

# towards a Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

Evolving Political Situation for LAr in U.S: NuSAG Charge:  
Oddone Talk:

Evolving Proton Flux Situation: Current  
Proton Plan (x 2),  
Proton Plan plus using Collider Resources (x 1.5)  
Proton Driver mention

Evolving Experiment Situation: Growing official support at Fermilab  
(aimed at engineering for 15kt - 50 kt)  
Support at Universities..  
Forming a collaboration.

Emphasize that technical concept and any possibility that such a detector may be feasible owes a huge (and continuing) debt to ICARUS program.



*U.S. Department of Energy  
and the  
National Science Foundation*



Professor Frederick Gilman  
Chair, HEPAP  
Carnegie-Mellon University  
5000 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Professor Richard F. Casten  
Chairman, NSAC  
Wright Nuclear Structure Laboratory  
Yale University  
New Haven, CT 06520

Charge 3

We request that NuSAG address the APS Study's suggestion that the U.S. participate in "A timely accelerator experiment with comparable  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$  sensitivity [to the recommended reactor experiment, i.e.  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}=0.01$ ] and sensitivity to the mass-hierarchy through matter effects."

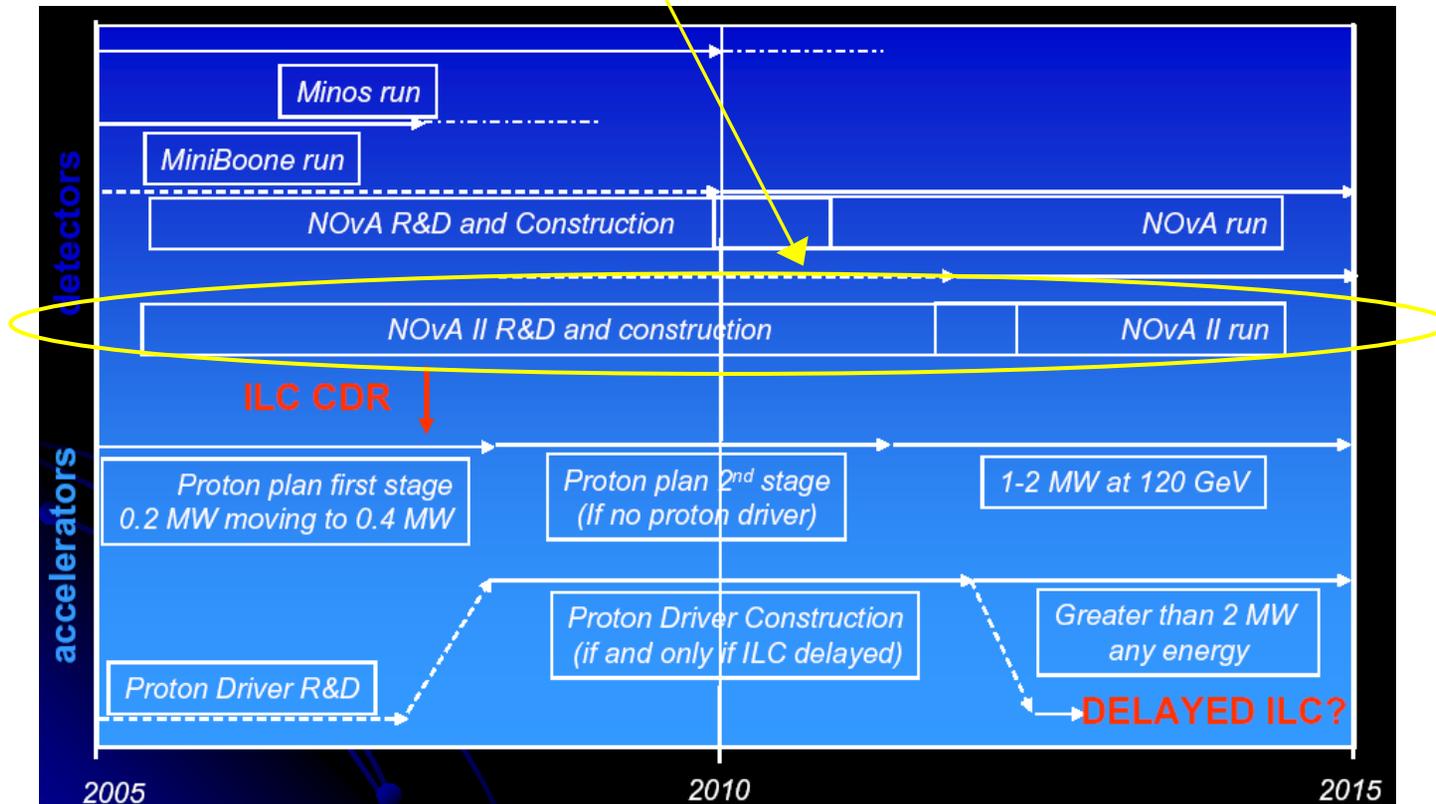
The options to be considered should include, but not be limited to:

- U.S. participation in the T2K experiment in Japan
- Construction of a new off-axis detector to exploit the existing NUMI beamline from Fermilab to Soudan, as proposed by the Nova collaboration
- As above but using a large liquid argon detector.

Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam is part of NuSAG charge

- We want to start a long term R&D program towards massive totally active liquid Argon detectors for extensions of NOvA.
- Improvement is proportional to (Beam power) x (detector mass) x (detector sensitivity)

P. Oddone to  
EPP2010,  
May 2005

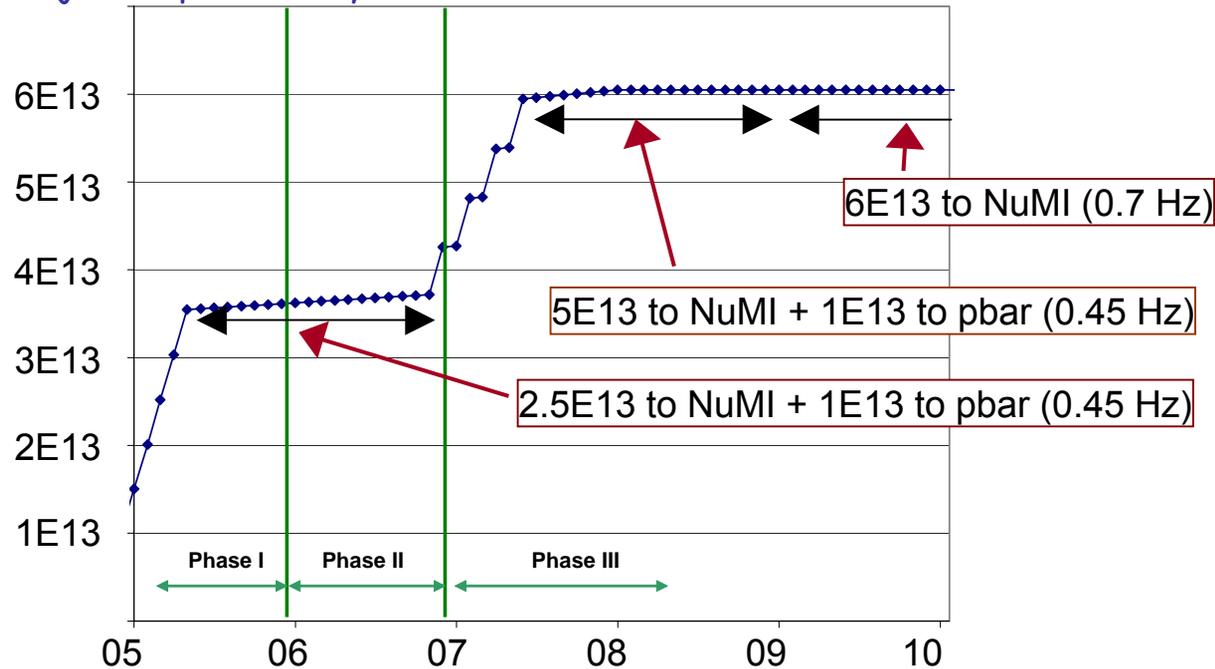


Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam is part of a plan at FNAL

# towards a Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## Evolution of Beam Intensities and Rates to NuMI

Main Injector protons/cycle



NuMI flux to MINOS  $\sim 2 \times 10^{20}$  protons/year (now)

'Proton Plan' (remove existing limitations) gives NuMI

$\sim 4 \times 10^{20}$  protons/year before collider turn-off in 2009

$\sim 6 \times 10^{20}$  protons/year after collider turn-off in 2009

Proton Driver (new Linac)  $\sim 25 \times 10^{20}$  - whenever PD exists

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Present Concept: Tank, Argon, Electrodes, Readout.

Monte-Carlo studies (efficiency ~ 80% in active/fiducial region)

Issues to/under study:

Initial `purification' of Argon (dealing with air in Tank)

Effects of materials used on electron drift lifetime

Electrode mechanics

Signal processing (from wire up to DAQ)

Data Acquisition (from spill based to always live)

Simulations

Automated reconstruction (rejection of cosmic rays,  
event identification)

urls: <http://www-off-axis.fnal.gov/flare/> &  
<http://www-off-axis.fnal.gov/notes/notes.html>

towards a Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

Aim is to produce a viable design for a 15 kt - 50 kt liquid argon detector.

Basic concept follows ICARUS: viz

TPC, drift ionization electrons to 3 sets of wires (2 induction, 1 collection)  
record signals on all wires with continuous waveform digitizing electronics

Differences aimed at making a multi-kton detector feasible;

Construction of detector tank using industrial LNG tank as basic structure

Long(er) signal wires

Single device (not modular)

Basic parameters:

Drift distance - 3 meters; Drift field - 500 V/cm (gives  $v_{\text{drift}} = 1.5$  m/ms)

Wire planes - 3 (+/-30° and vertical); wire spacing 5 mm; plane spacing 5 mm

Number of signal channels ~ 100,000 (15kt), 220,000 (50kt)

$L_{\text{Radiation}} = 14$  cm,  $dE/dx = 2.1$  MeV/cm, 55,000 electrons/cm liberated

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### Some Specific challenges:

Argon: (long drift)

- purification - starting from atmosphere (cannot evacuate detector tank)
- effect of tank walls & non-clean-room assembly process

Wire-planes:

- long wires - mechanical robustness, tensioning, assembly, breakage/failure

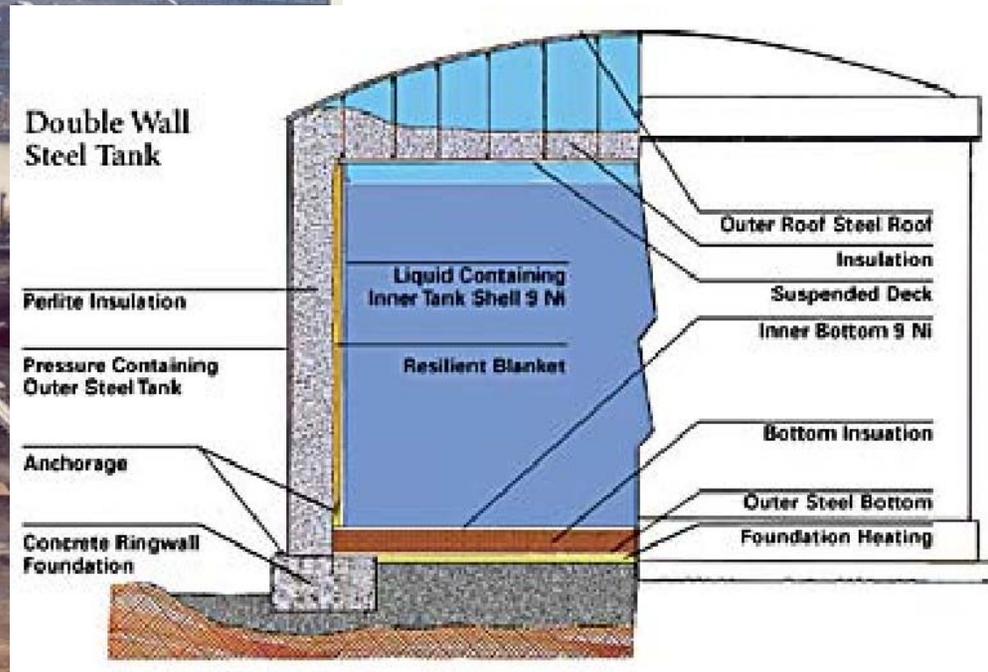
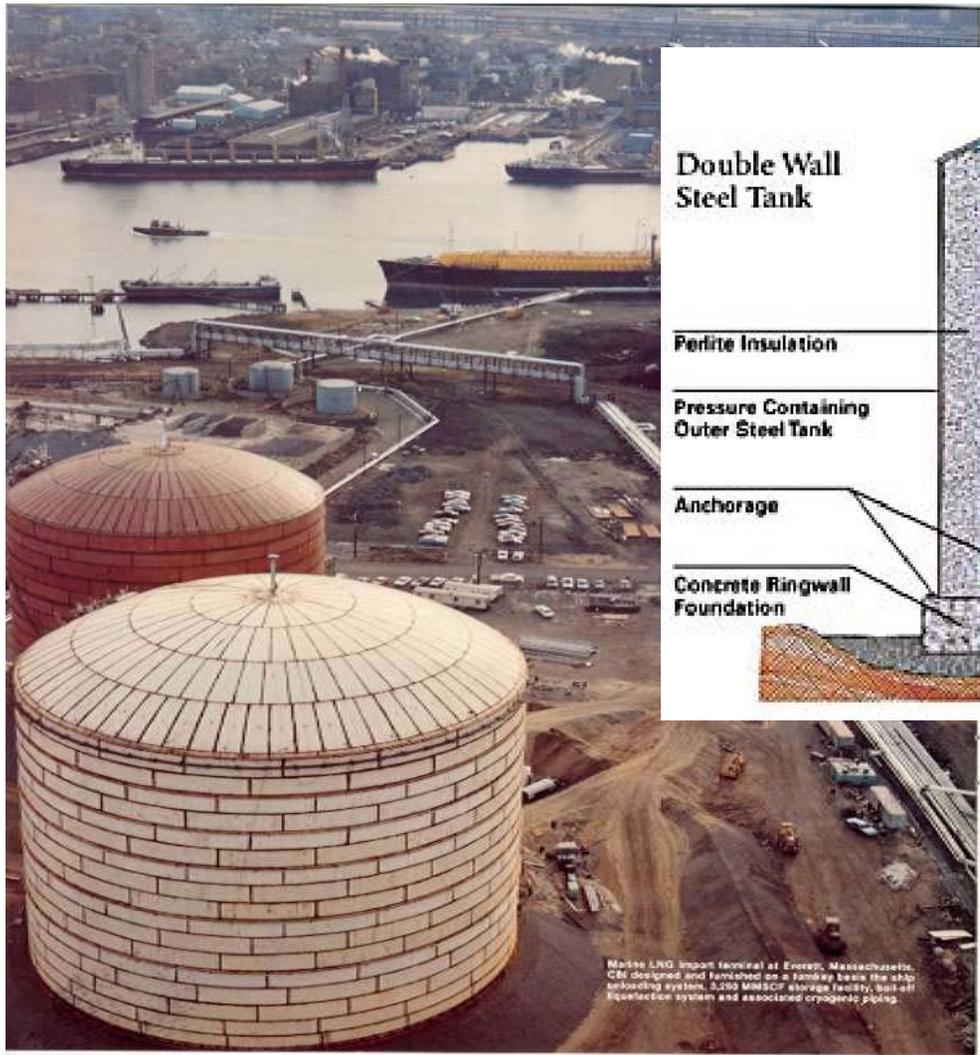
Signal processing:

- electronics - noise due to long wire and connection cables (large capacitance)
- surface detector - data-rates,
  - automated cosmic ray rejection
  - automated event recognition and reconstruction

(and there are others for example, High Voltage)

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Detector Tank based on Industrial Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) storage tanks

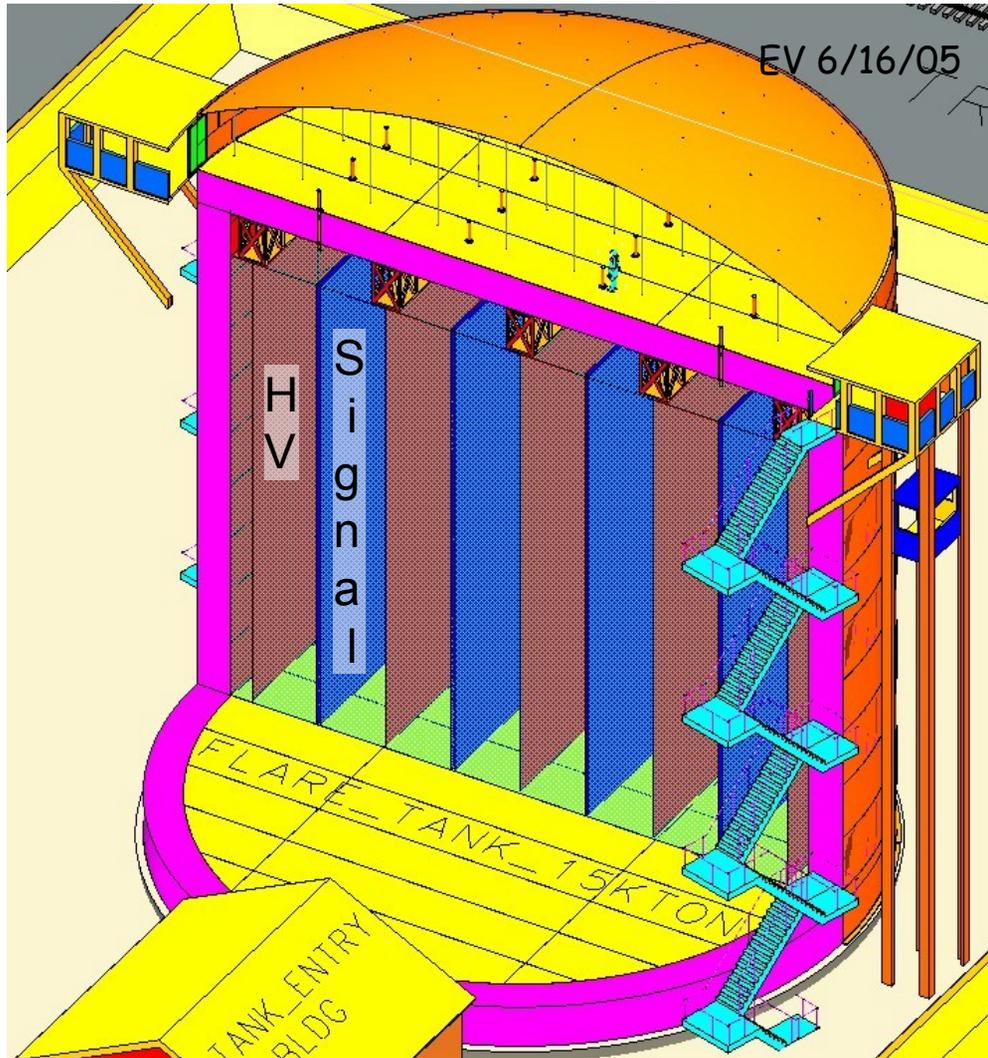


Many large LNG tanks in service. excellent safety record; last failure in 1940; reason understood (wrong type of steel)

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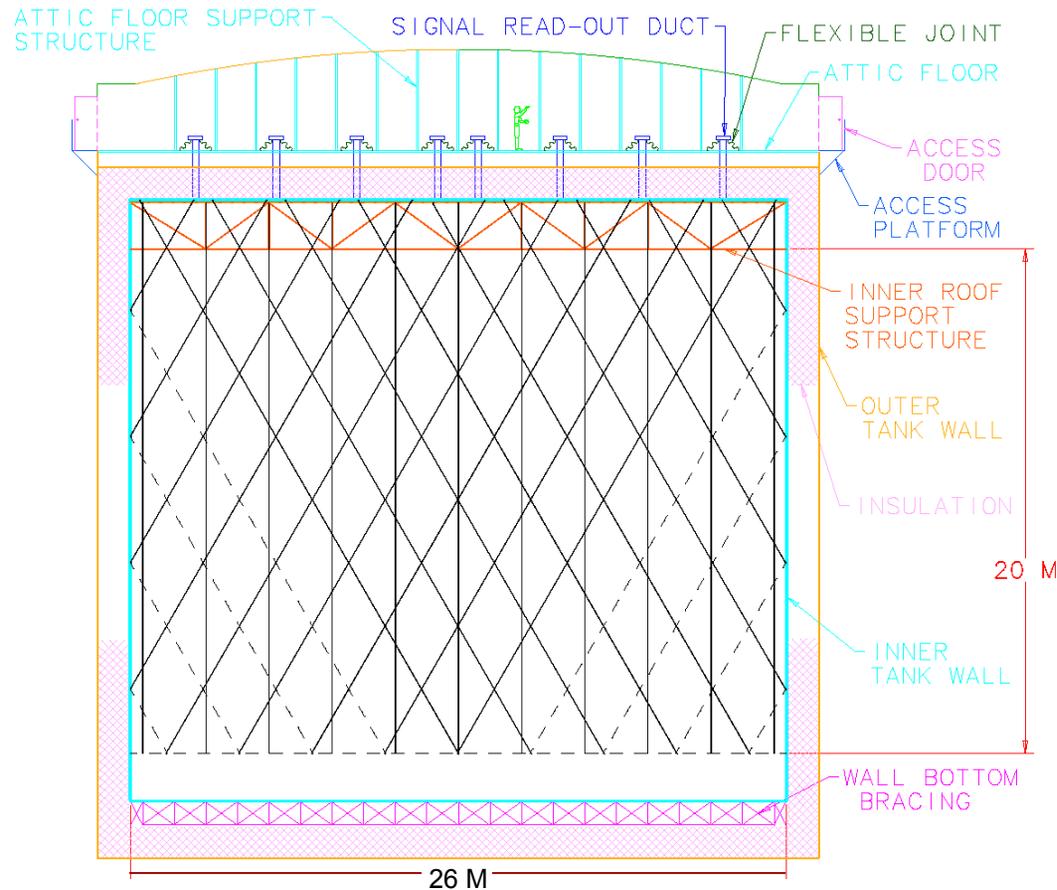
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### 3D 'Model' cutaway 15 kt detector

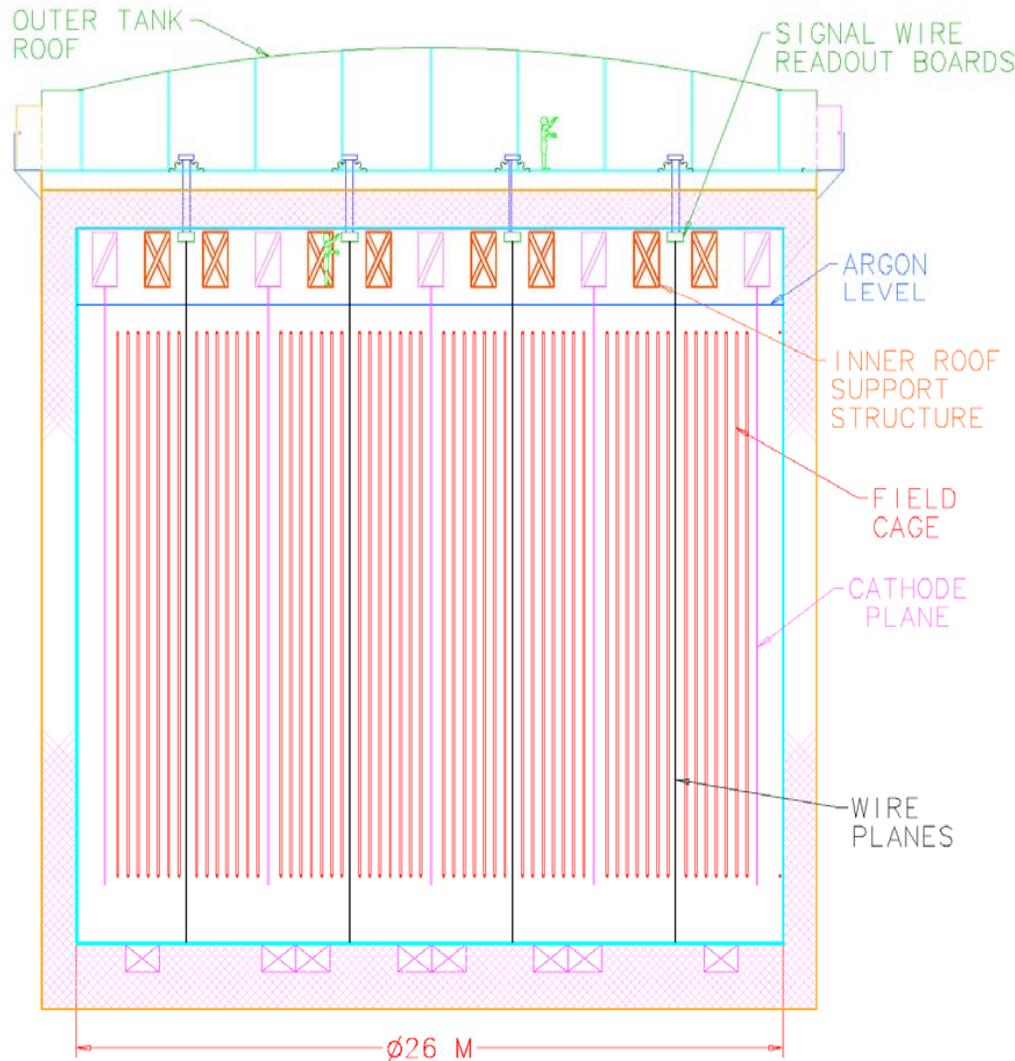
Changes from standard LNG tank:  
inner tank wall thickness increased  
- LAr is 2 x density of LNG;  
trusses in inner tank to take load  
of the wires:  
penetrations for signals from inner  
tank to floor supported from roof  
of outer tank;

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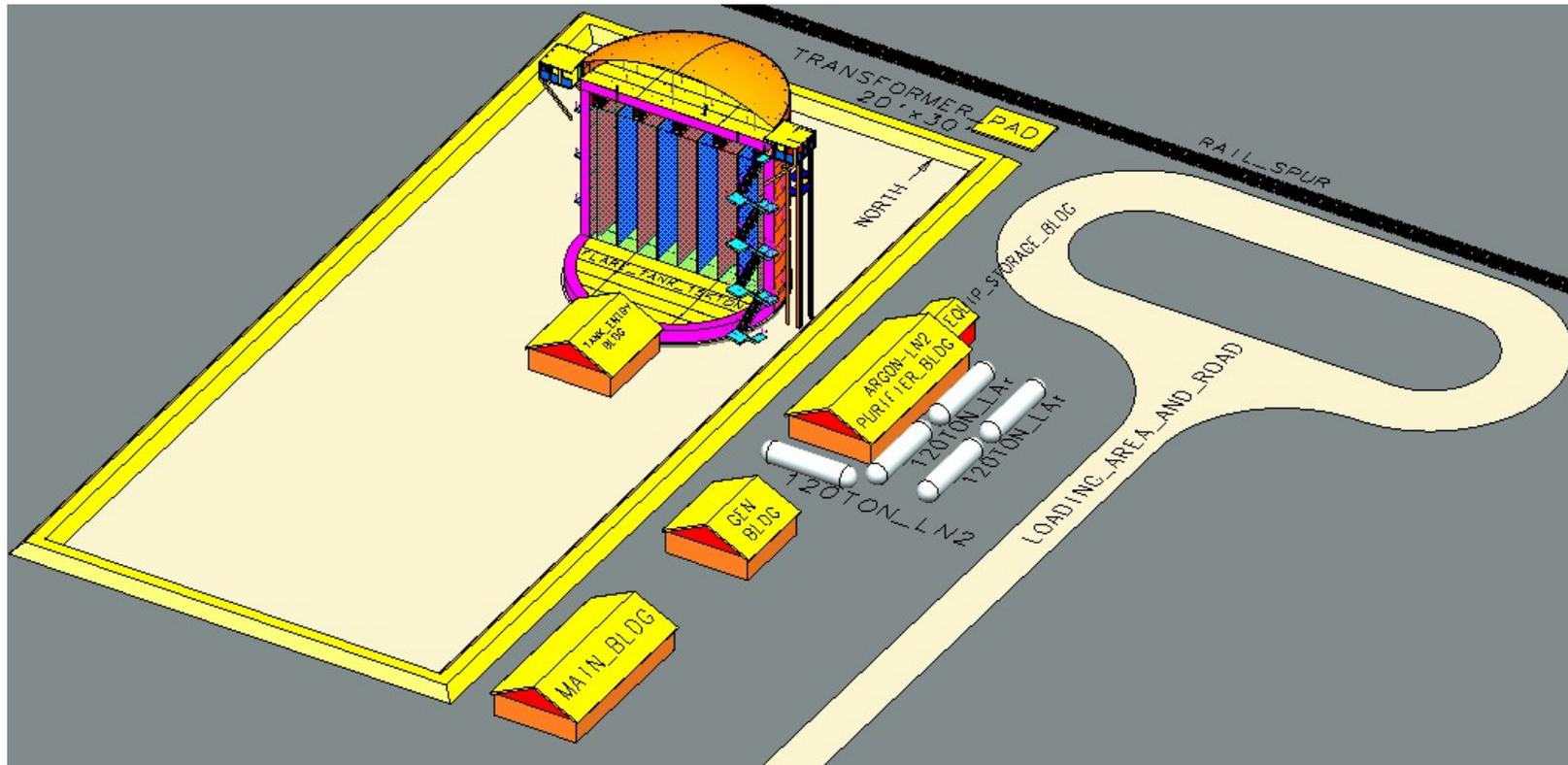
side view: showing trusses & signal chimneys:  
only wires reaching the top (solid lines) are read out.

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Beam's eye view  
showing the electrodes  
(cathode, field-cage  
and wires)

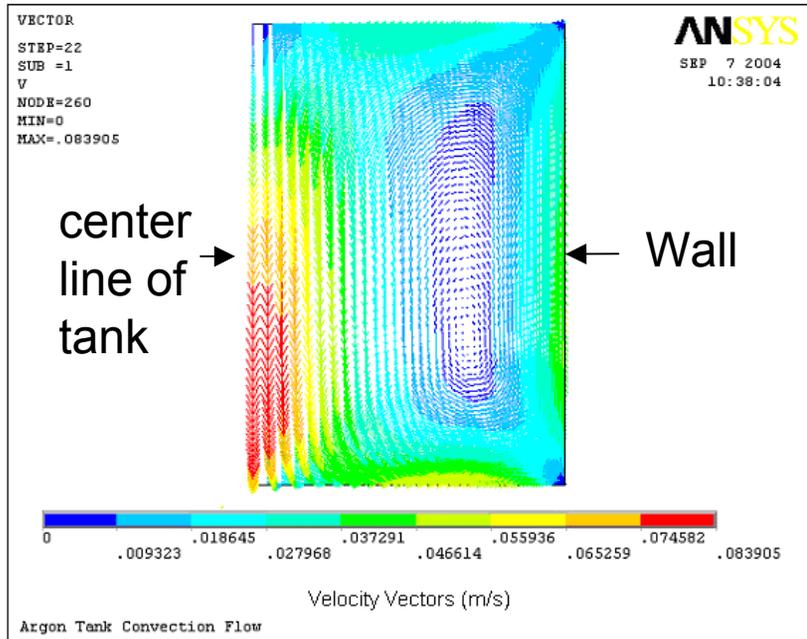
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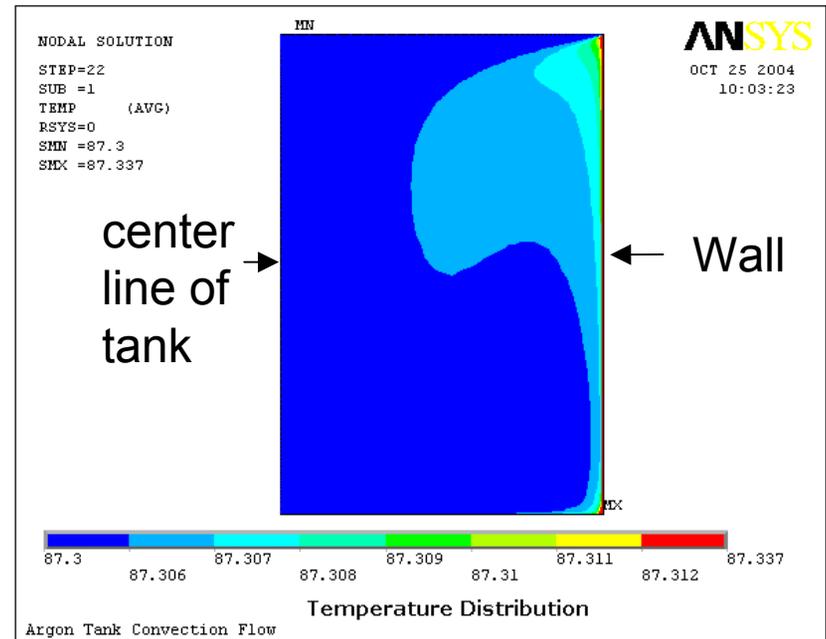
Site Layout (very) Schematic - showing some of the services needed

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## Thermodynamics of Liquid Argon in Ideal tank



Liquid flow



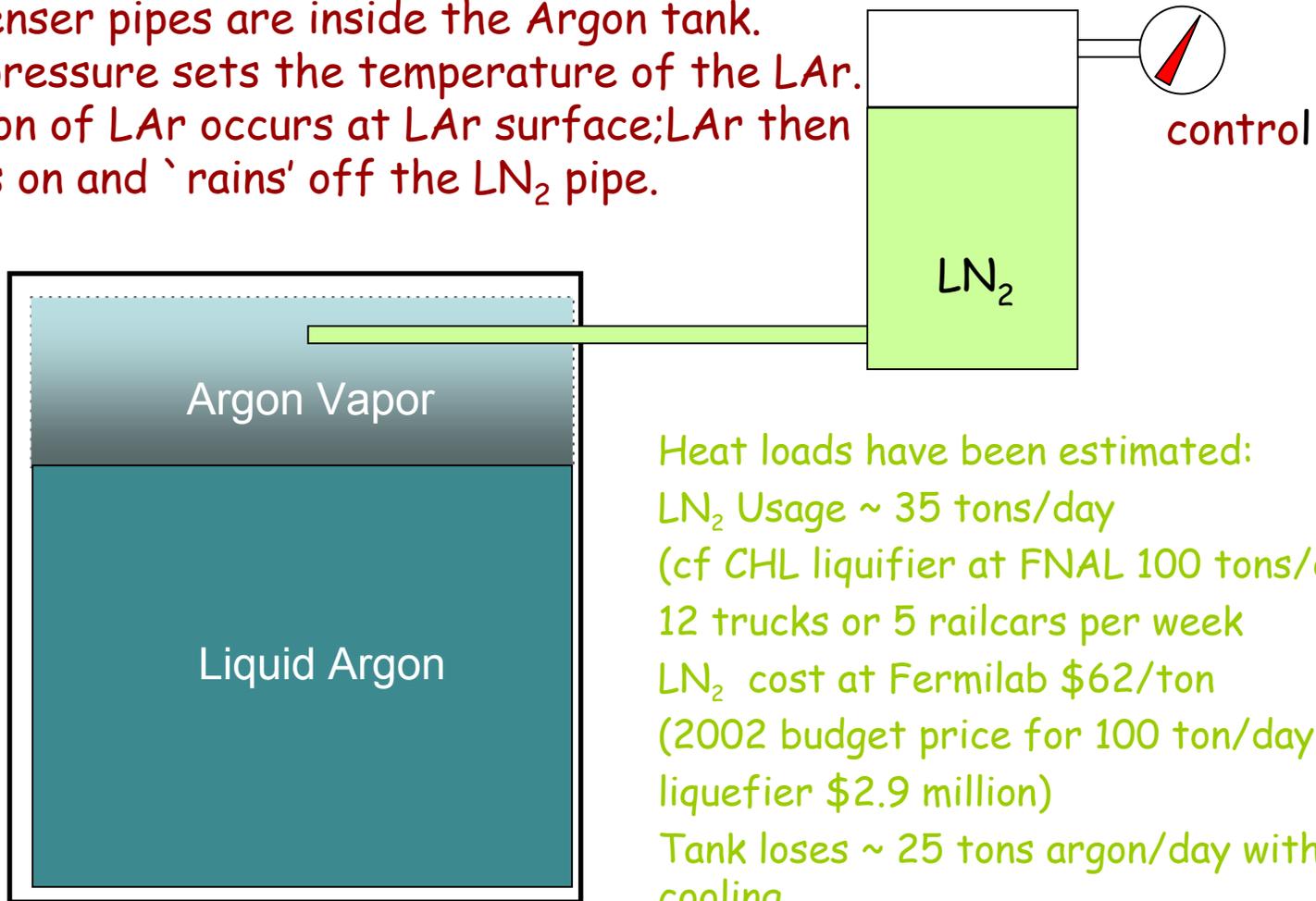
Temperature

From finite element model results, the convection flow has a maximum velocity of  $\sim 8.5$  cm/s; the temperature in the tank is quite uniform, with a maximum temperature difference of 0.04 K.

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## Schematic of Cryogenics for Liquid Argon

LN<sub>2</sub> condenser pipes are inside the Argon tank.  
The LN<sub>2</sub> pressure sets the temperature of the LAr.  
Evaporation of LAr occurs at LAr surface; LAr then  
condenses on and 'rains' off the LN<sub>2</sub> pipe.



Heat loads have been estimated:

LN<sub>2</sub> Usage ~ 35 tons/day

(cf CHL liquifier at FNAL 100 tons/day)

12 trucks or 5 railcars per week

LN<sub>2</sub> cost at Fermilab \$62/ton

(2002 budget price for 100 ton/day

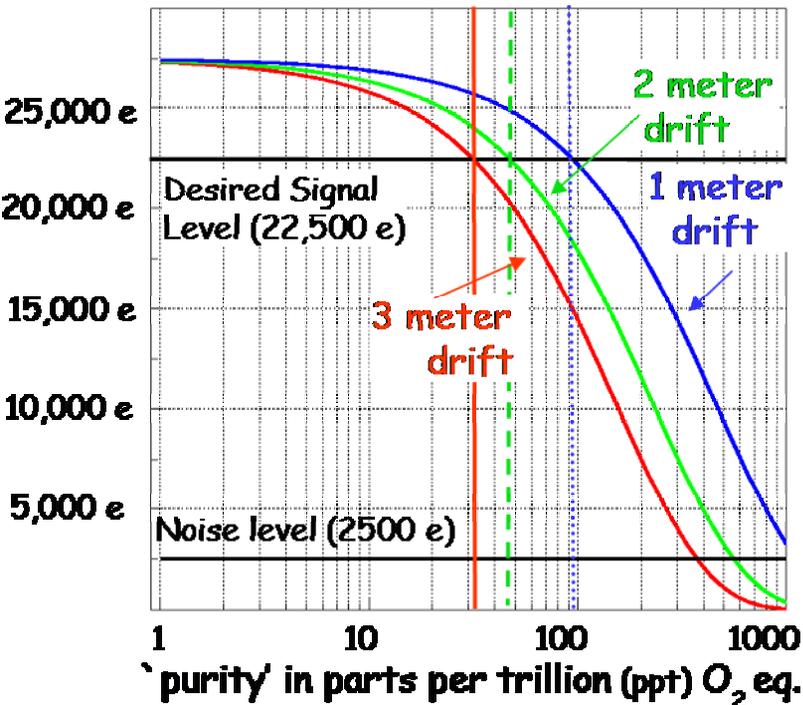
liquefier \$2.9 million)

Tank loses ~ 25 tons argon/day without  
cooling

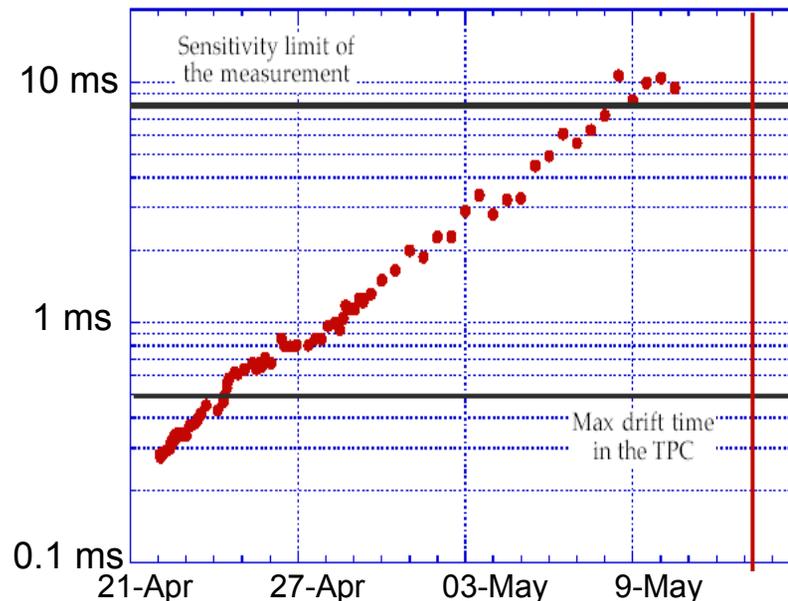
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## Liquid Argon 'purity' requirements

Signal size vs 'purity' for different drift distances



data from ICARUS T10 1997



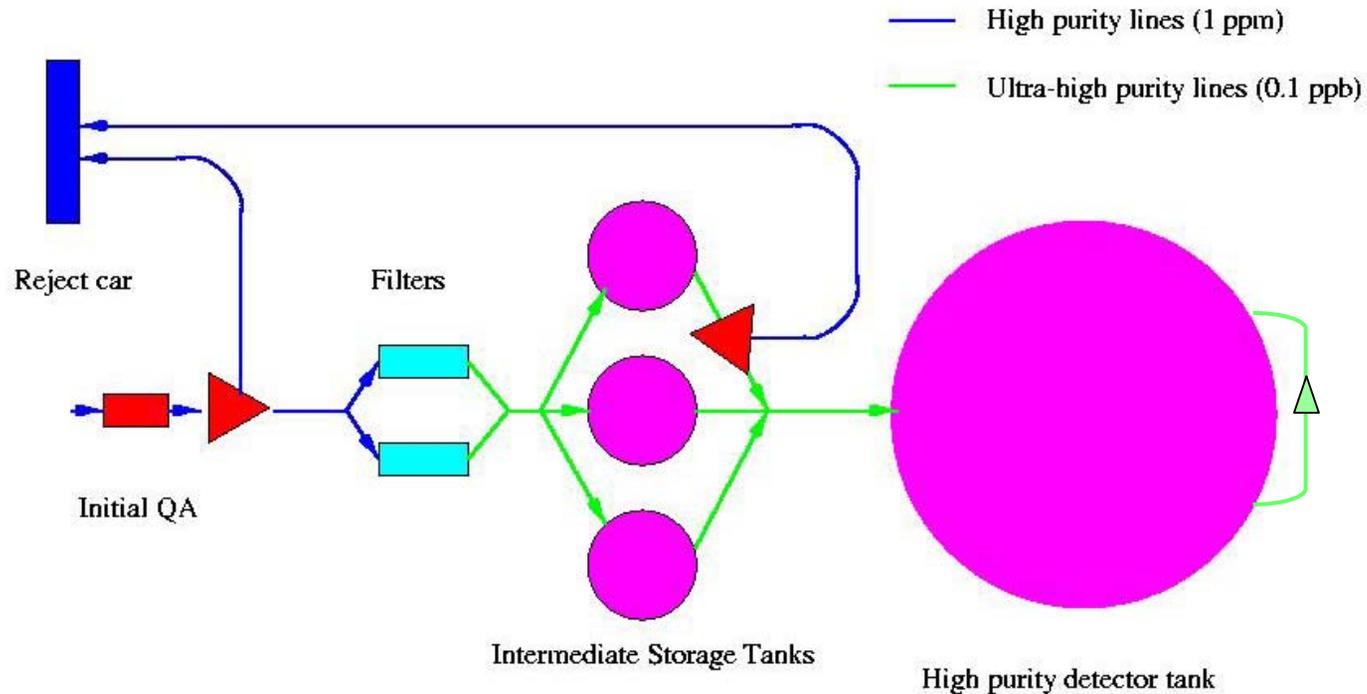
'purity'/lifetime requirements for <20% signal loss

- 3m drift -> 10 ms lifetime = 30 ppt
- 2m drift -> 6 ms lifetime = 50 ppt
- 1m drift -> 3ms lifetime = 90 ppt

ICARUS achieved 10 ms in 1997  
T600 lifetime evolution implies  
>10 ms asymptotic value

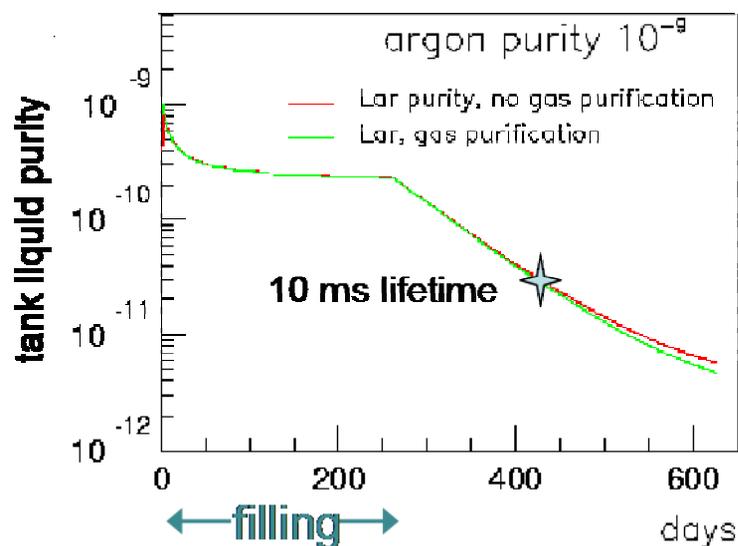
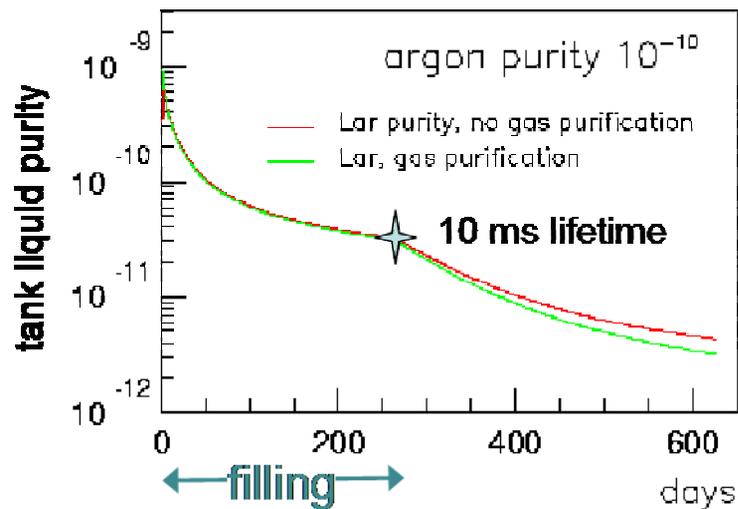
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## Schematic of Argon Delivery and Initial Purification



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## Evolution of Argon purity during the tank-filling process



**Phase I: initial purge - 100-200 tons of LAr (~ 2 weeks) (vessel purged but not evacuated)**

- rapid volume exchange => rapid purification
- Main issue: large oxygen capacity required

**Milestone: achieve 10 ms lifetime before continuing the fill process**

**Phase II: filling**

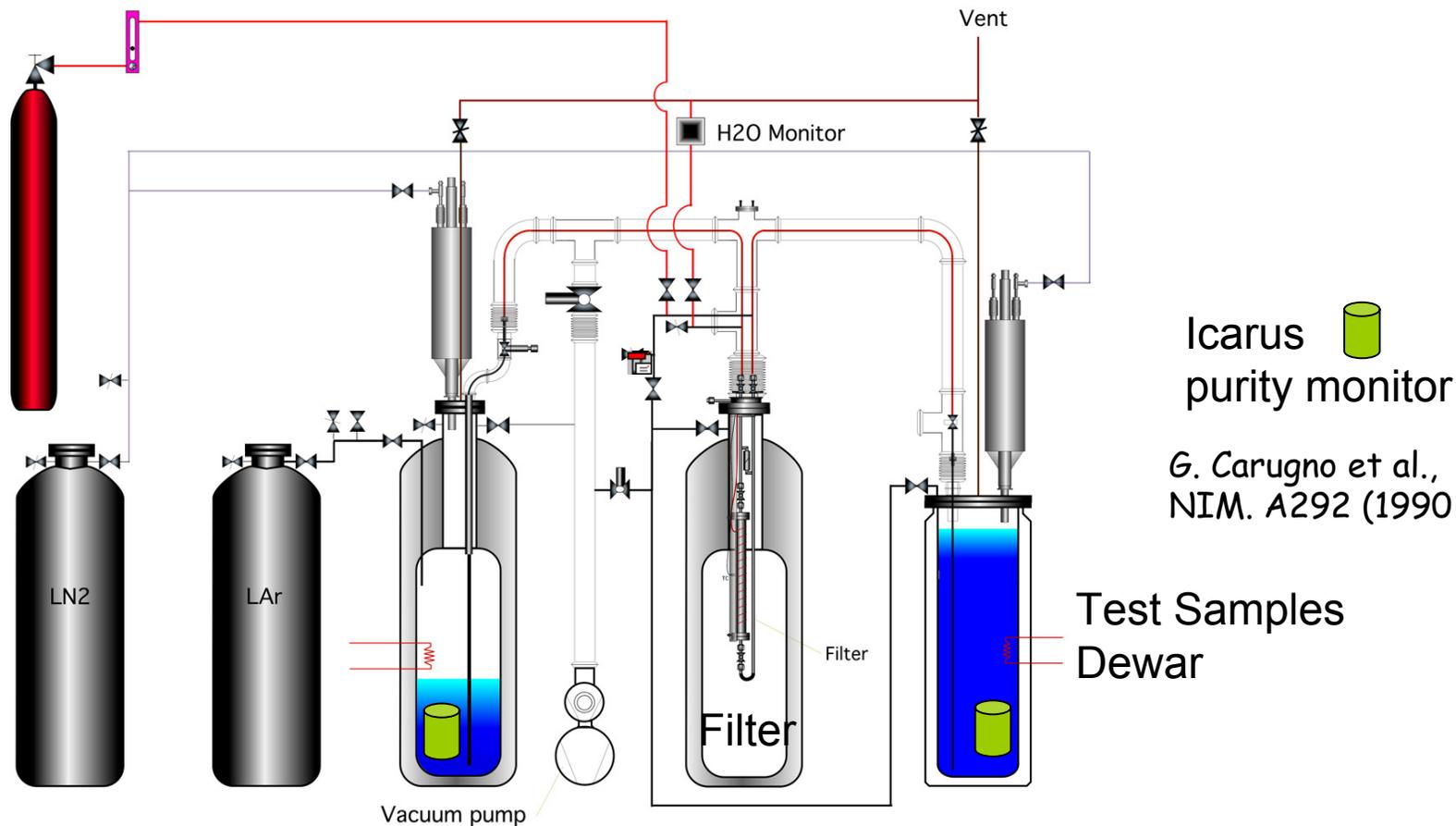
- Purity level determined by balance of the filtering vs. impurities introduced with the new argon - assume circulation of 30 tons/hour

**Phase III: operation**

- Low rate of volume exchange (74 days)
- Removal (mainly) of the impurities introduced with new argon
- Balance between purification and out-gassing
- In this phase out-gassing of tank walls, cables and other materials becomes a visible factor.

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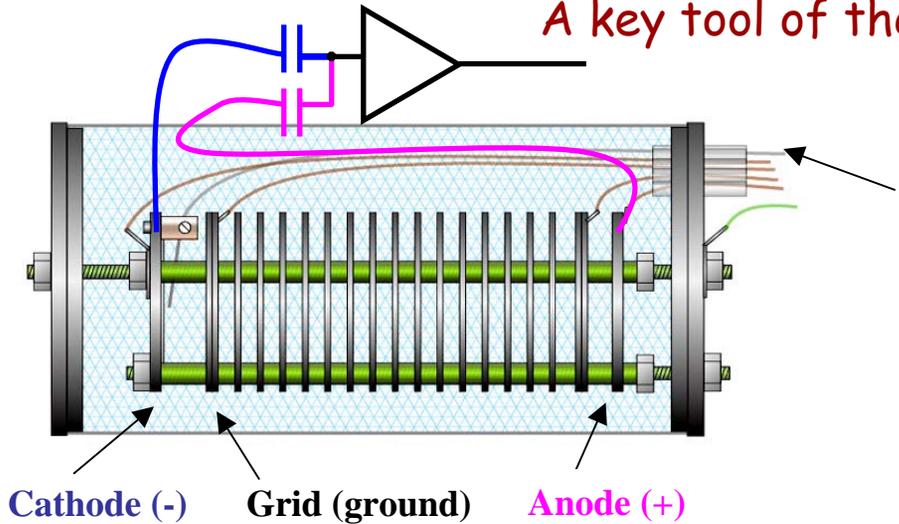
System at Fermilab PAB for testing filter materials and contaminating effects of detector materials (eg tank-walls, cables)



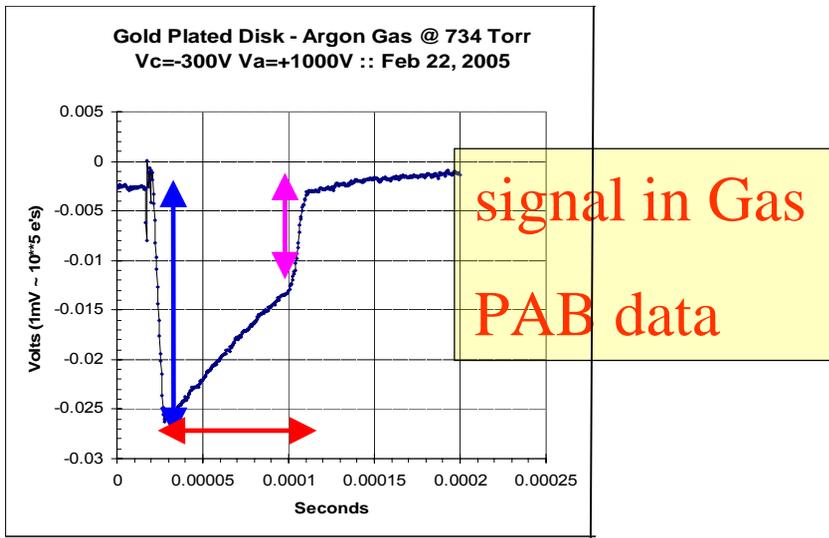
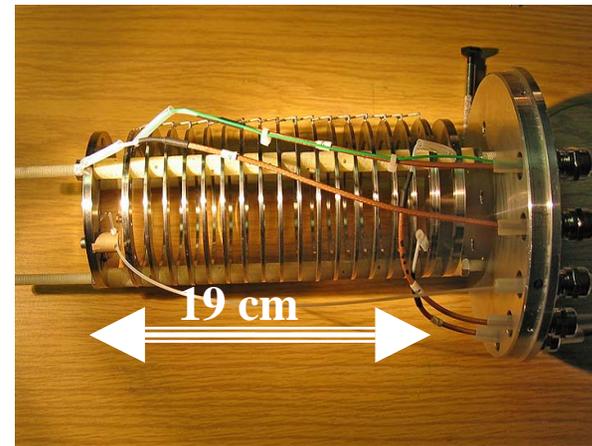
C.Kenziora6.13.05

# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

A gift from Italy  
A key tool of the trade - the **purity monitor**



UV light flash to photocathode



$$Q_a/Q_c = \exp(-t/\tau)$$

$$V_{\text{drift}} = L / t$$

We will need many of these

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## Wire Planes:

Induction (2 +/- 30) and Collection Planes spaced by 5 mm

5mm pitch within planes

~220,000 signal wires total (50 kTon), ~100,000 signal wires (15 kTon)

Longest wire ~35 meters (50 kTon) , ~ 23 meters (15 kTon)

Need to be robust - no breakages

Need practical assembly and installation procedure.

## Wire Material 150 micron Stainless

Present Concept: (different from ICARUS)

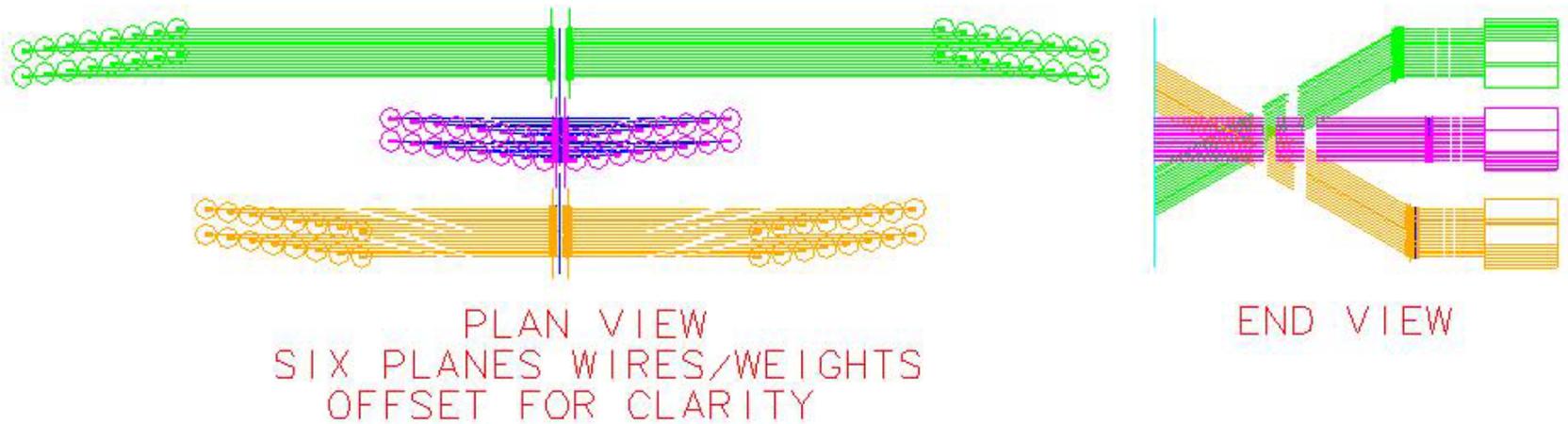
Tension implemented by attaching a weight to each wire (~1kg) to avoid tension changes due to temperature changes.

A system of pulleys distributes the weights at the bottom of the tank.

Small horizontal spacers between wires every 2 to 3 meters along the wires ensure proper spacing between wires and limit amount of free wire in case of breakage.

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## Geometry of wire arrangement at base of tank



(a picture that needs a 1000 words?)

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## Electronics and Data Acquisition Summary

### Electronics:

ICARUS scheme - an intelligent waveform recorder on each wire:

Amplifier sensitivity achieved in existing custom devices for this capacitance

$(S/N) = 22,000 e / 2500 e = 8.5/1$

- digitize with commercial ADCs adequate performance, reasonable cost
- intelligence from commercial FPGAs adequate performance, reasonable cost.

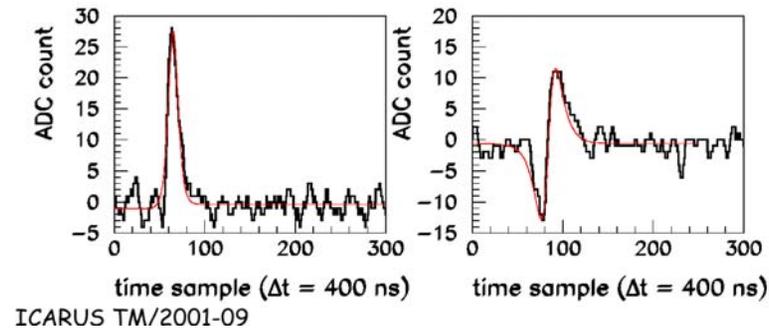
### Data Acquisition

Use commercial switches and multiplexors

Have a design to achieve **5 Gbyte/second** into 200 PC's for reasonable cost.

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## Data Acquisition schematic



Raw data rate =  $n_{\text{wires}} \times 2.5 \text{ MHz}$ ; need 2 bytes per sample

**WFT (Wave Form Train)** is all the digitizings

*'Zero' suppression: Cosmic ray rate is 200 kHz; each ray ~5000 signals,*  
Set intelligent threshold in FPGA, pass next 40 samples

**DAT (Data Above Threshold)**

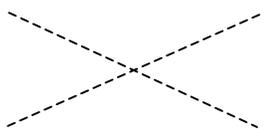
Processing each hit fully in FPGA to return pulse-height and time;  
requires 4 bytes/hit

**FHP (Full Hit Processing)**

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## 50 kt data rates

Data Type & Data Rates	Spill Only* (bytes/sec)	Always Live (bytes/sec)
Wave Train	$2 \times 10^9$	<del><math>10^{12}</math></del>
Data above threshold	$8 \times 10^7$	<del><math>4 \times 10^{10}</math></del>
Full hit processing	$8 \times 10^6$	$4 \times 10^9$

  
exceeds bandwidth  
of 5 GB/sec

Note: Full hit processing allows for Always Live running

\* Spill Only looks at 4 milliseconds (to see events plus any early cosmic rays) each spill (every 2 seconds)

# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## Simulation Results

LArTPC

Total absorption calorimeter

5mm sampling → 28 samples/rad length

Excellent energy resolution



high  $\nu_e$  efficiency  
good NC rejection

First pass studies using hit level MC show  $81 \pm 7\%$   $\nu_e$  efficiency and Neutral Current rejection factor  $\sim 70$

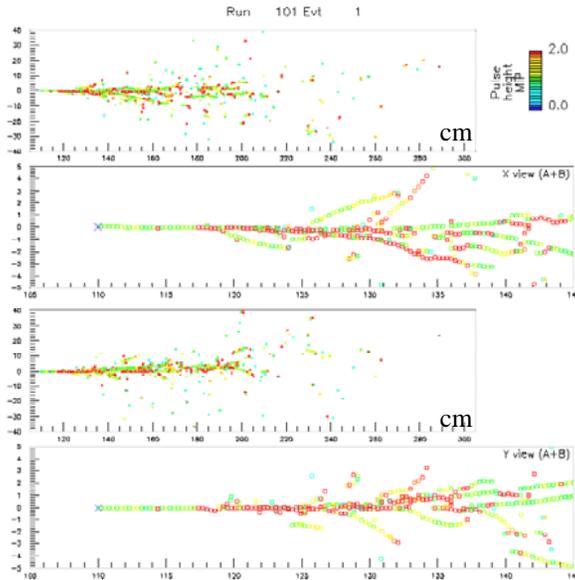
(only need NC rejection factor of 20 to reduce NC background down to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the intrinsic  $\nu_e$  rate)

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## Electrons compared to $\pi^0$ 's at 1.5 GeV in LAr TPC

Dot indicates hit, color is collected charge  
green=1 mip, red=2 mips (or more)

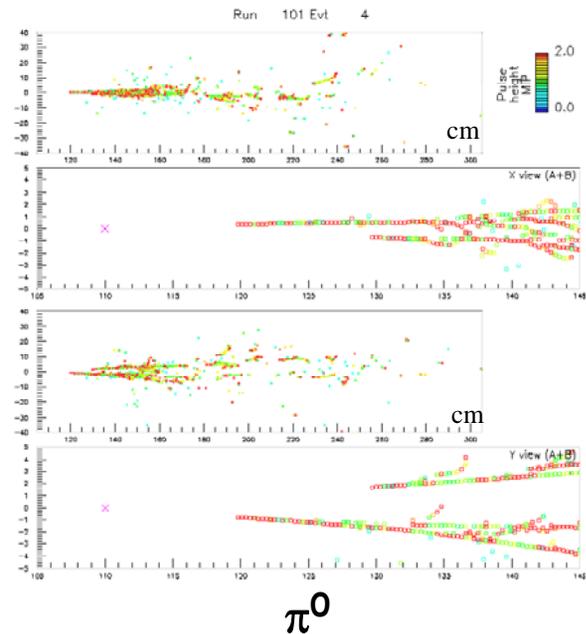
X  
plane  
↓  
zoom  
in  
  
U  
plane  
↓  
zoom  
in



**Electrons**

Single track (mip scale)  
starting from a single vertex

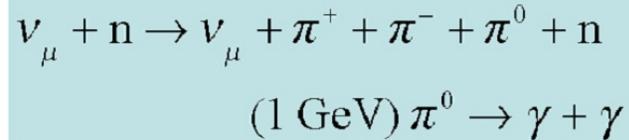
X  
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Multiple secondary tracks pointing back to  
the same primary vertex  
Each track is two electrons  
- 2 mip scale per hit

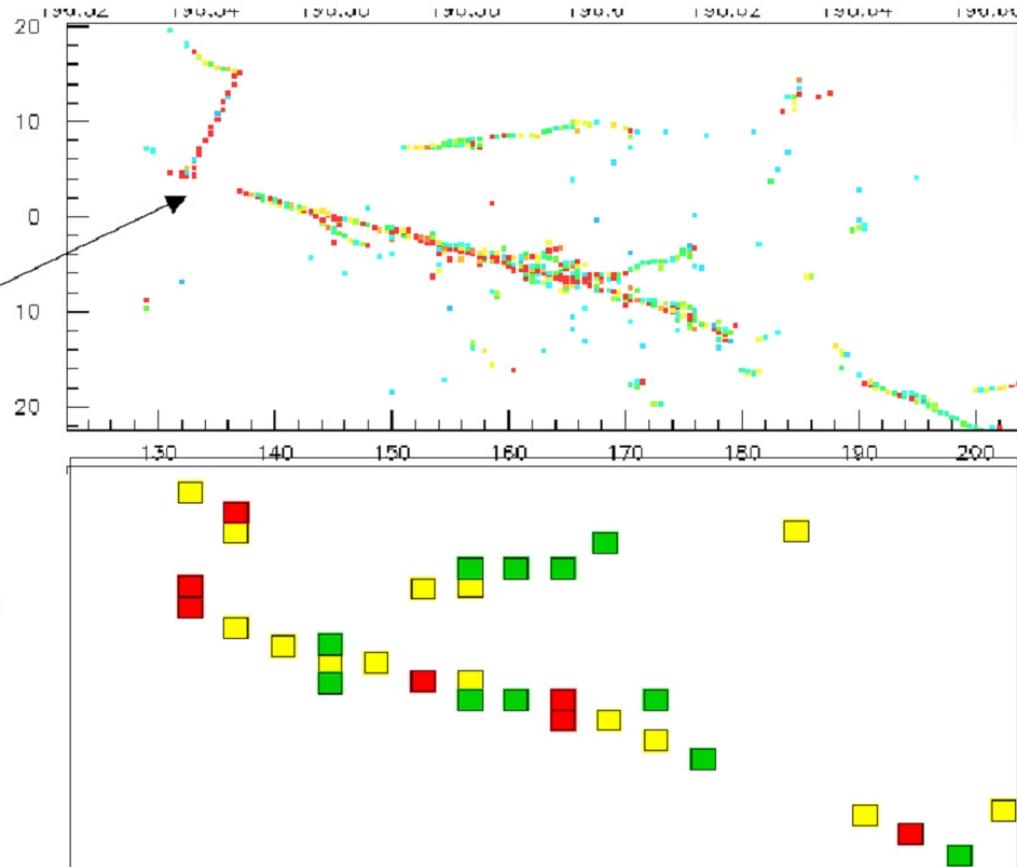
use both topology and  $dE/dx$  to identify interactions

## Neutral current event with 1 GeV $\pi^0$



3.5%  $X_0$  samples  
in all 3 views

4 cm gap



12%  $X_0$  samples  
alternating x-y

# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## Efficiency and Rejection study Tufts University Group

Analysis was based on a blind scan of 450 events, carried out by 4 undergraduates with additional scanning of "signal" events by experts.

Neutrino event generator: NEUGEN3, used by MINOS/NOvA collaboration (and others)  
Hugh Gallagher (Tufts) is the principal author.

GEANT 3 detector simulation (Hatcher, Para): trace resulting particles through a homogeneous volume of liquid argon. Store energy deposits in thin slices.

### Training samples:

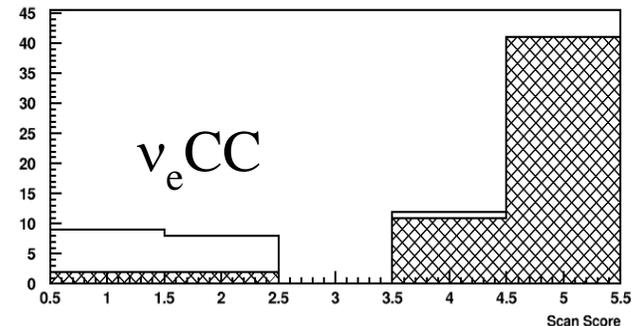
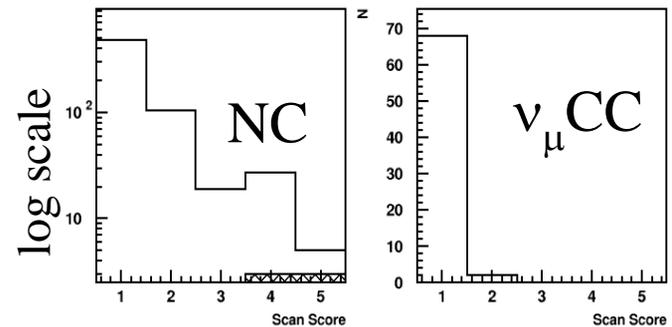
50 events each of  $\nu_e CC$ ,  $\nu_\mu CC$  and NC

- individual samples to train
- mixed samples to test training

Blind scan of 450 events  
scored from 1-5 with

- signal=5
- background=1

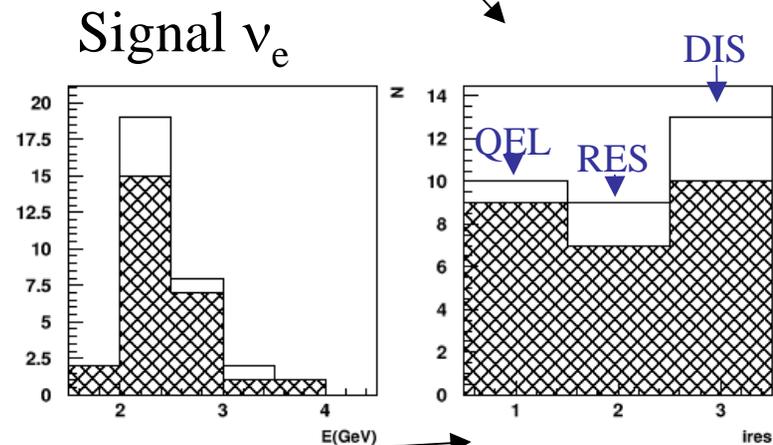
open region:  
students  
hatched  
region:  
+ experts



# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

Overall efficiencies, rejection factors, and dependencies

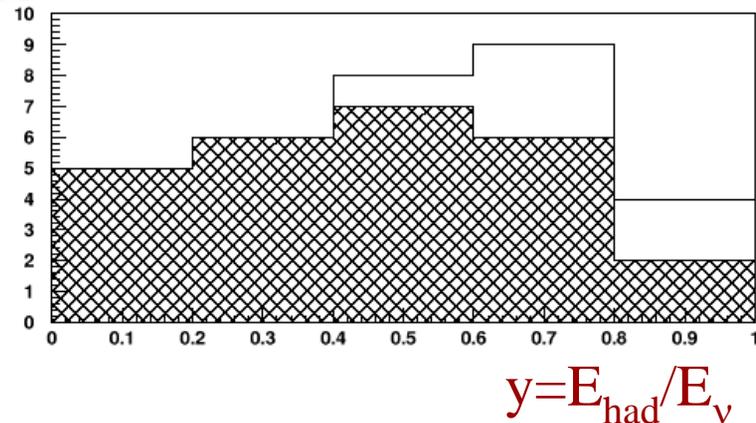
Event type	N	pass	eff.	rej.
NC	290	4	-	72.5
signal $\nu_e$	32	26	0.81	-
Beam $\nu_e$ : CC	24	14	0.58	-
NC	8	0	-	-
Beam $\bar{\nu}_e$ : CC	13	10	0.77	-
NC	19	0	-	-



Efficiency is substantial even for high multiplicity (DIS) events

Efficiency is ~100% for  $y < 0.5$ , and ~50% above this

Overall efficiency 81% +/- 7%  
Rejection of NC is 73 (+60, -30)



# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sensitivity} = & \\ & \text{detector mass} \times \\ & \text{detector efficiency} \times \\ & \text{protons on target/yr} \times \\ & \text{\# of years} \end{aligned}$$

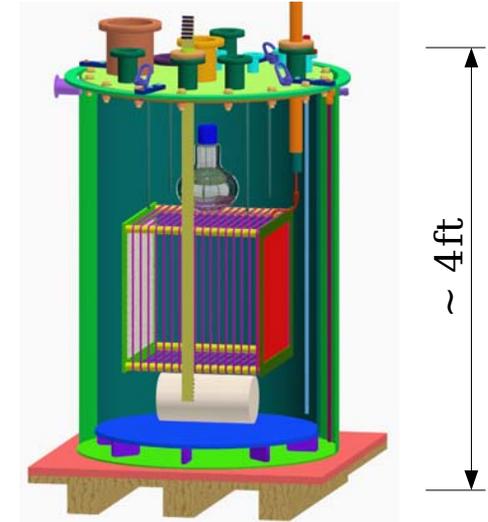
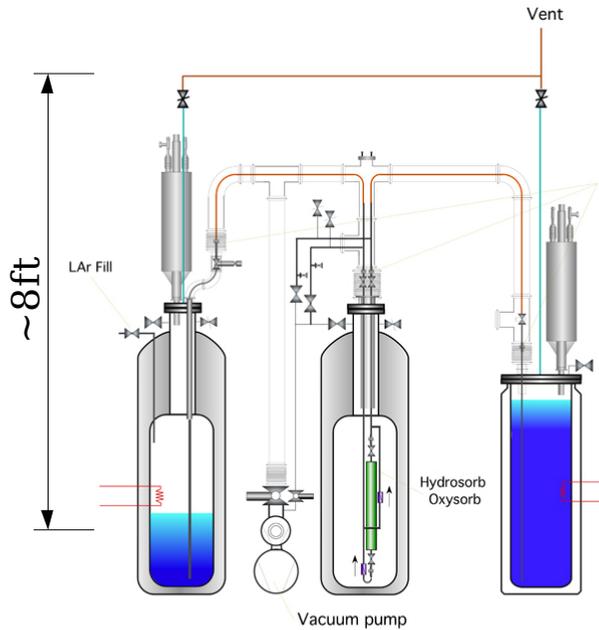
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Initial costing exercise, in Million \$,  
not fully loaded, site preparation not included;  
costs are estimates from engineers involved.

50kton 30m H x 40 m D	(M\$)	15kton 20m H x 26 m D	(M\$)
-----		-----	
Argon cost	37		13
Cryogenic/ Purification plant	6.5		5.0
HV planes	5.7	→	4.0
Wire Chambers	5.0		4.0
Electronics	5.0		2.5
Data acquisition	5.0		5.0
Tank related costs	32.1		20.4
Total	96.3		53.9

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R&D efforts  
underway



at Yale

at FNAL

UCLA/  
INFN  
at CERN



# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## From presentation to NuSAG:

R&D path over the next year shaped by open questions for large detectors:

### Key Hardware Issues

Technology transfer

- Test setup at FNAL
- Seeing tracks and light production at Yale

Understanding long drifts at UCLA/CERN

Purity tests setups at Fermilab

- Introduction of impurities
- Test of detector and tank materials
- Test of filtering materials
- Purification rate

Very long electrode assembly/stability and readout

Design for detector to be assembled with industrial techniques

## towards a Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

### From presentation to NuSAG (cont):

R&D path over the next year shaped by open questions for large detectors: (part2)

Key software, feasibility and infrastructure issues

Continuing Monte Carlo work – automated event reconstruction

Costing study

Growing a strong collaboration

# towards a Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## Schedule:

Tests of materials and filters start in late August;

Presentation of report to NuSAG by mid-August;

White Paper with conceptual design by early Autumn;

Tests and Studies planned for the coming year;

## Summary

Have support from Fermilab - engineering and increased funding

Are receiving generous support for technology transfer from experts in Europe and hoping to learn more from ongoing tests there.

Would like to encourage your participation

Back- ups, extras

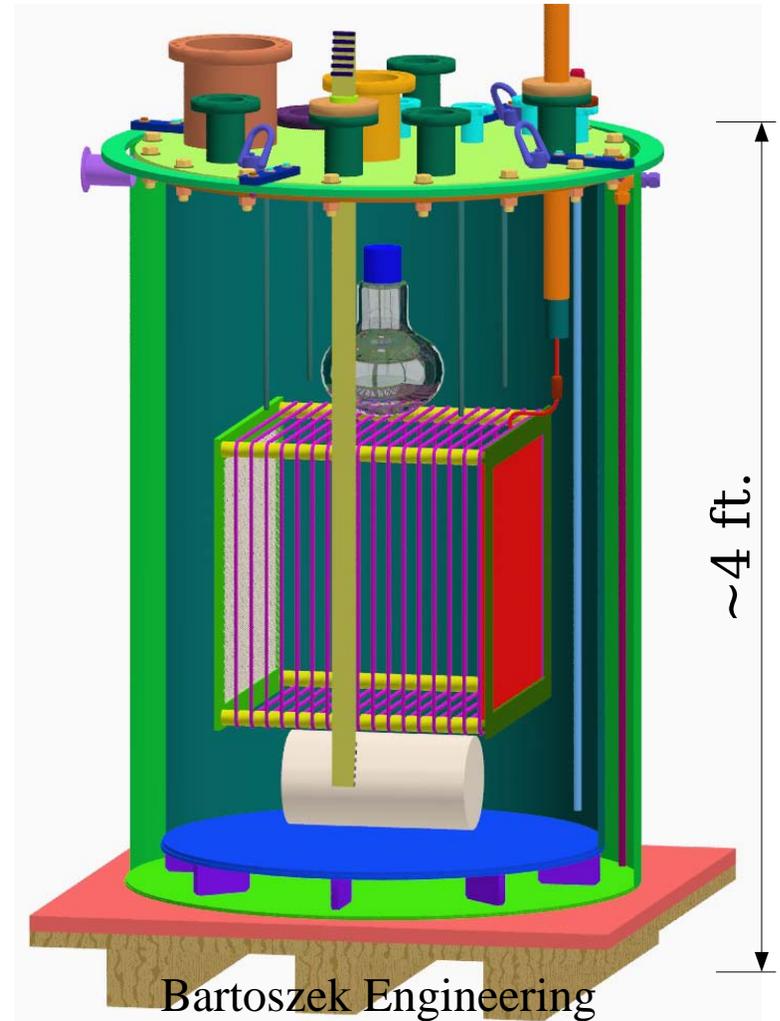
# LArTPC work underway at Yale

How good are these detectors at  
IDing low ( $\sim 1$  GeV) energy  $\nu$   
interactions?



- understand the technology
- purity studies
- understand detector response at very low energies
- study combination of charge and light production for particle ID

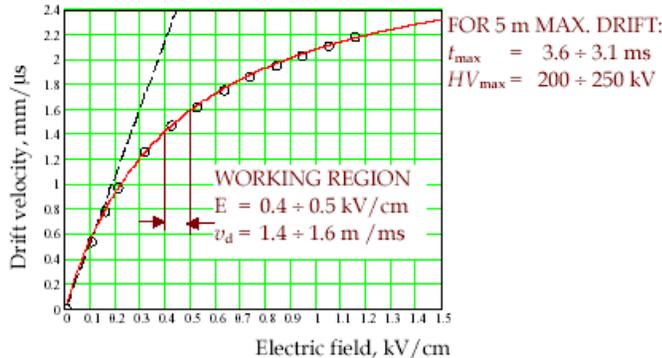
Constructing small prototype  
vessel this summer



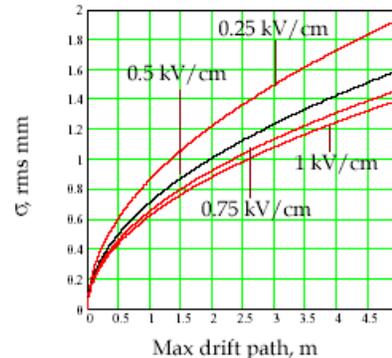
Work funded by  
DOE Advanced Detector  
Research Grant

# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## everything about drifting in one fine slide



Drift velocity versus electric field in liquid argon

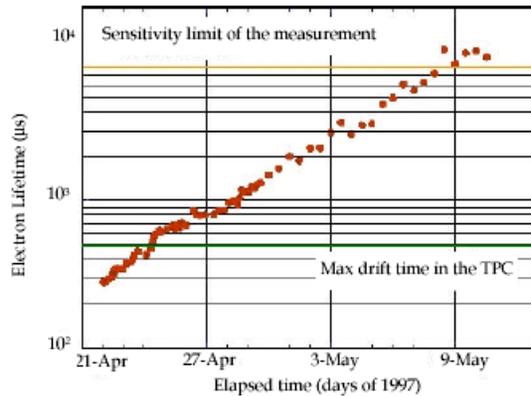


Longitudinal rms diffusion spread versus drift paths at different electric field intensities

$$\sigma_D = \sqrt{2 \cdot D \cdot \frac{x}{v_d}}$$

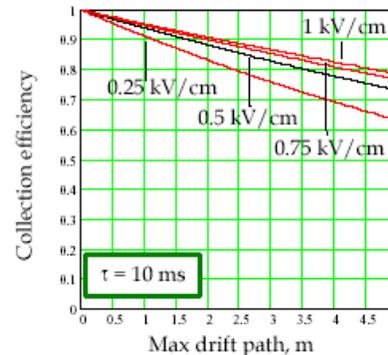
$$D = 4.06 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$$

$\sigma_D = 0.9 \text{ mm} \cdot \sqrt{T_D [\text{ms}]}$   
 Longitudinal rms diffusion spread at 0.5 kV/cm  
 Average  $\langle \sigma_D \rangle = 1.1 \text{ mm}$   
 Maximum  $\sigma_{Dmax} = 1.6 \text{ mm}$

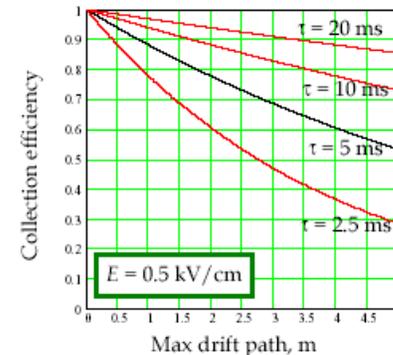


Purification rate for the 50L TPC

NuFact'01 – March 24-30, 2001



Drifting charge attenuation versus drift paths at different electric field intensities ( $\tau = 10 \text{ ms}$ )



Drifting charge attenuation versus drift path at different electron lifetimes ( $E = 0.5 \text{ kV/cm}$ )

F. Sergiampietri LANND 22

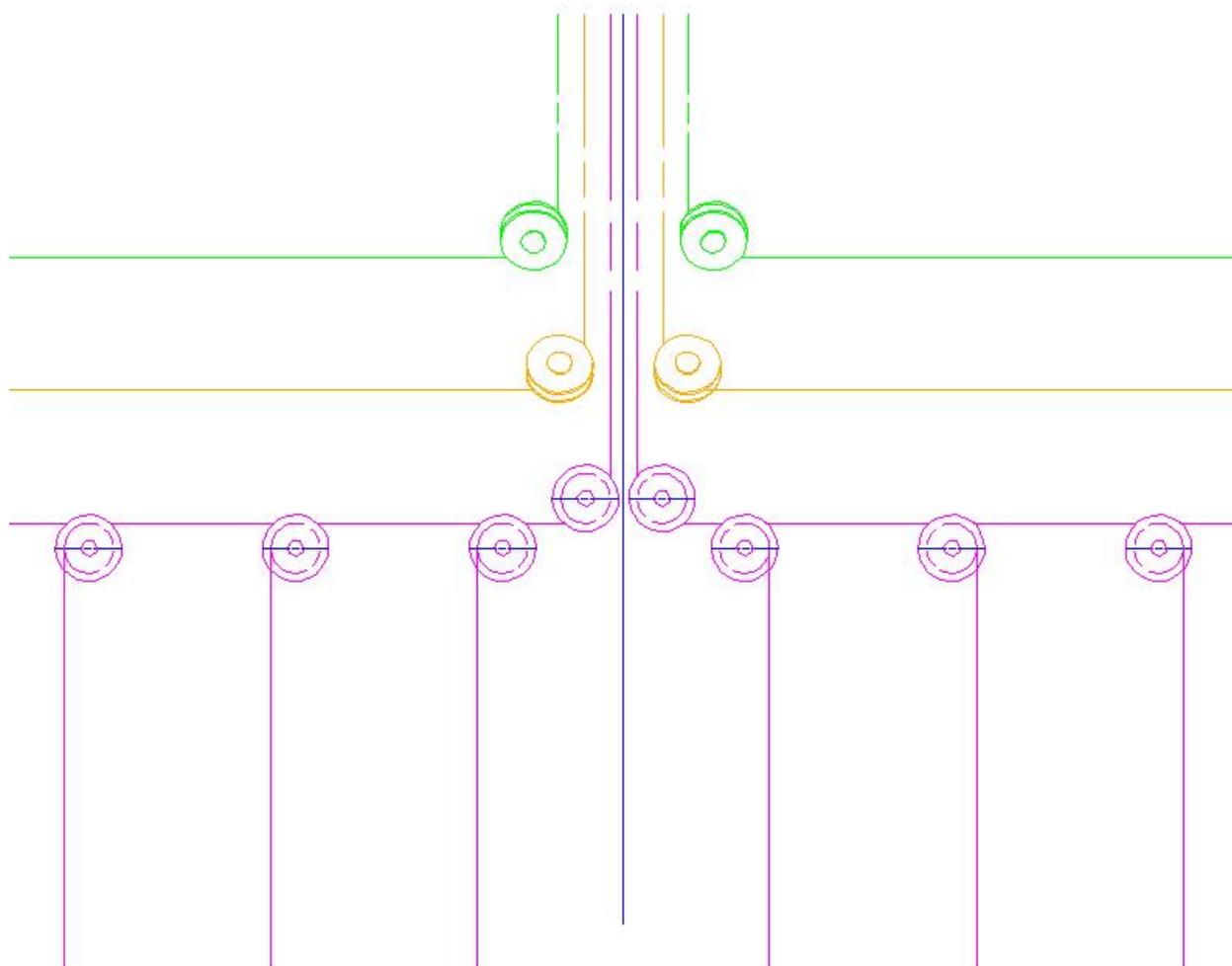
# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

setup for lifetime measurements (effect of materials and effectiveness of different filters) under assembly in PAB at FNAL.



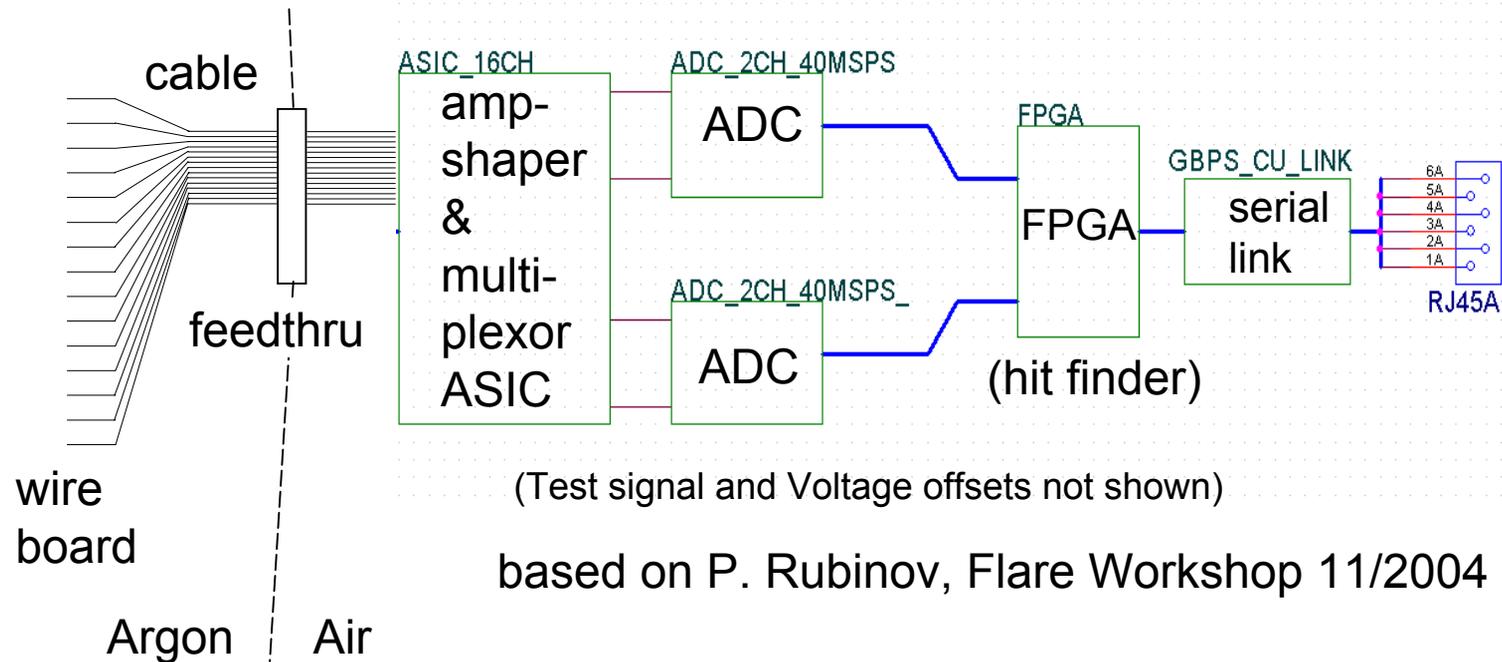
# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## Expanded view of wire arrangement at base of tank



# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## general electronics schematic

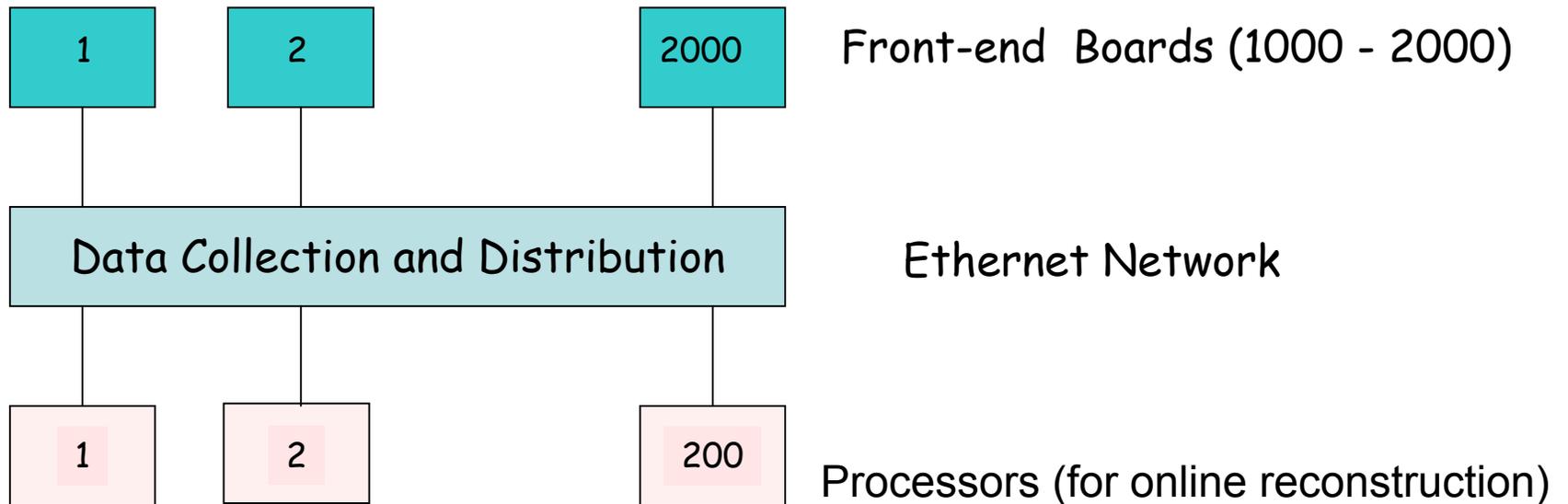


amplifier sensitivity achieved in existing custom devices - probably want ASIC  
commercial ADCs adequate performance, reasonable cost  
commercial FPGAs adequate performance, reasonable cost  
128 channel boards, reasonable size (and cost) 1000 - 2000 such boards

# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## *Data Acquisition schematic*

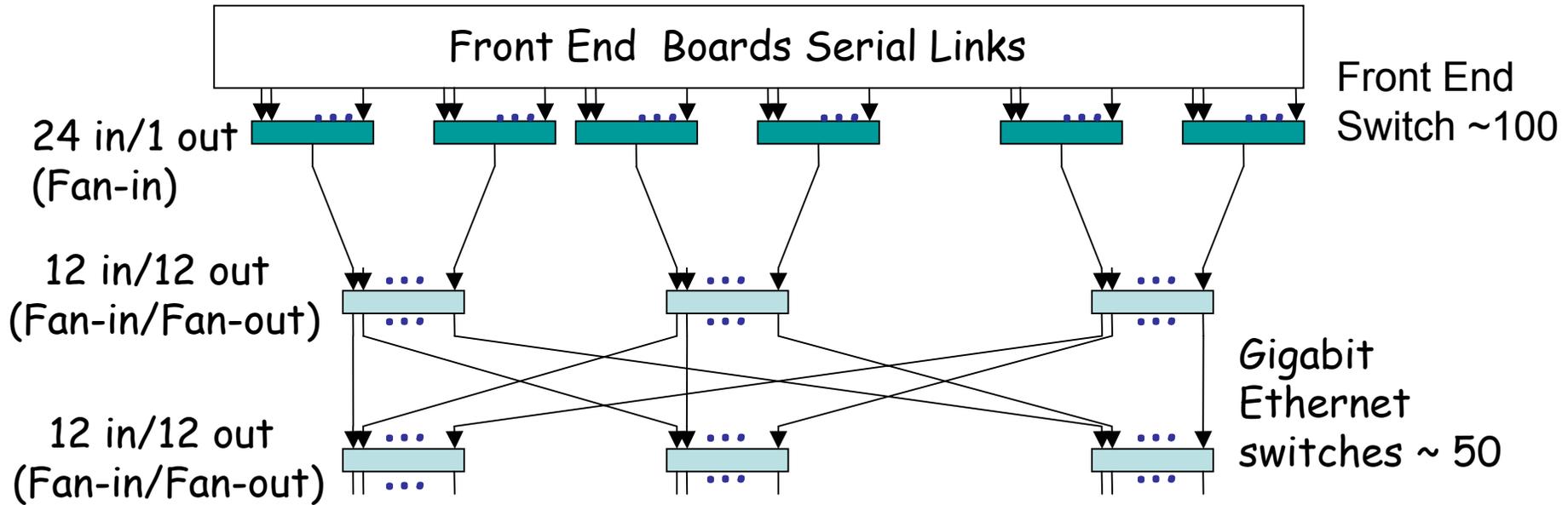
General Scheme using commercial links and switches



(M. Bowden, M. Votava, Flare Workshop 11/2004)

## Data Acquisition Schematic

commercial switches well matched to required data rates.

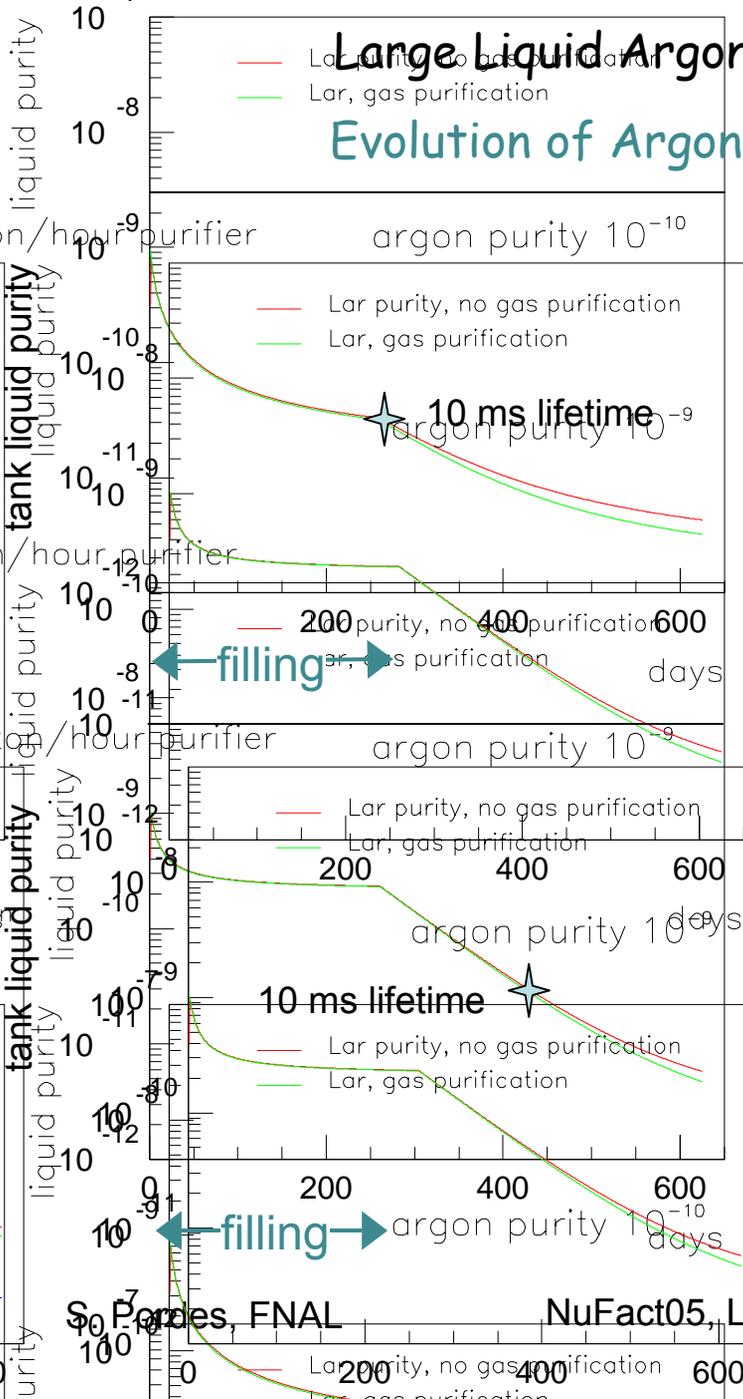


allows for 5 GByte/sec rate into ~ 200 Processors

Data Network - per M. Bowden, M. Votava (Flare Workshop 11/2004)

# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## Evolution of Argon purity during the tank-filling process



**Phase I: initial purge - 100-200 tons of LAr (~ 2 weeks) (vessel purged but not evacuated)**

- rapid volume exchange => rapid purification
- Main issue: large oxygen capacity required

**Milestone: achieve 10 ms lifetime before continuing the fill process**

**Phase II: filling**

- Purity level determined by balance of the filtering vs. impurities introduced with the new argon - assume circulation of 30 tons/hour

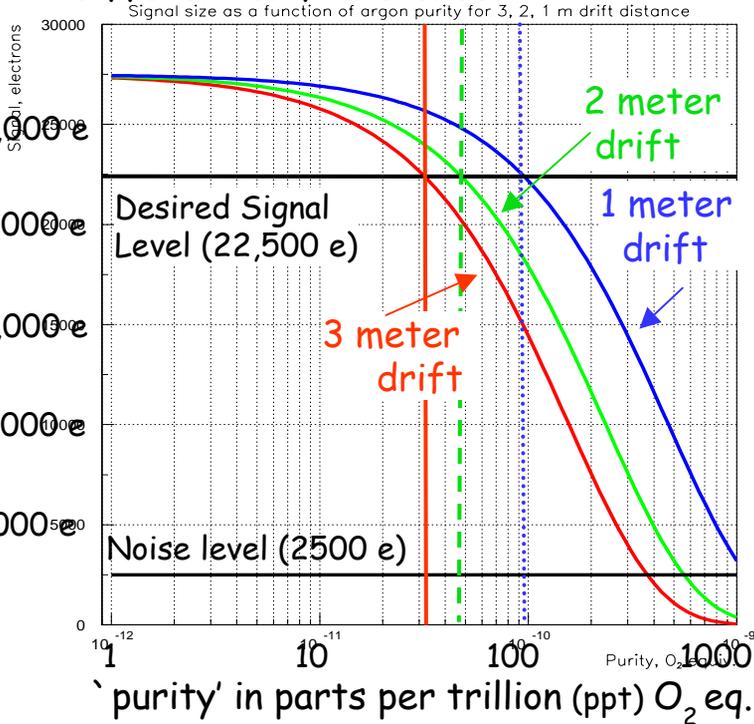
**Phase III: operation**

- Low rate of volume exchange (74 days)
- Removal (mainly) of the impurities introduced with new argon
- Balance between purification and out-gassing
- In this phase out-gassing of tank walls, cables and other materials becomes a visible factor.

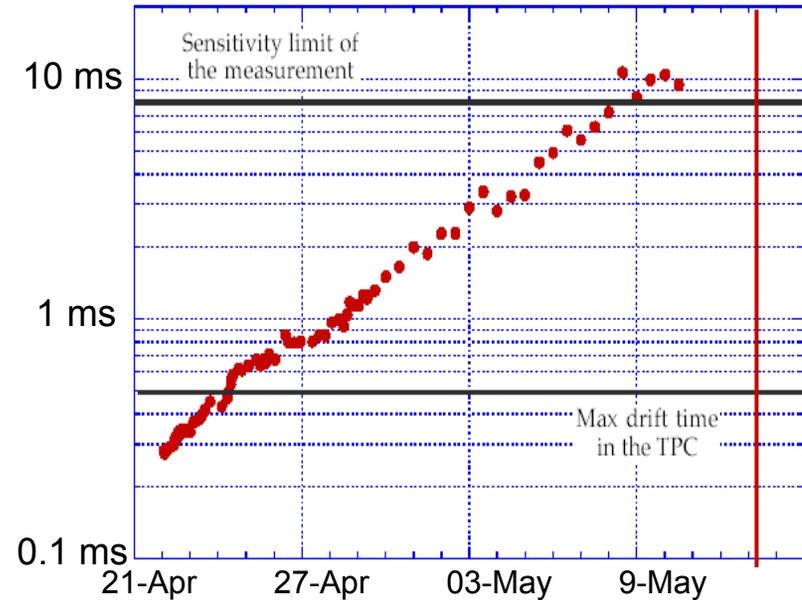
# Large Liquid Argon TPC for the NuMI Off-axis Beam

## Liquid Argon 'purity' requirements

Signal size vs 'purity' for different drift distances



data from ICARUS 1997



'purity'/lifetime requirements for <20% signal loss

3m drift -> 10 ms lifetime = 30 ppt

2m drift -> 6 ms lifetime = 50 ppt

1m drift -> 3ms lifetime = 90 ppt

ICARUS achieved 10 ms in 1997  
T600 lifetime evolution implies  
>10 ms asymptotic value