



report by VLADIMIR ZHEREBCHEVSKY

MODERN SILICON AND SCINTILLATION DETECTOR SYSTEMS FOR THE EXPERIMENTS AT THE NICA COLLIDER

16 09 25

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Грант Российского научного фонда № 23-12-00042, https://rscf.ru/project/23-12-00042/

XXVI International Baldin Seminar on High Energy Physics Problems Relativistic Nuclear Physics and Quantum Chromodynamics. Dubna, September 14-20, 2025







Outline

- 1. Today and the day after tomorrow of high-energy physics experiments
- 2. Silicon pixel detectors now and in the future + Civil Application.
- 3. Detector technologies for NICA: MPD, SPD
- 4. Detector technologies for NICA: ARIADNA
- 5. Conclusions, Next plans





Epigraph

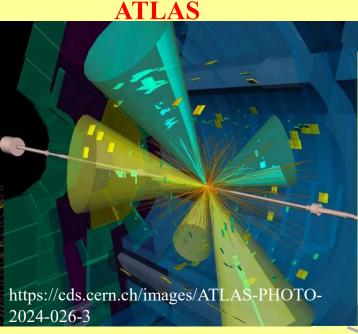
A man ought to be able to be carried away by his feelings, he ought to be able to be mad, to make mistakes, to suffer!

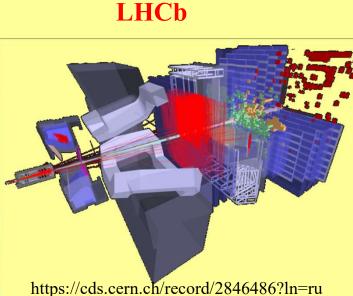
Anton Pavlovich Chekhov

Today and the day after tomorrow of high-energy physics experiments

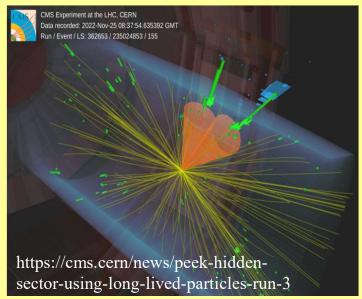
Leading high-energy physics experiments at the Large Hadron Collider:





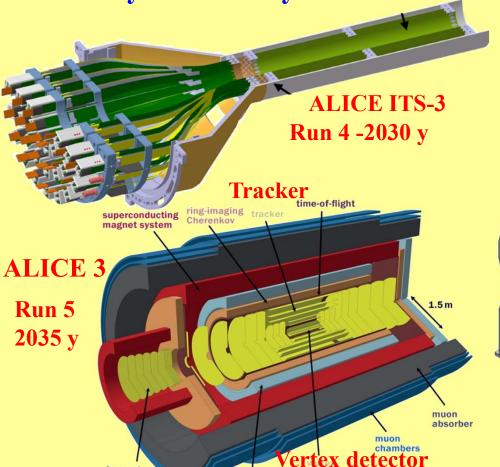


CMS



Higgs, Standard Model, Heavy-flavor physics, Multi-Jet Physics, Properties of Strongly Interacting Matter at extreme conditions of temperature, Discover of new particles, new search for long-lived particles

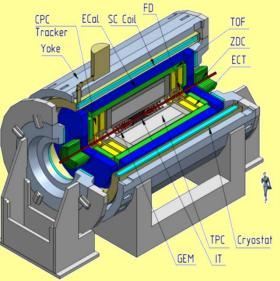
Unprecedented tests of the CP-violation paradigm, New approaches to the hunt for dark matter particles Today and the day after tomorrow of high-energy physics experiments



Monolithic Active Pixel Sensors

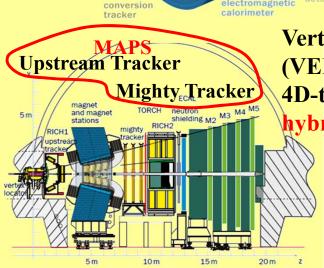
also

Hybrid pixel detectors



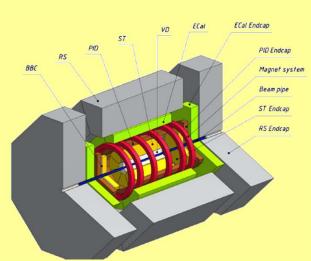
MPD at NICA

sPHENIX 0.2 m² 251 M pixel

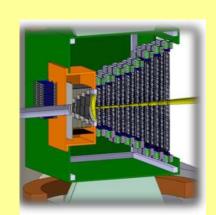


Vertex Locator (VELO) 4D-tracking detector hybrid pix.

> **LHCb** Run 5



SPD at **NICA**



CBM MVD

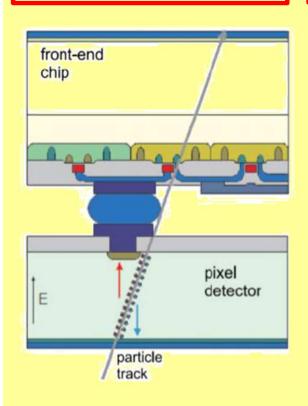
0.08 m² 146 M pixel ₅

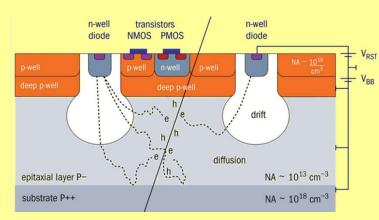
Silicon pixel detectors

Hybrid Pixel detectors

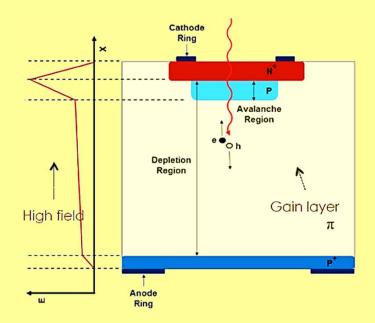
Monolithic Active Pixel Sensors - MAPS

Low Gain Avalanche Detectors (**LGAD**)





https://cerncourier.com/a/alice-tracks-new-territory/



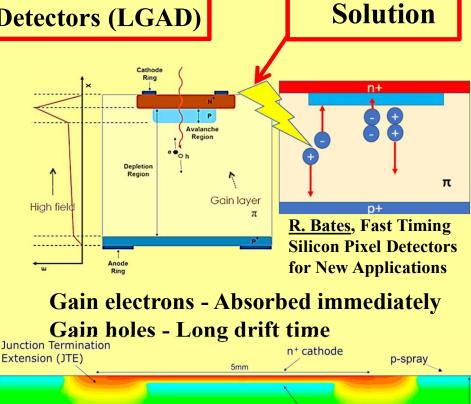
https://indico.global/event/3927/cont ributions/36135/attachments/18545/ 30331/Low_Gain_Avalanche_Detect ors_-_Technology_Overview.pdf



High event pile-up that will pose a challenge to separate individual tracks for reconstruction.

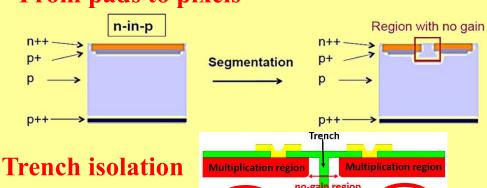
arXiv:1704.08666

The inclusion of precise timing information $(\underline{10-30 \text{ ps}})$ could solve this problem by discriminating compatible hits based on timing information



From pads to pixels

P-type (π) substrate (10kohm cm)



P-type multiplication layer

Pixel 2

p⁺⁺ substrate

Example from High Energy Physics experiment Low Gain Avalanche Detectors (LGAD)

High-Granularity Timing Detector based on LGAD technology, for the ATLAS Phase-II upgrade

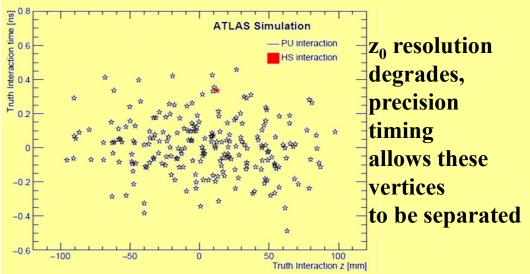
GOALS

ATLAS-TDR-031 · LHCC-2020-007

Realisation

Precise determination of the luminosity for measurements of the Higgs properties with **ATLAS**

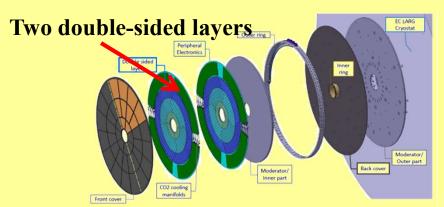
The HGTD is positioned to measure both the online luminosity on a bunch-by bunch basis during HL-LHC running, and the high-precision determination of the integrated luminosity offline



HGTD will measure the times of MIPs with an average time resolution of ~ 30 ps per track at the beginning of the **HL-LHC** operation



CERN-RD50 community + Hamamatsu Photonics



The sensors will be operated at temperatures -30°C to mitigate the impact of irradiation

LHCb new Vertex Locator



silicon-hybrid pixel detectors: 200 µm-thick "p-on-n" pixel sensor bump-bonded to a 200 µm-thick readout chip with binary pixel readout CERN Courier May/June 2022 p38 Concentric layers and rings of more than 1800 small silicon modules. Each of these modules has about 66000 individual pixels on it, for a total of 120Mpix

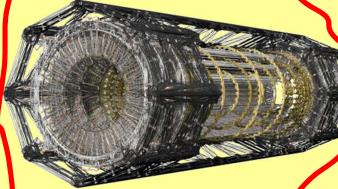


Hybrid Pixel Detectors

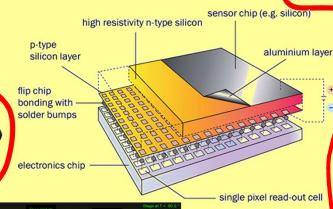
Each pixel is only 100x150 μm² in size

https://home.web.cern.ch/news/news/experiments/ successful-installation-cms-pixel-tracker

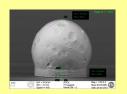
ATLAS Pixel Detector



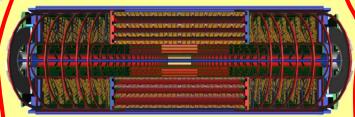
80 million pixels, Area 1.7m², 15 kW power, Pixel Size 50 x 400μm²







ATLAS Inner Tracker for (HL)LHC



5 pixel layers

Inner layers: 1.7 ·10¹⁶ n_{eq}/cm²
Outer layers: 5 ·10¹⁵ n_{eq}/cm²

9

LHCb new Vertex Locator



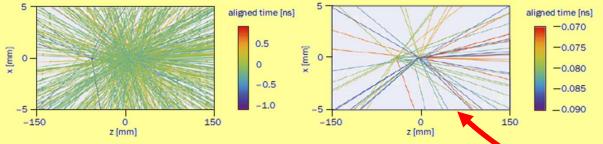
High-Luminosity LHC in Run 5

begin in 2035, will be operate at a peak luminosity of 1.5×10^{34} cm⁻² s⁻¹.

Monolithic Active Pixel Sensors for <u>Upstream Tracker</u> and <u>Mighty Tracker</u>

LHCb-DP-2022-002 May 23, 2024





large-scale implementation of MAPS in a high-radiation environment

Mighty pixels

CERN Courier March/April 2023 p22

VELO will be 4D-tracking detector 55 um pitch includes timing information with a precision of better than 50 ps per hit, leading to a track time-stamp resolution of about 20 ps

Microscope image of the first LHCb-dedicated high-voltage CMOS sensor

large electrodes MAPS
with high-voltage
biasing (HV-CMOS) and

ASIC based on the Timepix 3

COST 8.1MCHF

NIEL $6 \times 10^{16} \,\mathrm{MeV}$ n eq /cm²

LHCb TDR 23

small electrodes MAPS. 10

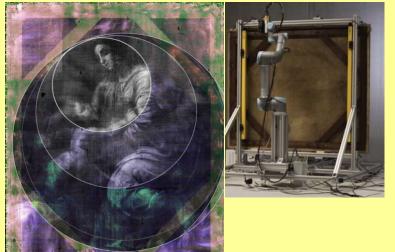
Medipix

Hybrid pixel detector technology
The Timepix4 ASIC:

matrix of 448 x 512 pixels - 55μm



Raphael - The Madonna and Child



New high-resolution maps

of the elemental composition of the paint helps-rediscover-lost-painting-raphael

Radiography and computed tomography

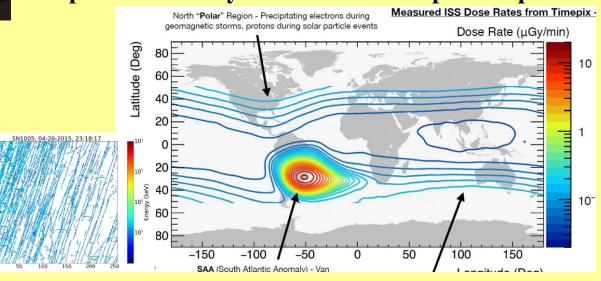
A 3D image of a wrist finger bones - white

soft tissue - red





space dosimetry 10 Years of Timepix in Space



Dr Stuart P. George (NASA) CERN Detector Seminar https://indico.cern.ch/event/1218130/

https://medipix.web.cern.ch/index.php/news/news/timepix/cern-technology-

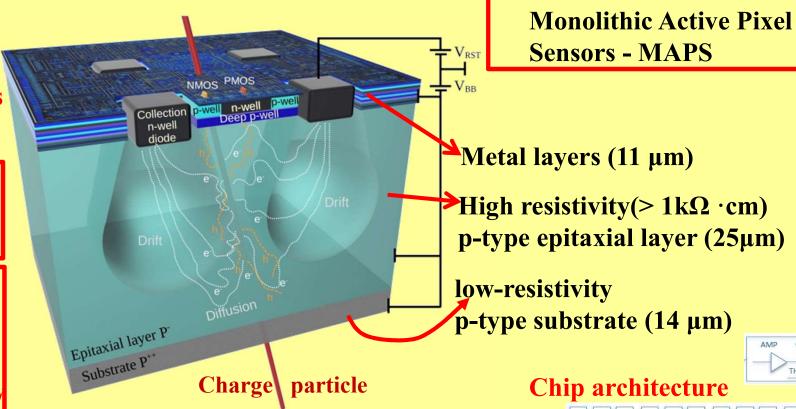
MAPS:

180nm CMOS

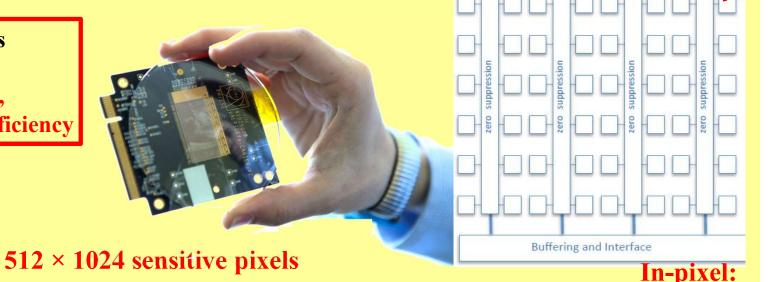
Imaging Process

Shield NWELL of PMOS transistors

Small n-well diode (2µm diameter), ~ 100 times smaller than pixel → low capacitance



Back bias S/N ratio increases, higher efficiency



amplification, discrimination, hit buffer

ALICE: ITS-2
all 7 layers with

MAPS

Beam pipe

TPC

TPC

ALPIDE

180 nm CMOS technology
10 m² 12 G pixel

https://cerncourier.

com/a/alice-tracks-

new-territory/

STAR Heavy Flavour Tracker

1. Silicon Strip Detector (SSD)

2. Intermediate Silicon Tracker (IST)

3. Pixel Detector (PXL)

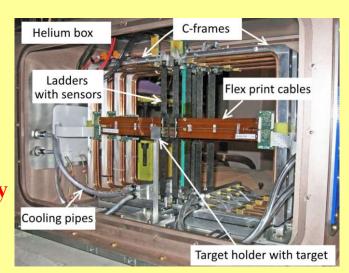


Petra Riedler CERN Detector Seminar, April 28, 2017

PXL is the first operational vertex detector based on MAPS 350 nm CMOS technology

NA61/SHINE Small Acceptance Vertex Detector (SAVD) 2018-2022 MIMOSA-26AHR 350 nm CMOS technology

NOW ALPIDE 180 nm CMOS technology



Eur. Phys. J. C (2023) 83:471



Strip

0.16 m² 356 M pixel

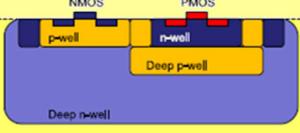
https://nsww.org/projects/bnl/star/sub-systems.php

EXAMPLES

Monolithic Active Pixel Sensors - MAPS

Large area monolithic HV-CMOS sensors fabricated in 180 nm high voltage CMOS process technology.

The standard process has been extended for high resistive substrates and deep p-well isolation



ATLASPix3 in the AMS 180 nm CMOS

Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A 924 (2019) 99–103

Depleted zone

P-type substrate

MALTA is a full scale MAPS MALTA 2,3
TowerJazz 180 nm CMOS technology

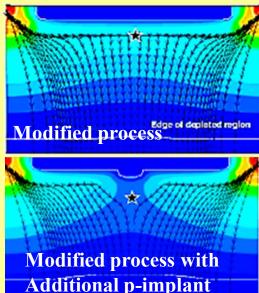
radiation hardness: 2.0×10¹⁵ MeV n_{eq}/cm² >100 Mrad

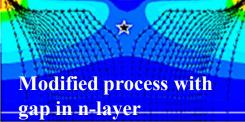
high-granularity: pixel 36.4 × 36.4 μm, area 2 × 2 cm²

small charge collection electrode design



4-chip telescope





NIM, A 958 (2020) 162404 NIM, A 1047 (2023) 167809

Monolithic Active Pixel Sensors - MAPS

All-sky Medium Energy Gamma-ray Observatory eXplorer (AMEGO-X) is

gamma-ray observations in the multimessenger astrophysics

AMEGO-X

two detector subsystems:

the Anti-Coincidence Detector (ACD)

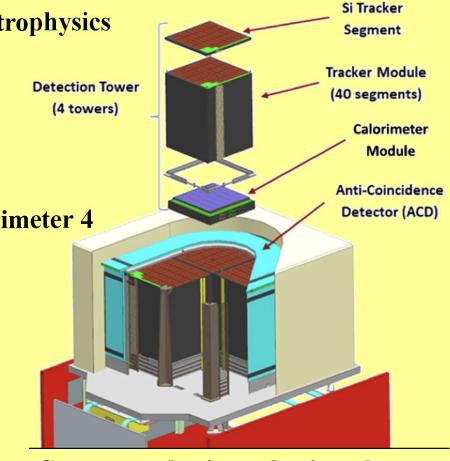
the Gamma-Ray Detector (GRD)

The GRD - 40 layers of MAPS detectors + a calorimeter 4

layers of CsI scintillator bars.

AstroPix is a Monolithic Silicon Pixel detector derived from ATLASPix

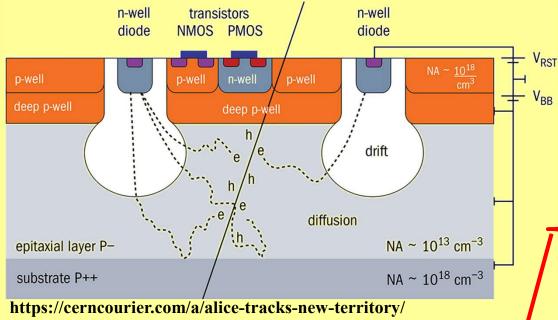
ATLAS Pix3 - 180 nm CMOS, pixel size of $150 \times 50 \ \mu m^2$, timing resolution ~10 ns



Compton and pair-production telescope sensitivity from 100 keV to 1 GeV

Monolithic Active Pixel Sensors - MAPS

Standard: no additional low-dose implant (used in ALPIDE in 180 nm technology)

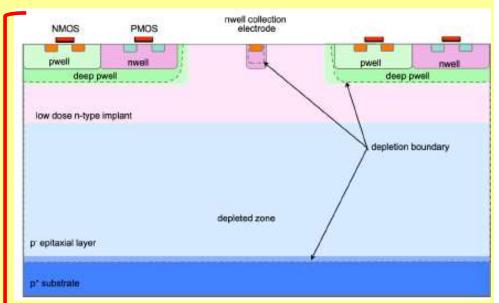


depletion layer (balloon-shaped) does not reach the pixel edges

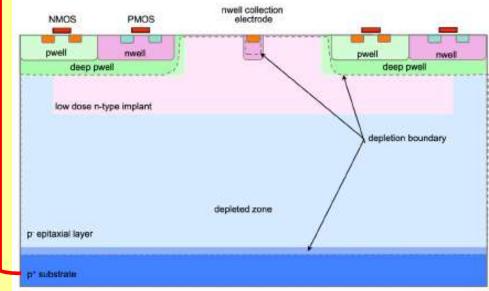
full depletion of the epitaxial layer

TDR for ITS-3: CERN-LHCC-2024-003; ALICE-TDR-021

NEW: with deep blanket low dose n-type implant



NEW: with gap in the deep low dose n-type implant, 65 nm tech.



ALICE-3

PHYSICS ITS-3

Low momentum particle reconstruction

Low-mass di-electrons

Heavy flavor with small decay length

 $(\Lambda c \approx 60 \mu m, Ds \approx 150 \mu m)$

and also: Bs0, Ds+, Λ b, Ξ c,

"c-deuteron", dΛc

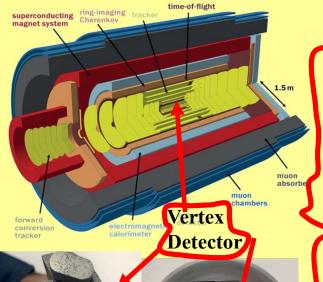
"strangeness tracking"

- Anti-3He production from anti-Λb0



 $\sigma_{pos} - 5 \mu m$, $X/X0 \approx 0.1\%$

300 mm wafer-scale sensors, (using stitching) thinned to 20 - 40 μ m are flexible bent to the target radii - mechanically held in place by carbon foam support structures. Max power density is 20 mW/cm^2



PHYSICS

Determination of the average temperature of the QGP before the formation of hadrons

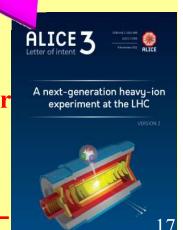
precision measurements of di-electrons and multi-charm barions and heavy-flavor hadrons $p_t \rightarrow 0$

Si-pixel tracker:

The four segments can be rotated to bring the tracker sensors closer to the beam pipe. In vacuum!!

 $\sigma - 2.5 \mu m, X/X0 < 0.1\%$

https://cerncourier.com/a/alice-3-a-heavy-ion-detector-for-the-2030s/

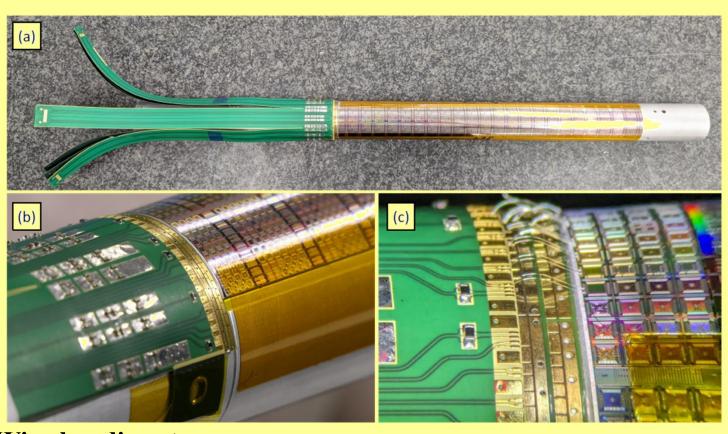


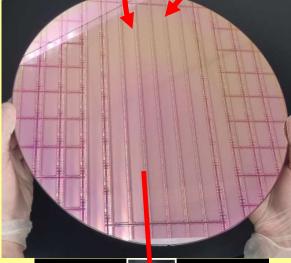
ALICE Inner tracking system - ITS-3

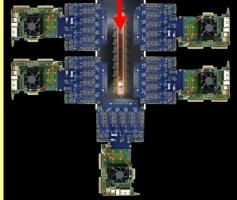
Technical Design Report for the ITS-3:

A bent wafer-scale monolithic pixel detector

Monolithic stitched sensor (MOSS) Monolithic stitched sensor timing (MOST)





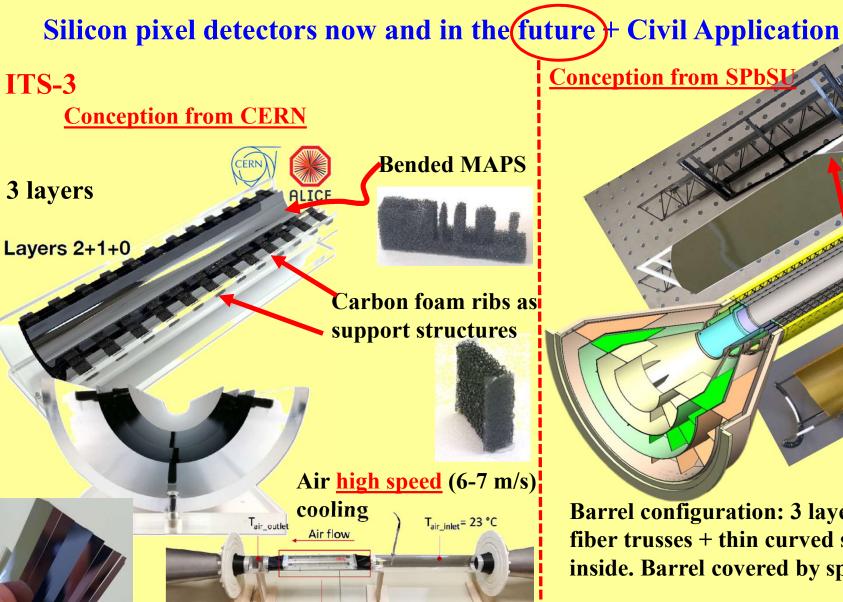


Wire-bonding step:

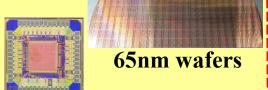
(a) A-side FPC wrapped on the mandrel with the wafer-size MLR1 sensor, (b) and after (c) wire-bonding

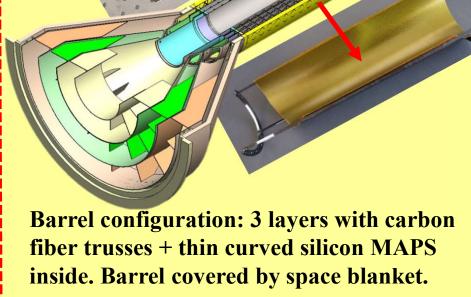
MOSS large stitched ASIC 259mm \times 14mm 6.72 million pix

MOST large stitched ASIC 259mm × 2.5mm 0.9 million pixels 18



R&D: sensor development 65 nm prototypes, MLR1 **Digital Pixel Test Structure** 32×32 pixels, 15 µm pitch





For this construction an effective low speed

(< 0.1 m/c) gas cooling system (nitrogen at

temperature < 15 °C) could be used

without condensation and without frost gathering

Silicon pixel detectors now and in the future + Civil Application **ALICE-3 (LS4 upgrade) Conception from SPbSU** For outer tracker: long ladders 3000 mm + heat bridges + low speed gas cooling in-vacuum tracker outer tracking layers the vertex detector Letter of intent for ALICE 3: arXiv:2211.02491v1 Clam shell design Rigid CF+honecomb outer shell Integration with the beam-pipe and the IRIS **Transfer technologies ALICE-3 - JINR** G. Feofilov, S. Igolkin, V. Zherebchevsky et.al

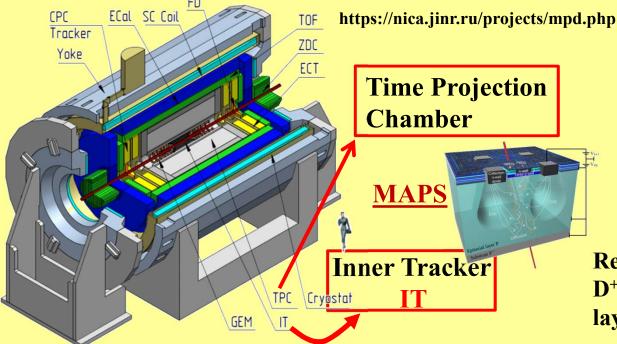
https://indico.cern.ch/event/1405488

20

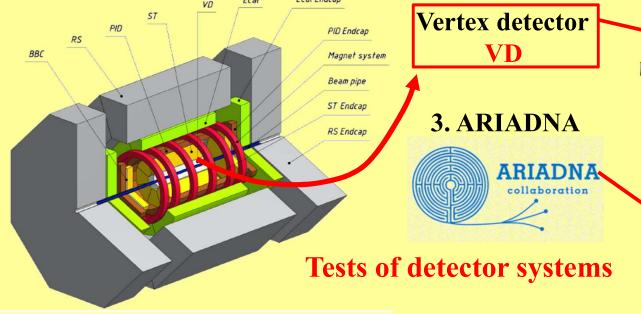
Detector technologies for NICA

Experiments:

1. MPD at NICA – Multi-Purpose Detector



2. SPD at NICA – Spin Physics Detector

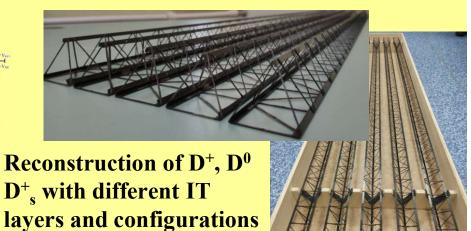


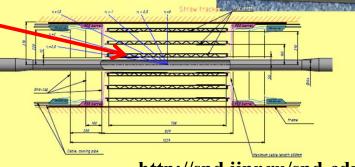
II stage of the MPD experiment: TPC + IT

Geometrical model of MPD vertex detector

Carbon fiber structures production

60 Wound-truss structures were produced at SPbSU and shipped to JINR



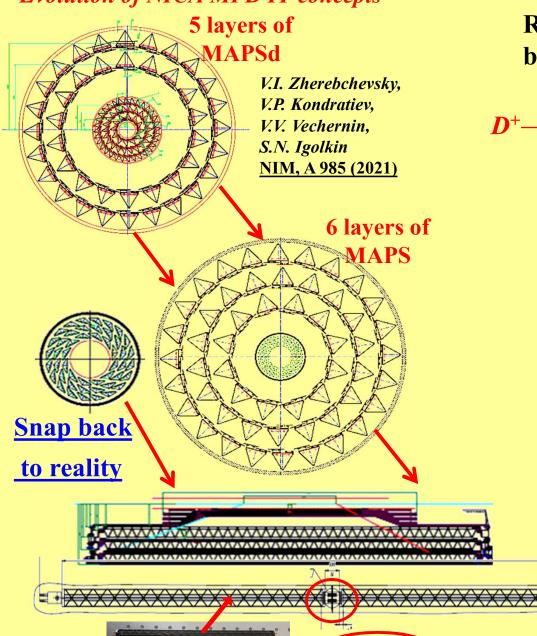


http://spd.jinr.ru/spd-cdr/

Proton tomography Beam monitoring

Detector technologies for NICA: MPD SPD

Evolution of NICA MPD IT concepts



Hole!

Reconstruction of D⁺, D⁰, D⁺_S with 6 layer IT, beam pipe 40 um, 10⁸ central Bi+Bi collisions

$$D^+ \longrightarrow K^- + \pi^+ + \pi^+ \quad D^0 \longrightarrow K^- + \pi^+ \quad D^+_{\ S} \longrightarrow K^- + K^+ + \pi^+$$

Particle	\mathbf{D}^{+}	\mathbf{D}^0	D ⁺ s
Efficiency, %	1.0	0.4	0.1

Reconstruction of D⁺, D⁰, D⁺_s with 6 layer IT, beam pipe 40 um, 10⁸ central <u>Au+Au collisions</u>

Done by V.P. Kondratiev

Physical tasks

Proposed by V.N. Kovalenko

Particle	\mathbf{D}^{+}	\mathbf{D}^0	$\mathbf{D}^{+}\mathbf{s}$
Efficiency (hole), %	0.18	0.05	



Evolution of NICA MPD IT concepts

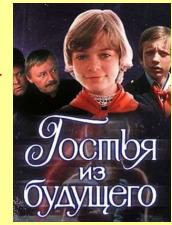


area Uth MAPS

IV stage MPD: **TPC + ITS**

A bright future ahead.

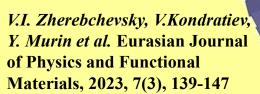




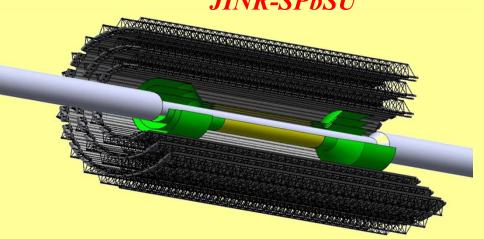
From ALICE to Alice

"The Distant Beautiful Future"

V.I. Zherebchevsky, V.P. Kondratiev, N.Maltsev, V.Petrov, IJMP E, Vol. 33, No. 12 (2024)



JINR-SPbSU



Inner Barrel - 3 layers of bended MAPS with large area and thickness of 40 μm

Outer Barrel - 3 layers of standard MAPS, Thickness of 50 µm

Detector technologies for NICA: MPD SPD Temperature map of the detector layers **Cooling for Tomorrow**

New experimental set-up for studying the cooling processes of new generation thin

silicon pixel detectors

3+3 layers **MAPS** conception



Cooling of 3 layers Uth large area **MAPS**

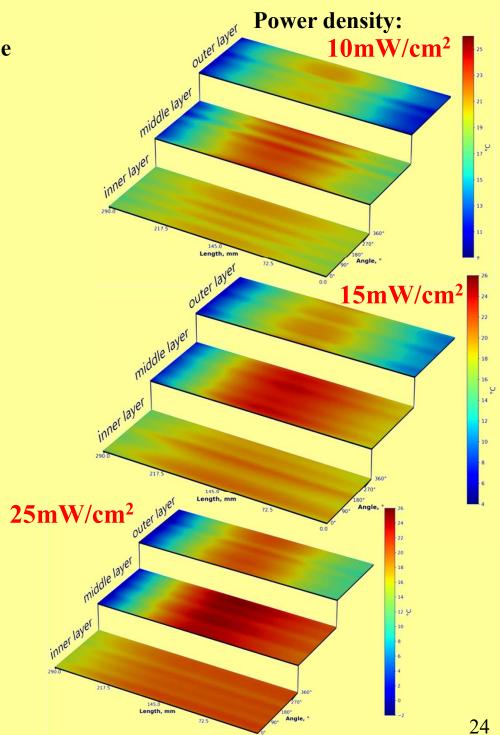
Optimization of gas-cooling processes

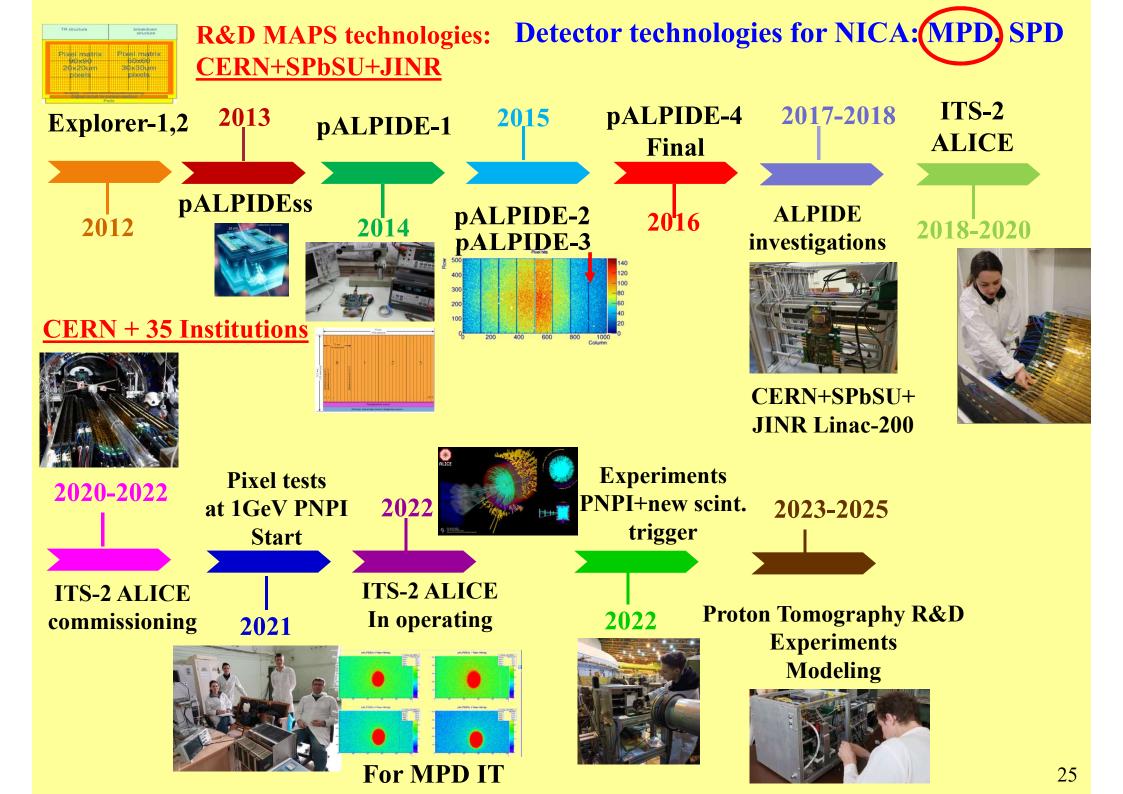
V. Zherebchevsky, et al. Instruments and Experimental Techniques, 2025, Vol. 68, No. 2

BEAM PIPE

Mechanics and cooling crash tests New set-up





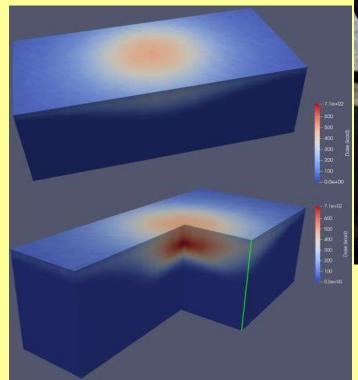


Detector technologies for NICA: MPD SPD

Irradiated MAPS:

Central area,

max dose depth - 15 um

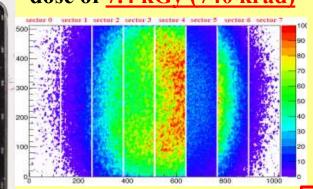


Studies of radiation effects in irradiated detector structures

During the 6 month experimental period, the irradiation zone accumulated <u>TID</u>

dose of <u>7.4 kGy (740 krad)</u>

Alpha source 4-5 MeV



RESULTS

Threshold and temporal noise were changed: 30-40% MAPS still worked!!

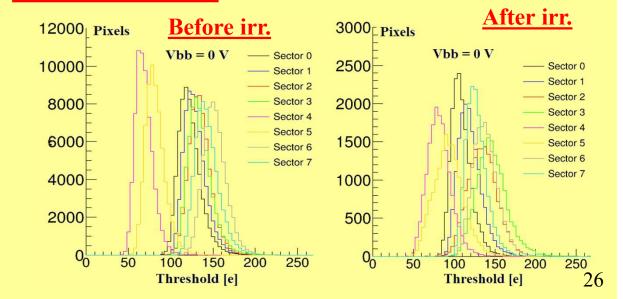
Example
Pixel thresholds

New experiment:

Dose 900 krad on the MAPS edge, where pixel electronics

are located





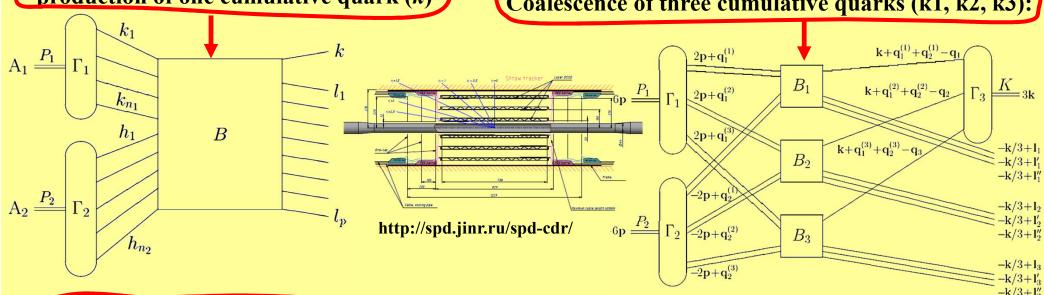
Detector technologies for NICA: MPD(SPD)

Study of flucton-flucton interaction in D-D collisions

- 1) It can be studied only in new cumulative region of large transverse momenta in mid-rapidity region at NICA (not in the traditional cumulative region of fragmentation of one of the nuclei).
- 2) There are no additional interactions in dd collision, compared with collisions of heavier nuclei, if both deuterons are in flucton configuration at the moment of collision.
- 3) Higher frequency of dd collisions that can be recorded by the SPD

The formation of pions goes through the production of one cumulative quark (k)

The formation of protons goes through the Coherent Coalescence of three cumulative quarks (k1, k2, k3):



MAPS detector system will give possibility to confirm the tracks of a cumulative particle from the primary interaction vertex, and thus isolate this rare event from the noise background.

For the amplitude of inclusive proton production (D+D) the new cumulative region could be reached

For details see reports at the present conference: <u>Vechernin V.V.</u>, and <u>Yurchenko S.V</u>

2023 Memorandum of Understanding: SPbSU + JINR + ARIADNA-LS

Signatures

The undersigned Parties declare their consent to the present Memorandum of Understanding on conducting experiments using ARIADNA beamlines at the NICA Complex.

Prof. Vision Kekelidze

Derector of

Date: 24.03.2023

On behalf of the ARIADNA-LS Collaboration:

Dr. Oleg Belov

Acting Spokesperson for ARIADNA-LS

Dr. Yuriy Murin Lead of the ARIADNA-LS Date: 23 March 2023

Date: 23 March 202

Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education 'St Petersburg State University' (St Petersburg University):



Date: 22 March 2023

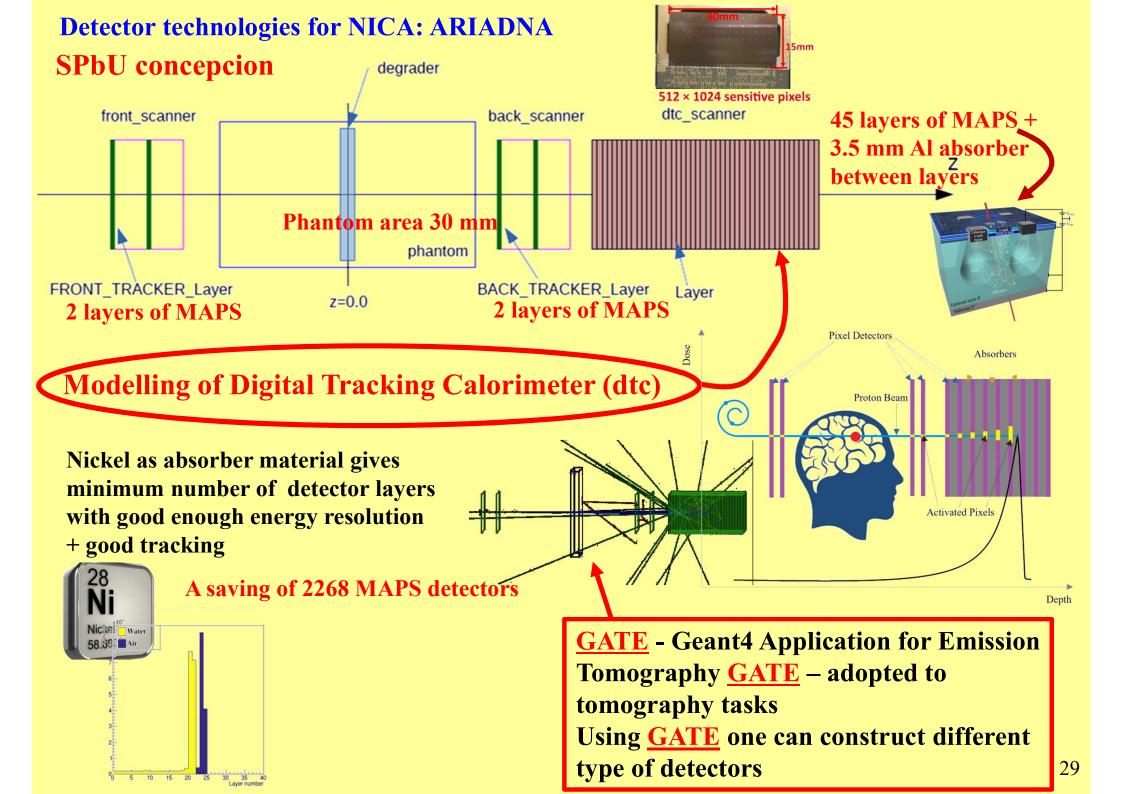
12 March 2023

Special Purpose Funding Programme within the NICA Megascience Project in 2023 – 2024

Our projects:

- 1) Concept creation and model development of a **proton tomography** based on silicon pixel detectors
- 2) Creation of a new <u>high energy heavy ion beams</u> monitoring system (based on plastic scintillators)



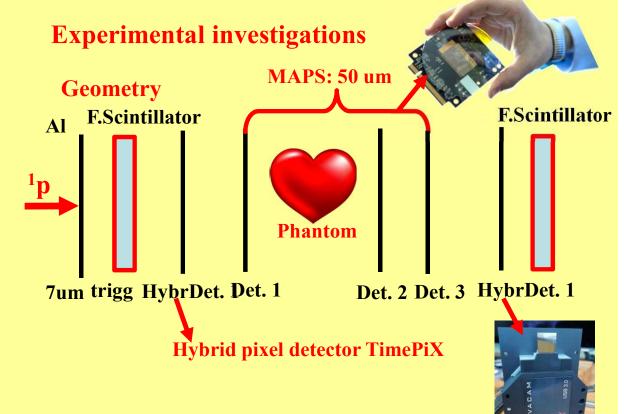


Experiments with MAPS

PNPI Synchrocyclotron- 1000

Beam: protons - 200 MeV

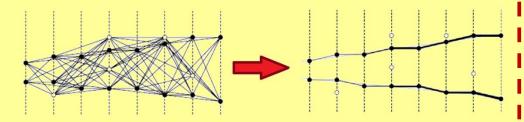




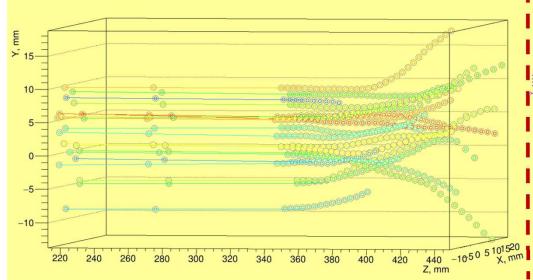


Modelling

Track-finding algorithm based on cellular automaton was developed for tomograph prototype.

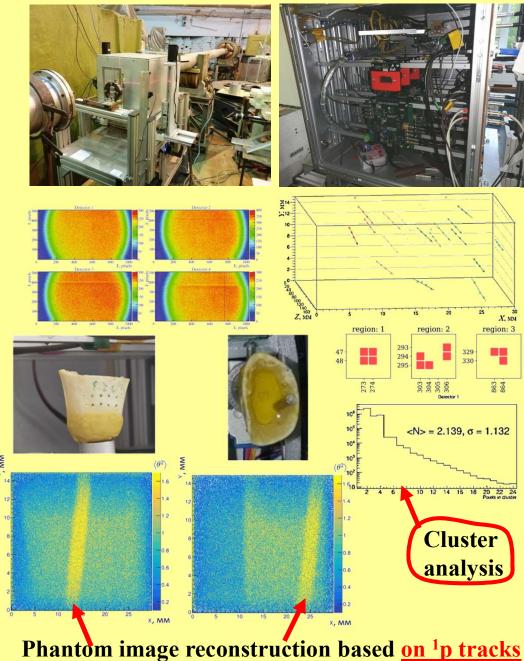


Tracks are identified with 80-90% efficiency for the proton beam with diameter of 20 mm and 10^6 p/s intensity.



Experiments with MAPS

PNPI Synchrocyclotron- 1000 Beam: protons - 200 MeV



High energy heavy ion beams monitoring system based on <u>modern plastic</u> scintillator + PM or SiPM

Developments are designed to operate under extreme conditions: high beam intensity - 10⁷ particles/cm²·s and high energy.

World: Radiation hard scintillators: SCSN81T (Kuraray, Japan), BC408 (Bicron, United States), UPS09RH

Example: 124Xe54+

Energy: 3.8 GeV/A

Calculations for 10 mm plastic scint.(energy losses 6.38 GeV) light output 6·10⁷ photons

ARIADNA long-term irradiation station

GOALS:

- 1) Intensity and dose detector
- 2) Beam components identification (in the place of irradiated samples)

Under development

Sc3 - censor thickness 6 mm

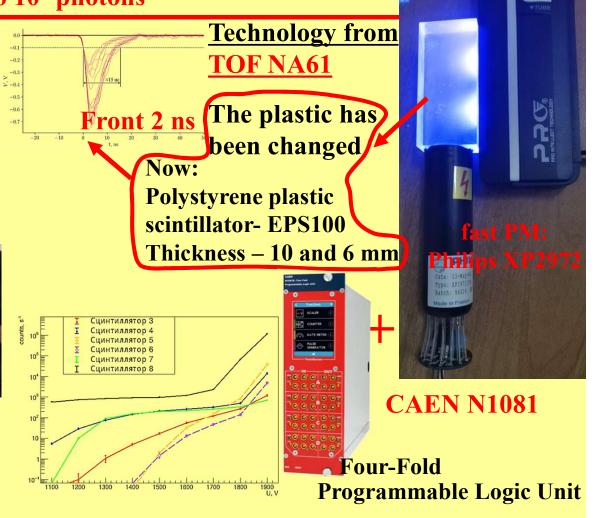
Sc4 - censor thickness 10 mm

Sc5 - censor thickness 6 mm + light filter

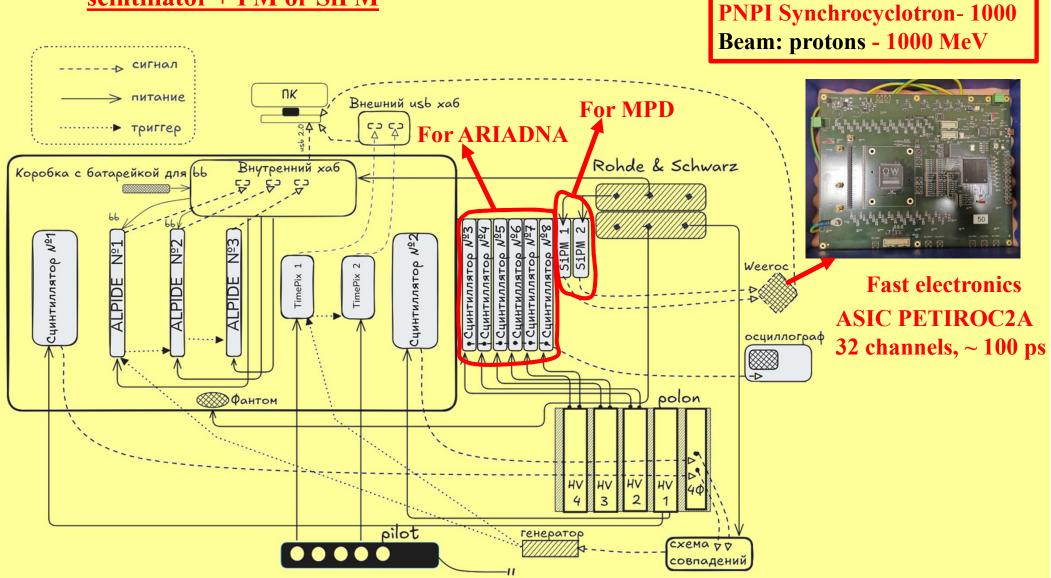
Sc6 - censor thickness 10 mm + light filter

Sc4 - censor thickness 6 mm + dark paper

Sc8 - censor thickness 23 mm



High energy heavy ion beams monitoring system based on <u>modern plastic</u> scintillator + PM or SiPM



High energy heavy ion beams monitoring system based on modern plastic scintillator + PM or SiPM PNPI Synchrocyclotron- 1000 Beam: protons - 1000 MeV Beam tests **Proposal for Nuclotron** 2.5·10⁶ prot/s BEAM Rohde & Schwarz > питание PMT 1 PMT 2 Съем сигнала: caen OSCILLOSCOPE ---» вариант 1 вариант 2 > вариант 3 инверторы CHAN 1 CHAN 2 осциллограф EXT TRIG polon 0.0 -0.2-0.4Sc5 - censor thickness 6 mm + light filter **Different charges separations** -0.618000 19000 20000 21000 Sc3 - censor thickness -0.106 mm It indicates the registration of individual beam -0.15particles. Counting pulses in this mode provides Coincidence mode information on the beam intensity 600 800 t, ns

Conclusions

Novel detector technologies based on silicon monolithic active pixel sensors and plastic scintillators could be used for NICA: MPD, SPD, ARIADNA experiments

Real Tracking for conception of MPD ITS (identification D₀, D⁺, D⁺_S) has been done

The advanced cooling system was proposed for new large area, thin silicon pixel detectors

In-beam tests: tracking, pixel energy scan, Cluster analysis, digital calorimetry

Next plans

Continue of pixel detectors radiation effects investigations

For MAPS proton tomography: Tracking + visualization

Medical beams tests





