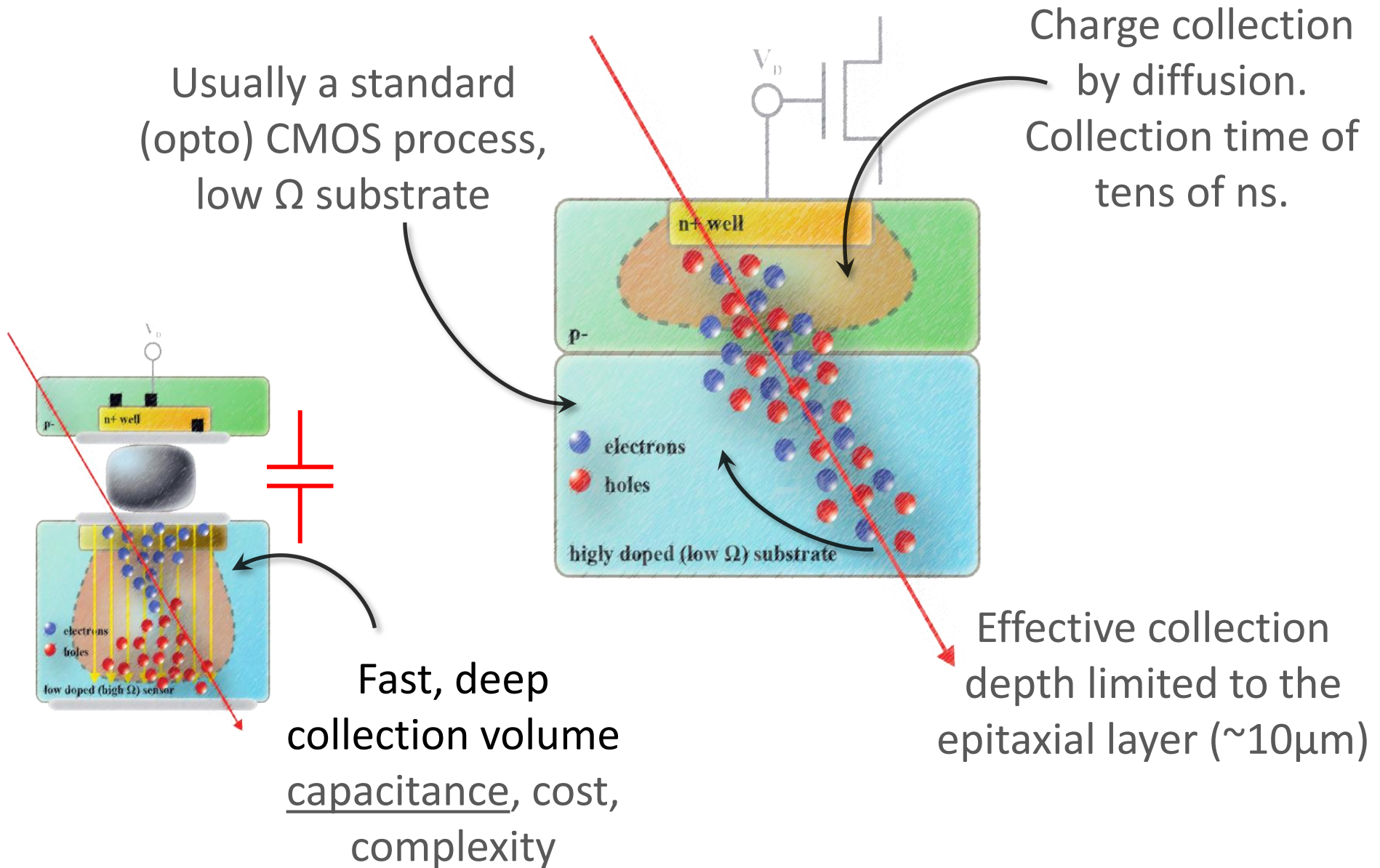


# **Monolithic Pixel Detectors**

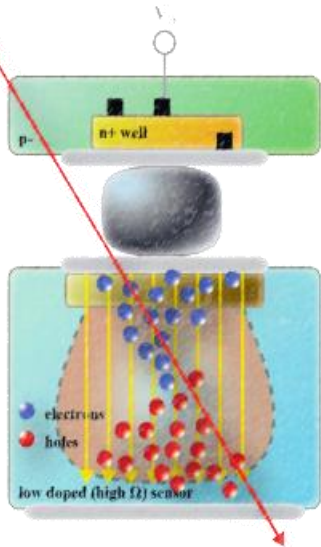
Some examples and practical considerations

Piero Giubilato  
26/11/2013  
Torino

# Introduction – standard CMOS monolithic pixels

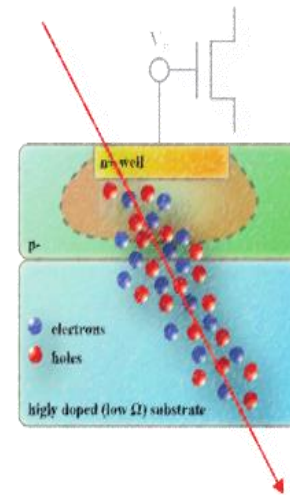


# Introduction – monolithic vs hybrid pixel detectors



- Established, proven, effective technology.
- Unique possibility to use the best sensor depending on the radiation to track.

- Plenty of room for extremely advanced in-pixel electronic.
- Cost, complexity, mid power consumption, material budget.
- Producing small ( $< 20 \mu\text{m}$ ) pixels still a challenge for bump bonding.



- Young technology
- Sensing material limited to silicon
- No room in pixel for advanced signal processing

- Radiation tolerance could still be an issue for high doses applications
- Cost effective, simple, low power and low material budget
- High resolution (pixels  $< 5 \mu\text{m}$ )

# Do we really need monolithic?

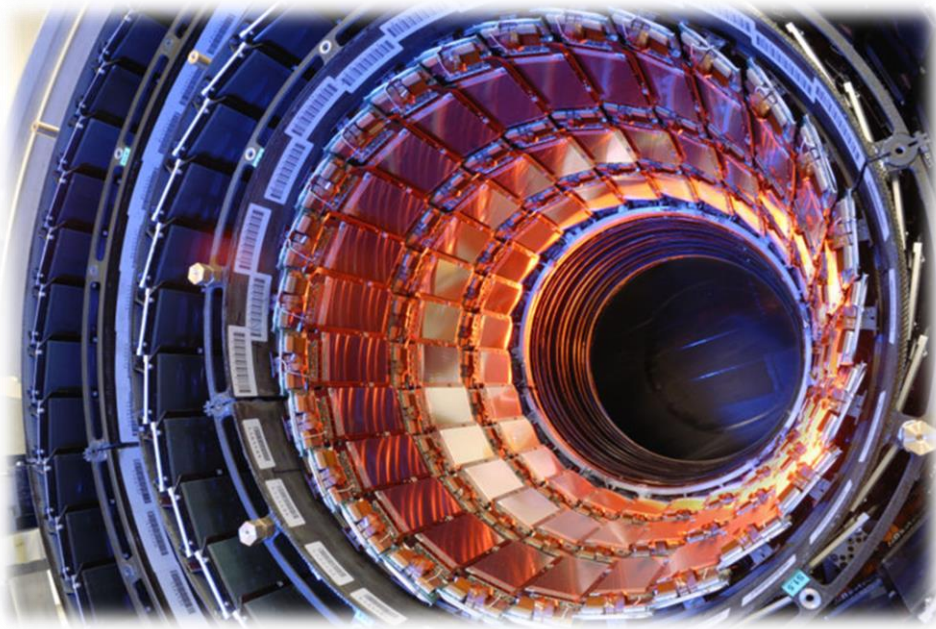
---

- 1 Monolithic pixel detectors are not the Holy Grail of pixelated radiation imagers!
- 2 Actually, they have severe limitations when compared to other technologies!
- 3 We need strong motivations to get real advantages by using them.

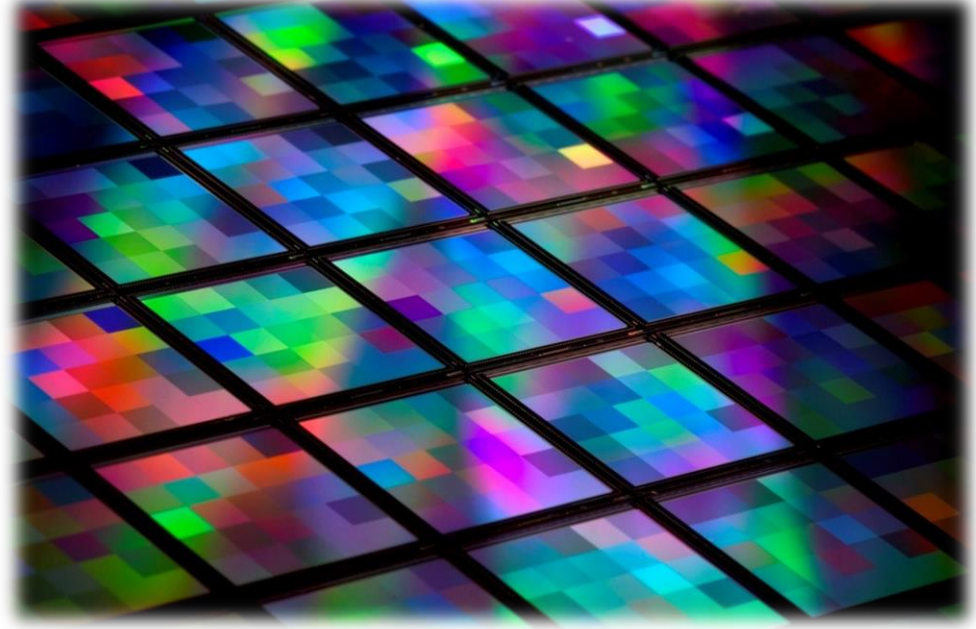
## Motivations – sheer quantity

---

The quantity of detectors to produce is large enough to call for costs saving both for production and assembly.



CMS tracker – 200 m<sup>2</sup>



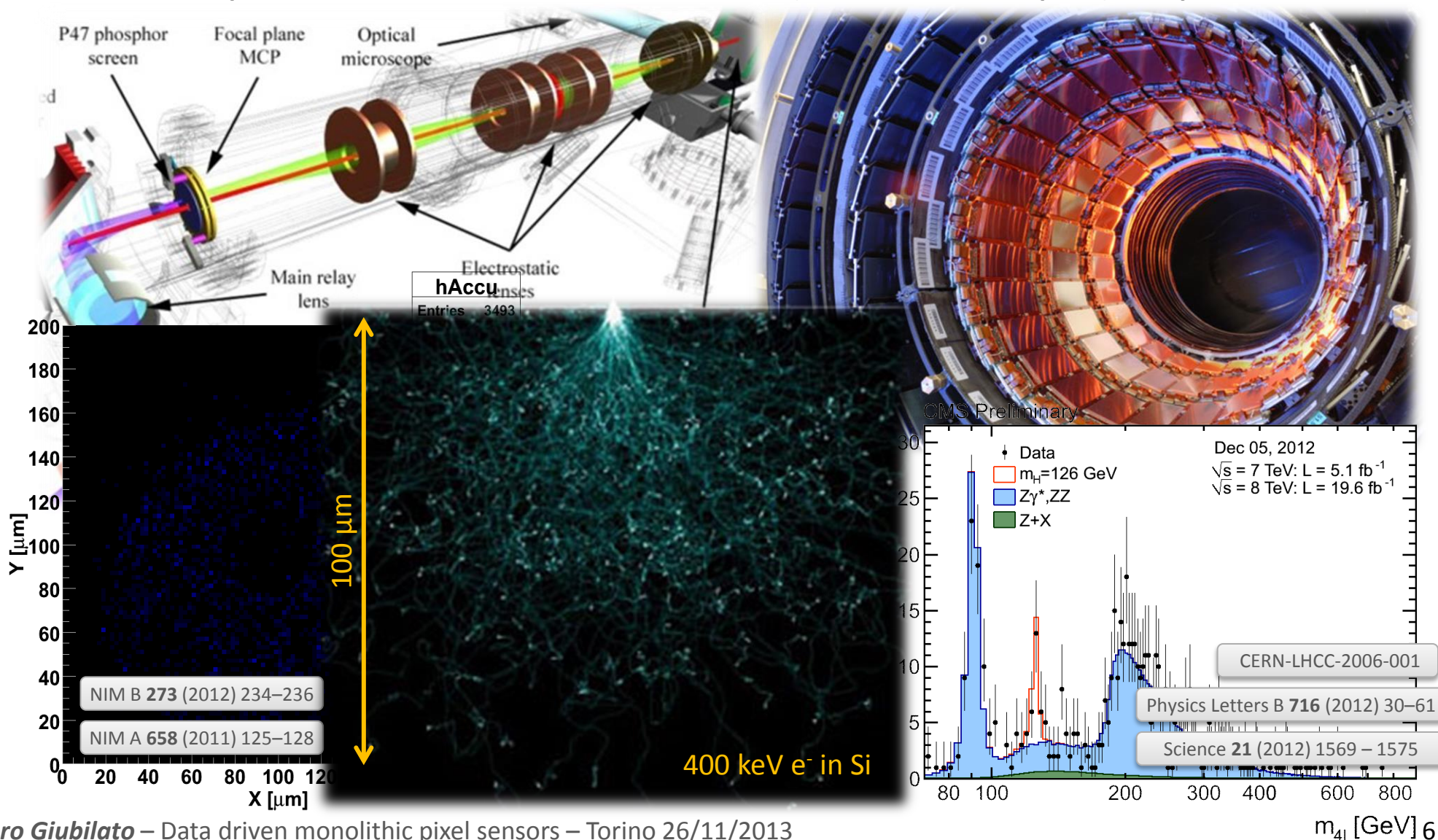
Imagers – Mpieces/year

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In such cases using a standard CMOS process could save the day.

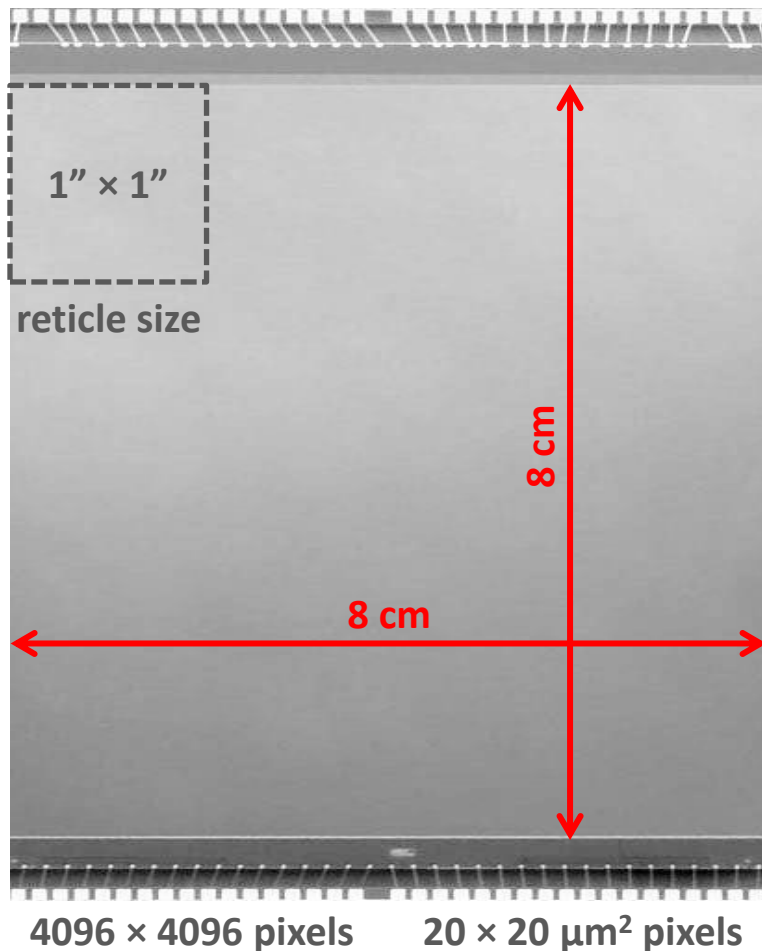
# Motivations – passing particles

The radiation passing through the detector must stay unaffected as much as possible. Ultra-thin detectors (less than 50  $\mu\text{m}$ ) required.



## Motivations – passing particles 2

Ancillary constraint of minimizing the device thickness to the technical limit is that it is not possible to use any backbone to supply / support / connect tiled large area detector. This implies using very large (many  $10 \text{ cm}^2$ ) dies

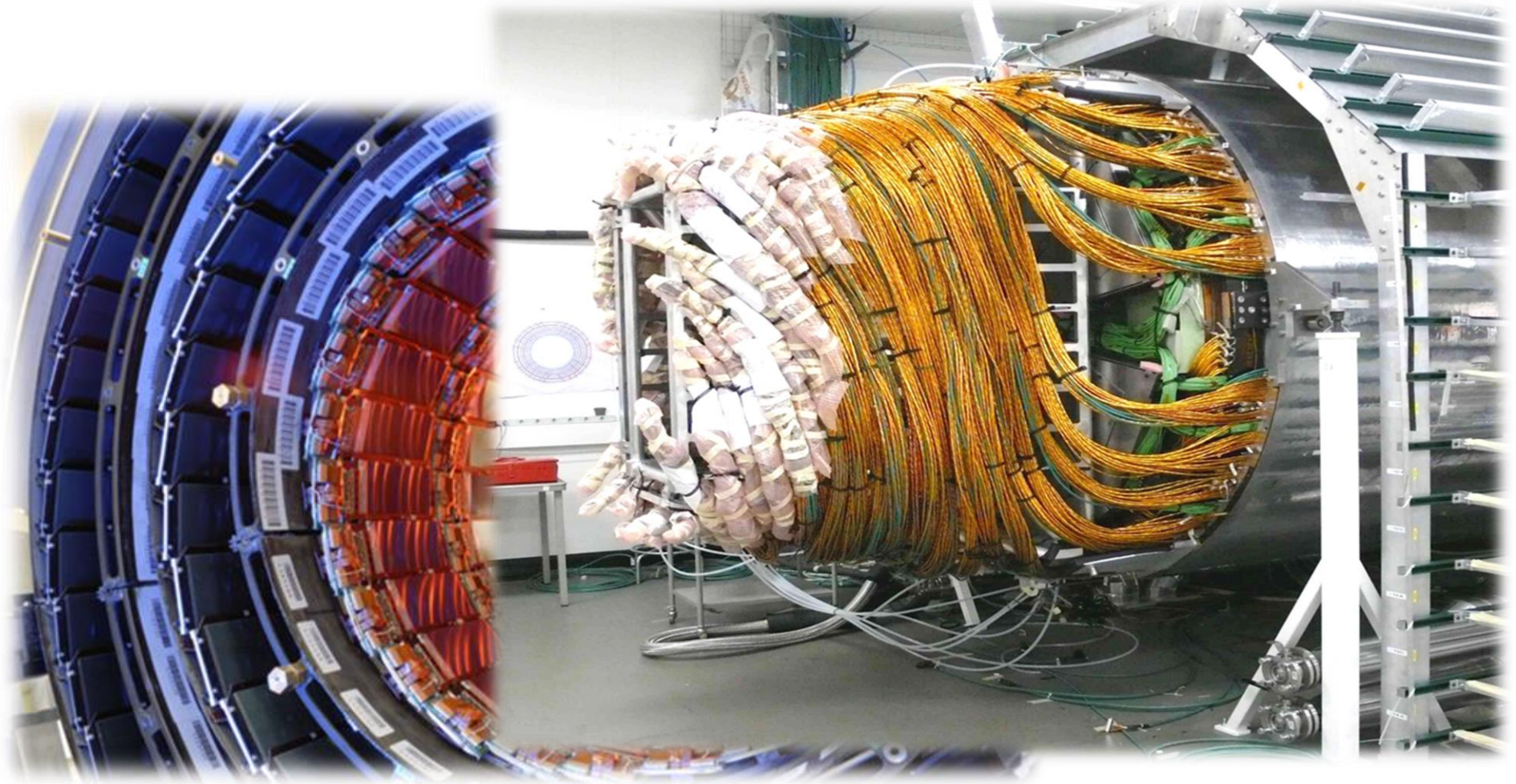


realized by stitching, i.e. sensors larger than the reticle size. Bump-bonding is not practical for such oversized detectors.



## Motivations – ultra low power ( $\approx 10 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ )

For real low mass very low power is mandatory in large area systems (think about cooling, supply lines...)

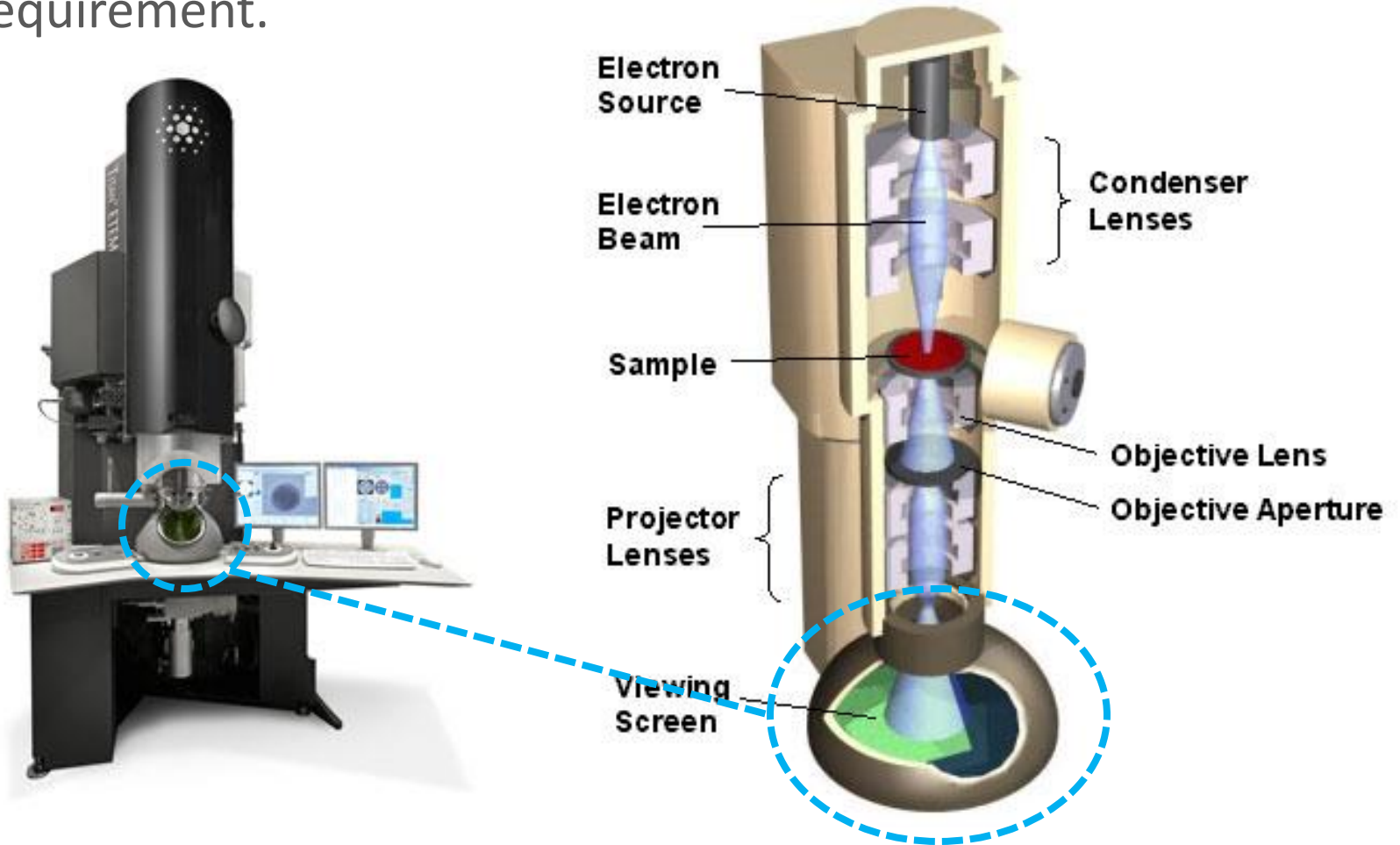


33 kW in the detector and... 62 kW in the cables !



# Motivations – ultra low power ( $< \approx 10 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ )

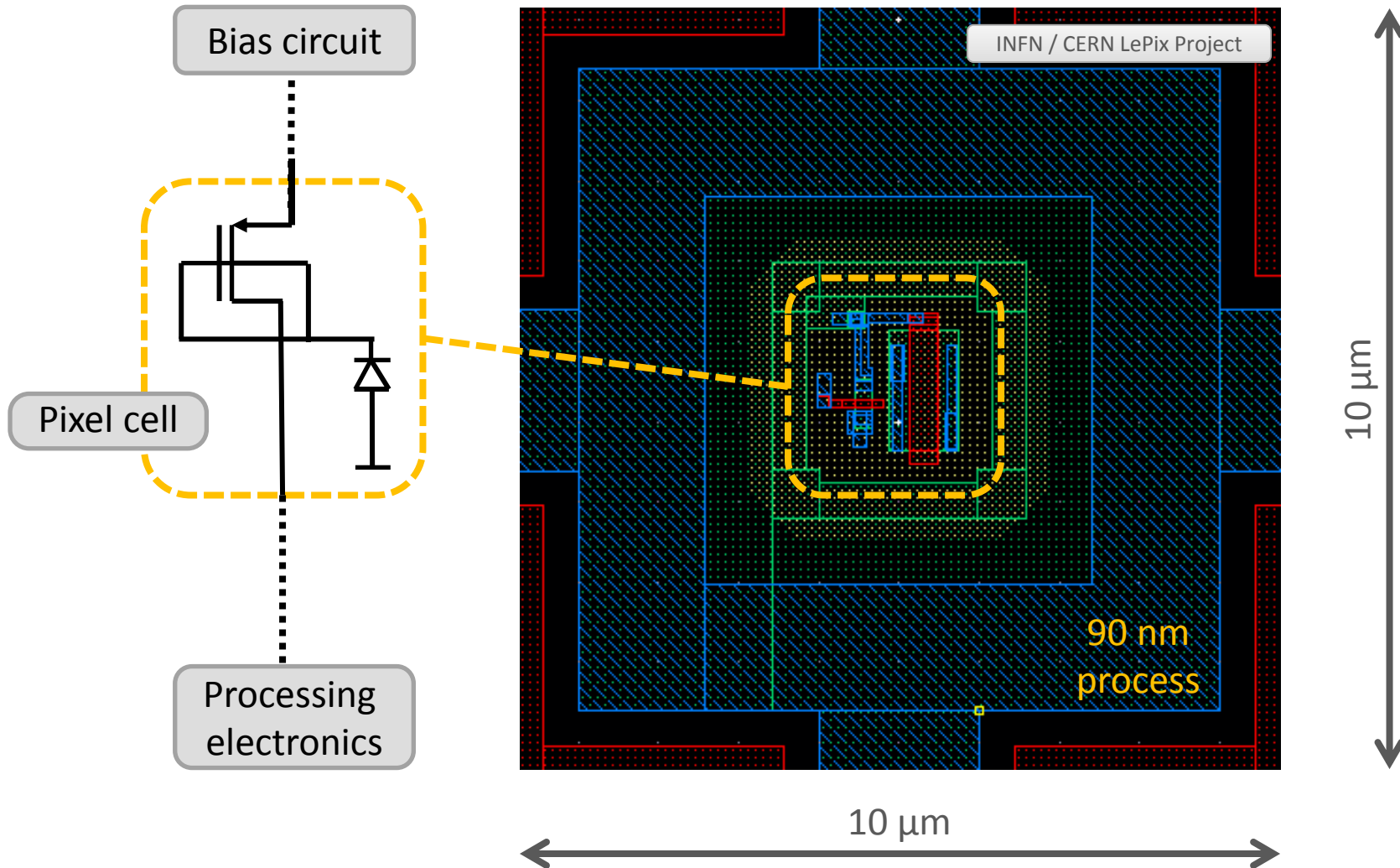
Also for small and medium sensors operated in vacuum with no cooling (the detector must stay very thin, no support allowed) ultra low power can be a mandatory requirement.



The sensor must be large, ultra thin, and sits in the vacuum

# Motivations – very small pixels

Whenever the pixel pitch has to go below 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , the room for electronics in the pixel cell, even in hybrid detectors, starts to be in shortage.



# Reasons for going monolithic:

---

Ultra low power budget (thanks to sensor capacitance)

Low material budget (thin device, small clusters)

Small pixels (no room for bonding and/or complex in-pixel electronics)

Very large areas (stitching)

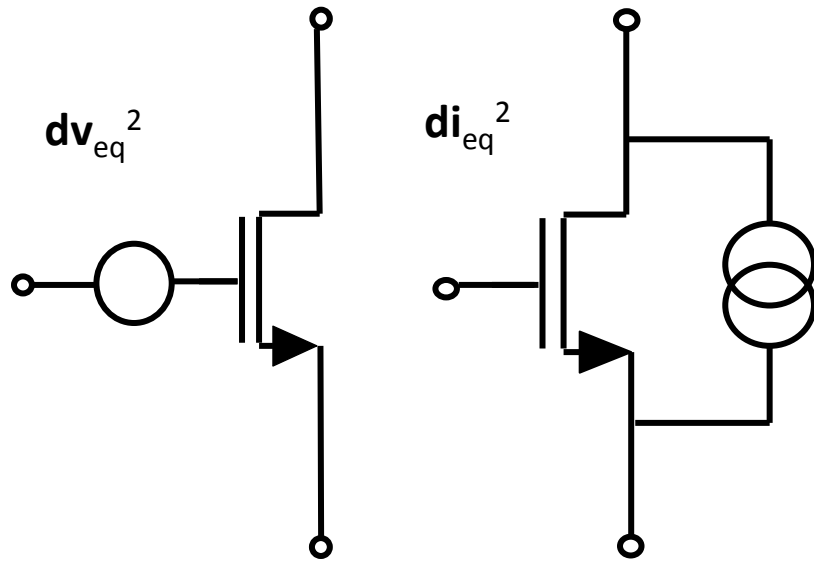
All these requires very specific architectures and technical solutions!  
Low transistors count (per pixel), ultra low power, on chip data reduction, etc...

# Common ground – power consumption factors

---

- 1 **Analog:** determined by collected charge over capacitance ( $Q/C$ ) in the pixel: pixel sensor optimization.
- 2 **Digital:** determined by on-chip architecture & cluster size  
Standard is Rolling shutter, studies on architectures with in-pixel binary front-end.
- 3 **Data transmission off-chip:** determined by cluster size and required bandwidth unless data reduction by clustering algorithm

# Common ground – low capacitance to low power 1



$$di_{eq} = g_m \cdot dv_{eq}$$

Transconductance  $g_m$  is related to power consumption, hence higher current (power) in the first stage improves performances and noise.

Noise, **Weak** inversion

$$dv_{eq}^2 = \left( \frac{K_F}{WLC_{ox}^2 f^\alpha} + \frac{4K_B T n}{g_m} \right) df \quad g_m \sim I$$

flicker ( $1/f$ )

thermal

Noise, **strong** inversion

$$dv_{eq}^2 = \left( \frac{K_F}{WLC_{ox}^2 f^\alpha} + \frac{2K_B T \gamma}{g_m} \right) df \quad g_m \sim \sqrt{I}$$

$K_F$	technology dependent constant
$W, L$	transistor width and length
$C_{ox}$	gate oxide capacitance per unit area
$g_m$	transistor transconductance
$K_B$	Boltzmann constant
$T$	absolute temperature
$n$	weak inversion slope
$\gamma$	often around $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ in strong inversion

# Common ground – low capacitance to low power 2

$$\begin{aligned}
 S &= \frac{Q}{C} \quad \text{signal} \\
 N &\sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{g_m}} \quad \text{noise} \\
 \frac{S}{N} &\sim \frac{Q}{C} \sqrt{g_m} \sim \frac{Q}{C} \sqrt{I} \sim \frac{Q}{C} \sqrt{P} \Rightarrow P \propto I \propto \left( \frac{S/N}{Q/C} \right)^{2a}
 \end{aligned}$$

$1 \leq a \leq 2$

Assuming  $\frac{S}{N} = \text{cost}$   $\Rightarrow$   $P \propto \left( \frac{C}{Q} \right)^{2a}$

$1 \leq a \leq 2$   
Weak inversion      Strong inversion

Good detection Parameter, say 25      Power to meet S/N goal

Analog power is very strongly dependent on Q/C => we want **low C**

# Common ground – Q/C in monolithic visualized

Assuming input noise  $v_{eq} = 0.16 \text{ mV}$

(Transistor noise at 40 MHz BW for  $1 \mu\text{A}$ )  
 ( $1 \mu\text{A}/100 \times 100 \mu\text{m}$  pixel =  $10 \text{ mW}/\text{cm}^2$ )



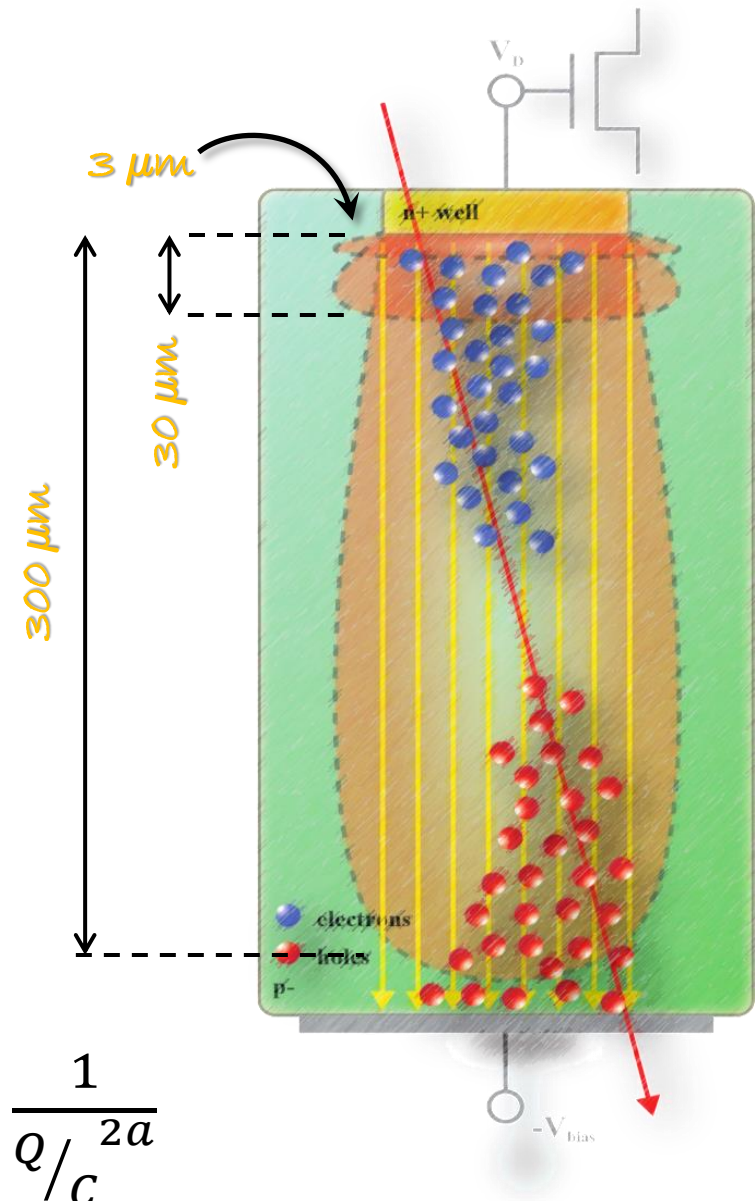
$$\frac{S}{N} \geq 25 \rightarrow \frac{Q}{C} \geq 4 \text{ mV}$$



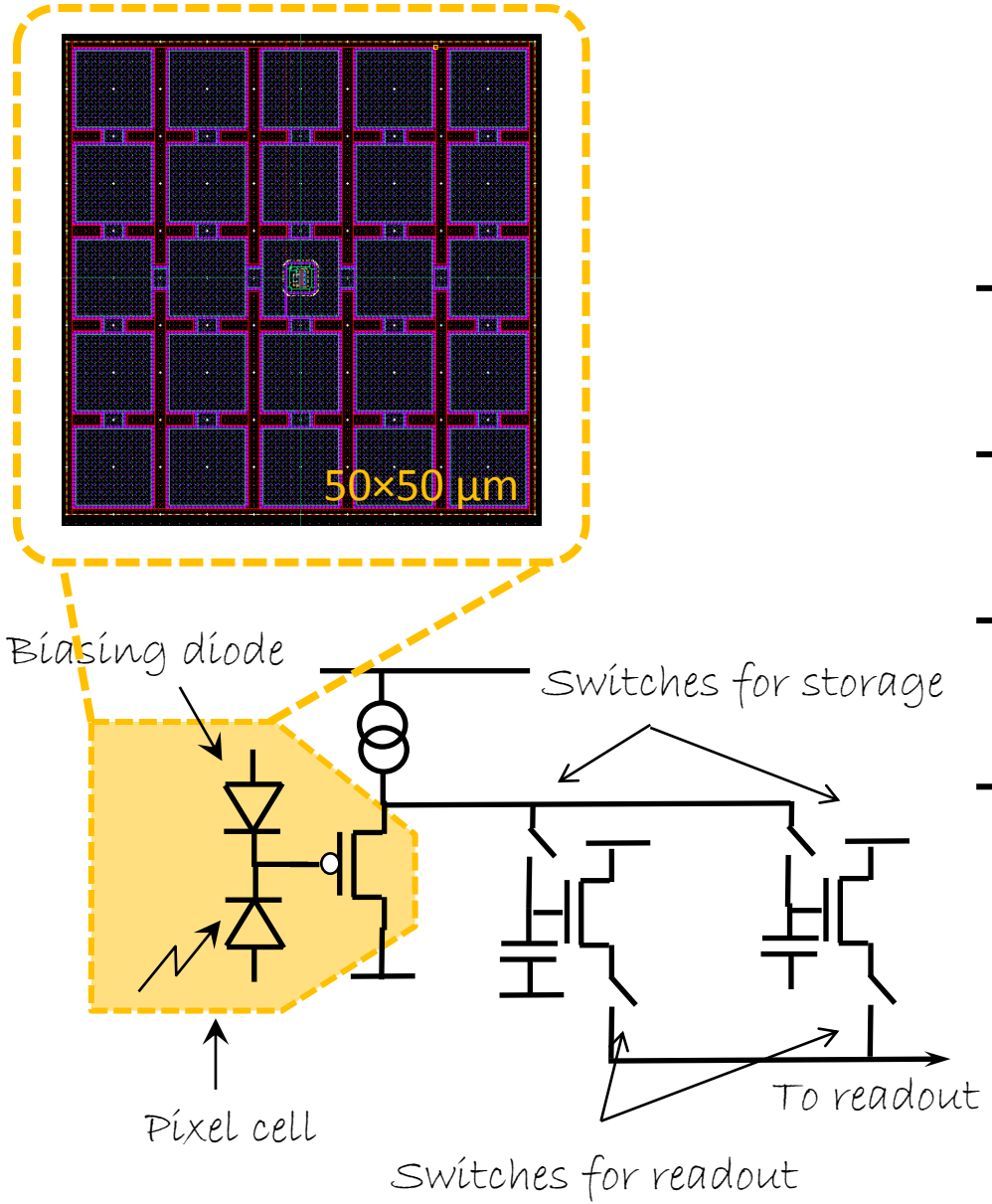
$$\frac{25 \text{ ke}^-}{4 \text{ fC}} \equiv \frac{2500 \text{ e}^-}{100 \text{ fF}} \equiv \frac{250 \text{ e}^-}{10 \text{ fF}}$$

$300 \mu\text{m}$ 
 $30 \mu\text{m}^-$ 
 $3 \mu\text{m}$

For the same  $\frac{S}{N}$  power consumption  $\propto \frac{1}{Q/C}^{2a}$



# Common ground – how to keep C very low (LePix)



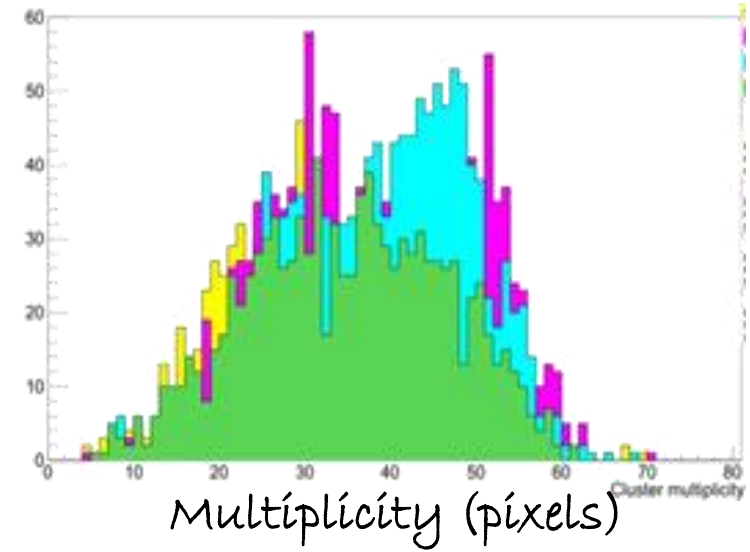
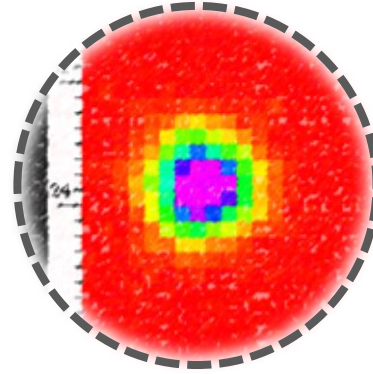
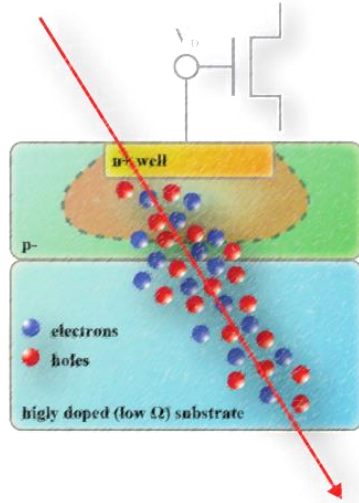
On periphery CDS. Parallel storage for all pixels: no rolling shutter, synchronous integration time independent from readout time.



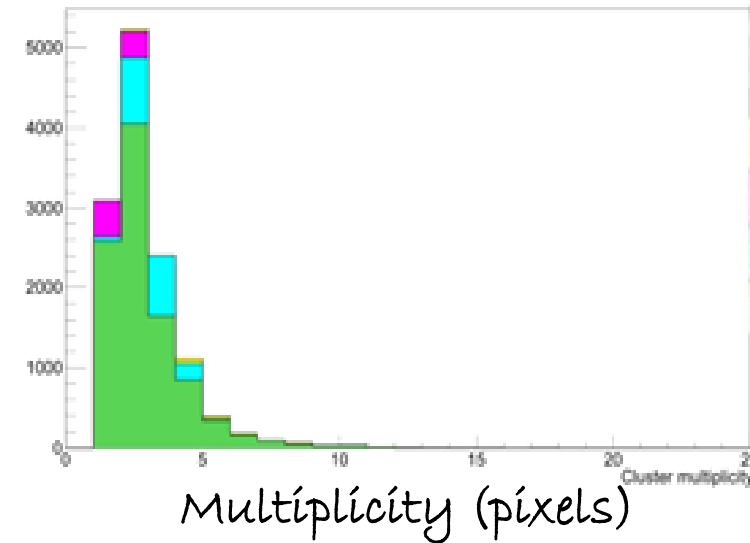
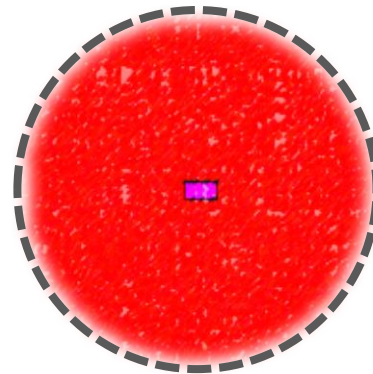
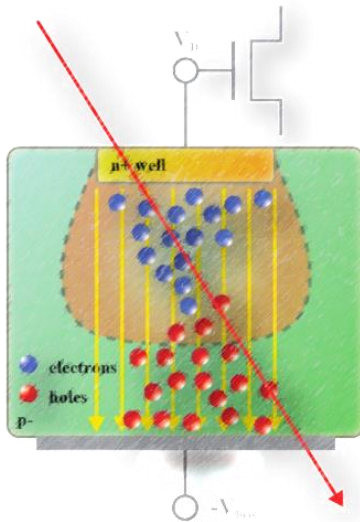
# Common ground – depletion to reduce data and increase S/N

300 MeV protons beam  
50  $\mu\text{m}$  pixel (LePix detector)

No bias

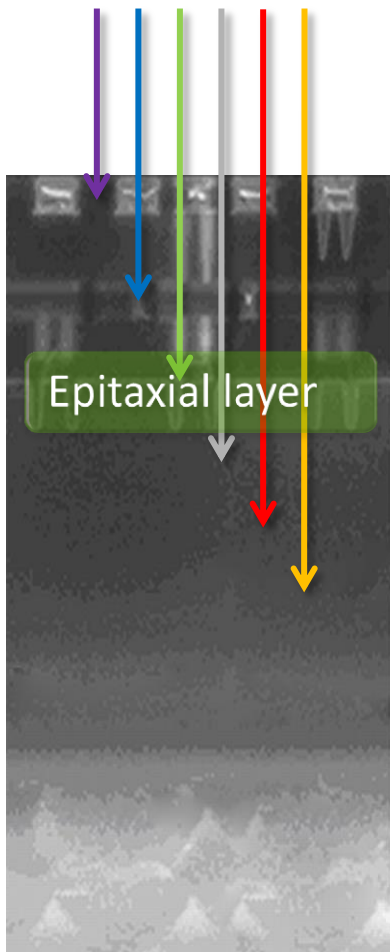


60V bias

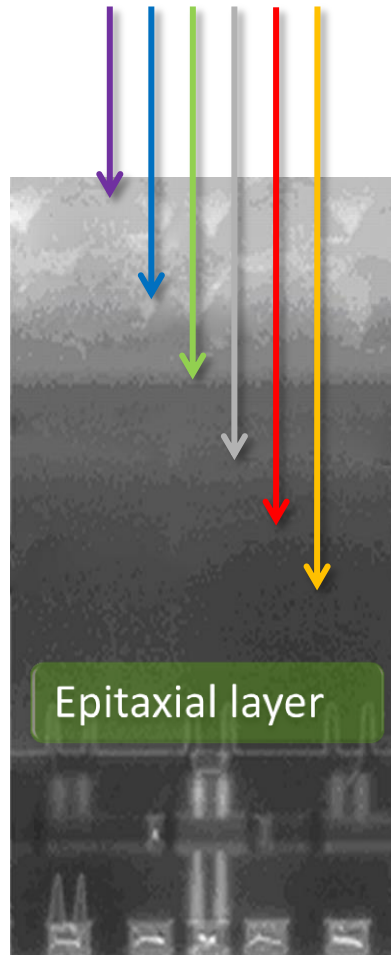


# Common ground – backlit + thinning to increase S/N

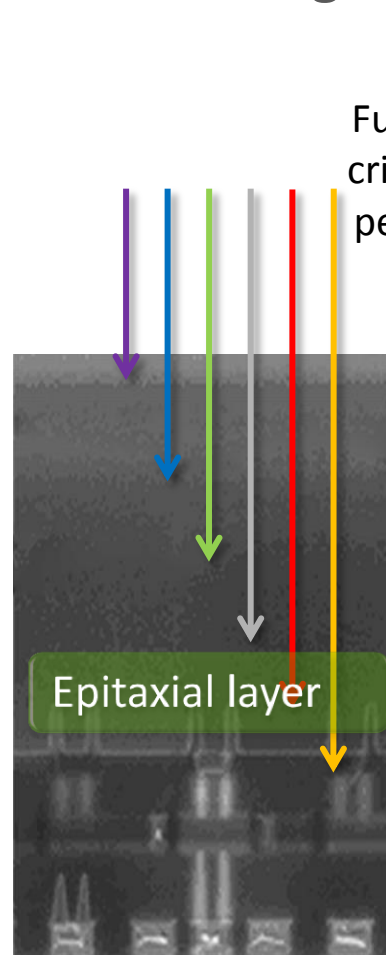
Standard



Back-lit

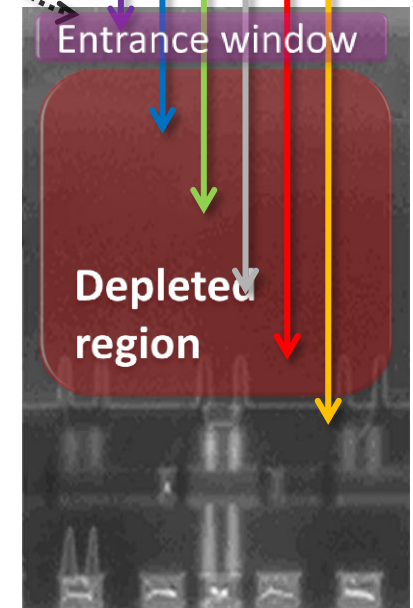


Back-lit  
+ Thinning

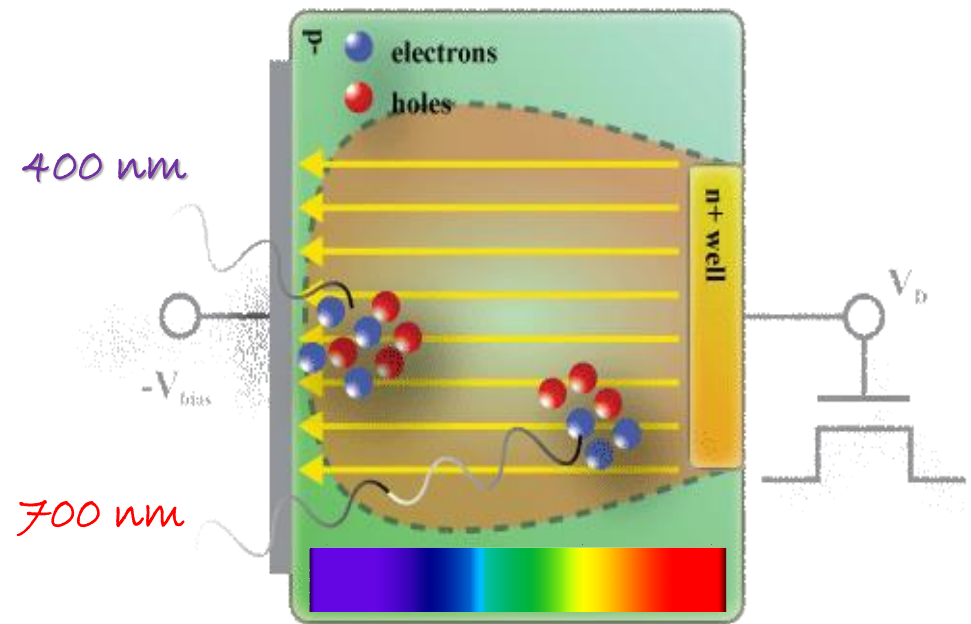
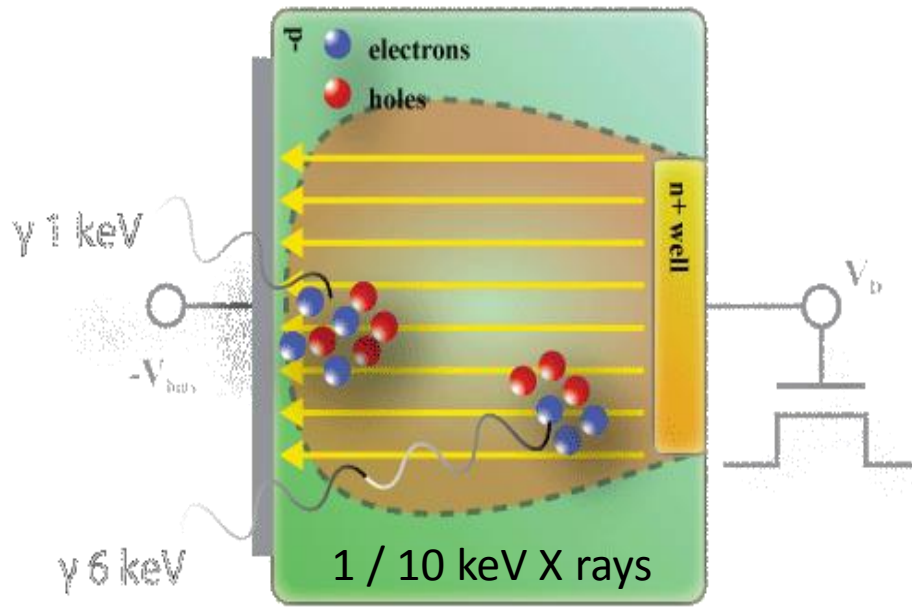


Back-lit  
+ Thinning  
+ Fully depleted

Full depletion  
critical for low  
penetrating  $\gamma$



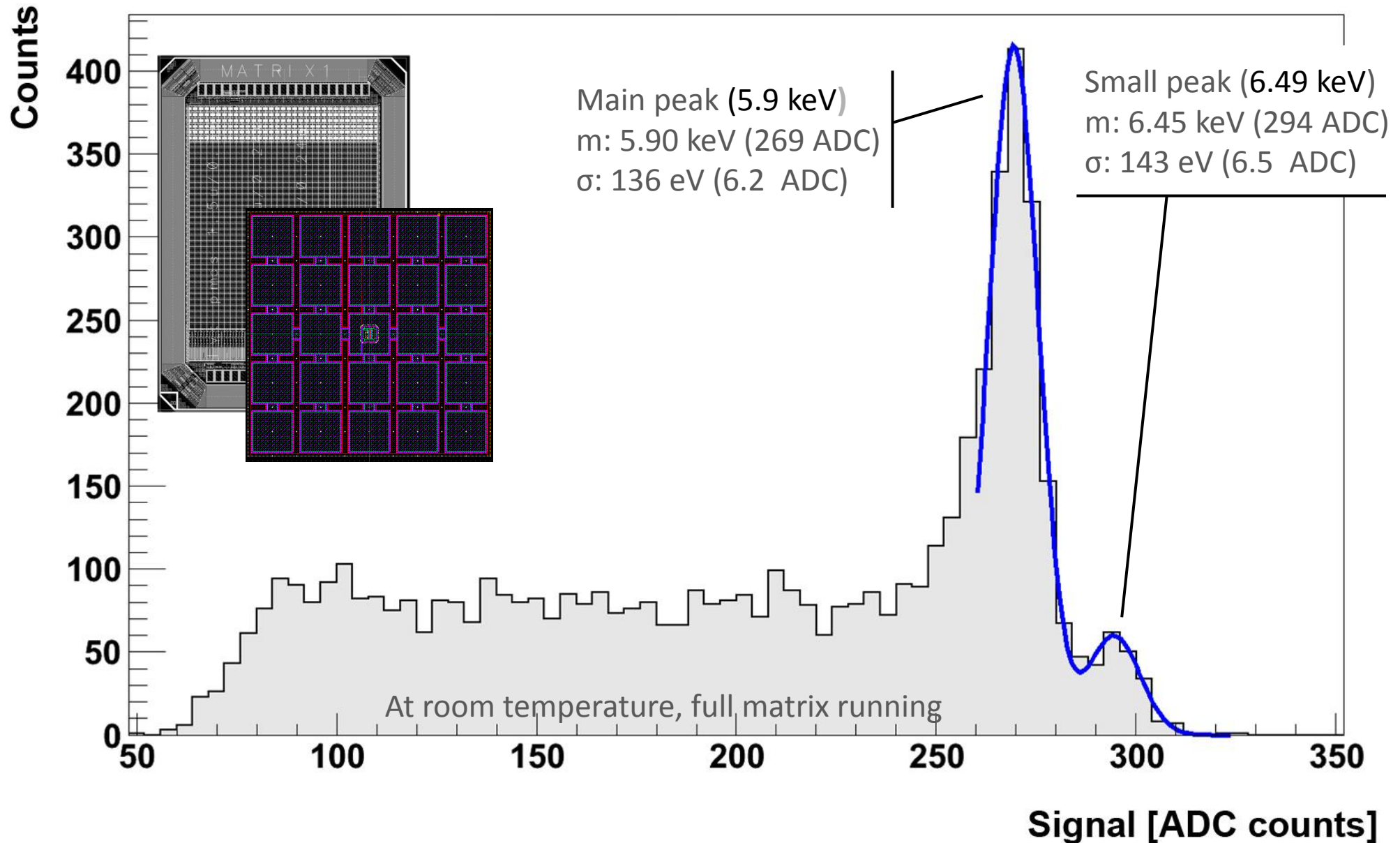
# Common ground – depleted + thinned + backlit to maximize S/N



- Back-illuminated, fully depleted **could see the whole spectrum.**
- Spectroscopic capabilities over full detection range thanks low noise.
- Soft X-Rays (0.5 keV – 10 keV) absorption length **1  $\mu\text{m}$  – 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .**

- Visible range 0.05  $\mu\text{m}$  – 7  $\mu\text{m}$  color imaging without filters.
- Large area (up to 20 x 20  $\text{cm}^2$ ) and small pixel pitch (down to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ) are key characteristics for Synchrotron Light Sources and Free Electrons Lasers.

# Common ground – $^{55}\text{Fe}$ (5.9 keV) with depleted MAPS (LePix)



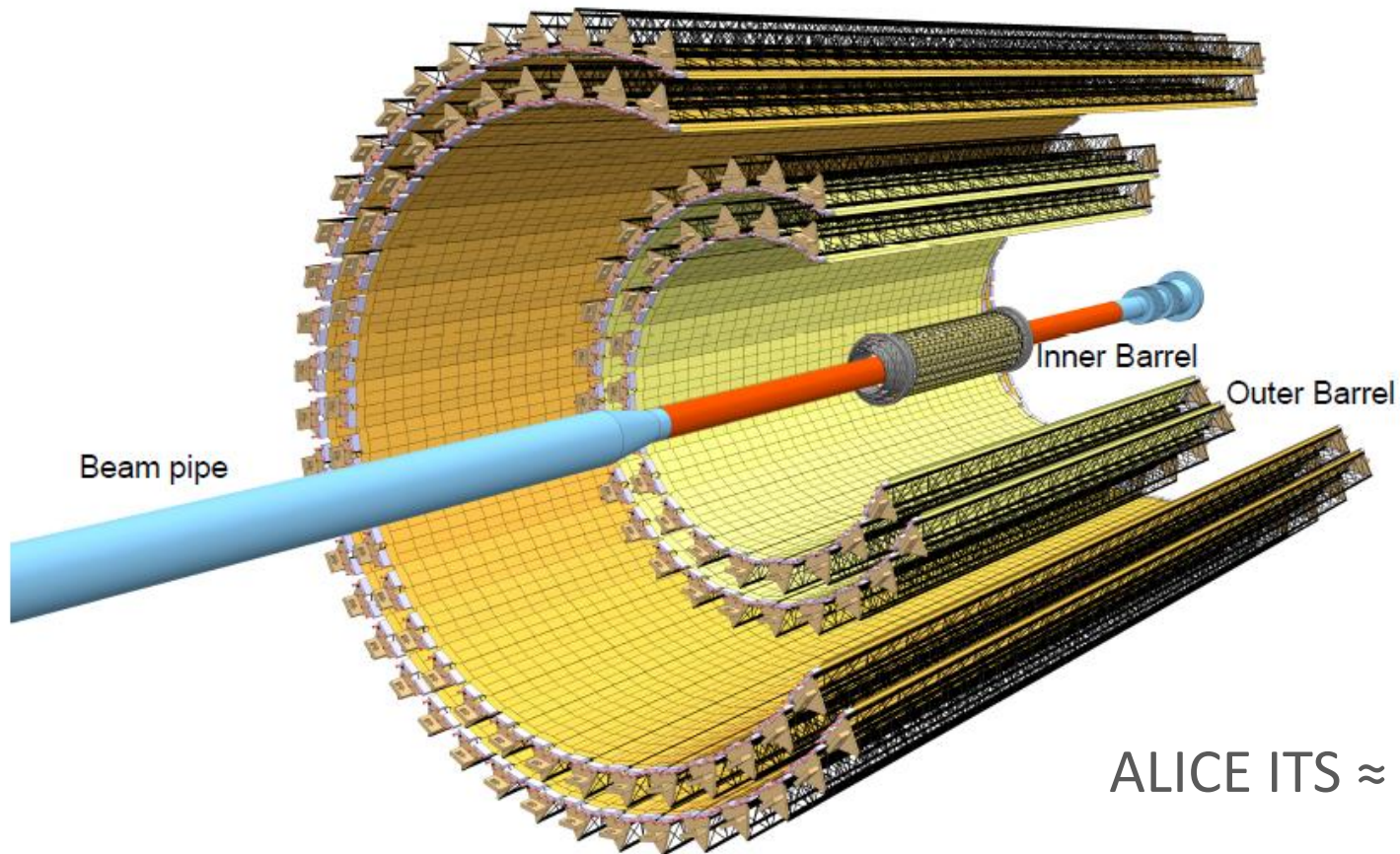
# Clever architecture

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Assuming we implemented all previous technical tricks and squeezed the ultimate S/N out of our pixels, how can we effectively retrieve all data out of the matrix maintaining the low power goal?

- 1 ALICE Inner Tracking System pALPIDE prototype.
- 2 Ultra low power – large area OrthoPix prototype.
- 3 I'm sure no time for this: large TEM detectors.

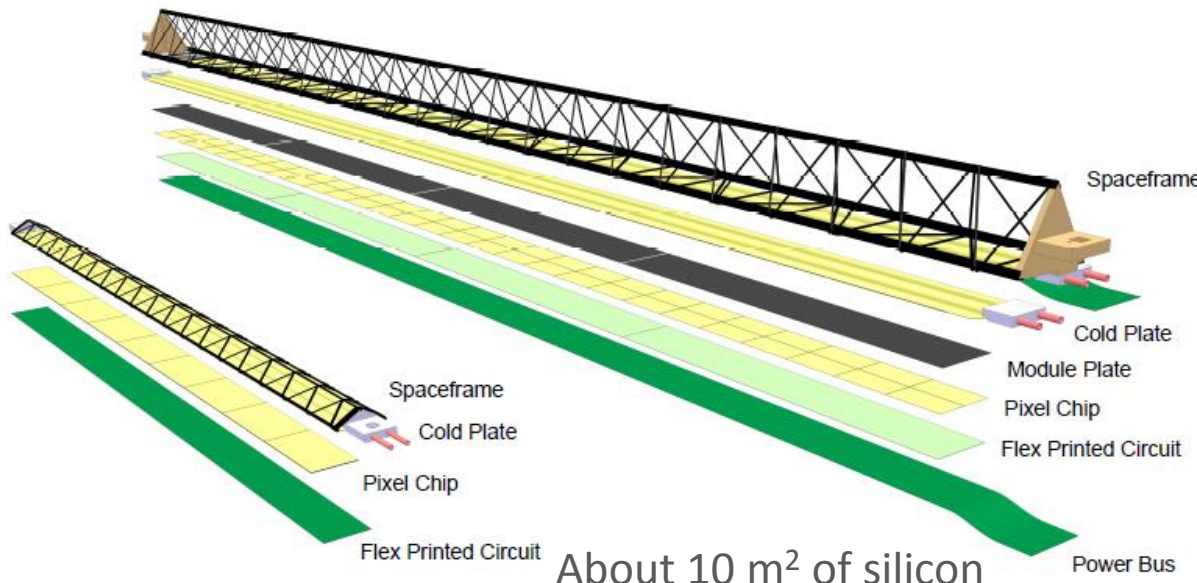
# pALPIDE pixel detector



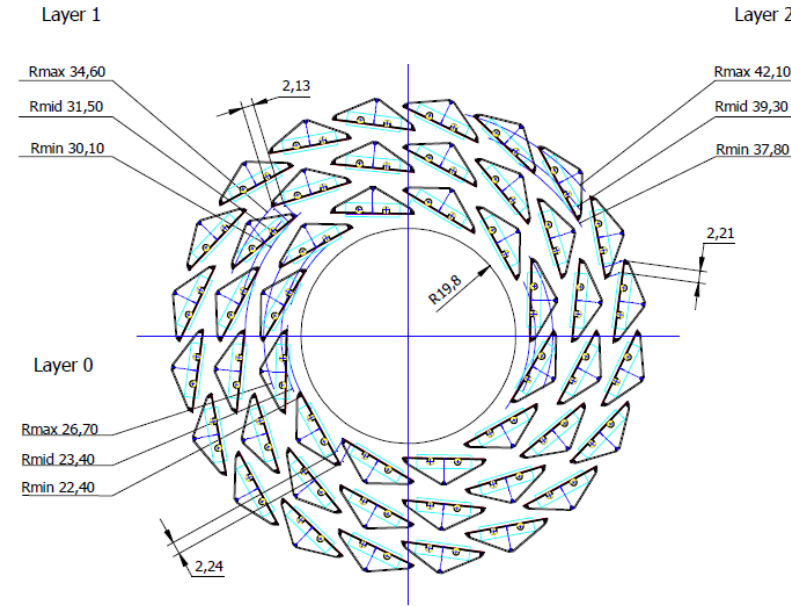
ALICE ITS  $\approx 10 \text{ m}^2$

- Improve impact parameter resolution by a factor of  $\approx 3$
- Get closer to IP (position of first layer): 39 mm to 22mm
- Reduce material budget:  $X/X_0$  per layer: from 1.14% to 0.3% (inner layers)
- Reduce pixel size (currently  $50 \mu\text{m} \times 425 \mu\text{m}$ ) by using to monolithic pixels: foreseen size ranging from  $20 \mu\text{m} \times 20 \mu\text{m}$  to  $40 \mu\text{m} \times 40 \mu\text{m}$  (roughly).
- Improve tracking efficiency and resolution at low pT
- Increase granularity, reduced pixel size: from 6 to 7 layers
- Fast readout of Pb-Pb interactions at  $> 50 \text{ kHz}$  and pp interactions at  $\sim \text{MHz}$ .
- Fast insertion/removal for yearly maintenance.
- Possibility to replace non functioning detector modules during yearly shutdown

# pALPIDE – ALICE Inner Tracking System specifications



About 10 m<sup>2</sup> of silicon



	Inner			Middle		Outer	
Layer	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Position [mm]	23	32	39	196	245	344	393
Particles [ $10^{-5}s \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ]	30	20	15	1	0.7	0.3	0.3
NIEL [ $1 \text{ Mev n cm}^{-2}$ ]	$9.2 \times 10^{12}$	$6 \times 10^{12}$	$3.8 \times 10^{12}$	$5.4 \times 10^{11}$	$5.0 \times 10^{11}$	$4.8 \times 10^{11}$	$4.6 \times 10^{11}$
TID [kGray]	6.46	3.8	2.16	0.15	0.1	0.08	0.06
Material [ $X_0$ %]	0.3% $X_0$			0.8% $X_0$			
Data [Mbit chip <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ]	284	174	121	14	12	11	10



# pALPIDE – overview

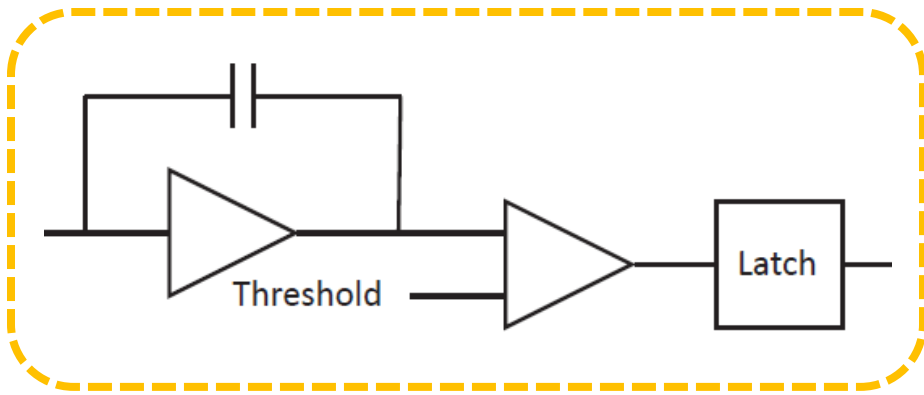
Developed jointly by **Wuhan**, **INFN**, and **CERN**, is one of the prototypes under evaluation to equip the ALICE Inner Tracking System.

- Tower-Jazz 0.18  $\mu\text{m}$  process, deep p-well, high  $\Omega$  epitaxial layer.
- New low-power in-pixel discriminator front-end.
- Data-driven digital read-out (“priority encoder”).

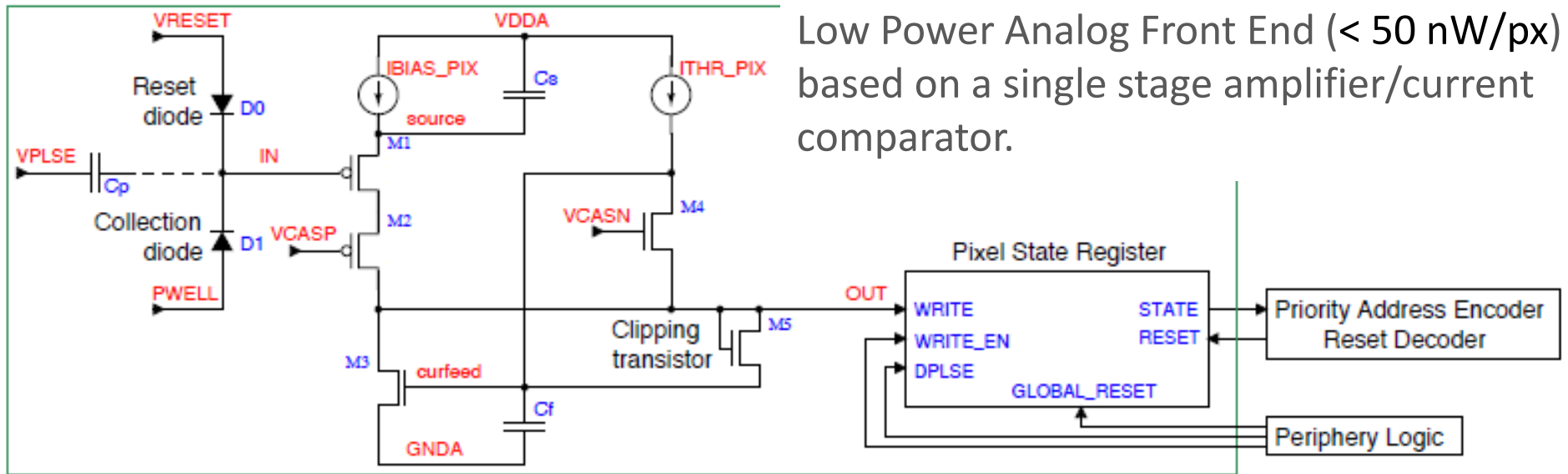


- 32 678 pixels of 22  $\mu\text{m}$   $\times$  22  $\mu\text{m}$  (+ a few test pixels).
- Active area: 11.3  $\times$  1.4  $\text{mm}^2$ .
- Prototyped in four different versions and on seven different substrates.

# pALPIDE – pixel cell schematic (simplified)



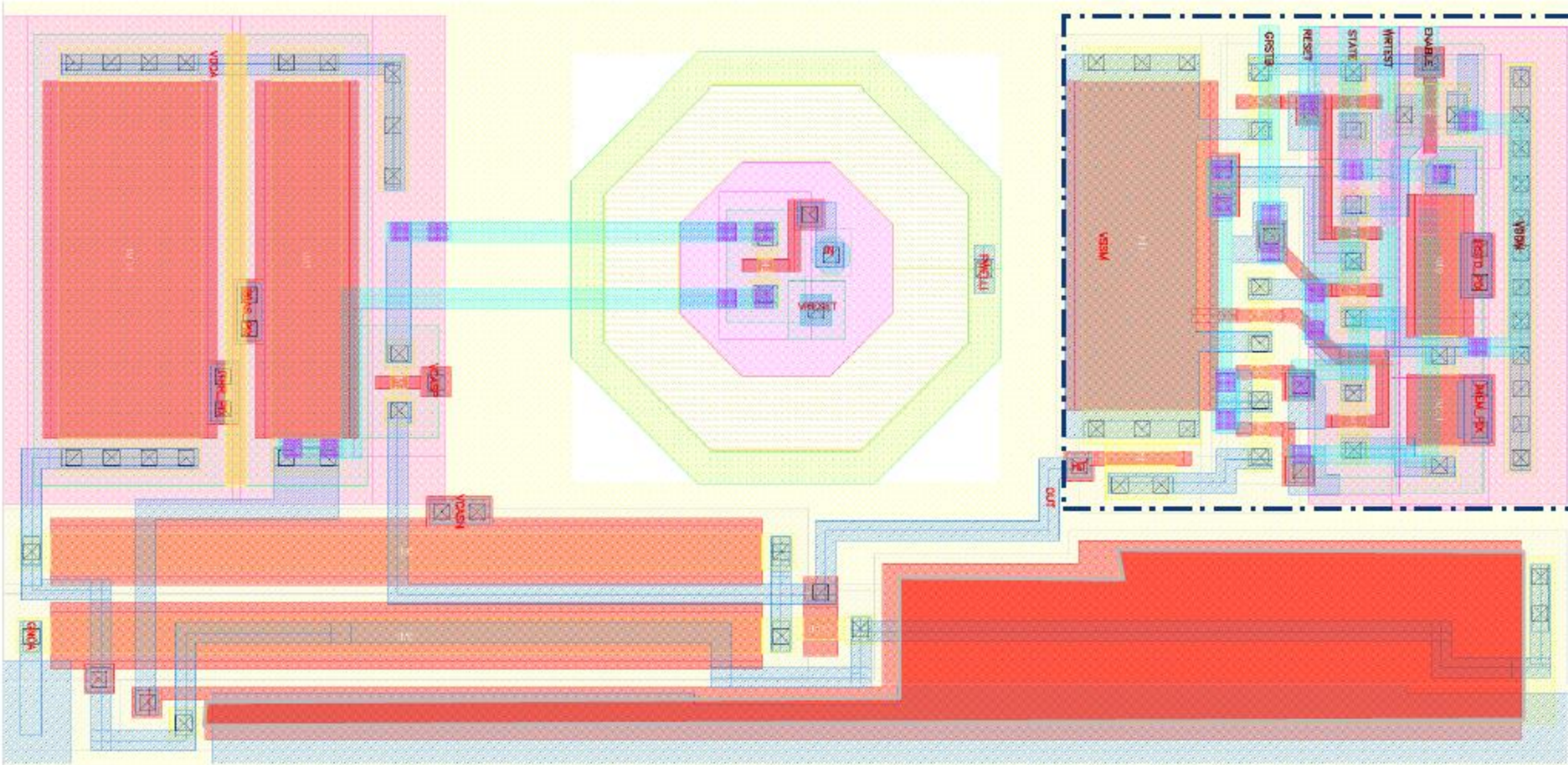
- AC sensitive circuit, always active.
- “Shaping time”  $\approx 3$  to  $5 \mu\text{s}$  (in fieri).
- Hit latch inside each pixel (one).
- Global shutter capable (`WRITE_EN`).



Low Power Analog Front End ( $< 50 \text{ nW/px}$ ) based on a single stage amplifier/current comparator.

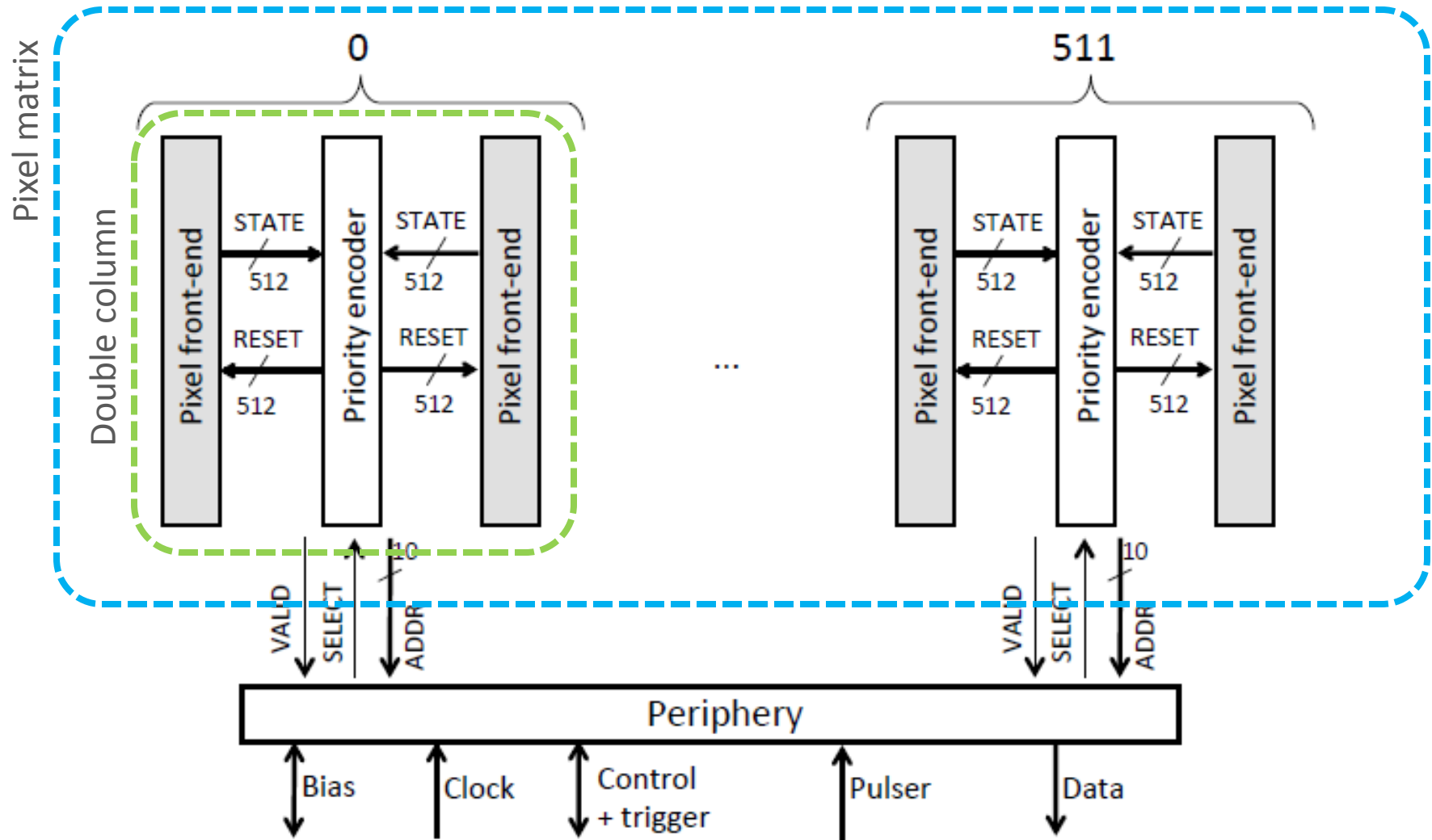
Block Size: 10.5 x 22.0  $\mu\text{m}^2$

Memory size: 6.9 x 7.3  $\mu\text{m}^2$

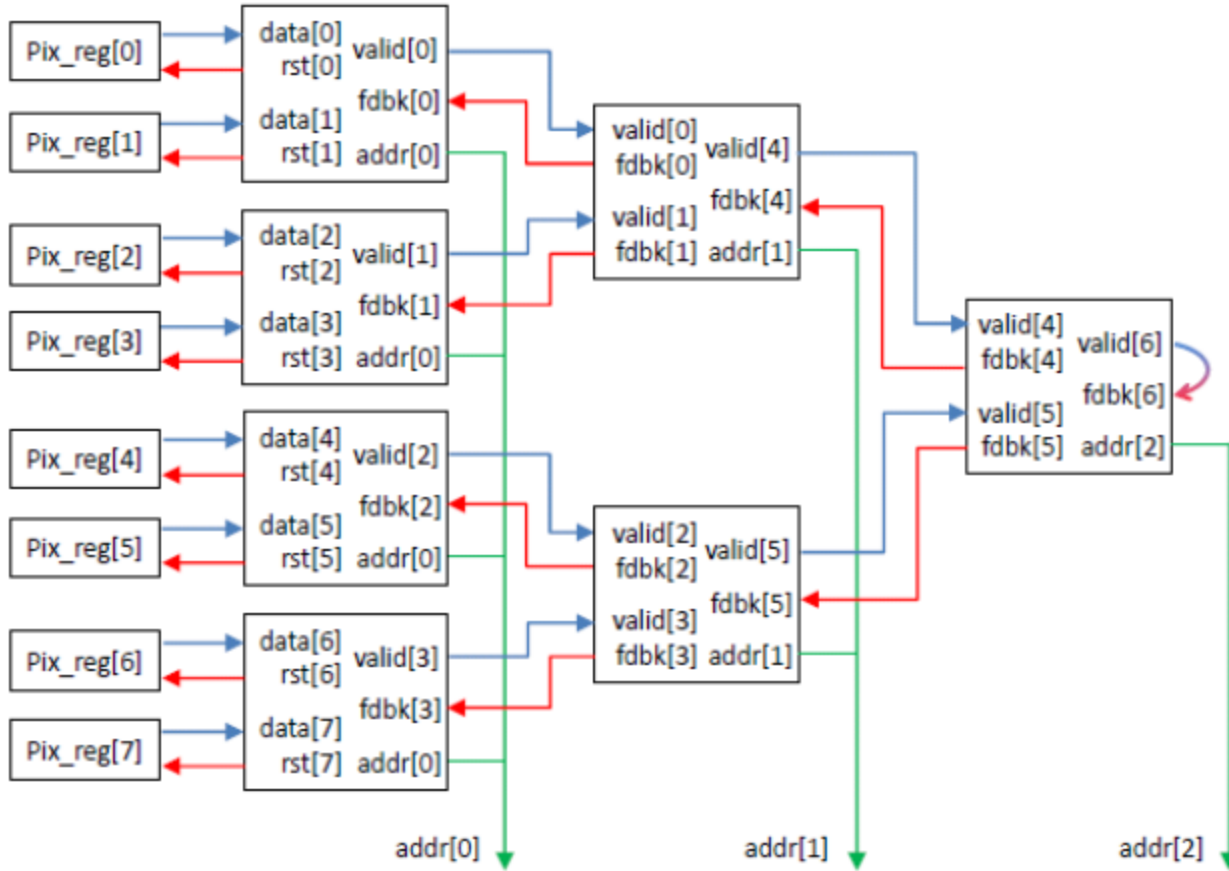


All circuitry in deep p-well, except for the collection node.

# pALPIDE – global architecture



- Double column with mixed analog/digital cells.
- Asynchronous matrix readout through “priority encoder” (see next slides).

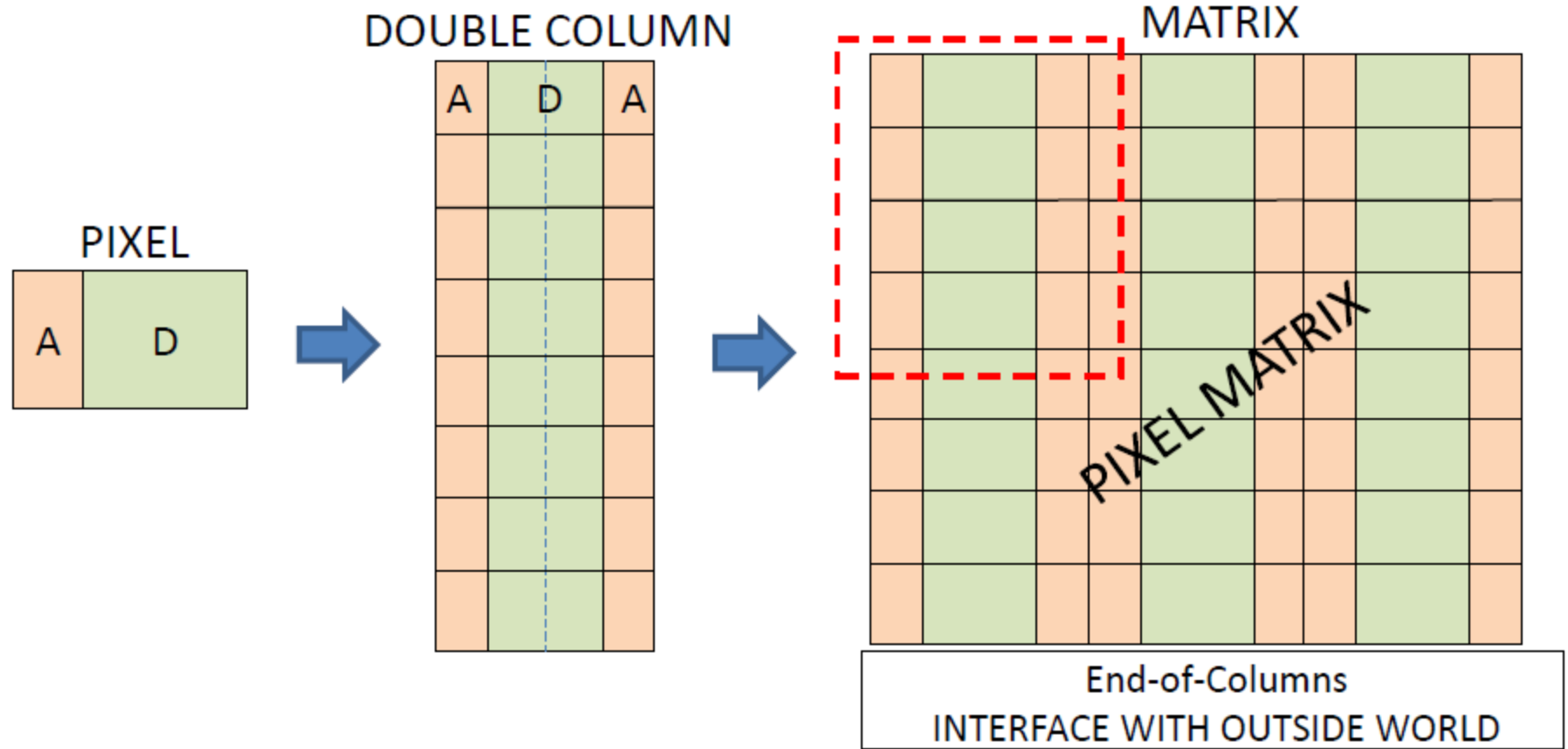


$$N_{stages} = \log_b(N)$$

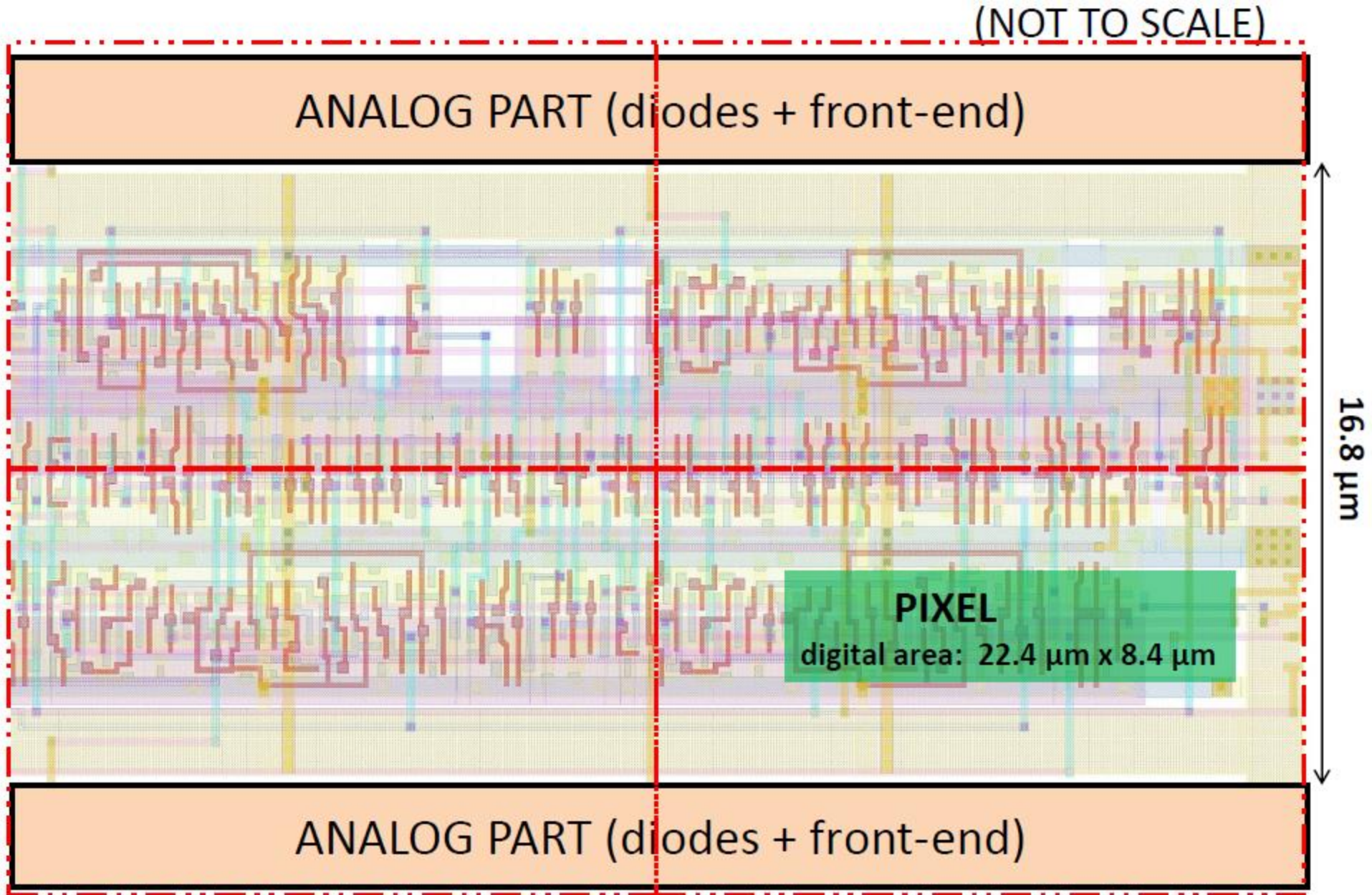
$$N_{blocks} = \frac{N - 1}{b - 1}$$

$N$  is the total number of pixels to read and  $b$  is the basic block inputs

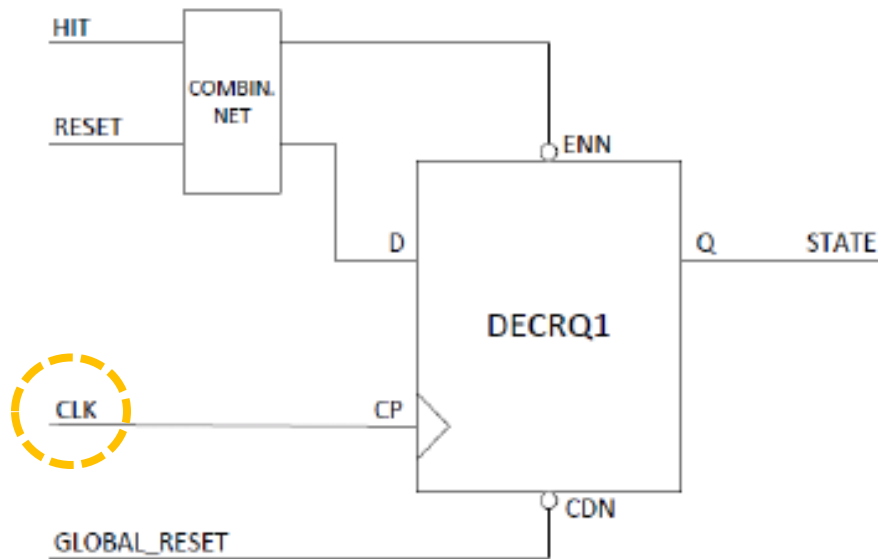
- Each clock cycle the highest priority pixel address is read out (and reset).
- Pixel address readout time: 20 ns / address (@ 50 MHz)
- Asynchronous circuit with no clock propagation into the pixel matrix (combinatorial logic to manage the reset): power & noise reduction.



Pixels arranged in columns: 2 adjacent, mirrored, columns share the same digital area. After a trigger, read only the active pixels, then reset them. Possible readout architecture with priority encoder: basic cell of 4 pixels repeated.

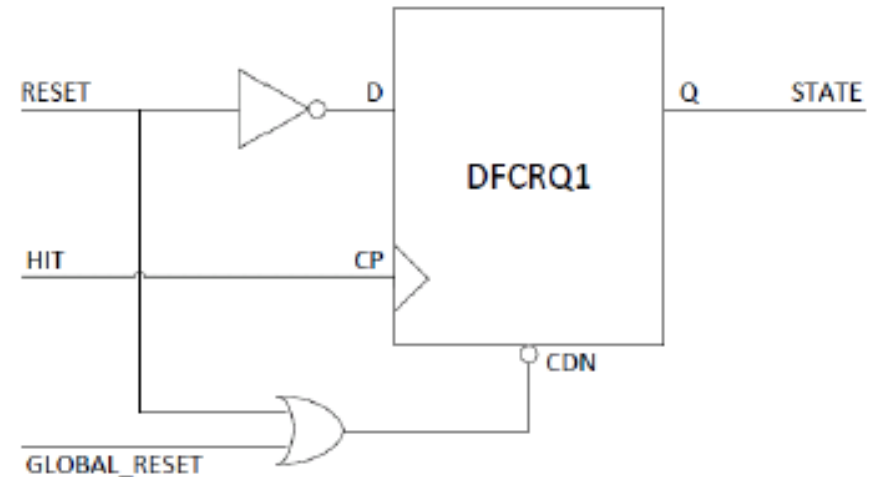


## Synchronous



- Easy encoding of hit data
- Few logic (smaller pixel area, 1 FF)
- Clock through the matrix: switching problems, **power consumption**

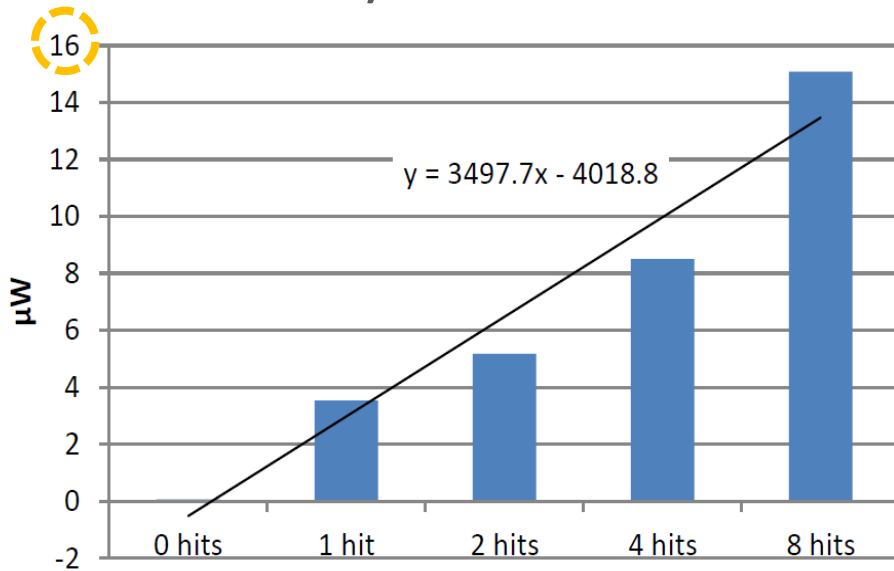
## Asynchronous



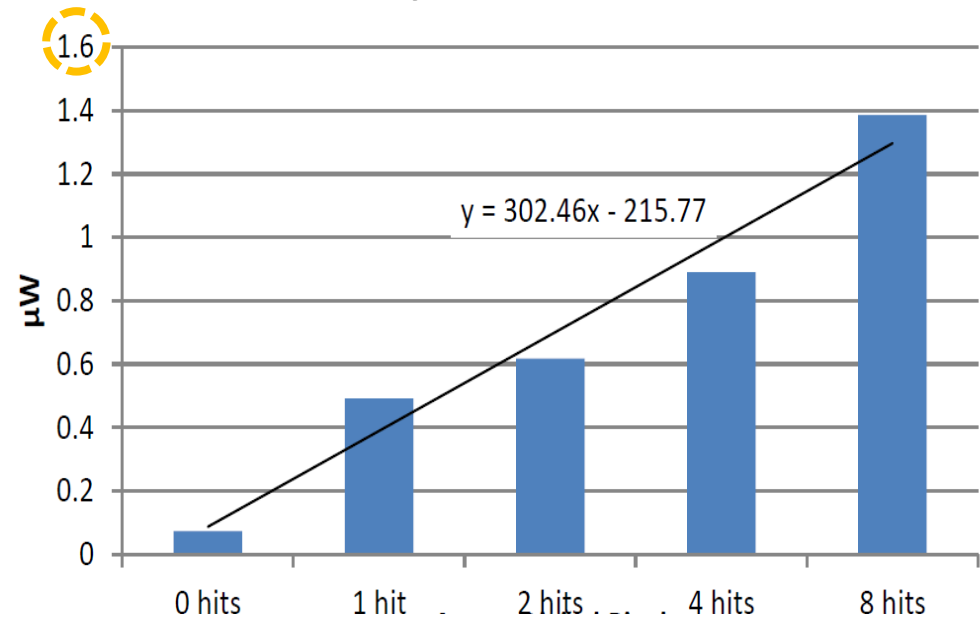
- No clock propagation: lower power
- Asynchronous hit encoding
- Needs **more logic** to ensure proper reset: **larger pixel area**



## Synchronous

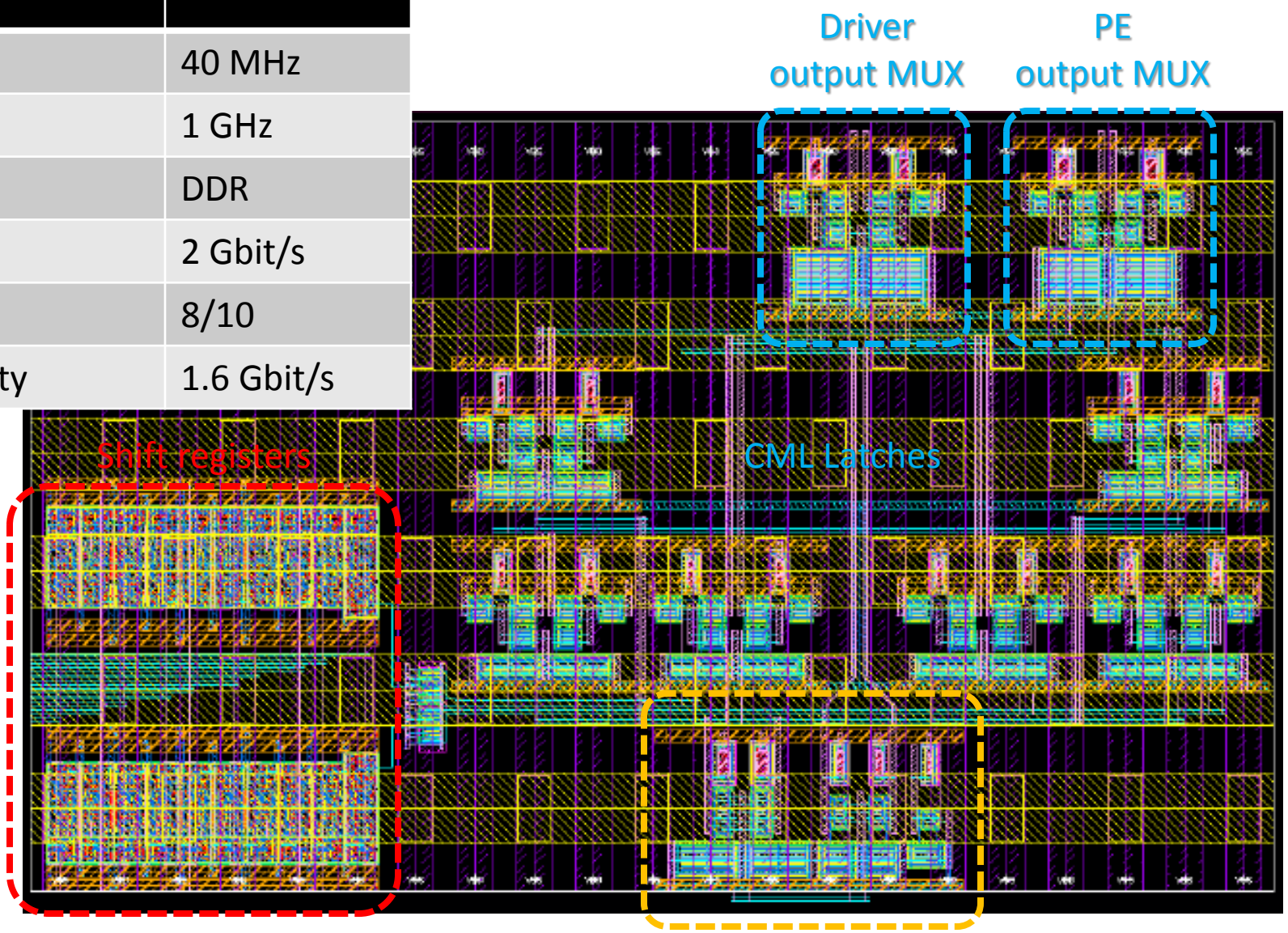


## Asynchronous



- Always reset the pixel with higher priority (less significant bit).
- Asynchronous combinatorial logic to manage the reset.
- Readout time logarithmically dependent on pixel count.

<b>Ask people here!</b>	
Input clock	40 MHz
Transmission clock	1 GHz
Transmission type	DDR
Line rate	2 Gbit/s
Line encoding	8/10
Effective line capacity	1.6 Gbit/s



## Power

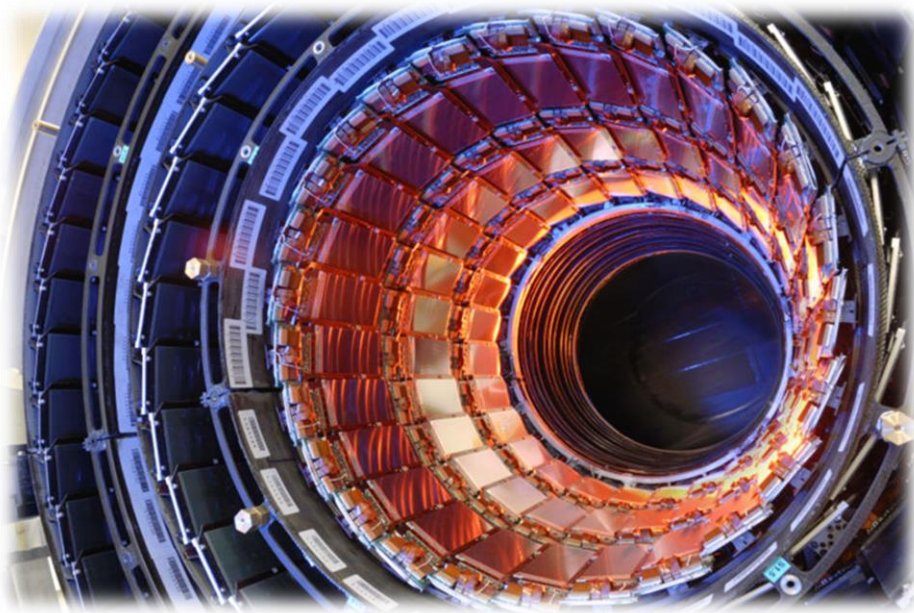
Source	Power
Analog front end: 40 nW * 250000 pixels	10 – 15 mW cm <sup>-2</sup>
Digital readout (simulations)	10 – 20 mW cm <sup>-2</sup>
Data transmission (simulations)	5 – 15 mW cm <sup>-2</sup>

Trying to approach 50 mW cm<sup>-2</sup>

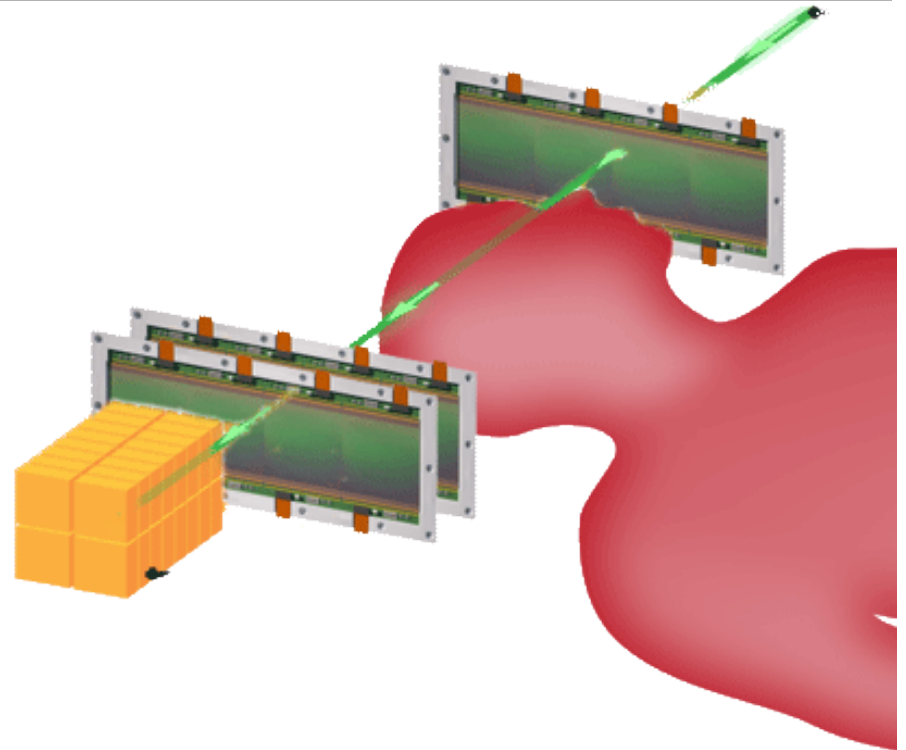
## Speed

Region	Time
Rolling shutter, full matrix (@ 50 MHz)	≈20 μs
Priority encoder, 2 hit pixels over 512 × 32	≈40 ns
Priority encoder, 80 hit pixels over 512 × 32	≈1.6 μs

# Pushing the limit: OrthoPix



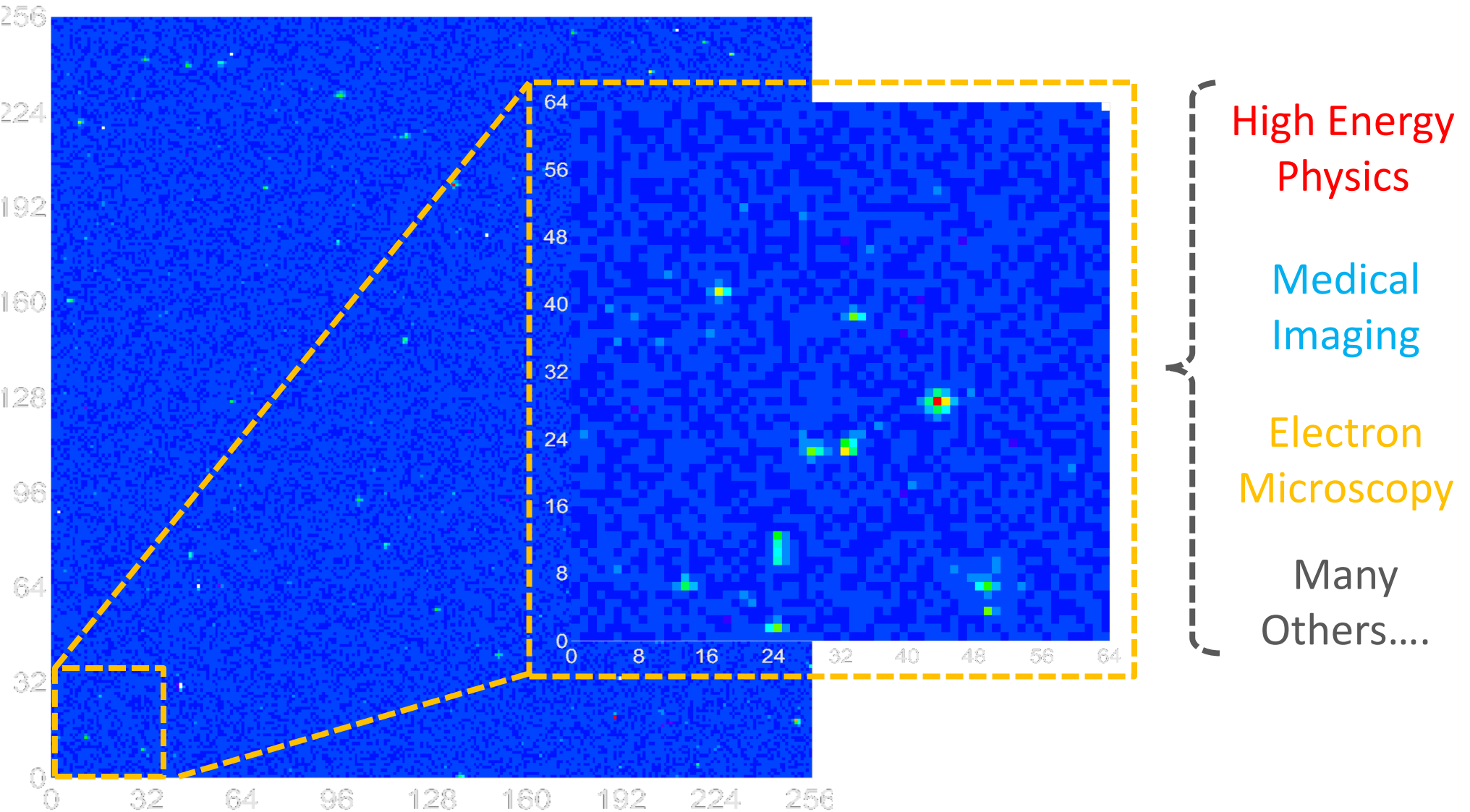
CMS tracker – 200 m<sup>2</sup>



10<sup>9</sup> protons/s pCT

# OrthoPix – the case: sparse populated “images”

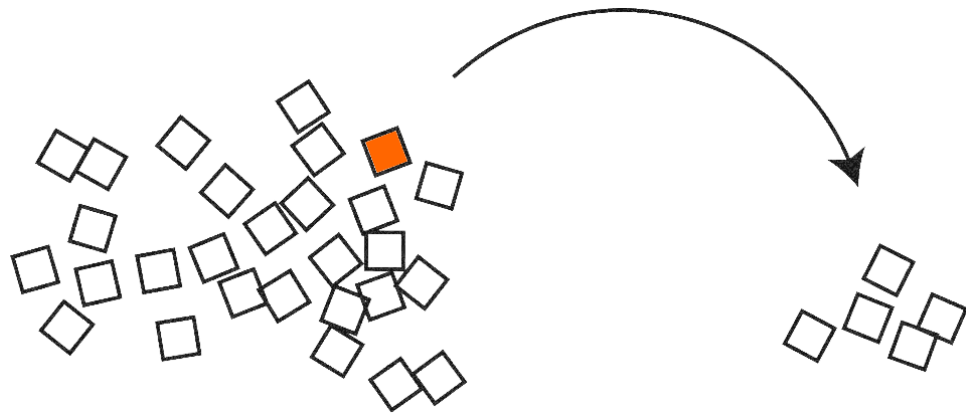
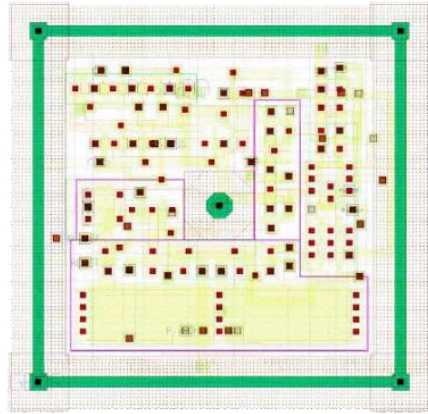
Sparse populated image: only few % interesting pixels



- ! Current pixels (mostly hybrids but also monolithic) can do that
  - Millions pixels and frame/s
  - Counting, suppressing, compression, ... in pixel!!
  - Many successful applications (HEP, medical, light, ...)
  
- ? But what if we need also any (combination) of the following?
  - Very very large area detector (many m<sup>2</sup> scale)
  - Low power consumption (<10 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>)
  - Low material budget (<50 μm thick)
  - Small pixel pitch (<< 20 μm)
  - Assembly simplicity and low cost

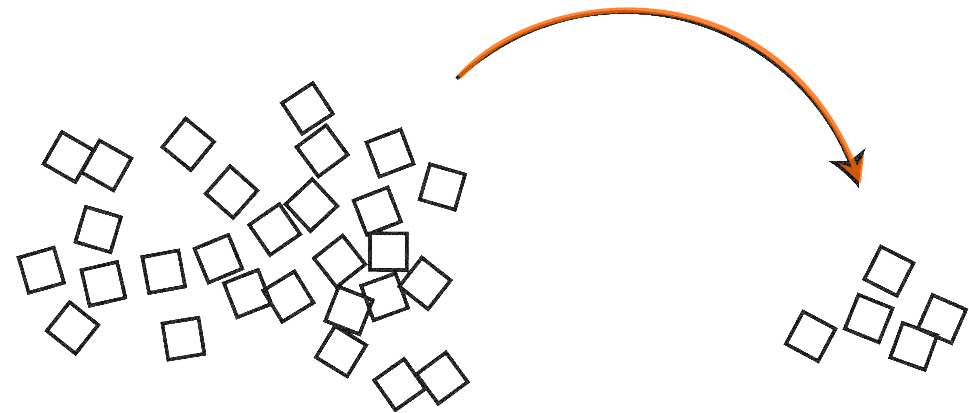
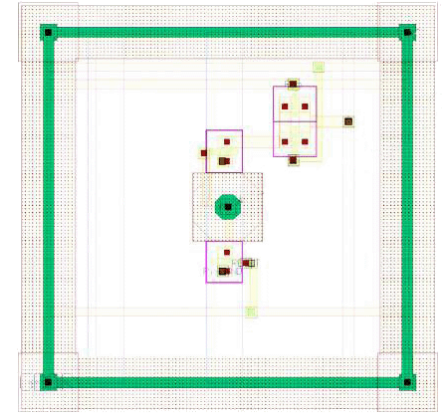
# OrthoPix – zero suppression (sparsification) approaches

Intelligent pixels  
(hybrid or not)



The pixel decides whether or not it is carrying data for the periphery. This requires space and power.

Dummy pixels



Pixel are connected to the periphery in a static way, and they are brainless. Neither space nor power required.

# OrthoPix – reshaping power geography



Sparsification to limit the output bandwidth for high count and/or speed.

**BUT**

Carrying clock/data through the sensitive area is a power nightmare. (50 MHz clock over 2 cm easily 5-10  $\text{mW/cm}^2$ )

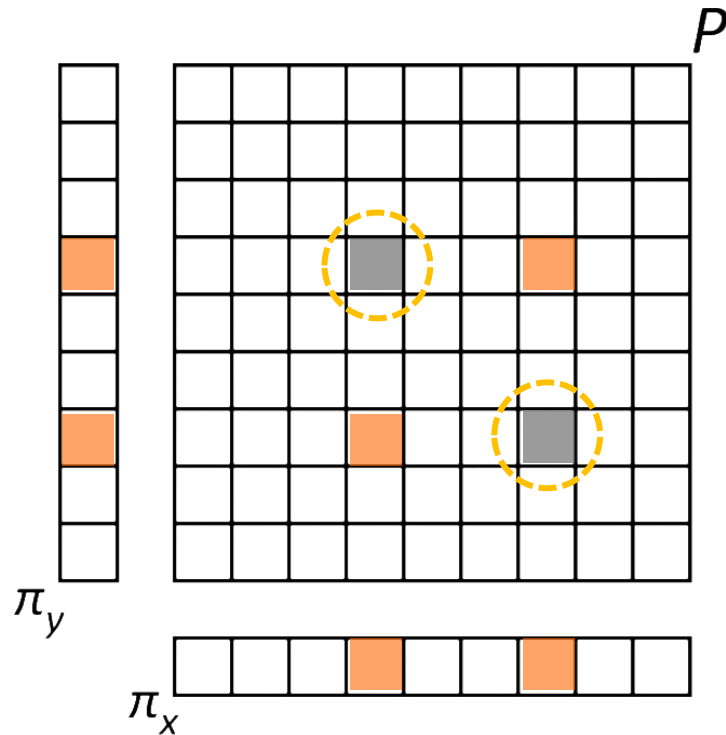
**IDEALLY**

Everything should happen in the periphery. No clock around!

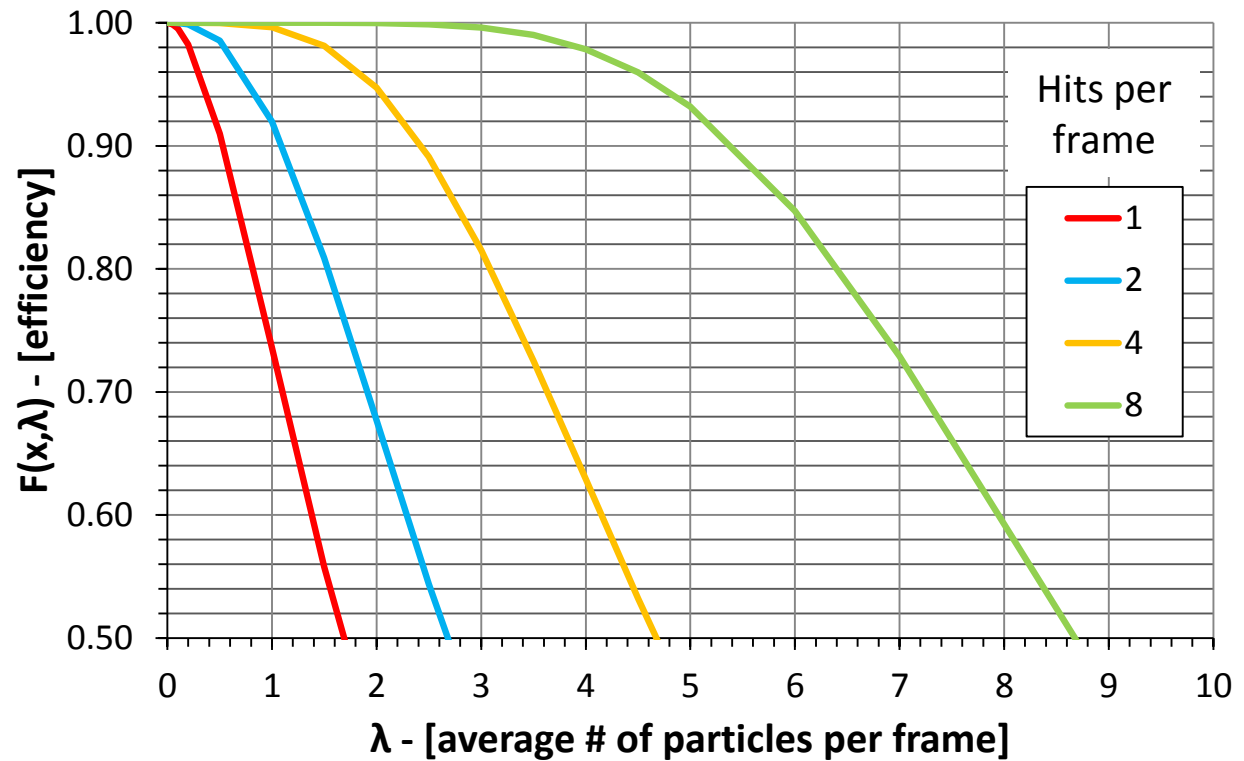
Moving power (and data) to the periphery allows for an easier and more effective cooling, hence for lower power consumption and material budget.



# OrthoPix – starting point: xy projections and the Poisson limit



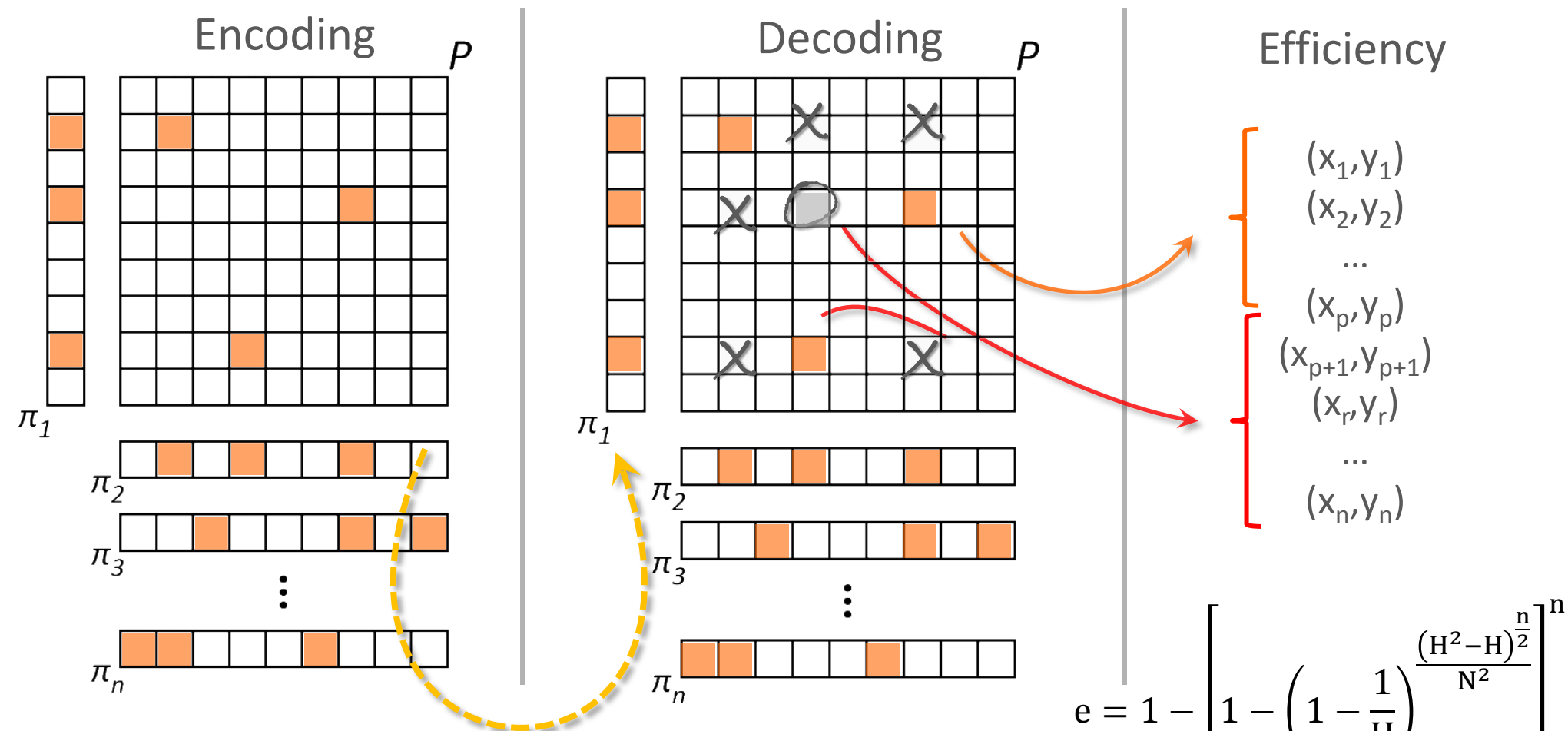
$$A = H^n - H$$



$$F(x, \lambda) = \sum_{i=0}^x \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^i}{i!} = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{i=0}^x \frac{\lambda^i}{i!}$$

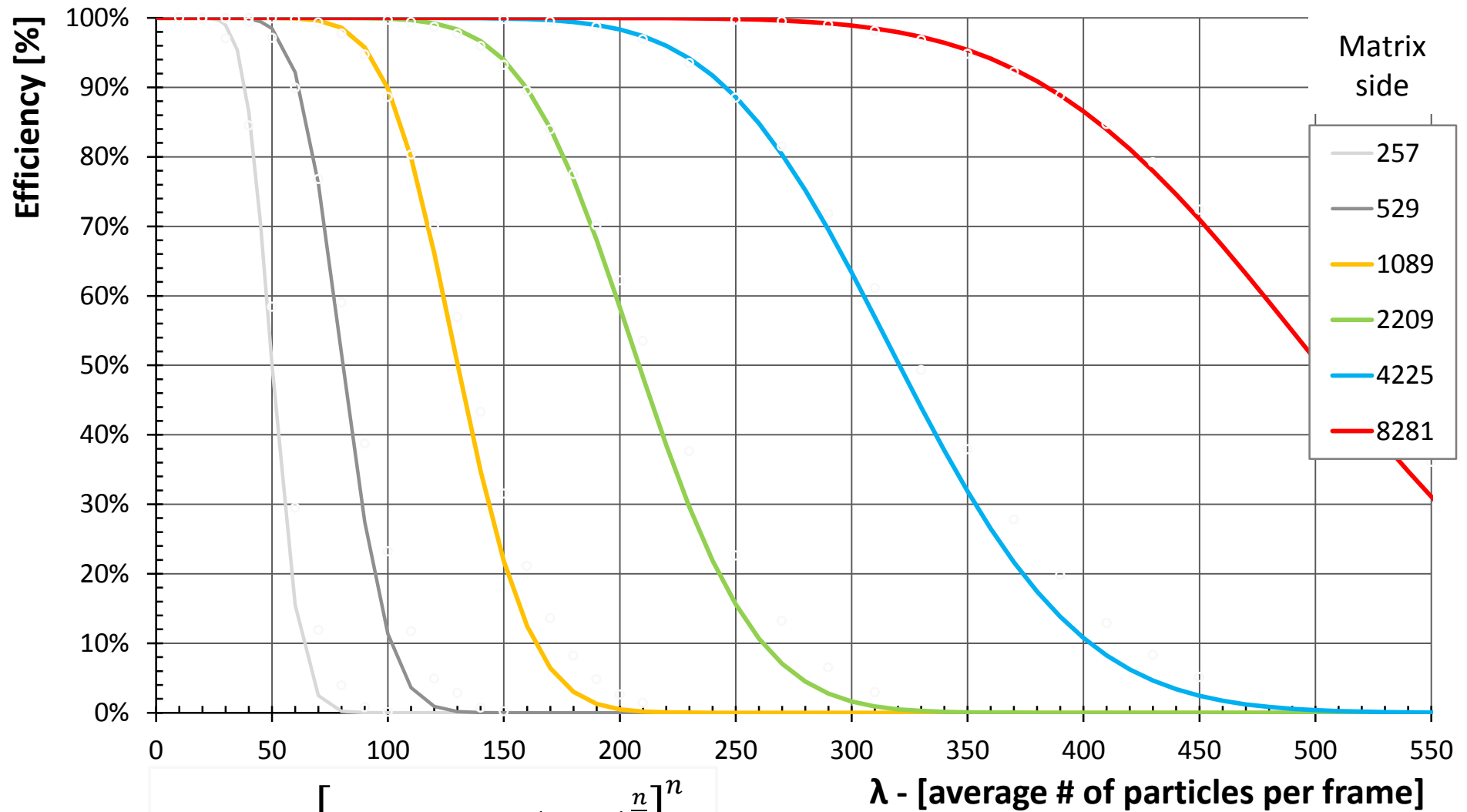
XY projections offer classic “static” compression, with the limit they fail in case of multiple hits: even at low occupancies Poisson stat is against you!

# OrthoPix – using $\pi_n$ : xy projections and the Poisson limit



We have a math model which states our maximal efficiency depending on the number of projections  $\pi$  implemented in the system.

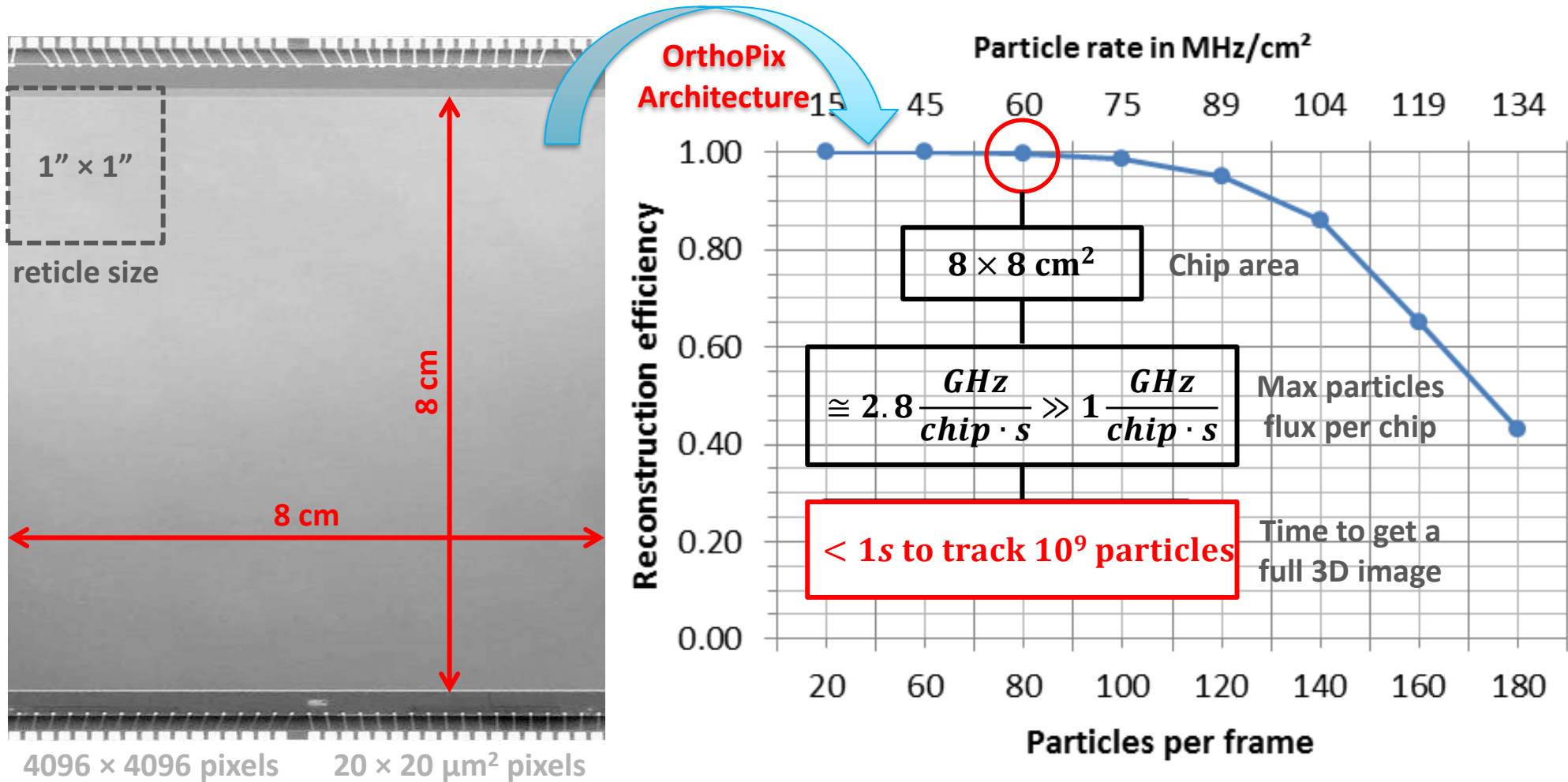
# OrthoPix – using $\pi_n$ : xy projections and the Poisson limit



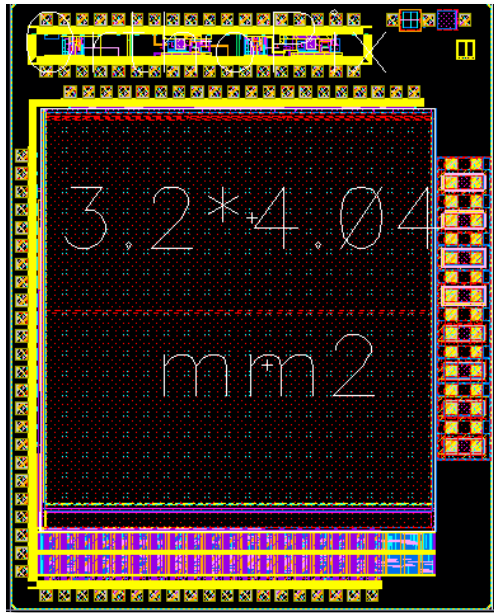
$$p = 1 - \left[ 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{1}{H} \right) \frac{(H^2 - H)^{\frac{n}{2}}}{N^2} \right]^n$$

# OrthoPix – what does it mean in practical applications?

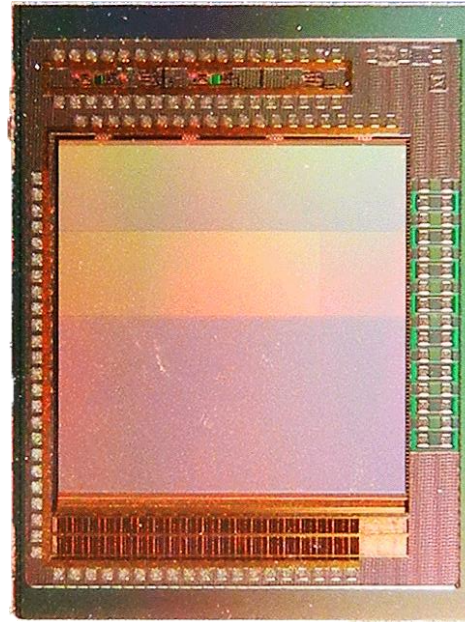
To produce large area detector in a convenient way, big size chips are necessary. Stitching allows to produce single piece detector up to 10 cm side. OrthoPix can read them at GHz speed with minimal power ( $10 \text{ mW cm}^{-2}$ ) consumption.



# OrthoPix – a foolish dream? Actually no!



Designed in both standard CMOS and “specialty” BJT layout

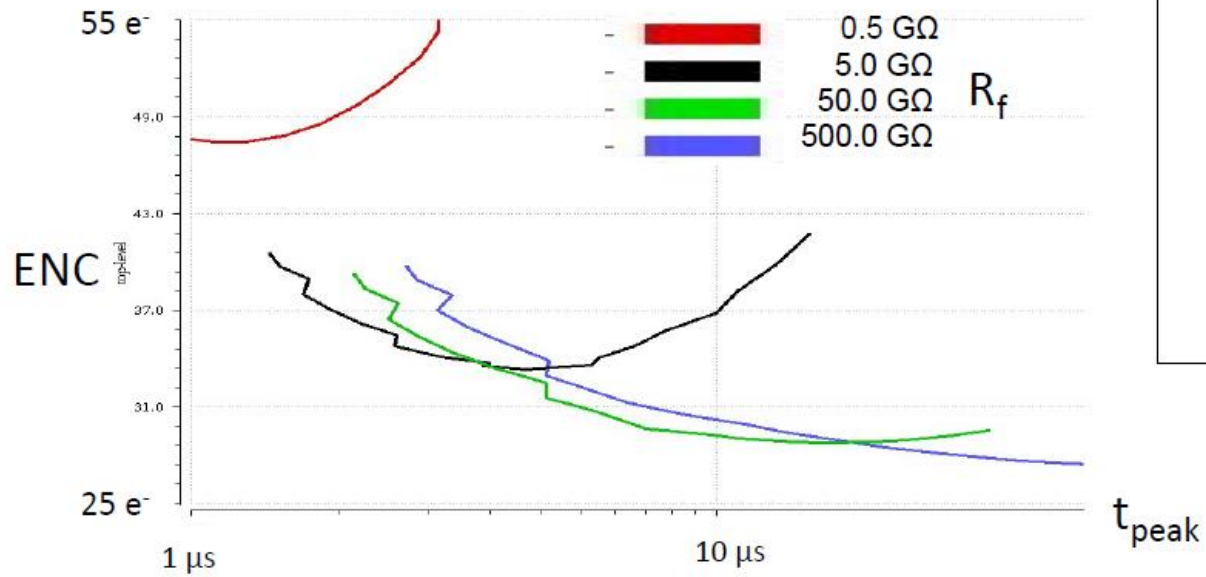
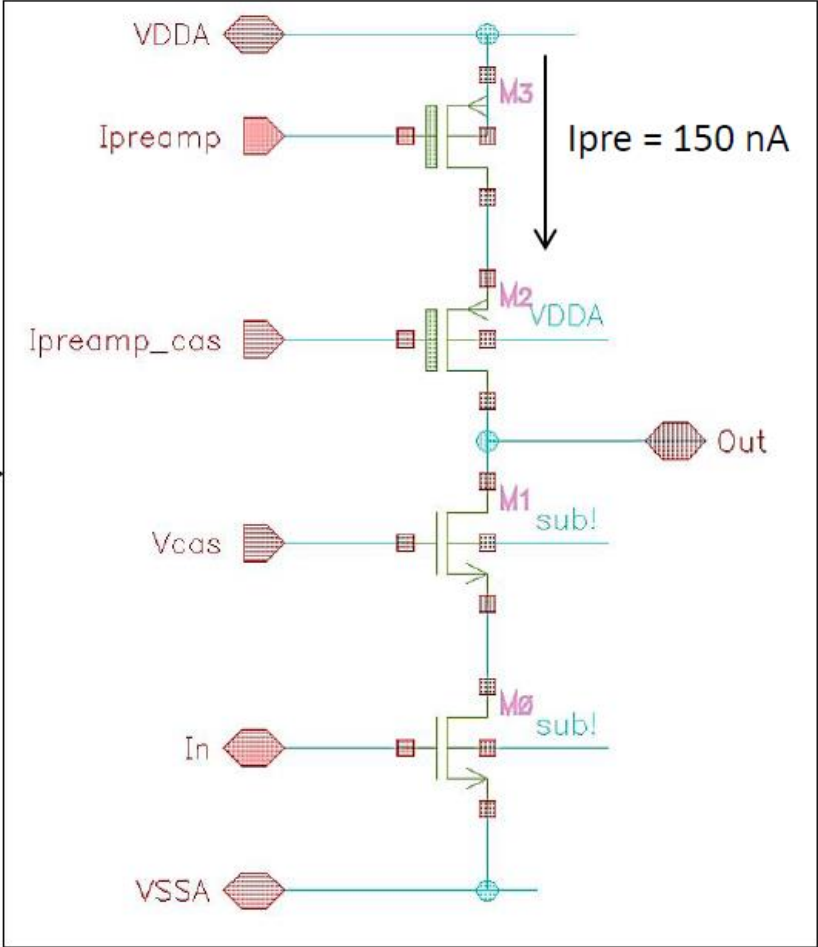
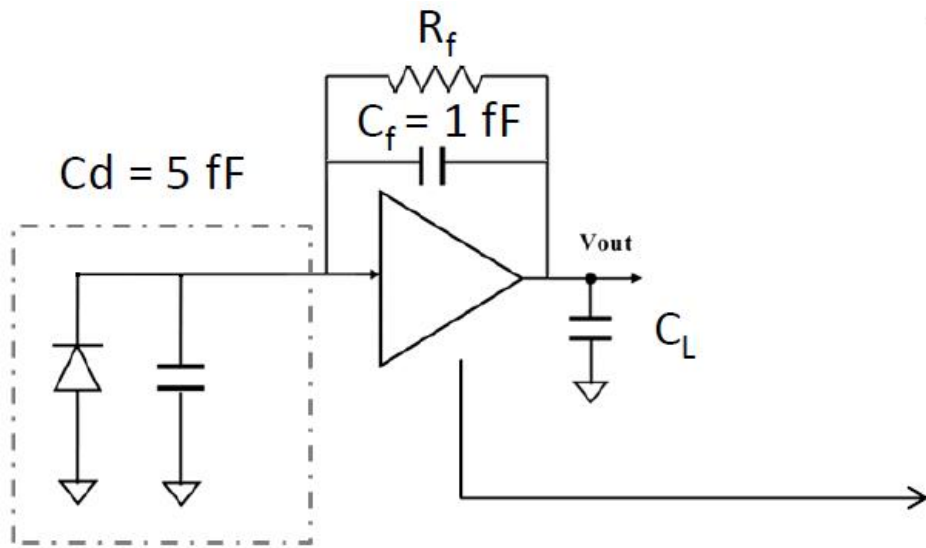


Realized in Tower-Jazz 0.18  $\mu\text{m}$ , various substrates thickness/resistivity.

Just seen “first light” yesterday... a lot of testing to come!

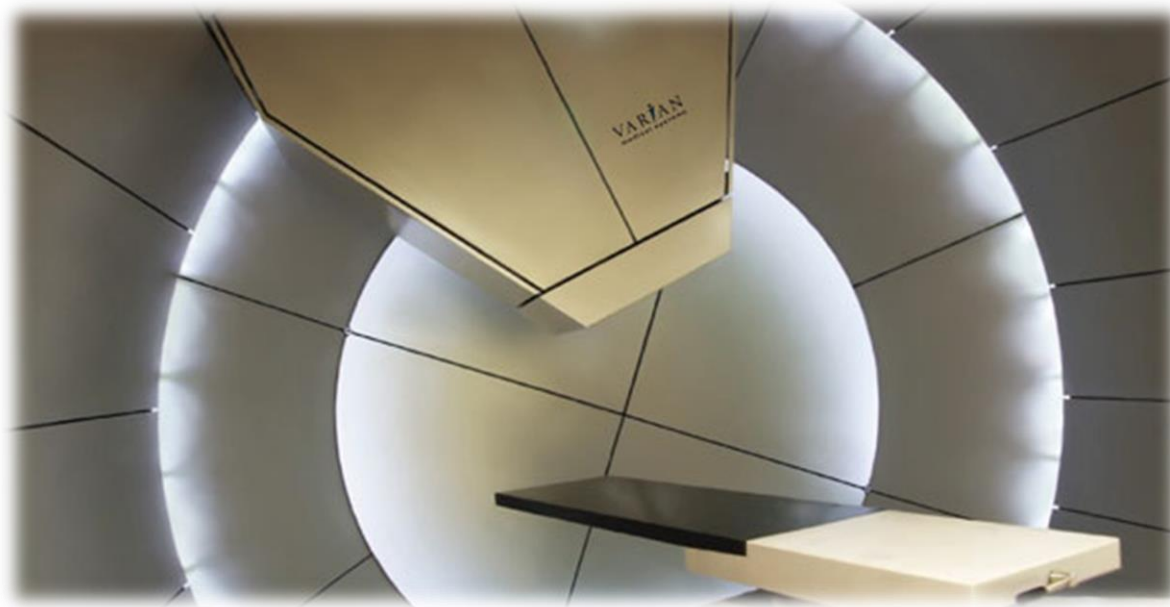
# Backup slides

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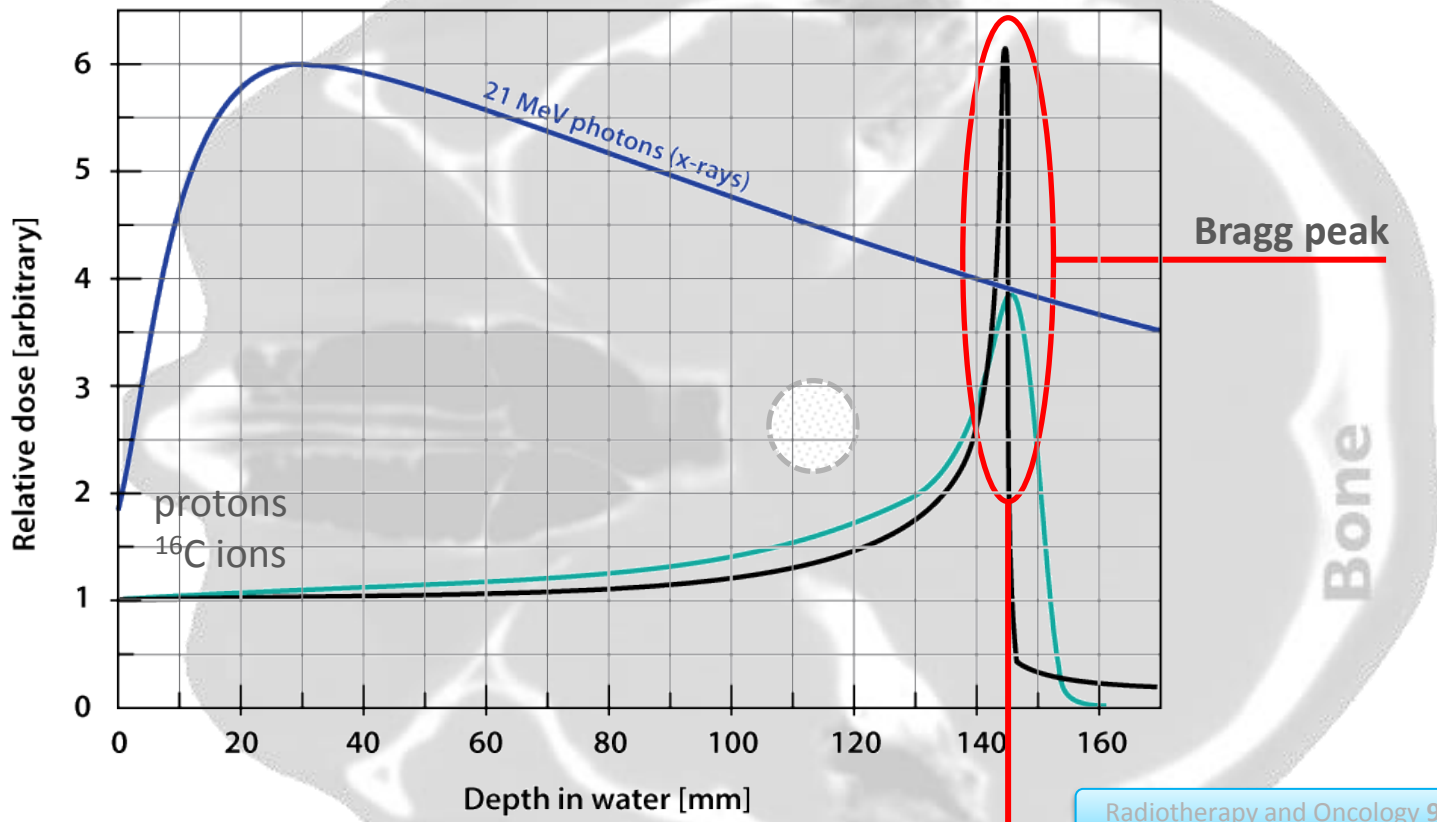
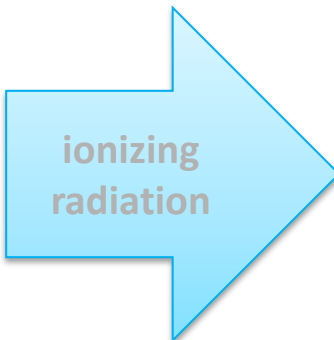
# Rad hard CMOS for proton imaging





# Proton therapy – physics rationale

Proton (ion) energy transfer is highly localized (Bragg peak): greater effectiveness and much lower collateral damage respect to traditional x-rays



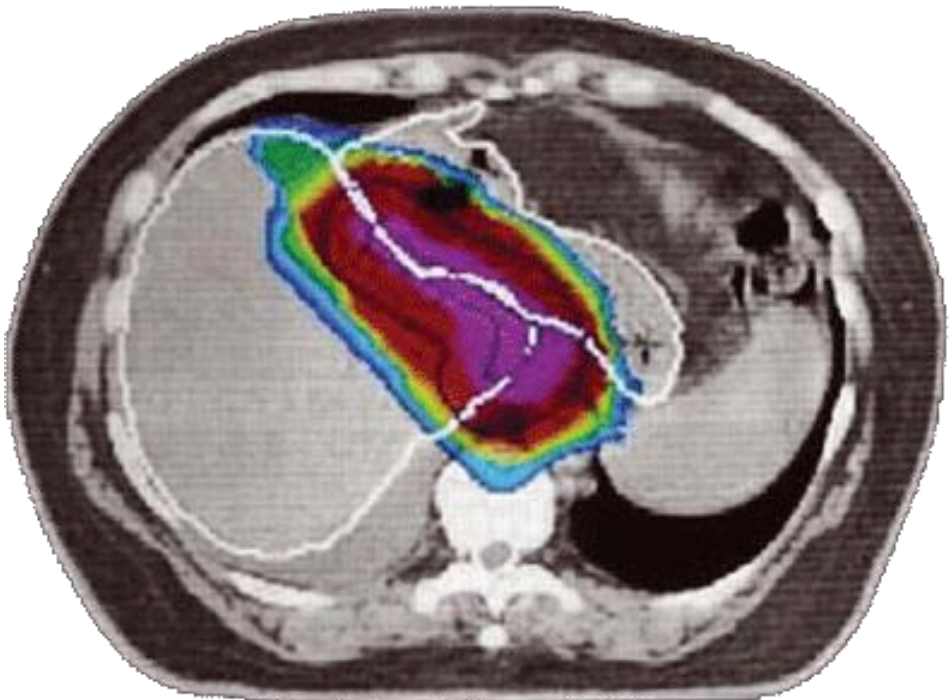
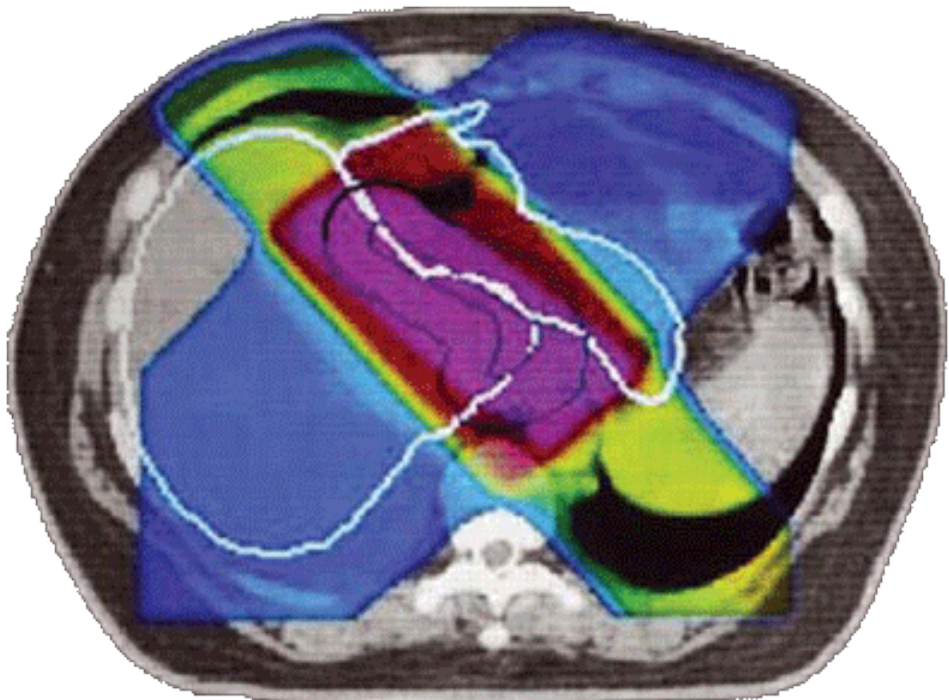
Radiotherapy and Oncology 95 (2010) 3–22

Radiation Oncology\*Biological\*Physics 83 (2012) 1549–1557

The Bragg peak position (depth) in the body depends on the ion energy and the tissue density it traverses. Changing energy determines the aiming depth.

# Proton imaging – Bragg peak to reduced collateral damage

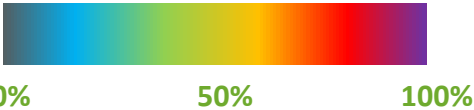
Much lower collateral damage respect to photons due to the focused energy deposition: less damage to surrounding tissues, less chance of secondary tumors.



X-Rays treatment

Planned dose

Protons treatment

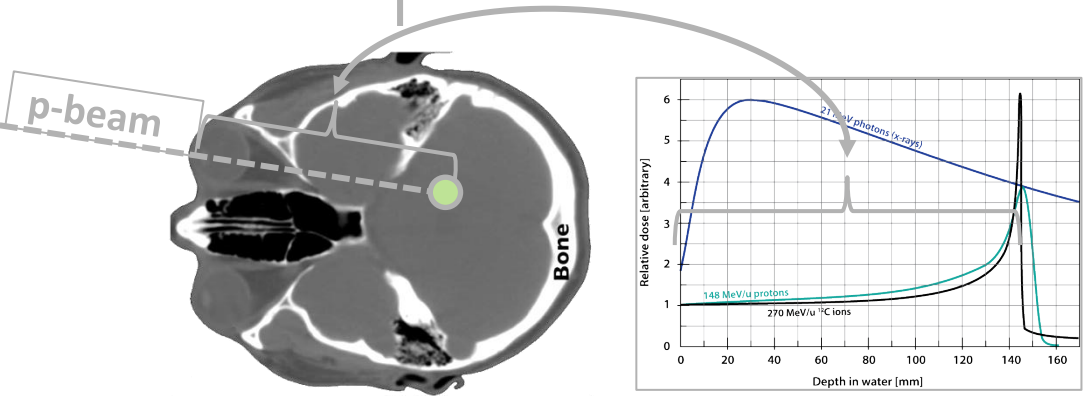


JAMA 307 (2012) 1611-20

Radiation Oncology\*Biolog\*Physics 83 (2012) 1549-1557

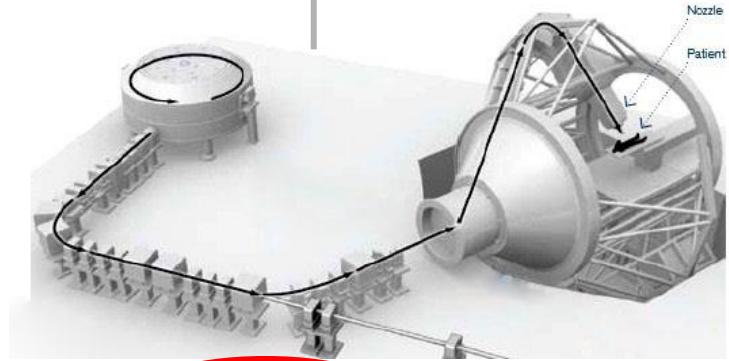
# Proton therapy – aiming limits

Aiming the Bragg peak requires fine tuning of the proton energy to account for the tissue densities they have to traverse to reach the tumor.



Poor tissue density resolution from X-Rays CT

X-ray 3D CTs cannot distinguish tissue densities with the required precision, leading to Bragg peak aiming errors much worse than the Bragg peak intrinsic spread. But protons actually can (and with much less dose).



Fine energy tuning better than 0.5%

NIM B 268 (2010) 3295–3305

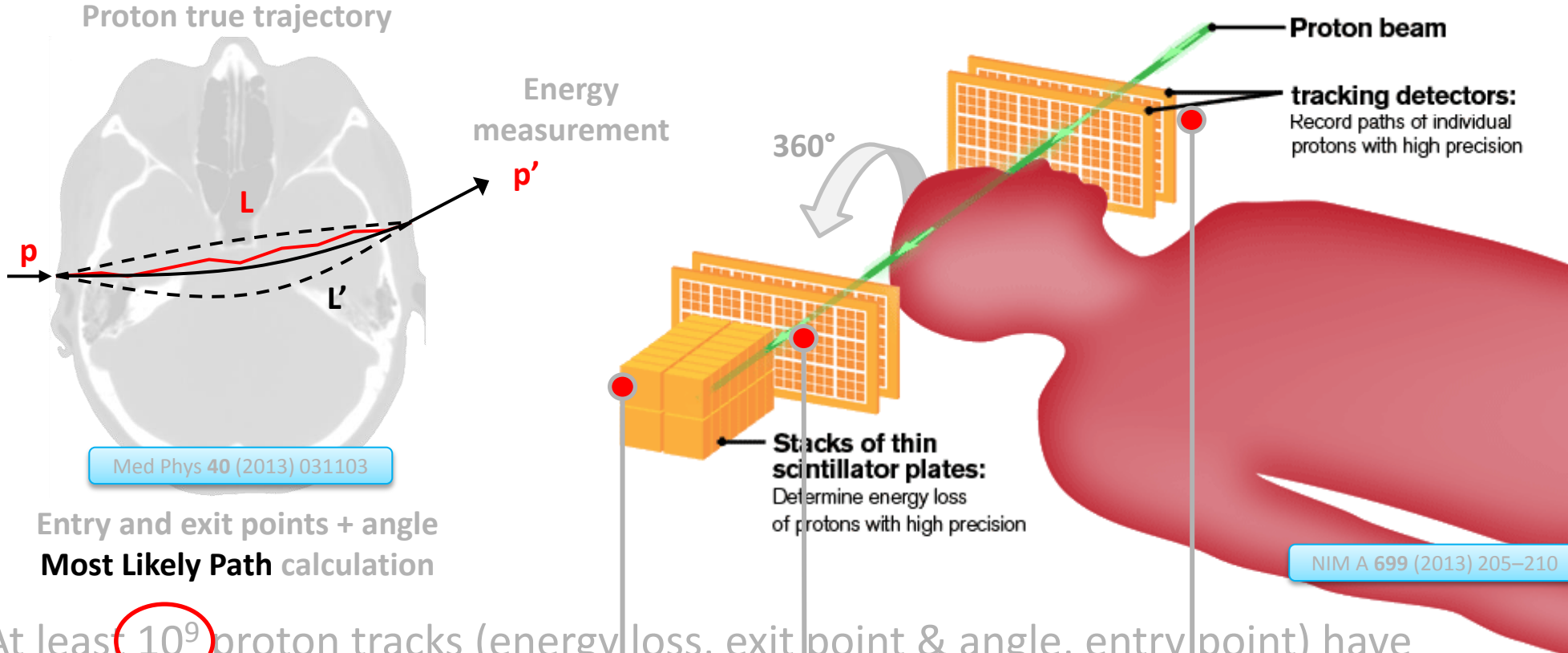
Eur. Phys. J. Plus (2011) 126: 78



Phys. Med. Biol. 56 (2011) 2407–2421

# Proton imaging – state of the art

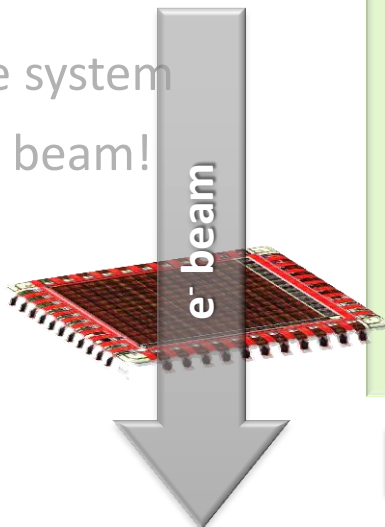
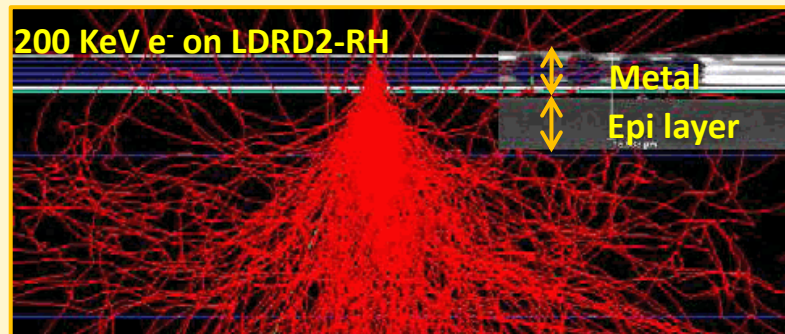
The pCT works on the same principle as a “standard” x-rays CT: recording particles passing through the target from different angles to reconstruct a 3D image. Main difference is that, while photons are simply absorbed, protons also scatters.



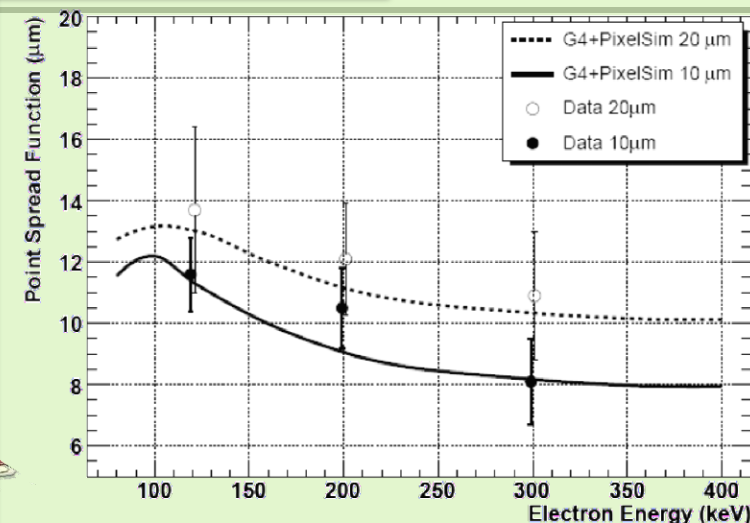
At least  $10^9$  proton tracks (energy loss, exit point & angle, entry point) have to be recorded to provide a detailed enough image. This leads to long exposure time (some 10s minutes) even with the best current state of the art prototypes.

# Microscopy – bulk rad-hard MAPS

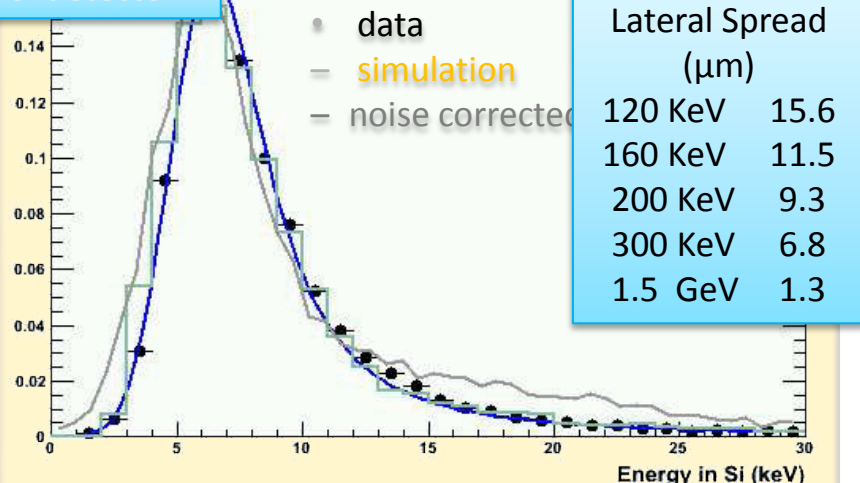
- MAPS can provide a powerful detector for Electron Microscopy (50-300 KeV  $e^-$ )
- High resolution, high efficiency, simple system
- Need to be rad-hard to withstand the beam!



## Point Spread Function

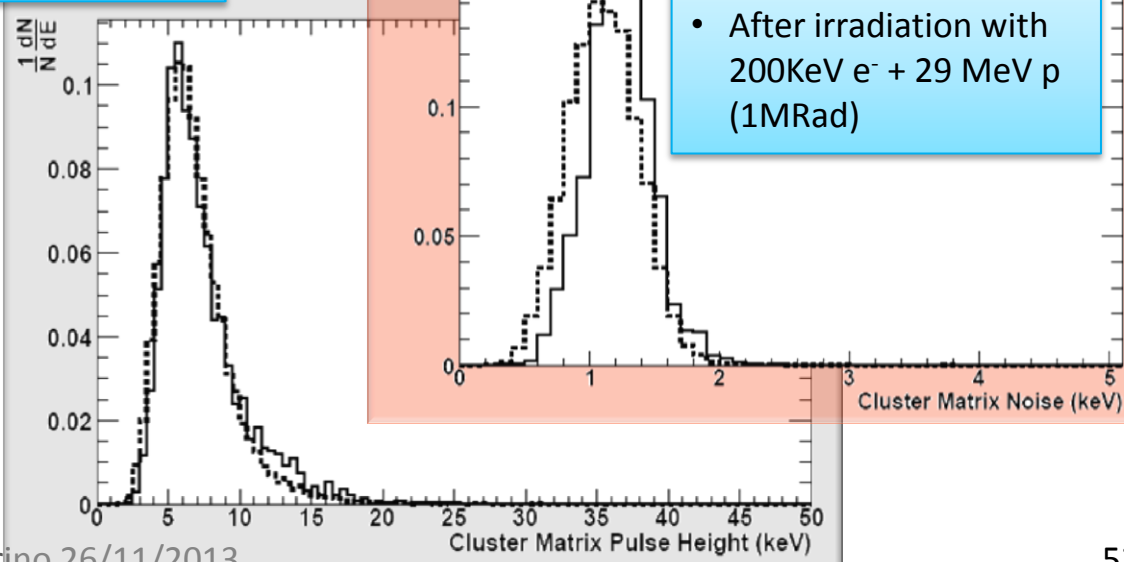


Si detector



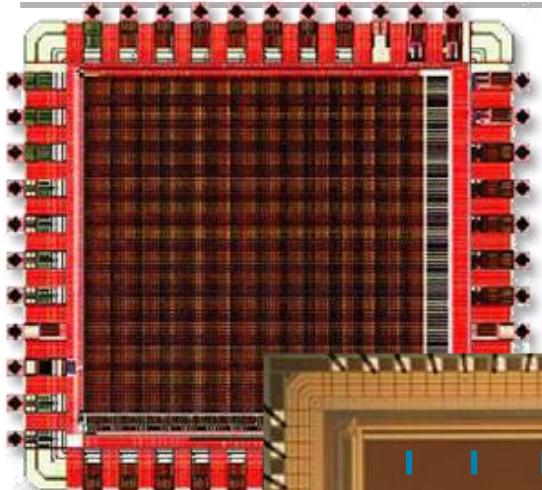
## Noise

### Pulse height

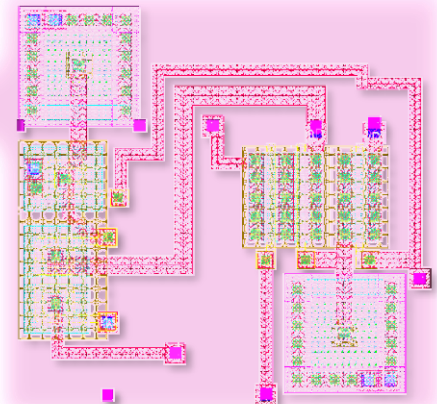
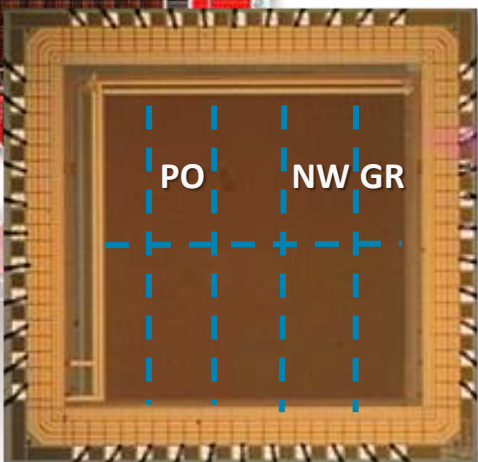


# Microscopy – a lot of R&D toward rad-hard MAPS in past years

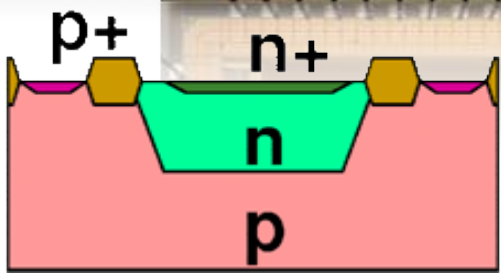
- Developed in the frame of LBNL Laboratory Directed Research & Development (LDRD) grant.
- Manufactured in AMS 0.35  $\mu\text{m}$  CMOS-OPTO (optimized low leakage current, 5 metal layers) process, with 14  $\mu\text{m}$  nominal epitaxial layer thickness.



**~70 e<sup>-</sup> ENC**

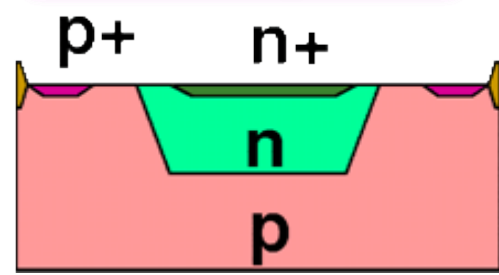


- 96x96 pixels, 20x20  $\mu\text{m}^2$ , arrayed in several sub-sectors implementing different transistor layouts and different configurations of the charge collection diode.
- Simple 3-transistor (3T) pixel architecture.
- 2 sub-pixels with and without **ELT layout**.



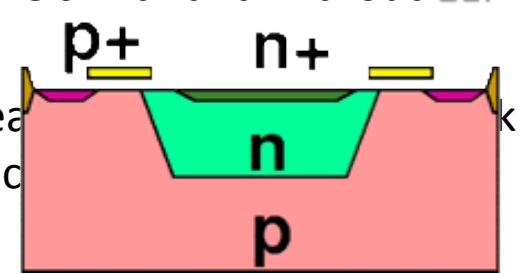
**GR layout**

n-well diode with enclosing **p+ guard-ring**



**NW layout**

n-well diode with p+ guard-ring and thin oxide on top



**PO layout**

n-well diode with p+ rings, thin oxide on top and **polysilicon ring**

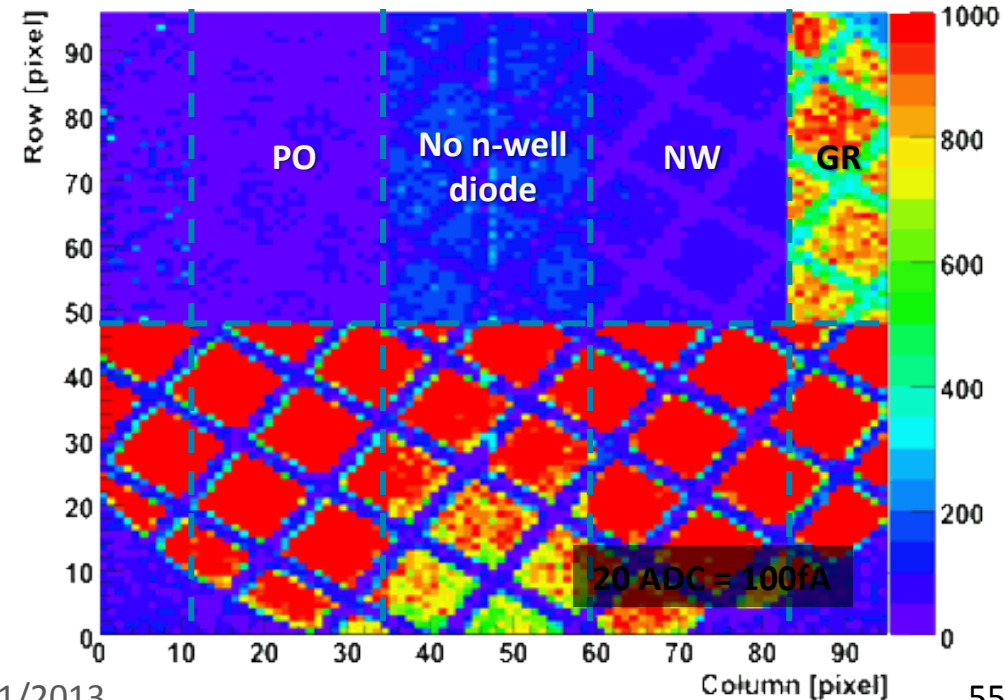
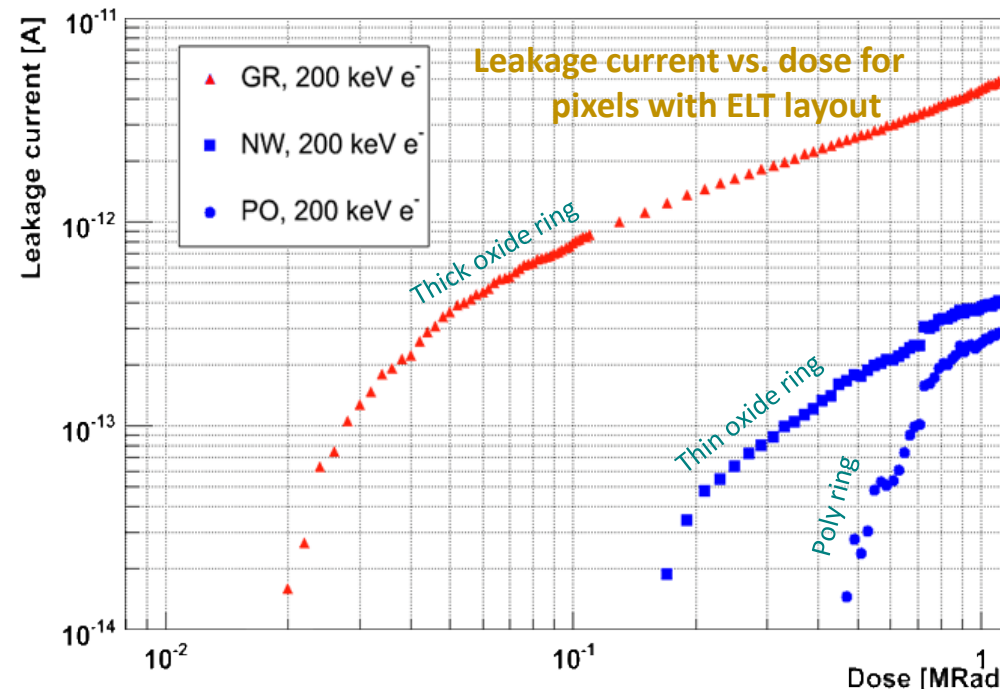
Serial readout frequency

# Microscopy – 200 keV electrons irradiation results

- **200 keV electrons** are expected to cause only ionising damage in Si (thr. energy for DD is 260 keV).
- Electron flux of  $\sim 2300 \text{ e}^- \mu\text{m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \sim 9 \times 10^5 \text{ e}^- / \text{pixel} / \text{s}$  (e.g. diffraction mode).
- Irradiation performed in steps up to a total dose of **1.11 MRad**. Dark levels monitored as dose function.



- After irradiation, the increase of leakage current in the exposed pixels gives a latent image of the mesh wires.
- Measurement of PSF  $\sim 30 \mu\text{m}$  possible, but  $\text{e}^-$  scattering on mesh borders spoils the actual figure.



# Microscopy – atoms e<sup>-</sup> imaging with 1 MPixel

*Si lattice – 2.5 ms integration time*

## *TEAM 1K detector*

- 0.35 AMS opto process.
- **1M** pixel, 9.5  $\mu\text{m}$  pixel pitch
- Rad-hard design.
- **25 MHz** readout speed
- **16** parallel analog outputs
- Up to **400 Frames/s.**
- Thinned down to **50 $\mu\text{m}$**  to reduce backscattering.

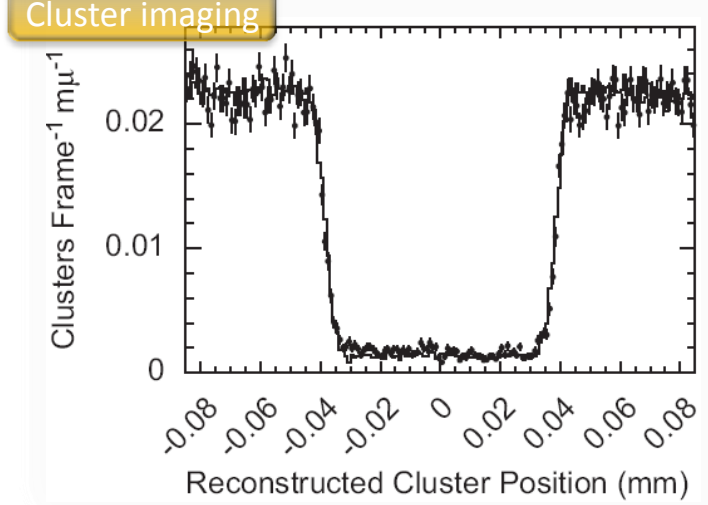
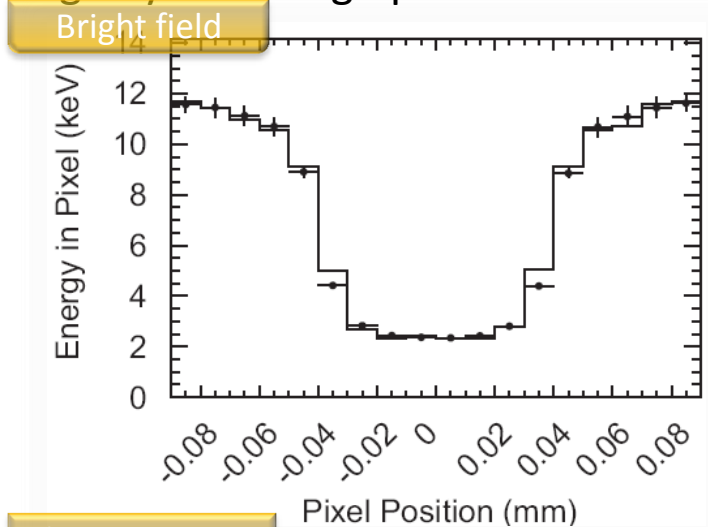
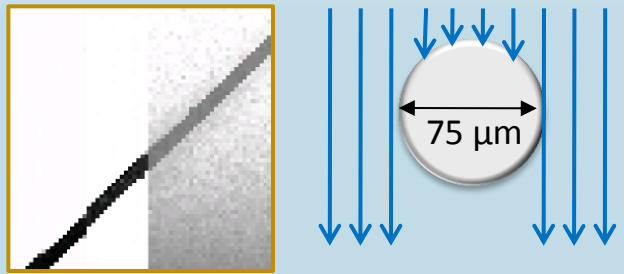


FFT

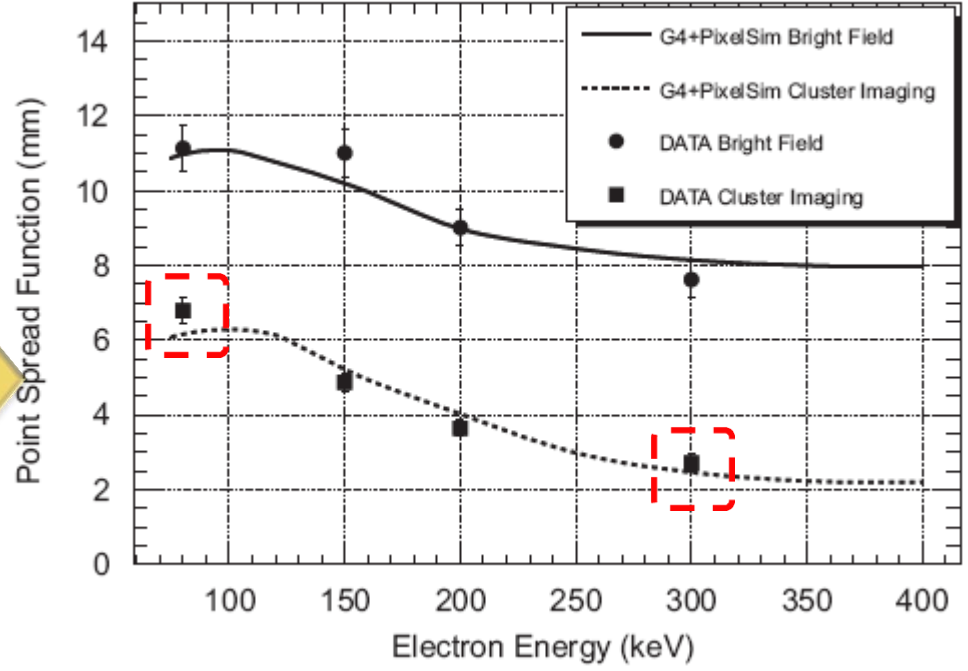


# Microscopy – cluster imaging for high resolution imaging

Cluster imaging: instead of integrating the  $e^-$  flux into the detector, operate it in “single particle” tracking mode, retrieving each  $e^-$  impact generated cluster. Reconstruct the image by summing up all the collected clusters coordinates.



NIM A 608  
(2009)  
363-365



Energy (KeV)	Bright field	Cluster imaging
80	11.1 ± 0.6 μm	6.8 ± 0.35 μm
300	7.6 ± 0.5 μm	2.7 ± 0.25 μm

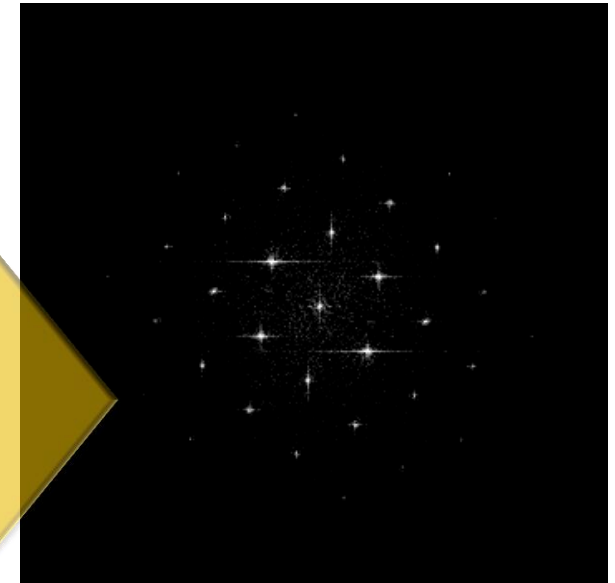
# Microscopy – atoms e<sup>-</sup> imaging with 4 MPixel

*Si lattice – 2.5 ms integration time*

## *TEAM 2K detector*

- 0.35 AMS opto process
- **4M** pixel, 9.5  $\mu\text{m}$  pixel pitch
- Rad-hard design
- **25 MHz** readout speed
- **64** parallel analog outputs
- Up to **400 Frames/s**
- Thinned down to **50 $\mu\text{m}$**  to reduce backscattering

FFT



Atomic resolution micrograph of multiply-twinned nanocrystalline film of Si. (C. Song)

# Microscopy – TEAM in 4MPixel counting mode

A recent reconstruction of the 20S Proteasome from K2 Summit™ Counting data shows estimated to be at 4.4 Å resolution (0.5 FSC). Å resolution shows both beta sheet and alpha helices.

