

Muon decay experiments and cLFV  
at high intensity muon beam facilities



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# Latest muon decay experiments

## Measurement of decay parameters

$$\frac{d^2\Gamma(\mu^\pm \rightarrow e^\pm \bar{\nu})}{dx d\cos\theta_e} = \frac{m_\mu G_F^2}{4\pi^3} W_{e\mu}^4 \sqrt{x^2 - x_0^2} \left[ F_{IS}(x) \pm P_\mu \cos\theta_e F_{AS}(x) \right]$$

$$F_{IS}(x) = x(1-x) + \frac{2}{9}\rho(4x^2 - 3x - x_0^2) + \eta x_0(1-x),$$

$$F_{AS}(x) = \frac{1}{3}\xi \sqrt{x^2 - x_0^2} \left\{ 1 - x + \frac{2}{3}\delta \left[ 4x - 3 + \left( \sqrt{1 - x_0^2} - 1 \right) \right] \right\}$$

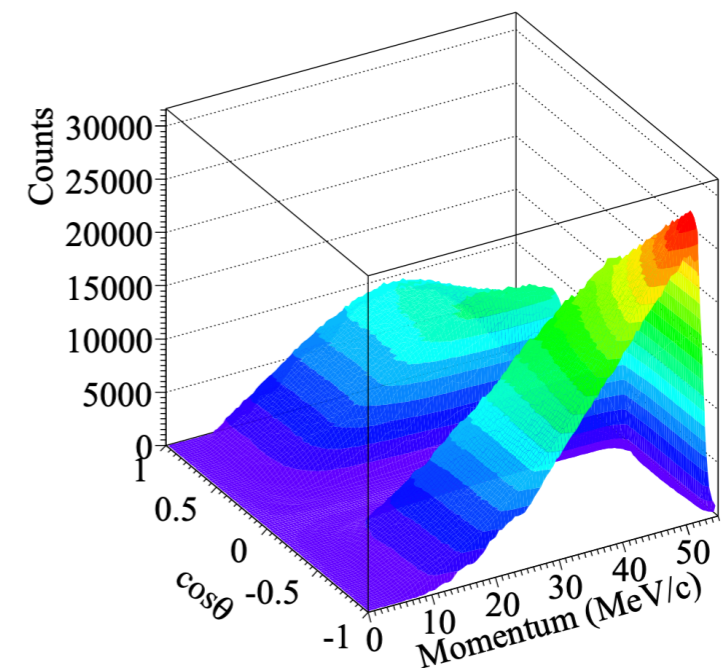
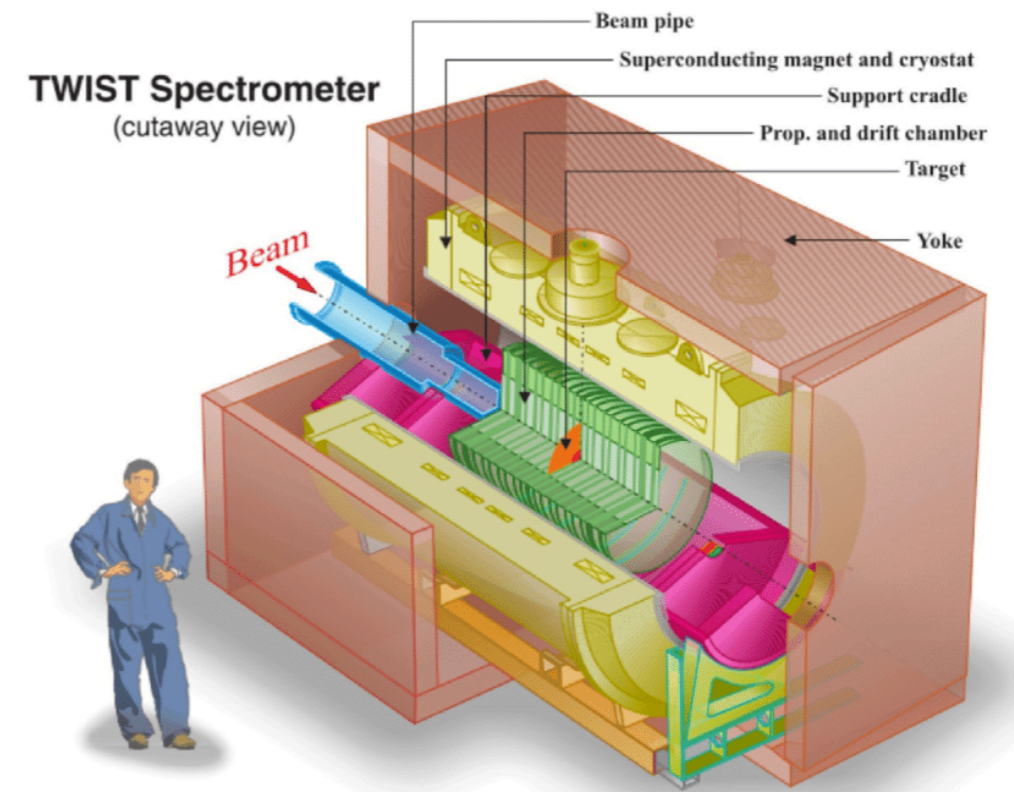
$$x = 2E_e/m_\mu \quad W_{e\mu} = (m_\mu^2 + m_e^2)/(2m_\mu) \quad x_0 = m_e/W_{e\mu}$$

*In the Standard Model*

$$\rho = 3/4 \quad \eta = 0 \quad \xi = 1 \quad \delta = 3/4$$

$$\rho = 0.74977 \pm 0.00012 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.00023 \text{ (syst)}$$

$$\delta = 0.75049 \pm 0.00021 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.00027 \text{ (syst)}$$

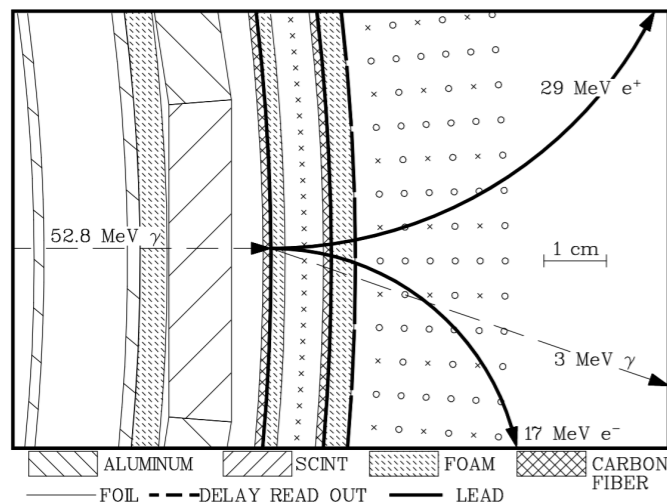
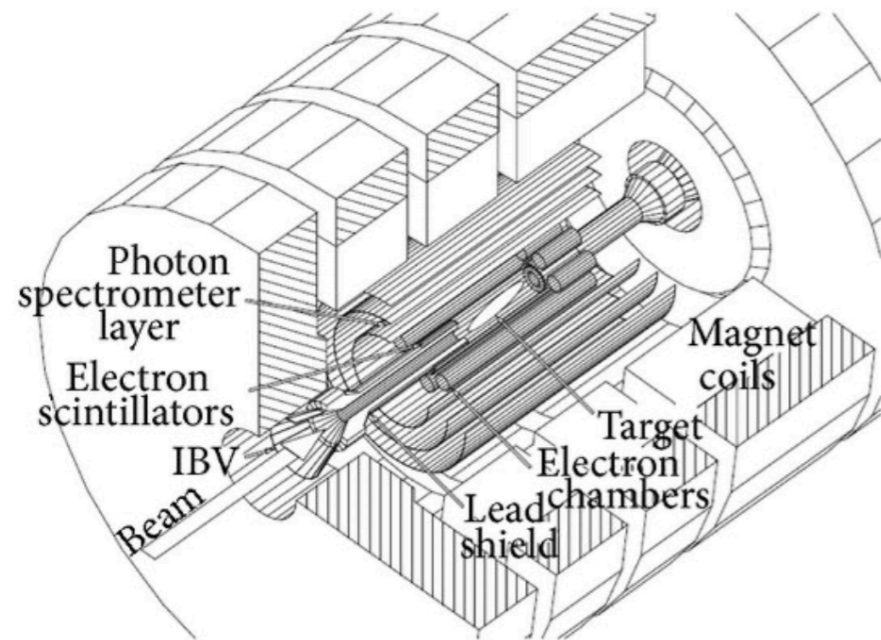


# Latest muon decay experiments

$$\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \gamma$$

## MEGA (LANL) - 2002

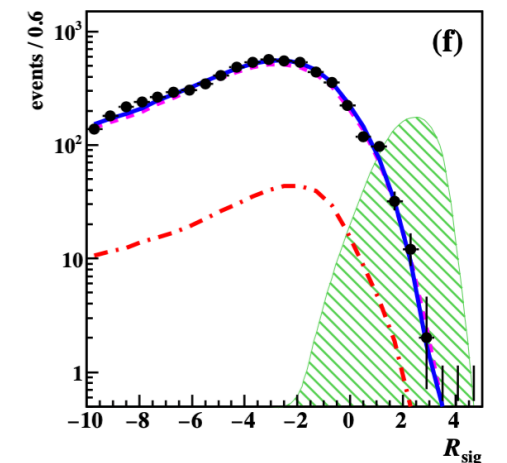
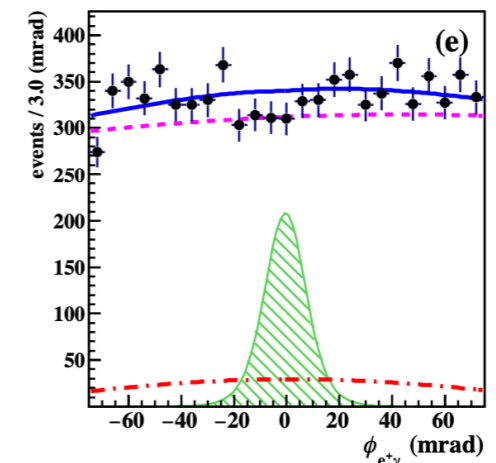
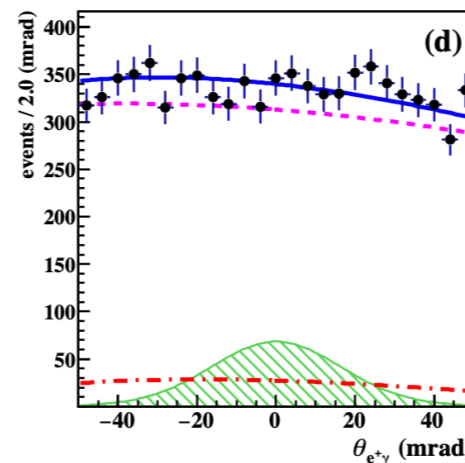
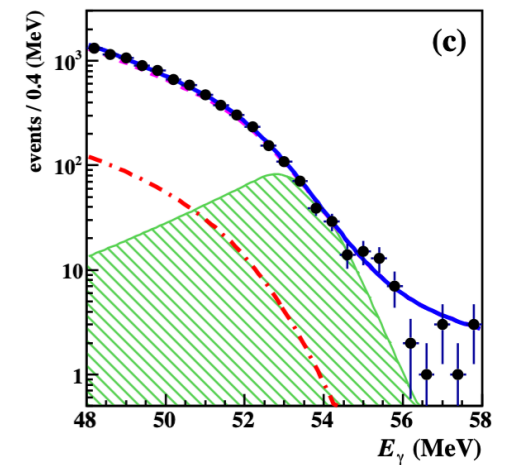
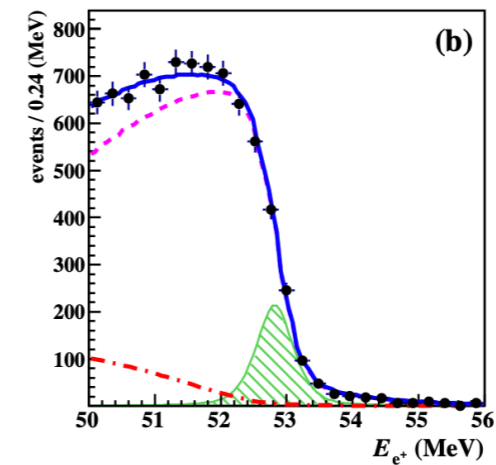
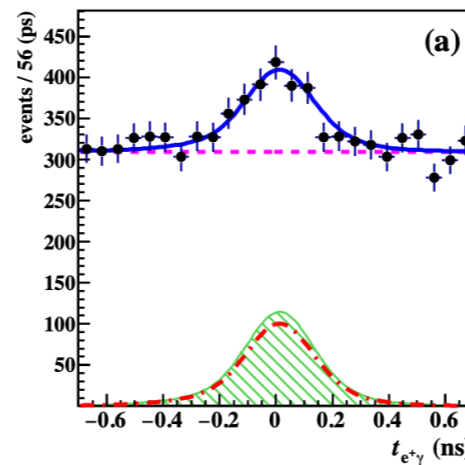
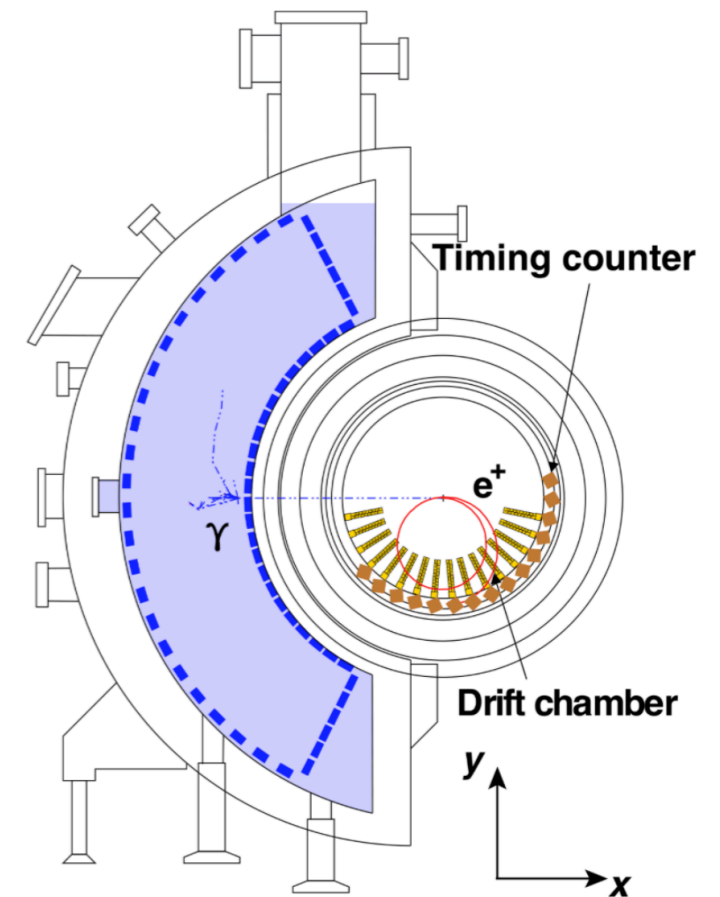
$$BR(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) < 1.2 \times 10^{-11}$$



## MEG (PSI) - 2016

$$BR(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) < 4.2 \times 10^{-13}$$

**An upgrade (MEG II)  
is on going - 10x better  
sensitivity**

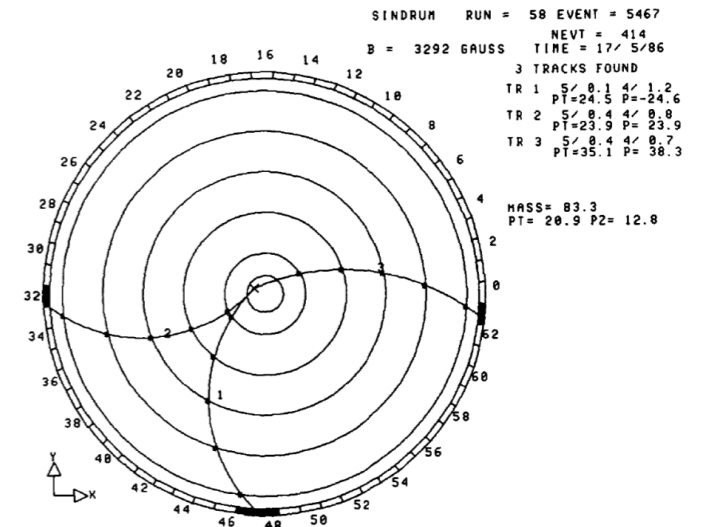
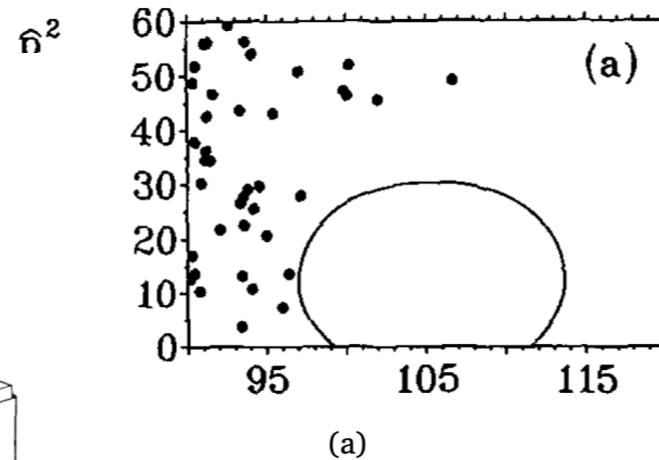
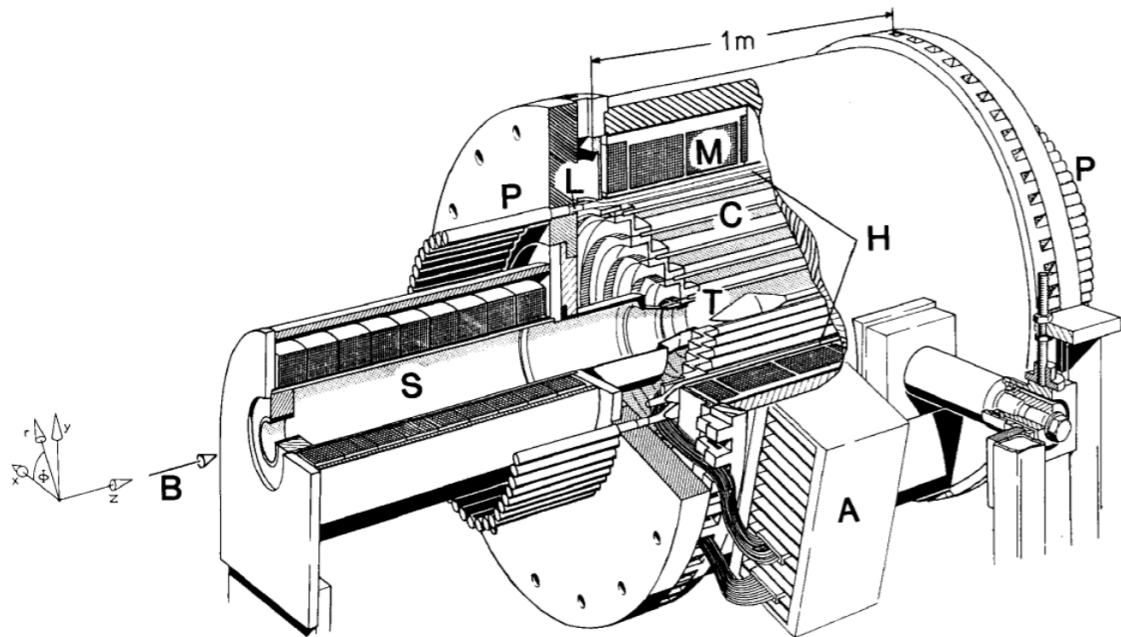


# Latest muon decay experiments



## SINDRUM (PSI) - 1988

$$BR(\mu \rightarrow eee) < 1 \times 10^{-12}$$

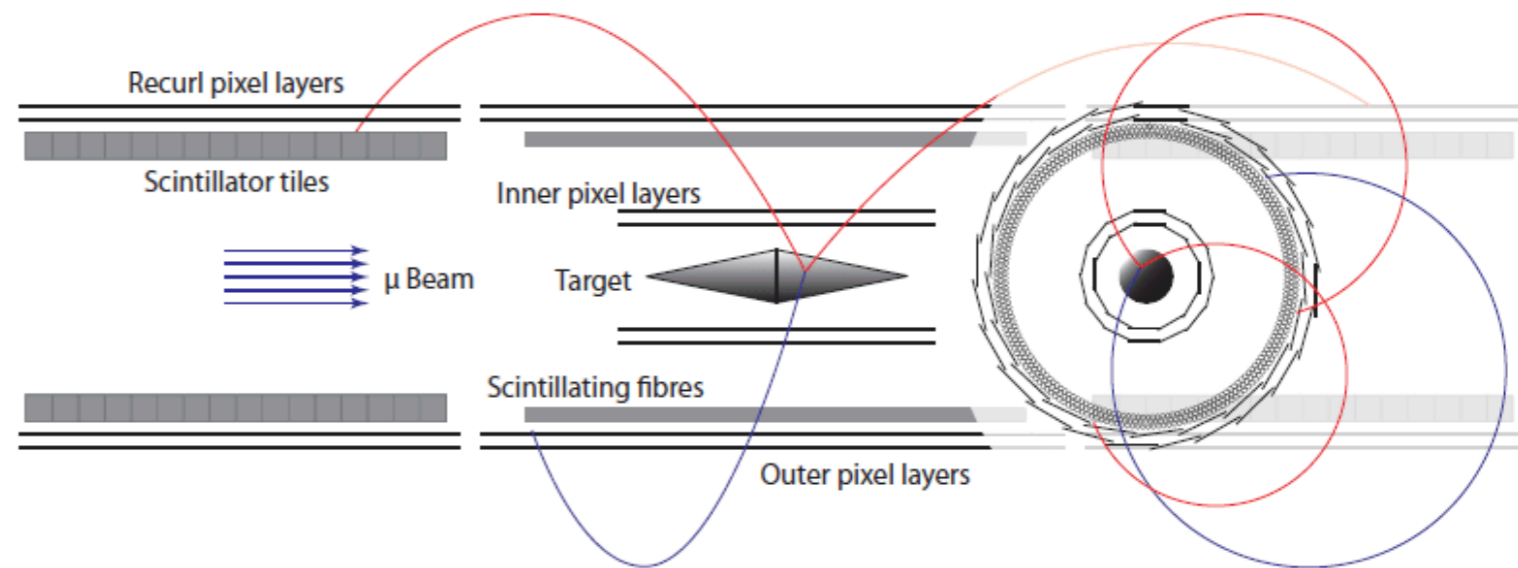


## Mu3e (PSI)

*under commissioning*

$5 \times 10^{-15}$  UL sens. (phase I)

$\sim 10^{-16}$  UL sens. (phase II)



# Experimental techniques for muon decay studies

## Beam and target

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- Muon decay experiments suffer of backgrounds from accidental coincidences of particles from multiple muon decays:
  - **continuous or quasi-continuous beams** are preferable over pulsed beams
  - very high beam intensity can be useless, if the resolutions are not sufficient to suppress the accidental background down to a negligible level

$$S \propto \Gamma_{\mu}, \quad B \propto \Gamma_{\mu}^2, \quad S/\sqrt{B} = \text{const.}$$

- Decay at rest of free muons to maximally exploit the kinematical constraints
  - **positive muons** are preferable over negative muons, to avoid muon capture by nuclei
  - low-energy electrons/positrons and photons, challenging the **material budget** of the experimental apparatus
  - a **well monochromatic, low momentum beam** on a **very thin target**, to get high stopping efficiency with reduced material budget

# Experimental techniques for muon decay studies

## Charged particle tracking

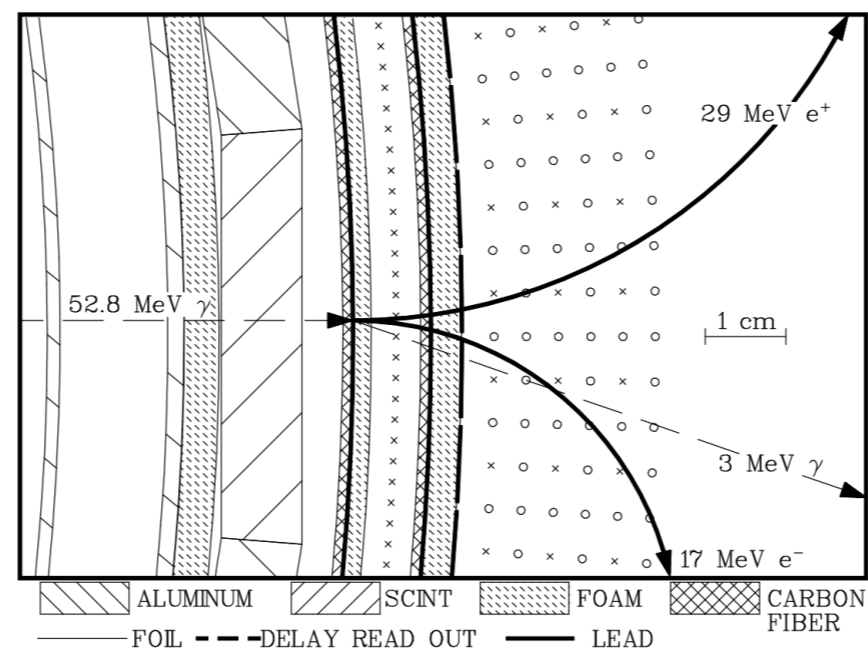
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- Tracking in a magnetic field provides the best performances for the reconstruction of low-momentum electrons and positrons, but a very low material budget is required
  - gaseous detectors as a standard choice over the last decades
  - very thin monolithic silicon pixels just started becoming competitive

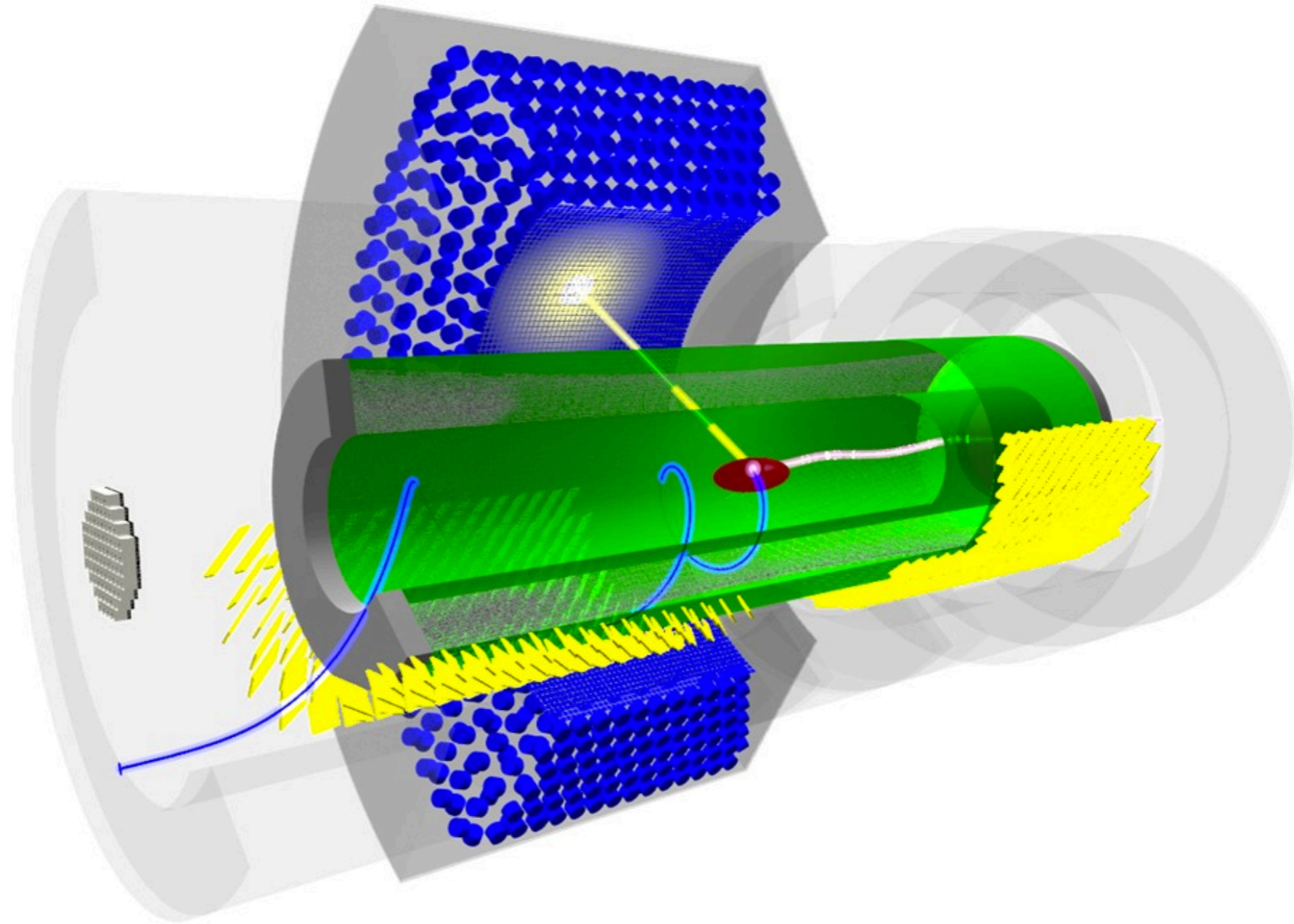
# Experimental techniques for muon decay studies

## Photon reconstruction

- Challenging and expensive low-energy calorimetry is required for a highly efficient photon reconstruction
- If very high muon beam intensities are available, it can become advantageous to improve the energy resolution with a photon pair conversion spectrometer, at the cost of a very small reconstruction efficiency

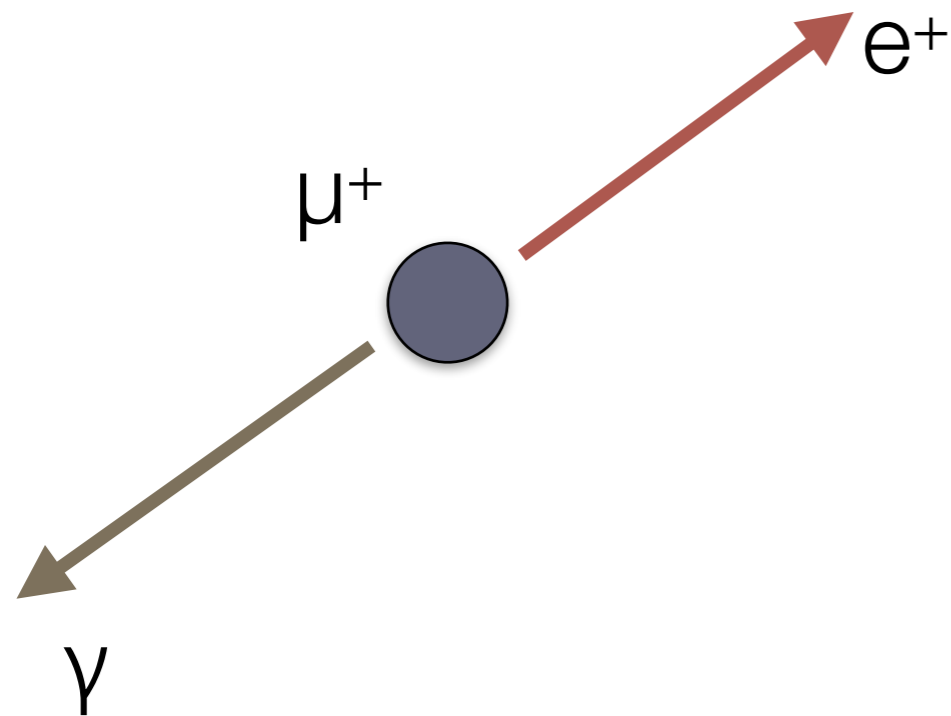


The quest for  $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \gamma$



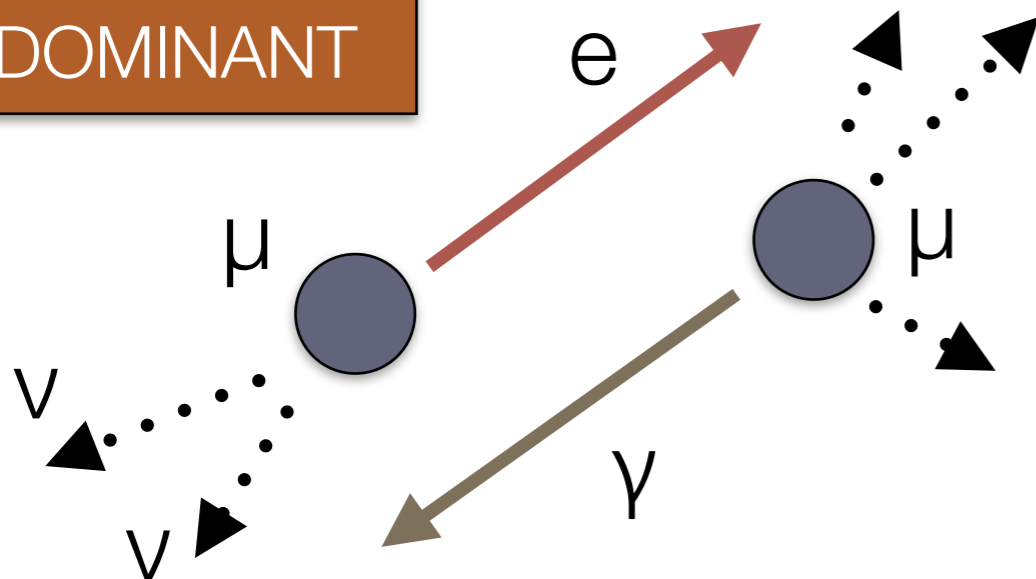


# $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$ searches



**Accidental Background**

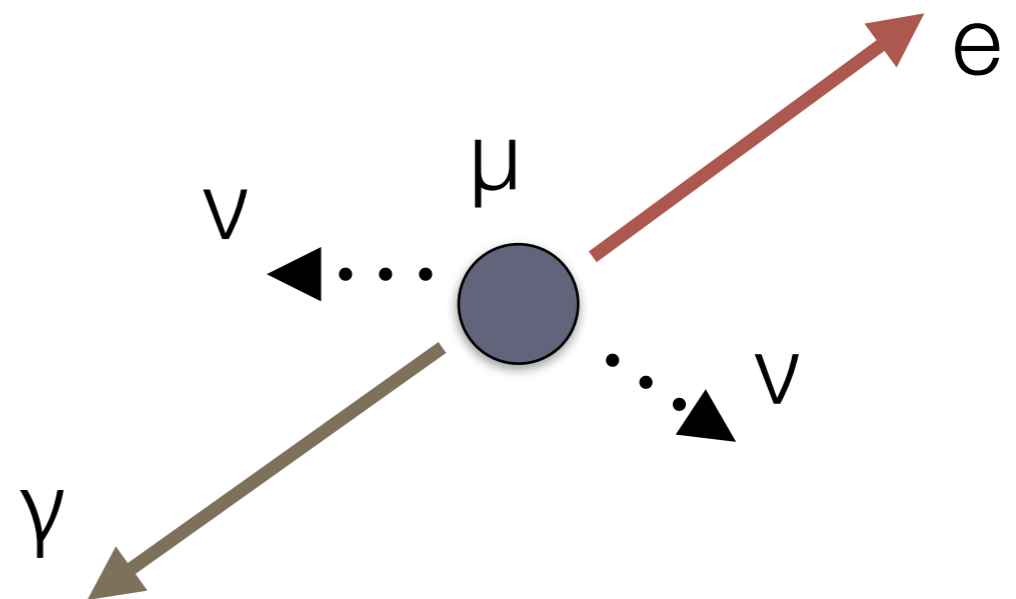
**DOMINANT**



**28 MeV/c** muons are stopped on a thin target

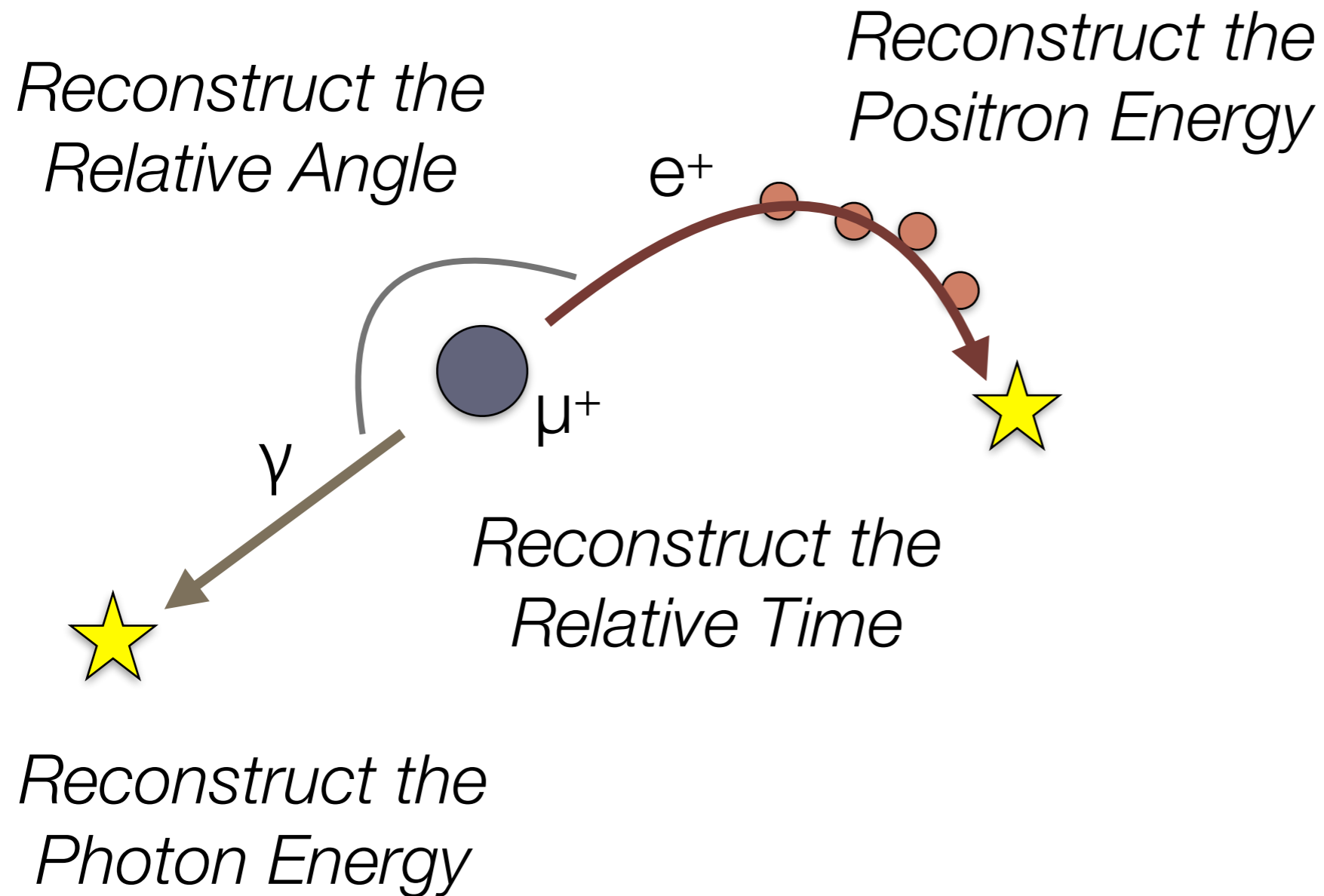
Positron and photon are **monochromatic** (52.8 MeV), **back-to-back** and produced at the **same time**;

**Radiative Muon Decay (RMD)**

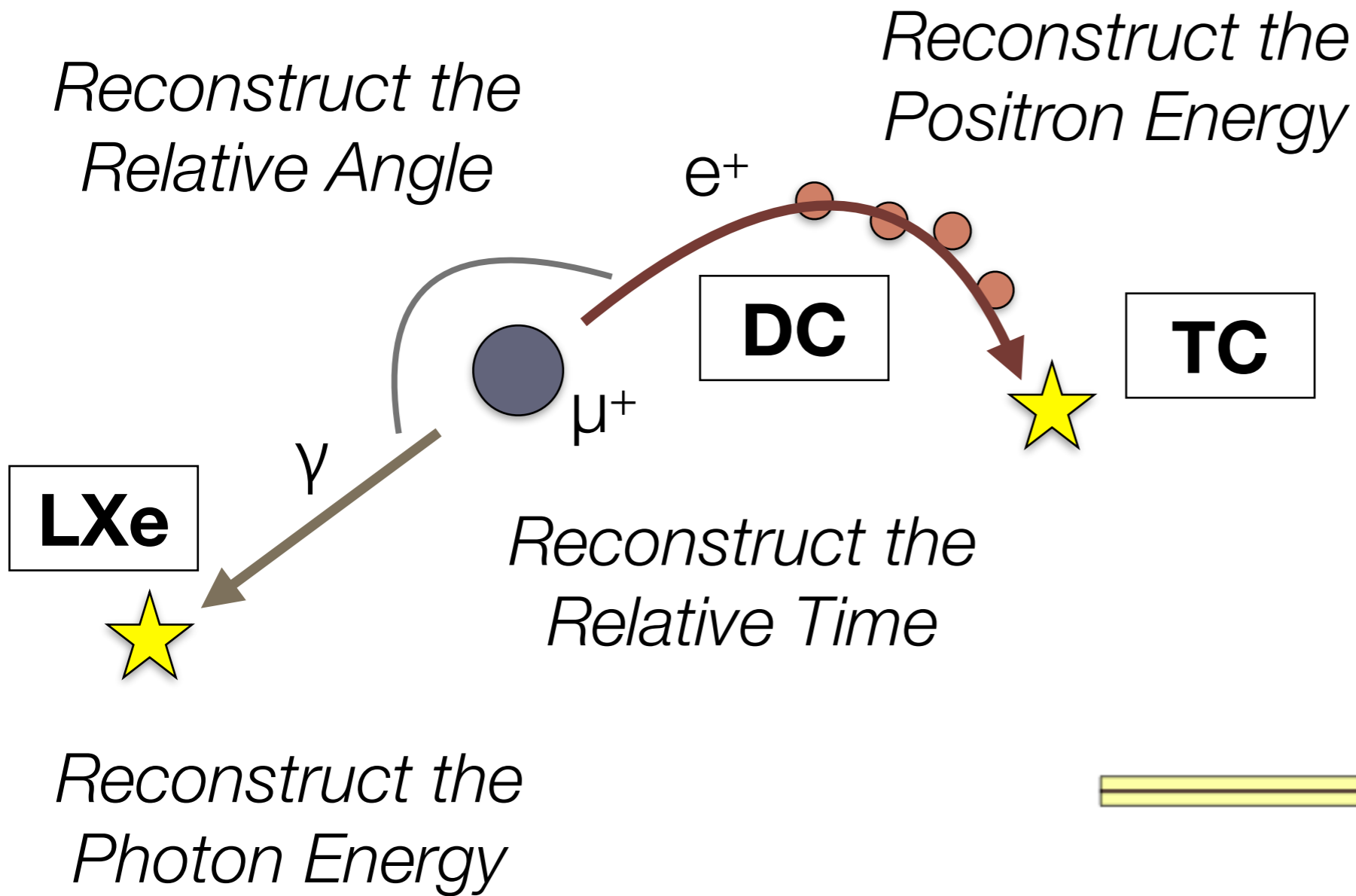


# Ingredients for a search of $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$

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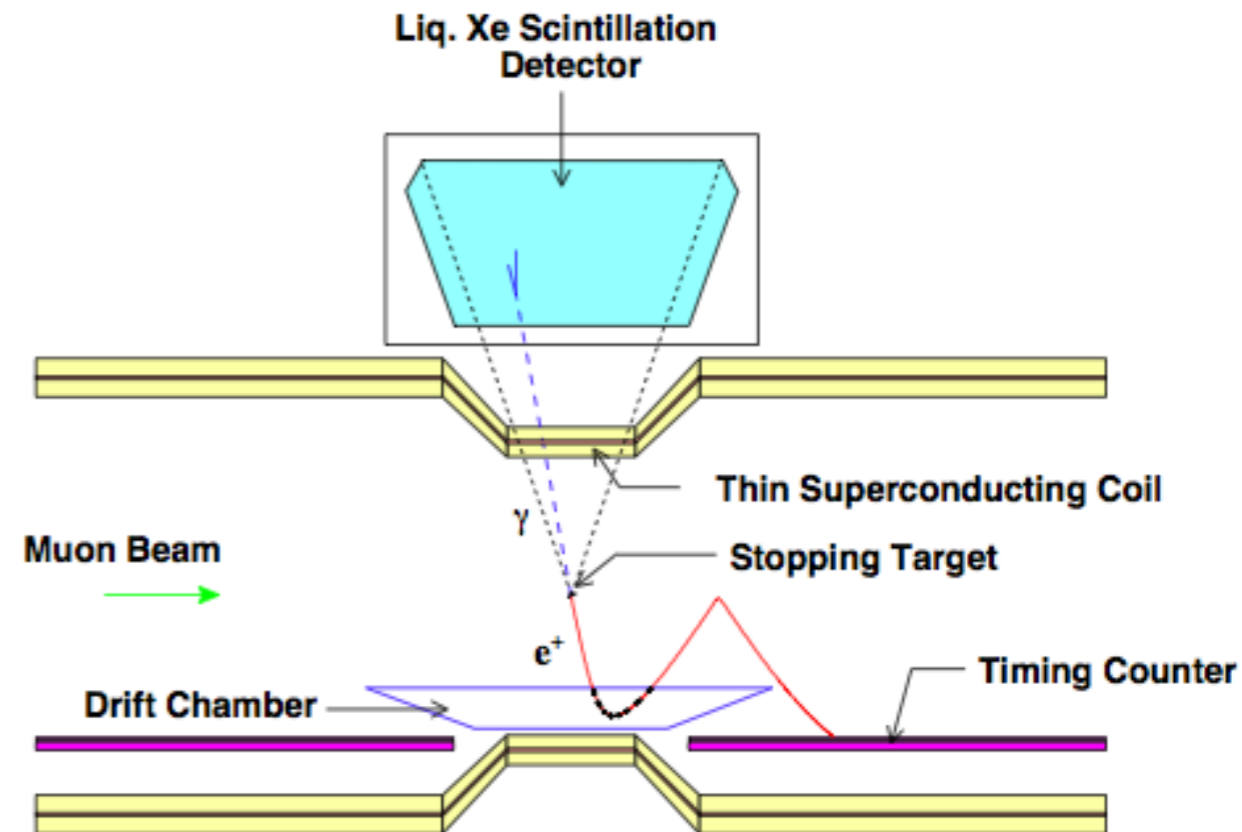
# The MEG Experiment



- LXe calorimeter (XEC)**
- 16 Drift Chambers (DC) in a magnetic field**
- 30 scintillating bars for timing & trigger (TC)**

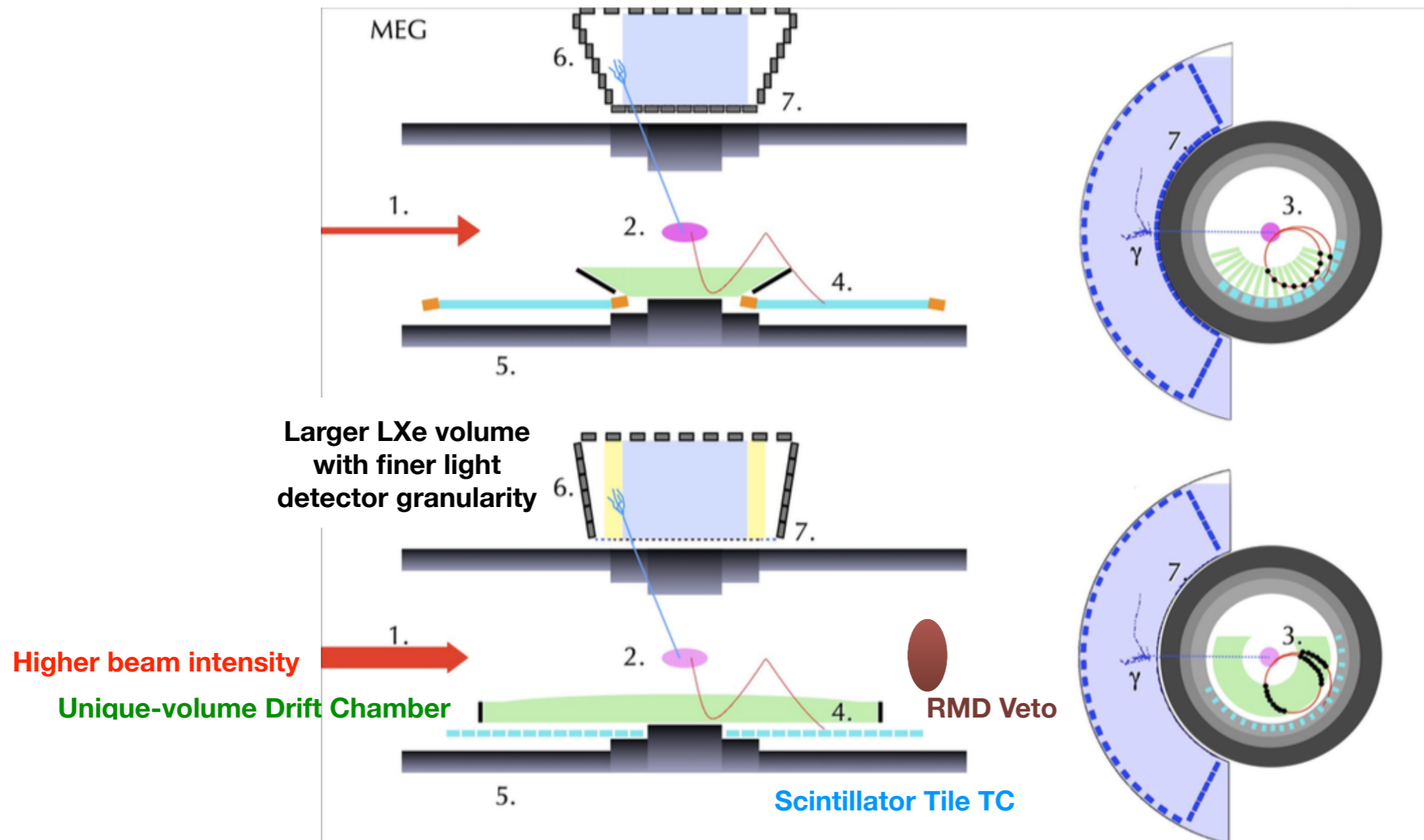
**$7.5 \times 10^{14} \mu$  on target**

**$BR(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma) < 4.2 \times 10^{-13}$  @ 90% C.L.**



# MEG-II

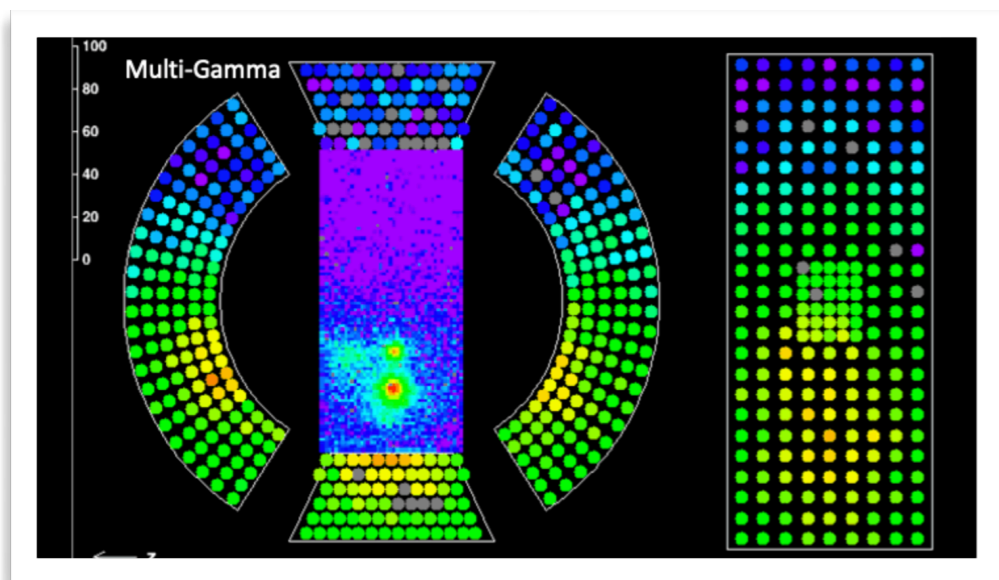
- The MEG experiment has been upgraded in all sub-detectors



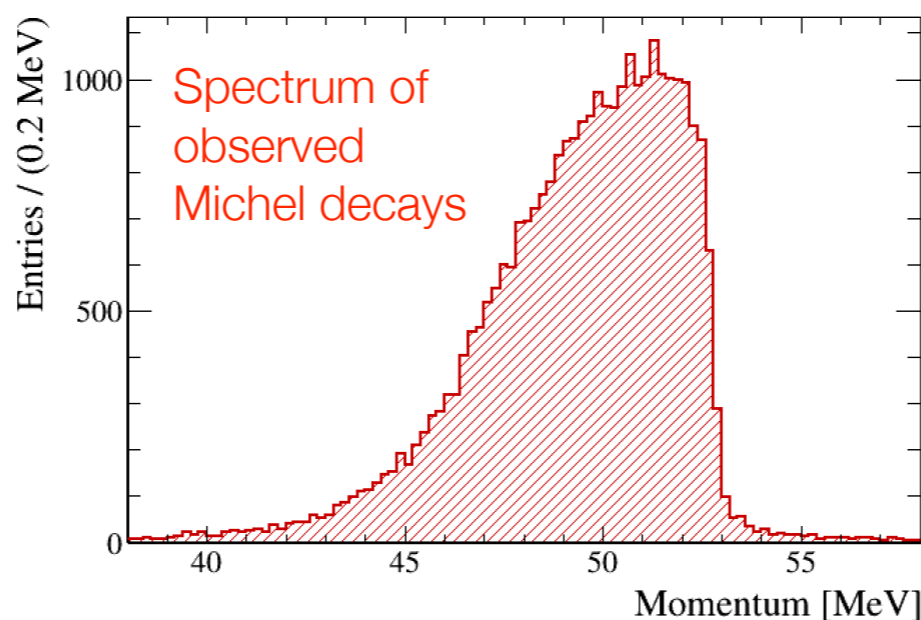
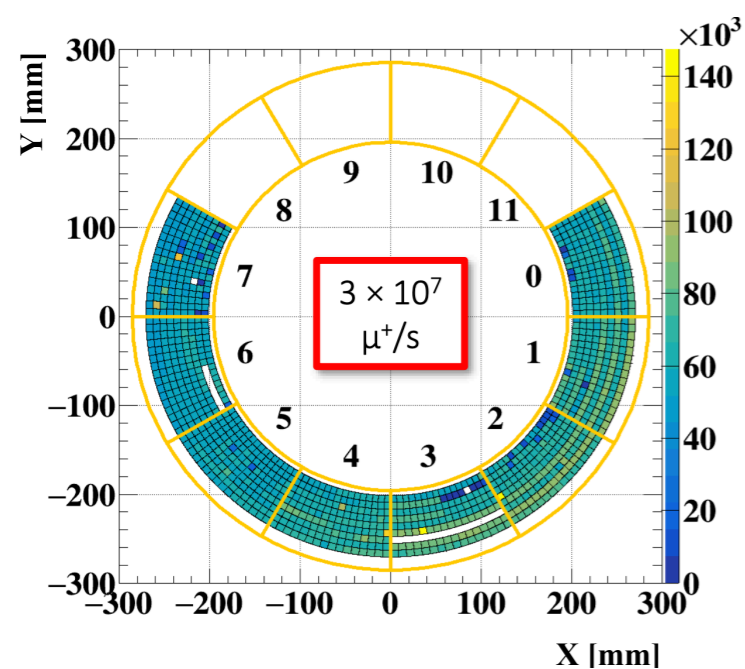
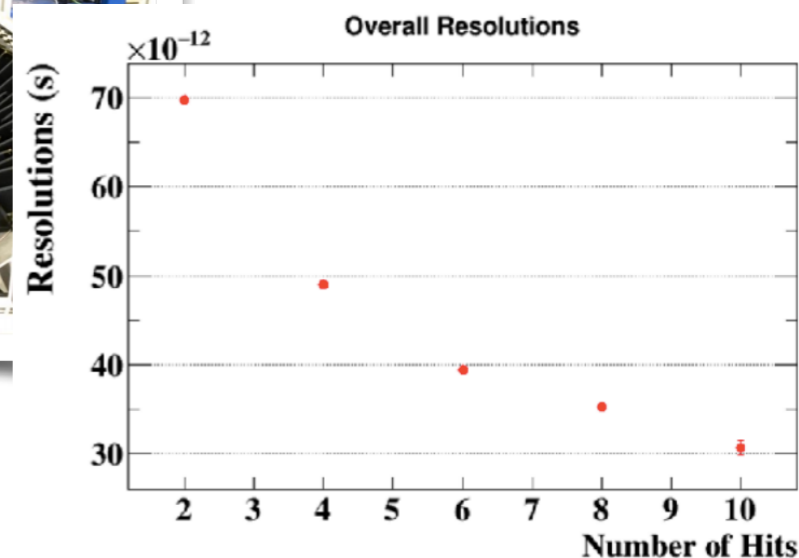
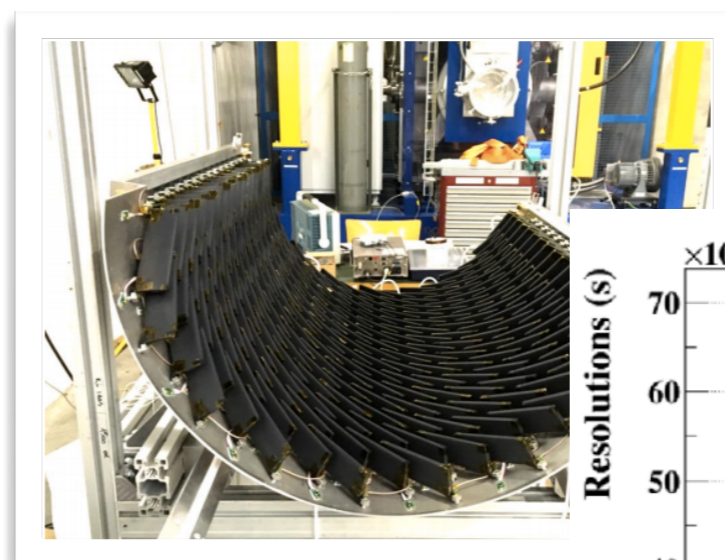
# MEG-II status

In 2021, first physics data collected with full readout

Example of XEC multi-photon event



*TC already reached the design resolution*



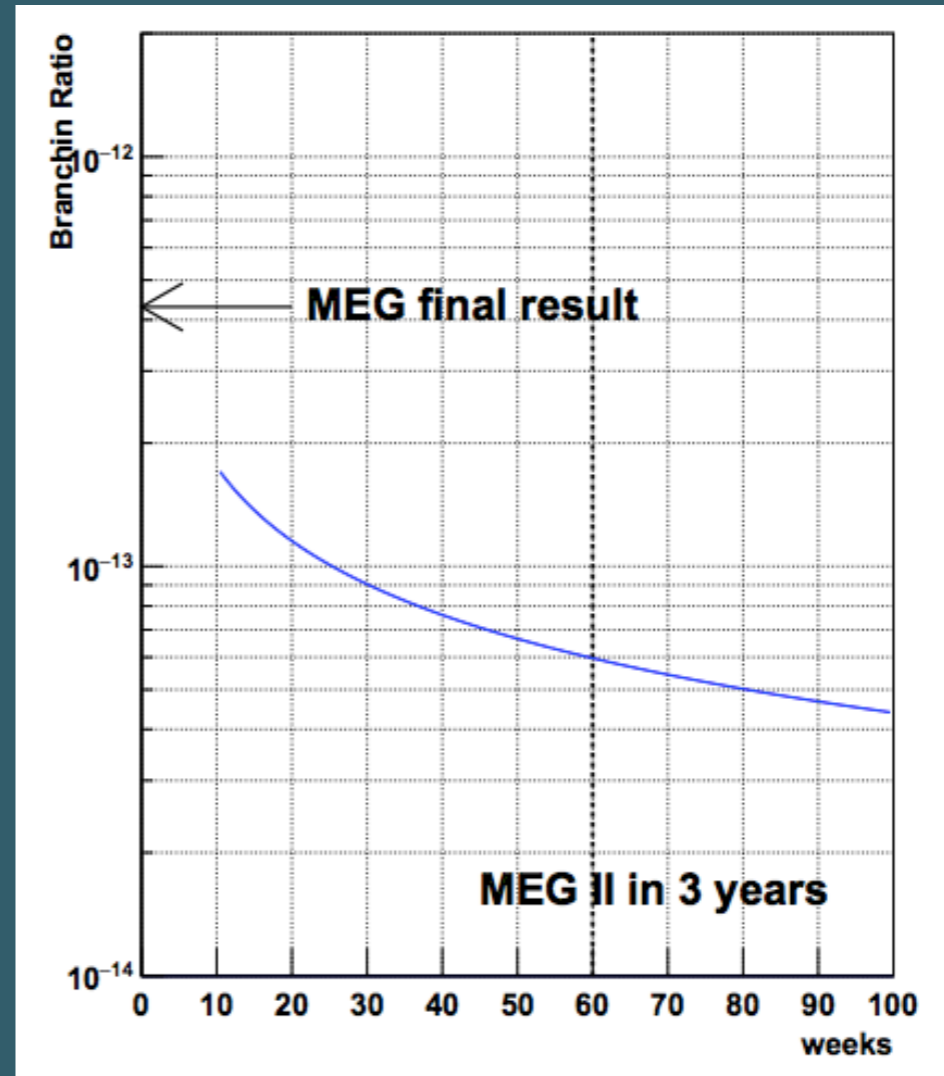
The drift chamber could be operated stably under beam

First positron tracks observed

# MEG-II status

**First physics  
run in 2021**

**Expected UL  
 $\sim 6 \times 10^{-14}$   
in a 3-year run  
at  $5 \times 10^7 \mu/s$**

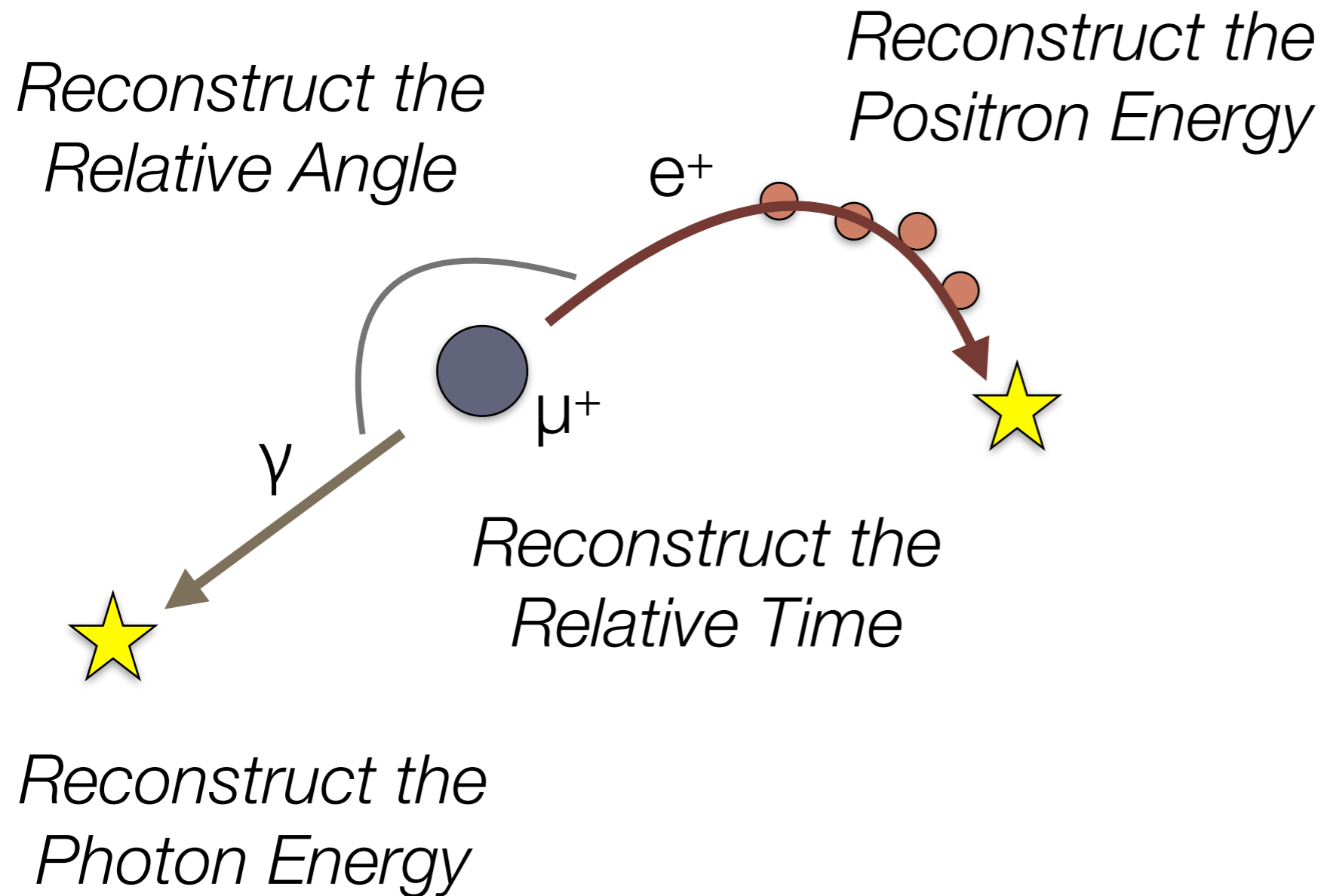


What next?

*G. Cavoto, A. Papa, FR, E. Ripiccini and C. Voena*  
***Eur. Phys. J. C (2018) 78: 37***

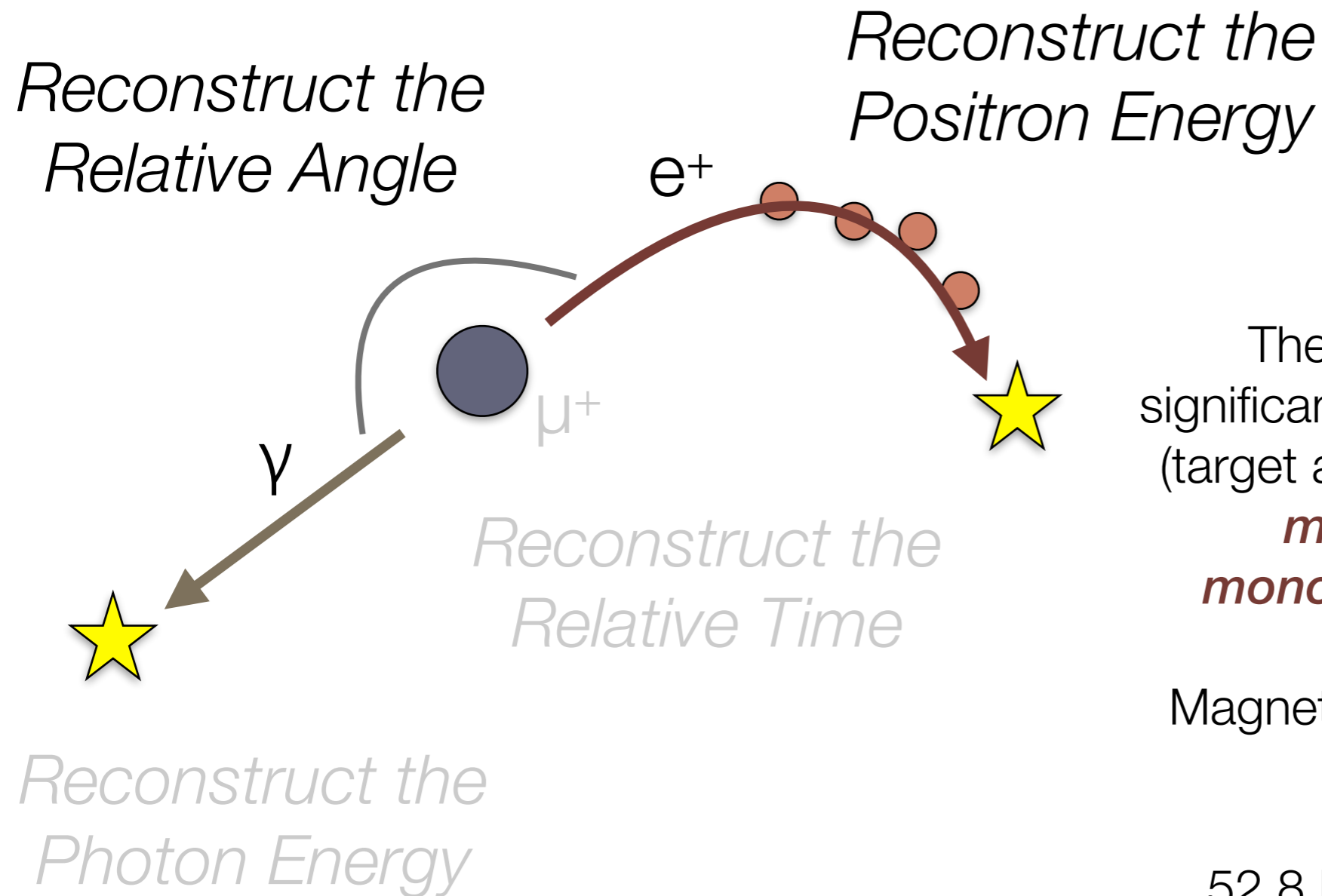
# Ingredients for a search of $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$

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# Ingredients for a search of $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$



The target itself contribute significantly to the angular resolution (target as thin as possible  $\rightarrow$  **low momentum beam, as monochromatic as possible**)

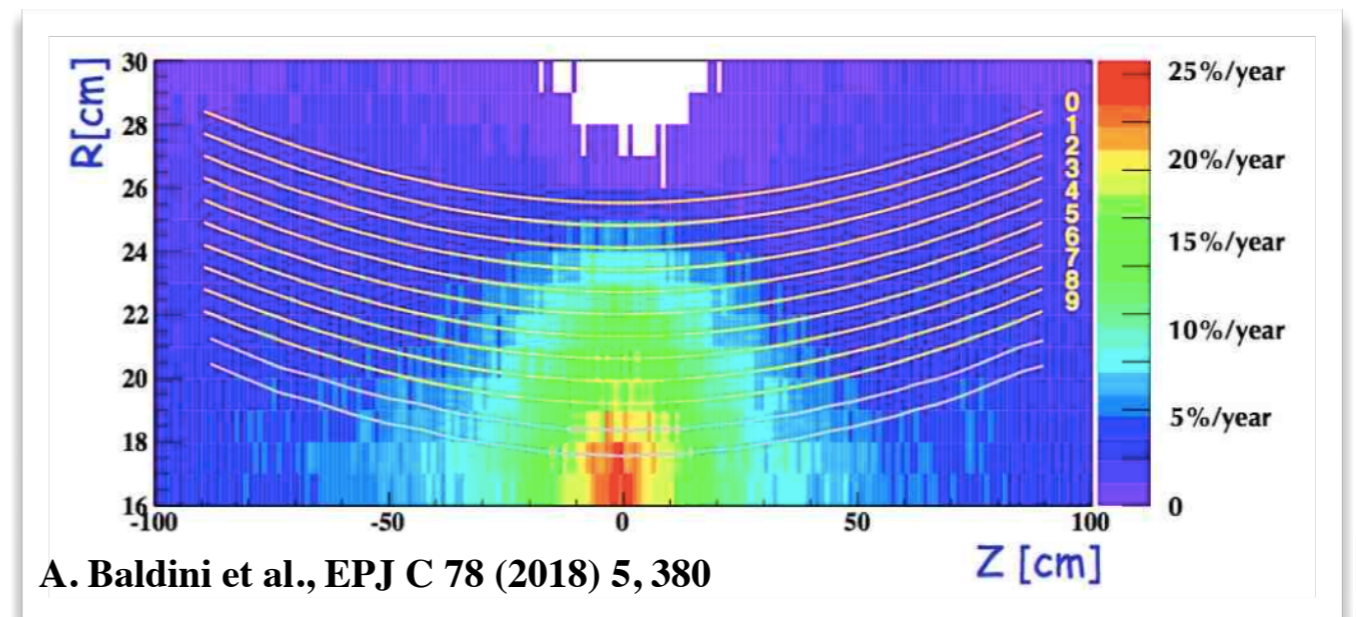
Magnetic spectrometer to get the best resolutions

52.8 MeV/c  $\rightarrow$  large multiple scattering  $\rightarrow$  very low material budget (ideally a gaseous detector)

# Positron Reconstruction at High Beam Rate

- MS makes useless an extreme position resolution (e.g. silicon detectors) and plays in favour of light gaseous detectors, but...

*...would a gaseous detector be able to cope with the very high occupancy at  $> 10^9 \mu/s$ ?*



Expected ageing (gain loss) in the MEG-II Drift Chamber

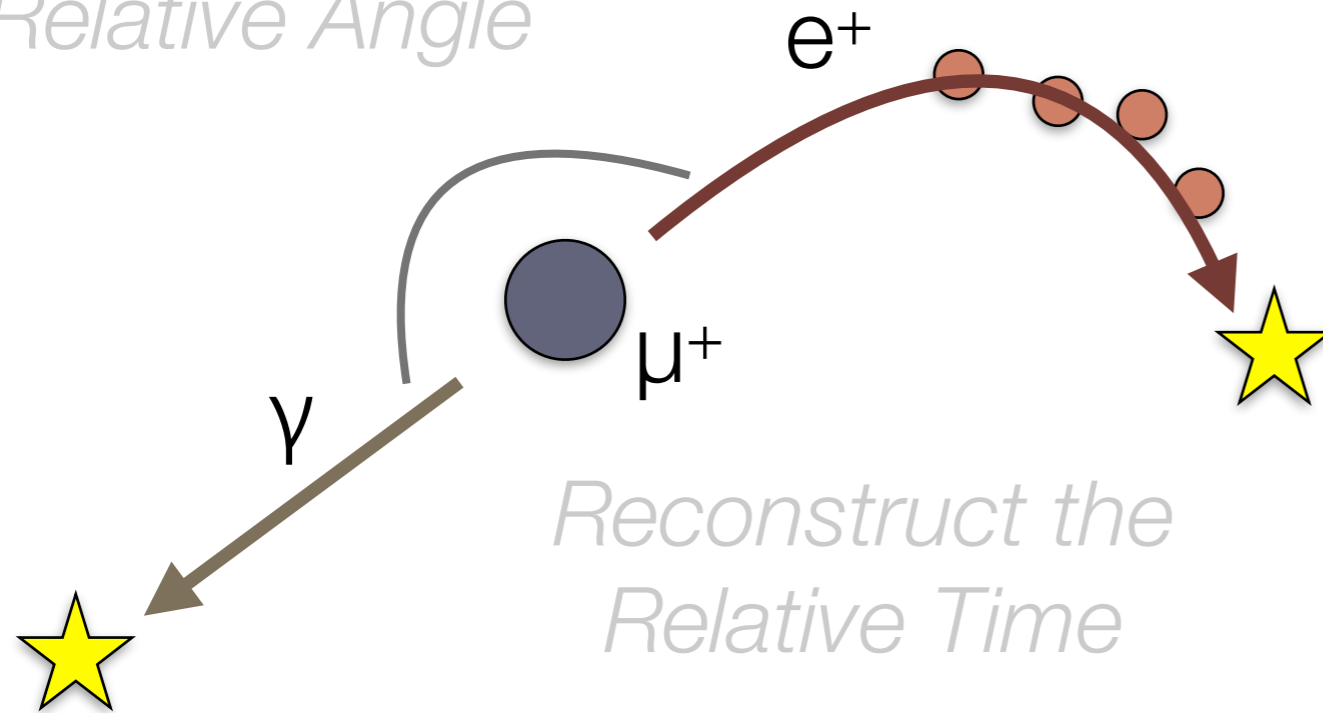
- Silicon detectors could be a practical solution
  - Competitive performances with the next generation of  $25 \mu\text{m}$  monolithics
  - **Experience from Mu3e** will be critical
- Solutions for a gaseous detector with high rate capabilities are also under study (new geometries, optical readout,...), in **synergy with Mu2e**

# Ingredients for a search of $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$

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*Reconstruct the  
Relative Angle*

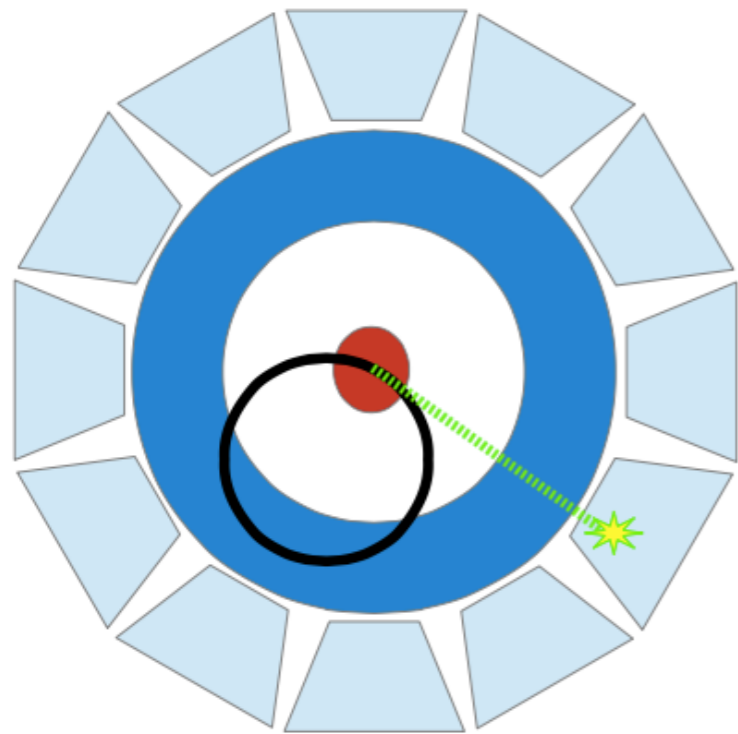
*Reconstruct the  
Positron Energy*



*Reconstruct the  
Relative Time*

*Reconstruct the  
Photon Energy*

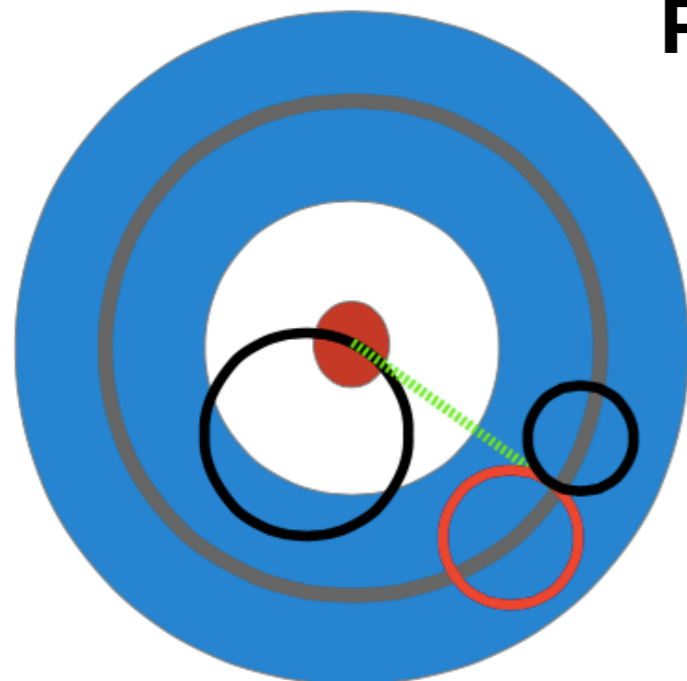
# Calorimetry vs. Photon Conversion



## Calorimetry

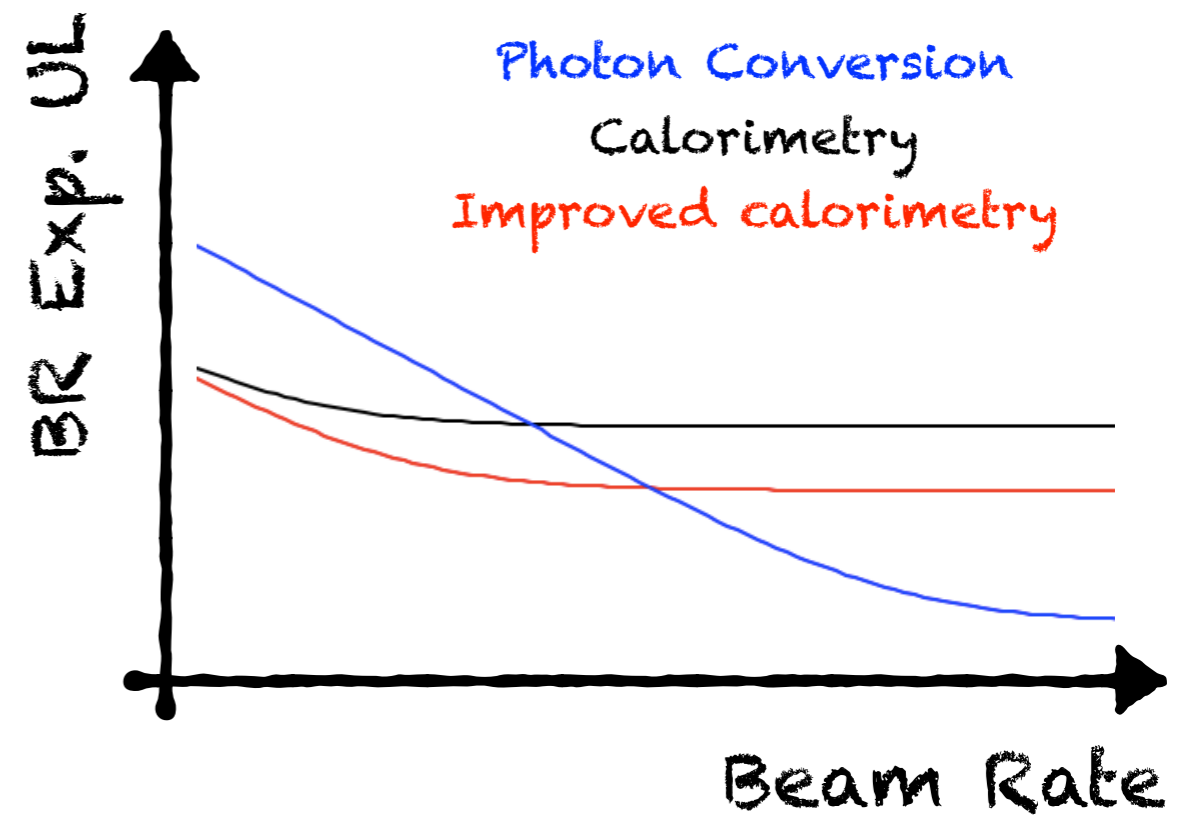
High efficiency  
Good resolutions

*MEG:*  
*LXe calorimeter*  
*10% acceptance*

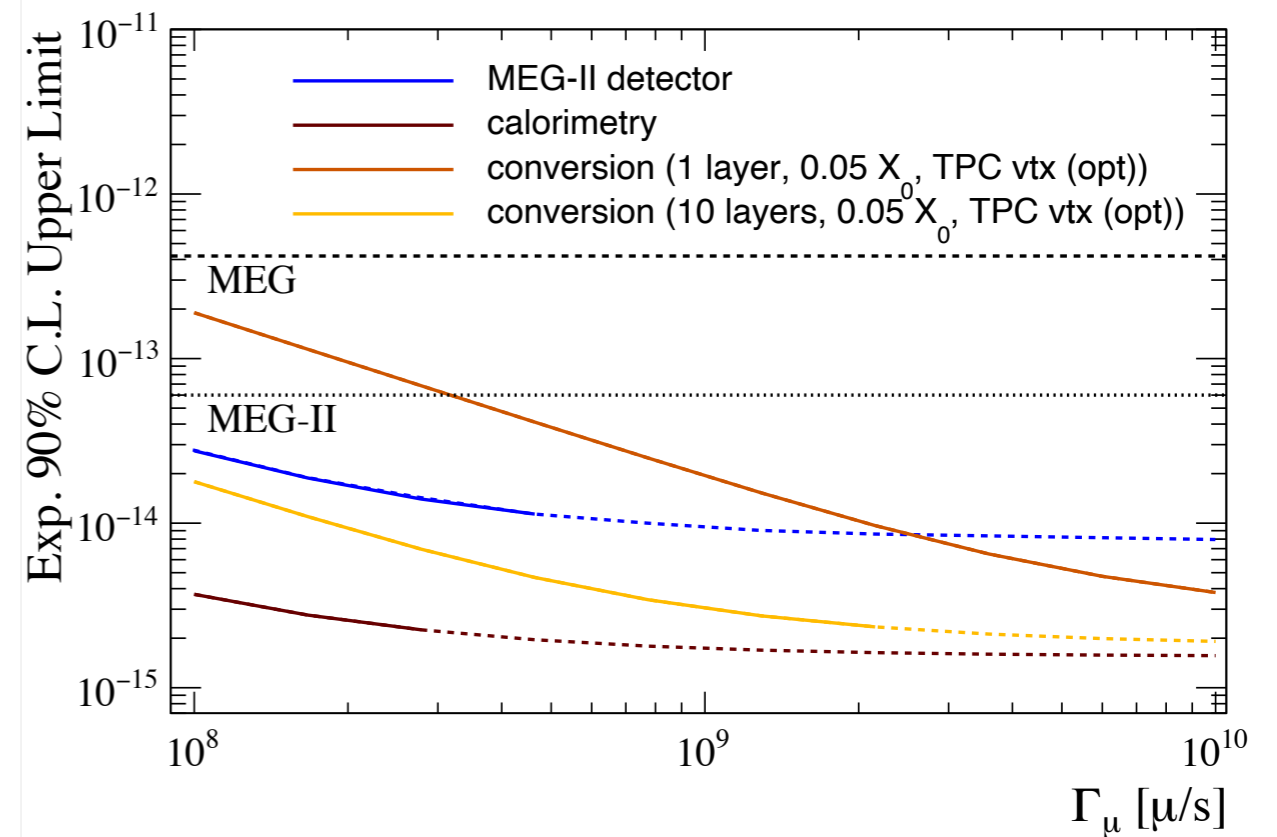
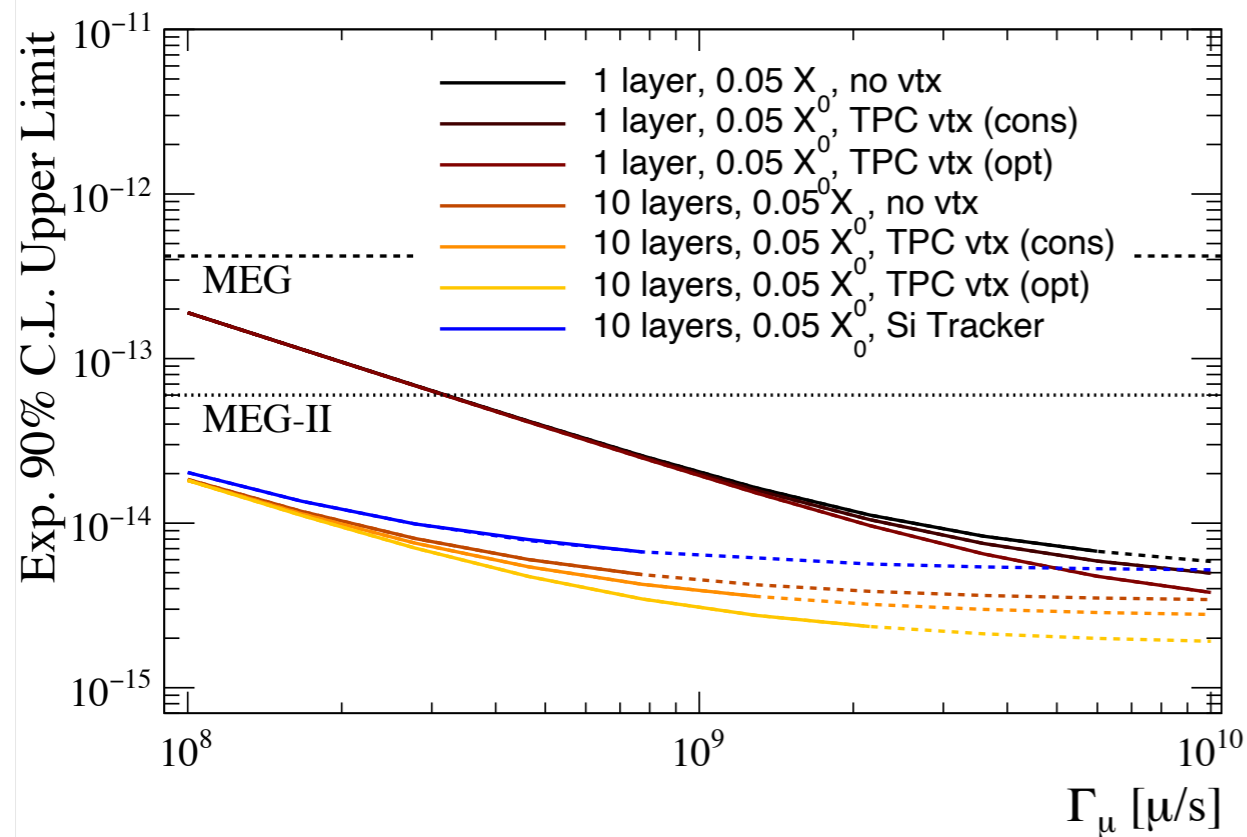


## Photon Conversion

Low efficiency (~ %)  
Extreme resolutions  
+  $e\gamma$  Vertex



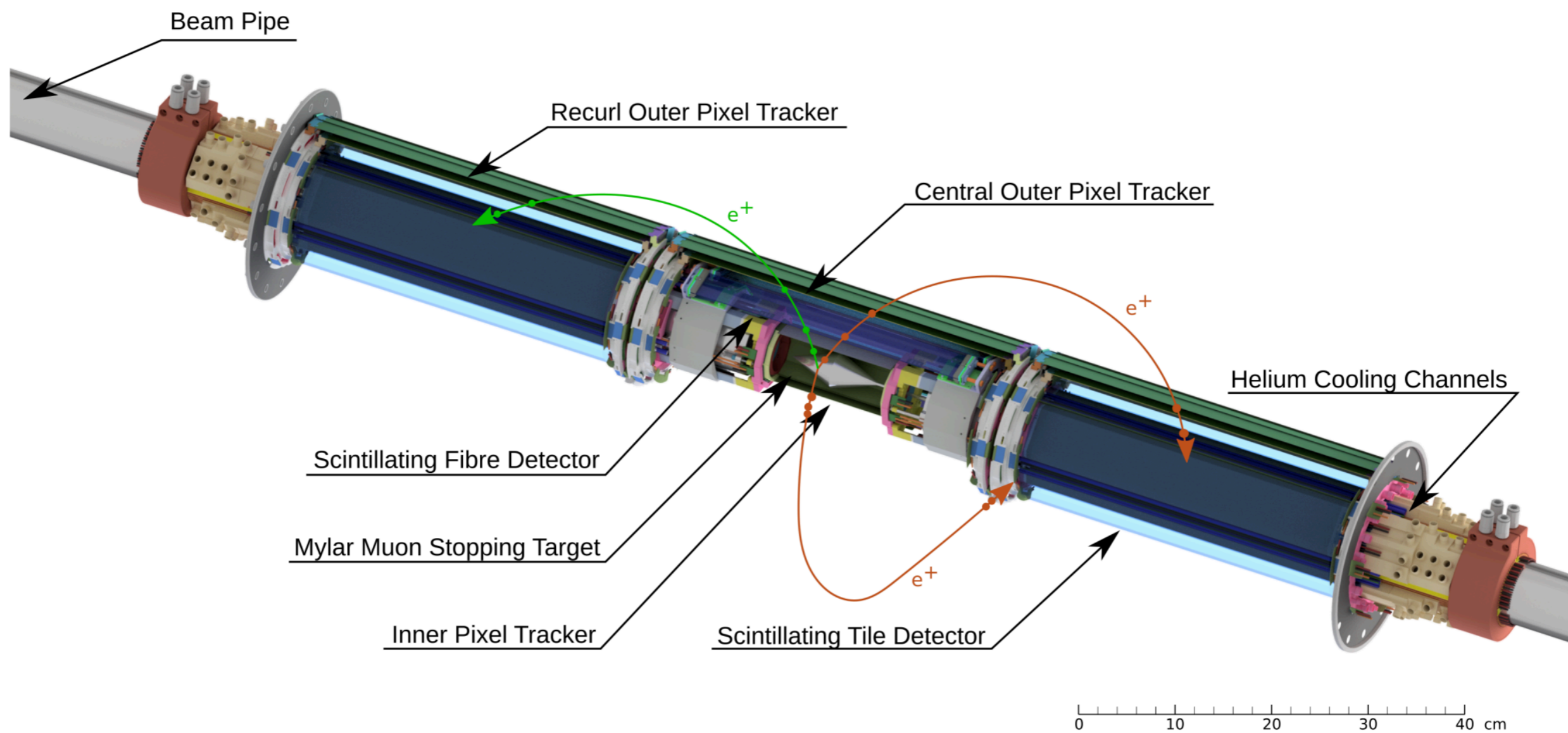
# Expected Sensitivity



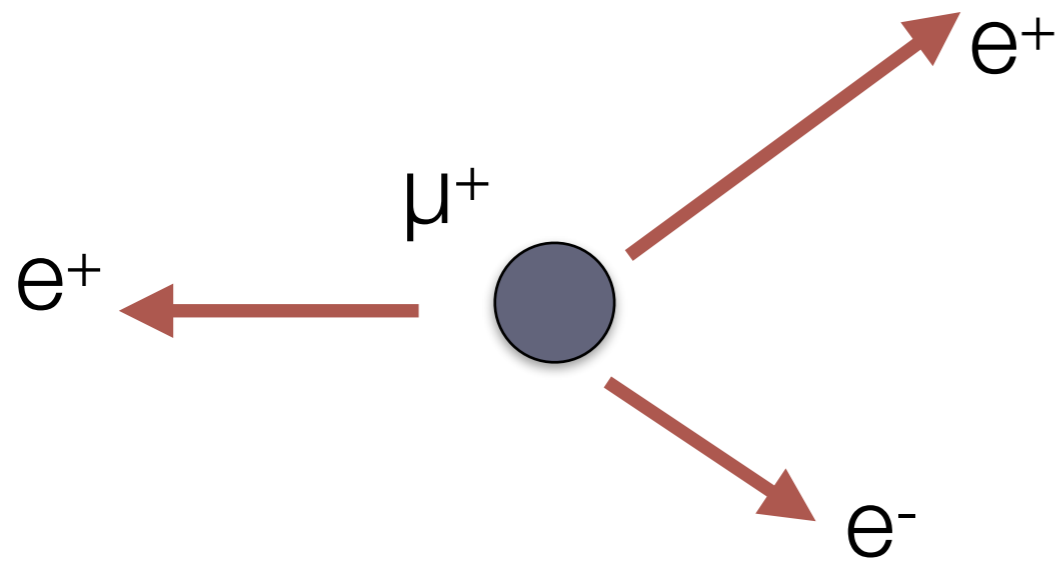
A few  $10^{-15}$  seems to be within reach for a 3-year run at  $\sim 10^8 \mu/s$  with calorimetry (*expensive*) or  $\sim 10^9 \mu/s$  with multiple conversion layers (*cheap*)

Fully exploiting  $10^{10} \mu/s$  and breaking the  $10^{-15}$  wall seem to require a ***novel experimental concept***

# The mu3e experiment at PSI

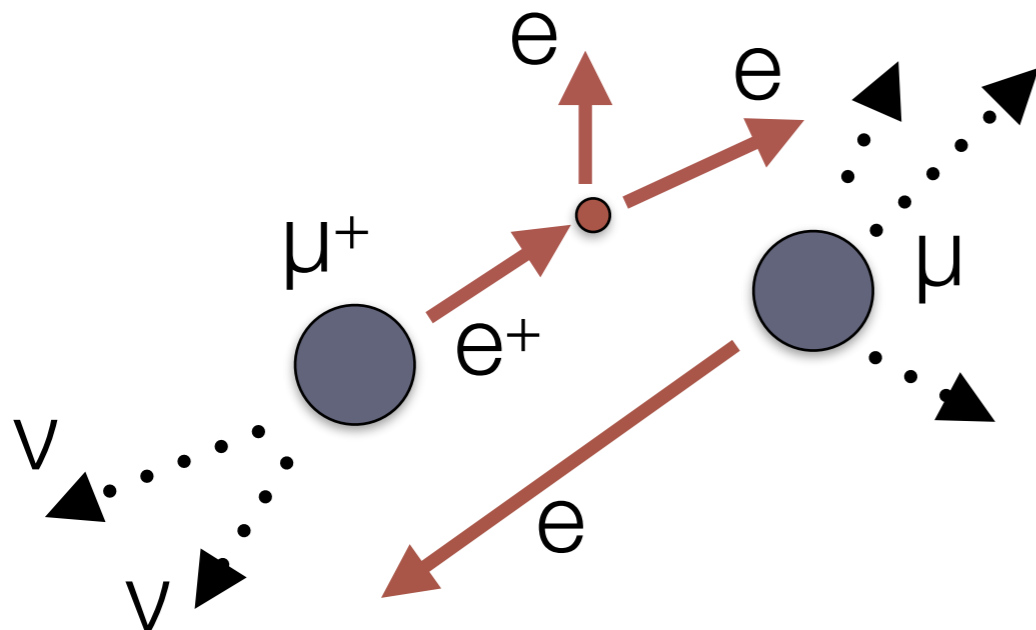


# Signal and background

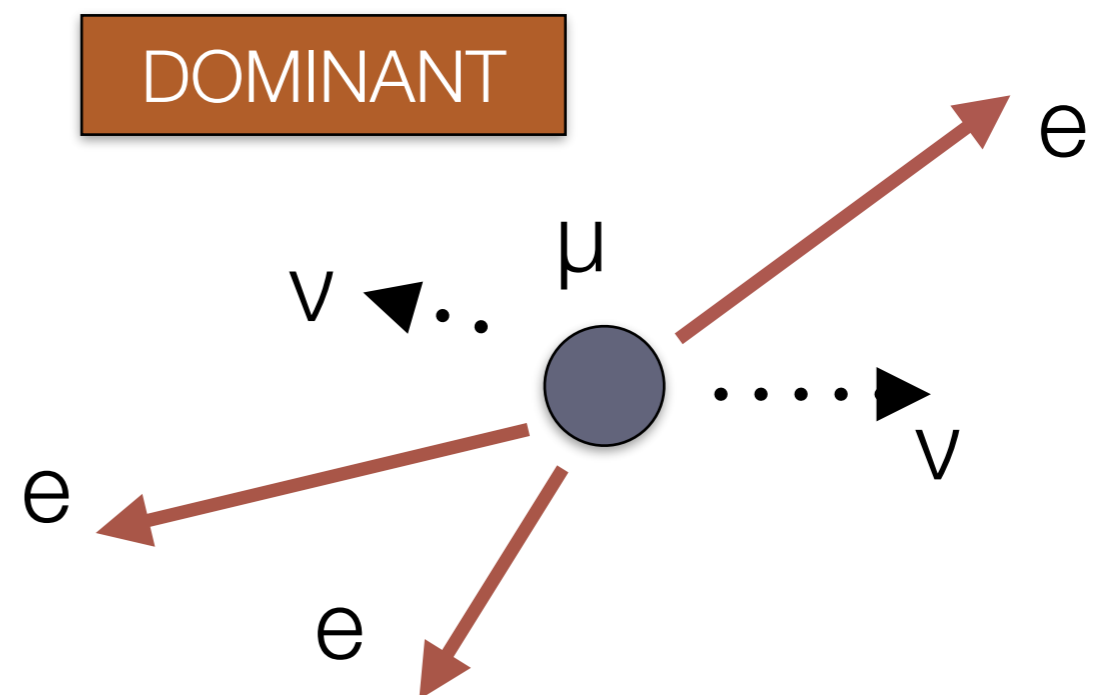


2 positrons and 1 electron produced at the **same time**, in the **same place**, with  $\mathbf{M}_{inv} = \mathbf{M}_\mu$

**Accidental Background**  
(e.g. 2  $\mu$  decays + Bhabha)



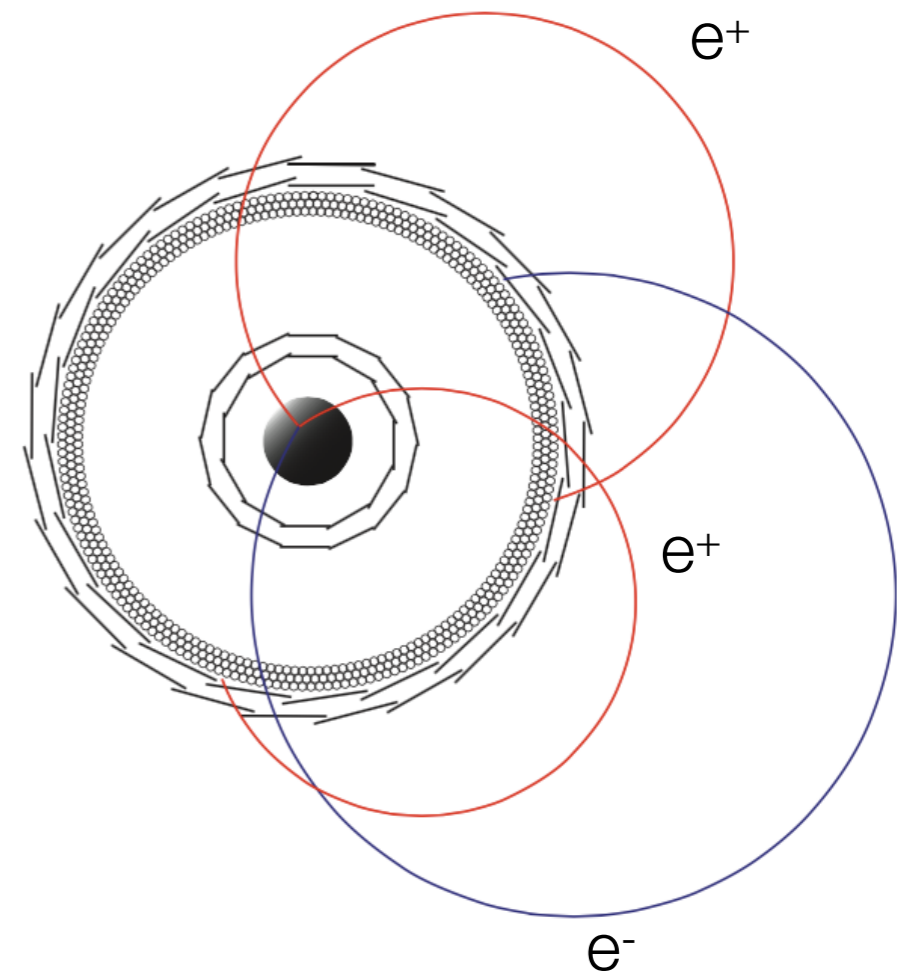
**ee $\nu\nu$  Muon Decay (RMD + IPC)**



# The Mu3e concept @ PSI

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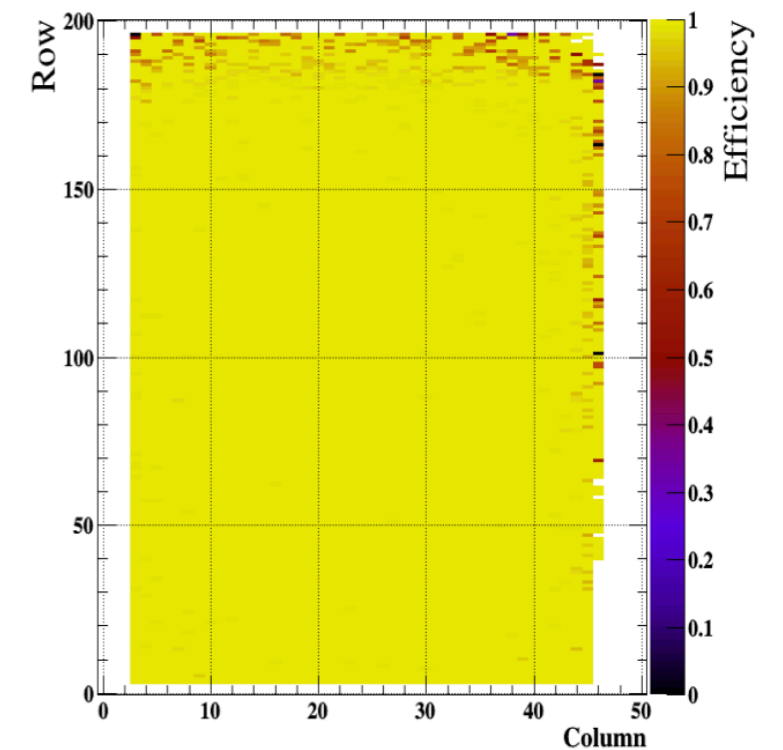
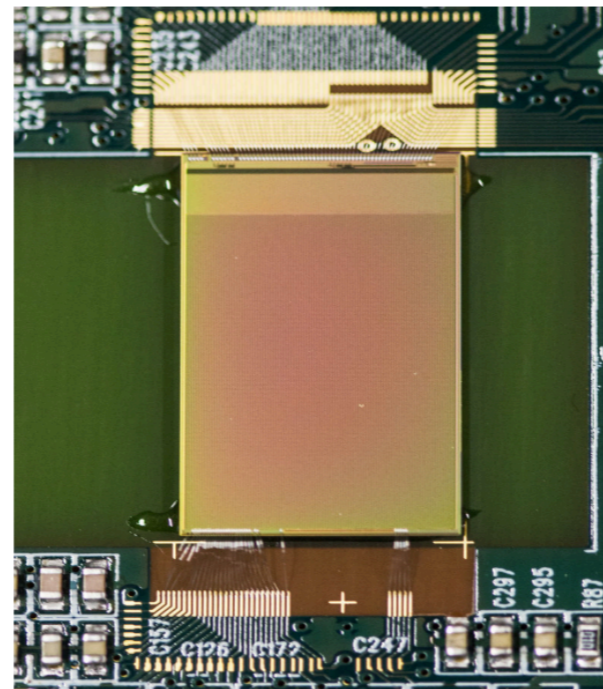
- Silicon tracker in a solenoid + scintillators for timing
  - 50  $\mu\text{m}$  HV-maps
  - 250  $\mu\text{m}$  fibers + 1x1  $\text{mm}^2$  SiPM
  - 5 mm thick tiles + 3x3  $\text{mm}^2$  SiPM
- Phase-I:
  - New compact beam line for a quick switch between MEG & Mu3e
- Phase-II:
  - New high intensity muon beam line (HiMB) with a few  $10^9$   $\mu/\text{s}$  muons
- Possibility of including a single conversion layer to search for  $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$



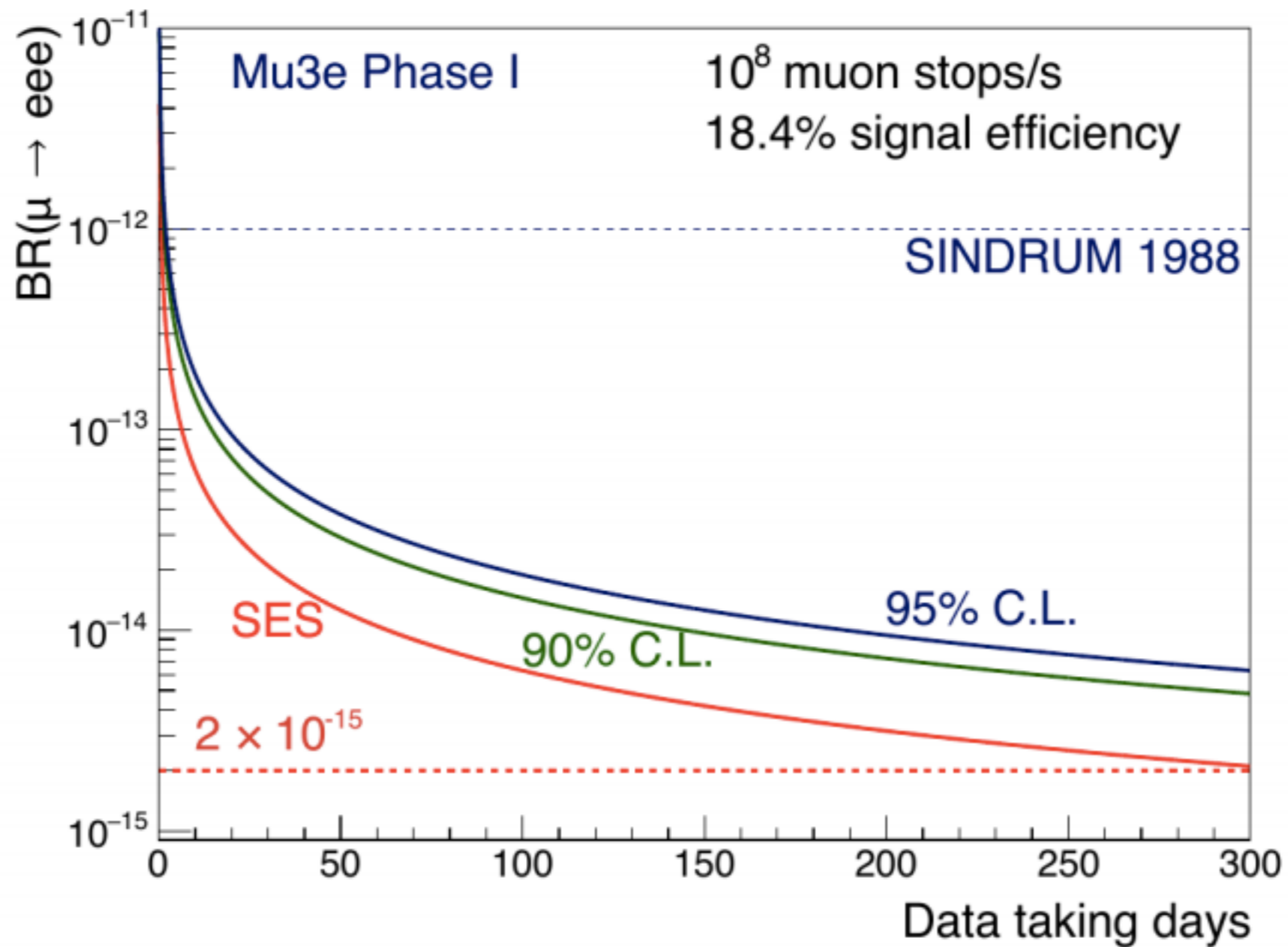


# Current status

- The magnet was installed and tested with beam in 2021
- MuPix8 chip beam tests show promising performances



# Expected sensitivity



# Searches for exotic particles

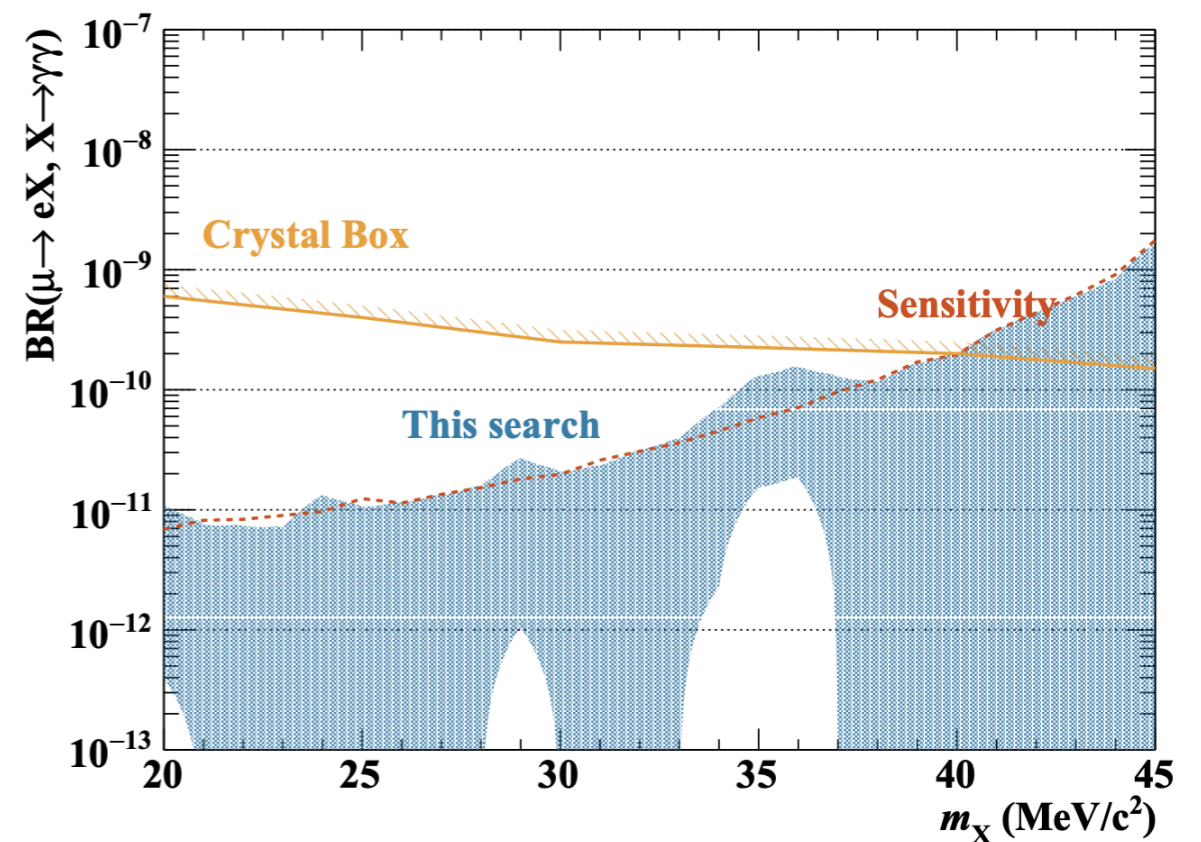
# Inclusive searches

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- Exotic particles with mass  $< m_\mu$  can be searched for in the  $\mu \rightarrow e X$  and  $\mu \rightarrow e X \gamma$  channels, looking only at the positron and photon
  - either at the kinematical end point ( $m_X = 0$ ) or not
  - some of the best measurements date back to the 80s
  - recent update on  $\mu \rightarrow e X$  from TWIST  
**Phys.Rev.D91(2015)052020**
- Control of systematic uncertainties and model dependence are critical

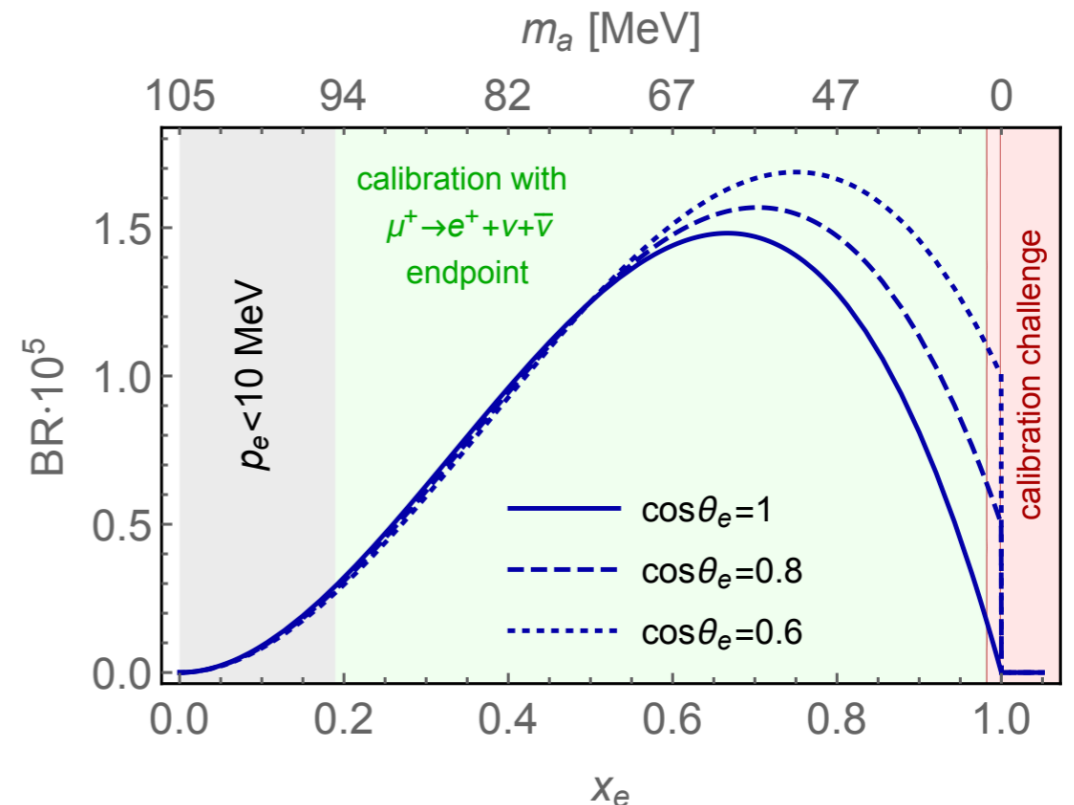
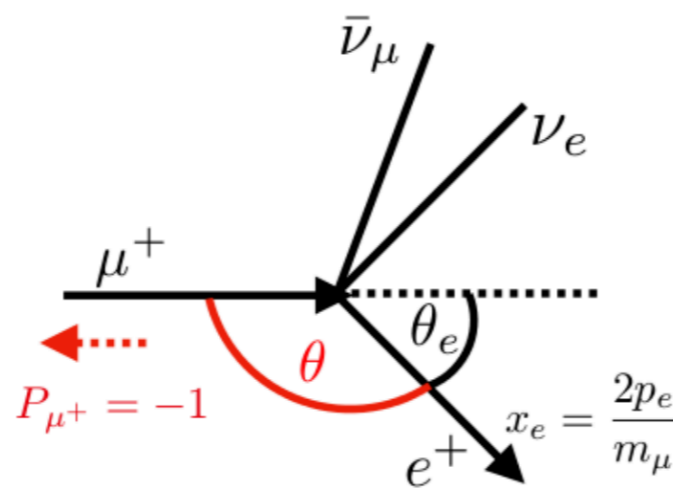
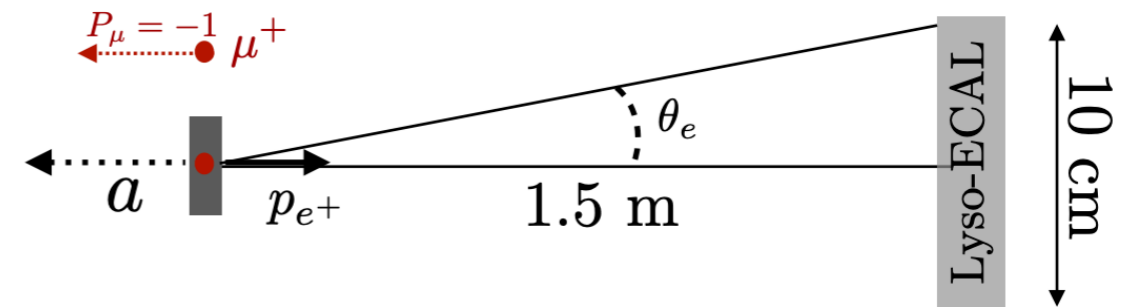
# Exclusive searches

- If the exotic particles decays to standard particles, it can be searched for exclusively in given decay channel:
- MEG recently published a search for  $\mu \rightarrow e X$  with  $X \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$   
***Eur.Phys.J.C* 80 (2020) 9, 858**
- Mu3e can search for  $X \rightarrow e^+e^-$  looking for invariant-mass peaks in  $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+e^+e^-$



# A case study: the MEGII-fwd concept

- In 2020 Calibbi et al. proposed the installation of a forward detector in MEG II to search for  $\mu \rightarrow e X$  in a scenario where the V-A coupling suppresses the Michel spectrum with respect to the detection of an ALP with V, A or V+A coupling



# Conclusions

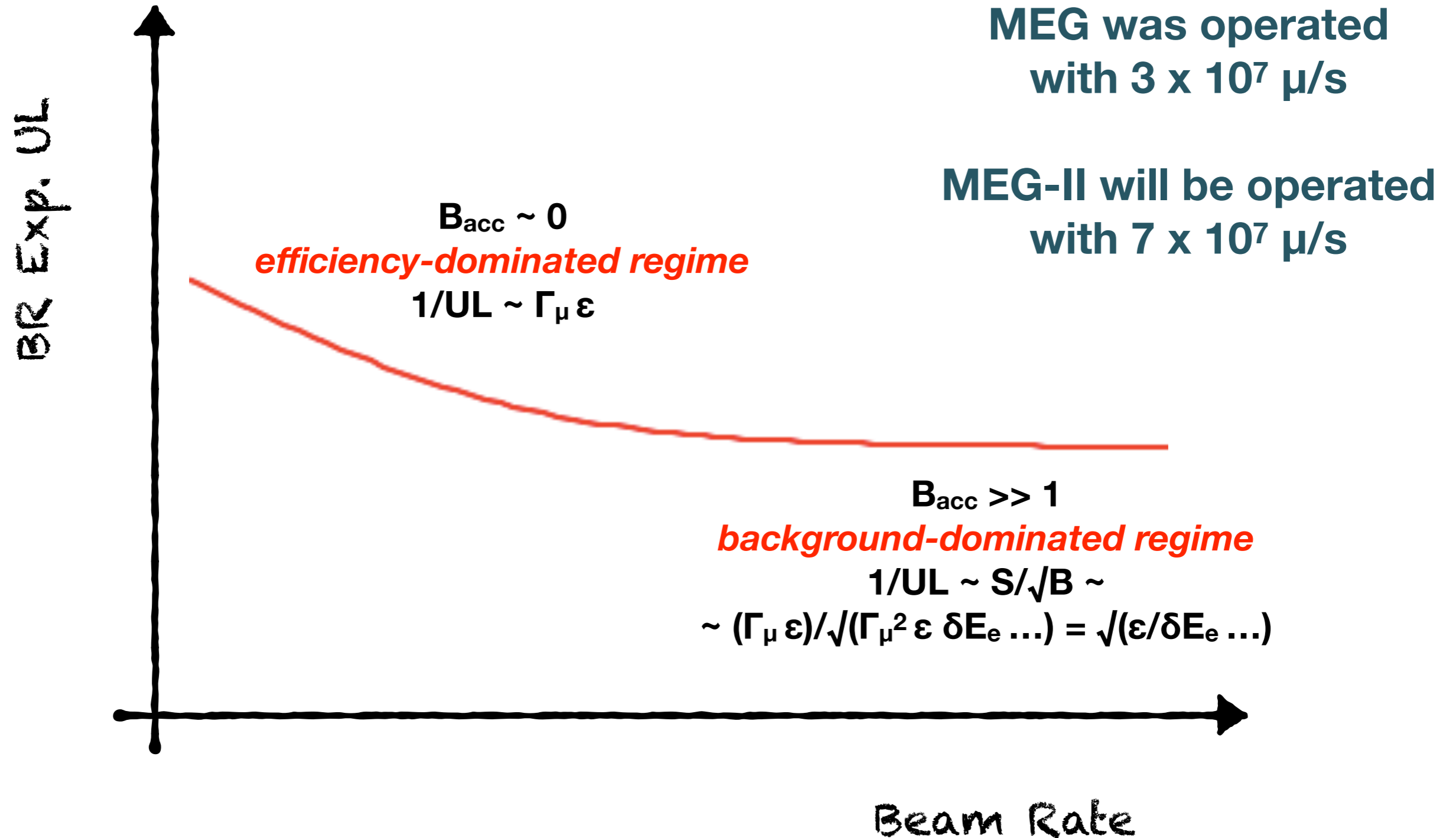
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- A new era for cLFV searches in muon decays is just starting with MEG II and Mu3e phase I
- A new generation of muon beam facilities with 10x or 100x larger beam rate would give a great opportunity to reach the ultimate limits allowed by the current experimental approaches:
  - Mu3e phase II already designed for this
  - a MEG-like experiment would require a significant R&D effort
  - new ways for the search of light exotic particles
- **From the beam perspective, not just a matter of accumulating muons:**
  - beam features critically affect the experimental sensitivity — the possibility of designing a dedicated facility could give more optimization margin
- All these efforts would largely take advantage of a new muon campus, which also means a **single community working in close synergy** on different projects, exchanging information and expertise

Backup



# $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$ searches



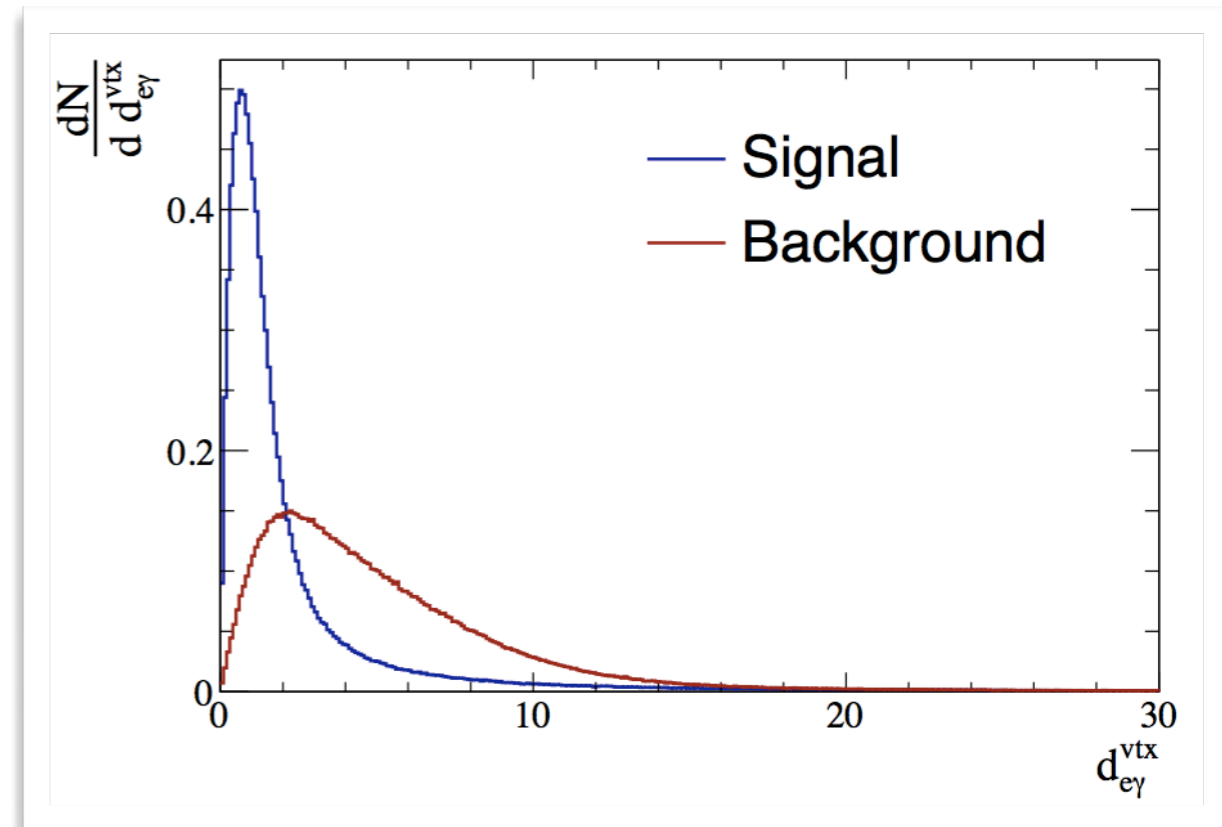
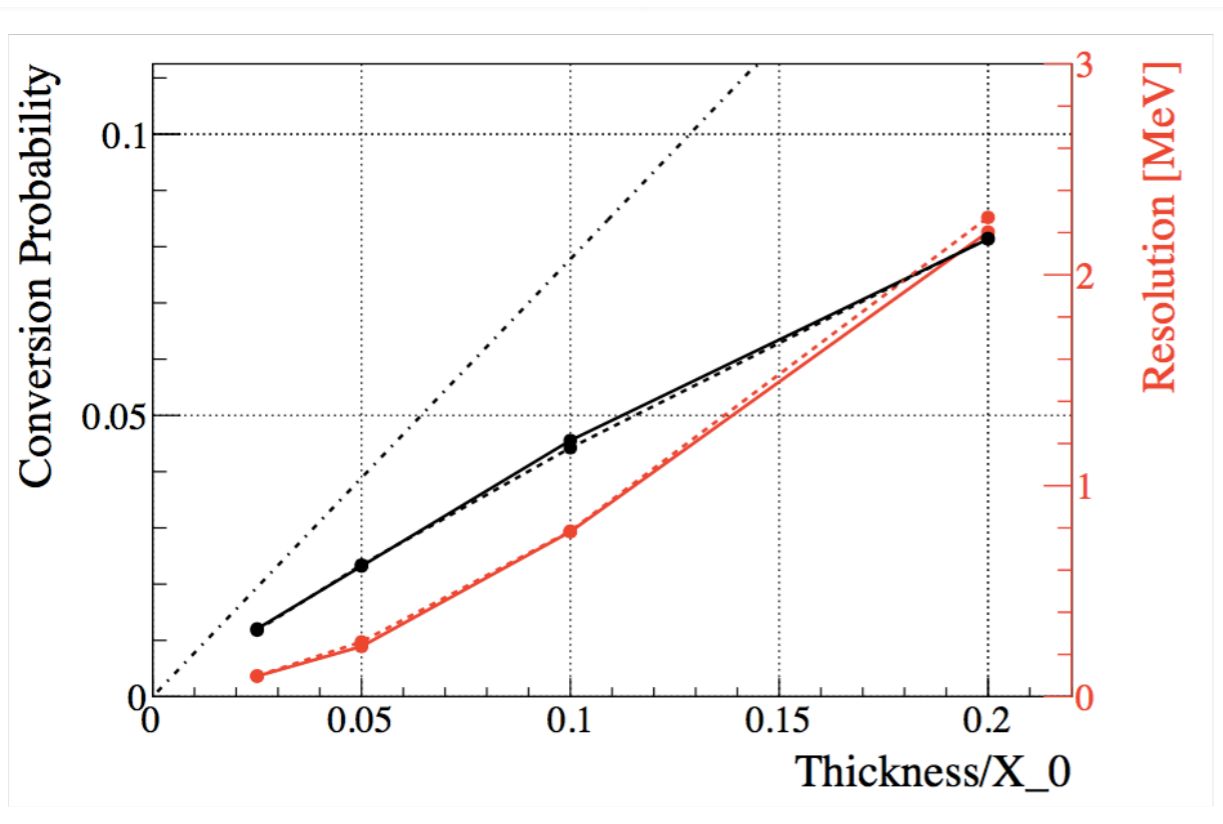
# $\gamma$ Reconstruction: Limiting factors — Calorimetry

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- Photon Statistics
  - Scintillator time constant
  - Detector segmentation
- | Scintillator           | Density]<br>[g/cm <sup>3</sup> ] | Light Yield<br>[ph/keV] | Decay Time<br>[ns] |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| LaBr <sub>3</sub> (Ce) | 5.08                             | 63                      | 16                 |
| LYSO                   | 7.1                              | 27                      | 41                 |
| YAP                    | 5.35                             | 22                      | 26                 |
| LXe                    | 2.89                             | 40                      | 45                 |
| NaI(Tl)                | 3.67                             | 38                      | 250                |
| BGO                    | 7.13                             | 9                       | 300                |
- LaBr<sub>3</sub>(Ce) — a.k.a. *Brilliance* looks a very good candidate:
    - our simulations & tests indicate that ~ 800 keV resolution can be reached
    - extreme time resolution (~ 30 ps)
    - large acceptance
    - very expensive

# $\gamma$ Reconstruction: Limiting factors — Conversion

- Interactions in the converter (conversion probability,  $e^+e^-$  energy loss and MS)
- Large  $Z$  materials (Pb, W) give the best compromise of efficiency vs. resolution



- Can take advantage of the photon direction determination from the  $e^+e^-$  reconstruction

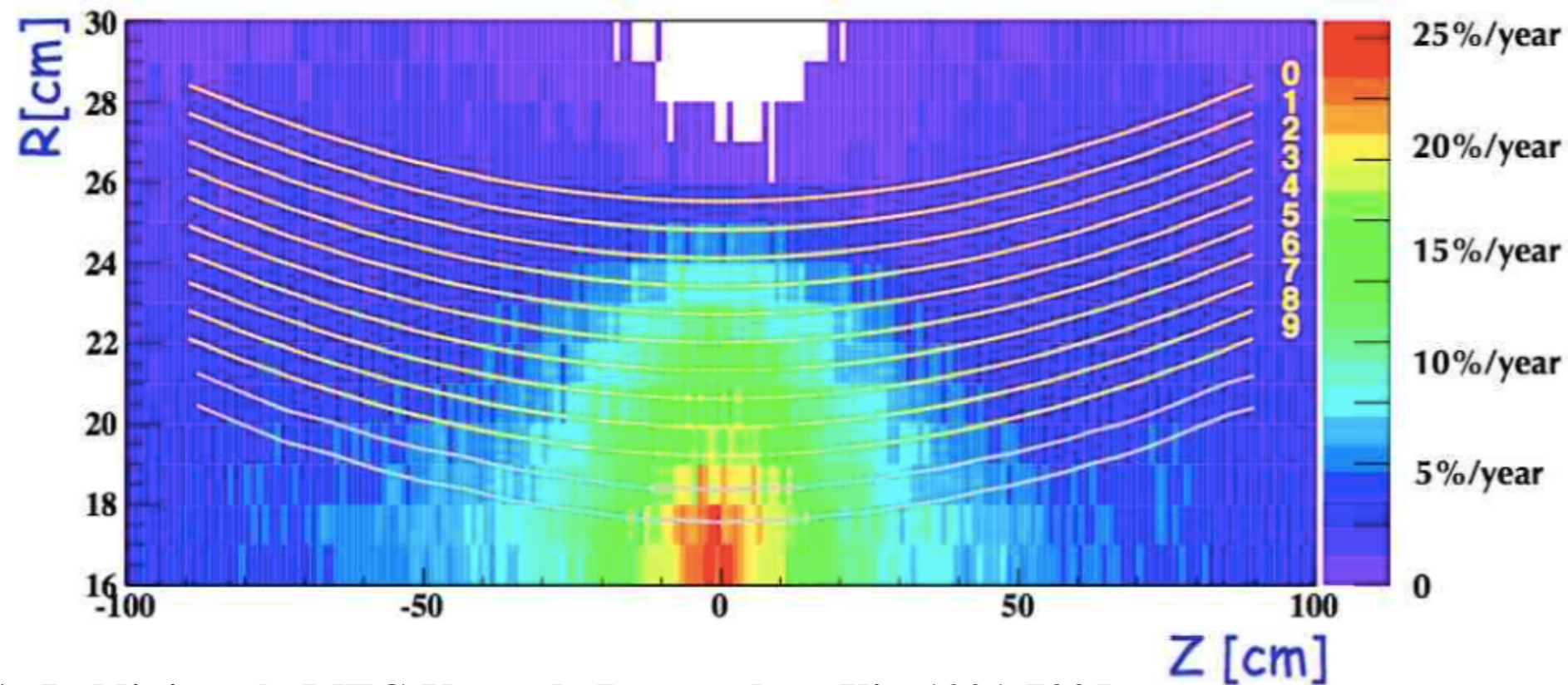
$$d_{e\gamma}^{vtx} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{X_e - X_\gamma}{\sigma_X}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{Y_e - Y_\gamma}{\sigma_Y}\right)^2}$$

# Toward the next generation of $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$ searches: Positron Reconstruction

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- Tracking detectors in a magnetic field are the golden candidates:
  - high efficiency
  - better resolutions w.r.t. calorimetry ( $\sigma(E_e)$  down to 0.2% vs.  $> 1\%$ )
- Performances are limited by Multiple Scattering of 52.8 MeV positrons in target and tracker materials
  - Need a very light detector (the MEG drift chambers gave  $\sim 2 \times 10^{-3} X_0$  over the whole positron trajectory, 200  $\mu\text{m}$  silicon equivalent)
  - Silicon trackers are likely to be not competitive with gaseous detectors in terms of resolutions (**C-H. Cheng et al. arXiv: 1309.7679**)

# Positron Reconstruction at High Beam Rate



A. Baldini et al., MEG Upgrade Proposal, arXiv:1301:7225

Expected aging  
(gain loss) in the  
MEG-II Drift  
Chamber

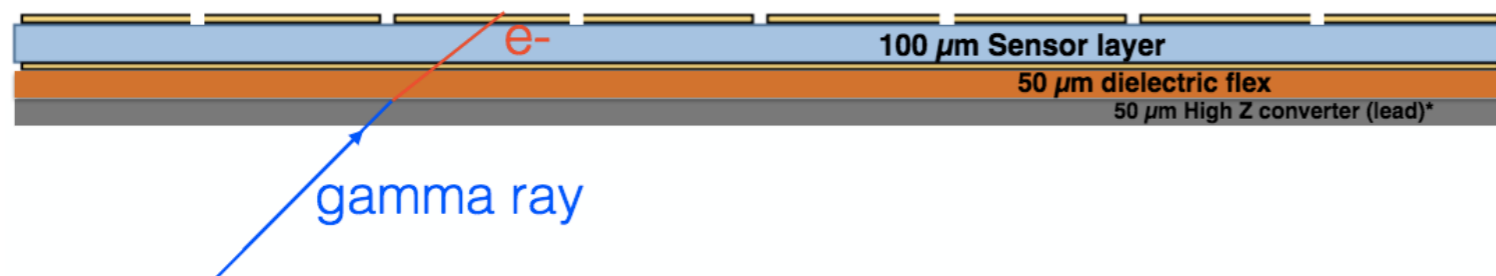
Would a gaseous detector be able to cope with the very high occupancy at  $> 10^9 \mu/s$ ?

# An active conversion layer

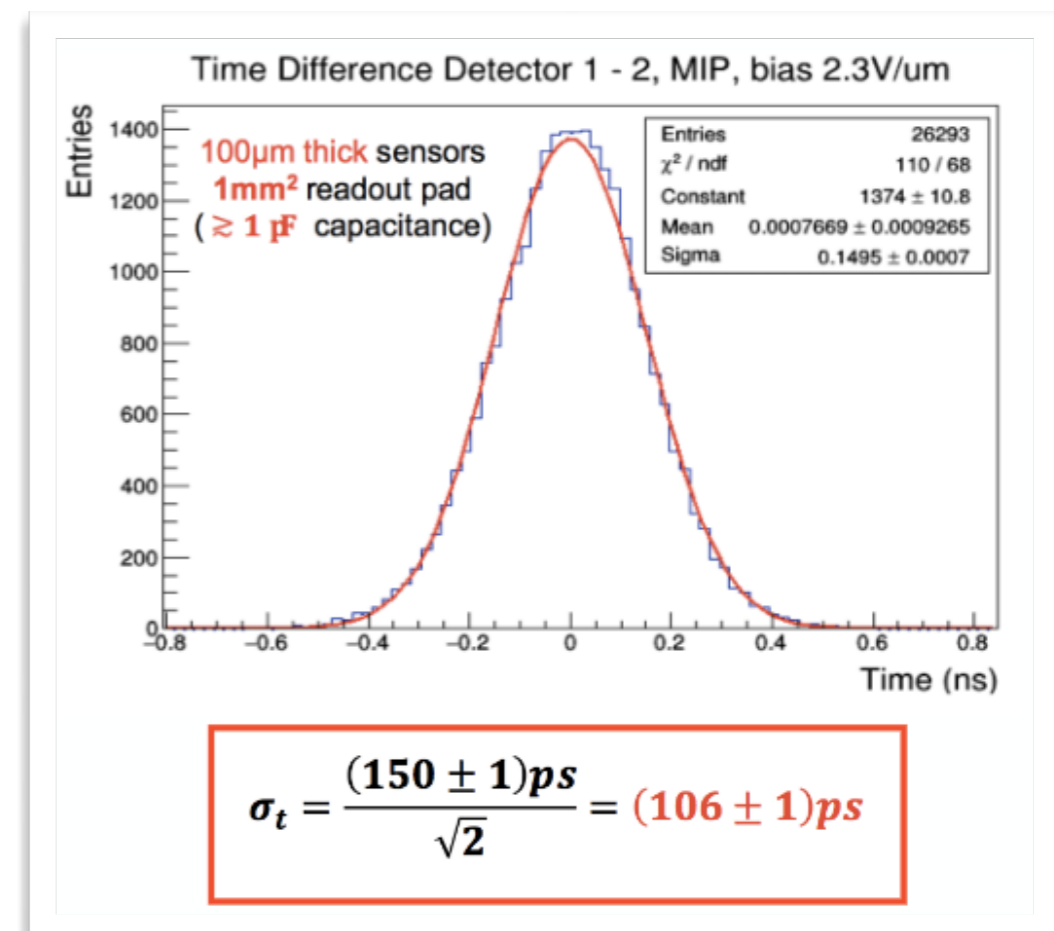
- Low Z active material for timing deteriorates the best efficiency/resolution configuration
  - the active layer must be as thin as possible
- Scintillators have poor “timing to thickness” figures (~ 1 ns for 250 μm fibers)

## FAST SILICON DETECTORS

- R&D on going for PET application (**TT-PET**)



M. Benoit et al., JINST 11 (2016) no. 03, P03011



# Possible Scenarios

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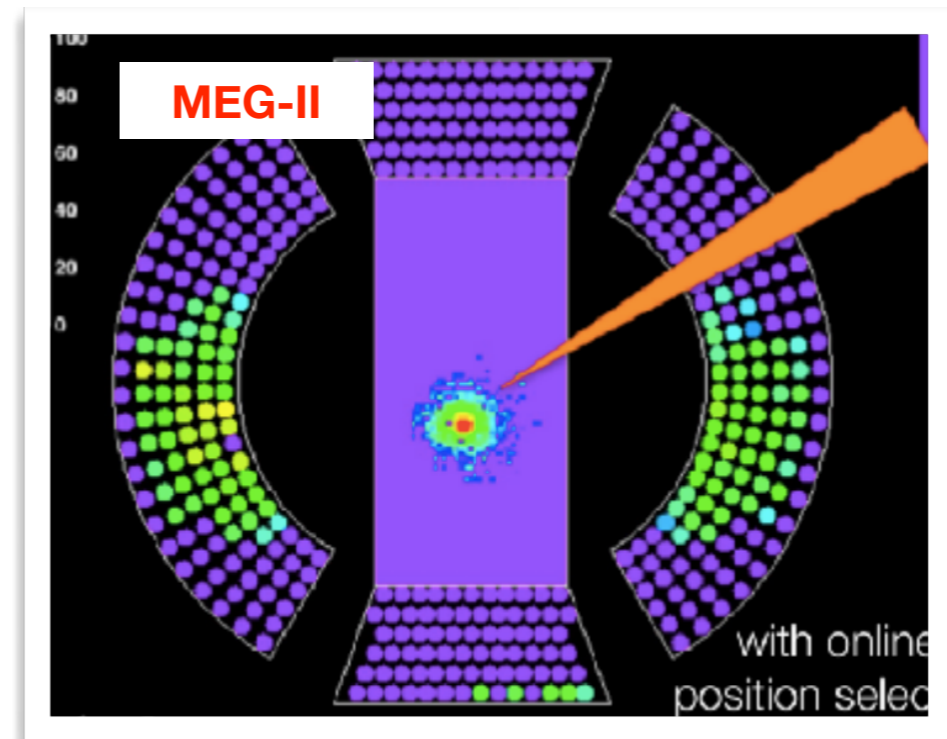
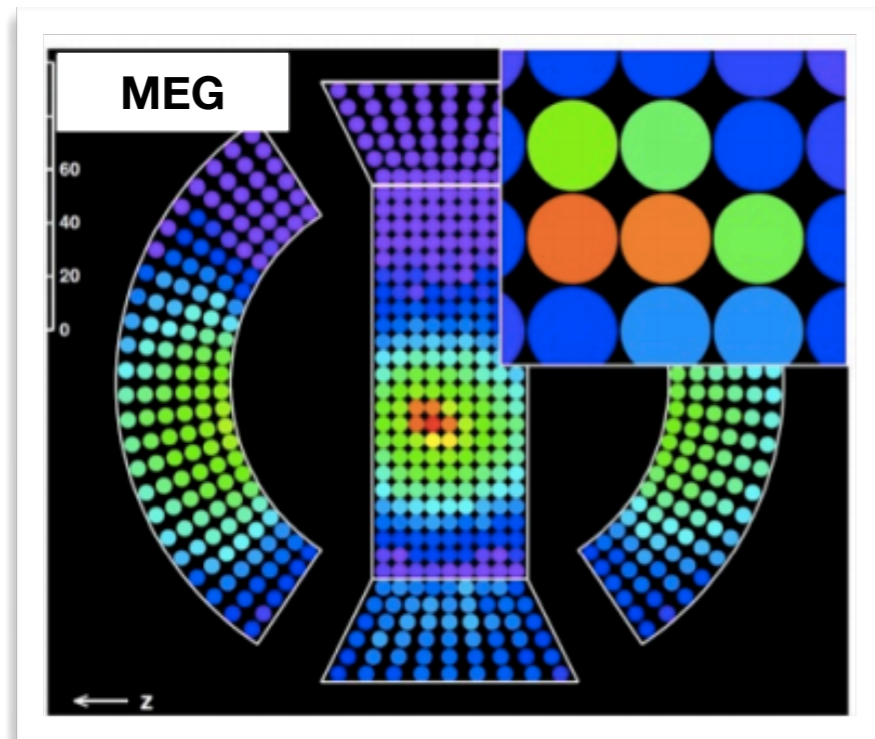
## **CALORIMETRY**

Variable	Resolution				
	w/o vtx detector	w/ TPC vtx detector		w/ silicon vtx detector	
			conservative	optimistic	conservative
$\theta_{e\gamma} / \phi_{e\gamma}$ [mrad]	7.3 / 6.2	6.1 / 4.8	3.5 / 3.8	8.0 / 7.4	6.3 / 6.9
$T_{e\gamma}$ [ps]			30		
$E_e$ [keV]			100		
$E_\gamma$ [keV]			850		
Efficiency [%]			42%	<b>(70% <math>\gamma</math> acceptance)</b>	

## **PHOTON CONVERSION**

Variable	Resolution				
	w/o vtx detector	w/ TPC vtx detector		w/ silicon vtx detector	
			conservative	optimistic	conservative
$\theta_{e\gamma} / \phi_{e\gamma}$ [mrad]	7.3 / 6.2	6.1 / 4.8	3.5 / 3.8	8.0 / 7.4	6.3 / 6.9
$T_{e\gamma}$ [ps]			50		
$E_e$ [keV]			100		
$E_\gamma$ [keV]			320		
Efficiency [%]			1.2	<b>(1 LAYER, 0.05 <math>X_0</math>)</b>	

# MEG-II Highlights - The LXe Calorimeter

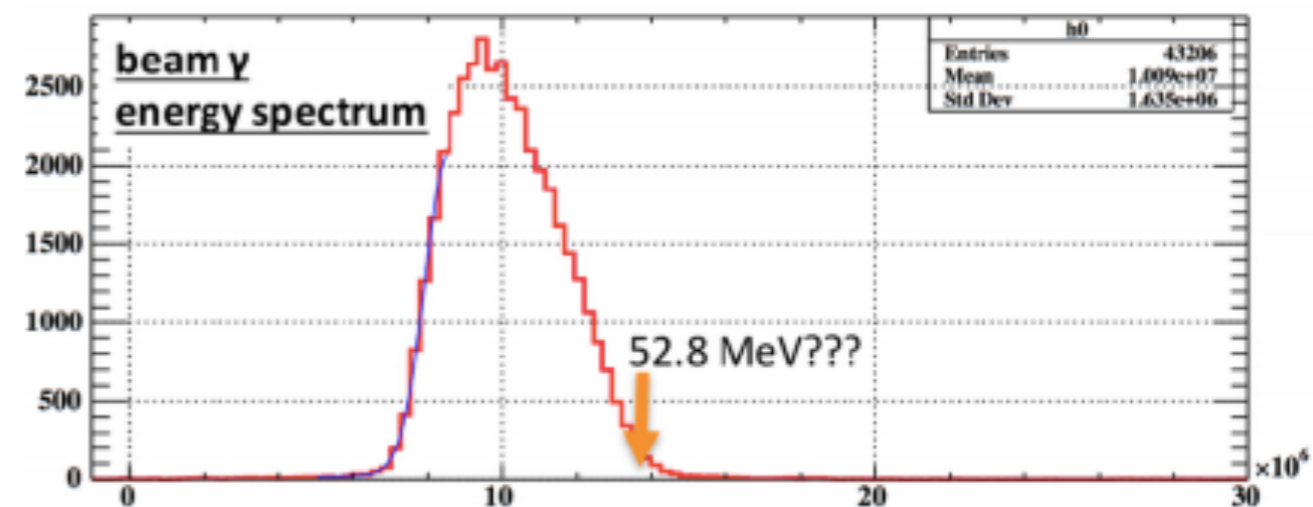


**First events/spectra from 2017 data**

We developed large-area (12x12 mm<sup>2</sup>), UV-sensitive MPPCs to cover the inner face of the LXe calorimeter

Better Resolution, better pile-up rejection

$$\sigma_E \sim 1\%, \quad \sigma_{\text{position}} \sim 2/5 \text{ mm (x,y/z)}$$

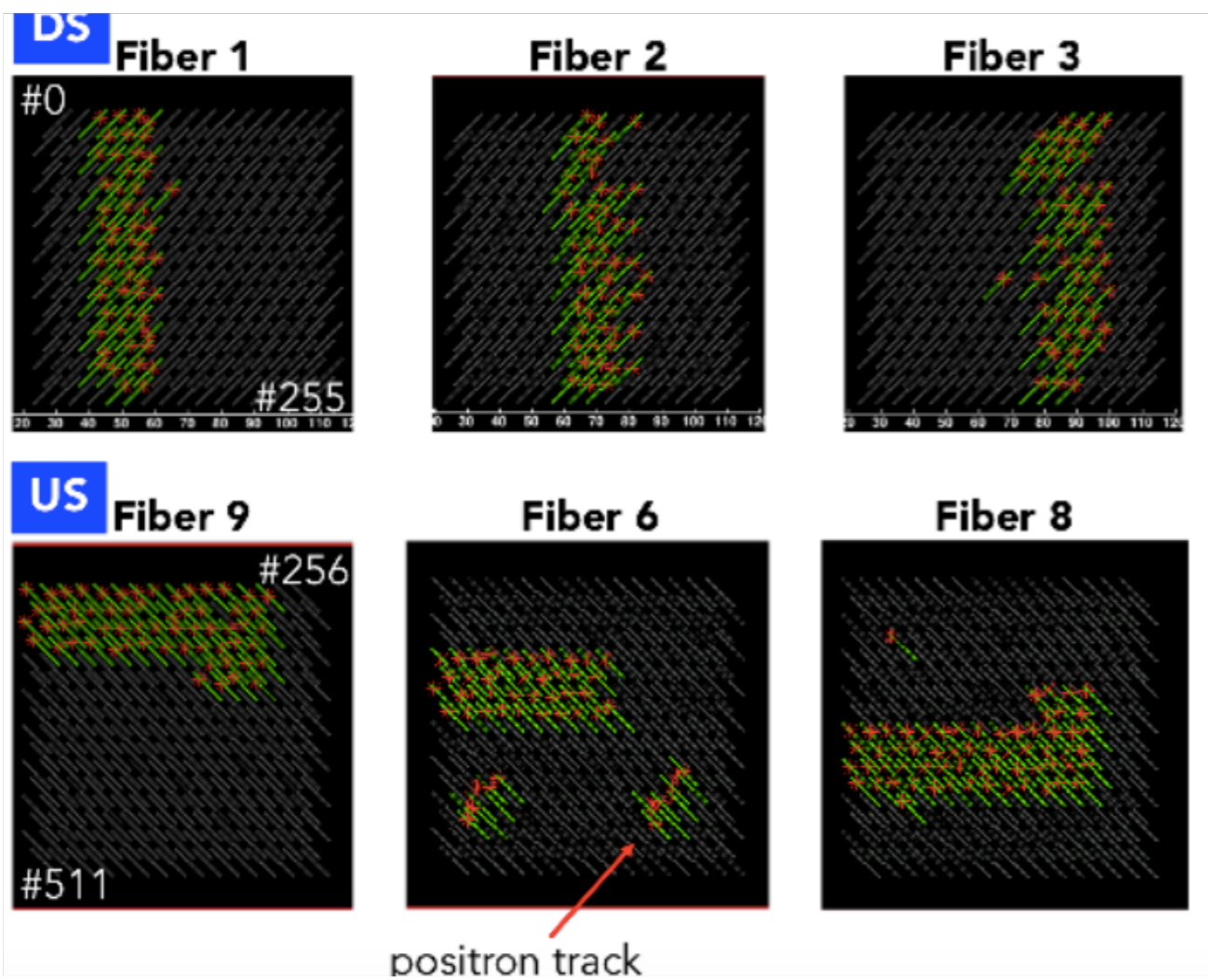
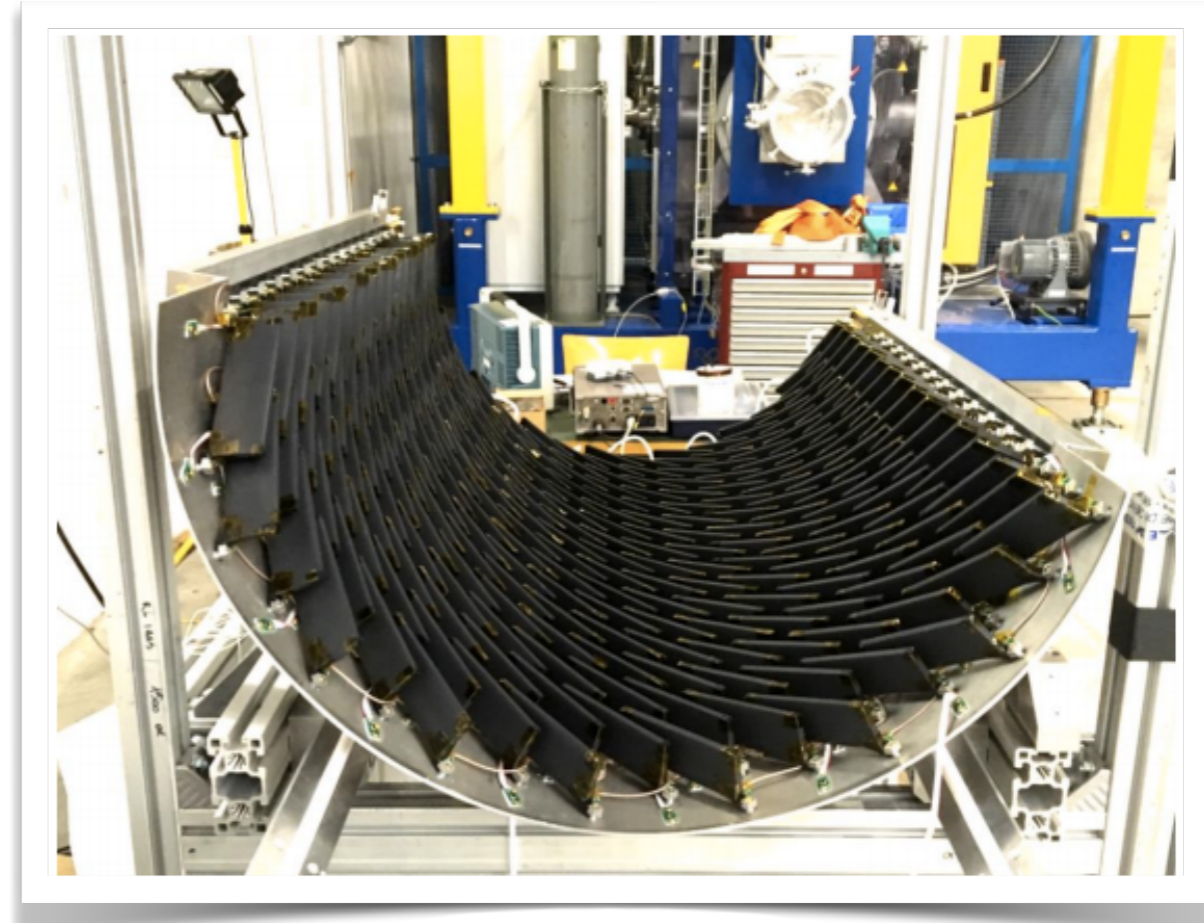




# MEG-II Highlights - The Timing Counters

5mm-thick Scintillator Tiles read out by 3x3 mm<sup>2</sup> SiPM

**Complete detector took data in 2017**

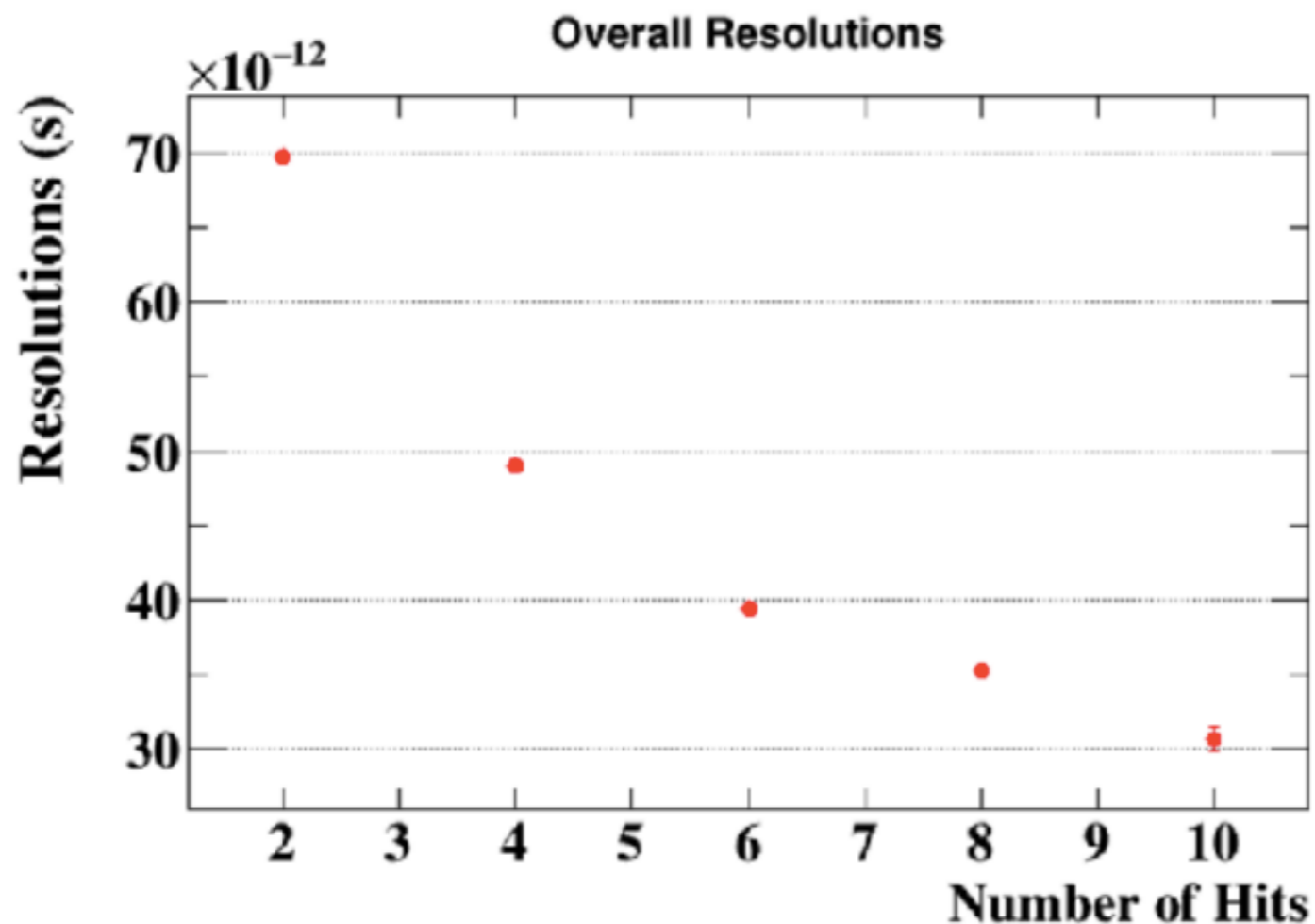
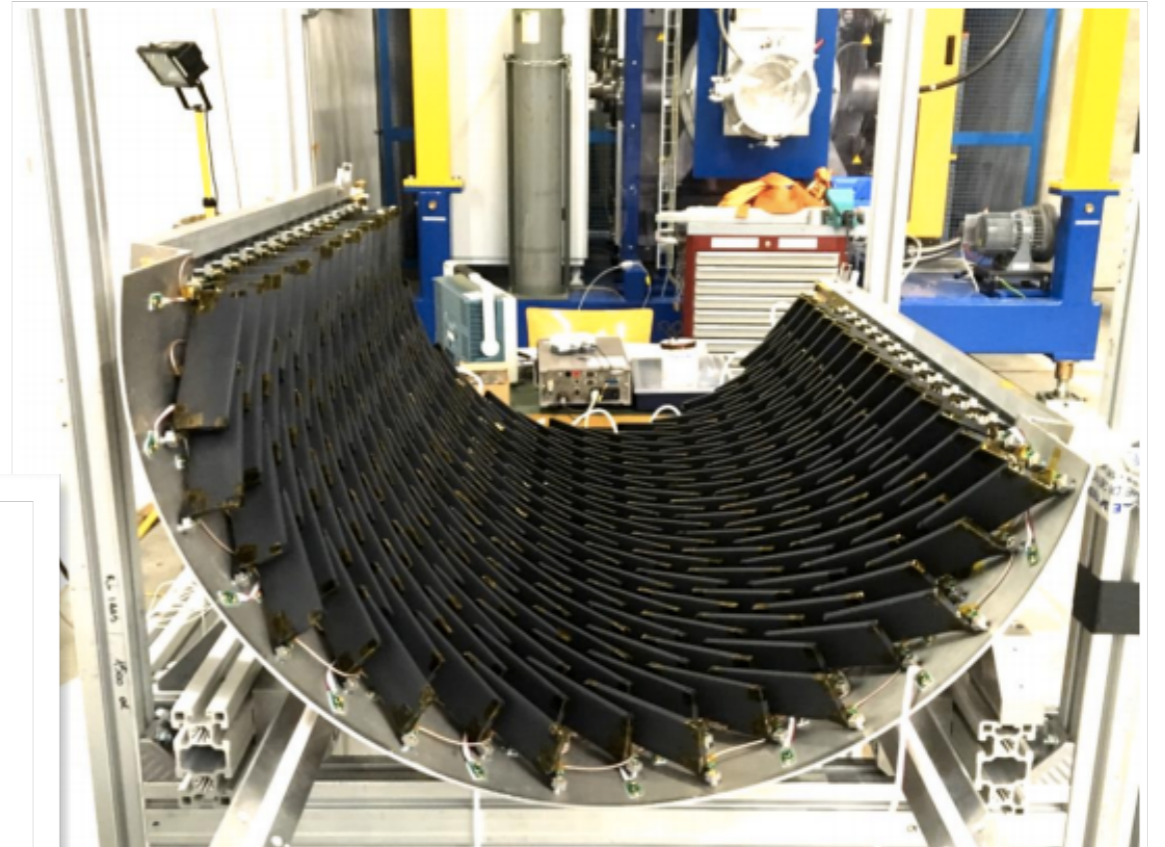


*Calibration with dedicated laser*

# MEG-II Highlights - The Timing Counters

5mm-thick Scintillator Tiles read out by 3x3 mm<sup>2</sup> SiPM

**Complete detector took data in 2017**



$$\sigma_T \sim 35 \text{ ps}$$

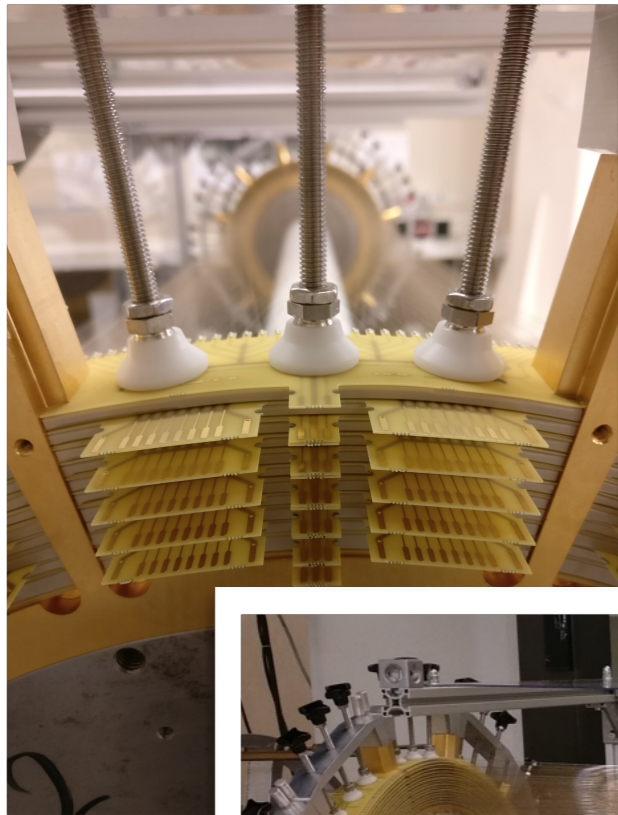
*Already reached  
the design resolution*

# MEG-II Highlights - The Drift Chamber

Wiring, assembly and sealing have been completed

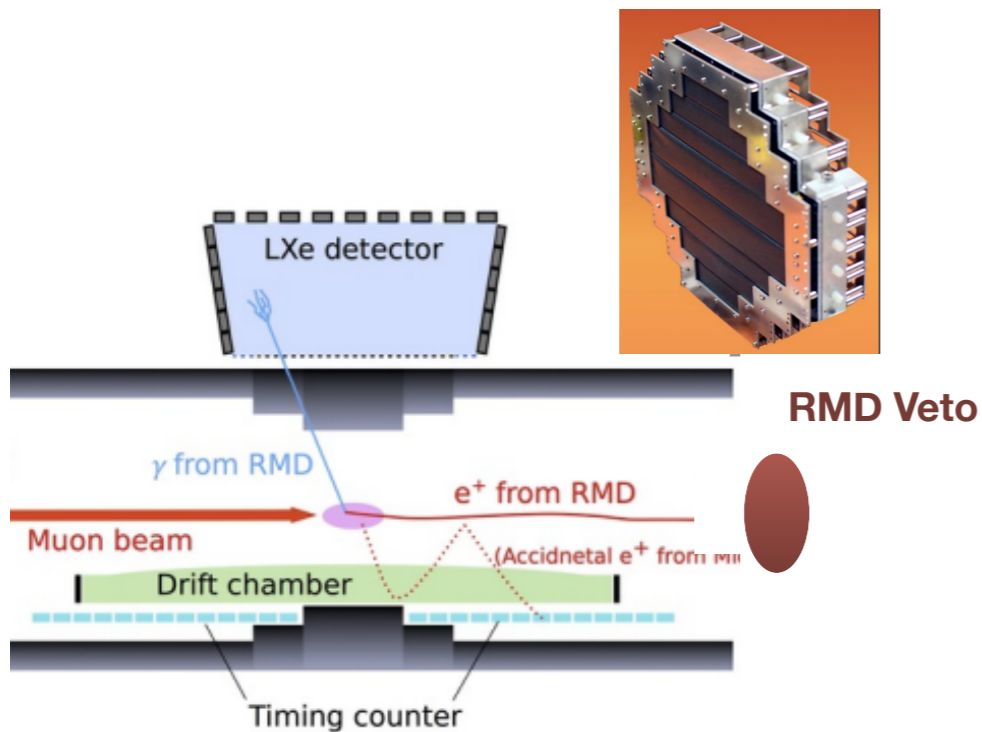
Had to face severe problems of wire fragility in presence of contaminants + humidity

**On beam in Fall 2018**



$\sigma_E \sim 130 \text{ keV}$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{angles}} \sim 5 \text{ mrad}$ , 2x larger positron efficiency

# MEG-II Highlights - RDC, DAQ, Trigger



50% of acc. background photons come from RMD w/ positron along the beam line

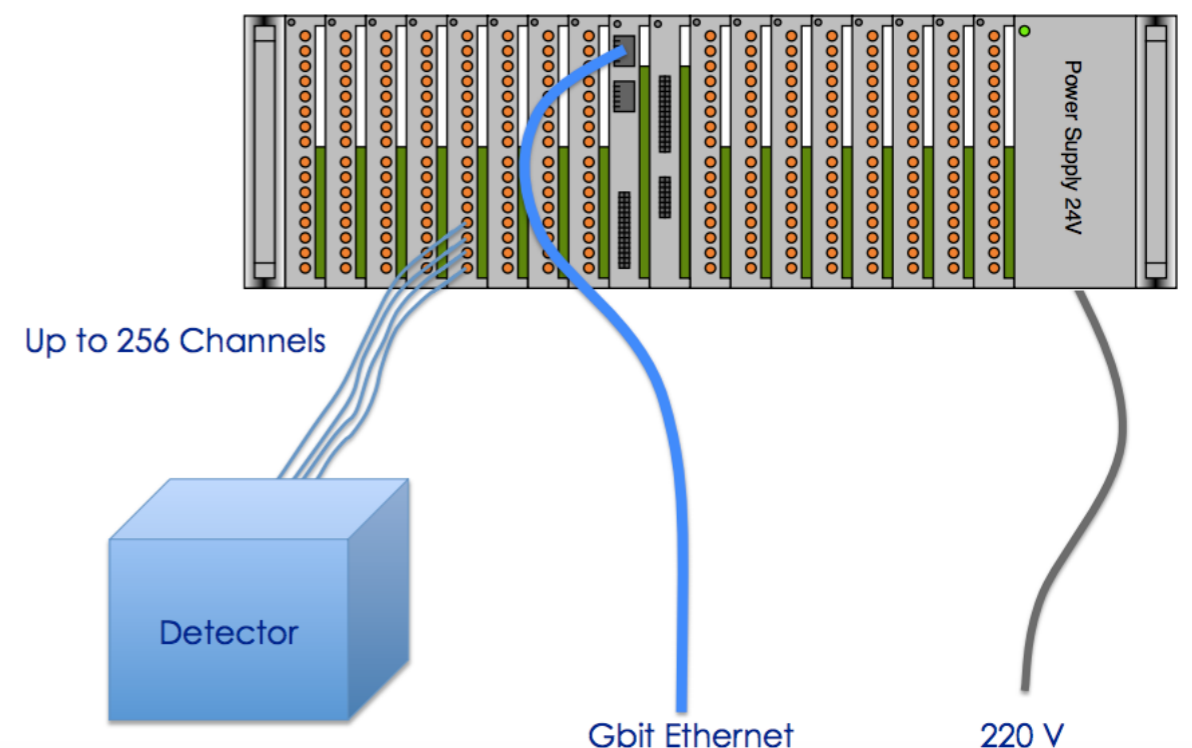
Can be vetoed by detecting the positron in coincidence with the photon

A new detector (LYSO + plastic scint.) built and tested in 2017 -> 16% better sensitivity

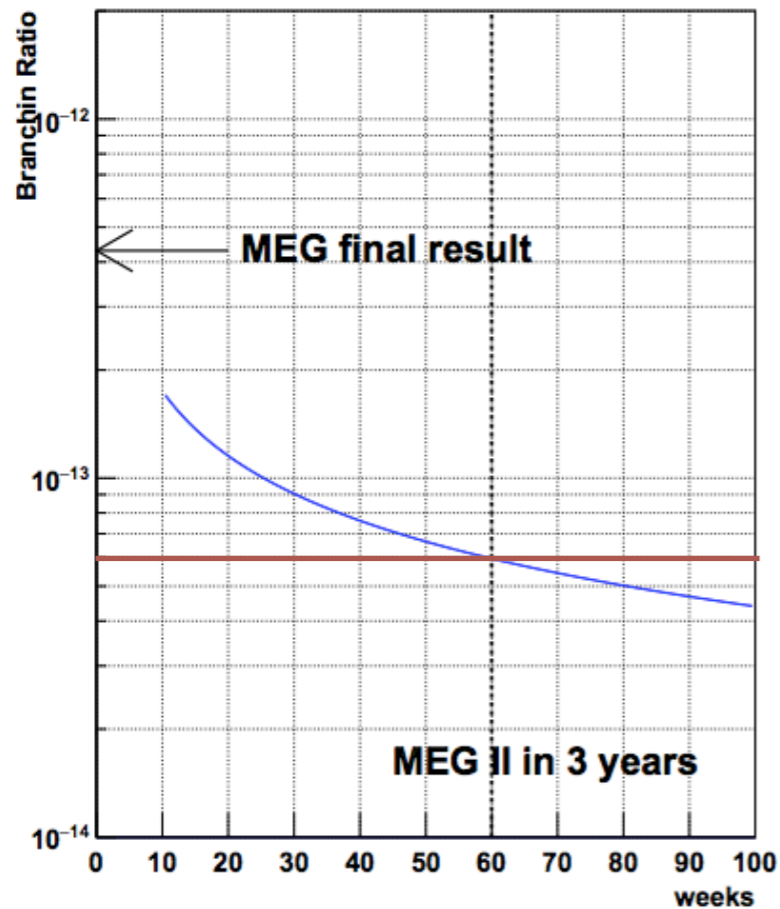
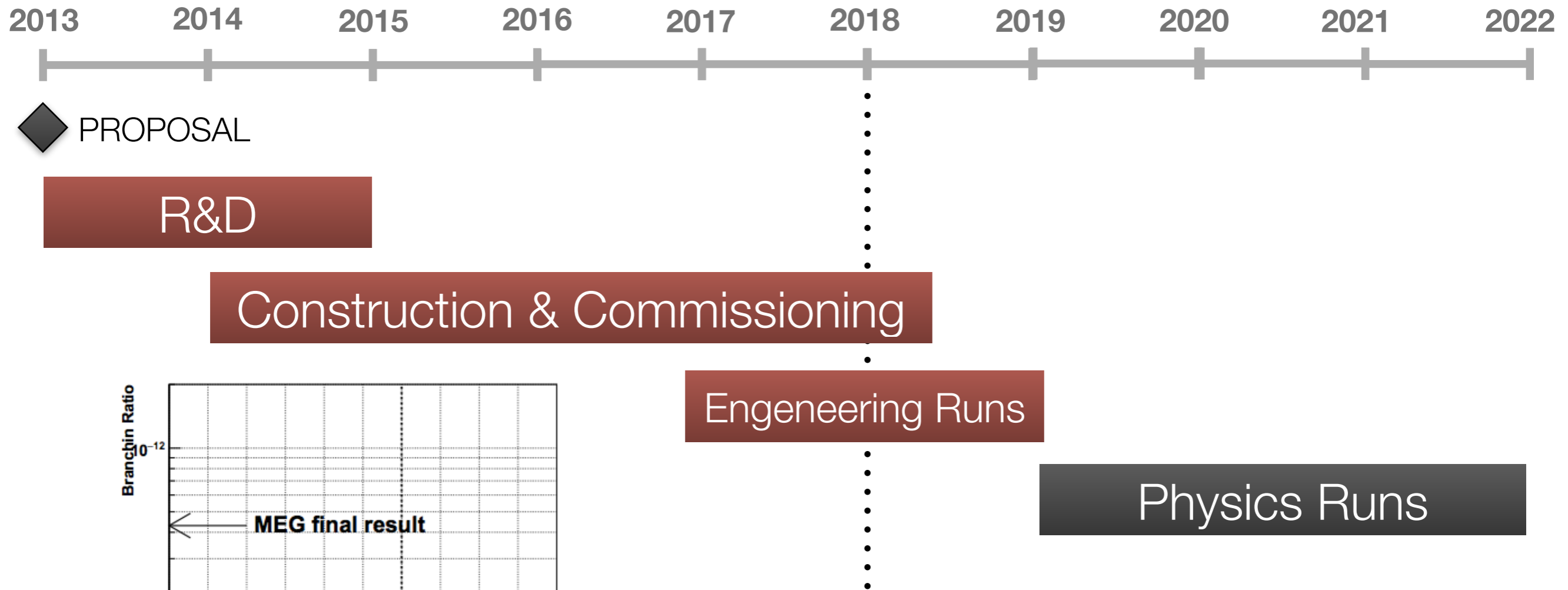
Trigger and DAQ will be integrated in a single, compact system (WaveDAQ)

Also provides power and amplification for SiPM/MPPC

Successfully tested in 2017 with XEC, TC and RDC



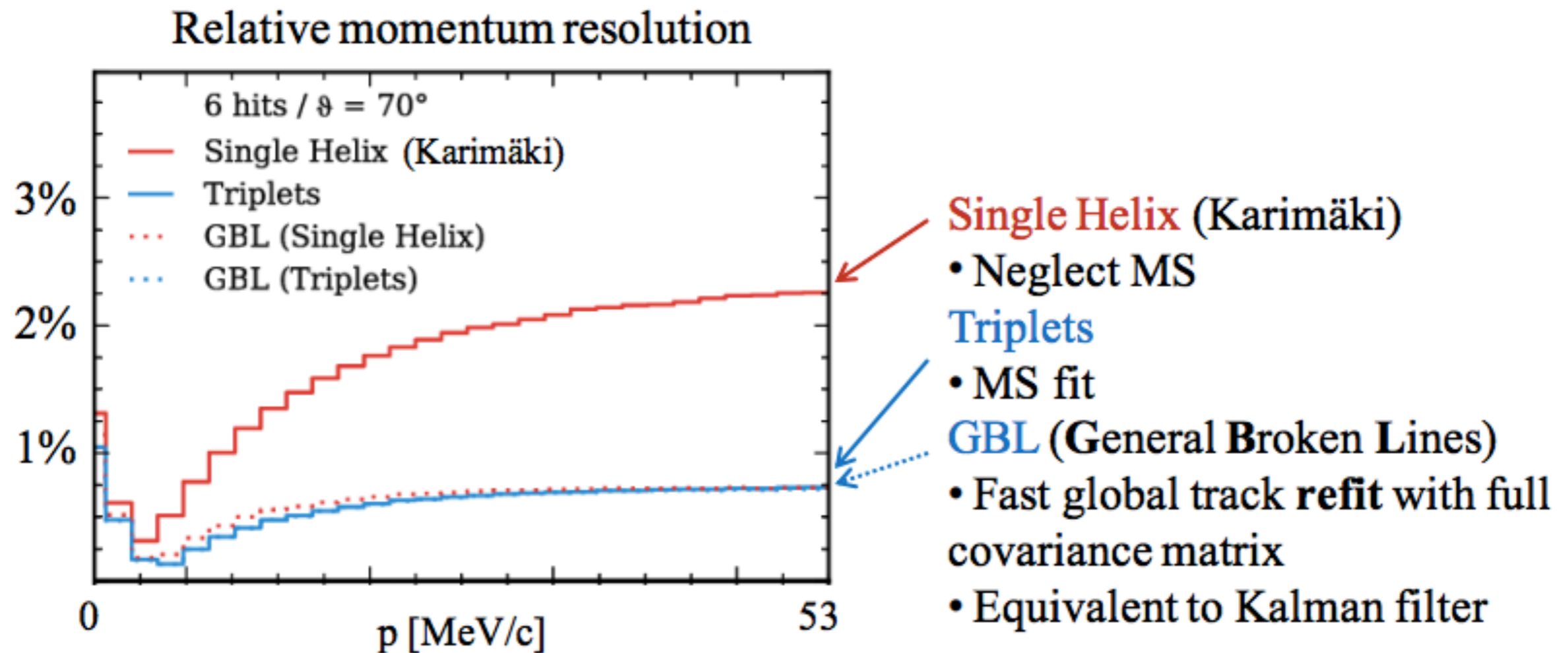
# MEG-II schedule & sensitivity



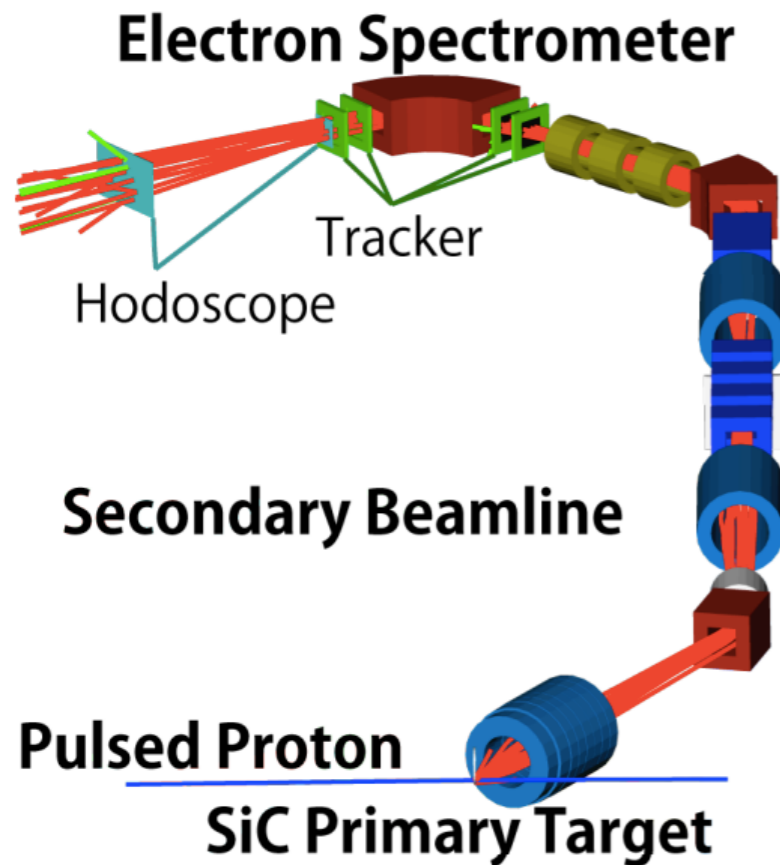
$6 \times 10^{-14}$

# Silicon detector momentum resolution

## Mu3e momentum resolution ( $B = 1T$ ) 4x worse than MEG-II

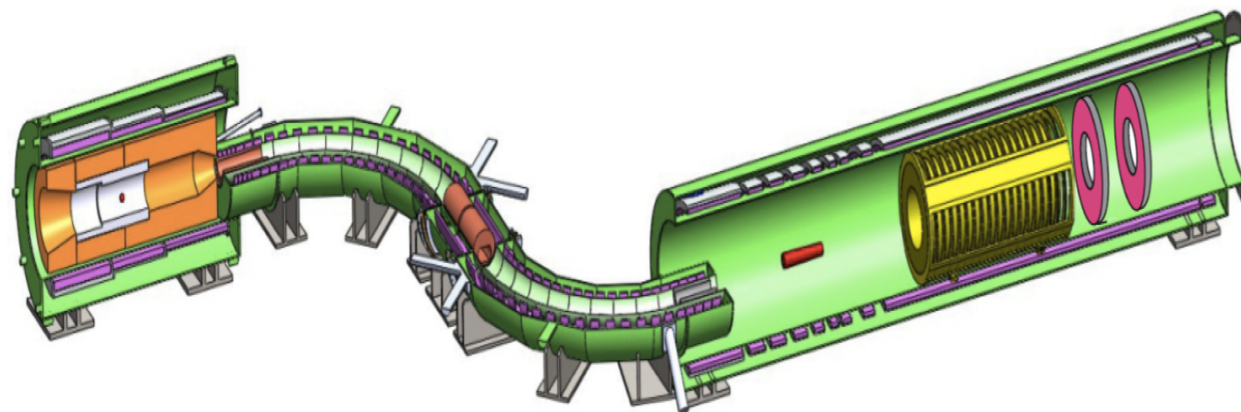
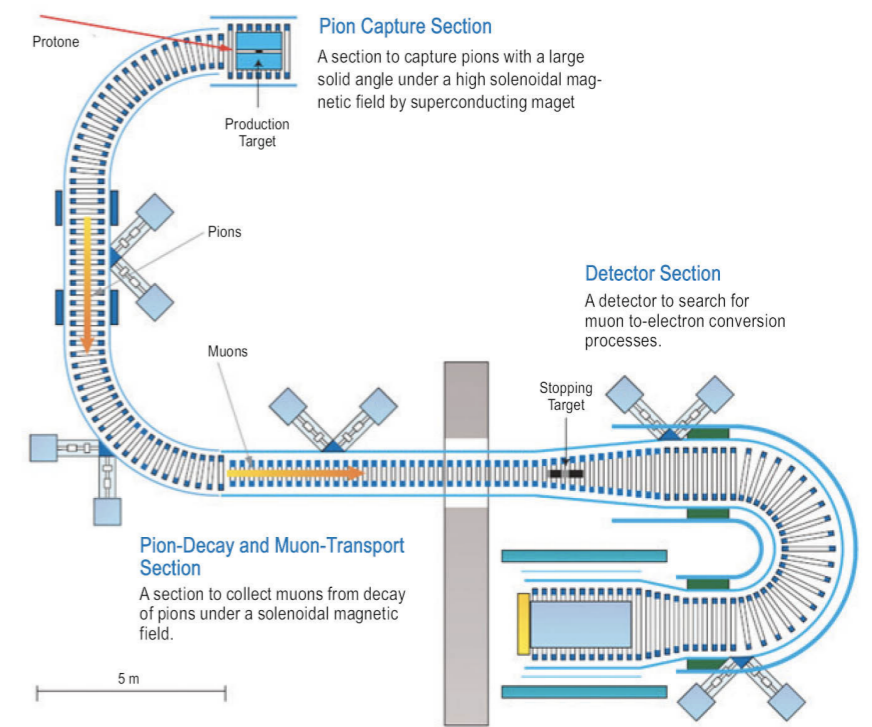


# DeeMee / COMET / Mu2e



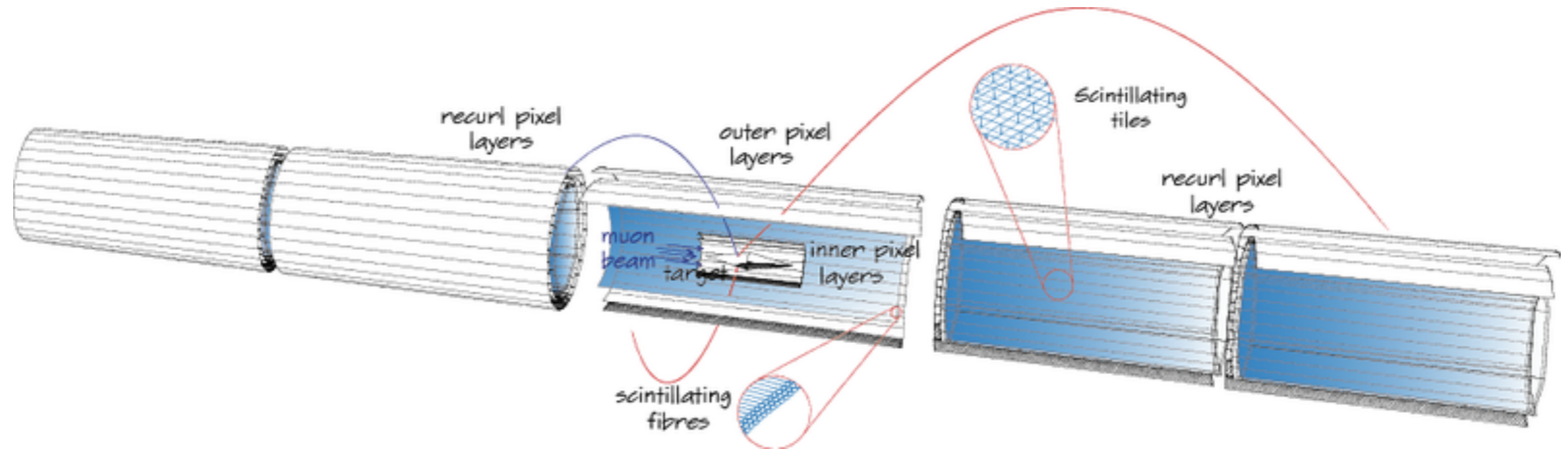
DeeMee: will start data taking soon  
SES  $\sim 10^{-14}$

COMET: Will start phase-I commissioning  $\sim 2019$   
phase-II SES  $\sim 10^{-17}$



Mu2e: Data taking expected  $\sim 2022$   
SES  $< 10^{-16}$

# Mu3e



R&D almost completed  
Commissioning will start soon  
Data taking expected > 2020

Expected BR UL  $\sim 10^{-16}$