

EPI-Hi Sensor System

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Outline

- Measurement Requirements
- Sensor System Overview
- Low-Energy Telescopes
- High-Energy Telescope
- Solid State Detectors
- Species and Energy Coverage and Energy Binning
- Element Resolution
- Helium Isotope Identification
- Electron Identification
- Fields of View
- Angular Sectoring
- Measurement Cadences
- Dynamic Range in Particle Intensities
- Redunancies: Design for Graceful Degradation
- Additional Capabilities: Bonus Science Opportunities
- Peer Review Results
- Summary

EPI-Hi Measurement Requirements

Protons and Heavy Ions

- energy range: 1 MeV/nuc (TBR) to ≥ 50 MeV/nuc
- energy binning: ≥ 6 bins per decade
- cadence: at least energy bin with time resolution of 5 s or better
- FoV: $\geq \pi/2$ sr in sunward and anti-sunward hemispheres (incl. 10° from S/C-Sun line)
- angular sectoring: $\leq 30^\circ$ sector width
- composition: at least H, He, C, O, Ne, Mg, Si, Fe, ^3He
- species resolution: $\text{FWHM} \leq 0.5$ (TBR) $\times$ separation from nearest abundant neighbor
- max intensity: up to 10% (TBR) of upper limit proton spectrum from EDTRD

Electrons

- energy range: 0.5 MeV (TBR) to ≥ 3 MeV
- energy binning: ≥ 6 bins per decade
- cadence: at least energy bin with time resolution of 1 s or better
- FoV: $\geq \pi/2$ sr in sunward and anti-sunward hemispheres (incl. 10° from S/C-Sun line)
- angular sectoring: $\leq 45^\circ$ sector width
- max intensity: up to 10% (TBR) of upper limit electron spectrum from EDTRD*

*Note: upper limit electron spectrum not yet specified in EDTRD

EPI-Hi Sensor System Overview (1/2)

Sensor Approach:

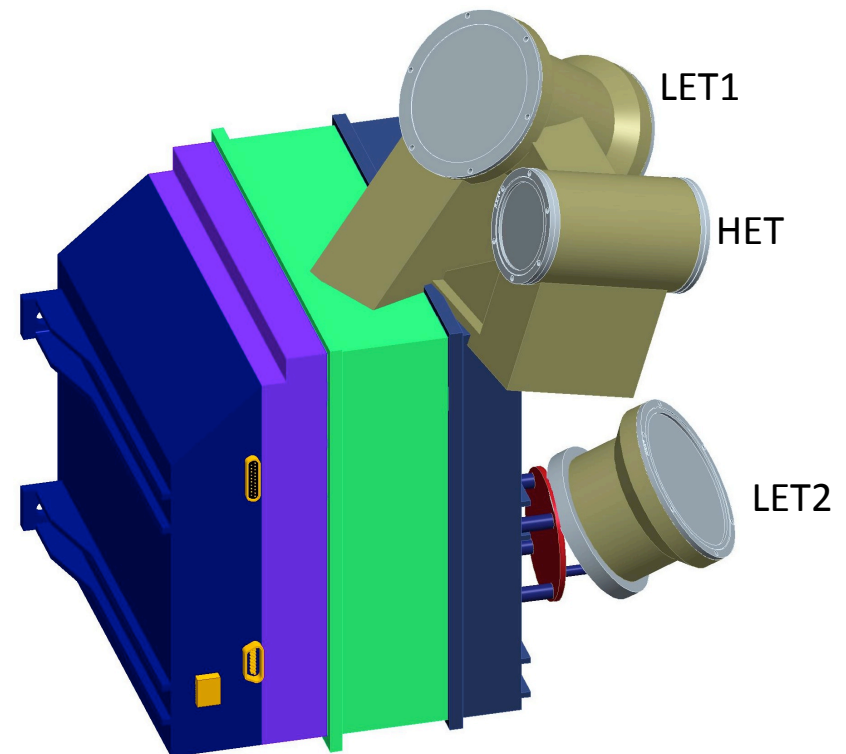
- all sensor elements are silicon solid state detectors
- multiple detector telescopes to provide large energy range and sky coverage
- some telescopes double ended to increase sky coverage
- detector segmentation to provide angular sectoring and adjustable geometrical factor

Heritage:

- numerous energetic particle instruments over the past 40 years
- direct predecessor: STEREO/LET & HET

Key Differences:

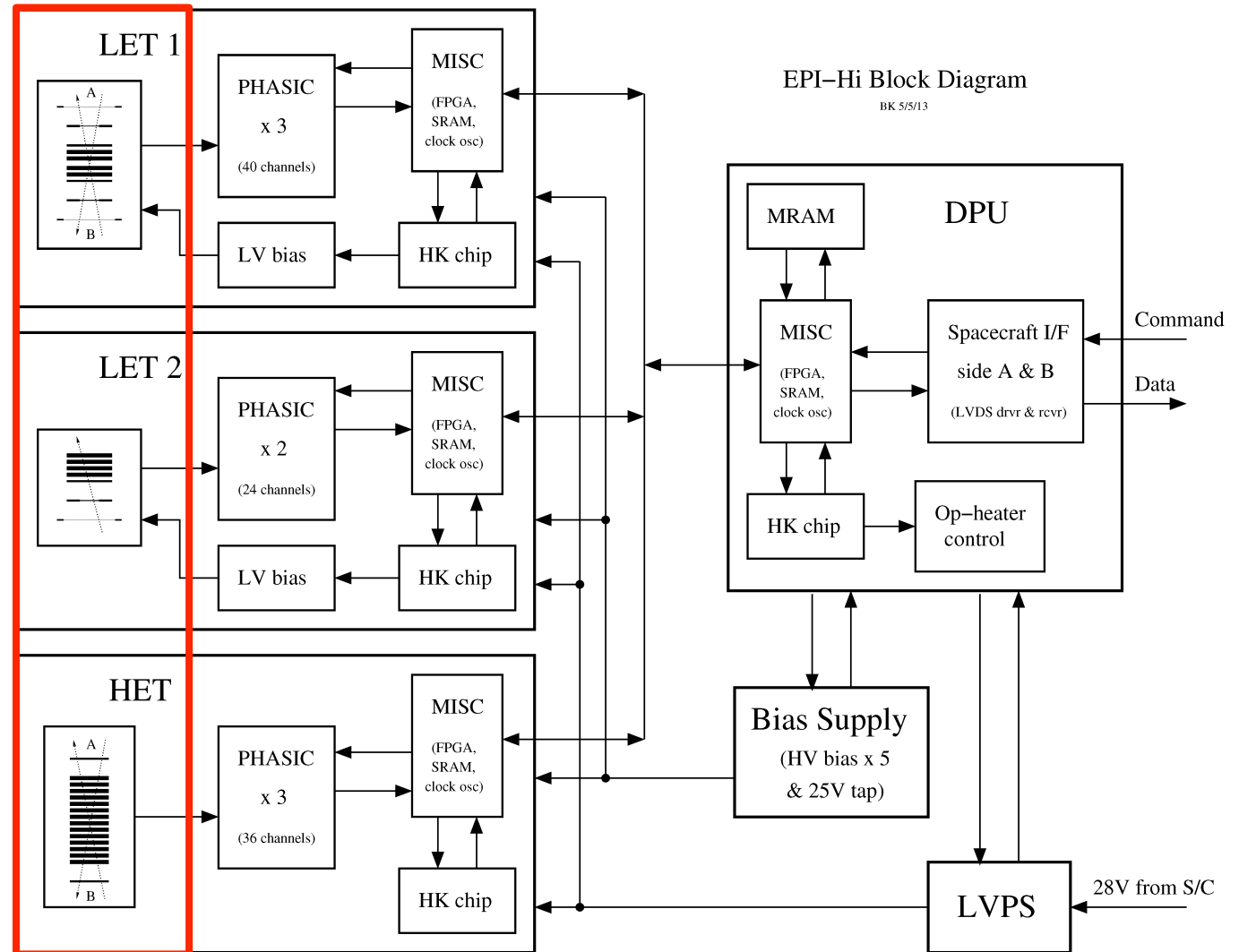
- thinner detectors and windows to reduce energy threshold
- compact telescope designs to reduce saturation at high particle intensities and backgrounds at low intensities



EPI-Hi Sensor System Overview (2/2)

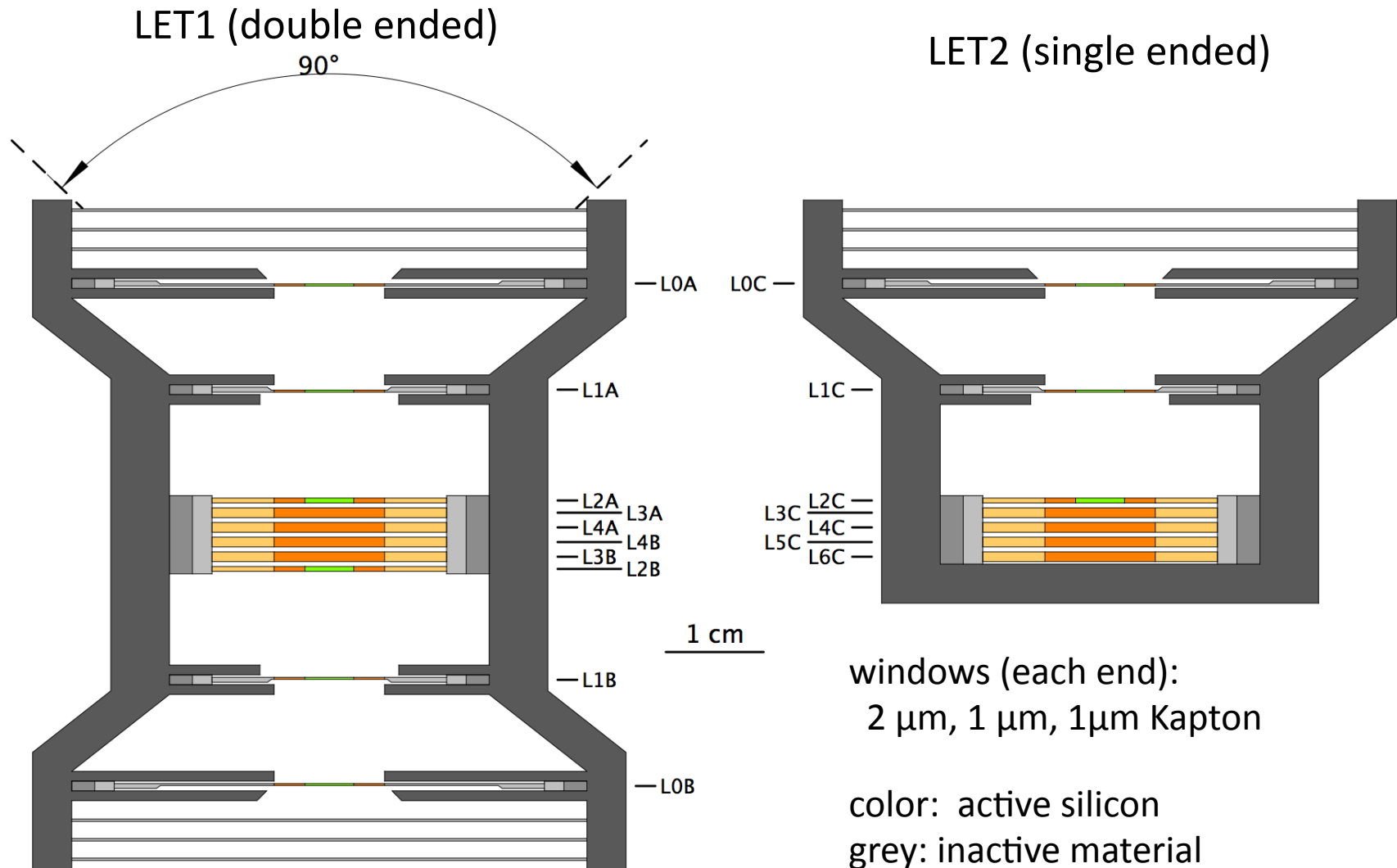
3 detector telescopes:

- one double-ended low-energy telescope (LET1)
- one single-ended low-energy telescope (LET2)
- one double-ended high-energy telescope (HET)
- all sensor elements are ion-implanted silicon solid-state detectors
- signals from each telescope processed by an individual electronics board



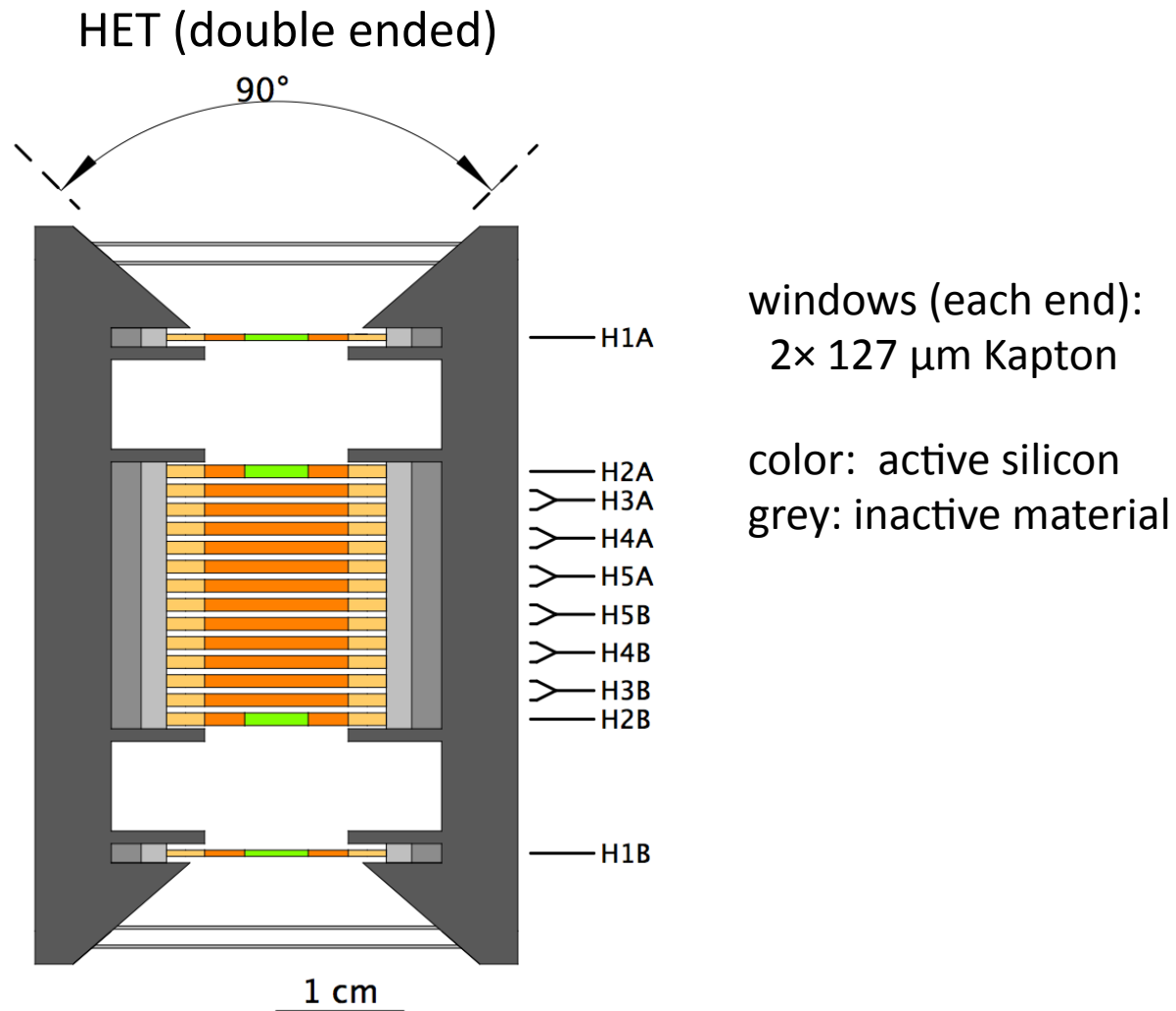
Low-Energy Telescopes

Conceptual Cross Sections



High-Energy Telescope

Conceptual Cross Section



Solid State Detectors

EPI-Hi Silicon Solid-State Detector Designs

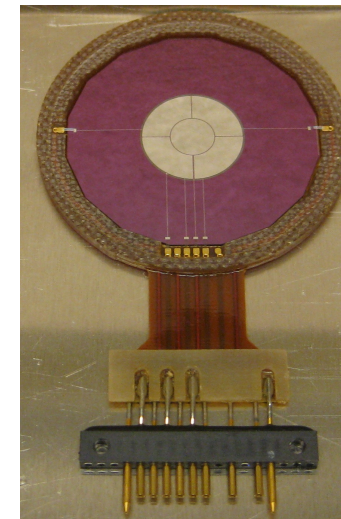
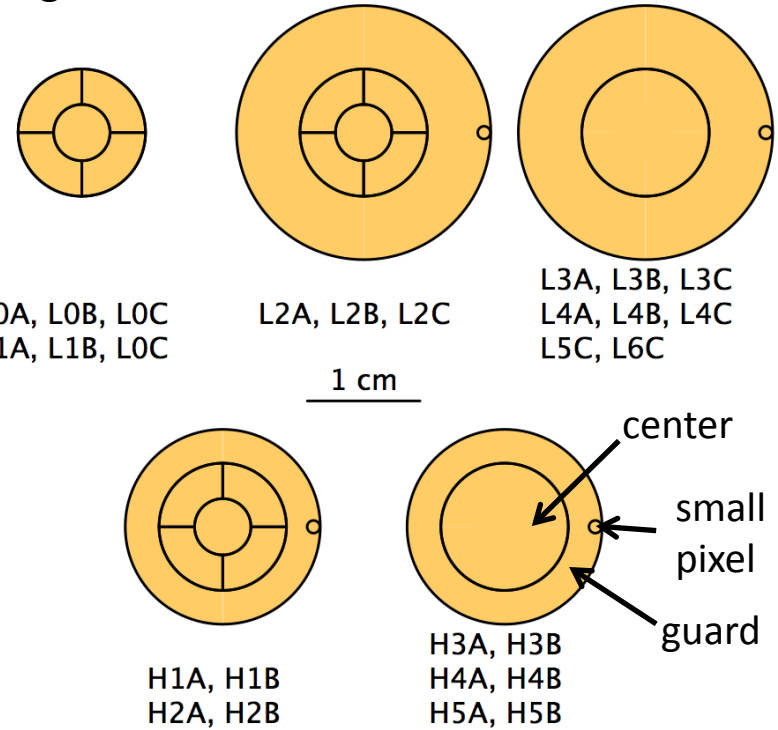
Detector Telescope	Detector Designations	Thickness	Number of Central / Guard / Small Pixel Segments	Central Active Area	Guard Active Area	Notes
LET1	L0A, L0B	12 μm	5 / 0 / 0	1.0 cm^2	N/A	[1]
	L1A, L1B	25 μm	5 / 0 / 0	1.0 cm^2	N/A	[1]
	L2A, L2B	500 μm	5 / 1 / 1	1.0 cm^2	3.0 cm^2	[2]
	L3A, L3B	1000 μm	2 / 0 / 1	4.0 cm^2	N/A	[2]
	L4A, L4B	1000 μm	2 / 0 / 1	4.0 cm^2	N/A	[2]
LET2	L0C	12 μm	5 / 0 / 0	1.0 cm^2	N/A	[1]
	L1C	25 μm	5 / 0 / 0	1.0 cm^2	N/A	[1]
	L2C	500 μm	5 / 1 / 1	1.0 cm^2	3.0 cm^2	[2]
	L3C	1000 μm	2 / 0 / 1	4.0 cm^2	N/A	[2]
	L4C	1000 μm	2 / 0 / 1	4.0 cm^2	N/A	[2]
	L5C	1000 μm	2 / 0 / 1	4.0 cm^2	N/A	[2]
	L6C	1000 μm	2 / 0 / 1	4.0 cm^2	N/A	[2]
HET	H1A, H1B	500 μm	5 / 1 / 1	1.0 cm^2	1.73 cm^2	[2]
	H2A, H2B	1000 μm	5 / 1 / 1	1.0 cm^2	1.73 cm^2	[2]
	H3A, H3B	2 $\times$ 1000 μm	1 / 1 / 1	1.0 cm^2	1.73 cm^2	[2]
	H4A, H4B	2 $\times$ 1000 μm	1 / 1 / 1	1.0 cm^2	1.73 cm^2	[2]
	H5A, H5B	2 $\times$ 1000 μm	1 / 1 / 1	1.0 cm^2	1.73 cm^2	[2]

Notes:

[1] new technology development

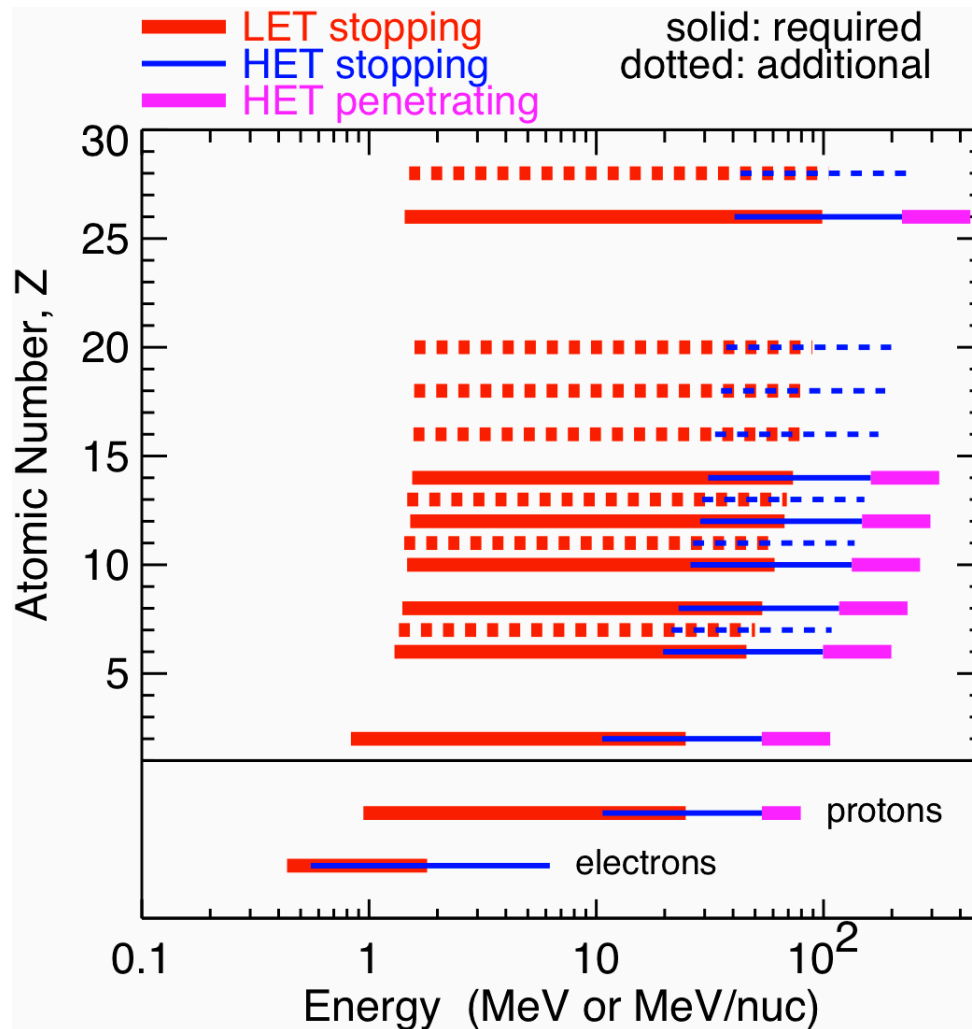
[2] small pixel at edge for rate monitoring on some detectors; area: 1 mm^2

Segmentation of Active Areas:

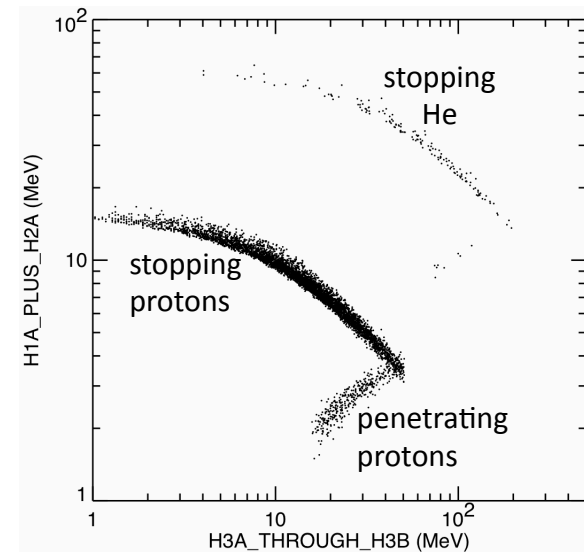


prototype
L1 detector

Species and Energy Coverage and Energy Binning

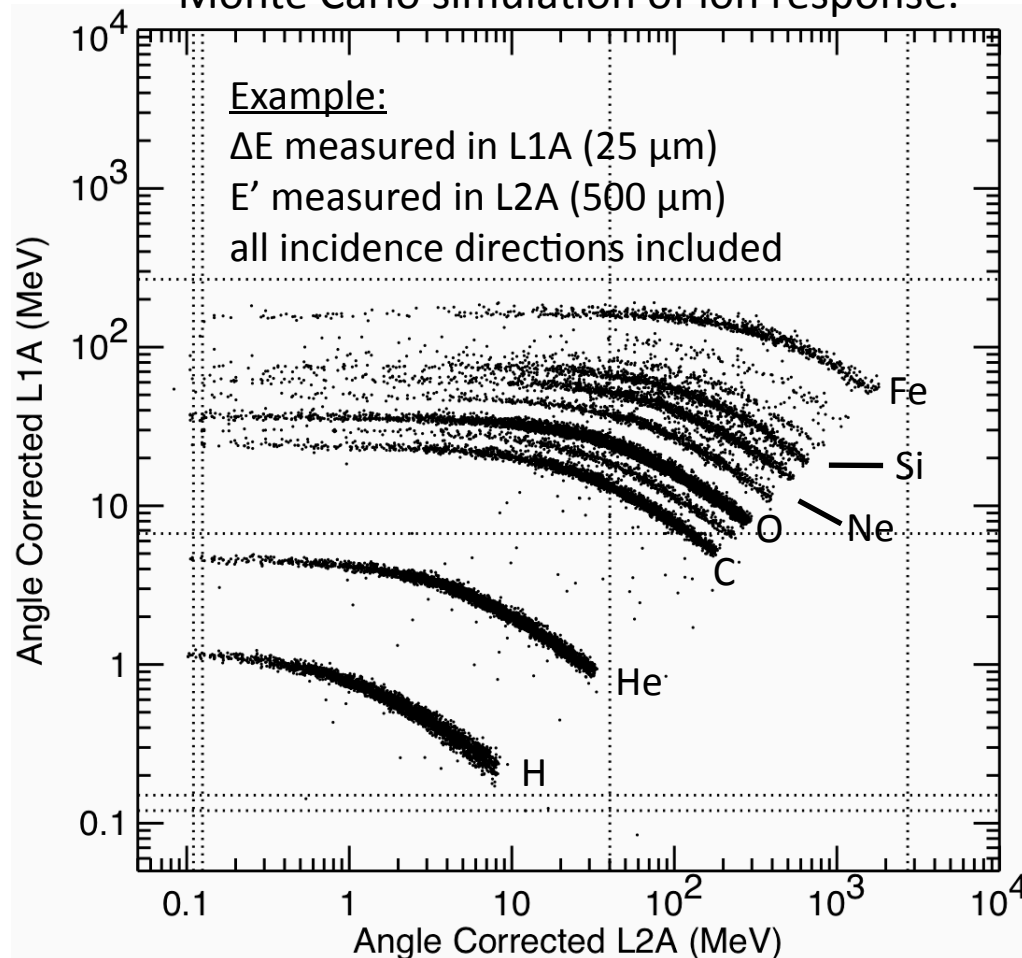


- Rates are accumulated on board in logarithmically spaced energy bins of width of a factor of $2^{1/2}$ or $2^{1/4}$
- Bin width of $2^{1/2}$ corresponds to ~ 6.6 bins per decade
- Larger bins are used for some rates accumulated at the highest cadence (1 second) in order to increase statistical accuracy.



Element Resolution

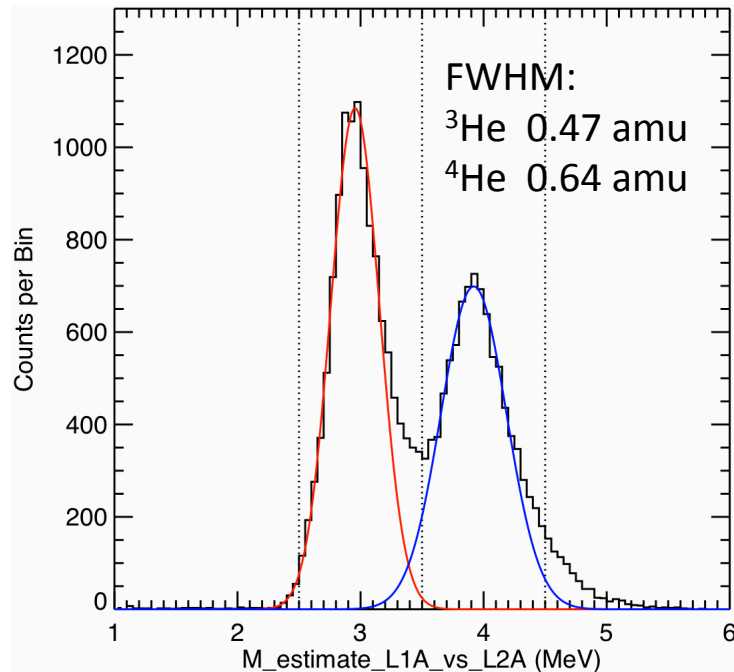
Monte Carlo simulation of ion response.



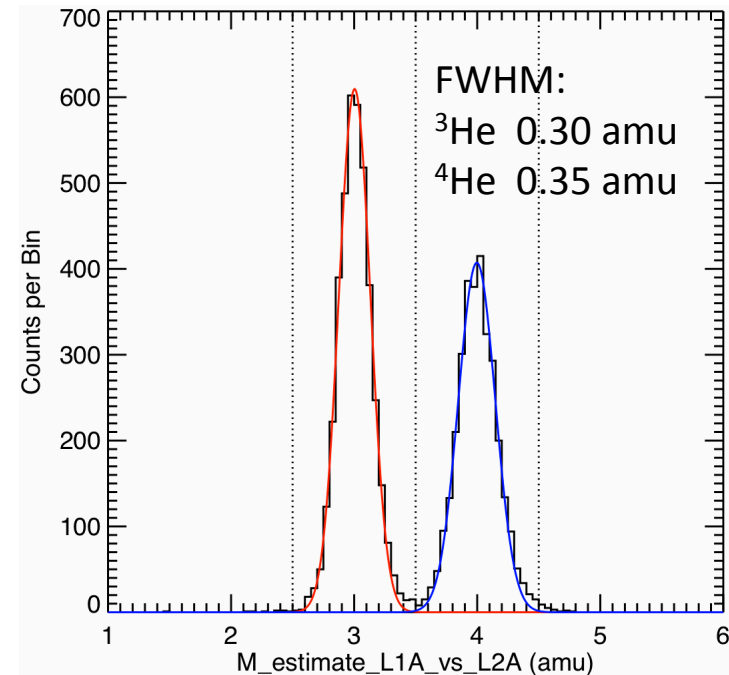
- Energy loss measurements from the detector in which a particle stops (E') and the preceding detector (ΔE) organize the data into distinct tracks for the various elements.
- Sector information is used to obtain mean thickness penetrated in the ΔE detector and make an on-board correction to the measured energies to optimize species resolution.
- Energy assigned on board includes energies measured in overlying detectors and calculated energy loss in windows.

Helium Isotope Identification

full geometry defined by
L1•L2 coincidence



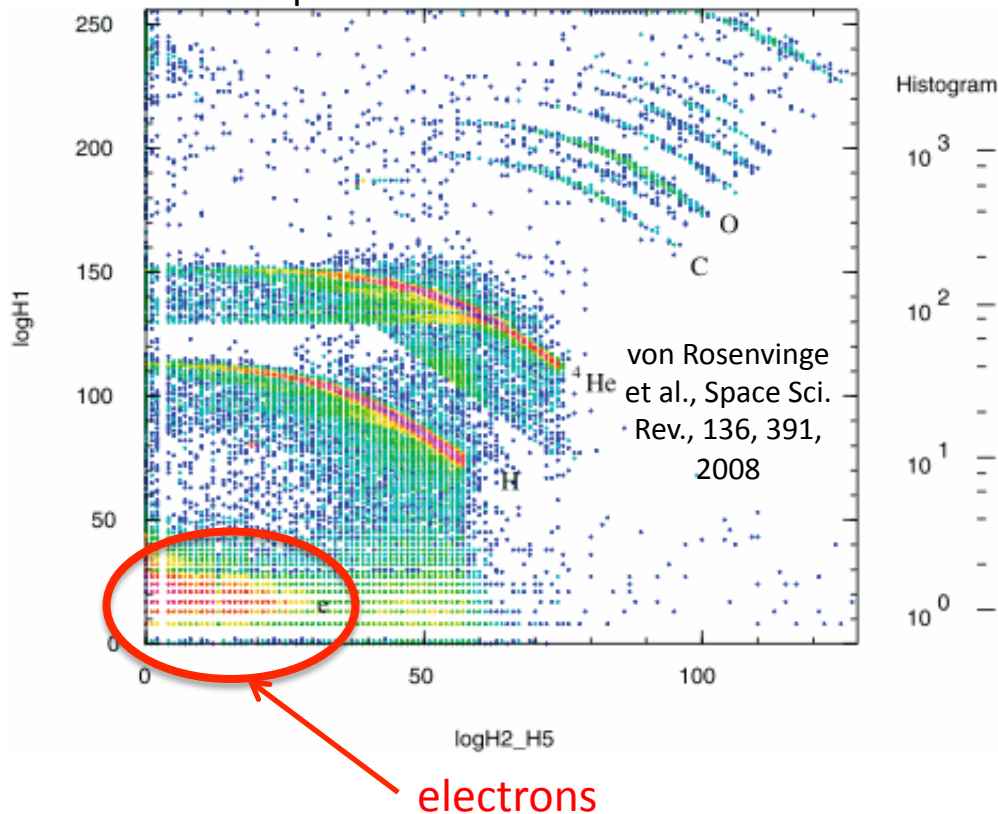
geometry defined by
L0•L1•L2 coincidence
(~1/4 of L1•L2 geometry)



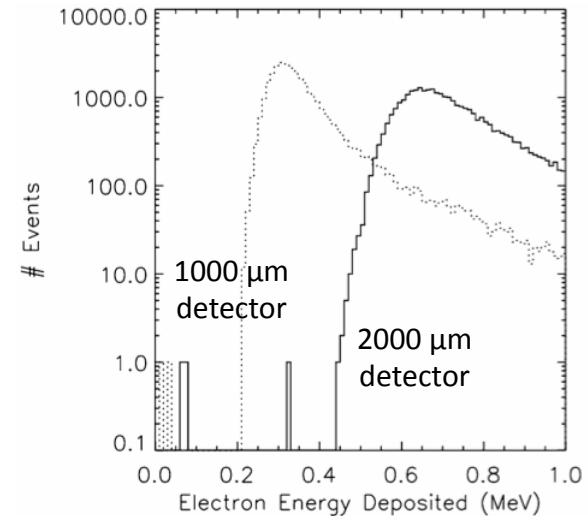
- Monte Carlo simulation of He isotope resolution: example based on L1A vs L2A
- resolution dominated by effect of incidence angle uncertainty on ΔE thickness penetrated
- restricting analysis to narrow-angle sectors gives higher resolution dataset
- other effects (e.g., channeling) limit measurable $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$ ratio at energies of a few MeV/nuc to $>\sim 5\%$

Electron Identification

Example: measurements from the STEREO/HET telescope in the 13 Dec 2013 SEP event

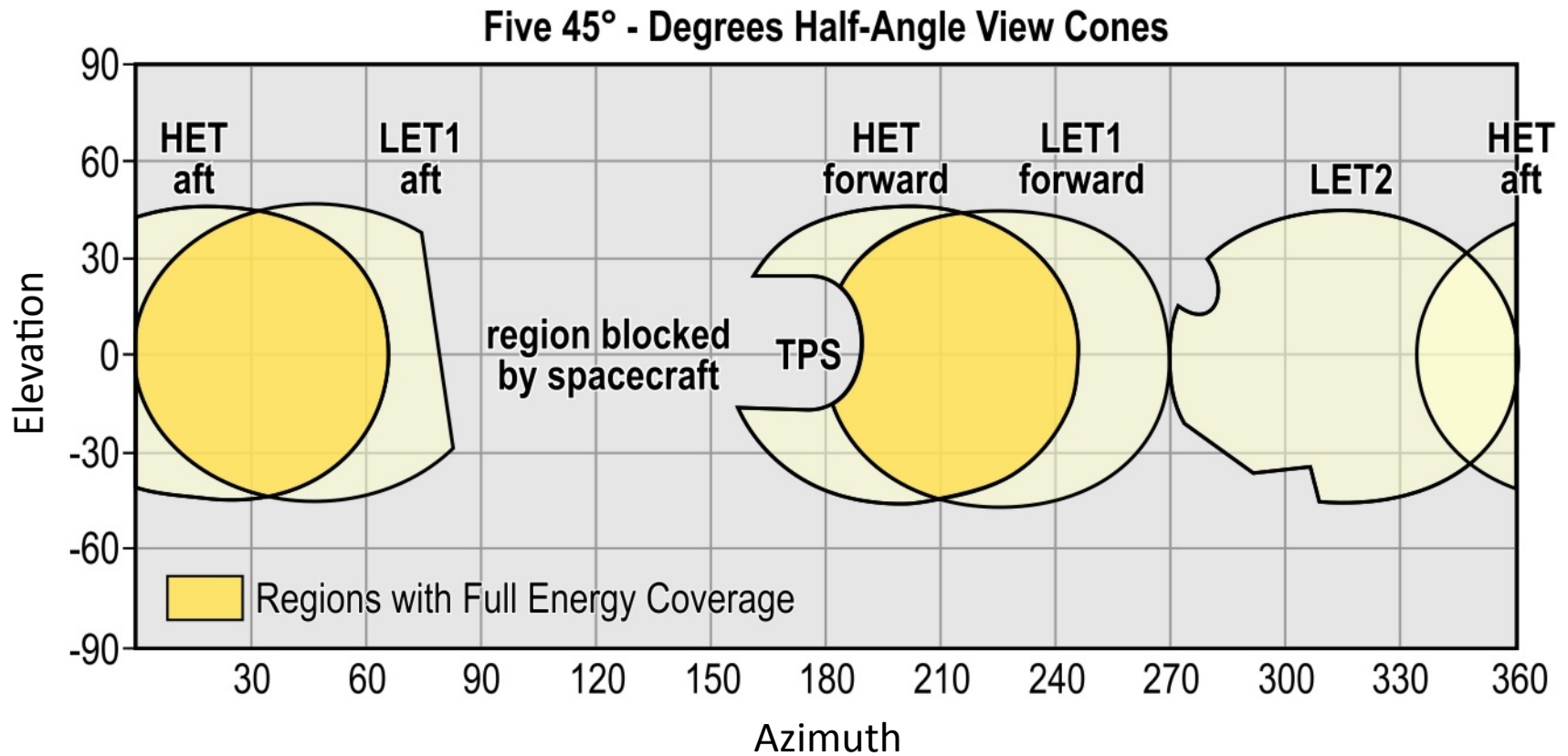


STEREO/HET Electron Threshold:
GEANT4 simulation



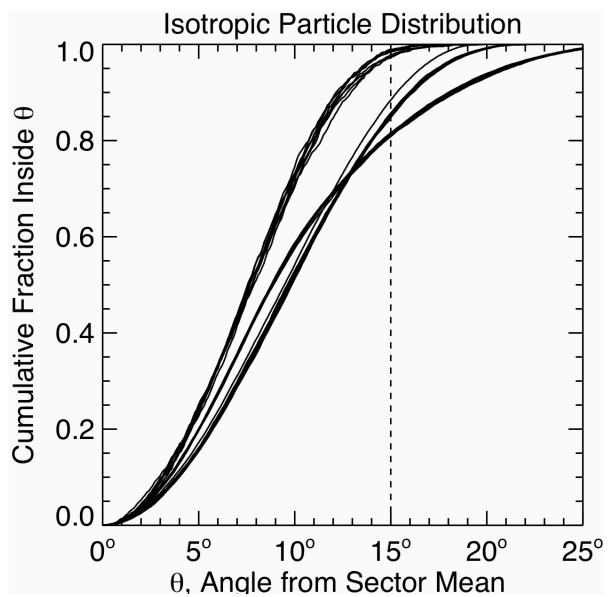
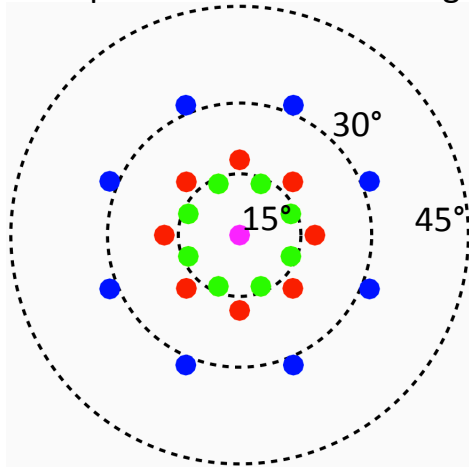
- EPI-Hi HET uses a 500 μm front, detector vs 1000 μm in STEREO/HET
- high-energy electrons should deposit ~ 0.17 MeV in H1 and be detectable using the modeled 0.11 MeV threshold
- once electronic noise level has been measured in a realistic setup, we will assess whether a modest increase in the H1 thickness is desirable

Fields of View



Angular Sectoring

Locations of Centers of Angular Sectors,
Telescope Axis at Center of Diagram



- particle directions of incidence are determined based on active elements hit in two position-sensitive Si detectors (L0 and L1, L1 and L2, or H1 and H2)
- each of these detectors has central bull's eye surrounded by 4 quadrants
- area of each active element is 0.2 cm^2
- quadrants in the second detector rotated 45° about the telescope axis relative to those in the first detector
- 25 combinations of hit elements in the two detectors are used to assign event to a viewing sector
- for an isotropic distribution of particles, $\geq 80\%$ of the particles detected in a sector have directions of incidence within 15° of the mean viewing direction of the sector
- significant overlaps among sectors allows measurements of particle distributions with angular resolution smaller than the size of a sector
- HET provides sectorized electron data, LET1 provides only front-back direction information for electrons

Measurement Cadences

highest cadence: 1 second

- used for one electron bin below and one above 1 MeV
- used for 4 proton bins above 1 MeV

intermediate cadence: 10 sec

- used for narrow energy bins for e, H, He, ^3He
- used for intermediate energy resolution bins for element groups CNO, NeMgSi, Fe

normal cadence: 60 sec

- used for narrow energy bins for ^3He , and major elements from C through Ni
- used for wide energy bins for groups of ultraheavy elements

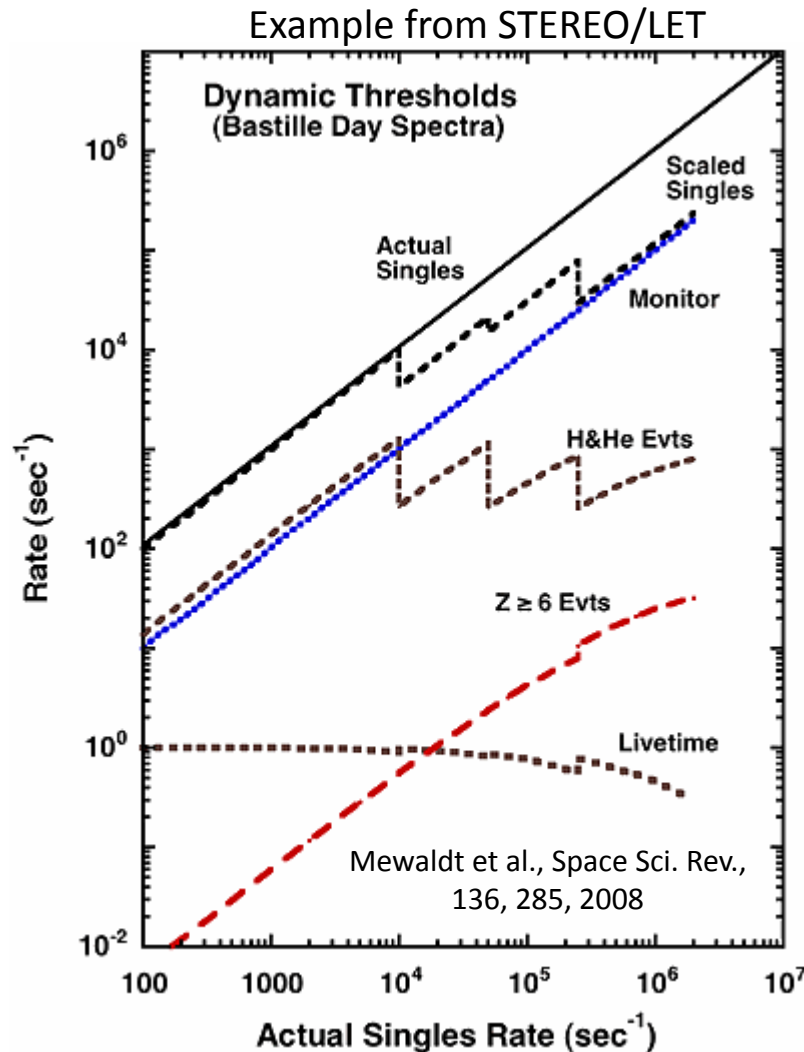
low cadence: 300 sec

- used for angular distribution of e, p, He, ^3He , CNO, NeMgSi, and Fe in intermediate energy bins

very low cadence: 1 hr

- all rates accumulated at cadences of 60 sec and 300 sec are also accumulated over 1 hr

Dynamic Range in Particle Intensities (1/3)



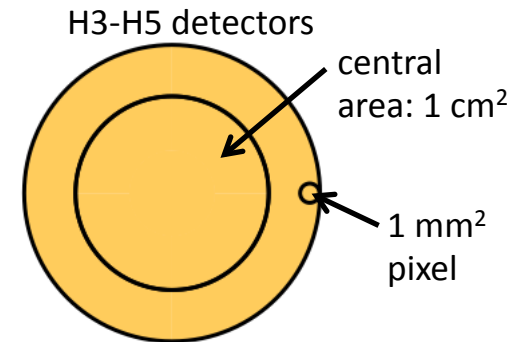
- protons and He dominate the EPI-Hi count rates and the associated dead-time
- a “dynamic threshold” system, successfully used in the LET and HET instruments on STEREO, allows the adjustment of the geometrical factor for protons and He while maintaining the full geometrical factor for $Z \geq 6$ elements
- in several stages, thresholds are raised on all but one active element in detectors progressively deeper in the stack to suppress protons and He over a portion of the instrument geometrical factor
- a detector element that remains sensitive to protons and He is used to monitor the actual rate and so that thresholds can be returned to the lower values (with some hysteresis) when particle intensities have decreased
- count rates at which thresholds are dynamically raised and lowered are controlled by entries in the command table

Dynamic Range in Particle Intensities (2/3)

- the EPI-Hi front-end electronics can process slightly more than 10^5 events/s from all detector elements combined
- dynamic threshold approach:
 - stage 1: raise the threshold on 4 of the 5 segments of the L1 detectors to exclude protons and He decreases the count LET count rate by a factor ~ 5
 - stage 2: raise the threshold on 4 of the 5 segments of the L2 detectors for an overall count rate reduction by a factor ~ 25
 - stage 3: raise the threshold on the outer segments of the L3 and L4 detectors for a modest additional reduction of the count rates for high-energy particles entering through the telescope apertures and to reduce count rate from out-of-geometry particles entering through the sides of the telescope
 - stage 4: raise the thresholds on all detector elements to eliminate protons and He from the normal analysis and obtain some information about the proton and He spectra from singles rates measured in “small pixels” that are instrumented on several of the detectors
- based on the STEREO example, when stage 4 is reached the actual singles rate (without raised thresholds) would be $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ /s and the live-time fraction would be $\sim 30\%$

Dynamic Range in Particle Intensities (3/3)

- in large SEP events the intensity ratio (protons+He)/($Z \geq 6$) ≈ 300 so when count rate due to protons plus He would be $2 \times 10^6/\text{s}$ without dynamic thresholds raised, the count rate of $Z \geq 6$ still be below $10^4/\text{s}$, about an order of magnitude below the maximum rate capability of the front end electronics, so useful measurements of heavy nuclei are still possible



- in order to provide some information about protons and He at the highest intensities, singles rates in small (1 mm^2) pixels instrumented on selected detectors will be used
- small-pixel rates can be calibrated against rates in other detector segments until dynamic threshold level 4 is enabled
- by setting the thresholds on the small pixels slightly below the value expected from stopping protons, some information about the incident energy spectrum is obtained from the dependence of pixel count rate on depth in the telescope

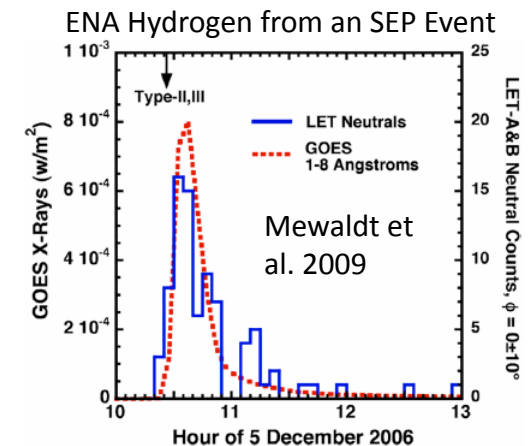
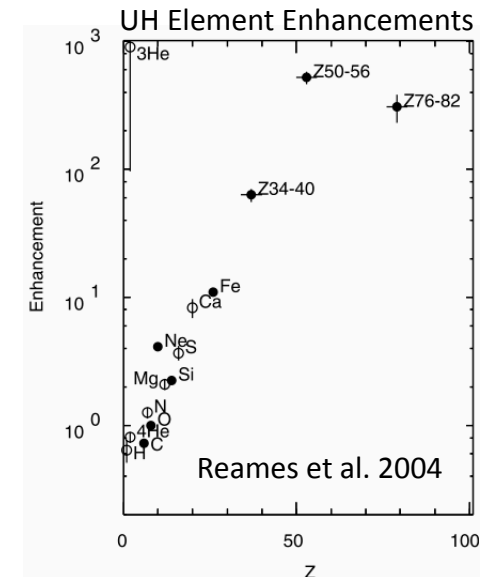
Redunancies: Design for Graceful Degradation

- The radiation and dust environments close to the Sun are poorly known and may be severe.
- The front detectors, particularly in the LETs, have minimal shielding in order to achieve a low energy threshold and are thus particularly vulnerable to damage by radiation and dust.
- The normal instrument coincidence logic defines some categories of events that do not require a signal from an L0 detector, so failure of an L0 detector would increase the LET telescope threshold but otherwise not interfere with instrument operation.
- The coincidence equations can be redefined in order to optimize performance in the event of other detector failures. For example, if an H1 detector were to fail the HET coincidence could be redefined to define events based on detectors deeper in the stack and allow measurements with poorer angular and energy resolution.
- The double ended telescopes have separate bias supplies for the two ends to preserve functionality in the event of a bias failure.
- Resistors in series with detectors allow a limited number of shorted detectors without comprising the operation of an entire telescope end.

Additional Capabilities: Bonus Science Opportunities

EPI-Hi lends itself to several measurements without requiring modifications of the hardware design:

- ultraheavy (UH) elements: PHASIC dynamic range allows measurements of groups of elements with atomic numbers $Z \geq 30$. Large enhancements of UH elements are sometimes observed in impulsive SEP events.
- $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ isotope ratio measurements: this isotope ratio has been observed to be enhanced by factors ~ 5 in some impulsive events.
- neutral particles including gamma-rays, neutrons, and energetic neutral atoms (ENAs): HET should be capable of measuring gammas and neutrons in some large SEP events. LET should be able to identify ENA hydrogen originating from charge exchange between SEP protons and ambient H atoms in the corona.



Peer Review Results

A combined peer review of the sensor system and front-end electronics (PHASIC) design was held on 1 March 2013 to address the suitability of this combination for making the required measurements. External (non-EPI-Hi) reviewers: Rick Leske (Caltech), Matt Hill (APL), Mihir Desai (SwRI).

Significant Issues Raised and Responses or Actions Taken:

- 1) If the instrument experiences large temperature variations, electronic thresholds, gains, and offsets could change enough to require updating parameters used for the on-board analysis during a solar encounter. Response/Action: The project has been requested to provide estimates of how temperature will vary over an orbit in order to determine whether software will need to have the capability of autonomously updating thresholds, gains, and offsets during the encounters.
- 2) Large dynamic range could lead to significant cross-talk and possibly retriggering, as experienced on STEREO/LET. Response/Action: PHASIC design has been modified to reduce the amplitude of the second lobe of the shaped pulse, which is what could cause retriggering. New design incorporates a register for recording time dependence of discriminator output so that it can be used to identify retriggering and cross-talk. These new features will require testing.

Summary

- EPI-Hi builds on heritage from the STEREO/LET and HET instruments to provide a combination of sensor system and electronics capable of meeting the requirements of Solar Probe Plus.
- Significant new features include:
 - the development of thin silicon detectors to reduce the EPI-Hi energy threshold and achieve some overlap with EPI-Lo
 - compact packaging of detector stacks to reduce backgrounds and improve performance under conditions of high particle intensities
 - addition of small detector segments (“small pixels”) that can be used to provide a measure of proton intensities under extreme conditions
 - enhancement of capabilities for on-board analysis including He isotope identification and multiple measurement cadences to optimize the use of available telemetry