

High-granularity optical and hybrid readout of gaseous detectors: developments and perspectives

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on behalf of the CERN EP-DT-DD Gaseous Detector Development team

12th International Conference on Position Sensitive Detectors,
September 13, 2021

Content

Optical readout of MicroPattern Gaseous

- Concept, advantages and limitations
- Optically read out MPGD technologies

Beam monitoring and dose imaging with low material budget

Ultra-fast optical readout

- Fast CMOS imaging sensors
- Negative ion drift

Hybrid readout approaches

- Optical + electronic readout
- Pixellated readout ASICs
- SiPM readout

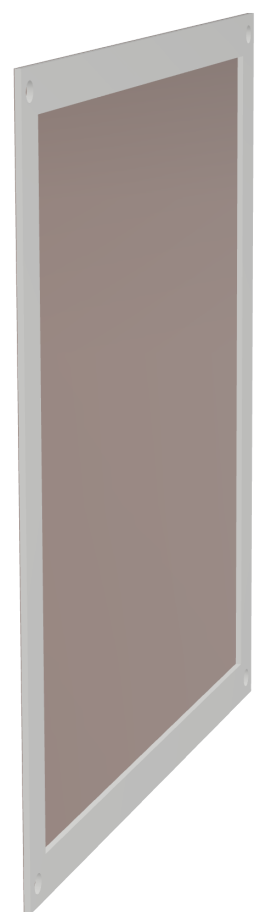
Optical readout

Image immediately available without need for reconstruction.

Two acquisition approaches:

- **Integrated imaging** collects all light within exposure time **without deadtime** with long exposure time
- **Event-by-event** recording with short exposure time for track reconstruction

Detector
(amplification and scintillation)



High gain MPGDs

Optics
(coupling)



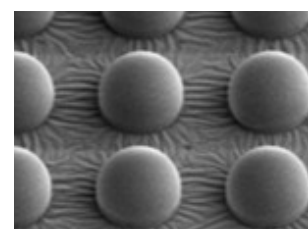
Lenses, mirrors,
intensifiers, (tapered) fibers, Microlenses



photonis.com



szphoton.com

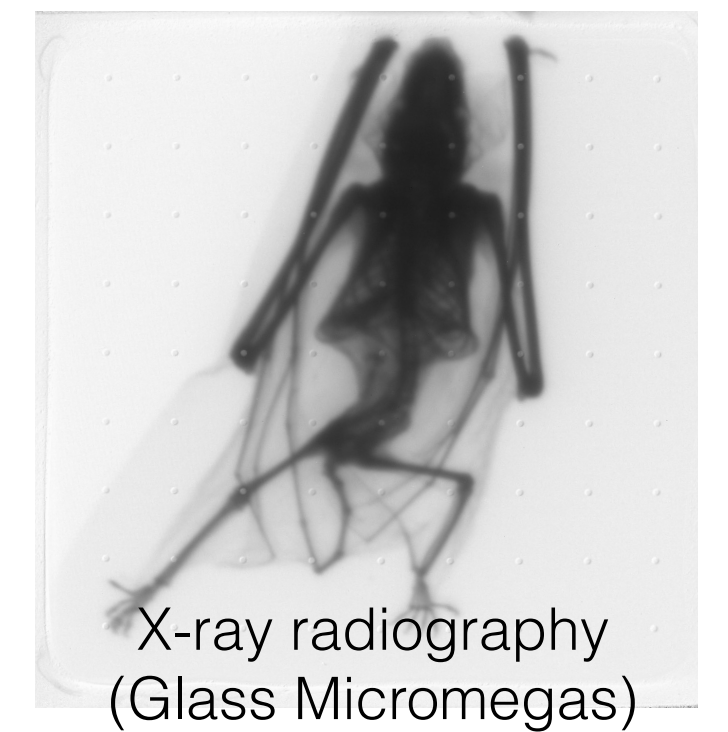


10.1016/j.apsusc.2018.01.253

Imaging sensor
(camera)

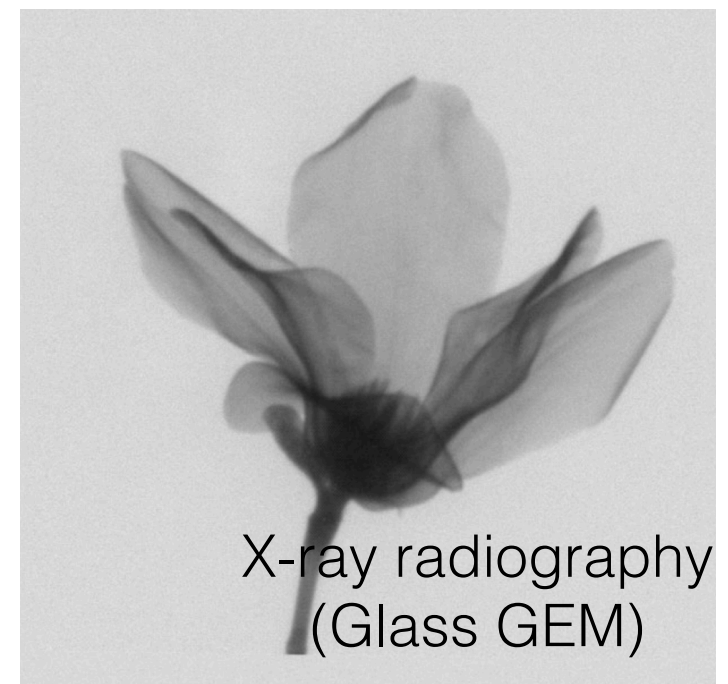


CCD, CMOS, ASICs



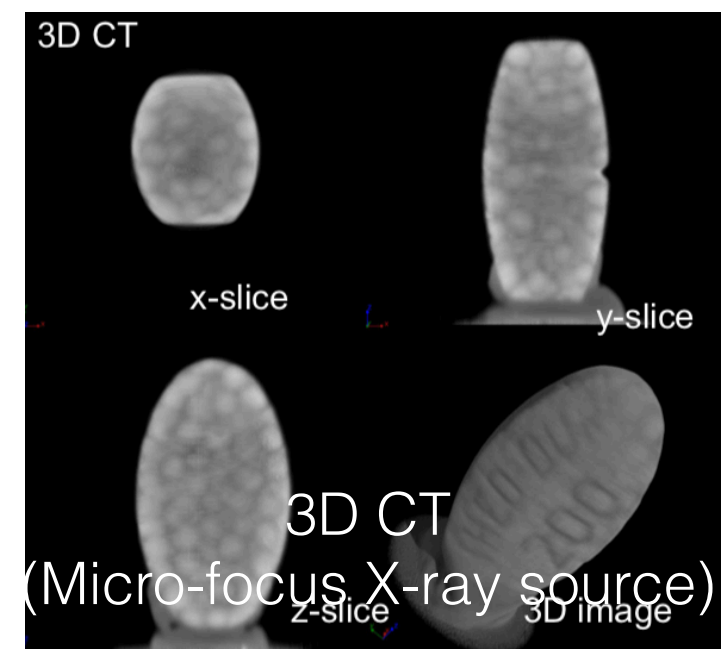
X-ray radiography
(Glass Micromegas)

F. Brunbauer et al., Radiation imaging with glass Micromegas, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2019.163320>

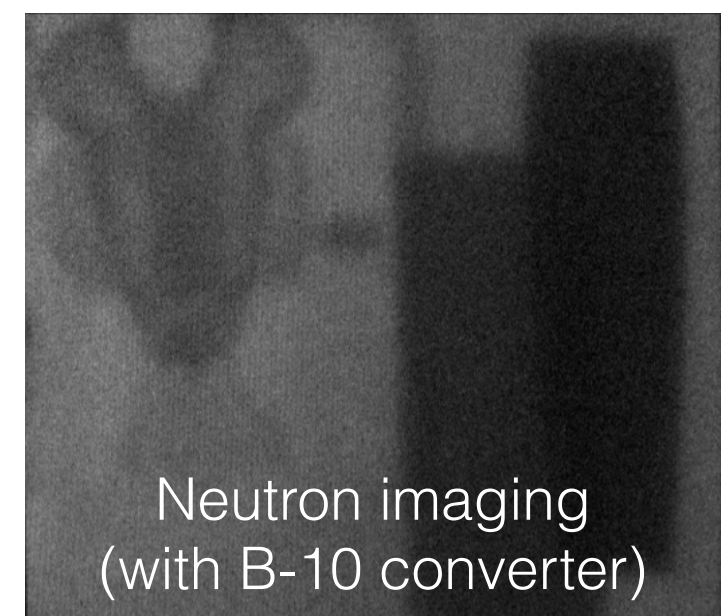


X-ray radiography
(Glass GEM)

T. Fujiwara, MPGD 2017, https://indico.cern.ch/event/581417/contributions/2556685/attachments/1464089/2262562/MPGD2017_fujiwara.pdf



3D CT
(Micro-focus X-ray source)



Neutron imaging
(with B-10 converter)

Optical readout

Integrated imaging approach

Intuitive pixelated readout with **megapixel imaging sensors**

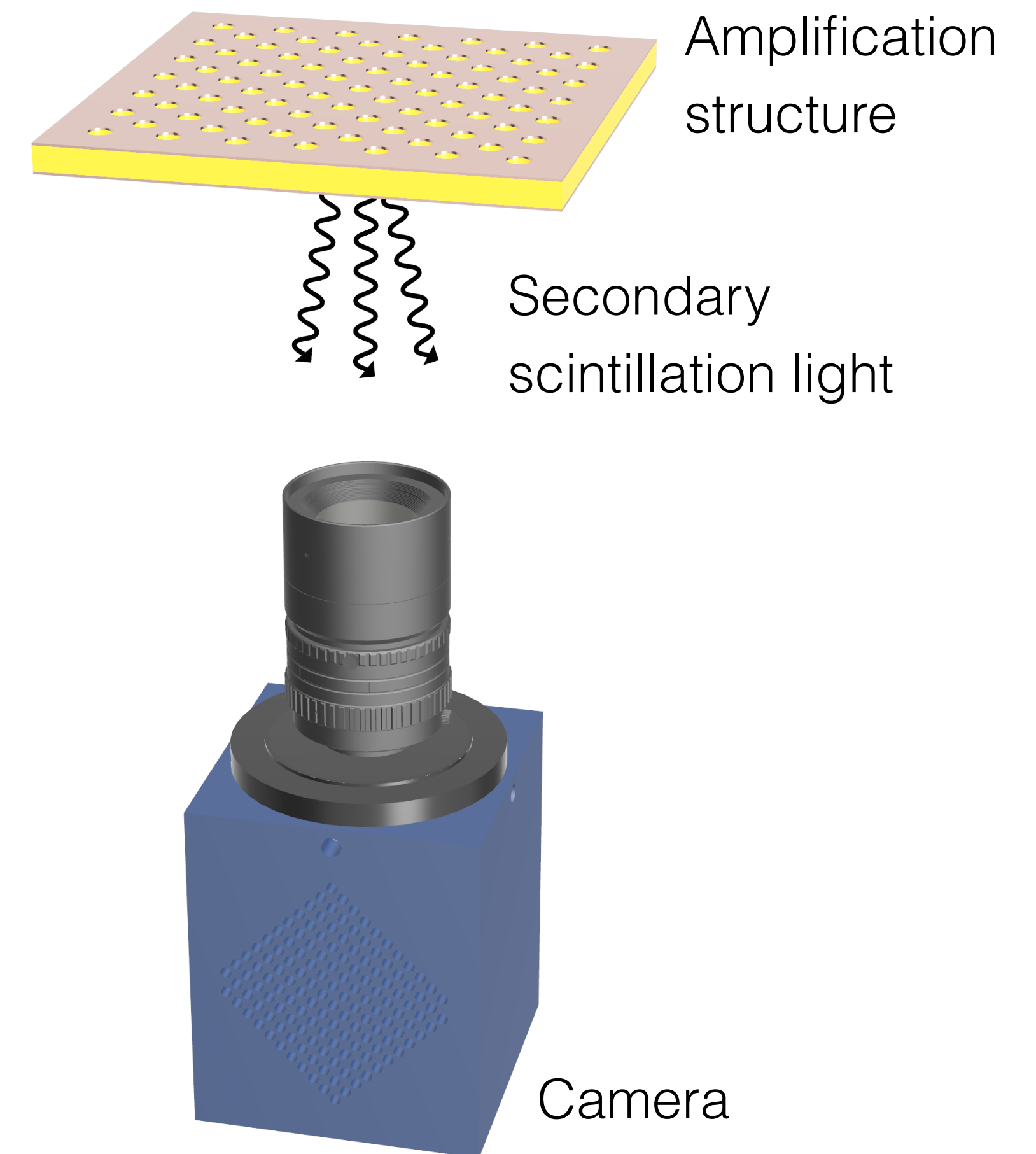
High spatial **resolution**

Lenses and mirrors to enable **adjustable magnification** and camera location

Frame rate

Radiation hardness of imaging sensors

Need of **CF₄**-based gas mixtures or wavelength shifters



Scintillation spectra

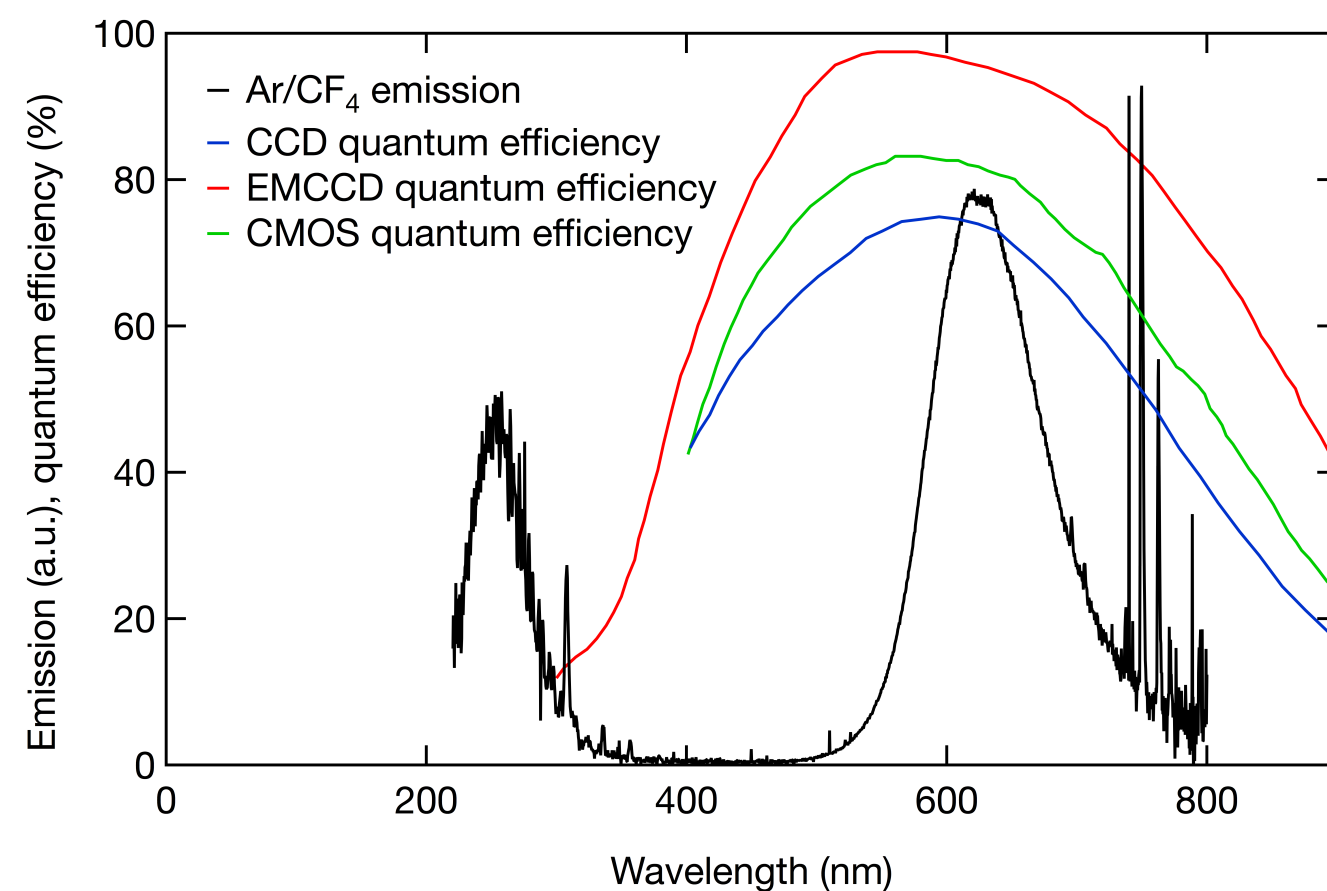
Reading out secondary scintillation light emitted during electron avalanche multiplication

Emission spectra and quantum efficiency of imaging sensors impose limits on choice of gases: **CF₄** or **wavelength shifting** to VIS.

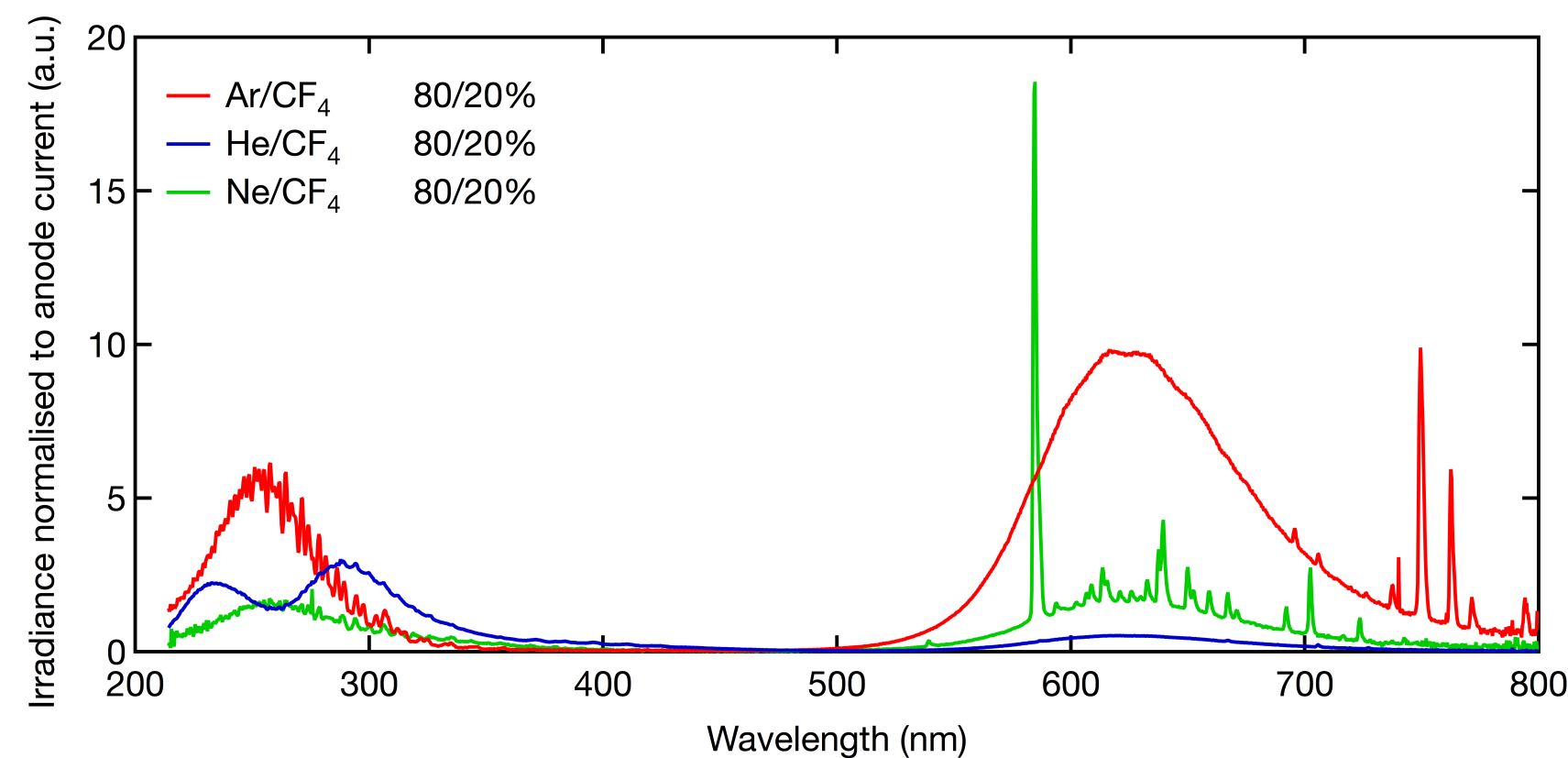
Alternative gases compatible with spectra sensitivity of imaging sensor?

Extension of **spectral sensitivity** to lower wavelengths for better performance in CF₄ based mixtures (UV band enhanced at low pressure) and alternative scintillating gases / wavelength shifters (TMA, TEA).

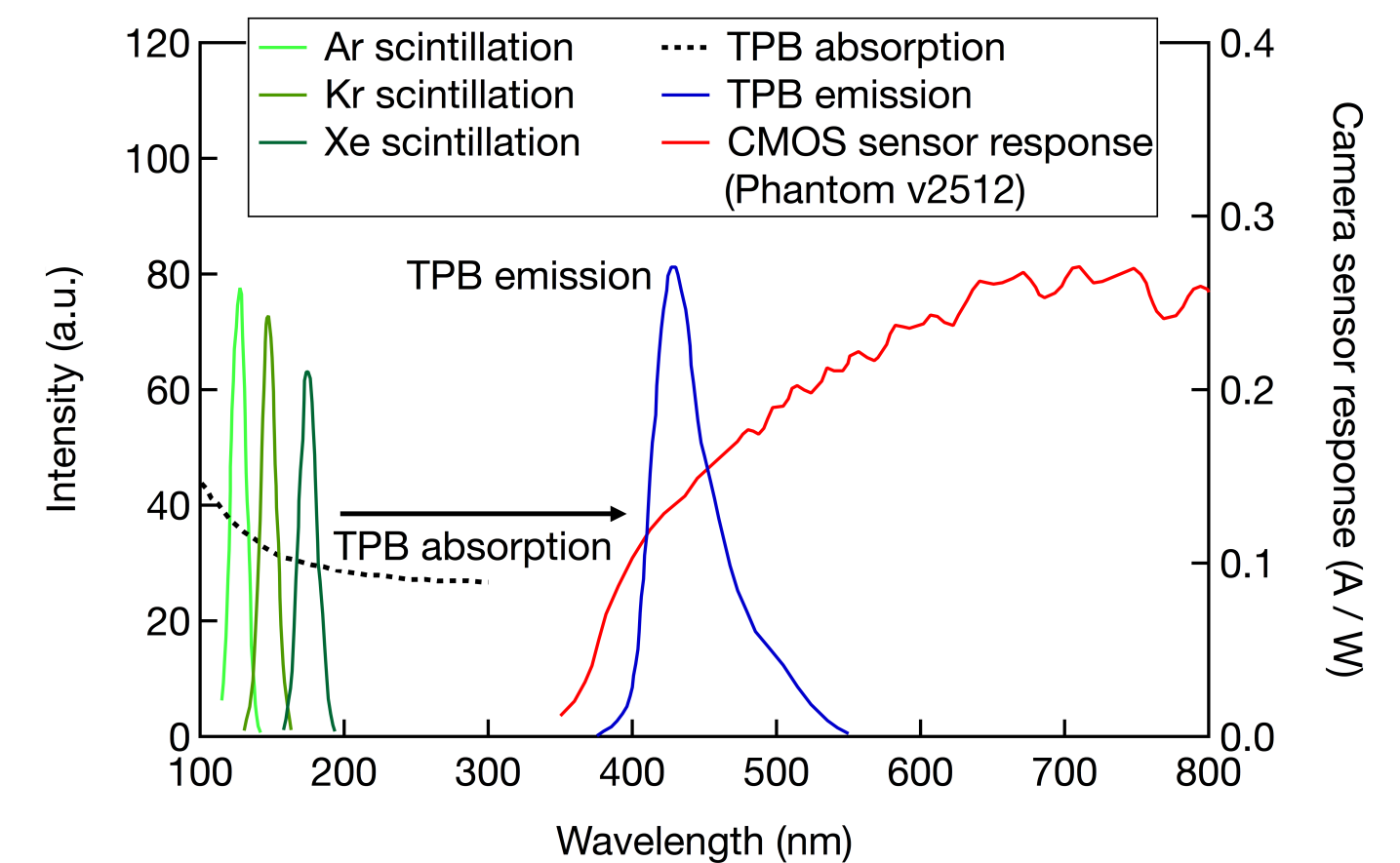
QE curves of cameras



Secondary scintillation spectra of mixtures with CF₄



Wavelength shifting



Optically read out MPGDs

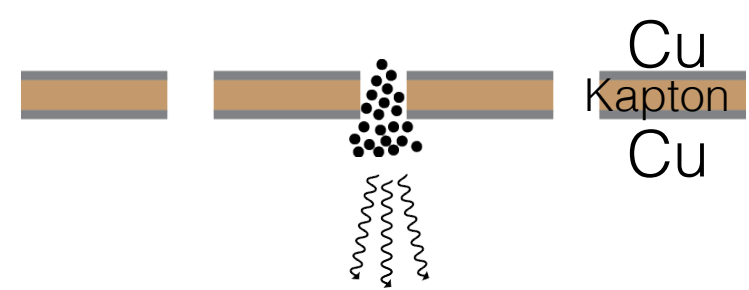
Different MPGD technologies have been used with optical readout for maximising spatial resolution (imaging), low pressure operation (glass GEM) and for detailed studies of detector physics.

Integration on transparent substrate (ITO-coated glass) for optical light transmission.

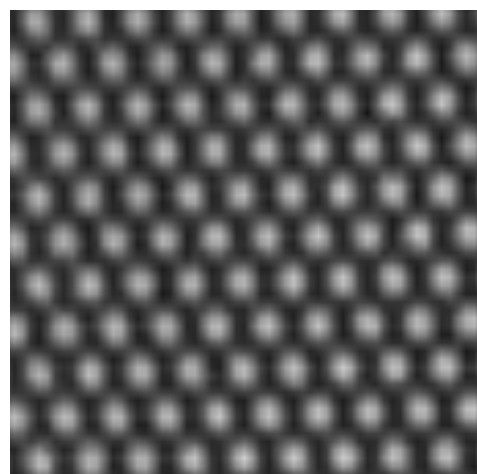
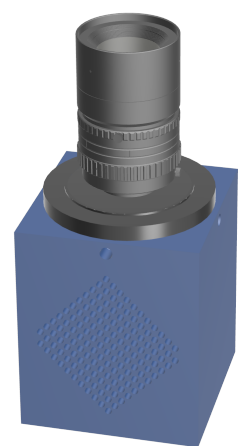
High gain (light yield) amplification **matched** with **pixel size** of imaging sensor

GEMs

Open structure inherently suited for optical readout
High gain in multi-GEM stacks

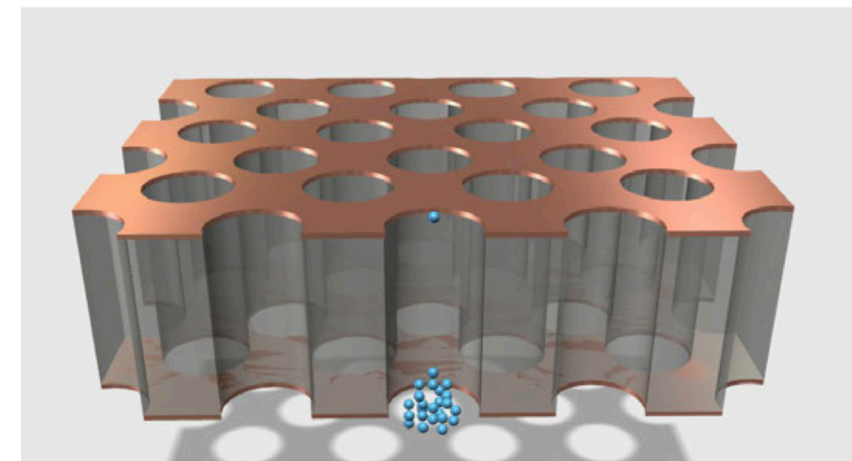


GEM holes
(140µm pitch)

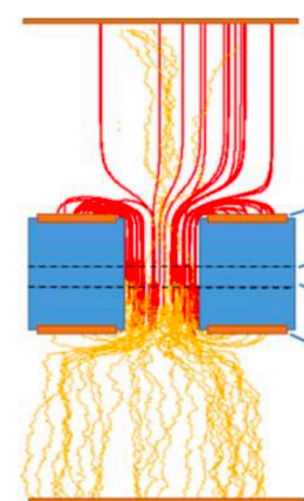


THGEMs

Long amplification region for e.g. low pressure operation
Variants: GlassGEM, MM, THGEM, ...



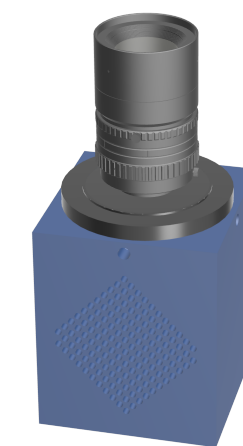
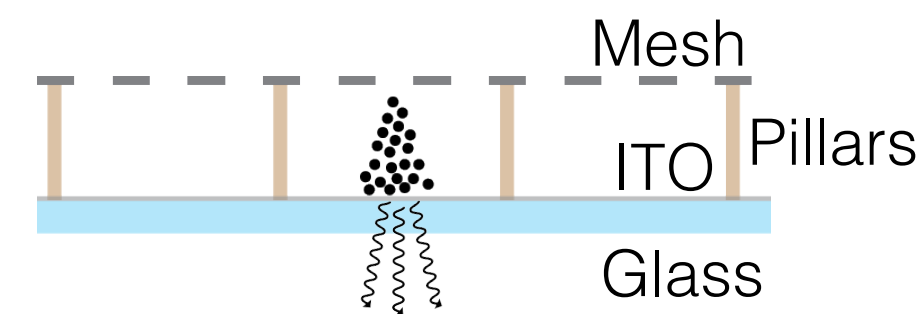
T. Fujiwara, MPGD2017



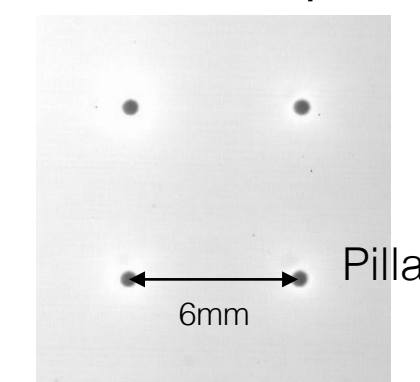
M. Cortesi, MPGD 2019

Glass Micromegas

High single stage gain, uniform amplification region and high energy resolution



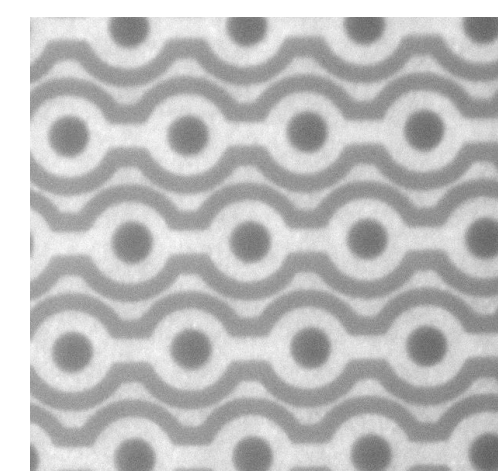
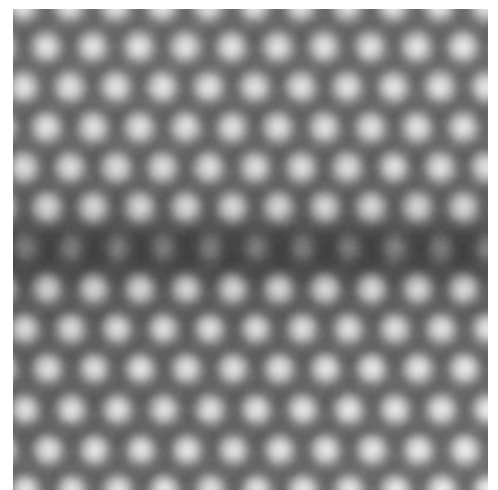
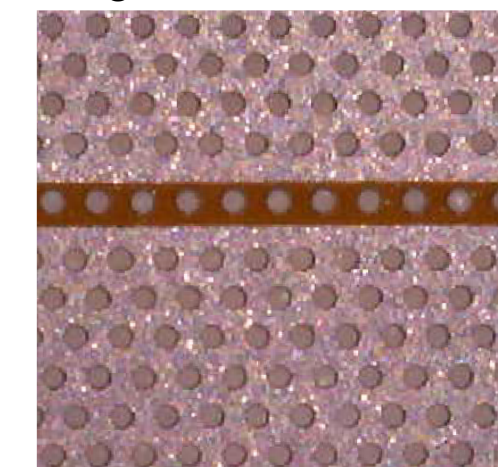
MM response



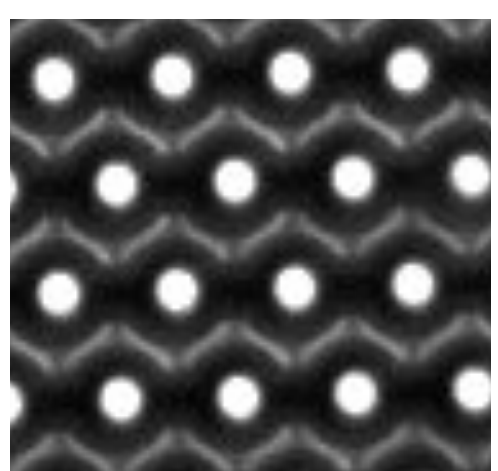
Glass substrates → other MPGDs

MPGD development and detector physics studies

Segmented GEM

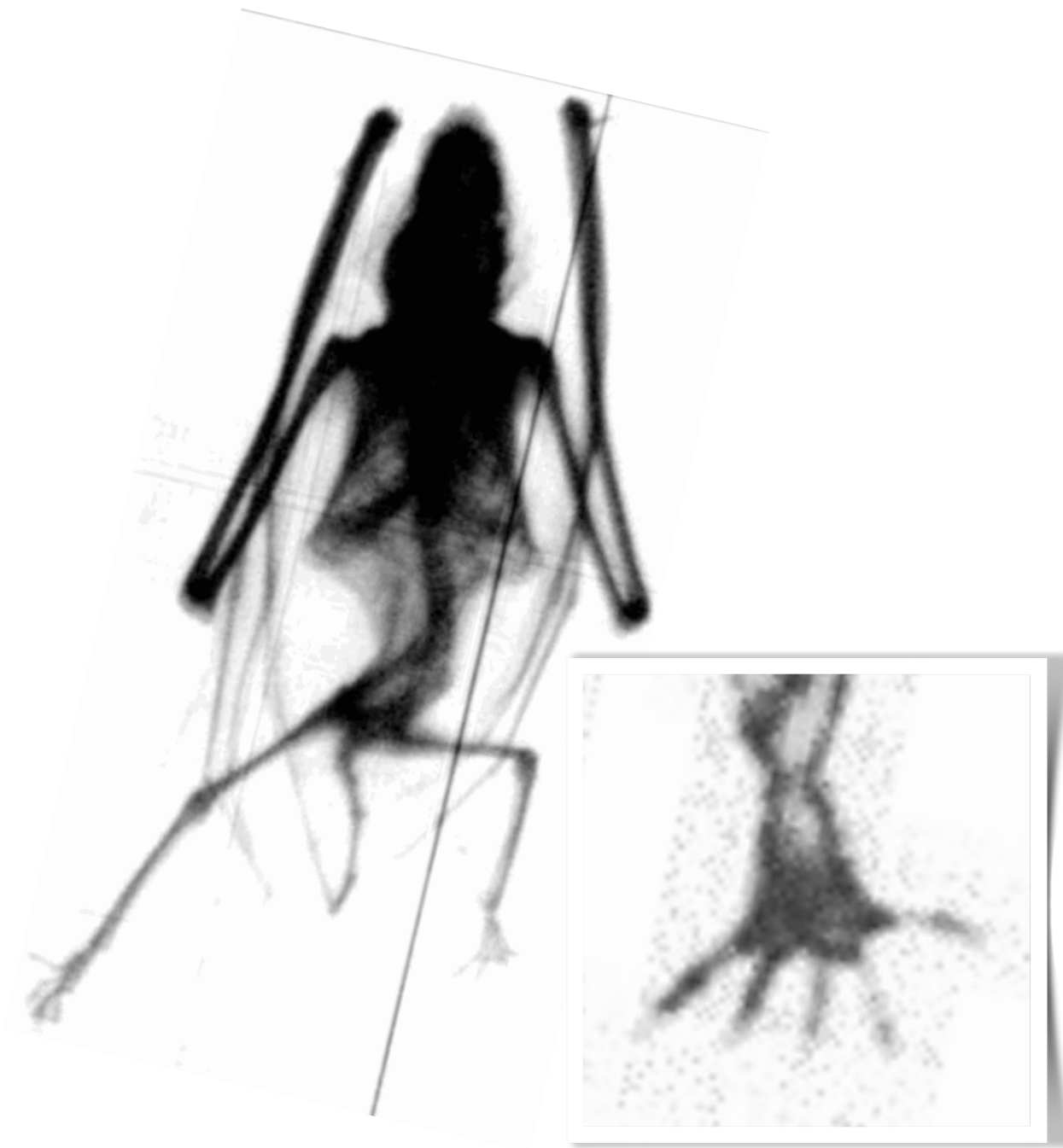


THCOBRA



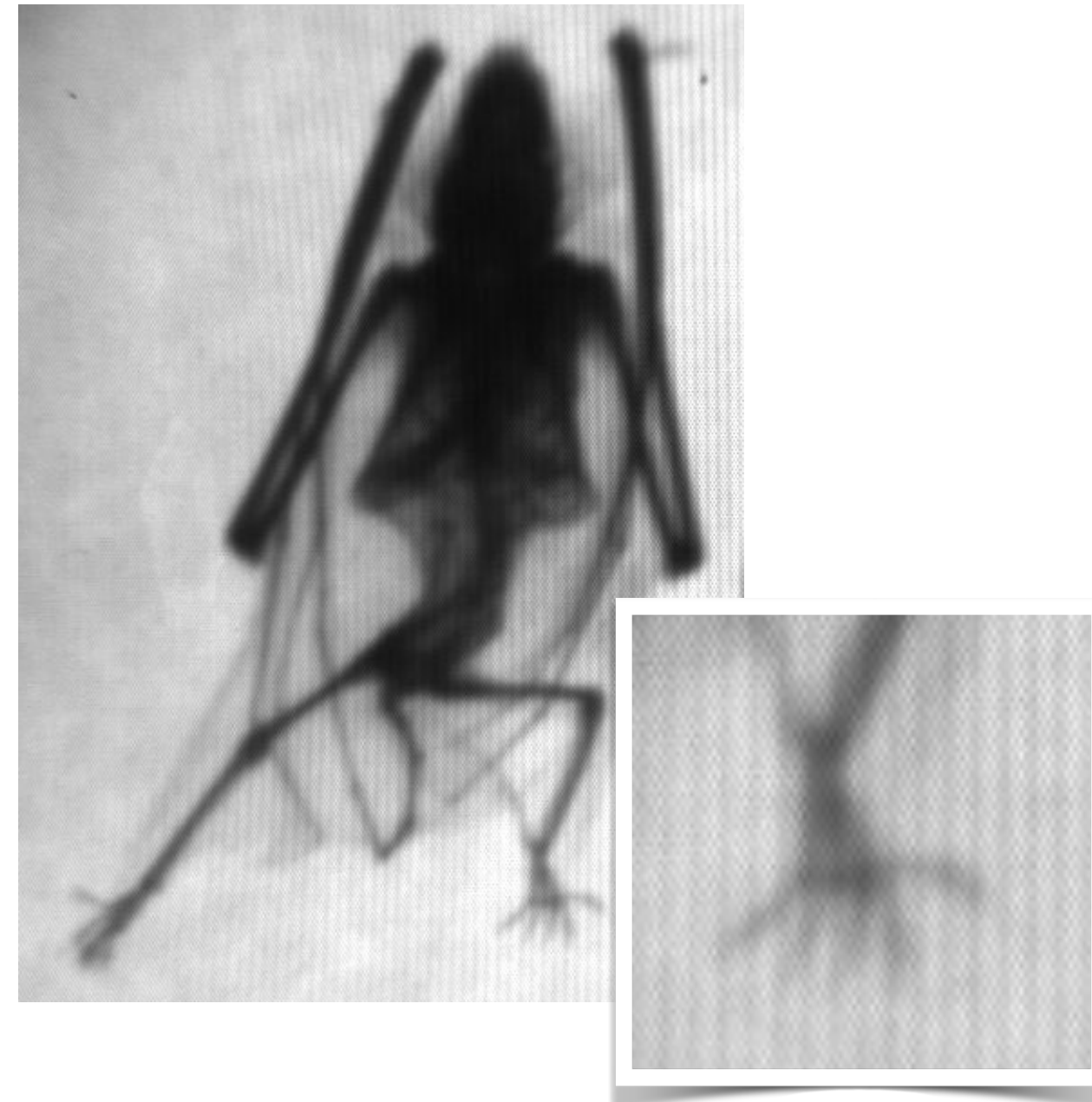
X-ray radiography comparison

Charge readout
(1998)



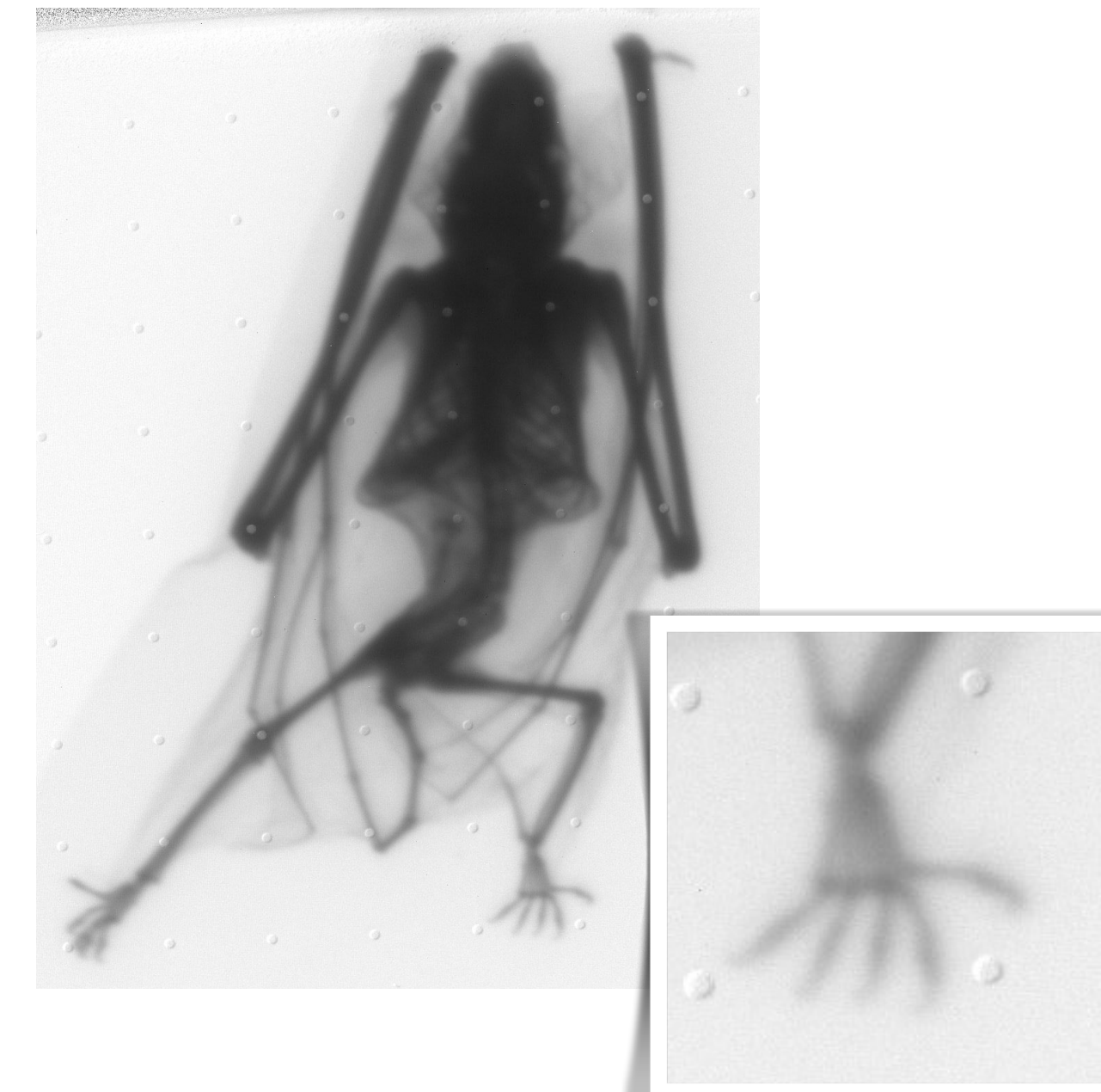
<https://gdd.web.cern.ch/GDD/gemreadout.htm>

Optically read out GEMs
(2016)



4x4 binning
thin drift gap triple-GEM

Optically read out MMs
(2018)



1x1 binning
long exposure, several mm active
volume thickness

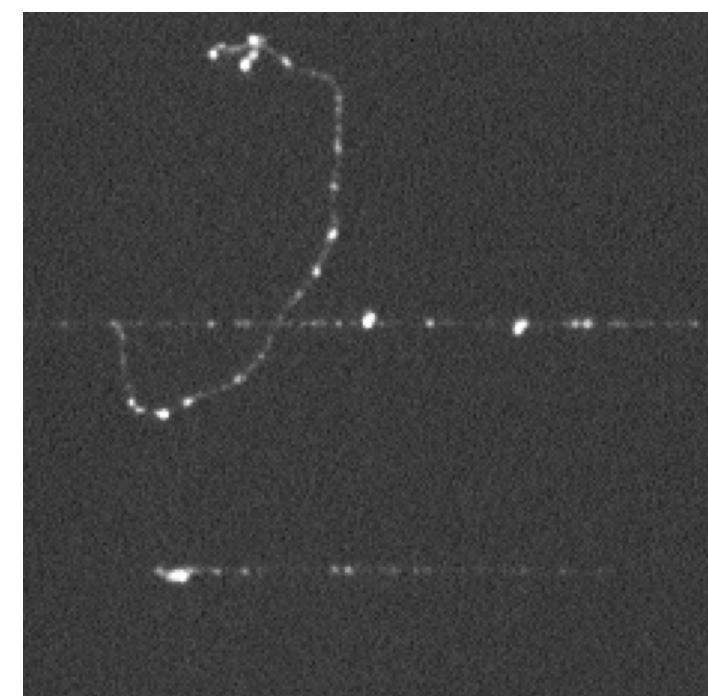
Gaseous radiation detectors optical readout at the Gaseous Detector Development lab at CERN



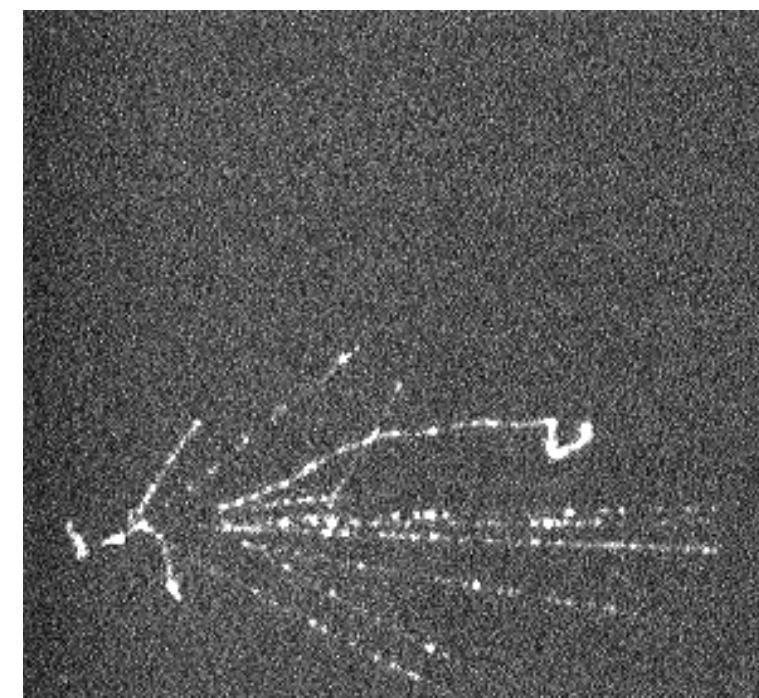
X-ray photons



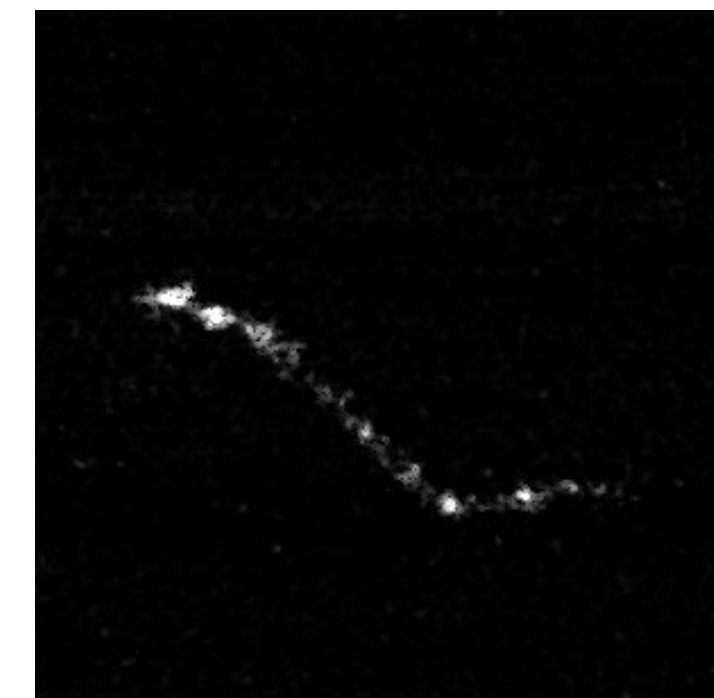
Alpha track



Muon tracks with δ -ray

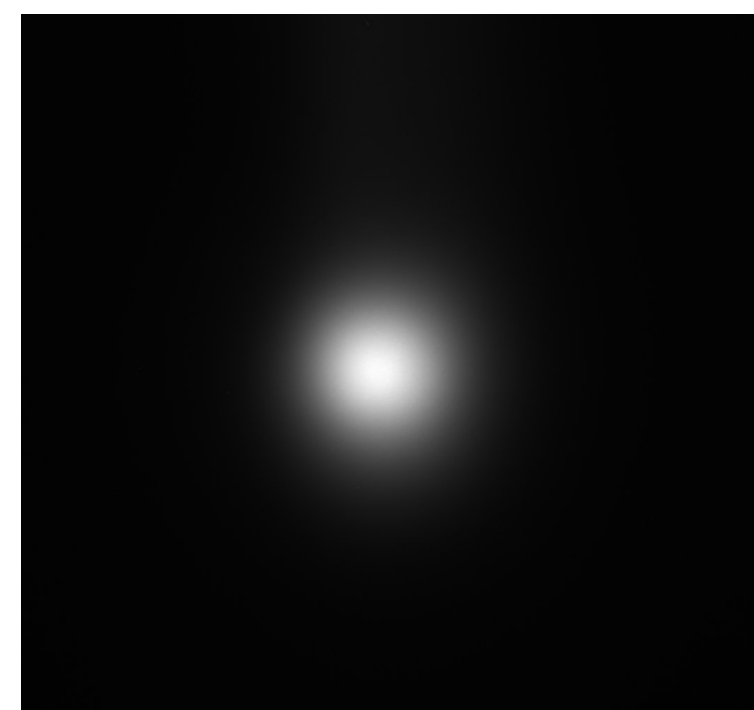


Hadronic shower

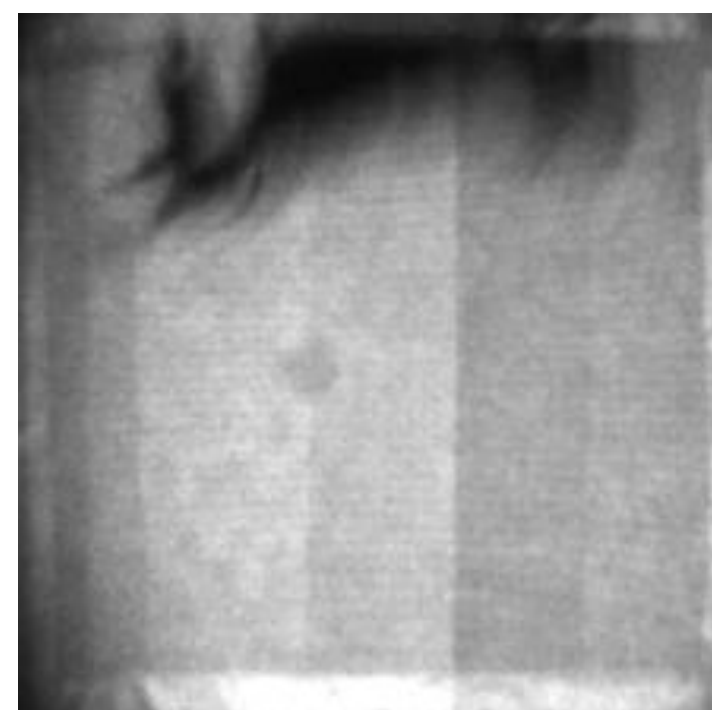


Cosmic event

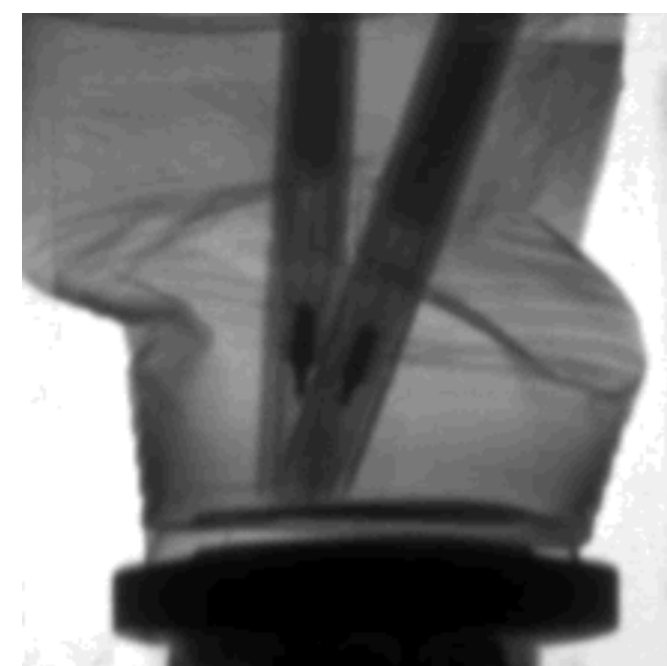
Detailed **track topology** visualisation for event classification



Proton beam profile



X-ray fluoroscopy

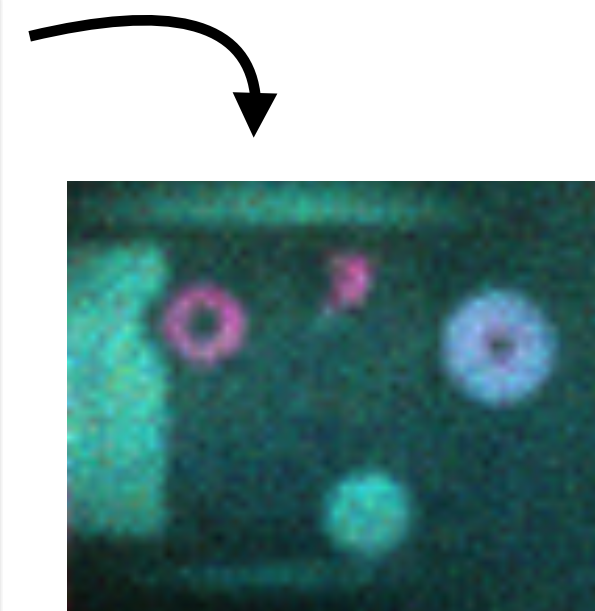


X-ray tomography

Brightness reflects deposited energy



X-ray fluorescence



Integrated imaging
compatible with high intensity
of incident radiation

Direct availability of integrated
image without need for
extensive reconstruction

Beam monitoring and dose imaging with optical readout

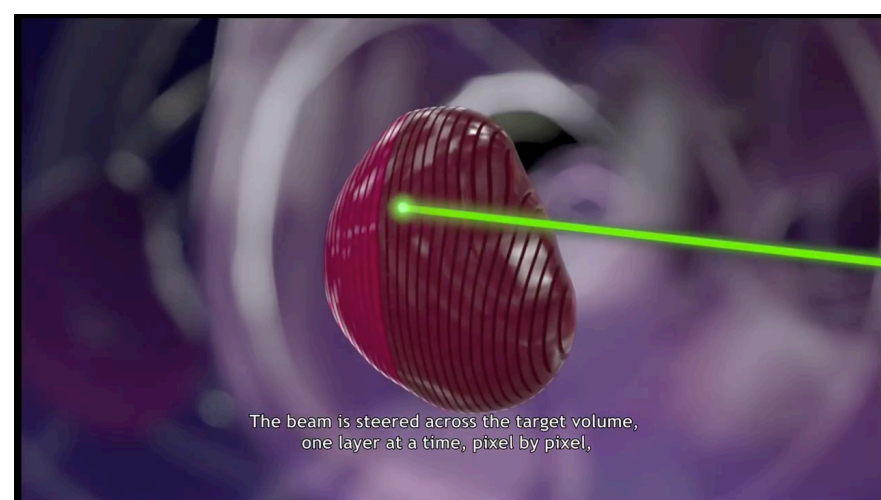
Hadron therapy monitoring

Optically read out GEMs can be used for online monitoring in hadron therapy

Low material budget of gaseous detector minimises beam attenuation and multiple scattering

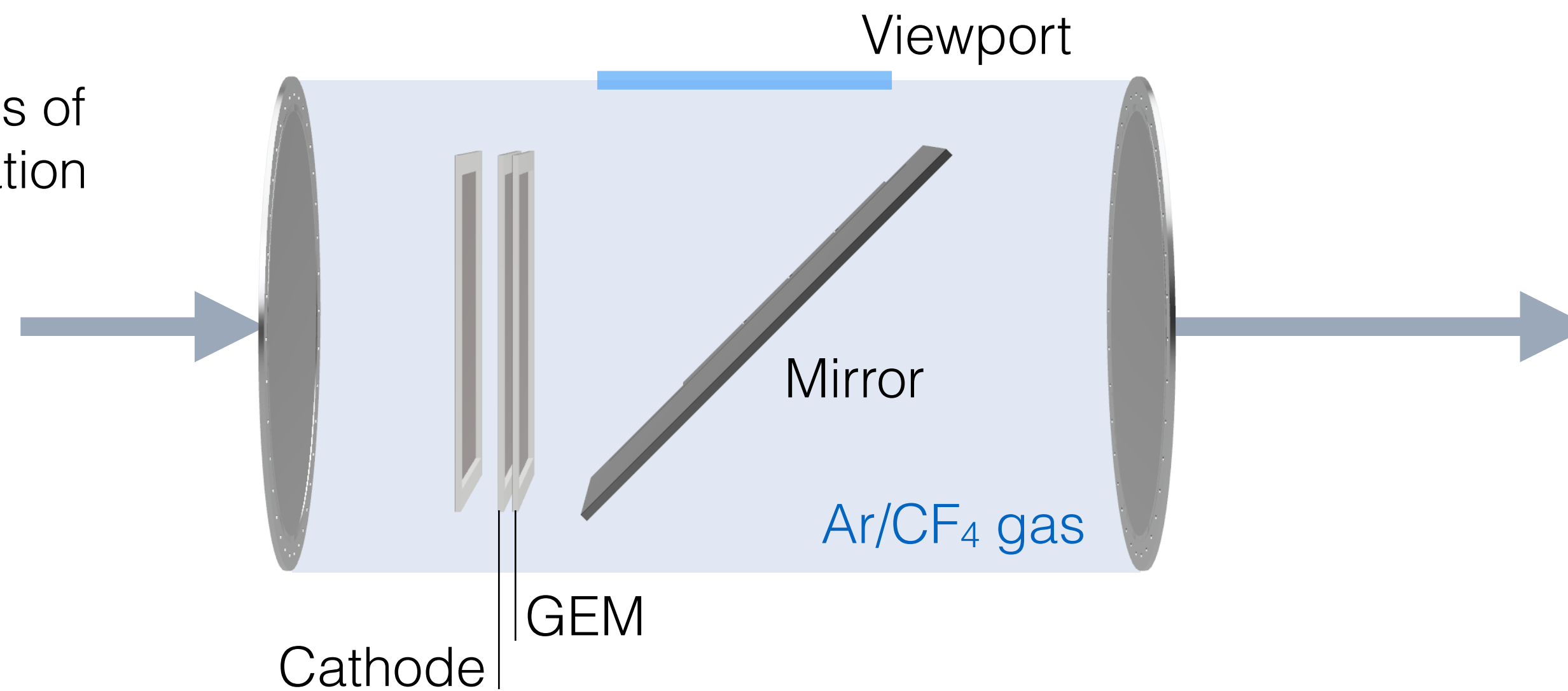
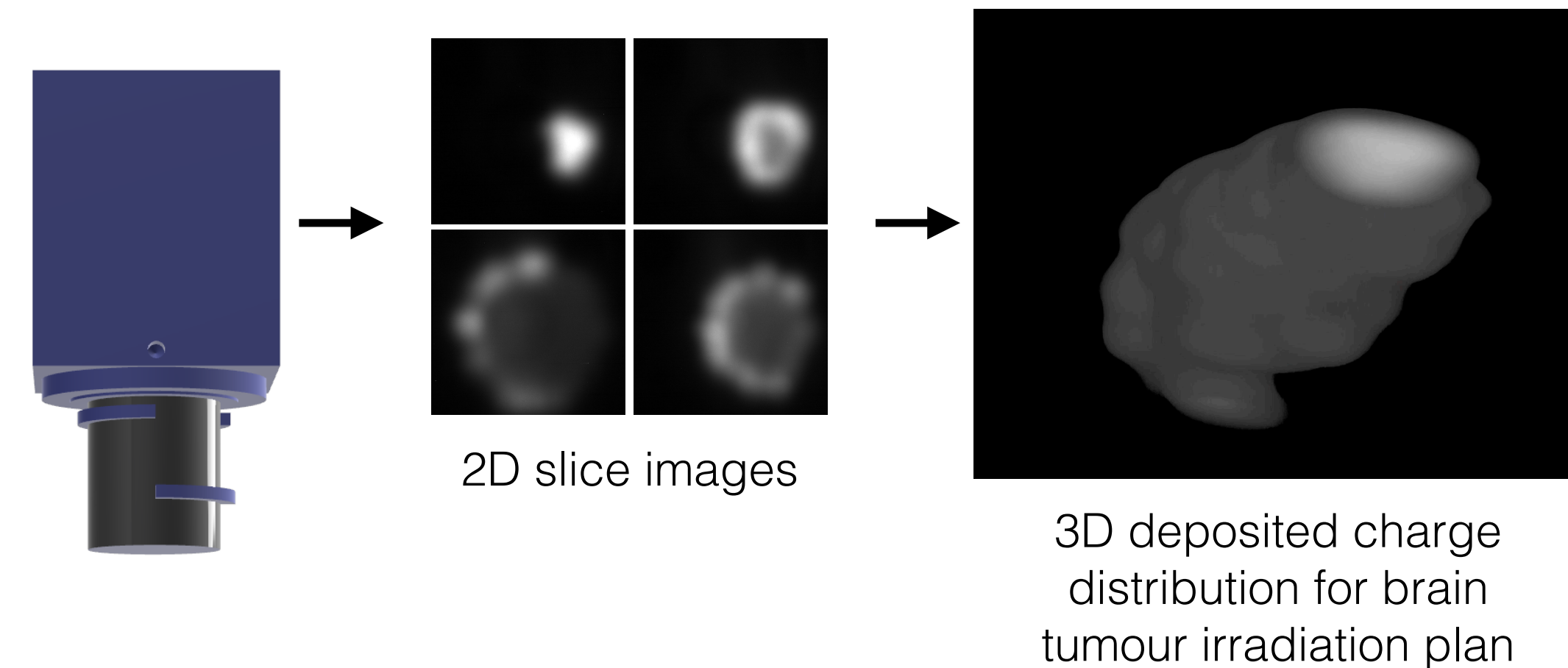
Optical readout permits placement of camera outside of beam path (lower material budget, lower radiation exposure of sensor)

This can provide **high spatial resolution** images of scanning pencil beams for beam characterisation and treatment plan verification



Scanning pencil beam irradiation

Adapted from iba Proton Therapy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS590Xtq9M4&t=5s>

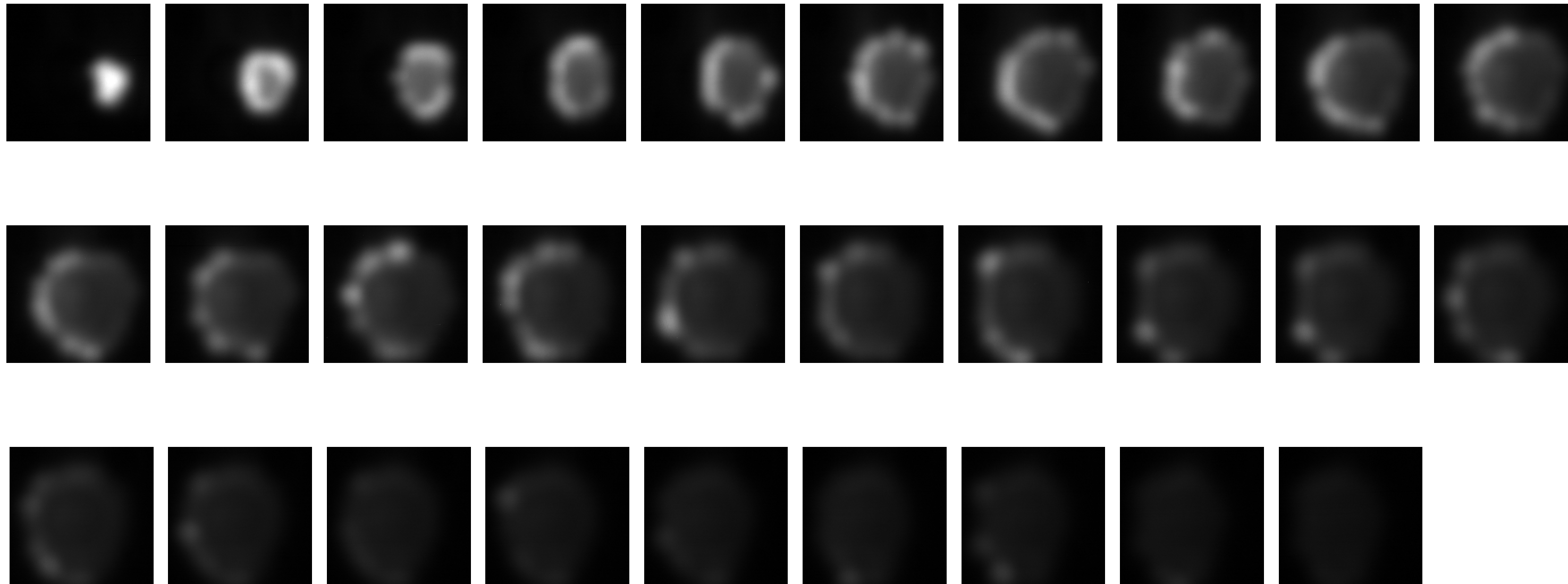




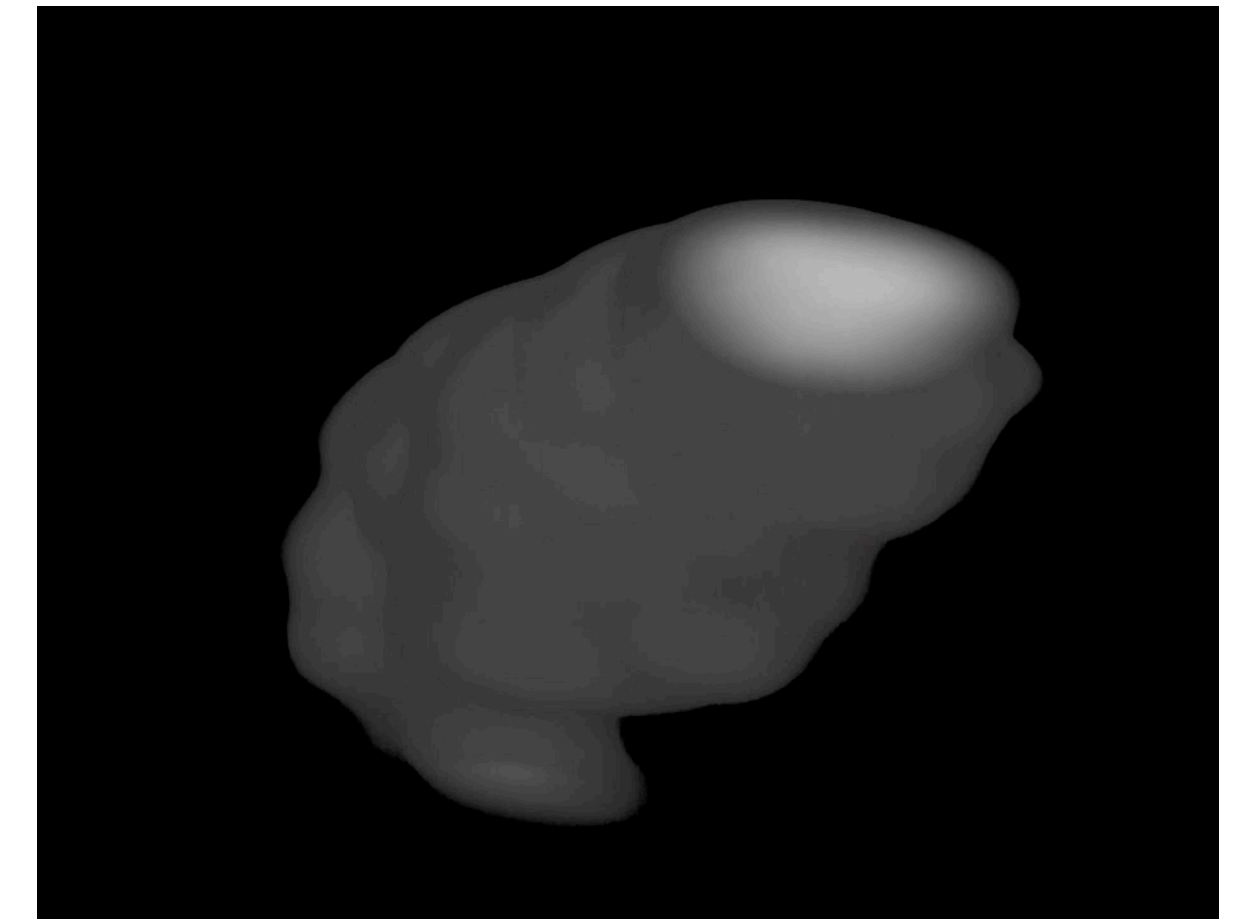
Incident
proton beam

Dose distribution imaging

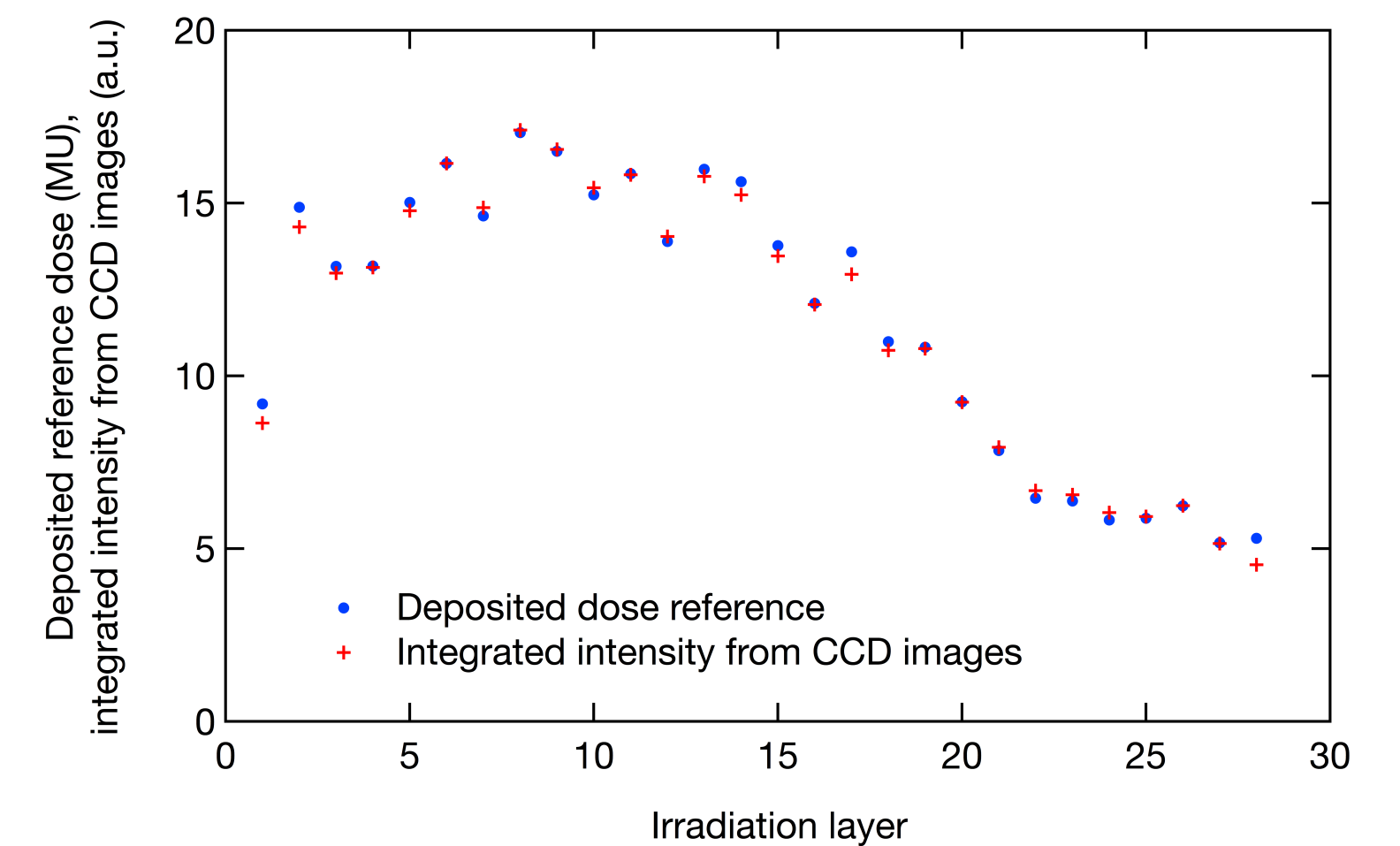
10x10 cm² images of treatment plan layers



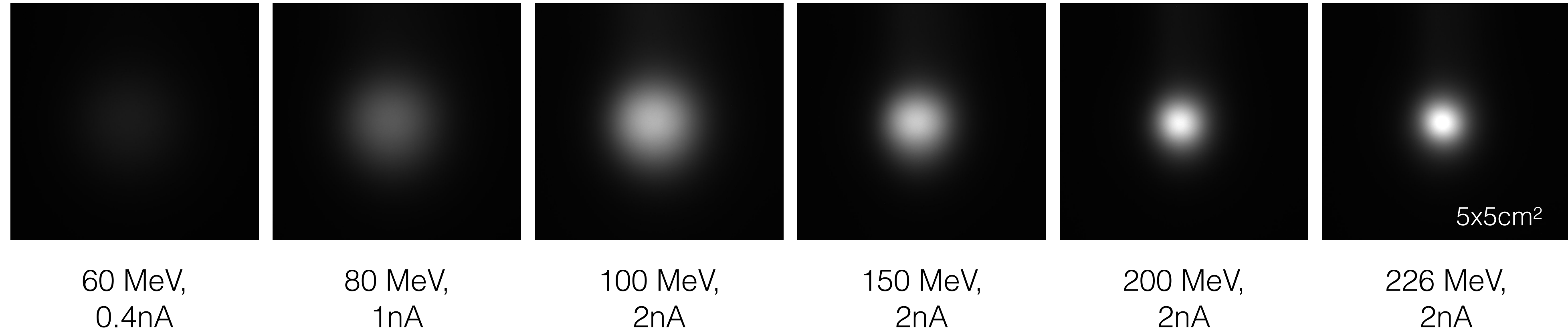
2D dose distribution images of individual layers of treatment plan irradiation can be recorded online and used to verify 3D dose distribution



3D dose distribution



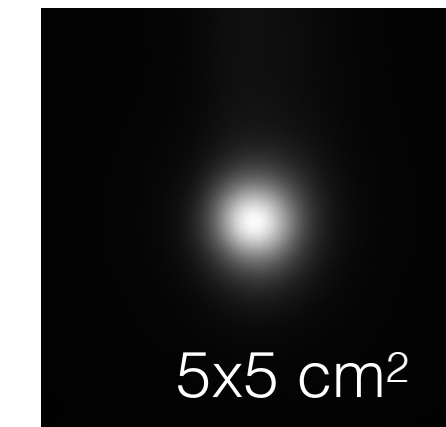
Proton beam profile



Recorded CCD images of centered single beam spots at different energies show decreasing beam spot width with increasing beam energy

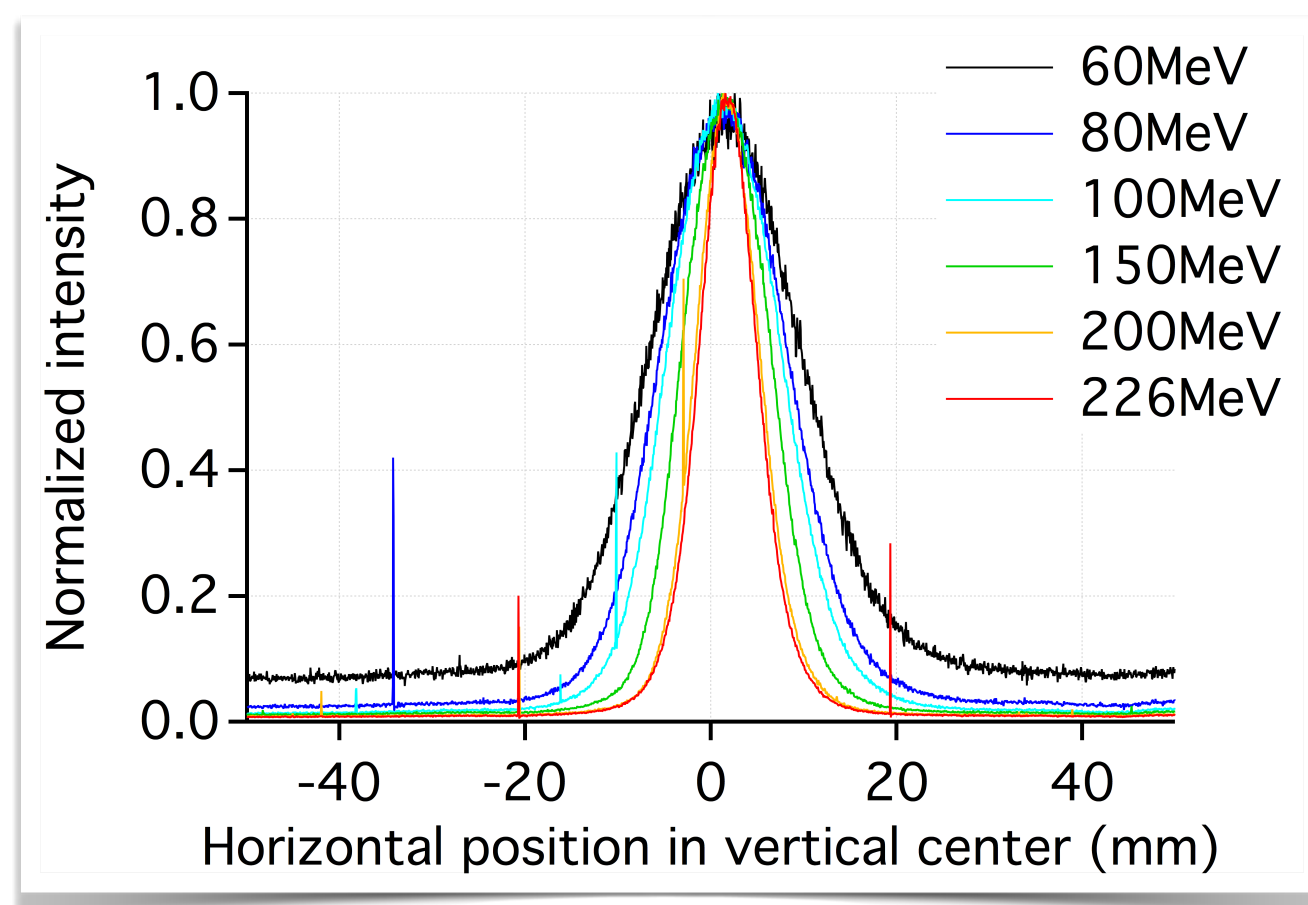
Scanning beam energy and current, profile images from highest possible current

Proton beam profile

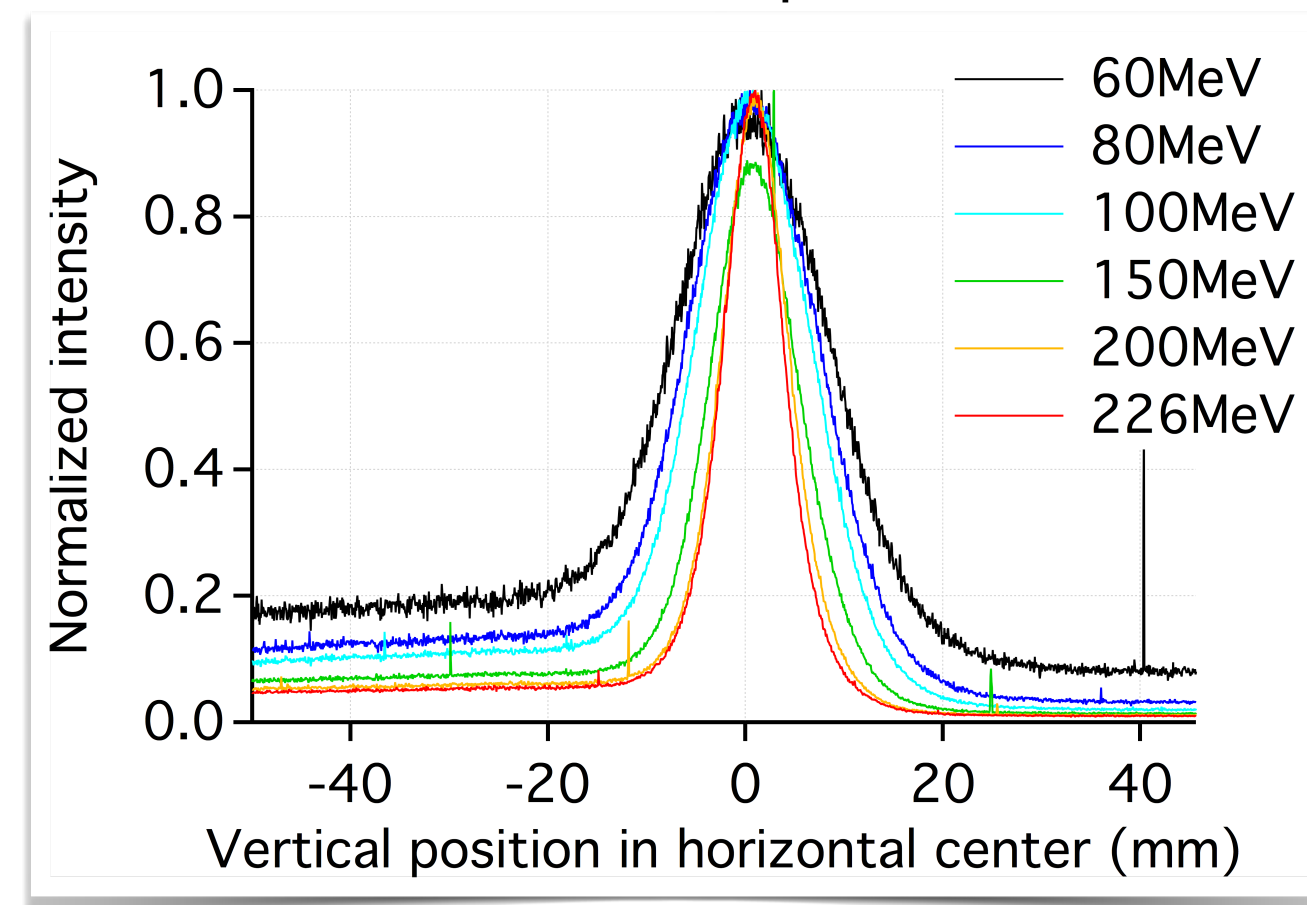


200 MeV pencil beam

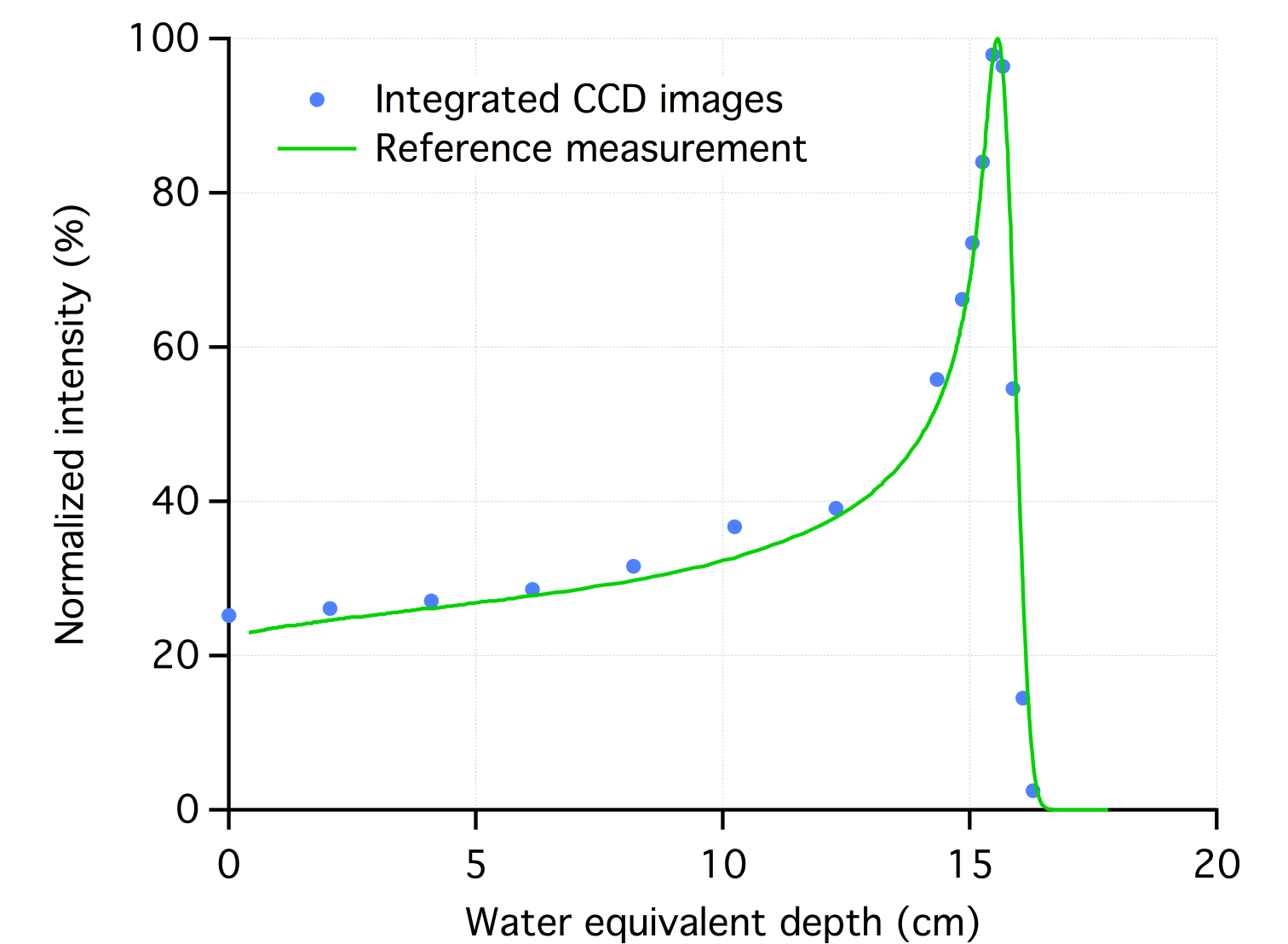
Horizontal profiles



Vertical profiles



Dose depth curve



All profiles normalised to maximum intensity
Decreasing beam spot width with increasing beam energy

Scanning beam energy and current, profile images from highest possible current

Ultra-fast optical readout

Optical readout

Integrated imaging approach

Intuitive pixelated readout with **megapixel imaging sensors**

High spatial **resolution**

Lenses and mirrors to enable **adjustable magnification** and camera location

Frame rate

Radiation hardness of imaging sensors

Need of **CF₄**-based gas mixtures or wavelength shifters

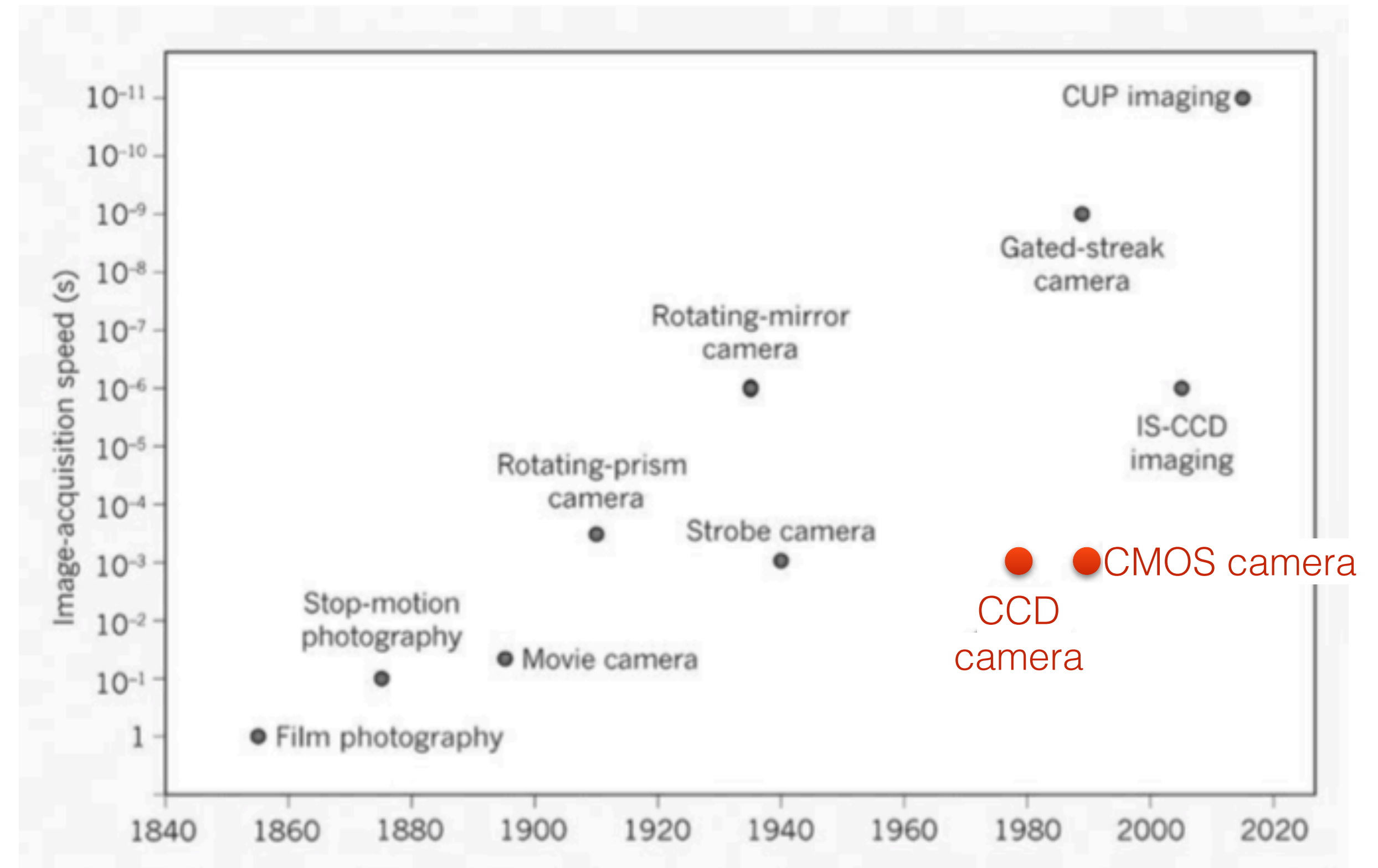


Image adapted from: B. Pogue, Nature 516 (2014) 46–47

Optical readout

Integrated imaging approach

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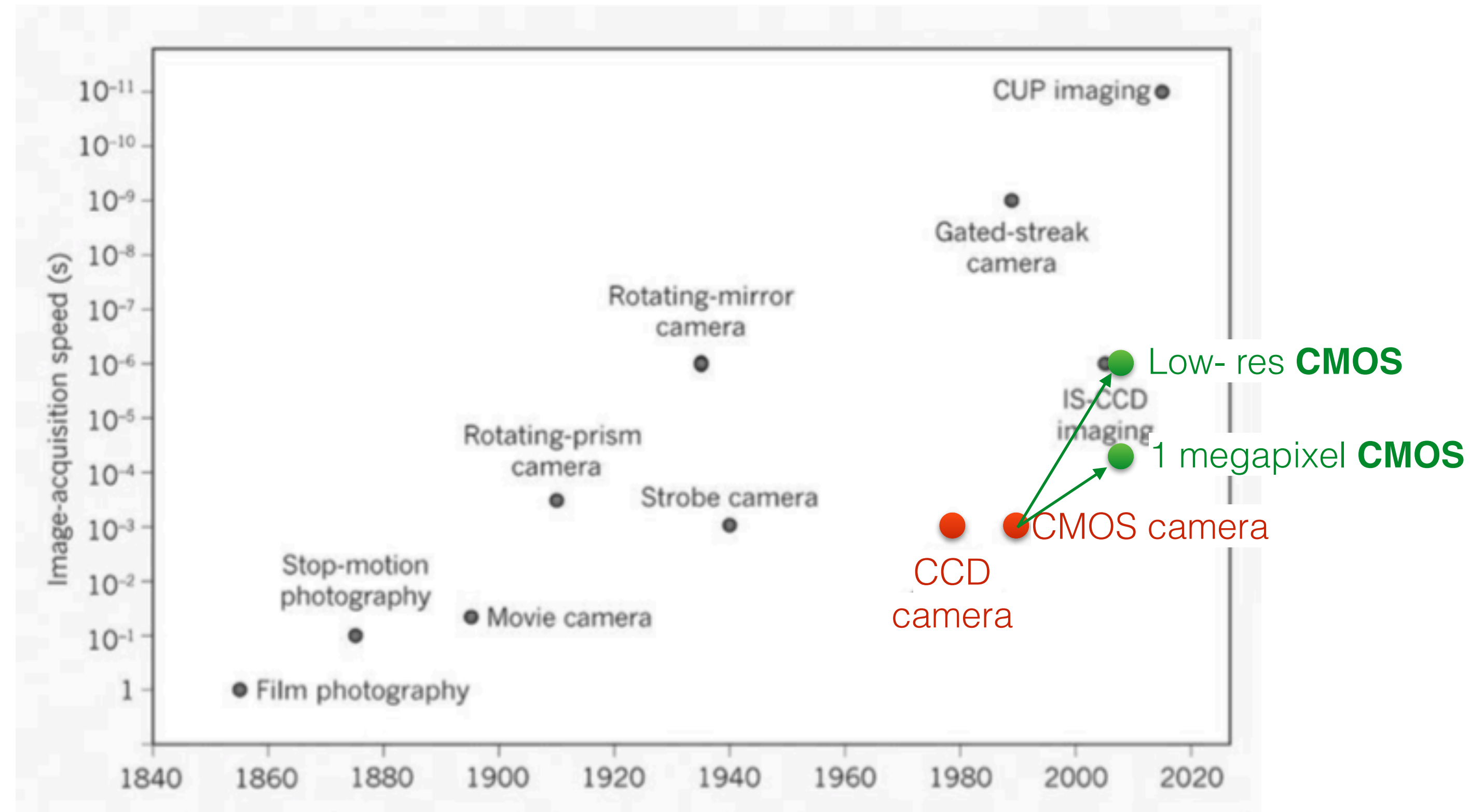


Image adapted from: B. Pogue, Nature 516 (2014) 46–47

**Phantom
v2512**



- 1 megapixel CMOS sensor
- 12 bit depth
- **25 kfps** at 1280 x 800
- **1 Mfps** at 128x32
- ISO 100,000 sensitivity

High-speed X-ray fluoroscopy



0 ms

200 ms

400 ms

600 ms

800 ms



800.5 ms

801.0 ms

801.5 ms

802.0 ms

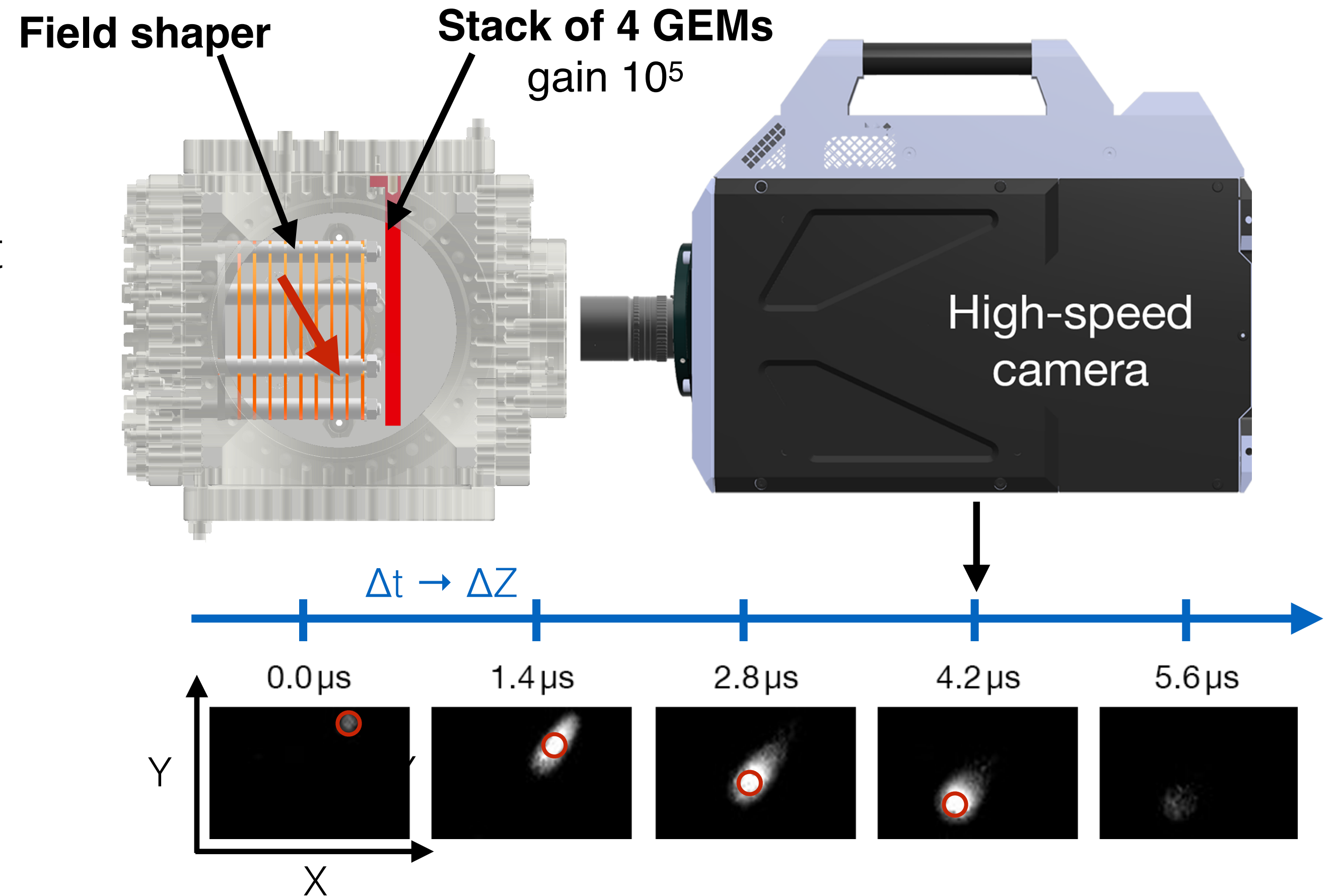
802.5 ms



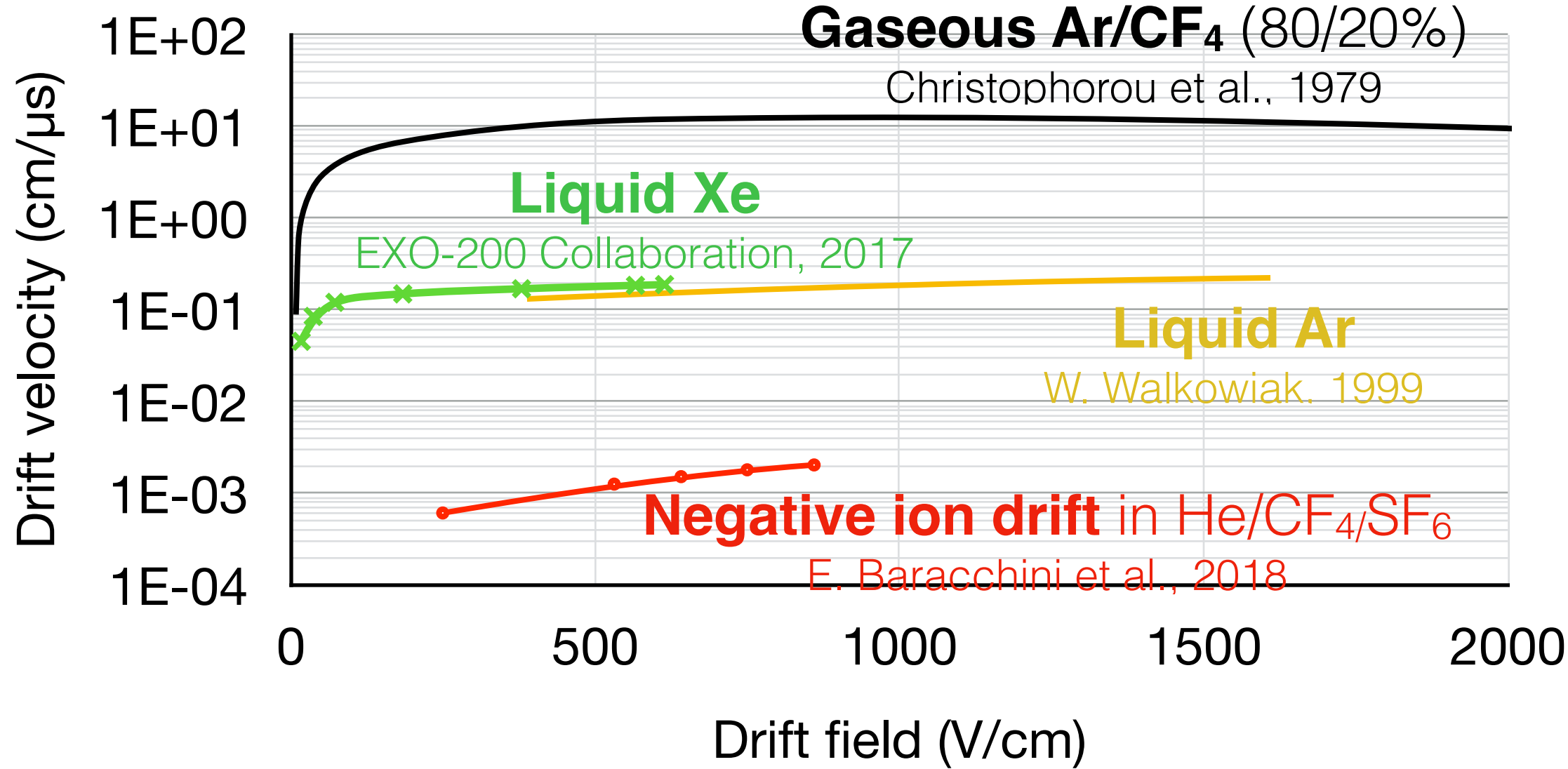
Ultra-high speed CMOS



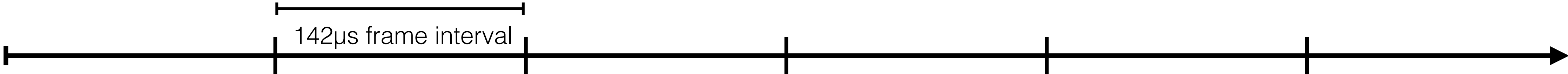
- Recording sequence of images visualising **drift time differences** between track segments
- **Direct 3D track reconstruction** without need for auxiliary timing information from fast photon detectors
- With **electron drift**: recording close to MHz frame rates at **limited resolution** and poor depth resolution
- **Negative ion drift** (orders of magnitude slower, lower light yield) may allow good depth resolution with ultra-fast CMOS readout



Resolving negative ion drift with fast CMOS

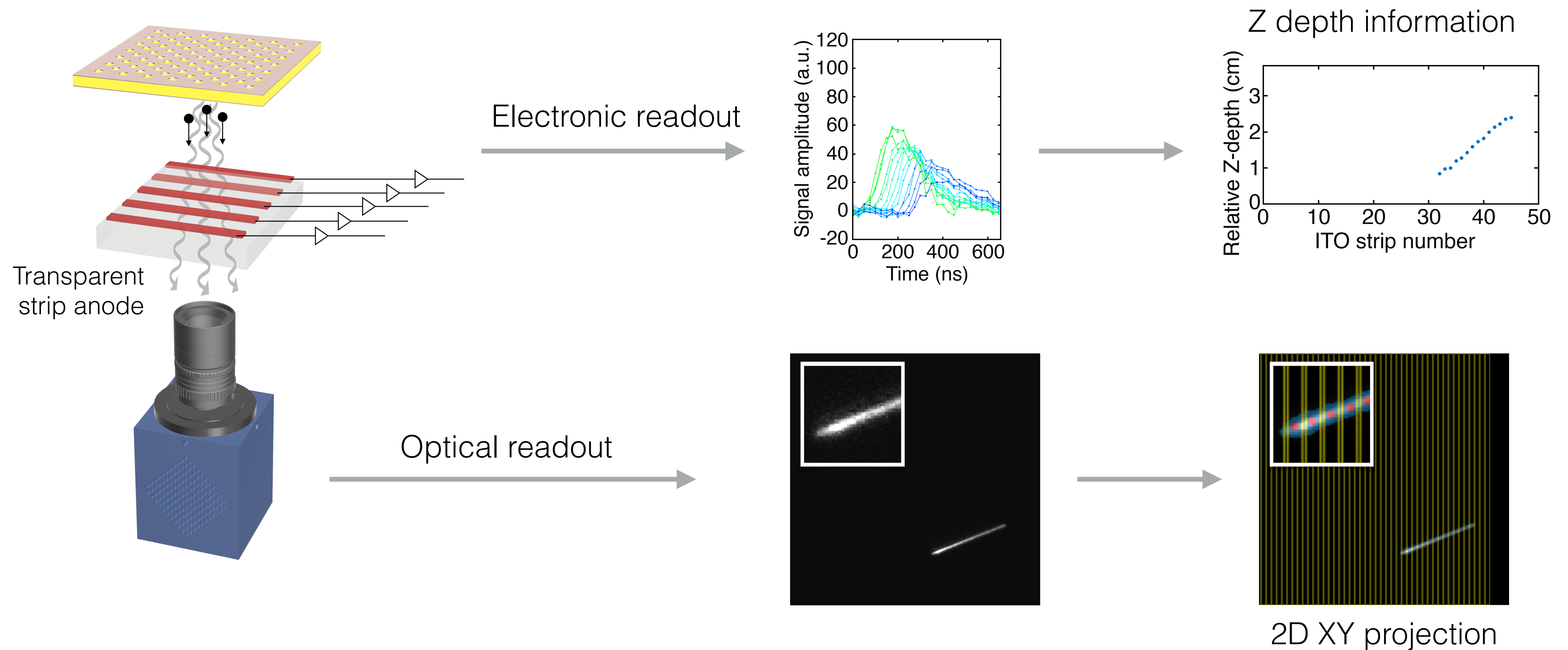


- **NI gas mixture:** Ar/CF₄ 80/20% + 1% SF₆ at 200mbar
- 241Am source in gas volume
- 200V/cm drift field
- 2 GlassGEMs operated at high gain
- Photonis Cricket **image intensifier** at max gain
- Phantom S710 acquisition at 1Mpx with frame rate of 7kHz with (142μs exposures)
- **Several millimeter depth represented in each frame**



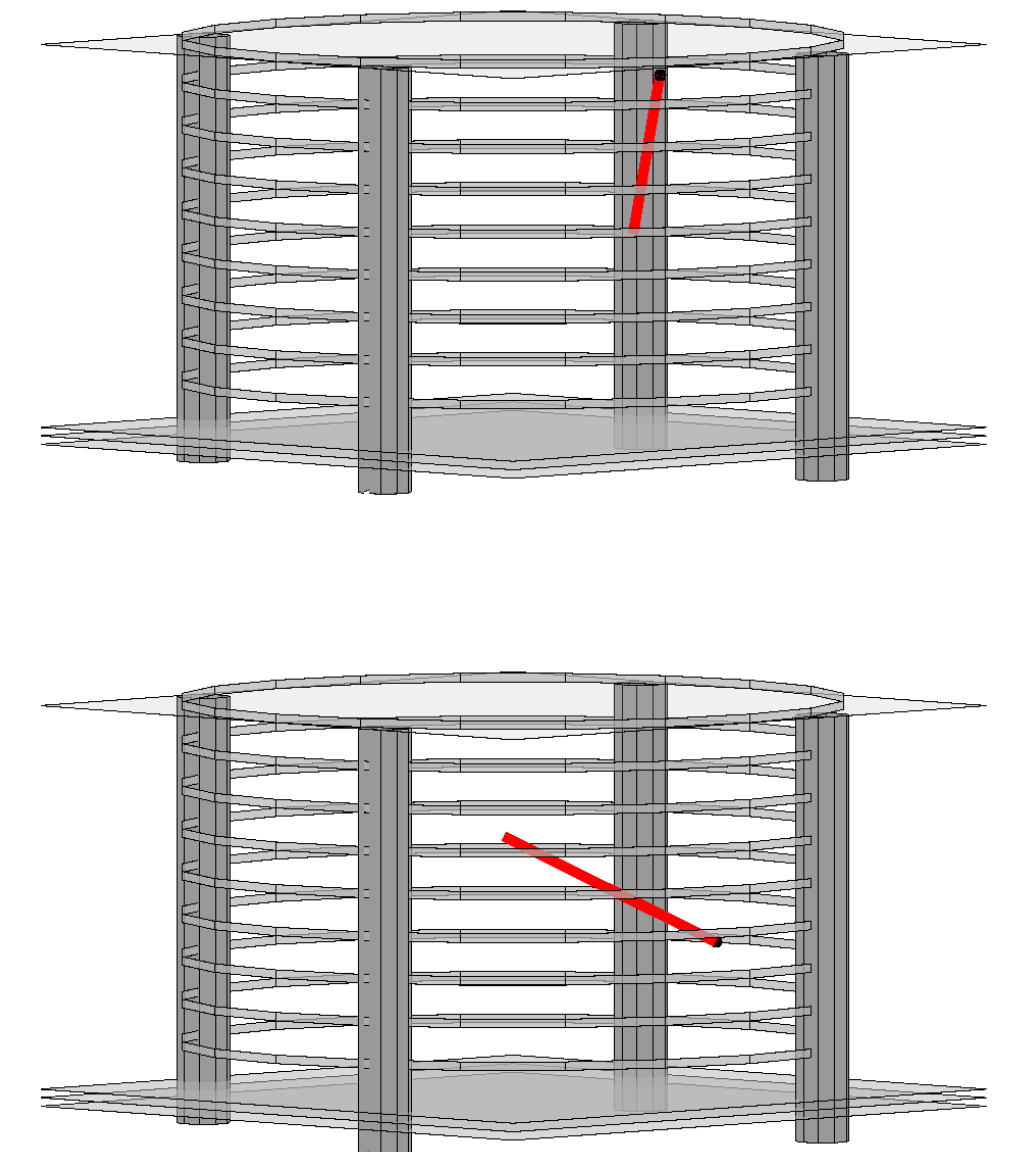
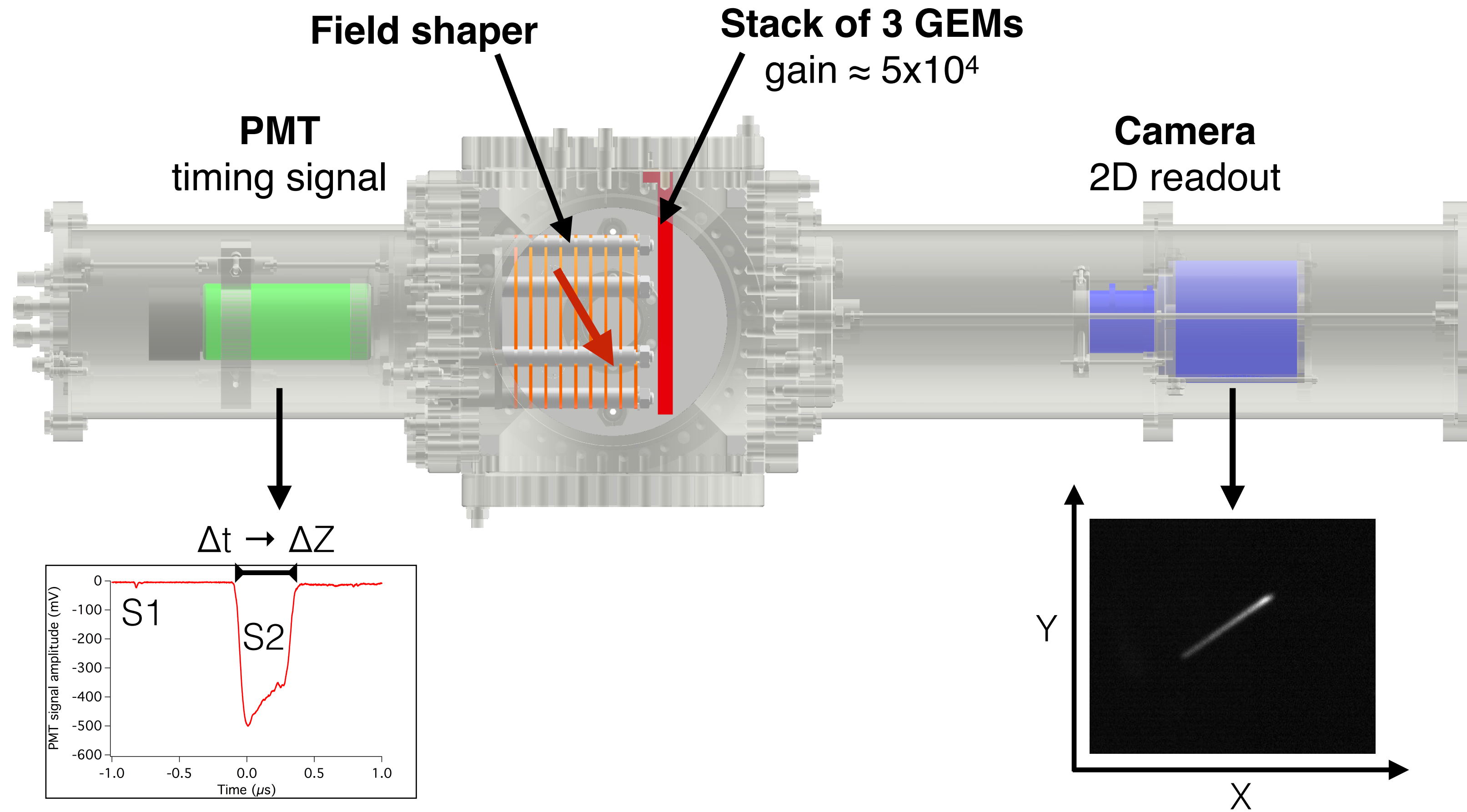
Hybrid readout approaches

Combined optical and electronic readout

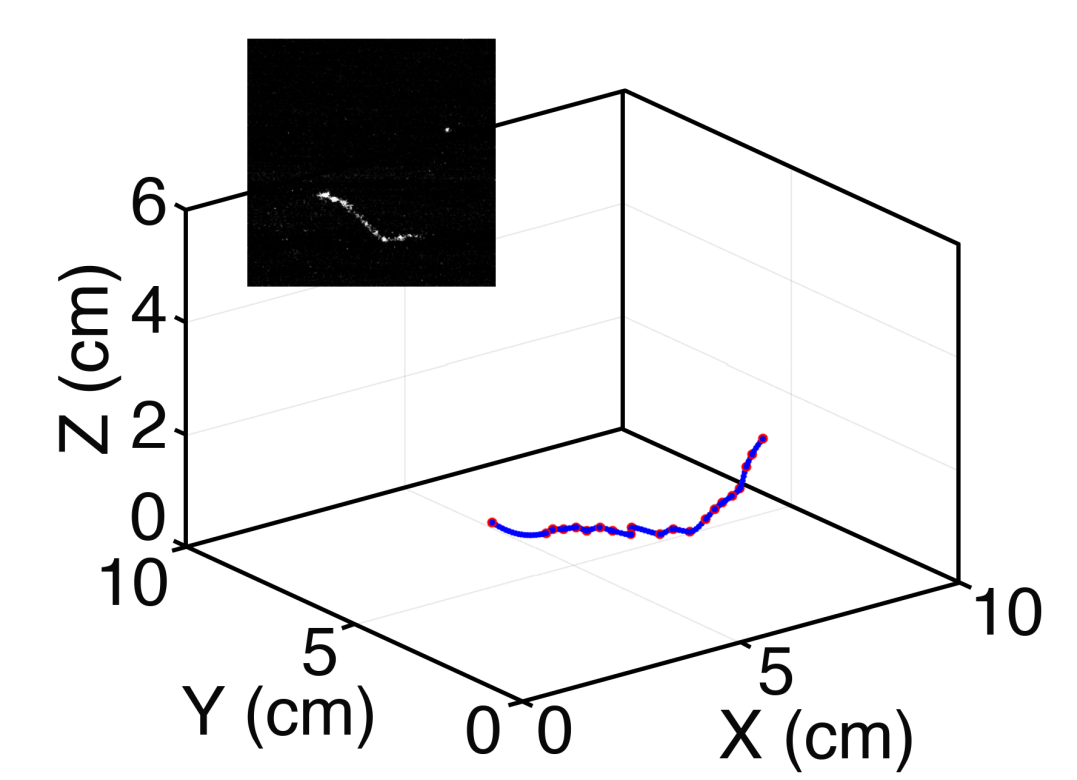
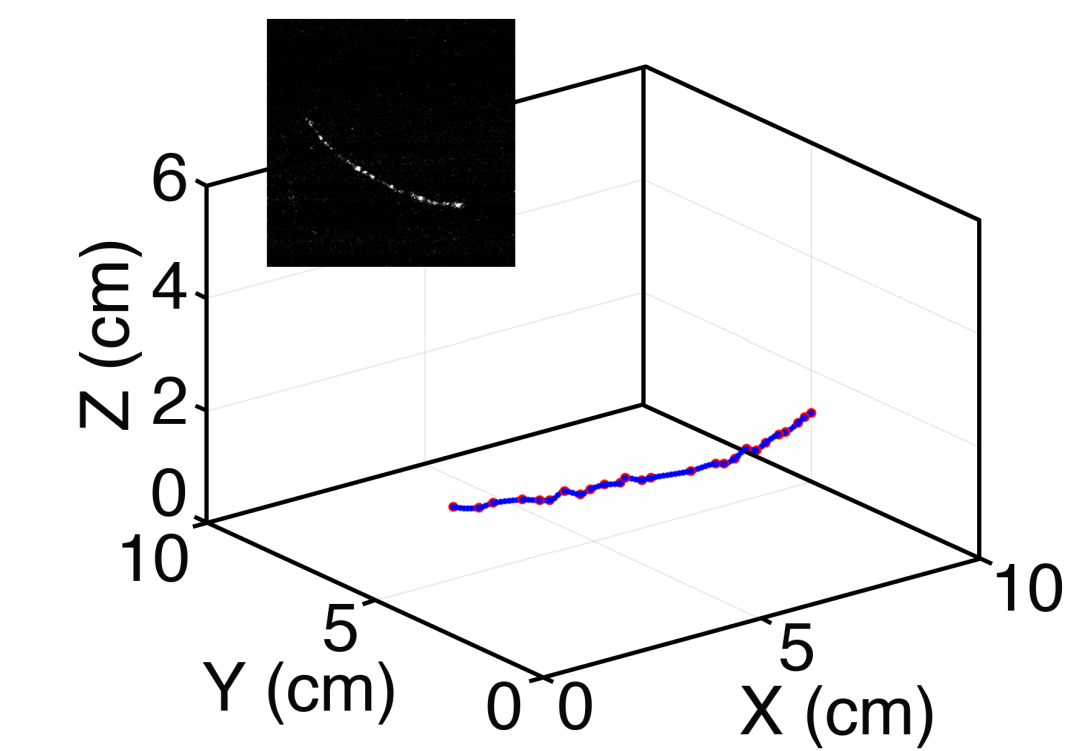
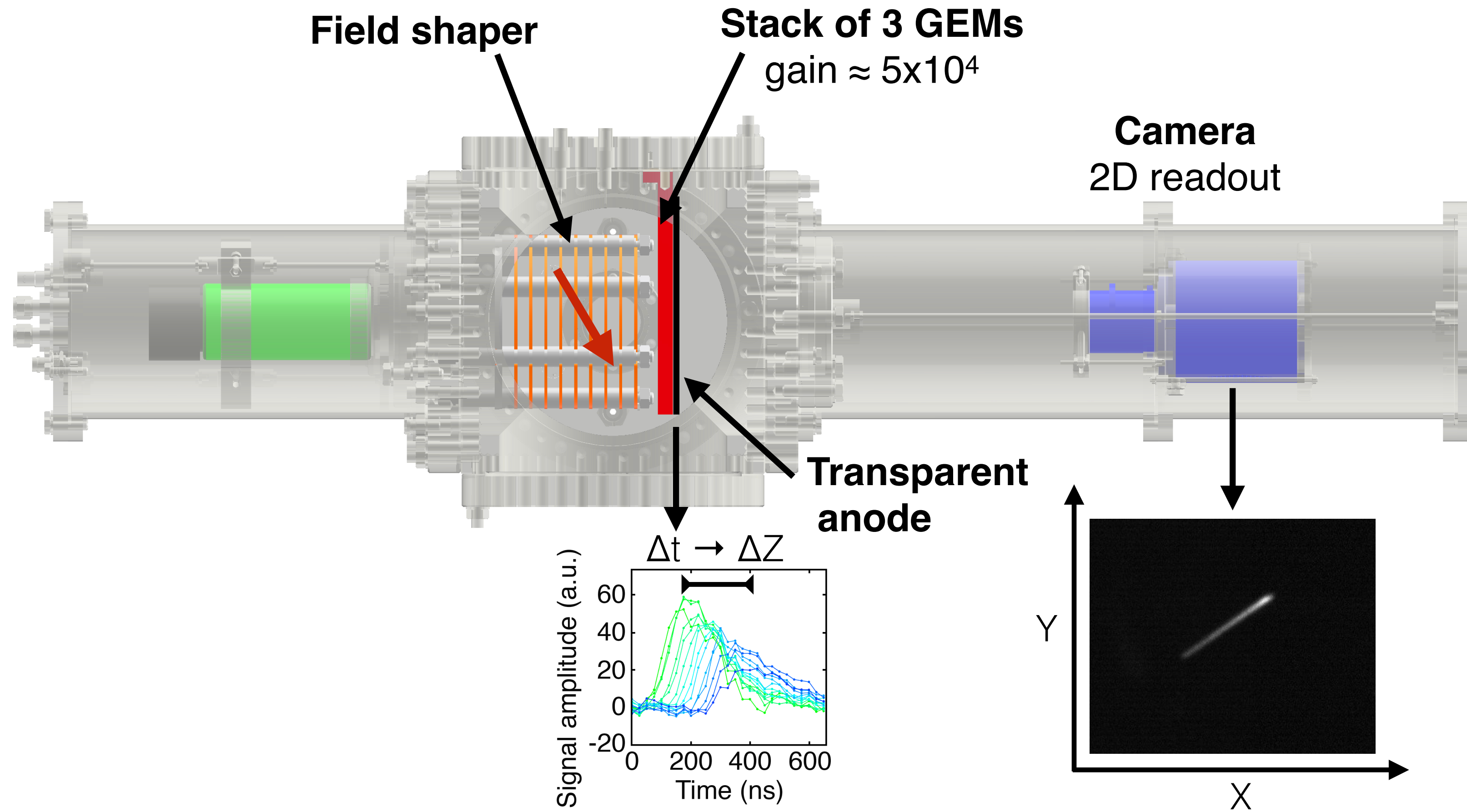


Schematics not drawn to scale

Optically read out TPC PMT + CCD

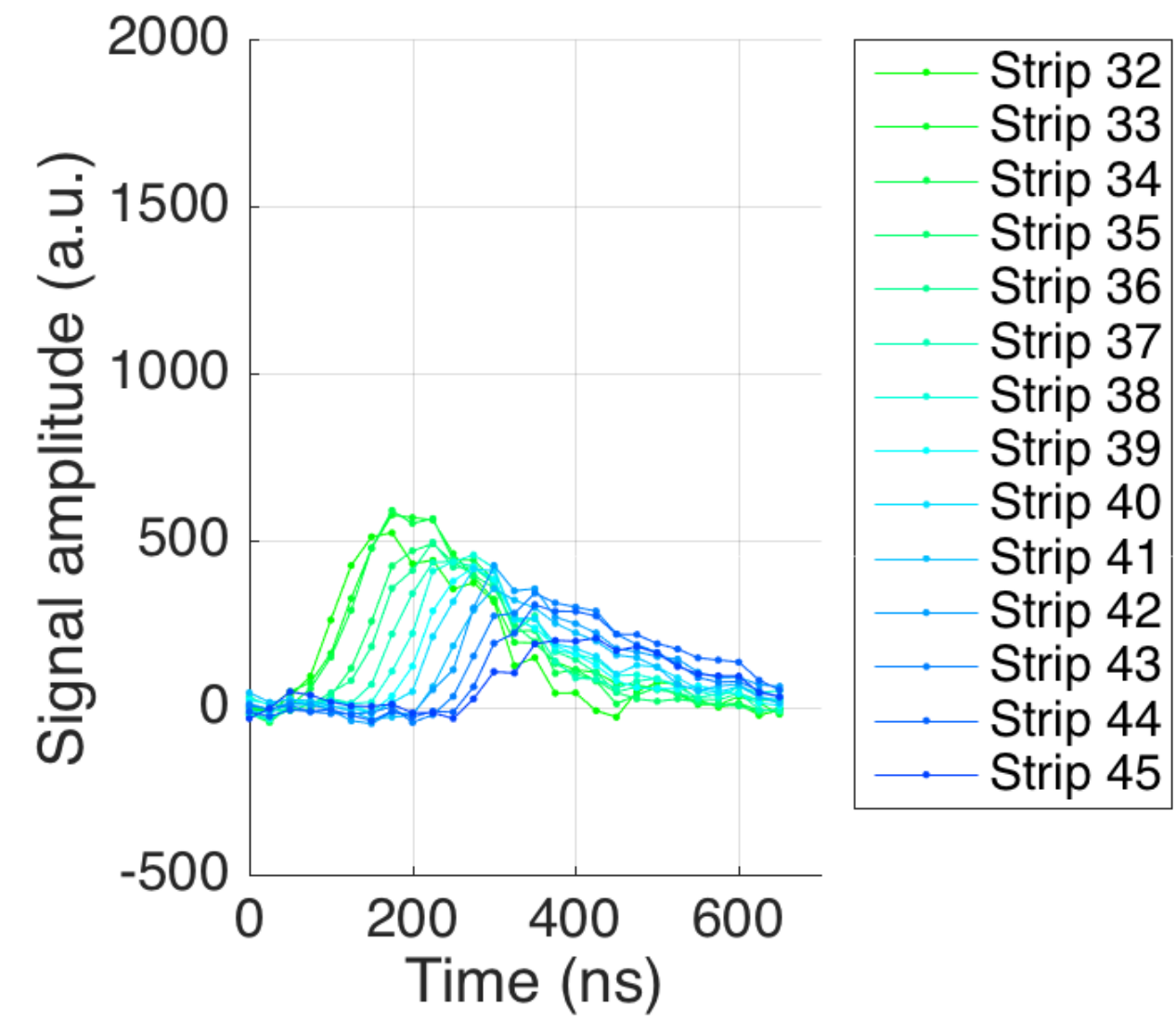


Optically read out TPC Electronic + CCD

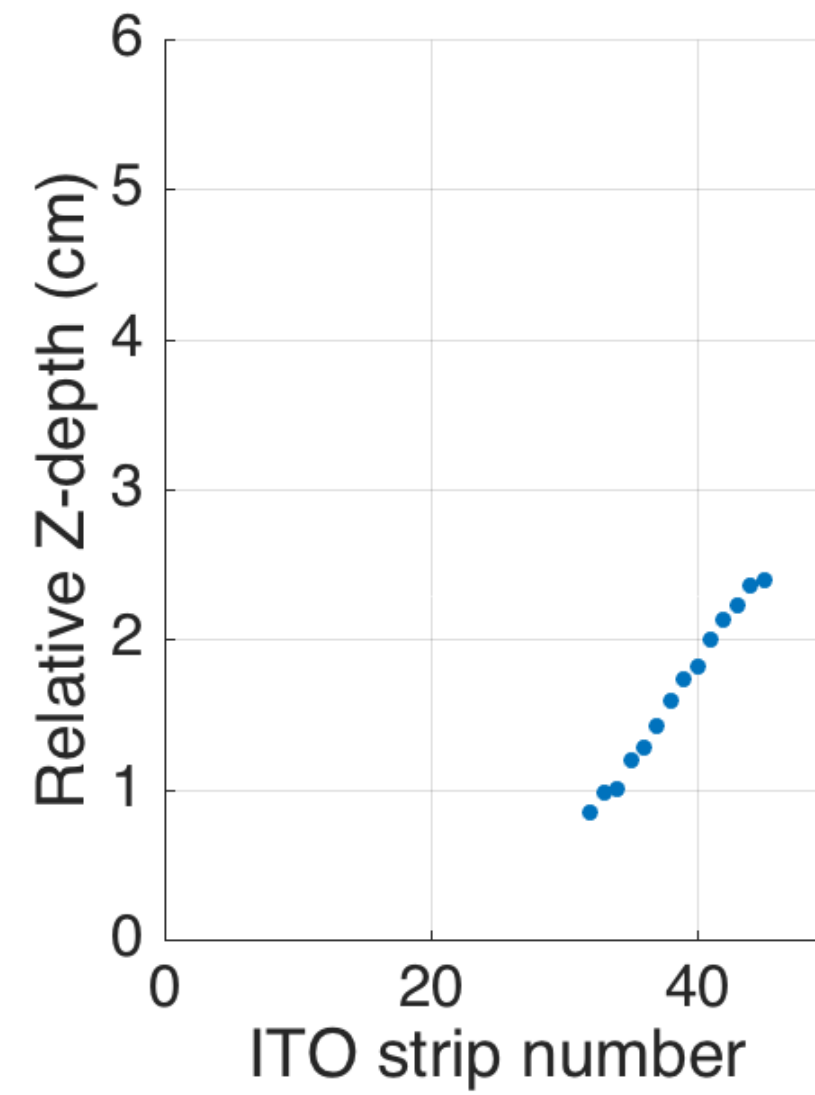


Reconstructed alpha tracks

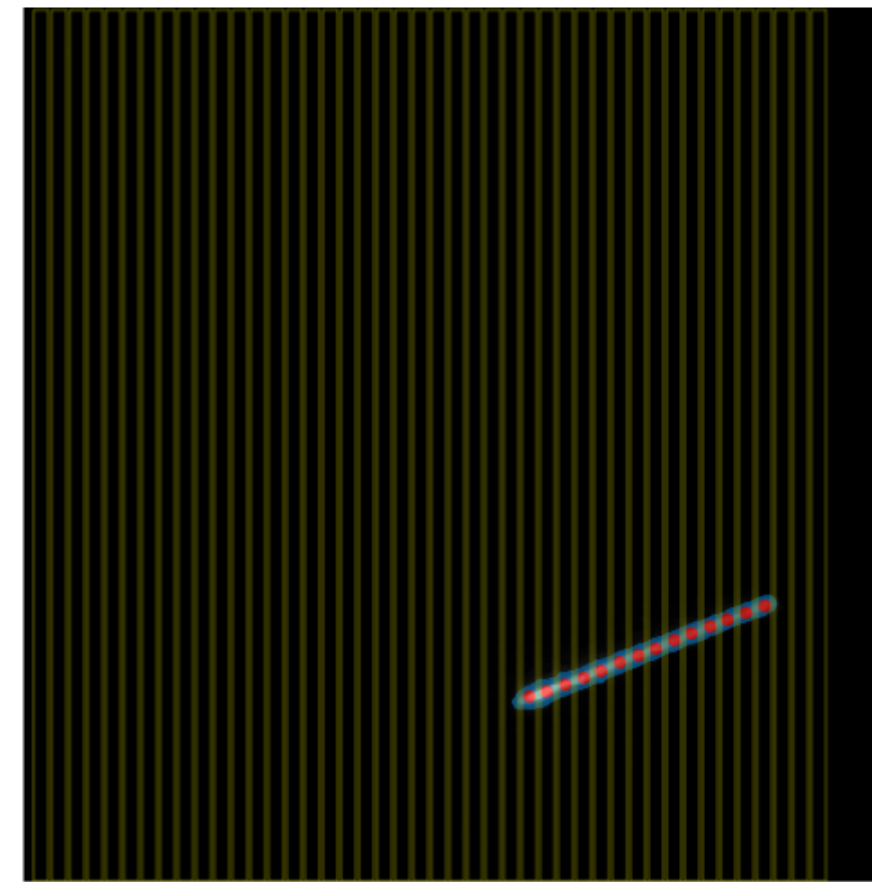
ITO strip signals



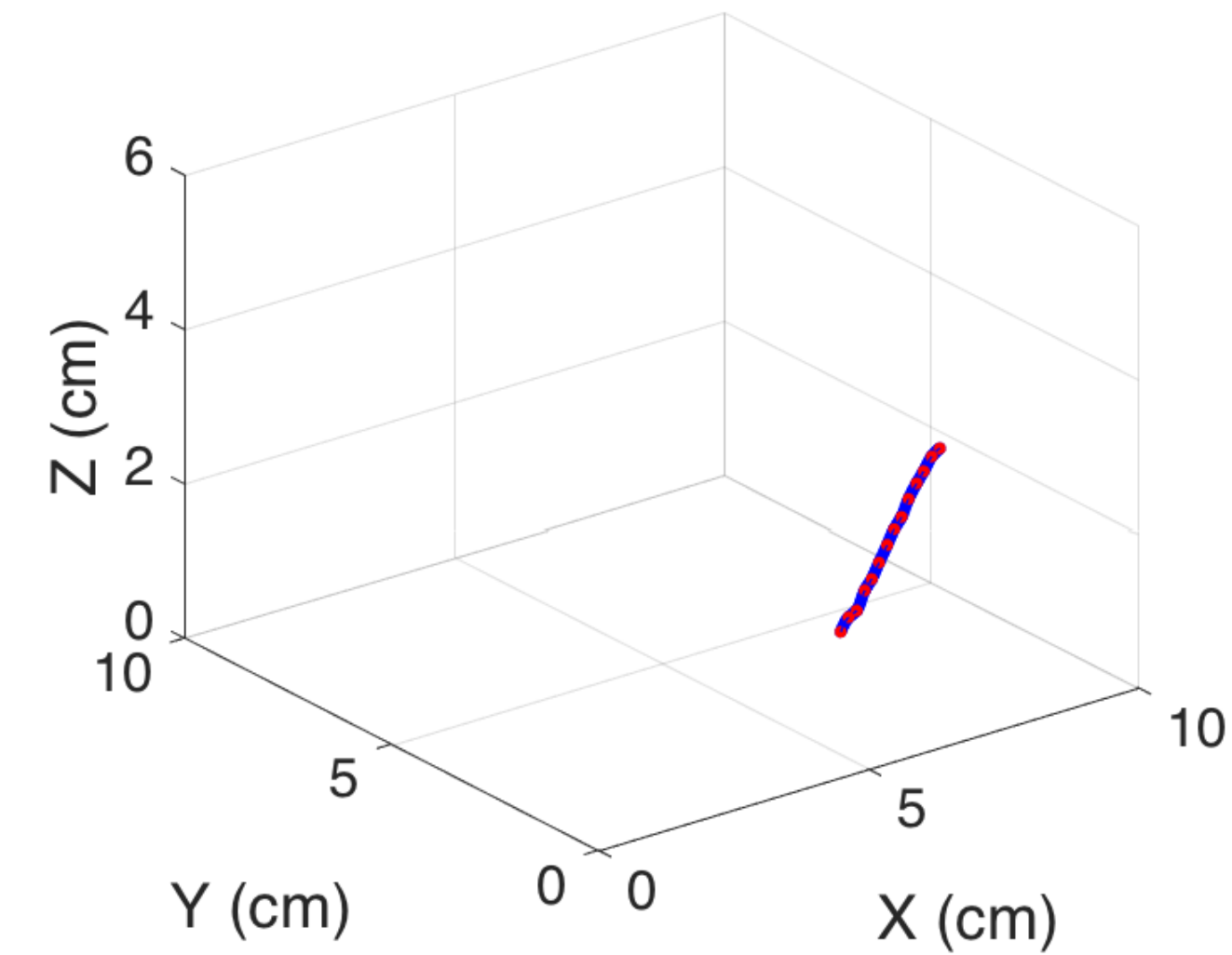
Depth information



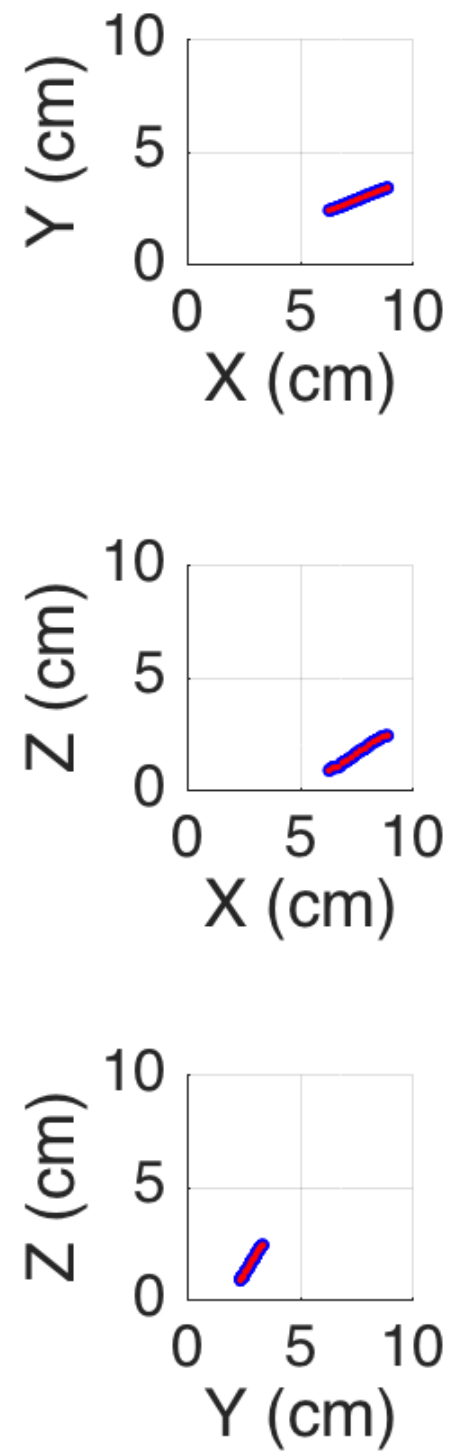
Camera image



3D track visualisation

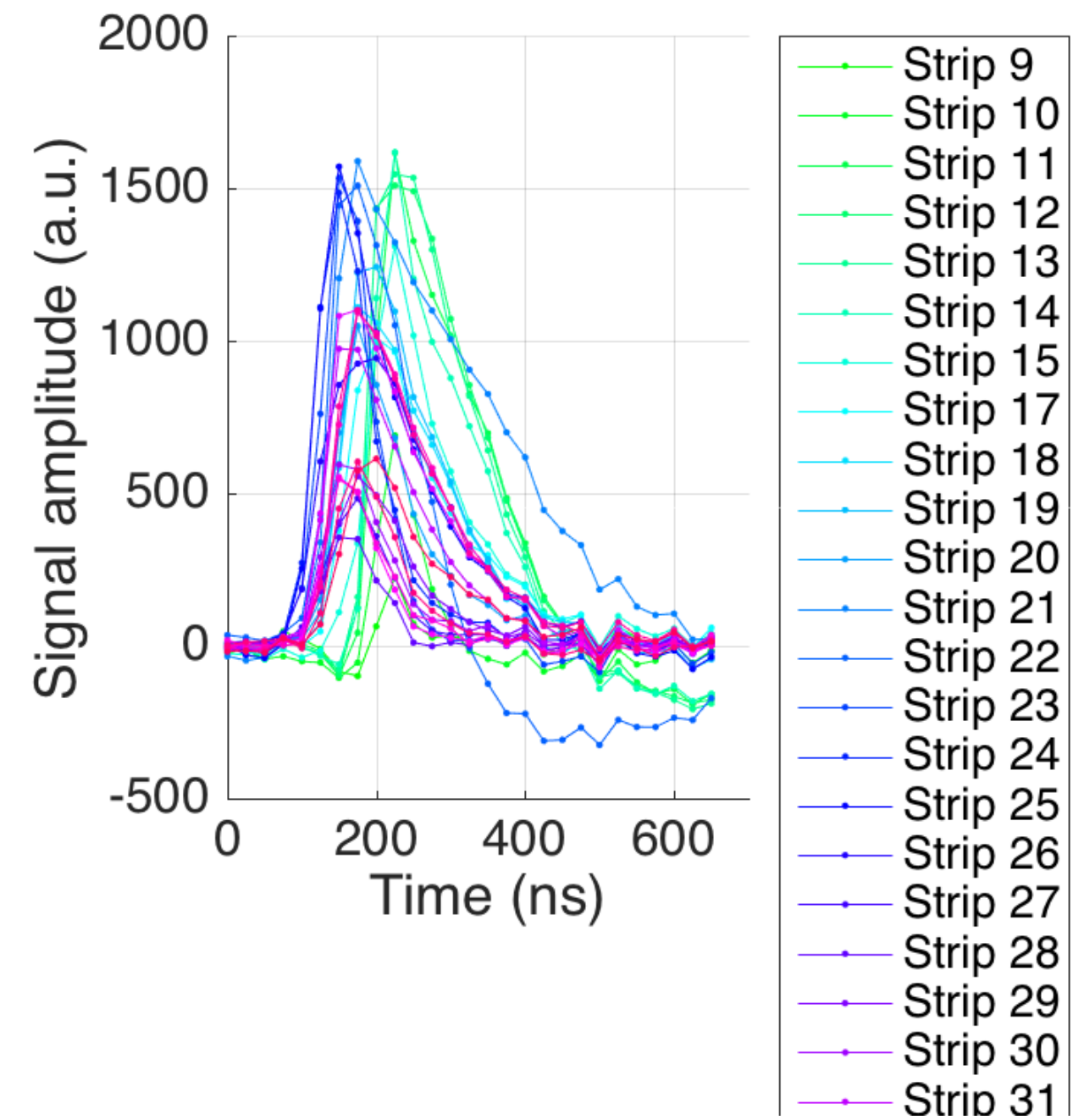


Projections

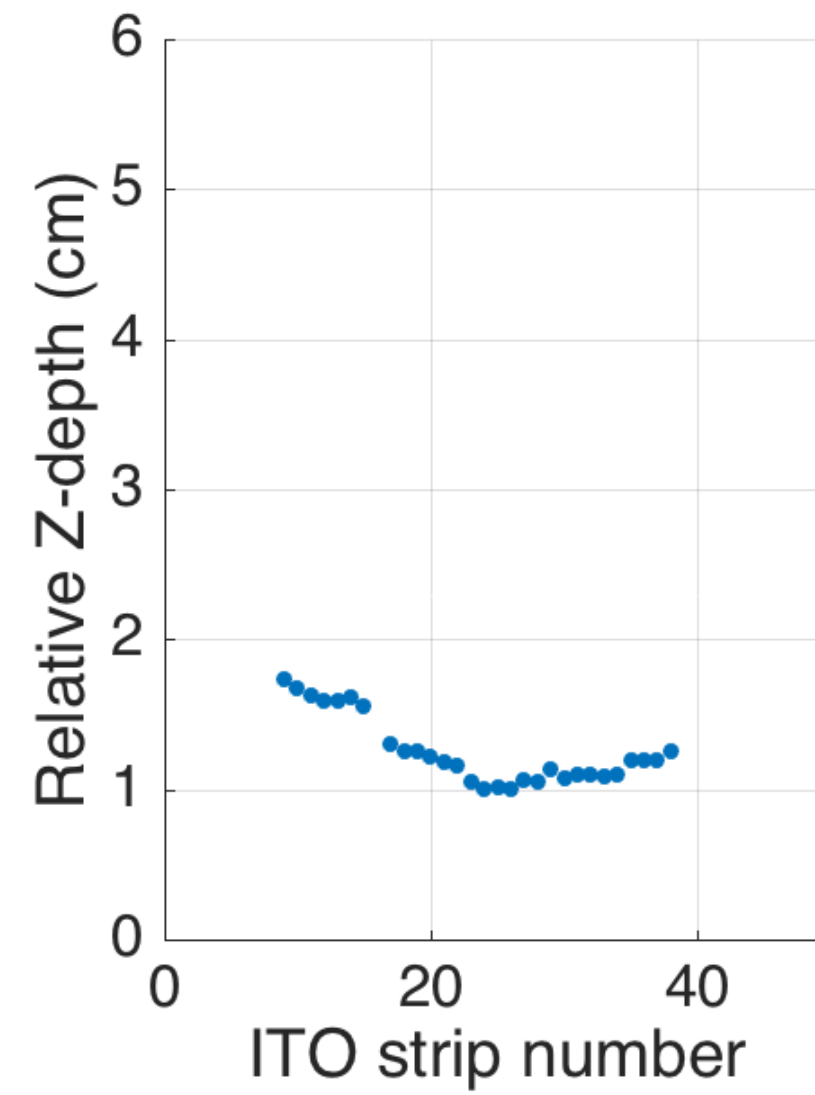


Reconstructed cosmic events

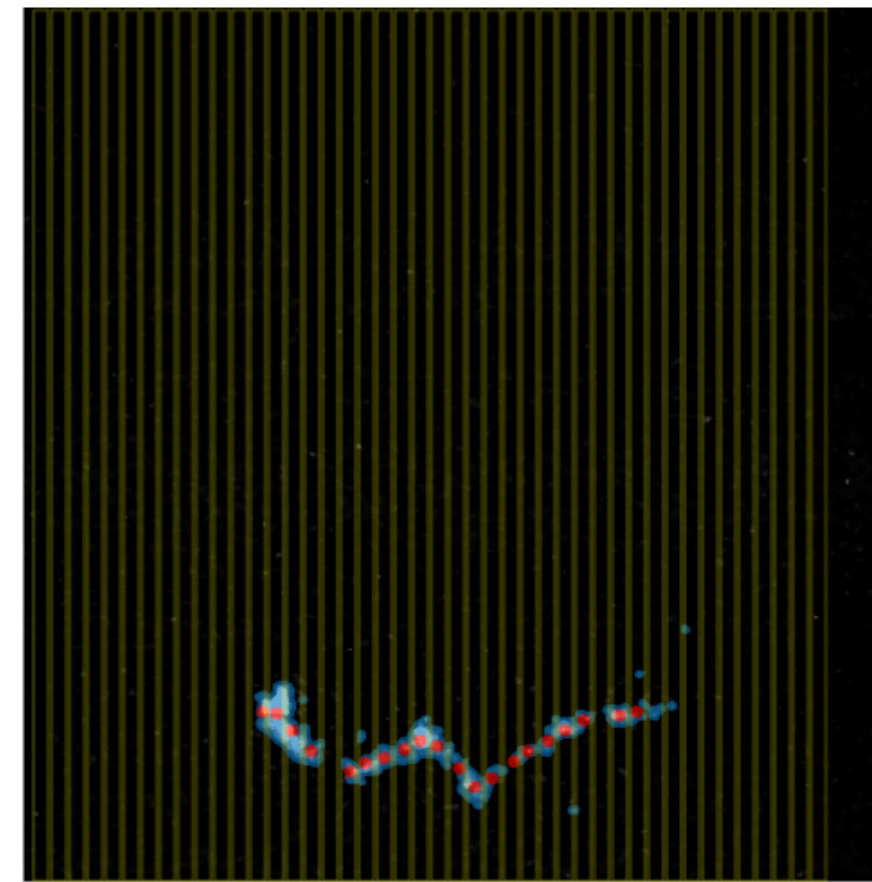
ITO strip signals



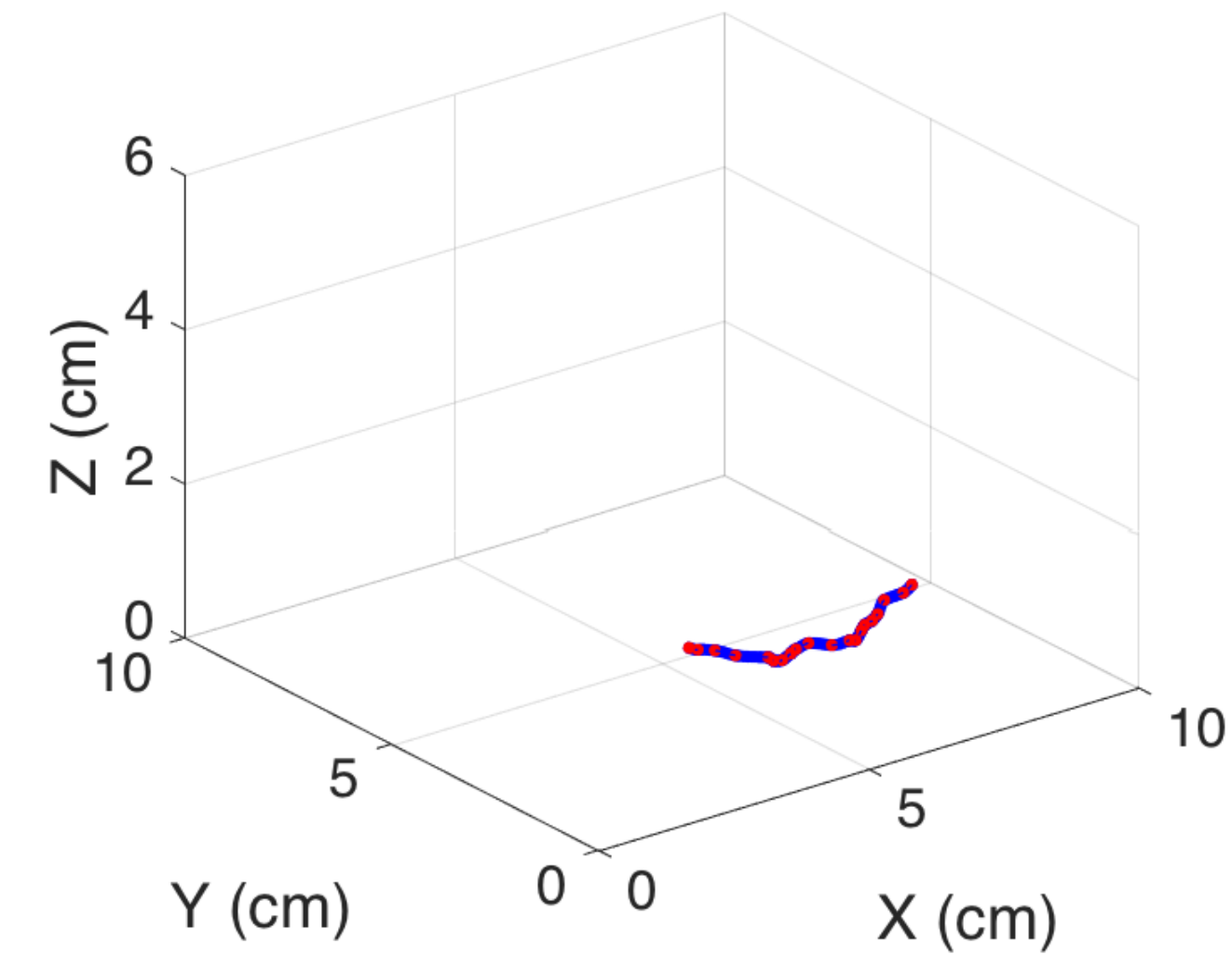
Depth information



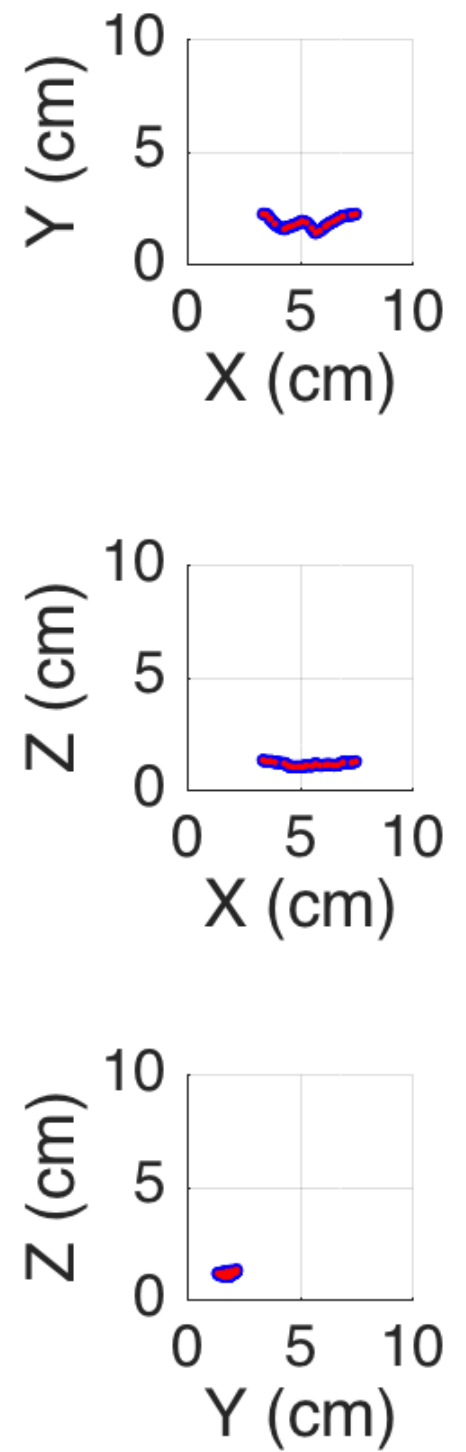
Camera image



3D track visualisation



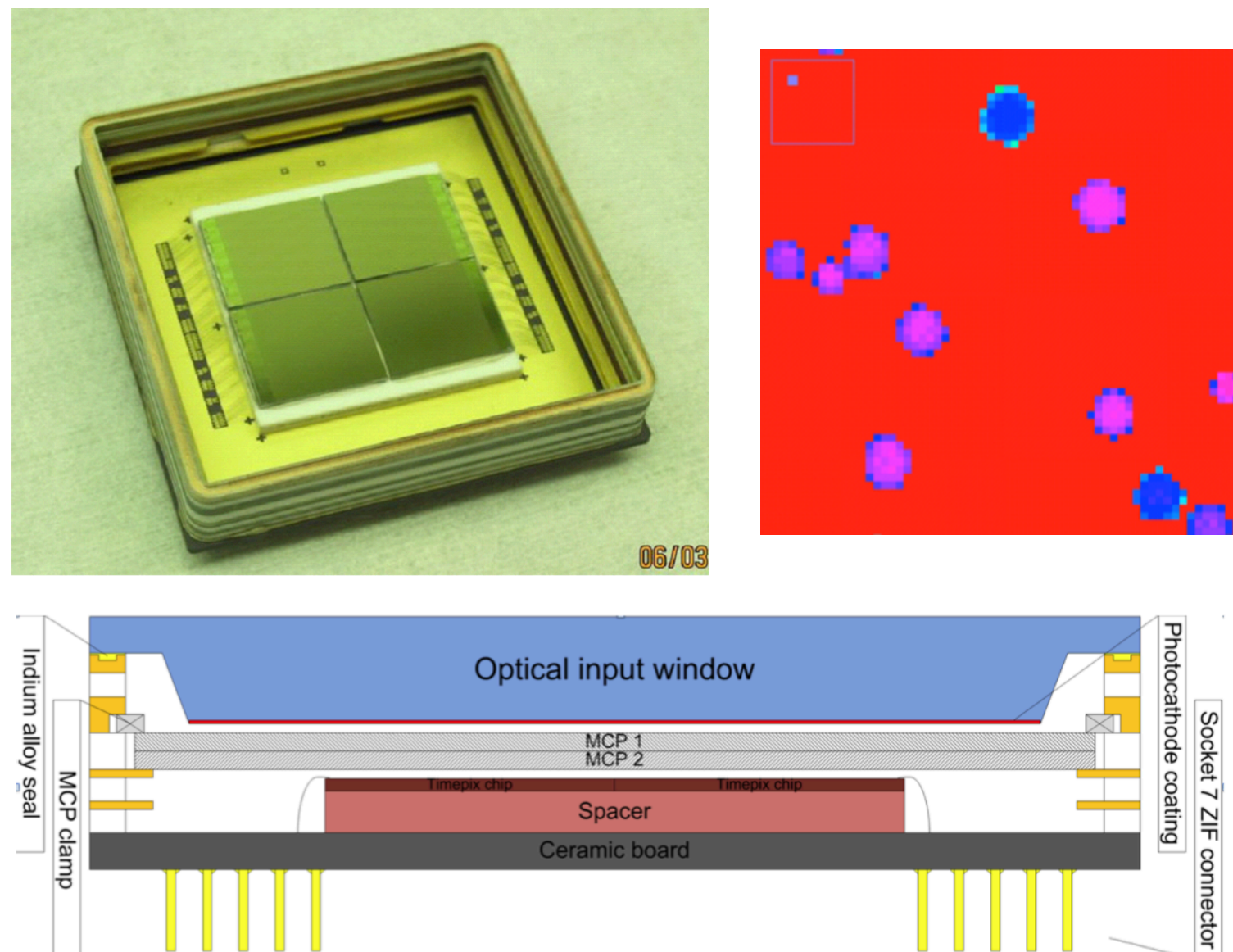
Projections



Timepix cameras

Optical MCP image tube with **quad Timepix** with bi-alkali photocathode

Event counting with threshold or time of arrival recording



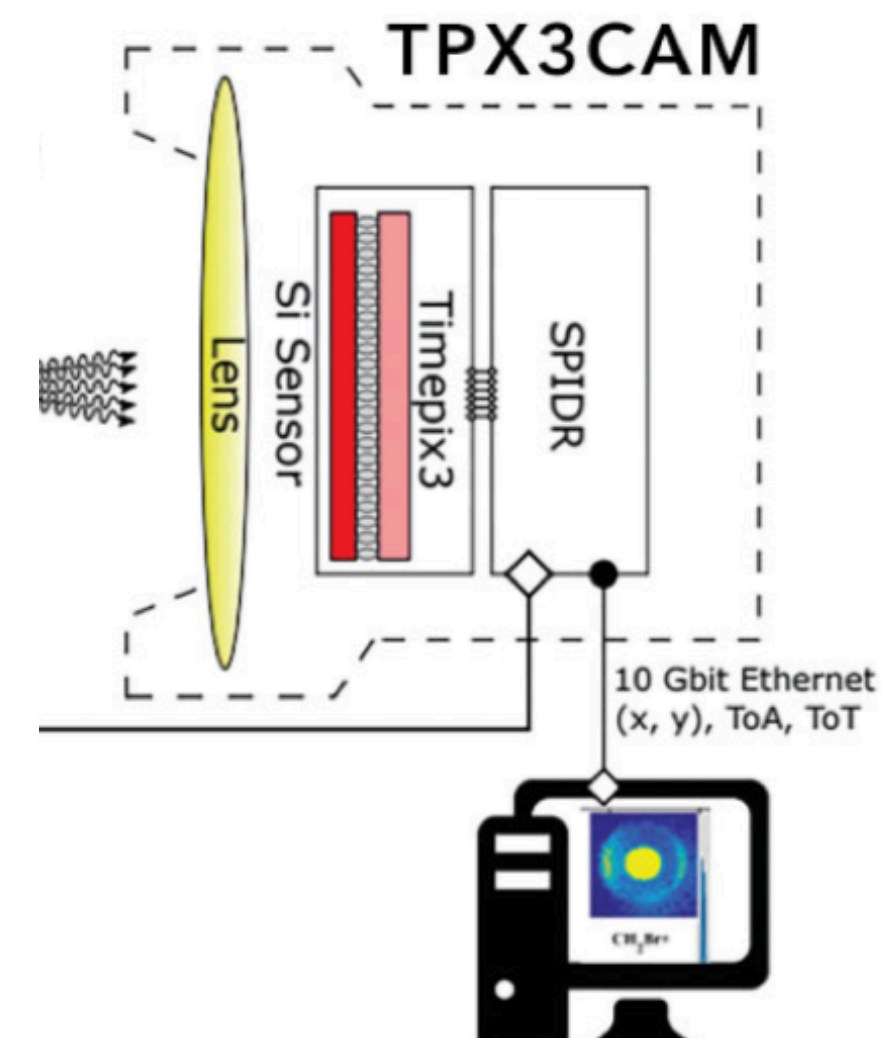
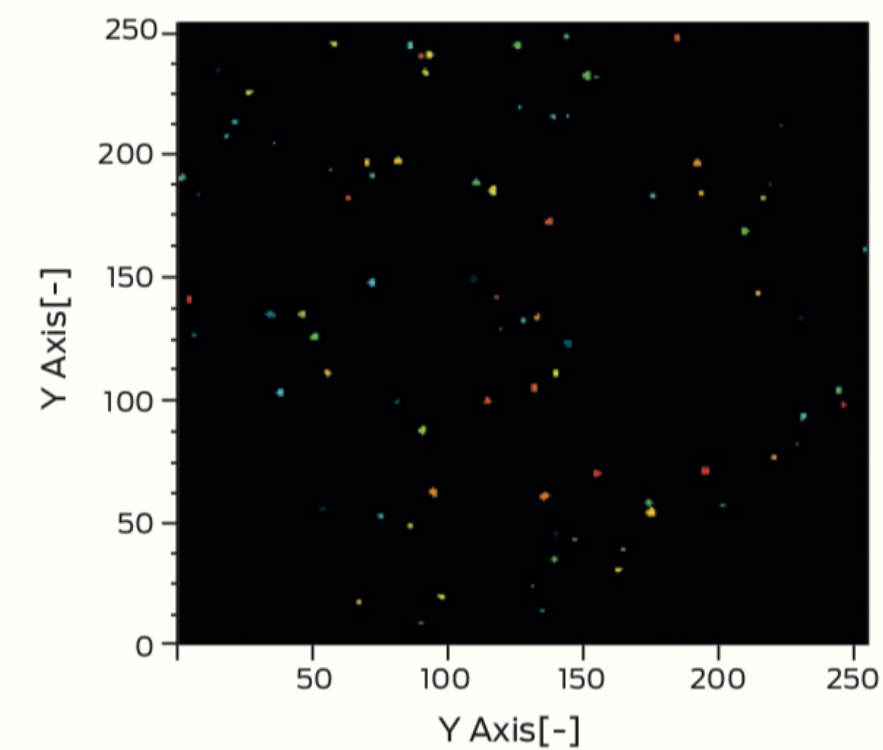
J Vallerga et al 2014 JINST 9 C05055
<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-0221/9/05/C05055/pdf>

TPX3CAM

Optical detector for **time stamping** (1.6ns) of optical photons up to 80 Mhits/s rate.
Commercially available.

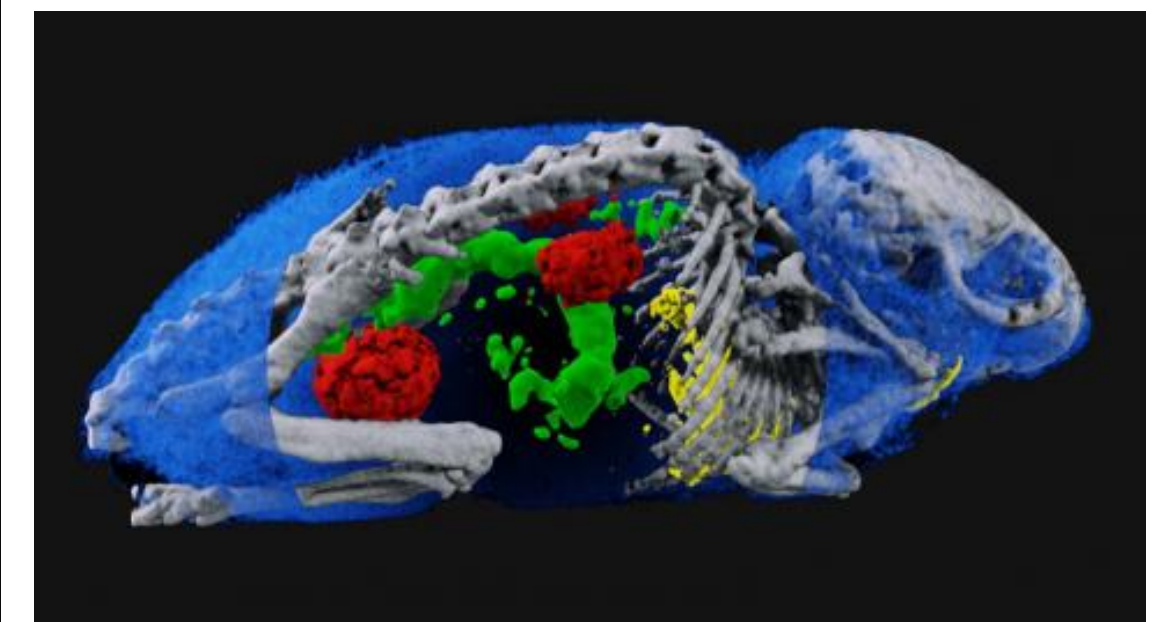


<https://www.amscins.com/tpx3cam/>



MARS bio imaging

Spectral imaging with Medipix3 chip
Can enable imaging of biochemical and physiological processes and increase efficiency of radiology procedures



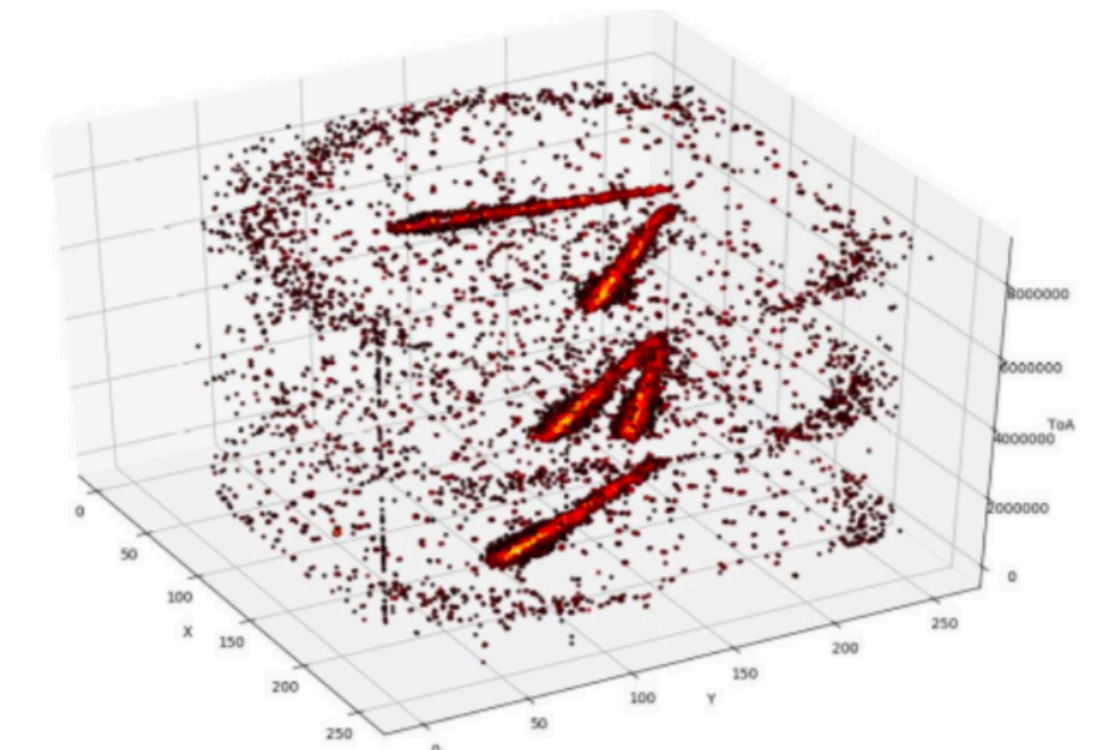
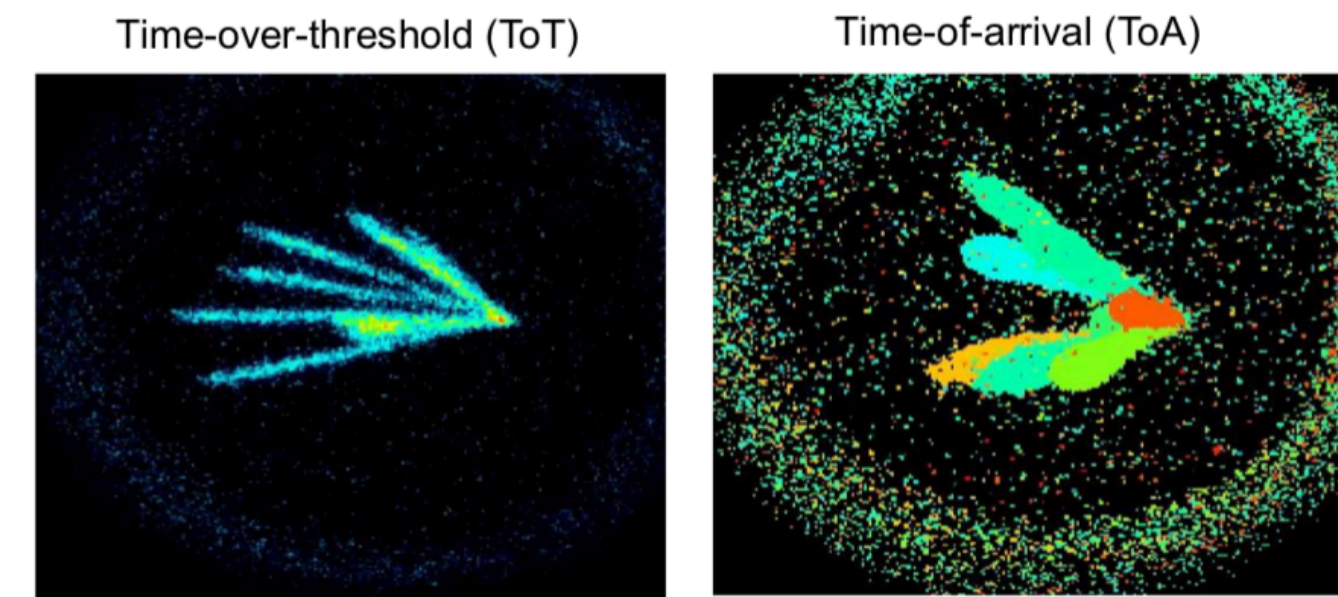
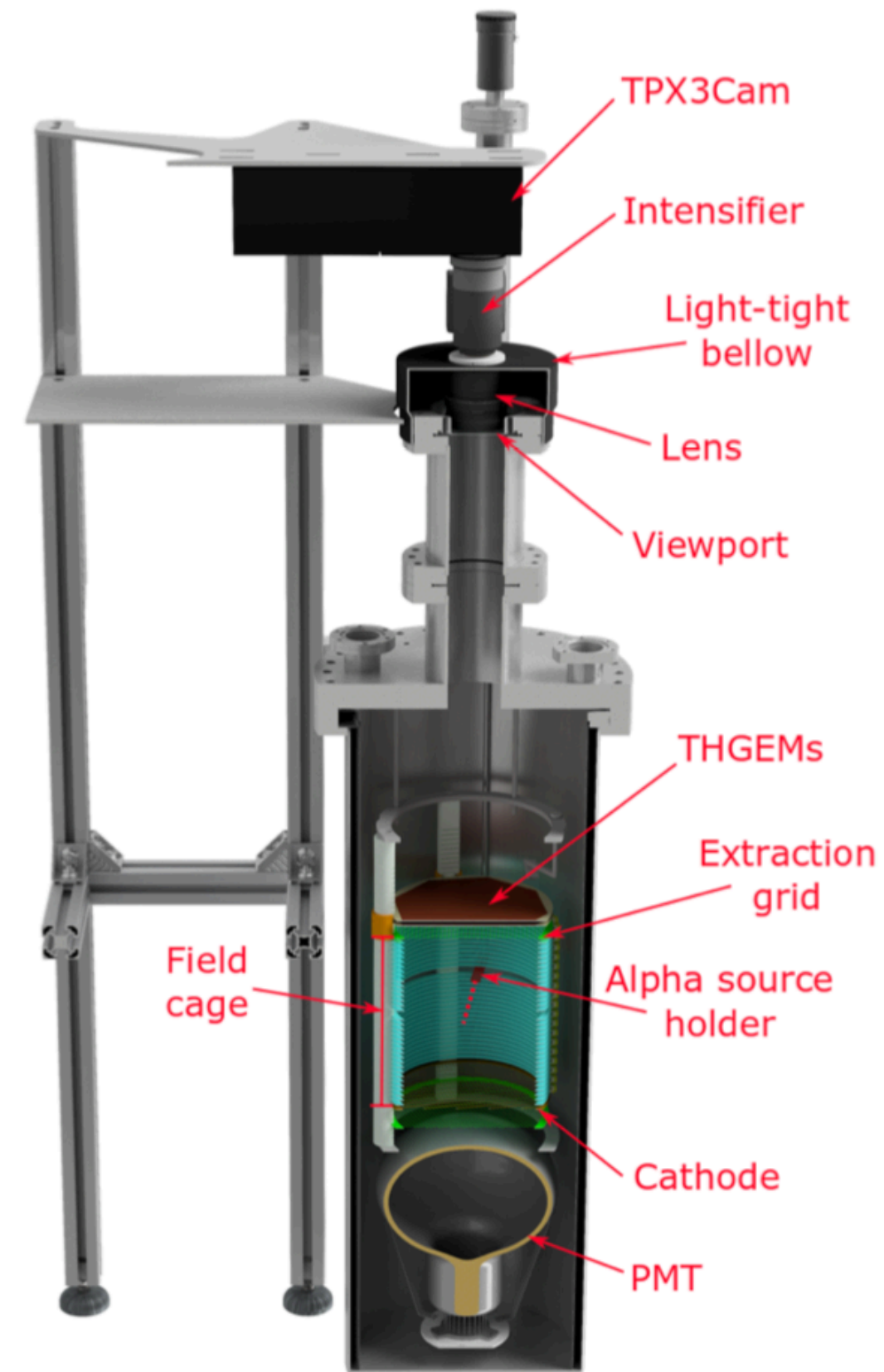
<https://medipix.web.cern.ch/mars-bio-imaging>

3D track reconstruction Intensified TPX3Cam

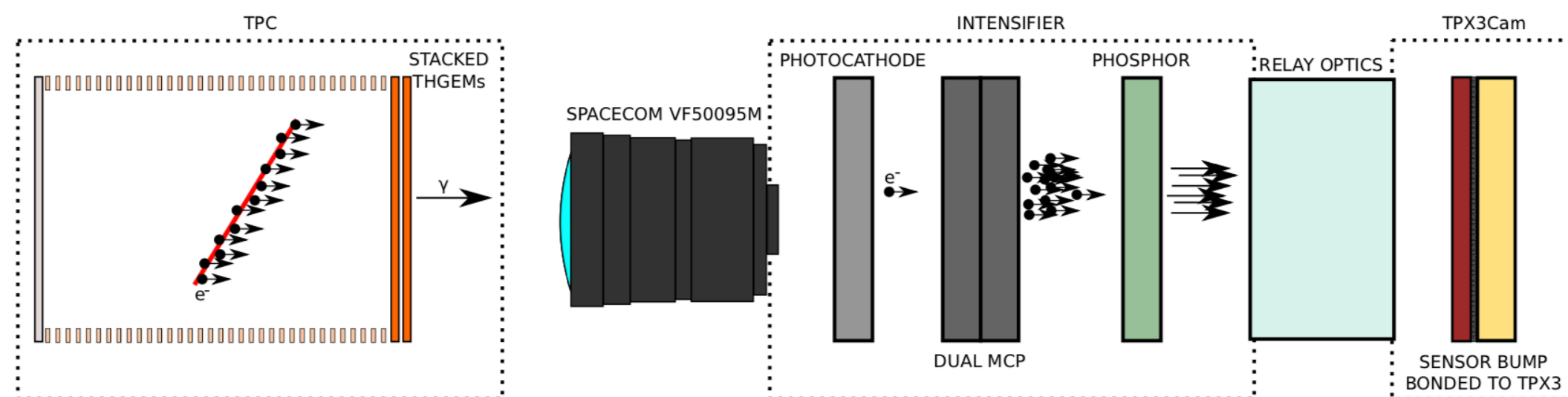
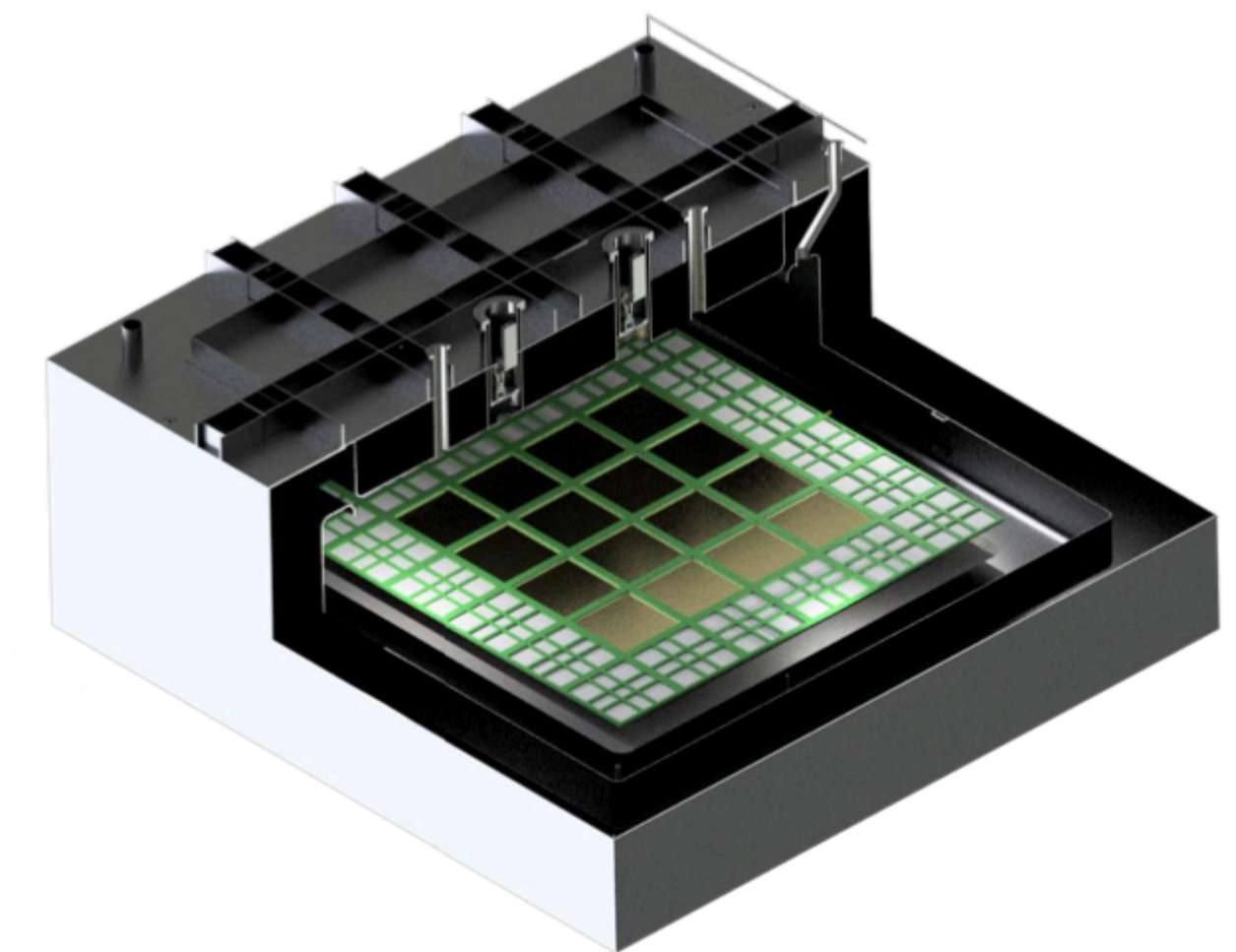
Readout of S2 scintillation in **dual phase TPC**

Light production with THGEM / GlassGEM in avalanche mode

TPB wavelength shifter and VIS **photocathode** or **direct VUV imaging** with UV photocathode on intensifier



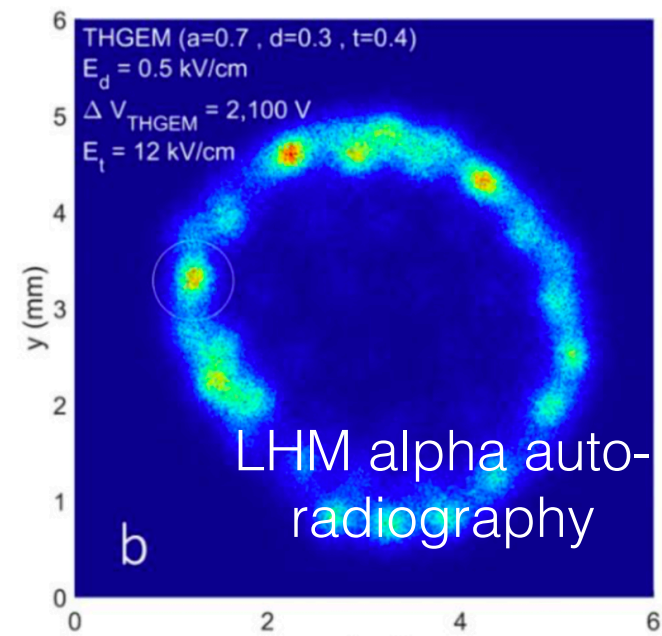
Next step: 2m x 2m test with large field of view and direct VUV imaging



SiPM readout of MPGDs

- **Time resolution** and **single-photon sensitivity** of SiPMs makes them attractive for scintillation light readout of MPGDs
- May be used for timing as well as limited **position reconstruction** with **SiPM arrays**
- Requires matching of **scintillation light emission** characteristics (WL spectrum, time characteristics) with SiPM and associated readout electronics

Spatial resolution with SiPMs

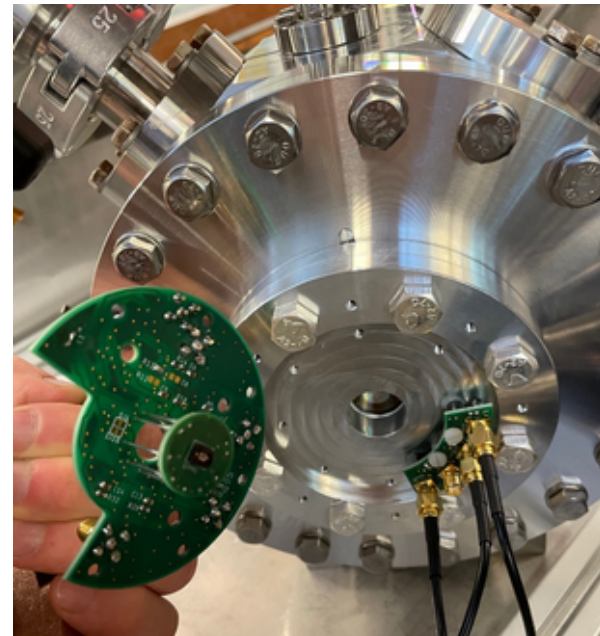


E. Erdal et al. (2018). First Imaging Results of a Bubble-assisted Liquid Hole Multiplier with SiPM readout in Liquid Xenon.

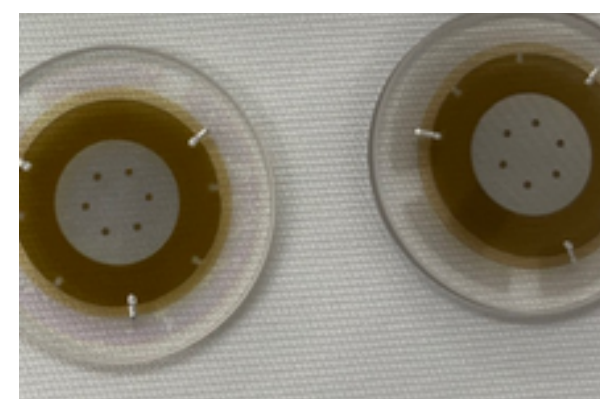
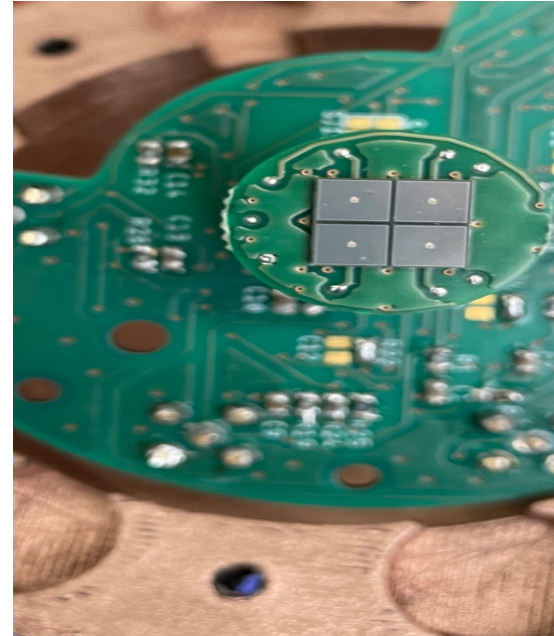
- Arrays of SiPMs to reconstruct clusters
- Fast timing response can enable operation in higher rate environments and 3D tracking with known t_0 timing signals

GlassMicromegas readout with SiPMs

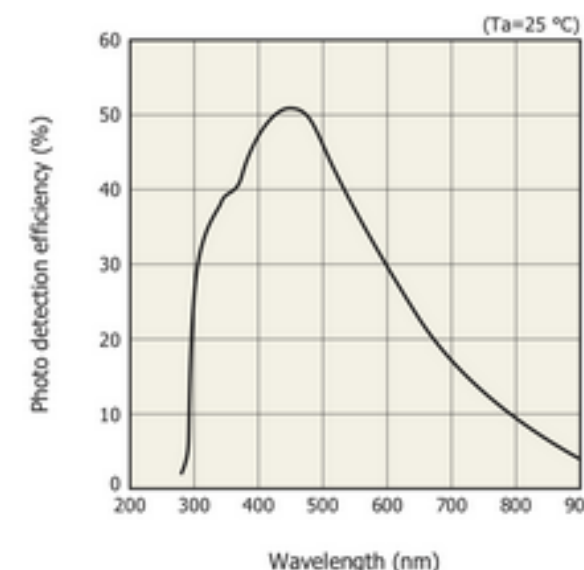
Single channel SiPM



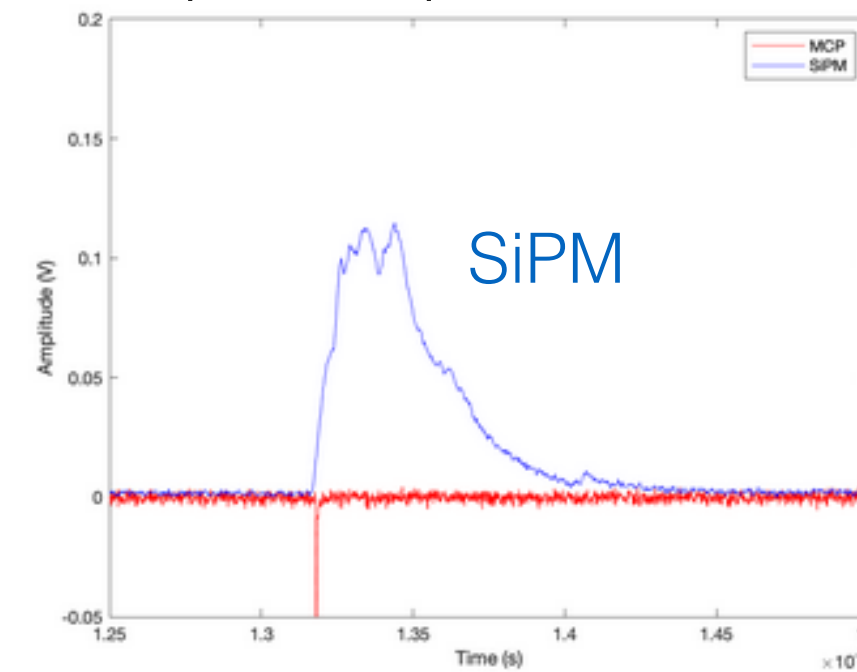
2x2 SiPM array



Optical MM with Cr/ITO anode



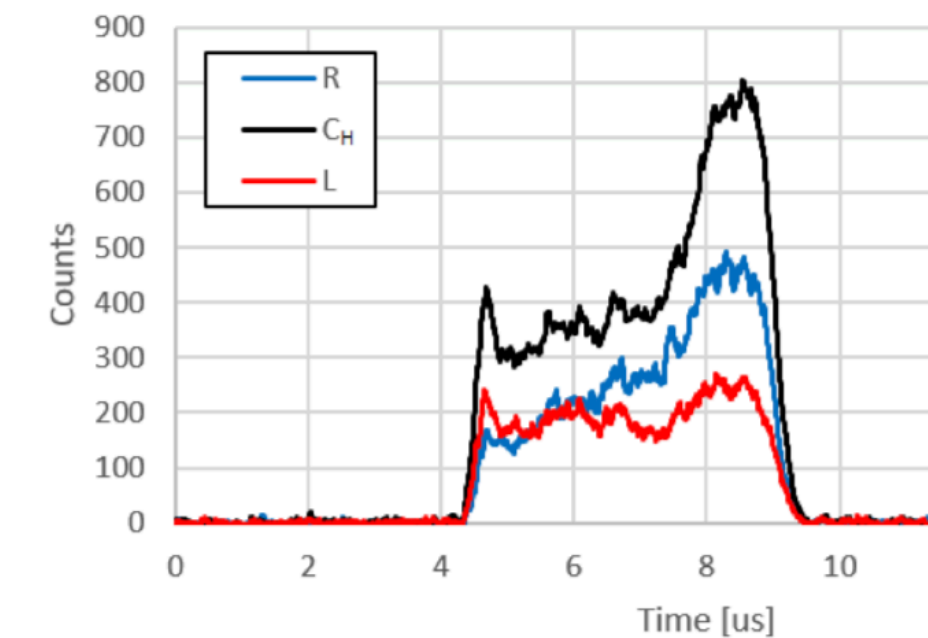
SiPM signal with sharp rising edge and sequential photon arrival



VIS-sensitive SiPM QE

<https://www.hamamatsu.com/eu/en/product/type/S14160-4050HS/index.html>

Linearly Graded Silicon Photomultipliers (LG-SiPMs)



A. Gola et al 2020 JINST 15 P12017 <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-0221/15/12/P12017>

- Current split in four outputs to calculate x and y coordinates from current signals
- Position resolution down to order of size of microcells (30 μ m)
- Fast response time of tens of ns

Challenges and summary

High-gain MPGD technologies and **optimal matching** of amplification structure and pixel size

Sensor sensitivity: large sensors with low read noise, inherent amplification

Scintillation emission spectra

- **Gas choice** may be driven by physics and not ideal for imaging sensors
- Alternative gases, **WLS**
- Extended **VUV sensitivity** of imaging sensors

Beam monitoring and dose imaging

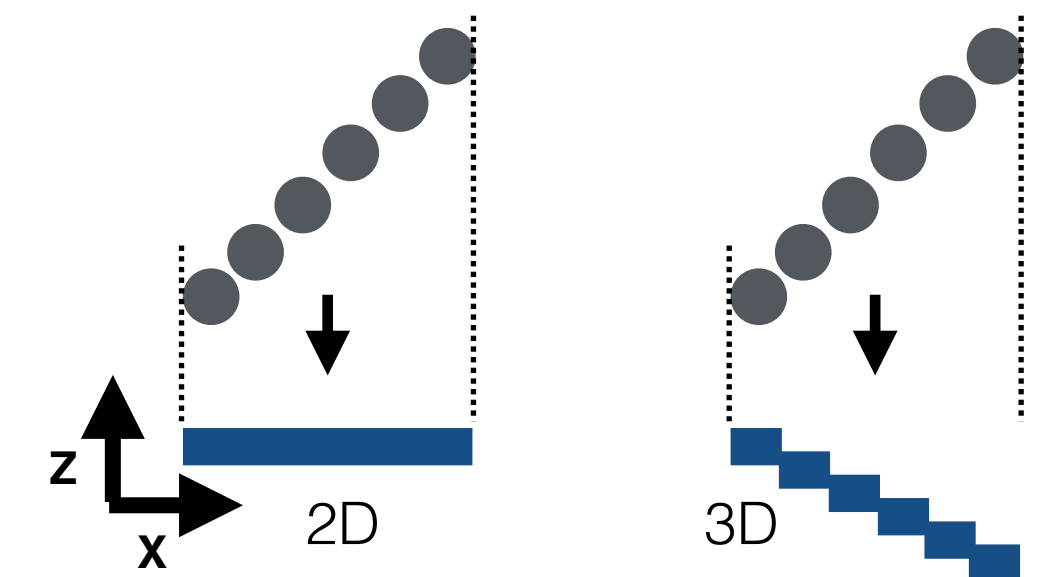
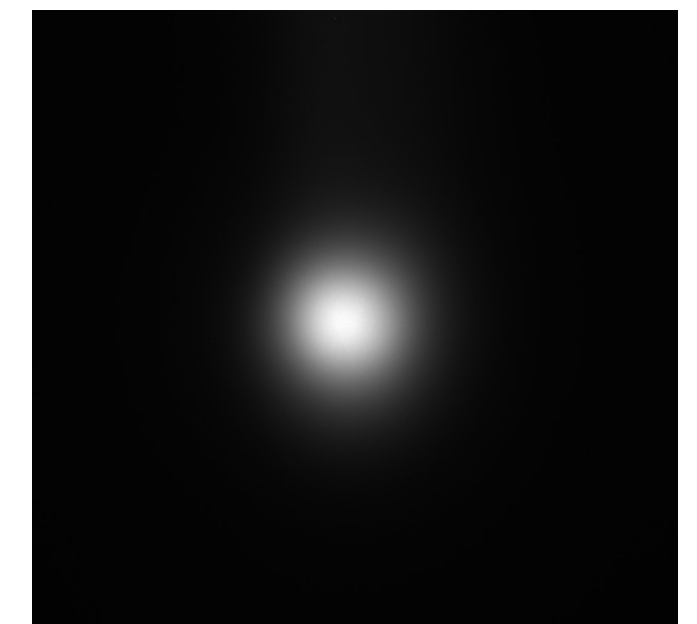
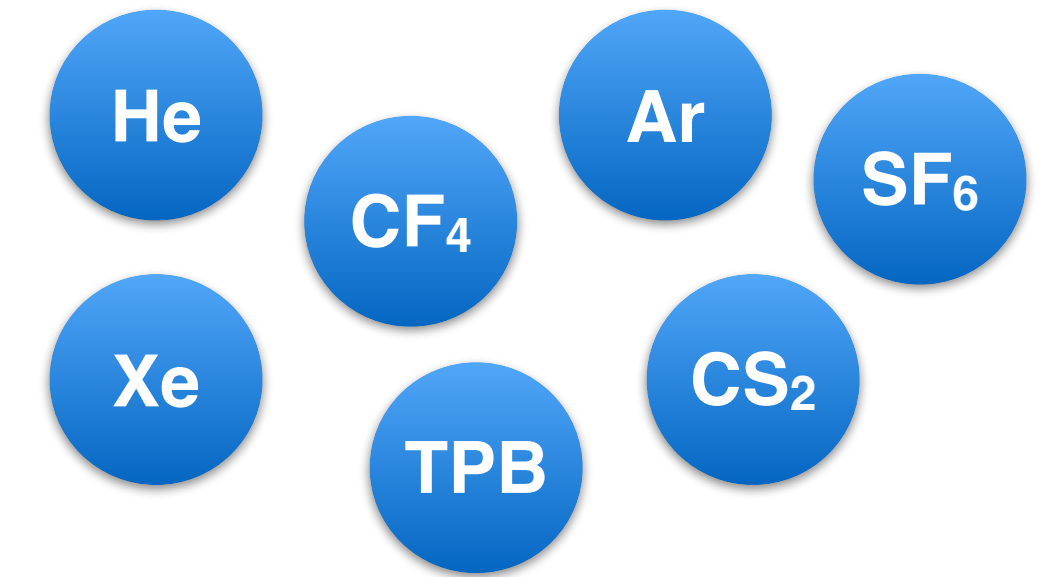
- Detailed beam position and profile with **pixellated readout**
- **Low material budget** detectors (gas + optics)
- **Real-time** beam monitoring and feedback with fast imaging sensors

Depth information with hybrid readout approaches:

- **Combined** optical+charge readout, PMT waveforms, **SiPMs arrays?** Ultra-fast imaging
- Readout **ASICs** with high timing resolution

Readout speed

- **Ultra-fast optical readout** with Mfps, data rates and volumes
- **Data-driven** readout ASICs with <ns time resolution



Pixellated readout approaches (optical, hybrid, ASICs) offer unprecedented levels of detail in recorded events.

Backup

CCD / CMOS imaging sensors

Modern scientific imaging sensors with **low read noise** and high resolution are well-suited for optical readout.

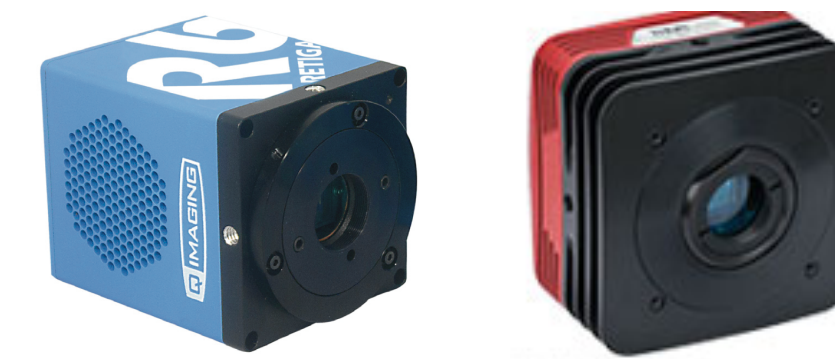
Intuitive and simple to use with images directly available without need for reconstruction

Frame rates of typically **10s to 100s of fps** impose integrated imaging approach

Resolution of CCD/CMOS imaging sensors well suited for MPGD readout (compatible with size scale of amplification structures).

Advances in imaging sensors will offer potential for increased performance of detectors:

- Higher **frame rates** -> decrease event pile-up, depth imaging
- **Larger sensors** (larger pixels at high granularity) -> higher sensitivity
- **Low noise** (<1 e-) or amplification
- Extended **spectral sensitivity**



QImaging Retiga R6, Thorlabs 8 MP Scientific CCD Cameras

CCD cameras

- **Moderate QE, higher read noise**
- **Low rate (\approx tens Hz)**

Exemplary specifications

- 6 MP sensor (2688 x 2200)
- $4.54 \times 4.54 \mu\text{m}^2$ pixels size
- 5.7 e- read noise



Hamamatsu ORCA-Fusion, Andor Zyla

sCMOS cameras

- **Low read noise**
- **\approx 100 Hz frame rate**

Exemplary specifications

- 5.3 MP sensor (2304 x 2304)
- $6.5 \times 6.5 \mu\text{m}^2$ pixels size
- 0.7 e- read noise



Hamamatsu ImageEM X2, ams technologies iXon

EMCCD cameras

- **Limited resolution**
- **Internal gain, very high sensitivity**

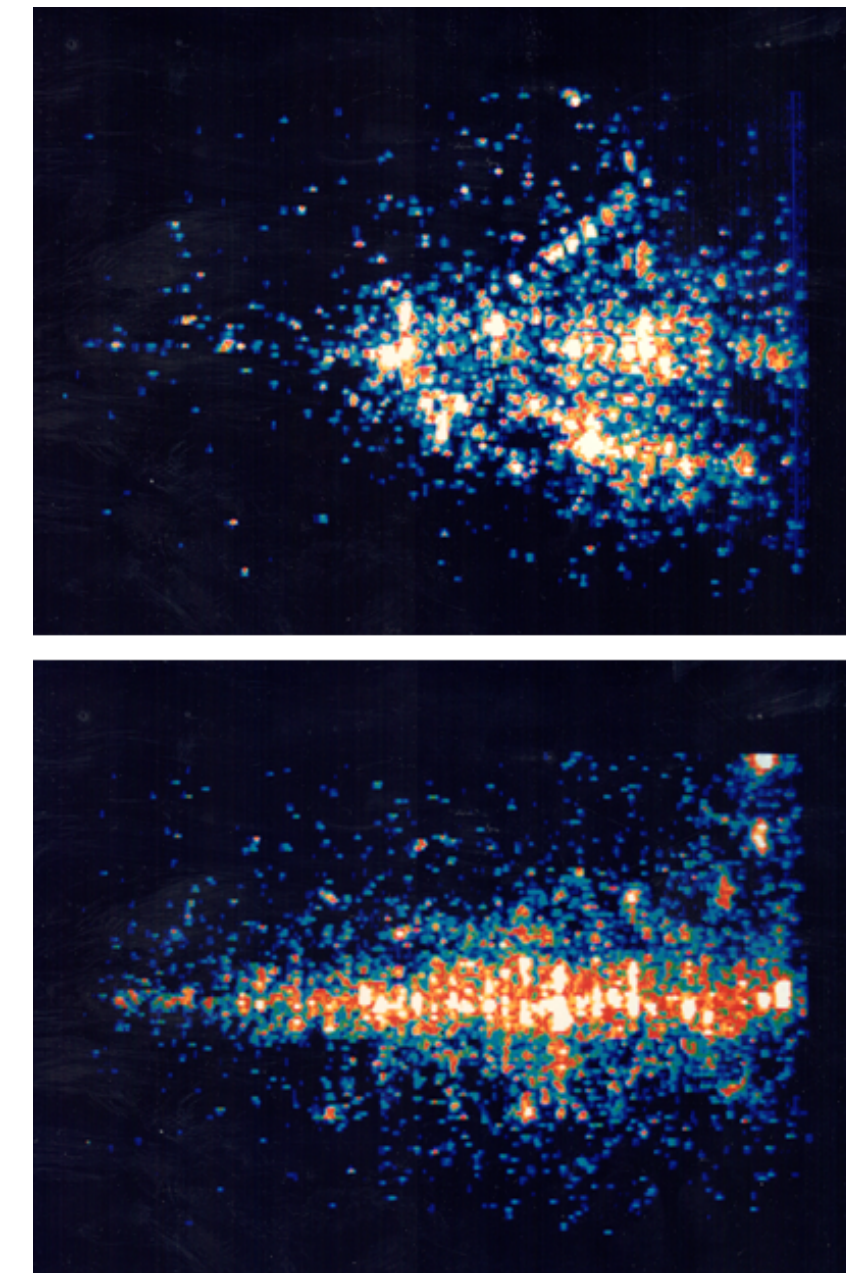
Exemplary specifications

- 1 MP sensor (1024x1024)
- $16 \times 16 \mu\text{m}^2$ pixels size
- <1 e- read noise

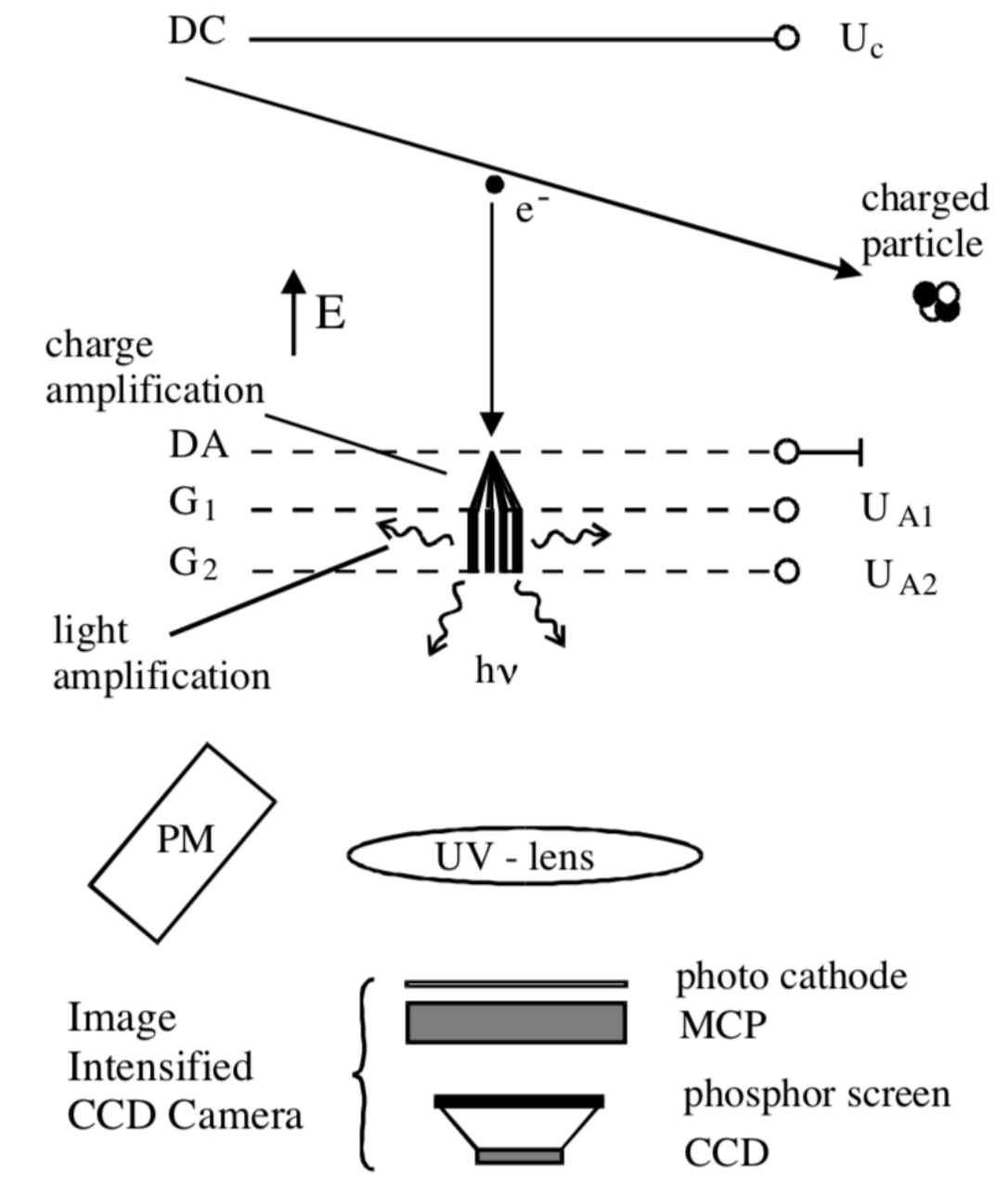
Optical TPCs

Long history of optically read out Time Projection Chambers

Detailed **2D projections** (energy loss, head/tail) from camera need **auxiliary timing** for 3D reconstruction

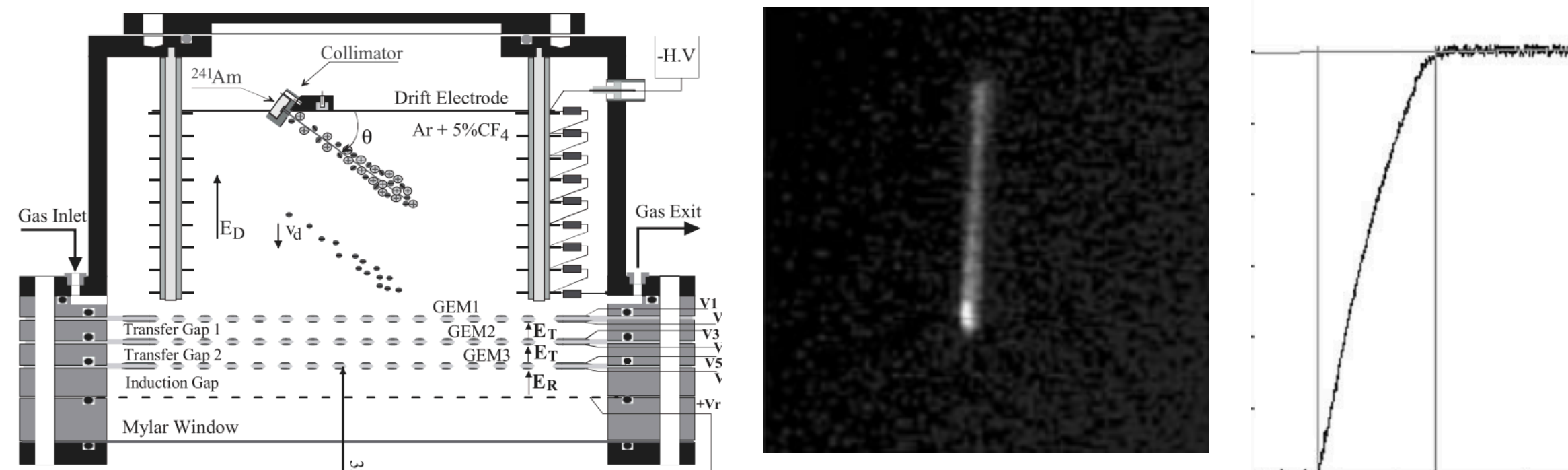


Fonte P., Breskin A., Charpak G., Dominik W. & Sauli F. (1989) NIM A. 283, 3, p. 658-664.



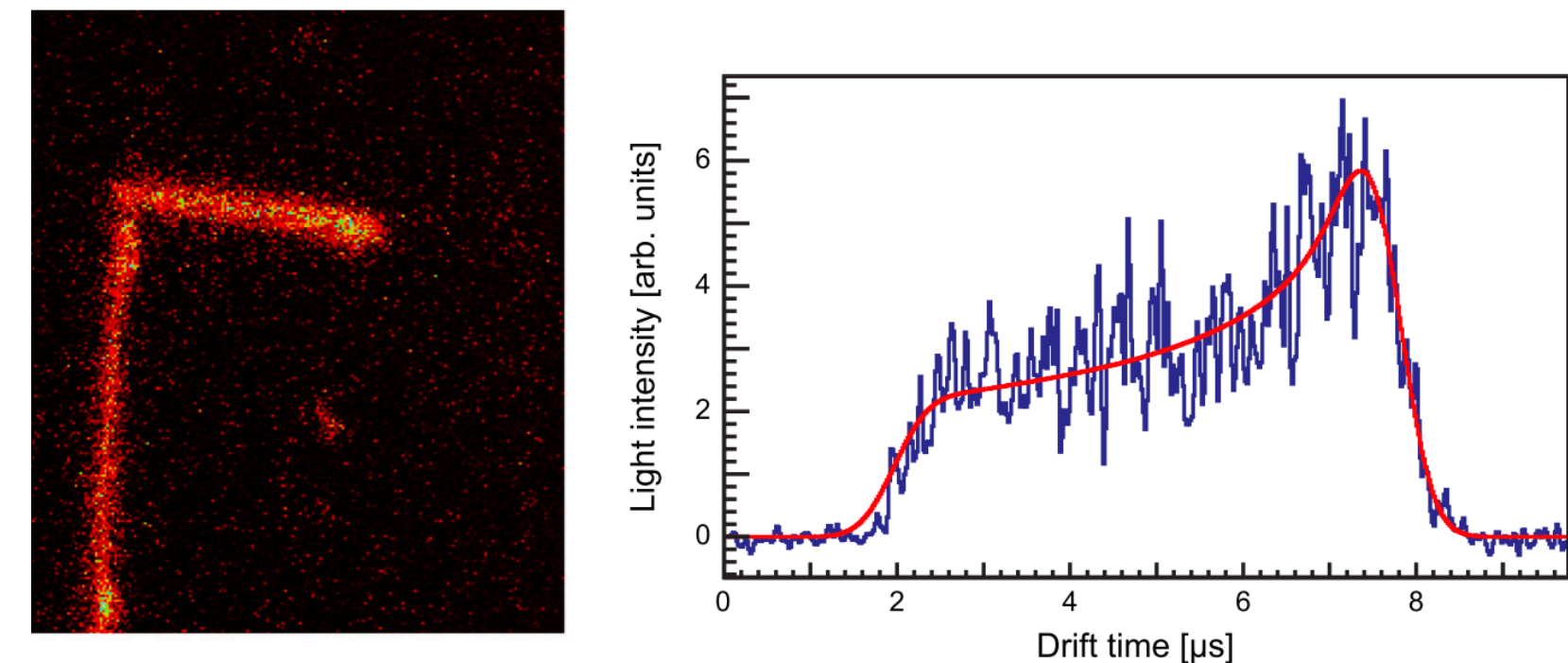
U. Titt et al. <https://cds.cern.ch/record/800769/files/0410258.pdf>

Z determination with PMT waveform



L.M.S. Margato et al., Performance of an optical readout GEM-based TPC, NIM A, 2004

OTPC for proton spectroscopy



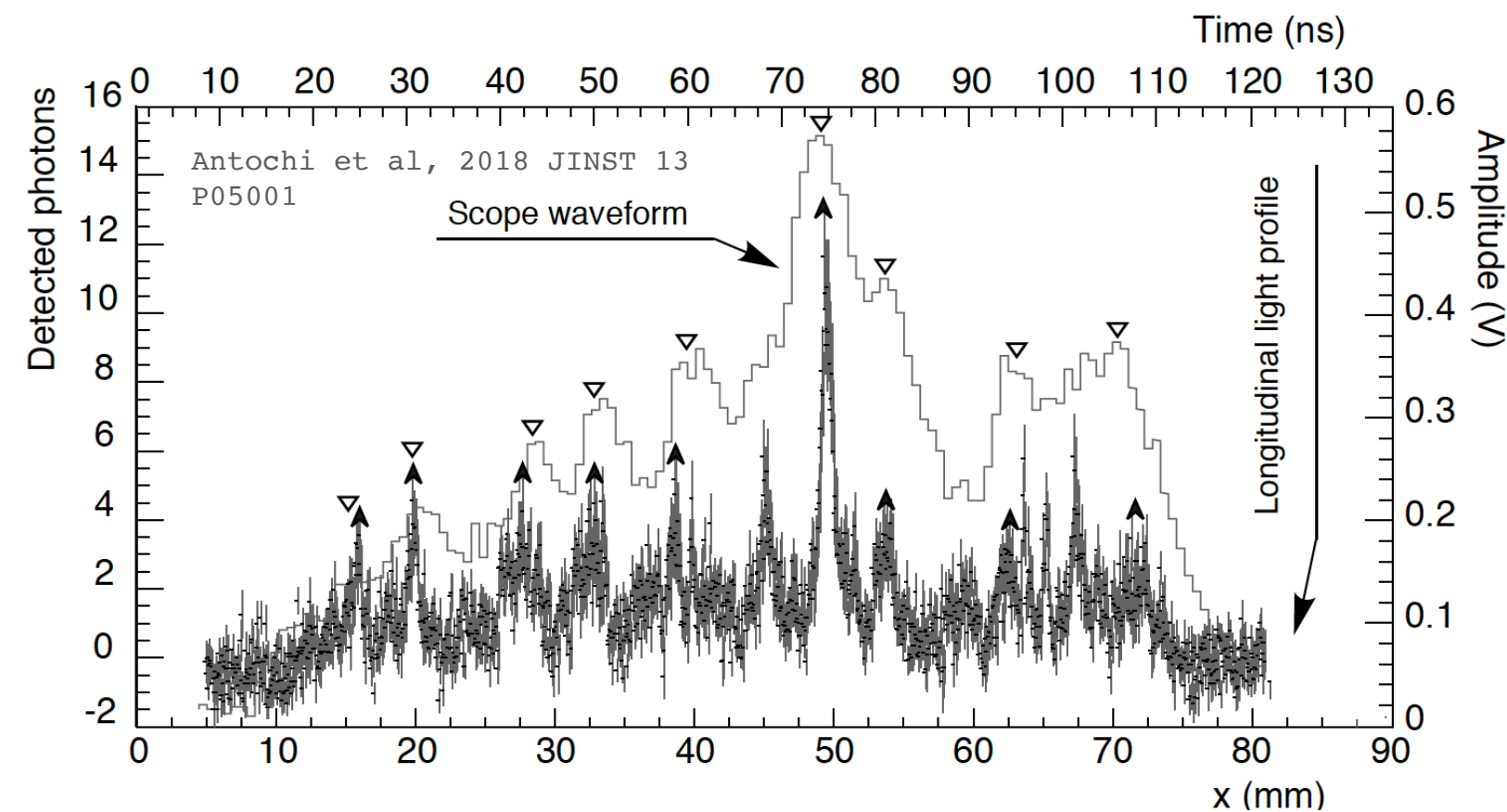
M. Pomorski et al. DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevC.90.014311

Depth reconstruction techniques

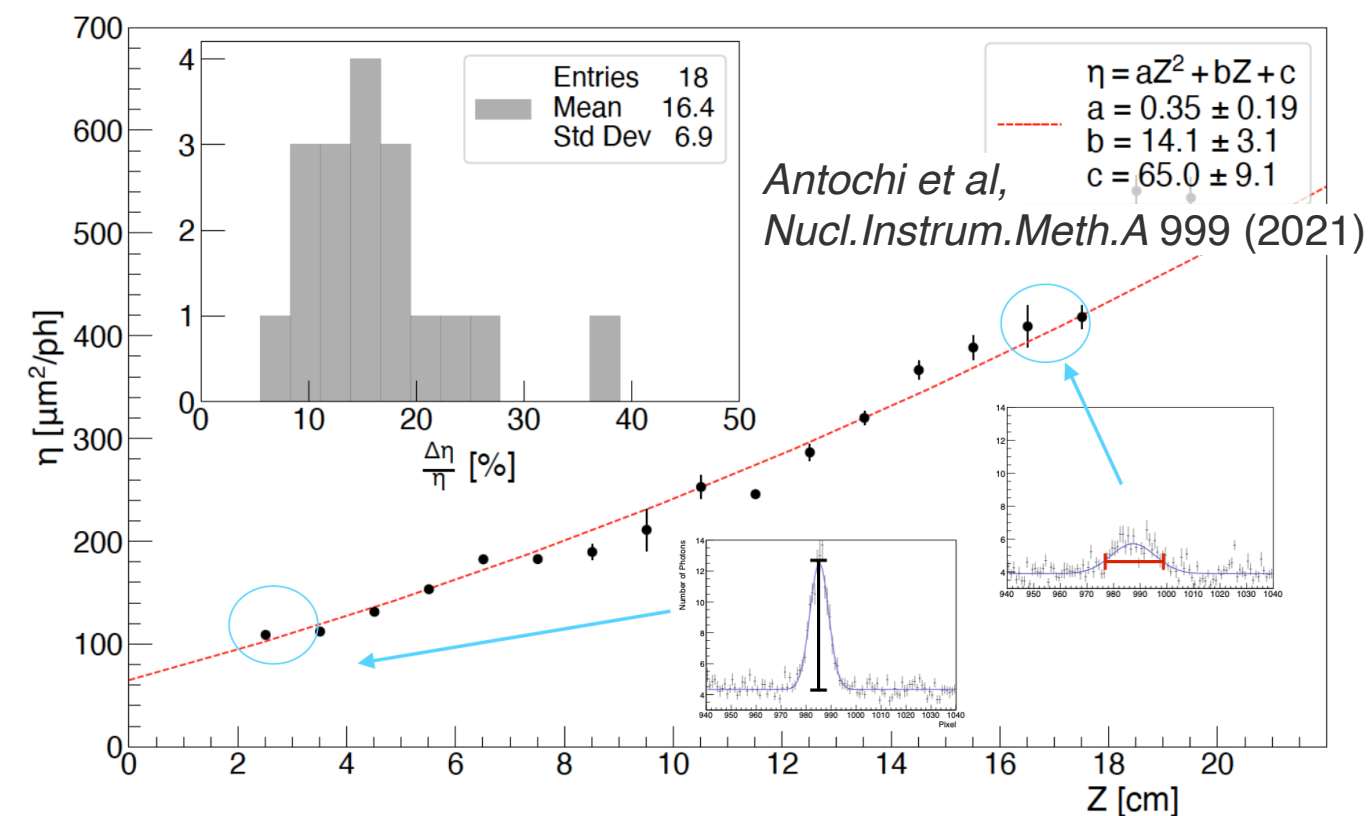
Fast drift velocity in CF4 mixtures (e.g. >10 cm/ μ s in Ar/CF4) make sub-mm scale depth resolution challenging

Alternative techniques for exploiting information in images and adding precise **auxiliary timing information**:

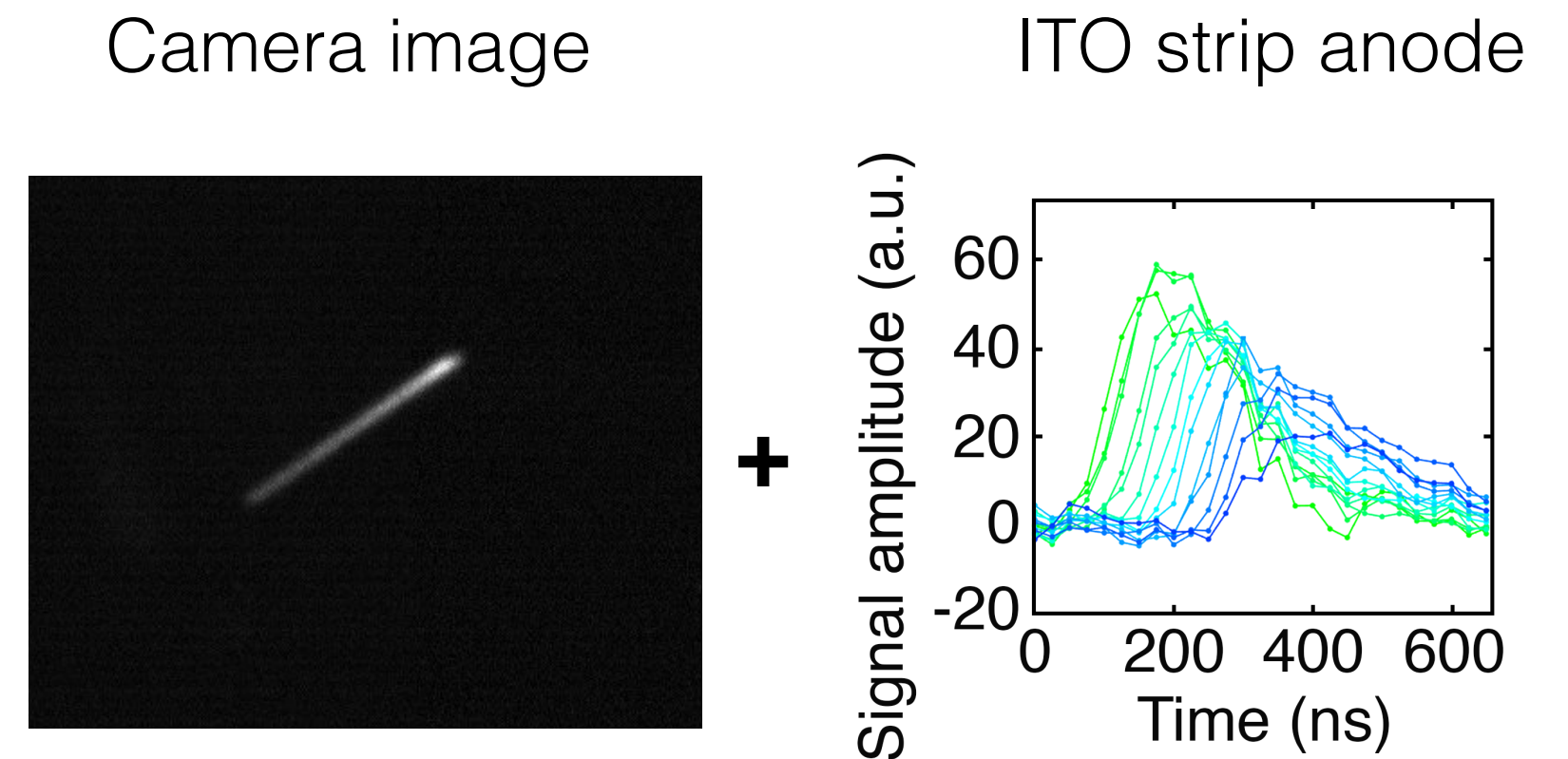
Matching of clusters in light intensity profile from image and in PMT waveforms for Z-determination



Exploit diffusion (amplitude vs. width of charge cloud) to determine drift distance



Combined 2D image with timing information from **electronic readout** from e.g. transparent strip anode with ITO



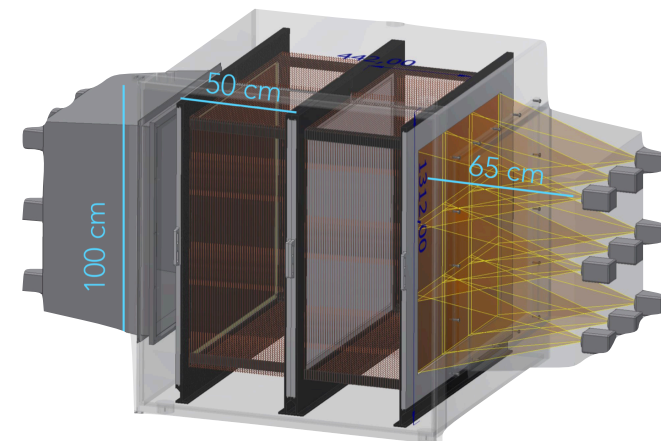
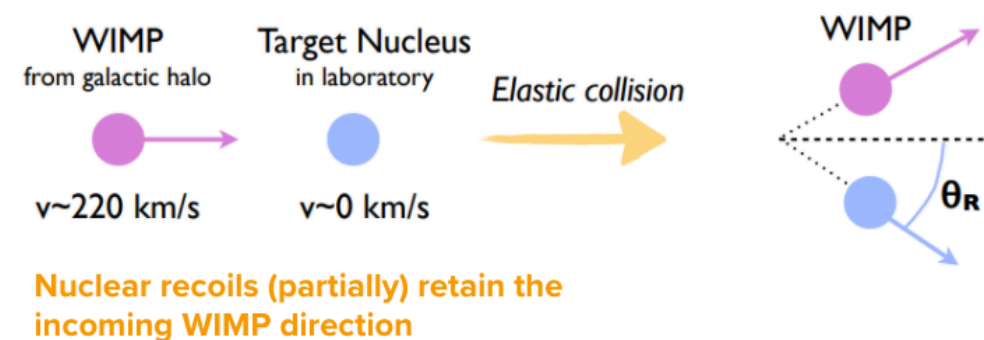
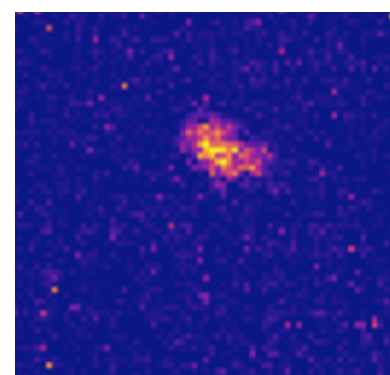
Optical TPCs



Atmospheric pressure Optical TPC

Rare event searches, directional dark matter

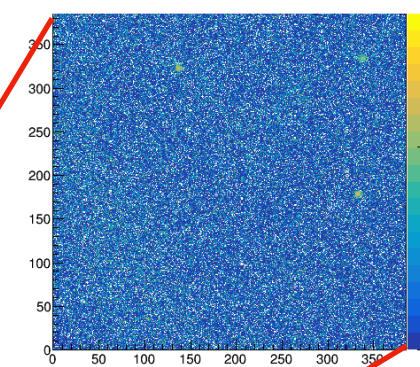
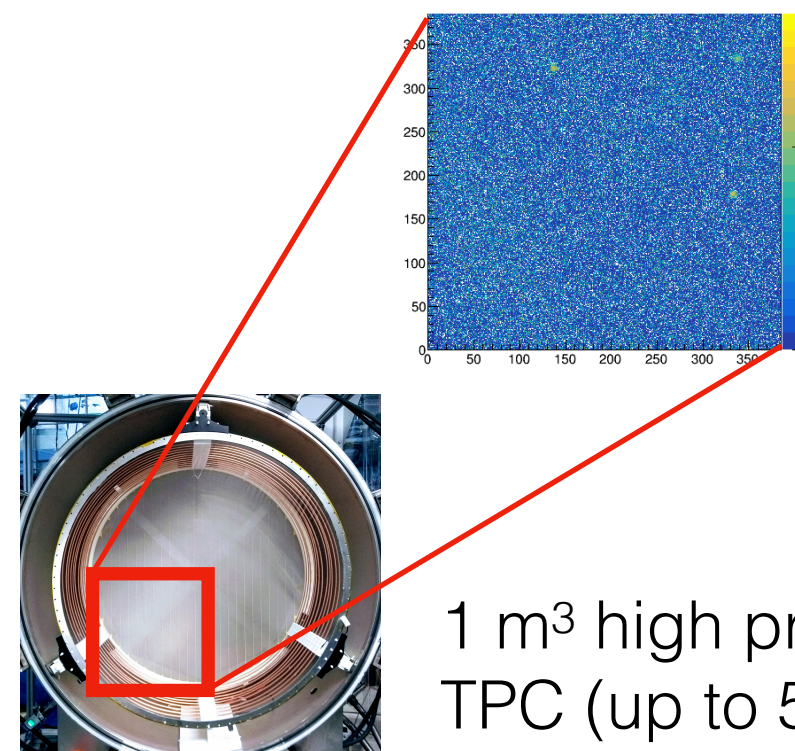
Triple GEM with **CMOS + PMT/SiPM** readout requiring low radioactivity background



D. Pinci et al., CYGNO: Triple-GEM Optical Readout for Directional Dark Matter Search, MPGD 2019
https://indico.cern.ch/event/757322/contributions/3396494/attachments/1841021/3018431/Cygn0_MPGD19.pdf

High Pressure TPC

Towards a neutrino-nucleus cross section experiments



Stitched optical readout (4 CCD cameras) + **electronic signals** from meshes used for amplification

1 m³ high pressure TPC (up to 5 bar)

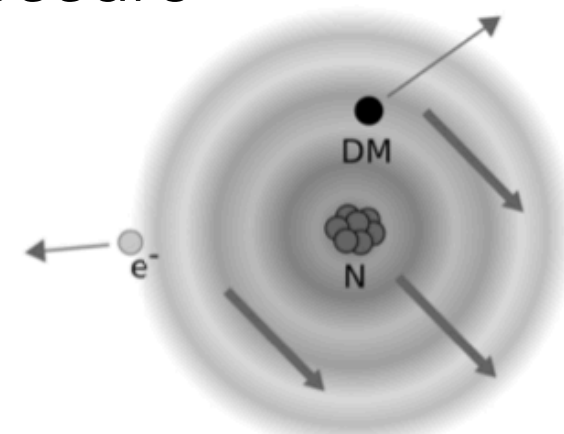
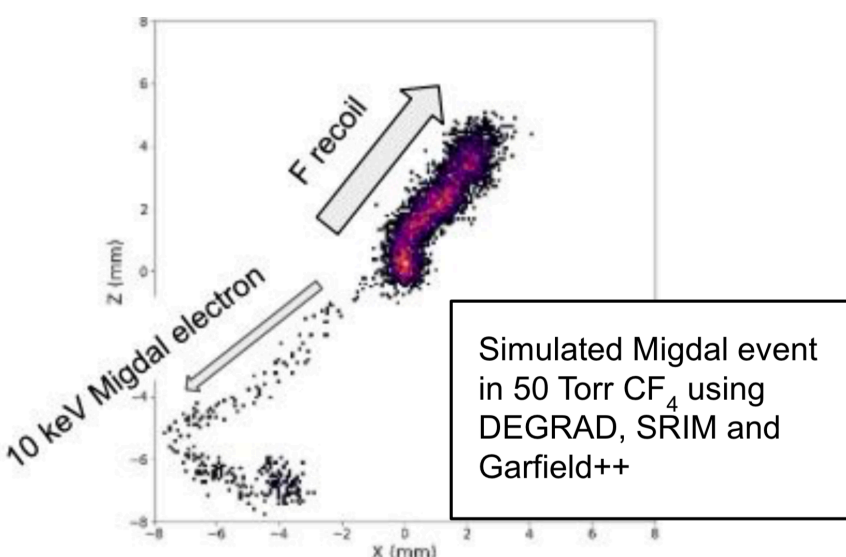
A. Deisting, HPTPC, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2102.06643.pdf>



Low-pressure TPC with optical+electronic readout

Migdal effect search in low-pressure CF₄ for DM searches in

CMOS + electronic readout of **transparent strip anode**



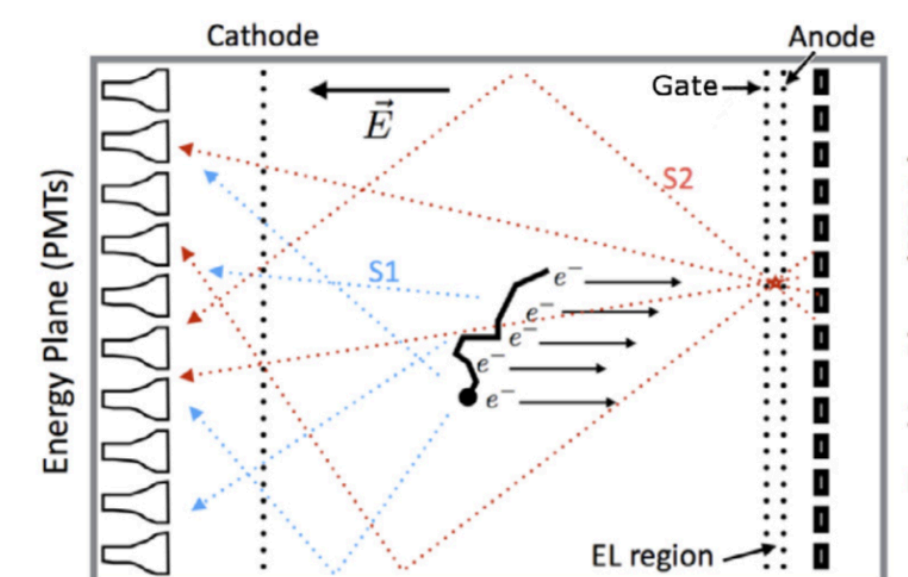
P. Majewski, RD51 Mini-Week 2020, https://indico.cern.ch/event/872501/contributions/3730586/attachments/1985262/3307758/RD51_mini_week_Pawel_Majewski_ver2.pdf



High Pressure Xe gas TPC with electroluminescent amplification

Neutrinoless double beta decay searches in ¹³⁶Xe

PMTs for energy measurement & to from S1, **SiPM-based tracking** plane recording electroluminescence



<https://next.ific.uv.es/next/experiment/detector.html>
 L. Arazi, Status of the NEXT project, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2019.04.080>

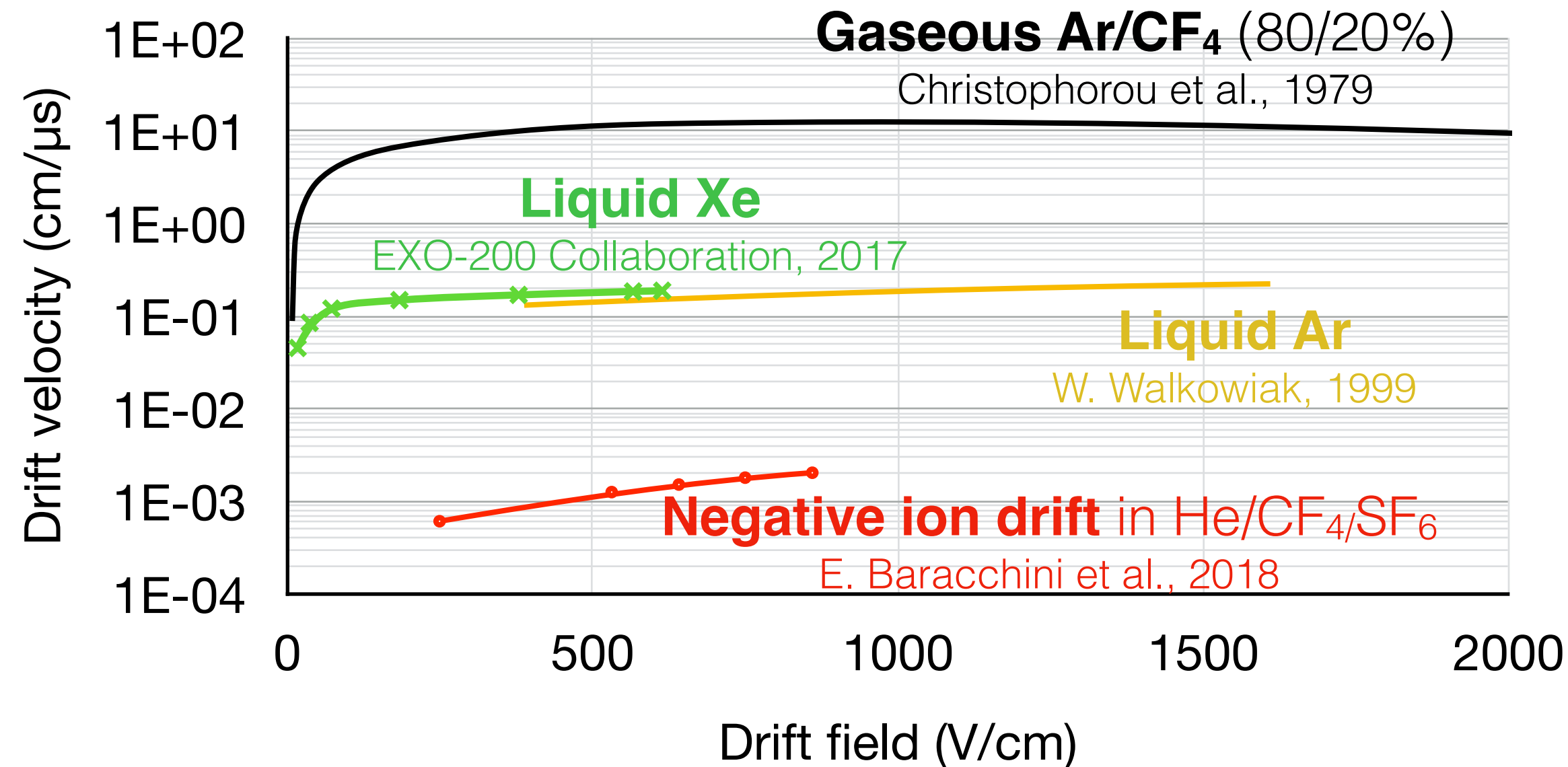
Negative ion TPCs

Negative ion drift may be promising for suppressing **transverse diffusion** down to thermal limits.

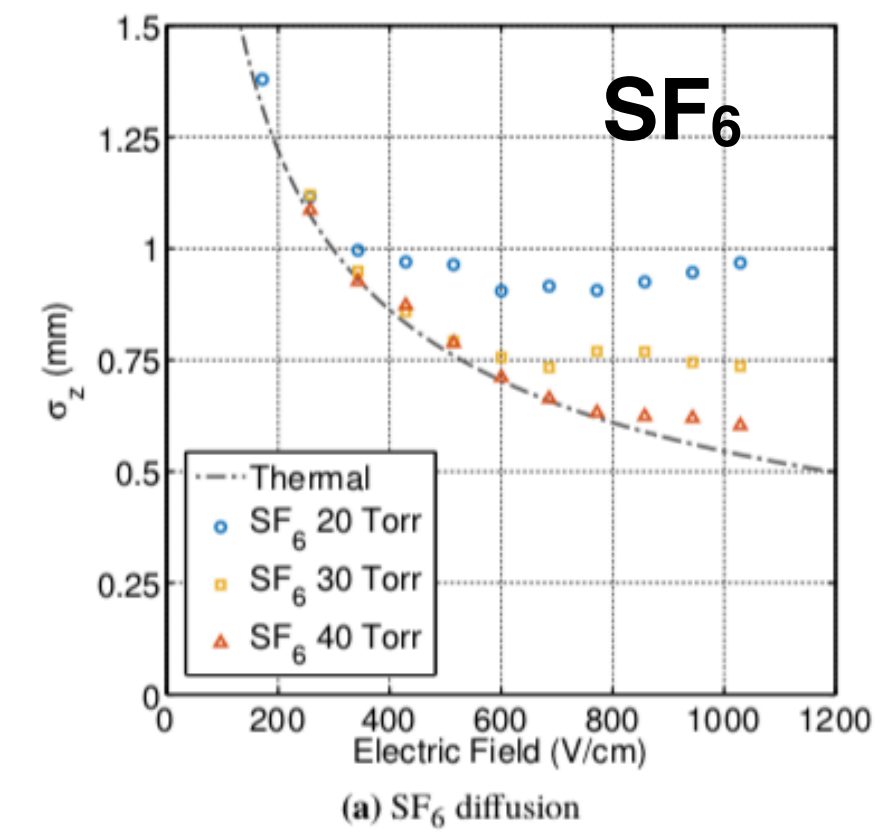
Very **low drift velocities** can allow for 3D reconstruction from image sequences recorded at kHz frame rates.

Negative ion mixtures strongly **suppress light yield** and achievable **gain**.

Alternative NI gas mixtures with suitable scintillation yield, **high-gain MPGD geometries**?

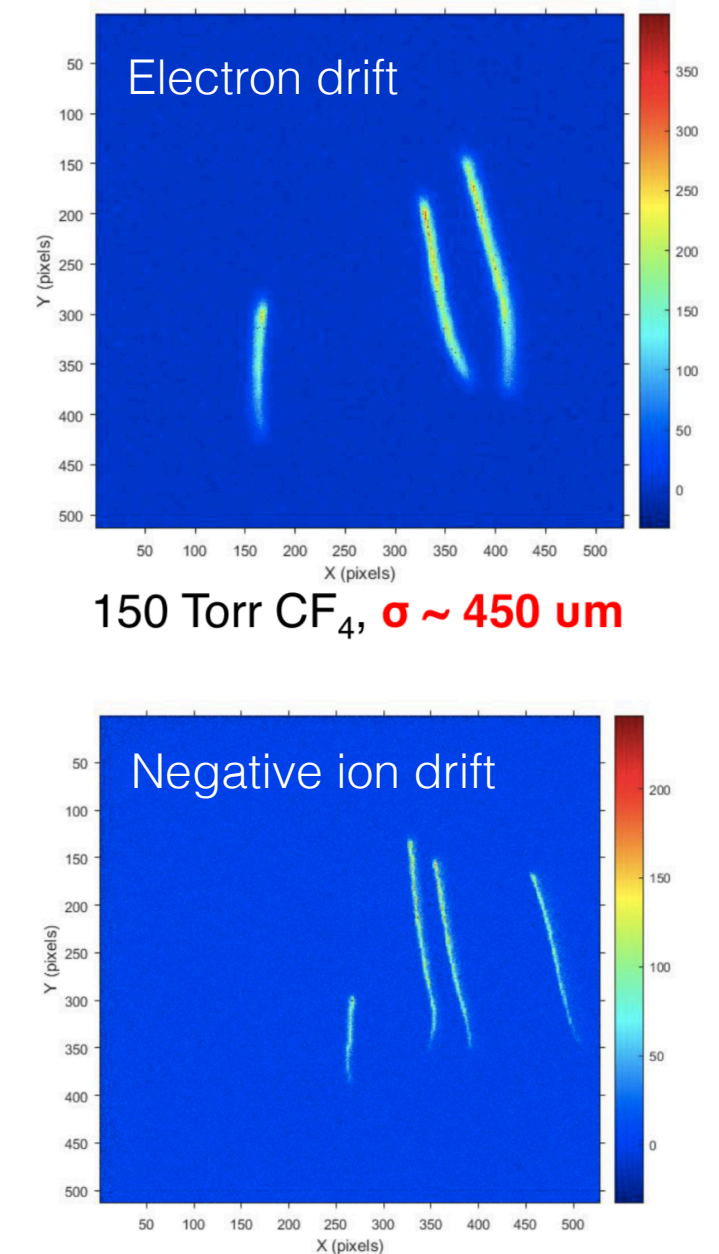


Low diffusion
approaching thermal limits



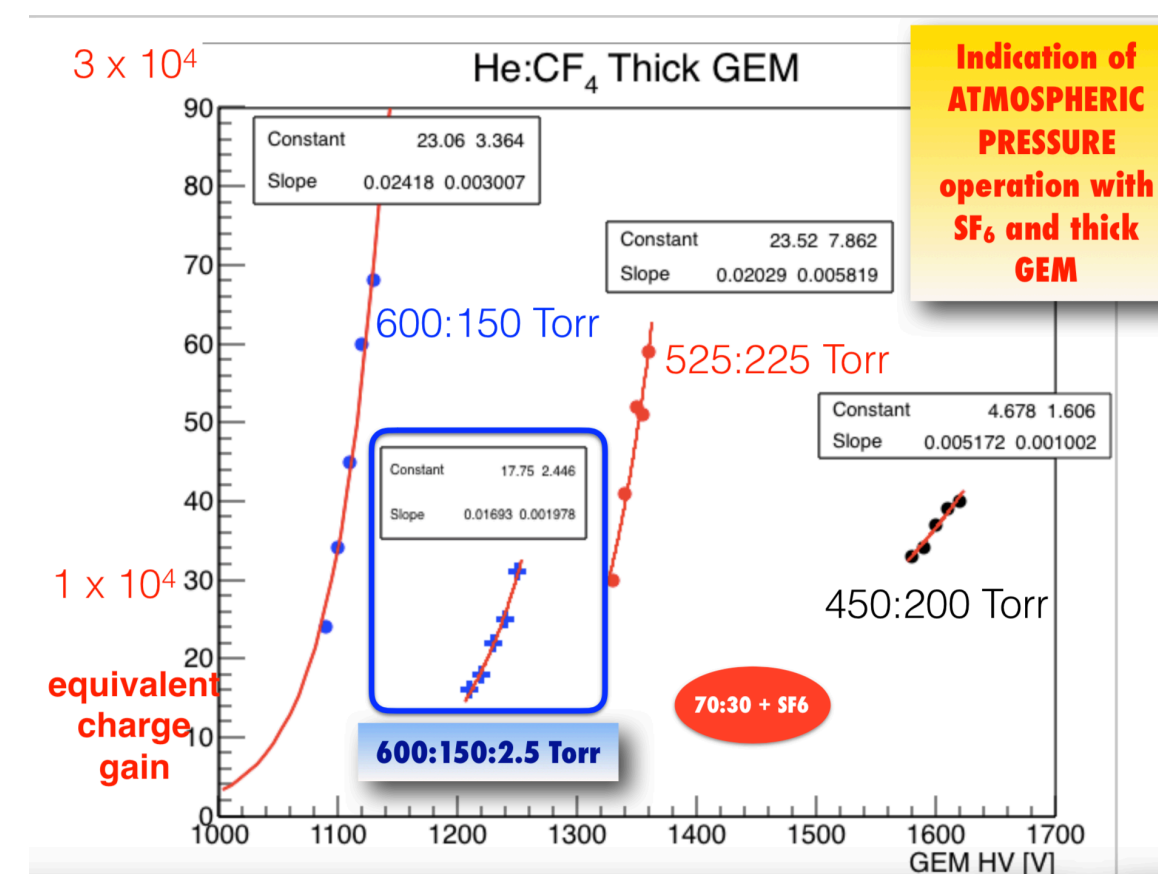
N.S. Phan et al 2017 JINST 12 P02012 <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-0221/12/02/P02012>

NI Optical TPC



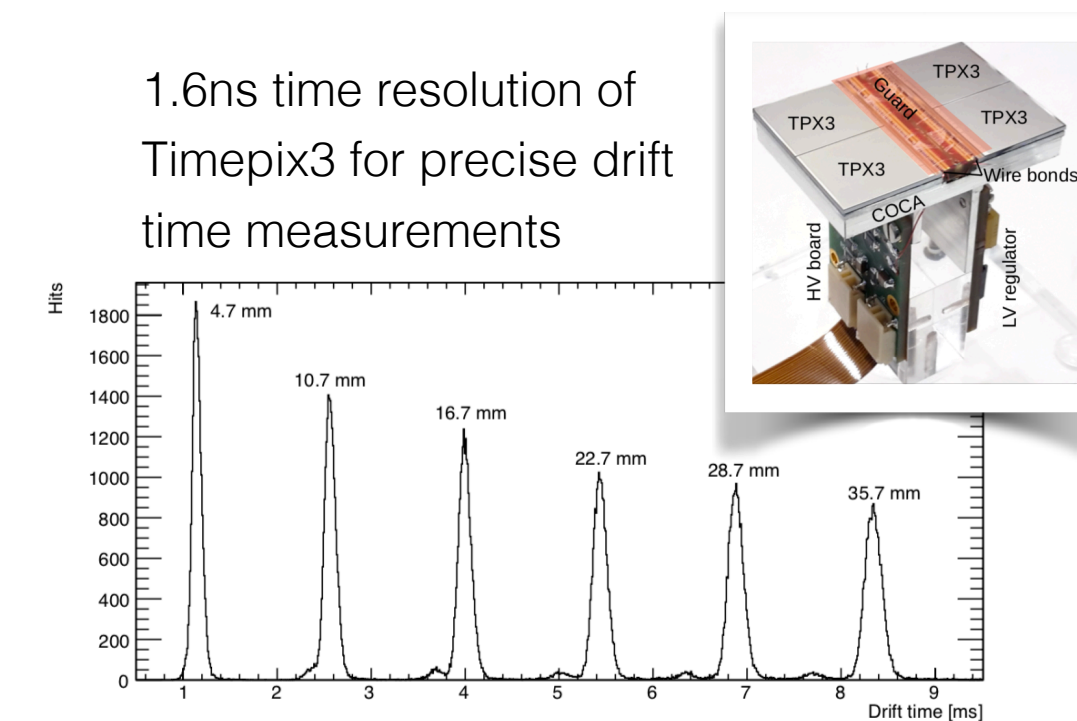
D. Loomba, UNM

Gain demonstrated in atmospheric pressure He/CF₄/SF₆



E. Baracchini et al., CYGNO INITIUM, ERC No 818744

GridPix NI TPC readout

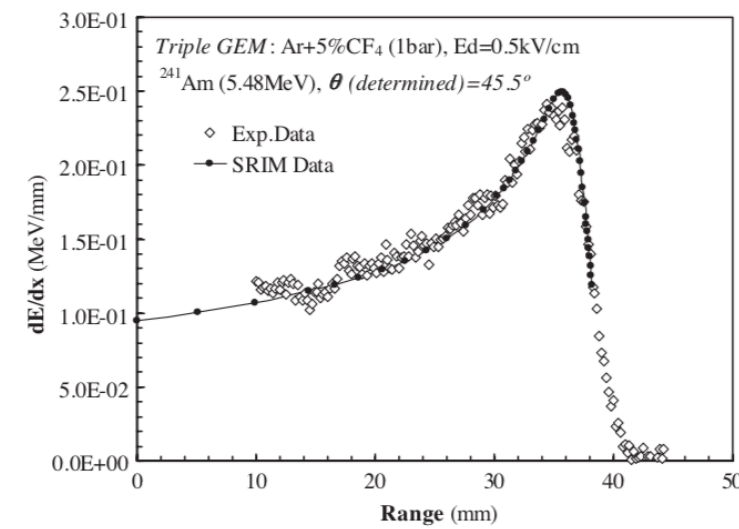


C. Ligtenberg et al., https://indico.nikhef.nl/event/2372/contributions/5576/subcontributions/225/attachments/2601/3036/NITPC_paper_v0612.pdf

Applications

Cluster counting for energy loss measurement

Classical energy loss measurement

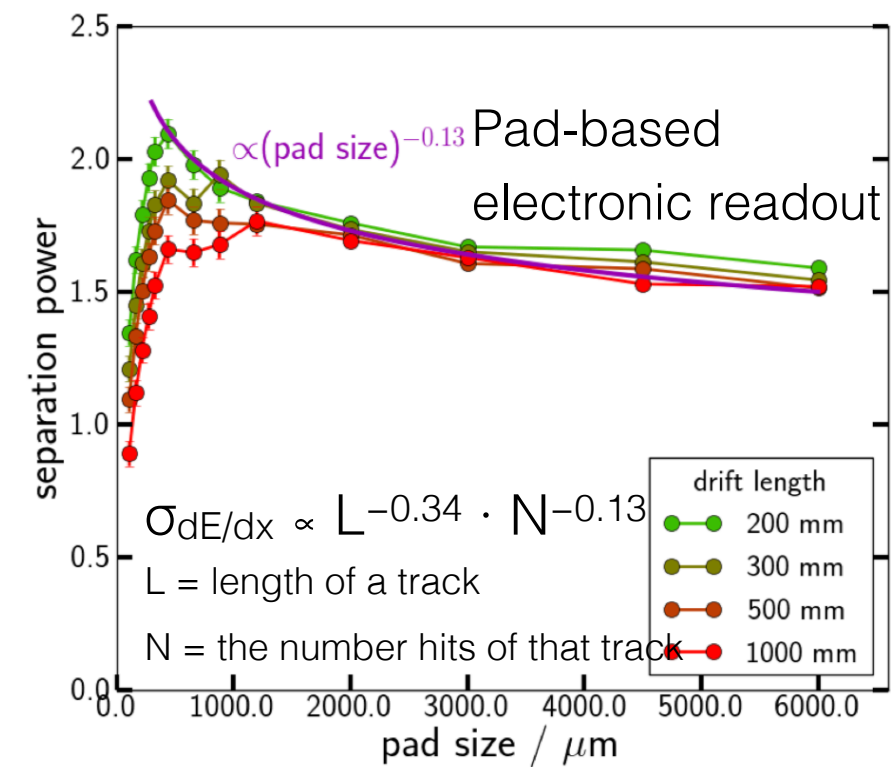


Energy loss represented by pixel value intensities e.g. alpha track energy loss profile

L.M.S. Margato et al., Performance of an optical readout GEM-based TPC, NIM A, 2004

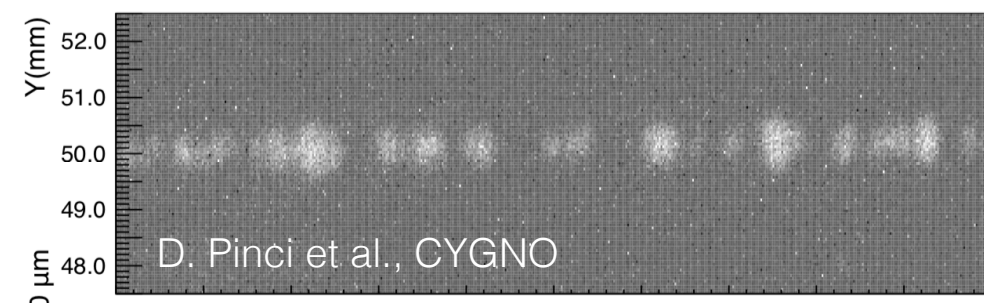
→ Cluster counting

Cluster counting may provide superior energy loss resolution



U. Einhaus, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1902.05519.pdf>

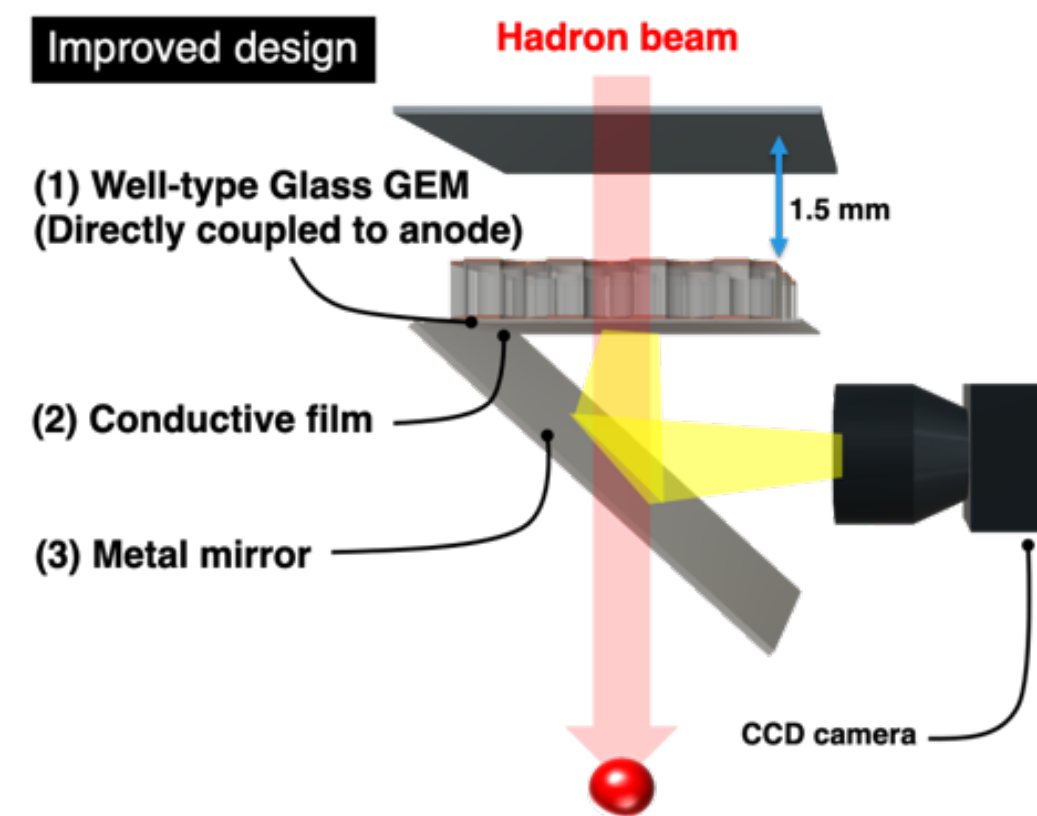
High granularity and low diffusion (NI, deconvolution?) required to distinguish clusters.



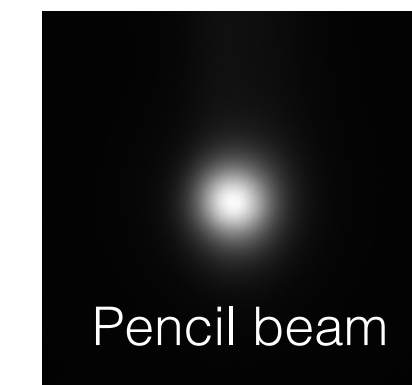
Cluster structure along electron track

Dose imaging & beam monitoring

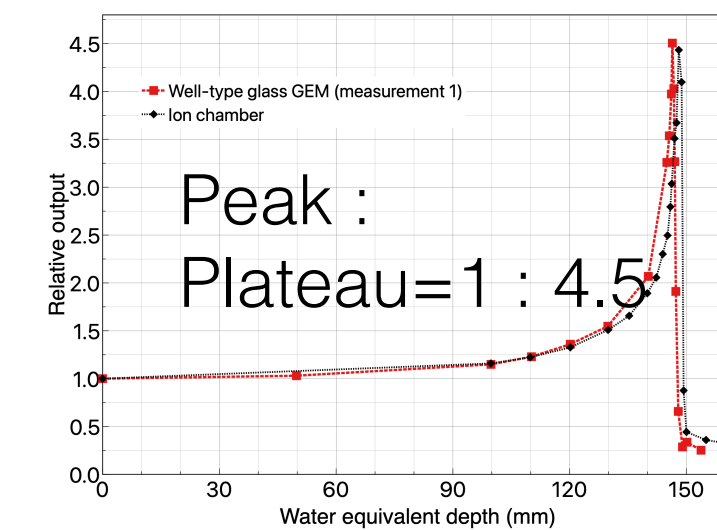
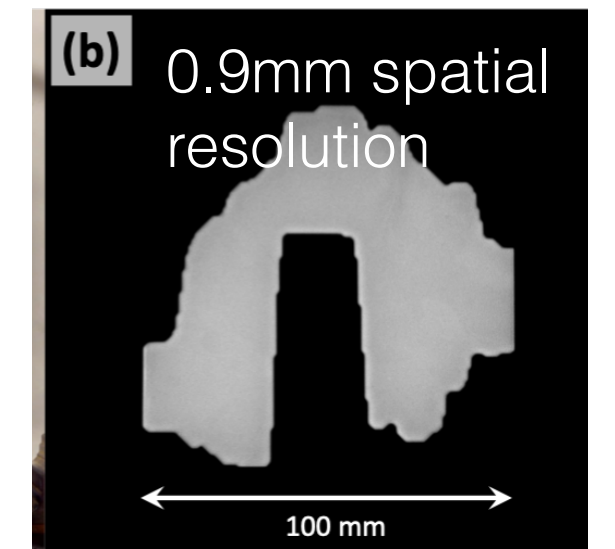
Beam monitoring & hadron/neutron therapy applications benefit from high **spatial resolution** and **high LET dose imaging** suitable for clinical proton/carbon beams ($2 \cdot 10^9$ particles/sec)



T. Fujiwara, et al, Physica Medica (2021)



Pencil beam



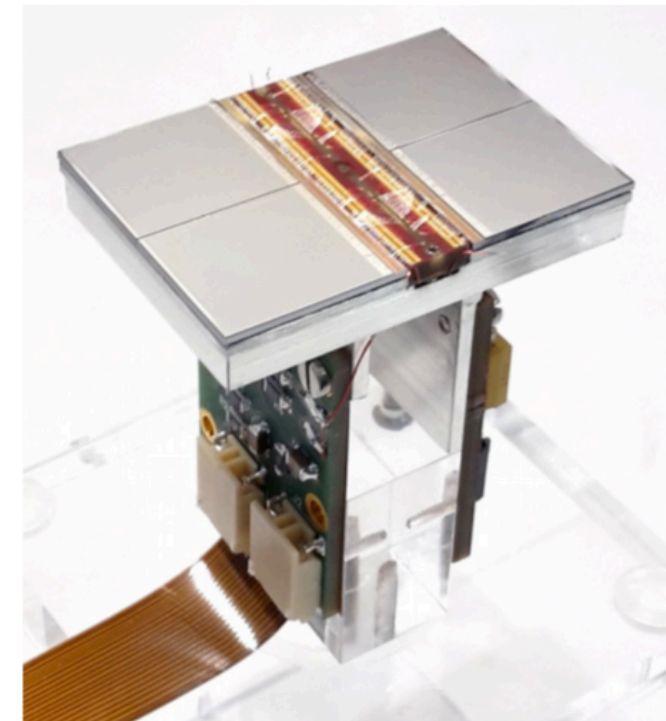
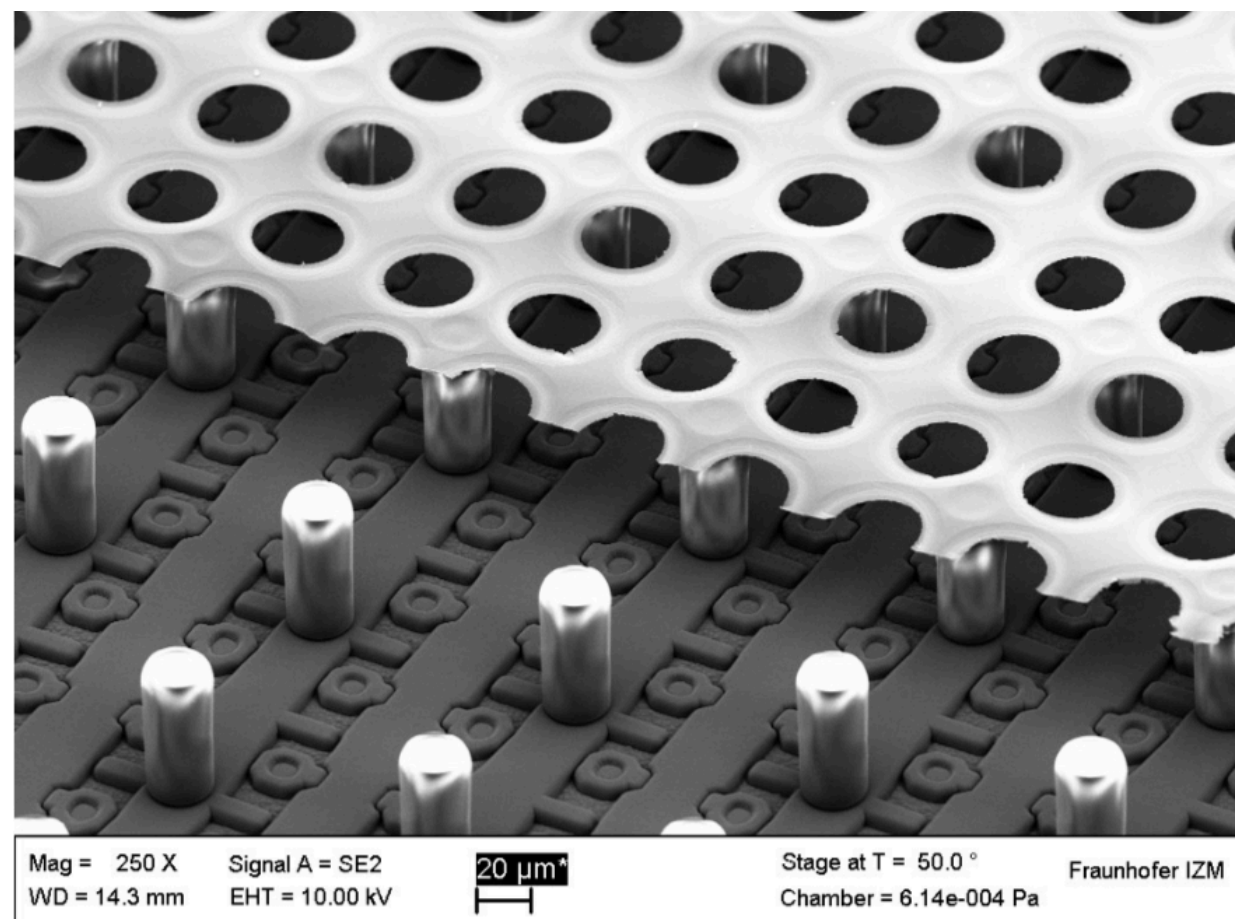
Moderate area coverage with high granularity and high dynamic range.

Radiation hardness of imaging sensors / readout ASICs and frame rate for live feedback applications?

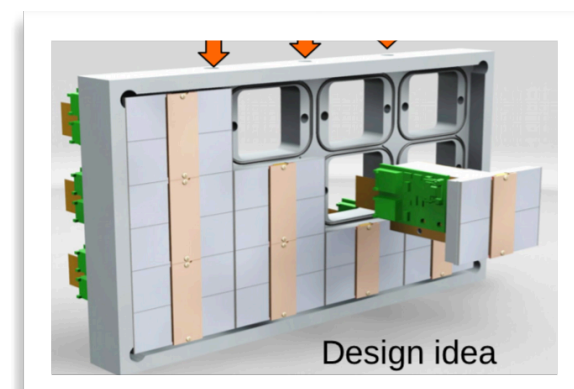
GridPix

Micromegas on Timepix ASIC

- Bump-bond pads used for charge collection
- CMOS-ASIC designed by the Medipix collaboration
- GridPix based on Timepix 3:
 - 256×256 pixels with $55 \times 55 \mu\text{m}^2$ per pixel
 - Charge (ToT) and time (ToA) information with 1.56ns time resolution



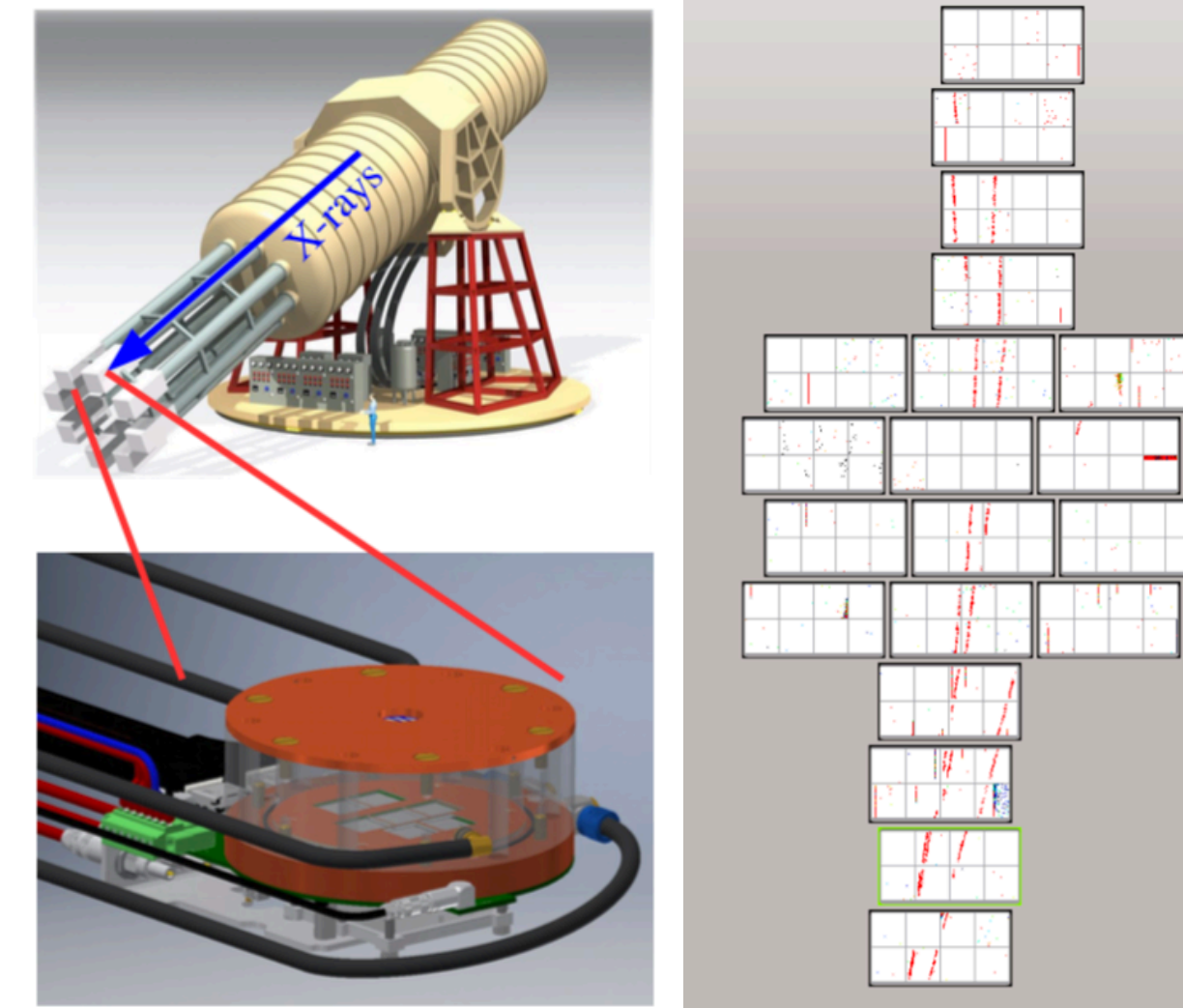
QUAD module with fill factor of 68.9%



Proposed applications

IAXO/CAST: Low background, high spatial resolution, high energy resolution: $\sigma E/E=3.95\%$

ILD-TPC: To fulfil $< 100\mu\text{m}$ spatial resolution and $\approx 5\%$ dE/dx resolution with small pads for low occupancy



Applications for

- Neutron TPCs
- X-ray Polarimetry
- Small area directional dark matter detectors

GEMGrid: InGrid on solid layer

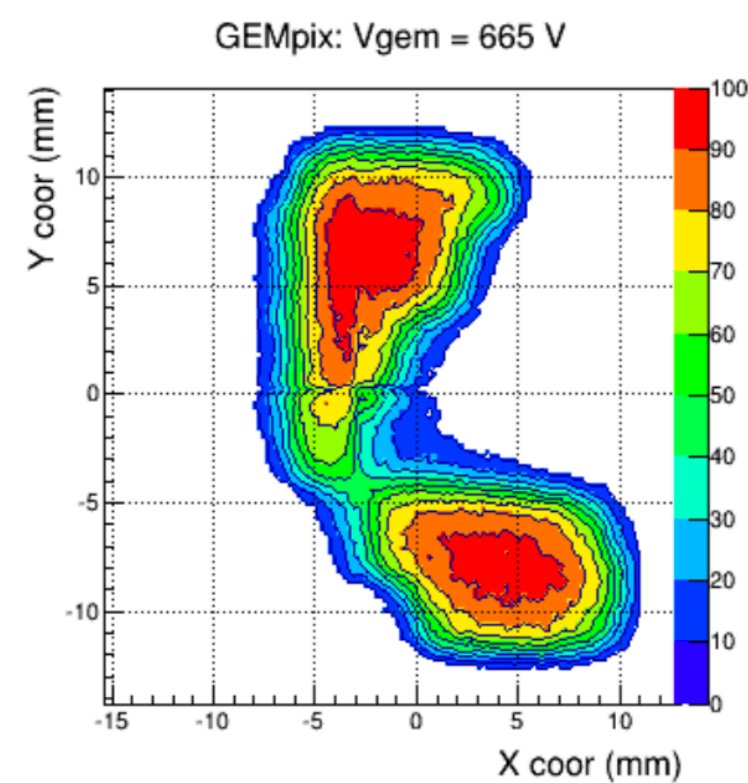
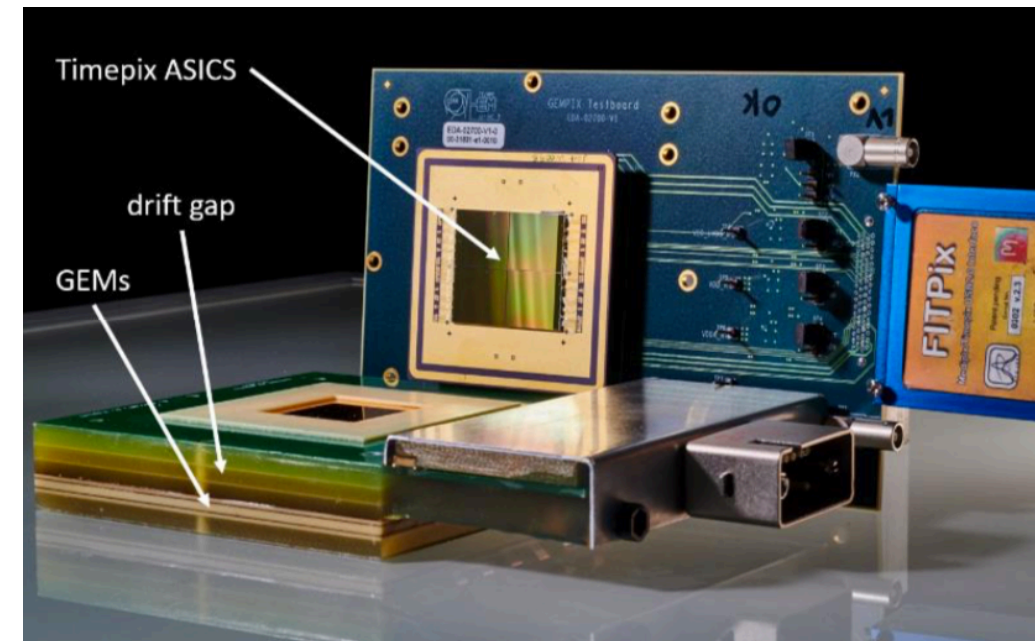
TwinGrid: stacked grids

Timepix4?

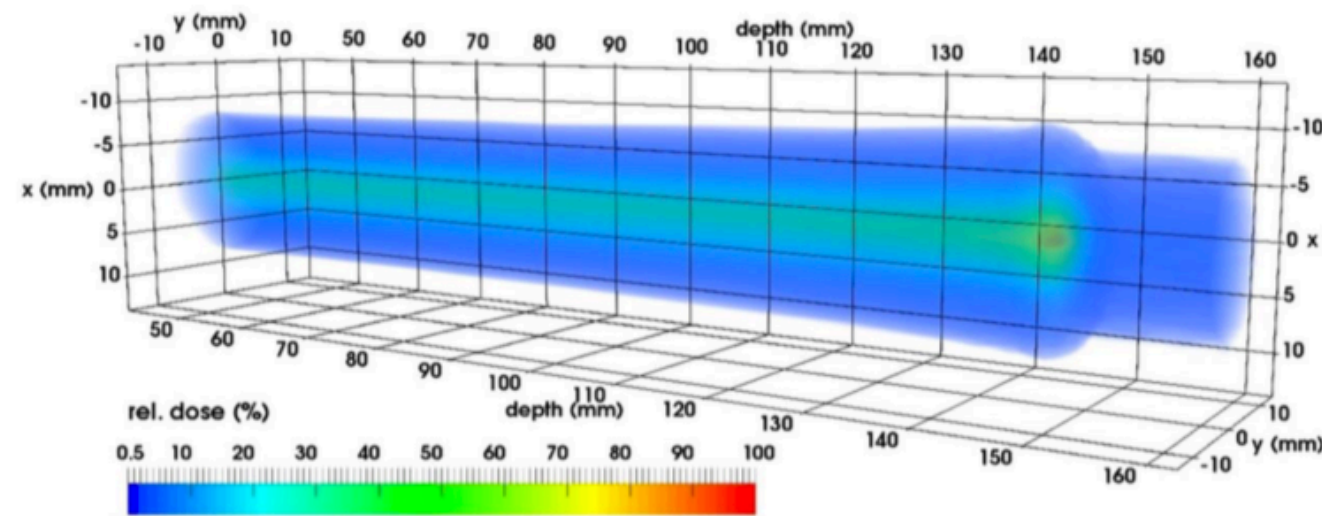
GEMPix

GEM + Timepix ASIC

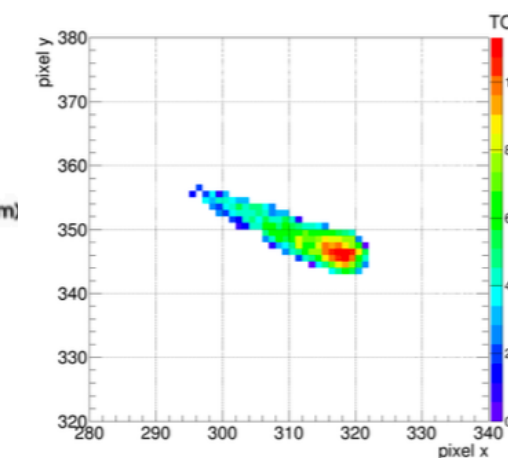
- Four naked Timepix read out with FPGA-based FITPix
- **Dose distribution imaging**, beam profile measurements for **hadron therapy** and micro dosimetry are potential applications
- Limited in area (2.8×2.8 cm) by Timepix ASICs -> tiling with Timepix4 feasible



Dose distribution



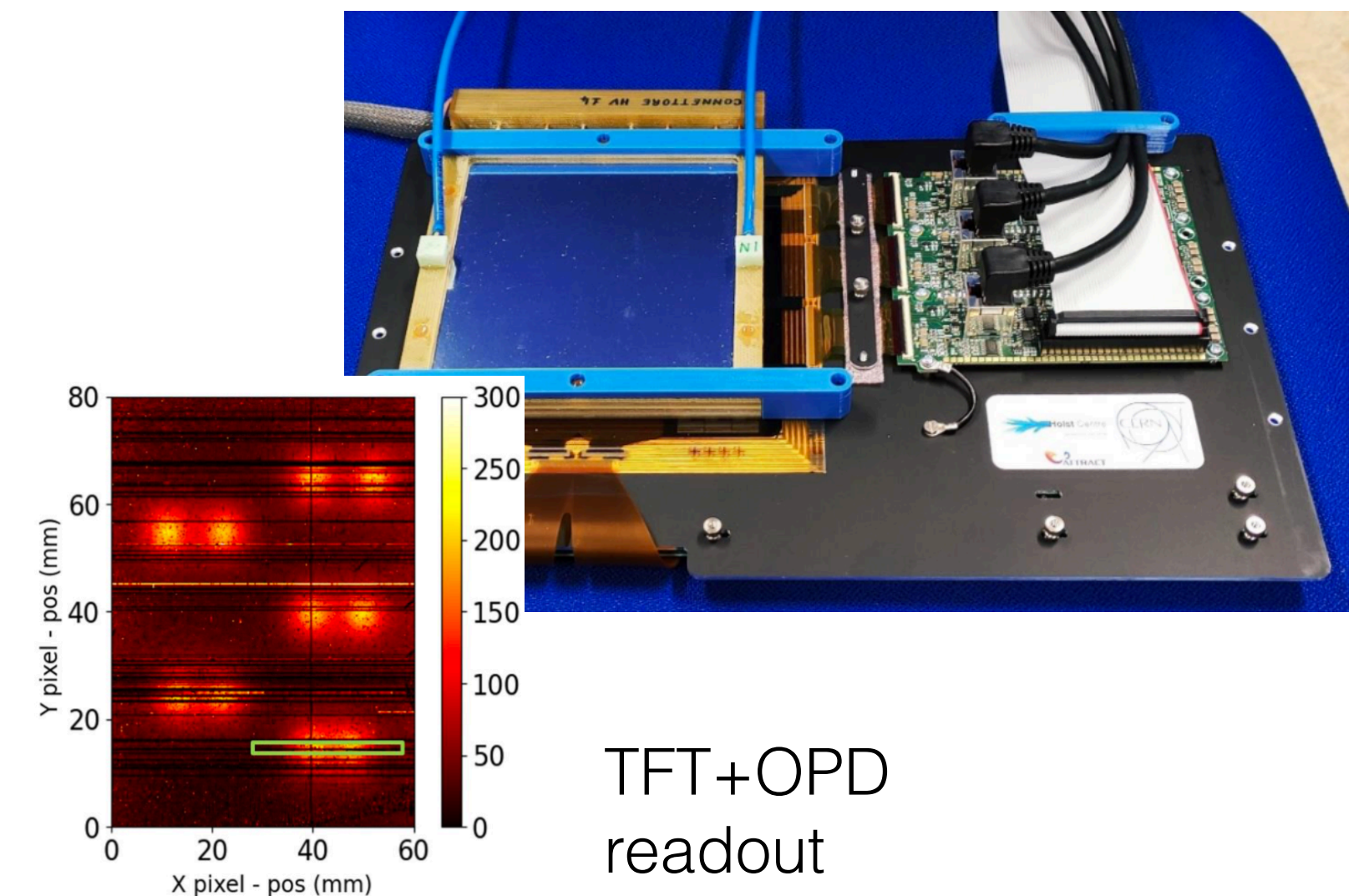
3D dose visualisation of carbon ion beam



Proton track

LaGEMPix

- **TFT backplane** compatible with scaling up to 20cm x 20cm but slow readout
- Optical readout: **optical photo detectors** (OPD) on top of TFT sensitive to scintillation light (poor resolution)
- Electronic readout: no OPD and direct charge readout from TFTs



TFT+OPD readout

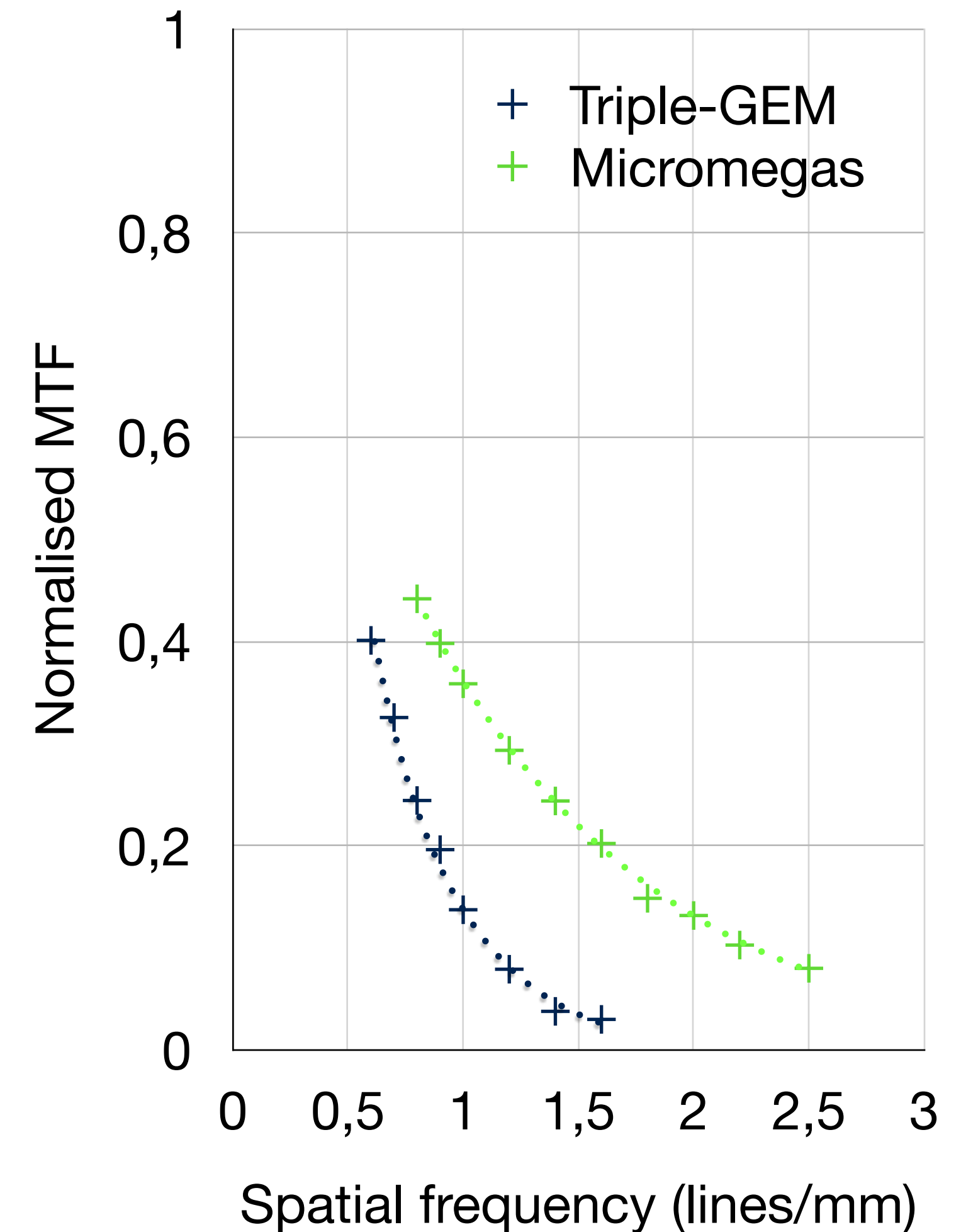
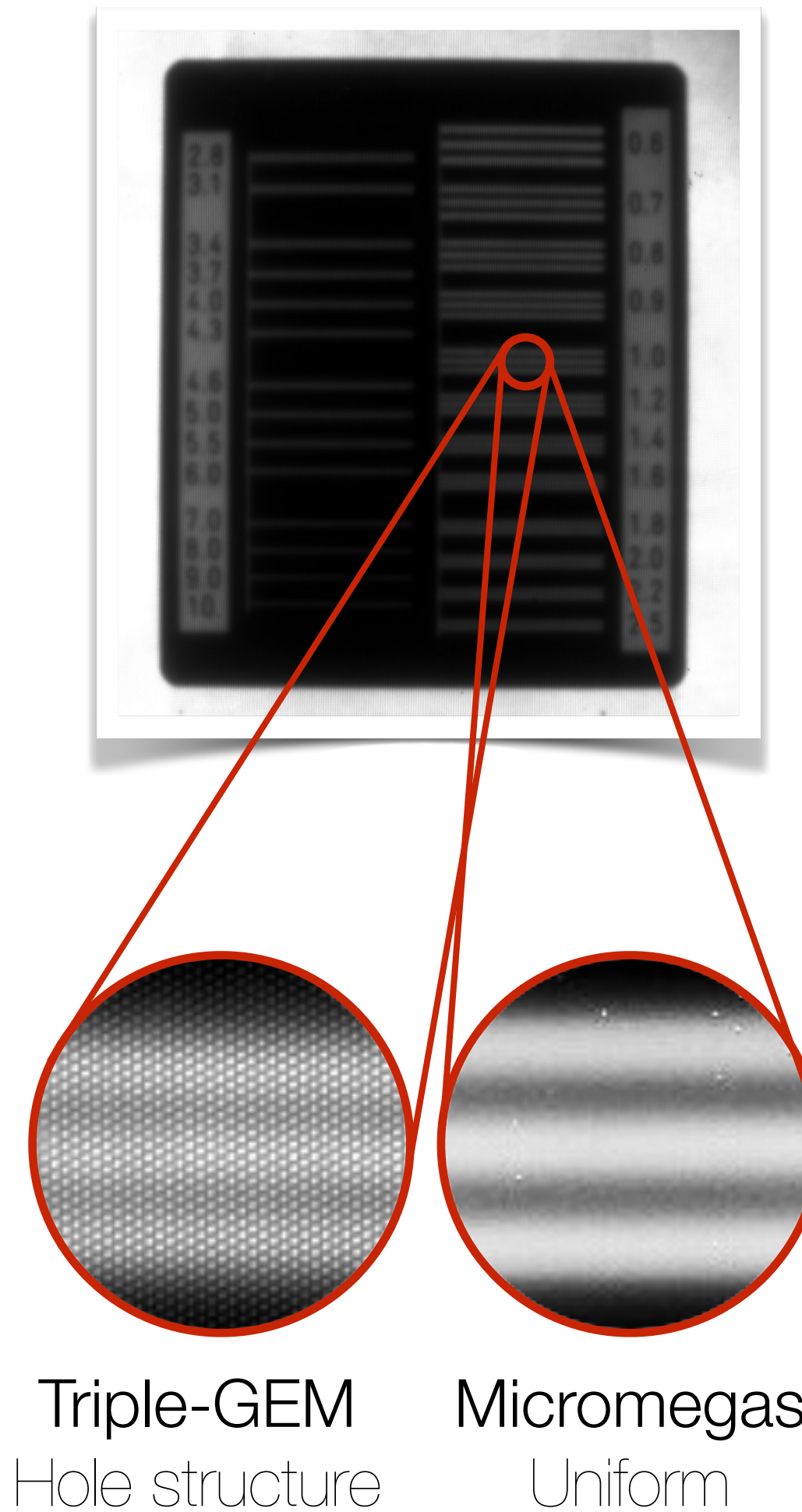
Spatial resolution comparison

Line pair phantoms were used to measure the spatial resolution and compare it to the one achievable with an optically read out triple-GEM.

Spatial resolution:

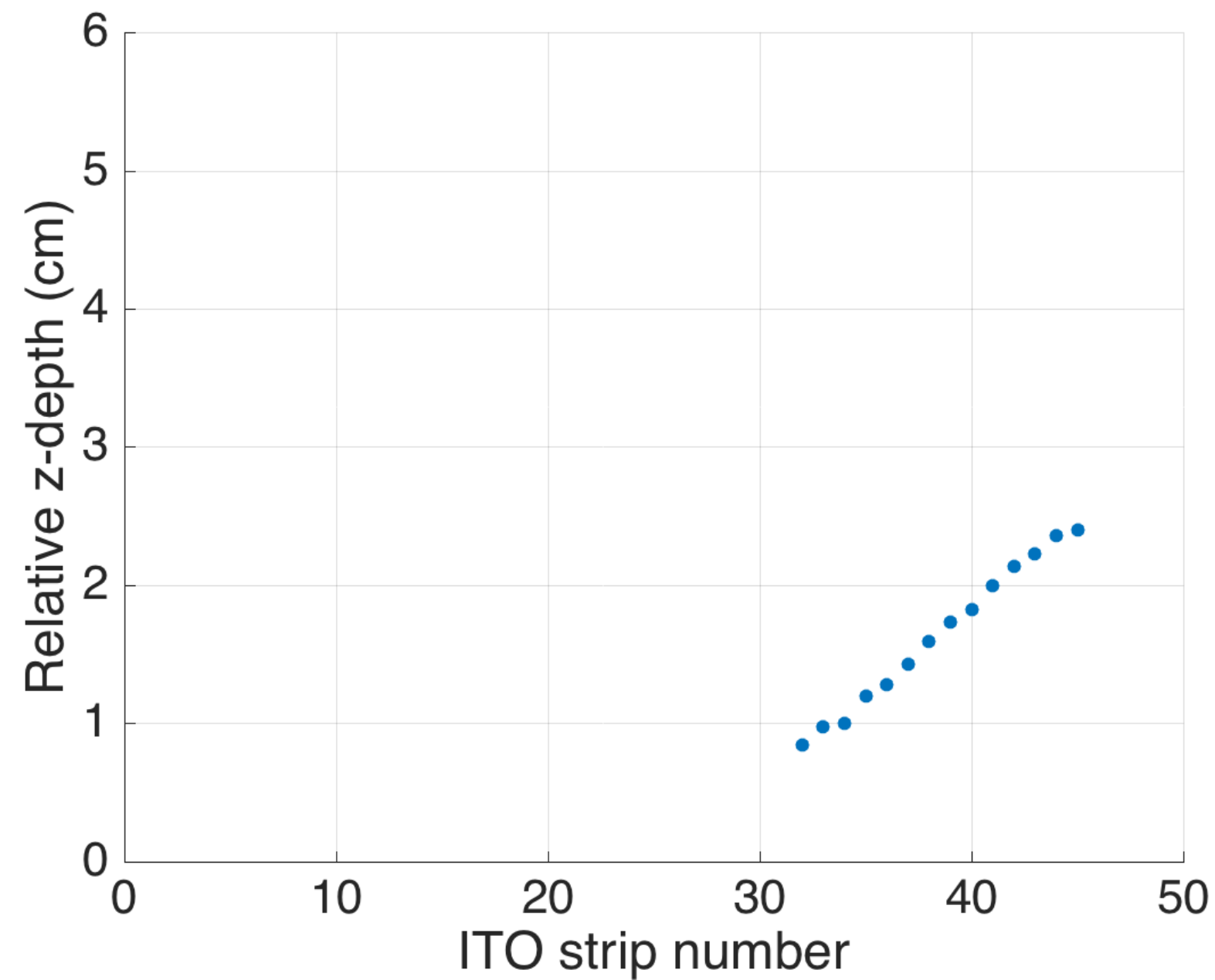
Triple-GEM: $\approx 890 \mu\text{m}$ (1.11 lines/mm)

Micromegas: $\approx 440 \mu\text{m}$ (2.25 lines/mm)

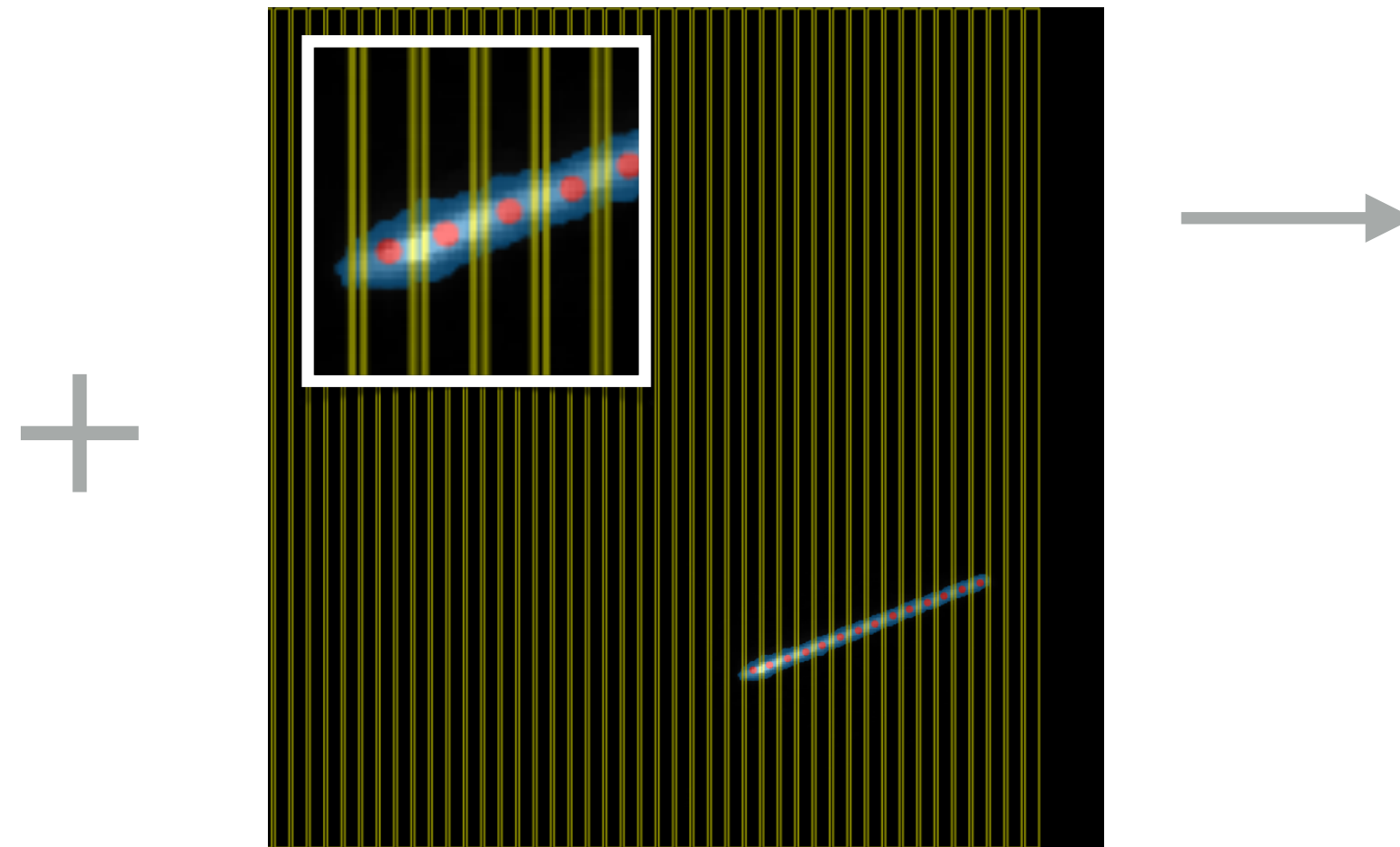


Combining Z with XY-information

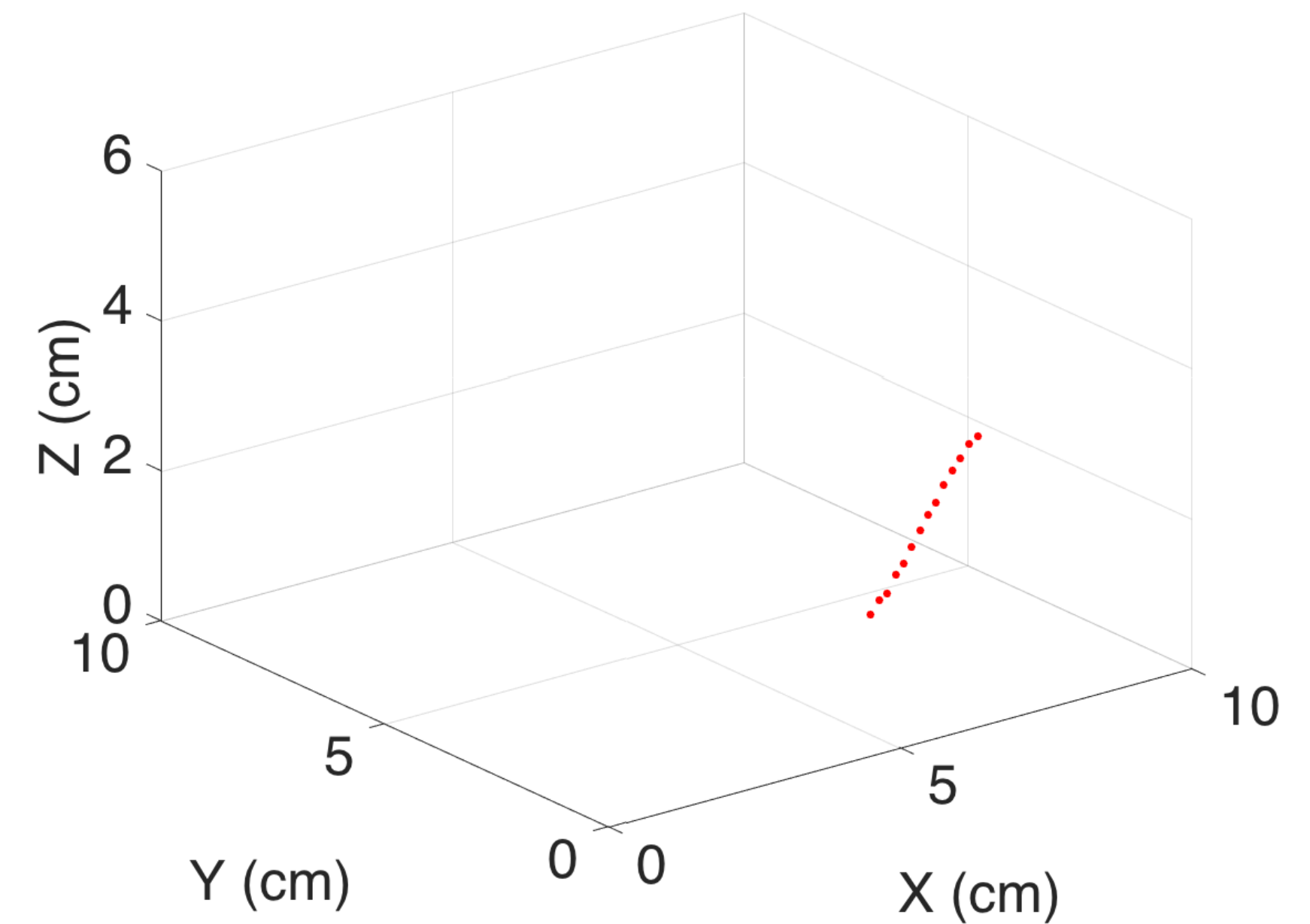
Relative Z depth information



XY projection



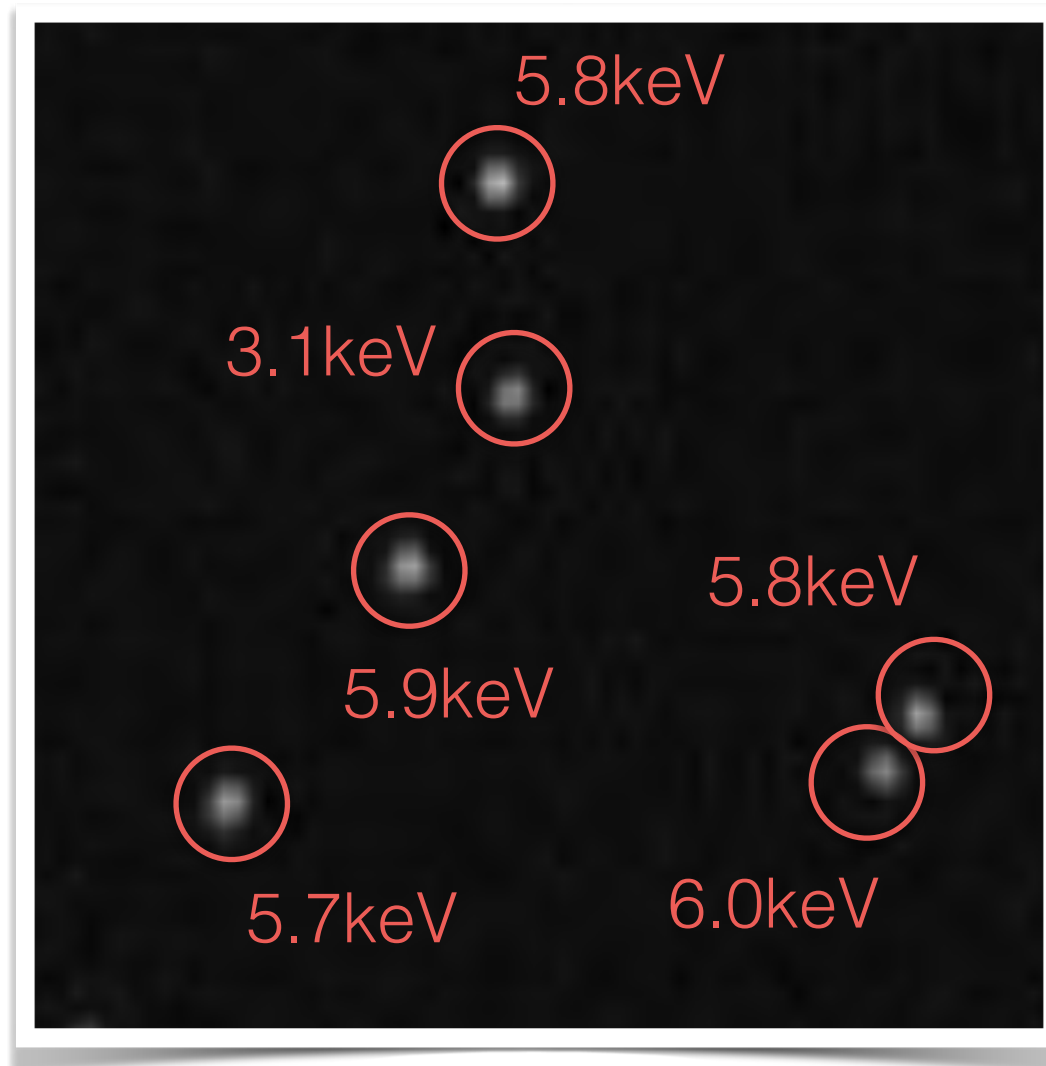
3D reconstruction



Relative depth information for each hit strip from electronic readout is combined with 2D positions of strip hits from optical readout to 3D track points

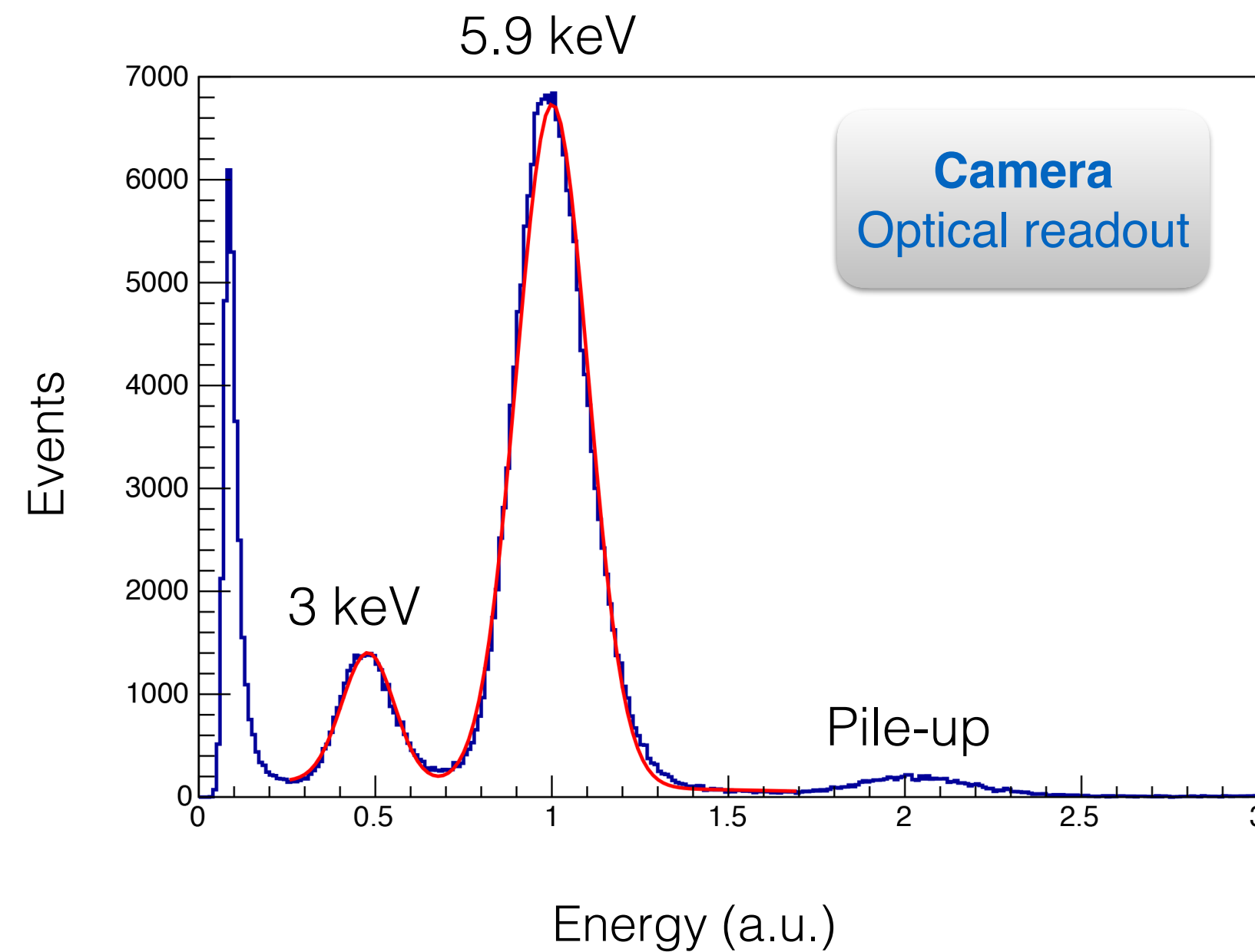
Energy-resolved imaging

Millisecond exposure image
with individual ^{55}Fe X-ray photons

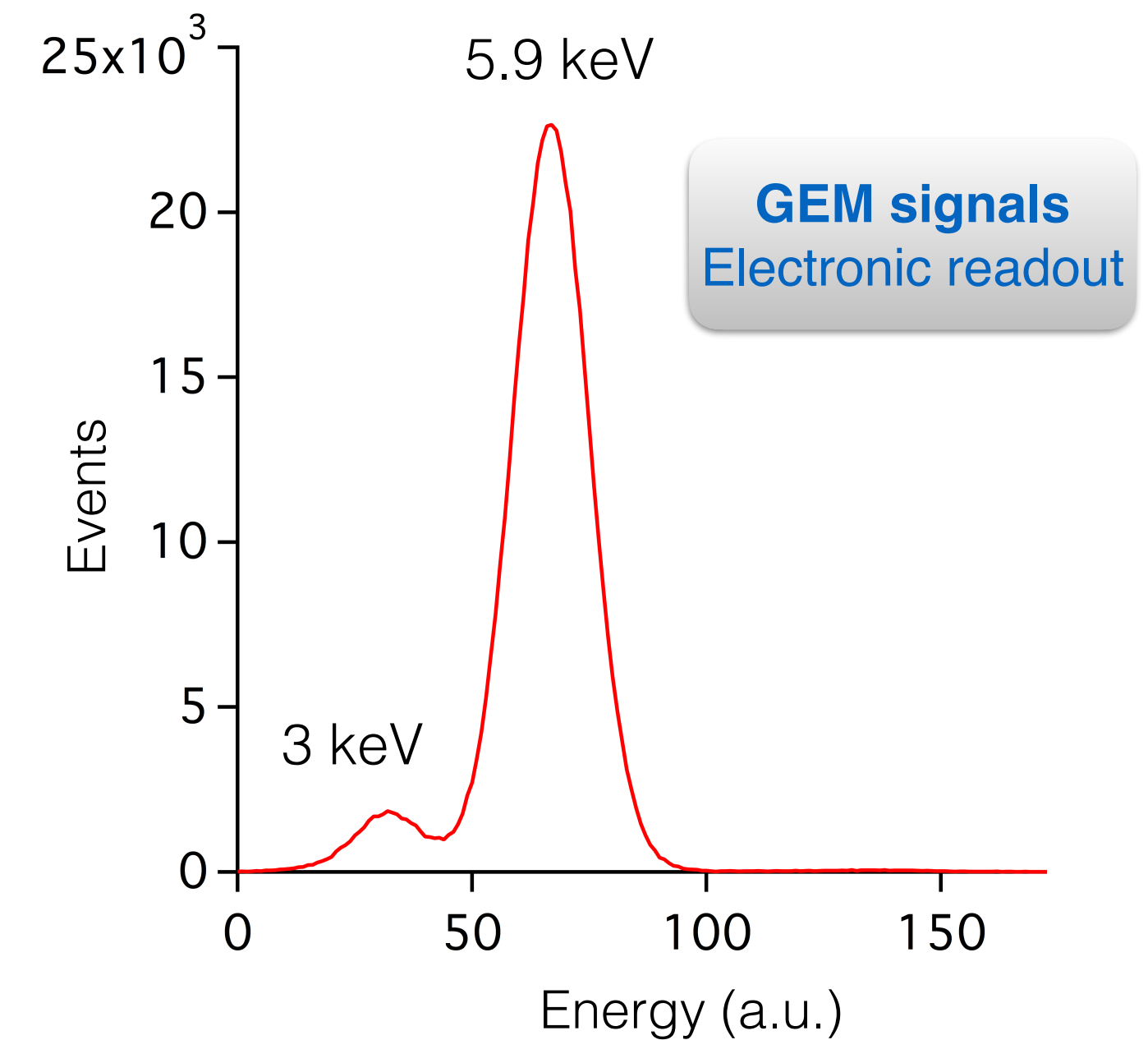


Brightness reflects
deposited energy

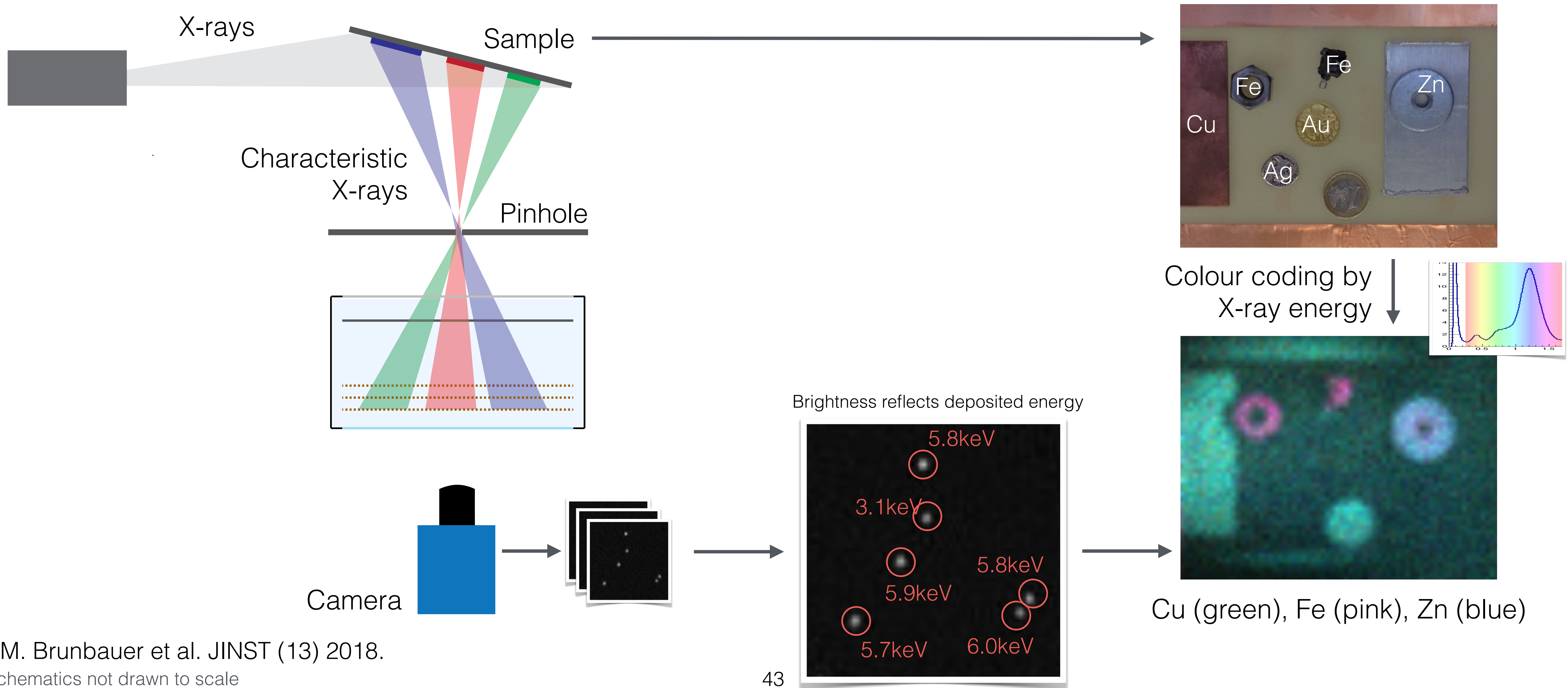
Energy spectrum of ^{55}Fe source
Optical readout



Energy spectrum of ^{55}Fe source
Electronic readout



Energy-resolved imaging: X-ray fluorescence



X-ray radiography

Imaging at higher X-ray energies leads to photons penetrating deeper and resolving more internal structures but decreases spatial resolution due to larger primary cluster size



10 kV



20 kV



40 kV