

MIMAC

MIcro-TPC MAtrix of Chambers

for Directional Dark Matter detection

Charling Tao
Emerita CPPM/Tsinghua
FCPPL/N, June 2024, Bordeaux
on behalf of the MIMAC collaboration

MIMAC Collaboration

LPSC (Grenoble) : D. Santos, F. Naraghi, C. Beaufort

- SDI : O. Guillaudin, N. Sauzet
- Electronics : O. Bourrion, C. Hoarau, E. Lagorio
- Data Acquisition: T. Descombes
- COMIMAC (quenching) : J-F. Muraz

CCPM (Marseille): C. Tao, J. Busto

IRSN- LMDN (Cadarache): M. Petit, T. Vinchon (neutron spectroscopy)

IHEP (Beijing-China): Wang Zhimin, (Yang Changgen)

USTC (University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei): Wang Zhiyong et al

SJTU(Shanghai Jiao tong University): Wang Shaobo, Han Ke, Zhou Ning, Tao Yi

TSINGHUA University (Beijing-China): Yue Qian director

(China JinPing underground Laboratory, CJPL)

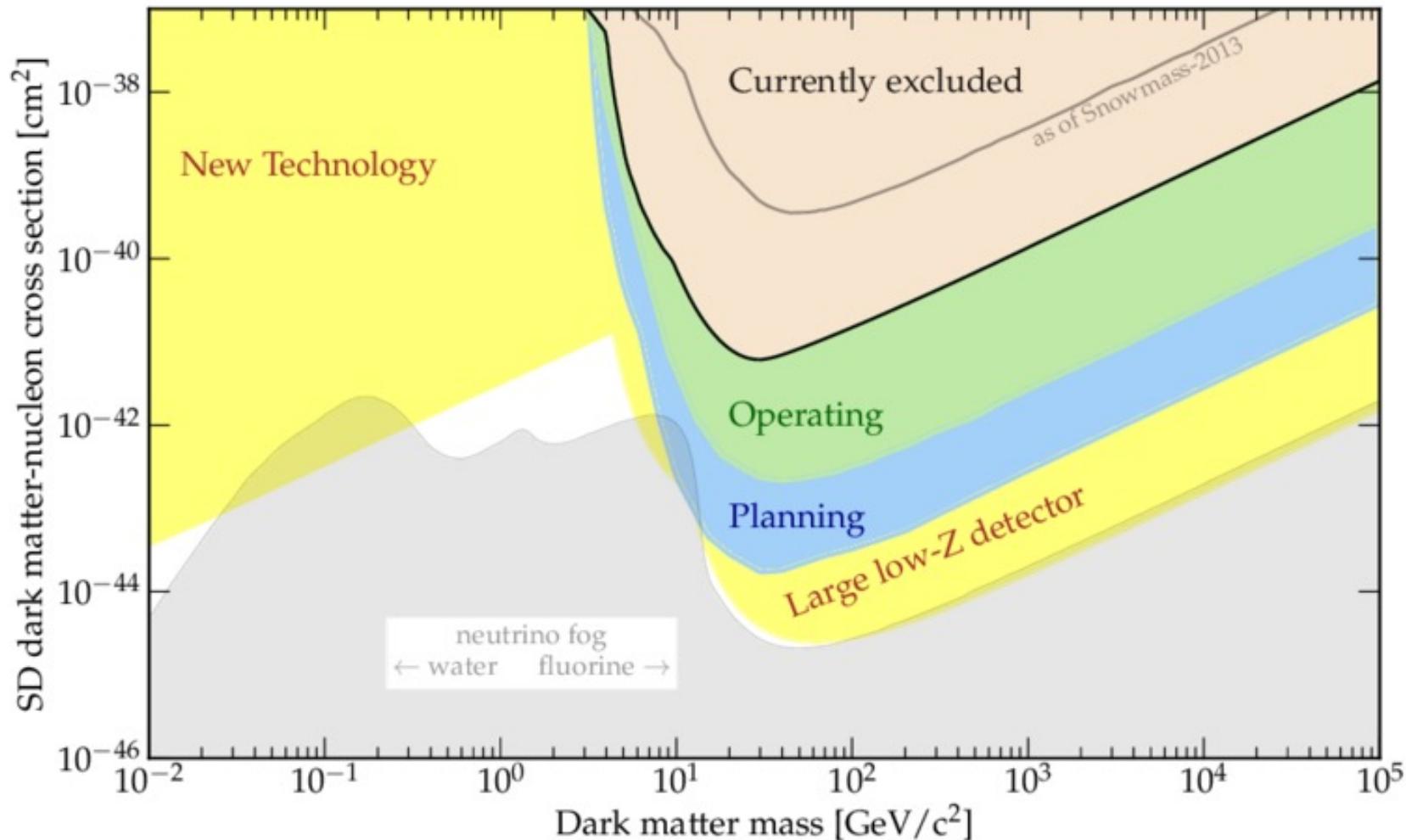
SHAO(Shanghai Astronomical Observatory): Shan Huan Yuan

Also partnership with the NEWS gaseous sphere collaboration

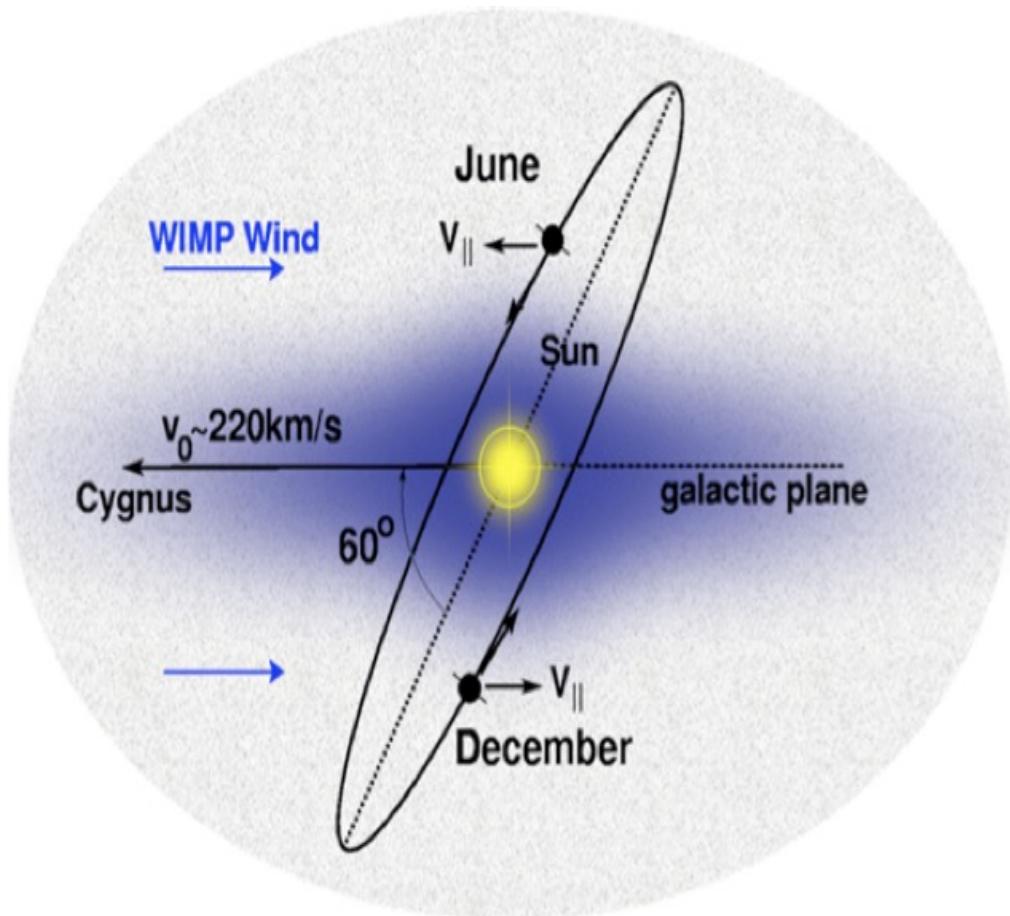
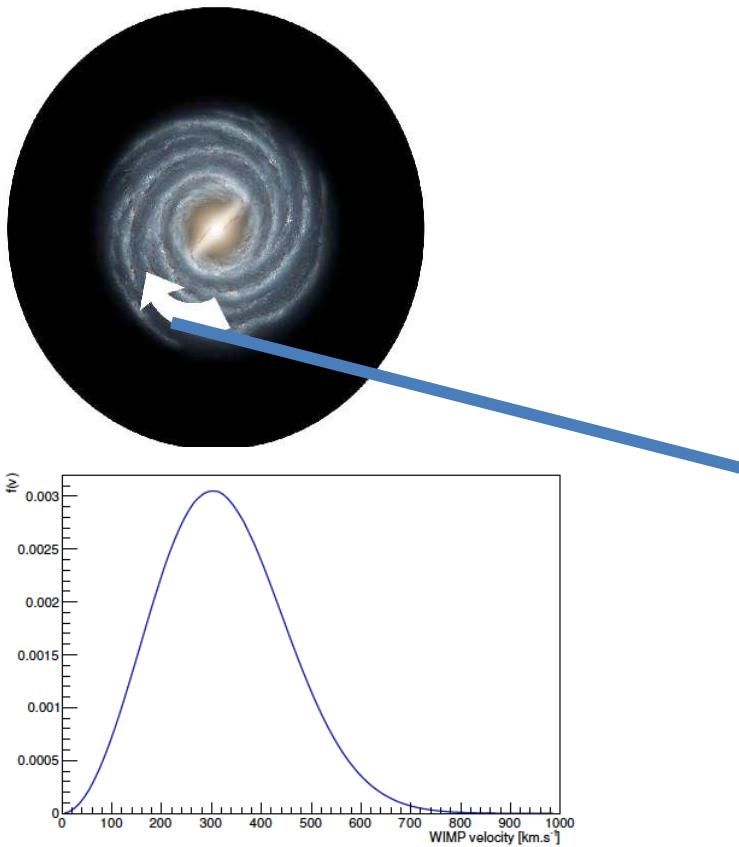
Dark Matter direct detection

DOI:[10.48550/arXiv.2209.07426](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2209.07426)

Report of the Topical Group on Particle Dark Matter for Snowmass 2021



Directional detection: principle



Signature: correlate the rare events in a detector to the galactic halo !!

Dark matter detection with hydrogen proportional counters

G. Gerbier, J. Rich, M. Spiro, C. Tao

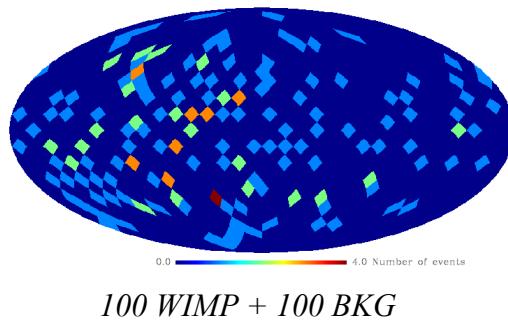
Nuclear Physics B - Proceedings Supplements Vol 13, 1990, Pages 207-208

Phenomenology: Discovery

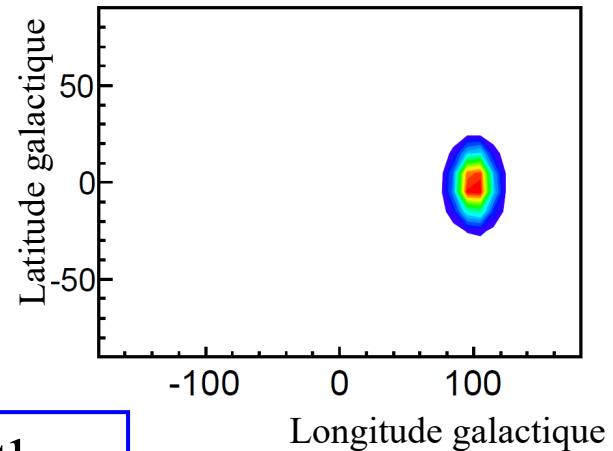
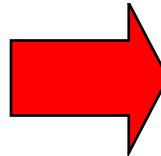
J. Billard *et al.*, PLB 2010
J. Billard *et al.*, arXiv:1110.6079

Proof of discovery: Signal pointing toward the Cygnus constellation

Blind likelihood analysis in order to establish the galactic origin of the signal



$$\mathcal{L}(\ell, b, m_\chi, \lambda)$$



Strong correlation with the direction of the Constellation
Cygnus even with a large background contamination

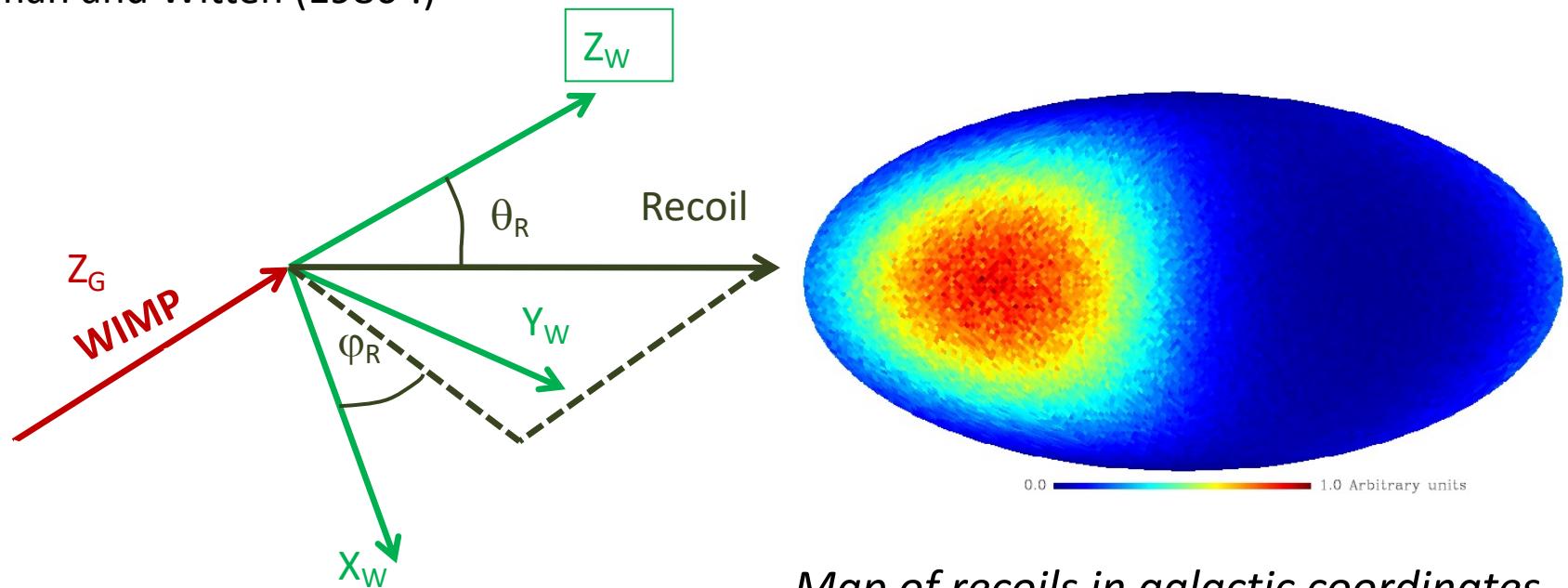
Need better than 20° angular resolution

3D tracks are needed...

WIMP produce nuclear recoils

Goodman and Witten (1986 !)

J. Billard *et al.*, PLB 2010
J. Billard *et al.*, arXiv:1110.6079

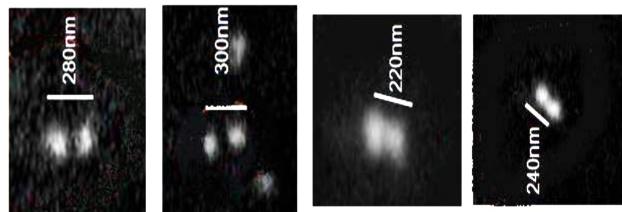
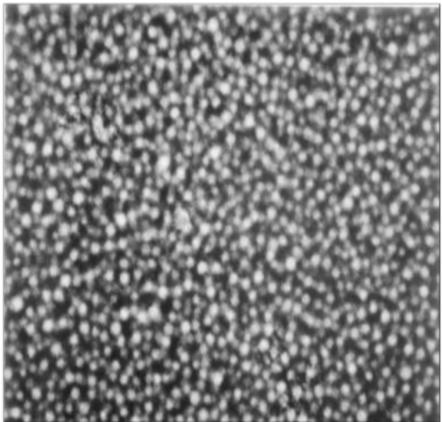


*Map of recoils in galactic coordinates
(HealPix)*

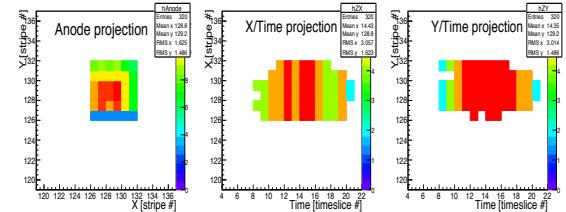
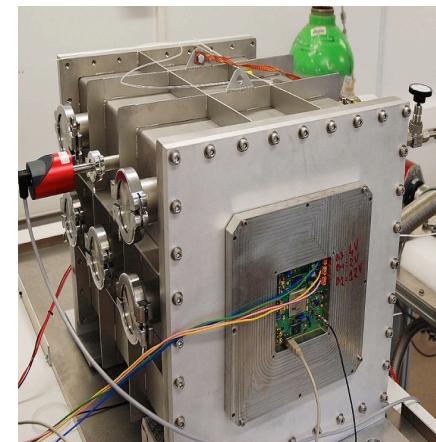
10^8 Events with $E_R = [5,50]$ keV

Directional detection: comparison of some strategies

- Emulsion layers
target = C (low masses), Ar, Br, Kr (high masses)
- Anisotropic crystals
target = O (low masses), Zn, W (high masses)
- Low pressure TPCs
target = F

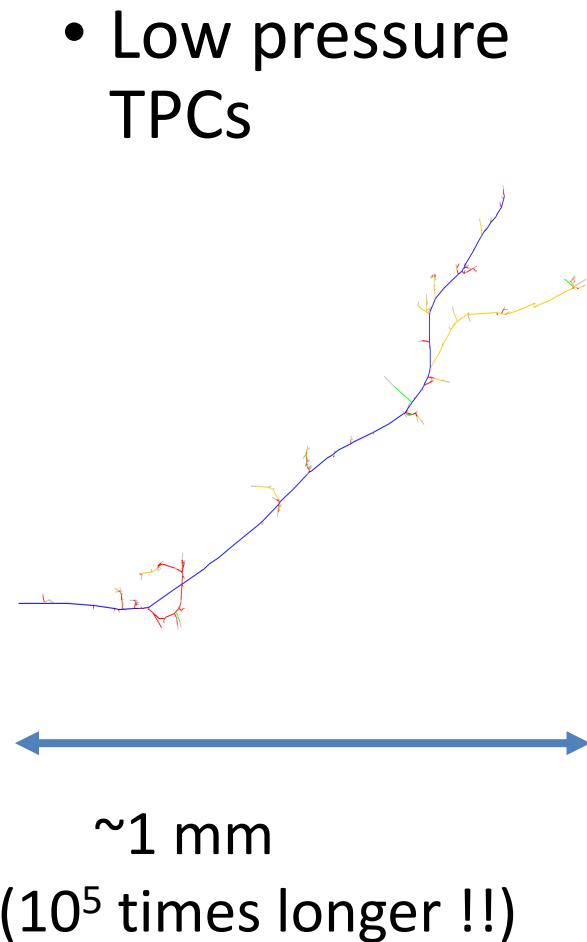
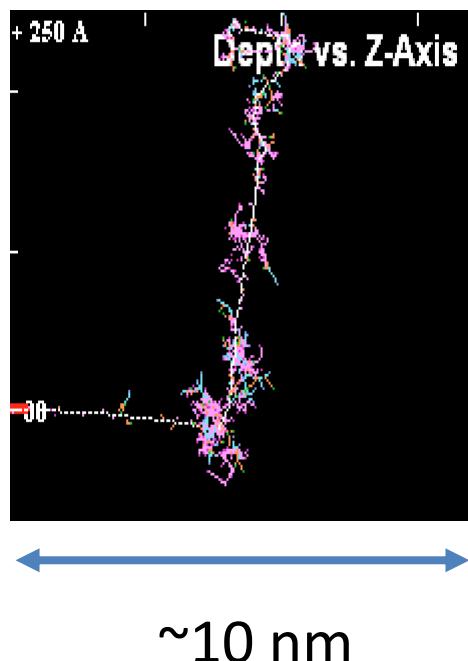
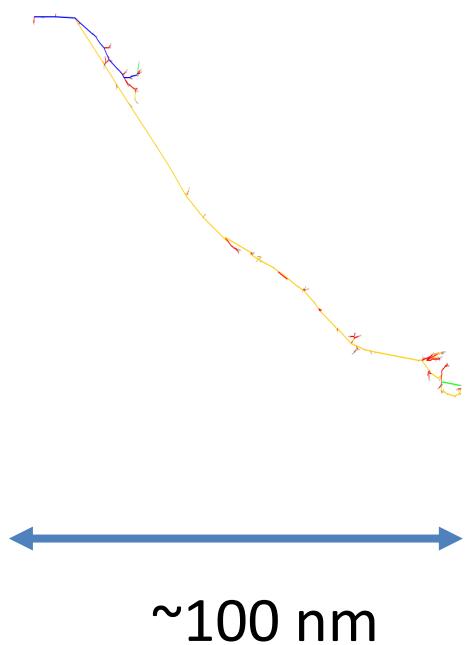


No tracks ; only statistical distributions (!)



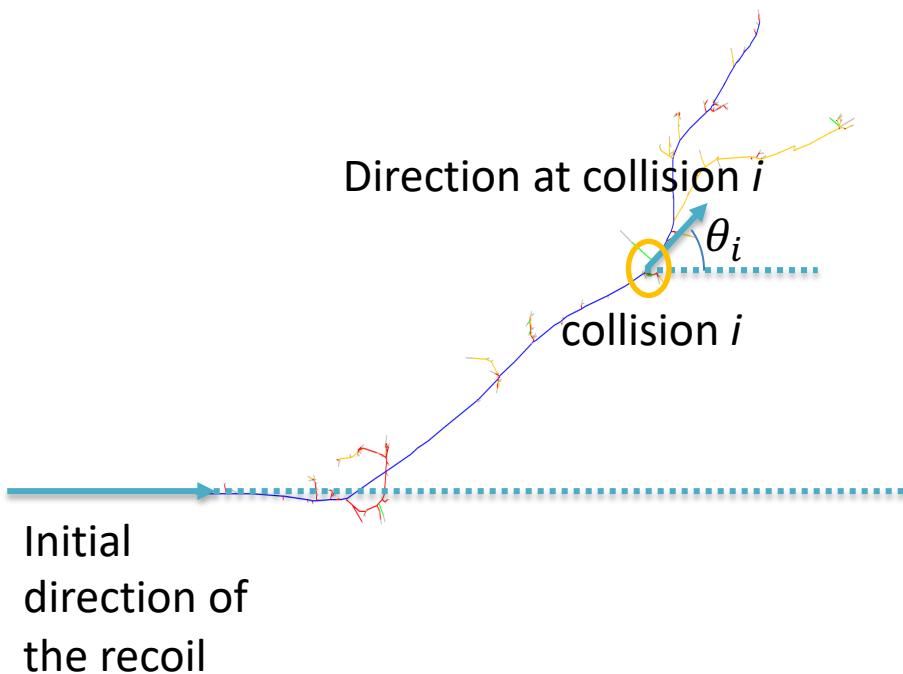
Directional detection: comparison of some strategies

- Emulsion
- Anisotropic crystals
- Low pressure TPCs



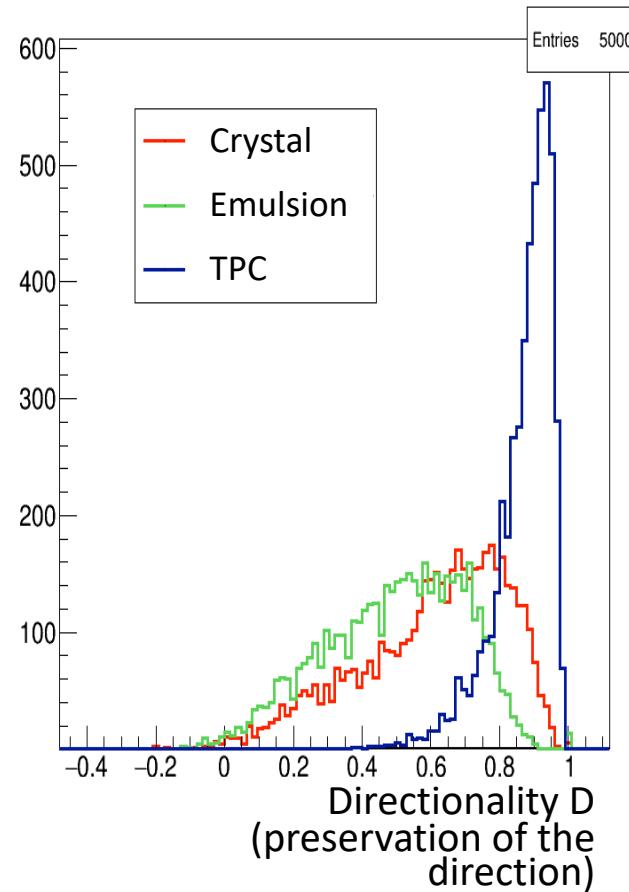
SRIM simulations

Directional detection: Directionality ‘D’



$$D = \frac{\langle \cos(\theta) \cdot E \rangle_{track}}{\langle E \rangle_{track}} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{N_{collisions}} \cos(\theta_i) \cdot E_i}{\sum_{i=0}^{N_{collisions}} E_i} = \frac{\sum_i \cos(\theta_i) \cdot E_i}{N_{collisions} \cdot \langle E \rangle_{track}}$$

For more information on the comparison:
[Couturier et al.](#)



TPC directional detectors

Adapted from Mayet et al. [arXiv:1602.03781]

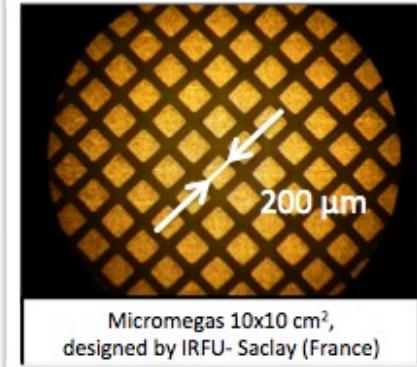
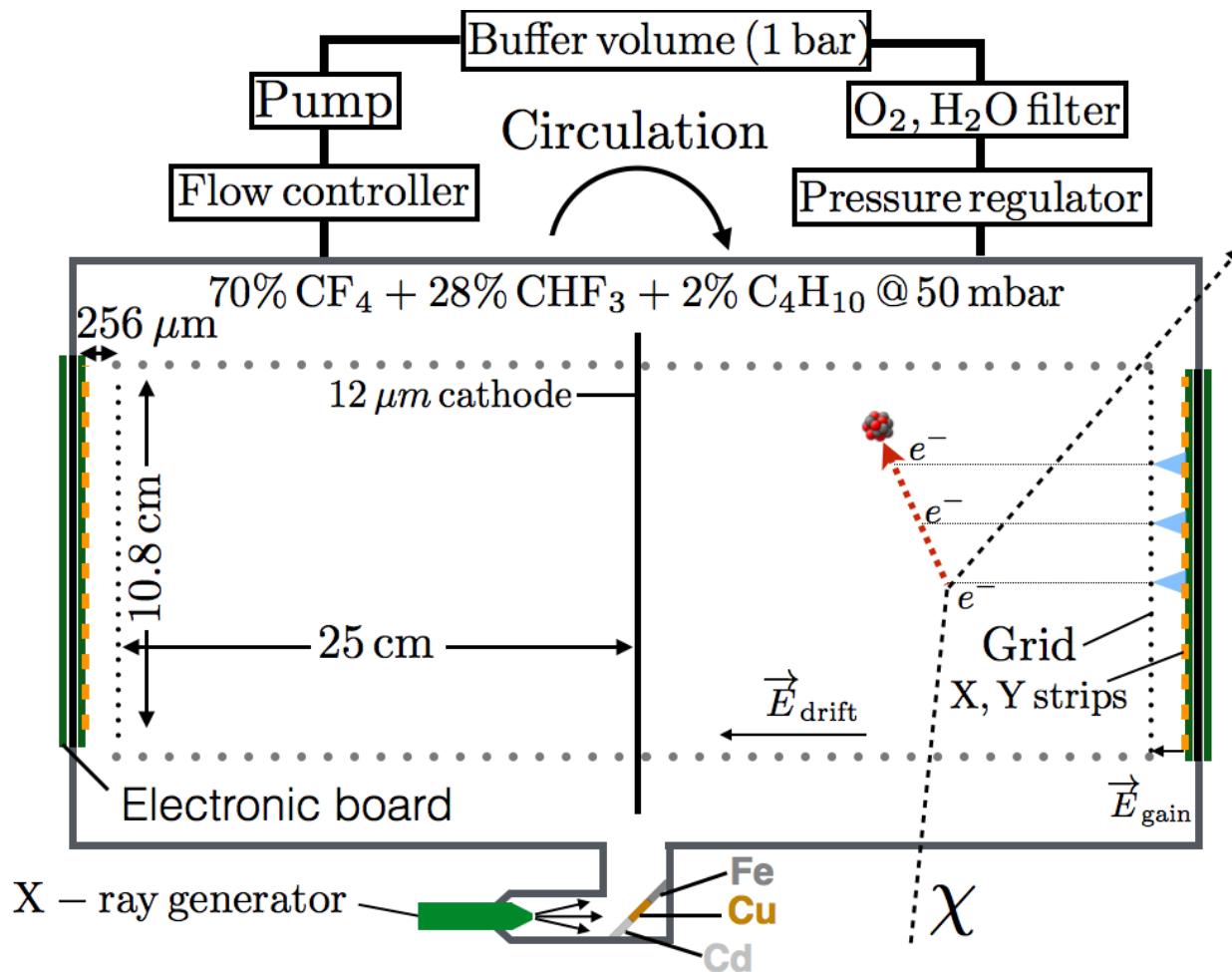
	DRIFT	MIMAC	NEWAGE	DMTPC
	Boulby	Modane	Kamioka	SNOLAB
Gas mix	73%CS2 +25%CF4 +2%O2	70%CF4 +28%CHF3 +2%C4H10	CF4	CF4
Current volume	800 L	6 L	37 L	1000 L
Drift	ion, 50 cm	e-, 25 cm	e-, 41 cm	e-, 27 cm
Threshold (keVee)	20	1	50	20
Readout	Multi-Wire Proportional Counters	Micromegas	micro-pixel chamber +GEM	CCD

+ Cygno collaboration : GEM ionization+ scintillation.

From ORANGE (0.1l) to LIME (50l)prototypes

Only MIMAC has shown tracks (for many years)!

MIMAC bi-chamber module prototype



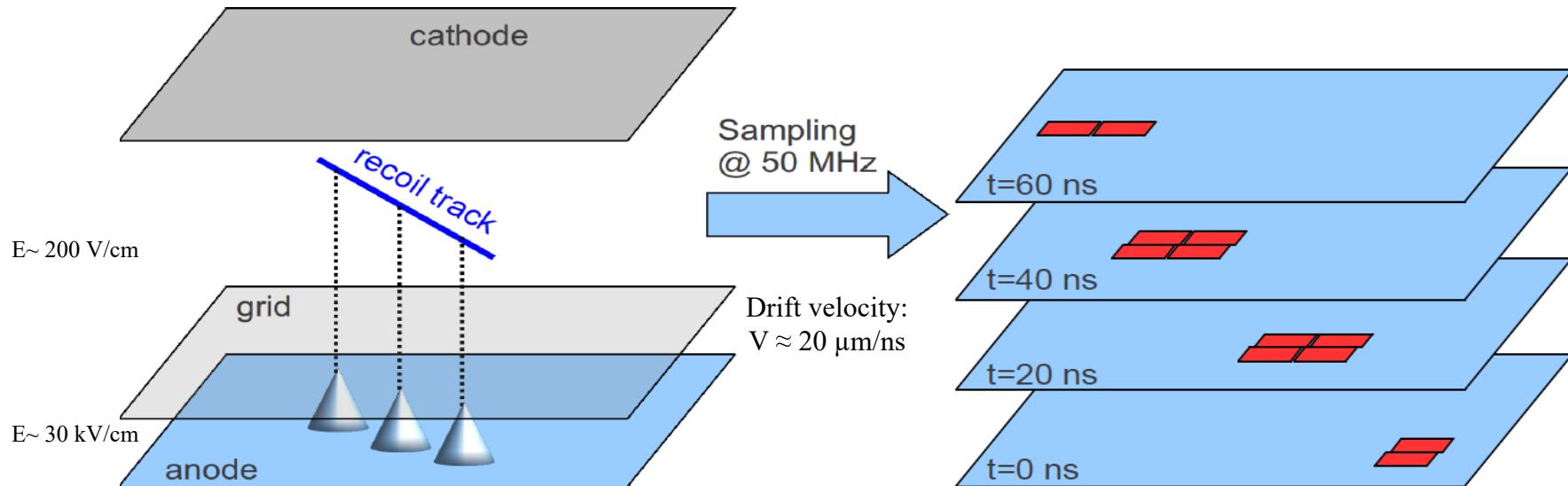
Micromegas 10x10 cm², designed by IRFU- Saclay (France)



MIMAC Targets: ^{19}F , H

- Light WIMP mass
- Axial coupling

MIMAC detector



Evolution of the collected charges on the anode

Measurement of the ionization energy :

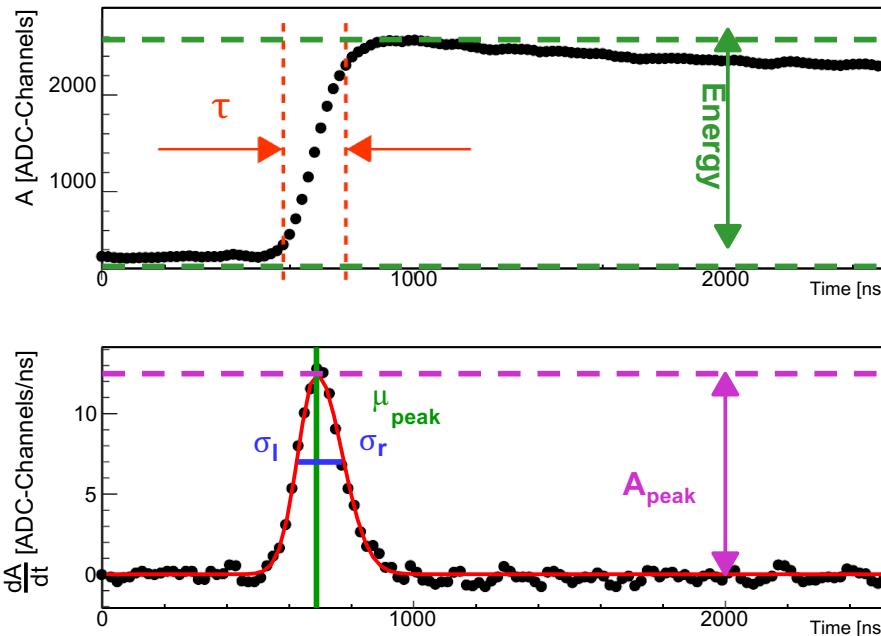
Charge integrator connected to a micromegas mesh, coupled to a FADC sampled at 50 MHz

MIMAC readout

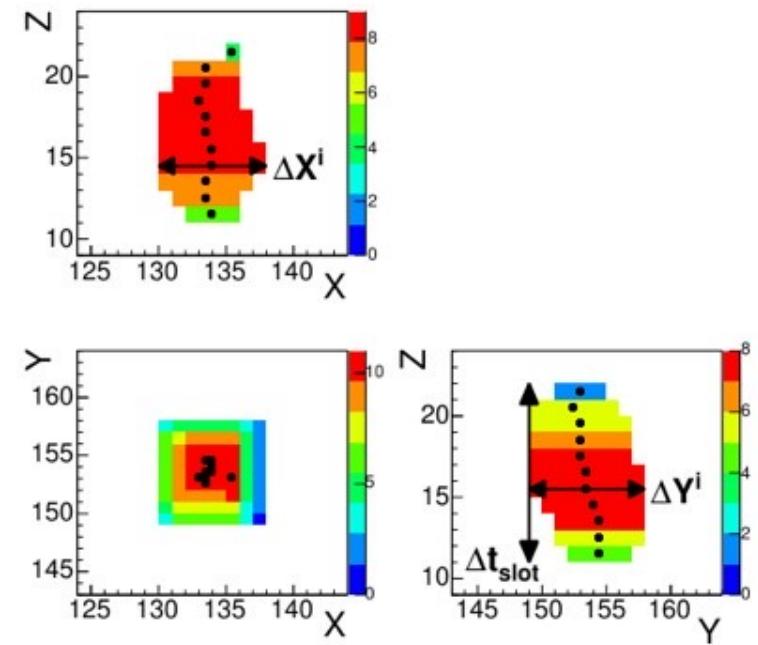


- Dedicated fast electronics (self-triggered)
- Based on the MIMAC chip (64 channels)

preamplifier signal + FADC: Energy



3D - track

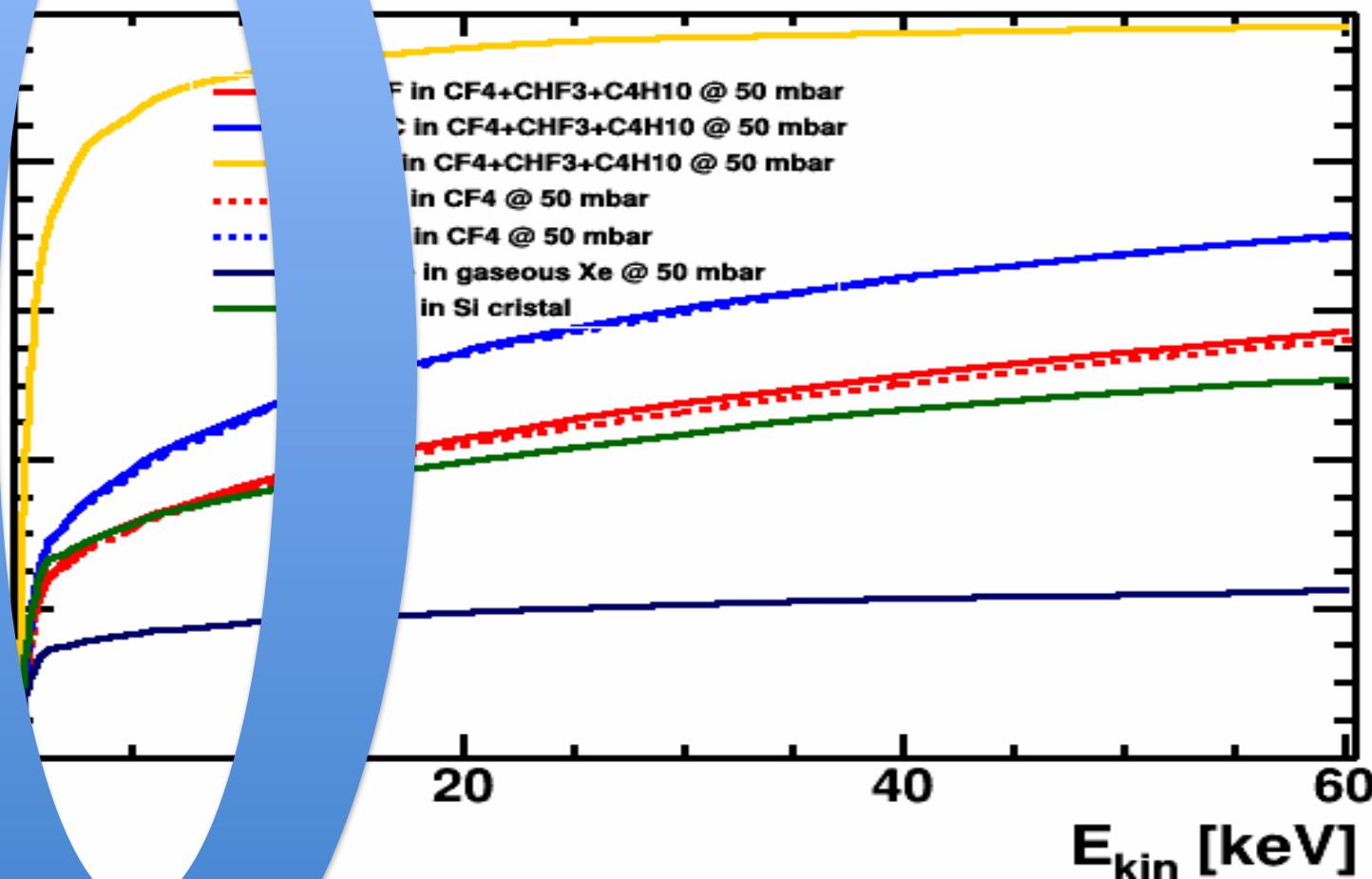


MIMAC : different detectors and measurements

- **Different prototypes:**
 - 10x10 cm bi-chambers in LPSC Grenoble and LSM
 - 10x10 cm in IHEP/Tsinghua
 - 35x35 cm in LPSC
- **Many different measurements:**
 - measurements of **quenching factors** for reconstructing nuclear recoil energies with a dedicated **COMIMAC** set-up
 - Different gaz, different pressures
 - electron/ X-ray measurements for calibrations/monitoring and understanding **background discrimination**
 - neutron fields with different energies to demonstrate nuclear recoil reconstruction capability
 - **3D reconstruction** with an additional cathode signal
 - **DM searches in LSM**

Ionization Quenching Factors

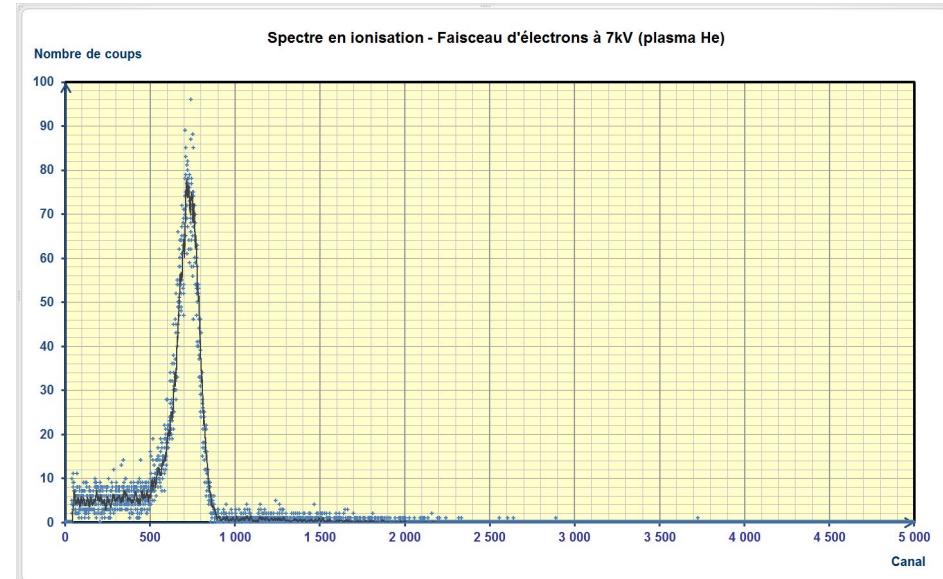
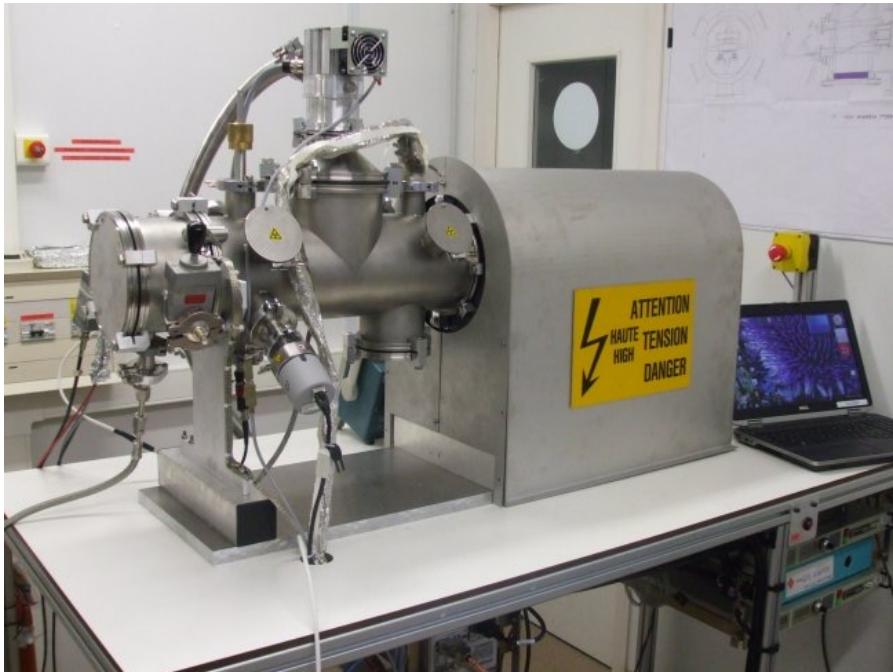
$$Q = E_{\text{ion}}/E_{\text{kin}}$$



SRIM-Simulations (LPSC)

Portable Quenching Facility (COMIMAC)

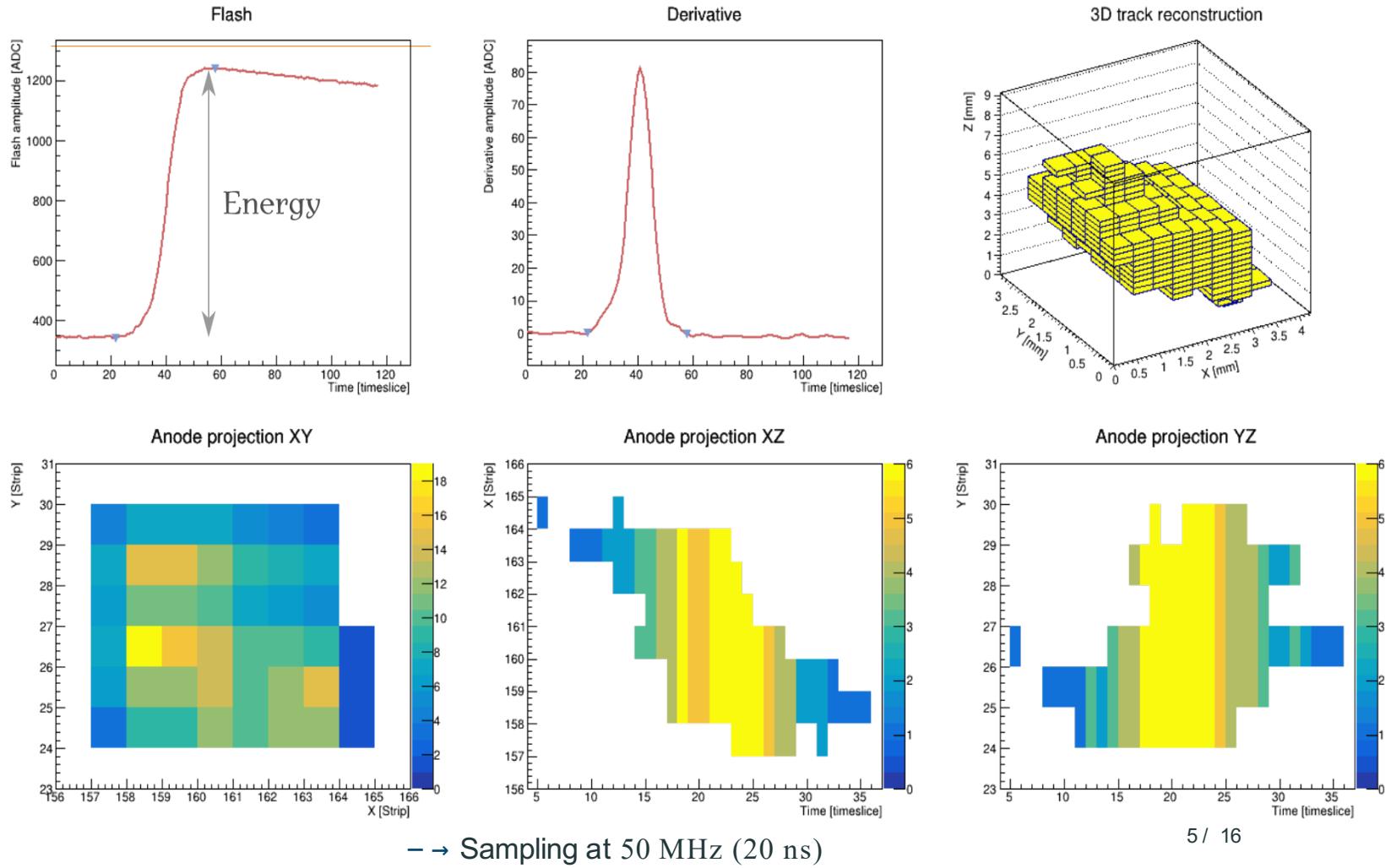
Electrons and Nuclei of known energies



Electrons of 7 keV

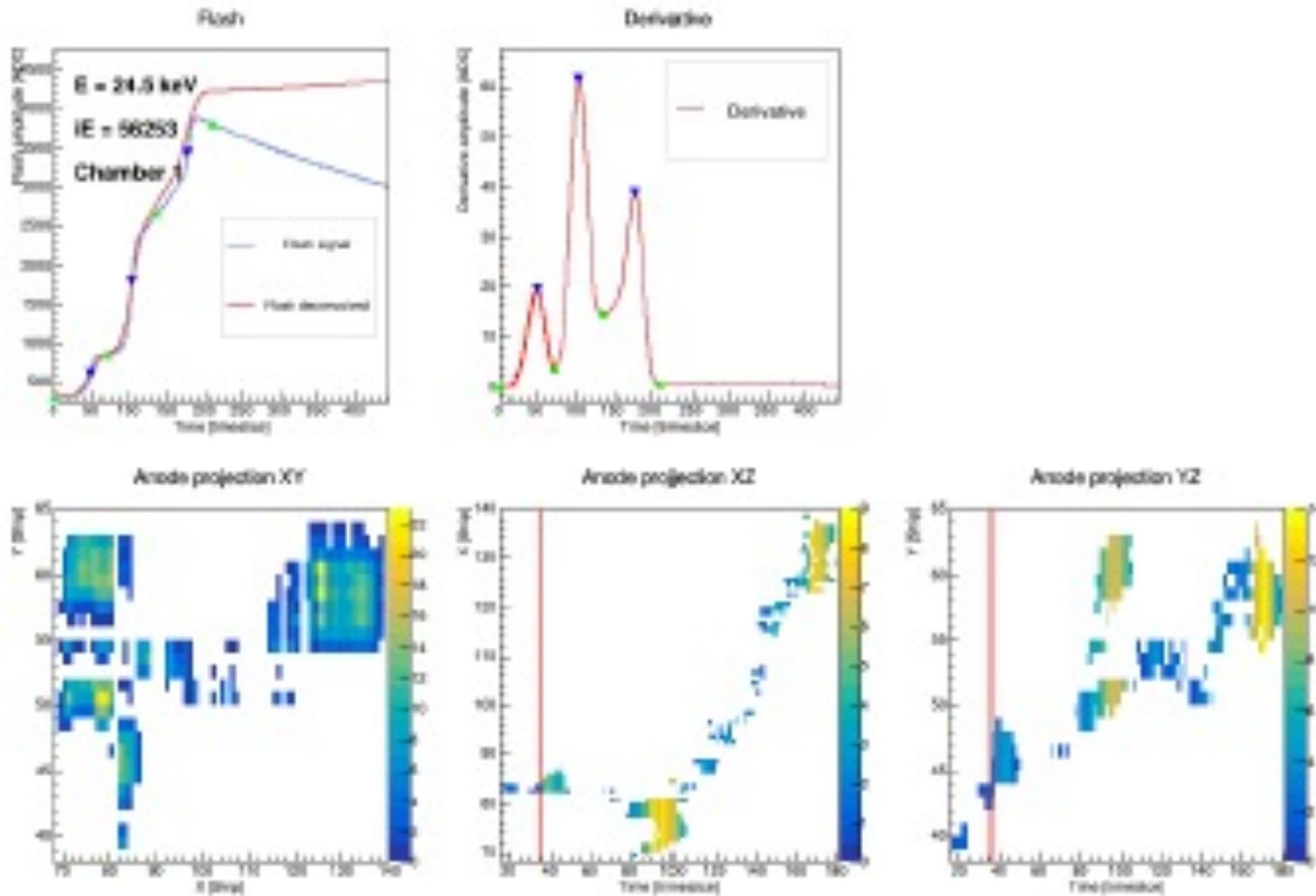
In a gas detector, the IQF depends strongly on the quality of the gas.
The IQF needs to be measured periodically (in-situ) in a long term run experiment.

Example of a proton recoil of 6 keV_{ee} (8.6 keV_{nr})



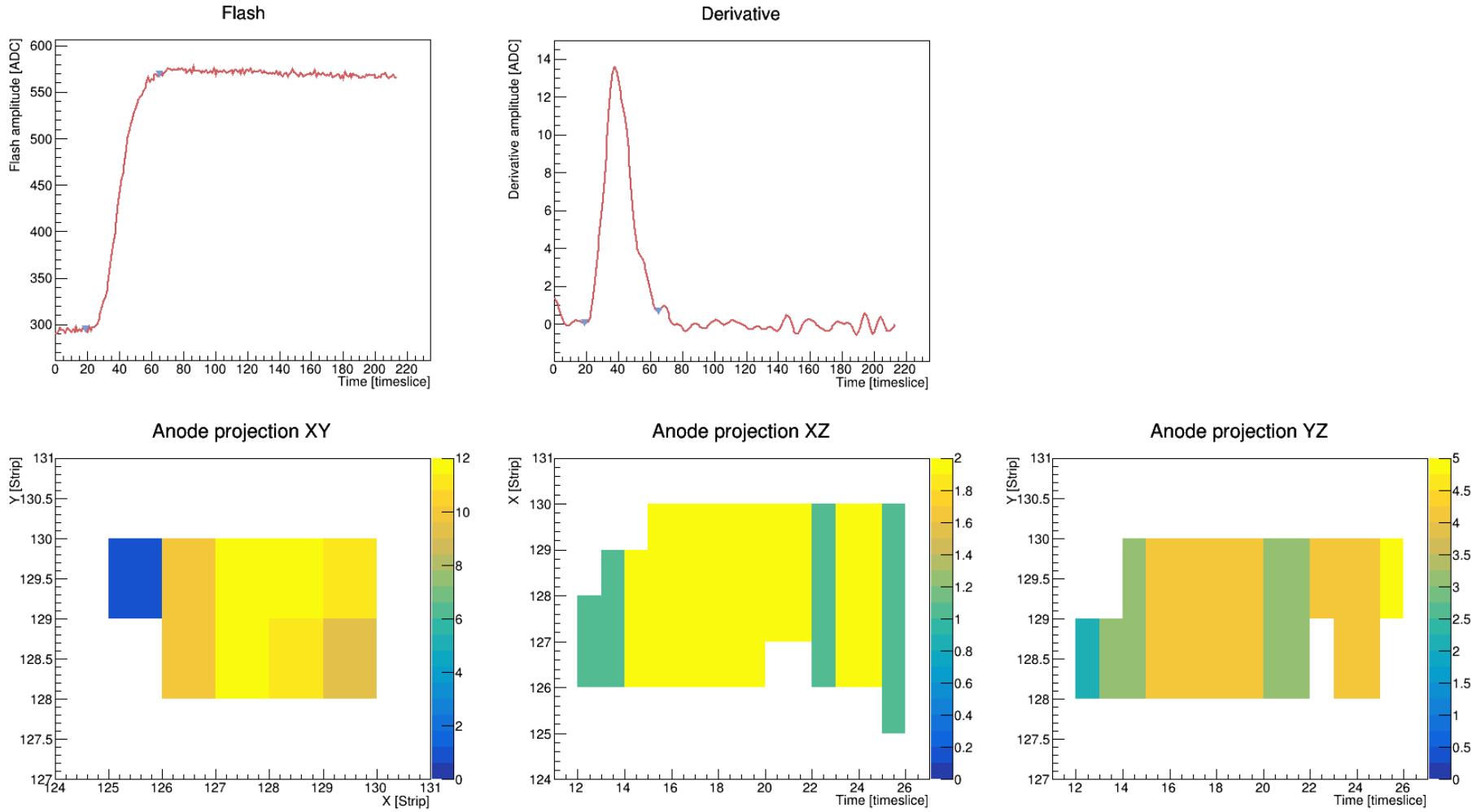
with C₄H₁₀ + 50% CHF₃ at 30 mbar

Event display of an « electron event» with a total measured ionization energy of 24.5 keV, with a secondary electron



150 eV 3D- electron track produced by COMIMAC

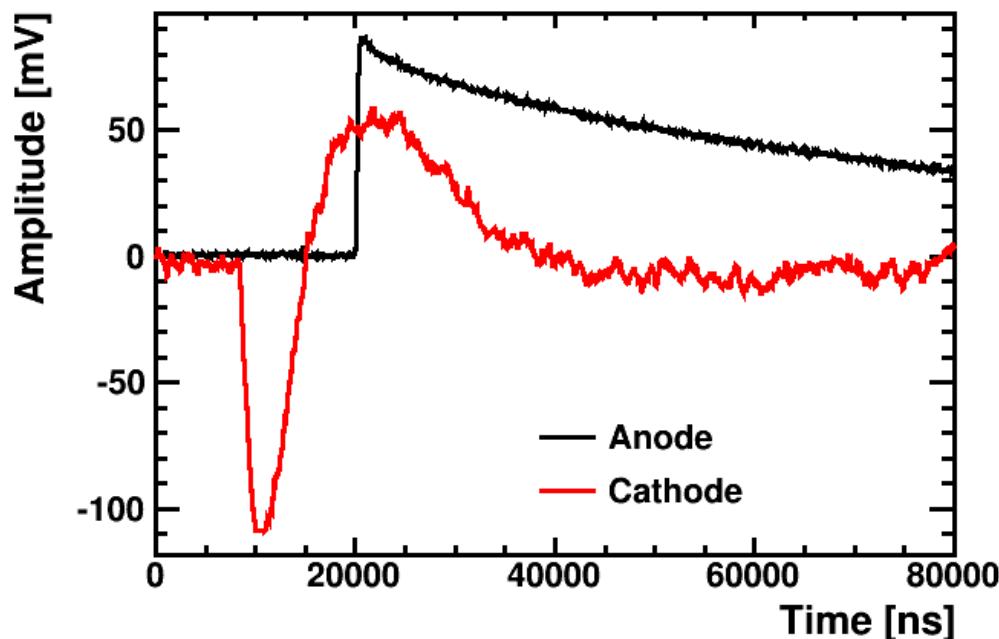
detected by one MIMAC chamber
(C₄H₁₀+50% CHF₃) at 30 mbar



Cathode Signal to place the 3D-track

- The cathode signal is produced by the primary electrons drift. It is produced before the anode signal produced by the avalanche.

C. Couturier, Q. Riffard, N. Sauzet et al. (2017)

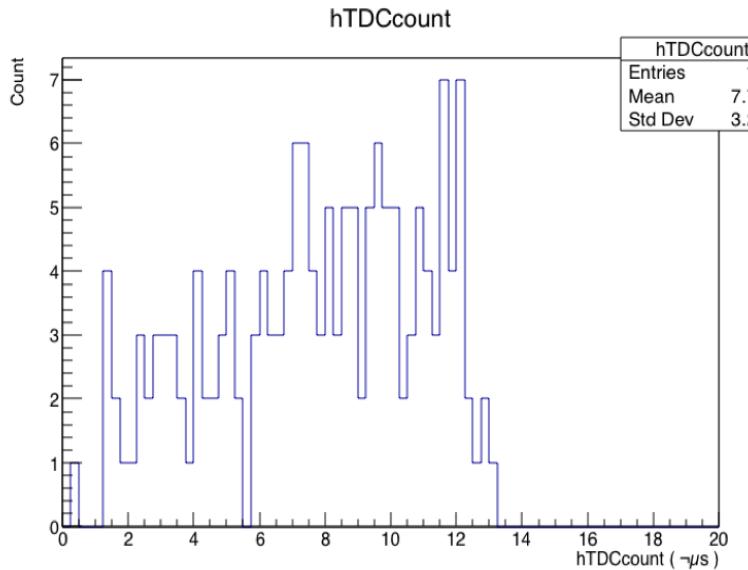


Measurement in a MIMAC chamber of an alpha passing through the active volume parallel to the cathode at 10 cm distance.

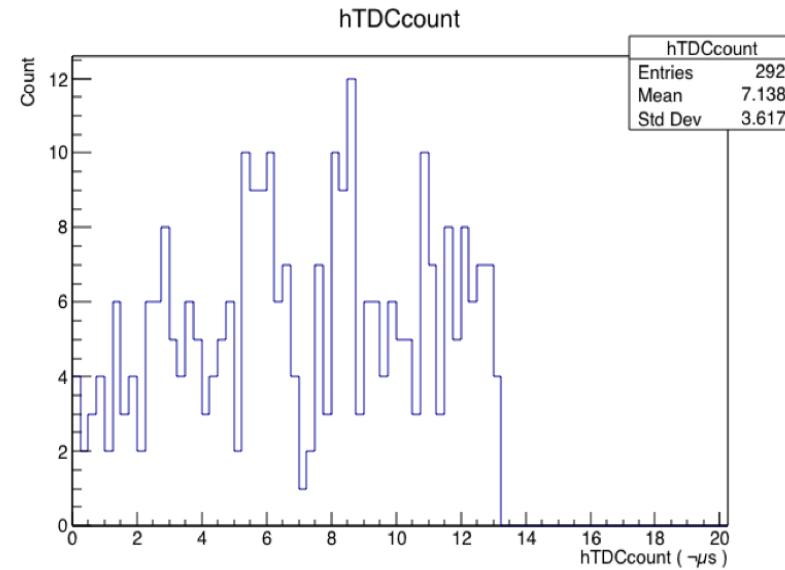
First Cathode Signals from the MIMAC bichamber background

O. Guillaudin, D.S. et al.

Chamber 1

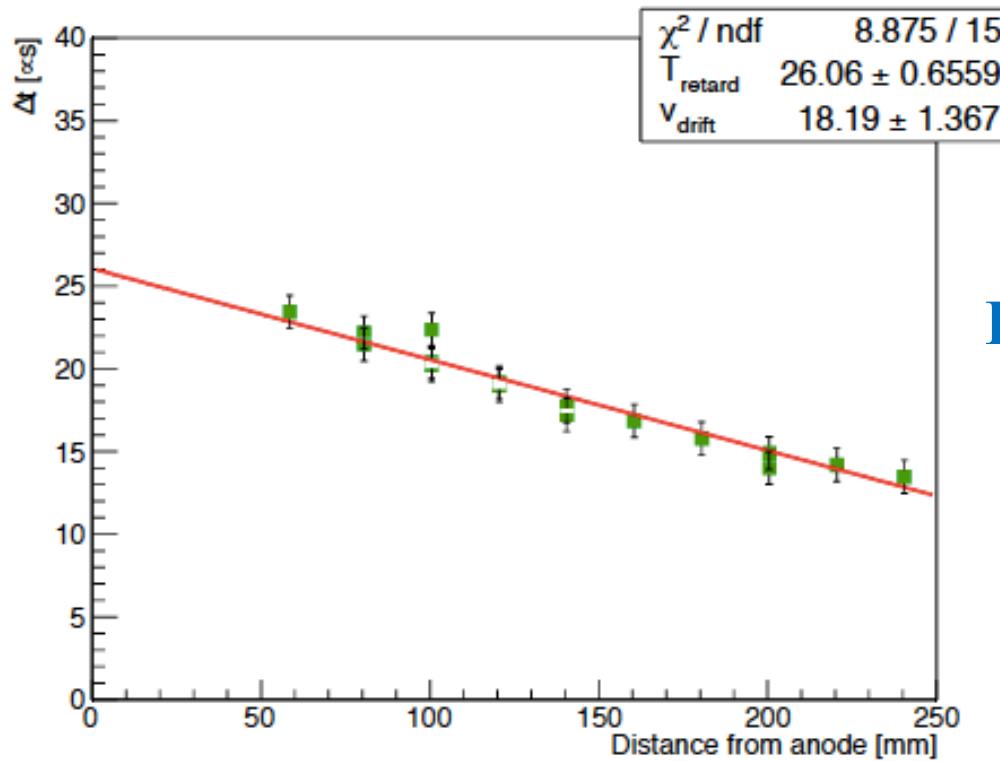


Chamber 2



Measuring the time between the “event production” and the avalanche signal !!
Covering the 26 cm drift distance (13 us x 20 um/ns) !!

MIMAC-Cathode Signal measurements



Drift velocity of
primary electrons !!

Figure 4. Measure of the time differences (TAC) between the grid signal and the delayed cathode signal in the “START Grid” configuration, as a function of the distance of the α source from the anode (green points) ; error bars correspond to the standard deviation of the mean. A linear fit of these points is superimposed in red and provides the values of the drift velocity and the additional delay.

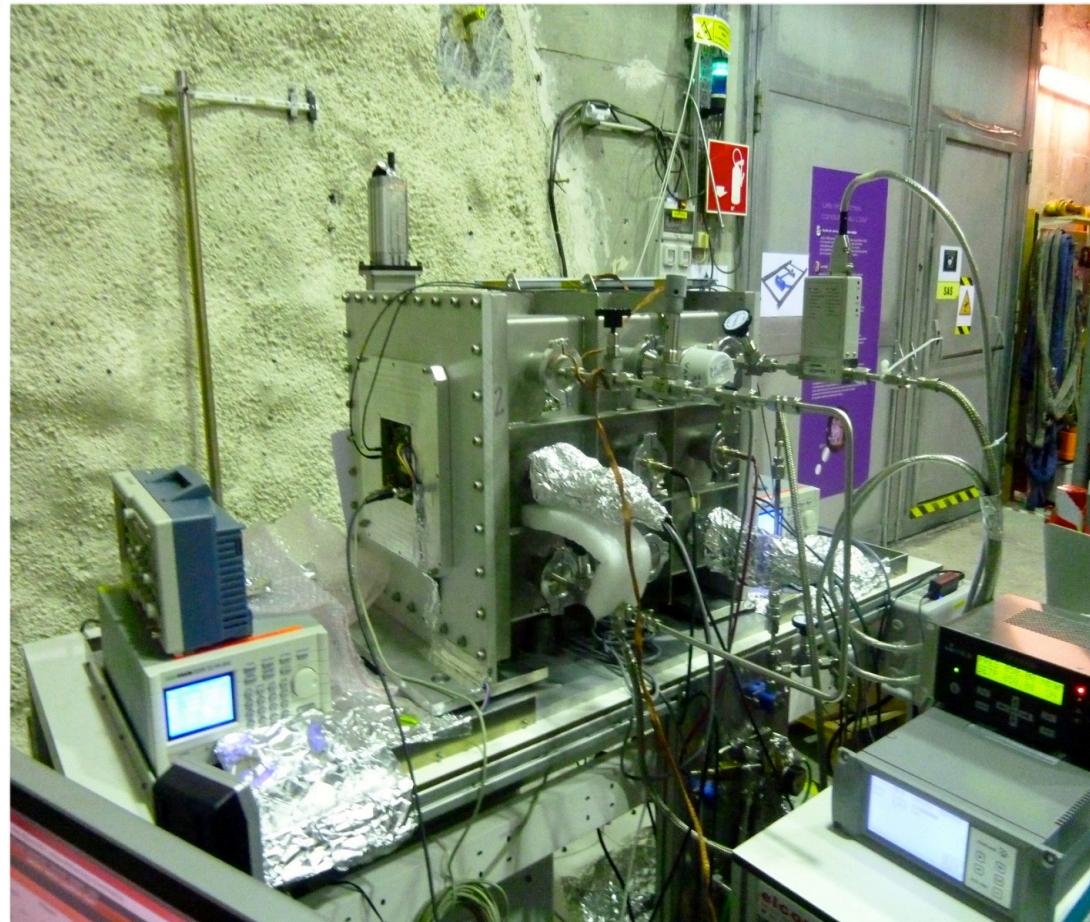
MIMAC (bi-chamber module) at Modane Underground Laboratory

(LSM France)

First installation June 22nd 2012

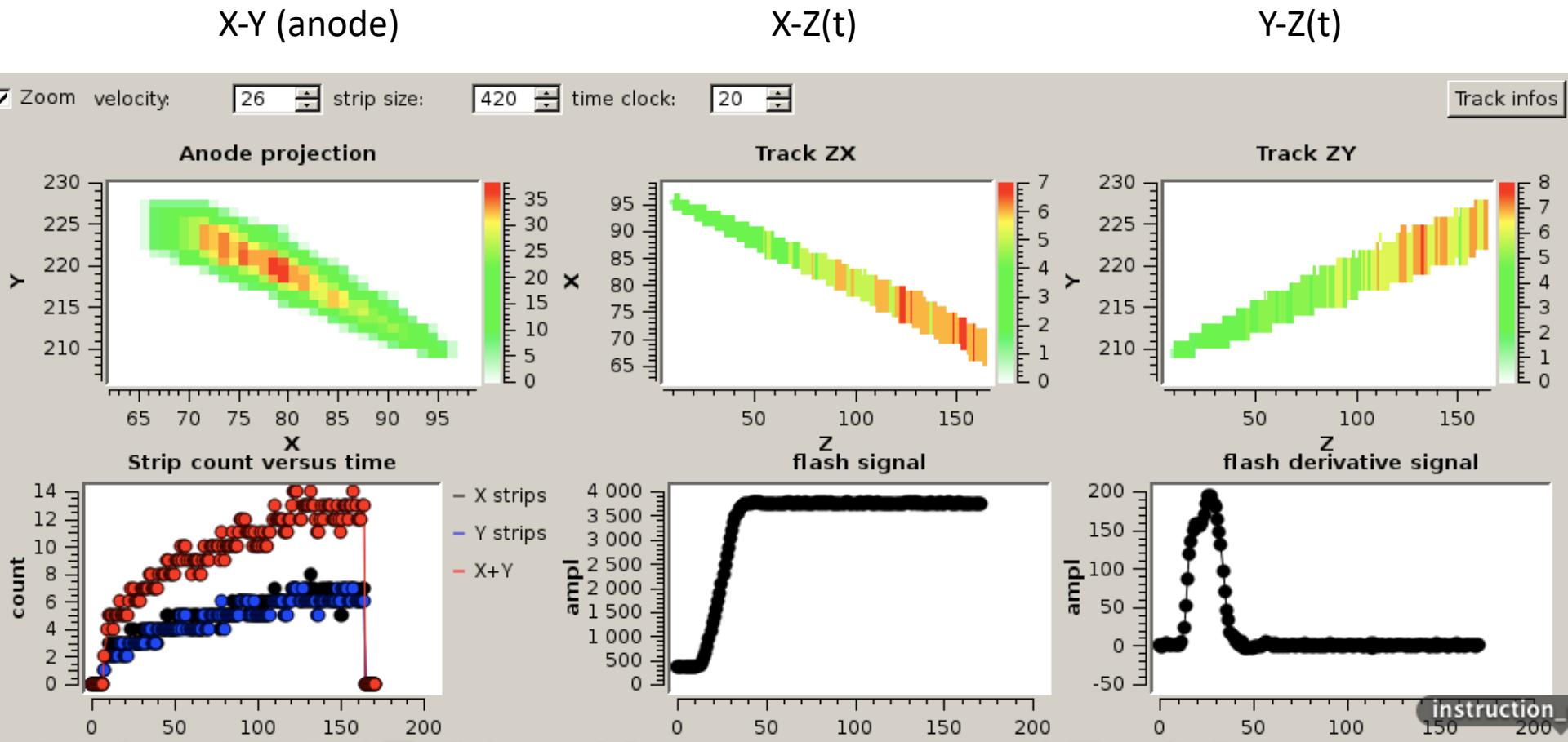
Upgraded June 2013, and
June 2014 till February 2018

- working at 50 mbar
($\text{CF}_4 + 28\% \text{ CHF}_3 + 2\% \text{ C}_4\text{H}_{10}$)
- in a permanent circulating mode
- Remote control
- Calibration control twice per week
- Since then upgraded with new detectors and with the Cathode signal.
- Reinstalled at LSM in 09/22

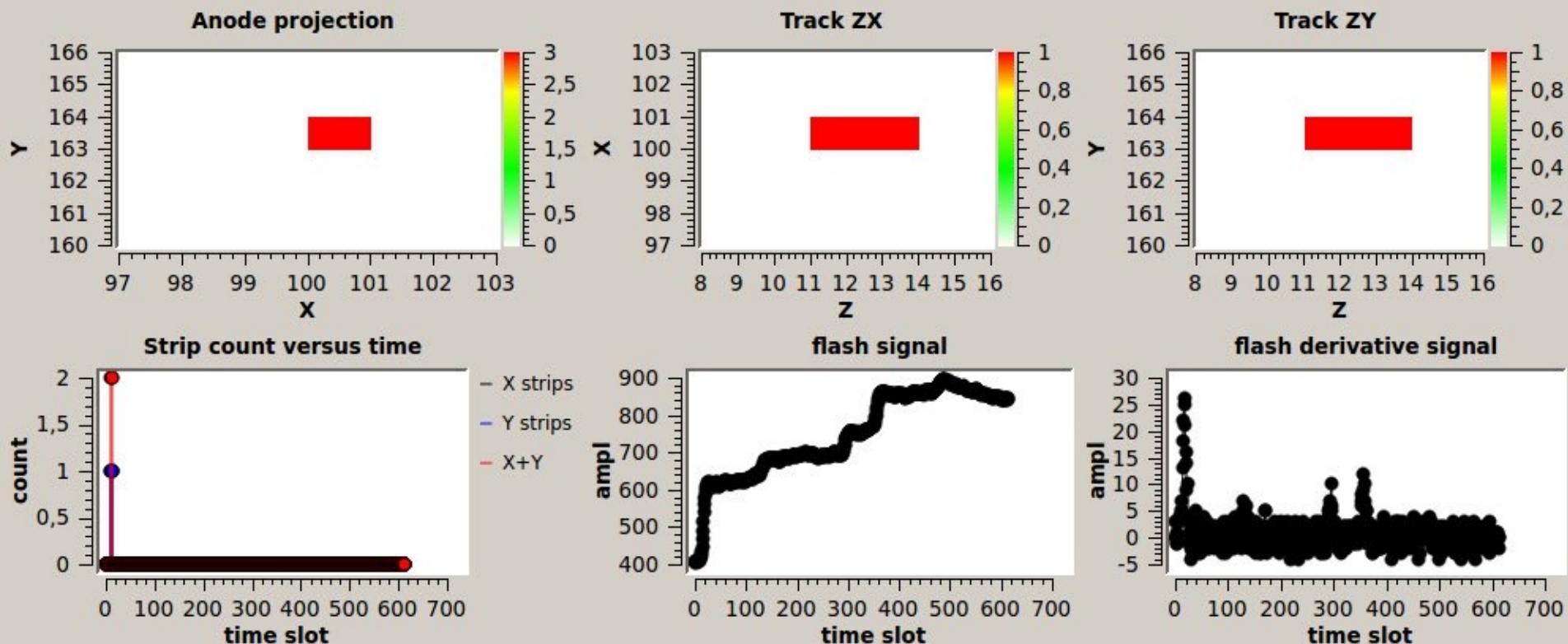


An alpha particle crossing the detector

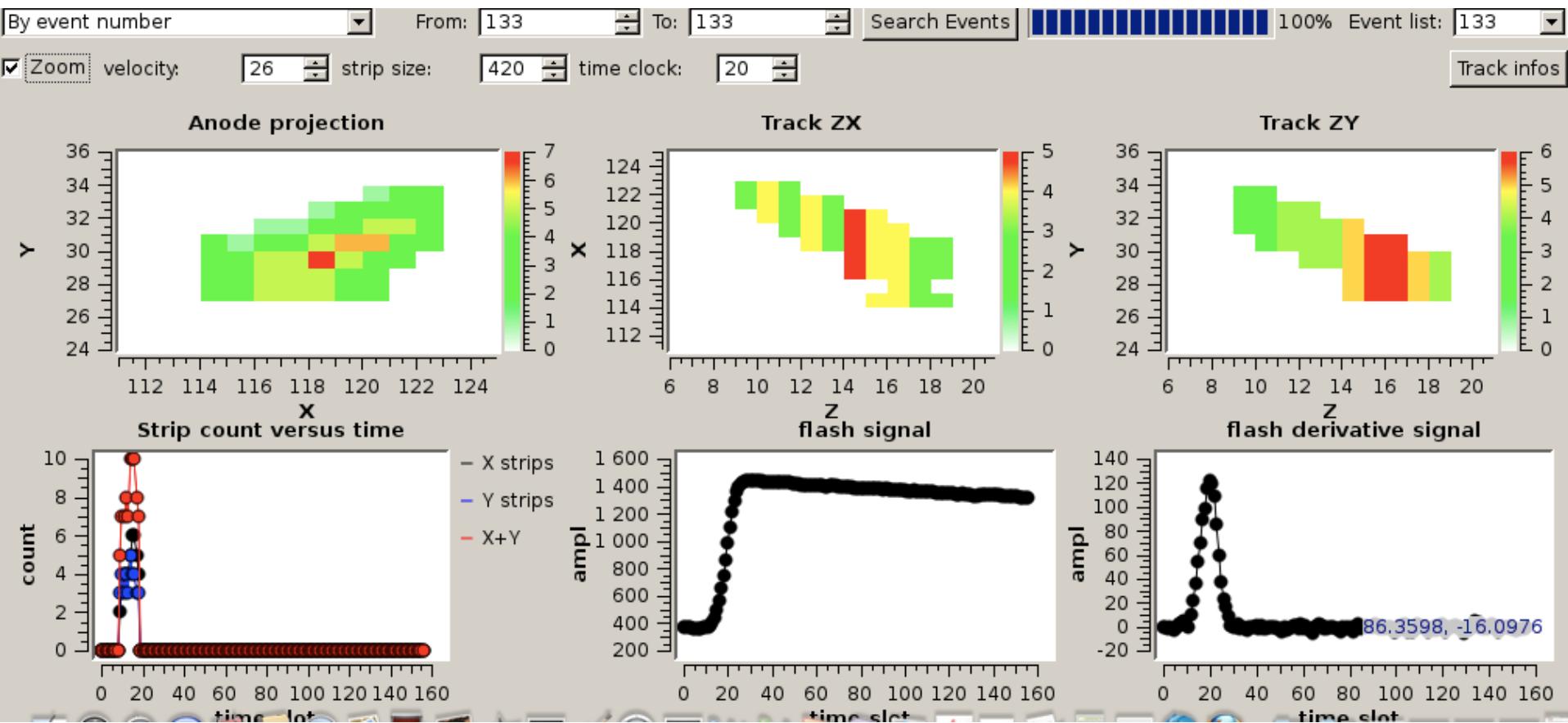
(as an illustration of the MIMAC observables)



An Electron event (18 keV)



A “very interesting recoil event” (~ 34 keVee)



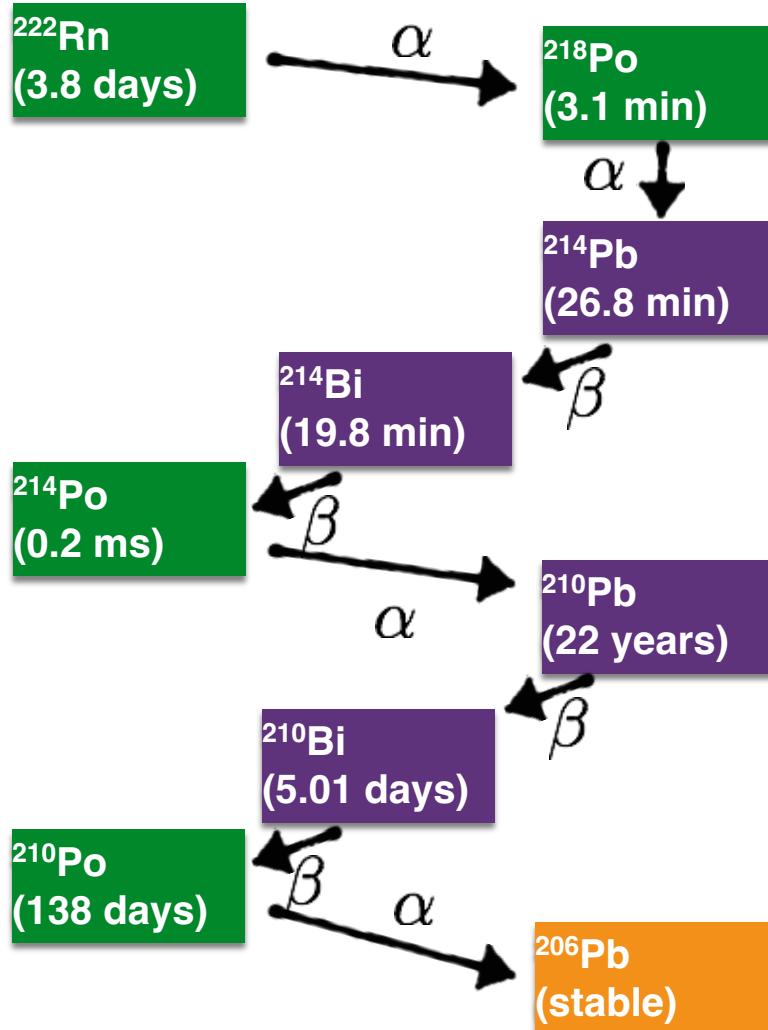
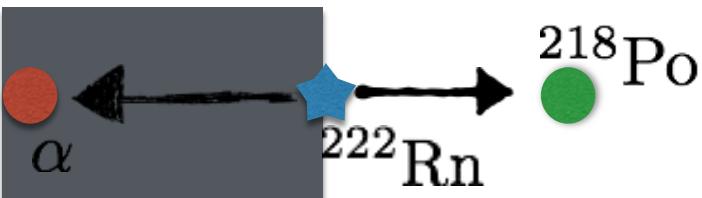
Radon Progeny

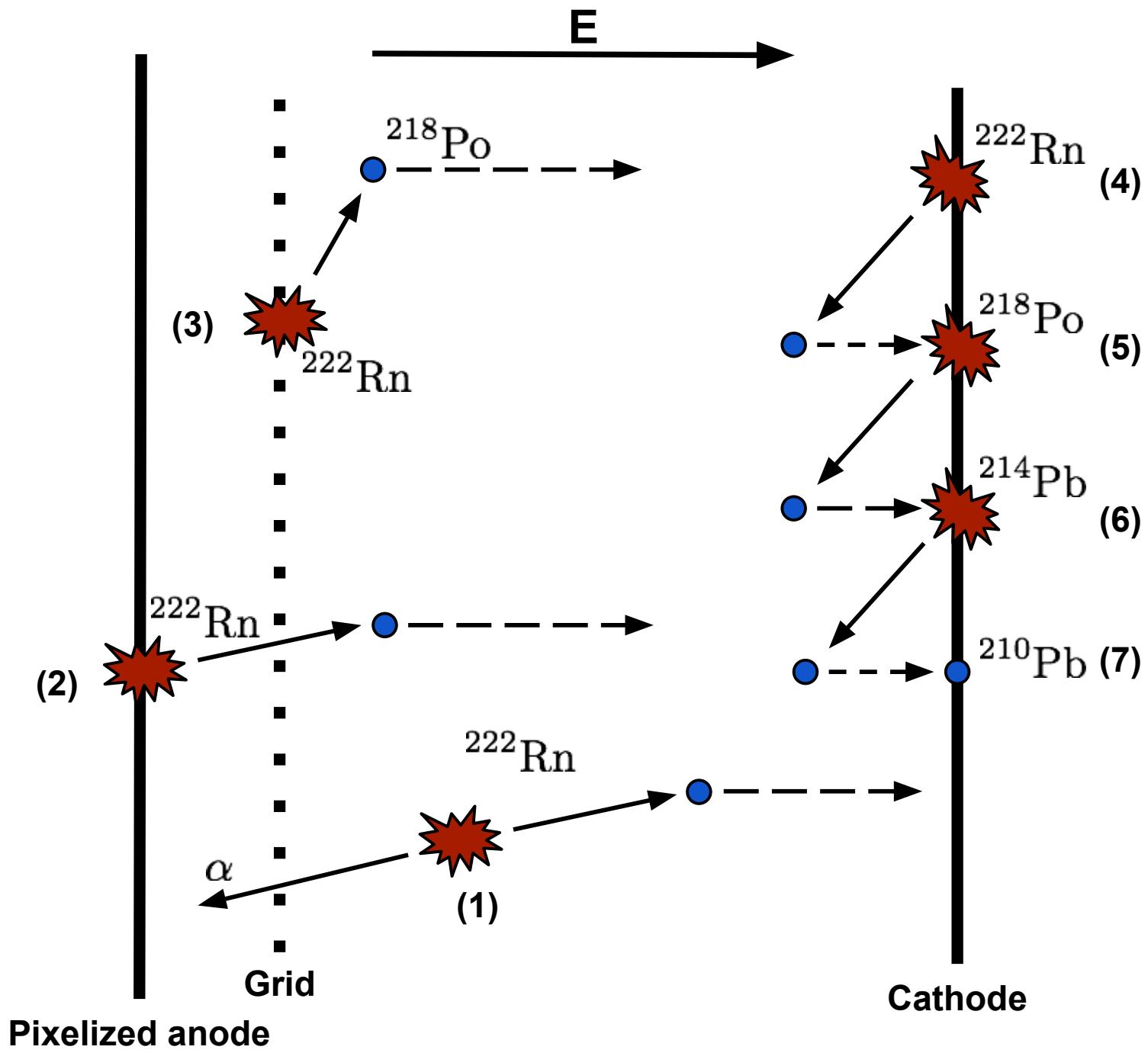
^{222}Rn chain:

- 4 β decays
→ Electron event (background)
- 4 α decays
→ α -particle emission:
 $E_\alpha \sim 5 \text{ MeV}$ → Saturation
→ Daughter nucleus recoil
(surface event):

Parent	Daughter	E_{recoil}^{kin} [keV]	E_{recoil}^{ioni} [keV]
^{222}Rn	^{218}Po	100.8	38.23
^{218}Po	^{214}Pb	112.3	43.90
^{214}Po	^{210}Pb	146.5	58.78
^{210}Po	^{206}Pb	103.1	39.95

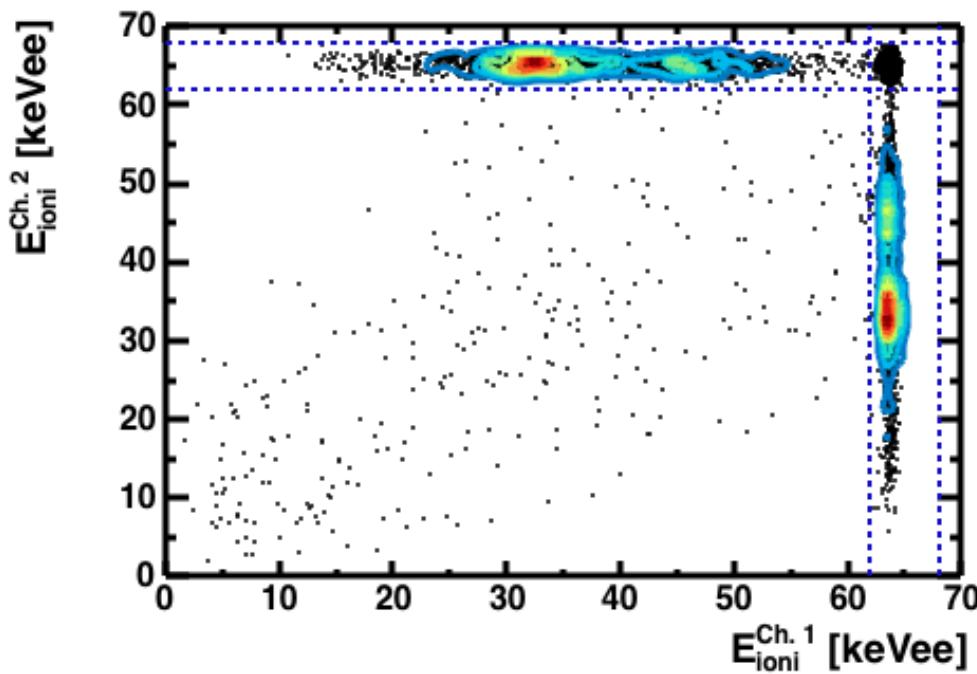
Simulation (SRIM)





RPR: « In coincidence » events

Chamber coincidences:



Ch. 1

Ch. 2



3D tracks from nuclear recoil of radon progeny detection

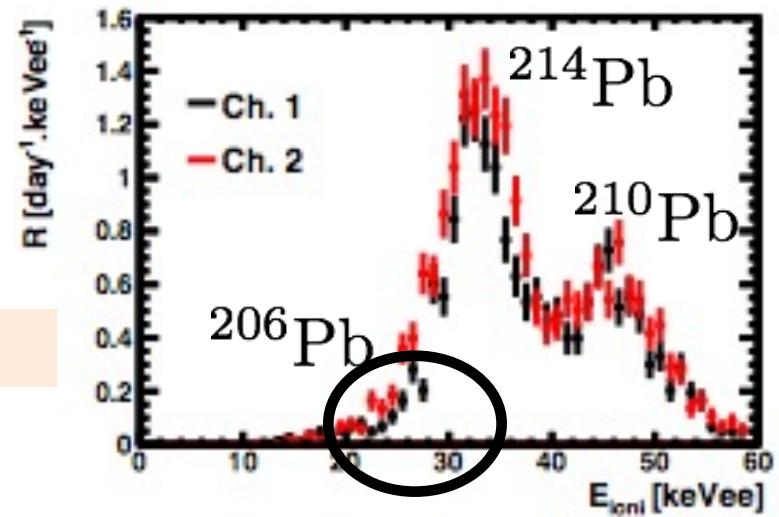
First detection of 3D tracks of Rn progeny

Electron/recoil discrimination

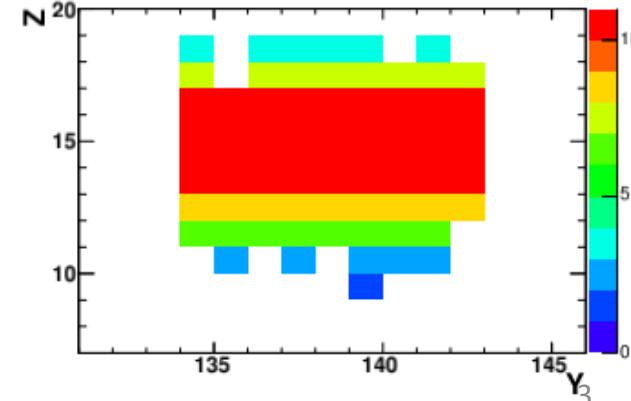
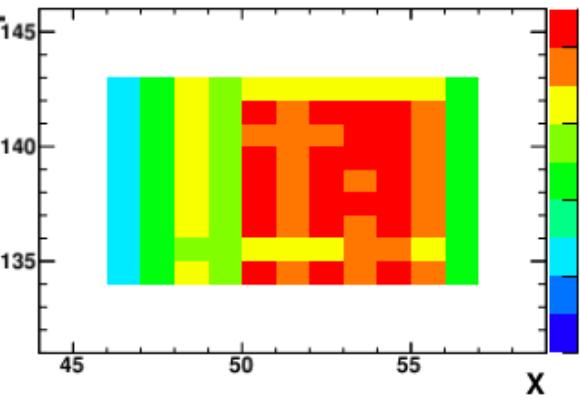
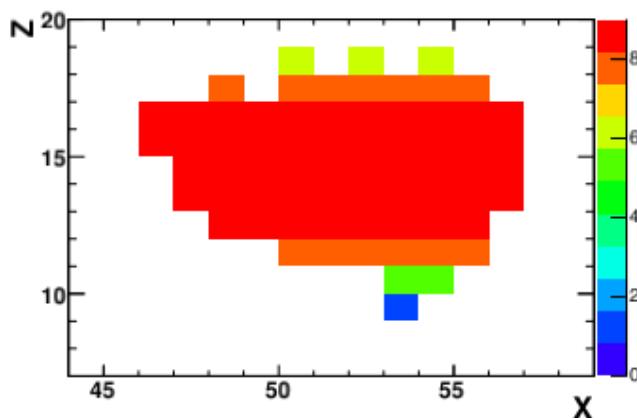
Measure: $\begin{cases} E_{ioni}(^{214}\text{Pb}) = 32.90 \pm 0.16 \text{ keVee} \\ E_{ioni}(^{210}\text{Pb}) = 45.60 \pm 0.29 \text{ keVee} \end{cases}$

→ MIMAC detection strategy validated

Nuclear recoil spectra



$$R_{^{206}\text{Pb}} \sim 0.25 \text{ day}^{-1} \cdot \text{keVee}^{-1}$$

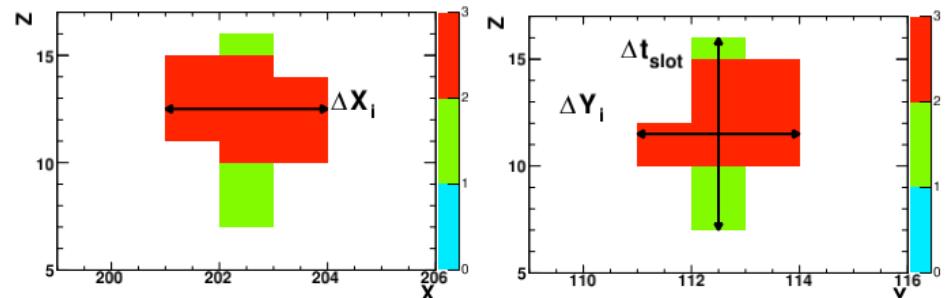


RPR events in the detector

$z_0 \longleftrightarrow$ Diffusion

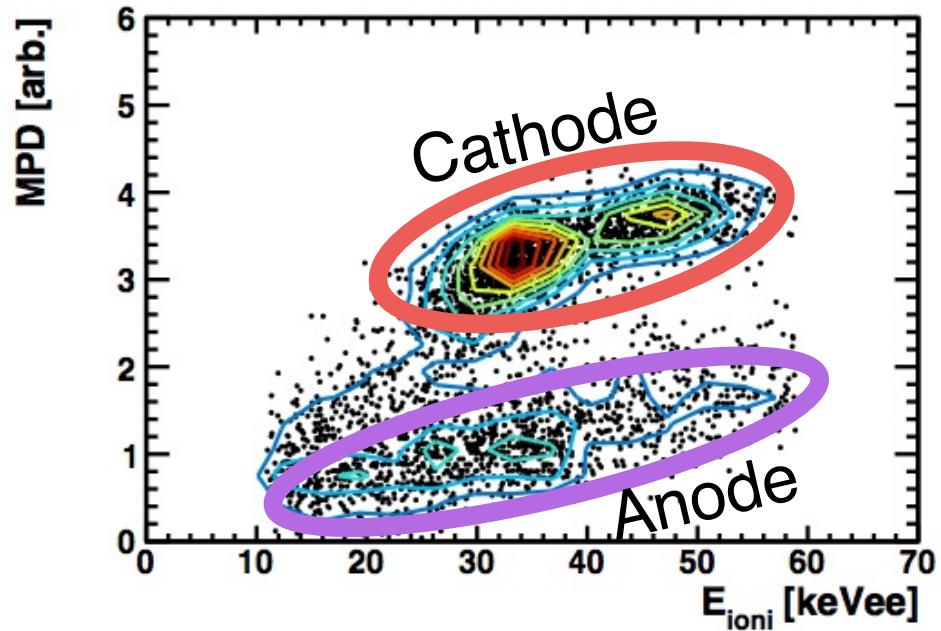
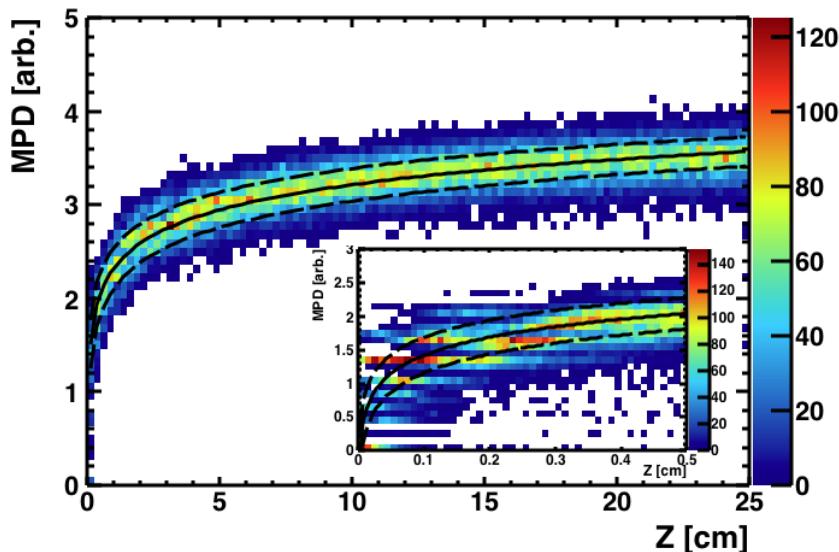
$$\begin{cases} D_T = 237.9 \text{ }\mu\text{m}/\sqrt{\text{cm}} \\ D_L = 271.5 \text{ }\mu\text{m}/\sqrt{\text{cm}} \end{cases}$$

« Grid » event



Mean Projected Diffusion:

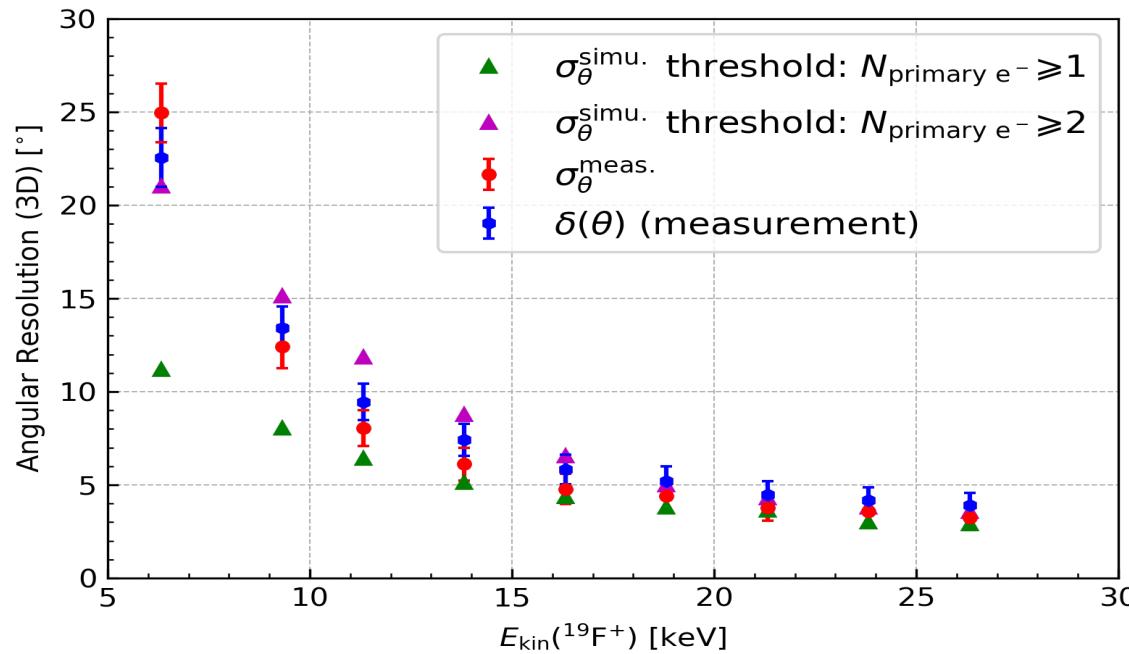
$$\overline{D} = \ln(\overline{\Delta X} \times \overline{\Delta Y})$$



Directionality issues

Directionality at high gain

Measured and simulated angular resolution at 0° with F beam
Tao Yi et al. 2018



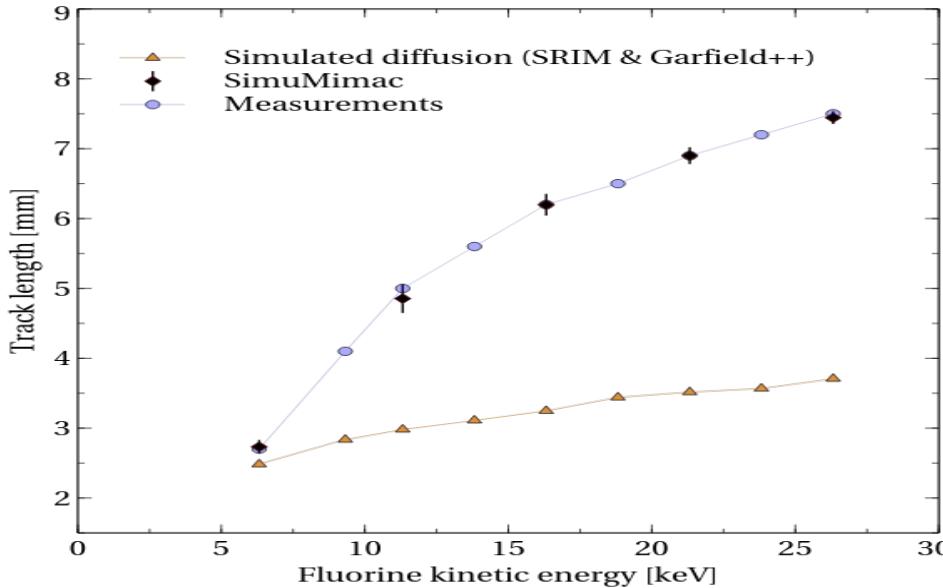
Measured angular resolution below 10° at $E_{\text{kin}} > 10 \text{ keV}$

⇒ Twice better than requirements for a directional detector (Billard *et al.*, 1110.6079)

Directionality at high gain

At high-gain, measurements and simulations used to strongly disagree

Measured and simulated fluorine track lengths.



C.Beaufort 2021, SimuMimac a simulation tool based on SRIM and Garfield++ to model the physics of the detector from the primary electron cloud to the signal formation

- SimuMimac agrees with the measurements
- Main difference with standard simulation code:
takes into account the current induced by the motion of the ions

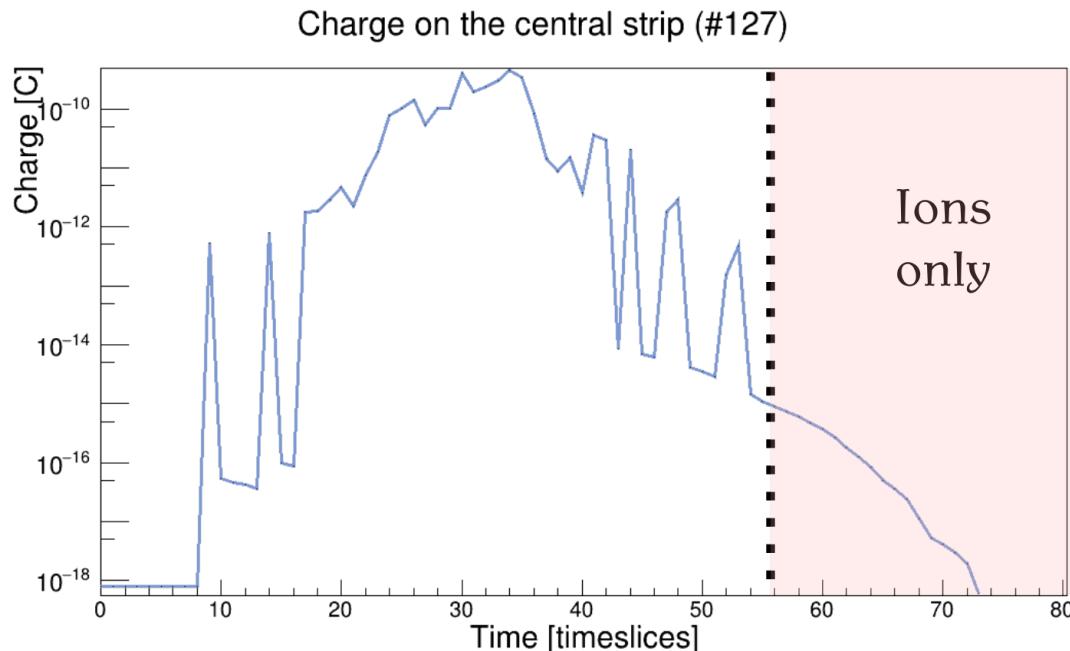
Directionality at high gain

- Current induced by the charges (*Ramo-Shockley theorem*):

$$i(t) = \sum_{k=i, e} q_k \mathbf{E}_{w, k} \cdot \mathbf{v}_k \text{ with } \mathbf{v}_e \sim 10^3 \mathbf{v}_i$$

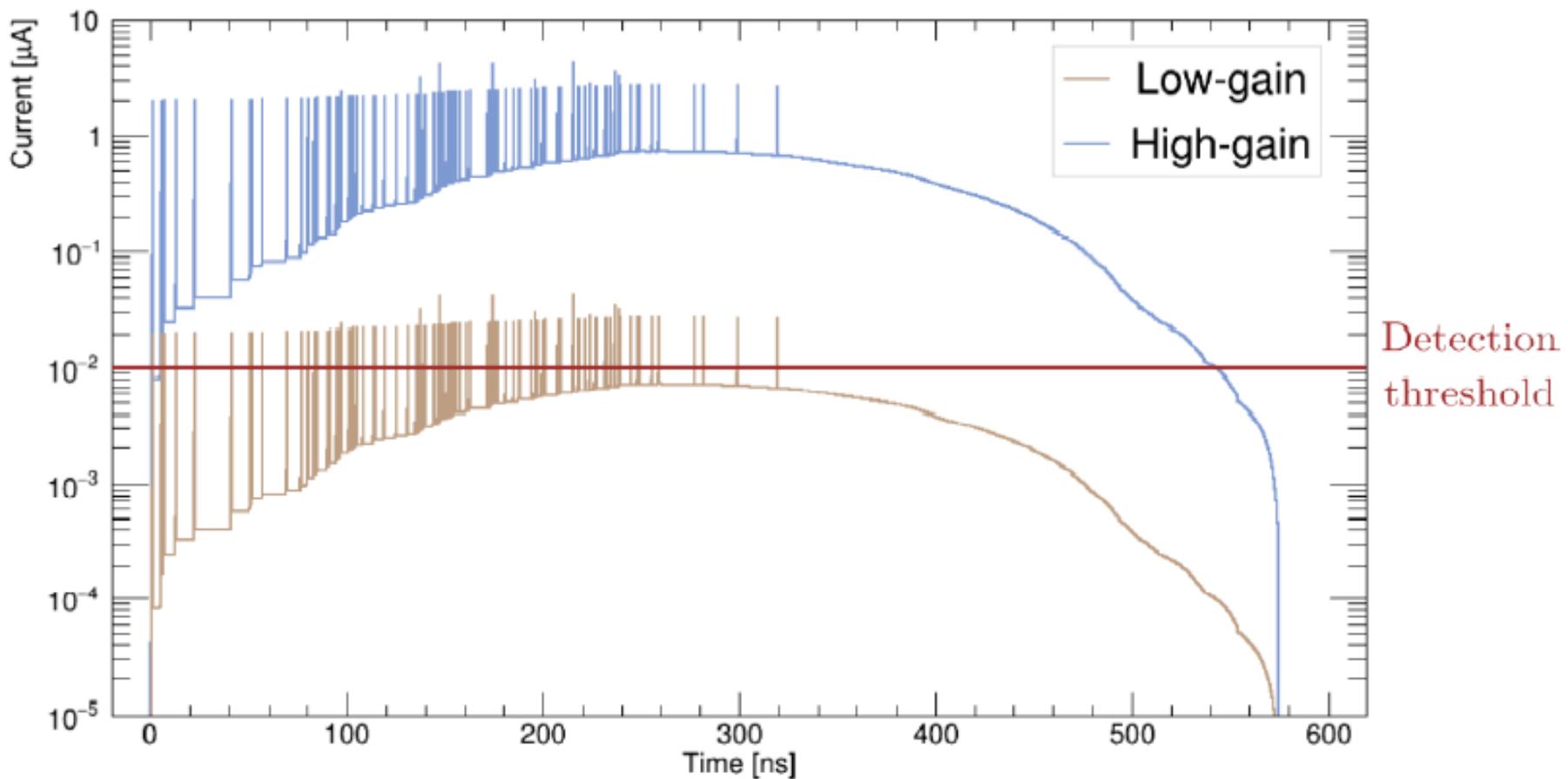
- Ions induce smaller currents than electrons but they remain longer in the gap
- At large gain, the ionic contribution
 - is non-negligible
 - **elongates the signal**

SimuMimac



Signal contributions at high-gain

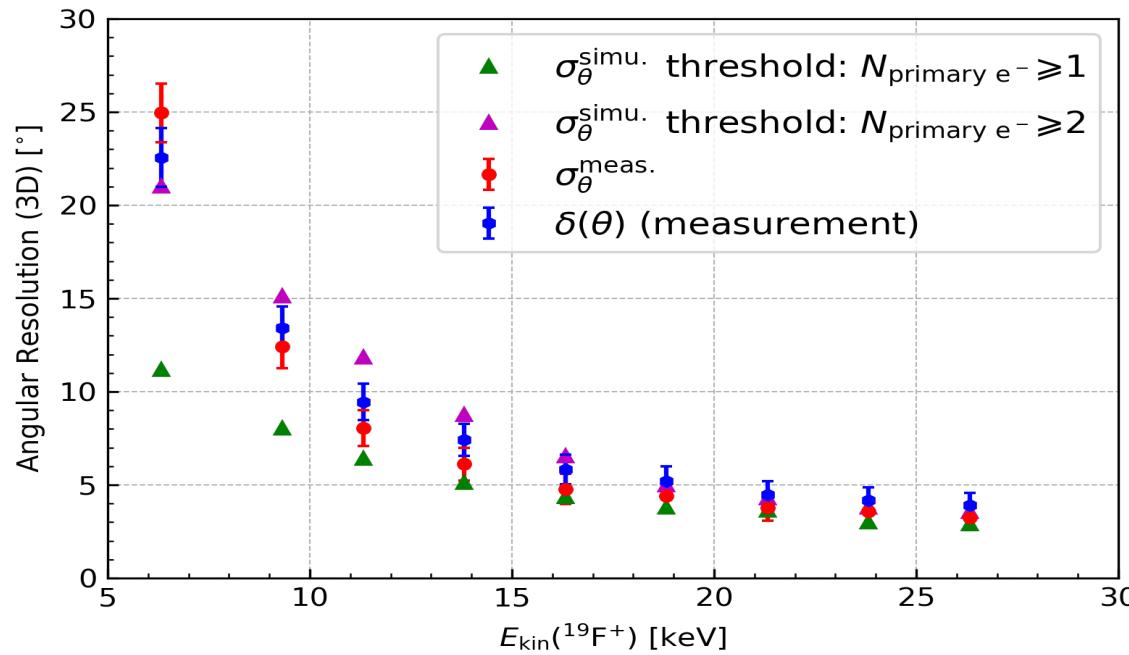
with primary electrons and secondary ions
Cyprien Beaufort et al., arxiv 2112.12469



Tracks longer, and higher detection efficiency!

Directionality at high gain

Measured and simulated angular resolution at 0° with F beam
Tao Yi et al. 2018



Measured angular resolution below 10° at $E_{\text{kin}} > 10 \text{ keV}$

⇒ Twice better than requirements for a directional detector (Billard *et al.*, 1110.6079)

0° was the beam test configuration,
the resolution must now be determined at any angle

Nuclear recoil calibration with neutrons

Neutron monochromatic field:

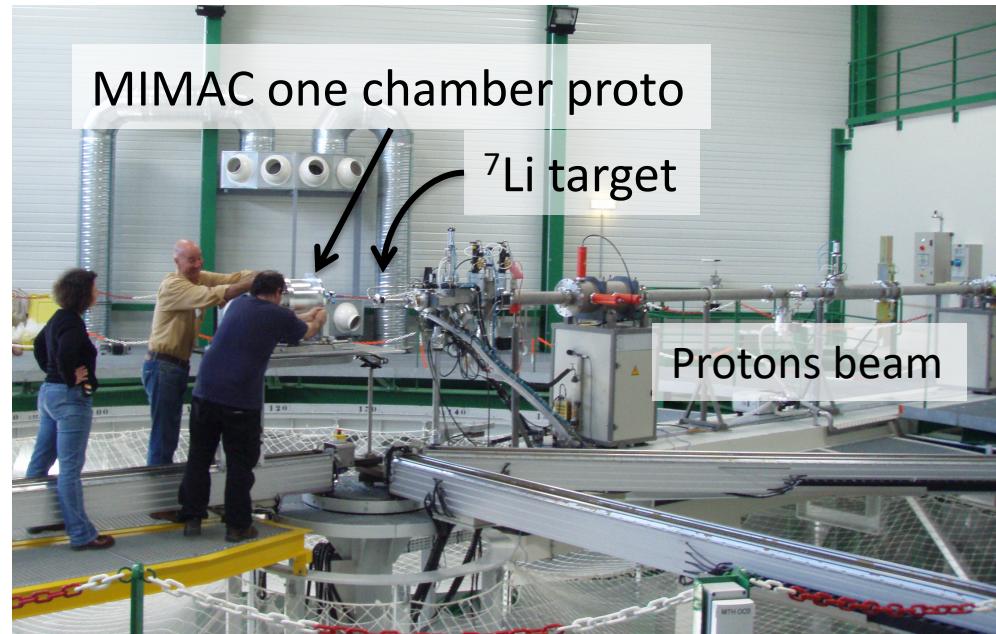
AMANDE facility at IRSN of Cadarache

- Neutrons with a well defined energy from resonances of nuclear reaction

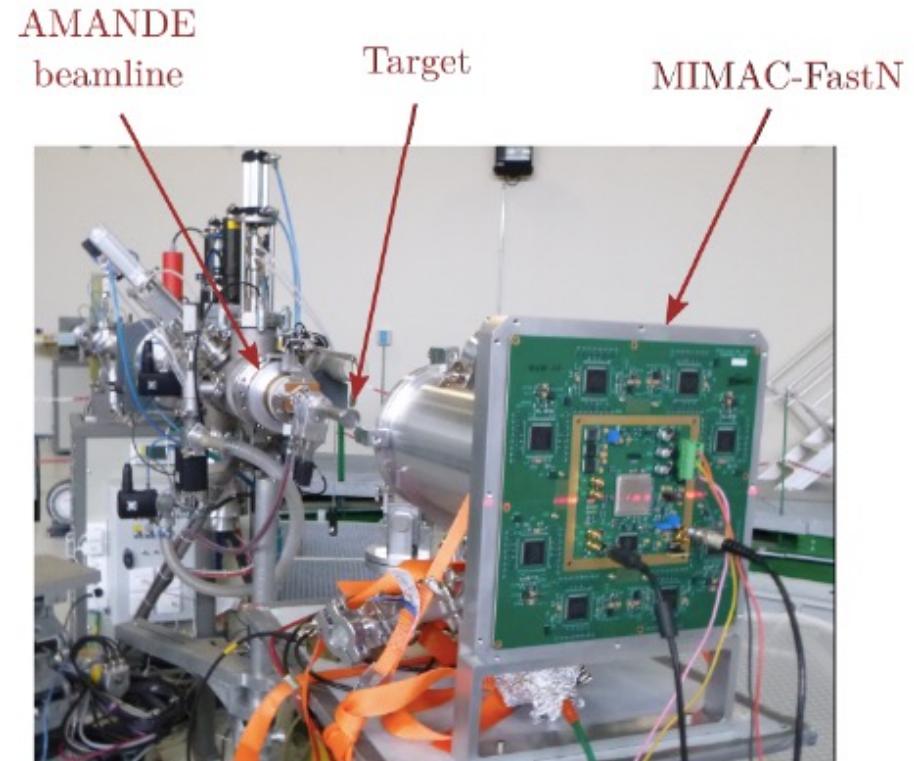
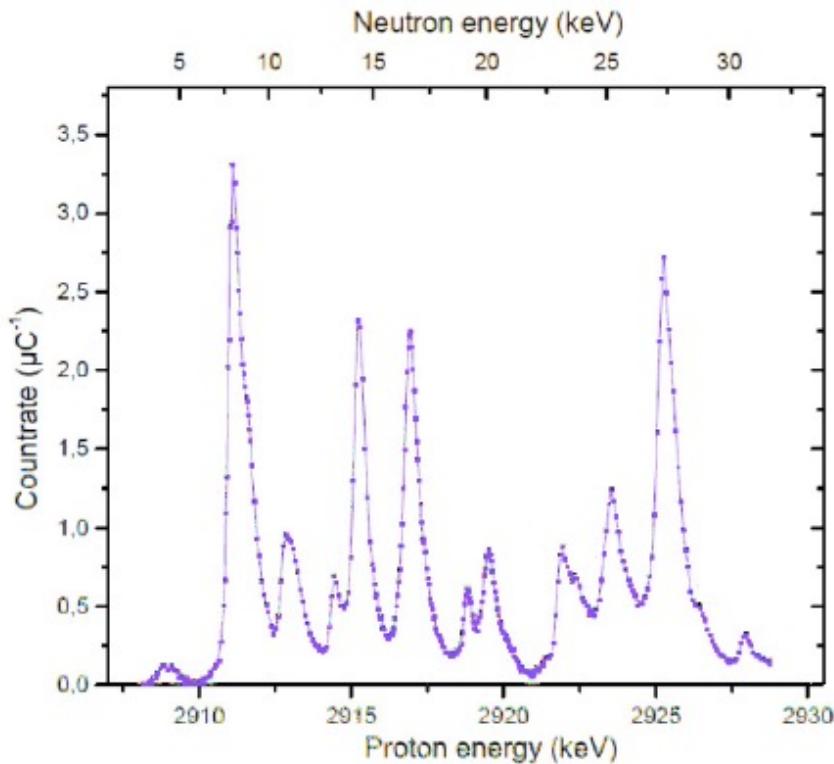
$$E_{\text{Recoil}} = 4 \frac{m_n m_R}{(m_n + m_R)^2} E_{\text{neutron}} \cos^2 \theta$$

Electron Calibration:

^{55}Fe (5.9 keV) and ^{109}Cd (3.1 keV) sources



Low energy (8 and 27 keV) mono-energetic neutron detection

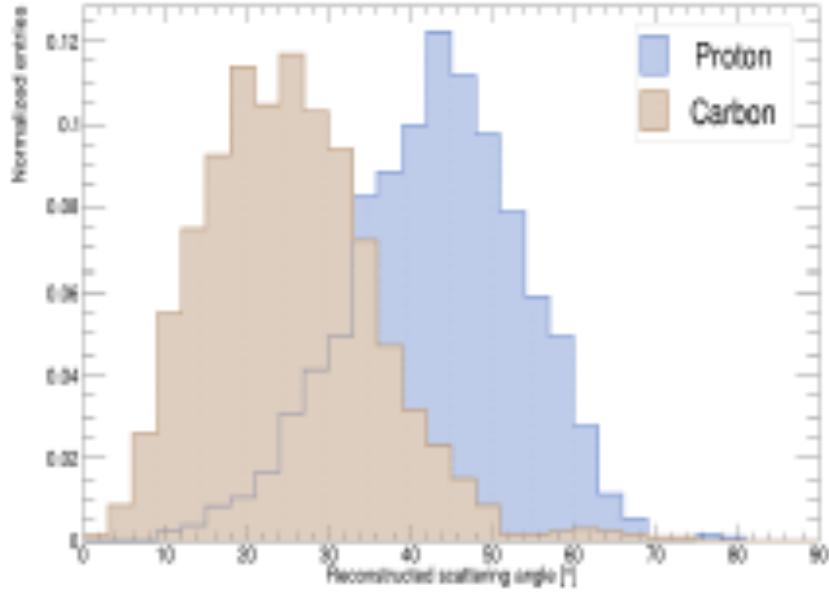


$^{45}\text{Sc}(\text{p},\text{n})$ neutron resonances

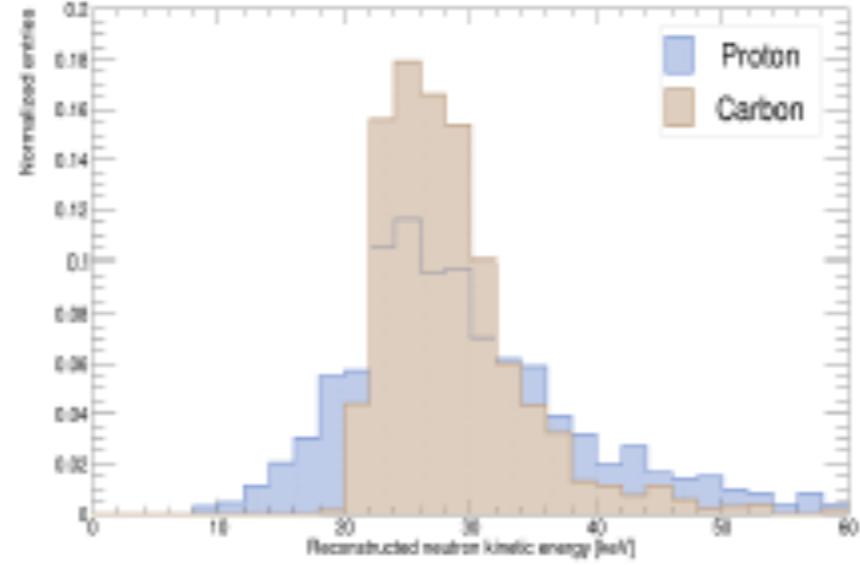
27 keV neutron field

Proton and carbon recoils give the neutron spectra

C. Beaufort et al. (2023, [arXiv:2312.12842](https://arxiv.org/abs/2312.12842))



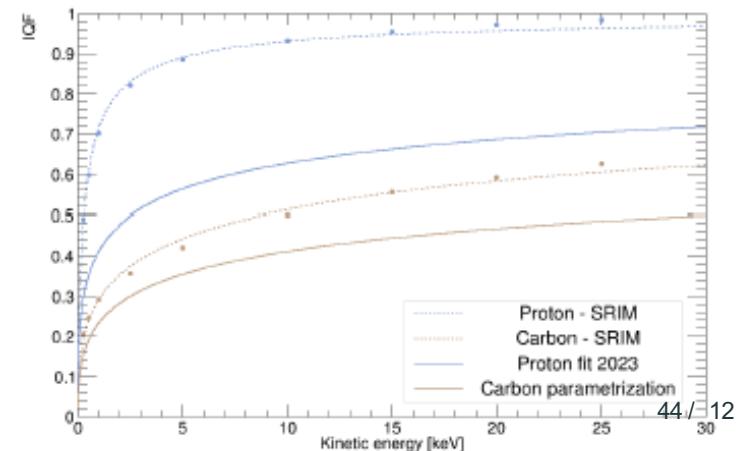
Reconstructed angle



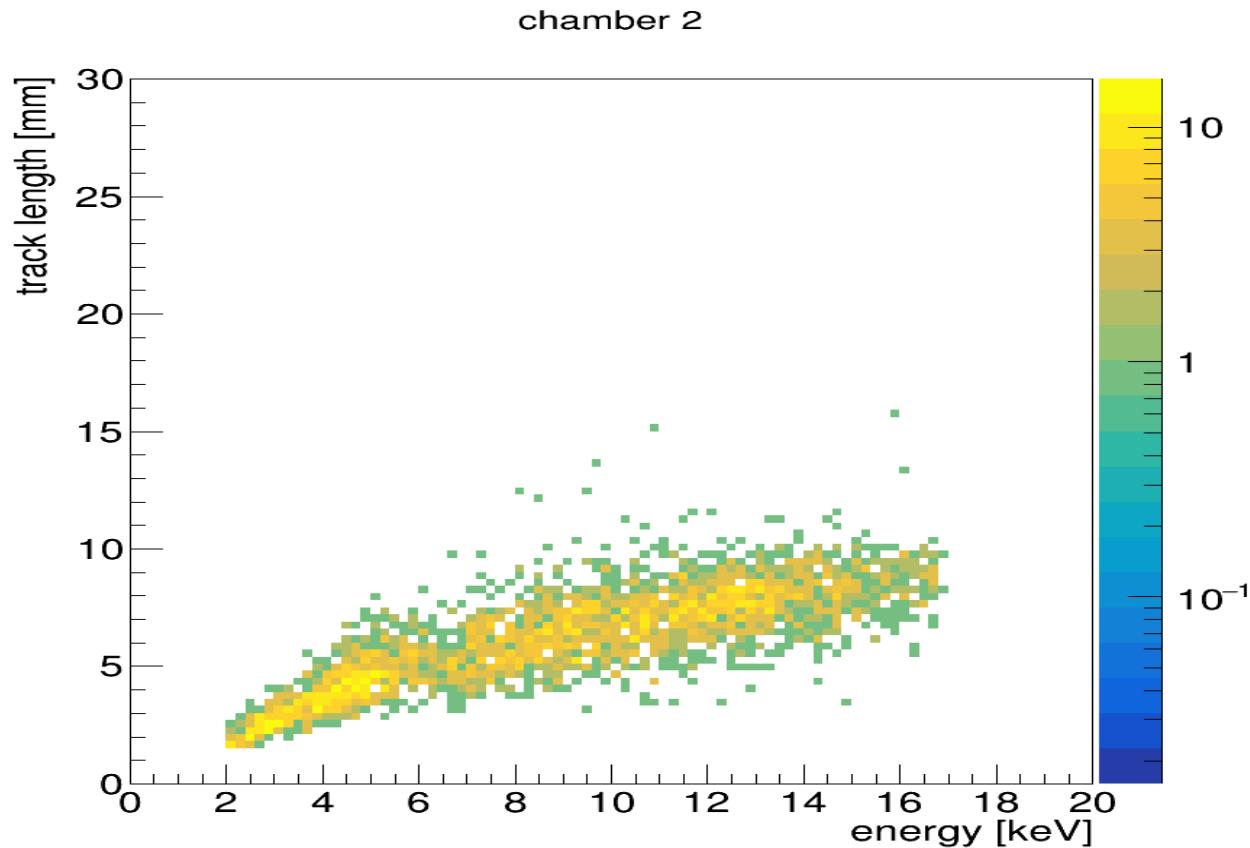
Reconstructed energy

The kinetic energy and angles are reconstructed with :

- the Ionization quenching factor measured by COMIMAC
- understanding the ion contribution to the signal

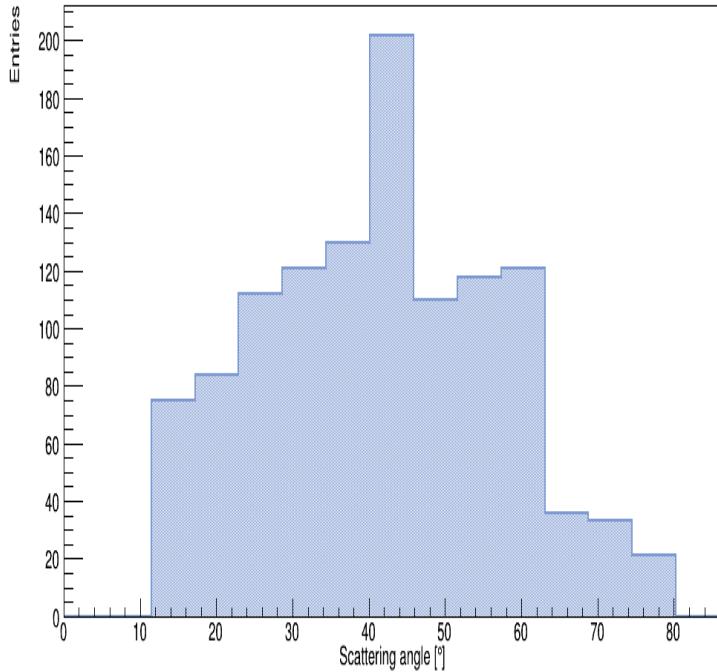


Mono energetic neutron field of 27 keV : reconstructed proton track length vs ionization energy

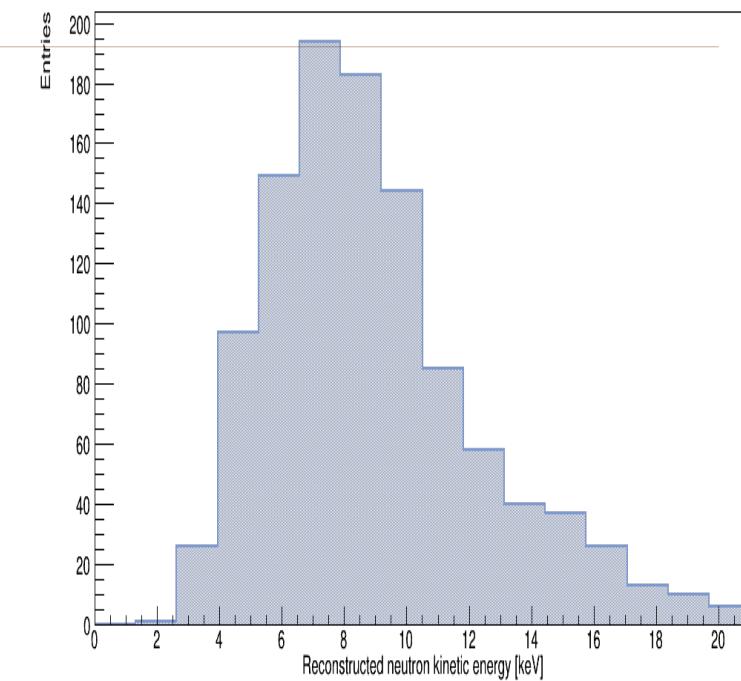


H^+ recoils very useful for low mass WIMP search

Mono-energetic neutron field of 8 keV reconstruction with proton recoils



Angular distribution



Energy spectrum

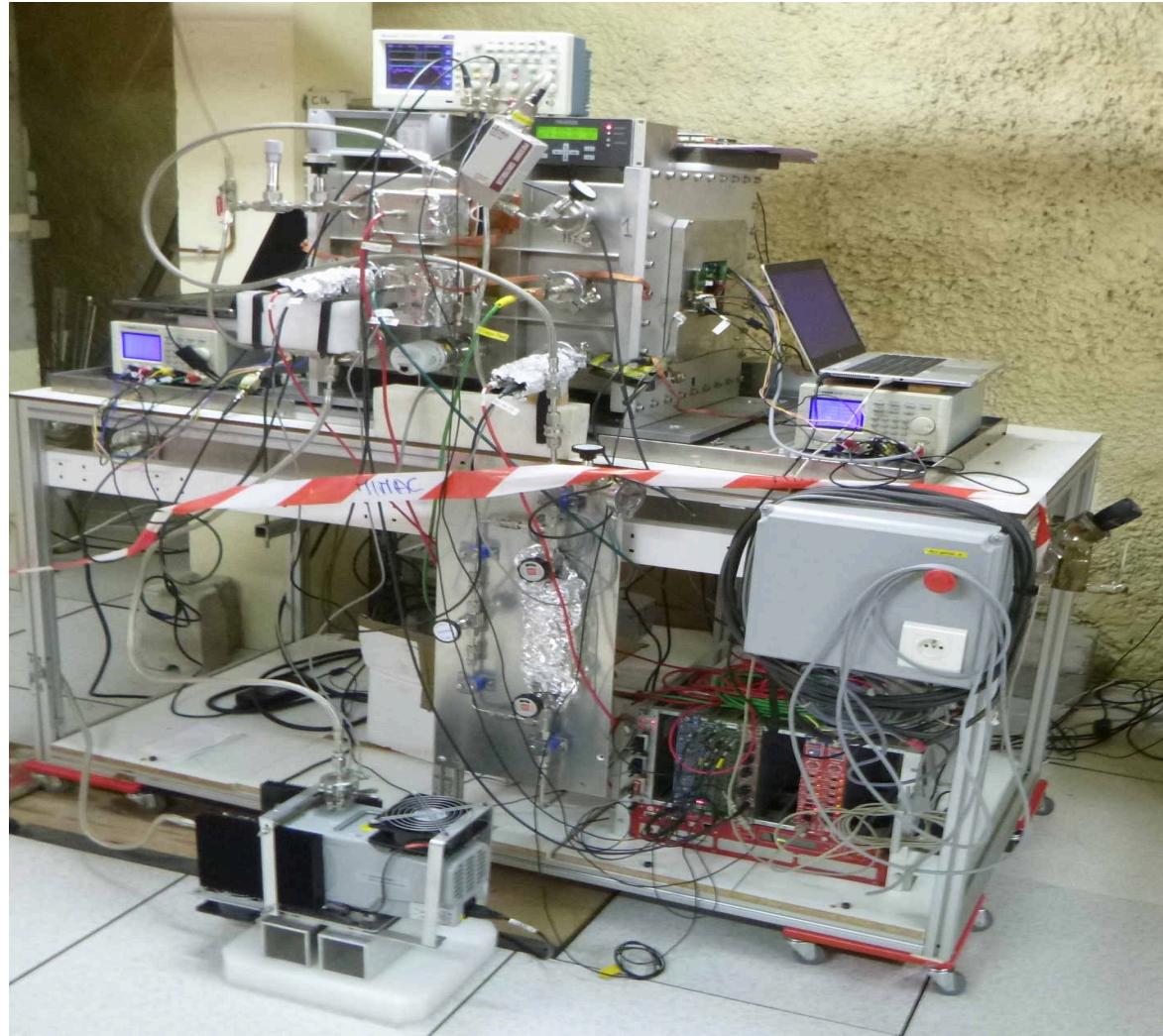
Directional performances at 8 keV:

- Energy reconstructed agrees within 4.0%
- Angular resolution better than 15°

MIMAC at LSM

Bi-chamber-512
module
(with the Cathode Signal and
the new low background 10
cm detectors)
Installed in February 2023

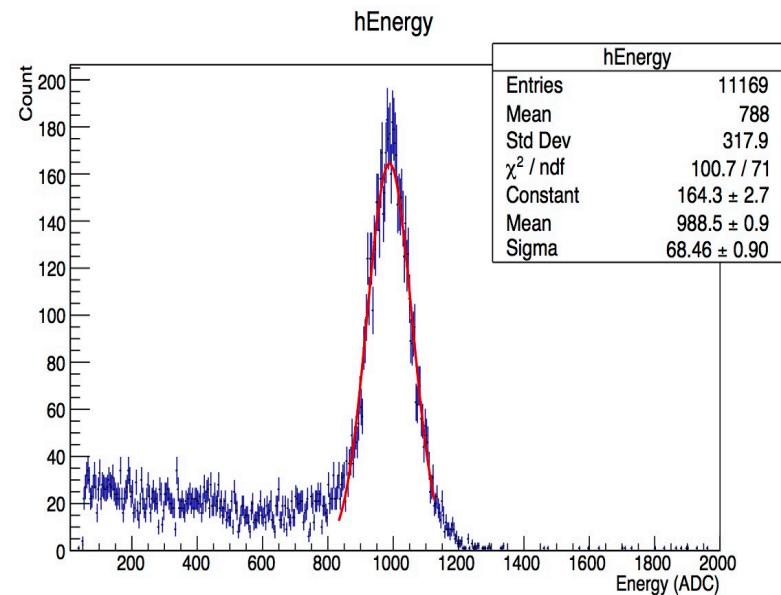
- 30 mbar (C_4H_{10} +50%
 CHF_3)
- Permanent circulating mode
- Remote controlled
- Periodic calibration
with an X-ray generator



New MIMAC low background detector



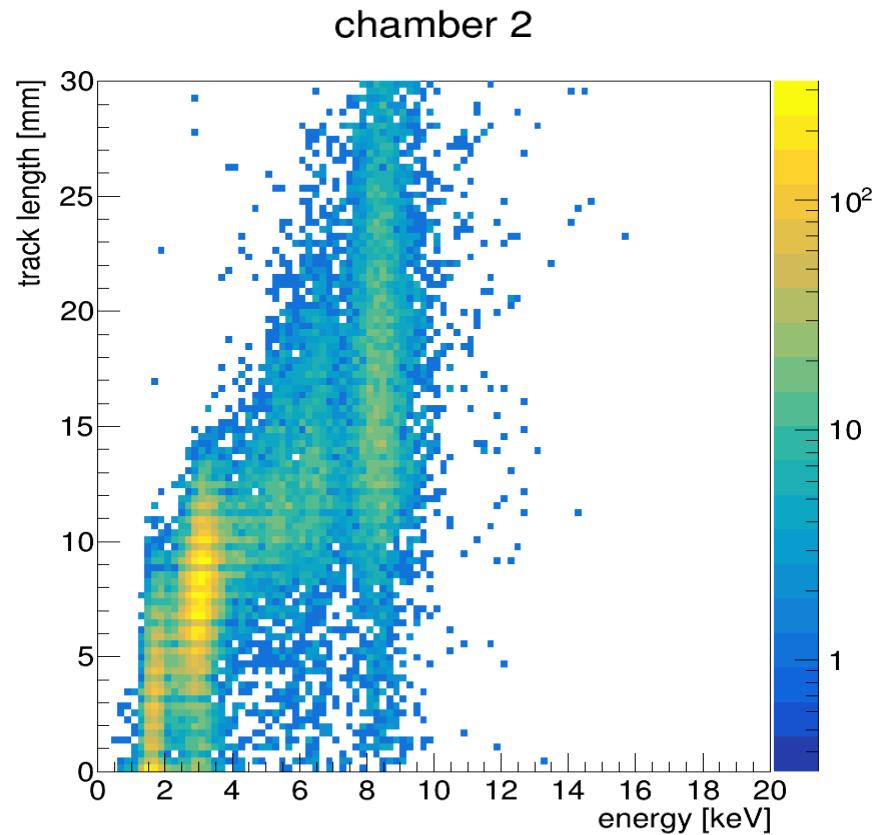
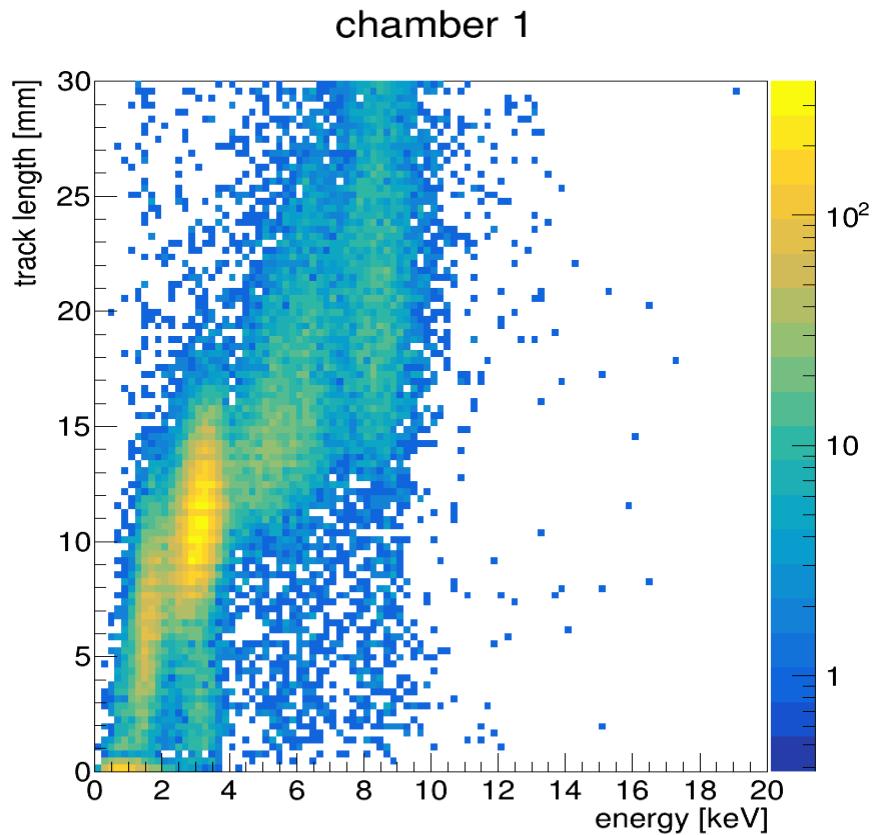
Kapton micromegas readout
Piralux Pilar



Gaz : MIMAC 50 mbar
HT grille : -560 V
Drift field : -150 V/cm

16,3 % FWHM (6 keV)
Gain ~25 000
Energy threshold <1 keV

X-rays: Electron track length vs energy



Understanding electron tracks are very useful for electron vs. nuclear recoil discrimination

Bi-chamber in Modane LSM

First run of February 2023 with 127 h analysed at moderate gain (470 V)

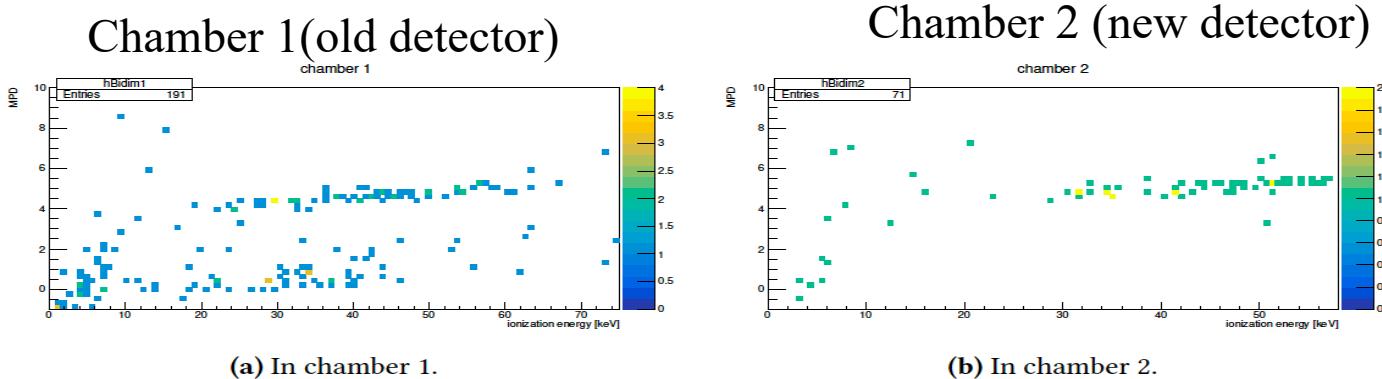
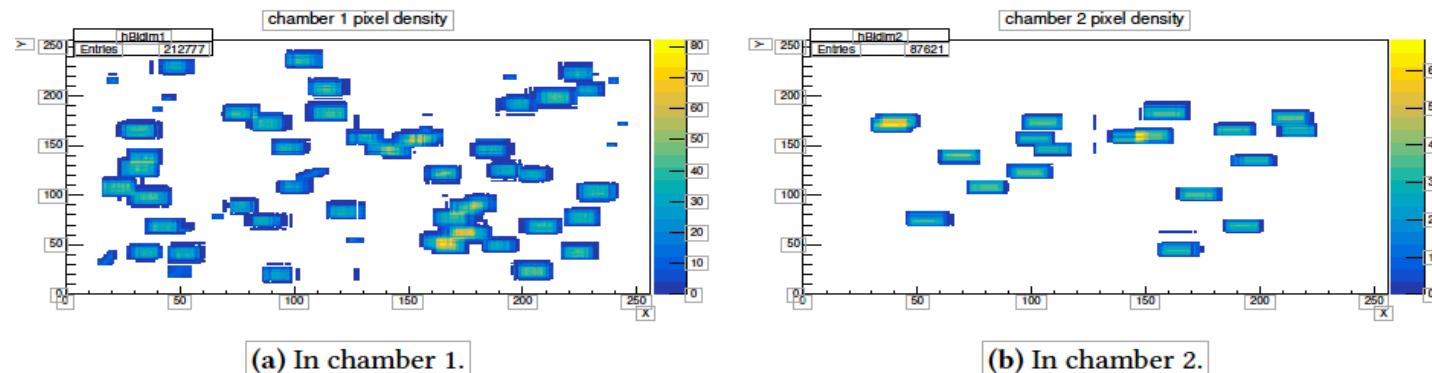


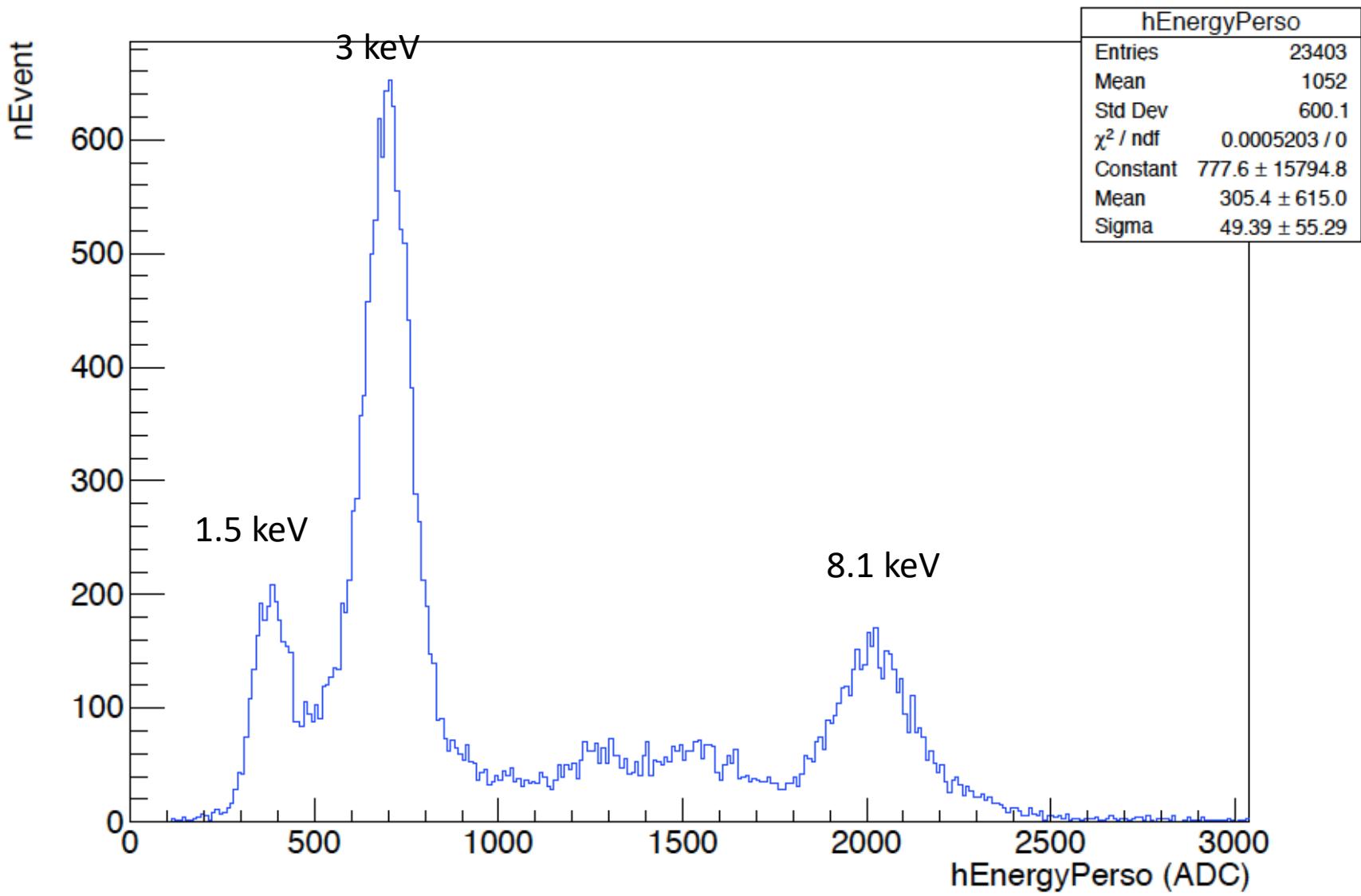
Figure 7.16.: MPD as a function of the energy in the background selection using the BDT at Modane, from runs with a gain covering an energy range of up to 70 keV.

X-Y projections of the 3D tracks



- Only recoils after the BDT, mainly from the Rn progeny.
- Improvement of the new detector showing very few Rn progeny contributions

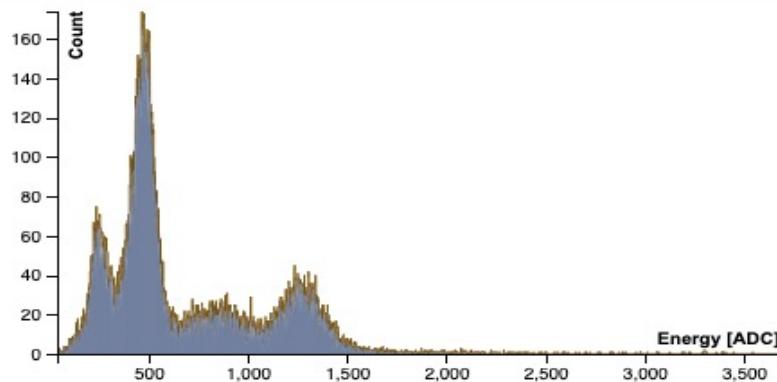
X-ray Calibration of the new detector Bi-chamber Module



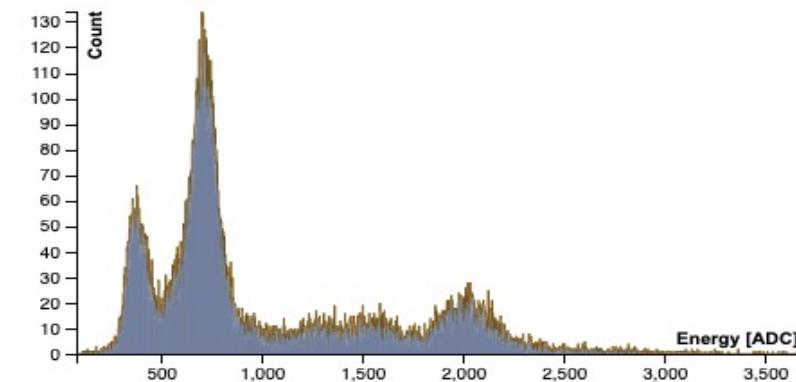
500 V, 3000V drift

X-ray calibration of both chambers simultaneously

linear

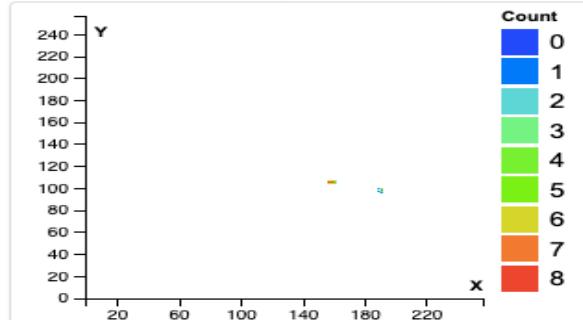


linear

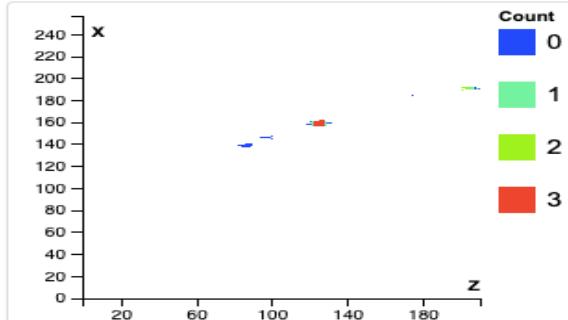


A typical electron event in chamber 2

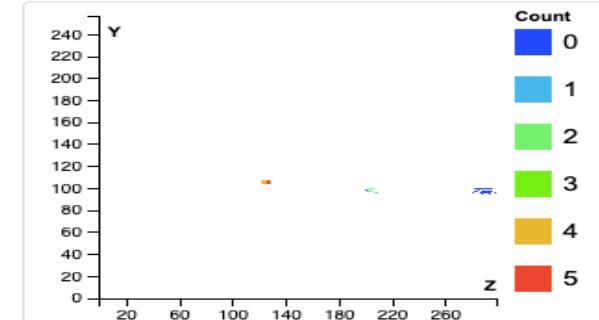
Anode projection



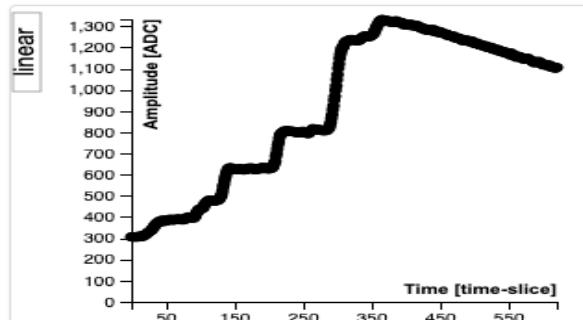
Track ZX



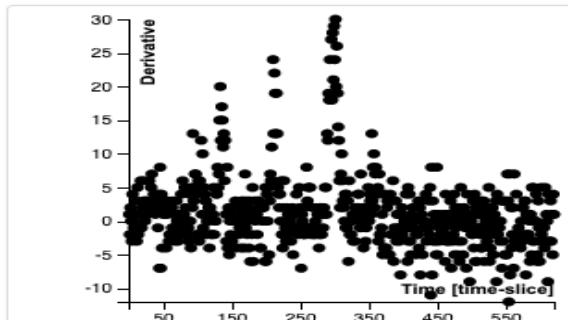
Track ZY



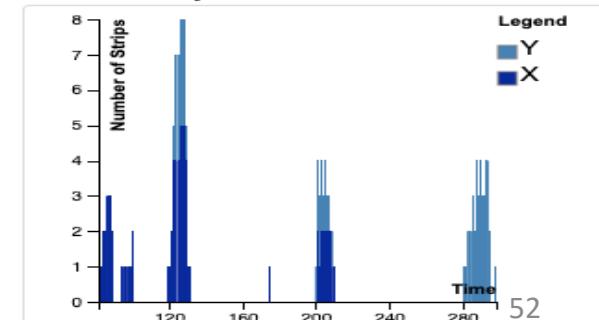
Flash



Flash derivative



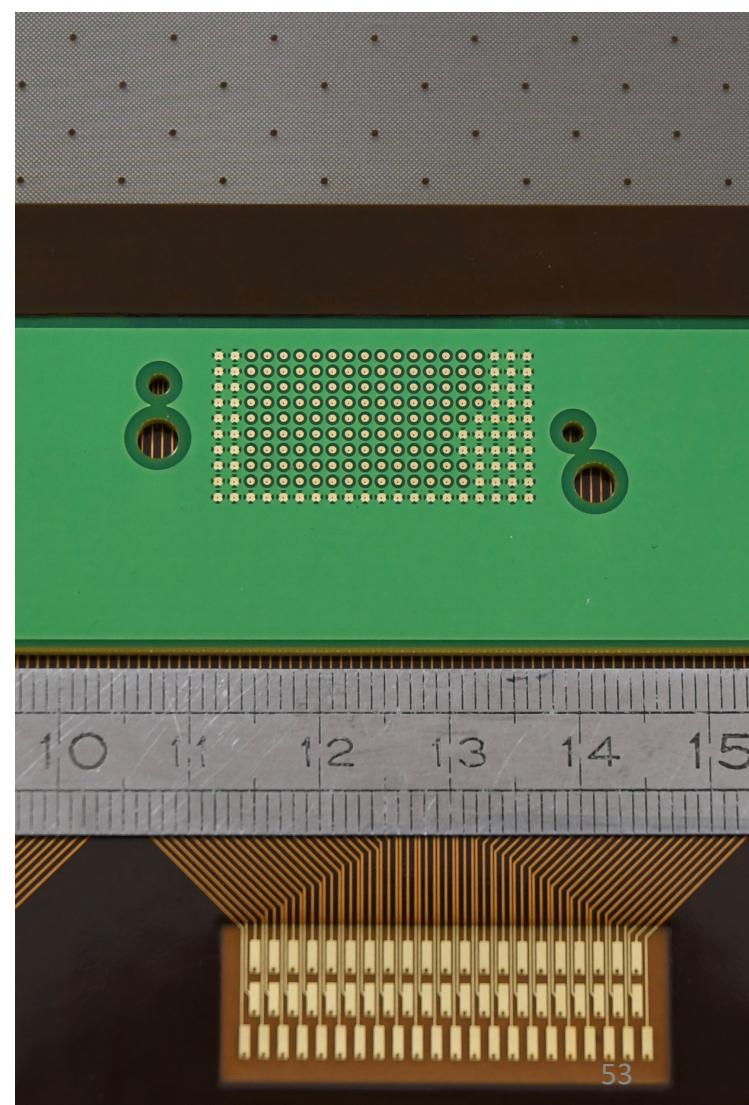
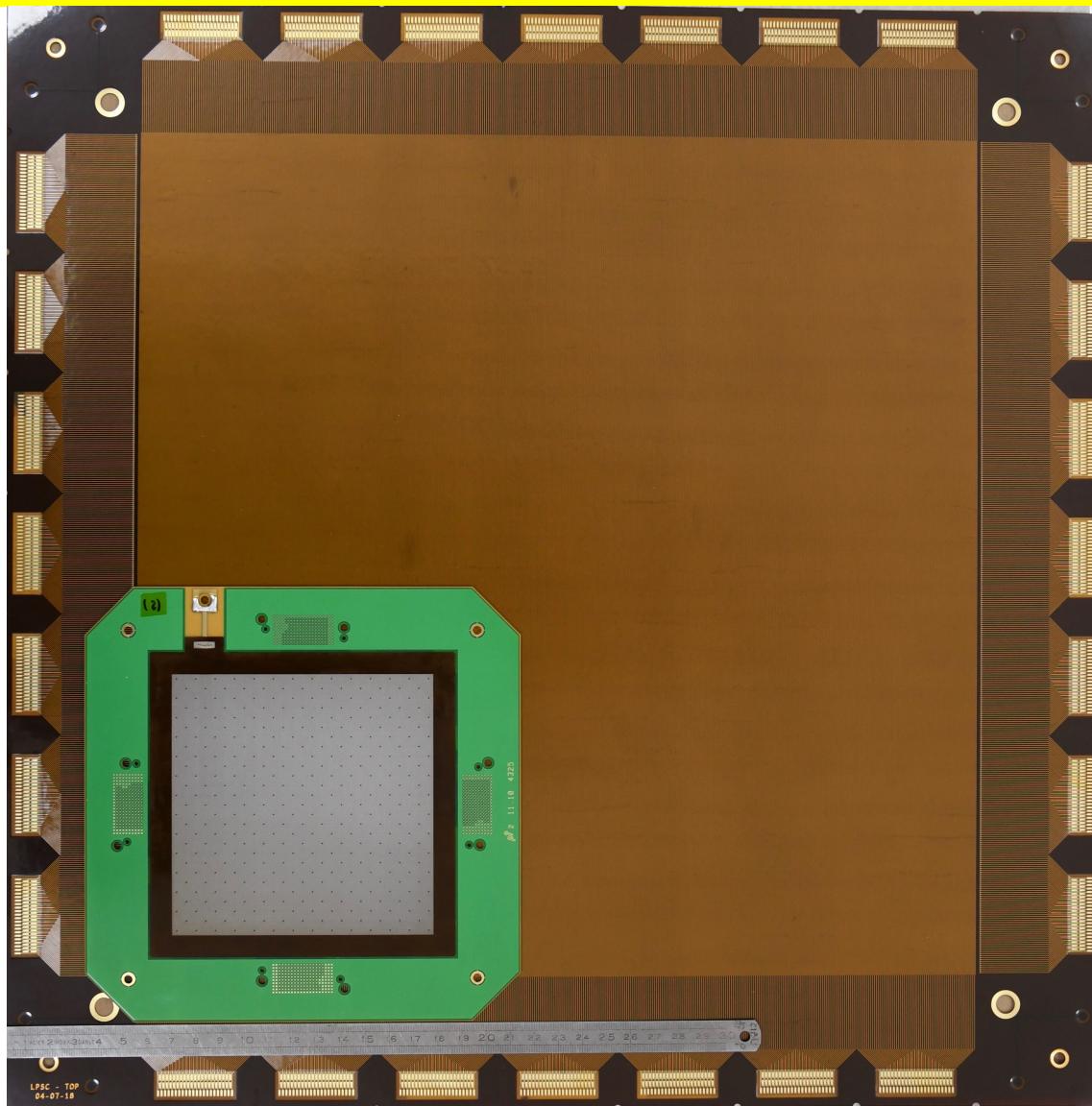
Strip count versus time



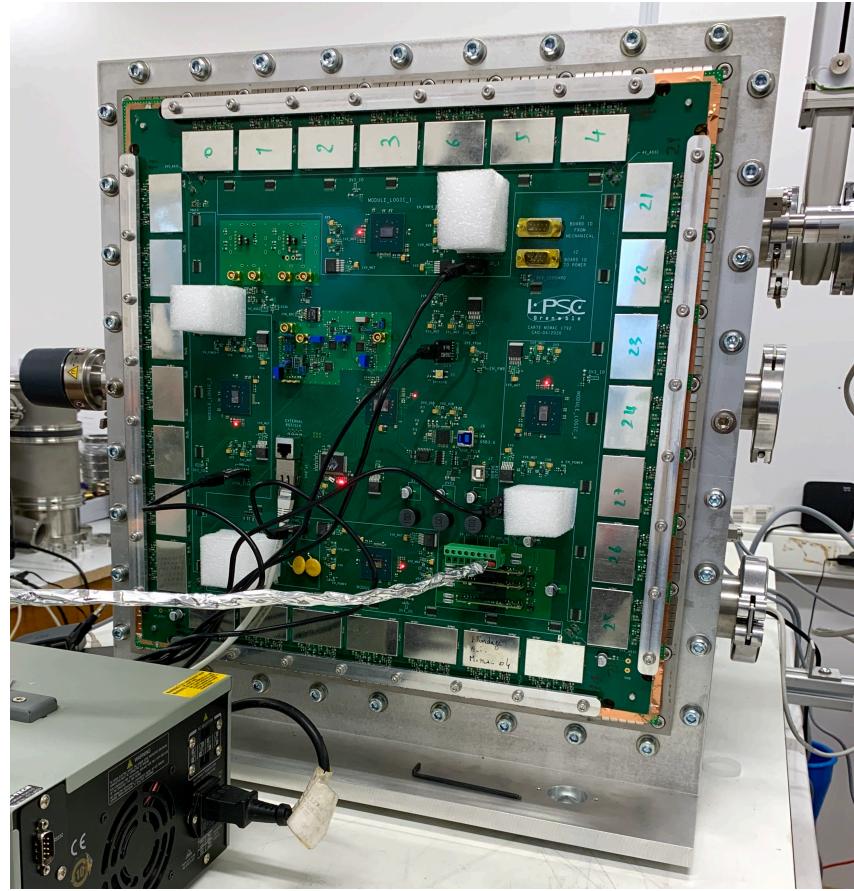
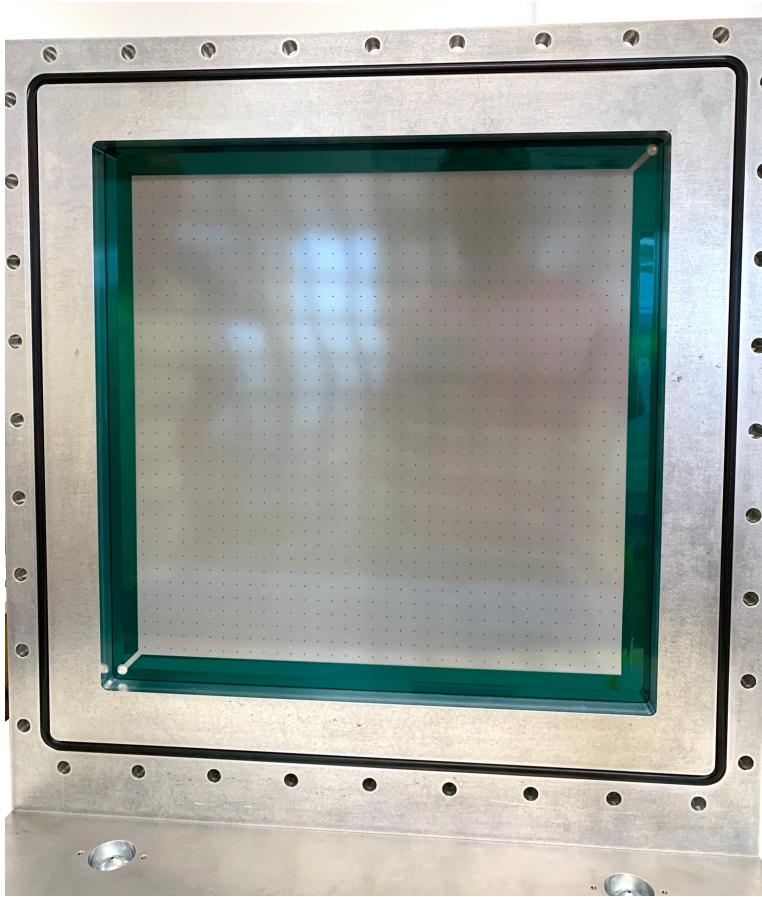
Legend
Y
X

Time

35 cm MIMAC detector compared to the old 10 cm



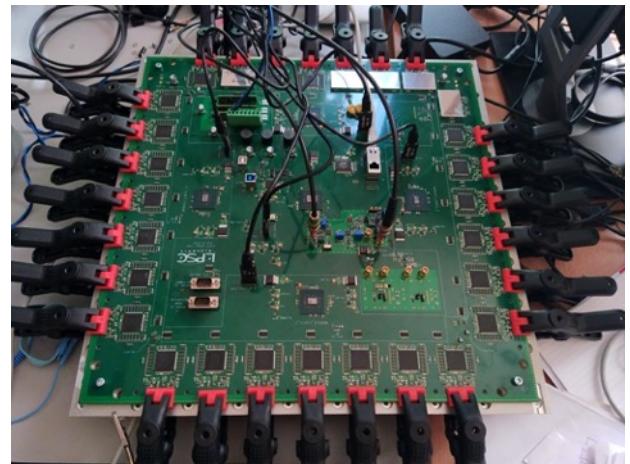
35x35 cm (PCB) in the bi-chamber at LPSC-Grenoble



TRAVAUX RÉALISÉS

Fonctionnement de la carte électronique sur table seule	✓
Couplage de la carte électronique avec le détecteur 35 x 35 cm, sur table	✓

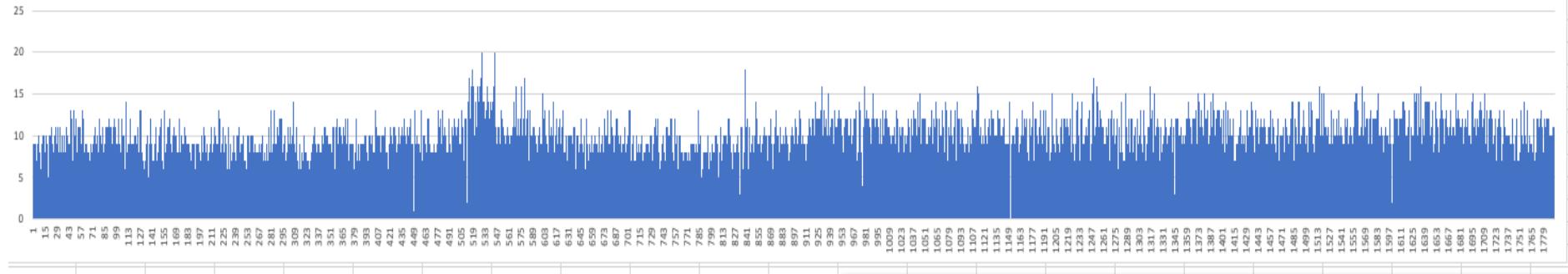
- Synchronisation des ASIC et des FPGA,
- Programmation des FPGA,
- Soft de reconstruction des pistes (nouveau routage carte+détecteur),
- Adaptation soft d'acquisition pour tests, et intégration protocole Ethernet,
- Résolution de problématiques CEM (blindages, conductivité entre les masses,...)
- Caractérisation du bruit électronique intrinsèque,
- Tests de déclenchement sur événement simulé.



AUTOCALIBRATION OF THE 1792 (896 + 896) CHANNELS

1792 threshold values from the autocalibration defined by the intrinsic electronic noise on each strip.

16 mai 2024 Autocal sur la Bichambre

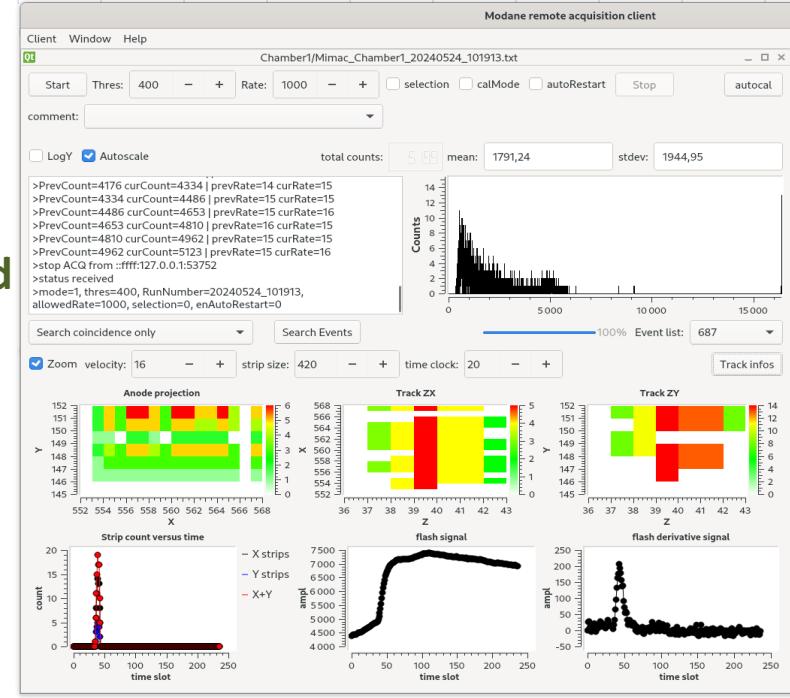


C₄H₁₀ (30 mbar)

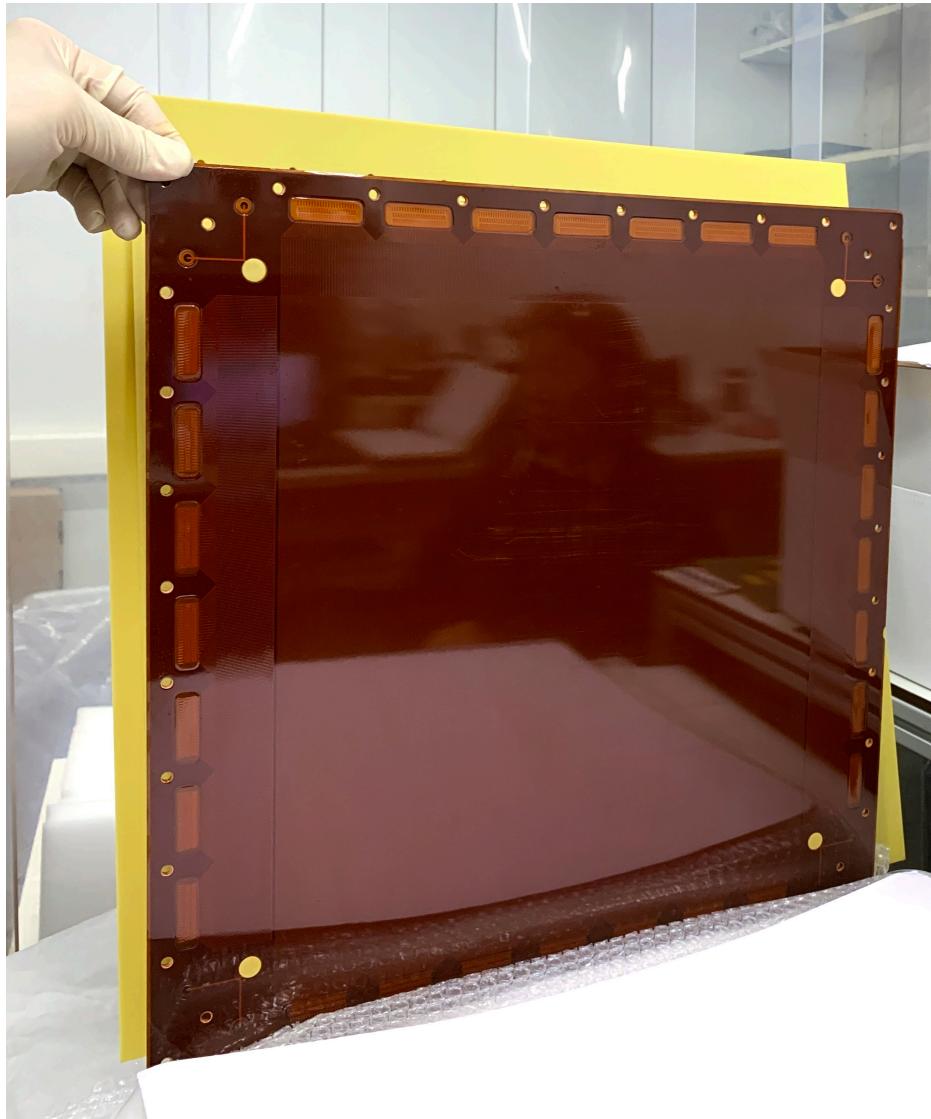
The first events with 3D tracks, of the background

at LPSC Grenoble (May 24th 2024)

Still many things to improve, but it works !!



New Micromegas (35cm) on Kapton/Copper made by Chinese USTC (Hefei)



Received on May 28th May 2024
in LPSC-Grenoble



New MIMAC Bi-chamber 35x35x25 cm³

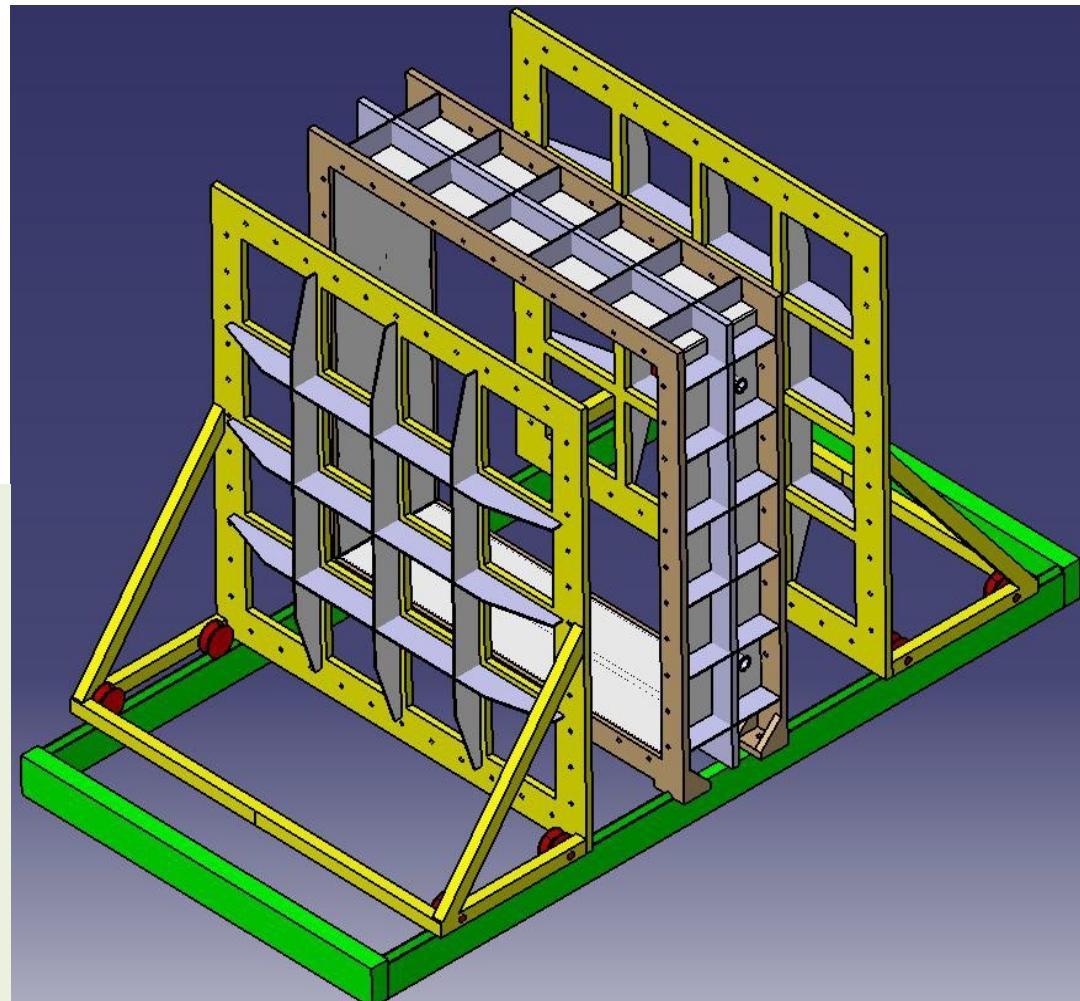
- Installation at Modane November 2024 with the PCB version (1 chamber) and with the same gas system as the 10 cm Bi-chamber module
- Run background without lead shielding
- Installation at Modane with the new low background (Kapton/Copper) micromegas in September 2025

The future... MIMAC – 1m³

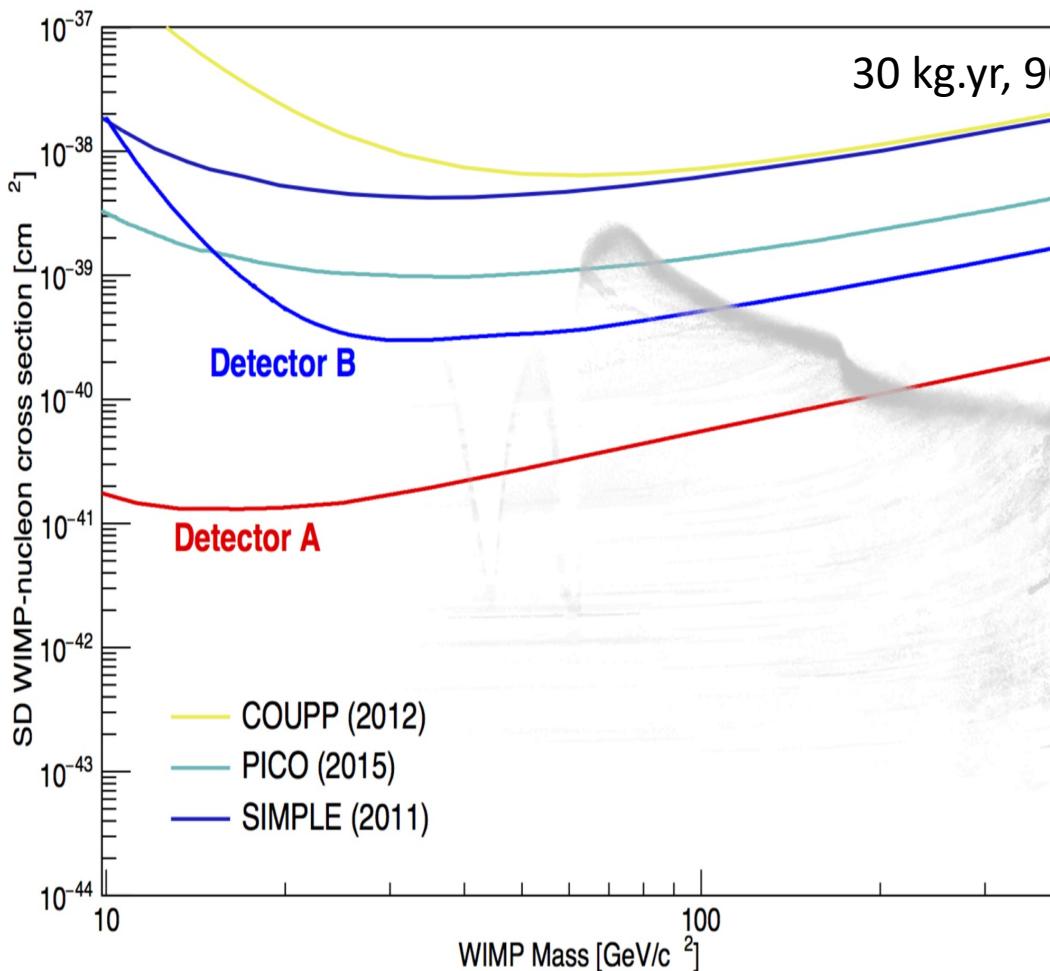
16 bi-chamber modules (2x 35x35x25 cm³)

- New technology anode
35cmx35cm
- New electronic board
(1792 channels)
- Only one big chamber with
4 field cages inside

- First 1 m³ at Modane
by the end of 2027
Pending complementary funding of
200k€
- Second 1 m³ at Jinping
by the end of 2028
financed by the Chinese partners



MIMAC- SD Exclusion limits



30 kg.yr, 90% CL lower limits

A: 5 keV (threshold)
no background
3D track with head-tail
angular resolution 20°

B: 20 keV (threshold)
background= 10evt/kg yr
angular resolution 50°
3D with no head-tail

SD still potential for discovery!!

Dark matter results from NEWS-G at the LSM with a methane target

(NEWS-G Collaboration)

(Dated: March 12, 2024)

The NEWS-G direct detection experiment uses Spherical Proportional Counters (SPCs) to search for low mass WIMP-like dark matter. New results are reported using a new 135 cm-diameter SPC, from a 10 day physics campaign carried out at the Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane (LSM). 114 g of methane gas were used, providing sensitivity to low-mass dark matter, particularly for a spin-dependent coupling with protons. Leading constraints are presented for this coupling in the WIMP mass range 0.17 to 1.2 GeV/c², with an excluded cross section of 30.9 pb for a WIMP mass of 0.76 GeV/c². These results show promise for the upcoming operation of this detector at SNOLAB.

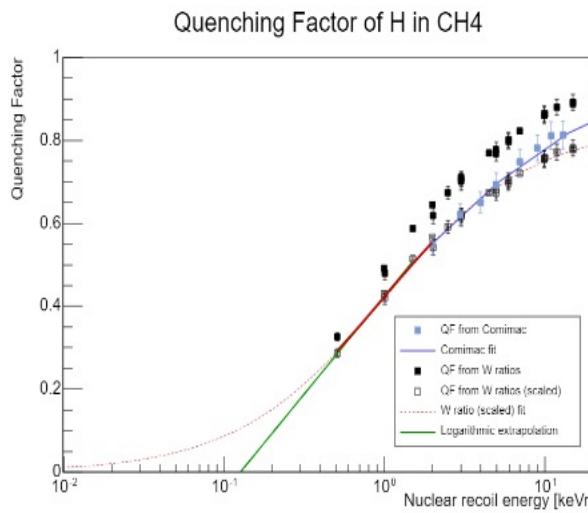


FIG. 1. QF used in this work. From highest to lowest energies, we use the COMIMAC measurement (lavender line [34]), scaled W-value ratios (red line [35]), and a logarithmic extrapolation (green line); the Lindhard-like extrapolation is shown for comparison (dotted red).

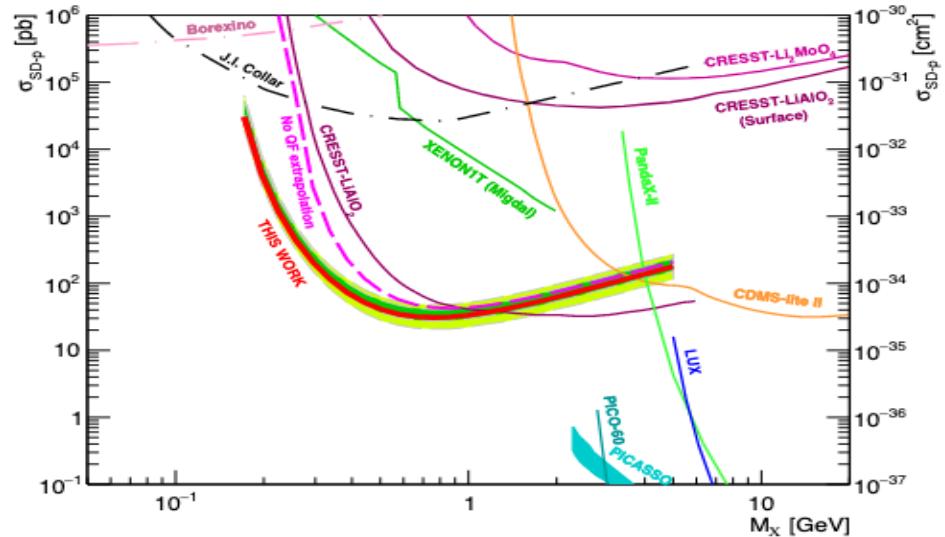
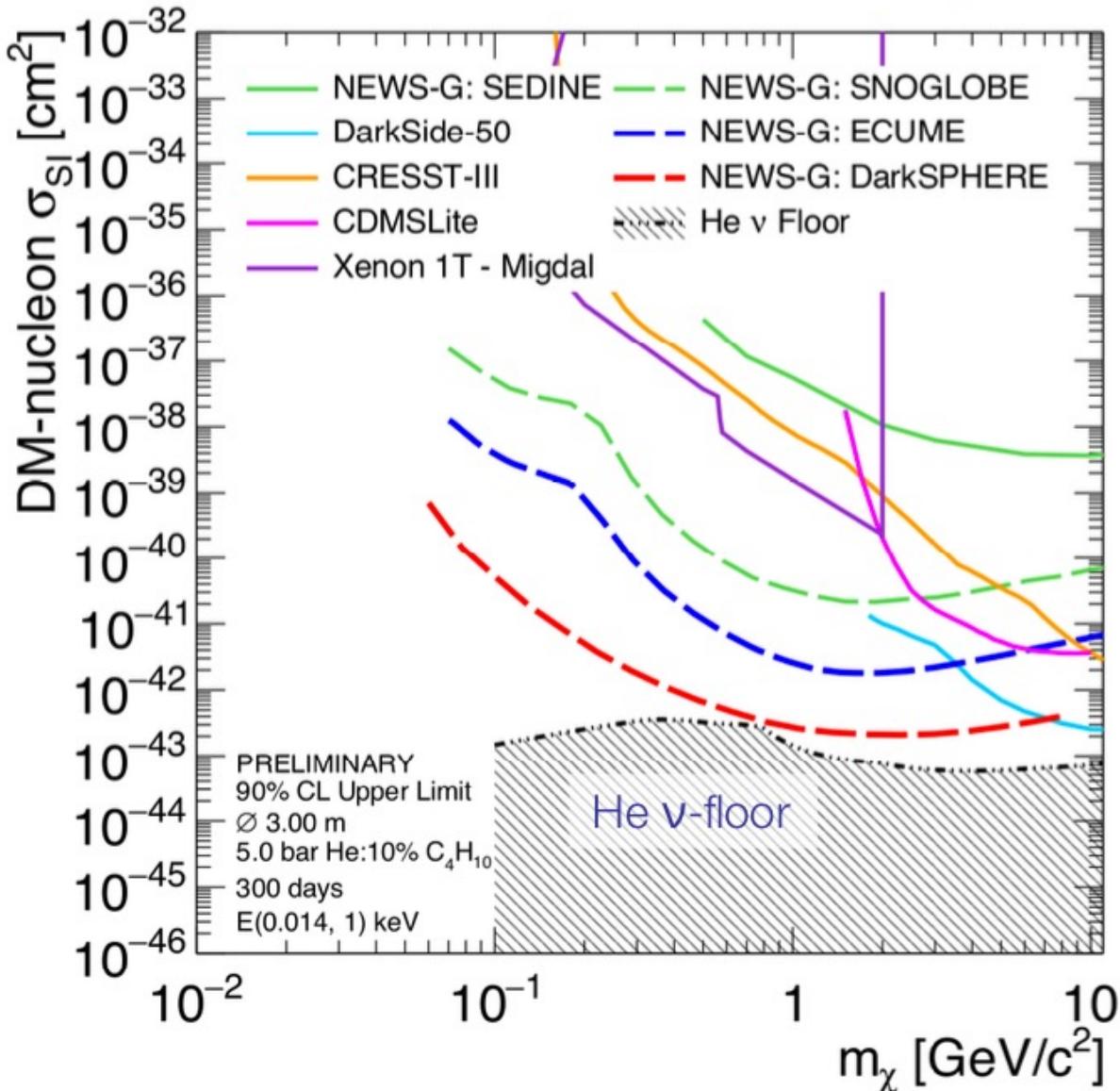


FIG. 3. Exclusion limit on the WIMP–proton spin-dependent cross-section from this work (thick red line) and 1 and 2 σ sensitivity bands (dark and light green shaded areas respectively). The equivalent limit with no quenching factor extrapolation is shown for reference (dashed pink line). Upper limits from CDMS-lite [46], CRESST-III [47–49], LUX [50], PANDAX-II [51], XENON-1T (Migdal) [52], PICASSO [53], PICO-60 [54], J.I. Collar [55] and Borexino [56] are also shown.

NEWS-G will produce increasingly radio-pure, scaled-up detectors over the next **5+ years**



General assumptions:

$F = 0.2$, $\theta = 0.12$,
SRIM quenching factor,
ROI: 14 eV_{ee} - 1 keV_{ee}

NEWS-G SNOLAB:

Ne + 10% CH₄, 1 bar (1.04 kg)
Background: 1.78 dru
Exposure: 20 kg.days
Optimum Interval Method [13]

NEWS-G ECUME:

Ne + 10% CH₄
Background: 0.3 dru
Exposure: 200 kg.days
Optimum Interval Method [13]

DarkSPHERE:

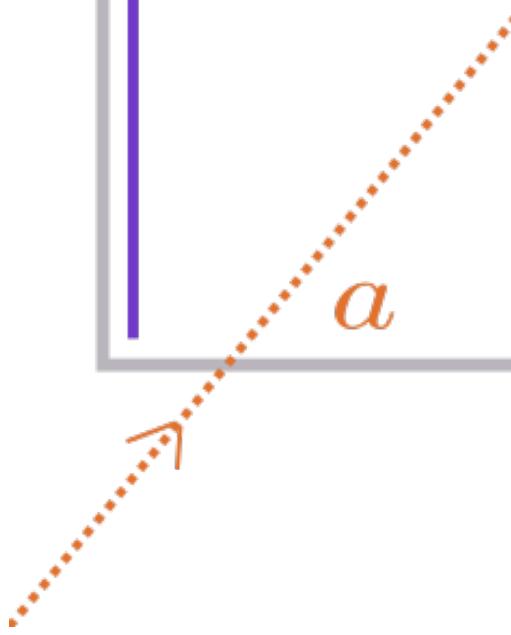
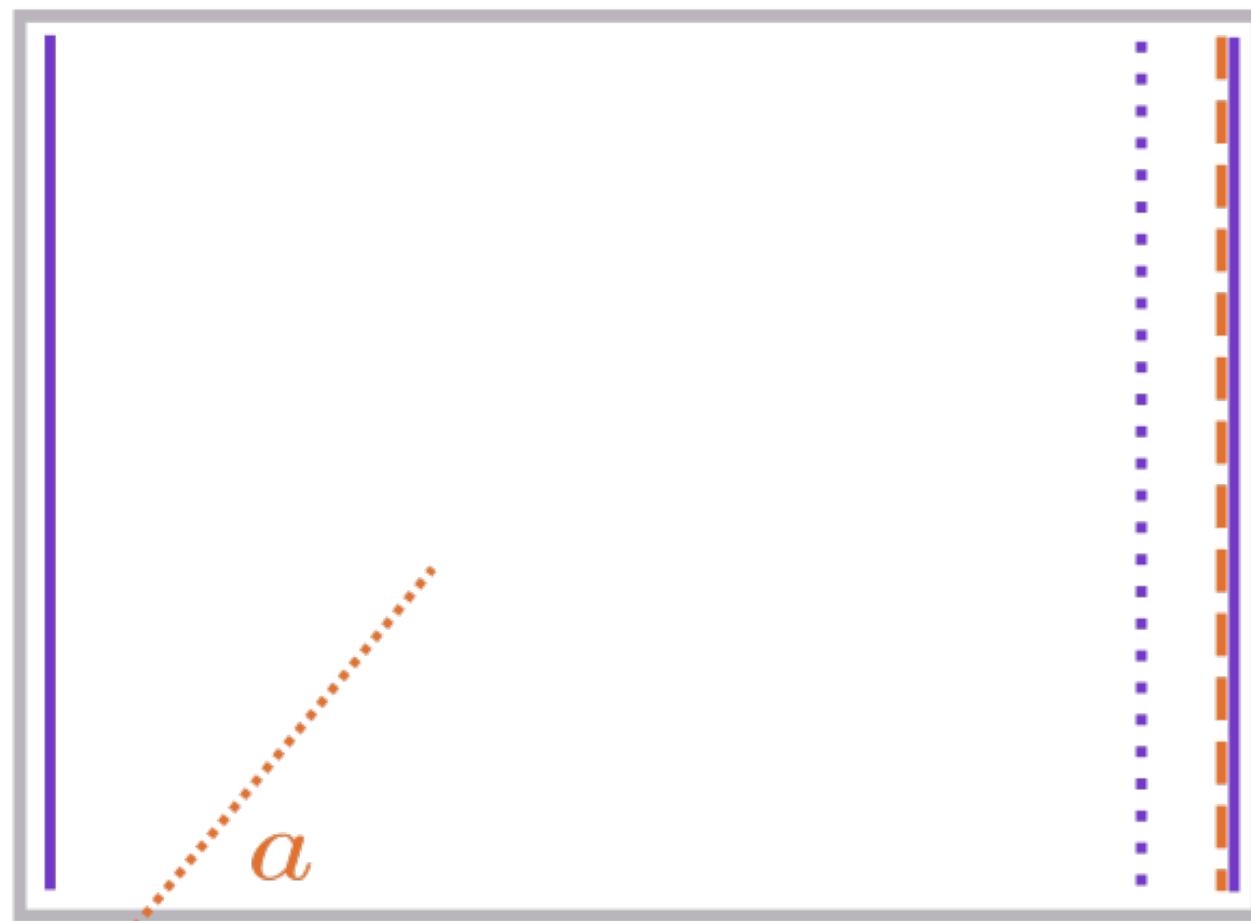
He + 10% C₄H₁₀, 5 bars (26.8 kg)
Background: 0.02 dru
Exposure: 300 days
Binned Likelihood

Conclusions

- MIMAC has developed know-how on 3D directional detection
- The nuclear recoil directional detection is the observable needed to go beyond the neutrino floor for DM search and provides a galactic signature
- The $35 \times 35 \text{ cm}^2$ is the elemental brick to build a big volume directional detector
- The first stages: a 1m^3 detector in LSM and CJPL
- The $10 \times 10 \text{ cm}^2$ Mimac-FastN can become a primary neutron spectrometer discriminating fast and epi-thermal neutrons
- MIMAC can also be an axion-like particle detector

C

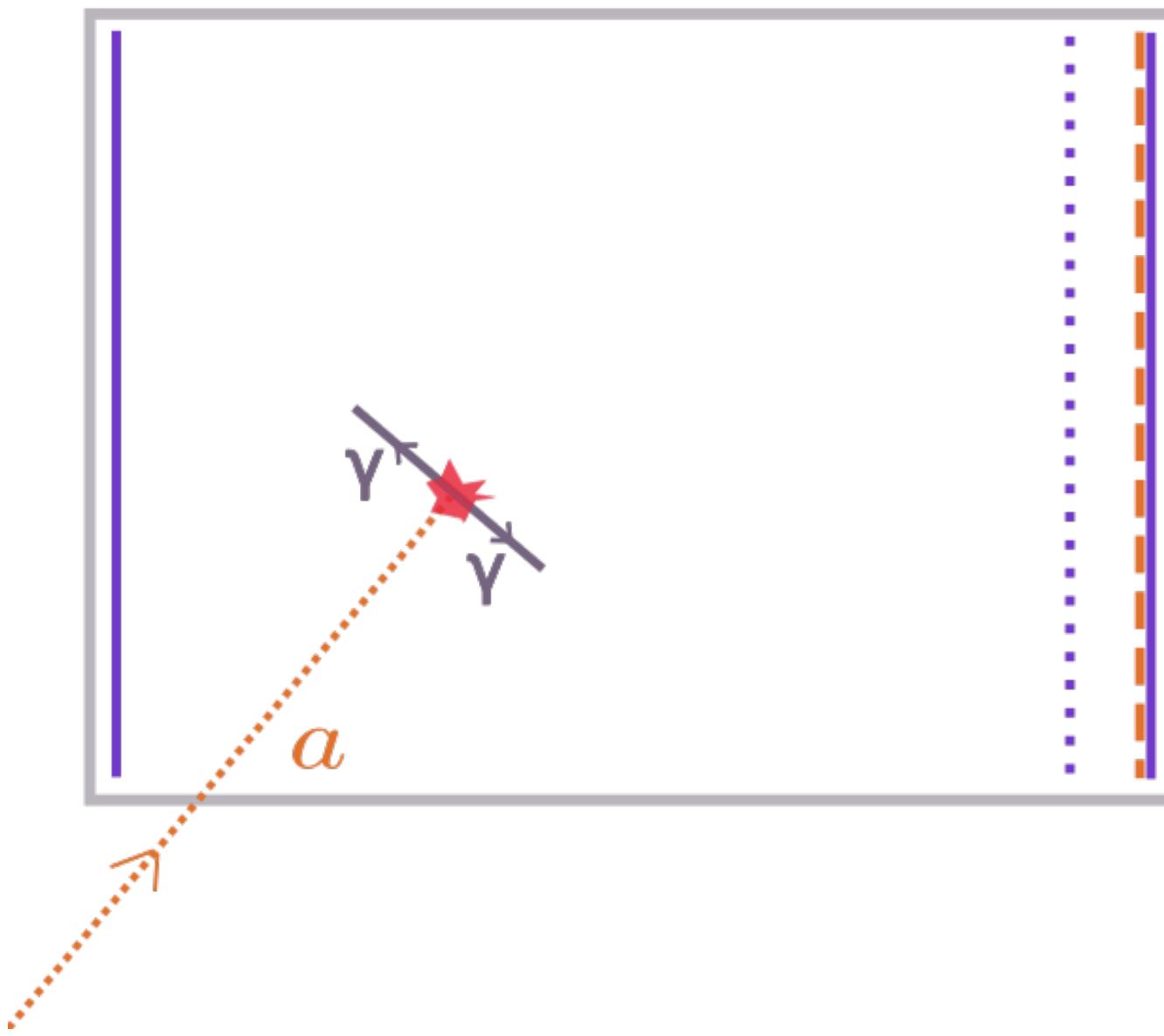
G A



a

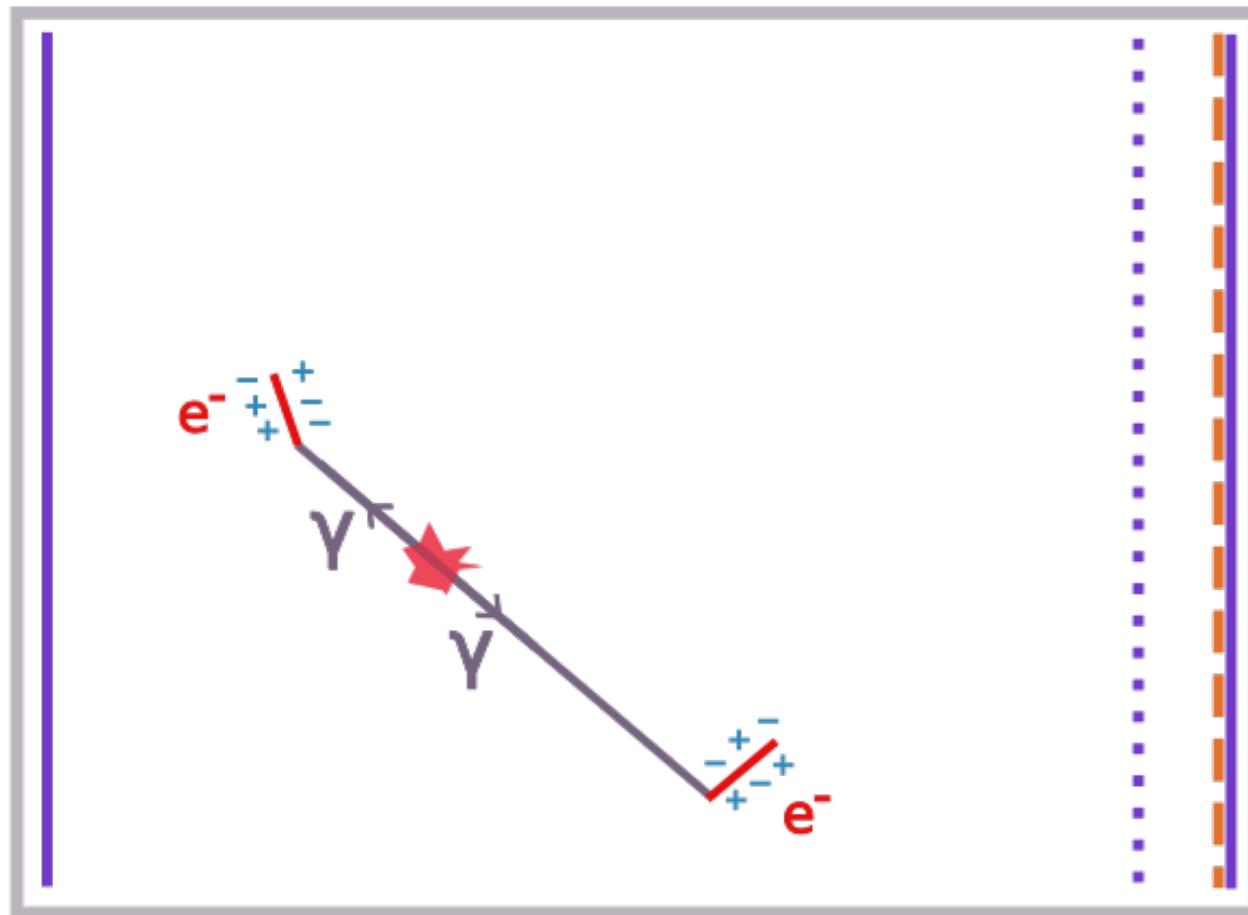
C

G A



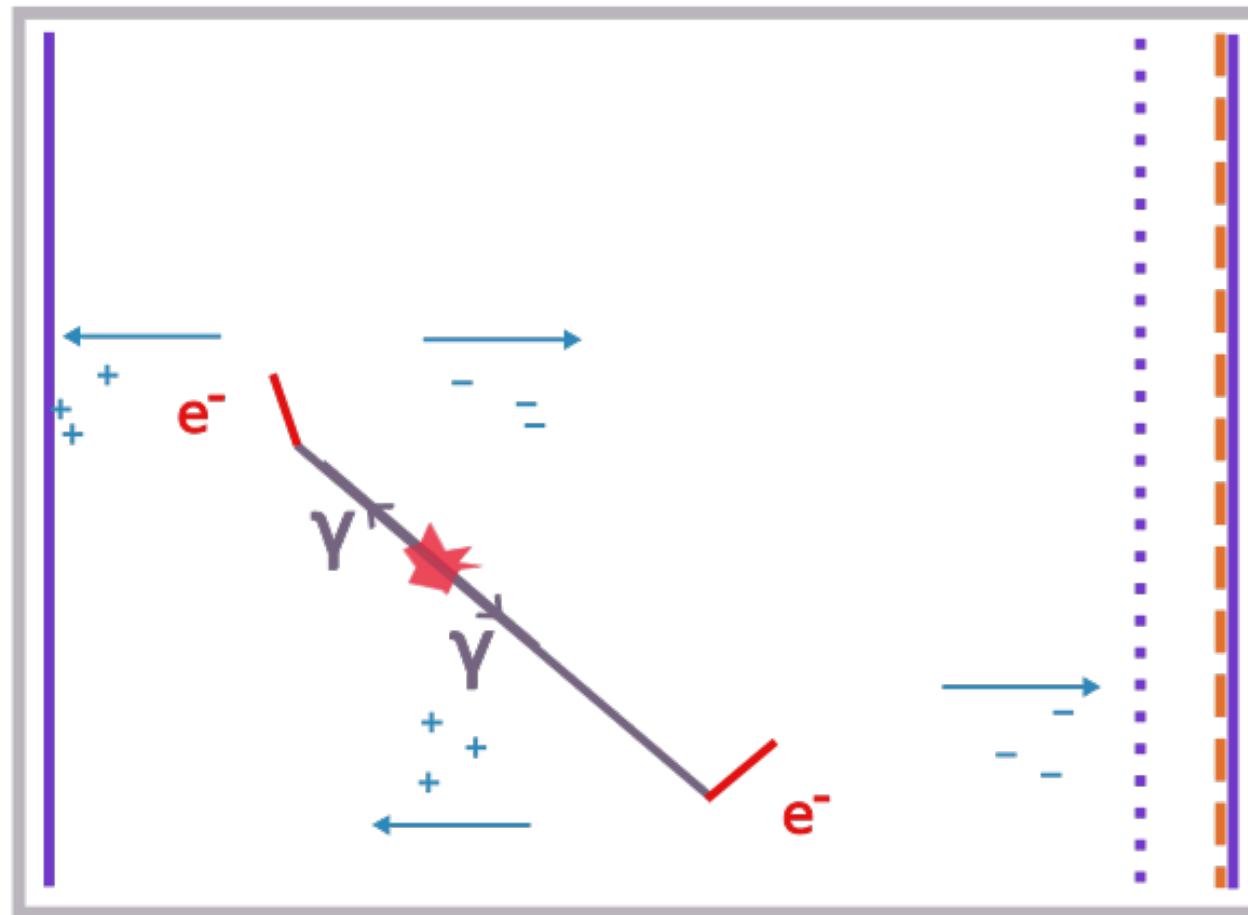
C

G A



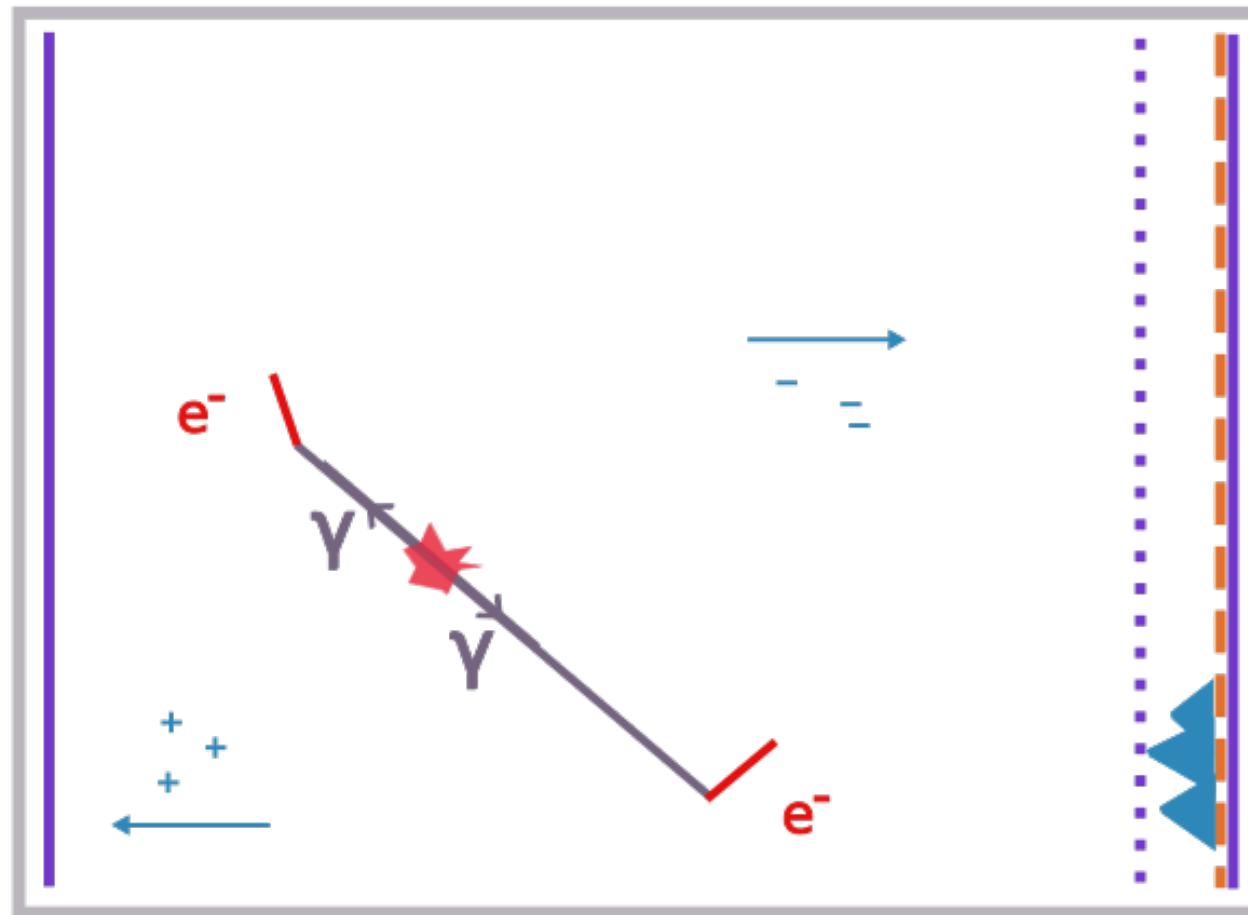
C

G A



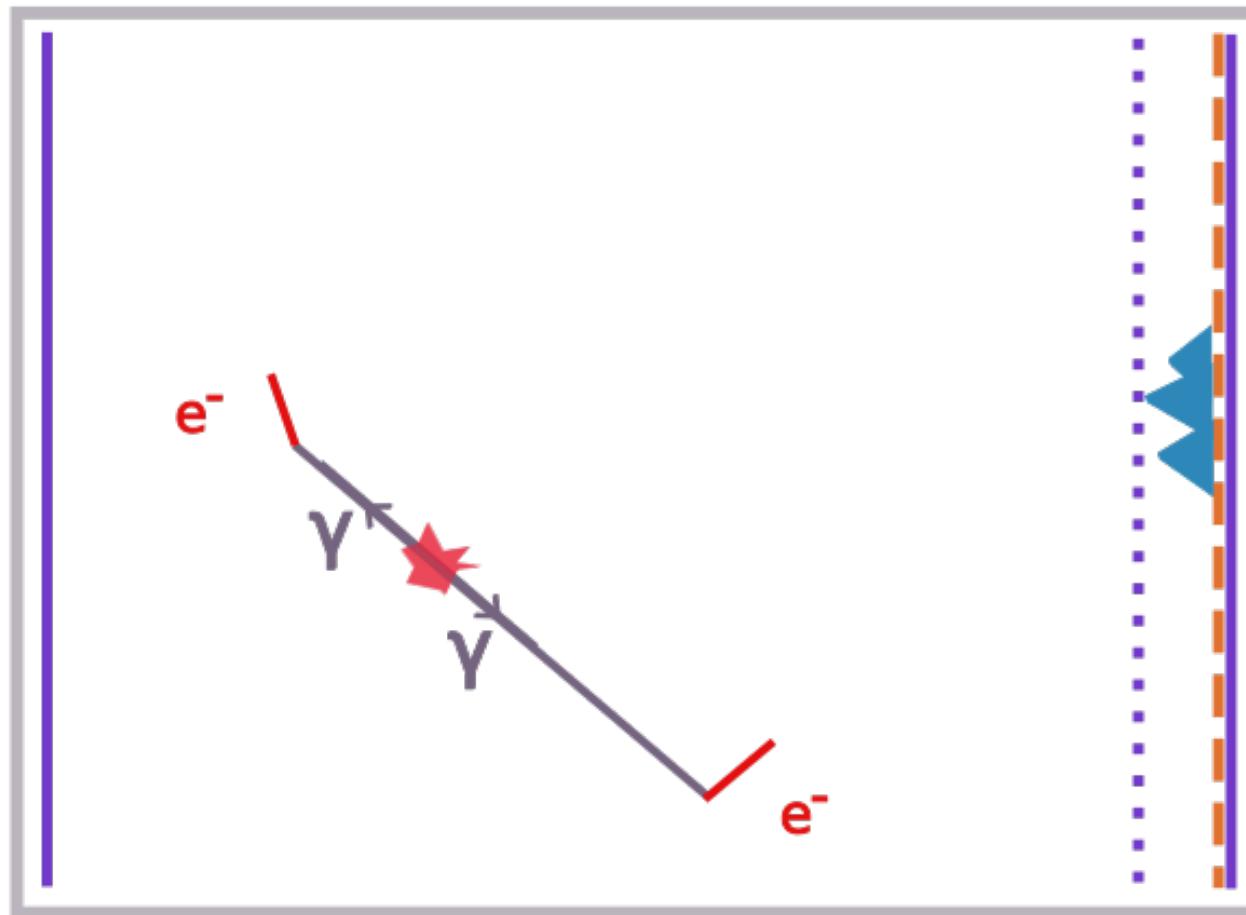
C

G A



C

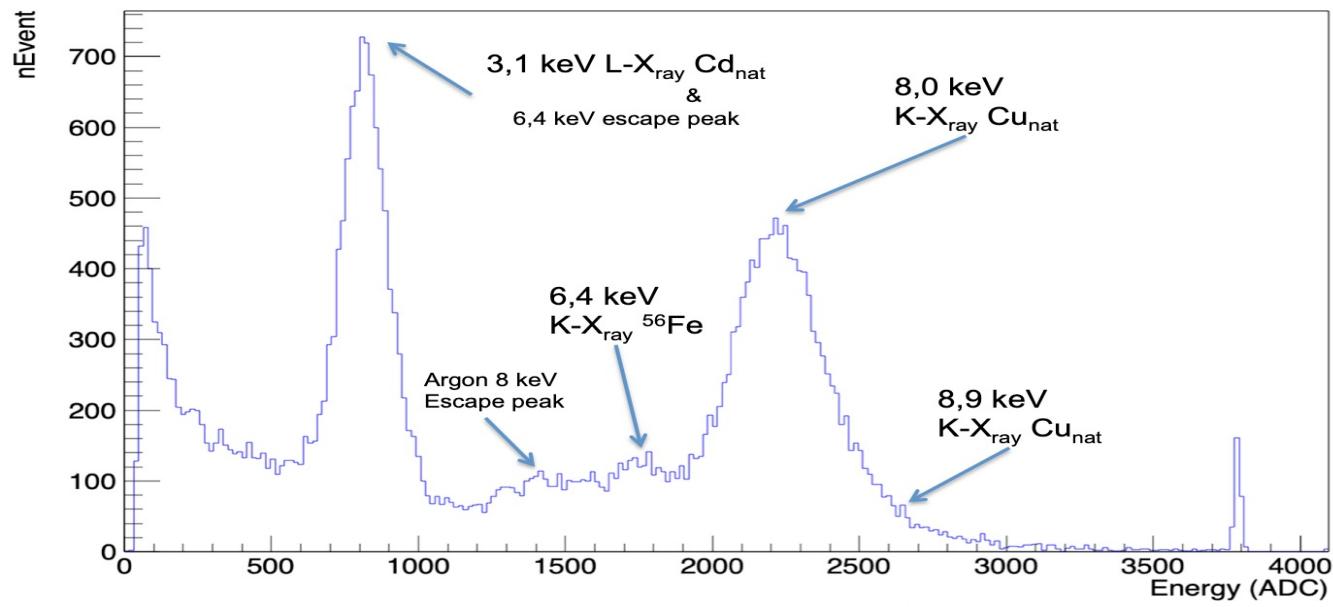
G A



Calibration

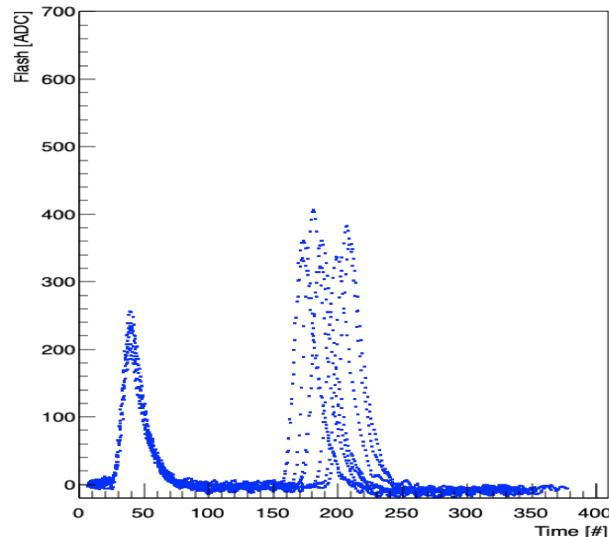
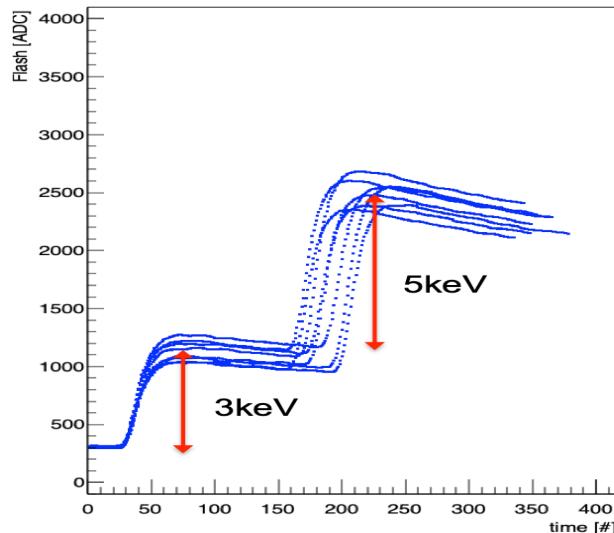
Fluorescence X-ray

$^{40}\text{Ar} + 5\% \text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$

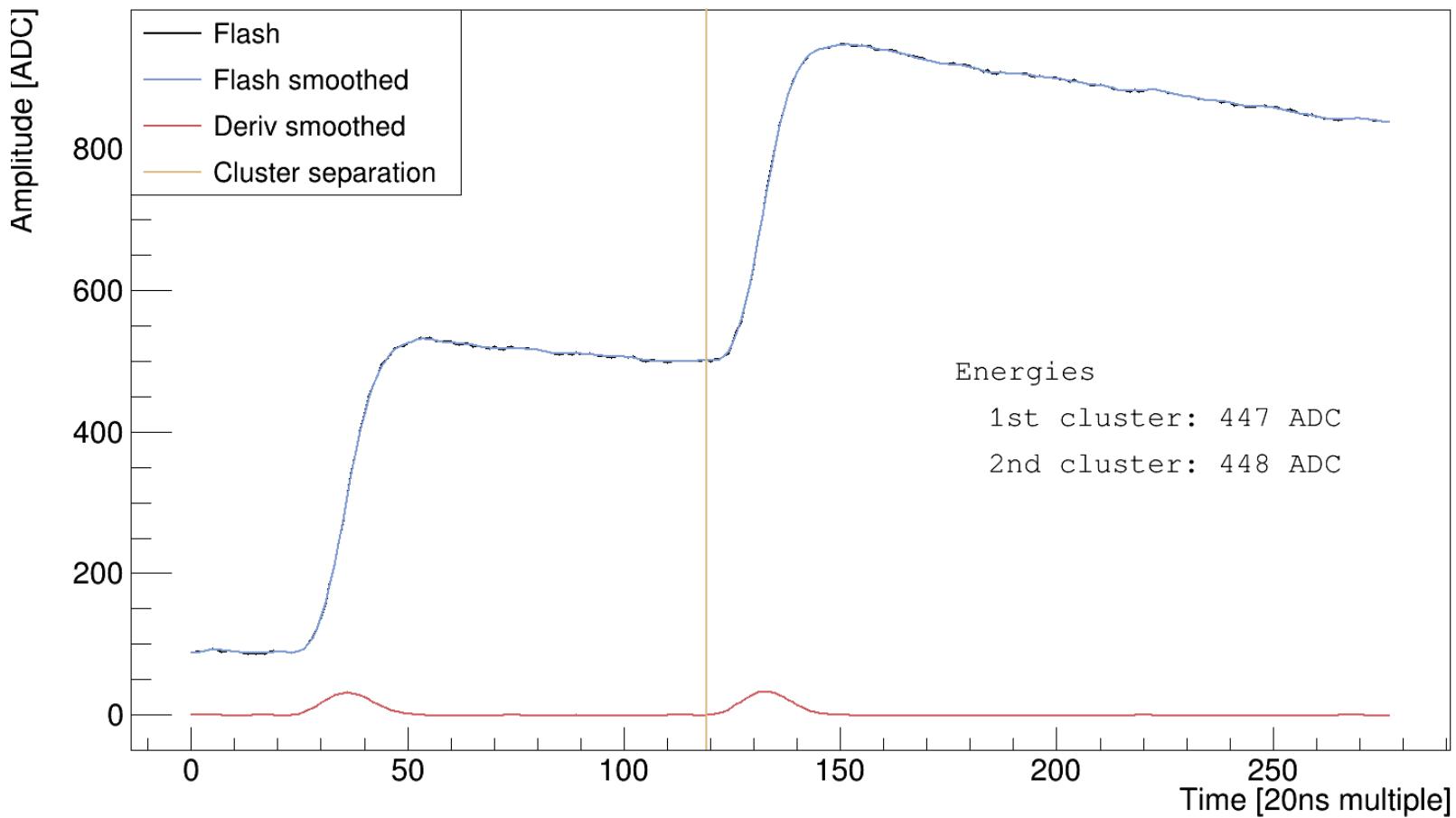


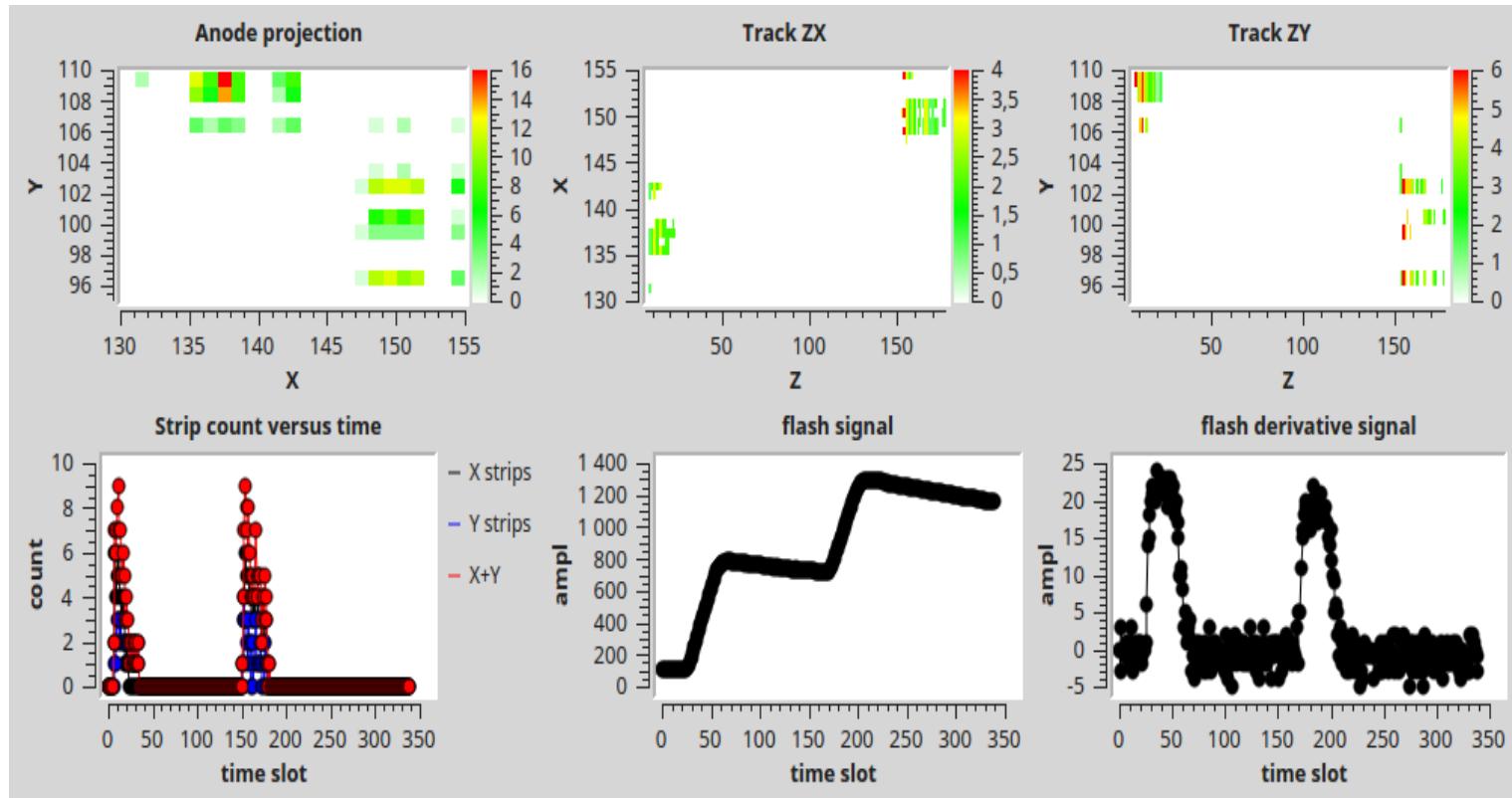
hFlash

hFlashDeriv



Two e^- (4 keV) sent by COMIMAC (in less than 2 us)





Thank you for your attention!

Merci !

谢谢！

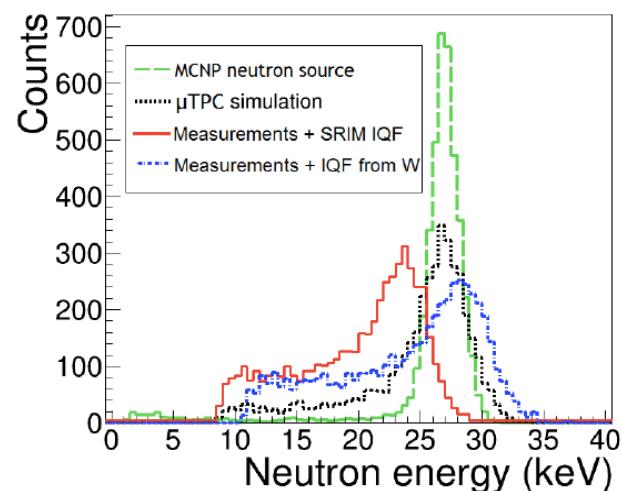
A large energy range of neutron fields

50% C_4H_{10} 50% CHF_3
30 mbar

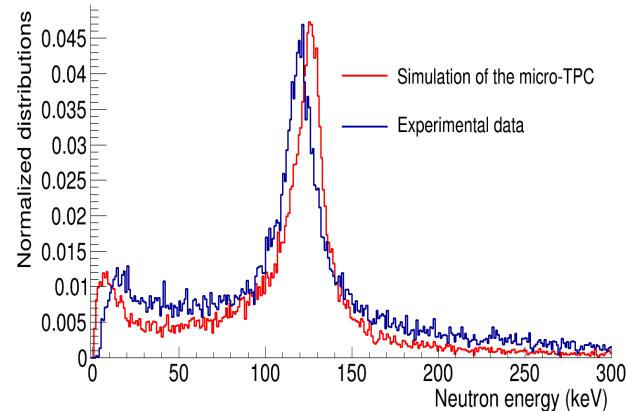
60% C_4H_{10} 40% CHF_3
50 mbar

95% ${}^4\text{He}$ 5% CO_2
700 mbar

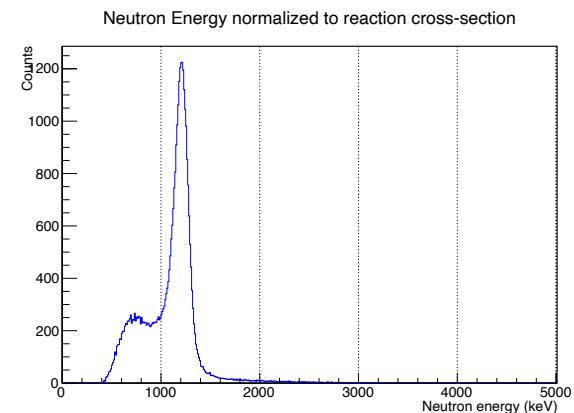
$E_n = 27 \text{ keV}$



$E_n = 127 \text{ keV}$



$E_n = 1.2 \text{ MeV}$



D. Maire *et al.*

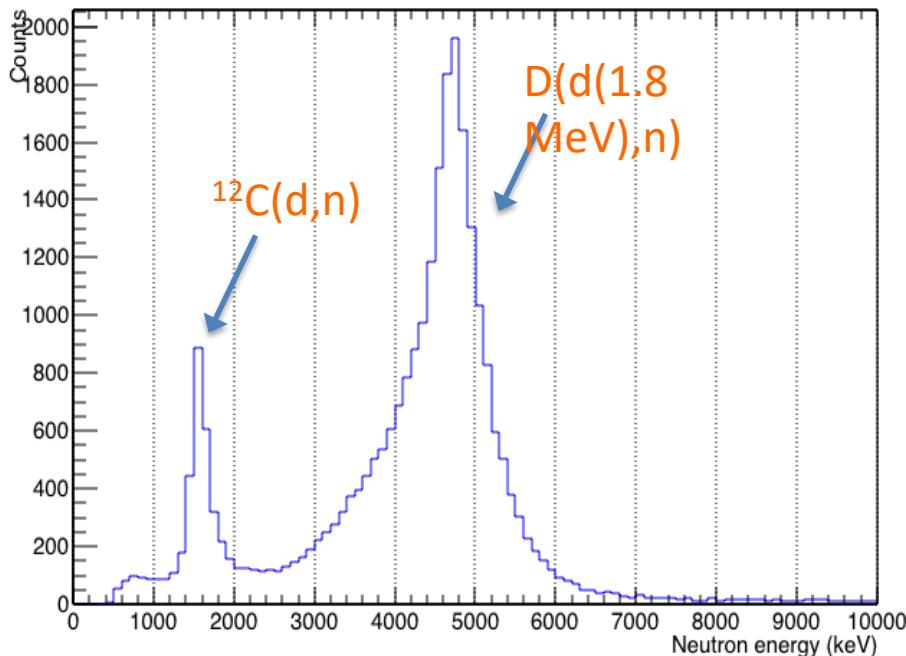
« Neutron energy reconstruction and fluence determination at 27 keV with the LNE-IRSN-MIMAC μ-TPC recoil detector »
IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science,
63(3) : 1934-1941, June 2016

D. Maire *et al.*

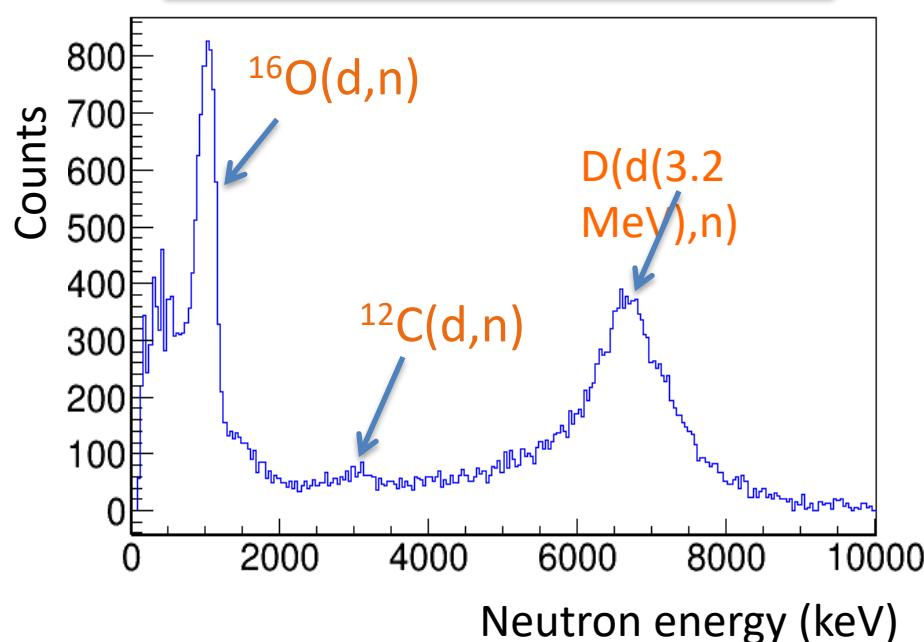
« First measurement of a 127 KeV neutron field with a μ-TPC spectrometer »
Nuclear Science, IEEE Transactions,
61(2014) 2090

Measurements of monoenergetic neutrons

D(d(1.8 MeV,n) : neutrons of 5 MeV



D(d(3.2 MeV,n) : neutrons of 6.5 MeV



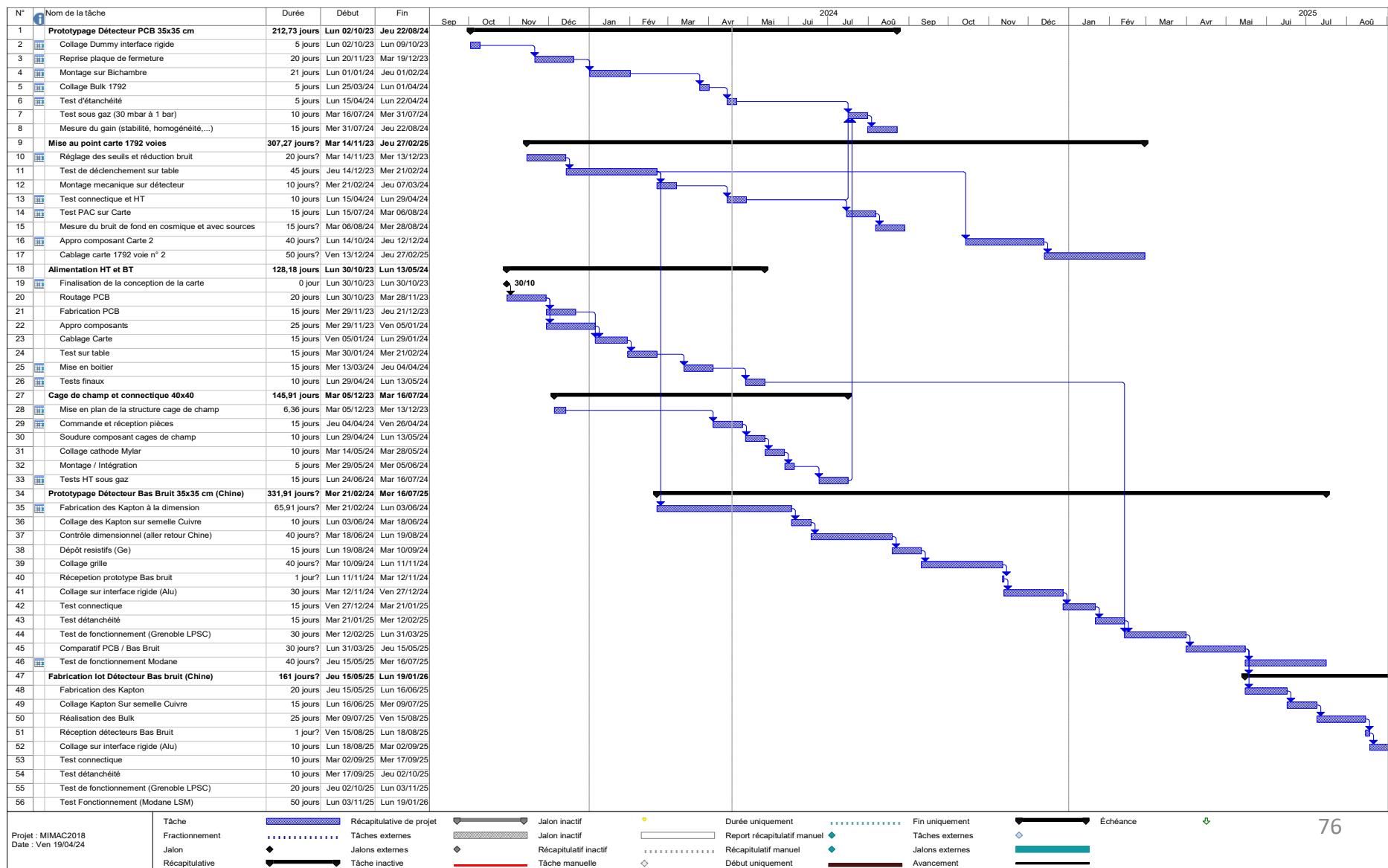
NPL / (UK)

700 mbar He/CO₂ (5%)

IRSN / AMANDE
(Cadarache)

Fast neutron spectroscopy from 1 MeV up to 15 MeV with Mimac-FastN, a mobile and directional fast neutron spectrometer, N. Sauzet , D. Santos, O. Guillaudin, G. Bosson, J. Bouvier, T. Descombes, M. Marton, J.F. Muraz, NIM A 965 (2020) 163799

The different tasks foreseen in the next two years between the LPSC and the Chinese partners.



Ionization Quenching Factor Measurements with COMIMAC (NEWS-G collaboration, arXiv 2201.09566, published in ERJ-C)

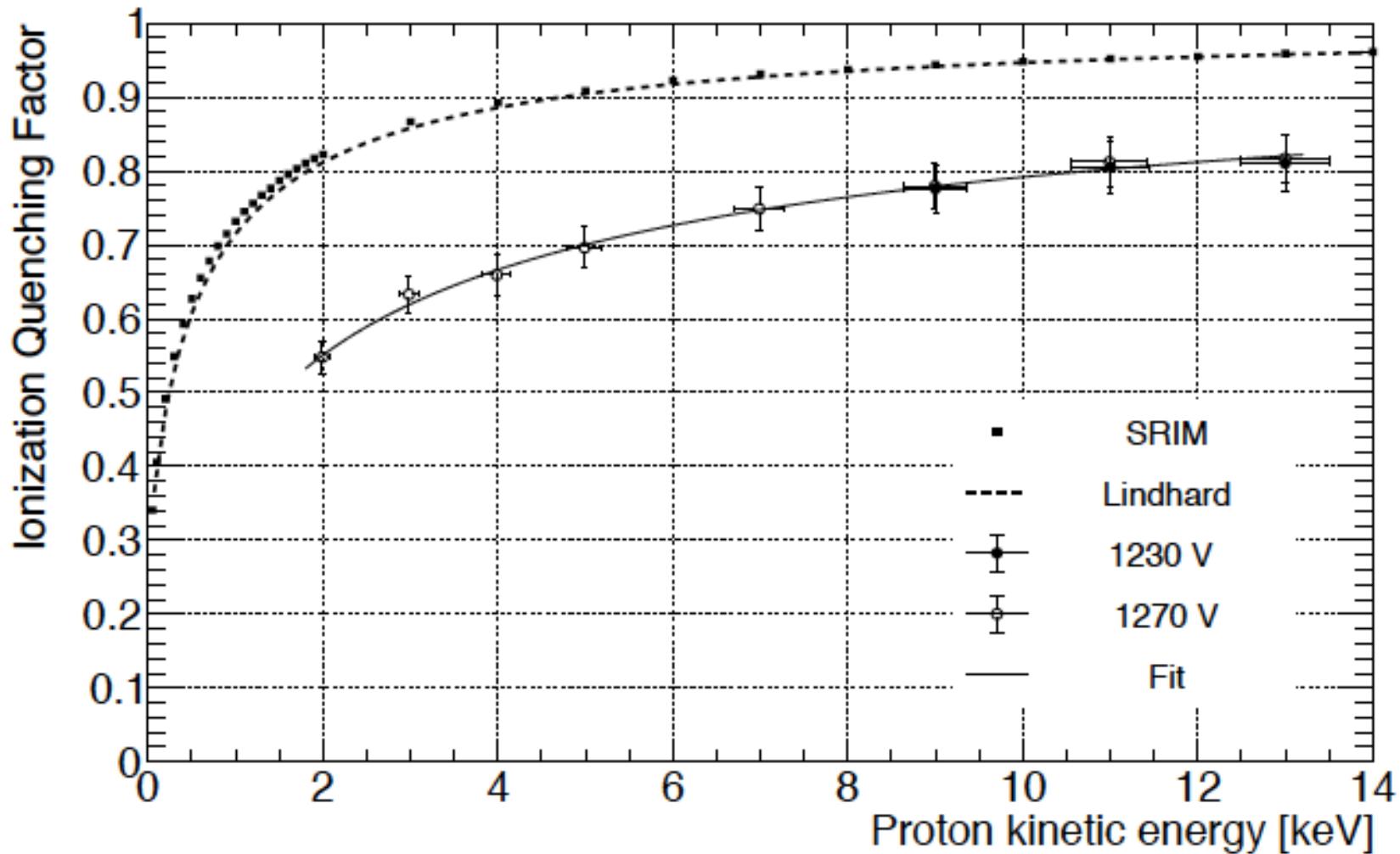


Fig. 9: Ionization Quenching Factor for protons in 100 mbar of methane. The measurements at 1230 V and 1270 V are respectively presented with black dots and white dots. Comparisons with SRIM and with the Lindhard theory are also shown.

Quenching Factor of H in CH₄

