

Time-of-flight technologies

Roger Forty (CERN)

Introduction

1. Scintillator
2. Gaseous
3. Silicon
4. Cherenkov

General considerations

Introduction

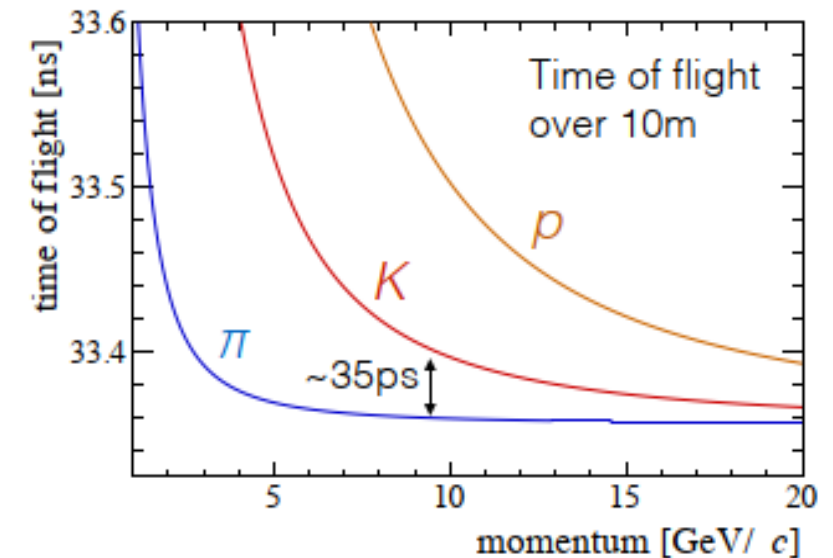
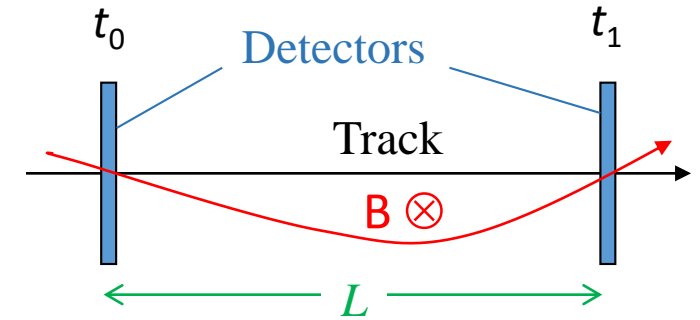
- Time-of-flight principle is *conceptually simple*: measure difference in arrival time of particle at two planes $t = t_1 - t_0$ then velocity: $\beta = L / ct$
- Combine with a measurement of its momentum: $p = \beta\gamma mc$
Mass of particle can then be calculated:

$$m^2 = \frac{p^2}{c^2} \left(\frac{c^2 t^2}{L^2} - 1 \right)$$

$$\left(\frac{\delta m}{m} \right)_p = \frac{\delta p}{p},$$

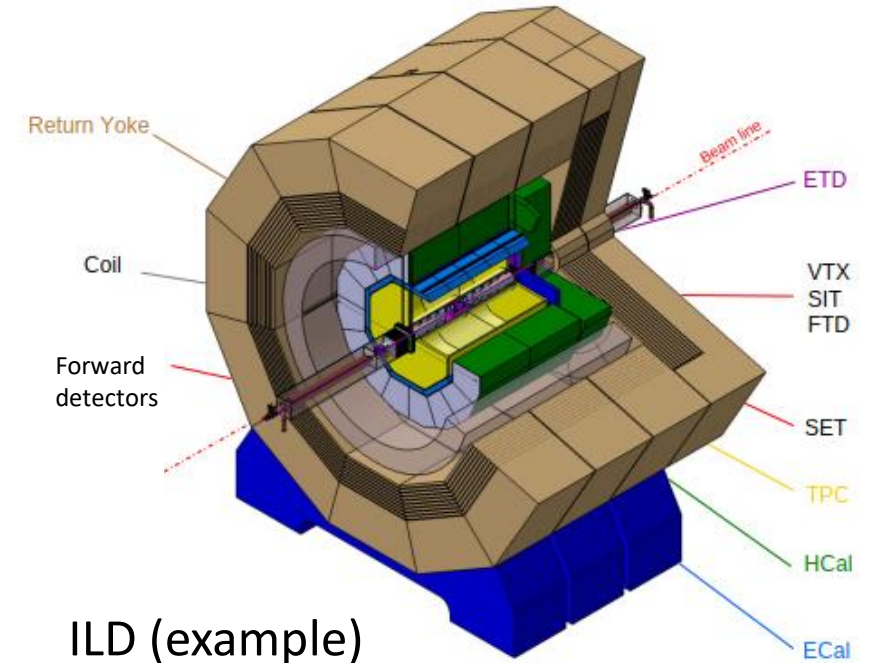
$$\left(\frac{\delta m}{m} \right)_t = \gamma^2 \frac{\delta t}{t}$$

- At high energies particles are relativistic: velocity saturates $\rightarrow c$, time difference drops fast
- Focused on long-lived charged-particle identification (e, μ , π , K, p)
- in particular charged hadron separation at low momentum
- The time for a kaon to travel 10 m is 33.37 ns at 10 GeV, while for a pion it would be 33.34 ns: the difference is only 35 ps
- The separation in standard deviations: $N_\sigma \approx \frac{|m_1^2 - m_2^2| L}{2 p^2 \sigma_t c}$

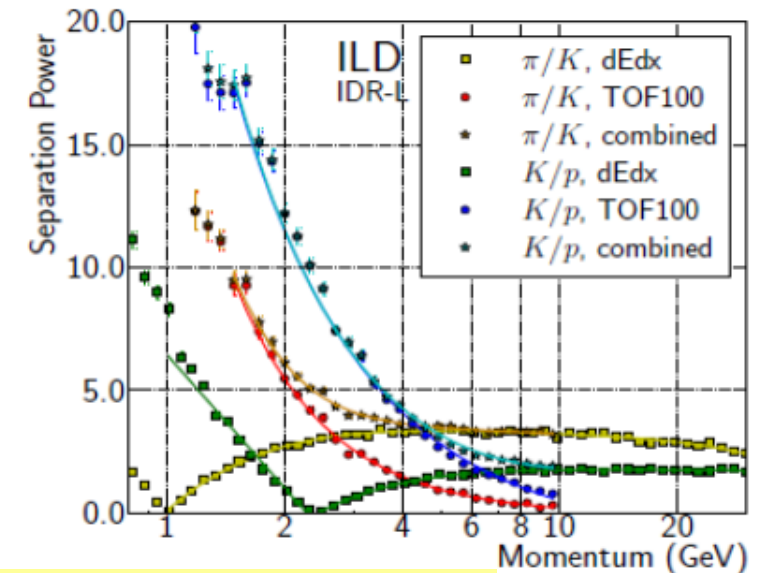


Motivation (1)

- European Strategy for Particle Physics: the next future collider should be an e^+e^- Higgs factory → expect this to be a focus for the R&D Roadmap
- Dedicated particle identification detectors have been absent from the designs of experiments, until recently — main focus has been on Particle Flow calorimetry and lepton ID, rather than hadron ID
- However, they do all feature excellent dE/dx from tracker (or even more performant cluster counting dN/dx)
Drawback for particle ID is region where dE/dx curves cross at around 1-2 GeV for p-K- π separation
- Combination of a modest TOF detector can cover this hole, provides PID up to a few GeV, complemented with dE/dx at higher momenta
- Here assumed 100 ps/hit, over 10 layers of calorimeter

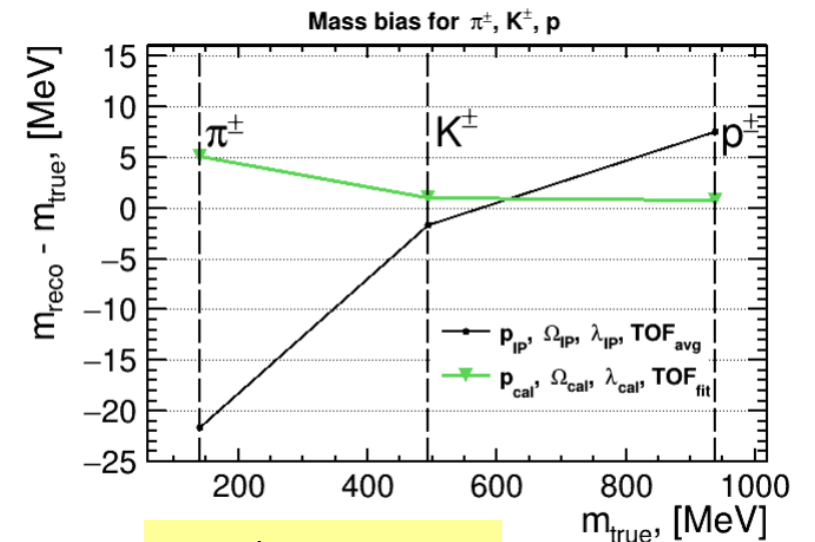
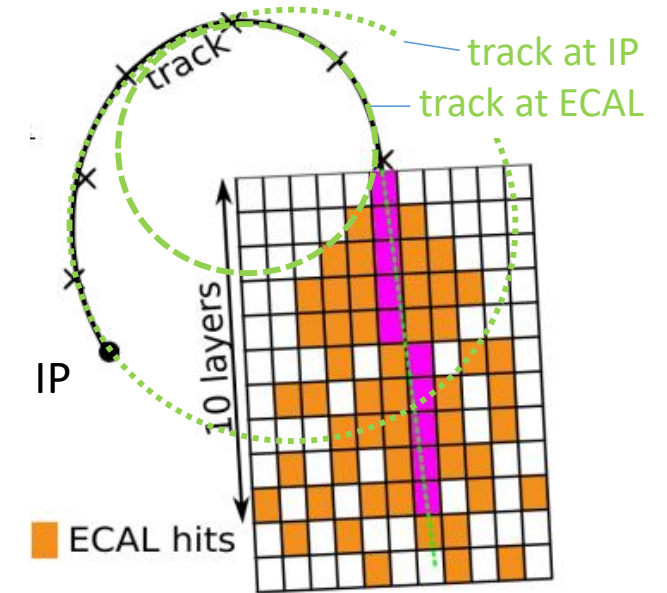


ILD (example)



Complications

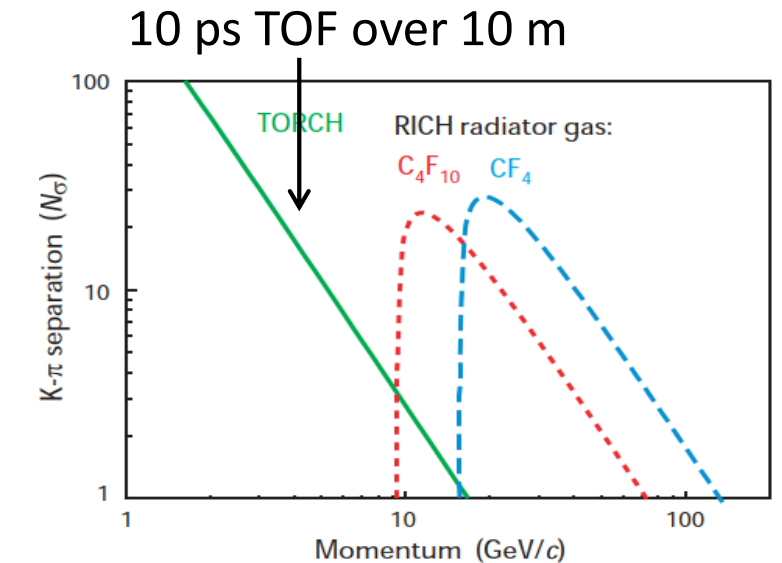
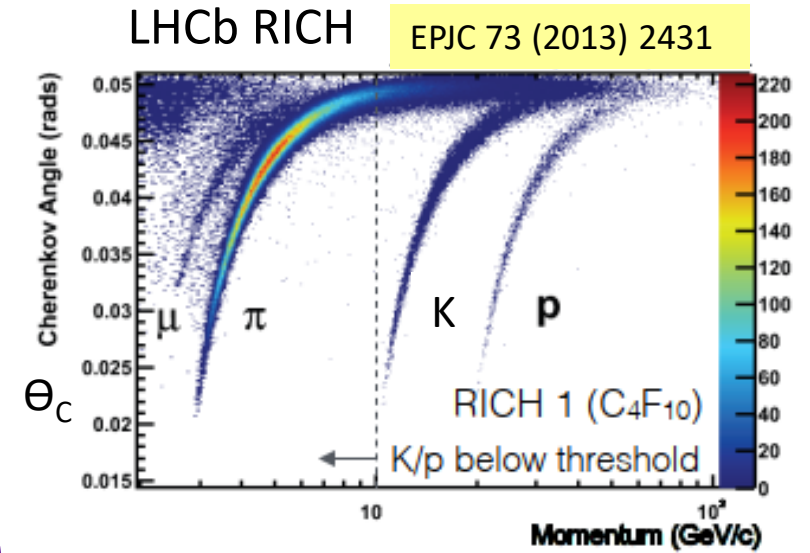
- Energy loss + multiple scattering between the IP and TOF detector
 → track length and momentum measurement biased
 → minimize material before TOF detector
- Combining signals within a layer, and between layers, of the TOF detector requires care (see example illustrated)
- Dedicated TOF detector placed after tracker but before calorimeter
 → its own material budget should be limited
- Increasing the path length improves TOF (linearly), but the area to be covered by the detector increases as the *square*
 → detectors typically need to cover **large areas**, cost-effectively
- **Radiation tolerance** is an issue for application at hadron colliders
- **Start time** (t_0) needed, from dedicated detector or elsewhere
- **Electronics**: balance between time resolution, spatial resolution, data rate and power consumption
- **System issues**: synchronization over a large area challenging



B. Dudar, LCWS 2021

Motivation (2)

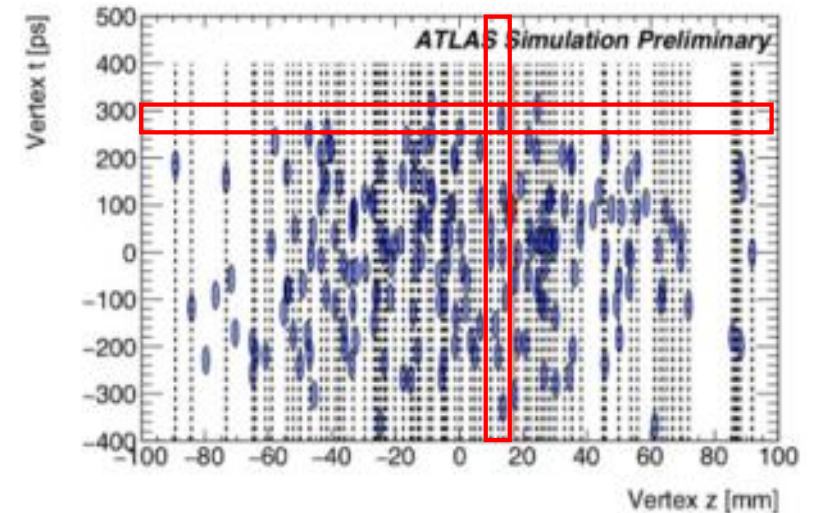
- Highest priority of ESPP is of course the full exploitation of the LHC Upgrades of **ATLAS** & **CMS** for HL-LHC: R&D now \approx complete
However, future upgrades still planned: for **LHCb** & **ALICE** at least
- Excellent hadron ID is essential for **flavour** physics, and there is an **broad future programme planned**—likely to increase in priority if recent evidence of Lepton Flavour non-Universality persists
- **RICH** detectors are the technology of choice at high momentum
But limited coverage < 10 GeV with gas radiators (unless pressurized)
Silica **aerogel** as radiator might cover the low-momentum end, but (due to its low density) gives few photons, difficult reconstruction in the busy environment of the LHC \rightarrow abandoned by LHCb
- Pushing TOF to 10 ps per track over 10 m path would cover region up to 10 GeV for K- π separation \rightarrow target for LHCb future upgrade
- One can dream of pushing further towards the *picosecond* level \rightarrow cover the full range of particle ID required, with a single system
(but bear in mind, 1 ps = 300 μ m at the speed of light)



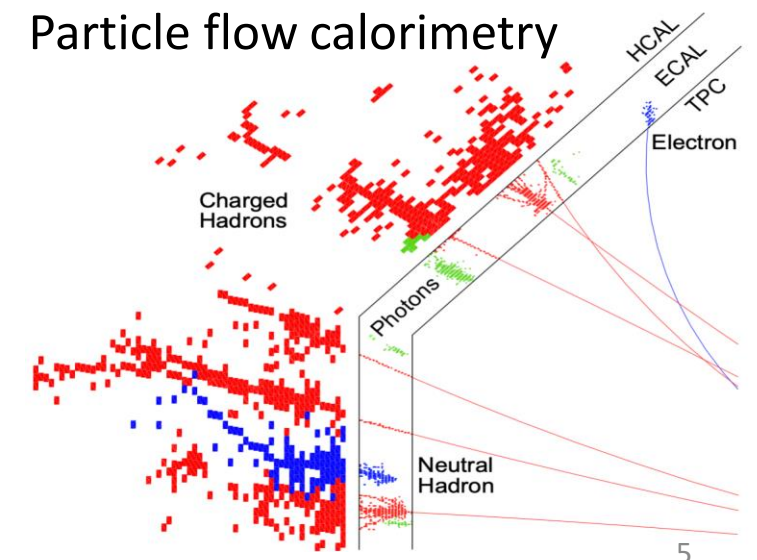
Fast timing

- Fast timing has *many* other applications beyond TOF particle ID
- A fast timing revolution is underway, as detectors that traditionally have been spatially segmented now add time as an extra dimension: typical target is **30–50 ps** resolution/MIP
- This has been driven by **pile-up** suppression in hadron colliders—in particular the unprecedented challenges of the HL-LHC: signal events will have up to 200 min-bias collisions superposed
Can be separated by binning in *time* as well as *space*
- **4D tracking** (x, y, z, t), and **5D calorimetry** (x, y, z, t, E):
Contribution to tracking pattern recognition, shower analysis—imagine going from a static image of showers, to a movie where neutral hadrons arrive later than the photons, etc.
- Timing can also extend physics reach, e.g. for long-lived particle (**LLP**) reconstruction—a booming field of dark sector searches
- This extends well beyond the TOF application (e.g. see \approx all of the other task forces) → **should drive synergy in the R&D roadmap**

Vertexing at HL-LHC



Particle flow calorimetry



Resolution

$$\sim 40 \text{ ps} = 25 \oplus 25 \oplus 15 \text{ ps}$$

[target resolution for timing layer, ATLAS-TDR-031]

- Contributions to timing resolution: $\sigma_{\text{total}}^2 = \sigma_{\text{det}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{elec}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{clock}}^2$

- Example of LHC end-cap timing layers: the **detector** contribution σ_{det} comes from Landau fluctuations in the silicon sensors

- The **electronics** contribution σ_{elec} has following components:

$$\sigma_{\text{elec}}^2 = \left(\frac{t_{\text{rise}}}{S/N} \right)^2 + \left(\left[\frac{V_{\text{thr}}}{S/t_{\text{rise}}} \right]_{\text{RMS}} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{TDC_{\text{bin}}}{\sqrt{12}} \right)^2$$

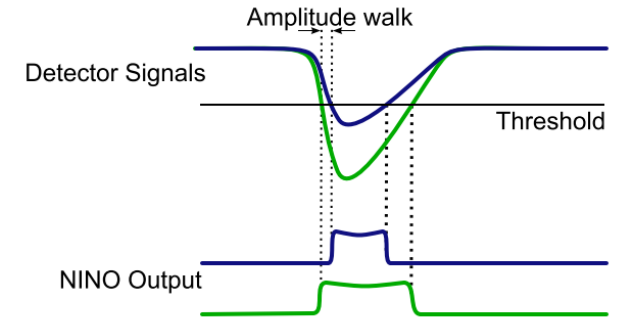
Jitter
Time walk
TDC binning

- Need fast signal and excellent S/N
 LGAD gain: increase signal S , but keep noise N under control
 Contribution from the TDC bin width, must also correct for integral non-linearity (INL, from uneven bin sizes)

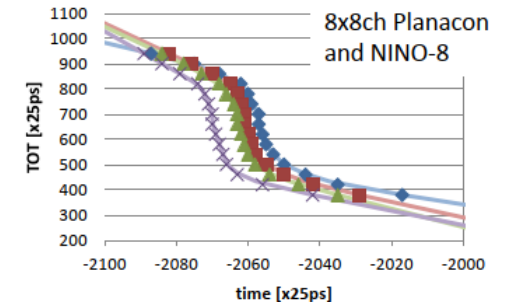
- The **clock** contribution (needed to synchronize detector) σ_{clock}

- *Other contributions:* transit-time spread (TTS) in photodetectors, pixel size, emission point of photon in radiator, start-time t_0 , chromatic effects, cross-talk, etc. → **Careful calibration is essential**

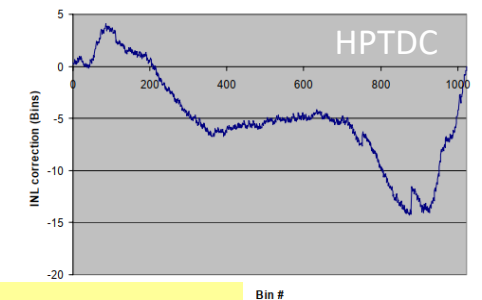
Amplitude → time-over-threshold



Time-walk vs TOT



INL: periodic over 1024 bins = 25 ns

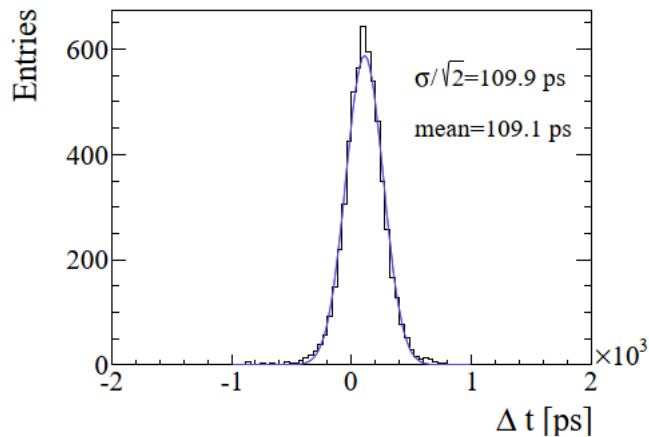


Technologies

- Many of the technologies used cross over with other disciplines, from tracking to calorimetry, and use the sensors discussed elsewhere in this (and the other) task forces
 1. **Scintillators:** classic solution, now developed for timing layers (TF5+6, SiPM)
 2. **Gaseous detectors:** multigap RPCs, new ideas to push timing resolution with MPGDs (TF1)
 3. **Silicon detectors:** recent development of LGADs for end-cap timing layers (TF3, LGAD)
 4. **Cherenkov-based detectors:** pushing for ultimate resolution (MCP)
- Cannot cover exhaustively, instead selected a few examples to illustrate detector systems (*existing / in preparation / future development*) for each technology
+ will have to pass quickly over detectors that have been covered elsewhere
- Tried to include detectors mentioned in the questionnaire responses, apologies for any omissions
+ bias toward experiments discussed at CERN—this symposium is opportunity to gather missing input
Disclaimer: references given to where information collected, rather than original sources
—thanks to all who have provided material

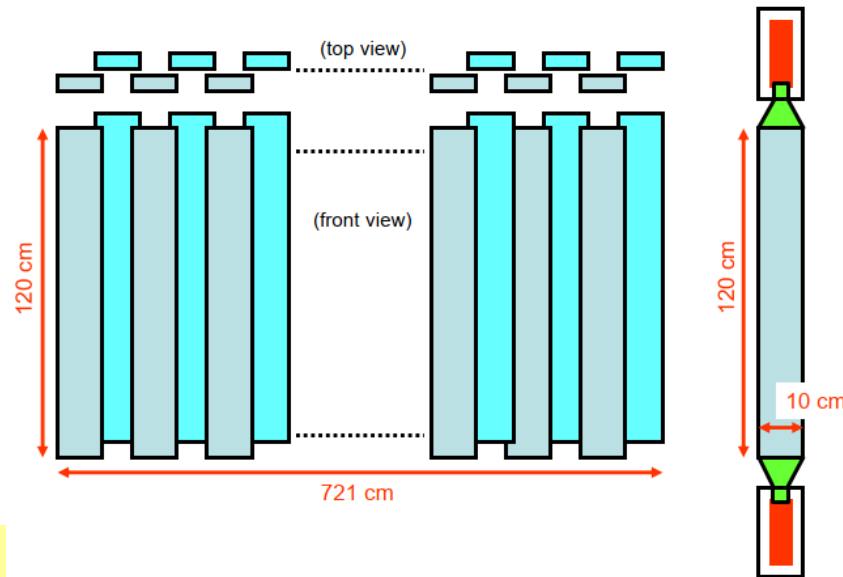
1. Scintillators

- Fixed-target experiments have geometry well adapted to TOF
Take as example **NA61** (SHINE), flight distance 13 m
- Most recently added scintillator hodoscope: Forward-ToF
2.5 cm-thick bars of plastic scintillator (Bicron BC-408)
rise time 0.9 ns, decay time 2.1 ns, attenuation length 210 cm
- Read out at both ends with with fishtail PMMA light-guides to 2" photomultipliers (Fast-Hamamatsu R1828)
- TOF resolution ~ 110 ps

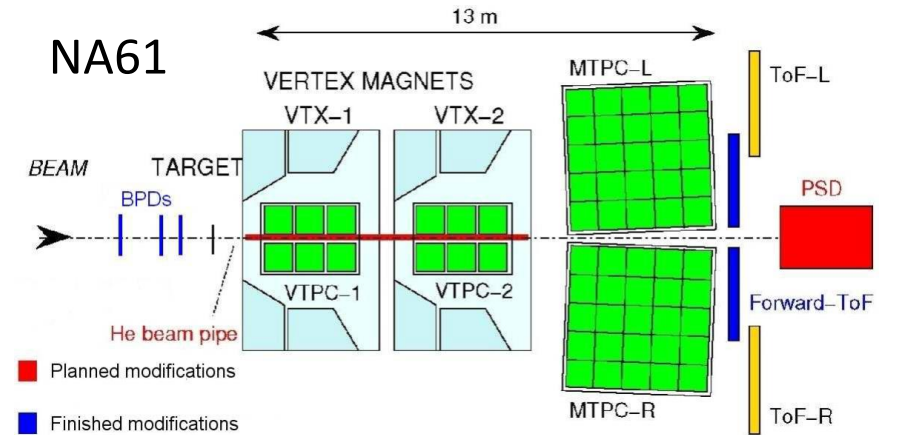


N Abgrall et al 2014 JINST 9 P06005

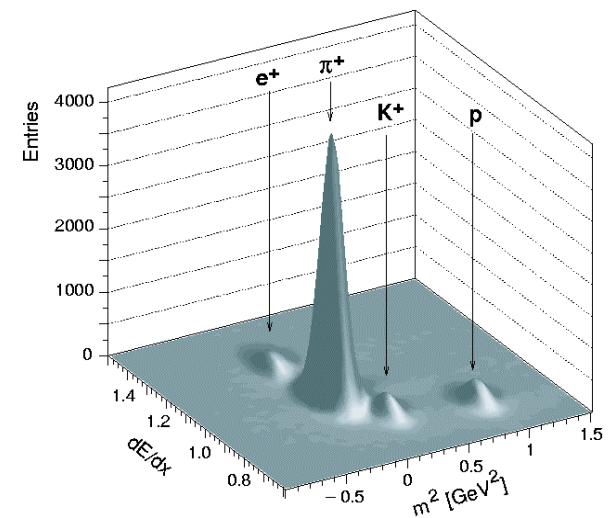
Roger Forty



TOF technologies



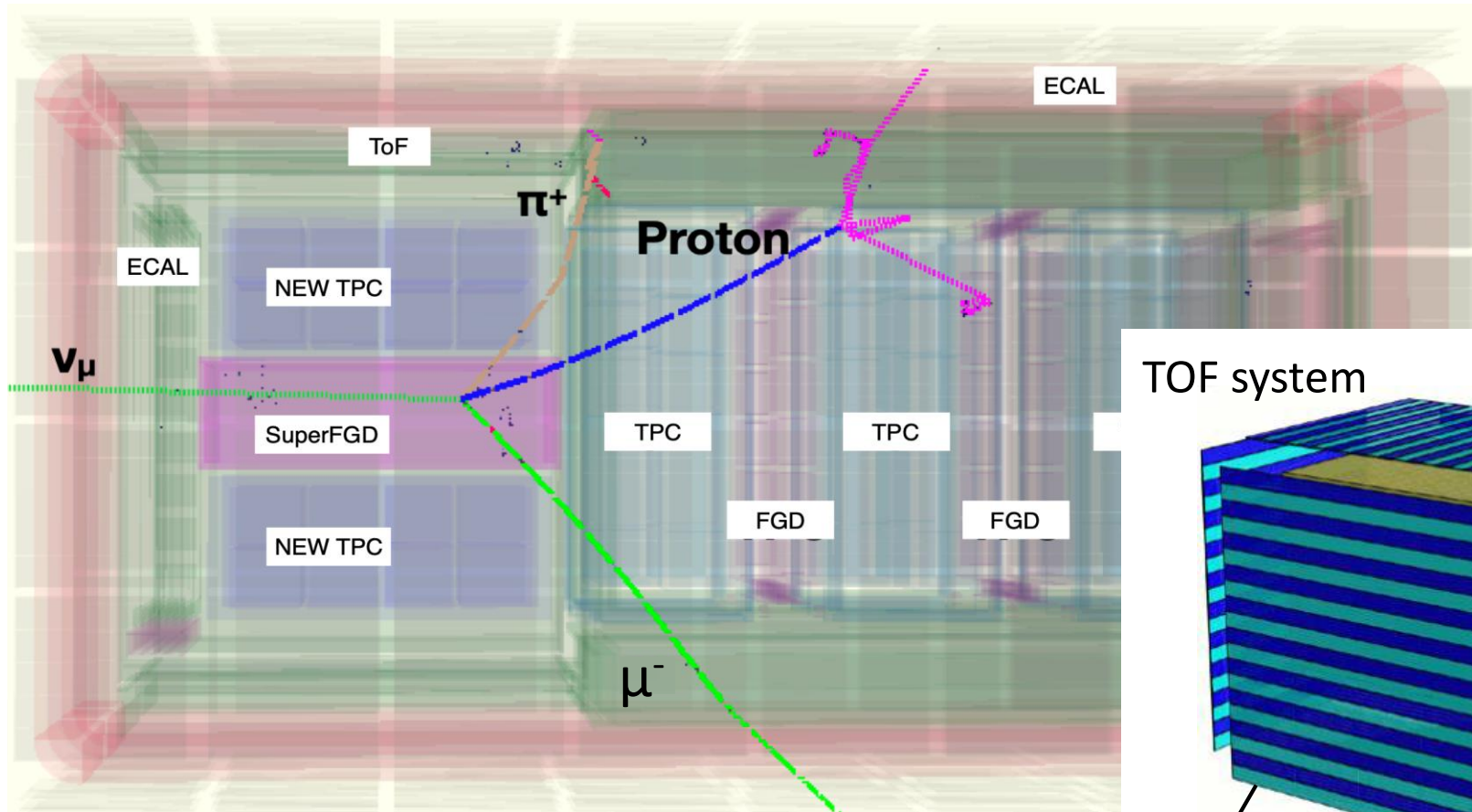
$dE/dx + TOF$ combined (5-6 GeV, NA49 Pb-Pb)



S. Afanasiev et al., CERN-EP/99-001

T2K Near Detector upgrade

- The near detector of T2K (long-baseline ν experiment) is being upgraded



Simulated ν interaction in **ND280**

Scintillator bars

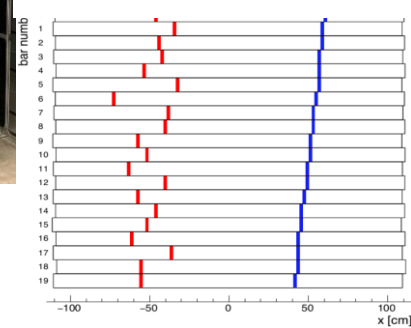
T2K Near Detector upgrade

- The near detector of T2K (long-baseline ν experiment) is being upgraded
- TOF system required to give unambiguous determination of the flight direction of charged particles, to ensure tracks come from ν interaction
- 1 cm-thick cast plastic scintillator bars (EJ-200) read out by array of large area SiPM ($6 \times 6 \text{ mm}^2$ Hamamatsu S13360-6050PE MPPC)
- **SiPM:** compact, robust, insensitive to B field, operate at low voltage, low power consumption, photodetection efficiency up to 40%;
Drawbacks: high dark count rate (DCR), radiation sensitivity \rightarrow cooling
 Similar solution explored for PANDA TOF, with smaller scintillator tiles/rods

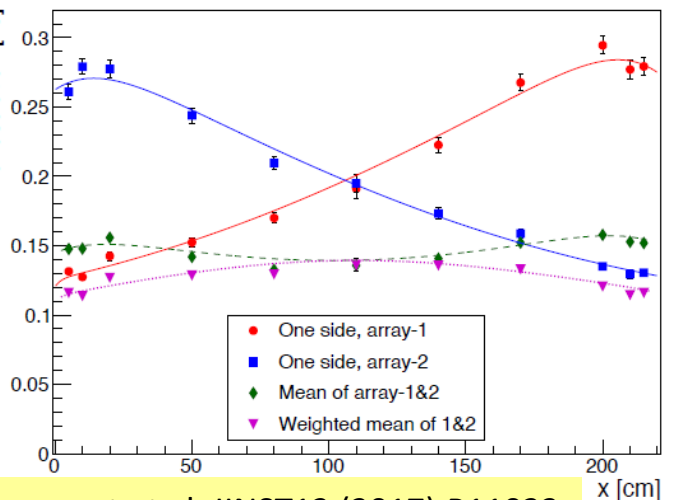
Constructed planes



Cosmic events

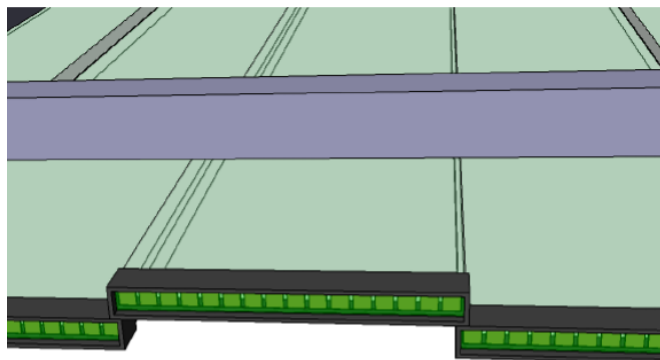


$\sim 130 \text{ ps resolution}$



C. Betancourt et al, JINST12 (2017) P11023

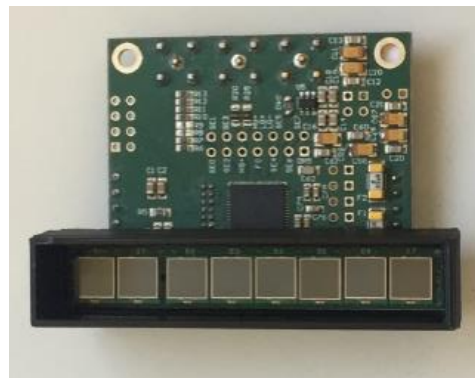
Overlapping scintillator bars



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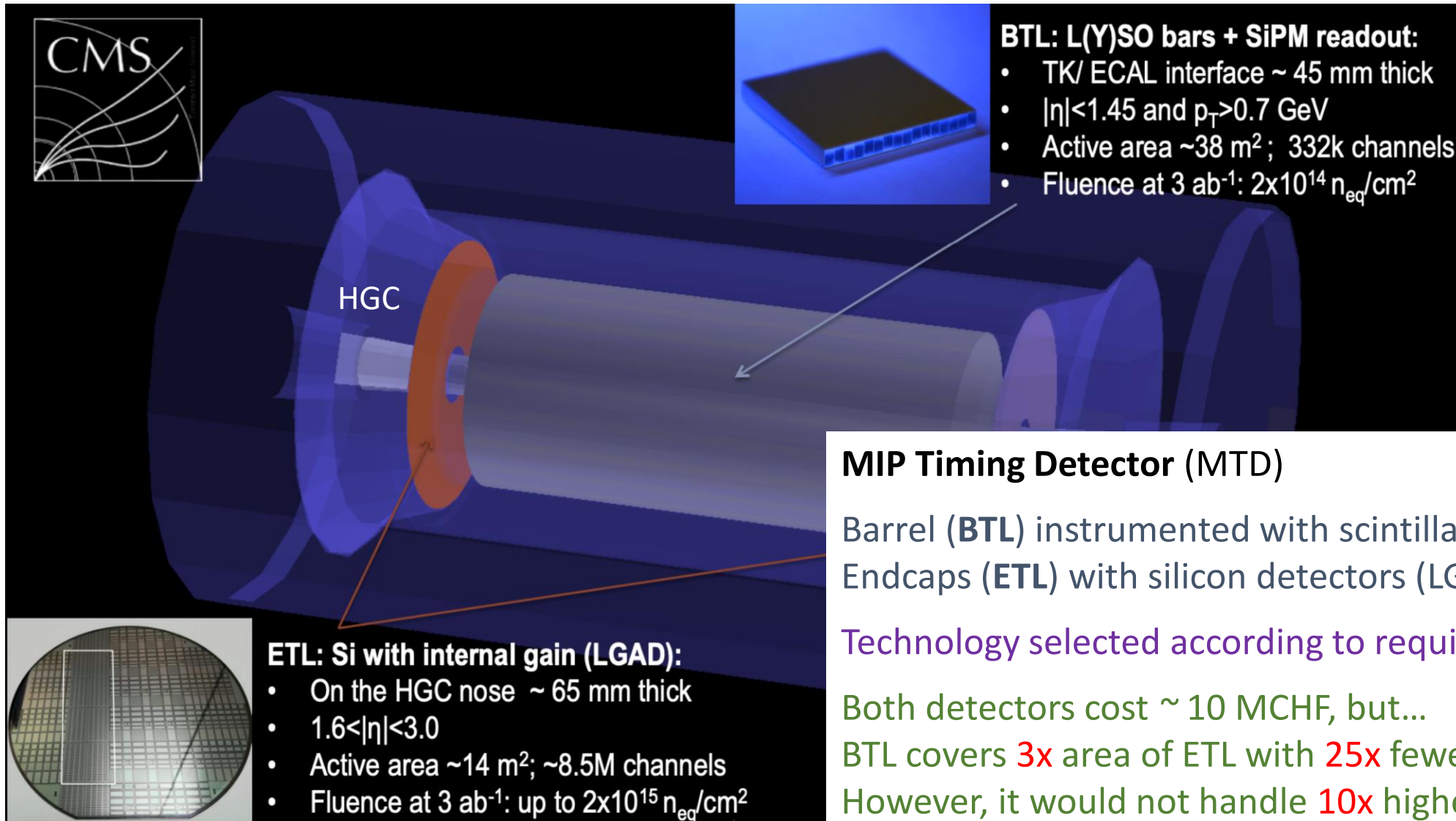
T. Lux, SPSC 13/4/21

SiPM array (MUSIC readout)



TOF technologies

CMS Timing Layer



BTL: L(Y)SO bars + SiPM readout:

- TK/ ECAL interface ~ 45 mm thick
- $|\eta| < 1.45$ and $p_T > 0.7$ GeV
- Active area ~38 m²; 332k channels
- Fluence at 3 ab⁻¹: 2×10^{14} n_{eq}/cm²

MIP Timing Detector (MTD)

Barrel (**BTL**) instrumented with scintillator bars
Endcaps (**ETL**) with silicon detectors (LGAD)

Technology selected according to requirements:

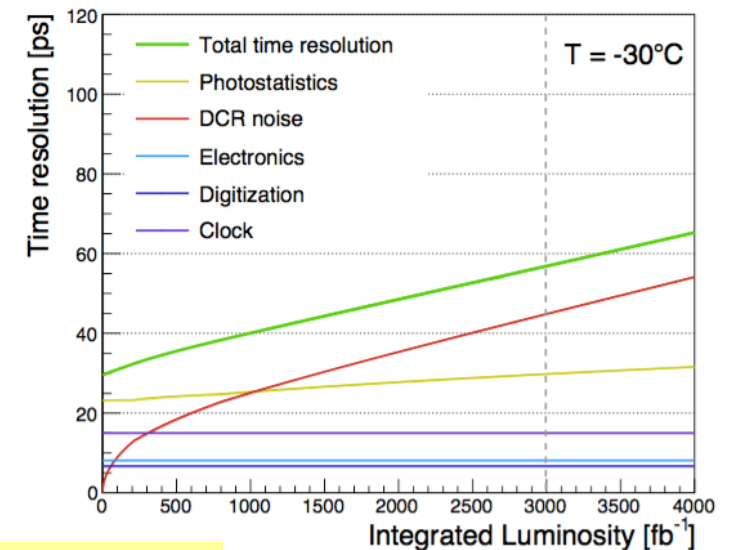
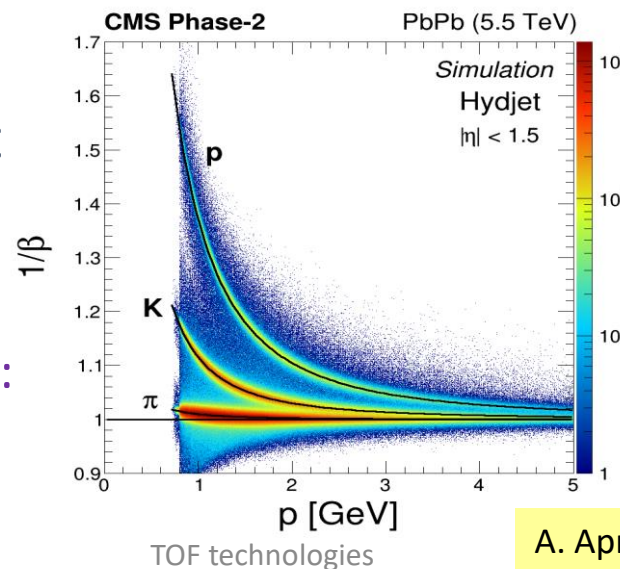
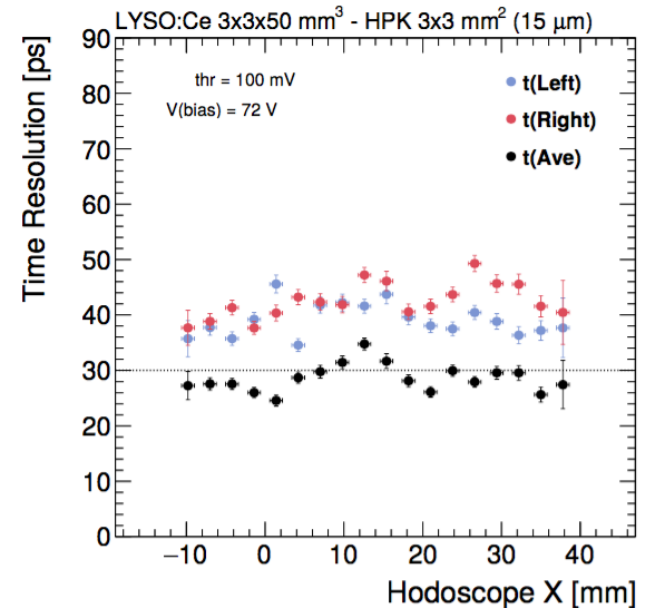
Both detectors cost ~ 10 MCHF, but...
BTL covers **3x** area of ETL with **25x** fewer channels
However, it would not handle **10x** higher radiation

ETL: Si with internal gain (LGAD):

- On the HGC nose ~ 65 mm thick
- $1.6 < |\eta| < 3.0$
- Active area ~14 m²; ~8.5M channels
- Fluence at 3 ab⁻¹: up to 2×10^{15} n_{eq}/cm²

CMS Barrel Timing Layer

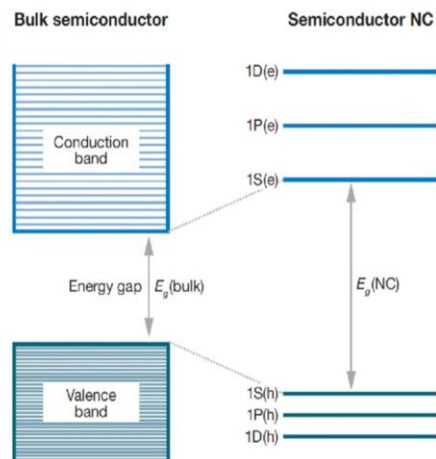
- **Faster scintillators:** LYSO:Ce (Lutetium Yttrium Orthosilicate crystals doped with Cerium): excellent radiation tolerance, high light yield ($\sim 40,000$ photons/MeV), fast scintillation rise-time (< 100 ps), relatively short decay-time (~ 40 ns)
- Well-established in **PET** scanners: excellent cross-fertilization! TOF also very relevant there: provides resolution along line-of-flight
- **166k** LYSO crystals readout with SiPMs at each end, attached to the inner wall of Tracker Support Tube ($r = 1.15$ m, length = ± 2.6 m) \rightarrow has to be installed before tracker
- Thermoelectric coolers to improve SiPM radiation tolerance: run at -45°C
- Time resolution: **35 ps** at start and **60 ps** by the end of HL-LHC
Time-of-flight particle ID as a “bonus”: 2σ K- π separation up to $p \sim 2$ GeV



Quantum fast-scintillator R&D [see TF5]

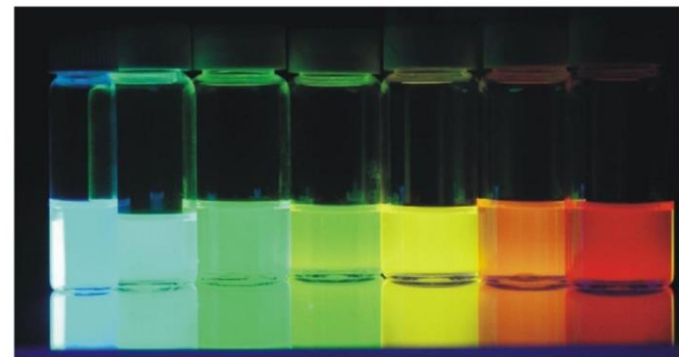
- Colloidal Quantum Dots irradiated with a UV light: different sized nanoscale dots emit different colours of light due to quantum confinement
- Semiconductor scintillator based on InAs Quantum Dots functioning as luminescence centres embedded in a GaAs matrix can have uniquely fast scintillation properties with low self-absorption

$a \sim \lambda_B \rightarrow$ QUANTUM CONFINEMENT



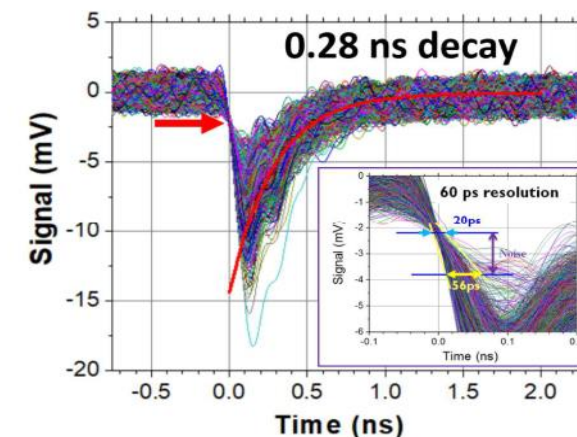
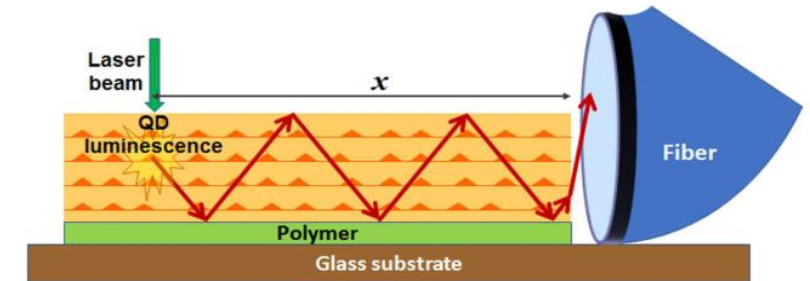
V. Klimov, *Annu. Rev. Phys. Chem.*, 58, pp. 635-73, 2007.

Size dependent optoelectronic-properties



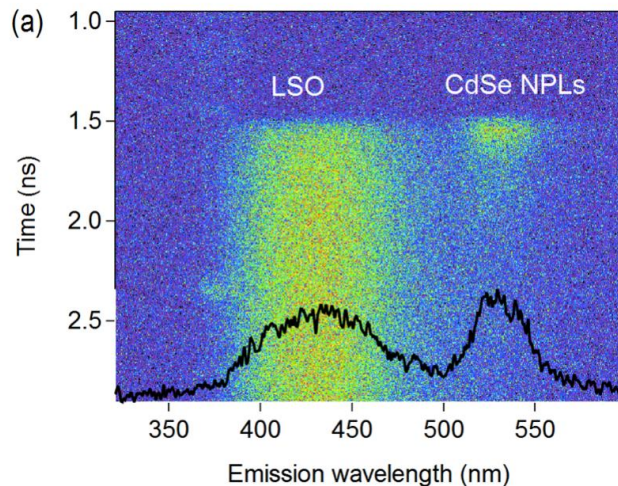
2.3 \longrightarrow 5.5
Size (nanometers)

© Copyright 2004, Benoit Dubertret

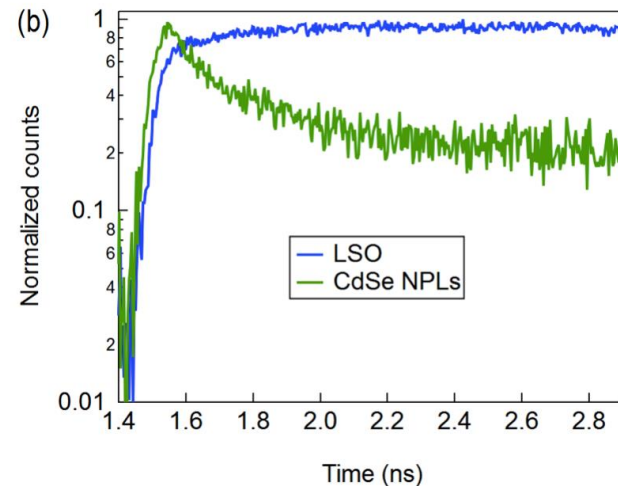


Quantum fast-scintillator R&D [see TF5]

- Colloidal Quantum Dots irradiated with a UV light: different sized nanoscale dots emit different colours of light due to quantum confinement
- Semiconductor scintillator based on InAs Quantum Dots functioning as luminescence centres embedded in a GaAs matrix can have uniquely fast scintillation properties with low self-absorption
- Related R&D pursued by **RD18 (Crystal Clear)** [see E. Auffray, TF5]
CdSe nano-platelets deposited on LYSO substrate → faster response
- Challenge to produce large-scale samples: **3D printing** of scintillator being investigated, to produce arbitrary shapes



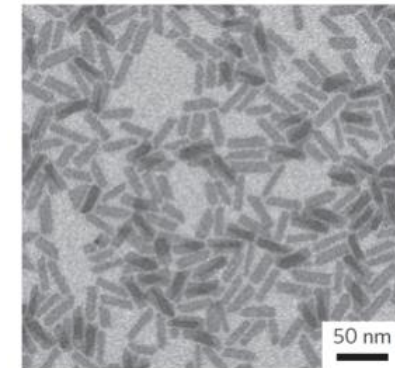
Roger Forty



TOF technologies

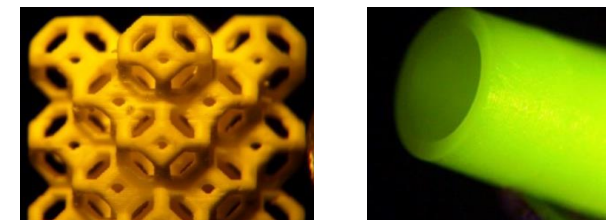


Cadmium selenide nano-platelets



R. Turtos et al.,
JINST 11 (2016)
P10015

YAG (voxel size ~ 50 x 50 x 10-50 μm)

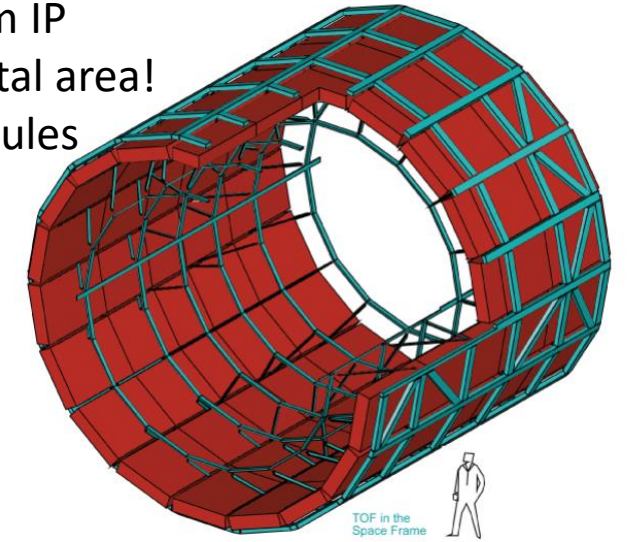


G. Dossovityky, Kurchatov Institute

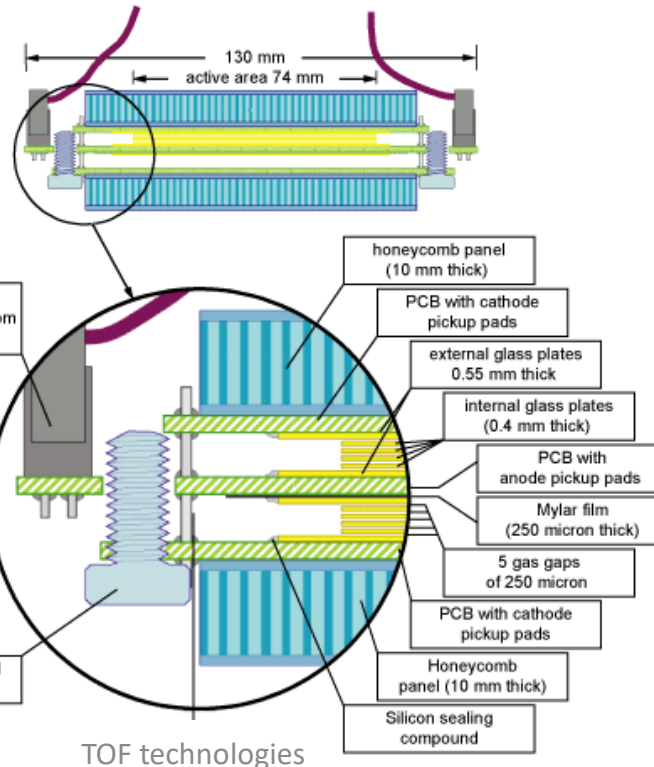
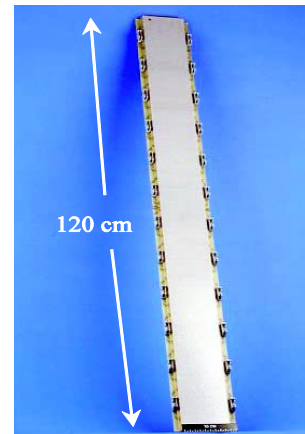
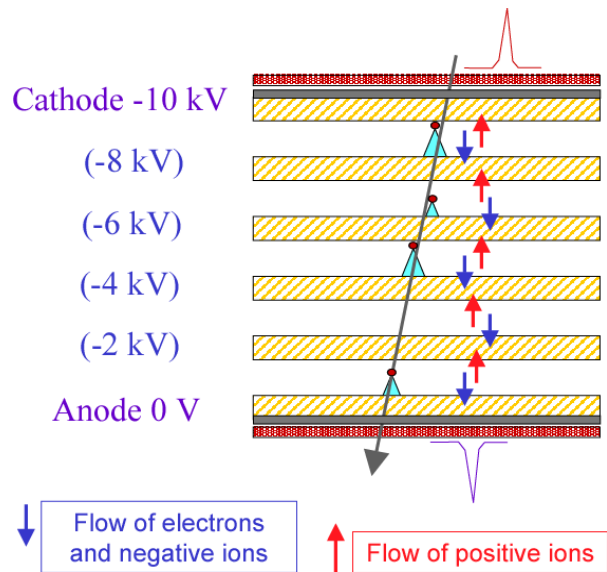
2. Gaseous detectors [see TF1]

- **Multi-gap RPC** well-established technique, excellent timing, easily segmented, work in strong magnetic field, relatively easy to build e.g. **ALICE TOF**
- Stacks of 1 mm glass plates, total of 10 gas gaps of 250 μm
High resistivity plates required ($> 10^{10} \Omega\text{cm}$) to limit discharge area
- Gas used is $\text{C}_2\text{F}_4\text{H}_2 + \text{SF}_6 + \text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$
- Timing resolution **56 ps** achieved

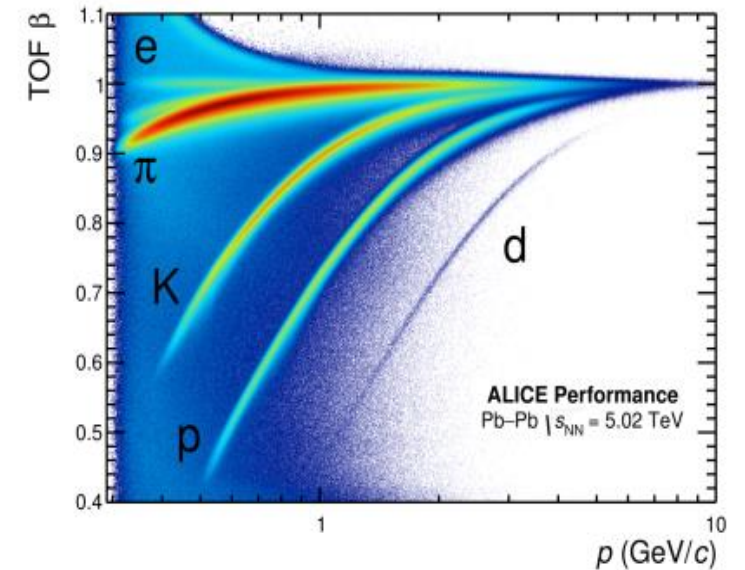
3.7 m from IP
150 m² total area!
 1638 modules



F. Carnesecchi, arXiv:1806.03825



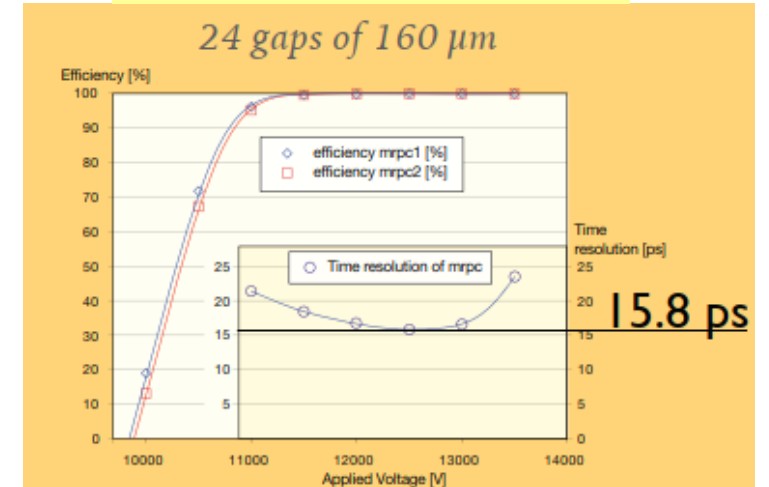
TOF technologies



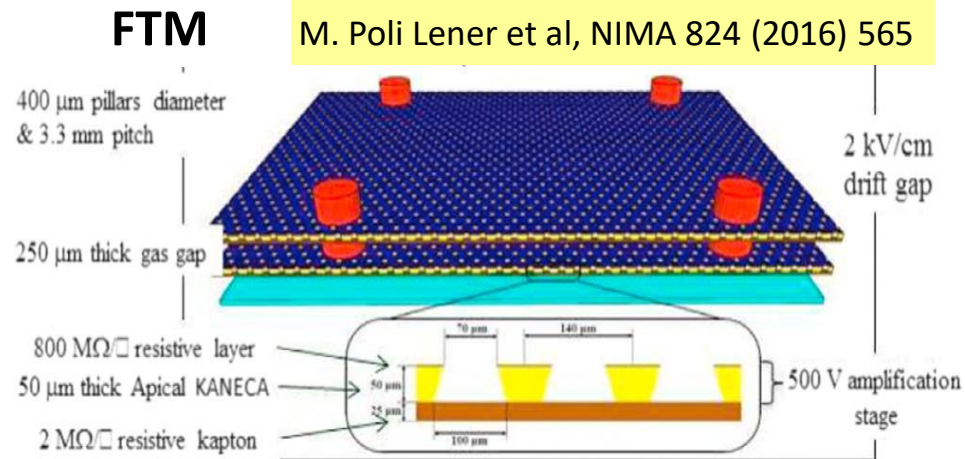
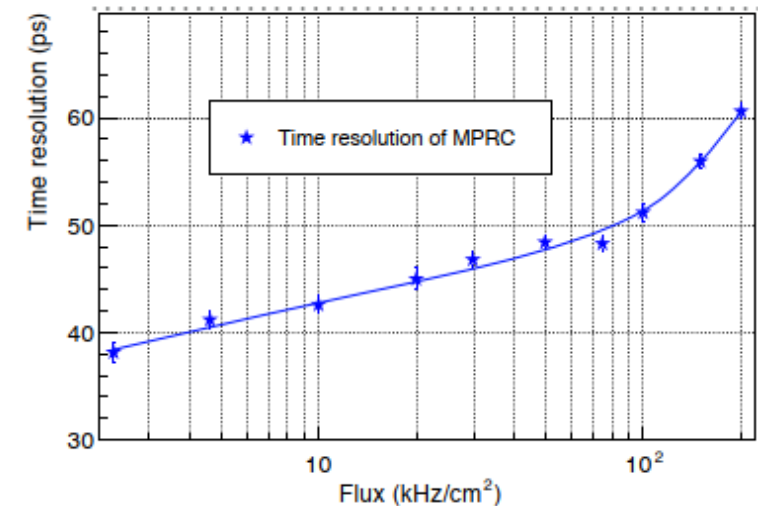
Gaseous-detector R&D

- **MRPC** are in widespread use for TOF systems: upgrade of NA61, proposals SHiP and Water Cherenkov Test Experiment @CERN HADES@GSI, EMPHATIC@Fermilab, E50@J-PARC, BGOegg@Spring-8, CBM, STAR...
- **Developments towards:**
 - faster timing (e.g. increasing number of gaps)
 - Higher rate capability: managing gas flow, glass resistivity
- **Fast timing micro-pattern gas detectors also being developed** e.g. FTM based on the μ -RWELL structure [see P. Verwilligen, TF1]

S. An et al, NIMA 594 (2008) 39



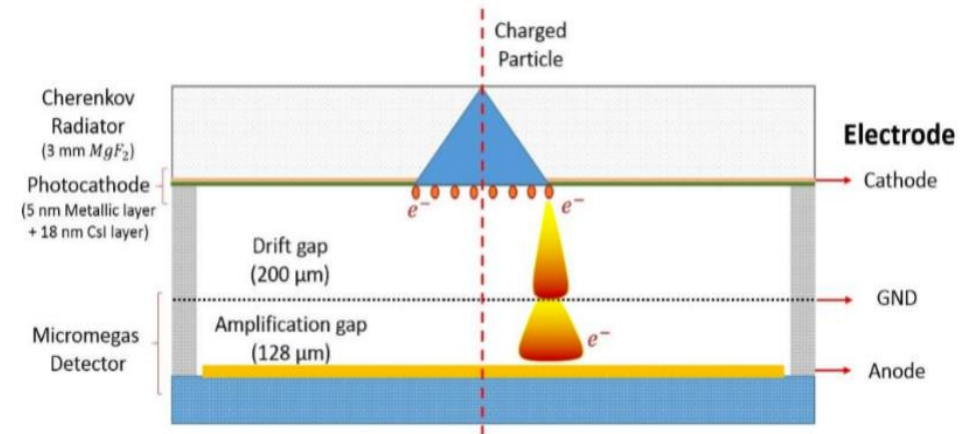
C. Williams, AIDAInnova 14/4/21



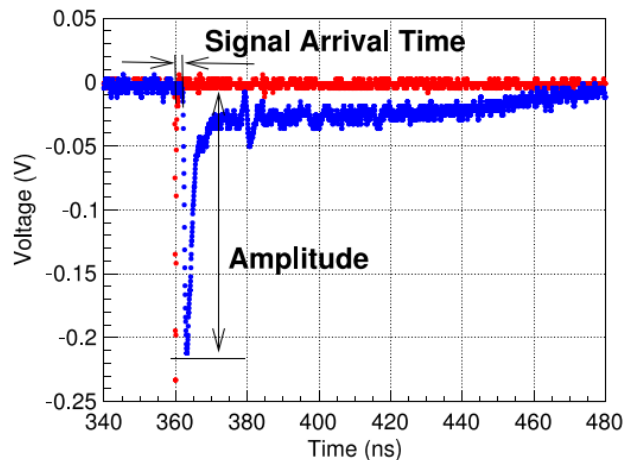
- ~ 300 ps resolution seen for simulation [Y. Maghrbi et al, NIMA 954 (2020) 161666]
- Alternative approach: couple Cherenkov radiator to MPGD

PICOSEC development

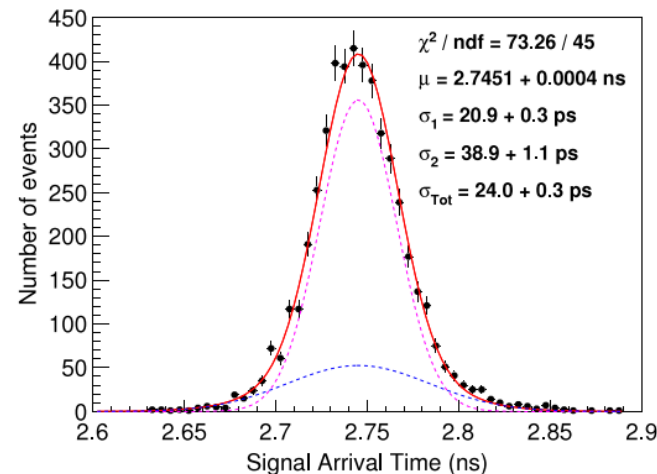
- Hybrid detector: Cherenkov signal (CsI PC) amplified via MPGD
Developed with **RD51** [see next talk, F. Tessarotto]
- Micromegas: 80% Ne + 10% C₂H₆ + 10% CF₄ (COMPASS gas)
Signal has two distinct components: fast electron peak (≈ 0.5 ns)
slow ion tail (≈ 100 ns)
- Now working on detector stability, photocathode robustness (DLC, nano-diamond), large-area coverage: 10x10 pad module planned
Considered for muon system of ENUBET (R&D for tagged ν beam)



F. Brunbauer, INSTR-2020

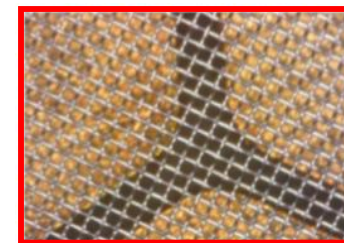


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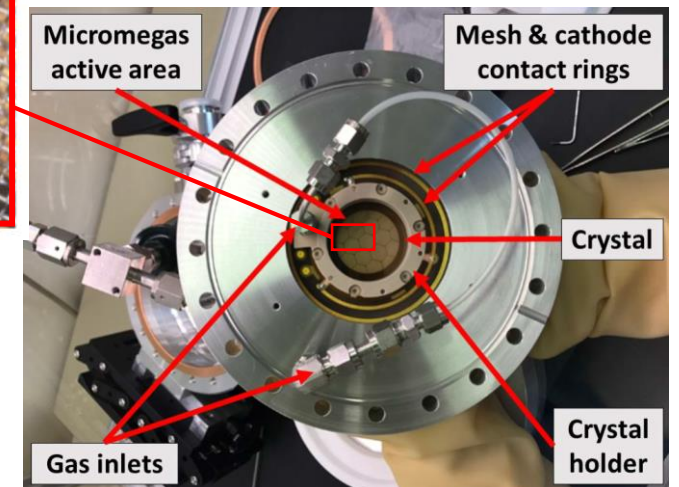
J. Bortfeldt et al, NIM A 903 (2018) 317

TOF technologies



24 ps for muons
(~ 10 p.e./muon)

Multipad prototype (each 1 cm)



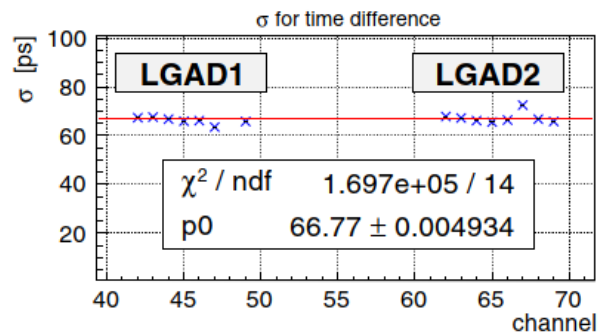
3. Silicon detectors [see TF3]

- Low-gain avalanche diodes (**LGAD**) are currently the silicon detectors of choice for fast timing, adopted by ATLAS/CMS
Initial idea was for “APD with low gain” to compensate for charge loss after irradiation [P. Fernandez, PhD thesis 2014]

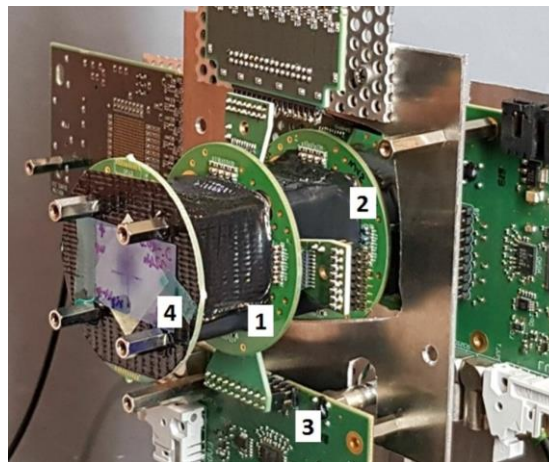
Multiplication layer adds modest gain $\times 10\text{--}20$:
improves signal slope while keeping noise under control

- Early adopter*: **HADES** prototype beam telescope
150 μm strips, provides start time t_0 for TOF system

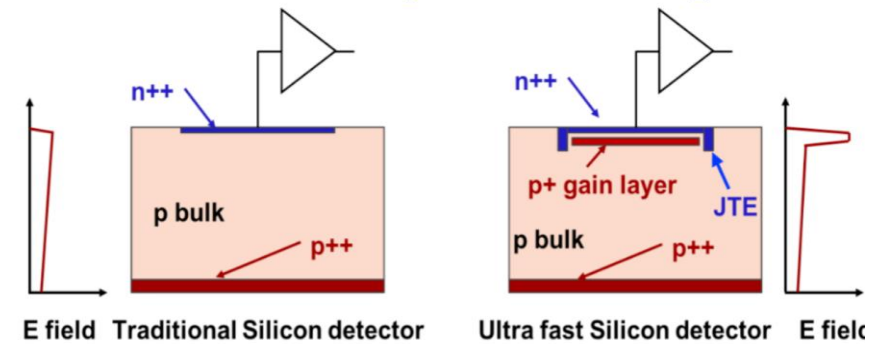
Corresponds to **47 ps/hit**



J. Pietraszko et al, Eur. Phys. J. A (2020) 56



TOF technologies

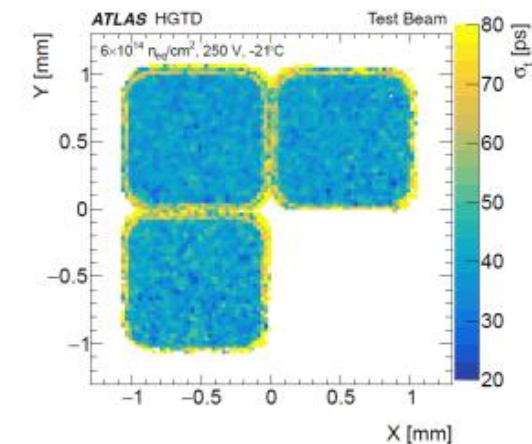


S. Grinstein, IAS-HEP 2021

Inensitive area around gain layer

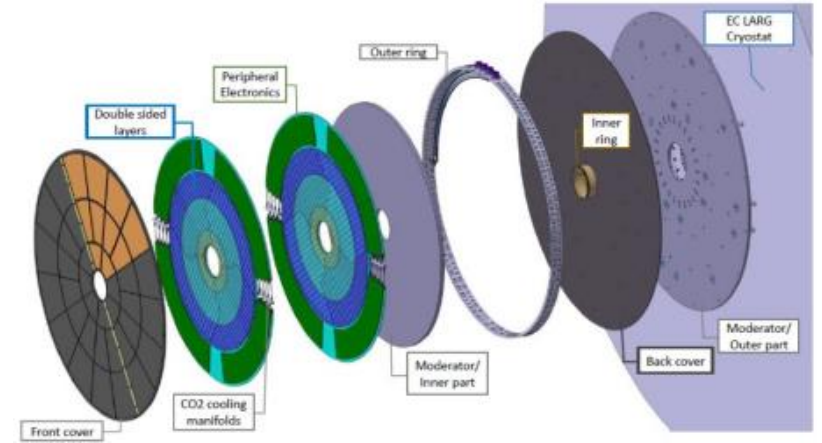
Junction Termination Extension (JTE): 50-100 μm
limits ability to achieve fine pitch

ATLAS/CMS use 1.3 x 1.3 mm^2 pads
Need to scale up from $\sim \text{cm}^2$ to $\sim 10\text{m}^2$ area



ATLAS Timing Layer

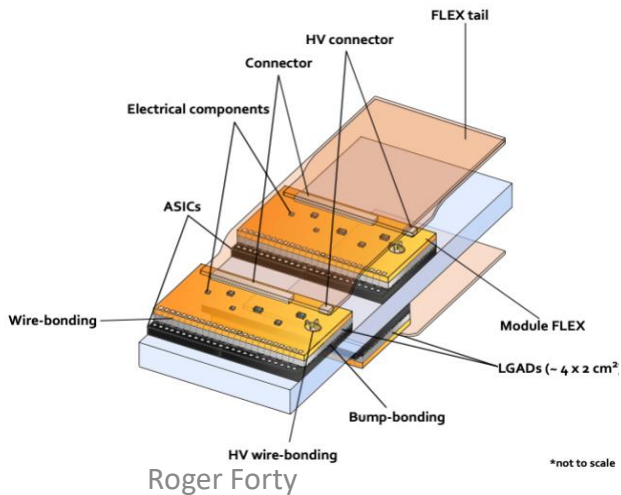
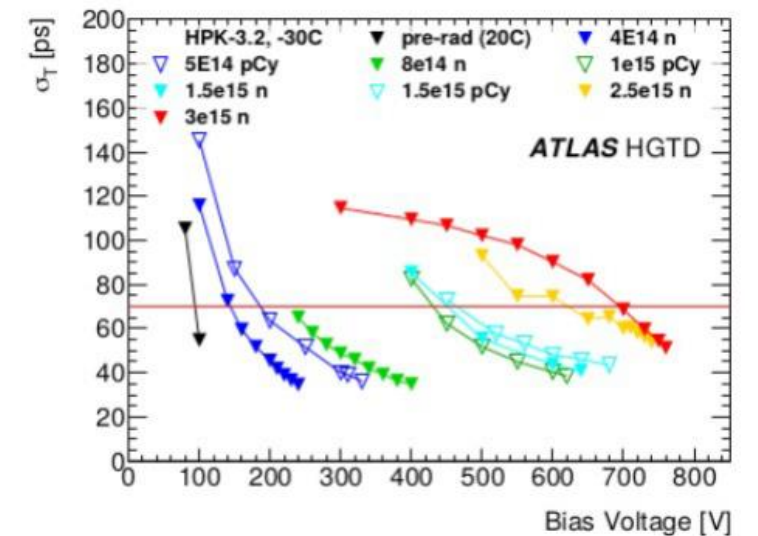
- High Granularity Timing Detector (**HGTD**) for the end-caps (similar design for CMS ETL, some common development)
- Active area: $12 \text{ cm} < r < 64 \text{ cm}$, 2 disks per side, each supporting double 50 μm sensor layers : 15x30 pads of $1.3 \times 1.3 \text{ mm}^2$
- Bump-bonded to readout ASICs, flex tail to outer-radius electronics
Cooling plate operates at $-30 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$: evaporative CO_2 , 20 kW/endcap
- Maximum fluence: $2.5 \times 10^{15} \text{ MeV } n_{eq}/\text{cm}^2$, 2 MGy by end of HL-LHC
Inner ring will be *replaced* every 1000 fb^{-1} due to radiation damage
Layout optimised for uniform performance vs radius



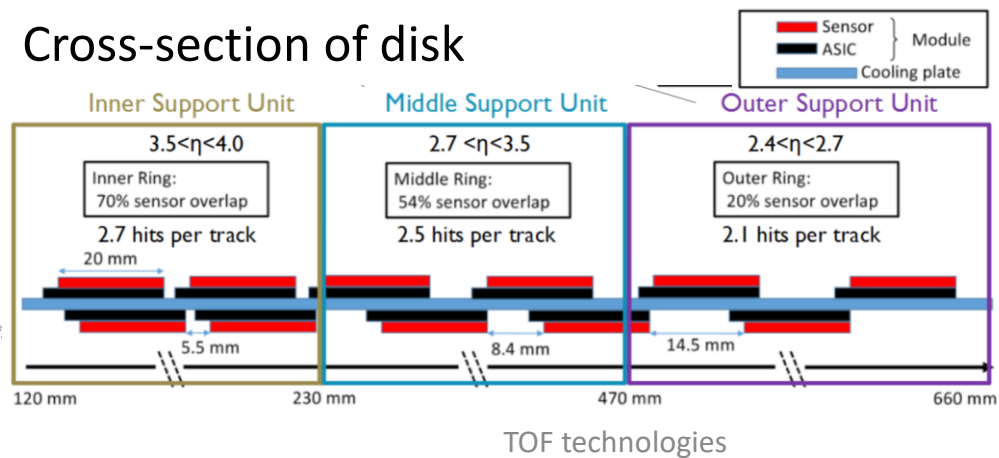
CERN-LHCC-2020-007; ATLAS-TDR-031

3.6 M channels, 6.4 m^2 , 30-40% X_0

Effect of irradiation



Cross-section of disk



Fast silicon R&D

- Very active area, in the framework of **RD50** and elsewhere: LGAD stability after heavy irradiation remains a concern → increase radiation tolerance further + achieve finer granularity + push timing

For single (thin) layers, timing resolution < 20 ps has been achieved

Would be difficult to achieve for a large system? [discussion at TF3]

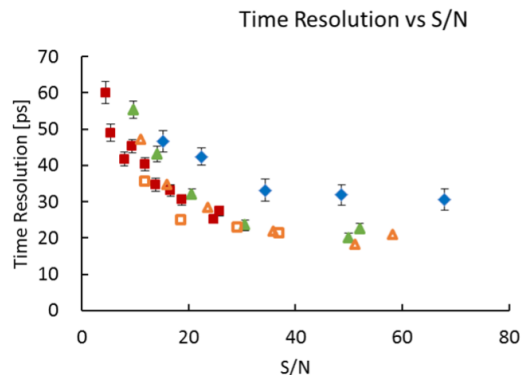
- **AC-LGAD**: gain layer charge coupled capacitively to surface through thin (~ 500 nm) oxide layer, segmentation provided simply by surface electrodes
Excellent spatial resolution can be achieved via charge-sharing

Also Deep Junction (**DJ-LGAD**), Trench isolated (**TI-LGAD**), Inverse (**iLGAD**)...

- Other approaches to fast timing in silicon may also compete: 3D, Timepix...
Solid-state Electron Multiplier (**SSEM**): amplification layer obtained via a GEM-like metal structure embedded within the silicon bulk

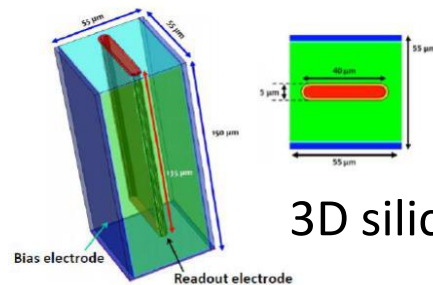
LGAD timing

Y. Zhao et al,
NIM 924 (2019) 387

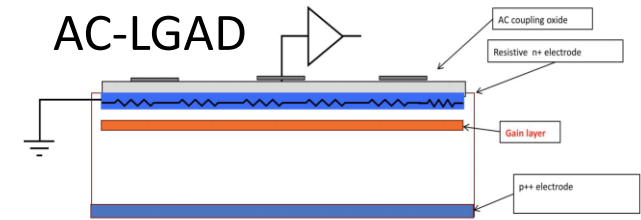


35 μ m bulk

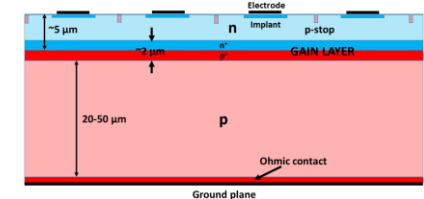
- ◆ B35 pre-rad -20C
- ▲ B35: 5e14 -20C
- B35 1e15 -20C
- ▲ B35 5e14 -27C
- B35 1e15 -27C



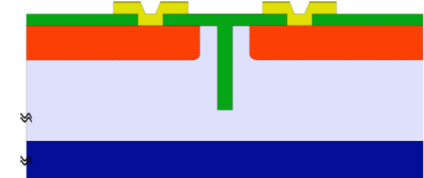
3D silicon



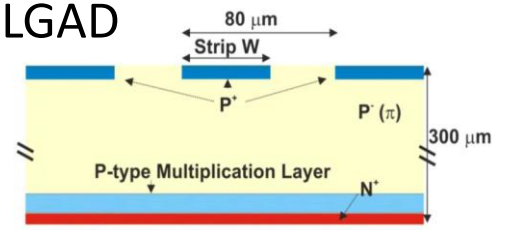
DJ-LGAD



TI-LGAD



iLGAD



E. Currás, VERTEX 2020
N. Cartiglia, TF3

Silicon prospects

- **ALICE3**: new detector based around CMOS MAPS (Monolithic Active Pixel Sensors) under study for the HL-LHC era

TOF resolution < 20 ps needed at system level, requires advances both on sensors and microelectronics [L. Musa, input symposium 19/2/21]

- **Belle II** detector upgrades planned in ~ 2026 : pile-up suppression not an issue for e^+e^- colliders, but use of timing layer under consideration to cover gaps between radiator bars of TOP detector

- **EIC**: now an approved project, detector technologies not yet fixed

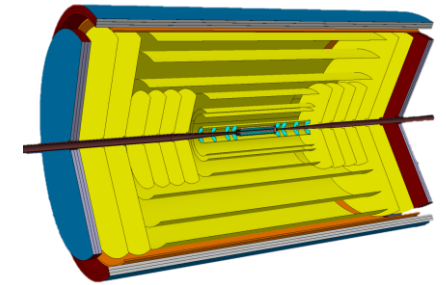
- **FCC-hh**: pileup 1000, timing requirement to mitigate even more severe: resolution < 10 ps required “or very clever new ideas needed...”

[M. Aleksa, input symposium 19/2/21]

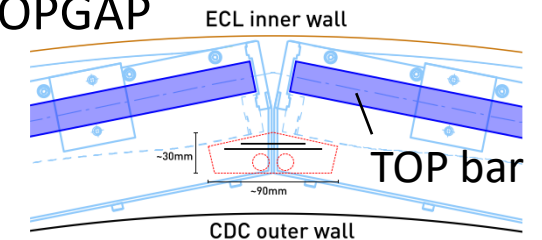
+ radiation dose 10x higher—but there is time for R&D, technical design would only start in $O(15)$ years)

- **Muon collider** experiments: fast timing at 10 ps level needed to reject beam-induced background [N. Pastrone, input symposium 19/2/21]

ALICE3



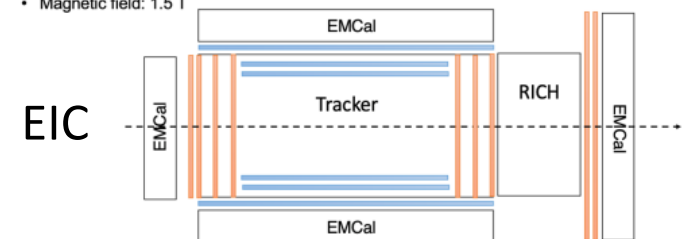
STOPGAP



O. Hartbrich et al, LOI Snowmass 2021

Timing Layers for outer tracker with LGADs?

- Tracker geometry: $L=2.5\text{m}$, $r=1.2\text{m}$
- RICH length: 1.5 m
- Magnetic field: 1.5 T

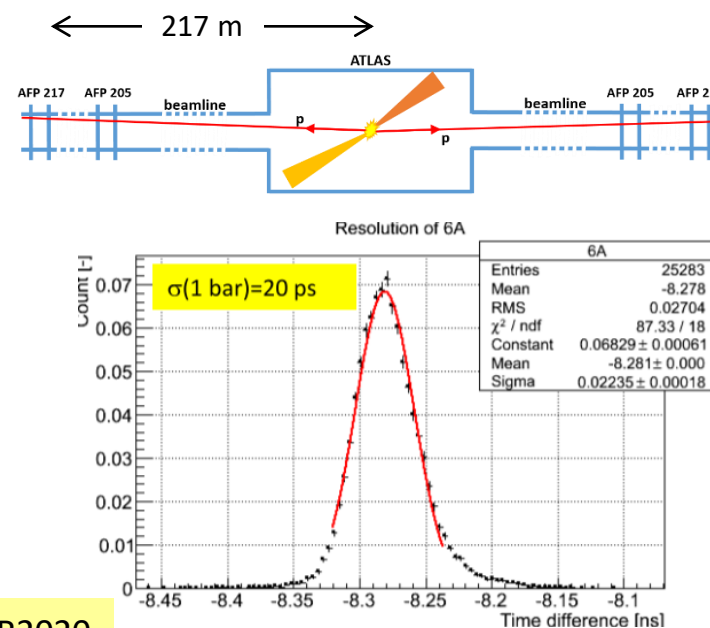
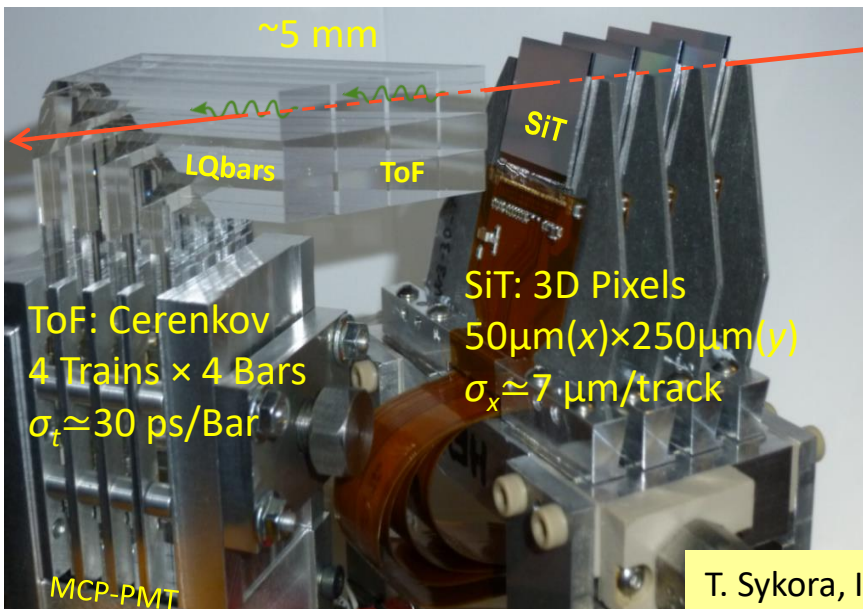


T. Hemmick, IAS-HEP 14/1/2021

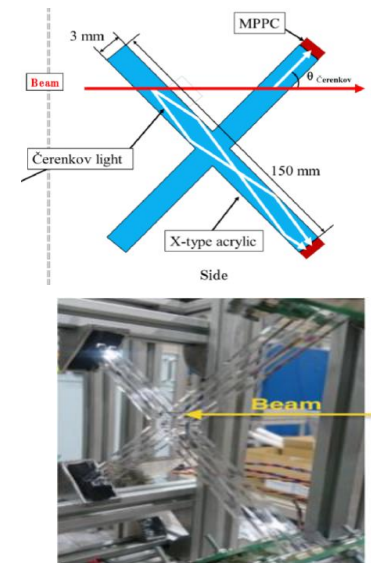
4. Cherenkov-based detectors

- Cherenkov radiation is *prompt*, ideal for ultimate timing: detect photons rather than charge
- Adding timing to RICH detectors: only available for particles which are *above* threshold
 → main use is for background suppression there, at least for gaseous radiators
 Room for clever ideas with aerogel? but few photons → use solid **quartz** (synthetic fused silica)

ATLAS Forward TOF: L-shaped bars



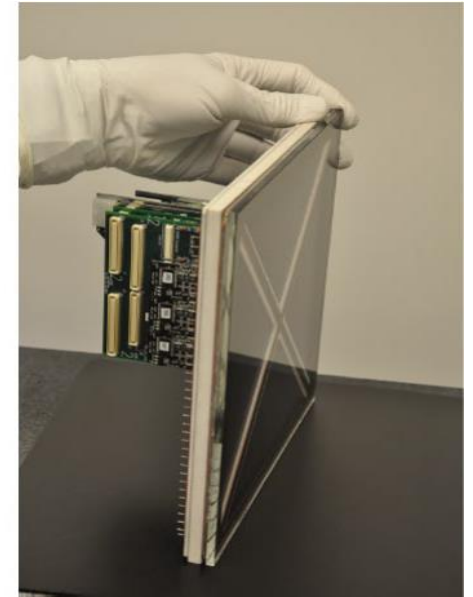
Another example: EMPHATIC t_0 counter



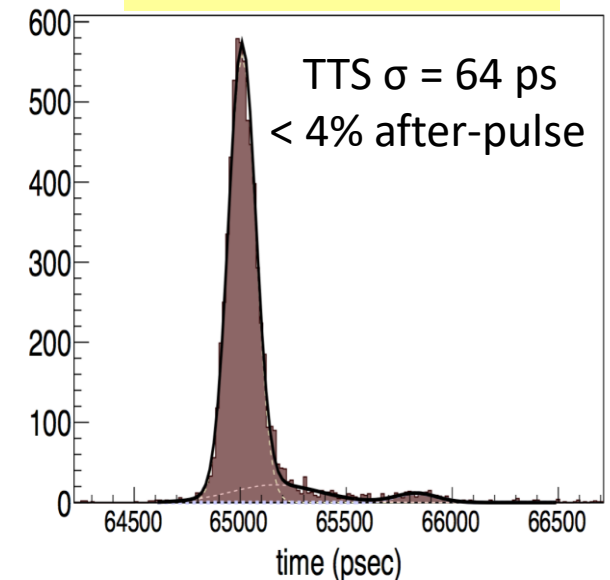
- Excellent performance ~ 20 ps, but for a small system—how can this be achieved over large areas?

LAPPD development

- One approach is to develop *large-area* picosecond-level photodetectors and use to time Cherenkov light produced in their entrance window
- **LAPPD™** development: use cheaper MCP-PMT components to limit cost e.g. borosilicate float glass + ALD treatment, strip-line readout
Now commercialized by Incom Inc.
- Adopted by **ANNIE** (Accelerator Neutrino Neutron Interaction Experiment): water-Cherenkov neutrino experiment at Fermilab with 30 tons of Gadolinium-loaded water, to help in their muon reconstruction
- Also explored as a timing layer at shower-max in the LHCb calorimeter upgrade: 18.6 ps timing resolution achieved for 5.8 GeV e^- test beam
- Second generation under development with capacitive-coupled anode to allow pad readout more suitable for high-rate environments
Lifetime and B-field sensitivity? [see talk of K. Inami]
- **Issue:** although cheaper than traditional MCPs, they are not *that* cheap
Tiling a large area is currently still prohibitive, $O(1 \text{ MCHF/m}^2)$

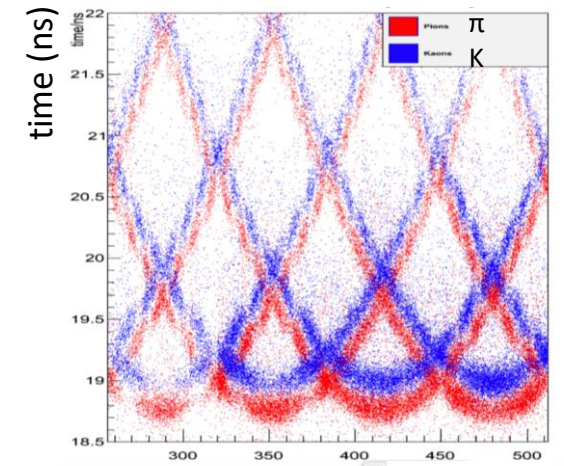
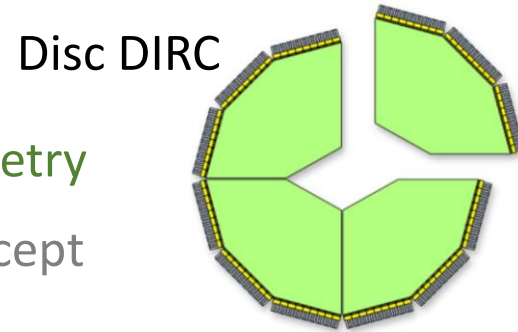
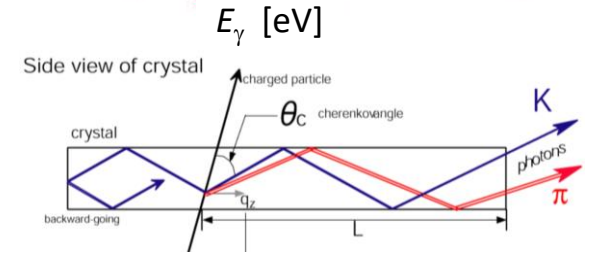
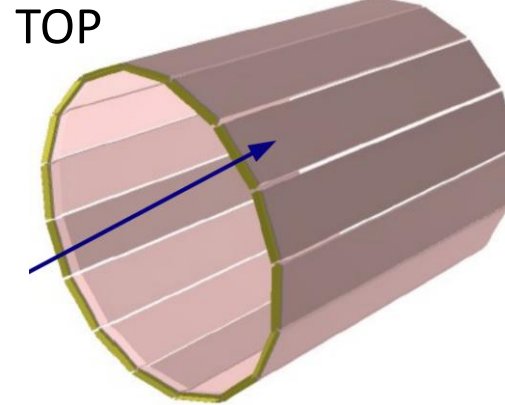
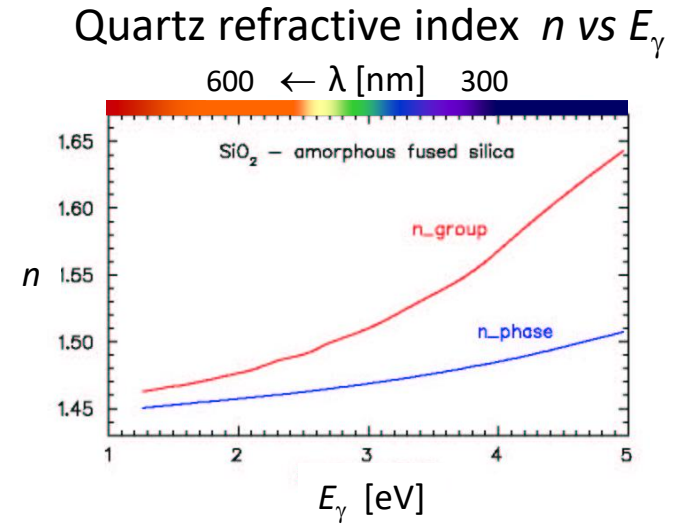
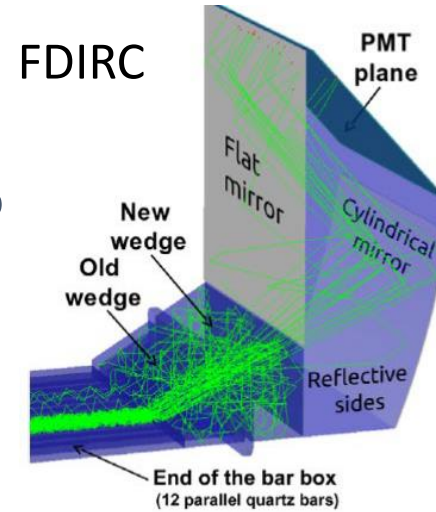


V. Fischer, Lake Louise 2019



DIRC evolution

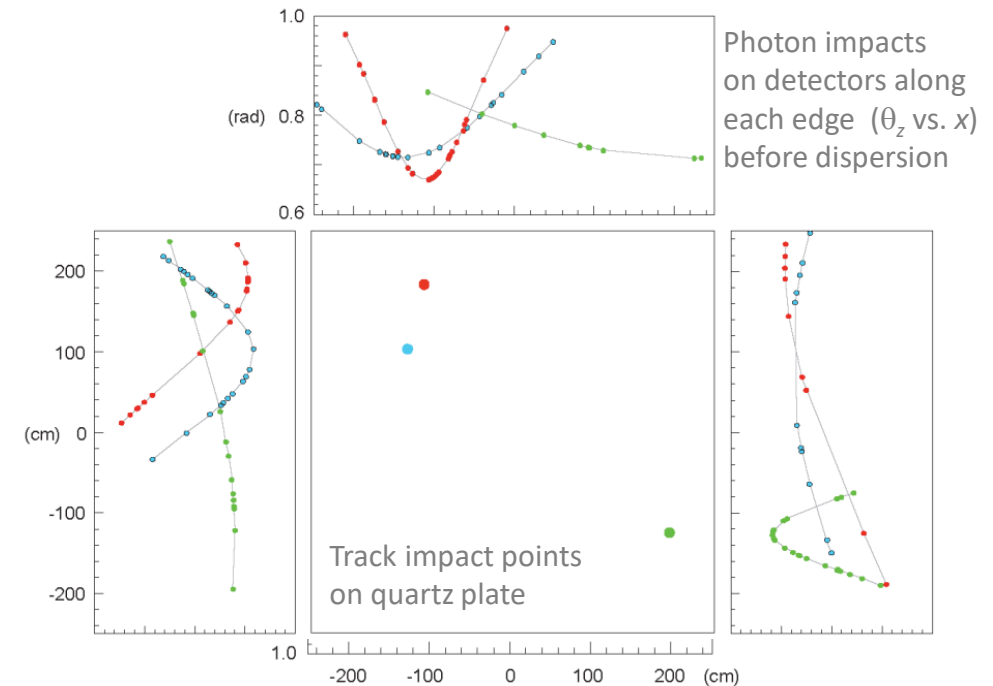
- To avoid tiling the full area, propagate the photons to photodetectors located at the *edge* using total-internal reflection in highly-polished quartz radiator [see previous talk, J. Schwiening]
- Issue to be handled: *chromatic dispersion* of the material—trade-off between photon bandwidth to increase yield, vs resolution
- From $E_\gamma = 2-4\text{ eV}$, refractive index changes $\Delta n = 7\%$
Over 1m propagation \rightarrow time difference = 300 ps
- FDIRC**: demonstrated use of photon timing to improve the Θ_c resolution, adapting BaBar DIRC
- TOP**: time-of-propagation detector of Belle II timing vs position enhances K- π separation
- Disc DIRC** (PANDA): move from bars to planar geometry
- These elements all brought together for **TORCH** concept



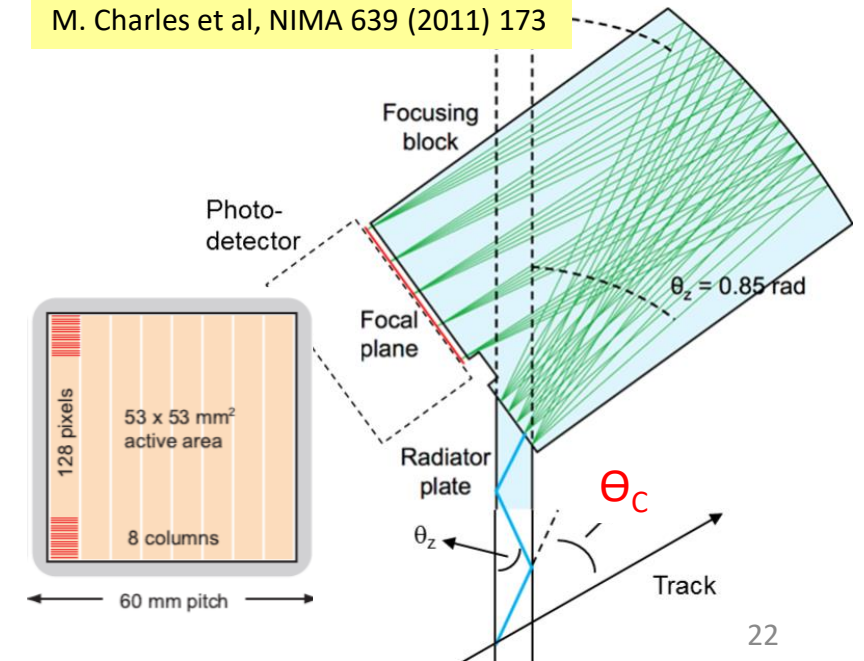
J. Fast, RICH 2016 position

TORCH concept

- **TORCH** (Timing Of internally Reflected CHerenkov light) uses polished 1-cm thick quartz plate as radiator ($\sim 10\% X_0$) Measure precisely arrival time and position of individual photons, and combine to measure track arrival time
 - Requires ~ 1 mrad precision on angle of photon, so that path length in radiator can be reconstructed: focused with a cylindrical lens onto fine-granularity pixellised detector
 - *Key innovation*: measured Cherenkov angle used to correct dispersion: $n = 1/\beta \cos \Theta_c \rightarrow$ effectively determine *wavelength* for each photon i.e. Cherenkov angle is used to correct timing (*cf* DIRC, where timing is used to correct the Cherenkov angle)
 - Resolution on photon arrival time has contributions from pixel size and photodetector (intrinsic + electronics)—target to keep each ~ 50 ps, giving overall resolution **70 ps** per photon
- On average 30 photons detect per track through radiator
 \rightarrow per-track resolution of **10-15 ps** — *if independent*
 some uncertainties (e.g. from track) common between p.e.

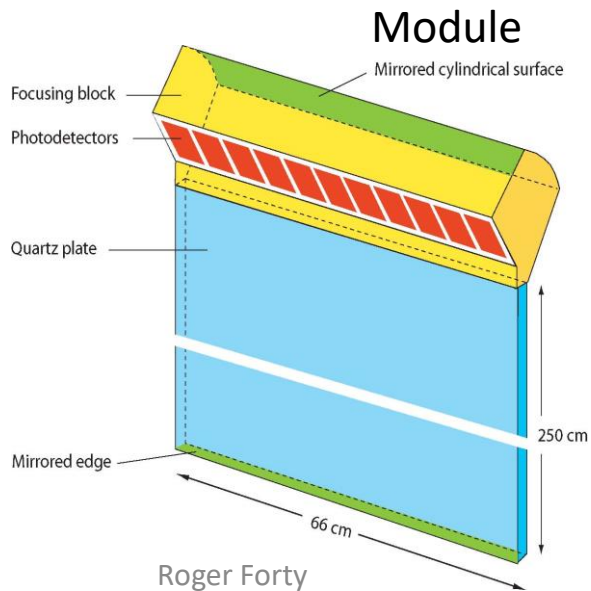
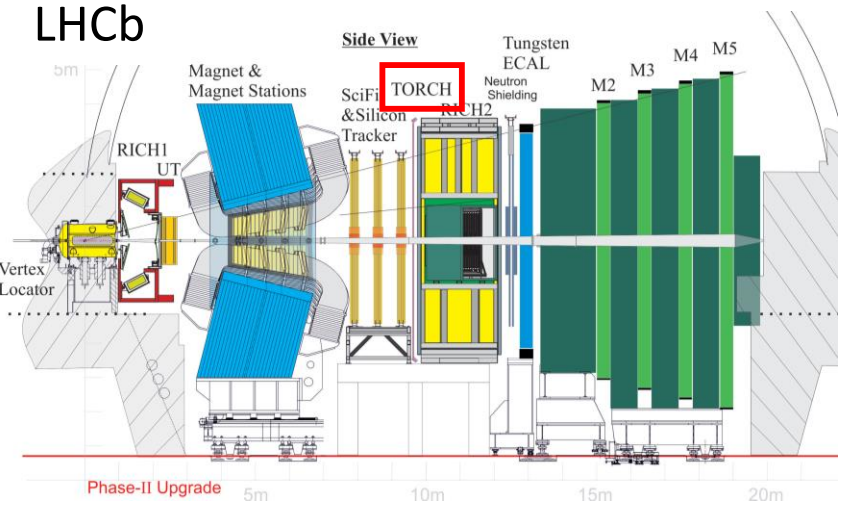


M. Charles et al, NIMA 639 (2011) 173

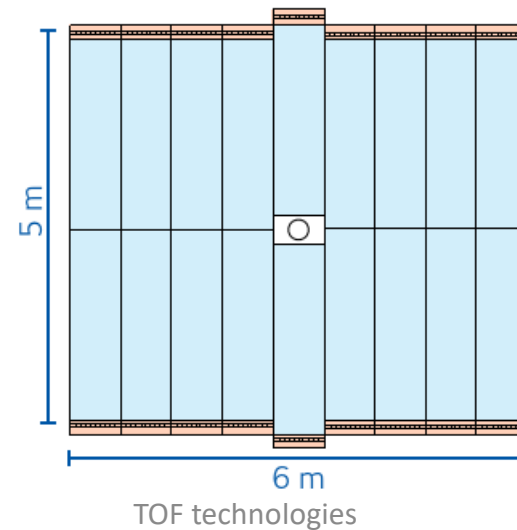
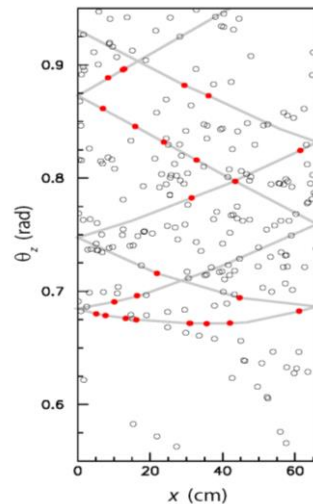


TORCH in LHCb

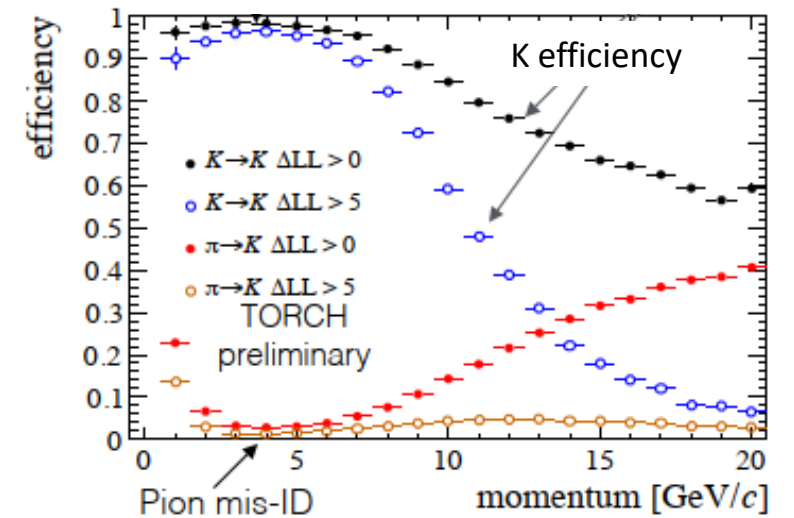
- Proposed for upgrade of LHCb in ~2027 for HL-LHC (Upgrade 2) → needs to handle luminosity $\sim 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
- Location after tracker, before RICH2 which will be upgraded at same time [see talk of C. D'Ambrosio] → flight path 10 m, area 30 m²
- Practicalities:* subdivide into identical modules, reflection off sides to reach photodetectors at top/bottom edge
- Performance (full simulation): clean K- π separation up to **10 GeV** as required



Effect of modules: signal folded



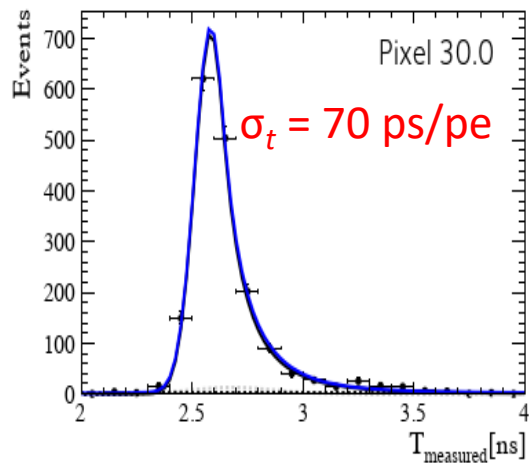
Full LHCb simulation (GEANT4-based)



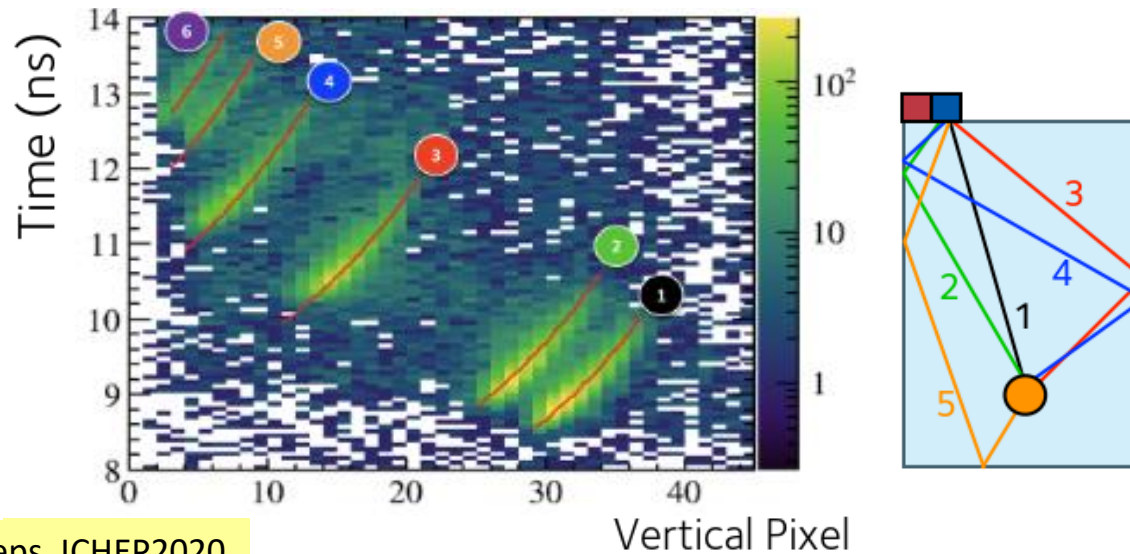
TORCH development

- TORCH concept has been tested using \approx full-size prototype
- Instrumented with two 512-channel MCP-PMT photodetectors
Campaign of measurements with low-momentum π/p beam from SPS
→ Target of 70 ps timing resolution per detected photon achieved
- *Next step*: confirm that combination gives expected $\sqrt{N_{pe}}$ behaviour
→ prototype will be fully instrumented with MCP-PMTs for further tests

Project along time axis

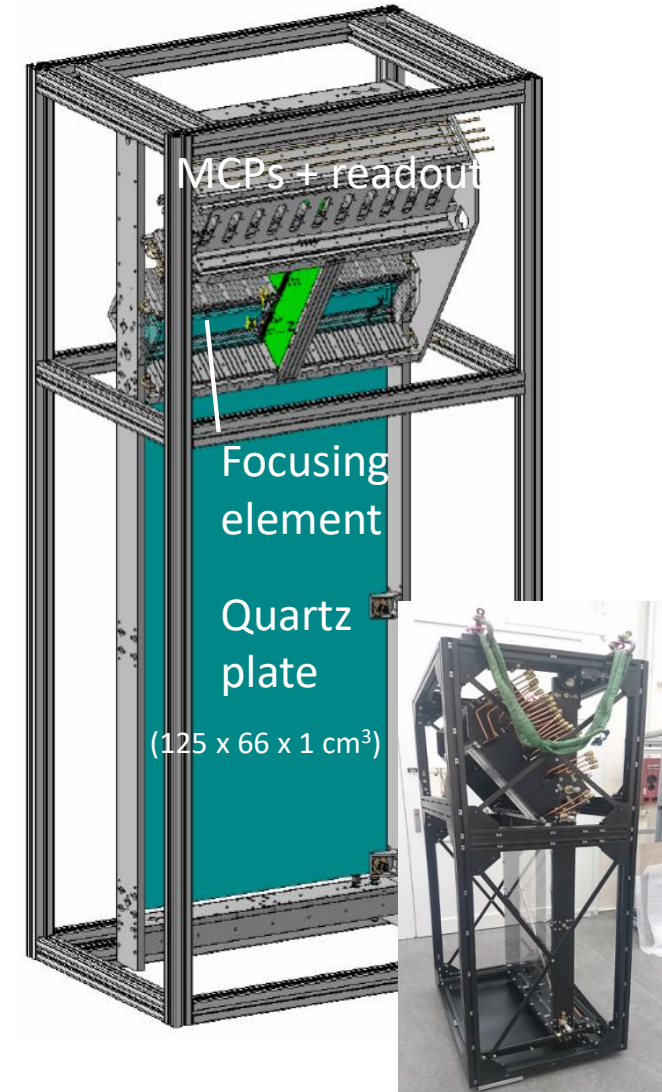


Time vs position (for one MCP column)



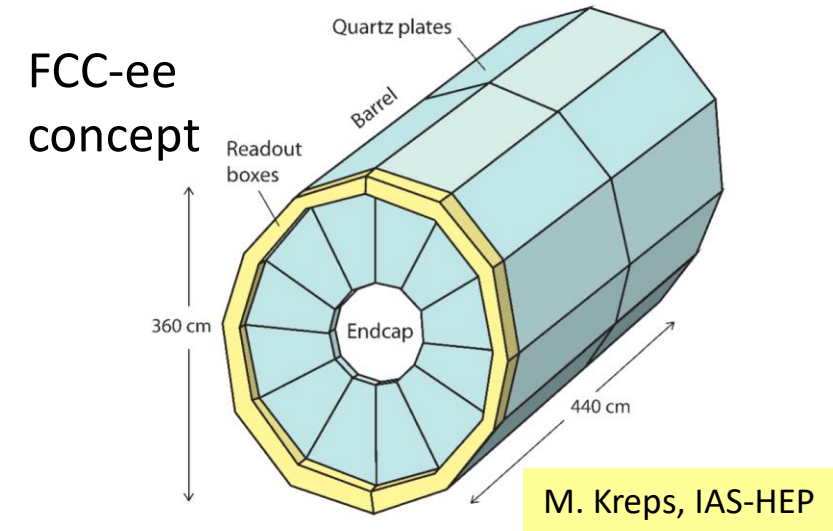
M. Kreps, ICHEP2020

TORCH prototype

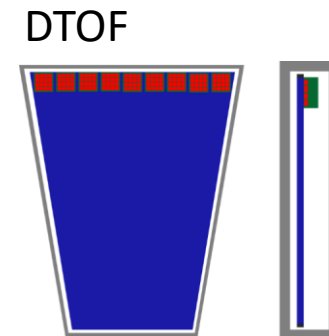
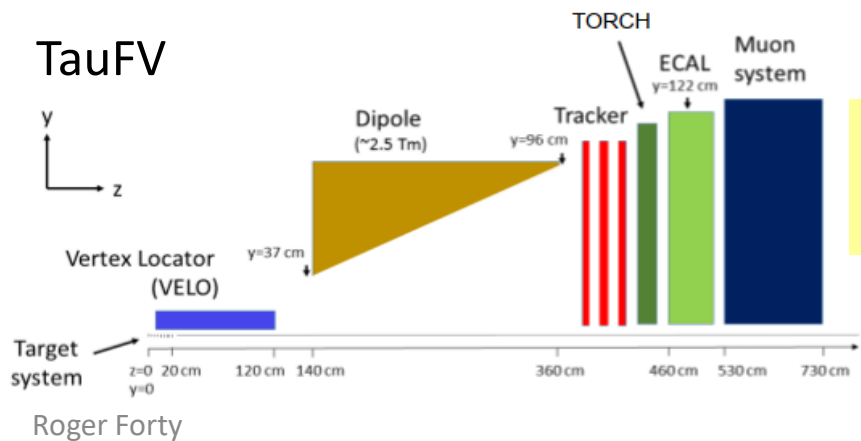
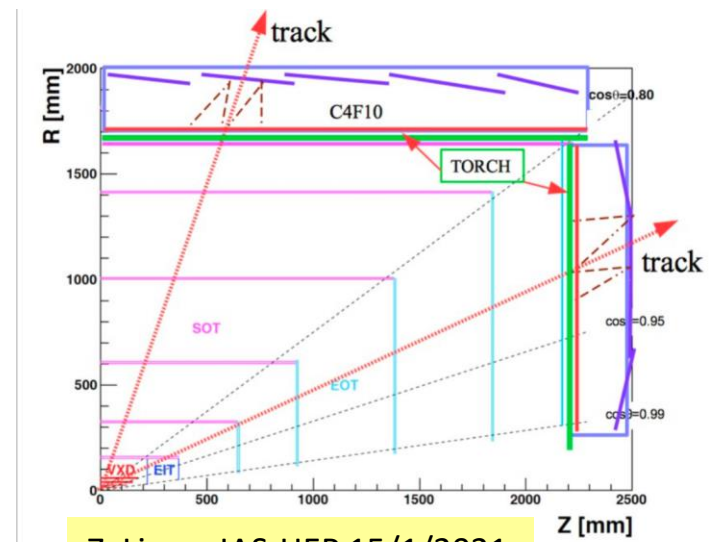


Cherenkov-based TOF prospects

- **Forward TOF** of ATLAS is being upgraded for the next run
- **TORCH** features in Framework-TDR for LHCb upgrade [→ LHCC, 9/2021]
- Interest for e^+e^- Higgs factory designs—the circular ones at least perhaps due to their phenomenal $Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ statistics
Conceptual layout for use of TORCH in an **FCC-ee** experiment:
Flight distance < LHCb → TOF lower, but TOP increases (they add)
- Also for future fixed-target/beam-dump experiment proposals:
e.g. **TauFV**: search for LFV $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ in beam dump at the SPS
- *Related concept*: **DTOF** at Super Tau Charm facility [B. Qi et al, arXiv:2104.05297]
similar to FTOF detector proposed for SuperB [N. Arnaud et al, NIMA 718 (2013) 557]



Study of PID detectors for CEPC



TOF technologies

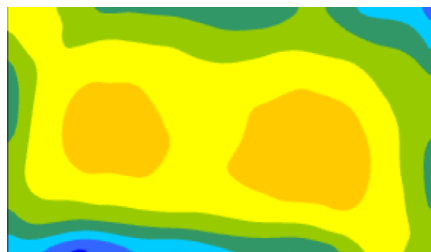
General considerations

- End with discussion of some more general aspects relevant to different technologies, where R&D is in progress/needed

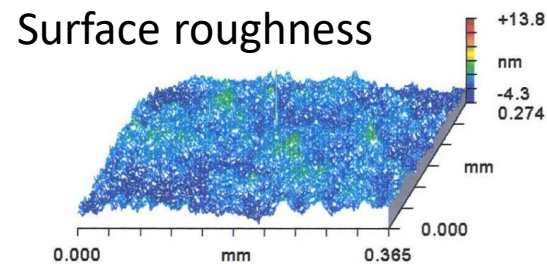
Focus on issues relevant to *this* task force, illustrated with examples from work on TORCH that I know best

Radiator/detector material [see talks of I. Idachi, J. Schwiening]

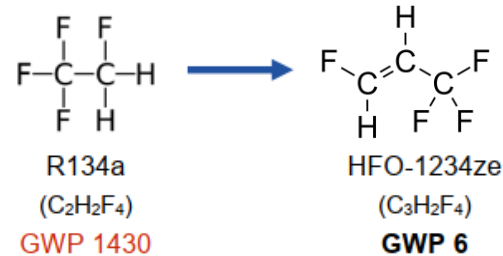
- *Quartz*: needs high clarity, radiation tolerance, surface quality, polishing to sub-nm surface roughness—currently a cost driver



Surface flatness over TORCH plate (1 μm contours)



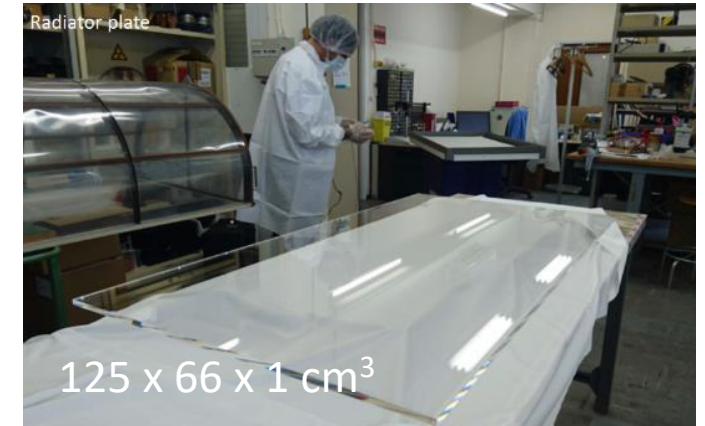
Surface roughness



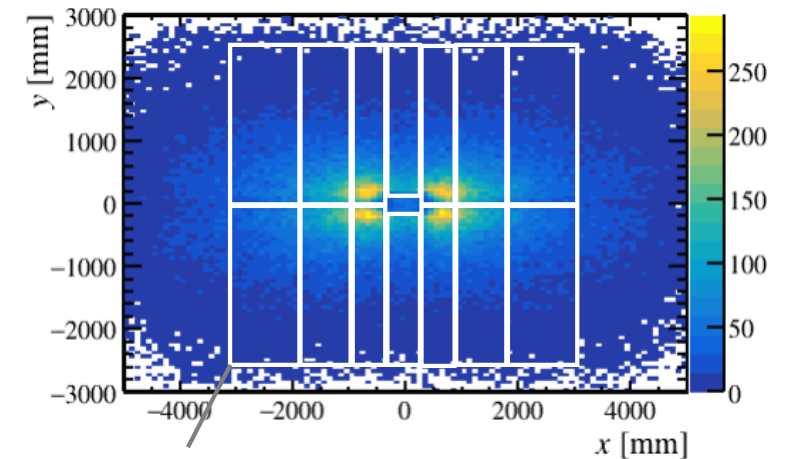
TOF technologies

B. Mandelli, TF1

Radiator plate of TORCH prototype



Track distribution at TORCH in LHCb



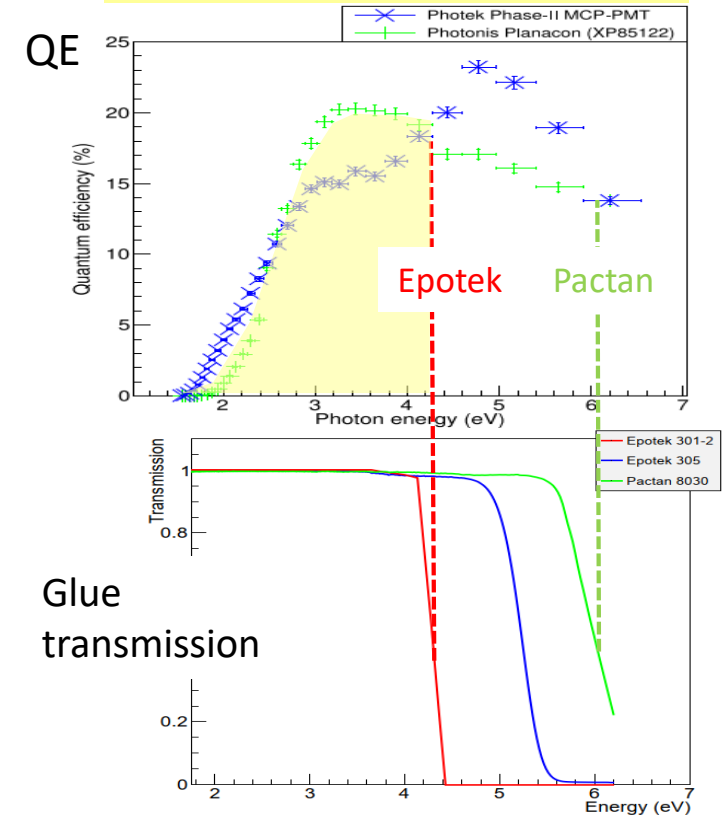
Possible adapted module layout

- Larger area plates: would allow module size to be adapted to track occupancy in LHCb
- *RPC gas systems*: [see TF1] target leak free + gases with reduced environmental impact:

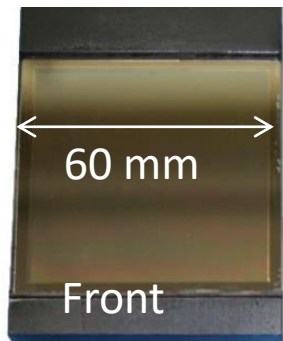
Sensors

- For silicon see TF3, for scintillator see TF5+6; fast **photodetectors**: MCP-PMT and SiPM [see talks of K. Inami, S. Korpar, Y. Musienko]
- For **MCP**: push towards finer granularity, lifetime, rate capability, etc. **Connectivity**: e.g. using anisotropic conductive foil (ACF)
Fast + longer lifetime MCPs relevant for future high-intensity kaon experiments
- For **SiPM**: naturally fine granularity, but developments to improve active-area, radiation tolerance, noise, adjust spectral sensitivity
- Increasing quantum efficiency increases photon yield (+ occupancy)
Cherenkov spectrum \sim flat with photon energy \rightarrow extending toward UV can increase yield, but requires control of full optical system

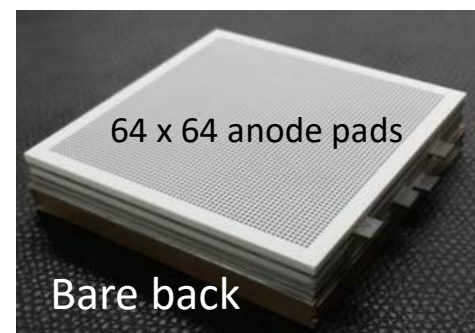
M. van Dijk, CERN-THESIS-2016-039



TORCH MCP-PMT (developed with Photek)

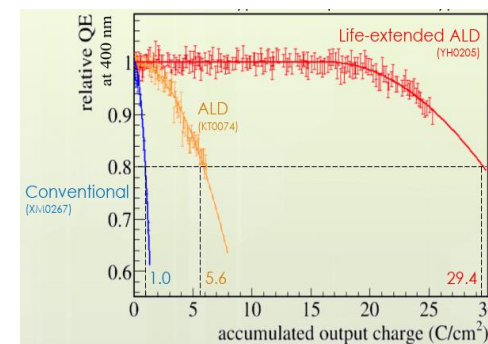


Roger Forty

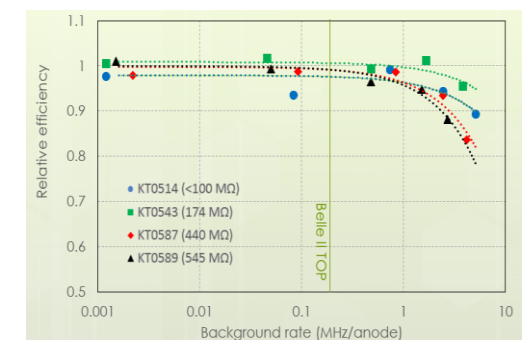


TOF technologies

Lifetime (Belle II MCPs)



Rate capability

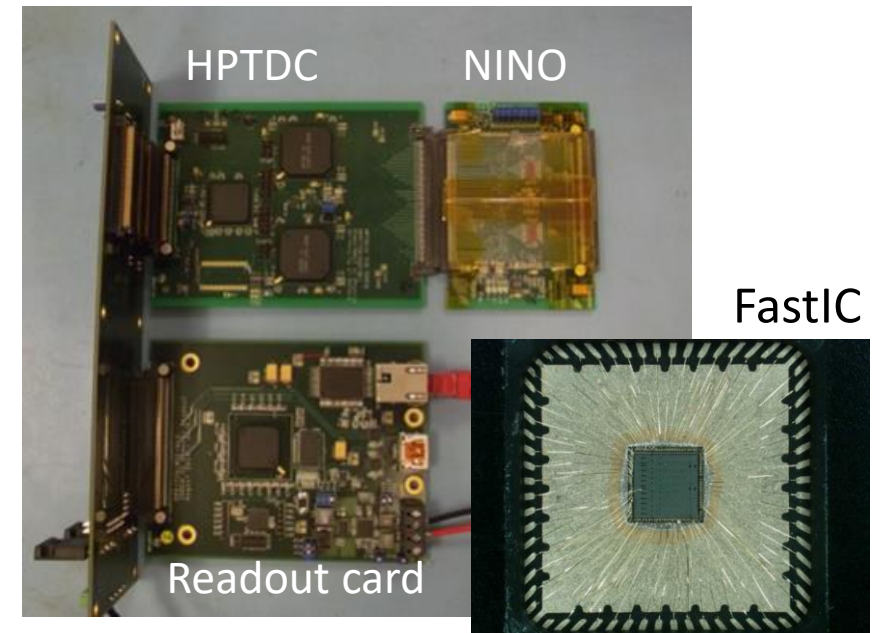
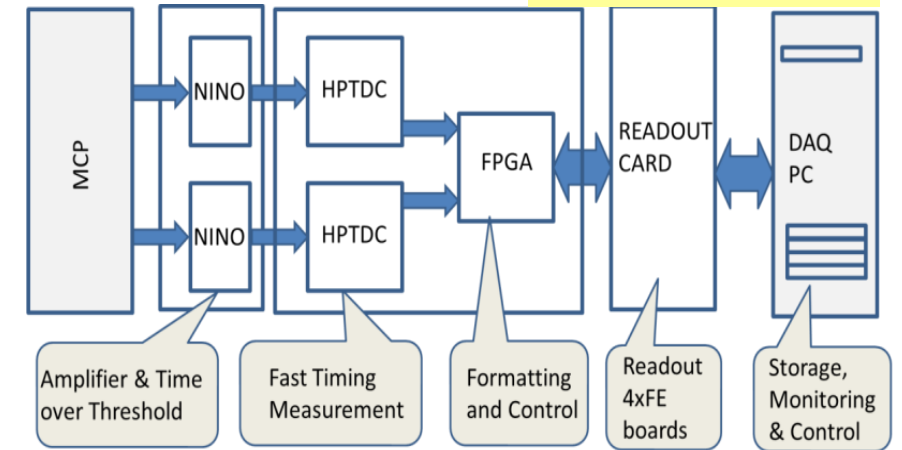


Readout electronics [see TF7]

- **NINO + HPTDC** chipset developed in 2004 (0.25 μm CMOS) for ALICE TOF, and now widely used—also for single p.e. although intended for the larger charge of MRPC signals
TDC: 32 channels for 100 ps bins, or 8 ch for 25 ps bins
 - **FastIC + PicoTDC** successors recently developed (65 nm)
[R. Ballabriga, J. Christiansen et al, [Users meeting](#)] —many potential clients
FastIC addresses NINO limitations (non-linearity of energy measurement, power consumption) suitable to operate with SiPM, PMT, MCP, i.e. a wide range of detector capacitances
PicoTDC has increased channels (64 ch), finer binning (12/3ps)
 - ASICs for LHC timing layers (130 nm): HGTD front-end **ALTIROC**
MTD-BTL uses **TOFHIR** ASIC developed from TOFPET
MTD-ETL uses **ETROC**; baseline for distributing the clock is to use DAQ links (**IpGBT**, 65 nm)
- CMS developing a backup distribution system: pure clock link
Requires development of a rad-hard fan-out ASIC and board
and deployment of ~ 2000 additional fibres

TORCH readout

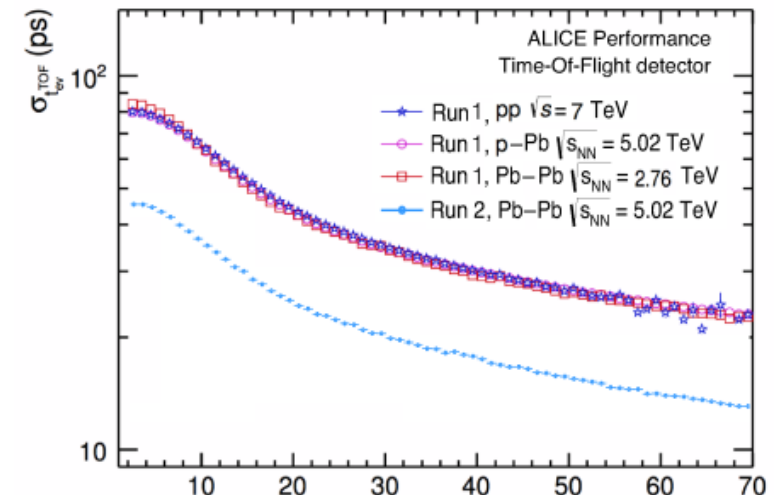
R. Gao, TWEPP 2016



Start time

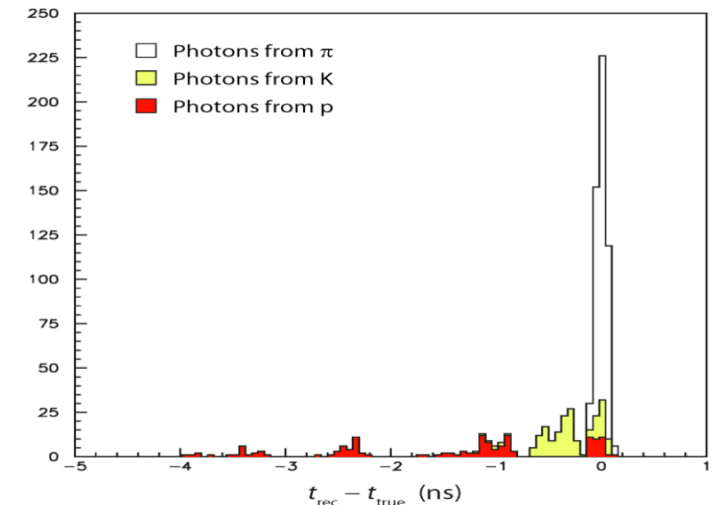
- To determine the time-of-flight a start time (t_0) is required
- This may be achieved using timing information from the accelerator, but if bunches are long (~ 20 cm at the LHC)
→ have to correct for vertex position
- Can use a dedicated detector, e.g. the **T0** detector of ALICE and those shown earlier from HADES and EMPHATIC or e.g. a vertex detector (if equipped for fast timing)
- Alternatively use other tracks in the event, from the primary vertex—as also done by ALICE, due to limited T0 acceptance
- Most PV tracks are pions, so for TORCH the reconstruction logic can be reversed, and the start time determined from average of tracks from primary vertex *assuming* they are π
Outliers from other particle types removed, iteratively
→ Should be able to achieve few-picosecond resolution on t_0 from the detector itself, using the *other* tracks in the event

Resolution on t_0 (ALICE TOF)



F. Carnesecchi, arXiv:1806.03825

Photons in TORCH from PV (single event)



Conclusions

- Development of TOF technologies is currently booming with general interest in **fast timing**
Provides a very compact particle ID detector, e.g. suitable for collider experiments
 - Well-established technologies: **scintillator** hodoscopes and **MRPCs** with resolution $O(100 \text{ ps})$
good for covering low momenta up to a few GeV, e.g. complementing dE/dx from trackers
 - Fast-timing detectors developed for the LHC upgrades: fast scintillators and **LGAD** silicon
aim for **30-50 ps** resolution for pile-up suppression, will also provide TOF particle ID as a bonus
 - To achieve momentum coverage up to 10 GeV for K- π separation (to complement RICH coverage)
requires pushing beyond current state-of-the-art, towards **10 ps** resolution
 - Cherenkov radiators very suitable: **PICOSEC**, **LAPPD** and other approaches under development
 - **TORCH** achieves this by combining many photons per track, with modest individual resolution
 - Scintillators this fast (e.g. quantum R&D) would be breakthrough for **TOF-PET**: mm-resolution
 - Long-term goal to reach **picosecond-level** timing, could satisfy the *full* particle ID needs
 - Requires vigorous R&D on radiators, sensors, electronics
 - System aspects will become increasingly more important
- Fast timing should feature strongly in the R&D Roadmap + reserve some space for new ideas!