



Si-microstrip LGAD detectors for cosmic-ray space-borne instruments

V. Vagelli^{1,2} (Italian Space Agency– Science and Research Directorate)

on behalf of the PTSD team

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1) Italian Space Agency

2) INFN

+ many thanks to L. Pacini (INFN)

Pentadimensional Tracking Space Detector (PTSD)

is a project funded by NextGenerationEU and Italian Ministry of University and Research

PNRR M4.C2.1.1, PRIN 2022, n. 2022JNF3M4, CUP ASI F53D23001370008



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Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare



Si-microstrip LGAD detectors for cosmic-ray space-borne instruments

- Scientific context and 5D tracking in space
- Tracking with Low Gain Avalanche Diodes
- The PTSD project: space-driven R&D of LGAD- μ strips detectors

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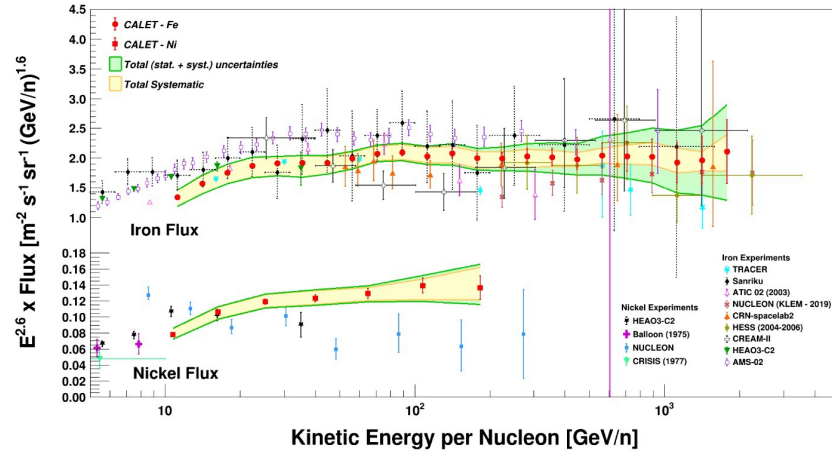


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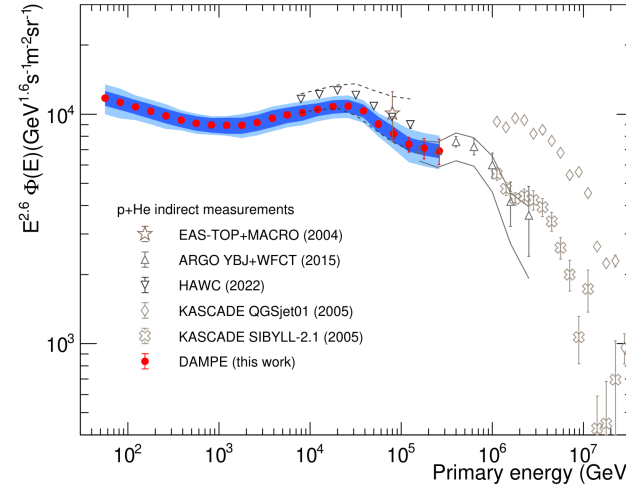


Charged CRs: state of the art

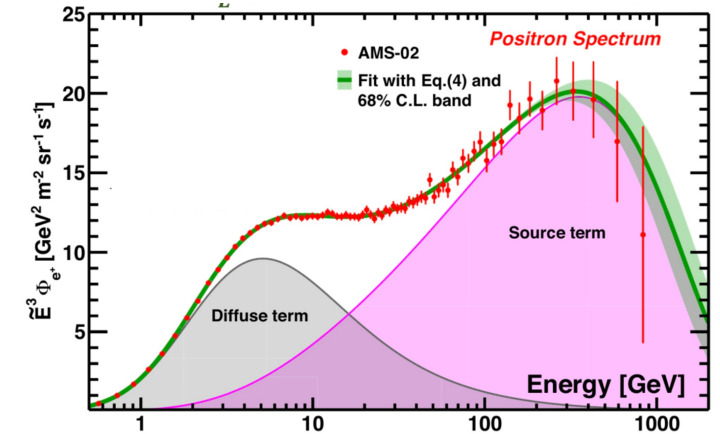
CALET coll., O. Adriani et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 131103 (2022)



DAMPE coll., F. Alemanno et al., PoS (ICRC2023) 138



AMS coll., M. Aguilar et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 041102 (2019)



- I. What is the origin of the **hardening observed in the spectra of CR nuclei** at rigidity of 300 GV and ~10 TV?
- II. Why is the slope of the spectrum of CR **proton and helium** different?
- III. What is the origin of the prominent **break** observed at a particle energy of **1 TeV in the electron spectrum**?
- IV. Why do the **proton, positron, and antiproton** spectra have roughly same slopes at particle energies larger than 10 GeV?
- V. What is the origin of the **rise in the positron fraction** at particle energies above 10 GeV?
- VI.

S. Gabici @ ICRC 2023
CR direct rapporteur

COMPOSITION
frontier

ENERGY
frontier

ANTIMATTER
frontier

NEW paradigm of CR origin, acceleration and propagation

Novel experimental approaches that target all opportunities of space platforms must be addressed, from **cubesats and nanosatellite constellations** up to **large-size space missions and Moon**, including **stratospheric balloon flight missions**.

+ synergic activity at ground laboratories and accelerators to tackle **technological challenges** and enable **new observational approaches**

Large area Si-microstrip detectors in space

Most of space detectors for charged cosmic ray and γ -ray measurements require **solid state tracking systems based on Si- μ strip sensors**. Si- μ strip detectors are the preferred solution to instrument **large area detectors** with larger number of electronics channels coping with the **limitations on power consumption in space**



Operating Missions						
	Mission Start	Si-sensor area	Strip-length	Readout channels	Readout pitch	Spatial resolution
Fermi-LAT	2008	$\sim 74 \text{ m}^2$	38 cm	$\sim 880 \cdot 10^3$	228 μm	$\sim 66 \mu\text{m}$
AMS-02	2011	$\sim 7 \text{ m}^2$	29–62 cm	$\sim 200 \cdot 10^3$	110 μm	$\sim 7 \mu\text{m}$
DAMPE	2015	$\sim 7 \text{ m}^2$	38 cm	$\sim 70 \cdot 10^3$	242 μm	$\sim 40 \mu\text{m}$

Future Missions						
	Planned operations	Si-sensor area	Strip-length	Readout channels	Readout pitch	Spatial resolution
HERD	2030	$\sim 35 \text{ m}^2$	48–67 cm	$\sim 350 \cdot 10^3$	$\sim 242 \mu\text{m}$	$\sim 40 \mu\text{m}$
ALADInO	2050	$\sim 80\text{-}100 \text{ m}^2$	19–67 cm	$\sim 2.5 \cdot 10^6$	$\sim 100 \mu\text{m}$	$\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$
AMS-100	2050	$\sim 180\text{-}200 \text{ m}^2$	$\sim 100 \text{ cm}$	$\sim 8 \cdot 10^6$	$\sim 100 \mu\text{m}$	$\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$

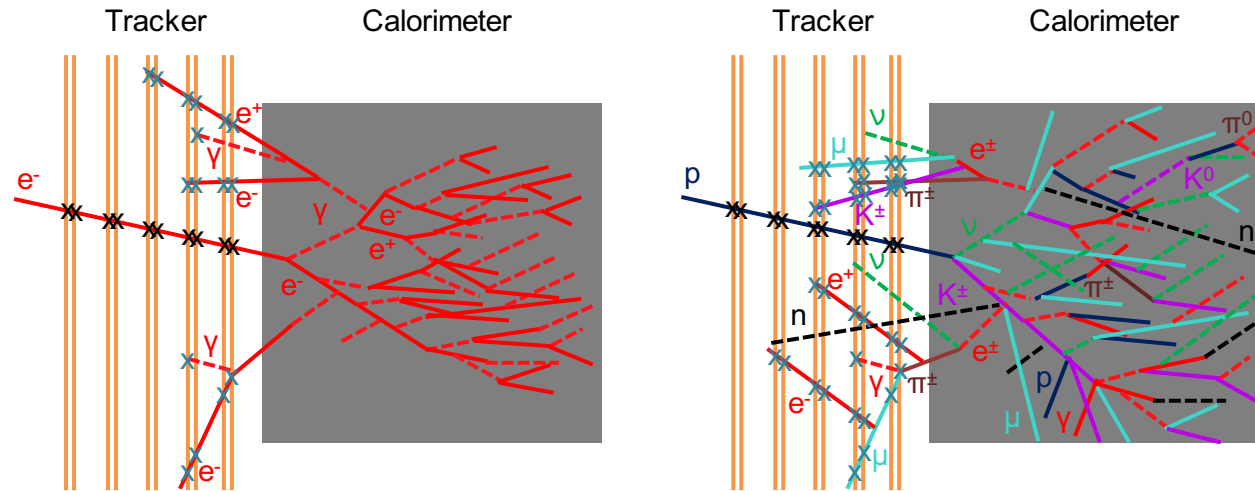
[1] HERD Collaboration. *HERD Proposal*, 2018 <https://indico.ihep.ac.cn/event/8164/material/1/0.pdf>

[2] Battiston, R.; Bertucci, B.; *et al.* *High precision particle astrophysics as a new window on the universe with an Antimatter Large Acceptance Detector In Orbit (ALADInO)*. *Experimental Astronomy* 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10686-021-09708-w>

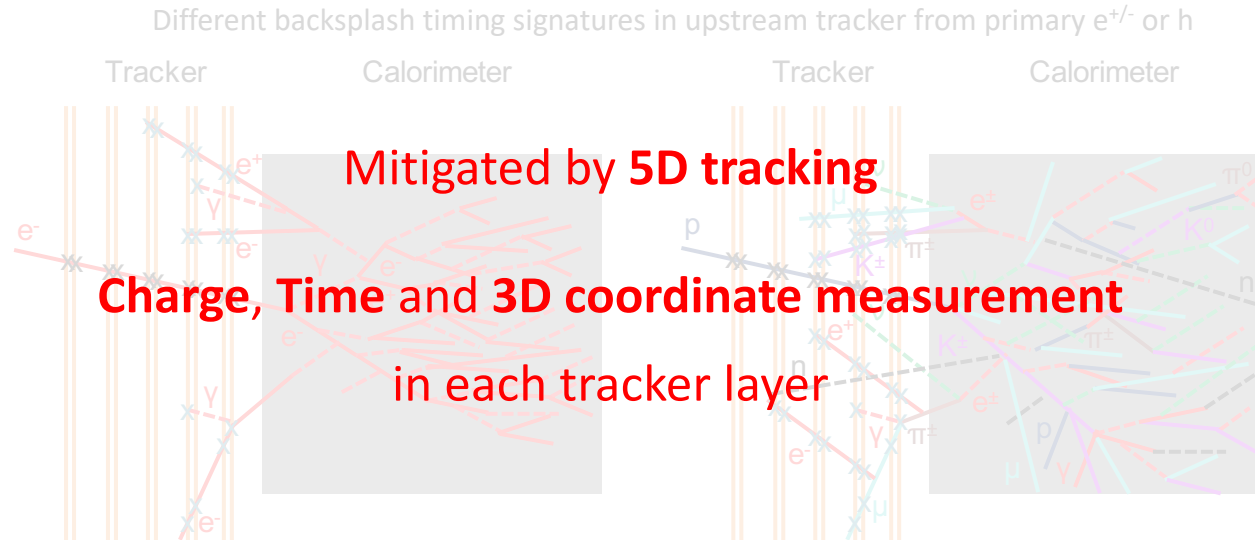
[3] Schael, S.; *et al.* *AMS-100: The next generation magnetic spectrometer in space – An international science platform for physics and astrophysics at Lagrange point 2*. *NIM-A* 2019, 944, 162561. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2019.162561>

Backsplash particles from downstream calorimeter affect tracking efficiency by tens % at 1 TeV

Different backsplash timing signatures in upstream tracker from primary $e^{+/-}$ or h



Backsplash particles from downstream calorimeter affect tracking efficiency by tens % at 1 TeV



In addition to **coordinate** and **charge** $|Z|$ measurements, **concurrent timing information** at hit-level in tracker (**5D-tracking**) may improve reconstruction efficiency and particle ID, such as:

IMPROVED TRACK FINDING

Hit timing information improves track reconstruction on high rate environments and identifies backscattering hits from downstream calorimeters

REMOVE "GHOST" HITS

Separating tracks in time can mitigate the ambiguity of "ghost" hits in SiMS with strips running in perpendicular directions

TIME OF FLIGHT

Hit timing resolutions of ~ 100 ps enable ToF measurements with SiMS complementary to scintillators with fast light readout

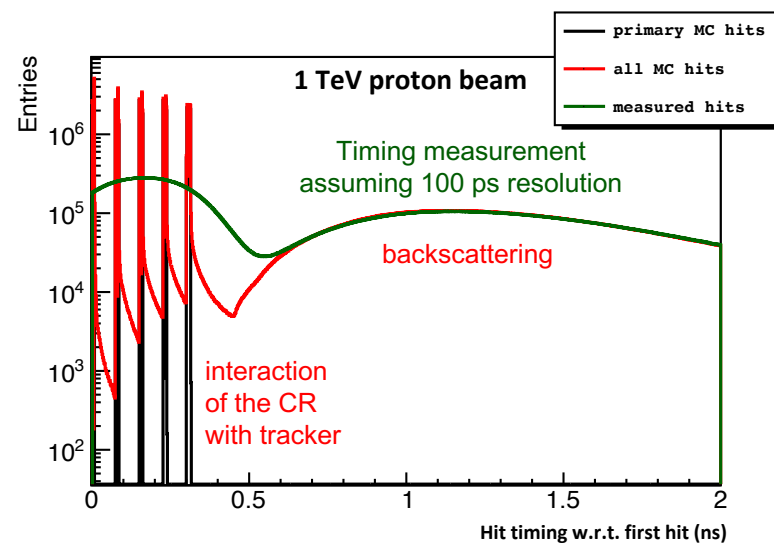
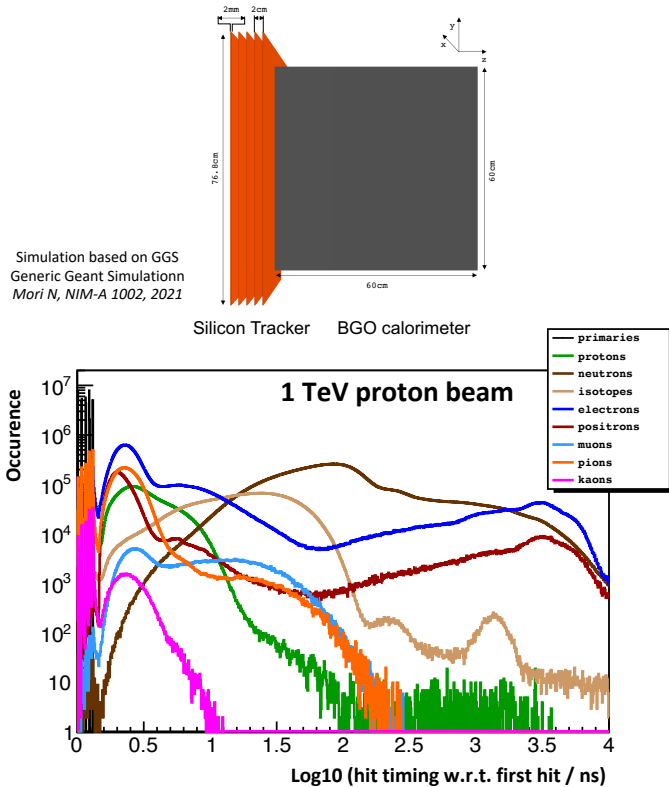
PARTICLE ID

Track timing identifies slow low-energy particles backscattering from downstream calorimeters for primary hadronic particle crossings

Effects of 5D-Tracking in backscattering events

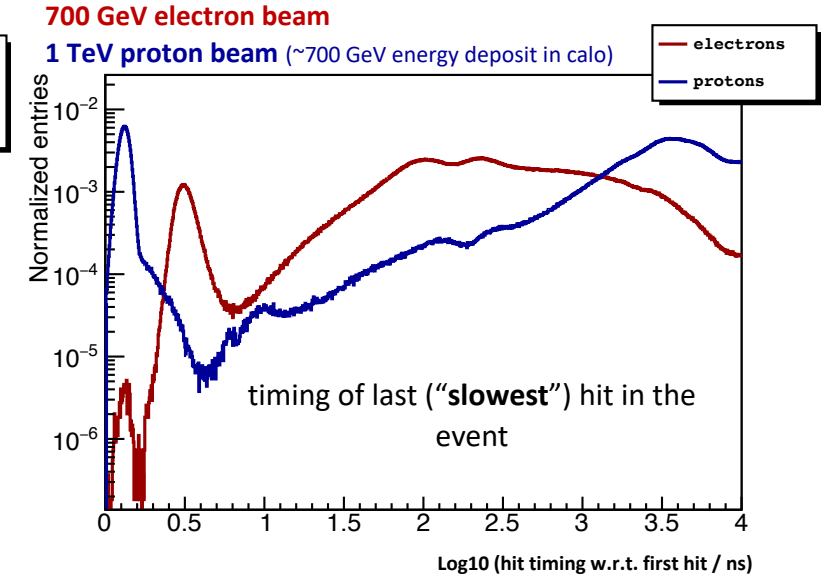
M. Duranti et al., *Instruments* 2021, 5(2), 20

MC simulation of backscattered particles from downstream calorimeter on tracker layers



100 ps resolution allows to separate hits from primary particles and from secondary backplash

Prospects for improved tracking efficiency



Different timing signatures from p and e^{+/-} showers

Prospects to use in MVA classifiers for e/p separation

Timing resolution benchmark: < 100 ps (enabled with Si-μstrip LGAD [+ mitigation of FE consumption])

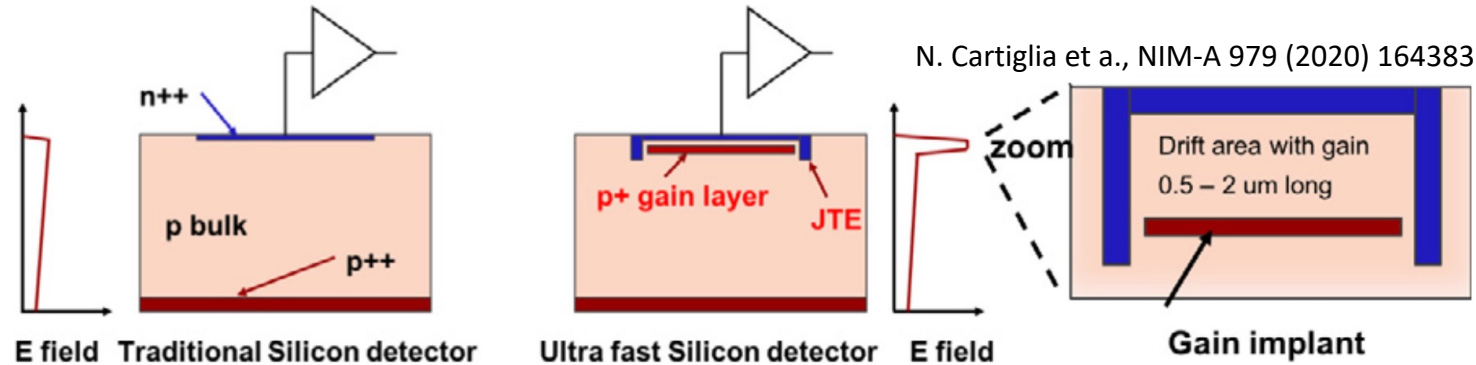
Break-through objectives (e.g.: performant isotope separation): **< 50 ps** (requires readout noise mitigation approaches)

Tracking with Low Gain Avalanche Diodes

R&D mostly driven by next-generation collider detectors / upgrades

Physics requirement: time information on all hit of tracker detectors for high-energy and high-intensity HEP colliders

- < 30ps timing resolution
- O(10)μm spatial resolution
- O(10¹⁶)n_{eq}/cm² radiation tolerance



Basic principle:

- **Thin** Si sensor (<150μm), with intrinsic moderate gain obtained with a gain layer creating high E-field
- **Gain:** 10-50
- Excellent **timing** performances: ~10-20 ps

An 'almost consolidated' technology, yet very challenging

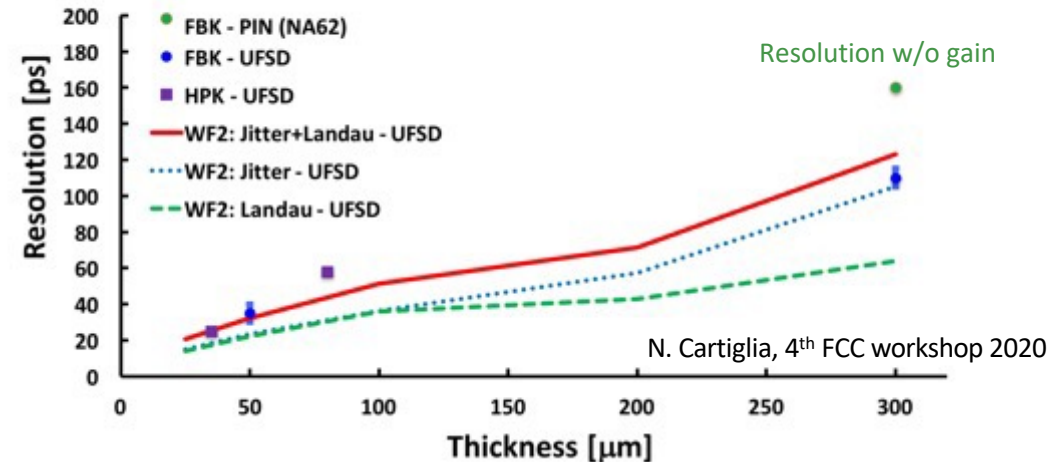
LGAD design optimized for improved timing resolution
(Ultra Fast Silicon Detectors, UFSD)

$$\sigma^2_{\text{TIME}} = (\sigma^2_{\text{TIMEWALK}} + \sigma^2_{\text{JITTER}} + \sigma^2_{\text{TDC}})$$

High-V biased thin sensors -> saturated v_{drift}
increase signal in thin sensors -> intrinsic gain

Optimal candidate for large-area 5D Tracking devices

Comparison WF2 Simulation - Data
Band bars show variation with temperature (T = -20C - 20C), and gain (G = 20 - 30)



Roadmap to 5D Tracking in Space

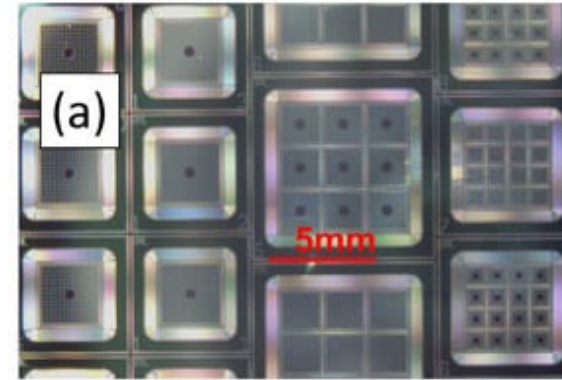
Technology first assessed by CNM (G. Pellegrini et al., NIM-A 765, 2014) and CERN-RD50

Several facilities involved today in LGAD sensor developments

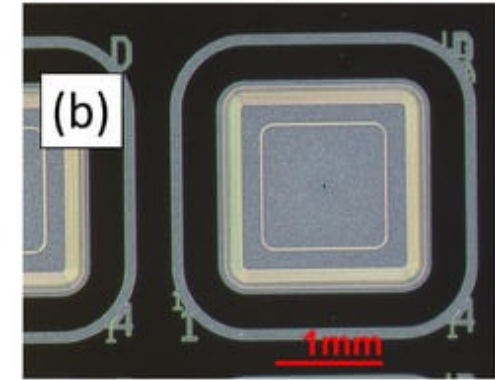
CNM (ES), FBK (IT), BNL (USA), Hamamatsu (JP), IHEP-NDL (CN), Micron (UK), ...
and readout electronics

Univ. California Santa Cruz (USA), FNAL (USA), INFN (IT)

Typical sensor layouts: 20 μ m-100 μ m substrates, single sided, O(mm²) area



Early production of single channel devices and arrays at BNL

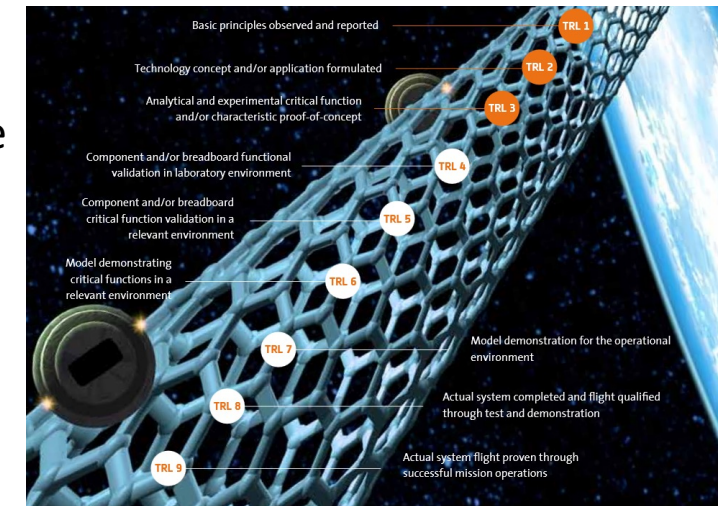


Recent production of 1.3 mm x 1.3 mm devices at BNL (match the pixel size of the CMS and ATLAS timing detectors)

G. Giacomini, *Sensors* **2023**, 23(4), 2132

Some considerations on large area 5D tracking in space:

- LGAD R&D driven by acceleration applications on pixel layout
 - Si- μ strip are consolidated technology largely employed for particle detection in space
 - μ strip LGAD detectors not optimized for space applications
 - Low Gain Avalanche Diode to be space qualified
 - Sensor dimensions will not probably go larger than few cm² (see K. Nakamura, TREDI 2024)
- R&D to mitigate capacitance noise and power consumptions in daisy-chained sensors



Pentadimensional Tracking Space Detector

R&D activity to increase LGAD Si- μ strip TRL for space from TRL=2 to TRL=5



WP1
Management and
dissemination

INFN, ASI

WP2
Sensor production

INFN, ASI

+ FBK as INFN-sub-unit

WP3
Proto-detector
qualification

INFN, ASI

WP4
Scientific applications
space mission design

ASI, INFN

INFN
Perugia, Bologna, Roma Tor Vergata
PI.: Matteo Duranti

ASI
Headquarters (Roma)
co-PI: Valerio Vagelli

Main objective

Develop a breadboard laboratory model for verification of requirements, functionalities and space qualification of LGAD μ strip

Funding and activities started in Sep 2023, duration 2 years, c.a. 200k€ fundings

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PNRR M4.C2.1.1, PRIN 2022, n. 2022JNF3M4, CUP ASI F53D23001370008



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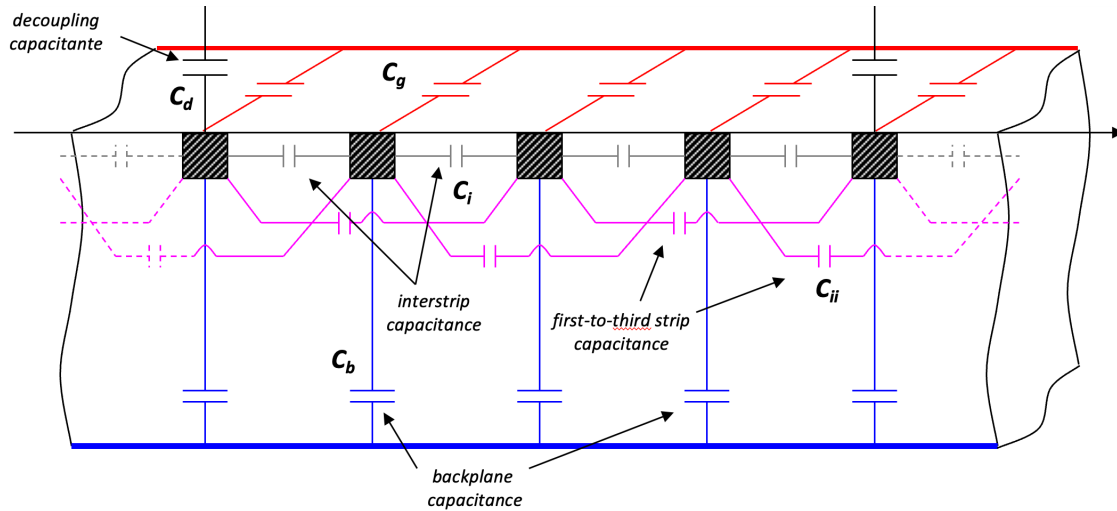


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Capacitance in daisy-chained LGADs



INFN Perugia

p = pitch
 l = strip length
 d = thickness

C_i = interstrip capacitance $\sim 1 \text{ pF/cm} * l = 10 - 100 \text{ pF}$

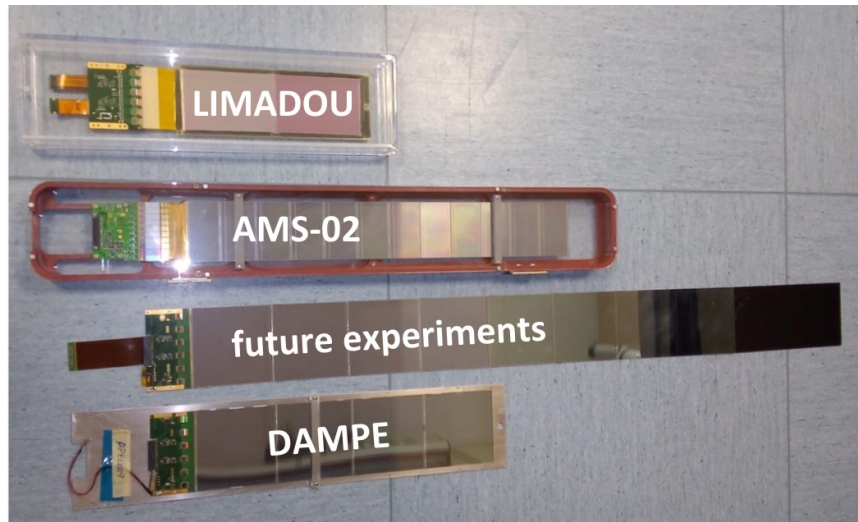
C_d = decoupling capacitance $\sim 1000 \text{ pF}$ (DC sensors) or 120 pF/mm^2 (AC sensors) $> C_i C_b C_g C_{ii}$

C_b = backplane capacitance $\sim 1 \text{ pF/cm} * l * p/d = 0.5 - 2 * 10 - 100 \text{ pF}$

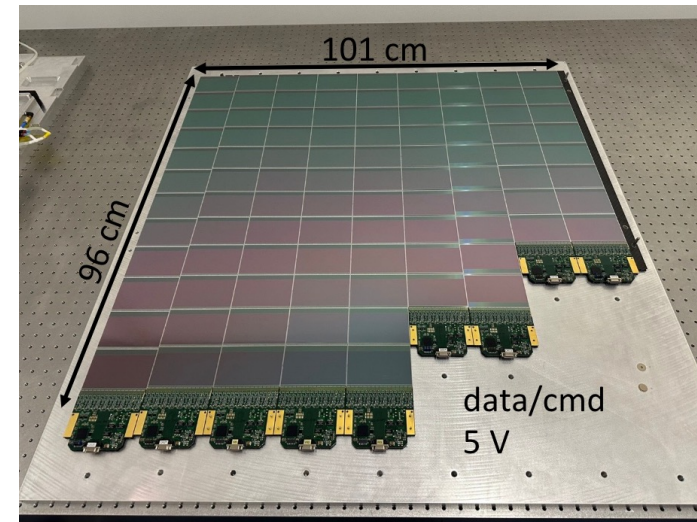
C_g = guarding capacitance $\ll C_i$

C_{ii} = first-to-third strip capacitance $\ll C_i$

For thin and long strips capacitance must be kept under limit

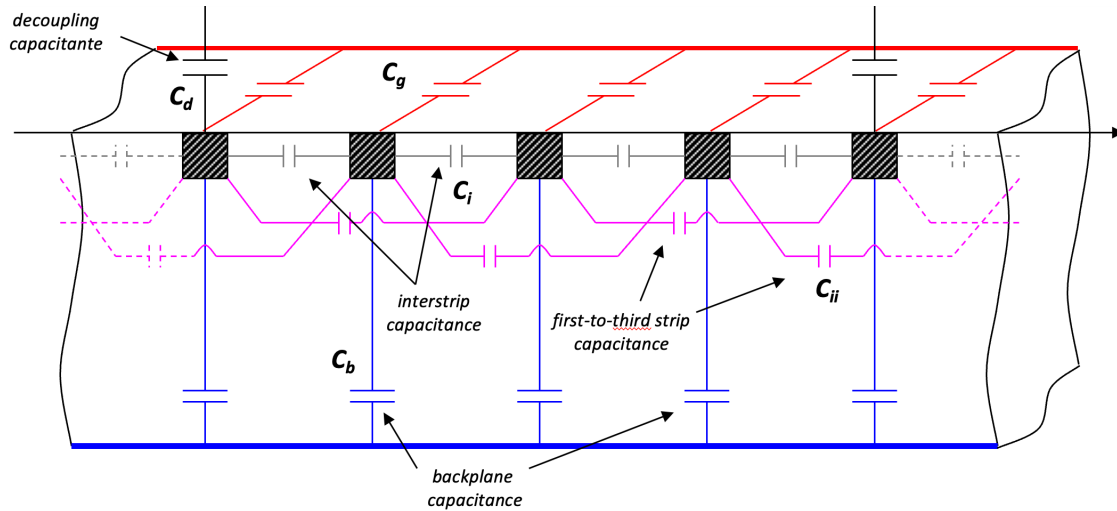


AMS-02 upgrade, Layer-0 (1/4 plane) @ INFN Perugia, Terni labs



M. Duranti, TREDI 2024

Capacitance in daisy-chained LGADs



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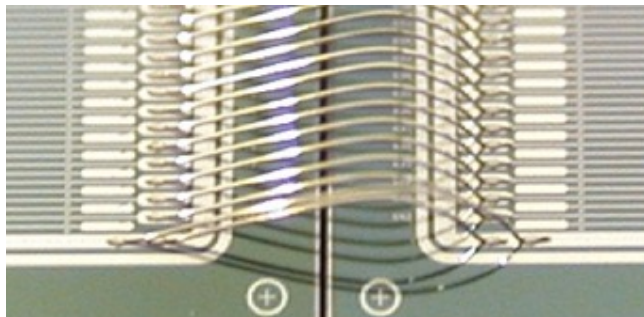
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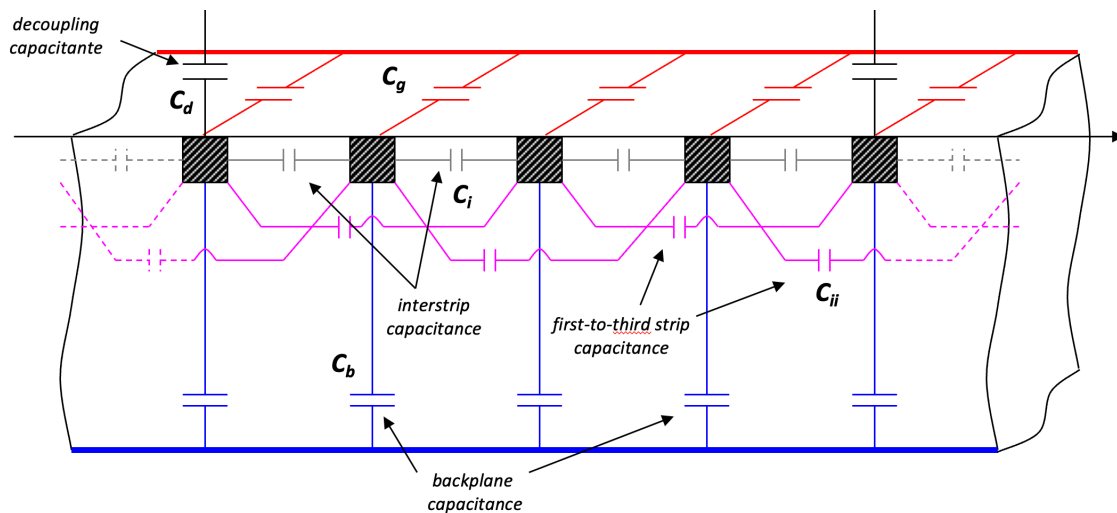
C_{ii} = first-to-third strip capacitance $\ll C_i$

For thin and long strips capacitance must be kept under limit

AMS-02 upgrade, Layer-0 ladder @ INFN Perugia



Capacitance in daisy-chained LGADs

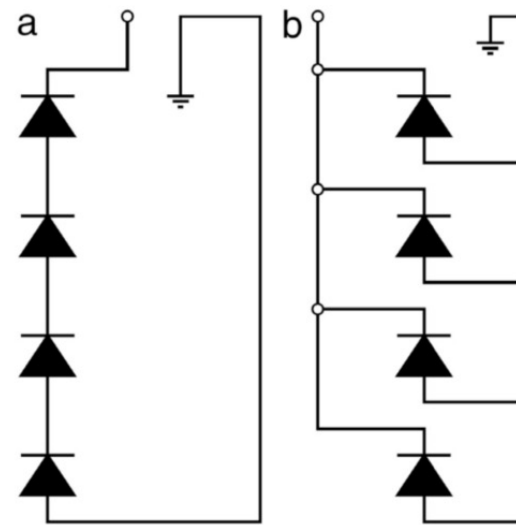
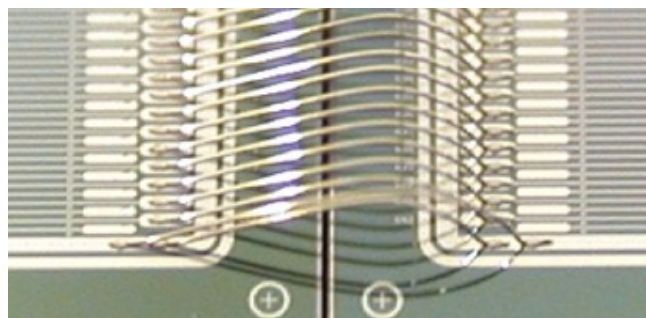


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For thin and long strips capacitance must be kept under limit

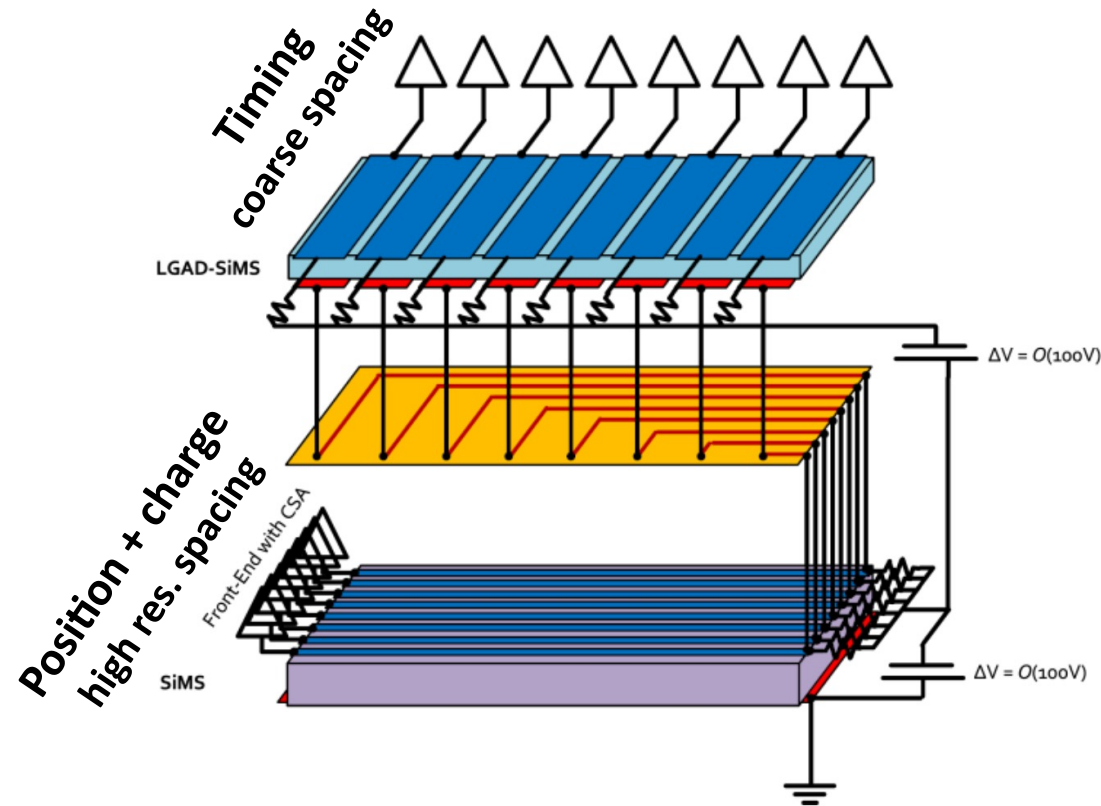
AMS-02 upgrade, Layer-0 ladder @ INFN Perugia



b) standard "parallel" readout
 ✓ bias voltage independent on number of sensors
 ✗ total capacitance seen by readout FEE scales with number of sensors

a) "serial" readout
 ✗ bias voltage scales with number of sensors
 ✓ total capacitance seen by readout FEE scales down with number of sensors

N. Kratochwil et al., PANDA experiment



Starting proposed design

Possible connections for a 5D detector made of a thin LGAD Si- μ strip sensor for timing and moderate resolution coordinate measurement coupled with a thicker standard SiMS sensor for charge and high resolution coordinate measurement.

Driver design: LGAD + standard Si- μ strip in serial readout

- combine a standard μ strip sensor (2D + Z) with an LGAD (2D + timing)
- serial readout of the "stack" to reduce LGAD capacitance
- use standard μ strip as "structural" material for a very thin LGAD layer

Strips running in opposite directions -> measurement of 2D coordinates with different resolutions

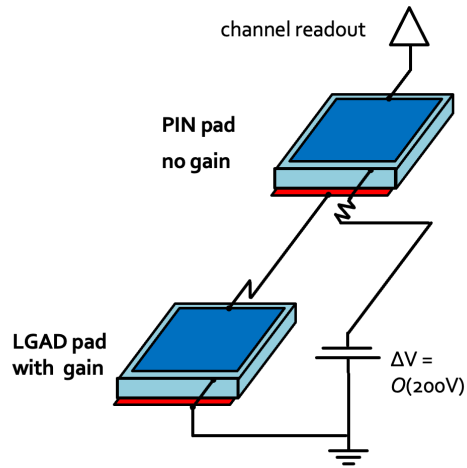
- suits the requirements for a **tracking system in a magnetic spectrometer with oriented magnetic field**

Mechanical structures and interfaces will be an issue

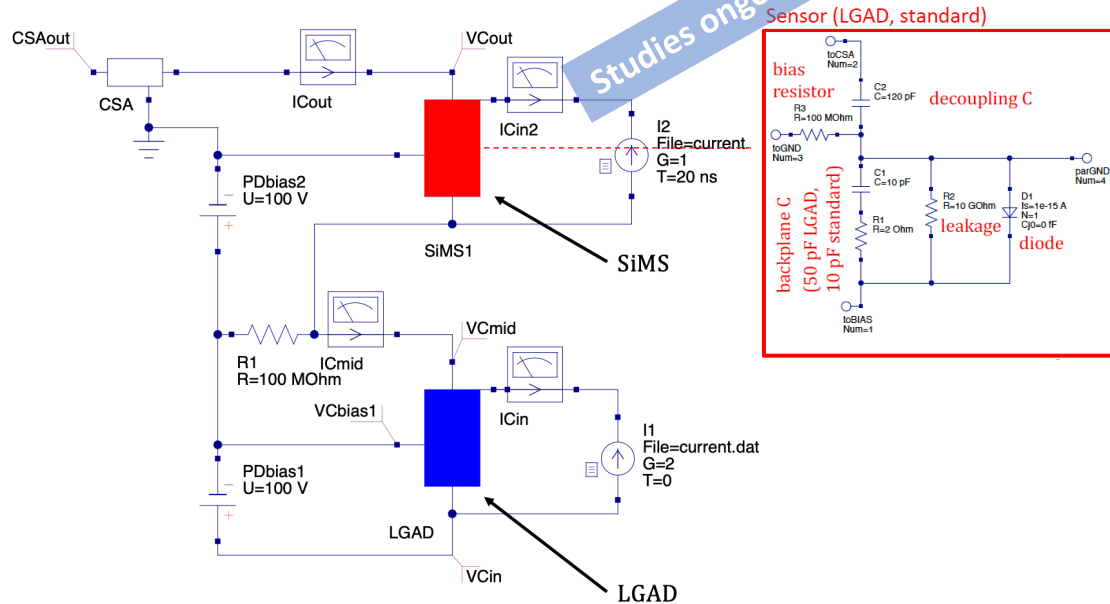
Requires a double-sided LGAD

- costs and risks of process development, yield, assembly... increase

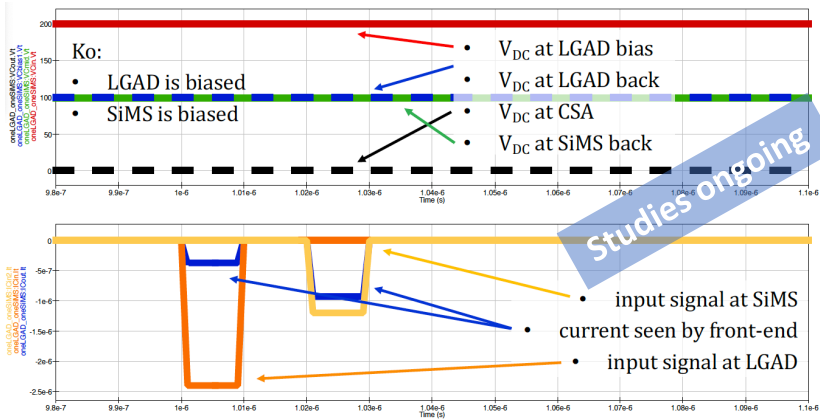
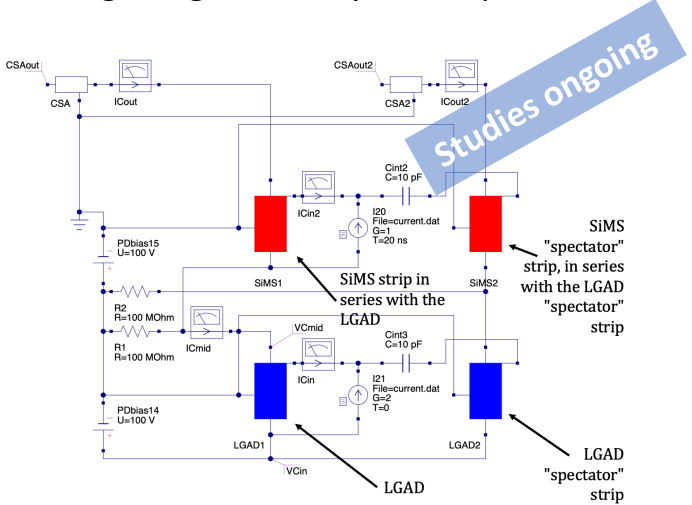
“Stacked” 5D sensor – Proof of concept design



Proof of concept of design @ INFN-Perugia

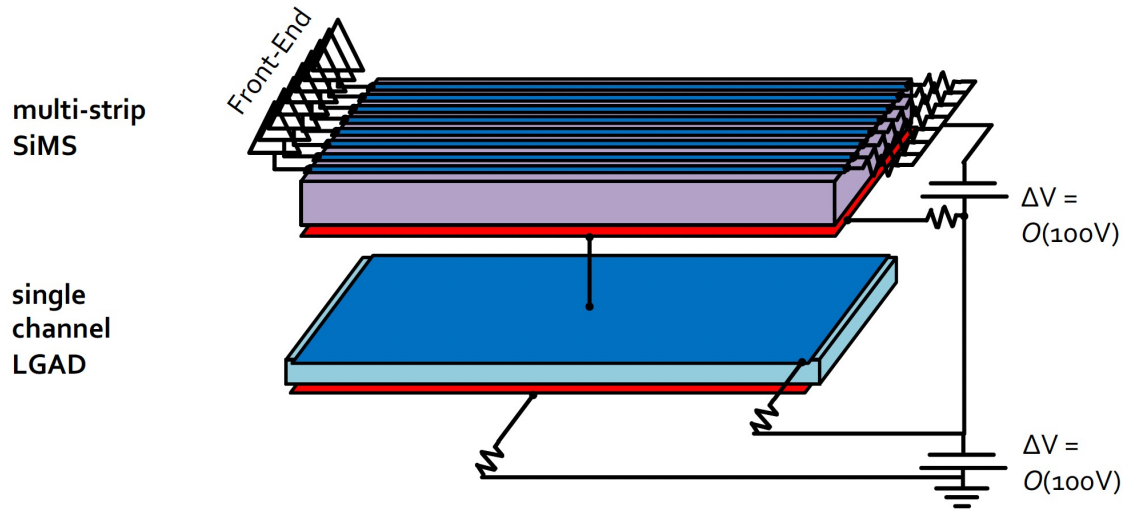


Simple simulations confirm the approach
Feedback on starting design, circuitry to be optimized



Design confirmed also adding adjacent strips

“Stacked” 5D sensor – Proof of concept design

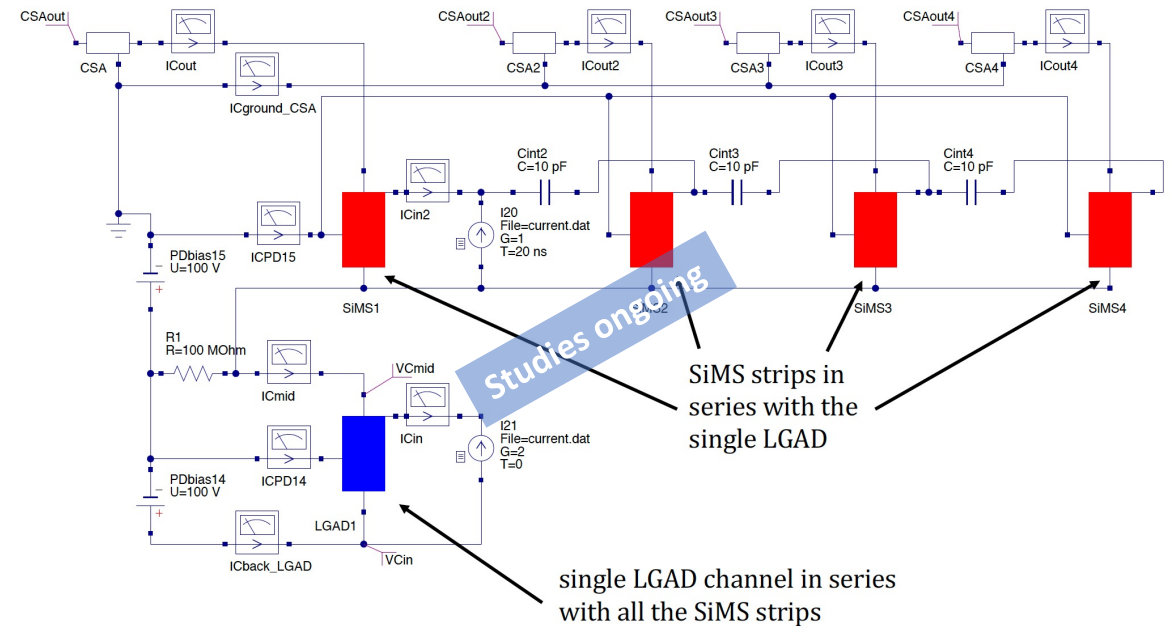


Variant approach

This config could reduce the assembly complexity:

- No bonding/kapton between LGAD and SiMS: only glue
- Time information common to all channels

Preliminary studies are encouraging



Pentadimensional Tracking Space Detector

R&D activity to increase LGAD Si- μ strip TRL for space from TRL=2 to TRL=5

WP1
Management and dissemination

INFN, ASI

WP2
Sensor production

INFN, ASI

WP3
Proto-detector qualification

INFN, ASI

WP4
Scientific applications space mission design

ASI, INFN

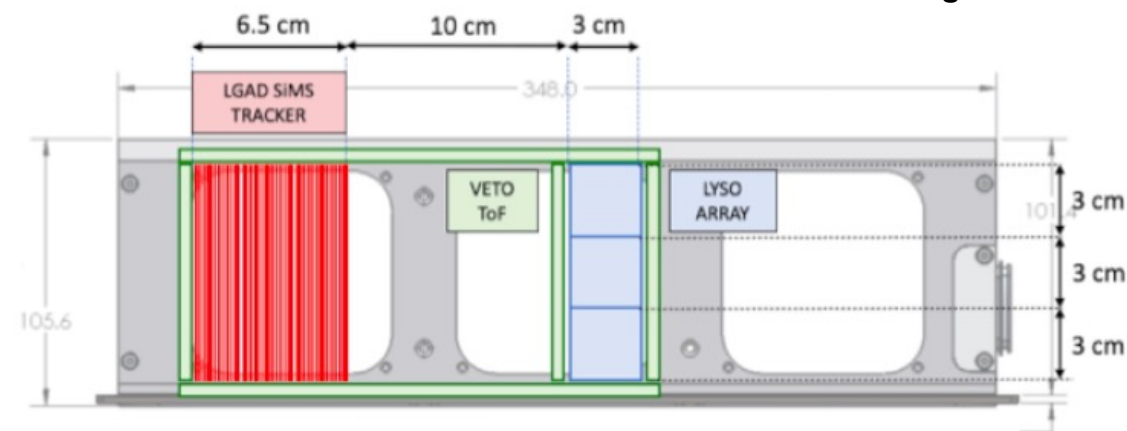
INFN
Perugia, Bologna, Roma Tor Vergata
PI.: Matteo Duranti

ASI
Headquarters (Roma)
co-PI: Valerio Vagelli

A conceptual design of the demonstrator compatible with the constraints in weight, volume and power budget of a CubeSat platform.

hosted in 2 units of a 3U CubeSat, with one additional units dedicated to the FEE and DAQ of the demonstrator.

Weight < 3 kg Power < 20 W



LGAD SiMS Tracker

40 layers of 150 μ m thick SiMS LGADs
readout pitch: 150 μ m

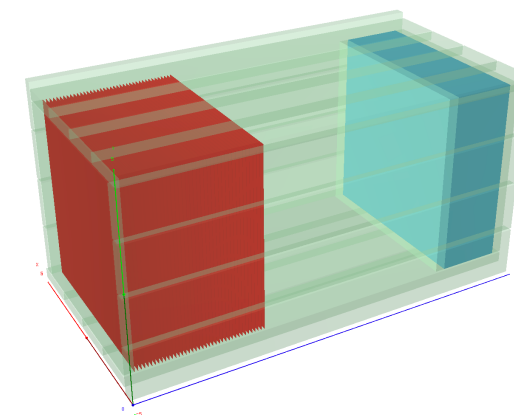
- expected $\Delta x \sim 15 \mu\text{m}$
- Target timing resolution ~ 100 ps

Veto / Time of Flight system

0.5 cm thick Sci-paddles
SiPM readout using commercial FEE
 $\Delta t \sim 30$ ps

Electromagnetic Calorimeter

3x3x3 cm³ array of LYSO crystals
SiPM readout using commercial FEE
Feasibility to add another stack of LYSO array under study



Simulation of the detector performances is ongoing

Perspectives to fly a cubesat demonstrator to reach TRL=9 in a follow-up activity

Cubesat payload: mission objectives

GOAL 1. (Technological)

Demonstrate the feasibility of constructing and operating thin LGAD Si- μ strip sensors in harsh space environment – TRL 9

GOAL 2. (Scientific)

Show that LGAD performances are adequate for next generation astroparticle experiments in space

Measurement of converting photons with $E > 20$ MeV in the LGAD Si- μ strip tracker with reconstruction of the e^+/e^- pair angle in the tracker
with improved vertex reconstruction by identification of backslash hits

Observation of photons with $E > 20$ MeV from the Crab Nebula
Verification of detector PSF and confirmation of conversion technique
Observation of photons from Crab in the 20 MeV – 50 MeV range
Comparison with previous experiments (e.g., CGRO/EGRET) above 50 MeV

Study of charged CRs using the 5D tracking (position, energy deposit and timing) enabled by the LGAD SiMS tracker

Data-driven characterization of ToF capabilities for LGAD SiMS detectors
Data-driven characterization of e/p separation capabilities for LGAD SiMS detectors
Monitor the time variation of charged CRs and SEP events

Through a **cooperative** and **parallel study activity** of the domain experts, ASI-CEF is able to define the feasibility of a space mission and its preliminary technical requirements

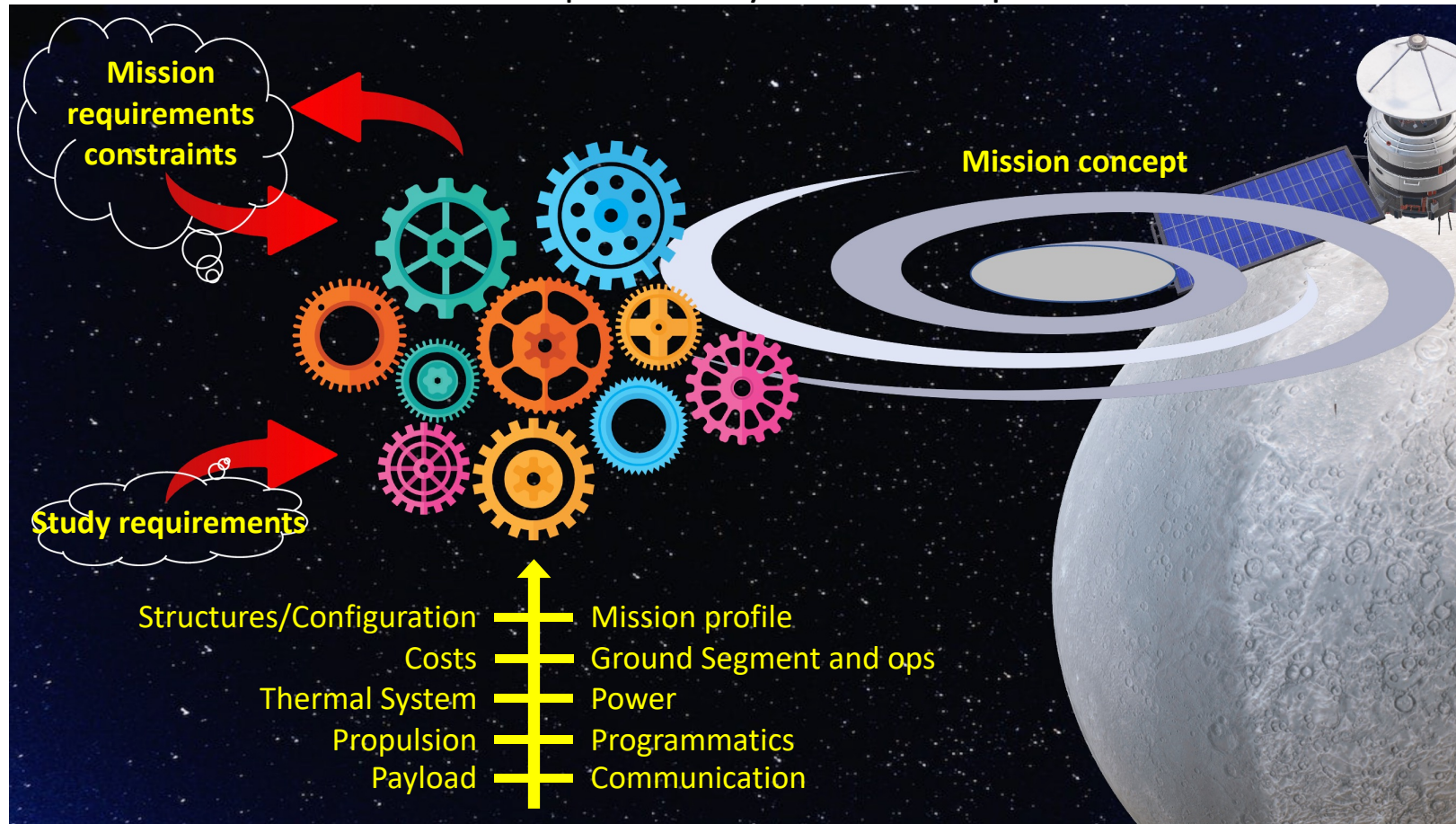


Phase 0 or pre-Phase-A mission concept studies, including, e.g.:

- new mission concept assessment
- new technology validation at system/mission level
- space system trade-offs and evaluation of opportunities
- payload instrument conceptual design
- mission/system scientific requirements definition and consolidation
- mass / power / data budget



Through a cooperative and parallel study activity of the domain experts, ASI-CEF is able to define the feasibility of a space mission and its preliminary technical requirements



<https://www.asi.it/tecnologia-ingegneria-micro-e-nanosatelliti/ingegneria/concurrent-engineering-facility/>

including an open call for opportunity (3 deadlines/year) to italian research centers to perform space mission studies @ ASI-CEF

Tracking with Low Gain Avalanche Diodes

Gains from material budget reduction in low-energy CR and γ -ray measurements

Thin high signal Si sensors: the LGAD intrinsic gain improves the SNR for thin sensors and allows for reduced active material budget tracking planes

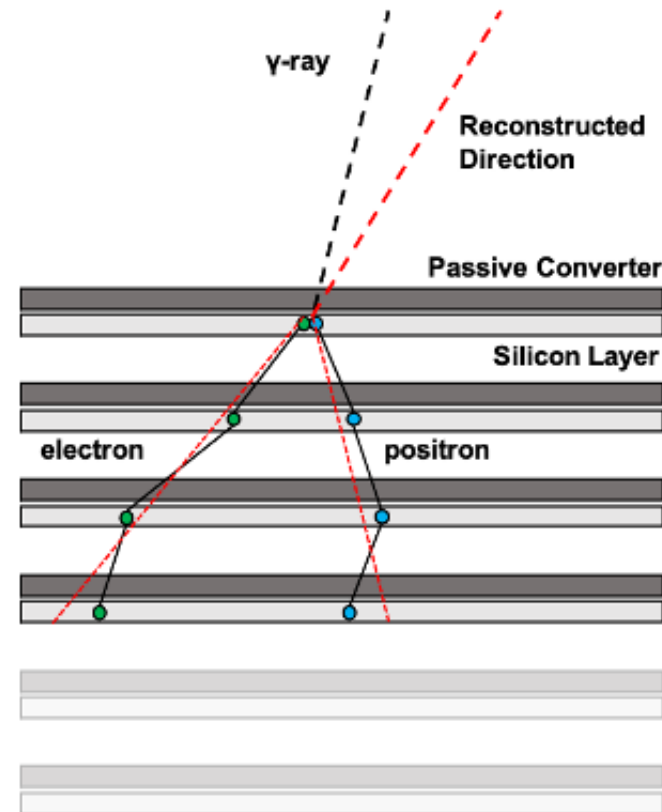
The PSF of γ -ray experiments (Fermi-LAT, DAMPE, ...) is degraded at low energies by Coulomb MS in materials (passive converter and Si-sensors)

- **Remove passive materials**
- **Use thin active detectors**
- **Increase number of active layers to boost the GR conversion probability** (approach first proposed in X. Wu et al., "PANGU: A high resolution gamma-ray space telescope", Proc. SPIE 9144 (2014))

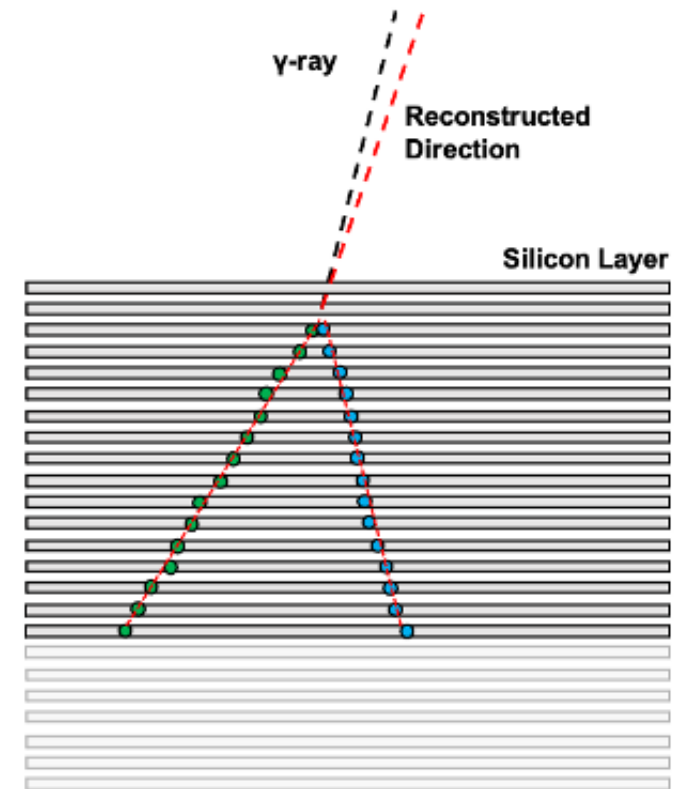
Sub-GeV γ -ray detectors

Opportunity for improved PSF below 1 GeV

PANGU ref.: 1 deg PSF @ 100 MeV (1/5 Fermi-LAT)
0.2 deg PSF @ 1 GeV (1/5 Fermi-LAT)



**Standard approach
converter tracker**



**Novel approach
fully active multi-layer tracker**



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Si-microstrip LGAD detectors for cosmic-ray space-borne instruments

- **5D tracking in space** may open new diagnostics and approaches in cosmic-ray and gamma-ray next-generation instruments
 - LGADs are the candidate technology to achieve **<100 ps resolution in large area space trackers**
 - **R&D and spin-in / spin-off** from ground accelerator detectors is needed to increase the TRL

The **PTSD program** aims in verifying the proof-of concept and test a breadboard instrument to validate **TRL=5 for a timing Si-LGAD system for space applications**

- Activities just started with focus on design optimization through simulations – results are encouraging
 - details on readout board design and production in progress.
 - μ strip-LGAD sensor production to be planned

Wide interest in the community to operate LGAD-based detectors in space

(what follows is just a subset of italian programs to the best of my knowledge)

Spoke 4 -Next Generation Detectors of Ionizing Radiation and Fields for Remote Sensing



PM2024 - 16th Pisa Meeting on Advanced Detectors
Contribution ID: 343 Type: Poster

Analog Front-End for the Readout of LGAD Based Particle Detectors

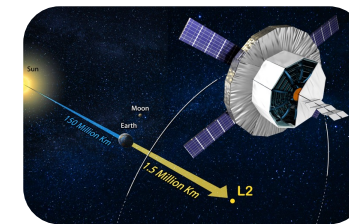
Collaboration Poster by **Simone GIROLETTI**
ADA-5D Thu afternoon / Fri morning



Large area (3x3mm²) pixels with timing and high dyn. range for Z=40

LGAD sensors in future CR space observatories

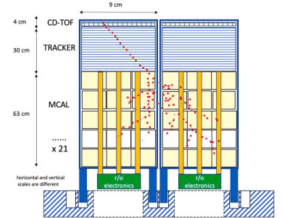
O.Adriani et al., *Instruments* 2022, 6(2), 19



ALADInO

magnetic spectrometer Si-Tracker

P.S.. Marrocchesi, *Astrop. Phys.* 152 (2023) 102879



MOONRAY

Charge Detector ToF

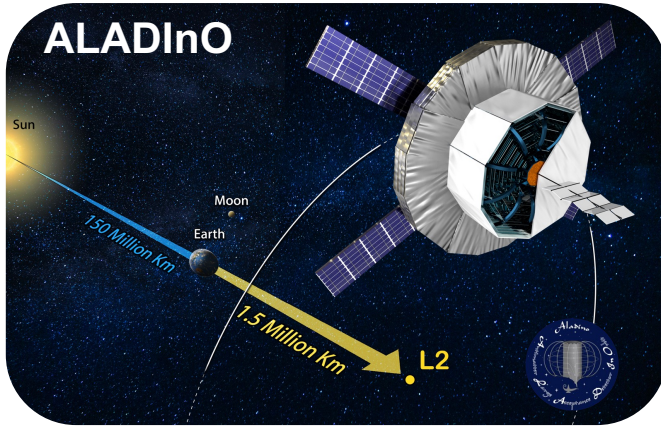
Next-generation space magnetic spectrometers

(based on High Temperature Superconducting Magnets)

Following up on PAMELA, AMS-02, DAMPE and CALET: calorimeters and spectrometers

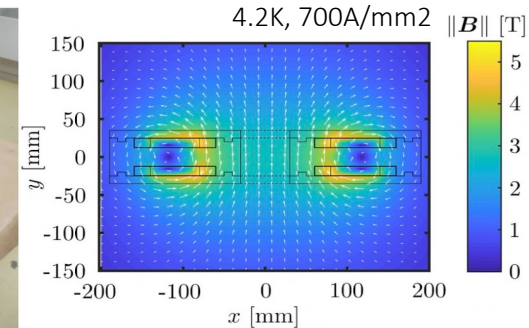
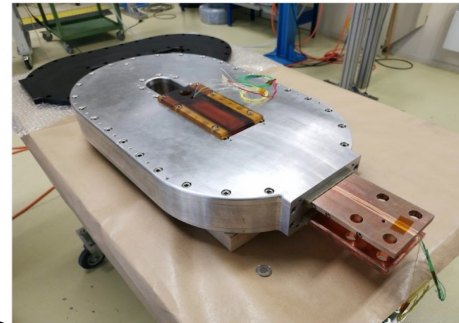
Enlarge acceptance and maximum detectable energy to extend statistical limits and explore highest energies

O. Adriani et al., *Instruments* 2022, 6(2), 19

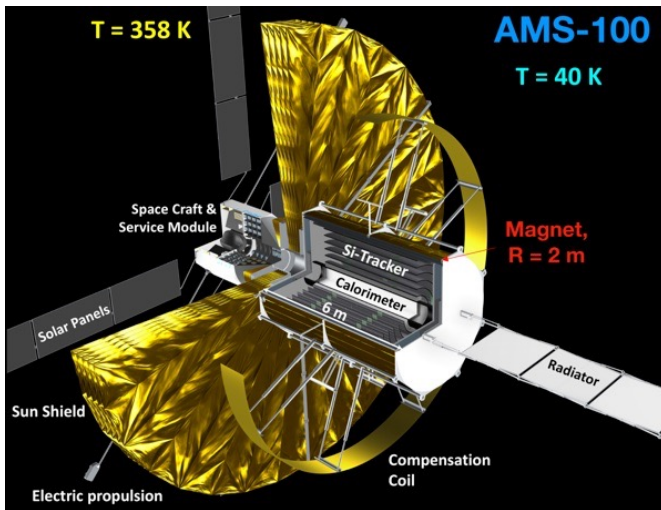


Large acceptance HTSM spectrometer planned for operations in L2

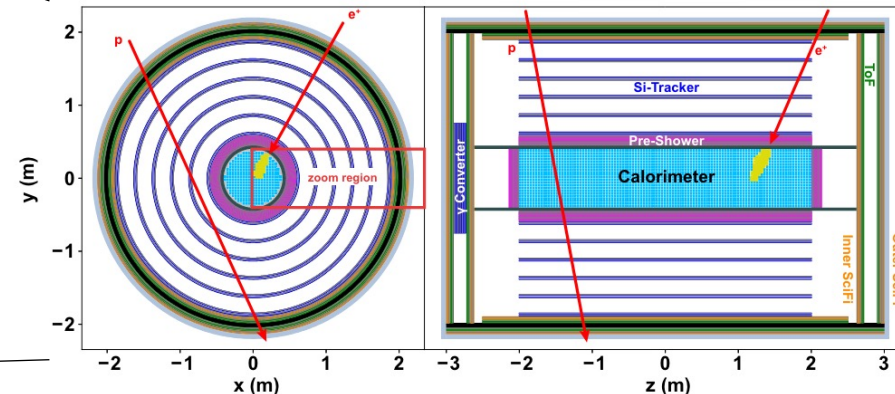
- Extend at least 10x AMS-02 acceptance
- PeV nuclei CRs + TeV e^+ and p-bar + GeV D-bar and He-bar
- Mission concept EU-driven



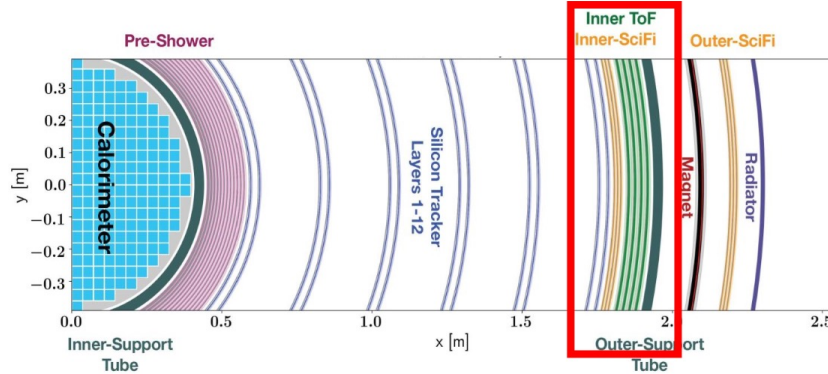
HTSM Demonstrator coil
HDMS ASI-CERN (2022)



S. Schael et al., *NIM-A* 944 (2019) 162561



AMS-100: Time of Flight System



- Required ToF-Single Counter time resolution : 20 ps
- Z measurements from the signal height
- Provides the trigger and measures $\beta = v/c$

Anti-Deuterons are the most sensitive probe for New Physics in Cosmic Rays

AMS-100 would observe thousands of Anti-Deuterons in Cosmic Rays

