

Advanced electronics  
for **Physics** detectors,  
**Medical**, **Industrial** and  
**Space** applications

Group for Radiation Imaging and Tracking

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Find us at: <https://web.infn.it/GRIT/>

What do we do



**What** we do: help solving puzzles like this

Particles  
position  
in **space**

Particles  
position  
in **time**

**$\mu\text{m}$**   
precision

**ns, ps**  
precision

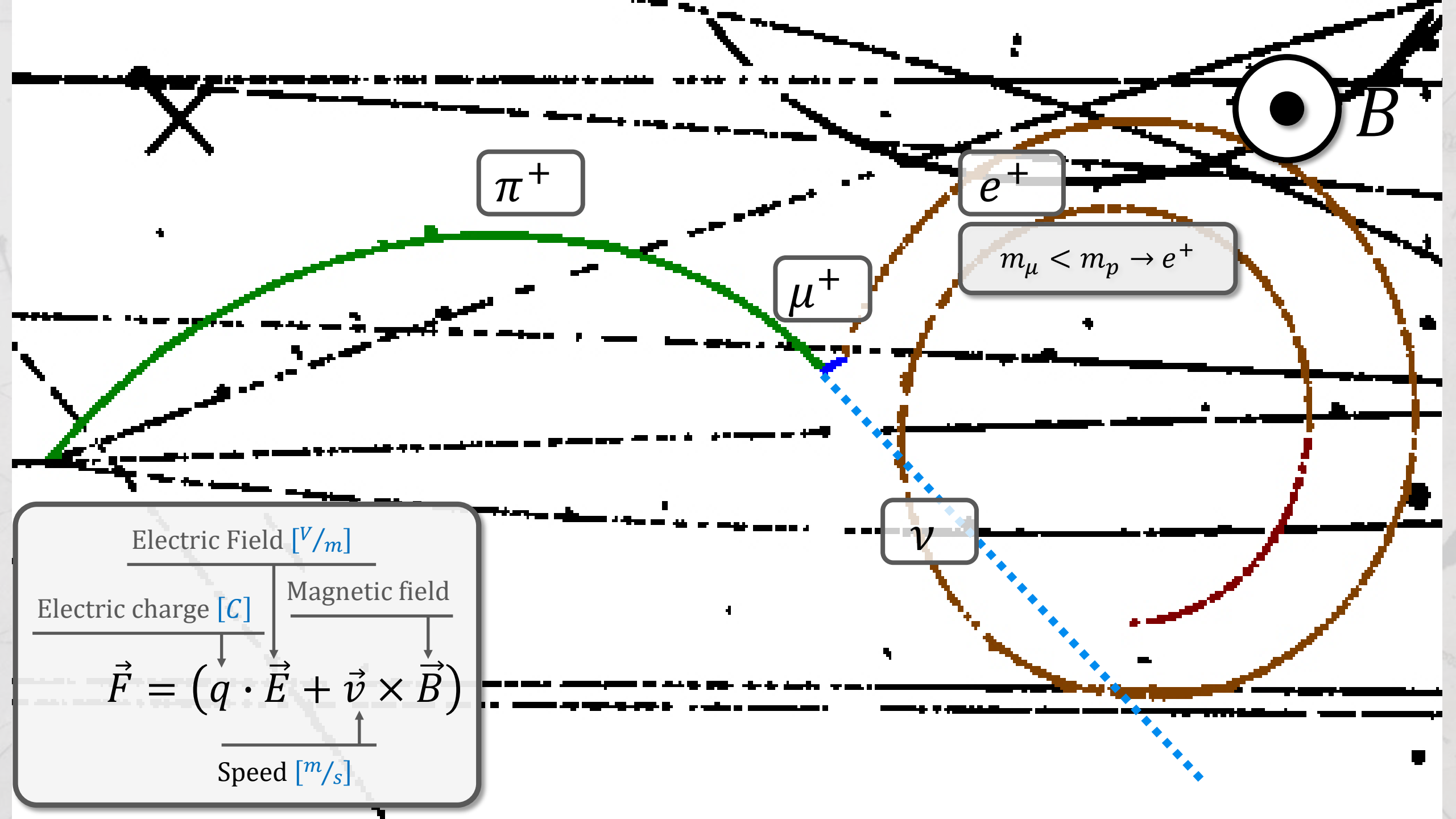
Over  
many  **$\text{m}^2$**

Over  
**years**

Little  
**power**

Hostile  
**radiation**





But it starts to be difficult...

6.4 TeV  $^{22}\text{S} + ^{197}\text{Au}$ , NA35: **analysis of the charged particles becomes impossible**

NA35 – The Streamer Chamber Heavy Ion Experiment ~ **1985**

A photograph showing the interior of a large, complex particle detector. The structure is circular and filled with a dense network of metal beams, pipes, and cables. A person in a red shirt is sitting on the floor in the center, providing a sense of scale. The lighting is blue and dramatic, highlighting the intricate details of the machinery.

**What** we do: make these machines **working**

If we want to find **new particles**, the detector must track **every single** particles

**What** we do: make these machines **surviving**

If we want the astronauts back to Earth,  
better the spaceship survives as well!





Space is full of energetic particles with **damaging potential** (TID, DDD, **SEE**): some are deflected when their magnetic rigidity is small enough, others are magnetically trapped in Van Allen belts.

Galactic and extra-galactic cosmic rays

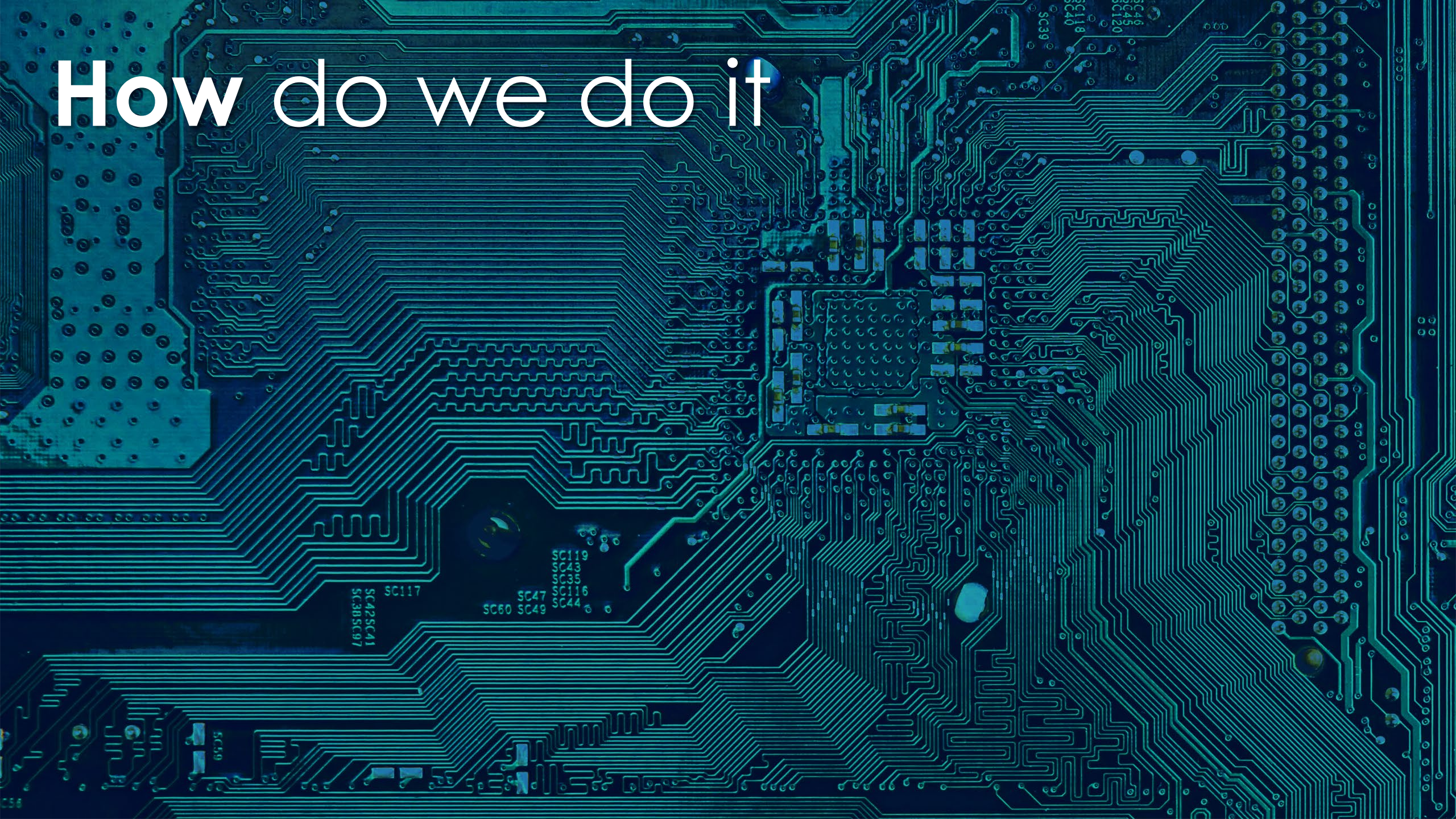
Trapped particles

Solar flare neutrons and  $\gamma$ -rays

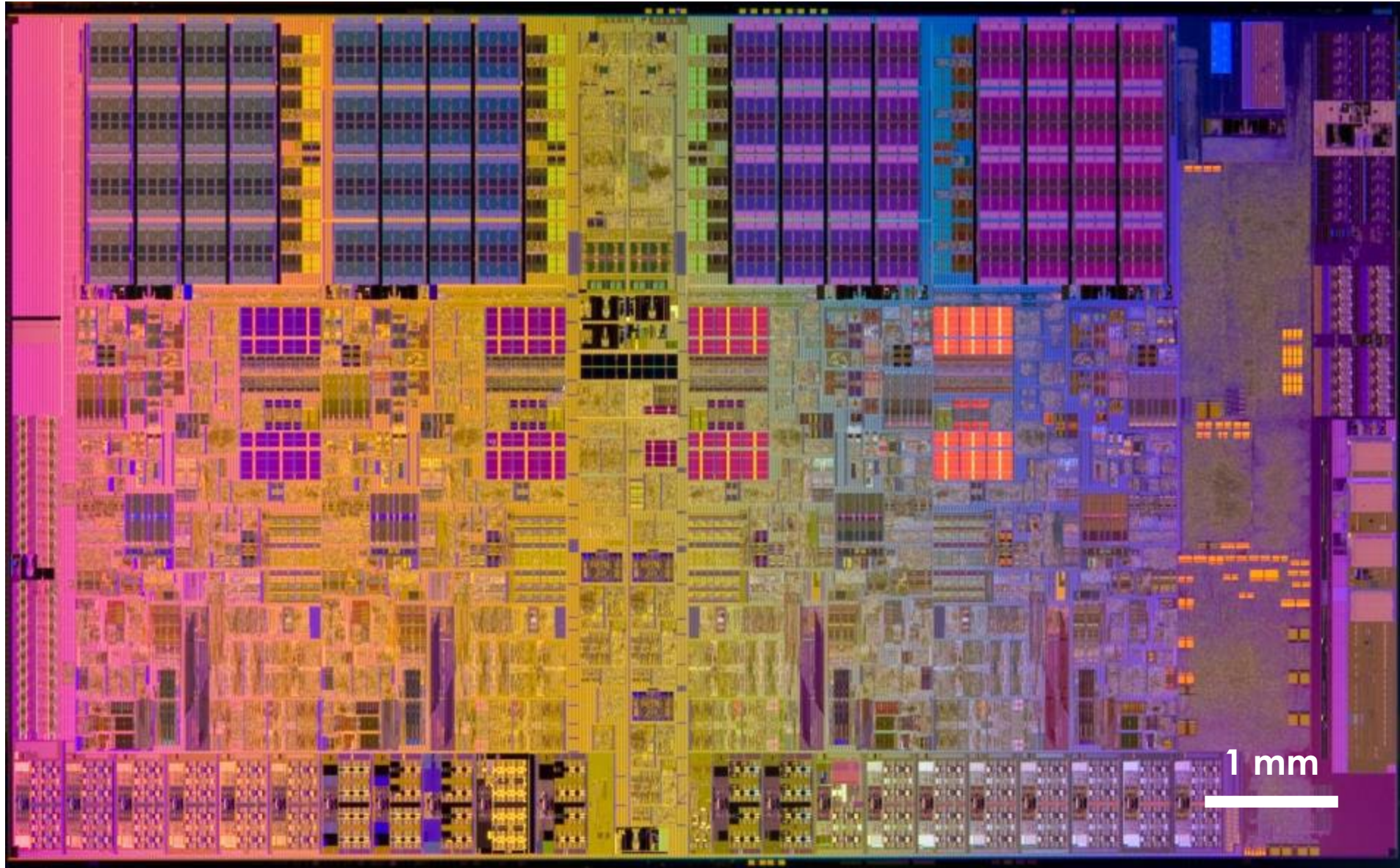
Solar flare electrons, protons, and heavy ions



# How do we do it

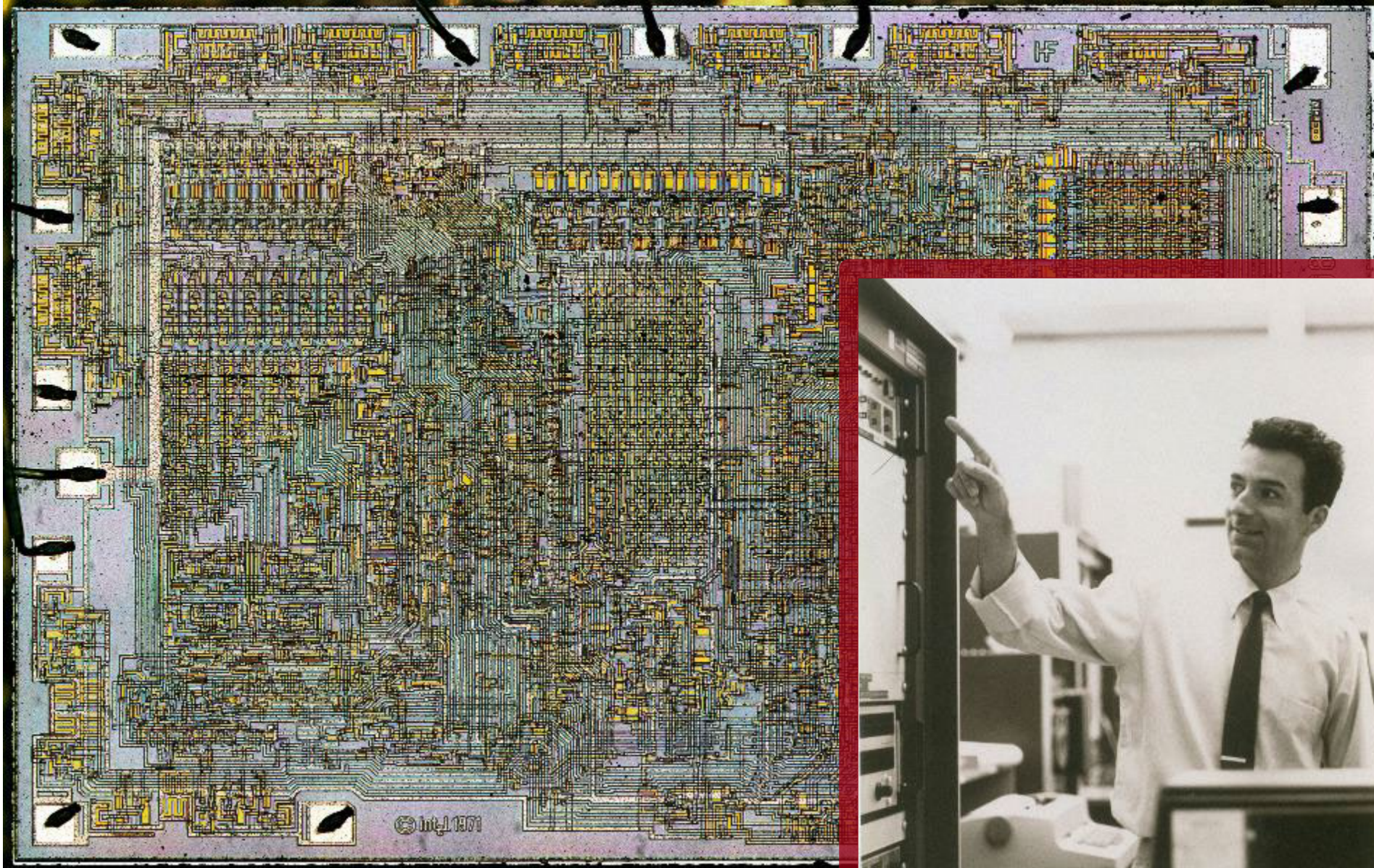


How do we do it?



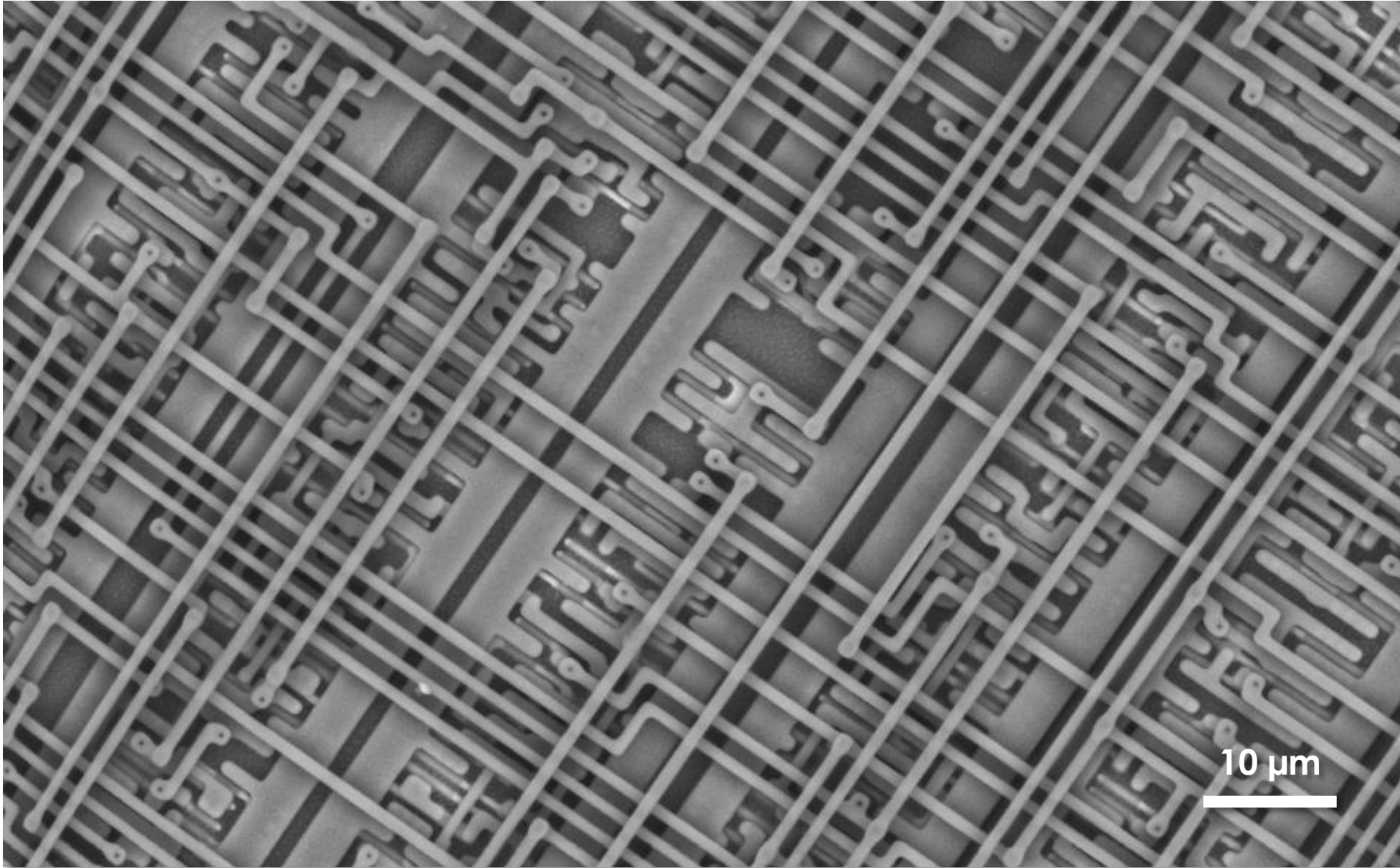
Think  
about  
**modern  
art**

# How to measure **time** and **position**?



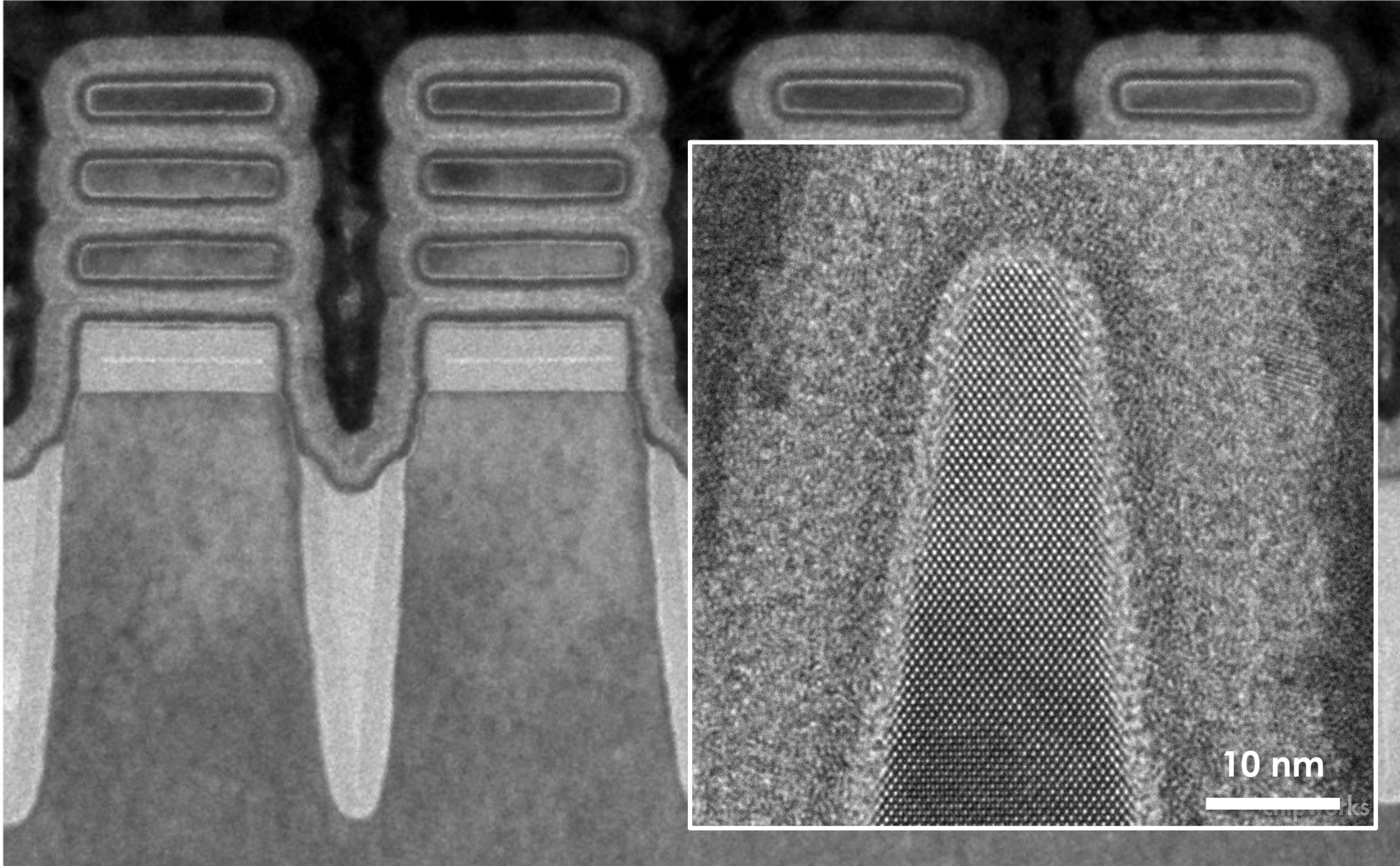
An art  
started  
by an  
**illustrious**  
**student**  
from  
**Padova:**  
**F. Faggin**

# How do we do it?



modern  
art of  
extremely  
**complex**  
**systems**

# How do we do it?

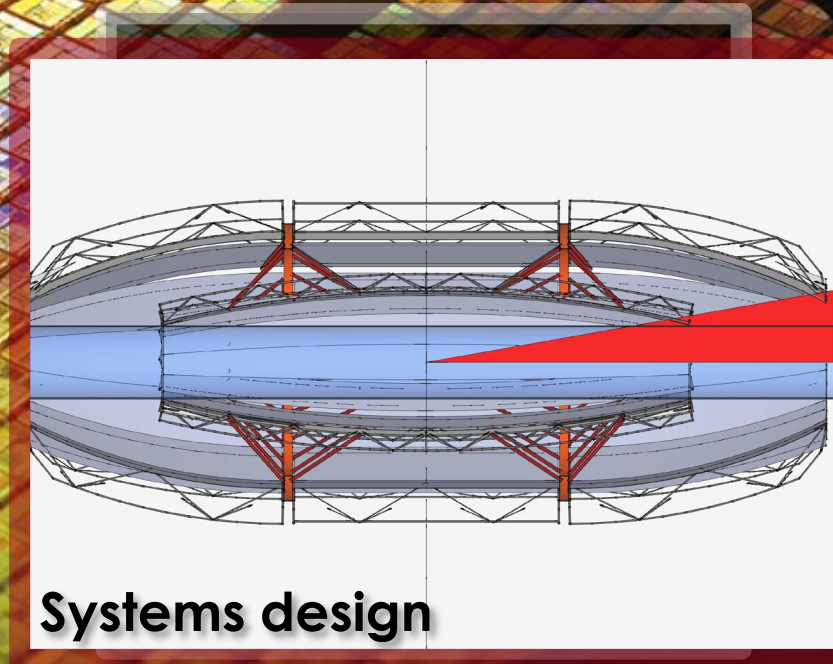
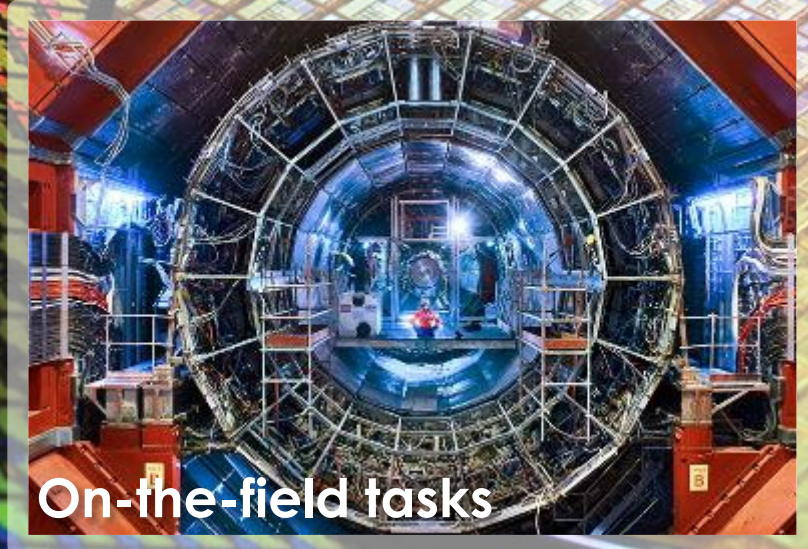
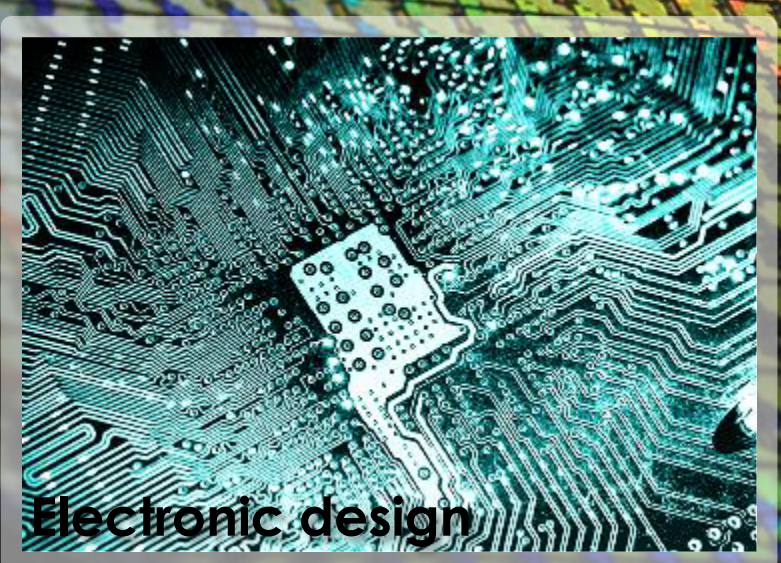
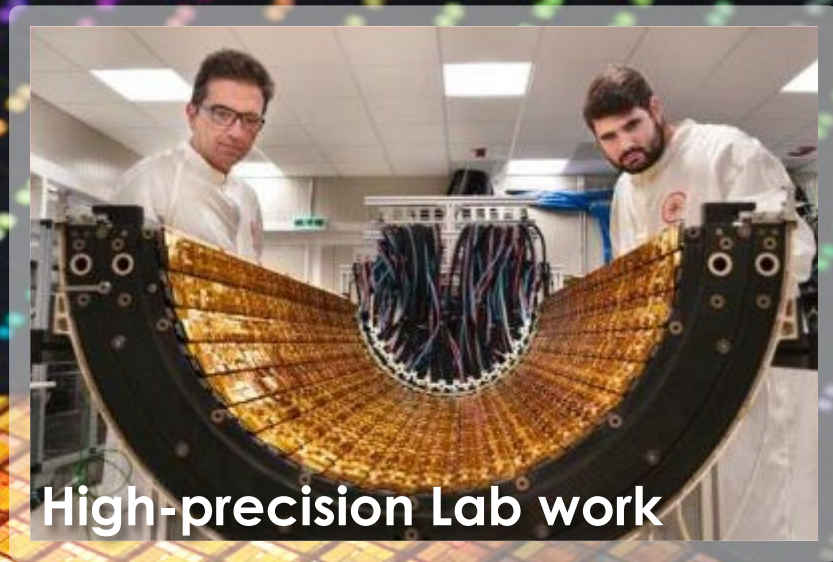
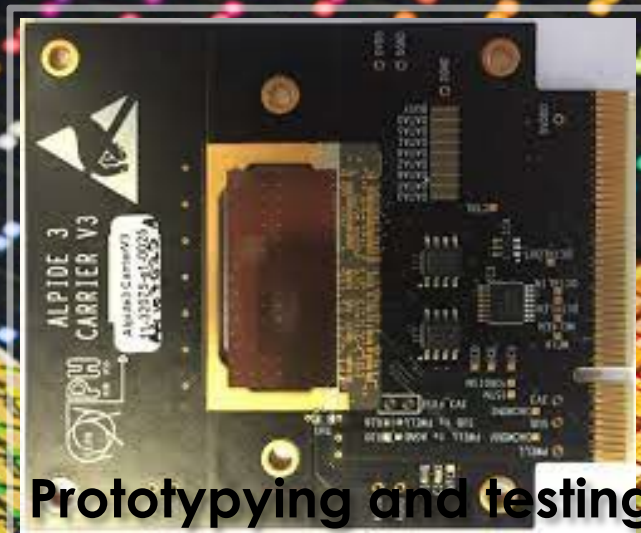


complex  
systems  
powered  
by  
**quantum  
physics**

# How do we do it?

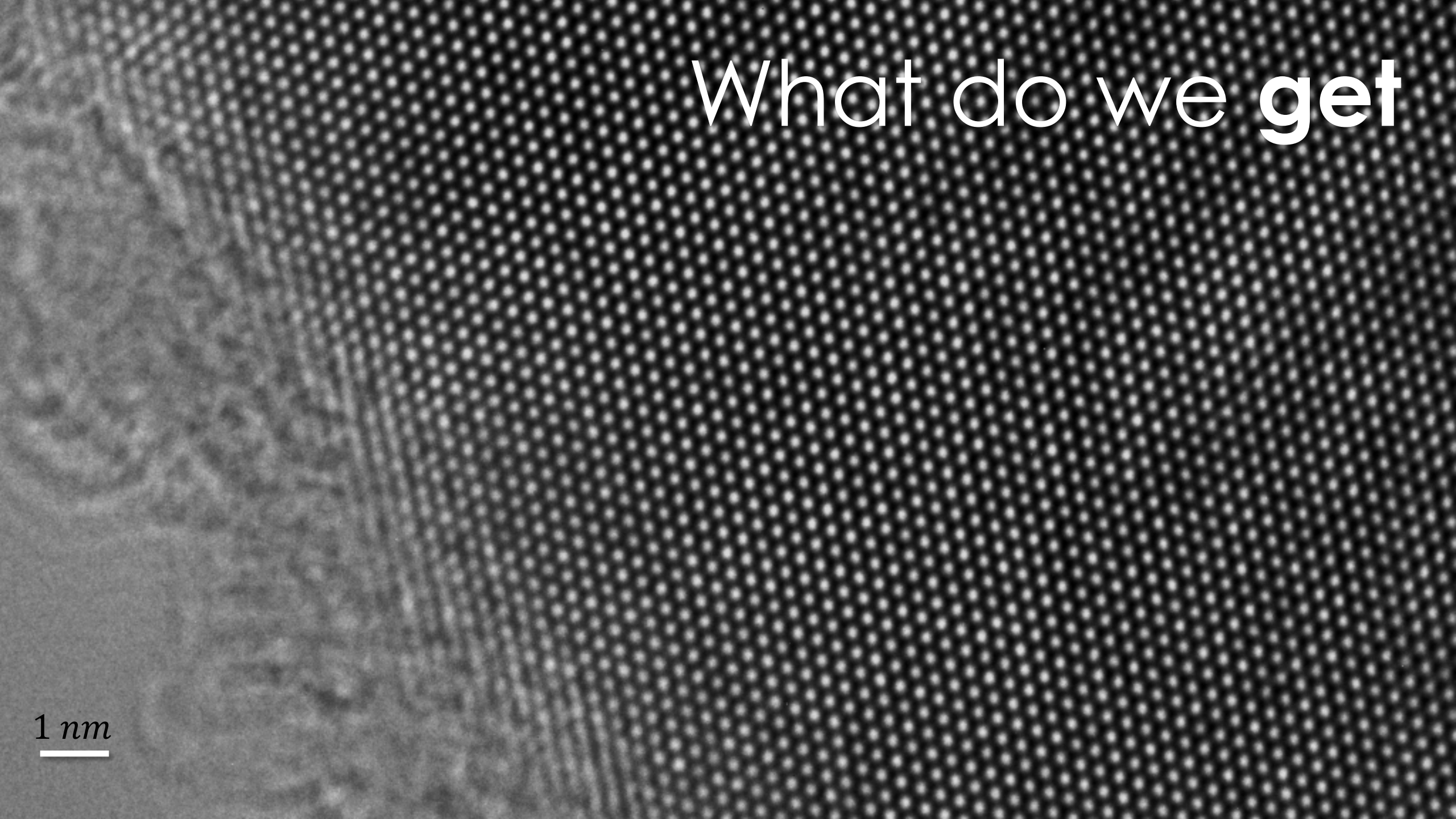
```
function(a, b) {  
  var i, l = a.length;  
  for (i = 0; i < l; i++) {  
    if (a[i] === b) return true;  
  }  
  return false;  
}  
  
function(a, b) {  
  return a.indexOf(b) > -1;  
}  
  
function(a, b) {  
  return a.lastIndexOf(b) > -1;  
}  
  
function(a, b) {  
  return a.includes(b);  
}  
  
function(a, b) {  
  return a.contains(b);  
}
```

**Advanced computing**



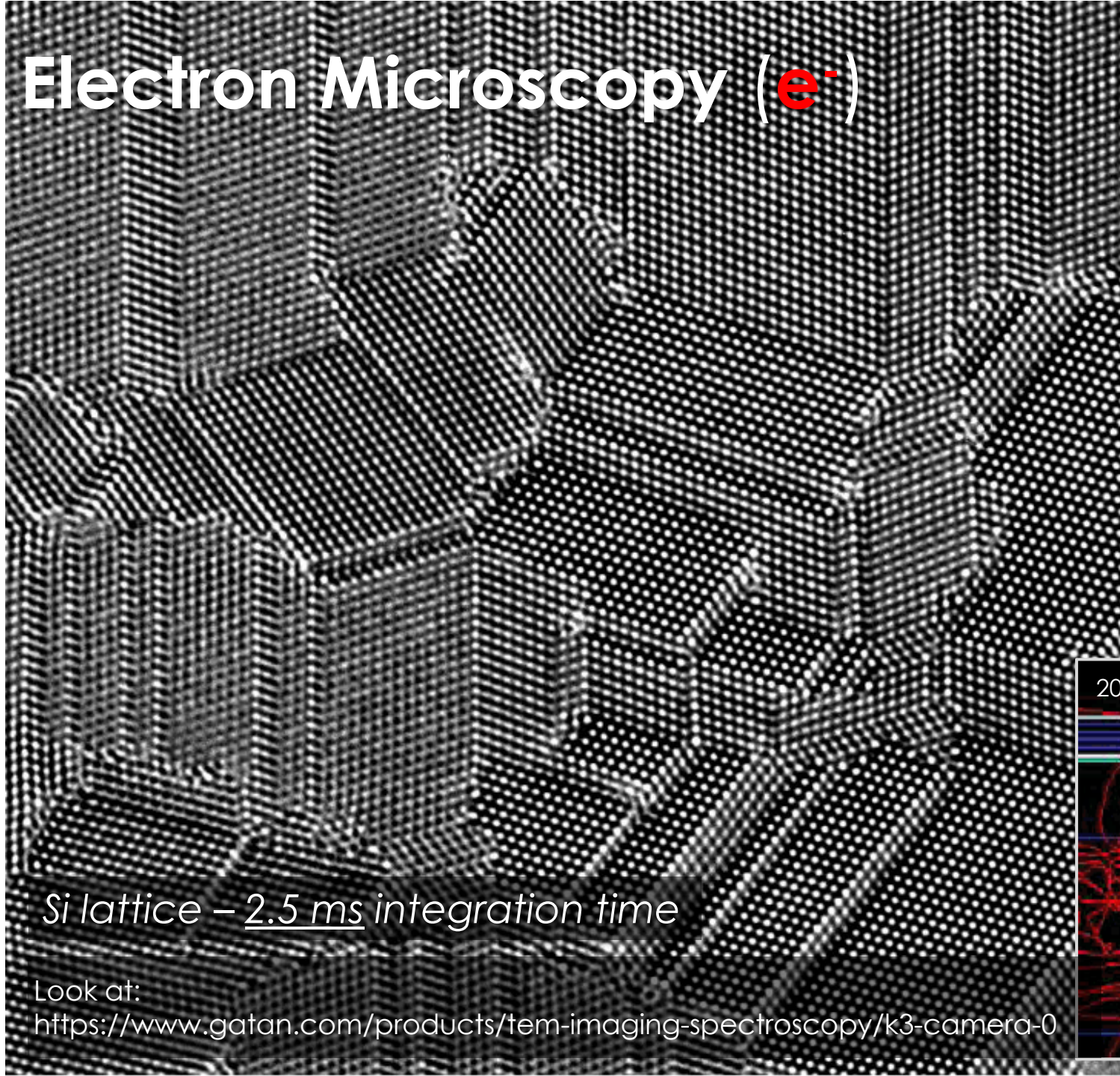
What do we get

1 nm

A high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) image showing a lattice of atoms. The image is split into two regions: a dark, ordered lattice on the right and a lighter, disordered region on the left. A scale bar in the bottom left corner indicates 1 nm.



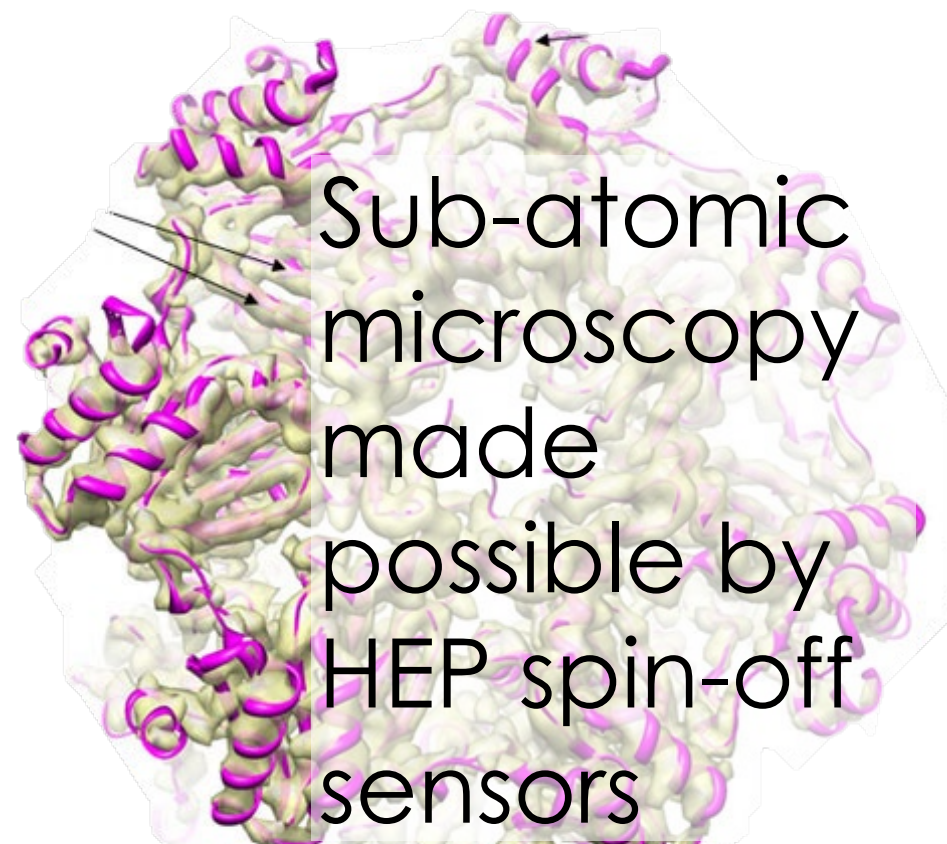
# Electron Microscopy ( $e^-$ )



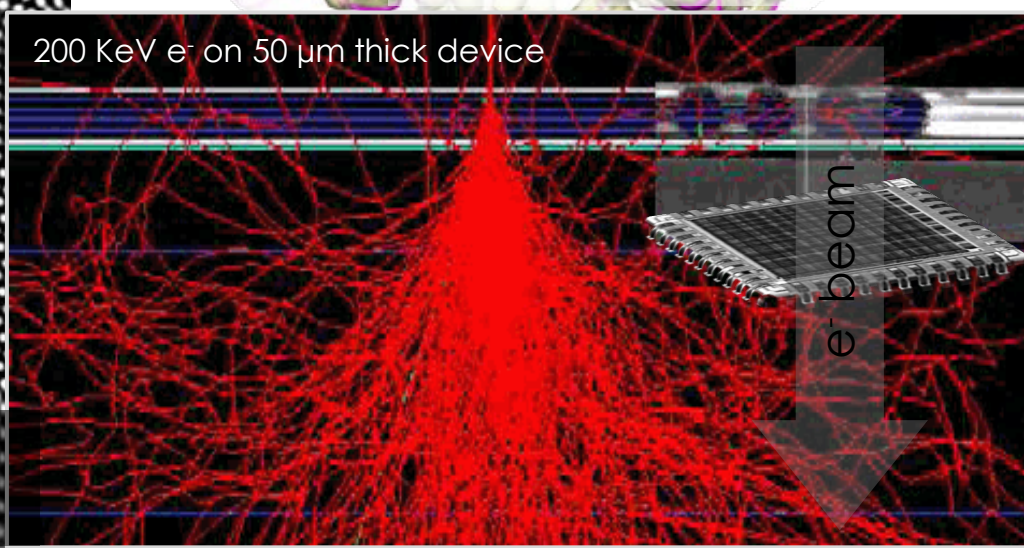
Si lattice – 2.5 ms integration time

Look at:

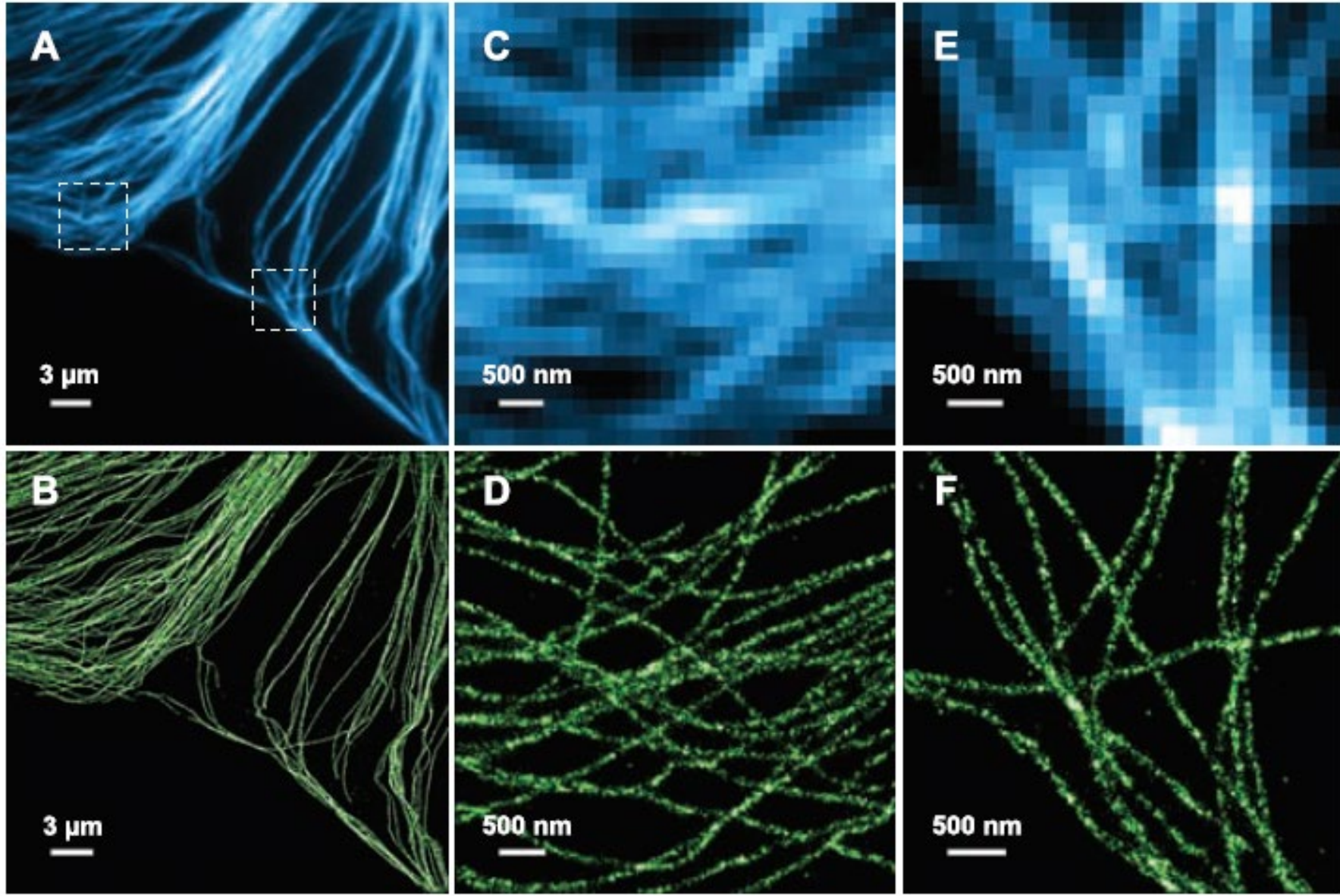
<https://www.gatan.com/products/tem-imaging-spectroscopy/k3-camera-0>



Sub-atomic  
microscopy  
made  
possible by  
HEP spin-off  
sensors



# Bioscience (Y)

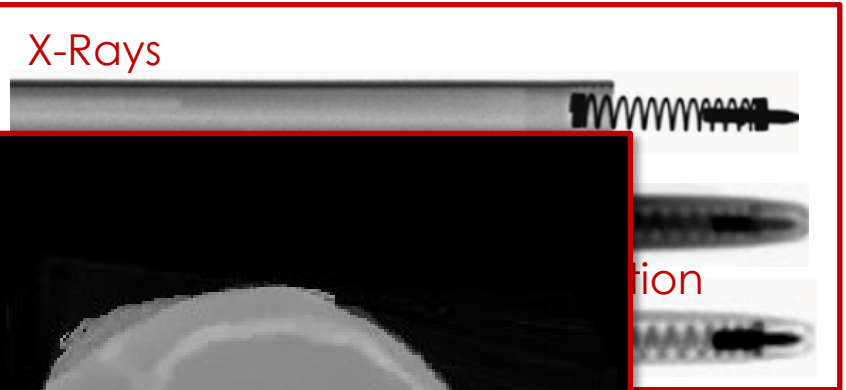


Photon clustering allows **breaking the diffraction limit** (Nobel Prize 2014)

# Medicine ( $\gamma$ , p)



Advancing state-of-the-art in medical imaging using **protons** instead of photons to get **better tissues resolution and less dose to the patient**



Proton true trajectory

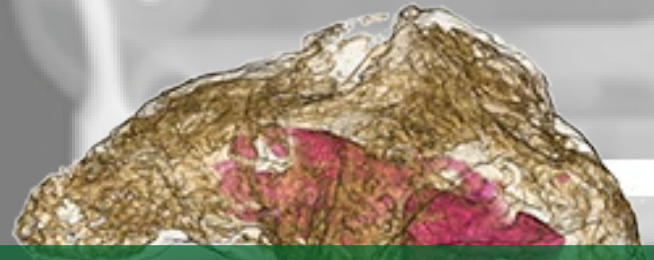


Entry and  
Most Likely Path calculation

With at least  $10^8$  tracks (energy loss, exit point & angle, entry point) recorded, we can reconstruct a complete 3D image.

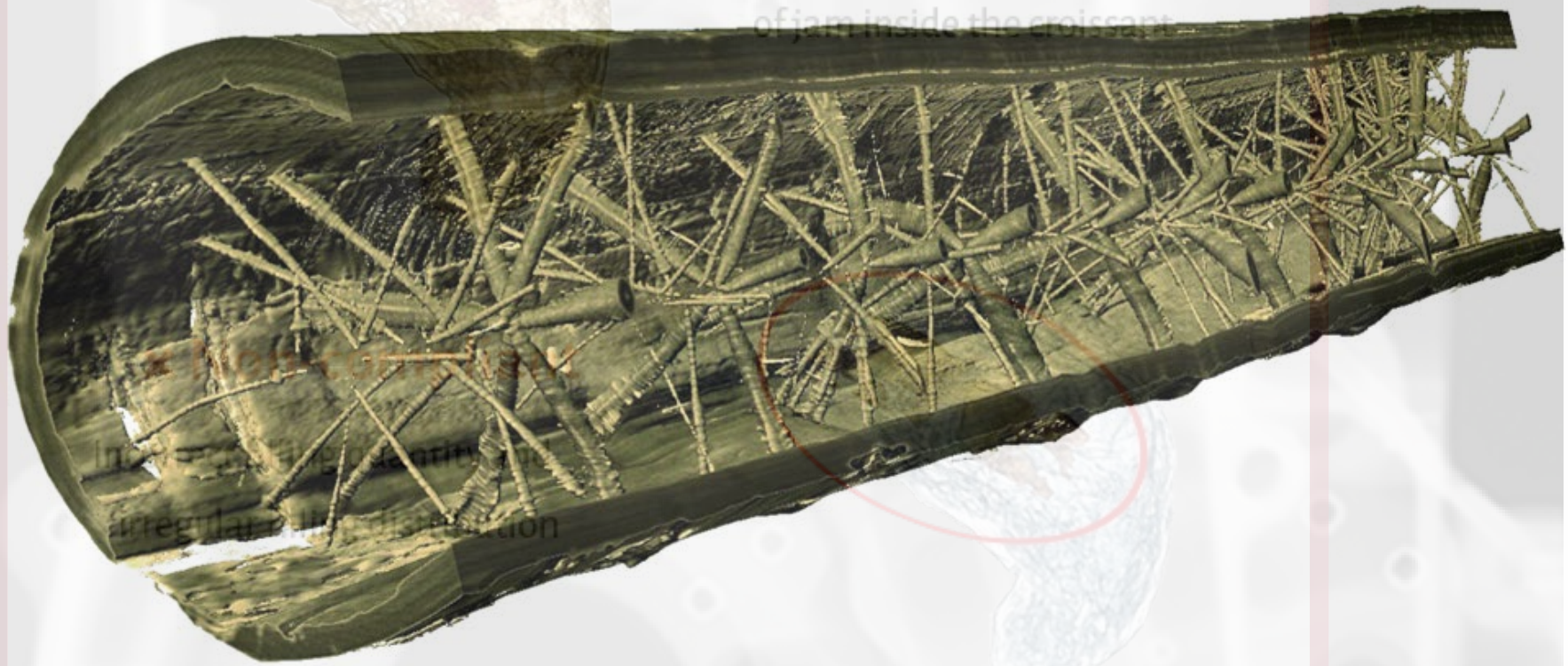
[https://mediaspace.unipd.it/media/La+tomografia+-+Percorsi+galileiani+Phd+Edition/1\\_d1m7vb2o](https://mediaspace.unipd.it/media/La+tomografia+-+Percorsi+galileiani+Phd+Edition/1_d1m7vb2o)

# Industry (X)



✓ Compliant

Uniform distribution  
of jam inside the crumb



Irregular distribution  
of jam inside the crumb

X-ray  
**Computed  
Tomography**  
and imaging  
help verifying  
production,  
food quality  
and even  
sawmills!

# Blue-sky research helps in real-world challenges 21

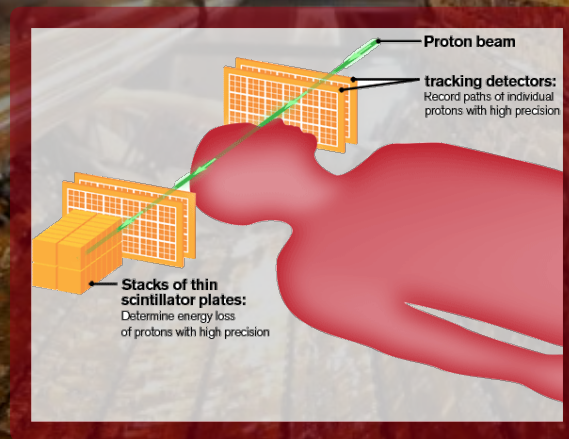


ALICE

and beyond (?)



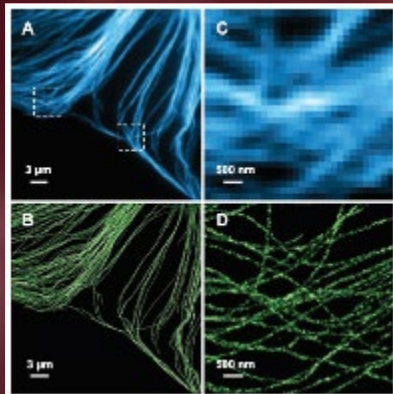
Meter (p)



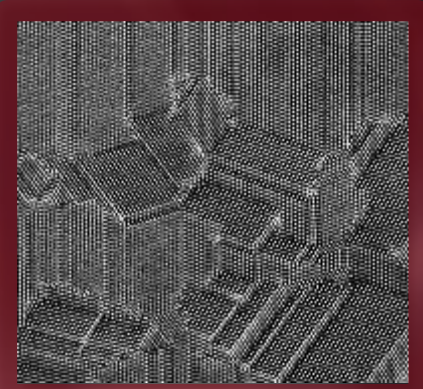
Millimetres (x)



Micron (y)



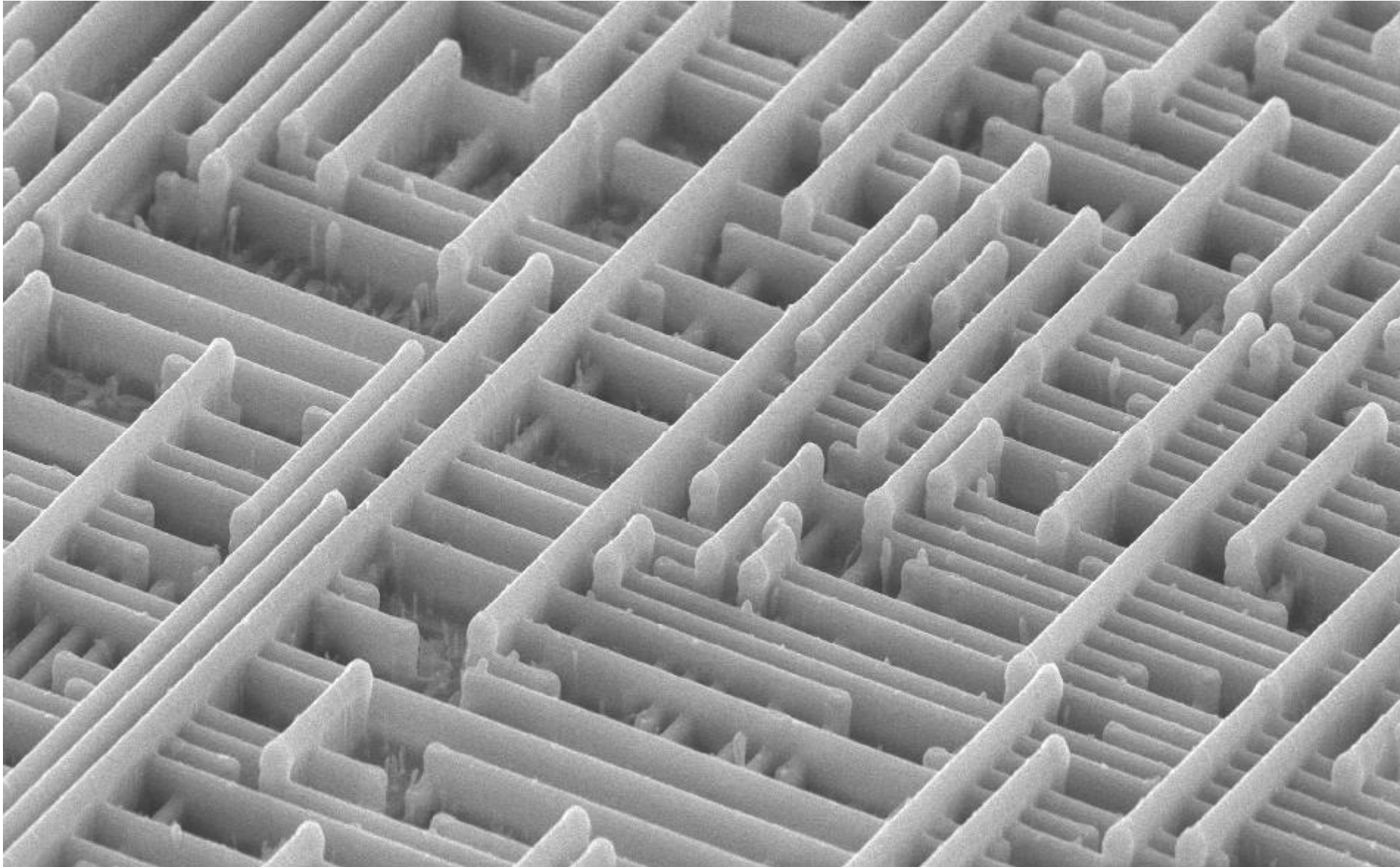
Nanometer (e<sup>-</sup>)



# Summary



The nanoworld **allows to...**



Ideas,  
Theory,  
Design:

**Nano &  
micro  
systems**

To look  
at the  
universe

Observe and measure the extremely big



...and the extremely complex



# Want to play? You welcome!

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*dott. Michele Rignanese* ([michele.rignanese@phd.unipd.it](mailto:michele.rignanese@phd.unipd.it))

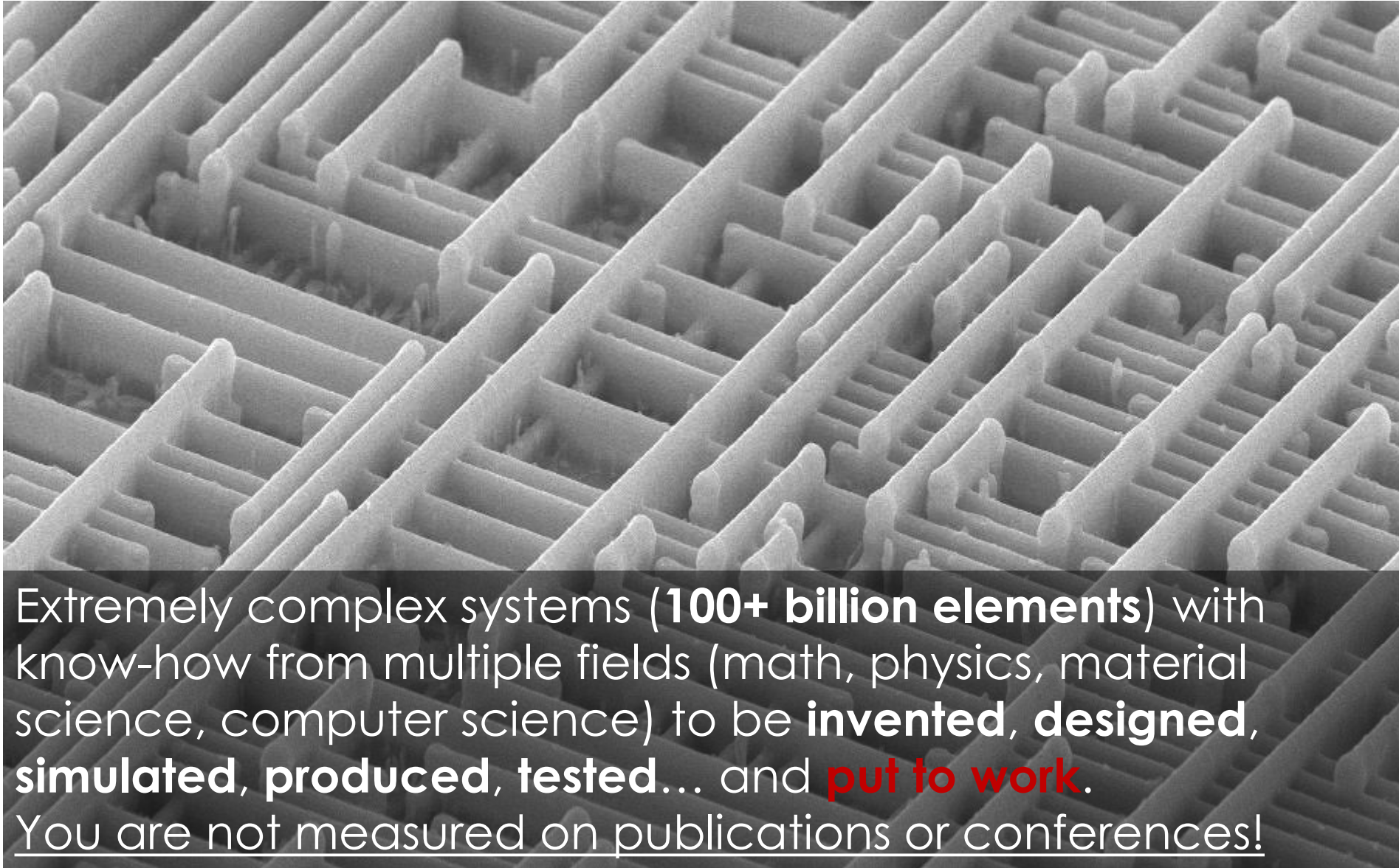


**Group:**

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**Backup**

# Is it challenging?



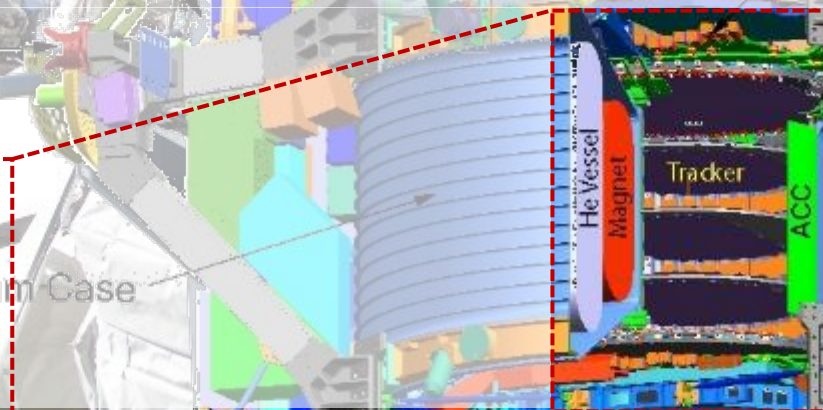
Extremely complex systems (**100+ billion elements**) with know-how from multiple fields (math, physics, material science, computer science) to be **invented, designed, simulated, produced, tested...** and **put to work**.  
You are not measured on publications or conferences!

**Not** (only) theory,  
**nor** (only) simulation,  
**nor** (only) analysis

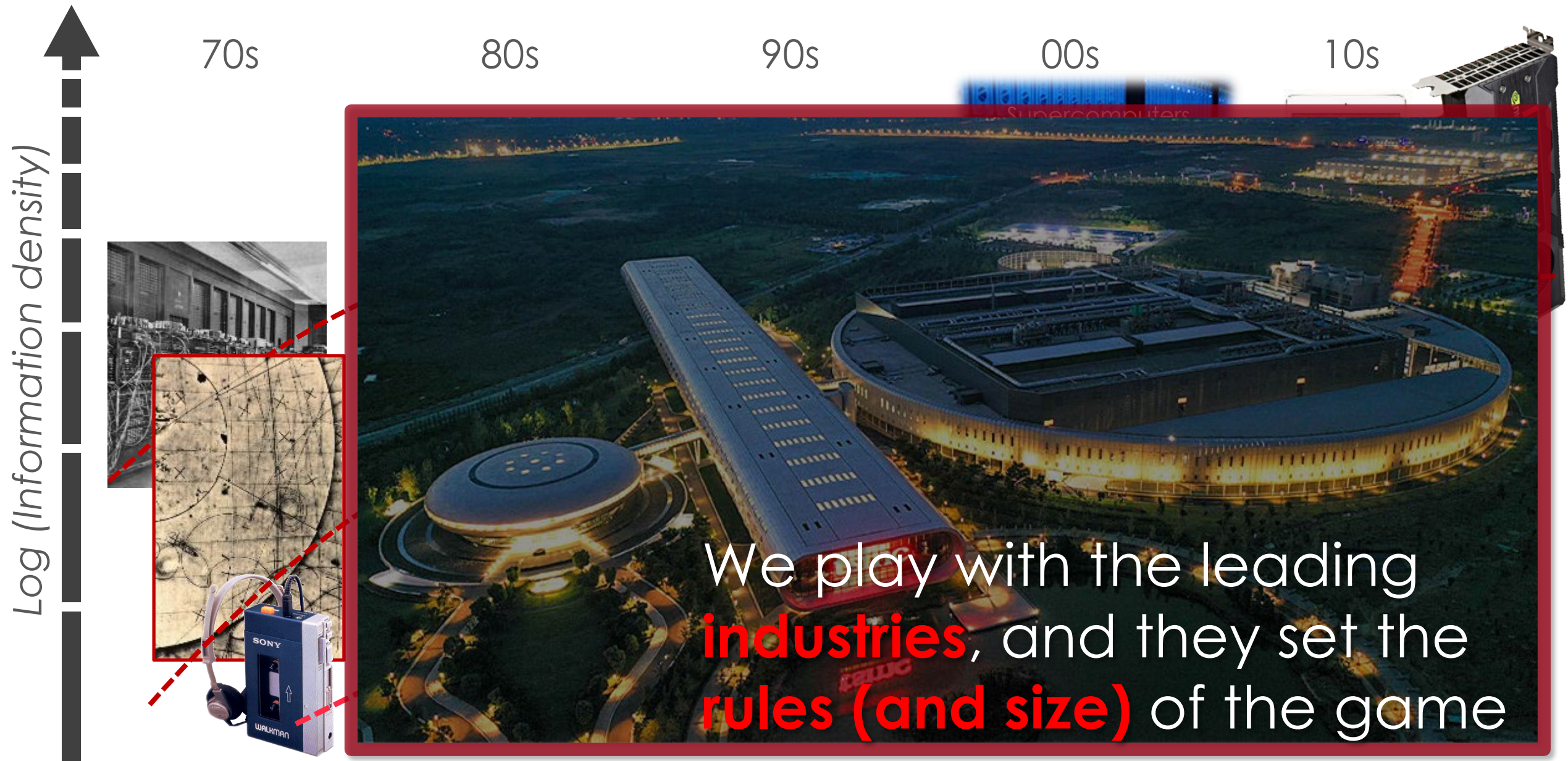
**Must,**  
**simply,**  
**work!**

# In space (cosmics, $\gamma$ , and beyond)

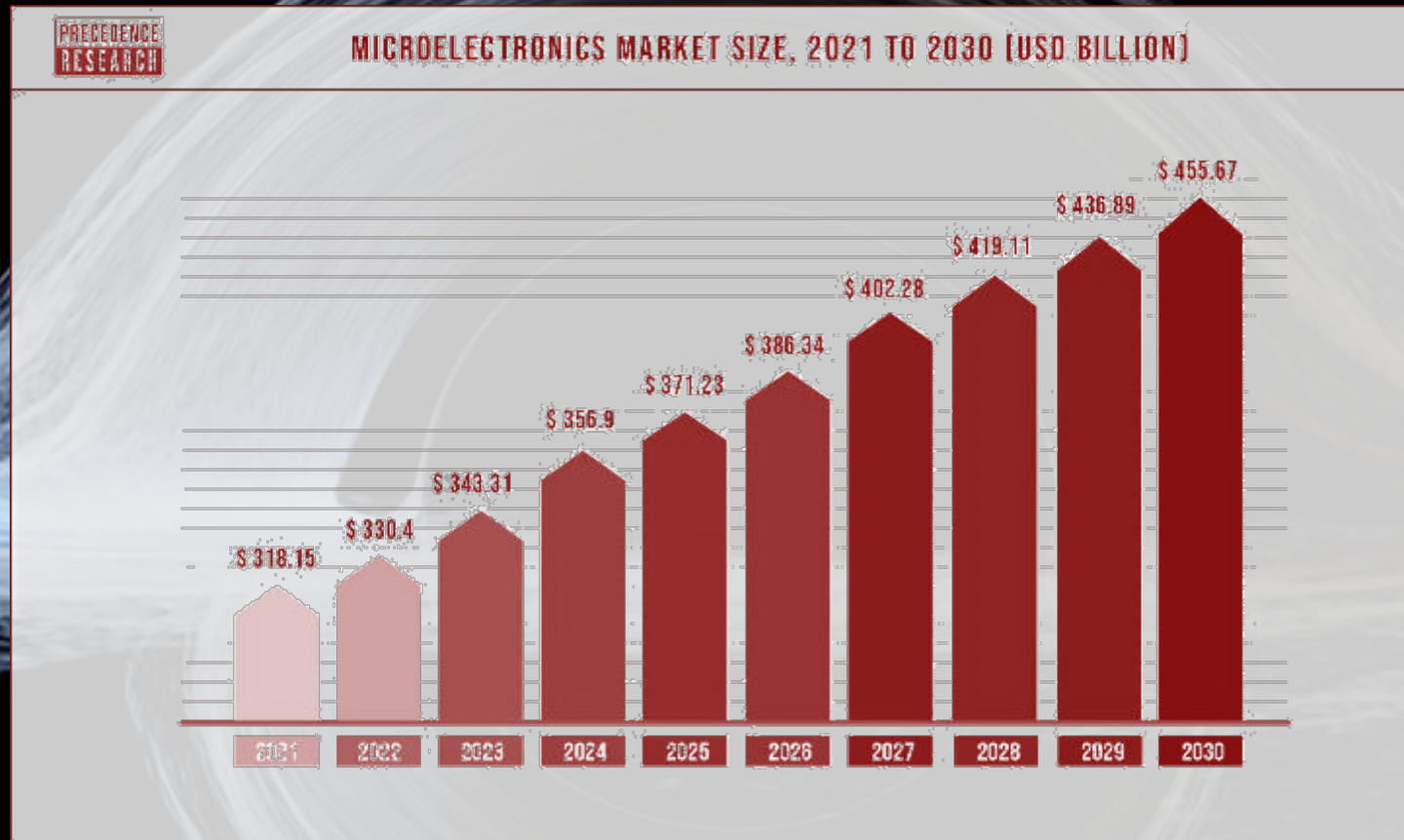
Silicon sensors onboard satellites looks at the near and deep space



# Disclaimer: that game hurts physicist's pride



# Disclaimer: it's a bigger game than what you think



Interstellar's black hole "Gargantua" is not scientifically accurate (as shown in the movie) but the simulation produced 800 TByte of unprecedented quality data, which lead Kip Thorne ([Nobel prize 2017](#)) to investigate some unexpected effects (which you cannot see in the movie) about the lensing effect.