



中国科学技术大学
University of Science and Technology of China

Recent progress of DMM detector with a double micro-mesh gaseous structure

Xu Wang, Zhiyong Zhang, Yi Zhou, Jianbei Liu, Ming Shao, Sicheng Wen

University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China

CEPC2025, November-2025

1. Motivation
2. Design and Fabrication of DMM
3. Performance characterization of DMM
4. Applications of DMM
5. Summary

1. Motivation
2. Design and Fabrication of DMM
3. Performance characterization of DMM
4. Applications of DMM
5. Summary

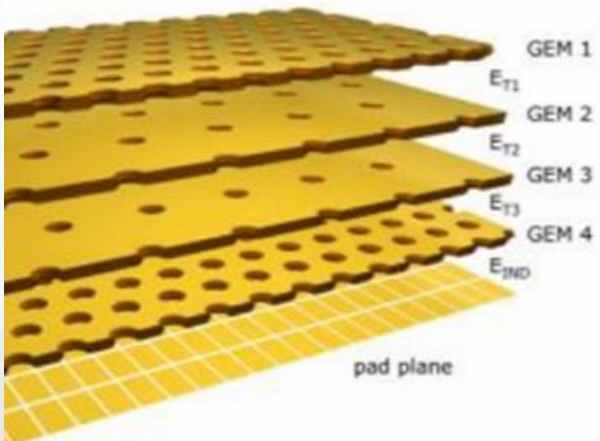
Motivation: TPC



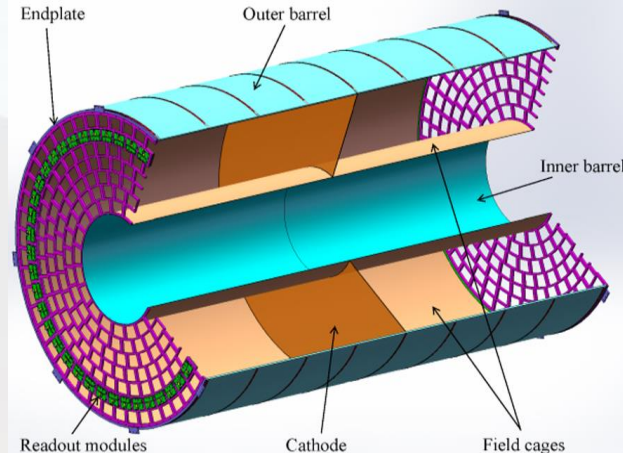
Application of TPC in high-rate environments: ALICE upgrade, CEPC, ILD ...

- Low IBF requirement: to minimize drift field distortion caused by ion space charge
- Continuous readout to keep up with high event rate

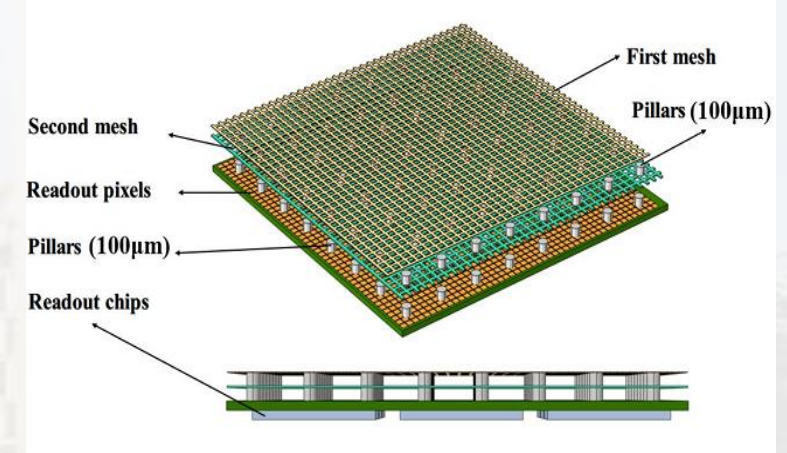
ALICE TPC
quadruple GEM



CEPC TPC



Double Micromegas



MPGD is the only solution so far. Novel MPGDs with very low IBF are needed to be developed

Motivation: GPD



Gaseous photon detector with MPGDs

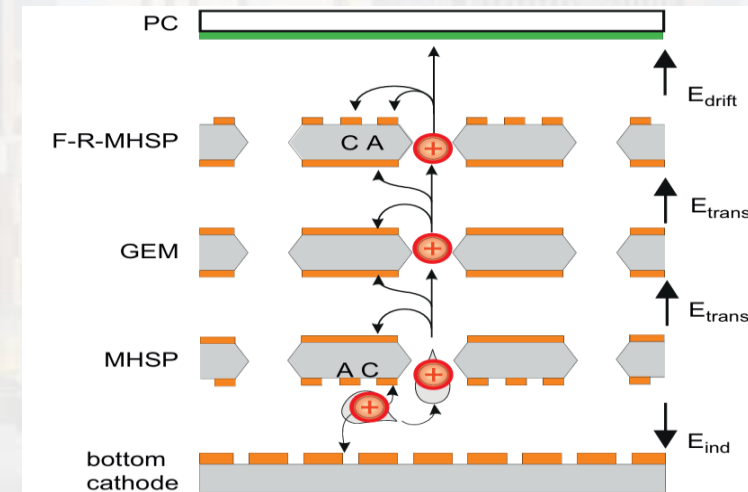
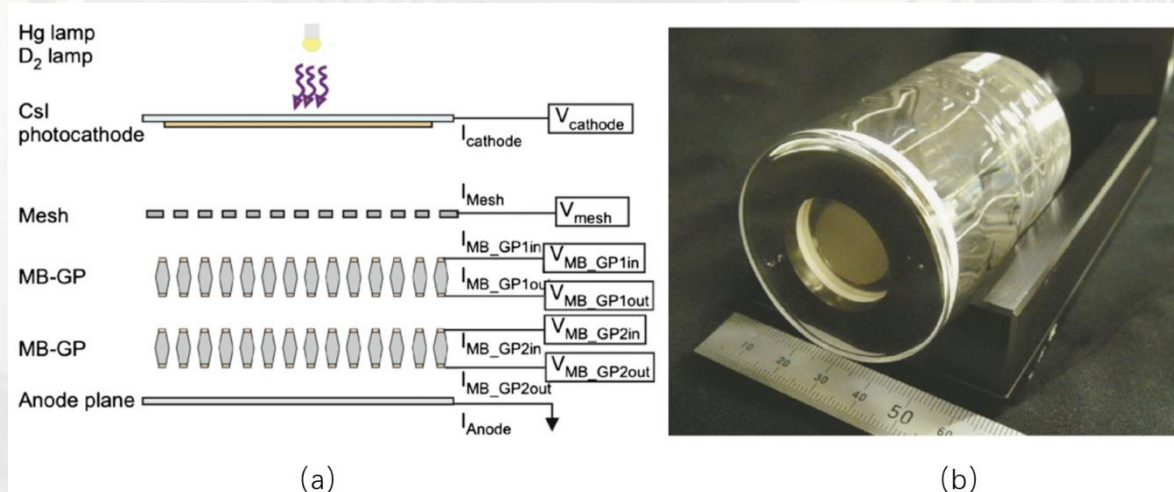
- Multi layer THGEM-like structure
- Mesh + THGEM-like



Large area, high spatial resolution, good time resolution, resistant to magnetic field, IBF suppression, low cost ...

Challenges

- High gas gain: to be sensitive to single photons
- Low IBF: to protect photocathode (CsI, Bi-alkali)



1. Motivation
- 2. Design and Fabrication of DMM**
3. Performance characterization of DMM
4. Applications of DMM
5. Summary

Detector concept of DMM



DMM: Double Micro-Mesh gaseous structure

Two avalanche gaps:

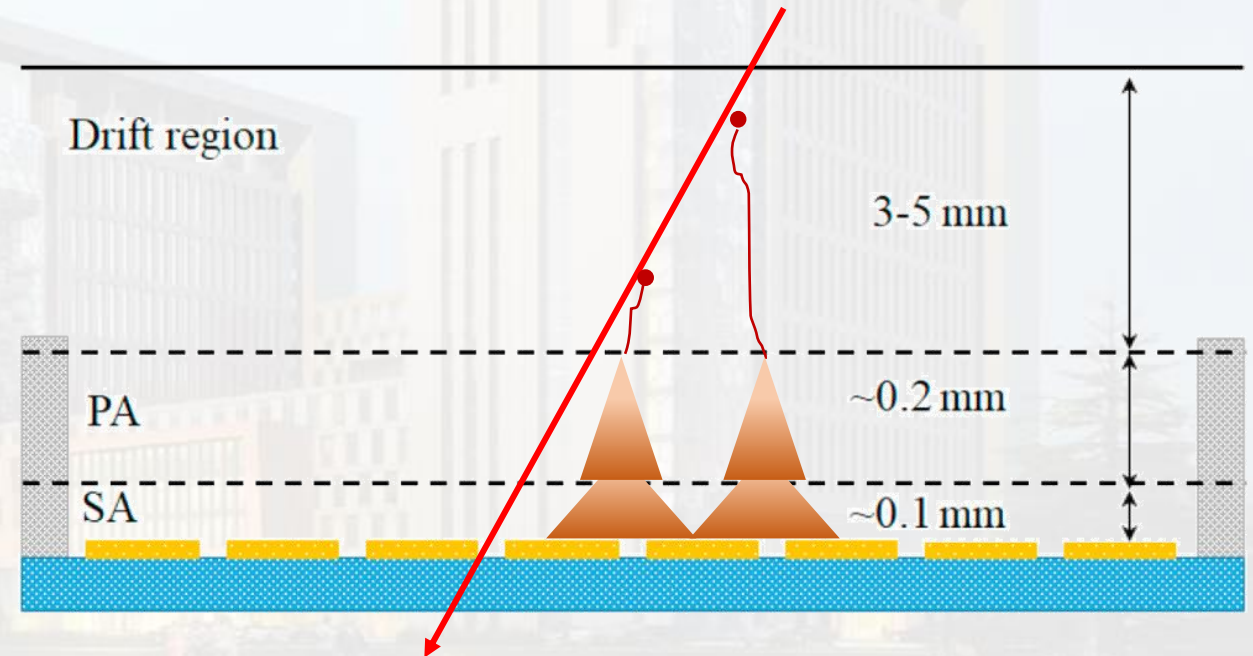
- Gap between the stacked meshes: serving as pre-amplification (PA gap), 200-700 μm
- Gap between the bottom mesh and anode: serving as secondary amplification (SA gap), 100~500 μm

Characteristics:

- Additional Mesh: significantly reduce IBF
- Two-stage avalanche: high gas gain
- Flexible gap control: meet different demands

Fabrication method:

- Typical thermal bonding method
- Optimized thermal bonding method



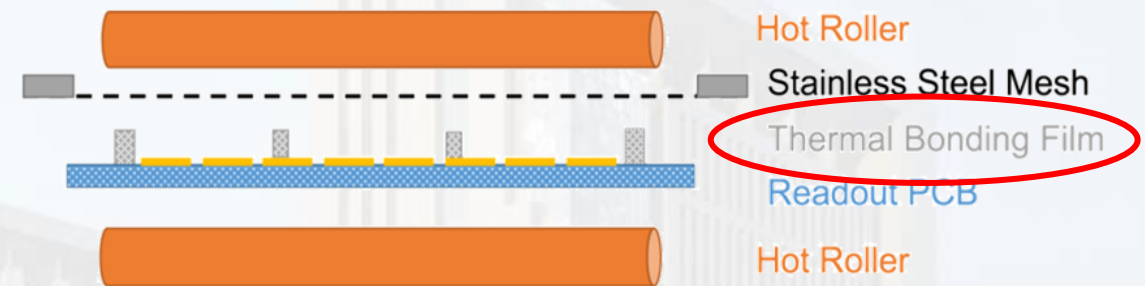
Fabrication methods



DMM is fabricated with **thermal bonding method** that have been developed at USTC

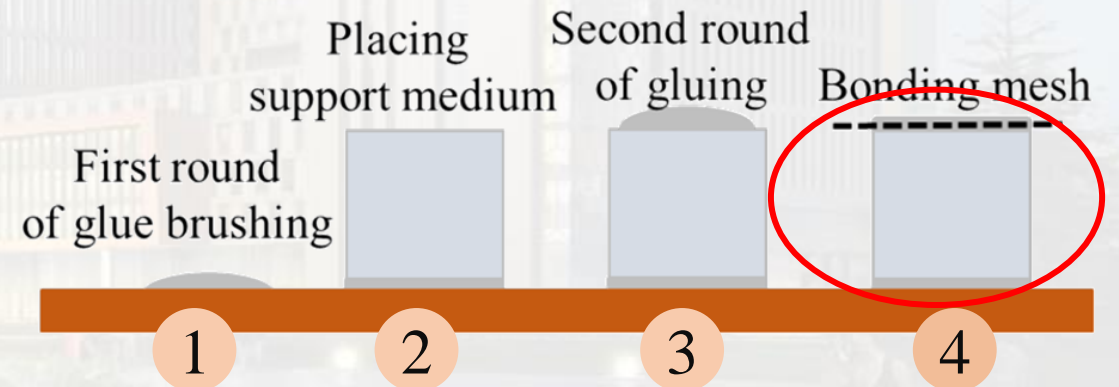
Typical thermal bonding method

- Commercial thermal bonding film (specific model, limited options)
- Hot roller ($\sim 135^{\circ}\text{C}$, less than 1 hour)



Optimized thermal bonding method

- Separate insulating layer and glue layer (more options)
- Plate press ($\sim 60^{\circ}\text{C}$, several hours)



Fabrication



Machines for fabrication of DMM

Hot roller press

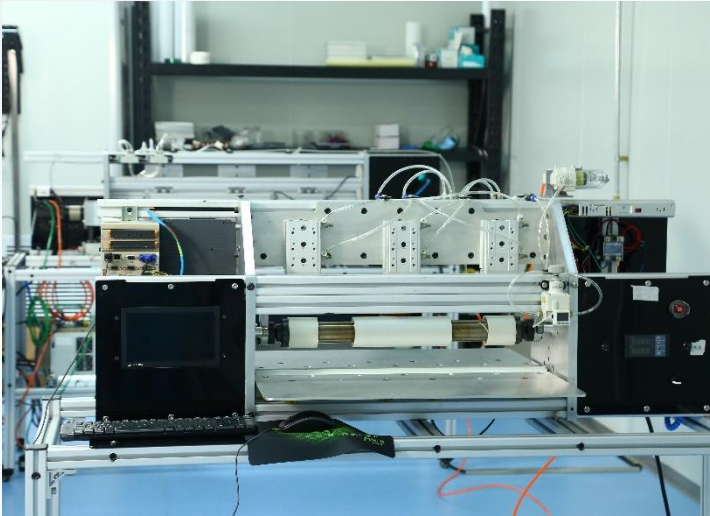
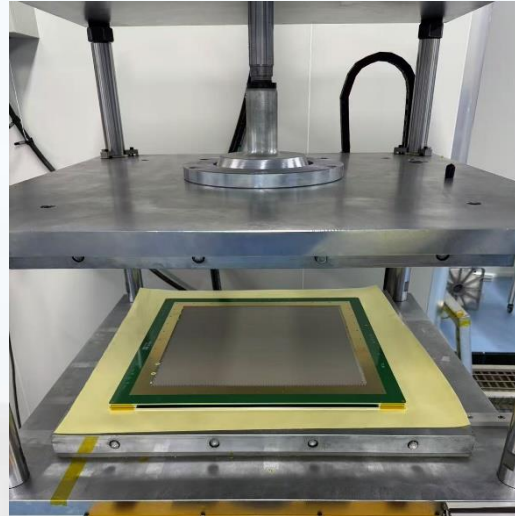
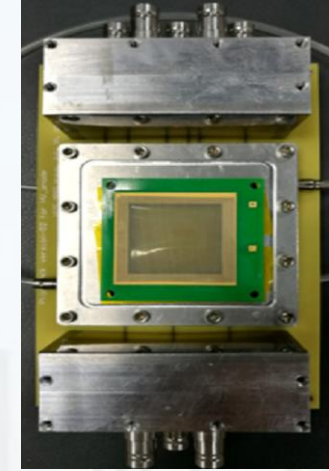


Plate press



DMM prototypes

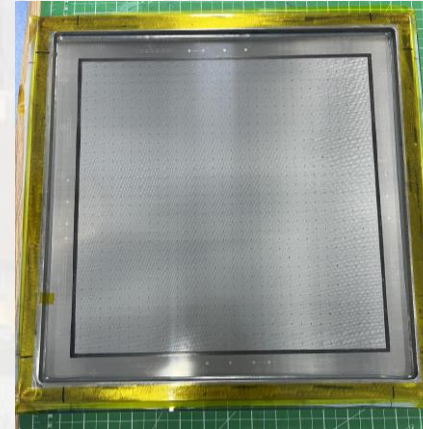
25mm × 25mm



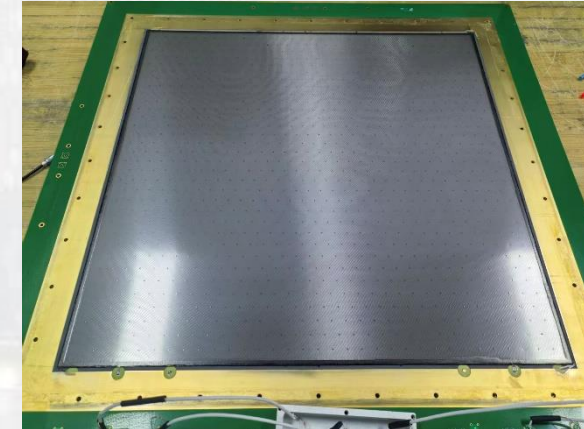
130mm × 230mm



320mm × 320mm



400mm × 400mm



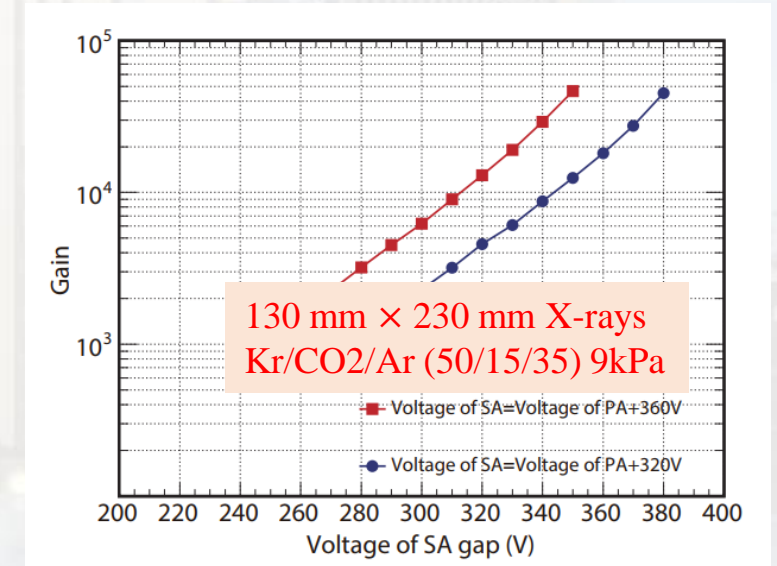
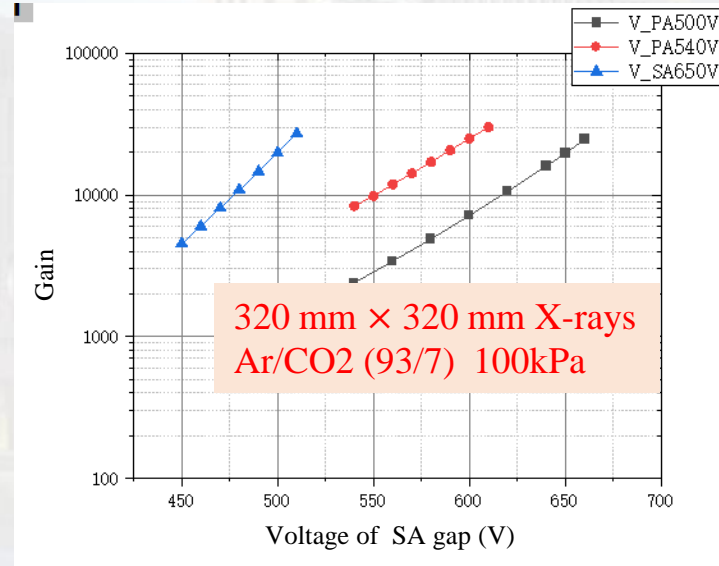
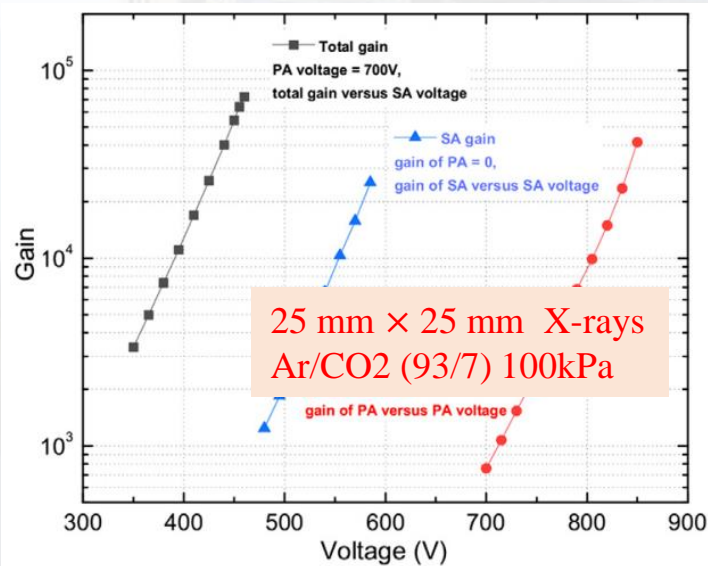
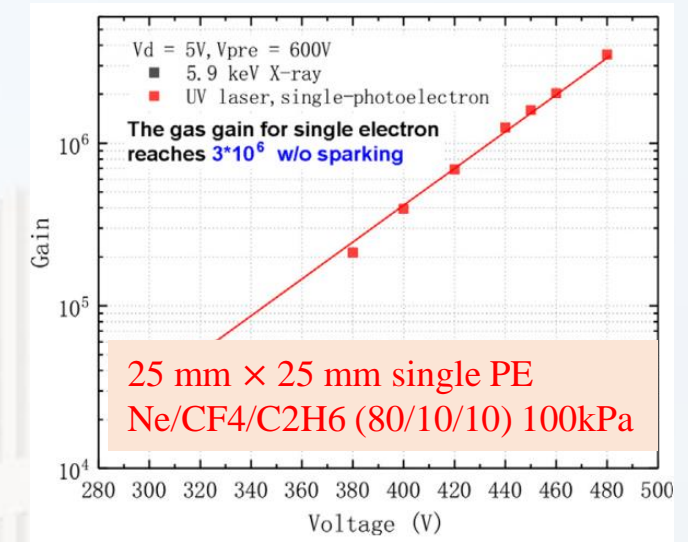
- These machines were developed at USTC
- Large area capability: up to 60cm × 60cm (larger machine is under research)
- Easy, reliable, low costs for different size and structures

1. Motivation
2. Design and Fabrication of DMM
- 3. Performance characterization of DMM**
4. Applications of DMM
5. Summary

High gas gain of DMM



- High gas gain performance has been validated with **different sizes, working gases, and gas pressures**
- Combined gain can reach up
 - 7×10^4 for 5.9keV X-rays
 - 3×10^6 for single photoelectron



Improvement of gain Uniformity



- Manufacture process, design, material are studied to improve the gain uniformity
- RMS/Mean reaches ~5% @320 mm × 320 mm

RMS/Mean ~14%

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 320 | 283 | 308 | 319 | 322 | 333 | 347 | 343 |
| 309 | 346 | 329 | 368 | 371 | 363 | 373 | 360 |
| 264 | 350 | 347 | 374 | 397 | 419 | 390 | 376 |
| 266 | 321 | 342 | 392 | 422 | 414 | 390 | 396 |
| 276 | 353 | 352 | 381 | 421 | 431 | 428 | 430 |
| 223 | 343 | 361 | 387 | 400 | 430 | 466 | 455 |
| 248 | 333 | 354 | 369 | 377 | 420 | 463 | 412 |
| 314 | 318 | 322 | 325 | 355 | 386 | 385 | 362 |



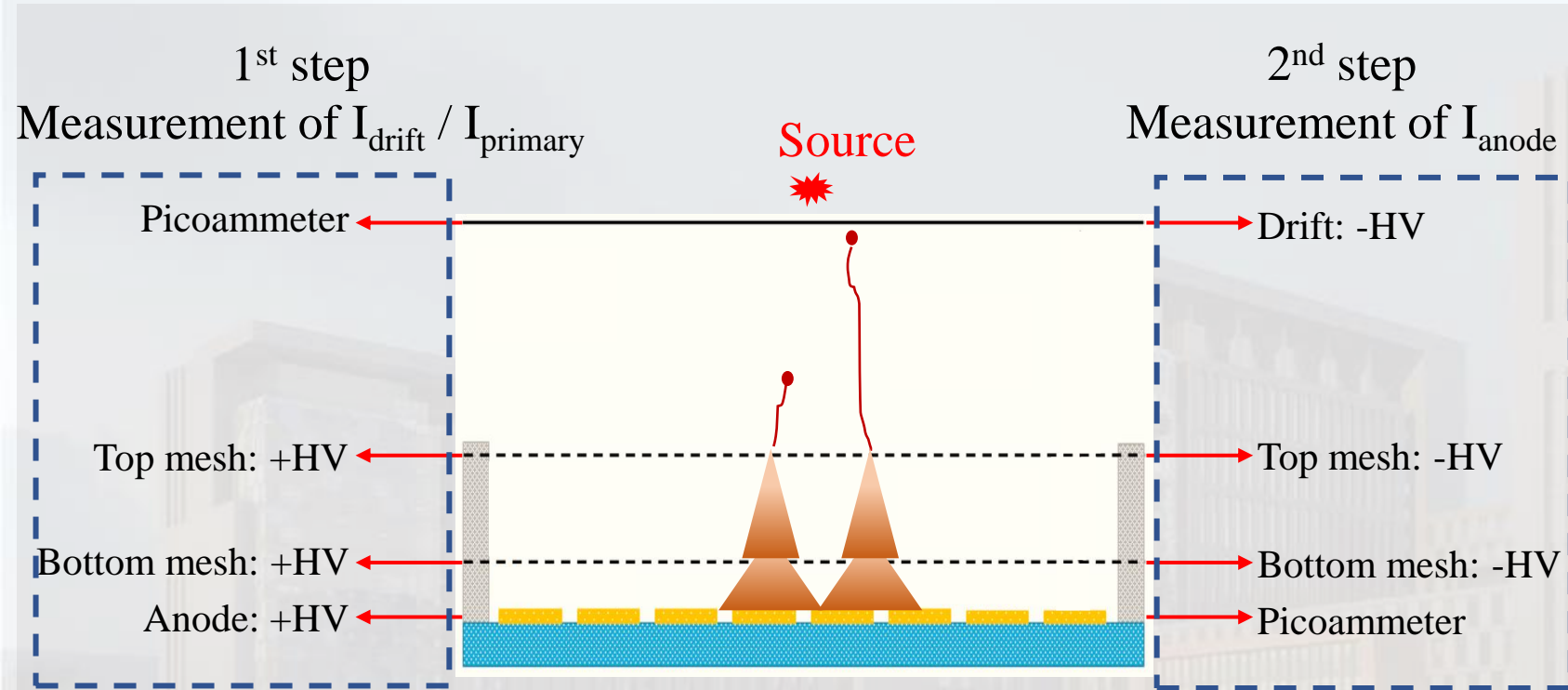
RMS/Mean ~5%

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 652 | 679 | 664 | 647 | 649 | 656 | 641 | 626 |
| 659 | 695 | 680 | 653 | 652 | 654 | 656 | 647 |
| 540 | 617 | 651 | 658 | 663 | 656 | 650 | 649 |
| 562 | 588 | 621 | 655 | 662 | 641 | 636 | 641 |
| 629 | 610 | 617 | 635 | 646 | 645 | 627 | 639 |
| 668 | 640 | 612 | 619 | 625 | 632 | 638 | 642 |
| 708 | 698 | 625 | 602 | 612 | 646 | 664 | 654 |
| 738 | 725 | 616 | 600 | 621 | 647 | 665 | 639 |

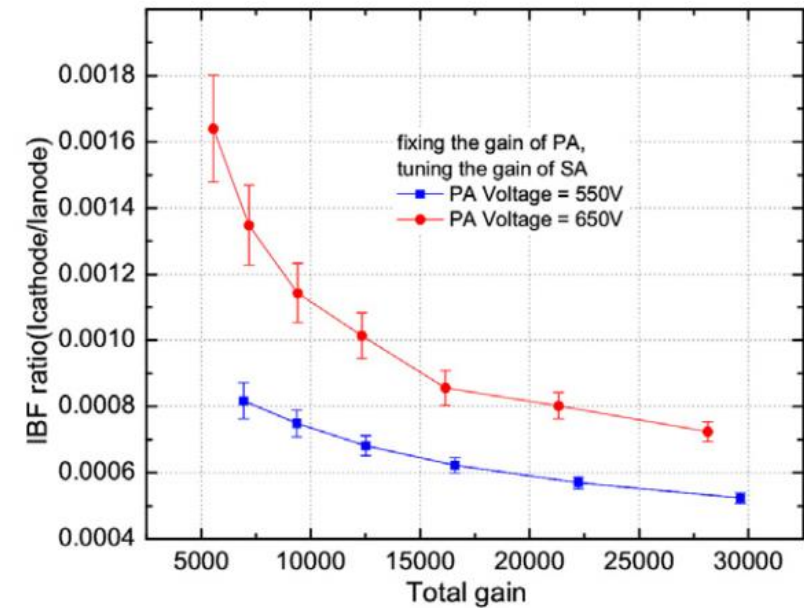
Ion Back-Flow (IBF) Measurement



$$\text{IBF} = (I_{\text{drift}} - I_{\text{primary}}) / I_{\text{anode}}$$



IBF results

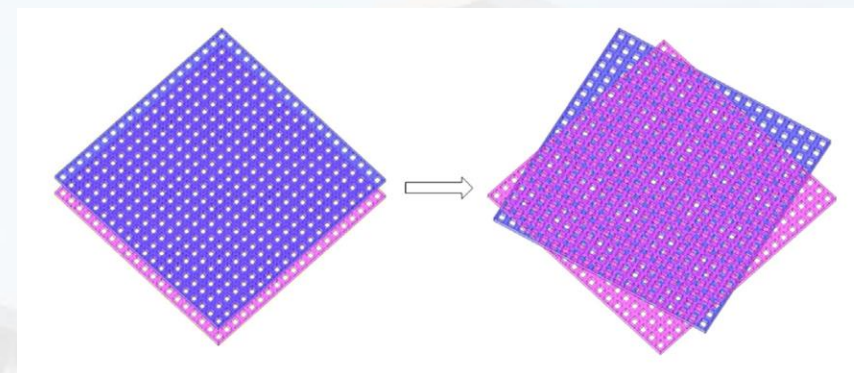
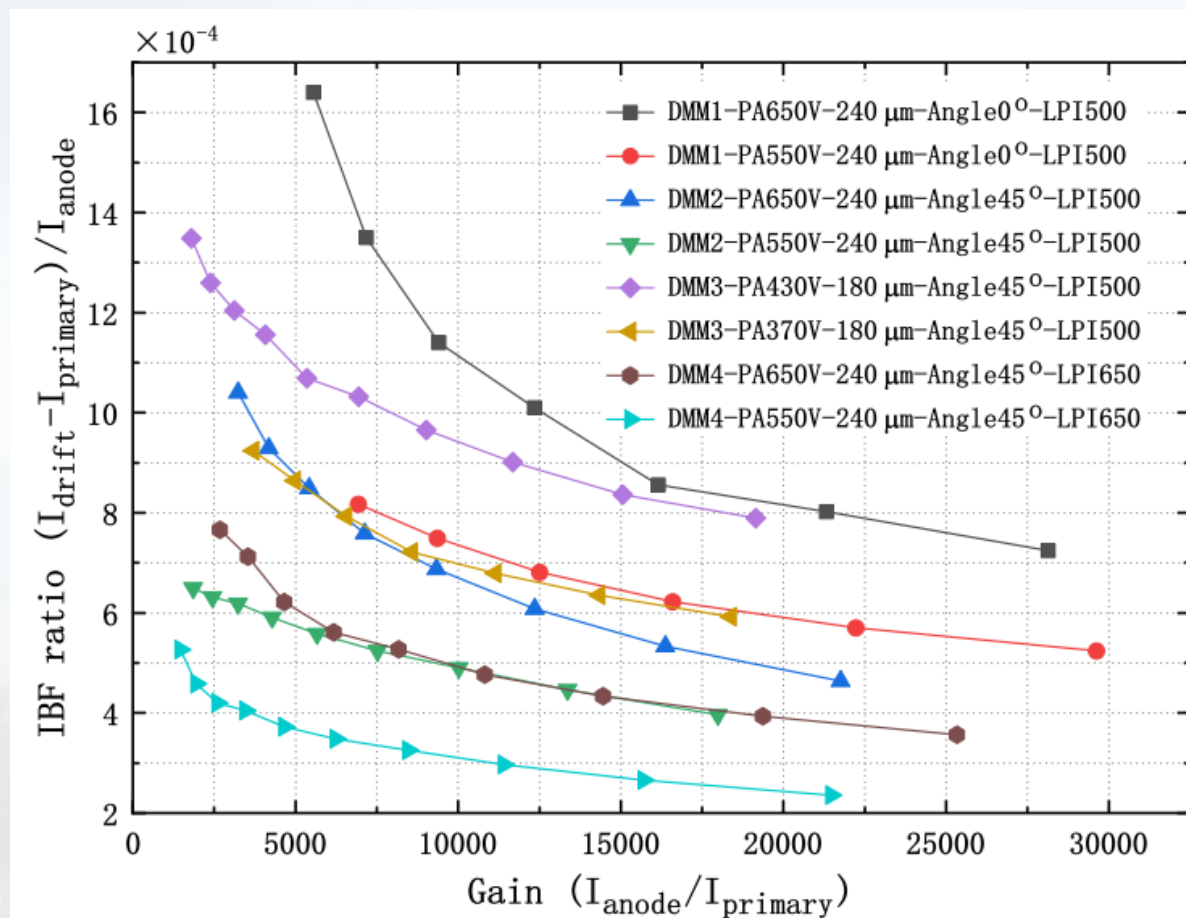


- The current from drift and anode are measured separately using Picoammeter (Keithley6482)
- A high E-field ratio of SA/PA is desirable for IBF reduction
- The IBF reaches lower than 0.05%

Optimization of IBF



Optimization of IBF: mesh LPI, thickness of PA gap, crossing angle of two meshes



To obtain lower IBF:

1. Low electric field of PA gap
 2. Large PA gap
 3. High mesh density (large LPI)
 4. Misalignment of meshes (crossing mesh)
- ✓ IBF~0.025% was obtained

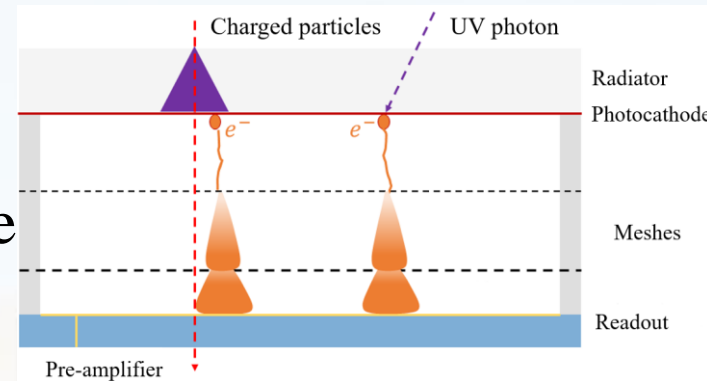
Fast timing of DMM



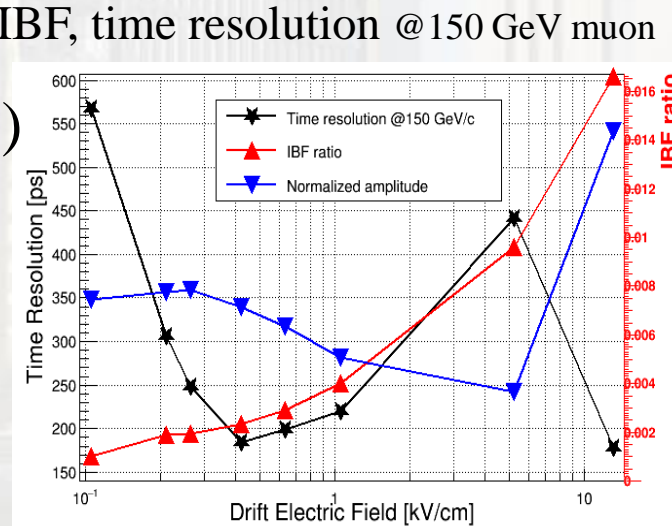
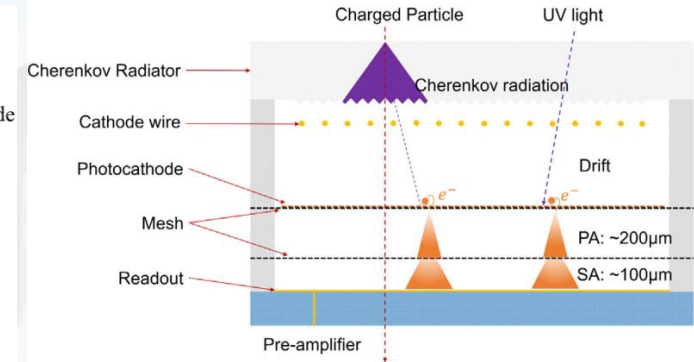
- Compact structure, high electric field are desirable for improved time resolution

- Novel fast timing detector based on DMM
 - Transmission mode (180 ps @MIPs)
 - Reflective mode (160 ps @single PEs)

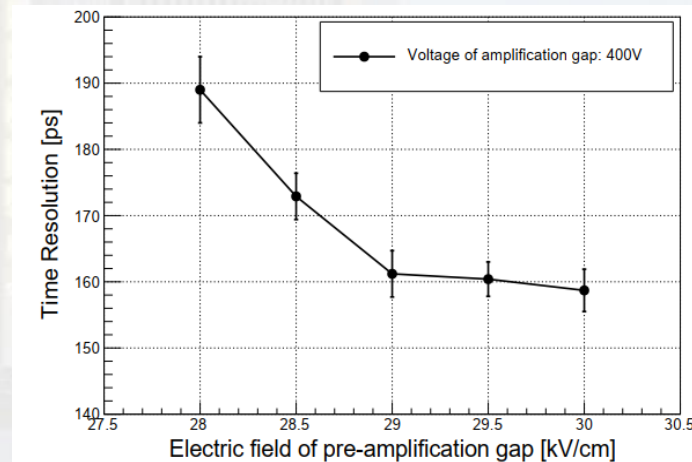
Transmission mode



Reflective mode



Time resolution @ single photoelectron



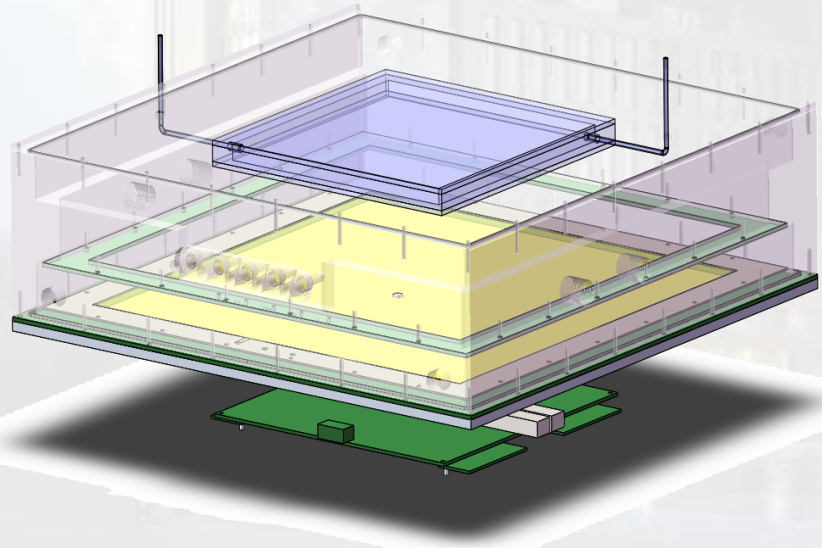
1. Motivation
2. Design and Fabrication of DMM
3. Performance characterization of DMM
- 4. Applications of DMM**
5. Summary

PID-RICH detector based on DMM

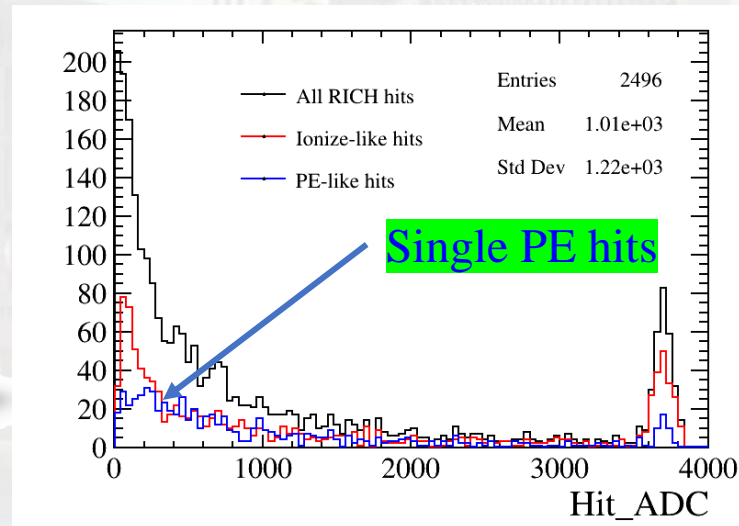


- Advantages of DMM as a RICH detector: **high gas gain, protection of CsI photocathode, large area...**
- Active area: 320mm × 320mm, Gap: 300μm (PA) and 300μm (SA), Gain: $>10^5$
- Prototypes have been tested under cosmic rays, muon beams and hardon beams

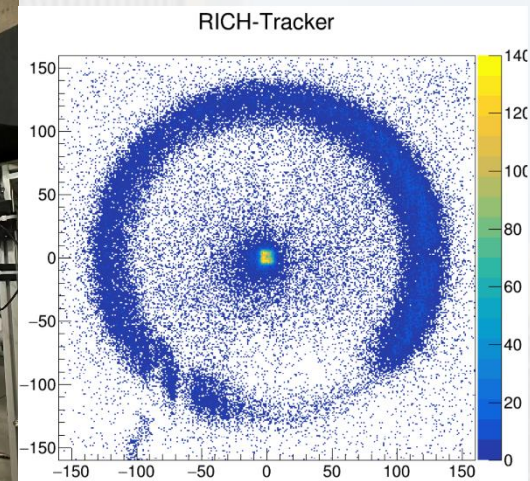
Design of RICH based on DMM



ADC distribution of signals



Beam test of RICH

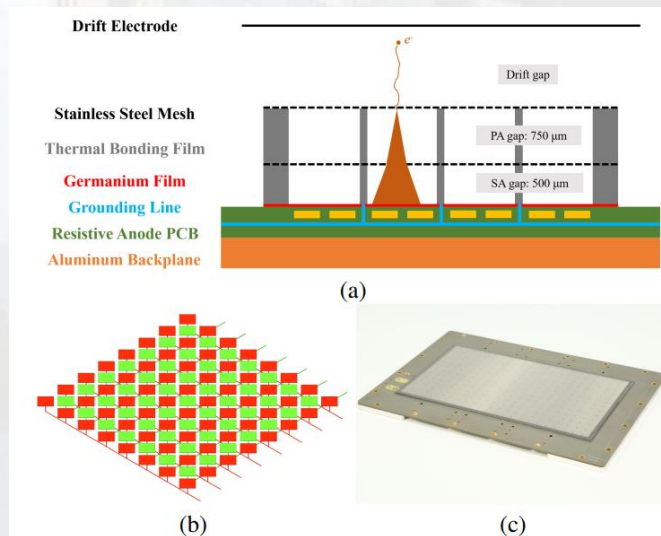


TPC based on DMM

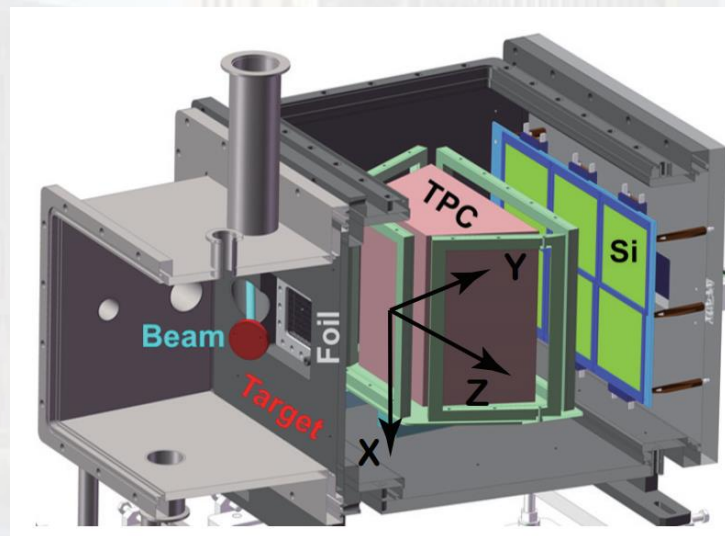


- $^{12}\text{C}+^{12}\text{C}$ fusion experiment: precise carbon fusion rates are fundamental to the study of stellar and cosmic evolution
- A DMM-based TPC (low gas pressure) was used to precise three-dimensional reconstruction of α and protons
- Active area: $130\text{mm} \times 230\text{mm}$, Gap: $750\mu\text{m}$ (PA) and $500\mu\text{m}$ (SA)
- High gas gain, long term stability, low IBF has been validated in the real experiment

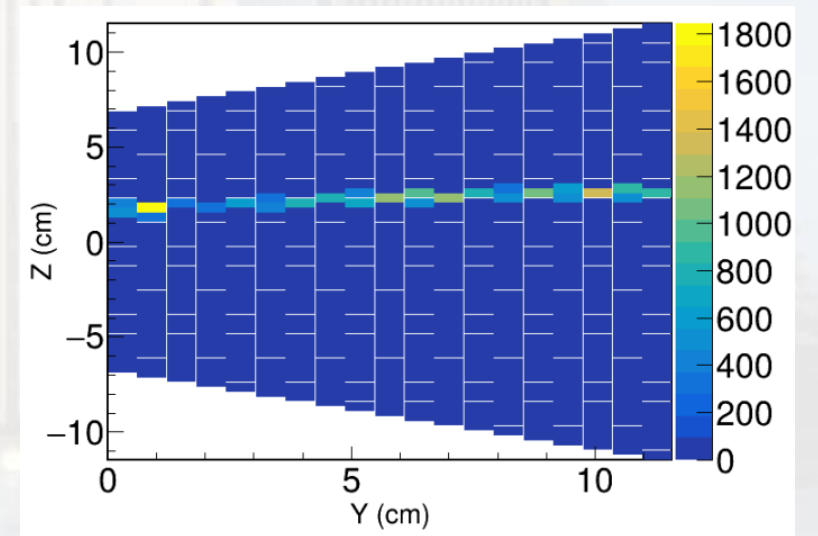
Schematic view



Experiment setup



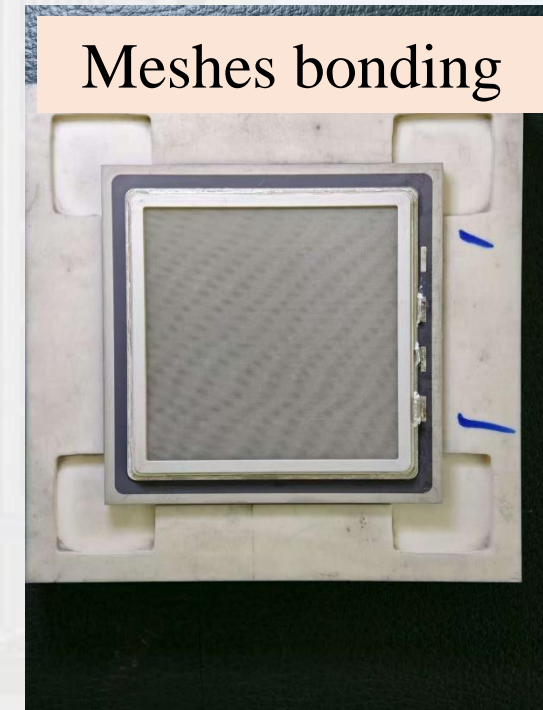
Projected track of a single α event



Gaseous-PMT based on DMM



- Requirements: high gain, low IBF, low gas leak, less gas-outing...
- **Hard solder and other technologies** are chosen to fabricate GPMT based on DMM:
 - Bonding meshes on ceramic PCB (hard solder)
 - Chamber sealing (hard solder, laser welding)
 - Window (hard solder, Melting with glass powder)
- A GPMT based on DMM has been made.



- The DMM detector with double micro-mesh structure has been developed, featuring high gas gain, low IBF, good uniformity and good time resolution
- Demonstrated the performance of DMM with different prototypes:
 - Gain: 7×10^4 for 5.9keV X-rays (small size), $>4 \times 10^4$ for 5.9keV X-rays (large size), 3×10^6 for single photoelectron
 - IBF: 0.025% level
 - Uniformity: better than 10%
 - Time resolution: 160 ps for single photoelectron
- Applications:
 - RICH detector, TPC, fast timing detector, GPD...

- The DMM detector with double micro-mesh structure has been developed, featuring high gas gain, low IBF, good uniformity and good time resolution
- Demonstrated the performance of DMM with different prototypes:
 - Gain: 7×10^4 for 5.9keV X-rays (small size), $>4 \times 10^4$ for 5.9keV X-rays (large size), 3×10^6 for single photoelectron
 - IBF: 0.025% level
 - Uniformity: better than 10%
 - Time resolution: 160 ps for single photoelectron
- Applications:
 - RICH detector, TPC, fast timing detector, GPD...

Thanks for your listening!