

Impact of radiation damage to the performance of depleted monolithic active pixel sensors for Belle II vertex detector upgrade

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The Belle II experiment located at KEK, Tsukuba (筑波), Japan.

- Running at the SuperKEKB accelerator.
 - Collecting $10.58 \text{ GeV } e^-e^+$ collision events.
- Exploring physics beyond the Standard Model.
 - ► Using large statistics of B meson decay events (aiming for 50 ab⁻¹).

SuperKEKB accelerator

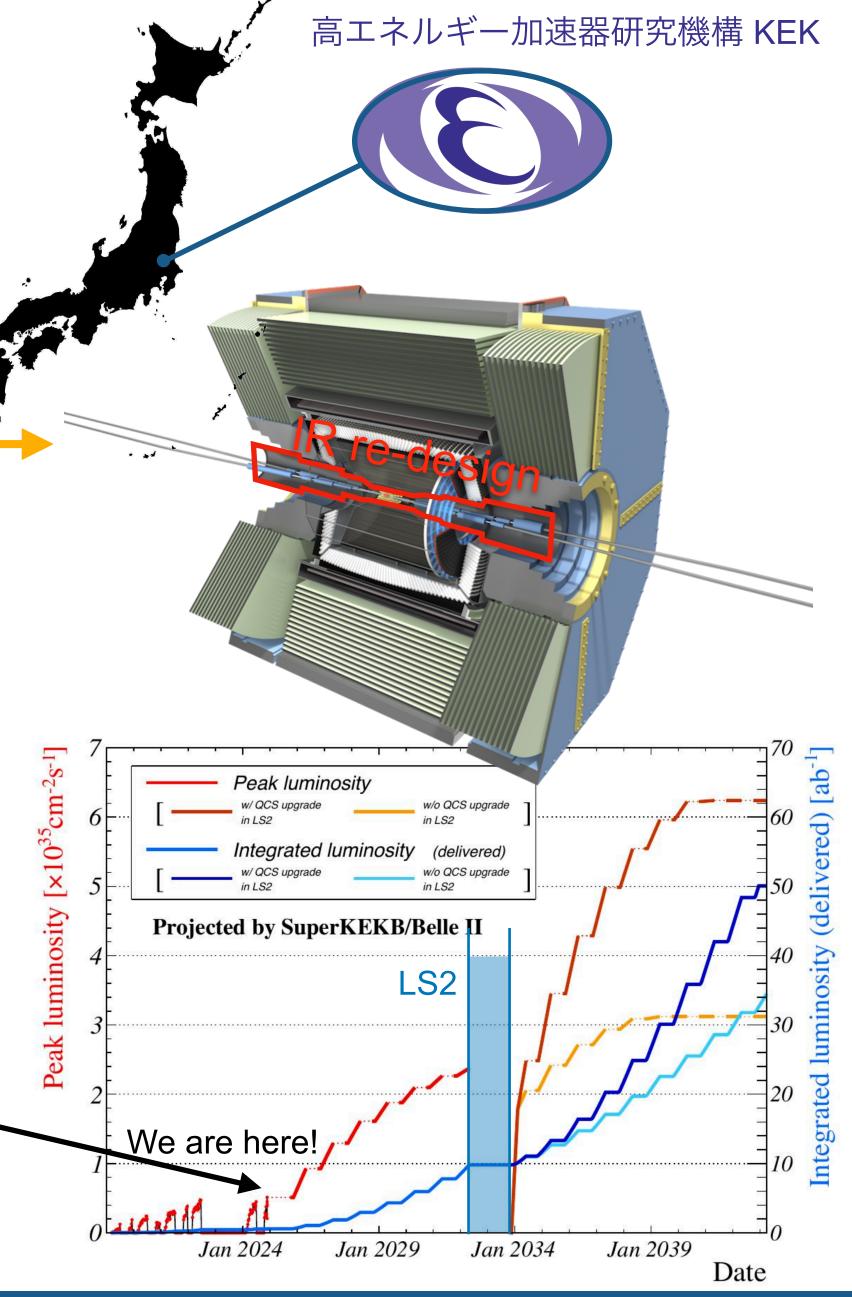
Positron ring electron / positron linear injector

positron damping ring

Luminosity upgrade

► Luminosity record: 5.1×10^{34} cm⁻²s⁻¹. ¬

- ► Target luminosity: 6×10^{35} cm⁻²s⁻¹.
- ► Redesign of the interaction region (IR) is planned during long shutdown 2 (LS2) to reach the target.
- ► IR redesign requires the upgrade of vertex detector.



Belle II detector



Current vertex detector: VXD see talk by Kieran yesterday

- 2 inner layers: Pixel Detector (PXD).
 - ► DEPleted Field Effect Transistor (DEPFET) sensor.
 - Occupancy limit: 3%.
- 4 outer layers: Silicon Vertex Detector (SVD)
 - Double-sided silicon strip detector (DSSD).
 - Occupancy limit: 6%.
- Total material budget: $3.5 \% X_0$.

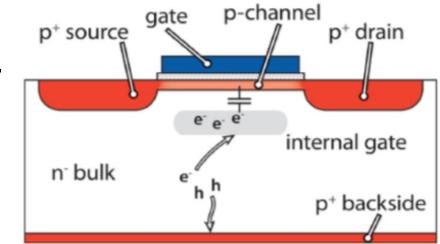
Current occupancy on all VXD layers: <1%.

Background expectation at target luminosity

- Expected occupancy at the target luminosity:
 - Small safety margin. ► PXD innermost layer: up to 2% ($\sim 32~\mathrm{MHz/cm^2}$). Very delicate.
 - SVD innermost layer: up to $9\,\%$ ($\sim 9\,$ MHz/cm 2). Exceeds safety limit.
- Large uncertainty due to potential IR upgrade.
- ► A new vertex detector is needed for better background tolerance.

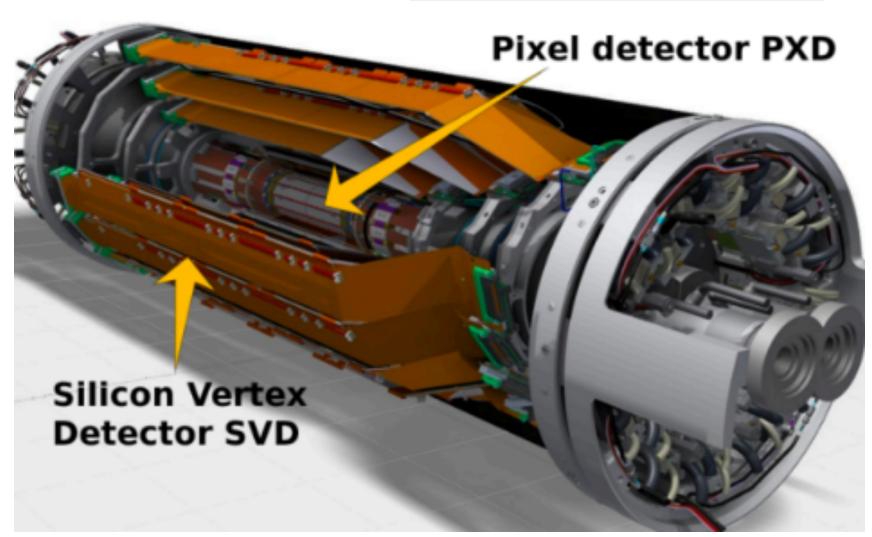
Pixel size: $50 \times (50 - 85) \mu \text{m}$.

Sensor thickness: $50 \mu m$.



DEPFET (Belle II PXD)

VXD



readout Al

DSSD (Belle II SVD)

Strip pitch: $50 - 240 \mu m$.

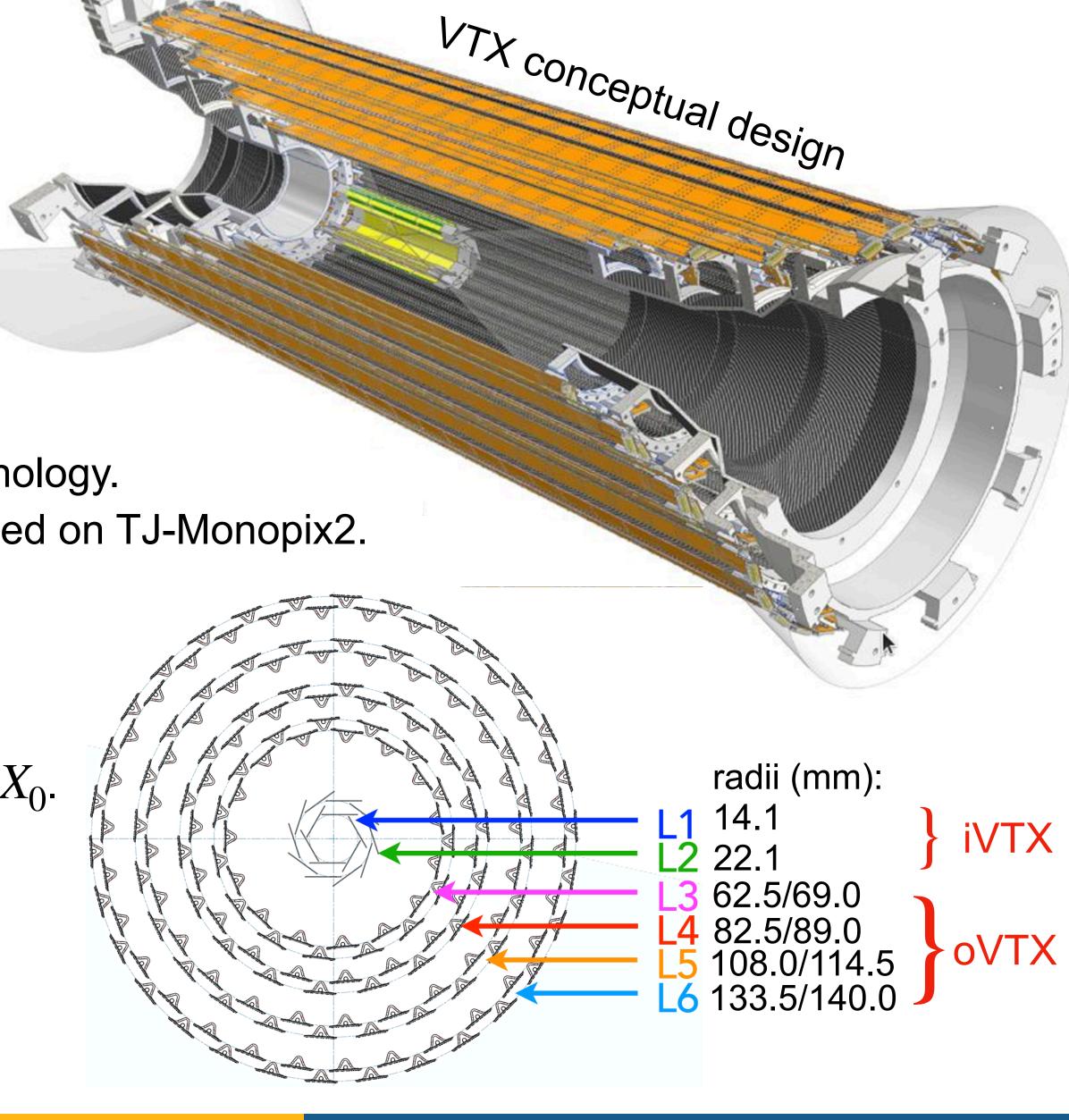
Sensor thickness: $300 - 320 \mu m$.





Vertex detector upgrade: VTX

- Upgrade baseline:
 - ► Total ionizing dose (TID): 100 Mrad.
 - ► Non-ionizing energy loss (NIEL) flux: $5 \times 10^{14} \ \rm n_{eq} cm^{-2}$
 - ► Hit rate: 120 MHz · cm⁻²
 - Spatial resolution: $< 15 \mu m$
- Fully pixilated detector.
 - CMOS Depleted Monolithic Pixel Sensor (DMAPS) technology.
 - Optimized BELIe II pIXel (OBELIX) sensor designed based on TJ-Monopix2.
 - ► Pixel size: $33 \times 33 \ \mu m^2$.
- ► 6 layers equipped with identical sensor.
 - ► iVTX (2 inner layers) and oVTX (4 outer layers).
 - Thinner layers with total material budget targeting ~3 % X_0 .
- **▶** Better tracking performance.
 - Higher tracking efficiency.
 - Better vertex reconstruction precision.
 - Fast readout contributing to first-level trigger.



Vertex detector upgrade and its improvement

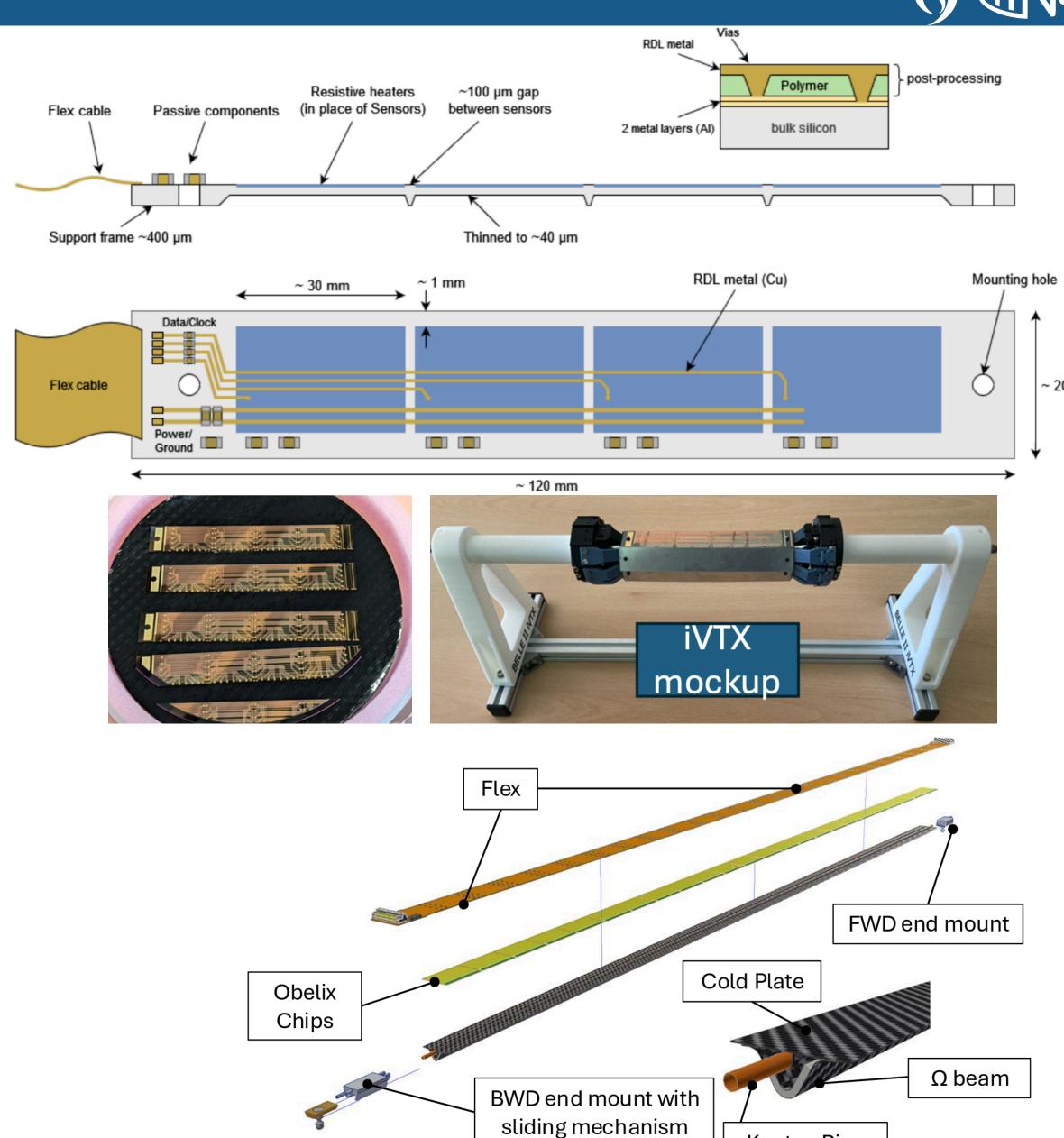
() IPS

iVTX, 2 innermost layers

- ► All silicon design, 0.3% X₀ per ladder
 - Sensors are supported directly on diced wafer.
 - Sensor part thinned to 40 μm.
 - Post-processed redistribution layer (RDL) interconnects the sensors.
- Cooling strategy under investigation
 - Developed based on temperature dependency test of the performance of TJ-Monopix2.
 - Expected to operate sensors at ~room temperature to minimize cooling system.
 - Heat sink made of thermal pyrolytic graphite (TPG).
 - Liquid cooling with cooling pipes.

oVTX, 4 outer layers

- ► Carbon fiber layers, 0.6% X₀ per ladder
 - Sensors are aligned on carbon fiber support.
 - Flex circuits interconnects sensors.
 - Liquid cooling with cooling pipes.



Kapton Pipe

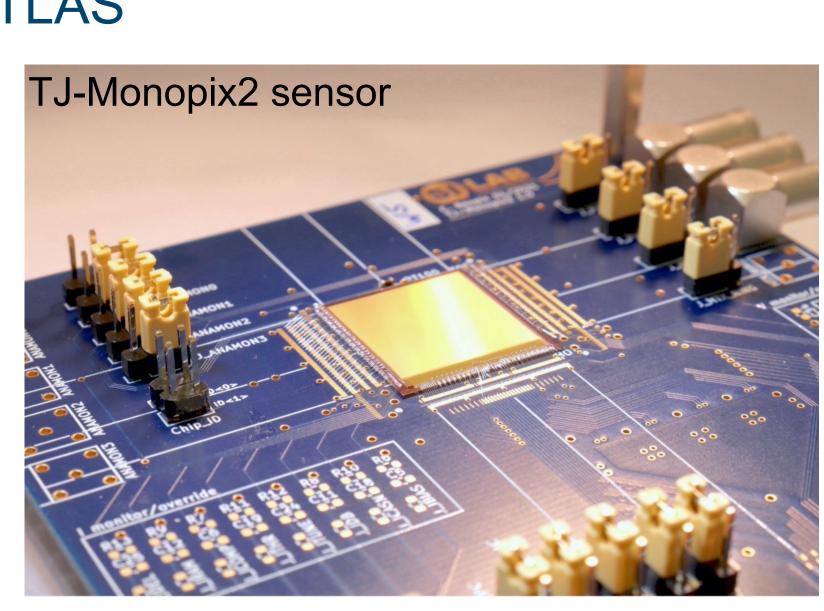


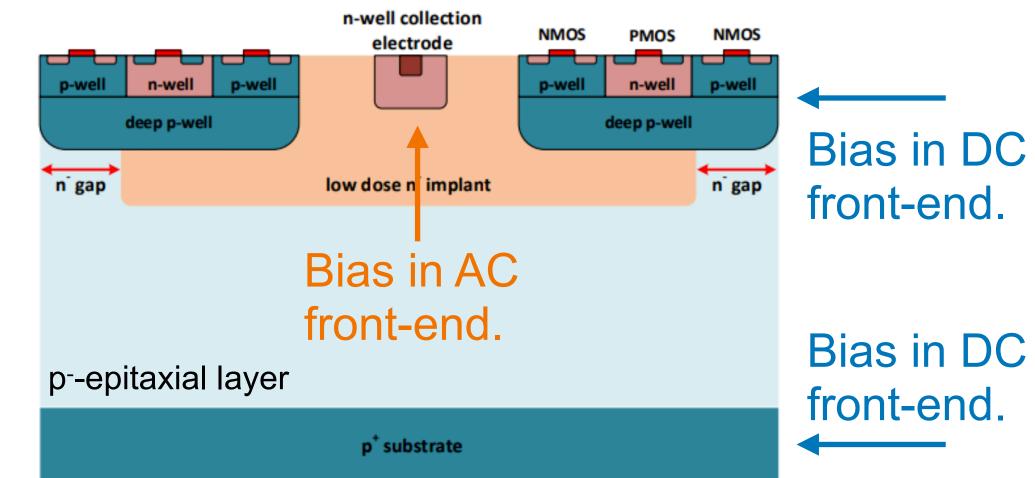
DMAPS OBELIX sensor

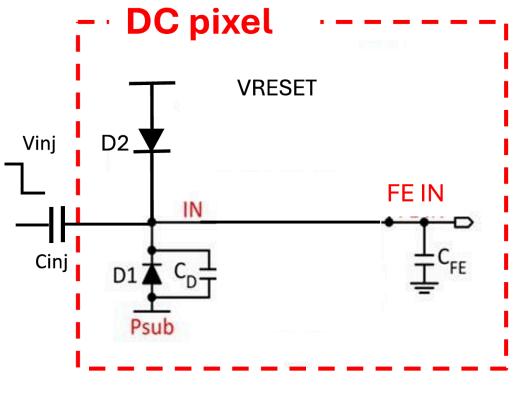
- Designed based on TJ-Monopix2 prototype
 - ► Inherited analog matrix from TJ-Monopix2.
 - Modified digital periphery receiving level-1 trigger and adapted to Belle II DAQ system.

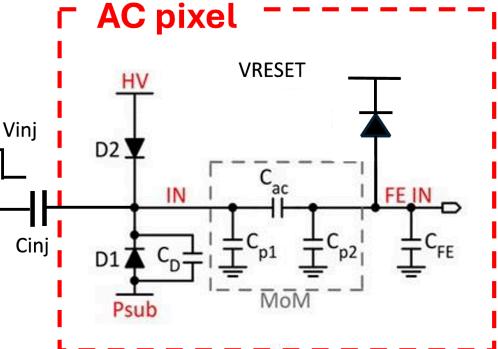
TJ-Monopix2 as a predecessor of OBELIX

- ► A DMAPS prototype designed for HL-LHC ATLAS
 - 512×512 pixels in 2×2 cm² area.
 - Pixel size of $33 \times 33 \ \mu \text{m}^2$.
 - ► 25 ns timestamping precision.
 - \rightarrow 30 μ m epitaxial layer depth.
 - Trigger less.
 - Column drain readout architecture.
- Front-ends: DC/AC coupling
 - Biased in different ways.







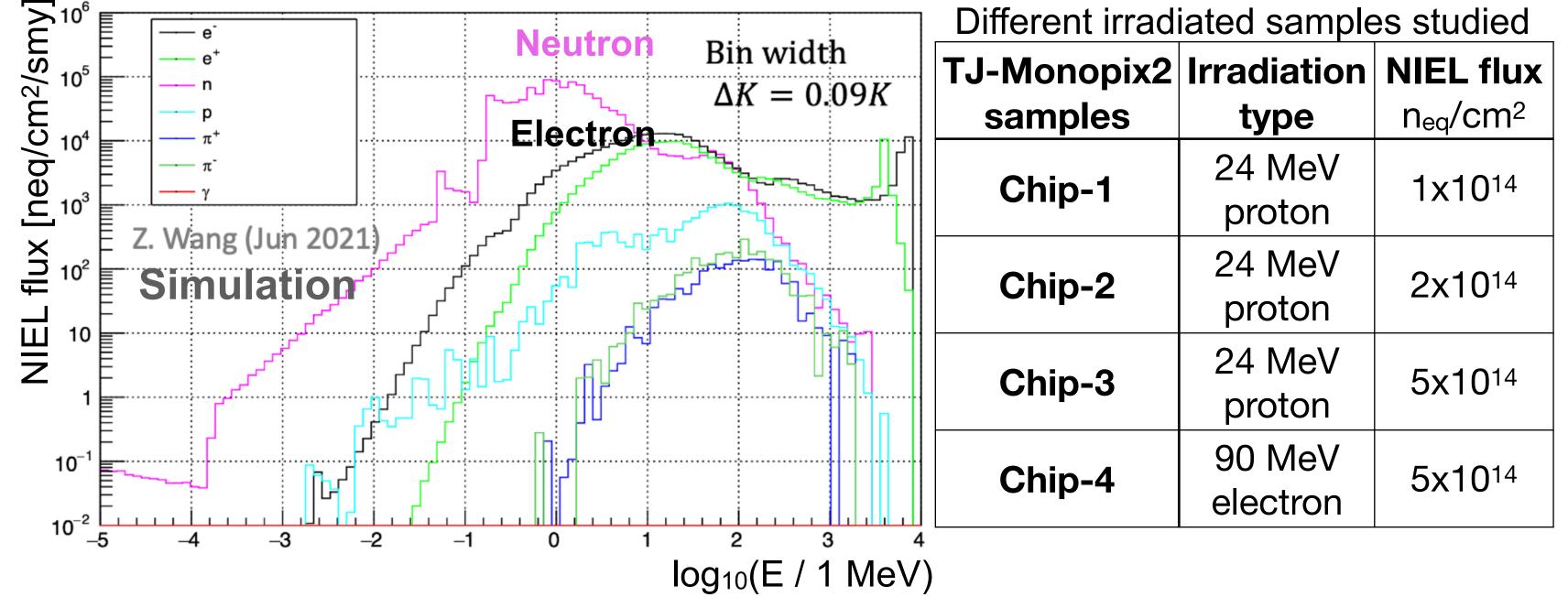




Characterization activities of TJ-Monopix2

- Performance measurement of TJ-Monopix2 as a reference for future OBELIX sensor.
 - A series of laboratory measurement, test beam and irradiation activities have been conducted to investigate the detection performance.
 - Several irradiated samples have been created to compare the impact of radiation damage, in order to make sure the good performance of VTX after long-term irradiation and define the operation temperature.





Main contributions of NIEL flux in Belle II environment come from 1~10-MeV level Neutrons and electrons.

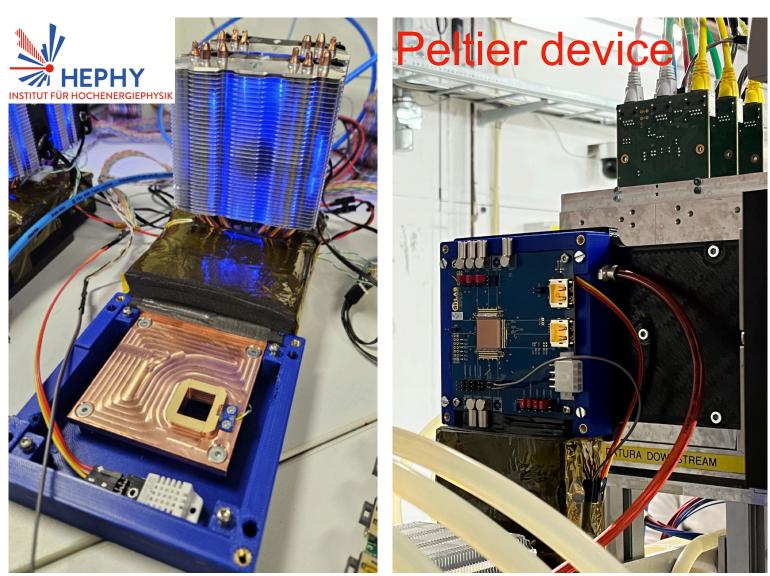
Items to be checked

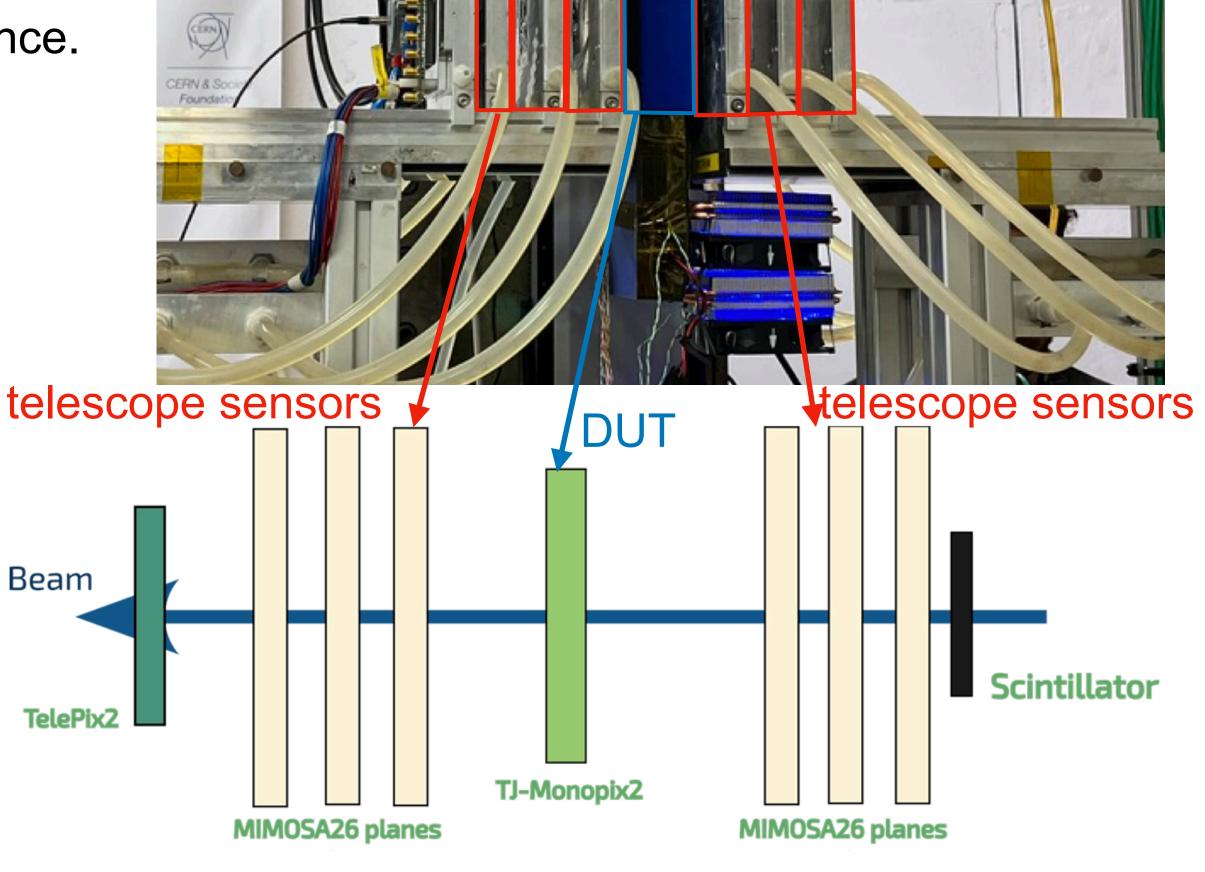
- 1. Temperature dependency of performance after irradiation.
- 2. DC/AC front-end performance comparison.



DESY Test beam March 2025

- DESY II Test Beam Facility
 - ► 4.2 GeV electron beam.
 - EUDET telescope.
 - ▶ 1 e-irrad. & 3 p-irrad. samples to compare the impact of different irradiation and study the temperature performance.
- Peltier device
 - Monitor an NTC temperature sensor near sensor chip.
 - ► Control the temperature of DUT within 10°C ~ 50°C.





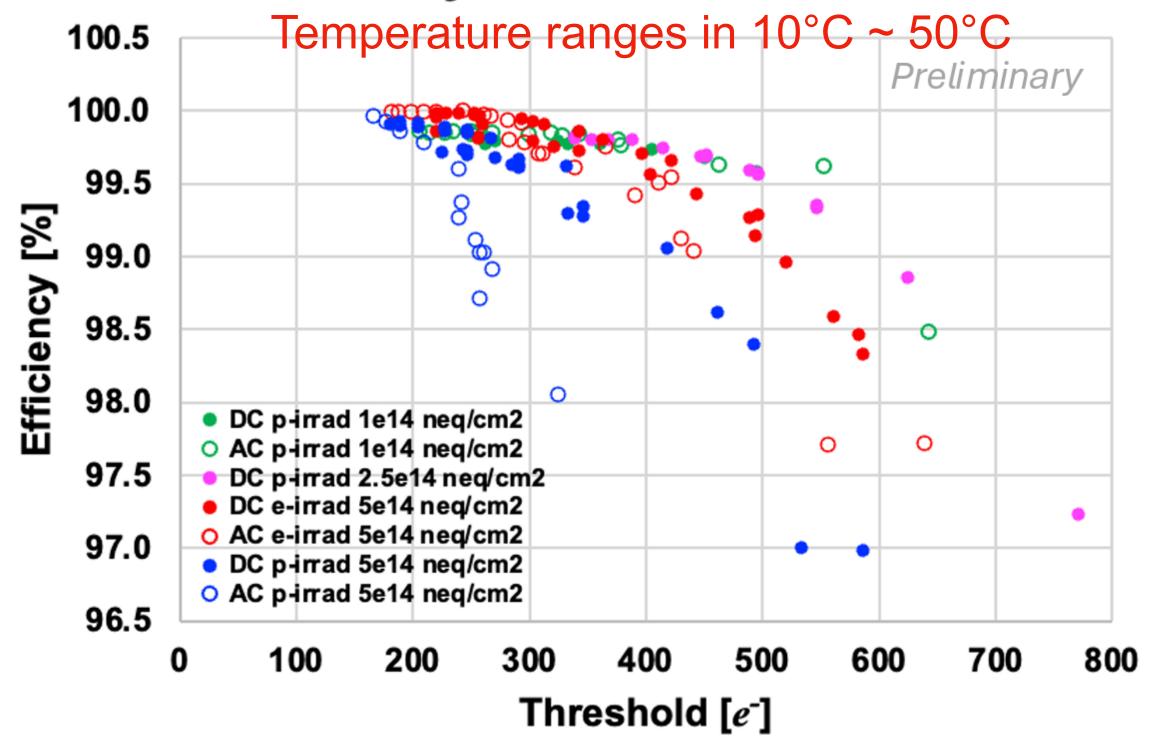
Detection efficiency measurement:

Reconstruct a particle using telescope → check if this particle is detected on DUT.

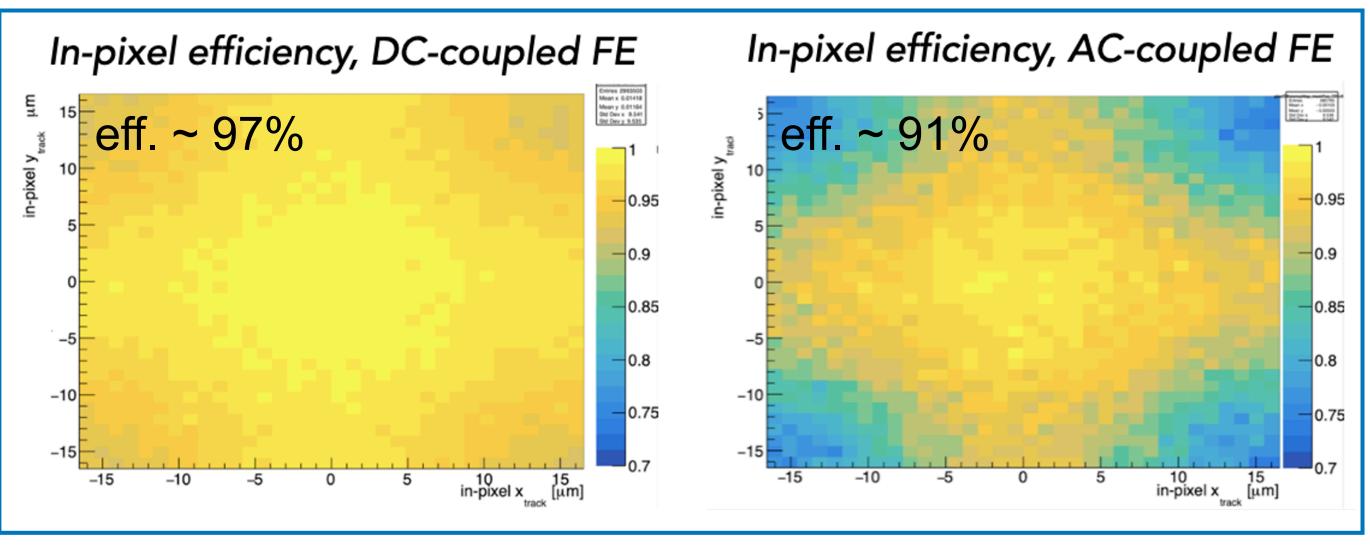


DESY Test beam 2025

Efficiency vs Threshold - Max bias



Comparison of p-irrad DC and AC FE at ~THR 550 e-



Tempeature 40°C

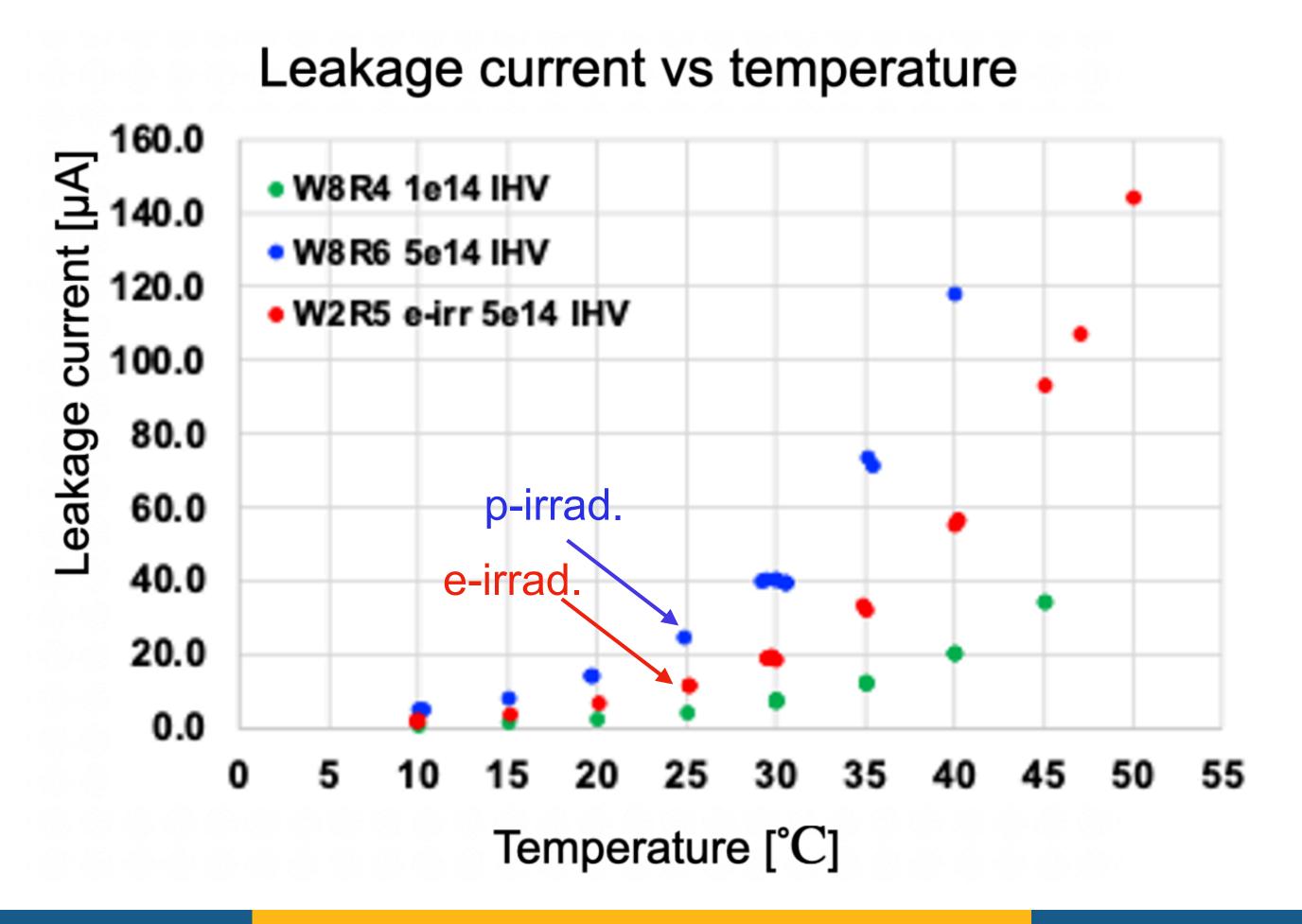
Preliminary result (I):

- Efficiency is degraded due to the charge collection loss resulted from larger radiation damage.
- P-irrad. samples shows smaller efficiency than e-irrad. sample with the same NIEL flux, suggesting more bulk damage in proton-irradiation.
- Comparing DC and AC front-end, DC front-end shows better performance.



Leakage current measurement

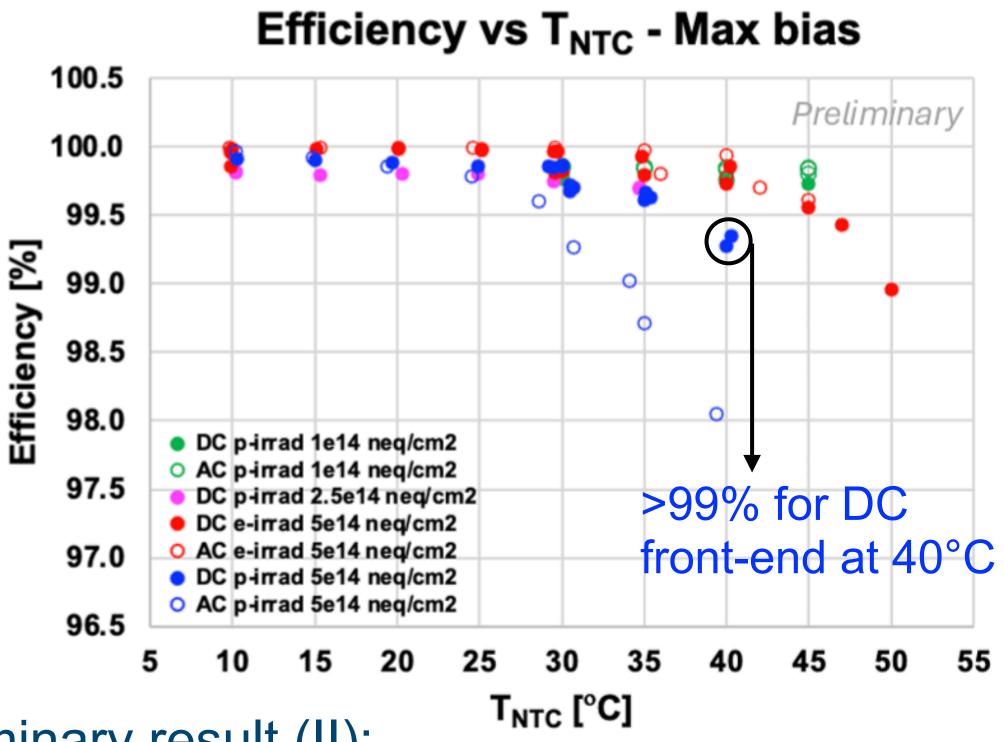
- Comparison among different irradiated samples
 - Proton-irradiated sample shows larger leakage current compared with electron-irradiated sample despite the same NIEL flux, consistent with the indication from efficiency comparison.

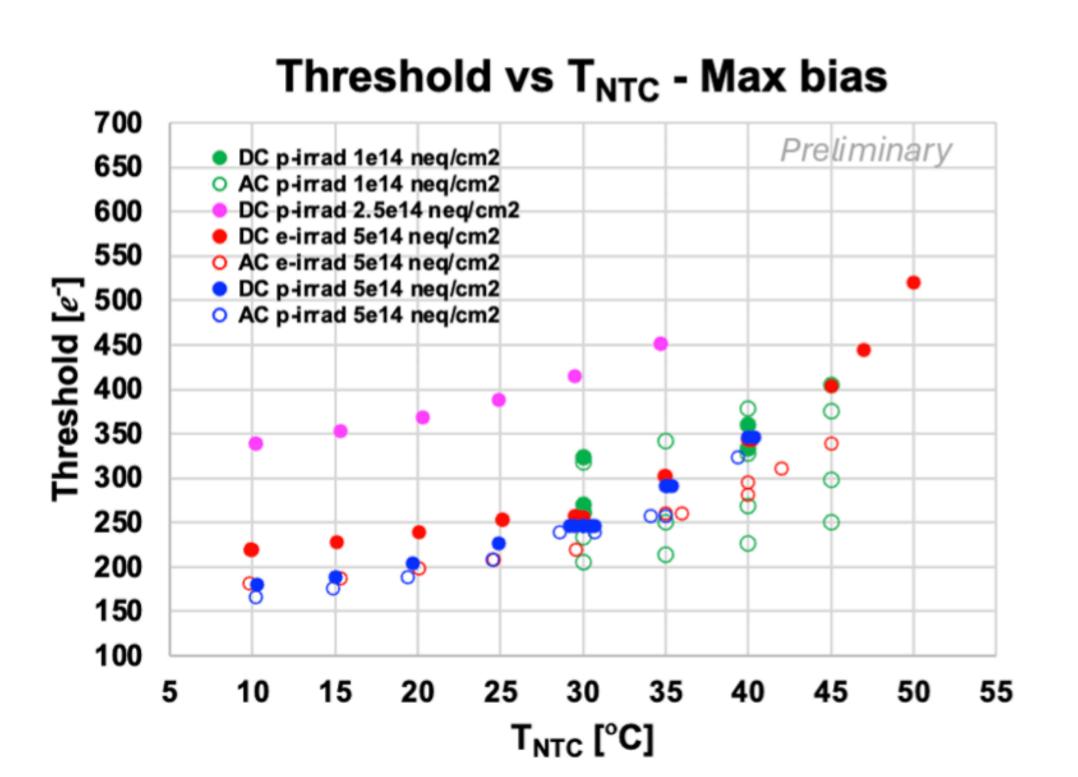




DESY Test beam 2025

$$T_{\rm chip} \sim T_{\rm NTC} + 7^{\circ}{\rm C}$$





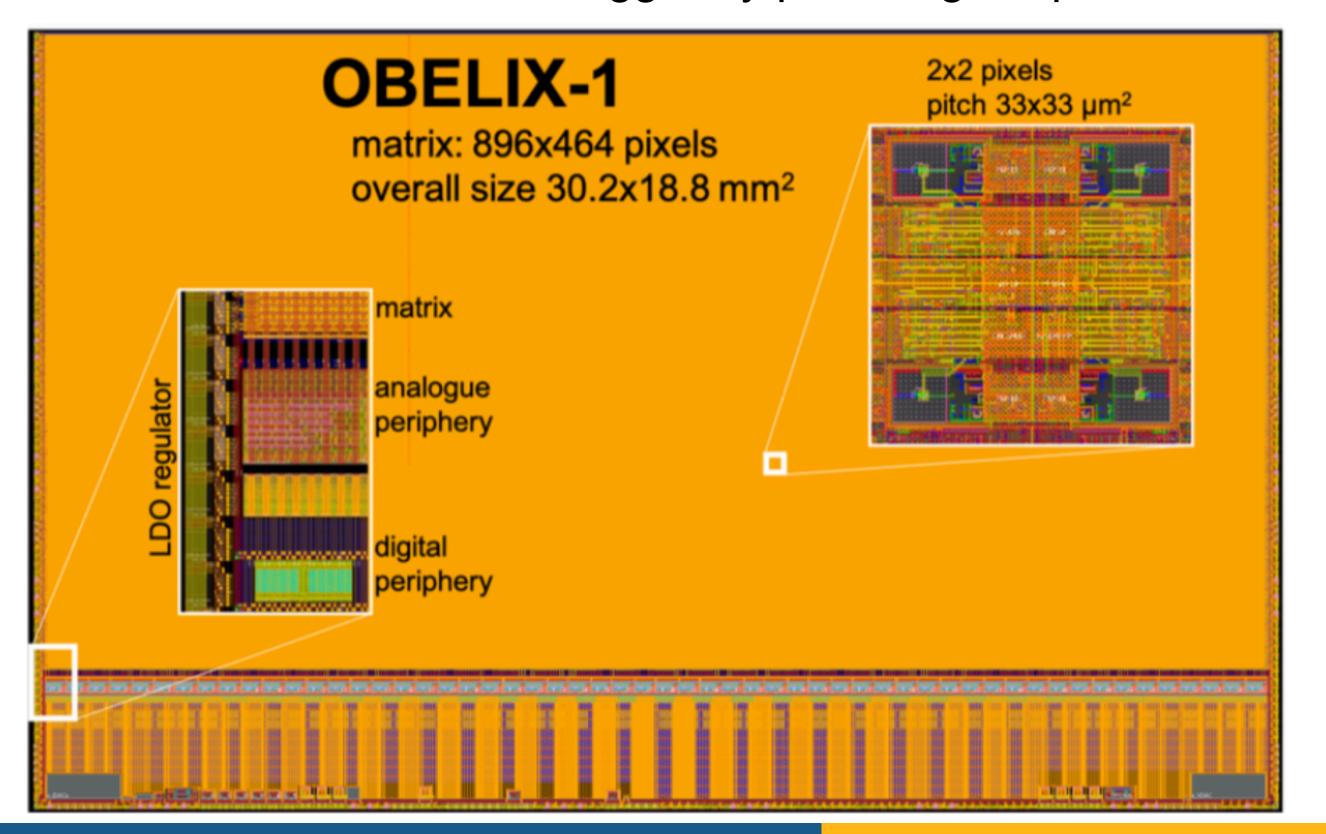
- Preliminary result (II):
 - Efficiency is degraded at high temperature due to the increased threshold by the fast discharge with leakage current.
 - AC front-end shows larger impact for p-irrad. sample.
 - Difficulties in operating above NTC 40°C due to large noise by increased leakage current and the increased lower limit of achievable detection threshold.

DC front-end is chosen due to the high detection efficiency.



OBELIX-1

- Analog matrix inherited from TJ-Monopix2.
 - ► DC coupling front-end chosen.
 - Column drain readout architecture.
- Modified digital part adapting to Belle II DAQ system.
 - Receive trigger decision and send out triggered data to Belle II DAQ system.
 - Contribute to level 1 trigger by providing simplified hit data.



Submission targeting December 2025. First test starts in summer 2026.

Specification	OBELIX-1
Pixel pitch	$33~\mu\mathrm{m}$
Sensitive layer thickness	$\sim 30~\mu\mathrm{m}$
Sensor thickness	$< 100 \; \mu \mathrm{m}$
Hit rate capability	$> 120~\mathrm{MHz/cm^2}$
Trigger delay	$\sim 10~\mu \mathrm{s}$
Trigger rate	30 kHz
Overall integration time	< 100 ns
Time precision	$50 \mathrm{ns}$
Total ionizing dose tolerance	100 Mrad
NIEL flux tolerance	$5 \times 10^{14} \ \mathrm{n_{eq}/cm^2}$
Sensitive matrix dimensions	around $30 \times 16 \text{ mm}^2$
Overall sensor dimensions	around $30 \times 19 \text{ mm}^2$
Powering	through voltage regulators



Summary

- Proposing VTX as an upgrade plan, utilizing DMAPS technology.
 - Improved physics performance.
 - Better background tolerance.
 - Compatible to interaction region redesign.
- ► As predecessor of OBELIX sensor, the performance of TJ-Monopix2 has been studied.
 - ► Detection efficiency degradation is observed with larger irradiation. However, the efficiency can still reach >99% in DC front-end up to NTC temperature of 40 °C.
 - Comparison between e-irrad. and p-irrad. sample shows more bulk damage in proton-irradiation, crosschecked by leakage current measurement.
- ▶ OBELIX-1 is coming soon. More detailed test will be performed from summer 2026.
- VTX milestone:
 - OBELIX-1 submission in Dec. 2025. → Preparing TDR in 2027. → Installation during Long Shutdown 2 in ~2032.



Thanks for Listening

The measurements leading to these results have been performed at the Test Beam Facility at DESY Hamburg (Germany), a member of the Helmholtz Association (HGF).







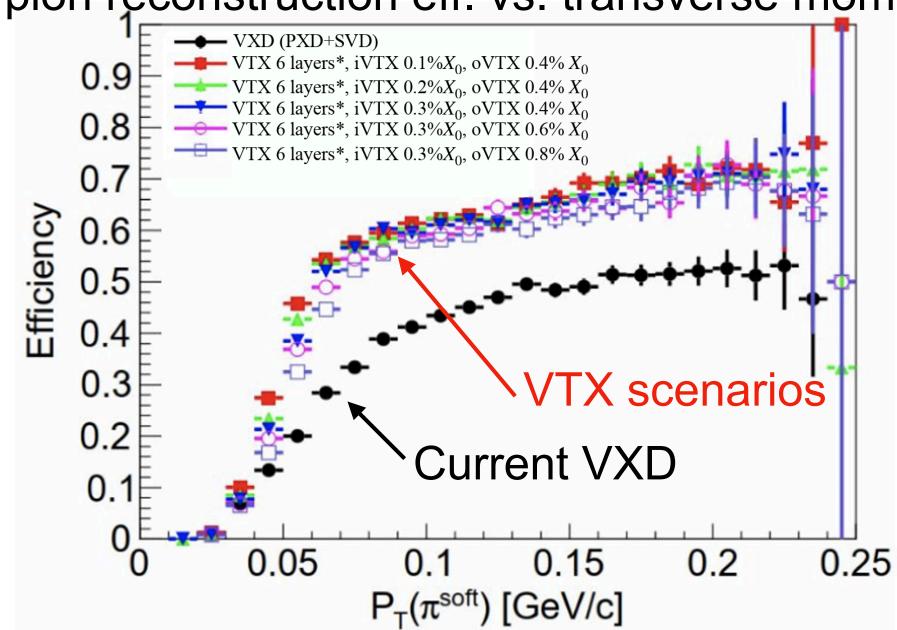




VTX tracking performance study based on simulation

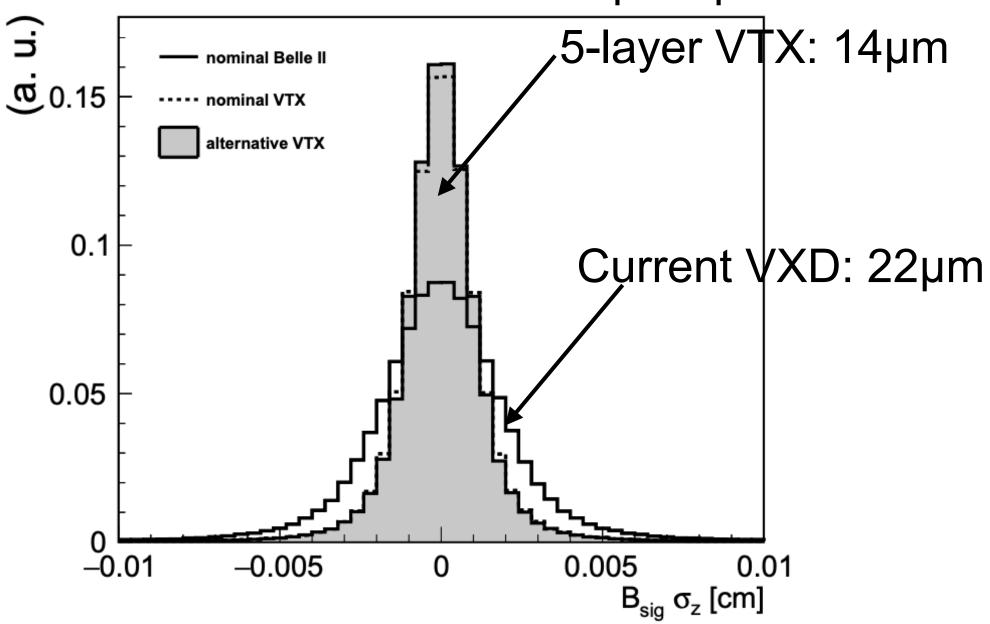
- Significant improvement in soft pion reconstruction (reconstructed only with VXD).
 - Studied with $B^0 o D^{*-}(o D^0 \ \pi^{\mathrm{soft-}}) \ \mu^+ \nu_\mu$
- Vertex resolution is improved with 5-layer VTX.
 - Studied with $B^0 \to J/\psi K_S$
- Different material budget scenario studied
 - ► iVTX: 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.3% X₀ per ladder.
 - ► oVTX: 0.4% 0.6%, 0.8% X₀ per ladder.

Soft pion reconstruction eff. vs. transverse momenta



	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	
Radius (mm)	14.1	22.1	62.5/69.0	82.5/89.0	108/114.5	133.5/140	
# Ladders	6	10	30	36	48	60	
# Sensors per ladder	4	4	12	16	20	24	
Material budget (% X_0)	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	

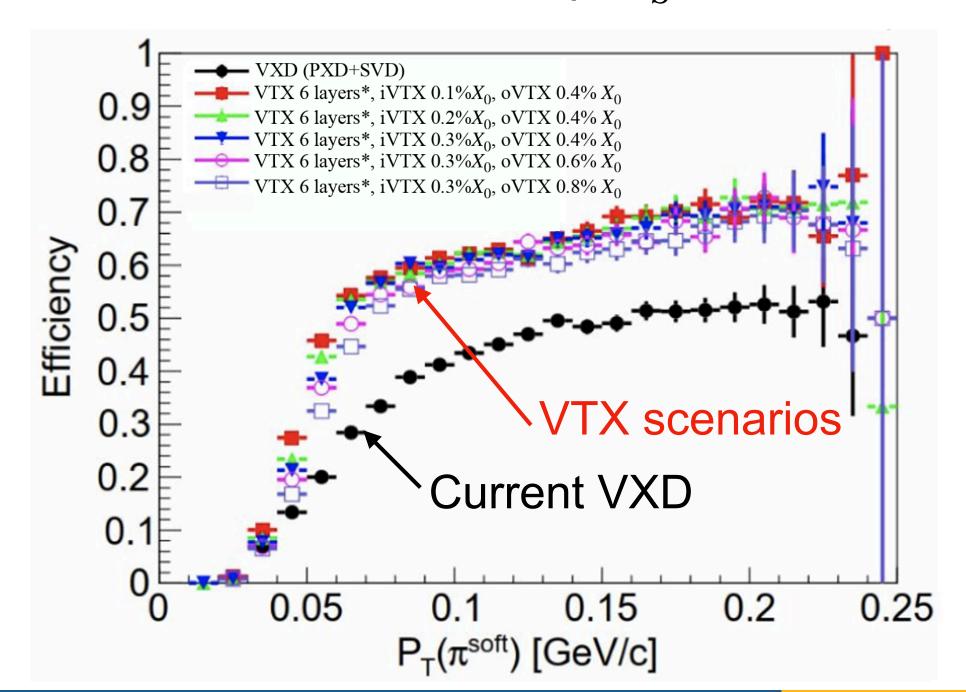
Reconstructed B meson impact parameter



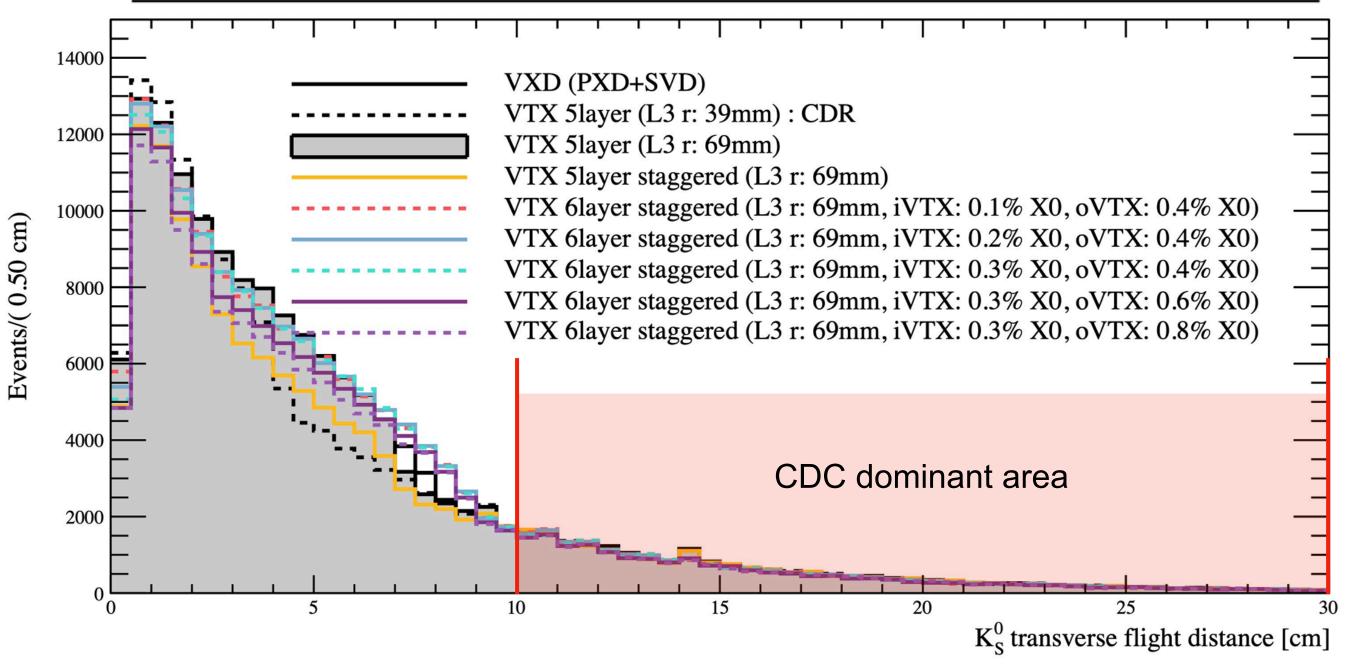


VTX tracking performance study based on simulation

- Different material budget scenario studied
 - ► iVTX: 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.3% X₀ per ladder.
 - ► oVTX: 0.4% 0.6%, 0.8% X₀ per ladder.
- Significant improvement in soft pion reconstruction (reconstructed only with VXD).
 - Studied with $B^0 \to D^{*-}(\ \to D^0\ \pi^{\mathrm{soft-}})\ \mu^+ \nu_\mu$
- \triangleright Slight impact to K_s reconstruction.
 - Studied with $B^0 o J/\psi \ K_S$



	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6
Radius (mm)	14.1	22.1	62.5/69.0	82.5/89.0	108/114.5	133.5/140
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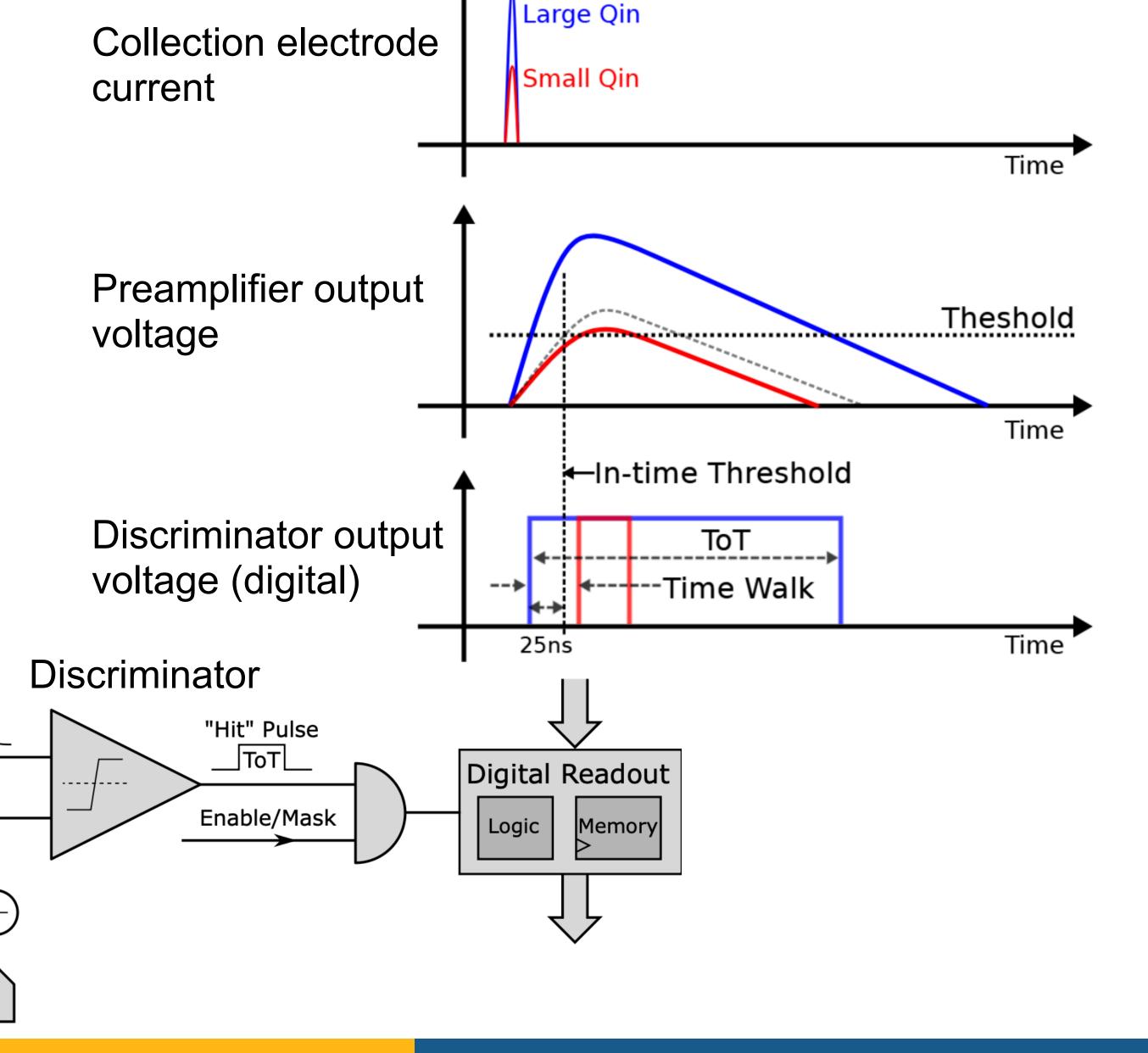


Readout front-end of TJ-Monopix2

- Components:
 - Preamplifier (amplifier + shaper).
 - Discriminator.
- Output:
 - ► 7-bit Time Over Threshold (ToT) digital data.

Amplifier

- Test signal.
 - Injected by test capacitor.
 - In the unit of ΔDAC .



Shaper

/H(s)

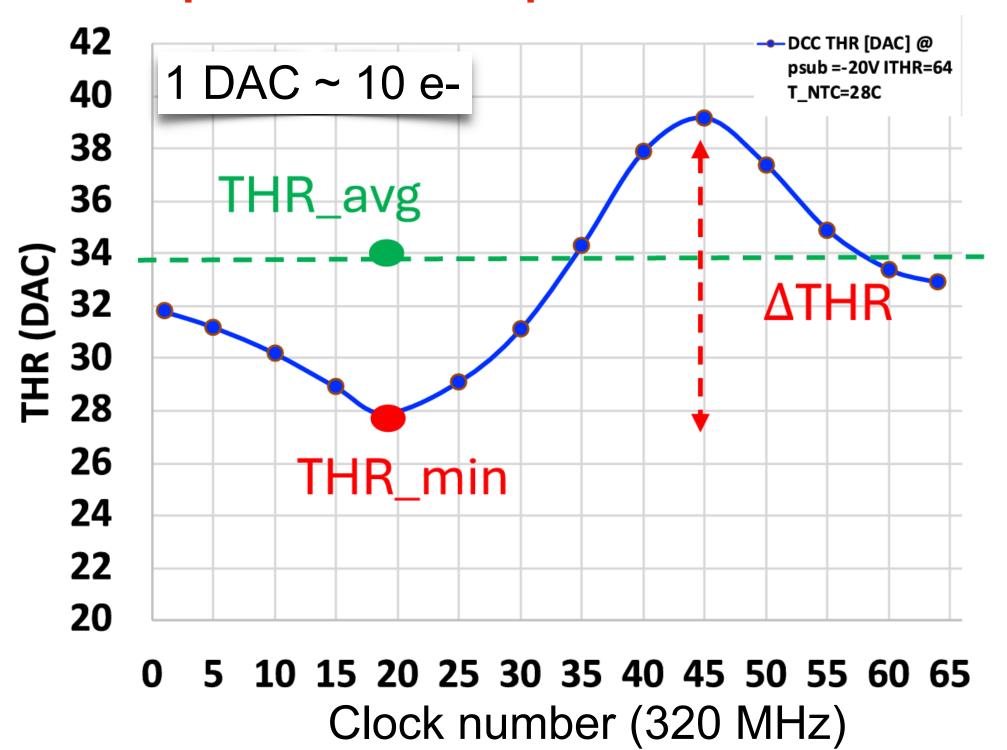
Global Threshold

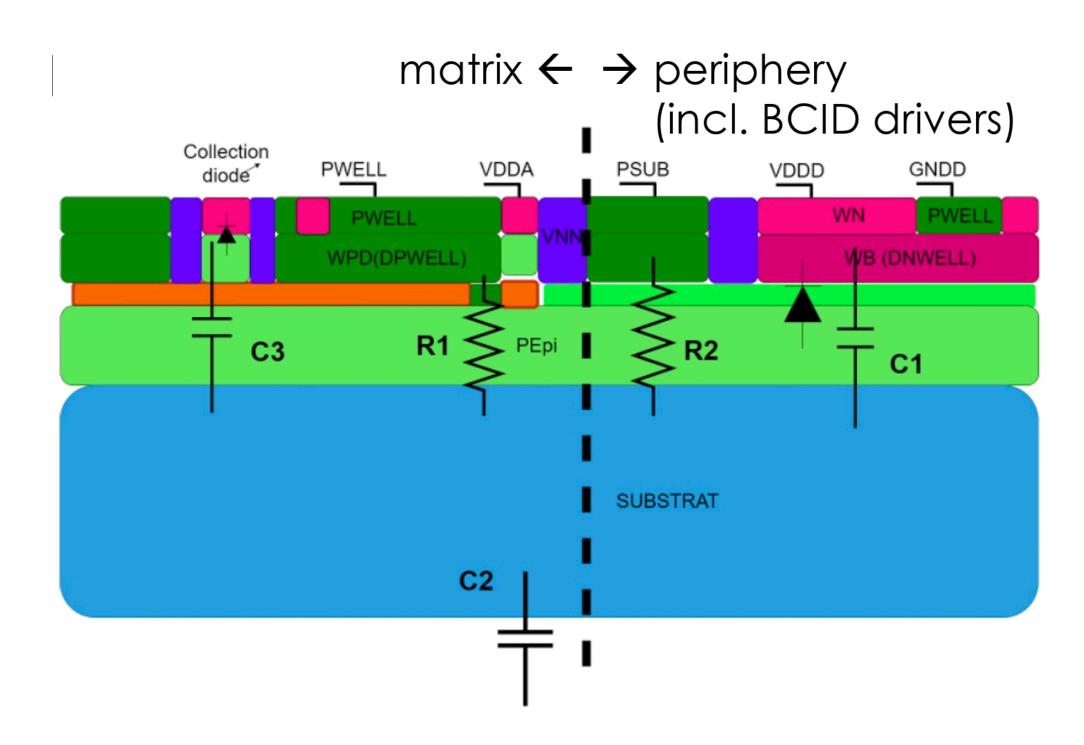
Local TDAC



Threshold oscillation due to clock signal crosstalk

- Detection threshold oscillates with clock phase
 - Deviation of threshold is in the order of 100 electrons.
 - Deviation depends on the number of pixels, hence could be larger in OBELIX sensor.
 - ► Resulting in clock phase-dependent detecting performance.
- Originates from digital periphery
 - Digital fluctuation flows into substrate, coupling with front-end circuits through detector capacitor.
 - ► Expected to be improved in OBELIX sensor.

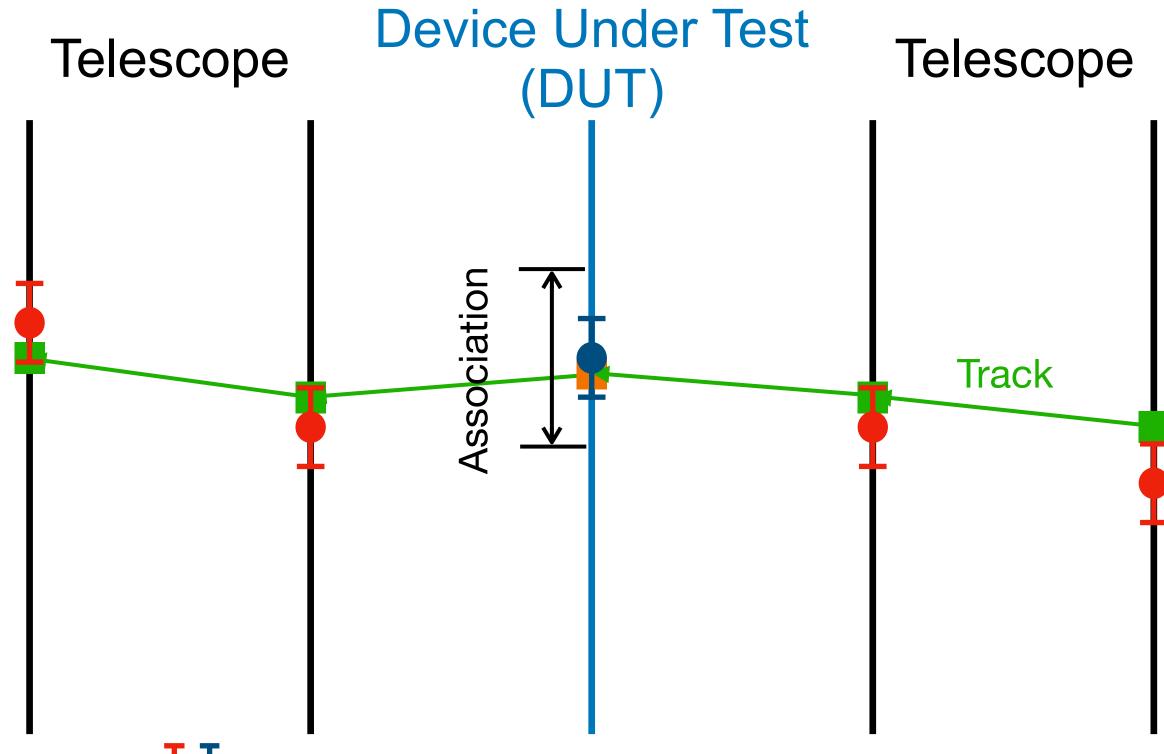






Test beam measurement

- Device components
 - Telescope sensors reconstructing particle trajectories.
 - Device under test (DUT).
 - Trigger system to event-ize data.
- Track reconstruction using telescope hit data
 - ► Global-broken-line model.
 - Multiple scattering considered.
 - A successful track means the confirmation of a particle passing through.



: Measured cluster position

Fitted cluster position by tracking.

extrapolated track position on DUT.

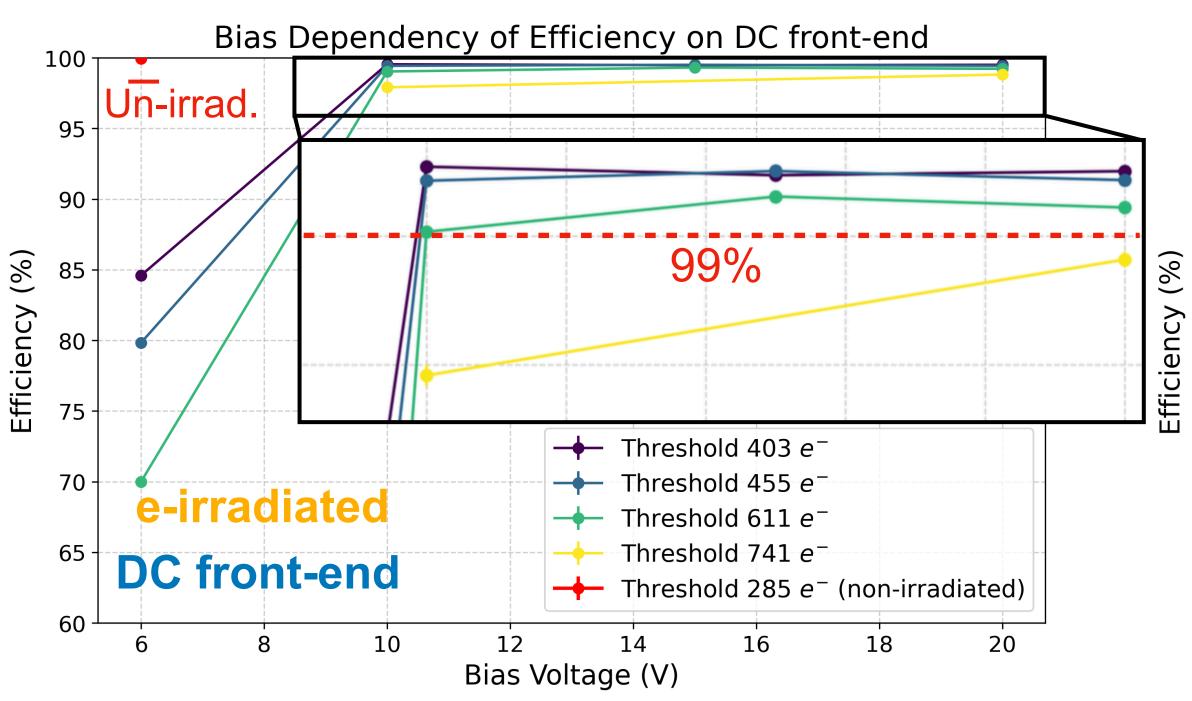
- Measurement result: detection efficiency
 - ► **Association**: If $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ on DUT are close with each other, associate the track and $\frac{1}{2}$ on DUT.
 - Detection efficiency: $\epsilon = N_{\rm associated\ tracks}/N_{\rm total\ tracks}$

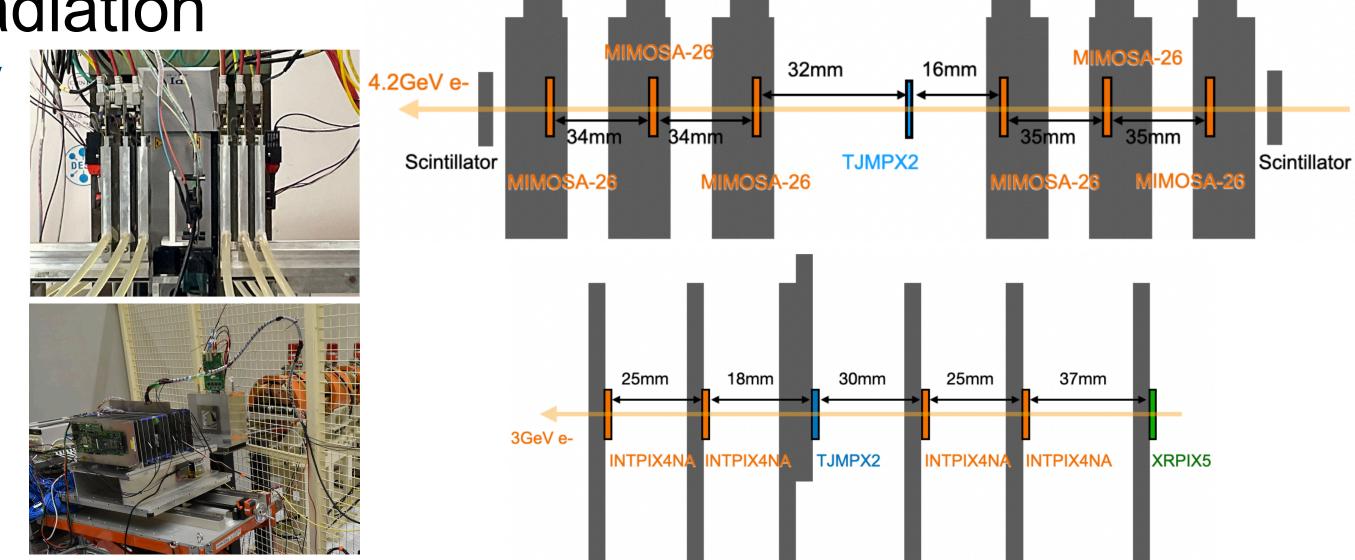
Confirm a particle using telescope \rightarrow check if this particle is detected on DUT.

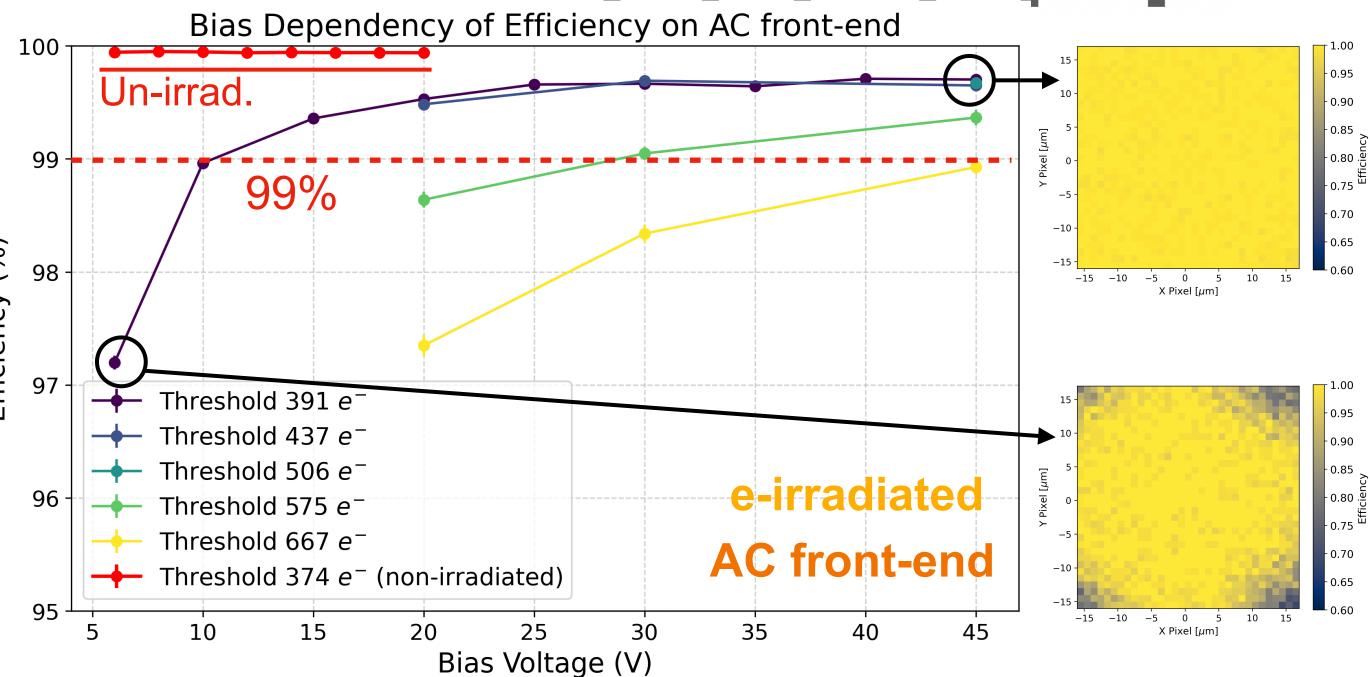


Test beam activities before and after irradiation

- Before irradiation: DESY II Test Beam Facility
 - 4.2 GeV electron beam.
 - EUDET telescope.
- After irradiation: KEK PF-AR Test Beam Line
 - 3 GeV electron beam.
 - SOI telescope.



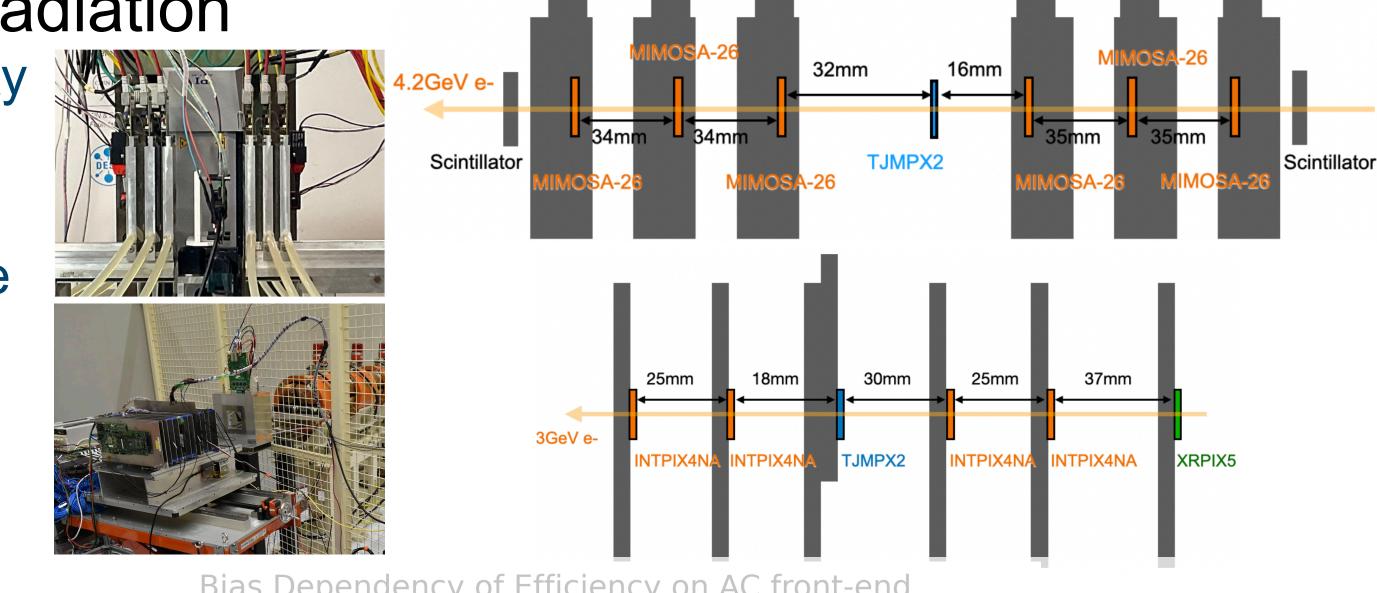






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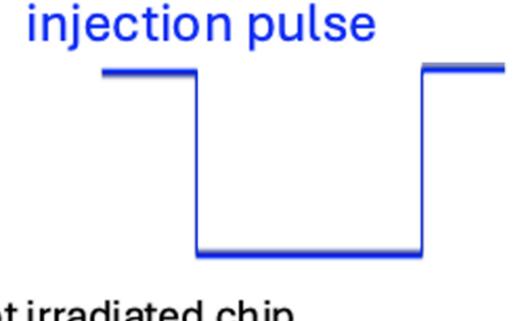






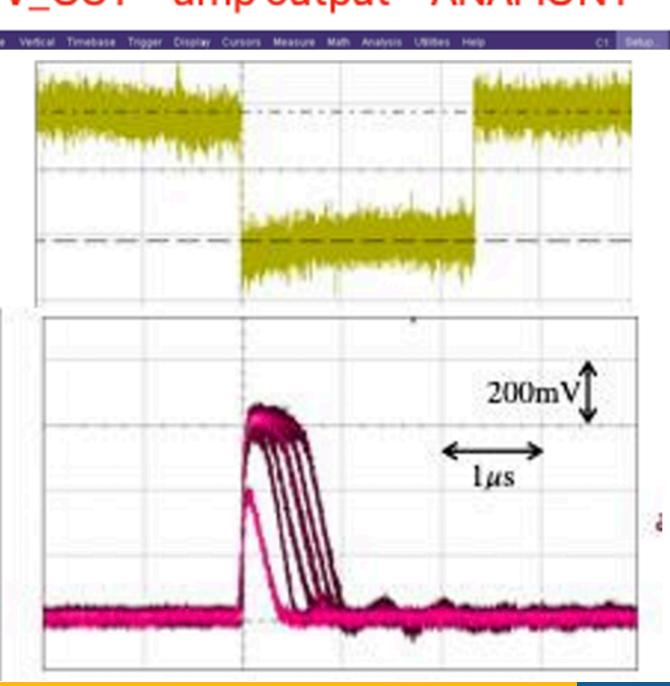
Fast discharge

- Threshold increase due to leakage current
 - Fast discharge causing early reset of signal.
 - Smaller signal duration for a certain amount of signal charge.
 - Effectively larger detection threshold.





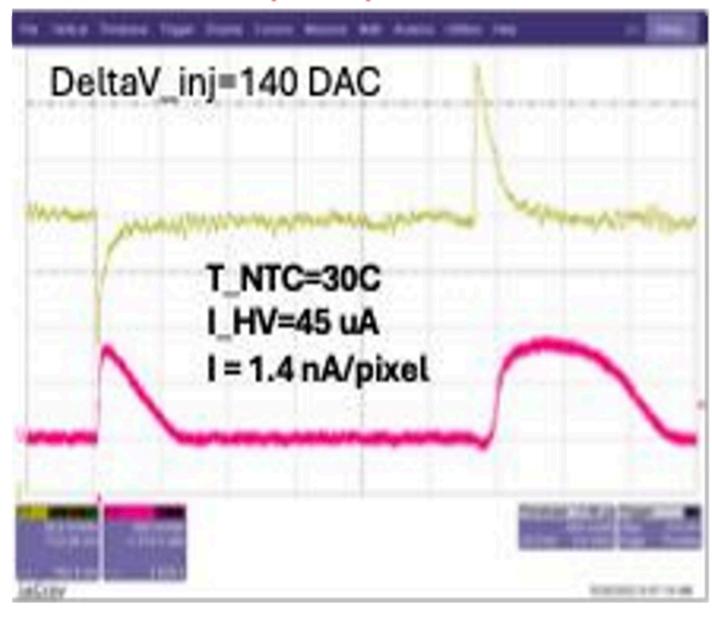
V_FE_IN = sensor = ANAMON0 $V_OUT = amp output = ANAMON1$

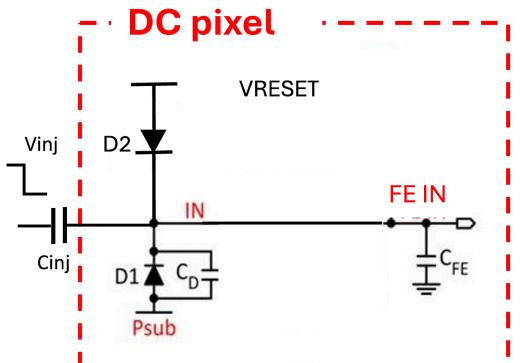


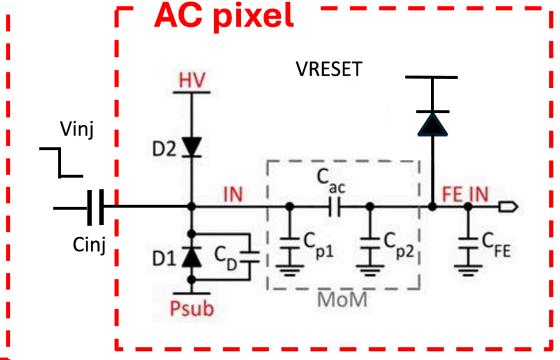


Irradiated chip

V_FE_IN = sensor = ANAMON0 V_OUT = amp output = ANAMON1



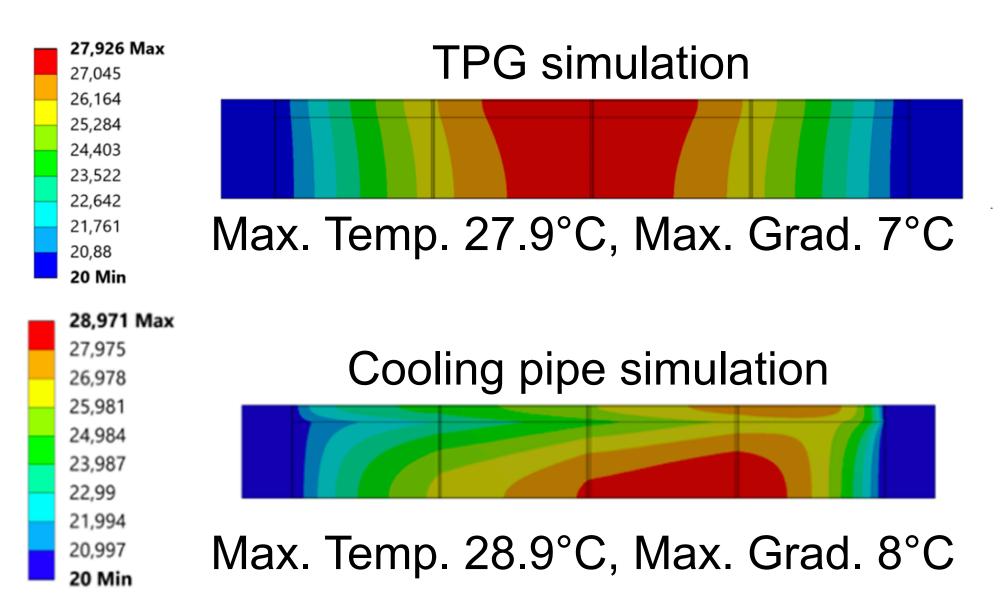


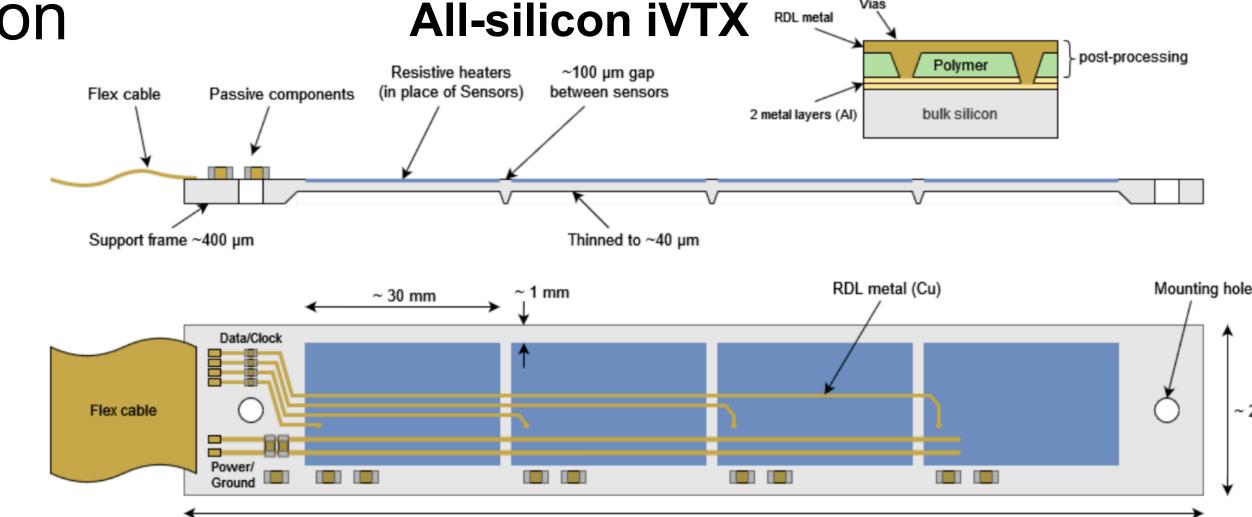




Cooling strategy of iVTX is under investigation

- Initially preferred: air cooling
 - Not enough or have small safety margin.
- ► Thermal pyrolytic graphite (TPG) solution.
 - TPG plate holding silicon layers.
 - Mediated by thermal interface.
 - ► 0.3% X₀ / ladder.
- Cooling pipe solution.
 - Liquid cooling.
 - ► 0.4% X₀ / ladder.





~ 120 mm

