Beam Loss Monitors

When energetic beam particles penetrates matter, secondary particles are emitted:
this can be e^-, γ, protons, neutrons, excited nuclei, fragmented nuclei...

⇒ Spontaneous radiation and permanent activation is produced.

⇒ Large variety of Beam Loss Monitors (**BLM**) depending on the application.

Protection: Sensitive devices e.g. super-conducting magnets to prevent quenching (energy absorption by electronic stopping)

→ **interlock signal for fast beam abortion.**

Beam diagnostics: Alignment of the beam to prevent for activation

→ **optimal transmission to the target.**

Accelerator physics: **using these sensitive particle detectors.**

- Several devices are used, depending on particle rate and required time resolution
- Some applications for usage

Processes for interaction of electrons

For E_{kin}> 100 MeV:

Bremsstrahlungs-photon dominated

⇒ $\gamma \rightarrow e^+ + e^-$ or $\mu^{\pm}$, $\pi^{\pm}$ ....

→ electro-magnetic showers

⇒ excitation of

nuclear giant resonances $E_{res} \approx 6$ MeV

via (γ, n), (γ, p) or (γ, np)

→ fast neutrons emitted

→ neutrons: Long ranges in matter

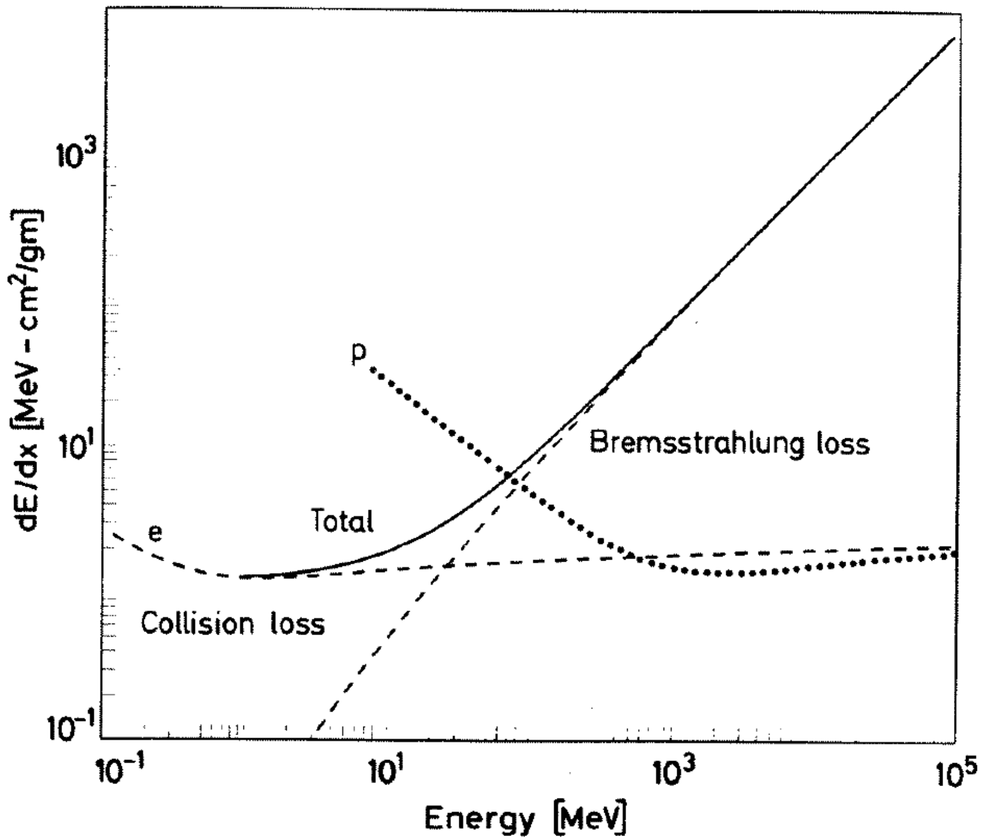
due to lack of ele.-mag. interaction.

For E_{kin} < 10 MeV:

⇒ only electronic stopping

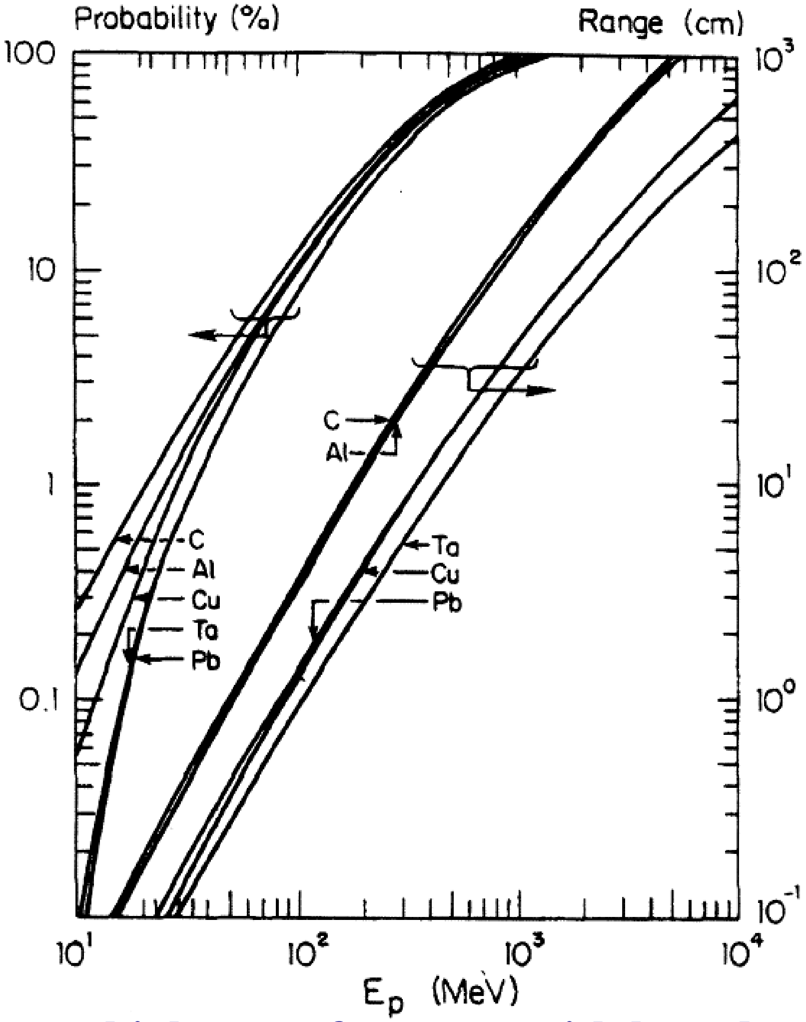
(x-rays, slow e^-).

Energy loss for e^- in copper:

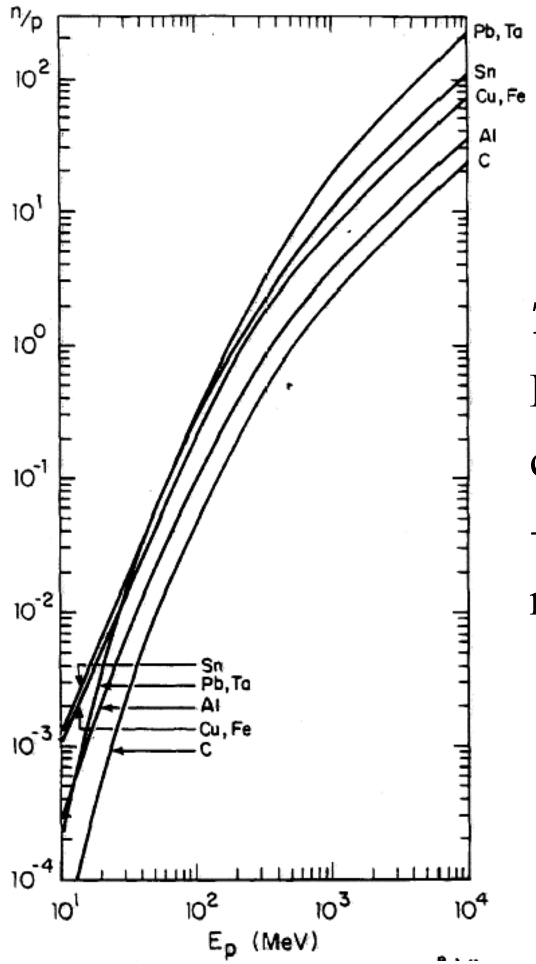


Secondary Particle Production for Proton Beams

Nuclear reaction probability:



Neutron yield per proton:

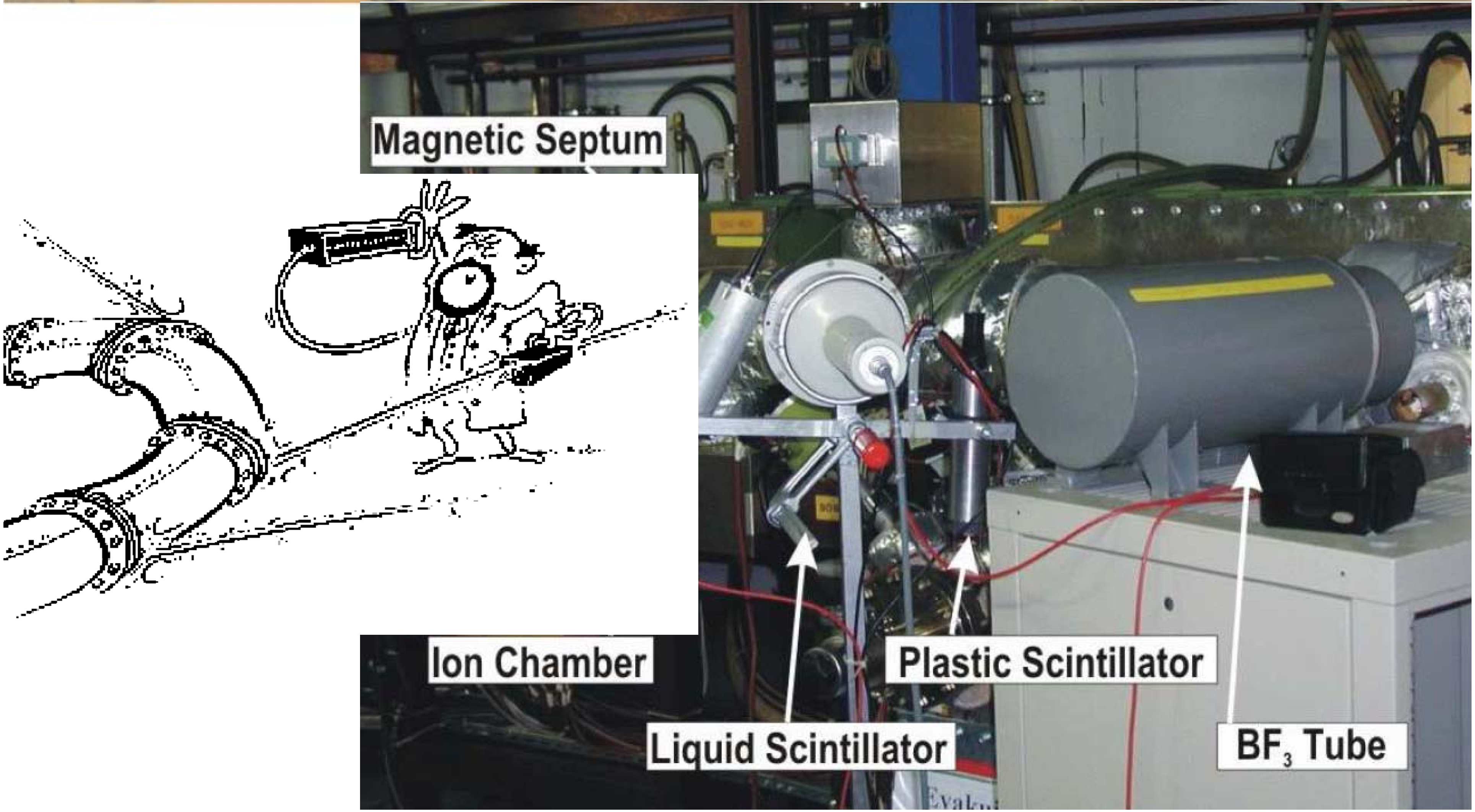


Thick target:

Penetration depth comparable to range → different types of nuclear reaction .

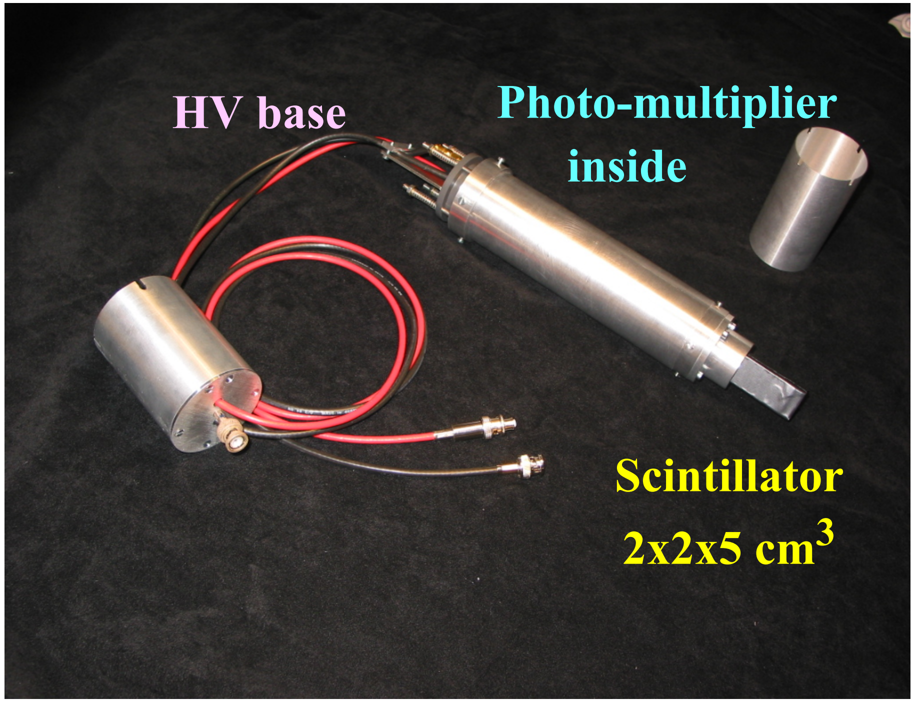
⇒ high rate of neutron with broad energy and angular distribution.

Various Beam Loss Monitors at the GSI-Synchrotron



Plastics or liquids are used:

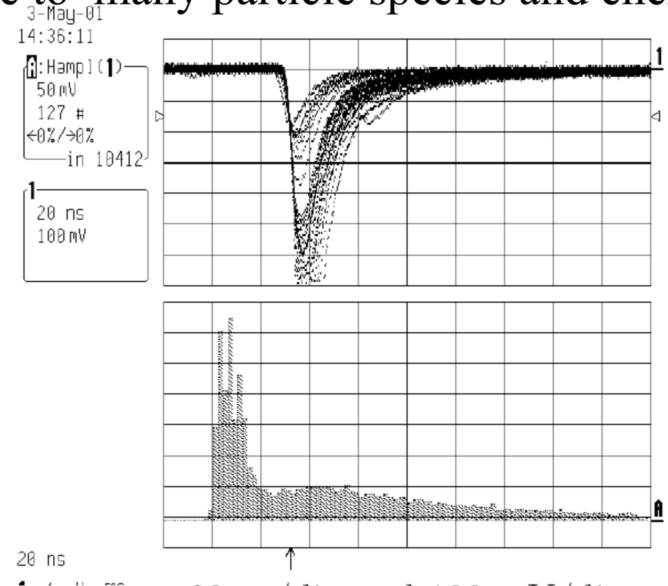
- detection of **charged particles** by electronic stopping
- detection of **neutrons** by elastic collisions n on p in plastics and fast p electronic stopping.



Scintillator + photo-multiplier:

counting (large PMT amplification)
or analog voltage ADC (low PMT amp.).
Radiation hardness:
plastics 1 Mrad = 10^4 Gy
liquid 10 Mrad = 10^5 Gy

Example: Analog pulses of plastic scintillator:
⇒ broad energy spectrum
due to many particle species and energies.



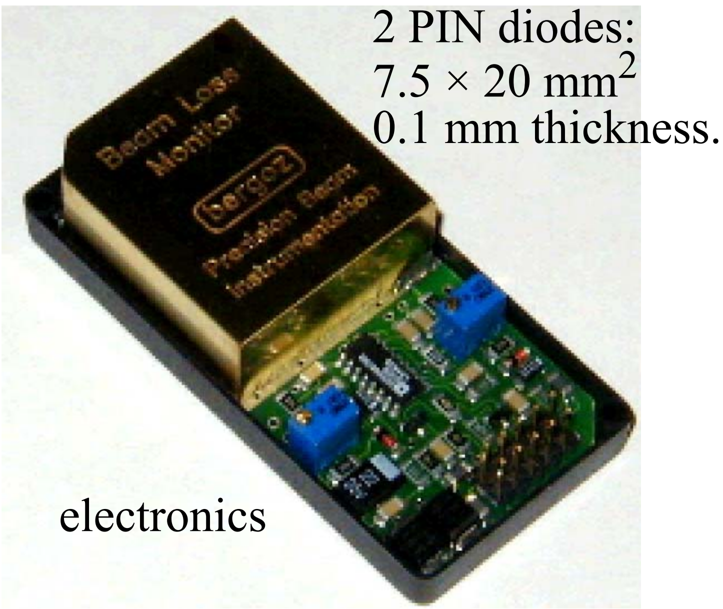
20 ns/div and 100 mV/div

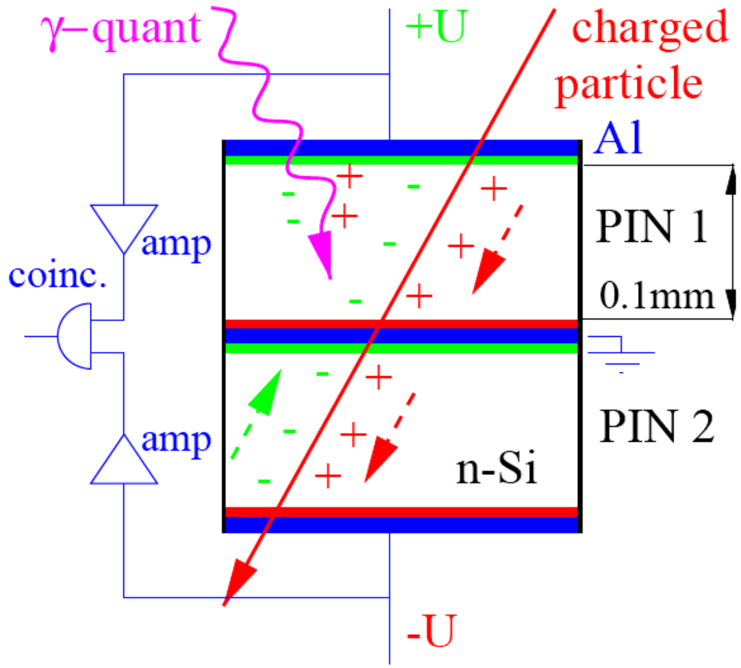
Solid-state detector: Detection of charged particles.

Working principle

- About 10^4 e^--hole pairs are created by a Minimum Ionizing Particle (MIP).
- A coincidence of the two PIN reduces the background due to low energy photons.
- A counting module is used with threshold value comparator for alarming.

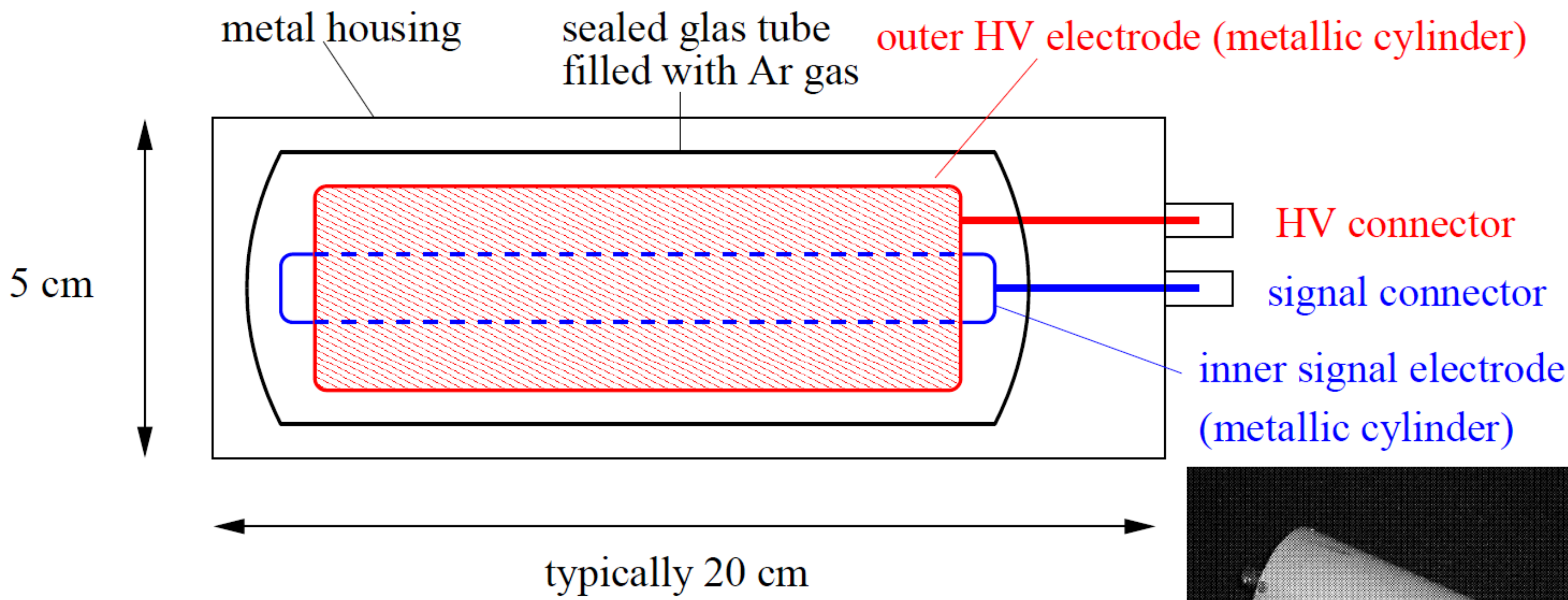
→ small and cheap detector.





Ionization Chamber as BLM

Detection of charged particles **only**.

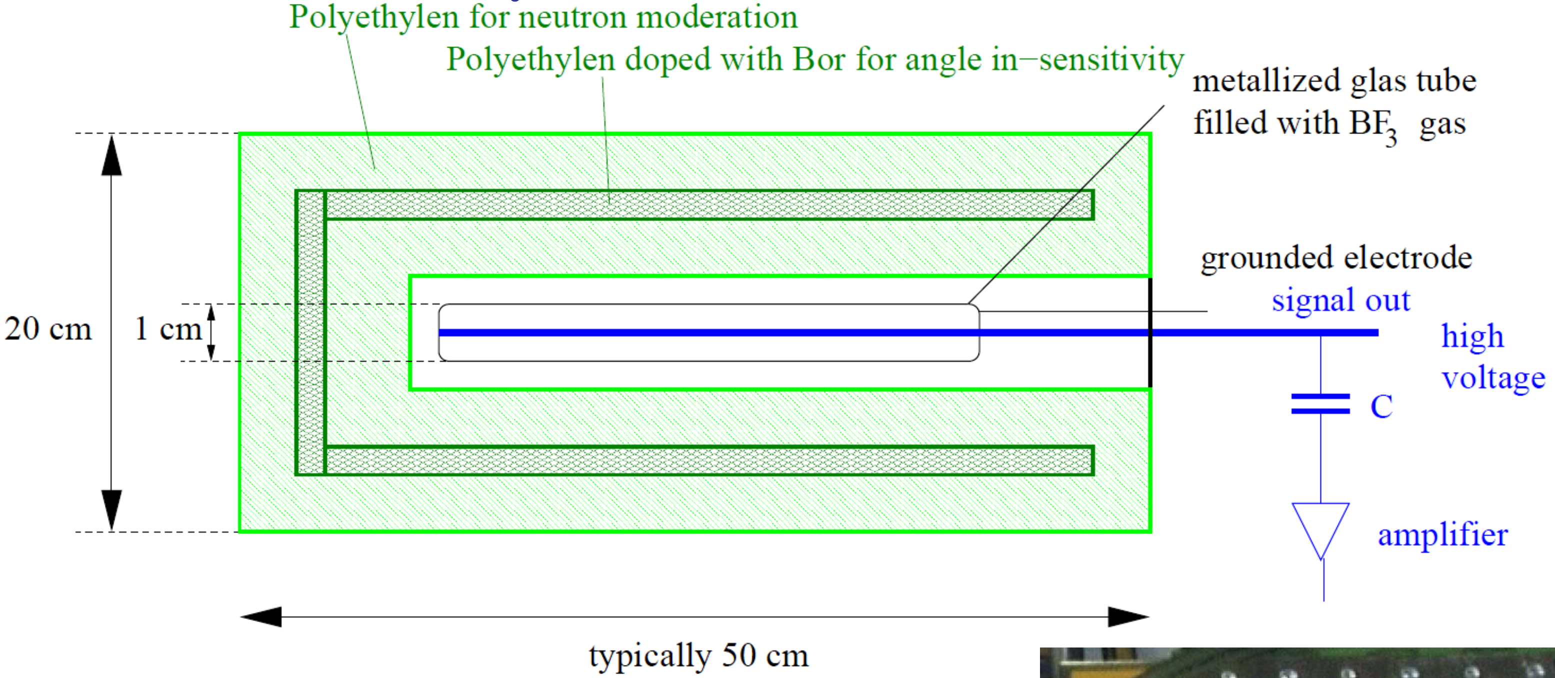


Sealed tube Filled with Ar or N_2 gas:

- Creation of Ar^+-e^- pairs, average energy ***W***=32 eV/pair
- measurement of this current
- Slow time response due to 100 µs drift time of Ar^+.

Per definition: direct measurement of dose.

Detection of neutrons **only.**



Physical processes of signal generation:

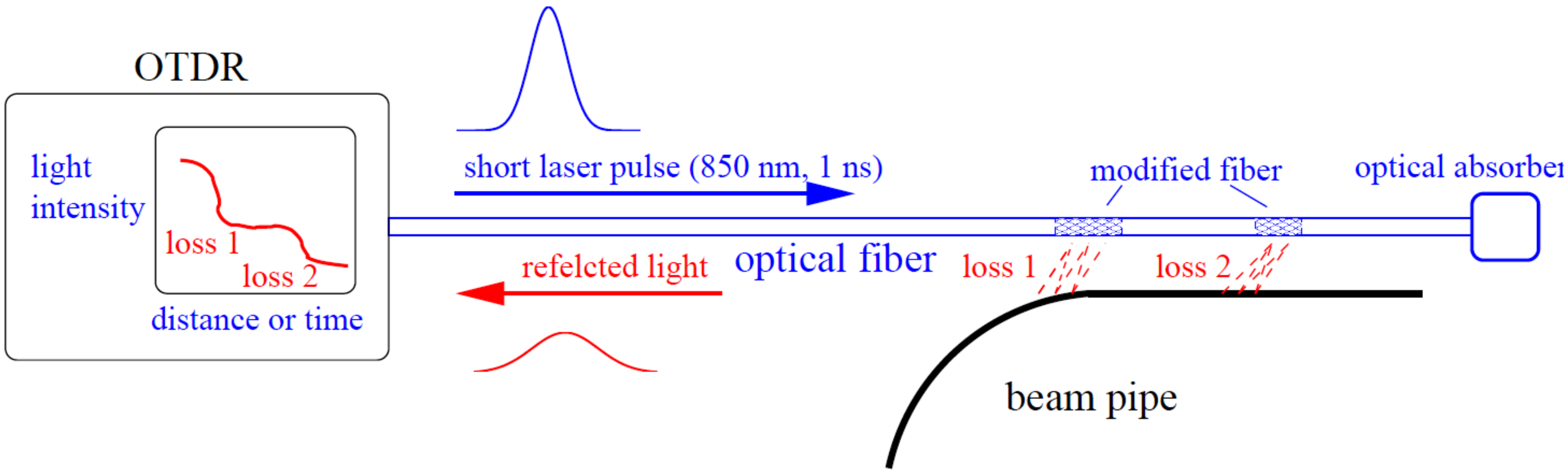
1. Slow down of fast neutrons by elastic collisions with p
2. Nuclear reaction inside BF_3 gas in tube:

   $$^{10}\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{n} \rightarrow {}^{7}\mathbf{Li} + \boldsymbol{\alpha} \quad \text{with} \quad \boldsymbol{Q} = 2.3\ \text{MeV}.$$

3. Electronic stopping of ^{7}Li and α leads to signal.

Optical Fibers as BLM

Modification of fiber material is used as a measure of dose.



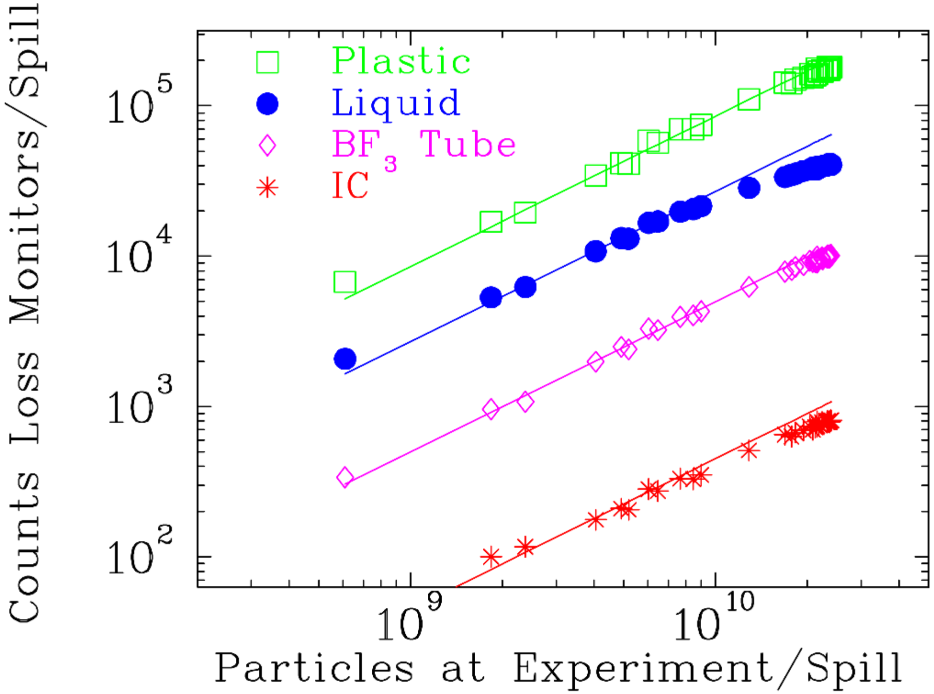
- several km long fibers (cheap due to use in tele-communication)
- 1 ns infra-red laser pulse
- OTDR (optical time domain reflector):

  time and amplitude of reflected light ⇒ location of modification.

Different detectors are sensitive to various physical processes.

Example: Beam loss for 800 MeV/u O^{8+}

with different BLMs at GSI-synchr.:



⇒ Linear behavior for all detectors

but quite different count rate:

$r_{IC} < r_{BF3} < r_{liquid} < r_{plastic}$

Machine Protection Issues for BLM

Losses lead to permanent activation ⇒ maintenance is hampered

and to material heating (vacuum pipe, super-cond. magnet etc.) ⇒ destruction.

Types of losses:

- ***Irregular*** or fast losses by malfunction of devices (magnets, cavities etc.)
  → BLM as online control of the accelerator functionality and **interlock generation**.
- ***Regular*** or slow losses e.g. by lifetime limits or due to collimator
  →BLM used for alignment.

Demands for BLM:

- **High sensitivity** to detect behavior of beam halo e.g. at collimator
- **Large dynamic range**:
  → low signal during normal operation, but large signal in case of malfunction
  → detectable without changing the full-scale-range
  e.g. scintillators from 10^2 1/s up to 10^7 1/s in counting mode.

Monitoring of loss rate in control room ***and*** as interlock signal for beam abortion.

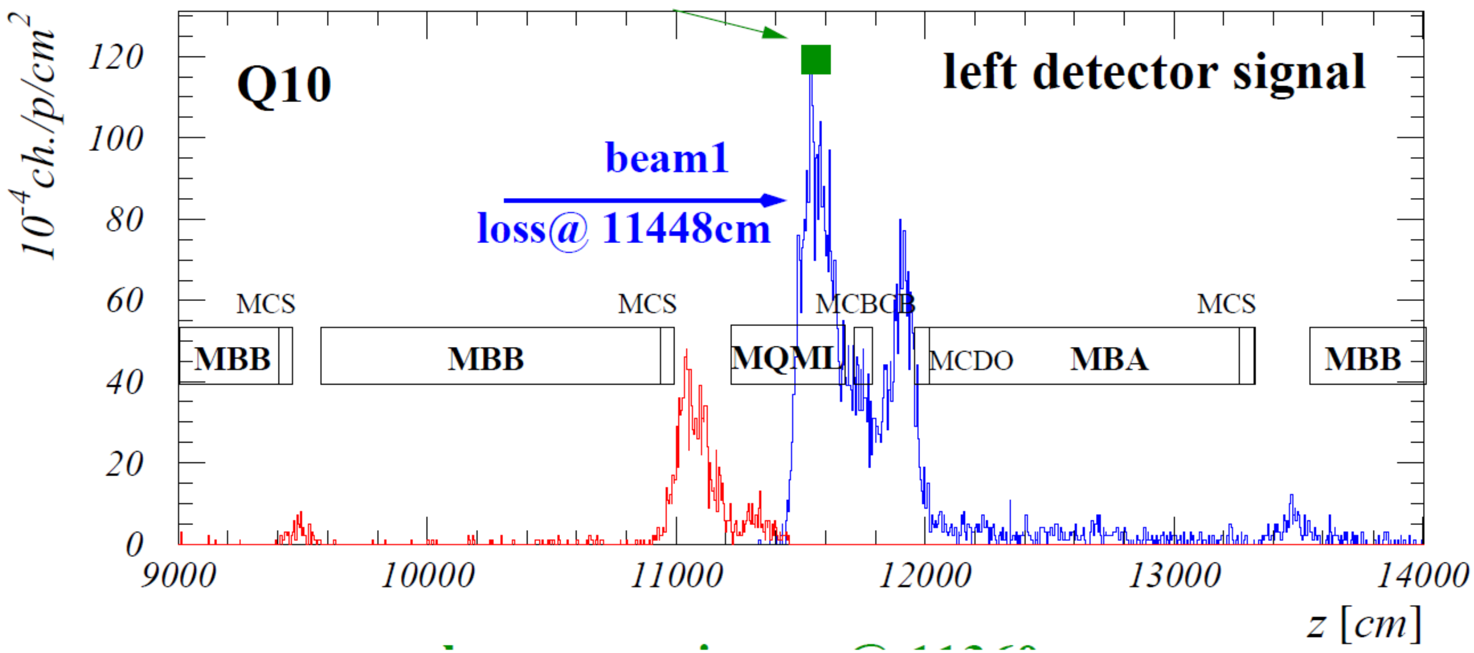
Application: BLMs for Quench-Protection

Super-conducting magnets can be heated above critical temperature T_c by the lost beam
⇒ breakdown of super-conductivity = 'quenching'.
⇒ Interlock within 1 ms for beam abortion generated by BLM.

Position of detector at quadruples due to maximal beam size.

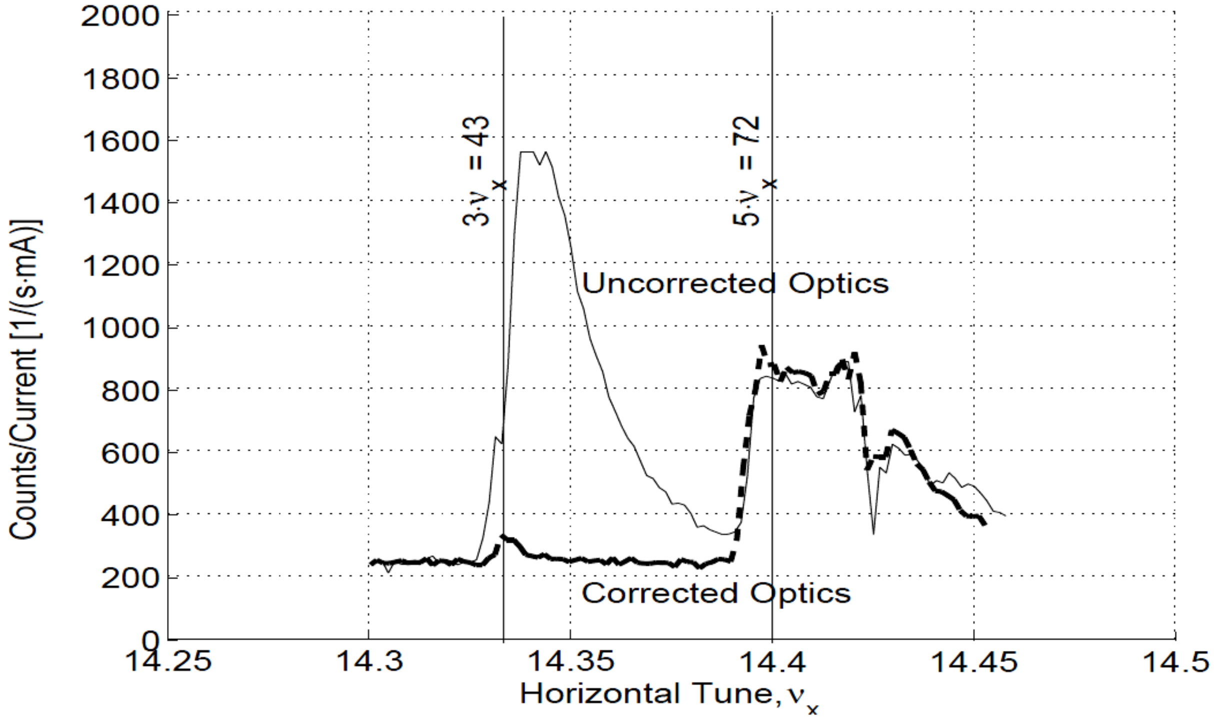
High energy particles leads to a shower in forward direction → Monte-Carlo simulation.

Example: LHC proton beam at 7 TeV: **shower maximum @ 11560cm**



Application: BLMs for optimal Tune Alignment

Example: Loss rate at a scraper inside the synchrotron as a function of the tune (i.e. small changes of quadrupole setting):



Beam blow-up by weak resonances can be avoided by proper tune value

→ very sensitive device for optimization.

Summary Beam Loss Monitors

Measurement of the lost fraction of the beam:

- detection of secondary products
- sensitive particle detectors are used outside the vacuum
- cheap installations used at many location

Used as interlock in all high current machines for protection.

Additionally used for sensitive 'loss studies'.

Depending on the application different types are used:

- **Scintillators:** sensitive, fast response, largest dynamics, not radiation hard
- **PIN diode:** insensitive, fast response, not radiation hard, cheap
- **Electron Multiplier**: medium sensitive, fast response, radiation hard
- **IC:** medium sensitive, slow response, radiation hard, cheap
- **BF_3 tube**: only neutrons, slow response, radiation hard, expensive
- **Optical fibers**: insensitive, very slow, radiation hard, very high spatial resolution.