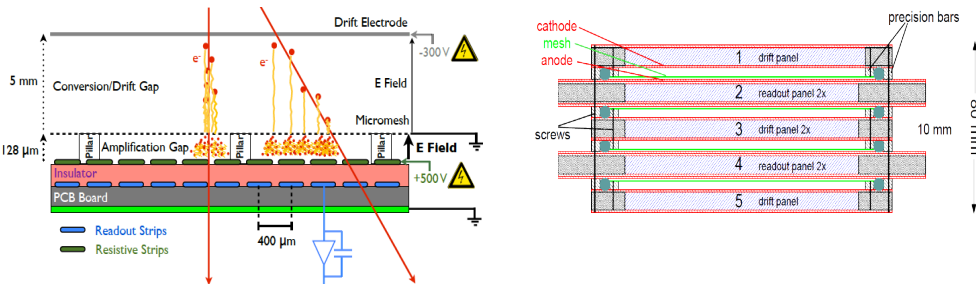




## Micromegas principle

- Parallel plate avalanche chambers (Giomataris et. al. 1996).
- Several mm wide drift region and  $\sim 0.1$  mm wide amplification region, separated by thin conductive micro-mesh.
- Charged particles/photons traversing drift space ionize the gas releasing electron-ion pairs.
- Electrons drift within 100 ns into the high-field amplification region multiplied in avalanche, while ions drift towards to cathode.



## Micromegas Small Wheel (MMSW) prototype

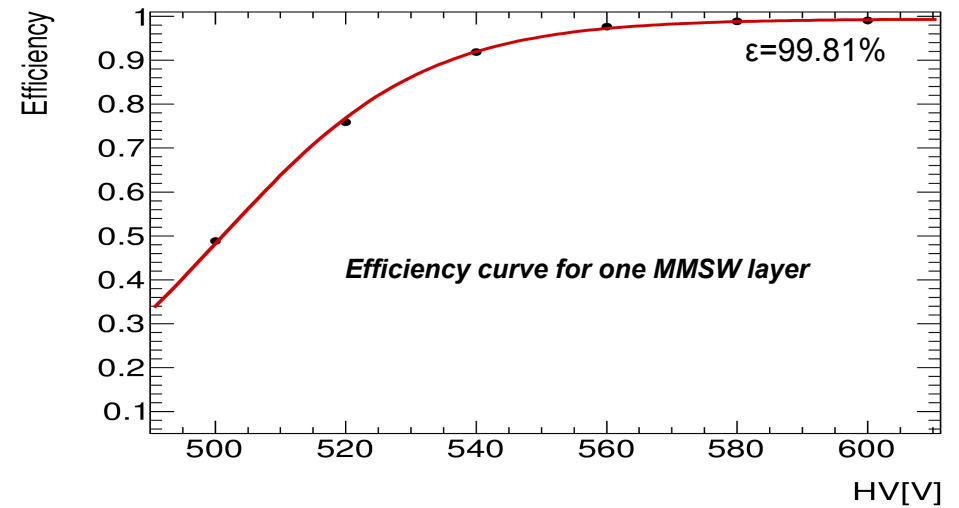
Towards the upgrade of the innermost end-cap stations of the ATLAS muon system a  $0.5 \text{ m}^2$  quadruplet prototype has been built.

- Two double sided readout panels, 1 with horizontal strips – 1 with inclined strips ( $\pm 1.5^\circ$ ). 1024 strips per plane with  $415 \mu\text{m}$  strip pitch.
- Readout planes are covered by thin Kapton® Foil layer for spark tolerance. Pillars of  $128 \mu\text{m}$  height are built on top to define mesh position
- 3 drift panels with space bars hold the mesh and define the drift region.

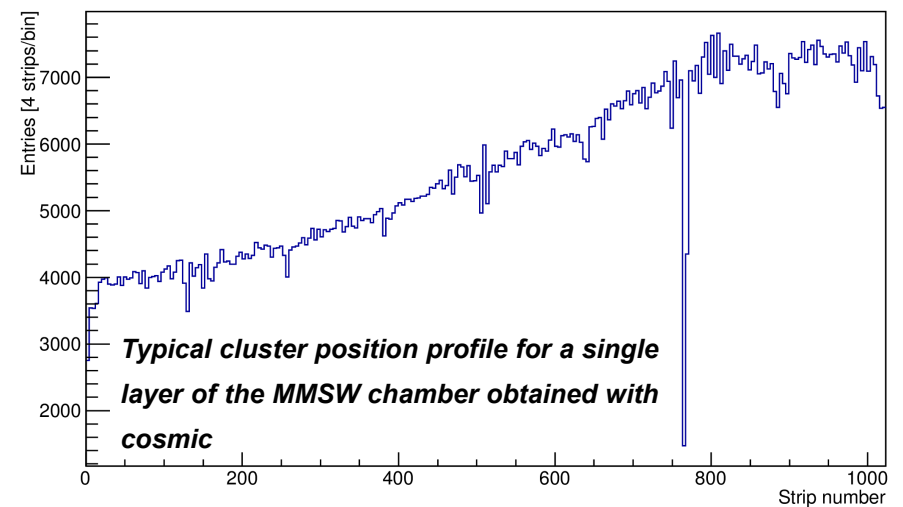
## Cosmic Tests

Dedicated cosmic stand in RD51 DGG laboratory at CERN used for cosmic tests.

- Readout chamber with front-end electronics based on APV-25 ASIC, Scalable Read-out System (SRS) and dedicated DAQ software

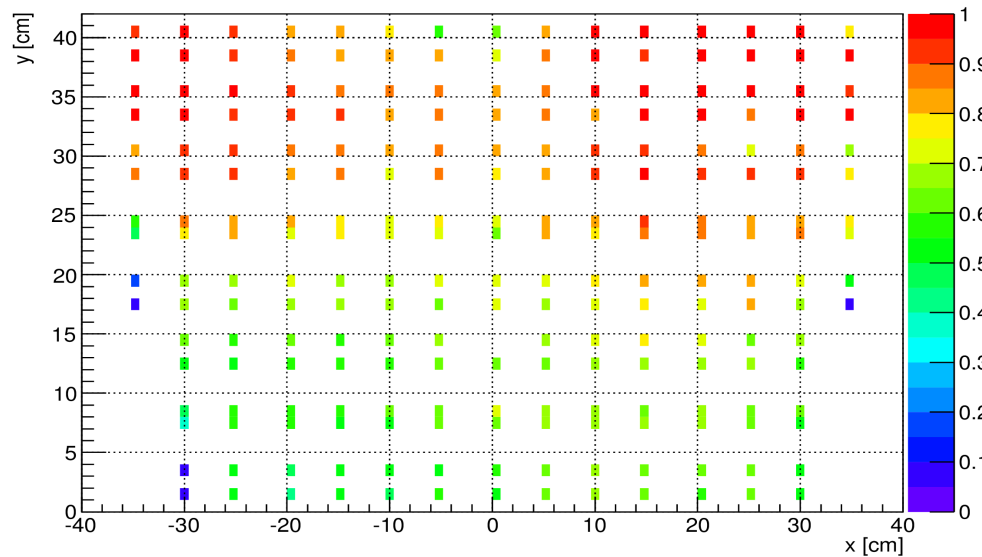


Cluster distribution along the readout strips



# X-Ray tests: Mini-X Ag (energy up to 50keV, max.flux 50 nA)

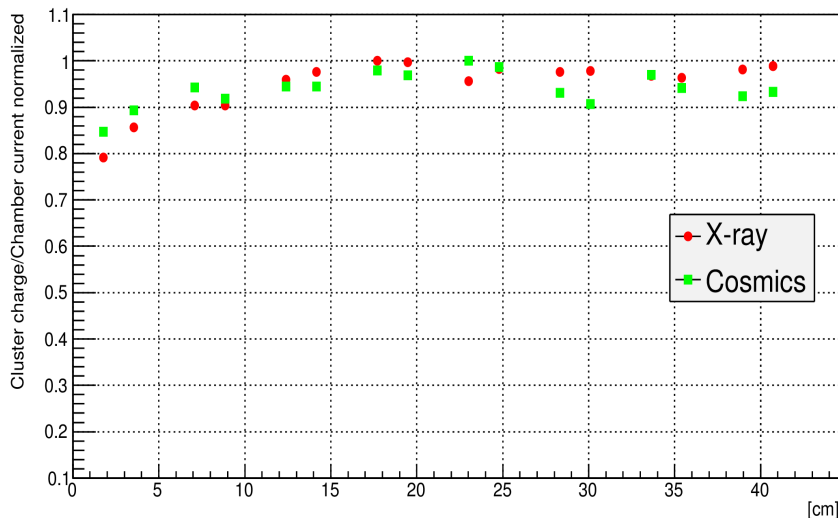
Map of amplification current by X-ray



Amplification current (normalized) induced by X-Ray gun in one MMSW layer using a small collimator.

## To check uniformity of chambers X-Ray and Cosmic rays can be compared

Amplification current compared with the cluster charge



Comparison between amplification current, with X-Ray irradiation, and average cluster charge, with cosmic events, for one MMSW layer.

### X-Ray

#### Pros

- ✓ No front-end electronics
- ✓ No DAQ system
- ✓ Only HV monitoring

#### Cons

- ✗ No info of the readout
- ✗ channels (dead/missing channels)
- ✗ Dedicated instrument and setup

### Cosmic

#### Pros

- ✓ Fully chamber characterization
- ✓ Complete channel map

#### Cons

- ✗ DAQ system with large amount of readout channels
- ✗ Time consuming