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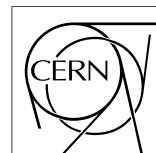
3 No sub-title neither, obviously...

4 Alexis Fagot

5



Thesis to obtain the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in Physics
Academic years 2012-2017





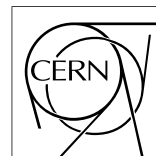
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Thesis to obtain the degree of
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19 Ici on remerciera tous les gens que j'ai pu croiser durant cette aventure et qui m'ont
20 permis de passer un bon moment

21 *Gent, ici la super date de la mort qui tue de la fin d'écriture*
22 *Alexis Fagot*

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234		2014. Finally, assuming a sensitivity of the RPC to γ $s = 2 \cdot 10^{-3}$,	
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236

List of Acronyms

237

List of Acronyms

238

239

240

A

241

242

AFL

Almost Full Level

243

244

245

B

246

247

BARC

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

248

BLT

Block Transfer

249

BR

Branching Ratio

250

251

252

C

253

254

CAEN

Costruzioni Apparecchiature Elettroniche Nucleari S.p.A.

255

256

CERN

European Organization for Nuclear Research

257

CFD

Constant Fraction Discriminator

258

CMS

Compact Muon Solenoid

259

CSC

Cathode Strip Chamber

260

261

262

D

263

264

DAQ

Data Acquisition

265

DCS

Detector Control Software

266

DQM

Data Quality Monitoring

267	DT	Drift Tube
268		
269		
270	F	
271		
272	FEE	Front-End Electronics
273	FEB	Front-End Board
274		
275		
276	G	
277		
278	GE-/-	Find a good description
279	GE1/1	Find a good description
280	GE2/1	Find a good description
281	GEANT	GEometry ANd Tracking - a series of software toolkit
282		platforms developed by CERN
283	GEM	Gas Electron Multiplier
284	GIF	Gamma Irradiation Facility
285	GIF++	new Gamma Irradiation Facility
286		
287		
288	H	
289		
290	HL-LHC	High Luminosity LHC
291	HV	High Voltage
292		
293		
294	I	
295		
296	iRPC	improved RPC
297	IRQ	Interrupt Request
298		
299		
300	L	
301		
302	LHC	Large Hadron Collider
303	LS1	First Long Shutdown
304	LS3	Third Long Shutdown

305	LV	Low Voltage
306	LVDS	Low-Voltage Differential Signaling
307		
308		
309	M	
310		
311	MC	Monte Carlo
312	MCNP	Monte Carlo N-Particle
313	ME-/-	Find good description
314	ME0	Find good description
315		
316		
317	N	
318		
319	NIM	Nuclear Instrumentation Module logic signals
320		
321		
322	P	
323		
324	PMT	PhotoMultiplier Tube
325		
326		
327	R	
328		
329	RE-/-	Find a good description
330	RE2/2	Find a good description
331	RE3/1	Find a good description
332	RE3/2	Find a good description
333	RE4/1	Find a good description
334	RE4/2	Find a good description
335	RE4/3	Find a good description
336	RMS	Root Mean Square
337	ROOT	a framework for data processing born at CERN
338	RPC	Resistive Plate Chamber
339		
340		
341	S	
342		
343	SPS	Super Proton Synchrotron

344

345

346 **T**

347

348 TDC Time-to-Digital Converter

350

Nederlandse samenvatting –Summary in Dutch–

351

352 Le resume en Neerlandais (j'aurais peut-etre de apprendre la langue juste pour
353 ca...).

354

English summary

355 Le meme résumé mais en Anglais (on commencera par la hein!).

1

Introduction

356

357

358 **1.1 A story of High Energy Physics**

359 **1.2 Organisation of this study**

2

Investigating the TeV scale

2.1 The Standard Model of Particle Physics

2.2 The Large Hadron Collider and the Compact Muon Solenoid

2.3 Muon Phase-II Upgrade

After the more than two years lasting First Long Shutdown (LS1), the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) delivered its very first Run-II proton-proton collisions early 2015. LS1 gave the opportunity to the LHC and to the its experiments to undergo upgrades. The accelerator is now providing collisions at center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV and bunch crossing rate of 40 MHz, with a peak luminosity exceeding its design value. During the first and upcoming second LHC Long Shutdown, the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector is also undergoing a number of upgrades to maintain a high system performance [1].

From the LHC Phase-2 or High Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) period onwards, i.e. past the Third Long Shutdown (LS3), the performance degradation due to integrated radiation as well as the average number of inelastic collisions per bunch crossing, or pileup, will rise substantially and become a major challenge for the LHC experiments, like CMS that are forced to address an upgrade program for Phase-II [2]. Simulations of the expected distribution of absorbed dose in the CMS detector under HL-LHC conditions, show in figure 5.14 that detectors placed close

381 to the beamline will have to withstand high irradiation, the radiation dose being of
 382 the order of a few tens of Gy.

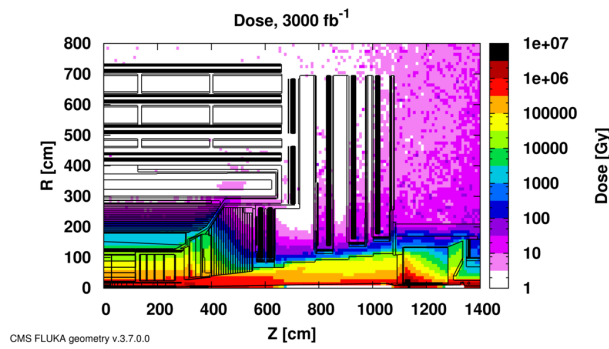


Figure 2.1: Absorbed dose in the CMS cavern after an integrated luminosity of 3000 fb. R is the transverse distance from the beamline and Z is the distance along the beamline from the Interaction Point at $Z=0$.

383 The measurement of small production cross-section and/or decay branching
 384 ratio processes, such as the Higgs boson coupling to charge leptons or the $B_s \rightarrow$
 385 $\mu^+ \mu^-$ decay, is of major interest and specific upgrades in the forward regions of
 386 the detector will be required to maximize the physics acceptance on the largest
 387 possible solid angle. To ensure proper trigger performance within the present cov-
 388 erage, the muon system will be completed with new chambers. In figure 2.2 one
 389 can see that the existing Cathode Strip Chambers (CSCs) will be completed by Gas
 390 Electron Multipliers (GEMs) and Resistive Plate Chambers (RPCs) in the pseudo-
 391 rapidity region $1.6 < |\eta| < 2.4$ to complete its redundancy as originally scheduled
 392 in the CMS Technical Proposal [3].

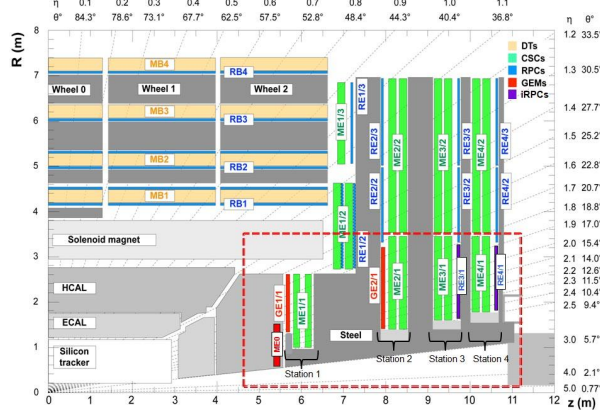


Figure 2.2: A quadrant of the muon system, showing DTs (yellow), RPCs (light blue), and CSCs (green). The locations of new forward muon detectors for Phase-II are contained within the dashed box and indicated in red for GEM stations (ME0, GE1/1, and GE2/1) and dark blue for improved RPC (iRPC) stations (RE3/1 and RE4/1).

393 RPCs are used by the CMS first level trigger for their good timing perfor-
 394 manances. Indeed, a very good bunch crossing identification can be obtained with the
 395 present CMS RPC system, given their fast response of the order of 1 ns. In order
 396 to contribute to the precision of muon momentum measurements, muon chambers
 397 should have a spatial resolution less or comparable to the contribution of multiple
 398 scattering [1]. Most of the plausible physics is covered only considering muons
 399 with $p_T < 100$ GeV thus, in order to match CMS requirements, a spatial resolu-
 400 tion of $\mathcal{O}(\text{few mm})$ the proposed new RPC stations, as shown by the simulation in
 401 figure 2.3. According to preliminary designs, RE3/1 and RE4/1 readout pitch will
 402 be comprised between 3 and 6 mm and 5 η -partitions could be considered.

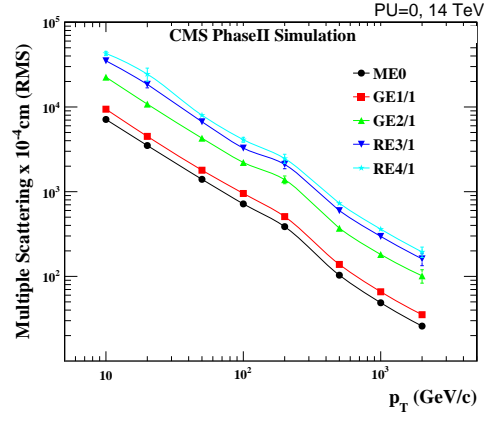


Figure 2.3: RMS of the multiple scattering displacement as a function of muon p_T for the proposed forward muon stations. All of the electromagnetic processes such as bremsstrahlung and magnetic field effect are included in the simulation.

3

403

404

Amplification processes in gaseous detectors

405

406

3.1 Signal formation

407

3.2 Gas transport parameters

4

Resistive Plate Chambers

4.1 Principle

4.2 Rate capability of Resistive Plate Chambers

4.3 High time resolution

4.4 Resistive Plate Chambers at CMS

4.4.1 Overview

The Resistive Plate Chambers (RPC) system, located in both barrel and endcap regions, provides a fast, independent muon trigger with a looser p_T threshold over a large portion of the pseudorapidity range ($|\eta| < 1.6$) [\[add reconstruction\]](#).

During High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) operations the expected conditions in terms of background and pile-up will make the identification and correct P_T assignment a challenge for the Muon system. The goal of RPC upgrade is to provide additional hits to the Muon system with precise timing. All these informations will be elaborated by the trigger system in a global way enhancing the performance of the trigger in terms of efficiency and rate control. The RPC Upgrade is based on two projects: an improved Link Board System and the extension of the RPC coverage up to $|\eta| = 2.4$. [\[FIXME 2.4 or 2.5?\]](#)

427 The Link Board system, that will be described in section xxx, is responsible to
 428 process, synchronize and zero-suppress the signals coming from the RPC front end
 429 boards. The Link Board components have been produced between 2006 and 2007
 430 and will be subjected to aging and failure in the long term. The upgraded Link
 431 Board system will overcome the aging problems described in section xxx and will
 432 allow for a more precise timing information to the RPC hits from 25 to 1 ns [ref
 433 section xxx].

434 The extension of the RPC system up to $|\eta| = 2.1$ was already planned in the
 435 CMS TDR [ref cmstdr] and staged because of budget limitations and expected
 436 background rates higher than the rate capability of the present CMS RPCs in that
 437 region. An extensive R&D program has been done in order to develop an improved
 438 RPC that fulfills the CMS requirements. Two new RPC layers in the innermost ring
 439 of stations 3 and 4 will be added with benefits to the neutron-induced background
 440 reduction and efficiency improvement for both trigger and offline reconstruction.

441 4.4.2 The present RPC system

442 The RPC system is organized in 4 stations called RB1 to RB4 in the barrel region,
 443 and RE1 to RE4 in the endcap region. The innermost barrel stations, RB1 and
 444 RB2, are instrumented with 2 layers of RPCs facing the innermost (RB1in and
 445 RB2in) and outermost (RB1out and RB2out) sides of the DT chambers. Every
 446 chamber is then divided from the read-out point of view into 2 or 3 η partitions
 447 called “rolls”. The RPC system consist of 480 barrel chambers and 576 endcap
 448 chambers. Details on the geometry are discussed in the paper [ref to geo paper].

449 The CMS RPC chamber is a double-gap, operated in avalanche mode to ensure
 450 reliable operation at high rates. Each RPC gap consists of two 2-mm-thick resistive
 451 High-Pressure Laminate (HPL) plates separated by a 2-mm-thick gas gap. The
 452 outer surface of the HPL plates is coated with a thin conductive graphite layer, and
 453 a voltage is applied. The RPCs are operated with a 3-component, non-flammable
 454 gas mixture consisting of 95.2% freon ($C_2H_2F_4$, known as R134a), 4.5% isobutane
 455 ($i-C_4H_{10}$), and 0.3% sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6) with a relative humidity of 40% -
 456 50%. Readout strips are aligned in η between the 2 gas gaps. [\[Add a sentence on](#)
 457 [FEBS.\]](#)

458 The discriminated signals coming from the Front End boards feed via twisted
 459 cables (10 to 20 m long) the Link Board System located in UXC on the balconies
 460 around the detector. The Link System consist of the 1376 Link Boards (LBs)
 461 and the 216 Control Boards (CBs), placed in 108 Link Boxes. The Link Box
 462 is a custom crate (6U high) with 20 slots (for two CBs and eighteen LBs). The
 463 Link Box contains custom backplane to which the cables from the chambers are
 464 connected, as well as the cables providing the LBs and CBs power supply and the
 465 cables for the RPC FEBS control with use of the I2C protocol (through the CB). The

backplane itself contains only connectors (and no any other electronic devices).

The Link Board has 96 input channels (one channel corresponds to one RPC strip). The input signals are the ~ 100 ns binary pulses which are synchronous to the RPC hits, but not to the LHC clock (which drives the entire CMS electronics). Thus the first step of the FEB signals processing is synchronization, i.e. assignment of the signals to the BXes (25 ns periods). Then the data are compressed with a simple zero-suppressing algorithm (the input channels are grouped into 8 bit partitions, only the partitions with at least one nonzero bit are selected for each BX). Next, the non-empty partitions are time-multiplexed i.e. if there are more than one such partition in a given BX, they are sent one-by-one in consecutive BXes. The data from 3 neighbouring LBs are concentrated by the middle LB which contains the optical transmitter for sending them to the USC over a fiber at 1.6 Gbps.

The Control Boards provide the communication of the control software with the LBs via the FEC/CCU system. The CBs are connected into token rings, each ring consists of 12 CBs of one detector tower and a FEC mezzanine board placed on the CCS board located in the VME crate in the USC. In total, there are 18 rings in the entire Link System. The CBs also perform automatic reloading of the LB's firmware which is needed in order to avoid accumulation of the radiation induced SEUs in the LBs firmware.

Both LBs and CB are based on the Xilinx Spartan III FPGAs, the CB additionally contains radiation-tolerant (FLASH based) FPGA Actel ProAsicPlus.

The High Voltage power system is located in USC, not exposed to radiation and easily accessible for any reparation. A single HV channel powers 2 RPC chambers both in the barrel and endcap regions. The Low Voltage boards are located in UXC on the balconies and provide the voltage to the front end electronics.

4.4.3 Pulse processing of CMS RPCs

Signals induced by cosmic particle in the RPC strips are shaped by standard CMS RPC Front-End Electronics (FEE) following the scheme of Figure 4.1. On a first stage, analogic signals are amplified and then sent to the Constant Fraction Discriminator (CFD) described in Figure 4.2. At the end of the chain, 100 ns long pulses are sent in the LVDS output. These output signal are sent on one side to a V1190A Time-to-Digital Converter (TDC) module from CAEN and on the other to an OR module to count the number of detected signals. Trigger and hit coincidences are monitored using scalers. The TDC is used to store the data into ROOT files. These files are thus analysed to understand the detectors performance.

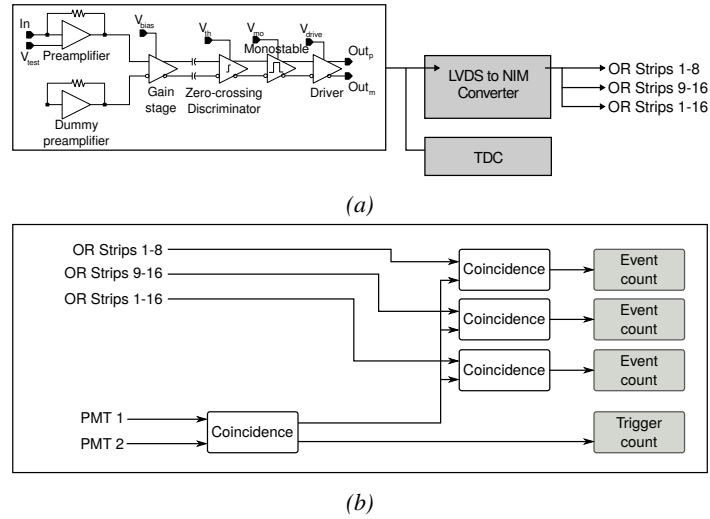


Figure 4.1: Signals from the RPC strips are shaped by the FEE described on Figure 4.1a. Output LVDS signals are then read-out by a TDC module connected to a computer or converted into NIM and sent to scalars. Figure 4.1b describes how these converted signals are put in coincidence with the trigger.

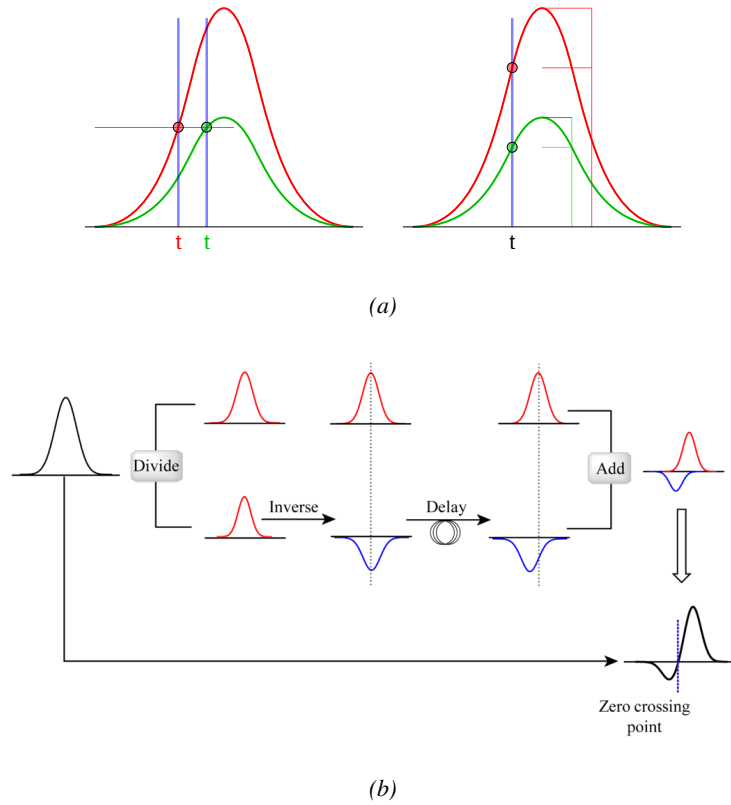


Figure 4.2: Description of the principle of a CFD. A comparison of threshold triggering (left) and constant fraction triggering (right) is shown in Figure 4.2a. Constant fraction triggering is obtained thanks to zero-crossing technique as explained in Figure 4.2b. The signal arriving at the input of the CFD is split into three components. A first one is delayed and connected to the inverting input of a first comparator. A second component is connected to the noninverting input of this first comparator. A third component is connected to the noninverting input of another comparator along with a threshold value connected to the inverting input. Finally, the output of both comparators is fed through an AND gate.

5

501

502 Longevity studies and Consolidation of 503 the present CMS RPC subsystem

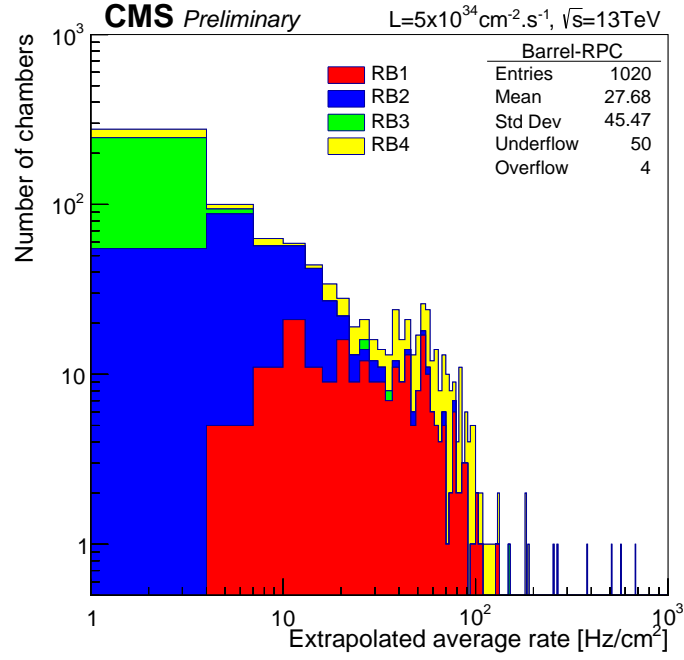
504 5.1 Testing detectors under extreme conditions

505 The upgrade from LHC to HL-LHC will increase the peak luminosity from 10^{34}
506 $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ to reach $5 \times 10^{34} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, increasing in the same way the total ex-
507 pected background to which the RPC system will be subjected to. Composed of
508 low energy gammas and neutrons from p - p collisions, low momentum primary
509 and secondary muons, punch-through hadrons from calorimeters, and particles pro-
510 duced in the interaction of the beams with collimators, the background will mostly
511 affect the regions of CMS that are the closest to the beam line, i.e. the RPC detec-
512 tors located in the endcaps. [\[To update.\]](#)

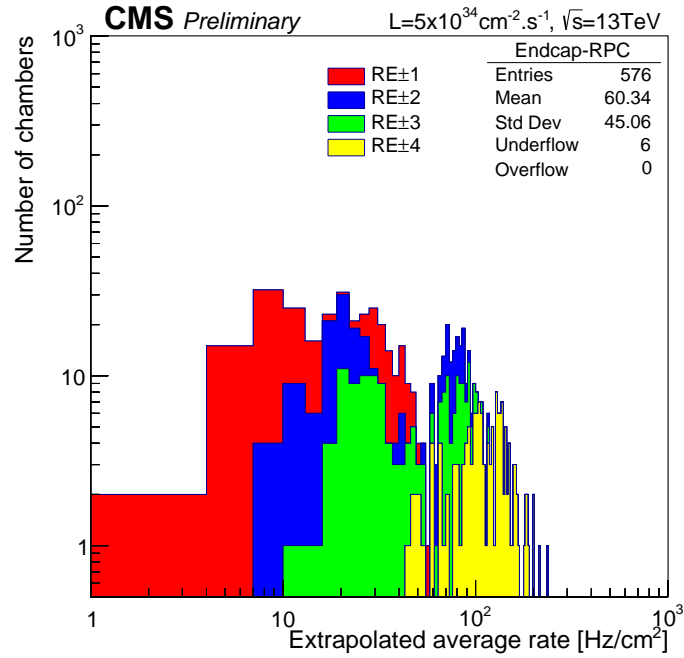
513

514 The 2016 data allowed to study the values of the background rate in all RPC
515 system. In Figure 5.1, the distribution of the chamber background hit rate per unit
516 area is shown at a luminosity of $5 \times 10^{34} \text{cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ linearly extrapolating from
517 data collected in 2016 [\[ref mentioning the linear dependency of rate vs lumi\]](#). The
518 maximum rate per unit area at HL-LHC conditions is expected to be of the or-
519 der of $600 \text{Hz}/\text{cm}^2$ (including a safety factor 3). Nevertheless, Fluka simulations
520 have conducted in order to understand the background at HL-LHC conditions. The
521 comparison to the data has shown, in Figure 5.2, a discrepancy of a factor 2 even
522 though the order of magnitude is consistent. [\[Understand mismatch.\]](#)

523



(a)



(b)

Figure 5.1: (5.1a) Extrapolation from 2016 data of single hit rate per unit area in the barrel region. (5.1b) Extrapolation from 2016 data of single hit rate per unit area in the endcap region.

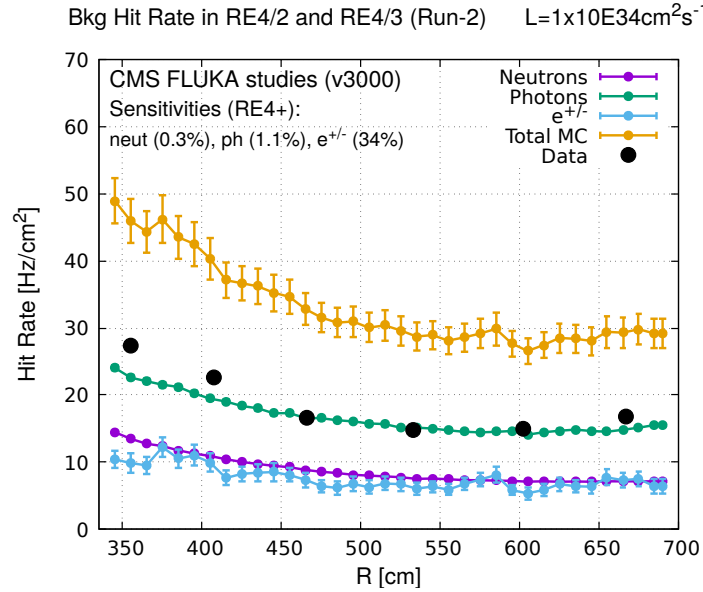


Figure 5.2: Background Fluka simulation compared to 2016 Data at $L = 10^{34} \text{cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ in the fourth endcap disk region. A mismatch in between simulation and data can be observed. [To be understood.]

In the past, extensive long-term tests were carried out at several gamma and neutron facilities certifying the detector performance. Both full size and small prototype RPCs have been irradiated with photons up to an integrated charge of $\sim 0.05 \text{C}/\text{cm}^2$ and $\sim 0.4 \text{C}/\text{cm}^2$, respectively [4, 5]. During Run-I, the RPC system provided stable operation and excellent performance and did not show any aging effects for integrated charge of the order of $0.01 \text{C}/\text{cm}^2$. Projections on currents from 2016 Data, has allowed to determine that the total integrated charge, by the end of HL-LHC, would be of the order of $1 \text{C}/\text{cm}^2$ (including a safety factor 3). [Corresponding figure needed.]

5.1.1 The Gamma Irradiation Facilities

5.1.1.1 GIF

Located in the SPS West Area at the downstream end of the X5 test beam, the Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF) was a test area in which particle detectors were exposed to a particle beam in presence of an adjustable gamma background [6]. Its goal was to reproduce background conditions these detectors would suffer in their operating environment at LHC. GIF layout is shown in Figure 5.3. Gamma

541 photons are produced by a strong ^{137}Cs source installed in the upstream part of the
 542 zone inside a lead container. The source container includes a collimator, designed
 543 to irradiate a $6 \times 6 \text{ m}^2$ area at 5 m maximum to the source. A thin lens-shaped lead
 544 filter helps providing with a uniform outcoming flux in a vertical plane, orthogonal
 545 to the beam direction. The principal collimator hole provides a pyramidal aperture
 546 of $74^\circ \times 74^\circ$ solid angle and provides a photon flux in a pyramidal volume along
 547 the beam axis. The photon rate is controlled by further lead filters allowing the
 548 maximum rate to be limited and to vary within a range of four orders of magni-
 549 tude. Particle detectors under test are then placed within the pyramidal volume
 550 in front of the source, perpendicularly to the beam line in order to profit from the
 551 homogeneous photon flux. Adjusting the background flux of photons can then be
 552 done by using the filters and choosing the position of the detectors with respect to
 553 the source.

554

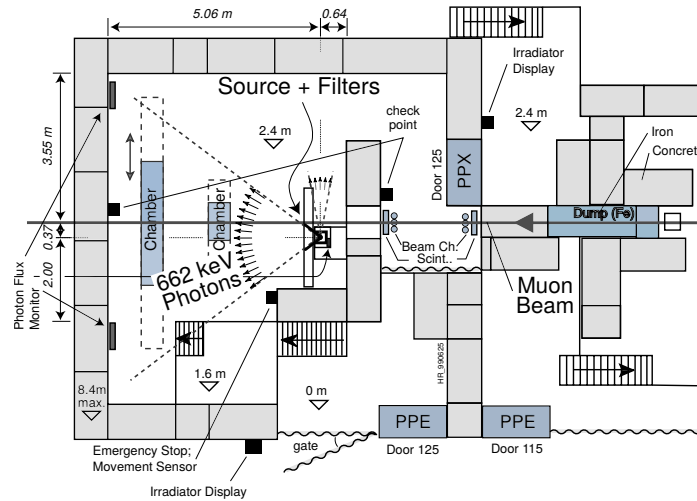


Figure 5.3: Layout of the test beam zone called X5c GIF at CERN. Photons from the radioactive source produce a sustained high rate of random hits over the whole area. The zone is surrounded by 8 m high and 80 cm thick concrete walls. Access is possible through three entry points. Two access doors for personnel and one large gate for material. A crane allows installation of heavy equipment in the area.

555 As described on Figure 5.4, the ^{137}Cs source emits a 662 keV photon in 85%
 556 of the decays. An activity of 740 GBq was measured on the 5th March 1997. To
 557 estimate the strength of the flux in 2014, it is necessary to consider the nuclear
 558 decay through time associated to the Cesium source whose half-life is well known
 559 ($t_{1/2} = (30.05 \pm 0.08) \text{ y}$). The GIF tests were done in between the 20th and the
 560 31st of August 2014, i.e. at a time $t = (17.47 \pm 0.02) \text{ y}$ resulting in an attenuation

of the activity from 740 GBq in 1997 to 494 GBq in 2014.

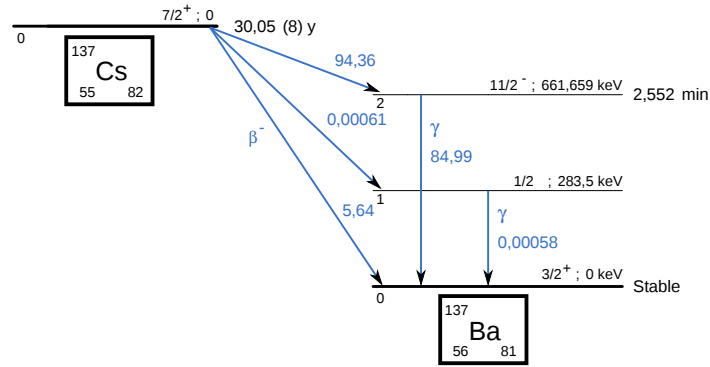


Figure 5.4: ^{137}Cs decays by β^- emission to the ground state of ^{137}Ba (BR = 5.64%) and via the 662 keV isomeric level of ^{137}Ba (BR = 94.36%) whose half-life is 2.55 min.

5.1.1.2 GIF++

The new Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF++), located in the SPS North Area at the downstream end of the H4 test beam, has replaced its predecessor during LS1 and has been operational since spring 2015 [7]. Like GIF, GIF++ features a ^{137}Cs source of 662 keV gamma photons, their fluence being controlled with a set of filters of various attenuation factors. The source provides two separated large irradiation areas for testing several full-size muon detectors with continuous homogeneous irradiation, as presented in Figure 5.5.

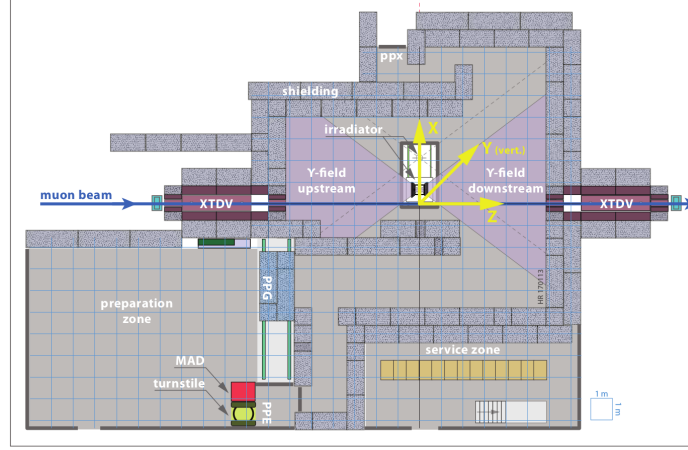


Figure 5.5: Floor plan of the GIF++ facility. When the facility downstream of the GIF++ takes electron beam, a beam pipe is installed along the beam line (z -axis). The irradiator can be displaced laterally (its center moves from $x = 0.65$ m to 2.15 m), to increase the distance to the beam pipe.

572 The source activity was measured to be about 13.5 TBq in March 2016. The
 573 photon flux being far greater than HL-LHC expectations, GIF++ provides an ex-
 574 cellent facility for accelerated aging tests of muon detectors.
 575

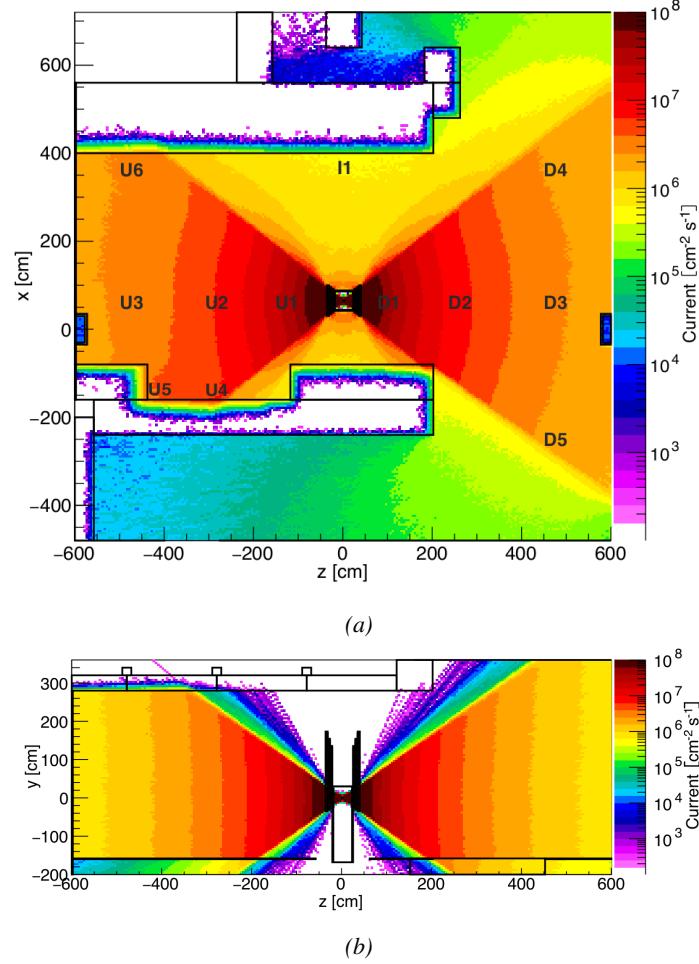


Figure 5.6: Simulated unattenuated current of photons in the xz plane (Figure 5.6a) and yz plane (Figure 5.6b) through the source at $x=0.65$ m and $y=0$ m. With angular correction filters, the current of 662 keV photons is made uniform in xy planes.

576 The source is situated in the muon beam line with the muon beam being avail-
 577 able a few times a year. The H4 beam, composed of muons with a momentum of
 578 about 150 GeV/c, passes through the GIF++ zone and is used to study the per-
 579 formance of the detectors. Its flux is of 104 particles/s/cm² focused in an area
 580 similar to 10×10 cm². Therefore, with properly adjusted filters, one can imitate
 581 the HL-LHC background and study the performance of muon detectors with their
 582 trigger/readout electronics in HL-LHC environment.

583

5.2 Preliminary tests at GIF

5.2.1 Resistive Plate Chamber test setup

During summer 2014, preliminary tests have been conducted in the GIF area on a newly produced RE4/2 chamber labelled RE-4-2-BARC-161. This chamber has been placed into a trolley covered with a tent. The position of the RPC inside the tent and of the tent related to the source is described in Figure 5.7. To test this CMS RPC, three different absorber settings were used. First of all, measurements were done with fully opened source. Then, to complete this preliminary study, the gamma flux has been attenuated from a factor 2 and a factor 5. The expected gamma flux at the level of our detector will be discussed in subsection 5.2.4.

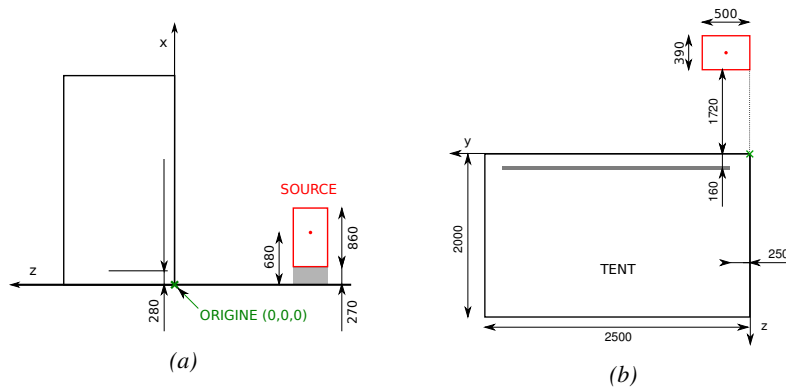


Figure 5.7: Description of the RPC setup. Dimensions are given in mm. A tent containing RPCs is placed at 1720 mm from the source container. The source is situated in the center of the container. RE-4-2-BARC-161 chamber is 160 mm inside the tent. This way, the distance between the source and the chambers plan is 2060 mm. Figure 5.7a provides a side view of the setup in the xz plane while Figure 5.7b shows a top view in the yz plane.

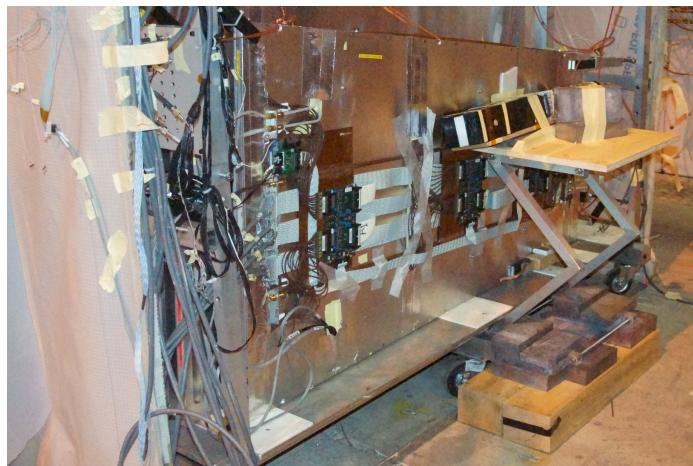


Figure 5.8: RE-4-2-BARC-161 chamber is inside the tent as described in Figure 5.7. In the top right, the two scintillators used as trigger can be seen. This trigger system has an inclination of 10° relative to horizontal and is placed above half-partition B2 of the RPCs. PMT electronics are shielded thanks to lead blocks placed in order to protect them without stopping photons from going through the scintillators and the chamber.

594 At the time of the tests, the beam not being operationnal anymore, a trigger
 595 composed of 2 plastic scintillators has been placed in front of the setup with an
 596 inclination of 10 deg with respect to the detector plane in order to look at cosmic
 597 muons. Using this particular trigger layout, shown on Figure 5.8, leads to a cosmic
 598 muon hit distribution into the chamber similar to the one in Figure 5.9. Measured
 599 without gamma irradiation, two peaks can be seen on the profil of partition B, cen-
 600 tered on strips 52 and 59. Section 5.2.3 will help us undertand that these two peaks
 601 are due respectively to forward and backward coming cosmic particles where for-
 602 ward coming particles are first detected by the scintillators and then the RPC while
 603 the backward coming muons are first detected in the RPC.

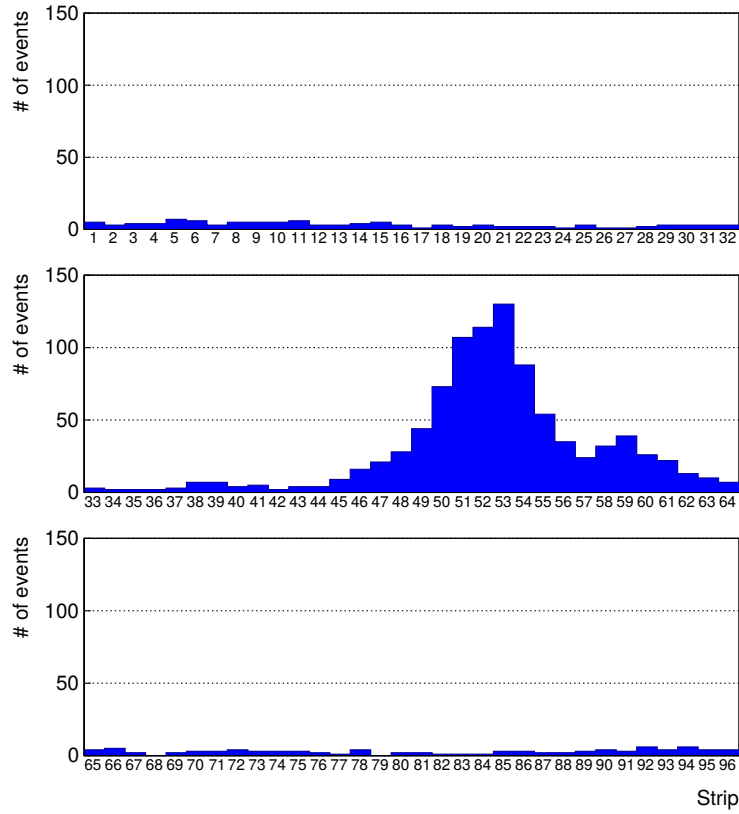


Figure 5.9: Hit distributions over all 3 partitions of RE-4-2-BARC-161 chamber is showed on these plots. Top, middle and bottom figures respectively correspond to partitions A, B, and C. These plots show that some events still occur in other half-partitions than B2, which corresponds to strips 49 to 64, in front of which the trigger is placed, contributing to the inefficiency of detection of cosmic muons. In the case of partitions A and C, the very low amount of data can be interpreted as noise. On the other hand, it is clear that a little portion of muons reach the half-partition B1, corresponding to strips 33 to 48.

5.2.2 Data Acquisition

5.2.3 Geometrical acceptance of the setup layout to cosmic muons

In order to profit from a constant gamma irradiation, the detectors inside of the GIF bunker need to be placed in a plane orthogonal to the beam line. The muon beam that used to be available was meant to test the performance of detectors under test. This beam not being active anymore, another solution to test detector performance had to be used. Thus, it has been decided to use cosmic muons detected through

a telescope composed of two scintillators. Lead blocks were used as shielding to protect the photomultipliers from gammas as can be seen from Figure 5.8.

An inclination has been given to the cosmic telescope to maximize the muon flux. A good compromise had to be found between good enough muon flux and narrow enough hit distribution to be sure to contain all the events into only one half partitions as required from the limited available readout hardware. Nevertheless, a consequence of the misplaced trigger, that can be seen as a loss of events in half-partition B1 in Figure 5.9, is an inefficiency. Nevertheless, the inefficiency of approximately 20 % highlighted in Figure 5.10 by comparing the performance of chamber BARC-161 in 904 and at GIF without irradiation seems too important to be explained only by the geometrical acceptance of the setup itself. Simulations have been conducted to show how the setup brings inefficiency.

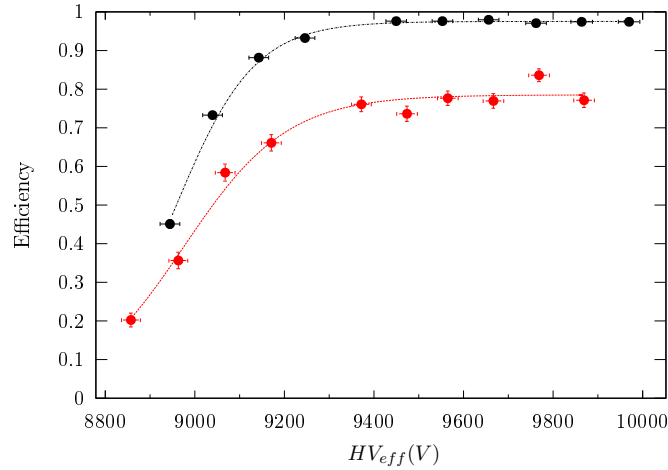


Figure 5.10: Results are derived from data taken on half-partition B2 only. On the 18th of June 2014, data has been taken on chamber RE-2-BARC-161 at building 904 (Preveessin Site) with cosmic muons providing us a reference efficiency plateau of $(97.54 \pm 0.15)\%$ represented by a black curve. A similar measurement has been done at GIF on the 21st of July with the same chamber giving a plateau of $(78.52 \pm 0.94)\%$ represented by a red curve.

5.2.3.1 Description of the simulation layout

The layout of GIF setup has been reproduced and incorporated into a Monte Carlo (MC) simulation to study the influence of the disposition of the telescope on the final distribution measured by the RPC. A 3D view of the simulated layout is given into Figure 5.11. Muons are generated randomly in a horizontal plane located at a height corresponding to the lowest point of the PMTs. This way, the needed size of the plane in order to simulate events happening at very big azimuthal angles (i.e.

630 $\theta \approx \pi$) can be kept relatively small. The muon flux is designed to follow the usual
 631 $\cos^2\theta$ distribution for cosmic particle. The goal of the simulation is to look at
 632 muons that pass through the muon telescope composed of the two scintillators and
 633 define their distribution onto the RPC plane. During the reconstruction, the RPC
 634 plane is then divided into its strips and each muon track is assigned to a strip.

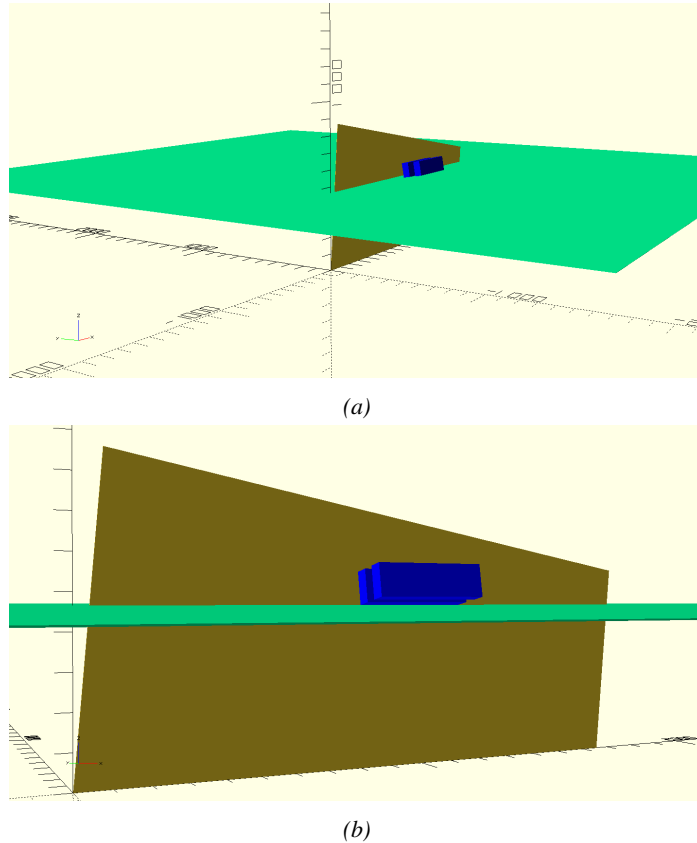


Figure 5.11: Representation of the layout used for the simulations of the test setup. The RPC is represented as a yellow trapezoid while the two scintillators as blue cuboids looking at the sky. A green plane corresponds to the muon generation plane within the simulation. Figure 5.7a shows a global view of the simulated setup. Figure 5.7b shows a zoomed view that allows to see the 2 scintillators as well as the full RPC plane.

635 In order to further refine the quality of the simulation and understand deeper
 636 the results the dependance of the distribution has been studied for a range of tele-
 637 scope inclinations. Moreover, the threshold applied on the PMT signals has been
 638 included into the simulation in the form of a cut. In the approximation of uni-
 639 form scintillators, it has been considered that the threshold can be understood as

the minimum distance particles need to travel through the scintillating material to give a strong enough signal. Particles that travel a distance smaller than the set "threshold" are thus not detected by the telescope and cannot trigger the data taking. Finally, the FEE threshold also has been considered in a similar way. The mean momentum of horizontal cosmic rays is higher than those of vertical ones but the stopping power of matter for momenta ranging from 1 GeV to 1 TeV stays comparable. It is then possible to assume that the mean number of primary e^-/ion pairs per unit length will stay similar and thus, depending on the applied discriminator threshold, muons with the shortest path through the gas volume will deposit less charge and induce a smaller signal on the pick-up strips that could eventually not be detected. These two thresholds also restrain the overall geometrical acceptance of the system.

5.2.3.2 Simulation procedure

The simulation software has been designed using C++ and the output data is saved into ROOT histograms. Simulations start for a threshold T_{scint} varying in a range from 0 to 45 mm in steps of 5 mm, where $T_{scint} = 0$ mm corresponds to the case where there isn't any threshold apply on the input signal while $T_{scint} = 45$ mm, which is the scintillator thickness, is the case where muons cannot arrive orthogonally onto the scintillator surface. For a given T_{scint} , a set of RPC thresholds are considered. The RPC threshold, T_{RPC} varies from 2 mm, the thickness of the gas volume, to 3 mm in steps of 0.25 mm. For each $(T_{scint}; T_{RPC})$ pair, $N_\mu = 10^8$ muons are randomly generated inside the muon plane described in the previous paragraph with an azimuthal angle θ chosen to follow a $\cos^2\theta$ distribution.

Planes are associated to each surface of the scintillators. Knowing muon position into the muon plane and its direction allows us, by assuming that muons travel in a straight line, to compute the intersection of the muon track with these planes. Applying conditions to the limits of the surfaces of the scintillator faces then gives us an answer to whether or not the muon passed through the scintillators. In the case the muon has indeed passed through the telescope, the path through each scintillator is computed and muons whose path was shorter than T_{scint} are rejected and are thus considered as having not interacted with the setup.

On the contrary, if the muon is labeled as good, its position within the RPC plane is computed and the corresponding strip, determined by geometrical tests in the case the distance through the gas volume was enough not to be rejected because of T_{RPC} , gets a hit and several histograms are filled in order to keep track of the generation point on the muon plane, the intersection points of the reconstructed muons within the telescope, or on the RPC plane, the path traveled through each individual scintillator or the gas volume, as well as other histograms. Moreover, muons fill different histograms whether they are forward or backward coming muons. They are discriminated according to their direction components.

When a muon is generated, an (x, y, z) position is assigned into the muon plane as well as a $(\theta; \phi)$ pair that gives us the direction it's coming from. This way, muons satisfying the condition $0 \leq \phi < \pi$ are designated as backward coming muons while muons satisfying $\pi \leq \phi < 2\pi$ as forward coming muons.

This simulation is then repeated for different telescope inclinations ranging in between 4 and 20° and varying in steps of 2° . Due to this inclination and to the vertical position of the detector under test, the muon distribution reconstructed in the detector plane is asymmetrical. The choice as been made to chose a skew distribution formula to fit the data built as the multiplication of gaussian and sigmoidal curves together. A typical gaussian formula is given as 5.1 and has three free parameters as A_g , its amplitude, \bar{x} , its mean value and σ , its root mean square. Sigmoidal curves as given by formula 5.2 are functions converging to 0 and A_s as x diverges. The inflexion point is given as x_i and λ is proportional to the slope at $x = x_i$. In the limit where $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$, the sigmoid becomes a step function.

$$g(x) = A_g e^{\frac{-(x-\bar{x})^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad (5.1)$$

$$s(x) = \frac{A_s}{1 + e^{-\lambda(x-x_i)}} \quad (5.2)$$

Finally, a possible representation of a skew distribution is given by formula 5.3 and is the product of 5.1 and 5.2. Naturally, here $A_{sk} = A_g \times A_s$ and represents the theoretical maximum in the limit where the skew tends to a gaussian function.

$$sk(x) = g(x) \times s(x) = A_{sk} \frac{e^{\frac{-(x-\bar{x})^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{1 + e^{-\lambda(x-x_i)}} \quad (5.3)$$

5.2.3.3 Results

Influence of T_{scint} on the muon distribution

Influence of T_{RPC} on the muon distribution

Influence of the telescope inclination on the muon distribution

Comparison to data taken at GIF without irradiation

5.2.4 Photon flux at GIF

5.2.4.1 Expectations from simulations

In order to understand and evaluate the γ flux in the GIF area, simulations had been conducted in 1999 and published by S. Agosteo et al [6]. Table 5.1 presented in this article gives us the γ flux for different distances D to the source. This simulation was done using GEANT and a Monte Carlo N-Particle (MCNP) transport code, and the flux F is given in number of γ per unit area and unit time along with the estimated error from these packages expressed in %.

Nominal ABS	Photon flux F [$s^{-1}cm^{-2}$]			
	at $D = 50$ cm	at $D = 155$ cm	at $D = 300$ cm	at $D = 400$ cm
1	$0.12 \cdot 10^8 \pm 0.2\%$	$0.14 \cdot 10^7 \pm 0.5\%$	$0.45 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.5\%$	$0.28 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.5\%$
2	$0.68 \cdot 10^7 \pm 0.3\%$	$0.80 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.8\%$	$0.25 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.8\%$	$0.16 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.6\%$
5	$0.31 \cdot 10^7 \pm 0.4\%$	$0.36 \cdot 10^6 \pm 1.2\%$	$0.11 \cdot 10^6 \pm 1.2\%$	$0.70 \cdot 10^5 \pm 0.9\%$

Table 5.1: Total photon flux ($E\gamma \leq 662$ keV) with statistical error predicted considering a ^{137}Cs activity of 740 GBq at different values of the distance D to the source along the x -axis of irradiation field [6].

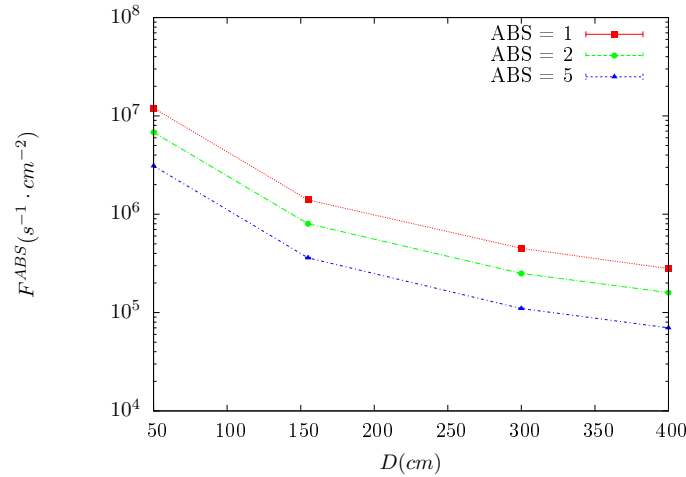


Figure 5.12: γ flux $F(D)$ is plot using values from table 5.1. As expected, the plot shows similar attenuation behaviours with increasing distance for each absorption factors.

The simulation doesn't directly provides us with an estimated flux at the level of our RPC. First of all, it is needed to extract the value of the flux from the available data contained in the original paper and then to estimate the flux in 2014 at the time the experimentation took place. Figure 5.12 that contains the data from

Table 5.1. In the case of a pointlike source emitting isotrope and homogeneous gamma radiations, the gamma flux F at a distance D to the source with respect to a reference point situated at D_0 where a known flux F_0 is measured will be expressed like in Equation 5.4, assuming that the flux decreases as $1/D^2$, where c is a fitting factor.

$$F^{ABS} = F_0^{ABS} \times \left(\frac{cD_0}{D} \right)^2 \quad (5.4)$$

By rewriting Equation 5.4, it comes that :

$$c = \frac{D}{D_0} \sqrt{\frac{F^{ABS}}{F_0^{ABS}}} \quad (5.5)$$

$$\Delta c = \frac{c}{2} \left(\frac{\Delta F^{ABS}}{F^{ABS}} + \frac{\Delta F_0^{ABS}}{F_0^{ABS}} \right) \quad (5.6)$$

Finally, using Equation 5.5 and the data in Table 5.1 with $D_0 = 50$ cm as reference point, we can build Table 5.2. It is interesting to note that c for each value of D doesn't depend on the absorption factor.

Nominal ABS	Correction factor c		
	at $D = 155$ cm	at $D = 300$ cm	at $D = 400$ cm
1	$1.059 \pm 0.70\%$	$1.162 \pm 0.70\%$	$1.222 \pm 0.70\%$
2	$1.063 \pm 1.10\%$	$1.150 \pm 1.10\%$	$1.227 \pm 0.90\%$
5	$1.056 \pm 1.60\%$	$1.130 \pm 1.60\%$	$1.202 \pm 1.30\%$

Table 5.2: Correction factor c is computed thanks to formulae 5.5 taking as reference $D_0 = 50$ cm and the associated flux F_0^{ABS} for each absorption factor available in table 5.1.

For the range of D/D_0 values available, it is possible to use a simple linear fit to get the evolution of c . The linear fit will then use only 2 free parameters, a and b , as written in Equation 5.7. This gives us the results showed in Figure 5.13. Figure 5.13b confirms that using only a linear fit to extract c is enough as the evolution of the rate that can be obtained superimposes well on the simulation points.

$$c \left(\frac{D}{D_0} \right) = a \frac{D}{D_0} + b \quad (5.7)$$

$$F^{ABS} = F_0^{ABS} \left(a + \frac{bD_0}{D} \right)^2 \quad (5.8)$$

$$\Delta F^{ABS} = F^{ABS} \left[\frac{\Delta F_0^{ABS}}{F_0^{ABS}} + 2 \frac{\Delta a + \Delta b \frac{D_0}{D}}{a + \frac{bD_0}{D}} \right] \quad (5.9)$$

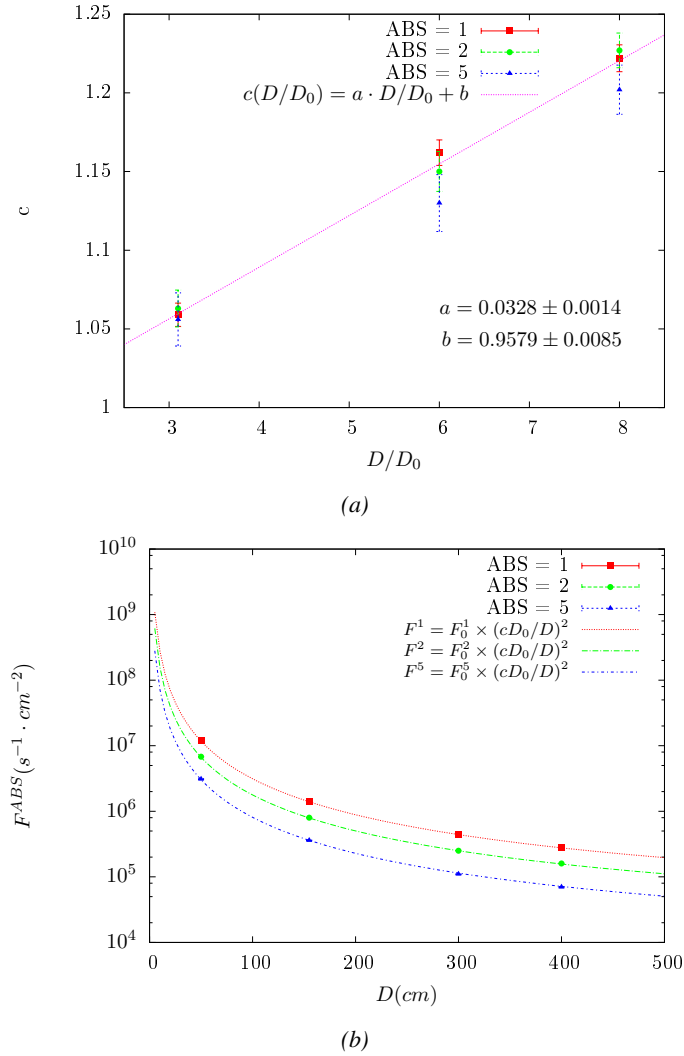


Figure 5.13: Figure 5.13a shows the linear approximation fit done via formulae 5.7 on data from table 5.2. Figure 5.13b shows a comparison of this model with the simulated flux using a and b given in figure 5.13a in formulae 5.4 and the reference value $D_0 = 50cm$ and the associated flux for each absorption factor F_0^{ABS} from table 5.1

729 In the case of the 2014 GIF tests, the RPC plane is located at a distance
 730 $D = 206 cm$ to the source. Moreover, to estimate the strength of the flux in 2014,
 731 it is necessary to consider the nuclear decay through time associated to the Cesium
 732 source whose half-life is well known ($t_{1/2} = (30.05 \pm 0.08) y$). The very first
 733 source activity measurement has been done on the 5th of March 1997 while the

GIF tests were done in between the 20th and the 31st of August 2014, i.e. at a time $t = (17.47 \pm 0.02)$ y resulting in an attenuation of the activity from 740 GBq in 1997 to 494 GBq in 2014. All the needed information to extrapolate the flux through our detector in 2014 has now been assembled, leading to the Table 5.3. It is interesting to note that for a common RPC sensitivity to γ of $2 \cdot 10^{-3}$, the order of magnitude of the estimated hit rate per unit area is of the order of the kHz for the fully opened source. Moreover, taking profit of the two working absorbers, it will be possible to scan background rates at 0 Hz, ~ 300 Hz as well as ~ 600 Hz. Without source, a good estimate of the intrinsic performance will be available. Then at 300 Hz, the goal will be to show that the detectors fulfill the performance certification of CMS RPCs. Then a first idea of the performance of the detectors at higher background will be provided with absorption factors 2 (~ 600 Hz) and 1 (no absorption). *[Here I will also put a reference to the plot showing the estimated background rate at the level of RE3/1 in the case of HL-LHC but this one being in another chapter, I will do it later.]*

Nominal ABS	Photon flux F [$\text{s}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-2}$]			Hit rate/unit area [Hz cm^{-2}] at $D^{2014} = 206$ cm
	at $D_0^{1997} = 50$ cm	at $D^{1997} = 206$ cm	at $D^{2014} = 206$ cm	
1	$0.12 \cdot 10^8 \pm 0.2\%$	$0.84 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.3\%$	$0.56 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.3\%$	1129 ± 32
2	$0.68 \cdot 10^7 \pm 0.3\%$	$0.48 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.3\%$	$0.32 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.3\%$	640 ± 19
5	$0.31 \cdot 10^7 \pm 0.4\%$	$0.22 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.3\%$	$0.15 \cdot 10^6 \pm 0.3\%$	292 ± 9

Table 5.3: The data at D_0 in 1997 is taken from [6]. In a second step, using Equations 5.8 and 5.9, the flux at D can be estimated in 1997. Then, taking into account the attenuation of the source activity, the flux at D can be estimated at the time of the tests in GIF in 2014. Finally, assuming a sensitivity of the RPC to γ $s = 2 \cdot 10^{-3}$, an estimation of the hit rate per unit area is obtained.

749 **5.2.4.2 Dose measurements**

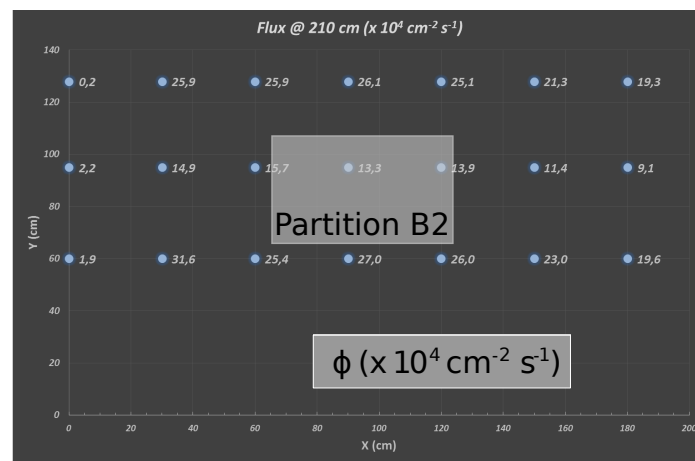


Figure 5.14: Dose measurements has been done in a plane corresponding to the tents front side. This plan is 1900 mm away from the source. As explained in the first chapter, a lens-shaped lead filter provides a uniform photon flux in the vertical plan orthogonal to the beam direction. If the second line of measured fluxes is not taken into account because of lower values due to experimental equipments in the way between the source and the tent, the uniformity of the flux is well showed by the results.

5.2.5 Results and discussions

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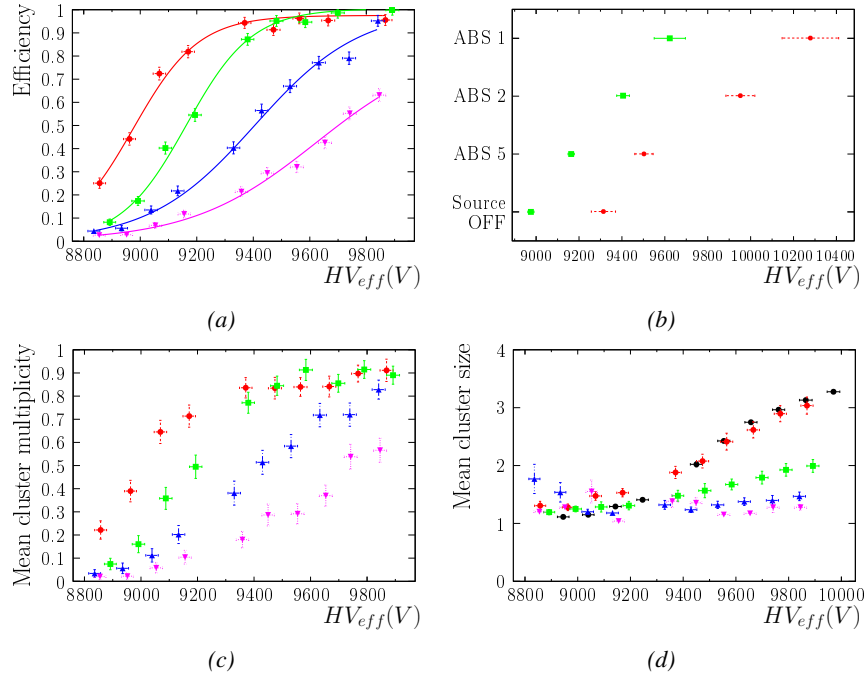


Figure 5.15

5.3 Longevity tests at GIF++

Longevity studies imply a monitoring of the performance of the detectors probed using a high intensity muon beam in a irradiated environment by periodically measuring their rate capability, the dark current running through them and the bulk resistivity of the Bakelite composing their electrodes. GIF++, with its very intense ^{137}Cs source, provides the perfect environment to perform such kind of tests. Assuming a maximum acceleration factor of 3, it is expected to accumulate the equivalent charge in 1.7 years.

As the maximum background is found in the endcap, the choice naturally was made to focus the GIF++ longevity studies on endcap chambers. Most of the RPC system was installed in 2007. Nevertheless, the large chambers in the fourth endcap (RE4/2 and RE4/3) have been installed during LS1 in 2014. The Bakelite of these two different productions having different properties, four spare chambers of the present system were selected, two RE2,3/2 spares and two RE4/2 spares. Having two chambers of each type allows to always keep one of them non irradiated as reference, the performance evolution of the irradiated chamber being then compared through time to the performance of the non irradiated one.

The performance of the detectors under different level of irradiation is measured periodically during dedicated test beam periods using the H4 muon beam. In between these test beam periods, the two RE2,3/2 and RE4/2 chambers selected for this study are irradiated by the ^{137}Cs source in order to accumulate charge and the gamma background is monitored, as well as the currents. The two remaining chambers are kept non-irradiated as reference detectors. Due to the limited gas flow in GIF++, the RE4 chamber remained non-irradiated until end of November 2016 where a new mass flow controller has been installed allowing for bigger volumes of gas to flow in the system.

Figures 5.16 and 5.17 give us for different test beam periods, and thus for increasing integrated charge through time, a comparison of the maximum efficiency, obtained using a sigmoid-like function, and of the working point of both irradiated and non irradiated chambers [8]. No aging is yet to see from this data, the shifts in γ rate per unit area in between irradiated and non irradiated detectors and RE2 and RE4 types being easily explained by a difference of sensitivity due to the various Bakelite resistivities of the HPL electrodes used for the electrode production.

Collecting performance data at each test beam period allows us to extrapolate the maximum efficiency for a background hit rate of 300 Hz/cm^2 corresponding to the expected HL-LHC conditions. Aging effects could emerge from a loss of efficiency with increasing integrated charge over time, thus Figure 5.18 helps us understand such degradation of the performance of irradiated detectors in comparison with non irradiated ones. The final answer for an eventual loss of efficiency is given in Figure 5.19 by comparing for both irradiated and non irradiated detectors

the efficiency sigmoids before and after the longevity study. Moreover, to complete the performance information, the Bakelite resistivity is regularly measured thanks to Ag scans (Figure 5.20) and the noise rate is monitored weekly during irradiation periods (Figure 5.21). At the end of 2016, no signs of aging were observed and further investigation is needed to get closer to the final integrated charge requirements proposed for the longevity study of the present CMS RPC sub-system.

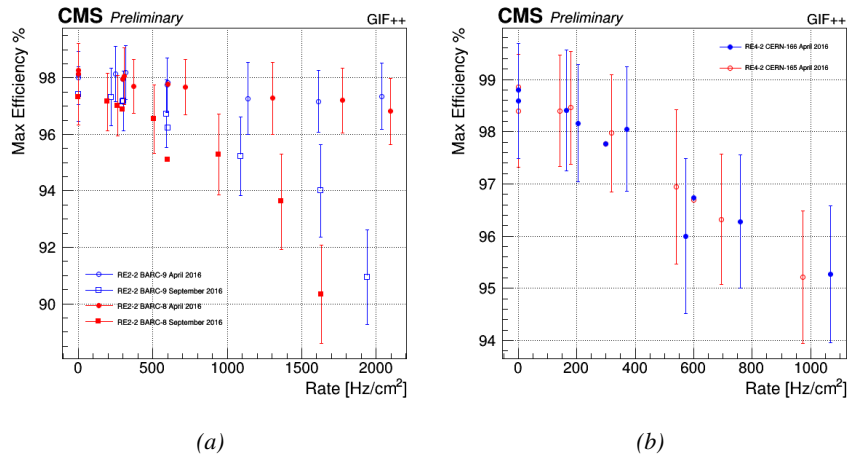


Figure 5.16: Evolution of the maximum efficiency for RE2 (5.16a) and RE4 (5.16b) chambers with increasing extrapolated γ rate per unit area at working point. Both irradiated (blue) and non irradiated (red) chambers are shown.

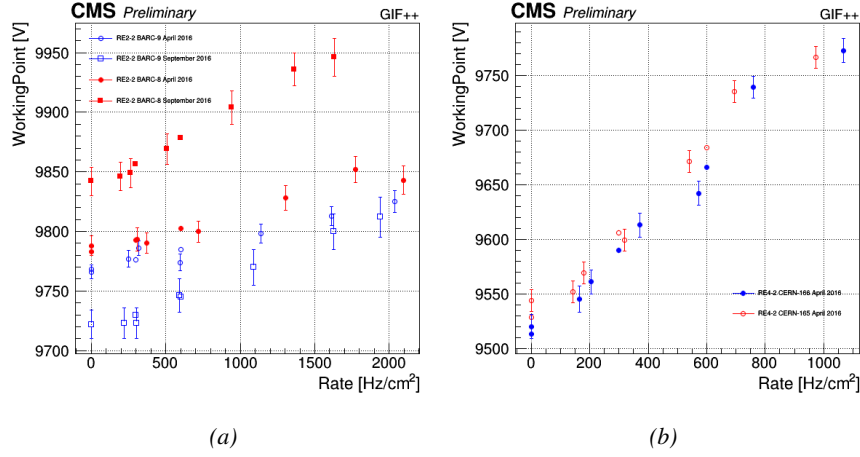


Figure 5.17: Evolution of the working point for RE2 (5.17a) and RE4 (5.17b) with increasing extrapolated γ rate per unit area at working point. Both irradiated (blue) and non irradiated (red) chambers are shown.

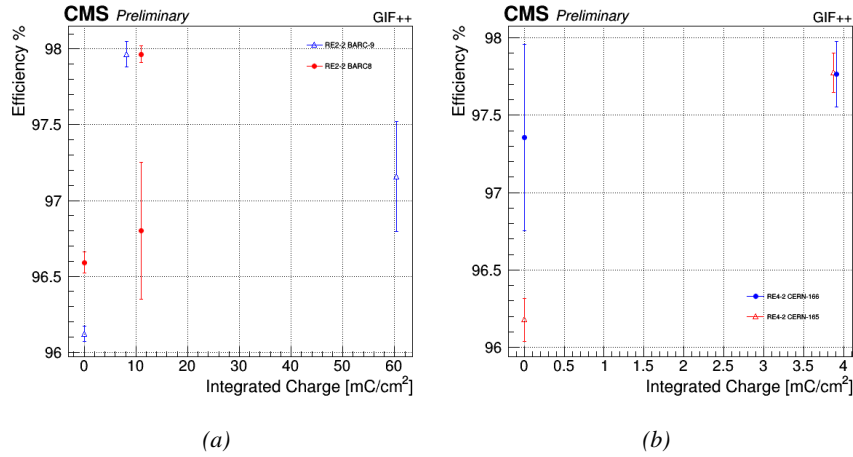


Figure 5.18: Evolution of the maximum efficiency at HL-LHC conditions, i.e. a background hit rate per unit area of 300 Hz/cm², with increasing integrated charge for RE2 (5.18a) and RE4 (5.18b) detectors. Both irradiated (blue) and non irradiated (red) chambers are shown. The integrated charge for non irradiated detectors is recorded during test beam periods and stays small with respect to the charge accumulated in irradiated chambers.

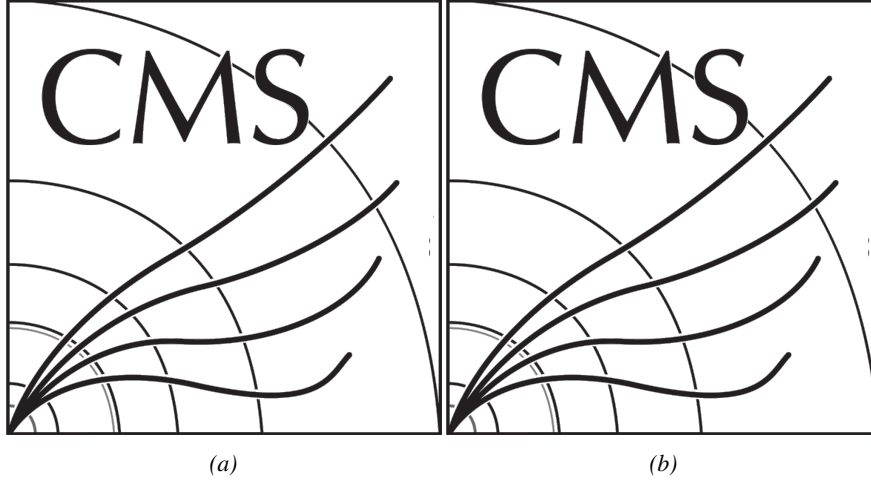


Figure 5.19: Comparison of the efficiency sigmoid before (triangles) and after (circles) irradiation for RE2 (5.19a) and RE4 (5.19b) detectors. Both irradiated (blue) and non irradiated (red) chambers are shown.

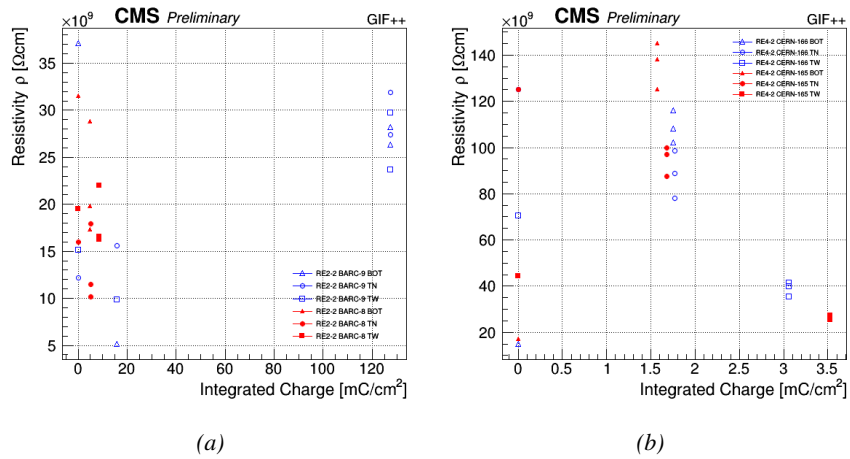


Figure 5.20: Evolution of the Bakelite resistivity for RE2 (5.20a) and RE4 (5.20b) detectors. Both irradiated (blue) and non irradiated (red) chambers are shown.

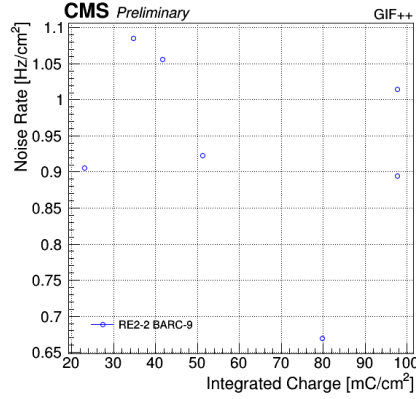


Figure 5.21: Evolution of the noise rate per unit area for the irradiated chamber RE2-2-BARC-9 only.

5.3.1 Description of the Data Acquisition

For the longevity studies, four spare chambers of the present system are used. Two spare RPCs of the RE2,3 stations as well as two spare RPCs from the new RE4 stations have been mounted in a Trolley. Six RE4 gaps are also placed in the trolley. The trolley is placed inside the GIF++ in the upstream region of the bunker, taking the cesium source as a reference. The trolley is oriented for the detection surface of the chambers to be orthogonal to the beam line. The system can be moved along the orthogonal plane in order to have the beam in all η -partitions. For the aging the trolley is moved outside the beam line and is placed in a distance of 5.2 m to the source, which irradiates the bunker using an attenuation filter of 2.2 which corresponds to a fluence of 10^7 gamma/cm².

During GIF++ operation, the data collected can be divided into different categories as several parameters are monitored in addition to the usual RPC performance data. On one hand, to know the performance of a chamber, it is need to measure its efficiency and to know the background conditions in which it is operated. To do this, the hit signals from the chamber are recorded and stored in a ROOT file via a Data Acquisition (DAQ) software. On the other hand, it is also very important to monitor parameters such as environmental pressure and temperature, gas temperature and humidity, RPC HV, LV, and currents, or even source and beam status. This is done through the GIF++ web Detector Control Software (DCS) that stores this information in a database.

Two different types of tests are conducted on RPCs via the DAQ. Indeed, the performance of the detectors is measured periodically during dedicated test beam periods using the H4 muon beam. In between these test beam periods, when the beam is not available, the chambers are irradiated by the ¹³⁷Cs in order to accu-

823 mulate deposited charge and the gamma background is measured.

824 RPCs under test are connected through LVDS cables to V1190A Time-to-
825 Digital Converter (TDC) modules manufactured by CAEN. These modules, lo-
826 cated in the rack area outside of the bunker, get the logic signals sent by the cham-
827 bers and save them into their buffers. Due to the limited size of the buffers, the
828 collected data is regularly erased and replaced. A trigger signal is needed for the
829 TDC modules to send the useful data to the DAQ computer via a V1718 CAEN
830 USB communication module.

831 In the case of performance test, the trigger signal used for data acquisition is
832 generated by the coincidence of three scintillators. A first one is placed upstream
833 outside of the bunker, a second one is placed downstream outside of the bunker,
834 while a third one is placed in front of the trolley, close by the chambers. Every time
835 a trigger is sent to the TDCs, i.e. every time a muon is detected, knowing the time
836 delay in between the trigger and the RPC signals, signals located in the right time
837 window are extracted from the buffers and saved for later analysis. Signals are
838 taken in a time window of 400 ns centered on the muon peak (here we could show
839 a time spectrum). On the other hand, in the case of background rate measurement,
840 the trigger signal needs to be "random" not to measure muons but to look at gamma
841 background. A trigger pulse is continuously generated at a rate of 300 Hz using a
842 dual timer. To integrate an as great as possible time, all signals contained within
843 a time window of 10us prior to the random trigger signal are extracted from the
844 buffers and saved for further analysis (here another time spectrum to illustrate
845 could be useful, maybe even place both spectrum together as a single Figure).

846 The signals sent to the TDCs correspond to hit collections in the RPCs. When a
847 particle hits a RPC, it induce a signal in the pickup strips of the RPC readout. If this
848 signal is higher than the detection threshold, a LVDS signal is sent to the TDCs.
849 The data is then organised into 4 branches keeping track of the event number, the
850 hit multiplicity for the whole setup, and the time and channel profile of the hits in
851 the TDCs.

852 **5.3.2 RPC current, environmental and operation parameter mon-** 853 **itoring**

854 In order to take into account the variation of pressure and temperature between
855 different data taking periods the applied voltage is corrected following the rela-
856 tionship :

$$HV_{eff} = HV_{app} \times \left(0.2 + 0.8 \cdot \frac{P_0}{P} \times \frac{T}{T_0} \right) \quad (5.10)$$

857 where T_0 (=293 K) and P_0 (=990 mbar) are the reference values.

858 **5.3.3 Measurement procedure**

859 Insert a short description of the online tools (DAQ, DCS, DQM).

860 Insert a short description of the offline tools : tracking and efficiency algorithm.

861 Identify long term aging effects we are monitoring the rates per strip.

862 **5.3.4 Longevity studies results**

6

863

864

Investigation on high rate RPCs

865 **6.1 Rate limitations and ageing of RPCs**

866 **6.1.1 Low resistivity electrodes**

867 **6.1.2 Low noise front-end electronics**

868 **6.2 Construction of prototypes**

869 **6.3 Results and discussions**

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870

871

Conclusions and outlooks

872 **7.1 Conclusions**

873 **7.2 Outlooks**

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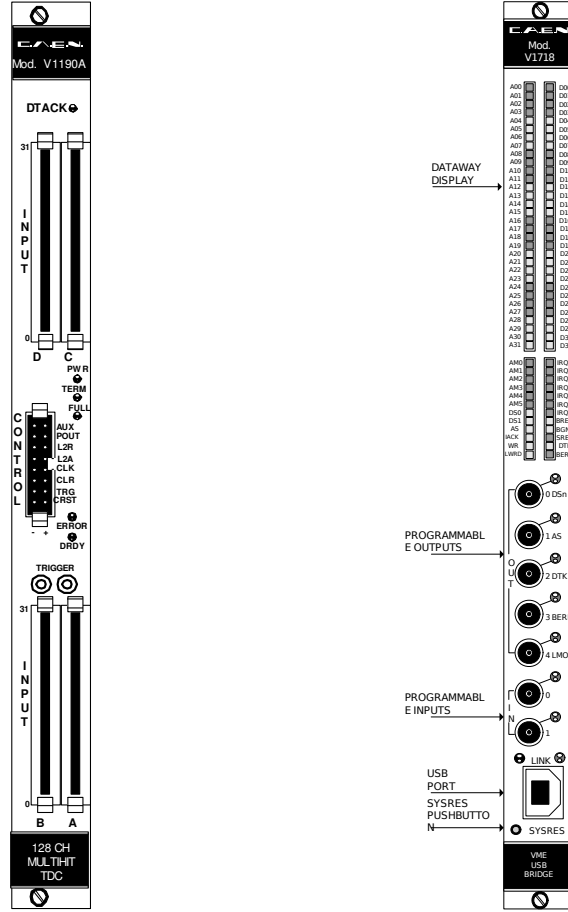
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A data acquisition software for CAEN VME TDCs

903 Certifying detectors in the perspective of HL-LHC required to develop tools for
904 the GIF++ experiment. Among them was the Data Acquisition (DAQ) software
905 that allows to make the communications in between the computer and the TDC
906 modules in order to retrieve the RPC data [9]. In this appendix, details about the
907 software, as of how the software was written, how it functions and how it can be
908 exported to another similar setup.

909 **A.1 Description of the setup**

910 The CMS RPC setup at GIF++ counts 5 V1190A Time-to-Digital Converter (TDC)
911 manufactured by CAEN [10]. The communication between the computer and the
912 TDCs to transfer data is done via a V1718 VME master module also manufactured
913 by CAEN and operated from a USB port [11]. These VME modules are hosted into
914 a 6U VME 6021 powered crate manufactured by W-Ie-Ne-R than can accomodate
915 up to 21 VME bus cards [12]. These 3 components of the DAQ setup are shown in
916 Figure A.1.



(a)

(b)



(c)

Figure A.1: (A.1a) View of the front panel of a V1190A TDC module [10]. (A.1b) View of the front panel of a V1718 Bridge module [11]. (A.1c) View of the front panel of a 6U 6021 VME crate [12].

A.2 Data read-out

A.2.1 TDC settings

The DAQ used at GIF takes profit of the *Trigger Matching Mode* offered by V1190A modules. A trigger matching is performed in between a trigger time tag and the channel time measurements. Control over this data acquisition mode, explained through Figure A.2, is offered through 4 programmable parameters:

- **match window:** the match between a trigger and a hit is done within a programmable time window
- **window offset:** temporal distance between the trigger tag and the start of the trigger matching window
- **extra search margin:** an extended time window is used to ensure that all matching hits are found
- **reject margin:** older hits are automatically rejected to preven buffer overflows and to speed up the search time

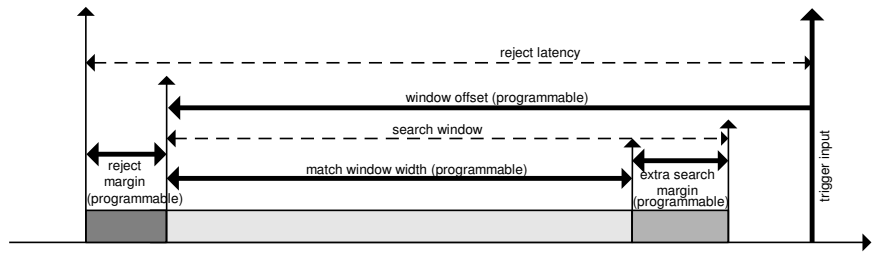


Figure A.2: Module V1190A Trigger Matching Mode timing diagram [10].

Each of these 4 parameters are given in number of clocks, 1 clock being 25 ns long. It is easy to understand at this level that there are 3 possible functioning settings:

- **1:** the match window is entirely contained after the trigger signal,
- **2:** the match window overlaps the trigger signal, or
- **3:** the match window is entirely contained before the trigger signal as displayed on Figure A.2.

In both the first and second cases, the sum of the window width of the offset can be set at maximum to be 40 clocks, which corresponds to 1 μ s. Of course, the

offset can be negative thus allowing for a longer match window, its end being at maximum $1\text{ }\mu\text{s}$ after the trigger signal. In the third case, the maximum negative offset allowed is of 2048 clocks (12 bit) corresponding to $51.2\text{ }\mu\text{s}$, the match window being strictly smaller than the offset. In the case of GIF++, the choice has been made to use this last setting by delaying the trigger signal. During the studies performed in GIF++, both the efficiency of the RPCs, using a muon beam, and the noise or gamma background rate are monitored.

To probe the efficiency of RPC detectors, a signal provided by the coincidence of scintillators when a bunch of muons passes though the area is used to trigger the data acquisition. For this measurement, it is useful to reduce the match window width only to contain the muon information. Indeed, the delay in between a trigger signal and the detection of the corresponding muon in the RPC being very constant (typically a few tens of ns due to jitter and cable length), the muon signals are very localised in time. Thus the settings were chosen to have a window width of 24 clocks (600 ns) and a negative offset of 29 clocks.

On the otherhand, monitoring the rates doesn't require for the DAQ to look at a specific time window. It is important to integrate as much time as possible to have a robust measurement of the rate as the number of hits per time unit. The triggering signal is provided by a pulse generator at a frequency of 300 Hz to ensure that the data taking occurs in a random way to probe only the irradiation spectrum on the detectors. The match window is set to 400 clocks ($10\text{ }\mu\text{s}$) and the negative offset to 401 clocks as it needs to exceed the value of the match window.

A.2.2 Data transfer and file structure

As previously described in Section 4.4.3, CMS RPC FEEs provide us with 100 ns long LVDS output signals that are injected into the TDCs' input. V1190A are VME units accepting 128 independent Multi-Hit/Multi-Event TDC channels whose signals are treated by 4 100 ps high performance TDC chips developed by CERN / ECP-MIC Division. Any avalanche signal that gives a signal above the FEEs threshold is thus recorded by the TDCs as a hit within the match window. Each hit is assigned to a specific TDC channel with a time stamp with a precision of 100 ps. The reference time, the 0, is provided by the beginning of the match window. thus for each trigger, coming from a scintillator coincidence or the pulse generator, a list of hits is stored into the TDCs buffers and will then be transferred into a ROOT Tree.

The data transfer is done via Block Transfer (BLT). Using BLT allows to transfer a fixed number of events called a *block*. This is used together with an Almost Full Level (AFL) of the TDCs' output buffers. This AFL gives the max-

imum amount of 32 bits words that can be written in the buffer before an Interrupt Request (IRQ) is generated and seen by the VME Bridge, stopping the data acquisition to transfer the content of each TDC buffers before resuming. The AFL can, at maximum, be of 32735 words (16 bits). This number corresponds to the depth of the output buffer of a TDC. For each trigger, words are written into the TDC buffer:

- **a global header** providing information of the event number since the beginning of the data acquisition,
- **a TDC header**,
- **the TDC data**, 1 for each hit recorded during the event, providing the channel and the time stamp associated to the hit,
- **a TDC error** providing error flags,
- **a TDC trailer**,
- **a global trigger time tag** (if enabled) that provides the absolute trigger time relatively to the last reset, and
- **a global trailer** providing the total word count in the event.

A.3 Software export

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Details on the online analysis package

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B.1 Introduction

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Structure of the hybrid simulation software

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C.1 Introduction

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