

# Muography School

## Brief Introduction to Tracking and Imaging

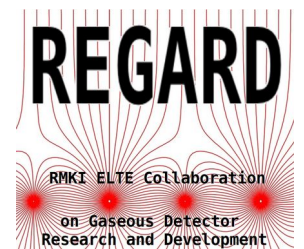
**Gergő Hamar**

Wigner RCP, Dep. HEP, Hungary  
for the **REGARD Det.Phys.Group**



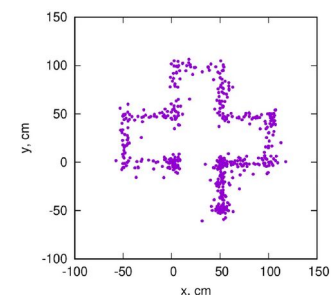
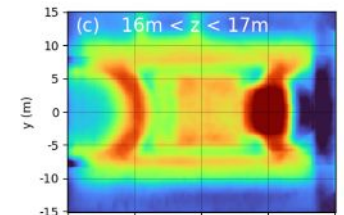
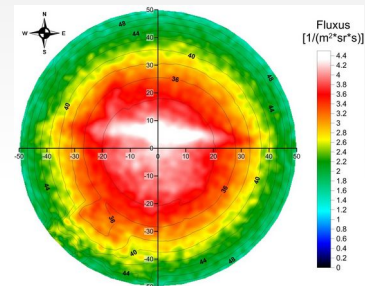
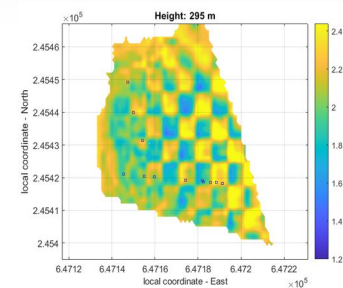
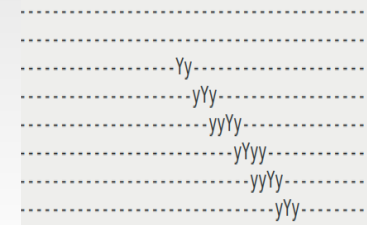
2026-June

G.Hamar - MuographySchool - Tracking and Imaging



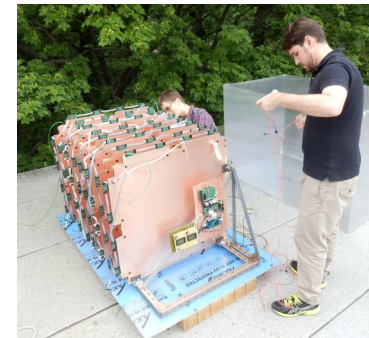
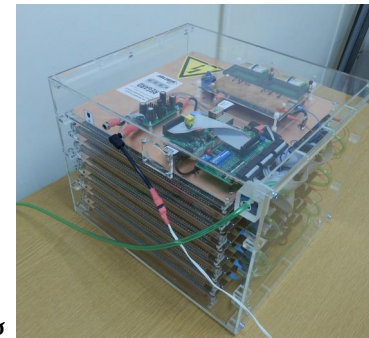
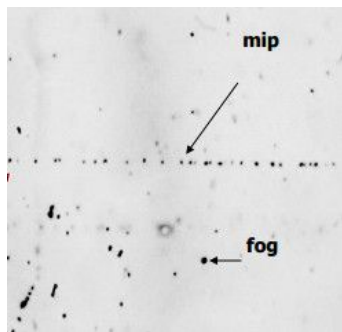
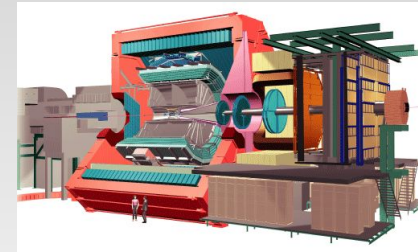
# Outline

- Detectors for muon tracking
- Raw data and data acquisition
- Triggering, event selection
- Particle tracking
- Detector effects, muon flux
- Angular resolution
- Density-length conversion
- The muogram
- Absorbtion muography, density anomlaies
- Muographic inversion
- Muon scattering tomography
- Imaging via secondaries
- Muometry



# Detectors for Muography

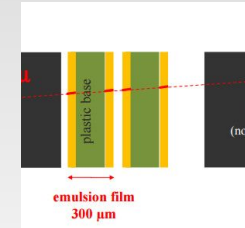
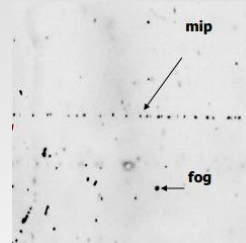
- Muon : charged  $\rightarrow$  particle tracking detectors
- Requirements:
  - Good position and angular resolution ( $\sim 1^\circ$ , pos/arm)
  - **On Field operation** ! (high humidity, temperature, power consumption, postability, ...)
  - Scalability (large  $\rightarrow$  reduced time req; small: accessibility)
  - Costefficiency (more det., large sc., industrial app.)
  - Autonom operation for weeks/months (deep mines, volcanoes)
  - Remote access and control (with real-time monitoring)
- Used detectortechnologies:
  - Emulsion, Scintillators, Gaseous detectors: MM, RPC, Mod.MWPC
- *Underground: mid flux, low background, rough access*
- *Surface-based: low flux, large background, good access*



# Muography Detectors

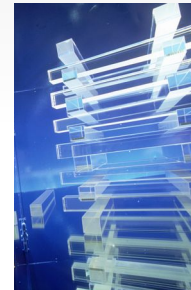
- Emulsion

solid state, dark grains, 0.001mm  
passive, lightweight, small  
offline reco, transport



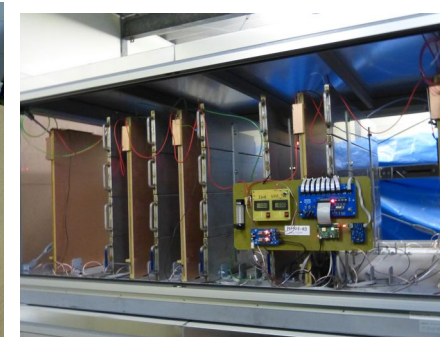
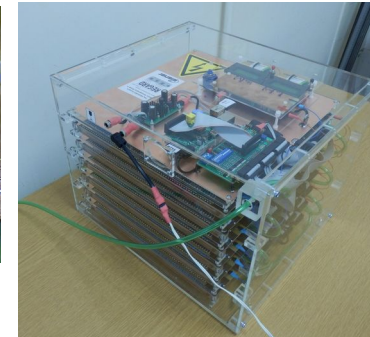
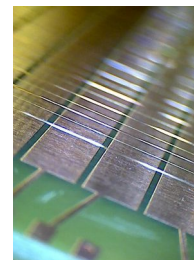
- Scintillators

plastic scint, PMT, SiPM  
simple, robust, heavy  
low resolution, expensive



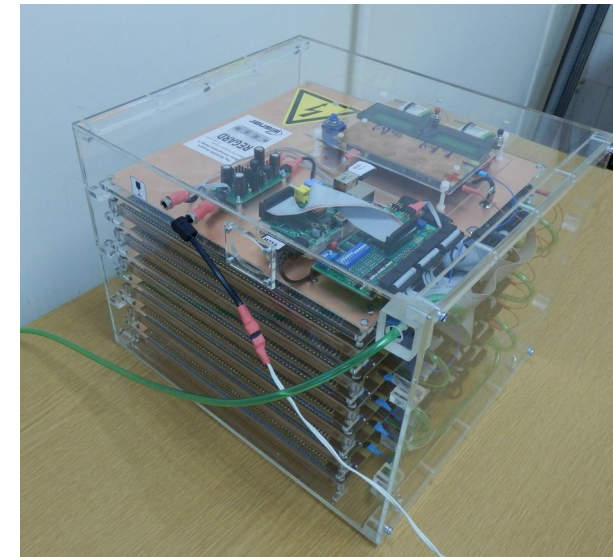
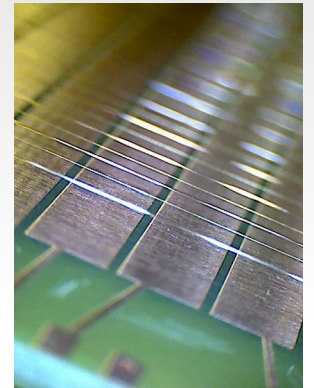
- Gaseous detectors

ionization, electron avalanche  
precise, cost efficient, lightw  
temp/press var, gas issue  
MM, RPC, Mod.MWPC



# Example : Wigner MTL

- MWPC type Gaseous detectors
  - Lightweight, High efficiency, High resolution, Multilayer conf, Stable operation, ...
- Physics Process: traversing muon  $\rightarrow$  gas ionization  $\rightarrow$  drift towards the wires  $\rightarrow$  electron avalanche  $\rightarrow$  signal
- Readout: three types of electrodes
  - SenseWires : interconnected : SumSignal
  - FieldWires , Pads/PadWires : Position info
- Digital / Analog readout
  - Resolution vs. Cost + Power consumption.
- Trigger: multi-chamber coincidence (eg. 3 of 8)
- DataAcquisition
  - Custom boards + RaspberryPi
  - Low consumption
- Raw data:
  - Event based info, ascii readable files



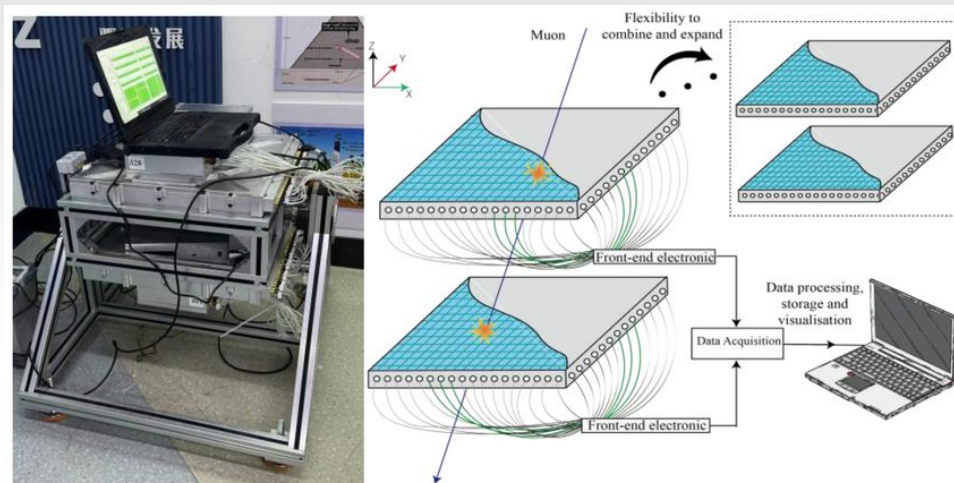
# Data Acquisition

- Crucial : performance, cost, consumption, usability
- Timing / Triggering
  - Cumulative (eg.: Emulsion, Dosimeter, Xray pic)
  - Triggered (eg.: HepDet, Scint, GasD)
  - Continuous ?
- Trigger level : hardware, firmware, software
- Trigger source: External, SelfTrigger
- Dead-time [busy]
- Front-End Electronics
- DAQ control (PIC, RPi, FPGA, .. ) [lam,clock]
- BitLevel data → Raw data
- Data throughput, local storage
- Slow control (DCS)
- User Control interface
- **[WB]**: example schemes
  
- Custom systems  
( If inherited from HEP technology → shall be optimized.. )

# Data Acquisition

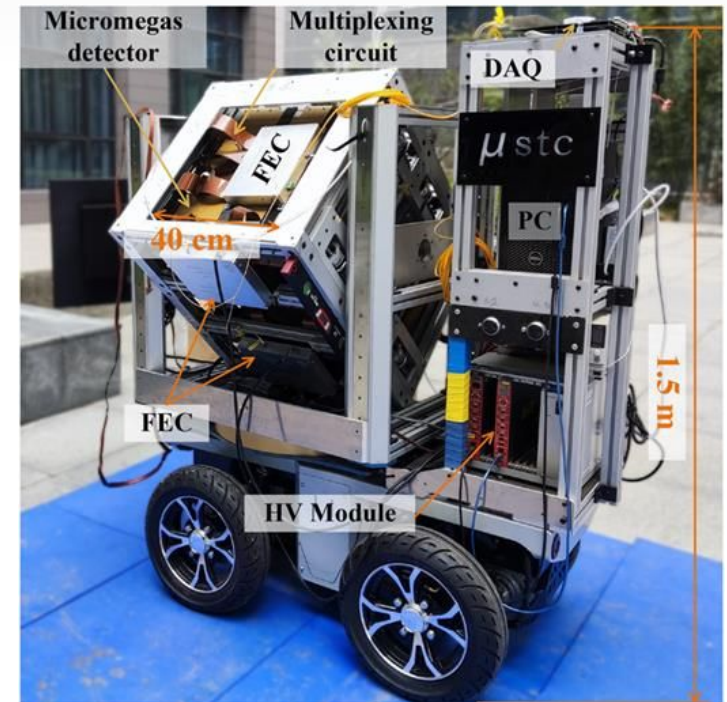
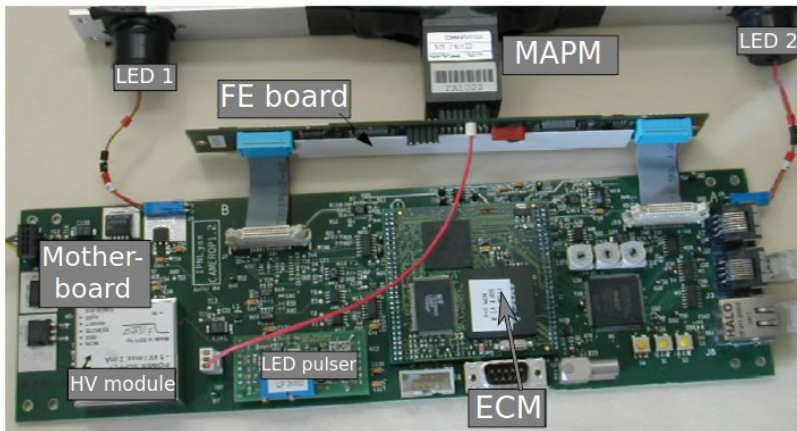
- Examples

Tomovul, SMO, Scint+SiPM+FPGA, RPC-calice, MM-uTPC,



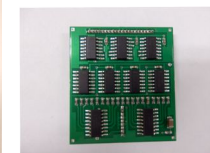
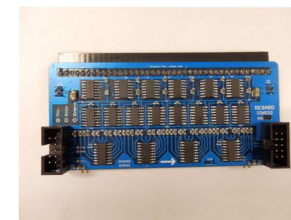
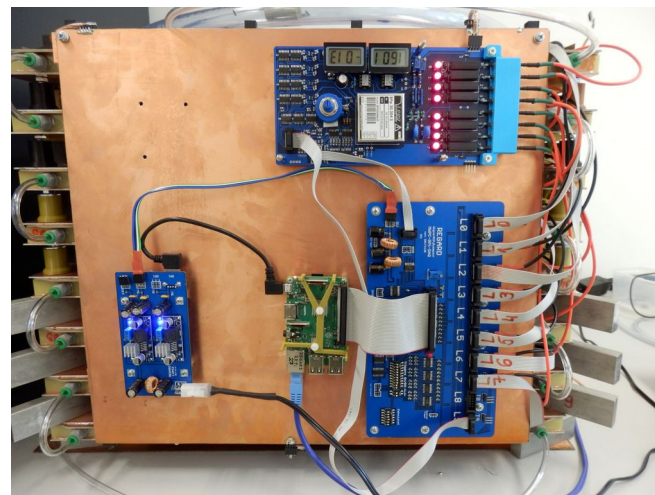
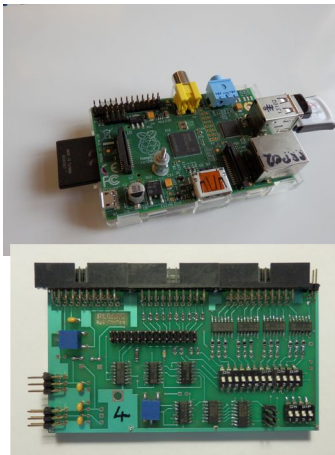
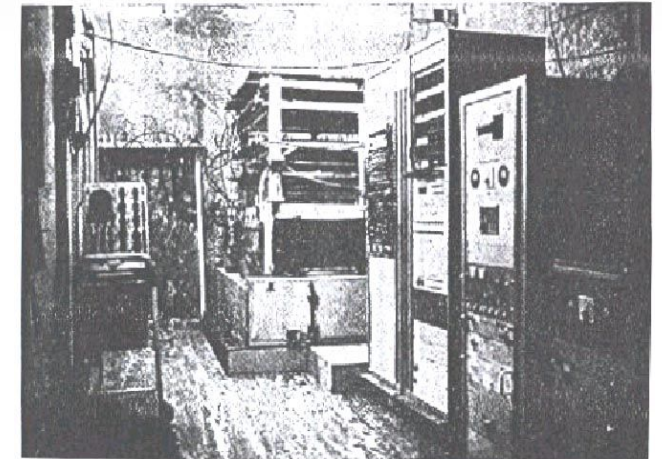
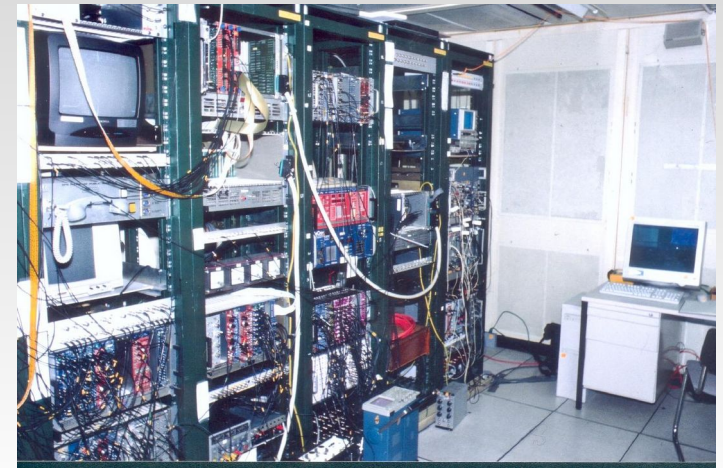
(a)

(b)



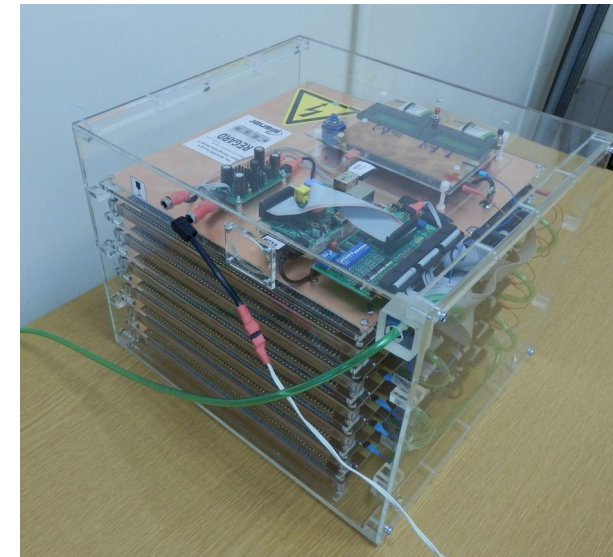
# Example : RPi DAQ

- RaspberryPi microcomputer (low cost)  
ARM CPU + Broadcom  
Peripherals: USB, HDMI, **GPIO**, ...
- DataStorage + Access + Control  
OS eg. Raspbian linux
- GPIO pins (10MHz) adaptable  
for any custom protocol
- FEE: Digital: Preamp+Discrimination  
→ ShiftReg : chainable, simple  
power < 5mW/ch
- Trigger : N-fold coincidence for layers



# Particle Tracking

- Multilayer configuration
- Layer: 2 dim / 1+1 dim / 1 dim [WB] pros/cons?
- Position info
  - Digital / Analog + Cell-shape
- [WB]: standard, triangle, drift circles
- TPC  $\rightarrow$  3 dim  $\rightarrow$  2+1 (as layers)
- Muon : Straight trajectory
  - Simply fit a line?
  - [WB]: Let us calculate it
- Performance (Efficiencies)
  - does it change over time?
- Data based evaluation
- Event based analysis

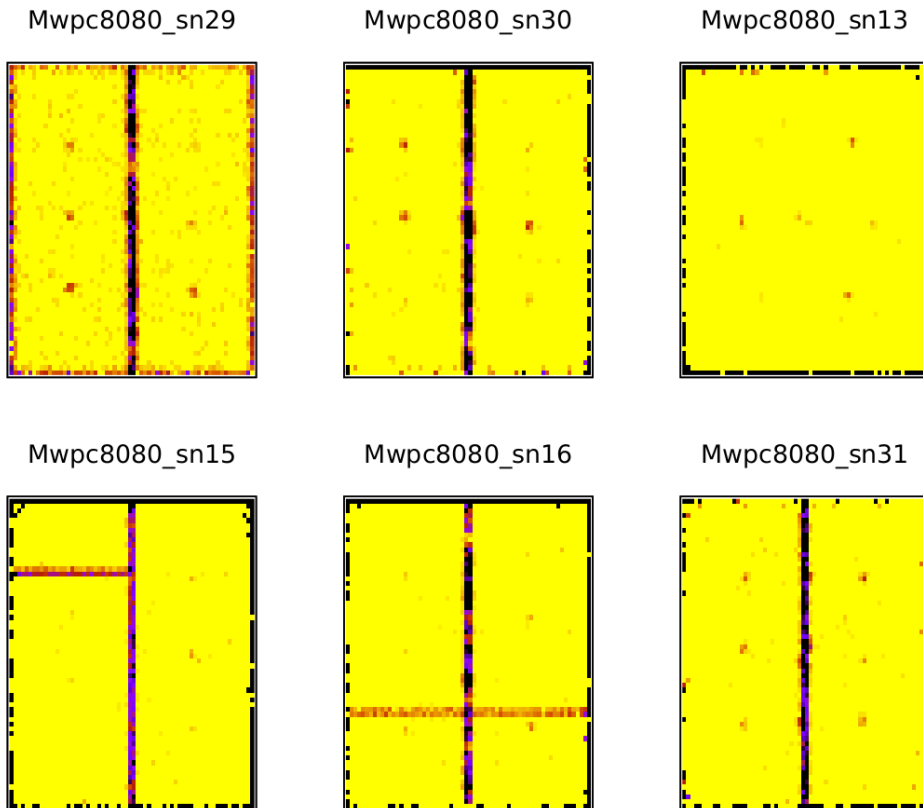




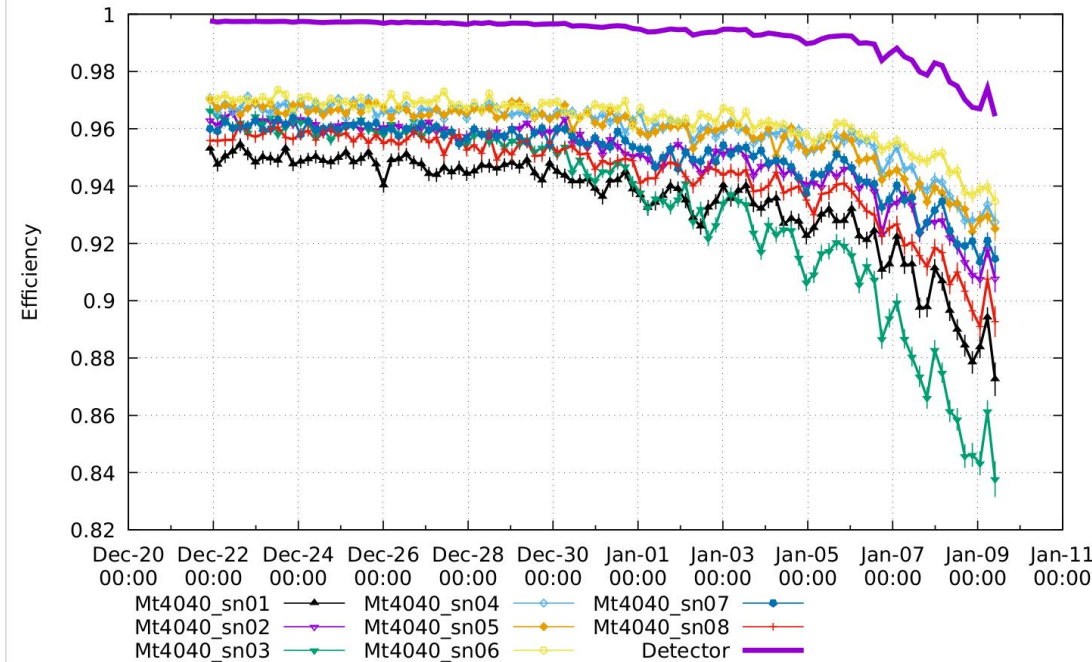
# Detector Performance

- Calculating / monitoring performance is essential !
- Using same data for performance checks
- Trigger efficiency, Tracking efficiency, Gain, Resolution, ...  
wrt. Local Position, Angle of Incidence, Time, ...
- Statistical and systematical uncertainties (subspace projections)

Mt11\_Run150 : Hit Efficiency Maps (PosDep)



Mts40\_Run151 : Tracking Efficiency time evolution



# Flux Calculation

- Muography requires the angular-**differential Flux**

$$F(\Theta, \phi)$$

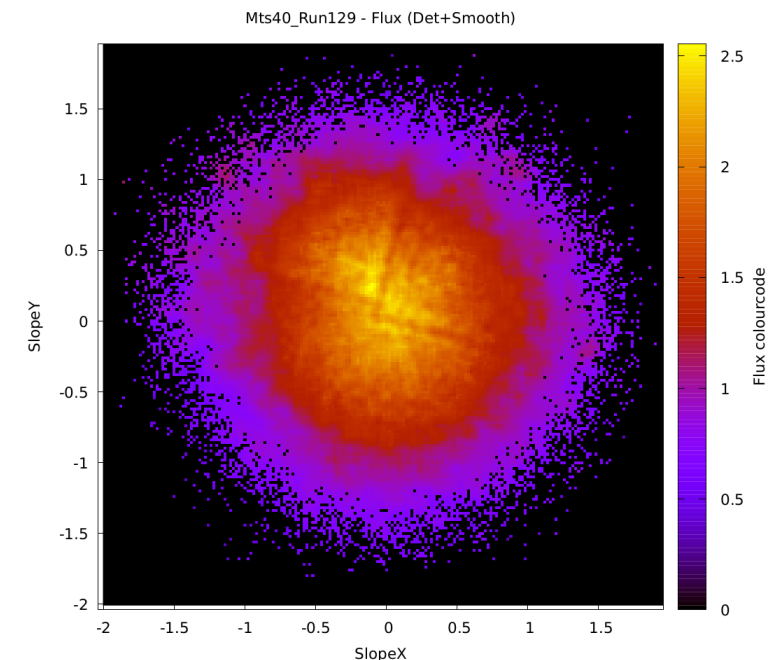
- Flux definition

N.Tracks	? Muon or nor, Background
Efficiency	? Dependencies, TimeEvolution
Time	? DeadTime
Area	? PerpendicularArea, Tracking params
Solid-angle	? Binning, Jacobian

$$F = \frac{N / \epsilon}{t \cdot A \cdot \Omega}$$

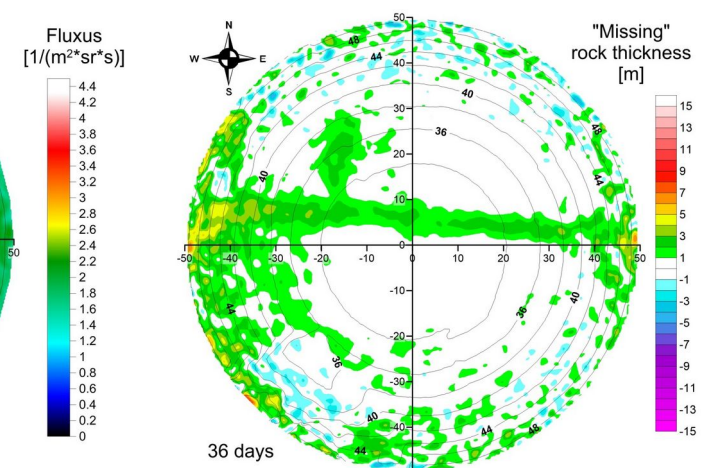
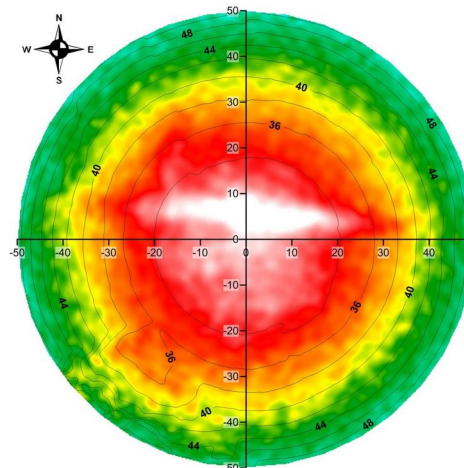
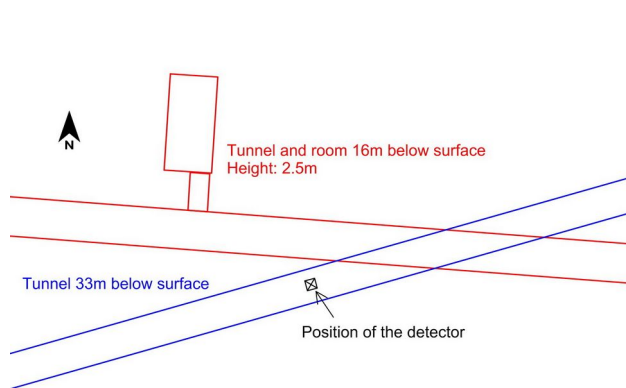
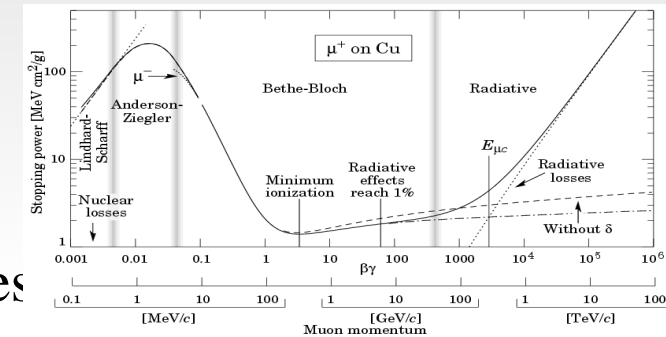
[ which shall be considered differential/non-uniform ? ]

- Binning driven by goals and statistics
- Uncertainties : **Statistical** , Systematic  
bin-by-bin: Poisson  $\rightarrow \sqrt{n}$
- Required time ~ week-month

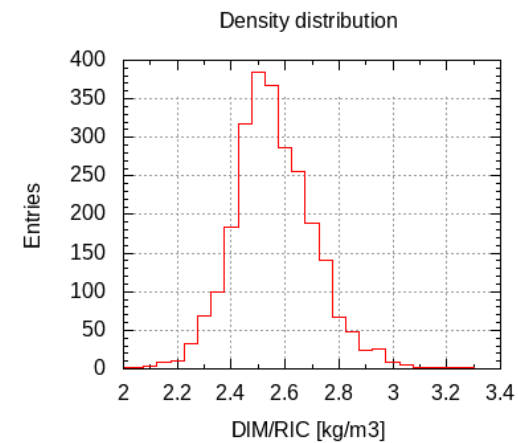
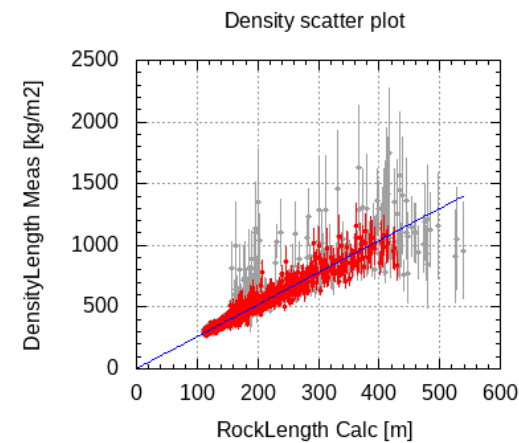
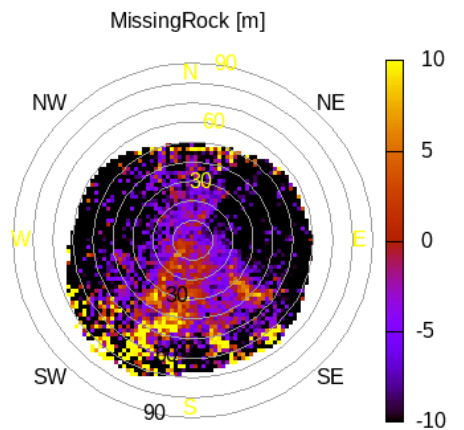
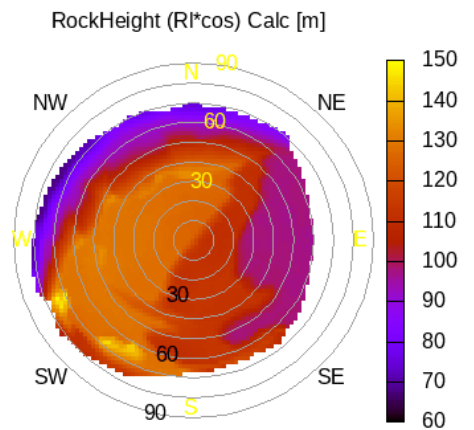
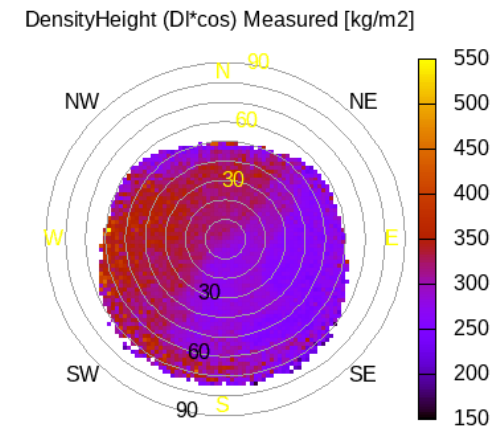
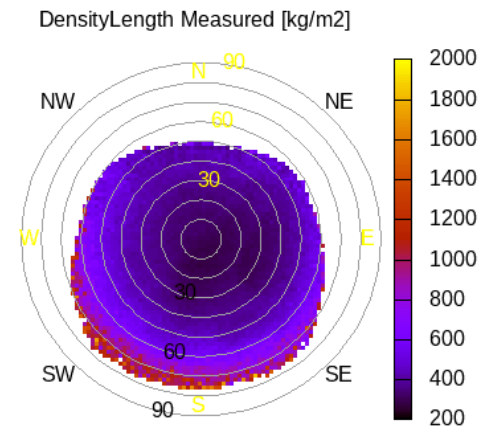
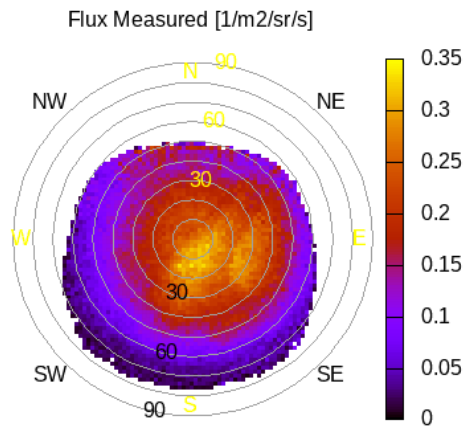
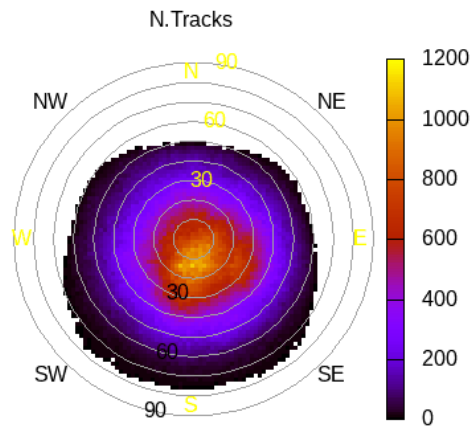
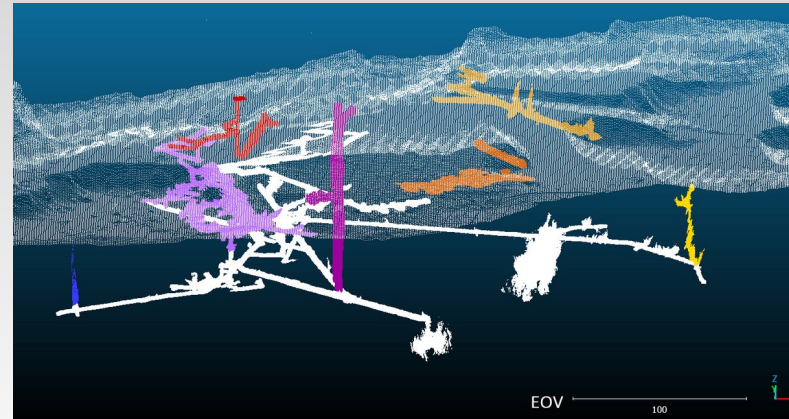


# Density Length

- Muon Flux  $\leftrightarrow$  DensityLength  
( most simplified quantity : Opacity , not recommended)
- Muon energy spectrum  
Few parametrizations exists (how could it be measured?)
- Expected muon flux:  
Smooth energy loss (Bethe-Bloch)  
DensityLength, Zenith, Energy spectrum, +?  
**[WB]:** Let's calculate it together
- Surface and underground survey for known structures  
+ geological info for densities
- Comparing measured and expected/calculated values can reveal the anomalies or density-maps

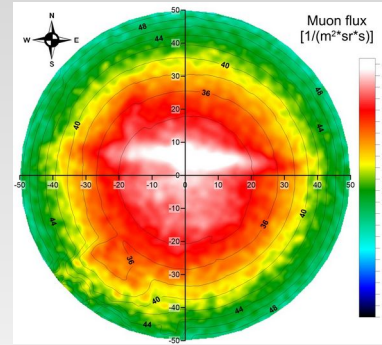
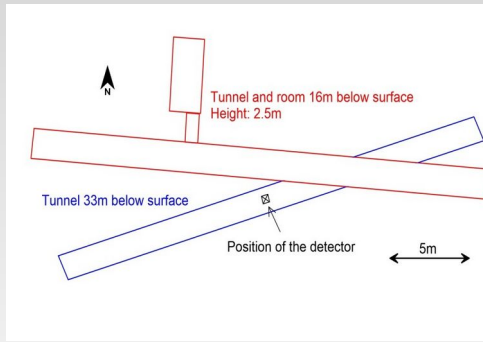


# Example : Muogram

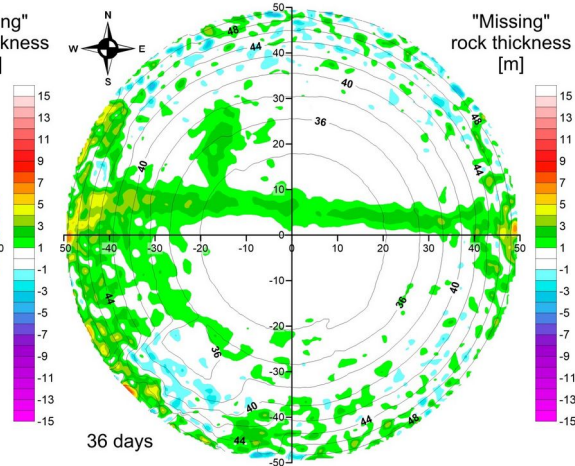
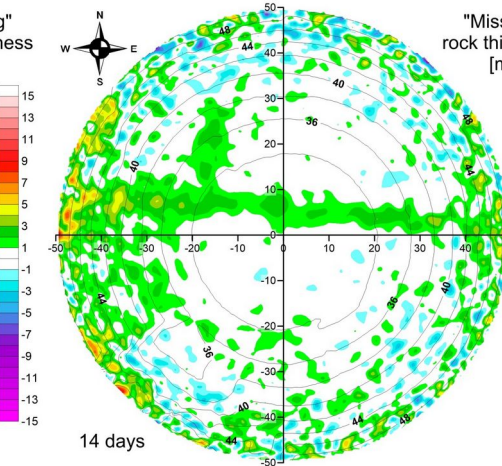
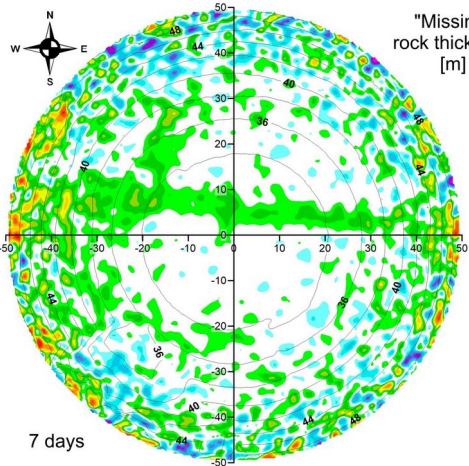
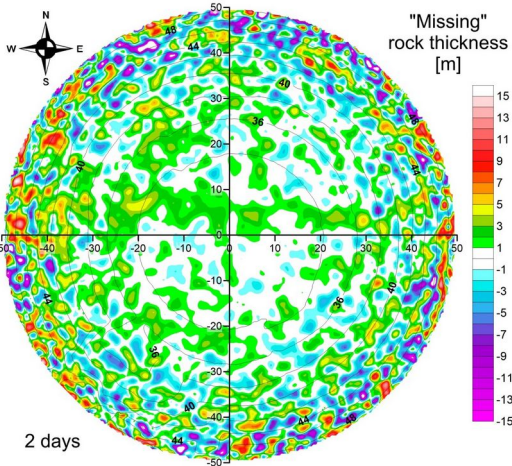


# Example : Statistics

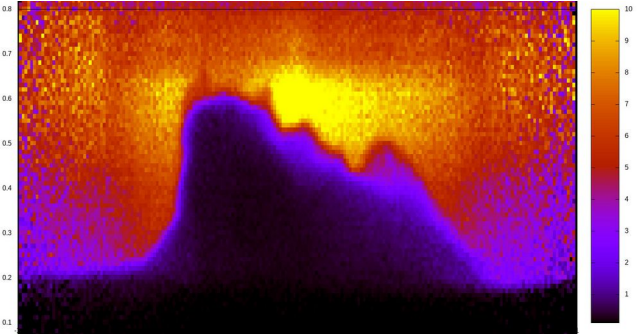
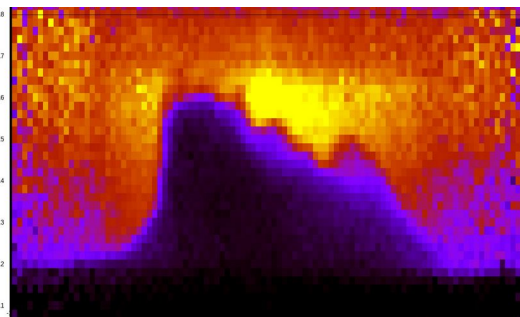
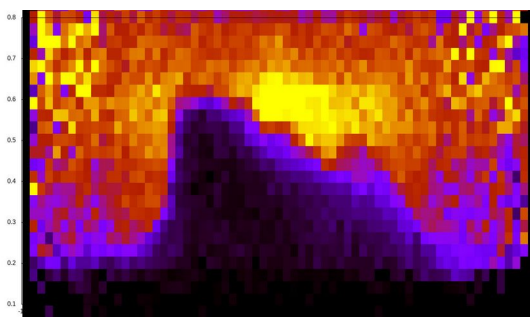
Tunnel under the Castle of Buda



Lab-1  
Lab-2

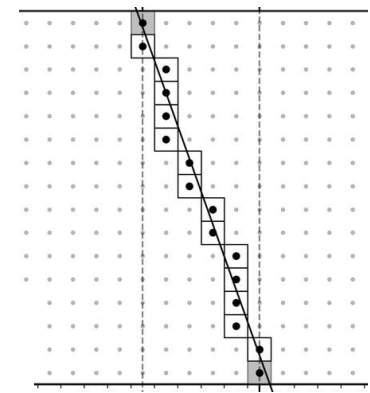
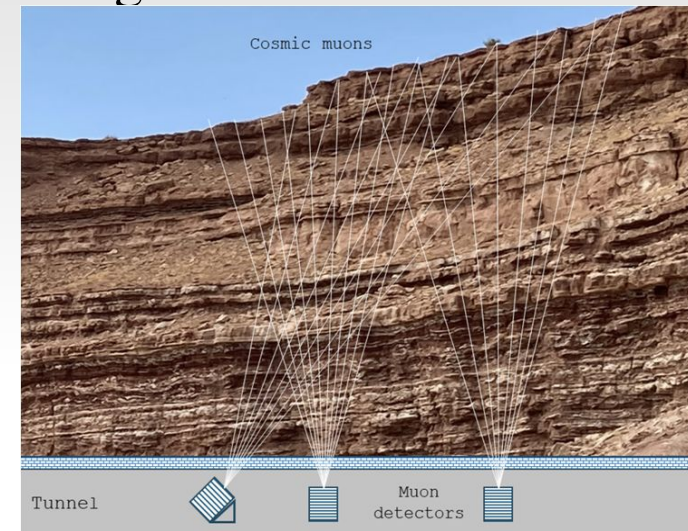


Castello di Mussomeli : a castle on a hill in Sicily

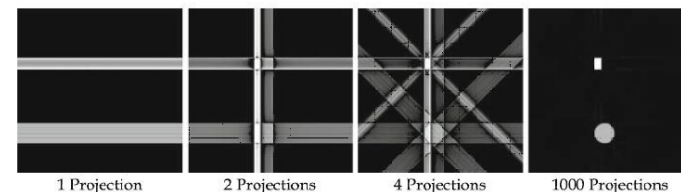
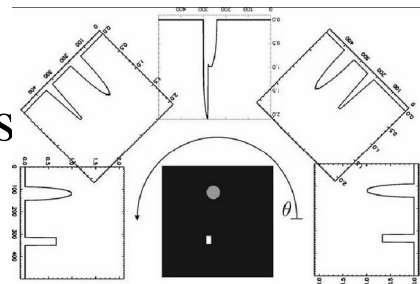


# Muographic Inversion

- Three dimensional density imaging requires multiple muograms, and volumetric reconstruction
- Medical imaging (CT) : huge statistics, 360° around target
- Muography : few points, limited statistics → extra info, geo assumptions, limitations, ...
- Direct model and Inversion
  - voxelization : constant density within a voxel
  - measurement points : only a few
  - rays : muon path
  - linearized model : density length
  - full survey as matrix
    - Voxel  $D \rightarrow$  measured DL along rays
  - matrix inversion ?
- Bayesian approach to overcome stability



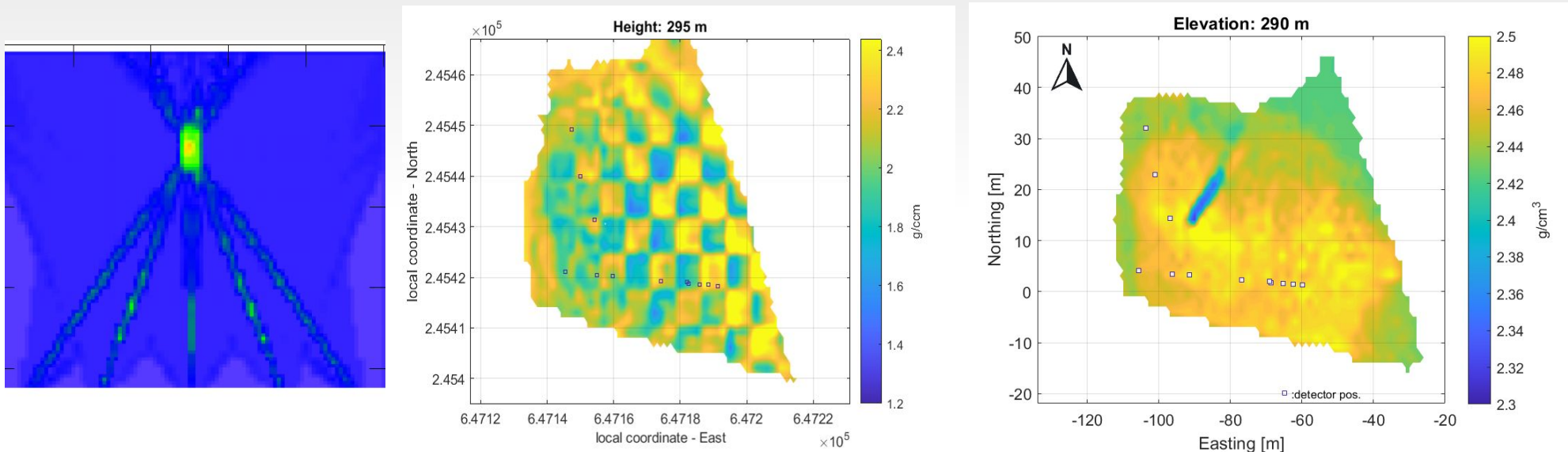
- Main issue: artefacts, deformations, reliability



# Muographic Inversion

## Practical issues and examples

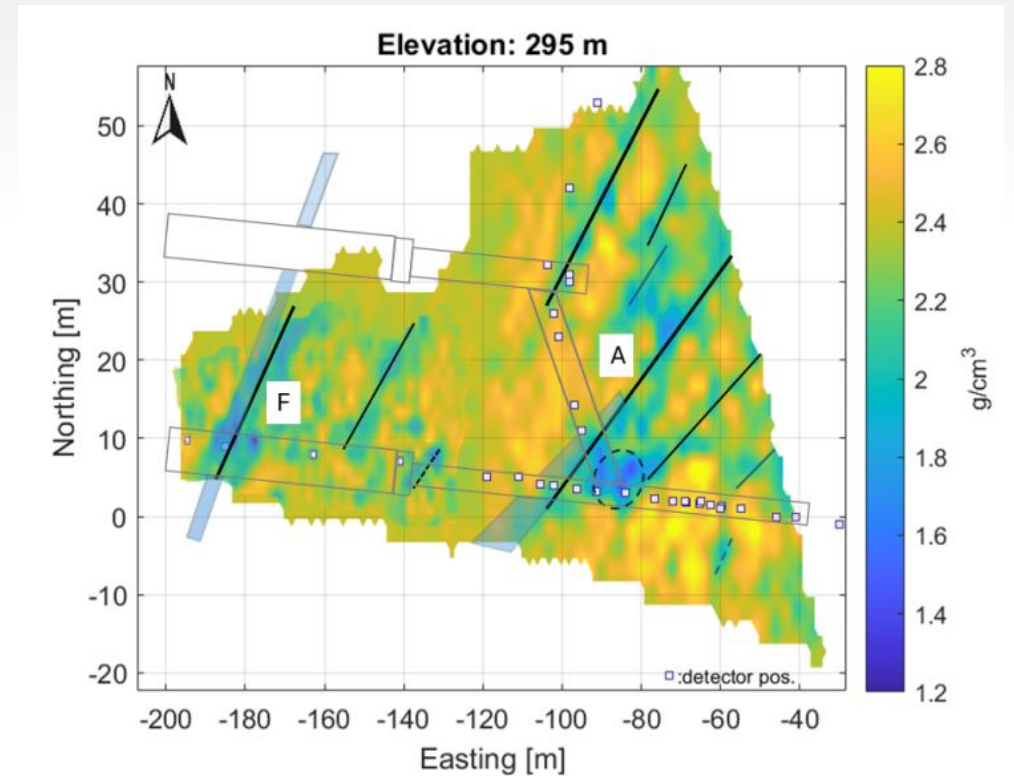
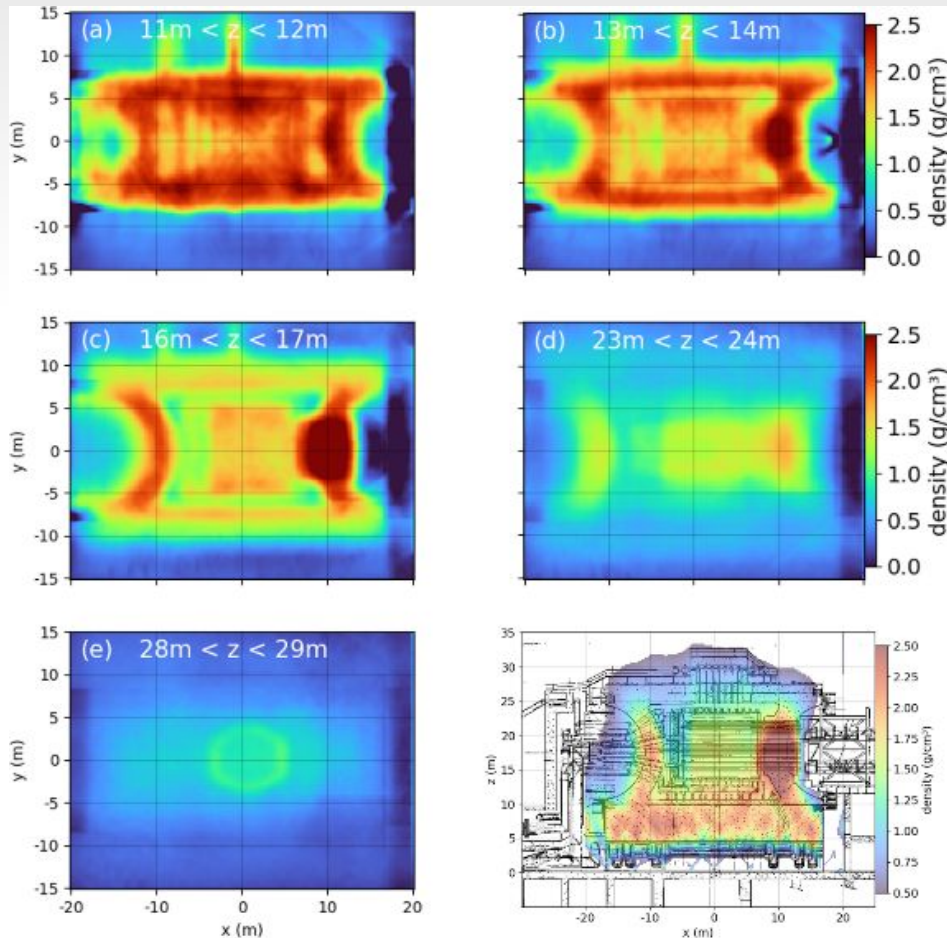
- Solution evaluation  
Model calculation, Synthetic data, Chess-board test, Fisher info, Artefact identification, ..



- Non-bayesian methods, ML-boosted algorithms
- Limitations and requirements  
accessibility issues, statistics vs points, optimization, priors, ..

# Example : Inversion

- Applicability: basically everywhere .. :)
  - Example: industrial structure: reactor imaging
  - Example: geological formation: fracture zones in a hill



# Alternative Muography

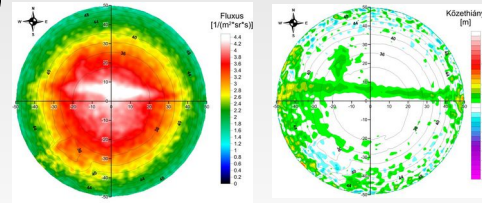
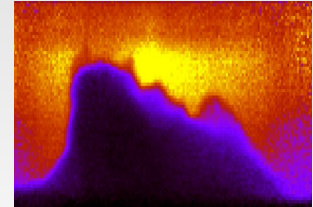
- Muography (Classical / Absorption):**

Absorption of cosmic muons → decreases flux through materials

Directional detection : muogram → density map of hills

Geophysics, mining, archaeology, industrial app., meteorology, ...

(volcanoes, caves, tunnels, pyramids, .....,...)

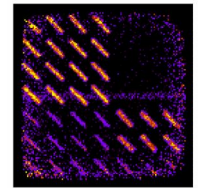
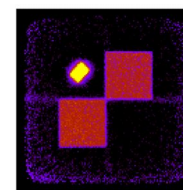


- Muon Scattering Tomography**

Multiple scattering on high-Z materials

Two tracklets : scattering image → high Z materials

Hidden objects, Homeland security, Cargo inspections, ...



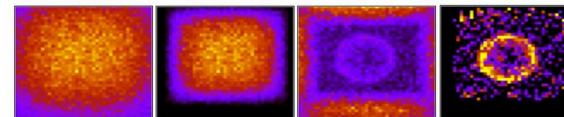
- Muon induced secondaries**

Secondaries can be produced in small targets

Spectra depends on the material composition

→ nondestructive inspection

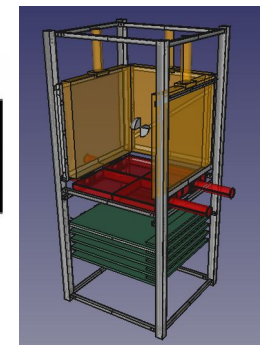
All      TrackOk      CaenScint      Good



- Muometric positioning**

Straight trajectory of muons

Underground absolute localization where GPS cannot be used



# Muon Scattering Tomography

- Charged particle : Coulomb scattering in the high field of the nucleus
- Multiple Coulomb Scattering

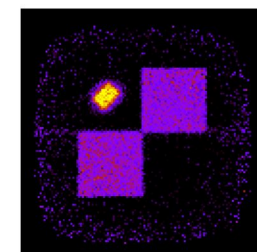
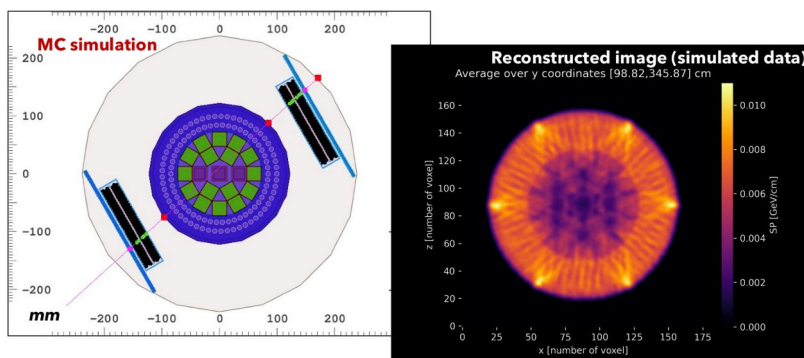
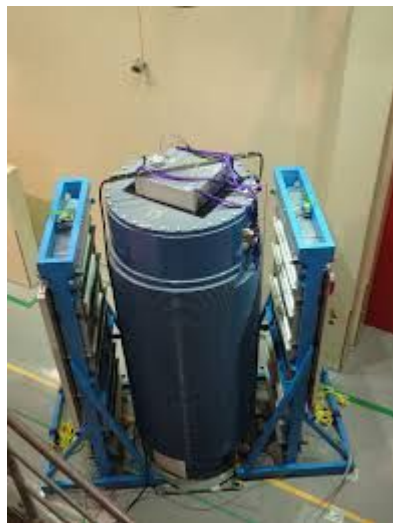
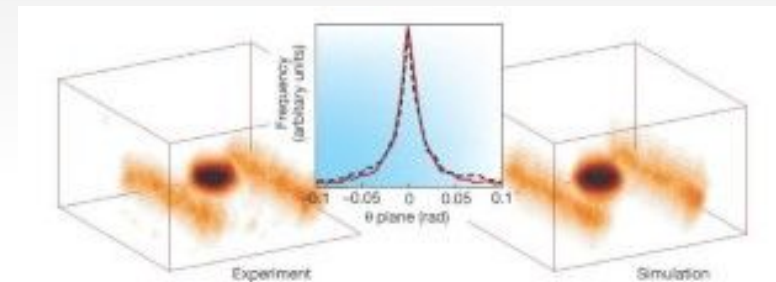
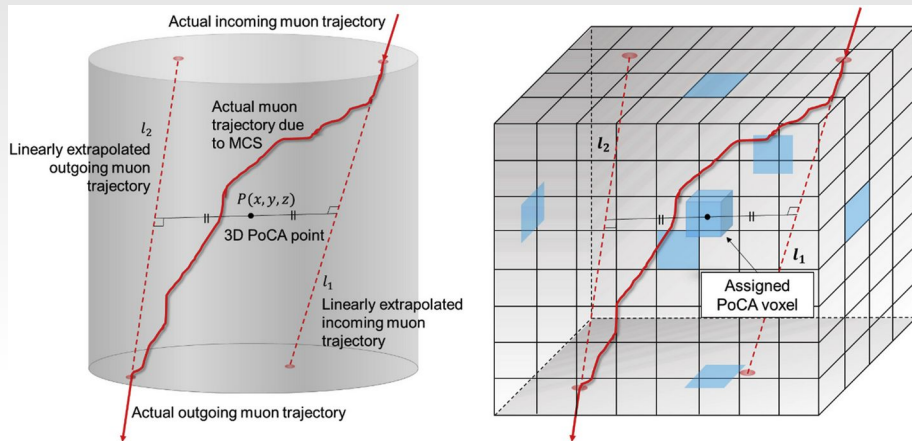
$$\sigma_{\theta} = \frac{13.6 \text{ MeV}}{p} \sqrt{\frac{x}{x_0}} \left[ 1 + 0.038 \ln \left( \frac{x}{x_0} \right) \right]$$

- Sensitive for **high-Z** materials
- Required statistics is way lower than classical muography
- Scanned object ~ few meters (truck, cargo)
- Resolution ~ cm scale
- Can reveal internal or hidden structures  
Cargo inspection, Homeland security,  
Nuclear structure/reactor/waste inspection
- Tracking and Imaging:  
Tracklets on both side of the volume (incoming and outgoing tracks)  
High angular resolution is required (high density FEE or spacious setup)  
**Reconstruction** algorithm (layered, PoCA, UTRec, Direct comp.)  
Momentum information could aid reco?
- Practical issues: enclosing materials, limited time
- **What is actually needed ?**



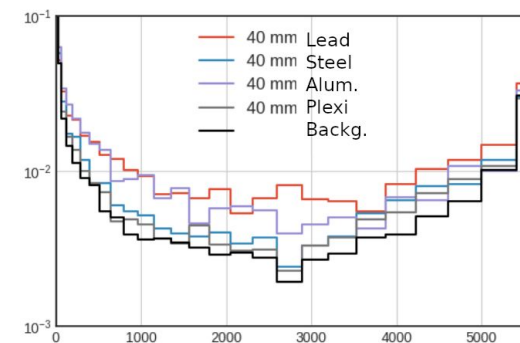
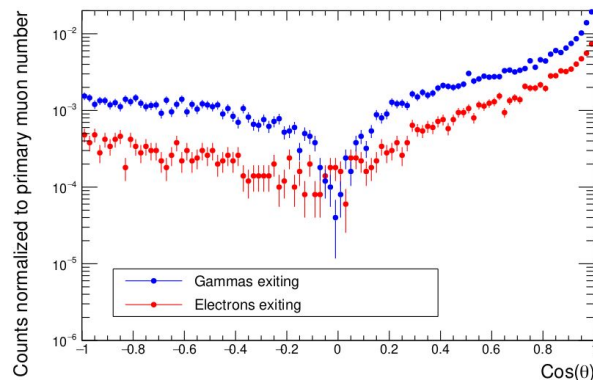
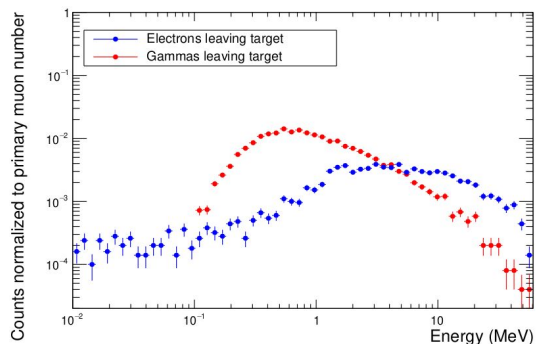
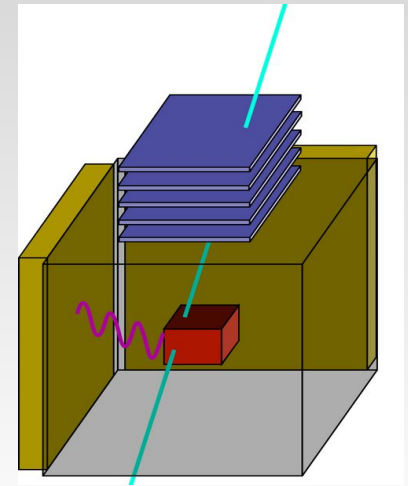
# Example MST

- Size + Readout + Reconstruction  
Reco? (layered, PoCA, UTRec, Direct comp.)



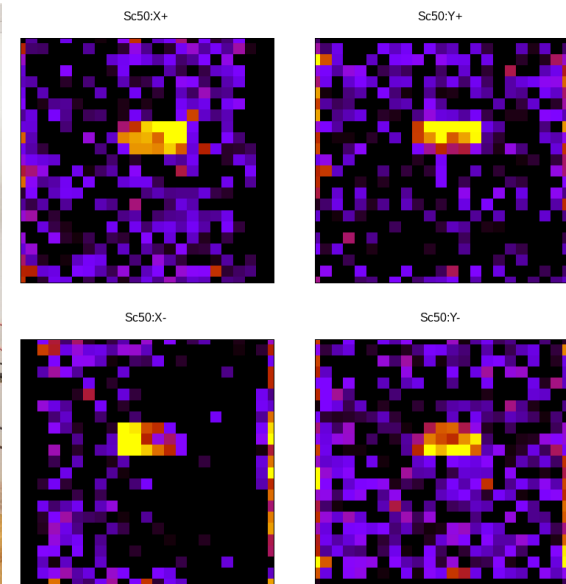
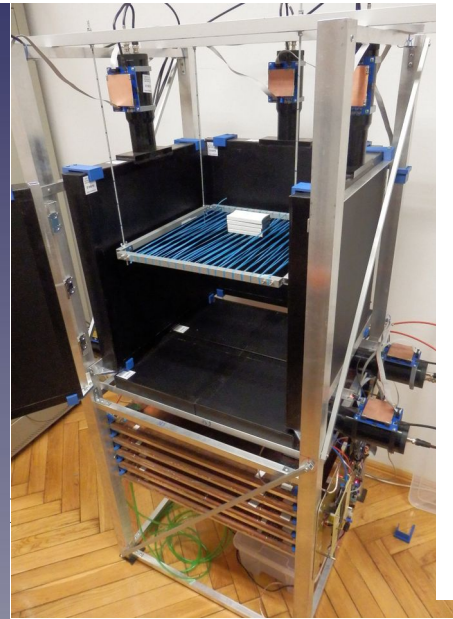
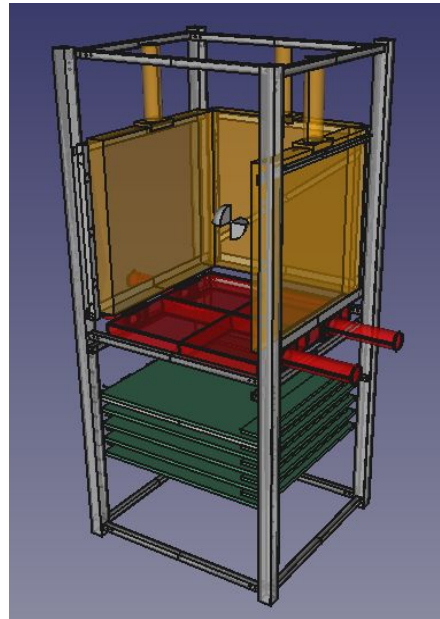
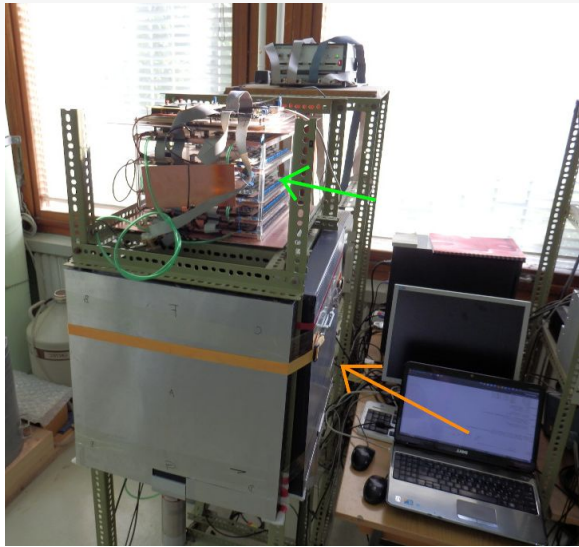
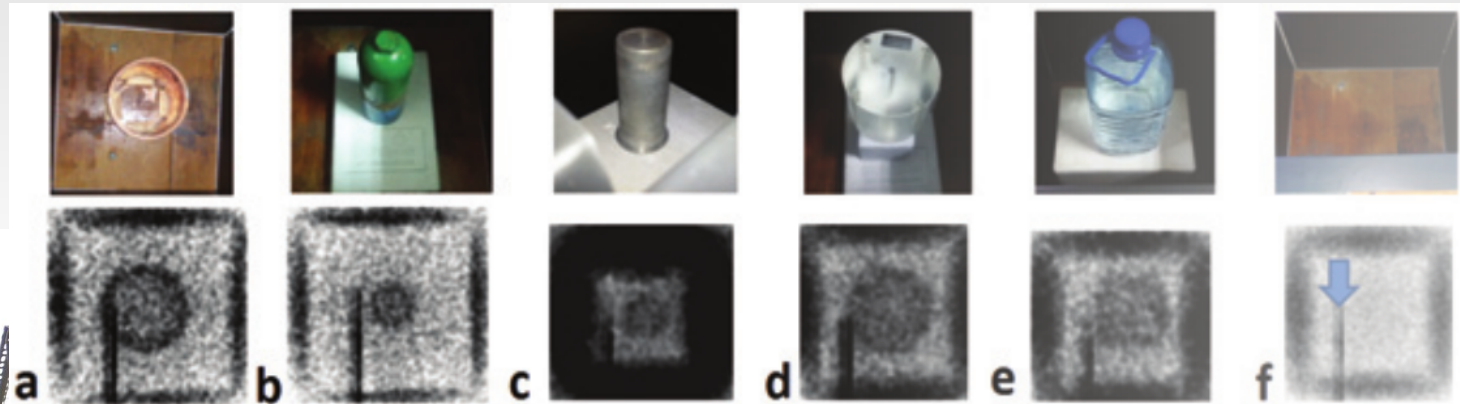
# Imaging via Secondaries

- Traversing muons induce radiation of secondaries  
their spectra highly depends on the traversed material  
→ Material identification even for low-Z
- Muon tracker : high resolution, scalable
- Secondaries: mostly low energy electron and gamma  
Measure spectra, low E-cut, muon sep.  
Detectors: HPGe, Plastic Scint., NaI, .. ?
- Advancements  
e/g identification : e/g ratio highly depends on material (Lead: 00.3, Polyst.: 33.5)  
direction of secondary : muon separation, skin effect  
combined system : muon scattering and absorption, momentum meas?
- Issues: secondaries shall escape the target but be detectable
- Simulation becomes most important
- Imaging: simple projection, angular info for tomography, adv in combined setup



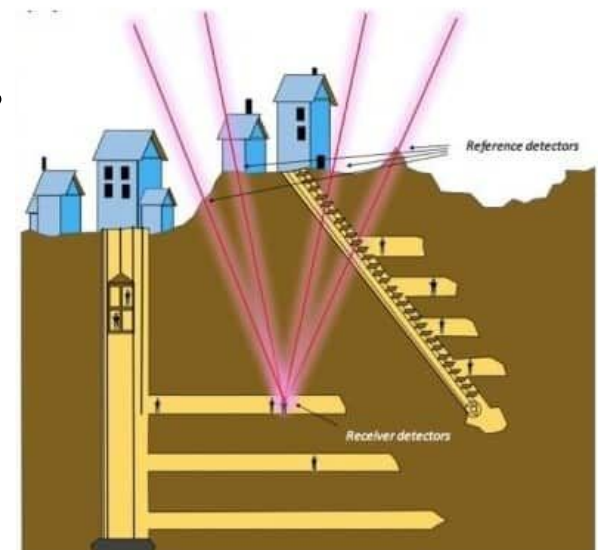
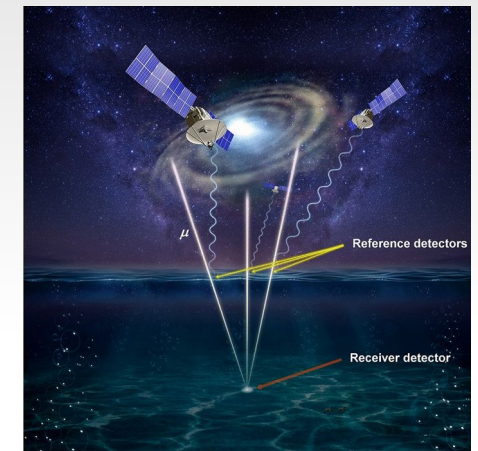
# Imaging via Secondaries

Novel method only a few groups are involved  
simulation and experimental works



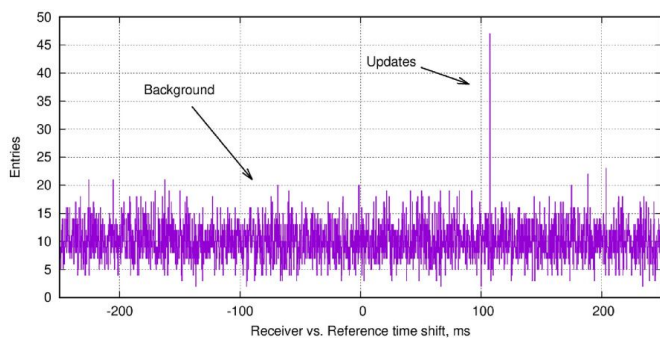
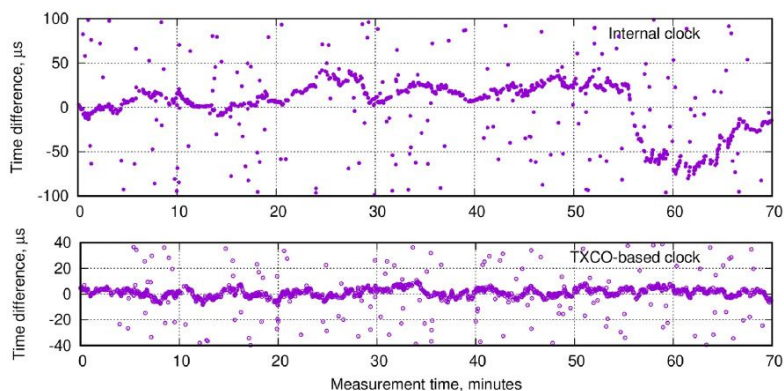
# Muometry

- Muon **long straight trajectory**, deep penetration into Ground
  - Coincidence of two detectors → both on line of trajectory
  - Two (or more) reference → **Localization in 3D**
- Info
  - Time of arrival : distance towards unit
  - Muon direction : direction of unit
- Practical applications
  - Underground (or subaquatic) **absolute** localization where no GPS/GNSS data is present/usable
- Applicability in :
  - Mine: map tunnels
  - Underground localization
  - Disaster recovery: locate humans under remains
  - Monitoring inter-building movements
  - ...
- Time consumption increases with the depth, decreases with active area
- More Reference trackers: large coverage, faster position update, better depth reco.

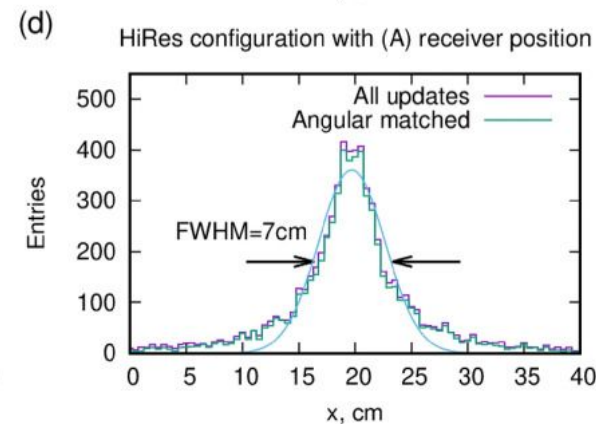
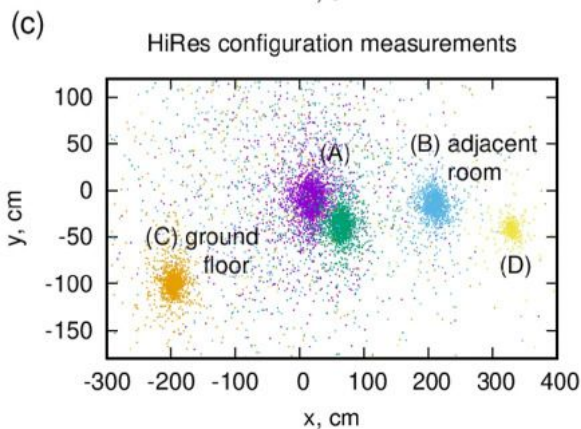
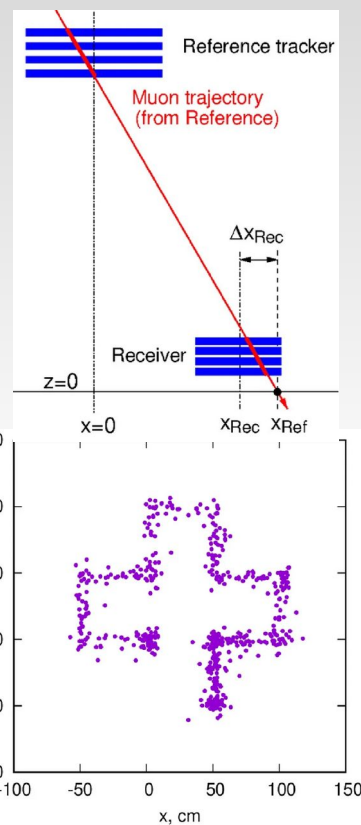


# Muometry

- Tracking : standard
- Main issue : coincidence recognition  
huge background from other muons  
[WB] : lets estimate signal over noise  
need for proper time resolution  
and synchronization
- Localization precision  
multiple scattering along path (in the ground)  
limitations → statistics, update rate



Hama





# Laboratory Exercises

- **Basics of MWPC** [hardware lab] (lc: Richárd Nagy, Lab: Lab-110-StudentLab)  
Operational exercise with a small Multi-Wire Proportional Chamber:  
MWPC internal structures, Gas supply, Oscilloscope operation, Detection of beta source with MWPC; Measure Landau distribution, Measure GasGain vs HighVoltage.
- **MWPC as Tracker** [hardware lab] (lc: Bence Rábóczy, Lab: Lab-092-MARI)  
Operational exercise with a multi-layered MWPC based Muograph tracker:  
MWPC structure, Muograph tracker setup, Oscilloscope operation, Detection and Tracking of cosmic muons; Measure Efficiencies and Gain vs HighVoltage.
- **Muograph operation** [hardware+software] (lc: Boglárka Stefán, Lab-001-TERI)  
Operational exercise and verification of a Muograph tracker:  
Muograph tracker structure, DataAcqisition, Detection and Tracking of cosmic muons; Measure differential cosmic flux, inclined operation, verify consistency wrt inclination.
- **MuonScattering measurements** [hardware+software] (lc: Gábor Nyitrai, Lab-003-HubaG)  
Operation of a muon scattering experiment with twelve MWPC layers:  
MuonTracker structure, MuonScattering feaures, Tracking of cosmic muons, identification of tracklets and scattering; Measure few iron and lead targets, image targets via tracklet scattering.
- **Exposure calculation** [software calculation] (lc: Nicolas Viaux, Office-101A)  
Calculate the direct problem for muographic imaging:  
Define the direct problem, include detector effects, estimate imaging capabilities for simple grometry, estimate time of exposure for tunnel detection.
- **Basics of Geant4 simulation** [software simulation] (lc: József Szűcs, Office-101B)  
Running and understanding a Geant4 simulation for muography:  
Introduction to Geant4 simulation framework, Physics list, Particle generators, Detection layers; Run simulation for a simple geometry with an underground tunnel, estimate detectability.
- **Muographic Inversion** [software calcualtion](lc: László Balázs, Office-103A)  
Baysian inversion for muon tomography reconstruction:  
Define the tomographic inversion, Baysian approach, 2d/3d reconstruction, MatLab implementation, Issue for muography; Run and investigate inversion artefacts for 2D model for detecting an underground tunnel.
- **MuonScattering reconstruction** [software combined] (lc: Zahraa Daher, Office-101)  
Simulation and reconstruction of muon scattering experiment:  
Softwar frameworks for simulation and analysis, Geant4 simulation, Main effects and issues for various reconstruction algorithms; Run and image iron and lead targets in a muon scattering setup, estimate capabilities.

# Backup Slides

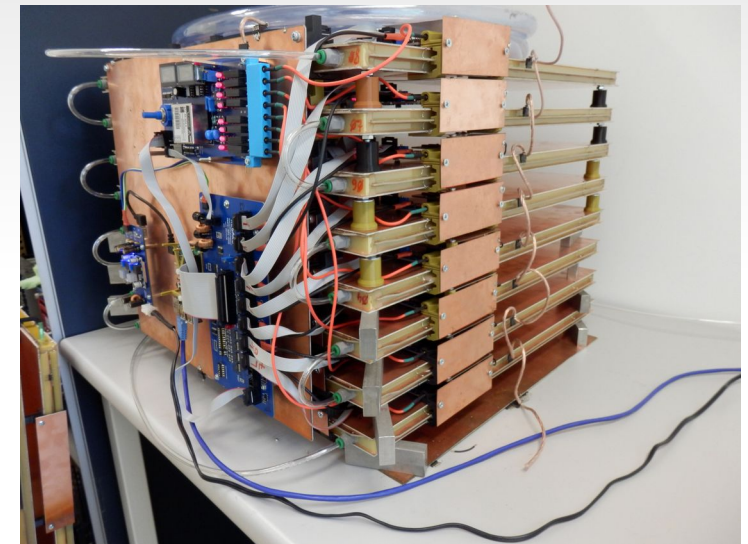
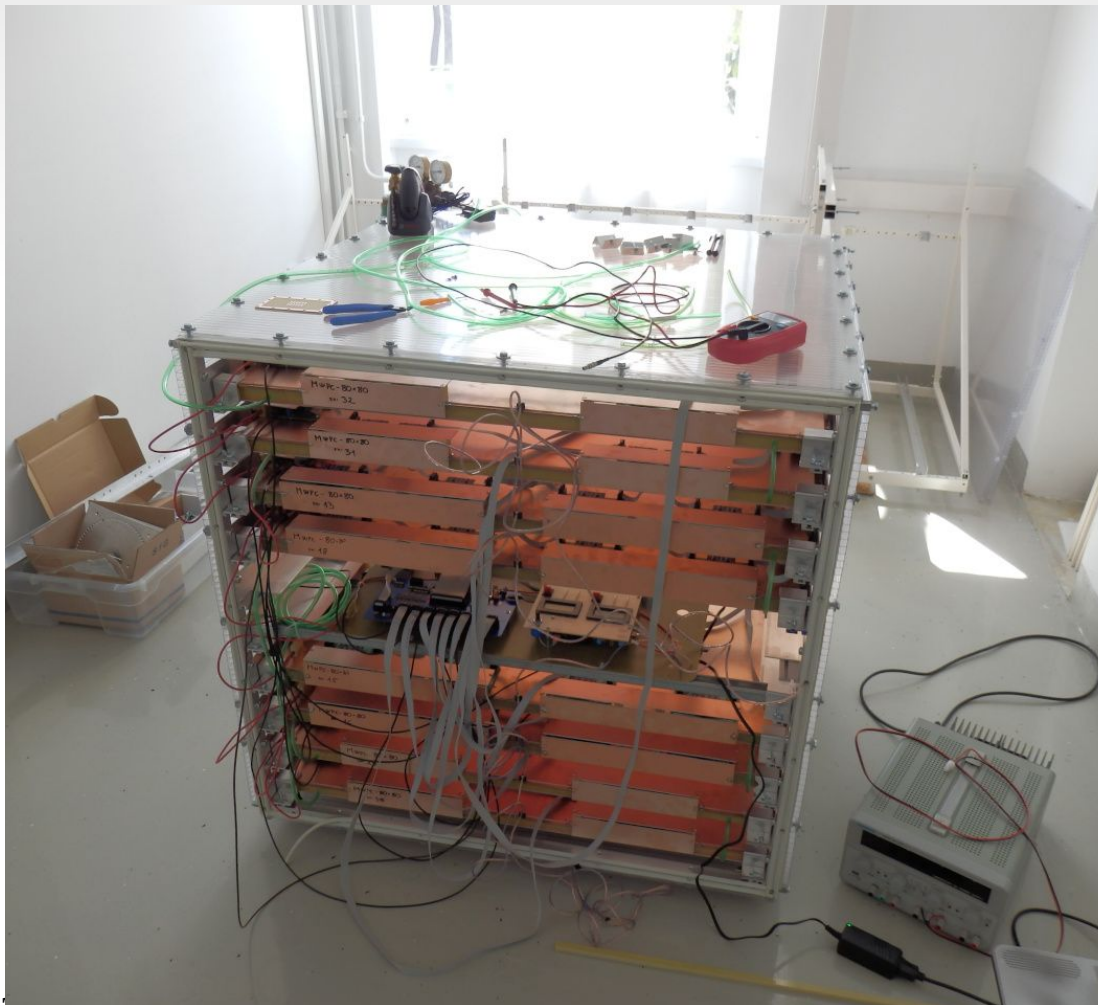
# Portable Muographs

- **Large-size Muograph**

Based on Modified MWPC Chambers,  
Mostly used for easier-access sites (see later)

Eight layers of 80x80 cm<sup>2</sup>

or 50x50 cm<sup>2</sup>



Can be  
manually  
carried if  
needed :)

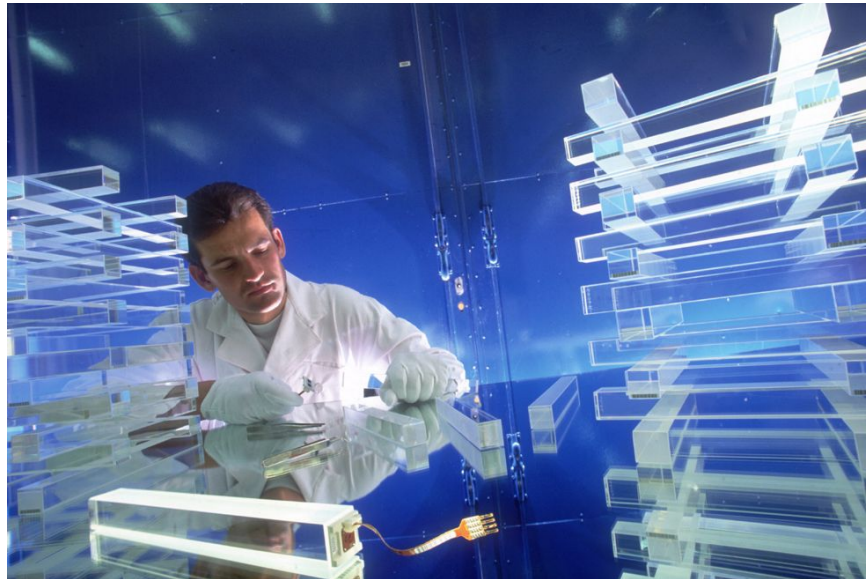
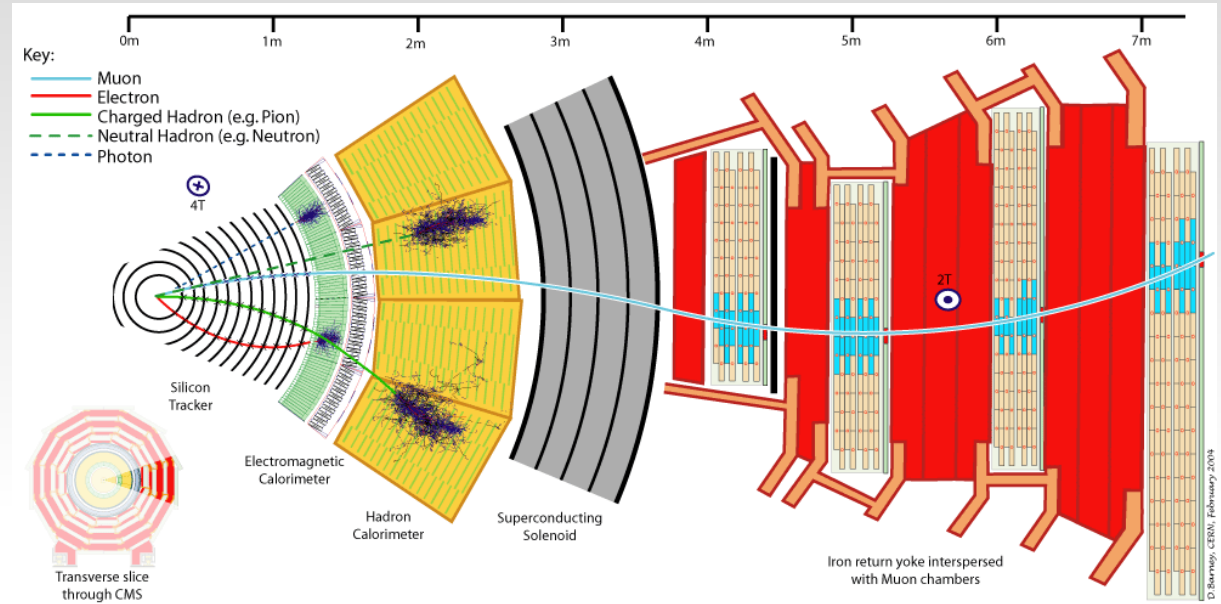
# Raw Single Event

- Event based readout and analysis
- Recorded data (for each event)
  - Event Id
  - TimeTag (DateTime, + high res. TimeDiff)
  - For each layers:
    - Hit positions (two directions, zero suppressed)
    - SumSignal (adc)
    - Trigger info
  - HvInfo
  - Environmental info
  - Readout check info

```
Event 1040000 , 2025-03-03_18:31:25 , dt : 20877
.....
.....xxx.....yyy
.....xxx.....,yyyy
.....xxxx.....,yyy
.....xxxx.....,yyyy
.....xxxx.....,yyy
.....xxxx.....,yyy
.....xxxxx.....,yyyy
Adc : 1484 2088 2324 2960 2576 2268 2536 3860
THP : T= +13.25 oC, H= 55.0%, P= 1003.0 mBar, ThpId: 0
Counter : +1 (193)
Pattern : Triggered on : 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 (ok)
Check : ok ok ok ok ok ok ok ok
HV: UIseg: 1624 , UMon: 1616 , IMon: 39.1
```

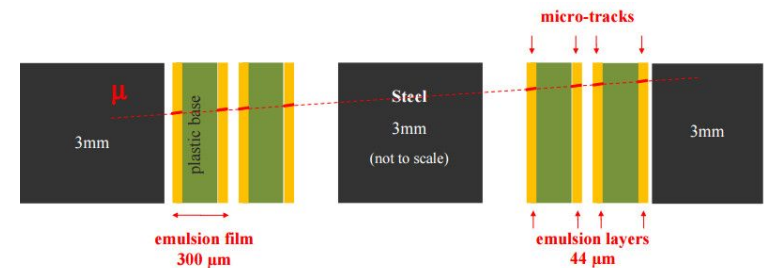
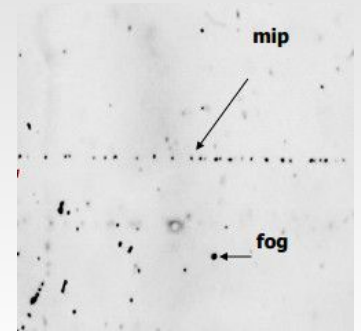
# Detectors for High Energy Physics

- Bubble Chambers
- Scintillators
- Silicon D.
- Gaseous D.
  
- **Tracking**
- **Calorimeter**
- **Identification**



# Emulsion Detectors

- Nuclear emulsion films (AgBr in gelatine)  
(like in OPERA experiment)
- INFN Sez. Napoli
- Spatial resolution  $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$
- Ionization  $\rightarrow$  black grains on the film layers  
approx 35grains/100 $\mu\text{m}$
- Multiple layers of micro-tracks  
 $\rightarrow$  3 dim tracking
- Automatised scanning system
- Portable (lightweight)  
No power needed for operation
- Tracking only offline



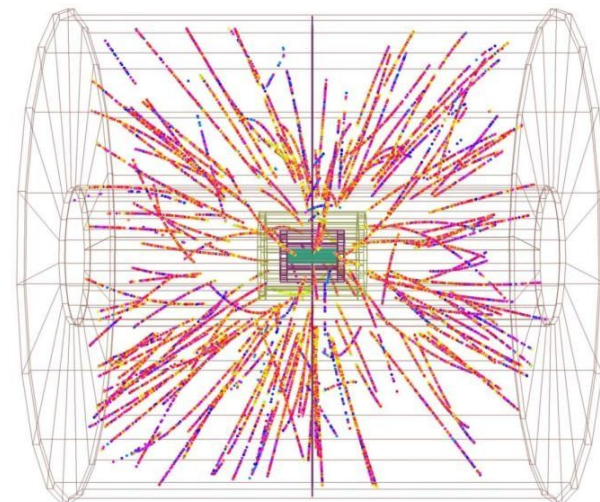
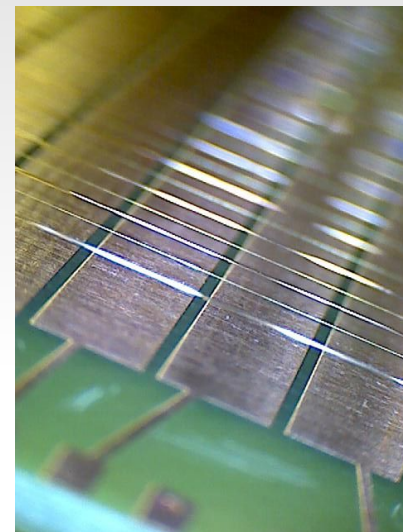
# Scintillators for Muography

- Array of plastic scintillators
- Excellent time resolution (reject backward particles?)
- Spatial resolution  $\sim 2\text{-}5$  cm
- Readout :
  - PAMT : reliable, moderate power, high cost/channel
  - SiPM : new, low power, temperature control, dark current
- Few layers (cost!)  $\rightarrow$  simple coincidence
- Simple operation : widely used
  
- Volcano muography
- Japan, Italy, France



# Gaseous Detectors : Why?

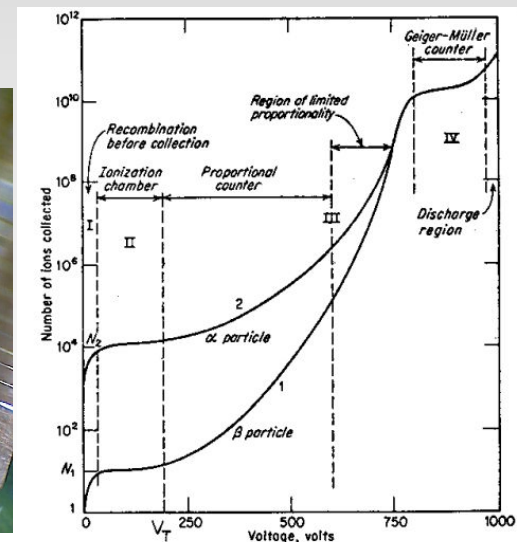
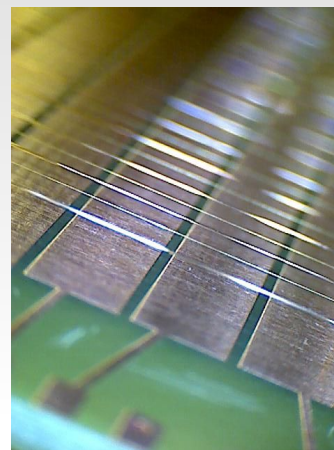
- First **electronic** tracking devices
- **Large** volume is possible
- Low material budget
- Sub-mm **tracking** (even in 3 dim)
- **Cost efficient** construction
- Known technology
- Moderate **electronics**
- **Various structures**
- Particle **identification** possibility
- Usability for **photon** detection



# Gaseous Detectors

## Main technologies and types

- Geiger-Müller counter
- Spark Chamber, Parallel P.Ch.
- **Resistive Plate Ch., MRPC**
- Proportional chamber
- **Multi-Wire Prop.Ch.**
- Drift chamber
- **Time Projection Ch.**



- MicroPattern Gas.Det.: RD51
- HoleType: GEM, TGEM, Cobra
- MeshType: MM, bMM
- SingleLayer: uPIC, Well
- Combined: InGrid

- + Photon Detection
- + Liquid material

