

CALIBRATION OF A SAMPLING TOTAL ABSORPTION
DETECTOR DESIGNED FOR NEUTRINO EXPERIMENTS *

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Abstract

A sampling total absorption detector was calibrated at Fermilab for energies in the range 5 to 250 GeV. The calorimeter consisted of a sandwich of scintillator slabs and 4" thick steel plates. Energy resolutions (rms) of $\pm 33\%$, $\pm 16\%$, and $\pm 9\%$ were achieved for the energies of 10, 50, and 150 GeV respectively.

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Recent neutrino experiments¹ performed in the Fermilab narrow band neutrino beam have used a large area sampling total absorption² detector. The total absorption detector serves the dual purpose of being a target as well as a hadron calorimeter. This massive detector contains 143 tons of steel in the form of seventy steel slabs, each 5' x 5' in area and 4" thick. The energy of the final state hadrons released in neutrino interactions such as

$$\nu + \text{Nucleus} \rightarrow \mu^- + \text{hadrons} \quad (1)$$

and
$$\nu + \text{Nucleus} \rightarrow \nu + \text{hadrons} \quad (2)$$

is measured by seventy scintillation counters placed after every 4" of steel (one collision length). The final state hadrons initiate a shower which is sampled by the scintillation counters. The sampling every nuclear collision length in steel is sufficient to allow the measurement of the energy of a 50 GeV shower to an rms accuracy of $\pm 16\%$.

Because of the large mass of the target calorimeter, it is impractical to move it into a hadron beam for the purpose of calibration.³ Instead, a scale model calorimeter of similar design but reduced transverse and longitudinal dimensions was constructed and placed in hadron beams of well defined energies at Fermilab. This scaled down model was described in an earlier publication⁴, where results of an early calibration run at 200 GeV were reported. In this publication we report preliminary results from more recent calibration runs for beam energies between 5 and 250 GeV. The most extensive measurements were done in August of 1974. Less extensive measurements were done during data taking runs in June and July of 1974.

A schematic of the scaled-down calorimeter is shown in Fig. 1. It consists of 14 modules, each made of a 4" thick plate of steel (10" x 14" in area) followed by a 3/8" thick plastic scintillator. The 14 scintillation counters were placed in the 1.1" thick air gaps between the steel plates. This scaled-down calorimeter is long enough to contain longitudinally the shower initiated by the incident hadrons at present Fermilab energies. In front of the calorimeter are three counters T1, T2 and T3 used to signal a single charged particle incident on the detector. The trigger is T1 T2 T3. To provide a calibrating one particle signal, the steel plates in the calorimeter are removable, in which case the particles pass through the counters without interacting. Each scintillator is equipped with its own phototube (RCA6655); the signals are separately pulse height analyzed for each event, and all data are written on magnetic tape.

The calorimeter was placed in the hadron beam⁵ that is normally used for the 30" bubble chamber in the neutrino area at Fermilab. The primary 300 GeV proton beam is directed on to a production target. A momentum and sign selected secondary beam is transported to the location of the calorimeter 1650 feet downstream by a series of bending and focusing magnets. The beam is primarily composed of hadrons (mostly protons and pions for positive sign selection and mostly pions for negative sign selection) with a small muon component. At energies less than 100 GeV there is a substantial electron contamination (30% at 50 GeV). The electron component was removed prior to the final momentum selection by a 1" thick lead absorber placed 590 feet upstream of the calorimeter.

Data was first taken with all the steel removed in order to calibrate the 14 counters with singly ionizing hadrons. The signals from the photomultipliers were amplified by a factor of 35 for this calibration. The pulse height distribution for single ionizing hadrons in the first counter is shown in figure 2a. Runs were taken with positive sign selected beams at 10 and 150 GeV, and with negative sign selected beams at 20 and 100 GeV. The peak positions (i.e. the most probable value or the mode of the distribution) were independent of the energy or sign of the hadron beam. The average peak positions in the 14 counters were the same at 10, 20, 100 and 150 GeV to $\pm 0.4\%$. With the steel back in place, we repeated the test with positive sign selected muons at 30 and 50 GeV. The pulse height distribution of singly ionizing muons in the first counter is shown in figure 2b. Here also the peak positions of singly ionizing muons were independent of energy and equal to the peak for singly ionizing hadrons to $\pm 0.4\%$. The curves that are shown correspond to those from a simple model in which each ionizing particle produces a pulse height which is poisson distributed and in addition can produce a delta ray, traversing the 3/8" of scintillator, with a probability of 0.12.

We use the most probable value to define a single ionizing pulse because theoretical calculations⁶ indicate that, unlike the mean value, the most probable value is independent of energy for energies greater than 5 GeV. This fact is corroborated by the above described studies. The pulse height distribution for non-interacting straight through muons summed over the 14 counters is shown in figure 3, where the abscissa is the number of equivalent single ionizing particles. The steel plates were back in place for this test. A gaussian fit to the distribution yields a mean of 17.9 equivalent particles and a standard deviation of 2.4. The difference between 14.0 and 17.9 is also a reflection of

the difference between the mean energy deposition and the most probable energy deposition in a counter by 50 GeV muons.

The peak positions for singly ionizing straight through muons are also used to calibrate the counters of the large area calorimeter. The hadron shower pulse heights in both the large area calorimeter and in the scaled-down model are expressed in terms of the equivalent number of singly ionizing particles. When expressed that way, the calibration and resolution of the scale model should be the same as that of the large area calorimeter.

With the steel plates back in place we recorded hadron shower events for a variety of incident energies ranging from 5 to 250 GeV. The signals were not amplified in this case, because hadron showers give much larger pulse height than those of singly ionizing particles. The pulse height distributions summed over the 14 counters for hadron energies of 5, 10, 20, 30, 50, 100, 150 and 250 GeV are shown in figures 4a and 4b, where the abscissa is the number of equivalent singly ionizing particles in the shower. The distributions that are shown represent only hadron events which satisfied conditions designed to discriminate against background events such as non-interacting muons and low energy electrons (e.g. electrons from interactions in the beam pipe, decays, etc.). Also, criteria that ensured the containment of the hadron shower within the scaled-down calorimeter were applied. These conditions are discussed below.

Background low energy electrons were characterized by a large pulse in the first counter, a smaller pulse in the second counter and no signal in the third counter. These background electrons were not a serious problem at energies greater than 30 GeV, as at those energies the hadron shower events were more numerous than background events, and the pulse heights summed over the 14 counters were much larger for hadron events than for background events. At energies less than 30 GeV, the electron background was removed by the requirement of a small minimum pulse in the third counter. The muon background which yielded a peak at 17.9 equivalent particles was only important at 5 and 10 GeV where the hadron showers were small. At those energies muons were recognized by the presence of a penetrating particle in the back counters of the calorimeter. Additional discrimination against muons was obtained by forcing an interaction in the first module. At high energies, the requirement of an interaction in the first module (obtained by the requirement of a minimum pulse in the first counter) ensured the longitudinal containment of the shower and enabled us to study the shower development from the point of the primary interaction. This more nearly simulates the case of a neutrino interaction in the

large calorimeter where we know the vertex position. In order to avoid a bias in favor of large hadron showers, we never required the number of particles in any counter to be more than 10% of the average number of particles in that counter for typical hadron showers. A summary of the event selection conditions is given in Appendix A. Also given in the Appendix are the shower development tables which contain the mean number of particles in each counter for all the incident energies that were studied as well as the mean fraction of the energy that is deposited in each counter. The shower development tables indicate that the longitudinal containment of the shower is complete for energies up to 150 GeV (when an interaction is forced in the first counter). At the higher energies, a 1% or 2% energy loss out the back of the calorimeter cannot be ruled out.

We also investigated the transverse containment of the shower by aiming the incident beam at various distances from the edge of the calorimeter. This type of data provide only an indirect⁷ measure of the transverse containment of the shower. Such a study done at 150 GeV indicated that there is a small energy leakage out the side of about 2.2%. The side leakage at 200 and 250 GeV was not investigated but is expected to be similar. The large area calorimeter used in the neutrino experiment is large enough to transversely contain the hadron shower; therefore, the means of the distributions at 150, 200 and 250 GeV were corrected by a multiplicative factor of 1.022. Similar studies done at the lower energies were less extensive and were inconclusive.⁷ No side loss corrections were applied to the lower energy data. Monte Carlo calculations⁸ indicate that the side loss may be on the order of 1% to 3% for $E > 50$ GeV, and may be as large as 6% at $E = 5$ GeV.

The distributions of total pulse height (summed over all 14 counters) of hadron showers in the calorimeter were found to be best represented by poisson distributions, especially at low energies. The best fit poisson distributions are drawn on top of the data in figure 4. Gaussian distributions (with the negative tails truncated) which have the same means and standard deviations as that of the poisson distribution will provide fair fits to the data. The best fit means and standard deviations are given in Table I. The errors that are given are point to point errors (the errors in the means for the 200 and 250 GeV data are larger because they include an additional 5% normalization error due to equipment related difficulties incurred during the June run).

TABLE I.

Hadron shower energy deposition in the calorimeter
expressed in terms of equivalent number of singly
ionized particles.

Run	Sign Selection	Momentum (GeV)	Mean	σ/Mean
August	-	5	18.2 ± 4	0.384 ± 0.200
August	-	10	52.7 ± 5	0.331 ± 0.031
August	-	20	106.3 ± 4	0.253 ± 0.010
August	-	30	164.5 ± 7	0.199 ± 0.010
August	-	50	269.0 ± 5	0.158 ± 0.007
August	-	100	538.0 ± 5	0.111 ± 0.007
July	+	150	808.0 ± 5	0.089 ± 0.004
June	-	200	1056.0 ± 53	0.079 ± 0.004
June	-	250	1287.0 ± 65	0.073 ± 0.004

The overall systematic error in the means is estimated a $\pm 5\%$. The uncertainty in the energy loss out the sides leads to an additional error in the means varying from 2% at the highest energy to 6% at the lowest energy. The Monte-Carlo⁸ calculations indicate that the resolution of a calorimeter where no energy is lost out the sides is expected to be narrower by amounts varying from 5% at the highest energy to 20% at the lowest energy. These uncertainties will be greatly reduced with further investigations of the lateral containment of the shower.

The low energy data ($E \leq 30$ GeV), given in Table I, include a small correction to account for the fact that the primary interaction in neutrino reactions can occur uniformly throughout the 4" of steel while the primary interaction of the hadron beam tends to occur in the first part of the steel. This correction is described in Appendix B.

An interesting quantity to calculate is the fractional observed energy, i.e. the energy that is not lost in nuclear disintegrations. This quantity can be obtained approximately by a comparison of muon and hadron pulse heights. The

assumption involved is that the mean energy deposition of charged particles in the scintillator is proportional to the mean energy loss due to ionization in the steel. Under the above assumption, the difference between muon and hadron pulse heights is due to the unobserved energy loss in nuclear disintegrations initiated by the hadrons. The mean pulse height of 50 GeV muons traversing the 14 modules of the calorimeter is 17.9 ± 1.0 single ionizing signals. Using the mean DE/DX value of 16.09 MeV/cm for 50 GeV muons in steel, our definition of a singly ionizing signal corresponds to 127.8 MeV. The mean pulse height of a 100 GeV hadron shower is 538 ± 5 single ionizing signals or 68.8 GeV. This means that the fractional observed energy for hadrons in our calorimeter is 68.8% at 100 GeV.

The dependence of the peak position on energy was very close to linear for hadron showers completely contained in the calorimeter. The following fit provides a good representation of the data

$$\text{mean} = \frac{5.428 T^2}{T + 0.721} \quad (3)$$

where the mean is expressed in number of equivalent singly ionizing particles, and T is the kinetic energy⁹ of the incident hadron in GeV. The choice of the above functional form (eq.3) for the parametrization of the mean as a function of energy was motivated by the fact that Monte-Carlo⁸ calculations indicate that the fractional observed energy should be smaller at lower energies.¹⁰

A good representation of the dependence of the rms resolution (σ/mean) on energy is provided by the fit

$$\text{Resolution (rms)} = 1.105 / \sqrt{T} \quad (4)$$

where the kinetic energy⁹ T is in GeV. The data and the fit are shown in figure 5b.

By making appropriate sums of the calorimeter counters, we can investigate the effects of different counter spacing on resolution (for spacing greater than the nominal 4"). For example, adding the even counters allows a measurement of the resolution with 8" spacing (i.e. 8" of steel between scintillators). Such a study was done in the early calibration run⁴ at 200 GeV. The results of that study are shown in Figure 6 where the resolution is plotted vs. amount of steel between any two counters. The dependence is linear between 4" and 12" (the curves are drawn to guide the eye). Table II shows a comparison between the resolution with 4" spacing and the resolution with 8" spacing for energies investigated in the present study. The resolution with 8" spacing is roughly

twice the resolution with 4" spacing. It is not expected that this linear relation continues for spacing smaller than 4".

The above result is important because neutrino interactions in the large area calorimeter initiate hadron final state showers with mean momenta in a direction not necessarily normal to the plates of the calorimeter. A hadron shower produced at an angle θ_H with respect to the axis of the calorimeter will have a calibration which is independent of θ_H . This is because although the effective steel spacing is increased by a factor of $1/\cos\theta_H$, the amount of light produced by each secondary particle is increased by the same factor as the particles are traversing the scintillator at an angle. The resolution on the other hand will be that of a calorimeter of steel spacing equal to $4"/\cos\theta_H$. The results presented in Table II indicate that for small angles the resolution is directly proportional to $1/\cos\theta_H$.

TABLE II.

Comparison of the resolutions of calorimeters with 4" and 8" steel spacing.

Momentum(GeV)	Resolution 4" steel	Resolution 8" steel	Ratio 8"/4"
10	0.331	0.710	2.15
20	0.253	0.444	1.76
30	0.199	0.367	1.84
50	0.158	0.319	2.02
100	0.111	0.225	2.03
150	0.089	0.167	1.88
200	0.079	0.160	2.03
250	0.072	0.148	2.07

Further studies of calorimeters of various steel spacing are planned. Special emphasis will be placed on studies of the transverse containment of hadron showers and on the behavior at low ($E < 20$ GeV) beam energies.

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Appendix A: Shower Development Tables

The mean number of particles in each counter for various incident momenta are given in Table A.1. The symbol + denotes positively charged hadrons and the symbol - denotes negatively charged hadrons. Because of equipment related difficulties incurred during the June run, there are larger uncertainties in the counter to counter calibrations of the 200 and 250 GeV data. The overall normalization of that data is correct to $\pm 5\%$ because the mean for the sum of 14 counters measured with 150 GeV hadrons in the June run agreed with later measurements taken with 150 GeV hadrons during the July run.

TABLE A.1

Mean number of particles in each counter for various incident

Counter	-5 GeV	-10 GeV	-20 GeV	-30 GeV	-50 GeV	-100 GeV	+150 GeV	-200 GeV	-250 GeV
1	11.4	21.1	36.2	51.4	66.0	108.0	138.0	193.0	207.6
2	5.1	14.1	32.2	50.6	83.5	157.0	198.0	247.1	283.3
3	1.4	6.2	15.3	22.2	41.9	87.7	140.0	183.8	227.6
4	0.1	4.4	9.1	14.0	27.7	59.3	91.8	107.2	132.4
5	0.0	2.0	5.0	9.4	18.9	43.1	73.1	102.1	129.9
6	0.0	1.5	3.0	5.4	11.3	27.1	48.3	57.2	74.2
7	0.0	0.8	1.7	3.8	7.4	19.5	35.9	43.9	60.6
8	0.0	0.4	0.8	2.1	4.4	12.1	23.8	30.6	40.9
9	0.0	0.3	0.5	1.0	3.0	8.4	17.1	20.4	29.7
10	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.7	1.8	5.4	13.0	16.3	23.5
11	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.4	3.7	7.4	8.2	12.4
12	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7	2.2	4.3	5.1	7.4
13	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.5	2.7	3.1	4.9
14	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.2	2.6	2.0	3.7

The shower development can also be described in terms of the average fractional energy deposition in each counter, i.e. $\langle N_i/N_{\text{total}} \rangle$, where N_i is the number of particles in counter number i , and $N_{\text{total}} = \sum_i N_i$.

TABLE A.2

The mean fractional energy deposition in each counter for various incident momenta.

Counter	-5 GeV	-10 GeV	-20 GeV	-30 GeV	-50 GeV	-100 GeV	+150 GeV	-200 GeV	-250 GeV
1	0.680	0.413	0.346	0.319	0.246	0.200	0.174	0.189	0.168
2	0.224	0.276	0.306	0.310	0.306	0.288	0.249	0.242	0.229
3	0.079	0.123	0.146	0.139	0.156	0.163	0.175	0.180	0.184
4	0.017	0.083	0.087	0.088	0.105	0.112	0.116	0.105	0.107
5	0.000	0.038	0.048	0.057	0.070	0.081	0.092	0.100	0.105
6	0.000	0.027	0.027	0.034	0.053	0.051	0.060	0.056	0.060
7	0.000	0.016	0.016	0.023	0.028	0.037	0.045	0.043	0.049
8	0.000	0.008	0.008	0.013	0.016	0.023	0.030	0.030	0.033
9	0.000	0.005	0.005	0.006	0.011	0.016	0.021	0.020	0.024
10	0.000	0.004	0.003	0.004	0.007	0.010	0.016	0.016	0.019
11	0.000	0.002	0.001	0.003	0.005	0.007	0.009	0.008	0.010
12	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.003	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.006
13	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.003	0.004	0.003	0.004
14	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.003	0.004	0.002	0.003

The shower development tables describe the shower from the point of the primary interaction. As described in the text, an interaction was forced in the first counter by the requirement of a minimum pulse height in that counter. Other conditions were applied to discriminate against background particles. The conditions are summarized in Table A.3.

TABLE A.3

Events selection criteria. Conditions are in terms of singly ionizing signals. C1-C14 denote the counter numbers (placed every 4" of steel).

Momentum (keV)	Conditions
5	- , - , - , C13 < 0.2 , C14 < 0.2
10	C1 > 2.0 , C2 > 0.9 , C3 > 0.3 , C13 < 0.3 , C14 < 0.3
20	C1 > 4.0 , C2 > 0.9 , C3 > 0.9
30	C1 > 5.0 , C2 > 2.0 , C3 > 1.0
50	C1 > 5.0 , C2 > 2.0 , C3 > 1.0
100	C1 > 10.0
150	C1 > 10.0
200	C1 > 10.0
250	C1 > 10.0

Appendix B: Various Corrections

As described in the main text, there were conditions and corrections applied to the data in order to eliminate possible biases between charged particle induced showers in the test calorimeter and neutrino induced showers in the large area calorimeter. These are summarized below.

1. Background from muons and low energy electrons were removed.
2. An interaction was forced in the first module in order to ensure containment of the shower at high energies. Where applicable, corrections for non-containment were applied.
3. The dependence of the resolution on the steel spacing was investigated in order to understand the dependence of the resolution on the angle with respect to the calorimeter axis of neutrino induced hadron showers.
4. The first interaction of hadrons in the test calorimeter tends to occur in the front part of the first module, while neutrino interactions in the large area calorimeter occur uniformly through the 4" of steel. The low energy data was corrected for this bias.

The first three points were discussed in detail in the main text. The fourth point will be discussed in this appendix.

The difference between neutrino interactions which occur uniformly through the 4" of the steel module is that in the test calorimeter we tend to sample the shower at a later stage of development. We tested for this bias by replacing the 4" steel modules with 2" steel modules and compared the pulse height distribution of the sum of the 7 even counters (late sampling) with that of the sum of the 7 odd counters (early sampling). The average of the two distributions simulates the case of neutrino interactions where the sampling stage is unknown as the interactions occur uniformly throughout the steel. At 50 GeV, the means of the average distributions were 2.2% higher than those of the even distributions. Therefore, a correction factor of 1.022 was applied to the means of the 20 and 30 GeV distributions of the 4" data. The corresponding correction factor for the 5 GeV data was 1.10. The magnitudes of these corrections are comparable to the errors at these energies.

As mentioned earlier, the transverse dimensions of the test calorimeter were 10" by 14". The overall length of the calorimeter was 71". When the 4" steel slabs were replaced by 2" steel slabs the overall length of the calorimeter

remained the same, as the scintillator positions were fixed. Because of the drastic reduction in density and the drastic reduction in the amount of steel in the longitudinal direction, the calorimeter in the 2" spacing configuration could not contain high energy showers in the longitudinal direction (see the shower development tables in Appendix A). Even at low energies ($E \leq 50$ GeV), the reduced density resulted in a 23% energy loss out the sides of the calorimeter. This side loss could not affect the results of the above test much because we were only looking for a difference between the even and odd counters.

A different kind of bias may result if the particle composition of pion induced hadron final states ($\pi^- + p \rightarrow$ hadrons) is different from that of current (W boson) induced hadron final states ($W^- + p \rightarrow$ hadrons). The difference occurs because final state π_0 's immediately decay and initiate electromagnetic showers in which the energy loss due to nuclear disintegrations is small. The energy loss due to nuclear disintegrations is about 30% for hadron showers. The resulting bias is probably small because it changes the calibration by only 30% of the fractional difference between the π_0 composition of pion induced showers and that of current induced showers. Eventually, even this small bias may be removed when more information is available about the particle composition of current induced hadron final states.

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7. If there is some energy loss out the sides of the test calorimeter, and the beam is aimed at points away from the center of the calorimeter, the energy loss on one side may be partially compensated by an energy gain on the other side, thus resulting in only a small change in the signal.
8. This Monte-Carlo calculation is based on the work of W. V. Jones, Phys. Rev. 187, 1868 (1969). See also F. J. Sciulli, Raporteur talk on Hadron Calorimeters, Calorimeter Workshop, Fermilab (May 1975), this conference.
9. The negative sign selected beam is primarily composed of pions. For pions in our energy range the momentum $P = E$, and is a good approximation to the kinetic energy T , since $T = E - 0.14$.
10. Note that a possible 3% to 6% energy loss out the sides of the calorimeter at low energies may also cause a departure from linearity.

Figure 1 - Schematic of the test calorimeter.

Figure 2 - Pulse height distribution of singly ionizing particles in the first counter. (a) 150 GeV hadrons, steel plates removed. (b) 50 GeV muons, steel plates in place.

Figure 3 - Pulse height distribution summed over 14 counters for 50 GeV muons.

Figure 4a- Pulse height distributions summed over 14 counters for 5, 10, 20, 30 and 50 GeV hadrons. The curves are the best fit poisson distributions.

Figure 4b- Pulse height distributions summed over 14 counters for 100, 150, 200 and 250 GeV hadrons. The curves are the best fit poisson distributions.

Figure 5a- The mean number of equivalent singly ionizing particles deposited in the calorimeter vs. the incident hadron energy. The curve corresponds to the fit described in the text.

Figure 5b- The rms resolution of the calorimeter vs. the incident hadron energy. The curve corresponds to $1.105/\sqrt{E}$

Figure 6 - The resolution at 200 GeV vs. spacing between counters.

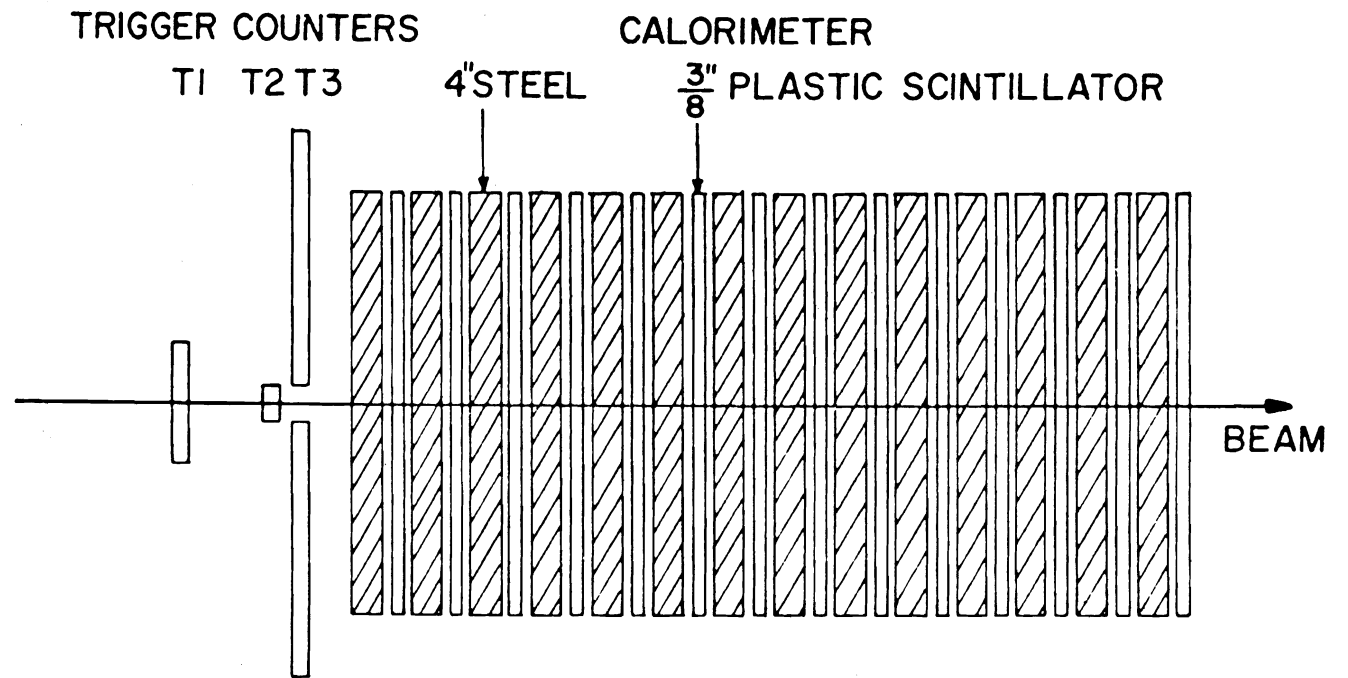
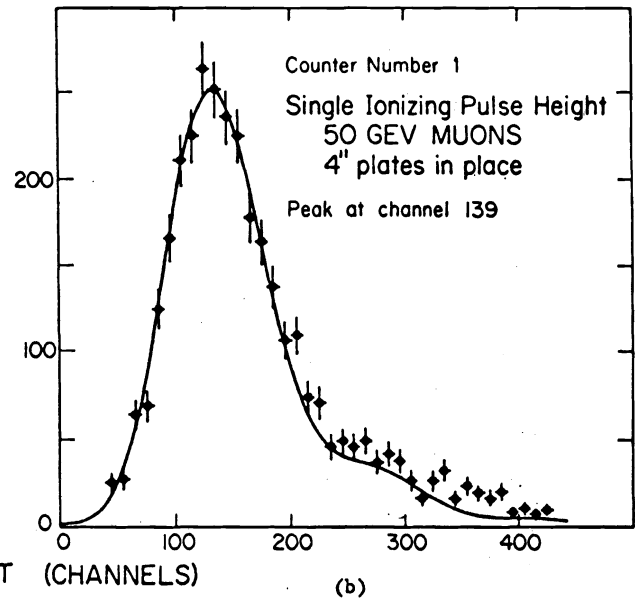
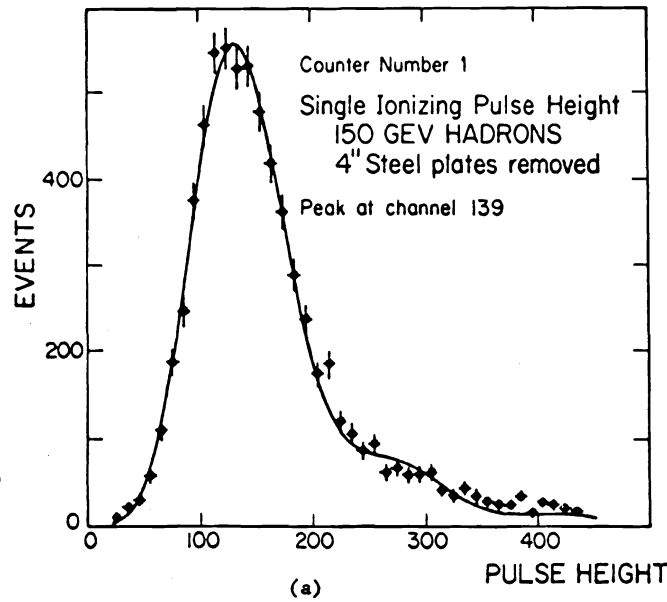


Fig. 1



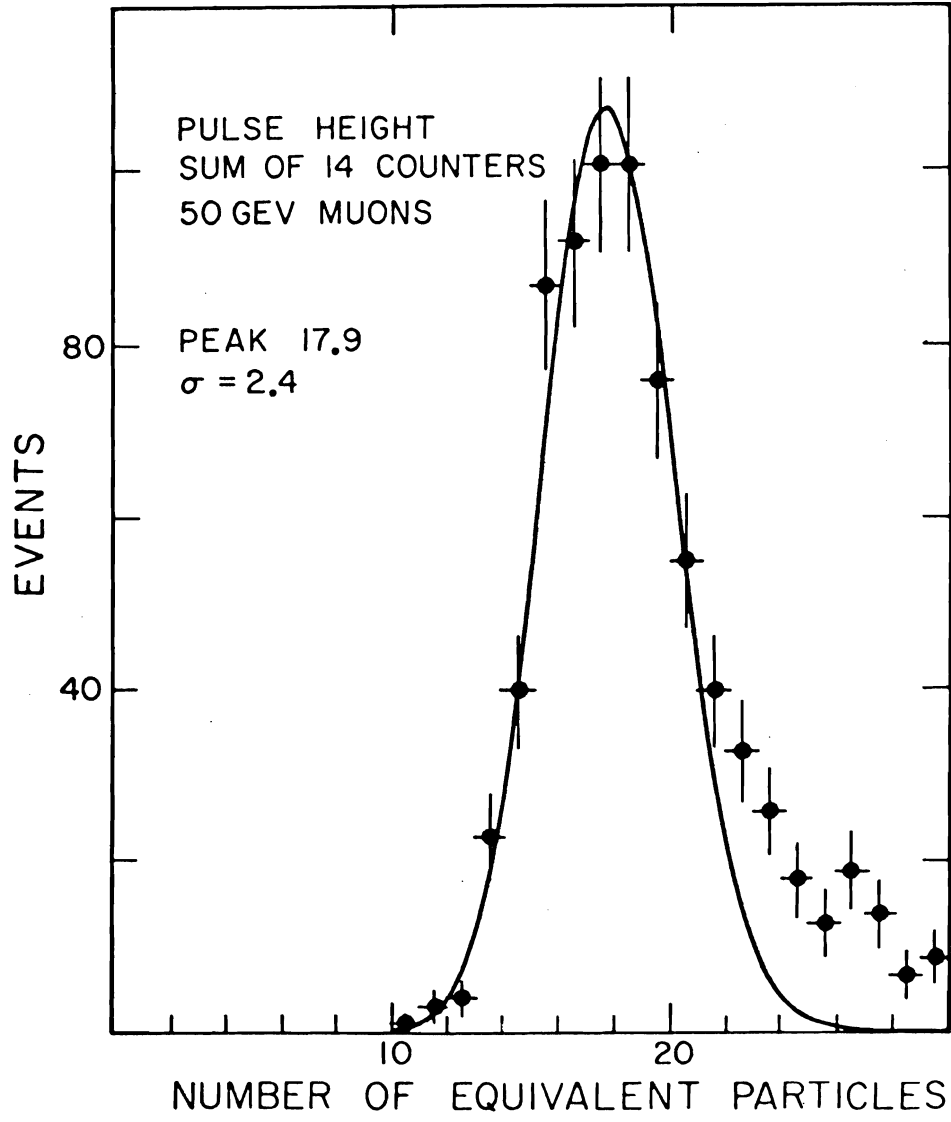


Fig. 3

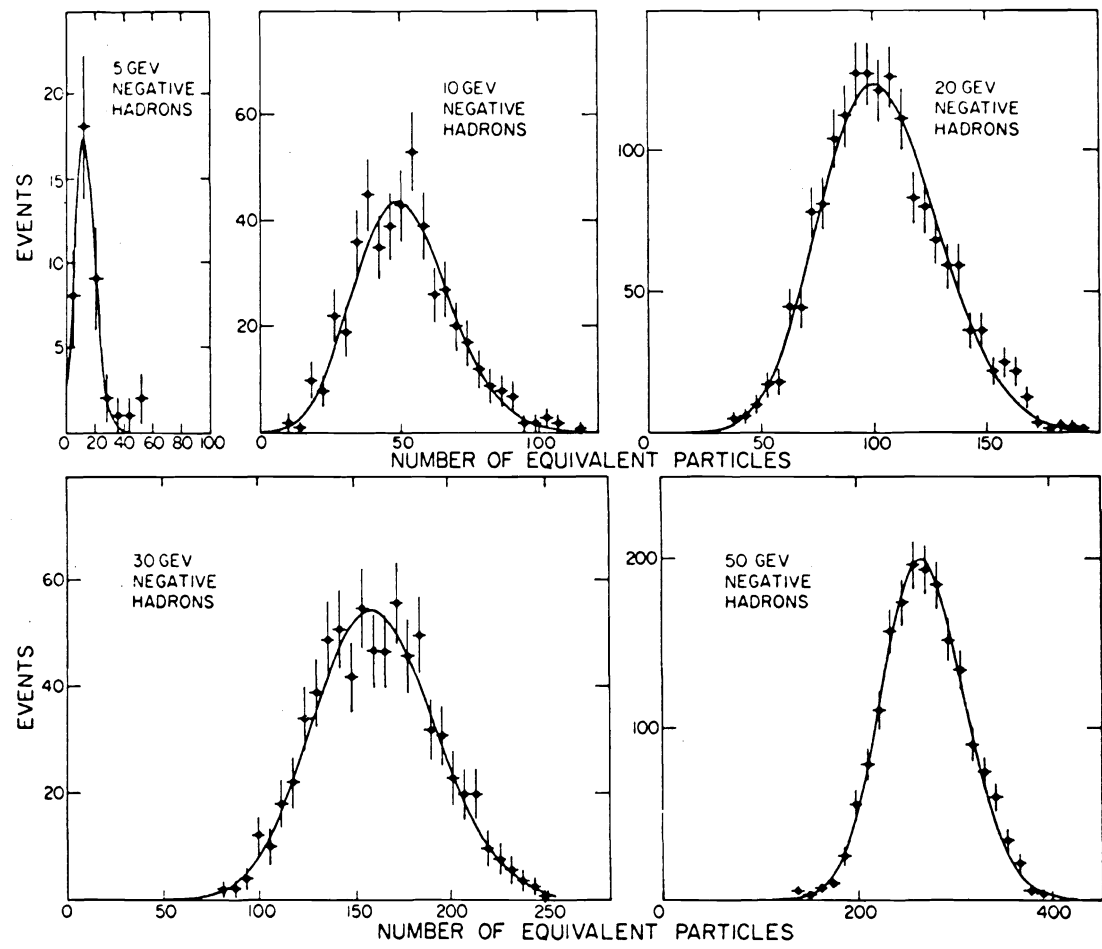


Fig. 4a

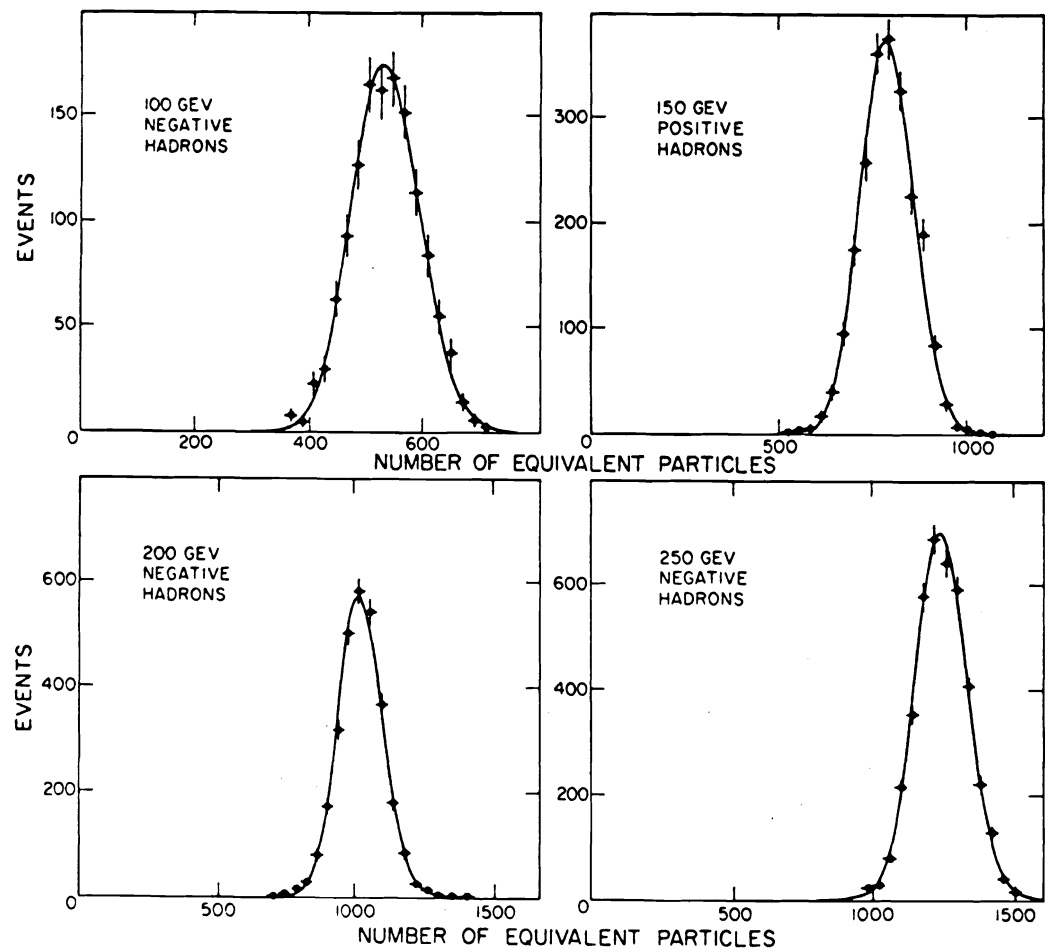


Fig. 4b

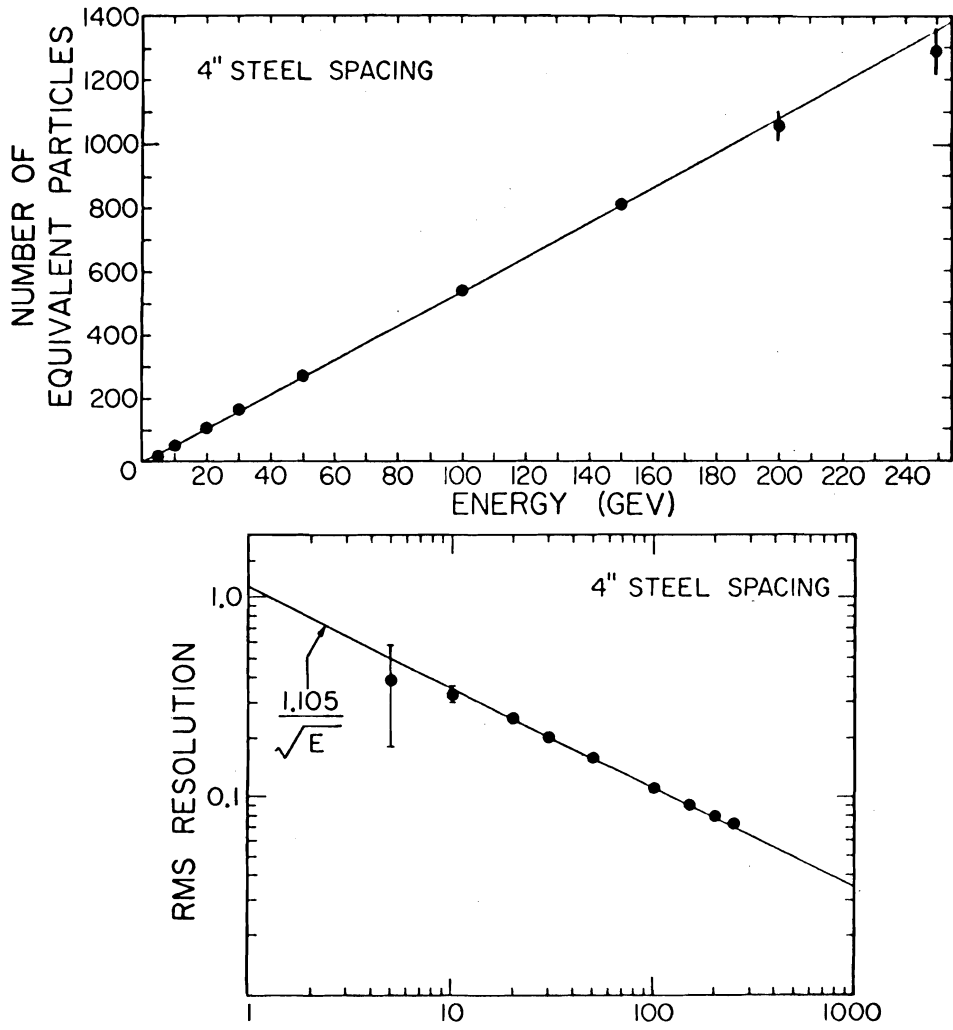


Fig. 5

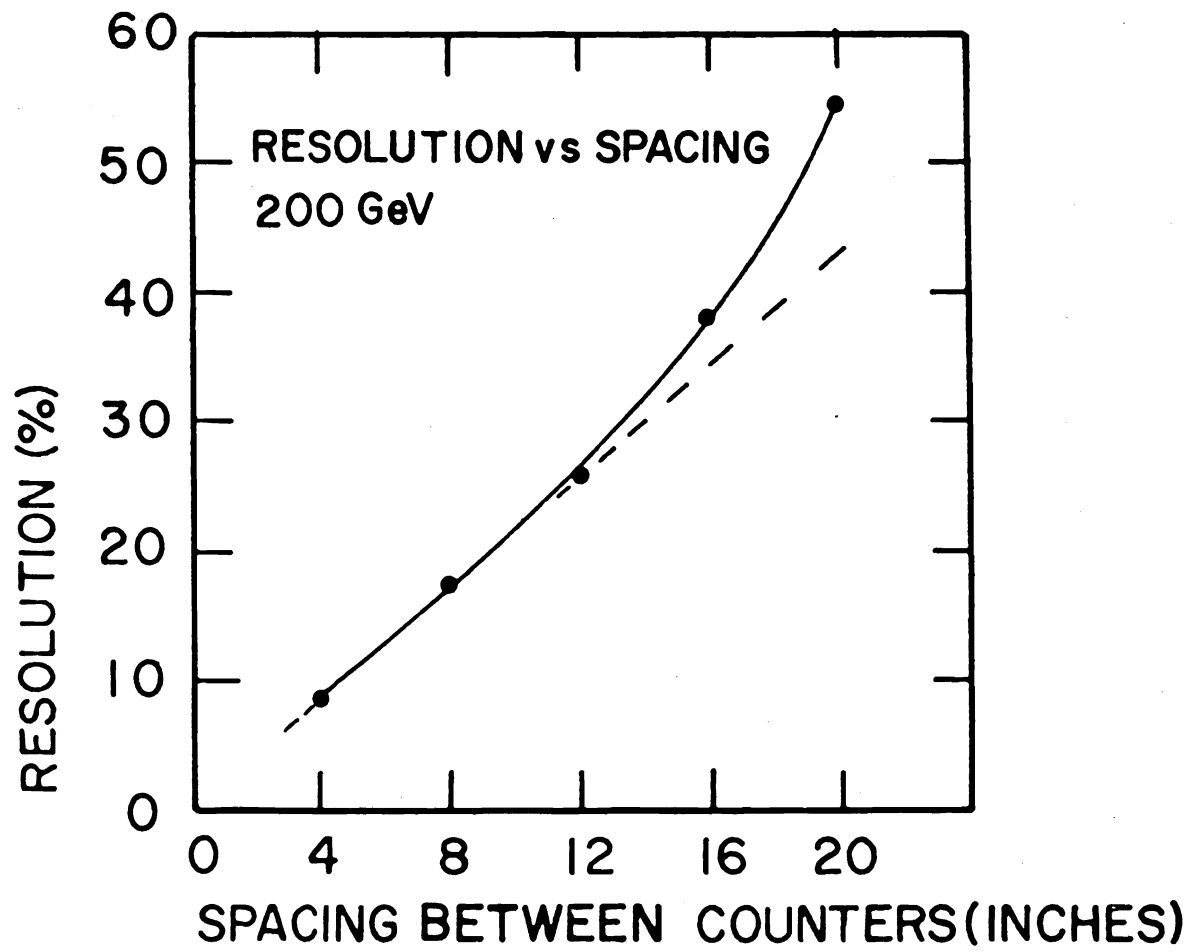


Fig. 6

