

# Before UA1

In 1976 - 1978 Filippo was a CERN Fellow and he was working in the R606 Experiment at ISR. The experiment was an Aachen-CERN-Harvard-Munich-Northwestern-Riverside Collaboration led by Carlo Rubbia with a “lampshade magnet” detector to study electron-positron pair production in pp interactions.

I remember a few young people in that experiment. They were working hard and round-the-clock. I often saw them running programs in the night at the computer center. They were very kind with Filippo and in the following years some of them joined UA1.

David Hanna was a young canadian Phd student at Harvard preparing his thesis in R606 and Filippo became de facto his supervisor. He has sent a mail for this symposium:

I would like to add my congratulations to Filippo for his remarkable career and express my personal thanks for his continued friendship that we seem to be able to renew from time to time.

Filippo was in many ways my real PhD supervisor. We met in the summer of 1976 when I arrived at CERN to work at the ISR in Carlo Rubbia's group. Carlo was my official supervisor at Harvard but he was much too busy to concern himself with a lowly PhD student so I learned most of what I needed to know from Filippo, who calmly guided me through the process of becoming a competent researcher. (He also provided a very valuable protective buffer between Carlo and me so that I did not experience my true share of the legendary scoldings that Carlo could deliver). As we progressed from test beams to installation to running and analysing the experiment I could always look to Filippo for advice and guidance.

During my first year at CERN Filippo and his wife Carlotta invited me for dinner at their apartment in Meyrin on numerous occasions. This was a real treat and morale booster and made for a more balanced life than one would expect as a student. After they moved back to Rome they invited my wife and I to visit that beautiful city and travel with them to their country house near Massa Lubrense. This was really a special experience for a young Canadian who had not yet seen much of the world. I will never forget such personal kindness.

I know that many people will have had similar experiences with Filippo and I am sorry that I will not be able to join them to congratulate him in person at what will be a wonderful symposium. Please convey my best wishes and add these remarks to any collection of messages you may be assembling.

David Hanna

Professor of Physics  
McGill University - Montreal



# The “plastic flash chamber calorimeter”

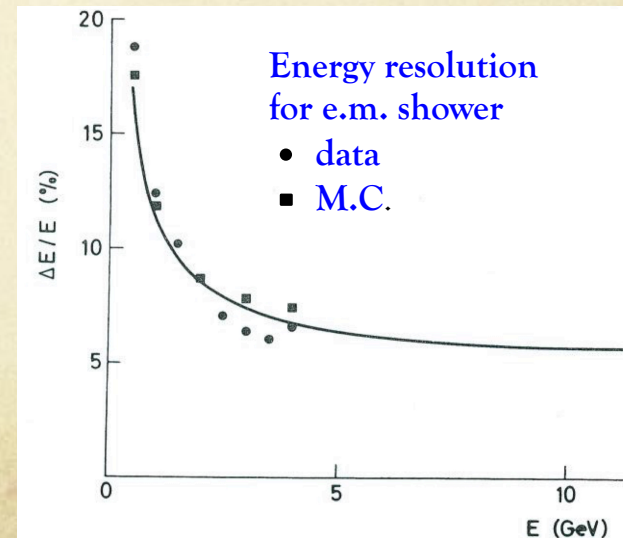
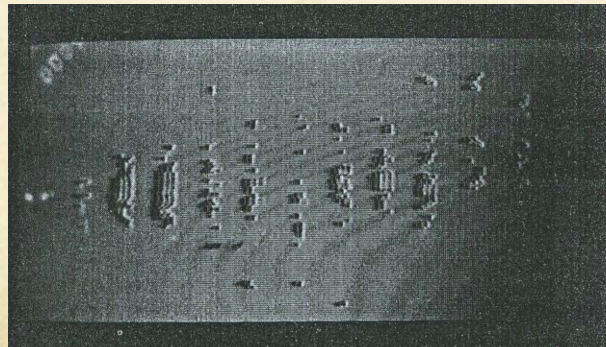
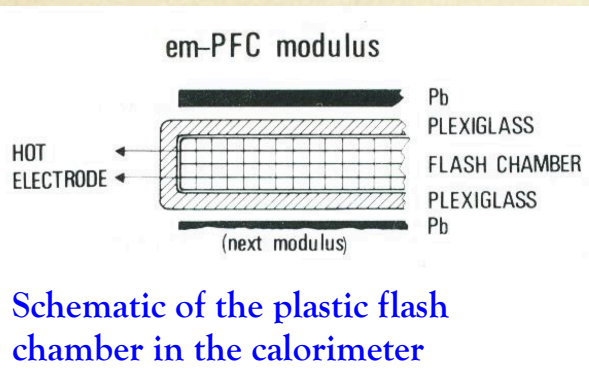
I met Filippo when I arrived at CERN as a Summer Student in May 1977.

Some time before L. Federici, M. Nardi, F. Ceradini and M. Conversi had tested on a beam a calorimeter with “plastic flash chambers” for readout and lead plates as absorber.

The “plastic flash chamber” were a new version of the “flash-tube hodoscopes” developed by Conversi and Gozzini in Pisa.

In a plastic flash chamber four “low cost extruded polypropylene (moplen) planes used for packing” were inserted in a plexiglass box filled with a He-Ne mixture. The moplen layers were positioned between two electrodes working as the plates of a spark chamber so that the cell of the packing material flashed if crossed by an ionizing particle.

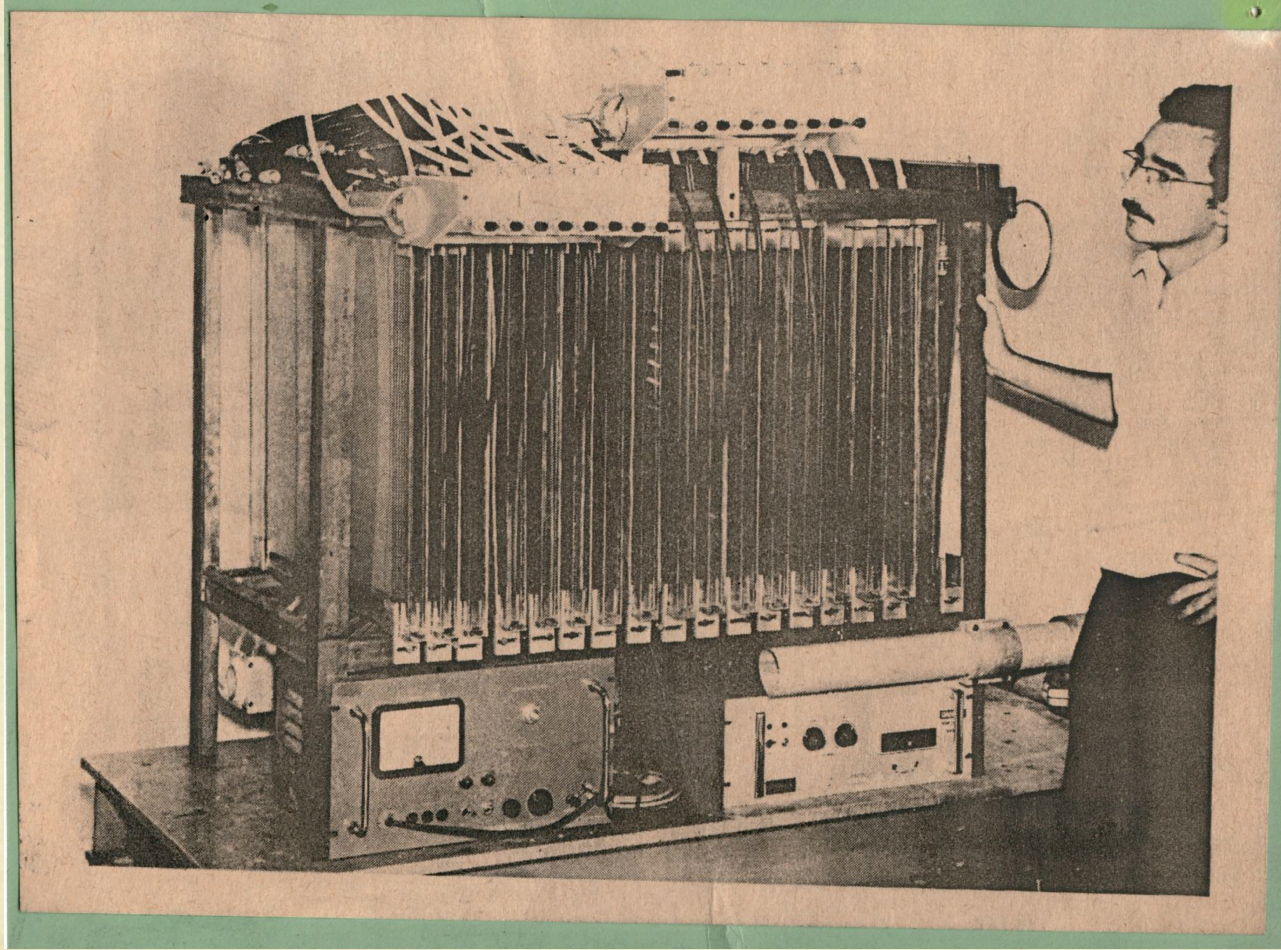
In summer 1977 Filippo was the supervisor while I was running my Monte Carlo for e.m. shower to interpret the data from the test beam.





In 1978, in a seminar at the CERN Auditorium, Conversi presented the plastic flash chamber calorimeter and the results found by Filippo and me.

In a slide he showed a picture with the calorimeter and Filippo:



This picture (the calorimeter with only the Filippo's hand) is reported in L. Federici et al.: Nuclear Instruments and Method 151 (1978) 103 -115.