# Frontiers of Instrumentation in Nuclear Science

Paul O'Connor Brookhaven National Laboratory Instrumentation Division

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- BNL Introduction and History
- Detectors: Smaller, Faster, Quieter
- Systems: Larger, Denser, Colder

# Outline

- BNL Instrumentation Division
  - Facilities, accomplishments
- <u>Detector and Electronics Trends (with selected examples)</u>
  - Improved time resolution
    - Silicon detectors with avalanche gain
    - Wideband electronics
  - Improved spatial resolution
    - Fine-pitch pixels
    - Interpolation techniques
  - Improved energy resolution
    - Si detectors with low collection capacitance
    - Monolithic integration of sensors and electronics
    - Repetitive non-destructive readout
    - Cryogenic devices
- <u>Highly-scaled systems</u>
  - Inhospitable environments
    - Cryo
    - Vacuum
    - Radiation
  - Power and data bandwidth constraints

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# **BNL Instrumentation Division**

### Mission

- Develop state-of-the-art instrumentation for current and future Laboratory programs
- Technology transfer

#### Established

1948

### **Division Head**

Dr. David M. Asner

### Staff

- •16 Scientific
- •3 Post Doctoral
- •8 Professional
- •13 Technical
- 4 Administrative

### **Research Areas**

- •Semiconductor detectors
- •Gas and Noble liquid detectors
- Microelectronics
- Lasers and Optics
- •Micro/Nano fabrication



Total lab and office space: 36,000 sq. feet

# Highlights of Accomplishments – first 35 years

- •Gas detectors, electronics (1948)
- •Fast(µs) transistorized electronics for physics experiments (1956)
- •First Si detectors, nanosecond electronics (1960)
- •Positron emission tomography detector (1960)
- •Germanium detectors, low noise electronics (1965)
- •LAr ionization chambers for calorimetry (1973)
- •Detectors for neutron scattering (1976)
- •Optical metrology (1979)
- •Electron microscopy, MEMS (1980)
- •First synchrotron X-ray detectors (1982)
- Silicon Drift Detector (1983) Spark Chambers in Muon Neutrino Discovery Lederman, Schwartz, Steinberger, 1962, Nobel Prize 1988





Bubble chamber: charmed baryon decay 1975



Solar Neutrinos at Homestake Mine

Davis 1967-1985, Nobel Prize 2002

0040060

- I.DHVAN LIRET

Preamp optimal filtering1983





Fig. 8. Silicon Drift Chamber. The wafer is about .3 mm thick and has a front area of few cm<sup>2</sup>. The surface is covered by a strip array of p<sup>2</sup> junction sleetrodes which provides the depletion and the drift field. (Ohly junctions at the extremes of the wafer are shown.) Electrons produced by the passage of a fast charged particle drift toward the anode which is the only readout channel on the wafer.

Positron Emission Tomograph 1960



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# Highlights of Accomplishments – first 35 years



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# Highlights of Accomplishments - past 35 years

- •Cryogenic electronics (1984)
- Lasers in accelerator technology (1985)
- •Si detectors for HEP/NP (1986)
- •Gas detectors for heavy ion physics (1986)
- •Long Trace Profiler (1987)
- •Monolithic low-noise circuits (1990)
- •LAr, LKr ionization chambers, SSC, LHC: (1993)
- •Nanostructures (1994)
- •Deep sub-micron low-noise circuits (1997)
- •Ultrafast optical techniques (2000)
- •Neutron/Gamma detectors for Homeland Security (2002)
- •Small animal imaging (2003)
- •Silicon detectors for synchrotron radiation (2004)
- •Fully-depleted CCD arrays and readout for astronomy (2005)
- •Beam diagnostics (2006)
- Diamond detectors (2009)
- •LAr Time Projection Chambers (2009)
- •Low Temperature Microelectronics (2010) PHENIX Time Expansion Chamber/TRD



















#### cold CMOS electronics



LSST focal plane



ATLAS EM calorimeter





high resolution hexagonal SDD array



120° thermal neutron detector



Diamond detector for x-ray beam position monitor



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70-ton LAr TPC (MICROBOONE)

384-element EXAFS array HERMES/SCEPTER readout

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# Time resolution/rate capability

Detecting the time of occurrence of an ionizing event involves a chain of events, each of which has a duration with statistical fluctuations:



# Contributions to timing resolution

- Ionization: prompt (< 1ps)</li>
- Transport of ionization charge
- If using scintillator: generation and transport of scintillation photons; photon statistics noise
- Amplifier noise see below
- TDC quantization noise ~binsize/sqrt(12)

### Electronics noise/speed tradeoff (white noise)



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# Solid-state detectors with internal multiplication

### APD ("Avalanche PhotoDiode")

- Direct ionization charge is drifted to a high-field region where avalanche multiplication takes place.
- (Linear) multiplication factor M depends on reverse bias; typically M ~ 20-200.
- Avalanche mechanism has statistical fluctuation → excess noise, but at low signal level overall S/N is improved because input-referred electronics noise is reduced by M.
- Custom fabrication process

### SPAD ("single photon avalanche diode")

 an APD operated in breakdown, with quenching mechanism to allow fast recovery. Single ehp can be amplified to mA current level. Loss of linear response but fast. Custom fabrication process

### SiPM ("silicon photomultiplier")

an array of 𝒪(10<sup>3</sup>) SPADs connected in parallel to a common output. Analog output is analog sum of charge pulses ~ number of photons.

### **Digital SiPM**

 array of SPADs with embedded electronics; arranged to generate 2 digital outputs encoding (a) number of photons and (b) timestamp. Standard CMOS fabrication process.

Solid-state avalanche devices increasingly replacing vacuum photomultiplier tubes (PMT), which are bulky, fragile, expensive, and inoperable in magnetic fields. Commercial sector push for automotive LIDAR, TOF-PET, optical communications.

# Solid-state detectors with internal multiplication

Photon

Counter

Energy



Frontiers of Instrumentation in Nuclear Science Yale NNPSS 2018 P. O'Connor BNL Mean number of photons N

Frach 2009

# Large-scale SiPM application in collider detectors

## Near-term: sPHENIX calorimeter at BNL ~2020

 >120k used in calorimeter of sPHENIX (E. Mannel)





EMCal



# Longer-term:

CMS high-luminosity upgrade at LHC ~2024

MIP timing detector: thin scintillator + 250K chan SiPM

High granularity endcap hadronic calorimeter: 500m<sup>2</sup> · plastic scintillator with SiPM on-tile readout



### nEXO 5-ton l-136Xe TPC $0\nu\beta\beta$



HPK VUV4 Test at BNL with

pulsed 177nm light



# Low Gain Avalanche Photodiode (LGAD)

- APD engineered for fast (O(10ps)) timing.
- Target application: high granularity timing detector for determining longitudinal vertex position in HL-LHC.
- Also suitable for fast/high-rate photon detection.



### BNL technology demonstrated:







Equivalent noise rate:

$$ENR = f_0 \exp(-\frac{Q_T^2}{2Q_N^2}) \qquad \begin{array}{l} Q_T = \text{threshold} \\ Q_N = \text{noise} \end{array}$$

 $f_0$  = rate of positive zero crossings:

$$f_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} * \left( -\frac{K'(0)}{K(0)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left( \frac{\int_0^\infty \omega^2 W(\omega) d\omega}{\int_0^\infty W(\omega) d\omega} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \approx 1/2\pi T_p$$

 $W(\omega) =$  spectral density  $K(\tau) =$  autocorrelation function  $K(0)^{\frac{1}{2}} = Q_N$  $T_P$  = pulse peaking time



Pulse peaking time Number of channels Requirement

T<sub>P</sub> = 500ns N<sub>ch</sub> = 100,000 ENR < 1kHz

$$ENR = f_0 exp\left(-\frac{Q_T^2}{2Q_N^2}\right) < 10^3 Hz$$
$$f_0 \approx \frac{1}{2Q_N^2} = 318 kHz \text{ per channel} \quad \text{(white noise}$$

~ 2 \

 $F_0 \approx \frac{1}{2\pi T_p} = 318 kHz$  per channel (white noise, semiGaussian shaper)

$$\frac{Q_T}{Q_N} > 2 \sqrt{-\ln\left(\frac{10^3}{3.18 \cdot 10^5 \cdot 10^5}\right)}$$

 $\frac{Q_T}{Q_N} > 8.3$ 

*Low electronics noise more critical for detection limit in large-N<sub>ch</sub> systems* 

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# **Energy resolution**



# Si-based detectors



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- RMS noise of a single measurement is typically determined by the electronic noise of the first amplifier transistor.
- In detectors where charge motion can be deterministically controlled (CCD, DEPFET) it is possible to introduce multiple, statistically independent measurements (N) of the same charge packet. White noise contribution from the front end electronics can be averaged down as VN ("Skipper").
- Charge carrier lifetime at moderately reduced temperature (140K) is O(minutes)
  → charge loss can be virtually excluded.
- "Skipper" CCDs and DEPFETs have recently demonstrated *sub-0.2e-* read noise and opened the possibility for sensitive measurements of low-mass neutral particle – nucleus interactions where extremely low thresholds are required. Particular interest focused on DM candidates in the MeV mass region, experimentally largely unexplored.
  - DAMIC: low-noise standard CCD for low-mass Dark Matter search
  - SENSEI: skipper CCD for low-mass Dark Matter search.
    - Has already established tightest constraints on DM cross section in the 0.5 4MeV mass range after only 0.019 gram-days surface run.
  - DANAE: skipper DEPFET for low-mass Dark Matter search
  - CONNIE: low-noise standard CCD for Coherent Elastic Neutrino-Nucleus Scattering.

# CCD and DEPFET results with RNDR

### Skipper CCD



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### Skipper DEPFET







# Superconductor-based detectors

Microwave Kinetic Inductance Detecors (MKIDs)

Bolometers and microcalorimeters with Transition Edge Sensor thermometry (TES)

Require operating temperatures O(10<sup>-3</sup>K)

Thermal, time, and frequency multiplexing techniques for minimizing cryostat penetrations

Ge detector (1963): 100X improvement over NaI scintillator at ~MeV



TES bolometer (2013): 100X improvement over Si(Li) at ~keV



Energy resolution of the microcalorimeter, compared with a lithium drifted silicon detector.

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### Approaches towards finer pitch pixel sensors, dissimilar technologies

# Hybrid bump-bonding of sensor to ASIC

"2.5D" hybrid using glass or Si interposer

"3D" hybrid: direct

wafer bond, multiple



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# Anode pad readout for <sup>3</sup>He Ionization mode neutron detector







With low noise electronics, 5fC detectable with untiy gas gain. Pixelated anode plane only achievable with ASICs



First image using Cd mask (BNL) and 1mCi <sup>252</sup>Cf source 22.5M hits



# Neutron pad board front/back with ASICs



### 64-channel ASIC All-digital output of charge/time/channel



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# <sup>3</sup>He pad detector - output data format

### List mode data generated for each ionizing event

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	Α	В	С	D		E	F	G	Н	1
1		Timing	Peak detect	Channel #		Chip #	Board #			
2	168	70623	1	2	34	27	1	5		
3	168	70620	1	8	35	27	1	5	3/	
4	168	70625	1	9	38	27	1	5	54	
5	168	70624	L	5	39	27	1	5		
6	20	195008	1	0	46	0		9		1
7	20	195006		5	46	10		9	36	
8	20	195008		9	51	0	1	9	50	
9	20	195006	1	1	17	11		9		
LO	27	139023		7	42	34		1		
1	27	139026		9	45	34		1	27	
12	27	139023		5	50	34		1	57	
L3	27	139027	1	5	55	34		1		-
.4	139	21652	1	2	14	16		7		_
.5	139	21656		7	50	15		7	27	
.6	139	21652		8	9	16		7	37	
.7	139	21652	1	0	13	16		7		
.8	20	204339	ſ	5	52	35	1	0		
.9	20	204336		6	53	35	1	0	20	
20	20	204342	1	0	56	35	1	0	59	
1	20	204336		8	57	35	1	0		
22	200	255288	ſ	8	58	32		7		_
23	200	255290	1	4	59	32		7	40	
24	200	255291	1	0	60	32		7	40	
5	200	255295		8	35	32		7		
26	234	93852	ſ	6	31	33		4		
27	234	93852		6	3	33		4	21	
28	234	93854		6	4	33		4	31	
9	234	93854	1	3	27	33		4		

Sum of peaks in column C

# Hits identified by time coincidence and adjacency

- New generation of <sup>3</sup>He –based, pixel ionization chambers (*unity gas gain*), enabled by microelectronics, makes possible *high count rate capability, 10<sup>5</sup> /s per pixel, >10<sup>8</sup> /s per detector*, flexible geometry, absence of ageing effects, extraordinary stability and reliability, the narrowest neutron signal peak.
- The technology provides powerful discrimination, n/γ by pulse height, and n/particles by magnitude of charge and # of pads generating simultaneous signal.
- Time stamp applied to each signal provides TPC like operation – 3D rendition of events and tracks
- Systems can be fabricated in which frontend and DAQ are contained within the detector vessel, with only Gbit ethernet to a PC and power cables the only outside items.

# Fast single-photon imager

CERN pixel chip "Timepix" hybridized to Si pixel sensor

Image intensifier for single-photon sensitivity ~10ns timing/20um position for single photons (1.5ns version in development) Applications:

- Fluorescence decay chemical analysis
- Quantum communications (detect entangled photons)







# Multisite event reconstruction in CZT

- CdZnTe (CZT) room temperature semiconductor gamma ray detector produced up to ~2cm thickness
- Has significant material nonuniformities
- Can be corrected by 3D calibration of entire detector "cube"
- Compton events contained within crystal (or crystal array) can be reconstructed
- Compton kinematics allows source localization (Compton telescope)









Fig. 16. Single pixel spectrum from a  $^{137}\rm{Cs}$  source: (a) uncorrected, and (b) corrected using the cathode/anode ratio.



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### Highly-scaled systems

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### Astronomical mosaic cameras



### CMB



### LAr TPCs



### 21cm radio arrays



### Computing needs



# Detector services (*power*, cooling, data I/O) consuming a larger share of R&D and construction effort

# Importance of power planning

- Electronic circuits are usually regarded as manipulators of signals and information
- Frequently neglected is that they are also thermodynamic machines and the electrical manipulations incur a cost in power dissipation

Awareness of power tradeoffs is needed at the transistor/technology, circuit, and system level:

- Many performance parameters have a steep dependence on expended power
- For large, highly integrated systems it is easy to underestimate the engineering challenges of managing power delivery and heat removal



### Is there more efficient way to extract the information in the signal?





# Outlook

- Dramatic recent progress in energy-resolving (RNDR, TES) and time-resolving (SPAD, LGAD) opening new experimental opportunities
- Technology advances permitting ever-finer detector granularity, and closer integration of sensor and front-end electronics
  - Fine-pitch bump bonding, 3D integration of Si and readout ASIC
  - Microwave multiplexing enabling large TES arrays
  - Power dissipation / power density constraints increasingly being realized
- Opportunities for borrowing power-efficiency techniques from commercial world
  - Conditional powering, activity detection
  - Analog feature extraction
  - Machine learning/deep learning
  - Compressive sensing
- Larger projects / larger budgets brining sociological change to experimental groups
- New focus area of quantum sensing receiving attention

# Hope to see you at BNL next Wednesday!

# Microprocessor speed and power trend



# Cray-2 supercomputer (1985)





- 4 processors
- 1.9 GFLOPS peak
- Clock speed 0.25GHz
- 2500kg
- 200kW

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Logic module

# Transistor power vs. speed and noise

- In analog CMOS, designer selects technology feature size, transistor geometry (gate length and width), transistor polarity (NMOS/PMOS), and bias current
- Current density (I/W) determines state of inversion (weak/moderate/strong)
- In deep submicron technologies, weak/moderate inversion is typical bias condition



# Analog-to-digital conversion energy

- Figure-of-merit for AD converters (energy per conversion):  $FOM = \frac{P_{diss}}{f_s}$
- Thermal limit:  $\frac{P}{f_s} \ge 4 \cdot kT \cdot SNR$



# Digital data link power



- in 90nm CMOS, more than 2,000,000 gates would need to switch to consume the energy an A/D conversion at 16b resolution
- It pays to take advantage of the availability of abundant digital resources to enhance the performance and precision of analog circuits
  - Mismatch correction
  - Nonlinearity correction
  - Correction of dynamic errors allowing the use of "mimimalistic" analog topologies



B. Murmann, "A/D Converter Trends: Power dissipation, scaling and digitally assisted architectures", IEEE 2008 CICC 7-5-1 J. Hu et al., "a 9.4bit, 50MS/s, 1.44mW pipelined ADC using dynamic residue amplification", Dig. VLSI Circuits Symposium, Jun. 2008

# Measurement of step height (CCD)

Dual-slope integrator (differential averager) is the matched filter for step waveform with white noise As long as the pixel frequency is greater than the 1/f noise corner, noise is within 5% of ideal



# CMOS peak detector



### Peak detector per channel



### Shared peak detector bank with activity detection





P. O'Connor, G. De Geronimo, A. Kandasamy, IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci. 50(4), pp. 892-897 (Aug. 2003).

# Peak- and time-detector with analog derandomization



# **SCEPTER ASIC** in MAIA Detector



# **SCEPTER** measurements



Dragone, A., De Geronimo, G., Fried, J., Kandasamy, A., O'Connor, P., Siddons, D. P., Corsi, F. (2006). Pile up rejection and multiple simultaneous events acquisition with the PDD ASIC. In Research in Microelectronics and Electronics 2006, Ph. D. (pp. 381-384). IEEE

