

# DETECTORS FOR HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS

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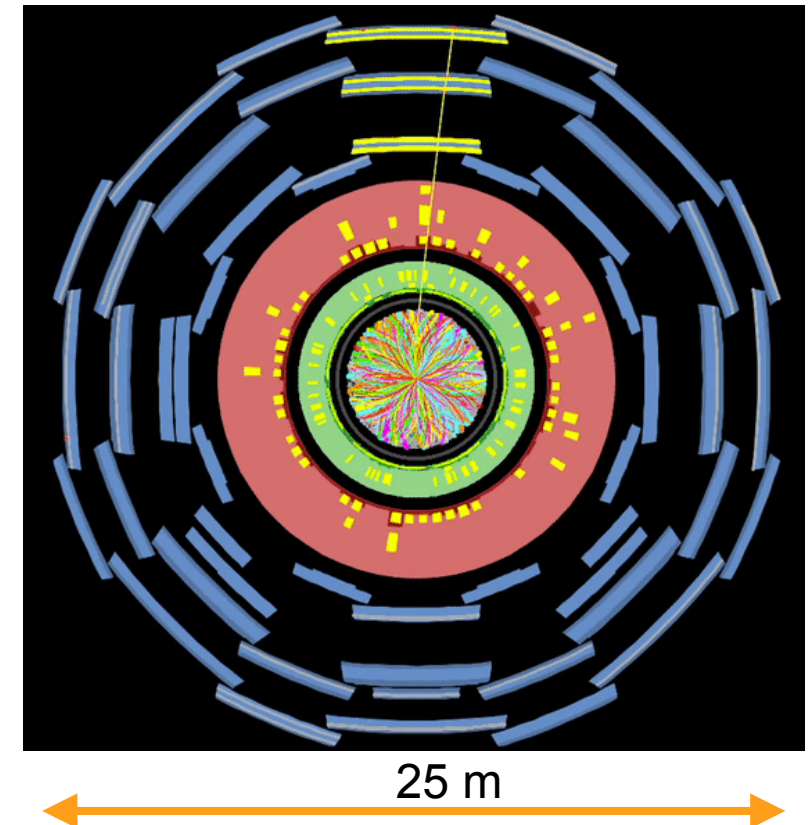
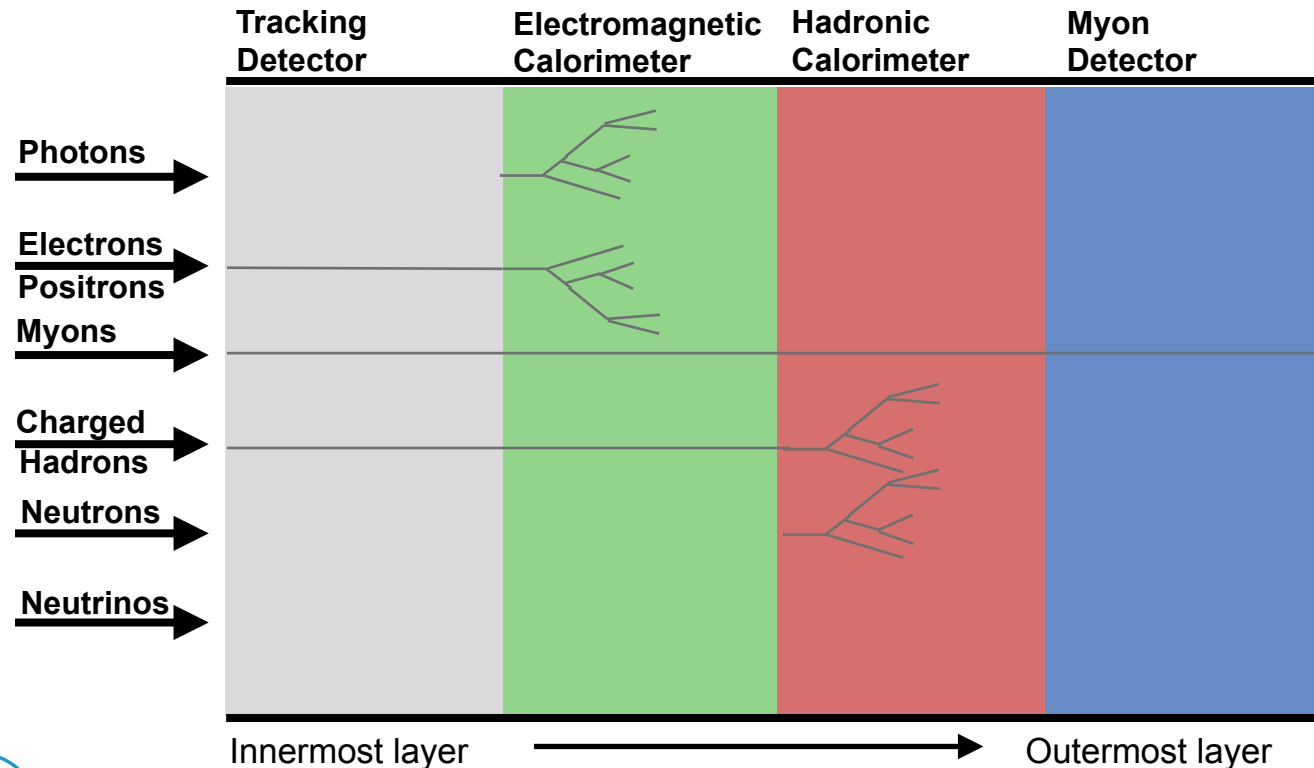
Part 5

DESY Summer Student 2025

# DETECTOR CONCEPTS

# PARTICLE PHYSICS DETECTORS

- There is not one type of detector which provides all measurements we need -> “Onion” concept -> different systems taking care of certain measurement
- Detection of collision production within the detector volume
  - resulting in signals (mostly) due to electro-magnetic interactions



# HOW TO DO A PARTICLE PHYSICS EXPERIMENT

## Ingredients needed:

- particle source
- accelerator and aiming device
- detector
- trigger
- recording devices

## Recipe:

- get particles (e.g. protons, antiprotons, electrons, ...)
- accelerate them
- collide them
- observe and record the events
- analyse and interpret the data
- many people to:
  - design, build, test, operate accelerate
  - design, build, test, calibrate, operate, understand the detector
  - analyse data

🔴 lots of money to pay all this ....



typical HERA collaboration: ~400 people  
LHC collaborations: >2000 people

Pic: DESY

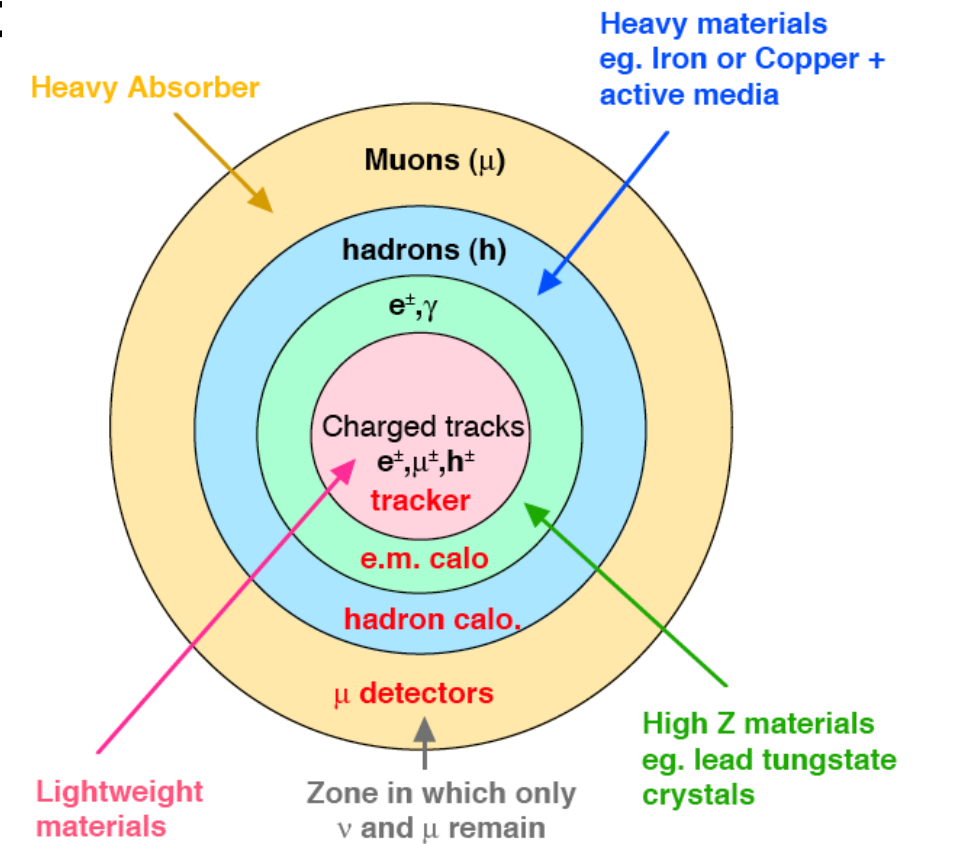


# CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF HEP DE

- Need detailed understanding of
  - processes you want to measure (“physics case”)
  - signatures, particle energies and rates to be expected
  - background conditions
- Decide on magnetic field
  - only around tracker?
  - extending further ?
- Calorimeter choice
  - define geometry (length,  $X_0$ )
  - type of calorimeter
  - choice of material depends also on funds

- Tracker

- technology choice (gas and/or Si?)
- number of layers, coverage, ...
- pitch, thickness, ....
- also here money plays a role



Detailed Monte Carlo Simulations need to guide the design process all the time !!

# A MAGNET FOR A LHC EXPERIMENT

## ● Wish list

- big: long lever arm for tracking
- high magnetic field
- low material budget or outside detector (radiation length, absorption)
- serve as mechanical support
- reliable operation
- cheap
- ....

$$\Delta p_T/p_T \approx 1/BL^2$$



www.positoons.de

Eierlegende Wollmilchsau

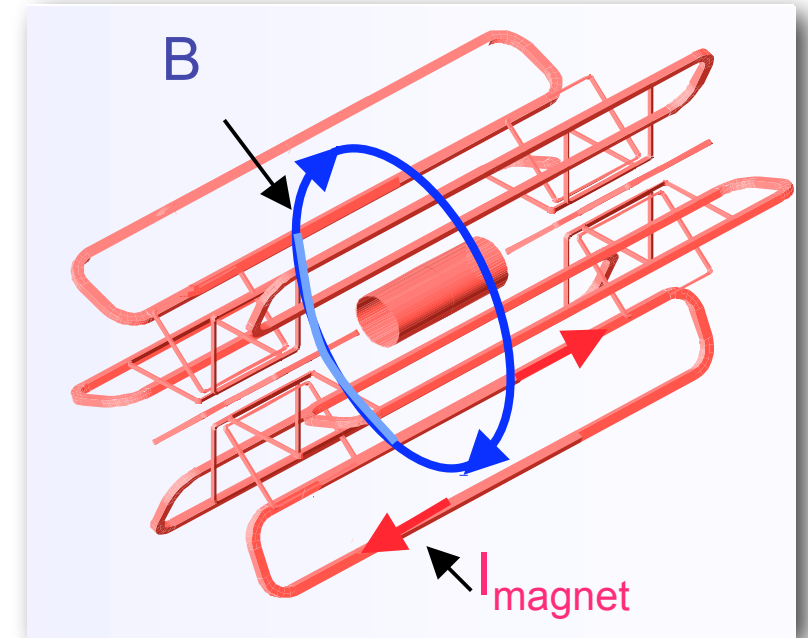
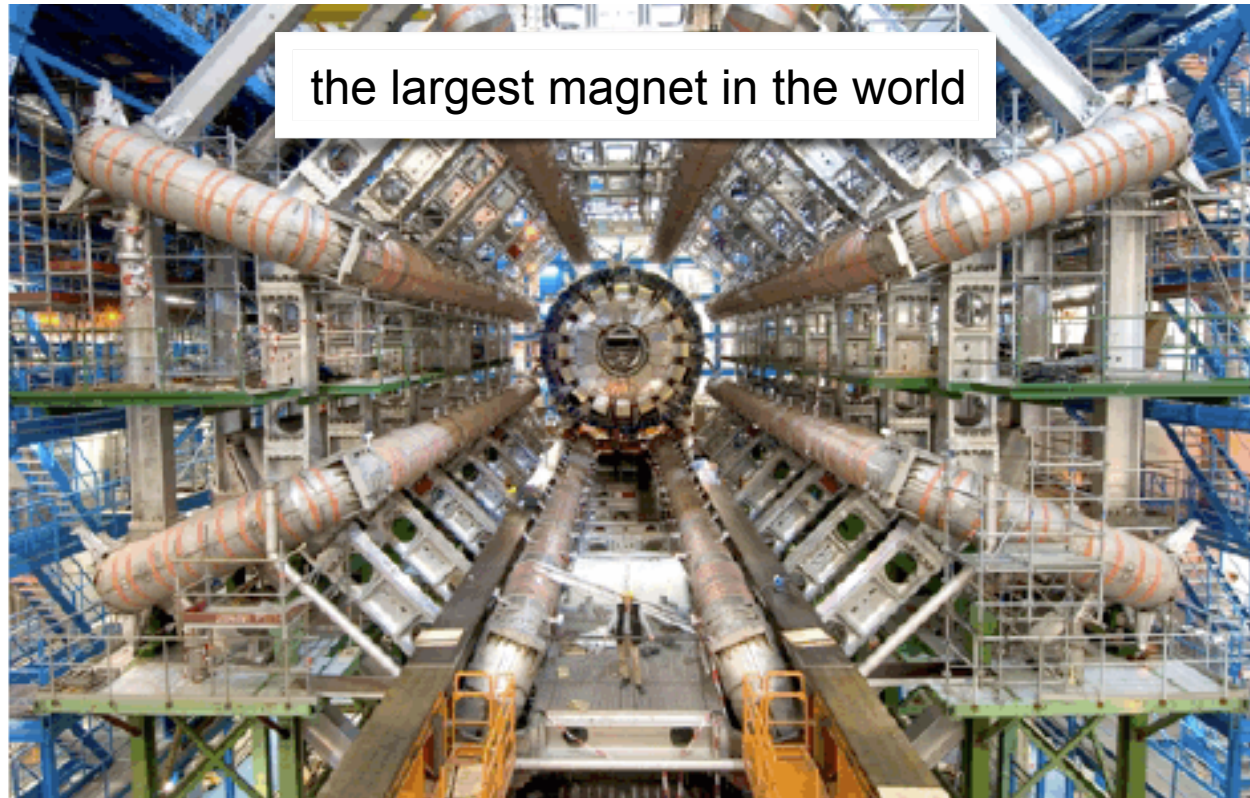
## ● ATLAS decision

- achieve a high-precision stand-alone momentum measurement of muons
- need magnetic field in muon region -> large radius magnet

## ● CMS decision

- single magnet with the highest possible field in inner tracker (momentum resolution)
- muon detector outside of magnet

# MAGNET-CONCEPTS: ATLAS -> TOROID



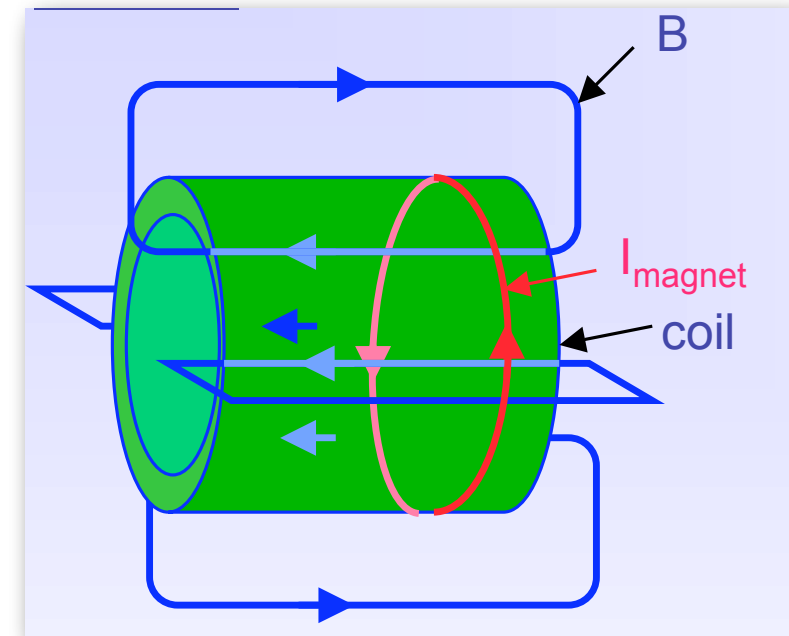
- Central toroid field outside the calorimeter within muon-system:  $<4$  T
- Closed field, no yoke
- Complex field
- Thin-walled 2 T Solenoid-field for trackers integrated into the cryostat of the ECAL barrel

- + field always perpendicular to  $\vec{p}$
- + relative large field over large volume
- non uniform field
- complex structure

# MAGNET-CONCEPTS: CMS -> SOLENOID

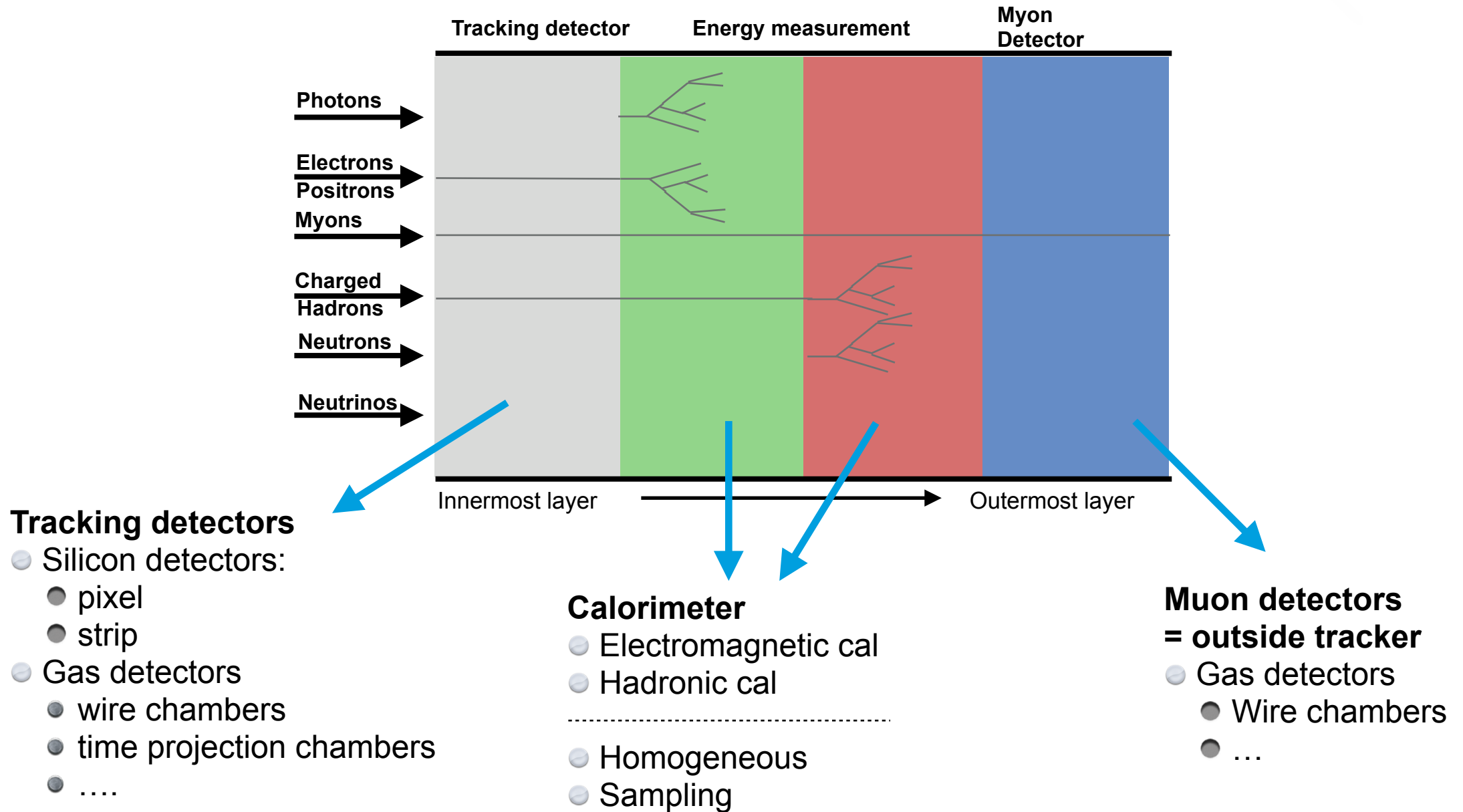


- Super conducting, 3.8 T field inside coil
- Weaker opposite field in return yoke (2T)
- Encloses trackers and calorimeter
- 13 m long, inner radius 5.9 m,  $I = 20$  kA, weight of coil: 220 t



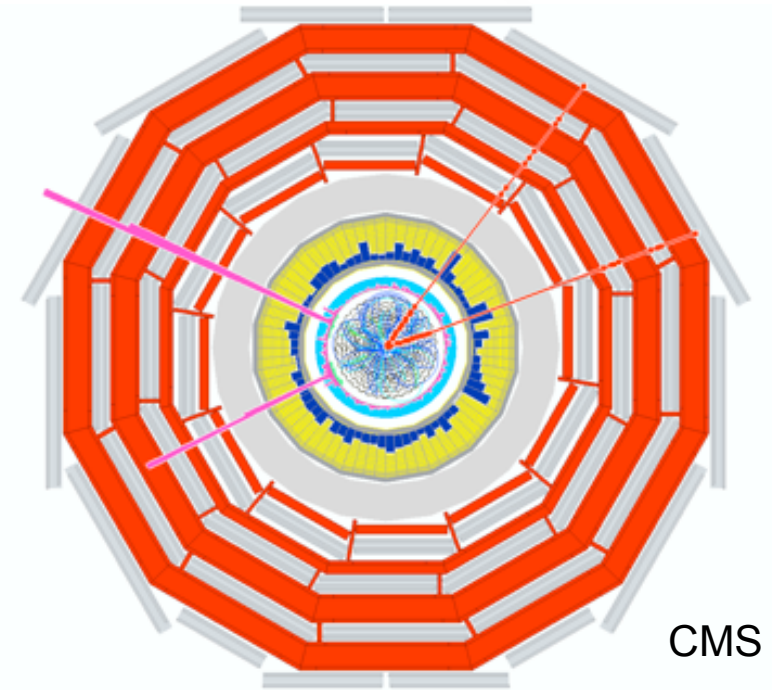
- + large homogeneous field inside coil
- + weak opposite field in return yoke
- size limited (cost)
- relative high material budget

# PARTICLE PHYSICS DETECTORS



# WHAT IS A TRIGGER ?

- Collisions every 25 ns with many simultaneous interactions
- A lot of information stored in the detectors - we need all information
- Electronics too slow to read out all information for **every** collision
- But: a lot of the interactions are very well known - we only want rare events
- “Trigger” is a system that uses simple criteria to rapidly decide which events to keep when only a small fraction of the total can be recorded.



- Want to know the information of green cars
  - number of passengers
  - speed
  - weight
  - .....
- Trigger = system detecting the color and initiating the information transfer all information



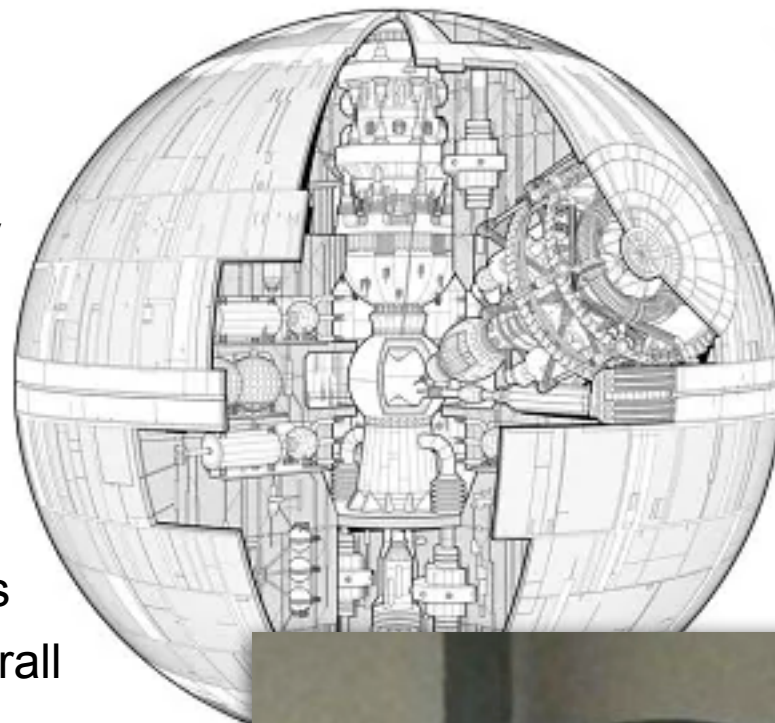
The background of the slide is a dense, light-colored collage of handwritten mathematical equations and diagrams, typical of physics research notes. Visible elements include various forms of the Lorentz factor  $\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$ , energy-momentum relations like  $E^2 = p^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4$ , and particle physics notations such as  $P_+$ ,  $P_-$ ,  $\Lambda$ ,  $m_B$ , and  $m_W$ . There are also some geometric sketches and arrows interspersed among the formulas.

## REAL LIFE EXAMPLES AND WHAT CAN GO WRONG ...

# DISCLAIMER

- Designing a particle physics (tracking) detector is a very complex business
  - Many very nice examples exist
  - Also some examples of failures
- 
- Idea of this part: some stuff you don't find in textbooks
  - Collection of failures might give the impression of overall incompetence
    - Overwhelming majority of detectors run like a chime
    - Unbelievable effort to get large accelerators and experiments in a global effort to run so nicely
    - Even sociologists are interested in how we do this ...

**Some bias in the selection of detectors and examples based on my experience, my friends and other factors ...**



A death star is nothing against a particle physics experiment!



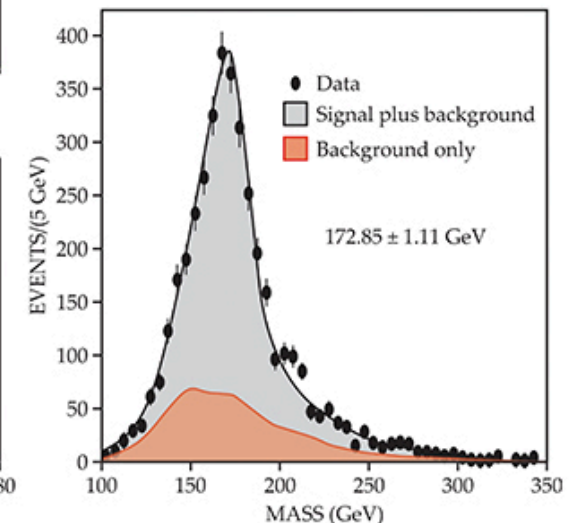
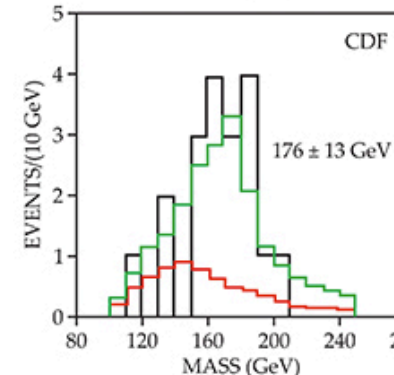
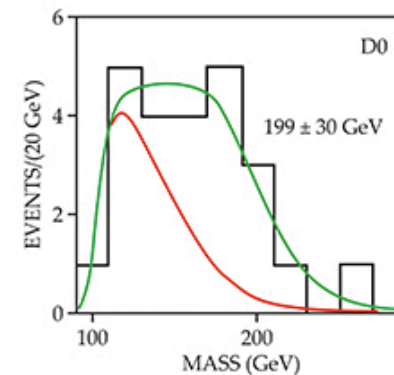
## PROBLEMS IN OVERALL CONCEPT

# D0 WITHOUT INNER TRACKING MAGNET

- D0 Experiment at Tevatron constructed to study proton-antiproton collisions
- **Top quark discovery** in 1995 together with CDF experiment
- Original design for Run I: no magnet for tracking
  - “Focussing on parton jets for deciphering the underlying physics than emphasis on individual final particle after hadronisation”
  - Very compact tracking system
  - Uranium-liquid argon calorimeter for identification of electrons, photons, jets and muons
- Effect of low momentum charged particles greatly underestimated resulting in analysis difficulties.

Run II system included a silicon microstrip tracker and a scintillating-fibre tracker located within a 2 T solenoidal magnet.

Lesson learned:  
magnets are good

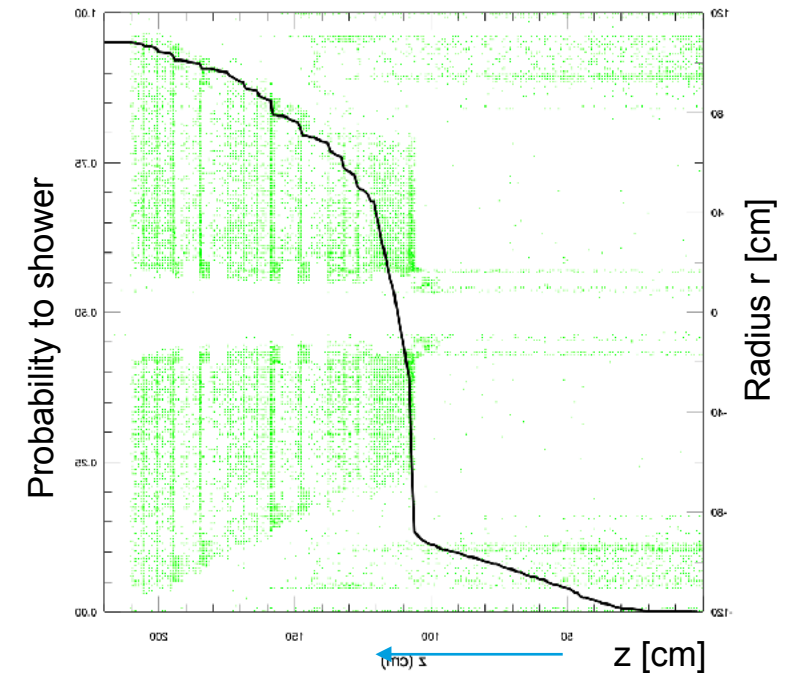
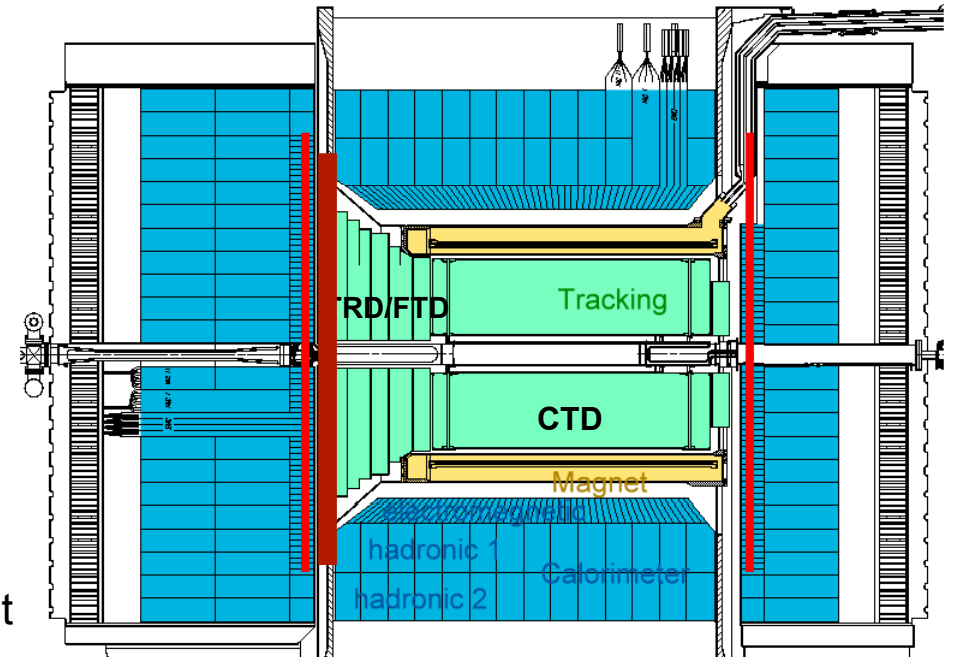


Top quark discovery

# ZEUS TRD

- Zeus Transition Radiation detector for electron identification.
- Aim: h/e rejection ratio of about  $10^{-2}$  for electron tracks embedded in jets (1 - 30 GeV/c).
- However - central tracking detector (wire chamber) had 2cm end-plate for wire fixation
  - Electrons 100% probability to shower and thus were not present in showers anymore
- Reason for mishap: no proper Monte Carlo simulation tools available at time of detector design
- TRD used for Here Run I Replaced by Straw Tube Tracker for Run II

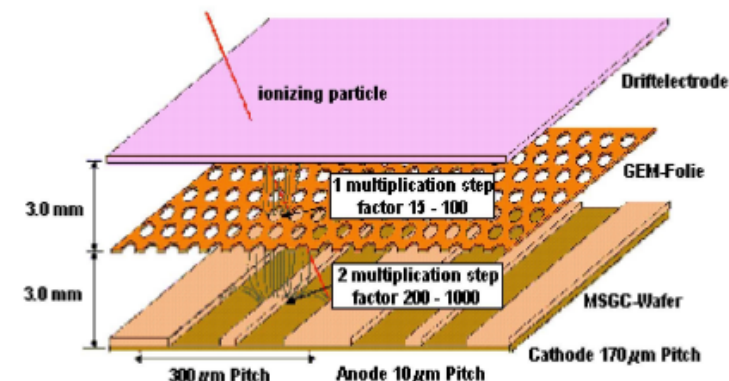
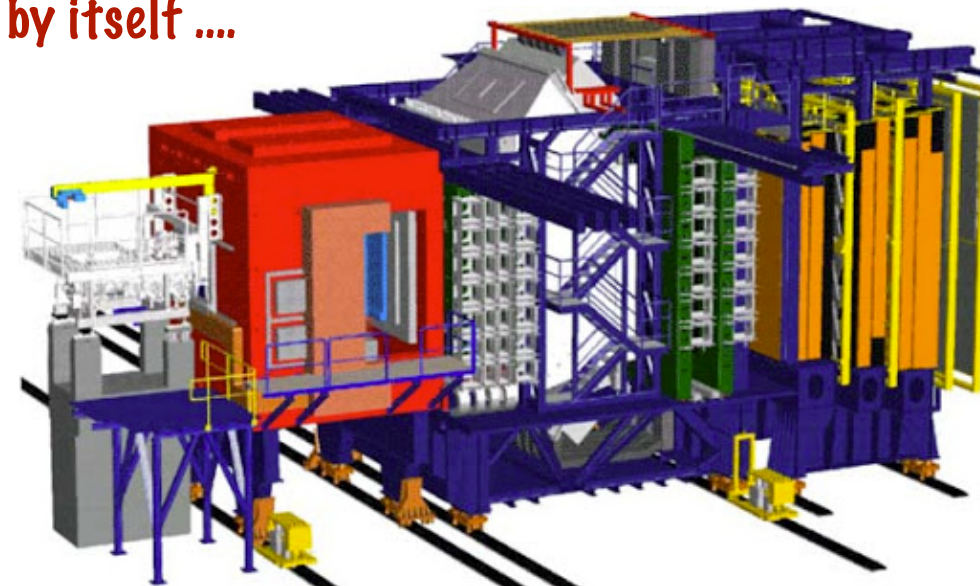
Lesson learned:  
Monte Carlos simulations  
should include everything



# HERA-B

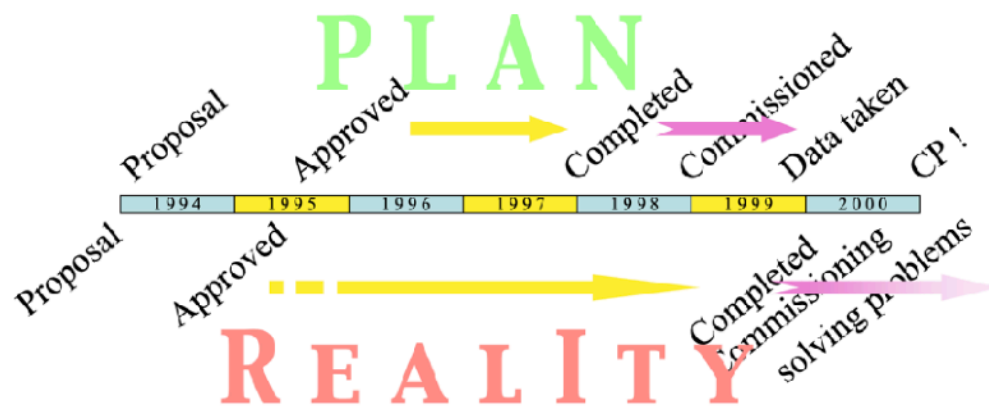
Would be a full lecture by itself ....

- HERA-B started as a search for CP violation in  $B \rightarrow J/\psi K_s^0$ .
  - Fixed target hadronic b-factory
- **Bad surprises:**
  - Inner and outer tracker demanded more R&D to get ready for the running at HERA-B
  - Additional R&D required for the tracking system: two year delay.
- In the mean time Belle and BaBar measured CP violation in B meson decays (ICHEP 2000)
- Decided to ramp Hera-B slowly down .....

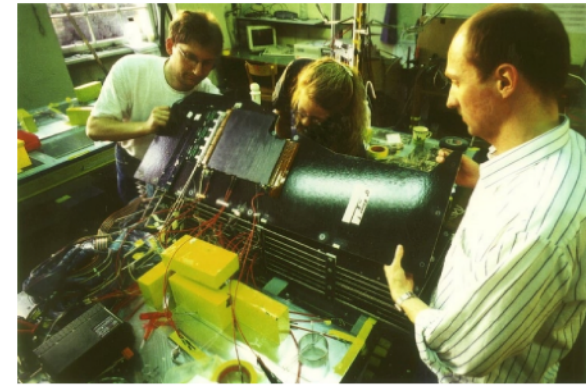


## Frontier detector technology: microstrip gas chambers

- 300  $\mu\text{m}$  strip pitch on glass substrate
- only 6 mm total height
- read out by custom made ASIC chips (HELIX)



# CHALLENGES IN TRACKING SYSTEM

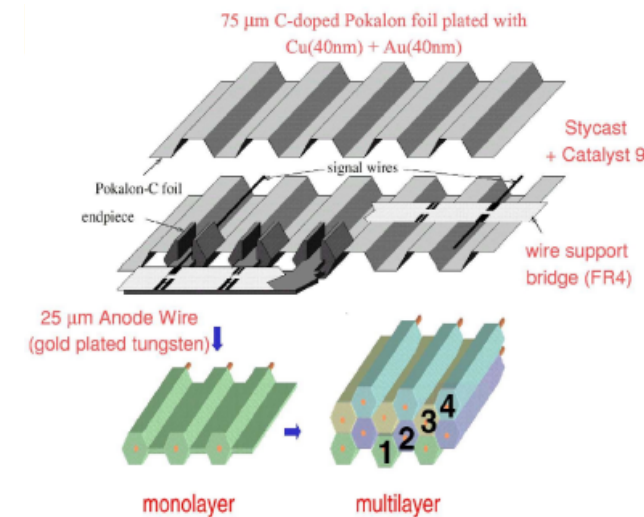


## Inner tracker:

- Microstrip gas chamber based on new technology: micro-pattern gas detectors (GEMs)
  - particle flux too high for conventional wire chambers (pitch > mm) (too high occupancy)
  - area too large for Silicon Micro Strips (pitch 50  $\mu\text{m}$ ) (expensive, too many channels, large capacity...)
- Before production: Breakdowns occurred at the intolerable high rate of a few sparks per hour -> cured by changing field geometry
- During production: New massive ageing phenomena on production series chambers -> reduced HV stability due to radiation damage

## Outer tracker:

- Honeycomb Drift Chamber with 5 mm and 10 mm drift cells
- Rapid ageing of chambers due to radiation environment
- Painful learning curve resulting in 1.5 years delay
- During running: started to lose channels due to faulty mounting of certain HV capacitors!



# REASONS

- Very challenging particle physics experiment

- Particle flux in detector
- Radiation damage
- Event rate
- Data throughput

03/03/03 06:10  
7

**Comment** from SG, UH

Arriving at Hall West at 6:00, we don't see anybody around. The control room is dark and locked, and the HERA display announces "SHUTDOWN" (sounds a bit like Genesis 1,1, but that was a beginning...)

03/03/03 07:16  
8

**Comment** from Bernhard Schmidt

... in fact, at 6:45 the darkness was quite complete. And nobody around to say goodbye...Sleep well, old lady ;-)

- Hera-B was a “flip/flop” experiment

- Only one physics measurement: CP violation in B decays
- No backup plan for reduced requirements

- Schedule from the start very tight in light of a challenging project

- B-factories ( $e^+e^-$ ) BarBar (SLAC) and BELLE (KEK) in construction
- Competing with B-factories: HERA-B without a chance

**2002 : CP-Violation measured with  $> 5\sigma$**

## Not all bad ....

- More than 100 Phd theses
- Most technical challenges solved
- CMS changed tracking design

**Hera-B: LHC detector prototype!**



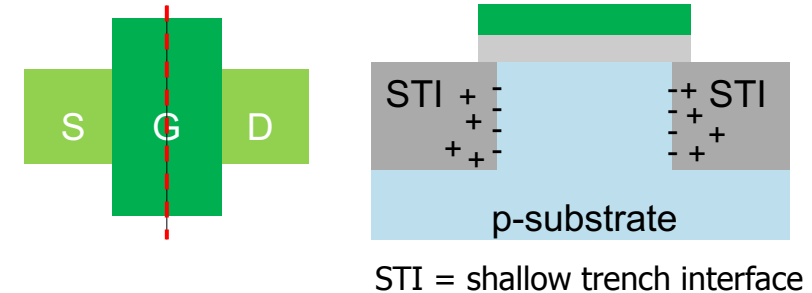
# UNEXPECTED IRRADIATION FAILURE

# RADIATION DAMAGE IN SILICON

- Radiation damages the silicon on atomic level significantly leading to macroscopic effects.

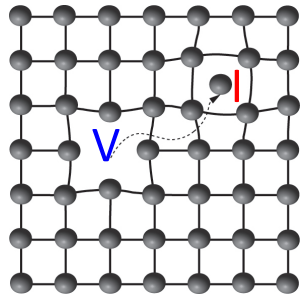
- **Surface effects:** Generation of charge traps due to ionising energy loss — Total ionising dose, TID  
(problem for sensors and readout electronics ).

- Cumulative long term trapping of positive charge
- Increase of leakage current and oxide breakdown



- **Bulk effects:** displacement damage and build up of crystal defects due to non ionising energy loss (NIEL) (main problem for sensors).

- Unit: 1MeV equivalent n/cm<sup>2</sup>



Defects composed of:  
V acancies and I nterstitials

Compound defects with impurities possible!

- **Transient effects:** Radiation induced errors in microelectronic circuits
  - caused by passing charged particles leaving behind a wake of electron-hole pairs
  - single event upsets, single event latch-ups, ....

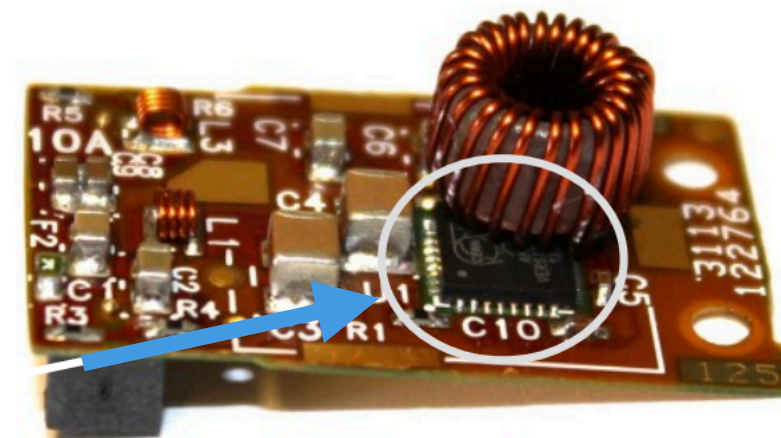
Generations of scientists worked on understanding failures connected to radiation damage and how to mitigate the effects - however ...

# CMS DC-DC CONVERTER

during running

- During 2017 new pixel detector installed in CMS with DC-DC converter for powering
  - After few months: ~5% of deployed converters failed.
  - During winter shutdown: another ~35% of converters were found partially damaged
- Extremely difficult to identify problem - over months multiple tests conducted
- Found strong correlation between radiation background and failures, as well as the functional sequence necessary for the damage to happen.
  - Damage caused by TID radiation damage opening a source-drain leakage current in **one** transistor in Feast2.1 chip
  - High-voltage transistors can not be designed in an enclosed layout to prevent this problem

**DC-DC in a nutshell:**  
transfer energy into detector with higher voltage/lower current and transform just before the load to operation voltage



**Feast2**

## Consequences for operation

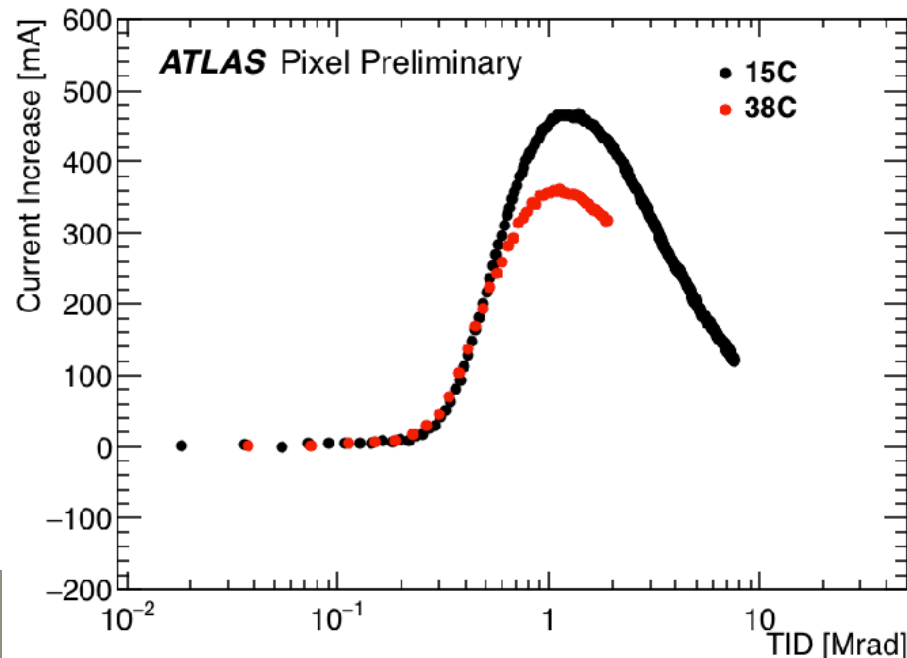
- lower input voltage helps
- stop disabling the output

<https://project-dcdc.web.cern.ch/project-dcdc/public/Documents/ExecutiveSummary2018.pdf>

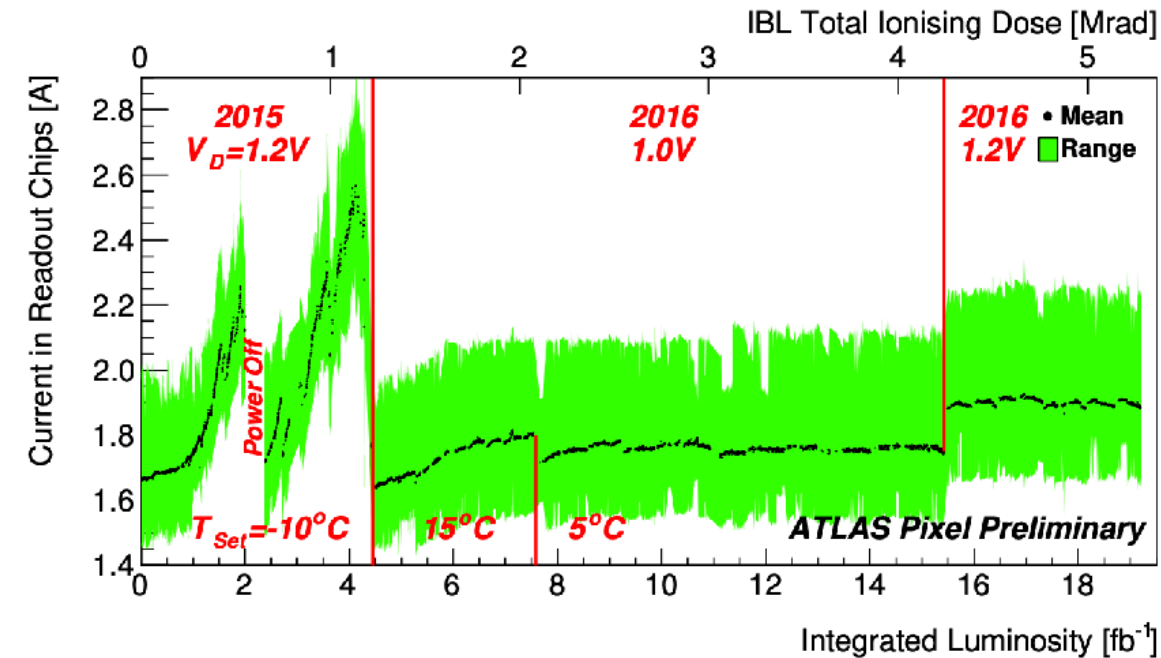
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# ATLAS IBL TID BUMP

- Steep increase in power consumption of IBL during operation increasing the temperature
- Effect of total ionising dose on front-end chip FE-I4B
- Caused by the effect of TID on NMOS transistors:
  - Leakage current was induced by positive charge trapped in the bulk of the shallow trench isolation (STI)
  - Temperature and voltage depending



during running



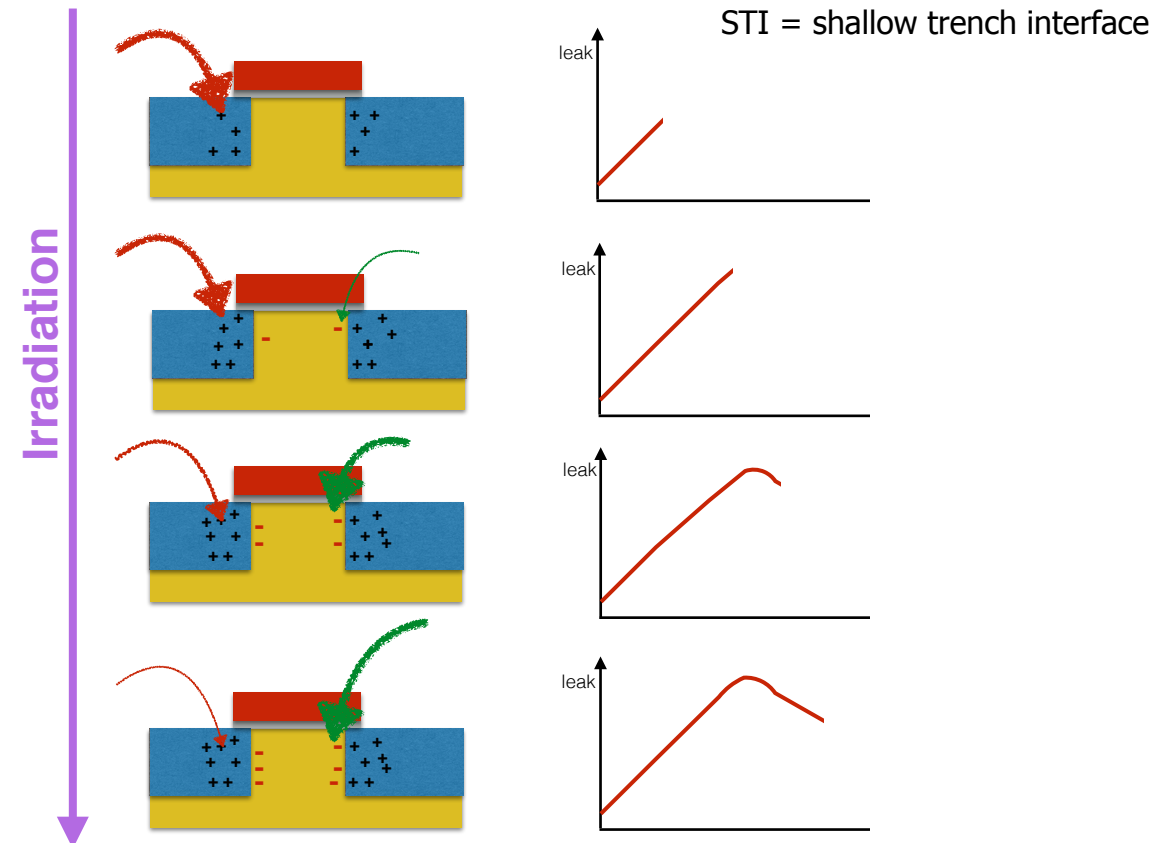
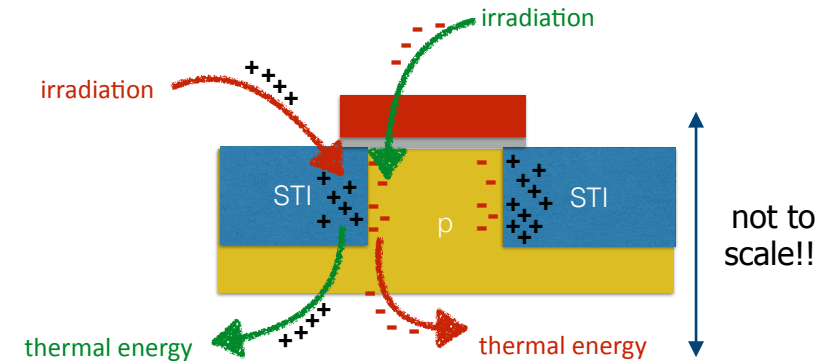
## Mitigation plan:

- Operating temperature was increased from -10 °C to and 10 °C then decreased to 5 °C.
- Digital supply-voltage was decreased to from 1.2 V 1.0 V until TID approached more than 4 Mrad.

# TID BUMP

**Surface effects:** Generation of charge traps due to ionizing energy loss (Total ionising dose, TID)  
(**main problem for electronics**).

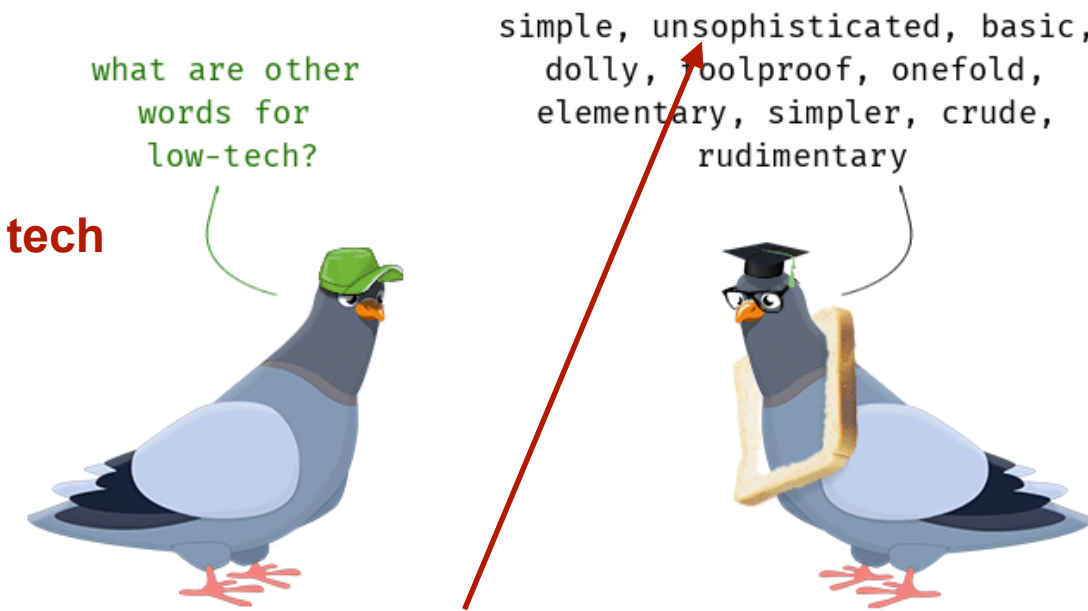
- The leakage current is the sum of different mechanisms involving:
  - the creation/trapping of charge (by radiation)
  - its passivation/de-trapping (by thermal excitation)
- These phenomena are dose rate and temperature dependent!
- Charge trapped in the STI oxide
  - +Q charge
  - Fast creation
  - Annealing already at  $T_{amb}$
- Interface states at STI-Silicon interface
  - -Q for NMOS, +Q for PMOS
  - Slow creation
  - Annealing starts at 80-100C



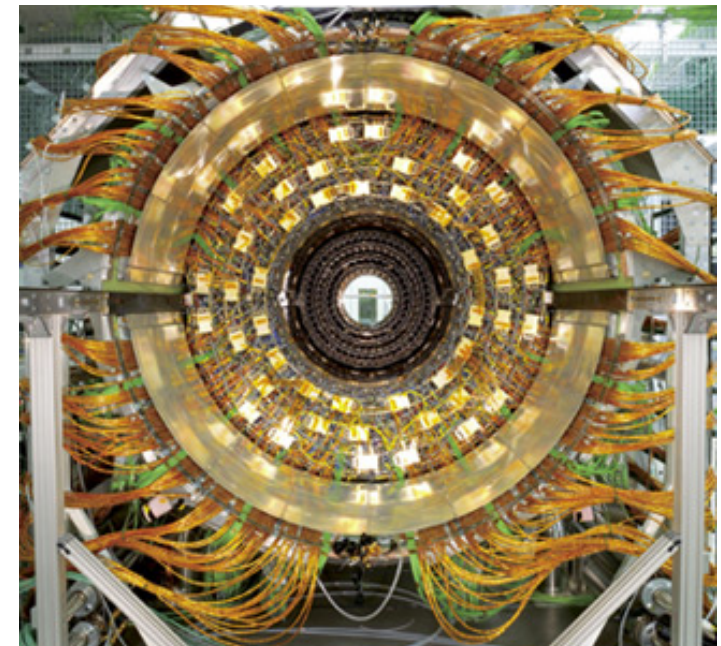
## “LOW TECH” FAILURES

# WHAT IS “LOW” TECH ?

- In particle physics experiments almost everything is **high tech**
  - Need extreme reliability
  - Radiation tolerance
  - Precision
  - Mostly running longer than originally planned
- However - some areas considered as “low tech” and people (and funding agencies) don’t like to invest research money into those areas
  - Cables for powering
  - Power plants
  - Cooling
  - Data transfer (optical and electrical)
  - Non sensitive materials (mechanics)
  - Glues
  - .....



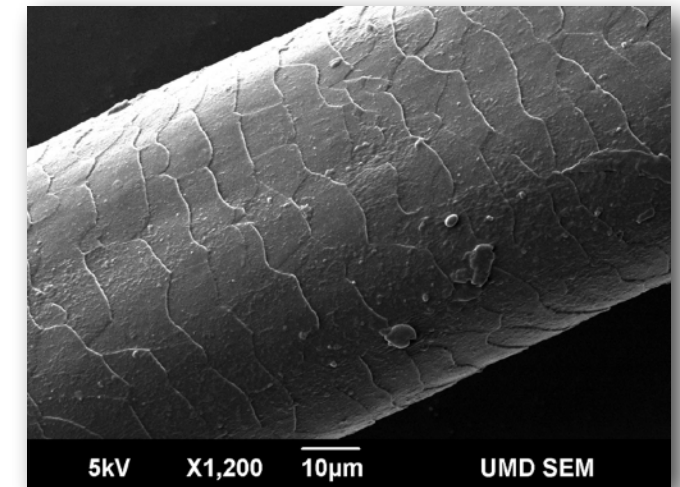
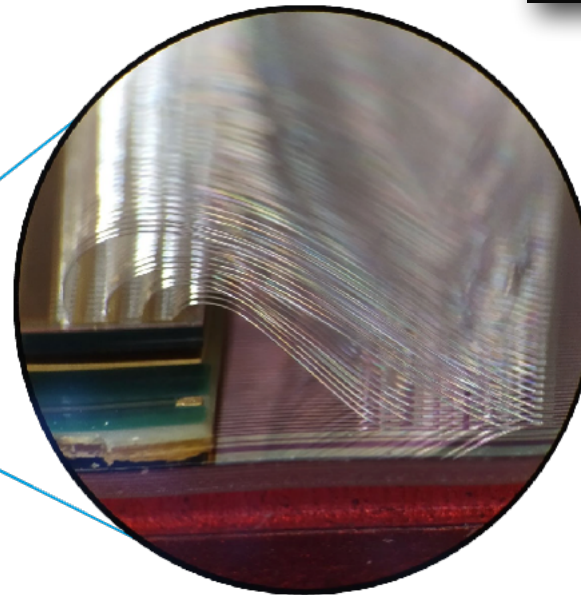
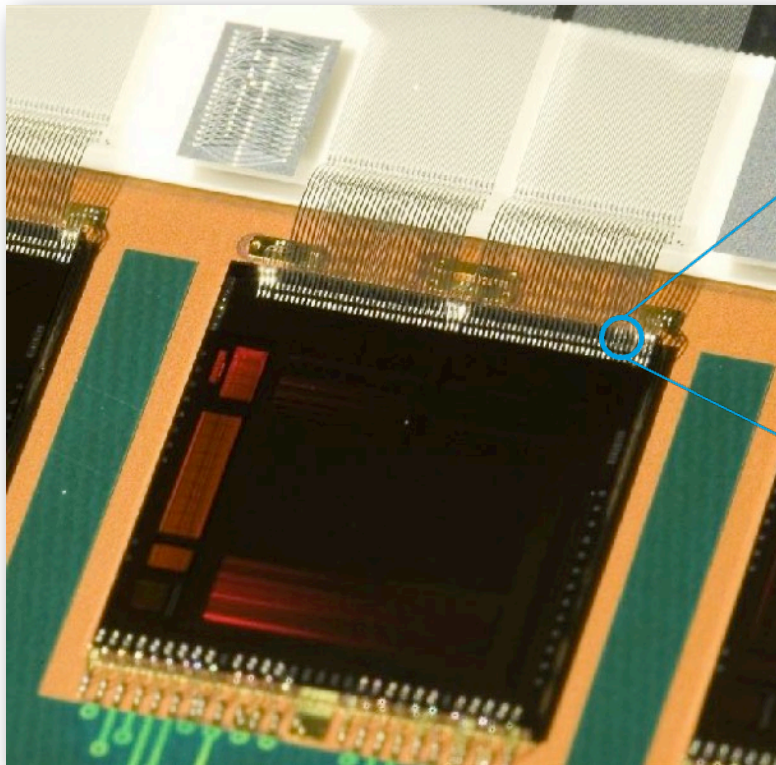
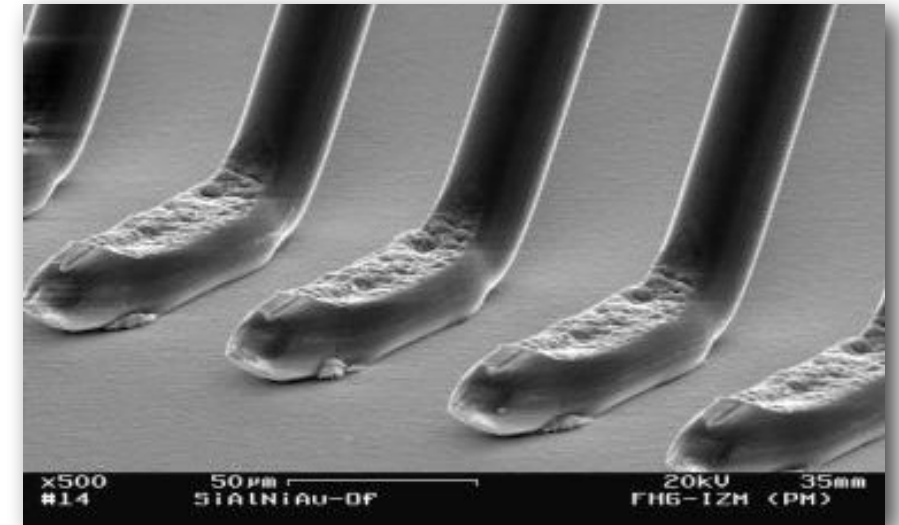
**For particle physics experiments this is not true !**



## WIRE-BONDS AND WIRE BREAKAGE

# WIRE BOND CONNECTION

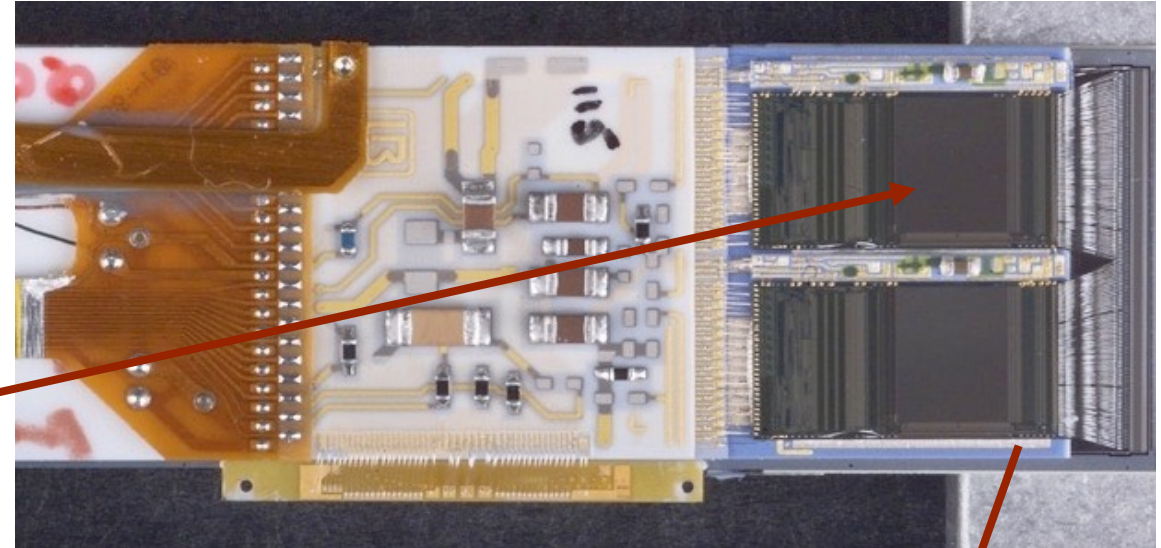
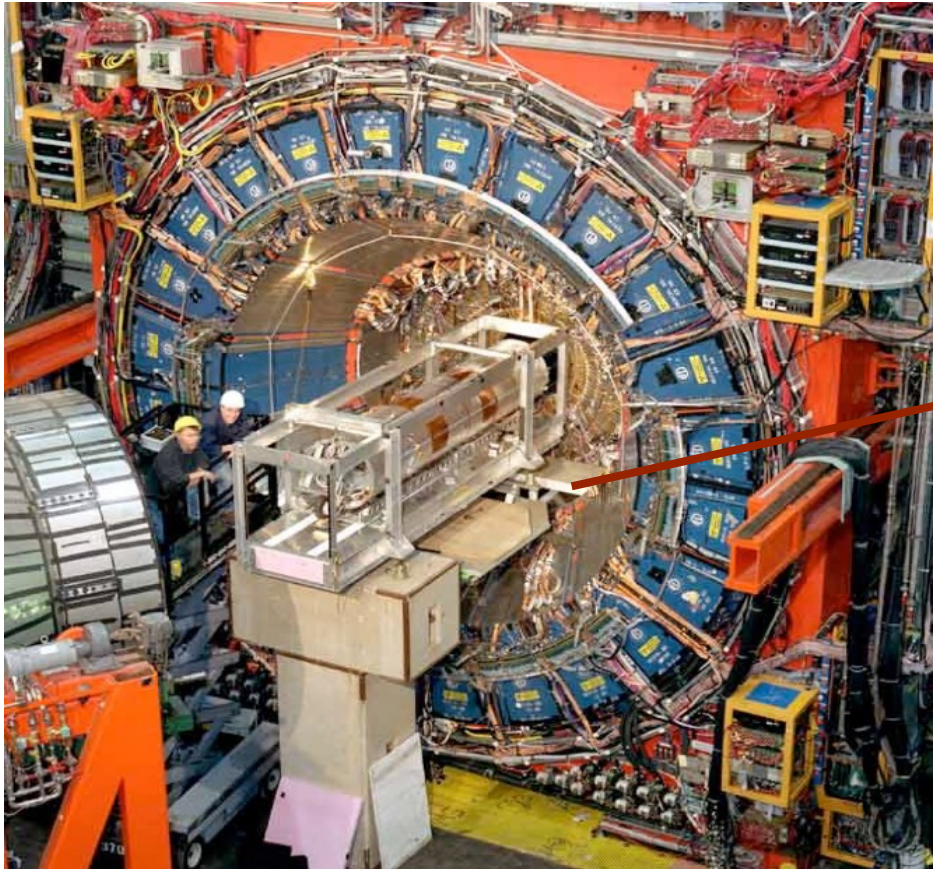
- Very important connection technology: wire bonds:
  - 17-20  $\mu\text{m}$  small wire connection -> terrible sensitive ....
- Ultrasonic welding technique
  - typically 25 micron bond wire of Al-Si-alloy
- Nowadays: Fully-automatised system with automatic pattern recognition



Comparison: human hair  
between 50 and 100 micron

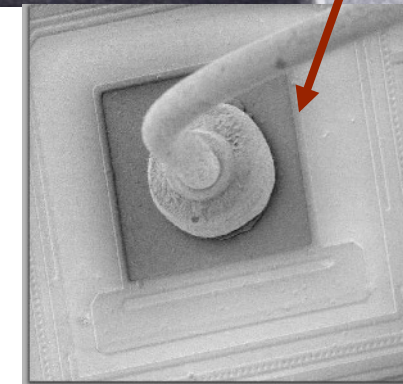
# PROBLEMS WITH WIRE BONDS (CDF, DO)

- During test pulse operation, Lorentz force on bonding wires (perpendicular to magnetic field) caused resonances ...



...breaks wire bonds  
between detector  
and read out.

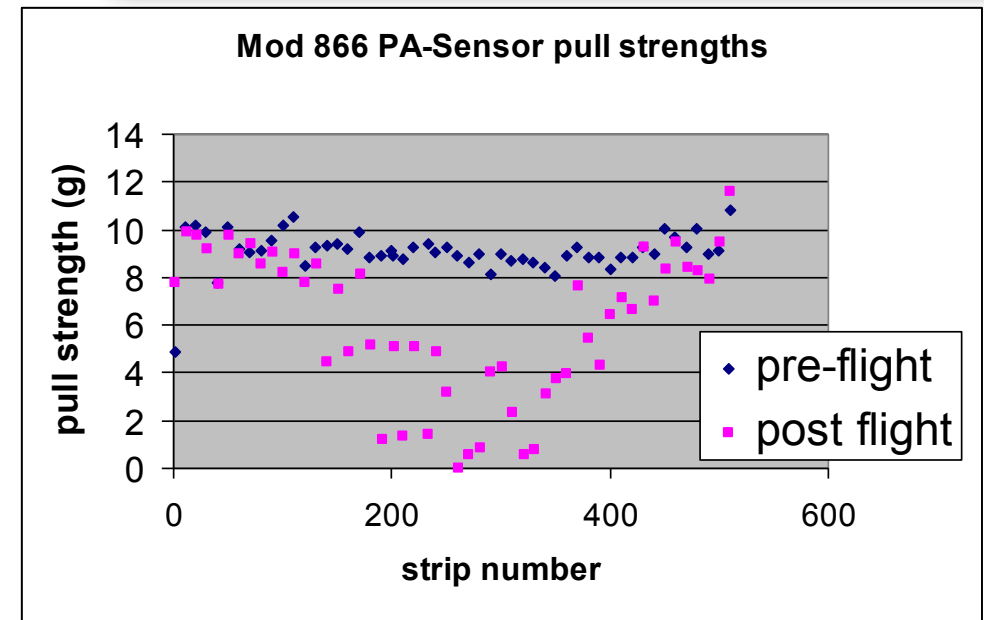
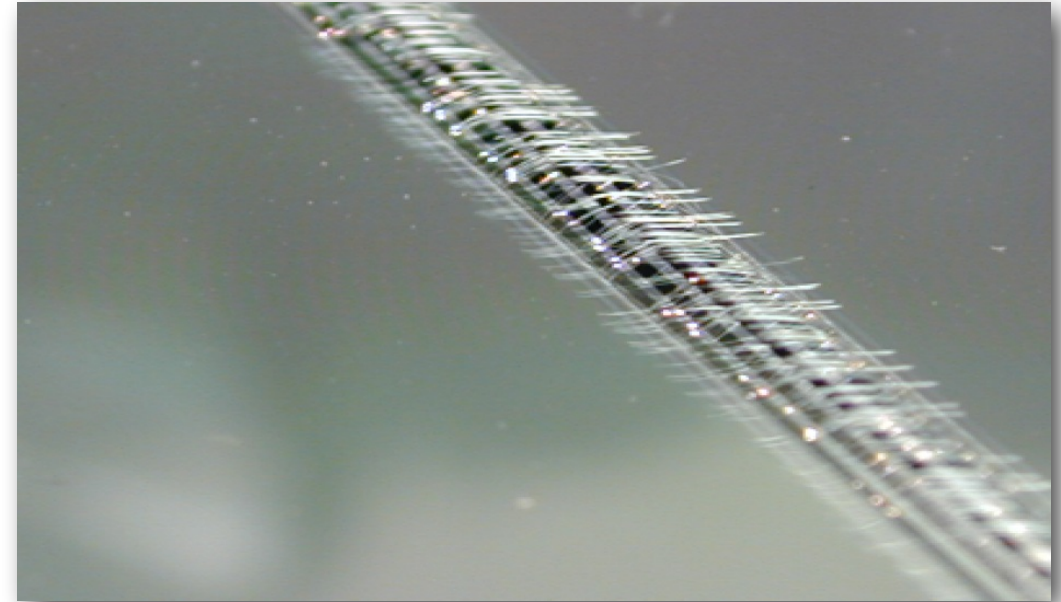
**during running**



# MORE WIRE BOND WRECKAGE

- Quality of wires tested by pull tests (measured in g)
- During CMS strip tracker production quality assurance applied before and after transport (via plane)
- Wire bonds were weaker after flight
- Random 3.4 g NASA vibration test causes similar damage
- Problem observed during production -> improved by adding a glue layer ("potting")
- No further problems during production

during production

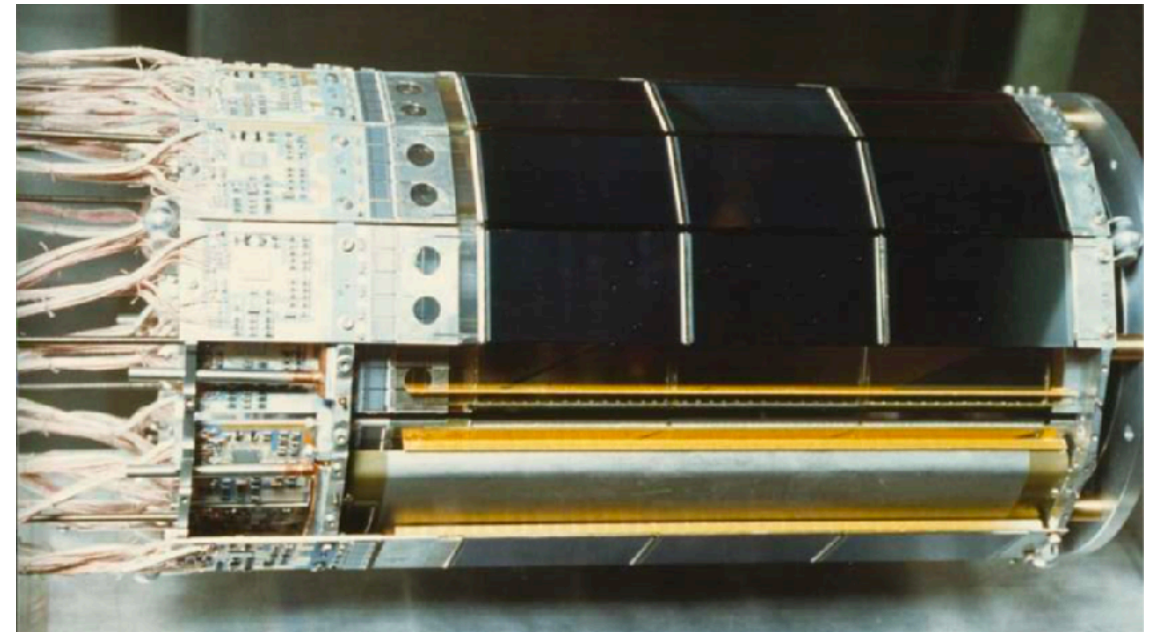


# OPAL MVD 1994

- OPAL MVD ran for a short while without cooling water flow.
- Temperature of the detector rose to **over 100°C**.
  - Most of the modules to fail or to be partially damaged.
- Chain of problem causing damage:
  - MVD expert modified the control/monitoring software between consecutive data taking runs.
  - Inserted bug which stopped software in a state with cooling water off but with the low voltage power on.
  - Stopped software also prevented the monitoring of the temperature from functioning
  - Should have been prevented by additional interlock but that was also disabled....

## Lucky outcome:

- Damage was mostly melted wire bonds
- Detector could be fixed in winter shutdown

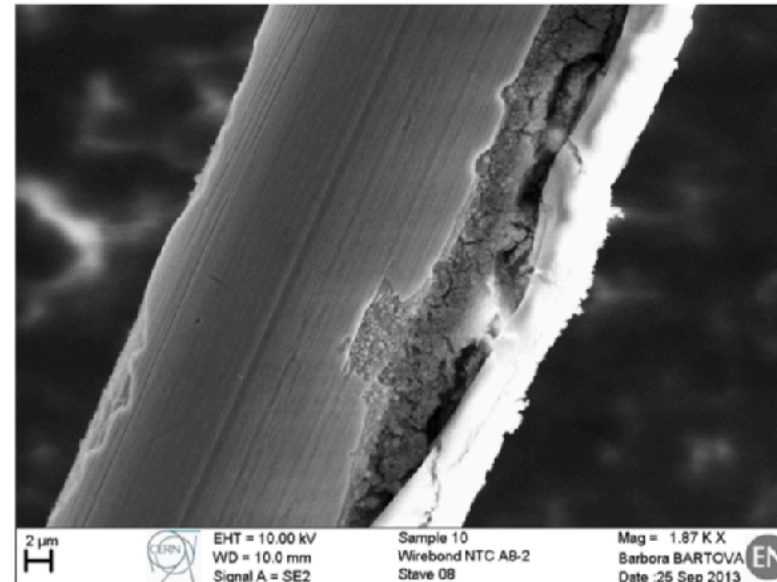
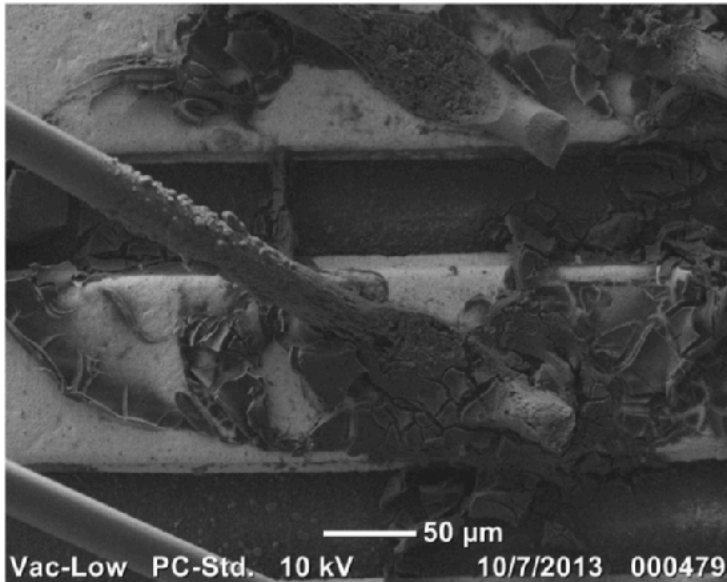
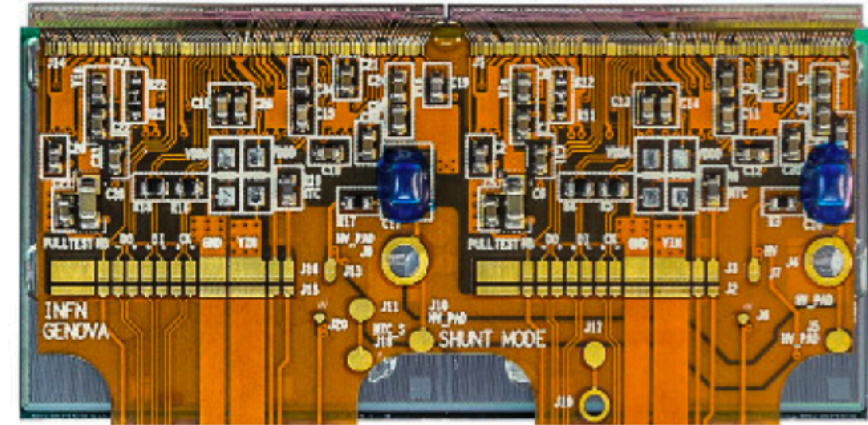


## Mitigation plan:

- new and more rigorous interlock system that could not be in a disabled state during data taking conditions.
- rule was implemented that prohibited software modifications between consecutive data taking runs.

# ATLAS IBL - WIRE BOND CORROSION

- Additional pixel layer for ATLAS installed in 2015
- Five months **before** installation: corrosion residues observed at wire-bonds after cold tests (-25 C)
- Severe damage of many wire-bonds
- Residue showed traces of chlorine: catalyst of a reaction between Aluminium (wire-bonds) and H<sub>2</sub>O (in air)
- Origin of chlorine in system never fully understood

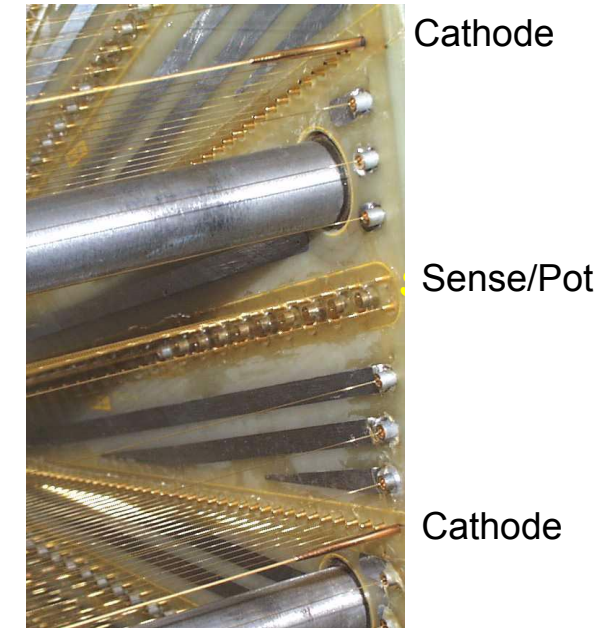
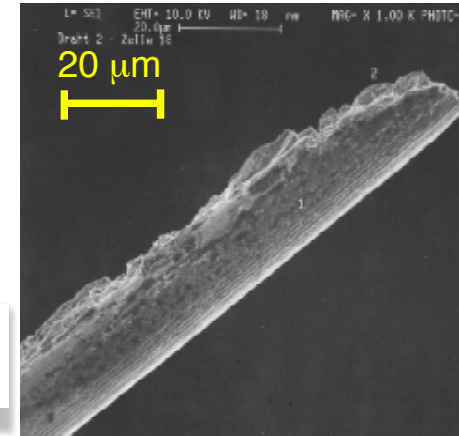


- Emergency repair and additional staves from spare parts

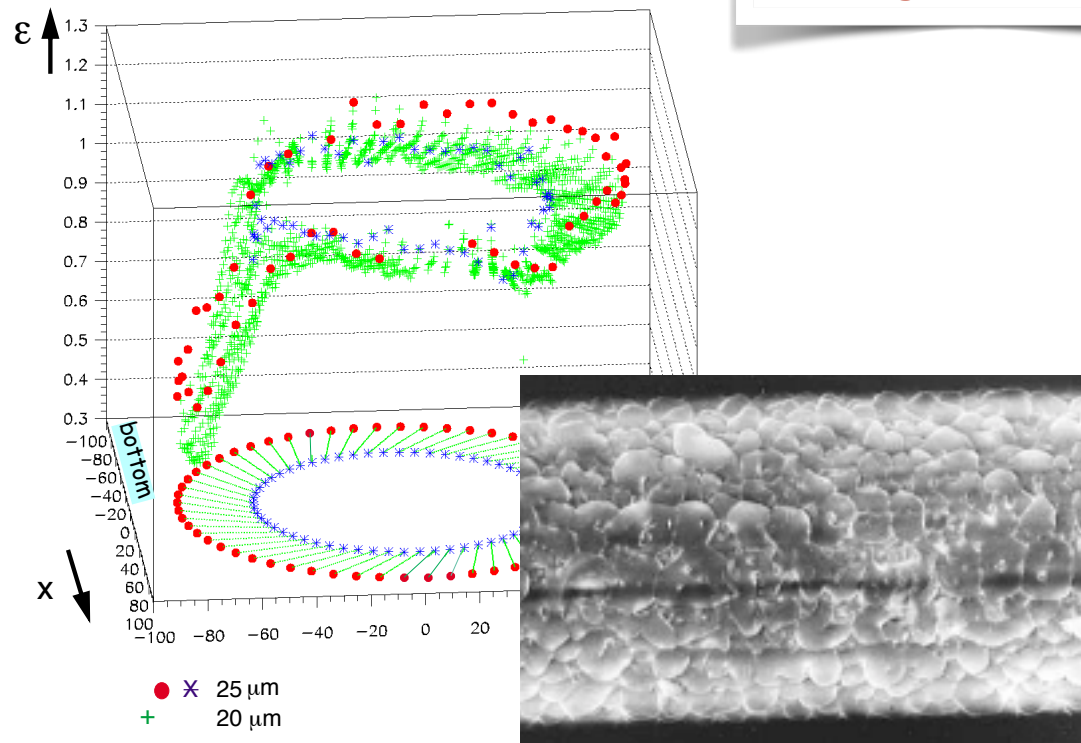
**during production**

# WIRES H1 CENTRAL JET CHAMBER

- Outer tracker of H1 -> broken wires in CJC1
- Observation / possible reason:
  - remnants from gold plating process lead to complex chemical reactions
- New design of crimp tube: jewels • better quality control



**during production**



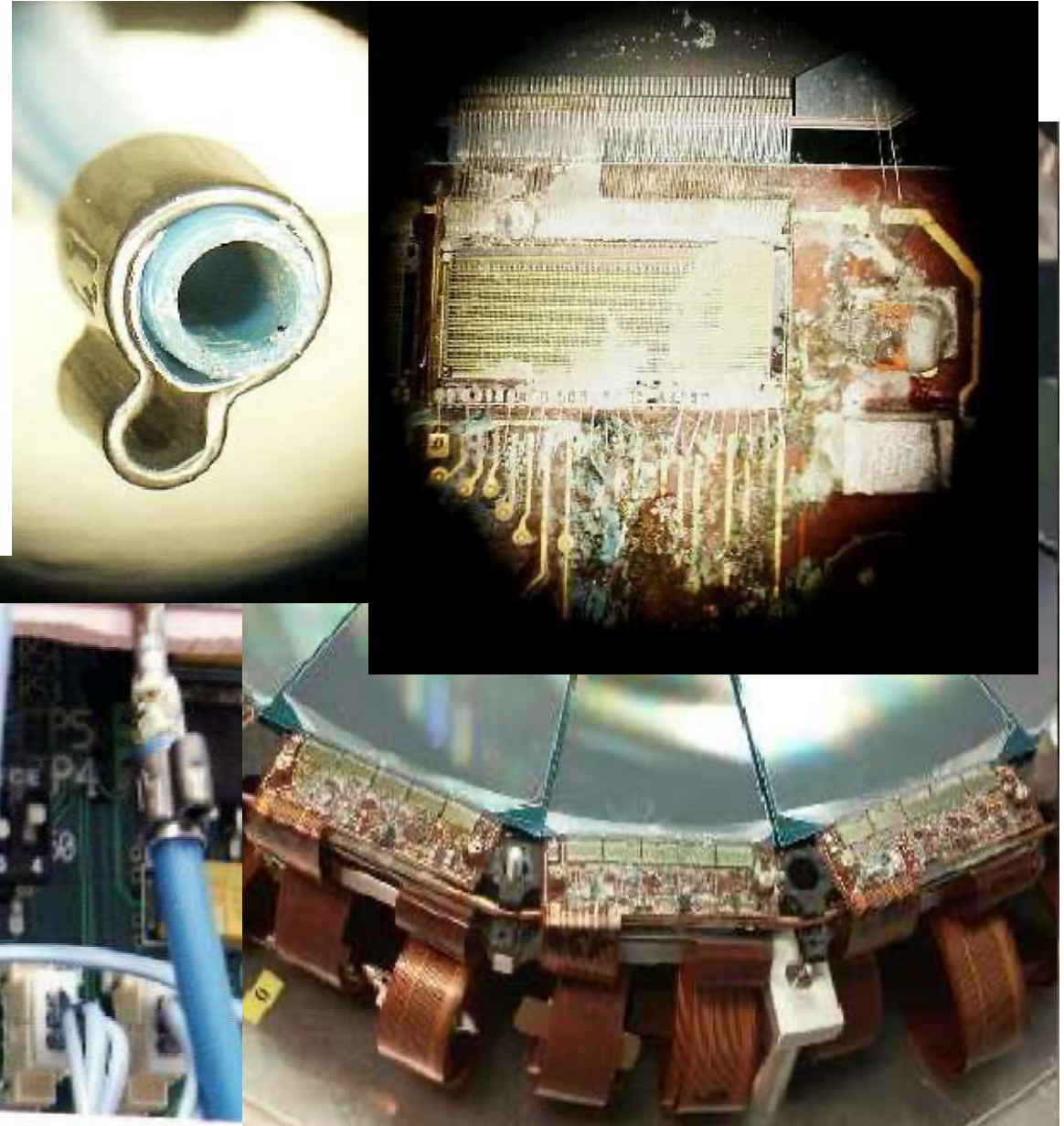
- Sense Wire Deposits in CJC2
- Observation / possible reason:
  - y dependence implies most likely gas impurity
- Consequences:
  - sense wires replaced
  - changes in gas distribution
  - increased gas flow

**during running**

# WATER DAMAGE IN TRACKER ...

- H1@HERA FST in 2004
- Imperfect crimp + hardening of plastic => water leak
- Water condensation => damage
- Tracker segment had to be rebuilt

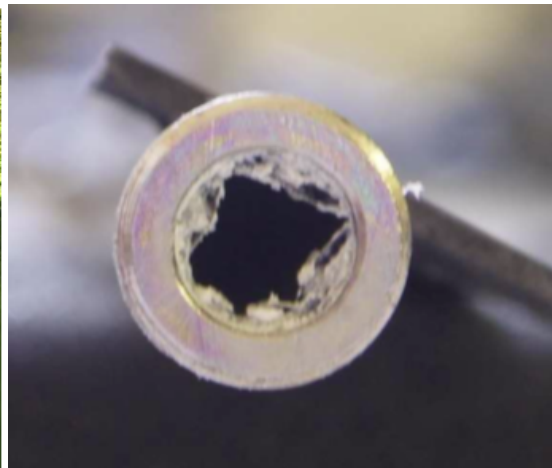
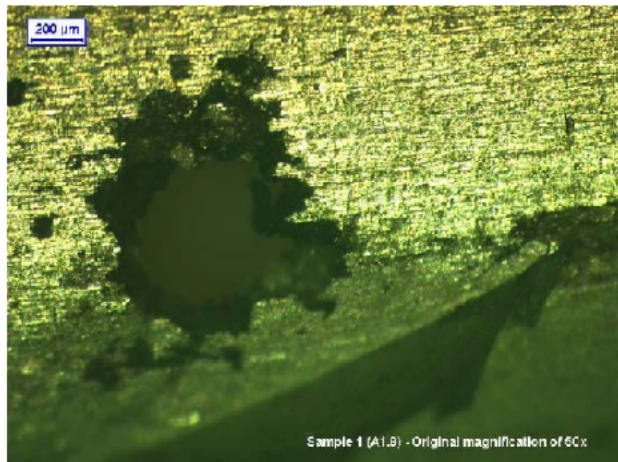
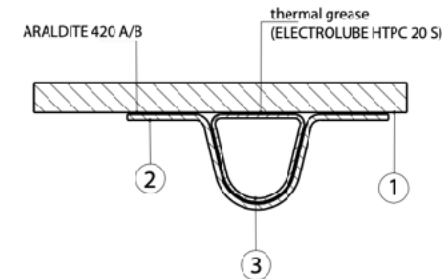
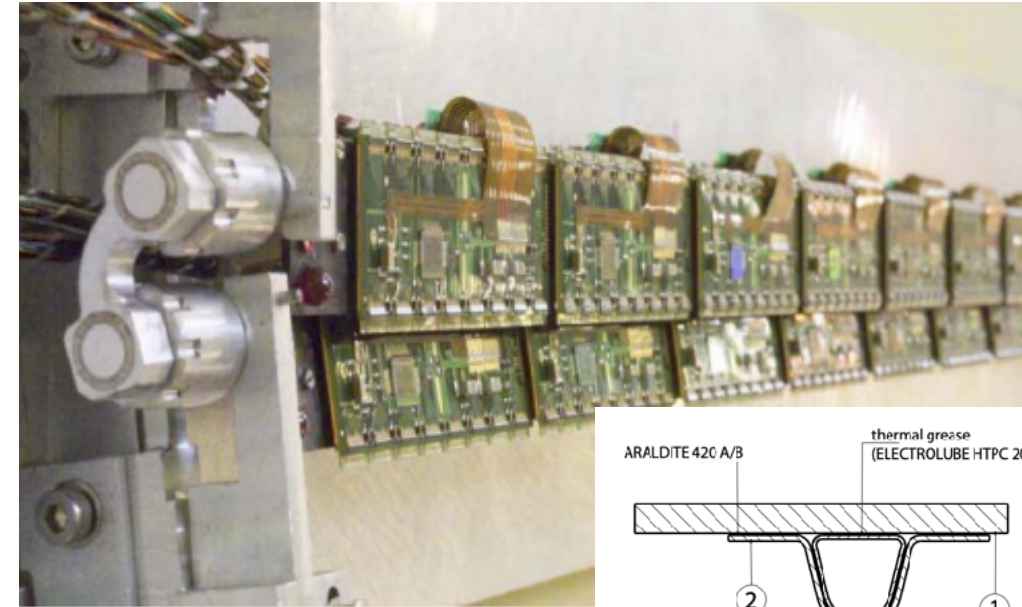
during running



# ATLAS PIXEL TUBE CORROSION

during production

- Cooling tube of current pixel layers were supposed to be very light in material
  - Bare pipe material (Al)
  - Ni plating used to allow for brazing of the pipe fittings
  - No proper drying procedure → water
- Water triggered corrosion process in the aluminium pipes.
  - Corrosion was due to galvanic process where water and traces of halogen (like Cl) acted as electrolyte.
  - Effect of the galvanic corrosion led in some cases to holes in the pipe.



## Six months delay in schedule

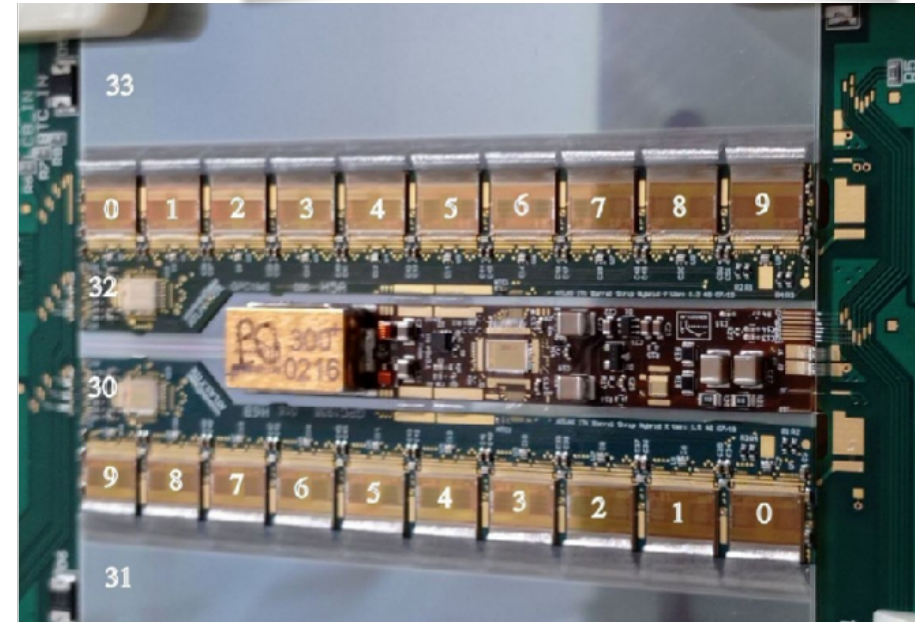
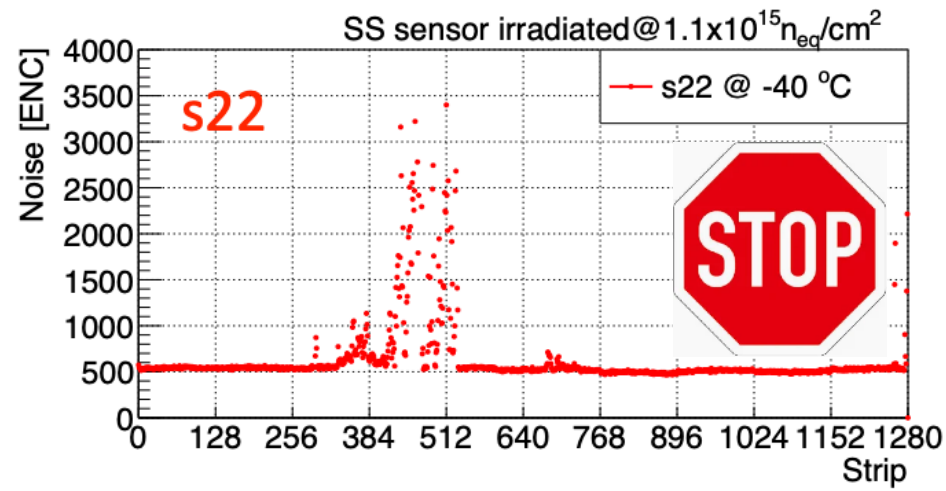
- Repair the 43 loaded staves with a pipe-inside-the-pipe
- Production of new staves with new Al compound and laser welding
- Repair of bare staves (~100)

## CURRENT UNSOLVED ONES

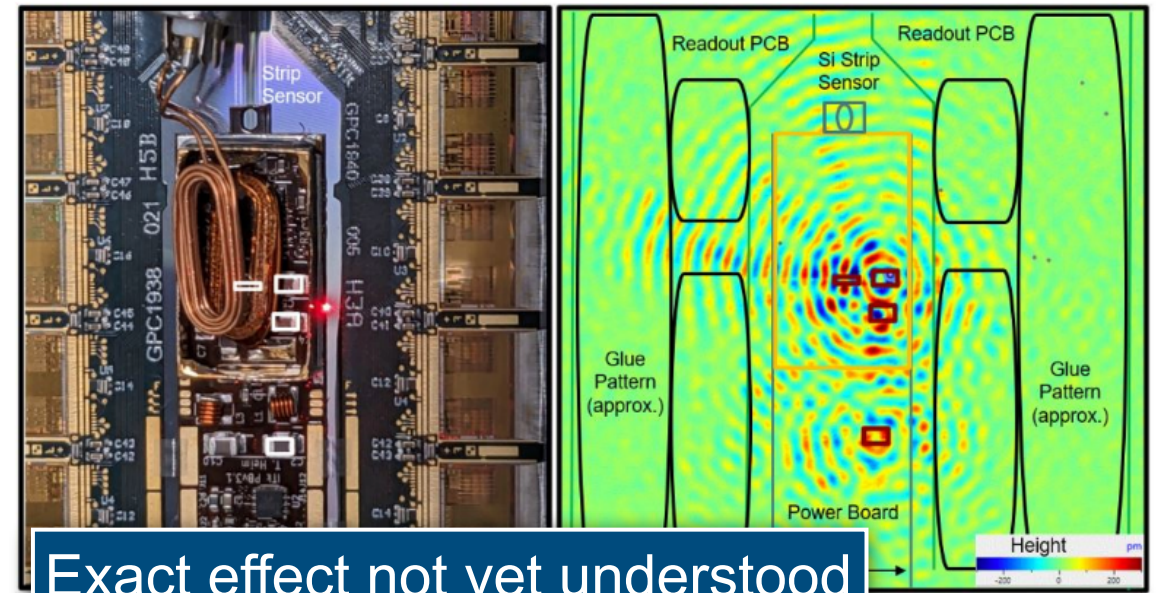
# ATLAS ITK STRIPS: COLD NOISE

shortly before production

- Hybrids for readout and power board directly on silicon strip sensors
- Clusters of very noisy channels observed at operating temperatures of around -35 °C



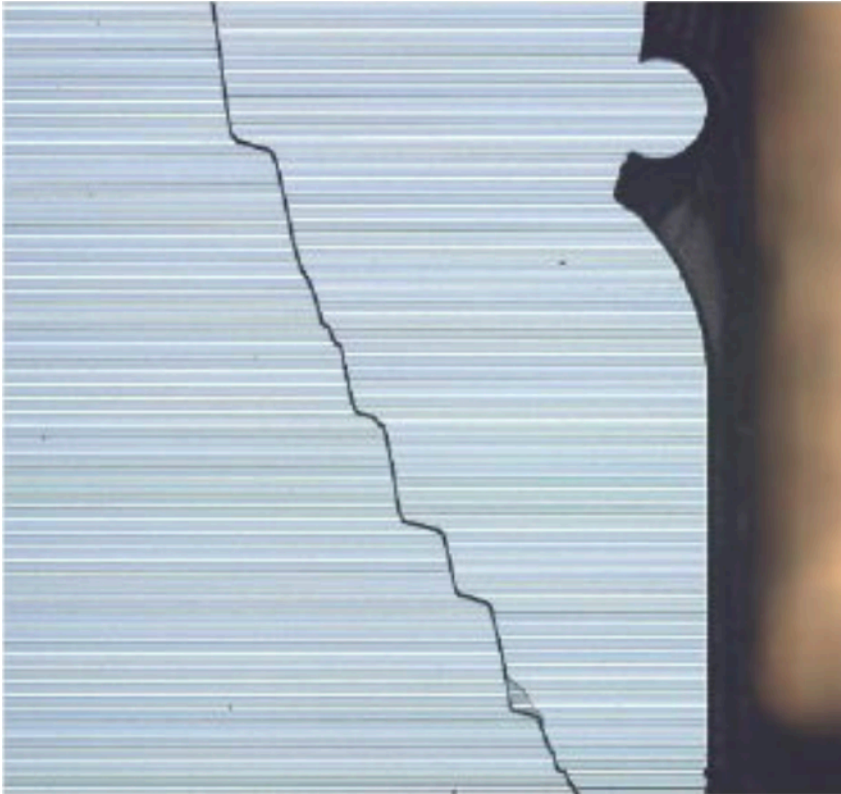
- Caused by mechanical vibrations from capacitors of powerboard inducing electrical noise
  - Not observed in EC modules
- Studies on new module-building glue show no cold noise for long-strip barrel modules



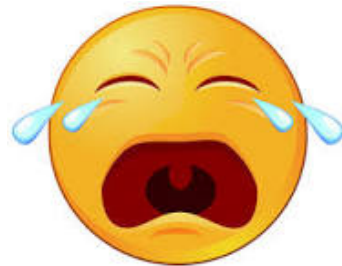
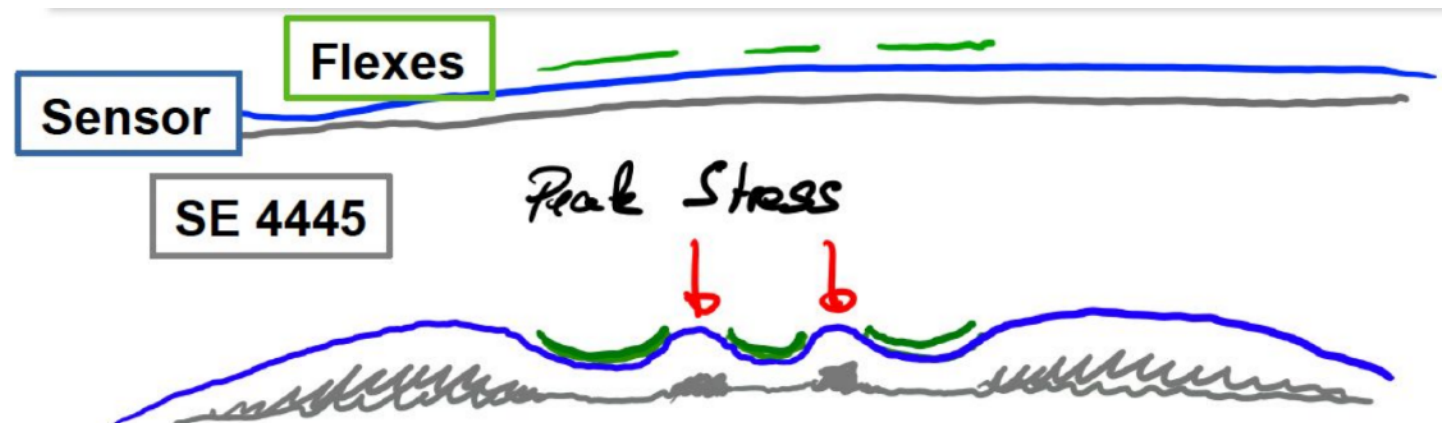
Exact effect not yet understood

# SAME DETECTOR: MODULE CRACKING

shortly before production



- Fraction of modules loaded on support structures show early breakdown ( $< 500$  V), and fractures when cycled to very cold temperatures
- Explained as peak stress, induced by CTE mismatching
- Investigated solutions (guided by simulations):
  - Change of loading glue
  - Increase of gap width between flexes
  - Addition of “interposer” layer

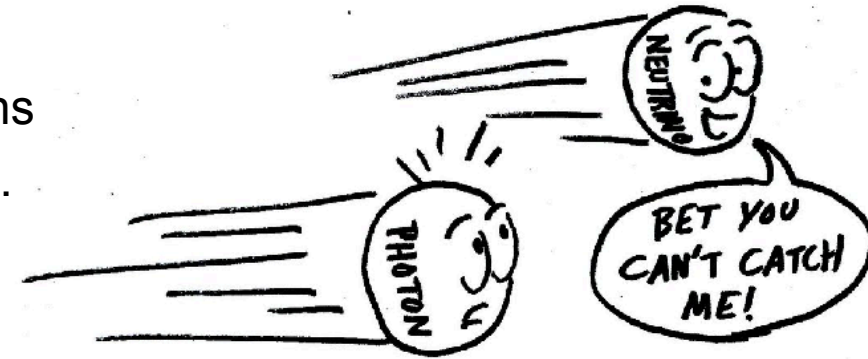


*Qualitative understanding of origin of module cracking*

## MOST FAMOUS ONES

# CABLE PROBLEM WITH PRESS COVERAGE

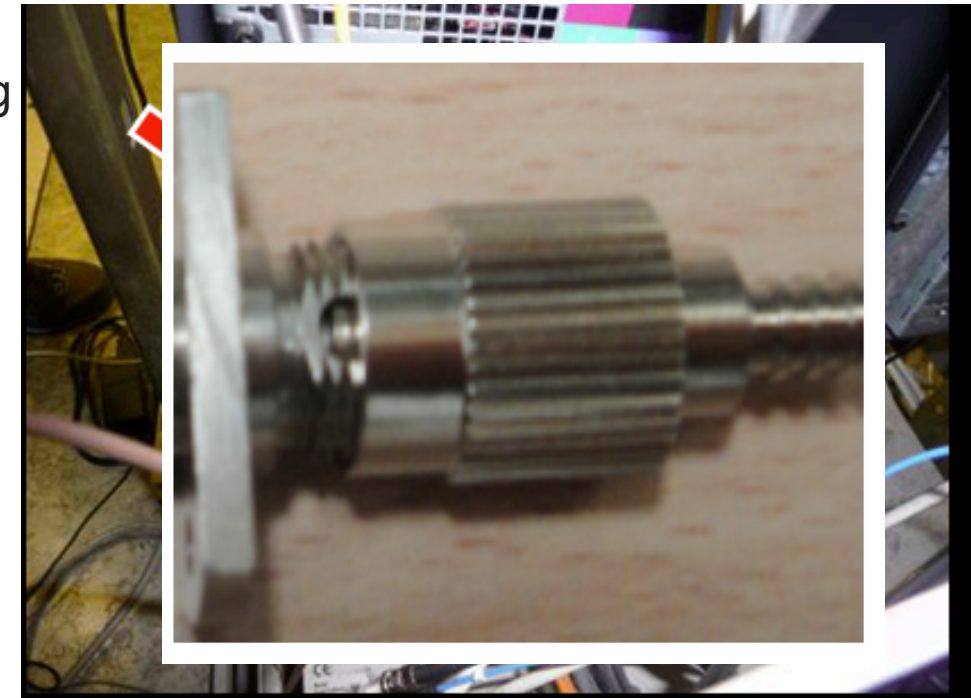
- Oscillation Project with Emulsion-tRacking Apparatus — **OPERA**: instrument for detecting tau neutrinos from muon neutrino oscillations
- In 2011 they observed **neutrinos** appearing to travel faster than light.
  - Very controversial paper also within collaboration



## The top 10 biggest science stories of the decade

- Kink from a GPS receiver to OPERA master clock was loose
  - Increased the delay through the fibre resulting in decreasing the reported flight time of the neutrinos by 73 ns,
  - making them seem faster than light.

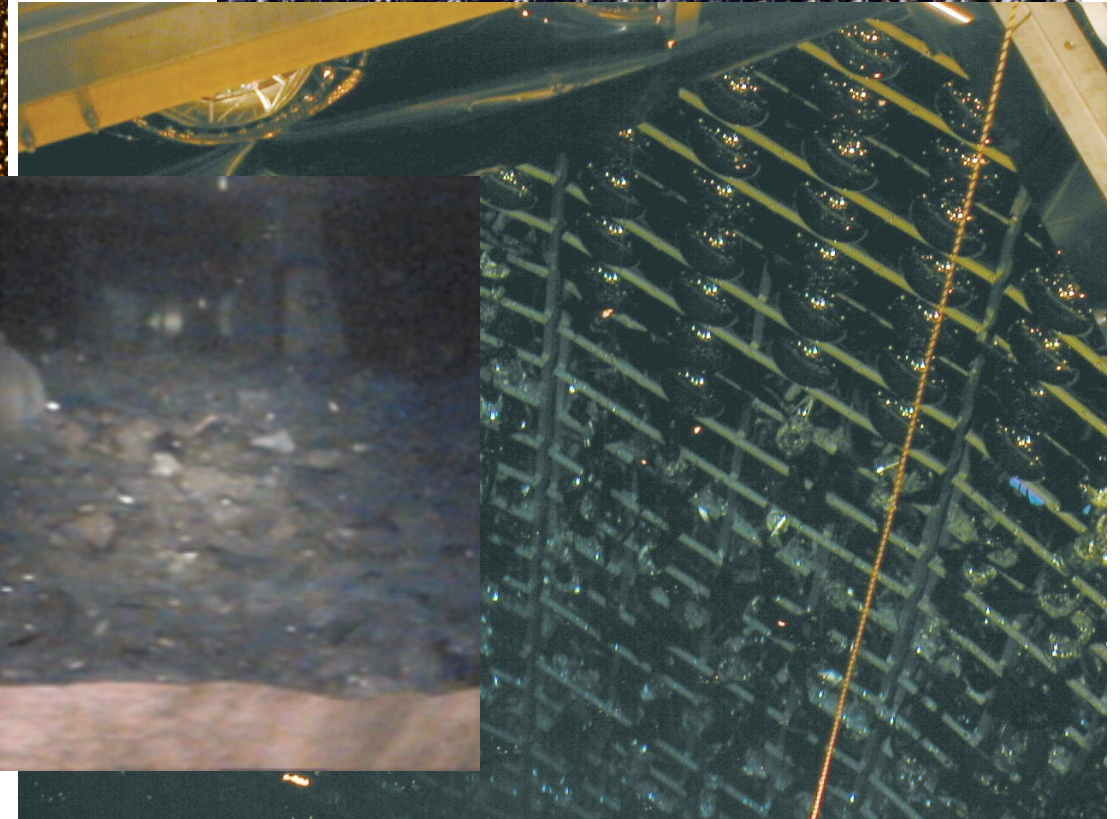
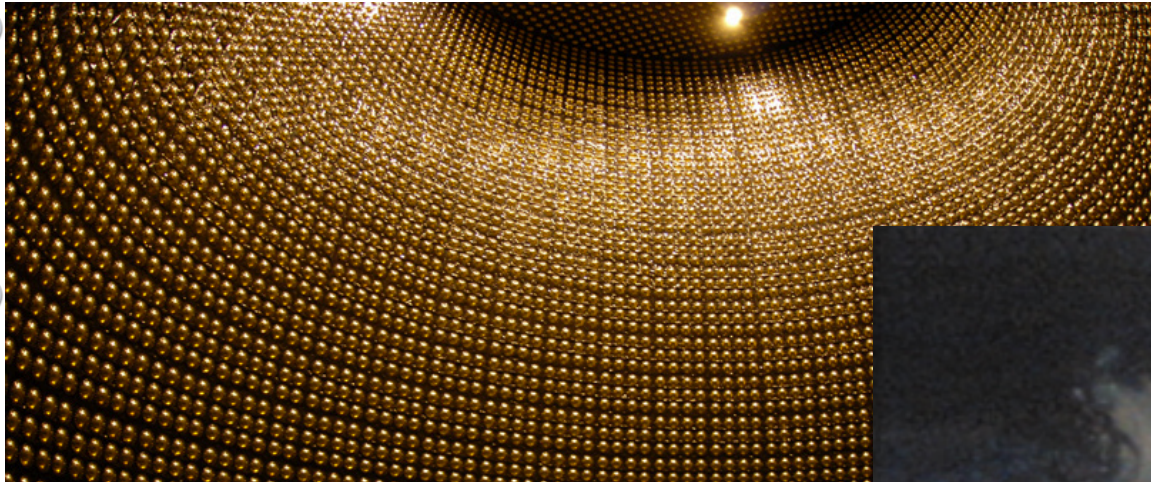
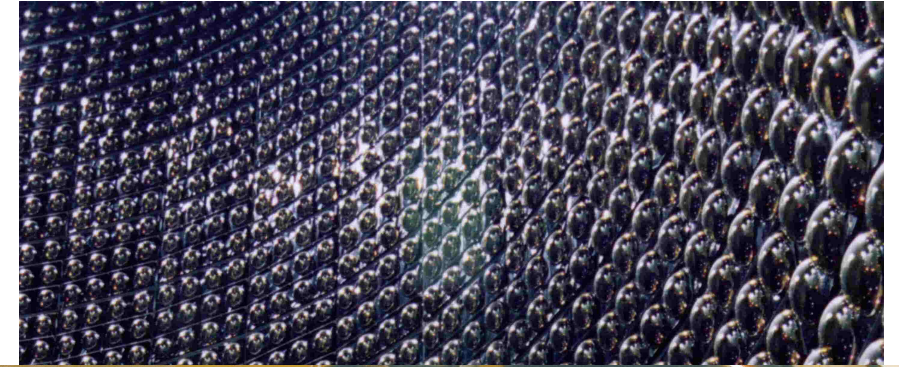
After finding the problem, the difference between the measured and expected arrival time of neutrinos was approximately  $6.5 \pm 15$  ns.



# MAYBE MOST FAMOUS DAMAGE ....

during commissioning

- Underground water Cherenkov detector with 50,000 tons of ultrapure water as target material
- Nov 2001: One PMT imploded creating shock wave destroying about 7700 of PMTs



- Detector was partially restored by redistributing the photomultiplier tubes which did not implode.
- Eventually added new reinforced PMTs

Pic: unknown source....

# SUMMARY

- We could only give a **glimpse** at the wealth of particle detectors. More detectors are around: medical application, synchrotron radiation experiments, astro particle physics, ...
- All detectors base on similar principles
  - Particle detection is indirectly by (electromagnetic) interactions with the detector material
- Large detectors are typically build up in layers (onion concept):
  - Inner tracking: momentum measurement using a B-field
  - Outside calorimeter: energy measurement by total absorption
- Many different technologies:
  - Gas- and semiconductors (light material) for tracking
  - Sampling and Homogeneous calorimeters for energy measurement
- Similar methods are used in astro particle physics
- **Always looking for new ideas and technologies!**



# LITERATURE

## Text books:

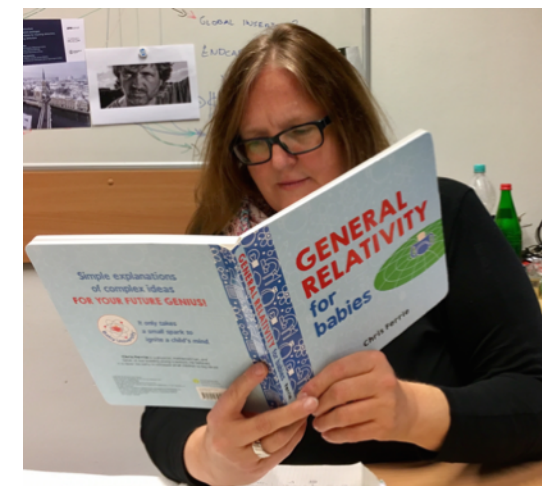
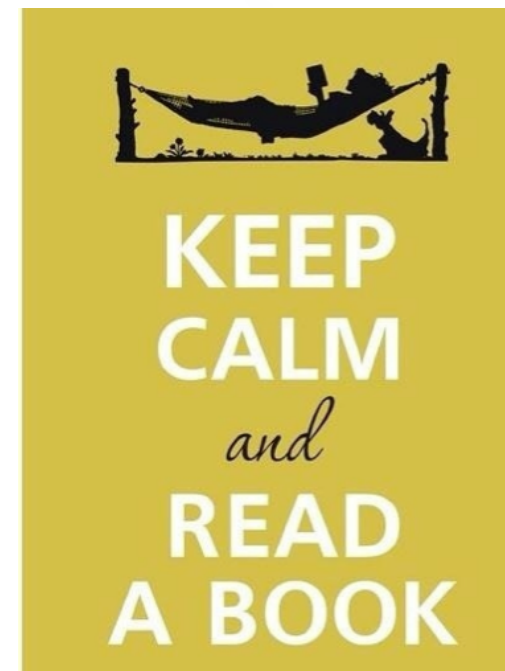
- **N. Wermes, H. Kolanoski: Teilchendetektoren, Grundlagen und Anwendungen, Februar 2016, Springer**
- Frank Hartmann, Evolution of Silicon Sensor Technology in Particle Physics, Springer Verlag 2017
- C.Gruen: Particle Detectors, Cambridge UP 2008, 680p
- D.Green: The physics of particle Detectors, Cambridge UP 2000
- K.Kleinknecht: Detectors for particle radiation, Cambridge UP, 21998
- W.R. Leo: Techniques for Nuclear and Particle Physics Experiments, Springer 1994
- G.F.Knoll: Radiation Detection and Measurement, Wiley, 32000
- Helmuth Spieler, Semiconductor Detector Systems, Oxford University Press 2005
- W.Blum, L.Rolandi: Particle Detection with Drift chambers, Springer, 1994
- F. Sauli, Principles of Operation of Multiwire Proportional and Drift Chambers
- G.Lutz: Semiconductor radiation detectors, Springer, 1999
- R. Wigmans: Calorimetry, Oxford Science Publications, 2000

## web:

Particle Data Group: *Review of Particle Properties: [pdg.lbl.gov](http://pdg.lbl.gov)*

## further reading:

The Large Hadron Collider - The Harvest of Run 1; Springer 2015



# SYMPHONY OF SCIENCE

Symphony of Science Video

