The Barrel Time-Of-Flight Detector

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January 21, 2021

Aim of the Document

The aim of this document is to give a broad overview of the detector summarizing and expanding on the established Technical Design Report written by K. Suzuki et al.

Contents

1   Introduction

The B-ToF detector is a scintillating tile hodoscope which used to be referred to as the *SciTil*. It fulfills many functions to support the successful operation of the $\overline{\mathrm{P}}$ANDA detector. It provides:

   I information for particle identification at low momenta (below the Cherenkov threshold)

  II position resolution for track seeding

 III timing information to separate individual events in the stream of data

2   The B-ToF Detector Hardware

3   Infrastructure

4   Capabilities

The content of this section is mainly based on work done by Dominik Steinschaden. For a closer look at the exact methodology behind these concepts and further understanding of the limitations of these processes, the reader is advised to reference The B-ToF TDR (2017) and the dissertation *"Optimization Studies and Performance Simulations for the Time-of-Flight System of PANDA"* (2018), by D. Steinschaden.

    The presented capabilities are all based on performance simulations using PandaRoot. The timing based analysis of this detectors data combined with momentum and track information from other detectors allows the B-ToF detector to contribute two main features; event building and particle identification.

4.1   Event Building

Since $\overline{\mathrm{P}}$ANDA will not be equipped with a start time detector, the first challenge will be to group relevant hits into single events. This will have to be done before any further analysis of the data stream is possible. For this it is both important to capture all relevant hits and exclude all hits from other events.

    For this step the time resolution of the respective detector is the qualifying factor. With average event rates in the high luminosity mode of up to $20\,\mathrm{MHz}$ or respectively at intervals of of $50\,\mathrm{ns}$ and individual events at even smaller intervals, an excellent time resolution is required to avoid overlap of relevant detector hits. Fig. 1 illustrates the difference a time resolution of $100\,\mathrm{ps}$ makes compared to a time resolution of $2\,\mathrm{ns}$, where hits of multiple events overlap and can not be disentangled.

> How exactly this works is in Dominiks Dissertation and needs to be added

4.2   Particle Identification and Event Time Determination

Usually these two tasks are separated and handled by dedicated detectors. After a start time is determined and a time stamp for a detector hit can be established, the time-of-flight of the respective particle can be calculated. Combining this information with trajectory length and momentum information provided by the tracking detectors a velocity and hence a mass and particle identity can be determined. Since $\overline{\mathrm{P}}$ANDA however has no start time detector, the event time has to be implicitly determined, by combining information of multiple detector hits and

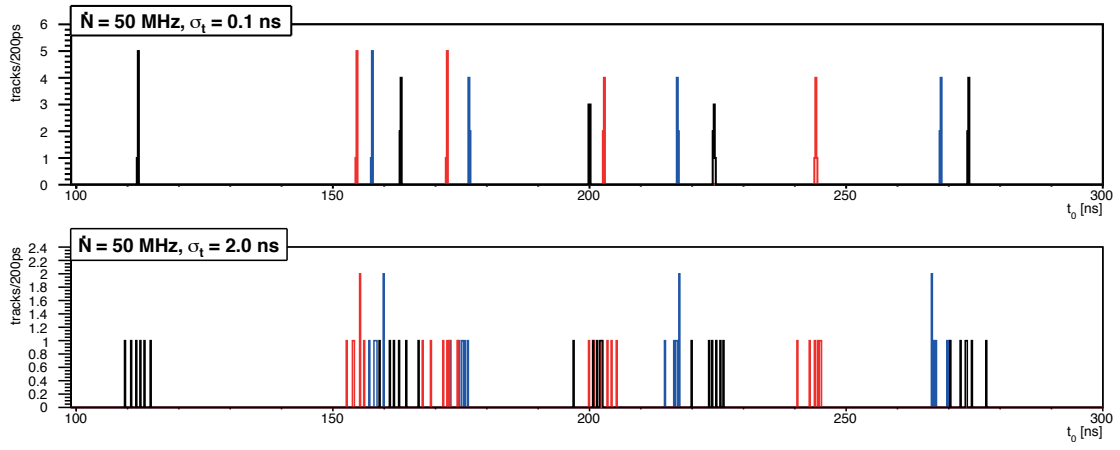**Figure 1:** *Simulation of the hit distribution for an average interaction rate of 50 MHz and a detector resolution of 0.1 ns and 2 ns respectively.*

various detectors. The technique used for this is called *Relative Time-of-Flight* and delivers the event time and the respective particle identities of all involved hits simultaneously.

If a hit is registered in the B-ToF detector it can not be a very short lived particle due to its radial distance of about 50 cm to the interaction point. This leaves a limited selection of possible particle candidates. For grouped hits belonging to a single event the procedure is illustrated in Fig. 2. Using tracking and momentum information from other detectors, the corresponding interaction time (t_0) in the interaction point of every B-ToF hit, can be calculated. Iterating through all possible mass assumptions produces a distribution of possible t_0.

Since all hits belong to the same event a cluster of possible t_0 values with one candidate from every hit, should emerge. Taking the mean of these candidate times in the cluster provides us with an estimation of the interaction time, as well as assigning the most likely particle mass to all involved particles. Thereby identifying the particle species.

5   Performance Validation

6   Calibration

6.1   Ongoing Performance Monitoring

To ensure hardware component issues are detected early the system is supposed to be monitored by small LED's mounted in between the SiPM's. Short bursts of light injected into one side of the scintillator at a time will provide a stable signal source. Changes in the measured amplitude indicates either an efficiency loss in the scintillator or a gain drop of the involved SiPM's. These signals also act as a reference point in order to determine the time resolution of the detector elements while they are deployed.

It is foreseen to have four channels for all the LED's on one Rail-Board. This allows for every other LED on a single side along the board to be illuminated, leaving a dark scintillator between two illuminated scintillators. This ensures the signal is only produced by the internal light with no light bleed from a neighboring tile. By only illuminating one side

what is the benefit of this?

6.2   Position Calibration

In order to deliver useful position information for the detector hits the exact position of each tile in the context of the detector needs to be determined. The position of the individual scintillator
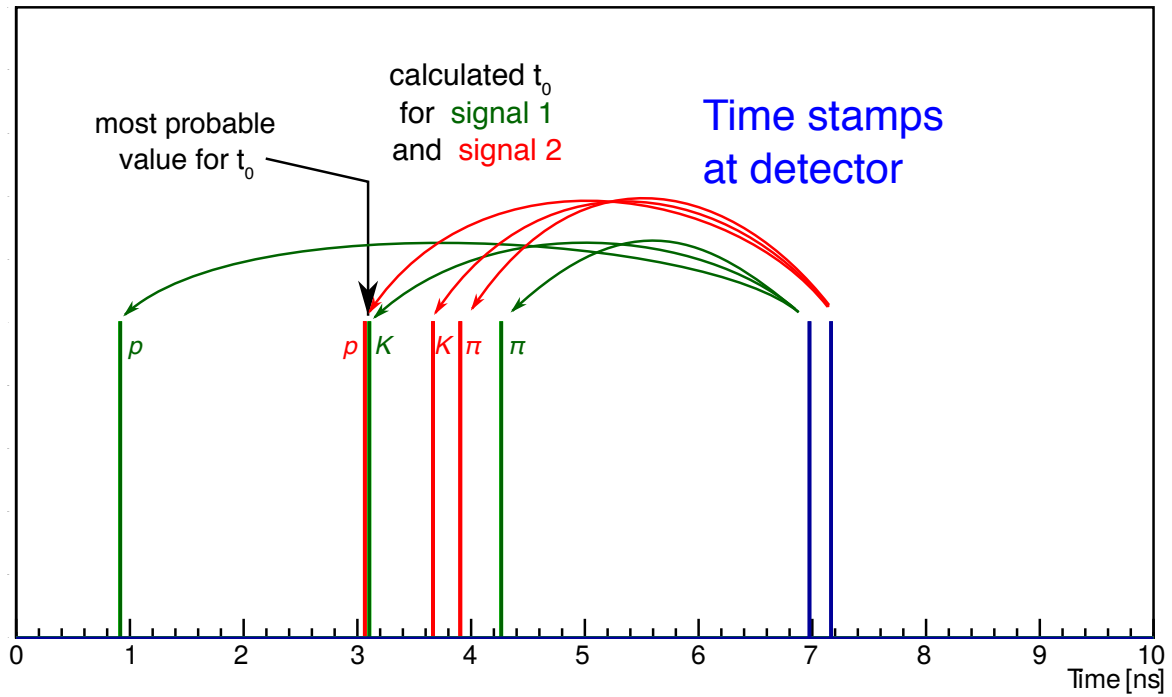
this is probably done by in the commissioning phase of the

Figure 2: *The relative time of flight method works by taking multiple mass assumptions of all involved detector hits here marked with blue lines on the time axis. Different particles show differences in their time-of-flight for the same momentum and trajectory due to differences in their mass and hence velocity. For these assumptions the respective interaction or creation time (t_0) is calculated and shown color coded; green for the first and red for the second hit. Where interaction times align we assume to have found t_0.*

tiles is mainly of interest in the context of the time resolution, signal delay and amplitude drop along the board which are discussed in the following sections.

6.2.1 Time Resolution Expectancy along the Board

Since the time resolution is affected by signal noise and decreases of the slope of the rising flank it can be expected to receive a worse time resolution for scintillators farther down the Rail-Board with a longer distance between the detector element and the Front End Electronics. In order to create a baseline for the detector performance the time resolution needs to be measured along the length of the Rail-Board.

6.2.2 Signal Delay along the Board

6.2.3 Amplitude Drop along the Board

7 Readout

Foreseen is a readout with the TOFPET ASIC by PETsys Electronics.

Todo list