

FACULTY  
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Charles University

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BACHELOR THESIS

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**Simulation and Reconstruction  
of Charged Particle Trajectories in an  
Atypic Time Projection Chamber**

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Study programme: Physics

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Prague 2025

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Title: Simulation and Reconstruction of Charged Particle Trajectories in an Atypical Time Projection Chamber **Added hyphen to avoid overfull hbox**

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Abstract: Abstract.

Keywords: key words

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# 65 Motivation

66 Or chapter 1? MFF UK thesis template uses Introduction as an unnumbered  
67 chapter, but it's not clear how they handle numbering inside the chapter. A Time  
68 Projection Chamber (TPC) [refs] is a gaseous detector that reconstructs charged  
69 particle trajectories by measuring the positions and drift times of ionization elec-  
70 trons (and sometimes also ions) created in the gas. The energies of these particles  
71 can be inferred from the curvatures of their trajectories in a magnetic field.

72 The goal of this thesis is to develop an algorithm for the reconstruction of  
73 charged particle trajectories and energy in an *atypic* TPC with orthogonal elec-  
74 tric and magnetic fields, hereafter referred to as the Orthogonal Fields TPC  
75 (OFTPC), used in the X17 project at the Institute of Experimental and Ap-  
76 plied Physics, Czech Technical University in Prague (IEAP CTU). Furthermore,  
77 we present the results of testing of several (gradually improving) developed algo-  
78 rithms with different samples of simulated data. Put this somewhere, (maybe just  
79 the abstract?). We use the Garfield++ toolkit [1] for simulations in combination  
80 with the ROOT framework [2] for data analysis and visualization. Some of our  
81 more demanding simulations are run on the MetaCentrum grid [3].

82 The X17 project in IEAP CTU aims to reproduce measurements of anomalous  
83 behavior in the angular correlation distribution of pairs produced by the Internal  
84 Pair Creation (IPC) mechanism [4] during the decay of certain excited nuclei  
85 ( $^8\text{Be}$ ,  $^{12}\text{C}$ , and  $^4\text{He}$ ) observed by a team at ATOMKI in Hungary. I would leave  
86 this here as a short summary before I explain it in more detail in the sections  
87 below.

88 Add citations: X17 project, VdG. Maybe also TPC, etc.

## 89 0.1 ATOMKI Anomaly

90 Many different theories propose the existence of *new light boson(s)* that are weakly  
91 coupled to ordinary matter [5]. These particles are potential dark matter candi-  
92 dates and could contribute to a solution of other issues with the Standard Model,  
93 such as the strong CP problem<sup>1</sup> and the anomalous muon magnetic moment. Mass  
94 range of axions?

95 A possible way of detecting such bosons with a short lifetime is to observe  
96 nuclear transitions of excited nuclei. If a boson was emitted during the transition  
97 and subsequently decayed into an electron-positron pair, we could observe this as  
98 a peak on top of the standard  $e^+e^-$  (both cursive and upright forms are used in  
99 different articles) angular correlation from the Internal Pair Creation (IPC) and  
100 the External Pair Creation (EPC).

### 101 0.1.1 ATOMKI Measurements

102 Historically, there were several measurements of the IPC in nuclear transitions  
103 in  $^8\text{Be}$  at Institute für Kernphysik (Frankfurt) [6, 7, 8] and at ATOMKI (Debre-  
104 cen, Hungary) [9, 10] resulting in different anomalies with invariant mass in the

---

<sup>1</sup>The CP symmetry could be violated in strong interactions according to the current formulation of quantum chromodynamics, but no such violation is observed.

range  $5 - 15$  MeV. This motivated the development of a better spectrometer at ATOMKI.

In 2015, a group at ATOMKI observed an anomalous IPC in  ${}^8\text{Be}$  [11]. They used the  ${}^7\text{Li}(p, \gamma){}^8\text{Be}$  reaction at the  $E_p = 1030$  keV proton capture resonance to prepare the 18.15 MeV excited state ( $J^\pi = 1^+, T = 0$ ). This state decays predominantly through M1 transitions to the ground state ( $J^\pi = 0^+, T = 0$ ) and to the 3.03 MeV state ( $J^\pi = 2^+, T = 0$ ) [12]. [Transition figure – all transitions of isotopes? IPC figure?](#)

The angular correlation of the  $e^+e^-$  pairs created internally in these transitions were measured and compared to the simulation; results from a narrow  $E_{\text{sum}} = 18$  MeV region are shown in Fig. 0.1a. The simulation includes boson decay pairs for different boson masses. The disparity parameter  $y$  is used to describe the asymmetry of energy between the two particles. It is defined as

$$y = \frac{E_{e^-} - E_{e^+}}{E_{e^-} + E_{e^+}}, \quad (0.1)$$

where  $E_{e^-}$  and  $E_{e^+}$  are the kinetic energies of the electron and positron.

Their experimental setup was later upgraded ([details?](#)) and used for new measurements. In 2022 the  ${}^8\text{Be}$  anomaly was also measured using the  $E_p = 441$  keV resonance to produce the 17.64 MeV excited state ( $J^\pi = 1^+, T = 1$ ) which again decays primarily to the ground state and the 3.03 MeV state [12]. The anomaly was also verified for  $E_p = 650$  and 800 keV where E1 transitions from the direct proton capture dominate [13]. The results for  $e^+e^-$  with  $E_{\text{sum}} \in [13.5, 20]$  MeV are shown in Fig. 0.1b.

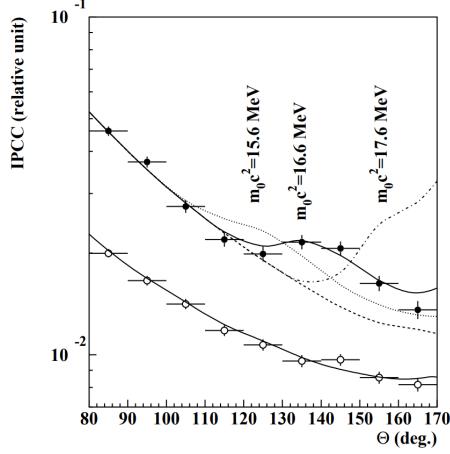
The newer setup was also used in 2021 to study the  ${}^3\text{H}(p, e^+e^-){}^4\text{He}$  reaction at  $E_p = 510, 610$  and 900 keV [14], inducing direct and resonant capture populating the overlapping first 20.21 MeV ( $J^\pi = 0^+$ ) and second 21.01 MeV ( $J^\pi = 0^-$ ) excited states [15]. The comparison of simulated and measured  $e^+e^-$  pair angular correlations in the  $E_{\text{sum}} \in [18, 22]$  MeV region is shown in Fig. 0.1c.

In 2022, another anomaly was measured in the  ${}^{11}\text{B}(p, e^+e^-){}^{12}\text{C}$  process [16]. The  $E_p = 1388$  keV resonance was used to populate the 17.23 MeV excited state ( $J^\pi = 1^-, T = 1$ ) with a large width  $\Gamma = 1.15$  MeV [17]. This state decays mainly through E1 transitions to the ground state  $J^\pi = 0^+$  and to the 4.44 MeV state  $J^\pi = 2^+$ . To compensate for energy losses in the target, five energies in the range  $E_p = 1.5 - 2.5$  MeV were used. The experimental angular correlation for the 17.23 MeV transition to the ground state is shown in Fig. 0.1d.

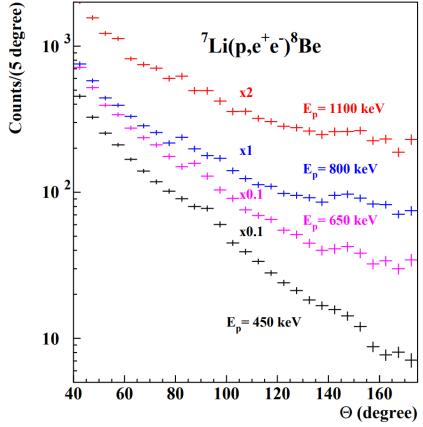
Possible explanations of the anomaly include experimental effects, higher order processes in the Standard Model [18, 19] or even a protophobic fifth force mediated by a new 17 MeV boson X17 [20]. [Not sure if the introduction should be referenced since even though it is related, it is an independent theory developed only \(?\) to explain these measurements. Zhang and Miller: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0370269321000010> Paper from IEAP CTU: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2309.12469.pdf>](#)

## 0.1.2 Other Experiments

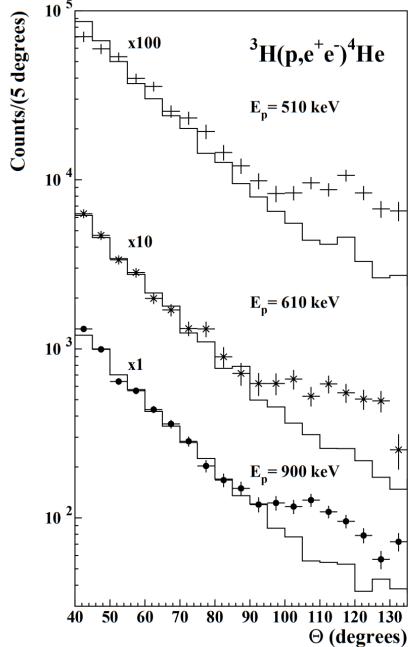
Since the ATOMKI measurements, several experiments have been initiated to attempt to replicate the results and search for the hypothetical X17 particle. The



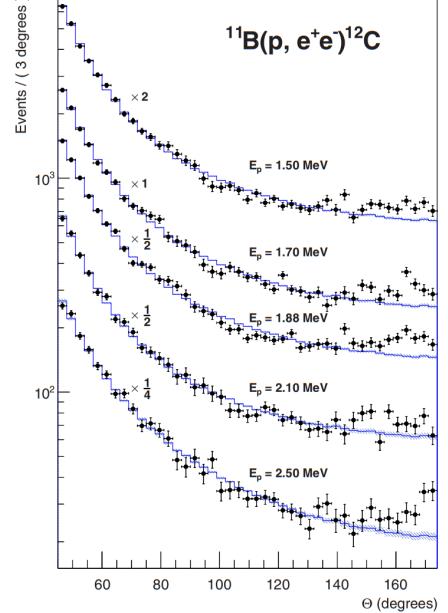
(a) Experimental  $e^+e^-$  pair correlations measured in the  ${}^7\text{Li}(p, e^+e^-){}^8\text{Be}$  reaction with  $|y| \leq 0.5$  (closed circles) and  $|y| \geq 0.5$  (open circles) [11].



(b) Experimental  $e^+e^-$  pair correlations measured in the  ${}^7\text{Li}(p, e^+e^-){}^8\text{Be}$  reaction with the improved setup for different proton beam energies [13].



(c) Experimental  $e^+e^-$  pair correlations measured in the  ${}^3\text{H}(p, e^+e^-){}^4\text{He}$  reaction with  $|y| \leq 0.3$  for different proton beam energies [14].



(d) Experimental  $e^+e^-$  pair correlations measured in the  ${}^{11}\text{B}(p, e^+e^-){}^{12}\text{C}$  reaction for different proton beam energies [16].

**Figure 0.1:** The ATOMKI anomalous IPC measured for different nuclei.



**Figure 0.2:** Results from the Hanoi spectrometer – angular  $e^+e^-$  pair correlations measured in the  ${}^7\text{Li}(p, e^+e^-){}^8\text{Be}$  reaction at  $E_p = 1225$  keV [21].

following experiments have already produced results. Could cite the ATOMKI review paper here. NA64 at SPS: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1803.07748>.

### Two-arm $e^+e^-$ spectrometer in Hanoi

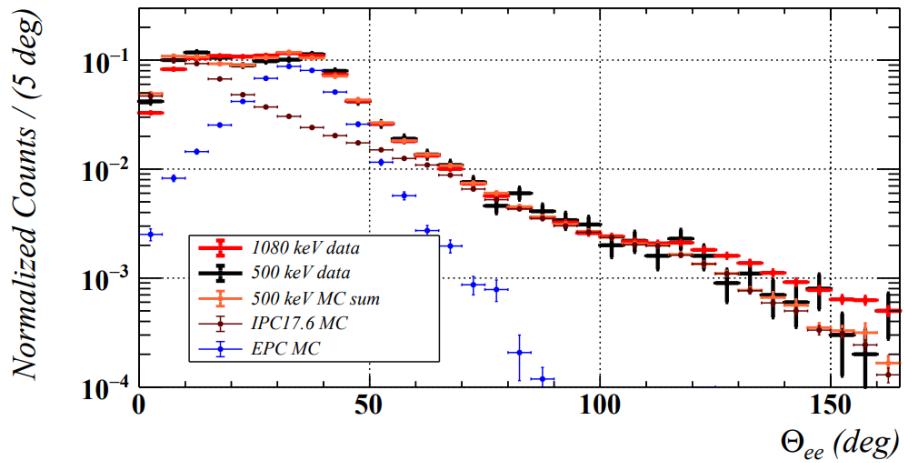
The anomaly in  ${}^8\text{Be}$  has been observed with a high ( $> 4\sigma$  That's all they write in their article.) confidence by a team at the Hanoi University of Sciences for  $E_p = 1225$  keV [21]. They built a two-arm spectrometer in collaboration with ATOMKI and calibrated it using the 17.6 MeV M1 transition. The results are shown in Fig. 0.2.

### Collisions at Nuclotron in Dubna

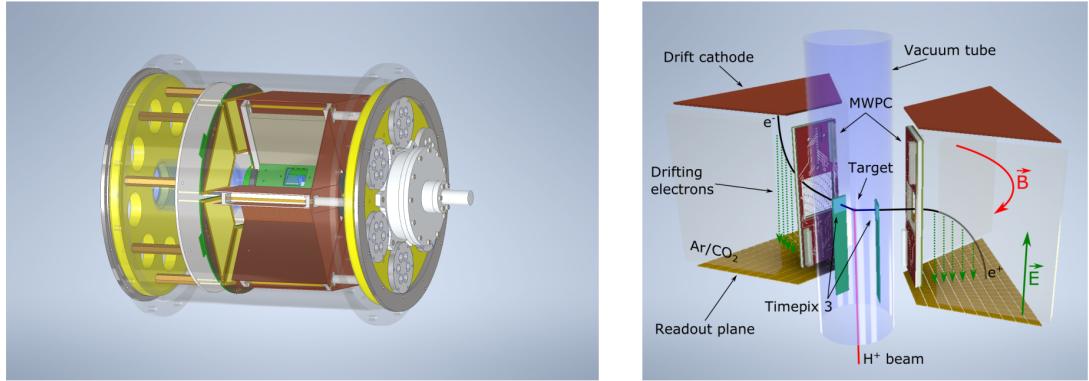
At the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, signal in the form of enhanced structures in the  $\gamma\gamma$  spectra at  $\sim 17$  and  $\sim 38$  MeV invariant masses for  $p + \text{C}$ ,  $d + \text{C}$  and  $d + \text{Cu}$  reactions at momenta 5.5, 2.75, and 3.83 GeV per nucleon [22]. Monte Carlo simulations support the conclusion that the signals are a consequence of a decay of unknown particles X17 and E38.

### The MEG II (Muon Electron Gamma) experiment

Experiments using the  ${}^7\text{Li}(p, e^+e^-){}^8\text{Be}$  reaction were carried out at the Paul Scherrer Institute with the MEG II superconducting solenoid spectrometer [23]. Analysis of the data with  $E_p = 1080$  keV exciting both of the resonances (beam fully stopping in the target) found no significant evidence supporting the X17 hypothesis, results are shown in Fig. 0.3. An upper bound (at 90% confidence) on the X17-to- $\gamma$  branching ratio was set at  $1.2 \cdot 10^{-5}$  for the 18.15 MeV state (larger than the ratio  $5.8 \cdot 10^{-6}$  obtained by ATOMKI in 2016). Could add their 90% C.L bounds figure also. Insufficient statistics – 6.2 % ( $1.5\sigma$ ) p-value.



**Figure 0.3:** Results from the MEG II experiments – angular correlation of  $e^+e^-$  pairs with  $E_{\text{sum}} \in [16, 20]$  MeV measured in the  ${}^7\text{Li}(p, e^+e^-){}^8\text{Be}$  reaction with proton beam energies 500 and 1080 keV. The 500 keV dataset is fitted with Monte Carlo of both the IPC deexcitation and the EPC produced by gammas [23].



**Figure 0.4:** Schematics of the detector at the Van der Graaff facility at IEAP CTU (ref.).

## 171 0.2 X17 Project at IEAP CTU

172 The aim of the X17 project at the Van der Graaff facility of the Institute of  
 173 Experimental and Applied Physics, Czech Technical University in Prague is to  
 174 reproduce the results of the original ATOMKI experiments with  ${}^7\text{Li}$  and  ${}^3\text{H}$  tar-  
 175 gets using an independent  $e^+e^-$  spectrometer. In order to effectively measure the  
 176 anomaly, we need to reconstruct both the energy and the angular correlation of  
 177 the  $e^+e^-$  pairs. The spectrometer will use three layers of detectors to achieve this  
 178 – Timepix3 (TPX3) silicon pixel detector and Multi-Wire Proportional Cham-  
 179 ber (MWPC) layers for the angle reconstruction and a Time Projection Cham-  
 180 ber (TPC) layer for the energy reconstruction. The schematics of the prepared  
 181 detector is in Fig. 0.4 Spectrometer CAD drawing (coordinates here or next chap-  
 182 ter?). Cite some VdG paper, mention grant? Using [https://cernbox.cern.ch/pdf-viewer/public/rf0oU1nqVLN3acZ/LuzH\\_submitted.pdf](https://cernbox.cern.ch/pdf-viewer/public/rf0oU1nqVLN3acZ/LuzH_submitted.pdf).

184 The energy of  $e^+e^-$  pair produced in the reaction is given by the energy

available  $E_r$  in the reaction and can be distributed between them arbitrarily. Nonetheless in the decay of the hypothetical X17 particle, electron and positron should have similar energy and we can therefore use a cut  $|y| \leq 0.5$  in the disparity parameter (defined in Equation 0.1 **it was already used in ATOMKI figure captions, that's why it is defined prior to this**). Interesting events should rarely have a particle with an energy below  $E_r/4$  (roughly 4 MeV). Electrons with such low energies are scattered significantly by even a thin layer of relatively light material, for this reason the TPX3 layer will be inside of the vacuum tube and the tube will have a thinned aluminum segment or Kapton<sup>TM</sup> windows.

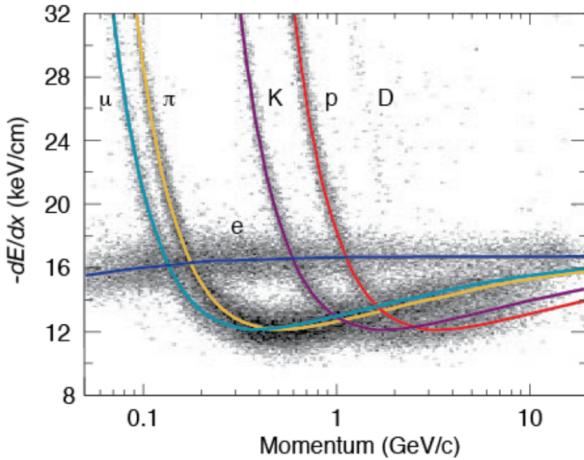
TPX3 can measure (in each  $55 \times 55 \mu\text{m}$  pixel of its  $256 \times 256$  grid) time-of-arrival (ToA) with 1.6 ns precision and time-over-threshold (ToT) which reflects the deposited energy. This potentially allows 3D tracking if we increase the chip thickness at the cost of increased scattering. The layer can reconstruct the reaction vertex and the angular correlation with high precision.

The layer of MWPCs with sensitive area  $40 \times 38 \text{ mm}^2$  will be outside of the beam pipe. It will provide an extra point on the particle trajectory which can help with the estimation of the reaction vertex and improve the TPC performance by providing its entry point.

The TPCs that are the subject of this thesis, are in a magnetic field generated by permanent magnets positioned between them and provide 3D track reconstruction and subsequent momentum and particle identification (its charge, or even type based on its stopping power). They avoid radiative losses thanks to the low density and atomic number of the gas mixture. For the readout, triple Gas Electron Multiplier (GEM) will be used. The magnetic field layout in our TPCs is atypical – orthogonal to the electric field inside the chamber, this is why we call them Orthogonal Fields TPC (OFTPC). Further details about our OFTPCs are provided in section 1.4.

# 1. Time Projection Chamber

A Time Projection Chamber (TPC) is a gaseous detector that uses the drift times of ionization electrons produced by a charged particle in an (ideally uniform) electric field to reconstruct the particle's 3D trajectory. The 2D projection is measured by an amplification stage at the end of the drift volume. When placed inside a magnetic field (typically parallel to the electric field), the momentum of the incident particle can be inferred from the curvature of its trajectory. Particle identification is also possible using the ionization energy loss inside the TPC (see Fig. 1.1). The following text (including Secs. 1.1 and 1.3) is based primarily on the reviews by Hilke [24] and the Particle Data Group [25].



**Figure 1.1:** Particle identification in the PEP-4 TPC at SLAC based on the energy loss per distance  $\frac{dE}{dx}$  in the 80:20 Ar:CH<sub>4</sub> filling at 8.5 atm pressure [26]. The reference doesn't point to the original PEP-4 article because this adapted version of the original picture that they used in the DUNE article looks better.

Large TPCs are sensitive to small distortions in the electric field (imperfections in the field cage, accumulation of positive ions in the gas volume) and to  $\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}$  effects on the drift velocity (see Eq. 1.1 below). Diffusion of the drifting electrons deteriorates the spacial resolution significantly, but it can be reduced up to  $\sim 10$  times by a strong  $\mathbf{B} \parallel \mathbf{E}$  field (see Eq. 1.8).

In neutrino and other rare-event experiments, large (up to 600 tons) Liquid Argon TPCs (LArTPCs) are used for particle identification and calorimetry. The ionization electrons can be drifted for many meters with a small diffusion. Scintillation photons are also measured. Negative ions?

## 1.1 Charge transport in gases

When a charged particle crosses the volume of a TPC, it loses energy by excitation and ionization of the detector gas (how much – from  $dE/dx$  + density → footnote?). Most ionizing collision produce a single ionization electron, sometimes a few secondary electrons are produced near the collision vertex, creating a cluster. In rare cases, the ionization electron has energy large enough to create

237 a measurable track, such an electron is called a  $\delta$ -electron (terminology, just like  
238 bellow – technically it's a (primary) ionization electron causing other (secondary)  
239 ionization).

240 After their release, the ionization electrons are separated from positive ions  
241 by the electric field and they both drift and diffuse in opposite directions towards  
242 the electrodes. The charges are accelerated (different word?) by the electric field  
243 inside the chamber, and they lose speed by colliding with the gas particles, quickly  
244 reaching a constant (for a given field  $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{B}$ ) mean drift velocity. The electrons can  
245 be absorbed by electronegative impurities, such as halides,  $\text{O}_2$ , and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

246 In mixtures with a noble gas component, if the excitation energy of the noble  
247 gas is higher than the ionization potential of an admixture, more free electrons can  
248 be produced through collisions of the gas particles (so-called Penning transfer)  
249 and through absorption of emitted photons.

250 If the electric field is strong enough, the electrons can cause further ion-  
251 ization and excitation of the gas, leading to the development of a Townsend  
252 avalanche (ref).

### 253 1.1.1 Drift

254 In many gases (called "hot", e.g., Ar or  $\text{CH}_4$ ), the drift velocity is much greater  
255 than that of their thermal motion thanks to a high proportion of elastic collisions.  
256 On the other hand, "cold" gases like  $\text{CO}_2$  have a higher proportion of inelastic  
257 collisions (e.g., thanks to the excitation of rotational and vibrational states) and  
258 therefore much lower (value? magnitude (implied?)) drift velocity. Or maybe it  
259 is not so simple, because slowing down the electrons inelastically into a certain  
260 minimum of elastic scattering cross-section increases drift velocity? In case of  
261  $\text{Ar}+\text{CO}_2$  this is clearly not the case for low electric fields, so maybe irrelevant  
262 here (or is the effect opposite for small additions?).

263 The ions produced by the ionization lose a significant portion of their energy  
264 during each collision since their mass is close to the mass of the gas particles (see  
265 the source material – average energy loss during collision  $\Delta E = \frac{2m_i M}{(m_i + M)^2}$ , this  
266 way it's more accurate). This, together with their large collision cross section,  
267 makes their drift velocity much smaller (about three orders of magnitude) and  
268 their energy is close to thermal. Since their momenta are not randomized to such  
269 an extent during collisions, their diffusion is smaller (move this to the diffusion  
270 subsection, reformulate).

271 The drift is also influenced by the magnetic field. Langevin derived a good  
272 approximation for the drift velocity vector:

$$\mathbf{v}_d = \left( \frac{\mathbf{E}}{\|\mathbf{E}\|} + \omega\tau \frac{\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}}{\|\mathbf{E}\| \|\mathbf{B}\|} + \omega^2\tau^2 \frac{\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}}{\|\mathbf{E}\| \|\mathbf{B}\|} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{B}}{\|\mathbf{B}\|} \right) \frac{q\tau}{m(1 + \omega^2\tau^2)} \|\mathbf{E}\|, \quad (1.1)$$

273 where  $q$  is the charge of the particle,  $m$  is its mass,  $\tau$  is the mean time between  
274 collisions and  $\omega = \frac{q}{m} \|\mathbf{B}\|$  is the Larmor frequency. For orthogonal fields  $\mathbf{E} \perp \mathbf{B}$ ,  
275 it can be shown that the magnetic field bends the direction of the drift by the  
276 so-called Lorentz angle:

$$\tan \psi = -\omega\tau. \quad (1.2)$$

277 The drift of ions is only negligibly influenced by the magnetic field ( $\omega\tau \sim 10^{-4}$   
278 is small due to the low drift velocity – better (?) because it takes  $\tau$  into account

279 and differs only by E/B ratio (if the magnetic contribution to the magnitude is  
280 small)). In a standard TPC,  $\mathbf{E}$  is parallel to  $\mathbf{B}$  and the influence of the magnetic  
281 field on the drift is minimal. Without magnetic field, we can write

$$\mathbf{v}_d = \frac{q\tau}{m} \mathbf{E} = \mu \mathbf{E}, \quad (1.3)$$

282 where  $\mu$  is called charge mobility.

### 283 1.1.2 Diffusion

284 All of the theory is from the same source mentioned at the beginning. None of the  
285 simulations explicitly depend on this. Due to collisions, a cloud of electrons or  
286 ions originating from the same point will show a Gaussian density distribution at  
287 time  $t$  while drifting in the electric field  $\mathbf{E} = (0, 0, E_z)$  along the  $z$ -coordinate (288 coordinates defined by the electric field):

$$\rho(x, y, z, t) = (4\pi Dt)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2 + y^2 + (z - v_d t)^2}{4Dt}\right), \quad (1.4)$$

289 where the diffusion coefficient  $D$  can be expressed as

$$D = \frac{\lambda^2}{3\tau} = \frac{\lambda v_d}{3} = \frac{v_d^2 \tau}{3} = \frac{2\varepsilon\tau}{3m}, \quad (1.5)$$

290 where  $\lambda$  is the mean free path and  $\varepsilon$  the mean kinetic energy. The lateral diffusion  
291 width  $\sigma_x$  after a drift distance  $L$  can be expressed as

$$\sigma_x^2 = 2Dt = \frac{4\varepsilon L}{3qE_z}. \quad (1.6)$$

292 The minimal diffusion width is given by the lowest possible energy of the particles  
293  $\varepsilon_{\text{th}} = \frac{3}{2}kT$  (corresponding to thermal motion):

$$\sigma_{x, \text{min}}^2 = \frac{2kTL}{qE}. \quad (1.7)$$

294 For electrons in "cold gases" (e.g., Ar/CO<sub>2</sub> mixture), the diffusion approaches this  
295 limit up to a certain field intensity (~100 V/cm at 1 atm pressure)<sup>1</sup>. In reality, the  
296 transversal diffusion of electrons can differ significantly from their longitudinal  
297 diffusion and simulations are necessary to get a precise result.

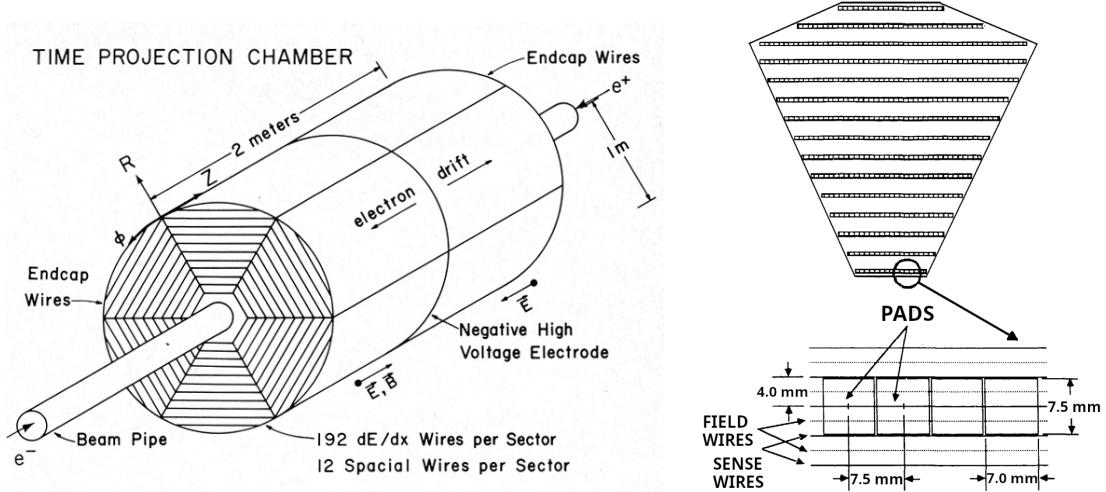
298 In most TPCs, the transversal (but not the longitudinal) diffusion is reduced  
299 by the magnetic field, since it is parallel to the electric field and curves the  
300 diffusing electrons around their mean trajectory:

$$\frac{D_T(B)}{D_T(0)} = \frac{1}{C + \omega^2 \tau_2^2}, \quad (1.8)$$

301 where  $C$  and  $\tau_2$  are parameters dependent on the gas used. At low intensity of  
302 the magnetic field, we can use an approximation  $C \approx 1$  and  $\tau_2 \approx \tau$ .

---

<sup>1</sup>For us  $\sigma_{x, \text{min}} = 0.45$  mm, quite close to the actual diffusion 0.5-0.7 mm – details of the calculation.



**Figure 1.2:** Schematic view of the PEP-4 TPC [28]. A charged particle produced in a collision in the beam pipe creates a spiral ionization track in the magnetic field. The central cathode then accelerates ionization electrons towards the endcap anode wires where they are multiplied and read out. A TPC sector with a detailed view of one of the pad rows is shown on the right [29].

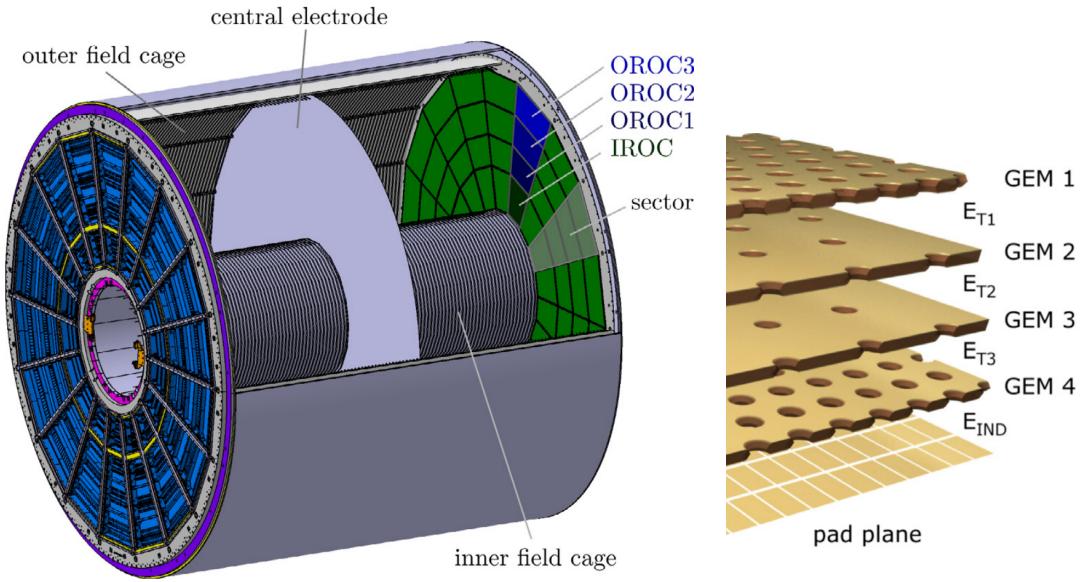
## 303    1.2 Examples of TPCs

### 304    1.2.1 The original TPC at PEP-4 at SLAC

305    The original TPC used in the PEP-4 experiment at SLAC in the 1980s (Fig. 1.2)  
 306    was a  $2\text{ m} \times 2\text{ m}$  hollow cylinder with a central cathode that produced a strong  
 307    electric field  $750\text{ V/cm}$ , making the ionization electrons drift towards one of the  
 308    endcaps [27]. It was filled with a 80:20 Ar:CH<sub>4</sub> mixture at 8.5 atm pressure  
 309    and placed inside a 0.4 T solenoidal magnetic field. The readout consisted of  
 310    MWPCs, where electrons are accelerated towards the anode wires fast enough to  
 311    further ionize the gas and cause an avalanche (details are provided in Sec. 1.3.1).  
 312    The wires had radial spacing 4 mm, fifteen of the sense wires had the cathode  
 313    segmented into  $7.0 \times 7.5\text{ mm}^2$  pads 4 mm under them (Fig. 1.2 right). When  
 314    collecting electrons on the anode wire, signal is induced on the nearest 2-3 cathode  
 315    pads.

### 316    1.2.2 ALICE TPC

317    The ALICE TPC (Fig. 1.3) is the main detector used for charged particle tracking  
 318    and recognition in collisions at the ALICE experiment at the CERN LHC [30].  
 319    Similarly to PEP-4, it is a hollow cylinder with outer radius 2.5 m and height 5 m.  
 320    It is placed in a 0.5 T solenoidal magnetic field, and the central cathode generates  
 321    a 400 V/cm electric field inside the field cage. The gas mixture in the detector  
 322    is 90:10:5 Ne:CO<sub>2</sub>:N<sub>2</sub>, mainly chosen for its higher ion mobility compared to Ar  
 323    mixtures. In 2020, the readout of the TPC was upgraded from MWPCs to stacks  
 324    of four GEM foils (principle described in Sec. 1.3.2). This allows reading events  
 325    continuously at a higher rate.



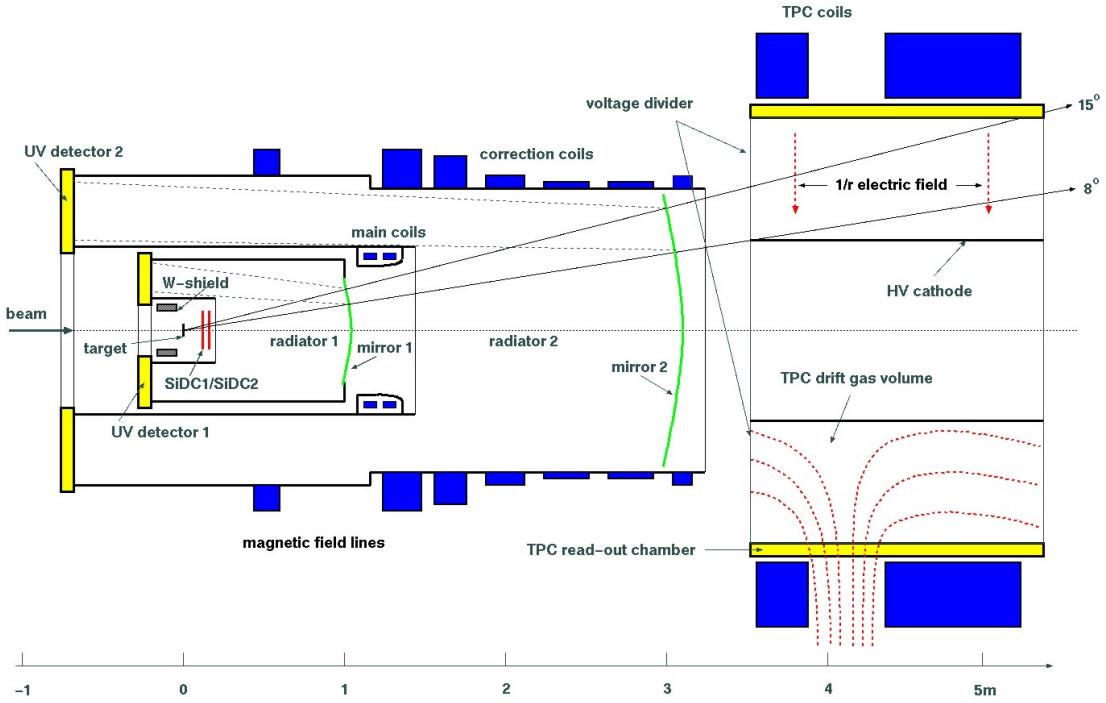
**Figure 1.3:** Schematic view of the ALICE TPC [31]. The readout at each endcap is divided into 18 sectors, each subdivided into an Inner Readout Chamber (IROC) with one GEM stack and Outer Readout Chamber (OROC) with three GEM stacks. A visualization of a GEM stack is on the right [32].

### 326    1.2.3 CERES/NA45 radial-drift TPC

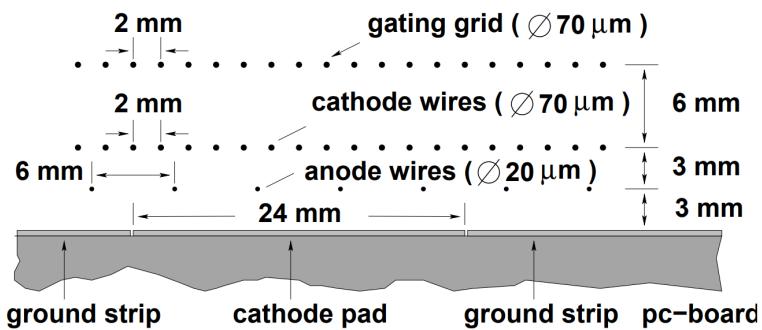
327    In 1998, the CERES/NA45 (Cherenkov Ring Electron Spectrometer) experiment  
 328    (Fig. 1.4) at the CERN SPS was upgraded with the first radial-drift TPC (rTPC)  
 329    to achieve a higher momentum resolution [33]. Unlike a standard TPC, the elec-  
 330    tric field 600-200 V/cm was arranged radially with the magnetic field (inhomoge-  
 331    neous, up to 0.5 T) by two solenoidal coils with opposite polarity. The outward  
 332    drift of the ionization electrons is affected by the crossing fields as shown in Eq. 1.1  
 333    and the drift velocity is not uniform due to the varying electric field. The rTPC  
 334    was filled with an 80:20 Ne:CO<sub>2</sub> gas mixture, which has relatively small diffu-  
 335    sion coefficients and Lorentz angle. The readout was handled by conventional  
 336    MWPCs (Fig. 1.5).

337    The field configuration in an rTPC enables a larger number of pads compared  
 338    to a standard TPC, leading to improved spatial resolution and possibility of larger  
 339    multiplicity rates. Since the drift time is lower, the detector is faster.

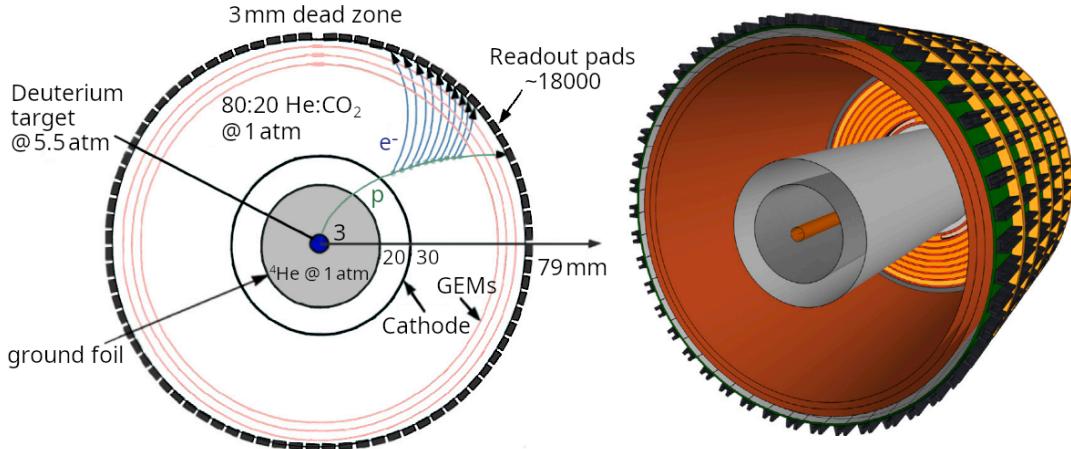
340    After an algorithm described in this thesis was developed for our OFTPCs at  
 341    IEAP CTU, we noticed the similarities with the approach used by the CERES/NA45  
 342    rTPC, when accounting for the transport process of charged clusters in the com-  
 343    plex fields. The detector hit coordinates (pad, time, and plane) were transformed  
 344    using look-up tables. The tables were calculated using a Runge-Kutta method to  
 345    integrate the Langevin approximation of the drift velocity (Eq. 1.1). The drift  
 346    velocity in the radial field was calibrated using seven parallel laser rays. This  
 347    calibration was then used to make a correction compared to the MAGBOLTZ  
 348    Monte Carlo drift [34]. **Measured mobility differs significantly from MAGBOLTZ,**  
 349    **but this might be improved in the newer versions?** The tracks were fitted using  
 350    reference tables with hit coordinates of tracks simulated with GEANT Monte  
 351    Carlo (**not such a big problem for us right now, might be an idea if the recon-**



**Figure 1.4:** Experimental setup of the CERES/NA45 experiment with two Ring Imaging Cherenkov Counters (RICHs) on the left and a rTPC on the right. The magnetic field (red) is generated by two solenoidal coils (blue) with opposite polarity. Produced ionization electrons drift outward radially towards the readout chamber (yellow) [33].



**Figure 1.5:** Cross section of a CERES/NA45 readout MWPC. The wires are stretched in the azimuthal direction above the pad plane. The gating grid controls the passage of electrons and ions. [33].



**Figure 1.6:** Schematic view of the BONuS12 rTPC [35].

352     red struction gets too slow).

### 353     1.2.4 Other interesting radial-drift TPCs

354     muEDM at PSI: [https://arxiv.org/pdf/2307.01535](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2307.01535.pdf),

355     FTPC at STAR at RHIC: [https://arxiv.org/pdf/nucl-ex/0211014](https://arxiv.org/pdf/nucl-ex/0211014.pdf)

#### 356     BONuS12 rTPC

357     In 2020, the Barely Off-shell Neutron Structure 12 GeV (BONuS12) experiment  
 358     used an rTPC (Fig. 1.6) to measure low-momentum spectator protons produced  
 359     in  $e^-d \rightarrow e^-p_sX$  scattering [35]. It was filled with a 80:20 He:CO<sub>2</sub> gas mixture and  
 360     placed inside a 4 T solenoidal magnetic field, perpendicular to the radial electric  
 361     field (1100 V/cm on average), tilting the drift (see Eq. 1.2). The amplification  
 362     used cylindrical triple GEM stacks.

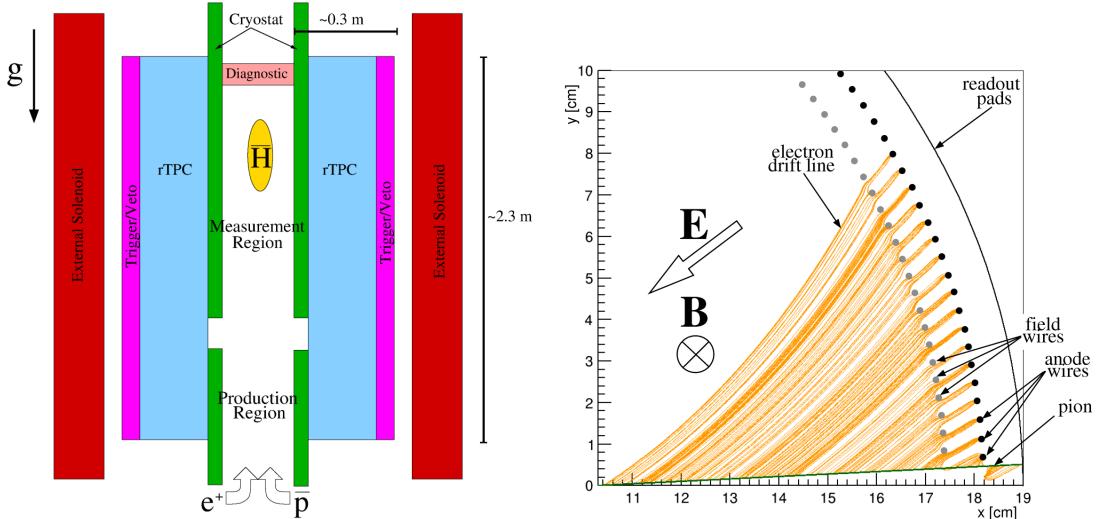
363     Garfield++ simulations and study of reconstructed tracks have shown that the  
 364     radial component of the drift velocity almost proportional to the radial electric  
 365     field, and the  $r$ -coordinate can be reconstructed using an analytical formula. Sim-  
 366     ilarly, the azimuthal component is nearly proportional to the radial component,  
 367     resulting in a largely constant Lorentz angle between the radial and actual direc-  
 368     tion, and the  $\phi$ -coordinate can be solved analytically. The remaining  $z$ -coordinate  
 369     stays undistorted. The momentum is determined by fitting tracks with a helix,  
 370     while accounting for the energy losses (the small variability of magnetic field along  
 371     the  $z$ -axis has a negligible effect).

#### 372     ALPHA-g rTPC

373     In 2023, the Antihydrogen Laser Physics Apparatus (ALPHA) collaboration pub-  
 374     lished results of measurements of antihydrogen ( $\bar{H}$ ) annihilation<sup>2</sup> after release  
 375     from magnetic confinement, showing that it behaves in a way consistent with grav-  
 376     itational attraction to the Earth [36]. They used a 2.3 m long rTPC (Fig. 1.7a)

---

<sup>2</sup>The main  $\bar{p}$  annihilation mode is into several  $\pi^\pm$  and  $\pi^0$ , only the  $\pi^\pm$  tracks are long enough to be reconstructed. The scattering of  $\pi^\pm$  is not negligible, and photons from  $\pi^0$  decay create  $e^+e^-$  pairs as background.



(a) Sketch of ALPHA-g. Antiprotons and positrons are injected from the bottom and form  $\bar{H}$  in a Penning trap while being cooled by the cryostat (green). The annihilation is reconstructed by the rTPC (blue).

(b) Cross section view of the rTPC (Garfield++ simulation). The electrons (orange) produced by a pion track (green) drift towards the anode wires, while influenced by the axial magnetic field. The size of the field and anode wires is exaggerated.

**Figure 1.7:** Schematic view of the ALPHA-g detector [37].

with a 40 cm outer and 20 cm inner diameter in a 1 T solenoidal magnetic field, and filled with an Ar/CO<sub>2</sub> mixture [37]. The readout consists of an MWPC (Fig. 1.7b). The radial confinement of the cold  $\bar{H}$  is achieved with a superconducting octupole magnet, the axial with a set of so-called *mirror* coils.

The *r*-coordinate of the ionization cluster is reconstructed from the drift time using a tabulated space-time relation. The 3D position of the interaction (cluster) vertex is obtained by matching the wires and pads by drift time using a k-d tree algorithm. Reconstructed tracks are fitted with a helix using the least squares method [38].

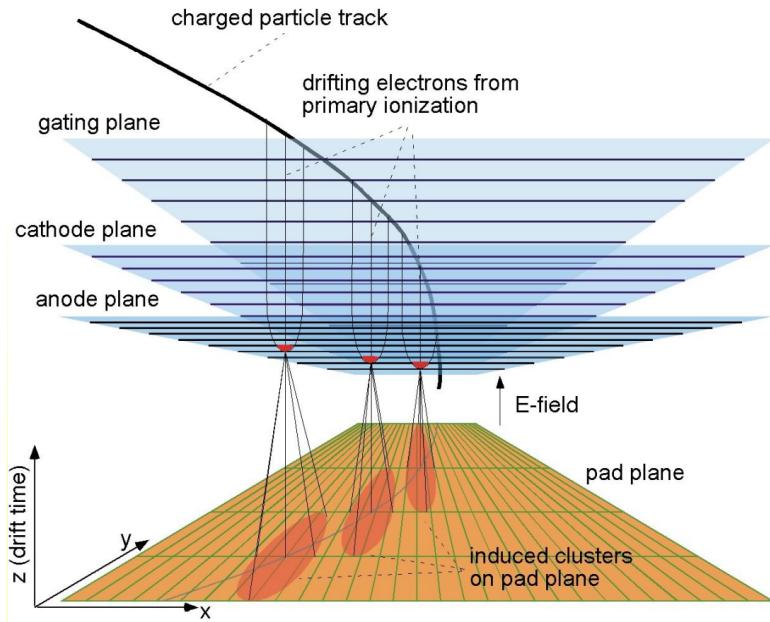
### 1.3 Readout

#### 1.3.1 Multi-Wire Proportional Chamber

In most TPCs operated in experiments, Multi-Wire Proportional Chamber (MWPC) was used for the readout (Fig. 1.8). The electrons enter the chamber through a cathode grid and get accelerated by a strong electric field towards the parallel, thin anode wires and create an avalanche, multiplying the signal. The trajectory can be reconstructed from the drift time and two coordinates measured using

- a) two segmented cathodes (wires or strips) rotated by 90° or
- b) the ratio of charge collected on two sides of the hit resistive wires.

For high counting rates, the positive ions from the avalanches accumulate, creating a space charge that distorts the electric field. This can be solved by using a gating grid near the readout plane to collect these ions at the cost of introducing a dead time in the detector.



**Figure 1.8:** Schematic view of the ALICE MWPC readout (working principle) [39].

### 399    1.3.2 Micro-Pattern Gaseous Detectors

400    In order to avoid MWPC limitations (e.g., diffusion, wire  $\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}$  effect, space  
 401    charge effects), a family of Micro-Pattern Gaseous Detector (MPGD) technologies  
 402    are being developed. The readouts can reach higher spatial resolution (down to  
 403    30  $\mu\text{m}$ ) with faster response time (ns range) and much higher rate capability.

#### 404    Gas Electron Multiplier

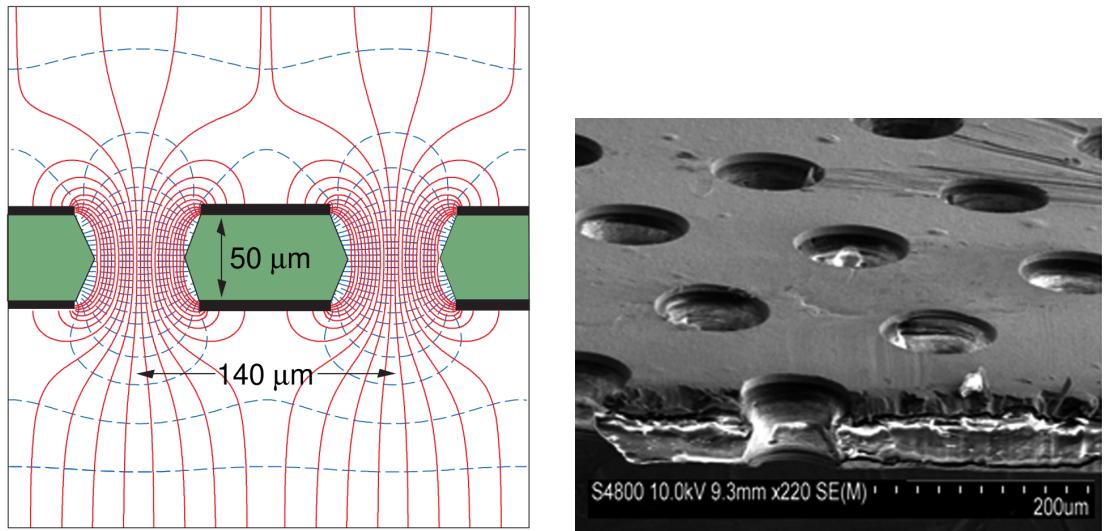
405    A Gas Electron Multiplier (GEM) is a thin metal-coated polyimide sheet with  
 406    a dense pattern of small, chemically etched holes (Fig. 1.9). The amplification is  
 407    achieved by applying voltage across the metal layers and placing the foil between  
 408    two moderate uniform electric fields. This creates a strong electric field inside the  
 409    holes that accelerates the incoming electrons and causes avalanches (see Fig. 1.10).  
 410    Some charges may land on the dielectric surfaces due to diffusion, modifying the  
 411    field and affecting gain.

412    Double or triple stacks of GEMs are usually used to create a sufficient gain  
 413    while maintaining stability (reducing discharges). From the last foil, the electrons  
 414    drift to a segmented anode where the signal is read. The ion backflow is reduced  
 415    compared to MWPC.

416    A cheaper alternative (especially for large area coverage) is a THick GEM  
 417    (THGEM) with a  $\sim$ 10-fold upscaling of geometrical parameters. It can be made  
 418    by mechanically drilling holes into a standard Printed Circuit Board (PCB) and  
 419    creating a circular rim around the holes by etching the metal coating.

#### 420    Micromegas

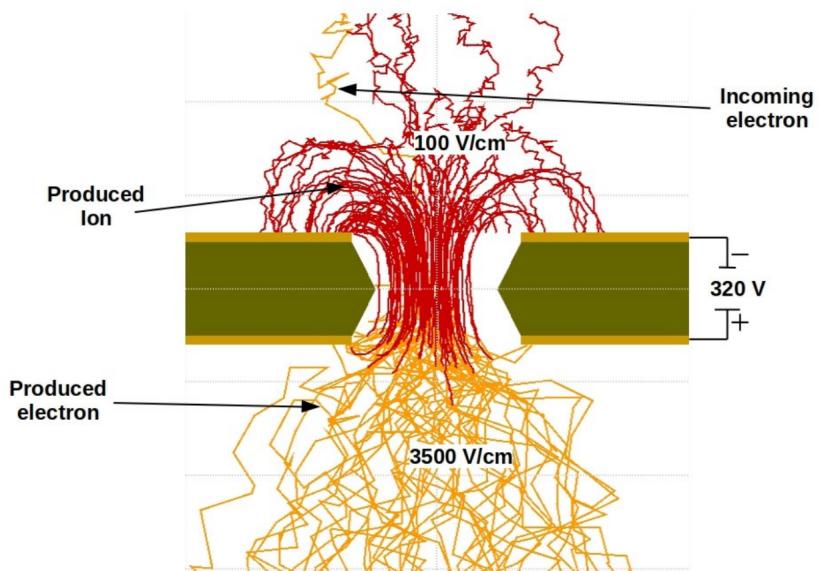
421    In a MICRO-MEsh GAseous Structure (Micromegas) (in sources I viewed it is not  
 422    capitalized) electrons pass through a fine mesh (made out of very thin wires) into



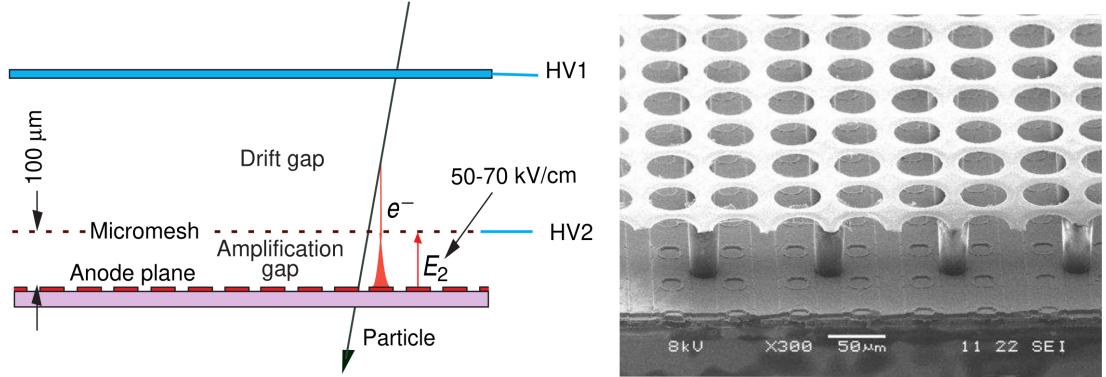
(a) A schematic view of a GEM cell with its typical dimensions, electric field lines (red), and equipotentials (blue) [25].

(b) A scanning electron microscope image of a GEM foil [40].

**Figure 1.9:** Gas Electron Multiplier (GEM).



**Figure 1.10:** Garfield simulation of an avalanche in a GEM hole [41]. An incoming electron (orange) is accelerated in the strong electric field of the GEM and causes further ionization multiplying the number of free electrons (orange). Most of the produced cations (red) are captured by the GEM cathode.



(a) A schematic view of a Micromegas detector.

(b) A scanning electron microscope image of a Micromegas "GridPix" detector.

**Figure 1.11:** MICRO-MEsh Gaseous Structure (Micromegas) [25].

a narrow amplification gap where they are multiplied in the high field and read as a signal on the segmented anode (Fig. 1.11a). Very high field ( $30-80 \text{ kV/cm}^2$ ) is necessary to achieve sufficient gain. Ion backflow is heavily suppressed by the mesh.

A Timepix chip (a high granularity pixel detector) can be used for the readout anode to achieve the best spatial resolution, making an integrated readout called GridPix (Fig. 1.11b). Thanks to the high spatial resolution, it is possible to distinguish individual electron clusters, which enables a new method of particle identification.

### 432 Other MPGDs

433 A Resistive Plate WELL (RPWELL) consists of a THGEM with only the top  
 434 side metal-coated, mounted on a resistive film deposited on a thin isolating sheet  
 435 (which is read out similarly to a Resistive Plate Chamber (RPC)). Due to the  
 436 higher field in the closed holes of the THGEM, a higher gain can be reached for  
 437 the same voltage. A Micro-RWELL ( $\mu$ -RWELL) is a similar architecture with  
 438  $\sim 7$  times smaller pitch (distance between holes). These options provide a better  
 439 spark resistance and could allow to cover large areas for a lower cost.

440 A Micro-Pixel Gas Chamber ( $\mu$ -PIC) is a PCB with anode strips on one side  
 441 and orthogonal cathode strips on the other. The cathode has a resistive coating  
 442 and a regular pattern of uncoated regions with anode "dots" penetrating the PCB  
 443 at the centers.

## 444 1.4 Orthogonal Fields TPC at IEAP CTU

445 At IEAP CTU, we are going to use six identical atypical TPCs with inhomogeneous toroidal magnetic field **orthogonal** to the electric field (details below),  
 446 hereafter referred to as Orthogonal Fields TPC (OFTPC). It has the shape of  
 447 isosceles trapezoidal prism 16 centimeters high with triple-GEM readout on one  
 448 of its bases. Dimensions of the OFTPC are discussed in detail in section 1.4.2  
 449 below. Throughout this thesis, we assume a uniform electric field along the  $z$  axis  
 450 with  $E_z = -400 \text{ V/cm}$ . Isn't the field affected by the MWPCs? Eventually a sim-

ulation will be needed. Measured particles enter the OFTPC through a window after crossing the MWPC. Gas mixture used in the detector (70/30) and its effect – some graph with the mixture, reasons for the choice. Add a figure of the real TPC. More about the design choices.

#### 1.4.1 Motivation and Associated Challenges

- The reasons for the unusual field layout are mostly cost related:
- a) we use permanent magnets instead of a solenoid and parallel fields are difficult to accomplish this way,
  - b) granularity of the TPC readout is limited in order to fit one SAMPA/SRS hybrid in each sector – parallel fields would bend the trajectories parallel to the readout requiring more pads and different architecture.

In this thesis, we will show that such a setup can reach a similar energy resolution as common cylindrical TPCs while reducing the overall cost.

The layout introduces two complications to the track reconstruction – the trajectory in inhomogeneous field is not circular and the drift is distorted by the magnetic field as shown in the Equation 1.1(in our case  $\omega\tau \approx 0.08$  for 0.3 T assuming  $\mu \approx 0.25$  T<sup>-1</sup>, varies inside the detector). We will deal with these effects in the upcoming chapters.

The diffusion in such setup is larger since parallel orientation reduces diffusion by curling the electrons in the  $x$ - $y$  direction (see Equation 1.8), but for our relatively weak magnetic field and short drift distance, the difference is negligible.

#### 1.4.2 Coordinate Systems and Dimensions

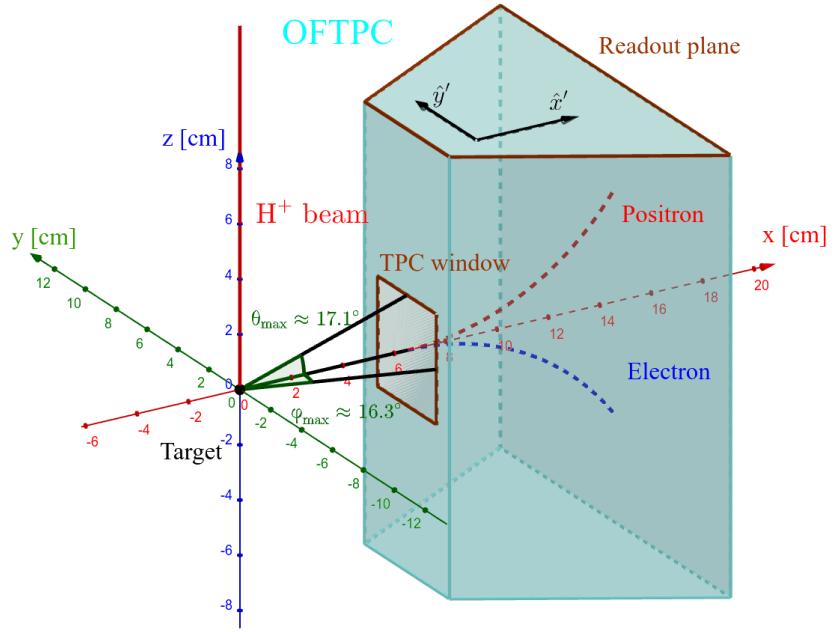
In order to describe events in our detector, we use three distinct spaces: the detector space  $\mathcal{D}$ , the readout space  $\mathcal{R}$  and the pad space  $\mathcal{P}$  (different spaces that describe different things and each has their own coordinate system, so maybe rename the section somehow?). Each space is later used to represent ionization electrons at different stages of the detection process: their creation in the gas, their final position when hitting the readout plane, and finally their representation in the discrete pad space.

##### Detector Space

The detector space  $\mathcal{D}$  represents the physical space of our detector. We describe it using Cartesian coordinates  $(x, y, z)$ . The  $z$ -axis is the detector's axis of symmetry, with its negative direction aligned with the proton beam. The origin  $(0, 0, 0)$  is located at the center of the irradiated target. The positive  $x$ -axis passes through the center of one the OFTPCs along the intersection of its two planes of symmetry. The  $y$ -axis is then chosen to maintain a right-handed coordinate system.

Since the detector has a hexagonal symmetry, we use only one of its sectors in this work – the first sector  $\mathcal{D}_1 \subset \mathcal{D}$  which is defined by the condition:

$$(x, y, z) \in \mathcal{D}_1 \Leftrightarrow |y| \leq x \tan \frac{\pi}{6}. \quad (1.9)$$



**Figure 1.12:** Schematics of the first sector OFTPC with detector space coordinates.

491 Simulations in this sector can be applied to all sectors by rotating the coordinates  
 492 accordingly. The volume of the OFTPC in this sector, which has the shape of  
 493 a trapezoidal prism, has these boundaries:

$$x \in [x_{\min}, x_{\max}] = [6.51, 14.61] \text{ cm}, \quad (1.10)$$

$$z \in [z_{\min}, z_{\max}] = [-8, 8] \text{ cm}, \quad (1.11)$$

$$y_{\max}(x_{\min}) = -y_{\min}(x_{\min}) = 2.75 \text{ cm}, \quad (1.12)$$

$$y_{\max}(x_{\max}) = -y_{\min}(x_{\max}) = 7.45 \text{ cm}, \quad (1.13)$$

494 where  $y_{\max}(x)$  is the maximal value of the  $y$ -coordinate for a given  $x$ . The read-  
 495 out is located at  $z = 8$  cm; for some purposes, we also define the distance to  
 496 the readout  $d_r = 8 \text{ cm} - z$  as an alternative to the  $z$ -coordinate. **Keeping this**  
 497 **paragraph as it is because the OFTPC volume is distinct from the first sector**  
 498 **and some parts of this thesis use the space beyond this volume.** The OFTPC  
 499 window has width 3.8 cm and height 4.0 cm.

500 We also use spherical coordinates  $(r, \theta, \varphi)$  with the elevation angle  $\theta$  measured  
 501 relative to the  $xy$  plane. Angles  $\theta$  and  $\varphi$  are useful when describing the direction  
 502 of  $e^+/e^-$  tracks. Their maximal values considered for the initial direction in  
 503 simulations are  $\theta_{\max} \approx 17.1^\circ$  and  $\varphi_{\max} \approx 16.3^\circ$  as shown in Fig. 1.12.

## 504 Readout Space

505 The readout space  $\mathcal{R}$  represents the drift time and final positions of ionization  
 506 electrons as measured by an ideal continuous readout. We describe it using  
 507 coordinates  $(x', y', t)$ , where  $x'$  and  $y'$  correspond to the detector coordinates at  
 508 the readout plane ( $z = 8$  cm).

509 Currently not entirely sure how to put this into a figure since only  $x'$  and  
 510  $y'$  correspond to the detector coordinates, it will make more sense when

511 **visualizing the map.** The drift time  $t$  is approximately proportional to  $d_r$ .

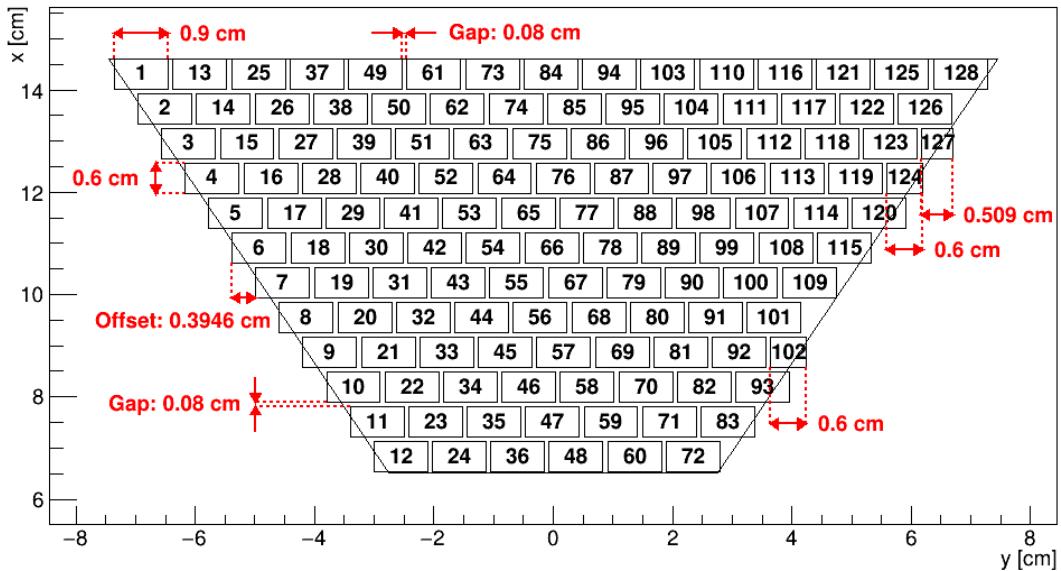
## 512 Pad Space

513 The pad space  $\mathcal{P}$  represents the time bin and pad number of ionization electrons  
514 as measured by an ideal discrete readout:

$$\mathcal{P} = \{(n_{\text{pad}}, n_t) \in \mathbb{N}^2 \mid n_{\text{pad}} \leq 128\}. \quad (1.14)$$

515 **Rewrite to reflect this:** Technically both values can be zero as defined in the  
516 code (max channel 127). It is not really a subspace of  $\mathcal{R}$  but there is a mapping  
517 from  $\mathcal{R}$  to  $\mathcal{P}$ . It is a discretization of a part of  $\mathcal{R}$ , the mapping can be adjusted  
518 depending on the simulation. If we assume uniform electric field there will be  
519 gaps, we don't use gaps in the reconstruction since the electrons should be pulled  
520 towards the pads.

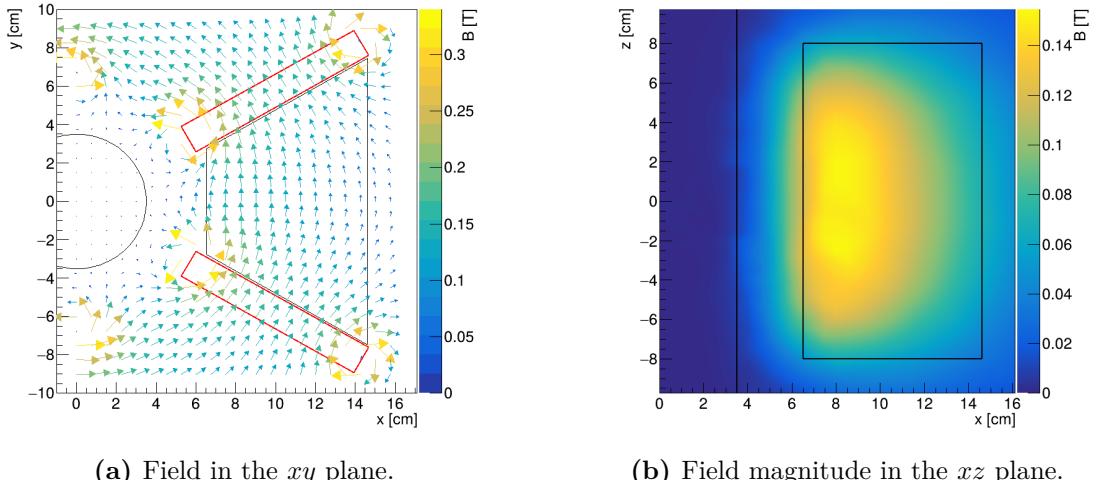
521 The readout of the OFTPC will consist (is the design final?) of 128 rectangular  
522 pads arranged in a staggered pattern. Parameters of the pad layout are shown  
523 in Fig. 1.13. The bottom left corner of  $n$ -th pad has coordinates  $(x_{1,n}, y_{1,n})$ , the  
524 top right  $(x_{2,n}, y_{2,n})$  and its center has coordinates  $(x_{c,n}, y_{c,n})$ . The gap between  
525 neighboring pads is  $g = 0.08$  cm. Time will be read out in discrete bins of size  
526  $t_{\text{bin}} = 100$  ns (details?). Could also describe pad-related functions.



**Figure 1.13:** Pad layout of the OFTPC and its parameters. Pads 102, 124 and 127 are irregular, the rest has the same dimensions.

### 527 1.4.3 Magnetic Field Simulation

528 The magnetic field inside our detector is produced by six permanent magnets. It  
529 was simulated using Ansys Maxwell (citation) which gives us values on a regular  
530 grid. More details, vacuum tube, magnets (homogeneous?, density?). Visualization  
531 of the magnetic field is shown in Fig. 1.14. Whenever we need to work with  
532 values outside this grid, we use trilinear interpolation described below.



(a) Field in the  $xy$  plane.

(b) Field magnitude in the  $xz$  plane.

**Figure 1.14:** Magnetic field simulation results. The OFTPC volume and the vacuum tube are marked with black lines, the magnets are marked with red lines. **The coordinates of the magnets from the CAD drawing seem to be 9/10 of the ones from the magnetic simulation (fixed, the magnetic simulation parameters are off).**

### 533 Trilinear Interpolation

534 Trilinear interpolation is a 3D generalization of linear interpolation<sup>3</sup>. It can be  
 535 used to interpolate a function whose values are known on a regular grid with  
 536 rectangular prism cells. We use this simple method for interpolating the magnetic  
 537 field, and it is later used in Section 3.2.2 to interpolate the Ionization Electron  
 538 Map, a key component of our track reconstruction algorithm. In both cases, we  
 539 use a regular cubic grid (apparently it is also called a Cartesian grid).

540 Let us consider a cell of our regular grid (a cube) with an edge of length  $a$   
 541 containing the point  $\mathbf{C} = (x, y, z)$  where we want to interpolate a function  
 542  $f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . We know the values of this function at the vertices of the cell  
 543  $\mathbf{C}_{ijk} = (x_0 + ia, y_0 + ja, z_0 + ka)$ , where  $\mathbf{C}_{000} = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$  is the origin of the  
 544 cell (is that clear?), and  $i, j, k \in \{0, 1\}$  are indices. We also define the points  $\mathbf{C}_{ij} =$   
 545  $= (x, y_0 + ia, z_0 + ja)$  and  $\mathbf{C}_i = (x, y, z_0 + ia)$ . Then the interpolated value  $\hat{f}(\mathbf{C})$   
 546 can be calculated as a composition of three linear interpolations (see Fig. 1.15):

$$\hat{f}(\mathbf{C}_{ij}) = (1 - x_d) f(\mathbf{C}_{0ij}) + x_d f(\mathbf{C}_{1ij}), \quad (1.15)$$

$$\hat{f}(\mathbf{C}_i) = (1 - y_d) \hat{f}(\mathbf{C}_{0i}) + y_d \hat{f}(\mathbf{C}_{1i}), \quad (1.16)$$

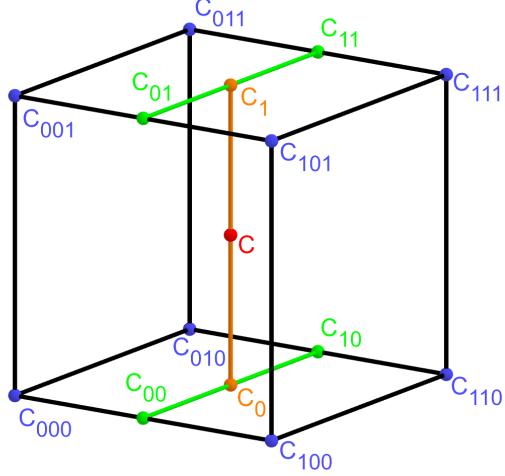
$$\hat{f}(\mathbf{C}) = (1 - z_d) \hat{f}(\mathbf{C}_0) + z_d \hat{f}(\mathbf{C}_1), \quad (1.17)$$

547 where  $x_d$ ,  $y_d$ , and  $z_d$  are given as follows:

$$x_d = \frac{x - x_0}{a}, \quad y_d = \frac{y - y_0}{a}, \quad z_d = \frac{z - z_0}{a}. \quad (1.18)$$

---

<sup>3</sup>Linear interpolation in point  $x \in (x_1, x_2)$  of a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  known in points  $x_1 < x_2$  is the convex combination  $\hat{f}(x) = (1 - x_d)f(x_1) + x_d f(x_2)$ , where  $x_d = \frac{x - x_1}{x_2 - x_1} \in (0, 1)$ .



**Figure 1.15:** Visualization of trilinear interpolation as a composition of linear interpolations (inspired by [42]). We want to interpolate the value in the red point  $\mathbf{C}$ . First we interpolate between the four pairs of blue points sharing the last two indices along the  $x$ -axis (Eq. 1.15), then between the two pairs of the resulting green points along the  $y$ -axis (Eq. 1.16) and finally between the two resulting orange points along the  $z$ -axis to get the final red value (Eq. 1.17).

548 We can also write

$$\hat{f}(\mathbf{C}) = \sum_{i,j,k \in \{0,1\}} t_x^i t_y^j t_z^k f(\mathbf{C}_{ijk}), \quad (1.19)$$

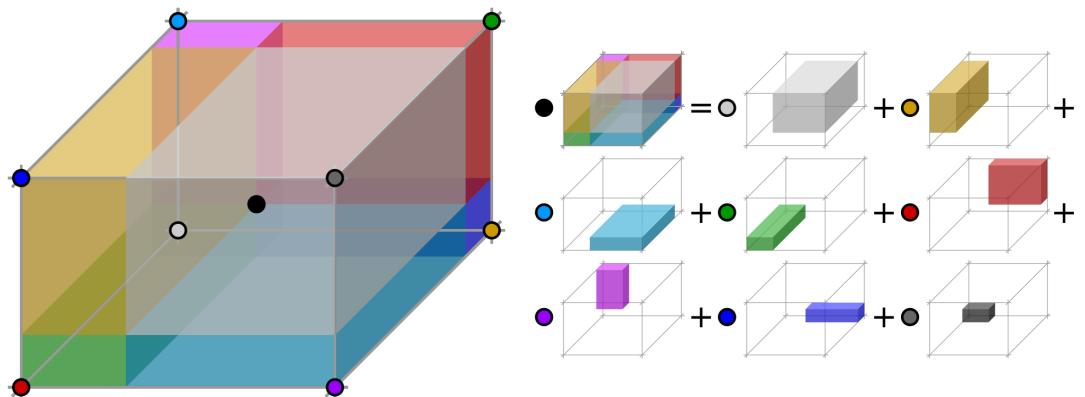
$$t_\alpha \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{pmatrix} t_\alpha^0 \\ t_\alpha^1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \alpha_d \\ \alpha_d \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1.20)$$

549 where  $\alpha \in \{x, y, z\}$  is an index. This gives a nice geometric interpretation to the  
550 trilinear interpolation as shown in Fig. 1.16. From this form and the figure, it is  
551 apparent that the final interpolated value does not depend on the order of axes  
552 along which we perform linear interpolations (see Fig. 1.15). Furthermore, we  
553 can write  $\hat{f}(\mathbf{C})$  as a polynomial:

$$\hat{f}(\mathbf{C}) = \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \{0,1\}} \sum_{i=0}^{\alpha} \sum_{j=0}^{\beta} \sum_{k=0}^{\gamma} (-1)^{(\alpha-i)+(\beta-j)+(\gamma-k)} f(\mathbf{C}_{ijk}) x_d^\alpha y_d^\beta z_d^\gamma. \quad (1.21)$$

554 We take advantage of this form when generalizing trilinear interpolation to irreg-  
555 ular grid in section 3.2.3.

556 Maybe a citation here, although I am not sure it is necessary since it could  
557 be considered common knowledge. The last two equations are my own (but I'm  
558 not sure that's worth mentioning unless there's a citation).



**Figure 1.16:** Geometric interpretation of trilinear interpolation as expressed in Equation 1.19. The colored dots represent the values in given points and the colored boxes represent the volume in the opposite corner by which the corresponding values are multiplied. The black dot represents the interpolated value which is multiplied by the entire volume [43].

## 2. Track Simulation

In order to develop and test the reconstruction algorithm, electron and positron tracks are simulated inside the first detector sector  $\mathcal{D}_1$  (see Section 1.4.2) with different initial parameters (origin, initial direction and kinetic energy). Two approaches are currently used to simulate tracks, each of them for different purpose.

The **Microscopic Simulation** uses the Garfield++ toolkit [1]. Within this toolkit:

- a) Magboltz, since it is mentioned later. Or maybe just class MediumMagboltz with the collision rates?
- b) the High Energy Electro-Dynamics (HEED) program [44] is used to simulate the primary particle,
- c) the class *AvalancheMicroscopic* to simulate the drift of secondary electrons created by ionization in the gas.

This is the most precise and time-consuming simulation used; our current goal is to be able to successfully reconstruct its results and determine our best-case energy resolution.

The **Runge-Kutta Simulation** uses the 4th order Runge-Kutta numerical integration (add citation for Runge-Kutta) to simulate the trajectory of the primary particle in the electromagnetic field inside the detector. It is relatively fast since it does not simulate the secondary particles. It is used as part of our reconstruction algorithm and for testing some parts of the reconstruction.

All of these simulations require the knowledge of the electromagnetic field (both **E** and **B**) inside the detector. A uniform electric field of  $400 \text{ V}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$  is assumed. The magnetic field was simulated in Maxwell (see Section 1.4.3). add citation

Single track in positive x direction or initial parameter randomization. Importance of gas composition, used gas compositions.

### 2.1 Microscopic Simulation

The microscopic simulation, the most detailed simulation used in this work, is performed using the Garfield++ toolkit [1].

The electron transport properties are simulated using the program Magboltz (add citation), (details?). Two different gas mixtures were compared – 90:10 and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>. The second mixture will be used in our detector (this was probably known a priori, but the first tests that I started with used 90/10, so maybe just note that the results justify the fact so far). The temperature is set to 20 °C, the pressure is atmospheric.

The primary track is simulated using the program HEED, which is an implementation of the photo-absorption ionization model [44] (see the reference, moved it to the end of sentence). This program provides the parameters of ionizing collisions. HEED can also be used to simulate the transport of delta electrons; we do not account for these in the current simulation (but plan to include them in the future – maybe mention only in the conclusion/future section). The photons created in the atomic relaxation cascade (fluorescence reabsorption, related to the spread of avalanches in GM det.?) are also not simulated.

603 Finally, we use the microscopic tracking provided by the class *AvalancheMicroscopic* in Garfield++ to simulate the drift of the ionization electrons. Each  
 604 electron is followed from collision to collision using the equation of motion and  
 605 the collision rates calculated by Magboltz (how fast is this? maybe it slows down  
 606 the simulation when spreading it across multiple jobs?).  
 607

608 Add more detailed and better description of HEED, and microscopic tracking  
 609 (each their own subsection?). Could also mention Monte Carlo (requires gas file  
 610 generation - Magboltz) and Runge-Kutta simulation implemented in Garfield,  
 611 why we don't use them (another subsection? rename the section to Garfield++  
 612 simulation and mention all relevant parts?).

### 613 2.1.1 First testing track

614 The first electron track simulated for testing purposes was chosen to have a special  
 615 set of parameters:

- 616 • the starting point of the track is the origin of the coordinate system,
- 617 • the initial direction is along the positive  $x$ -axis,
- 618 • the momentum is 8 MeV/c (the kinetic energy is 7.505 MeV).

619 Such a track moves in the XZ plane in the toroidal magnetic field of the detector,  
 620 because the particle's velocity vector is always perpendicular to the field. At first,  
 621 we simulated such a track in 90:10 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> gas mixture, later we added a simu-  
 622 lation in 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>, which we plan to use in our detector. The comparison of  
 623 both simulations is in Fig. 2.1. In the first tests, the initial energy of produced  
 624 ionization was set to 0.1 eV instead of the value generated by HEED.

### 625 2.1.2 Grid-like testing sample

626 In order to test all steps of the reconstruction, a sample of tracks with a grid-like  
 627 distribution of parameters was generated on MetaCentrum. Five sets of 9702  
 628 tracks were generated with every combination of these parameters:

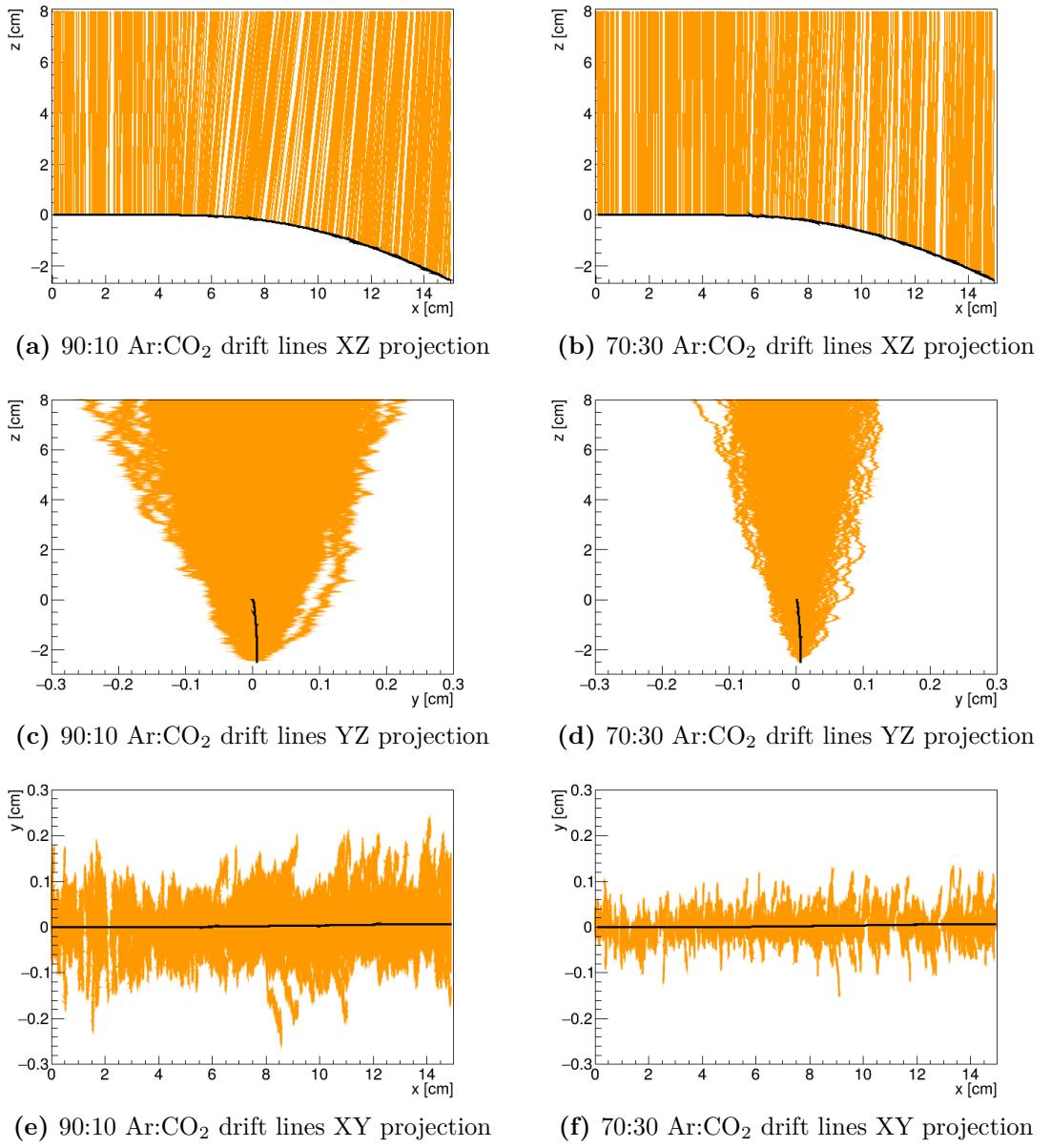
- 629 • electron and positron tracks,
- 630 • 11 different kinetic energies  $E_{\text{kin}} \in [3, 13]$  MeV,
- 631 • 21 different azimuth angles  $\varphi \in [-16.3^\circ, 16.3^\circ]$  and
- 632 • 21 different elevation angles  $\theta \in [-17.1^\circ, 17.1^\circ]$ .

633 A visualization of a set of  $e^+/e^-$  tracks with the same kinetic energy is shown in  
 634 Fig. 2.2 (plotting actual HEED tracks using ROOT should be also possible (but  
 635 hard to make look good?)). In the 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, each track takes  
 636 5-30 CPU hours to simulate. Every tenth point on the drift line was stored, the  
 637 whole sample has 3.1 terabytes (or 1.4 gigabytes without drift lines).

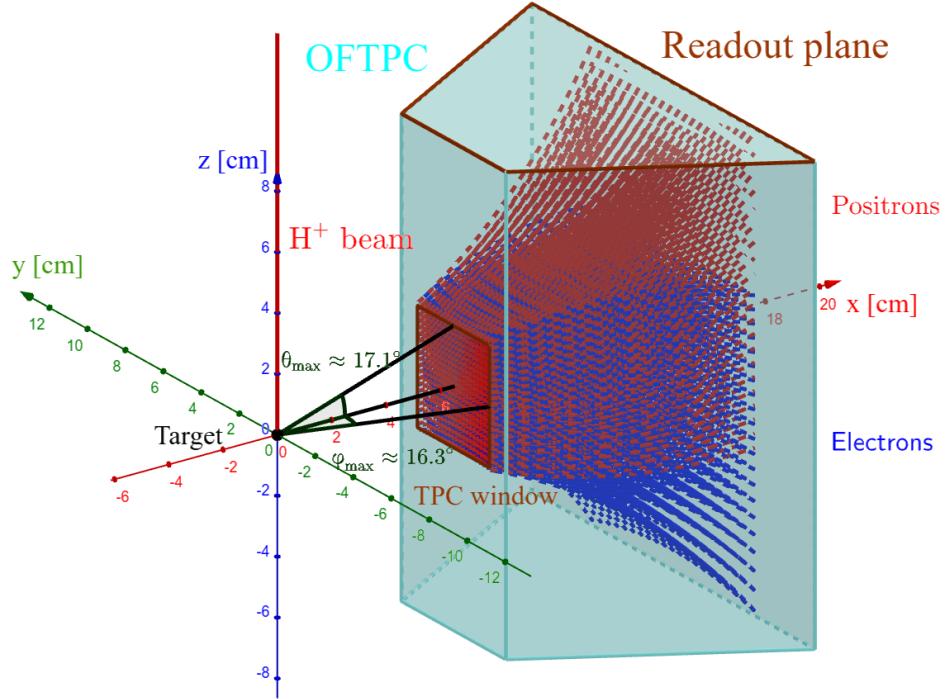
## 638 2.2 Runge-Kutta Simulation

639 The Runge-Kutta simulation in this work uses the Runge-Kutta 4th order (RK4)  
 640 method to numerically integrate the equation of motion of a relativistic charged  
 641 particle in an electromagnetic field. Given a system of first order differential  
 642 equations

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y(t)) \quad (2.1)$$



**Figure 2.1:** Comparison of drift lines for two different gas mixtures 90:10 and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>. The electron track is marked in black, the drift lines of the ionization electrons are marked in orange. In this example, we assume a larger OFTPC volume with readout at  $z = 8$  cm.



**Figure 2.2:** A visualization of a set of tracks from the grid-like testing sample with the same kinetic energy.

643 with an initial condition

$$\mathbf{y}(t_0) = \mathbf{y}_0, \quad (2.2)$$

644 we iteratively compute the estimate  $\mathbf{y}_n = \mathbf{y}(t_n) = \mathbf{y}(t_0 + nh)$  as follows (citation?  
645 common knowledge?):

$$\mathbf{k}_1 = \mathbf{f}(t_n, \mathbf{y}_n), \quad (2.3)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_2 = \mathbf{f}\left(t_n + \frac{h}{2}, \mathbf{y}_n + \frac{h\mathbf{k}_1}{2}\right), \quad (2.4)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_3 = \mathbf{f}\left(t_n + \frac{h}{2}, \mathbf{y}_n + \frac{h\mathbf{k}_2}{2}\right), \quad (2.5)$$

$$\mathbf{k}_4 = \mathbf{f}(t_n + h, \mathbf{y}_n + h\mathbf{k}_3), \quad (2.6)$$

646

$$\mathbf{y}_{n+1} = \mathbf{y}_n + \frac{1}{6}(\mathbf{k}_1 + 2\mathbf{k}_2 + 2\mathbf{k}_3 + \mathbf{k}_4). \quad (2.7)$$

647 Alternate forms (infinitely many) possible, accuracy vs computational cost. Runge-  
648 Kutta-Fehlberg with adaptive step size also possible, can potentially save some  
649 computation time especially in rapidly changing field (so maybe not in this case).

650 In our case, we want to integrate the equation of motion, given by the rela-  
651 tivistic Lorentz force:

$$F_L^\mu = m \frac{du^\mu}{d\tau} = q F^{\mu\nu} u_\nu, \quad (2.8)$$

652 where the Einstein summation convention is used,  $m$  is the mass of the particle,  
653  $q$  is its charge,  $u^\mu$  is its four-velocity,  $\tau$  is the proper time (i.e., time in the particle's  
654 frame of reference) and  $F^{\mu\nu}$  is the electromagnetic tensor at given coordinates  $x^\mu$

655 (we consider it to be time-independent in our detector). Given the electric  $\mathbf{E} =$   
 656  $= (E_x, E_y, E_z)$  and the magnetic field  $\mathbf{B} = (B_x, B_y, B_z)$  and using the metric  
 657 signature  $(+, -, -, -)$ , the equation expands to

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma c \\ \gamma v_x \\ \gamma v_y \\ \gamma v_z \end{pmatrix} = \frac{q}{m} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\frac{E_x}{c} & -\frac{E_y}{c} & -\frac{E_z}{c} \\ \frac{E_x}{c} & 0 & -B_z & B_y \\ \frac{E_y}{c} & B_z & 0 & -B_x \\ \frac{E_z}{c} & -B_y & B_x & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma c \\ \gamma v_x \\ \gamma v_y \\ \gamma v_z \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.9)$$

658 where  $c$  is the speed of light in vacuum,  $\mathbf{v} = (v_x, v_y, v_z)$  is the particle's velocity  
 659 and  $\gamma = (1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2})^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  is the Lorentz factor (wrong magnetic field sign in the  
 660 implementation???). Together with the equation

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \begin{pmatrix} ct \\ x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma c \\ \gamma v_x \\ \gamma v_y \\ \gamma v_z \end{pmatrix} = u^\mu, \quad (2.10)$$

661 we get a system of eight first order differential equations for  $x^\mu$  and  $u^\mu$ , which  
 662 we can integrate using the Runge-Kutta method described above. As a result of  
 663 this integration, we get the position  $\mathbf{x}(\tau_n)$ , the velocity  $\mathbf{v}(\tau_n)$  and the detector  
 664 time  $t(\tau_n)$  for every proper time  $\tau_n = n\tau_{\text{step}}$ . Integrating using the proper time  
 665 means that the step size in  $t$  gets larger by the gamma factor  $\frac{dt}{d\tau} = \gamma$  (maybe  
 666 change it and integrate the detector time or adjust the step size accordingly). The  
 667 only difference is in the step size (because  $t$  gets also calculated as it is among the  
 668 8 variables). It might be even better to adjust the step size using approximate  
 669 distance traveled. As initial conditions, we use the origin of the track  
 670  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ , the initial velocity direction vector  $\mathbf{n} = (\cos \varphi \cos \theta, \sin \varphi \cos \theta, \sin \theta)$   
 671 and the kinetic energy  $E_{\text{kin}}$  (initial parameters of the simulation (fit is in chapter  
 672 4)), we then compute  $\gamma$  and  $\|\mathbf{v}\|$ :

$$\gamma = 1 + \frac{E_{\text{kin}}}{E_0}, \quad (2.11)$$

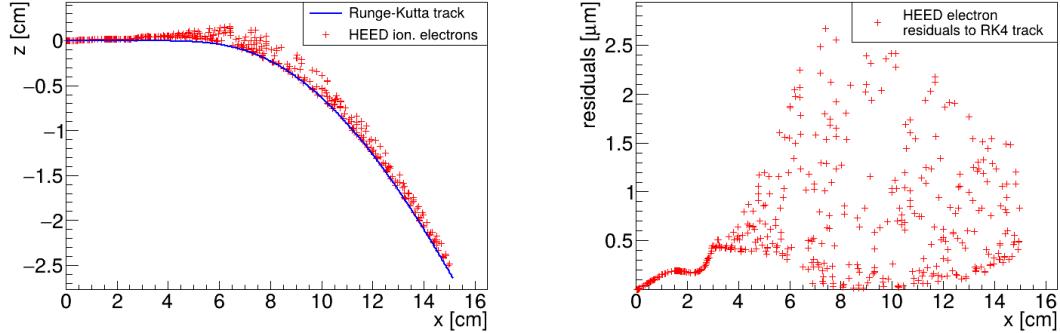
$$\|\mathbf{v}\| = c\sqrt{1 - \gamma^{-2}}. \quad (2.12)$$

### 673 2.2.1 Testing sample

674 Example of RK simulation – first testing track, randomized sample of 100000  
 675 tracks (could also move them to circle 3D fit).

676 In order to test the simulation and reconstruction, a sample of 100 000 tracks  
 677 with randomized parameters was generated:

- 678 the Runge-Kutta step was set to 0.1 ns (proper time, which wouldn't be a  
 679 problem but this way the "spatial" step depends on energy),
- 680 the kinetic energy of the particle  $E_{\text{kin}} \in [3, 13]$  MeV,
- 681 the starting point of the track is a random point in the OFTPC window,



**Figure 2.3:** A comparison of the HEED track from the microscopic simulation in Section 2.1.1 with a Runge-Kutta track with the same initial parameters and  $\tau_{\text{step}} = 0.1 \text{ ps}$  (reducing the step further doesn't make a visible difference). In the view of the tracks on the left, the distance of the HEED ionization electrons from the RK4 track is exaggerated  $1000\times$ . On the right, the dependence of the HEED electrons residuals (i.e., their shortest distance to the RK4 track) on their  $z$ -coordinate is shown. The images look the same even for  $100,000\times$  smaller step, so the residuals are a result of something that HEED does (maybe a different interpolation technique for the magnetic field? the pattern looks similar for two different tracks so it can't be scattering).

When exaggerating, the HEED ionization electrons are moved away along the shortest line connecting them to the RK4 track. The computation of this distance is described in Section 4.3.

- the initial direction is given by the line connecting a random point on the target<sup>1</sup> (a disc with 1 mm radius in the YZ plane).
- Since the Runge-Kutta simulation is quite fast<sup>2</sup>, it can be run locally on any computer. Add a figure with simulated tracks (sample). An example Runge-Kutta track is compared with the corresponding microscopic track in Fig. 2.3.

<sup>1</sup>To generate a random point on the target, we generate a random angle  $\alpha$  and a random square of the distance from origin  $r^2$  to get a uniform distribution.

<sup>2</sup>One track with  $\tau_{\text{step}} = 0.1 \text{ ps}$  takes less than one millisecond to simulate.

### 687 3. Track Reconstruction

688 As the first step of the reconstruction algorithm, we reconstruct the track of  
689 a primary particle – either an electron or a positron. Then, using this information,  
690 we determine the energy of the particle (Section 4).

691 The **Reconstruction Assuming Steady Drift (RASD)** uses the stan-  
692 dard TPC approach. With parallel fields, the drift inside a uniform electric field  
693 remains undistorted (as shown in Equation 1.1). Therefore, we only need to re-  
694 construct the  $z$ -coordinate from the drift time using the known drift velocity. We  
695 also assume that the readout coordinates  $(x', y', t)$  are known exactly, neglecting  
696 the pads and time binning.

697 Reconstruction using an **Ionization Electron Map** (from now on referred  
698 to as *the map*) uses a simulation of the drift of secondary (ionization) electrons  
699 within the detector volume. This simulation can then be used to interpolate the  
700 initial position of the secondary electrons. In the first iteration of this method  
701 the readout is assumed to be continuous.

702 We present two algorithms using the map for reconstruction. The first one uses  
703 a gradient descent algorithm along with trilinear interpolation (see Section 1.4.3)  
704 of the map. The second method uses interpolation on the irregular inverse grid  
705 with a polynomial.

706 The **Discrete Reconstruction** uses the map; instead of reconstructing the  
707 exact position of each electron, we reconstruct the center of each hit pad together  
708 with the time corresponding to the midpoint of the time bin. The electron count  
709 in each TPC bin (consisting of the pad and the time bin) serves as an idealized  
710 collected charge, which is then used as a weight in the energy reconstruction fit.

#### 711 3.1 Reconstruction Assuming Steady Drift

712 As the first step, we tried to reconstruct a simulated electron track with a special  
713 set of initial parameters, described in detail in Section 2.1.1. The starting point  
714 is given by the origin of our coordinate system and its initial direction is given by  
715 the positive  $x$ -axis. This means the magnetic field of our detector is perpendicular  
716 to the momentum of the particle at all times, and we can reduce the problem to  
717 two-dimensional space.

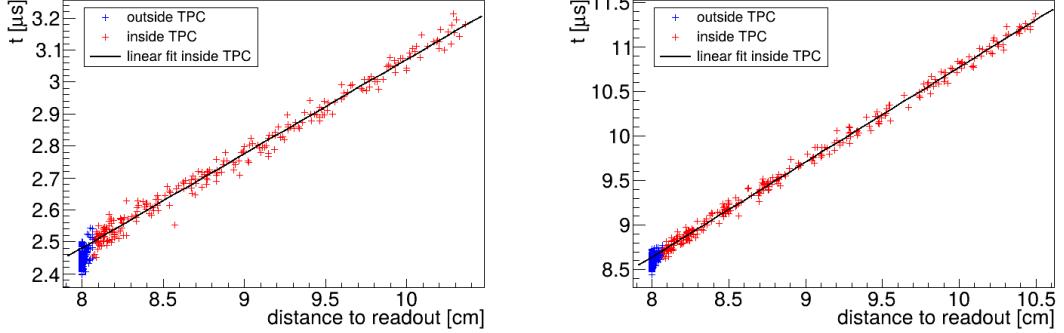
718 For the reconstruction, we decided to use the common method used in a stan-  
719 dard TPC (*similar to?, cite some source(s)!*). We call this method *Reconstruction*  
720 *Assuming Steady Drift (RASD)*. This will allow us to explore the significance of  
721 the atypical behavior in our OFTPC. Additionally, we assume the readout is con-  
722 tinuous to further simplify the problem. In this approximation, we reconstruct  
723 the initial position of each ionization electron.

724 The reconstruction is then defined by the following relations between the  
725 coordinates of the detector space and the readout space (see Section 1.4.2):

$$x = x', \tag{3.1}$$

$$y = y', \tag{3.2}$$

$$z = 8 \text{ cm} - d_r = 8 \text{ cm} - v_d t, \tag{3.3}$$



**Figure 3.1:** Linear fit of the drift time  $t$  dependence on the distance to the readout  $d_r = 8 \text{ cm} - z$  for the ionization electrons in 90:10 (left) and 70:30 (right) Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> gas composition. Only electrons inside the TPC (red) are fitted. The parameters are  $v_d = 3.39 \text{ cm}/\mu\text{s}$ ,  $d_0 = -0.41 \text{ cm}$  for 90:10, and  $v_d = 0.939 \text{ cm}/\mu\text{s}$ ,  $d_0 = -0.11 \text{ cm}$  for 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>.

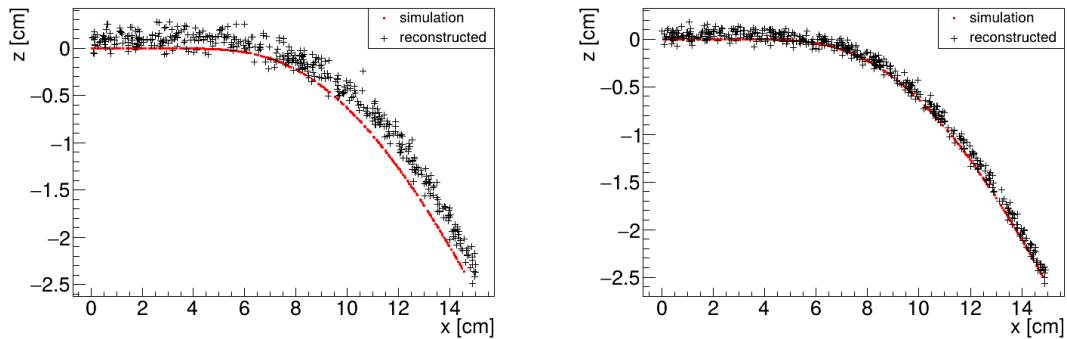
726 where  $d_r$  is the distance to the readout, and  $v_d$  is the drift velocity of electrons  
 727 in the given gas mixture. At a phenomenological level, this velocity can be con-  
 728 sidered as a function of the electric field  $\mathbf{E}$  and the magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$  as shown in  
 729 Equation 1.1. **The Garfield++ toolkit uses this fact to accelerate their drift simu-**  
 730 **lation with non-microscopic approaches (could mention in the simulation chapter).**  
 731 Since we assume a uniform electric field in the detector and in this approximation  
 732 we want to neglect the effect of our unusual magnetic field, we consider the drift  
 733 velocity constant. We can estimate the drift velocity by fitting the dependence  
 734  $d_r(t)$  of ionization electrons from a simulated track with a linear function:

$$d_r(t) = v_d t + d_0. \quad (3.4)$$

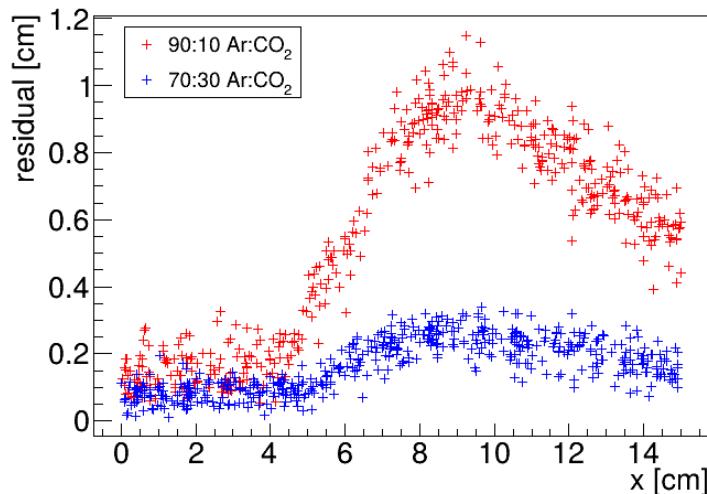
735 The fit was applied on two tracks with different gas composition, the result is  
 736 in Fig. 3.1. **Compare with real drift velocities – a good indication of the tilt of**  
 737 **drift lines.** The obtained parameters are then used for the reconstruction shown in  
 738 Fig. 3.2. From the residuals shown in Fig. 3.3, we can see that this reconstruction  
 739 algorithm leads to significant deviations from the simulated track (up to 1.1 cm  
 740 for 90:10, and up to 0.3 cm for 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>), especially in the faster gas mixture  
 741 90:10 (as expected – for a higher mean time between collisions in Equation 1.1,  
 742 the effect of the magnetic field is bigger). These deviations are mainly caused by  
 743 the shift in the  $x$ -coordinate due to the tilt of the drift lines in magnetic field.  
 744 In order to account for this, we need to develop a better algorithm. **There is also**  
 745 **a small irregularity in the  $z$ -coordinate but it is comparable with the diffusion.**  
 746 **We can/will also later show that this has a significant effect on the reconstructed**  
 747 **energy.**

## 748 3.2 Ionization Electron Map

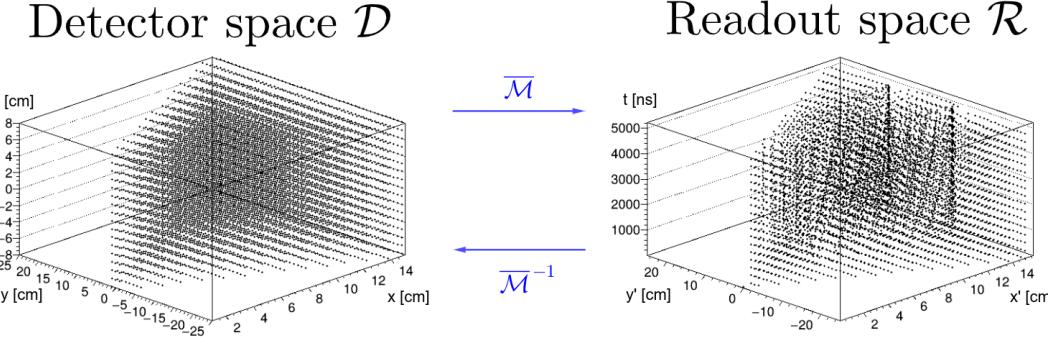
749 Inside an OFTPC (**exists more than one, also considering it a general concept rather**  
 750 **than the specific OFTPC used at this experiment**), the drift of the ionization  
 751 electrons is significantly affected by its magnetic field as shown in Equation 1.1,  
 752 see also Fig. 2.1. We need to take this into account for accurate reconstruc-  
 753 **tion (should be easy to run the reconstruction without the map and show how**



**Figure 3.2:** Reconstruction (black) of the starting position of ionization electrons (red) using parameters obtained from the fit (Fig. 3.1). Two gas compositions 90:10 (left) and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> (right) are compared.



**Figure 3.3:** Comparison of residuals (i.e., the distance from the reconstructed point to the simulated ionization electron starting point) dependence on  $x$  for two gas mixtures 90:10 (red) and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> (blue).



**Figure 3.4:** A 3D visualization of the mapping of means  $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$  for the 90:10 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> gas. A regular grid  $\mathbb{G}$  with  $l = 1$  cm in the detector space is mapped to an irregular grid  $\mathbb{G}^{-1} \equiv \bar{\mathcal{M}}(\mathbb{G})$  in the readout space.

much it improves the results). In the first approximation, we assume a continuous readout (i.e., we neglect the anode segmentation into pads). We can then reconstruct the original position of each ionization electron using its readout coordinates. For this purpose, we use the ionization electron map.

The ionization electron map represents a mapping from the detector space to the readout space (see Section 1.4.2). It tells us what readout coordinates  $(x', y', t)$  we can expect on average for an ionization electron created at the detector coordinates  $(x, y, z)$ . More precisely, it is a mapping to the distributions on the readout space; we can simplify this as only the means  $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$  and the covariance matrices  $\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma}$ , assuming Gaussian distribution<sup>1</sup>:

$$\bar{\mathcal{M}}: \mathcal{D} \longrightarrow \mathcal{R}, \quad (x, y, z) \longmapsto \bar{\mathbf{X}}^T \equiv (\bar{x}', \bar{y}', \bar{t}), \quad (3.5)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\Sigma}: \mathcal{D} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}, \quad (x, y, z) \longmapsto \Sigma \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{x'}^2 & \text{cov}(x', y') & \text{cov}(x', t) \\ \text{cov}(y', x') & \sigma_{y'}^2 & \text{cov}(y', t) \\ \text{cov}(t, x') & \text{cov}(t, y') & \sigma_t^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3.6)$$

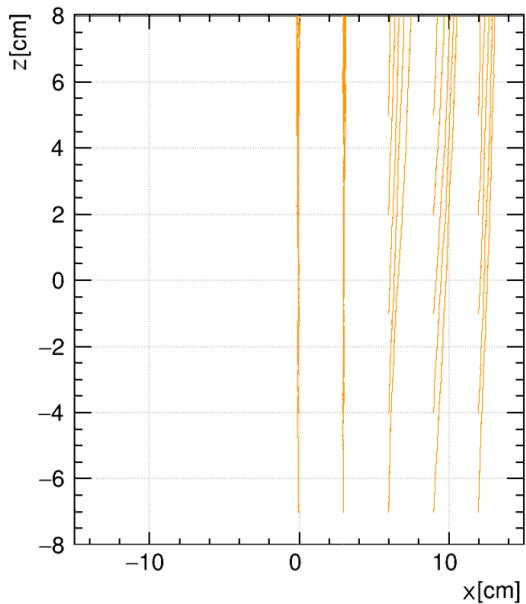
$$\mathcal{M}: \mathcal{D} \longrightarrow D(\mathcal{R}), \quad (x, y, z) \longmapsto N(\mathbf{X}) \equiv \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{X} - \bar{\mathbf{X}})^T \Sigma (\mathbf{X} - \bar{\mathbf{X}})\right)}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 |\Sigma|}}. \quad (3.7)$$

To get an approximation of this mapping, we simulate the drift of ionization electrons generated on a regular Cartesian grid  $\mathbb{G} \subset \mathcal{D}$  with spacing  $l$  inside the volume of our OFTPC<sup>2</sup> (see the visualization in Fig. 3.4). In Fig. 3.5, you can see an example of drift lines from a test of the simulation. After testing runs, two map simulations were made with different gas composition, their parameters are shown in Table 3.1.

In order to get accurate results, we use the microscopic simulation of these electrons described in Section 2.1 (Monte Carlo from *AvalancheMC* was also considered but it doesn't (didn't? CERES used it from MAGBOLTZ???) include magnetic field, we can probably improve this anyway using the fast track simulation with map proposed in the future section). It is also useful to simulate multiple ( $N$ ) electrons originating from the same position so that we can account

<sup>1</sup>The applicability of Gaussian distribution was tested on simulated points of the map using the Mardia's test.

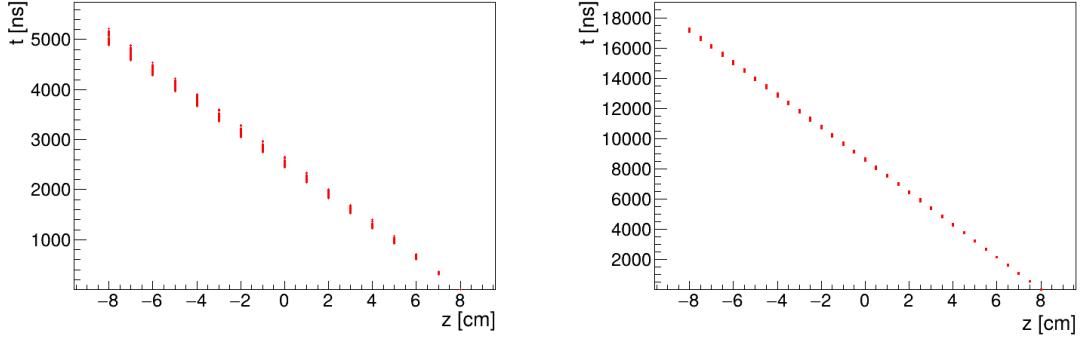
<sup>2</sup>The detector walls are not considered and we simulate the drift even outside of the OFTPC which allows us to interpolate even close to the walls.



**Figure 3.5:** A test of the 90:10 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> map simulation with spacing  $l = 1.5$  cm. The resulting drift lines of evenly spaced electrons are displayed in orange.

**Table 3.1:** Comparison of parameters of two map simulations.

Parameter	90:10 Ar:CO <sub>2</sub> map	70:30 Ar:CO <sub>2</sub> map
$N$	100	100
$l$	1.0 cm	0.5 cm
$z$ bounds	$[-8, 8]$ cm	$[-8, 8]$ cm
$x$ bounds	$[0, 15]$ cm	$[-1.5, 15.0]$ cm
$y$ bounds	$ y  \leq x \cdot \tan \frac{\pi}{3}$	$ y  \leq (x + 1.5 \text{ cm}) \cdot \tan \frac{\pi}{6}$
initial energy	0.1 eV	0.1 eV
init. direction	randomized	randomized



**Figure 3.6:** Dependence of the drift times of the simulated map  $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$  on the  $z$ -coordinate. Two gas mixtures 90:10 (left) and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> (right) are compared. The spread is caused by varying Lorentz angles.

for the random fluctuations due to collisions. Using the readout coordinates of the electrons, we then estimate the means and the covariance matrix:

$$\bar{\mathbf{X}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{X}_i, \quad \Sigma = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{X}_i - \bar{\mathbf{X}})(\mathbf{X}_i - \bar{\mathbf{X}})^T, \quad (3.8)$$

where  $\mathbf{X}_i$  represents the readout coordinates  $(x'_i, y'_i, t_i)^T$  of the  $i$ -th electron. The matrix (resp. its submatrix) can then be used to plot error ellipsoid (resp. ellipse). The axes correspond to the eigenvectors, errors along these axes for a given confidence level  $p$  can be computed using the chi-squared distribution

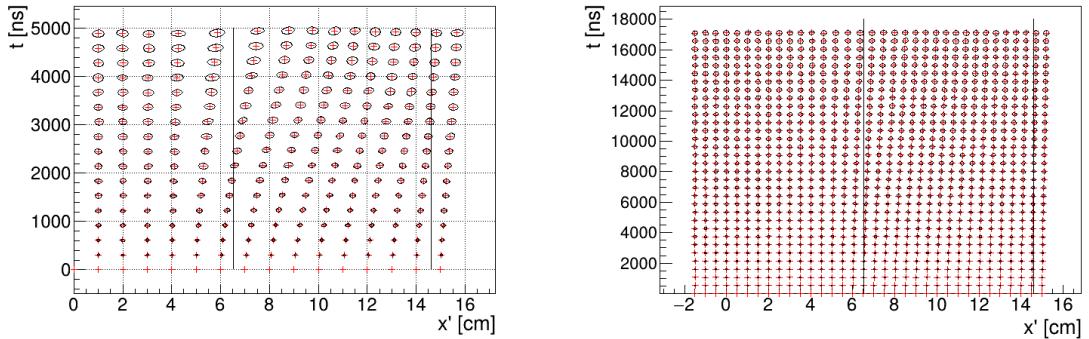
$$\sigma_i = \sqrt{\lambda_i \chi_k^2(p)}, \quad (3.9)$$

where  $\lambda_i$  is the corresponding eigenvalue and  $k$  is the number of degrees of freedom.

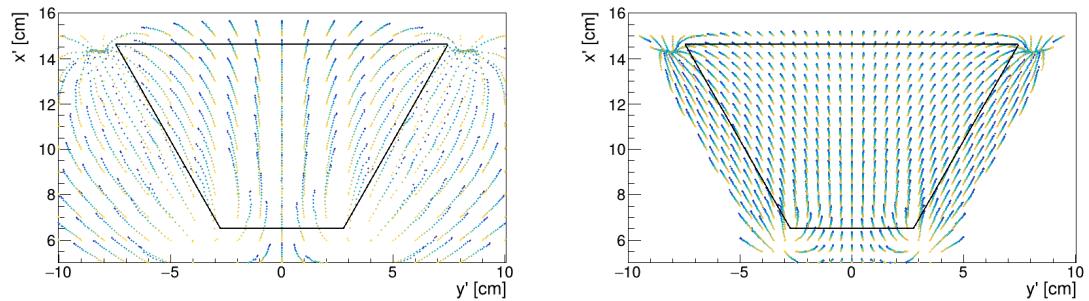
As shown in Figs. 3.6 and 3.7, the drift times in the map are no longer proportional to the  $z$ -coordinate due to the varying Lorentz angles in the inhomogeneous magnetic field (see Equation 1.2). As expected, the effect is considerably larger in gases with higher drift velocities. Similarly, the drift distortion (i.e., its deviation from the vertical lines) is huge for the "faster" gas, but still significant for the "slower" one, as demonstrated in Figs. 3.8 to 3.10.

When evaluating the map inside the grid, we use trilinear interpolation (see Section 1.4.3). From now on, we will use the same symbol  $\mathcal{M}$  for this interpolated simulation.

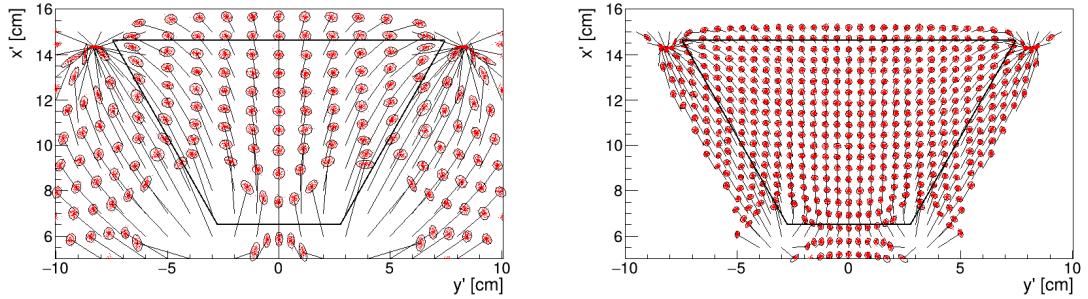
Finally, we need to invert the map to get the original detector coordinates  $(x, y, z)$  from the given readout coordinates  $(x', y', t)$ . In our case, it is reasonable to assume that the mapping  $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$  (we lose the information about the distribution (a wild idea how to recover this is in the Future section but it will only make sense if the GEM is already accounted for and is very preliminary as there are many factors to consider)) is one-to-one (as seen in the simulations). We implemented two methods for this purpose: the gradient descent search (Section 3.2.2) and interpolation on the inverse grid (Section 3.2.3).



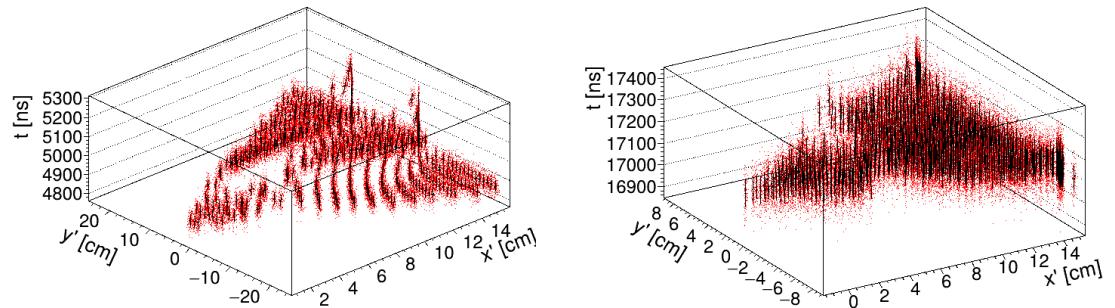
**Figure 3.7:** The  $x't$  projection of the  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{G}_{y=0})$  mapping of a part of the regular grid  $\mathbb{G}$ . The means  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}(\mathbb{G}_{y=0})$  are marked with red crosses, and the diffusion error is denoted by black 95% confidence error ellipses computed from the diagonalized covariance matrices  $\mathcal{M}_\Sigma(\mathbb{G}_{y=0})$ . Two gas mixtures 90:10 (left) and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> (right) are compared. The first mixture shows differences of  $t$  for electrons with same initial  $z$  but different initial  $x$ . For the second mixture, these differences are negligible in comparison with the diffusion.



**Figure 3.8:** The regular grid  $\mathbb{G}$  projected by the mapping  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  from the detector space onto the  $x'y'$  plane ( $t$  is not plotted). Layers with lower  $z$ -coordinate (i.e., further away from the readout) are displayed with darker colors. The OFTPC volume is marked with black lines. Two gas mixtures 90:10 (left) and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> (right) are compared.

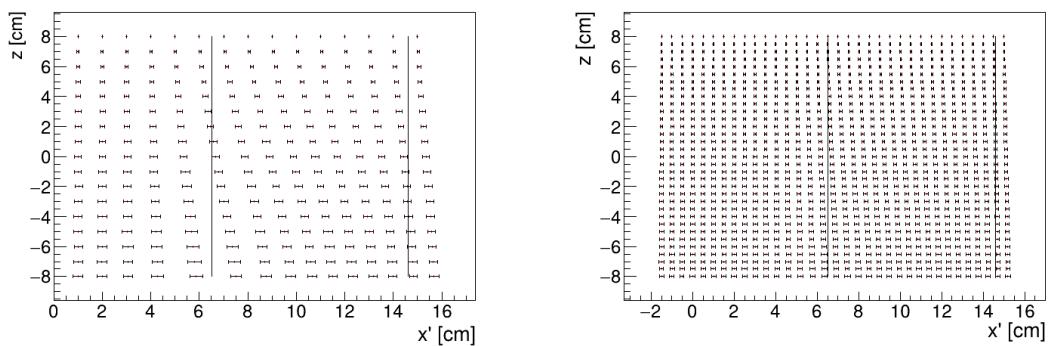


(a) The  $x'y'$  projection of  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{G}_{-8})$  (similar as in Fig. 3.8), the diffusion is denoted with the 95% error ellipses from the diagonalized sample covariance matrices  $\mathcal{M}_\Sigma(\mathbb{G}_{-8}) \leftrightarrow$  Equation 3.8, and computed using Equation 3.9. The mean values  $\bar{\mathcal{M}}(\mathbb{G}_{-8})$  are connected by black arrows with the corresponding starting position  $(x, y)$  of the simulated electrons. The OFTPC volume is marked with black lines.



(b) The full mapping  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{G}_{-8})$ , the diffusion is marked using standard error bars (black) from the diagonalized sample covariance matrices (Equations 3.8 and 3.9).

**Figure 3.9:** The  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{G}_{-8})$  mapping of the bottom ( $z = -8$  cm) layer  $\mathbb{G}_{-8}$  of the regular grid  $\mathbb{G} \subset \mathcal{D}$ . It includes both the mapping of means  $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$  and of covariances  $\mathcal{M}_\Sigma$ . Individual electrons from the map simulation are marked with red dots. Two gas mixtures 90:10 (left) and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> (right) are compared.



**Figure 3.10:** The readout coordinate  $x'$  for points on the grid  $\mathbb{G}_{y=0}$  plotted against their initial coordinate  $z$ . The means are marked with red crosses, the diffusion in  $x'$  is denoted by standard error bars. Two gas mixtures 90:10 (left) and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> (right) are compared.

### 801 3.2.1 Map Simulation

802 Simulation of the map is a computationally heavy task. For this reason, we use  
 803 the MetaCentrum grid [3] to parallelize needed calculations. At first, this was  
 804 done by evenly distributing the simulated electrons across the individual jobs  
 805 in a simulation with only one electron per vertex in the regular grid  $\mathbb{G}$  with  
 806 a spacing of one centimeter. Later, a more efficient approach was implemented,  
 807 accounting for the varying lengths of the drift of individual electrons. If we index  
 808 the vertices of  $\mathbb{G}$  in the order of increasing coordinates  $y, x, z$  (picture will make  
 809 things clearer), we can express the number  $n_l$  of full XY layers (i.e., electrons  
 810 with the same  $z$  coordinate, the mapping of one such layer is shown in Fig. 3.9b)  
 811 with index less than or equal to  $i$

$$n_l(i) = \left\lfloor \frac{i}{n_{xy}} \right\rfloor, \quad (3.10)$$

812 where  $n_{xy}$  is the number of electrons in each XY layer calculated simply by count-  
 813 ing the electrons that satisfy boundary conditions for  $x$  and  $y$ . These conditions  
 814 should be mentioned above; sector condition + maximal  $x$  value. The number of  
 815 electrons remaining in the top layer is then

$$n_r(i) = i \bmod n_{xy}. \quad (3.11)$$

816 Finally, we can calculate the sum of the drift gaps of electrons up to index  $i$

$$d_{\text{sum}} = (z_{\max} - z_{\min})n_{xy}n_l - \frac{n_l(n_l - 1)}{2}n_{xy}l + n_r(z_{\max} - z_{\min} - n_l l). \quad (3.12)$$

817 We then use a binary search algorithm to find the maximum index  $i$  such that  
 818 the value of this sum is less than the fraction  $\frac{\text{job id}}{\max \text{ job id}}$  of the total sum. This way  
 819 we obtain the minimal and the maximal index of electrons simulated in the given  
 820 job.

821 The obtained map is then stored in a custom class template *Field*, could  
 822 expand on that. Maybe earlier, since the same template is used for the magnetic  
 823 field.

824 Extra space on the sensor. Using qsub (not sure if important).

825

### 826 3.2.2 Gradient Descent Algorithm

827 The first implemented method of reconstruction uses a gradient descent algorithm  
 828 to calculate an inversion of the map  $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$  in a given point. Gradient descent is an  
 829 iterative minimization algorithm for multivariate functions. Let  $R \in \mathcal{R}$  be a point  
 830 in the readout space; we want to find a point  $D = (x, y, z) \in \mathcal{D}$  in the detector  
 831 space such that

$$\bar{\mathcal{M}}(D) = R = (x'_R, y'_R, t_R). \quad (3.13)$$

832 We define a function  $f_R$  in the readout space as a distance in this space:

$$f_R(x', y', t) = \sqrt{(x' - x'_R)^2 + (y' - y'_R)^2 + v_d^2(t - t_R)^2}, \quad (3.14)$$

833 where  $v_d$  is an approximation of the drift velocity in the TPC, obtained from the  
 834 reconstruction in Section 3.1 (there will be an image with the linear fit here). We  
 835 make an initial guess (actually in the original code we just take  $z = 0$ ):

$$D_0 = (x'_R, y'_R, v_d t). \quad (3.15)$$

836 Assuming we have the  $n$ -th estimate  $D_n$ , we calculate the  $i$ -th component of the  
 837 gradient of  $f_R \circ \overline{\mathcal{M}}$  numerically using central differences: (signs look correct)

$$[\nabla(f_R \circ \overline{\mathcal{M}})]^i(D_n) \approx \frac{f_R(\overline{\mathcal{M}}(D_n + s \cdot e^i)) - f_R(\overline{\mathcal{M}}(D_n - s \cdot e^i))}{2s}, \quad (3.16)$$

838 where  $e^i \in \mathcal{D}$  is the  $i$ -th coordinate vector and  $s$  is the step size. The step size  
 839 should be sufficiently small; initially, we set it as a fraction  $s = \frac{l}{10}$  of the map's  
 840 grid spacing  $l$ . During the minimization, we check that  $f_R(\overline{\mathcal{M}}(D_n)) < 10s$  at all  
 841 times and decrease the step if needed. The next iteration can be calculated as  
 842 follows:

$$D_{n+1} = D_n - \gamma \nabla(f_R \circ \overline{\mathcal{M}})(D_n), \quad (3.17)$$

843 where  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}^+$  is the damping coefficient. It should be set to a small enough  
 844 value to ensure convergence, but large enough for sufficient converging speed. In  
 845 order to avoid oscillation around the minimum, we also check that the size of the  
 846 damped gradient does not exceed (or get too close to) the current value of the  
 847 non-negative function:

$$10 \|\gamma \nabla(f_R \circ \overline{\mathcal{M}})(D_n)\| < f_R(D_n), \quad (3.18)$$

848 and lower  $\gamma$  otherwise. The minimization stops either when the error  $f_R(\overline{\mathcal{M}}(D_n))$   
 849 drops below a specified value or when the number of iterations exceeds a certain  
 850 limit (in this case, a message is printed into the console).

851 The parameters of this method can be further optimized (e.g., a better choice  
 852 of  $\gamma$  and  $s$ , analytical computation of the gradient<sup>3</sup>); instead, we later decided to  
 853 use the interpolation on the inverse grid described in the next section.

854 Typical evolution of  $D_n$  during search? Not sure if this has to be cited.

### 855 3.2.3 Interpolation on the Inverse Grid

856 The best current algorithm uses the interpolation on the inverse grid. Rather  
 857 than inverting the trilinearly interpolated map using a numerical minimization  
 858 method as in the previous section, we take advantage of the fact that the map  
 859  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  is one-to-one (isomorphism is supposed to preserve structure, not sure how  
 860 to interpret that here, not the best description, we already (kind of) assume it  
 861 is a bijection by saying we will invert it). Since we have simulated values of this  
 862 map on a regular grid in the detector space  $\mathcal{D}$ , we also know the inverse map  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}^{-1}$   
 863 on the irregular inverse grid in the readout space  $\mathcal{R}$ . To get an approximation  
 864 of the inverse map in the entire readout space, we can use interpolation (general  
 865 concept, the specific choice is described below).

---

<sup>3</sup>The gradient can be computed analytically when using the trilinear interpolation, see Eq. 1.21.

866 Since the inverse grid is irregular, trilinear interpolation cannot be applied.  
 867 Given that the simulated map is dense enough to provide a good approximation  
 868 considering the size of our pads, we can adopt a similar approach.<sup>4</sup> As shown in  
 869 Equation 1.21 in Section 1.4.3, trilinear interpolation (shouldn't need an article  
 870 when talking about a general concept) can be expressed as a polynomial:

$$\hat{f}(x, y, z) = axyz + bxy + cxz + dyz + ex + fy + gz + h, \quad (3.19)$$

871 where  $a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h$  are coefficients uniquely determined by the values of the  
 872 function at the vertices of the interpolation cell (can be calculated in the way  
 873 shown in the mentioned equation, not sure what more to add). We can generalize  
 874 this for a function defined on an irregular grid. Given the function values at any  
 875 eight points, we can write a system of eight linear equations

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1y_1z_1 & x_1y_1 & x_1z_1 & y_1z_1 & x_1 & y_1 & z_1 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_8y_8z_8 & x_8y_8 & x_8z_8 & y_8z_8 & x_8 & y_8 & z_8 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \\ e \\ f \\ g \\ h \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f(x_1, y_1, z_1) \\ \vdots \\ f(x_8, y_8, z_8) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3.20)$$

876 which has a unique solution for the coefficients for most values of  $(x_n, y_n, z_n)$  and  
 877  $f(x_n, y_n, z_n)$ , where  $n \in \{1, \dots, 8\}$ .

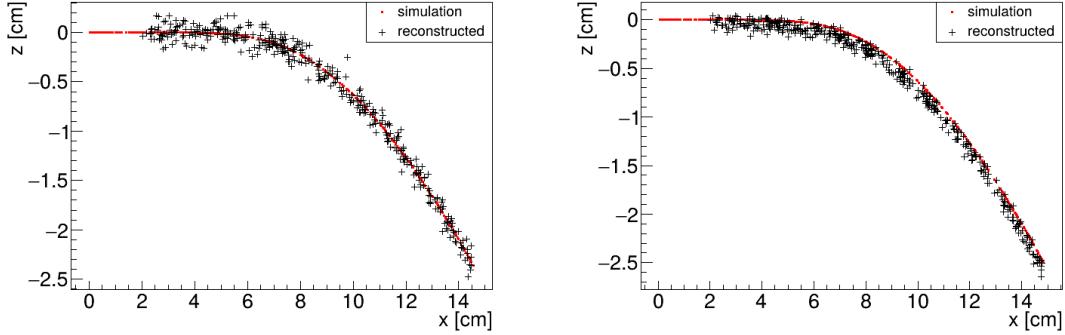
878 This approach introduces a small complication: finding the correct pseudocell  
 879 (i.e., the image of eight vertices forming a cubic cell in the regular grid) in  
 880 the inverse grid. The eight irregularly spaced vertices of this pseudocell do not  
 881 define a unique volume, so there are multiple possible ways to partition  $\mathcal{R}$  into  
 882 pseudocells, with no obvious choice among them. This problem could be solved  
 883 by determining the exact volume boundary using the gradient descent search  
 884 described above. However, since the difference between the interpolation poly-  
 885 nomials is small near the boundary of the pseudocell, we choose one of them  
 886 arbitrarily.

887 In the code, the map is stored in an array, and its individual points can be  
 888 accessed using three indexes corresponding to the  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  coordinates. Points  
 889 outside of the area of the simulation are initialized with zeros. The search for  
 890 the pseudocell finds the indices corresponding to the eight vertices. It starts by  
 891 performing a binary search along the  $x$ -coordinate (comparing the  $x'$ -coordinate  
 892 of the map vertices with that of the point, whose preimage we want to find) with  
 893 indices corresponding to  $y$  and  $z$  fixed to half of their maximal value. After that,  
 894 we fix the  $x$  and  $z$  indices and perform a binary search along  $y$  (making sure to  
 895 exclude the zeros from initialization outside the simulation range beforehand),  
 896 and finally, we fix the  $x$  and  $y$  indices and perform a search along  $z$  (inverted,  
 897 since higher  $z$  corresponds to lower  $t$ ). This procedure is then repeated until  
 898 the pseudocell "contains" the preimage of the given point (meaning that for all  
 899 readout coordinates  $x', y', t$ , there is a vertex of the pseudocell with a higher and  
 900 a vertex with a lower value of that coordinate). Or until 3 iterations are exceeded,  
 901 then we print an error message. We also attempt to fix the error by choosing a  
 902 neighboring cell.

903 This approach should generally be faster than the gradient descent method,  
 904 since we do not need to iterate. Currently, we are calculating the coefficients of

---

<sup>4</sup>A more complicated and computationally heavy alternative would be natural neighbor interpolation or Kriging.



**Figure 3.11:** Reconstruction (black) of the starting position of ionization electrons (red) using the inversion of the ionization electron map. Two gas compositions 90:10 (left) and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> (right) are compared.

905 the interpolation polynomial during the reconstruction of every point. If further  
 906 optimization is needed in the future, we can precalculate them for the whole map.

### 907 3.3 Reconstruction testing

908 The continuous reconstruction using the map was tested on microscopic tracks  
 909 with parameters described in Sec. 2.1.1. The difference between the reconstructed  
 910 positions obtained using the two map inversion algorithms was found to be smaller  
 911 than the uncertainty from diffusion by several orders of magnitude. In its unop-  
 912 timized state, the gradient descent search was significantly slower (at least ten  
 913 times) than the interpolation on the inverse grid.

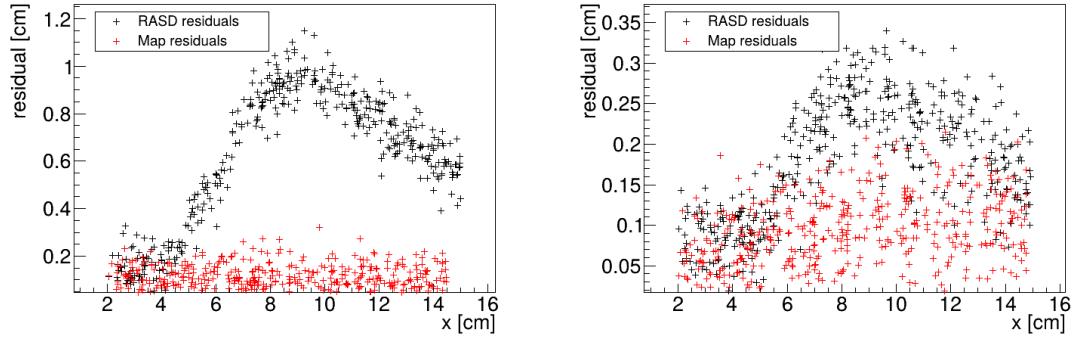
914 An example of reconstruction of tracks in 90:10 and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> gas mixture  
 915 is shown in Fig. 3.11. We can clearly see that the results have improved com-  
 916 pare to the Reconstruction Assuming Steady Drift (RASD) (shown in Fig. 3.2).  
 917 A comparison of the residuals of reconstructed positions (i.e., their distances to  
 918 the real starting positions) is shown in Fig. 3.12. The histograms of residuals, as  
 919 well as residuals of individual coordinates, are shown in Figs. 3.13 and 3.14. The  
 920 bin width for the histograms was chosen using the Scott's rule<sup>5</sup>. As expected,  
 921 the mean values of the coordinate residuals is zero. The only exception is the  
 922  $z$ -coordinate in the 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> track, where the mean is  $-0.064\text{ cm}$  (further  
 923 than one standard deviation  $0.051\text{ cm}$  from zero). This is caused by the non-zero  
 924 initial energy of the ionization electrons (neglected in the other track) which is  
 925 unaccounted for in the map simulation. Since the primary electron bends towards  
 926 negative  $z$ , the ionization electrons are more likely to be released in this direction  
 927 (and also bend in the magnetic field towards this direction).

### 928 3.4 Discrete Reconstruction

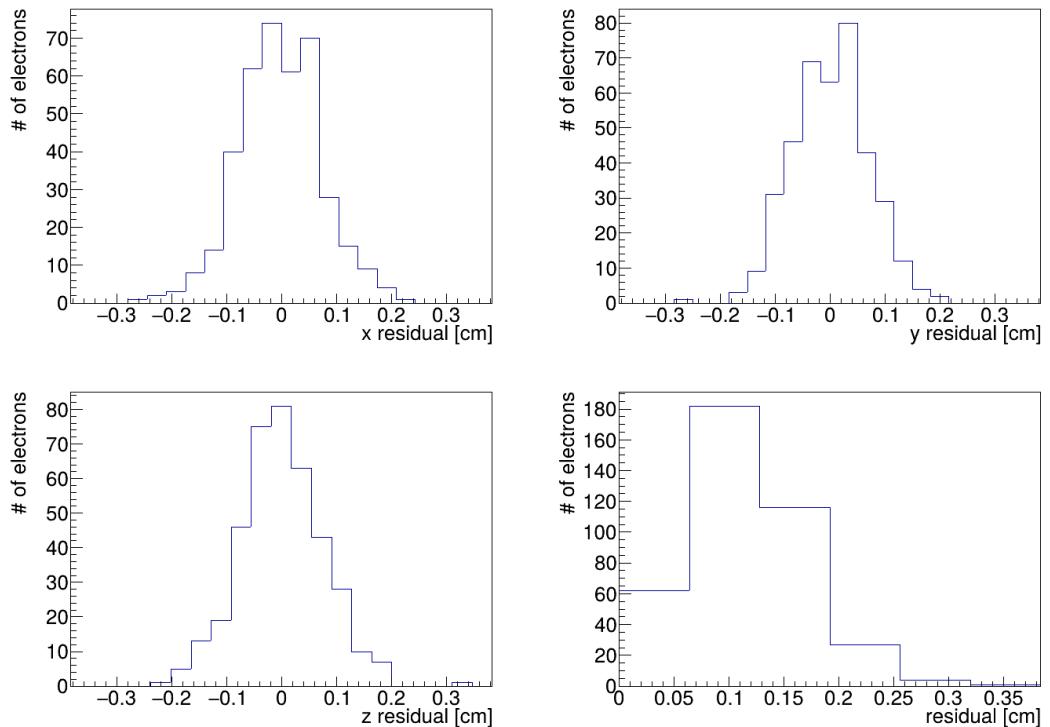
929 In order to get a more realistic representation of a track measured in the OFTPC,  
 930 we need to take the discretization of the position and time data into account. The

---

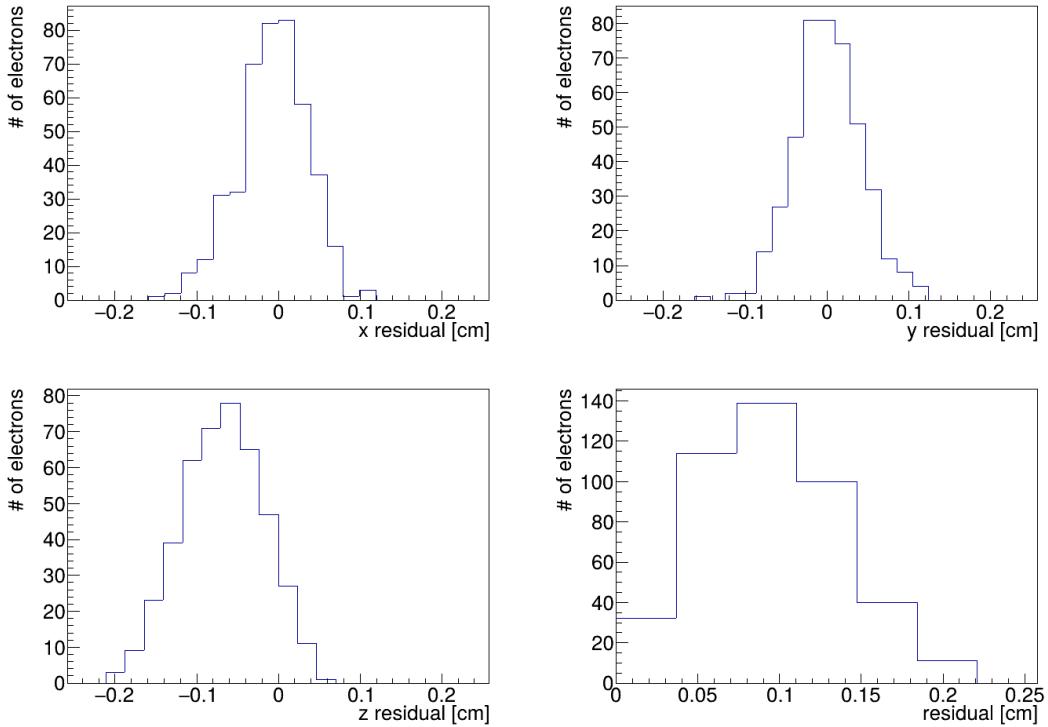
<sup>5</sup>The optimal bin width for normally distributed data of size  $N$  with sample standard deviation  $\hat{\sigma}$  is  $\hat{\sigma} \sqrt[3]{\frac{24\sqrt{\pi}}{N}}$  [45].



**Figure 3.12:** Comparison of residuals from the RASD (black) and map inversion (red) reconstruction methods. Tracks in two different gas compositions 90:10 (left) and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> (right) are compared.



**Figure 3.13:** Map inversion reconstruction residuals (for the individual coordinates and total) of the testing track in 90:10 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> gas mixture.



**Figure 3.14:** Map inversion reconstruction residuals (for the individual coordinates and total) of the testing track in 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> gas mixture.

931 readout of the OFTPC will consist of 128 pads, their layout is shown in Fig. 1.13.  
 932 Time is read out in discrete bins of size  $t_{\text{bin}} = 100 \text{ ns}$ .

933 As the first approximation, we can neglect the multiplication in the triple-GEM  
 934 and assume an ideal charge readout. The time measurement starts at the begin-  
 935 ning of the electron/positron simulation (depending on the specific simulation it  
 936 can correspond to the production in the target or when entering the OFTPC,  
 937 here the specific time doesn't matter too much since the primary particle travels  
 938 basically at light speed (30 ps/cm) which is circa immediate given the time bin-  
 939 ning). Randomize this time a bit and see what it does to the reconstruction ( $\rightarrow$   
 940 Future?). The readout coordinates  $(x', y', t) \in \mathcal{R}$  of each ionization electron can  
 941 be mapped to the pad coordinates  $(n_{\text{pad}}, n_t) \in \mathcal{P}$ :

$$n_{\text{pad}} = n: (x', y') \in \left[ x_{1,n} - \frac{g}{2}, x_{2,n} + \frac{g}{2} \right] \times \left[ y_{1,n} - \frac{g}{2}, y_{2,n} + \frac{g}{2} \right], \quad (3.21)$$

$$n_t = \left\lceil \frac{t}{t_{\text{bin}}} \right\rceil, \quad (3.22)$$

942 where  $x, y_{1,n}$  and  $x, y_{2,n}$  are the opposing pad corner coordinates, and  $g$  is the  
 943 gap between the pads (described in detail in Section 1.4.2). This way, the clos-  
 944 est pad is assigned to each readout position within the OFTPC volume<sup>6</sup>. Makes  
 945 sense since the pads attract the electrons, the inhomogeneity of electric field is  
 946 neglected. The number of electrons collected by each pad (i.e., collected charge)  
 947 in each time bin is then counted and serves as a weight for the energy recon-  
 948 struction. The reconstructed track consists of points for each  $(n, n_t) \in \mathcal{P}$ , we get

---

<sup>6</sup>Some positions near the wall are not handled and some pads extend beyond the OFTPC volume. This is where an electric field simulation would come in handy.

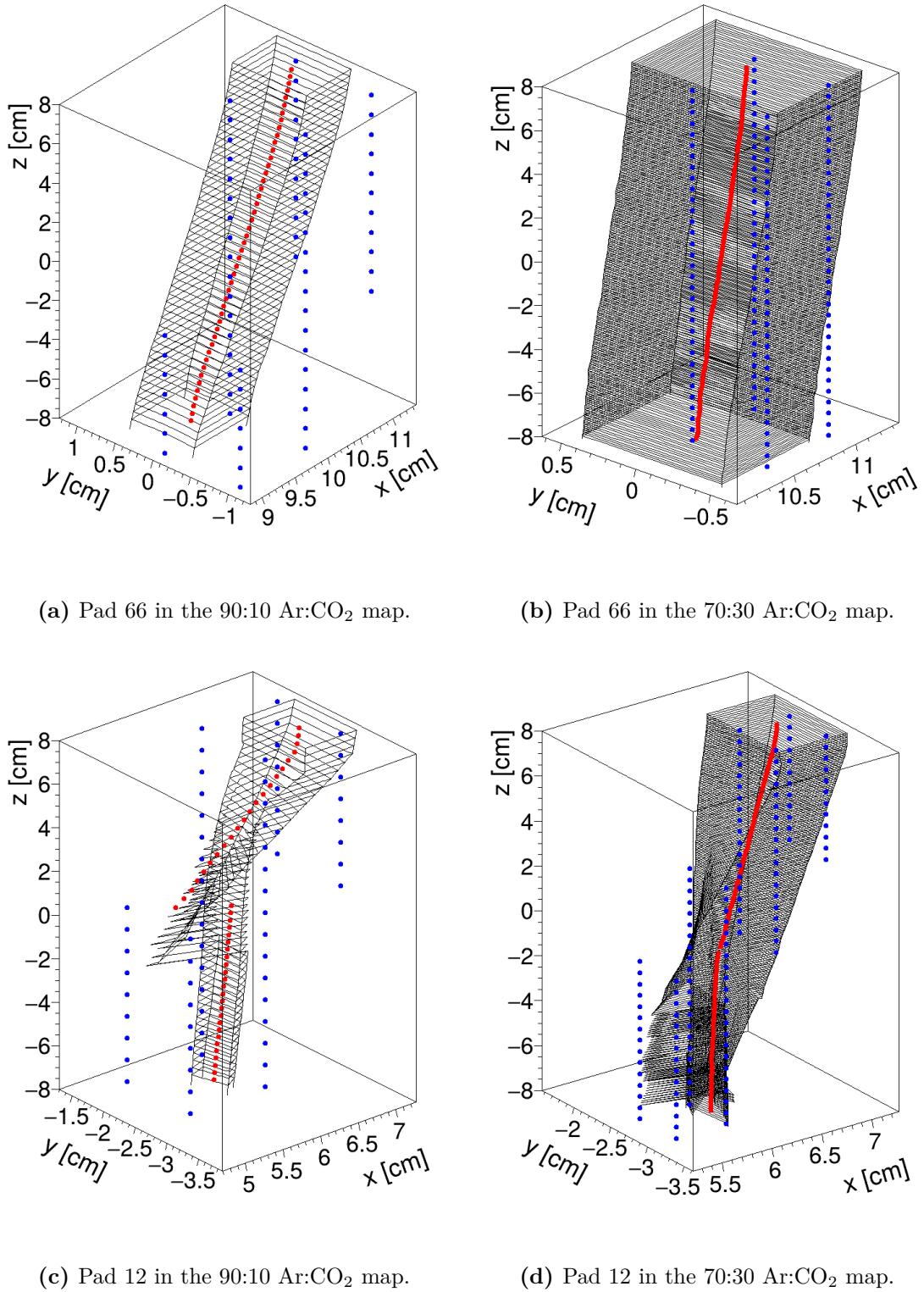
949 these by reconstructing the position of a hypothetical electron with the readout  
950 coordinates of the pad/time bin center:<sup>7</sup>

$$\mathcal{D} \ni (x, y, z) = \overline{\mathcal{M}} \left( x_{c,n}, y_{c,n}, \left( n_t - \frac{1}{2} \right) t_{\text{bin}} \right). \quad (3.23)$$

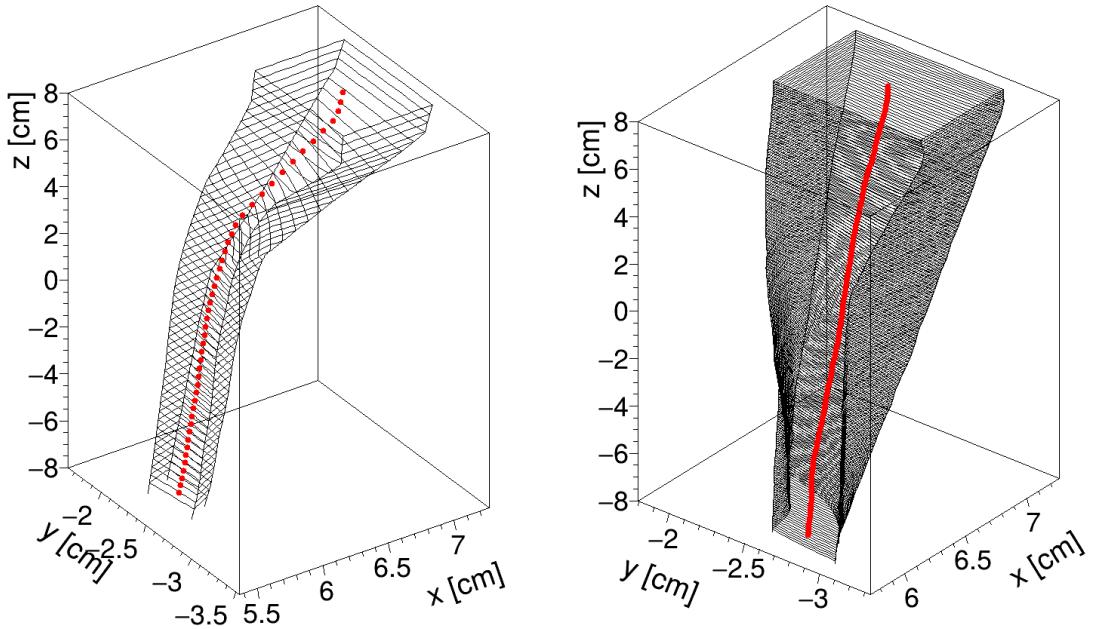
951 Examples of positions reconstructed for a single pad are shown in Fig. 3.15. For  
952 pads near the magnet poles, the interpolation becomes problematic, due to large  
953 distortion. We can use the slower, unoptimized gradient descent search instead,  
954 the results are shown in Fig. 3.16. An example of a track from the grid-like testing  
955 sample described in Sec. 2.1.2 is shown in Fig. 3.17

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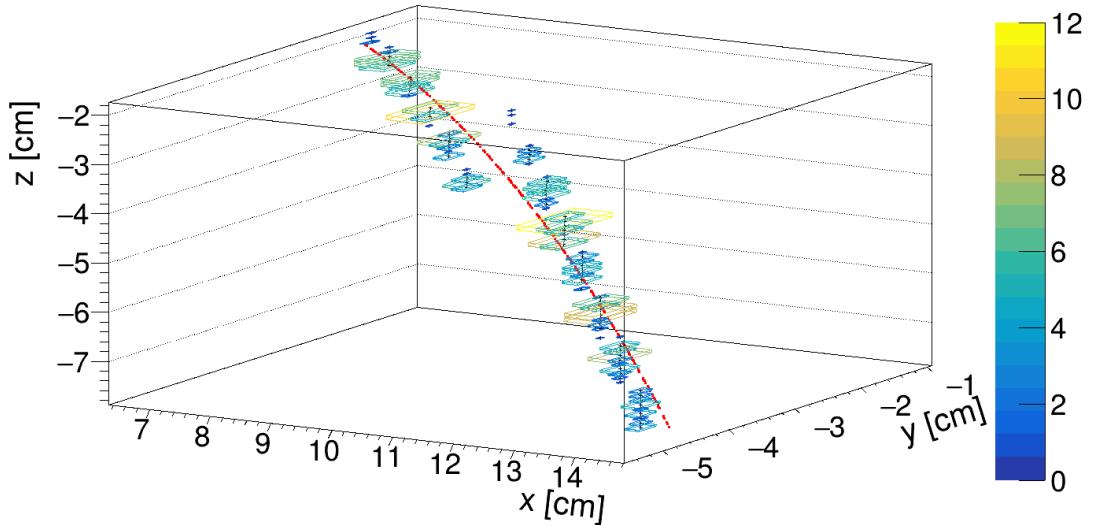
<sup>7</sup>Mapping the center of the pad (along with the midpoint of the time bin) is not necessarily the best approach since it might not correspond to the average parameters of an electron with these readout parameters.



**Figure 3.15:** Reconstruction of detector coordinates for ionization electrons that are read out in a certain pad (number 66 near the center of the OFTPC, and number 12 near the magnet pole that suffers from large distortion effects, causing issues with interpolation on the inverse grid) and time bin. Boundaries of regions mapped to these discrete coordinates are shown in black, reconstructed center of the pad and time bin is shown in red, and map points used for the center reconstruction are shown in blue. Readout is placed at  $z = -8$  cm.



**Figure 3.16:** Reconstruction of detector coordinates corresponding to pad 12 (near the magnet pole) for different time bins. Unlike Fig. 3.15, we used the gradient descent search, which handles the large distortion better. In its current unoptimized state, these figures took 280 times longer to produce, compared to the interpolation on the inverse grid.



**Figure 3.17:** Discrete reconstruction of an 8 MeV track from the grid-like testing sample (described in Sec. 2.1.2) with minimal values of  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  initial direction angles. The simulated ionization vertices are shown in red, the reconstructed track is shown with the colored boxes. The number of electrons in each pad/time bin is denoted with the size of the boxes and their color.

## 956 4. Energy Reconstruction

957 The second stage is the reconstruction of the particle's energy using a fit of its  
958 reconstructed track (see Section 3). We have tested three ways of reconstructing  
959 the energy. Fitting is done using the MINUIT algorithm implemented in  
960 ROOT [2]. Cite some CERN article directly on MINUIT, can add a section. Or  
961 is it done using MIGRAD? The circle and RK4 probably was.

962 The **Cubic Spline Fit** was a tested and later rejected method of energy  
963 reconstruction. It uses smoothly connected piecewise cubic polynomials between  
964 uniformly spaced nodes. The reconstructed energy is calculated using the fit  
965 parameters by computing the radius of curvature in different points of the fitted  
966 curve using the known magnitude of the magnetic field perpendicular to the  
967 trajectory. We rejected this method because the tuning of the fit turned out  
968 to be unpractical compared to the other used methods. Reconstructs energy at  
969 every position (even though the actual energy doesn't change much) and it might  
970 be slower but no profiling has been done yet. Of course, it wasn't tested on the  
971 newer track reconstruction methods at all.

972 The **Circle and Lines Fit** was chosen as an alternative since this corresponds  
973 to the shape of a trajectory of a charged particle crossing a finite volume with  
974 a homogeneous magnetic field. The energy of the particle can be estimated using  
975 the fitted radius and the magnitude of the perpendicular magnetic field in the  
976 middle of the TPC.

977 The **Runge-Kutta Fit** uses the 4th order Runge-Kutta numerical integration  
978 described in Section 2.2. Initial parameters of the track (including the particle's  
979 energy) are optimized so that the integrated trajectory fits to the reconstructed  
980 one. This fit can also be performed as a single parameter (i.e., energy) fit if we  
981 get the initial position and orientation of the particle on the entrance to the TPC  
982 from previous detectors (TPX3 and MWPC, see Section 0.2).

### 983 4.1 Cubic Spline Fit

984 The first method for the estimation of the kinetic energy of the particle uses  
985 a cubic spline fit. We use an electron track simulated using the microscopic  
986 simulation, described in detail in Section 2.1.1. The track was reconstructed  
987 using the map described in Section 3.2.

988 In order to calculate the spline, we use the class *TSplines3* from ROOT. This  
989 allows us to evaluate the spline using the coordinates  $(x_n, z_n)$  of each node and  
990 the derivatives  $d_1, d_2$  in the first and the last node. We can fit these parameters  
991 of a fixed amount of nodes to the simulated trajectory. We use the IMPROVE  
992 algorithm provided by the *TMinuit* class in ROOT (there are some guidelines for  
993 fonts in MFF UK template (Czech version) that I will eventually apply (see notes  
994 in the conclusion)). This algorithm attempts to find a better local minimum after  
995 converging (could reformulate a bit, taken word for word from some manual).

996 After the fit converges, we calculate an energy estimate using the radius of  
997 curvature, which we can extract from the fitted spline equation at every point of  
998 the trajectory. The part of the spline corresponding to a given node is defined as

$$z(x) = z_n + b\Delta x + c(\Delta x)^2 + d(\Delta x)^3, \quad (4.1)$$

999 where  $\Delta x = x - x_n$  and  $b, c, d$  are coefficients. Using this equation, we derive the  
1000 radius of curvature<sup>1</sup> as:

$$r(x) = \frac{(1 + z'^2(x))^{\frac{3}{2}}}{z''(x)} = \frac{(1 + (b + 2c\Delta x + 3d(\Delta x)^2)^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{2c + 6d\Delta x}. \quad (4.2)$$

1001 Based on the geometry of our detector, we assume that the magnetic field satisfies  
1002  $\mathbf{B}(x, 0, z) = (0, B(x, z), 0)$  for a track in the XZ plane. Since the electron is  
1003 relativistic, the effect of the electric field on its trajectory is negligible. The  
1004 Lorentz force  $\mathbf{F}_L$  is then always perpendicular to the momentum of the electron  
1005 and acts as a centripetal force  $\mathbf{F}_c$  (not quite sure how to handle this then?):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}_L &= \mathbf{F}_c, \\ \|e\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}\| &= \frac{\gamma m_e v^2}{r}, \\ ec\beta B &= \frac{E_{0e}\beta^2}{r\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{1 - \beta^2} &= \frac{E_{0e}\beta}{ecBr}, \\ \beta^2(x) &= \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{E_{0e}}{ecB(x, z(x))r(x)} \right)^2 \right]^{-1}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

1006 where  $e$  is the elementary charge,  $c$  is the speed of light in vacuum,  $m_e$  is the rest  
1007 mass of electron,  $E_{0e} = m_e c^2$  is its rest energy,  $\gamma$  is the Lorentz factor,  $\mathbf{v}$  is the  
1008 velocity of the electron, and  $\beta = \frac{v}{c}$ . The kinetic energy for a given point on the  
1009 trajectory is then given as

$$E_{\text{kin}}(x) = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2(x)}} - 1 \right) E_{0e}. \quad (4.5)$$

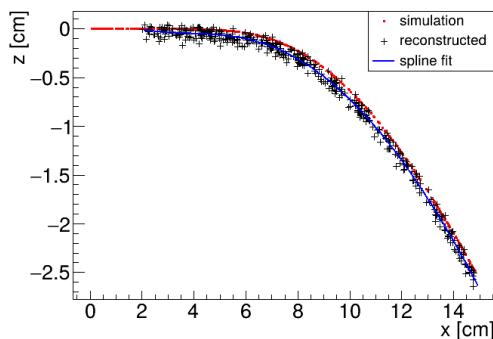
1010 We could then average these estimates at multiple points (possibly using some  
1011 weights to account for the change in accuracy) to get a single value. An example of  
1012 the reconstruction for a reconstructed track is shown in Fig. 4.1. This method was  
1013 later rejected in favor of the circle and lines fit (the name was already established  
1014 at the beginning of the chapter) described in the next section.

## 1015 4.2 Circle and Lines Fit

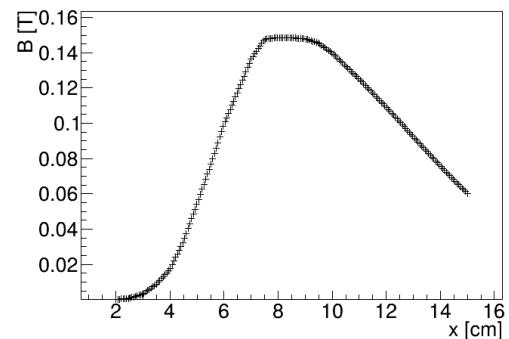
1016 Another way to estimate the particle's kinetic energy is to fit its (??) trajectory  
1017 with a circular arc with lines attached smoothly. This shape of trajectory cor-  
1018 responds to a movement of a charged particle through a homogeneous magnetic  
1019 field perpendicular to the particle's momentum and limited to a certain volume.  
1020 In general, the shape of such a trajectory with a non-perpendicularly oriented  
1021 momentum is a spiral. In our case, the magnetic field is approximately toroidal  
1022 and the particle motion is nearly perpendicular to it (verify, could add some

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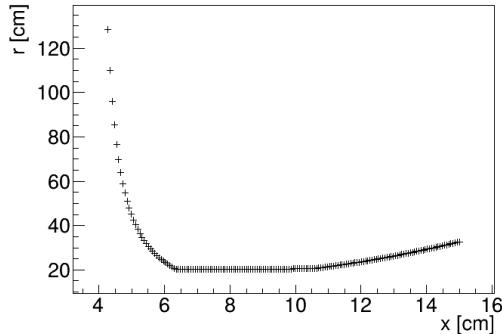
<sup>1</sup>For the general formula see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curvature#Graph\\_of\\_a\\_function](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curvature#Graph_of_a_function).



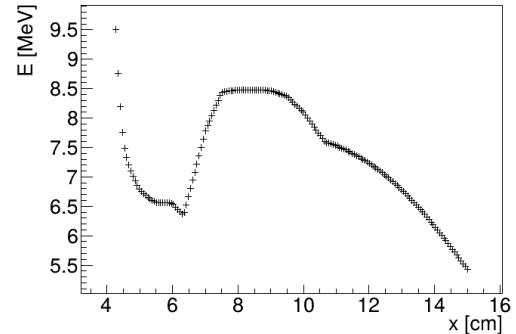
(a) Spline fit of a reconstructed track.



(b) Magnetic field along the track.



(c) Reconstructed radius of curvature along the track.



(d) Reconstructed energy along the track.

**Figure 4.1:** Energy reconstruction of a 7.51 MeV track in a 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> gas mixture (described in detail in Sec. 2.1.1) using a cubic spline fit with four evenly spaced nodes of points reconstructed using the map.

1023 magnetic field plots in different vertical planes; shouldn't have a big effect on the  
 1024 reconstructed radius anyway). At first, we tested a 2D version of this fit, then  
 1025 we adapted it to 3D.

1026 The field in our detector is not homogeneous, it is therefore not entirely clear  
 1027 what value of magnetic field should be used along with the fitted radius (using  
 1028 equations 4.4 and 4.5) to get the best estimate for the kinetic energy. Since we  
 1029 only use this method as the first iteration of the particle's energy that we later  
 1030 refine, an optimal solution of this problem is not required. Instead, we tested two  
 1031 options: taking the value of the field in the middle of the fitted circular arc (or  
 1032 is it in the middle  $x$  of the OFTPC?) and taking the average field along it. We  
 1033 haven't really tried to plot this for multiple tracks, but these estimates are saved  
 1034 somewhere and could be plotted.

### 1035 4.2.1 Two-dimensional fit

1036 In the 2D case, the fitted function used for the electron track<sup>2</sup> described in Sec-  
 1037 tion 2.1.1 (one specific track at the time, technically this function doesn't work  
 1038 for a curvature that gets outside of the semicircle) is defined as follows:

$$z(x) = \begin{cases} a_1x + b_1 & x < x_1 \\ z_0 + \sqrt{r^2 - (x - x_0)^2} & x_1 \leq x \leq x_2, \\ a_2x + b_2 & x > x_2 \end{cases} \quad (4.6)$$

1039 where  $a_{1,2}$  and  $b_{1,2}$  are the parameters of the lines,  $(x_0, z_0)$  is the center of the cir-  
 1040 cle,  $r$  is its radius, and  $(x_{1,2}, z_{1,2})$  are the coordinates of the function's nodes. That  
 1041 means we have 9 parameters ( $z_{1,2}$  are not used in the function) along with 2 con-  
 1042 tinuity conditions and 2 smoothness conditions (9 parameters of the described  
 1043 function, 5 of them independent after taking the conditions into account). For  
 1044 the fit, we use the coordinates of the nodes and the radius of the circle, which  
 1045 gives us 5 independent parameters (only the radius has to be larger than half  
 1046 of the distance between nodes). The continuity conditions (combined with the  
 1047 relations for  $z_{1,2}$ ) are

$$z_{1,2} = a_{1,2}x_{1,2} + b_{1,2} = z_0 - \sqrt{r^2 - (x_{1,2} - x_0)^2}, \quad (4.7)$$

1048 the smoothness conditions are

$$a_{1,2} = \frac{x_0 - x_{1,2}}{\sqrt{r^2 - (x_{1,2} - x_0)^2}}. \quad (4.8)$$

1049 Together with the Equation 4.7 we get the values of  $b_{1,2}$

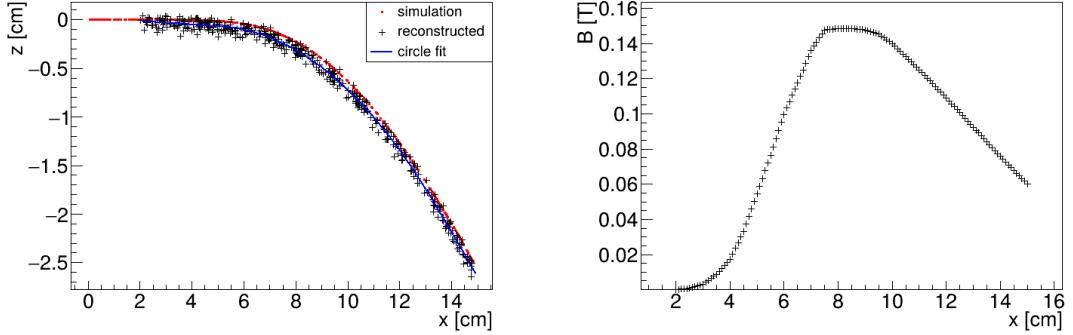
$$b_{1,2} = z_{1,2} - a_{1,2}x_{1,2}. \quad (4.9)$$

1050 For the coordinates of the center of the circle, we can use the fact that the center  
 1051 has to lie on the axis of its chord. In other words, there is a value of a parameter  $t$   
 1052 such that, using the parametric equation of the axis

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ z_0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{x_1+x_2}{2} \\ \frac{z_1+z_2}{2} \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} \frac{z_2-z_1}{2} \\ \frac{x_1-x_2}{2} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4.10)$$

---

<sup>2</sup>Electron tracks bend towards negative  $z$ , we need to use the upper part of the circle.



**Figure 4.2:** Circle and lines 2D energy reconstruction of a 7.51 MeV track in a 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> gas mixture (described in detail in Sec. 2.1.1) reconstructed with the map. The fitted position of the nodes is  $(x_1, z_1) = (5.20, -0.07)$  cm and  $(x_2, z_2) = (14.43, -1.93)$  cm, the radius is  $r = 20.79$  cm. The resulting energy is 7.70 MeV, the magnetic field along the track is shown on the right.

1053 At the same time, the center has to be in a distance of  $r$  from the nodes:

$$\begin{aligned} (x_1 - x_0)^2 + (z_1 - z_0)^2 &= r^2, \\ \left( \frac{x_1 - x_2}{2} + \frac{z_1 - z_2}{2} t \right)^2 + \left( \frac{z_1 - z_2}{2} + \frac{x_2 - x_1}{2} t \right)^2 &= r^2, \\ \left( \left( \frac{x_2 - x_1}{2} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{z_2 - z_1}{2} \right)^2 \right) t^2 + \left( \frac{x_2 - x_1}{2} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{z_2 - z_1}{2} \right)^2 - r^2 &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

1054 Since our electron track bends towards negative  $z$  and  $x_2 > x_1$ , we only care  
1055 about the solution with  $t > 0$

$$t = \sqrt{\frac{r^2}{\left(\frac{x_2-x_1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{z_2-z_1}{2}\right)^2} - 1}, \quad (4.12)$$

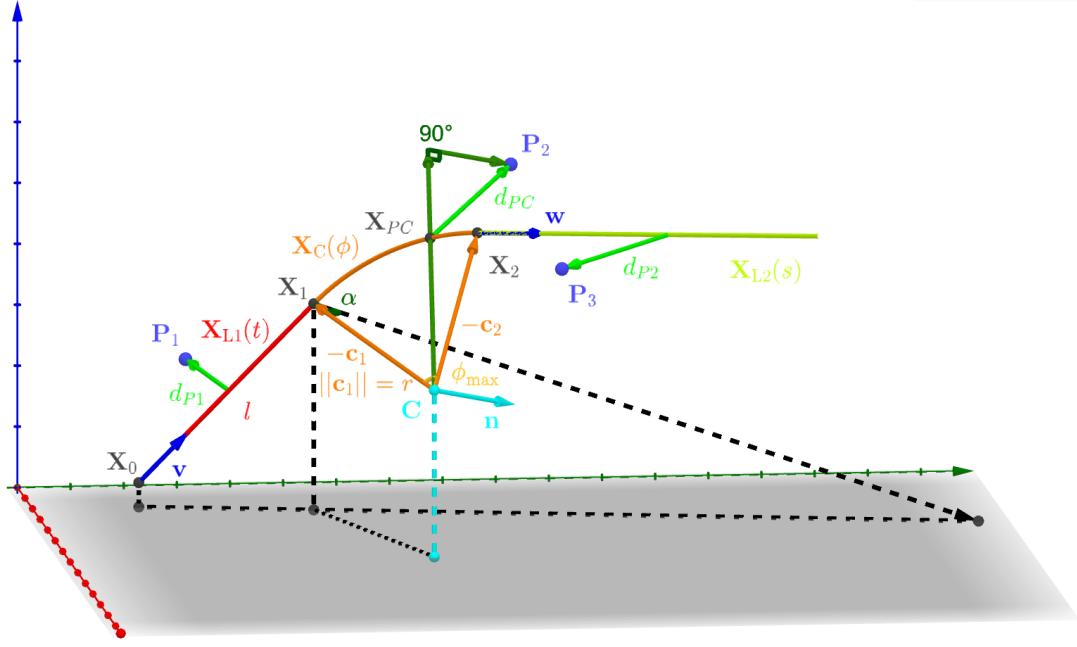
$$\begin{aligned} x_0 &= \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} + \frac{z_2 - z_1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{r^2}{\left(\frac{x_2-x_1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{z_2-z_1}{2}\right)^2} - 1}, \\ z_0 &= \frac{z_1 + z_2}{2} - \frac{x_2 - x_1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{r^2}{\left(\frac{x_2-x_1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{z_2-z_1}{2}\right)^2} - 1}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

1056 The function defined in Equation 4.6 along with equations 4.8, 4.9, and 4.13  
1057 derived using the continuity and smoothness conditions (combined with the relations  
1058 for  $z_{1,2}$ ) fully define our fitted function with parameters  $r, x_{1,2}, z_{1,2}$ .

1059 For the calculation of kinetic energy from the radius of the circle, we use the  
1060 value of the magnetic field in the middle of the OFTPC (this could be further  
1061 optimized in the future). An example of a fit of vertices reconstructed with the  
1062 map is shown in Fig. 4.2. Use GeoGebra schematics to generate a picture of 2D  
1063 geometry.

## 1064 4.2.2 Three-dimensional fit

1065 In three dimensions, the shape of a trajectory of a charged particle in a uniform  
1066 magnetic field is a cylindrical helix. Nevertheless, since we assume that the



**Figure 4.3:** Visualization of the 3D geometry of the Circle and Lines Fit and its parameters. Projection of some points on the XY plane is shown to better display the spatial arrangement.

field is approximately perpendicular to the particle's momentum at all times, we will further approximate the trajectory with a circular arc  $\mathbf{X}_C(\phi)$  (with lines  $\mathbf{X}_{L1}(t), \mathbf{X}_{L2}(s)$  attached smoothly).

We assume that the initial position  $\mathbf{X}_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and direction (given by the spherical angles  $\theta, \varphi$ , see Sec. 1.4.2) are known, since this information will be provided by TPX3 and MWPC layers. We could further refine it at the end of the current algorithm with some kind of global fit (all detector layers). The fit then has four free parameters (see Fig. 4.3):

- the length of the first line  $l$  (as measured from the initial position),
- the radius of the circular arc  $r$ ,
- the central angle of the arc  $\phi_{\max} \in [0, 2\pi]$ ,
- the direction of the curvature given by the angle  $\alpha \in [0, 2\pi]$  (right-handed with respect to the particle direction,  $\alpha = 0$  if the particle curves towards negative  $z$  in a plane given by  $\hat{z}$  and the direction vector).

Using these parameters, we can derive a parametrization of the whole curve. Let  $\mathbf{v}$  be the initial unit direction vector, i.e., using the spherical angles

$$\mathbf{v} = (\cos \varphi \cos \theta, \sin \varphi \cos \theta, \sin \theta)^T, \quad (4.14)$$

then we can parameterize the first line as follows:

$$\mathbf{X}_{L1}(t) = \mathbf{X}_0 + t\mathbf{v} \quad t \in [0, l]. \quad (4.15)$$

This gives us the starting point of the arc

$$\mathbf{X}_1 = \mathbf{X}_{L1}(l) = \mathbf{X}_0 + l\mathbf{v}. \quad (4.16)$$

The vector  $\mathbf{c}_1$  that lies in the plane of curvature and points from  $\mathbf{X}_1$  to the center of curvature can be calculated using a composition of rotations. First, we rotate  $\mathbf{v}$

1087 to point in the  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  direction, the normal for  $\alpha = 0$  than points in the  $-\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  direction,  
 1088 we apply the  $\alpha$  rotation and reverse the rotations into the  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  direction: (parameters  
 1089 are explained in the bullet points above)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{c}_1 &= R_z(\varphi)R_y(-\theta)R_x(\alpha)R_y\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)R_y(\theta)R_z(-\varphi)\mathbf{v}, \\ &= R_z(\varphi)R_y(-\theta)R_x(\alpha)(-\hat{\mathbf{z}}), \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos \varphi & -\sin \varphi & 0 \\ \sin \varphi & \cos \varphi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ 0 & \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (4.17) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \alpha \sin \varphi + \cos \alpha \cos \varphi \sin \theta \\ \sin \alpha \cos \varphi + \cos \alpha \sin \varphi \sin \theta \\ -\cos \alpha \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

1090 Signs should be correct because right-handed rotation around  $y$  rotates  $z$  into  $x$   
 1091 and this one is the opposite. Seems like in this part of the code  $\theta$  is actually taken  
 1092 from the pole. Instead of the equator plane. Similarly by rotating  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ , we can get  
 1093 the normal vector  $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{c}_1$  perpendicular to the plane of the trajectory:

$$\mathbf{n} = R_z(\varphi)R_y(-\theta)R_x(\alpha)\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{pmatrix} -\cos \alpha \sin \varphi - \sin \alpha \cos \varphi \sin \theta \\ \cos \alpha \cos \varphi - \sin \alpha \sin \varphi \sin \theta \\ \sin \alpha \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4.18)$$

1094 This allows us to express the coordinates of the center  $\mathbf{C}$  of the circular arc:

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{X}_1 + r\mathbf{c}_1. \quad (4.19)$$

1095 We can then get the parametrization and the endpoint of the circular arc using  
 1096 Rodrigues' rotation formula: (all parameters explained in the bullet points above)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{c}_2 &= \mathbf{c}_1 \cos \phi_{\max} + (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{c}_1) \sin \phi_{\max} + \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{c}_1)(1 - \cos \phi_{\max}), \\ &= \mathbf{c}_1 \cos \phi_{\max} - \mathbf{v} \sin \phi_{\max},\end{aligned} \quad (4.20)$$

$$\mathbf{X}_C(\phi) = \mathbf{C} - r(\mathbf{c}_1 \cos \phi - \mathbf{v} \sin \phi) \quad \phi \in [0, \phi_{\max}], \quad (4.21)$$

$$\mathbf{X}_2 = \mathbf{X}_C(\phi_{\max}) = \mathbf{C} - r\mathbf{c}_2, \quad (4.22)$$

1097 and if we define the direction vector of the second line, we also get its parametriza-  
 1098 tion

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{v} \cos \phi_{\max} + (\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v}) \sin \phi_{\max} = \mathbf{v} \cos \phi_{\max} + \mathbf{c}_1 \sin \phi_{\max}, \quad (4.23)$$

$$\mathbf{X}_{L2}(s) = \mathbf{X}_2 + s\mathbf{w} \quad s \in [0, \infty). \quad (4.24)$$

1099 The fit is performed as a (weighted) least square minimization (MIGRAD  
 1100 ROOT), therefore we need to derive the distance of any point  $\mathbf{P}$  to the fitted  
 1101 curve. For the first line, we simply compute the parameter value of the closest  
 1102 point on the line:

$$\begin{aligned}t_P &= \mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{X}_1), \\ d_{P1} &= \|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{X}_{L1}(t_P)\|.\end{aligned} \quad (4.25)$$

1103 If the parameter value is outside of its bounds defined above, we take the boundary  
 1104 value instead. The distance to the second line is computed likewise. For the

Parameter	Fit of microscopic track	Fit of reconstructed track
$l$	-0.27(90) cm	-0.26(62) cm
$\alpha$	-6.2(23) $^\circ$	-8.2(23) $^\circ$
$r$	17.2(48) cm	16.8(28) cm
$\phi_{\max}$	26.1(72) $^\circ$	20.5(36) $^\circ$
$E_{\text{reco}}^{\text{mid}}$	7.93 MeV	7.35 MeV
$E_{\text{reco}}^{\text{avg}}$	7.80 MeV	8.19 MeV

**Table 4.1:** 3D circle fit parameters of an 8 MeV track from the grid-like testing sample (described in Sec. 2.1.2) with minimal values of  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  initial direction angles.

1105 circular arc (specific circular arc in the fit), we find the closest point (on the arc)  
 1106 by projecting the center connecting line onto the arc plane:

$$\mathbf{X}_{PC} = \mathbf{C} + r \frac{(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{C}) - (\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{C}))\mathbf{n}}{\|(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{C}) - (\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{C}))\mathbf{n}\|}, \quad (4.26)$$

$$d_{PC} = \|\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{X}_{PC}\| \quad (4.27)$$

1107 If the point  $\mathbf{X}_{PC}$  lies outside of the arc, distance to the closest endpoint is taken  
 1108 instead. Sometimes (rarely?) the distance might be underestimated when the  
 1109 point is closer to the circle, the arc is a part of, than to the curve. I tried to  
 1110 fix this, but it breaks the fit and makes the results worse. The shortest dis-  
 1111 tance out of  $d_{P1}, d_{PC}, d_{P2}$  is then taken as the distance to the curve. TVirtual-  
 1112 Fitter+MIGRAD, maximal num of iterations, toleration. Different uncertainties  
 1113 in  $x, y, z$  not taken into account.

1114 For the calculation of the kinetic energy from the radius, we implemented two  
 1115 variants:

- 1116 1. using the perpendicular projection to the plane of the trajectory of magnetic  
 1117 field at a point, where the circular arc crosses the central plane of the  
 1118 OFTPC (parallel to the YZ plane), and
- 1119 2. using the average value of this projection along the circular arc.

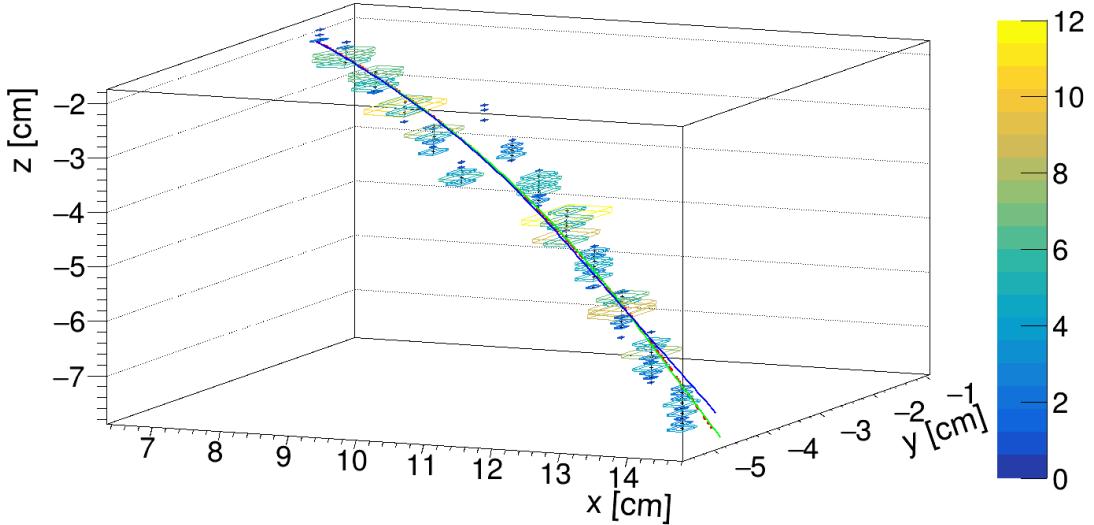
1120 This way, we get two energy estimates  $E_{\text{reco}}^{\text{mid}}$  and  $E_{\text{reco}}^{\text{avg}}$ . If needed, this choice  
 1121 can be further optimized, however, since this method will only provide an initial  
 1122 guess of the kinetic energy for the more sophisticated, and computationally heavy  
 1123 Runge-Kutta fit, it is not necessary to reach the best precision, and fast solutions  
 1124 are preferred.

1125 An example of a fitted track (both the actual initial points and the discrete  
 1126 reconstruction of the track) from the microscopic grid-like testing sample (de-  
 1127 scribed in Sec. 2.1.2) is shown in Fig. 4.4, the fitted parameters are given in  
 1128 Table 4.1.

1129 Fit details (parameter bounds, initial setting).

### 1130 4.2.3 Testing on a Runge-Kutta sample

1131 The three dimensional circle and lines fit was tested on a sample of Runge-Kutta  
 1132 tracks with randomized parameters described in Section 2.2.1. These tracks of



**Figure 4.4:** 3D circle fit of an 8 MeV track (red points) from the grid-like testing sample (described in Sec. 2.1.2) with minimal values of  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  initial direction angles. Both fits of the original (green) and reconstructed track (blue) are shown. Resulting parameter values are given in Table 4.1.

1133 primary electrons and positrons consist of points calculated with the RK4 algo-  
 1134 rithm for a given proper time step (step can be adjusted by dividing by the gamma  
 1135 factor → detector time). Fitting with circle only was also partially implemented  
 1136 (didn't work but could be fixed/tuned).

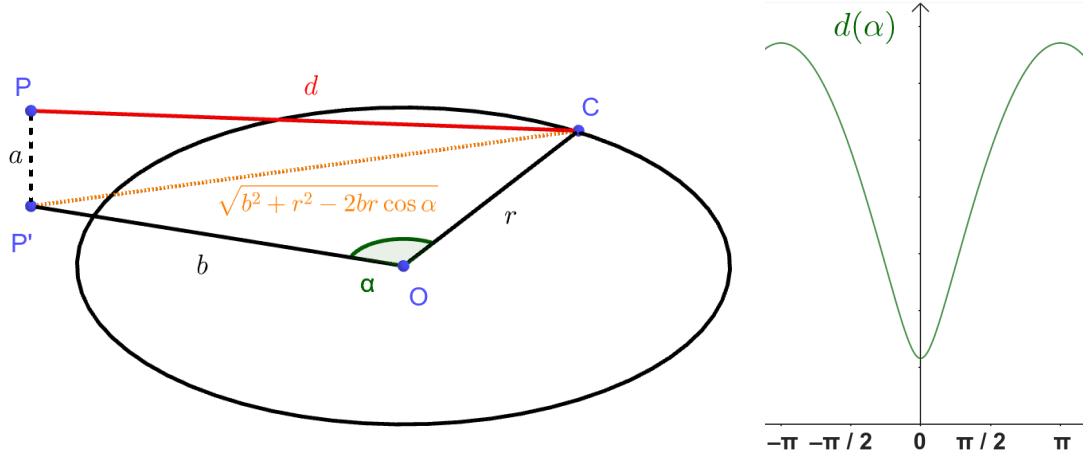
### 1137 4.3 Runge-Kutta Fit

1138 The Runge-Kutta fit uses the Runge-Kutta 4th order (RK4) numerical integra-  
 1139 tion of the equation of motion (see Section 2.2) to find the best values of the track  
 1140 parameters – the track origin, initial velocity direction and the kinetic energy. In  
 1141 order to speed up the energy reconstruction, an initial guess of these parameters  
 1142 can be obtained from the 3D circle fit described in the previous section. Fur-  
 1143 thermore, assuming we know the track origin and orientation, we can perform  
 1144 a single parameter fit of the kinetic energy (do some profiling and show that it is  
 1145 faster – below in the microscopic testing).

1146 The fit is performed as a least square minimization of the (weighted) distances  
 1147 of the track points (true ionization vertices from the simulation or reconstructed  
 1148 points). The simulated RK4 track consists of line segments with known endpoints,  
 1149 therefore we can calculate the distance of a point from this segment analogically  
 1150 to Equation 4.25 with  $\mathbf{v}$  given as a unit vector in the direction of the segment.

1151 We need to find the segment with the lowest distance. We assume, that the  
 1152 distance  $d_{\mathbf{P}}(\tau)$  of a point  $\mathbf{P}$  to the point on the track (a curve parameterized  
 1153 by the proper time  $\tau$ )  $\mathbf{X}(\tau)$  has a single minimum (local and global), no local  
 1154 maximum (except the interval endpoints) and no saddle point

$$\exists! \tau_{\min} \in [0, \tau_N]: (\forall \tau \in [0, \tau_N]: d_{\mathbf{P}}(\tau) \geq d_{\mathbf{P}}(\tau_{\min})) \vee \frac{dd_{\mathbf{P}}}{d\tau}(\tau_{\min}) = 0, \quad (4.28)$$



**Figure 4.5:** Demonstration of the convexity of the distance function  $d(\alpha)$  for a circular track (see Equation 4.29).

1155 where  $N$  is the number of RK4 steps. This is a reasonable assumption for a track  
 1156 with an approximate shape of a circular arc with a radius  $r$ , since the distance  $d$   
 1157 from a point  $\mathbf{C}$  on the corresponding circle of a point  $\mathbf{P}$  offset by  $a$  from the arc  
 1158 plane and by  $b$  from the arc's center when projected on its plane is given by the  
 1159 law of cosines:

$$d^2 = a^2 + b^2 + r^2 - 2br \cos \alpha, \quad (4.29)$$

1160 where  $\alpha$  is the angle between points  $\mathbf{C}$  and  $\mathbf{P}$  as seen from the center of the arc  
 1161 (see Fig. 4.5). This function is strictly convex for  $\alpha \in (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$  and in our case,  
 1162 the center of the arc lies outside of the detector and  $\alpha$  is restricted to a small  
 1163 interval around zero (especially considering that the initial guess should make the  
 1164 fitted trajectory reasonably close to any relevant point, in the worst-case scenario,  
 1165 the distance is overestimated which should keep the fit from converging to such  
 1166 solutions).

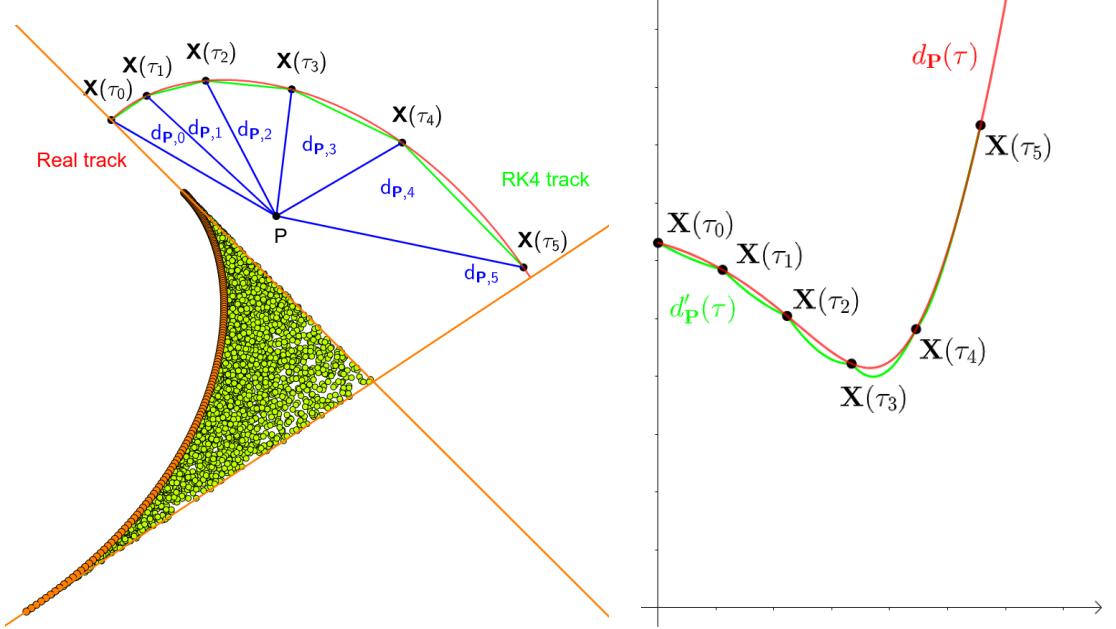
1167 In a more general case, if we consider the vector  $\mathbf{a}(\tau) = \mathbf{P} - \mathbf{X}(\tau)$  whose size  
 1168 is  $\|\mathbf{a}(\tau)\| = d_{\mathbf{P}}(\tau)$ , then we get

$$2d_{\mathbf{P}} \frac{dd_{\mathbf{P}}}{d\tau} = \frac{dd_{\mathbf{P}}^2}{d\tau} = 2\mathbf{a} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{a}}{d\tau} = -2\mathbf{a} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{X}}{d\tau}, \quad (4.30)$$

1169 therefore for the derivative of  $d_{\mathbf{P}}(\tau)$  to be zero,  $\mathbf{a}(\tau)$  has to be perpendicular to  
 1170 the tangent of the track. In 3D, for a given  $\mathbf{X}(\tau)$ , this condition restricts  $\mathbf{P}$  to  
 1171 a plane. This means that on a curving track, for any two points  $\mathbf{X}(\tau_1), \mathbf{X}(\tau_2)$   
 1172 with non-parallel tangents, we can find a point  $\mathbf{P}$  that has  $\frac{dd_{\mathbf{P}}}{d\tau}(\tau_1) = \frac{dd_{\mathbf{P}}}{d\tau}(\tau_2) =$   
 1173  $= 0$ , which violates the assumption 4.28. If we have a circle-and-lines track as  
 1174 described in the previous sections, such a point has to lie outside of the circular  
 1175 sector given by the arc.

1176 For a planar track  $\mathbf{X}(\tau) = (X_1(\tau), X_2(\tau))$ , the envelope of all its normals is  
 1177 the evolute of the curve (i.e., the set of centers of all its osculating circles). If the  
 1178 track has a monotonous tangent angle

$$\alpha(\tau) = \tan^{-1} \frac{\frac{dX_2}{d\tau}}{\frac{dX_1}{d\tau}} \quad (4.31)$$



**Figure 4.6:** An example track (red) with a polygonal chain approximation (green, representing a RK4 simulation). The distance of the point  $\mathbf{P}$  from the chain is found using a binary search among the distances to the vertices  $d_{\mathbf{P}}(\tau_i)$  (blue) and subsequently calculating the distance to segments neighboring the found vertex (thus finding the minimum of the function  $d'_{\mathbf{P}}(\tau)$ , function  $d_{\mathbf{P}}(\tau)$  for the actual track is showed for reference). This approach works if the condition 4.28 is satisfied, which is not the case for a point from the green area bordered by the normals at endpoints and the evolute of the track (orange).

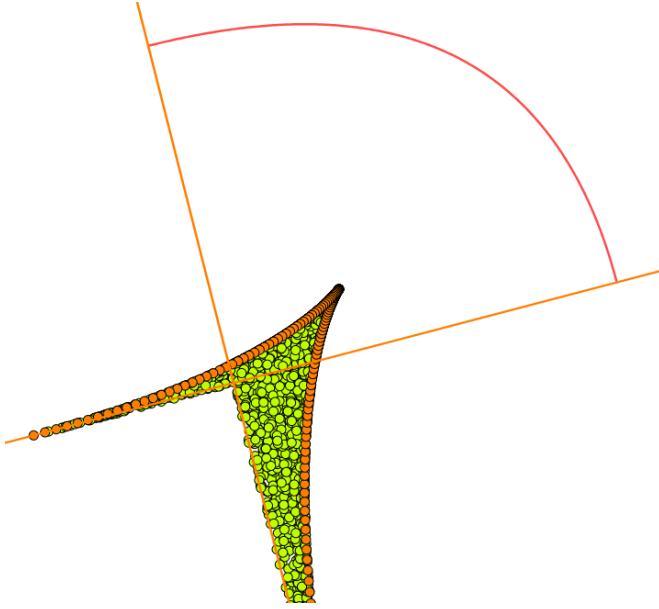
with minimal and maximal  $\alpha$  differing by less than  $\pi$  (i.e., the track changes direction by less than  $180^\circ$ ), then all intersections of the track's normals must lie in an area bordered by the evolute and the normals at the beginning and the end of the curve (from their intersection with the evolute to their mutual intersection, see Figs. 4.6 and 4.7). Together, these three boundaries define a closed shape that will lie outside of the OFTPC for a typical track in our detector<sup>3</sup>.

With the assumption 4.28, we can find the segment on the RK4 track with the lowest distance to a given point  $\mathbf{P}$  using a binary search algorithm. Let the distance of the point from the  $n$ -th vertex be  $d_{\mathbf{P},n} = d_{\mathbf{P}}(\tau_n)$ . Then the difference  $\Delta d_{\mathbf{P},n} = d_{\mathbf{P},n} - d_{\mathbf{P},n-1}$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta d_{\mathbf{P},n} &< 0 \quad \forall n \text{ such that } \tau_n < \tau_{\min}, \\ \Delta d_{\mathbf{P},n} &> 0 \quad \forall n \text{ such that } \tau_{n-1} > \tau_{\min}.\end{aligned}\tag{4.32}$$

Therefore, we can search for the segment containing  $d_{\mathbf{P},\min} = d_{\mathbf{P}}(\tau_{\min})$  with binary search starting with  $\Delta d_{\mathbf{P},1}$  and  $\Delta d_{\mathbf{P},N}$ , then calculate the difference  $\Delta d_{\mathbf{P},m}$  for the middle index  $m = \left\lfloor \frac{N+1}{2} \right\rfloor$ . If  $\Delta d_{\mathbf{P},m} > 0$  (minor bug in the implementation – if the value for the maximal index is negative, it shouldn't change anything), we can replace the higher index with  $m$ , otherwise we replace the lower index.

<sup>3</sup>The smallest anticipated radius of curvature is 39 cm for an electron or positron with a kinetic energy 3 MeV in a 0.3 T magnetic field. All points in the exclusion area must be farther from the track and therefore outside the OFTPC.



**Figure 4.7:** An exclusion area (green) of a track (red) bordered by its evolute and the normals at endpoints (orange), where the assumption 4.28 is violated. Unlike the track in Fig. 4.6, this track has a minimal curvature point in the middle, corresponding to the cusp on its evolute.

1194 The search stops when the difference between the minimal and maximal index is  
 1195 one. Would it be better if they were the same (maybe not)? Then the minimal  
 1196 value is  $d_{P,n-1}$  or  $d_{P,N}$  and we can take the minimum of the distances from the two  
 1197 segments connected to  $n - 1$ . Currently taking the maximal index (and starting  
 1198 at  $N - 2$  maximal index  $\leftrightarrow N - 1$ -th point), this should be equivalent, since either  
 1199  $\Delta d_{P,\max} > 0$  (in the code is equivalent to max-1 here) or we are at  $N - 1$ . The  
 1200 minimum of the two distances still taken.

1201 Same details with MIGRAD etc. as previously.

### 1202 4.3.1 Testing on a microscopic sample

1203 The Runge-Kutta fit together with the 3D circle-and-lines pre-fit was tested on  
 1204 a sample of tracks simulated using the microscopic simulation described in Sec-  
 1205 tion 2.1. At first, few tracks with randomized initial parameters (same as the  
 1206 Runge-Kutta sample in Section 2.2.1) were generated for preliminary testing.  
 1207 Later, a sample with a grid-like distribution of track parameters was generated  
 1208 (see Section 2.1.2 for details).

1209 Initial parameters of the HEED track (also should be in the first testing track).  
 1210 Initial parameters set in the circle fit (if electron set alpha one way, otherwise  
 1211 other way) and parameter bounds.

# 1212 Conclusion

1213 We have developed and implemented several methods for the reconstruction of  
1214 electron and positron trajectories inside the Orthogonal Fields Time Projec-  
1215 tion Chambers (OFTPCs) that will be used in the X17 project at the Insti-  
1216 tute of Experimental and Applied Physics, Czech Technical University in Prague  
1217 (IEAP CTU) to confirm or disprove the ATOMKI anomaly [11]. We tested these  
1218 methods on simulated tracks and made a preliminary estimate of achievable en-  
1219 ergy resolution.

1220 We used the Garfield++ toolkit [1] for simulations in combination with the  
1221 ROOT framework [2] for data analysis and visualization. Some of our more  
1222 demanding simulations were run on the MetaCentrum grid [3]. The main method  
1223 of track simulation was the microscopic simulation (provided by the **Avalanche-**  
1224 **Microscopic** class), which follows ionization electrons from collision to collision.

## 1225 Track Reconstruction

1226 The inhomogeneous magnetic field created by permanent magnets is perpendicu-  
1227 lar to the electric field of the chambers and has a significant effect on the drift of  
1228 ionization electrons (as demonstrated in Sec. 3.1). For this reason, we created the  
1229 ionization electron map, i.e., a mapping from the detector space  $\mathcal{D}$  (coordinates  
1230  $(x, y, z)$ ), where the initial positions of ionization electrons lie, to the readout  
1231 space  $\mathcal{R}$  (coordinates  $(x', y', t)$ ), where their endpoints on the readout plane lie.  
1232 The map was simulated using the microscopic simulation. One hundred electrons  
1233 with low initial velocity were simulated for each point on a Cartesian grid to  
1234 get their mean readout coordinates and their covariance. Two gas mixtures 90:10  
1235 and 70:30 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> were compared. In the former, the drift velocity is significantly  
1236 higher, leading to increased effect of the magnetic field and larger diffusion (see,  
1237 for example, Fig. 3.9a).

1238 To use the map in reconstruction, we have to invert it. We implemented two  
1239 methods – a gradient descent algorithm that finds a minimum in the trilinearly  
1240 interpolated map, and a polynomial interpolation on the inverse grid in the read-  
1241 out space (where we know the inverse from the simulation). Both methods reach  
1242 almost identical result for the testing track, while the latter is much faster, does  
1243 not require optimization of parameters, and can be accelerated by precalculat-  
1244 ing the interpolation coefficients in the future if needed. The reconstruction was  
1245 shown to be accurate with less than 2 mm FWHM, although a slight shift in the  
1246  $z$ -coordinate was detected when accounting for different initial velocities of the  
1247 ionization electrons (see Figs. 3.13 and 3.14).

1248 The discrete reconstruction takes into account the anode segmentation into  
1249 pads and the finite size of the time bins. It neglects the gaps between the pads and  
1250 assumes an ideal readout of charge, counting each individual electron hitting the  
1251 pad. Charge multiplication in the triple-GEM stack used in the OFTPC is not  
1252 taken into account. For each pad/time-bin combination, we use the map inversion  
1253 to reconstruct its center. Reconstruction of detector coordinates corresponding  
1254 to electrons hitting the pad 12 near the magnet pole (Figs. 3.15 and 3.16) show  
1255 that interpolation on the inverse grid behaves pathologically for large distortions,  
1256 unlike the much slower gradient descent algorithm. Or maybe there is a problem

1257 in the algorithm??? Actually not quite sure, what causes this behavior.

## 1258 Energy Reconstruction

1259 To reconstruct energy of a particle in a OFTPC, we assess its curvature in the  
1260 inhomogeneous magnetic field. Preliminary tests were done using tracks recon-  
1261 structed with the map with no discretization. At first, we tested a cubic spline  
1262 fit, where the radius of curvature can be determined analytically. This approach  
1263 turned out to be unpractical because of relatively low speed and necessity to cre-  
1264 ate the energy estimate from the radius and magnetic field at different points on  
1265 the track (see Fig. 4.1).

1266 Another tested approach (at first as a 2D version without pads, later in 3D  
1267 with pads) was the fit with circular arc with smoothly attached lines, which is  
1268 the shape of trajectory of a particle crossing a finite volume with homogeneous  
1269 magnetic field oriented perpendicularly to the particles velocity vector. This way  
1270 we get a single reconstructed radius of curvature, however, since the magnetic  
1271 field varies greatly along the track inside the OFTPC volume, it is not clear,  
1272 which value of magnetic field to use to calculate the energy. A simple estimate  
1273 using the value at the point, where the track crosses the middle  $x$ -coordinate, has  
1274 proven to be sufficient when using this method as a prefit of the more accurate  
1275 Runge-Kutta fit.

1276

## 1277 Notes

1278 General notes about the thesis:

- 1279 • Check that all of the classes and other code are marked the same way in  
1280 the text. I used *italics* somewhere, could use different font for this instead.
- 1281 • Check unbreakable space in front of articles. Remove excessive article usage  
1282 with proper nouns.
- 1283 • Currently using margins for single-sided printing (bigger on the left side).
- 1284 • Check that present tense is used
- 1285 • Active vs passive voice usage
- 1286 • American English quotation marks (") instead of British English (').
- 1287 • Some of the overfull hbox warnings might change if duplex printing is used  
1288 (they generate black rectangles on the edge of the page), leaving them be  
1289 for now
- 1290 • Check nobreakdash usage (is it always necessary)
- 1291 • Check capitalized references (e.g., Figure, Section, Equation)
- 1292 • Check  $\backslash(\dots\backslash)$  math mode instead of  $\$...$$ . (actually unlike  $\backslash[\dots\backslash]$  math mode,  
1293 there is apparently no real benefit to this clumsy syntax)
- 1294 • Use siunitx package to ensure correct formatting, physics package for deriva-  
1295 tives.

- Check other stuff that's written in the MFF UK template. Apparently it has since been updated and there are some differences (check for them).
  - Check correct subscripts in equation (italics vs no italics)
  - Consistent bold marking of points/vectors
  - Correct footnotes (capital letters, etc.).
  - Might have to mention GeoGebra as per the non-commercial license agreement (Made with GeoGebra®) – maybe put it into acknowledgments next to the MetaCentrum credit? And list all of the figures where GeoGebra was used?
  - Maybe make some section outside of References specifically for literature? (such as the old CERN TPC review, ATOMKI review is currently not mentioned, not sure if some Wikipedia articles should get a mention or how do these things work)
  - Consistent use of `bm` vs `mathbf`
  - Consistent use of  $\bar{M}$  instead of  $M$  when talking about the map of the means (so most of the time)
  - Proper equation numbering when deriving a relation
  - Hugo should be mentioned somewhere in the title pages probably?
  - Consistent itemize/enumerate style (namely spacing) that looks good (ideally set by some macro? maybe the new MFF UK template will solve this?)
  - Consistent gas mixture notation (e.g., 90:10 Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>). Maybe mention at the beginning that it is a molar ratio.
  - Labels of figures and tables – maybe in bold? Abbreviated?
  - Check graph labels, make them bigger if needed.
  - "The map" can be viewed as a mapping between spaces or just as a coordinate transform.
  - Maybe switch to `cleveref`.
  - `siunitx` qty not SI
  - Correct em dash?
  - In the future, it might be useful to save pictures as tex files whenever possible and using `siunitx` for the labels
  - Should list of figures/tables be in the thesis? Also, it is currently not in TOC.
  - link to GitHub
- Random notes:
- Terminology consistency – ionization/primary/secondary electrons
  - Consistent TPC vs OFTPC acronym usage in the text or individual chapters.

- Only electrons that start and end in the sector closer than 0.5 cm are used for reconstruction (newest version).
- Attachment, Penning transfer and secondary ionization not considered in the microscopic simulation.
- Suspicious artifacts of trilinear interpolation in Fig. 1.14. **Fixed – integers instead of doubles in the implementation, influenced reconstruction SIGNIFICANTLY (but not simulation).**
- Profiling of the reconstruction!!!! Find out what's taking the most time (probably Runge-Kutta integration which the fit calls a lot). Could gradually decrease the step size to refine the fit instead of making it small right away (arbitrarily small – the effect of this was never tested). This could take some time to do properly (find a profiler or make profiling macros).
- Slow drift velocity good for  $z$  reconstruction, too low leads to recombination
- Could add link to the GitHub repository, mention CMake? Details about simulating on MetaCentrum?
- The first used track had 8 MeV momentum  $p = \gamma mv$  (not kinetic energy  $E_{\text{kin}} = (\gamma - 1)mc^2 = \sqrt{p^2c^2 + m^2c^4} - mc^2 \approx 7.5$  MeV)
- Maybe cite Garfield++ user manual instead?
- Using TRandom3 for random number generation.
- Does the RK fit error correlate with the actual error?
- Some Garfield settings in micro track generation probably not mentioned
- one-to-one only means injection (not bijection)? Make sure correct terminology is used.

## Future

Should this be in the TOC?

Things planned for the future:

- Testing the reconstruction algorithm by measuring real particles with a known energy distribution (at first just laser, muons?).
- The **Fast Simulation with Ionization Electron Map** is planned for the future. It will use the HEED program [44] to simulate the primary particle and the Ionization Electron Map (see Section 3.2) to simulate the drift of secondary electrons. It should be significantly faster than the Microscopic Simulation but offer comparable precision since it will rely on an already simulated drift map. (Primary track simulated in HEED. Readout parameters by interpolating the map. Diffusion from the map for randomization.) Currently more or less implemented, but it turns out that the initial energy of ionization electrons cannot be discarded.
- Account for GEM, delta electrons, ...

- Likelihood approach instead of least squares (if it improves the reconstruction significantly), we should at least use a better method than taking the center of the TPC bin.
- More detailed electric field simulation (if needed, GEM will have more complex field, some irregularities in the field should be considered)
- Account for the triggering in MWPC/TPX3 (particle travels from TPX3 to MWPC basically immediately – fraction of a nanosecond so there should be no significant difference)
- Better choice of initial velocity in the map? Maybe look at the distribution for e+e- with different energies and either use this distribution combined for all (if the dependence isn't too big) or even few different simulations? Might (?) raise the requirement of electrons simulated per position. Or maybe just make some adjustment of the  $z$  coordinate in the end?
- Create a pad map. Might be worth it to use gradient descent search after all.
- Testing of different pad layouts possible.

1388

## 1389 Likelihood - inverse map

1390 If we wanted to further improve this procedure, taking into account the whole  
 1391 map  $\mathcal{M}$ , we could make an "inverse map" from  $\mathcal{R}$  to distributions on  $\mathcal{D}$ . We could  
 1392 achieve this by taking the normalized probability density of an electron with initial  
 1393 coordinates  $(x, y, z)$  having readout coordinates  $(x', y', t)$ . If we fix  $(x', y', t)$ , we  
 1394 get an unnormalized probability density  $f(x, y, z) = \mathcal{M}_{(x,y,z)}(x', y', t)$  (assuming  
 1395 that all initial coordinates are a priori equally likely). This could potentially  
 1396 improve the discrete reconstruction if we take the mean value of this probability  
 1397 density across the pad and time bin

$$f_{\text{pad, bin}}(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{A_{\text{pad}} \Delta t_{\text{bin}}} \int_{\text{pad, bin}} \mathcal{M}_{(x,y,z)}(x', y', t) dx' dy' dt \quad (4.33)$$

1398 and using it for a likelihood fit instead of using least squares. This still assumes  
 1399 that all initial coordinates are equally likely which is clearly not the case for  
 1400 a primary particle track. In the future, we could even use the fast track simulation  
 1401 with the map (should be possible to make around 1000 tracks per minute per core  
 1402 with current settings), create a big set of tracks with reasonable parameters and  
 1403 use these to get an approximation of the probability distribution of the detector  
 1404 response. Some approximations would be necessary when interpreting the data to  
 1405 decrease the degrees of freedom of this distribution (we would have to pick a set of  
 1406 parameters and assume that some of them are independent). This could give us  
 1407 an idea about the best achievable resolution (how significantly will the detector  
 1408 response differ for a given change in energy). If the difference is significant, we  
 1409 could try to further improve the likelihood fit.

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# <sup>1762</sup> List of Abbreviations

- <sup>1763</sup> **ALPHA** Antihydrogen Laser Physics Apparatus
- <sup>1764</sup> **BONuS12** Barely Off-shell NeUtron Structure 12 GeV
- <sup>1765</sup> **GEM** Gas Electron Multiplier
- <sup>1766</sup> **HEED** High Energy Electro-Dynamics
- <sup>1767</sup> **IEAP CTU** Institute of Experimental and Applied Physics, Czech Technical  
<sup>1768</sup> University in Prague
- <sup>1769</sup> **IPC** Internal Pair Creation
- <sup>1770</sup> **EPC** External Pair Creation
- <sup>1771</sup> **FWHM** Full Width at Half Maximum
- <sup>1772</sup> **LArTPC** Liquid Argon TPC
- <sup>1773</sup> **Micromegas** MICRO-MEsh GAseous Structure
- <sup>1774</sup> **MPGD** Micro-Pattern Gaseous Detector
- <sup>1775</sup> **MWPC** Multi-Wire Proportional Chamber
- <sup>1776</sup> **OFTPC** Orthogonal Fields TPC
- <sup>1777</sup> **PCB** Printed Circuit Board
- <sup>1778</sup> **RASD** Reconstruction Assuming Steady Drift
- <sup>1779</sup> **RICH** Ring Imaging Cherenkov Counter
- <sup>1780</sup> **RK4** Runge-Kutta 4th order
- <sup>1781</sup> **RPC** Resistive Plate Chamber
- <sup>1782</sup> **RPWELL** Resistive Plate WELL
- <sup>1783</sup> **rTPC** radial-drift TPC
- <sup>1784</sup> **THGEM** THick GEM
- <sup>1785</sup> **ToA** time-of-arrival
- <sup>1786</sup> **ToT** time-over-threshold
- <sup>1787</sup> **TPC** Time Projection Chamber
- <sup>1788</sup> **TPX3** Timepix3
- <sup>1789</sup>  **$\mu$ -PIC** Micro-Pixel Gas Chamber
- <sup>1790</sup>  **$\mu$ -RWELL** Micro-RWELL