

PandaX-III: Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay Search at CJPL

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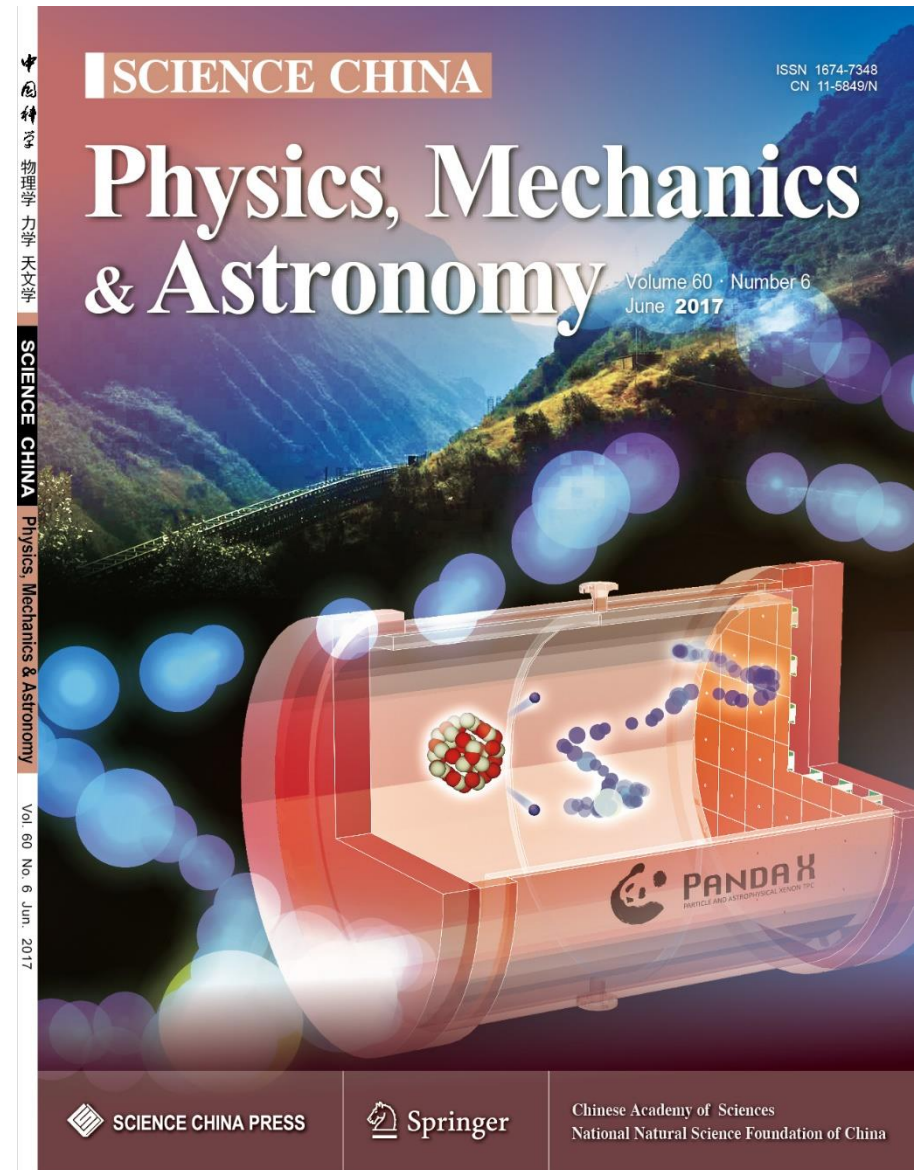
June 30, 2018



On Behalf of the PandaX-III Collaboration

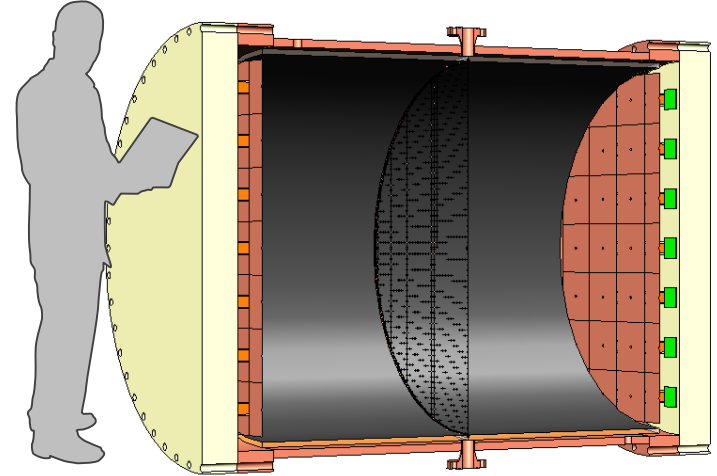
Outline

- PandaX-III project overview
 - Key concept
 - PandaX family
 - Jin-Ping Lab
- The first 200kg-scale module with Micromegas readout
 - Readout plane
 - Electronics
 - Background discrimination
 - Physics reach
- Prototype TPC
 - Design and construction
 - Initial commissioning data

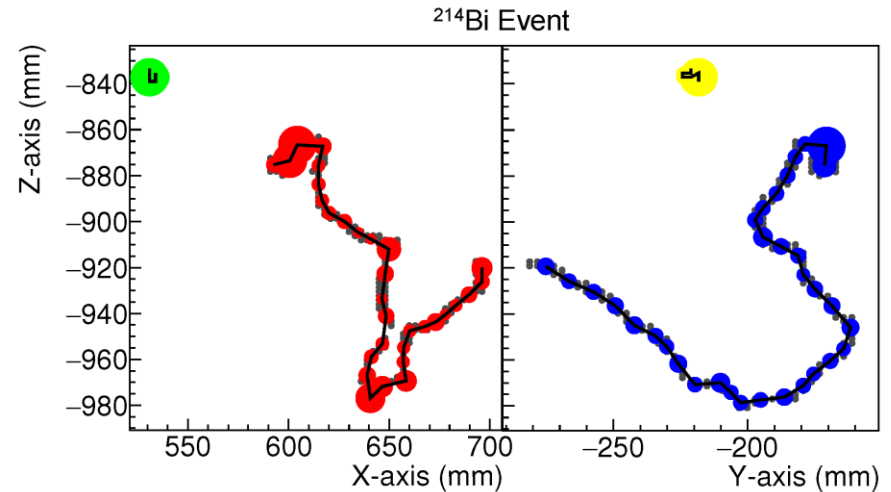
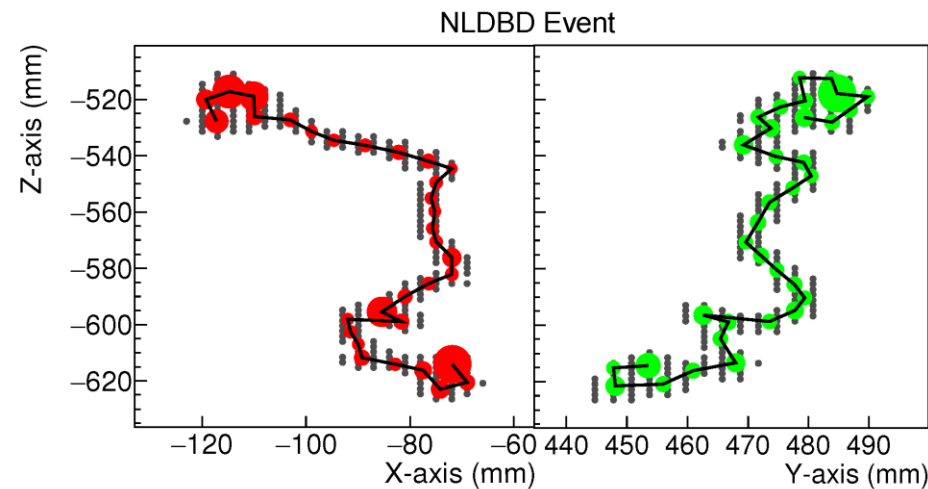


PandaX-III: high pressure gas TPC for $0\nu\beta\beta$ of ^{136}Xe

- TPC: 200 kg scale, symmetric, double-ended charge readout, with 10 bar of ^{136}Xe
- Main features: good energy resolution and **background suppression with tracking**



arXiv:1610.08883



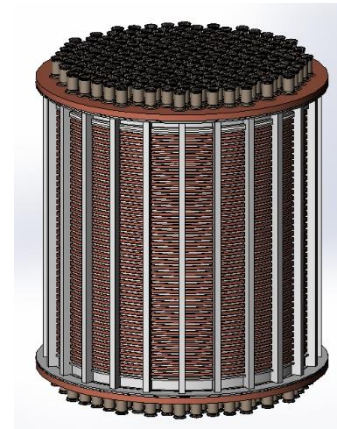
PandaX Projects



PandaX-I: 120kg LXe
(2009 – 2014)



PandaX-II: 500kg LXe
(2014 – 2018)

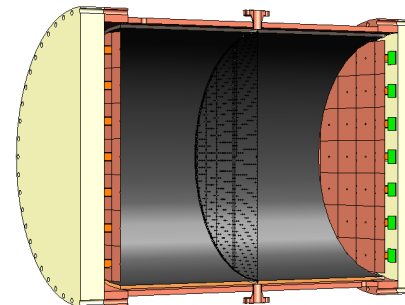


PandaX-xT LXe
(Future)

Dark matter WIMP
searches



PRL 117,
121303 (2016)

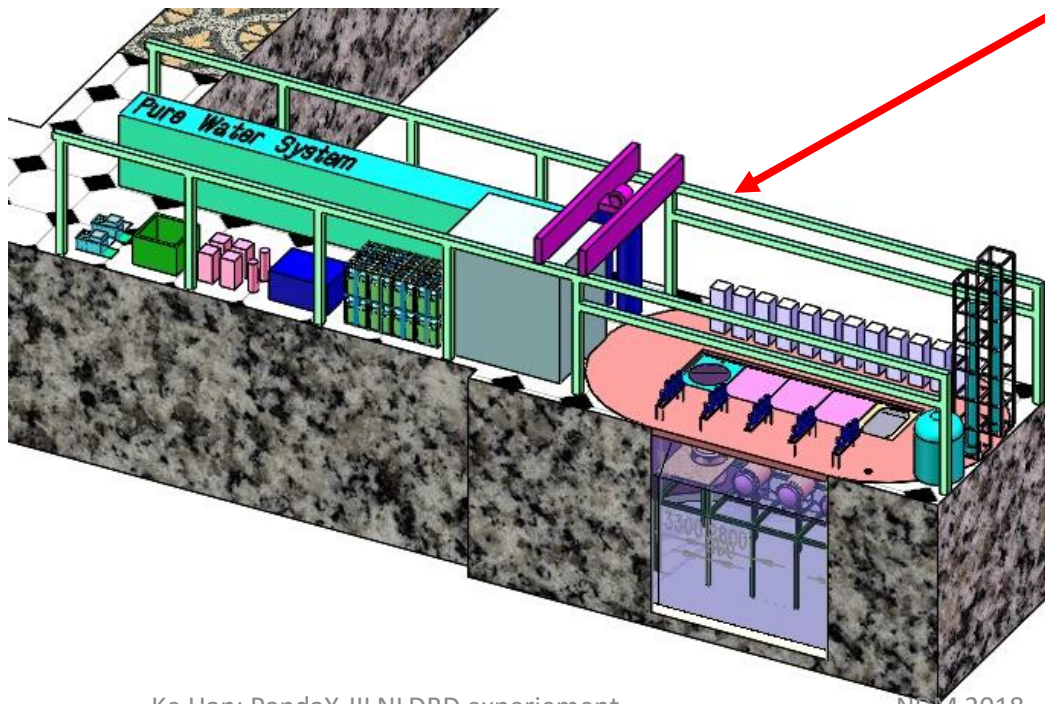
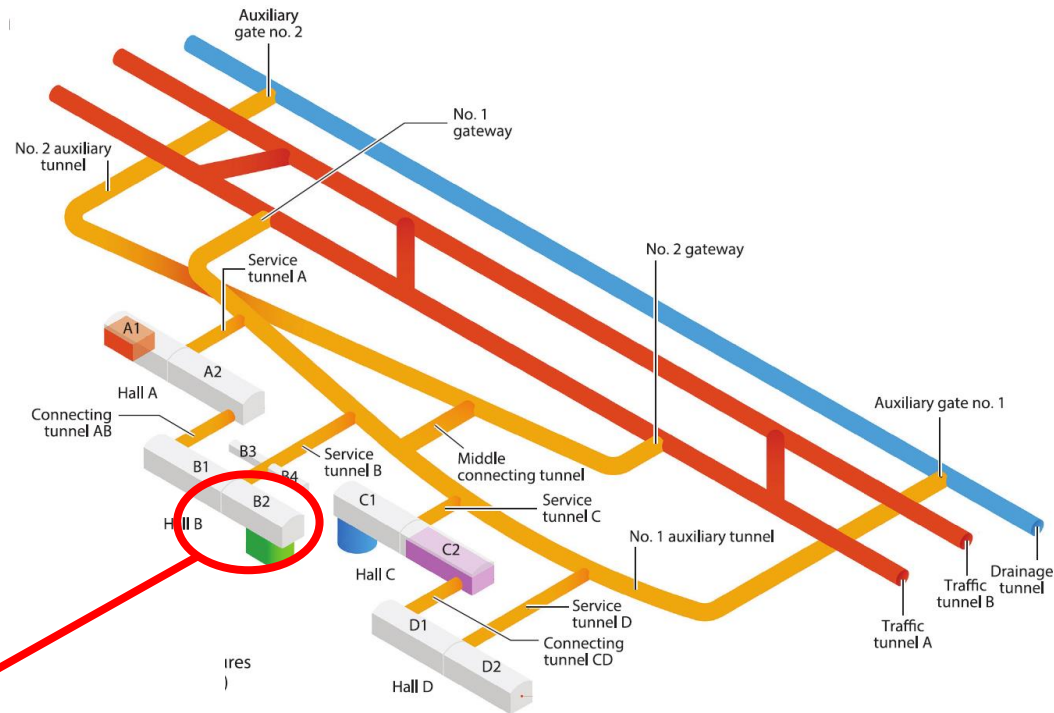


PandaX-III:
200kg - 1 ton HPXe (Future)

$0\nu\beta\beta$ searches

PandaX hall at CJPL-II

- PandaX projects
- CDEX WIMP/ $0\nu\beta\beta$ search
- JUNA (accelerator)
- Geo/Solar neutrino detector
- Other $0\nu\beta\beta$ activities
-



PandaX at Hall B2

- $\sim 900 \text{ m}^2$
- Extra excavation for the water shielding pool (finished)
- Shared facility of DM and $0\nu\beta\beta$ searches

Recent activities at PandaX hall

- Beneficial occupation started in 2017 for PandaX-II xenon distillation, etc.
- Infrastructure work in progress.



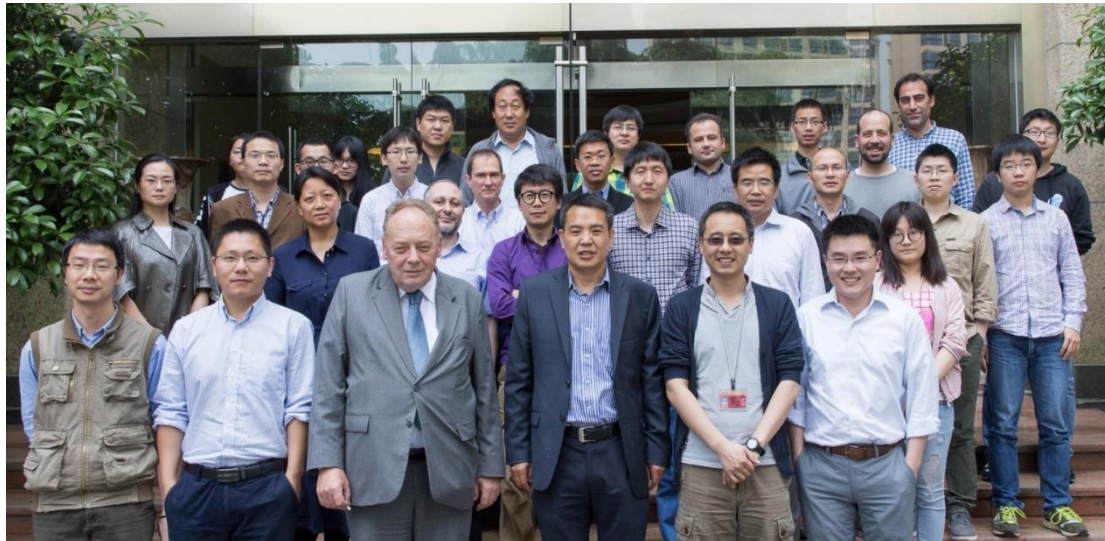
Ke Han: PandaX-III NLDBD experiment



NDM 2018



PandaX-III collaboration

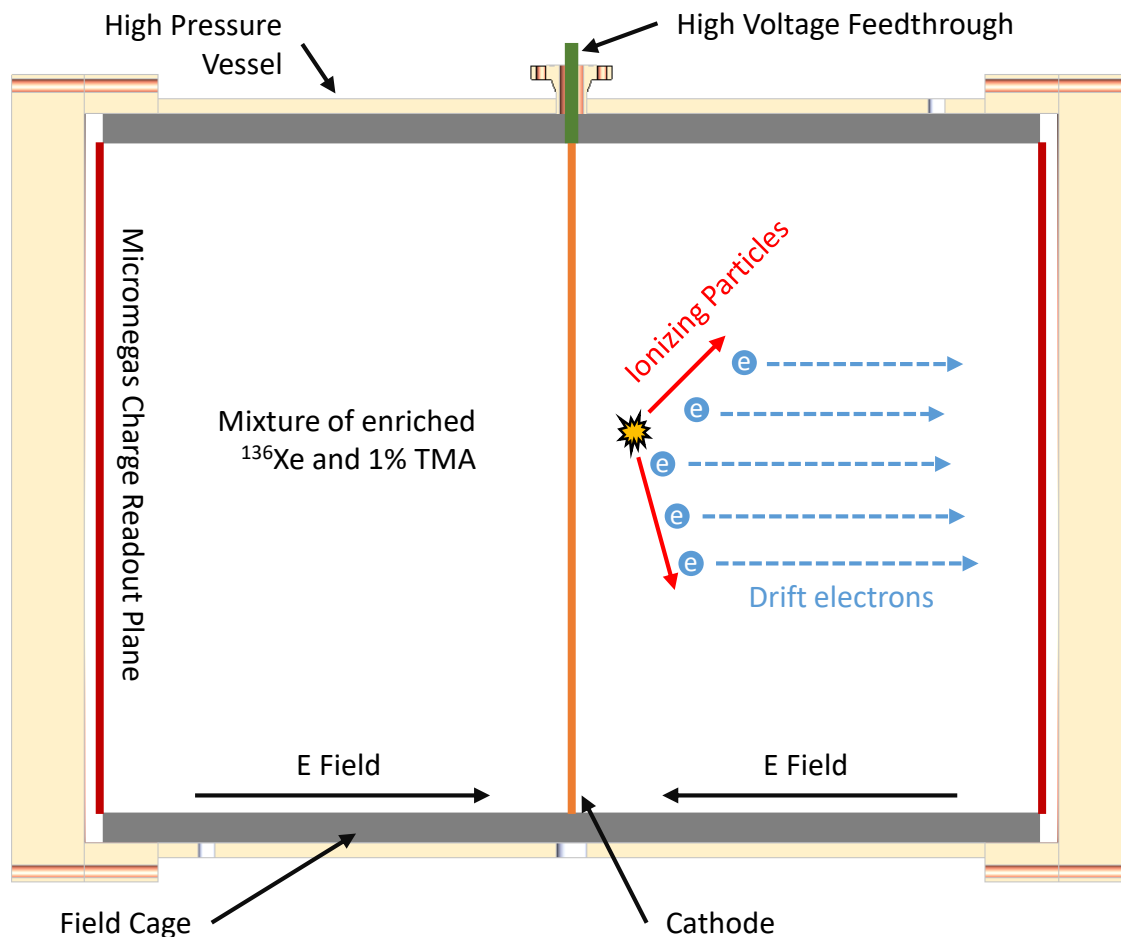


PandaX-III Collaboration Meeting, Shanghai, China, May 2016

- Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Univ. of Science and Technology of China
- Peking University
- China Institute of Atomic Energy
- Sun Yat-Sen University
- Central China Normal University
- Shandong University
- 🇺🇸 University of Maryland
- 🇺🇸 Berkeley Lab
- 🇫🇷 CEA Saclay
- 🇪🇸 University of Zaragoza
- 🇹🇮 Suranaree University of Technology (SUT)



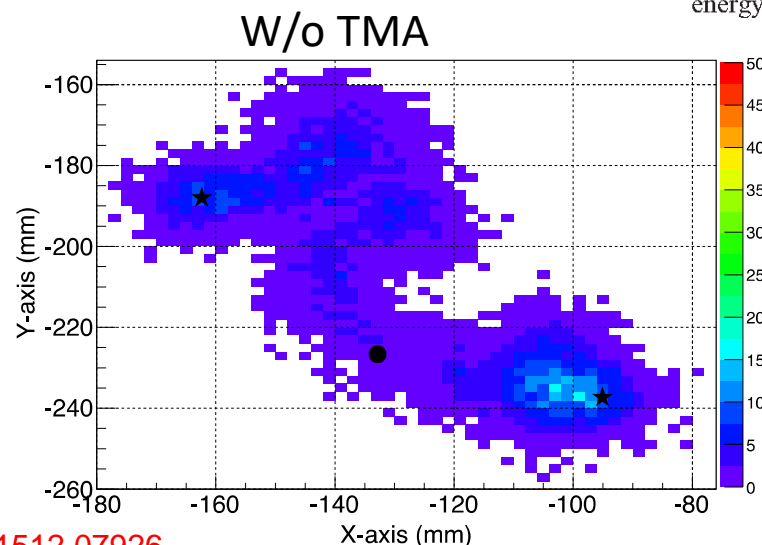
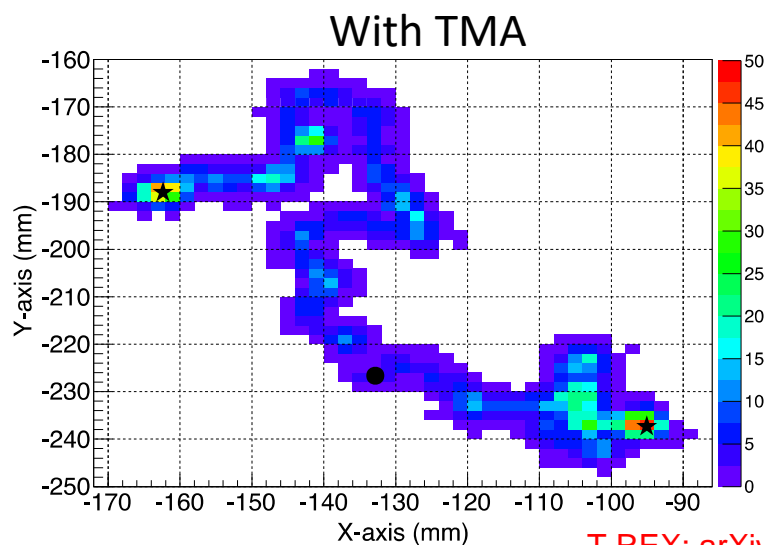
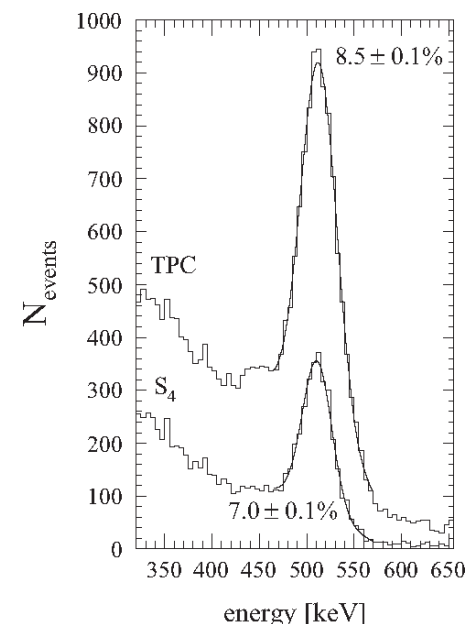
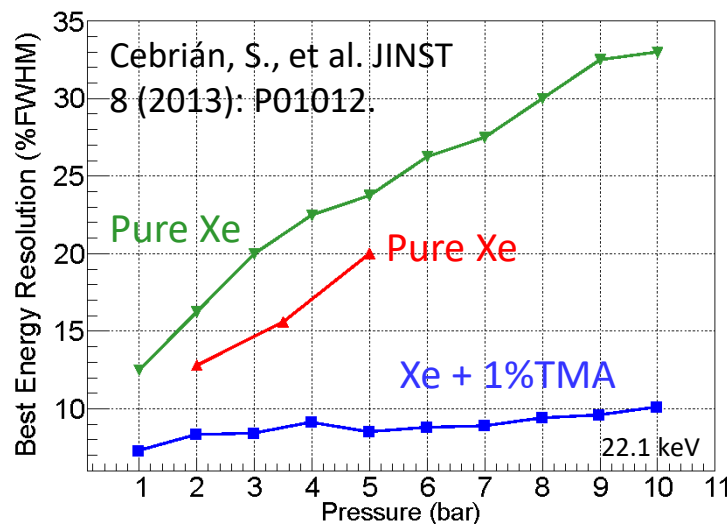
PandaX-III first TPC



- $\sim 4\text{m}^3$ active volume
- Copper pressure vessel
- 10 bar working pressure
- 200 kg of enriched xenon
- Xe+TMA gas mixture
- Charge-only readout with **Microbulk Micromegas**
- Strip readout with 3 mm pitch size
- ~ 10000 readout channels

Xe +TMA (trimethylamine) mixture

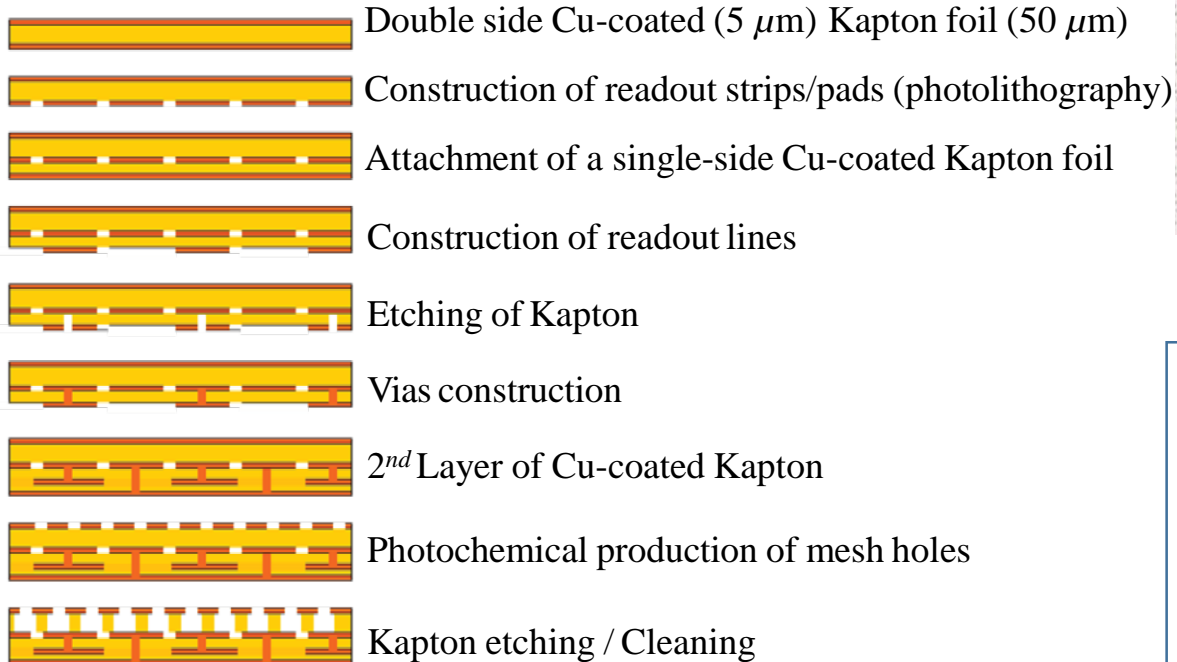
- Better energy resolution
 - Extrapolated from 511keV and 1.2MeV peaks: 3% FWHM (@ $Q_{\text{ov}\beta\beta}$)
- Better tracks
 - TMA suppress electron diffusion
- Better operation
 - TMA as a quencher gas



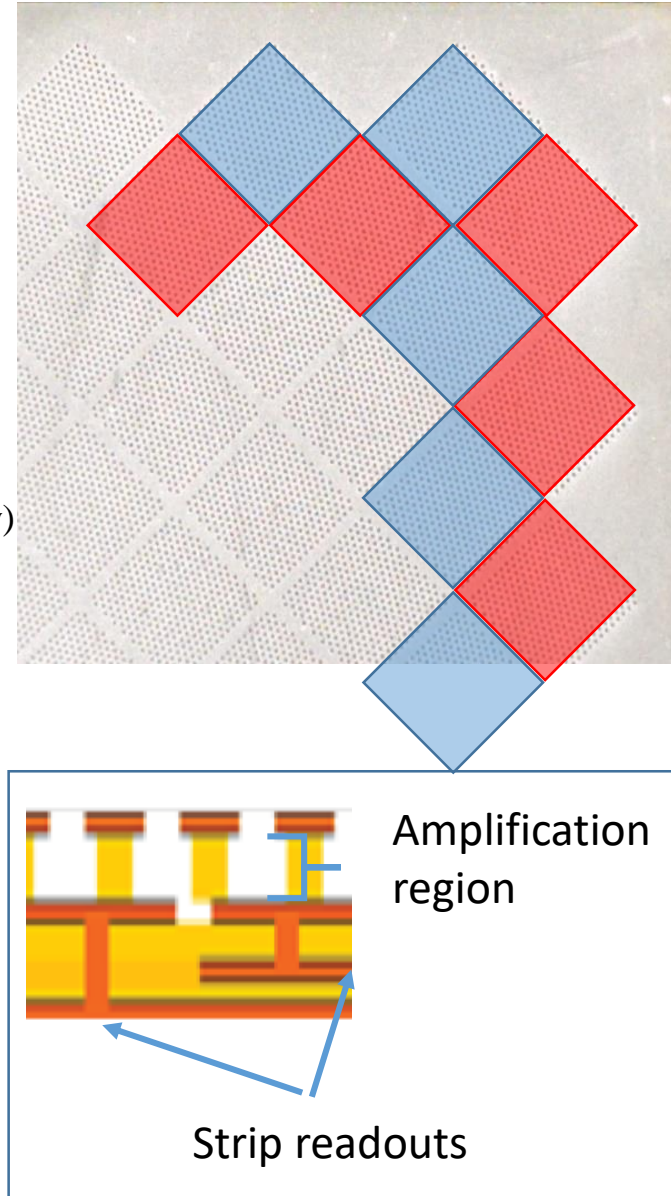
T-REX: [arXiv:1512.07926](https://arxiv.org/abs/1512.07926)

Microbulk MicroMegas (MM)

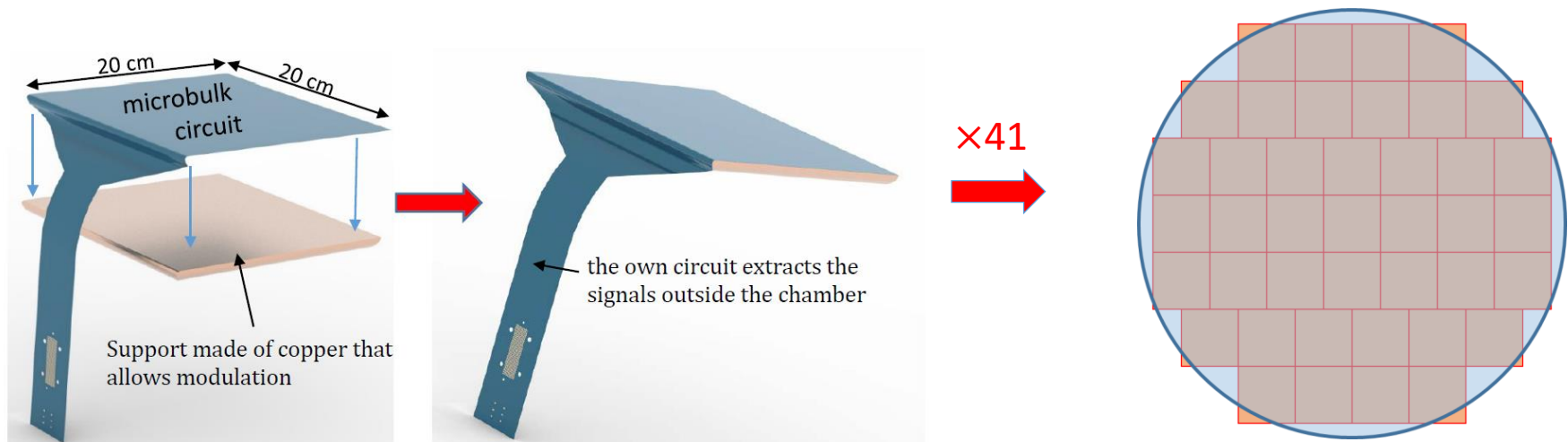
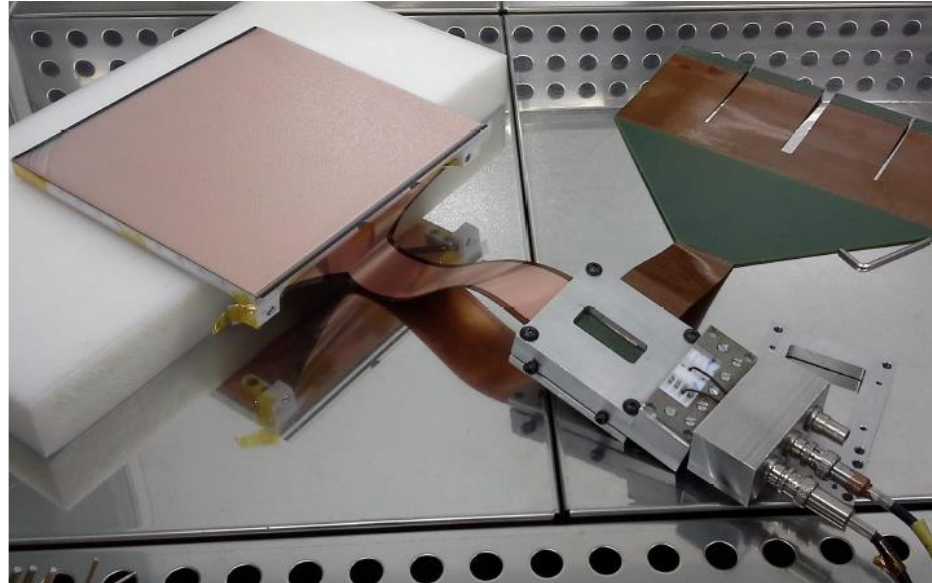
- Microbulk MicroMegas films made of Copper and Kapton only
 - Perfect for radio-purity purpose
- ~ 1000X gain
- 3% energy resolution expected at 2.5 MeV.



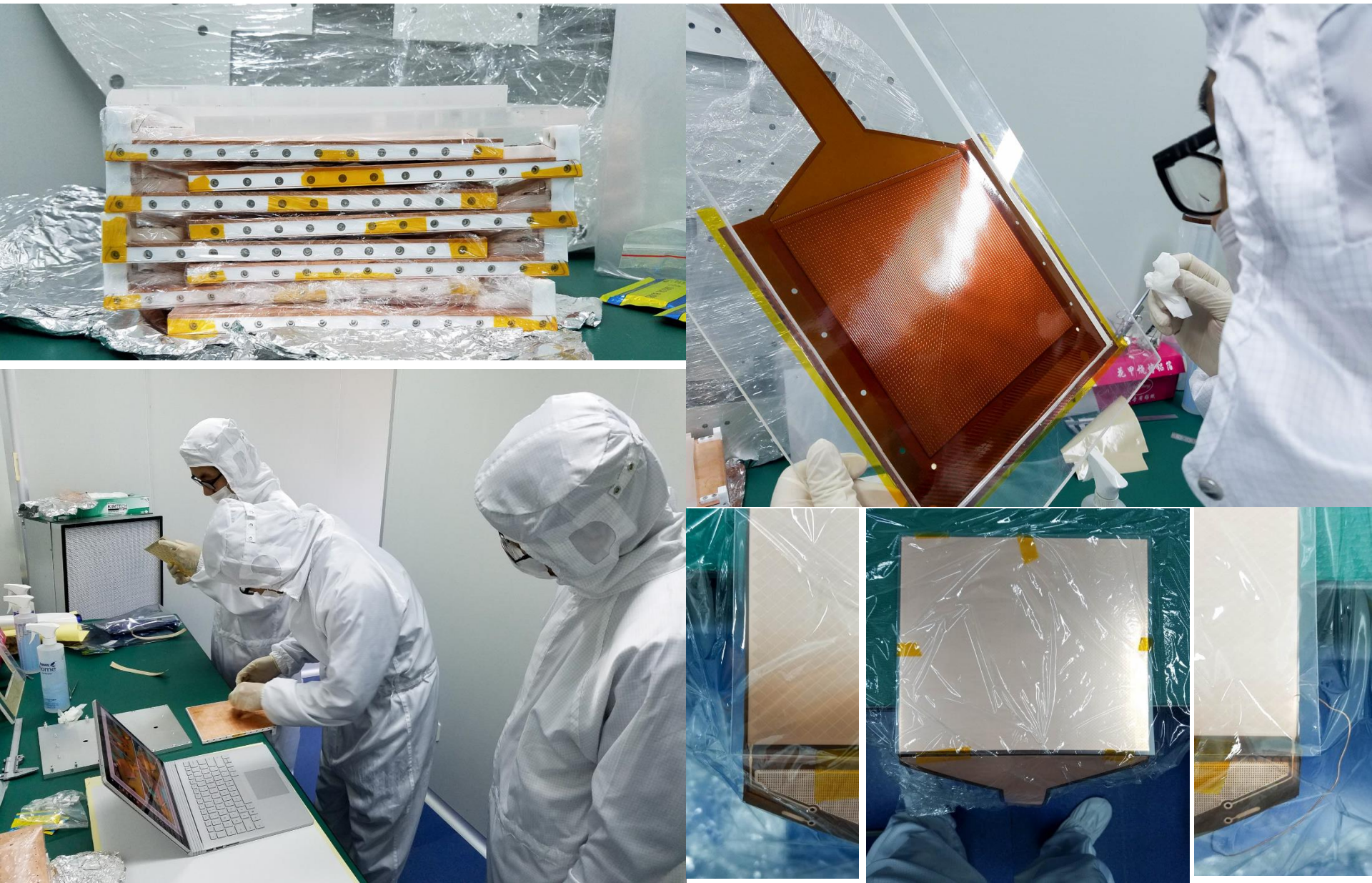
[Andriamonje, S. et al. JINST 02 \(2010\): P02001](#)



- SR2M: Mosaic layout to cover readout planes
 - Solderless system
 - Strip and mesh signal readout
 - Dead-zone-free arrangement
 - Designed by Zaragoza and SJTU



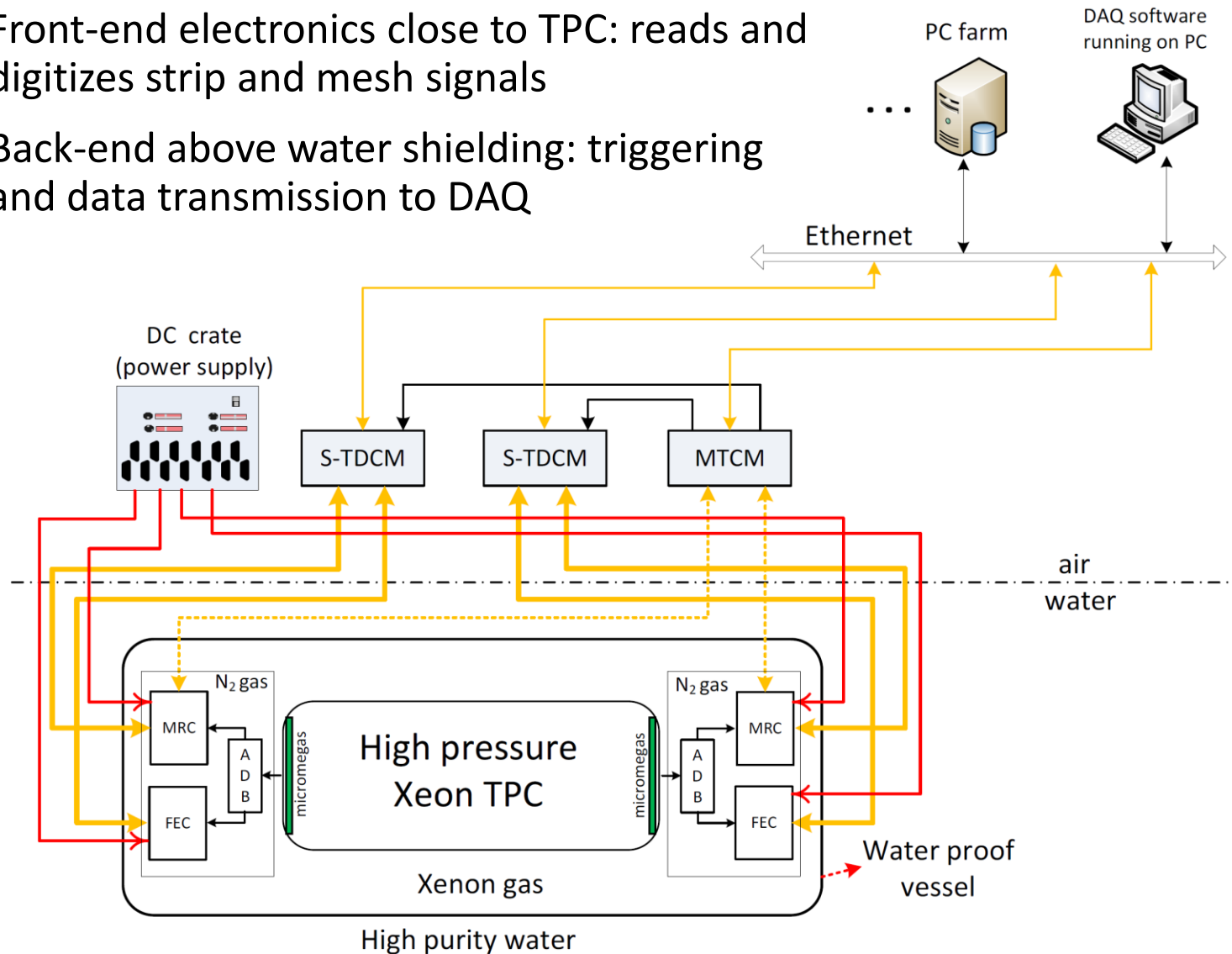
From MM films to SR2M



Ke Han: PandaX-III NLTBD experiment

Overview of electronics

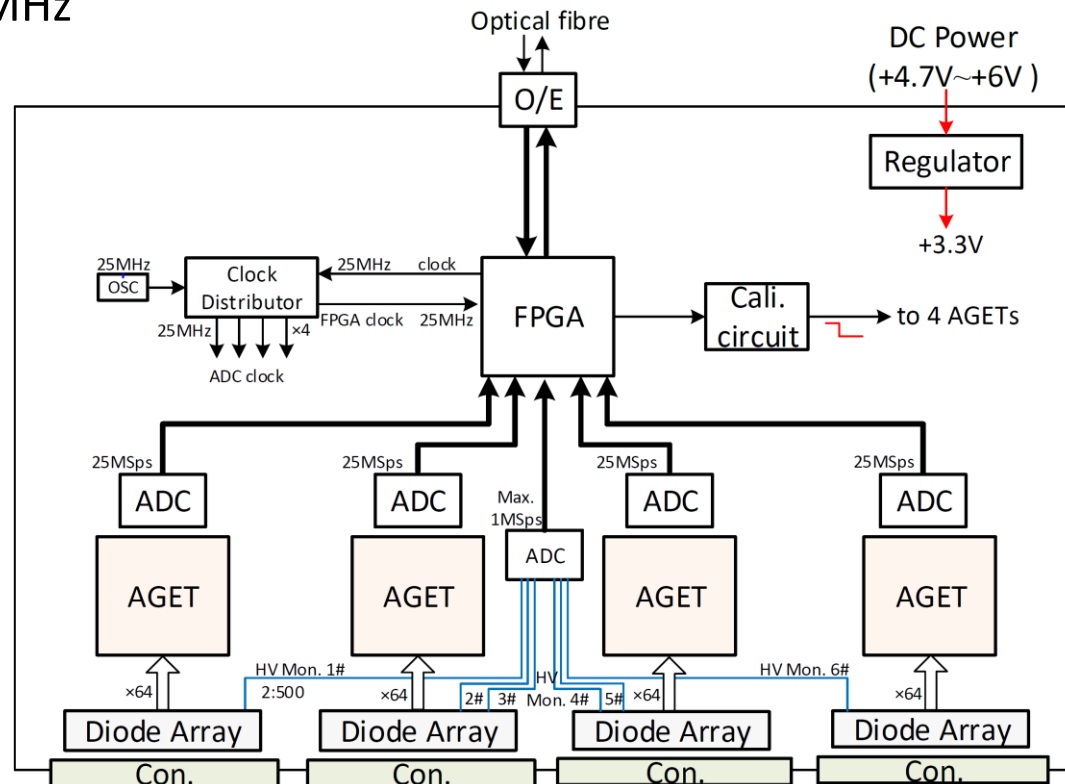
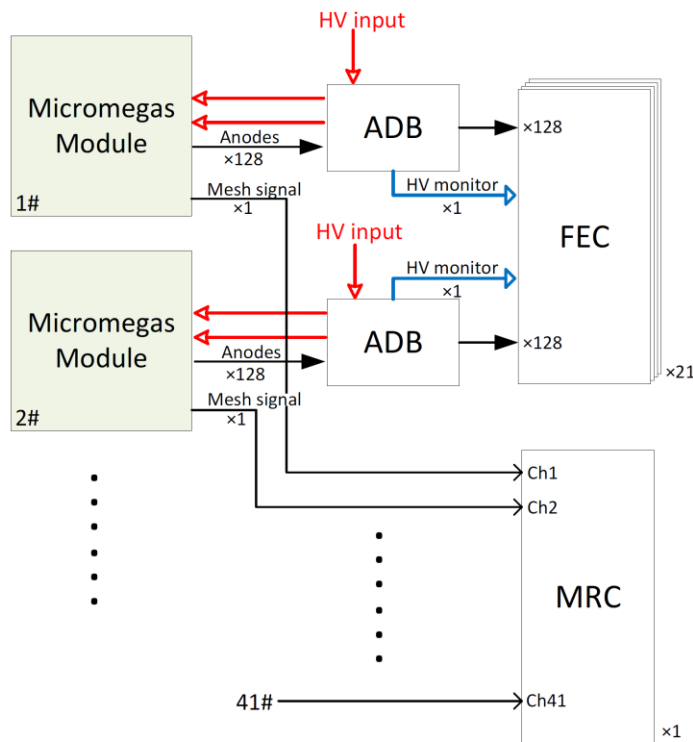
- Front-end electronics close to TPC: reads and digitizes strip and mesh signals
- Back-end above water shielding: triggering and data transmission to DAQ



Front end

Based on AGET ASIC chips: generic electronics for TPC from CEA-Saclay

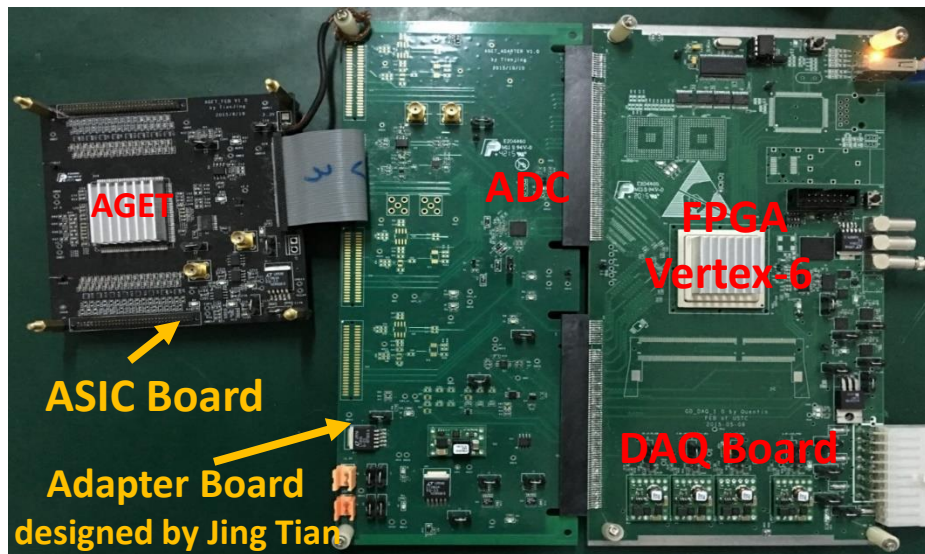
- 64 channel per AGET
- 512 sampling point per channel
- Dynamic range up to 10 pC
- Sampling rate: 1 MHz to 100 MHz



Front end

Based on AGET ASIC chips: generic electronics for TPC from CEA-Saclay

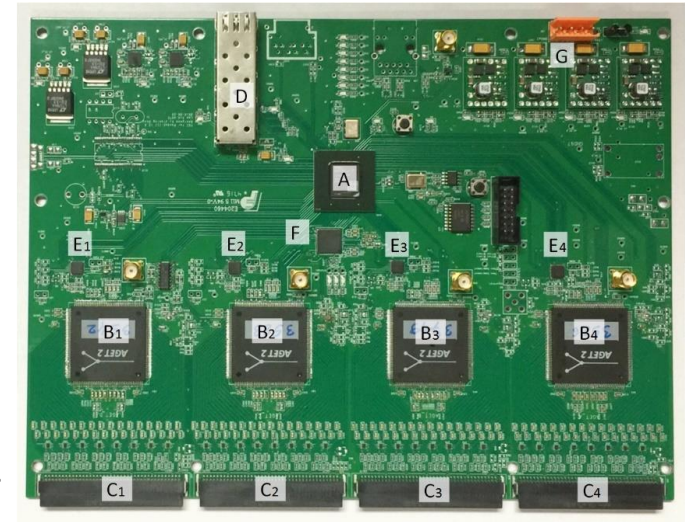
- 64 channel per AGET
- 512 sampling point per channel
- Dynamic range up to 10 pC
- Sampling rate: 1 MHz to 100 MHz



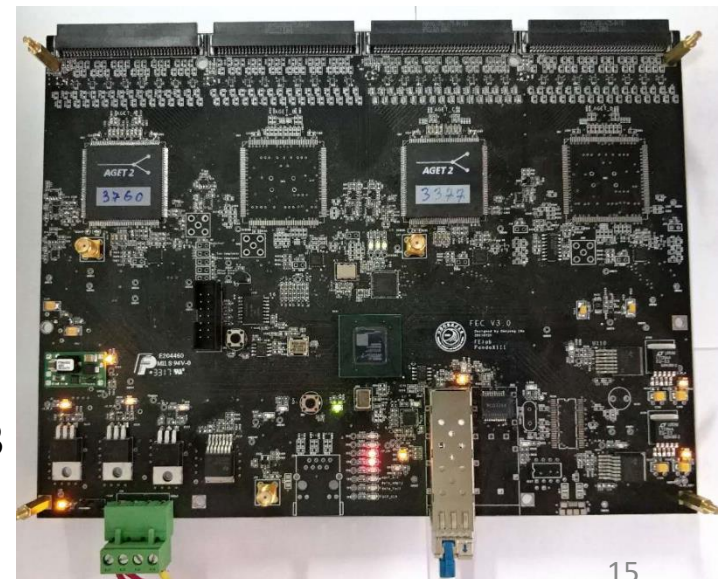
V1

D. Zhu, et al
arXiv:1806.09257

V2



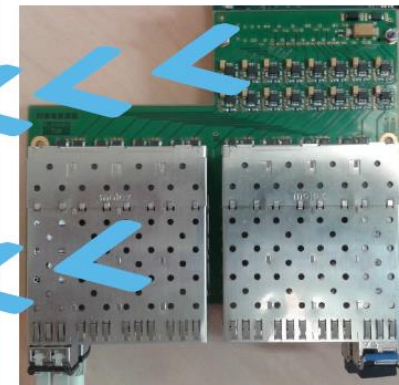
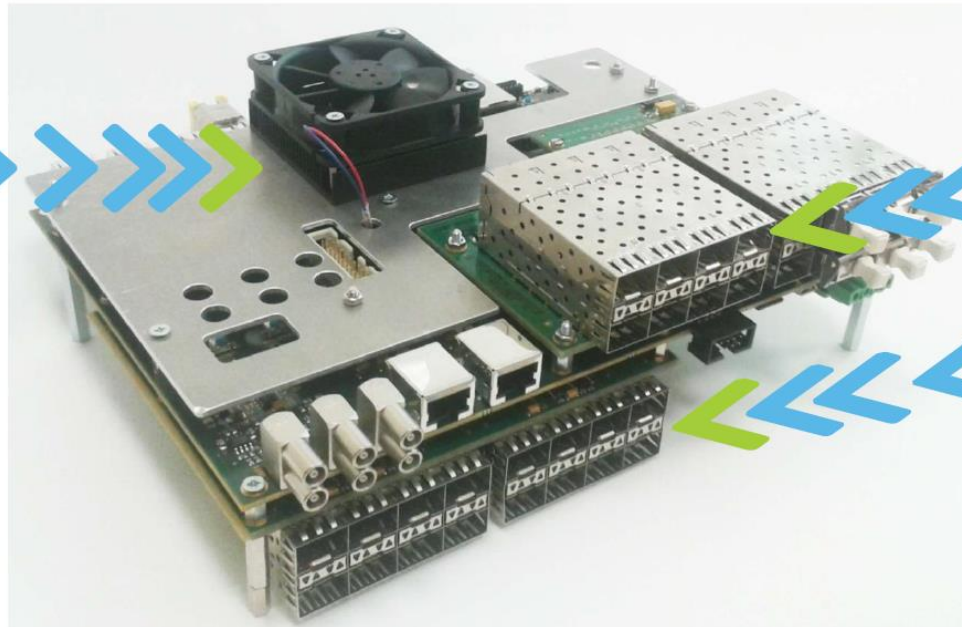
V3



- The Trigger and Data Concentrator Module – TDCM
 - Designed by Saclay for PandaX-III and T2K-II
 - A custom-made 6U form factor carrier board, a commercial FPGA module, and up to two physical layer mezzanine cards
 - Controls up to 32 FECs
- DAQ software based on MIDAS are under development.

D. Calvet, arXiv:1806.07618

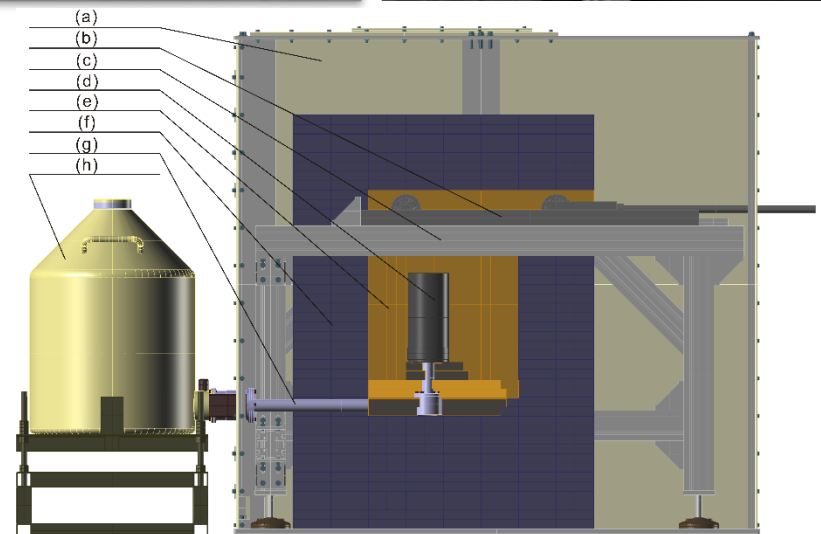
Mercury ZX1



physical layer
mezzanine card

Radio-purity control

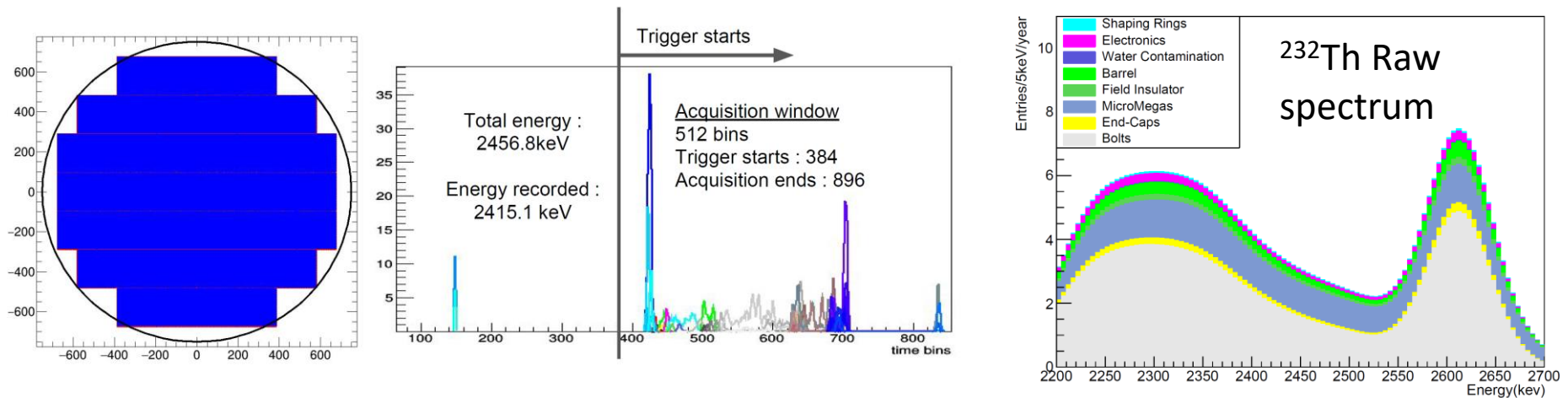
- ICP-MS at PKU (Beijing)
 - Agilent 7900 ICP-MS
 - Class 10 clean room; class 1 for the ICP-MS hood
 - Reaches sub-ppt level for U and Th in materials
- HPGe detectors at CJPL and SJTU
 - Radio-assay of detector materials and electronics components under way
- Low radioactivity environment
 - Rn-free air (by an Ateko system) in the detector assembly region of the lab
 - Rn-control in water shield
 - Rn-emanation measurements



Background budget

Two independent Geant-4 based MC packages: RESTG4 and BambooMC

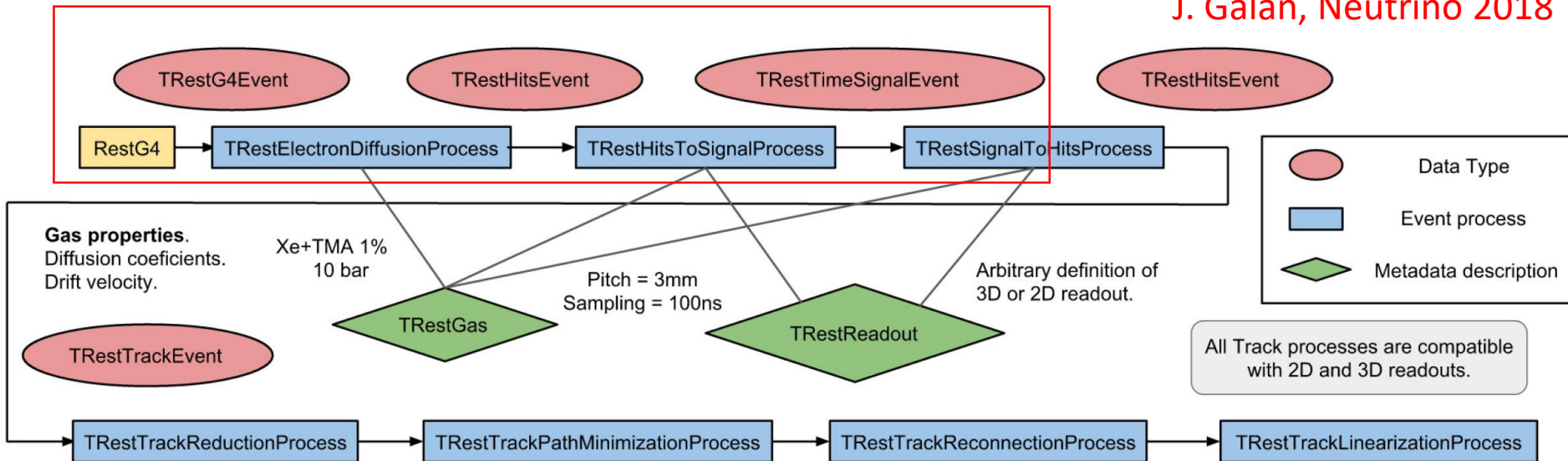
- Treat PandaX-III as a simple calorimeter
- Then add detector response
- Calculate signal efficiency and background rejection
- ×35 background reduction from topological analysis
 - Track reconstruction and blob identification at both ends
 - Convoluted neural network



Generating MC signals

- Event tracks from Geant4 (Monte Carlo truth)
- Add electron drift and diffusion with gas parameter inputs from Garfield++
- With definition of a PandaX-III specific charge readout scheme, event tracks are converted to MC signal.
- MC signal pulses are identical to physical pulses from DAQ.

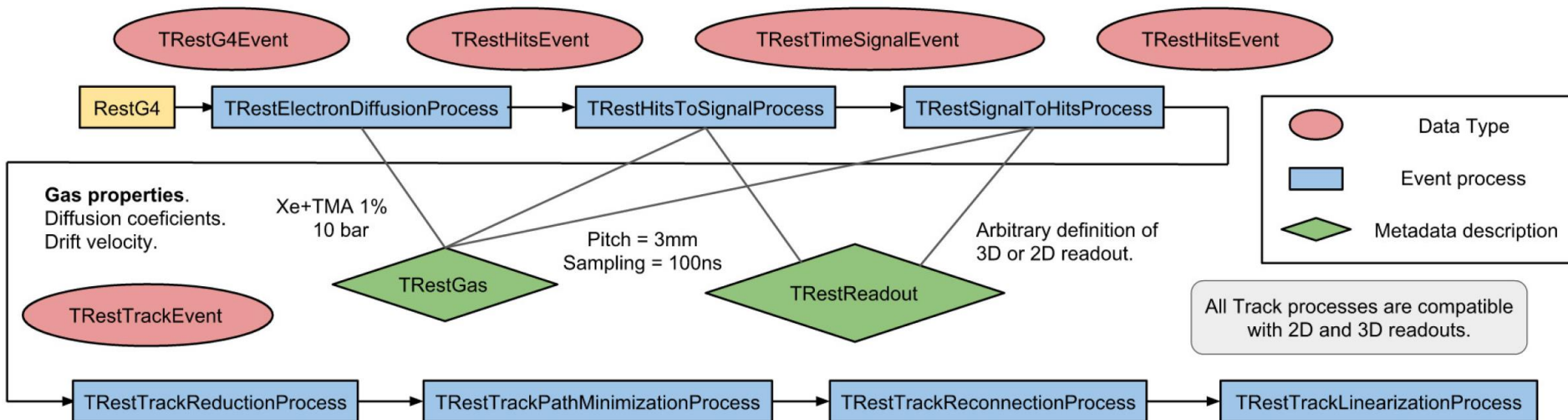
J. Galan, Neutrino 2018



Reconstructing a track

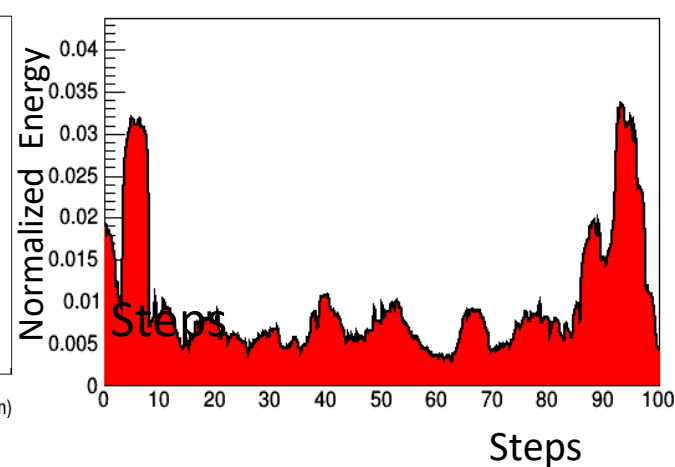
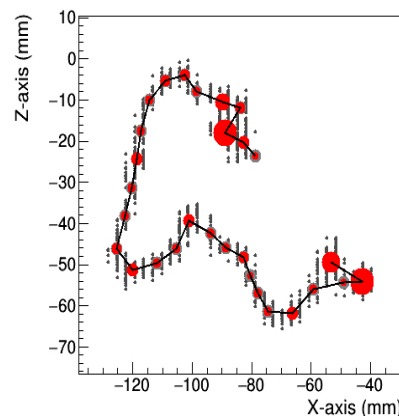
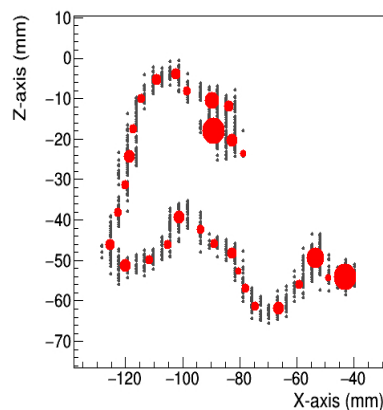
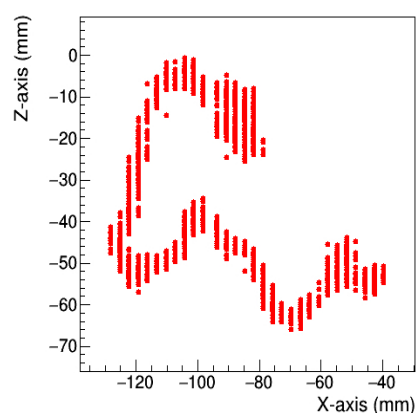
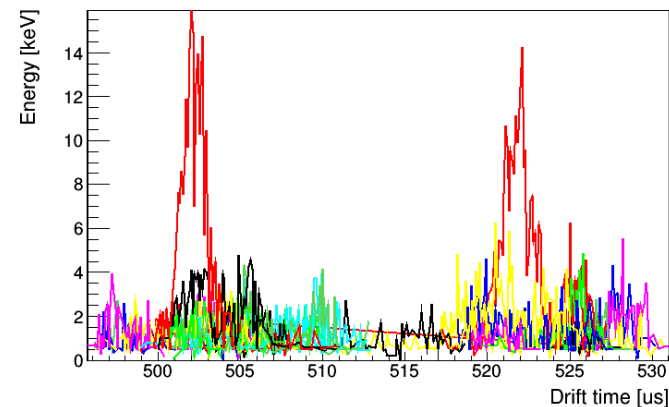
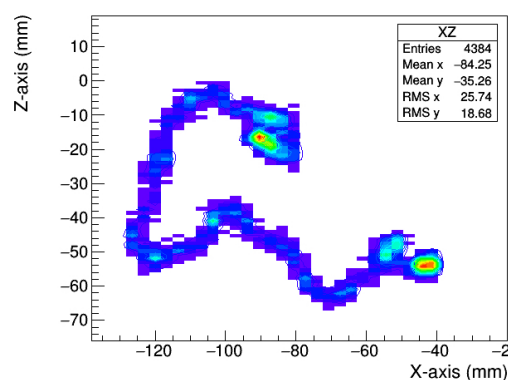
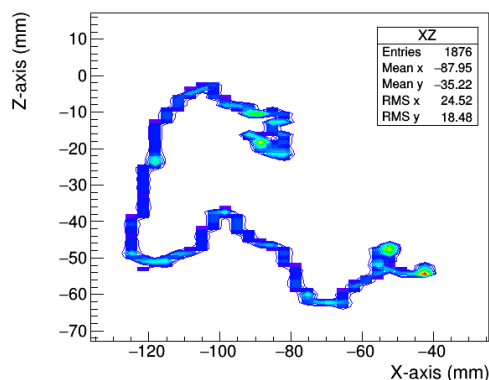
- Converts back from pulses to hits on XZ, YZ, and XY (optional) planes
- Reduces the number of hits inside a track by merging closer hits
- Finds the minimum path between hits inside each track
- Improves physical track description after track minimization
- Projects the hits along the reconstructed track to get dE/dx profile.

J. Galan, Neutrino 2018



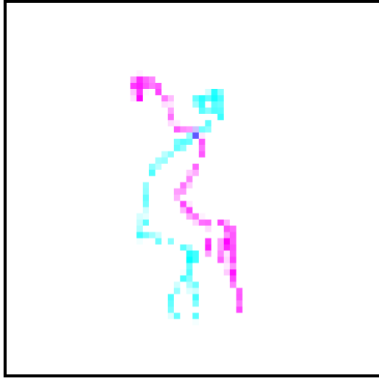
Traditional “cut” based analysis

Define key parameters (such as energy deposition in a certain blob) and refine cuts

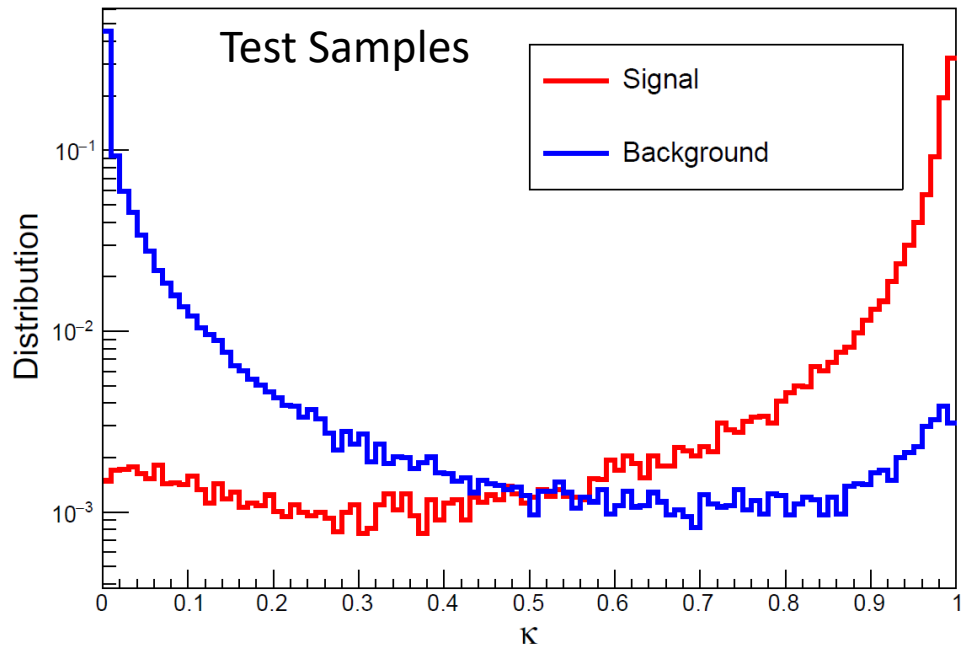
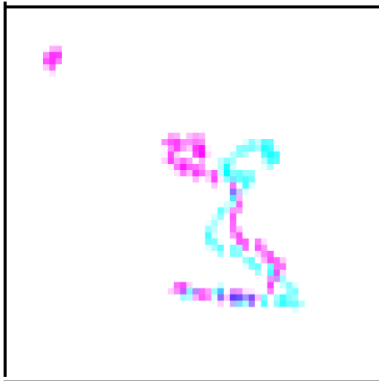


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Convolutional Neural network (CNN) for track classification



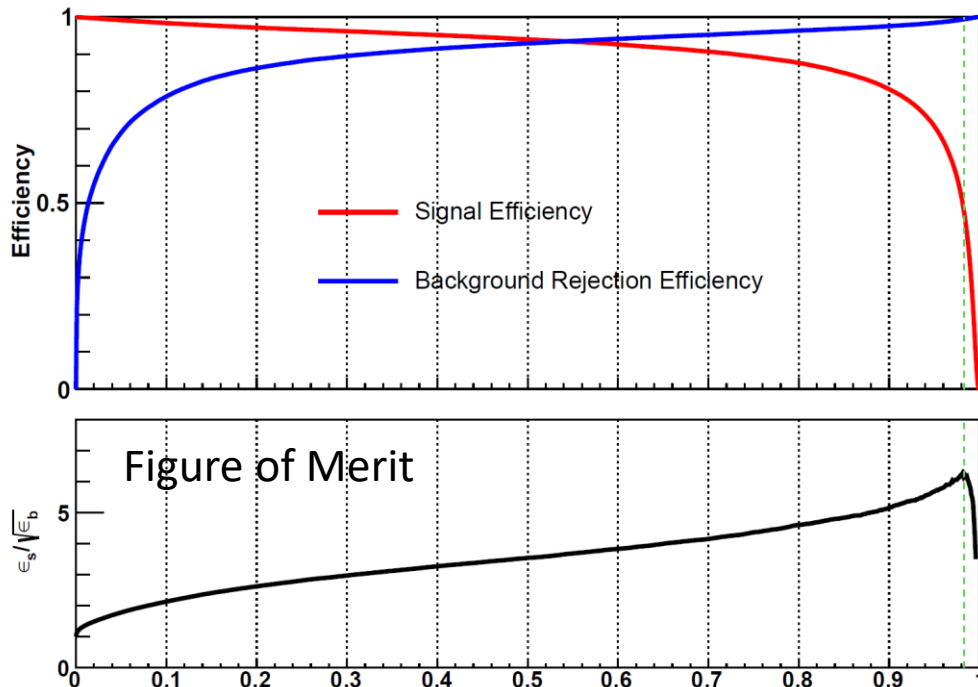
- XZ, YZ **2D snapshots** of an event as input of R and G channels of an image and then rely on CNN to spill out an index of signal/background
- Prepare image collections for CNN training, validation, and classification.
- **No track reconstruction needed.**



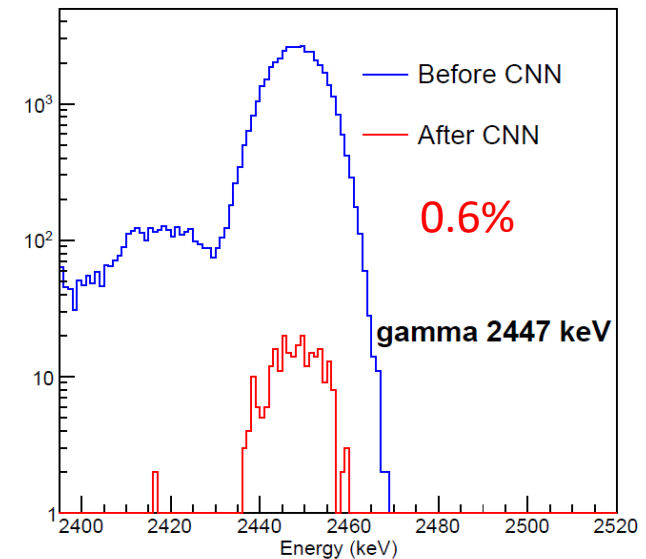
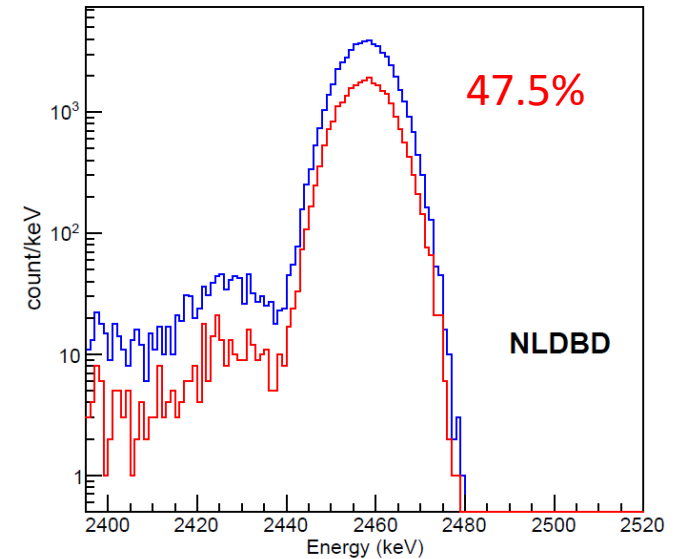
H. Qiao, et al [arXiv:1802.03489](https://arxiv.org/abs/1802.03489)

Impact on Signal/Background Spectra

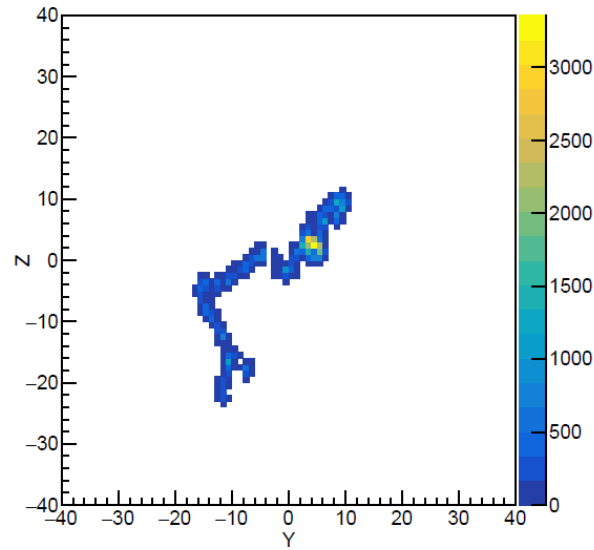
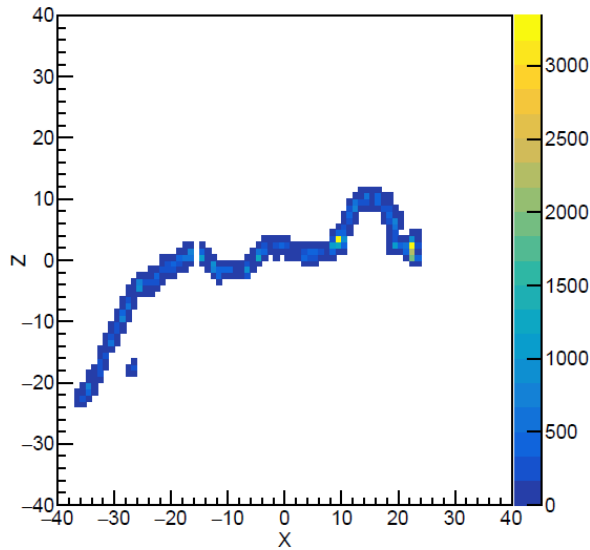
- Signal/background selection based on the CNN index
- Improved figure of merit compared to the traditional method.



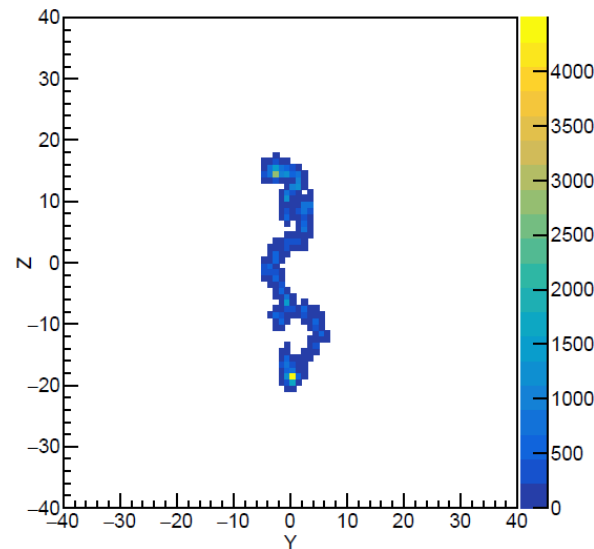
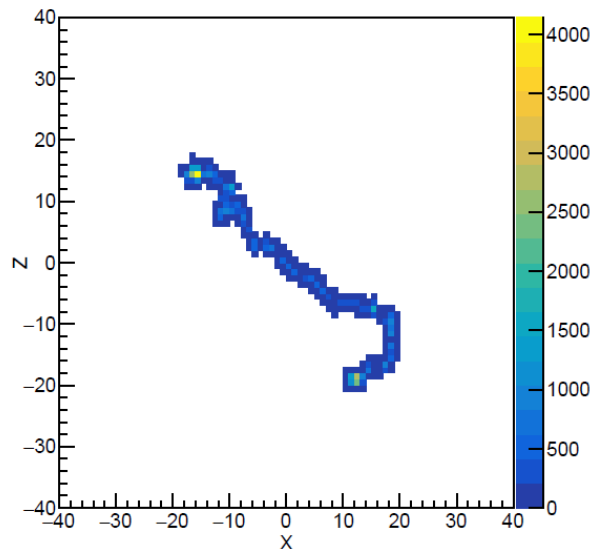
H. Qiao, et al arXiv:1802.03489



Examples of mis-identified events



Signal mis-identified as background

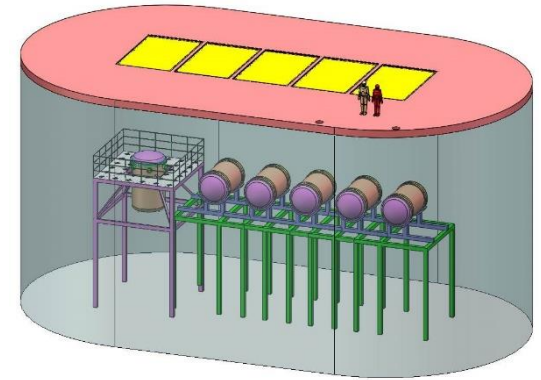


Background mis-identified as signal

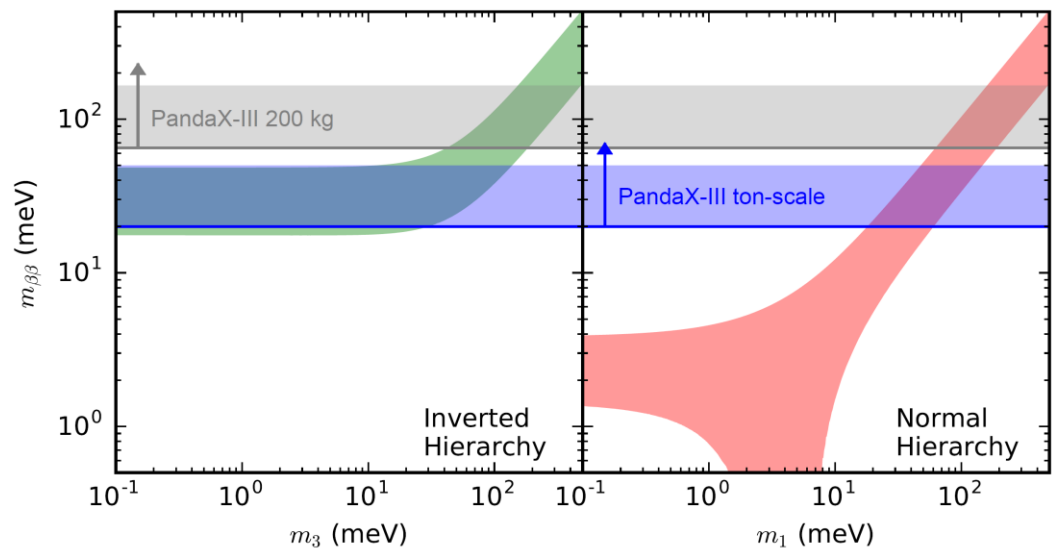
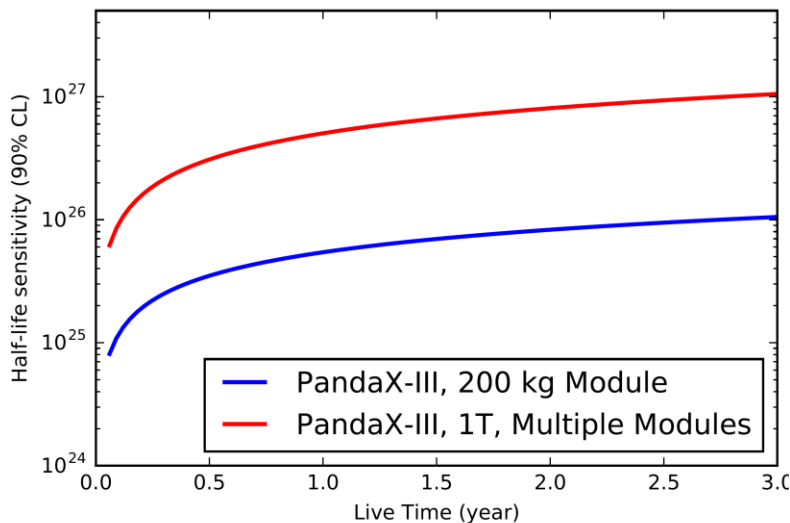
H. Qiao, et al [arXiv:1802.03489](https://arxiv.org/abs/1802.03489)

Sensitivity projection

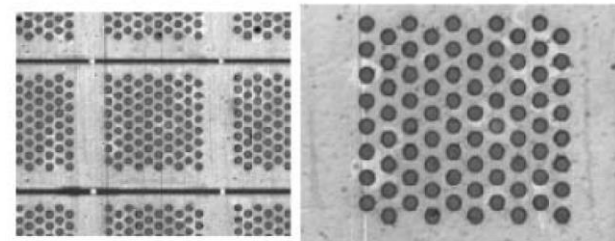
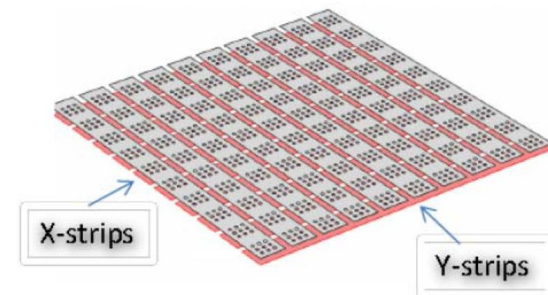
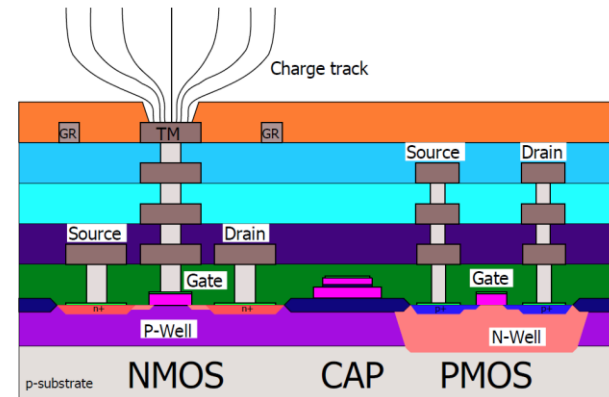
- First 200-kg module:
 - Microbulk Micromegas for charge readout
 - 3% FWHM, 1×10^{-4} c/keV/kg/y in the ROI
- Ton-scale:
 - Four more modules with upgraded charge readout and better low-background material screening.
 - 1% FWHM, 1×10^{-5} c/keV/kg/y in the ROI



arXiv:1610.08883



- TopMetal Direct Charge Sensor
 - Direct pixel readout without gas amplification
- Alternative Micromegas technologies
 - Microbulk technology with segmented mesh for true X and Y strips
 - Bulk technology with better uniformity and less dead area



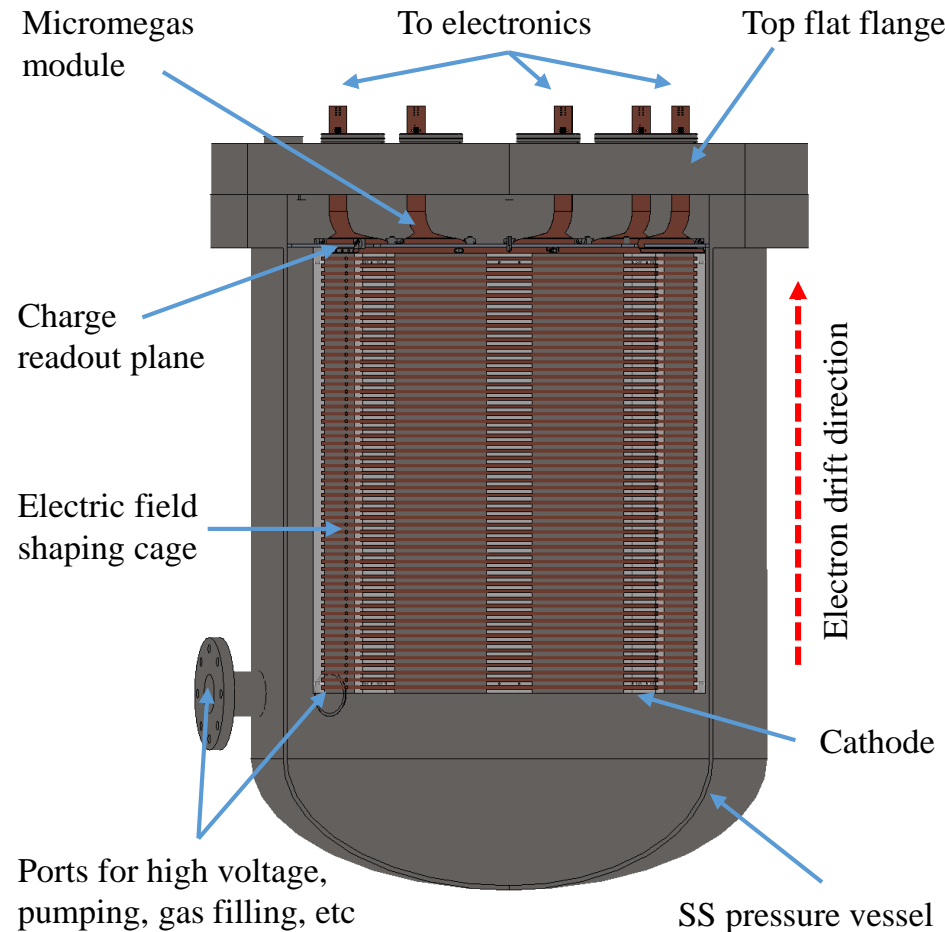
PandaX-III Prototype TPC

- To see MeV electron tracks
- To demonstrate required energy resolution with a large-scale high pressure TPC
- To optimize the design of Micromegas readout plane
- To develop algorithm of 2D/3D track reconstruction



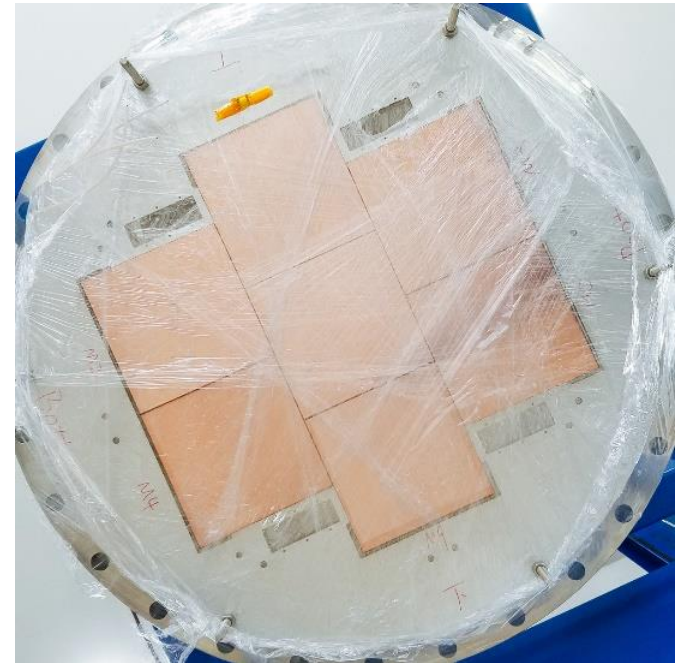
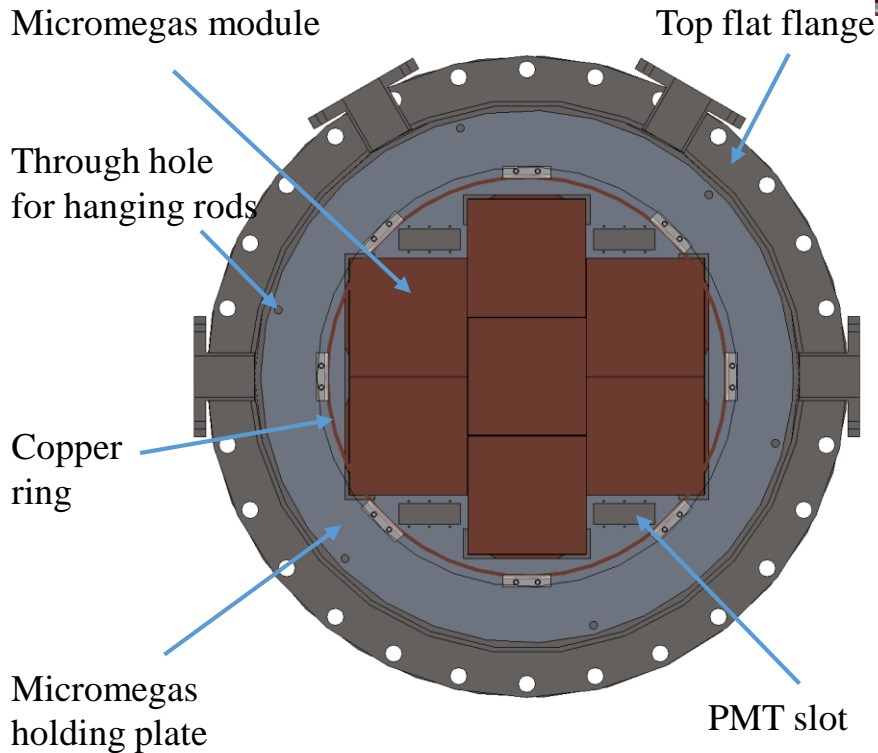
Prototype TPC at Shanghai

- About 600 L inner volume
- Field cage: 66 cm diameter, 78 cm drift length, single-ended
- 16 kg of xenon at 10 bar
- SS pressure vessel

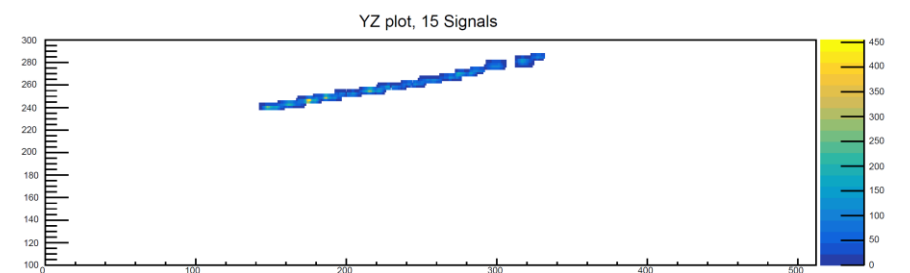
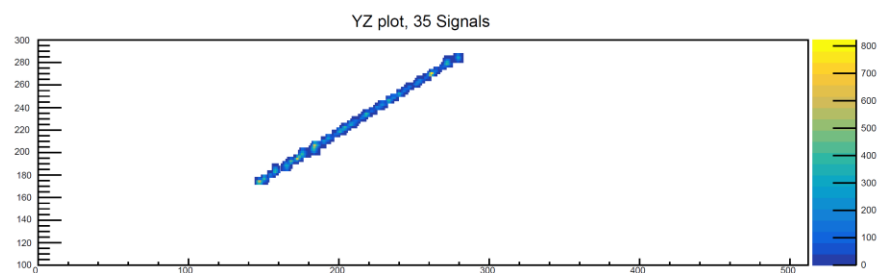
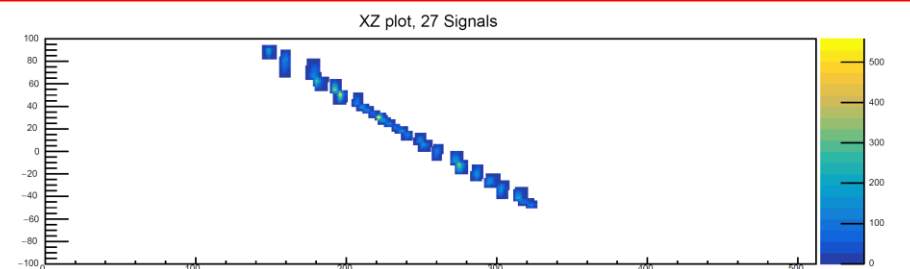
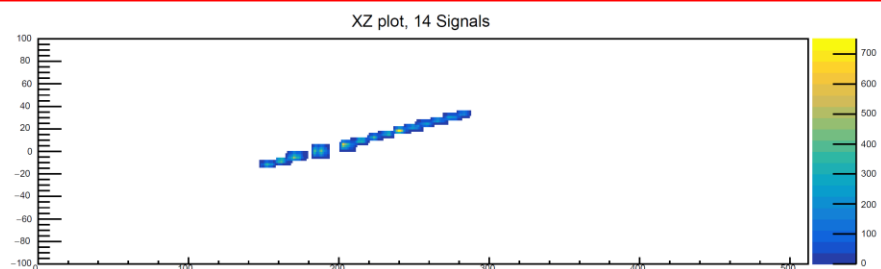
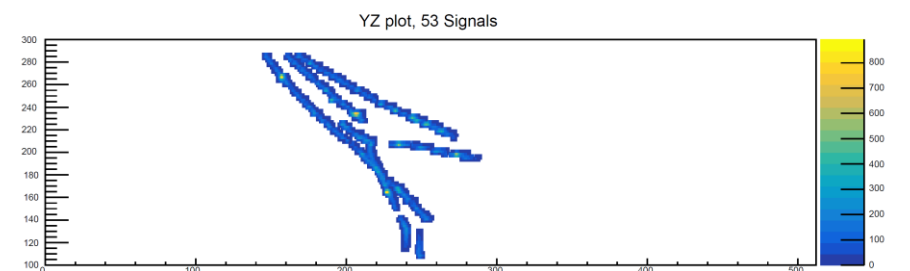
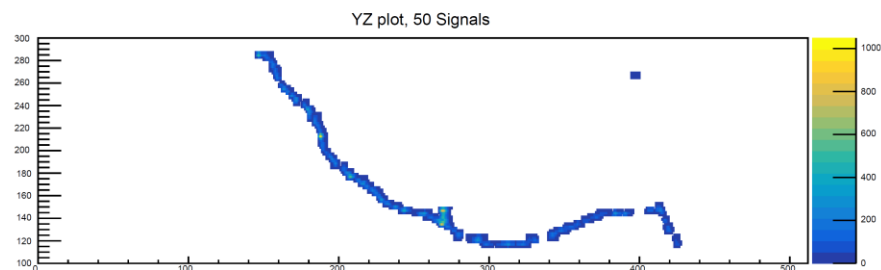
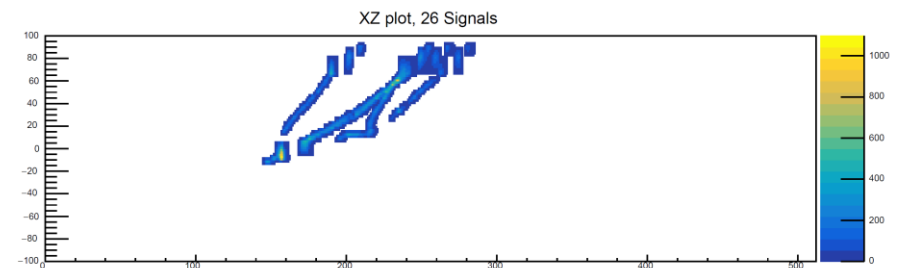
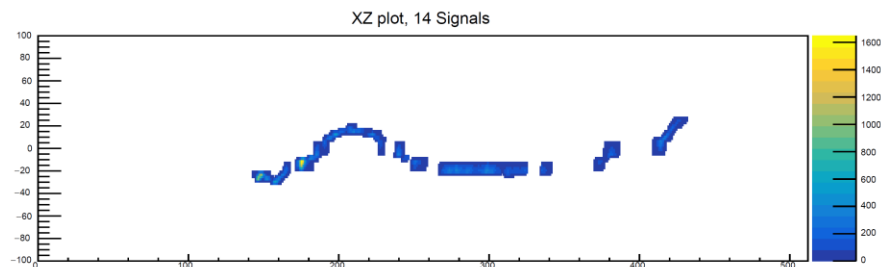


Charge readout plane

7 Microbulk Micromegas modules installed and commissioned



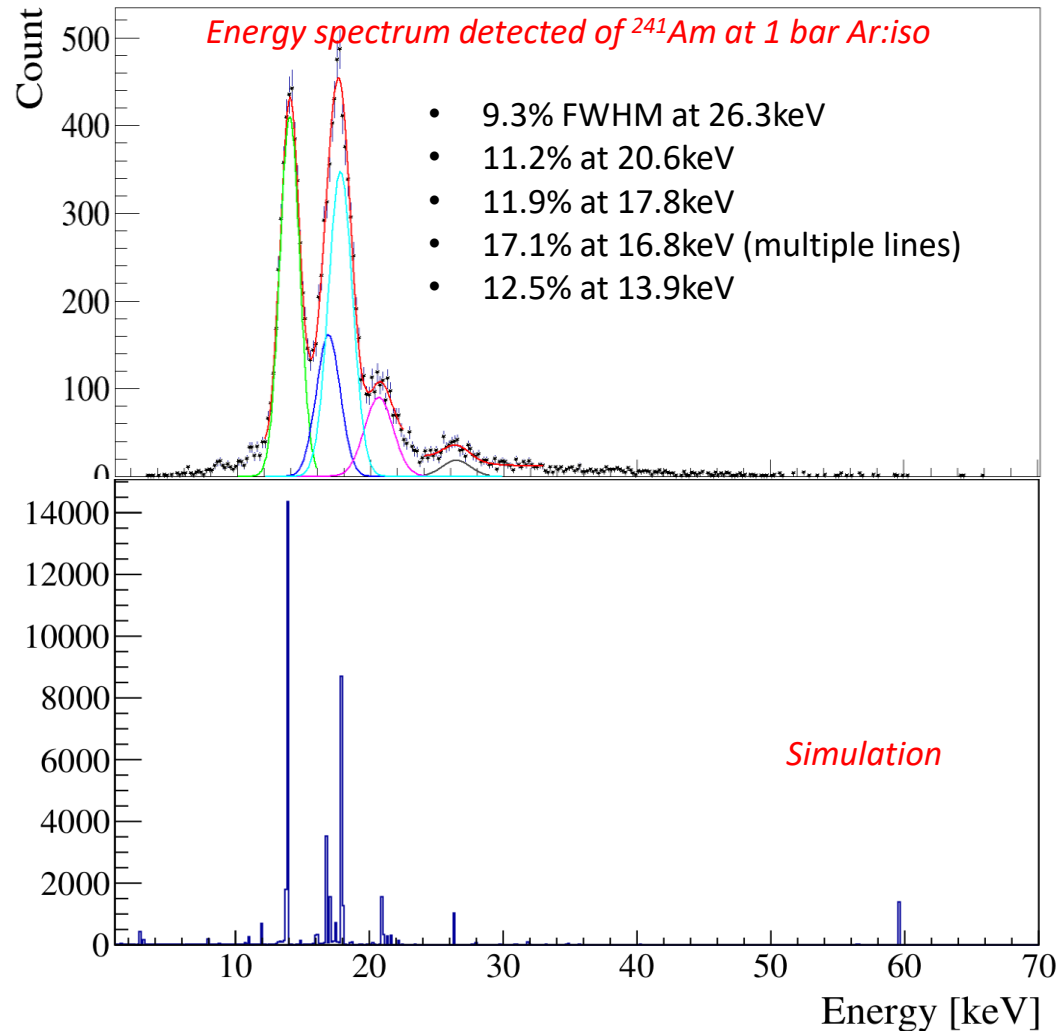
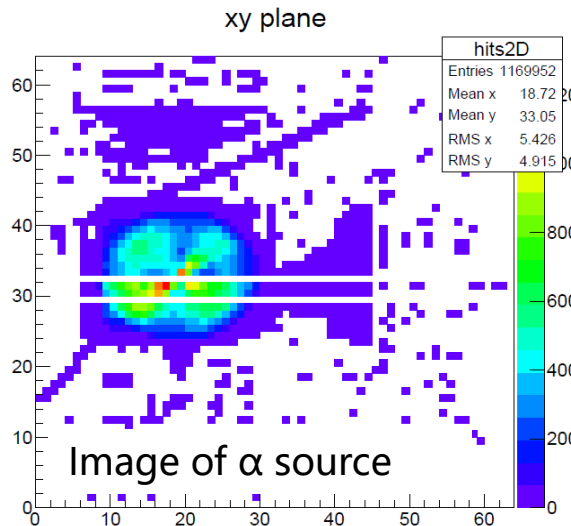
Some example tracks



Data: 1 MM with 1bar Ar:(5%)Isobutane

- ^{241}Am Gamma source
- Voltage configuration:
 - Mesh: -370V
 - Drift: -2.8 kV \sim -11.8 kV
- Electronics range: 1pC

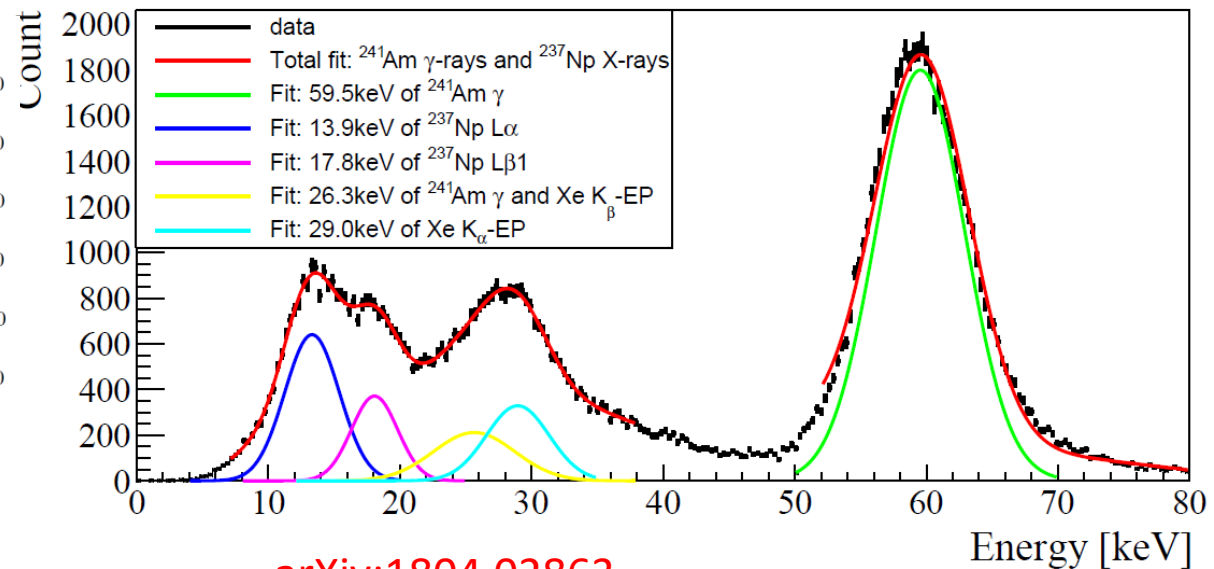
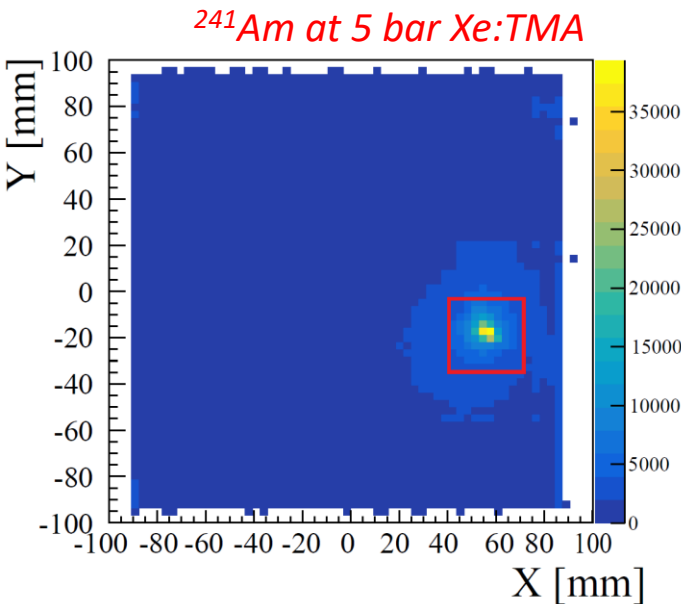
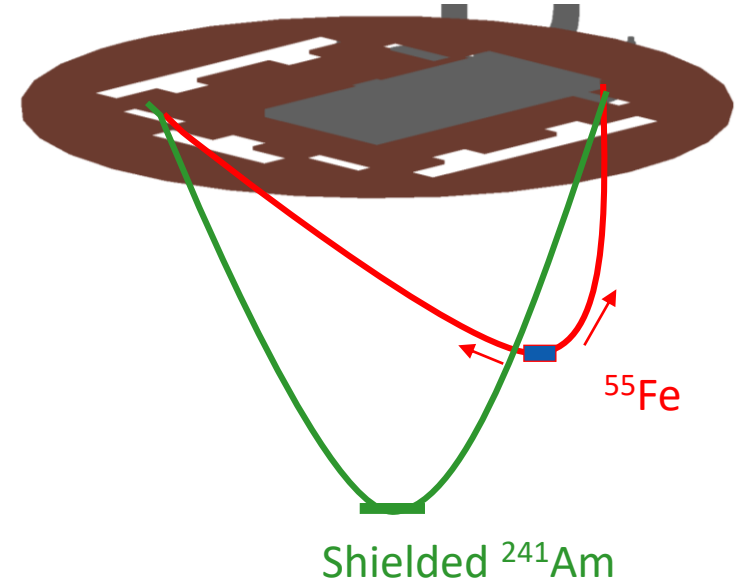
Detector gain ~ 8000



arXiv:1804.02863

Data: 5 bar Xe:(1%)TMA

- Reached stable gain after more than 1 week of circulation and purification
- FWHM: 14.1% at 59.5 keV
- Drift voltage of -26 kV; mesh voltage of -440 V.



arXiv:1804.02863

Conclusions

- PandaX-III aims to build multiple 200-kg scale high pressure xenon TPC for NLDBD search at CJPL.
- The first module is under technical design phase.
- A 20-kg scale prototype TPC is under commissioning.
- With 7 modules of 20×20 cm, it's the largest application of Microbulk Micromegas.

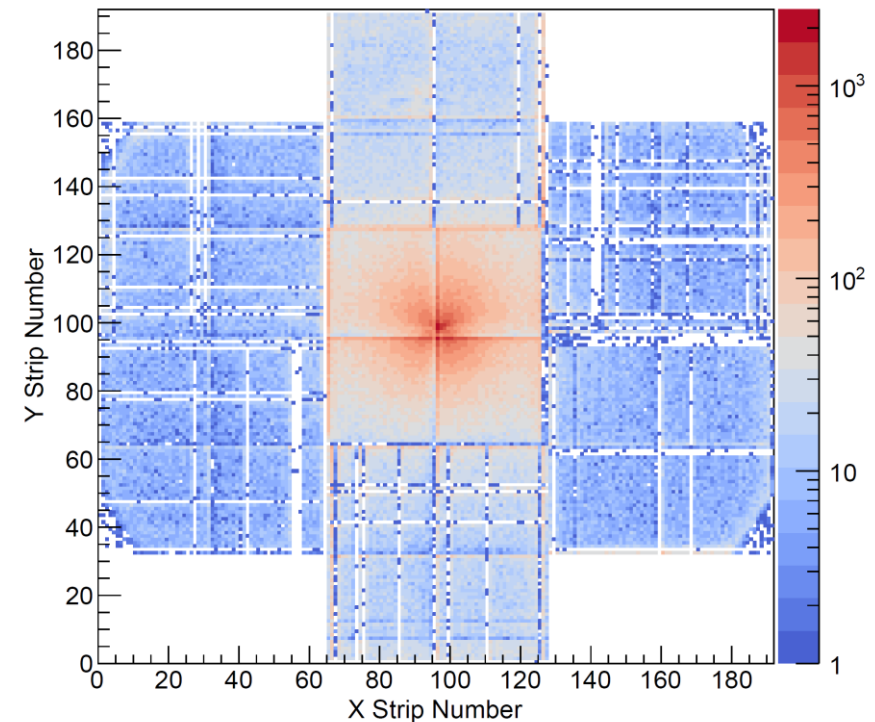
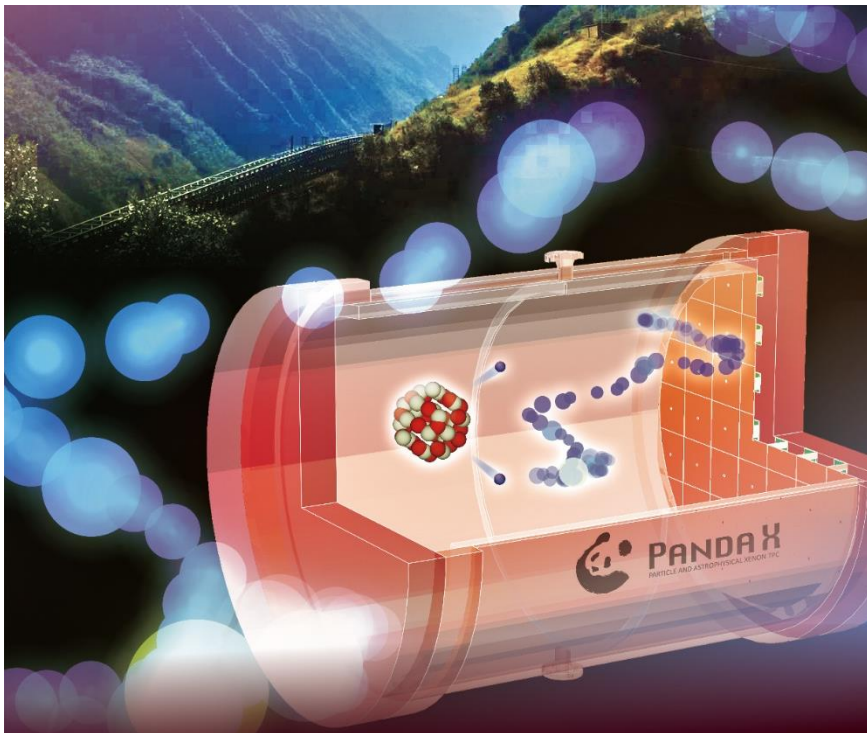


Table 5 The raw background contribution from different parts in the laboratory and the detector by taking the 3% FWHM detector resolution into account. BI stands for background index

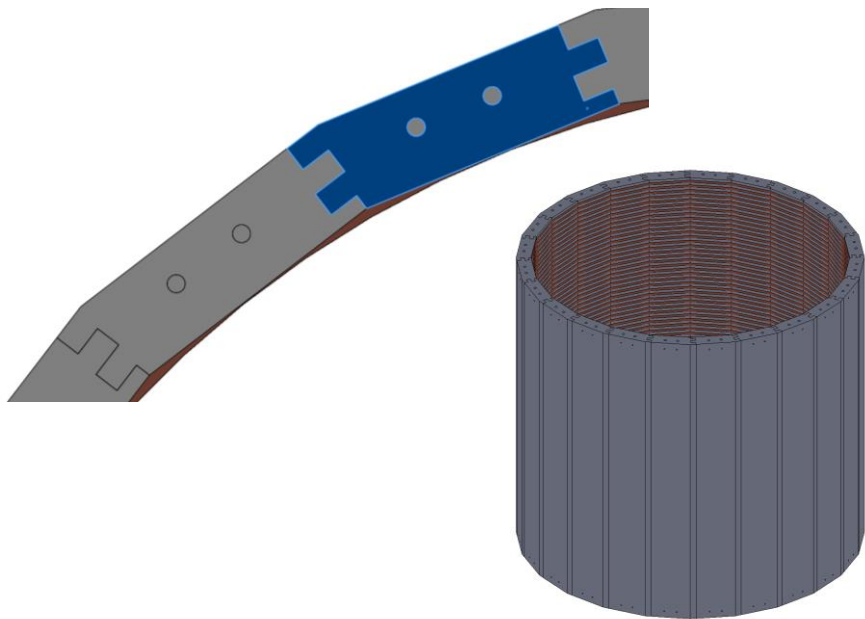
	Isotope	Activity	Background (CPY)		BI (10^{-5} c/(keV·kg·y))	
			BambooMC	RestG4	BambooMC	RestG4
Laboratory walls	^{238}U	9.9 Bq/kg	$< 0.40 \pm 0.03$	$< 0.09 \pm 0.01$	–	< 0.4
	^{232}Th	4.4 Bq/kg	$< 0.22 \pm 0.02$	$< 0.15 \pm 0.01$	–	< 0.6
Water	^{238}U	$0.12 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	0.20 ± 0.1	0.22 ± 0.03	0.74	0.86
	^{232}Th	$0.04 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	0.24 ± 0.06	0.55 ± 0.03	0.96	2.21
Barrel	^{238}U	$0.75 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	1.73 ± 0.12	1.77 ± 0.1	6.9	7.05
	^{232}Th	$0.2 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	4.63 ± 0.18	4.55 ± 0.05	18.5	18.2
	^{60}Co	$10 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	9.8 ± 1.0	9.9 ± 0.9	39.0	39.7
End-caps	^{238}U	$0.75 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	0.83 ± 0.11	0.90 ± 0.11	3.3	3.6
	^{232}Th	$0.2 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	2.4 ± 0.1	2.2 ± 0.1	9.8	9.0
	^{60}Co	$10 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	4.4 ± 1.0	4.2 ± 0.9	17.8	16.7
Bolts	^{238}U	0.5 mBq/kg	7.5 ± 1.5	7.3 ± 0.9	30.1	29.2
	^{232}Th	0.32 mBq/kg	39.8 ± 2.7	46.7 ± 1.9	159	186.3
Field insulator and rings	^{238}U	$4.94 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	15.0 ± 0.5	15.7 ± 0.3	59.9	62.6
	^{232}Th	$0.1 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	2.69 ± 0.03	2.61 ± 0.1	10.7	10.4
	^{238}U	$0.75 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	0.67 ± 0.01	0.72 ± 0.05	2.7	2.9
	^{232}Th	$0.2 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$	0.95 ± 0.01	0.92 ± 0.03	3.8	3.7
Electronics	^{238}U	0.26 Bq	1.0 ± 0.3	2.4 ± 0.5	4.2	9.5
	^{232}Th	0.07 Bq	2.8 ± 0.2	4.1 ± 0.5	11.3	16.3
Micromegas	^{238}U	45 nBq/cm^2	60.5 ± 1.7	63.7 ± 1.8	241.6	254.4
	^{232}Th	14 nBq/cm^2	23.5 ± 0.6	25.3 ± 0.6	93.9	101
Cathode	^{214}Bi	2 nBq/cm^2	4.1 ± 0.2	3.3 ± 0.1	16.5	13.2

Table 7 Summary of the most relevant background contributions taking into account the detector response

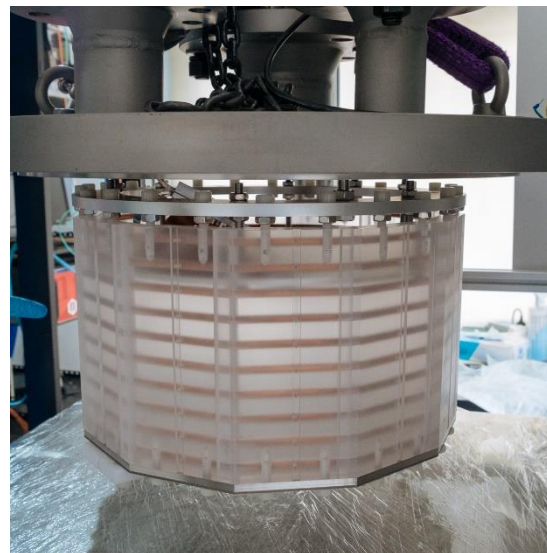
Component	Isotope	Background (10^{-5} c/(keV·kg·y))	
		BambooMC	RestG4
Water	^{238}U	–	0.23
	^{232}Th	0.56	0.63
Barrel	^{238}U	1.07	2.41
	^{232}Th	7.54	7.86
	^{60}Co	3.02	2.11
End-caps	^{238}U	0.30	1.26
	^{232}Th	3.89	4.16
	^{60}Co	2.98	0.76
Bolts	^{238}U	3.50	11.9
	^{232}Th	73.8	78.5
Field insulator	^{238}U	19.5	16.5
	^{232}Th	3.80	3.86
and rings	^{238}U	1.52	0.45
	^{232}Th	1.41	1.17
Electronics	^{238}U	–	1.42
	^{232}Th	5.02	8.69
Micromegas	^{238}U	144	158
	^{232}Th	36.9	44.5
Total		308.8	344.4

TPC Field Cage – option 1 (mature)

- Copper shaping rings + resistors + external Acrylic (or other insulating materials) barrel
 - Similar design used and tested extensively in PandaX-I and PandaX-II
- Supporting barrel are critical
 - Dielectric strength
 - Displacer for ^{136}Xe
- Designing a new version of with Kapton PCB + SMD resistors

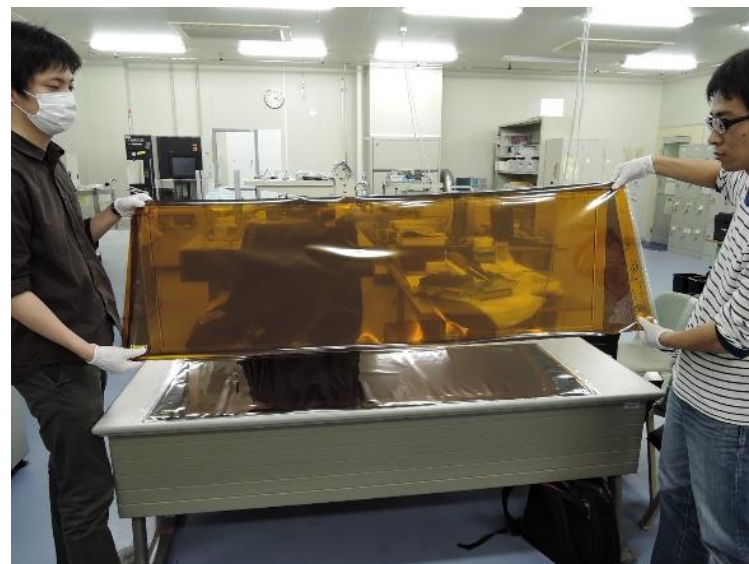


Mini TPC test field cage



TPC Field Cage – option 2

- Resistive coating layer + dielectric barrel
 - Works as continuous field shaping rings.
 - No more resistors
 - No more soldering
 - No copper rings
- Diamond-like carbon sputtering or commercial DLC or Ge film
- SUT (Thailand) is collaborating with SJTU on developing this option
- Acrylic barrel ready for prototype TPC at SJTU
- DLC coating on Kapton will be done in Japan.
 - Kobe developed DLC resistive strips for ATLAS Micromegas.
 - Resistivity and uniformity is key

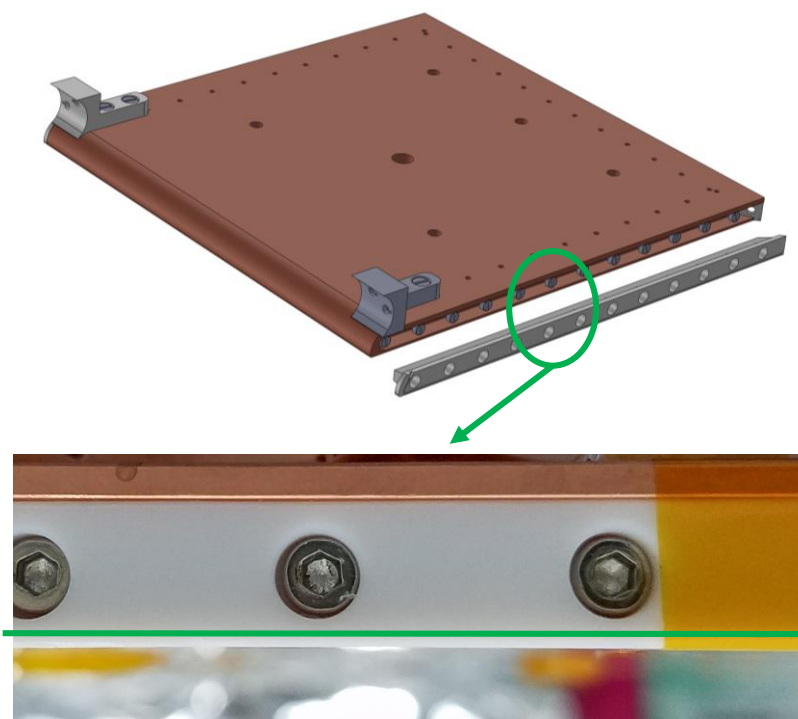
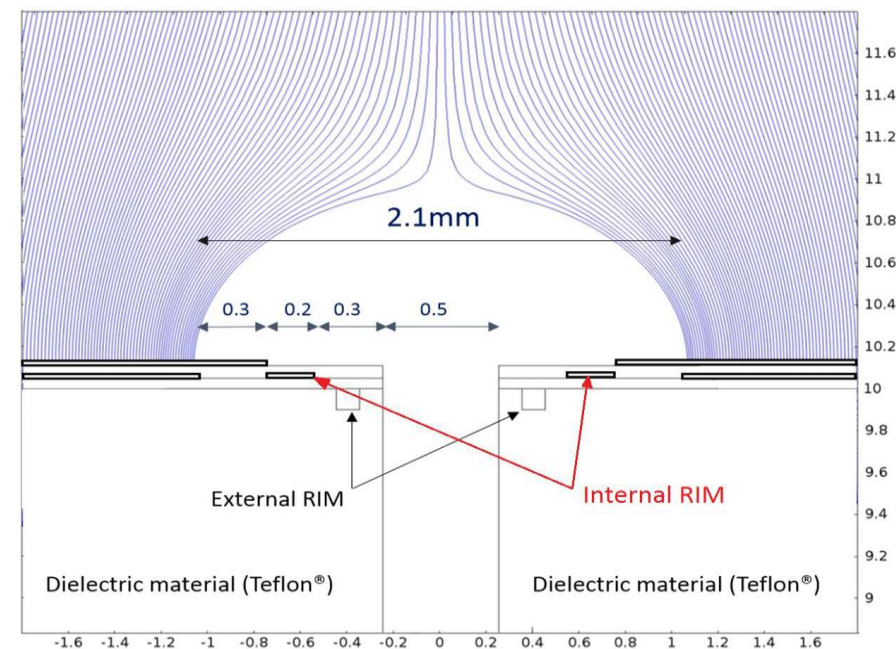
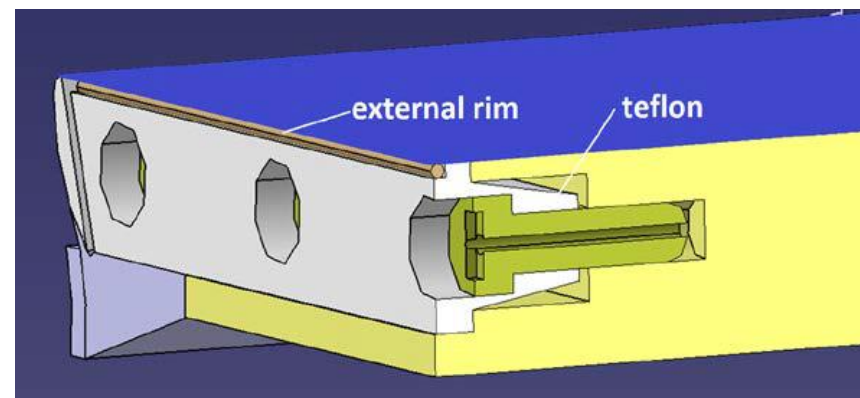


From Atsuhiko Ochi, Kobe University

Field shaping around SR2M

Internal rim and external rim

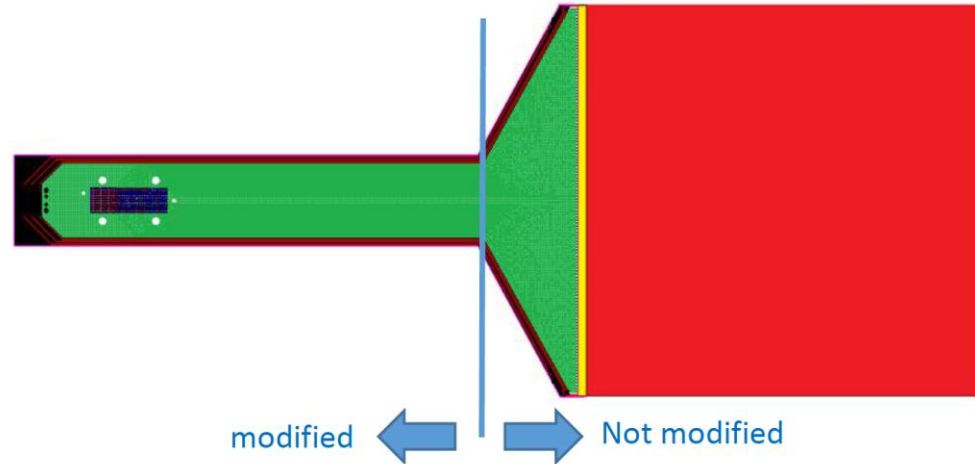
- Shape E field
- Guide electrons to active area



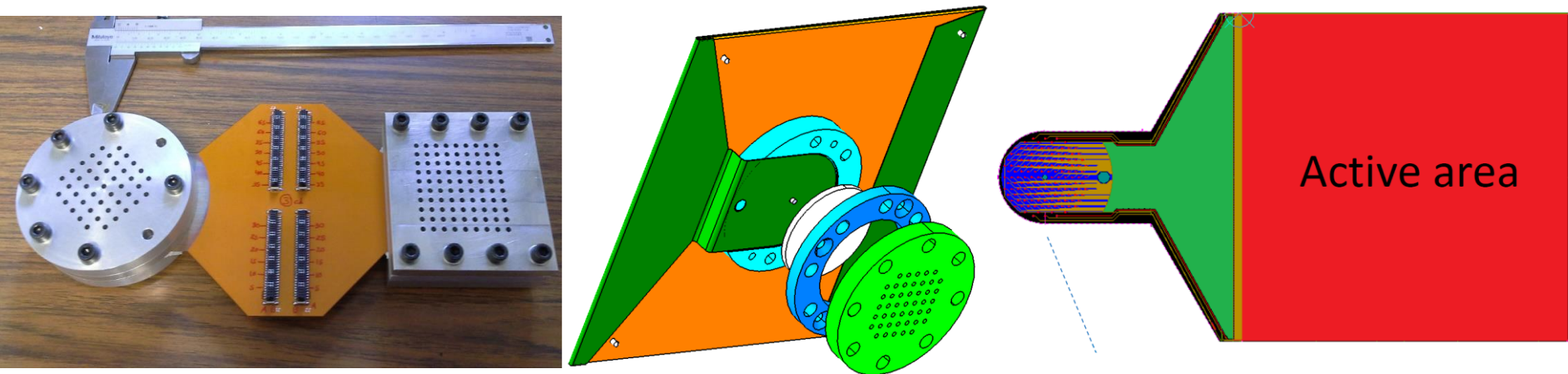
PandaX-III MM: a minor update

- Custom-designed connector instead of Samtec
- Face to face connection with expanded PTFE disk for elasticity.
- Dummy connectors is going through repeated thermal cycles to stress test reliability.

Current MM circuit

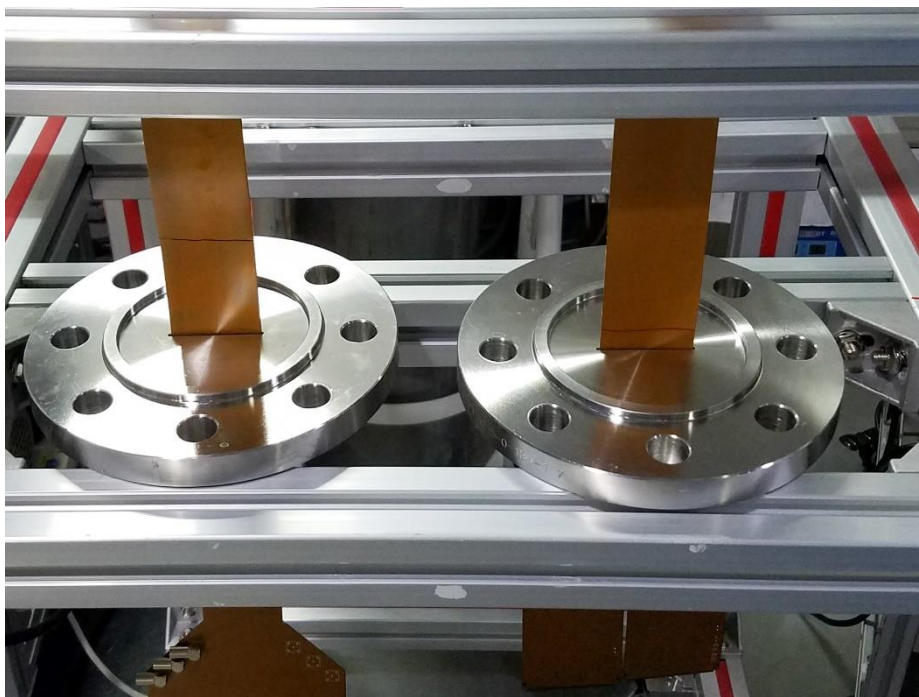


New design



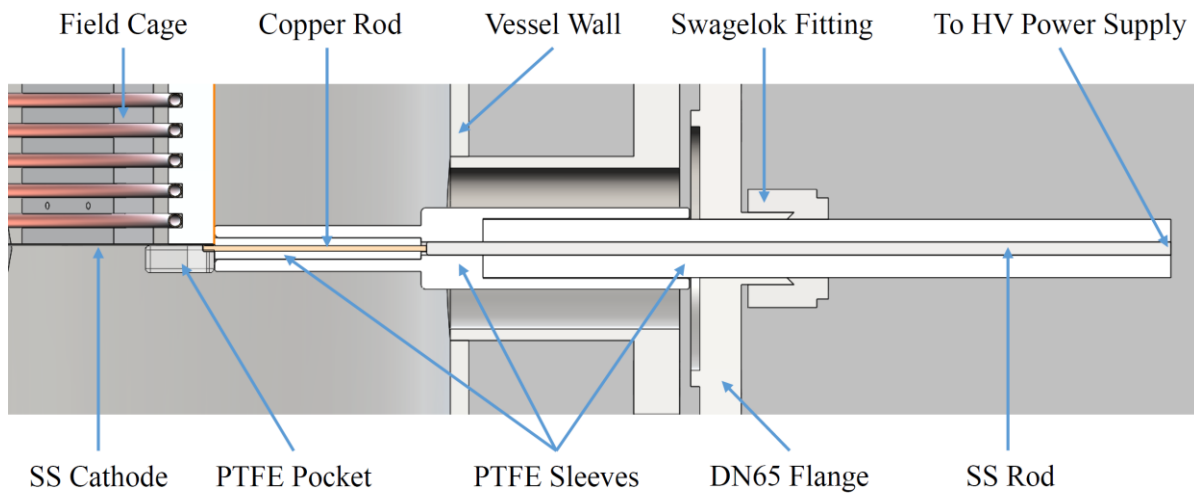
Signal feedthrough

- Micromegas signals are read out through Kapton extension cables.
- Extension cables **glued** in matching slots in flanges.
- Leak test shows upper limit for leak rate is **gram level xenon per year** per feedthrough at 10 bar.



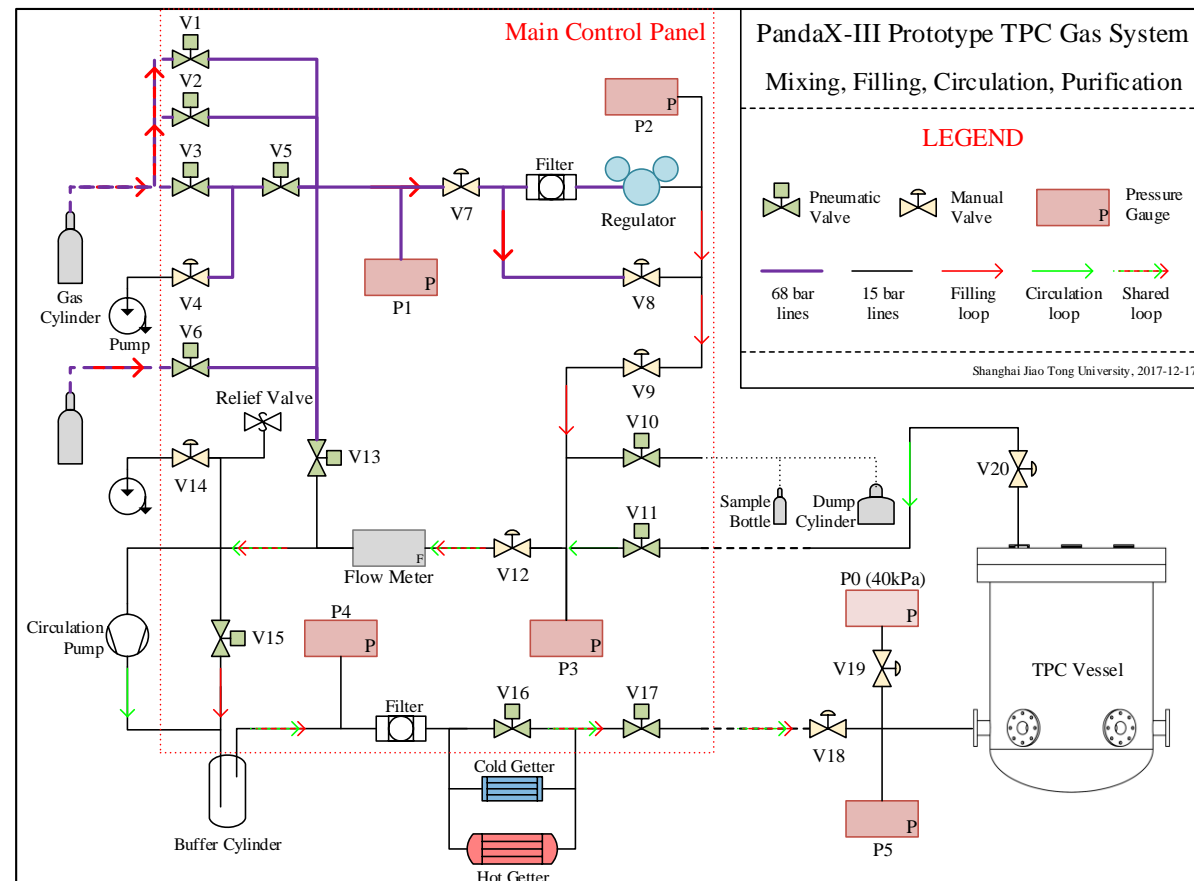
High voltage system

- Feedthrough for high voltage and withstand 10 bar gas pressure
 - PTFE wrap with a stainless steel rod
 - Squeezed by a Swagelok for gas tightness
- Tested on the prototype TPC
 - 70 kV in air
 - 95 kV in 10 bar N₂
- Extensive tests with 10 bar pressure : no leaks

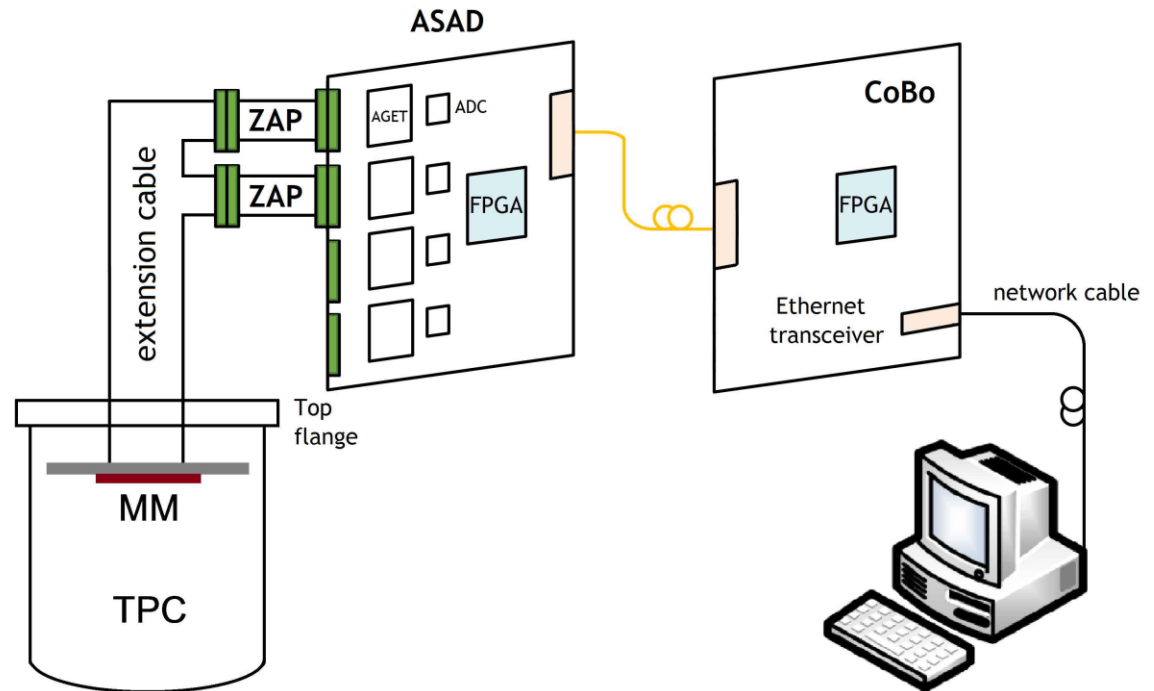


Gas System

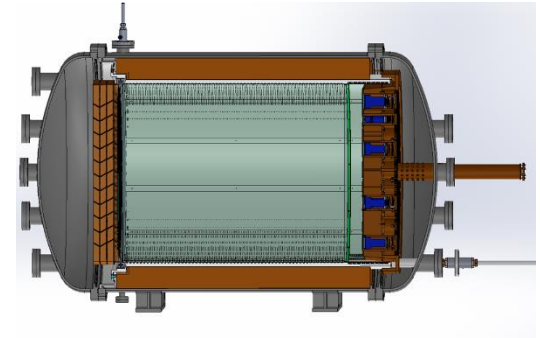
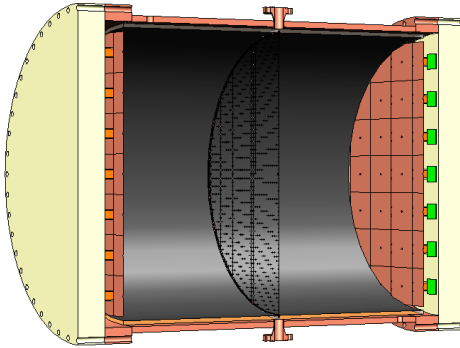
- A custom-designed system to fill, mix, circulate, purify and recuperate gas mixtures of xenon and argon gas.
- Room temperature and hot getters.



- Commercial front- and back-end electronics based on AGET chips.
- Established the data flow of 7 Micromegas simultaneously
- 896 channels tested with ASAD + CoBo
- Custom front-end electronics card tested on the prototype TPC data



PandaX vs. NEXt

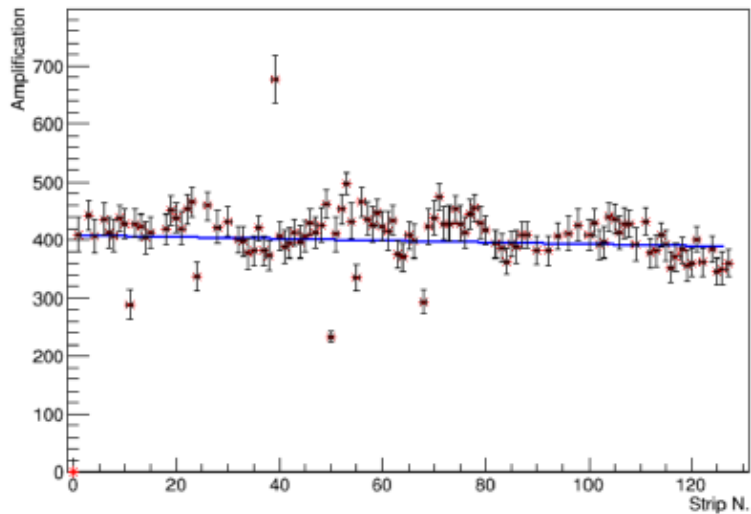


PandaX-III first TPC		NEXt-100
200 kg Xe(enriched) + 1% TMA	Detector medium	100 kg pure Xe (enriched)
-----	Light	Primary + electroluminescence light readout by PMTs
Micromegas	Charge/Tracking	SiPM
3%	Projected energy resolution	0.7%
2-3 mm	Tracking pitch size	1 cm
X,Y	Fiducialization	X,Y,Z
Since 2015		Since ~2008

MM Characterization

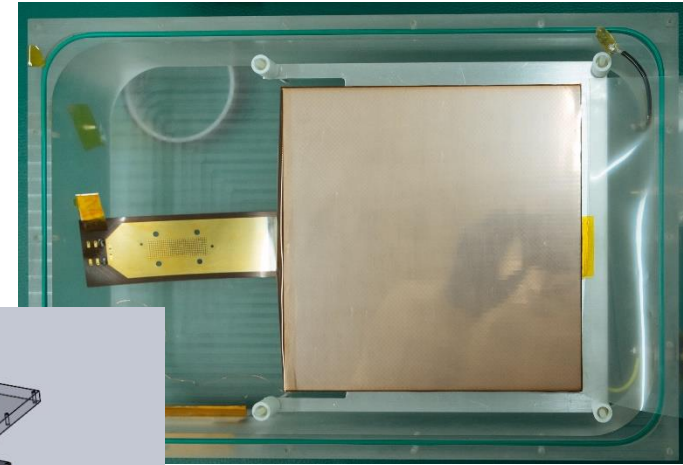
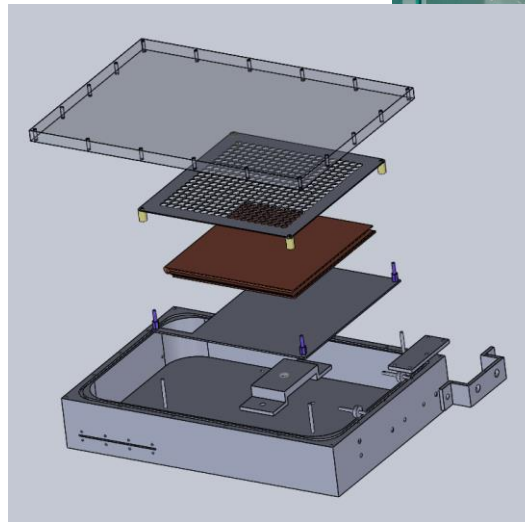
Gain and gain uniformity measured

- Argon + CO₂ (30%)
- 1 bar flowing gas
- 7.5% RMS uniformity



Future updates:

- Motorized source scanning
- More uniform drift field
- Pressurized xenon gas
- Multiple MM cross comparison



Without

with cathode, top lid



200 kg module vs prototype

	First 200 kg module	Prototype TPC
Design	Symmetric	Single-ended
Active volume	$\sim 3.5\text{m}^3$	0.25m^3
Number of MM	82	7
Readout channels	10496	896
Electronics	AGET + Custom FEC	ASAD/CoBo; then Custom FEC
HP vessel	OFHC copper	Stainless Steel
Field cage	2π acrylic wall with resistive film	Copper rings with Teflon bars

