

# REVIEW OF DIRC DETECTORS FROM BABAR TO EPIC AND BEYOND



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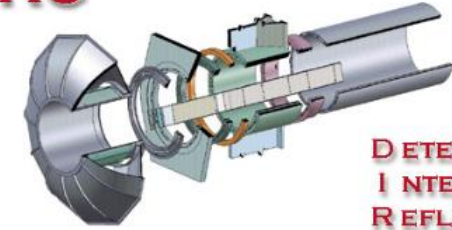
- DIRC Concept
- DIRCs at Past and Current Facilities
- R&D for DIRCs at Future Facilities

*30 years of DIRC detector research with many interesting results, too much for a 25-minute talk – for more details see:*

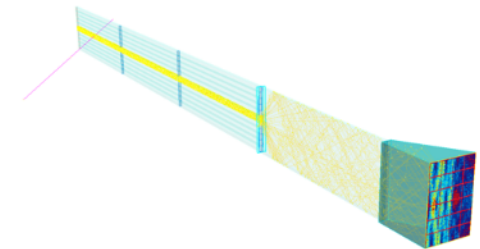
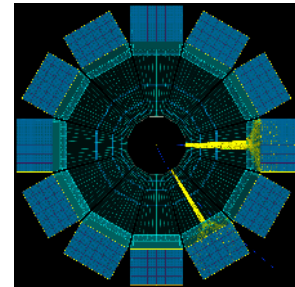
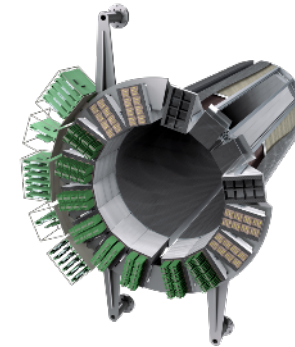
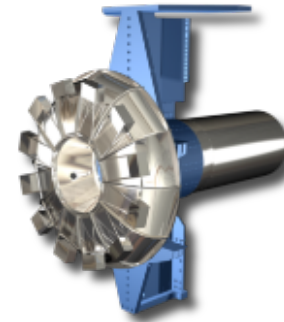
- *Recent review: B. Ratcliff and J. Va'vra, Nucl.Instrum.Meth. A 970 (2020) 163442*
- *RICH workshop series (most recent: RICH2022, Edinburgh, NIM-A)*
- *DIRC workshop series (most recent: DIRC2019, Rauschholzhausen, JINST)*

*Thanks to my colleagues in the DIRC community who provided information and material.*

## DIRC



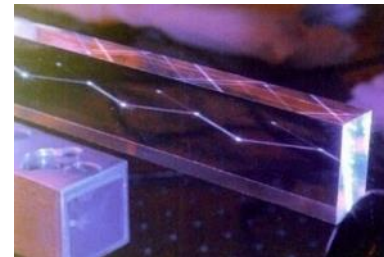
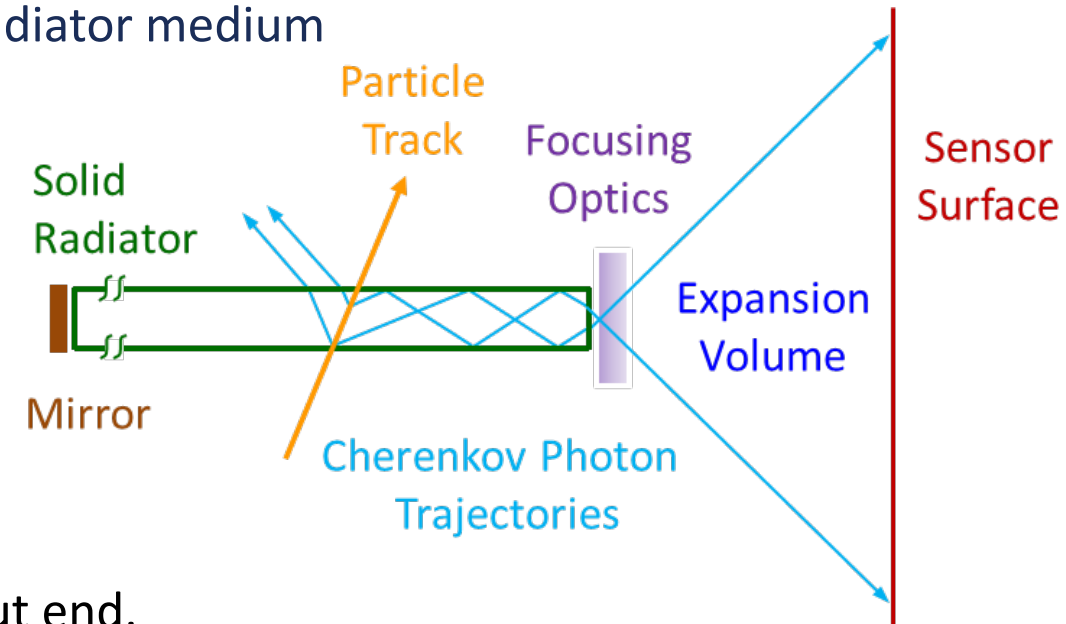
**D**ETECTION OF  
**I**NTERNALLY  
**R**EFLECTED  
**C**HERENKOV LIGHT



## Detection of Internally Reflected Cherenkov Light

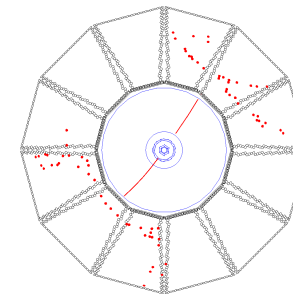
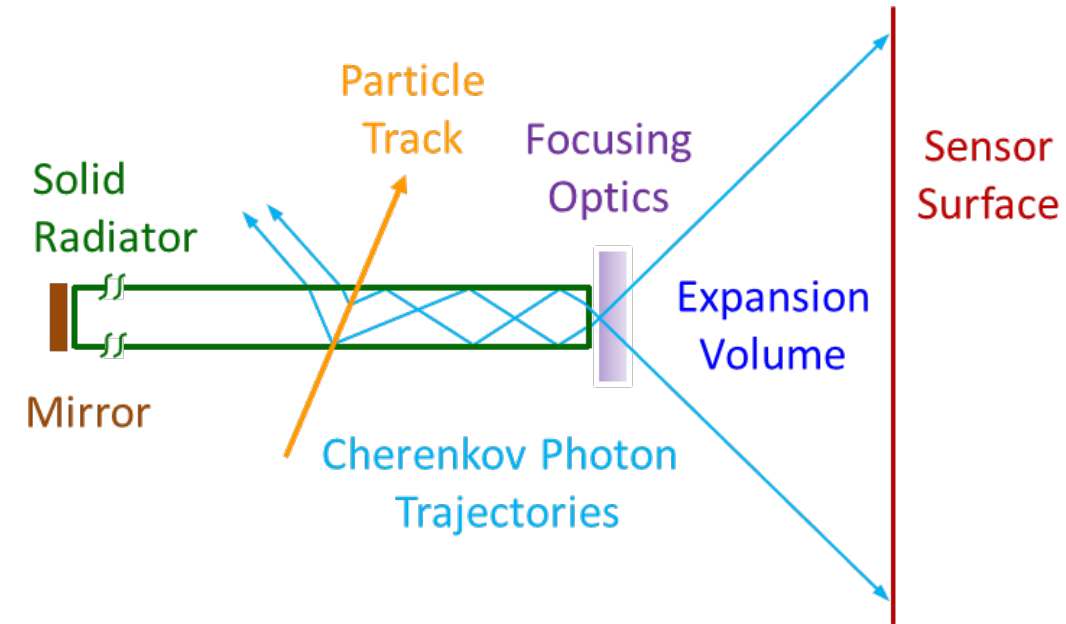
DIRC: Compact subtype of (Ring Imaging Cherenkov) RICH detector  
utilizing total internal reflection of Cherenkov photons in a solid radiator medium

- **Charged particle** traversing solid radiator, refractive index  $n$
- For  $n > \sqrt{2}$  some photons are always **totally internally reflected** for  $\beta \approx 1$  tracks
- **Radiator**: bar, plate, or disk, typically made from **Synthetic Fused Silica** (“Quartz”)
- **Mirror** attached to one bar end, reflects photon back to readout end.
- Quartz bar/plate/disk both **radiator and light guide**, transporting photons away from crowded central detector to suitable sensor location

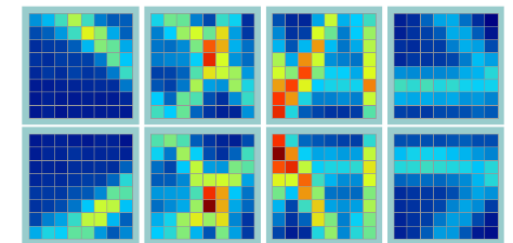


# DIRC CONCEPT

- Magnitude of **Cherenkov angle conserved** during many internal reflections (provided radiator surfaces are square, parallel, highly polished)
- Photons exit radiator via optional **focusing optics** into **expansion region**, detected on **photon detector array**
- DIRC is intrinsically a **3-D device**, measuring: **x, y, and time** of Cherenkov photons, defining  $\theta_c$ ,  $\phi_c$ ,  $t_{\text{propagation}}$
- **Ultimate deliverable for DIRC: PID likelihoods**
- **DIRC hit patterns are not typical Cherenkov rings**  
Different DIRCs use different reconstruction approaches to provide likelihoods for observed hit pattern (in detector space or in Cherenkov space) to be produced by  $e/\mu/\pi/K/p$  plus event/track background.
- **DIRCs requires momentum and position of particle measured by tracking system.**



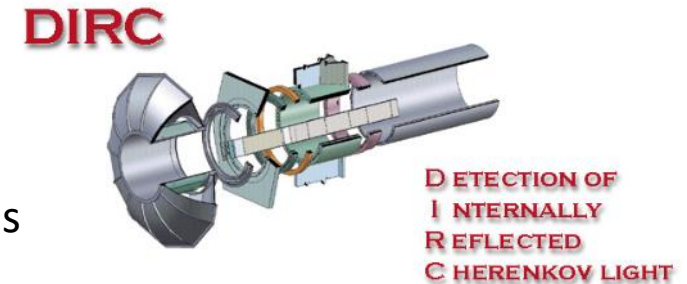
Hit pattern  
BABAR DIRC



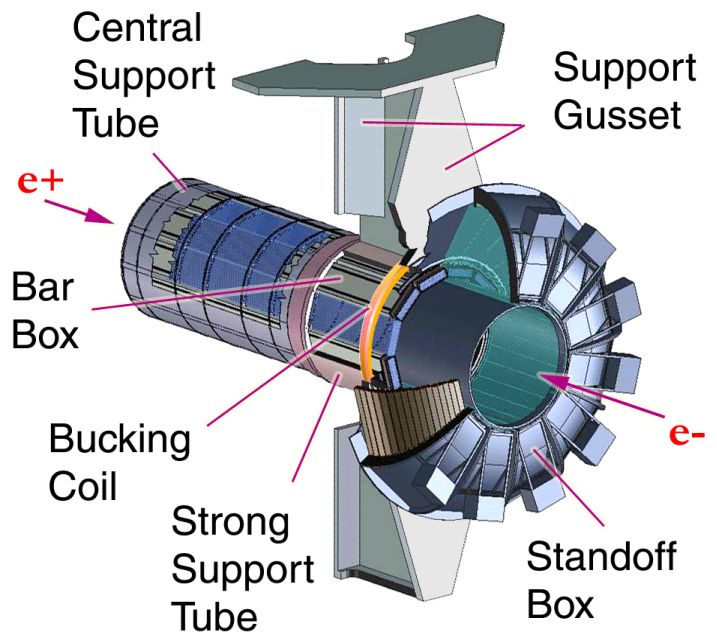
Accumulated hit pattern  
PANDA Barrel DIRC

DIRC used for the first time in **BABAR** as primary hadronic particle ID system, flavor tagging, primary goal:  $\pi/K$  ID to 4 GeV/c.






- 1991: first description of DIRC concept; 1992: first DIRC publication<sup>§</sup>
- 1993-1996: DIRC R&D, DIRC prototypes tests with cosmic rays and particle beams
- Nov 1994: decision in favor of DIRC for hadronic PID for **BABAR**
- Nov 1998: installed first DIRC bar box in BABAR; cosmic ray run, commissioning
- Nov 1998-Apr 1999: installed first 5 DIRC bar boxes in BABAR; commissioning with cosmics and beam
- Nov 1999: all 12 bar boxes installed, start of first **BABAR physics run**
- early 2000s: growing interest in DIRCs for future experiments (**SuperB, Belle II, PANDA**) → start of R&D
- April 2008: last event recorded with **BABAR**
- 2011: start of R&D for **EIC high-performance DIRC (eRD14)**
- 2016: installation of TOP counter into **Belle II**
- 2018: installation of DIRC counter into **GlueX**, reusing four decommissioned BABAR DIRC bar boxes



<sup>§</sup>B. Ratcliff, SLAC-PUB-5946 (1992) and Conf.Proc.C 921117 (1992) 331



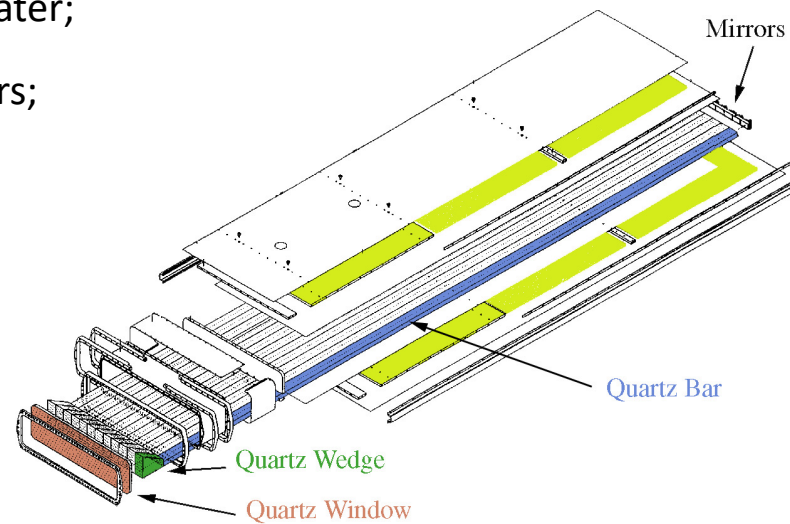
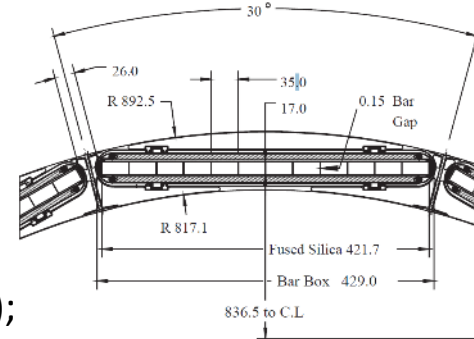
# BABAR DIRC

-  large expansion volume
-  pinhole focusing
-  1" PMTs
-  moderate photon timing
-  first DIRC



## BABAR DIRC

- **first DIRC counter**, primary hadronic PID in BABAR barrel;
- design goal  $3\sigma$   $\pi/K$  separation up to 4 GeV/c;
- **compact**, 8 cm radial thickness incl. supports;
- **pinhole focusing** (size of bar small compared to size of expansion volume);
- **long narrow synthetic fused silica bars** (17mm x 35mm x 4900mm);
- bar boxes penetrate iron of the flux return, sensors outside magnetic field;
- 1.2m-deep expansion volume: tank of 6000 l ultra-pure water;
- sensors: ~11,000 standard 1" PMTs with light concentrators;
- installation in 1998/1999, physics run 1999-2008;
- **robust operation, excellent performance.**



	large expansion volume
	pinhole focusing
	1" PMTs
	moderate photon timing
	first DIRC



Main operations/performance challenge: accelerator-induced background from large expansion volume

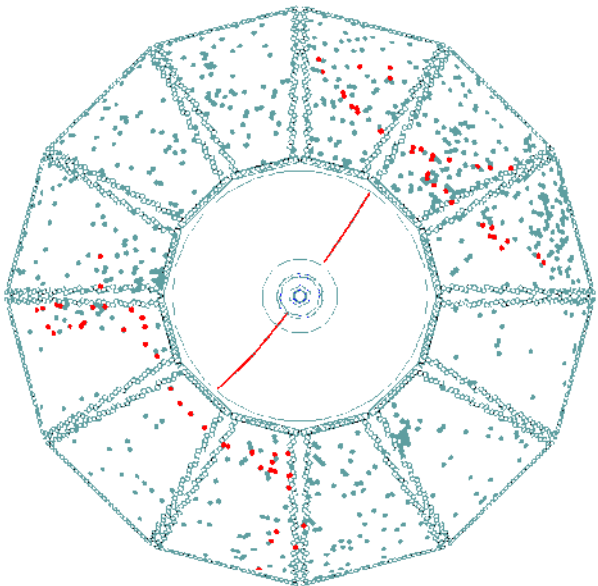
Timing information not used for PID but crucial in separating signal from background

Calculate expected arrival time of Cherenkov photon based on

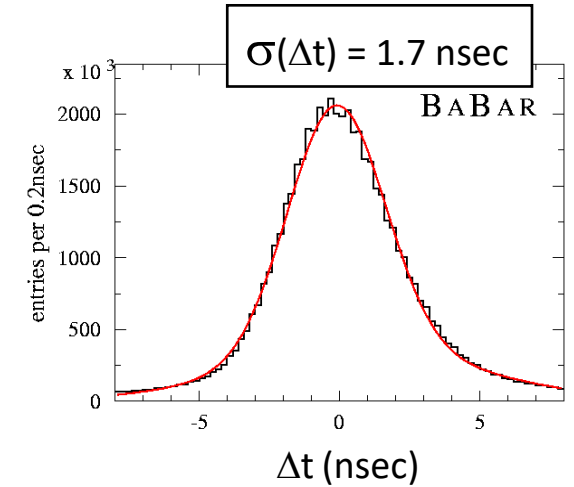
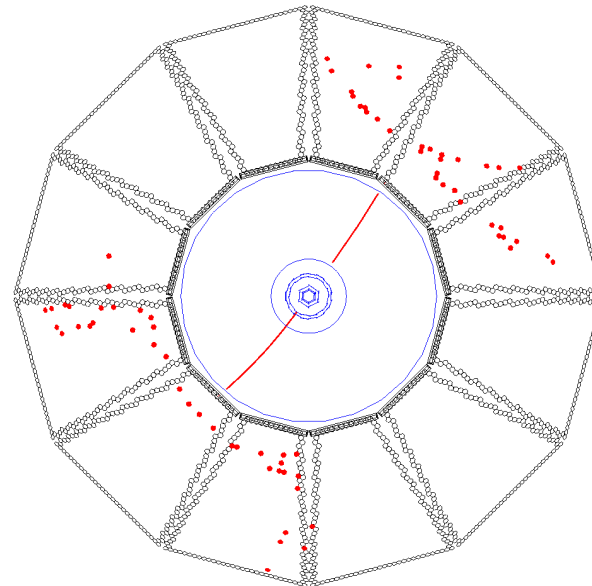
- track TOF
- reconstructed photon path in radiator bar and in water

$\Delta t$ : difference between measured and expected arrival time

$\pm 300$  nsec trigger window  
( $\sim 500$ - $1300$  background hits/event)



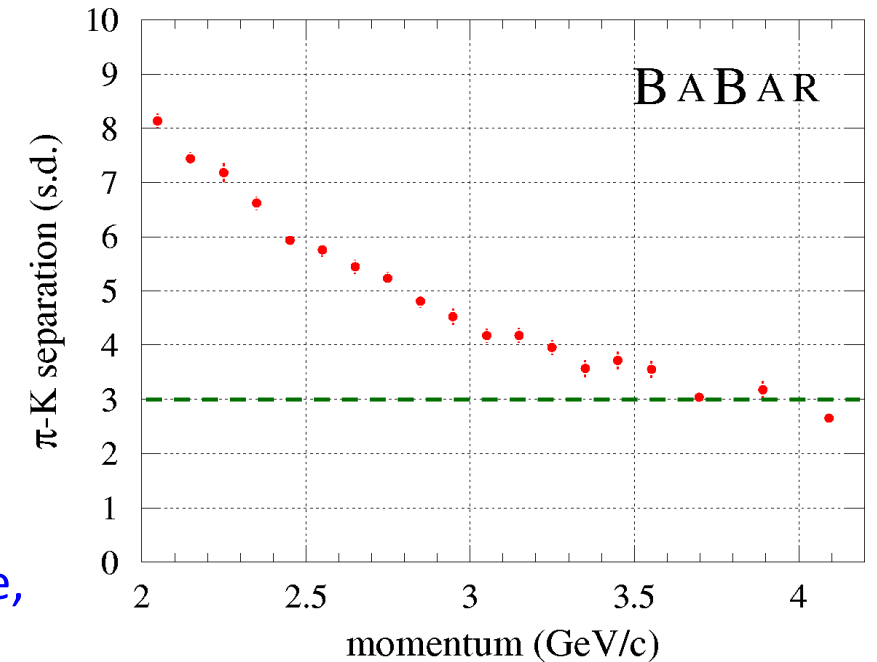
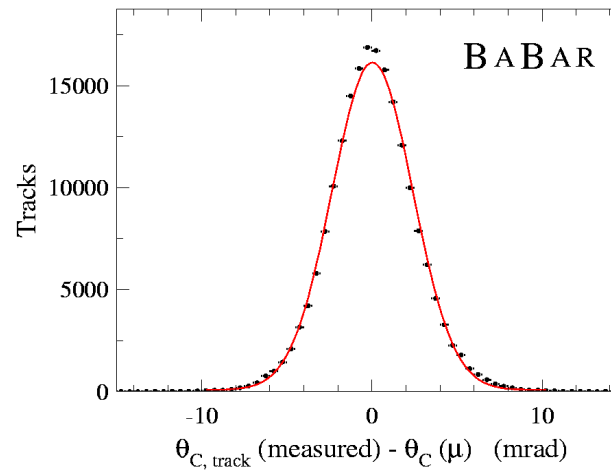
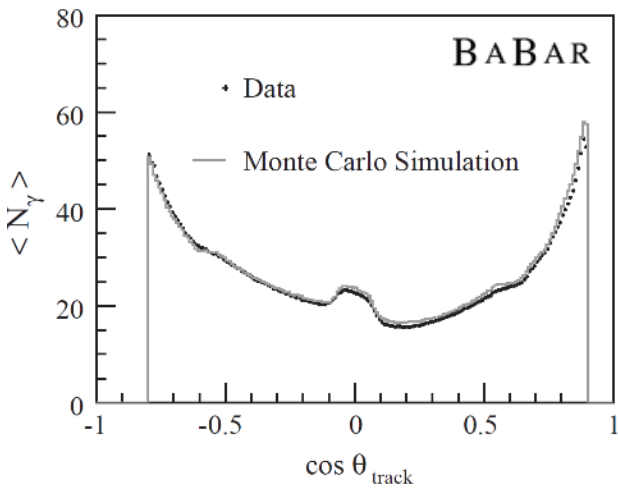
$\pm 8$  nsec  $\Delta t$  window  
(1-2 background hits/sector/event)



( $\Delta t$  can provide  
"DIRC  $t_0$  event time")



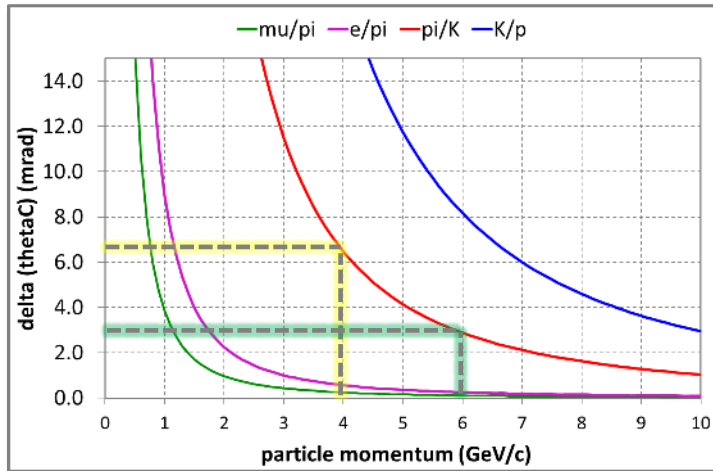
Single photon timing resolution	1.7 ns
Single photon Cherenkov angle resolution	~10 mrad
Photon yield	20-60 photons per track
Track Cherenkov angle resolution	2.4 mrad (di-muons)
$\pi/K$ separation power	4.3 $\sigma$ @ 3 GeV/c, ~3 $\sigma$ @ 4 GeV/c



Excellent performance: very reliable, robust, easy to operate, significant contribution to almost all BABAR physics results.

# IMPROVING ON THE BABAR DIRC

DIRC Cherenkov angle difference vs. momentum



- Make DIRC less sensitive to background (main challenge for BABAR and SuperB)
  - decrease size of expansion volume, replace water as medium, add focusing optics;
  - find a way to place photon detector inside magnetic field.
- Investigate alternative radiator shapes (plates, disks), develop endcap device
- Push DIRC  $\pi/K$  separation to higher momentum

$$\sigma_{\theta_c}(\text{particle}) \approx \sqrt{\left(\frac{\sigma_{\theta_c}(\text{photon})}{\sqrt{N_\gamma}}\right)^2 + \sigma_{\text{correlated}}^2}$$

- improve angular precision of tracking system, mitigate multiple scattering impact;
- use photon detectors better PDE, improve Cherenkov angle resolution per photon.

$$\sigma_{\theta_c}(\text{photon}) \approx \sqrt{\sigma_{\text{bar}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{pix}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{chrom}}^2} \quad \sigma_{\text{correlated}} = \sqrt{\sigma_{\text{tracking}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{mult.scatter}}^2}$$

BABAR DIRC  $\sigma_{\theta_c}(\text{photon}) = 9.6$  mrad

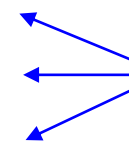
Limited in BABAR by:

- size of bar image                    ~4.1 mrad
- size of PMT pixel                    ~5.5 mrad
- chromaticity ( $n=n(\lambda)$ )            ~5.4 mrad

**9.6 mrad**

Improve for future DIRCs via:

- > ▪ focusing optics
- > ▪ smaller pixel size
- > ▪ better time resolution



SUPERB, BELLE II,  
PANDA & EIC

-----> **5-6 mrad** per photon → **1 mrad** per particle (EIC goal) in reach

Initial next-generation DIRC R&D directions can be roughly divided into three imaging approaches using different focusing optics

- moderate timing, (very) **good spatial resolution**

examples: **SuperB** fDIRC, **GlueX** DIRC, early **PANDA** Barrel DIRC

200-500 ps photon timing, array of ( $\sim 6$  mm) 2D pixels  $\rightarrow$  PID primarily based on **spatial imaging**

- very **fast timing**, moderate/poor spatial resolution

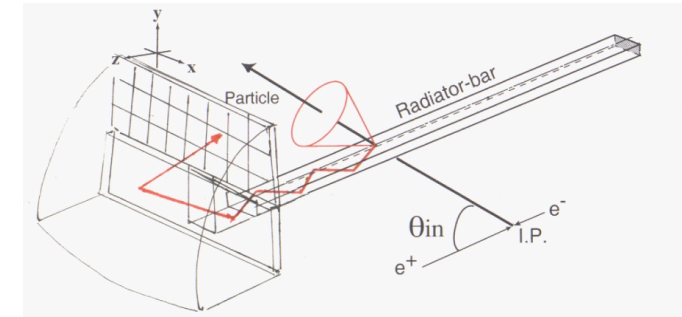
examples: early **Belle II** TOP design, early **PANDA** Disc DIRC design

$\sim 50$  ps photon timing, ( $\sim 5$  mm) 1D pixels  $\rightarrow$  PID emphasizes **time imaging**

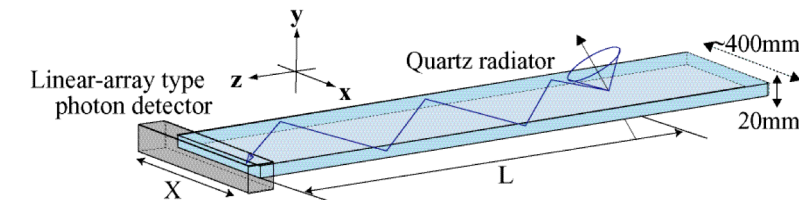
- very **fast timing**, very **good spatial resolution**

examples: “ultimate fDIRC”, **EIC** High-Performance DIRC

$< 100$  ps photon timing, large array of ( $\sim 3$  mm) 2D pixels  $\rightarrow$  PID uses **full 3D imaging**



*Early SuperB fDIRC design*



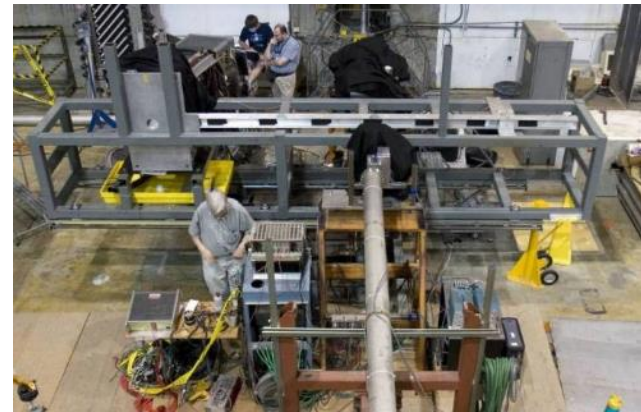
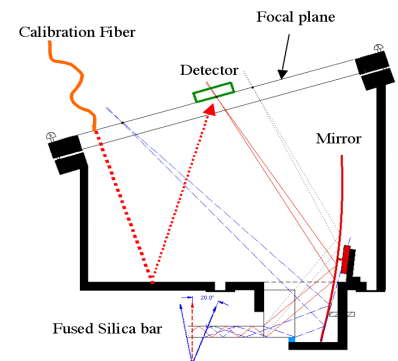
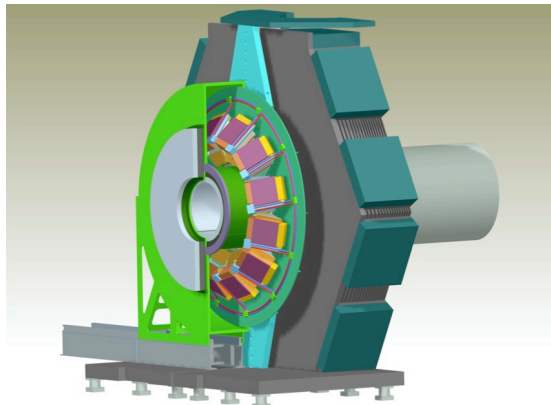
*Early Belle II TOP design*

Final designs for Belle II TOP and PANDA DIRCs are hybrids derived from these initial approaches.



# SUPERB FDIRC

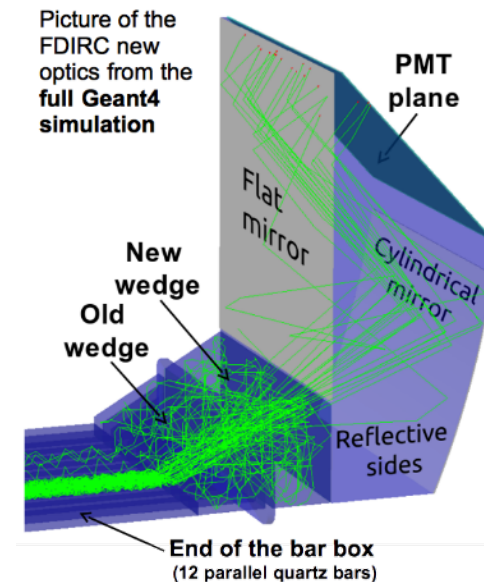
- compact photon camera
- cylindrical mirror focusing
- small pixels (MAPMT)
- fast photon timing
- dispersion mitigation
- legacy components



## SuperB Focusing DIRC (fDIRC):

- Intended as barrel PID system for the (cancelled) SuperB experiment in Italy
- Design goal  $3\sigma$   $\pi/K$  separation up to 4 GeV/c
- Important constraint: **reuse BABAR DIRC bar boxes**, readout outside magnetic field
- Maintain BABAR DIRC PID performance for much **higher backgrounds at 100x luminosity**
- Two complex prototypes during 10+ years of R&D (tests with particle beams and cosmic muons)
- **Complete redesign of the photon camera** (replace water tank with 12 “cameras”)
- **New sensors and electronics**
- True 3D imaging using (compared to BABAR):
  - **25x smaller volume** for expansion region
  - **10x better timing resolution** to detect single photons
  - **4x smaller pixels**
- **Optical design based entirely on solid fused silica** to avoid water or oil as optical medium

	compact photon camera
	cylindrical mirror focusing
	small pixels (MAPMT)
	fast photon timing
	dispersion mitigation
	legacy components



*B. Dey et al.,  
Nucl.Instrum.Meth. A 775 (2015) 112*

## First fDIRC prototype:

Oil tank expansion volume (KamLand mineral oil), spherical mirror (SLD CRID)

Mix of multi-anode sensors (MaPMTs, MCP-PMTs) and readout electronics

Performance evaluation with [electron beam](#) at SLAC



## Significant upgrade of optics and electronics for second prototype:

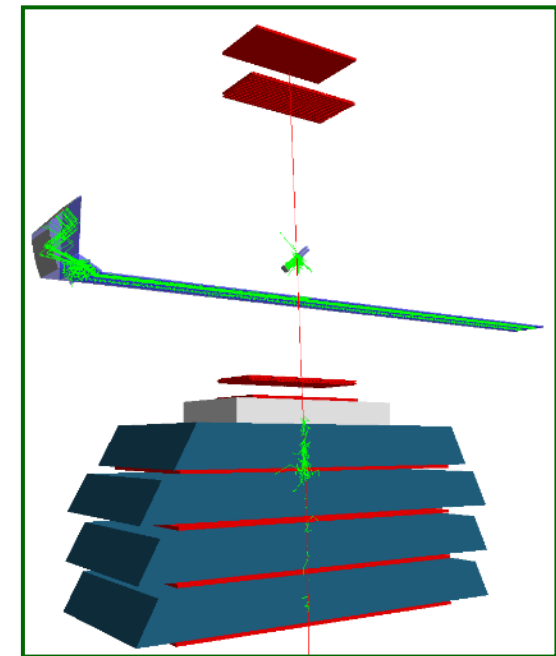
New [solid fused silica expansion volume](#) (FBLOCK) with [cylindrical mirror focusing](#)

Additional wedge to couple BABAR DIRC bar box to FBLOCK

[Waveform sampling readout](#) electronics (IRS2, early version of Belle II TOP readout)

Array of 12 Hamamatsu [H8500 MaPMTs](#) (8\*8 pixels, 6mm pitch, 140ps TTS)

Detailed study of SuperB fDIRC phase space using [hardened cosmic rays](#) at SLAC.



**Achieved required resolution for SuperB fDIRC**

**Clearly demonstrated resolution improvement**

**from chromatic dispersion correction with fast timing**

*D.A. Roberts et al., RICH 2016*

*Nucl.Instrum.Meth. A 766 (2014) 114*

For more details on fDIRC R&D see: J. Va'vra, "Lessons learned from DIRC & fDIRC developments at SLAC", DIRC 2019 workshop, Sep. 2019.

## Technical challenge: properties of synthetic fused silica (FS)

- Pros:** Optically transparent over wide wavelength range  
Shown to be radiation hard at Mrad+ levels  
Can be polished to excellent surface finish (few Å rms roughness)
- Cons:** Production process can produce inclusions (bubbles) in bulk material or layers with optical index variations (striae)  
Dispersion of refractive index impacts angular resolution

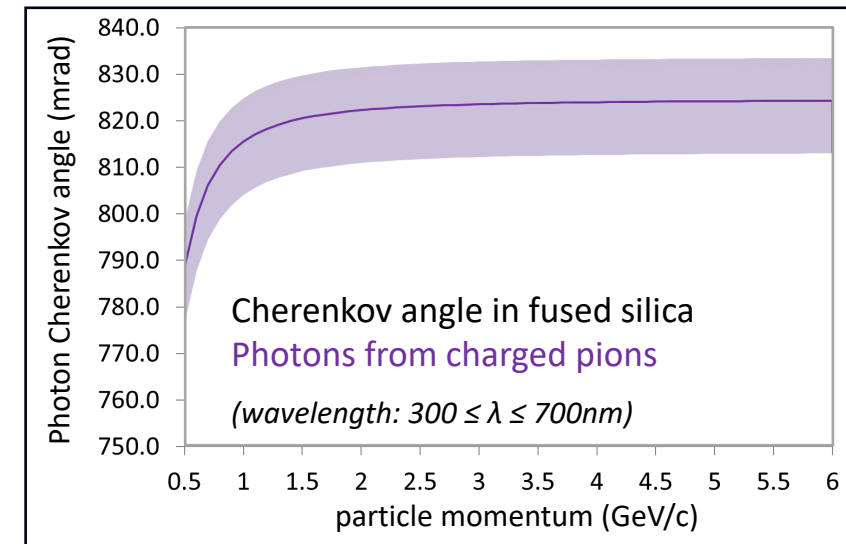
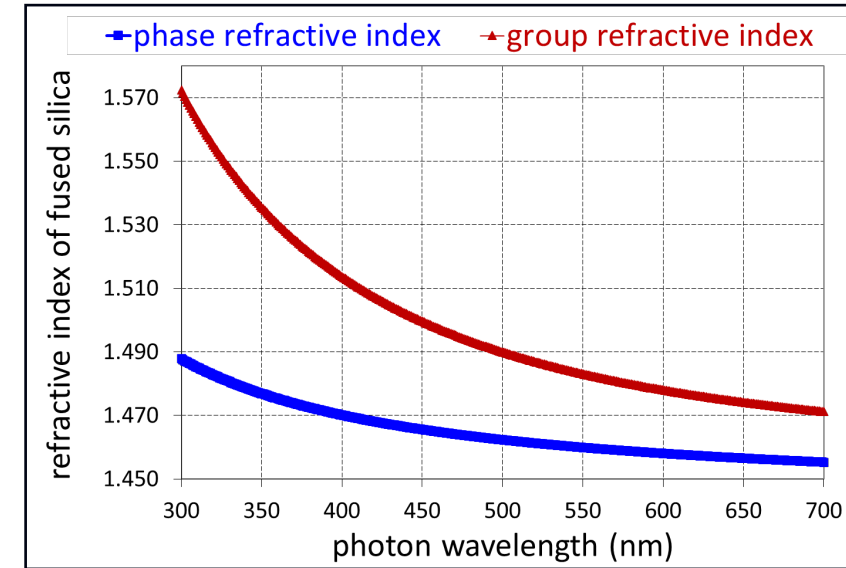
## Impact of chromatic dispersion on Cherenkov angle resolution

For  $\beta=1$ :  $\theta_c=813...834\text{mrad}$  (for  $300 \leq \lambda \leq 700\text{nm}$  photons produced in FS)

→ significant contribution to Cherenkov angle resolution per photon

Several approaches to dispersion mitigation are being investigated:

- Limit wavelength range (custom photocathode or band filter)
- Use transition to different refractive index (LiF prism)
- Use fast photon timing to tag photon wavelength using time dispersion  
→ SuperB fDIRC first to demonstrate feasibility of this method in 2007



# CHROMATIC DISPERSION IN DIRCS

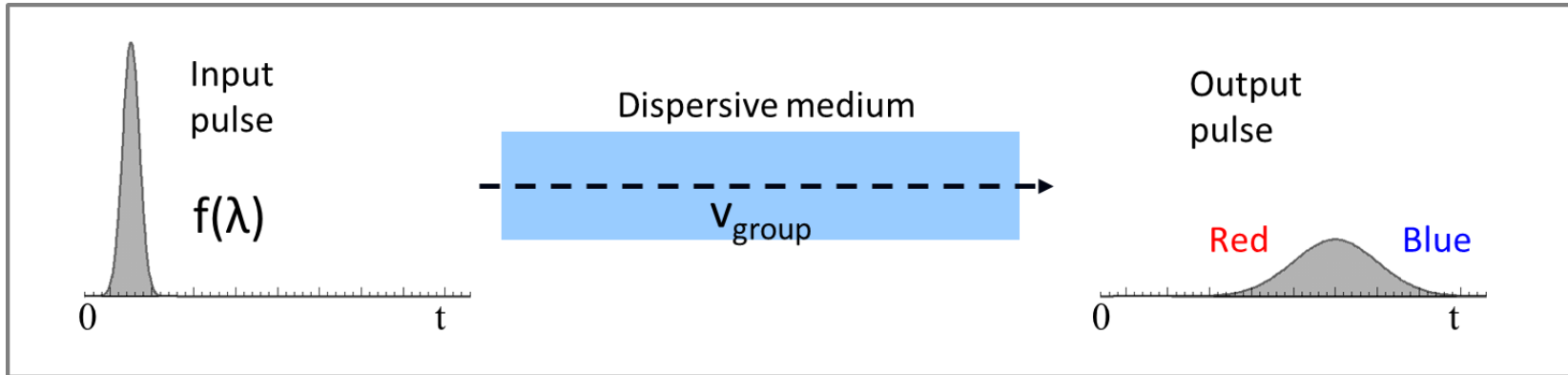
JS, RICH 2007

Cherenkov angle production controlled by  $n_{\text{phase}}$  ( $\cos \theta_c = 1/(n_{\text{phase}}\beta)$ ):

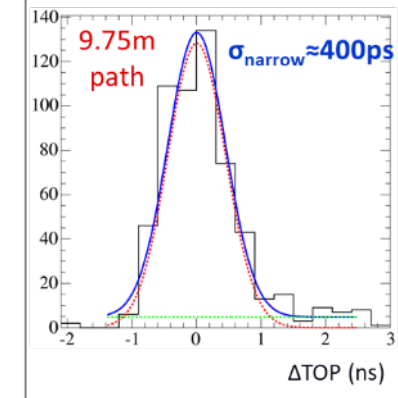
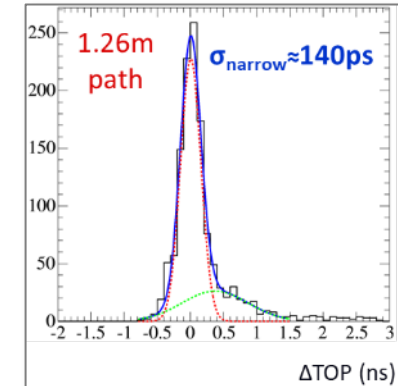
$$\theta_c(\text{red}) < \theta_c(\text{blue})$$

Propagation of photons controlled by  $n_{\text{group}}$  ( $v_{\text{group}} = c_0/n_{\text{group}} = c_0/[n_{\text{phase}} - \lambda \cdot dn_{\text{phase}} \cdot d\lambda]$ ):

$$v_{\text{group}}(\text{red}) > v_{\text{group}}(\text{blue})$$



SuperB fDIRC, 1<sup>st</sup> prototype



Fused silica:  $n_{\text{phase}}(\text{red}) < n_{\text{phase}}(\text{blue}) \rightarrow v_{\text{group}}(\text{red}) > v_{\text{group}}(\text{blue})$

$\rightarrow$  red photons arrive before blue photons

Photon color tag dTOP: time difference between the measured propagation time of a photon and the expected propagation time (calculated for photon with the average wavelength)

$\rightarrow$  negative dTOP: red photons, positive dTOP: blue photons

Use this information to correct the measured Cherenkov angle per photon.

$$dt/L = d\text{TOP}/L = \lambda \cdot d\lambda \cdot | -d^2n_{\text{phase}}/d\lambda^2 | / c_0 \quad \text{Correlation between propagation time and emission angle}$$

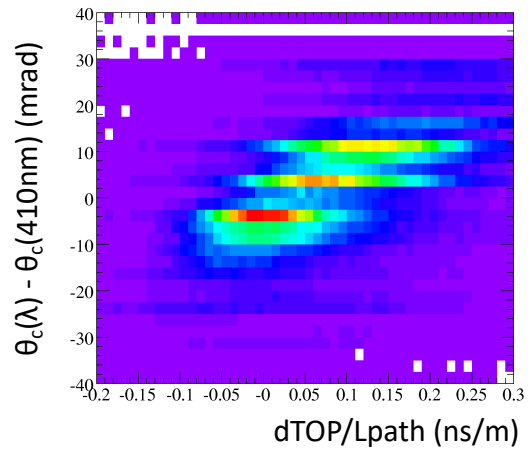
dt is pulse dispersion in time, pathlength L, wavelength bandwidth  $d\lambda$ , refraction index  $n(\lambda)$



## Example from SuperB fDIRC:

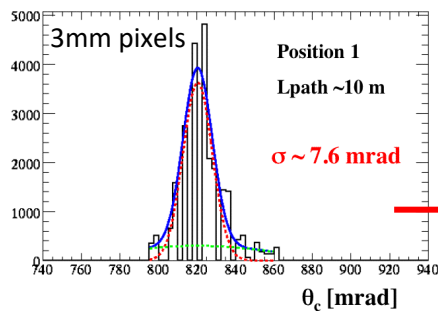
- fDIRC prototype in electron beam
- observed photon timing  $\sigma_t \approx 200\text{ps}$
- correction improves resolution for photon paths  $> 2\text{-}3\text{m}$
- first experimental demonstration of chromatic dispersion mitigation using fast photon timing

Correlation in data, 10m photon path

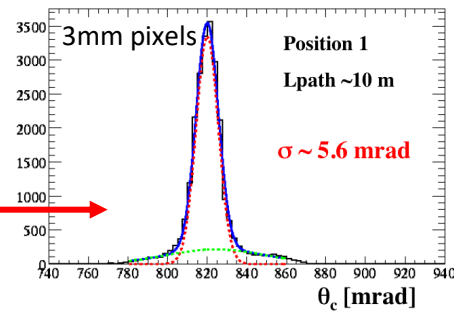


JS, RICH 2007

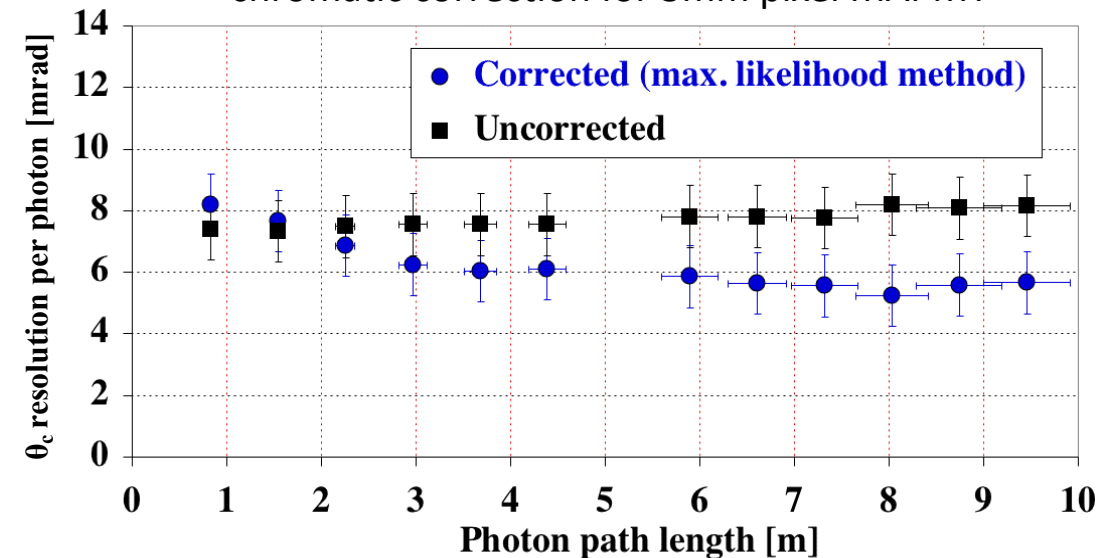
Correction off:



Correction on:



chromatic correction for 3mm pixel MAPMT



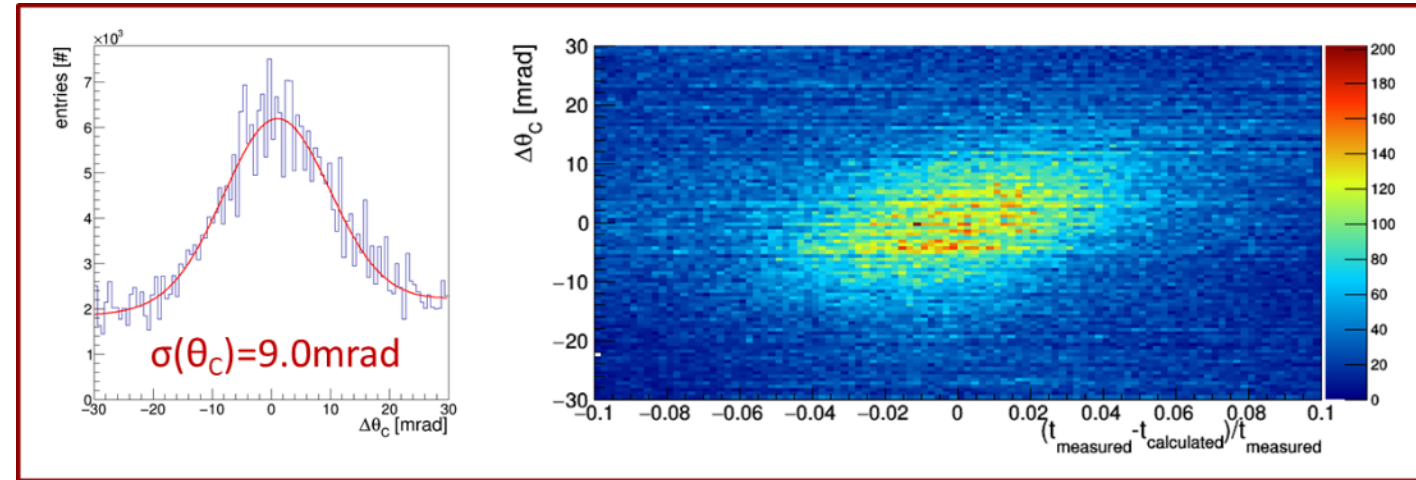
# CHROMATIC DISPERSION CORRECTION

R. Dzhygadlo, priv. comm.  
NIM-A paper in preparation

Example from PANDA Barrel DIRC prototype beam test at CERN in 2018:

before correction

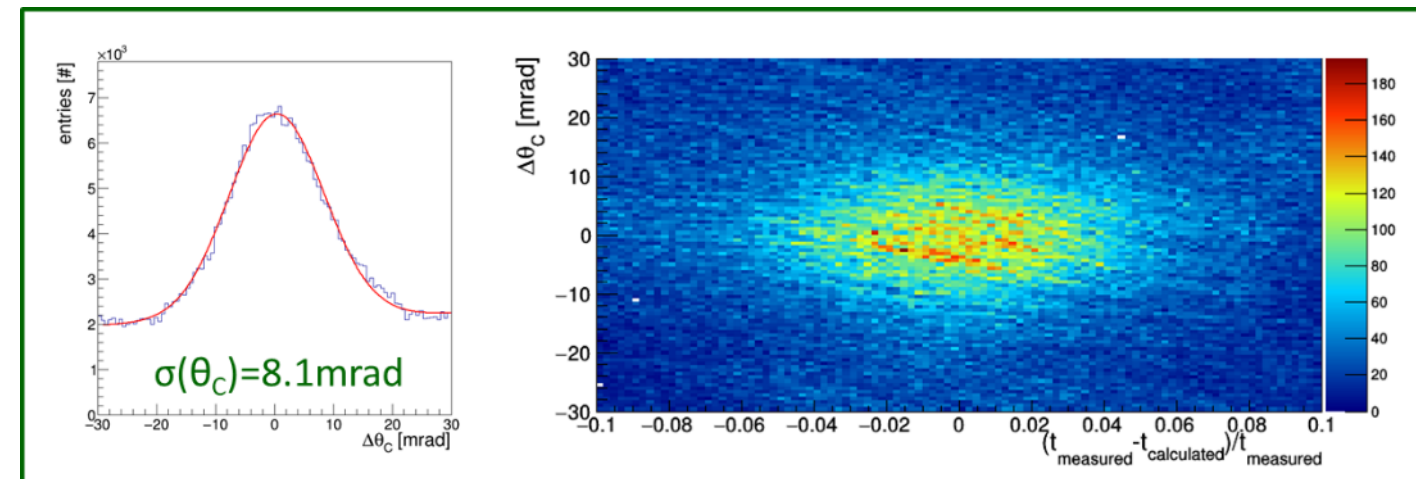
PANDA Barrel DIRC prototype at CERN PS,  
7 GeV/c, mixed hadron beam, 90° polar angle  
Cherenkov angle corrected by normalized photon  
propagation time difference  
(calculated using average wavelength of 370nm,  
196.5mm/ns photon velocity)

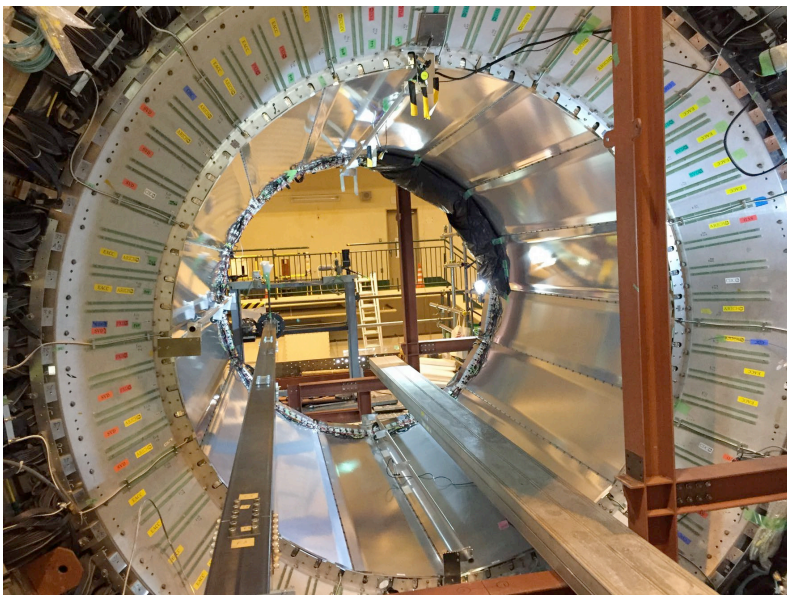


Clear improvement of Cherenkov angle  
resolution per photon after correction






(beam test with modest timing precision ( $\sim 200\text{ps}$ )  
and short photon path (1m-3.3m);  
expect better timing, longer paths,  
bigger improvement in PANDA and ePIC)

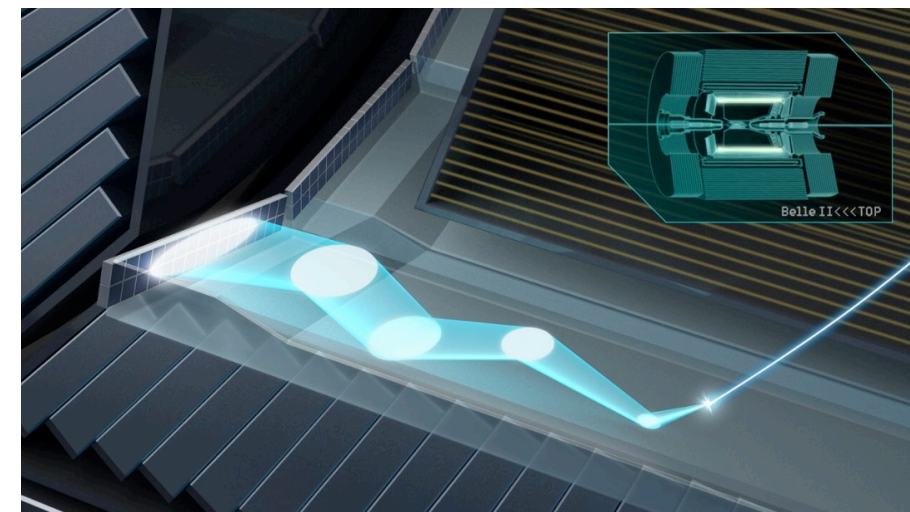
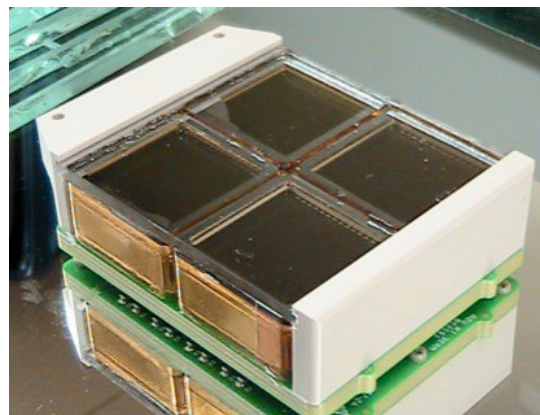
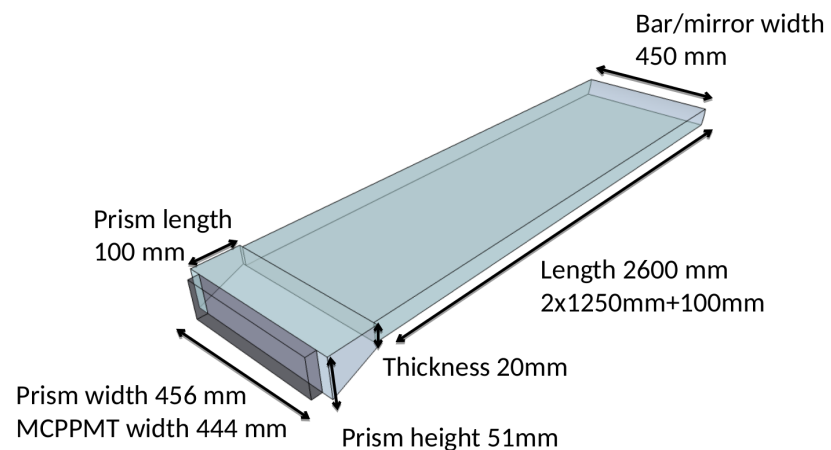
after chromatic correction by photon timing





# BELLE II TOP

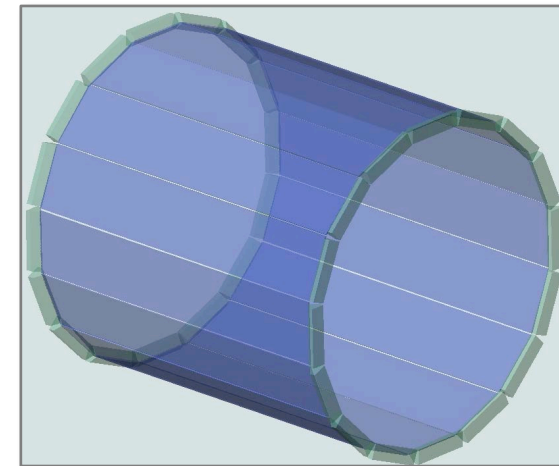
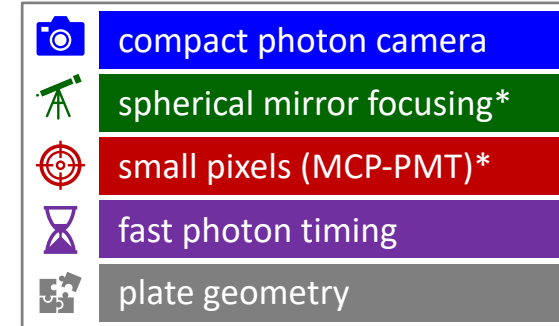
-  compact photon camera
-  spherical mirror focusing\*
-  small pixels (MCP-PMT)\*
-  fast photon timing
-  plate geometry



See presentation tomorrow  
Ezio Torassa, “TOP detector for particle identification at Belle II”

## Upgrade of Belle detector for high-luminosity Belle II experiment

- Time-of-Propagation (TOP) DIRC counter, emphasizing high-precision timing;
- design goal  $4\sigma$   $\pi/K$  separation up to 4 GeV/c;
- first DIRC using **wide plates** ( $\sim 2\text{cm} \times 45\text{ cm} \times 250\text{ cm}$ ), synthetic fused silica;
- **spherical focusing mirror**, only for “forward-going” photons;
- MCP-PMTs for fast photon detection in high magnetic field, small expansion prism;
- pioneered innovative **time imaging** reconstruction/PID method.



TOP PID based on photon time-of-propagation, combined with time-of-flight of particle.

### Major technological challenge for Belle II:

Entire TOP system had to fit inside the EM calorimeter space, no room for larger expansion volume, tight fit, no easy access.

### Initial design was pure 2D TOP detector:

High precision timing ( $\sim 50\text{ps}$  per photon) + one space coordinate ( $\sim 5\text{mm}$  pitch, linear array)  
 – ultimately rejected due to chromatic dispersion issues and sensitivity to backgrounds.

## Final “imaging TOP” design: hybrid of pure TOP and conventional DIRC:

small expansion volume (10cm depth), **spherical focusing mirror on forward end**,  
**moderate pixel segmentation** in x & y (6mm pitch) to mitigate chromatic dispersion,  
**fast photon timing** (~100ps per photon)

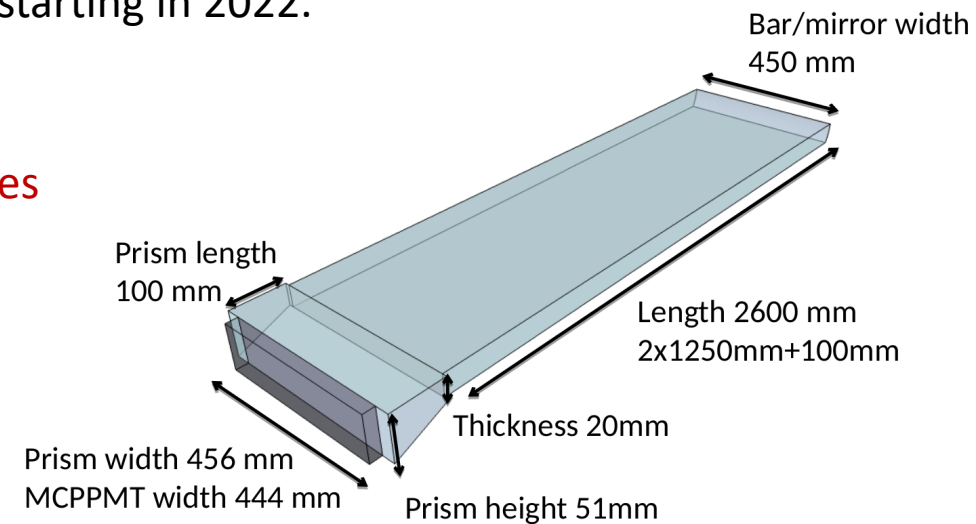
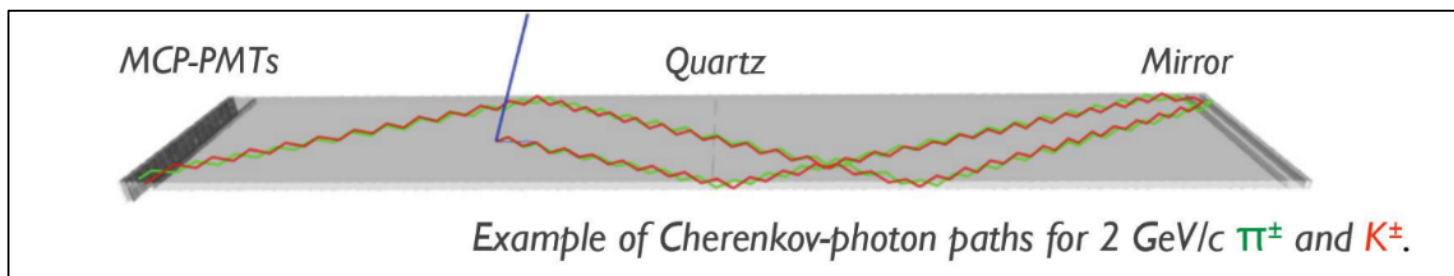
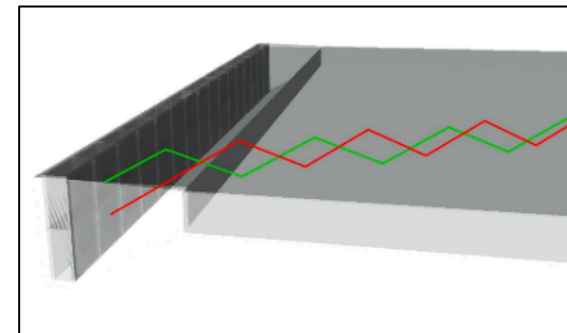
Choice of 45cm-wide plates instead of narrower bars significantly lowers fabrication cost

Photon detector: array of 2x16 Hamamatsu SL-10 MCP-PMTs per sector (4x4 pixels each);

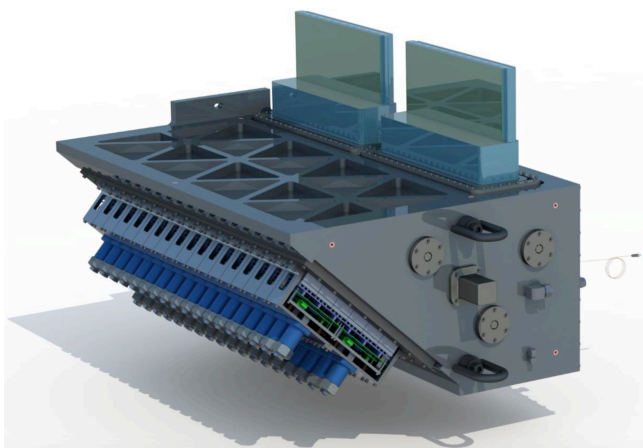
**MCP-PMT lifetime issues** will require replacement of (most) MCP-PMTs, starting in 2022.

Readout: IRSx waveform sampling ASIC, <100ps timing precision.







**Imaging design with 2D sensor array and small expansion has many advantages**  
 (redundancy, robustness, sensor lifetime).

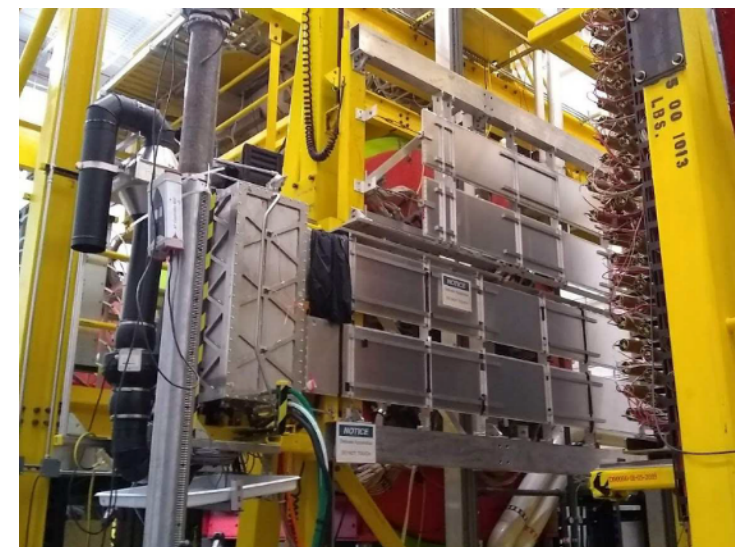
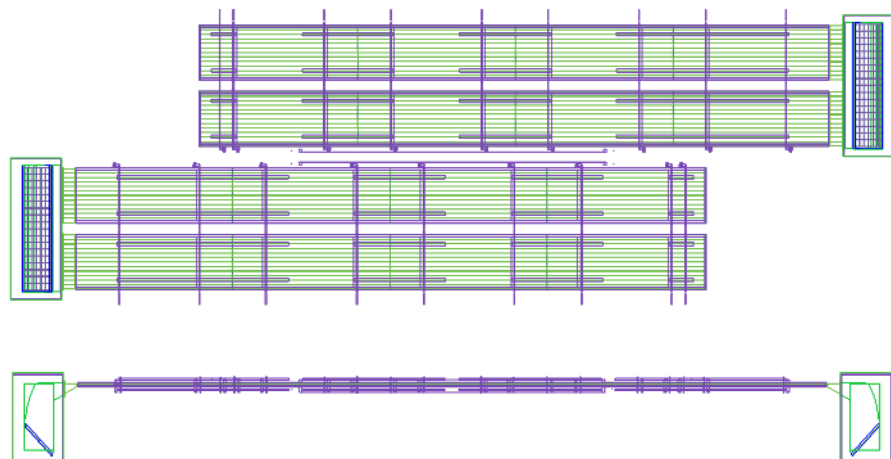


G. Varner, DIRC2019



# GLUEX DIRC

-  compact photon camera
-  approx. cyl. mirror focusing
-  small pixels (MCP-PMT)
-  moderate photon timing
-  dispersion mitigation\*
-  legacy components



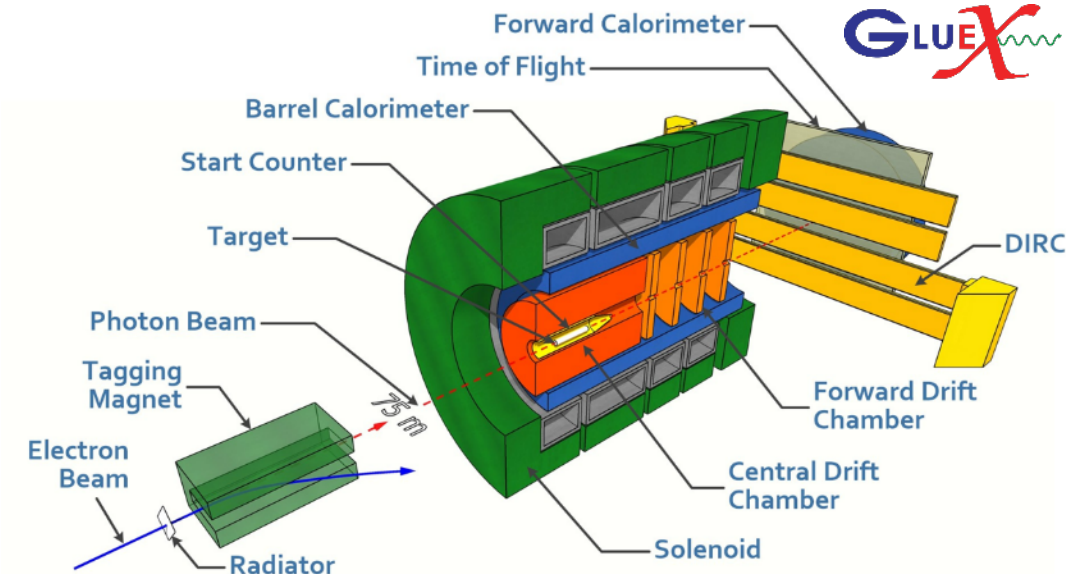
## GlueX DIRC

- forward PID upgrade for GlueX-II, first DIRC used as endcap device;
- extend GlueX physics reach by improving  $\pi/K$  separation from 2 GeV/c (TOF) to  $3\sigma$   $\pi/K$  separation at 3.7 GeV/c ;
- cost savings by reusing 4 legacy BABAR DIRC bar boxes (SLAC → JLab in 2017/2018);
- new optics design based on SuperB fDIRC, 3 flat mirrors in DI water to approximate fused silica focusing block;
- two optical boxes as expansion volumes, total of 90 H12700 MaPMTs with 11520 MAROC readout channels;
- installation into GlueX in 2018, commissioning in 2019;
- PID performance close to goal reached in first physics run in 2020.

	compact photon camera
	approx. cyl. mirror focusing
	small pixels (MCP-PMT)
	moderate photon timing
	dispersion mitigation*
	legacy components



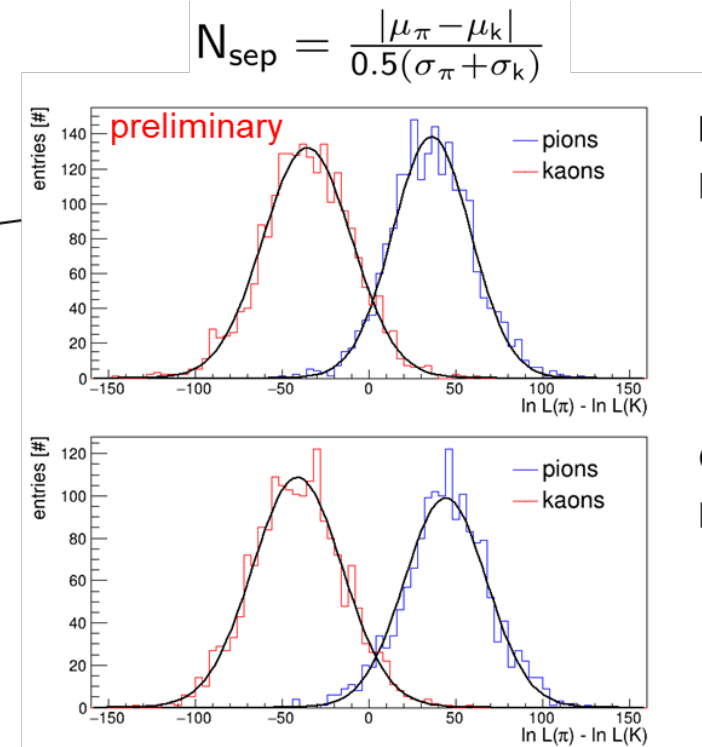
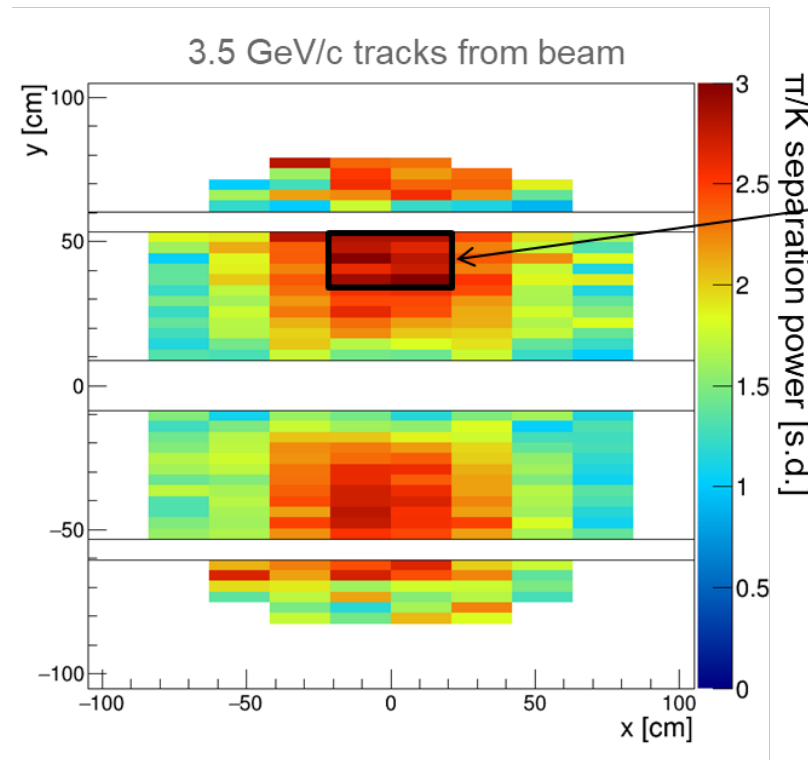
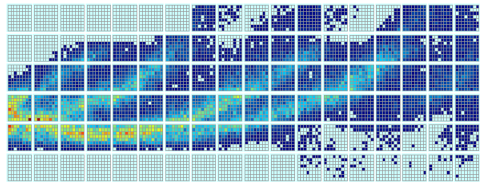
BABAR DIRC bar boxes  
 ← in storage at SLAC  
 installed at JLab →



## PID performance study using pure samples of kinematically identified $\pi$ and K from $\rho$ and $\phi$ decays

### $\pi$ /K separation power

accumulated hit pattern

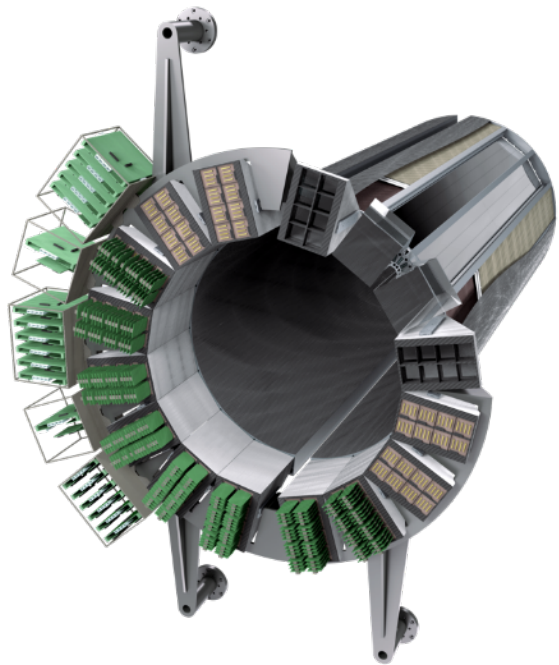


beam data:  
 $N_{\text{sep}} = 3.0 \pm 0.1$  s.d.






Geant4 simulation:  
 $N_{\text{sep}} = 3.4 \pm 0.1$  s.d.

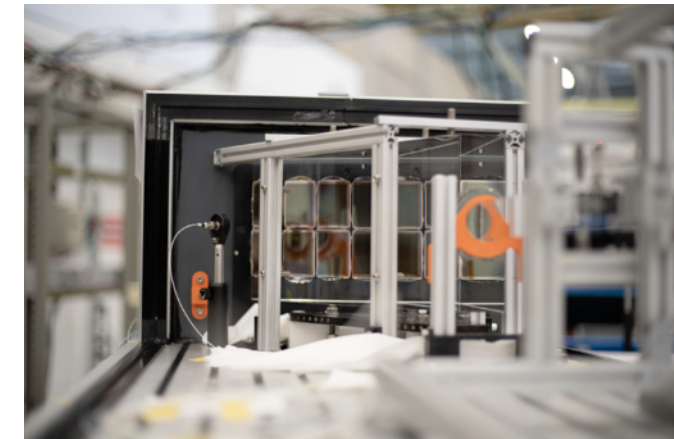
- $\pi$ /K separation power already close to goal
- Yield-corrected simulation overestimates separation power by 10-15%
- Performance expected to further improve with better understanding of calibration and alignment and more data – current statistics prevent use of time imaging method (*algorithm with best performance*)





# PANDA BARREL DIRC

-  compact photon camera
-  spherical lens focusing
-  small pixels (MCP-PMT)
-  fast photon timing
-  dispersion mitigation

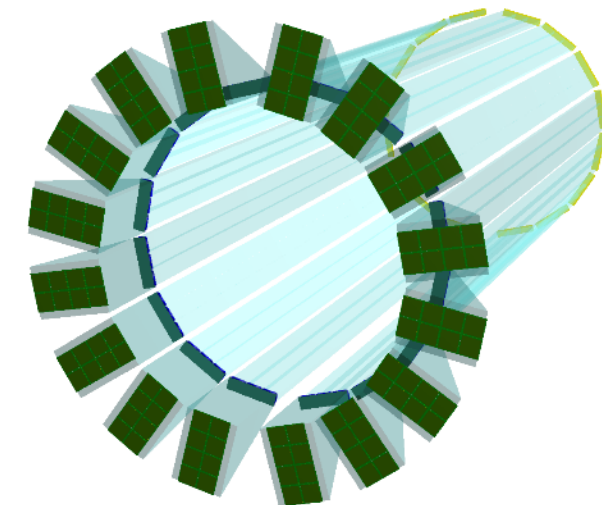
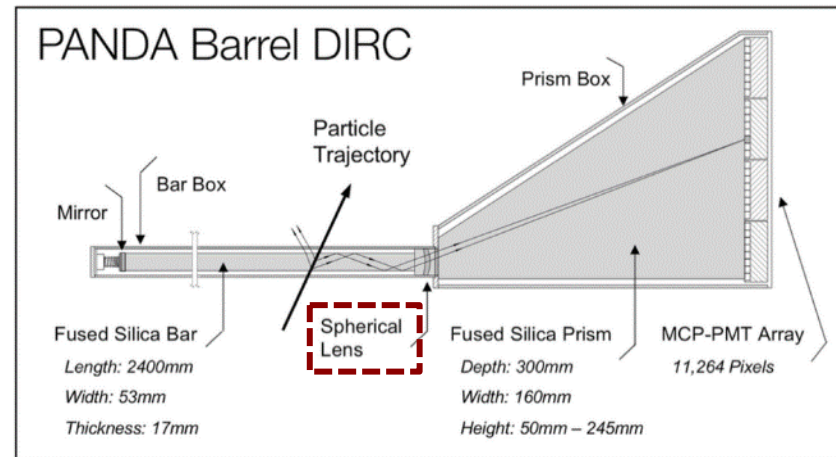


[www.gsi.de/en/researchaccelerators/fair/fair\\_civil\\_construction/photos\\_and\\_videos.htm](http://www.gsi.de/en/researchaccelerators/fair/fair_civil_construction/photos_and_videos.htm)

## PANDA Barrel DIRC

- design goal  $3\sigma \pi/K$  separation up to 3.5 GeV/c for polar angle range  $22^\circ$ - $140^\circ$ ;
- PID at high interaction rates, up to 20 MHz;
- narrow bars for robust performance in multi-track events, less sensitive to backgrounds;
- innovative 3-layer spherical lens, first DIRC with lens focusing;
- design aims for comparable precision in time and position measurements;
- suitable for “BABAR-like” pixel-based reconstruction as well as “Belle II-like” time-imaging;
- lifetime-enhanced MCP-PMTs for fast photon detection in high magnetic field.

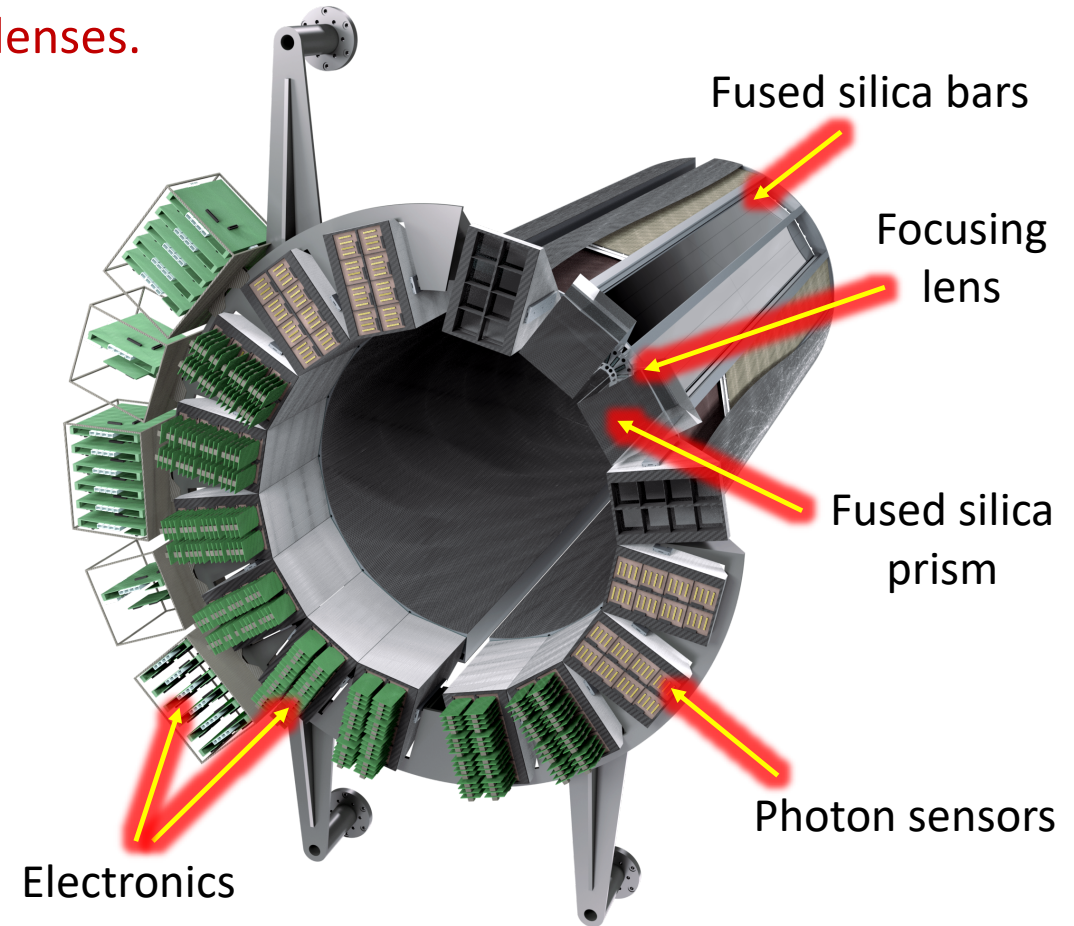
	compact photon camera
	spherical lens focusing
	small pixels (MCP-PMT)
	fast photon timing
	dispersion mitigation



Handbook of Particle Detection and Imaging,  
Springer, 2021

Compact fused silica prisms, 3 bars per bar box, 3-layer spherical lenses.

- 48 radiator bars (16 sectors), synthetic fused silica, 17mm (T) × 53mm (W) × 2400mm (L)
- Focusing optics: innovative 3-layer spherical lens
- Compact expansion volume:
  - 30cm-deep solid fused silica prisms
  - ~8,000 channels of lifetime-enhanced MCP-PMTs
- Fast FPGA-based readout electronics
  - ~100ps per photon timing resolution (DiRICH)



Conservative design – similar to proven BABAR DIRC, performance parameters validated with particle beams since 2015.



TDR published, series production of MCP-PMTs starting, production of bars completed

Optimizing simulation and reconstruction code with experimental data from GlueX DIRC

PANDA Barrel DIRC TDR  
*J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys.* 46 045001  
 arXiv:1710.00684

## Technical challenge: lens focusing

Barrel DIRC counters require focusing for **wide range of photon angles**

Conventional plano-convex lens with **air gap limits DIRC performance**

- Significant **photon yield loss** for particle polar angles around  $90^\circ$ , gap in DIRC PID
- **Distortion of image plane**, PID performance deterioration

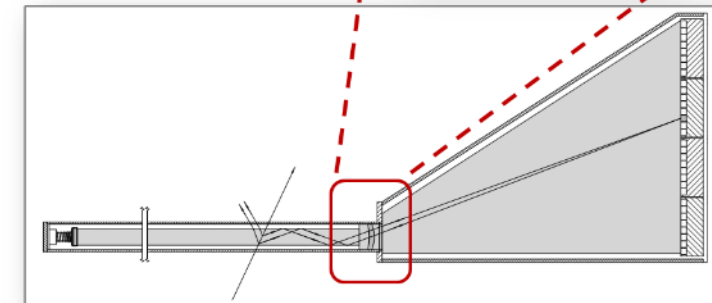
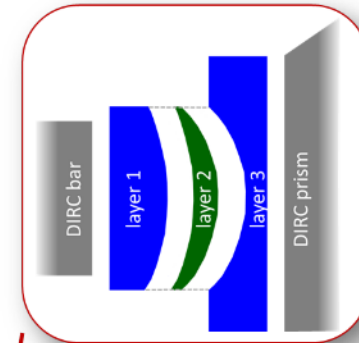
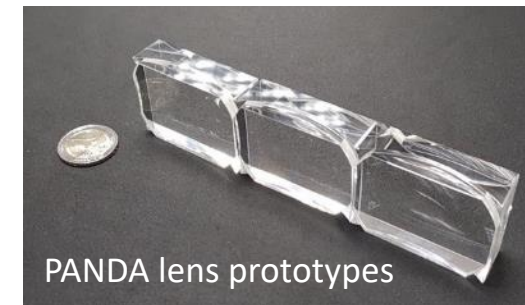
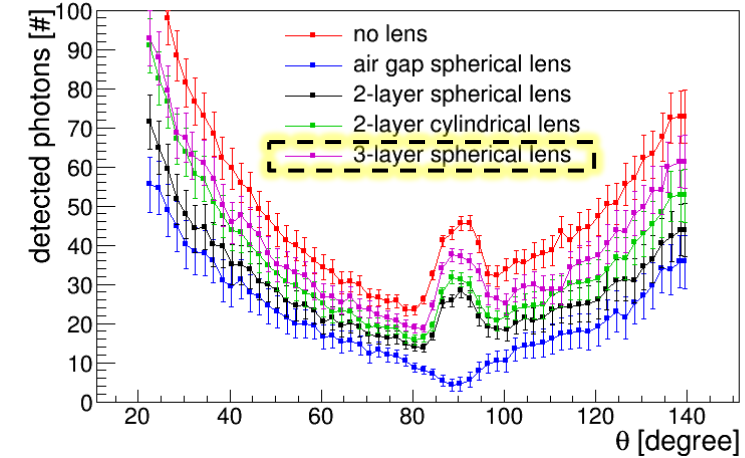
## Innovative solution:

- 3-layer compound lens (without air gap):

layer of **high-refractive index material** (focusing/defocusing)  
sandwiched between **two layers of fused silica**

- Creates flat focal plane – matched to fused silica prism shape
- Avoids photon loss and barrel PID gap
- Current designs use standard spherical shapes – study aspherical shapes for future DIRCs to minimize aberrations?

Geant4 simulation: photon yield



see also G. Kalicy, RICH2022

## Radiation hardness and focusing performance of 3-layer lens

Barrel DIRC counters require focusing for **wide range of photon angles**

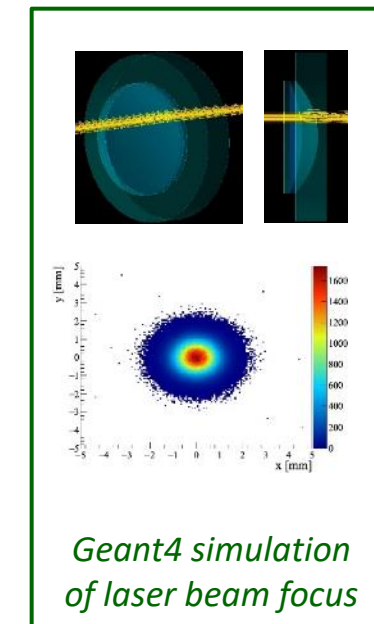
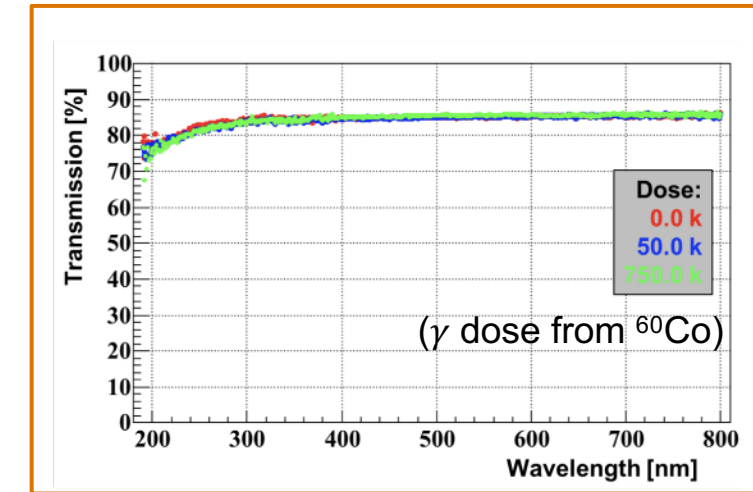
Conventional plano-convex lens with **air gap limits DIRC performance**

- Significant **photon yield loss** for particle polar angles around  $90^\circ$ , gap in DIRC PID
- **Distortion of image plane**, PID performance deterioration

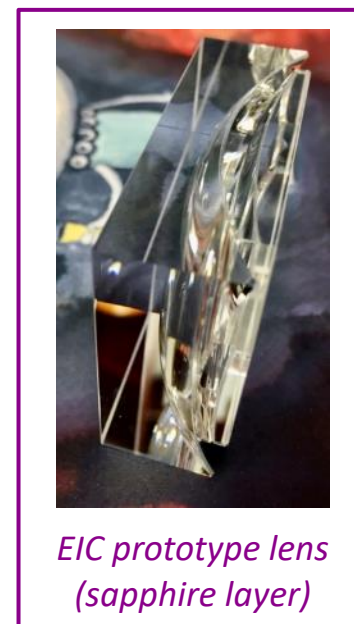
R&D activities for PANDA and EIC/ePIC (eRD program):

- Identified radiation hard material for middle layer ( $^{60}\text{Co}$  completed, neutrons next)  
Lanthanum crown glass (LaK33B) for PANDA, rad-hard sapphire for ePIC
- Demonstrate that rad-hard material is suitable for lens fabrication by industry  
(prototype lenses produced, studied in beams and bench tests)
- Validated focusing properties/flat focal plane with laser scan system

*Radiation hardness of sapphire material*



*Geant4 simulation of laser beam focus*



*EIC prototype lens (sapphire layer)*

G. Kalicy, RICH2022

Expected performance from detailed Geant4 simulation:

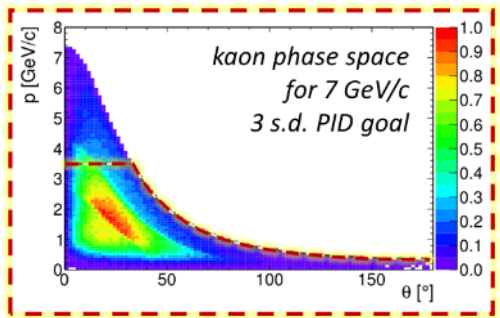
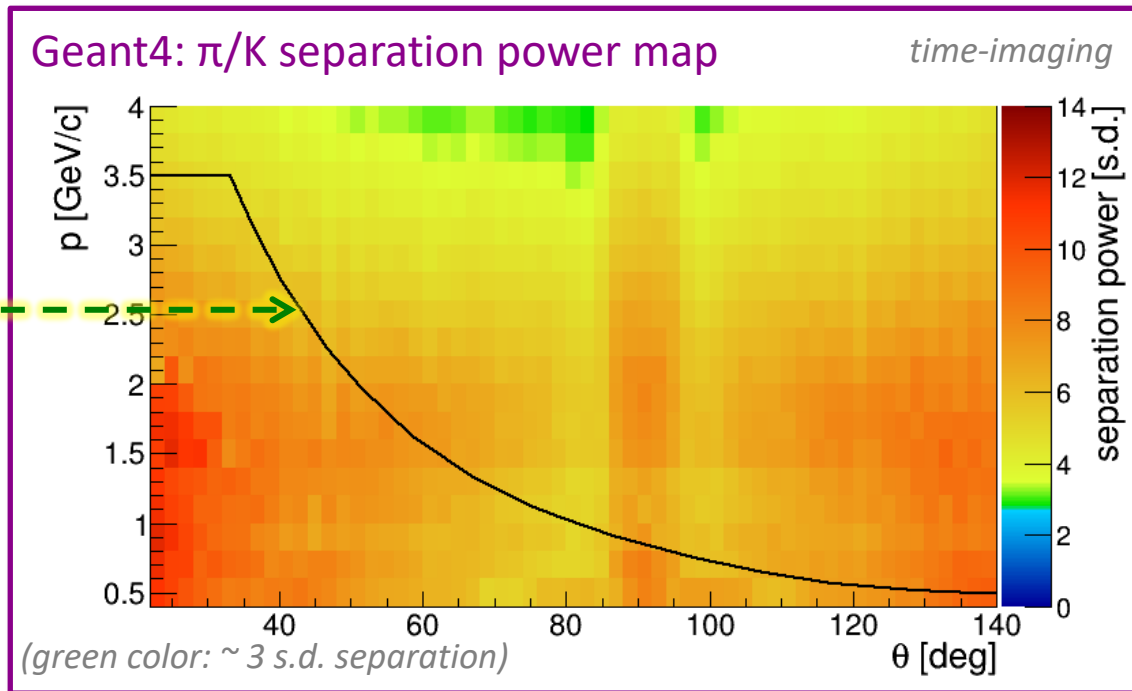
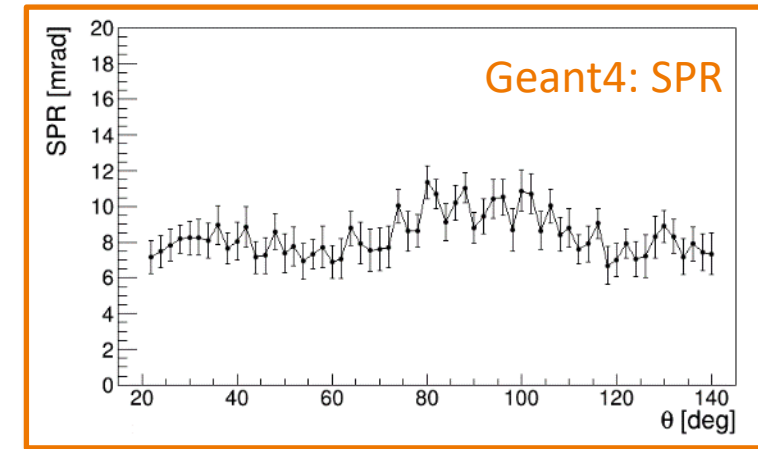
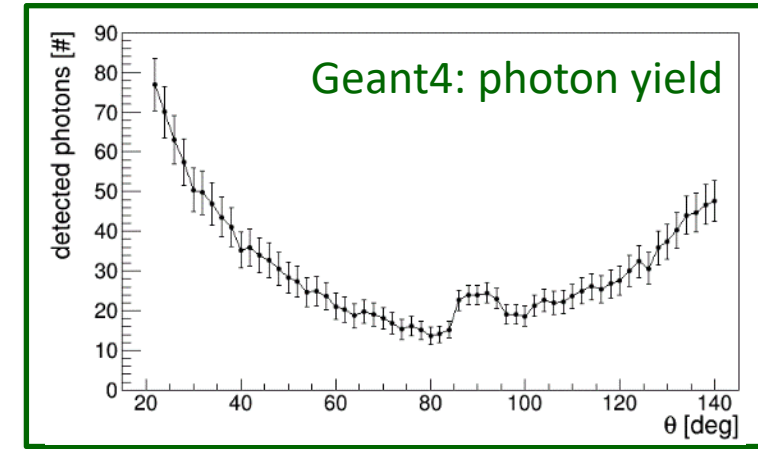
Used geometrical reconstruction (BABAR-like) to determine

photon yield and single photon Cherenkov angle resolution (SPR).

Latest generation of MCP-PMTs will further increase photon yield by up to 50%.

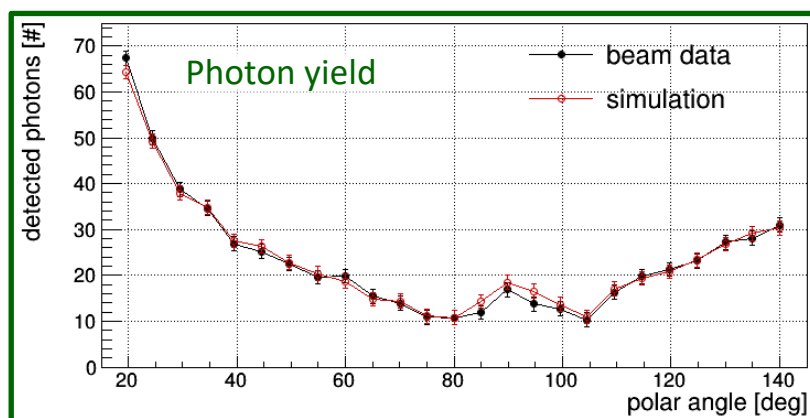
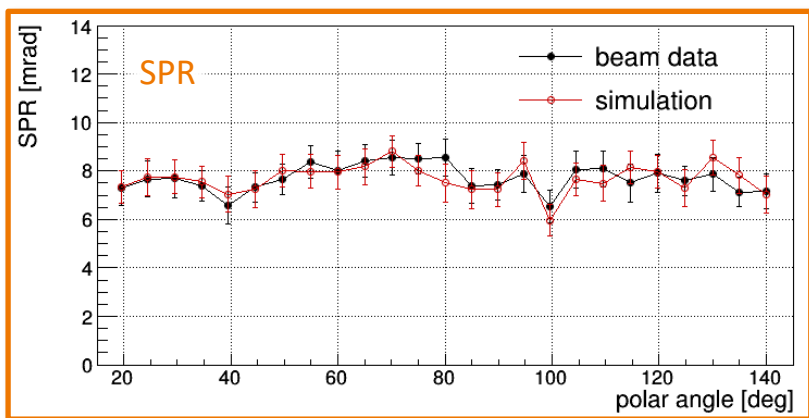
Time-imaging delivers best performance for  $\pi/K$  separation power map,

PANDA PID performance goal exceeded for entire phase space

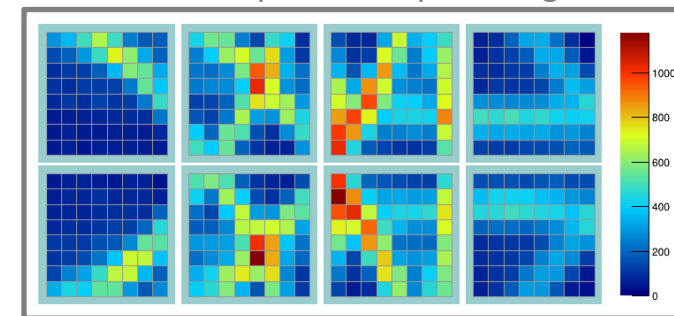


R. Dzhygadlo, priv. comm.

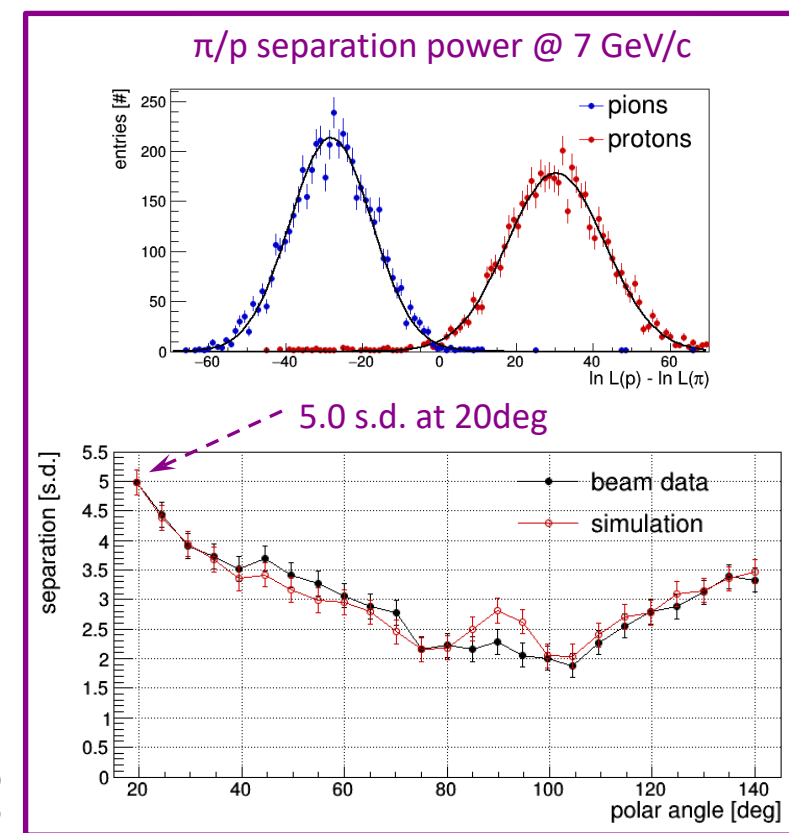
## Performance validation: 2018 prototype at CERN PS



observed hit pattern at polar angle 20°

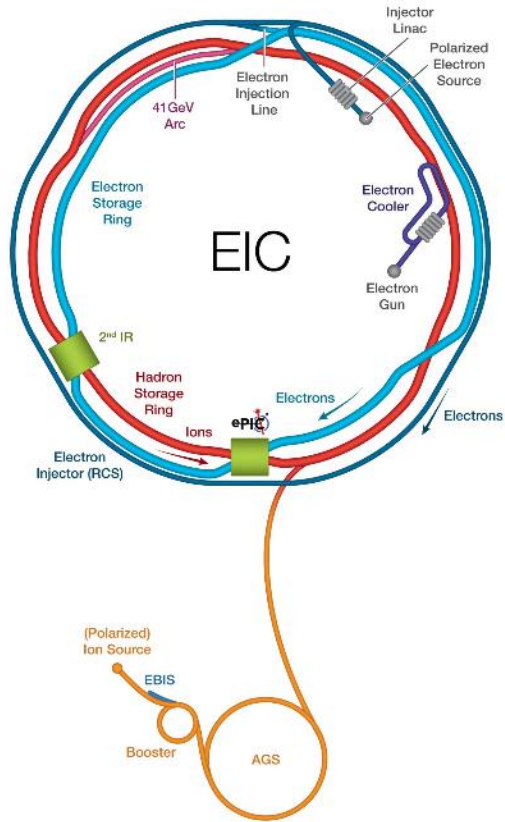


- Scans of beam incident angle and position for different momenta
- Measured Cherenkov angle resolution per photon (SPR), photon yield, and  $\pi/K$  separation in excellent agreement with expectation and Geant4 simulation
- Achieved  $\pi/K$  separation power of  $N_{sep}=5.0$  s.d. with time imaging reconstruction for most challenging phase space region (expect better photon timing in PANDA)
- Design and simulation/reconstruction validated
- Same simulation/reconstruction code used for GlueX DIRC and EIC/ePIC high-performance DIRC











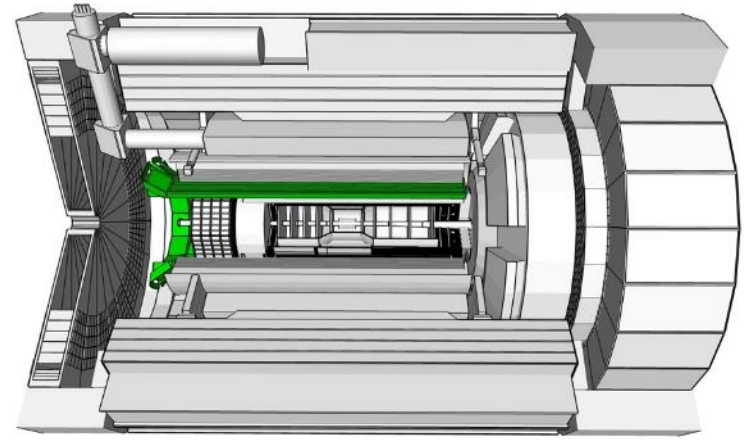
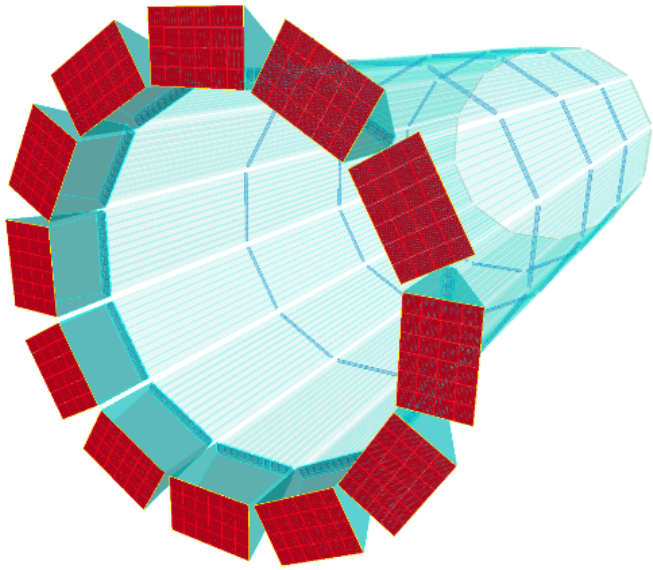
R. Dzhygadlo  
RICH2022

<https://www.bnl.gov/eic/>



# EPIC HIGH-PERFORMANCE DIRC

-  compact photon camera
-  spherical lens focusing
-  small pixels (MCP-PMT)
-  fast photon timing
-  dispersion mitigation
-  precision tracking
-  mult. scattering mitigation
-  legacy components (?)



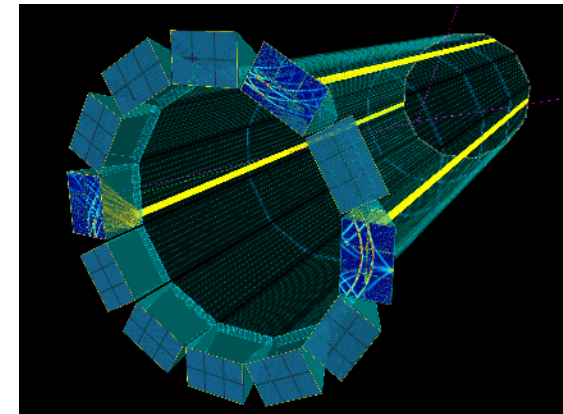
EIC Yellow Report, Nucl.Phys.A 1026 (2022) 122447, arXiv:2103.05419  
<https://www.bnl.gov/eic/epic.php>



## EIC High-Performance DIRC (hpDIRC) for the ePIC Experiment

- R&D since 2011 within EIC generic detector R&D program (eRD4, eRD14, eRD103)
- **Push DIRC performance significantly past state-of-the-art, increase  $\pi/K$  range by 50%**
- **$3\sigma$   $\pi/K$  separation up to at least 6 GeV/c** for rapidity range  $-1 \leq \eta \leq +1$  (Cherenkov angle resolution  $\leq 1\text{mrad}$ ), add supplemental  **$e/\pi$  separation up to  $\sim 1.2$  GeV/c**
- **Narrow bars** for robust performance in high-multiplicity jet events
- 3-layer spherical lens, compact prism, small-pixel MCP-PMTs, fast ASIC readout
- Fast photon timing for **chromatic dispersion mitigation**
- **High-precision tracking**, expect 0.5mrad polar angle resolution at 6 GeV/c
- Post-DIRC track point (EMCal AstroPix sensor) for **multiple scattering mitigation**
- Key target dates: EIC/ePIC TDR in late 2024, **hpDIRC installation into ePIC in 2030**

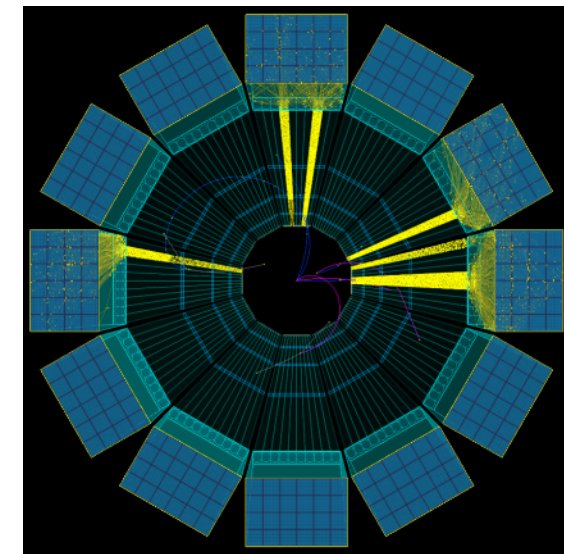
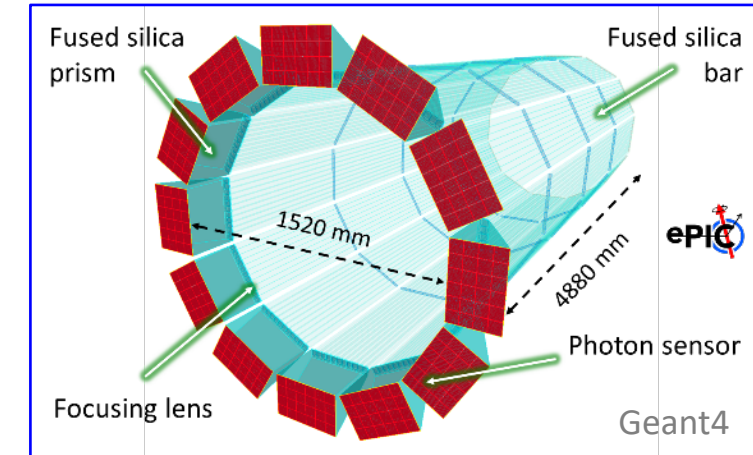
	compact photon camera
	spherical lens focusing
	small pixels (MCP-PMT)
	fast photon timing
	dispersion mitigation
	precision tracking
	mult. scattering mitigation
	legacy components (?)



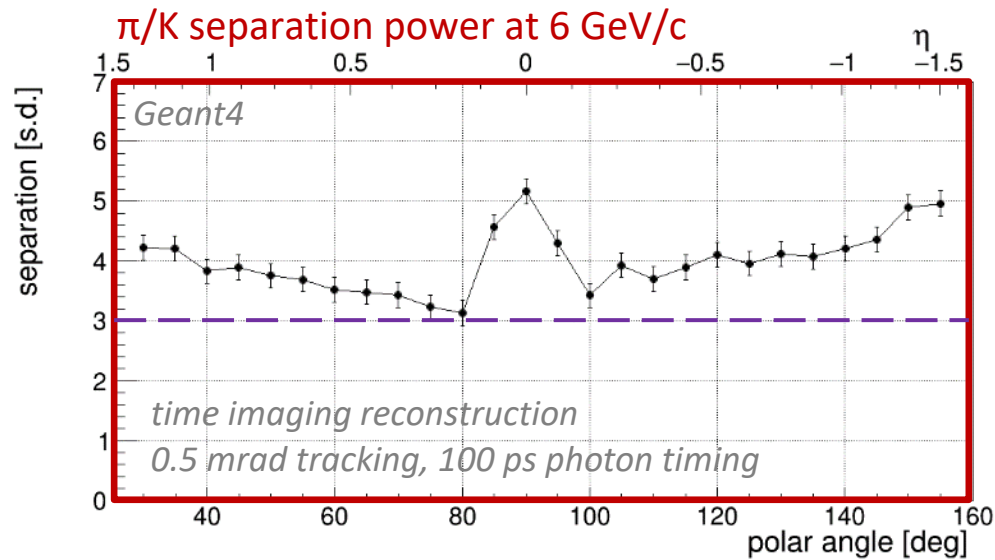
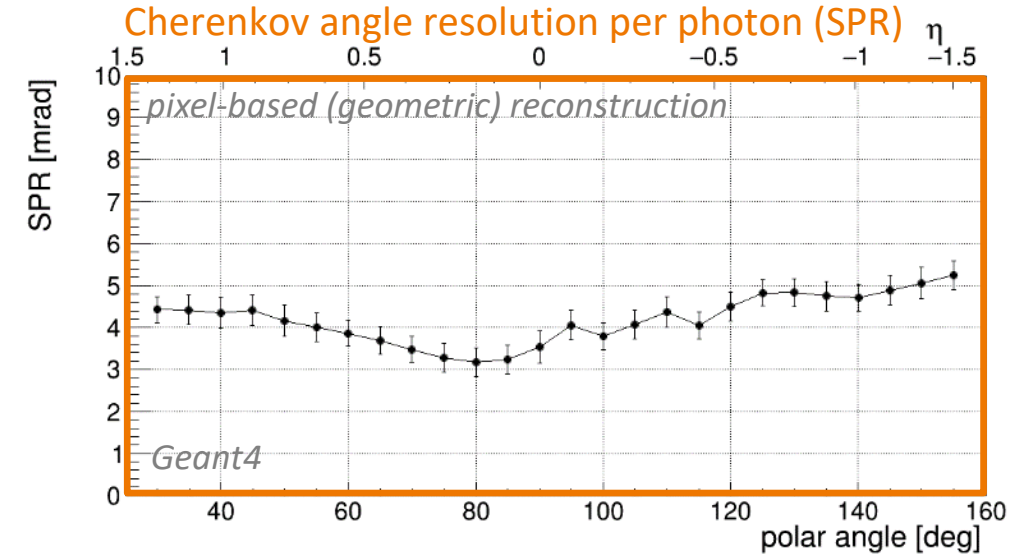
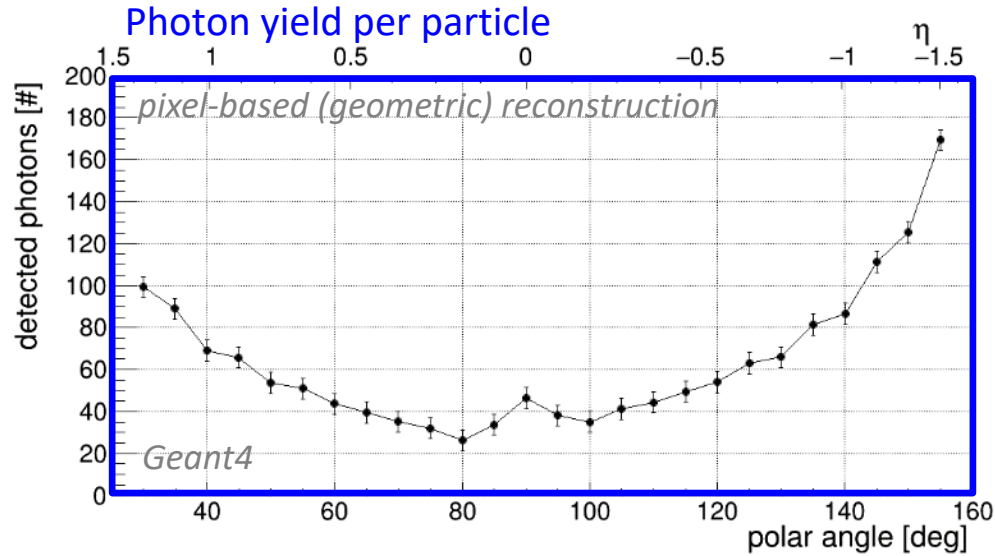
## Preliminary ePIC hpDIRC design

### Compact fused silica prisms, narrow bars, 3-layer spherical lenses

- Barrel radius: 762 mm, 12 sectors, 10 long bars per sector
- Reuse bars from decommissioned BABAR DIRC  
(SLAC-JLab transport planned for March/April, followed by disassembly of the bar boxes and detailed optical/mechanical QA this summer to determine if bars are usable)
- **Focusing optics:** innovative radiation-hard 3-layer spherical lens
- **Compact expansion volume:** 30cm-deep solid fused silica prism
- **Readout system:**
  - small-pixel MCP-PMT sensors (~3 mm pixel pitch, e.g. Photek or Incom)
  - fast ASIC-based readout (e.g. EICROC)
- Full Geant4 simulation based on validated PANDA Barrel DIRC code  
(joint EIC/PANDA CERN beam tests 2015-2018)



PYTHIA events in ePIC hpDIRC (Geant4)  
Bill Llope, Wayne U.



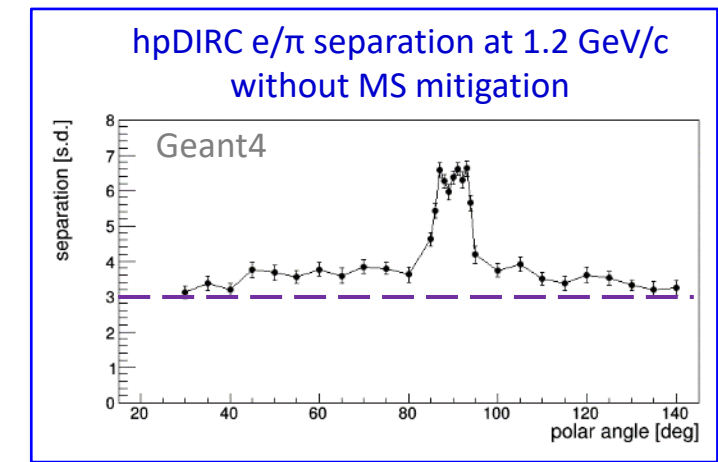
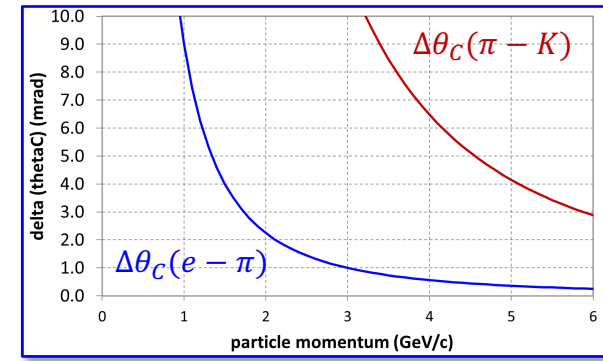
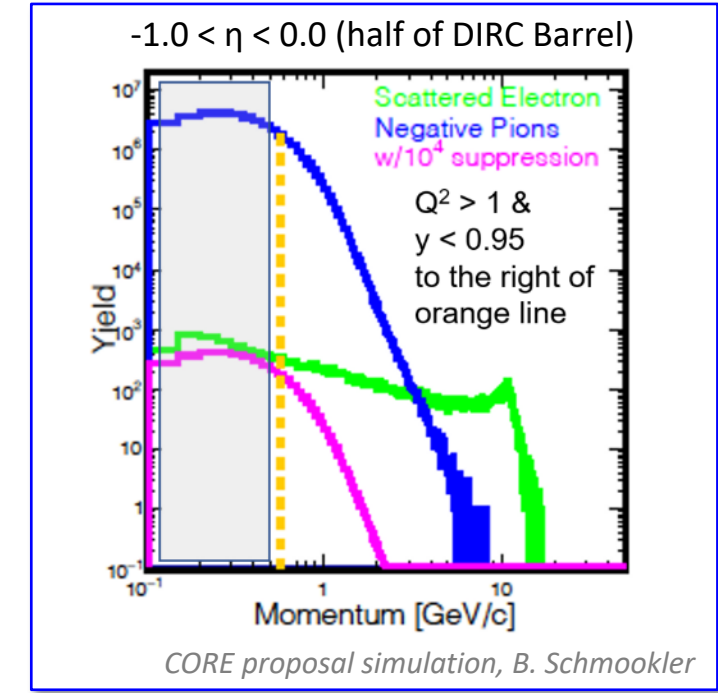
Simulation studies performed with

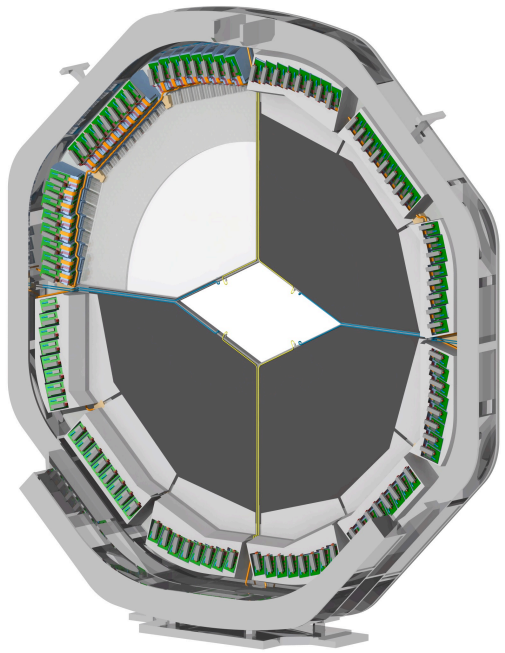
- Stand-alone Geant4 simulation
- Single particles from particle gun
- 6 GeV/c momentum
- No magnetic field, no other ePIC subsystems

→ Performance goal reached:  $\geq 3$  s.d.  $\pi/K$  separation at 6 GeV/c for full hpDIRC acceptance






## Challenge: $e/\pi$ separation at low momentum

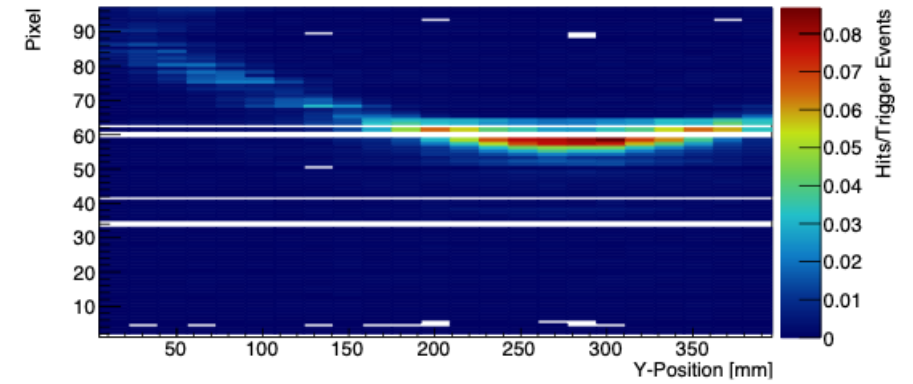
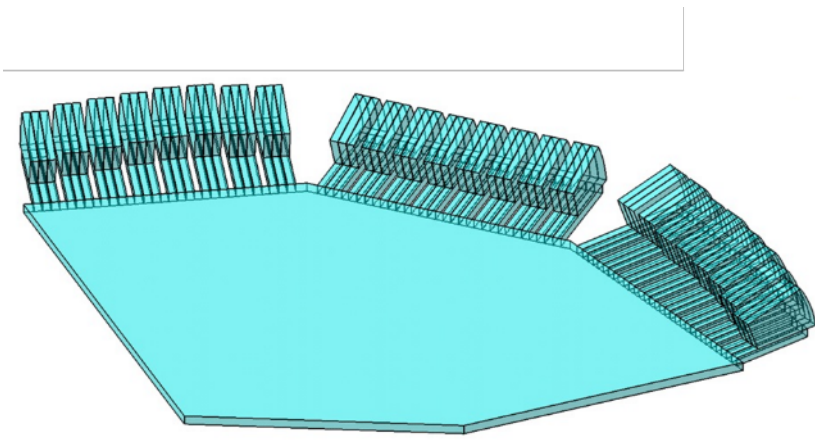
- Yellow report effort identified need for **supplemental  $e/\pi$  suppression** from PID systems to support EM calorimeter at lower momentum
- Simulation shows that ID of scattered electron requires  $O(10^4)$  suppression of large pionic background
- hpDIRC  $e/\pi$  performance at low momentum very different from high-momentum domain, **dominated by multiple scattering (MS)** and EM showers in DIRC bars
- Even without any MS mitigation:  **$> 3$  s.d.  $e/\pi$  separation at 1.2 GeV/c** (caveat: tails)
- Study of potential improvements from DIRC “ring center fit” and impact of **track point from AstroPix sensor (barrel EMCal) outside hpDIRC radius** underway (also expected to further improve high-momentum  $\pi/K$  separation)





# PANDA ENDCAP DISC DIRC

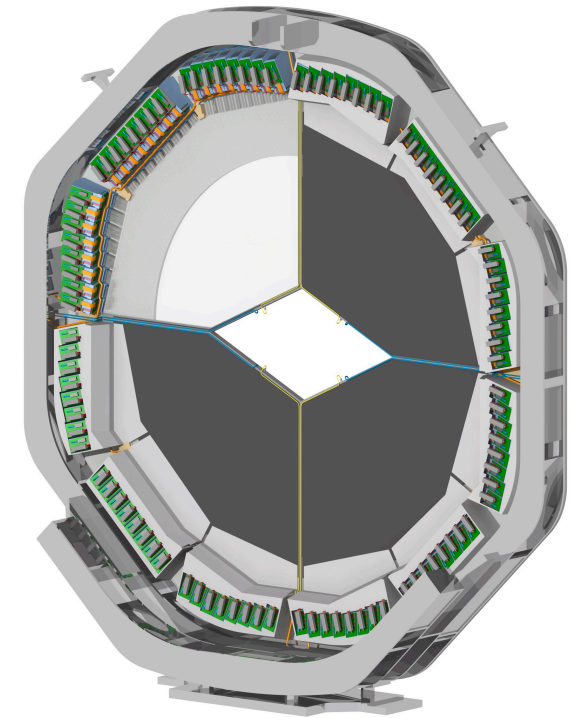
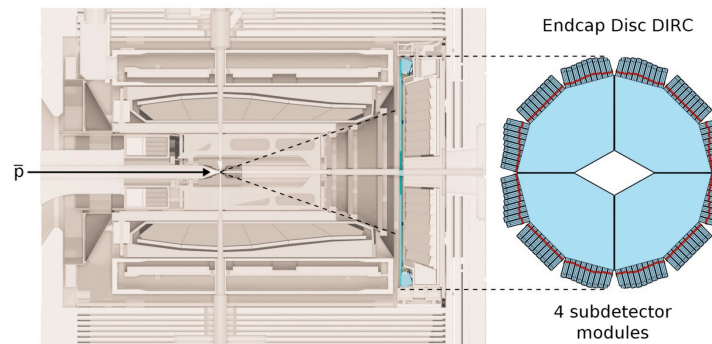
-  compact photon camera
-  cylindrical mirror focusing
-  small pixels (MCP-PMT)
-  fast photon timing
-  endcap geometry



## PANDA Endcap Disc DIRC (EDD)

- design goal  $3\sigma$   $\pi/K$  separation up to 4 GeV/c for polar angle range  $5^\circ$ - $22^\circ$ ;
- PID at high interaction rates, up to 20 MHz;
- **first DIRC designed for PID in forward endcap**;
- must fit into tight space between forward GEM and EM Calorimeter;
- $\sim 2$ m diameter plate, made from 4 **optically independent quadrants**;
- fused silica bars and **cylindrical focusing block** attached to rim of plate;
- lifetime-enhanced **MCP-PMTs with highly-segmented anode** ( $\sim 3 \times 100$  pixels);
- MCP-PMT placement optimized for B-field line orientation;
- fast **ASIC readout** (TofPET2).

	compact photon camera
	cylindrical mirror focusing
	small pixels (MCP-PMT)
	fast photon timing
	endcap geometry



PANDA EDD TDR  
arXiv:1912.12638

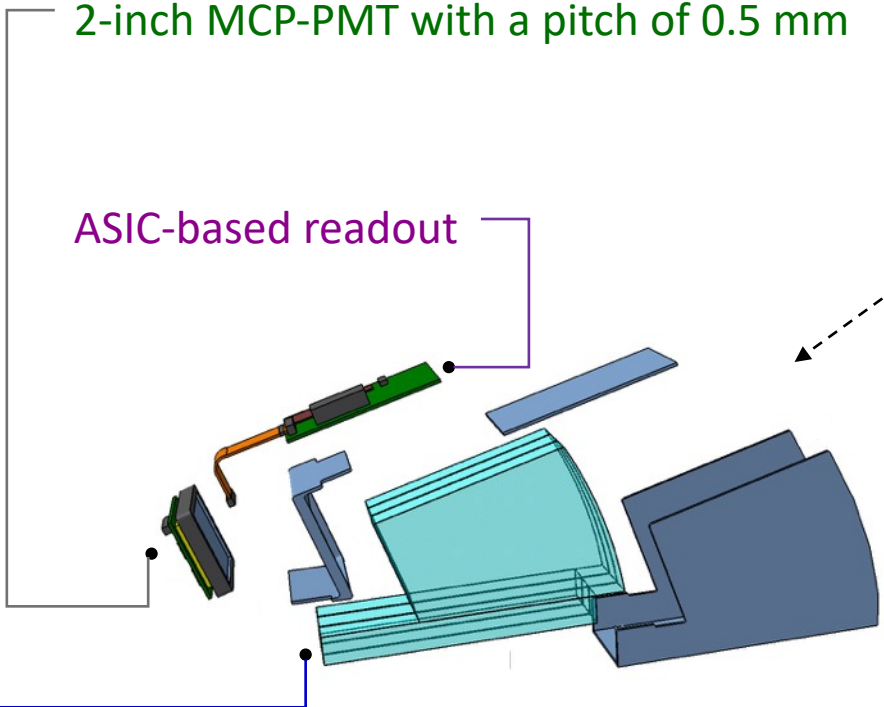
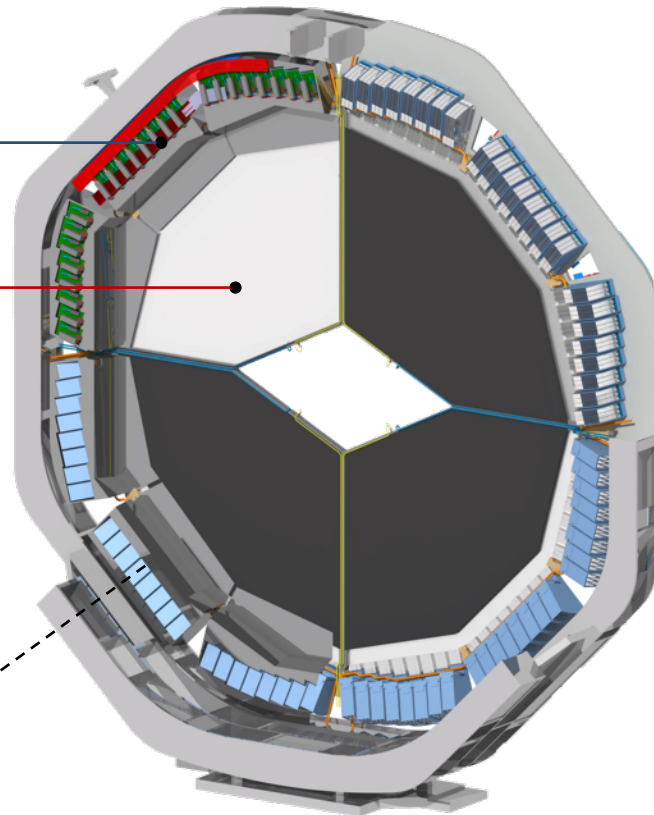
Optics made of synthetic fused silica

4 independent quadrants

Focusing elements convert  
angle to position information

2-inch MCP-PMT with a pitch of 0.5 mm

ASIC-based readout



Quadrant plate dimension:

20mm thickness

1056mm outer radius

Sensors: 96 MCP-PMTs

(lifetime-enhanced, ~3x100 pixels)

Optional: Optical band pass filter  
for chromatic dispersion mitigation

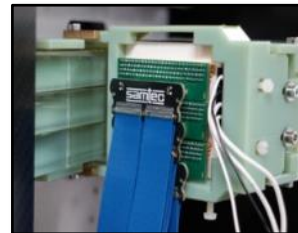
TOFPET ASIC readout

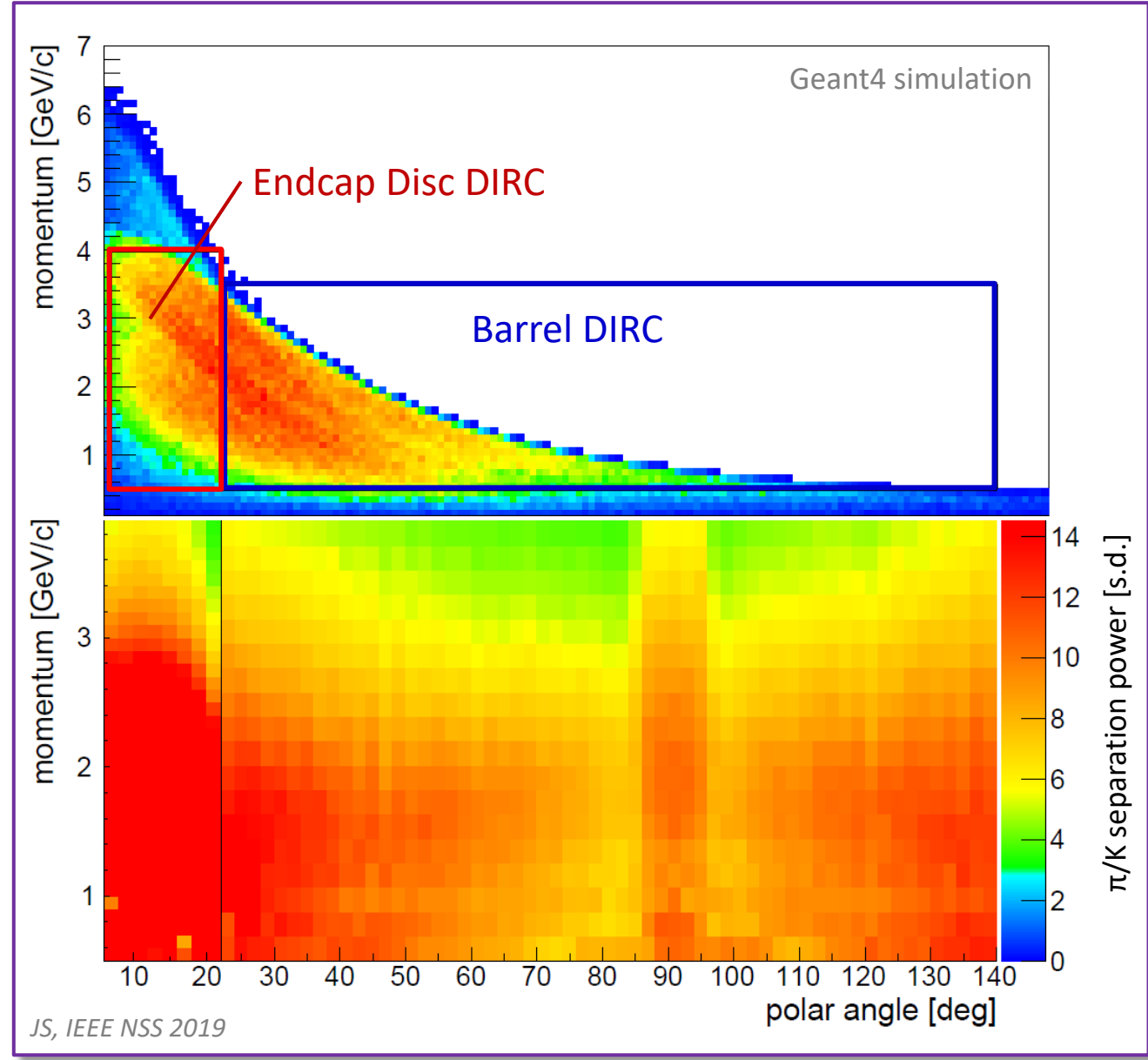
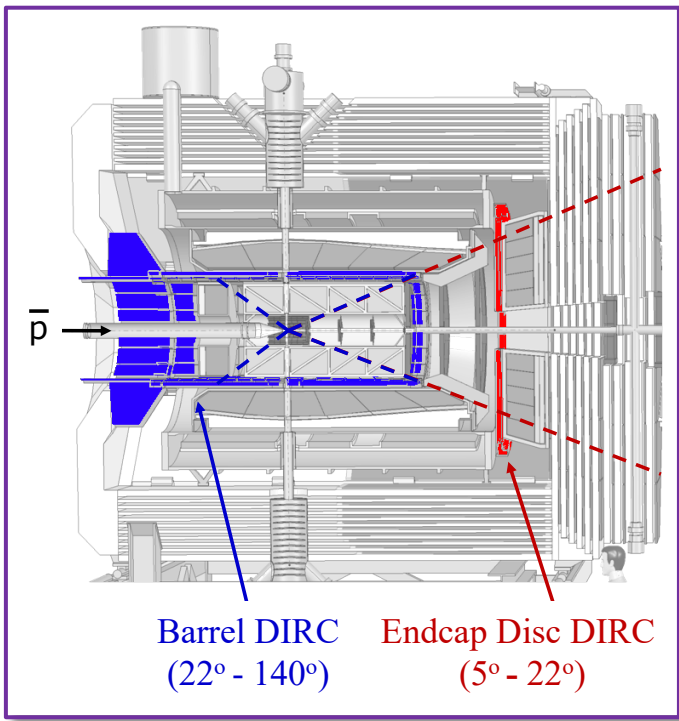
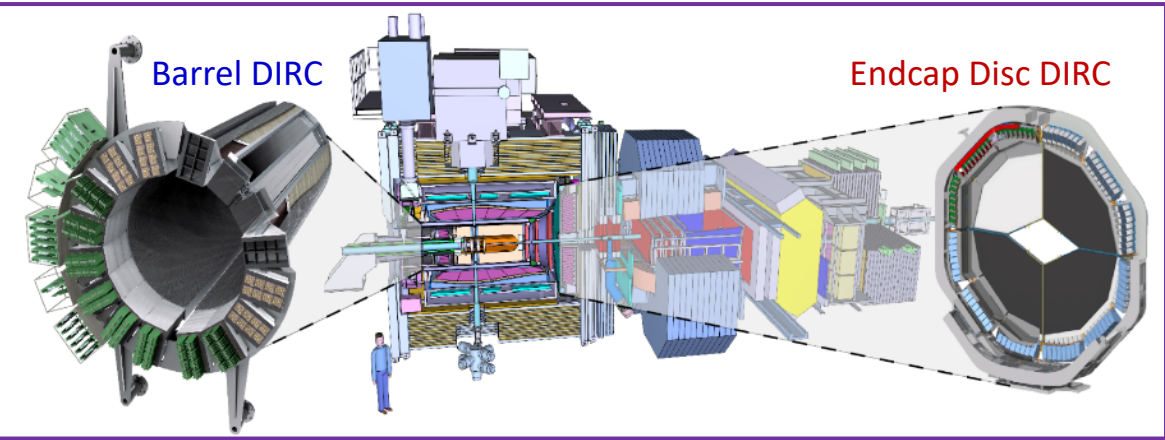
~29k channels

Novel design, validated with particle  
beams since 2016.

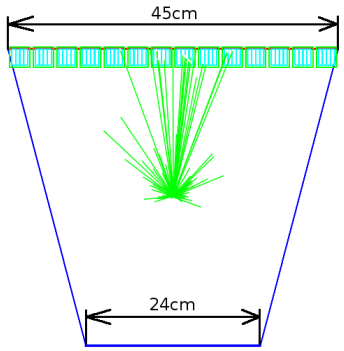
goal: first-of-series quadrant in 2025

TDR available at [arXiv:1912.12638](https://arxiv.org/abs/1912.12638)





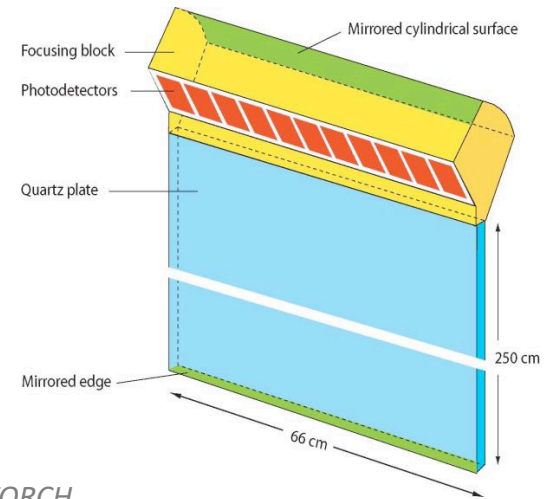




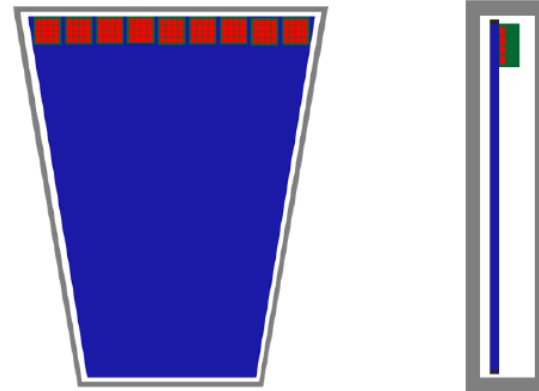
SuperB FTOF concept  
N. Arnaud et al, NIM-A 718 (2013) 557

# DIRC-Based Time-of-Flight

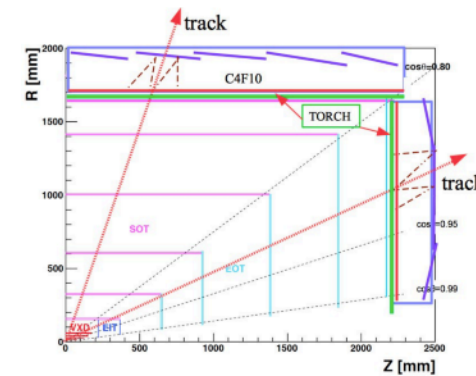
For an update, see presentation tomorrow  
Binbin Qi, "STCF DIRC-like TOF detector R&D"



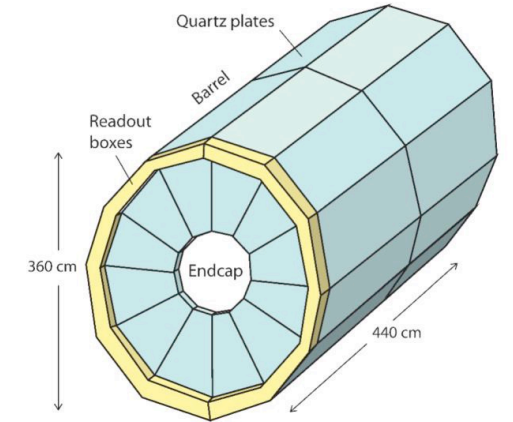
TORCH  
M. Charles and R. Forty, NIM-A 639 (2011) 173  
S. Bhasin et al, NIM-A 1050 (2023) 168181



Tau Charm DTOF concept  
Binbin Qi et al, JINST 16 (2021) 08, P08021  
Ziwei Li et al, NIM-A 1051 (2023) 168202  
SCTF CDR Front. Phys. 19(1), 14701 (2024)



TORCH-like concept for CEPC  
(Z. Liang, IAS-HEP2021)



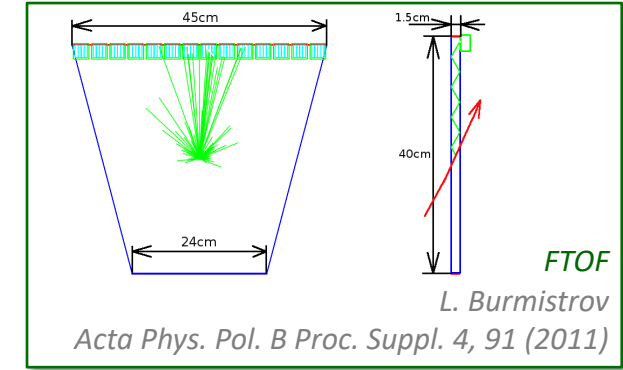
TORCH-like concept for FCC-ee  
(R. Forty, ECFA TF4, May 2021)

# DIRC-BASED TIME-OF-FLIGHT

Generate Cherenkov light in DIRC bar or plate, image photons, reconstruct 3D photon propagation path, calculate time of particle crossing DIRC radiator

➤ **FTOF: proposed for endcap of cancelled SuperB experiment**

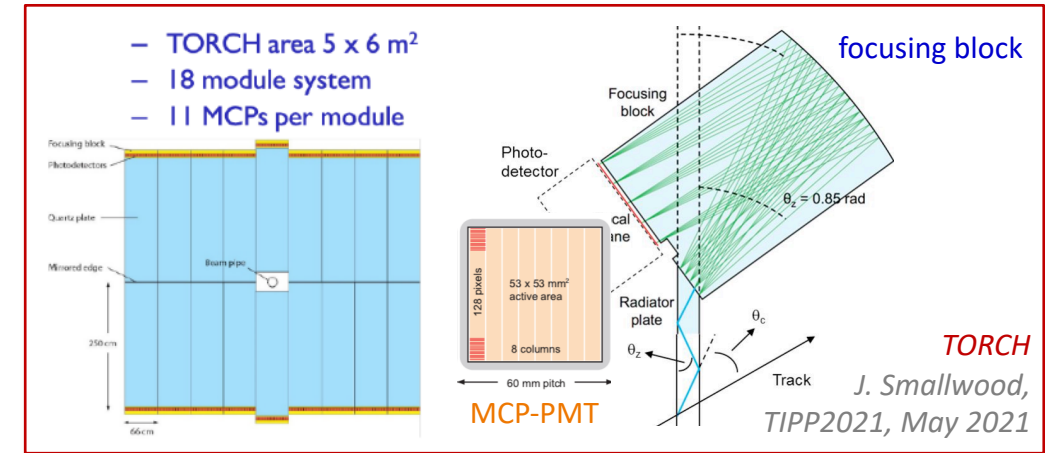
- goal  $3\sigma$   $\pi/K$  separation up to 3 GeV/c
- 2m flight path, 30ps time resolution goal



➤ **TORCH (Timing Of internally Reflected CHerenkov light)**

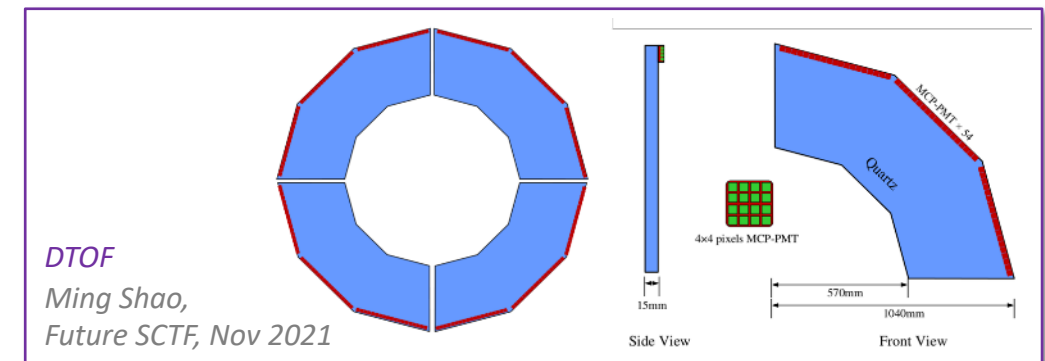
goal:  $3\sigma$   $\pi/K$  separation up to 10 GeV/c

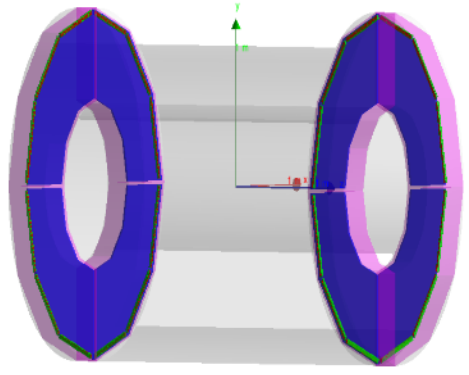
- proposed for upgrade of LHCb in ~2027
- use measured Cherenkov angle to correct chromatic dispersion
- 10m flight path, per-particle resolution of 10-15ps required, → 70ps resolution per photon for ~30 detected photons per particle
- beam test results with complex prototype (plate from Nikon, small-pixel MCP-PMTs from Photech, NINO ASICs), per-photon performance approaching design goals



➤ **DTOF: proposed for endcap of future Super Charm Tau Factory**








- goal  $3\sigma$   $\pi/K$  separation up to 2 GeV/c
- 1.4m flight path, 50ps time resolution goal

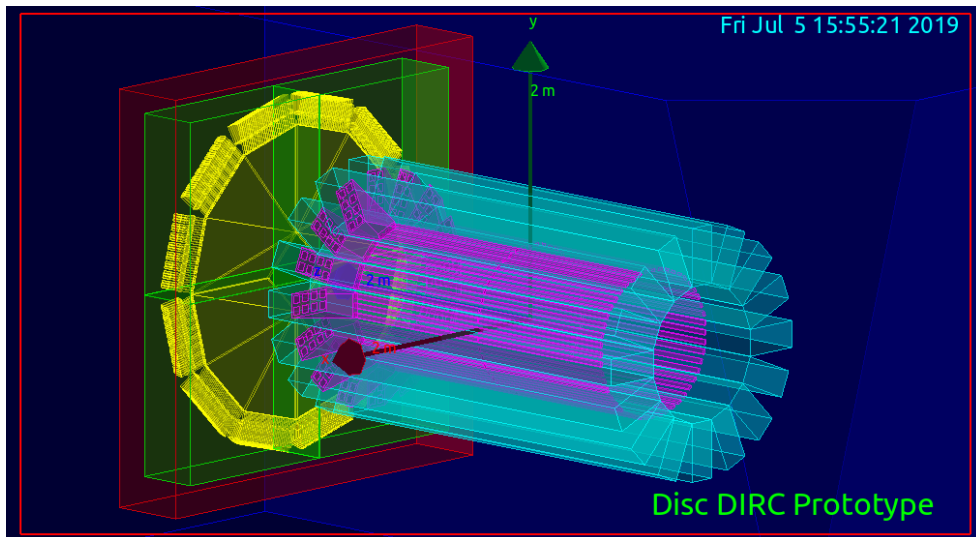




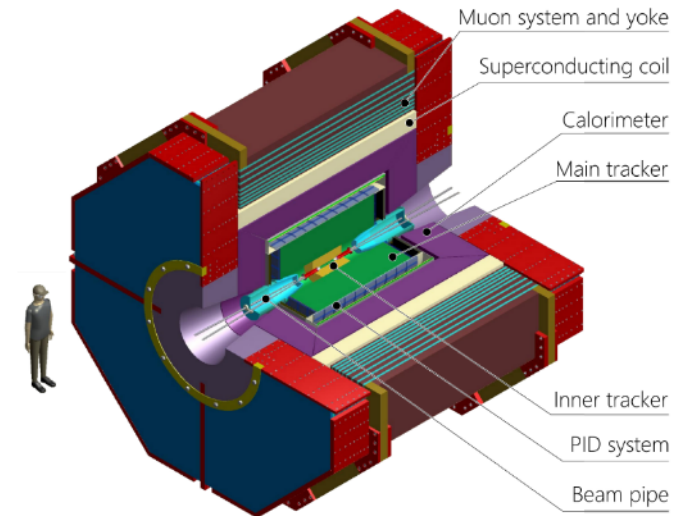
Qian LIU, STCF workshop 2020

# Future Tau Charm DIRCs

-  compact photon camera
-  lens/mirror focusing
-  small pixels (MCP-PMT/SiPM)
-  fast photon timing
-  dispersion mitigation
-  barrel and endcap?
-  mult. scattering mitigation










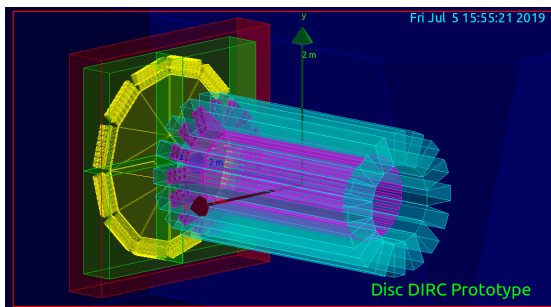
M. Schmidt, DIRC2019



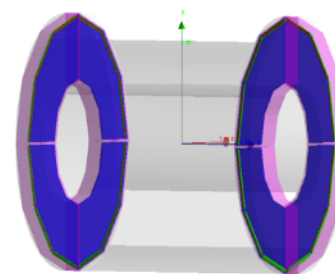
## Tau Charm DIRCs

- barrel and/or endcap PID for the future (super) Charm-Tau/Tau-Charm facilities
- unique and challenging task for DIRCs:  $3\sigma$   $\mu/\pi$  separation up to 1.2 GeV/c
- $\mu/\pi$  separation at 1.2 GeV/c close to  $\pi/K$  separation at 6 GeV/c,  $\sim 1\text{mrad}$  Cherenkov angle resolution per particle required for  $3\sigma$  separation
- EIC hpDIRC or PANDA Barrel and Endcap Disc DIRC designs may be able to meet requirements but would need significant design optimization, including
  - chromatic dispersion mitigation using hardware or software correction
  - multiple scattering mitigation at low momentum using post-DIRC track points
- early stage of R&D and detector simulation studies, evaluating technologies (also considering gas RICH, focusing aerogel RICH, and DIRC-based TOF).

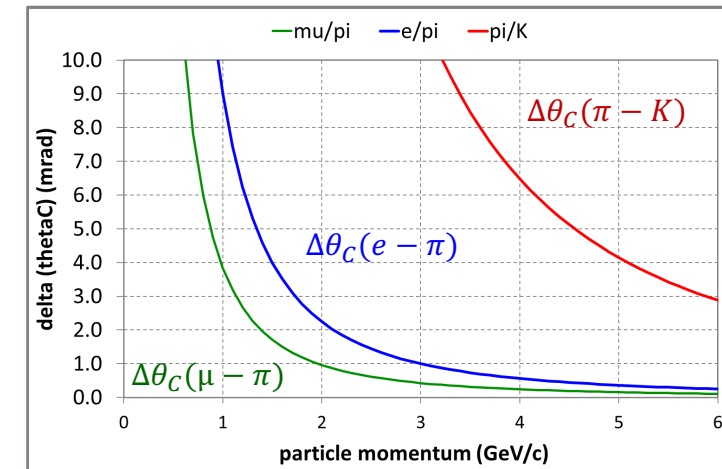
	compact photon camera
	lens/mirror focusing
	small pixels (MCP-PMT/SiPM)
	fast photon timing
	dispersion mitigation
	barrel and endcap?
	mult. scattering mitigation



Barrel/encap disc DIRC options, M. Schmidt, DIRC2019



Endcap DIRC/TOF option, Qian Liu  
Future charm-tau factory workshop, Nov 2020

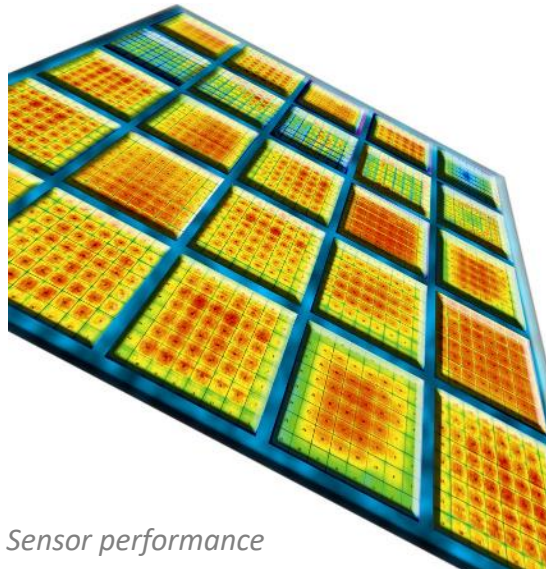


Recommended further reading:  
"DIRC options for the Super Charm Tau Factory"  
M. Schmidt et al 2020 JINST 15 C02032

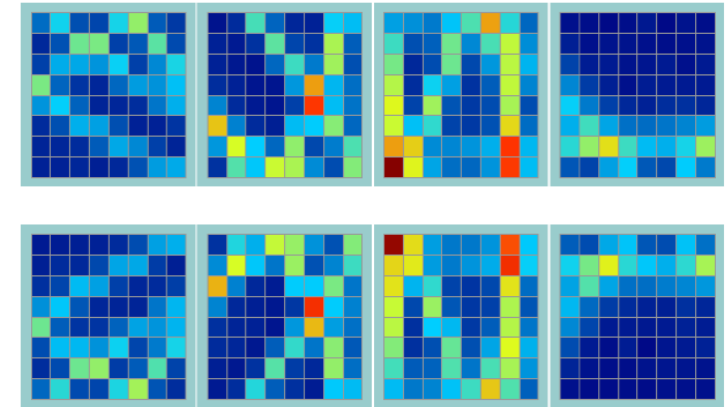
# PROGRESS OF KEY TECHNOLOGIES



*Bar/plate fabrication*



*Sensor performance*



*Reconstruction/PID algorithms*

Production of large fused silica pieces (bars, plates) has been challenging

DIRC radiators require **mechanical tolerances** on flatness, squareness, and parallelism, for large objects with **optical finish** and long sharp edges → not a turnkey operation

**Excellent surface polish required** across entire bar/plate, typical local roughness  $< 5 \text{ \AA}$ , to ensure high photon transport efficiency (reflection coefficient  $> 0.999$  at 400nm)

**Parallel and square** bar/plate surfaces required to maintain Cherenkov angle during reflections; non-squareness of cross-section  $< 0.1 \text{ mrad}$  for Belle II TOP,  $< 0.25 \text{ mrad}$  for BABAR DIRC

Few qualified vendors worldwide → cost and schedule risk

**Radiator production source of significant DIRC project delays for BABAR and Belle II**

Extensive **PANDA Barrel DIRC R&D prototype program** with eight optical companies

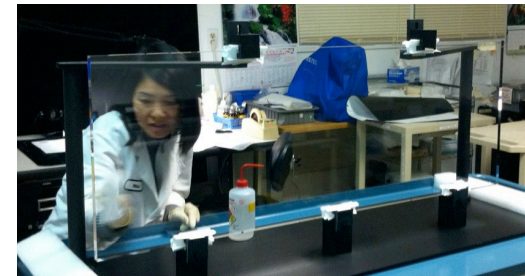
Tested both abrasive and pitch polishing methods (*future: magnetorheological finishing (MRF)?*)

Tested new synthetic fused silica materials (Corning, Heraeus, Nikon), all suitable for PANDA

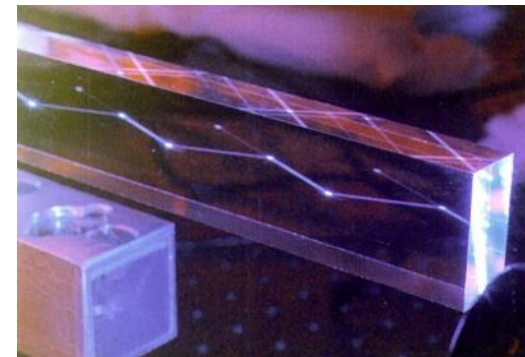
**Successful series production with Nikon encouraging for future DIRC projects**



4.2m-diameter planetary polisher at InSync Inc (BABAR DIRC)



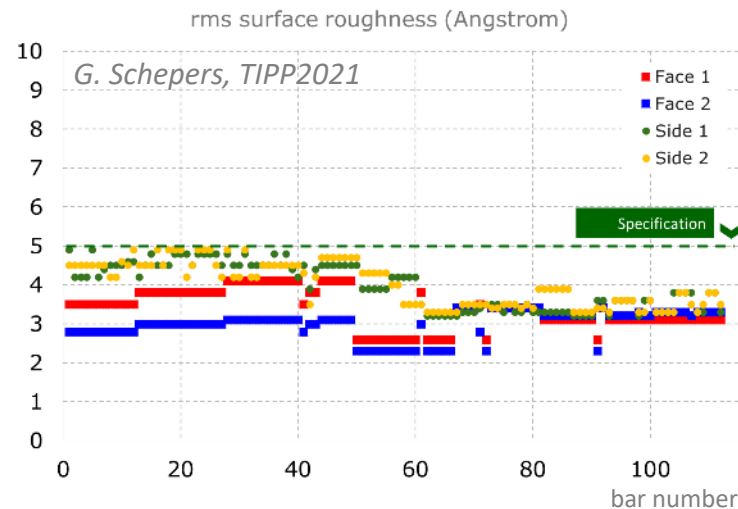
Cleaning of Belle II TOP plate (Zygo)



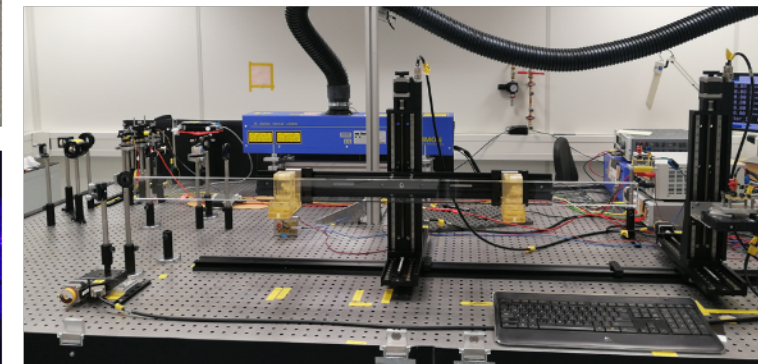
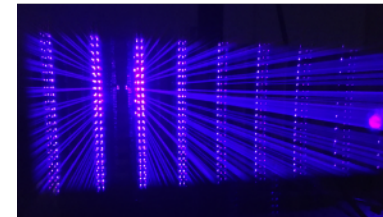
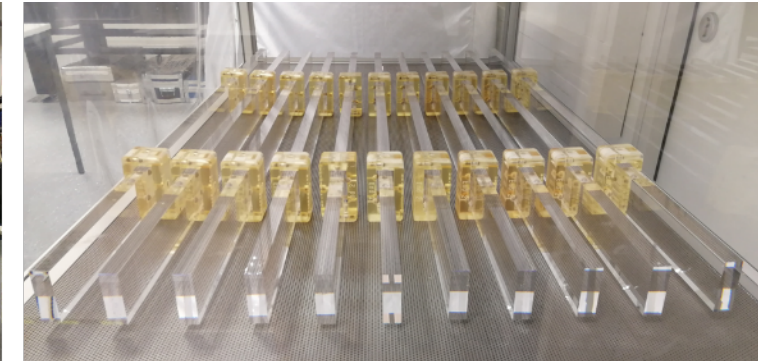
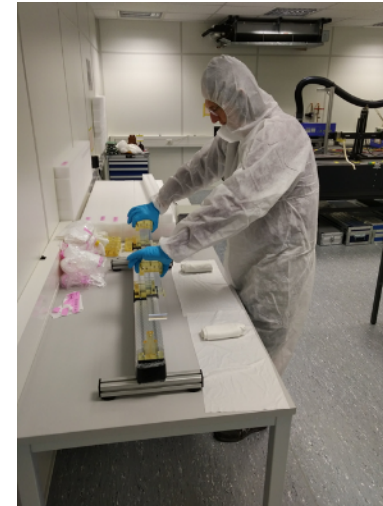
BABAR DIRC bar in laser beam

## PANDA Barrel DIRC Experience

- series production of components started in 2019
- contract for **fused silica bars** awarded to **Nikon Corp, Japan** in Sep 2019
- smooth production, excellent communication
- 112 DIRC bars delivered by Feb 2021, ahead of schedule
- all bars meet or exceed specifications  
(example: surface roughness)



Nikon bars in DIRC lab at GSI



## ➤ Multi-anode Photomultipliers (MaPMTs)

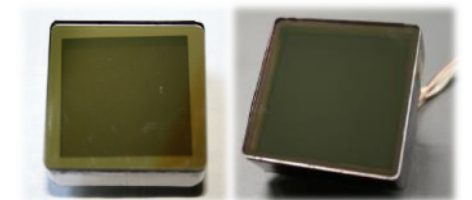
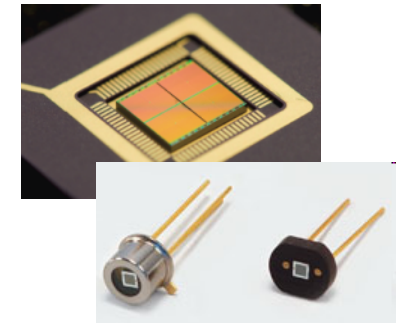
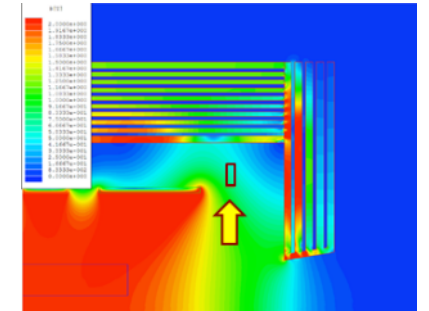
used successfully in DIRC prototypes, sensor of choice for SuperB FDIRC, GlueX DIRC does not work in magnetic fields, serious challenge for DIRC integration

## ➤ Geiger-mode Avalanche Photo Diodes (SiPMs)

high dark count rate problematic for reconstruction (DIRC photon arrival time spread)  
radiation hardness a serious issue → cryogenic operation and annealing?  
could be a good candidate for future DIRCs  
active R&D for RICH and DIRC counters (LHC, Belle II, EIC, ...)

## ➤ Micro-channel Plate Photomultipliers (MCP-PMTs)

good gain and PDE, excellent timing and magnetic field performance up to 2T  
issues with rate capability and aging resolved in recent years  
main downside: cost per area  
availability of vendors for large (2-inch or larger) MCP-PMTs becoming an issue  
(Photek and Incom main candidates, Hamamatsu and Photonis availability questionable)





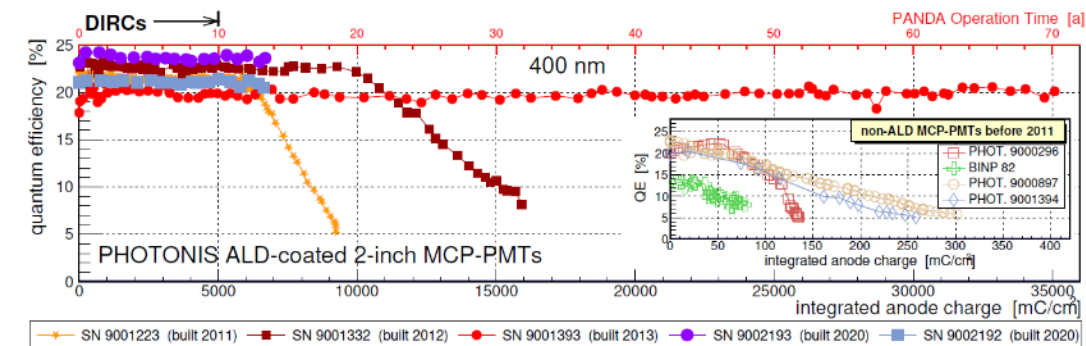
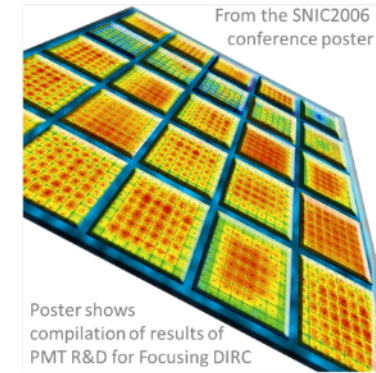
## Sensor development has been crucial to DIRC progress

Main DIRC development directions: Smaller pixels and faster single photon timing

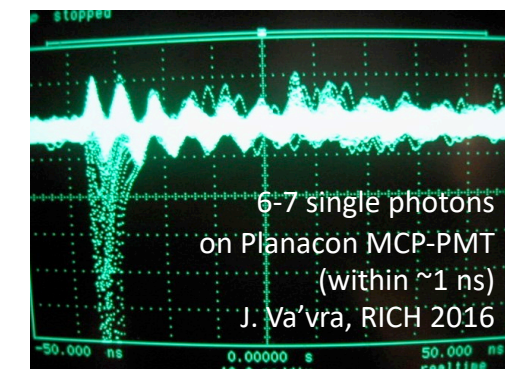
- reduces sensitivity to backgrounds
- improves Cherenkov angle resolution per photon
- allows chromatic dispersion mitigation
- anode design needs to match required angular resolution (required pitch may be asymmetric – see PANDA EDD)

Main challenge: Maintain fast timing and single photon sensitivity

- in high magnetic fields for compact camera designs (up to 3 Tesla for EIC?)
- after large ionizing radiation doses and neutron fluxes
- during long lifetime (10-20+ C/cm<sup>2</sup> integrated anode charge)
- during high interaction rates and photon hit rates (MHz/cm<sup>2</sup>)
- for high hit multiplicities per event (coherent oscillation?)



A. Lehmann et al., GSI scientific report 2022  
DOI:10.15120/GSI-2023-00462



## Sensor development has been crucial to DIRC progress

### Single photon detection

- excellent **rms timing precision**, more important than simple TTS
- reduce tails in timing distribution by increasing PC-MCP voltage

### High photon yield (up to 100 photoelectrons per particle)

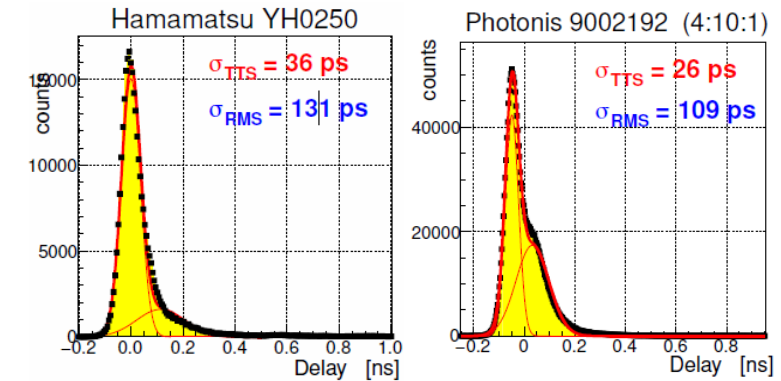
- need **pixelated readout** to determine position without ambiguities
- need tolerance for **high occupancy** per sensor

### Long photon propagation paths in bar (arrival time often spread over >30ns)

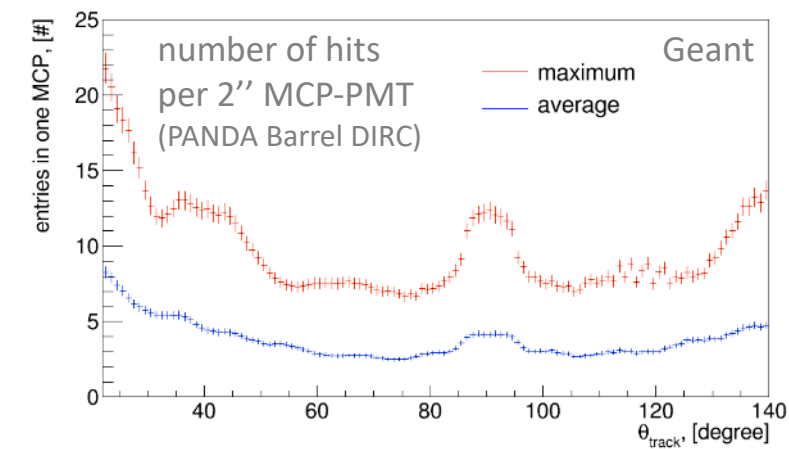
- need **low noise rates** (coincidence timing very difficult/impossible to use)
- High dark count rate and radiation damage currently showstoppers for SiPM

### Leading candidate for DIRCs: MCP-PMT

- Commercial MCP-PMTs baseline solution for PANDA DIRCs and ePIC hpDIRC
- Hoping for significant cost reduction soon due to LAPPD™ effort (Incom)



A. Lehmann  
TIPP2021

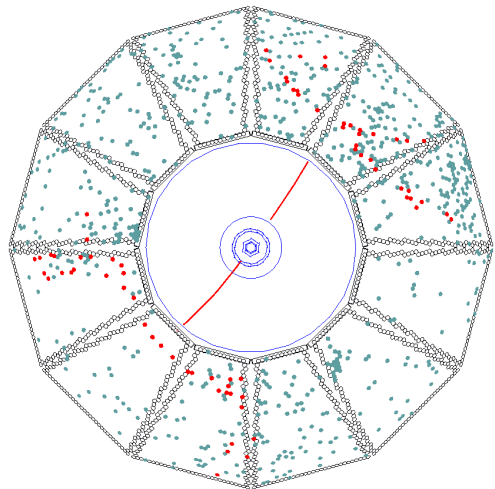
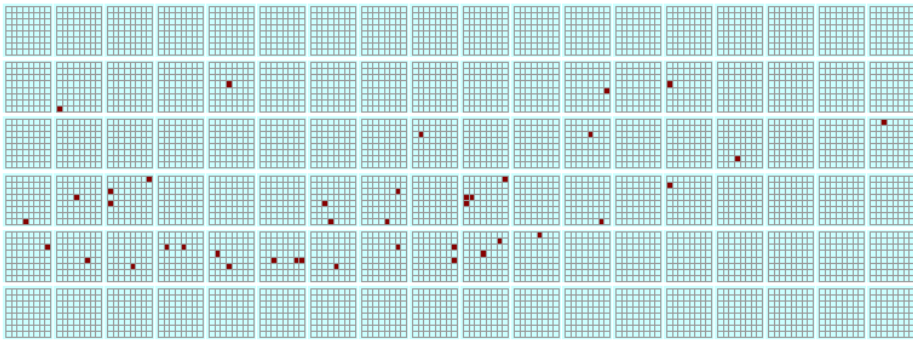


JS

ANL MCP-PMT Workshop 2014

# DIRC RECONSTRUCTION/PID

Single 3.5 GeV/c pion event, GlueX DIRC beam data



Single dimuon event, BABAR beam data

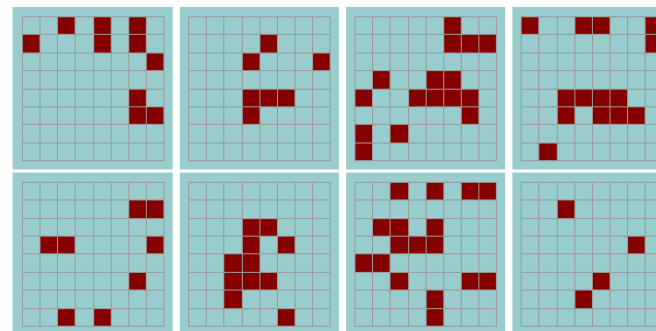
DIRC hit patterns do not look like your typical RICH “rings”

Patterns complicated by internal reflections inside bar/plate, mirror, expansion volume, shape of sensor plane.

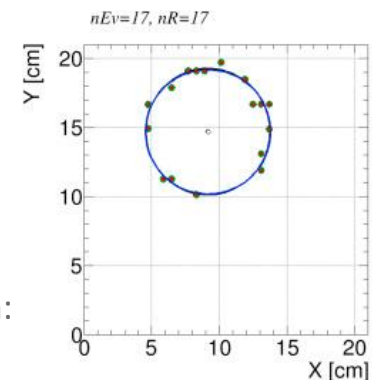
Detector space is often not the best space for DIRC reconstruction, no “simple” ring fits

Performing reconstruction and PID in Cherenkov space instead

Leading candidates: position-based geometric reconstruction and time-based imaging



Single 3.5 GeV/c pion event, PANDA Barrel DIRC prototype



For comparison: Single event in CMB RICH (CO<sub>2</sub>) prototype

## Geometric reconstruction, example for PANDA Barrel DIRC

$$\log \mathcal{L}_h = \sum_{i=1}^N \log(S_h(c_i) + B_h(c_i)) + \log P_h(N)$$

Developed for BABAR DIRC, approximates Cherenkov photon direction as

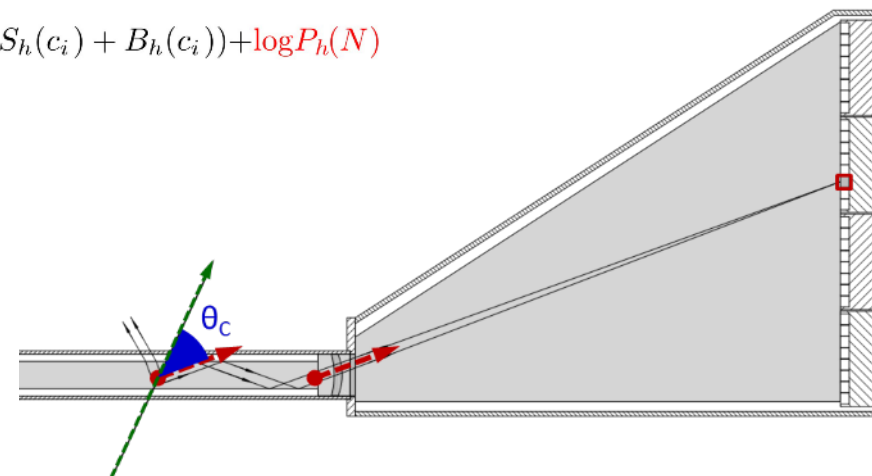
**3D vector from center of end of bar to center of pixel** (allowing for reflections)

Use photon gun in simulation to create look-up tables (LUT)

of photon vectors for every pixel/bar combination

Robust approach, fewer requirements on photon timing precision

Fast method, one LUT for all particle tracks



## Time-based imaging, example for PANDA Barrel DIRC

$$\log \mathcal{L}_h = \sum_{i=1}^N \log(S_h(c_i, t_i) + B_h(c_i, t_i)) + \log P_h(N)$$

Developed for Belle-II TOP, calculate **probability for times of all**

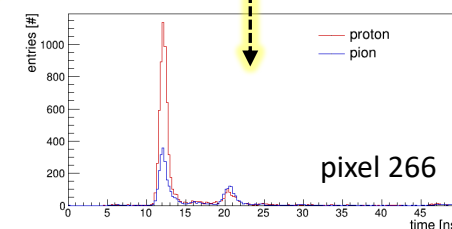
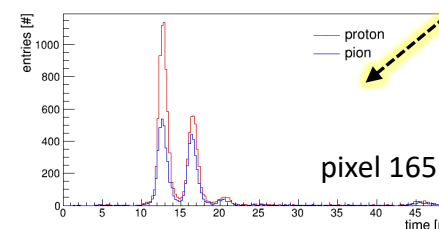
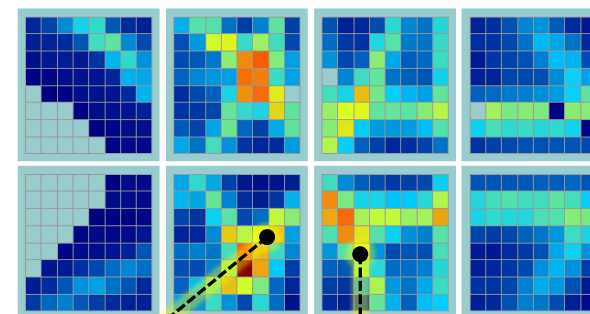
**observed hits in all pixels to come from e/μ/π/K/p**

Requires probability density functions of expected photon times

Three possible methods for creating PDFs:

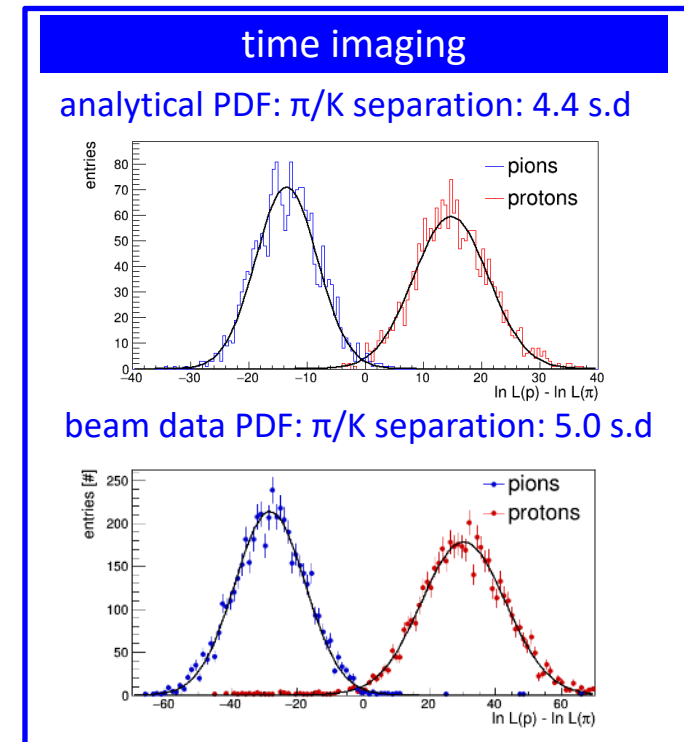
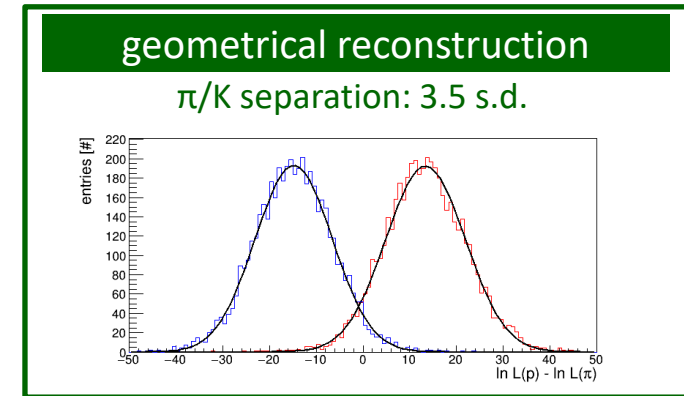
simulation, data (from calibration samples), analytical

Makes optimum use of high-precision hit location and time precision



## Examples of reconstruction/PID methods from PANDA Barrel DIRC

- track-by-track fit of single photon Cherenkov angle distribution based on look-up tables to extract track Cherenkov angle (“BABAR-like”)
- track-by-track unbinned likelihood hypothesis test to determine log-likelihood differences (“geometrical reconstruction”)
- “Belle II-like” time imaging to extract log-likelihood differences (PDFs were generated either analytically or from beam data directly using time-of-flight tag, statistically independent data sets)
- best performance from time imaging
- first applications of advanced AI/ML techniques underway



R. Dzhygadlo, CHEP2019

## What about a design based on the “best of…” of DIRC design R&D in recent years?

At RICH 2016 J. Va’vra showed the “ultimate fDIRC” concept:

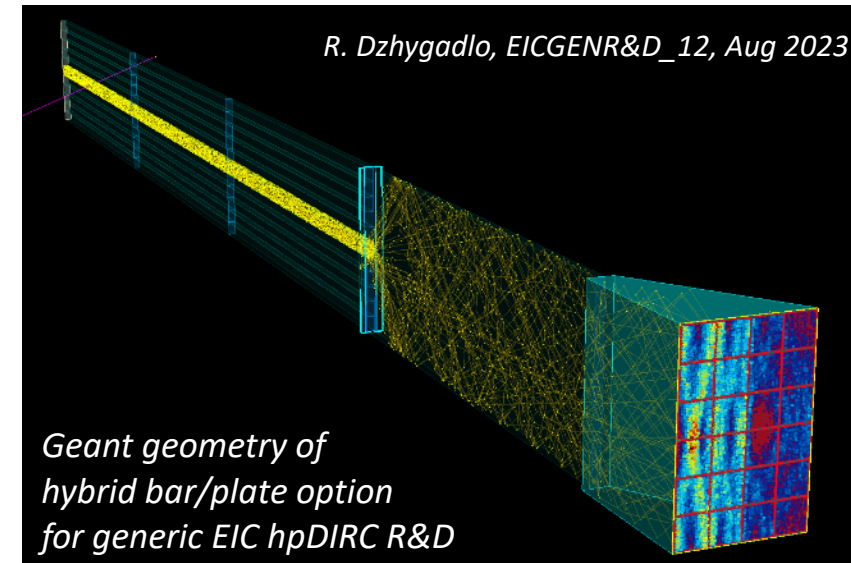
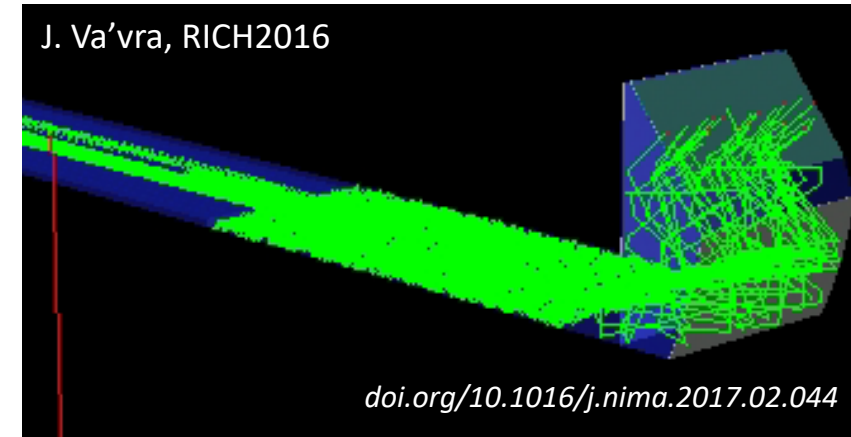
- smaller fused silica block, cylindrical mirror, sensors with 3mm pixel pitch;
- disassemble BABAR DIRC bar boxes, remove wedges;
- replace last bar with one common plate for all 12 bars in box.

Best of both worlds:

- narrow bars in “active area” ensure robust performance in multi-track events;
- wide plate effectively part of the expansion volume in horizontal direction, provides better angular precision;
- SuperB fDIRC simulation predicts 3-5mrad Cherenkov angle resolution per photon, best-in-class single photon resolution prediction as of 2016.

Combining this hybrid design with time-based imaging with faster photon timing and better tracking should lead to further improvement.

Simulation project for EIC hpDIRC suggests even better performance for lens-focused bar-plate hybrid (EICGENR&D program).



30 years after Blair Ratcliff's original paper, DIRC counters are a popular solution for hadronic PID

DIRCs are radially very compact, providing more space for calorimeters or tracking detectors

BABAR DIRC was the first DIRC, PID for barrel region, very successful,  $\pi/K$  up to  $\sim 4$  GeV/c (1999-2008)

Prompted DIRC interest by several experiments: Belle II, SuperB, PANDA, and others

R&D to make DIRC readout more compact, expand momentum reach, use for endcap

Very active and complex R&D, applying advances in sensors, electronics, imaging, algorithms

Main R&D directions (*with significant overlap/synergy*):

- (a) focusing design emphasizing spatial resolution, x&y pixels (fDIRC, GlueX)
- (b) focusing design emphasizing high-precision photon timing (Belle II)
- (c) focusing design with time and space coordinates with similarly high precision (PANDA, EIC)
- (d) DIRC-based time-of-flight counters (LHCb, Tau-Charm) – *not covered in this talk*

Exploring mitigation of previously “irreducible” RICH resolution terms: chromatic dispersion, multiple scattering

20+ years of next-gen DIRC R&D, active field, designs pushing DIRC performance limits

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

