

# Detectors for particle tracking and identification

Silvia Masciocchi

GSI Darmstadt and University of Heidelberg

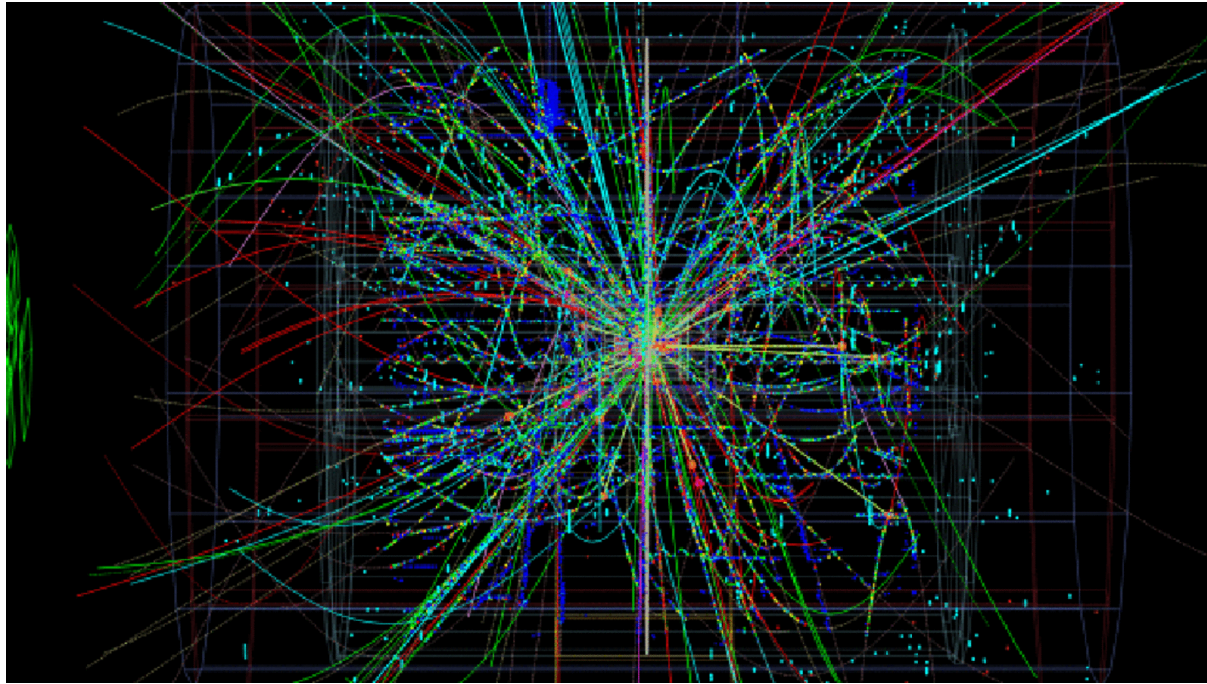
*39<sup>th</sup> Heidelberg Physics Graduate Days, HGSFP*

*Heidelberg*

*October 9, 2017*

# Why particle detectors?

An essential tool to look at the small and the “invisible”



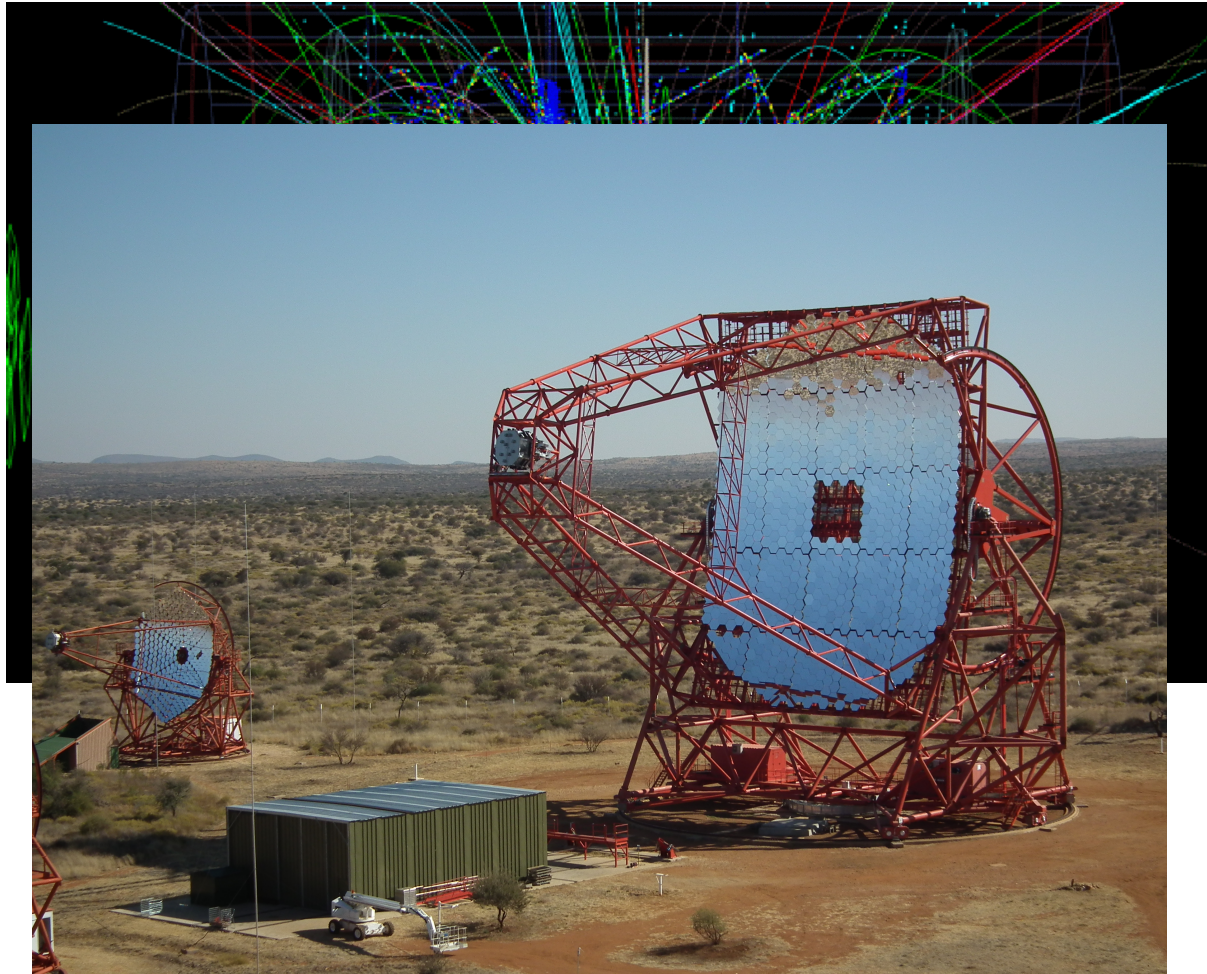
Particles produced in a collision at the LHC

From fundamental research:

- Particle collisions at accelerators

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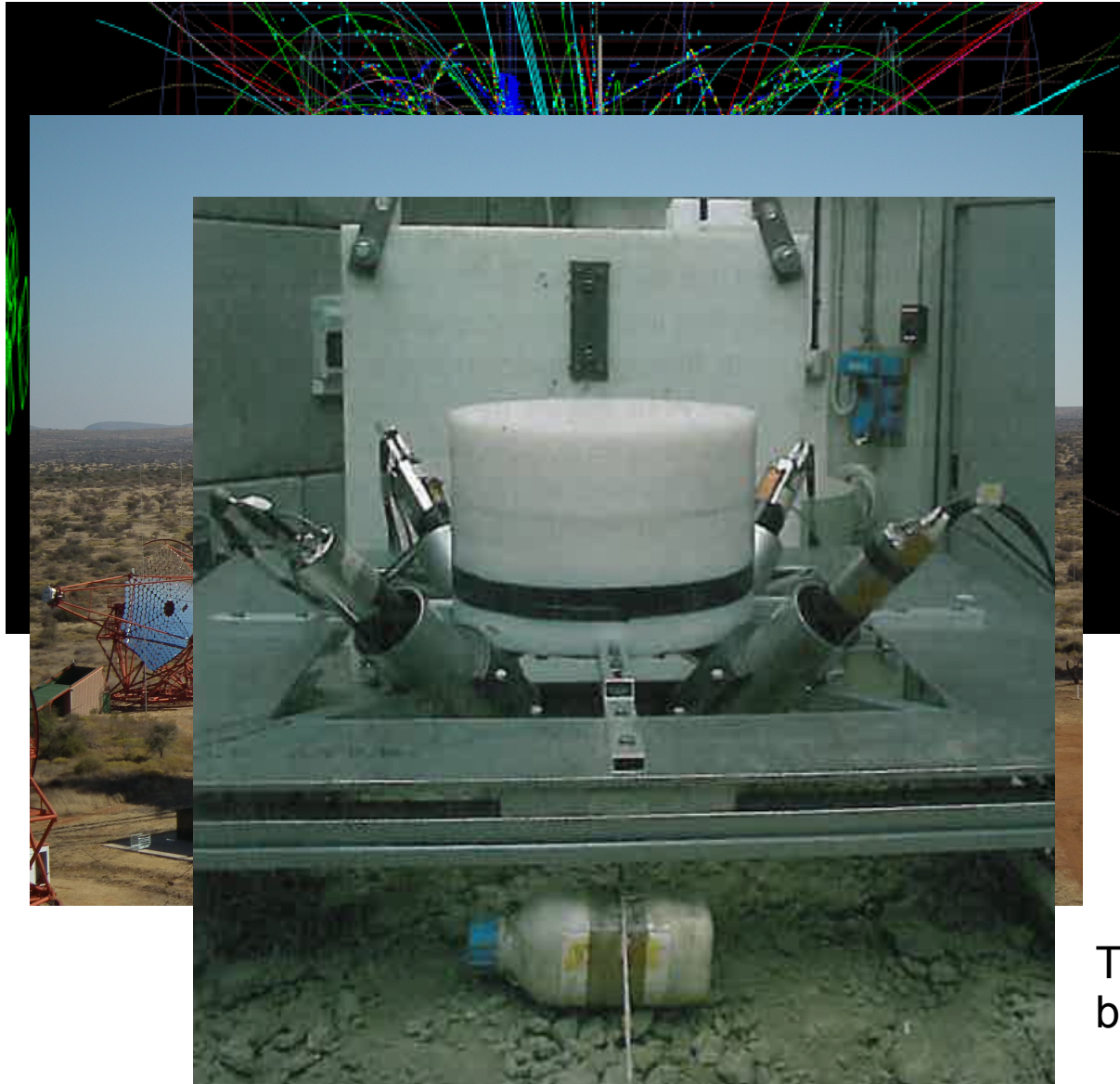
High Energy Stereoscopic System  
HESS telescope in Namibia

From fundamental  
research:

- Particle collisions at accelerators
- Telescopes for gamma-ray astrophysics

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From fundamental research:

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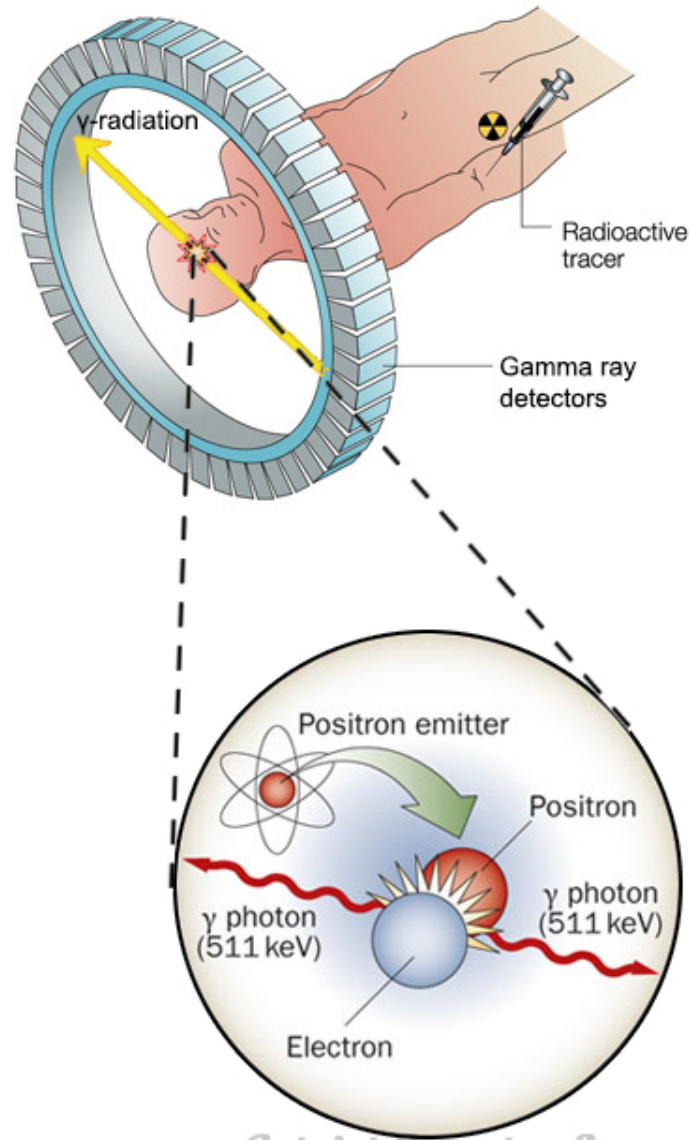
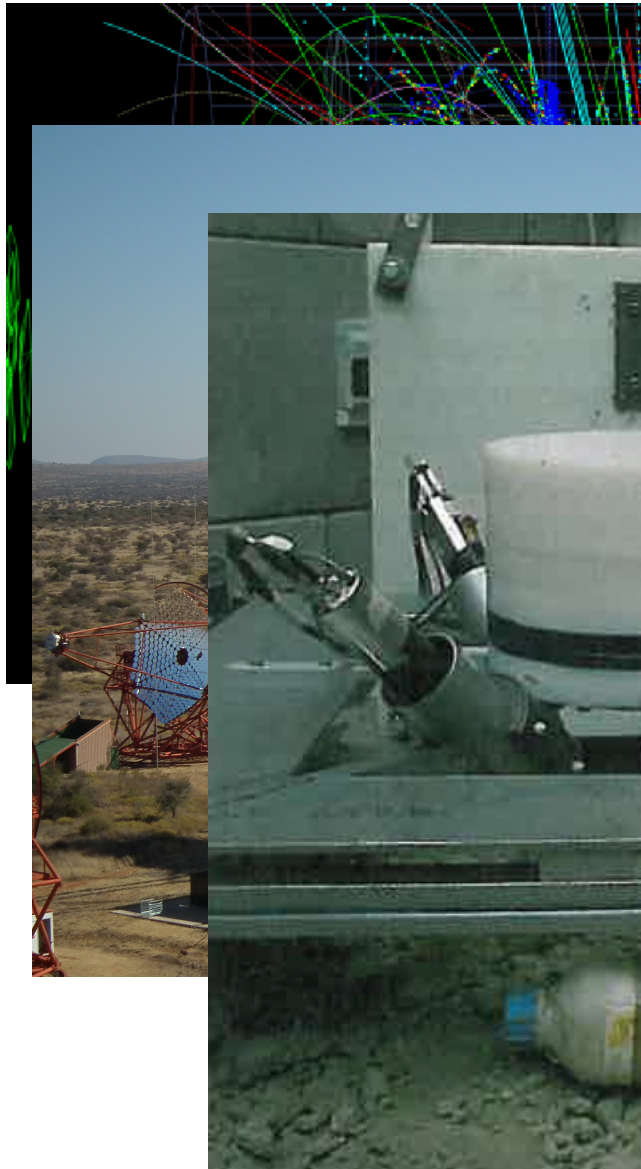
To applications:

- Security: dirty bombs detection

Thermal neutron sensor to detect bomb remnants and explosives

# Why particle detectors?

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From fundamental research:

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- Telescopes for gamma-ray astrophysics

To applications:

- Security: dirty bombs detection
- Medical imaging: Positron-Electron Tomography (PET)

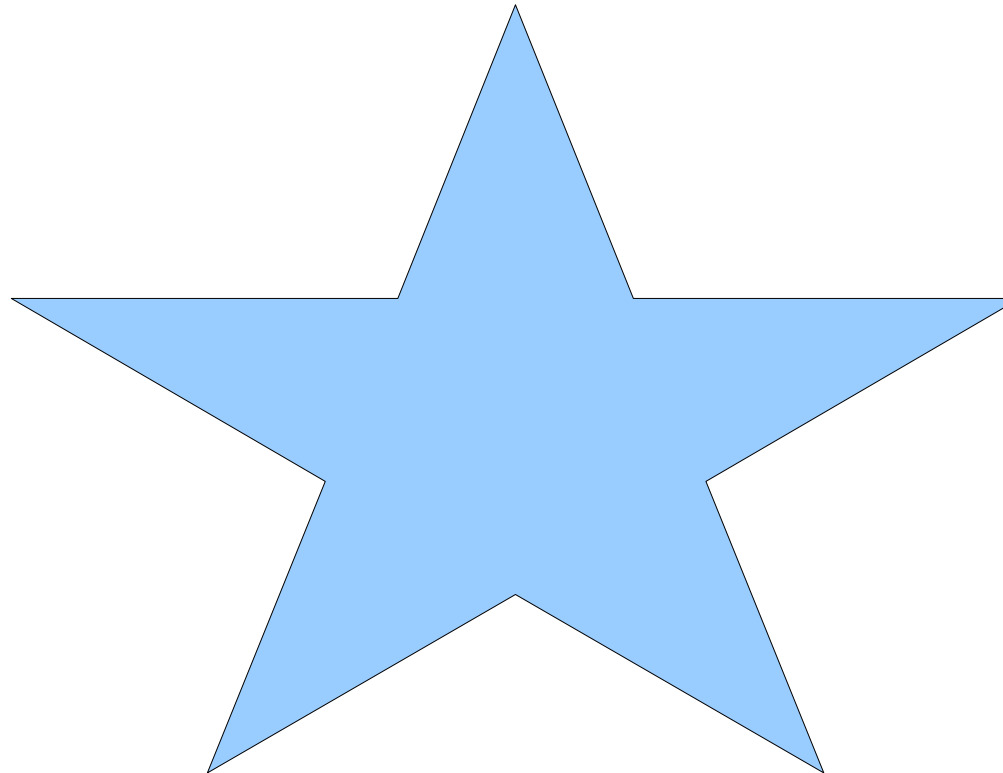
*Gabriel Gonzalez-Escamilla*

# Research in physics

Curiosity, questions  
Structure of matter?  
Fundamental interactions?  
Origin of universe?

Theory

Experiments,  
accelerators



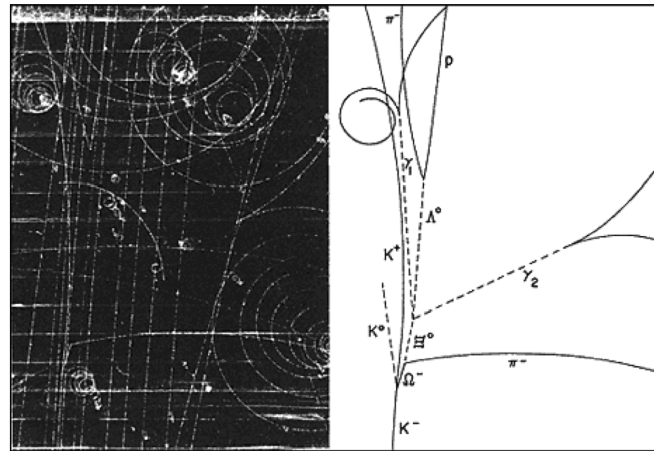
Data analysis  
(statistical treatment, etc.)

DETECTORS

# Nuclear and particle physics

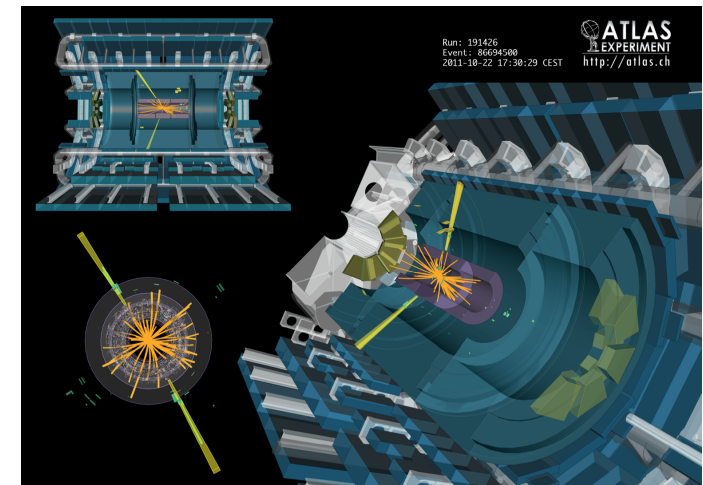
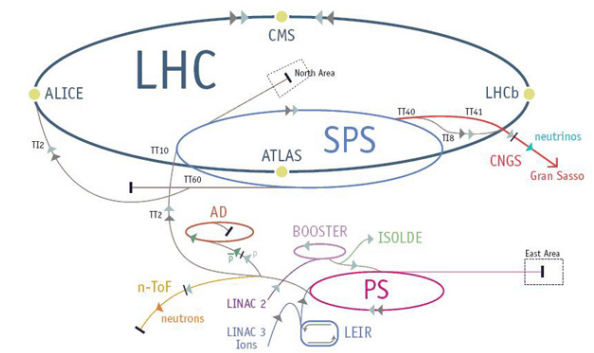
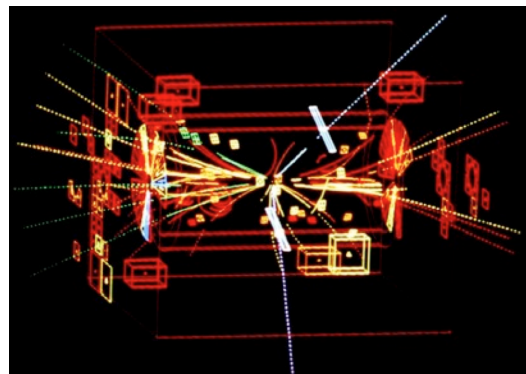
Progress has been:

- mostly driven by experimental observations
- critically coupled with the development of new methods in particle acceleration and particle detection

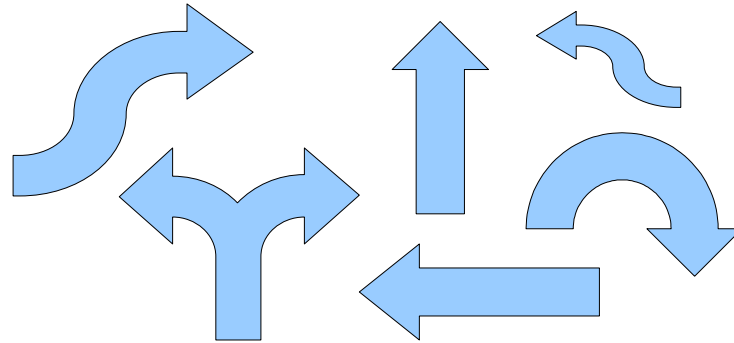


first  $\Omega^-$  event seen in the 80" bubble chamber at the BNL Alternating Gradient Synchrotron

$Z^0 \rightarrow e^+e^-$   
in UA1



# Nuclear and particle physics

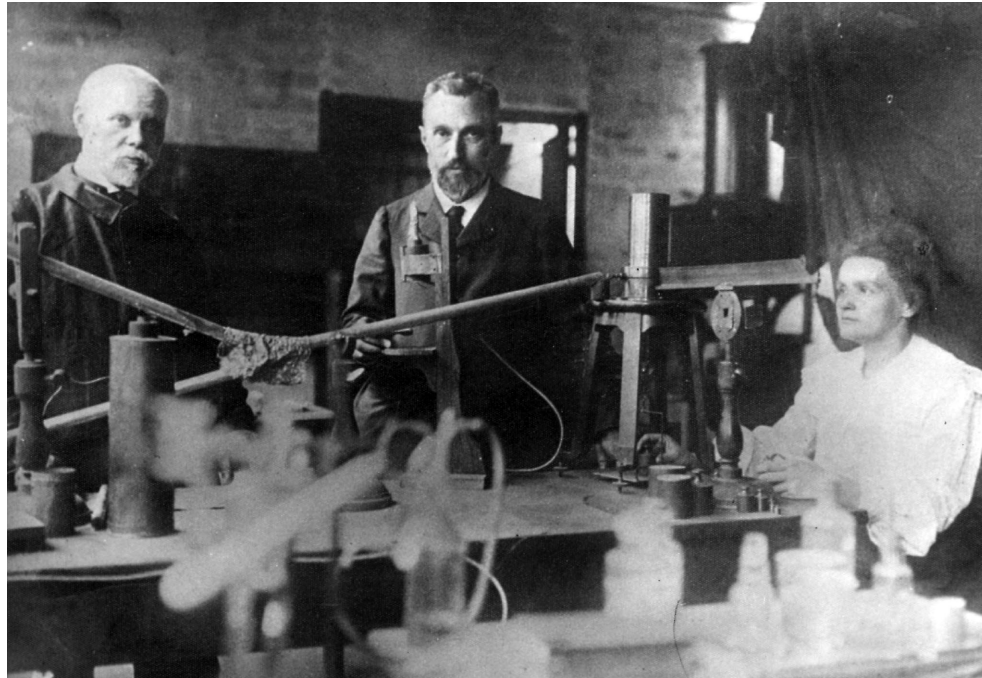


- Accidental observation brings to a physics discovery  
Example: radioactivity
- Some instruments have been developed as tools to support the work of the physicist  
Example: Geiger counter
- Large scale experiments at accelerators were built to prove expectations from a theory



# Discovery of radioactivity

**1896:** first detection of natural radioactivity ( $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  decays)  
Henri Becquerel (mineralogist), Marie and Pierre Curie, Paris

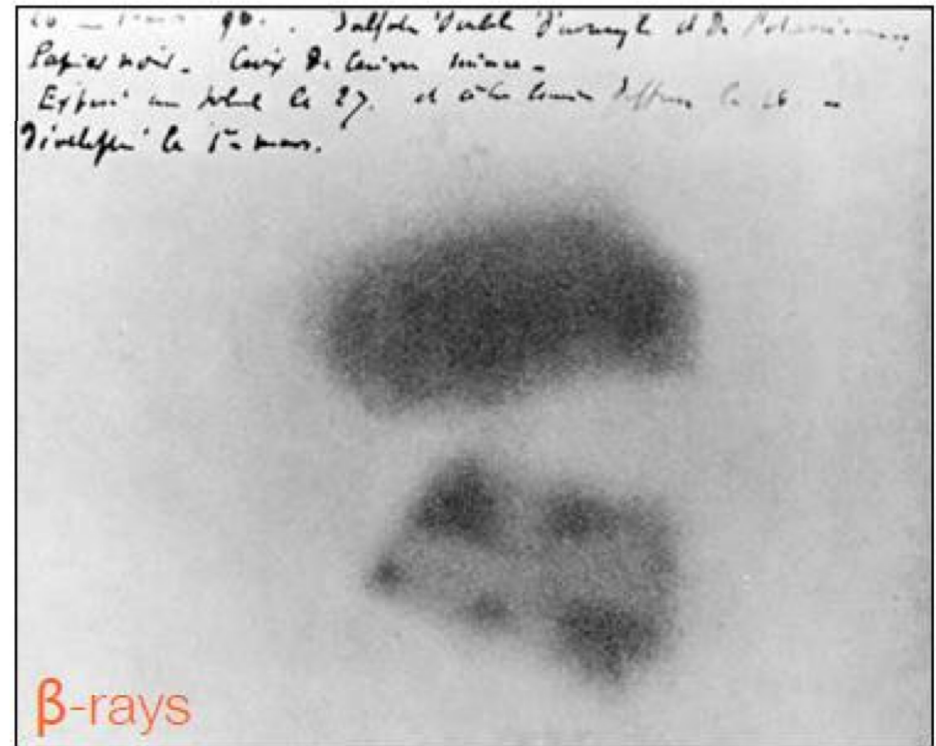
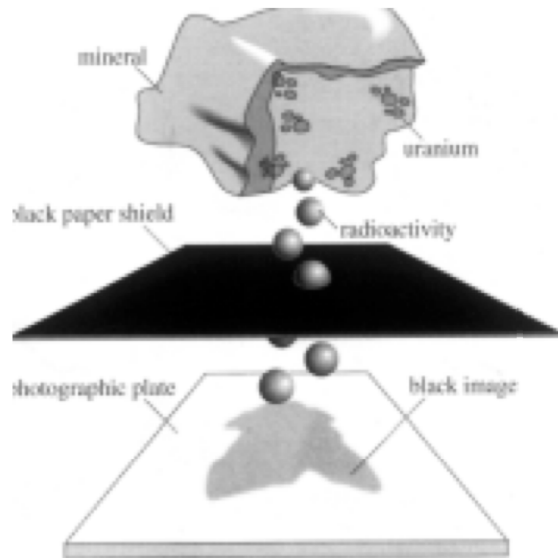


Becquerel's (wrong) assumption: minerals made phosphorescent by visible light might emit x-rays. Wrap a photographic plate in black paper, place a phosphorescent uranium mineral on top of it and expose to sun.

**Accidental** discovery in February 1896 (bad weather)

# Discovery of radioactivity

1896



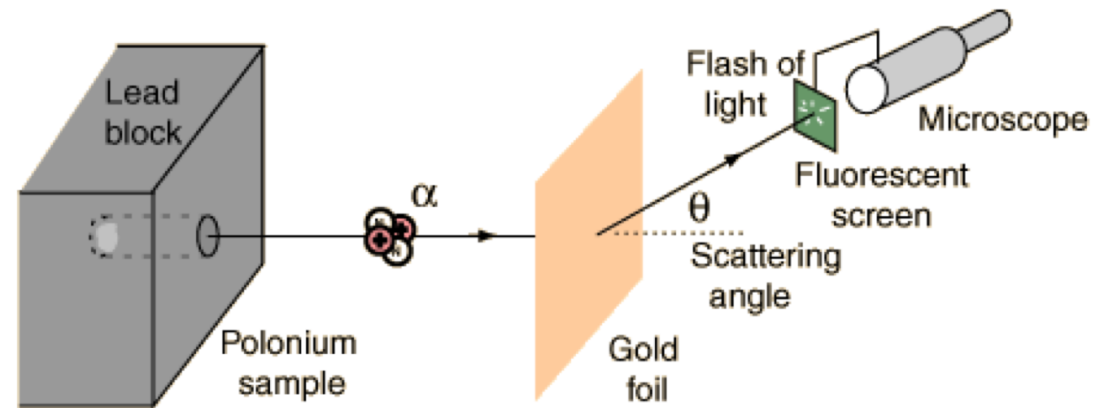
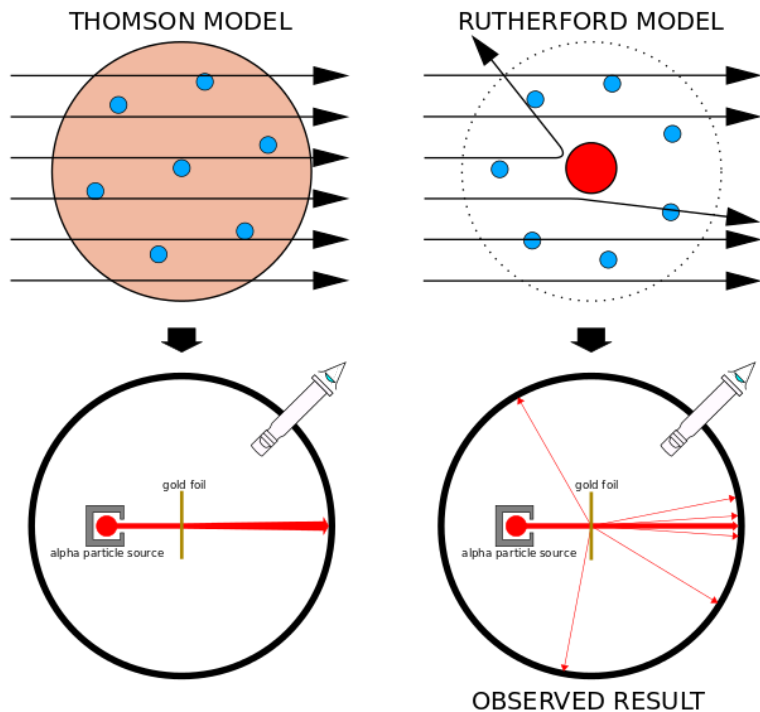
Becquerel: photographic plate which was exposed to radiation from a uranium salt. Radiation resulted to be **charged**.

Soon after Marie and Pierre Curie identified other radioactive materials: Polonium, Radium, Thorium

**Nobel prize physics 1903**

# Rutherford scattering

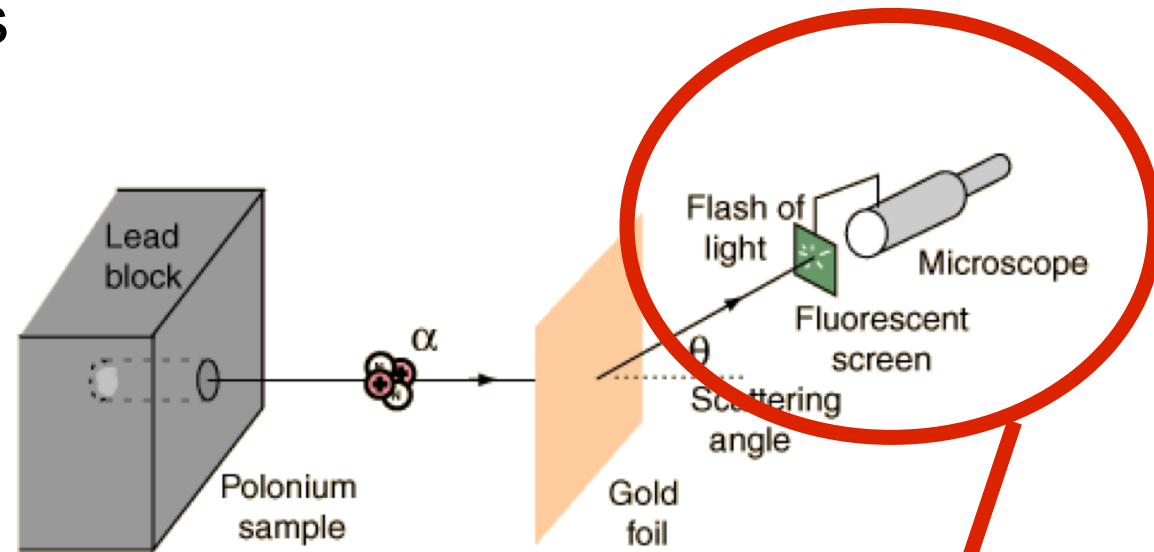
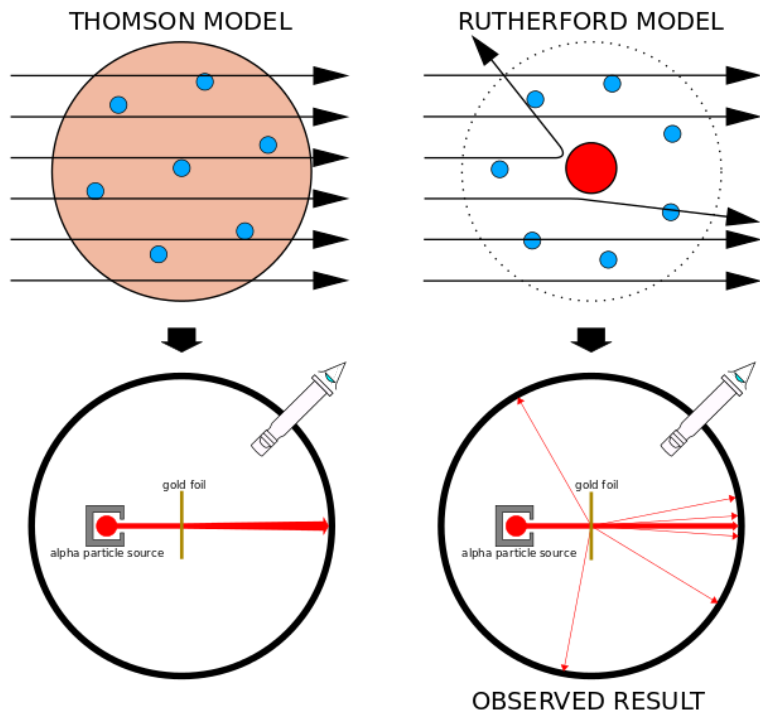
**1911:** Rutherford (University of Manchester) with Geiger (visiting) and Marsden (undergraduate student) discover the atomic nucleus



**Schematic view of Rutherford's scattering experiment**

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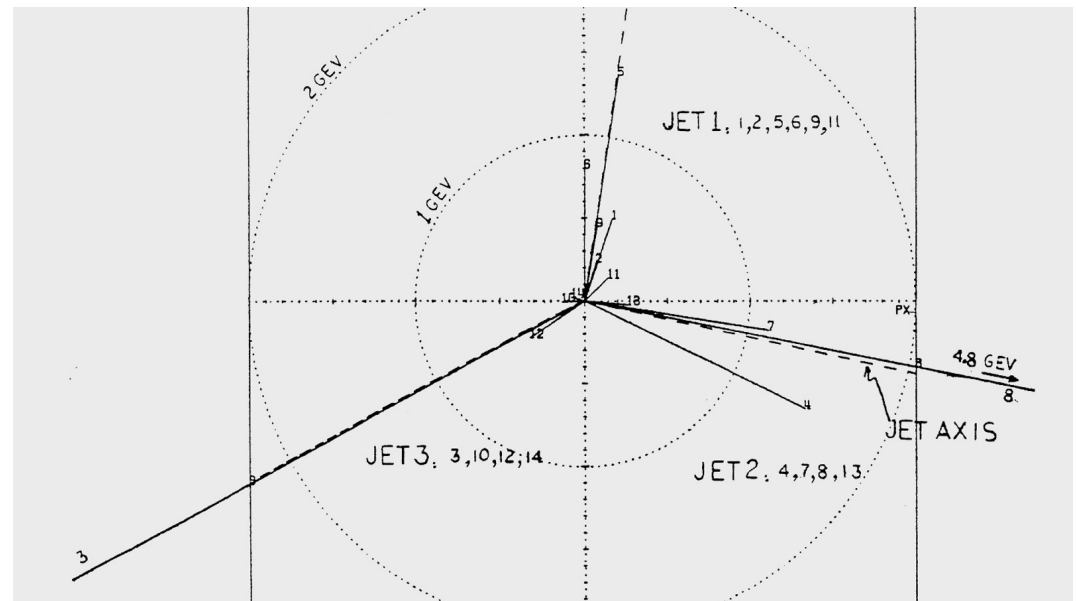
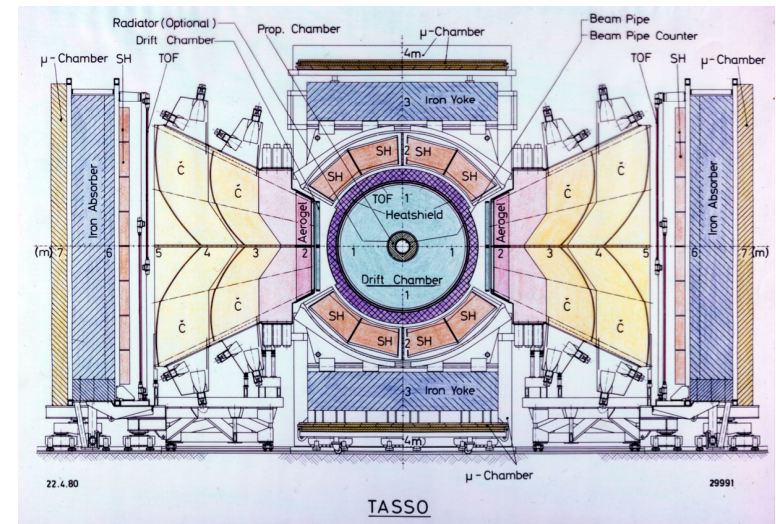


**Schematic view of Rutherford's scattering experiment**

**Geiger counter developed to measure  $\alpha$  particles**

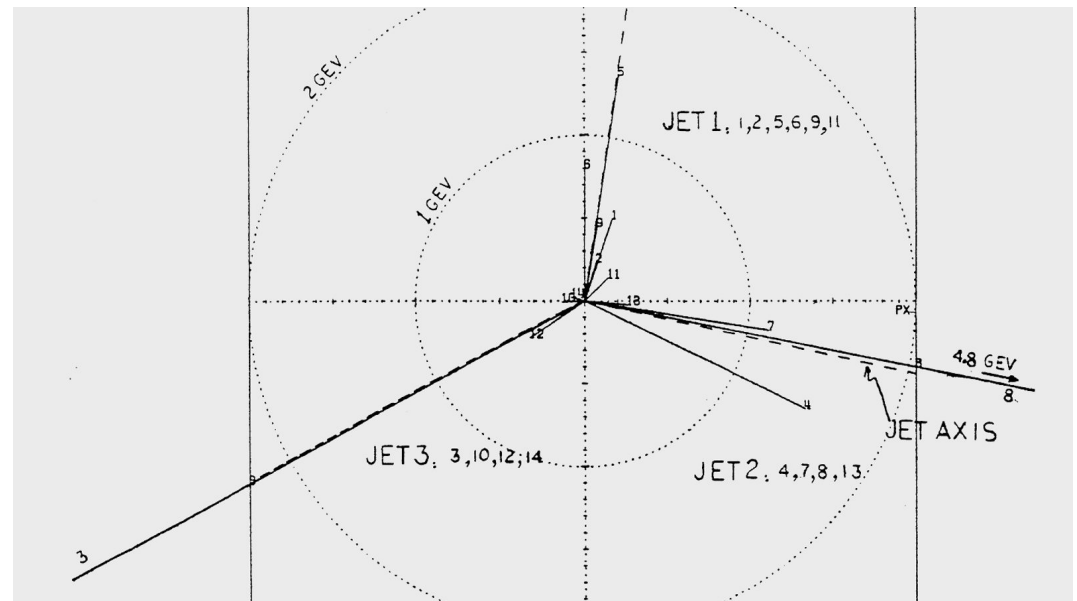
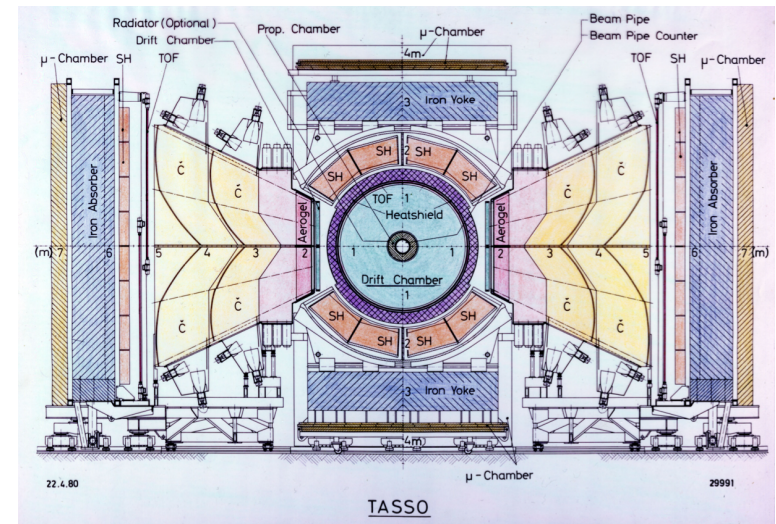
# TASSO experiment at DESY (1979)

- Theory of the strong interaction
- PETRA collider:  $e^+e^-$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 27.4 \text{ GeV}$
- TASSO experiment: large drift chamber
  
- Planar 3-jet event



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## Discovery of the gluon

# This course

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## 1. Interaction of particles with matter

## 2. Gaseous detectors

for very large acceptance, 3D tracking, particle identification

## 3. Semiconductor detectors

for high precision position measurements

## 4. Calorimetry for energy measurements

More particle identification techniques

## 5. How a full experiment is put together



# Radiation detection

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Absolute basic principles:

- Particle must INTERACT with the material of the detector
- It has to transfer energy / momentum in some way
- Knowing the interaction of the particle with the detector material in detail allows us to deduce extended, precise and quantitative information about the particle properties

**Particle detection happens via the energy the particle deposits in the material it traverses**



# Interactions with matter

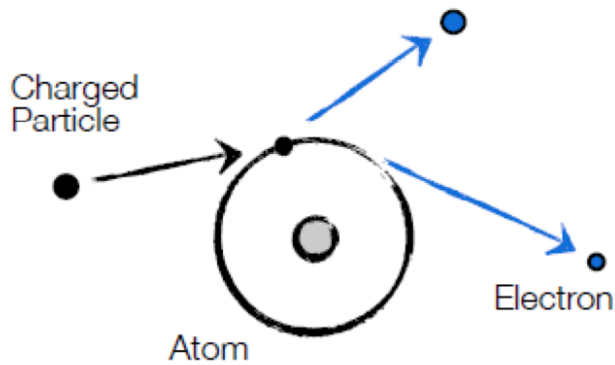
Mechanisms through which radiation interacts with the material it traverses, in a detector:

- **Charged particles:**
  - Ionization
  - Excitation
  - Bremsstrahlung
  - Cherenkov radiation
  - Transition radiation
- **Photons:**
  - Photo effect
  - Compton effect
  - Pair production
- **Neutrinos:** weak interaction
- **Hadrons:** nuclear interactions

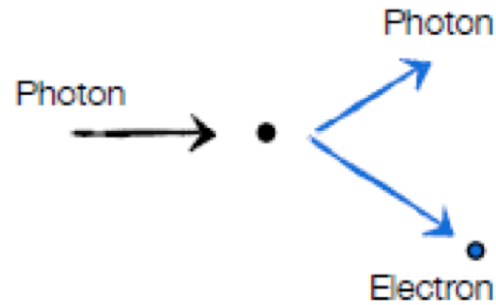
**Distinguish between energy loss via multiple interactions and total energy loss in a single interaction (e.g. pair production)**

# Interactions with matter - examples

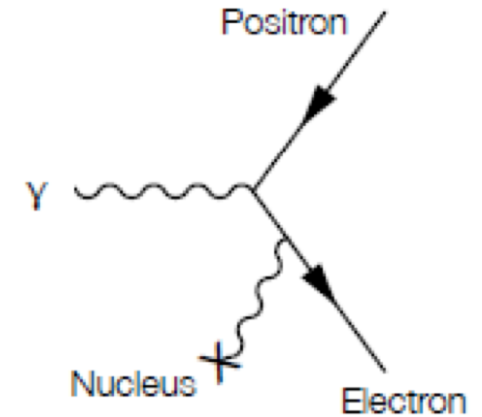
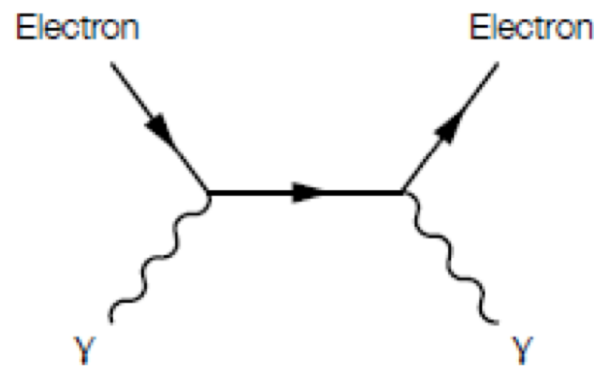
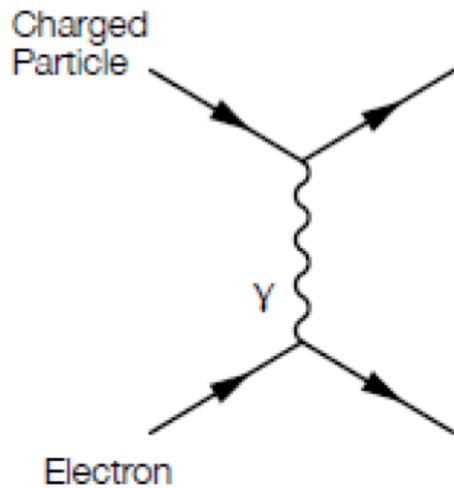
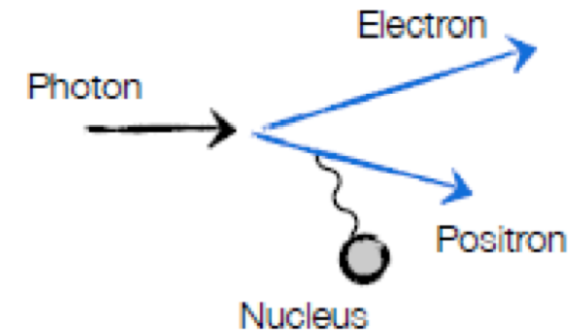
## Ionization



## Compton scattering



## Pair production



# Interaction with matter

## Outline for today:

- Energy loss by ionization (by “heavy” particles)
- Interaction of electrons with matter:
  - Energy loss by ionization
  - Bremsstrahlung
- Cherenkov effect
- Transition radiation
- Interaction of photons
  - Photoelectric effect
  - Compton scattering
  - Pair production

Charged particles

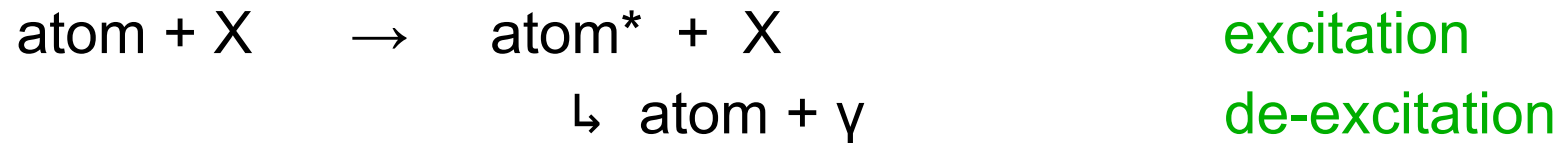
# Interaction of charged particles

Charged particle X, with  $Mc^2 \gg m_e c^2$  (electrons are discussed later)

Dominant: Coulomb interaction between the particle X and the atom  $\rightarrow$

2 electromagnetic processes:

1) elastic scattering from nuclei



2) inelastic collisions with the atomic electrons of the material



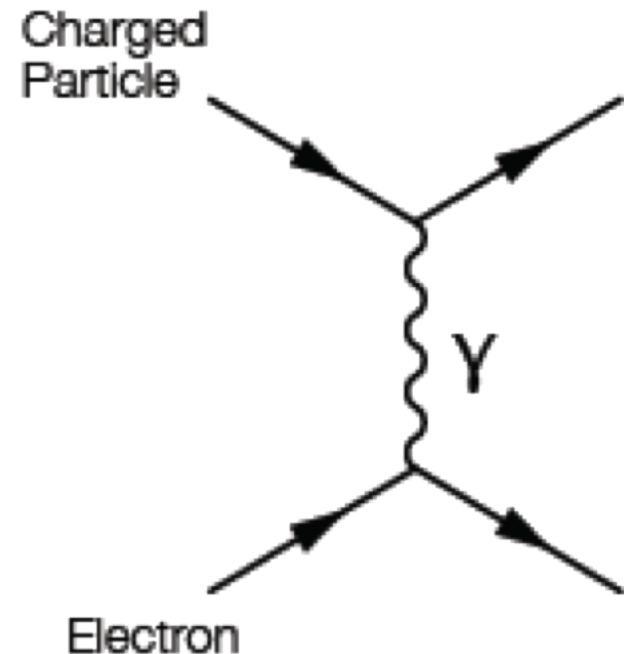
# Energy loss by ionization $dE/dx$

- Charged particle:  $ze$
- “heavy” particle:  $Mc^2 \gg m_e c^2$  (electrons are discussed later)
- Energy high enough to “resolve” the inside of the atom: from the uncertainty principle

$$\lambda = \hbar / p \quad \text{e.g. } 1 \text{ GeV}/c \rightarrow 1 \text{ fm}$$

## Collisions with electrons:

- Classical derivation by N. Bohr (1913)
- Quantum mechanical derivation by H. Bethe (1930) and F. Bloch (1933)



# Bethe-Bloch equation

Considering quantum mechanical effects:

$$-\left\langle \frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle = K z^2 \frac{Z}{A} \frac{1}{\beta^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2 \gamma^2 T_{\max}}{I^2} - \beta^2 - \frac{\delta(\beta\gamma)}{2} \right]$$

[·ρ]  
density

$$K = 4\pi N_A r_e^2 m_e c^2 = 0.307 \text{ MeV g}^{-1} \text{ cm}^2$$

$$T_{\max} = 2m_e c^2 \beta^2 \gamma^2 / (1 + 2\gamma m_e / M + (m_e / M)^2)$$

[Max. energy transfer in single collision]

$$N_A = 6.022 \cdot 10^{23}$$

[Avogadro's number]

$$r_e = e^2 / 4\pi \epsilon_0 m_e c^2 = 2.8 \text{ fm}$$

[Classical electron radius]

$$m_e = 511 \text{ keV}$$

[Electron mass]

z : Charge of incident particle

M : Mass of incident particle

$$\beta = v/c$$

[Velocity]

Z : Charge number of medium

A : Atomic mass of medium

$$\gamma = (1 - \beta^2)^{-1/2}$$

[Lorentz factor]

I : Mean excitation energy of medium

δ : Density correction [transv. extension of electric field]

Validity:

$$.05 < \beta\gamma < 500$$

$$M > m_\mu$$

# Bethe-Bloch equation

Considering quantum mechanical effects:

$$-\left\langle \frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle = K z^2 \frac{Z}{A} \frac{1}{\beta^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2 \gamma^2 T_{\max}}{I^2} - \beta^2 - \frac{\delta(\beta\gamma)}{2} \right] [\cdot \rho]$$

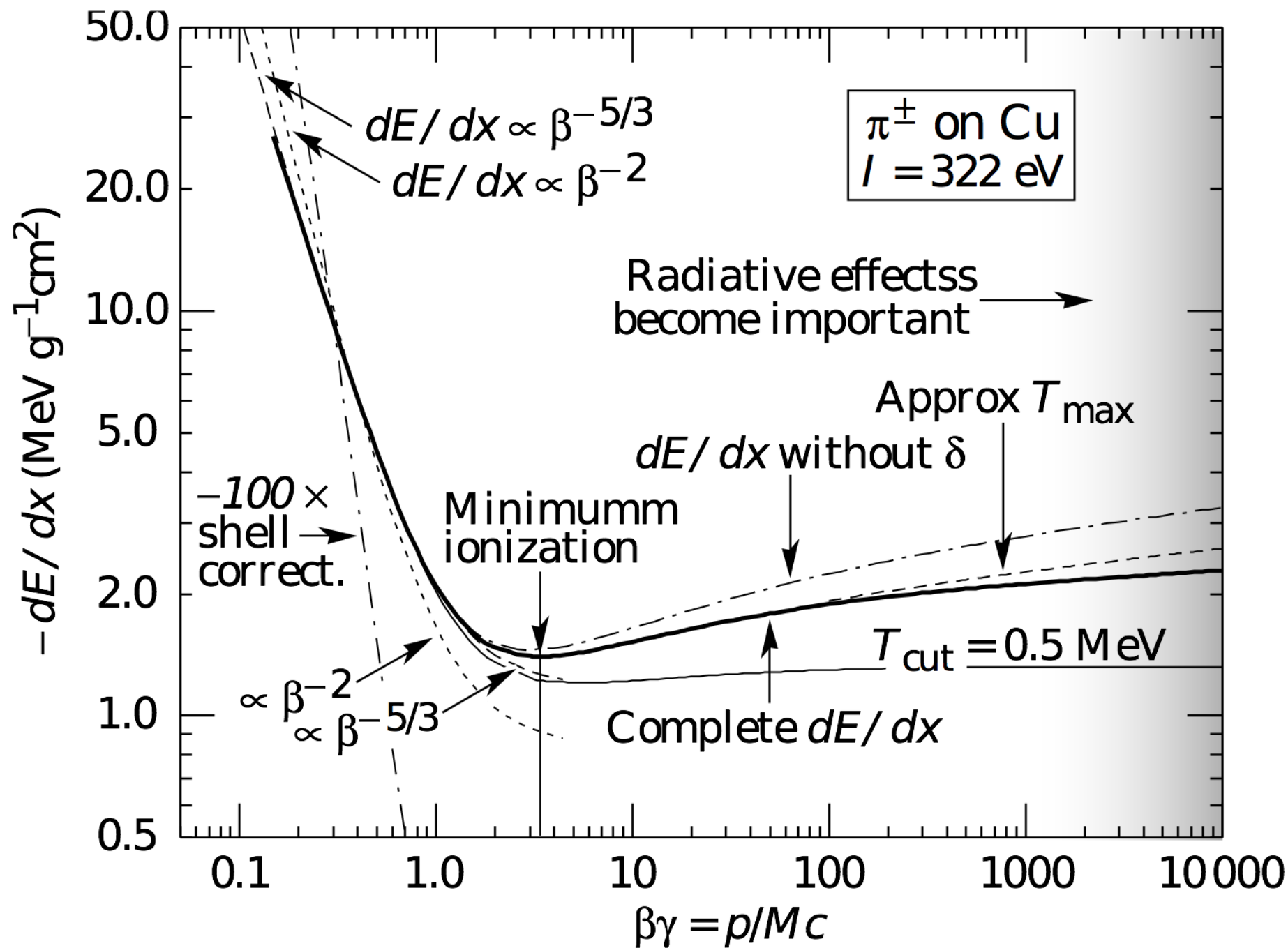
density

$I = \hbar \langle \nu \rangle =$  effective ionization potential

Or mean excitation energy of the medium

$\langle \nu \rangle =$  average revolution frequency of electron

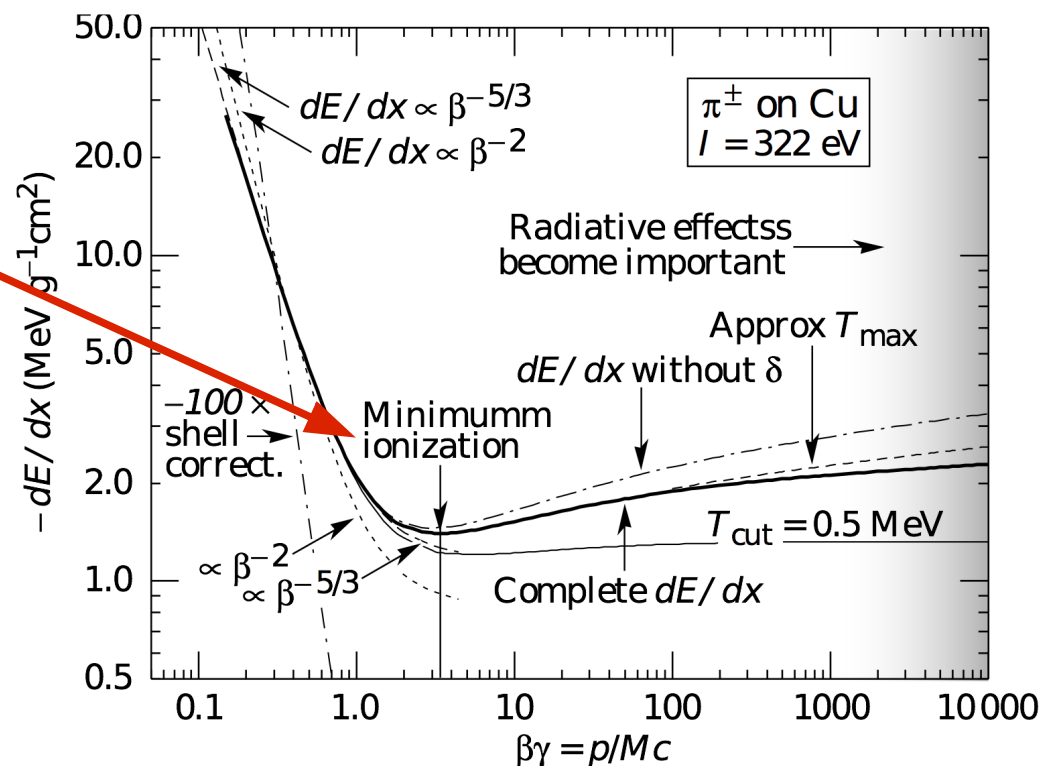
$T_{\max} \approx 2 m_e c^2 \beta^2 \gamma^2$  maximum energy transfer in a single collision, for  $M \gg m_e$





# Bethe-Bloch: main features

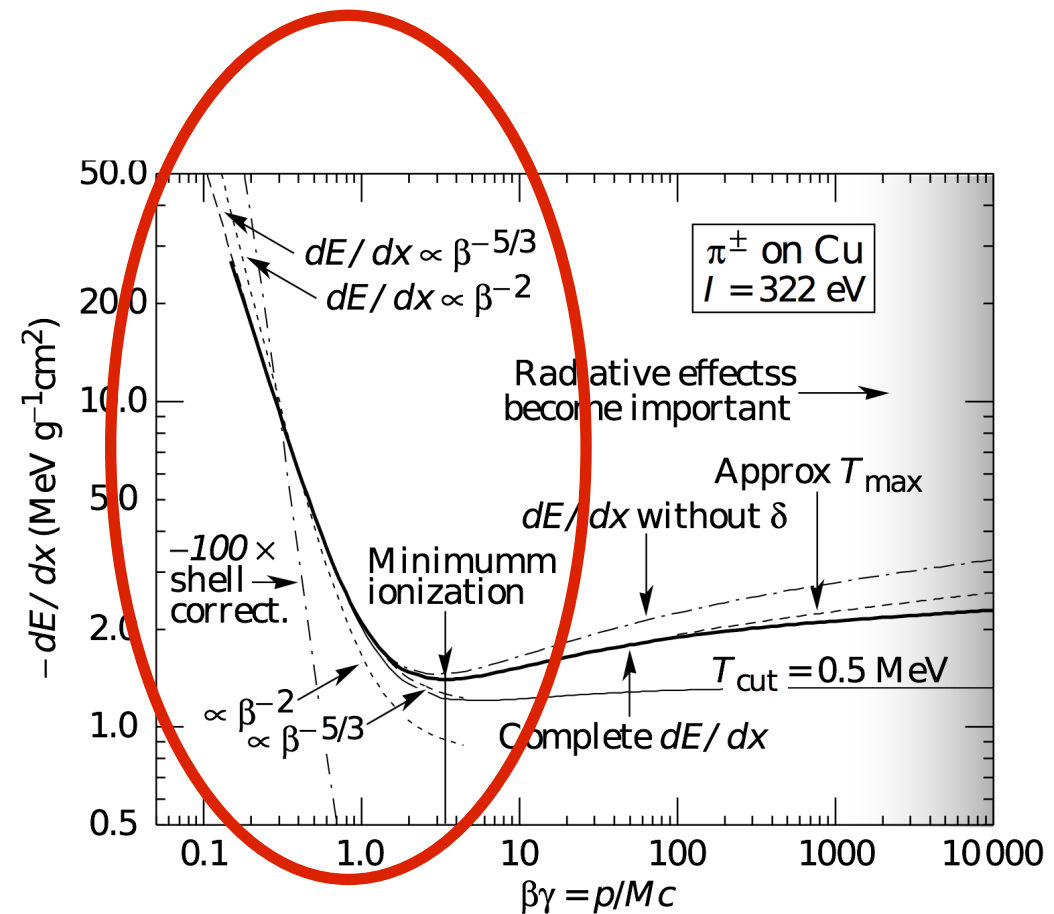
- Minimum ionization:  
MIP = **minimum ionizing particles**  
for  $\beta\gamma \approx 3-4$
- Units:  $\text{MeV g}^{-1} \text{cm}^2$   
 $dE/dx_{\text{min}} \sim 1-2 \text{ MeV g}^{-1} \text{cm}^2$
- Density of copper:  $\rho=9.94 \text{ g/cm}^3$   
→ **MIP** loses  $\sim 13 \text{ MeV/cm}$



# Bethe-Bloch: main features

## Small $\beta\gamma$

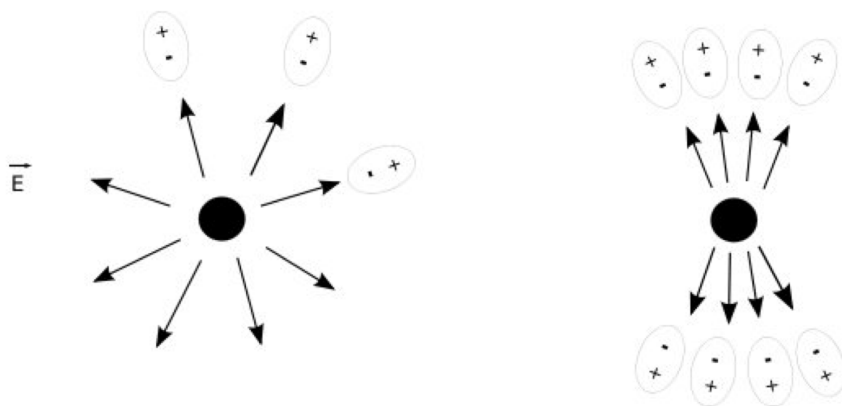
- quick fall of  $dE/dx$  as  $\beta^{-2}$  (Bohr)
- Precisely it is  $\beta^{-5/3}$ : slower particles experience the electric field for a longer time  $\rightarrow$  stronger energy loss!
- **Shell corrections**: particle velocity can get close to the electron orbital velocity ( $\beta c \sim v_e$ ):
  - Assumption of electron to be at rest is no longer valid
  - Capture processes become possible



# Bethe-Bloch: main features

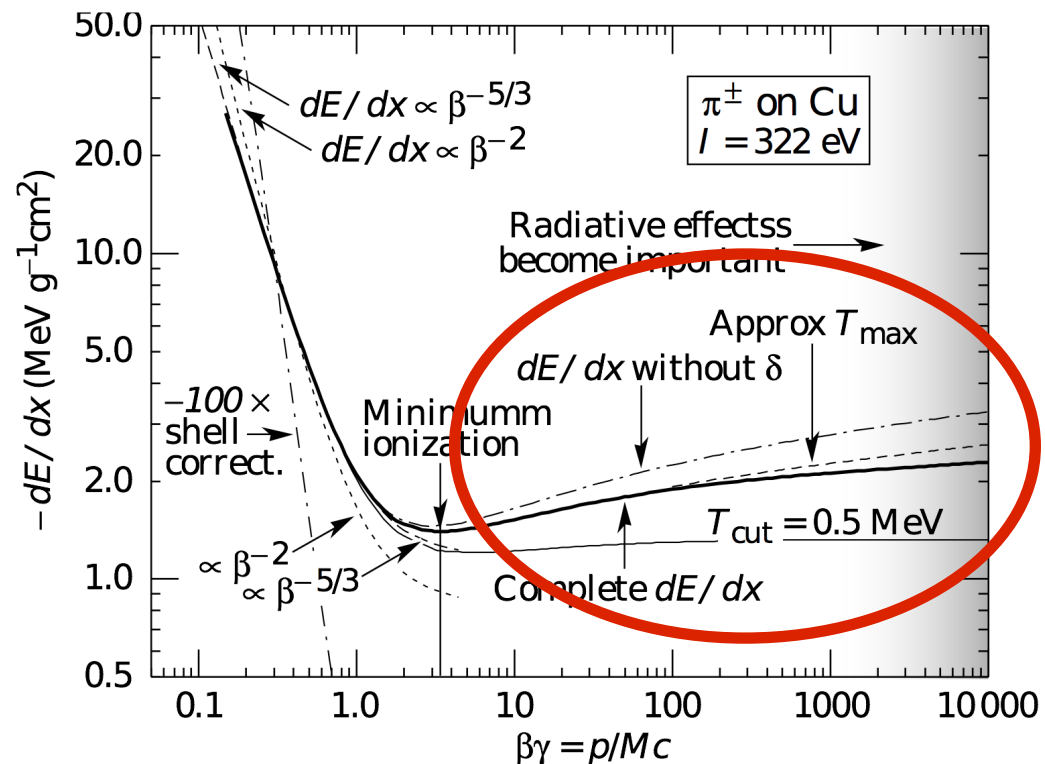
## Large $\beta\gamma$

- Relativistic rise  $\sim \ln \beta^2\gamma^2$   
The transverse electric field increases due to Lorentz transformation  $\rightarrow$  increase of contribution from larger  $b$



left: for small  $\gamma$ ,

right: for large  $\gamma$



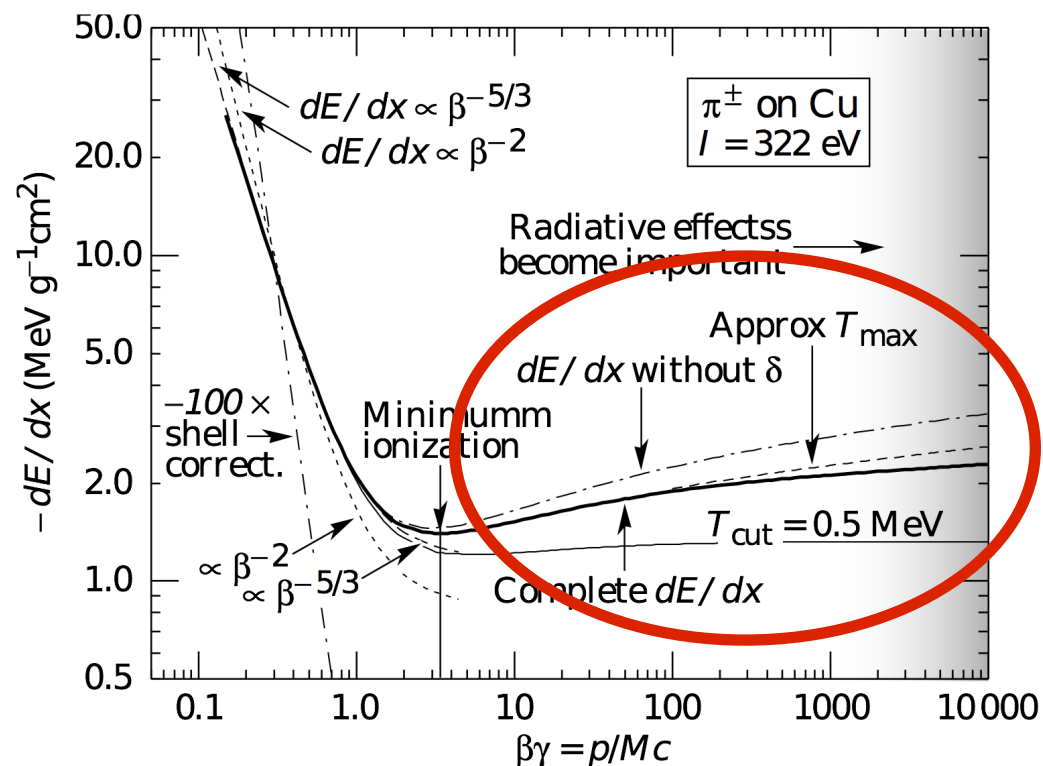
- Density correction must be considered: Fermi plateau  $\rightarrow$

# Bethe-Bloch: main features

## Large $\beta\gamma$ : density correction

$$-\frac{\delta}{2}$$

- Real media are polarized  $\rightarrow$  effective shielding of electric field far from particle path  $\rightarrow$  effectively reduces the long range contribution to relativistic rise
- effectively  $dE/dx$  grows like  $\ln(\beta\gamma)$
- Correction much larger for liquids and solids! Logarithmic rise  $\sim 20\%$  in liquids and solids,  $\sim 50\%$  in gases



# dE/dx

Particle Data Group:

[pdg.lbl.gov/2016/reviews/rp/p2016-rev-passage-particles-matter.pdf](http://pdg.lbl.gov/2016/reviews/rp/p2016-rev-passage-particles-matter.pdf)

Different detector materials

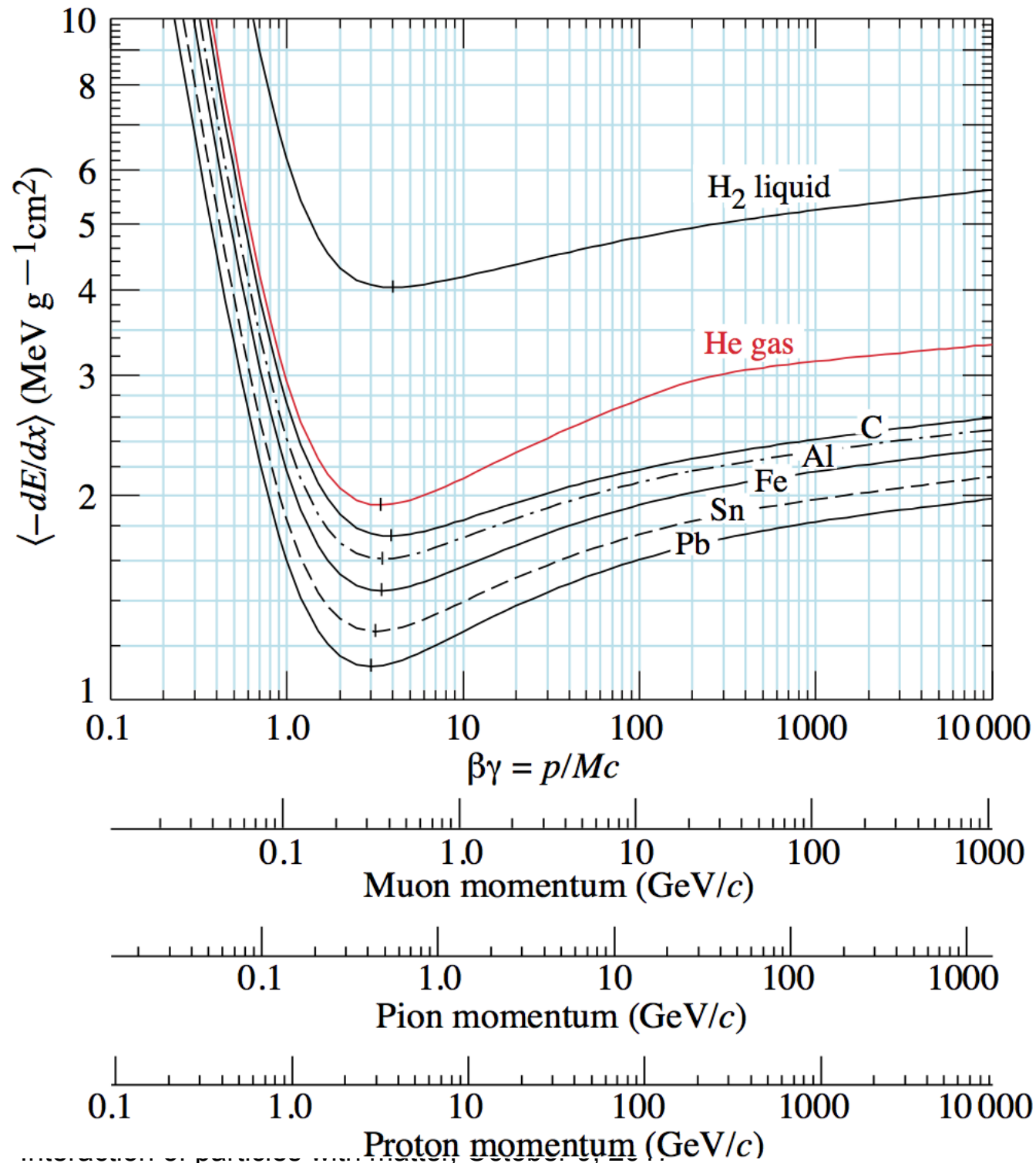
$$\frac{dE}{dx} \approx \frac{Z}{A}$$

(remember density!)

dE/dx depends on

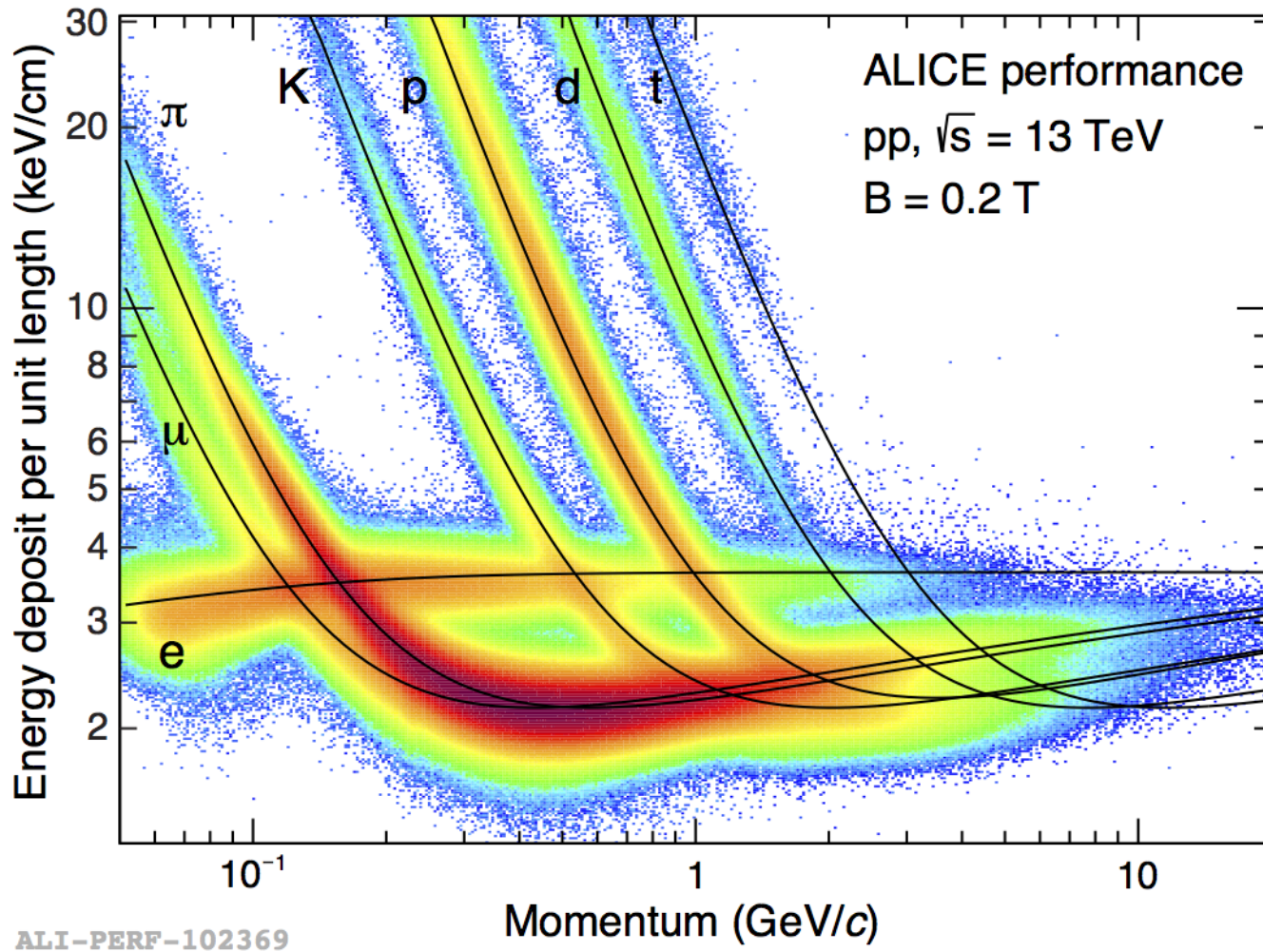
$$\beta\gamma = p/(Mc)$$

→ at a given p, dE/dx is different for particles with different mass M



# dE/dx used in practice

## the ALICE Time Projection Chamber



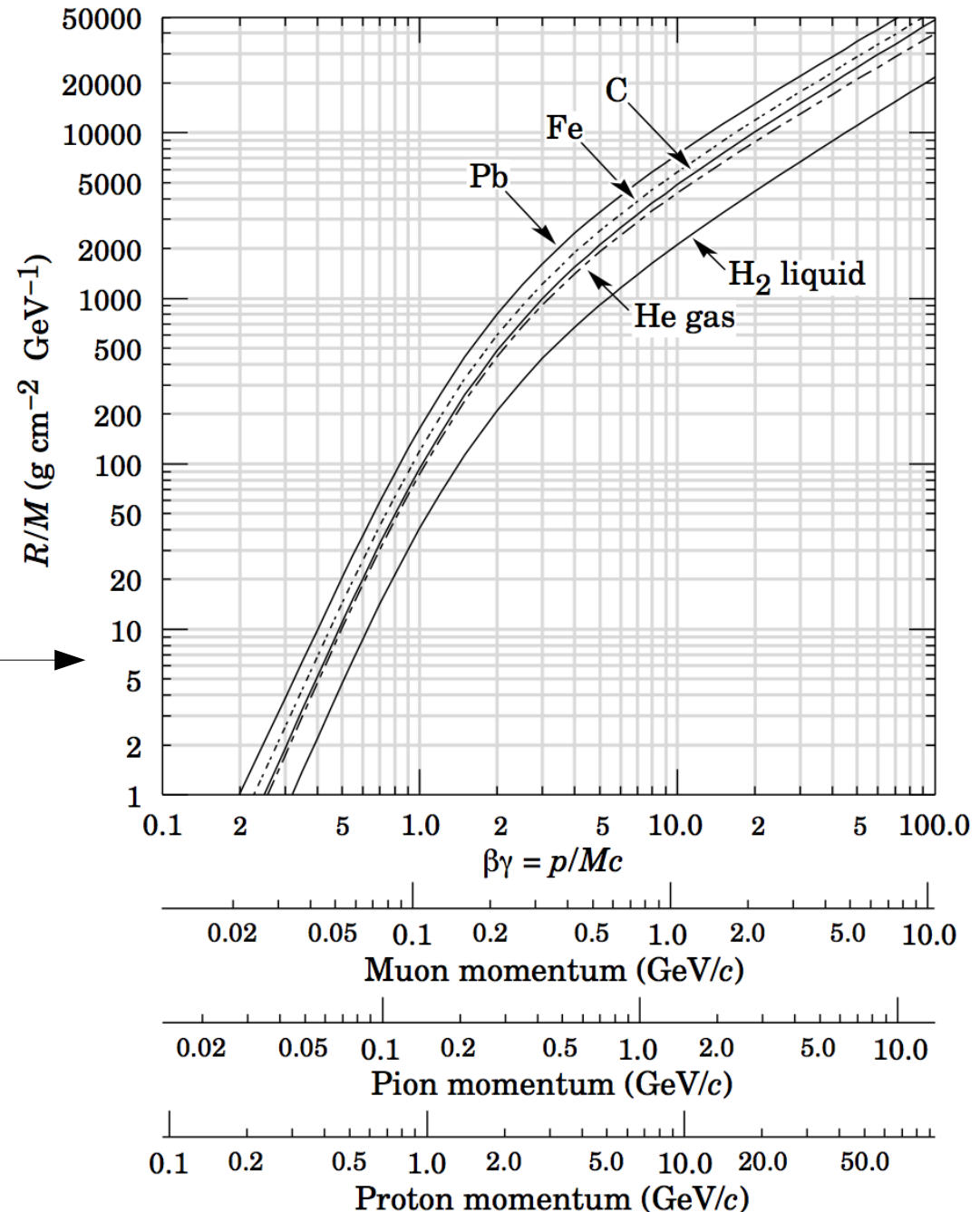
# Range of particles

Integrate over (changing!!) energy loss from initial energy  $E$  to 0, to calculate the range:

$$R = \int_E^0 \frac{dE}{dE/dx}$$

Here: Range of heavy charged particles in liquid (bubble chamber) hydrogen, helium gas, carbon, iron, and lead. For example:

- For a  $K^+$  whose momentum is 700 MeV/c,  $\beta\gamma = 1.42$ . For lead we read  $R/M \approx 396$ , and so the range is  $195 \text{ g cm}^{-2}$  (17 cm).



# Particles stopped in medium

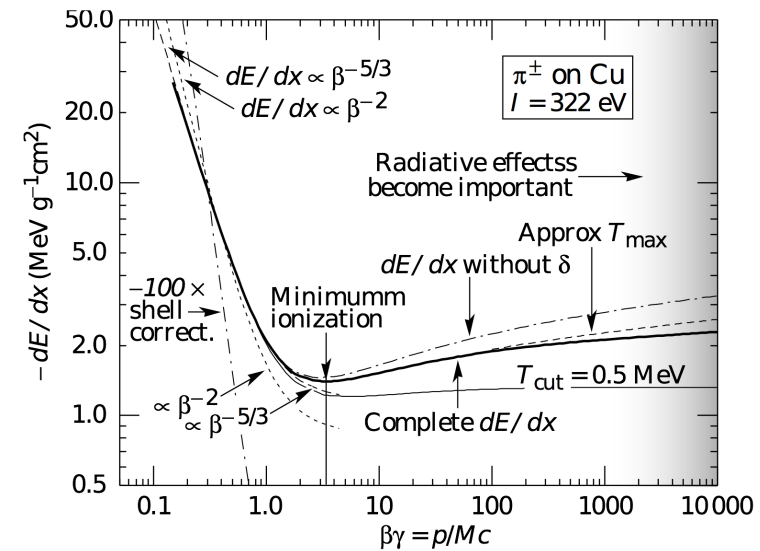
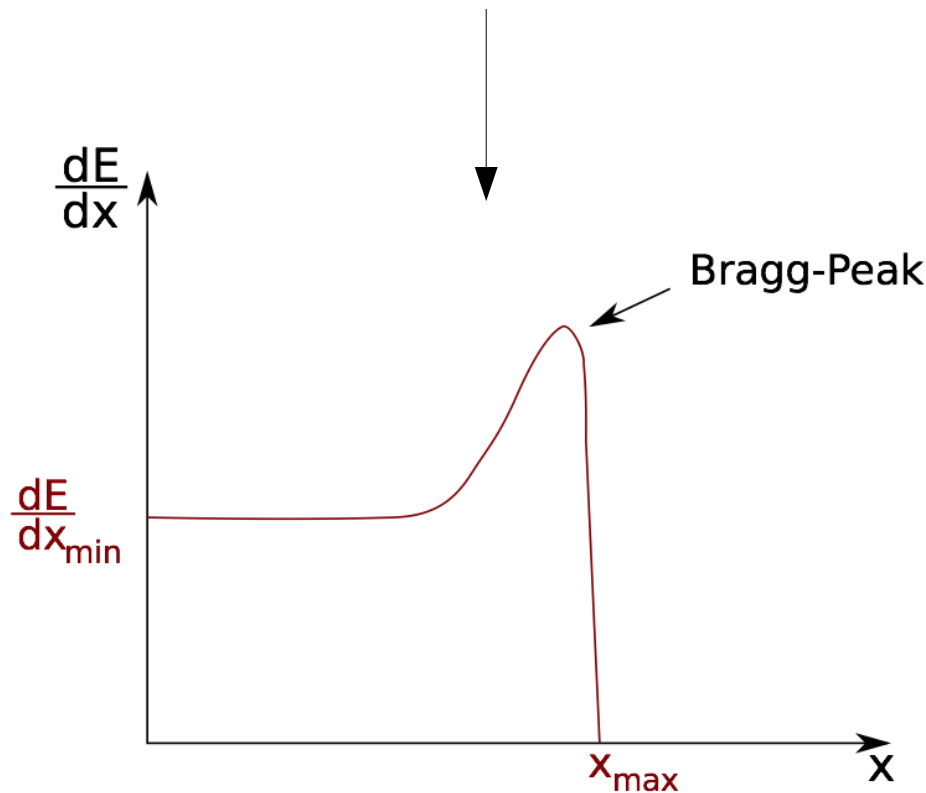
for  $\beta\gamma \simeq 3.5$

for  $\beta\gamma \leq 3.5$

steep rise

$$\left\langle \frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle \simeq \frac{dE}{dx}_{\min}$$

$$\left\langle \frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle \gg \frac{dE}{dx}_{\min}$$



Energy loss curve vs depth showing Bragg peak



# Application: tumor therapy

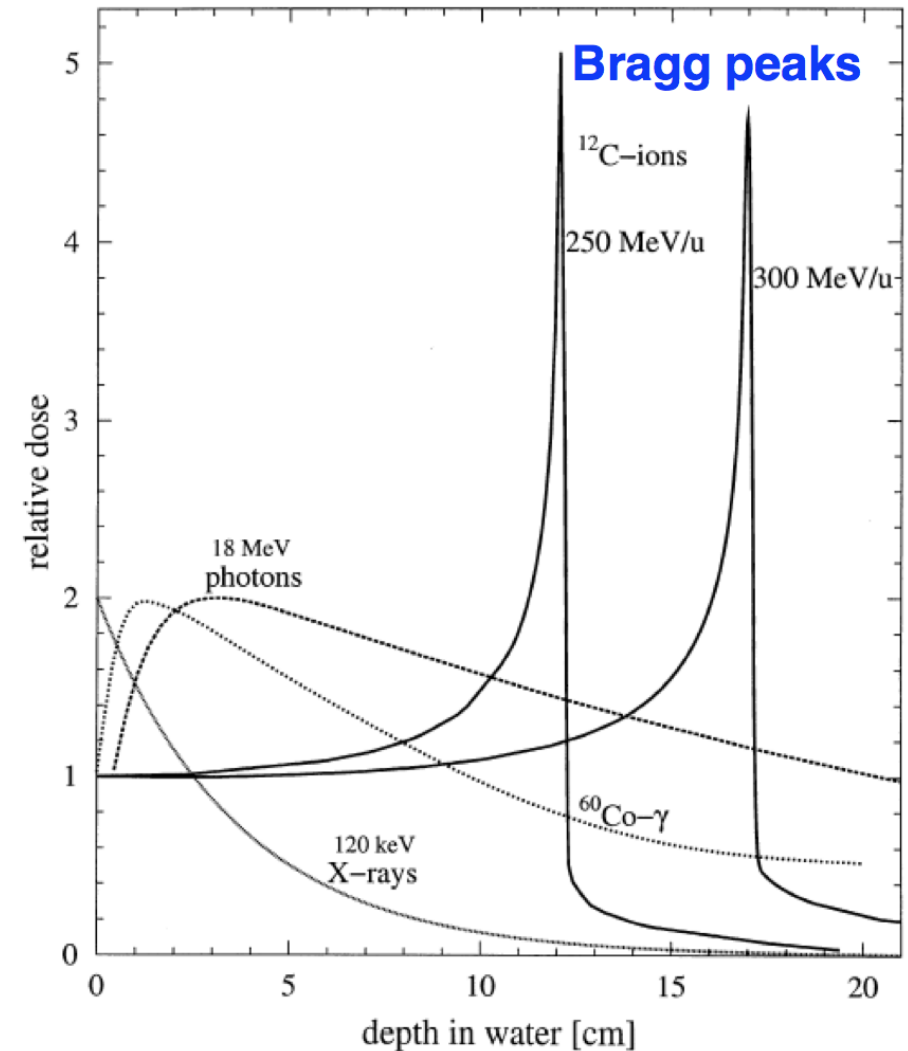
Possibility to deposit a rather precise dose at a well defined depth (body), by variation of the beam energy

Initially with protons, later also with heavier ions such as  $^{12}\text{C}$ .

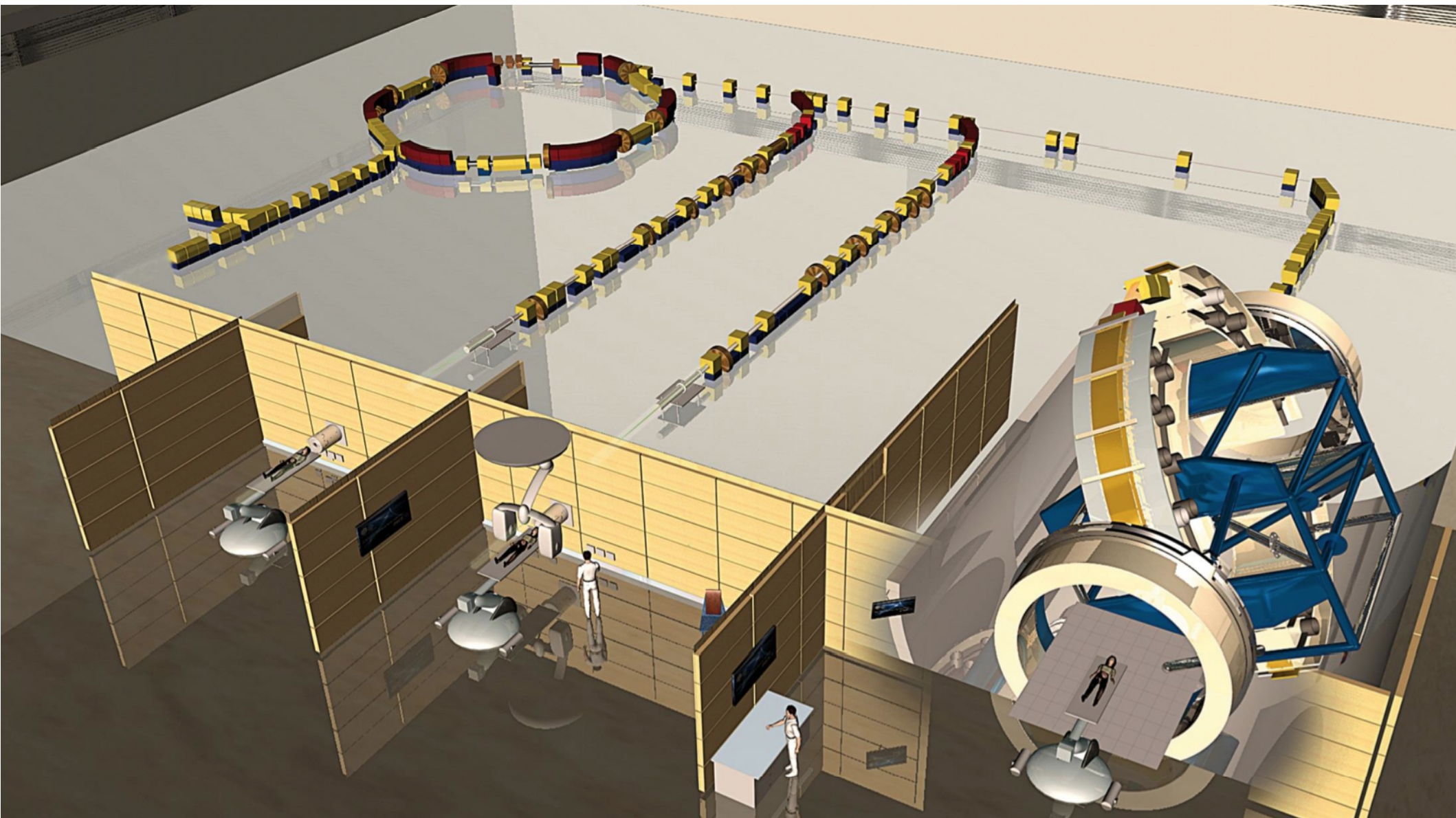
Precise 3D irradiation profile, also with suitably shaped absorbers (custom made for patient).

High precision beam scanning.

Tumor treatment at HIT (Heidelberg Ion-Beam Therapy center) in collaboration between DKFZ and GSI



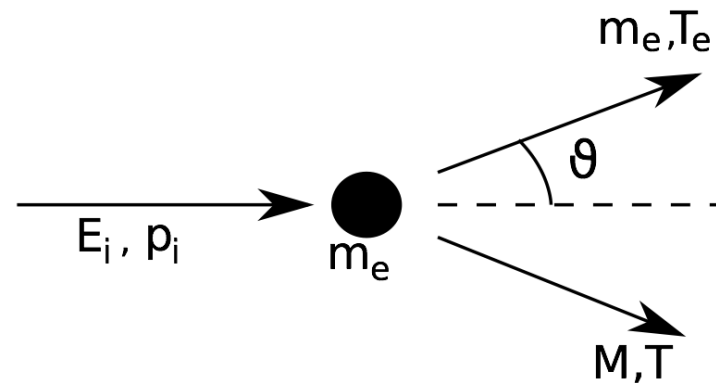
# Heidelberg Ion-beam Therapy Center (HIT)



# Delta electrons

Electrons liberated by ionization can have large energies. Above a certain threshold (e.g.  $T_{\text{cut}}$ ) they are called  **$\delta$  electrons**.

Early observation in emulsions.

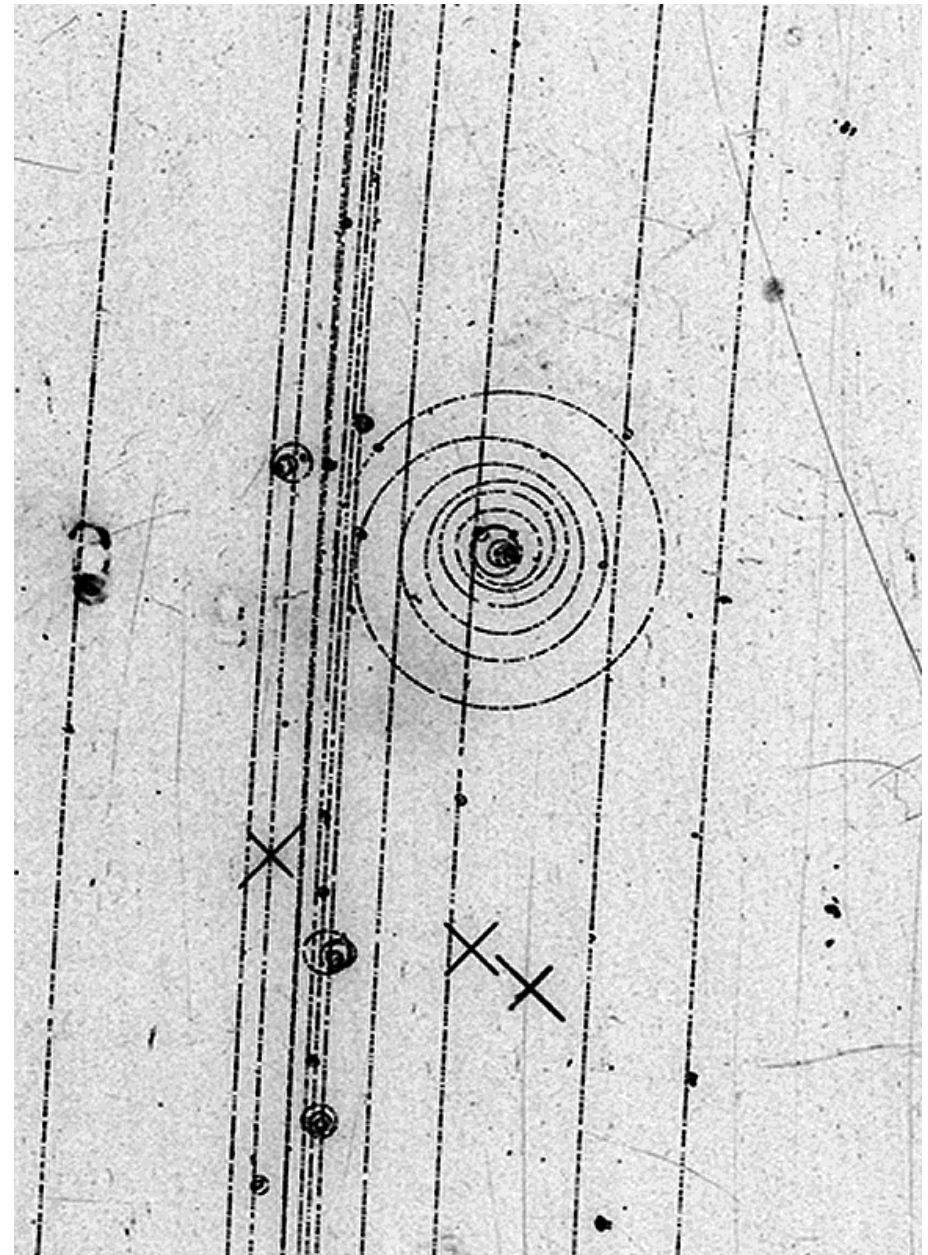


Massive highly relativistic particle can transfer practically all its energy to a single electron!

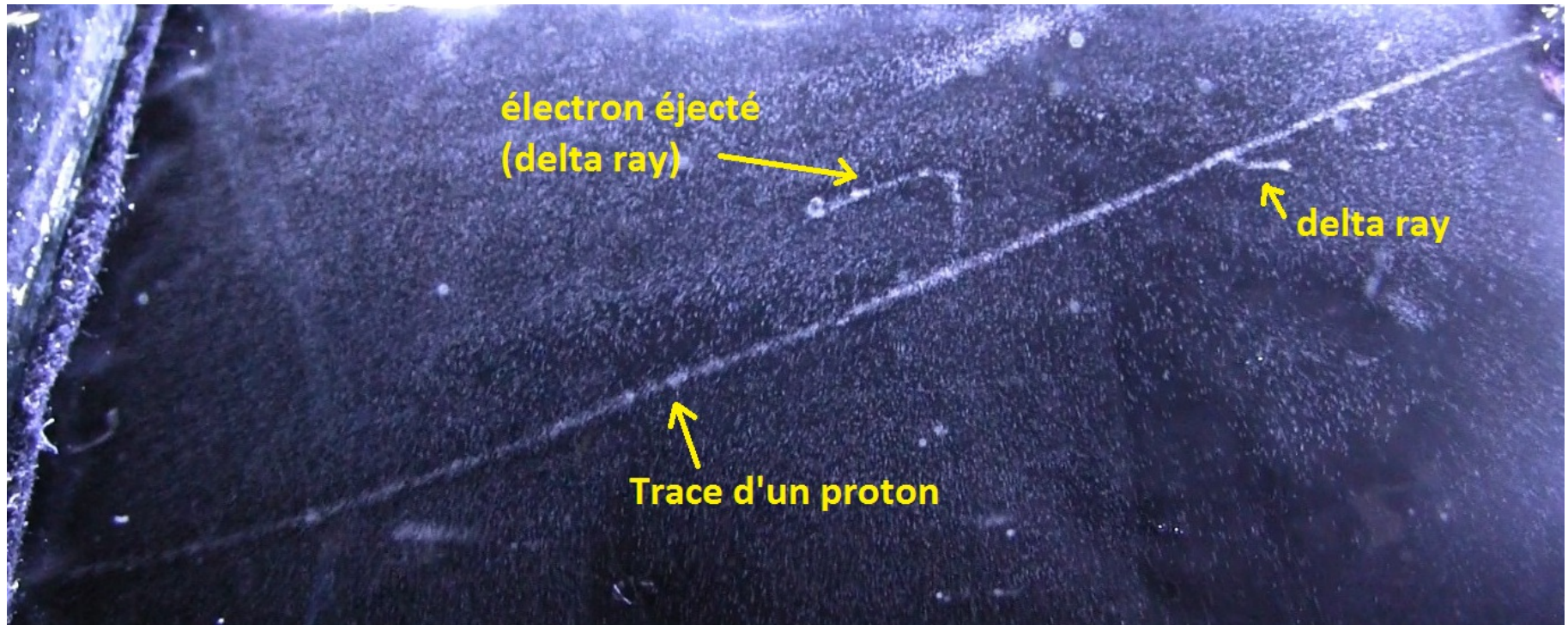
# Delta electrons

Picture from CERN 2-meter hydrogen bubble chamber exposed to a beam of negative kaons  $K^-$ , with energy 4.2 GeV. This piece corresponds to about 70 cm in the bubble chamber.

The 12 parallel lines are trails of bubbles – initiated by the ionization of hydrogen by the beam particles, which enter at the bottom of the picture.



# Delta electrons



Cloud chamber

Limitation to the measurement of the incoming particle: most often the  $\delta$  electron is NOT detected as part of the ionization trail

- broadening of track
- broadening of energy loss distribution

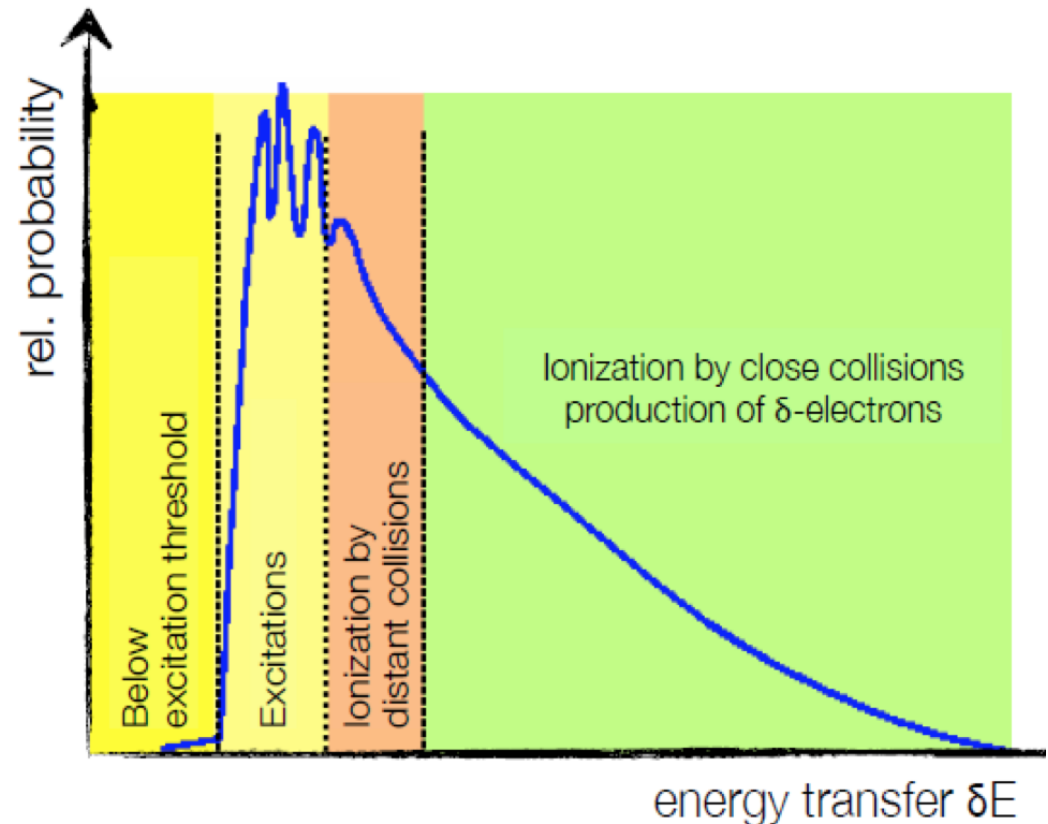
# dE/dx fluctuations

- The Bethe-Bloch formula describes the MEAN energy loss  
The energy loss is measured in a detector of finite thickness  $\Delta x$  with

- $N$  = number of collisions
- $\delta E$  = energy loss in a single collision

$$\Delta E = \sum_{n=1}^N \delta E_n$$

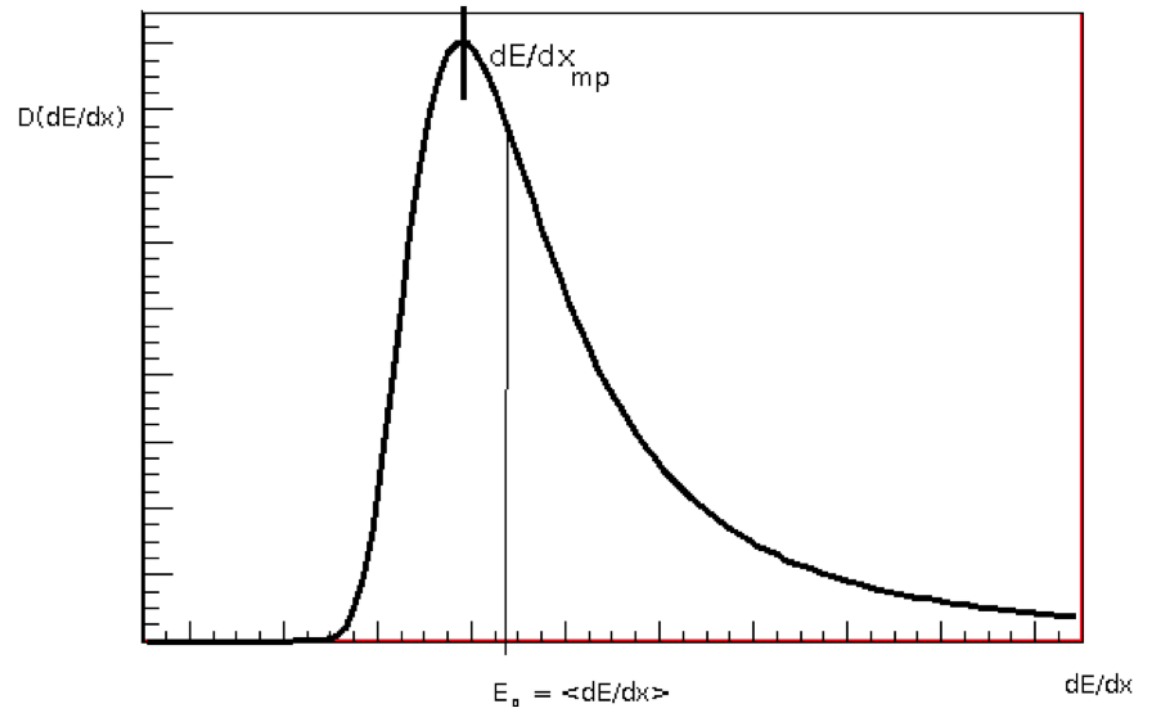
- The single energy loss is a statistical process,  $\delta E$  is distributed statistically  $\rightarrow$  energy loss “straggling” (strong fluctuations, complex problem)
- For thin absorbers: Landau distribution (see next)



# dE/dx Landau distribution

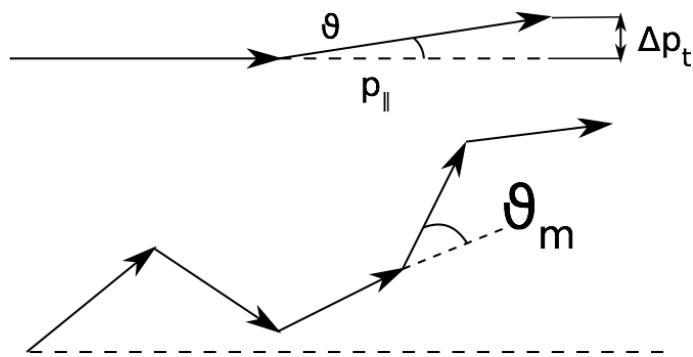
Distribution of energy loss in single collisions: Gauss plus tail towards high losses due to the  $\delta$  electrons

Landau for thin absorbers, approximation for thicker ones: (Vavilov 1957)



# Multiple (Coulomb) scattering

Incident particle can also scatter in the Coulomb field of the NUCLEUS !  
**Deflection of trajectory** will be more significant because of the factor  $Z$  !



after  $k$  collisions

$$\begin{aligned}\theta &\simeq \frac{\Delta p_{\perp}}{p_{\parallel}} \simeq \frac{\Delta p_{\perp}}{p} \\ &= \frac{2Zze^2}{b} \frac{1}{pv}\end{aligned}$$

$$\langle \theta_k^2 \rangle = \sum_{m=1}^k \theta_m^2 = k \langle \theta^2 \rangle$$

- Single collision (thin absorber): Rutherford scattering  $d\sigma/d\Omega \propto \sin^{-4} \theta/2$
- Few collisions: difficult problem
- Many (>20) collisions: statistical treatment “Molière theory”



# Multiple (Coulomb) scattering: Molière theory

Obtain the **mean deflection angle in a plane** by averaging over many collisions and integrating over  $b$ :

$$\sqrt{\langle \theta^2(x) \rangle} = \theta_{\text{rms}}^{\text{plane}} = \frac{13.6 \text{ MeV}}{\beta p c} z \sqrt{\frac{x}{X_0}} \left( 1 + 0.038 \ln \frac{x}{X_0} \right)$$

- Material constant  $X_0$ : radiation length
- $\propto \sqrt{x}$   $\rightarrow$  use thin detectors
- $\propto 1/\sqrt{X_0}$   $\rightarrow$  use light detectors
- $\propto 1/\beta p$   $\rightarrow$  serious problem at low momenta

In 3 dimensions:  $\theta_{\text{rms}}^{\text{space}} = \sqrt{2} \theta_{\text{rms}}^{\text{plane}}$       13.6  $\rightarrow$  19.2

Multiple scattering limits the momentum and tracking resolution, particularly at low momenta!

# Ionization yield

Mean number of electron-ion pairs produced along the track of the ionizing particle:

- Total ionization = primary ionization + secondary ionization due to energetic primary electrons  $n_t = n_p + n_s$
- Consider also the energy loss by excitation (smaller)

→ mean energy  $W$  to produce an electron-ion pair:  $n_t = \frac{\Delta E}{W}$

$W >$  ionization potential  $I_0$  since:

- Also ionization of inner shells
- Excitation that may not lead to ionization

$$n_t \approx 2-6 n_p$$

# Ionization yield

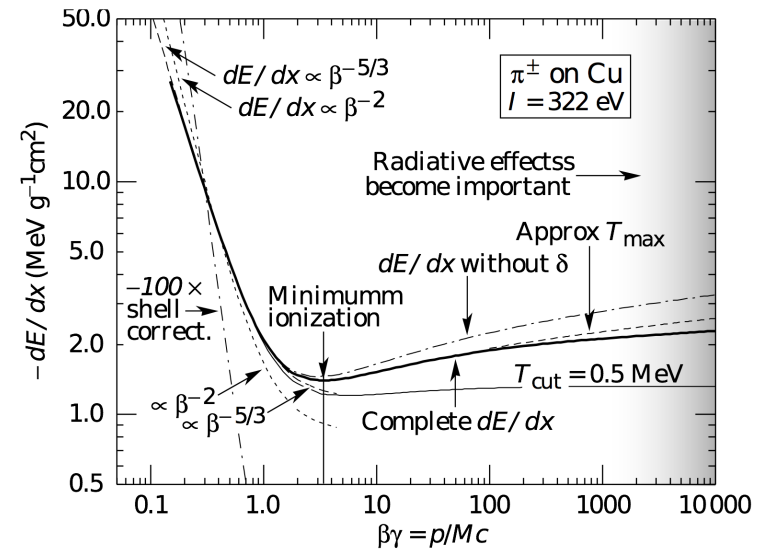
	typical values			
	$I_0$ (eV)	$W$ (eV)	$n_p$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$n_t$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
H <sub>2</sub>	15.4	37	5.2	9.2
N <sub>2</sub>	15.5	35	10	56
O <sub>2</sub>	12.2	31	22	73
Ne	21.6	36	12	39
Ar	15.8	26	29	94
Kr	14.0	24	22	192
Xe	12.1	22	44	307
CO <sub>2</sub>	13.7	33	34	91
CH <sub>4</sub>	13.1	28	16	53
		in gases ≈ 30 eV	diff. due to $\rho$ and $Z$	diff. due to electronic struct.

In comparison, in semiconductors:  $W = 3.6$  eV in Si, 2.85 eV in Ge  
 Additional factor 103 due to density → many more electron-ion pairs!!

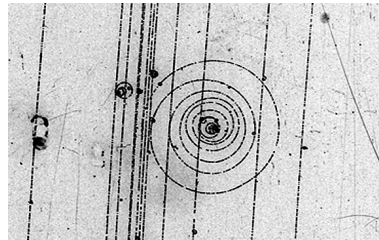
# Summary of energy loss by ionization

- Charged particles, em interaction

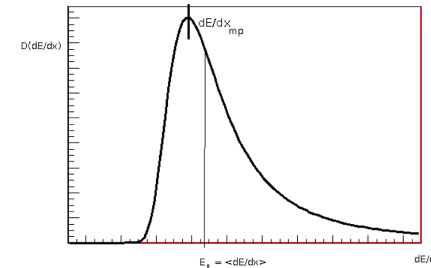
- Bethe-Bloch parametrization:  $\frac{dE}{dx}$  vs  $\beta\gamma$



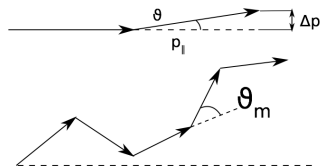
- Delta electrons

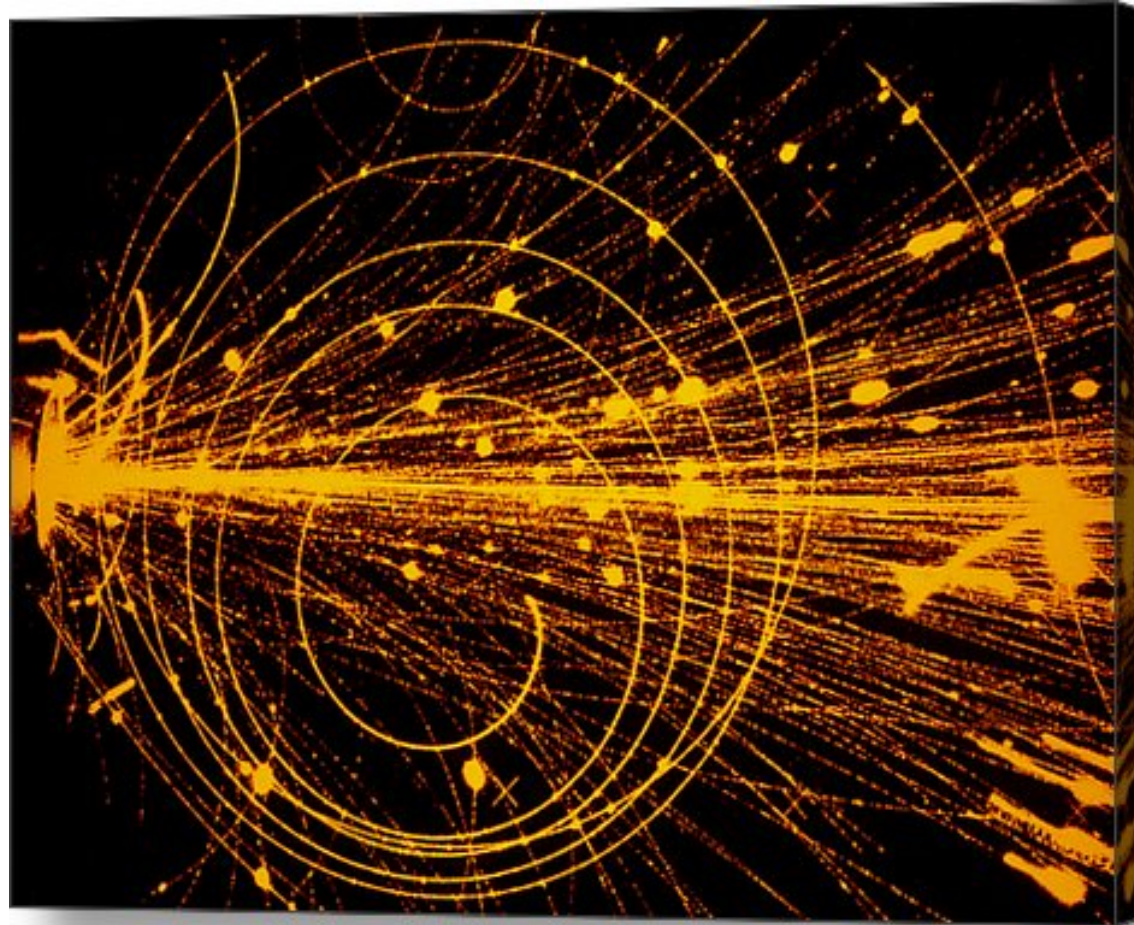


- Landau distribution of deposited energy



- Multiple scattering





Streamer chamber image

# Interaction of electrons with matter

## Energy loss by ionization

Bethe-Bloch equation must be modified to account for:

- Small mass of electron  $\rightarrow$  deflections become more important
- Incident and target electron have the same mass  $m_e$  ( $T_{\max} = T/2$ )
- Quantum mechanics: after the scattering, the incoming electron and the one from ionization are indistinguishable

$$-\left\langle \frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle_{\text{el.}} = K \frac{Z}{A} \frac{1}{\beta^2} \left[ \ln \frac{m_e \beta^2 c^2 \gamma^2 T}{2I^2} + F(\gamma) \right]$$

Energy loss for **electrons and positrons** is DIFFERENT:

- positron is not indistinguishable from electron in atom
- Low energy positrons have larger energy loss because of annihilation
- At same  $\beta$ , the difference is within 10%

# Bremsstrahlung

Acceleration of charged particles in the Coulomb field of the nucleus:

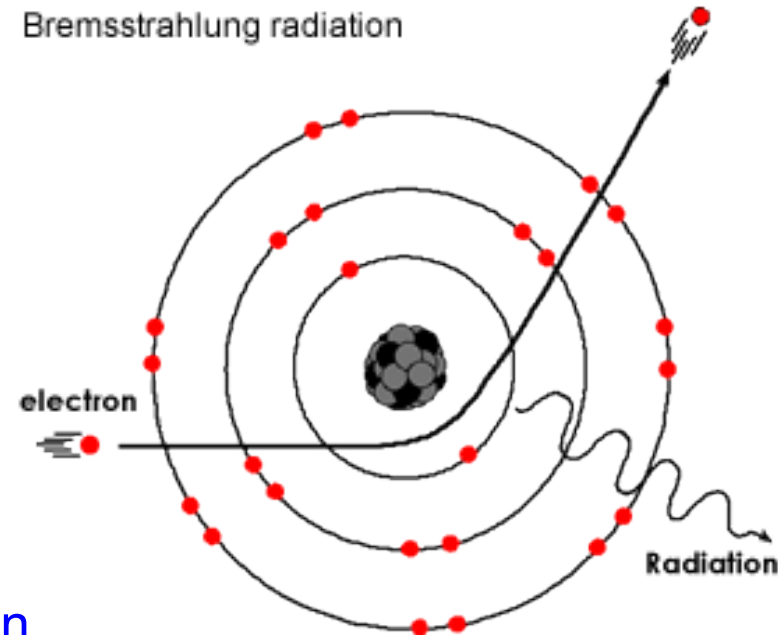
QED process (Fermi 1924, Weizsäcker-Williams 1938)

Emission of a real photon

$$\frac{dE}{dx} = 4\alpha N_A \frac{z^2 Z^2}{A} \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^2}{mc^2} \right)^2 E \ln \frac{183}{Z^{1/3}} \propto \frac{E}{m^2}$$

Relevant for electron and positrons in the range up to few hundred GeV/c

Bremsstrahlung radiation



$$\frac{dE}{dx} = 4\alpha N_A \frac{Z^2 r_e^2}{A} \cdot E \ln \frac{183}{Z^{1/3}}$$

$$\frac{dE}{dx} = \frac{E}{X_0} \quad \text{with} \quad X_0 = \frac{A}{4\alpha N_A Z^2 r_e^2 \ln \frac{183}{Z^{1/3}}}$$

[Radiation length in g/cm<sup>2</sup>]

Radiation length  $X_0$

# Bremsstrahlung: radiation length

$$-\frac{dE}{dx} = \frac{E}{X_0} \quad \rightarrow \quad E(x) = E_0 \exp\left(-\frac{x}{X_0}\right)$$

$X_0$ : distance after which the energy of the electron is reduced to  $E_0/e$

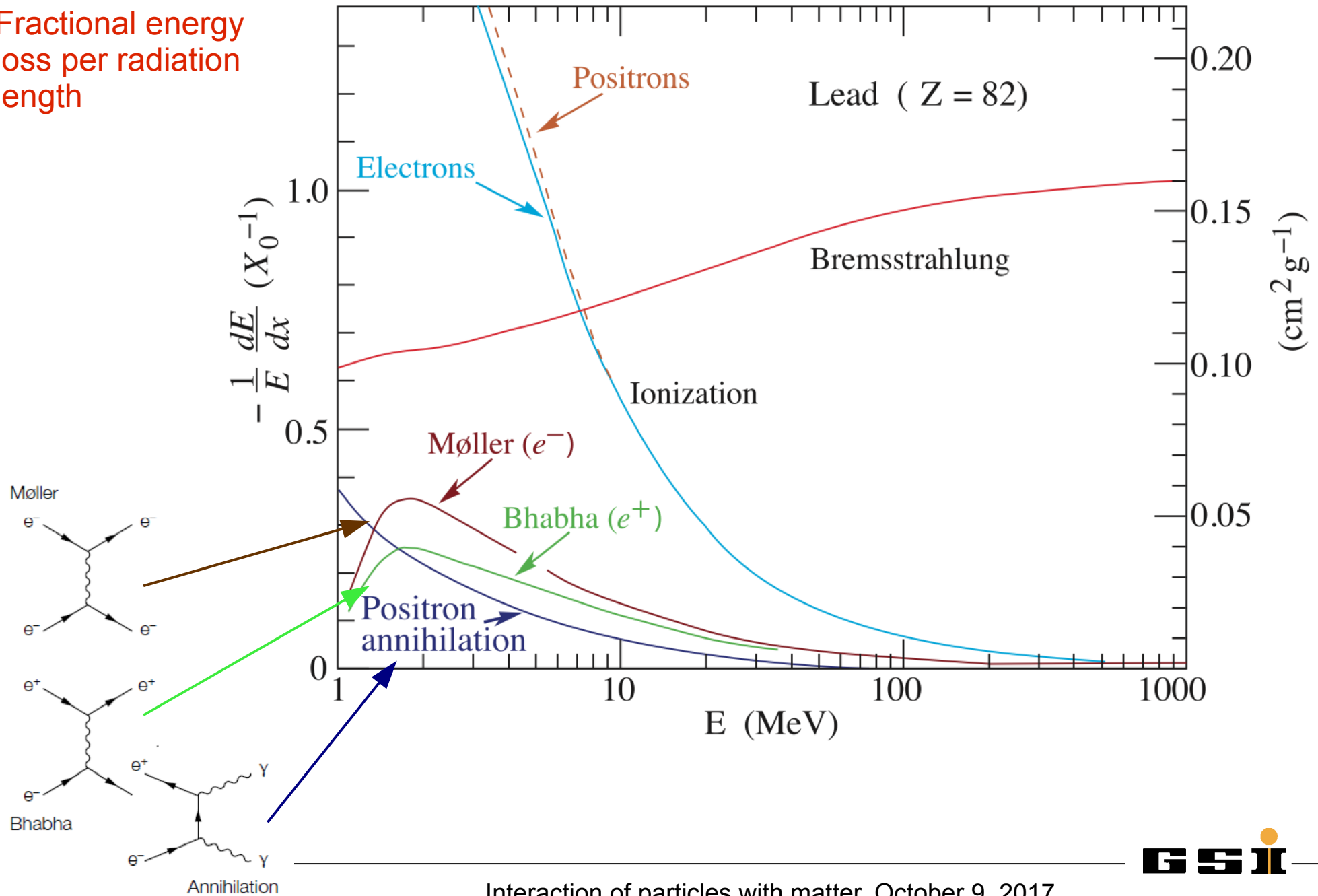
For materials which are mixtures of more components:

$$\frac{1}{X_0} = \sum_i \frac{w_i}{X_{0i}} \quad w_i \text{ weight fraction of substance } i$$



# Overview: energy loss by electrons

Fractional energy loss per radiation length



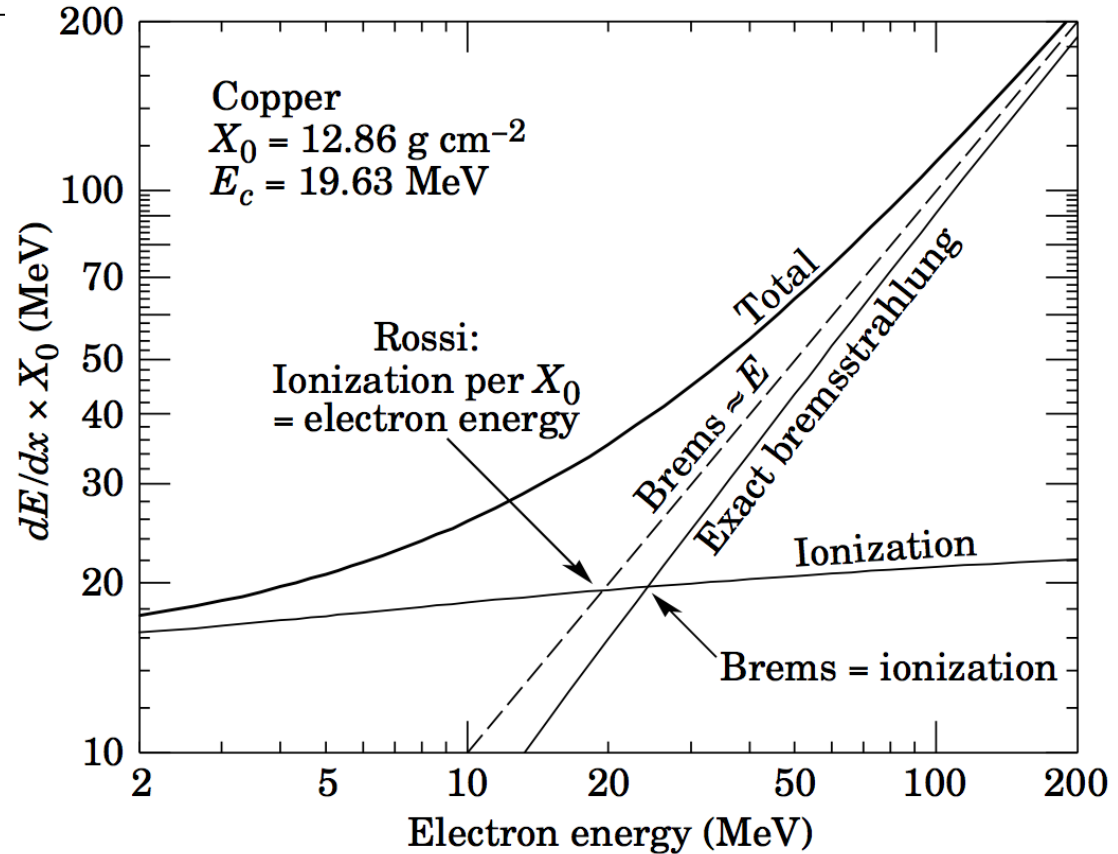
# Critical energy

Total energy loss of electrons:

$$\left(\frac{dE}{dx}\right)_{\text{Tot}} = \left(\frac{dE}{dx}\right)_{\text{Ion}} + \left(\frac{dE}{dx}\right)_{\text{Brems}}$$

**Critical energy:**

$$\left(\frac{dE}{dx}(E_c)\right)_{\text{Brems}} = \left(\frac{dE}{dx}(E_c)\right)_{\text{Ion}}$$



Approximation:

$$E_c^{\text{Gas}} = \frac{710 \text{ MeV}}{Z + 0.92}$$

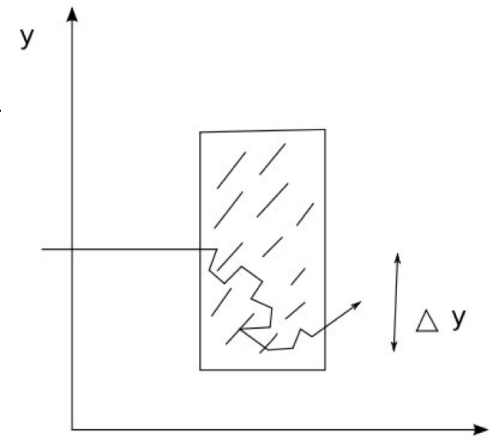
$$E_c^{\text{Sol, Liq}} = \frac{610 \text{ MeV}}{Z + 1.24}$$

Example: Cu  $E_c \approx 610/30 \text{ MeV} \approx 20 \text{ MeV}$

# Multiple scattering

Difference between heavy particles and electrons:

- Heavy particle: the track is more or less straight
- Electron: can be scattered to large angles!

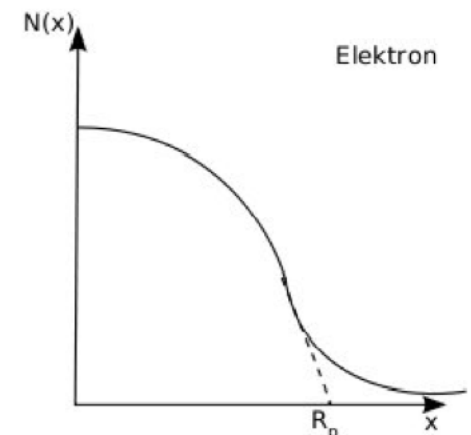
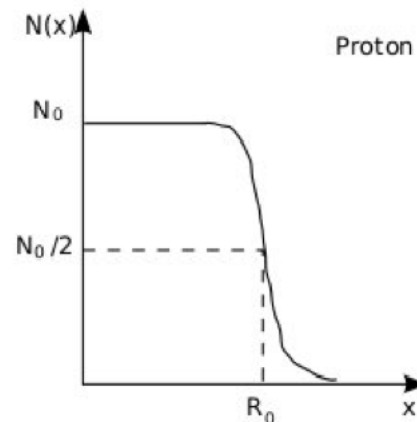


Transverse deflection of an electron of energy  $E=E_c$ , after traversing a distance  $X_0$  (= one radiation length):

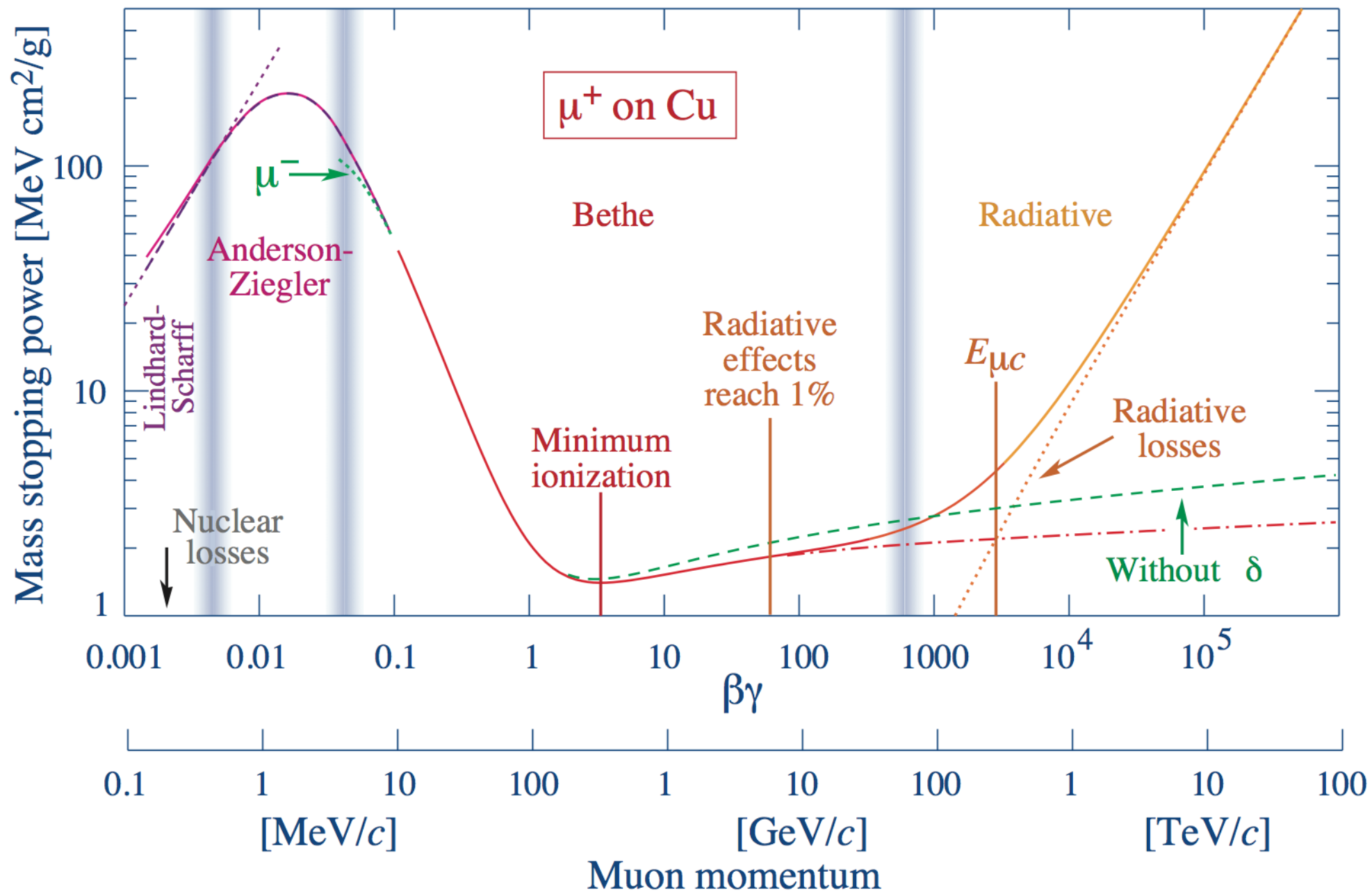
	$E_c$ (MeV)	$R_M$ (cm)	$X_0$ (cm)
Pb	7.2	1.6	0.56
scint.	80	9.1	42
NaI	12.5	4.4	2.6

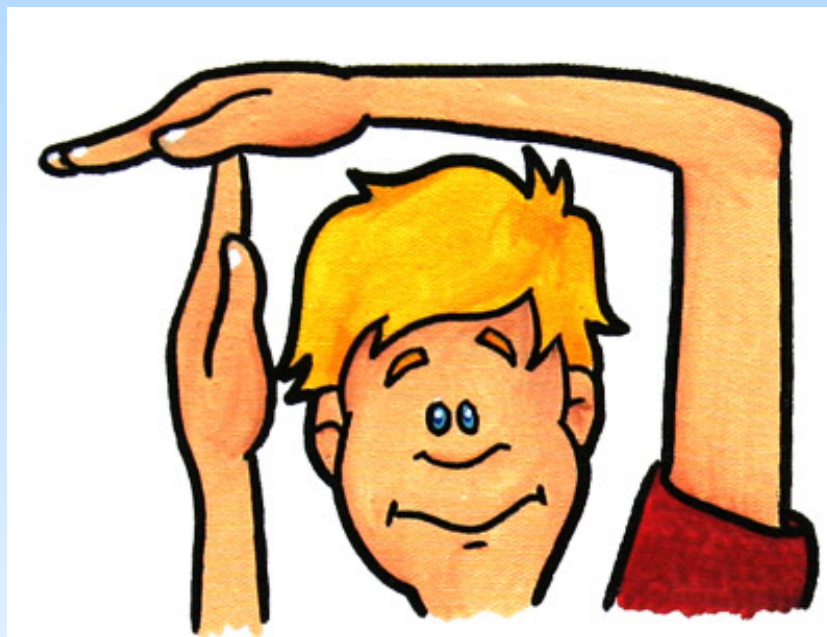
**Molière radius:**

$$\Delta y = R_M = \frac{21 \text{ MeV}}{E_c} X_0$$



# Bethe-Bloch curve for muons





# Interaction with matter

## Outline for today:

- Energy loss by ionization (by “heavy” particles)
- Interaction of electrons with matter:
  - Energy loss by ionization
  - Bremsstrahlung
- Cherenkov effect
- Transition radiation
- Interaction of photons
  - Photoelectric effect
  - Compton scattering
  - Pair production

**Charged particles**



# Cherenkov effect

Cherenkov 1934

A charged particle with mass  $M$  and velocity  $\beta = v/c$  travels in a medium with refractive index  $n$ :

$$n^2 = \epsilon_1 = (c/c_m)^2$$

$\epsilon_1$  = real part of the medium dielectric constant

$c_m$  = speed of light in medium =  $c/n$

If  $v > c_m$ , namely  $\beta > \beta_{\text{thr}} = 1/n \rightarrow$   
real photons are emitted:

- Photons are “soft”

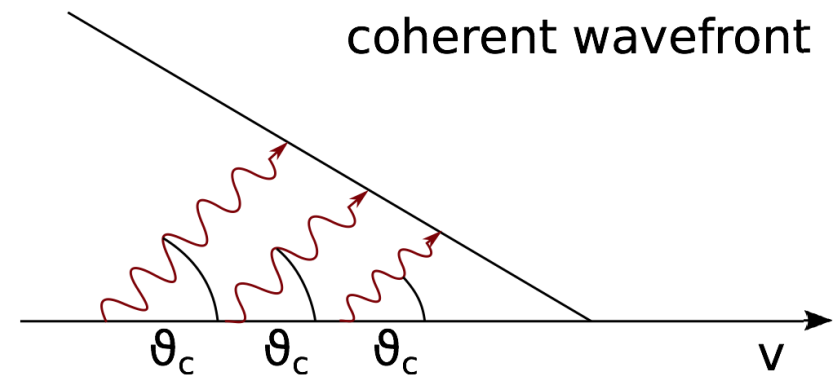
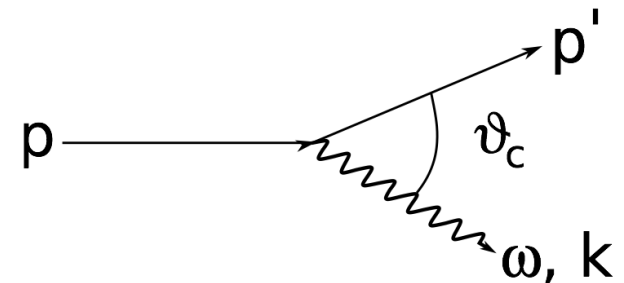
$$|p| \approx |p'|$$

$$\omega \ll \gamma M c^2$$

- Characteristic emission angle

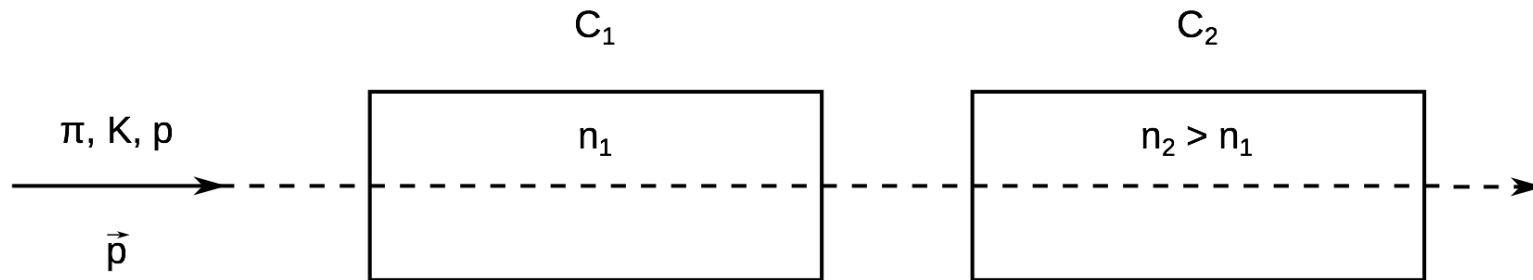
$$\cos \theta_c = \frac{\omega}{k \cdot v} = \frac{1}{n \beta}$$

Cherenkov angle



# Cherenkov: first application

**Threshold detector:** use different materials (refractive indices) such that particles of different masses, at equal momentum  $p$ , produce Cherenkov radiation of not (pass the threshold or not):



Choose  $n_1, n_2$  such that for a given  $p$  ( $\beta = p/E$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{\pi} &> \frac{1}{n_1} & \beta_K, \beta_p &< \frac{1}{n_1} \\ \beta_{\pi}, \beta_K &> \frac{1}{n_2} & \beta_p &< \frac{1}{n_2} \end{aligned}$$

**Particle identification:** light in  $C_1$  and  $C_2 \rightarrow$  pion

light in  $C_1$  and not in  $C_2 \rightarrow$  kaon

no light in both  $C_1$  and  $C_2 \rightarrow$  proton

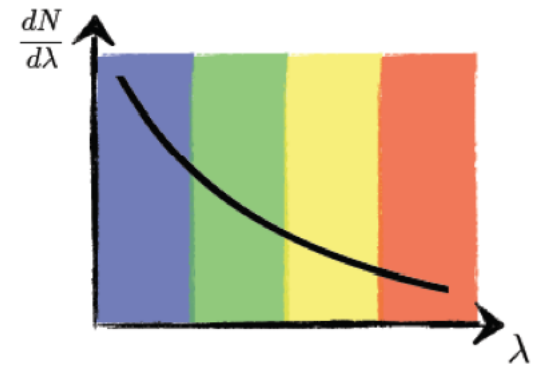


# Cherenkov radiation: spectrum

Consider the spectrum of emitted photons per unit length versus **wavelength**: short wavelengths dominate (blue)

$$\frac{d^2 N}{d\lambda dx} = \frac{2\pi\alpha z^2}{\lambda^2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2(\lambda)} \right) = \frac{2\pi\alpha z^2}{\lambda^2} \sin^2 \theta_C$$

→ consider the typical sensitivity range of a good/typical photomultiplier (300-600 nm):

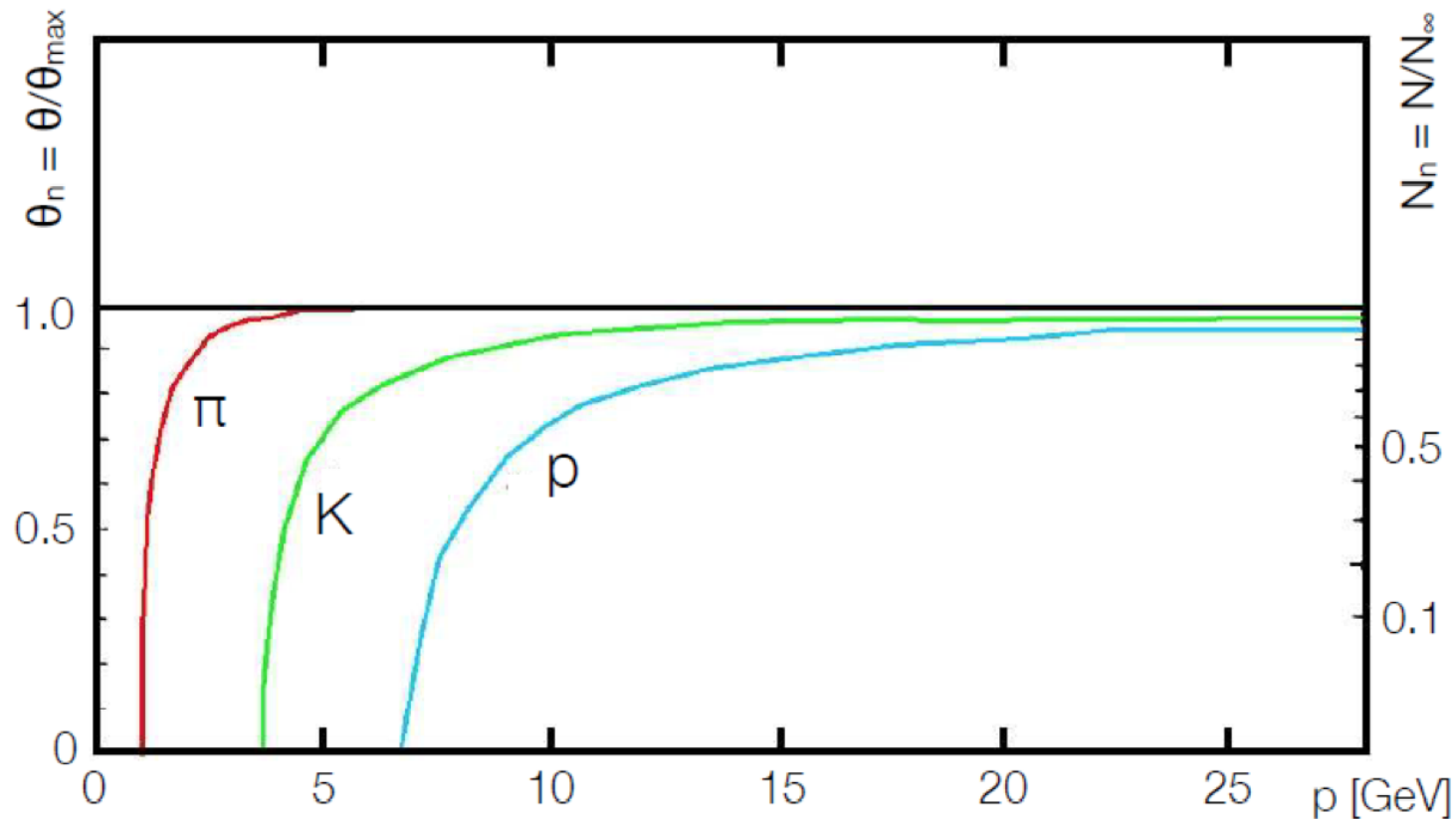


Energy loss: the **energy loss by Cherenkov radiation is negligible** wrt the one by ionization!

typical photon energy:	$\simeq 3 \text{ eV}$
in water	$\left. \frac{dE}{dx} \right _{\text{cher}} = 0.5 \text{ keV/cm} = 0.5 \text{ keV/g/cm}^2$
cf. ionization	$\left. \frac{dE}{dx} \right _{\text{ion}} \geq 2 \text{ MeV/g/cm}^2$

# Cherenkov effect: momentum dependence

Asymptotic behavior of the Cherenkov angle and the number of produced photons, as a function of the particle momentum  $p$  (for  $\beta \rightarrow 1$ ):



$$\cos \theta_C \rightarrow \cos \theta_C^\infty = \frac{1}{n}$$

$$N_y = x \cdot 370 / \text{cm} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\beta^2 n^2}\right) \rightarrow x \cdot 370 / \text{cm} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)$$

# Application: measurement of $\beta$

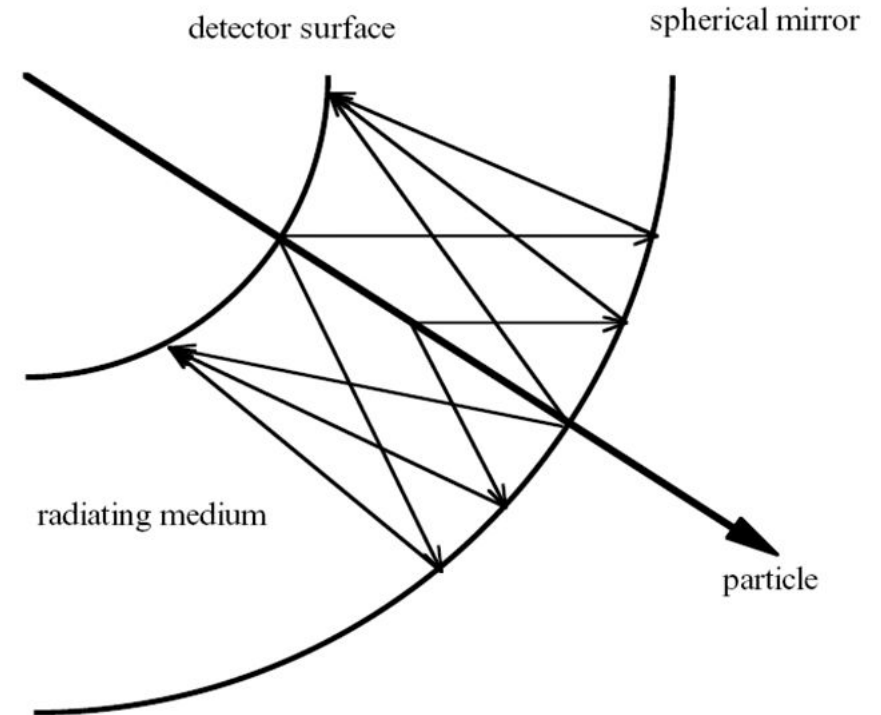
In a medium of known refractive index  $n$ , measure the Cherenkov angle and therefore determine the particle  $\beta = p/E$  ( $\rightarrow$  identity)

Principle of:

RICH – Ring Imaging Cherenkov  
Detector  $\longrightarrow$

DIRC – Detection of Internally  
Reflected Cherenkov light

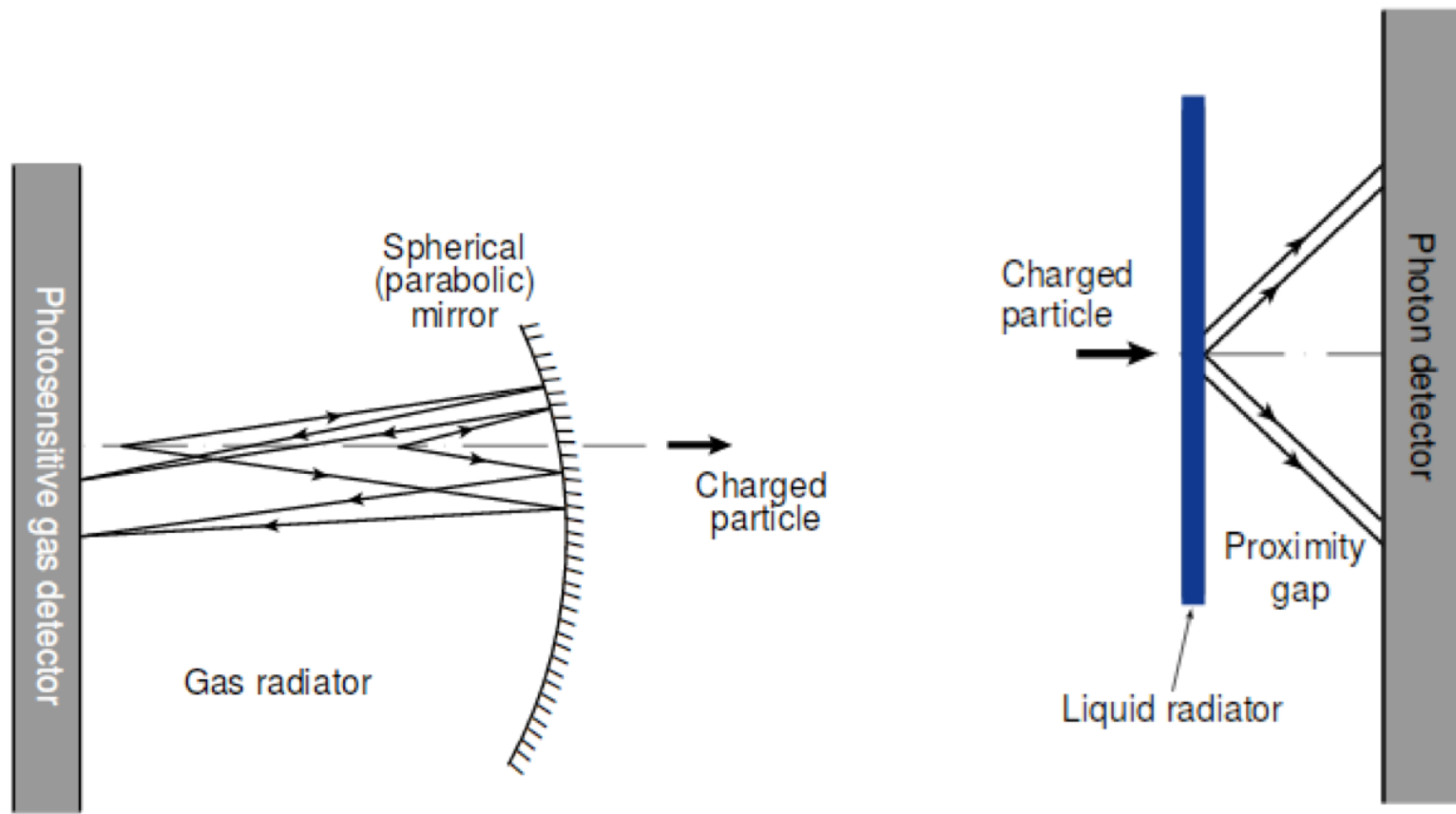
DISC – special variant of DIRC



# RICH detectors

Principle: image the Cherenkov cone into a ring, of which measure the radius. Particle momentum provided by other detectors

Components: radiator (+ mirror) + photon detector

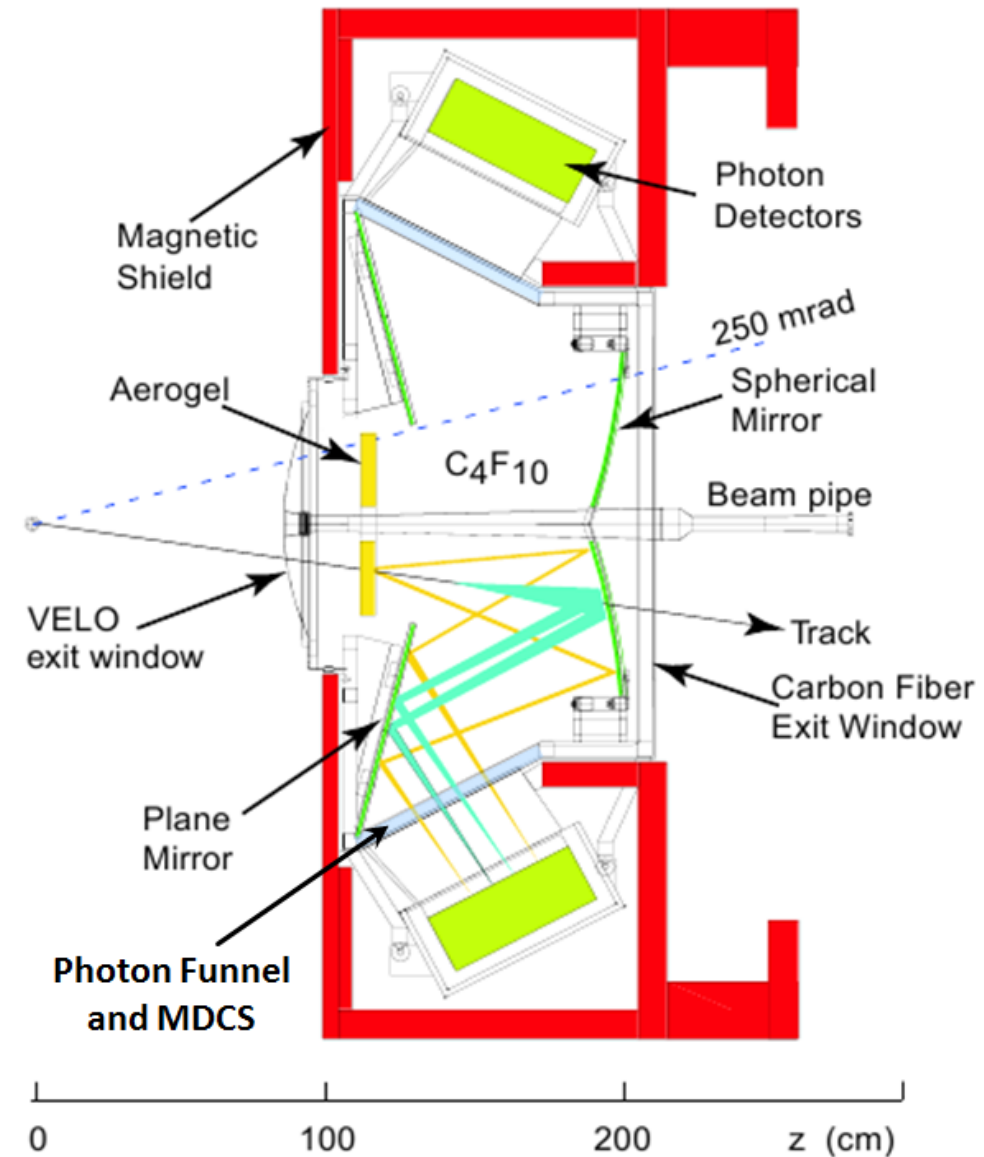
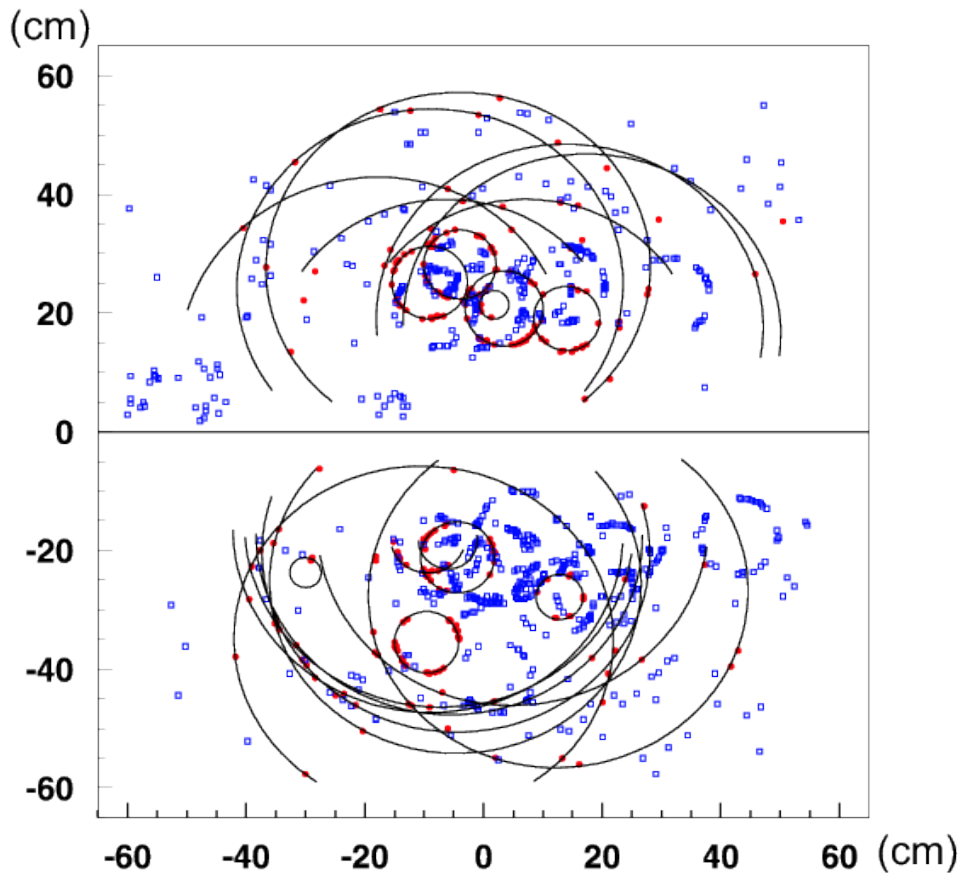


# The LHCb RICH-1 detector

Two radiators: aerogel +  $C_4F_{10}$

Spherical + flat mirrors

Hybrid Photon Detectors

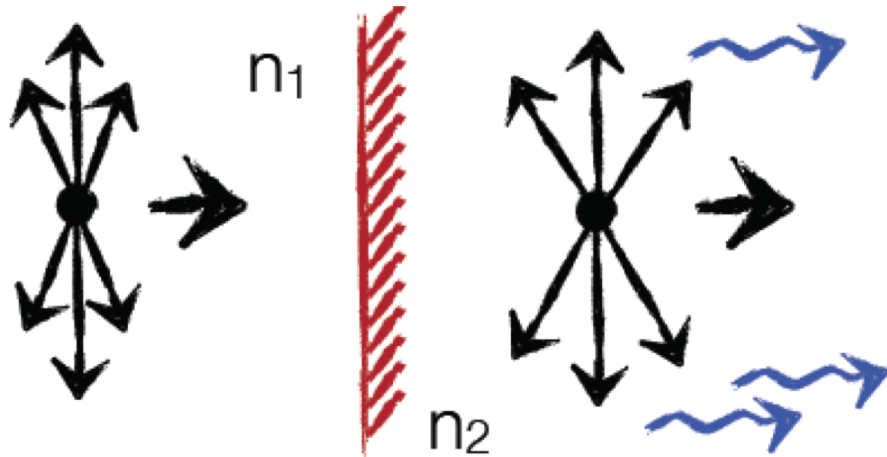


# Spherical mirror array: LHCb



# Transition radiation

A particle at high energy (= large  $\gamma$ ) crossing the boundary between two different dielectrics, having different indices of refraction, can produce “transition radiation” → can emit real photons



- Predicted by Ginzburg and Frank (1946)
- Observed (optically) by Goldsmith and Jelley (1959)
- Experimental confirmation with X-ray measurement (1970s)

Explanation: re-arrangement of electric field

# Transition radiation: full calculation

Full quantum mechanical calculation:

- Interference: coherent superposition of radiation from neighboring points in vicinity of the track  
→ **angular distribution** strongly peaked forward
- Depth from boundary up to which contributions add coherently → **formation length D**

$$\theta \simeq \frac{1}{\gamma}$$

$$D \simeq \frac{\gamma \cdot c}{\omega_p}$$

Typical values: polyethylene  $\text{CH}_2$   $\omega_p = 20 \text{ eV}$ ,  $\rho = 1 \text{ g/cm}^3$  →  **$D \approx 10 \mu\text{m}$**

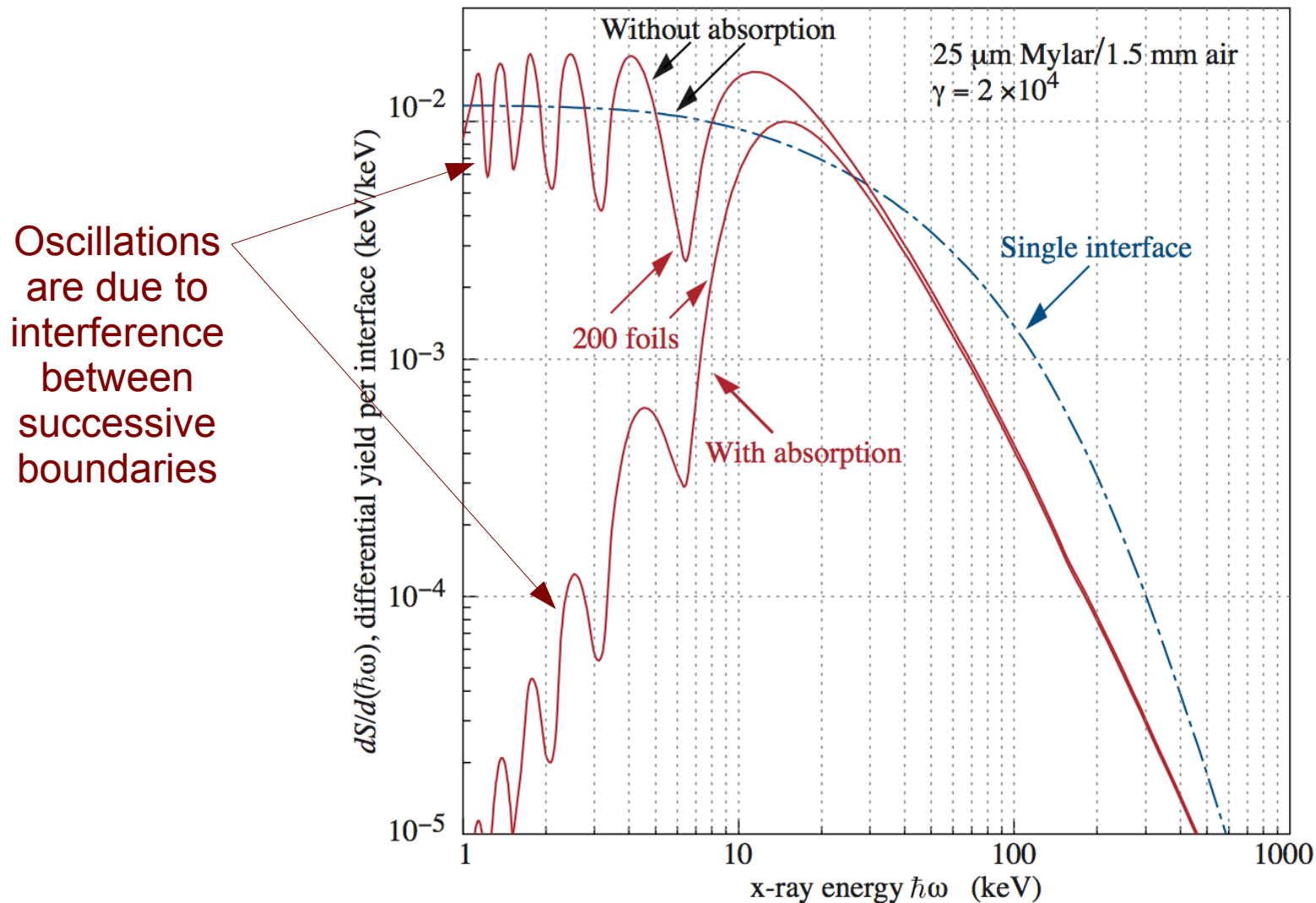
For  $d > D$  → **absorption** effects important! Consider foils of thickness  $D$ !

**Per boundary:  $\sim \alpha$  photons → many boundaries !!**

**$O(100 \text{ foils}) \rightarrow \langle n_\gamma \rangle \sim 1-2$**



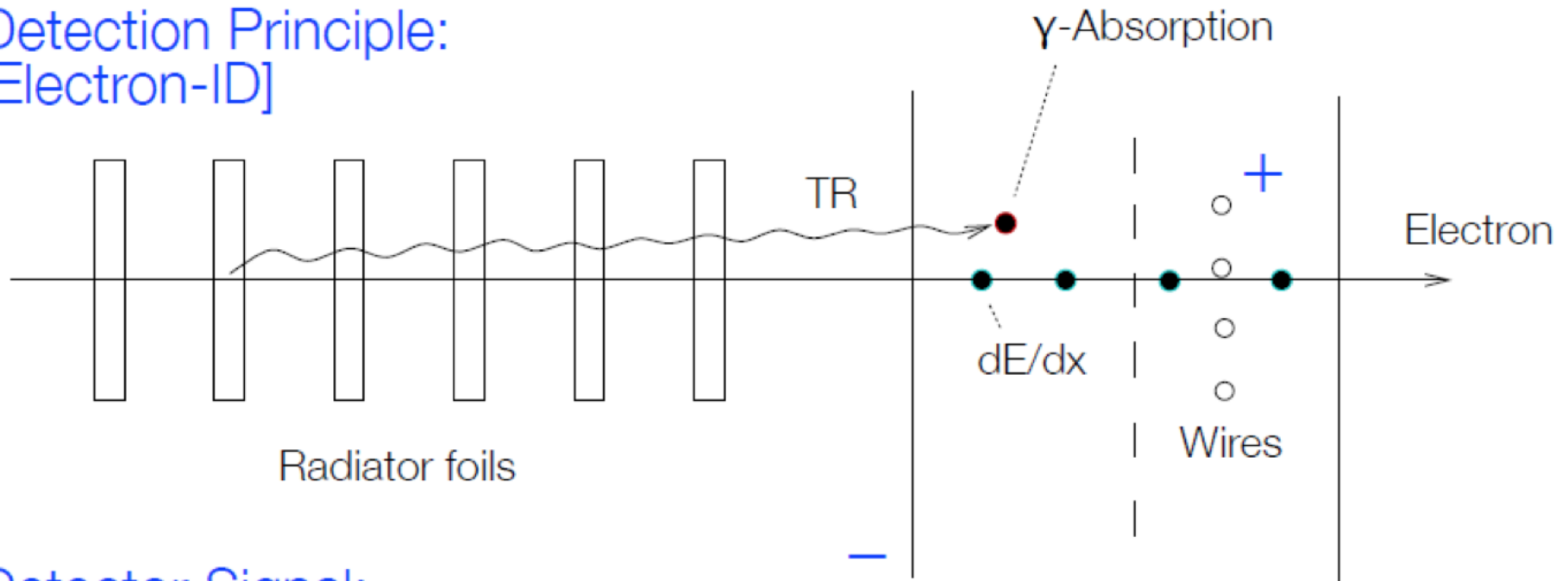
# Transition radiation spectrum



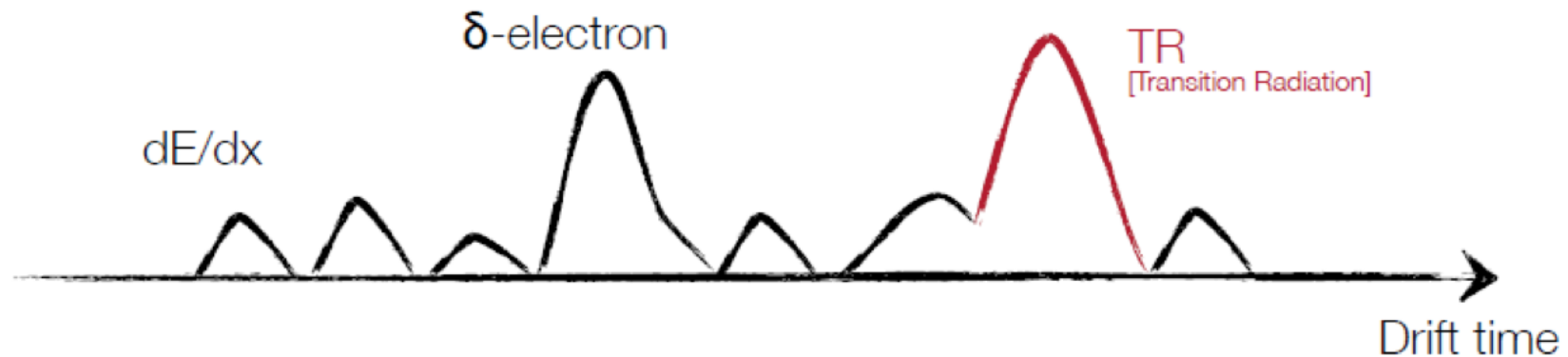
X-ray photon energy spectra for a radiator consisting of 200 25  $\mu\text{m}$  thick foils of Mylar and for a single surface

# Principle of a transition radiation detector

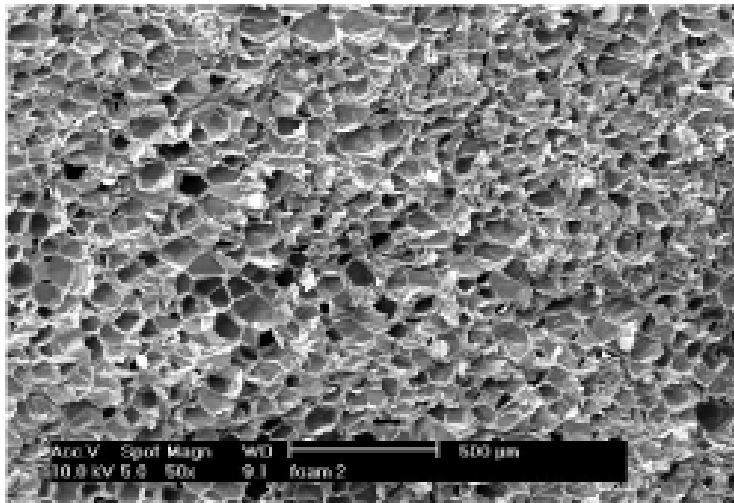
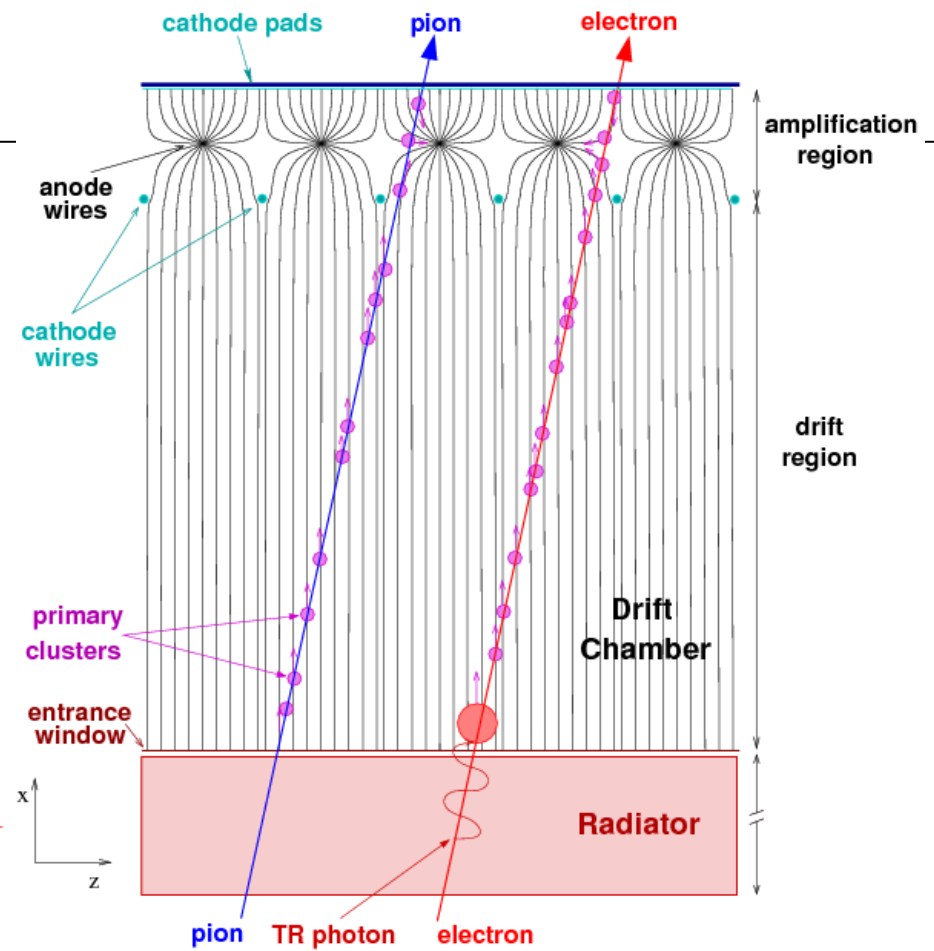
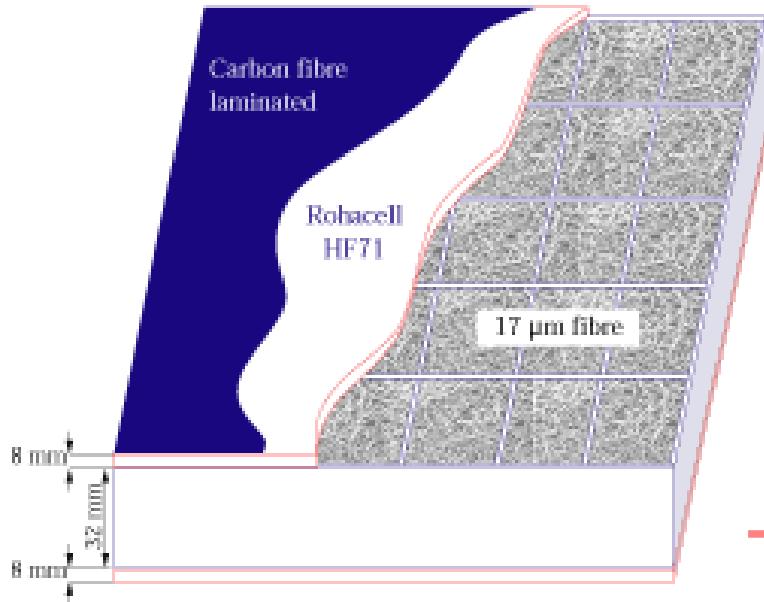
Detection Principle:  
[Electron-ID]

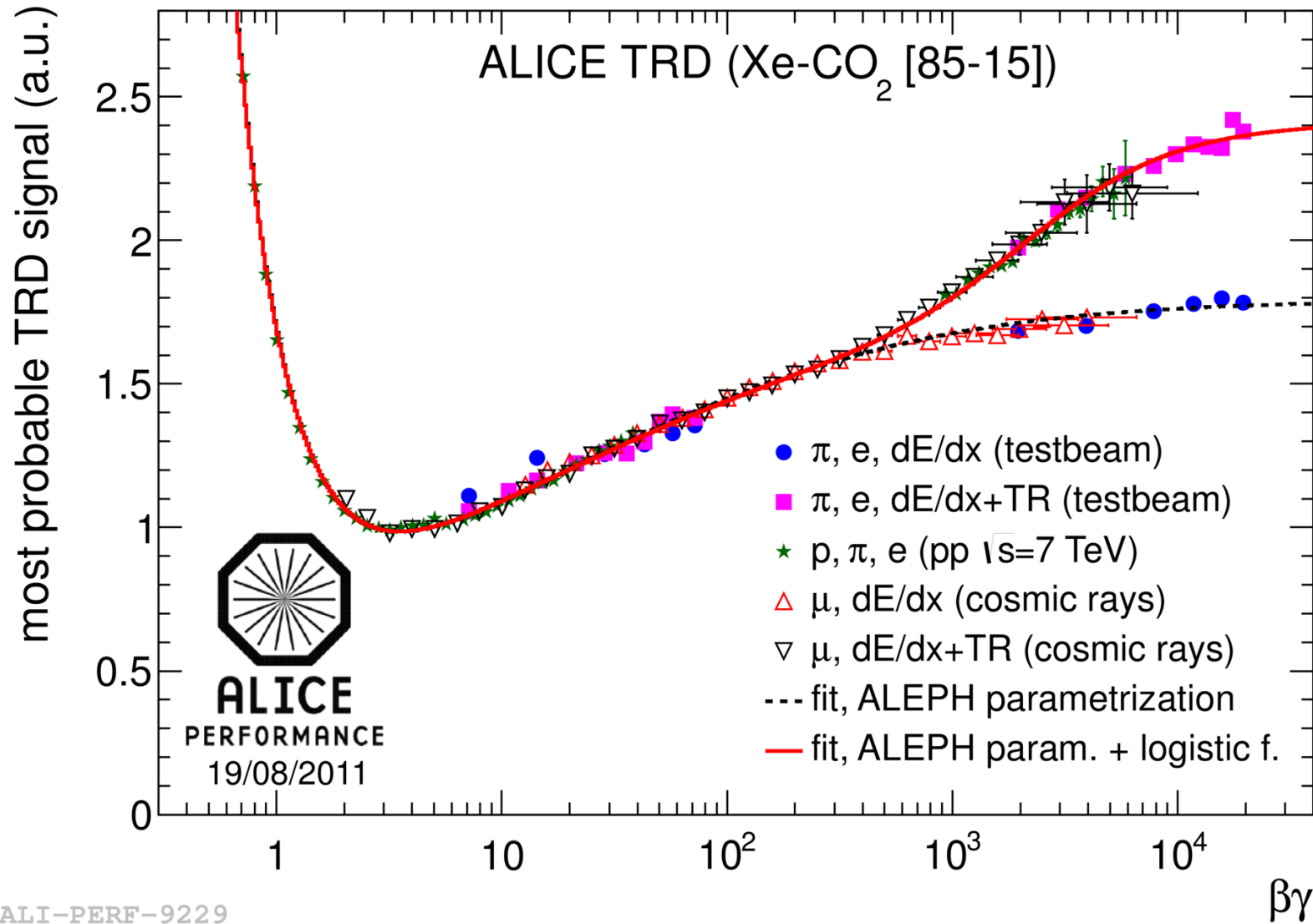


Detector Signal:



# ALICE TRD





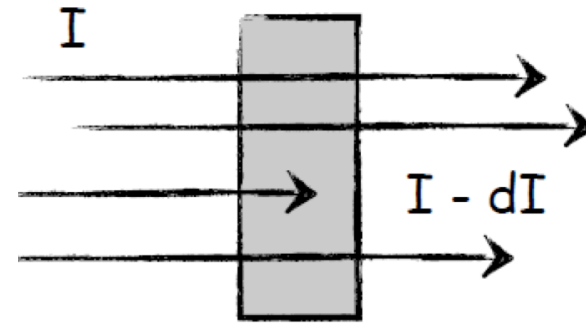
Demonstration of the onset of TR at  $\beta\gamma \approx 500$  (X. Lu, Hd)

# Interaction of photons with matter

Characteristic of photons: can be removed from incoming beam of intensity “I”, with one single interaction:

$$dI = - I \mu dx$$

$\mu(E, Z, \rho)$ : absorption coefficient



**Lambert-Beer law of attenuation:**

$$I(x) = I_0 \exp(-\mu x)$$

- Mean free path of photon in matter:  $\lambda = \frac{1}{n\sigma} = \frac{1}{\mu}$
- To become independent from state (liquid, gaseous): mass absorption coefficient:

$$\tau = \frac{\mu}{\rho} = N_A \frac{\sigma}{A}$$

Example:  $E_\gamma = 100$  keV,  $Z=26$  (iron),  $\lambda = 3$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> or 0.4 cm

# Interaction processes

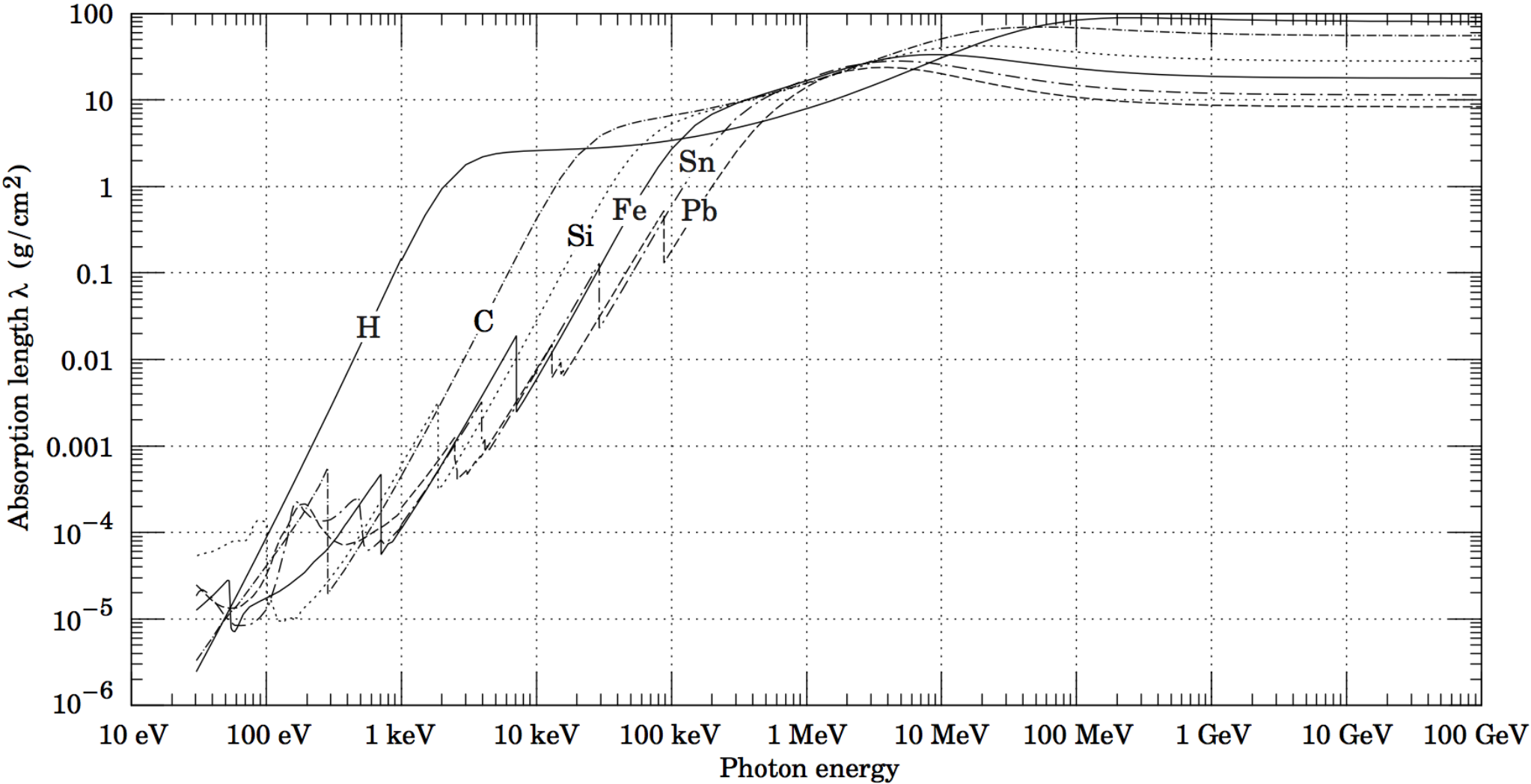
The most important processes of interaction of photons with matter, in order of growing importance with increasing photon energy  $E$ , are:

- Photoelectric effect
- Compton scattering: incoherent scattering off an electron
- Pair production: interaction in nuclear field

Other processes, not as important for energy loss:

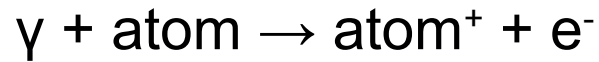
- Rayleigh scattering: coherent  $\gamma + A \rightarrow \gamma + A$  : atom neither ionized nor excited
- Thomson scattering: elastic scattering  $\gamma + e \rightarrow \gamma + e$
- Photo nuclear absorption:  $\gamma + \text{nucleus} \rightarrow (p \text{ or } n) + \text{nucleus}$
- Hadron pair production:  $\gamma + A \rightarrow h^+ + h^- + A$

# Absorption length



Particle Data Group, 2016

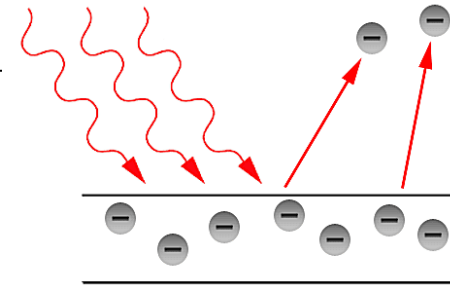
# Photoelectric effect



$$E_e = h\nu - I_b$$

Where:  $h\nu = E_\gamma =$  photon energy,

$I_b =$  binding energy of the electron (K, L, M absorption edges)



Binding energy depends strongly on  $Z \rightarrow$  the cross section will depend strongly on  $Z$ :

- $I \ll E_\gamma \ll mc^2$ : 
$$\sigma_{\text{Ph}} = \alpha \pi a_b Z^5 \left(\frac{I_0}{E_\gamma}\right)^{\frac{7}{2}}$$

where:

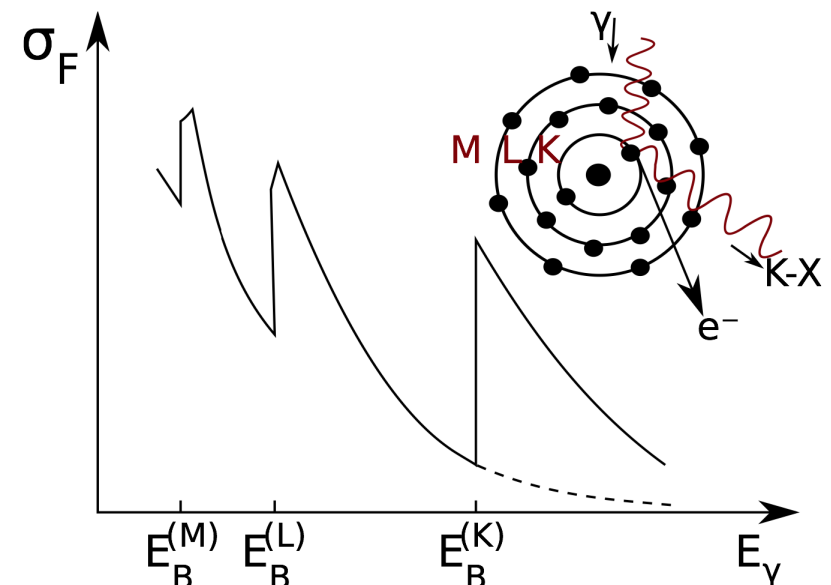
$$a_b = 0.53 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$$

$$I_0 = 13.6 \text{ eV}$$

e.g.  $= 0.1 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{Ph}}(\text{Fe}) = 29 \text{ b}$

$$\sigma_{\text{Ph}}(\text{Pb}) = 5 \text{ kb}$$

- $E_\gamma \gg mc^2$ : 
$$\sigma_{\text{Ph}} \propto \frac{Z^5}{E_\gamma}$$

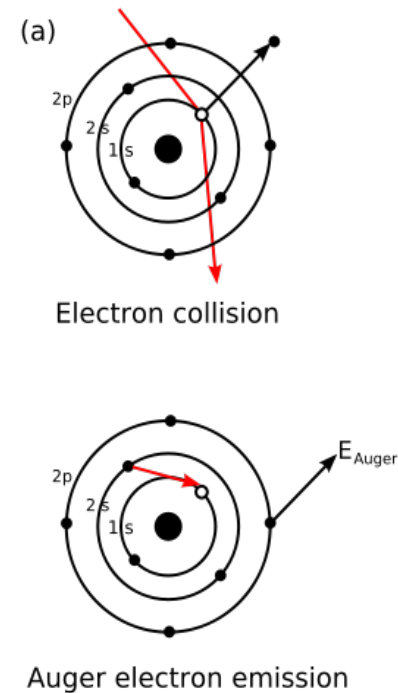




# Photoelectric effect - 2

The de-excitation of the excited atom can happen via two main processes:

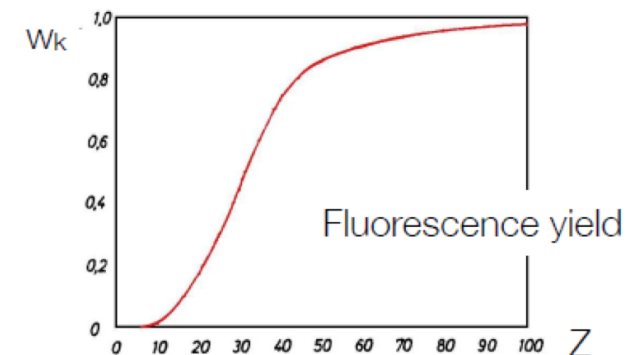
- Auger electrons:  $\text{atom}^{**+} \rightarrow \text{atom}^{*+} + e^{-}$   
Auger electrons deposit their energy locally due to their very small energy ( $<10$  keV)



- Fluorescence:  $\text{atom}^{**+} \rightarrow \text{atom}^{*+} + \gamma$   
Fluorescence photons (X-rays) must interact via the photoelectric effect  
→ much longer range

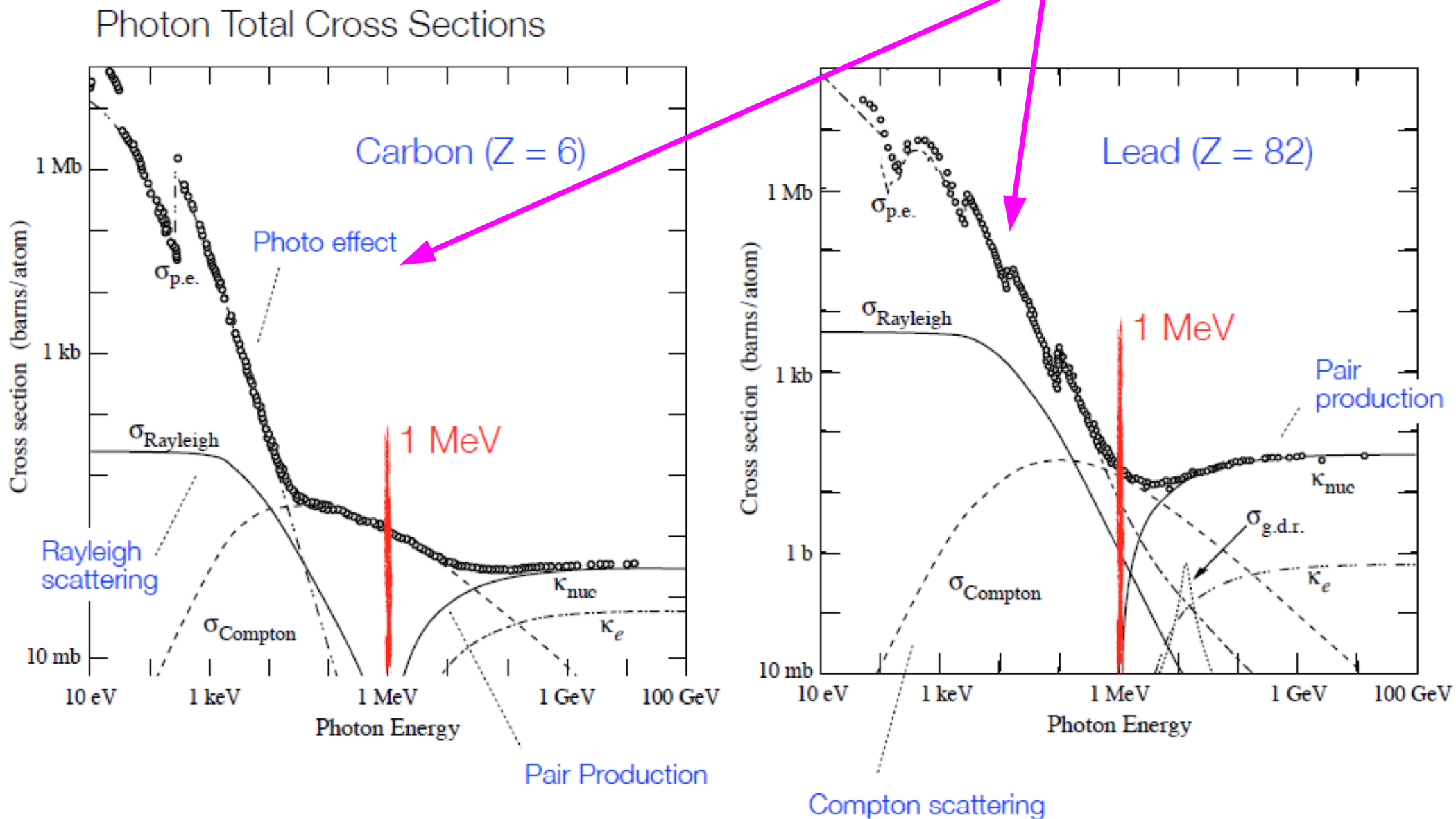
The relative fluorescence yield increases with  $Z$

$$w_K = P(\text{fluor.}) / [P(\text{fluor.}) + P(\text{Auger})]$$



# Photon total cross section

## Photoelectric effect



# Compton scattering

Incoherent scattering of photon off an electron:

$$\gamma + e^- \rightarrow (\gamma)' + (e^-)'$$

Energy of the outgoing photon:

$$E'_\gamma = \frac{E_\gamma}{1 + \frac{E_\gamma}{m_e c^2} (1 - \cos \theta)}$$

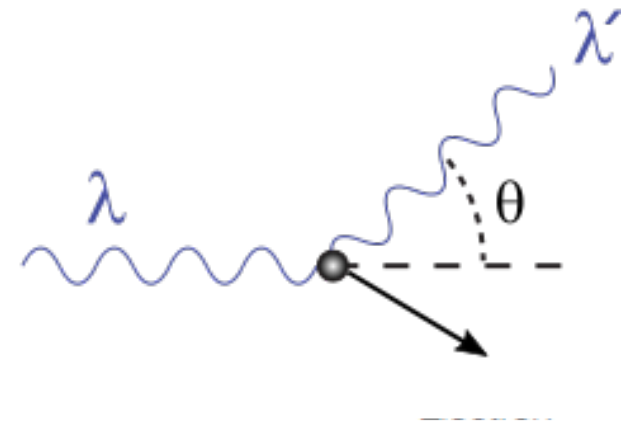
Kinetic energy of the outgoing electron:

$$T_e = \frac{\frac{E_\gamma^2}{m_e c^2} (1 - \cos \theta)}{1 + \frac{E_\gamma}{m_e c^2} (1 - \cos \theta)}$$

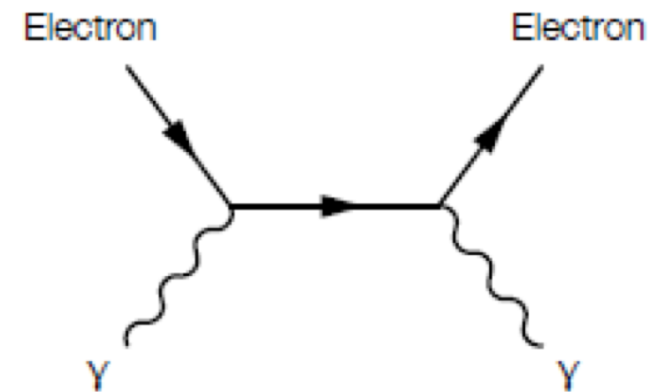
Max energy transfer in back scattering:

$$\left(\frac{T_e}{E_\gamma}\right)_{\max} = \frac{E_\gamma}{m_e c^2} \frac{2}{1 + \frac{2E_\gamma}{m_e c^2}}$$

$$\Delta E = E_\gamma - T_{e,\max} = \frac{E_\gamma}{1 + \frac{2E_\gamma}{m_e c^2}} \rightarrow \frac{m_e c^2}{2}$$

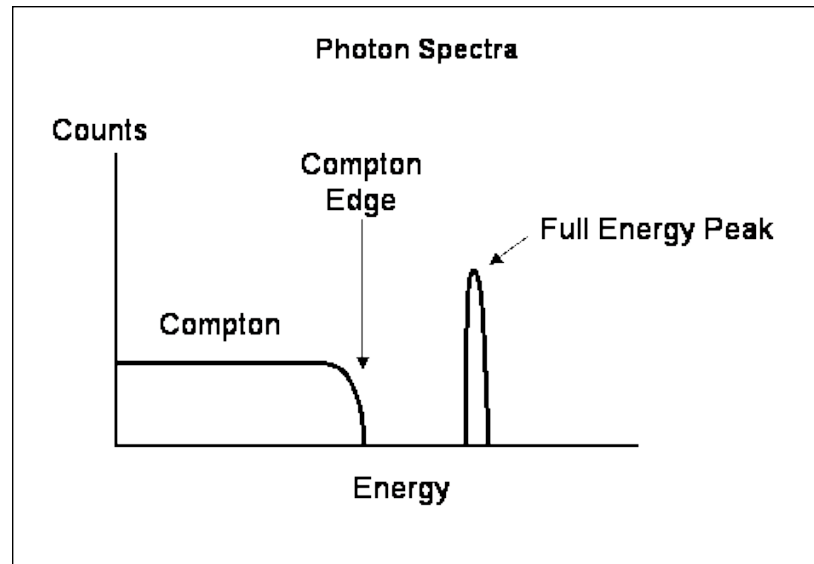


Feynman diagram



# Compton edge

If the scattered photon is not absorbed in the detector material, there will be a small amount of energy “missing” from the Full Energy Peak (FEP)  
→ Compton edge

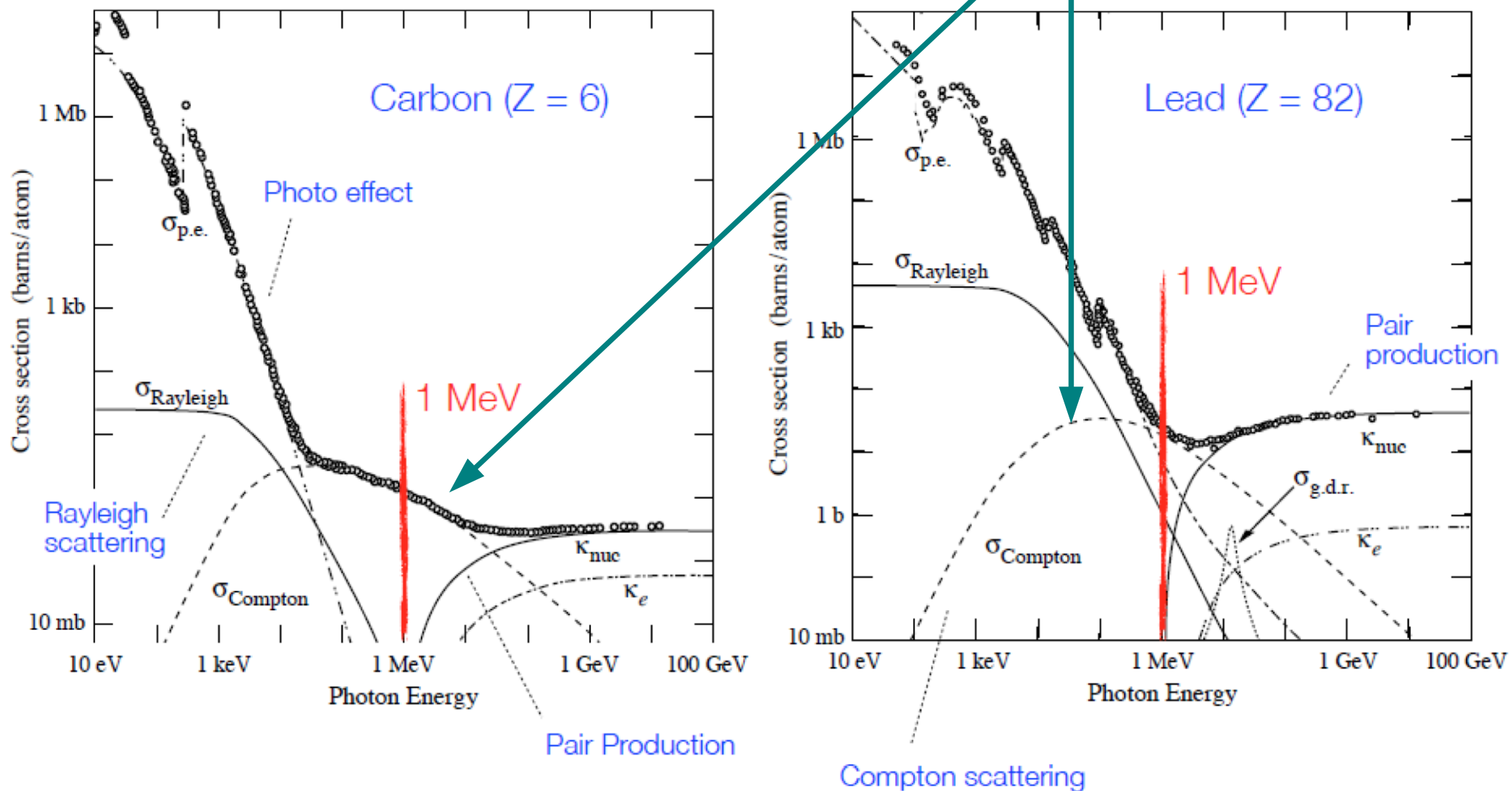


FEP: photoelectric effect and Compton effect when the scattered photon is absorbed in the detector. Intensity depends on detector volume, width depends on detector resolution.

# Photon total cross section

## Compton effect

Photon Total Cross Sections



# Pair production: Bethe-Heitler process

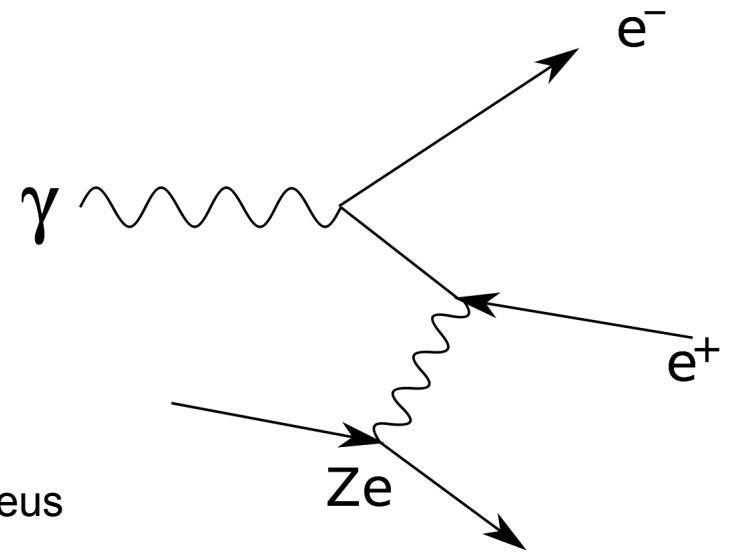
Interaction in the Coulomb field of the atomic nucleus (not possible in free space)

Energy threshold:

$$E_\gamma \geq 2m_e c^2 \left(1 + \frac{m_e}{m_n}\right)$$

2x electron mass

kinetic energy transferred to nucleus



Angular distribution: the produced electrons are in a narrow forward cone, with opening angle of  $\theta = m_e / E_\gamma$

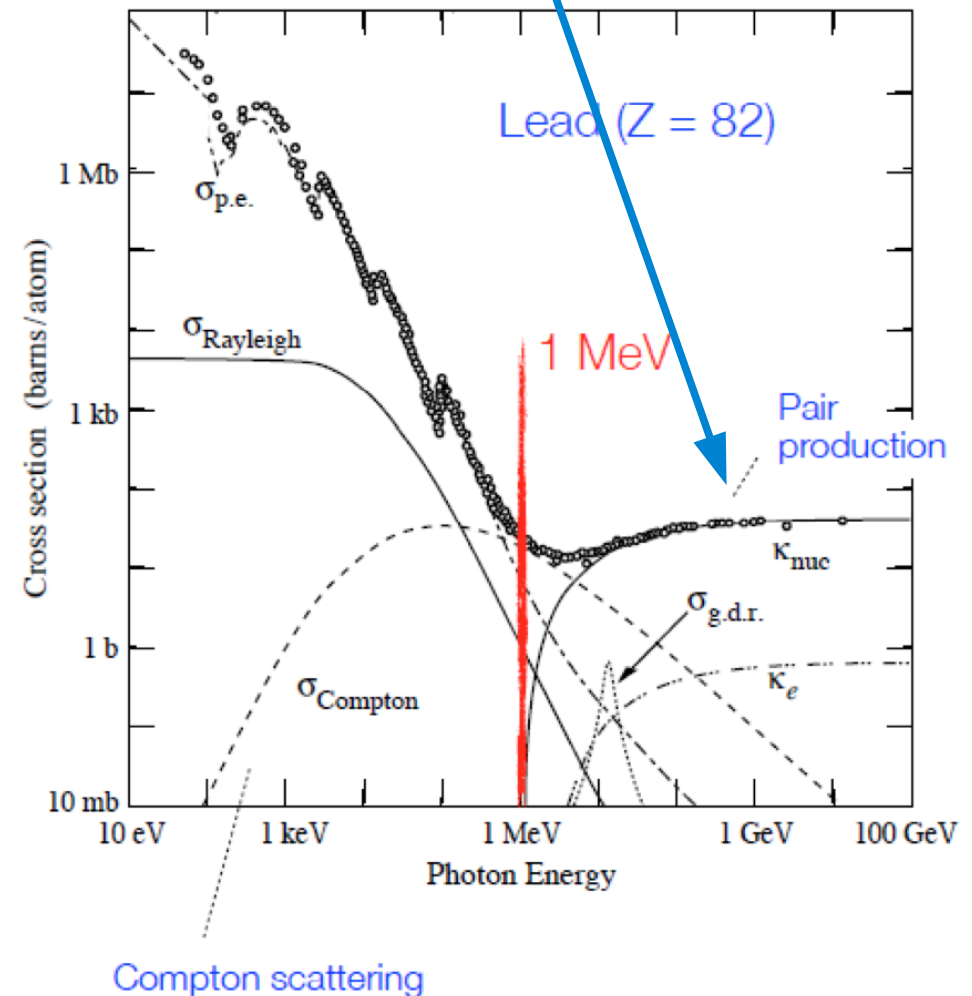
# Pair production: Bethe-Heitler process

**Cross section:** raises above threshold, but eventually saturates at large  $E_\gamma$  because of screening effects of the nuclear charge

$$E_\gamma \gg m_e c^2$$

$$\sigma_{\text{Pair}} = 4Z^2 \alpha r_e^2 \left( \frac{7}{9} \ln \frac{183}{Z^{1/3}} - \frac{1}{54} \right)$$

$$\approx 4Z^2 \alpha r_e^2 \left( \frac{7}{9} \ln \frac{183}{Z^{1/3}} \right)$$



# Pair production: Bethe-Heitler process

Pair production cross section

$$\sigma_{\text{Pair}} \approx \frac{7}{9} 4 \alpha r_e^2 Z^2 \ln \frac{183}{Z^{1/3}} = \frac{7}{9} \frac{A}{N_A} X_0$$

$X_0$ : radiation length (in cm or g/cm<sup>2</sup>)

Absorption coefficient:

( $\mu = n\sigma$        $n$ =particle density)

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\text{Pair}} &= \rho \cdot \frac{N_A}{A} \sigma_{\text{Pair}} \\ &\approx \frac{7}{9} \frac{1}{X_0} \end{aligned}$$

	$\rho$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	$X_0$ (cm)
liq $H_2$	0.071	865
C	2.27	18.8
Fe	7.87	1.76
Pb	11.35	0.56
air	0.0012	30 420



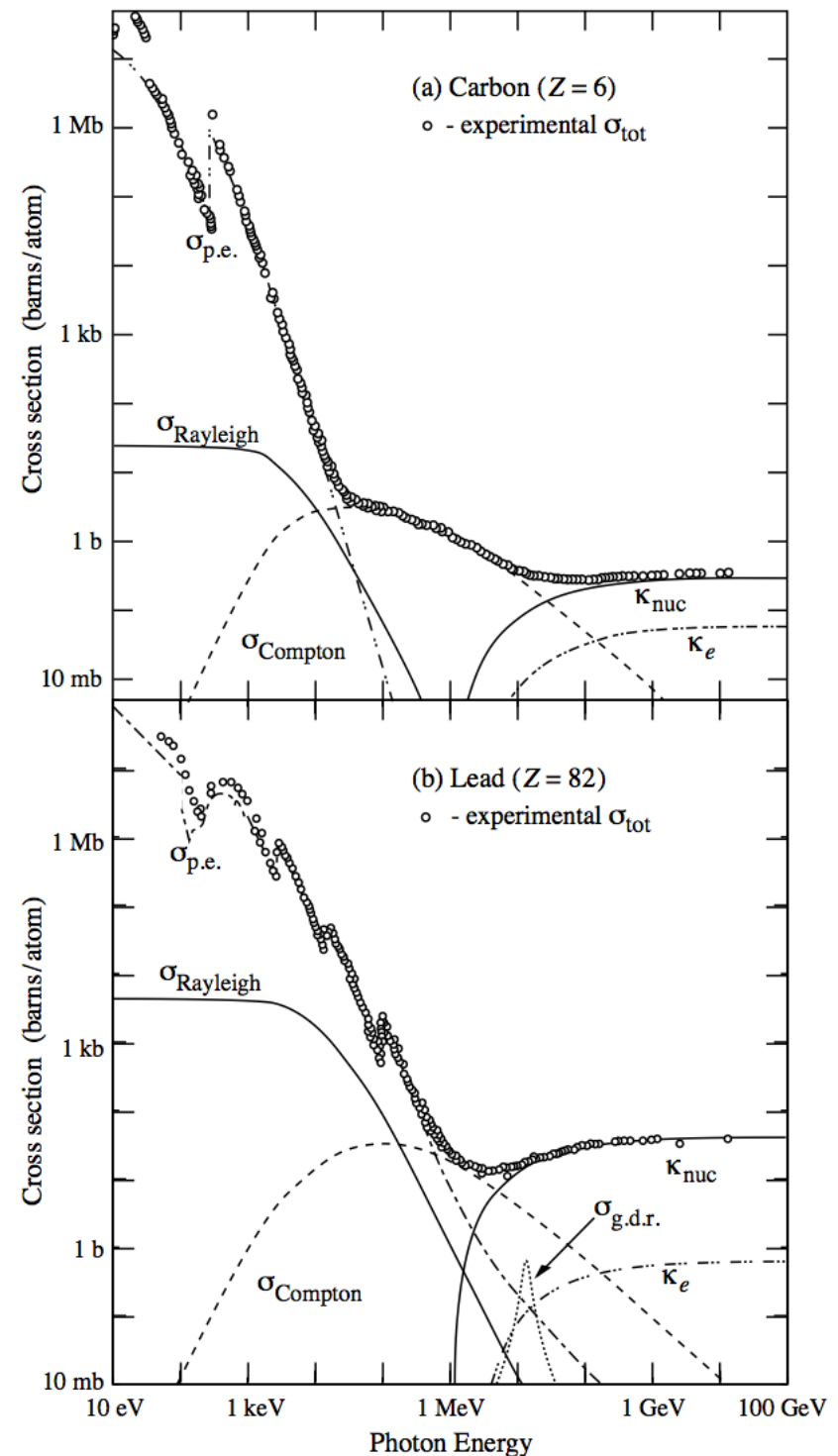
# Total photon cross section and absorption length

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{tot} &= \sigma_{ph} + \sigma_c + \sigma_p \\ \mu &= \mu_{ph} + \mu_c + \mu_p \\ \mu_i &= n\sigma_i = \frac{N_{AP}}{A} \sigma_i\end{aligned}$$

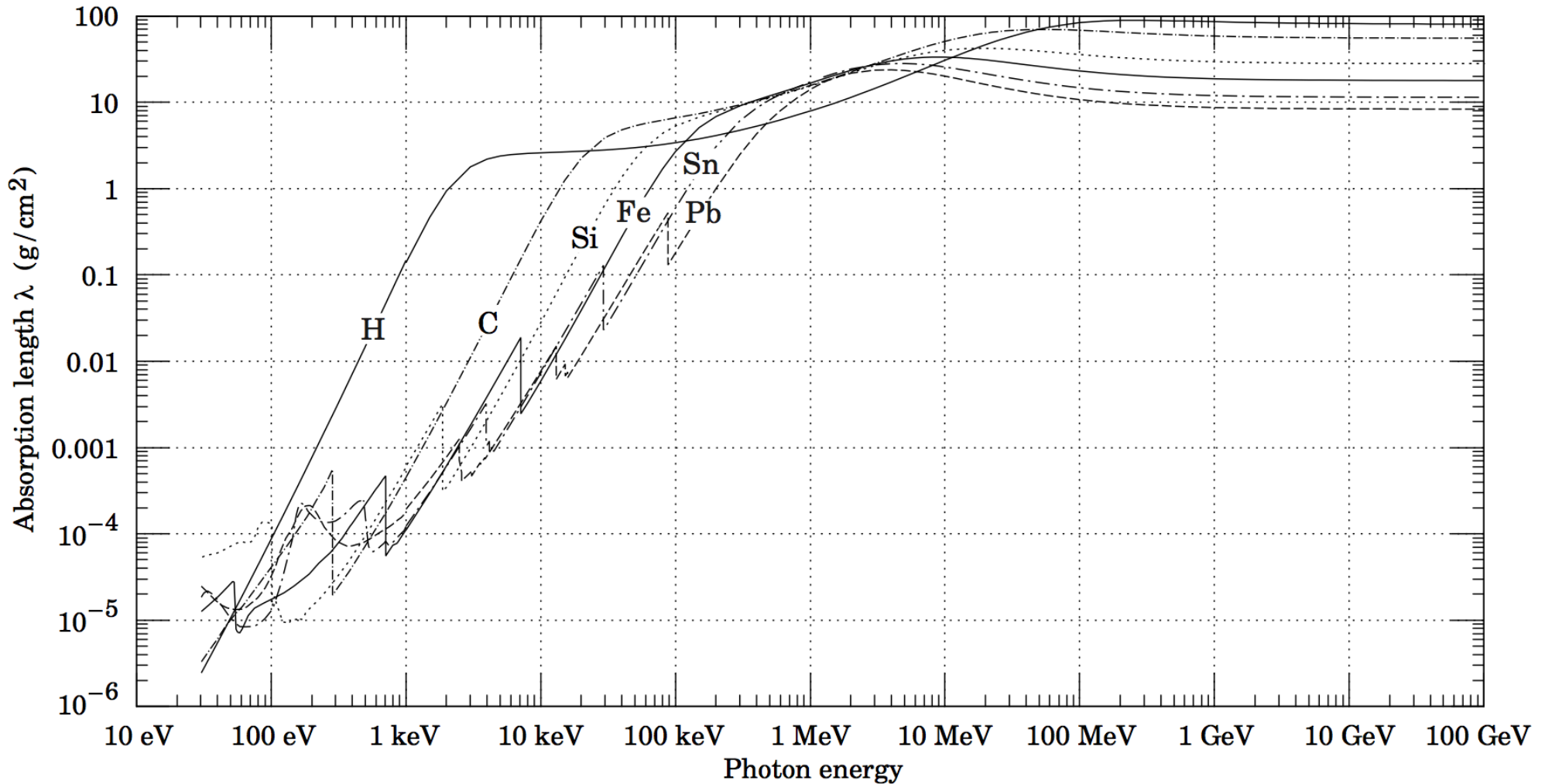
**Figure 33.15:** Photon total cross sections as a function of energy in carbon and lead, showing the contributions of different processes [51]:

- $\sigma_{p.e.}$  = Atomic photoelectric effect (electron ejection, photon absorption)
- $\sigma_{Rayleigh}$  = Rayleigh (coherent) scattering—atom neither ionized nor excited
- $\sigma_{Compton}$  = Incoherent scattering (Compton scattering off an electron)
- $\kappa_{nuc}$  = Pair production, nuclear field
- $\kappa_e$  = Pair production, electron field
- $\sigma_{g.d.r.}$  = Photonuclear interactions, most notably the Giant Dipole Resonance [52].  
In these interactions, the target nucleus is broken up.

Original figures through the courtesy of John H. Hubbell (NIST).



# Photon absorption length



$$I(x) = I_0 \exp(-x/\lambda)$$

1 MeV photon travels about 1 cm in Pb, about 5 cm in C

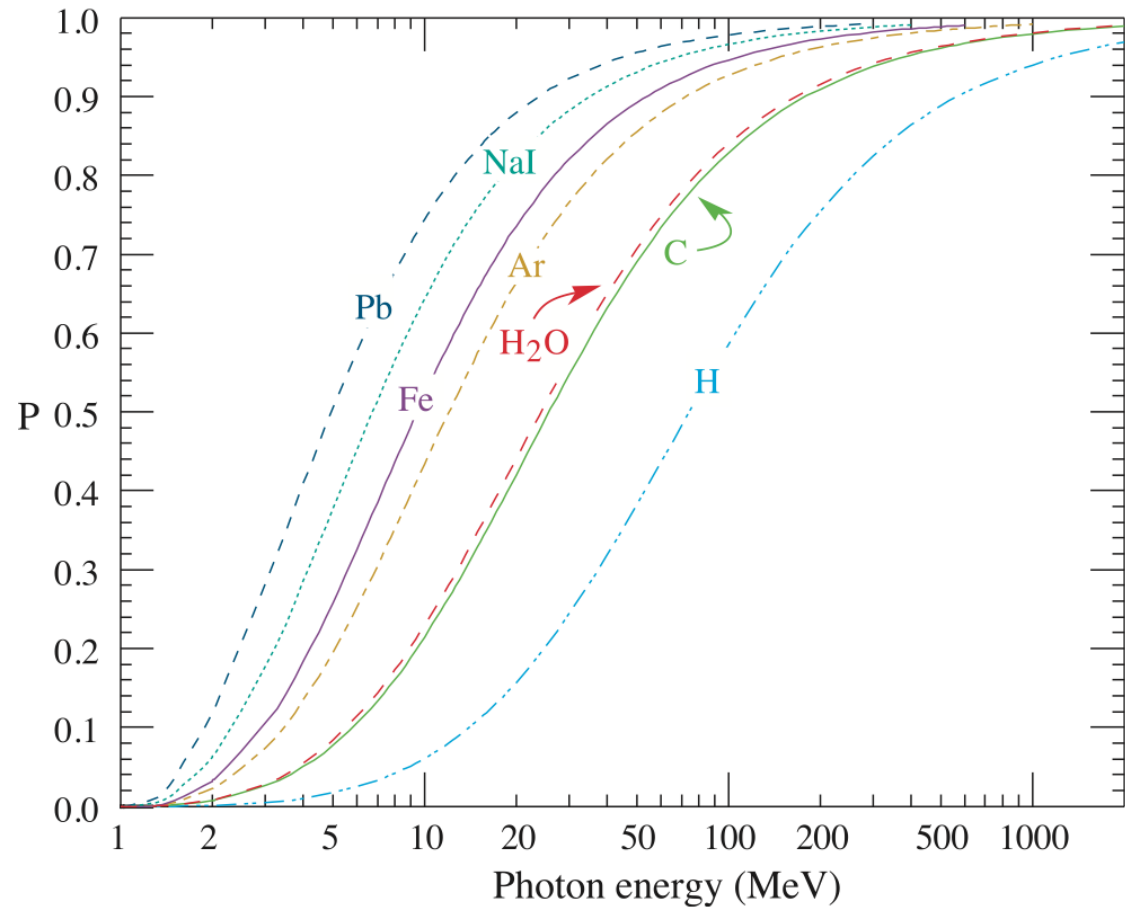
# Contribution by pair production

Probability  $P$  that a photon interaction will result in conversion to an  $e^+e^-$  pair

For increasing photon energy, pair production becomes dominant:

for Pb beyond 4 MeV

for H beyond 70 MeV



# Summary: interaction with matter

- **Charged particles:**
  - Energy loss by ionization
    - Bethe-Bloch
    - Delta electrons
    - Landau distribution
  - Excitation
  - Multiple scattering
  - Bremsstrahlung (electrons, TeV  $\mu$ )
  - Cherenkov effect
  - Transition radiation
- **Photons:**
  - Photo-electric effect
  - Compton scattering
  - Pair production
- **Hadrons: strong interaction**
- **Neutrinos: weak interaction**

# Summary: interaction with matter

- **Charged particles:**

- Energy loss by **ionization**

- Bethe-Bloch
- Delta electrons
- Landau distribution

- **Excitation**

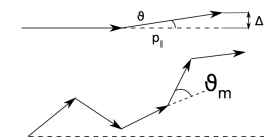
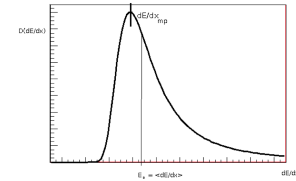
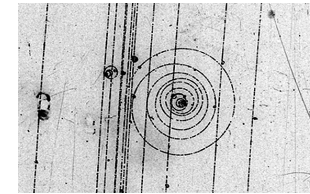
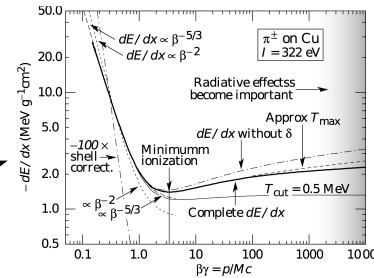
- Multiple scattering
- **Bremsstrahlung** (electrons, TeV  $\mu$ )
- **Cherenkov effect**
- **Transition radiation**

- **Photons:**

- Photo-electric effect
- Compton scattering
- Pair production

- Hadrons: strong interaction

- Neutrinos: weak interaction

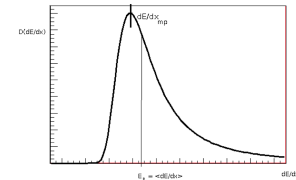
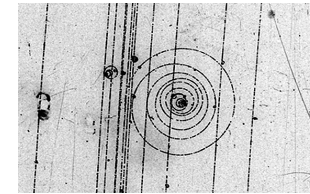
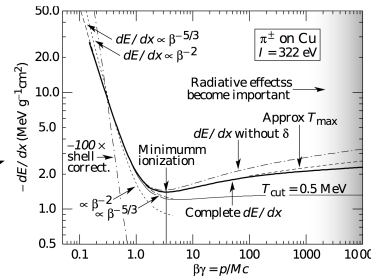


# Summary: interaction with matter

- **Charged particles:**

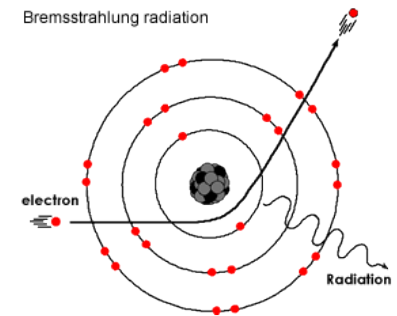
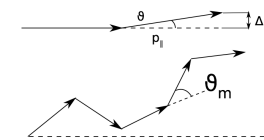
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- Delta electrons
- Landau distribution



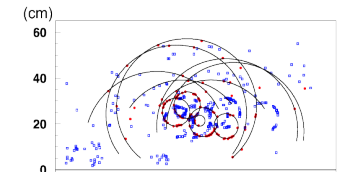
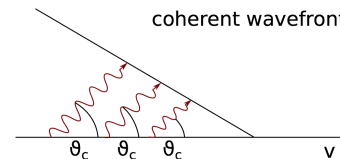
- **Excitation**

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- **Bremsstrahlung** (electrons, TeV  $\mu$ )
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- **Transition radiation**

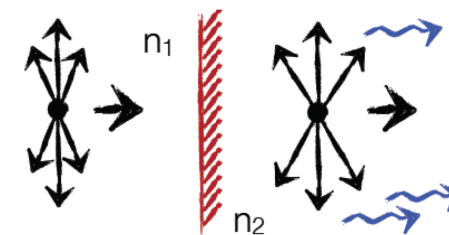


- **Photons:**

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# Summary: interaction with matter

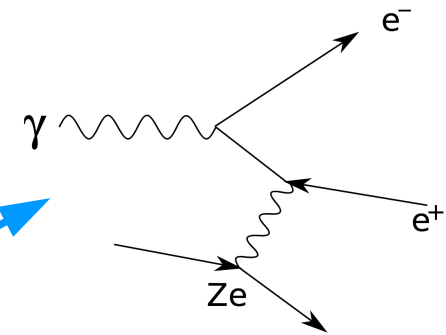
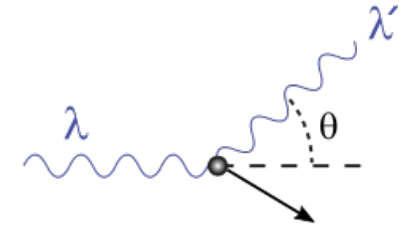
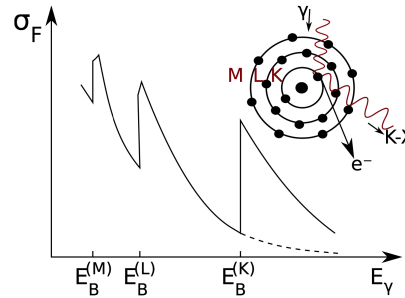
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# Summary: interaction with matter

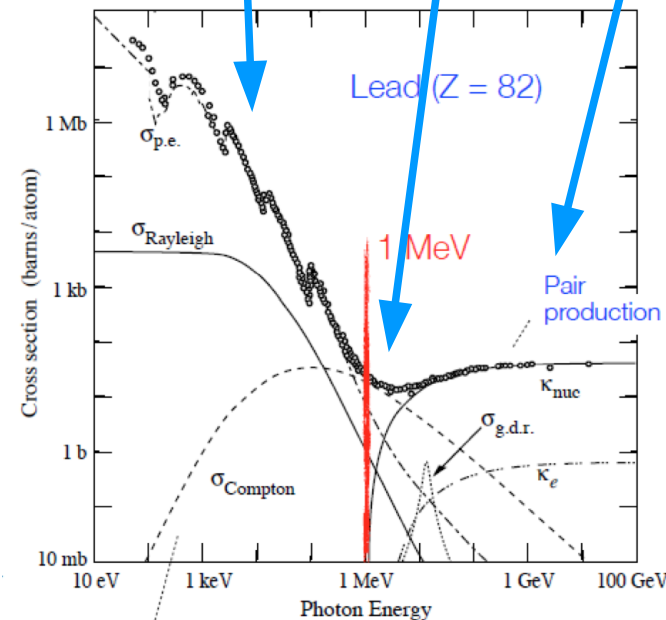
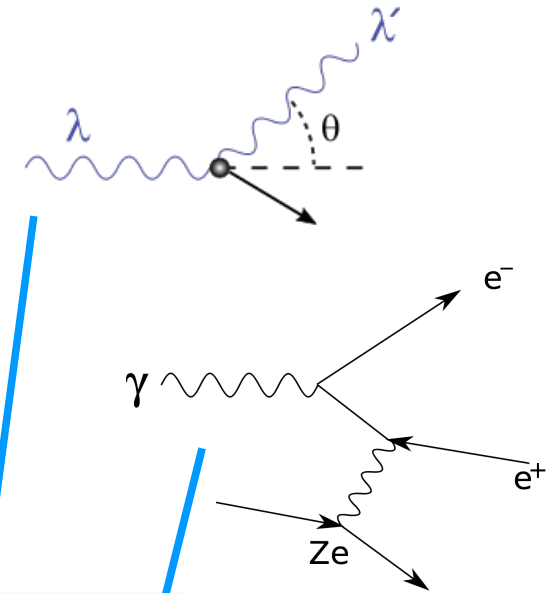
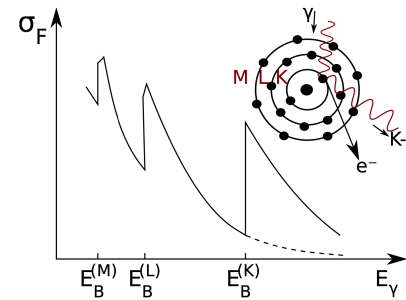
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Compton scattering



# Next lectures

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We review the most important type of particle detectors in use in particle and nuclear physics:

- Gas detectors
- Semiconductor detectors
- Calorimeters

# Tomorrow

We review the most important type of particle detectors in use in particle and nuclear physics:

- **Gas detectors**
- Semiconductor detectors
- Calorimeters

