

New Mission Concept: Investigation of the Galactic Center with GalacticCenterExplorer (GalCenEx)

Alexander Moiseev

NASA/GSFC and University of Maryland, College Park

With thanks to Isabelle Grenier, David Thompson, Eugenio Bottacini, Igor Moskalenko, Elena Orlando, Aleksey Bolotnikov and AMEGO team for suggestions, interest and support

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**It is Prince Hamlet of
Denmark, not Alex**



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TO BE OR NOT TO BE ...

Motivation for the mission

- Several long-standing problems in high-energy astrophysics such as a fine structure of inner Galaxy in γ -rays, including Galactic Center and other heavy populated sky regions, nature of 511 keV γ -radiation are limited by angular (wanted to be a fraction of a degree and better) and energy resolution of the instrument.

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- **Angular resolution in photon energy range in 0.1-100 MeV is much complicated by competing processes of photon interaction, Compton scattering and pair production. Reconstruction of both kind of events is difficult due to several factors such as tracking of Compton electron, large multiple scattering at low energy, etc. Even if an event pattern is accurately reconstructed, angular resolution is limited by Doppler widening for Compton events or by a momentum of recoil nucleus for pair production. So, even 1 degree of angular resolution is extremely difficult to achieve in direct photon detection.**

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- Usage of Coded Aperture Mask (with its known downsides) is probably the only feasible way to provide an arcmin-level of position resolution in this energy range of photons. I wish Gerry Skinner were with us!
- **Currently being developed CZT calorimeter (to be used in AMEGO), based on the novel Frisch-grid bar CZT detectors (A. Bolotnikov et al.), represents a unique opportunity to develop a feasible instrument capable to conduct all these measurements in combination with Coded Aperture Mask. This detector provides a fraction of mm position resolution along with <1% energy resolution at 1 MeV.**

Science Objectives and Scientific Deliverables for the Mission

- Understanding of the nature of the Galactic Center and other heavily populated sky regions such as Cygnus and Carina, including a structure of 511 keV positron annihilation line, by creating the high-resolution spectral ($dE/E < 1\%$) and intensity (angular resolution $< 10'$) map of the surrounding regions for the photon energy 0.1 – 10 MeV

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- **Precise localization and measurement of the spectrum for GRB (including that associated with GW events); measurement of polarization for the bright bursts**

Instrument design constrains:

- High sensitivity
- High angular resolution

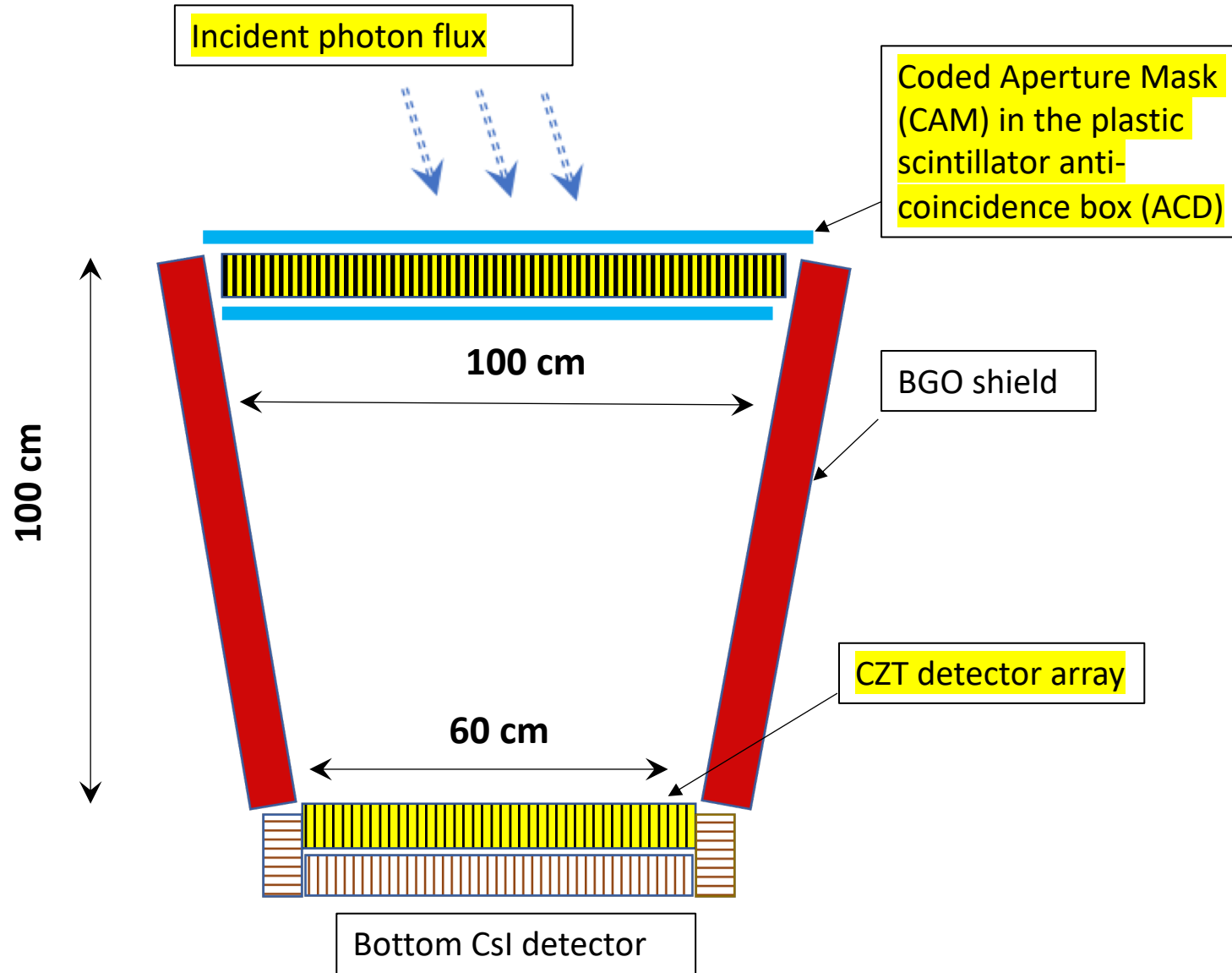
Source sensitivity

$$I_{src} = \frac{1}{A \times T} \times \left[\frac{n_{\sigma}^2}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{n_{\sigma}^4}{4} + \frac{n_{\sigma}^2 \times B_{bckg} \times A \times T \times \Delta\Omega}{E}} \right]$$

We will be designing the instrument with:

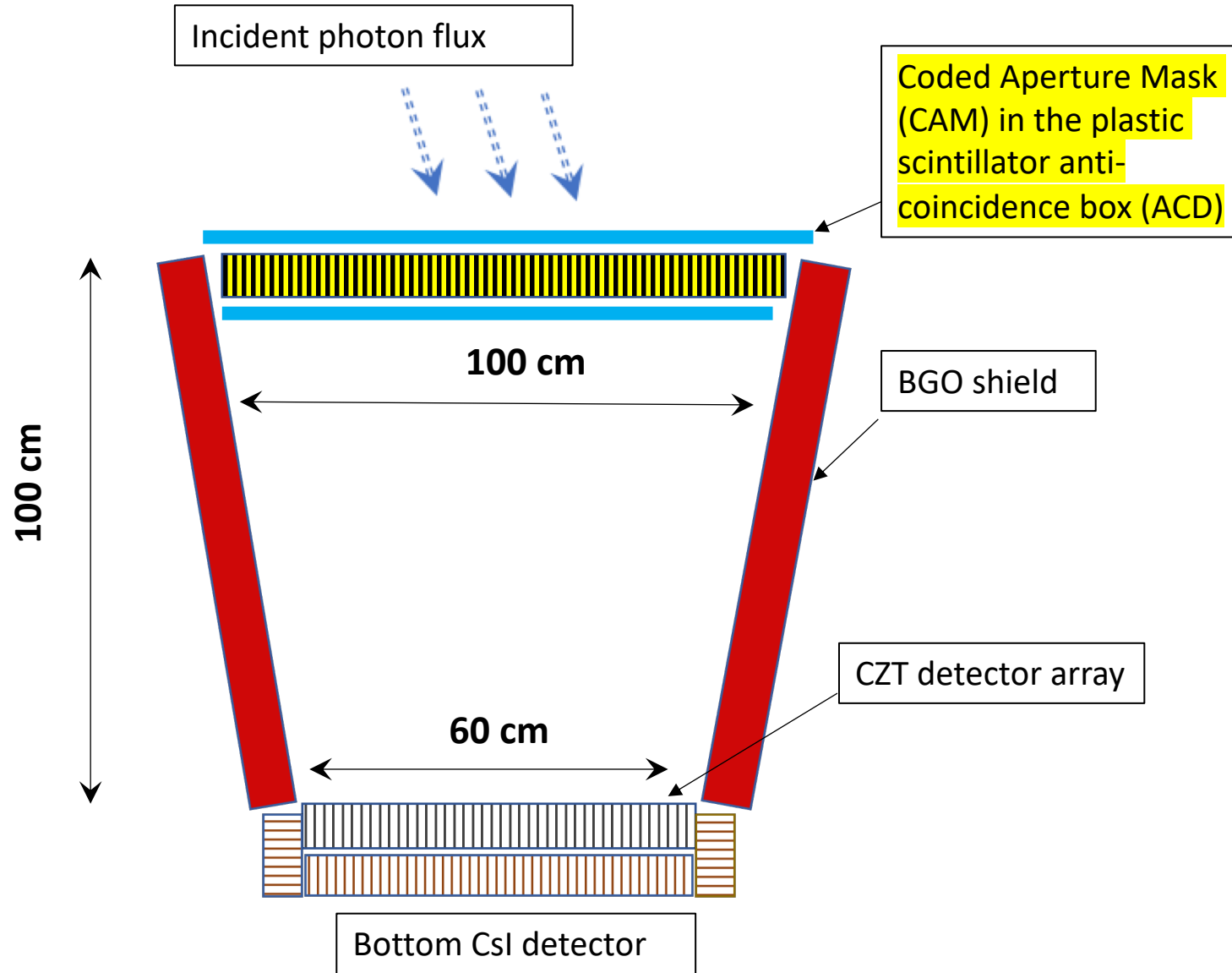
- assessing and minimizing the effect of all known backgrounds → to increase a sensitivity
- Improving angular resolution → to increase a sensitivity and to provide source localization and resolution

GalCenEx: Baseline Instrument Concept



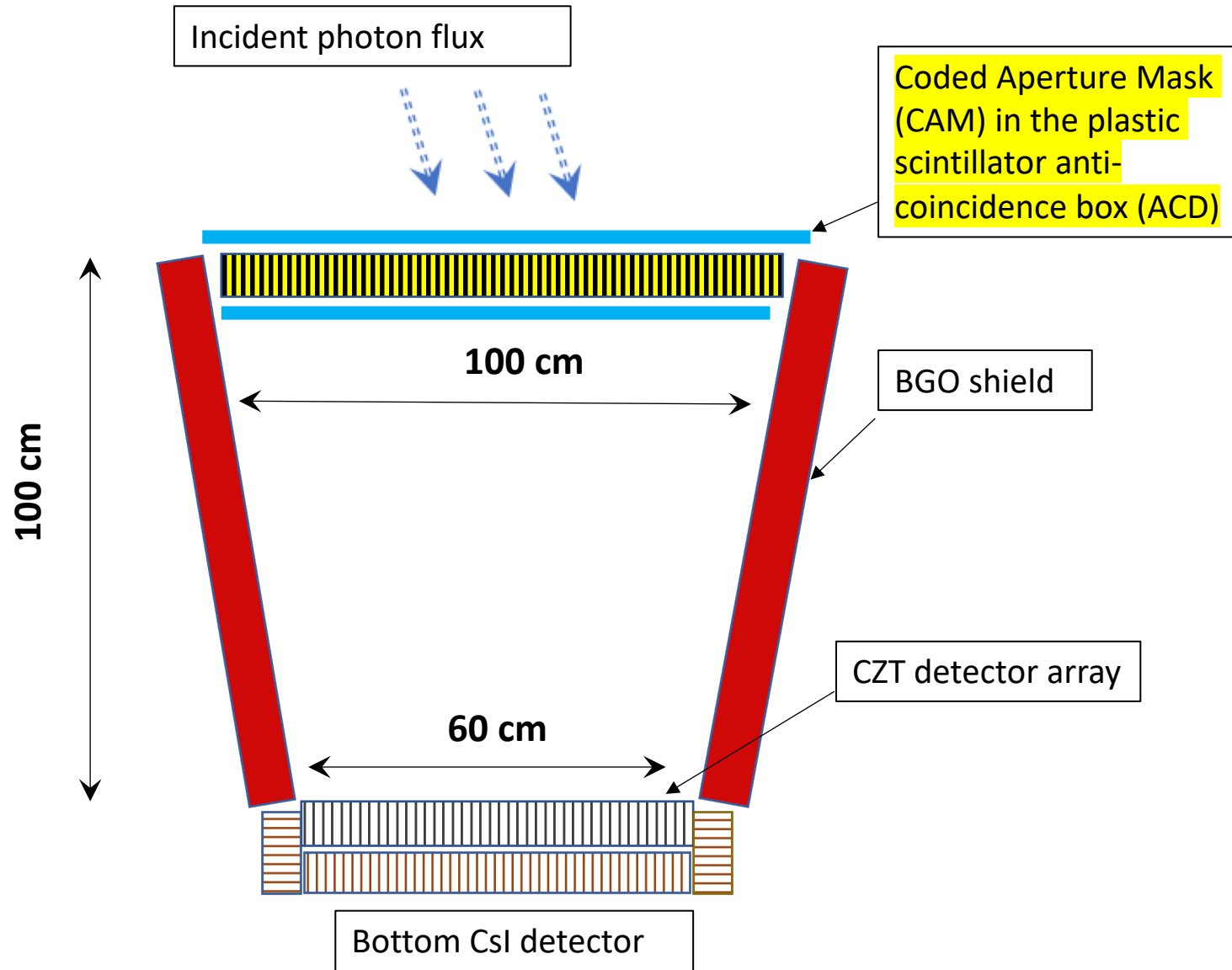
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- Incident photon flux is modulated while passing through the CAM and creates an image on the CdZnTe detector plane. The image is then reconstructed

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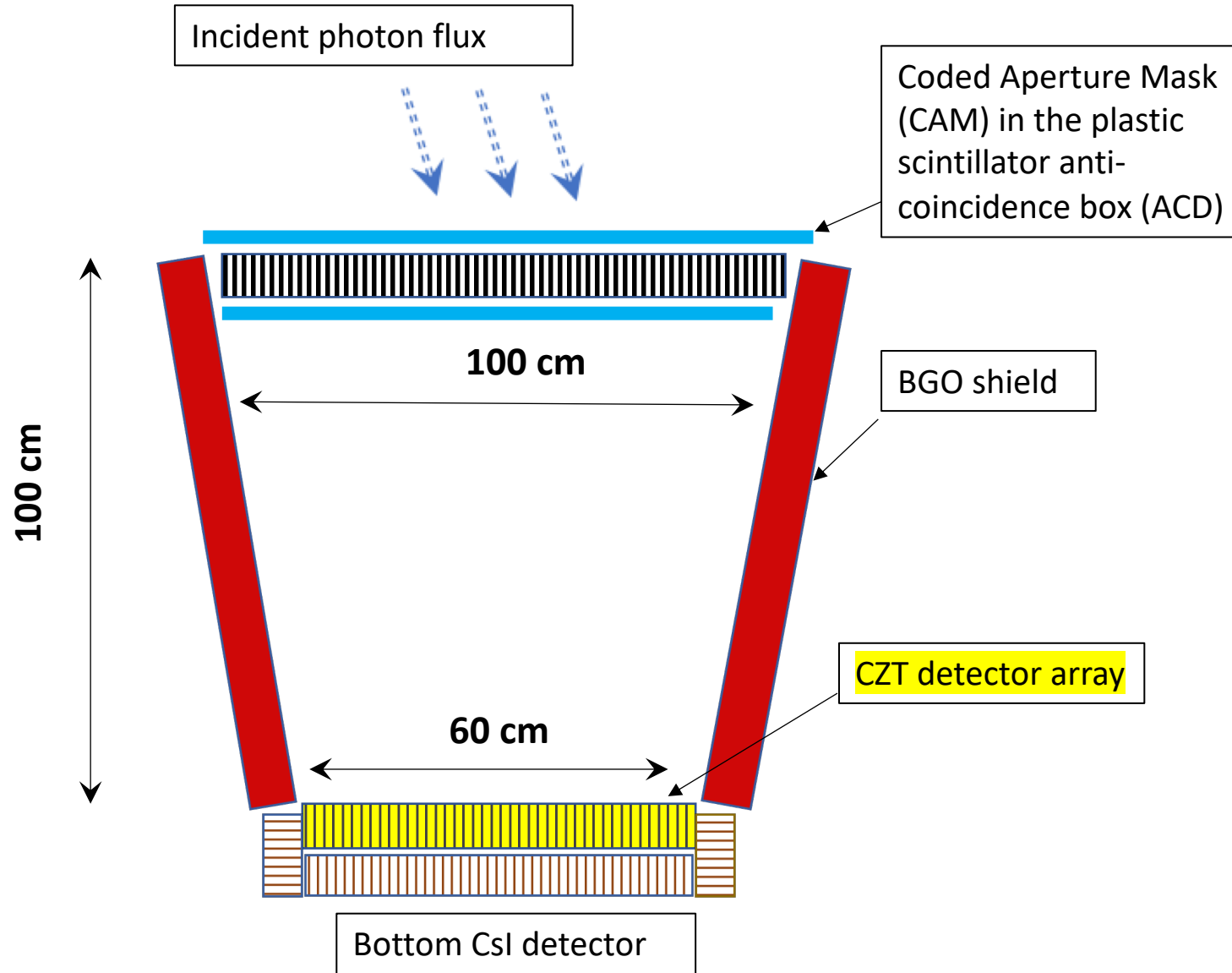
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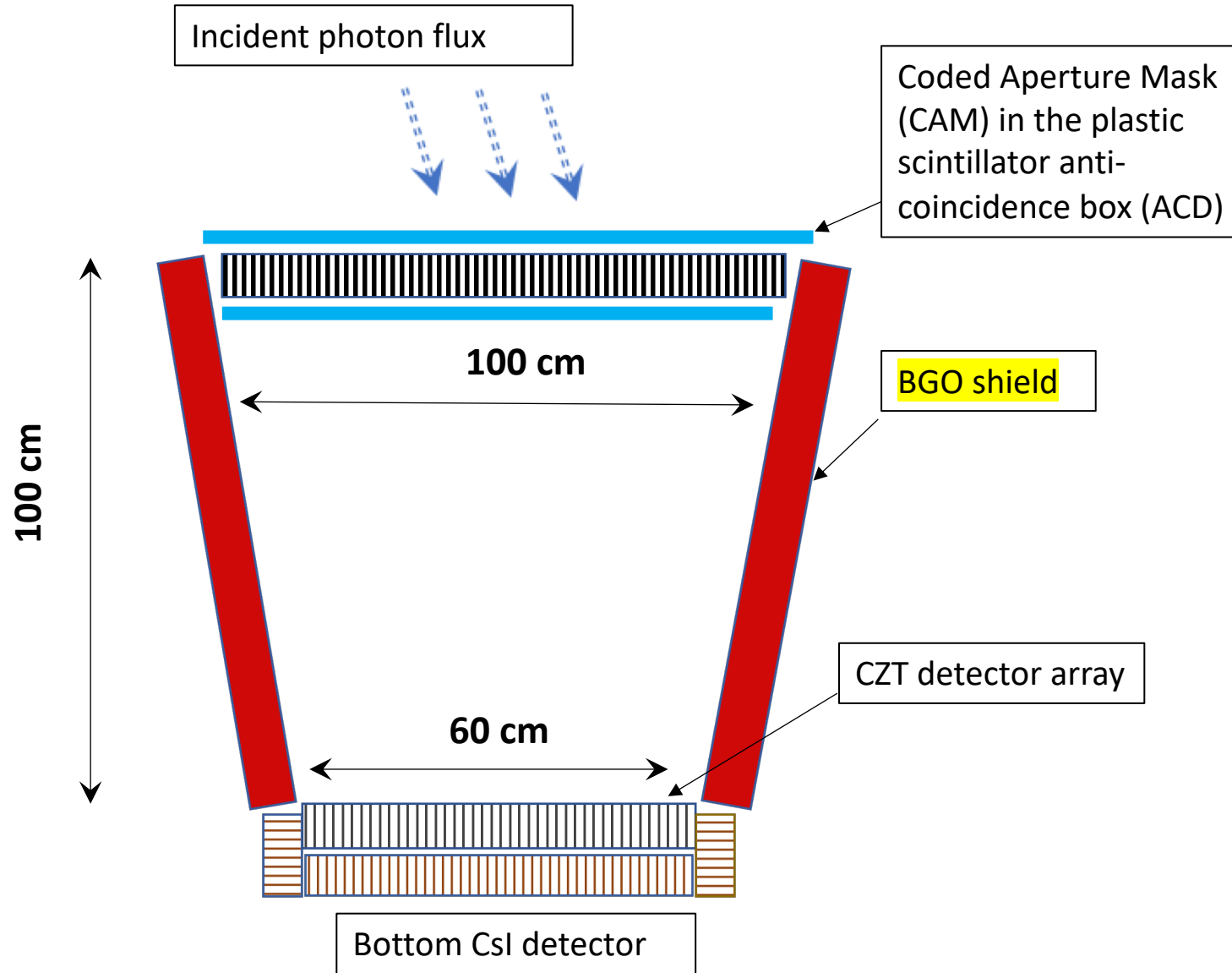
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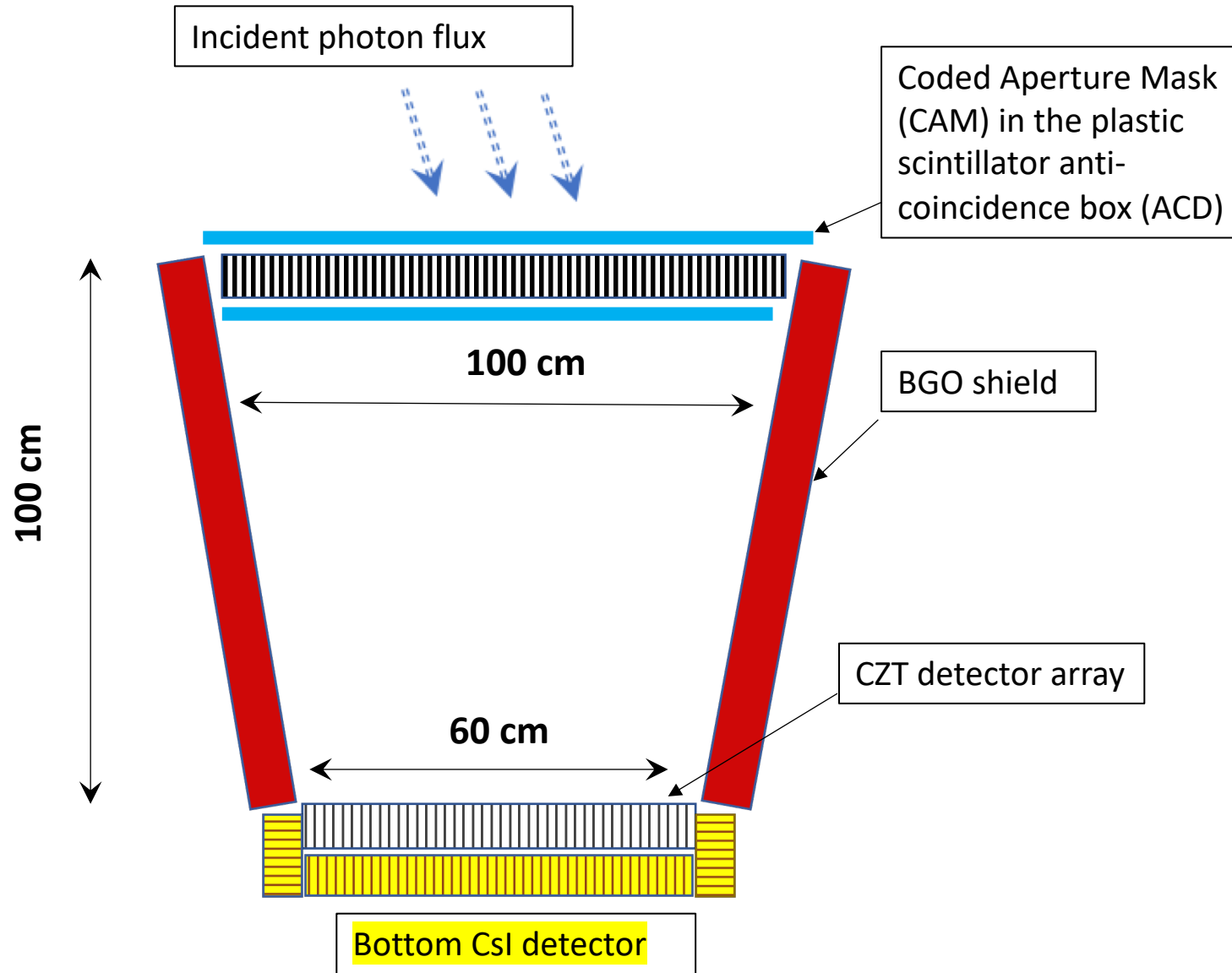
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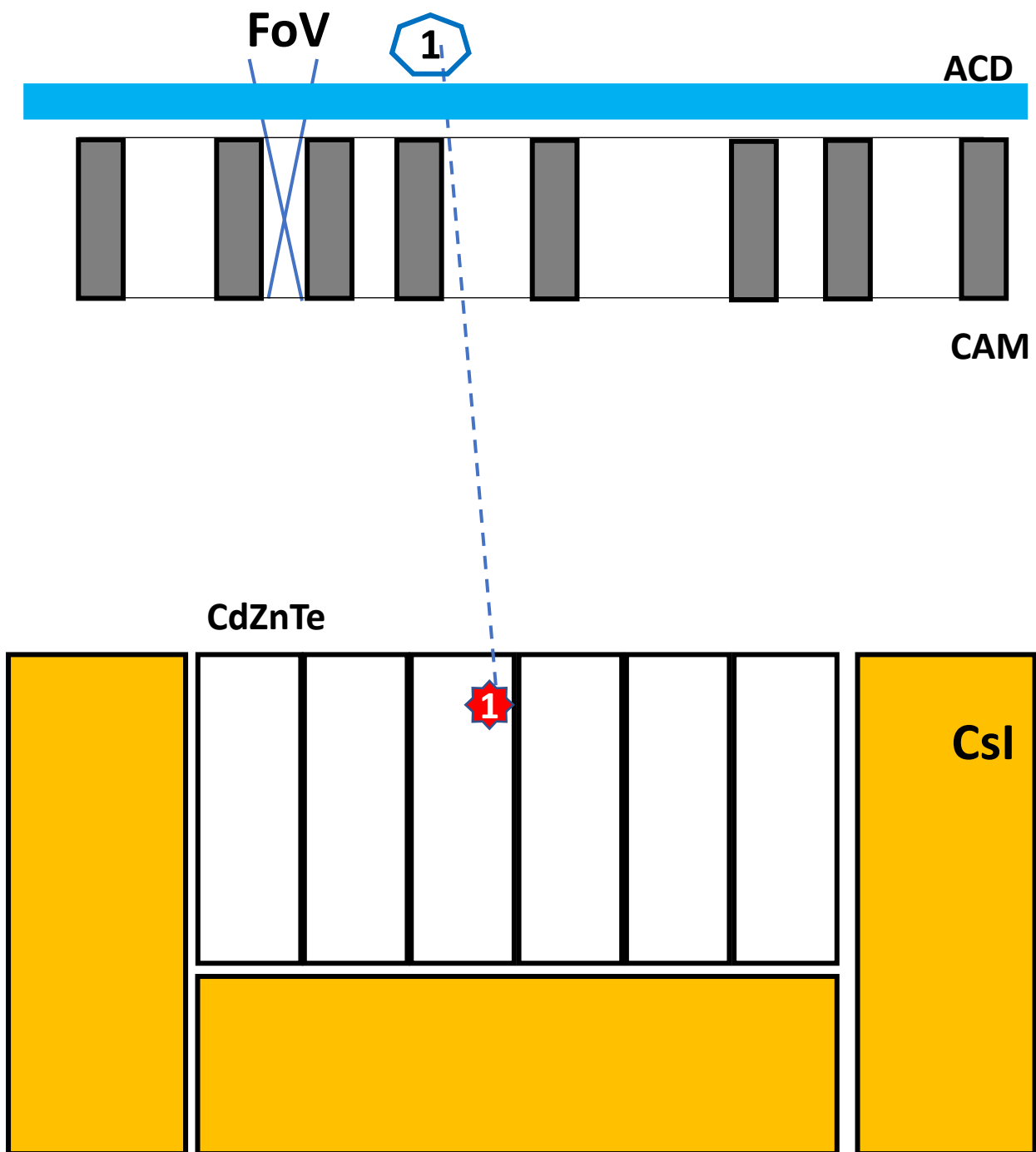


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- **BGO shield a) provides absorption of side-entering photons and b) defines the FoV**




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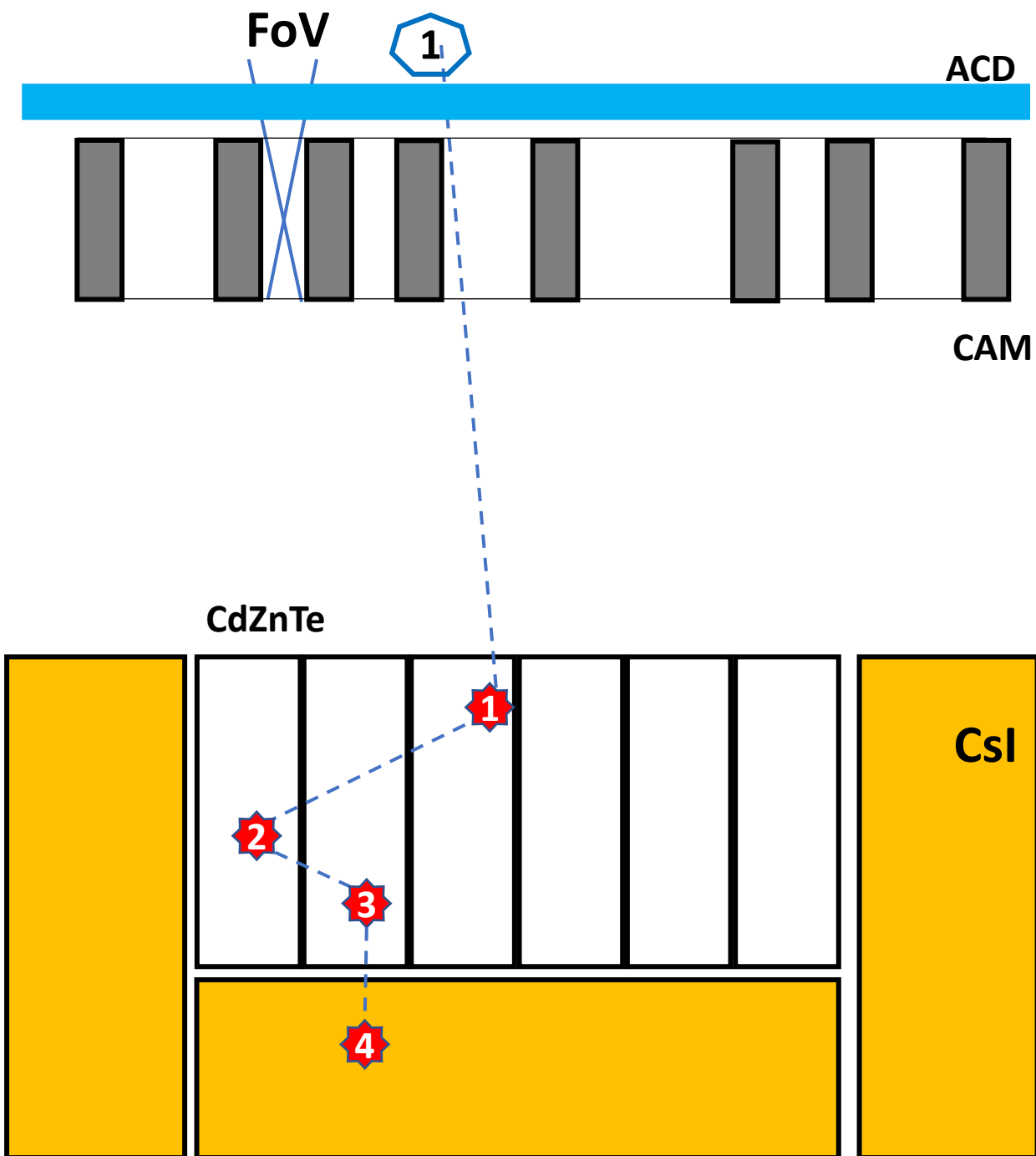


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- **Bottom 5-cm thick pixelated CsI detector a) absorbs albedo photons, b) increases instrument sensitivity by adding additional detecting media with position resolution**








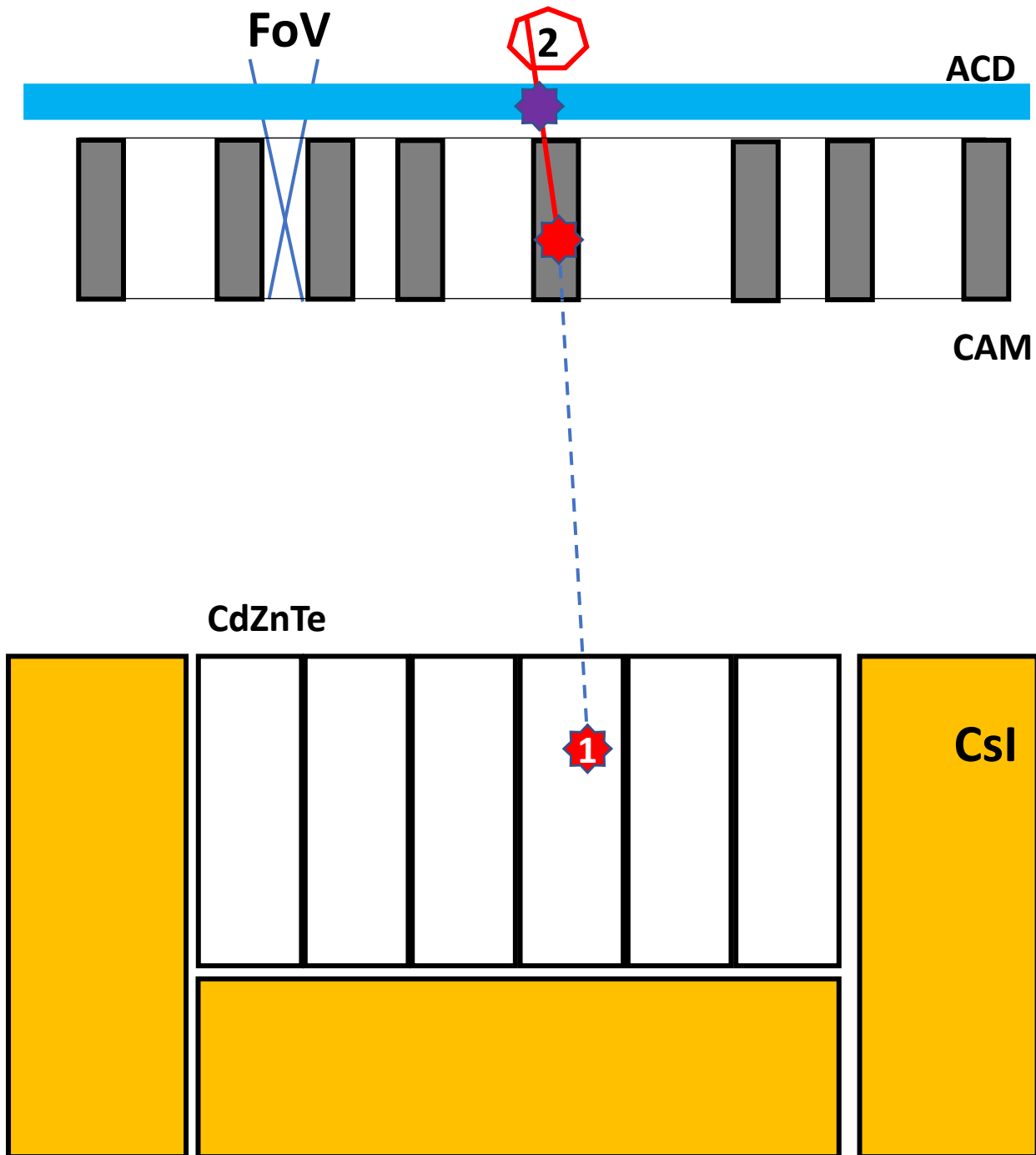
Principle of operation (dual mode)

-  - interaction with energy deposition
-  - good photon detected in aperture
-  - event to be used in **Mask mode**



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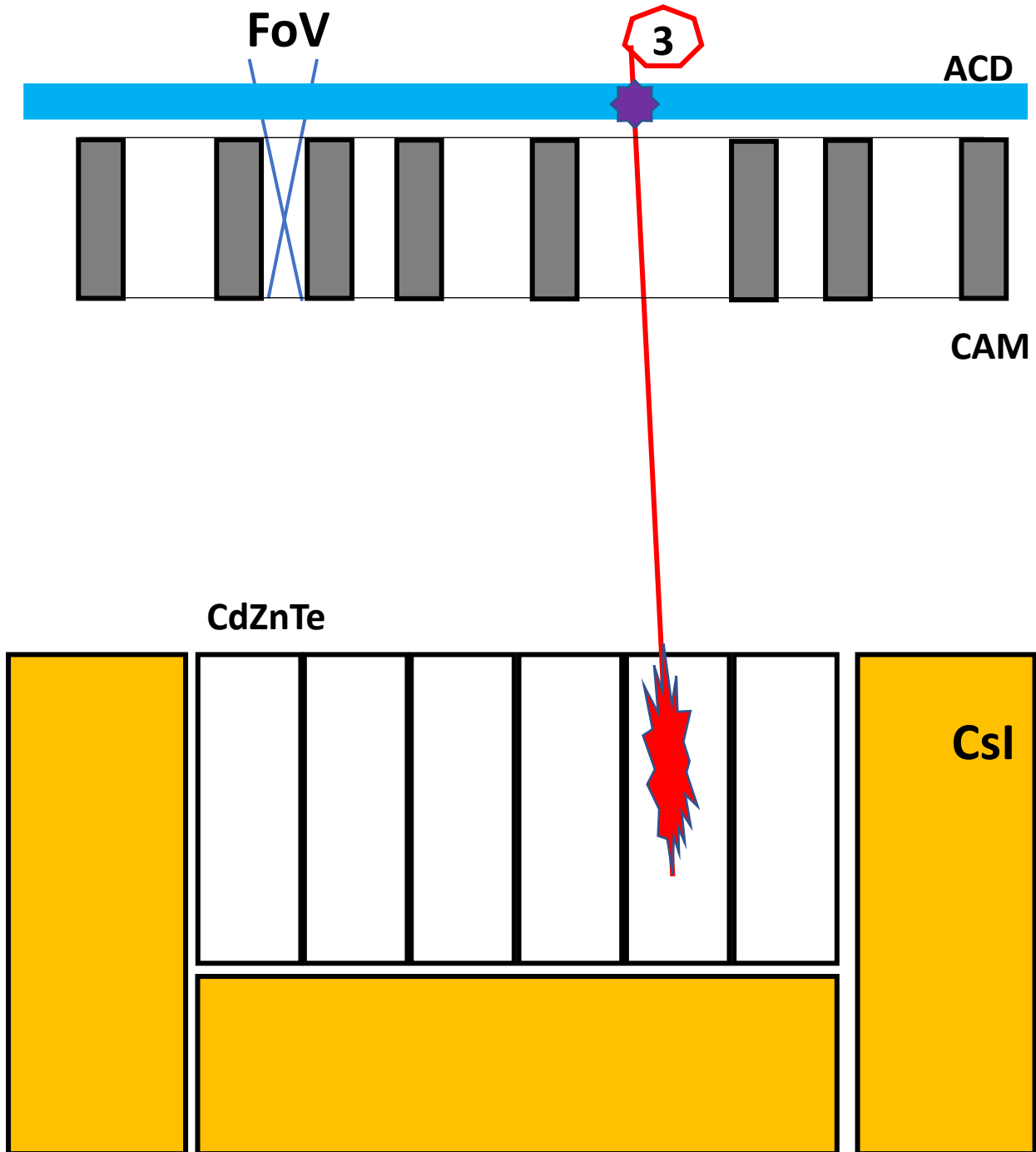
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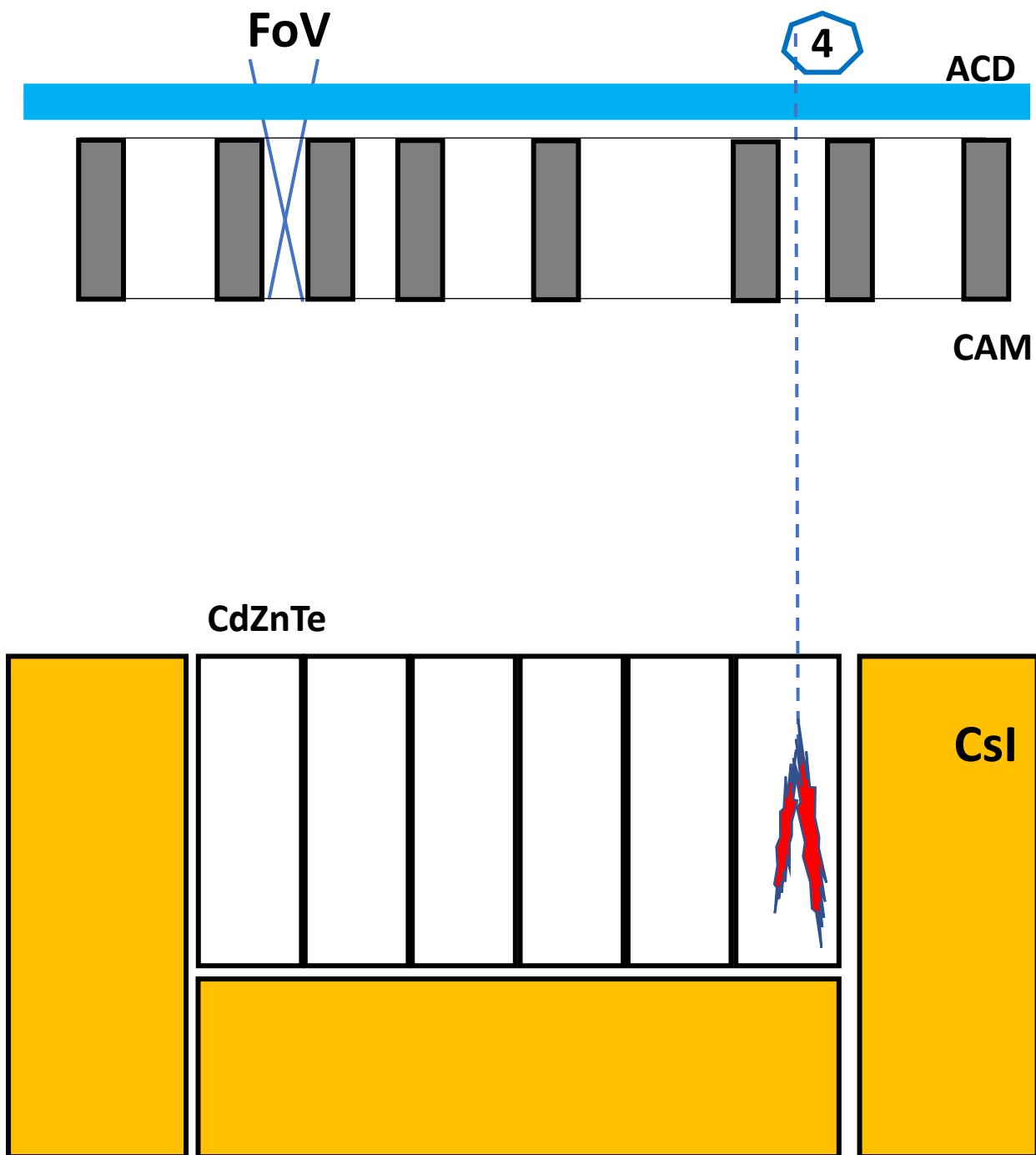
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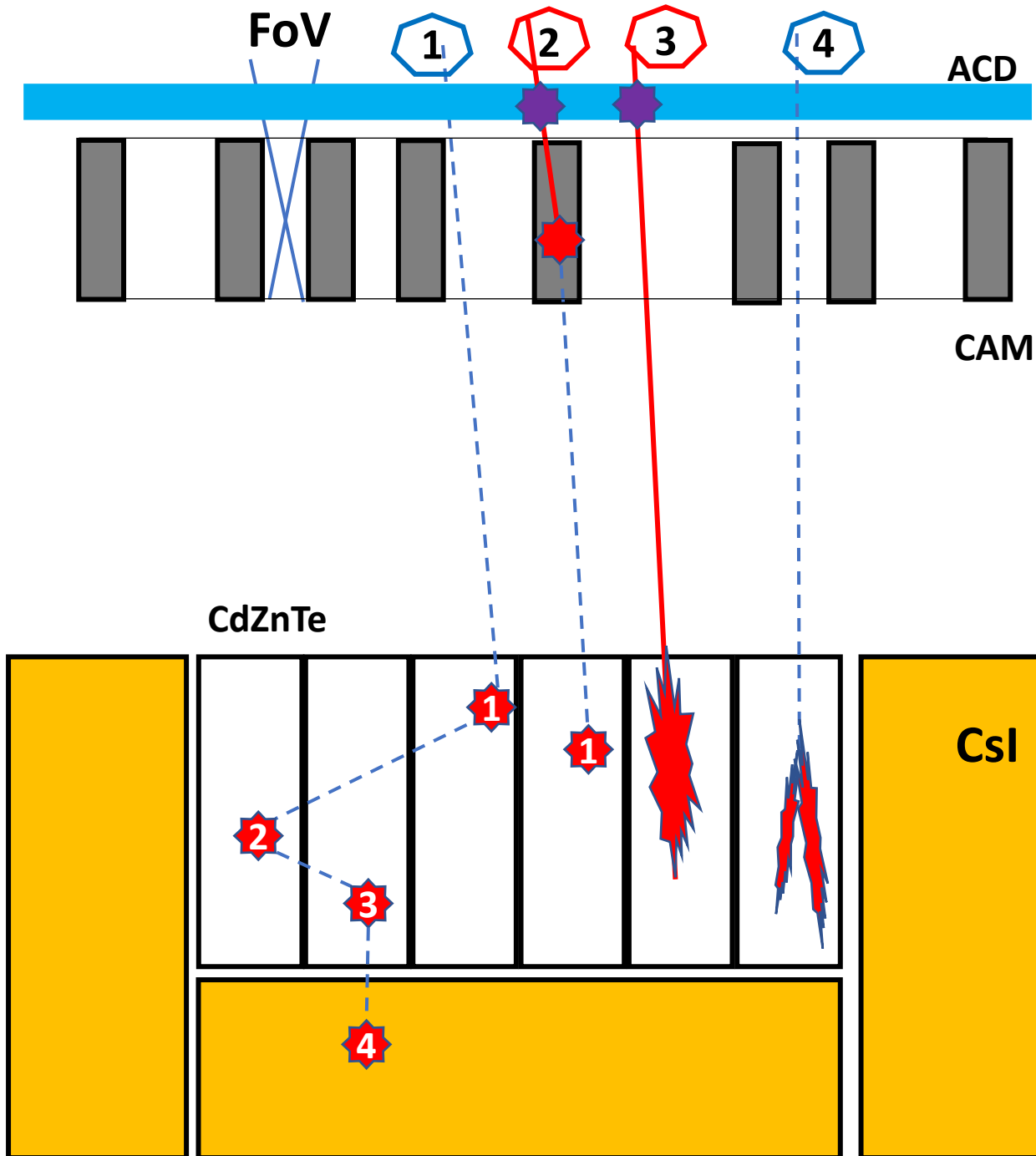
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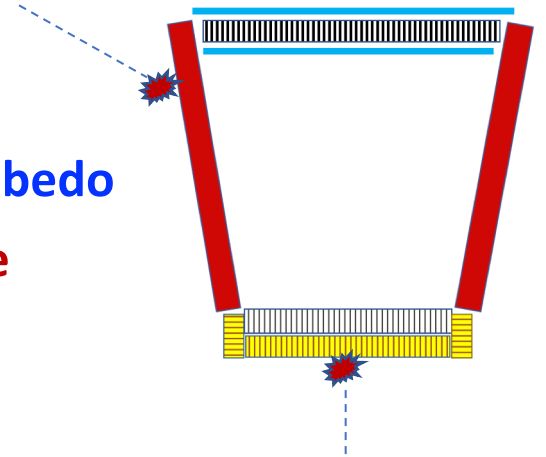
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Design approach to fight backgrounds

Known backgrounds and their suppression:

1. External gamma- radiation, both astrophysical (diffuse, sources) and Earth albedo

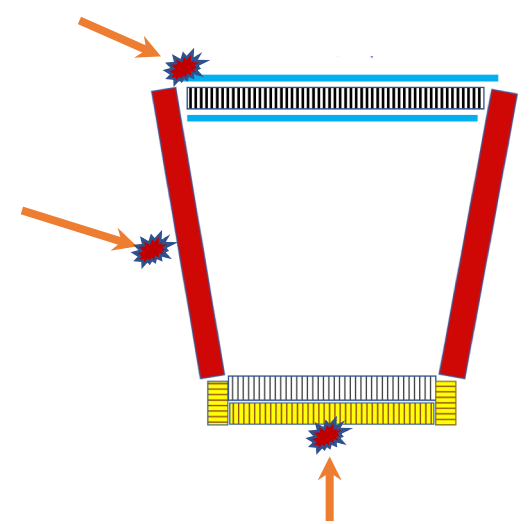
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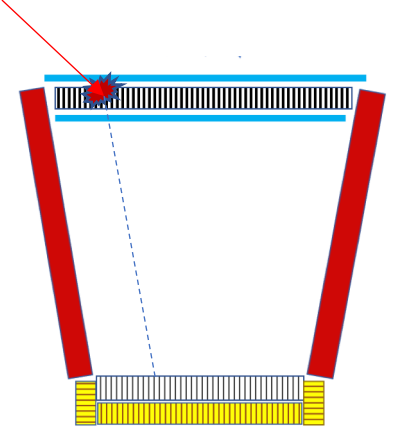
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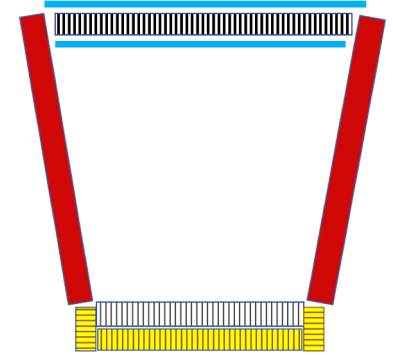
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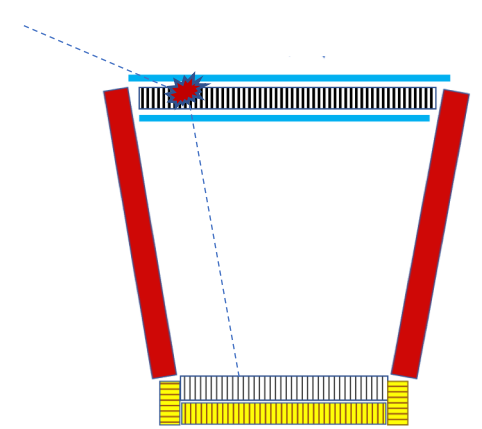
- **Use of equatorial LEO to reduce activation in SAA**
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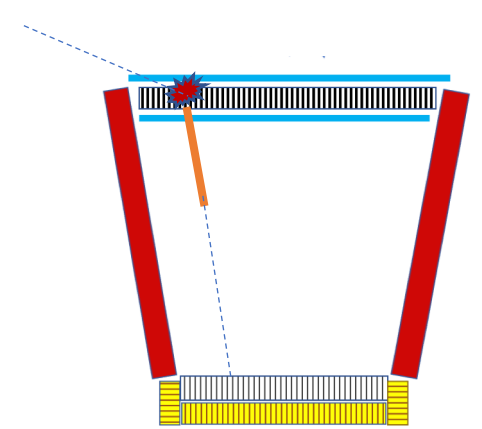
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6. **Charged particles (electrons and positrons) resulting from pair-production by primary photons in the Mask – TBD if they are bad**
 - **ACD under the Mask**

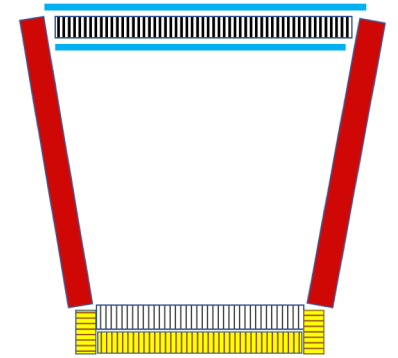


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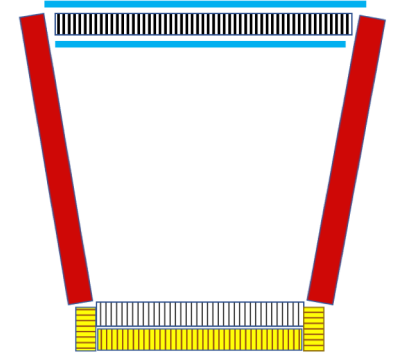
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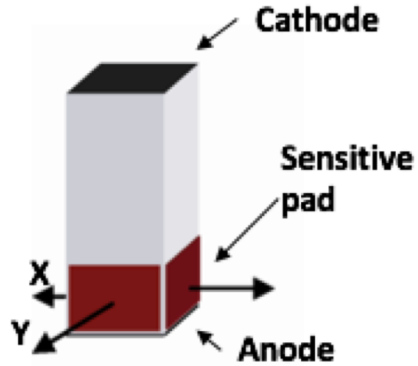
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8. Background due to misreconstructed Compton events

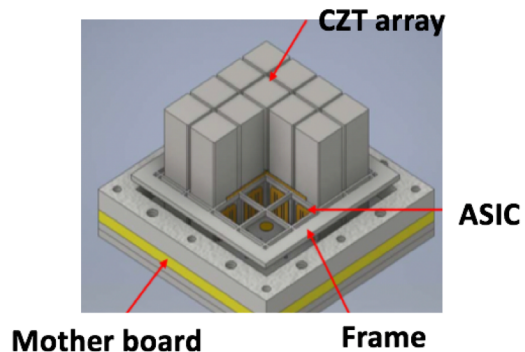
- **Optimize the analysis, improve detectors performance (energy and position resolution)**



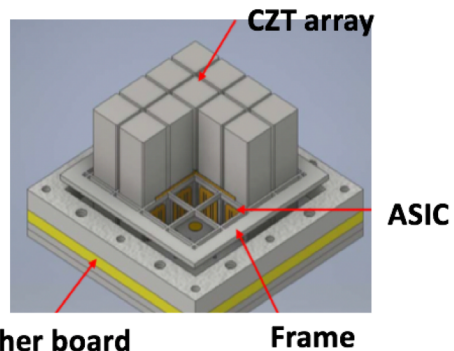
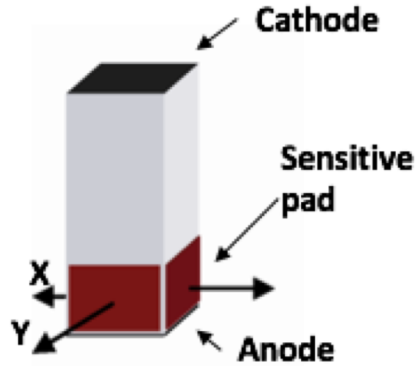
Virtual Frisch-grid bar CdZnTe Detector: a key detector, **it ignited the project!**



- CdZnTe bar is cut from 6-8 mm thick wafer with a length of 2-3 cm, can be up to 5cm
- 4 virtually-grounded copper pads are placed near anode to shield it, working as a Frisch-grid. Induced signals from them are converted into X-Y coordinates of the energy deposition in the detector. A Cathode/Anode signal ratio, along with drift time, provide Z coordinate
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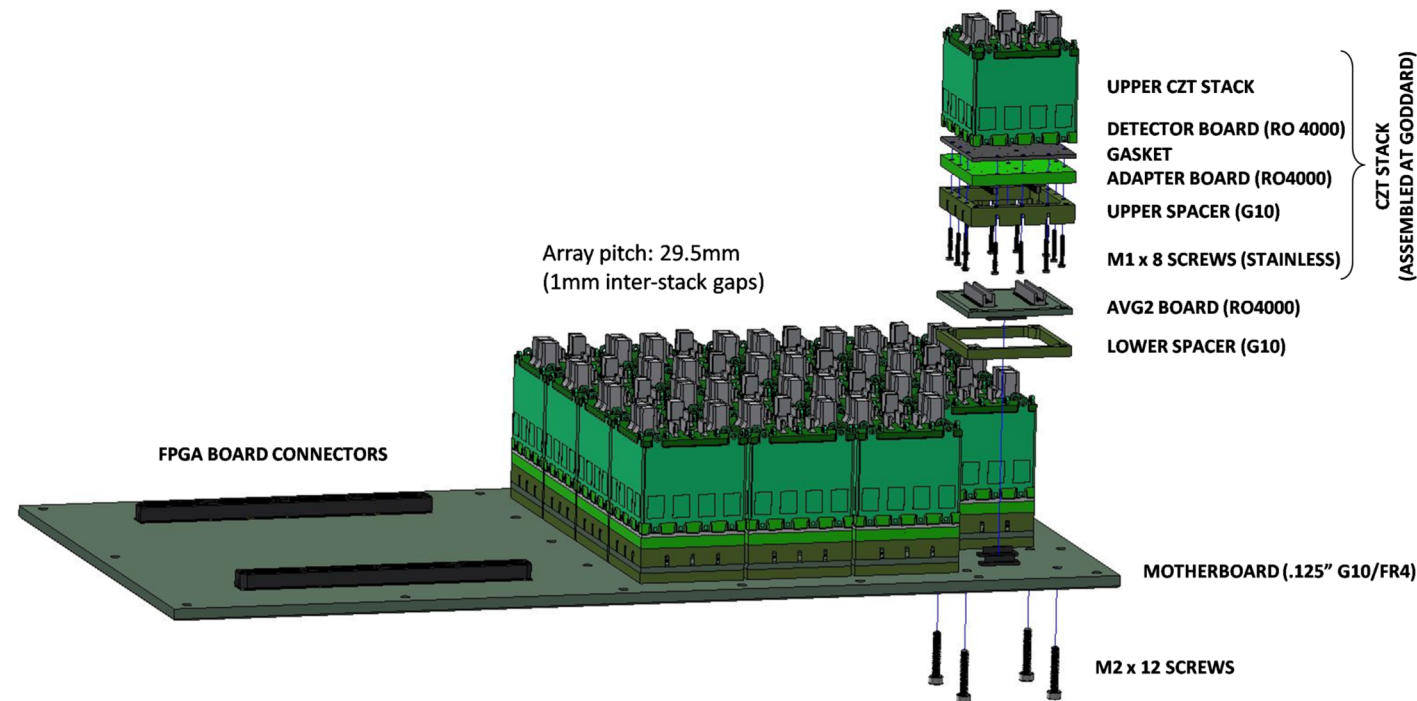
FEATURES:

- Placing a bar (bar array) vertically, up to 5 cm thick detector can be built
- Ability to correct response non-uniformity caused by crystal defects, which allows to use unselected (standard grade) crystals to reduce a cost and improve performance
- **3D position intrinsic resolution of <1mm**: huge saving in a number of FEE channels

- Performance of the virtual Frisch-grid CdZnTe detector has been published in several papers by A.Bolotnikov et al.: $dE/E < 1\%$ at 1 MeV (FWHM)
- **It ideally suites our needs, but have to be re-designed and tested for space applications**

Currently the CZT calorimeter containing **16 modules** is being built at Goddard for the AMEGO/ComPair project to undergo comprehensive tests at the beam (2019), balloon flight (2020), as well as environmental tests

AS OF 12/10/18



Instrument parameters and performance

	IBIS	COSI	AMEGO	GalCenEx
Detector	Coded Aperture Mask 4x4x2 mm ³ CdTe 8.5x8.5x30 mm ³ CsI	3 layers of 8x8x1.5cm ³ Ge	60 layers of 0.5mm thick Si-strip DSD 8x8x30mm ³ CdZnTe bars	Coded Aperture Mask 8x8x30mm ³ CdZnTe bars
Detector area	3,000 cm ² CdTe, CsI	256 cm ² , Ge	6,400 cm ² Si-strip, CdZnTe	3,600 cm ² CdZnTe
Detector thickness, g/cm ²	14.6 (1.7 X ₀)	23.4 (1.9 X ₀)	7 (0.32 X ₀) (only Si)	17.5 (1.9 X ₀)
Energy range	15 keV – 10 MeV	0.2 – 5 MeV	0.2MeV – 10 GeV	0.1 – 100 MeV (TBC)
Effective Area, cm ² (at 1 MeV)		~20 cm ²	~200 cm ²	~200 cm ² (Compton mode) ~1000 cm ² (Mask mode)
Field-of-View, sr	0.02 (8°) ?		2.4	0.1 (20°)
dE/E, FWHM	6%	0.4%	1%	1%
Angular resolution, FWHM	12' (with Mask)	4.5°	4.5°	10' (with Mask) 4.5° (Compton mode)

SUMMARY

1. Main science objectives have been identified, detailed work continues
2. Baseline instrument concept is developed, main detectors are identified
3. Much of work needs to be done on the instrument design optimization and individual subsystem development
 - Performance of CdZnTe detector at high energy (above 3 MeV) has to be investigated. Its ability to detect pair events and position accuracy will define the upper energy limit for GalCenEx
 - Compton event reconstruction and polarization measurement optimization have to be developed
 - Coded Aperture mask has to be optimized: Active or not? Rotating mask? Anti-mask?
 - Ability to measure “diffuse” radiation: remove CAM’s sources from “Compton” FoV?
 - Careful investigation of all known backgrounds and the tools to suppress them
 - Etc, etc
4. We are proposing to NASA to design, build and test a small prototype of GalCenEx to develop the subsystems and optimize the design
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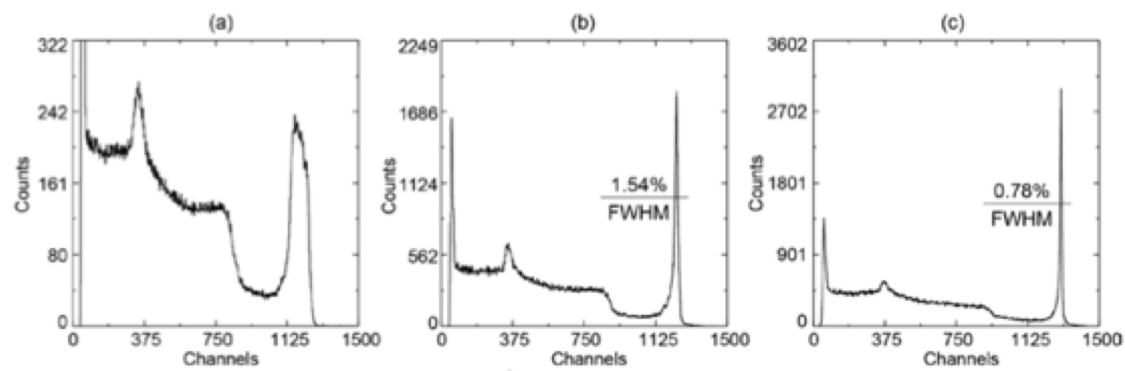
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THANK YOU!

BACK-UPS

Performance of the virtual Frisch-grid bar detector

Energy measurement: 3D correction



Raw spectrum

After 1D (DOI)
correction

After 3D
correction

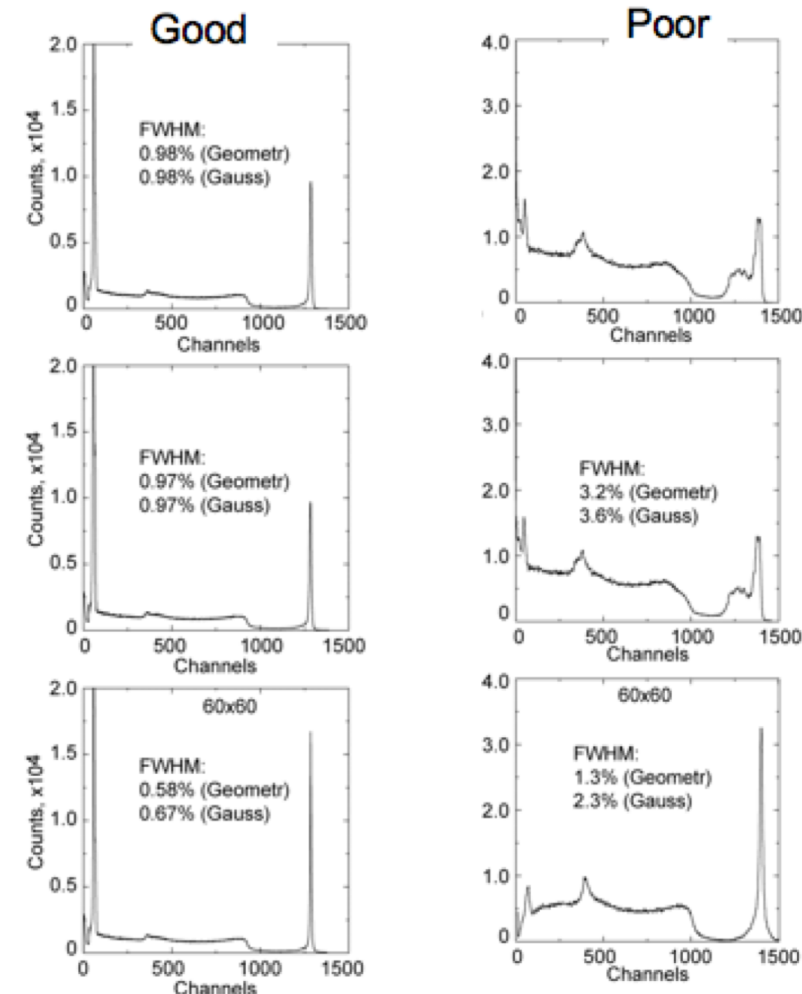
- Energy resolution (662 keV): improves from ~3% to ~0.8% (all FWHM) with the use of 3D correction
- Poor quality detector performance can be recovered

Recovery of poor quality detectors

Raw
spectrum

After drift-time
correction

After segmenting
the detectors into
60x60x30 voxels

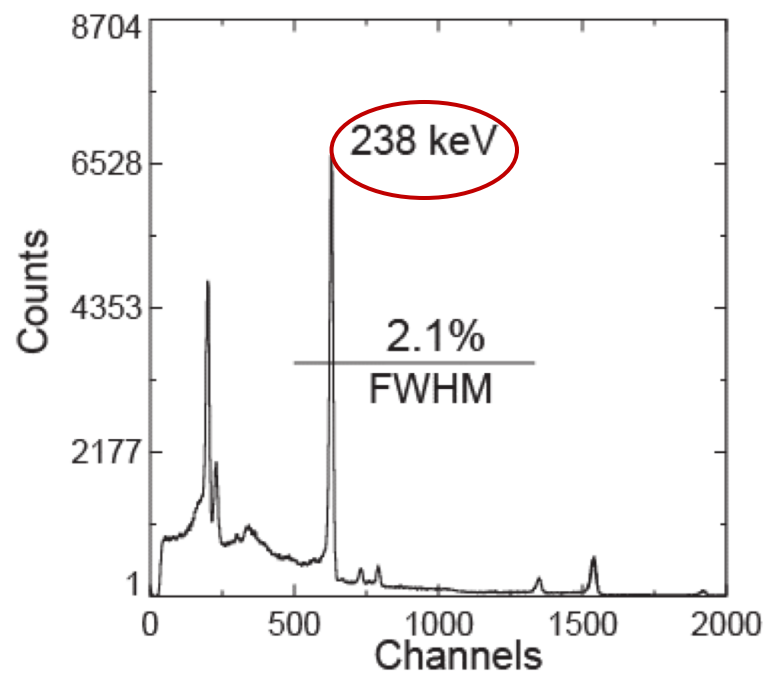


Measurements by A.

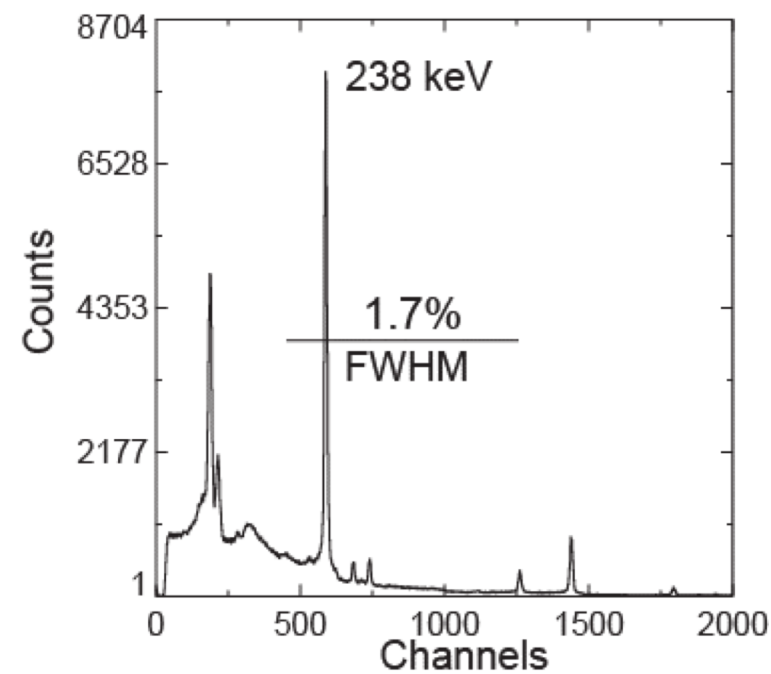
Moiseev INTEGRAL AHEAD, Geneva 2019
Bolotnikov (BNL)

U-232

No corrections

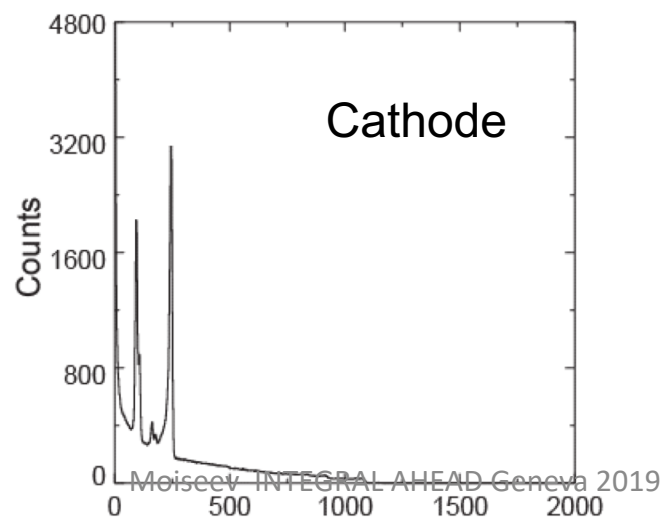
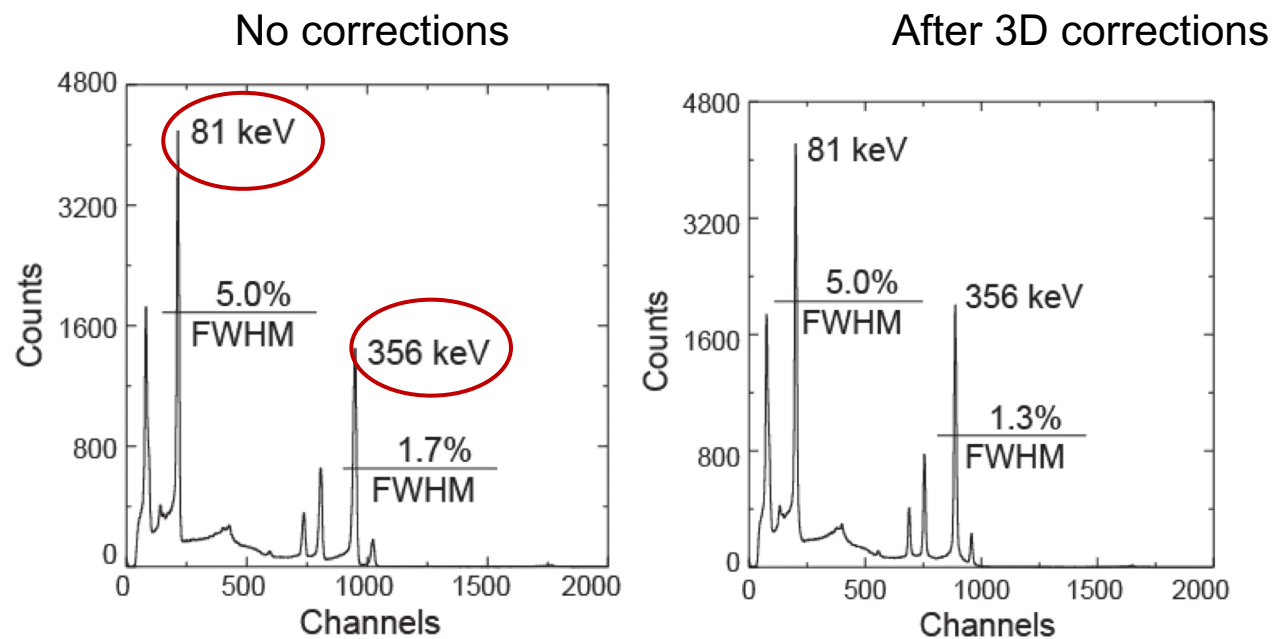


After 3D corrections



**Measurements by A.
Bolotnikov (BNL)**

Ba-133

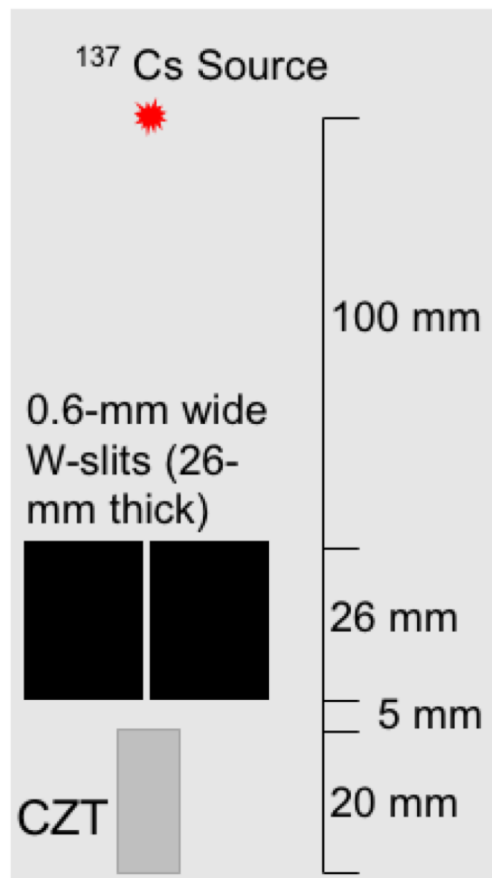


Measurements by A.
Bolotnikov (BNL)

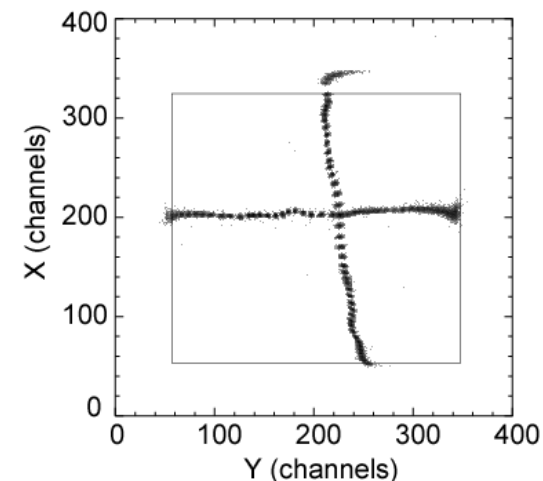
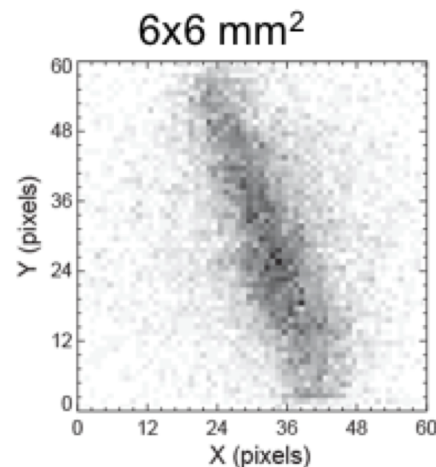
Position resolution

Measurement approach: Monte Carlo simulation of the exact experiment configuration (with a collimator) and apply and vary the detector intrinsic resolution in MC to find the best match to the experimental data

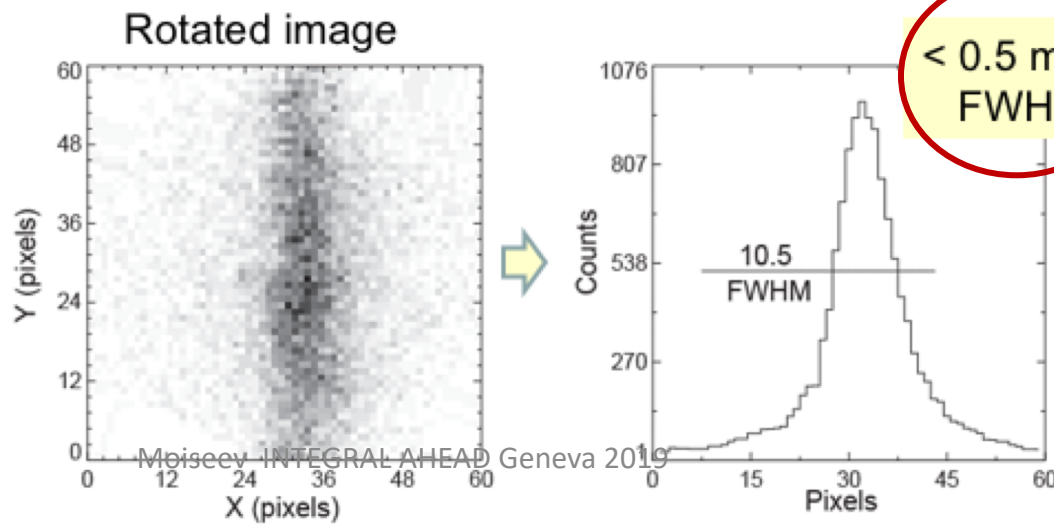
Geometry of the experiment



- Events distributions over a detector area (XY)
- All events within a detector length are included

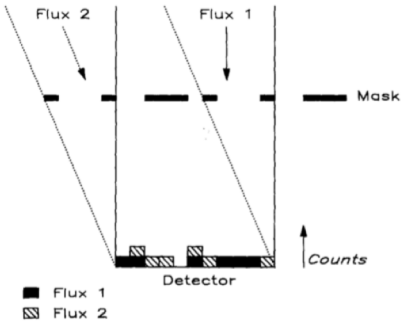


Illumination by 500 keV laser beam: beam diameter 20 μm , step pitch 0.1mm



Measurements by A. Bolotnikov (BNL)

Coded Aperture Mask



E. Caroli et al., 1987

CAM modulates incident photon flux and creates its shadow (image) on the detector

- System opening angle (or field-of-view) is $\sim a/h$ and normally is of the order of 20 degrees (a is a mask element size, h is its thickness)
- Anti-coincidence detector vetoes photons which are created in the mask opaque elements by incident cosmic ray

- Mask is a combination of randomly positioned opaque and transparent elements with size of a and thickness h . Mask is placed on a distance l from the Detector
- Angular resolution of the system can be estimated as a/l . If $a=2\text{mm}$ and $l=1\text{m}$, $\Delta\varphi \sim 0.1$ degree
- Mask element size a has to be 2-3 times smaller than the position resolution of the detector

CAM Concept for GalCenEx

- Mask size 100cm x 100cm, and it is spaced by 100 cm from the CZT Detector
- Mask element size 2mm x 2mm, opaque elements are made of 1cm thick W (FOW ~ 20 degrees), assuming the CZT position resolution of 0.5-1 mm
- Mask is boxed in ACD, which made of 1cm thick plastic scintillator, read out by SiPM's, and supported by the honey-comb structure

