Exploring Amplitude Measurements with ALICE ITS3 MAPS Detectors

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ALICE

A Large Ion Collider Experiment



https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-0221/19/05/P05062

ALICE 3

- ALICE3 is a planned new detector system based on large-area silicon detectors, starting data-taking in ~2035
 - Current pp-rate: 500 kHz / 1 MHz
 - ALICE3 pp-rate: 24 MHz
- Particles will be identified using TOF and RICH instead of a TPC
- Motivation to investigate additional energy loss measurement using trackers



ALICE ITS Using CMOS MAPS

- Integrate the sensing diodes and the readout circuitry into the same pixel
- State-of-the-art is the ITS2 (Inner Tracking System) with an upcoming upgrade towards ITS3



ITS2 Inner Barrel



Technical Design Report for the Upgrade of the ALICE Inner Tracking System

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ALICE ITS Using CMOS MAPS

- Current ITS2 will be replaced by ITS3
- First bent wafer-scale detector using MAPS
- Various sensor prototypes were developed for testing and characterization of the improved technology







Amplitude Measurement

- Currently tracker only measuring binary hit information: 1 (hit) or 0 (no hit)
- How can we gain information on the energy loss/amplitude of the signal?
- → Use ToT (Time-over-Threshold), proportional to signal height due to constant I_{Reset} applied in the inpixel front end



Analog signal

DPTS - Digital **P**ixel **T**est **S**tructure

- $15x15 \ \mu m^2$ pitch
- 32x32 = 1024 pixels
- Pixels read out via a single differential digital output line
- Hit position is time-encoded via delay lines



Output

Analog signal

Discrim.

DPTS

- Train of signals is sent at both the rising and falling edge of the analog signal
- → Time-over-Threshold
- ToT proportional to collected charge due to constant I_{Reset}
- Pixel-to-pixel variations can be improved via calibration



ToT vs. Injected charge

All pixels

Pixel (6,6) Pixel (3,2)

Pixel (6,6) fit

Pixel (3,2) fit

400

600

800

1000

1200

1400

17.5

15.0

12.5

ToT (µs) 10.0

7.5

5.0

2.5

0.0

0

200

DPTS - Performance

- Source measurements with an ⁵⁵Fe X-ray source
 - 5.90 keV Mn- K_{α} main peak
 - 6.49 keV Mn- K_{β} peak
- Energy resolution of the K_{α} peak:

 $\frac{\text{FWHM}}{\mu}$ = 7.42% ± 0.01%

 Silicon fluorescence and escape peak can be distinguished



Digital Oversampling

Standard operation/sampling



Digital oversampling

Digital Oversampling

Example of ITS2 (ALPIDEs) oversampling at low interaction rate ~1kHz pp



Upgraded ALICE Inner Tracking System

BabyMOSS

- MOnolithic Stitched Sensor
- BabyMOSS is one RSU (Repeating Sensor Unit) with
 0.67 megapixels
- Pixel matrix consists of 8 regions
 - Top half: 256x256 22.5 µm
 - Bottom half: 320x320 18 µm



BabyMOSS – ⁵⁵Fe Spectra



- Source measurements with an ⁵⁵Fe source
- Sampling period of 4 µs
- Main K_{α} peak can clearly be distinguished
- More pronounced by adjusting the settings and extending the signal length







Test Beam Measurements

- Performed ToT measurements with 10 GeV/c pion beam at PS with 5 BabyMOSS
- The landau energy loss distribution can be observed
 - MPV within the expected energy range
- Different sensors behave similarly and consistently





Geant4 Simulations

- Use Geant4 to assess impact of multiple silicon layers on PID & particle separation power
- Extract the energy deposition from Geant and sample in '4 µs'
 - Use BabyMOSS measurements to estimate ToT-to-energy conversion
- Set a threshold of approximately 200 electrons (setting used in test beam)



20

30

40

ToT [µs]

50

60

70

1 layer comparison: Test beam - Geant4

0.0

0

10

80

Geant4 11 layers | 4 µs sampling | Lengthened signal (I_{Reset} = 4 a.u.)



• Quantify separation power between different particles

$$SP = \frac{|\mu_{\rm A} - \mu_{\rm B}|}{\sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{\rm A}^2 + \sigma_{\rm B}^2}{2}}}$$

- Varying number of layers and thickness (replicate inclined tracks)
- Separation of 3σ up to 0.3-0.5 GeV/c



Conclusion

- Using prototype sensors developed for the ITS3 upgrade, different amplitude measurement methods using Time-over-Threshold were investigated
 - Time-encoded ToT using the DPTS chiplet
 - Using digital oversampling with the BabyMOSS sensor
- The results were backed up by Geant4 simulations, with a sufficient particle separation up to 0.5 GeV/c for pion-proton, and >10 GeV/c for light nuclei
- Amplitude measurement with MAPS offers promising advancements for next-generation detectors, such as ALICE3.



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Thanks!



Backup

Idea For Future Improvement

- Send signal only at the edges
- Only doubling the data rate compared to no ToT
- Full ToT capability remains



DPTS In-pixel Front-end



Digital pixel test structures implemented in a 65 nm CMOS process

DPTS - Encoding





Digital pixel test structures implemented in a 65 nm CMOS process

BabyMOSS - ToT Calibration



- Calibration does not seem to improve resolution
- Investigations ongoing





ToT From Noise

• Almost all ToT hits within the first bin



11 layers | 4 µs sampling | Shortened signal (I_{Reset} ~25)



11 layers | 0.5 µs sampling | Shortened signal (I_{Reset} ~25)





ALICE3

	ALICE ITS3	ALICE 3	
		Vertex Detector	Tracker (ML/OT)
Position resolution (µm)	5	2.5	10
Pixel size (µm²)	O(20 x 20)	<i>O</i> (10 x 10)	O(50 x 50)
Time resolution (ns RMS)	O(1000)	100	100
In-pixel hit rate (Hz)	54	<mark>120</mark> 9 4	54 4 2 (barrel)
Fake-hit rate (/ pixel / event)		<10-7	
Power consumption (mW / cm ²)	35	70	20
Particle hit density (MHz / cm ²)	8.5	120 9 4	<mark>0.8</mark> 0.6
Non-Ionising Energy Loss (1 MeV n _{eq} / cm²)	3 x 10 ¹²	1 x 10 ¹⁶	6 x 10 ¹³
Total Ionising Dose (Mrad)	0.3	300	3 (barrel)
<i>X/X</i> ₀ / layer	0.09% (average) 0.07% (most of active region)	0.1%	1.0%

• A Pb-Pb interaction rate of the ~ 300 kHz corresponds to hit rates similar to 24 MHz pp

https://indico.cern.ch/event/1415726/contributions/6170003/attachments/2943674/5174703/2024-10-09_VertexDetectPixelSenor_freidt.pdf