

MIMAC

Micro-tpc MAtrix of Chambers
for 3D-Directional Dark Matter detection

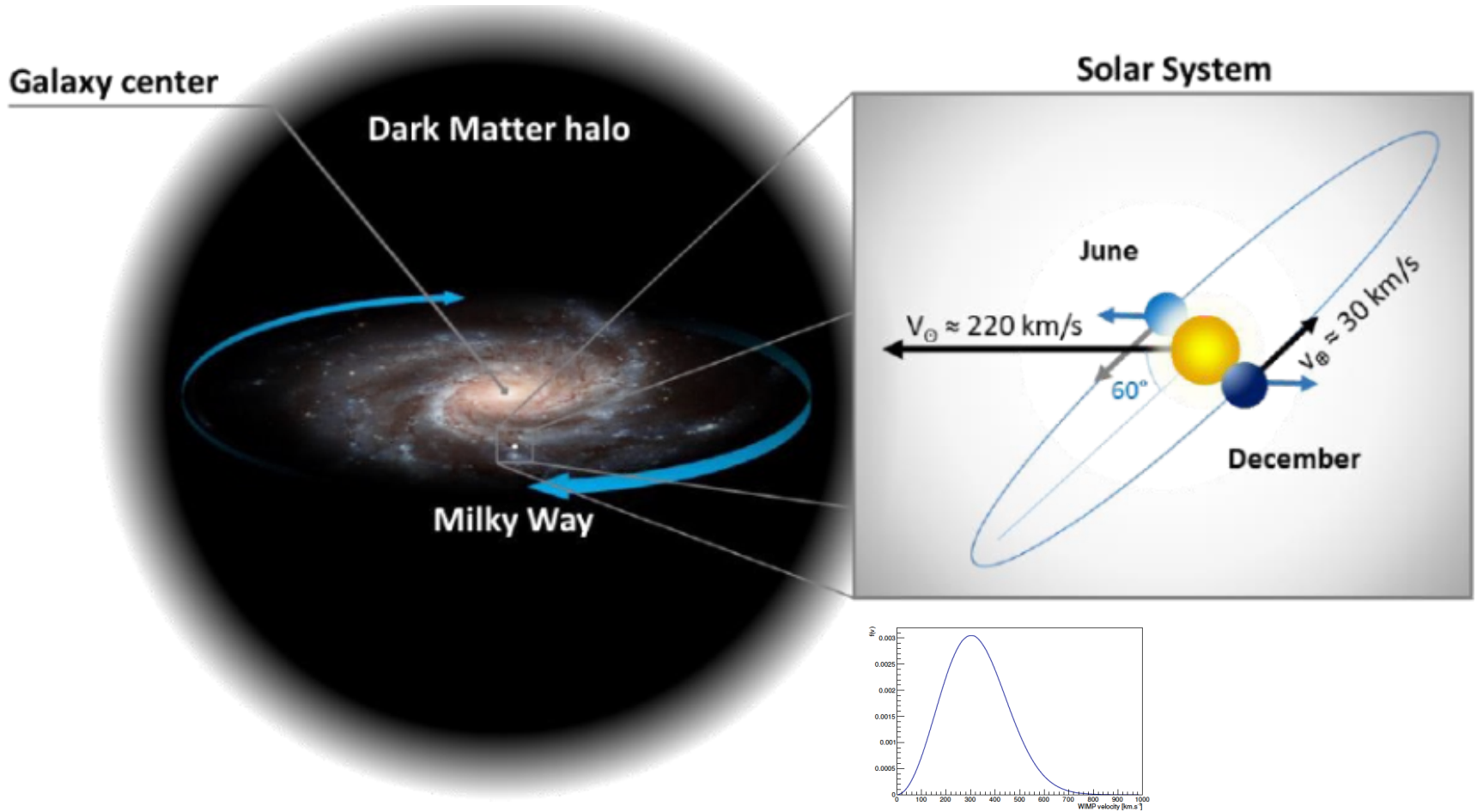
Daniel Santos

LPSC-Grenoble

October 23rd 2023



Directional detection principle



The only signature able to correlate the rare events in a detector to the DM galactic halo !!

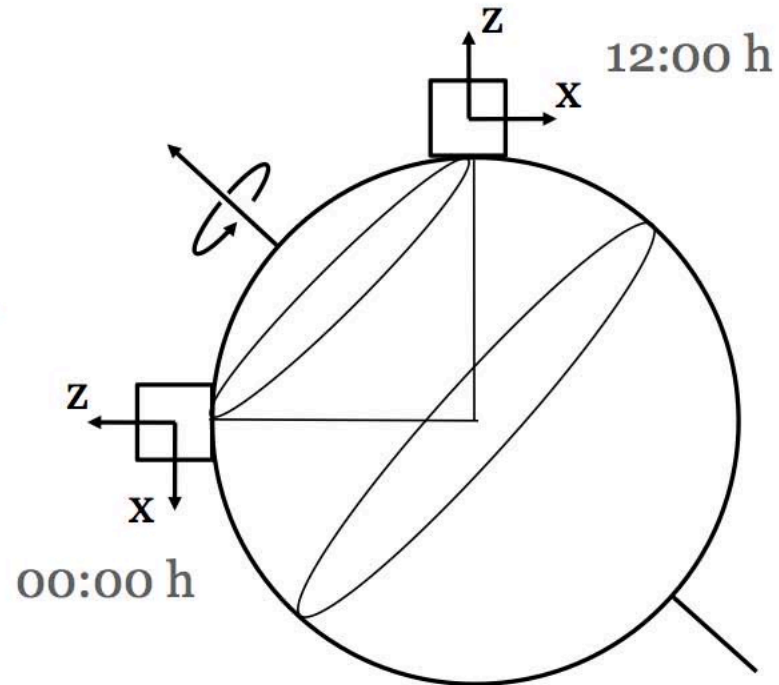
Angular modulation of WIMP flux

Modulation is sidereal (tied to stars) not diurnal (tied to Sun)

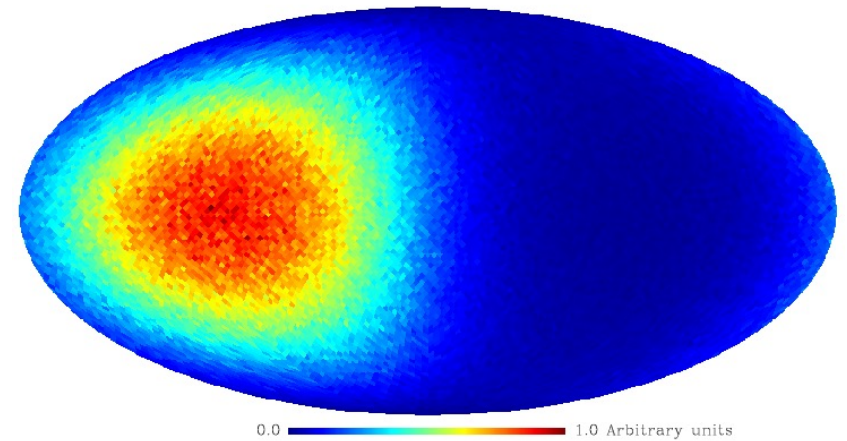
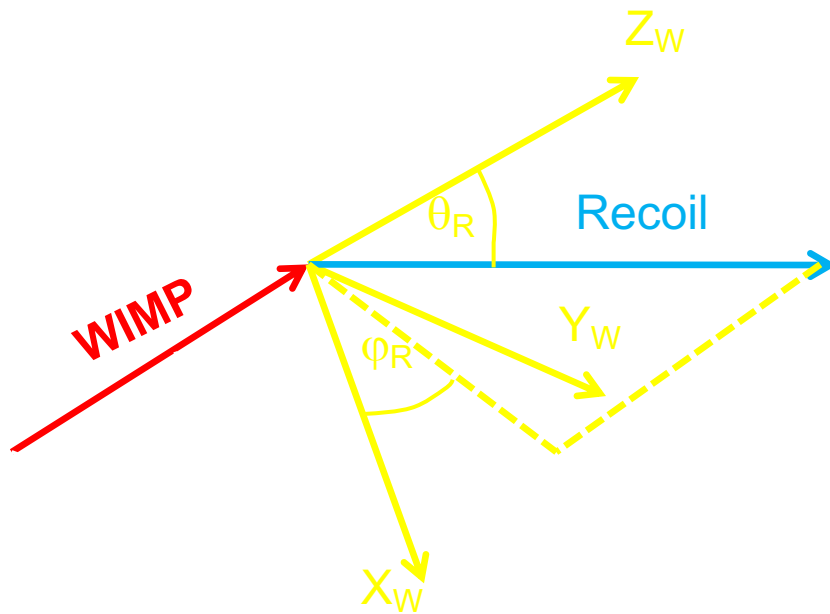
Cygnus



Direction of
Earth motion



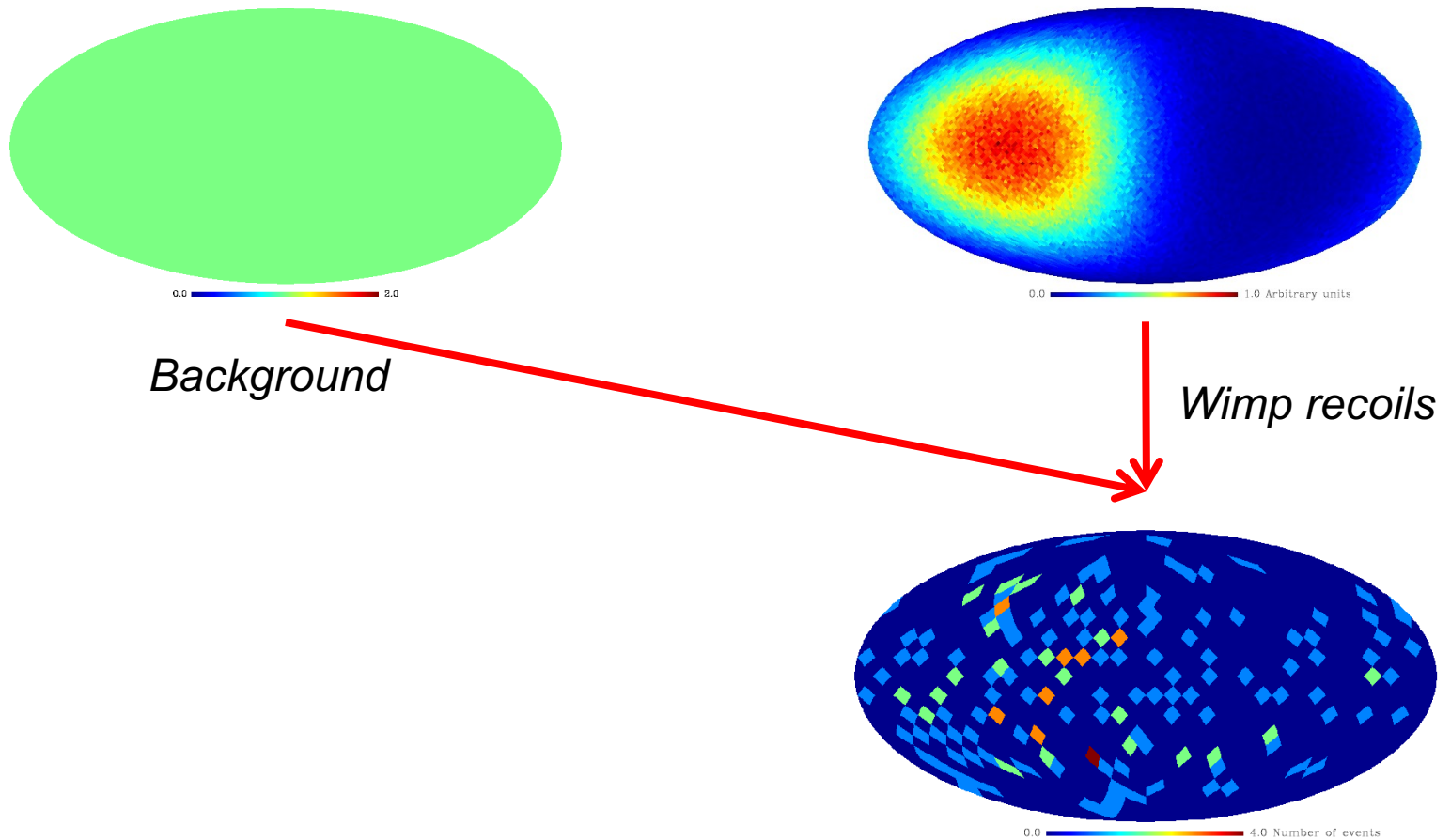
There are many “angles” for nuclear recoils... 3D tracks are needed...



Map of recoils in galactic coordinates (HealPix)

Robust with respect to Background events

100 WIMP evts + 100 Background evts

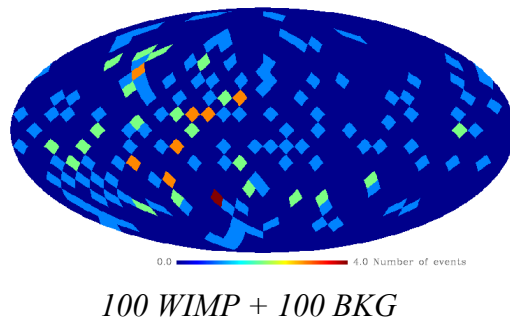


Phenomenology: Discovery

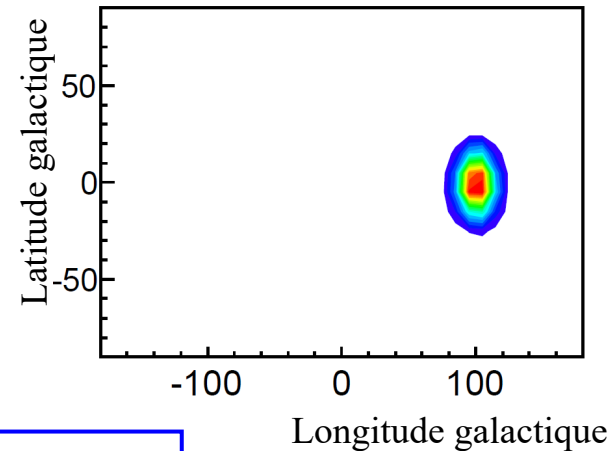
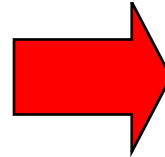
J. Billard *et al.*, PLB 2010
J. Billard *et al.*, arXiv:1110.6079

Proof of discovery: **Signal pointing toward the Cygnus constellation**

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

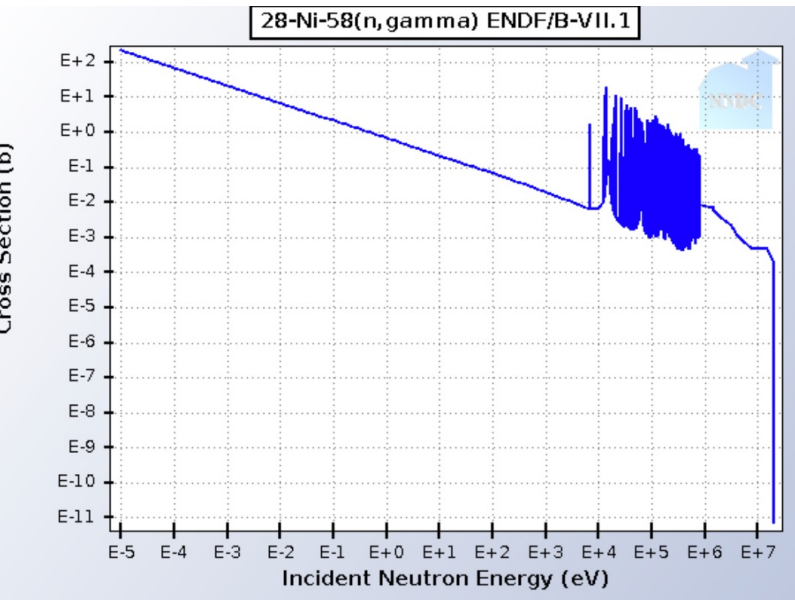


$$\mathcal{L}(\ell, b, m_\chi, \lambda)$$



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

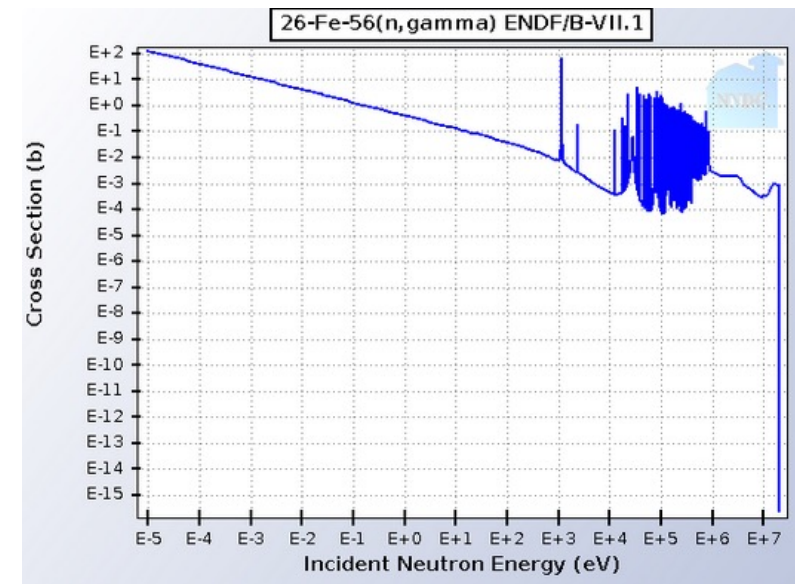
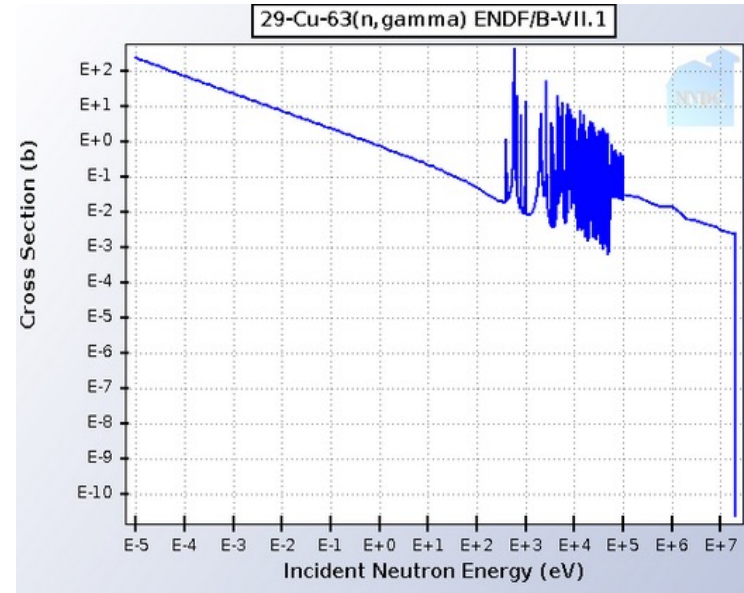
A complex background will always be there.
Lower the energy even more uncertain will be.



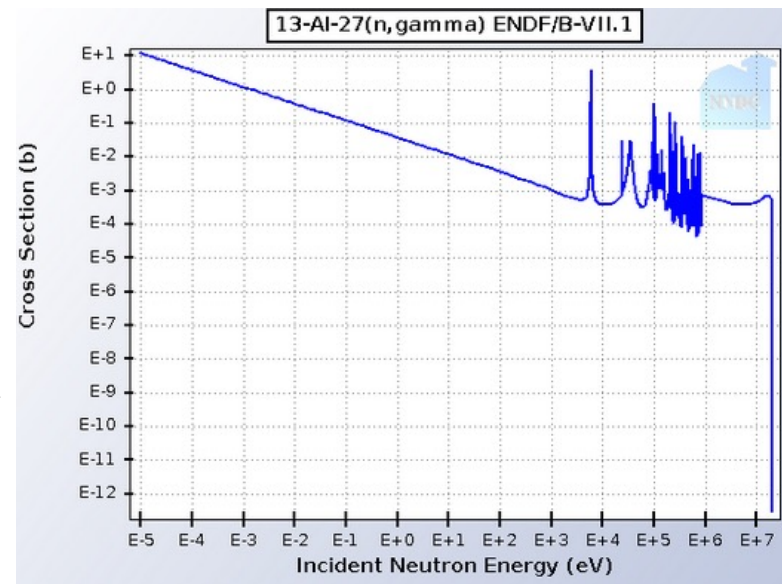
Neutron capture
in materials used
to build our
detectors

^{58}Ni , ^{63}Cu

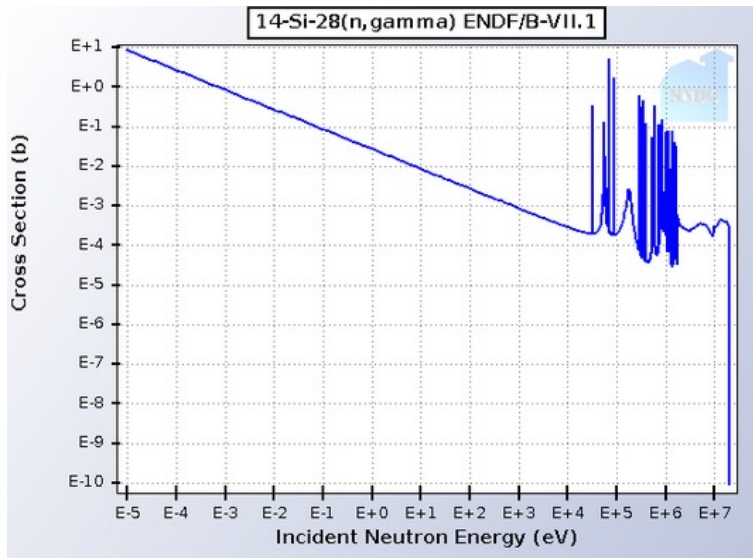
^{56}Fe , ^{27}Al



Showing a lot
of resonances
starting at less
than 1 keV...
Producing
gamma-rays
source of many
electrons !!

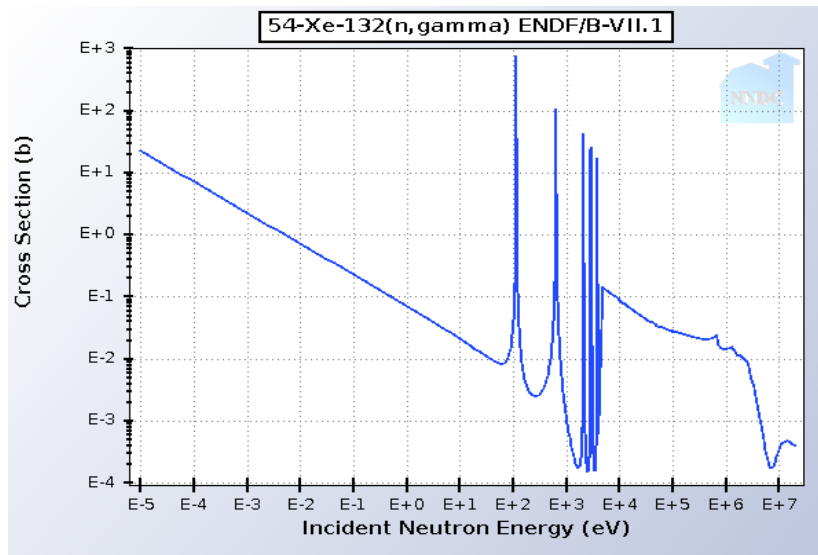
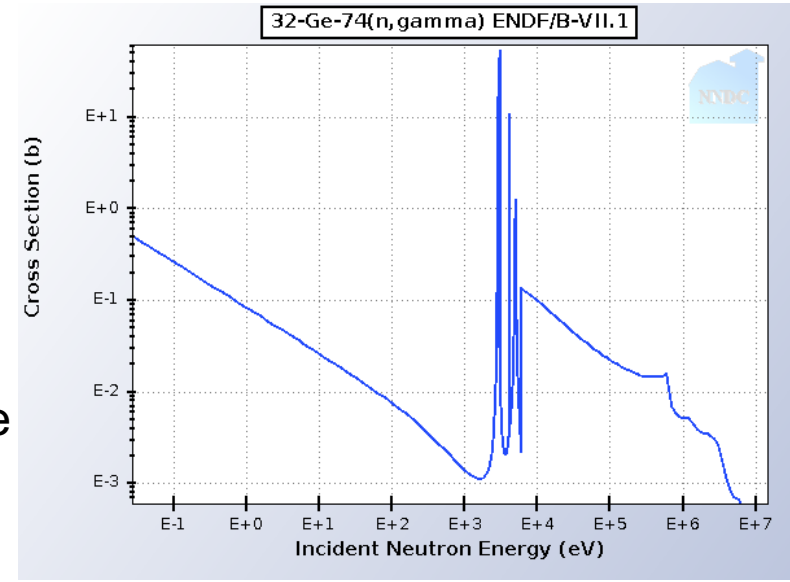


Even the **target nuclei** are a source of such gamma-rays by neutron capture, difficult to prevent from entering inside



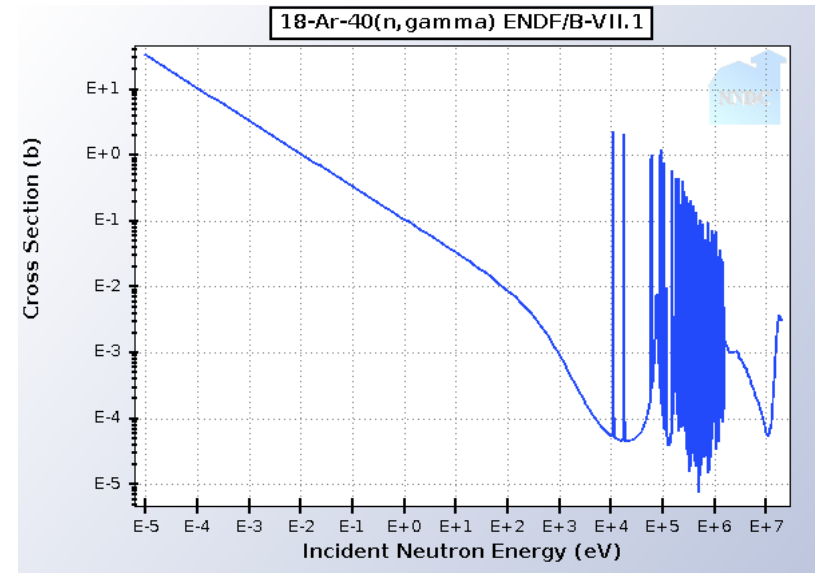
^{28}Si

^{74}Ge

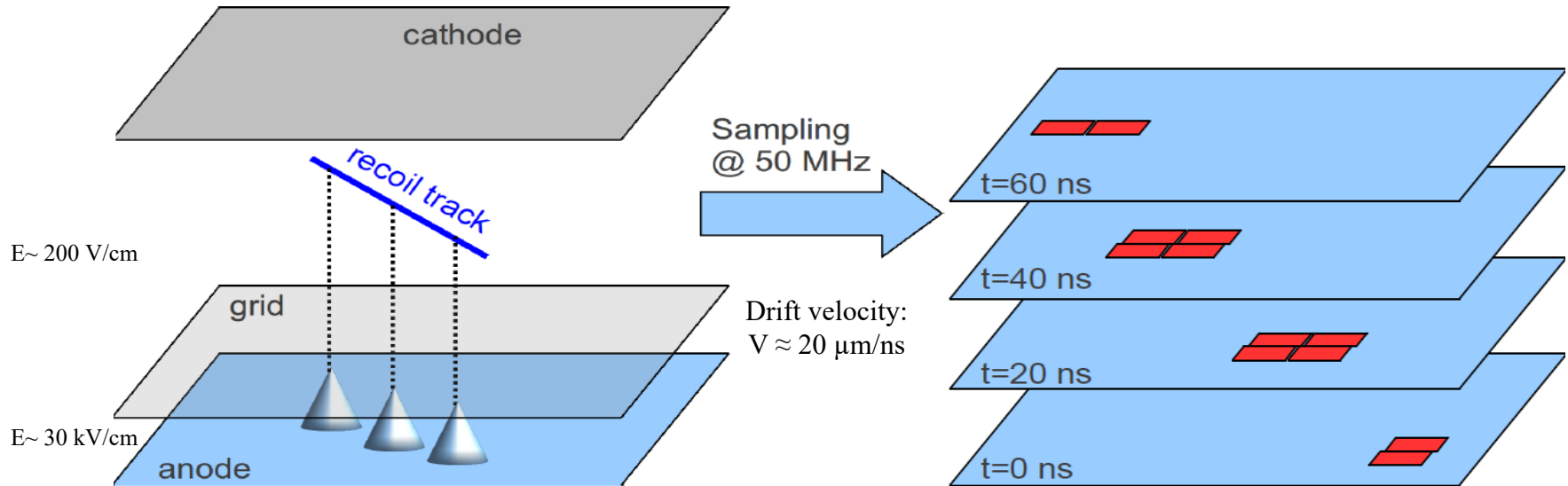


^{132}Xe

^{40}Ar



MIMAC: Detection strategy



Scheme of a MIMAC μ TPC

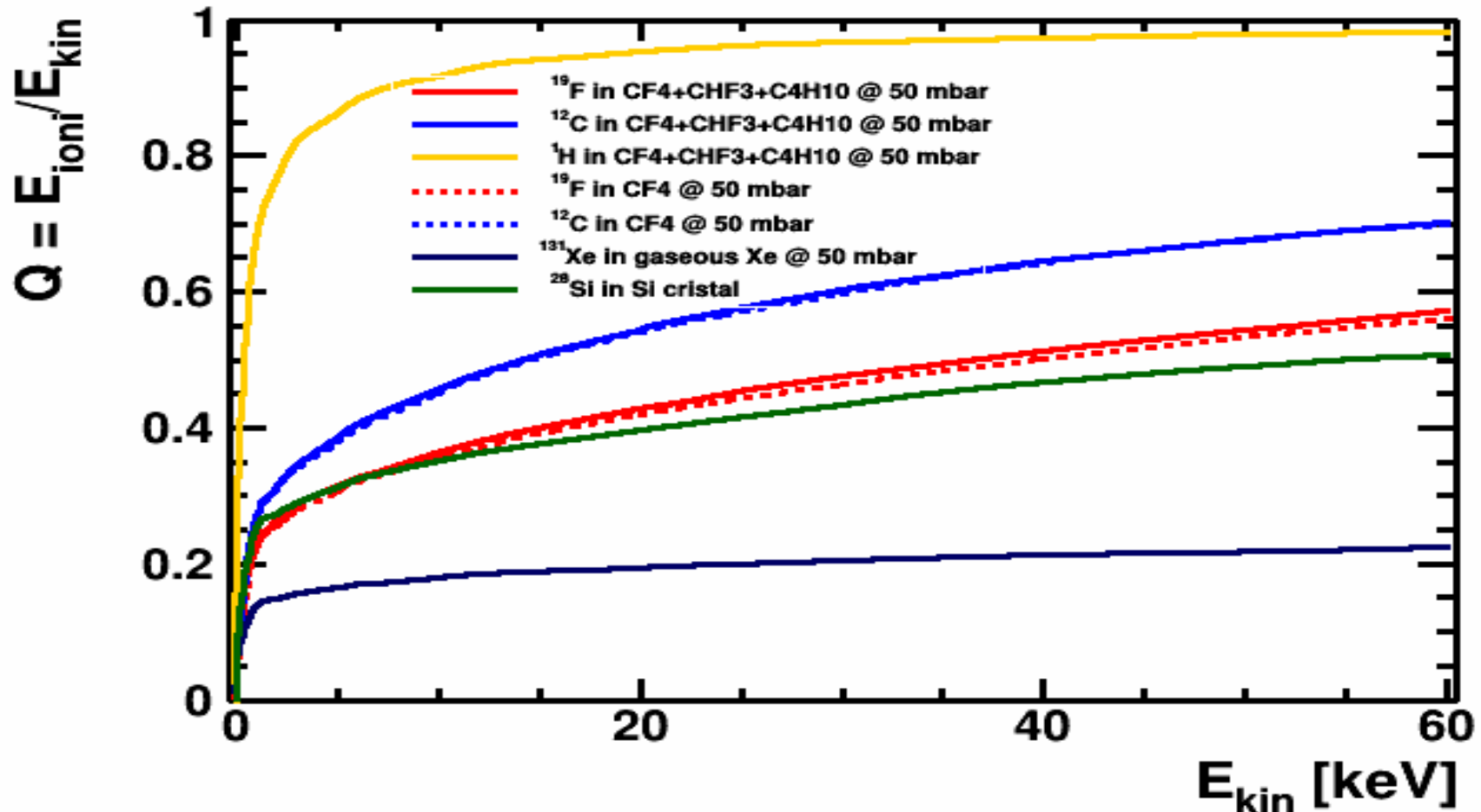
Evolution of the collected charges on the anode

Measurement of the ionization energy:

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

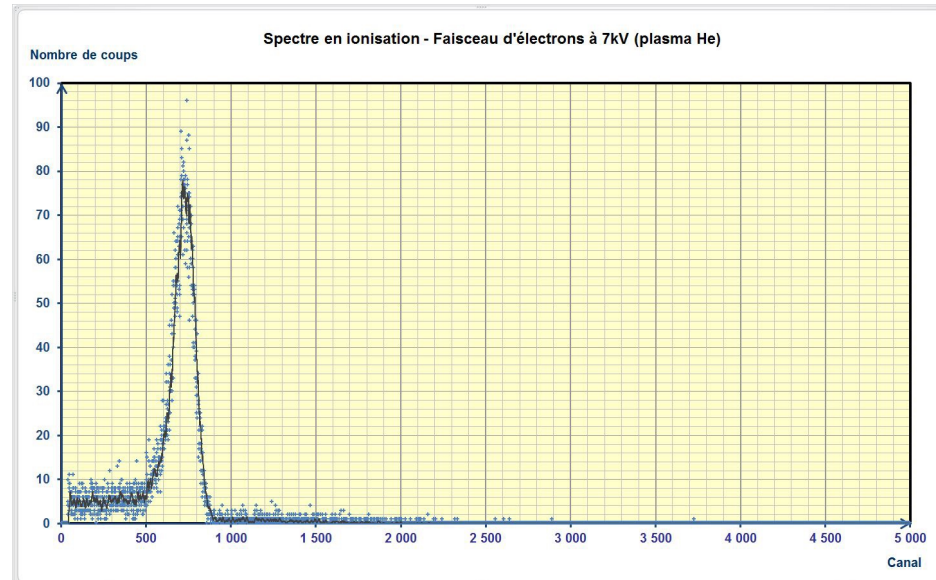
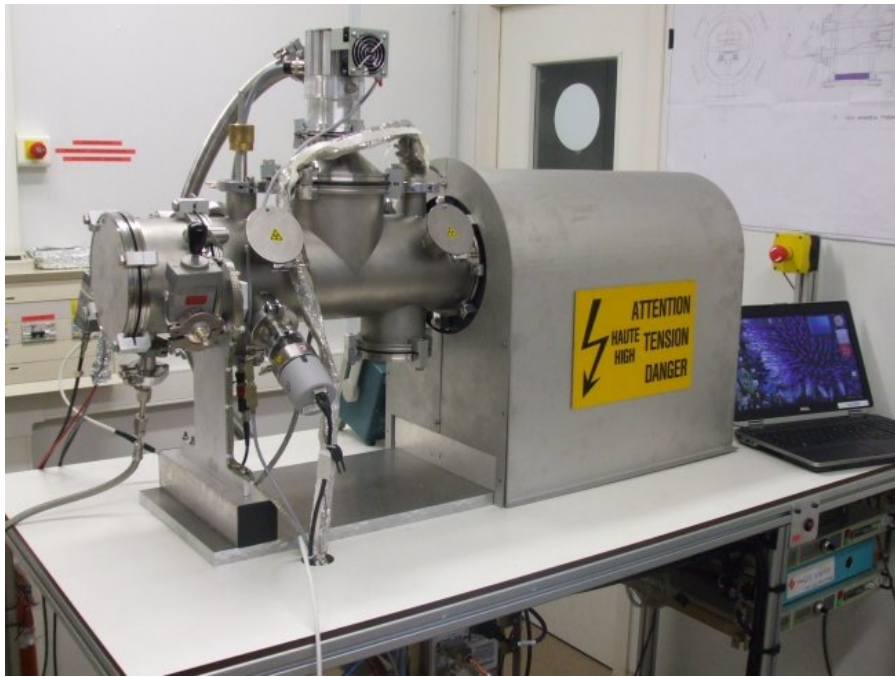
Ionization Quenching Factors

SRIM-Simulations (LPSC)



Portable Ionization Quenching Facility (COMIMAC)

(Electrons and Nuclei of known energies)



Electrons of 7 keV

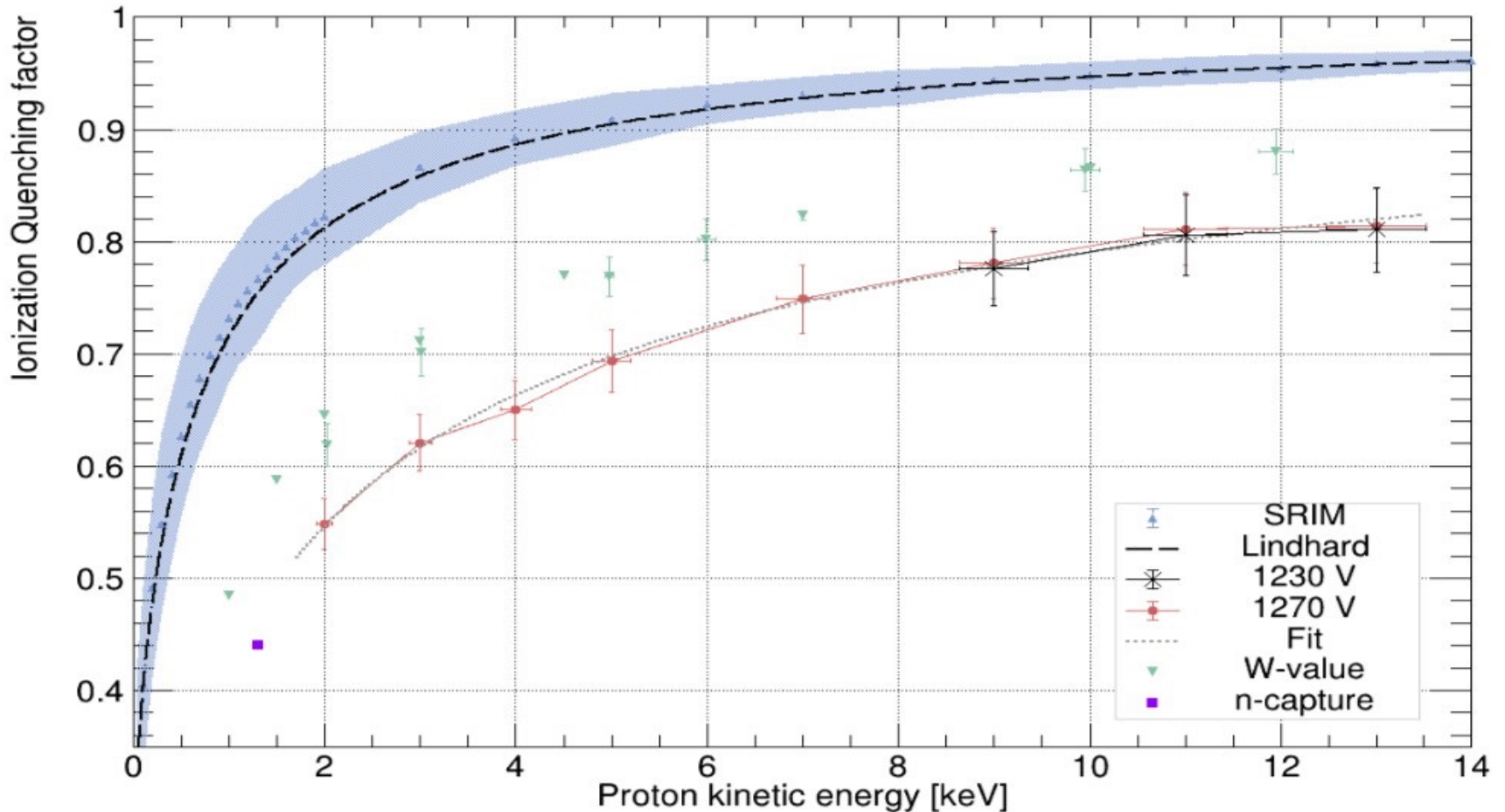
In a gas detector the IQF depends on the gas mixture and on its « quality »!

For more information on COMIMAC: J-F. Muraz et al. NIM A, 2016

COMIMAC-IQF measurements of H in CH₄ compared with simulations

NEWS-G collaboration, arXiv 2201.09566, published in ERJ-C (2022)

IQF



Nuclear recoil calibration with neutrons

Neutron monochromatic field:

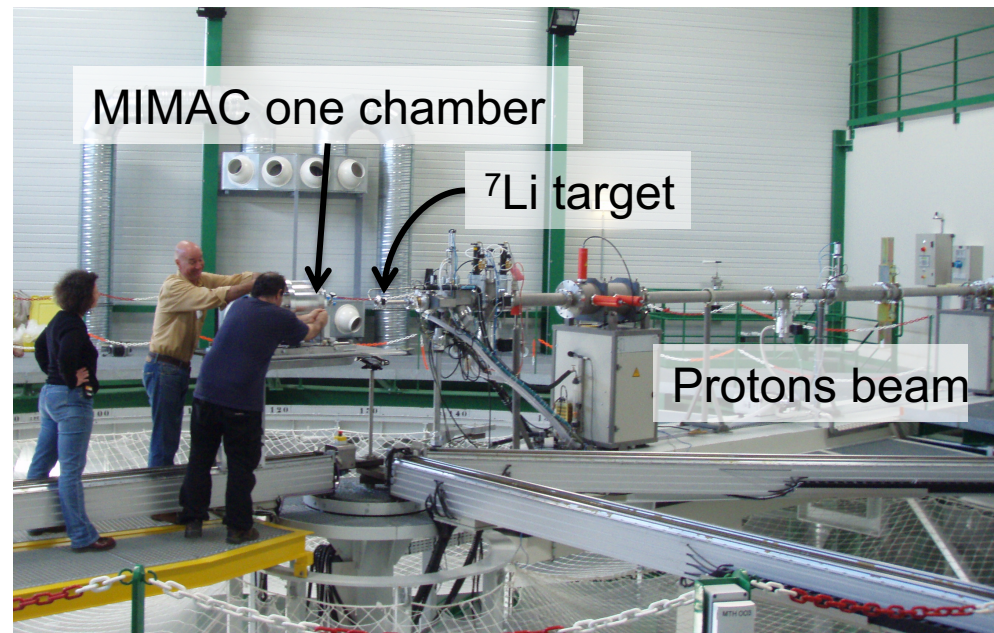
AMANDE facility at IRSN of Cadarache

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

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

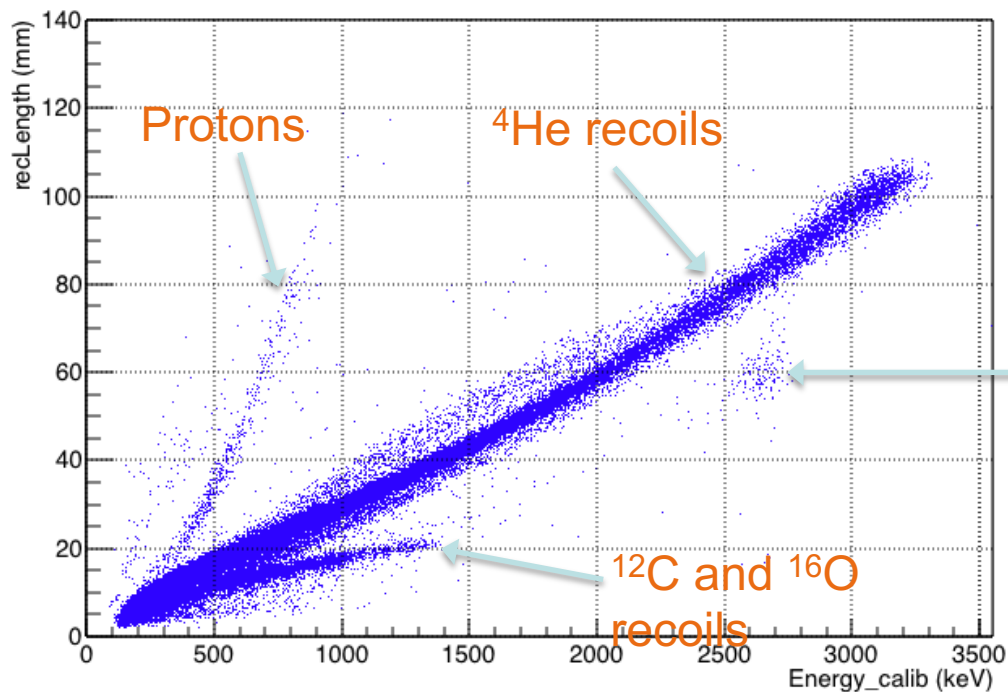
Electron Calibration:

with electrons of COMIMAC facility



Selection of ^4He nuclear recoils : $\text{D}(\text{d}(1.8 \text{ MeV}), \text{n})$

Discrimination from protons, ^{12}C , ^{16}O , and (n, α) reactions

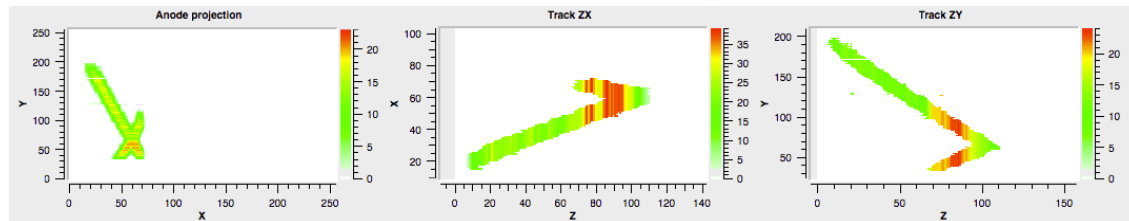


700 mbar He/CO_2 (5%)

$^{16}\text{O}(\text{n}, \alpha)^{13}\text{C}$

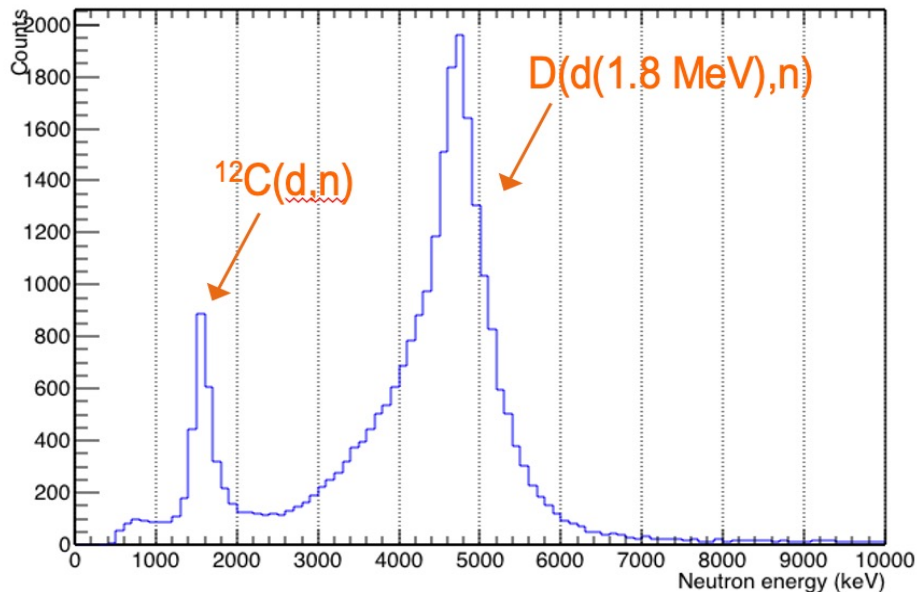


**IRSN
/AMANDE
(Cadarache)**



Monoenergetic measurements : detection of target pollutions

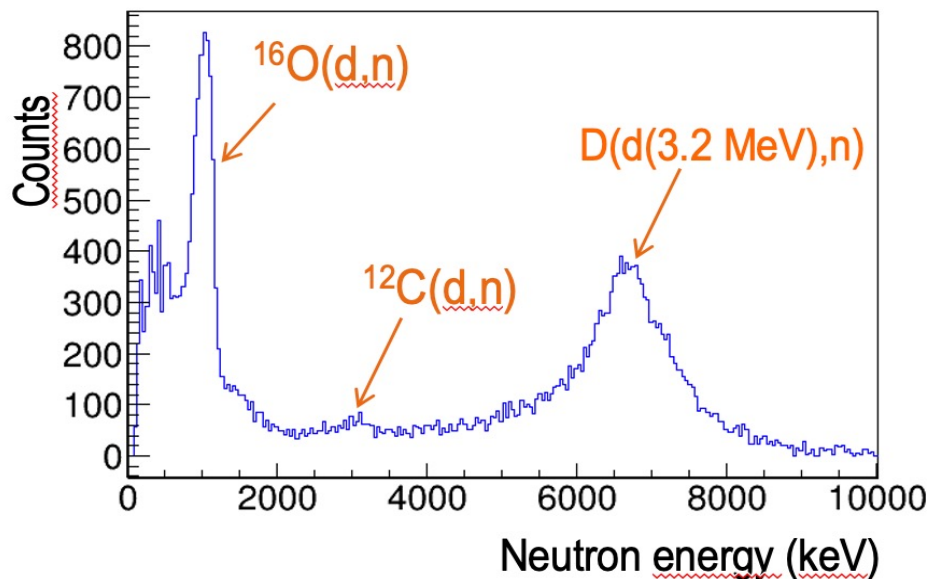
D(d(1.8 MeV,n) : neutrons of 5 MeV



NPL / (UK)

700 mbar He/CO₂ (5%)

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

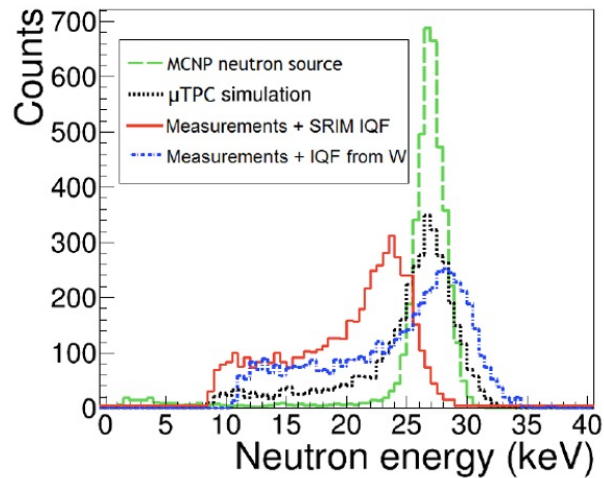


IRSN / AMANDE
(Cadarache)

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

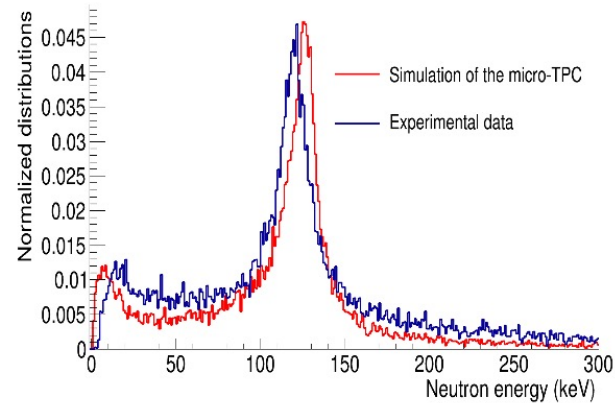
50% C₄H₁₀ 50% CHF₃
30 mbar

$E_n = 27$ keV



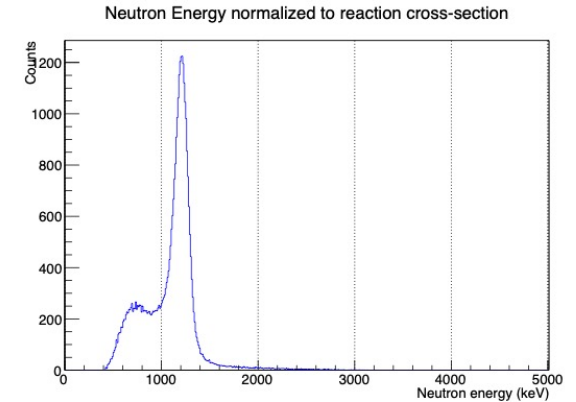
60% C₄H₁₀ 40% CHF₃
50 mbar

$E_n = 127$ keV



95% ⁴He 5% CO₂
700 mbar

$E_n = 1.2$ 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.*

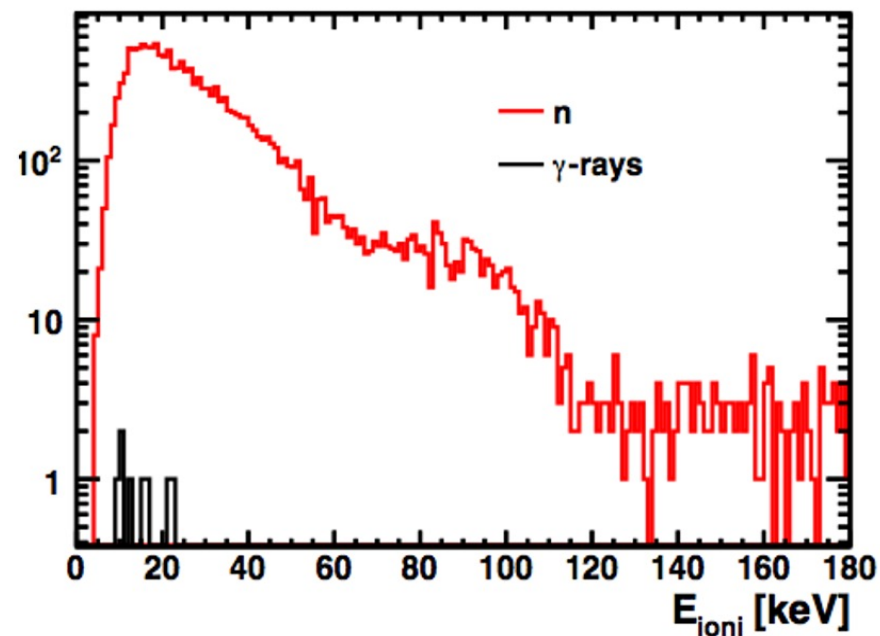
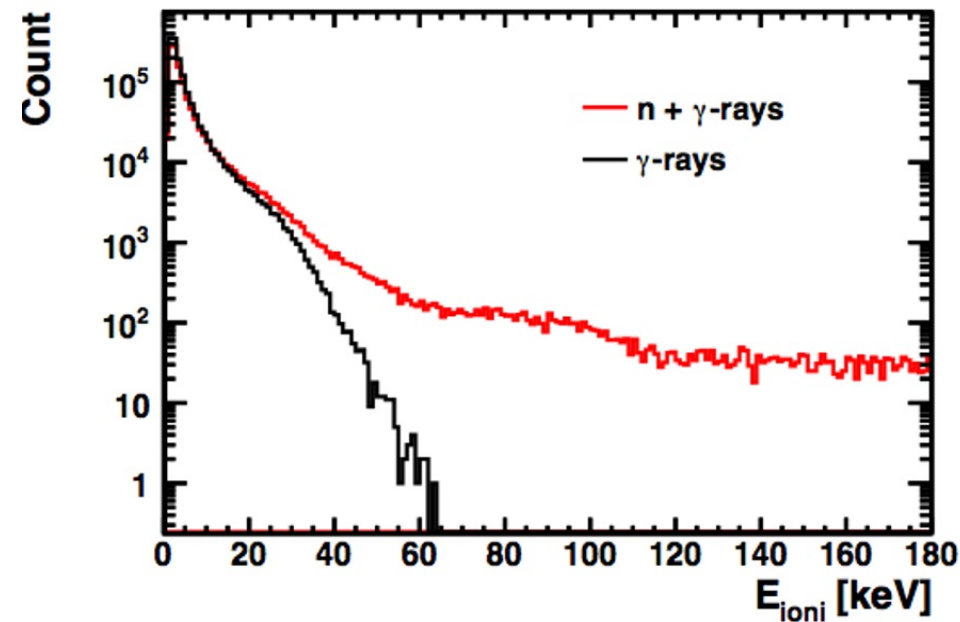
« First measurement of a 127 KeV neutron field with a μ -TPC spectrometer »
Nuclear Science, IEEE Transactions, 61(2014) 2090

Electron-recoil Discrimination

${}^7\text{Li}$ (p,n (565 keV)) nuclear reaction

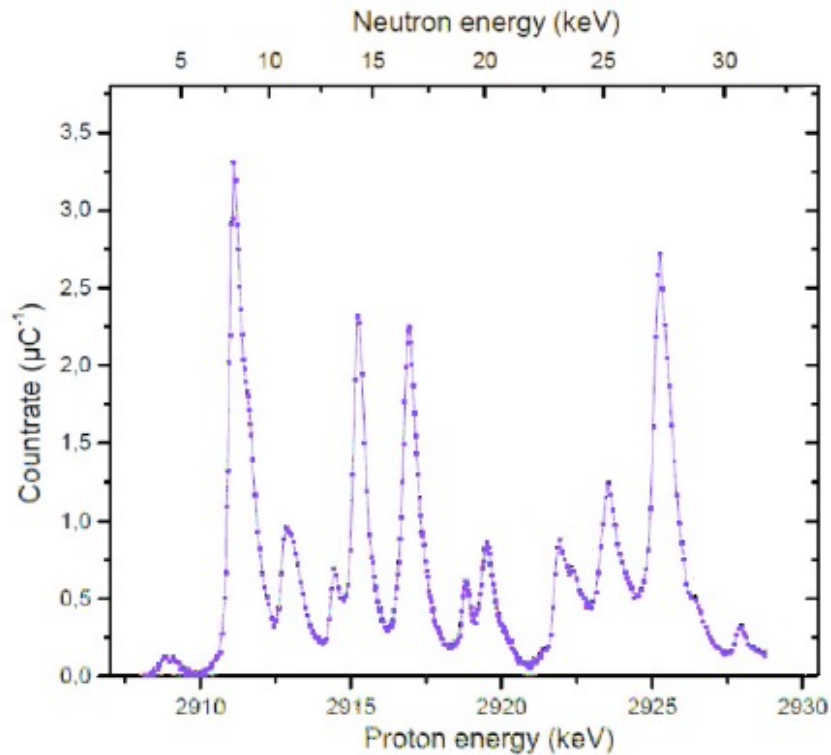
Neutrons \longrightarrow F, C, H, nuclear recoils

γ - rays \longrightarrow Electrons

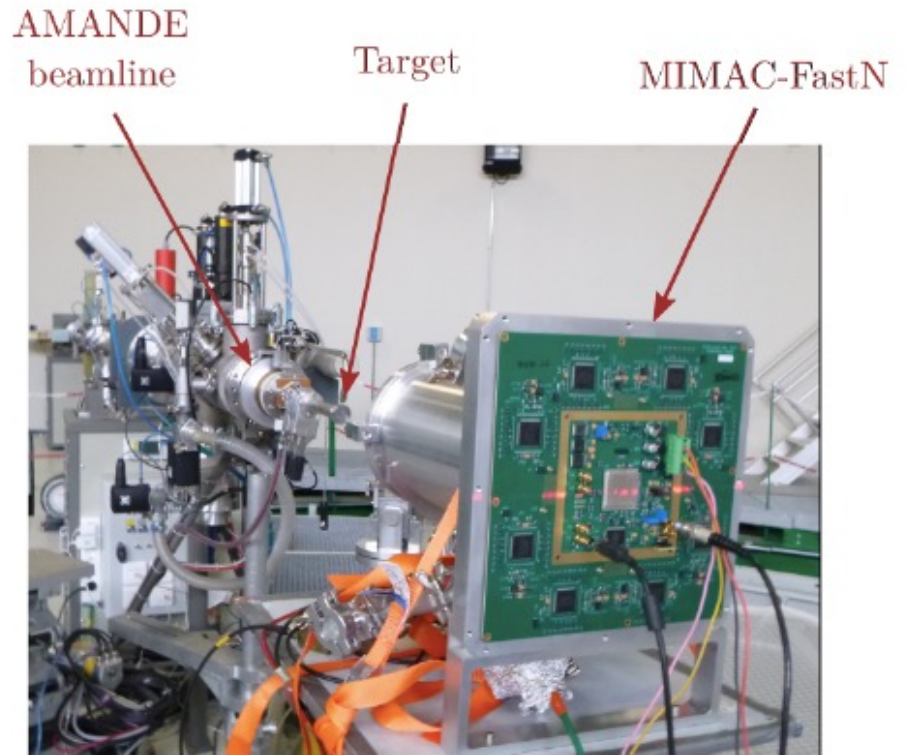


$$N_{\text{acpt}}/N_{\text{tot}} = 1.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ electron integrated rejection}$$

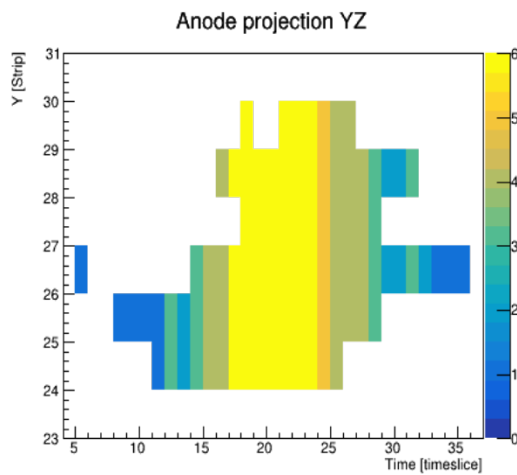
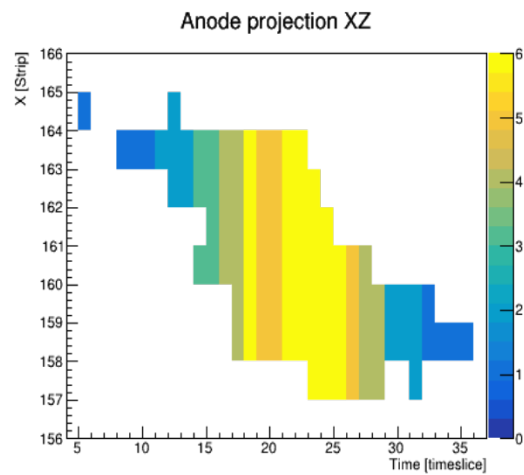
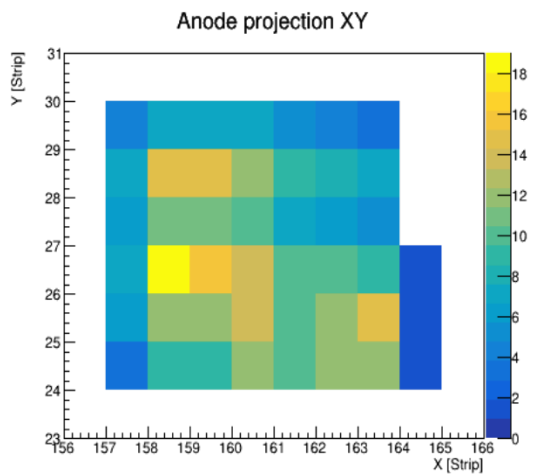
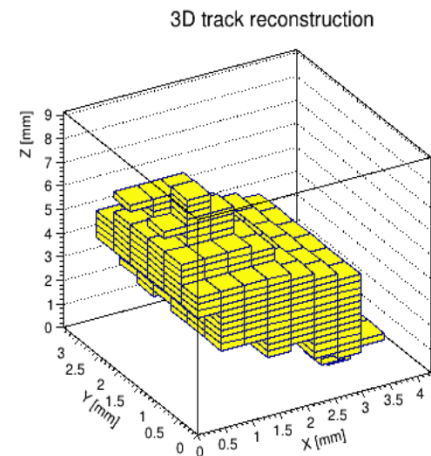
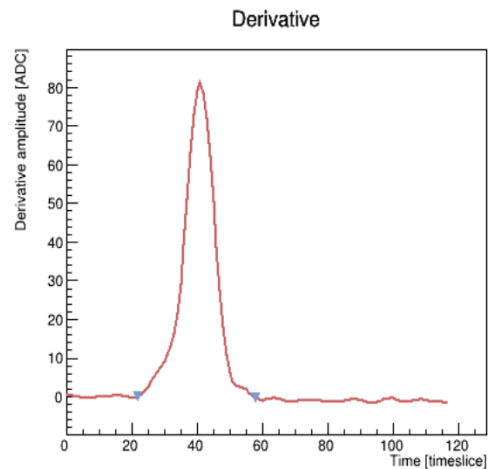
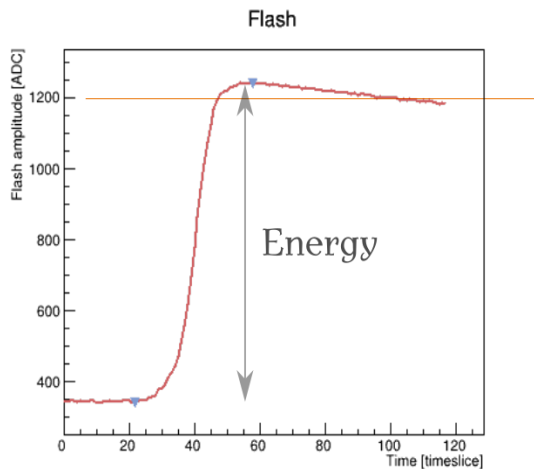
Low energy (8 and 27 keV) mono-energetic neutron spectroscopy



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



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

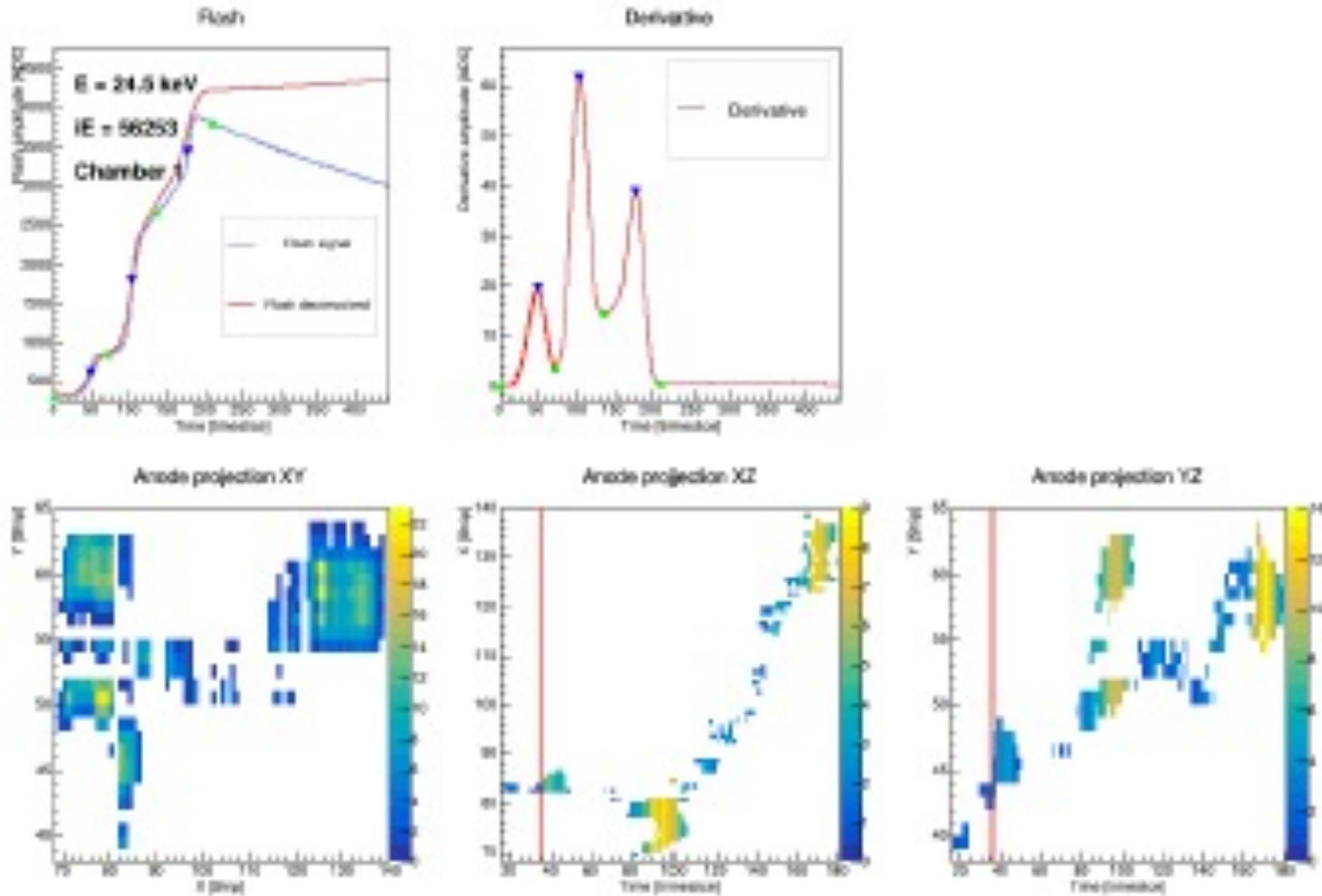


→ Sampling at 50 MHz (20 ns)

5 / 16

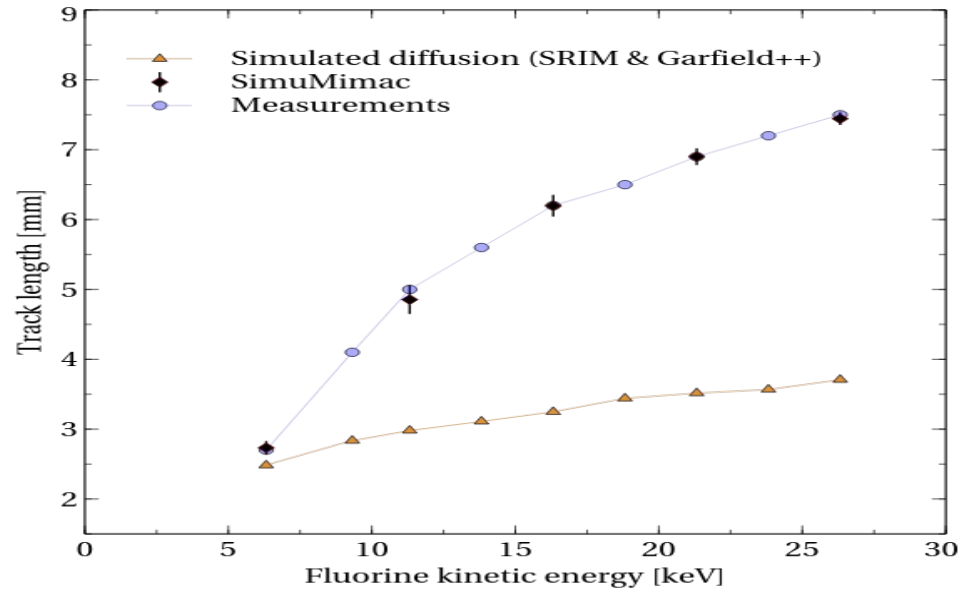
$\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10} + .50\% \text{CHF}_3$ at 30 mbar

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



Directionality at high gain – SimuMimac

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



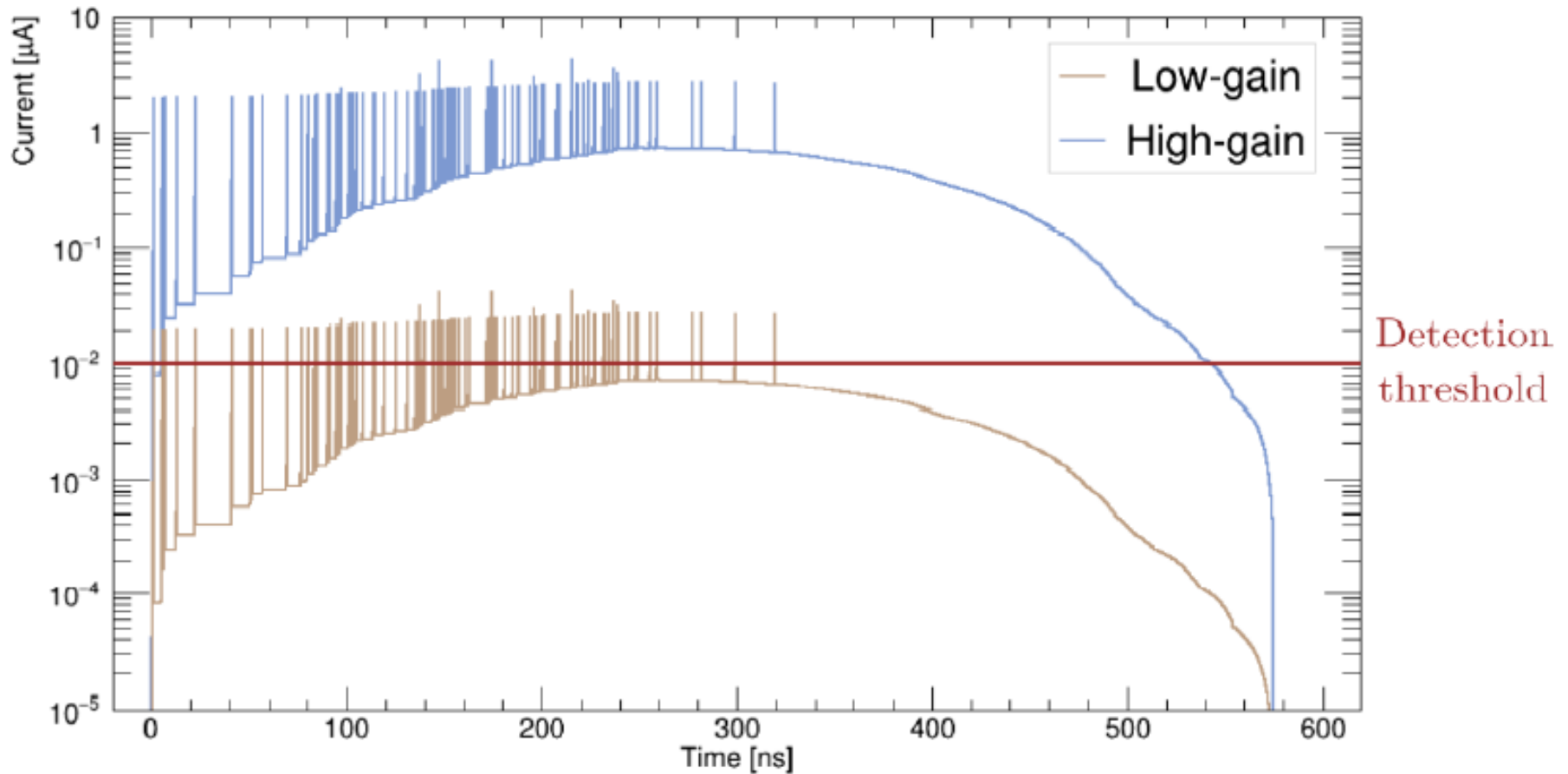
Measured and simulated fluorine track lengths

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

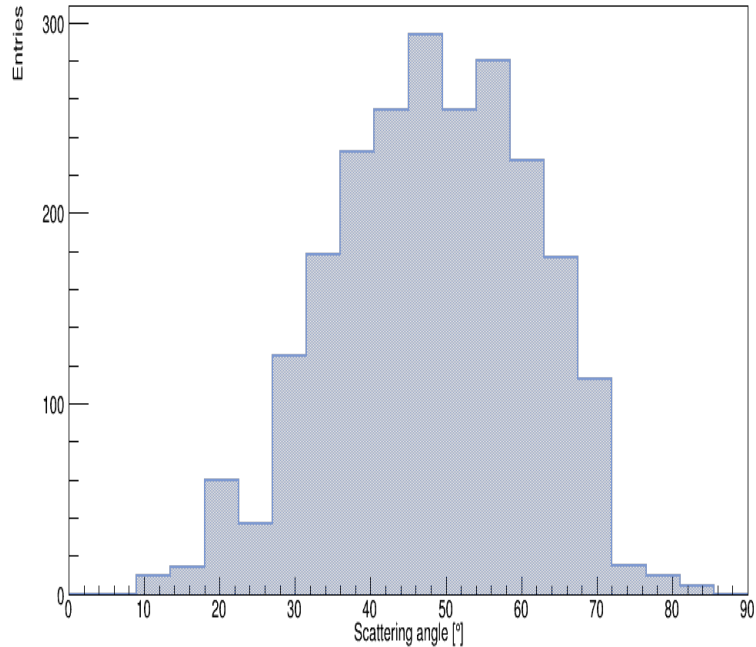
- SimuMimac agrees with the measurements
- Main difference with standard simulation code = **takes into account the current induced by the motion of the ions**

Signal contributions at high-gain (primary electrons and secondary ions)

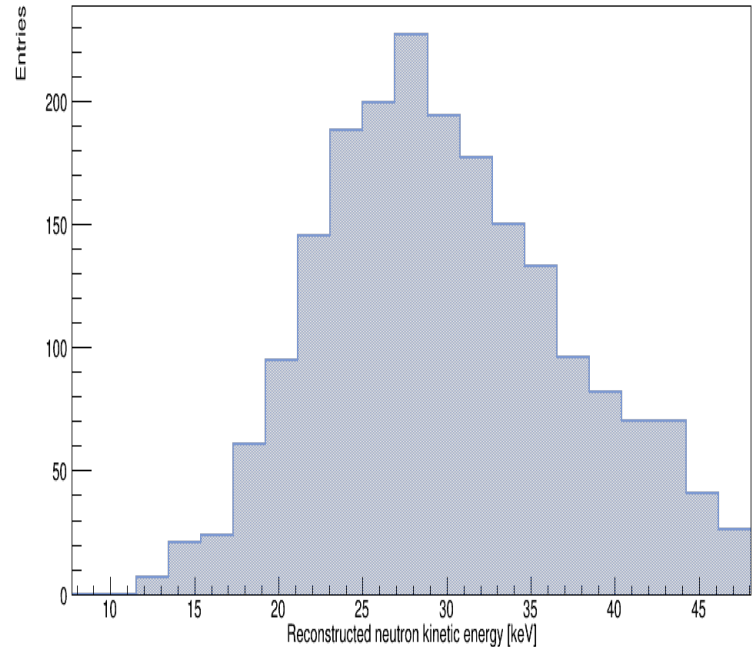
Cyprien Beaufort et al. arxiv.org/2112.12469



Directionality – Mono-energetic (27 keV) Neutron field spectrum reconstruction



Angular distribution



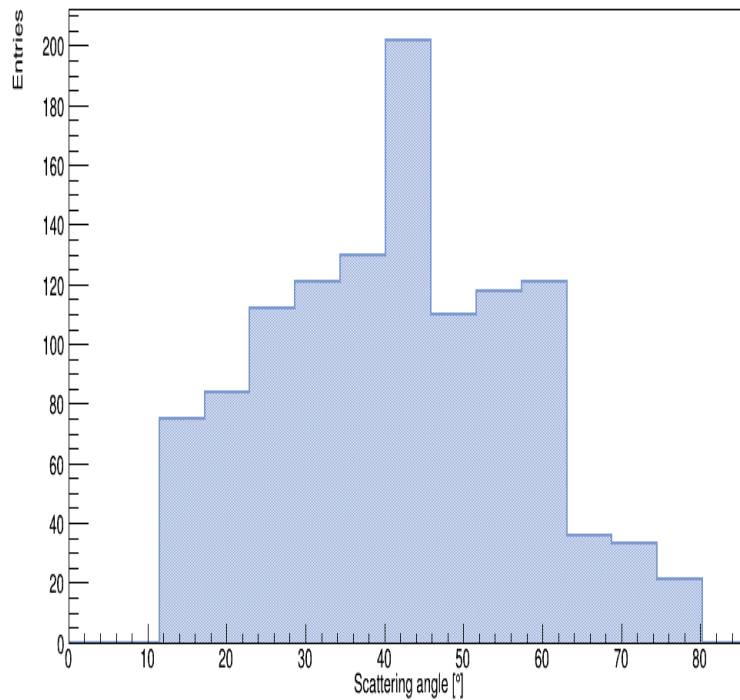
Reconstructed spectrum

Directional performances at 27 keV:

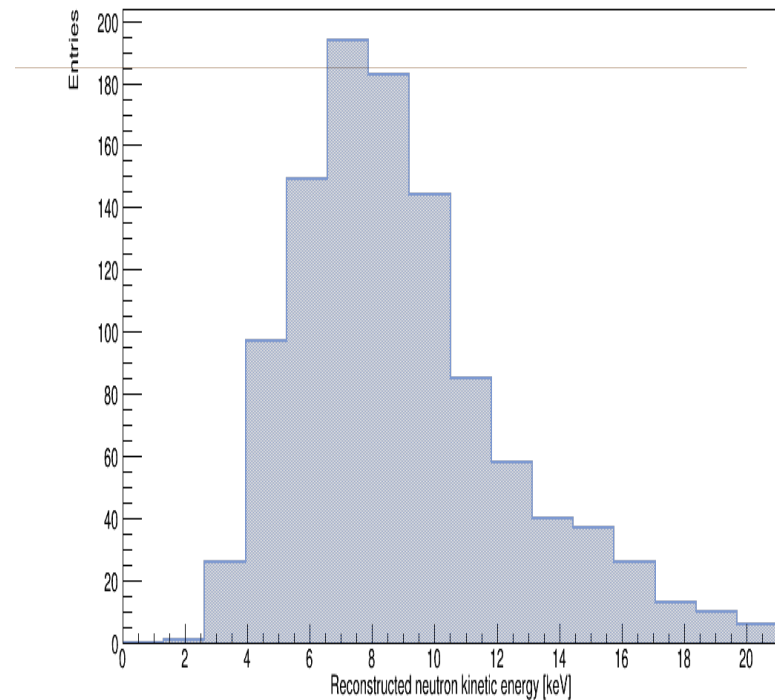
- Energy reconstructed agrees within 2.5% with the energy of the monoenergetic neutron field
- Angular resolution better than 10°

Directionality and head-tail recognition in the keV-range with the MIMAC detector by deconvolution of the ionic signal, Cyprien Beaufort et al. JCAP08(2022)057

Directionality – Mono-energetic (8 keV) Neutron field spectrum reconstruction



Angular distribution



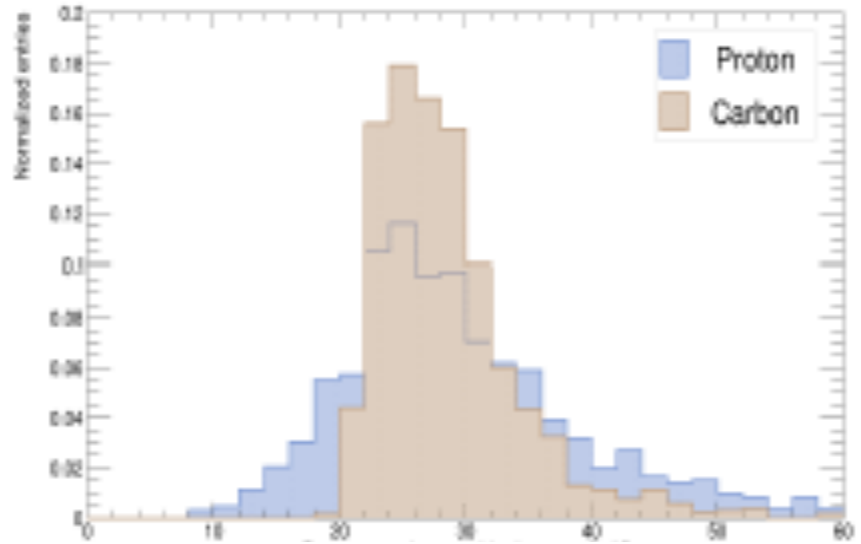
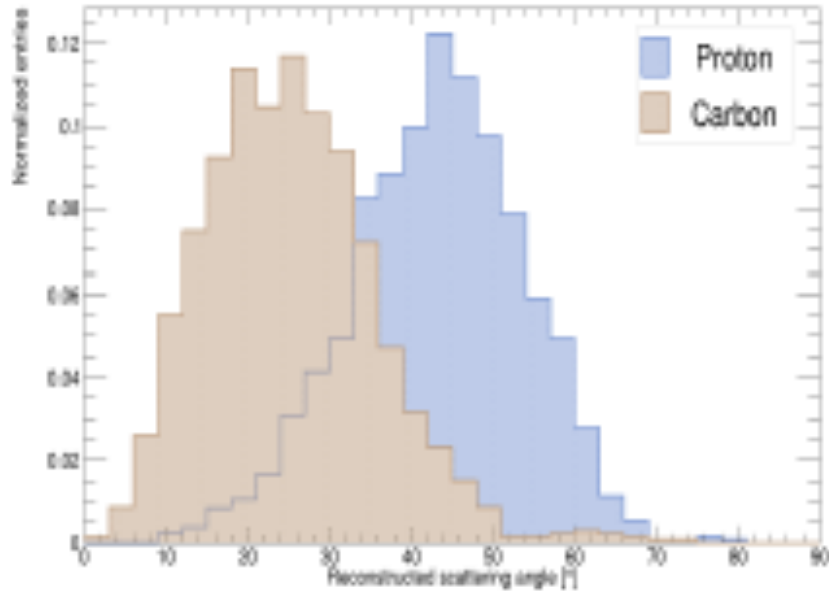
Reconstructed spectrum

Directional performances at 8 keV:

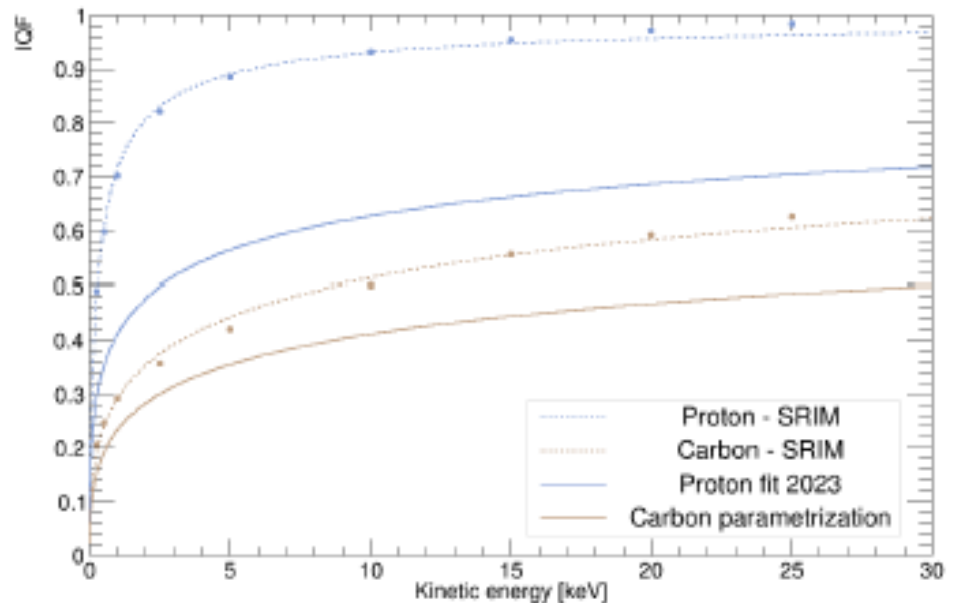
- Energy reconstructed agrees within 4.0% and angular resolution better than 15°

From proton and carbon recoils at 27 keV

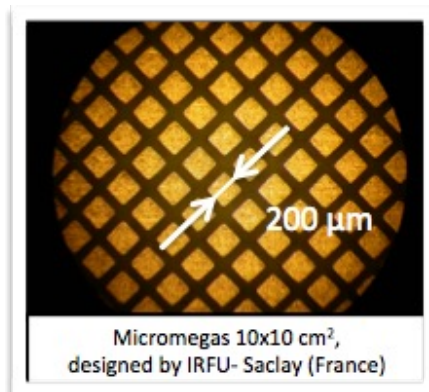
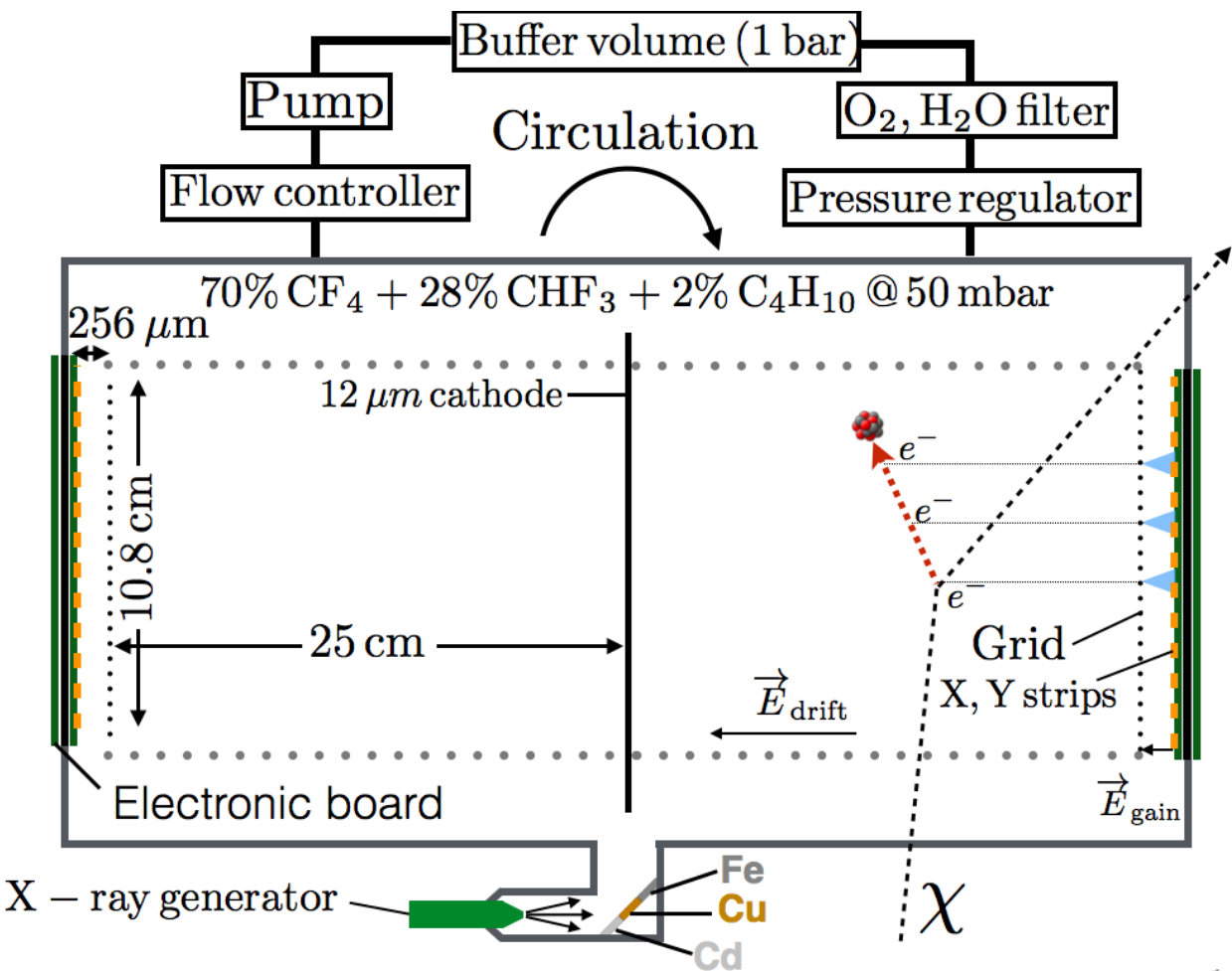
C. Beaufort et al. (2023, to be published)



**Only possible having the
ionization quenching factor
measurements...**

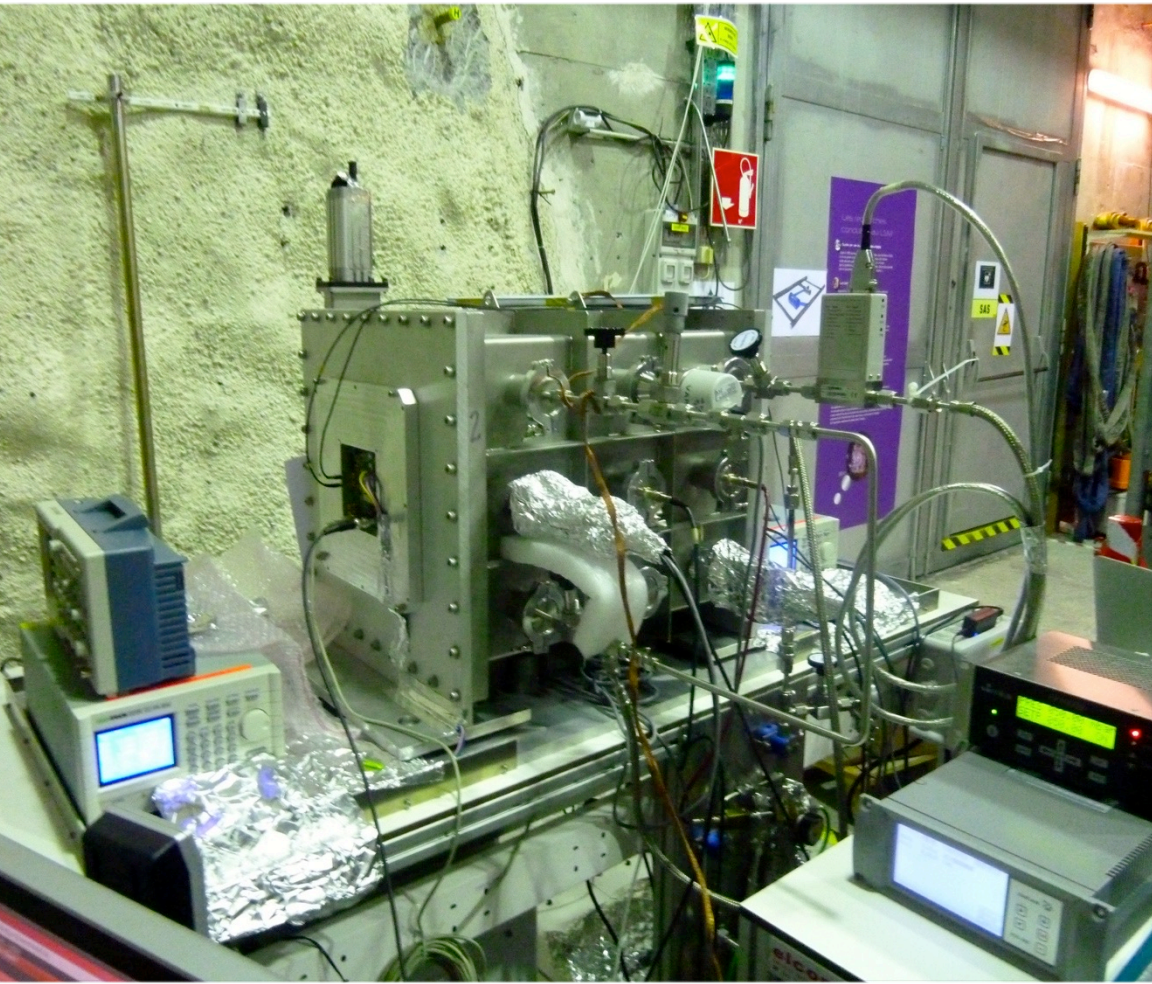


MIMAC-bi-chamber module prototype



MIMAC Target: ^{19}F

- Light WIMP mass
- Axial coupling



MIMAC (bi-chamber module) at
Modane Underground Laboratory
(France)

since 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

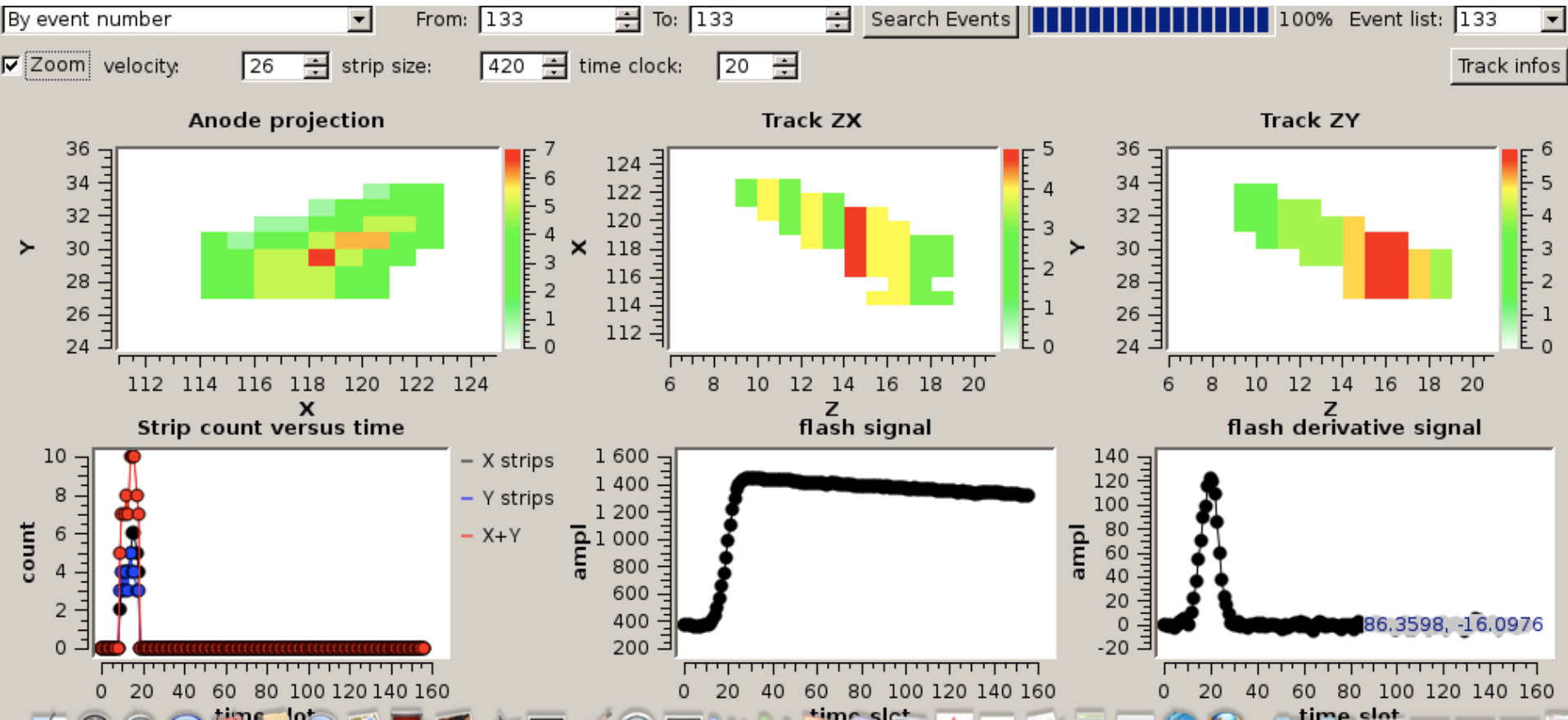
-Remote controlled

and commanded

-Calibration control twice per week

Since then upgraded with new
detectors and with the Cathode
signal. Reinstall at LSM in 09/22

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



Radon Progeny

²²²Rn chain:

- 4 β -decays



Electron event (background)

- 4 α -decays



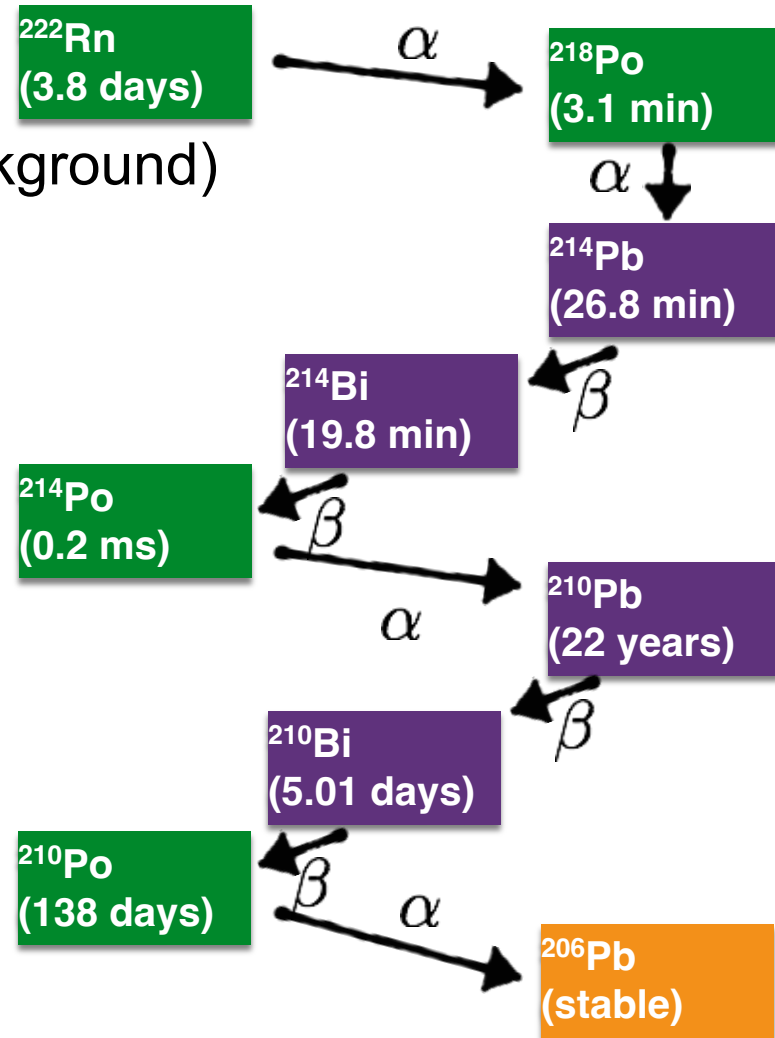
-particle emission:

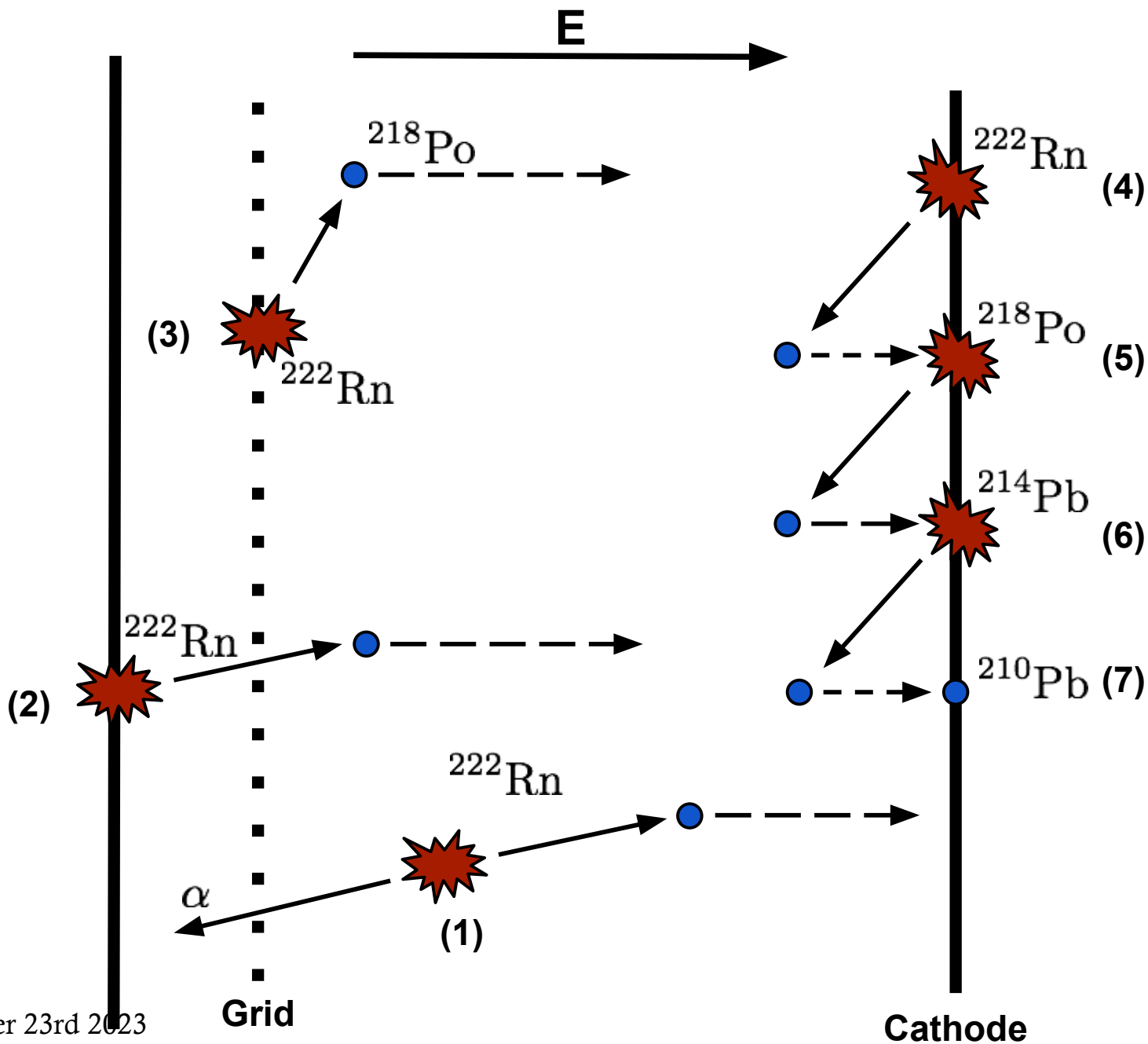
$E_\alpha \sim 5 \text{ MeV}$ Saturation

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

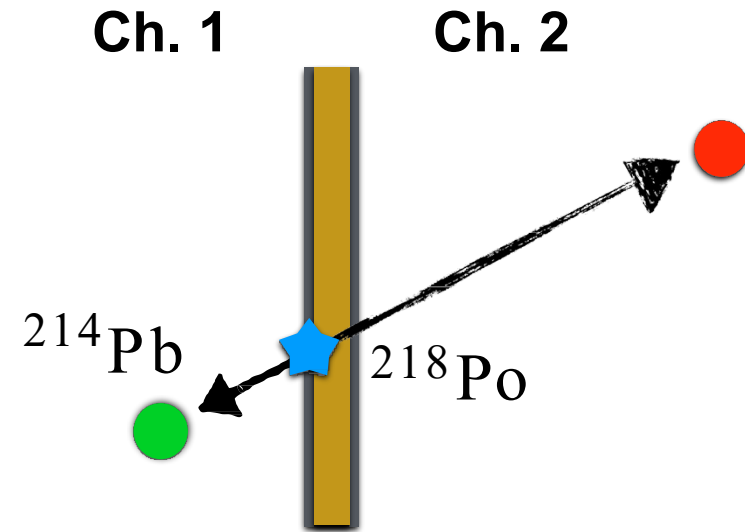
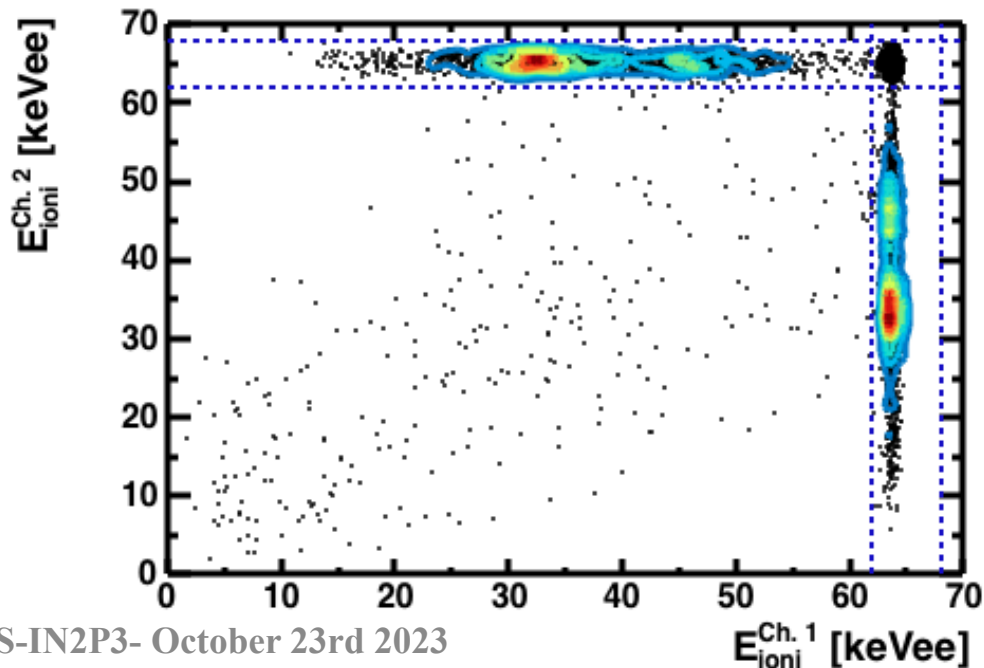
Simulation (SRIM)





RPR: « In coincidence » events

Chamber coincidences:



**3D tracks from nuclear recoil
of radon progeny detection**

First detection of 3D tracks of Rn progeny

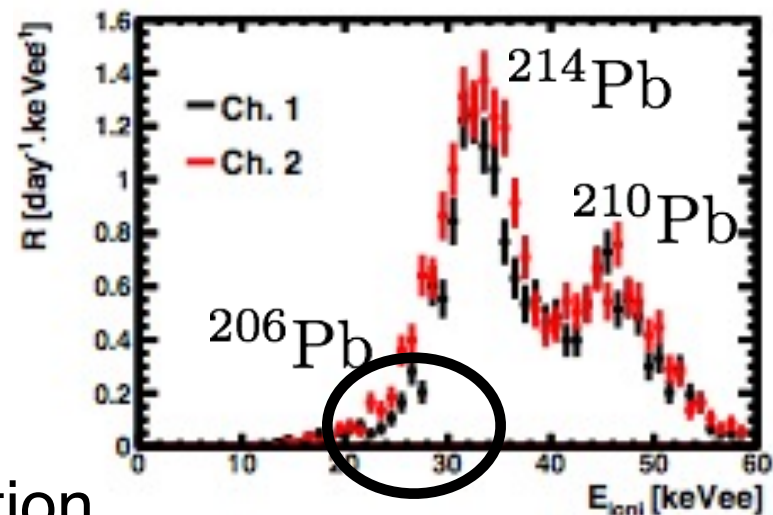
Electron/recoil discrimination

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

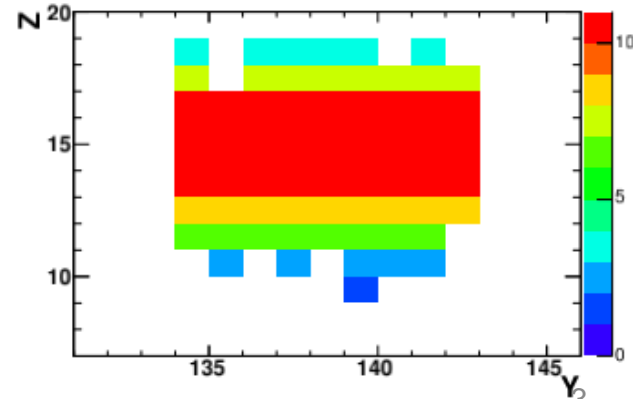
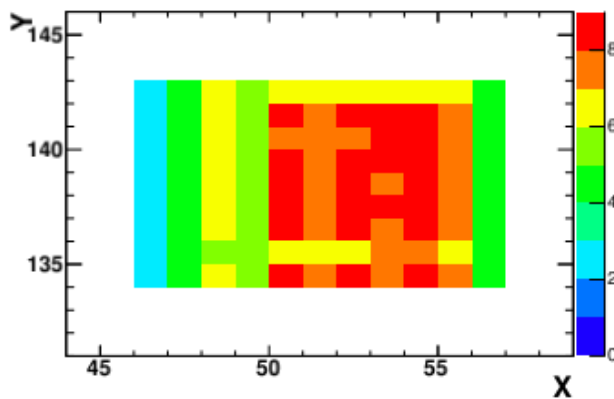
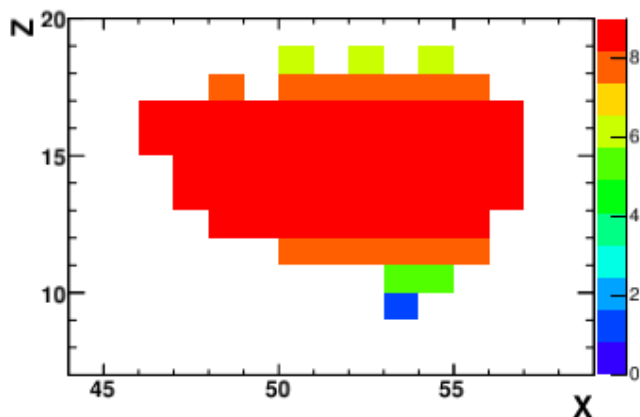
First measurement of 3D nuclear-recoil tracks coming from radon progeny

→ MIMAC detection strategy validation

Nuclear recoil spectra



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

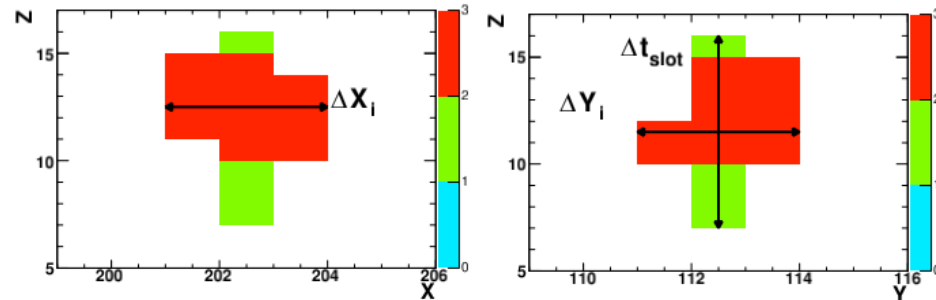


RPR events occur at different positions in the detector...

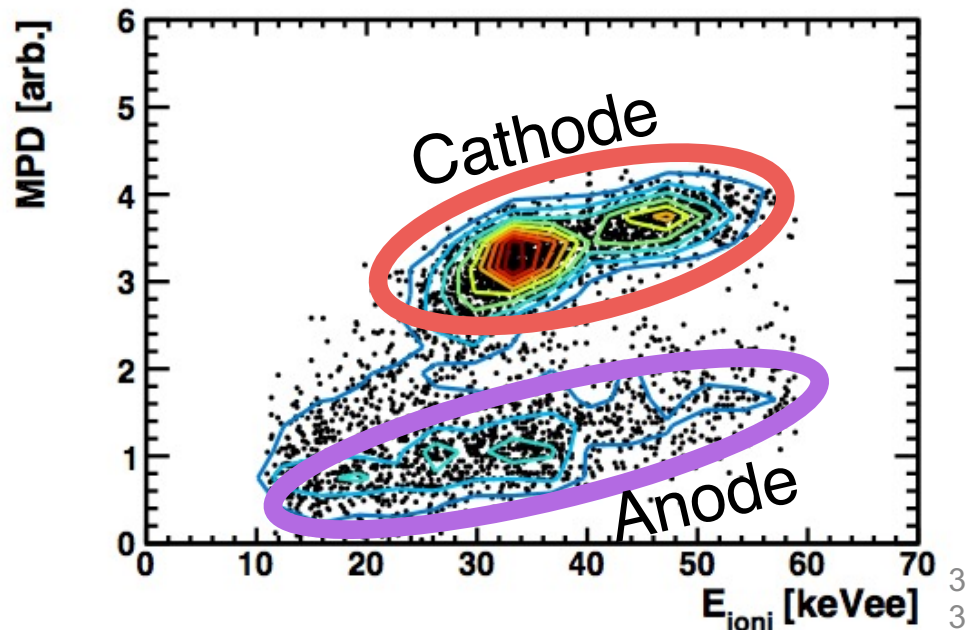
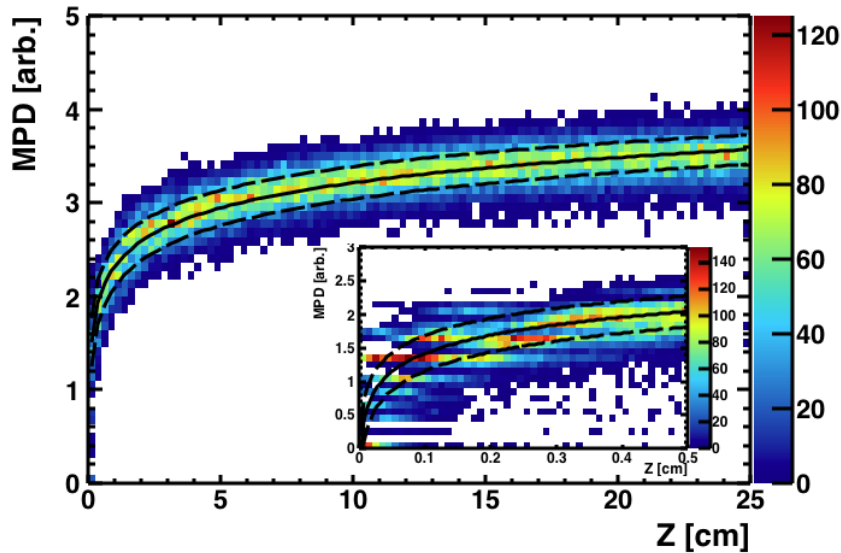
$z_0 \longleftrightarrow$ Diffusion

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

« Grid » event



Mean Projected Diffusion: $\bar{D} = \ln(\overline{\Delta X} \times \overline{\Delta Y})$

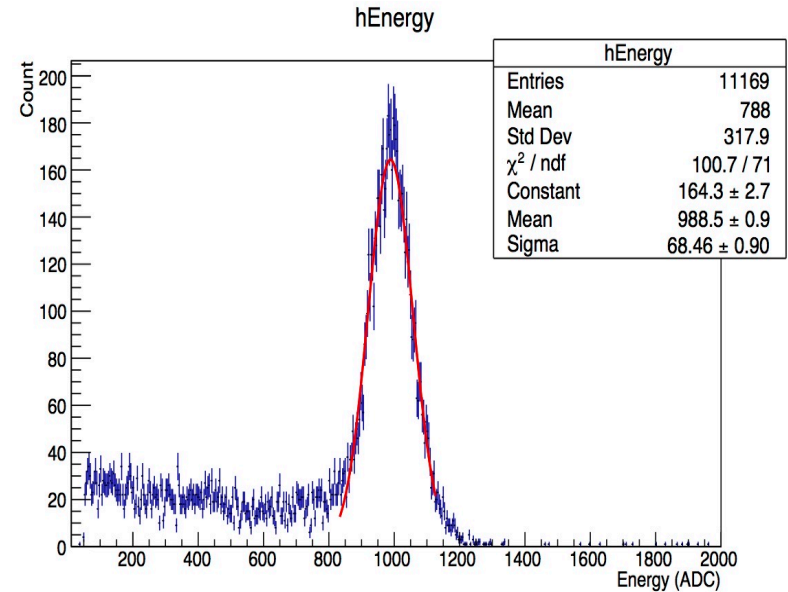
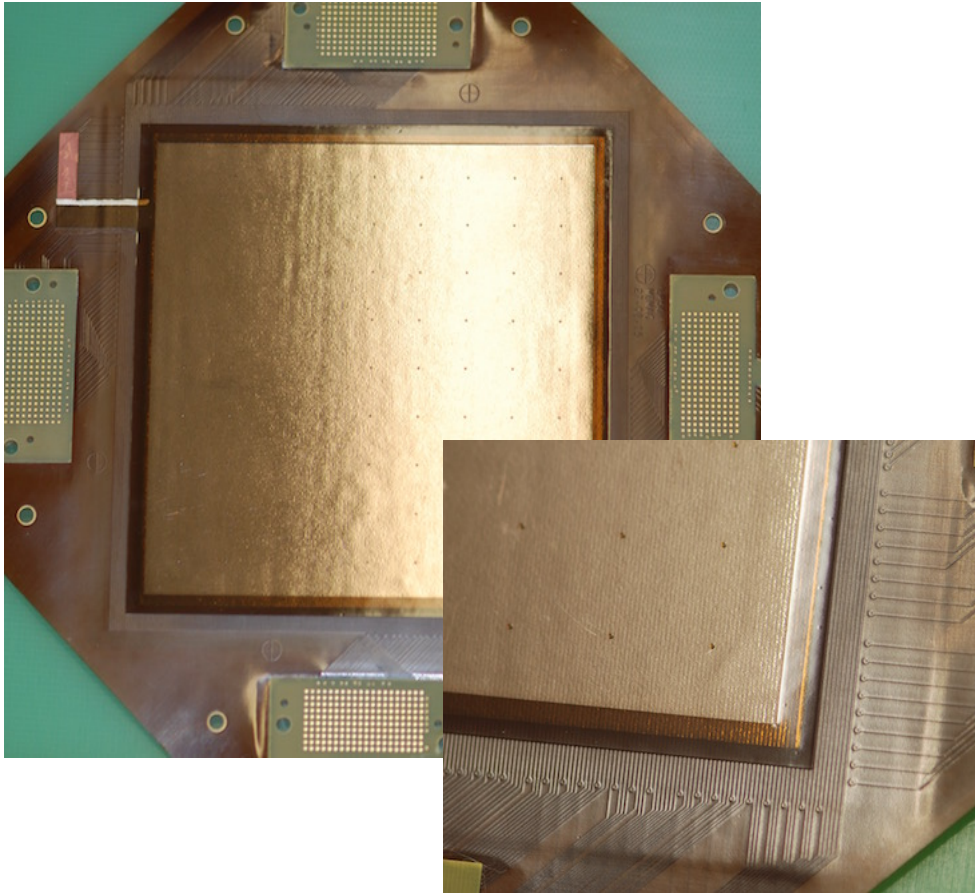


Bi-chamber-512 module
(with the Cathode Signal and
the new low background 10 cm detectors)
installed in february 2023

- working at 30 mbar ($C_4H_{10}+50\% CHF_3$)
- Permanent circulating mode
- Remote controlled and commanded
- A periodic calibration by X-ray generator



New MIMAC low background detector



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

Kapton micromegas readout
Piralux Pilar

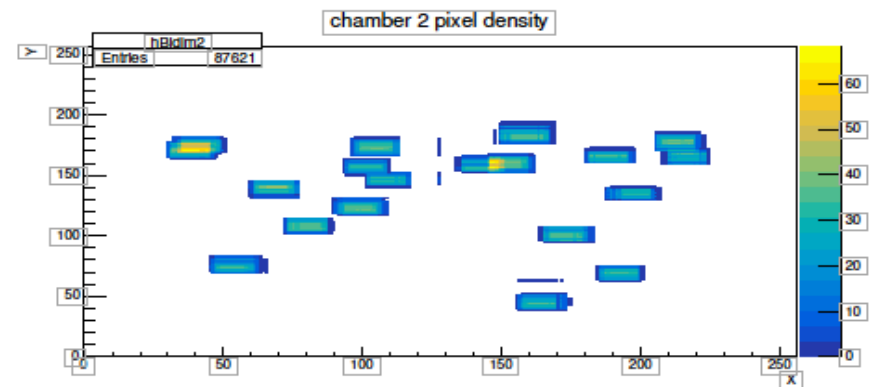
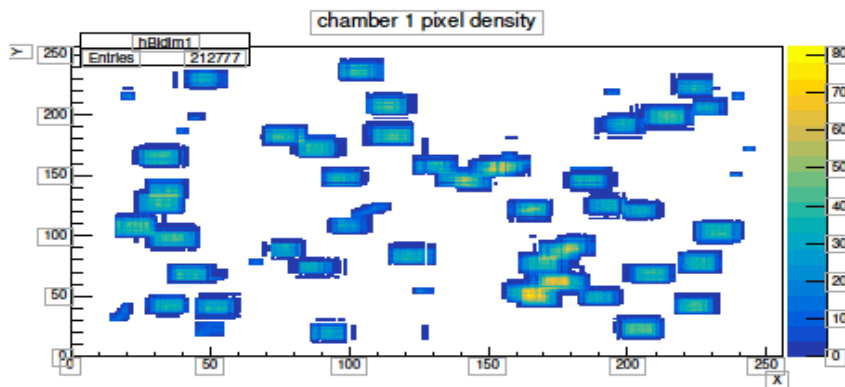
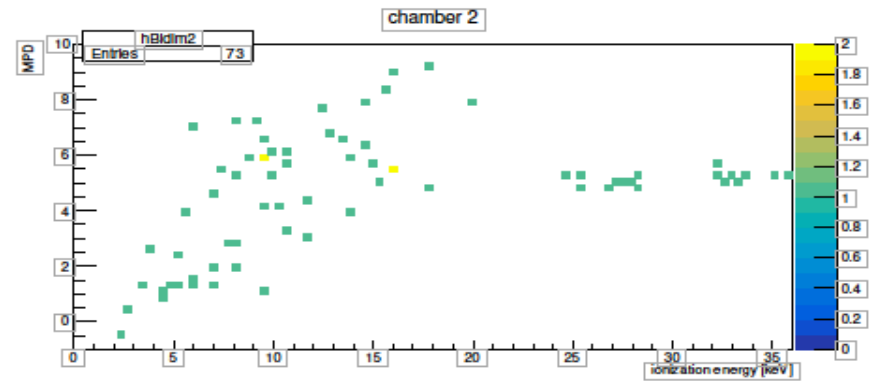
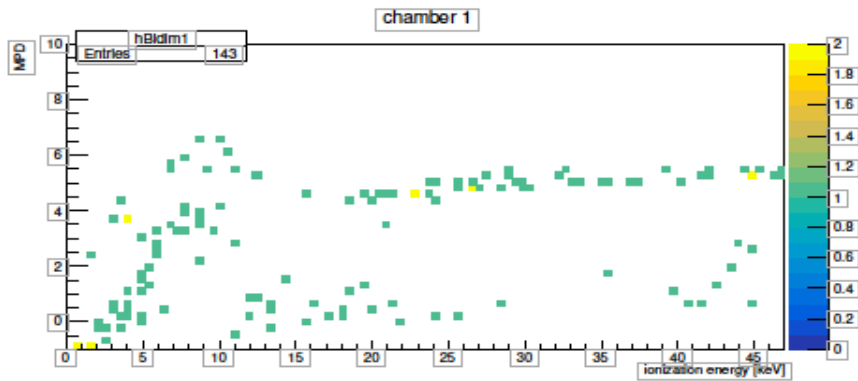
16,3 % FWHM (6 keV)
Gain ~25 000
Energy threshold <1 keV
D. Santos (LPSC Grenoble)

The first physics run of the Bi-chamber in february 2023 at Modane
Chamber 1(old detector)- Chamber 2 (new detector)

127 h analysed at moderate gain (470 V)

Only recoils after the BDT, mainly from the Rn progeny.

Improvement of the new detector showing very few Rn progeny contributions

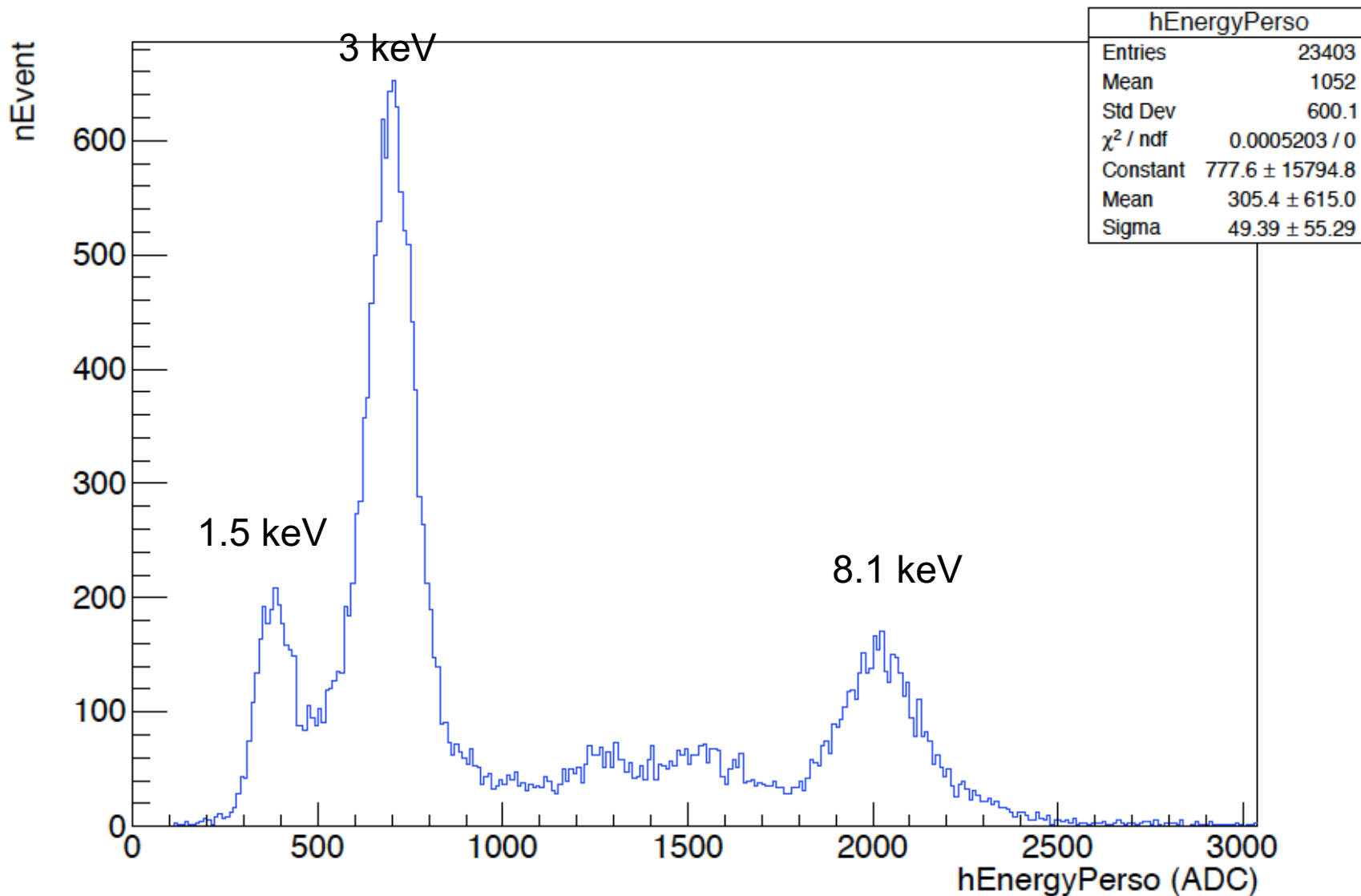


(a) In chamber 1.

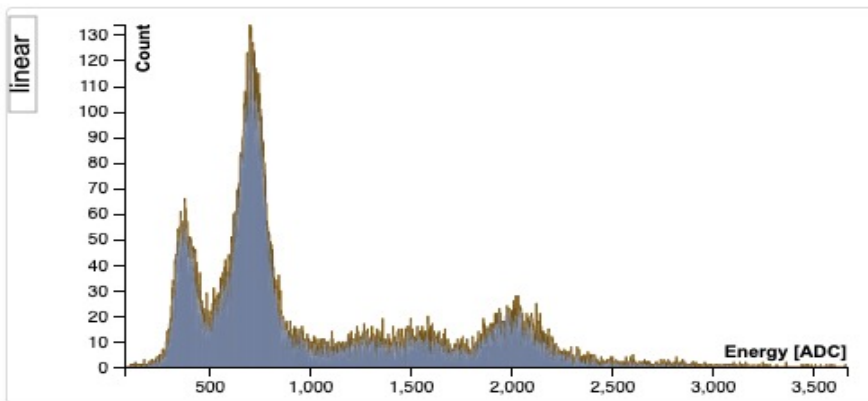
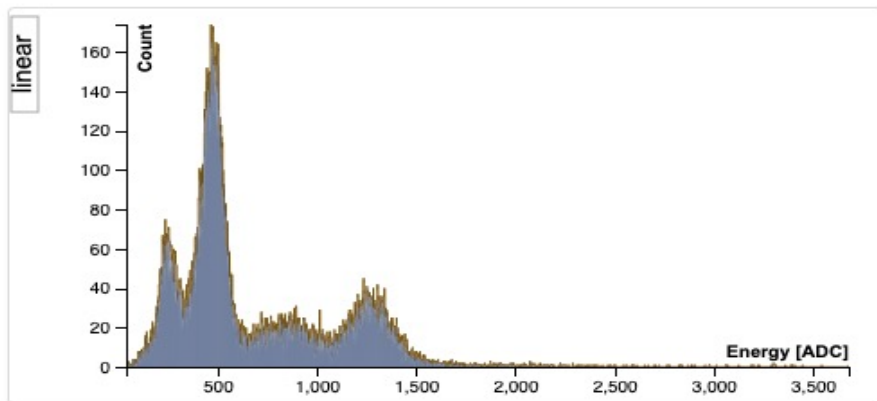
(b) In chamber 2.

Each recoil will be compared with the WIMP « wind » direction at the time of the event

X-ray Calibration of the new detector Bi-chamber Module at 500 V, 3000V drift

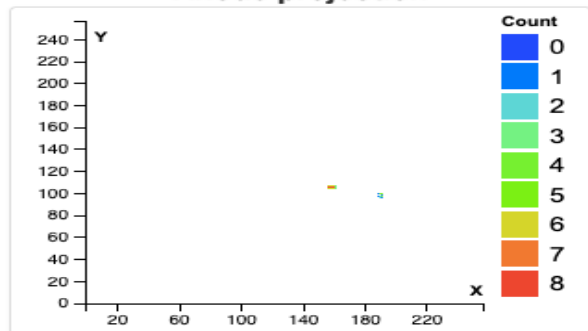


X-ray calibration of both chambers simultaneously

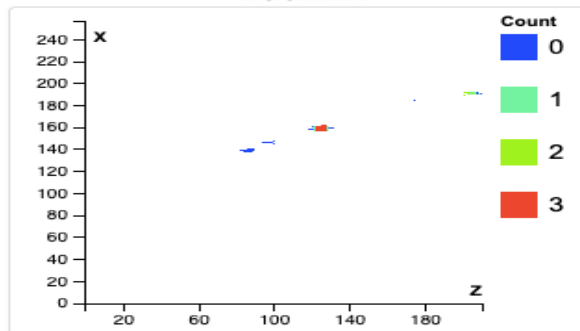


A typical electron event in the chamber 2

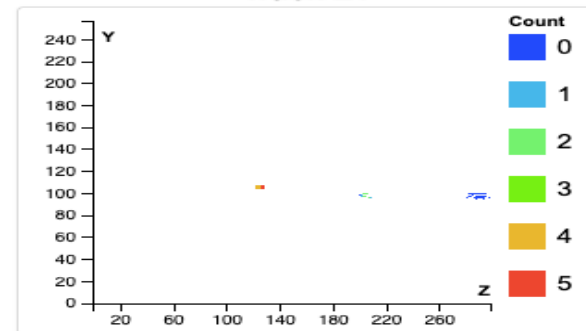
Anode projection



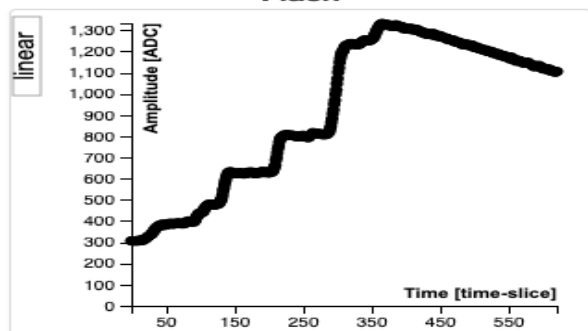
Track ZX



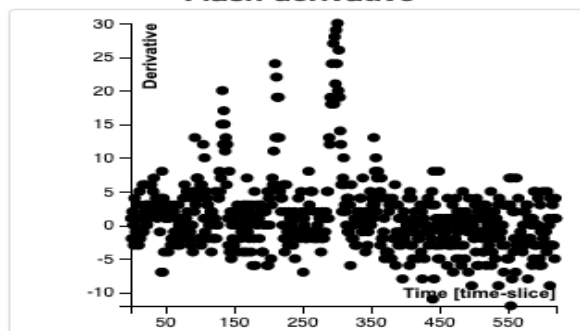
Track ZY



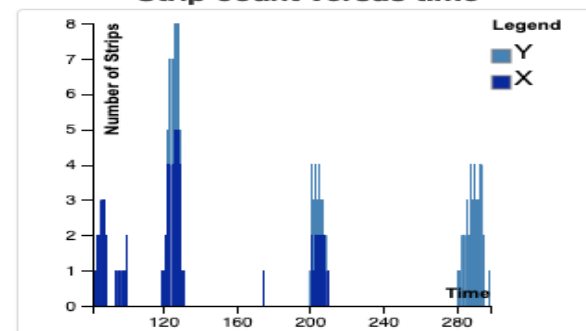
Flash



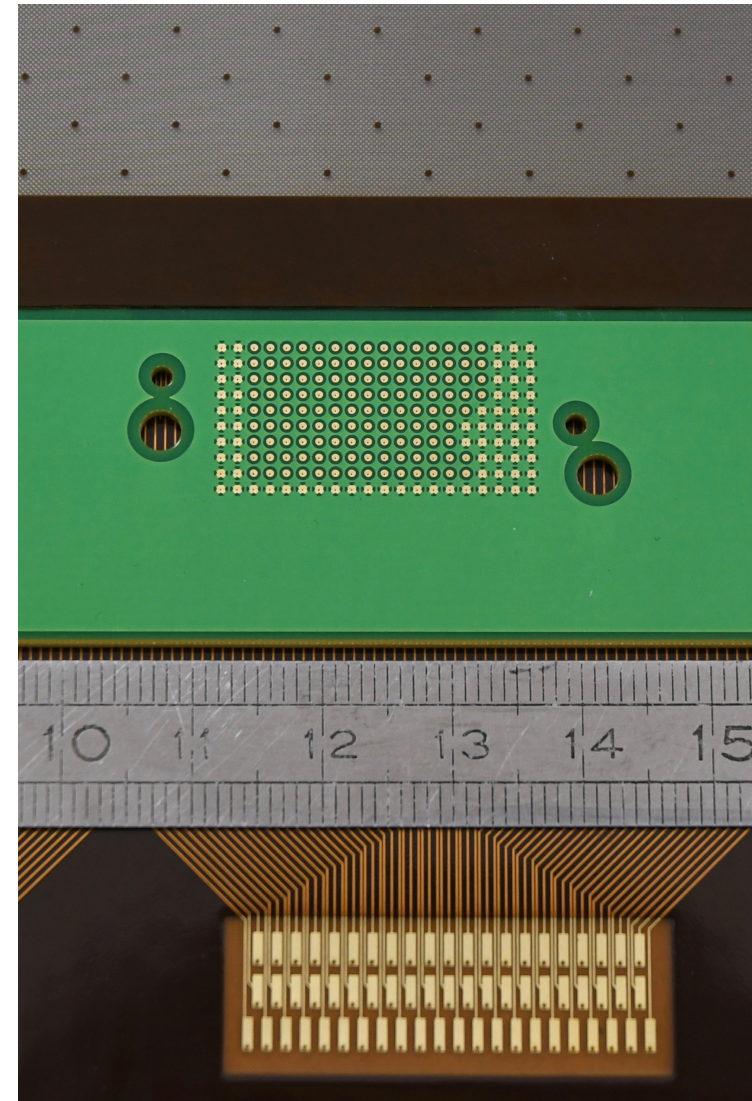
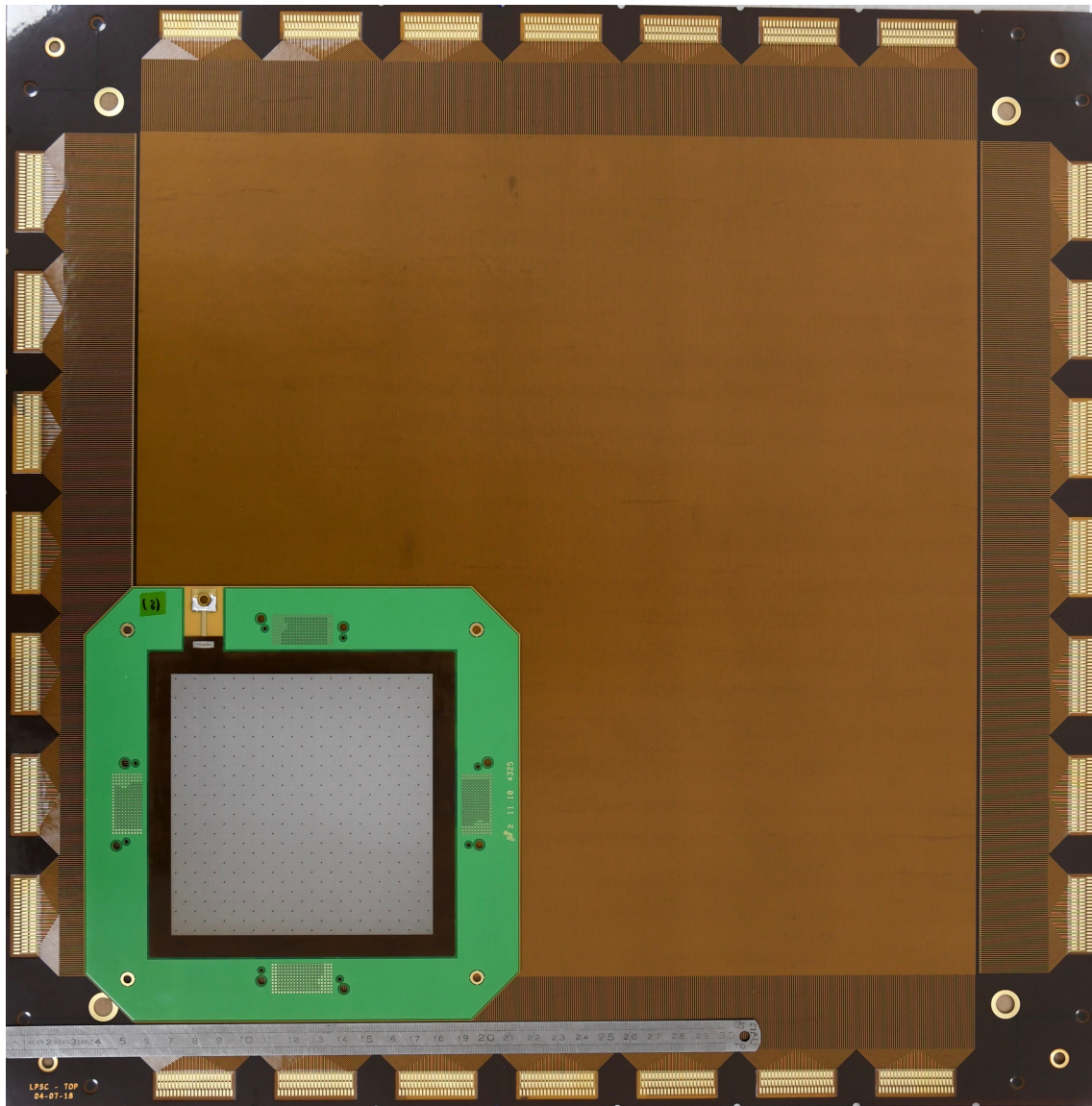
Flash derivative



Strip count versus time



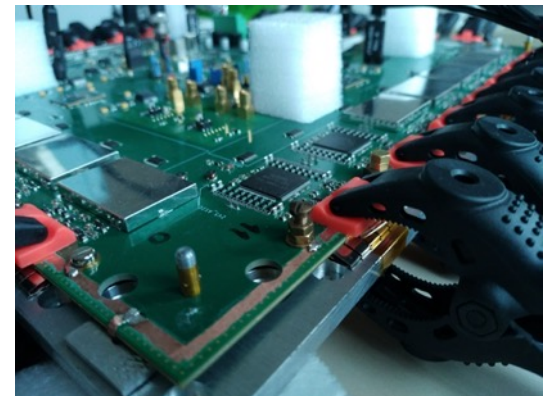
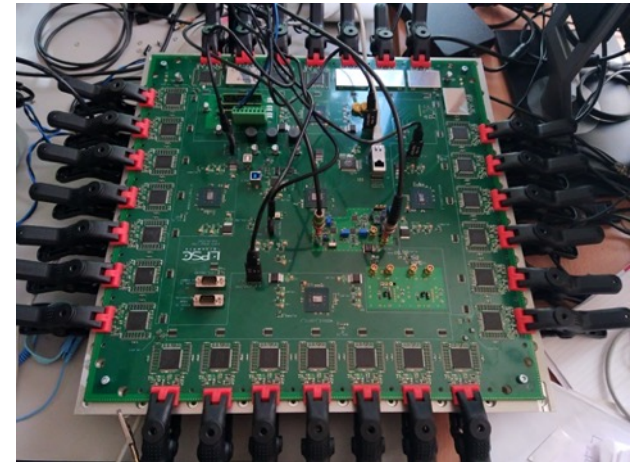
The new 35 cm “new technology” MIMAC detector compared to the old one



TRAVAUX RÉALISÉS

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

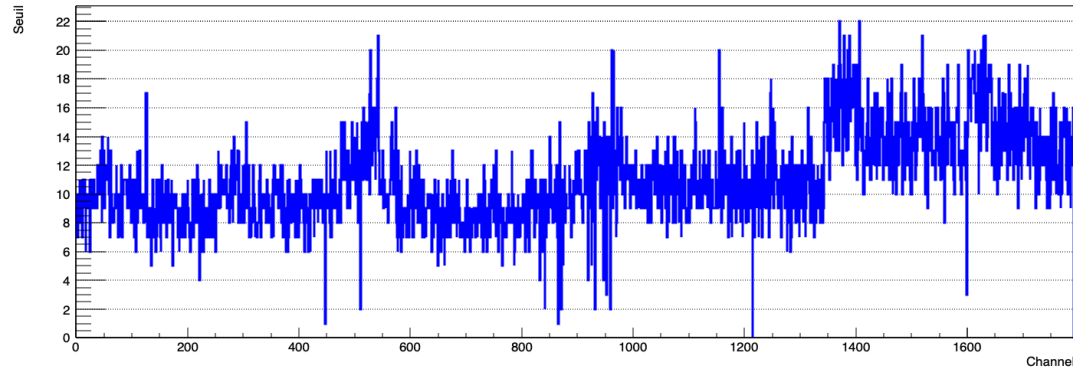
- Synchronisation des ASIC et des FPGA,
- Programmation des FPGA,
- Soft de reconstruction des pistes (nouveau routage carte+détecteur),
- Adaptation soft d'acquisition pour tests, et intégration protocole Ethernet,
- Résolution de problématiques CEM (blindages, conductivité entre les masses,...)
- Caractérisation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



TRAVAUX RÉALISÉS

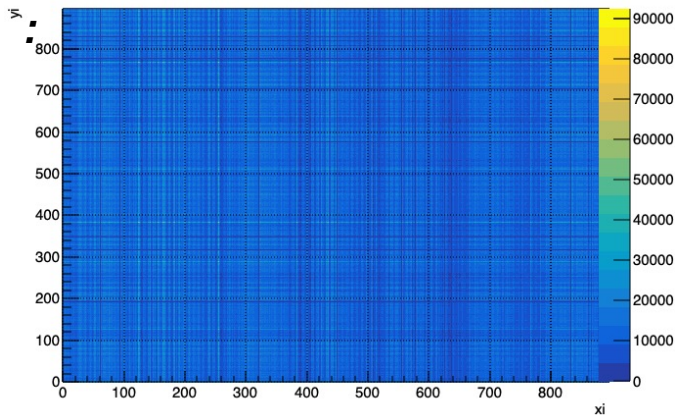
Valeurs des seuils de déclenchement des pistes, issues des mesures de bruit après travail

CEM (autocalibration) :

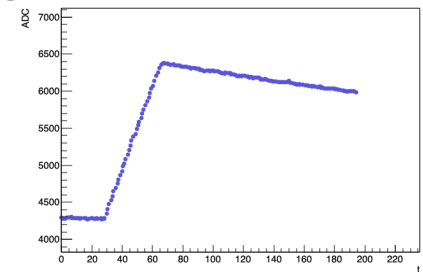
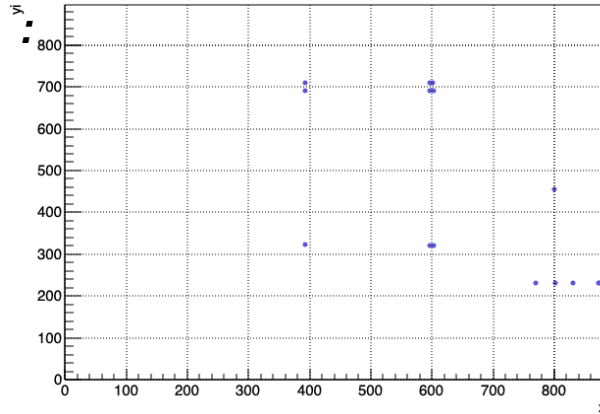


Déclenchement des pistes pendant l'acquisition de 4000 signaux de 600 ns :

Avant autocalibration



Après autocalibration



Signal injecté

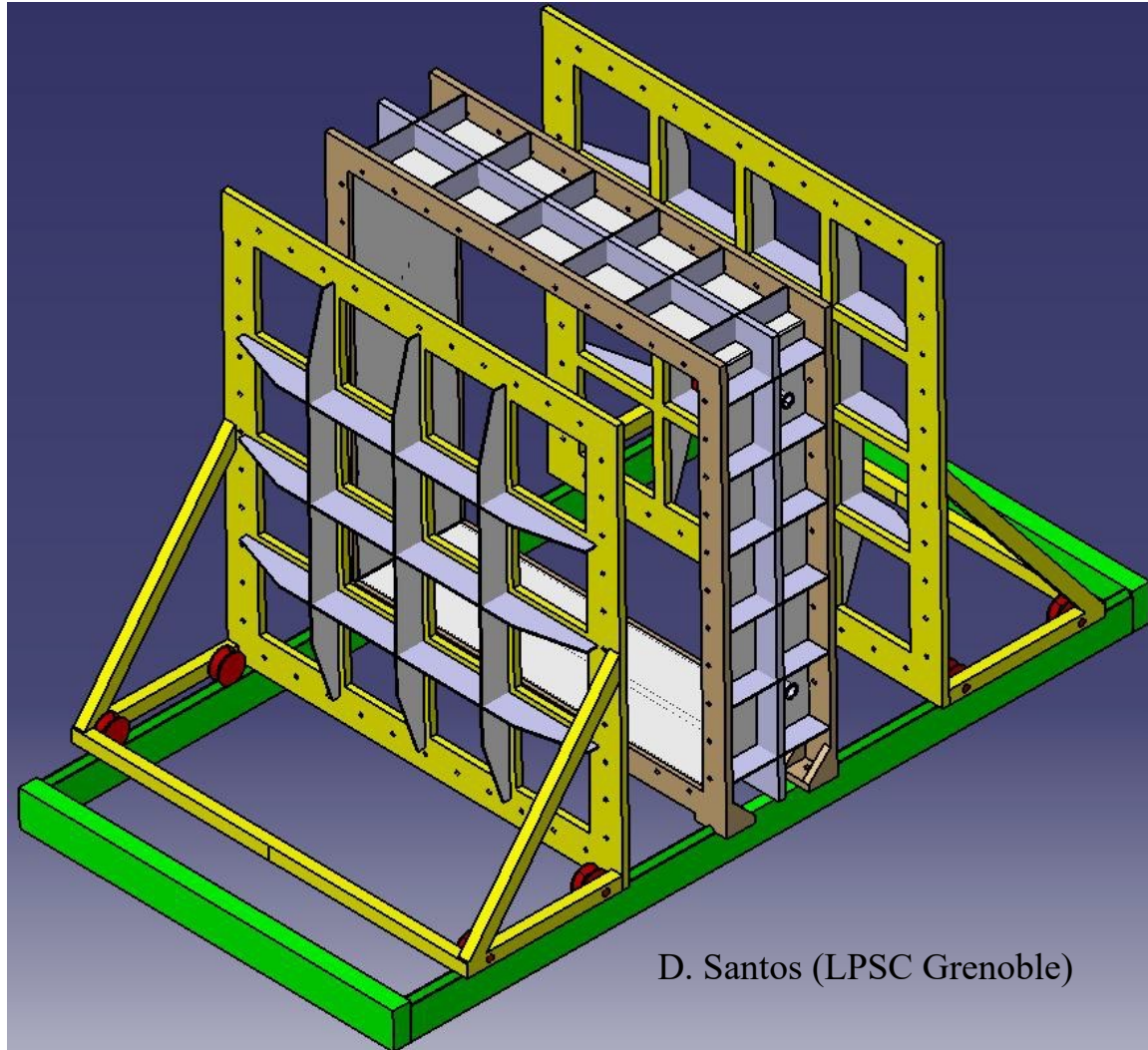
→ Prochaine étape : tests avec de vrais événements

MIMAC – $1\text{m}^3 = 16$ bi-chamber modules (2x 35x35x26 cm^3)

New technology anode
35cmx35cm

New electronic board
(1792 channels)

Only one big chamber



MIMAC (Micro-tpc Matrix of Chambers)

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

- SDI : **O. Guillaudin, N. Sauzet**

- Electronics : **E. Lagorio, O. Bourrion**

G. Bosson (r (2020)), J. Bouvier (r (2020)), J.L. Bouly (r (2023)),

- Data Acquisition: **T. Descombes**

- COMIMAC (quenching) : **J-F. Muraz**

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

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

(spectroscopie neutronique métrologique)

Prototype hosted in **IHEP (Beijing-China): ZhiminWang , Changgen Yang**

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

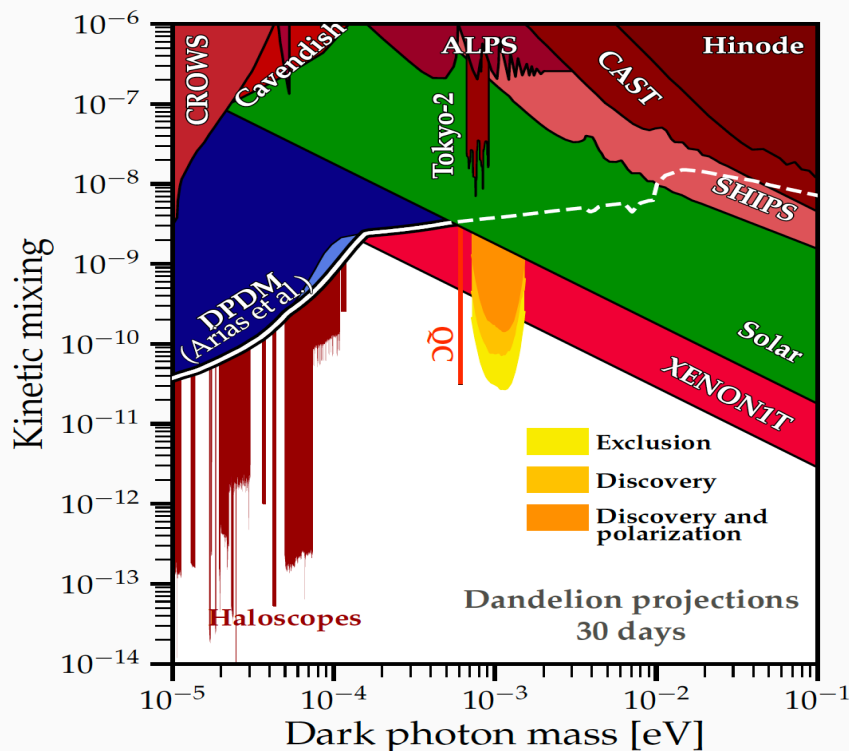
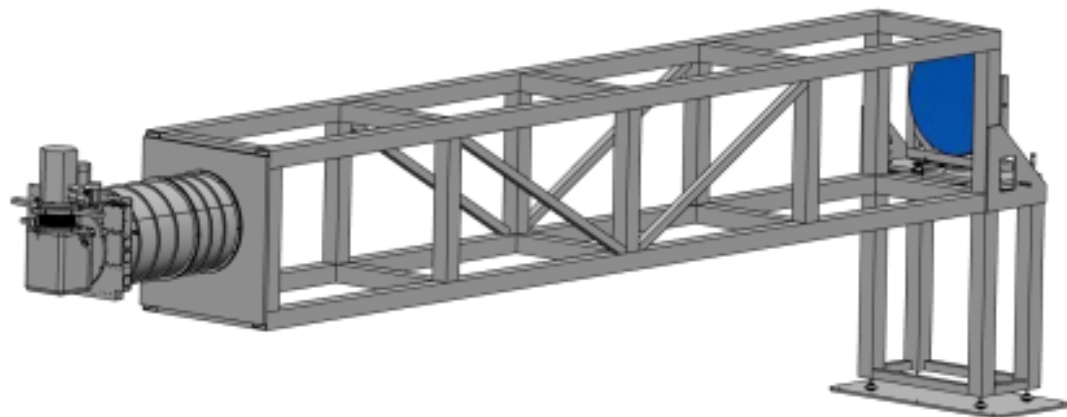
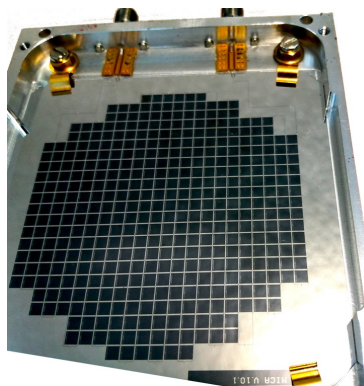
Conclusions

- **MIMAC** has opened new possibilities in the DM search and Neutron spectroscopy.
- At low energies giving a lot of flexibility on targets, pressure, energy range...
- Ionization quenching factor measurements have been determined experimentally showing an important differences with respect to simulations !
- 3D nuclear recoil tracks from Rn progeny have been observed and can be used for calibration at 30 keV nuclear recoil range.
- New degrees of freedom are available to discriminate electrons from nuclear recoils.
- Angular resolution and directional studies of 3D tracks are now possible at the keV range.
- A new generation of high-definition DIRECTIONAL detectors (a needed signature for DM discovery) has been validated.
- Large active volumes, with the new 35x35 cm² detector, with a high 3D spatial resolution will open new windows beyond the neutrino floor and at low mass Wimps
- **If the DM is not made of Wimps... The directional detection will also be needed to convince us that we understand what we've detected...**

DARk photoN DirEctionAL detectIOn(Dandelion) at 1 meV

C. Beaufort, M. Bastero-Gil, A. Catalano, D-S. Erfani-Harami,
O. Guillaudin, D. Santos, S. Savorgnano, and F. Vezzu

418 pixels
Kid-Matrix



EXCLUSION:

A 30-day measurement would improve by **more than one order of magnitude** the existing limits

DISCOVERY:

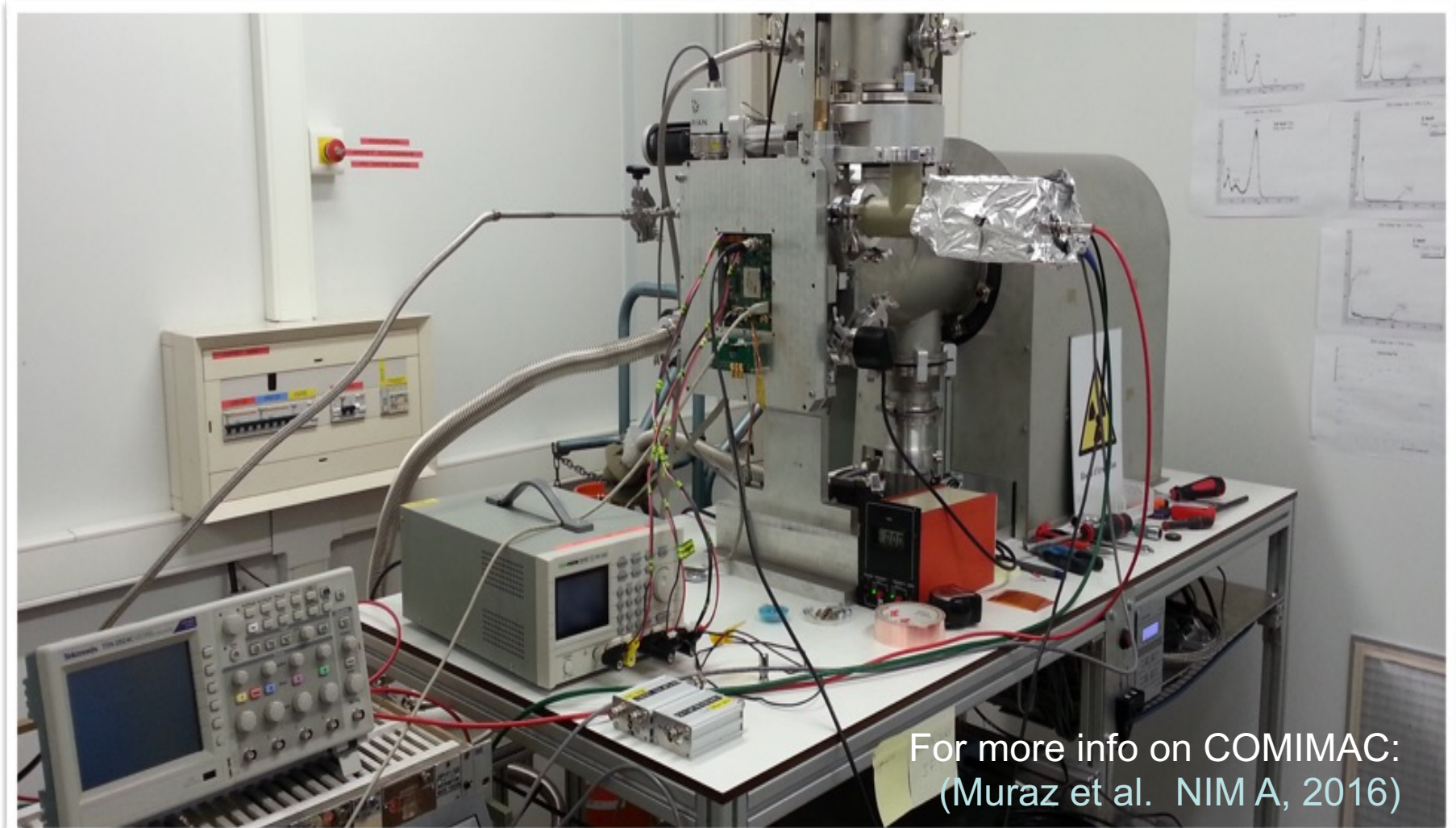
The directional detection leads to an **unprecedented discovery potential**

DISCOVERY AND POLARIZATION:

The detection of a DP could allow the **identification of its polarization**

Preprint sent today to arXiv

First controlled Nuclear 3D tracks, using COMIMAC



For more info on COMIMAC:
(Muraz et al. NIM A, 2016)

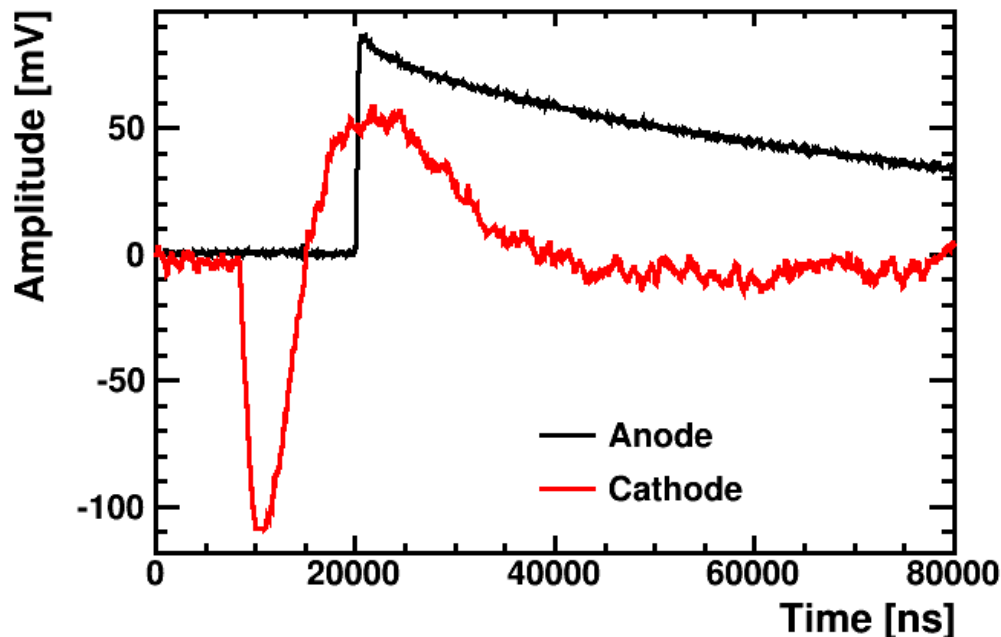
Directional experiments around the world



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.

MIMAC-Cathode Signal measurements giving the **drift velocity** of primary electrons !!

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

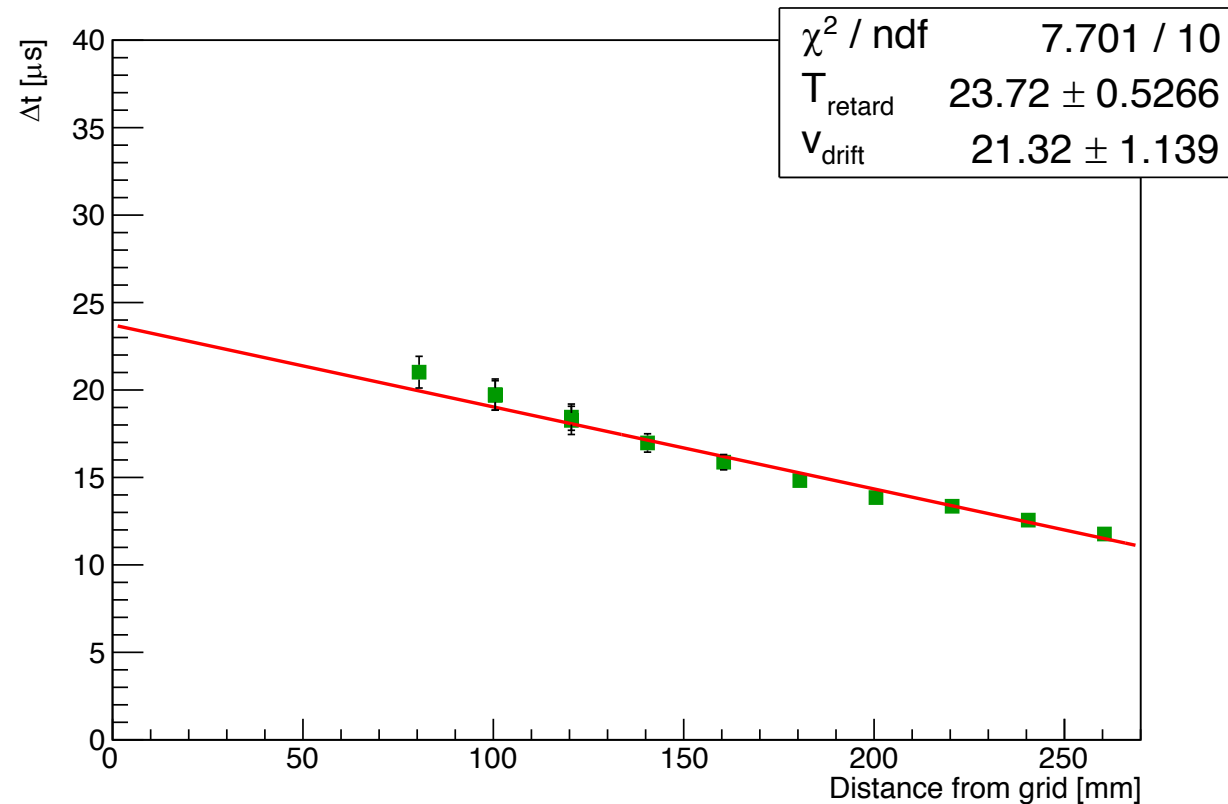
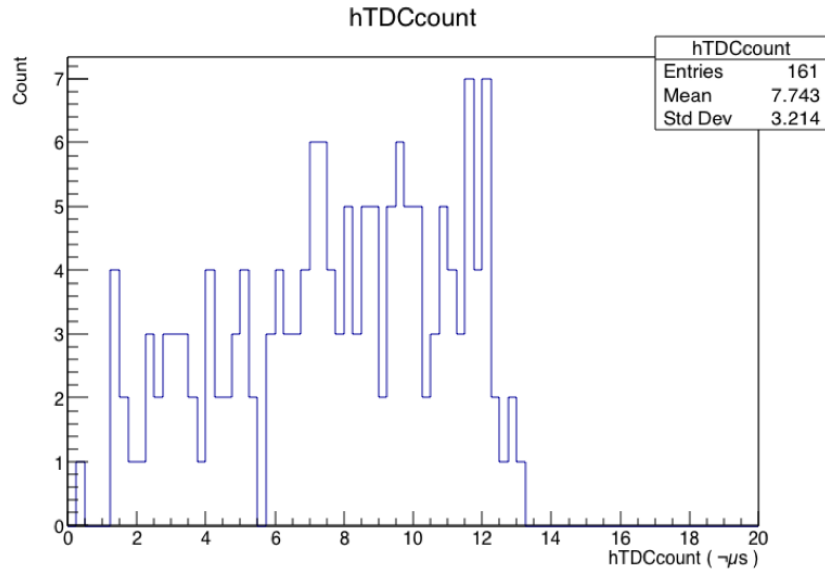


Figure 4. Measure of the time differences (TAC) between the grid signal and the delayed cathode signal in the “START Grid” configuration, as a function of the distance of the α source from the anode (green points) ; error bars correspond to the standard deviation of the mean. A linear fit of these points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

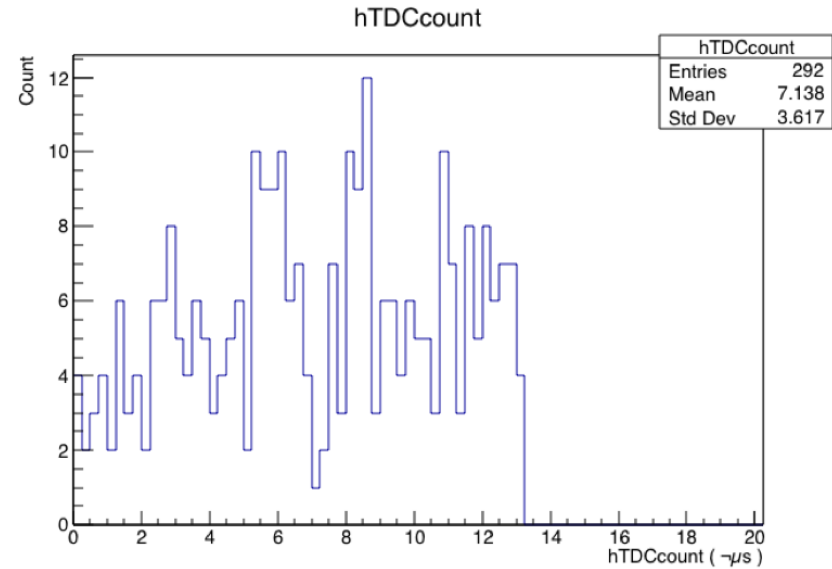
First Cathode Signals from the MIMAC bichamber background

(O. Guillaudin, D.S. et al.)

Chamber 1

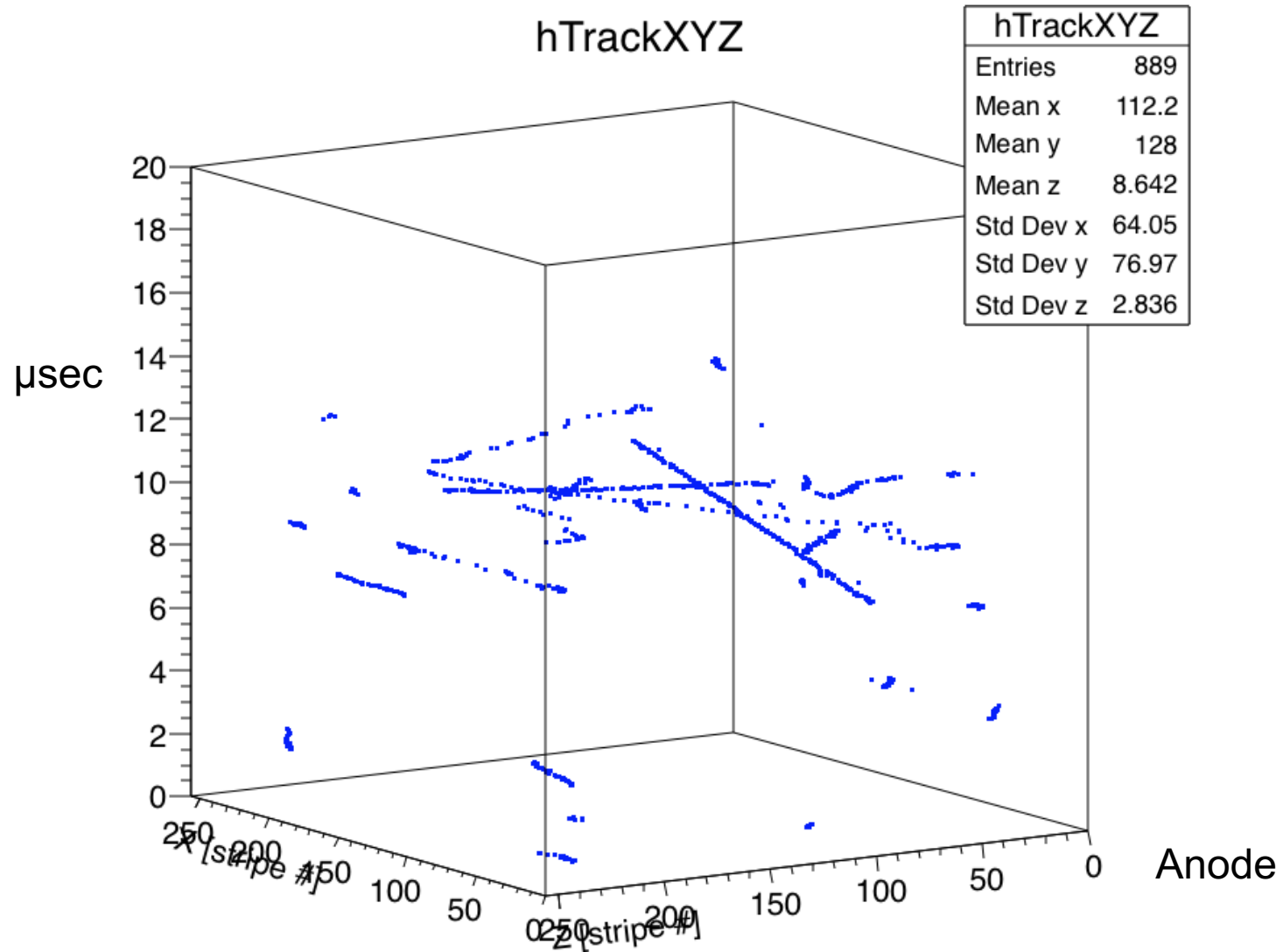


Chamber 2



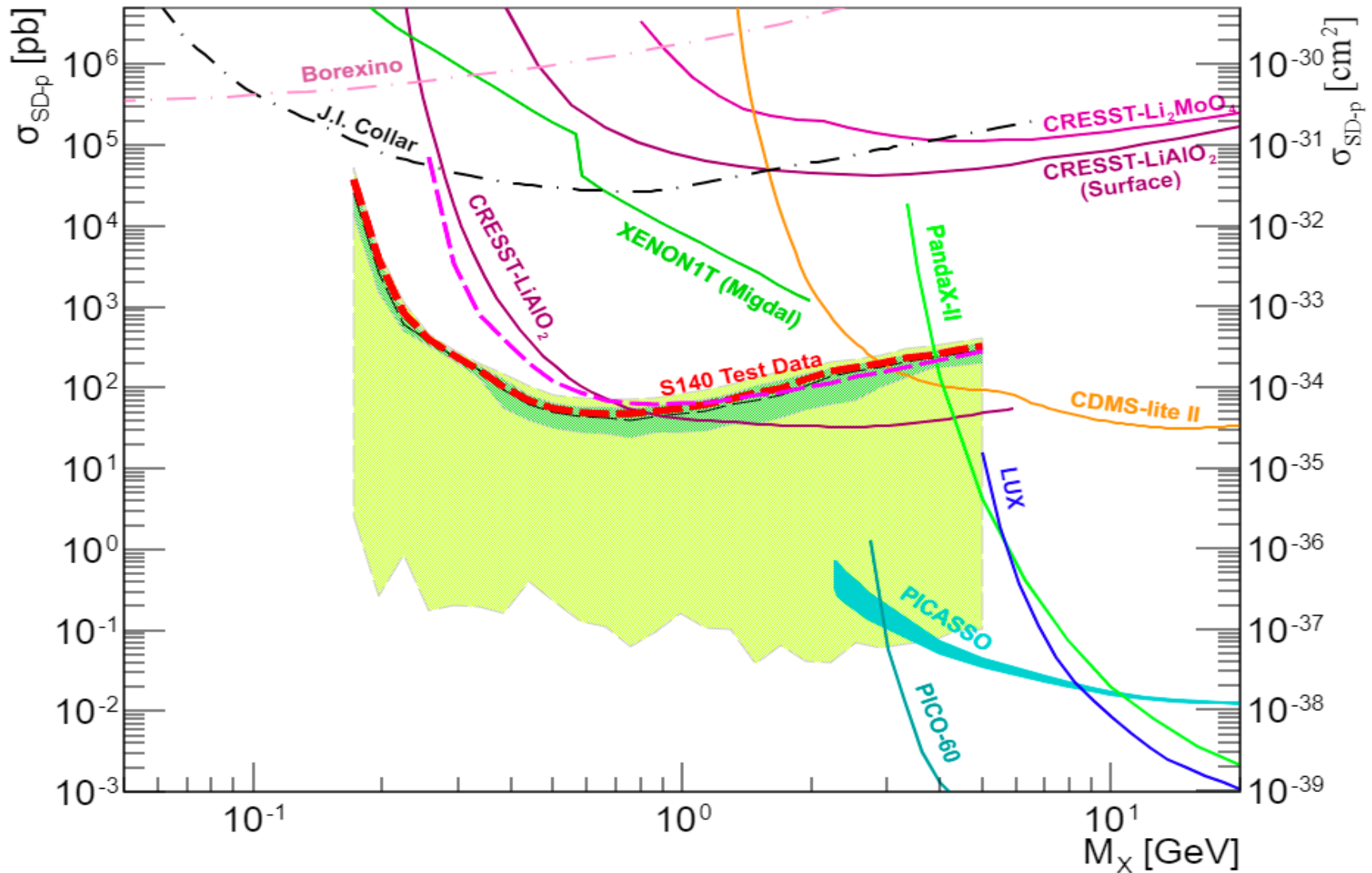
Measuring the time between the “event production” and the avalanche signal !!
Covering the 26 cm drift distance (13 us x 20 um/ns) !!

3D event-localization in MIMAC

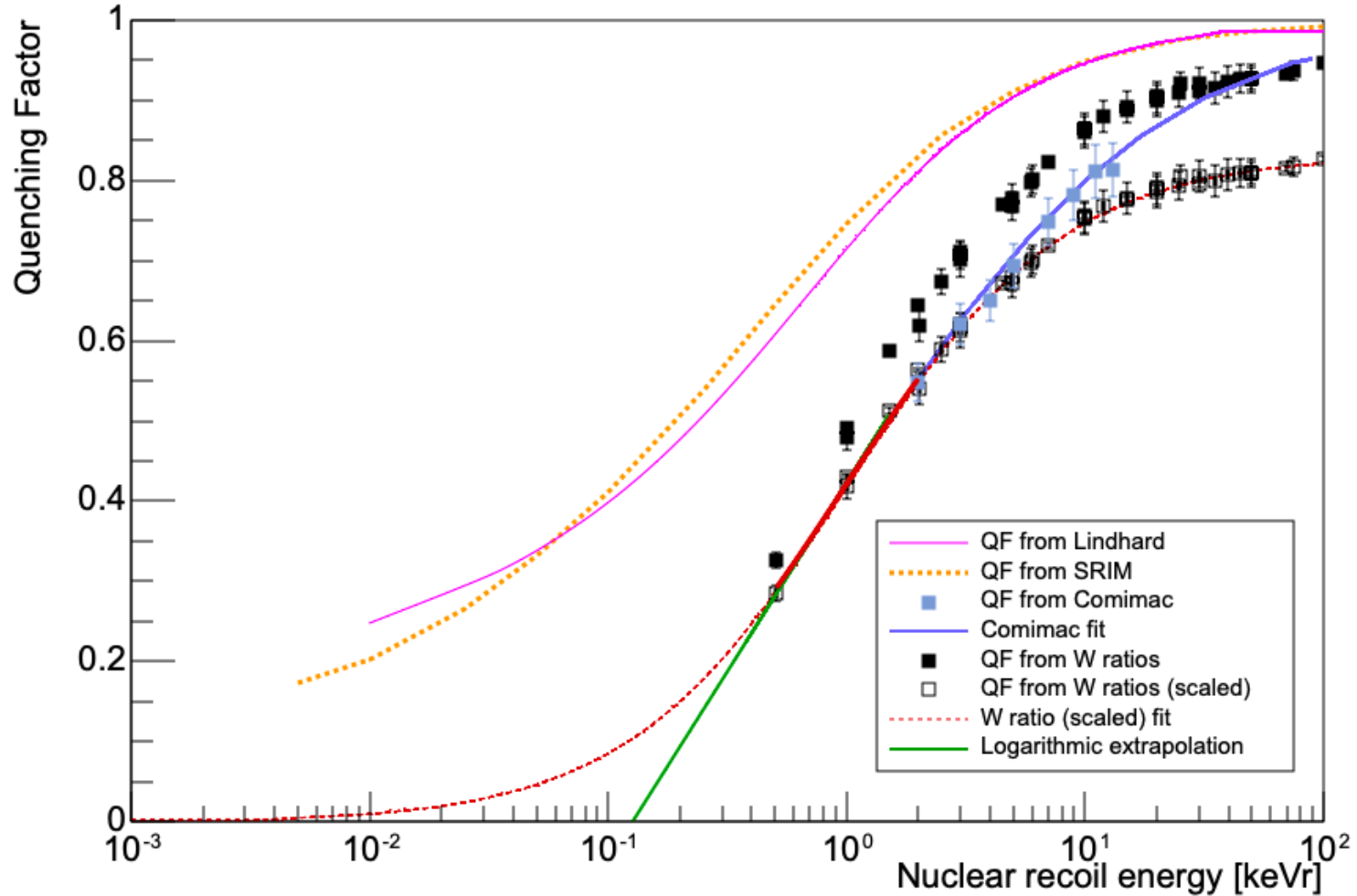


NEWS-G (LSM results) (A spherical Gas detector)

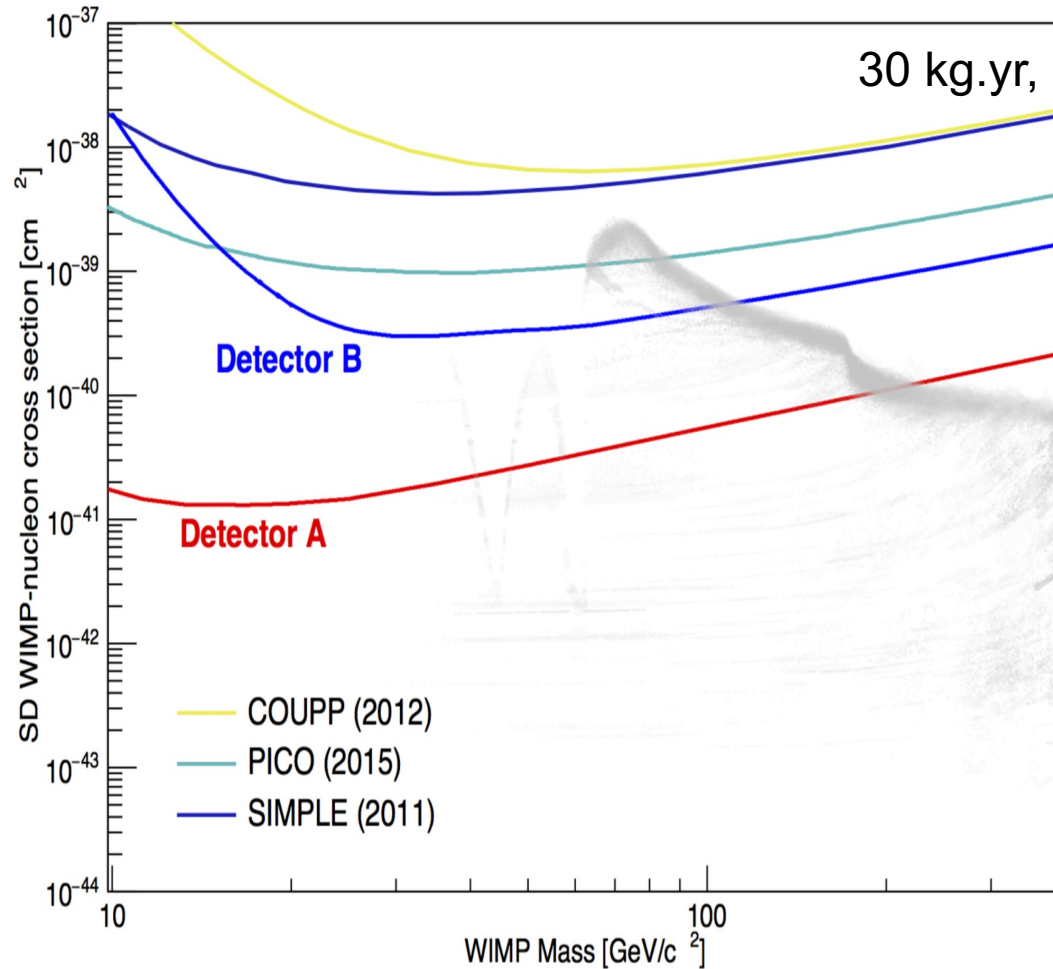
WIMP exclusion limit (S140@LSM, 135mbar CH4)



Quenching Factor of H in CH₄



MIMAC-Exclusion limits

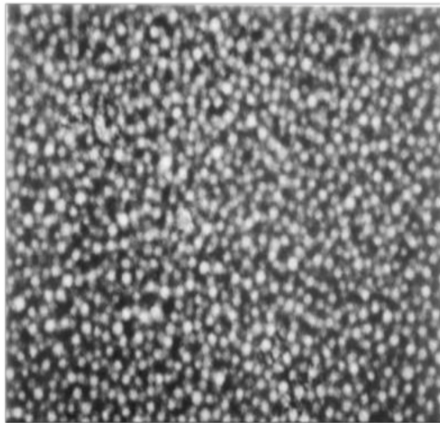


A: 5 keV (threshold)
no background
3D track with head-tail
angular resolution 20°

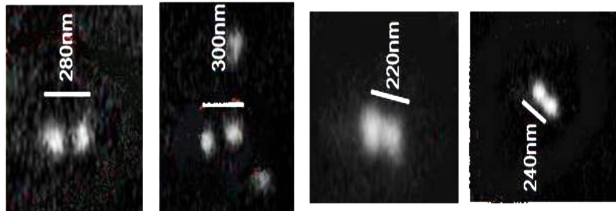
B: 20 keV
background= 10evt/kg yr
angular resolution 50°
3D with no head-tail

Directional detection: comparison of strategies

- Emulsion layers
target = C (low masses), Ar, Br, Kr (high masses)



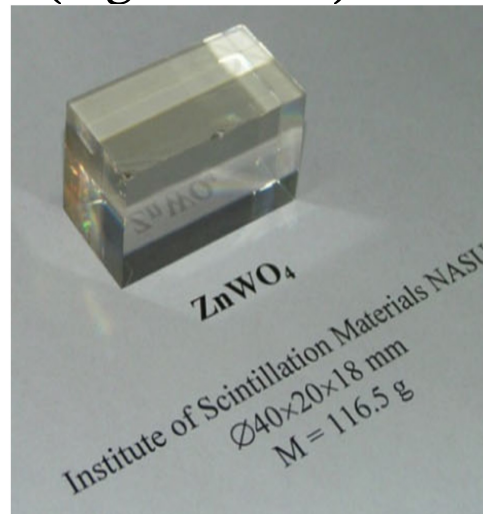
size 40 ± 9 nm



D'Ambrosio et al. 2014

CS-IN2P3- October 23rd 2023

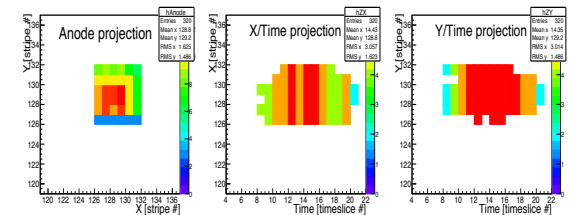
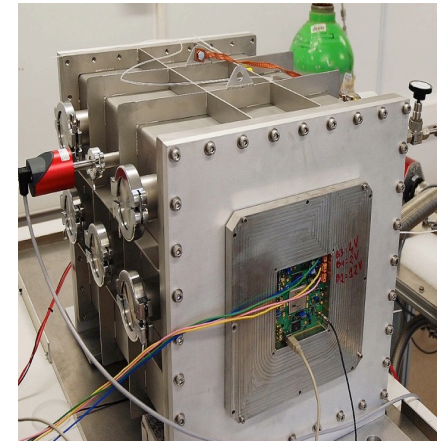
- Anisotropic crystals
target = O (low masses), Zn, W (high masses)



No tracks ; only statistical distributions (!)

Capella et al. 2013

- Low pressure TPCs
target = F

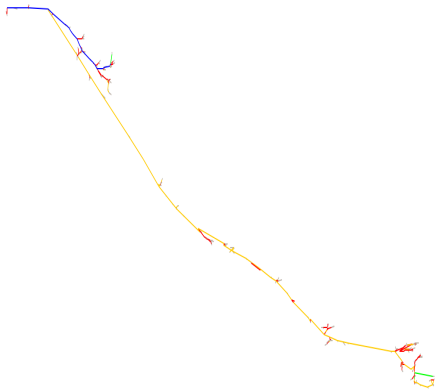


D. Santos (LPSC Grenoble)

Directional detection: comparison of strategies

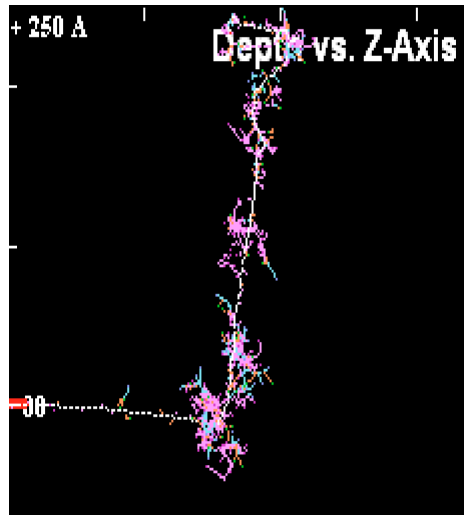
- Emulsion

1



~100 nm

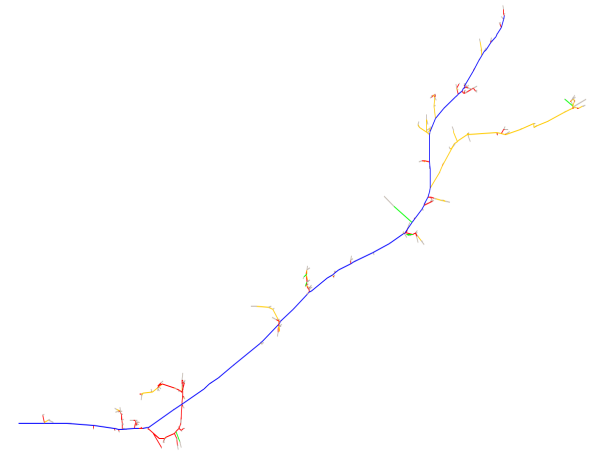
- Anisotropic crystals



~10 nm

(SRIM simulations)

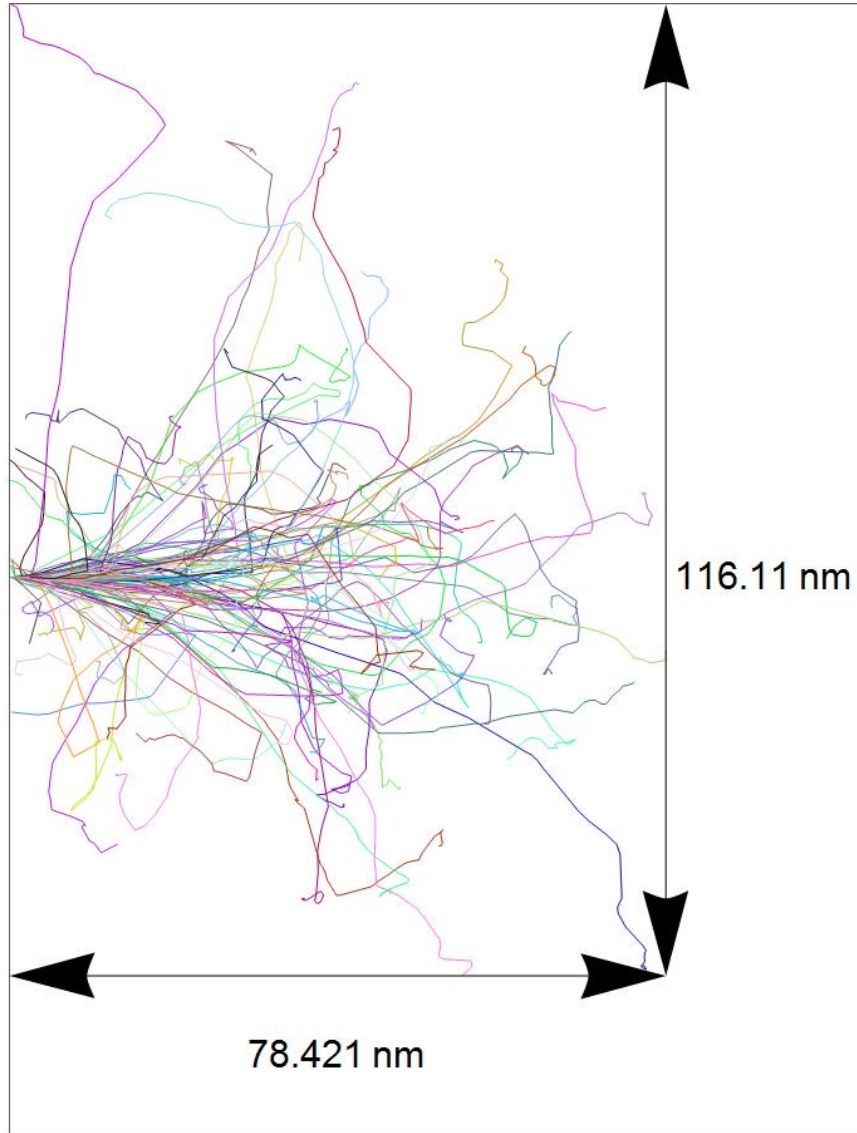
- Low pressure TPCs



~1 mm

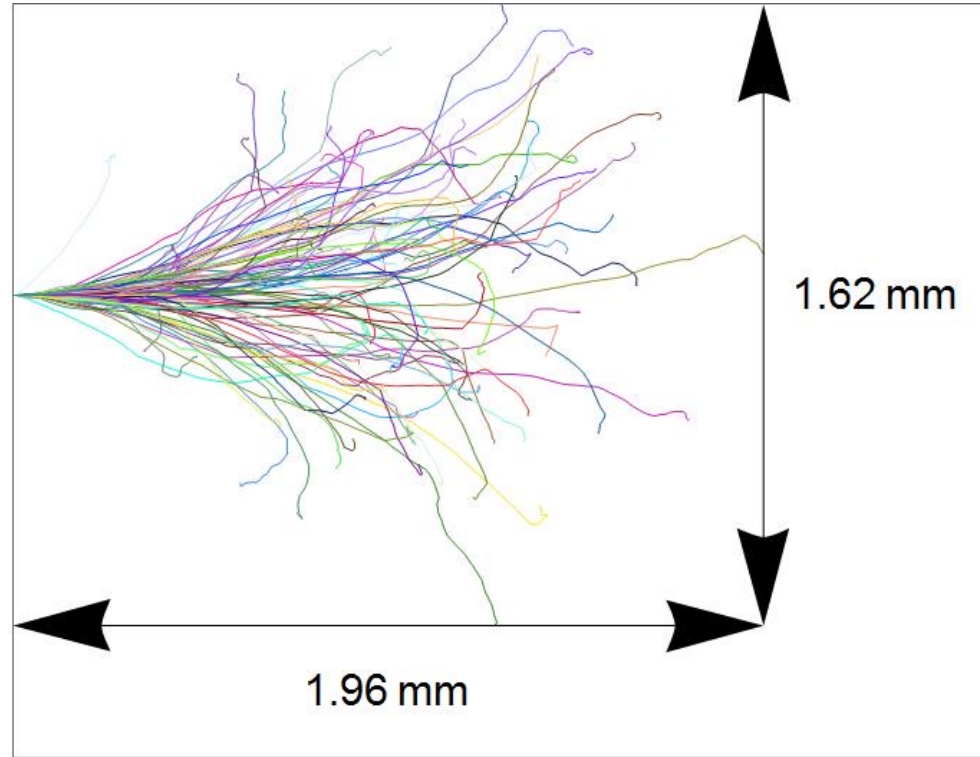
(10^5 times longer !!)

SRIM simulations...



O in Crystal (29keV)

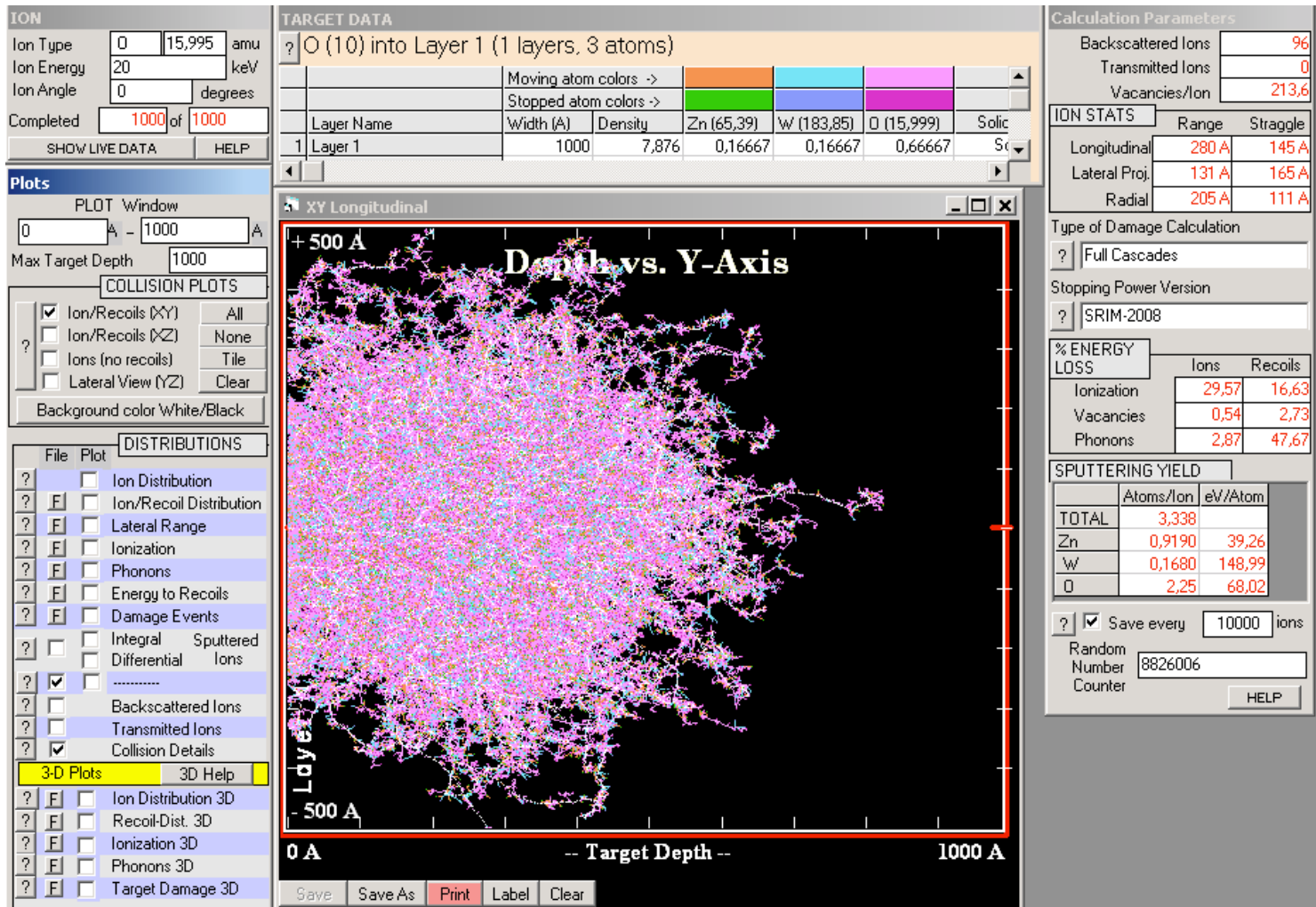
CS-IN2P3- October 23rd 2023



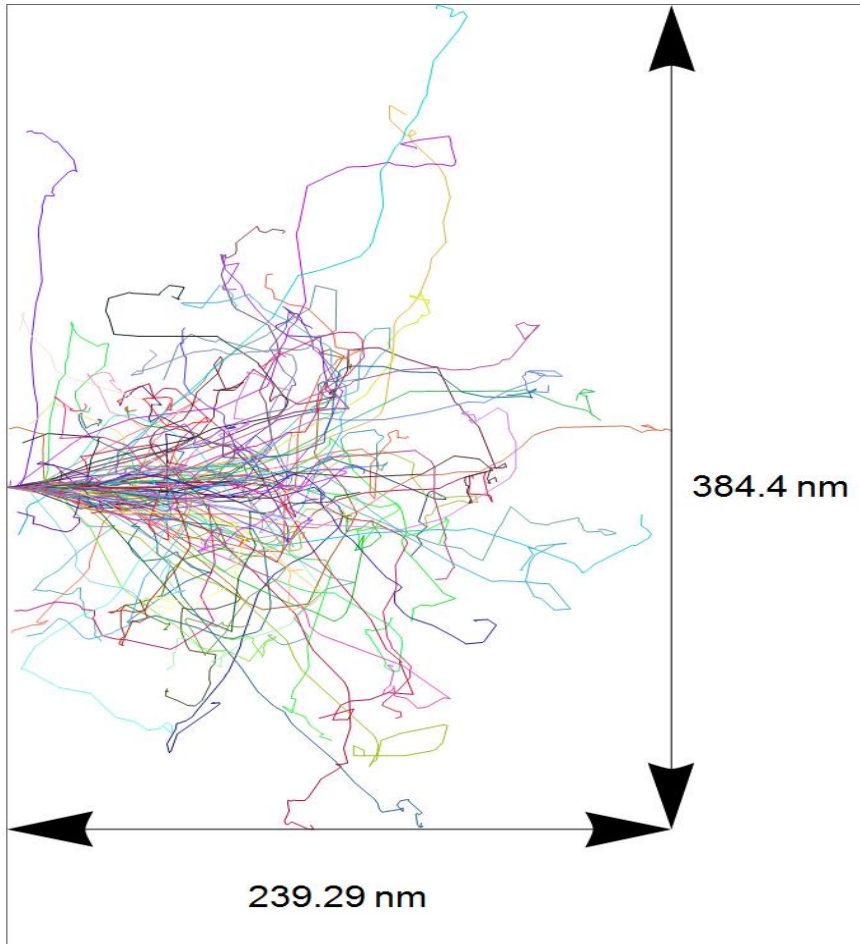
F in MIMAC (34keV)

D. Santos (LPSC Grenoble)

SRIM simulation of O (20 keV) in ZnO₄W showing the secondary recoils

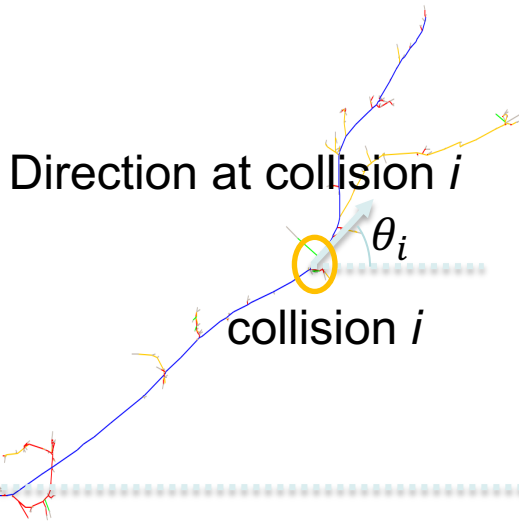


C (22 keV) in emulsion (SRIM simulation)



**In emulsions and solids
the transverse
development is in
general greater than
the longitudinal !!**

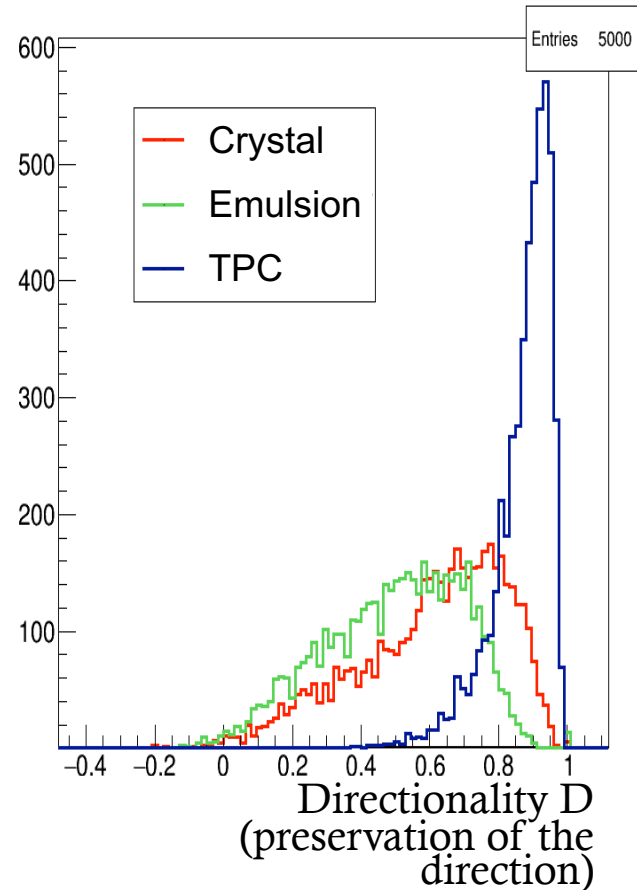
Directional detection: Directionality 'D'



Initial
direction of
the recoil

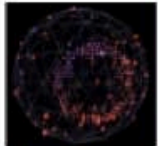
$$D = \frac{\langle \cos(\theta) \cdot E \rangle_{\text{track}}}{\langle E \rangle_{\text{track}}} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{N_{\text{collisions}}} \cos(\theta_i) \cdot E_i}{\sum_{i=0}^{N_{\text{collisions}}} E_i} = \frac{\sum_i \cos(\theta_i) \cdot E_i}{N_{\text{collisions}} \cdot \langle E \rangle_{\text{track}}}$$

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

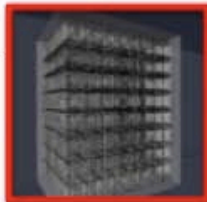


How big is a 1 tonne directional detector?

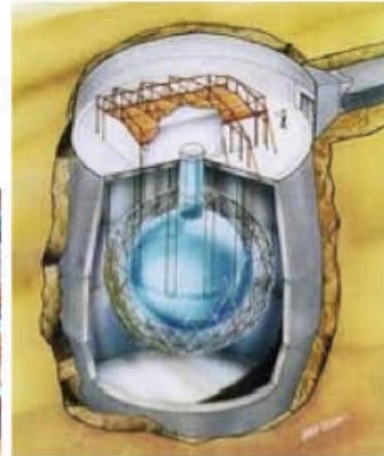
14 m x 14 m x 14 m
directional dark matter
detector



Mini-
BooNE



MINOS



SNO



Super-Kamiokande

TPC directional detectors

	DRIFT	MIMAC	NEWAGE	DMTPC
	Boulby	Modane	Kamioka	SNOLAB
Gas mix	73%CS ₂ +25%CF ₄ +2%O ₂	70%CF ₄ +28%CHF ₃ +2%C ₄ H ₁₀	CF ₄	CF ₄
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

Adapted from Mayet et al. [arXiv:1602.03781]