

# GBAR experiment

: Classical freefall experiment of antihydrogen at rest in terrestrial gravitational field

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on behalf of the GBAR collaboration

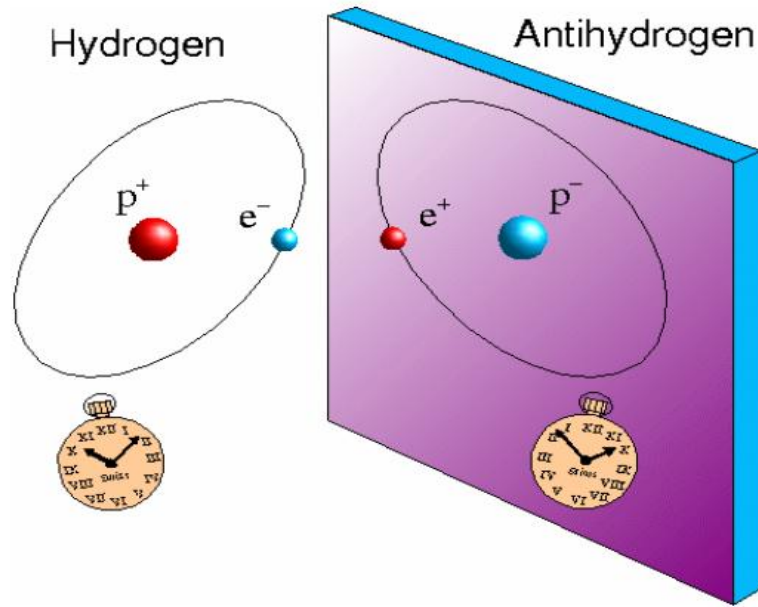
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CENTER FOR  
UNDERGROUND PHYSICS

ibs Institute for  
Basic Science

# Antimatter



from  
<http://www2.mpg.de/~haensch/antihydrogen/introduction.html>

Dirac equation (1928)

## ❖ Antiparticle

$$(i\hbar\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu - mc)\psi = 0$$

- Paul Dirac predicted the existence of antiparticle in 1931 and positron was discovered in 1932
- Antiparticle as a counterpart of ordinary particle for charge conjugation (charge, magnetic moment)
- With CPT symmetry (transformation), other quantities (mass, lifetime) are expected to be same



## ❖ Matter and Antimatter asymmetry

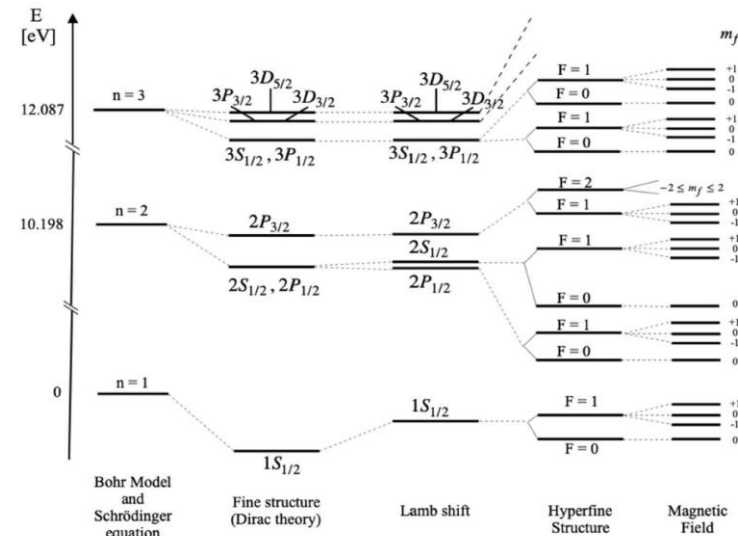
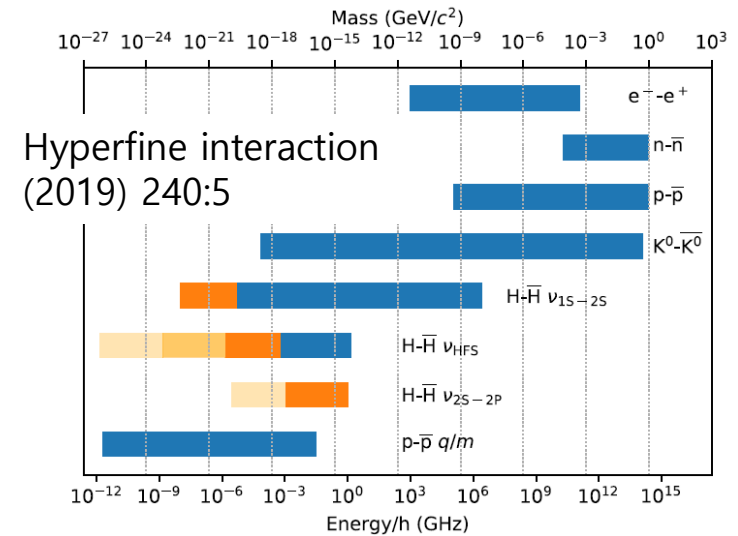
- Different with expectation based on CPT theorem and Standard Model, Matter domain (baryon asymmetry) in observable Hubble volume :  $n_B \gg n_{\bar{B}}$   
 (baryon-to-photon ratio :  $0.6e^{-9}$ (observed)  $\gg 10^{-18}$ (expect))
- Model to understand : Baryogenesis, Leptogenesis, etc..

# Antimatter : CPT test

Charge conjugation (C), Parity : space reflection (P), and Time reversal (T)

CPT theorem presents CPT invariance (in Lorentz invariance, Locality, Unitarity)

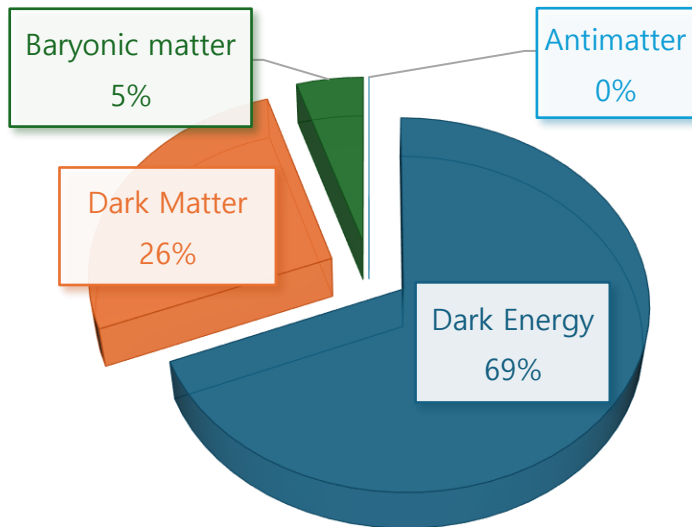
- mass, charge, lifetime and energy level have been compared
- Precise mass comparison by kaon  $\Delta m < 4 \times 10^{-19}$  (pdg 2019)
- CPT test by  $\mu^+$  &  $\mu^-$  magnetic moment
- neutrino oscillation, interaction..
- Many CPT test has been performed between matter and antimatter especially by  $p$  &  $\bar{p}$  and  $H$  &  $\bar{H}$
- Various parameters would be efficient to different effects



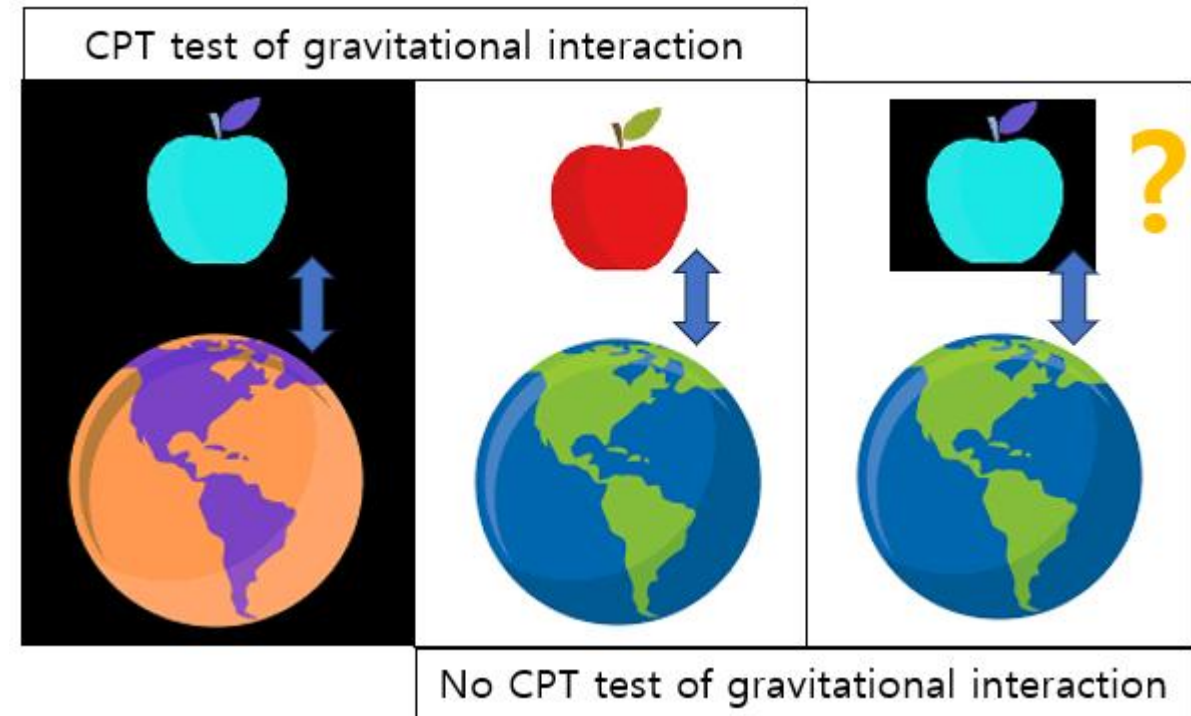


# Antimatter : WEP

## CONTENTS OF OUR UNIVERSE



- ❖ Dark matter and Dark energy
  - We do not understand 94% of the mass energy density
- ❖ For known 6% contents which is mainly baryonic matters and radiation, we don't know why there's almost no antimatter



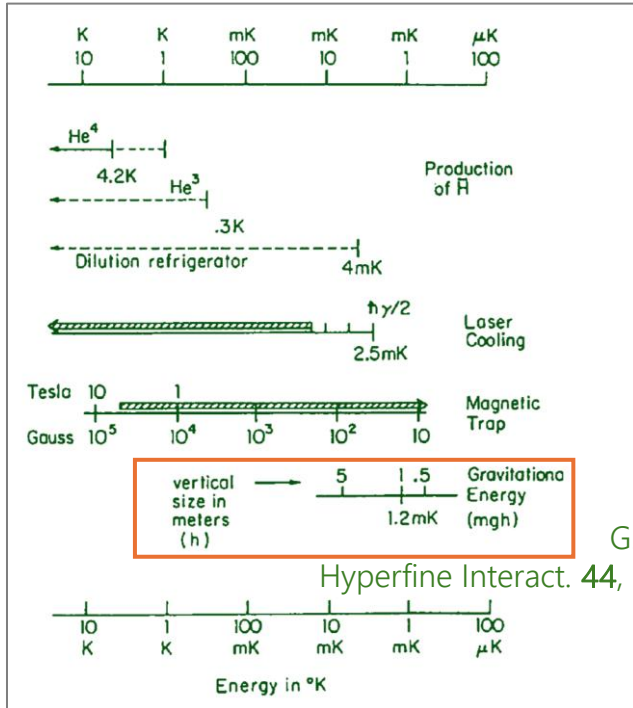
- ❖ Check fundamental interaction between matter & antimatter
- ❖ Weak Equivalence Principle(WEP) : Universality of freefall

$$m_I = m_G \quad (F = m_I a = -G m_G m'_G / r^2)$$

$$m_I = \overline{m_I} \quad (\text{by CPT})$$

$$m_G = m_I = \overline{m_I} = ? \overline{m_G}$$

# WEP test



G. Gabrielse  
Hyperfine Interact. 44, 349 (1988)

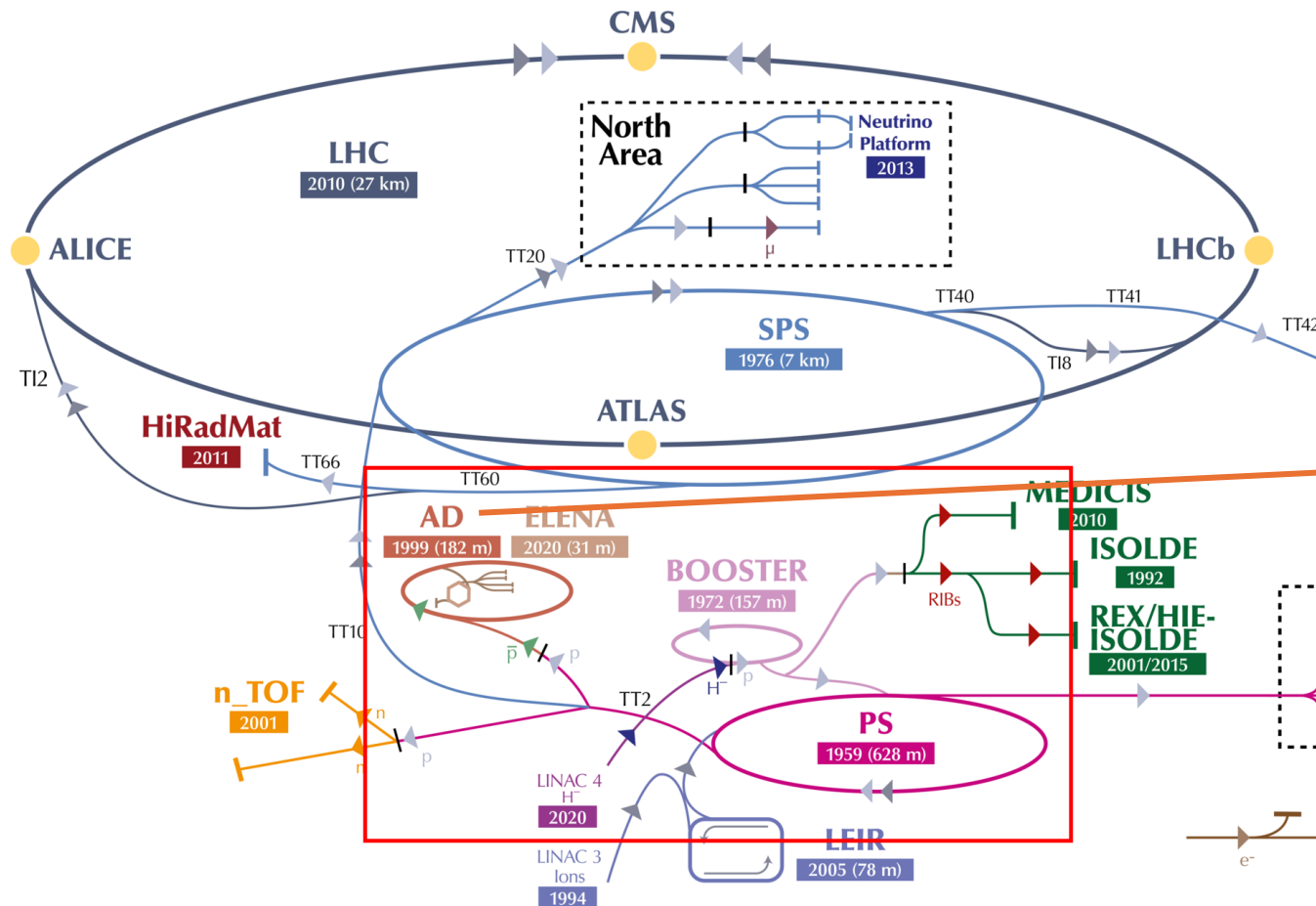
- Test of the WEP has been performed to high precision for matter
- Eötvös ratio(for matter)  $\eta(\text{Ti;Pt}) = \Delta(m_g/m_i)/(m_g/m_i)_{\text{Be/Ti}}$   
 $= -1.5 \pm 2.3(\text{stat}) \pm 1.5(\text{syst}) \times 10^{-15}$  (MICROSCOPE mission)
- Effect of different excited state is studied (*Nature Communications* volume 8, Article number: 15529 (2017) )
- Quantum state of gravitational bounding using ultra-cold neutron has been studied (qBounce experiment)
- With absent of enough antimatter, cold temperature for single anti-matter is required to sense gravitational interaction with earth

Relative strengths	Gravity	Weak (electroweak)	Electromag.	Strong (fundamental) (effective)	
2 quarks up at $10^{-18}$ m	$10^{-41}$	0.8	1	25	—
2 quarks up at $3 \times 10^{-17}$ m	$10^{-41}$	$10^{-4}$	1	60	—
2 protons in the nucleus	$10^{-36}$	$10^{-7}$	1	—	20

<https://ftae.ugr.es/index.php/pages/particles>



# AD at CERN accelerator complex

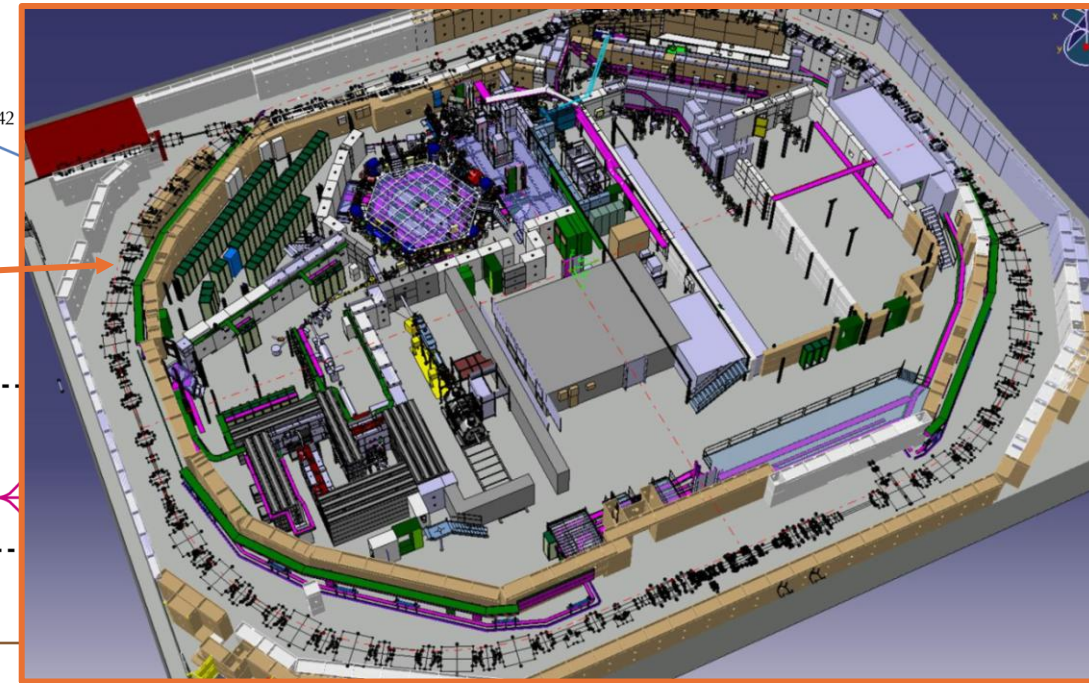


$p (26\text{GeV}/c) + N(\text{iridium}) \rightarrow \bar{p} + X\dots$

Collecting  $\bar{p}$  ( $p \sim 3.5\text{GeV}/c$ )

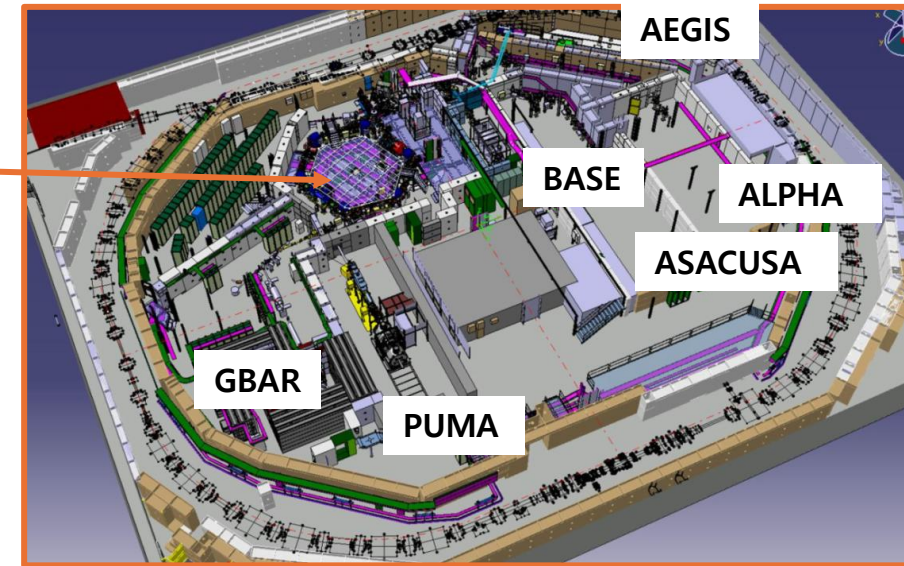
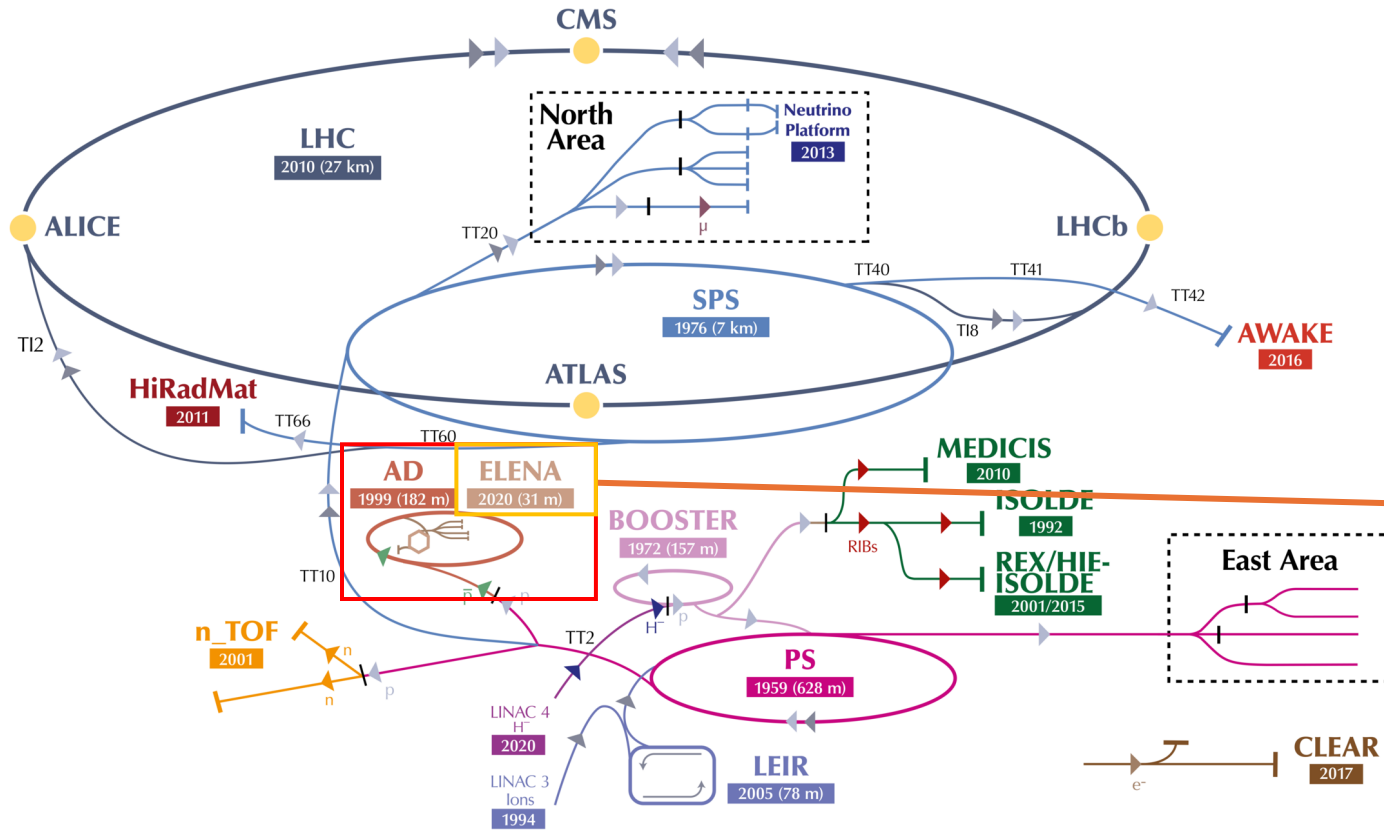
Deceleration to  $0.1\text{GeV}/c$  with cooling in Antiproton Decelerator (AD)

and providing low energy  $\bar{p}$  beam  $\sim 4 \times 10^7 \bar{p}$





# Antimatter factory



Only existing facility of low energy  $\bar{p}$

- 1982 ~ 1996) LEAR (AA + AC)
- 2000 ~ now) Antimatter Factory (AD + ELENA :  $\bar{p}$  with 100keV(KE))
- : Stable intense low KE antiproton beam has been provided to 4 of
- 6 experiments (AEGIS, ALPHA, ASACUSA, BASE, GBAR, PUMA) with additional decelerations

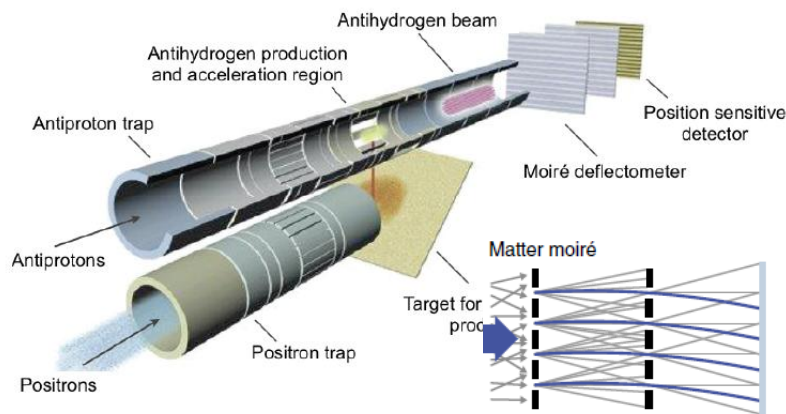
# **WEP test at Antimatter factory**



# WEP test approaches

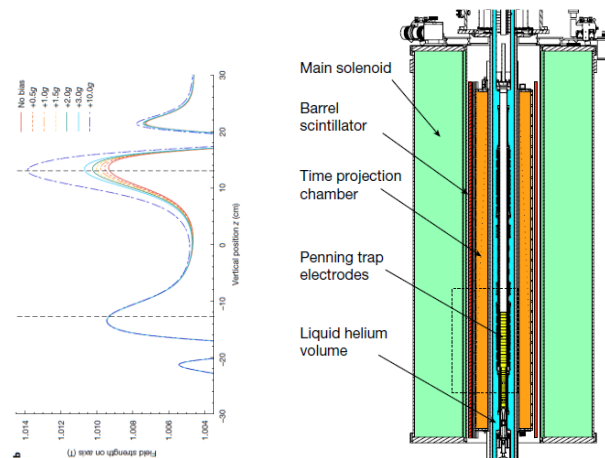
## AEGIS

- $\bar{p} + Ps^*(\text{Rydberg}) \rightarrow \bar{H}^* + e^-$
- Pulsed Antihydrogen beam
- **Cold  $\bar{H}$  beam** by cold antiproton E (100mK)
- Moiré deflector (~interferometry).
- Aim : **~100mK** ( $v \sim 40\text{m/s}$ )



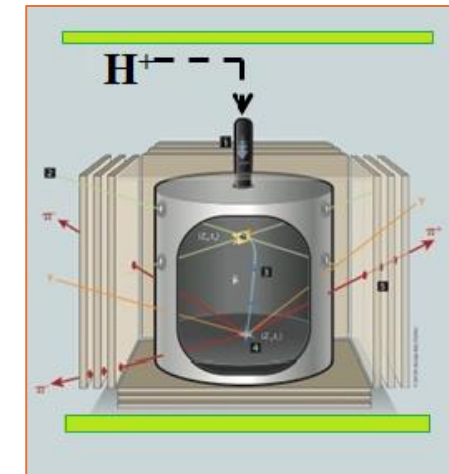
## ALPHA-g

- $\bar{p} + e^+ + e^+ \rightarrow \bar{H} + e^+$
- Reaction in trap
- **Cold  $\bar{H}$**  trapping by penning-loffe trap (0.5K)
- Aim (1%) : **sub-50mK** ( $v \sim 28\text{m/s}$ ) temperature by laser cooling

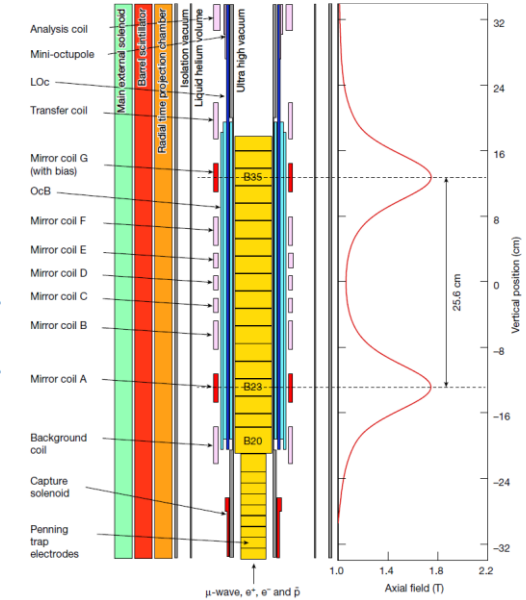
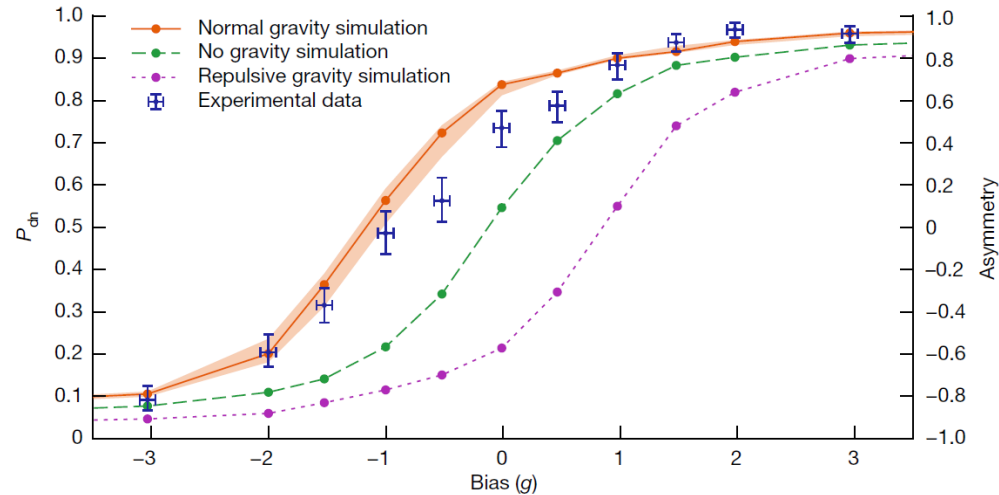
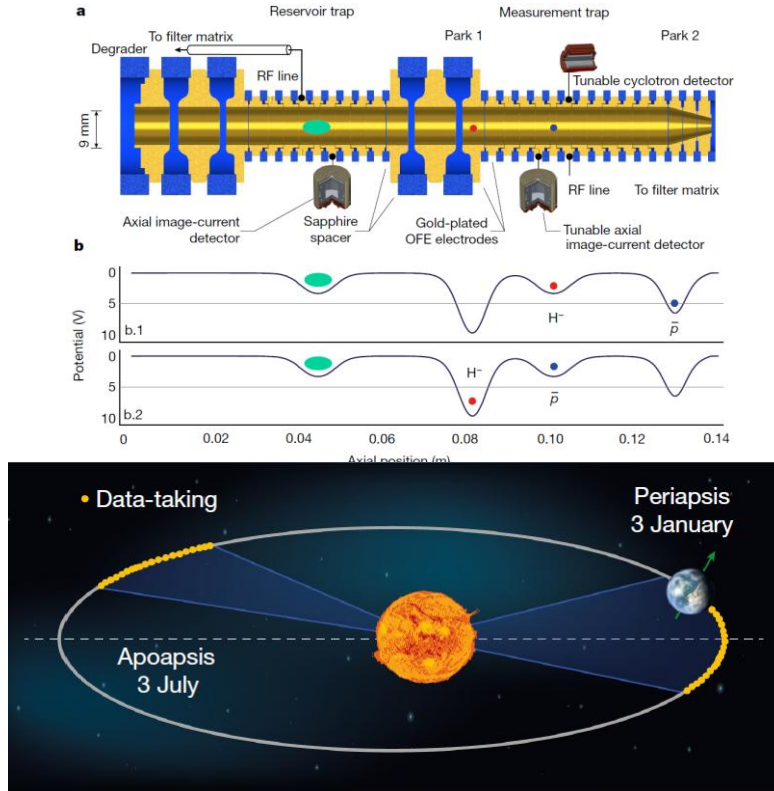


## GBAR

- $\bar{p} + Ps^{(*)} \rightarrow \bar{H} + e^-$
- $\bar{H} + Ps^{(*)} \rightarrow \bar{H}^+ + e^-$
- Trapping and cooling  $\bar{H}^+$  at Paul trap.
- **Ultra-cold  $\bar{H}^+$**  by Sympathetic cooling by Be ion (10uK)
- Classical Freefall test ( $z=0.25\text{m}$ )
- Aim : **10uK** ( $v \sim 0.4\text{m/s}$ )



# Anti-Hydrogen WEP test



## • ALPHA-g experiment

- Free-fall test in the magnet with changing magnetic potential
- 2023 : Rule out Repulsive antigravity by  $\bar{H}$  with  $T < 0.5K$  (**Nature 621, 716-722 (2023)**)

$$a_{\bar{g}} = (0.75 \pm 0.13 \pm 0.16) \times g$$

- **Base experiment (penning trap experiment)**  
Antiprotons cyclotron clock measurement was done for WEP<sub>cc</sub> test :  $|\alpha_{g,D} - 1| < 0.030$  (CL 0.68)  
← Limit on scalar and tensor interaction  
(Hughes R. J. & Holzschneider M. H, PRL 66, 854 (1991))



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Charlie Hebdo, n°1676

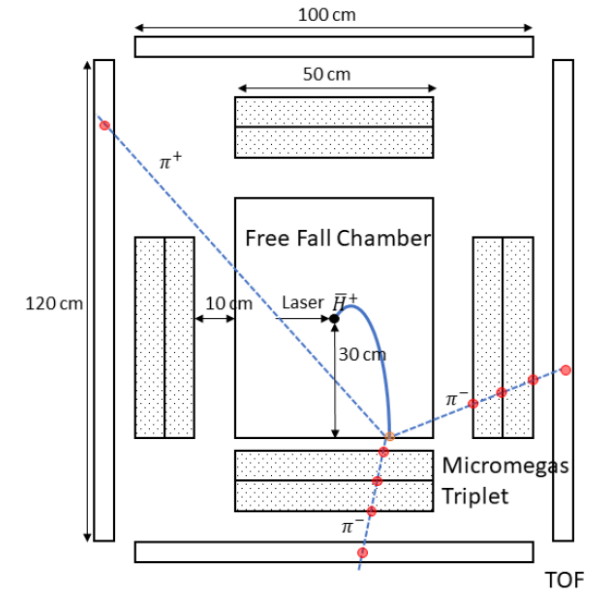
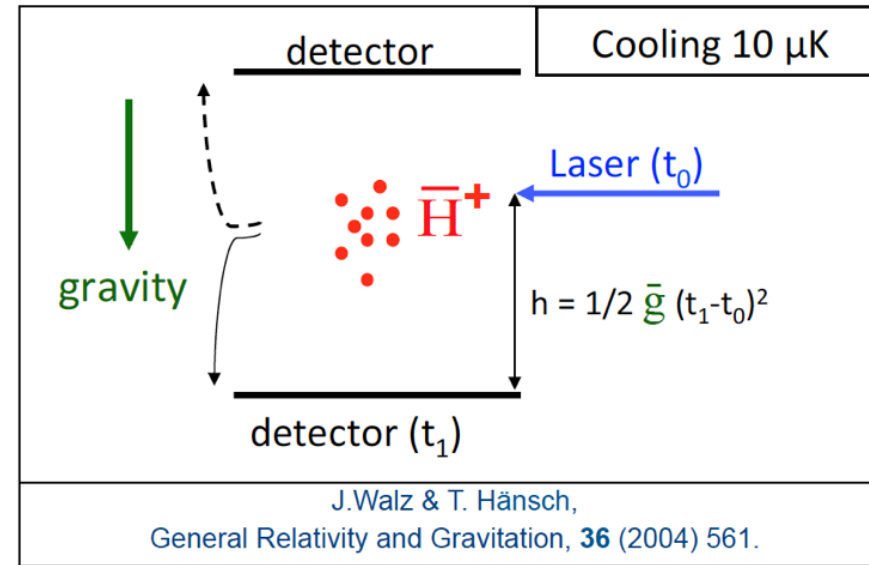
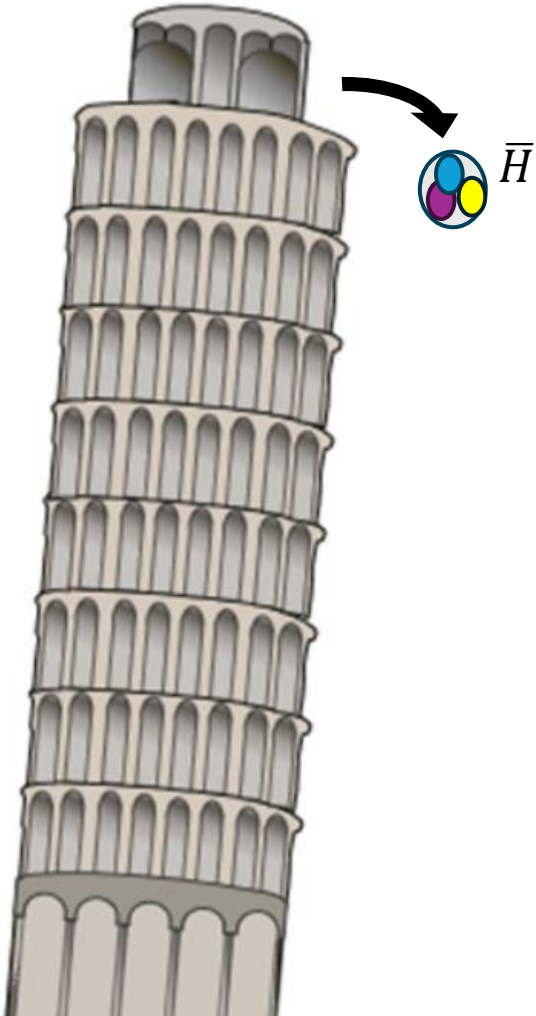
# GBAR experiment

Dans ce  
labo est  
créée de  
l'anti-  
matière.  
Ici, dans  
cette grosse  
canalisation.

DO NOT  
TOUCH



# GBAR experiment



## GBAR : Gravitational Behaviour of Antimatter at Rest

- Classical freefall test of antimatter using ultra-cold  $\bar{\text{H}}$  (10uK)
- Time of flight ( $\Delta T$ ) measurement (Basic detection)

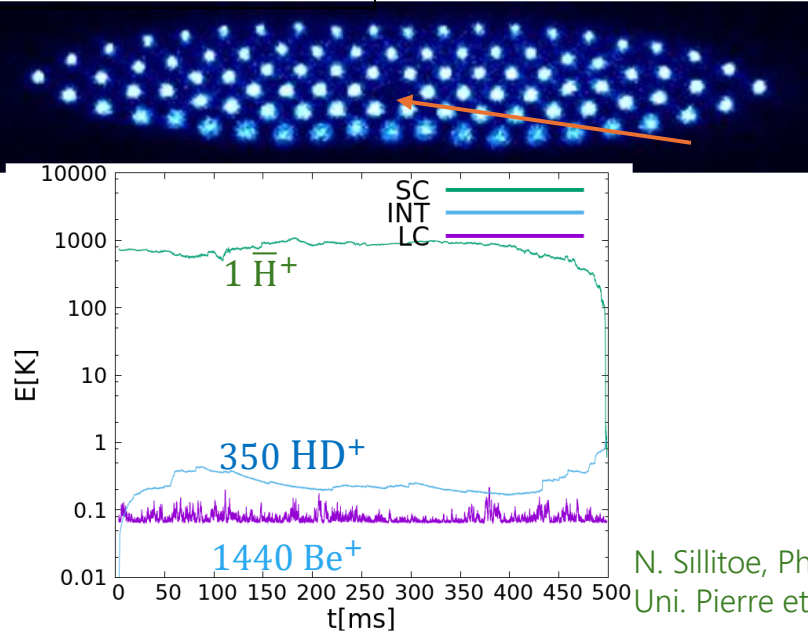
$$\bar{g} = \frac{2H}{\Delta T^2}$$

ex)  $H=10\text{cm} \rightarrow \Delta T = 143\text{ms}$  (for  $g$ )

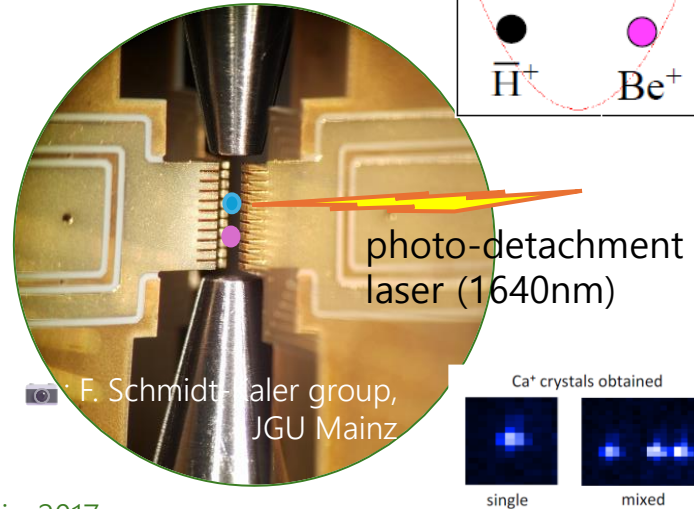
Velocity fluctuation	100m/s	3m/s	0.1m/s
Temperature	1K	1mK	1uK

# GBAR : Ultra-cold anti-atom

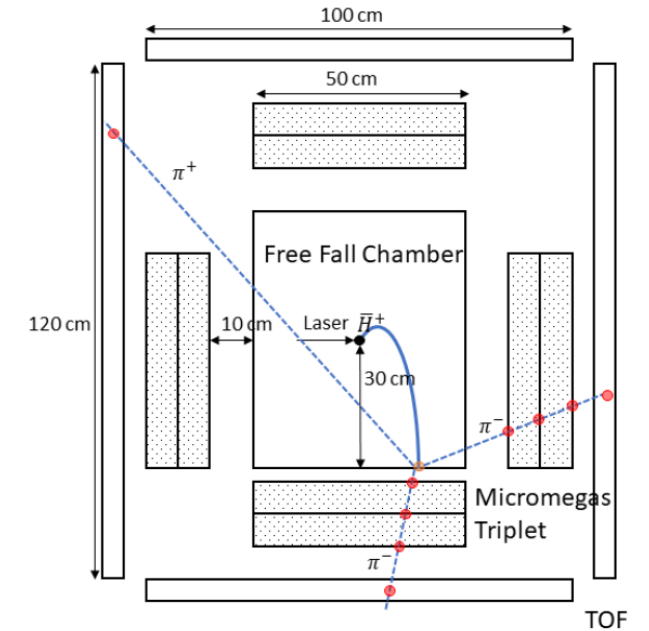
Capture trap



Precision trap

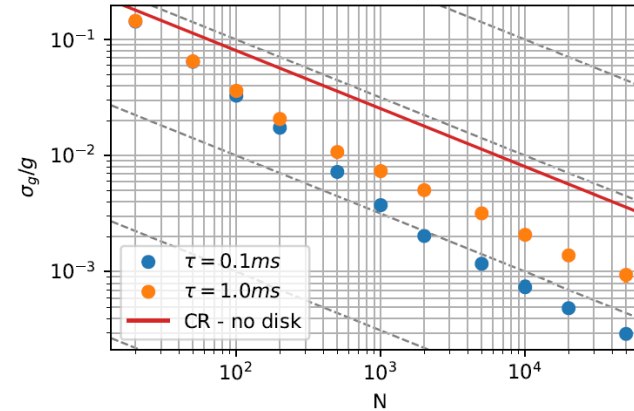
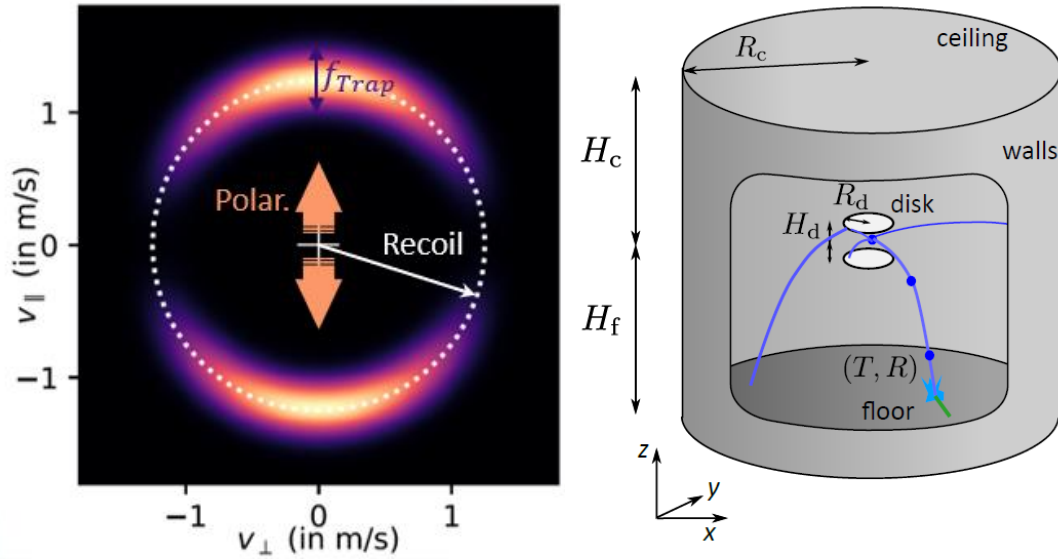


N. Sillitoe, PhD thesis, 2017  
Uni. Pierre et Marie Curie - Paris VI

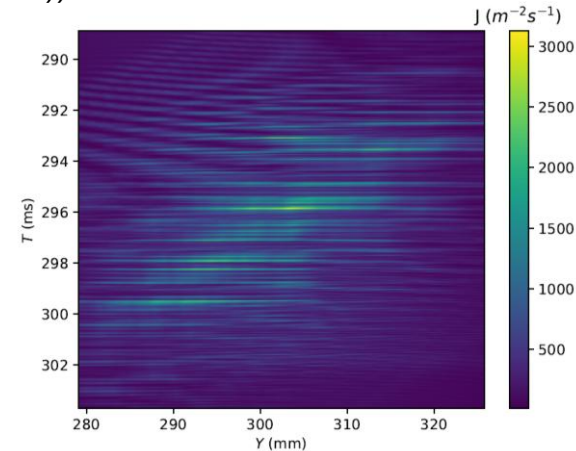
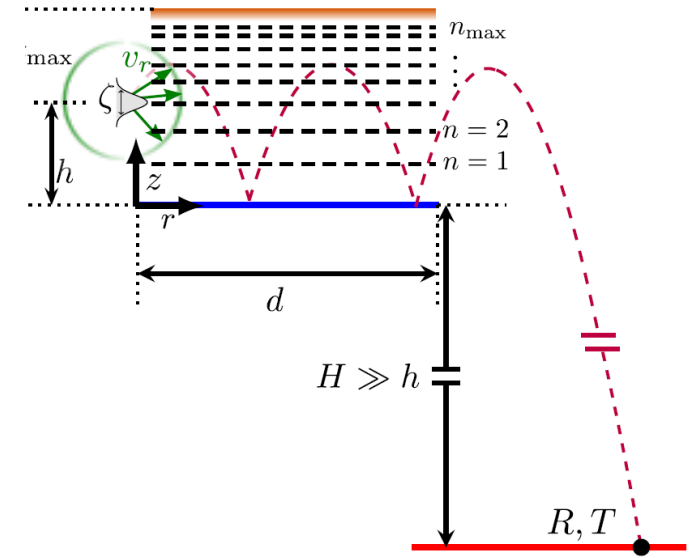


1. Capture trap : capturing by DC switching+ rf voltage electrodes  
Sympathetic Doppler cooling by cooled Be<sup>+</sup>/HD<sup>+</sup> ions (>1,000 laser(313nm), T~100mK limited by rf heating)
2. Precision trap : ion as a quantum harmonic oscillator, Raman sideband cooling for Be<sup>+</sup>/ $\bar{H}$  ion pair to T~10uK. (W. Schnitzler et. al, Physical Review Letters 102, 070501 (2009).)
3. Photo detachment finally produces ultra-cold anti-atom and then the atom free-falls
4. Secondary particle's trajectory (Micromegas) and timing (Scintillator) are measured for reconstruction.

# GBAR : Quantum reflection and levitation



O. Roussele et al, Phys. Rev. A **105**, 022821 (2022)



O. Roussele et al.,  
Eur. Phys. J. D **76**, 209 (2022)

1. Polarization and Shaping with 0.1% uncertainty for 10,000 event (O.Roussele et al, Eur. Phys. J. D **76**, 209 (2022))

- Polarization and shaping give constraints to the time structure
- Time width of photo-detachment laser by limited intensity gives uncertainty.
- Optimization for best condition is ongoing.

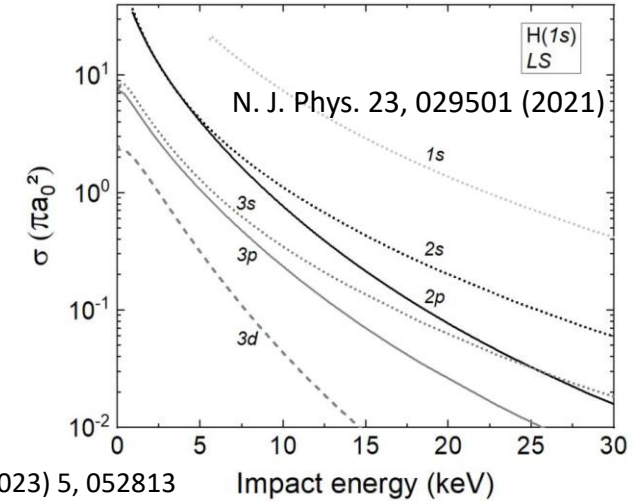
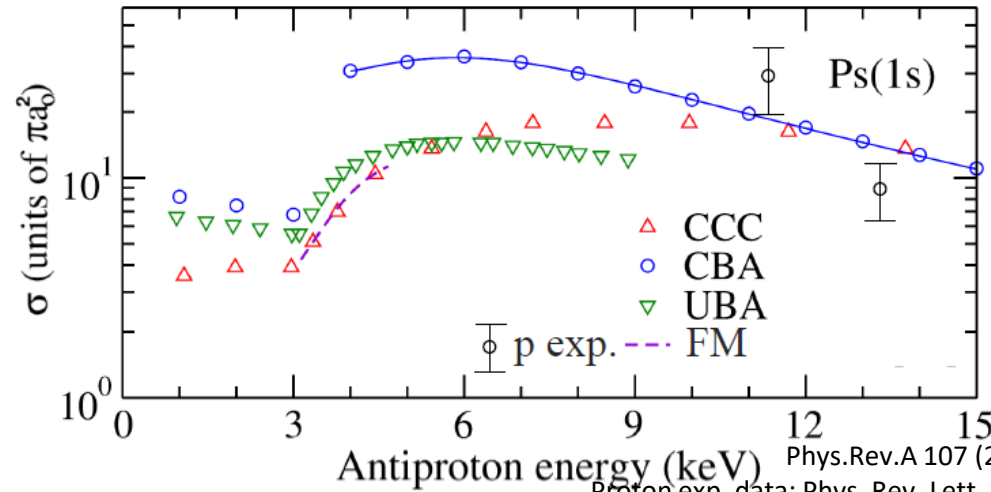
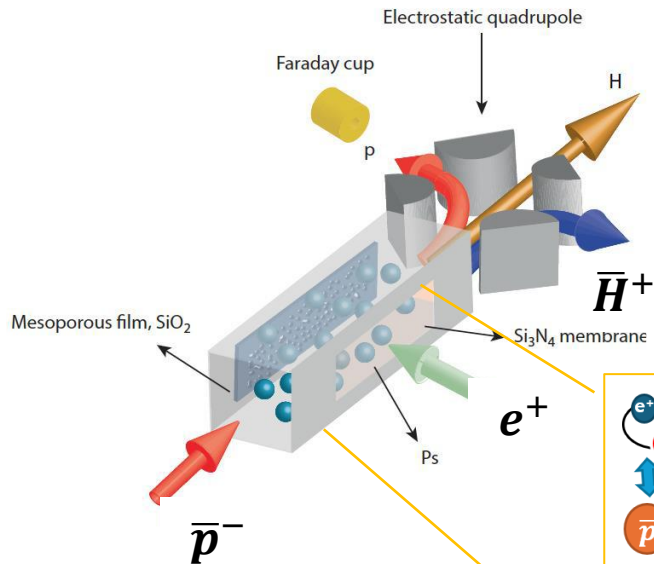
2. Quantum bouncing by Casimir-Polder potential vs Gravitational potential  $10^{-5}$  precision

(G. Dufour et al., Eur. Phys. J. C (2014) 74: 2731)

- Momentum selection reduces systematic uncertainty
- Gravitational Quantum states with pattern measurement makes possible to reach higher precision



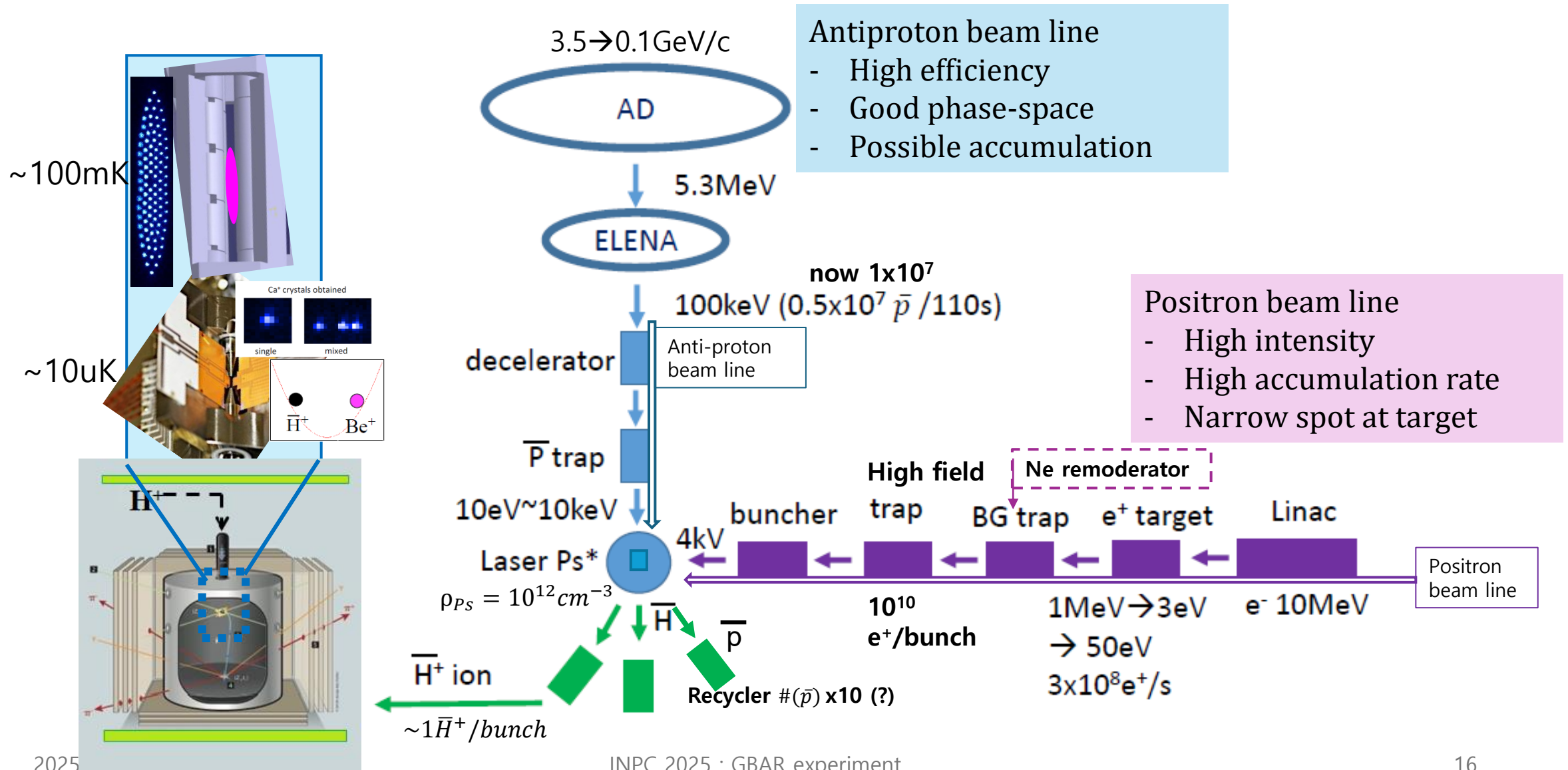
# GBAR : Anti-anion generation



$\bar{p} + Ps \rightarrow \bar{H} + e^- : 1^{\text{st}} \text{ milestone}$   
 $\bar{H} + Ps \rightarrow \bar{H}^+ + e^- : 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ milestone}$

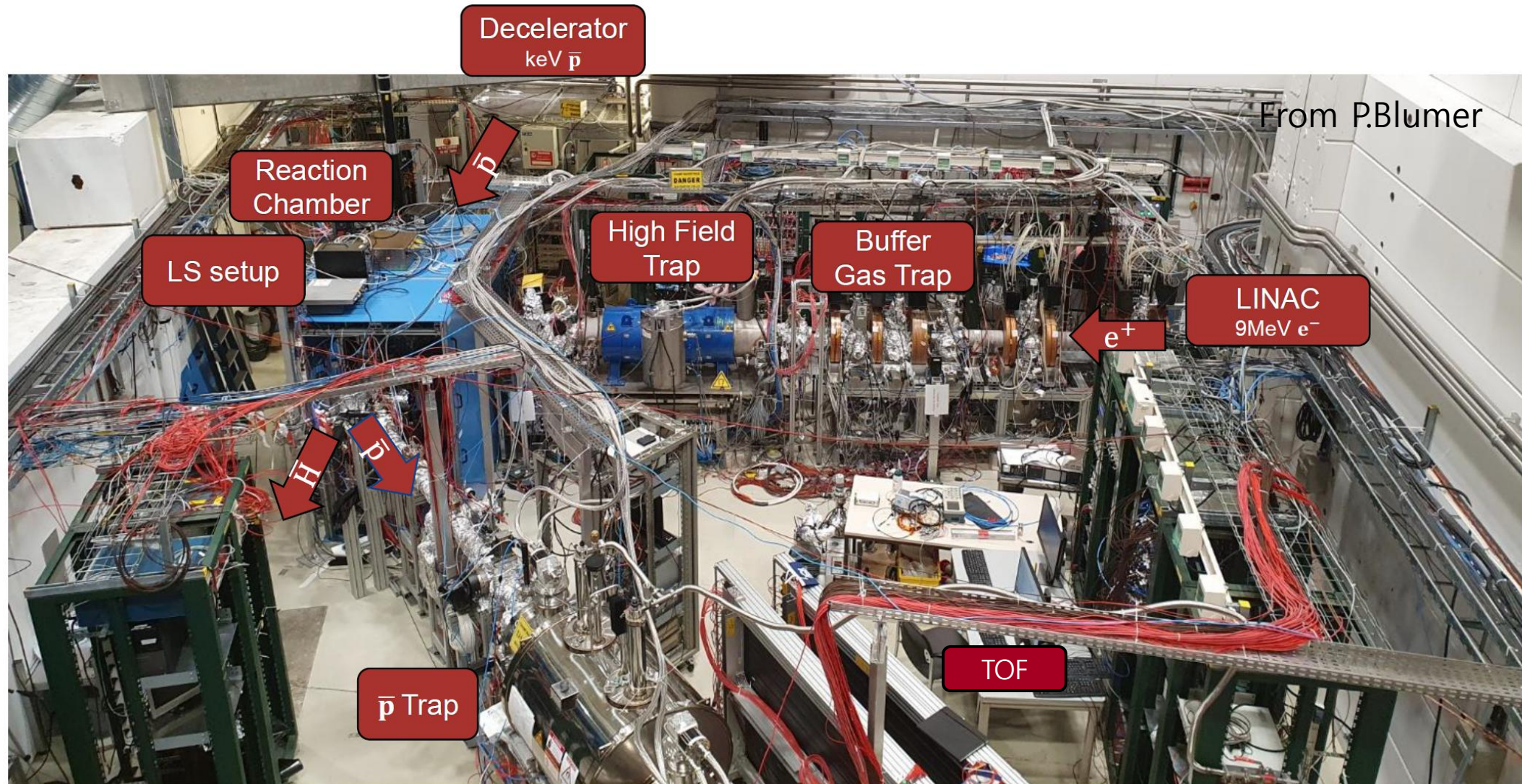
- Double charge exchange process between  $\bar{p}$  beam and dense  $o - Ps$  cloud required
- Cavity for  $o - Ps$  designed to maximize the interaction  $1 \times 1.5 \times 20 \text{ mm}^3$  (limited positron spatial density)
- Dense  $o - Ps$  ( $3 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  of  $o - Ps$  cloud) and intense  $pbar$  beam ( $5 \times 10^6$ ) through dense positronium in cavity are required to produce anti-anion ( $\sim 0.5\#$ )
- Also, laser excitation for  $o - Ps$  has been prepared.

# Experiment Scheme



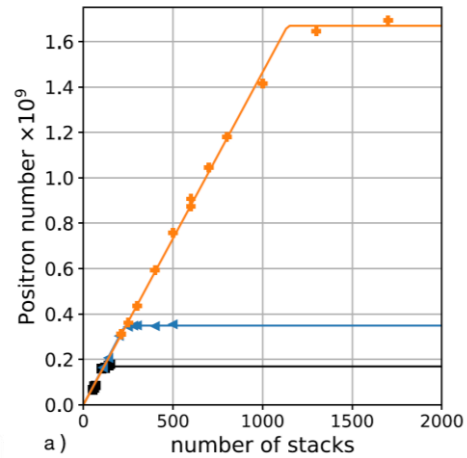
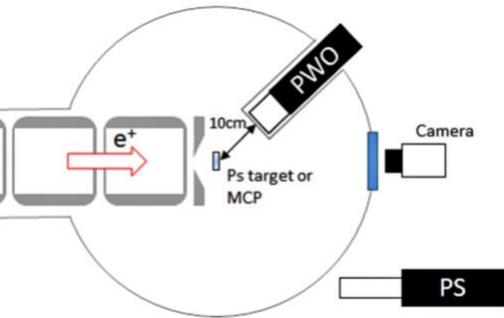


# Experiment setup (2022)





# Positron beam line



The GBAR collaboration,  
Nucl. Instr. Meth. A **1040**, 167263 (2022)

$N_2/CO_2$  « Surko » trap  
Pulsed operation  
Transfer to HFT every 1 s

$1.4 \cdot 10^9$  in 1100 s in 2021

Performance of linac-based positron sources.

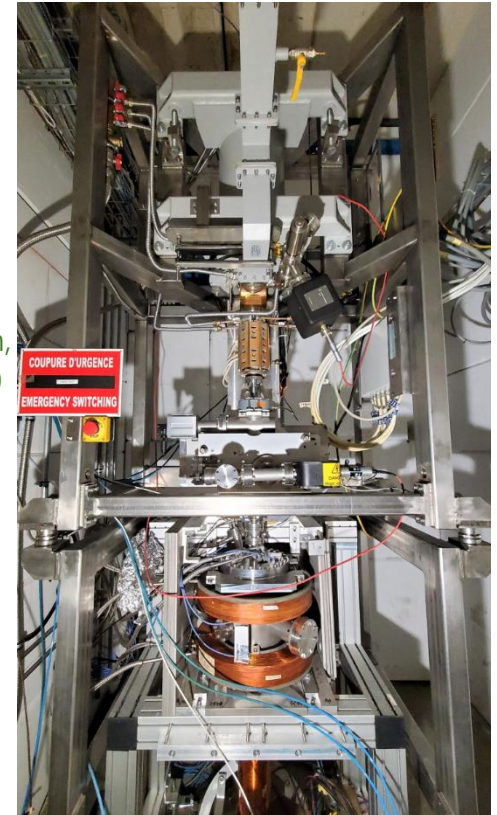
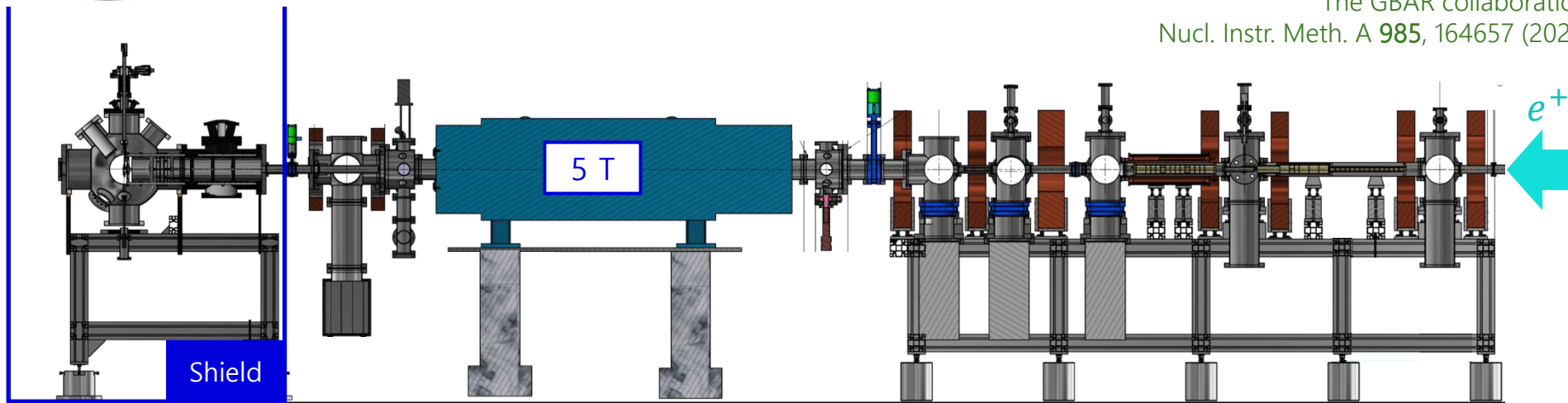
Linac	$e^-$ energy MeV	$e^-$ beam power W	Slow $e^+$ flux $10^7 e^+/s$	Efficiency $10^{-7} e^+/e^-$
Oak Ridge [33]	180	55 000	10	0.53
Livermore [34]	100	11 000	1000	16
ETL, Japan [35]	75	300	1.0	6
KEK [36]	55	600	5	7.3
Ghent [37]	45	3800	2	0.4
Giessen [38]	35	3500	1.5	0.2
Mitsubishi, Japan [39]	18	16	0.077	1.35
GBAR, CERN	9	2500	5	0.28
Saclay, CEA [40]	4.3	300	0.2	0.05

9 MeV  $e^-$   
300 mA  
200 Hz

W target & moderator

$3 \cdot 10^7$  slow  $e^+ /s$

The GBAR collaboration,  
Nucl. Instr. Meth. A **985**, 164657 (2021)



RC

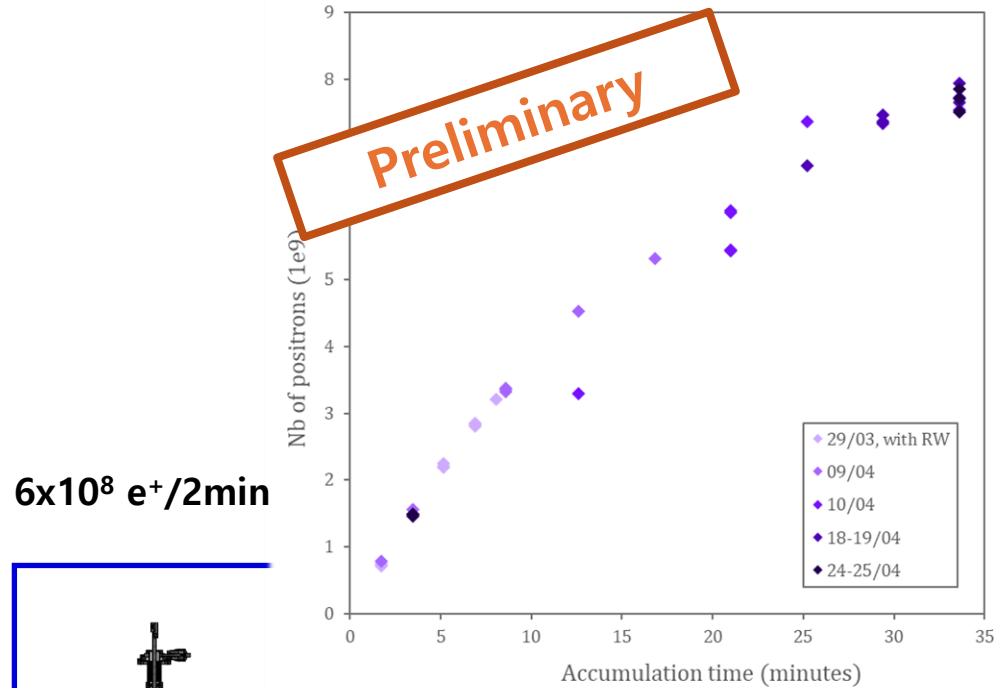
2025-05-26

HFT

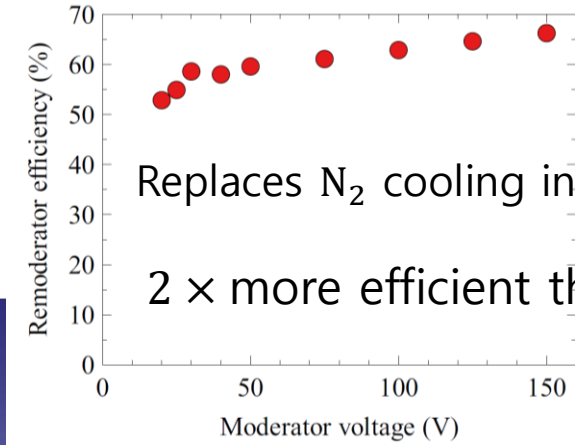
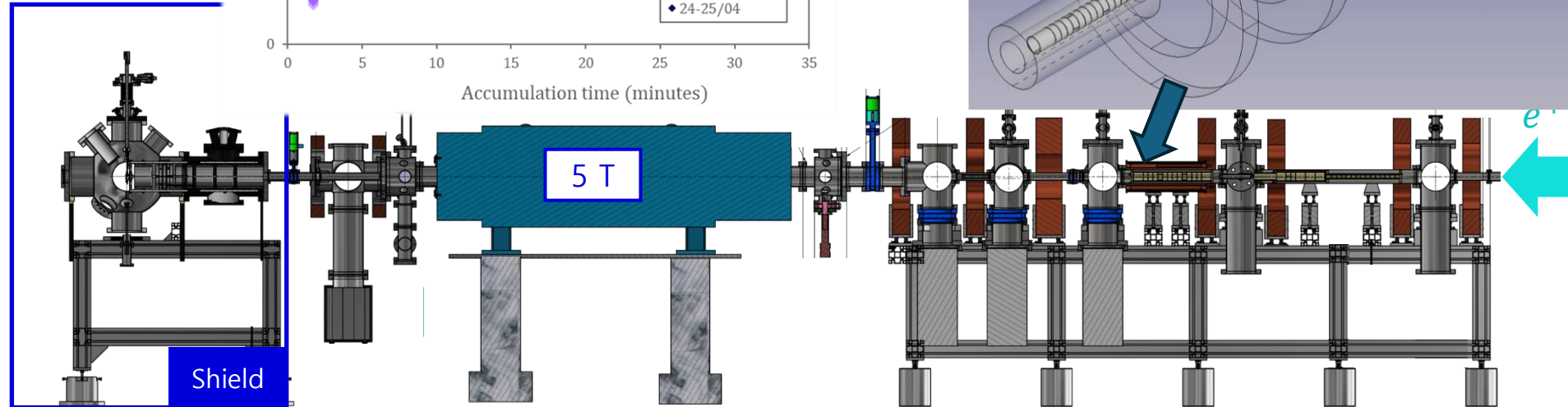
BGT

LINAC

# Positron beam line

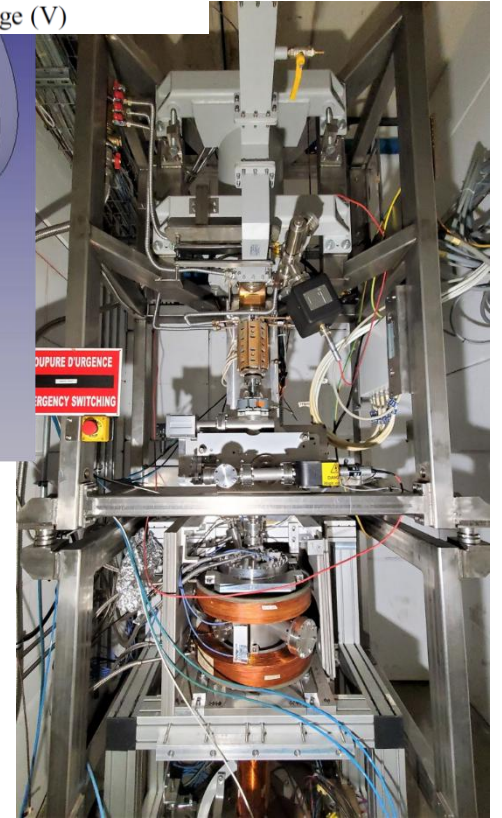


$6 \times 10^8 \text{ e}^+ / 2 \text{ min}$



Replaces  $\text{N}_2$  cooling in BGT.  $\text{CO}_2$  kept.

$2 \times$  more efficient than former BGT



RC

2025-05-26

HFT

BGT

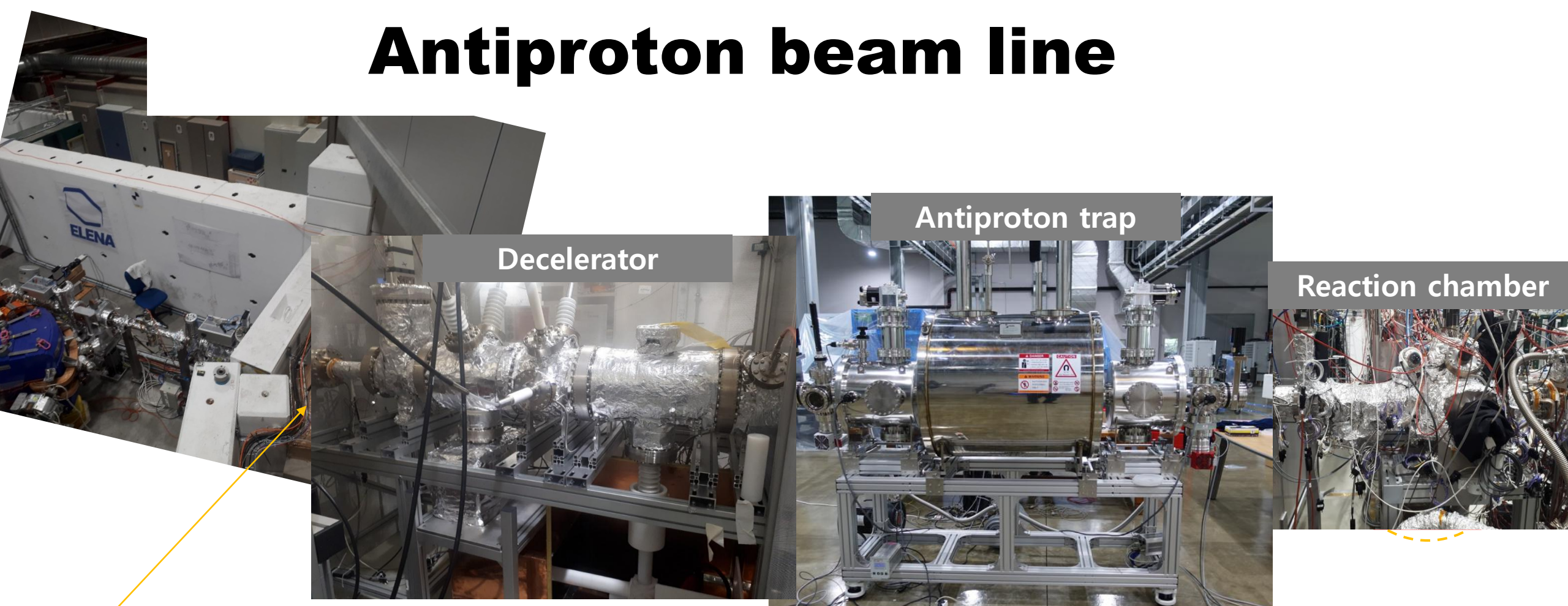
LINAC

INPC 2025 : GBAR experiment

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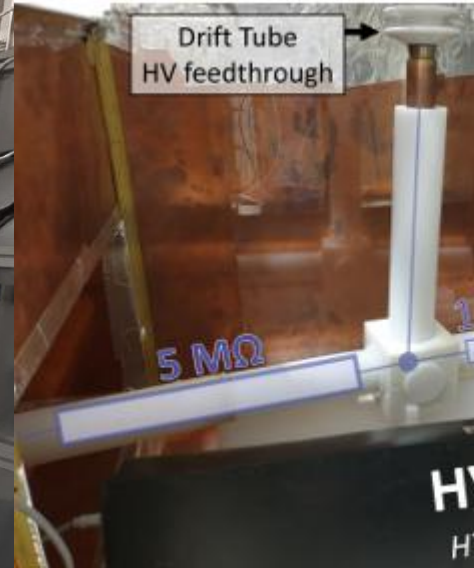


# Antiproton beam line

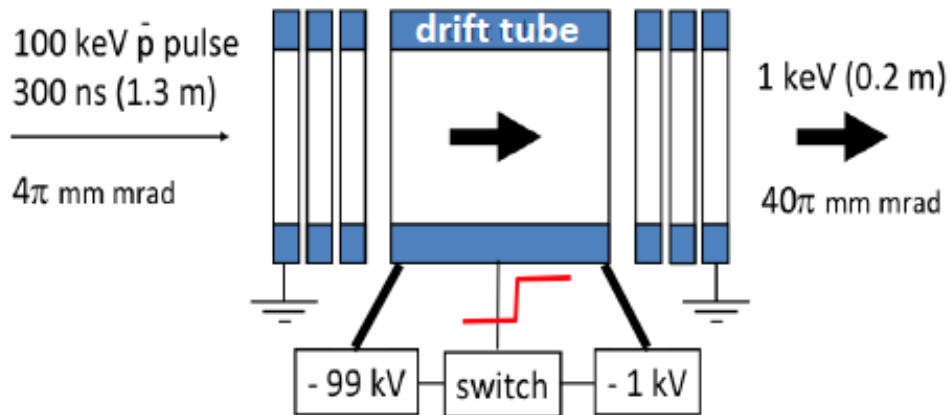
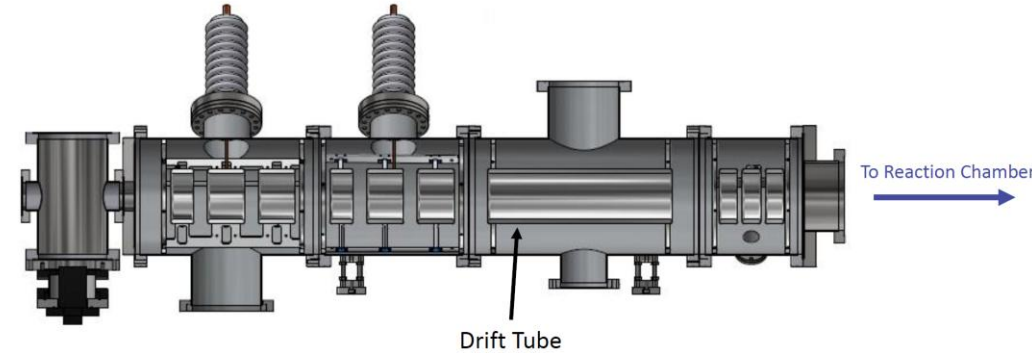




# GBAR Decelerator

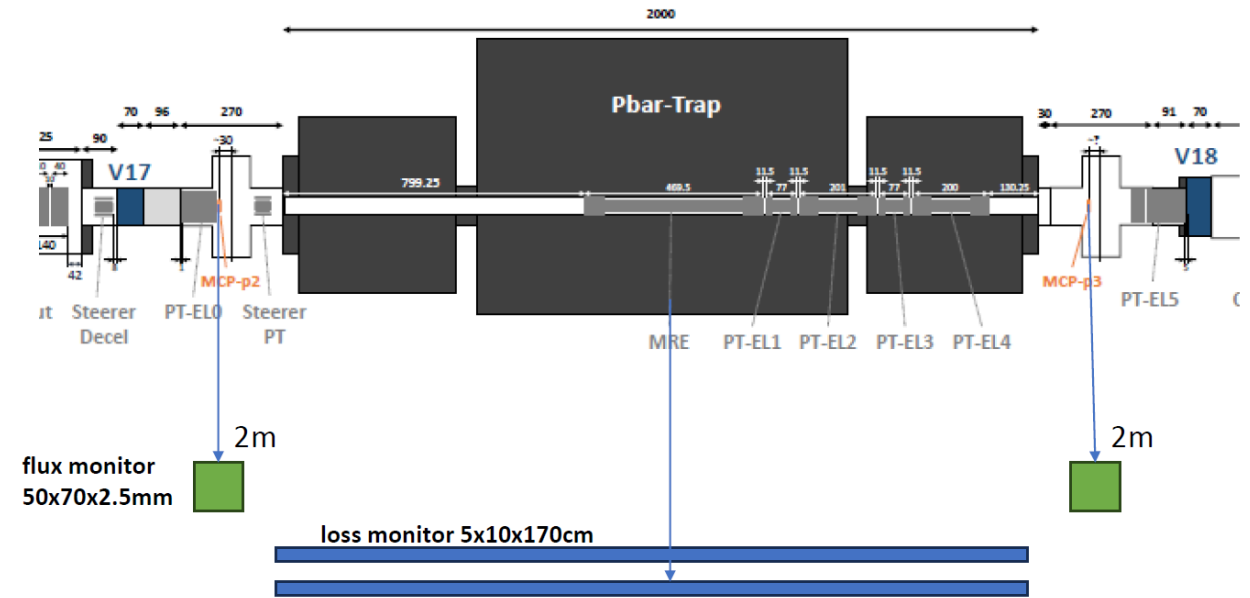
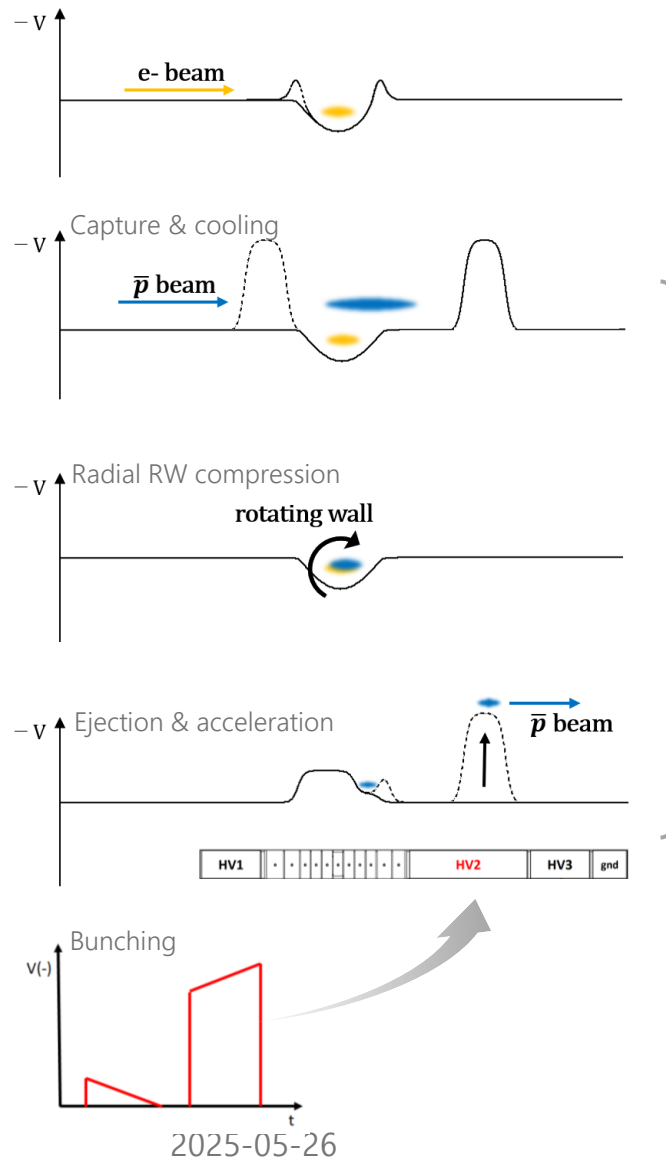


100keV Pbar/H-  
from ELENA



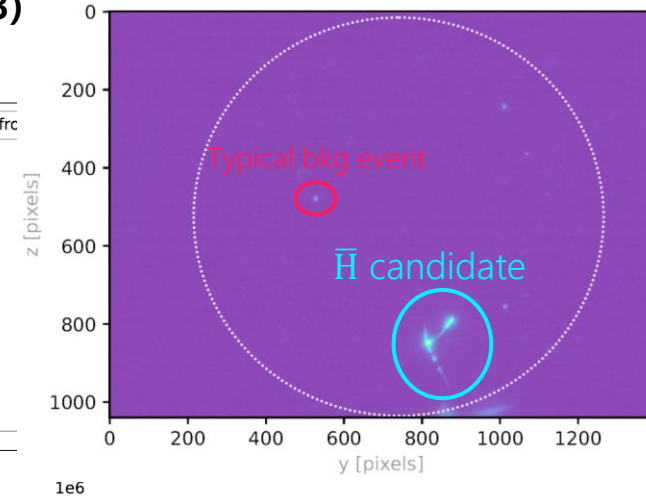
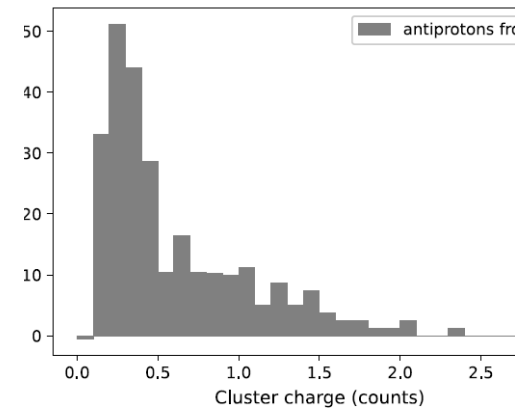
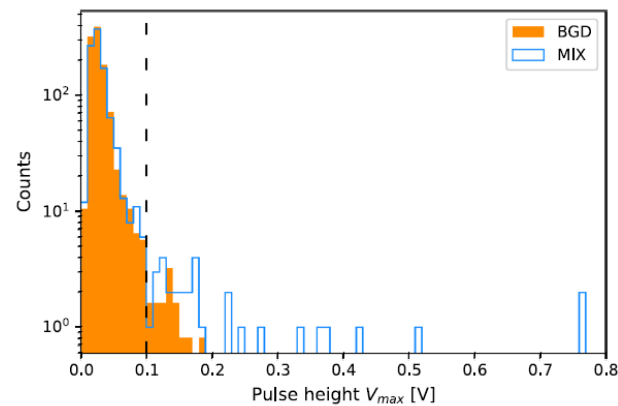
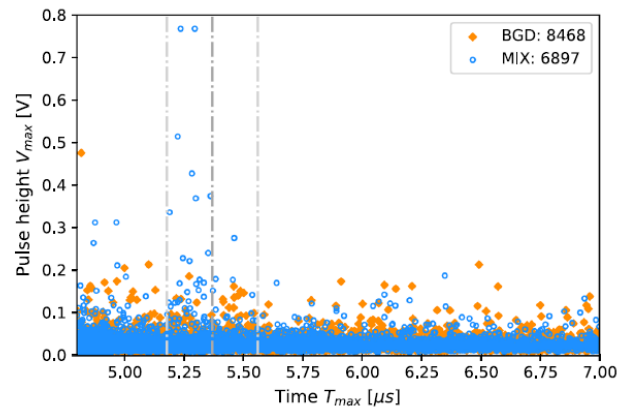
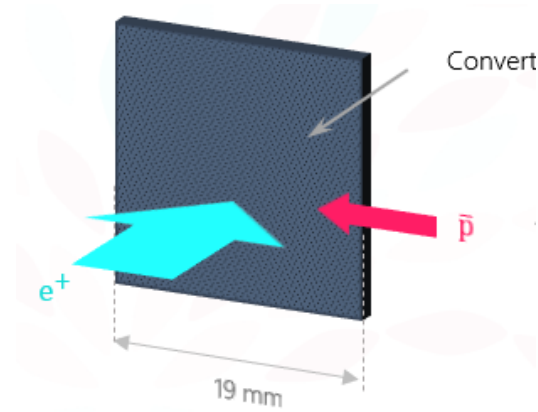
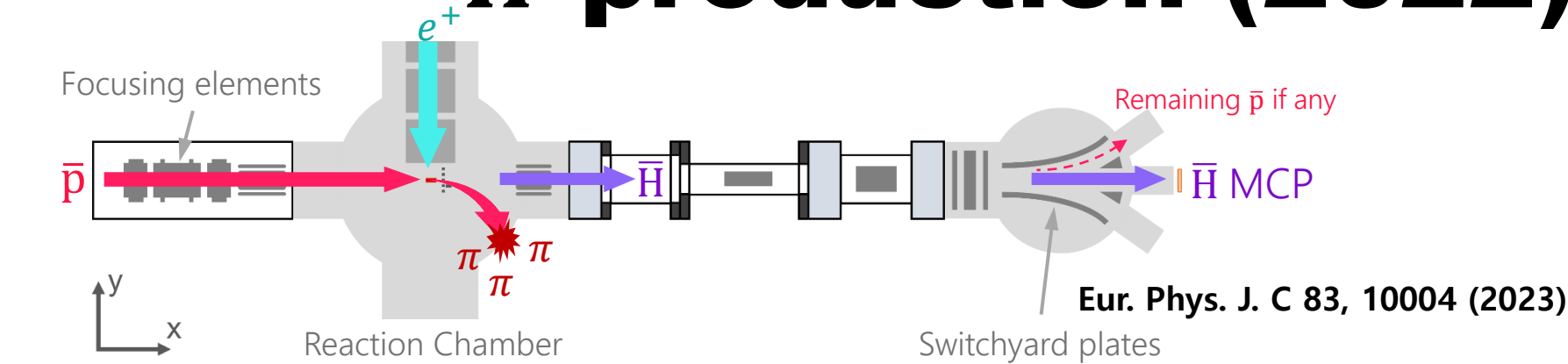
- GBAR decelerator
- Drift tube with  $-HV$  with fast-switching when pbar beam is in the tube
- Higher efficiency and mono-energy expected compared with Degrading foil
- With  $100\text{keV} \rightarrow 1\text{keV}$  deceleration, emittance is increased about 10 times

# Antiproton trap



- Penning-Malmberg trap (5T; 7T max) for antiproton beam reprocessing
- Function : Trapping, cooling, compression, acceleration, bunching and accumulation
- Goal : Producing antiproton beam with good beam parameters (higher intensity with accumulation, good phase-space & time spread for double charge reaction, small energy spread, etc)
- Injection and extraction simulation by WARP has been developed (Kyoung-Hun Yoo et al 2022 JINST 17 T10003)

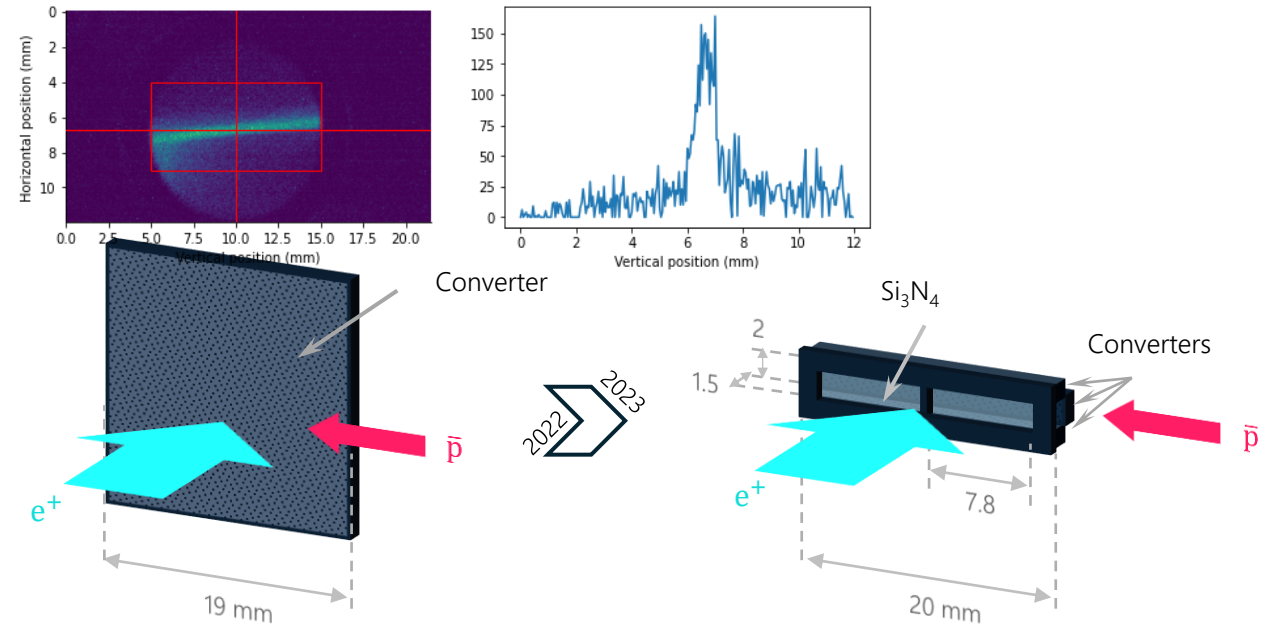
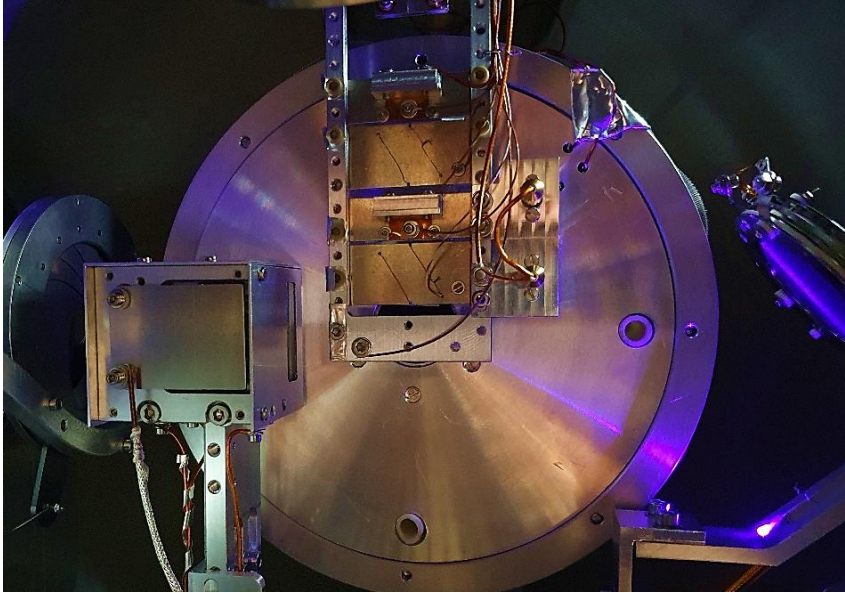
# $\bar{H}$ production (2022)



- Produced antihydrogen is detected above  $3\sigma$  (which is **1<sup>st</sup> milestone**)
- About  $6.8 \times 10^6$  o-Ps ( $5 \times 10^7$   $e^+$ ) and  $3 \times 10^6$   $\bar{p}$
- (First) production of  $\bar{H}$  by charge exchange between o-Ps and antiproton **beam**
- higher intensity with **better emittance** by pbar trap required  $\bar{H}^+$  **production (2<sup>nd</sup> milestone)**



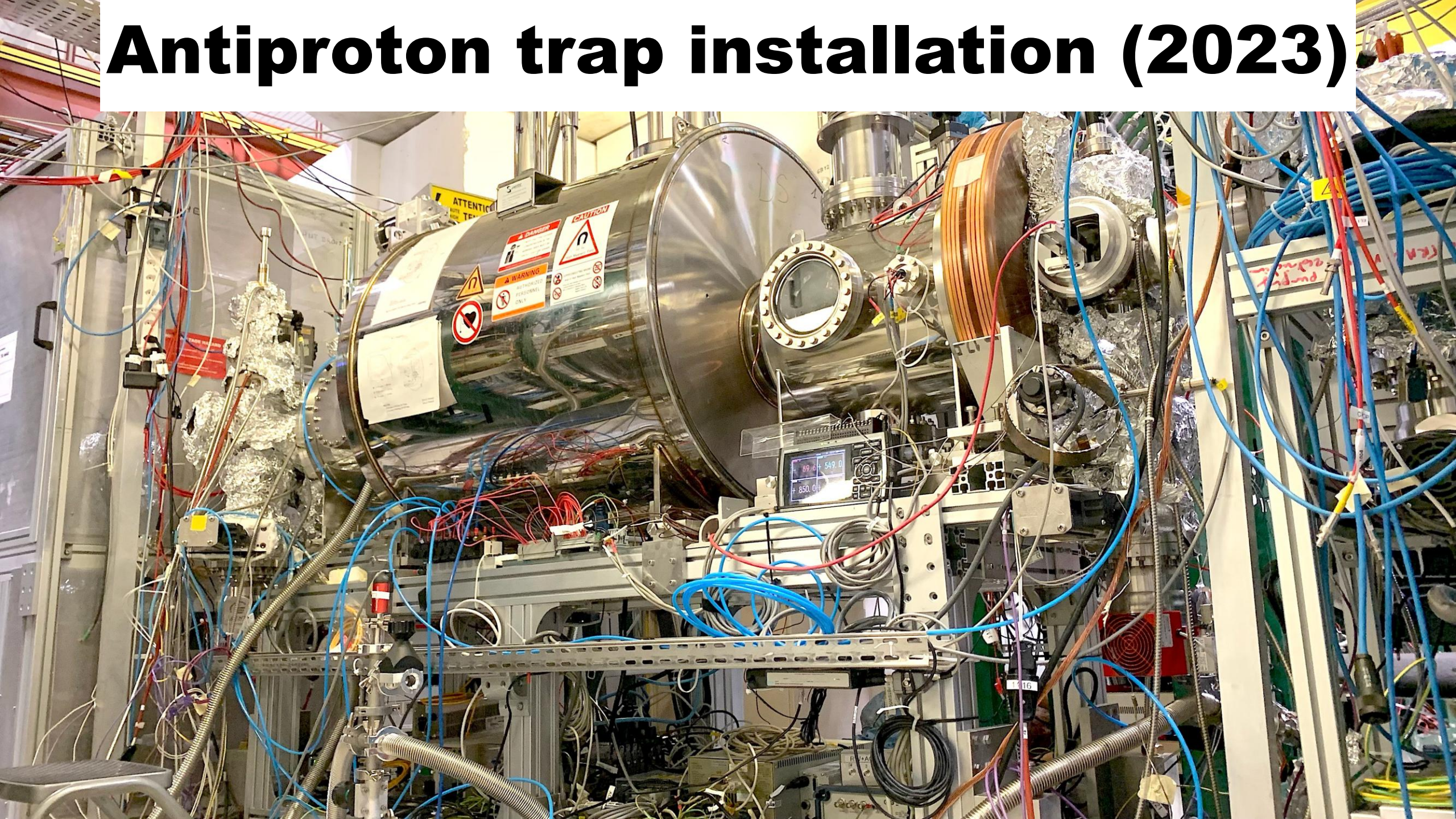
# $\bar{H}$ production



- For the proper next step, the target changed to cavity to foreseen double charge reaction
- The positron beam optics and guiding is adequate for proper squeezed beam



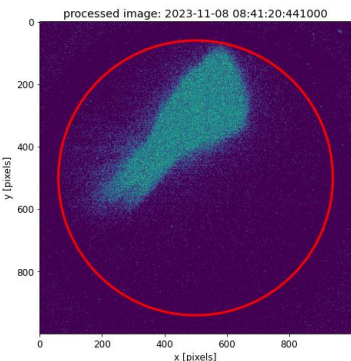
# Antiproton trap installation (2023)





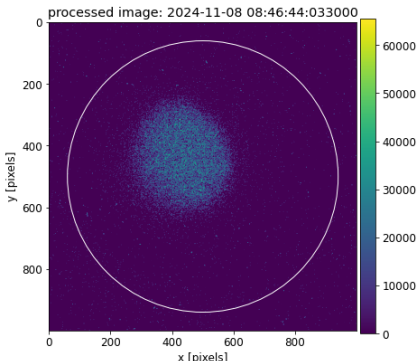
# Antiproton beam line performance

## Antiproton Trap extraction beam



2023 instillation

Beam Intensity	$(2.8 \pm 0.5) \times 10^6$
Extraction efficiency (/ELENA)	$(36 \pm 6)\%$
Beam size ( $\sigma_x$ )	4.26mm
Beam size ( $\sigma_y$ )	4.22mm
Bunch length (FWHM)	24ns

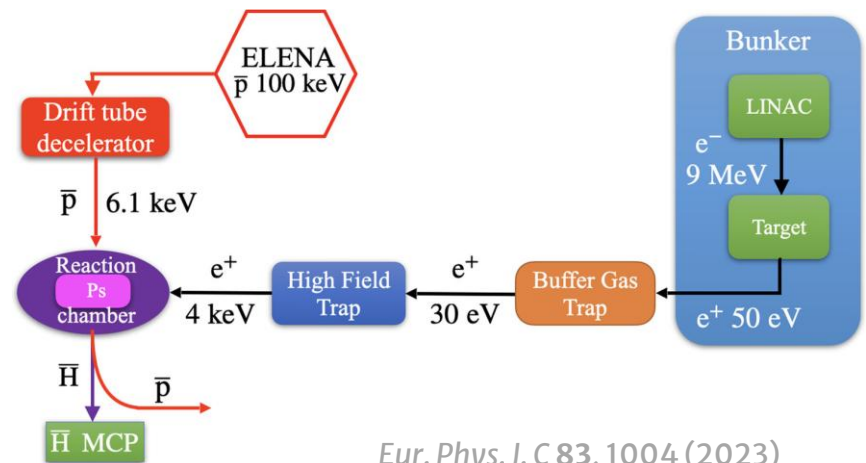


2024 comissioning

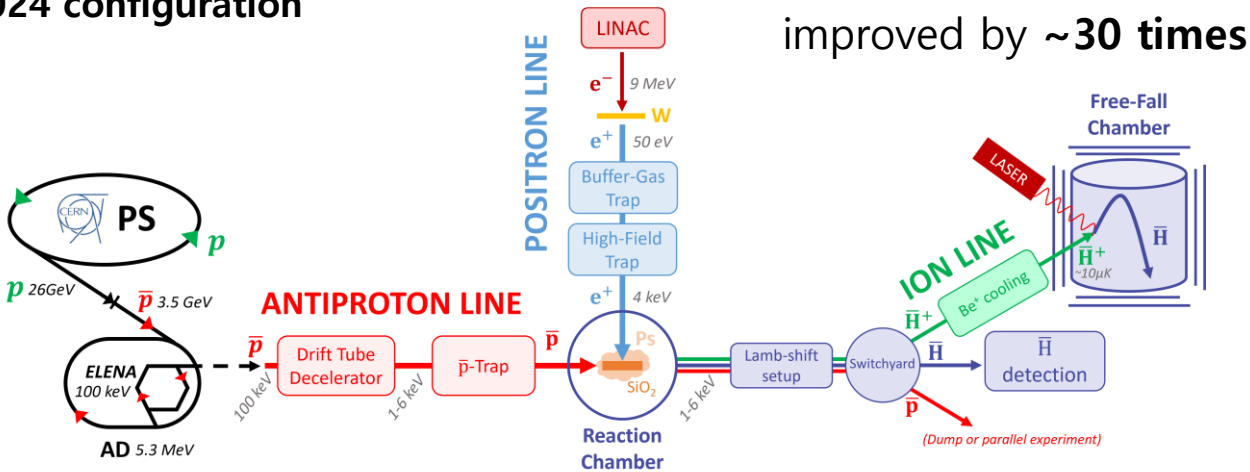
Beam Intensity	$(4.9 \pm 0.4) \times 10^6$
Extraction efficiency (/ELENA)	$(43 \pm 4)\%$
Beam size ( $\sigma_x$ )	2.71mm
Beam size ( $\sigma_y$ )	2.99mm
Bunch length (FWHM)	80ns

## Antihydrogen ( $\bar{H}$ ) production rate

2022 configuration

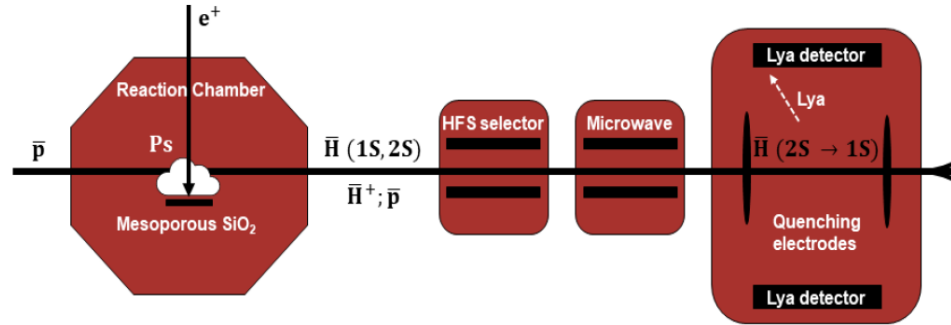


2024 configuration



$\bar{H}$  detection rate improved by **~30 times**

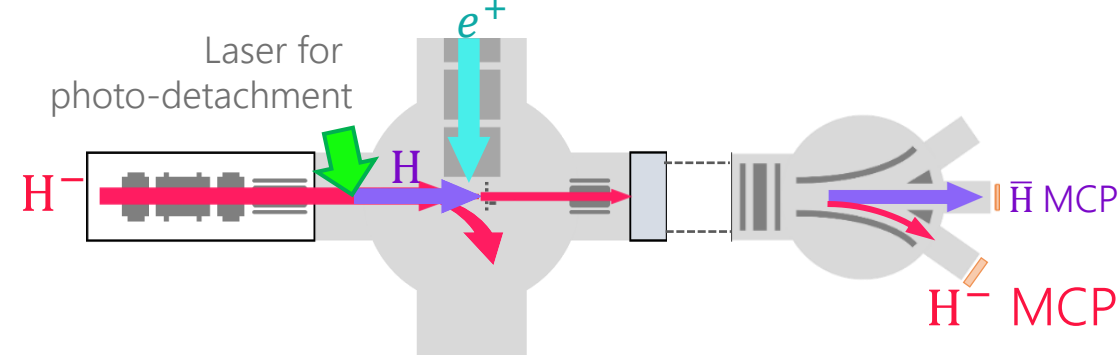
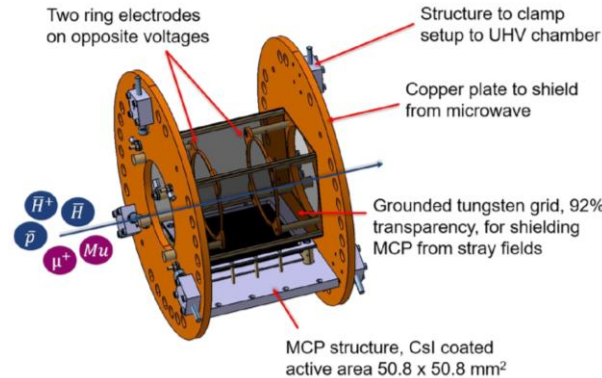
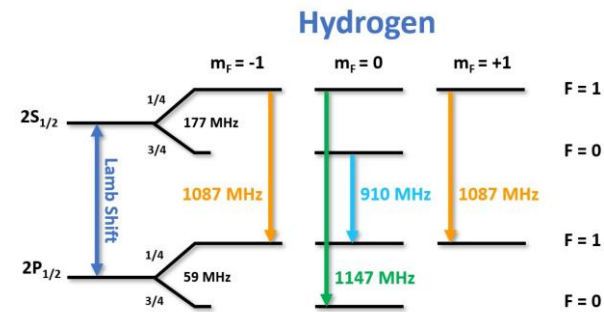
# coming soon measurements



MW transitions  
(HFS selector & MW TL)

P. Crivelli et al., Phys. Rev. D **94**, 052008 (2016)

Ly- $\alpha$  photons detector



$\text{H}(1\text{S}) + \text{Ps}(1\text{S})$ , assuming:

$10^6$  H at 6 keV +  $3 \cdot 10^7$  oPs in present cavity

0.1 to 1.5  $\text{H}^-$  depending on cross sections

- $\bar{\text{H}}$  Lamb-shift measurement (in flight) has been prepared
- $\text{H}^-$  cross section measurement as counter part of  $\bar{\text{H}}^+$  prepared



# Summary

- Matter and Antimatter asymmetry is one of mystery and exploring the antimatter physics is meaningful topic.
- The GBAR experiment aims to measure the gravitational acceleration of antihydrogen below 1% to  $10^{-5}$ .
- For the most challenging experiment, few milestones should be reached.
- Getting close to the production of  $\bar{H}^+$
- $H^-$  cross-section measurement and Lamb-shift measurement has been prepared



# Thank you ☺



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# BACKUP

# CPT test at AD

- Spectroscopy of antihydrogen
  - 1S - 2S transition : (hydrogen  $4.2 \times 10^{-15}$ ) CPT with antihydrogen : 200 ppt (2017) → 2 ppt (Nature 557, 71-75 (2018))
  - 1S- 2P transition : 16 ppb (nature 578, 375 (2020)) by ALPHA
  - Hyperfine splitting : observed 2% ( $2P_{1/2}$ - $2P_{3/2}$ ) : 250ppm (nature 548, 66-69 (2017), nature 578, 375 (2020)) by ALPHA
  - Lamb shift : agreed a level of 11% ( $2S_{1/2}$ - $2P_{1/2}$ ) (nature 578, 375 (2020)) by ALPHA
- Proton & antiproton CPT test by BASE
  - g-factor : 1.5 ppb (nature 524, 196-199 (2015))
  - m/q ratio : 16 ppt (nature 601, 53-57 (2022))





- Trapping efficiency : 60% of ELENA injection
- Reprocessed beam from trap :  
 $\sim 5 \times 10^6 \# (\bar{p}/2\text{min})$

