

Design of the ALICE ITS then and now: technological evolution Serhiy Senyukov (CERN)







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Main ALICE goal: study of quark-gluon plasma (QGP)

the unique physics potential of nucleus-nucleus interactions at LHC energies. Our aim is to study the physics of strongly interacting matter at extreme energy densities, where the formation of a new phase of matter, the quark-gluon plasma, is expected. The existence



QGP is studied via probes

QGP lifetime: 10 fm/c $(10^{-23} s)$ Indirect probes are used to access the QGP properties: Photonic Leptonic Hadronic Soft probes – from low-Q processes in QGP Hard probes – from high-Q processes in pre-QGP parton scattering Hard probes are penetrating probes Tomography of the QGP

Charm quark allows to assess various QGP properties

In-medium energy loss via nuclear modification factor

- Degree of medium thermalisation via anisotropic flow
- Hadronisation mechanisms via meson to baryon ratio
- All the measurements require wide momentum range

Open charm hadrons have to be reconstructed

Charm quark hadronises into open charm mesons and baryons

Two reconstruction methods

Inclusively via semi-leptonic decays

Higher branching ratio (6.5 %) but complex photonic background no direct kinematics mix of charm and beauty

Exclusively via hadronic decays

Lower branching ratio (3.8 %) but direct charm reconstruction high combinatorial background in HI

Topological cuts are used to reduce the background



Distance of the closest approach (DCA) of tracks

- Distance between primary and
- secondary vertices
- Pointing angle

Silicon detector is needed for precision tracking in wide p_T range

Proper decay lengths of charmed hadrons:

 $D^+~-312~\mu m$

 $D_s~-150~\mu m$

 $D^0~-123~\mu m$

 $\Lambda_c - 60 \ \mu m$

DCA resolution needed: <100 μ m for D mesons <50 μ m for Λ_c baryon

Silicon tracking detector is needed

Tracking precision: spatial resolution × multiple scattering

$$\sigma_{ip} = a \bigoplus \frac{b}{p \cdot (\sin \Theta)^{3/2}}$$

High tracking precision requires: high spatial resolution = high granularity AND low multiple scattering = low material budget

Other conditions have to be satisfied

Geometrical constraints: Inner radius: ~4 cm (beam pipe) Outer radius: ~45 cm (TPC) **Experimental conditions:** Particle density: up to ~100 cm⁻² Event rate: 8 kHz (minimum bias trigger) Radiation load: up to 270 krad, 3.5×10¹² n_{eg}/cm² **Financial conditions:** Simplicity and low cost

Three technologies available

SPD Silicon Pixel Detectors (SPD)Silicon Drift Detectors (SDD)Silicon Strip Detectors (SSD)

Silicon Pixel Detector



High granularityHigh speedHigh cost (chip to sensor connection)

Silicon Drift Detector



High granularity Average speed Average cost

Silicon Strip Detector



Low granularity High speed Low cost

Three technologies available

SPD Silicon Pixel Detectors (SPD)

High granularity

High speed

High cost

Silicon Drift Detectors (SDD)

High granularity

Average speed

Average cost

Silicon Strip Detectors (SSD)

Low granularity

High speed

Low cost

Final ITS layout

Inner layers at 3.9 and 7.6 cm – SPD High granularity is good for highest particle density High speed allows for fast trigger generation High cost is acceptable at small surface

Intermediate layers at 15 and 23.0 cm – SDD

High granularity – intermediate particle density Average speed but compatible with MB rate Average cost is good for intermediate surface

Outermost layers at 38 and 43 cm – SSD Low granularity is good low particle density High speed is always good Low cost is good for the biggest surface

Modules parameters: trade-off between performance and cost

SPD

Pitch: 50 μm × 425 μm Resolution: 12 × 100 μm 1-bit readout Maximum readout rate: 3.3 kHz

SDD

Pitch: 202 μm × 294 μm
Resolution: 35 μm × 25 μm
10-bit readout for dE/dx
Maximum readout rate: ~3 kHz

SSD

Pitch: 95 μm × 40 mm / double-sided Resolution: 20 μm × 830 μm 11-bit readout for dE/dx Maximum readout rate: 3.3 kHz

Material budget lowest at LHC

SPD

Sensor + chips: 200+150 μ m Aluminum bus + Carbon fiber support Total material length per layer: 1.14 % X₀

SDD

Sensor: 300 μm (for dE/dx) Aluminum bus + Carbon fiber support Total material length per layer: 1.2 % X₀

SSD

Sensor: 300 μm (for dE/dx) Aluminum bus + Carbon fiber support Total material length per layer: 0.83 % X₀

DCA resolution: 60 µm at 1 GeV/c



D^0 meson reconstructed for p_T>1 GeV/c in Pb-Pb collisions



D^0 meson R_{AA} measured for p_T >1 GeV/c in Pb-Pb collisions



D^0 meson v_2 measured for $p_T>2$ GeV/c in Pb-Pb collisions



$\Lambda_{\rm c}$ reconstructed in pp collisions



Λ_{c} not reconstructed in Pb-Pb collisions

- DCA resolution insufficient
- Topological cuts inefficient
- No way to measure the meson to baryon ratio
- Tracking precision has to be improved
- Readout rate has to be increased to collect more data

ITS upgrade for higher resolution and readout rate

Higher resolution:

Innermost layer closer to collision

Increase detector granularity

Decrease material budget

Higher readout rate: Remove slow detectors (SDD)

New readout architecture

Old technologies are still there

(Hybrid) Silicon Pixel Detectors

Pixel size: 50 μm Material budget: ~1% X₀ High cost

Silicon Strip Detectors (SSD)

Low granularity (long strips) Analogue readout

A new technology available: CMOS Pixel Sensors (CPS)



Pixel size: 20 μ m Material budget: ~0.3% X₀ Low cost (CMOS process, no interconnections)

Radiation hardness to be validated

Possible arrangements

Hybrid SPD Limited performance gain Highest cost – only for inner layers Silicon Strip Detectors (SSD) Low granularity – only for outer layers CMOS Pixel Sensors (CPS) If radiation hardness proved – very good alternative for hybrid SPD for inner layers Lowest cost – can equip all the layers

CPS radiation hardness validated



2 ITS upgrade layouts considered

Radiation hardness of CPS was verified Hybrid pixels are excluded 2 possible layouts remain: All 7 layers in CPS Lower construction cost No particle identification in ITS 3 inner layers in CPS, 4 outer layers in SSD Analogue readout from SSD for particle identification based on dE/dx Higher construction cost

Final layout: all CPS

Final layout: 7 layers of CPS Pitch: 28 μm × 28 μm Sensor thickness: 50 µm Power consumption: 35 mW/cm² Material budget 3 inner layers: 0.262% X₀ per layer 4 outer layers: 0.813% X₀ per layer Maximum readout rate: 100 kHz in Pb-Pb 400 kHz in pp

Expected DCA resolution: $^{20} \mu m$ at 1 GeV/c



Expected to reconstruct Λ_c for $p_T>2$ GeV/c



Expected to measure Λ_c/D for $p_T>2$ GeV/c



ALI-PUB-80329

Development of CPS made this significant improvements possible Pixel size reduced by factor 1.8 in bending plane and by factor 16 along beam axis Readout rate improved by factor 30 Power consumption reduced by factor 14 Material budget reduced by factor 3 Detector DCA resolution improved by factor 3 in bending plane and by factor 5 along beam axis

Something can still be improved

Granularity can't be easily increased at present CMOS feature size.

Smaller feature size means higher cost and potentially lower yield.

Reduction of the material budget can be done

Sensor thickness can't be easily reduced further

Cooling and support can be reduced

Power consumption optimization

Ultra-light detector integration (PLUME, all-silicon layers)

ALICE ITS Super Upgrade?

Let's speak about it in few years

