

# DarkLight: Welcome to the Other Side

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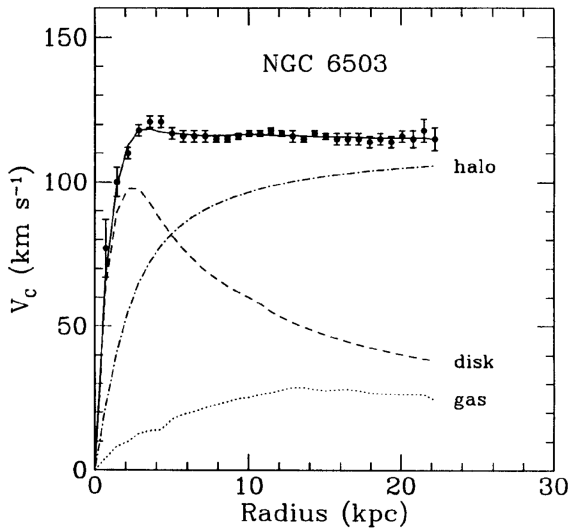
September 26, 2025



# Overture

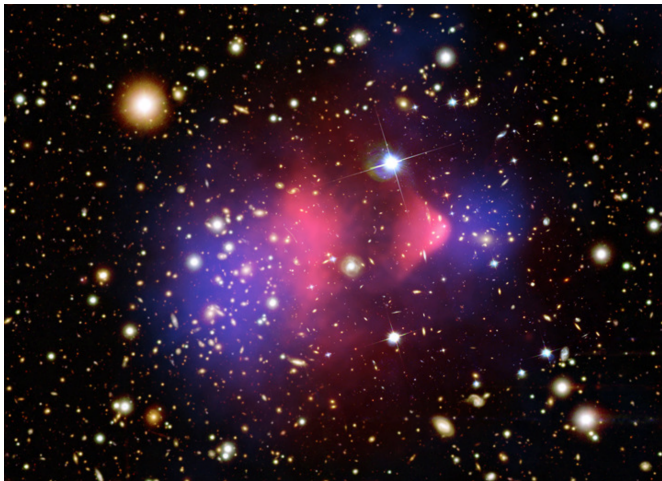
- 1 Preliminaries
  - Experimental Set-up
  - History
- 2 DarkLight Status
  - Analysis Framework: Cooker
  - digitization
  - Momentum Resolution
  - Signal

# Dark Ages: Galactic Rotation Curves



[\[https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1701.01840\]](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1701.01840)

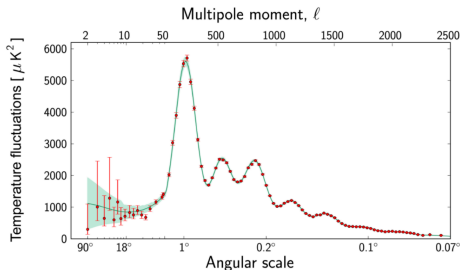
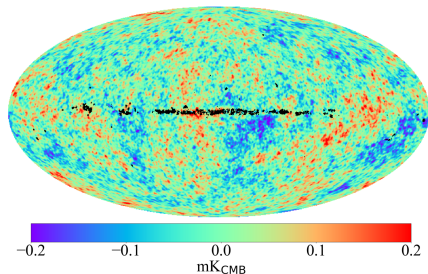
# Dark Ages: Gravitational Lensing, Bullet Cluster



[\[https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1701.01840\]](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1701.01840)

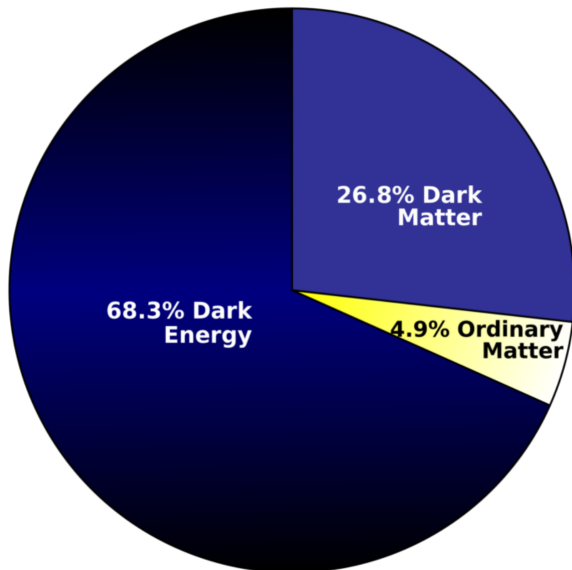


# Dark Ages: Cosmic Microwave Background

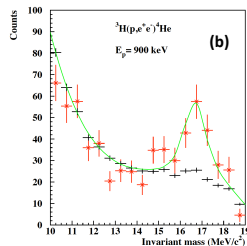
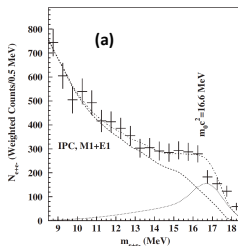
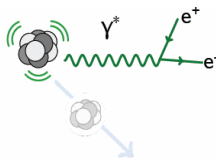


- Left over radiation from the hot early days of the universe
- Almost uniform background of radio waves that fill the universe
- Power spectrum of CMB measures the amount of fluctuation in the CMB temperature spectrum at different angular scales

# Dark Ages: Energy Density



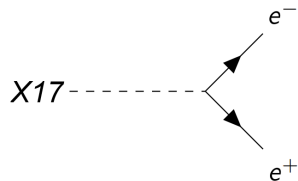
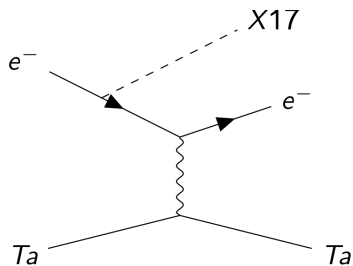
# Dark Ages: Puzzles



- Excess in  $e^+e^-$  invariant mass spectra in  ${}^8\text{Be}$  and  ${}^4\text{He}$
- corresponds to mass at  $17 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
- Non-vanishing excess was observed at different angles and different experimental configurations
- Observed for  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  [PRC 106, L061601 \(2022\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.10459)

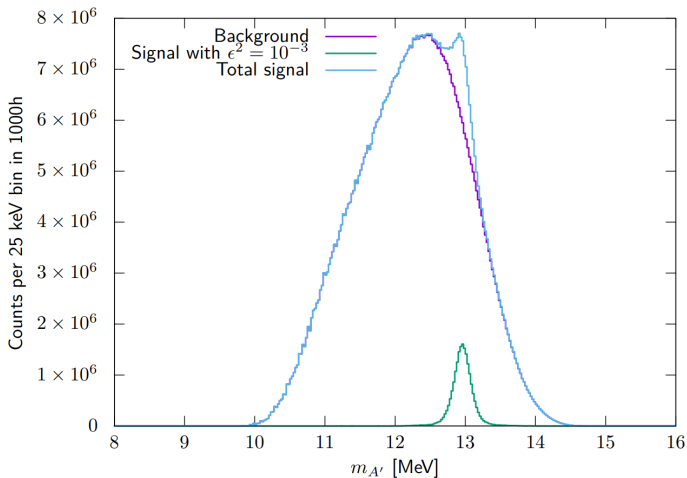
[\[https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.10459\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.10459), [\[PRL 116, 042501 \(2016\)\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1604.04250)

# DarkLight Experiment



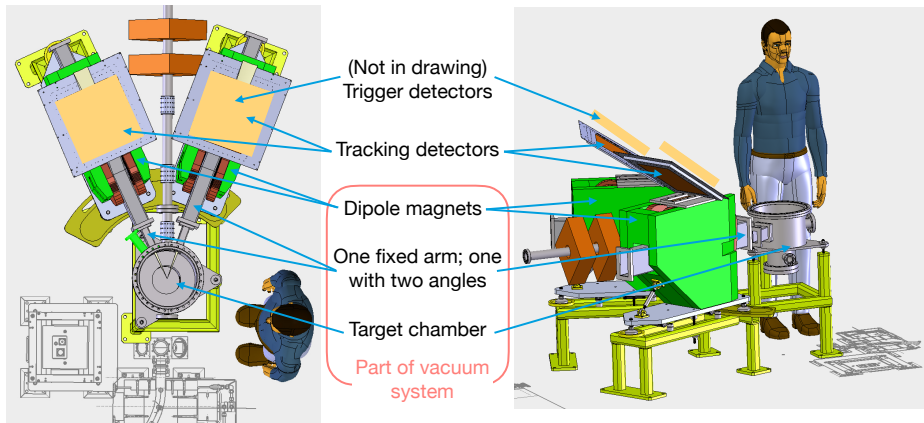
- Reaction:  $e^- Ta \rightarrow e^- Ta + X$  and  $X \rightarrow e^- e^+$
- Detect  $e^- e^+$  pair with two spectrometers and reconstruct invariant mass:  $M_{ee} = M_{X17}$

# DarkLight Experiment



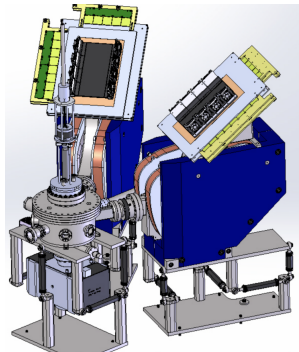
- Search for bump in  $M_{ee}$  distribution

# DarkLight Experiment



# DarkLight Experiment

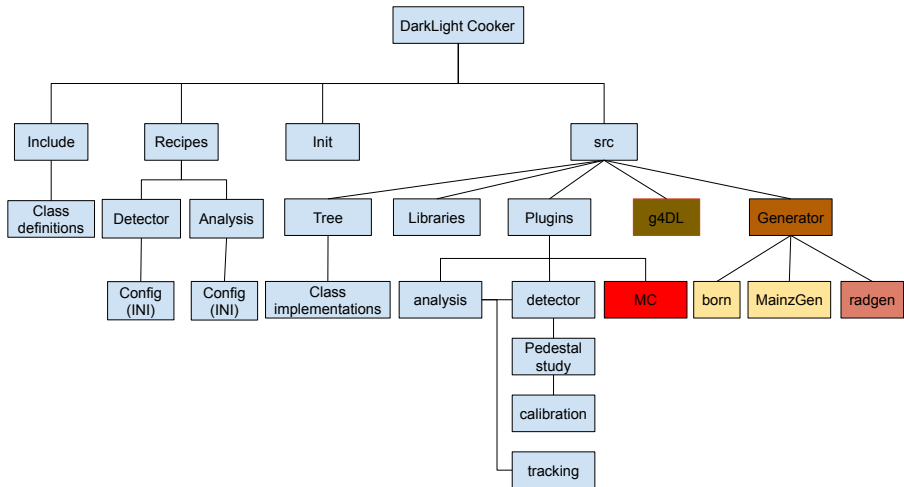
- $1\mu\text{m}$  thick Ta foil target
- $1\mu\text{m}$  C foil for calibration and parasitic measurements
- $300\ \mu\text{A}$  beam 30 MeV
- Target ladder allows for empty space configuration



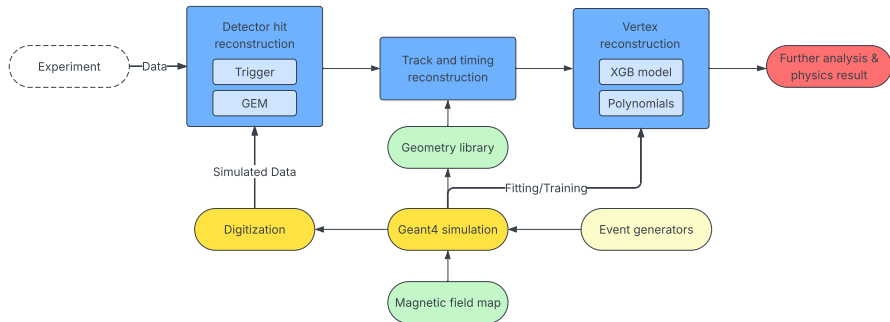
- 2011-2017: DarkLight at LERF: PAC37 (C2); approved (C1) by PAC39 (2013)
  - 2012 Demonstrated to pass ERL mA beam through narrow aperture
  - 2014 NSF/MRI funding, staging of DarkLight in Phase I (a,b,c), and II
  - 2016 Last LERF operation, test beam time with DarkLight solenoid
  - 2016 Atomki PRL claiming X17 (8-Be) [PRL 116, 042501 \(2016\)](#)
- 2018-2020: DarkLight at CEBAF: deferred by PAC46 (2018) and PAC48 (2020)
  - 2019 Second Atomki claim (4-He) [arxiv:1910.10459](#)
- Since 2020: DarkLight at ARIEL (TRIUMF) initiated
  - DND2020: Developing New Directions in Fundamental Physics
  - 2021: DarkLight proposal to TRIUMF, for 10-20 MeV search window Phase 1 approved by TRIUMF EEC with high priority for 1,300 beam hours
  - 2022 Third Atomki claim (12-C) [arxiv:2209.10795](#)

2025: Installation & Commissioning





# Data Pipeline



# GEM Digitization

g4DL



Reconstruct &  
Sample



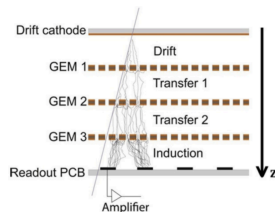
Create  
Gaussians

Passes locations of energy deposits in ROOT file. Unable to pass actual track information

Reconstruct track information from energy deposits. Use track information to randomly sample points of ionization on path

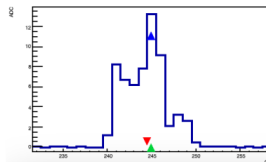
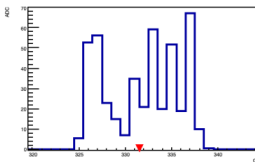
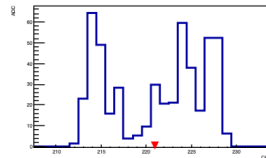
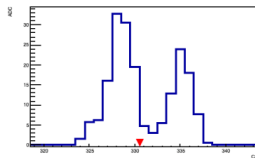
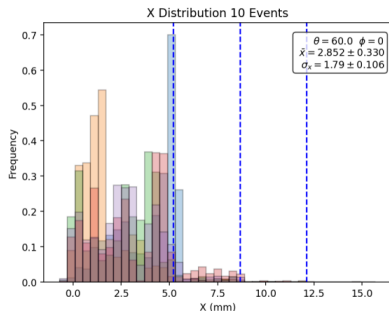
Ionization points are then turned into gaussians in GEM axis

- Uses Garfield++



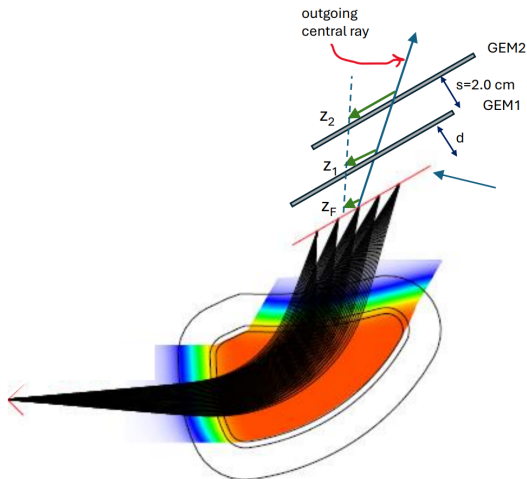
# GEM Digitization

## At 60deg



- Go from G4 hits to ADC
- This has been implemented into Cooker

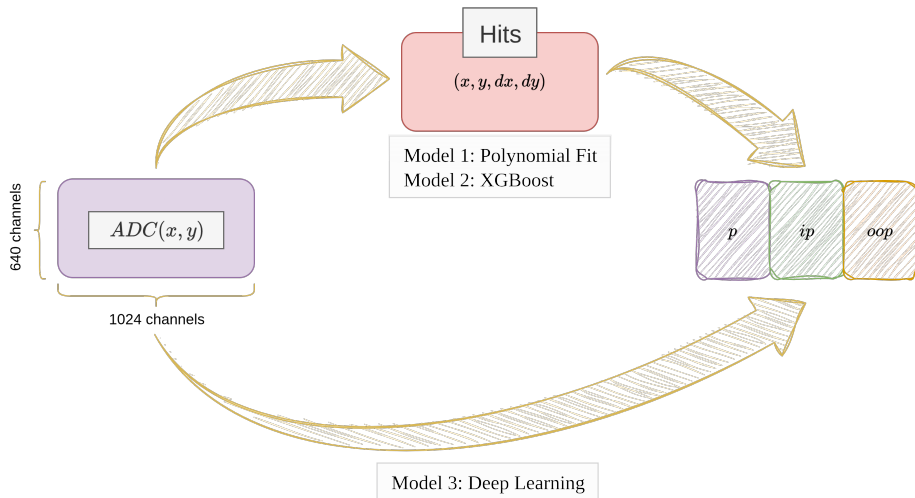
# Central Momentum Resolution



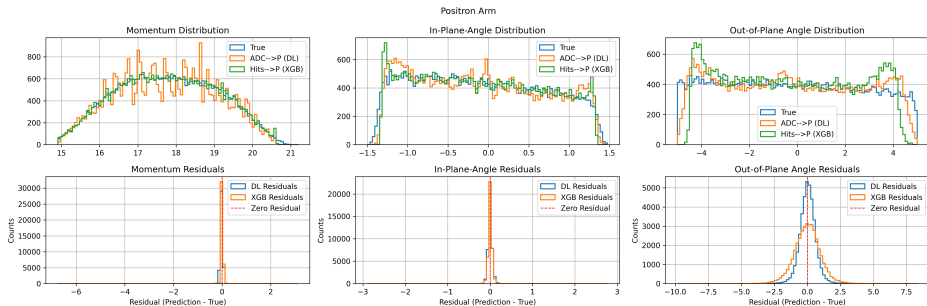
- Resolution of central momentum given digitization

[Daniel & Myself]

# Vertex Reconstruction

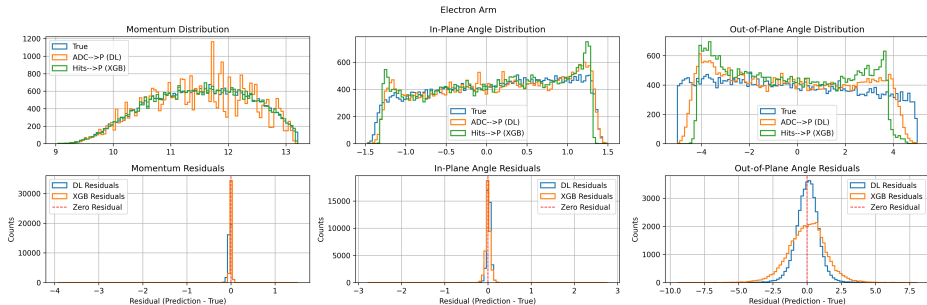


# Vertex Reconstruction



[Sid & Xavier]

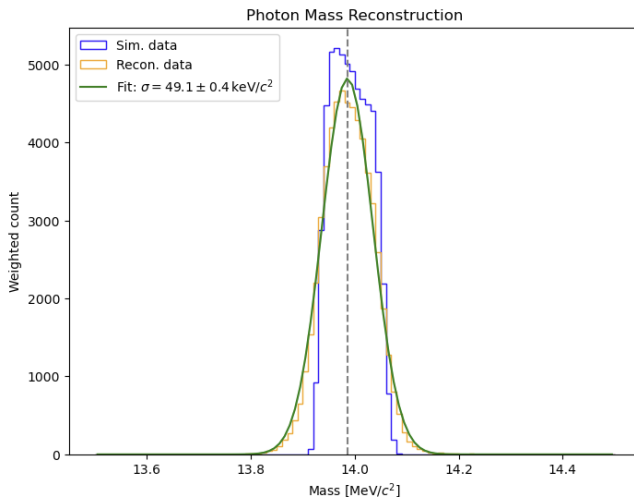
# Vertex Reconstruction



[Sid & Xavier]



# Vertex Reconstruction



- Signal reconstruction:  $M = 14.5 \text{ MeV}/c^2$

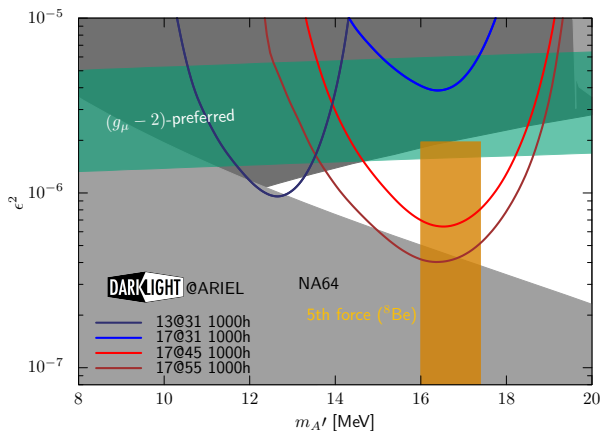
# Summary & Future Work

- The work goes on!!!

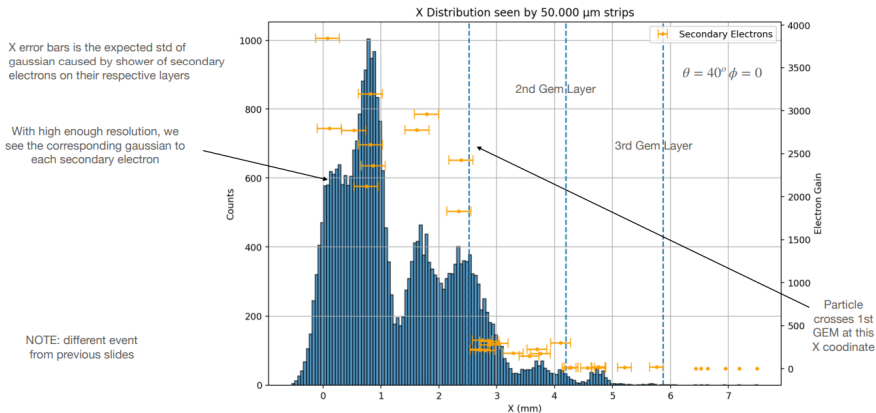
Now onto the Installation Presentation

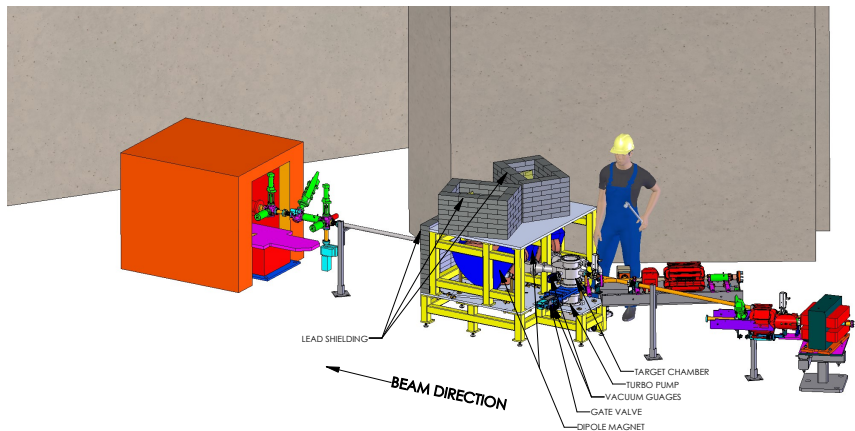
# Back Up

# Exclusion



# Correlating Gain and X Distribution





# Key Points of New Config

- Branch of new config: default is to use INI
- `cmake ../ -DUSE_XML=ON` to turn on XML parsing
- **Not tested if XML parsing if fully working. Cedar keeps hanging**
- Use `std::map` as look-up table
- key: `runnumber`, `id` (channel no.), detector element
- Not all detector elements and/or channels are changed for all run numbers
- Changed elements get overwritten
- `eetsumMorConfig` creates a map of `runnumber` and sequence of config items
- Might be buggy, and some functionality still to be added

# Keeping Things the same

## GEMini functions

```
Long_t GEMini::setAPV(int id,int off,int ch,int ch_off,const char *name){ ... }  
Long_t GEMini::setPedestals(int id, char *param){ .... }  
Long_t GEMini::setAxis(int id, int apvid1,int offset1, int apvid2,int  
offset2,const char* name){ ... }
```

## XML <run nr="10137">

```
<apv id="0">0,128,0,"APV0"</apv>  
<apvped id="0">"229.61 852.181 872.292 855.482 872.207 848.577..."  
<axis id="0">0,0,7,128,"x"</axis>
```

## INI: [run:10137]

```
apv=0,0,128,0,"APV0"  
apvped=0,"229.61 852.181 872.292 855.482 872.207 848.577..."  
axis=0,0,0,7,128,"x"
```



## Eet-Sum-Mor Init File

```
[ config ]
apvped=setPedestals
apvgain=setGains
apv=setAPV
axis=setAxis
format=setDataFormat

[ run:10137 ]
apv=13,0,128,0,"APV0"
apv=14,128,128,0,"APV1"
apv=15,256,128,0,"APV2"
apv=16,384,128,0,"APV3"

axis=0,0,0,7,128,"x"
axis=1,8,0,12,128,"y"
```