

1 Simulation of the time resolution of a 50 μm low-gain
2 avalanche detector.

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7 **Abstract**

In this paper we report simulation results on the timing resolution of a 50 μm low-gain avalanche detector (LGAD). The simulation includes: sensor fluctuations, front-end electronics, and quantization. Comparisons on the performance for different front-end electronics (FEE) bandwidths (BW) are presented, as well as the dependance on singal-to-noise ratio (SNR). Two approaches to measure the timestamp are presented: leading edge (LE) and constant-fraction-discrimination (CFD). Additionally, the time resolution is studied as function of the irradiation of the sensor. Simulated LGAD pulses before irradiation, and after neutron fluences of $5 \times 10^{14} \text{ n/cm}^2$ and $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ n/cm}^2$, are studied. The time resolution a 50 μm LGADs was found to be 30 ps for FE electronics BWs larger than 350 MHz and SNRs larger than 30. The time resolution at a SNR of 30 for fluences of $5 \times 10^{14} \text{ n/cm}^2$ and $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ n/cm}^2$ were found to be 30 ps and 40 ps, respectively.

8 *Key words:*

9 Silicon, Timing, LGAD

10 **Contents**

11	1 Introduction	2
12	2 Simulation Framework	3
13	2.1 LGAD pulse library and simulation	3
14	2.2 Fron-end Electronics simulation and noise injection	3
15	2.2.1 front-end implementation	3
16	2.2.2 noise injection	4
17	3 Timing Reconstruction and Analysis	4
18	3.1 Leading edge and constant fraction discriminators	4
19	3.2 Time-walk correction and time over threshold	4

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20	4 LGAD Front-end Electronics Performance	4
21	4.1 Front-end electronics shaping time studies	5
22	4.2 Timing Performace as a function of signal-to-noise ratio	5
23	4.3 Timing Performace as a function of irradiation	5
24	5 Conclusion	5

25 1. Introduction

26 Future colliders, including the high luminosity upgrade of the Large Hadron Collider
27 (HL-LHC) at CERN, will operate with an order of magnitude higher instantaneous lu-
28 minosity compared to what has been achieved at the large hadron collider (LHC) so far.
29 With the increased instantaneous luminosity, the rate of simultaneous interactions per
30 bunch crossing (pileup) is projected to reach an average of 140 to 200. Pileup increases
31 the difficulties in separating particles from the hard scattering interaction with those pro-
32 duced in different pileup interactions. In particular, the ability to discriminate between
33 jets produced in the events of interests, especially those associated with vector boson fu-
34 sion processes, and jets produced by pileup interactions will be degraded. Additionally,
35 the efficiency to identify high p_T isolated electrons and muons will be severely reduced
36 due to the high density of pileup particles in their vicinity. The missing transverse energy
37 resolution will also deteriorate, and several other physics objects performance metrics will
38 suffer the detrimental effects of pileup.

39 One way to mitigate the pileup effects mentioned above, complementary to precision
40 tracking methods, is to perform a time of arrival measurement associated with each par-
41 ticle. Such a measurement with a precision of about 30-40 ps, will reduce the effective
42 amount of pileup by a factor of 10, given that the spread in collision time of the pileup
43 interactions at HL-LHC is foreseen to be approximately 200 ps. It has been previously
44 shown that a precision of better than 20 ps can be achieved for electromagnetic showers
45 measured with silicon sampling calorimeters [1–3] using traditional planar silicon de-
46 tectors while precision of 30 ps can be achived for minimum ionizing particles (MIPs)
47 measured with low-gain avalanches detectors (LGADs) [4–6].

48 LGADs are envisioned to be used in the CMS and ATLAS experiment upgrades for
49 HL-LHC in order to overcome the event reconstruction challenges posed by the high rate
50 of concurrent collisions per beam crossing. The implemented regions of pseudorapidity
51 (η) are: $|\eta| > 1.5$, and $2.4 < |\eta| < 4.2$ for CMS and ATLAS, respectively. In order
52 to achieve the desired timing precision across a large area of the detectors, the sensors
53 will need to provide high uniformity of signal response and timing resolution. Beam test
54 measurements have provided encouraging results towards achieving such detectors [4].

55 In this paper, we report simulation results on the timing resolution of a 50 μm low-
56 gain avalanche detector (LGAD) which includes the effects of the sensor fluctuations,
57 front-end electronics (FEE), and quantization. Our results indicate that for FEE analog
58 bandwidths (BWs) larger than 350 MHz and signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) larger than
59 30, measured at the output of the FFE, time resolutions of 30 ps and 40 ps are obtained
60 when using time-walk corrections based on time-over-threshold (ToT) measurements to
61 both timestamping techniques: constant-fraction-discrimination (CFD) and leading-edge
62 (LE), respectively. These results are compatible with previous measurements on LGAD
63 timing resolutions carried out in laboratory and beam test conditions [4–6]. We study

the time resolution for four different FEE shaping times: 0.5 ps, 1.0 ps, 2.0 ps, and 4.0 ps; three SNR: 20, 30, 100; and three irradiation levels: pre-radiation, 5×10^{14} n/cm², and 1×10^{15} n/cm². For every point in this scan we evaluate the time resolution for LE and CFD.

The paper is organized as follows: the simulation is described in Sec. 2; algorithms used in the timing reconstruction and analysis are described in Sec. 3; simulation results are presented in Sec. 4, followed by the conclusion in Sec. 5.

2. Simulation Framework

The simulation framework is based on c++ programming language. The LGAD pulses are obtained from Weightfield2 (WF2), a 2-dimensional silicon simulator [?]. WF2 provides sets of 1000 LGAD pulses which models the response of the sensor to minimum ionizing particles (MIPs). We generated 3 sets of LGAD pulses for a 50 μ m LGAD: pre-irradiation, and after neutron fluences of 5×10^{14} n/cm² and 1×10^{15} n/cm². The simulation framework takes the LGAD pulses (from WF2) and adds gaussian white noise (hereafter white noise). At this point the LGAD pulses with the added white noise are fed into the simulation of the FEE (see Fig. 1). The output of the FEE simulation is the convolution of the impulse response function and the input signal at the FEE. We consider four shaping constants for the impulse response of the FEE: 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, and 4.0 ns (the FEE simulation will be described in detail in Sec. 2.2). At the output of the FEE block we have a "realistic" LGAD pulse which includes the effects of sensor fluctuations, shaping of the FEE, and noise. A waveform analysis is performed with the pulses obtained at the output of the FEE block. We assign timestamps to each pulse by using algorithms that emulate an ideal LE discriminator and an ideal CFD. For each threshold we obtain a LE and CFD timestamps as well as the corresponding time-over-threshold (ToT) of the pulse. The SNR is defined as the ratio of the most probable value (MPV) of the amplitude distribution to the width of the amplitude distribution at a fixed sample (where only noise is present). We study 3 SNR scenarios: 20, 30, and 100. A schematic diagram of the simulation is shown in Fig. 1.

2.1. LGAD pulse library and simulation

We need to ask Nicolo to send us a paragraph for the Weightfield2 (WF2)

2.2. Fron-end Electronics simulation and noise injection

The front-end simulation is implemented in c++ programming language. It combines analytical calculations when possible but it mostly relies on numerical methods. We implement most calculations in the time domain, while the frequency domain is mostly used to cross-check noise and the FEE expected response. Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 detail the front-end and noise implementation in the simulation.

2.2.1. front-end implementation

The front-end simulation is based on a single amplification stage. We focus on the BW of such amplifier rather than variations thereof. The front-end chose is a second order low-pass filter which transfer function and impulse response are given by equations 1 and 2, respectively.

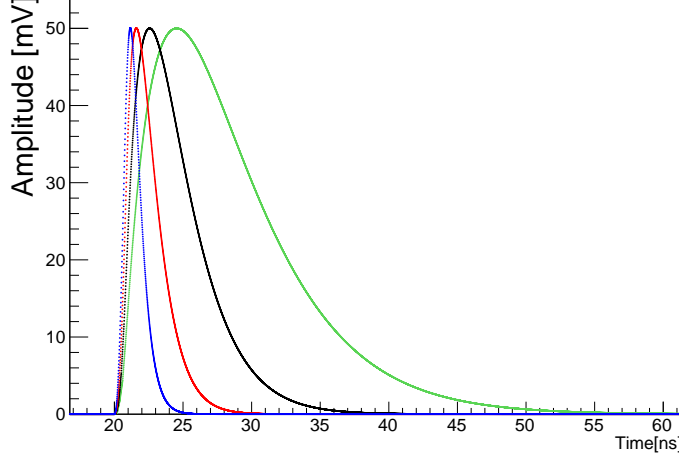


Figure 1: A schematic diagram of the simulation. Each simulation configurable block is shown in green. The most relevant outputs of the simulation are shown in blue.

$$H(S) = \frac{\frac{1}{\tau_s^2}}{(S + 1/\tau_s)^2} \quad (1) \quad h(t) = \frac{t}{\tau_s^2} e^{-t/\tau_s} \quad (2)$$

The output pulse of the FEE is the convolution (in time domain) of the pulse from the LGAD library and the FEE impulse response (see Eq. 2). The time base for the pulses and the convolution is 1 ps – this is the sampling time that we use for the whole signal simulation, noise is treated differently and covered in Sec. 2.2.2. As stated above we focus the study on the BW of the FEE, to that end we scan the τ_s parameter in Eq. 2 in the following set: {0.5, 1, 2, 4} ns, this parameter is hereafter referred to as shaping time (ST). Figure 2 shows the impulse response and the LGAD response of the FEE in the left and right panels, respectively.

2.2.2. noise injection

blah blah blah

3. Timing Reconstruction and Analysis

3.1. Leading edge and constant fraction discriminators

3.2. Time-walk correction and time over threshold

4. LGAD Front-end Electronics Performance

We present a number of different studies of the LGAD sensors. such that they are above the noise levels listed for each board in Sec. ???. All measurements other than those described in Sec. ?? and 4.3 were performed at room temperature.

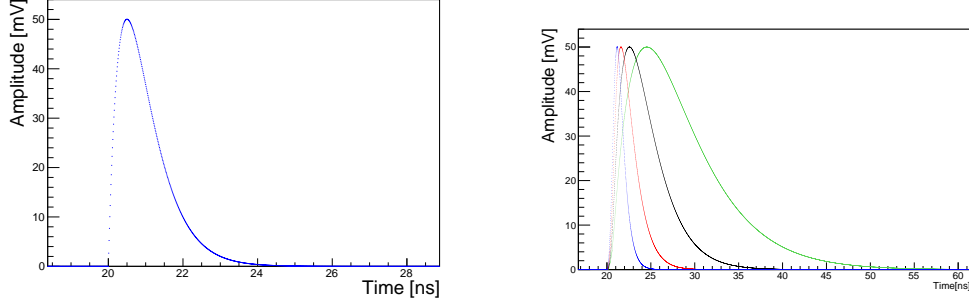


Figure 2: (Left) Impulse response for the four shaping times studied: $\{0.5, 1, 2, 4\}$ ns. (Right) LGAD response for the four shaping times studied: $\{0.5, 1, 2, 4\}$ ns. All pulses have been normalized to achieve a peak amplitude of 50 mV. Legends for the shaping times are shown in the plot.

4.1. Front-end electronics shaping time studies

4.2. Timing Performace as a function of signal-to-noise ratio

4.3. Timing Performace as a function of irradiation

5. Conclusion

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