

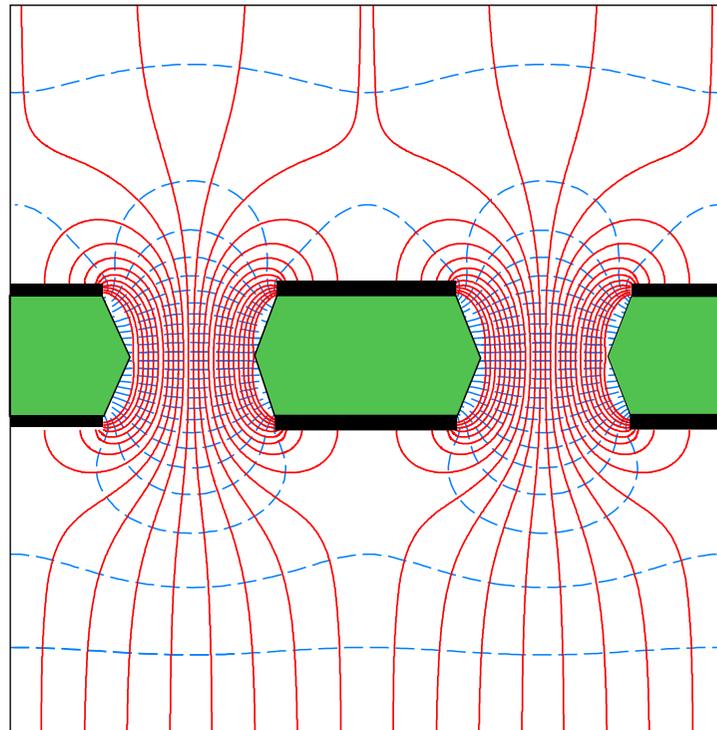
ISSUES IN REVIEWS

or: Why some Septembers (and Octobers, and Novembers,
and Decembers, ...) in odd-numbered years get really stressful
... being just the 2004 talk, but more heartfelt

Don Groom

Particle Data Group

Berkeley Lab



In the first place, many contributors are really great:

- They are on time
⇒ The reviewers have lots of time and are prompt
- The contribution is in proper \TeX —either new (if the review is new) or from our file (if it is a revision)
- The figures are vector postscript and are of publication quality
- They know the difference between GeV and Gev and GeV , and between p_{\perp} , P_t , p_T , P_{\perp}
⇒ in particular, these symbols are not used interchangeably in the same review
- The length is appropriate, and consistent with our original request
- Less than 20% of the review space is taken up by references
- References are up to date, rather than *e.g.*, `physics/9904388` in a 2006 review

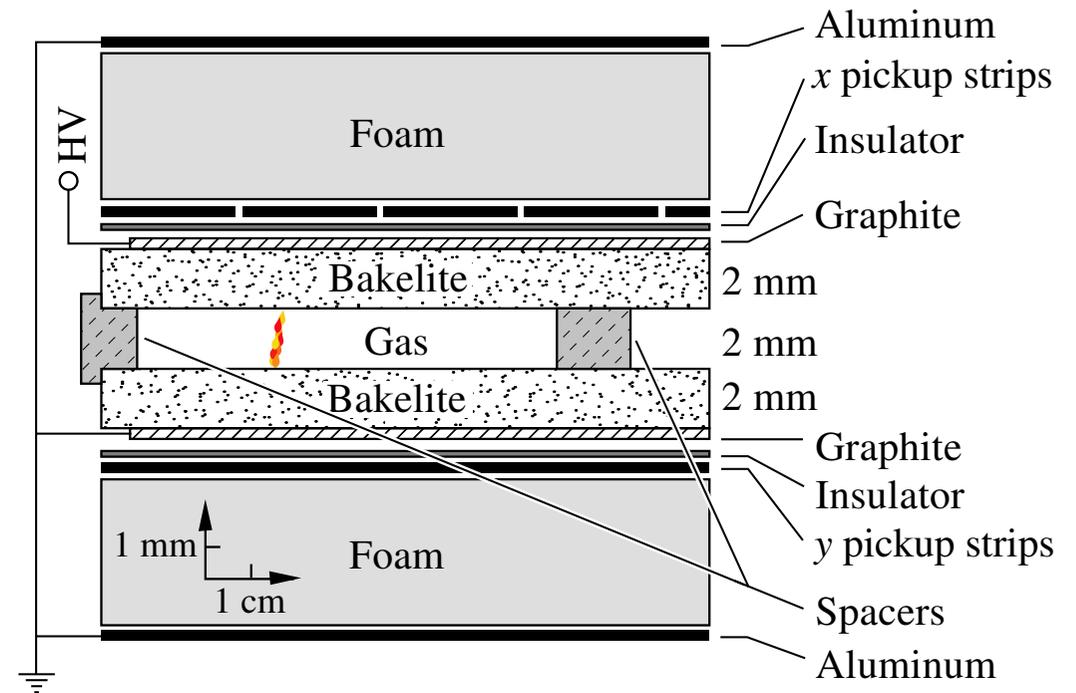
First, there is OUR problem of identifying the author(s) who write well and pedagogically, are real experts in the field, and will provide the appropriate file(s) on time. I don't have a very good personal track record.

But there are oft-repeated problems with the authors and referees:

- Invited person(s) are flattered to be asked to write for RPP, and readily agree. After that they never answer mail
 - ⇒ we catch on long after it is too late to invite somebody else
- “When is your REAL deadline?”
 - ⇒ The overseer and Piotr are in deep doo-doo
- This is such an important subject (to me and therefore to everybody else) that my Review (which turns out to be 53 pages long and has 274 references) cannot be shortened
- Review is two months late and has already become an Excedrin sink: with a week to go we need to get it refereed. Then we are sent a first draft
 - Related problem: We spend days massaging their mss, then they send us a revised one. Repeatedly
- “I just posted it on the lanl.arXiv.org e-Print archive”
- Author makes cosmetic fixes and patches on updates for several editions

Particle Detectors has three superb new sections, but—

- RPC's: A Beijing author was proposed. Turns out he could not write decipherable English, never heard of \TeX or postscript. We tried to be diplomatic in asking him if he could get some assistance with his draft mss; never heard from him again. His name is still on it, but Henry Band and I wrote it.



- TRD's: Danial Froidevaux asked to “retire” from TRD's, and suggested a replacement author. The person agreed. He got the same mail as everybody else, but then protested he hadn't been warned of deadlines and couldn't get it in last fall. Suggestions, anyone?

So what can we do?

— As I said two years ago, if I had any idea, I would have done it long ago and would only have two slides for this talk

Perhaps others have some ideas.