RTPC Alignment Calibration for EG6

N. Baltzell

Argonne National Laboratory

(Dated: March 23, 2013)

The position of the Radial Time Projection Chamber relative to EG6's 1.206 GeV beamline is measured with elastic scattering to be $x = -0.28$ mm, $y =$-0.97 mm.

I.   INTRODUCTION

Due to its small size, proximity to the beamline, and beamline constraint in track fitting, the RTPC is sensitive to radial misalignment as small as a few-hundred μm. This results in effects on momentum reconstruction that modulate systematically with the azimuth around the detector.

Measuring a misalignment requires a reference. The higher energy tracks in CLAS leave only small signals in the RTPC, and the two detectors have small overlap in acceptance. Instead of measuring the same track in both detectors, elastic scattering is used with the electron measured in CLAS and the ^{4}He in the RTPC. This same event selection has also been the source of drift paths and gain calibrations [1, 2] which have proven sensitive to alignment.

The method described here is similar to that for measuring the beam position relative to CLAS [3] in that misalignment results in a modulation of a reconstructed quantity as a function of ϕ. In the latter case, the beam window is the reference and the z-vertex reconstructed by CLAS is what modulates, while here it is CLAS's electron that serves as a reference and the RTPC's measured ϕ and momentum that modulate.

II.   MOTIVATION

The beamline constraint in RTPC reconstruction takes the form of one additional point in the helix fit with zero weight on its z-coordinate. The effect of this constraint was investigated by varying its (x_0, y_0) position and refitting each track. For tracks at average elastic kinematics, the effect on reconstructed momentum and ϕ is shown in Fig. 1 for four different beam positions. At these kinematics there is 20% variation in momentum and 5° variation in ϕ per mm of offset but no significant effect on θ nor z-vertex.

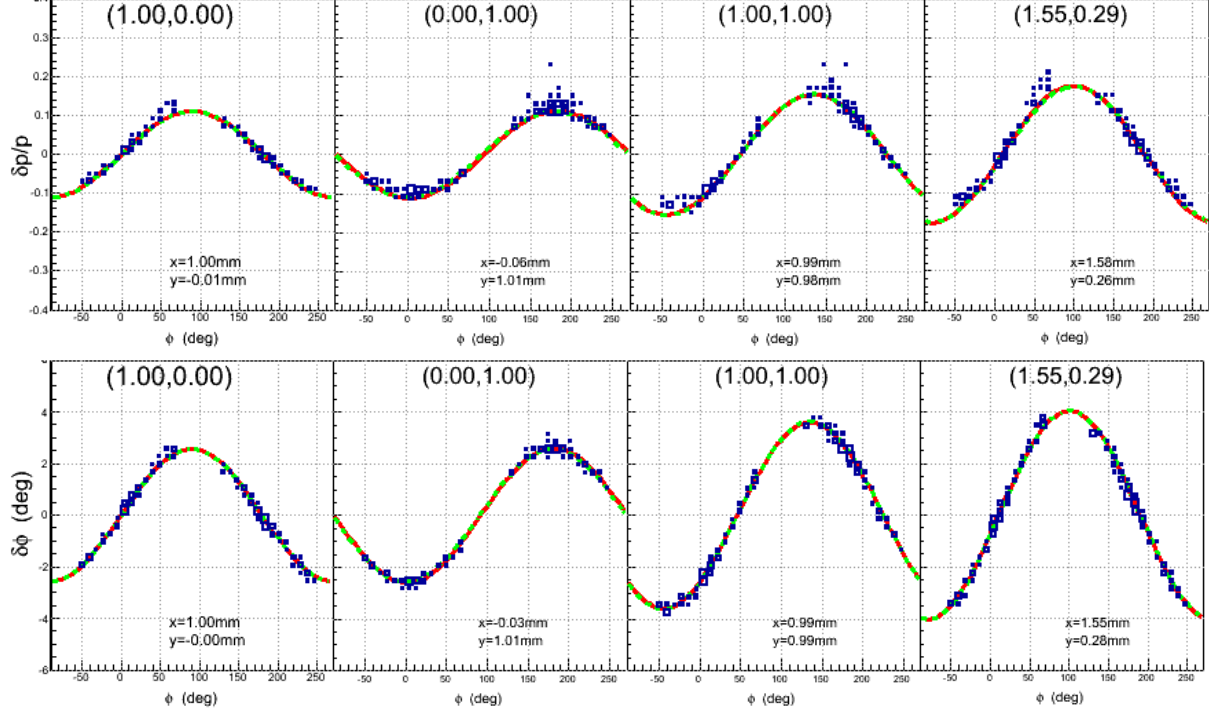The following equations, with amplitude and phase related to the beam position (x_0, y_0), are

FIG. 1. The effect on reconstructed momentum (top) and ϕ (bottom) as a function of the track's ϕ of moving the beamline constraint from $(0,0)$ to the position (x_0, y_0), shown at the top of each figure in mm, relative to the RTPC's axis. The data points are for tracks with $p/q \sim 125$ MeV and $\theta \sim 78°$ (^{4}He elastic kinematics).

sufficient to describe the effects near elastic kinematics.

$$\Delta\phi = \left[\frac{2.56°}{mm}\right]\left(-y_0\cos\phi + x_0\sin\phi\right) \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\Delta p}{p} = \left[\frac{p\sin\theta}{1078\ MeV\cdot mm}\right]\left(-y_0\cos\phi + x_0\sin\phi\right) \tag{2}$$

The red curves in Fig. 1 are the results of fitting with these functions, and the (x_0, y_0) values at the bottom of each plot are the fit parameters after minimization and reproduce well the expected values.

For large momentum or small θ this parameterization starts to fail. While it should be possible in the future to find a global function that applies over all kinematics as an ad-hoc momentum correction after the raw data have been processed, it is desireable to determine the correct beam position for the purpose of drift-path and gain calibrations and also to minimize future corrections.

III. METHOD

In order to apply the idea of Section II, it is neccessary to measure a modulation in the RTPC by comparing with a reference. Elastic scattering provides a correlated electron measured in CLAS suited for this purpose, assuming it is well-measured and has no ϕ-oscillation of its own due also to tracking to the wrong beam position in the solenoid field.

In fact, the EG1b run also had the solenoid target field (without the RTPC) but with a beam rastered over a 1.5 cm diameter target, and corrections were developed to account for reconstruction effects due to beam position [4]. Assuming the same effect for EG6 and accounting for our 21% smaller solenoid field, combined with the fact that the EG6 beam position is measured to be ∼1.6 mm from CLAS's z-axis in the 1.206 GeV data [3], we can then expect an average modulation of ϕ of ∼0.3° for the elastic electrons in this analysis. This is repesented by the red line in Fig. 2.

It is also noteworthy that EG6's $\Delta\phi$ between CLAS and RTPC for elastics is largely independent of z-vertex, while the electrons have traveled through much different solenoid $\int \vec{B} \cdot \vec{dl}$ for different z. Using the electron's ϕ measured by CLAS as a reference, the 3.5° $\Delta\phi_{CLAS-RTPC}$ oscillation in Fig. 2 is then attributed to RTPC misalignment. By fitting with Eq. 1, the beam position relative to the RTPC can be extracted.
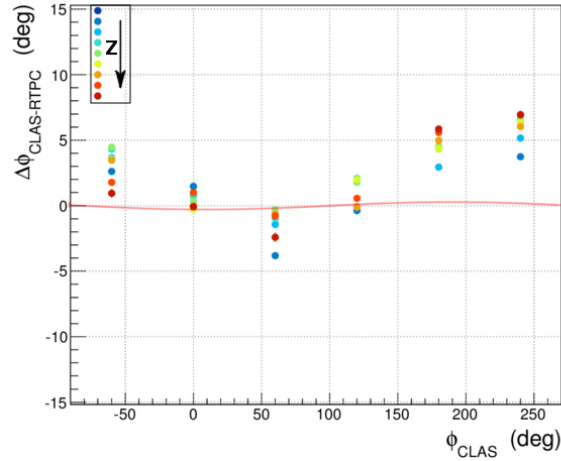

FIG. 2. The difference between ϕ reconstructed from CLAS's electron and RTPC's ^{4}He for elastic scattering (y-axis is shifted by 180°). Colors correspond to z-vertex positions over the 20 cm range of the RTPC. The curve represents the expected contribution from the electron by extrapolating EG1b corrections to EG6 conditions.

IV.   RESULTS

The left panel in Fig. 3 shows the oscillation fit and the resulting beam offset in the first two fit parameters. However, those RTPC tracks were reconstructed with an incorrect beam offset, and adjusting for that results in a current best estimate of the beam position of $(x_0, y_0) = (0.28$ mm, 0.97 mm$)$ relative to the RTPC. After refitting the elastic ^{4}He tracks with this new beam position, the result is as expected in the right plot of Fig. 3: the modulation is removed. The overall $2.4°$ shift is the result of recalibrating the drift paths with this new beam offset.
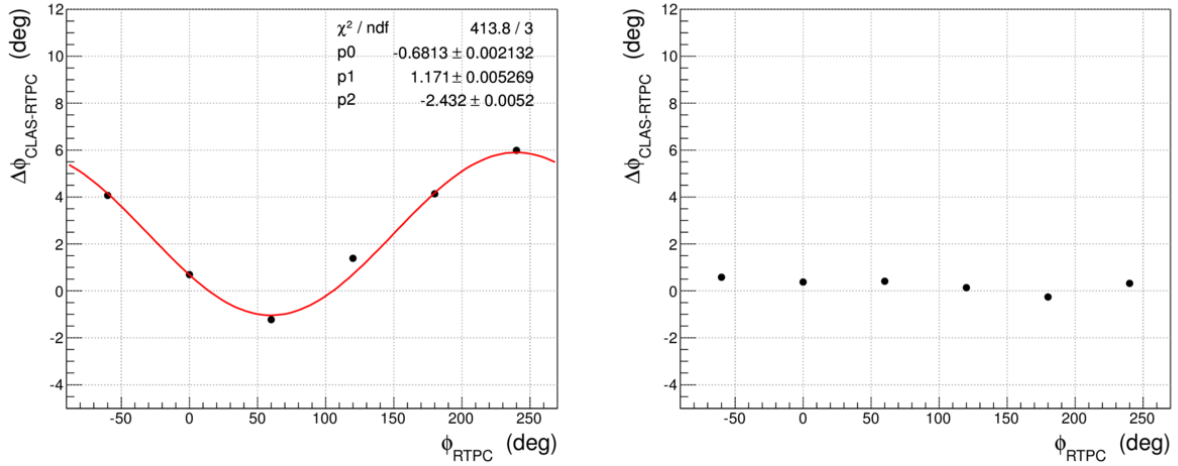

FIG. 3. The difference between ϕ reconstructed from CLAS's electron and RTPC's ^{4}He for elastic scattering for two different beam offsets: (1.55 mm, 0.29 mm) on left and (0.28 mm, 0.97 mm) on right.

Independent confirmation of this method is provided by the effect on momentum, which from Fig. 1 is expected to be significant for an offset of this size. The elastic ^{4}He momentum had previously been shifted by well over 10% in one half of the RTPC relative to the other. After using the corrected beam position, the momentum distributions are much more symmetric as shown in the right panel of Fig. 4.

[1] M. Hattaway and R. Dupre, "*Drift Path Calibrations for EG6 RTPC,*" .

[2] N. Baltzell, "*Gain Calibrations for EG6 RTPC,*" CLAS-NOTE-2013-00.

[3] N. Baltzell and S. Stepanyan, "*Beam X-Y Position at the Target for EG6,*" CLAS-NOTE-2013-00.

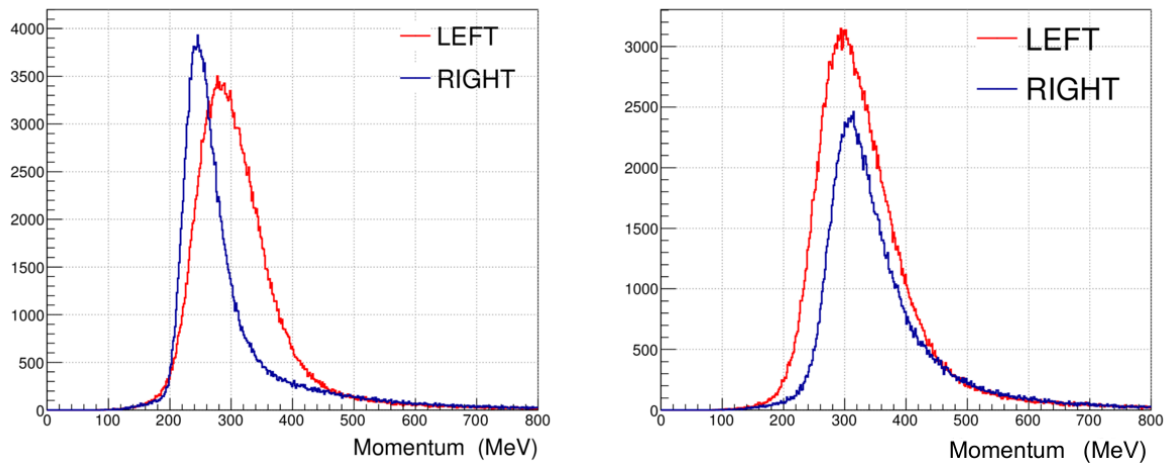[4] P. Bosted *et al.*, "*Raster Corrections for EG1b,*" CLAS-NOTE-2003-08.

FIG. 4. The momentum distributions for elastic ^{4}He measured by the two halves of the RTPC (LEFT/RIGHT in the legend) before (left) and after (right) the alignment calibration.