



Cherenkov Detectors



INFN SoUP 2024

The 3rd INFN School on Underground Physics: Theory & Experiments

- History and Theory
- Cherenkov technique(s)
- Cherenkov detectors in HEP: Delphi, LHCb, Babar
- Cherenov detectors in APP:
 - Vetos: Xenon neutron veto
 - RICH: AMS, Super Hyper –Kamiokande
HAWC, LHAASO, SWGO, PAO
 - (S)IACT: Hegra, Veritas, Cangaroo, Magic, Hess, CTA
 - Neutrino Telescopes: Bakal GVD, Antares, IceCube, KM3NeT
 - Radio Cherenkov
- Medical physics

Predicted by Heaviside in 1888

Blue light seen in fluids containing radium (Marie Skłodowska & Pierre Curie)

The Nobel Prize in Physics 1958



Photo from the Nobel Foundation archive.

Pavel Alekseyevich Cherenkov

Prize share: 1/3



Photo from the Nobel Foundation archive.

Il'ja Mikhailovich Frank

Prize share: 1/3



Photo from the Nobel Foundation archive.

Igor Yevgenyevich Tamm

Prize share: 1/3

Cherenkov - Discovery: 1936

Tamm and Frank- Theoretical explanation 1937

IGOR' E. TAMM

General characteristics of radiations emitted by systems moving with super-light velocities with some applications to plasma physics

Nobel Lecture, December 11, 1958

IL'JA M. FRANK

Optics of light sources moving in refractive media

Nobel Lecture, December 11, 1958

Peculiarities of radiation in a medium

PAVEL A. ČERENKOV

Radiation of particles moving at a velocity exceeding that of light, and some of the possibilities for their use in experimental physics

Nobel Lecture, December 11, 1958

Emission of UV-visible light by HE particles in transparent radiators:
large (cheap) particle detectors widely used in experiments and applications

Consider a system which in principle is able to emit the radiation in question - e.g. an electrically charged particle in the case of light, a projectile or an airplane in the case of sound, etc. As long as the velocity of this system as a whole is smaller than the velocity of propagation of waves in the surrounding medium, the radiation can be produced only by some oscillatory motion of the system or of some of its parts - e.g. by the oscillation of an electron in an atom or by the revolutions of the propellers of a plane. The frequency of the radiation emitted is evidently determined by the frequency of the oscillations in question. To be more exact, for the radiation to be possible the motion has not necessarily to be a periodic one, but it has to be non-uniform* (i.e. its velocity should not be constant in time).

But when a velocity of the system becomes greater than that of the waves in question, quite a new mechanism of radiation is introduced, by means of which even systems possessing a constant velocity radiate.

(Vavilov)-Cherenkov light is produced by:

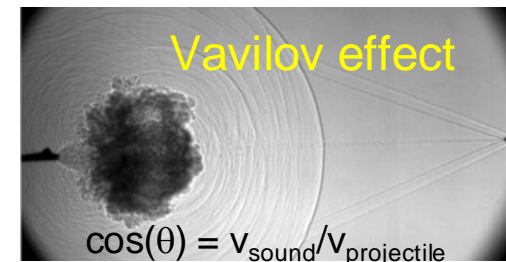
- charged particles
- moving through a radiator medium at a speed larger than the speed of light in the medium

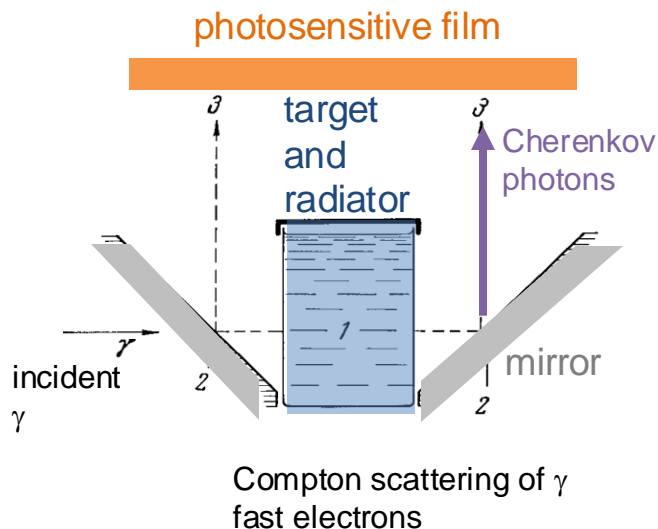
All these general properties of the radiation in question were for a very long time well known in aerodynamics. The air waves emitted at supersonic velocities are called Mach waves. The emission of these waves sets in when the velocity of a projectile or of a plane begins to exceed the velocity of sound in the air. Emitting waves means losing energy and these losses are so large that they constitute the main source of resistance to the flight of a supersonic plane.

That is why in order to cross the sound barrier, i.e. to achieve supersonic velocities in aviation, it was necessary to increase very substantially the power of the engines of a plane.

We perceive the Mach waves radiated by a projectile as its familiar hissing or roaring. That is why, having understood the quite similar mechanism of the Vavilov-Čerenkov radiation of light by fast electrons, we have nicknamed it « the singing electrons ».

I should perhaps explain that we in the USSR use the name « Vavilov-Čerenkov radiation » instead of just « Čerenkov radiation » in order to emphasize the decisive role of the late Prof. S. Vavilov in the discovery of this radiation.





- Light produced only by electrons above a velocity threshold
- N of photons proportional to the electron path length
- Light emission is prompt
- Light spectrum is continuous
- Light angular distribution depends on the radiator $n(\lambda)$
- (Light is polarized)

G.B. Collins and V.G. Reiling (1938)

Experiment:

Monochromatic electron beam (2 MeV) strongly focused

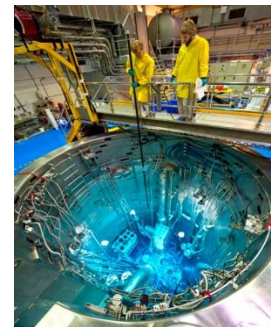
Several liquids and solids

Result:

Direction of the emission of radiation is precisely described by the ratio $\cos \theta = 1/(\beta n)$

Continuous spectrum with increasing intensity from IR to UV in all media

Each electron emits about 40 photons in the range of 4000 Å up to 6700 Å

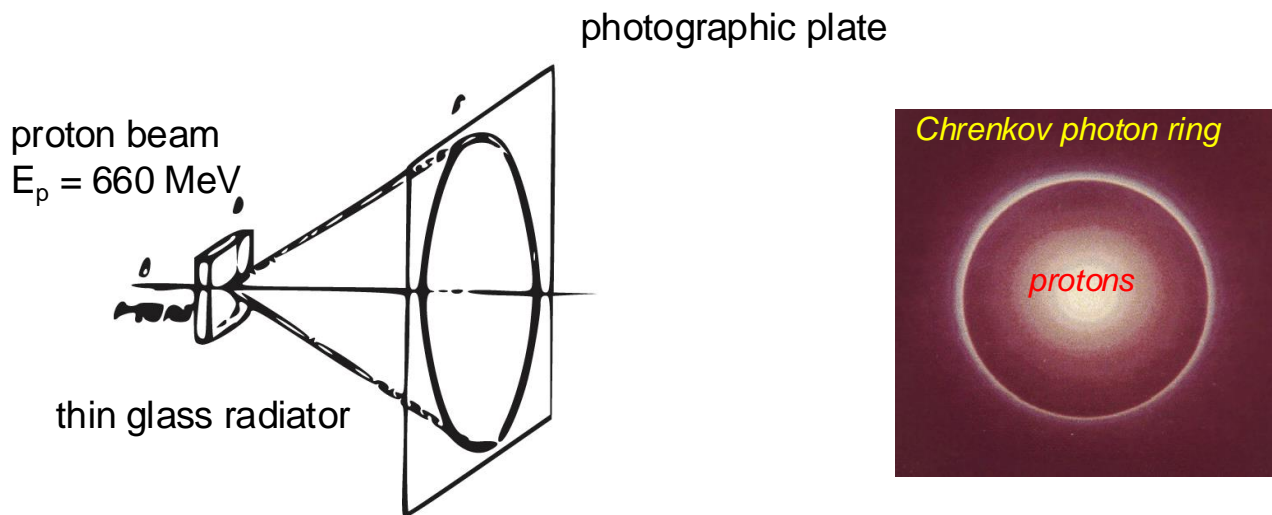


R.L. Mather (1951)

First observation using a proton beam

V.P. Zrelov et al. JINR Dubna, 1970

Birth of RICH (Ring Imaging CHerenkov)



Passage of a charged particle (not accelerated) induces polarisation of the dielectric medium
Oscillation of dipole field causes radiation emission (coherent with Maxwell e.m. theory)

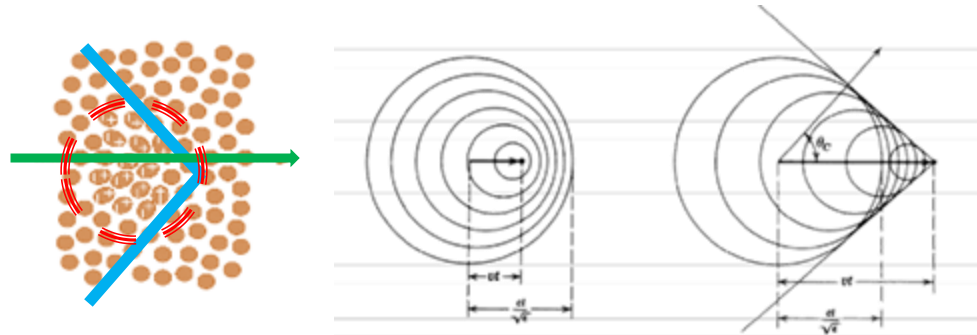
Cherenkov threshold

$$v_{\text{particle}} < c / n(\lambda)$$

- dipoles are symmetrically produced along the particle track
- destructive interference
- no escaping radiation

$$v_{\text{particle}} > c / n(\lambda)$$

- shock wave
- dipoles are not symmetrical
- coherent light emission angle (Huygens)



Cherenkov threshold detectors use $n(\lambda)$ as particle velocity selector

$$\cos \theta_c = 1/\beta_{\text{threshold}} \quad n(\lambda) = 1 \rightarrow \theta_c = 0$$

The Cherenkov angle increases with β
 $\theta = \theta_c$ at $\beta = 1$

$n(\lambda)$ = medium/radiator refractive index (note λ dependence!)

Cherenkov angle

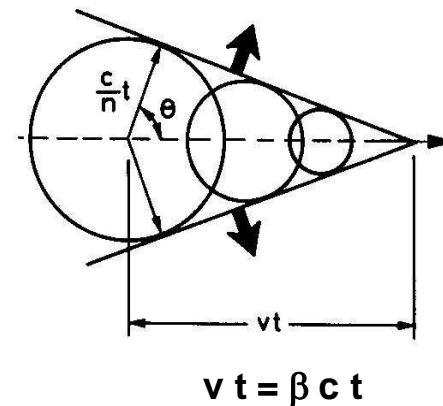
$$\cos \theta_c = \frac{c/n t}{v t} = \frac{1}{\beta n}$$

- $\theta_c (\beta, n(\lambda))$ measures the particle momentum
- for $\beta \approx 1$ the Cherenkov angle is constant (saturated) for a given particle species

Ring Image Cherenkov detectors

Caveat: 'Chromatic Error': photons from the same charged track can have different $\cos(\theta) = 1/n(\lambda)\beta$

- Filter photons (wavelength selector)
- Use radiators with constant $n(\lambda)$
- Measure Time-Of-Propagation (TOP) of photons



Cherenkov energy loss

about 10^{-3} (weaker) wr to Bethe-Block energy loss

Frank-Tamm

$$\frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dE_\gamma dx} = z^2 \frac{\alpha}{\hbar c} \sin^2 \theta_C$$

$$\frac{dN_\gamma}{dE} = \left(\frac{\alpha}{\hbar c} \right) Z^2 L \sin^2 \theta_C$$

L = track length

Number of photons/Energy loss per track length

$$\frac{dN_\gamma}{dx} = \int_{E_1}^{E_2} \frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dE_\gamma dx} dE_\gamma = \int_{E_1}^{E_2} z^2 \frac{\alpha}{\hbar c} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2} \right) dE_\gamma$$

$$\frac{\Delta E_{Cher}}{dx} = \int_{E_1}^{E_2} E_\gamma \frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dE_\gamma dx} dE_\gamma = \int_{E_1}^{E_2} E_\gamma z^2 \frac{\alpha}{\hbar c} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2} \right) dE_\gamma .$$

Cherenkov energy loss

about 10^{-3} (weaker) wr to Bethe-Block energy loss

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L = track length

Only few hundreds photons /(eV cm) require:

- optimal radiator
- very sensitive photon detectors

Number of photons/Energy loss per track length

$$\frac{dN_\gamma}{dx} = \int_{E_1}^{E_2} \frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dE_\gamma dx} dE_\gamma = \int_{E_1}^{E_2} z^2 \frac{\alpha}{\hbar c} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2} \right) dE_\gamma$$

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Cherenkov lighth is mainly produced at small λ , with a cutoff at UV

properties of Cherenkov light production can be used to

- tag particle ID
- measure particle momentum

$$\beta_{\text{threshold}} = [n(\lambda)]^{-1}$$

$$\gamma^2_{\text{threshold}} = [1 - 1/n^2(\lambda)]^{-1}$$

$$p_{\text{threshold}} = m_0 \cdot [n(\lambda) - 1]^{-1/2}$$

$$\beta = \frac{p}{E} = \frac{\sqrt{E^2 - m^2}}{E} = \sqrt{1 - m^2/E^2}$$

medium	n	θ_{max} (deg.)	N_{ph} (eV ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹)
air	1.000283	1.36	0.208
isobutane	1.00127	2.89	0.941
water	1.33	41.2	160.8
quartz	1.46	46.7	196.4
aerogel	1.03	13.86	0.12

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$$\beta = \frac{p}{E} = \frac{\sqrt{E^2 - m^2}}{E} = \sqrt{1 - m^2/E^2}$$

Example of radiators

Medium	n-1	γ_{th}	Photons/m
He (STP)	$3.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$	120	3
CO ₂ (STP)	$4.1 \cdot 10^{-4}$	35	40
Silica aerogel	0.025-0.075	4.6-2.7	2400-6600
water	0.33	1.52	21300
Glass	0.46-0.75	1.37-1.22	26100-33100

Allow efficient detection and fast counting of single charged particles at energies in excess of the Cherenkov threshold

Have prompt response and do not suffer paralysis effects

Cherenkov vs Scintillation:

- $N^{\phi}_{\text{scintillation}} = 10^2 N^{\phi}_{\text{Cherenkov}}$
- $\Delta t^{\phi}_{\text{scintillation}} \gg \Delta t^{\phi}_{\text{Cherenkov}} \sim 0$
- Cherenkov light allows measurement of particle direction information

Used in many fields of High energy physics and astrophysics

Ingredients:

radiator(s): $n(\lambda)$, thickness
light collection devices / mirrors
light detectors

mirrors used to:

→ guide Cherenkov light to detectors
→ focus the light

Particle ID: $\theta (p, m)$; If we measure p and θ , we can calculate m and identify different particles

Used in accelerator based experiments:

momentum (p) measured by magnetic spectrometer (Tracking system + magnet)

Cherenkov detectors:

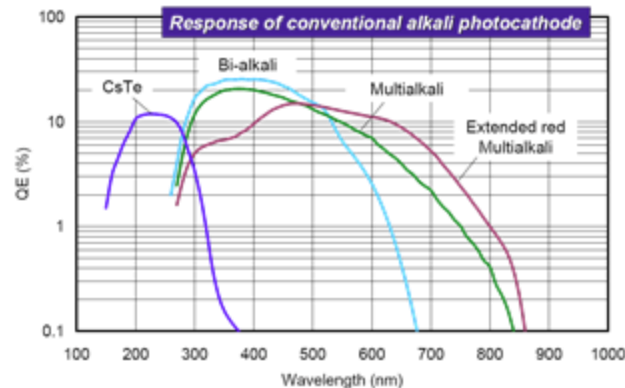
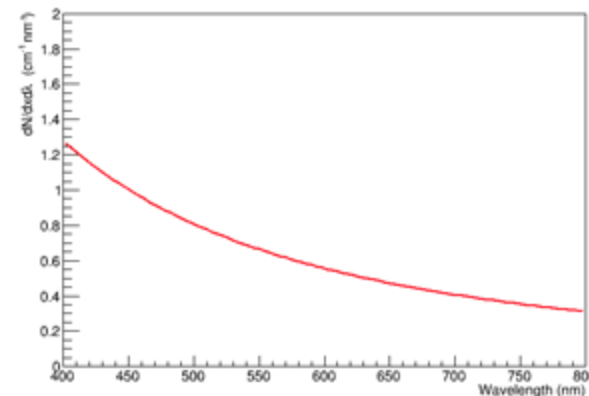
Measure θ

Resolution can be expressed in terms of $(\Delta \beta / \beta)$

$$\frac{\sigma_{\beta}}{\beta} = \tan \theta_c \sigma_{\theta_c} = \tan \theta_c \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{\theta_i}^2}{N_{p.e.}} + \sigma_{det}^2}$$

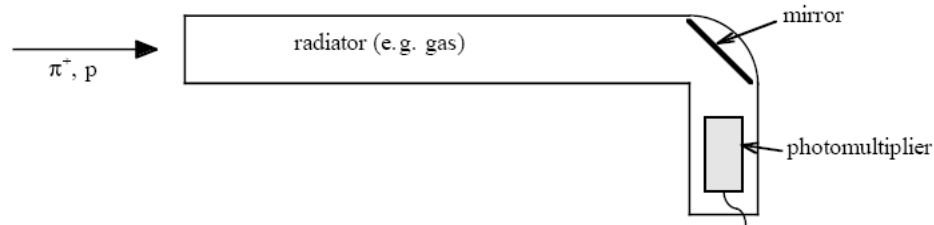
$$\frac{dN_{\gamma}^{detected}}{dx} = \int_{E_1}^{E_2} z^2 \frac{\alpha}{\hbar c} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2(E_{\gamma})} \right) P(E_{\gamma}) dE_{\gamma}$$

- radiator $n(\lambda)$
- photon detector efficiency vs. photon energy



- Simplest: **Threshold Cherenkov counters** → Select particles with $\beta > 1/n$
- Simple: **Differential Cherenkov counters** → Select particles in a range of β ($1/n < \beta < \beta_{\max}$)
e.g.: jointly used with momentum measurement (magnetic) → identification of m_{particle}
- Smart(er): **Imaging** → Measure particle velocity (θ_c) and/or direction and/or energy

- Simplest: **Threshold Cherenkov counters** → Select particles with $\beta > 1/n$
- Often used in beamlines for particle ID → identify different particles with same momentum



count the number of photons

$$N_{\text{photon}} / L = N_0 * (m_1^2 - m_2^2) / (p^2 + m_1^2)$$

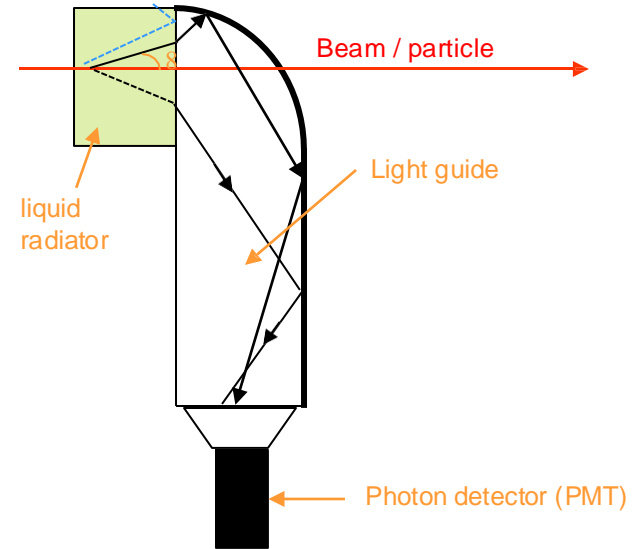
$$\Delta \beta / \beta = \tan^2 \theta / [2 * \text{sqrt}(N_{\text{ph}})]$$

At $p = 1 \text{ GeV}/c$

$$N_{\text{ph}}^{\text{pion}} / L = 16 / \text{cm}$$

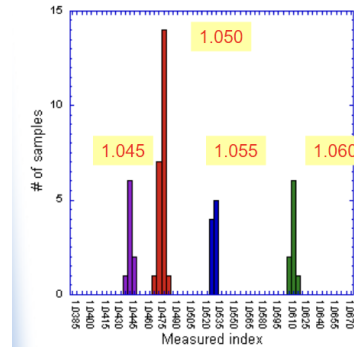
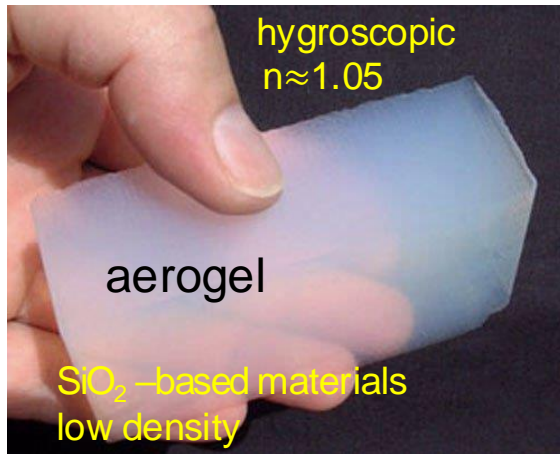
$$N_{\text{ph}}^{\text{kaon}} / L = 0$$

$n(\lambda) = 1.05 \rightarrow$ only pions emit Cherenkov light



how to obtain a well-defined $n(\lambda)$?

- use aerogels
- gas mixtures; change pressure and/or temperature



gas

Lorentz-Loren (Clausius-Mossotti)

$$\frac{n^2 - 1}{n^2 + 2} \frac{P_m}{\rho} = R_{LL}$$
$$n \cong 1 \rightarrow n - 1 = \frac{3 R_{LL} P}{2 RT}$$

Cherenkov Threshold Detectors

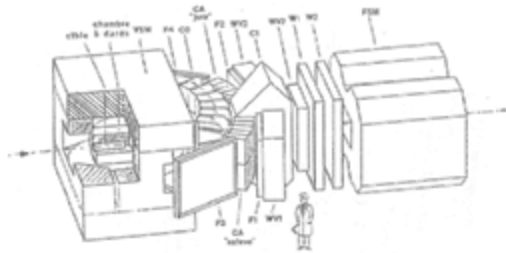
- Simplest: **Threshold Cherenkov counters** → Select particles with $\beta > 1/n$

Can use radiators with different refractive index for β discrimination

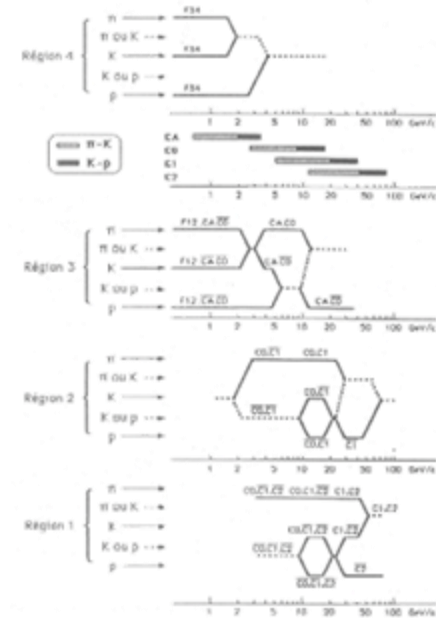
$$\beta_i = \frac{1}{n_i} \rightarrow n_i = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma^2_i}{\gamma^2_i - 1}}$$

Change gas type or pressure to change n
→ change threshold

NA 49



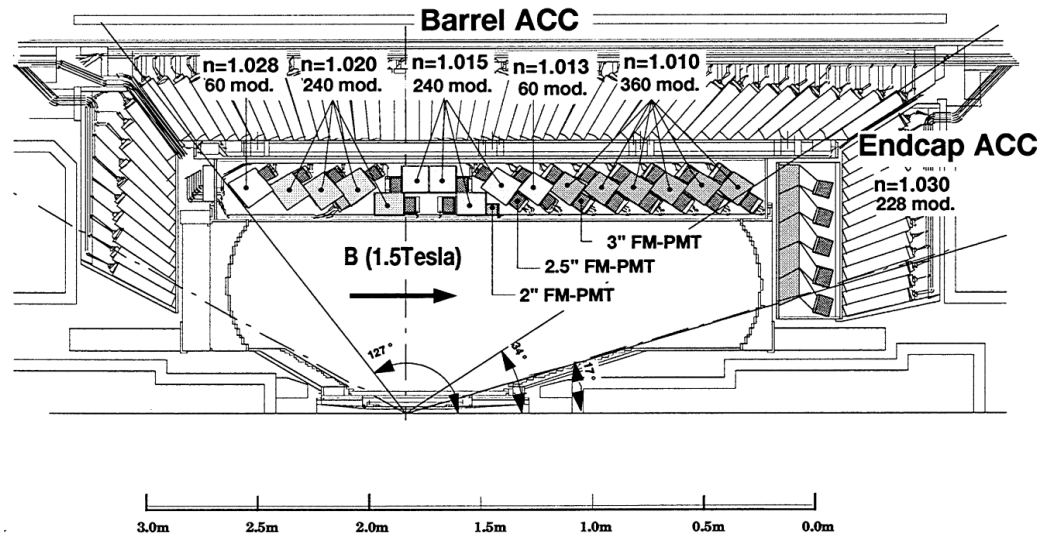
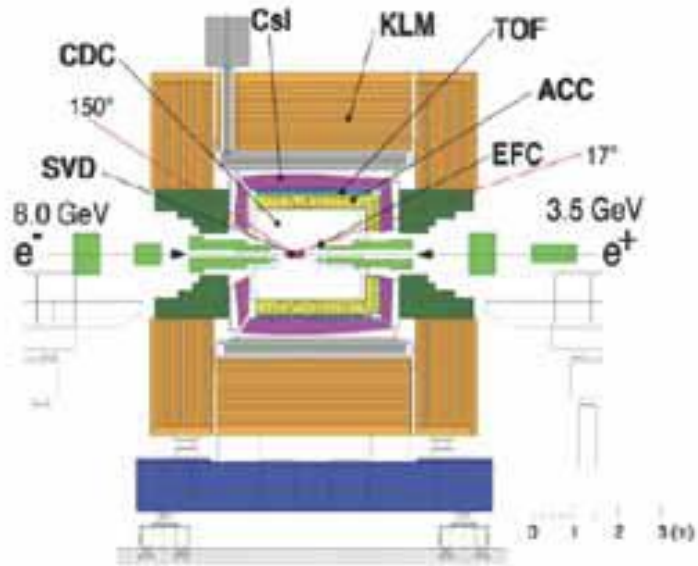
Détecteur	Couverture angulaire horizontale	Zone sensible (m ²)	Taille des cellules	Radiateur $n-1=$ (valeurs approximatives)	Valeurs des seuils $\approx K/p$ (GeV/c)
FLF2 F3,F4	$\pm(10-30)^\circ$ $\pm(32-60)^\circ$	160x106 160x252	160x10 160x15	NE 110 NE 110	$\approx K < 1,5$ $K/p < 2,5$
CA	$\pm(18-32)^\circ$	2x150x130	65x30	alcoyl 0,830	0,6/20,8
CD	$\pm 32^\circ$	2x300x100	32x14 25x28	nitrocellulose 0,0015	2,6/9,1/17
C1	$\pm 9^\circ$	109x143	34x18	alcoyl 3×10^{-4}	5,6/20,38
C2	$\pm 7^\circ$	150x300	25x25	alcoyl 6×10^{-4}	12/42/79



Cherenkov Threshold Detectors

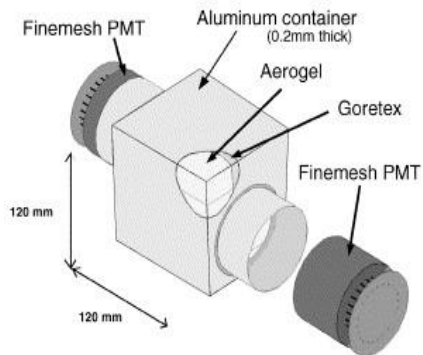
BELLE (KEKB, e^+e^- collider): CP violation in B mesons threshold aerogel

1200 independent detector modules
6 different aerogels

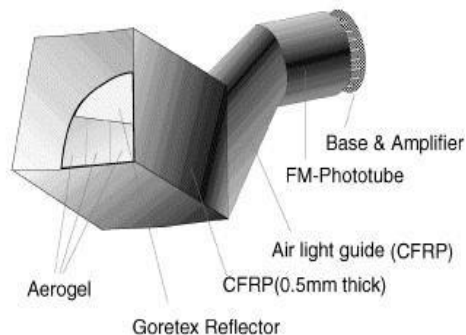


BELLE (KEKB, e^+e^- collider): CP violation in B mesons threshold aerogel

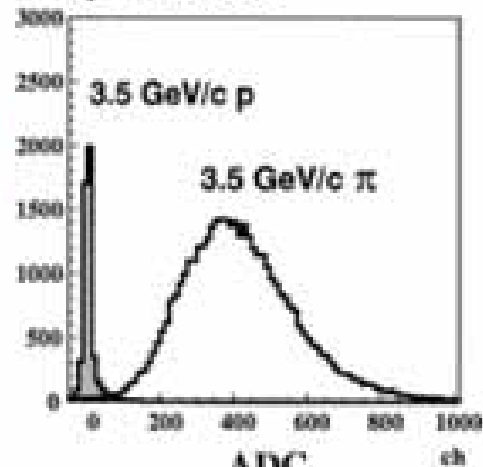
a) Barrel ACC Module



b) Endcap ACC Module



b) $B=1.5$ Tesla



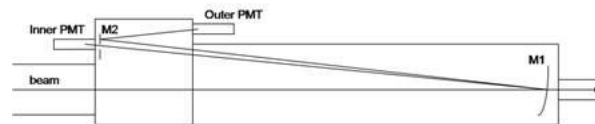
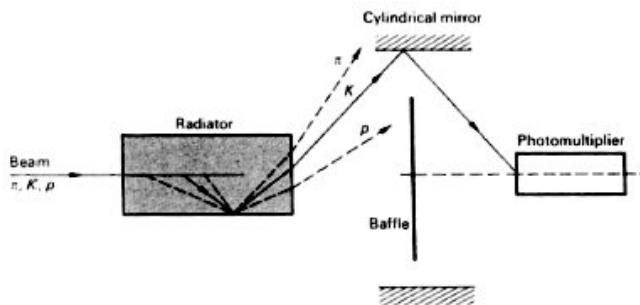
$\pi \rightarrow 20$ photons / track
 π/p separation up to 3.5 GeV/c

- Simple: Differential Cherenkov counters \rightarrow Select particles in a range of β ($1/n < \beta < \beta_{\max}$)

Identify particles in the beam lines e.g. Mesons beams (π^\pm , K^\pm)

Very small acceptance in band direction of the charged particle

(Narrow range in velocity and direction intervals)



Resolution:

$$\triangleright \Delta \beta / \beta = (m_1^2 - m_2^2) / 2 p^2 = \tan \theta \quad \Delta \theta$$

$$m_1, m_2 \text{ (particle masses)} \ll p \text{ (momentum)}$$

$$\triangleright \Delta \beta / \beta \text{ from } 0.011 \text{ to } 4 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ achieved.}$$

Chamberlain and Segre at BNL (1955)

Discovery of anti-proton (Nobel Prize in 1959)

Widely used in HEP and APP experiment:

First time in DELPHI at LEP (Ypsilantis and Seguinot, 1977)

Light emitted in cones around the particle

Cherenkov cones appear as rings in the RICH photodetector surface

$$\theta_C = \arccos\left(\frac{1}{n\beta}\right) = \arccos\left(\frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{E}{p}\right)$$

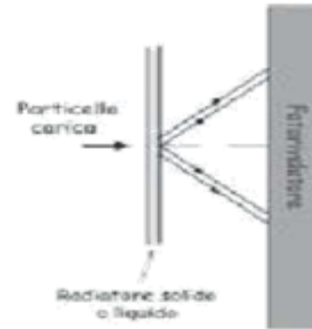
$$= \arccos\left(\frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}}{p}\right)$$

Cherenkov ring radius $\rightarrow \theta_c \rightarrow \beta$

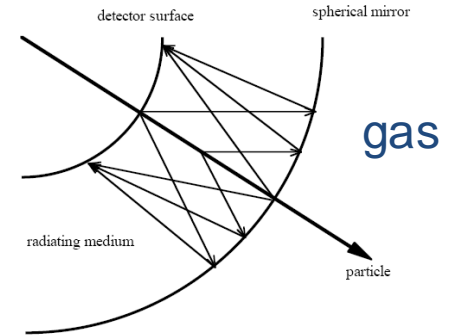
- gas radiator: solid or liquid radiator
- Cherenkov light focalisation systems
- large photodetector wall

separation between 2 species

$$S \approx \frac{|m_1^2 - m_2^2|}{2p^2 \sigma_{\theta_c} \sqrt{n^2 - 1}}$$



liquid or solid

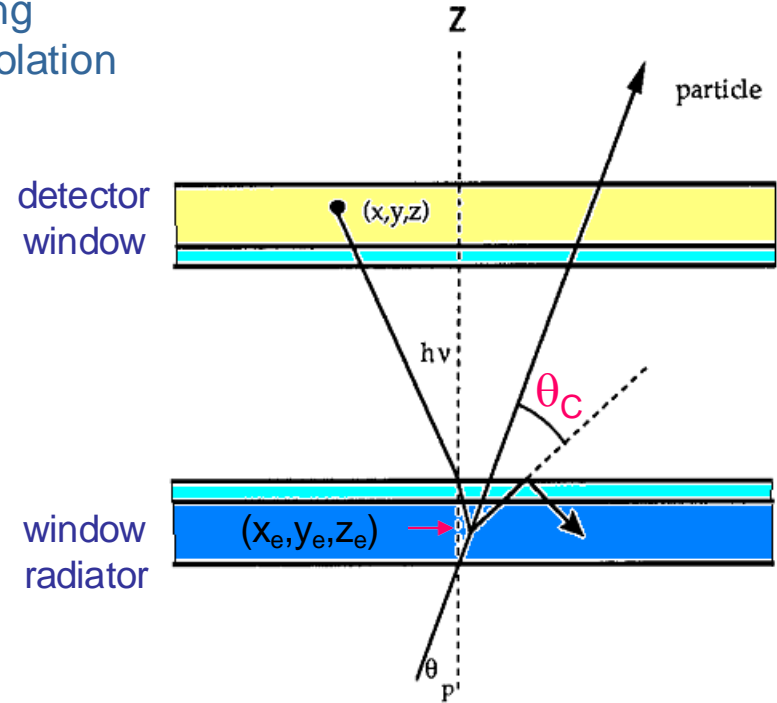


gas

The RICH detectors are sandwiched between tracking detectors which provide precise particle track extrapolation

Determination of θ_C requires:

- space point of the detected photon (x,y,z)
photodetector granularity (σ_x, σ_y) , depth of interaction (σ_z)
- emission point (x_e, y_e, z_e)
keep radiator thin
or use focusing mirror
- particle direction
RICH require good tracker



Caveat:

Refractive index n varies with photon wavelength

$$n = n(\lambda)$$

→ change of θ_c

Solution:

limit detectable photon wavelengths

...But this reduces the total photon number (resolution)

Radiator Choice

The most crucial parameter is the refractive index

low p : large n to lower threshold and increase separation

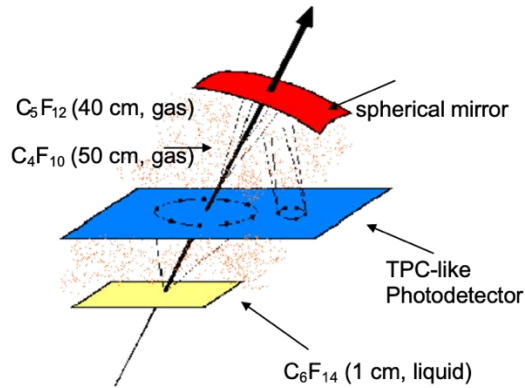
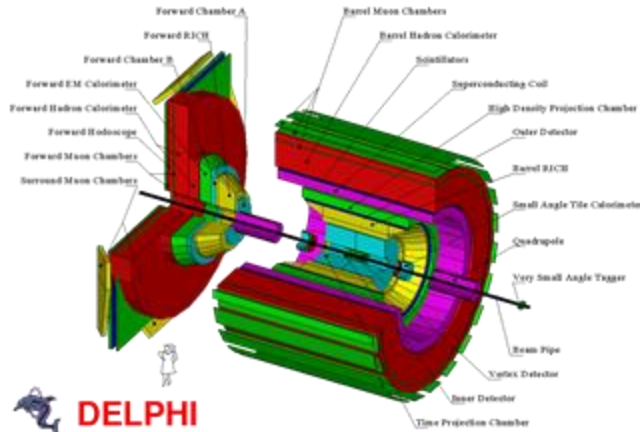
high p : $n \approx 1$ preferable (tunable n with aerogels)

Other optical properties: dispersion and absorption

Radiation length

Radiation hardness

DELPHI two radiators and a common photodetector plane

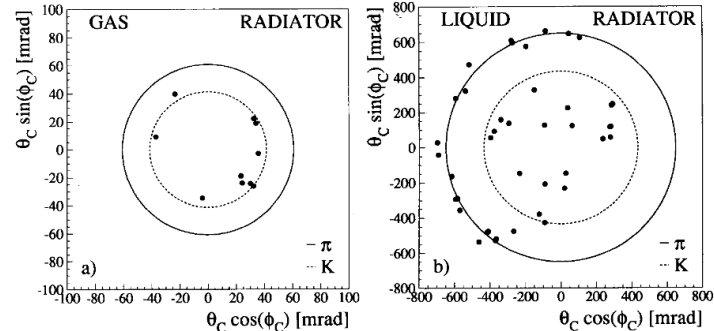


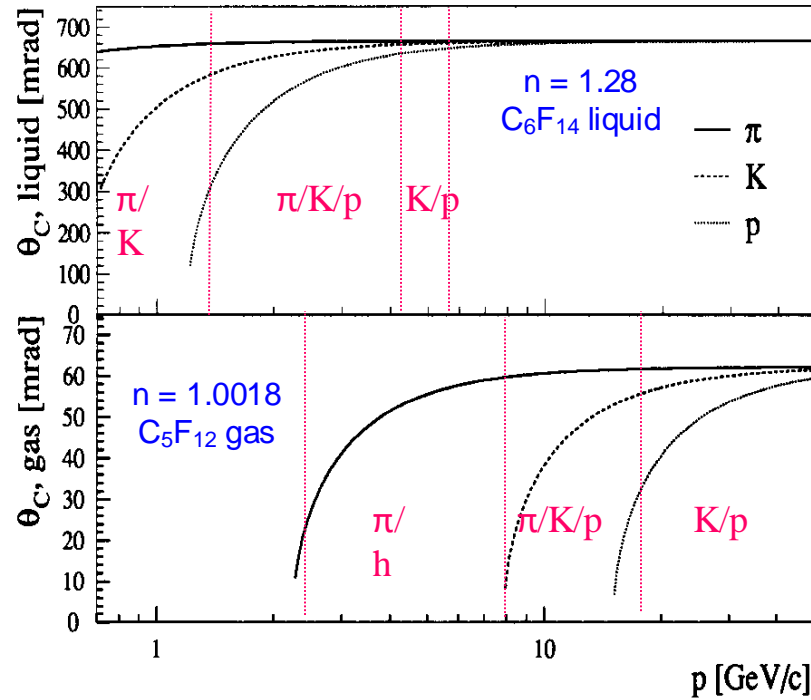
$$\frac{\Delta\beta}{\beta} = \tan(\theta)\Delta\theta_C$$

where $\Delta\theta_C = \langle\Delta\theta_C\rangle/\sqrt{N_{ph} + C}$

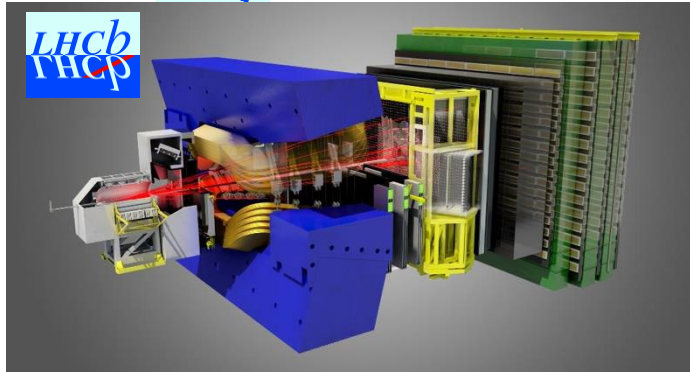
For 1.4m long CF_4 gas radiator at stp and $N_0 = 75cm^{-1}$,
 $\frac{\Delta\beta}{\beta} = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-6}$

Two particles from a hadronic jet (Z-decay) in the gas and liquid radiator





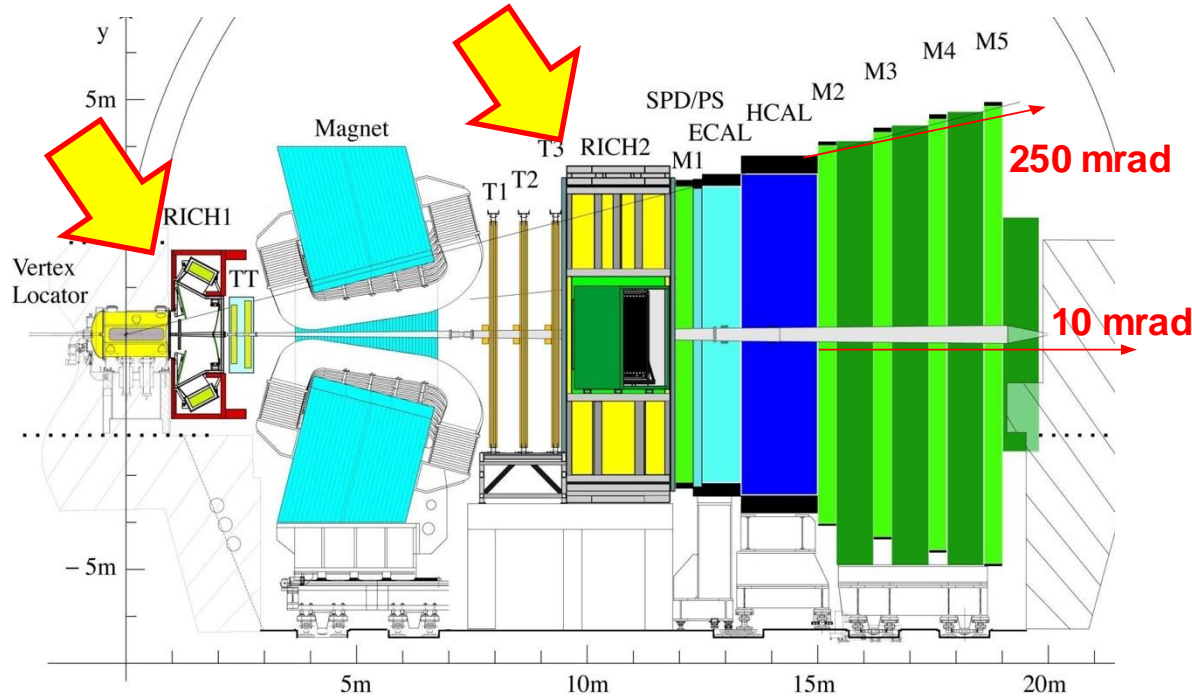
RICH (Ring Imaging Cherenkov Detectors)



Precision measurement of B-Decays

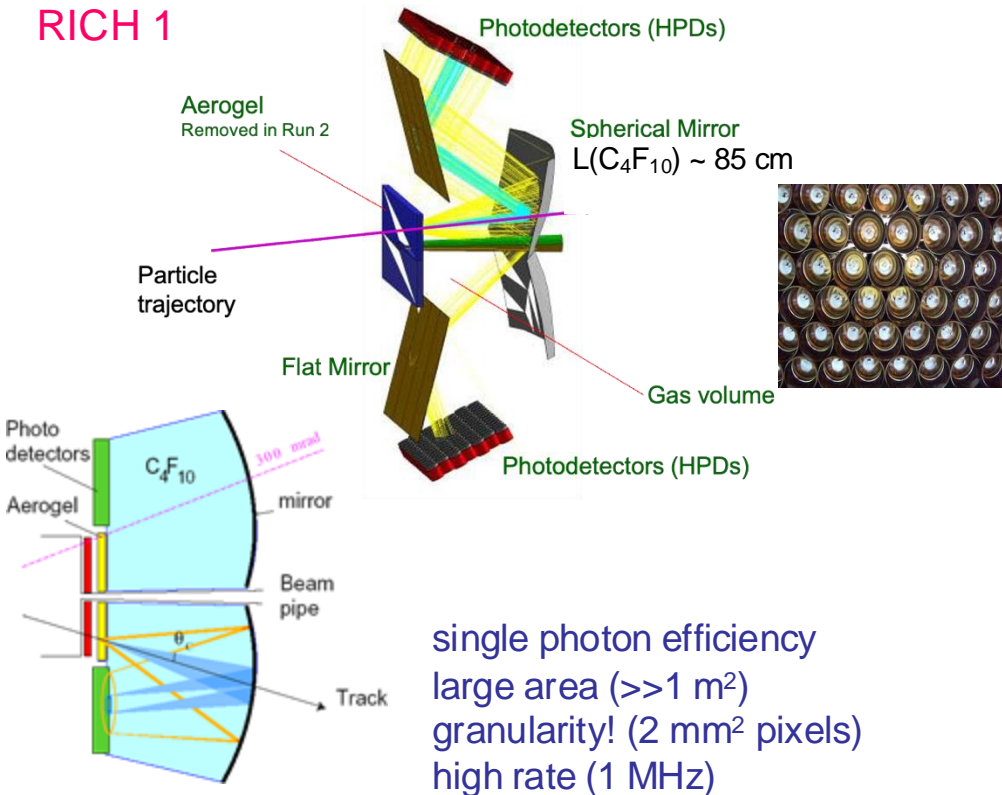
$2 < \eta < 5$ Forward spectrometer
Overall acceptance 10:250mrad
Momentum range : 2-100 GeV/c

Two RICH detectors
Rich 1: Aerogel (Till 2014) and C_4F_{10}
Rich 2: CF_4

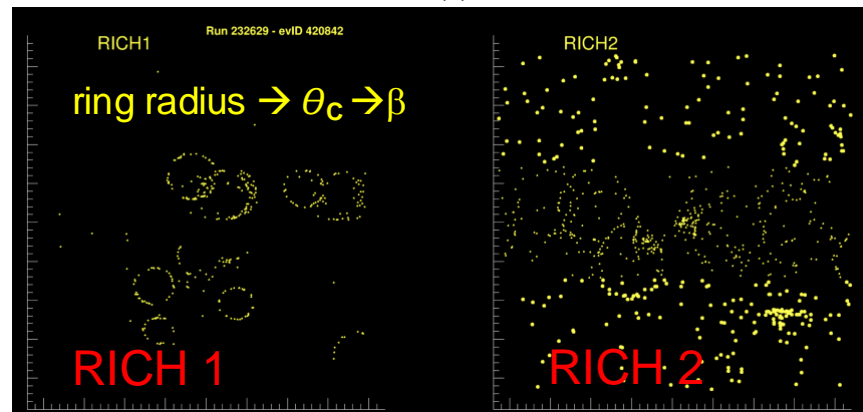
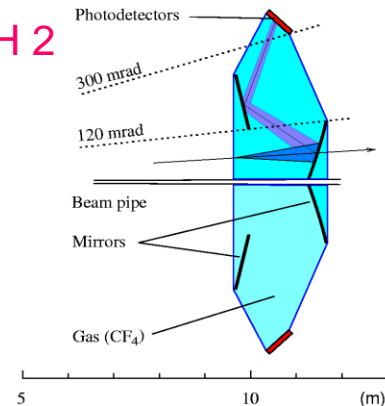


RICH (Ring Imaging Cherenkov Detectors)

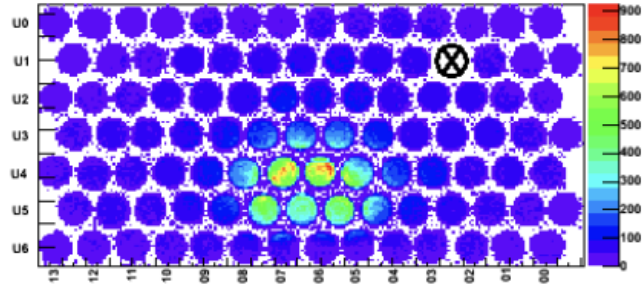
RICH 1



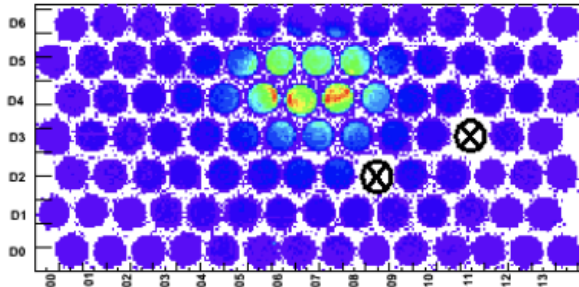
RICH 2



HitMap for Rich1 top panel



HitMap for Rich1 bottom panel



$n(\lambda)$ is dependent on the pressure(P) and temperature (T) of the gas radiator

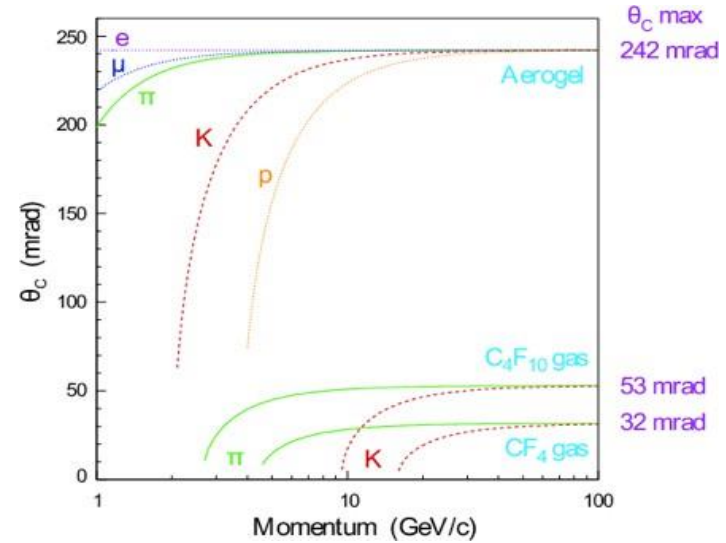
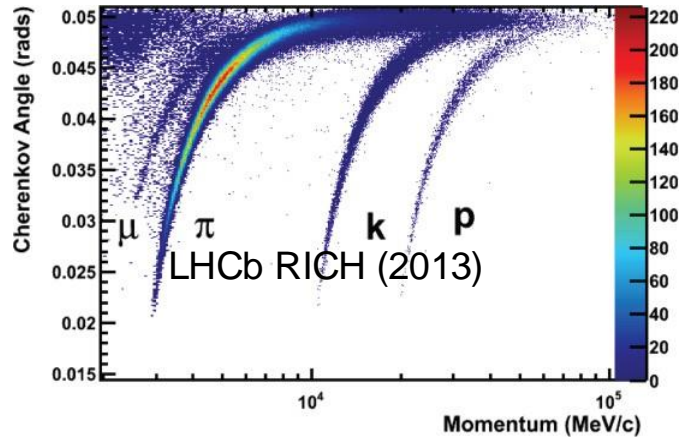
→ monitor T,P

CF_4 scintillates

→ mixing gas with CO_2 (quenches most of the scintillation photons)

RICH (Ring Imaging Cherenkov Detectors)

independent measurement of momentum (tracker) allows PID
separation between curves → particle ID

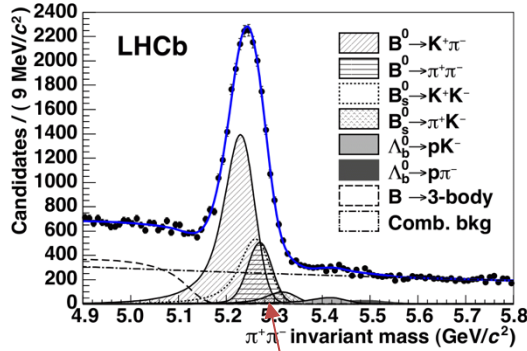


$$\sigma(\theta_C^{\text{ring}}) = \sigma(\theta_C) / \sqrt{N_{pe}}$$

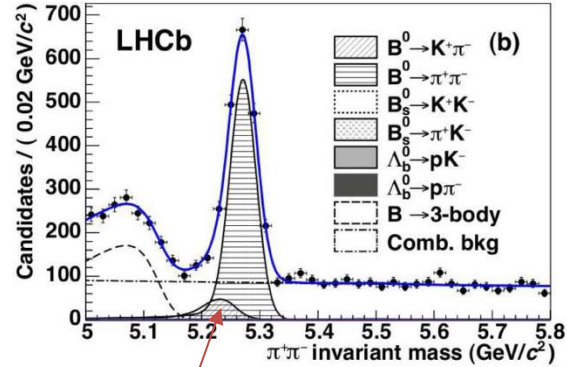
N_{pe} :

- radiator n , length
- mirrors and photodetector wall performances

independent measurement of momentum (tracker) allows PID



Before RICH PID

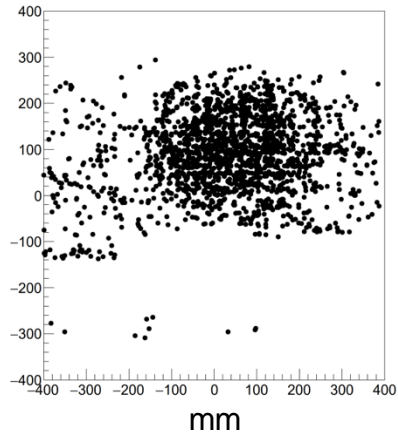


After RICH PID

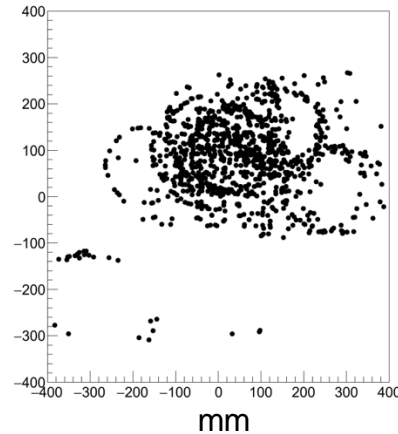
Without RICH PID:

$B_0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$ dominated by $B_0 \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$

Fast timing (new readout chips and new types of photons detectors)

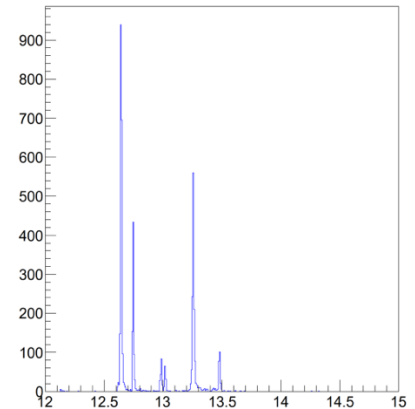


no hit time selection 12-15 ns



hit time 12.6 : 12.7 ns

RICH1 hit time

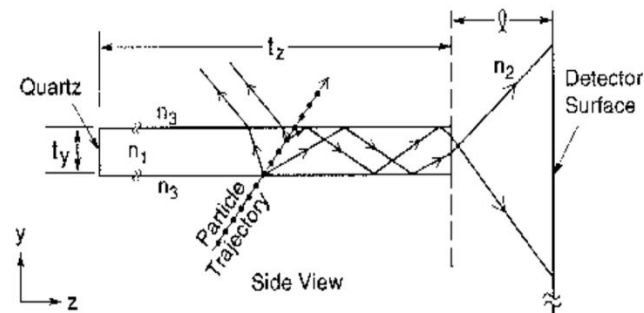
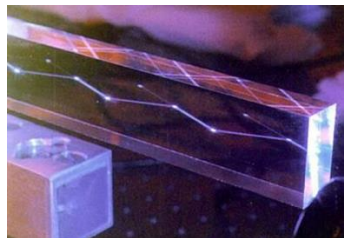
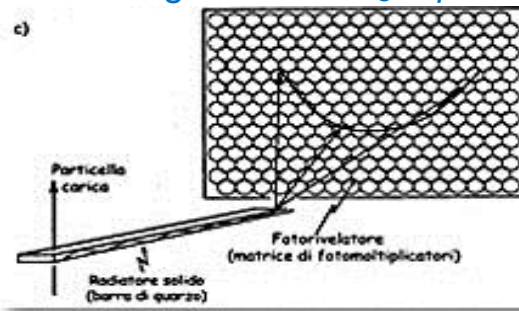


DIRC (Detector of Internally Reflected Cherenkov)

A special RICH: x, y, t of Cherenkov hit $\rightarrow \theta_c, \varphi_c, t_c$

Cherenkov light produced and trapped (by total reflection) within Cherenkov the radiator (or light guide)

ring radius $\rightarrow \theta_c \rightarrow \beta$



Radiator light guide:

Long, rectangular bars (e.g. Fused Silica $n = 1.47$, low chromatic dispersion)

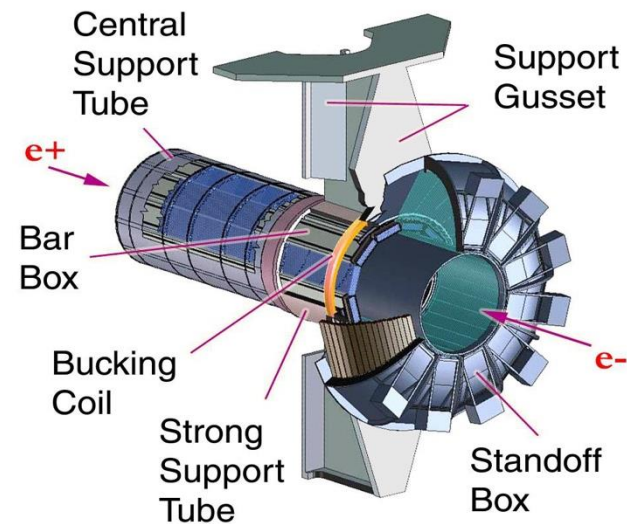
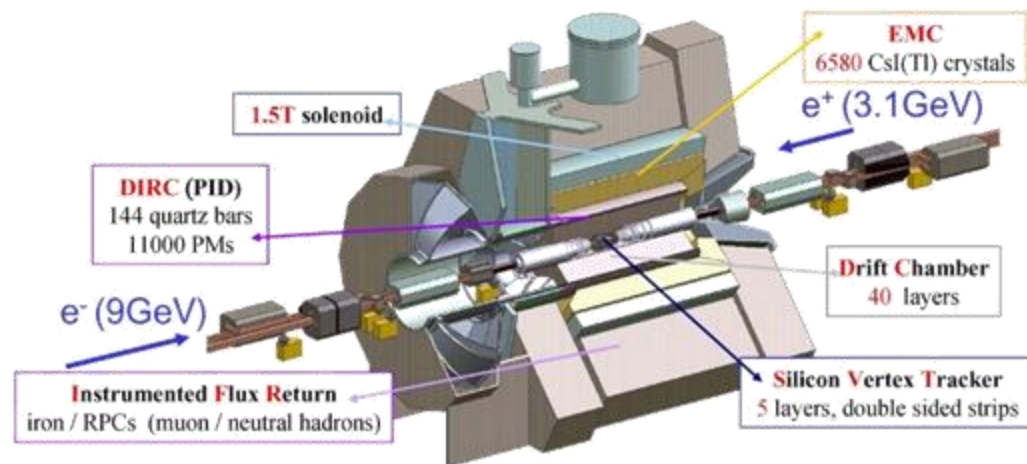
Expansion region:

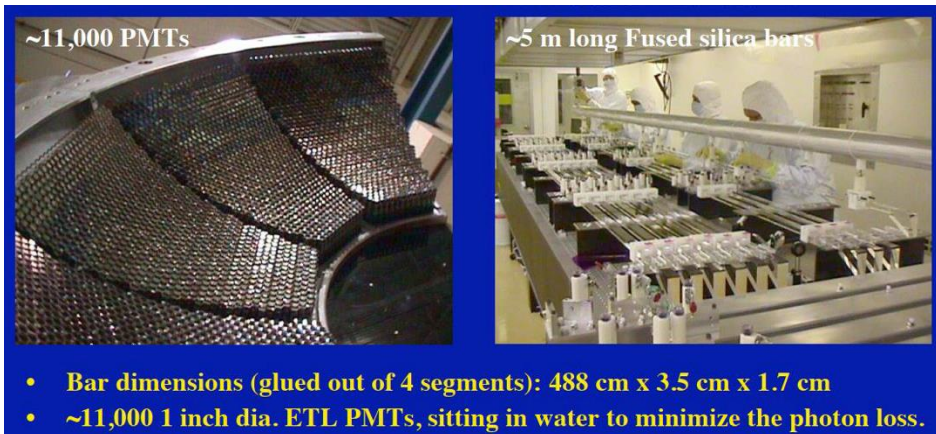
water ($n = 1.33$)

Photosensor wall:

imaging on photosensor wall (e.g. PMT array, $D \gg$ PMT diameter)

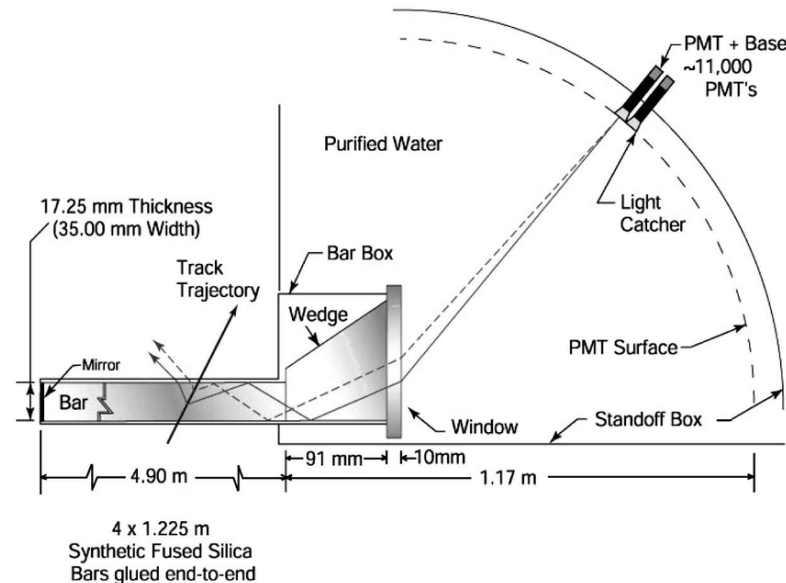
The Cherenkov radiator is a cylinder around the beam collision axis

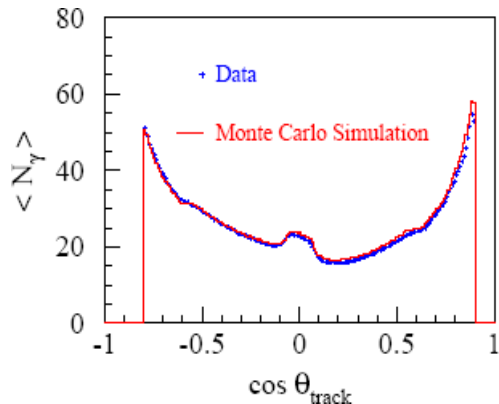




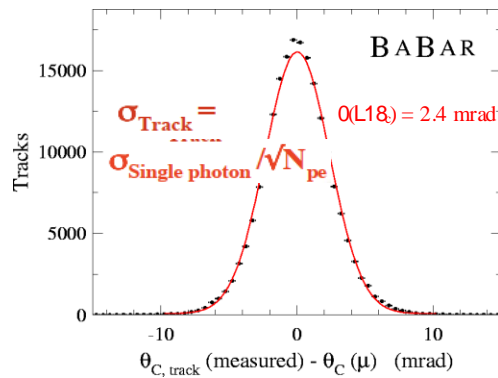
During photon propagation the angle of Cherenkov light is conserved, except: left/right and up/down ambiguities

DIRC radiators cover:
94% azimuth
83% c.m. polar angle



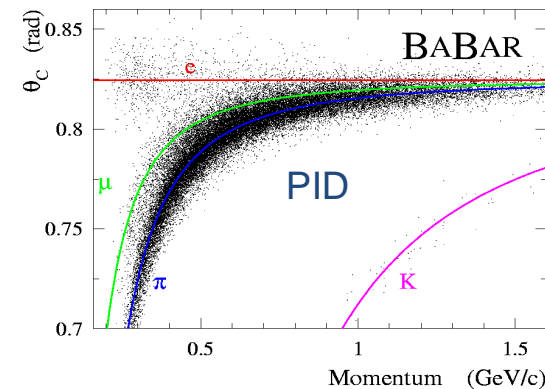
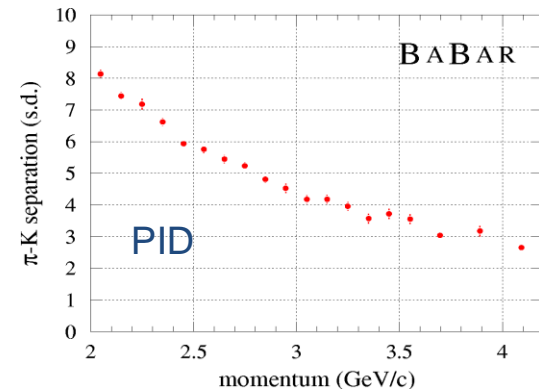


Number of Cherenkov photons per track (di-muons) vs. polar angle:



Resolution of Cherenkov angle fit per track (di-muons)

Kaon selection efficiency typically above 95% with mis-ID of 2-10% between 0.8-3GeV/c

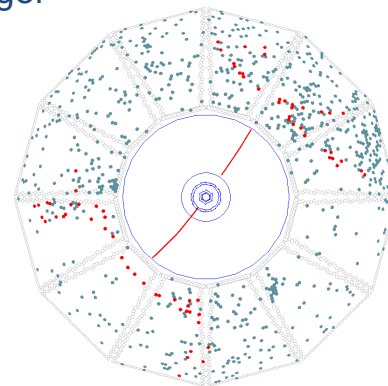


All PMTs ± 300 ns wrt trigger

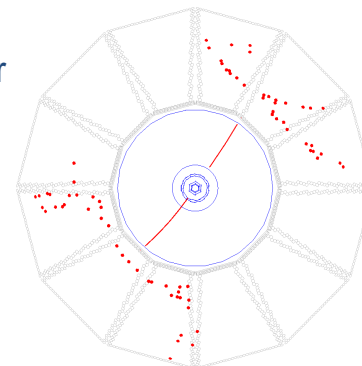
DIRC “ring” images

- Ambiguities per PMT hit
- Cherenkov ring images are distorted
- Complex, disjoint images

→ use timing

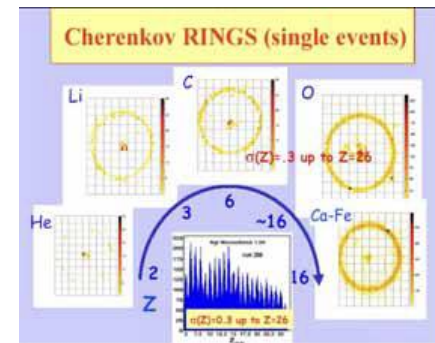
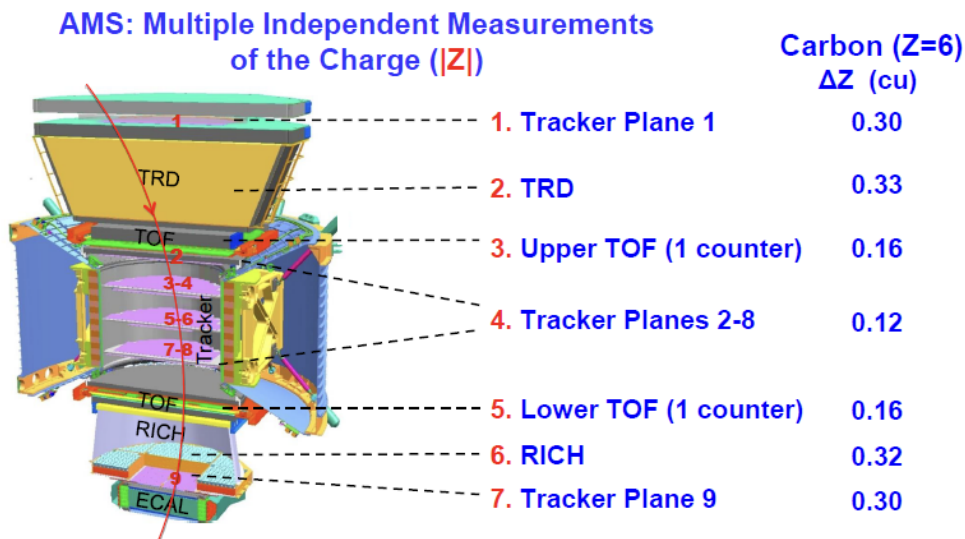


All PMTs ± 8 ns wrt trigger



Particle identification: Charge measurement of primary cosmic rays

Cherenkov imaging (RICH) and charge measurement

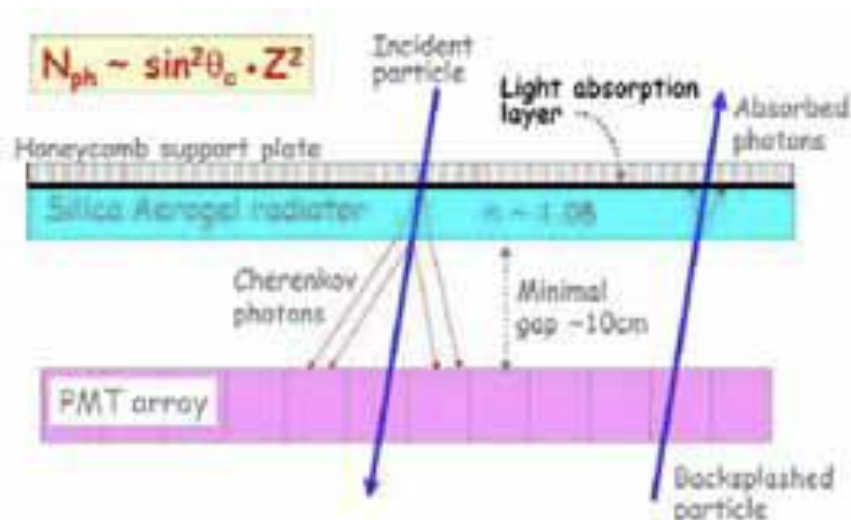


AMS-1 Aerogel (threshold)

AMS-2 Ring Imaging Cherenkov

Particle identification: Charge measurement of primary cosmic rays

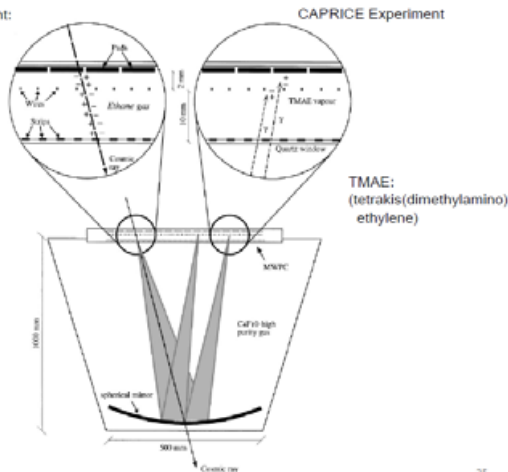
Cherenkov imaging (RICH) and charge measurement



Long Duration Balloons

CAPRICE

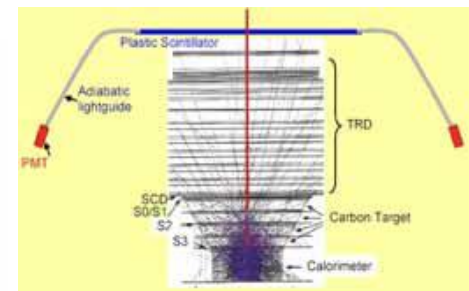
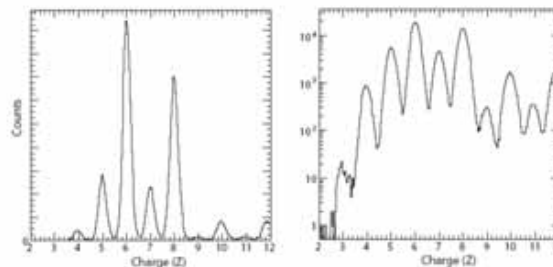
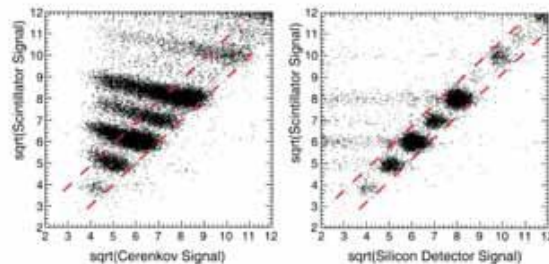
Balloon Experiment:
RICH detector



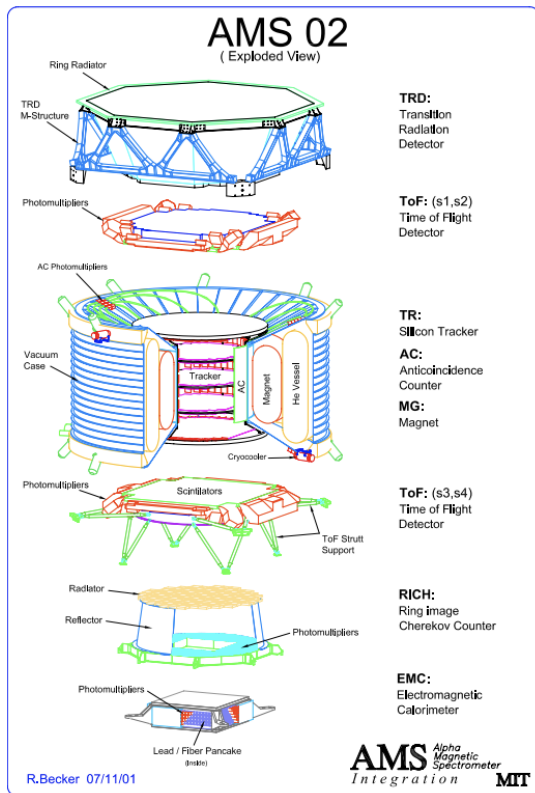
25

CREAM Cosmic Ray Energetics and Mass
CR composition and spectrum (TeV: ~500 TeV)

- Acceptance : 2,2 m² sr
- Energy measurement: Calorimeter, TRD
- PID: TRD, Cherenkov CAM



CHERCAM measured
time of through going
particles (Calorimeter
VETO)
achieved precise charge
measurement ($\pm 0,3 e$)



The AMS RICH uses two radiators

Silica aerogel ($n=1.050$)

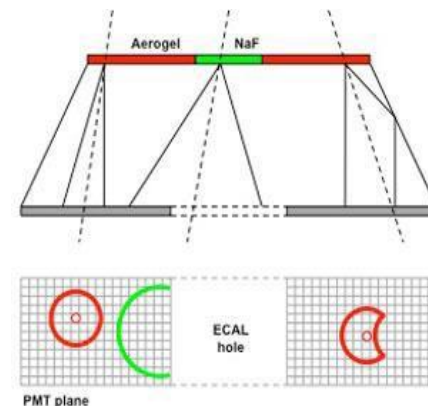
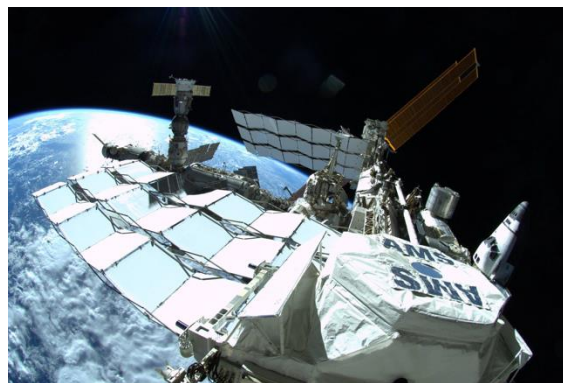
NaF ($n=1.334$)

A large conical mirror directs the light onto a plane of 680 PMT's

The RICH achieves

$$\Delta\beta/\beta \sim 10^{-3}/Z$$

charge ID for Z up to 26 (Fe) [The number of photons goes as Z^2]



NaF:

16 tiles of sodium fluoride, each $85 \times 85 \times 5 \text{ mm}^3$ ring $\approx 85\text{cm}$ for $\beta=1$
refractive index $n = 1.33$, $p > 4.2 \text{ GeV}/c$ (^4He), $K_n > 0.5 \text{ GeV}/n$

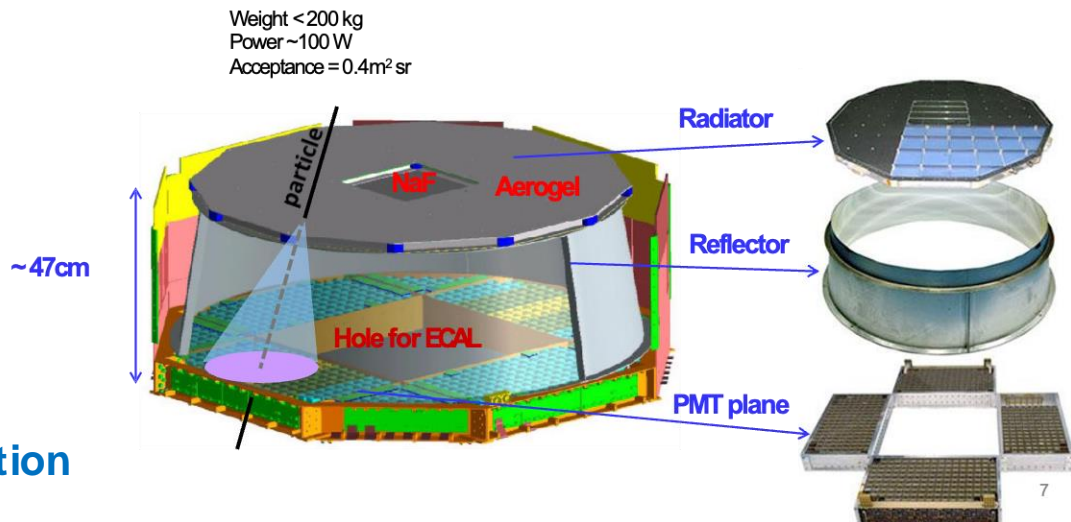
Aerogel:

92 tiles of silica aerogel, each $113 \times 113 \times 25 \text{ mm}^3$ ring $\approx 31\text{cm}$ for $\beta=1$
refractive index $n = 1.05$, $p > 11.7 \text{ GeV}/c$ (^4He), $K_n > 2.1 \text{ GeV}/n$

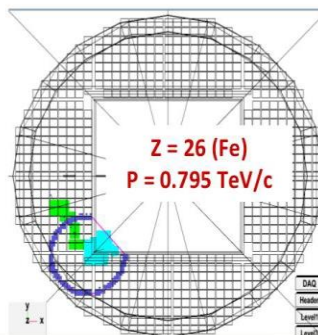
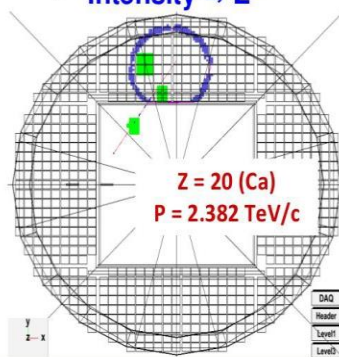
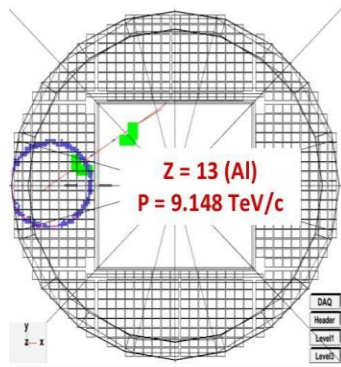
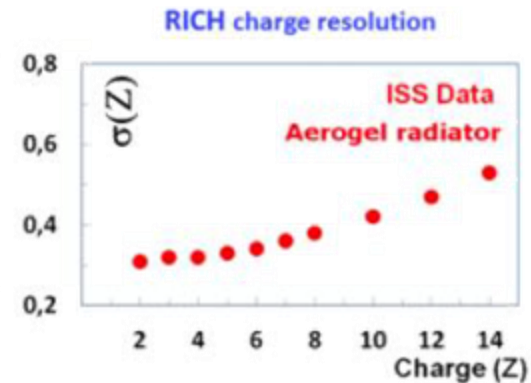
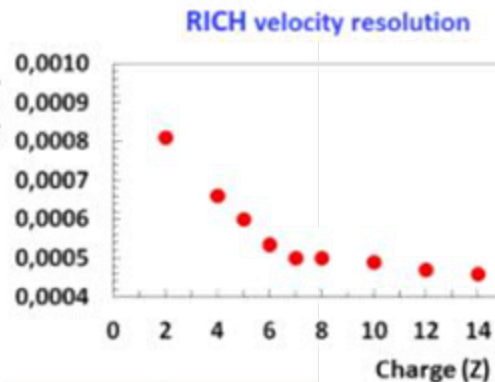
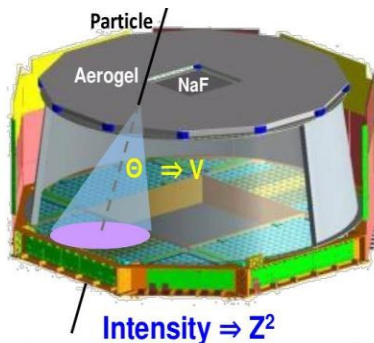
Detection plane:

The RICH detection Plane is made of 680 multianode pmts (10880 pixels)
Detection granularity: $8.5 \times 8.5 \text{ mm}^2$

One ring per event reconstructed
tracker provide the entry point and direction



Measurement of Charge (Z^2) and Velocity



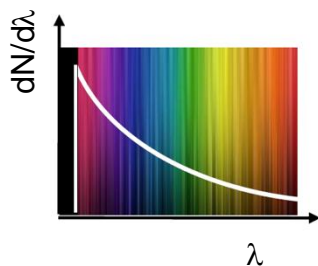
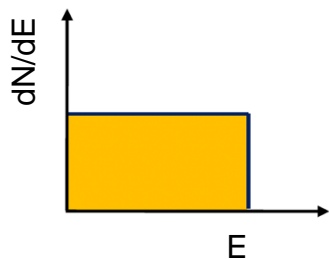
Cherenkov energy loss

Frank-Tamm

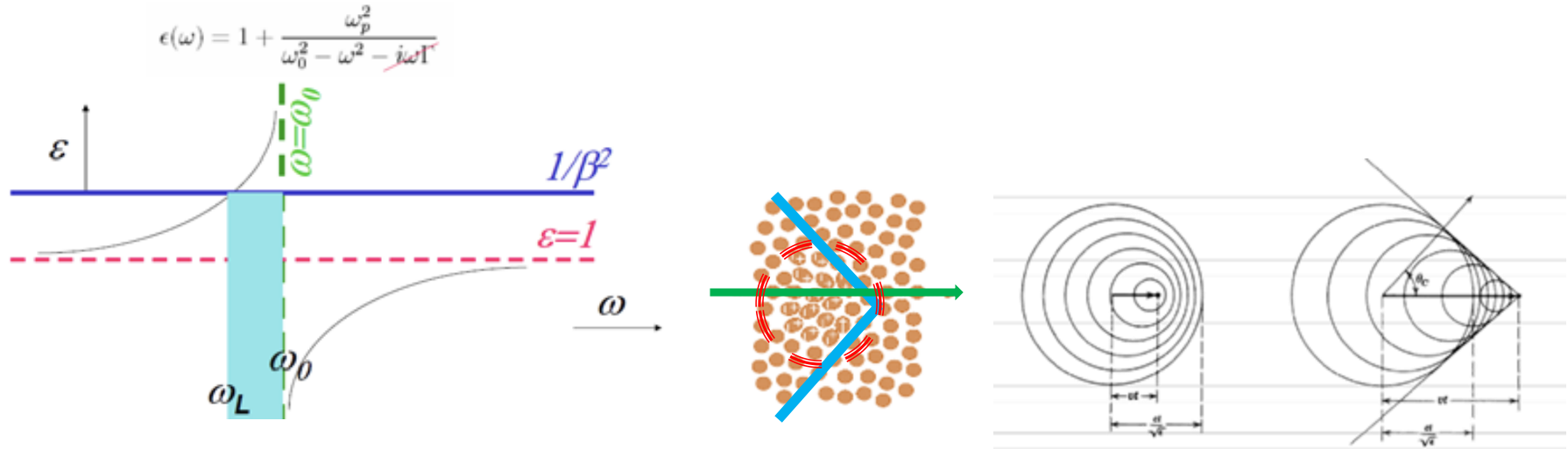
about 10^{-3} (weaker) wrt Bethe-Block energy loss

$$\frac{d^2 N_\gamma}{dE_\gamma dx} = z^2 \frac{\alpha}{\hbar c} \sin^2 \vartheta_C = \text{const.}$$

$$\frac{d^2 N}{d\lambda dx} = \frac{2\pi z^2 \alpha}{\lambda^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2(\lambda)}\right) \quad \frac{dN}{dx} = 2\pi z^2 \alpha \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2(\lambda)}\right) \int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} \frac{d\lambda}{\lambda^2} = 2\pi z^2 \alpha \sin^2 \theta_C \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} - \frac{1}{\lambda_2}\right)$$



Passage of a charged particle (not accelerated) induces polarisation of the dielectric medium
 Oscillation of dipole field causes radiation emission (coherent with Maxwell e.m. theory)



Example: pion-kaon separation
particle momentum selector $p < 2\text{GeV}/c$

$$\beta_{\pi} < 0.997 \quad (m_{\pi} = 139.5 \text{ MeV})$$

$$\beta_K < 0.971 \quad (m_K = 439.7 \text{ MeV})$$

$n(\lambda) = 1.05 \rightarrow$ only pions emit Cherenkov light

$$\beta = \frac{p}{E} = \frac{\sqrt{E^2 - m^2}}{E} = \sqrt{1 - m^2/E^2}$$

Detection thresholds in water ($n=1.33$)

$$e^{\pm} \rightarrow 0.768 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\mu^{\pm} \rightarrow 158.7 \text{ MeV}$$

$$p^{\pm} \rightarrow 209.7 \text{ MeV}$$

RICH detectors

Resolution:

$$\Delta \beta / \beta = \tan(\theta) * \Delta \theta_c = K \quad \text{where} \quad \Delta \theta_c = \langle \Delta \theta \rangle / \sqrt{N_{ph}} + C$$

where $\langle \Delta \theta \rangle$ is the mean resolution per single photon in a ring and C is the error contribution from the tracking, alignment etc.

➤ For example, for 1.4 m long CF_4 gas radiator at STP and a detector with $N_0 = 75 \text{ cm}^{-1}$
 $K = 1.6 * 10^{-6}$.

- This is better than similar threshold counters by a factor 125.
 This is also better than similar differential counters by a factor 2.
 Reason: RICH measures both θ and N_{ph} directly.

➤ **RICH detectors have better resolution than equivalent differential and threshold counters.**

➤ Let $u = \sin^2(\theta) = 1 - (1/n^2) - (m/p * n)^2$ for a particle with mass m and momentum p

Number of standard deviations to discriminate between particles with masses, m_1 and m_2
 $= N_\sigma = (u_2 - u_1) / (\sigma_u * \sqrt{N_{ph}})$ where σ_u : $\Delta \theta$ converted into the parameter u.
 ($\Delta \theta$ = error in single photon θ measurement)

➤ At momentum p ($= \beta E$), $N_\sigma = \text{sqrt}((m_2^2 - m_1^2) / (2 * K * p))$, for $\beta \sim 1$

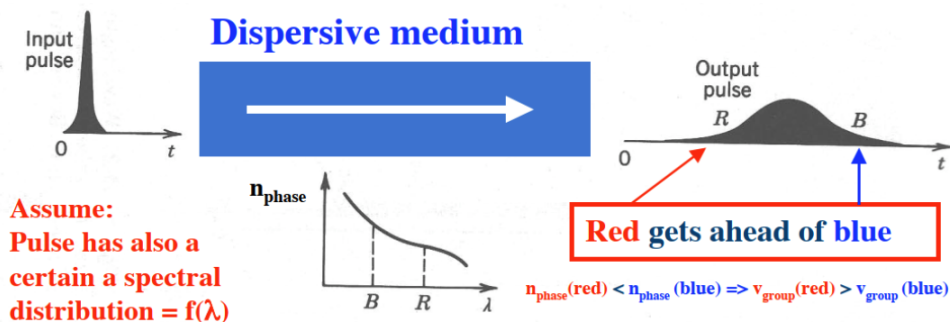
This equation gives a general idea regarding number of σ separation achievable, during in the design of the RICH detectors. However it has limitations in giving a good prediction, in multi particle events with high occupancy.

In practice, detailed simulations are carried out for detector design.

- One of the first large size RICH detector: in DELPHI at LEP.

26

- Photon production depends on the phase velocity (v_{phase}) of photons
- Photon propagation depends on the group velocity (v_{group}) of photons



$$v_{\text{group}} = c / n_{\text{group}} = c / [n_{\text{phase}} - \lambda * dn_{\text{phase}} / d\lambda]$$

$$t \equiv \text{TOP} = L_{\text{path}} / v_{\text{group}} = L_{\text{path}} [n_{\text{phase}} - \lambda * dn_{\text{phase}} / d\lambda] / c = \text{time-of-propagation}$$

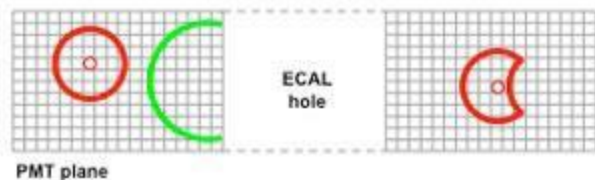
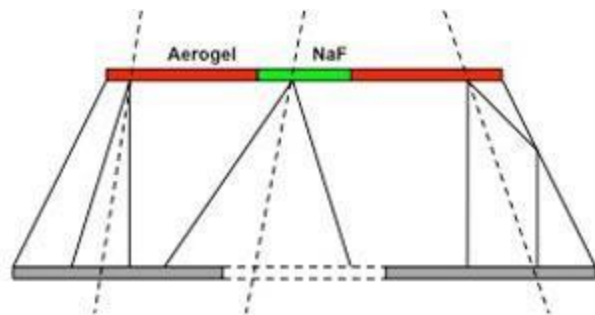
$$dt = L \lambda d\lambda / c * (-d^2 n_{\text{phase}} / d\lambda^2)$$

Calibrate dt (variation TOP) with $d\theta$ (variation in Cherenkov angle) for the photons.

Measure the time of arrival at the photon detectors and correct for $d\theta$

This assumes association between tracks and photons. (Covered later in the lecture)

17



AMS Ring Imaging Cherenkov (RICH) Measurement of Nuclear Charge (Z^2) and its Velocity to 1/1000

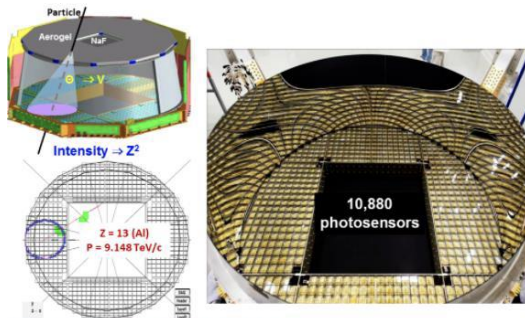


Figure 1. The RICH detector and an event display with $Z = 13$ and $P = 9.148$ TeV/c.

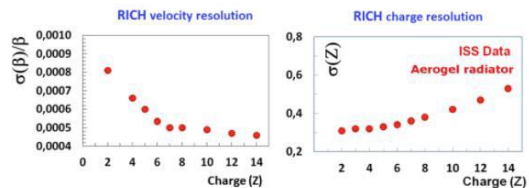
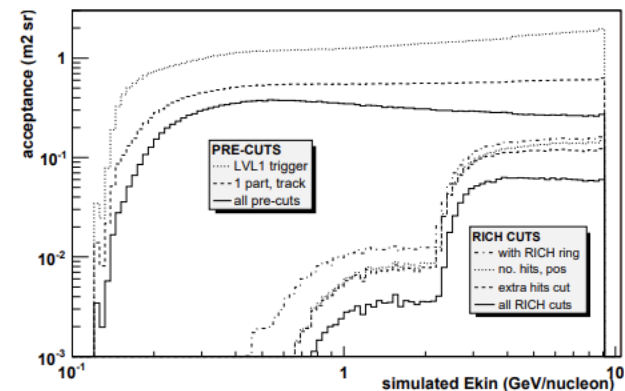
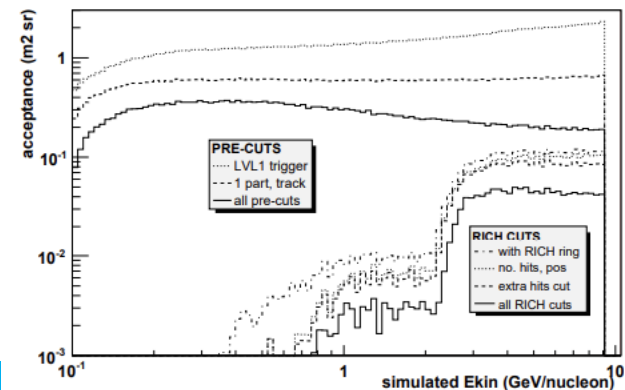


Figure 2. The RICH velocity and charge resolution vs charge Z .

Proton acceptance



Deuteron acceptance



AMS RICH detector measures beta with high precision, combined with AMS Tracker rigidity measurement, AMS can identify particles depend on mass.

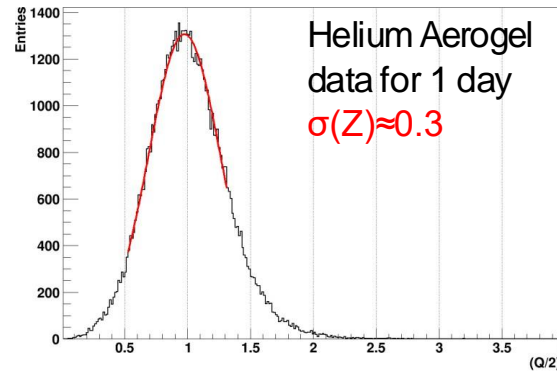
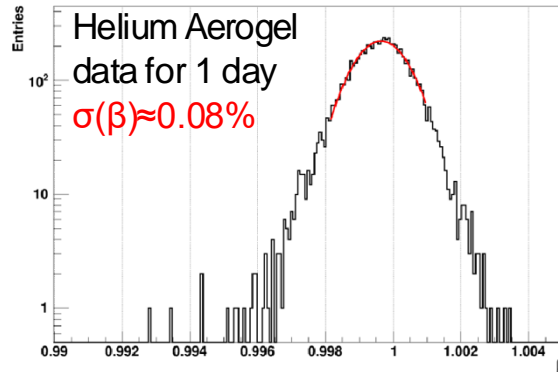
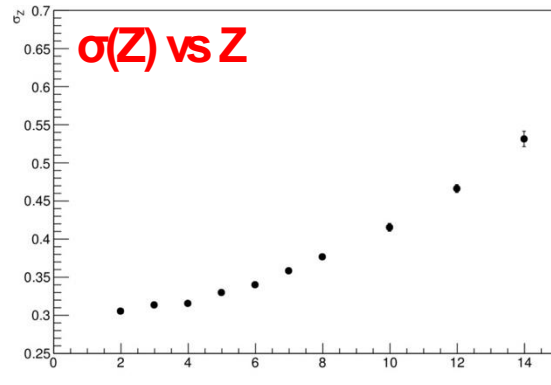
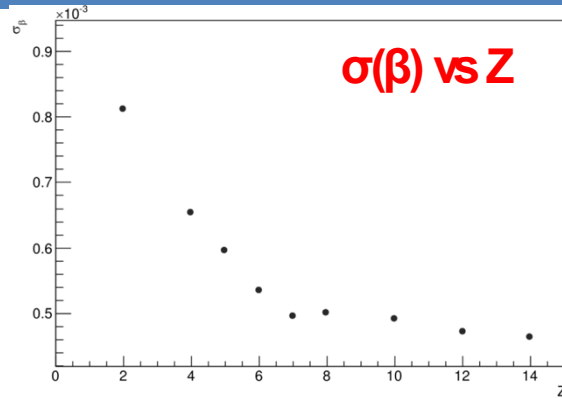
isotopic composition of CRs antiproton/proton ratio of

CRs

By the combined use of ToF, RICH, and Silicon Tracker, AMS is able to measure isotopic composition of cosmic rays in the kinetic energy range from few GeV/n to ~10 GeV/n for elements with charge $|Z|$ up to 4 with unprecedented statistics.

$$\frac{A}{Z} = \frac{R}{\gamma\beta} \quad \left(\frac{\Delta R}{R} \geq 10\% \right)$$

$$\left(\frac{\Delta A}{A} \right)^2 = \left(\frac{\Delta R}{R} \right)^2 + \gamma^4 \left(\frac{\Delta\beta}{\beta} \right)^2 \quad \left(\frac{\Delta\beta}{\beta} \sim 0.1\% \text{ for aerogel} \right)$$



After 5 years of data taking > 95% of the channels are working properly