

# Solid-state detectors

*Jennifer Ott*

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Vancouver, June 3, 2025

# Introduction

**Jennifer Ott**

B.Sc., University of Helsinki, chemistry (2014)

M.Sc. University of Helsinki, radiochemistry (2015)

D. Sc. (Tech.) Helsinki Institute of Physics & Aalto University  
(spring 2021)

Postdoctoral researcher, UC Santa Cruz (2021-2024)

*Assistant professor in Electrical & Computer Engineering,  
cooperating graduate faculty in Physics & Astronomy,  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (2025 - )*



# Outline

## Operation principles of silicon sensors

- Semiconductors
- p-n junction, diode characterization
- Signal induction
- Radiation damage

## Physics applications and sensor technology

- Tracking and vertexing: segmented sensors
- Timing: LGADs
- Particle ID and 4D Tracking (at the Electron-Ion Collider and the PIONEER experiment)

## Silicon detectors at future colliders

### *Other semiconductor materials and use cases*

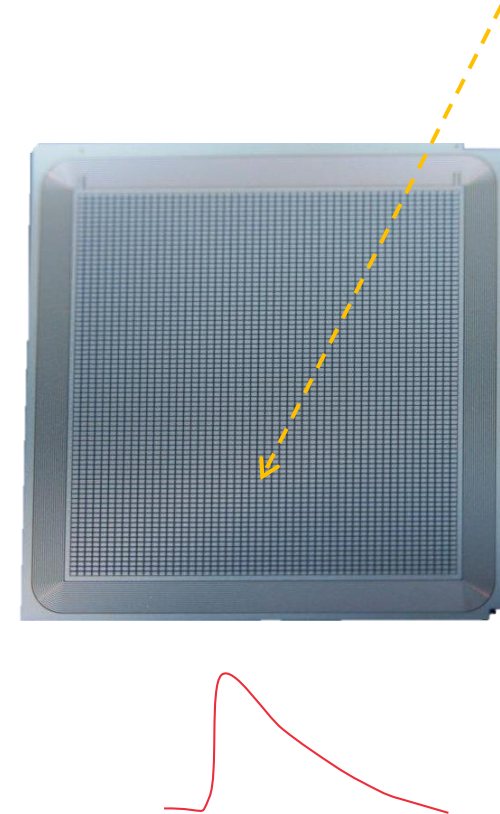
- *Ge, SiC, CdTe*

*Somewhat focused on collider detectors – many or most points shown here can also be applied to smaller experiments 😊*

# “Solid-state detectors”?

*Direct interaction with and detection of primary particle or photon as electric charge in a solid material*

- ~~Scintillators + photodetectors~~
  - ~~Gas detectors~~
  - ~~Polymers (bubble chambers etc)~~
  - ~~Metals~~
  - ~~Superconducting sensors or transition edge sensors~~
- **Semiconducting material: most commonly, but not exclusively, silicon**





# Semiconductor sensors

# Semiconductors

Elemental semiconductors: prevalent in group IV with exactly 4 valence electrons

- C (diamond), Si, Ge

## Component semiconductors

- III-V, II-VI
- GaAs, GaN, CdTe, ...

- *Why Si?*

## PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENTS

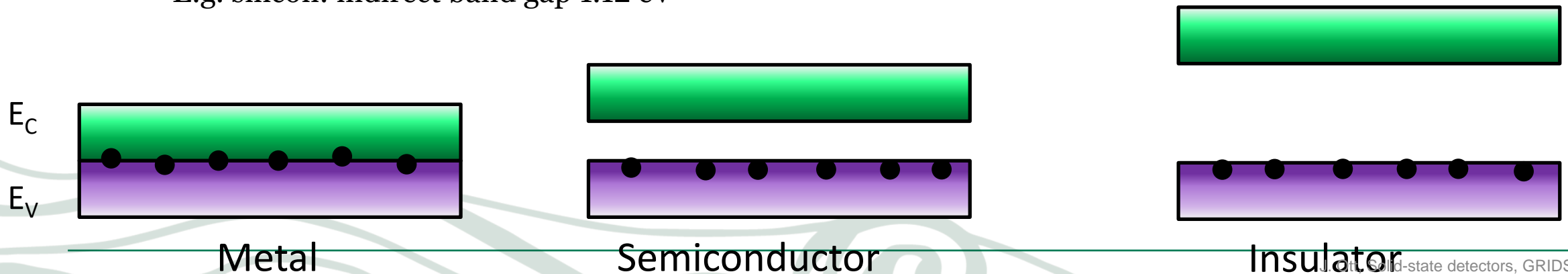
Chemical Group Block

The image shows a standard periodic table of elements. A callout box is positioned over the element Chlorine (Cl), which is located in group 17, period 3. The callout box contains the following information: Atomic Number (17), Atomic Mass (35.45), Name (Chlorine), Symbol (Cl), and Chemical Group Block (Halogens). The periodic table itself is color-coded by groups: Group 1 (Alkali Metals) is pink, Group 2 (Alkaline Earth Metals) is purple, Groups 3-10 (Transition Metals) are blue, Groups 11-12 (Post-Transition Metals) are light blue, Groups 13-16 (Metalloids and Nonmetals) are green, Group 17 (Halogens) is yellow, and Group 18 (Noble Gases) is orange. The callout box is yellow and has a red border. The PubChem logo is visible in the top right corner of the periodic table.

Atomic Number	17	35.45	Atomic Mass, u
Name	Chlorine		
Symbol	Cl		
Chemical Group Block	Halogens		

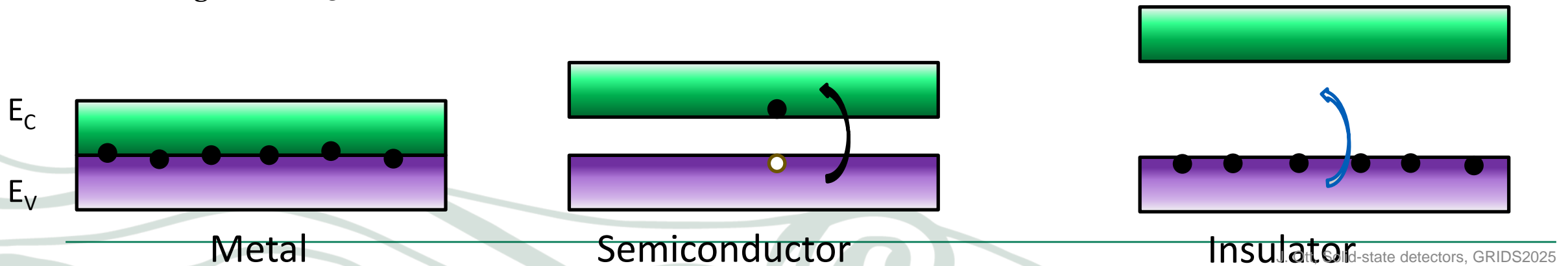
# Semiconductors

- In solids: atomic orbitals are joined over continuous structure of neighboring bonded atoms: **energy bands**
  - Determined by crystal structure or amorphous nature of the material
- Energy range *without allowed energy states* between valence and conduction band: **band gap**
- Excitement of **electron** to the conduction band leaves unoccupied vacancy in the valence band: **hole**
- **Semiconductor: defined 'band gap' of forbidden energy states between valence band and conduction band,  $E_G < \sim 5 \text{ eV}$** 
  - Direct or indirect with respect to lattice vectors: radiative recombination, more relevant for photonics
  - E.g. silicon: indirect band gap 1.12 eV



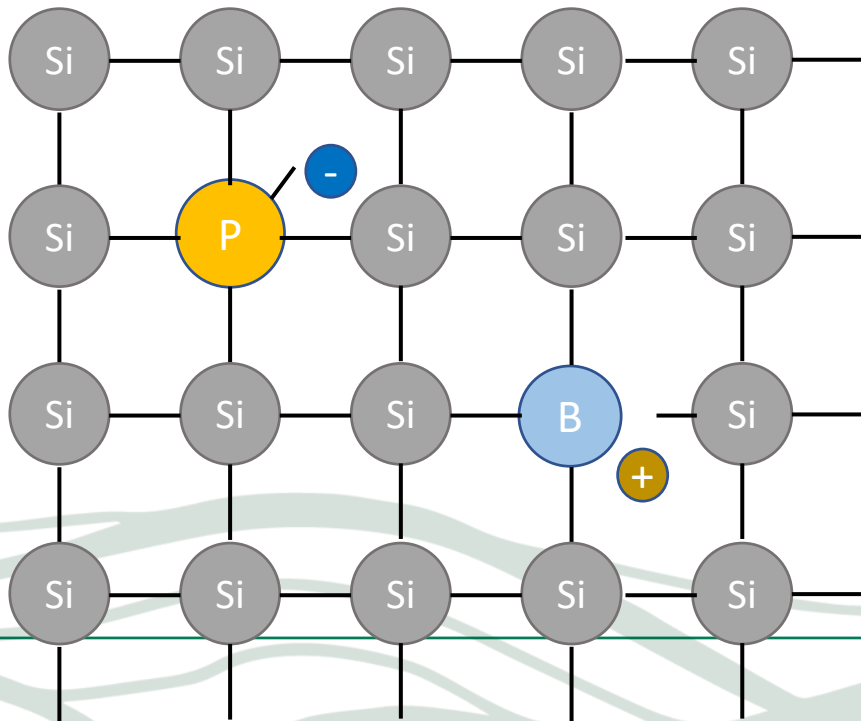
# Semiconductors

- **Semiconductor: defined ‘band gap’ of forbidden energy states between valence band and conduction band,  $E_G < \sim 5 \text{ eV}$** 
  - Direct or indirect with respect to lattice vectors: radiative recombination, more relevant for photonics
  - E.g. silicon: indirect band gap 1.12 eV
- **Transfer of energy  $> E_G$  to an electron: excited to conduction band, leaving behind a hole in the valence band**
- **Energy to produce 1 electron-hole pair with high-energy particles and photons: energy is dispersed in lattice phonons / heat – in practice, larger than band gap**
  - “work function”
  - E.g. silicon: 3.6 eV



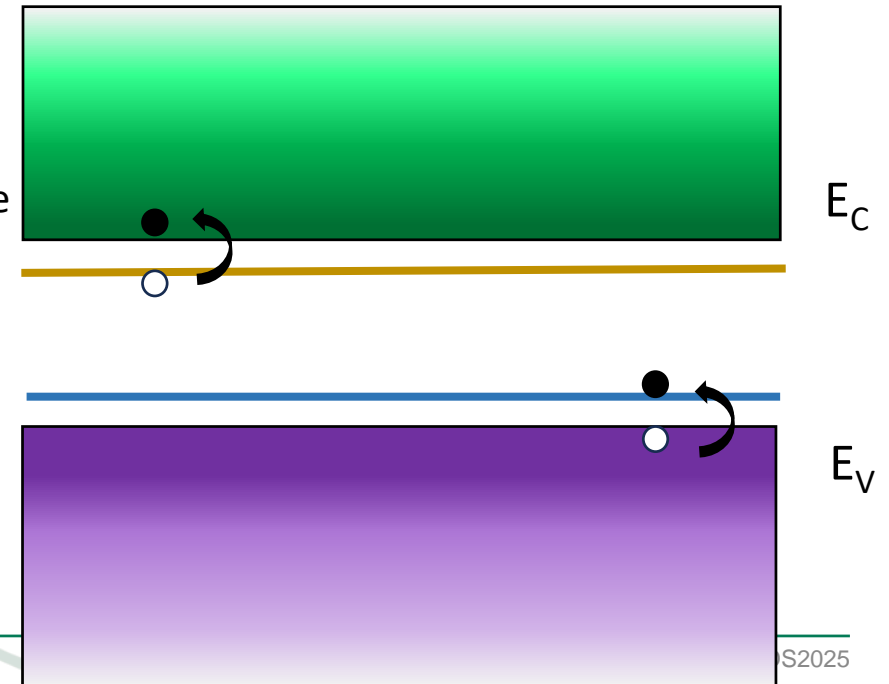
# Doping of semiconductors

- Electrical properties of semiconductors are governed by impurities altering their band structure
- Aim at ultra-pure material: not sufficient in reality
- More convenient: adjust properties by controlled doping



**Donor:** energy state close to conduction band

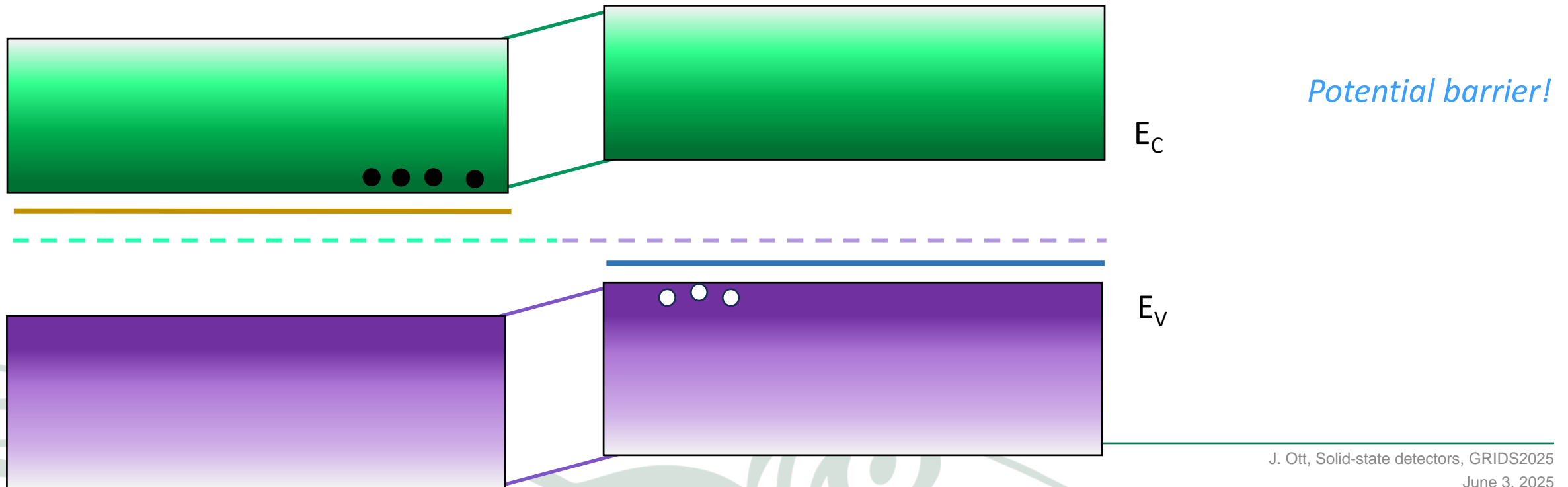
**Acceptor:** energy state close to valence band





# p-n junction

- Typically, material is either n- or p-doped
  - This also shifts the Fermi level
- When layers are brought in contact to each other: **p-n junction**
  - Fermi levels align: **bending** of conduction and valence bands

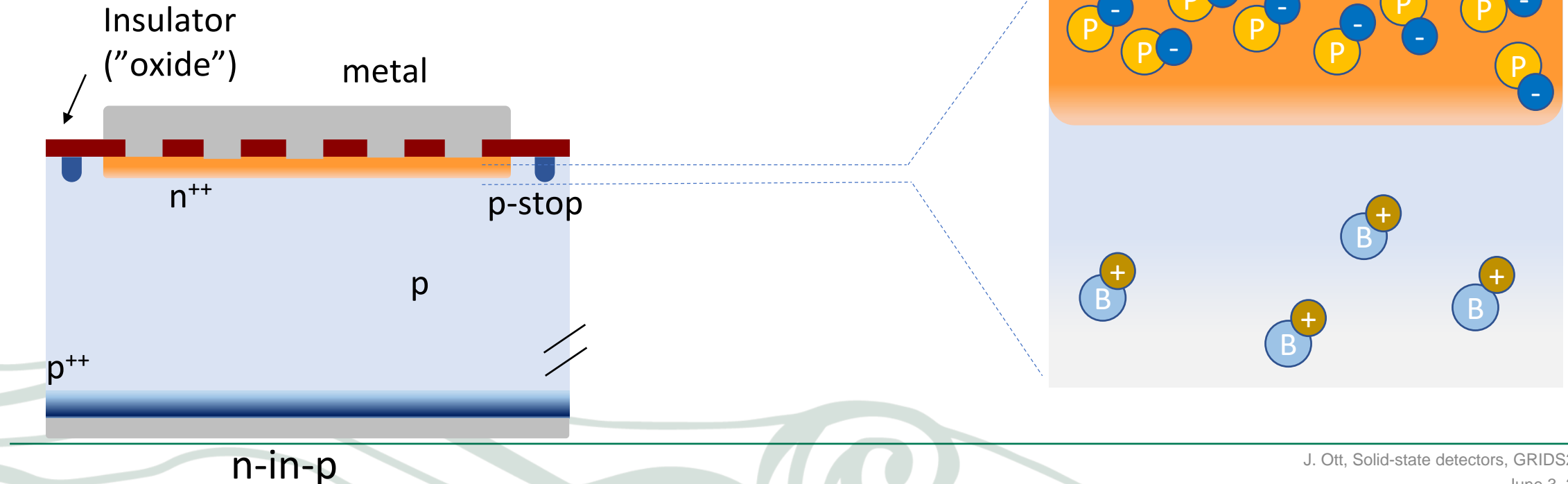


# Silicon sensors: p-n junction

Example case (modern planar Si sensor): high-resistivity p-type bulk with Boron doping,  $n^{++}$  electrode implanted with Phosphorus

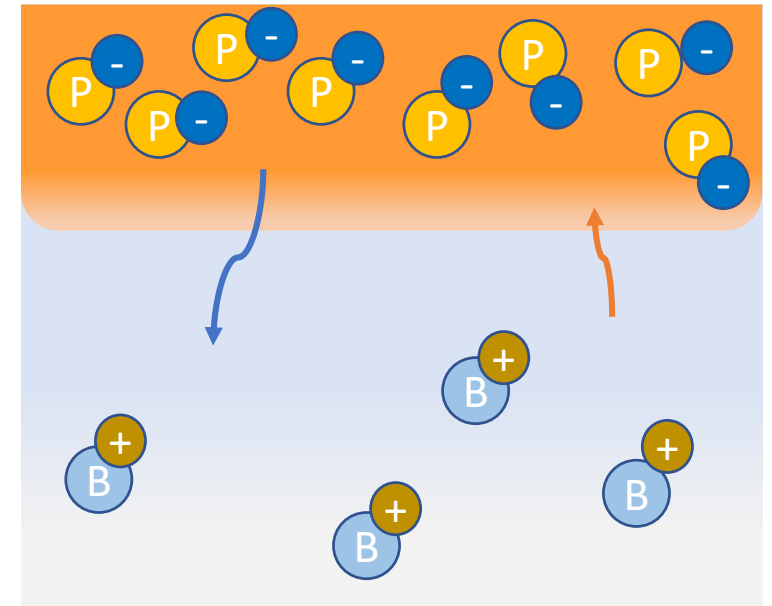
Doping concentration of the bulk in high-res Si:  $\sim 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

***Doping concentration of the  $n^{++}$  electrode?***



# Silicon sensors: p-n junction

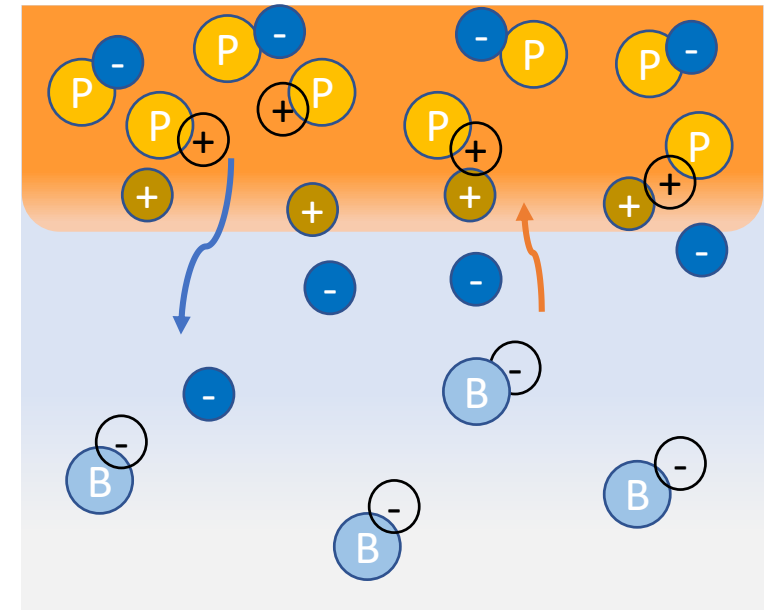
Additional electrons from P and holes from B diffuse at the immediate p-n interface and neutralize...



# Silicon sensors: p-n junction

Additional electrons from P and holes from B diffuse at the immediate p-n interface and neutralize

→ leave behind a region with no free charge carriers, only fixed charge on dopant atoms



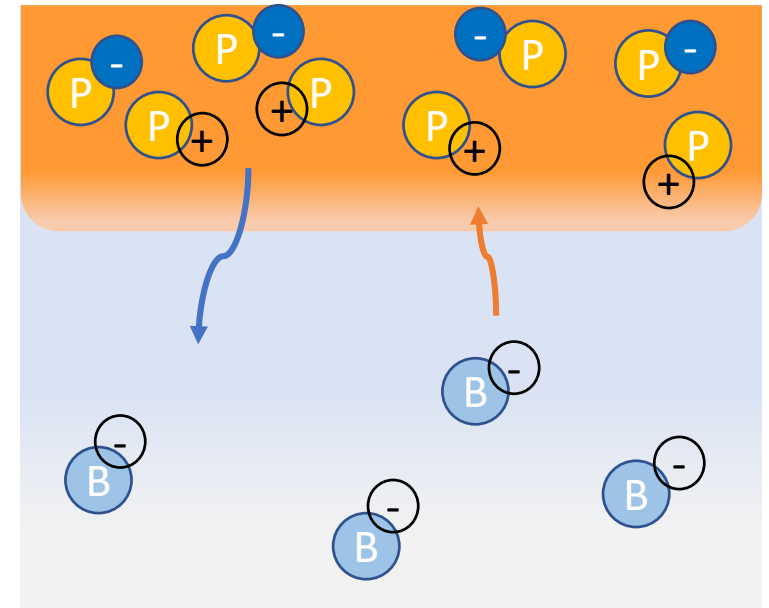
# Silicon sensors: p-n junction

Additional electrons from P and holes from B diffuse at the immediate p-n interface and neutralize

→ leave behind a region with no free charge carriers, only fixed charge on dopant atoms

- “depletion region”
- “space charge region”

N.B.: now B is associated with fixed negative charge, P with positive!



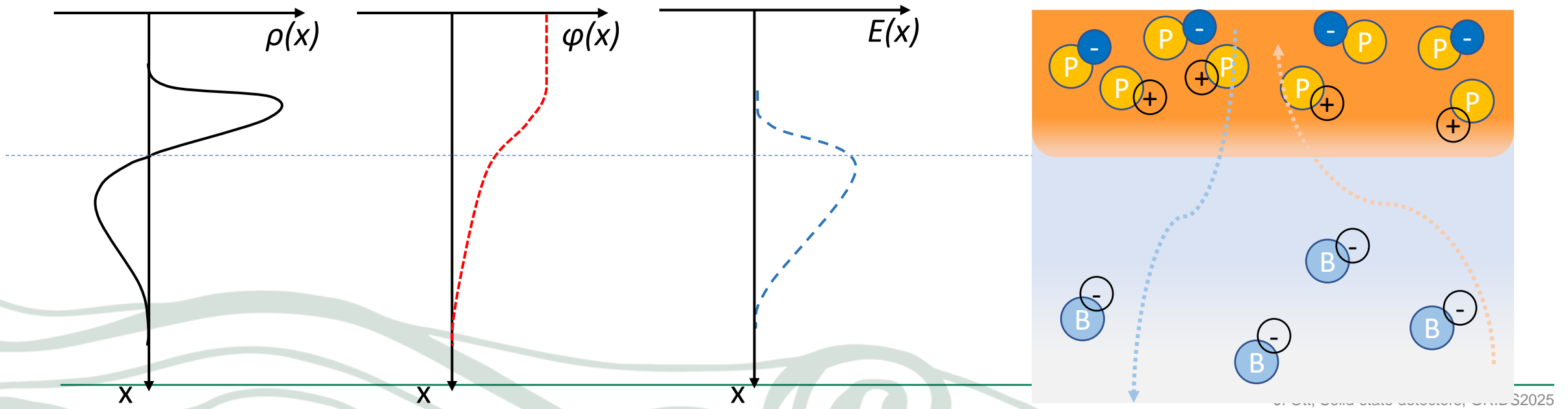


# Silicon sensors: p-n junction

p-n junction 'reverse-biases itself' – potential barrier for diffusion of more free carriers

→ at equilibrium unless conditions are changed

***In high-quality silicon sensors, you likely observe signal even without external bias!***



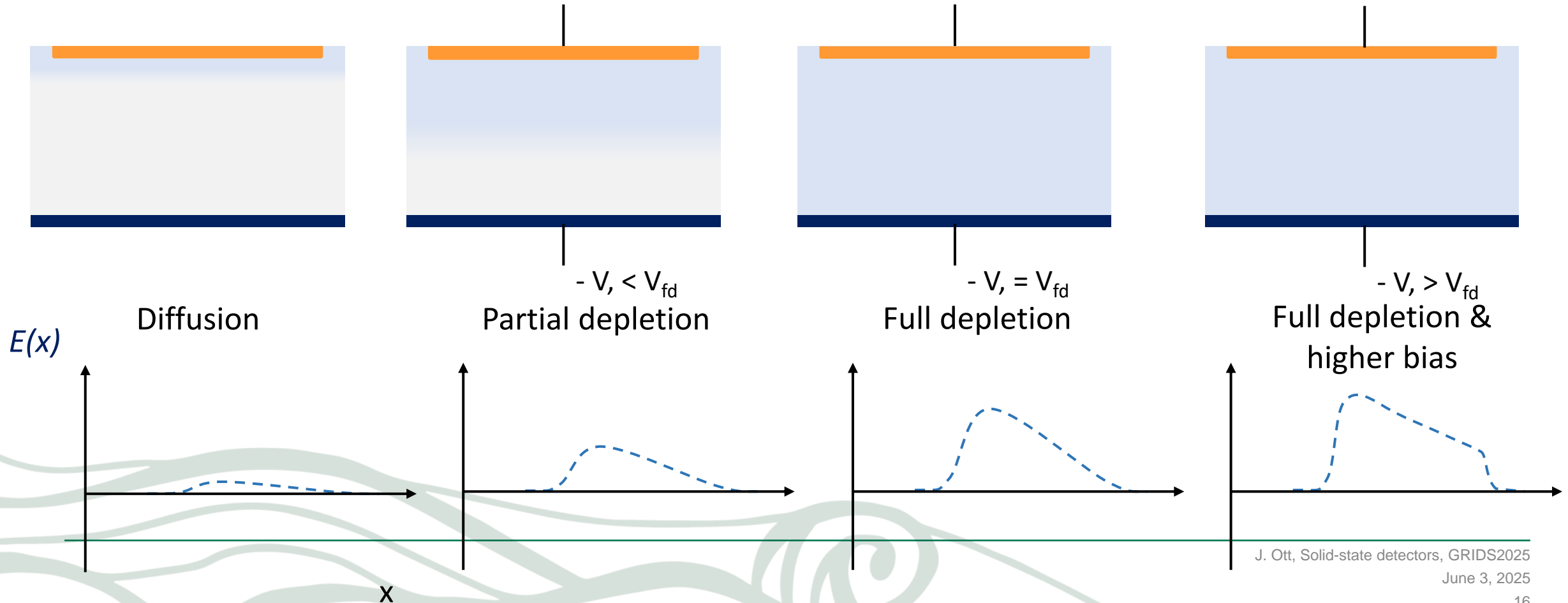
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# Silicon sensors: p-n junction

Widening the depletion zone until it extends through the full sensor by applying an external bias voltage!

- Depleted sensor can be approximated as parallel-plate capacitor



# Semiconductor sensors: contacts

**The p-n junction forms a rectifying contact, diode:** high current flows only in one direction (forward bias), in the other a potential barrier prevents flow of majority carriers and depletes the junction (reverse bias)

- Except for leakage current

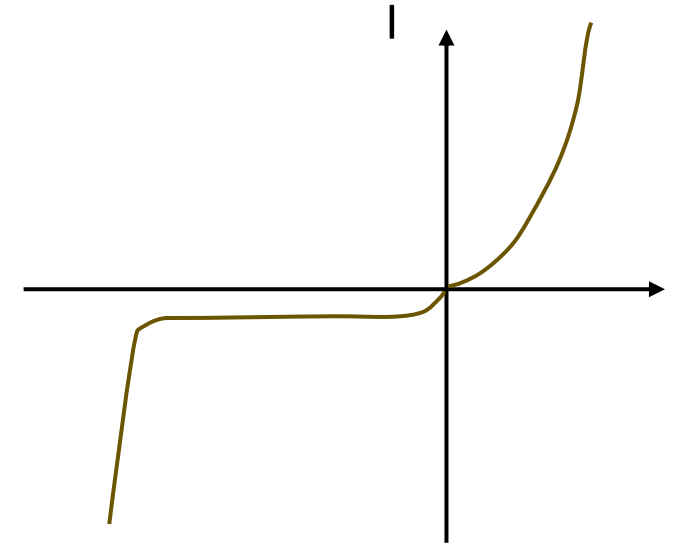
Correspondingly, for a metal-semiconductor interface: **Schottky contact**

- More common for undoped compound semiconductors, also diamond

As opposed to an **Ohmic contact**, which is linearly conductive in both directions

➤ **Depends on work function of the metal and band energy levels of the semiconductor**

- Common contact metals: **Al**, TiW, In, Au, Pt



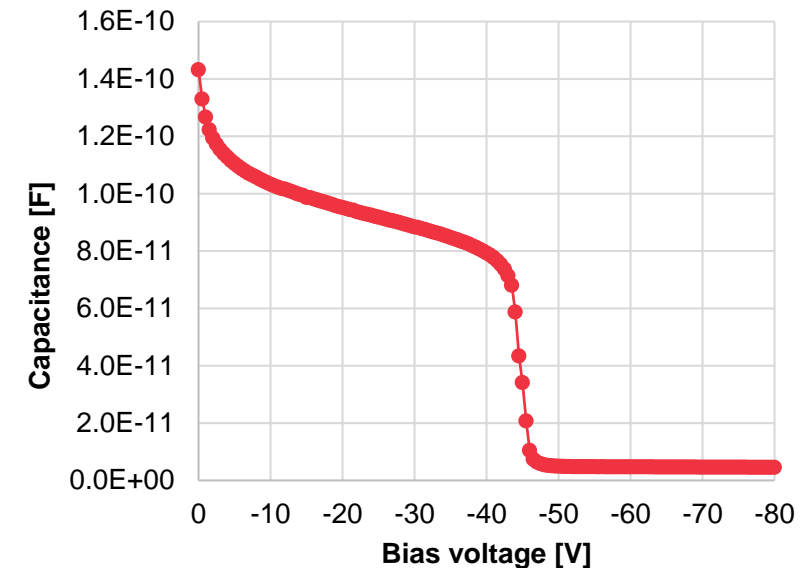
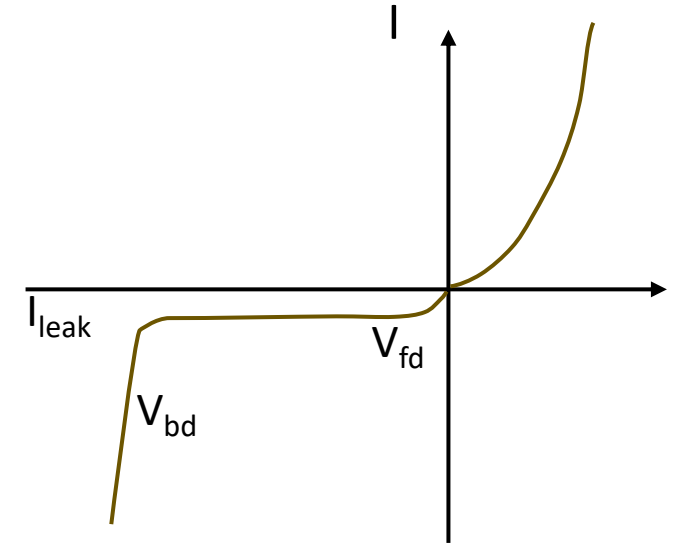
# Device characterization

## Current-voltage (I-V)

- (Polarity → operation voltage)
- (Full depletion voltage → minimum operation voltage)
- Leakage current → power consumption, signal-to-noise
- Breakdown voltage → maximum operation voltage
- Radiation damage

## Capacitance-voltage (C-V)

- Full depletion voltage → minimum operation voltage
- Sensor capacitance → relevant for front-end electronics, noise
- (Radiation damage)
- ***Double feature in the C-V curve of a Si sensor: what could explain this?***



# Signal generation

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# Interaction of radiation with matter

## Charged particles

### Continuous interaction along the path: *linear energy transfer*

- Dependent on energy and velocity: stronger interaction close to the range of the particle – Bragg peak
- **Bethe-Bloch formula** describing energy loss (stopping power) over distance for a fast charged particle:

$$-\left\langle \frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle = \frac{4\pi}{m_e c^2} \cdot \frac{nz^2}{\beta^2} \cdot \left( \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^2 \cdot \left[ \ln \left( \frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2}{I \cdot (1 - \beta^2)} \right) - \beta^2 \right]$$

### Mechanisms:

- Electromagnetic interaction: ionization
- Radiative (in the field of a nucleus): bremsstrahlung
- Nuclear / hadronic interaction: nuclear collisions, nuclear reactions, knock-on effect of atoms in a solid-state lattice

**At high energies: deposited energy small, ~independent of particle species and energy → minimum-ionizing particle, MIP**

## Photons

- On a larger scale: statistical process, exponential decrease of intensity/flux in material depending on mass attenuation coefficient and distance travelled in the medium:

$$I_l = I_0 e^{-\mu l} \quad // \quad I_l = I_0 e^{-\frac{\mu}{\rho m} \rho m l}$$

- Cross-sections for processes depend on photon energy and absorber material
- Mechanisms:
  - Elastic scattering
  - Photoelectric effect
  - Compton scattering = inelastic scattering
  - Pair production
  - (Photonuclear reactions)

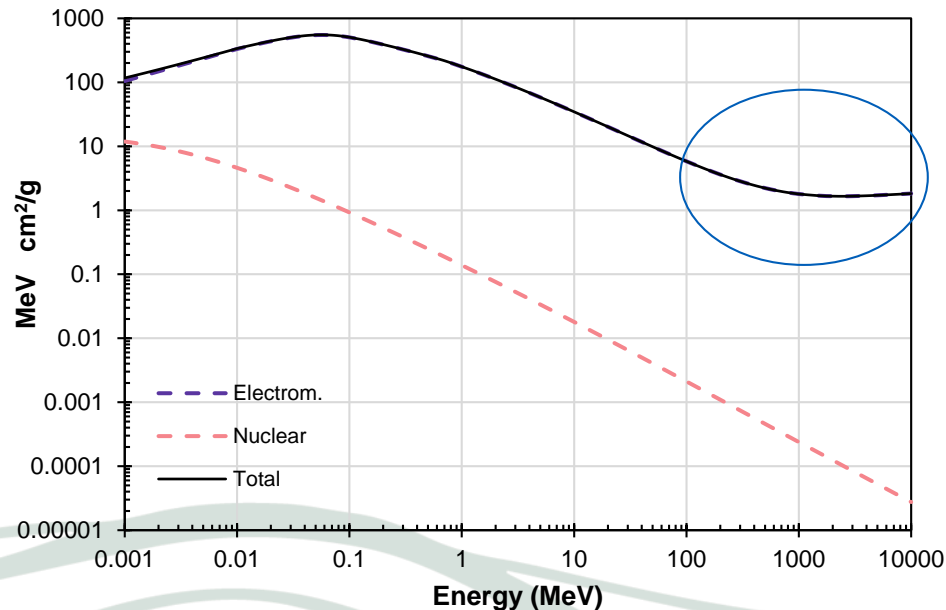
# Interaction of high-energy species in silicon

**Energy scales: TeV c-o-m energies at the LHC - photon and particle energies in the GeV's**

*... vs laboratory: Co-60 gamma ray, 1.1 and 1.3 MeV, or Sr-90/Y-90 beta particle maximum energy, 0.6 – 2 MeV*

Stopping power / attenuation length in silicon: around 4 MeV cm<sup>-1</sup> / 0.082 cm<sup>-1</sup>

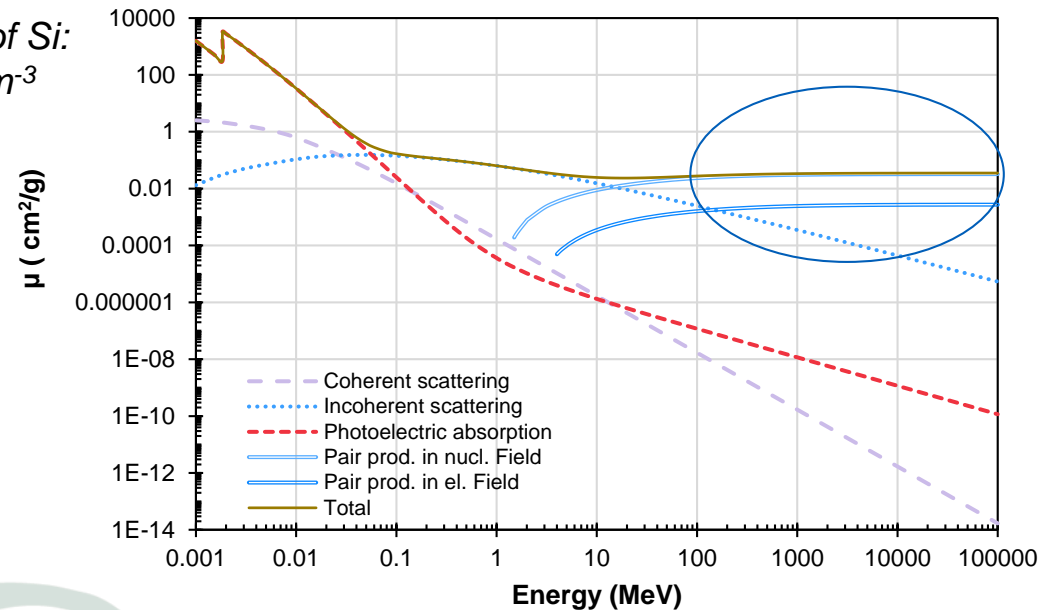
Proton stopping power in Si



<https://www.physics.nist.gov/PhysRefData/Star/Text/PSTAR.html>

Density of Si:  
2.34 g cm<sup>-3</sup>

Photon attenuation in Si



<https://physics.nist.gov/PhysRefData/Xcom/html/xcom1.html>

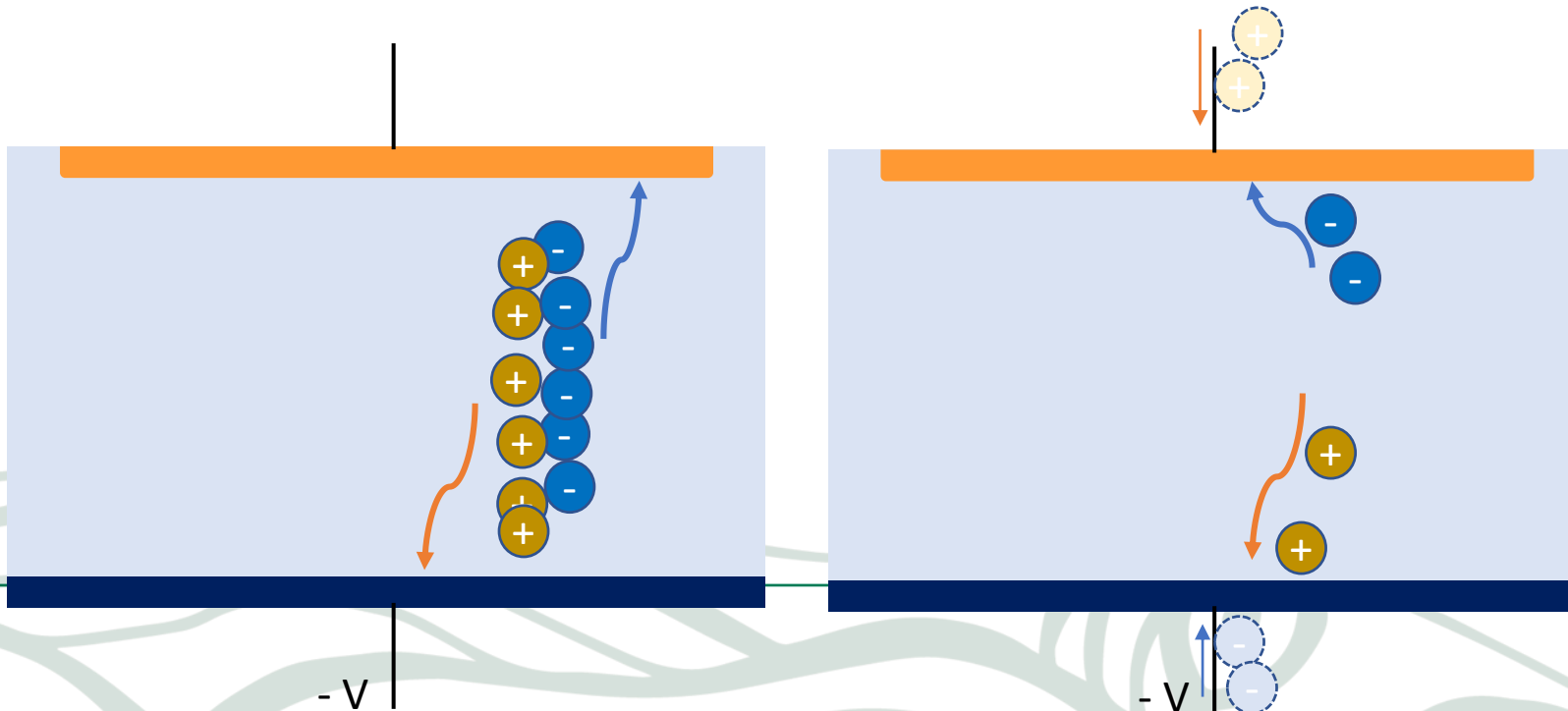
# Signal induction

**A traversing particle generates electron-hole pairs, which are attracted to and drift to the electrode of the opposite polarity**

- Photon: otherwise similar, but point-like energy deposit for a single photon, with exponential absorption of the beam as function of depth (statistically)

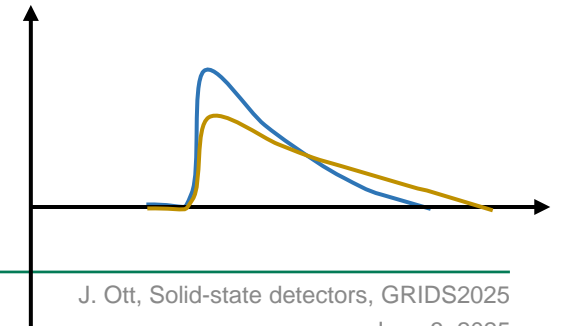
**Shockley-Ramo theorem:** signal is generated as **induced current on the electrode by the drift of charge carriers in the electric field**: charge and energy are conserved – mirror charge is drawn from the circuit as the carrier approaches the electrode

- **The signal rise time begins instantaneously, signal *ends* when the carriers have reached the electrode**
- **Drift time / carrier mobility can be different – material-dependent**



$$\mathbf{v} = \mu_{e,h} \mathbf{E}$$

$$i = q \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E}_w$$



J. Ott, Solid-state detectors, GRIDS2025

June 3, 2025

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***How many electron-hole pairs are generated by a MIP in silicon?***

Energy loss (cf. Bethe-Bloch!) = charge carrier generation is described by a Landau distribution: mean and most probable value are not identical.

$$i = q \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E}_w$$

Experimental values for Si: ca. 80 (105) e/h pairs per  $\mu\text{m}$  → **in a 300  $\mu\text{m}$  Si sensor, ca. 24 000 e/h pairs**

How fast do they drift?

- Depends on electric field = bias voltage. Drift velocity saturation at about  $10^7$  cm/s, or about 100  $\mu\text{m}/\text{nsec}$

# Why p-type Si?

**Earlier, not available as high-purity and high-resistivity substrate compared to n-type Si: nowadays high resistivities are available; active sensor may be grown by chemical vapor epitaxy**

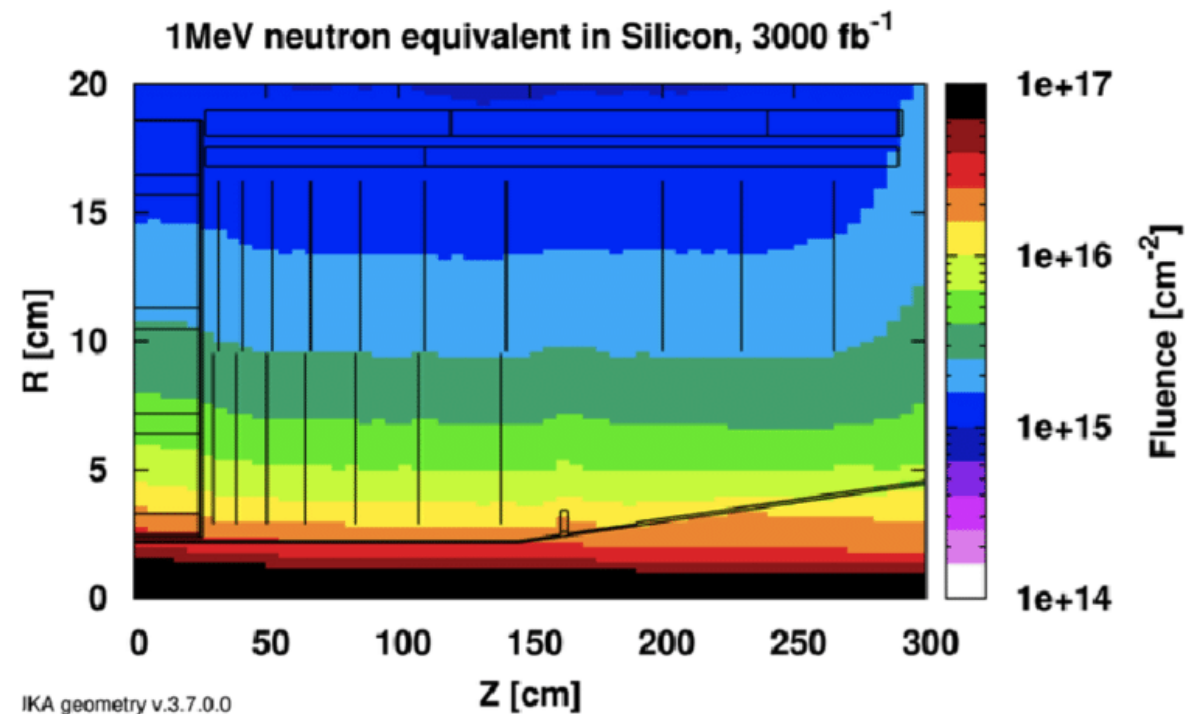
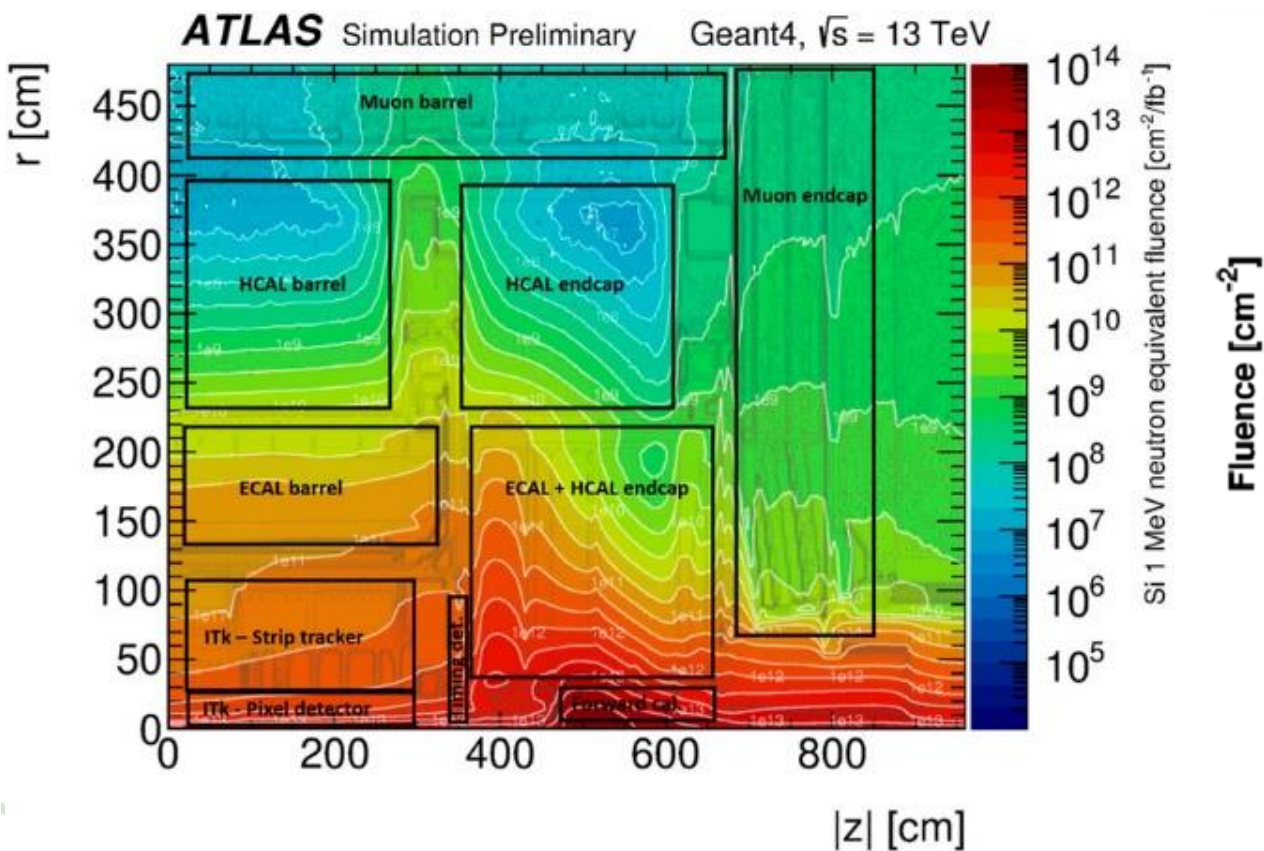
**Higher radiation hardness in some aspect\***

**Electrode which forms the p-n junction with the bulk ( = where the depletion starts, and electric field peaks) attracts electrons**

- Higher mobility, less trapping in silicon – faster signal with higher collection efficiency
- Weighting field at the segmented electrode favors electron drift



# Radiation damage



***Towards the high-luminosity LHC***

# Radiation damage

- Dislocation of atoms from their lattice sites
- Introduction of charge at surfaces and interfaces

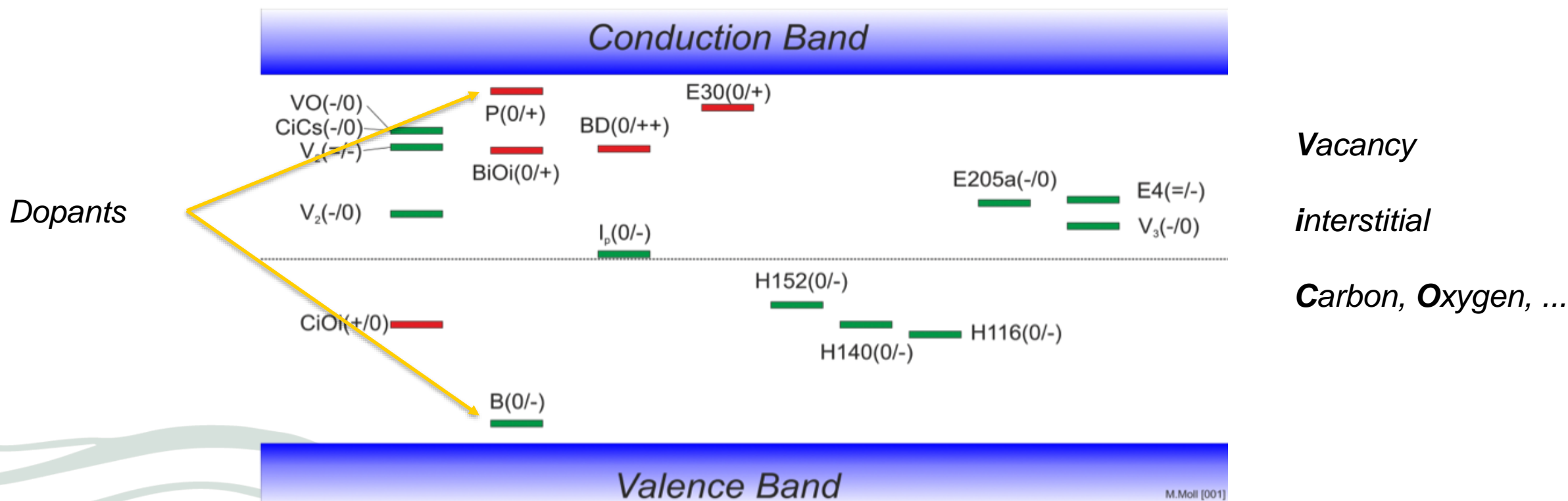
*Nuclear interactions:  
non-ionizing energy loss*

*Total Ionizing Dose*

- Introduction of new defects in the solid
  - Neutral and charged defects
  - Defect clusters
- More charge carriers through addition of energy levels
- Trapping and recombination of charge carriers = signal
  - Modification of existing (intentional) impurities

# Radiation damage

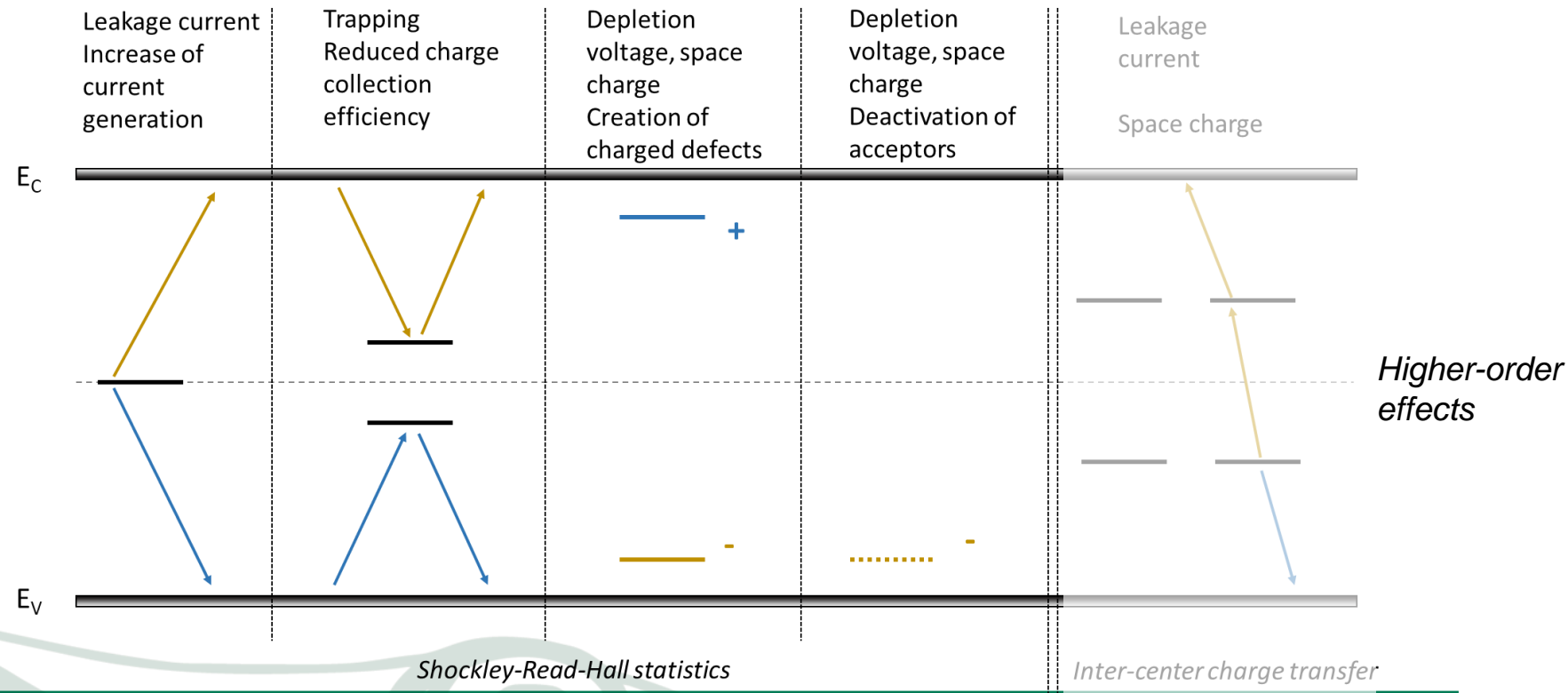
Effect of radiation-induced defects depends on their charge, and their energy level within the band gap



# Radiation damage

Effect of radiation-induced defects depends on their charge, and their energy level within the band gap

- Mid-gap energy levels lead to increased current generation
- Deep levels trap signal charges
- ‘Shallow’ defects increase, compensate, or deactivate doping



# Tracking detectors



# The Large Hadron Collider



Circumference: 27 km

Primarily proton-proton (p-p) collisions:  
center-of-mass energy 13 TeV

Luminosity:  $2 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$

Collision frequency: 40 MHz = **25 ns**



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# Physics at collider experiments

## Precision measurements of the Standard Model of particle physics

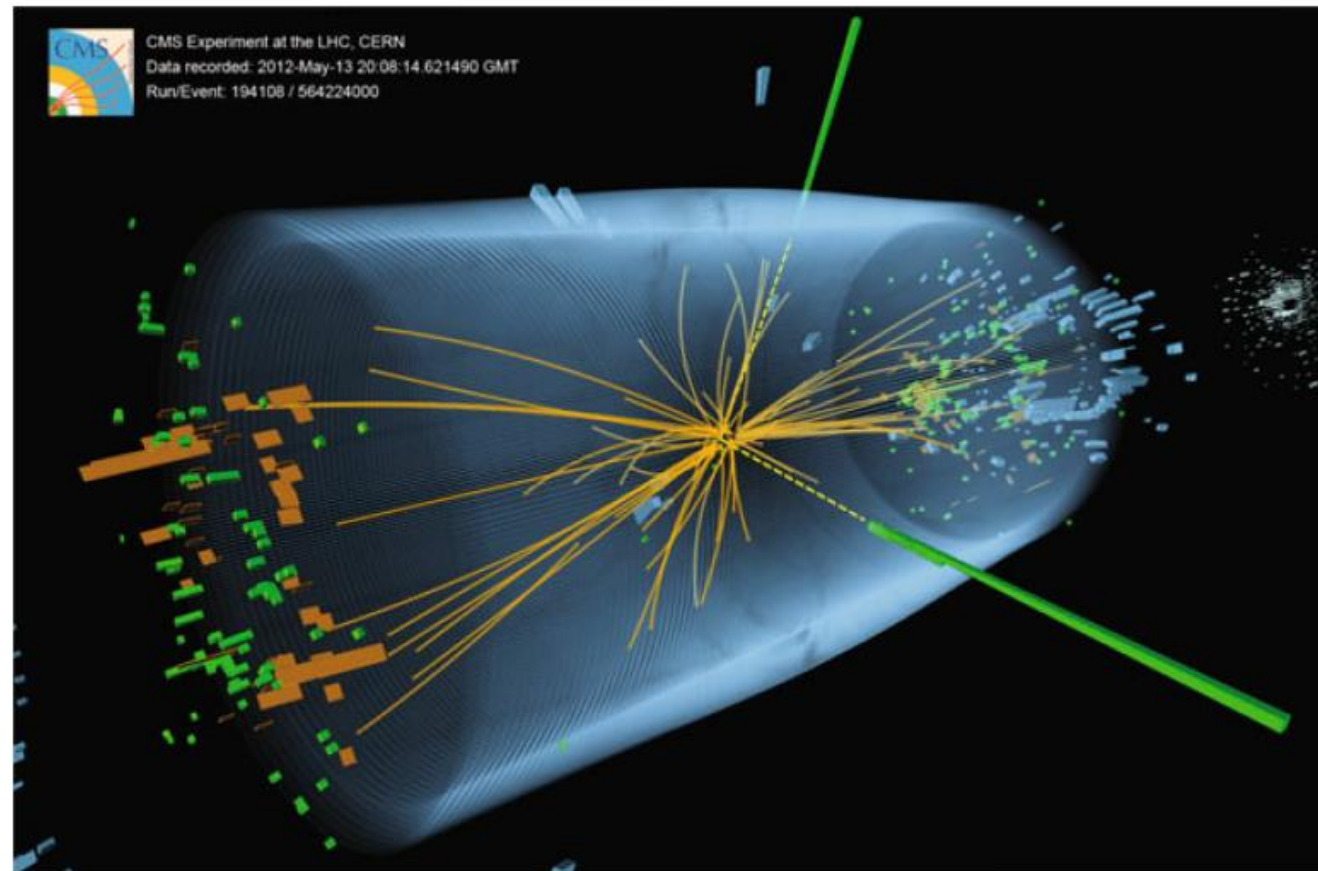
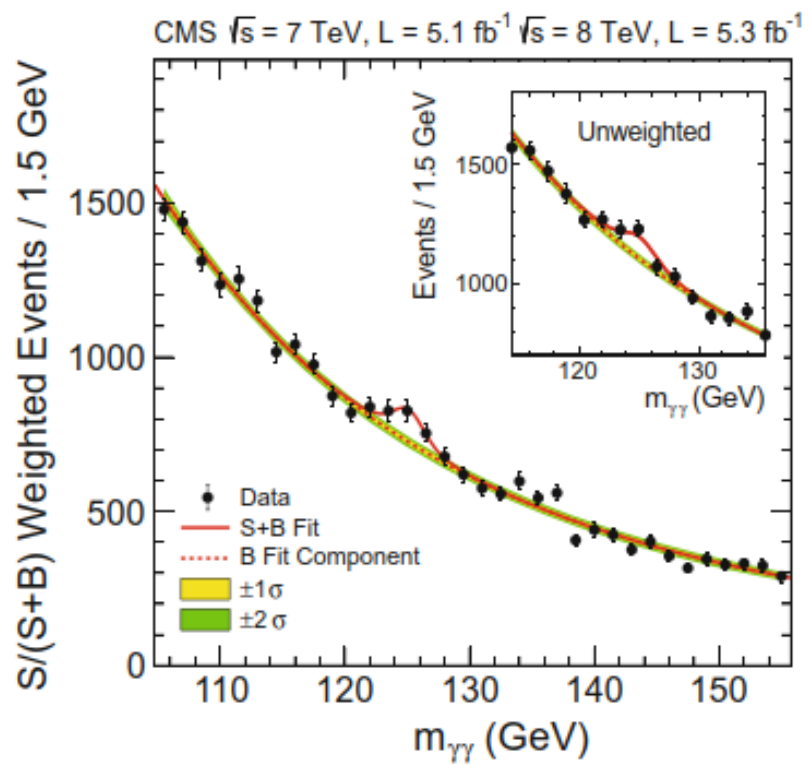
- Top quark, W/Z bosons
- Higgs boson(s)

## Search for physics Beyond the Standard Model

- Self-coupling of Higgs boson
- Dark matter candidates
- Supersymmetry

## Heavy ion physics

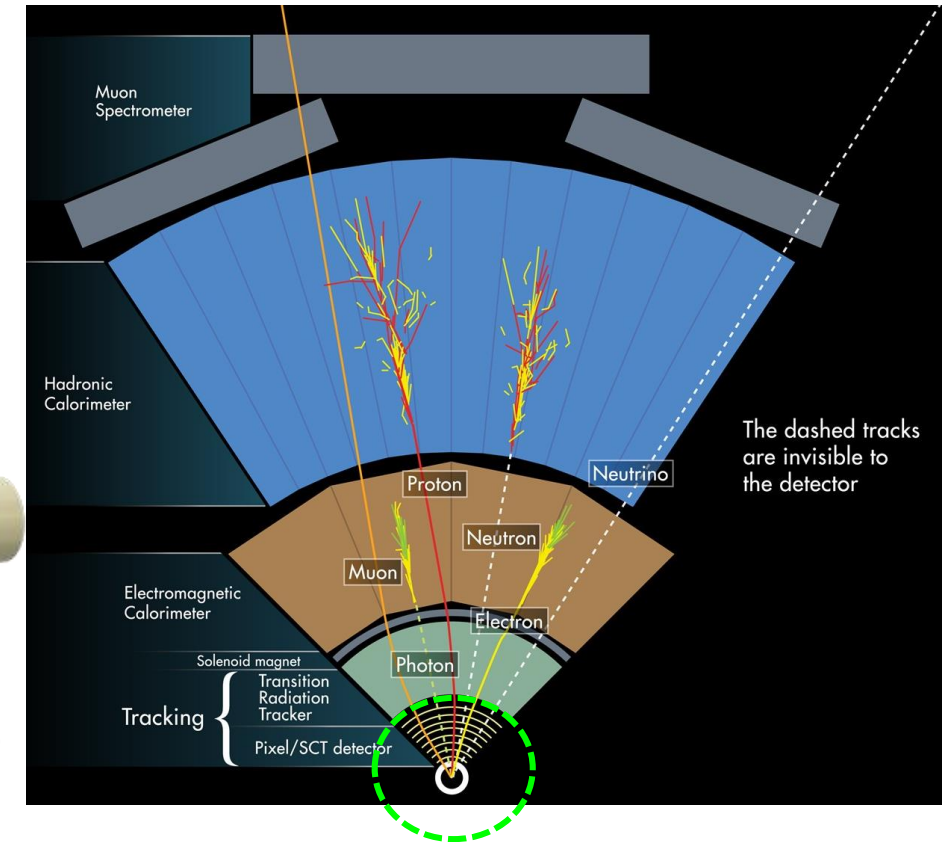
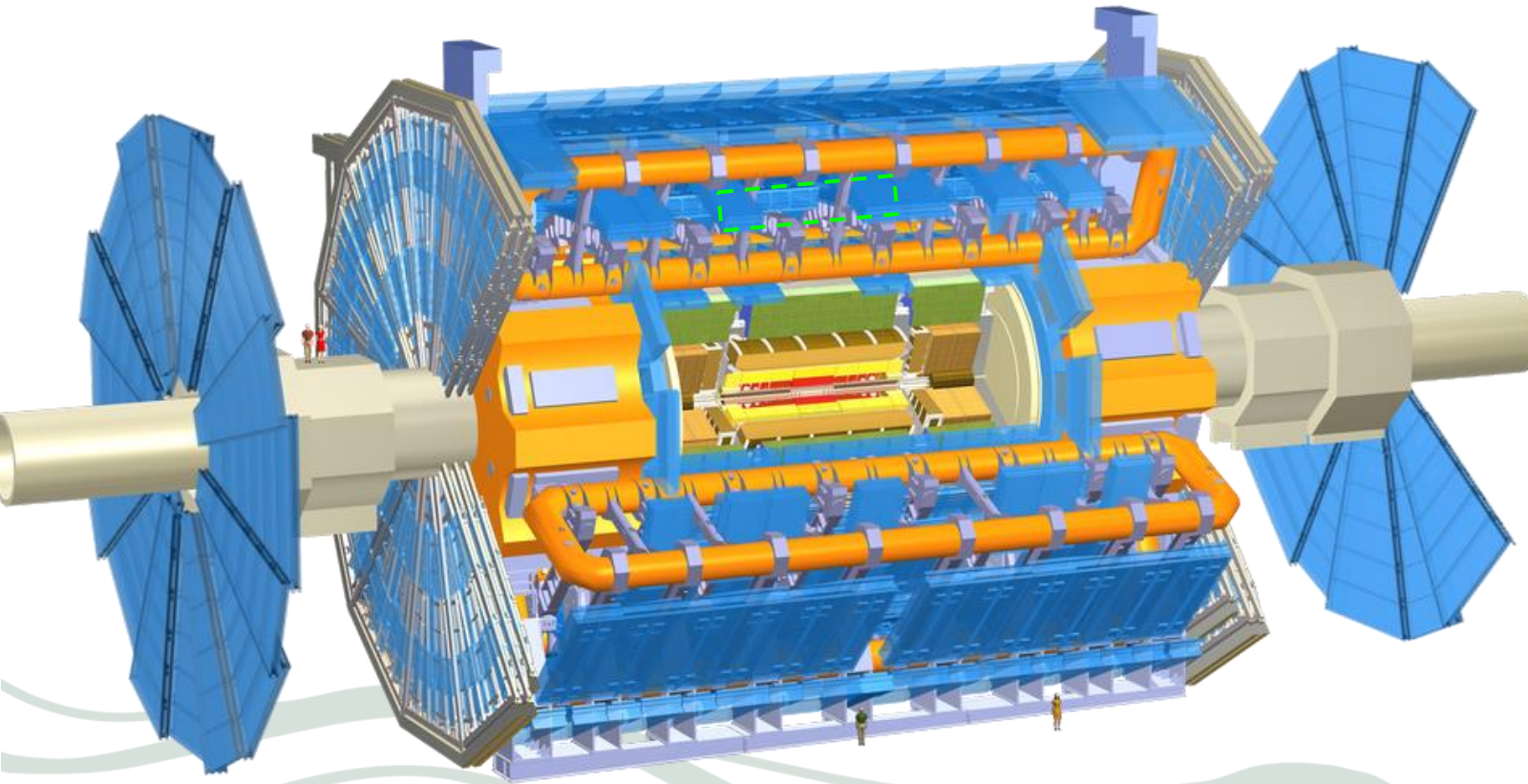
- Extremely dense medium





# The ATLAS Experiment

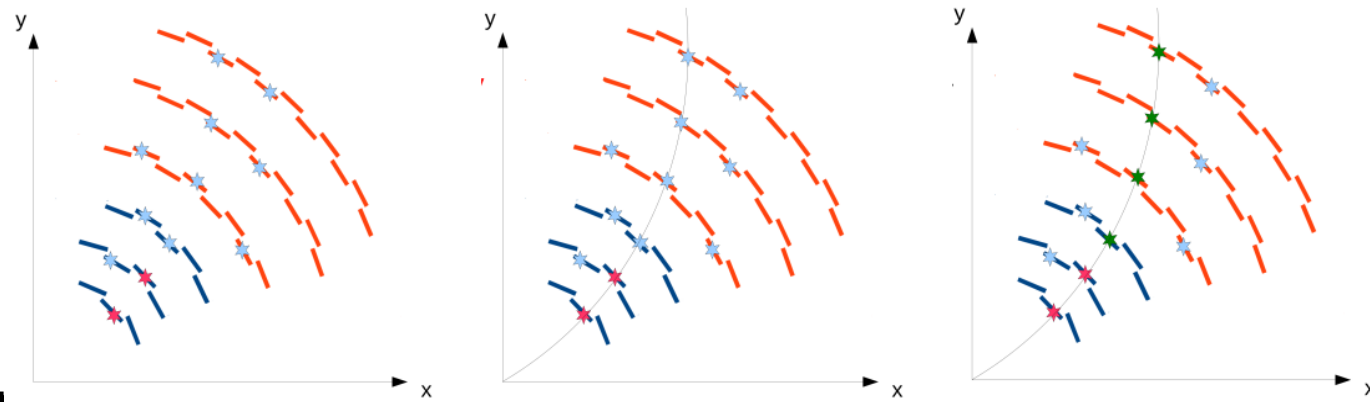
Multiple layers of specialized detector technology: tracking, calorimetry, spectrometers



# Particle tracking

**Objective: determine the ‘path’ of a particle, calculate its momentum - generate a measurable signal, but do not impact energy measurement nor cause excessive scattering**

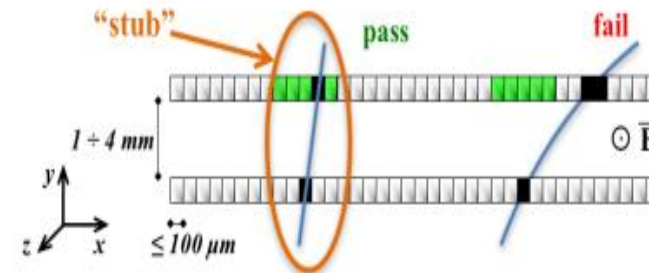
- Multiple layers
- Thin sensors
- Light material
- Capable of detecting small signal
- High spatial resolution = fine segmentation.



$$\mathbf{F}_L = \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$$

$$p_T = \frac{0.3Bl^2}{8s}$$

- **Semiconductor detectors – silicon**
- **Gaseous detectors**



# Interactions of different species

Photons: minute probability of scattering

Neutral hadrons: small probability of non-ionizing interaction

- Not detected in the tracker on the level of individual particles, but notable for the sensor in the long run...

Neutrino: no interaction, not detected

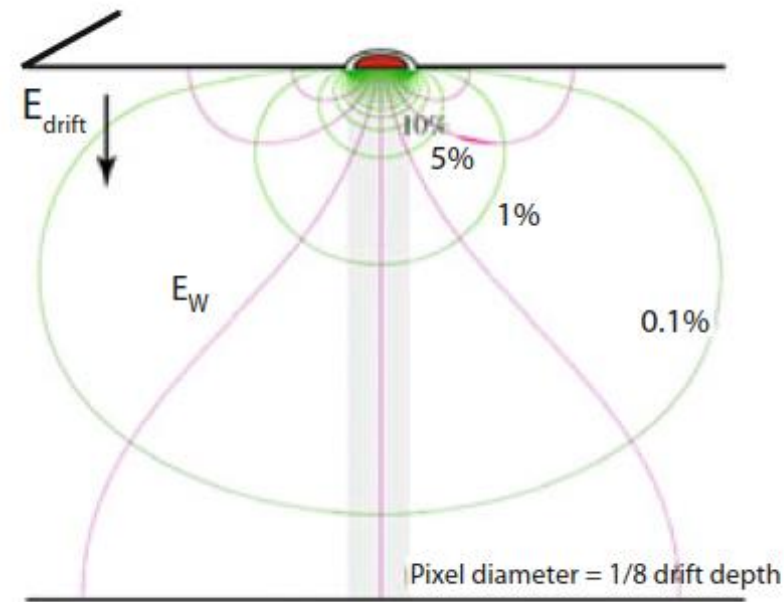
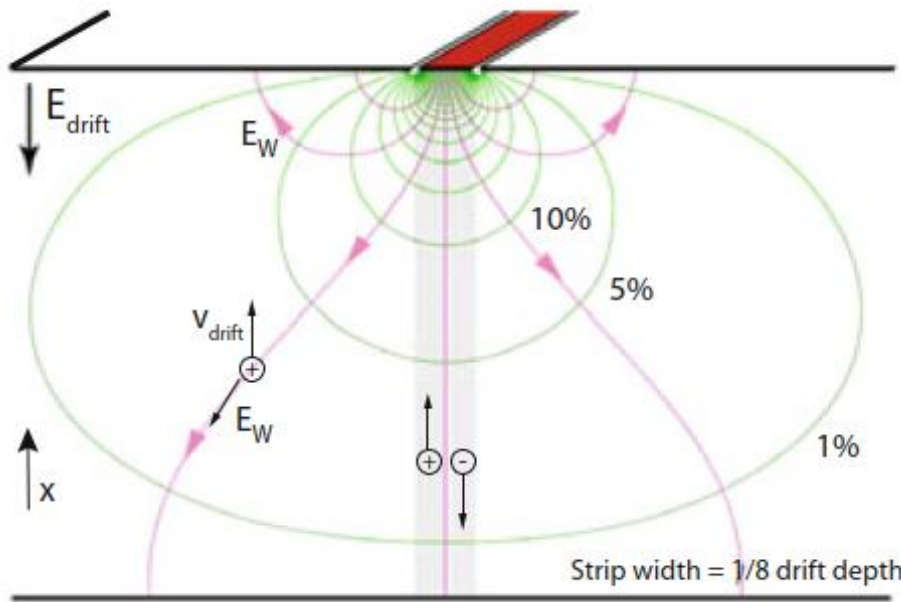
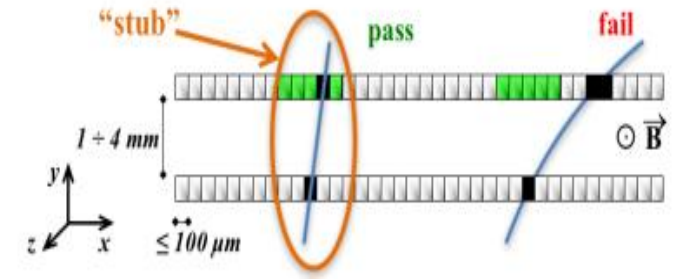
**Electron, muon: track of minimum-ionization**

**Charged hadrons: track of minimum-ionization**

# Segmented sensors

Precise spatial resolution is needed for tracking

- Typically one electrode is segmented into strips or pixels, that are all read out through their own channel



$$\mathbf{v} = \mu_{e,h} \mathbf{E}$$

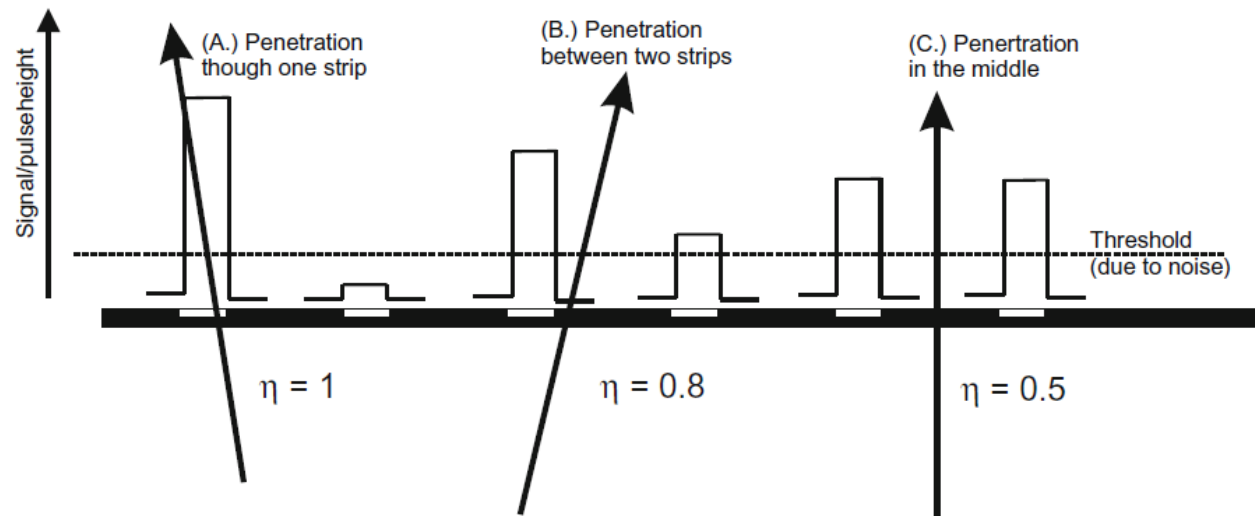
$$i = q \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E}_w$$

# Position reconstruction

**Clustering:** summing of signals in adjacent pixels

**Center-of-gravity:** reconstruction of position by weighting their signal amplitudes

Geometric position resolution:  $\text{pitch}/\sqrt{12}$



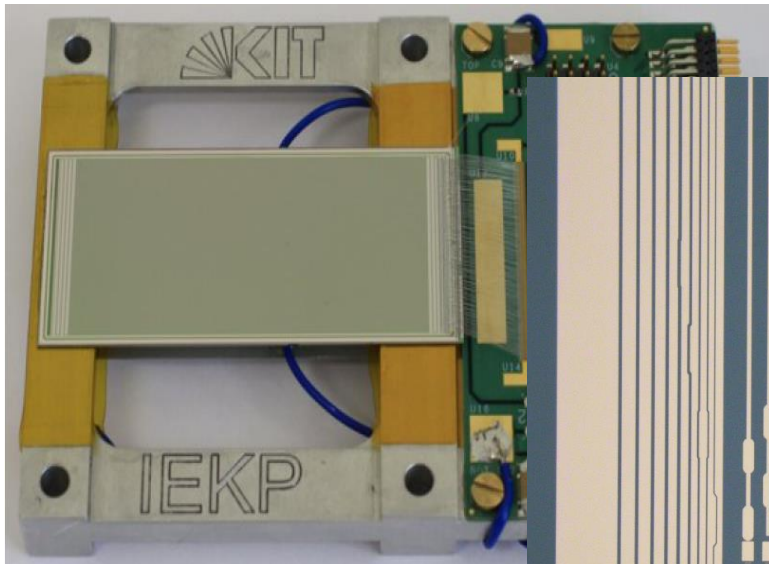
F. Hartmann, *Evolution of Silicon Sensor Technology in Particle Physics*, 2nd Edition, Springer 2017



# Planar segmented sensors

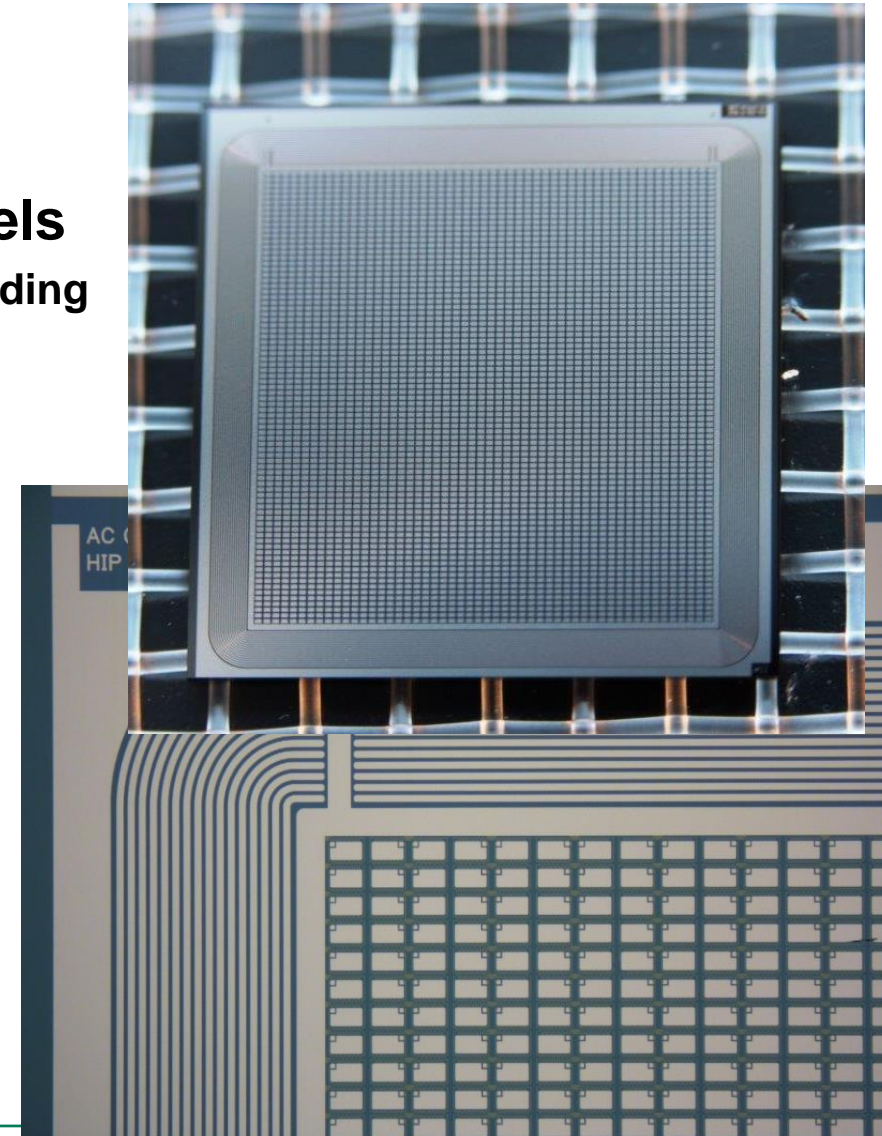
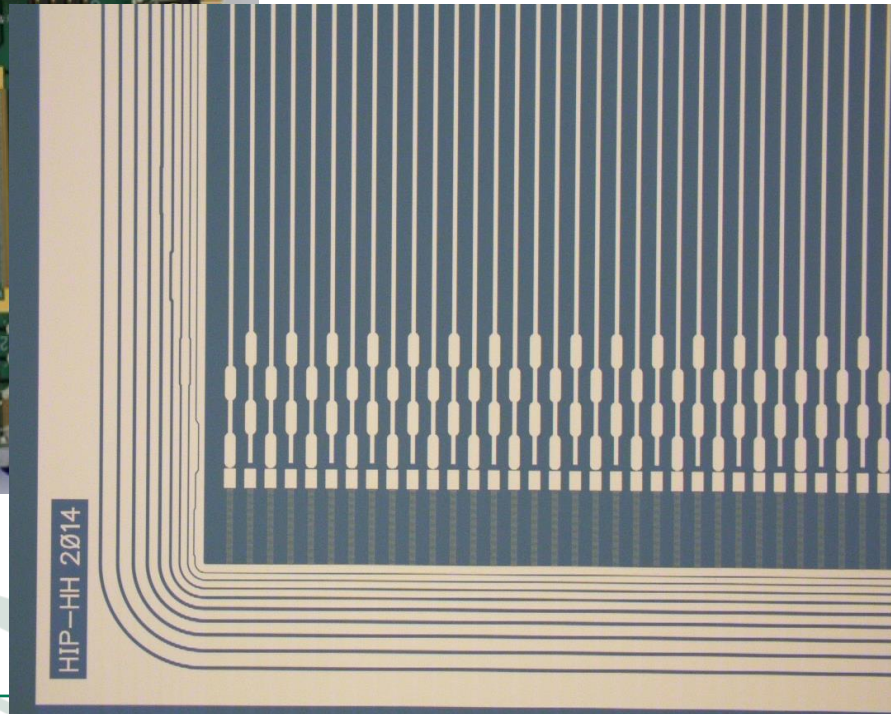
**Resolution in 2D: strips**

Read out via wirebonds



**Resolution in 3D: pixels**

Interconnection via bump bonding



J. Ott, Solid-state detectors, GRIDS2025

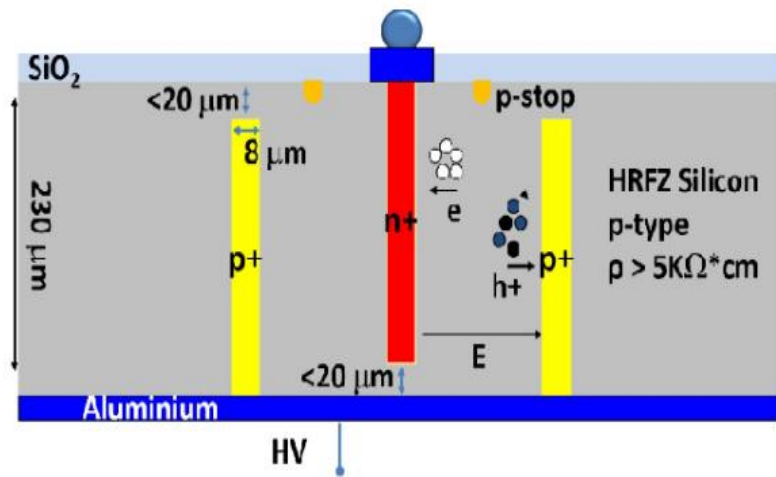
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# 3D sensors

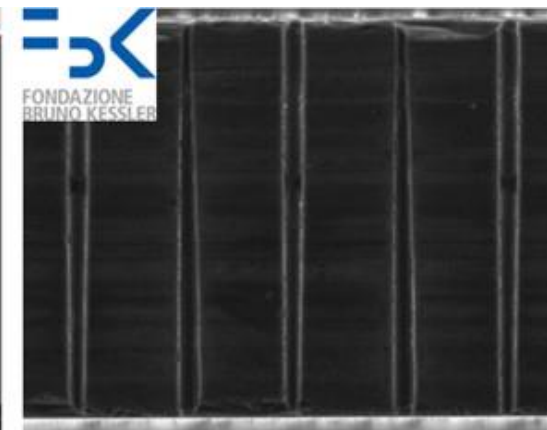
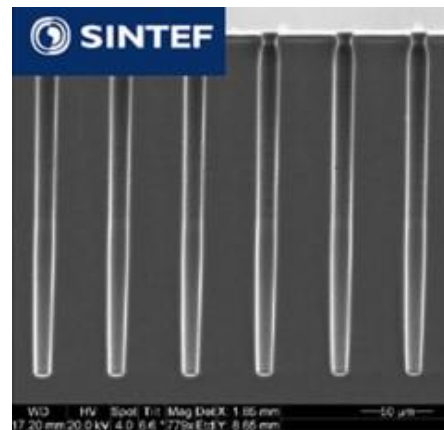
p- and n-electrodes not implemented as patterned sheets on the surfaces of the silicon surface, but as channels through the bulk

- lower drift distance for charge carriers!
- faster drift – good timing resolution

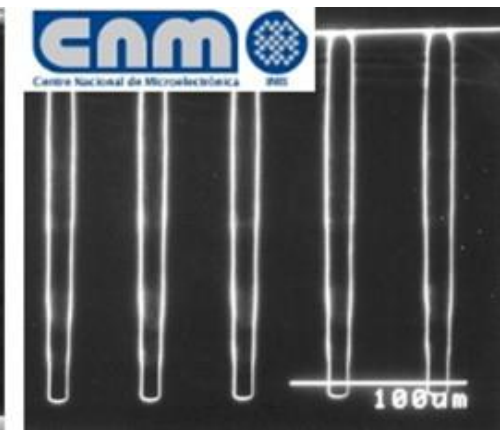
**Efficiency before radiation dose is lower than for planar Si sensors, but radiation tolerance is better: 3D sensors to be used in innermost layers of CMS and ATLAS Tracker upgrades**



E. Curras 2019



C. Da Via 2012



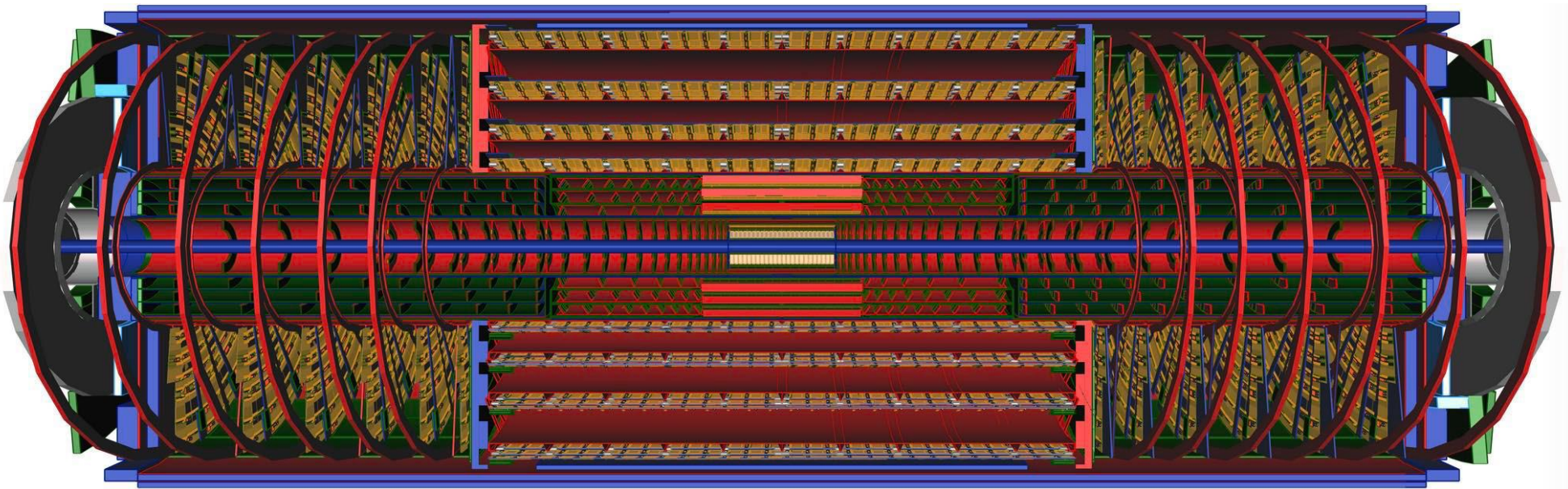
# The High-Luminosity LHC

- Long shutdown in years 2024-2026 **2029**: installation of Phase II upgrades and transition to **High-Luminosity LHC**
- Collision center-of-mass energy 14 TeV
- Luminosity up to  $7 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  (LHC:  $2 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  )
- Up to 200 p-p collisions per bunch crossing ("pile-up")
- Fluence, i.e. radiation dose, to the innermost silicon detector layers:  $2 \times 10^{16} n_{\text{eq}} \text{ cm}^{-2}$
- In the pixel tracker:  $\sim 140\,000$  pixels / chip (as compared to present 4160)
- Total number of channels: 1 924 M



# ATLAS ITk

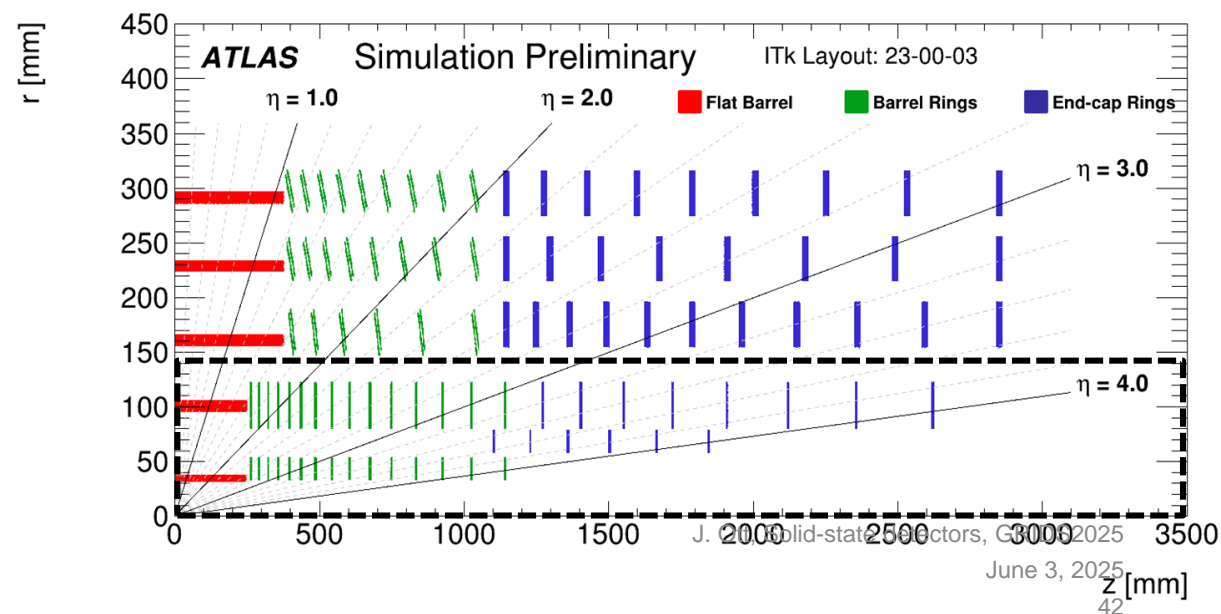
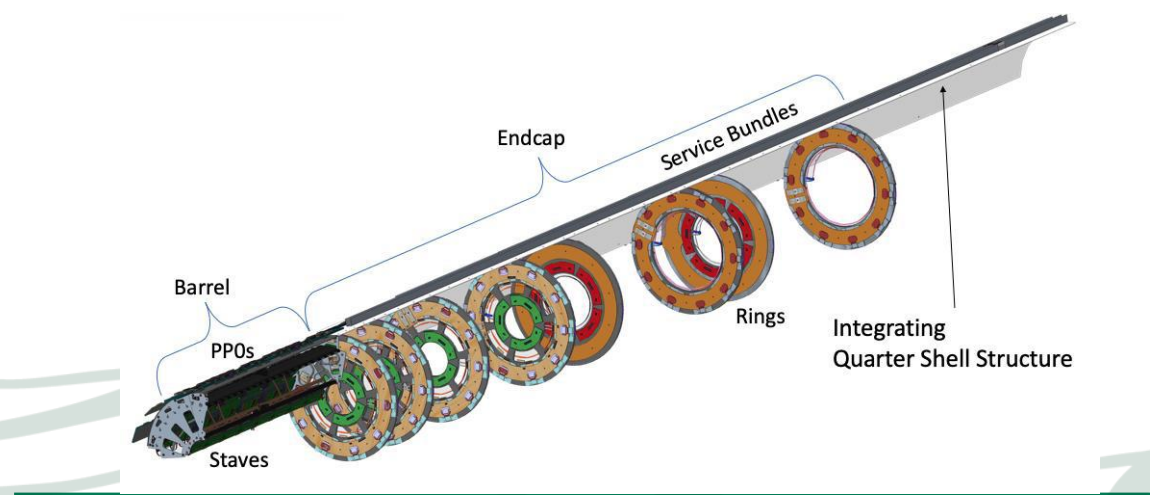
**Phase-2 Upgrade for the ATLAS Experiment towards the HL-LHC features a new Inner Tracker detector: all-silicon, inner tracker with pixel sensors, outer region with strips**



# ATLAS ITk Pixel detector

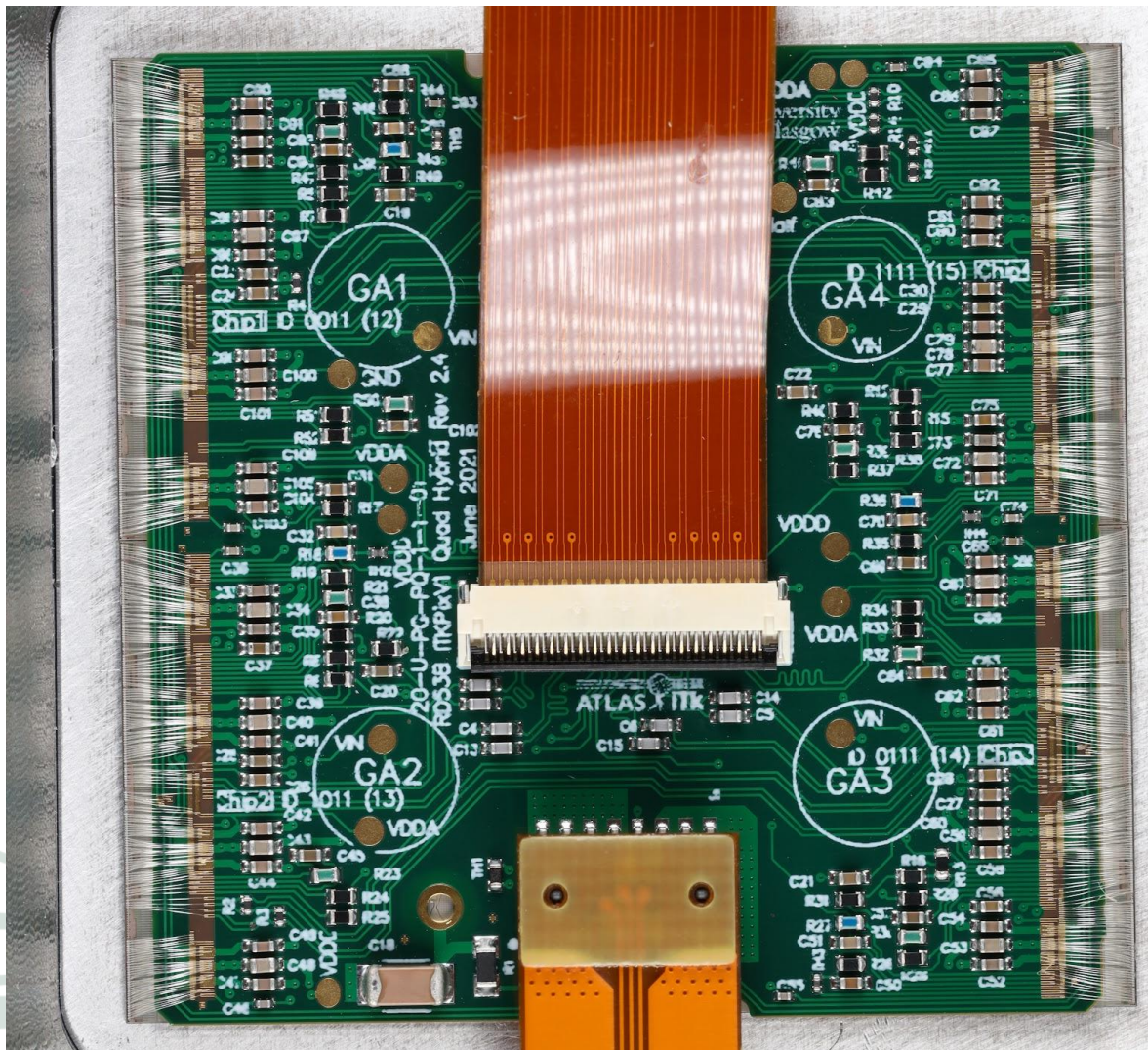
The US has committed to provide a standalone inner unit of the pixel tracker – the Inner System

- Modules, electronics, mechanics, cooling, services, data transmission, ...
- Interfacing with international ITk project

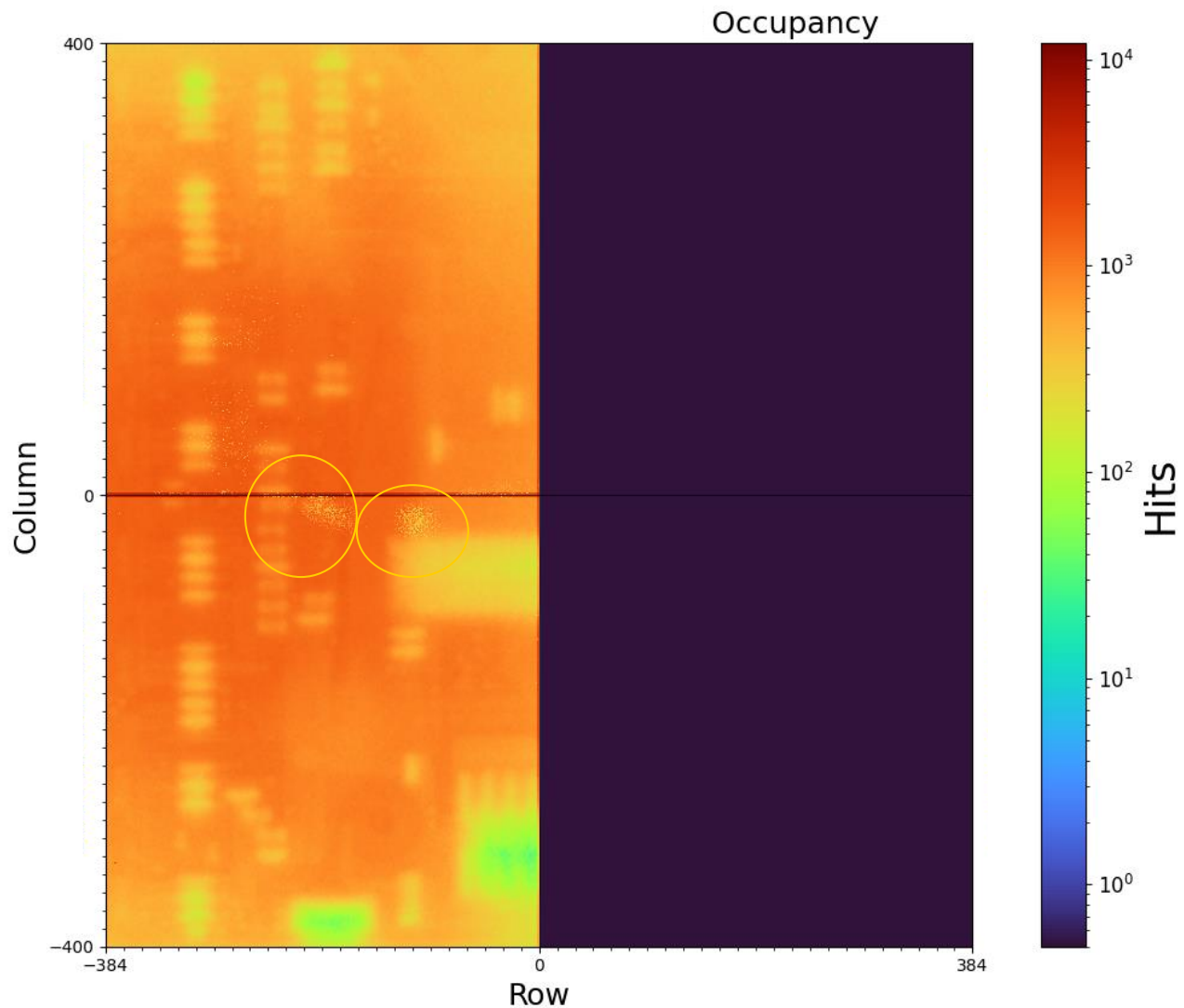




# Pixel module testing

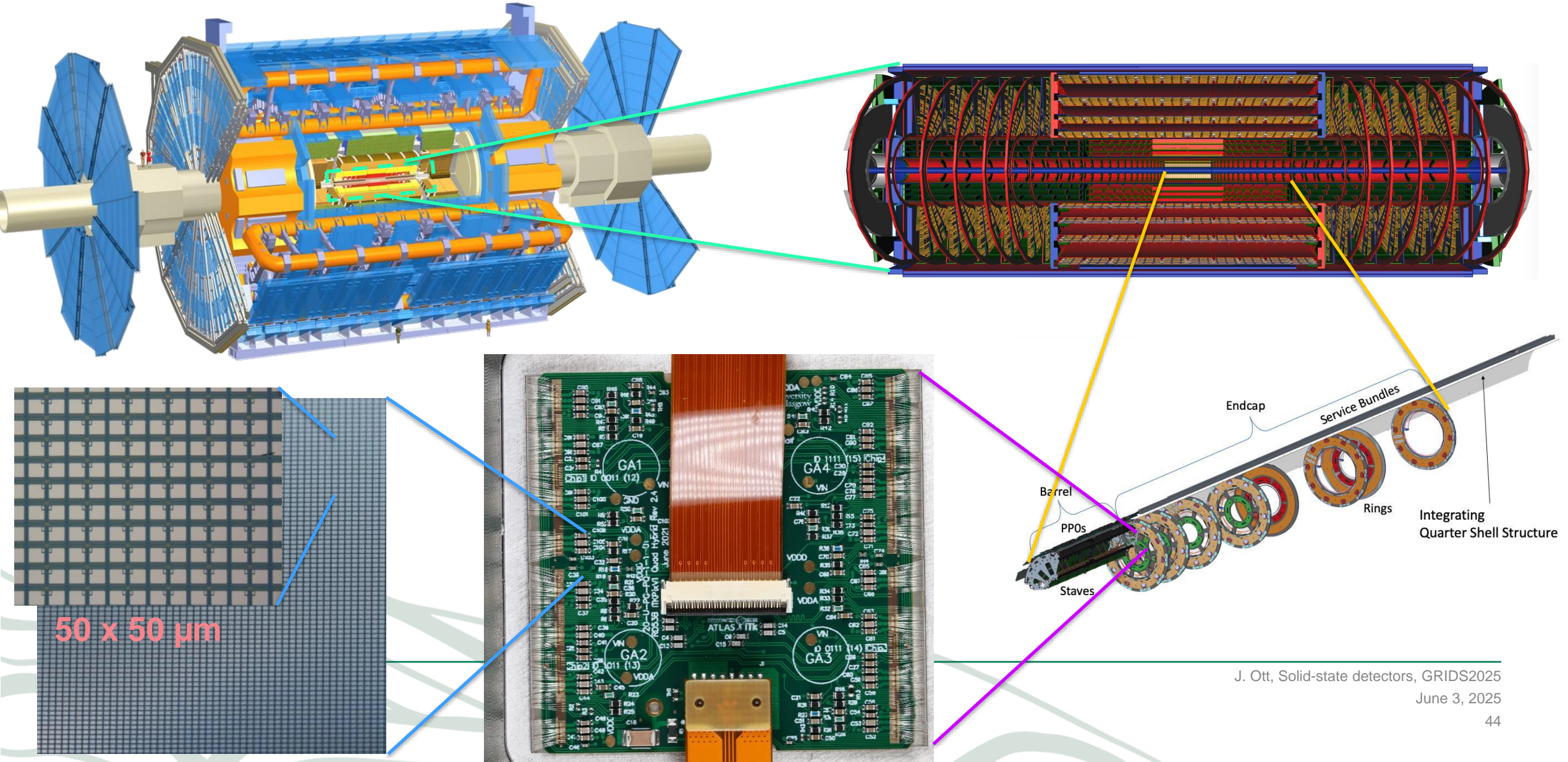


*Areas with disconnected bumps  
identified with Sr-90 source scan*





# Example: ATLAS Inner Tracker pixels

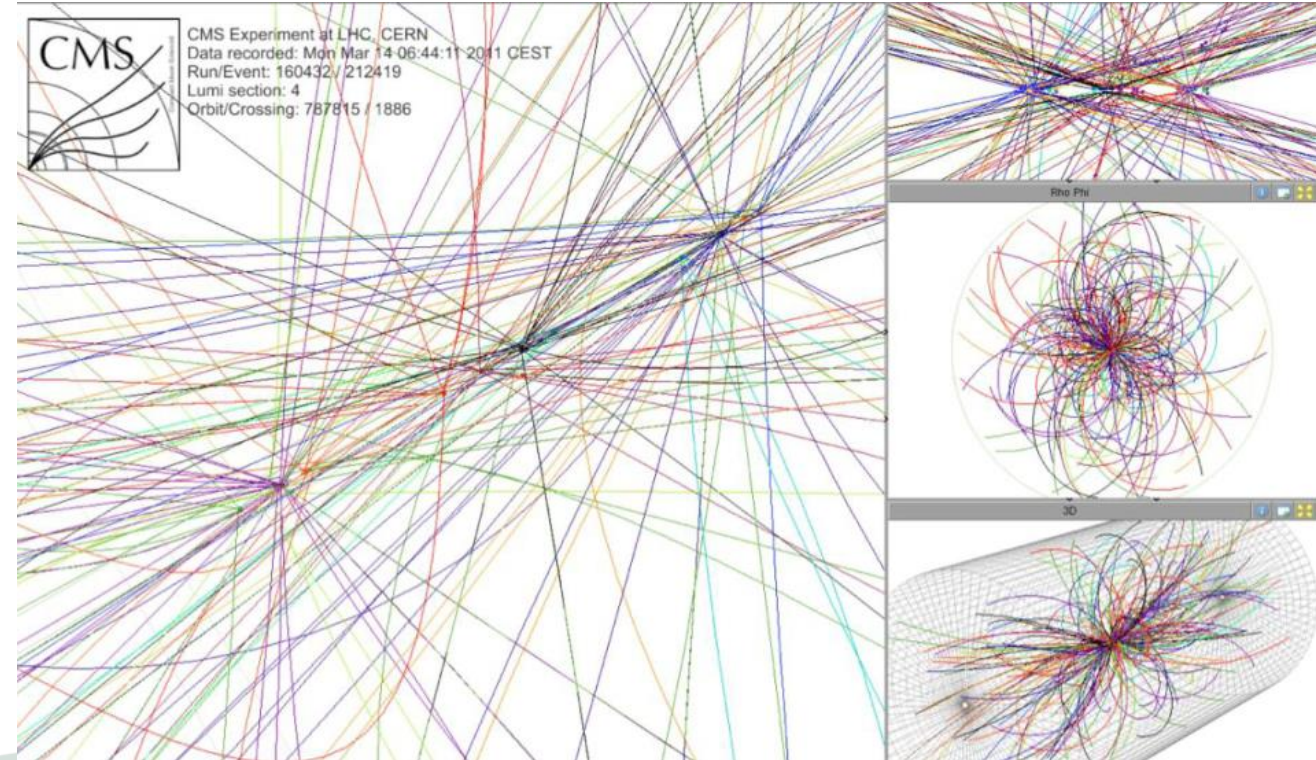
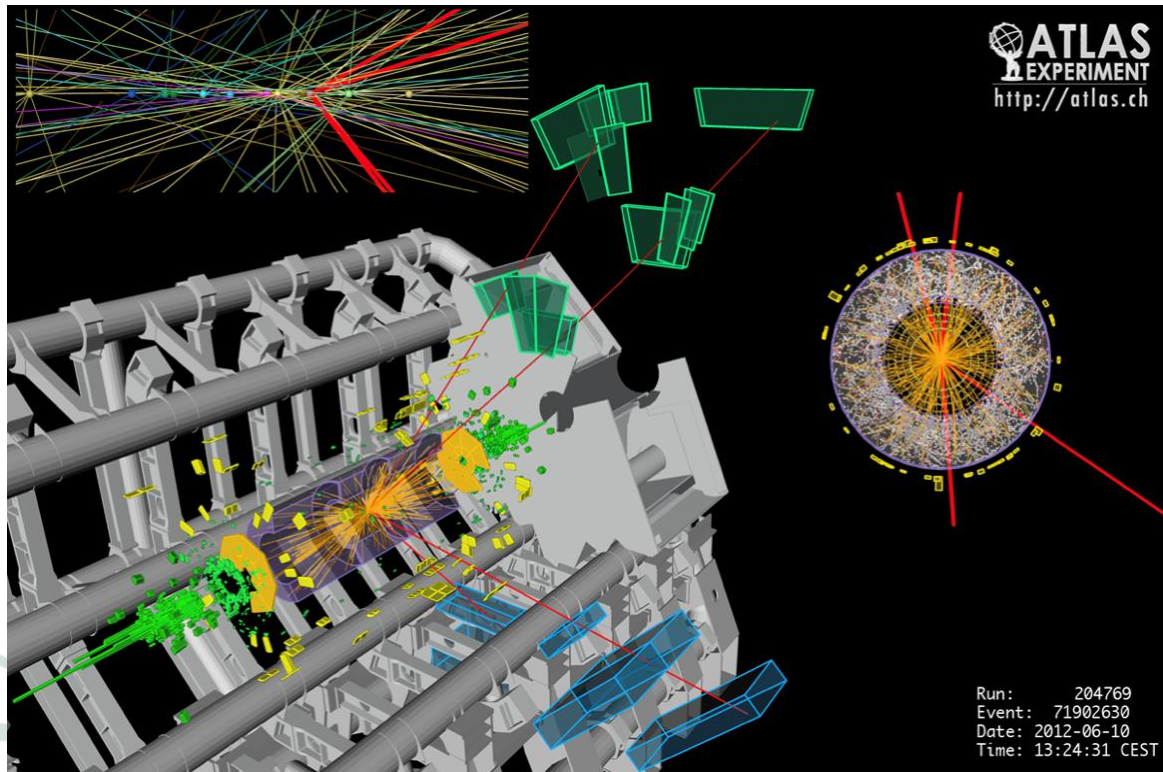




# Particle tracking and vertexing

Several collisions per bunch crossing:

→vertexing: point / associate a track to the original interaction point



# Timing

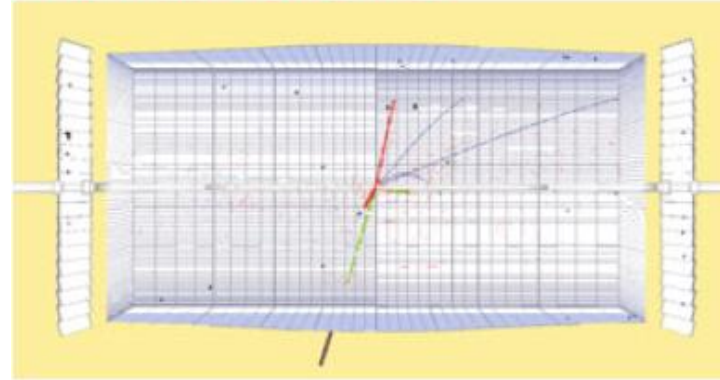


# Precision timing

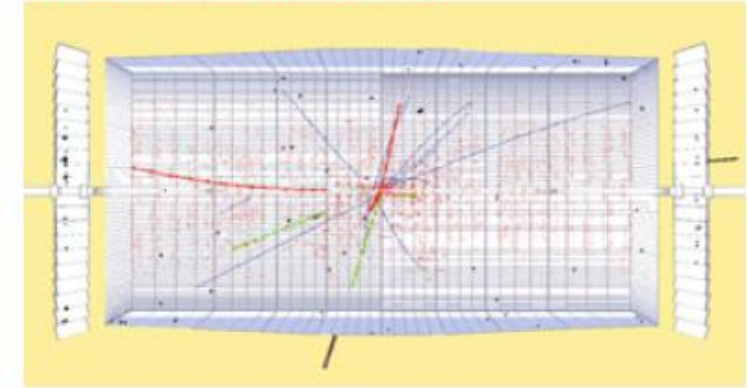
At the HL-LHC, the number of interactions per bunch crossing, i.e. *pile-up* increases from ~50 to ~200

Timing resolution of 30-60 ps is needed to associated tracks to primary vertex (and improves many analyses performances)

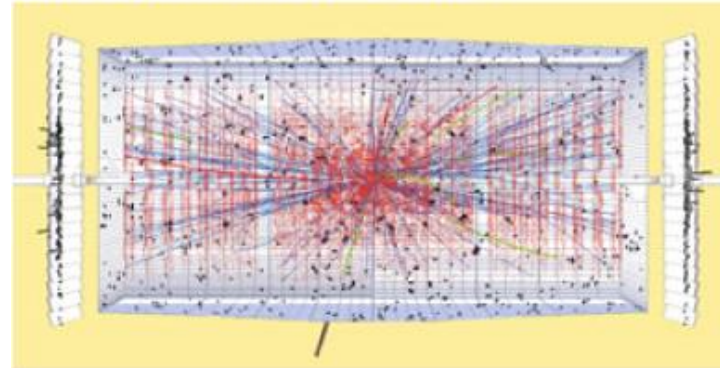
LHC initial:  $10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$



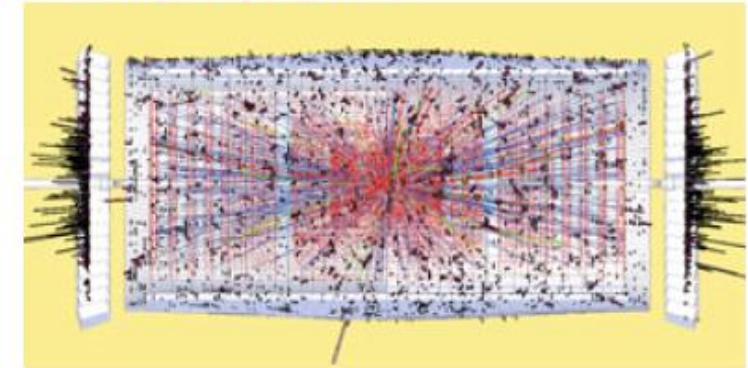
LHC initial:  $10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$



LHC nominal:  $10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$



HL-LHC:  $10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$



# Precision timing

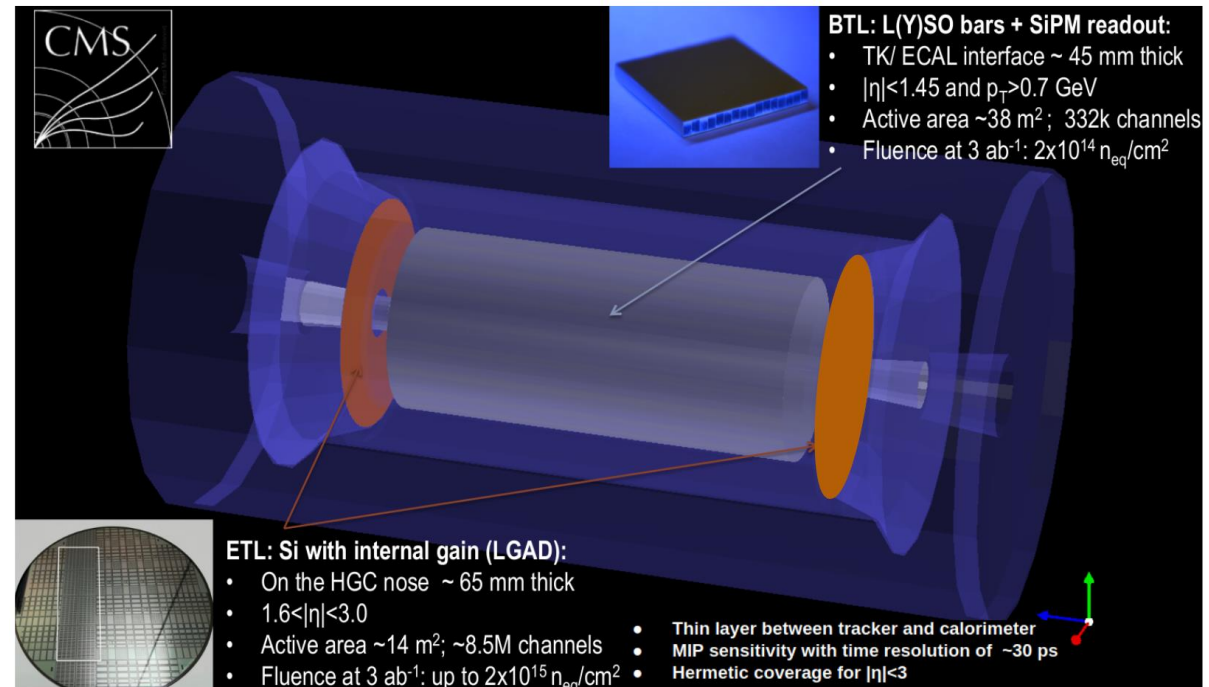
**CMS and ATLAS experiments will install dedicated MIP timing detector layers in the Phase-2 upgrades, between tracking systems and calorimeters**

## CMS

- Barrel and endcap region with different technologies: barrel scintillators + SiPM, endcap with fast silicon detectors – **LGADs**

## ATLAS

- Timing detectors only in the endcap region, with **LGADs**



*CMS MTD Technical Design report*

J. Ott, Solid-state detectors, GRIDS2025

June 3, 2025



# Precision timing

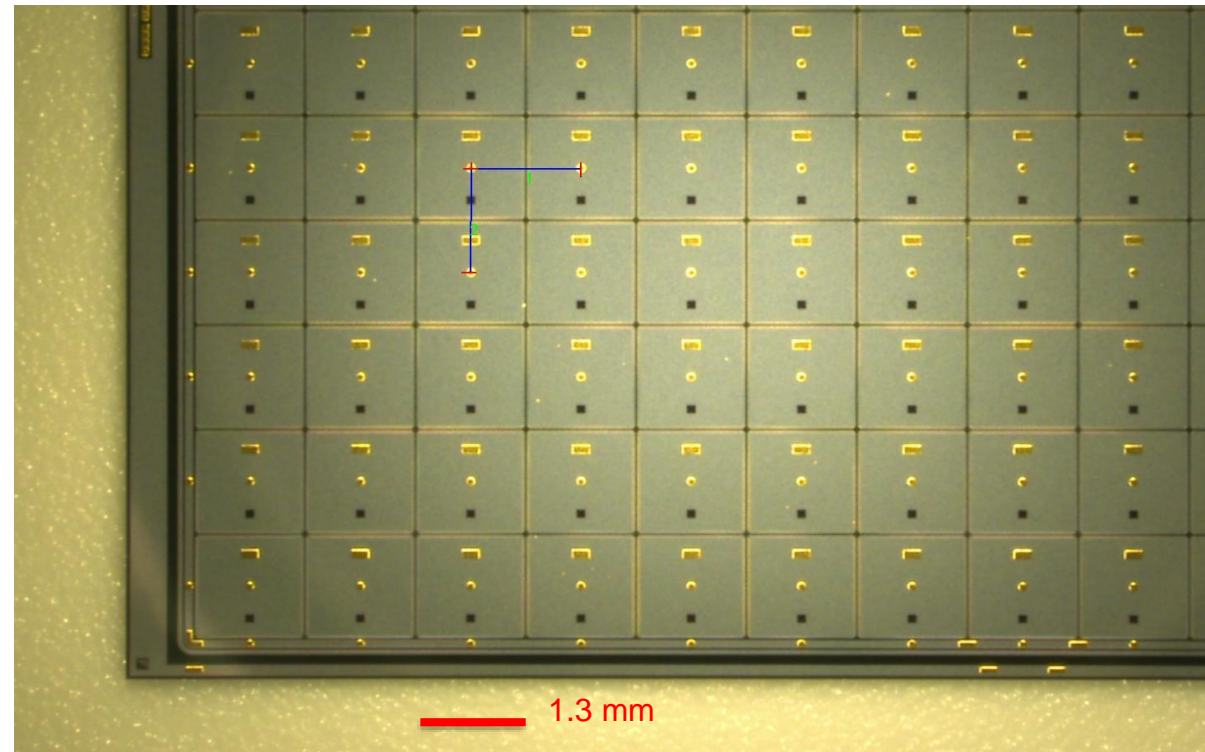
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## ATLAS

- Timing detectors only in the endcap region, with **LGADs**



*15x15 pad prototype  
LGAD sensor for HGTD*

# Low-gain avalanche diodes

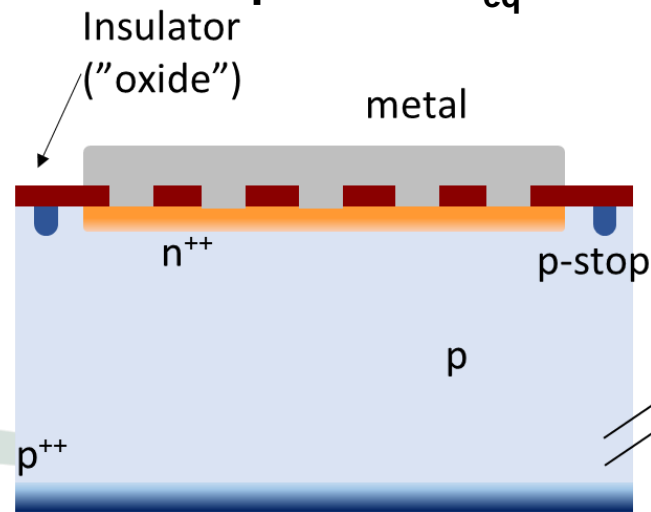
**Thin sensors, typical active thickness 50  $\mu\text{m}$  – shorter drift time, higher electric field, less Landau fluctuations!**

- Mechanical support wafer 150-400  $\mu\text{m}$ !

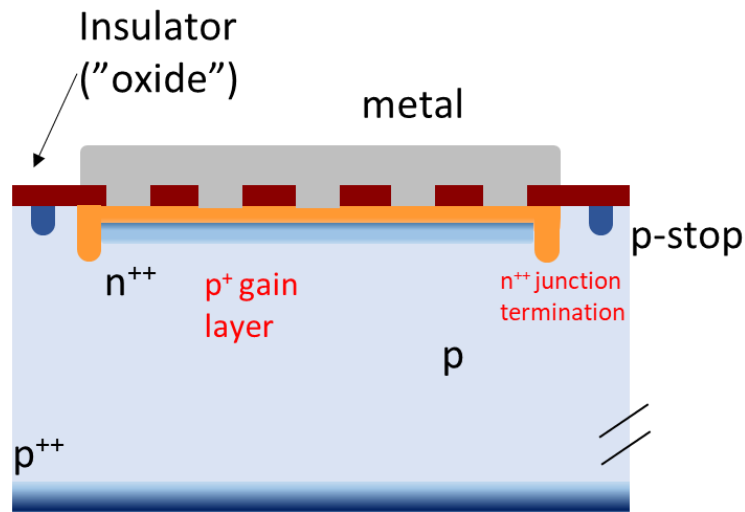
**Low to moderate gain (5-50) provided by  $p^+$  multiplication layer**

**Timing resolution down to ca. 20 ps**

**Good radiation hardness up to  $10^{15} \text{ n}_{\text{eq}}/\text{cm}^2$**



*n-in-p normal diode*



*n-in-p LGAD*

# Low-gain avalanche diodes

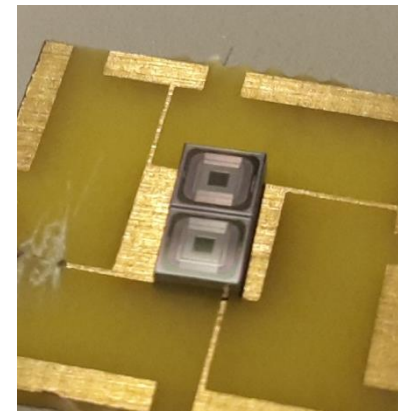
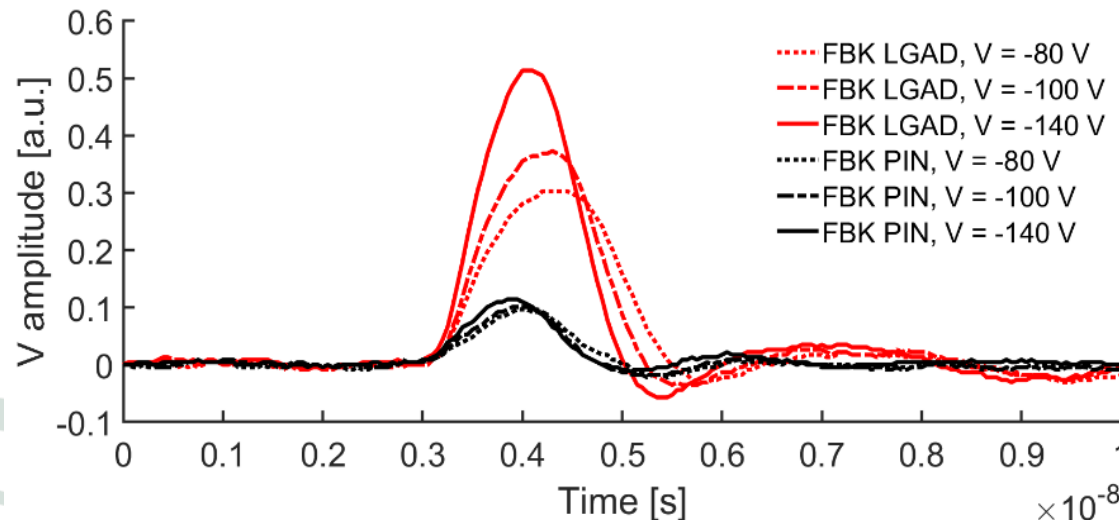
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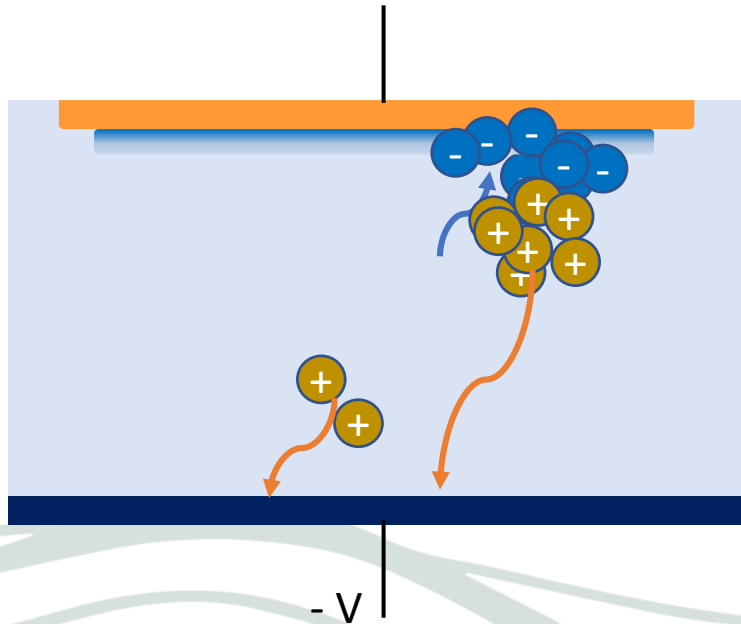
**Good radiation hardness up to  $10^{15} \text{ n}_{\text{eq}}/\text{cm}^2$**



*Gain determination with LGAD-diode pairs in laser TCT*

# Low-gain avalanche diodes

- Gain layer with moderate doping concentration (lower than  $n^{++}$  or  $p^{++}$  contacts) results in localized, higher electric field
- Electrons reach enough kinetic energy to ionize other atoms in the Si lattice – multiplication, ‘avalanche’



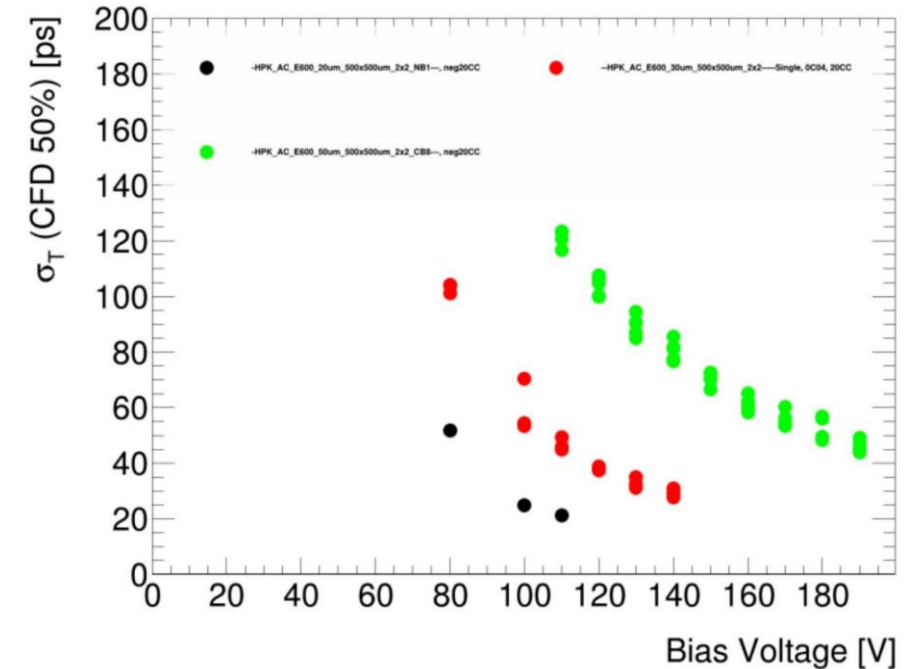
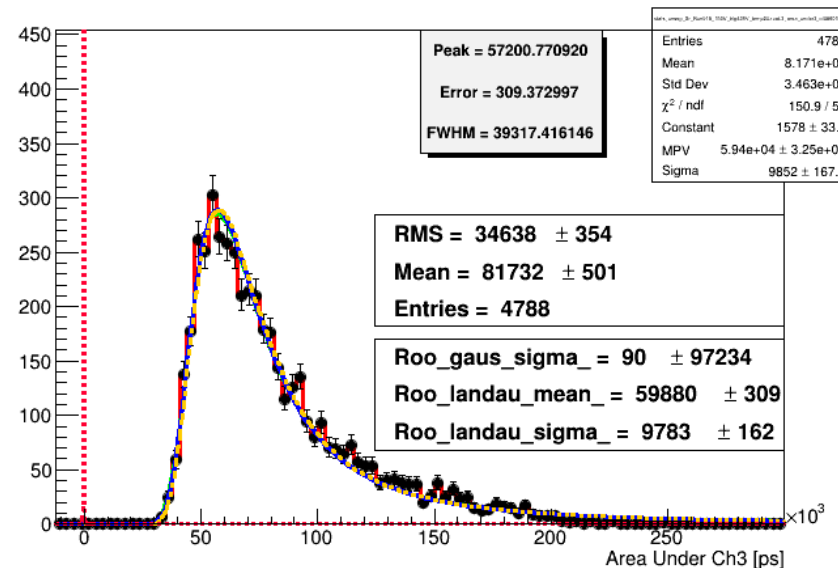
1. Electrons drift to the segmented electrode and pass by the gain layer
2. Holes drift to backplane
3. Electrons generate new e-h pairs at the gain layer
4. New electrons only drift a few  $\mu\text{m}$  to the front electrode: are typically obscured by rise time of the electronics
5. **New holes drift through the bulk to the backplane**

# Timing resolution

$$\sigma_t^2 = \sigma_{Landau}^2 + \sigma_{time\ walk}^2 + \sigma_{jitter}^2 + \sigma_{TDC}^2$$

## Timing resolution consists of several contributions

- Landau fluctuations of charge deposition: reduce by thinner sensor
- Time walk
- Jitter (sensor & electronics)
- TDC

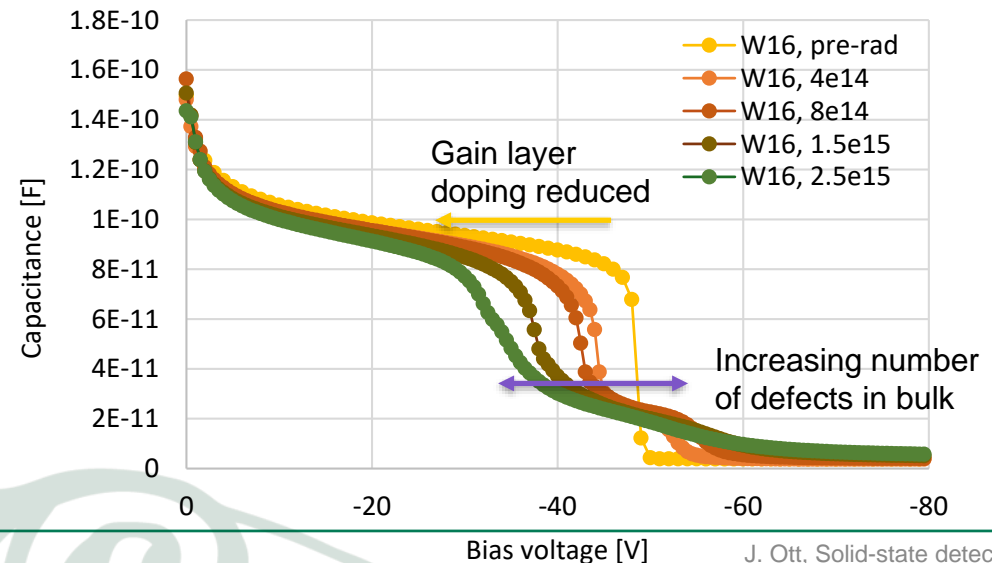


# Radiation damage in LGADs

LGADs (regardless of what structural variant) suffer from degradation of the gain due to deactivation of acceptors

Can be addressed to some extent by gain layer and defect engineering:

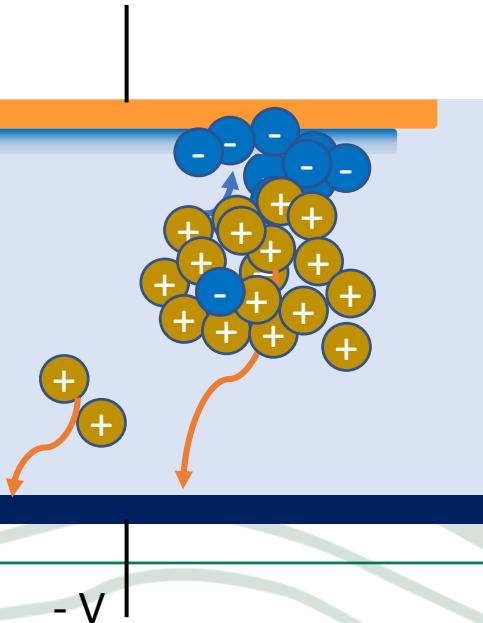
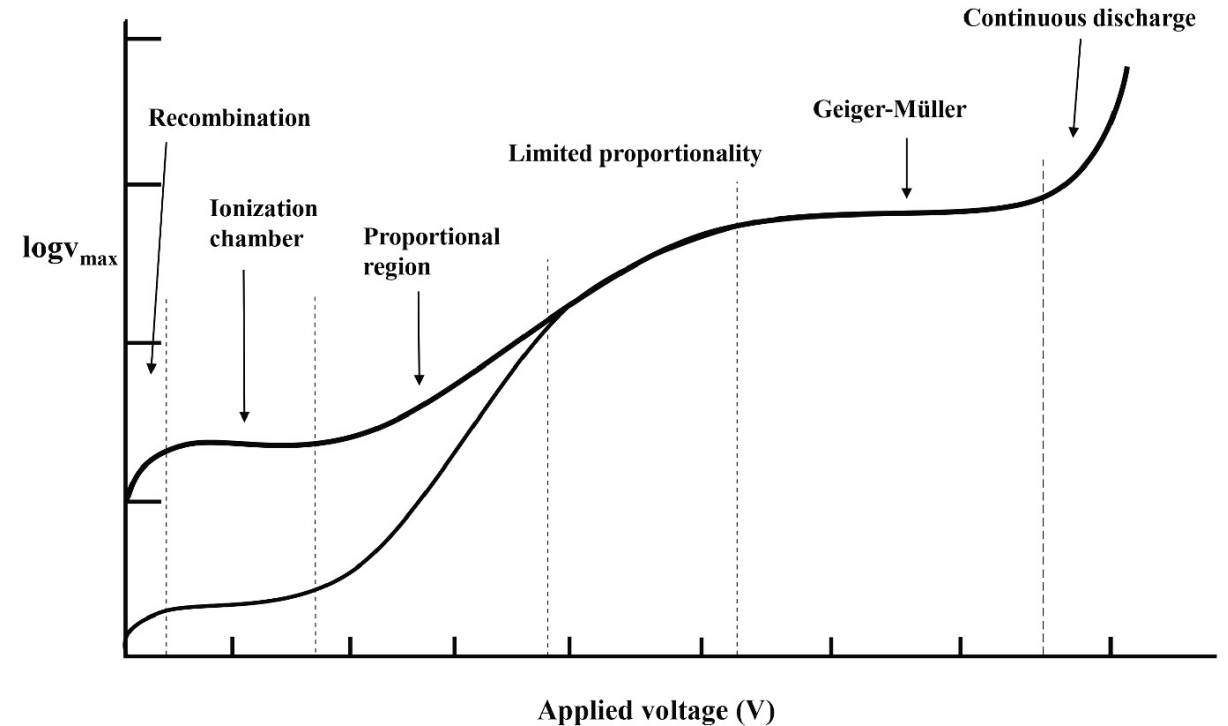
- Different dopant: e.g. Ga instead of B
  - Not successful
- **Carbon co-doping**
  - **Successful at reducing gain layer deactivation**
- Partially activated boron
  - More recent; very mixed results for different vendors





# LGAD vs SiPM

- Avalanche breakdown: multiplication of charge carriers as kinetic energy of electrons is sufficiently high
- Breakdown voltage (of the diode): exponential increase in current across p-n junction
- Breakdown voltage (of device): current flow around guard rings or over surface, renders device inoperable



1. Electrons and/or holes drift through the gain layer
2. Charge carriers ionize atoms, form new e-h pairs at the gain layer, ....
3. New charge carriers continue impact ionization
4. **High concentration of charge affects electric field across the device, 'screens' charge carriers from external field**
5. **Multiplication reaches saturation level**

# 4D Tracking in upcoming experiments



# Electron-Ion Collider ePIC Detector

# Electron-Ion Collider

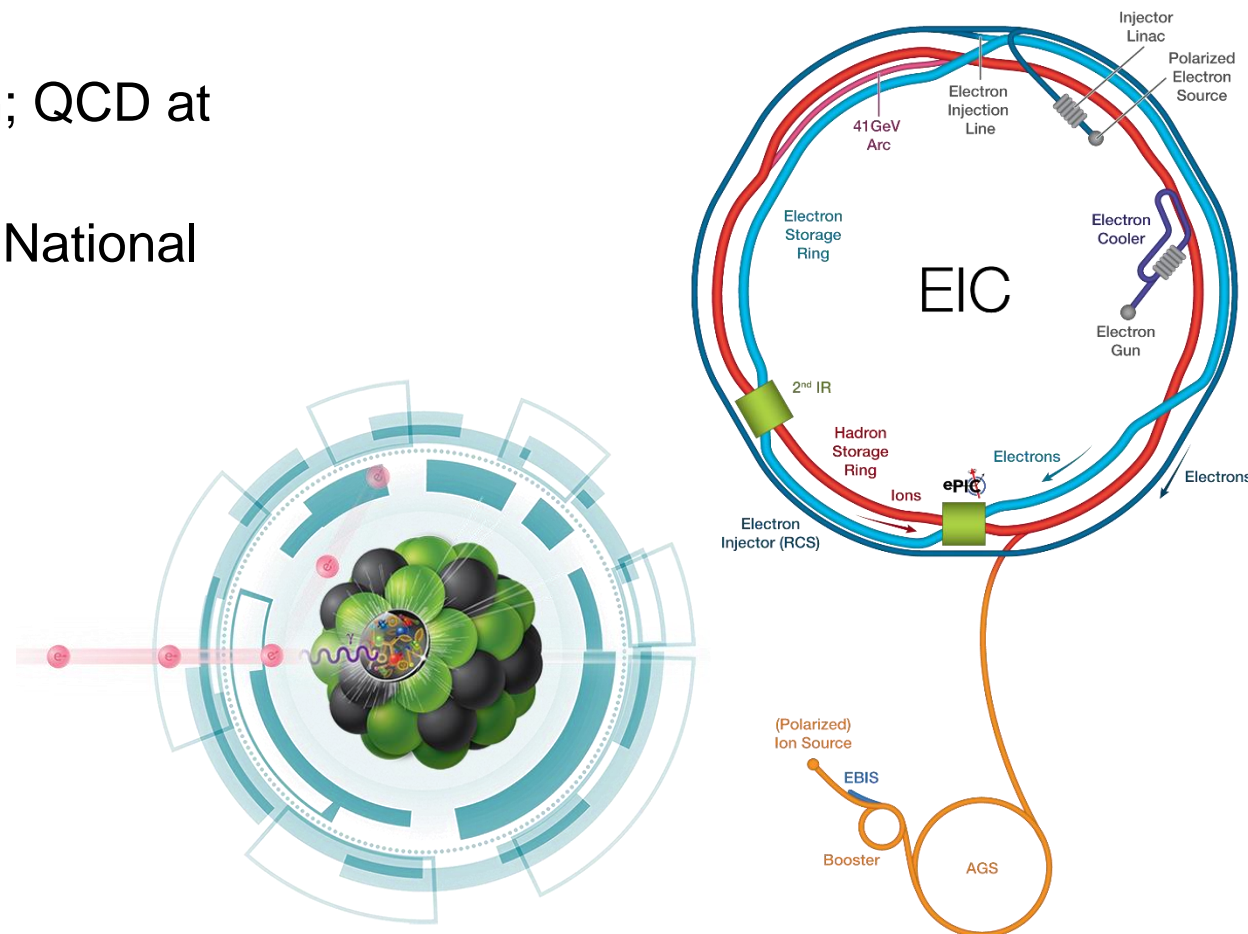
- Nucleon and nuclei structure, mass and spin; QCD at extreme densities; 'imaging' of nuclei
- Jointly hosted by Brookhaven and Jefferson National Laboratories
  - **Detector 1 at the EIC: ePIC**

**Operations scheduled to begin 2032-2034**

**Center-of-mass energy: 20 –140 GeV**

- electrons: 2.5 –18 GeV
- protons: 40 –275 GeV (ions:  $Z/A * E_p$ )

**Luminosity:  $2 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$**



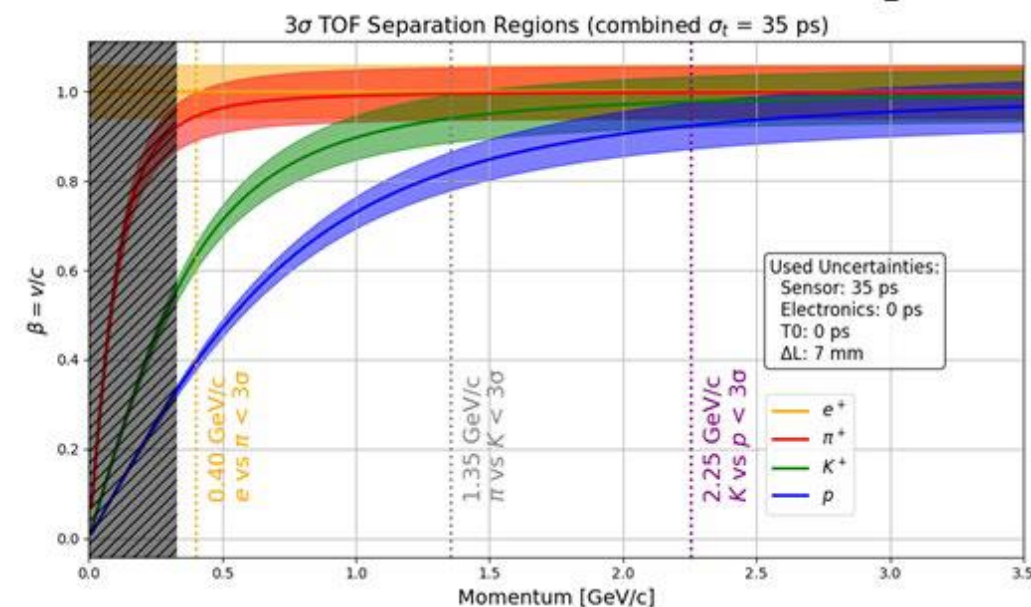
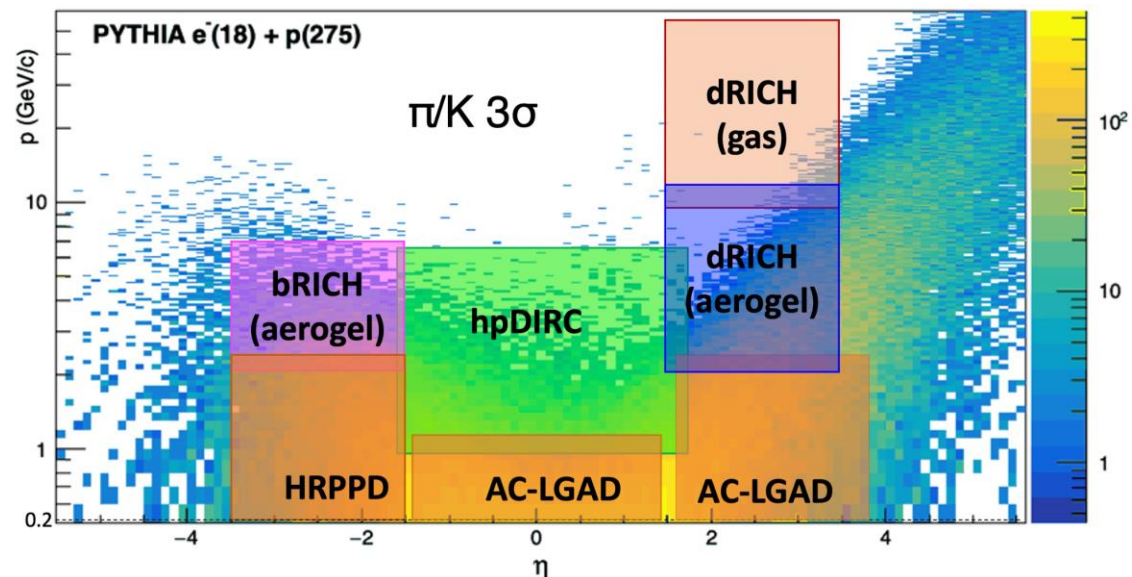
# Particle ID



Distinction of different charged particle species becomes more important at lower momenta and for flavour physics

ePIC detector features several Particle ID systems, mostly based on Cherenkov light detection

- Time-of-flight particle ID layer: silicon AC-LGADs
- T0 timestamp?



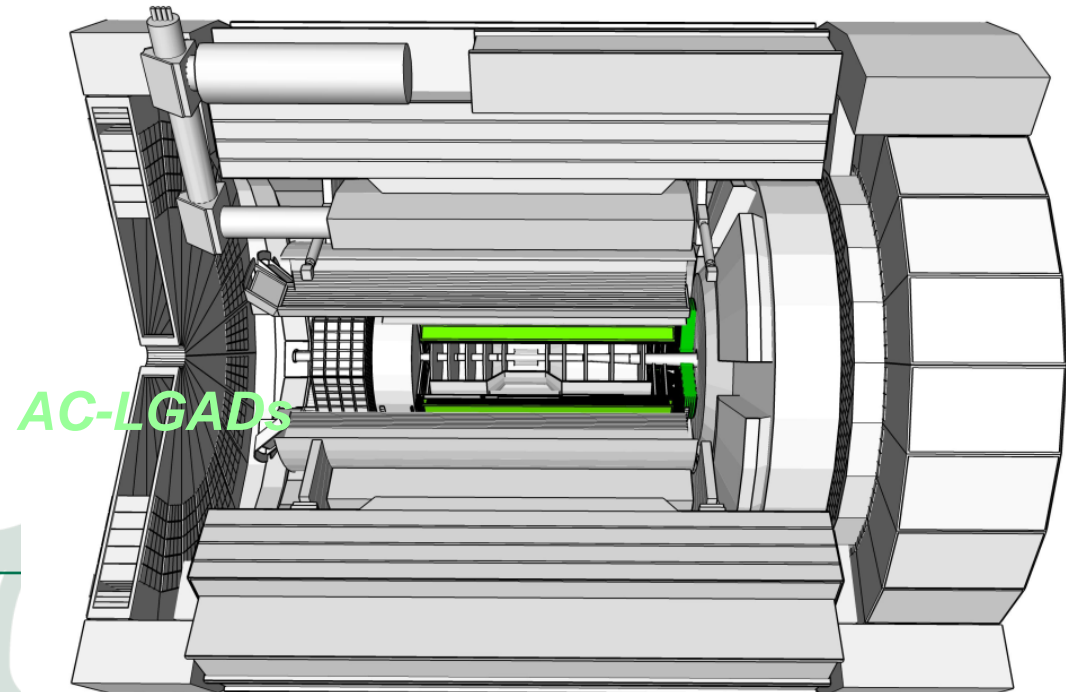
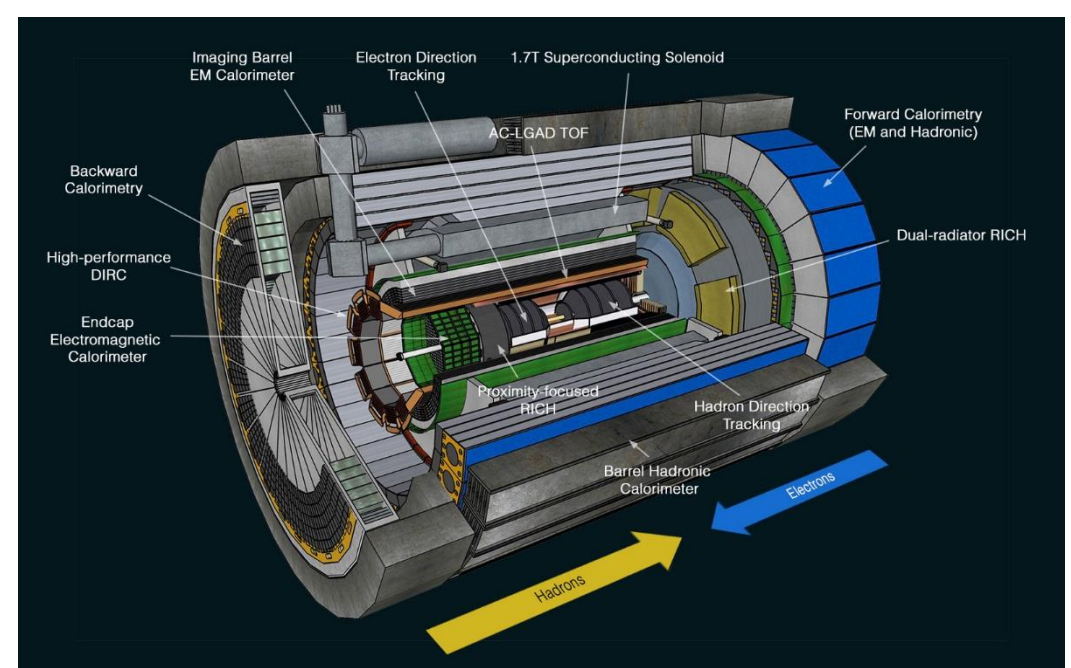
# Particle ID



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ePIC detector features several Particle ID systems, mostly based on Cherenkov light detection

- Time-of-flight particle ID layer: silicon AC-LGADs
- T0 timestamp?



# TOF-PID in ePIC

## Several detectors for particle ID in inner or outer barrel layers, hadronic endcap, electron endcap

- Momentum and rapidity range cannot be covered by a single technology
- Leveraging variants of Cherenkov detectors
- AC-LGADs replaced by picosecond photodetectors in electron (backward) endcap
- Excellent performance in distinction of charged particle species at low momenta  $< 3$  GeV

## Radiation hardness of timing detectors not very challenging - more important:

- **Combination of precise temporal and spatial resolution: 25 ps and 30  $\mu\text{m}$  / hit**
- Low material budget

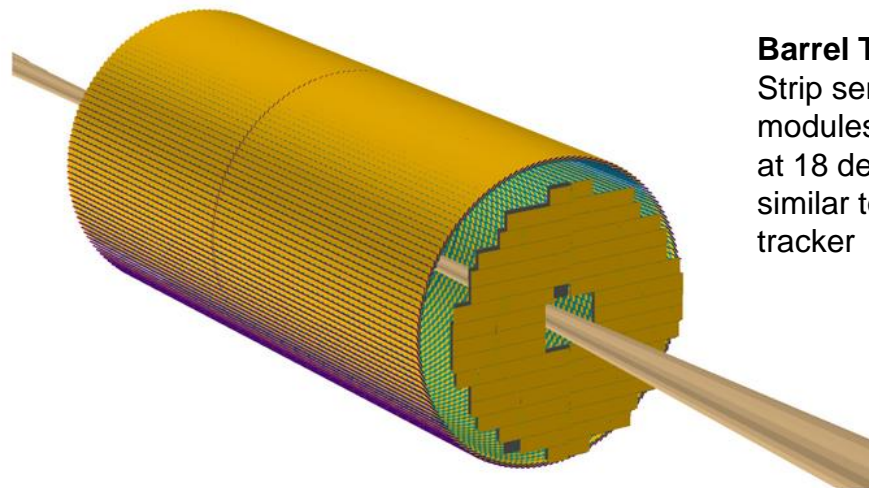
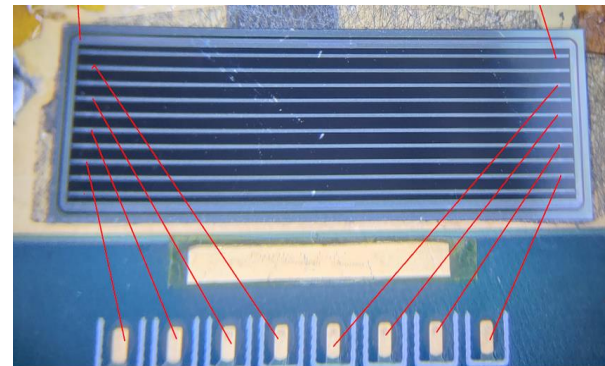
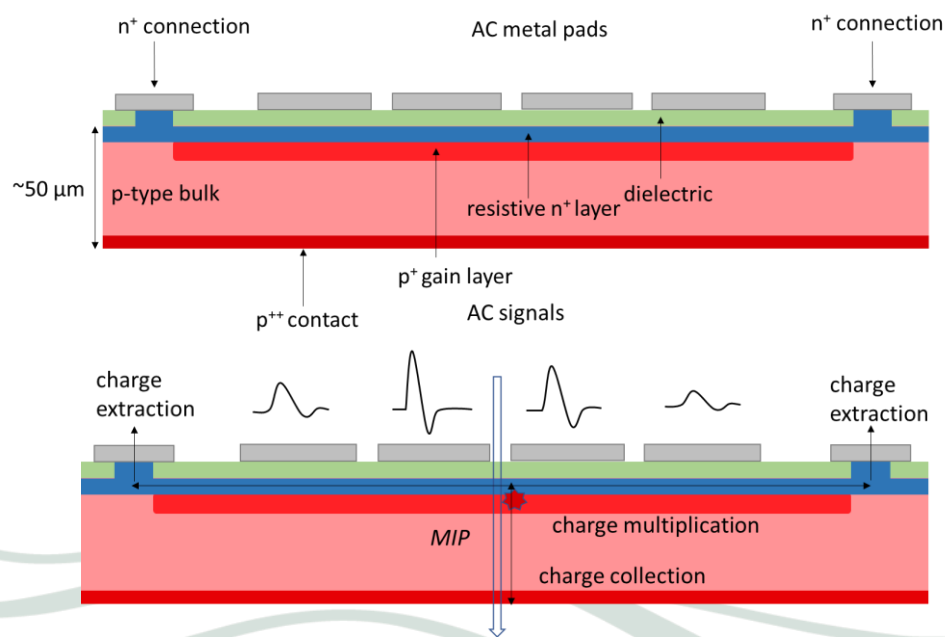
## Current sensor design baseline:

- Barrel: **strips, 500  $\mu\text{m}$  pitch and 1 cm length**
- Hadronic endcap (and Roman Pots): **pads, 500 x 500  $\mu\text{m}$**



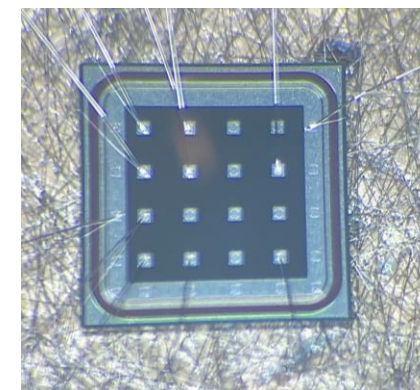
# AC-LGADs

- Higher fill factor than standard LGADs
- Charge sharing over resistive  $n^+$  layer



**Barrel TOF**  
Strip sensor  
modules tilted  
at 18 deg,  
similar to STAR  
tracker

**Forward TOF**  
Similar to CMS  
ETL





# PIONEER experiment

---

# PIONEER Experiment

New pion decay experiment approved at PSI, data taking to be started in 2028

## Phase 1

$$R_{e/\mu} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu(\gamma))}{\Gamma(\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu(\gamma))}$$

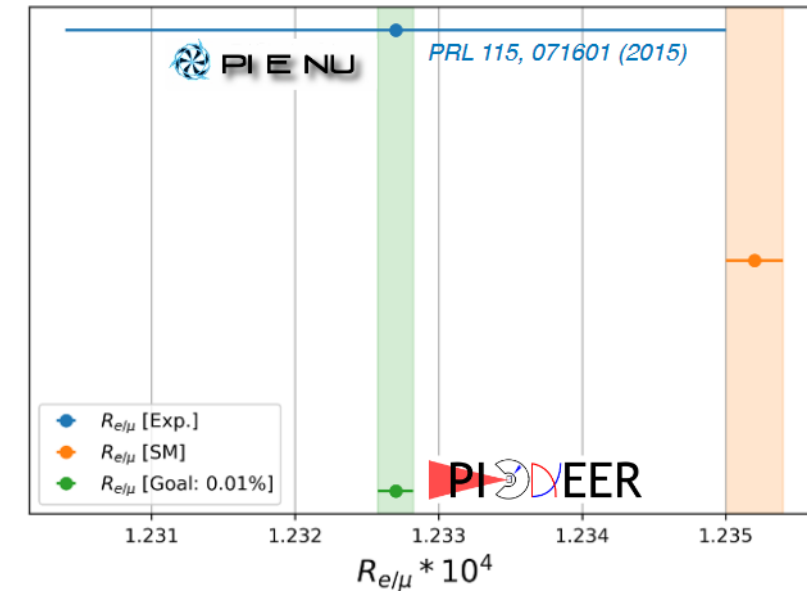
Lepton flavor universality → charged lepton flavor universality violation?  
SM prediction ca. 15x more precise than experiment!

Heavy neutrinos; light New Physics

## Phase 2

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \pi^0 e^+ \nu(\gamma)$$

CKM unitarity  
 $|V_{ud}|$



<https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.01981>

# 4D (5D) tracking: PIONEER experiment

Precision measurement of lepton flavour universality through the charged pion decay branching ratio:

$$R_{e/\mu} = \frac{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow e \nu(\gamma))}{\Gamma(\pi \rightarrow \mu \nu(\gamma))}$$

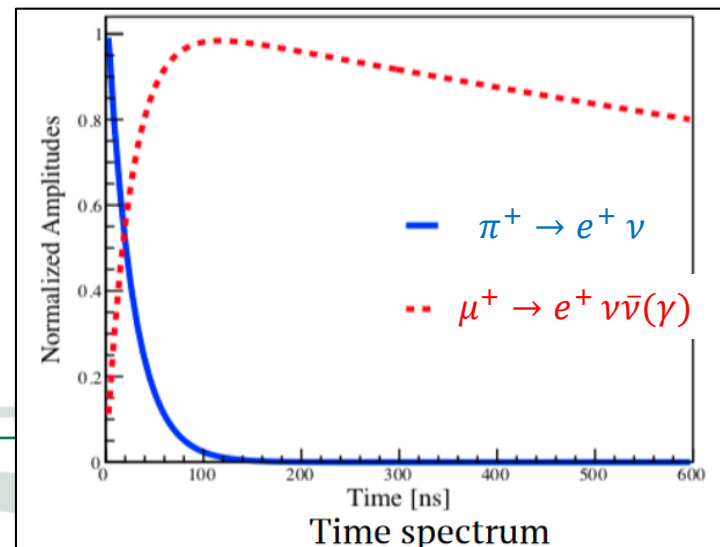
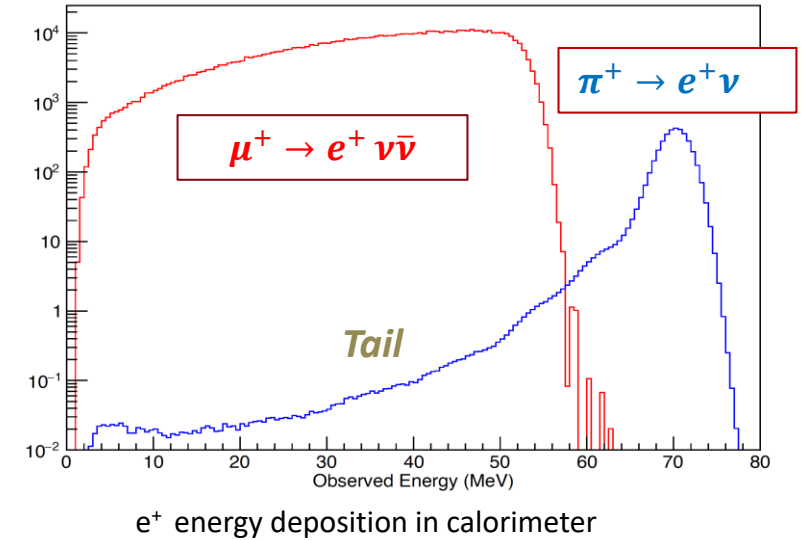
$$\pi^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu(\gamma) \quad 1.23 \times 10^{-4}$$

$$E_e = 69.8 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu(\gamma) \quad 99.99\%$$

$$\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu \bar{\nu}(\gamma) \quad 100\%$$

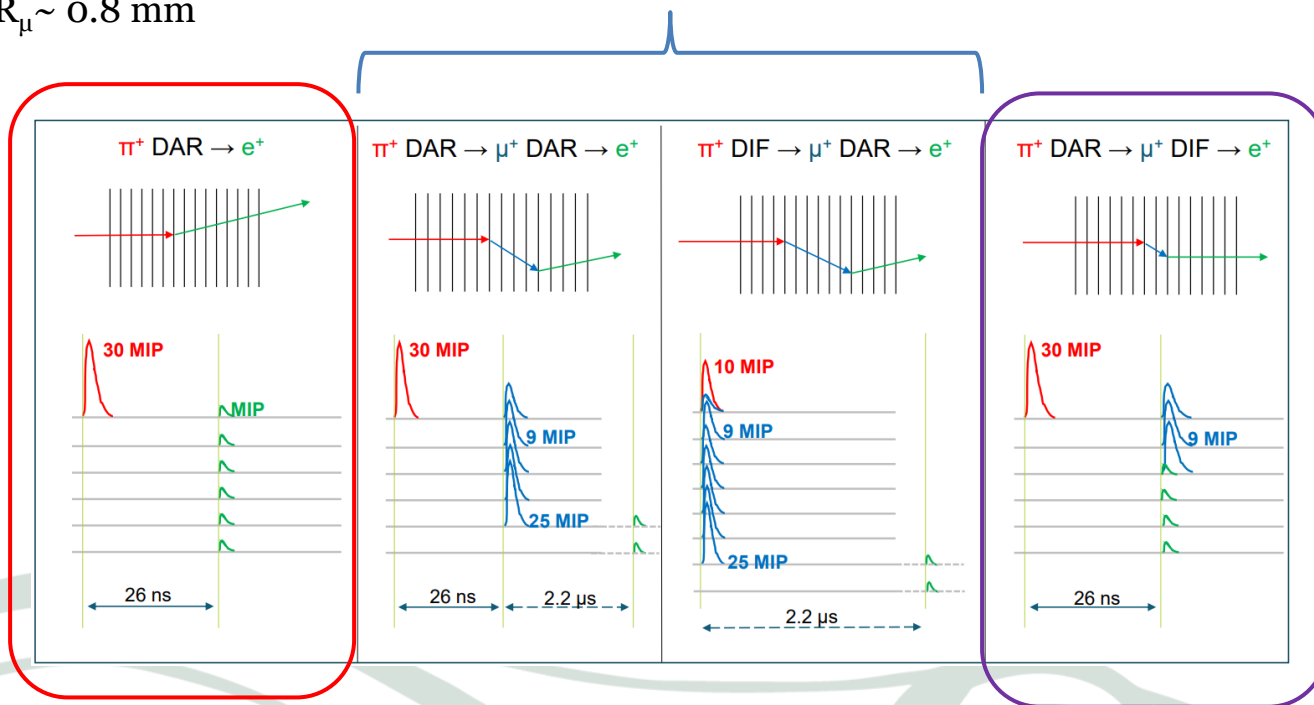
$$E_e = 0.5\text{-}52.8 \text{ MeV}$$



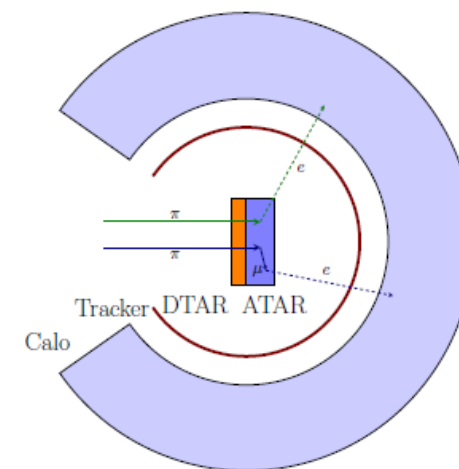
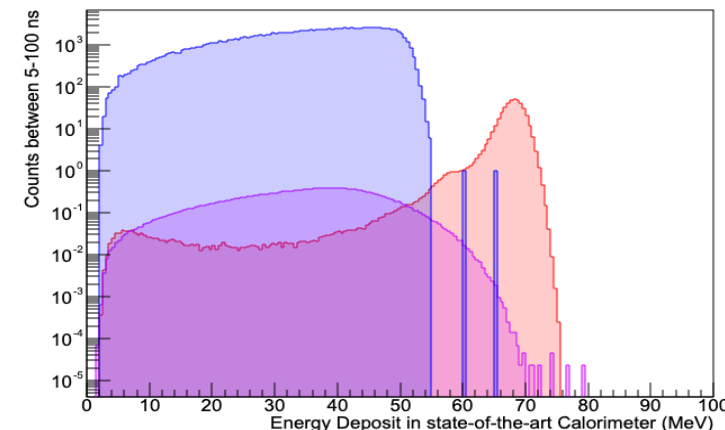
# PIONEER: separating muons and positrons

It will be crucial to separate the low-energy tail of  $\pi \rightarrow e$  events from  $\pi \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow e$  decays **in-flight** and **at-rest**

$R_\pi \sim 4 \text{ mm}$ ,  $R_\mu \sim 0.8 \text{ mm}$



Energy Spectrum (fiducial)



# The Active Target detector

5-D tracker can provide rich information (x, y, z, t, E)

## Baseline Technology: low-gain avalanche diodes

- *No-gain option has been / is being explored: requires very low-noise front-end*
- AC-LGADs
- TI-LGADs

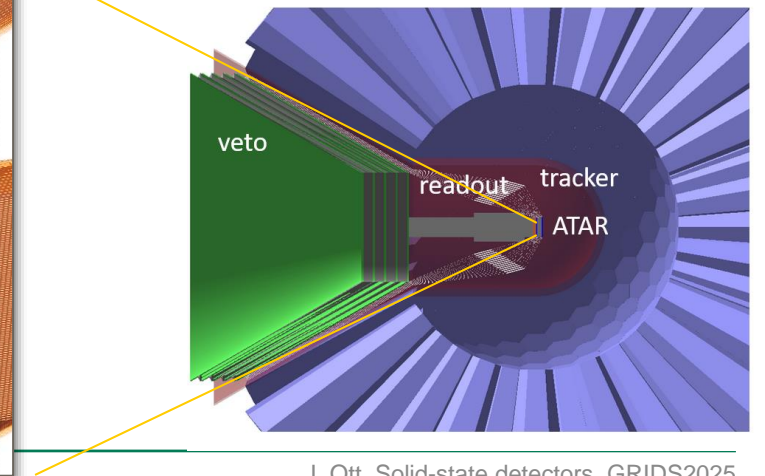
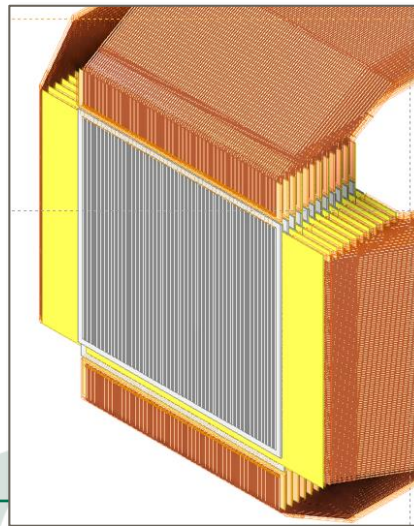
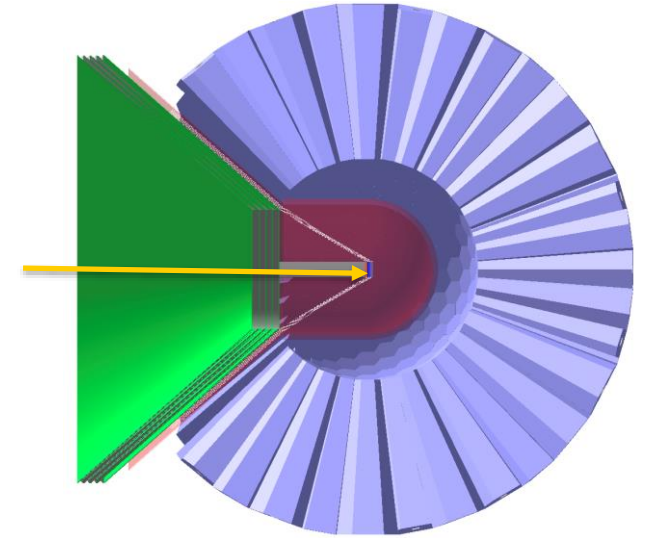
## Dimensions:

- 20 x 20 x 5.76 mm
- 48 sensor layers
- **120  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness**, 200  $\mu\text{m}$  strips

t:  $\Delta t \sim 200$  ps, pulse pair 2 ns

E:  $\sim 100$  dynamic range,  $\sigma_E < 10$  %

stack: fully active, “no: dead material



J. Ott, Solid-state detectors, GRIDS2025

June 3, 2025



# The Active Target detector

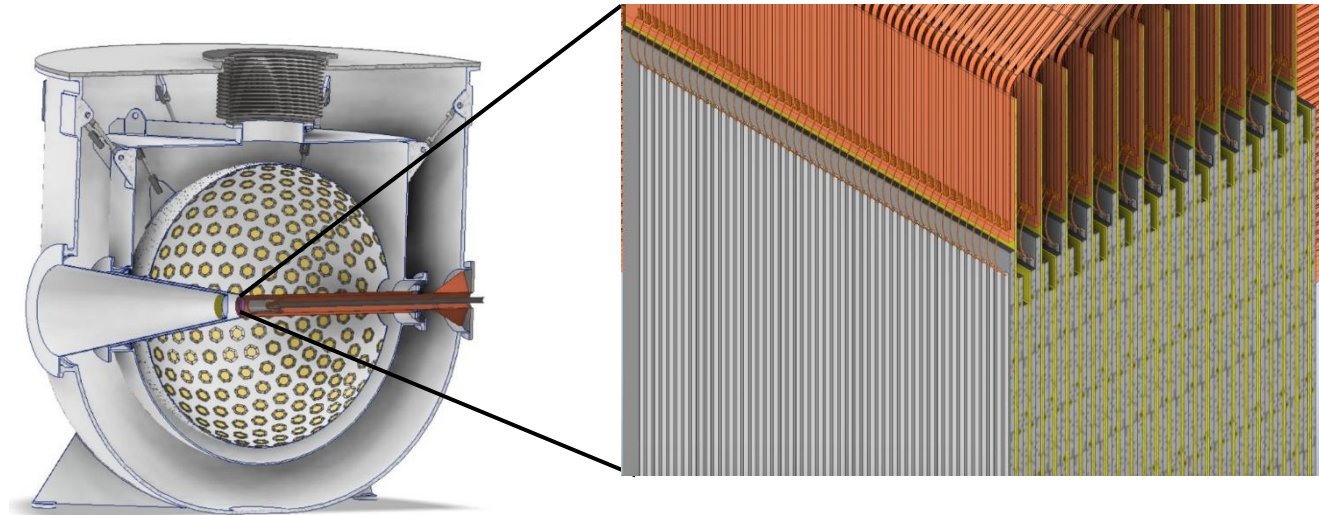
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**stack:** fully active, “no: dead material”

# Silicon detectors for future colliders

---

# Key developments in silicon sensors for the (HL-)LHC

- **Radiation hardness**
  - P-type sensors – using electron drift to pixels
- **Sensor design**
  - Smaller pitch, e.g. pixels: 50x50 or 25x100  $\mu\text{m}$
- **Fast timing: LGADs in HL-LHC upgrades**
- **3D sensors incorporated in pixel detector upgrades inner layers – also strong potential for timing**

# Silicon detectors in future particle physics experiments

## Efficient tracking (in 4D)

### **Precise timing resolution**

- Silicon sensors with gain
- 3D detectors

### **Improved spatial resolution**

- Small pixels
- Charge sharing
- 3D detectors

### **Operation at extreme fluences**

- Radiation tolerance of material
- Sensor design (incl. thickness)

### **Efficient manufacturing and operation**

- Low mass
- Large area, low cost, low power consumption
- Address challenging interconnection technology

# Extreme conditions in future colliders

## HL-LHC

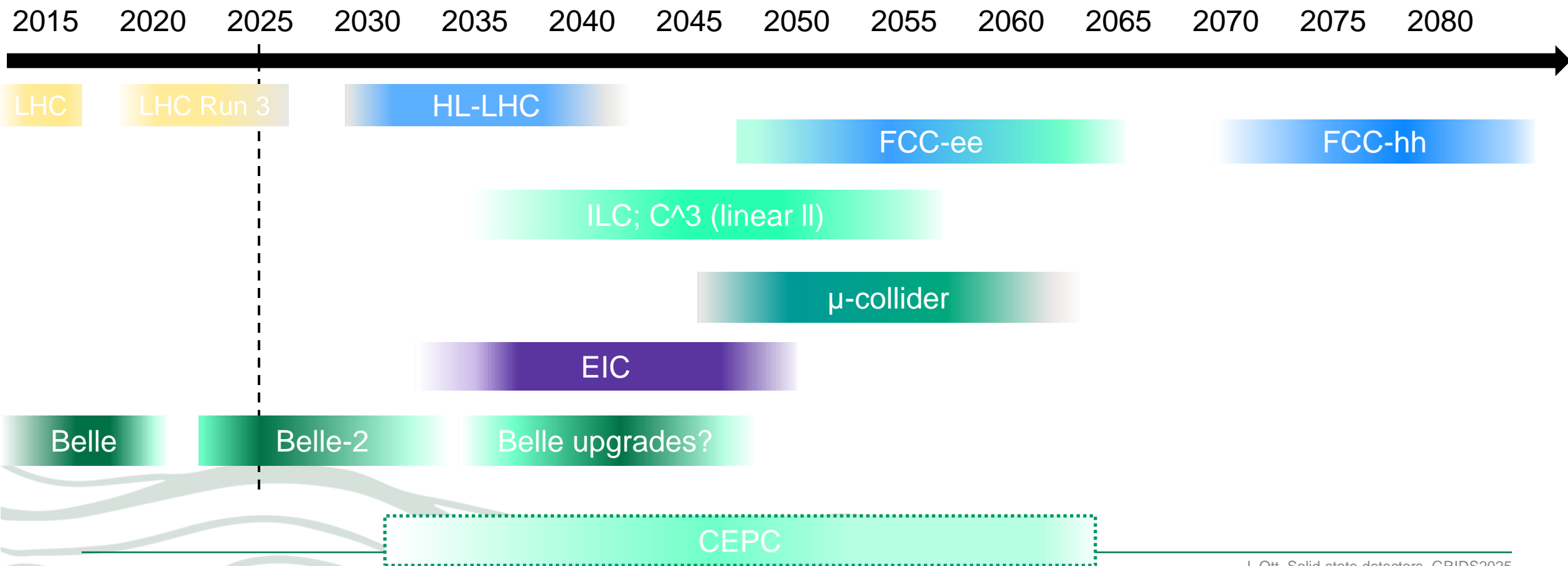
- Max. fluence on silicon detectors  $\sim 3 \times 10^{16} \text{ n}_{\text{eq}}/\text{cm}^2$
- Pileup  $\sim 200$ , for mitigation: timing resolution  $< 50 \text{ ps}$

## Future colliders

- Fluence on inner layers up to  $7 \times 10^{17} \text{ n}_{\text{eq}}/\text{cm}^2$  (FCC-hh)
- Similar pileup conditions to HL-LHC
- Desired resolution: 1-3  $\mu\text{m}$  (lepton colliders)
- Material budget: down to 1%  $X_0$



# Landscape of colliders



# “Near-future” colliders other than the (HL-)LHC

Several candidates: (ILC), (CLIC), C3, CEPC, FCC-ee

Ongoing / to be built: SuperKEKB / Belle-2, EIC

- Further: muon collider, FCC-hh

- **All near-future colliders are lepton or lepton-hadron colliders, at the Intensity Frontier**
  - No q-q, g-g interactions in the collisions, no QCD background – ‘clean’ collisions
- **Near-term trends for silicon tracking and timing detectors are turning to some extent!**

# “Near-future” colliders other than the (HL-)LHC

- **All near-future colliders are lepton or lepton-ion colliders, at the Intensity Frontier**
  - No q-q, g-g interactions in the collisions, no QCD background – ‘clean’
- **Developments / trends for silicon tracking and timing detectors are turning to some extent!**
- **Radiation levels significantly lower**
- **Fewer vertices and tracks, little to no pileup – timing less essential**
- **Tracking resolution needs to improve: reduce material budget to minimize scattering**
- **Large area and low cost, low power consumption increasingly important**

# Monolithic CMOS detectors

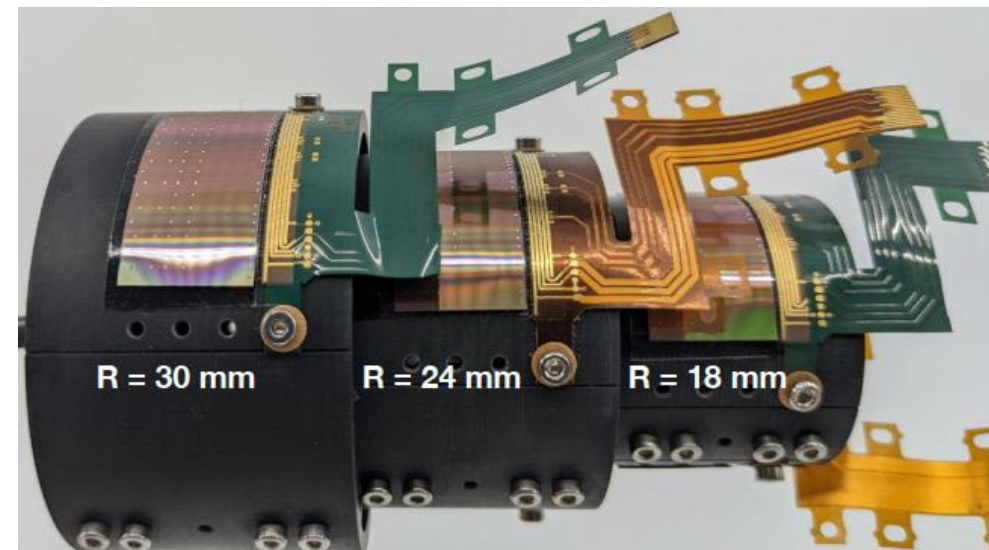
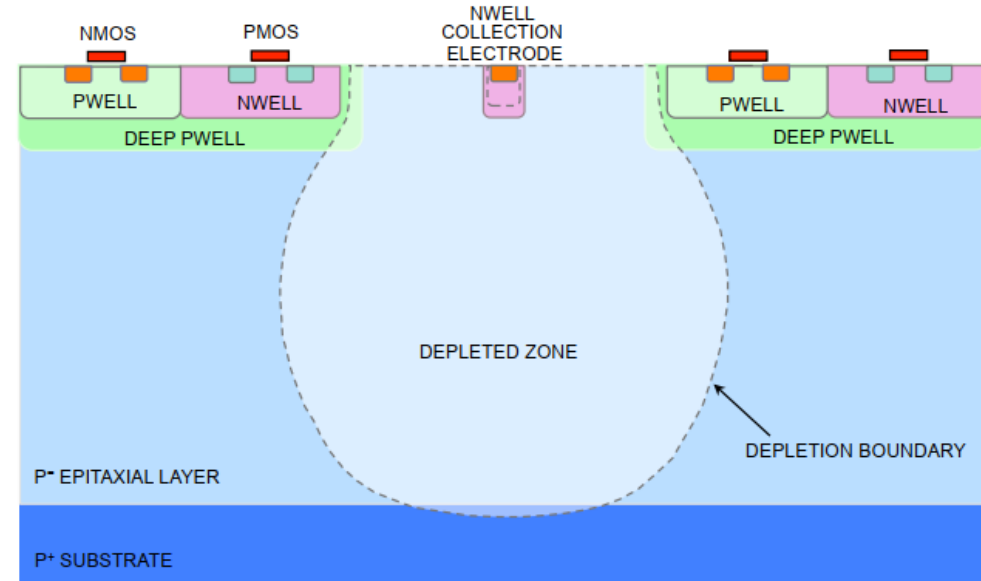
## Active CMOS / MAPS

- Small pixels, better spatial resolution, do not require elaborate interconnection
- Commercial large vendor processes
- **Showstopper for p-p colliders so far: radiation levels**
- ***Eventually MAPS with gain layer?***

## “Massless” detectors

Thin stitched detectors: ALICE ITS-3 for the HL-LHC upgrade

- **Baseline for inner tracker and vertex detector at most future colliders: EIC, FCC-ee, etc**



# Fast timing

Timing capabilities for MIPs to  $<20$  ps ( $< 5$ ps electronics jitter)

3D integration

Integration into CMOS process

Not only in silicon trackers!

- Timing of calorimeter showers
- Fast light readout from scintillator / Cherenkov detector: also down below 100 ps!
- **Detectors with gain: not only high-energy physics: nuclear physics, photon science, medical imaging (e.g. positronium decay PET)**



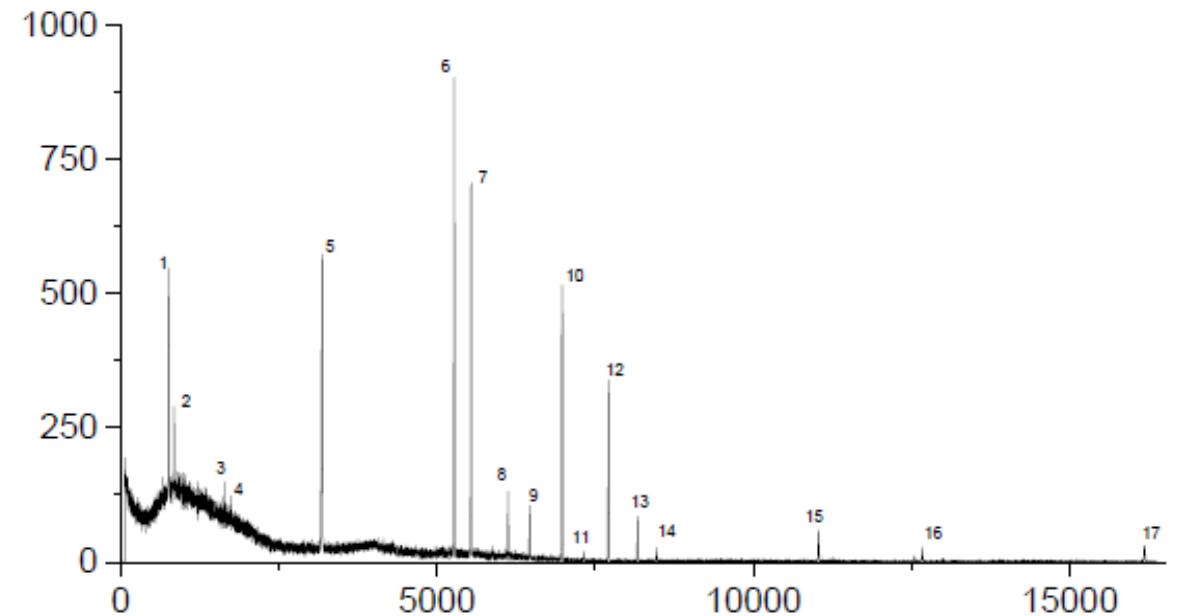
# Other materials and applications

---

# Other semiconductor materials

## Germanium

- Band gap 0.67 eV
- Higher noise, is operated at cryogenic temperatures (liquid N<sub>2</sub>)
- High-purity Ge (HPGe) single crystals can be fabricated
- High efficiency and excellent energy resolution



*Prior to calibration: ADC channel*



# Other semiconductor materials

## SiC

- Multiple crystal structures, '3C', '4H', '6H'
- Band gap 2.35-3.05 eV
- High melting point
- Higher breakdown field compared to Si
- Operation in high currents and temperatures possible

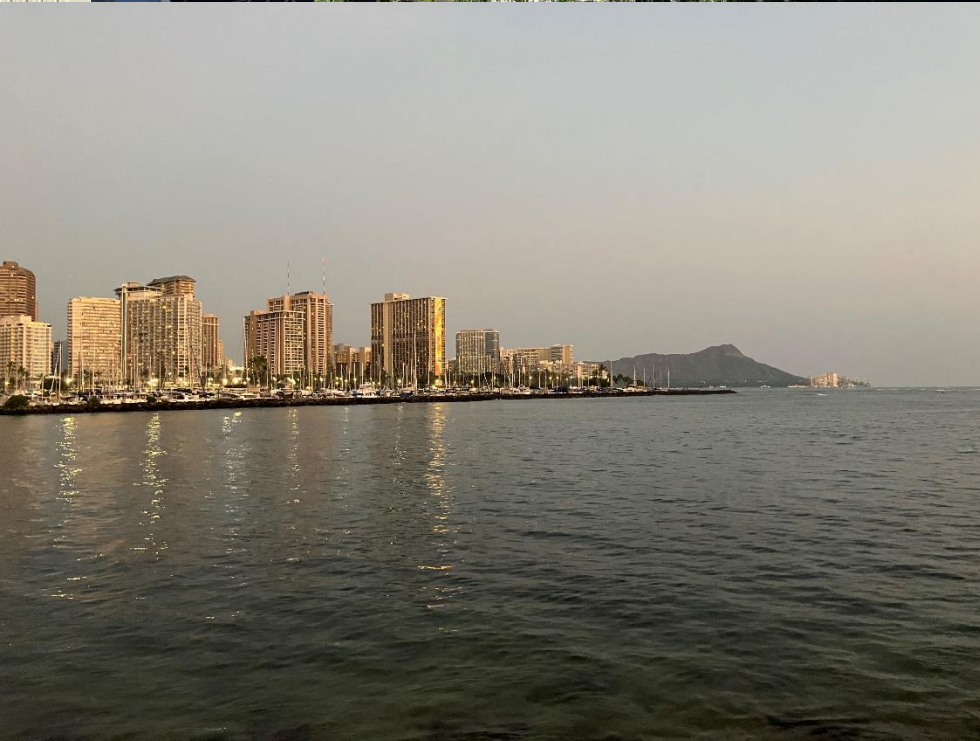
## CdTe

- II-VI compound semiconductor
- Band gap 1.5 eV
- Popular variations (alloys) with Hg, Zn
- Significantly heavier than Si, C, Ge – high absorption efficiency





SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA



# *Graduate student positions and undergraduate research opportunities available!*

[ottjenni@hawaii.edu](mailto:ottjenni@hawaii.edu)

[jennifer.ott@hawaii.edu](mailto:jennifer.ott@hawaii.edu)

J. Ott, Solid-state detectors, GRIDS2025

June 3, 2025

# Backup



# Silicon sensors in calorimetry: pad sensors in HGCAL

= High-granularity calorimeter

Sampling calorimeter based largely on silicon  
(with brass/copper/tungsten as inactive  
absorber materials)

Larger area of silicon than tracking detectors!



# Silicon detectors in (partial) calorimetry: Astropix

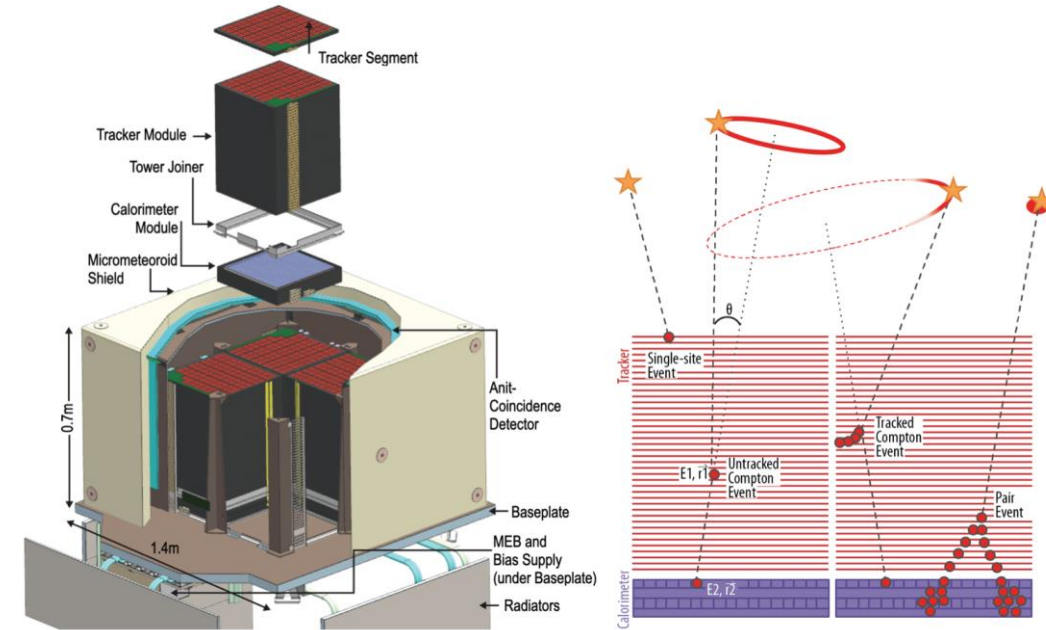
## AMEGO-X satellite: Gamma ray telescope with stacks (towers) of segmented silicon detectors

- Tracking of Compton scattering and pair production events
- Energy measurement of scattered electron; single interaction  $< 100$  keV

## Astropix HV-CMOS: also to be used in inner layers of EIC ePIC barrel ECAL

- thicker active sensor – 700  $\mu\text{m}$  bulk
- 500x500  $\mu\text{m}$  pixel pitch

**Currently: Astropix v3 fabricated and being tested; challenges with depletion and leakage current in high-resistivity substrate – some laser edge-TCT studies at UC Santa Cruz conducted by J. Ott et al**



R. Caputo et al, *The All-sky Medium Energy Gamma-ray Observatory eXplorer (AMEGO-X) Mission Concept*, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.04990>