



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



ETH Institute for  
Particle Physics

## Physikpraktikum für Vorgerückte (VP)

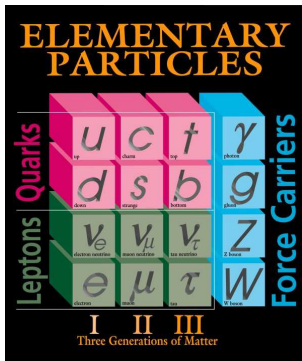
[vp.phys.ethz.ch](http://vp.phys.ethz.ch)

# Development of a charged particle tracker with plastic scintillating ber and Geiger-mode avalanche photodiode

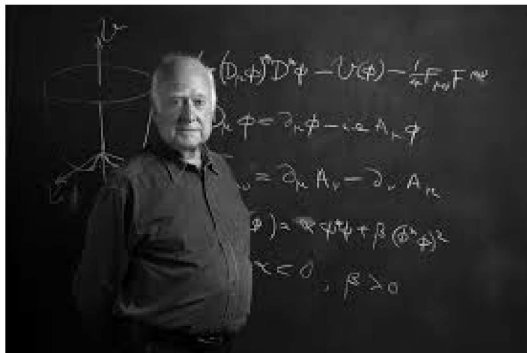
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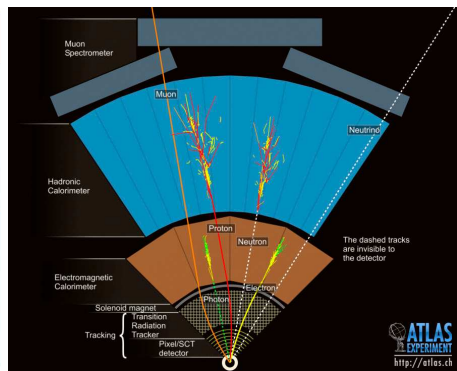
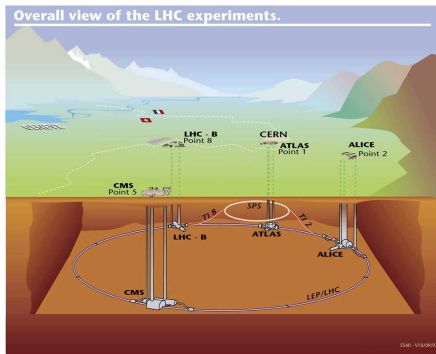


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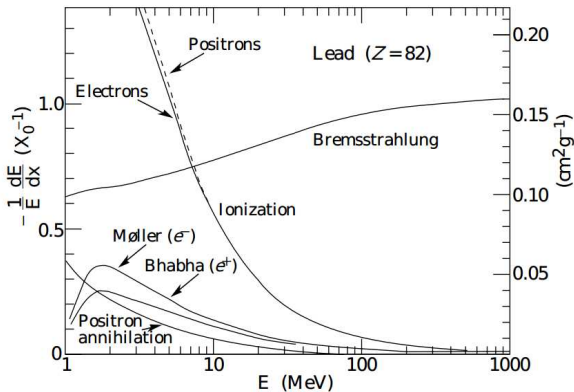
## What is the Standard Model?

- Theory that describes the interactions between a family of elementary particles
- All those particles and their interactions are observed and tested to very high precision
- The final missing piece - Higgs was found and confirmed last year (Nobel Prize in Physics 2013)



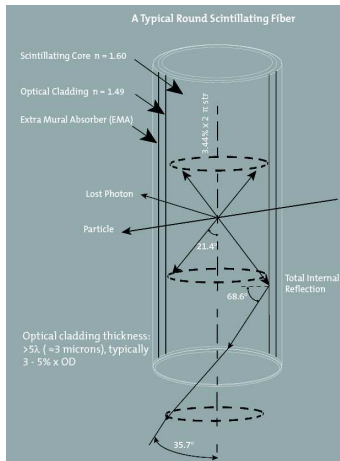
## But how they did it?

- Accelerators (Atom smasher)
- Particle detectors (Charged particles, neutral particles, photon)
- Simulations of interactions of particles with detectors (GEANT4, COMSOL)
- Data Analysis (PAW, ROOT)



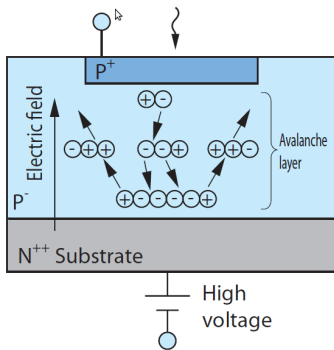
## 2 main processes of energy loss

- Ionisation (creating electron and ion pair)
- Bremsstrahlung (Interacting with the EM fields inside atom)



## Basic principle of detection

- Charged particle losses energy to the molecules inside
- Molecules are excited and drop back to the ground state by emitting photons
- Photons that are trapped inside can travel to the both ends of the fiber



Generated carriers produce new electron-hole pairs while being accelerated by high electric field. Ionization



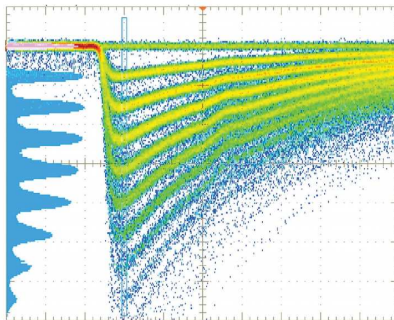
Newly generated carriers are also accelerated to produce further electron-hole pairs, and this process repeats itself. Avalanche multiplication

Gain proportional to the applied reverse bias voltage can be obtained.

## Basic principle

- Photons hitting the entrance will create electron-hole pairs
- Electrons will be accelerated in electric field and repeating the process
- The electrons are detected as a current at the end

Number of photons



Time

4

## Counting single photon

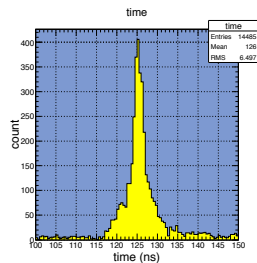
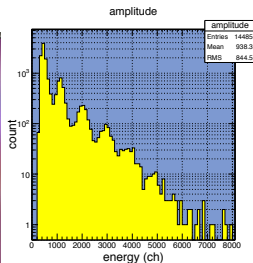
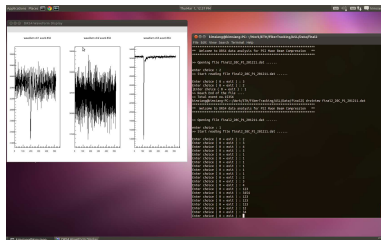
- MPPC (Hamamatsu) is an array of those G-APDs
- 1 Photon can hit 1 pixel which then gives a pulse
- 2 Photon can hit 2 pixels which then gives a pulse of twice the height before



## Analog to Digital converter (Digitizer)

- Convert the signal (pulse) to a waveform
- Store them as ROOT files
- Data analysis can be done anytime later





## Waveform analysis and histogramming

- Operating system will be LINUX (Ubuntu distribution)
- Terminal will be used extensively
- Determine the timing and the height of the pulse
- Cut analysis to select "good" events
- Decide the timing resolution, etc of the detector