (a), payload engineering model (b) and its position in the 50 Kg micro-satellite (c).



Timepix3 for coincidence gamma ray spectroscopy PET - with TPX3 CdTe detectors



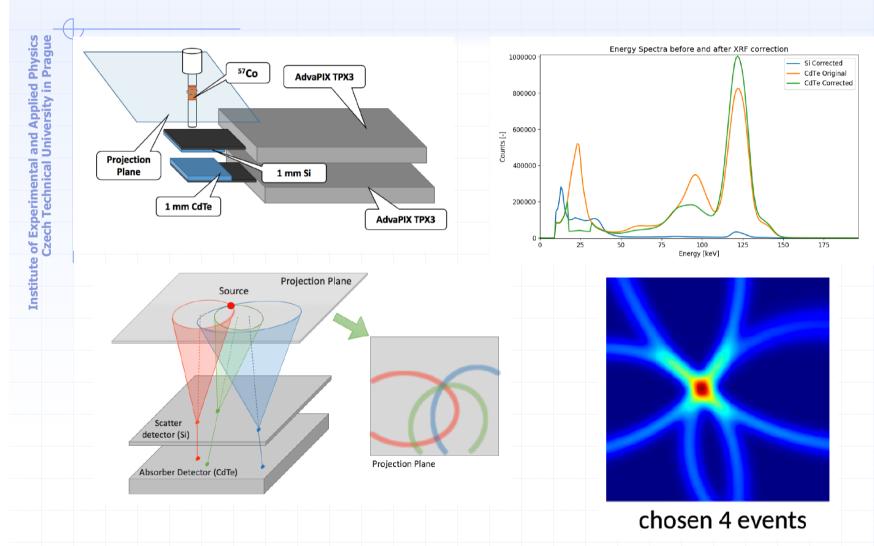
D. Tureček et.al.: NIMA 895 (2018) 84-89 Institute of Experimental and Applied Physics Czech Technical University in Prague Timepix3 Sample Cluster **FDG** AdvaDAQ AdvaDAQ Timepix3 Detector 1 Timepix3 Sync. Unit Detector 2 Capillary Tube Profile along capilary after energy cuts Anihilation of e+ 140 All events XRF 60000 Reconstructed XRF+Compton restored 120 50000 Mean: 92.937 100 Mean: 152.550 Sigma: 3.901 Compton edge Sigma: 2.989 Count 30000 Counts [-] 80 Mean: 175.463 511 Peak Sigma: 14.671 Mean: 510.973 Mean: 152.903 60 Sigma: 11.754 Mean: 92.956 Sigma: 2.391 Sigma: 2.918 Mean: 335.567 Mean: 513.014 20000 40 Sigma: 14.671 Sigma: 10.983 Mean: 173.626 Sigma: 10.362 10000 Mean: 334.454 20 igma: 16.975 **Back scattering** 100 300 400 500 200 600 80 100 120 180 160 Energy [keV] Position [pixels] 82



Timepix3 for coincidence gamma ray spectroscopy 8 Compton camera with CdTe and Si detectors /



D. Tureček et.al.: 2018 JINST 13 C11022







Acknowledgement

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⁷ BNL, USA

⁸ Manchester University, UK

⁹ MidSweden University, Sundsvall, Sweden

¹⁰ ESS. Sweden

¹¹ PSI, Switzerland

¹² WBU Pilsen, Czech Republic

¹³ Glasgow University





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Thank you for your attention!