

The Heavy Photon Search Test Detector

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Abstract

The Heavy Photon Search (HPS), an experiment to search for a hidden sector photon in fixed target electroproduction, is preparing for installation at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (JLab) in the Fall of 2014. As the first stage of this project, the HPS Test Run apparatus was constructed and operated in 2012 to demonstrate the experiment's technical feasibility and to confirm that the trigger rates and occupancies are as expected. This paper describes the HPS Test Run apparatus and readout electronics and its performance. In this setting, a heavy photon can be identified as a narrow peak in the e^+e^- invariant mass spectrum, above the trident background or as a narrow invariant mass peak with a decay vertex displaced from the production target, so charged particle tracking and vertexing are needed for its detection. In the HPS Test Run, charged particles are measured with a compact forward silicon microstrip tracker inside a dipole magnet. Electromagnetic showers are detected in a PbWO₄ crystal calorimeter situated behind the magnet used to trigger the experiment and identify electrons and positrons. Both detectors are placed close to the beam line and split top-bottom. This arrangement provides sensitivity to low-mass heavy photons, allows clear passage of the unscattered beam, and avoids the spray of degraded electrons coming from the target. The discrimination between prompt and displaced e^+e^- pairs requires the first layer of silicon sensors be placed only 10 cm downstream of the target. The expected signal is small, and the trident background huge, so the experiment requires very large statistics. Accordingly, the HPS Test Run utilizes high-rate readout and data acquisition electronics and a fast trigger to exploit the essentially 100% duty cycle of the CEBAF accelerator at JLab.

Keywords: silicon microstrip, tracking, vertexing, heavy photon, dark photon, hidden sector, electromagnetic calorimeter

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29 **1. Introduction**

30 The heavy photon (A'), aka a “hidden sector” or
31 “dark” photon, is a particle with mass $10 - 1000 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
32 which couples weakly to electric charge by mixing with
33 the Standard Model photon [1]. Consequently, it can
34 be radiated by electrons and subsequently decay into
35 e^+e^- pairs, albeit at rates far below those of QED trident
36 processes. Heavy photons have been suggested by nu-
37 merous beyond Standard Model theories [2], to explain
38 the discrepancy between theory and experiment of the
39 muon’s $g - 2$ [3], and as a possible explanation of recent
40 astrophysical anomalies [4, 5, 6]. Heavy photons couple
41 directly to hidden sector particles with “dark” or “hid-
42 den sector” charge; these particles could constitute all
43 or some of the dark matter [7]. Current phenomenology
44 highlights the $20 - 1000 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ mass range, and sug-
45 gests that the coupling to electric charge, ϵe , has ϵ in the
46 range of $10^{-3} - 10^{-5}$. This range of parameters makes
47 A' searches viable in medium energy fixed target elec-
48 troproduction [8], but requires large data sets and good
49 mass resolution to identify a small mass peak above the
50 copious QED background. At small couplings, A' be-
51 come long-lived, so detection of a displaced decay ver-
52 tex can reject the prompt QED background and boost
53 experimental sensitivity.

54 The HPS experiment [9] uses both invariant mass and
55 secondary vertex signatures to search for A' . It uses a
56 $\approx 1 \text{ m}$ long silicon tracking and vertexing detector in-
57 side a dipole magnet to measure charged particle trajec-
58 tories and a fast electromagnetic calorimeter just down-
59 stream of the magnet to provide a trigger and identify
60 electrons. The experiment utilizes very high-rate front-
61 end electronics and runs at high trigger rates (up to
62 50kHz), exploiting the 100% duty cycle of the JLab CE-
63 BAF accelerator to accumulate the needed statistics.

64 The HPS Test Run, using a simplified version of the
65 HPS apparatus, was proposed and approved at JLab as
66 the first stage of HPS. Its purposes included demon-
67 strating that the apparatus and data acquisition systems are
68 technically feasible and the trigger rates and occupan-
69 cies to be encountered in electron-beam running are as
70 simulated. Given dedicated running time with electron
71 beams, the HPS Test Run apparatus is capable of search-
72 ing for heavy photons in unexplored regions of parame-
73 ter space. The key design criteria for HPS and the HPS
74 Test Run are the same:

- 75 • large and uniform acceptance in the forward region
76 close to the beam in order to catch boosted A' de-
77 cay products,
- 78 • beam passage through the apparatus in vacuum, to

79 eliminate direct interactions with the detector and
80 minimize beam gas interactions,

- 81 • detector components that can survive and effi-
82 ciently operate in a high radiation environment
83 with local doses exceeding 100 Mrad.
- 84 • high-rate electronics with excellent timing resolu-
85 tion to minimize out of time backgrounds,
- 86 • a flexible, redundant and efficient trigger selecting
87 electron and positron pairs at rates up to 50 kHz,
- 88 • data handling rates of 100 MB/s to permanent stor-
89 age,
- 90 • excellent track reconstruction efficiency for elec-
91 trons and positrons,
- 92 • good angular and momentum resolution to recon-
93 struct invariant mass precisely,
- 94 • excellent vertex resolution to discriminate dis-
95 placed A' decays from prompt QED backgrounds,

96 The HPS Test Run apparatus was installed on April
97 19, 2012, and ran parasitically in the photon beam of
98 the HDice experiment [10] until May 18. The JLab
99 run schedule precluded any dedicated electron beam
100 running, but the HPS Test Run was allowed a short
101 and valuable dedicated photon beam run at the end of
102 scheduled CEBAF running. This final running provided
103 enough data to demonstrate the functionality of the ap-
104 paratus, document its performance, and explore trigger
105 rates, as shown below.

106 This paper reviews the HPS Test Run apparatus, doc-
107 umenting the performance of the trigger, data acqui-
108 sition, silicon tracking detector, and the electromag-
109 netic calorimeter at the level required for calculating the
110 physics reach of the HPS experiment.

111 **2. Detector Overview**

112 The HPS Test Run apparatus was designed to run
113 in Hall B at JLab using the CEBAF 499MHz electron
114 beam at energies between 2.2 and 6.6 GeV and cur-
115 rents between 200 and 600 nA. The overall design of
116 the experiment follows from the kinematics of A' pro-
117 duction which typically results in a final state particle
118 within a few degrees of the incoming beam, especially
119 at low $m_{A'}$. Detectors must therefore be placed close
120 to the beam. The intense electron beam enlarges down-
121 stream after multiple scattering in the target and elec-
122 trons which have radiated in the target disperse horizon-
123 tally in the field of the analyzing magnet. Together they

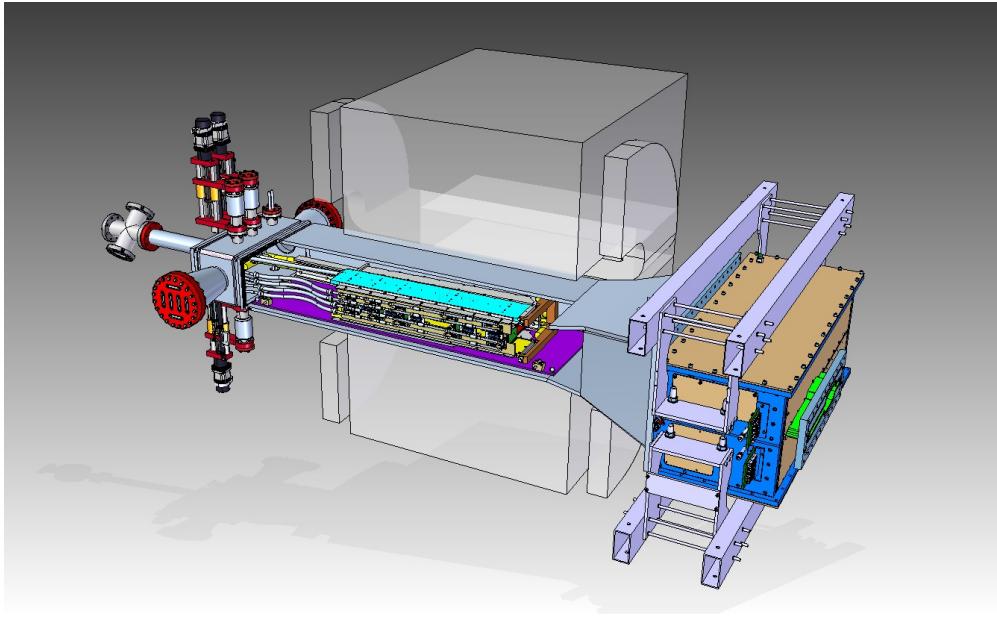


Figure 1: Rendering of the HPS Test Run apparatus installed on the beam line.

124 constitute a “wall of flame” which must be completely
 125 avoided. Accordingly, the apparatus is split vertically
 126 to avoid a “dead zone”, the region within ± 15 mrad of
 127 the beam plane. In addition, the beam is transported in
 128 vacuum through the tracker to minimize beam-gas inter-
 129 action backgrounds. Even with these precautions, the
 130 occupancies of sensors near the beam plane are high,
 131 dominated by the multiple Coulomb scattering of the
 132 primary beam, so high-rate detectors, a fast trigger, and
 133 excellent time tagging are required to minimize their
 134 impact. The trigger comes from a highly-segmented
 135 lead-tungstate (PbWO_4) crystal calorimeter located just
 136 downstream of the dipole magnet.

137
 138 A rendering of the apparatus installed on the beam line
 139 is shown in Figure 1 and an overview of the coverage,
 140 segmentation and performance is given in Table 1.

141 The silicon vertex tracking and vertexing detector for
 142 the HPS Test Run, or SVT, resides in a vacuum cham-
 143 ber inside the Pair Spectrometer (PS) dipole magnet in
 144 Hall B at JLab. The magnetic field strength was 0.5 T
 145 oriented vertically throughout the run. The SVT has
 146 five measurement stations, or “layers,” beginning 10 cm
 147 downstream of the target. Each layer comprises a pair
 148 of closely-spaced silicon microstrip sensors responsi-
 149 ble for measuring a single coordinate, or “view”. In-
 150 troduction of a small (50 or 100 mrad) stereo angle

151 between the two sensors of each layer provides three-
 152 dimensional tracking and vertexing throughout the ac-
 153 ceptance of the detector. In order to accommodate the
 154 dead zone, the SVT is built in two halves that are ap-
 155 proximately mirror reflections of one another about the
 156 plane of the nominal electron beam. Each layer in one
 157 half is supported on a common support plate with inde-
 158 pendent cooling and readout.

159
 160 The electromagnetic calorimeter (ECal) is also split
 161 into two halves. Each half of the ECal consists of
 162 221 PbWO_4 crystals arranged in rectangular formation.
 163 There are five rows with 46 modules in each row except
 164 the row closest to the beam plane which has 37. The
 165 light from each crystal is read out by an Avalanche Pho-
 166 todioide (APD) glued on the back surface of the crys-
 167 tal. Signals from the APDs are amplified using custom-
 168 made amplifier boards before being sent to the data ac-
 quisition electronics.

169 The Data Acquisition system combines two architec-
 170 tures, the Advanced Telecom Communications Archi-
 171 tecture (ATCA) based SVT readout system and VME-
 172 bus Switched Serial (VXS) based digitization and trig-
 173 gering system for the ECal. The system was designed
 174 to run at up to 20 kHz trigger rate.

Table 1: Overview of the coverage, segmentation and performance of the HPS Test Run detector.

System	Coverage (mrad)	# channels	ADC (bit)	Time resolution (ns)	# layers	Segmentation	Performance
SVT	$15 < \theta_y < 70$ (5 hits)	12780	14	≈ 2 ns	5 (stereo layers)	$\approx 120 \mu\text{m} r - \phi$ $\approx 6 \mu\text{m} z$	$\sigma_{d0,y} \approx 100 \mu\text{m}$ $\sigma_{d0,x} \approx 300 \mu\text{m}$ $\sigma_{d0,z} \approx 1 \text{ mm}$
Ecal	$15 < \theta_y < 60$	442	12	4 ns	1	$1.33 \times 1.33 \text{ cm}^2$ $1.6 \times 1.6 \text{ cm}^2$	$\sigma(E)/E \approx 4.5\%$

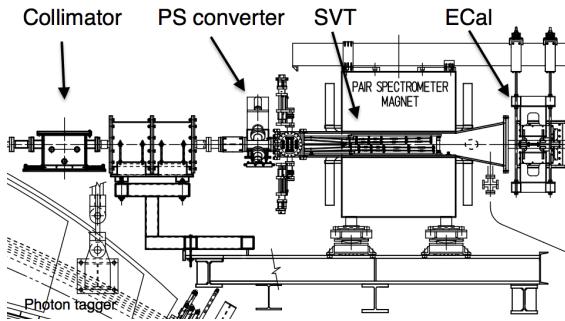


Figure 2: Layout of the HPS parasitic run.

3. The HPS Test Run Beamline

Since an electron beam was unavailable, the HPS Test Run detected the electrons and positrons produced by interactions of the secondary photon beam with a thin foil just upstream of the detectors. The HPS Test Run studied the performance of the detectors and the multiple coulomb scattering of the electrons and positrons. Figure 2 shows the layout of the setup on the beam line. The SVT was installed inside the Hall B pair spectrometer magnet vacuum chamber with the ECal mounted downstream of it. Both the SVT and the ECal were retracted off the beam plane compared to nominal electron beam running to allow clean passage of the photon beam through the system.

The photon beam was generated in the interaction of 5.5 GeV electrons with a $10^{-4} X_0$ gold radiator located ≈ 9 m upstream of the PS. The primary beam and scattered electrons are deflected away from detectors by the dipole magnet of the photon tagging system. During the dedicated HPS Test Run period, the collimated (6.4 mm diameter) photon beam passes through the PS pair converter gold foil and later the HPS system as illustrated in Figure 3. The PS pair converter was located ≈ 77 cm upstream of the first layer of the SVT.

Data was taken on three different converter thicknesses with photon fluxes between 0.4 and $1.3 \times 10^8/\text{s}$ at photon energies between 0.55 and 5.5 GeV produced by a 30 to 90 nA electron beam. Data was measured

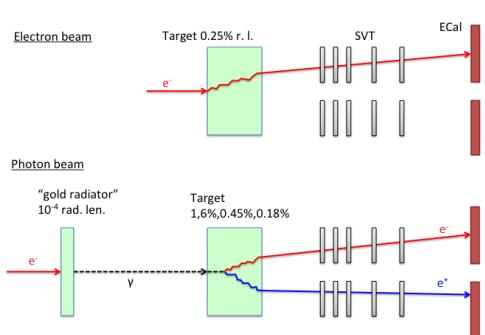


Figure 3: Illustrative comparison of HPS Test Run photon beam compared to the HPS electron beam.

Converter thickn. (% X_0)	Duration (s)	e^- on radiator (μC)
0	1279	88.1
0.18	2640	193.5
0.45	2149	140.7
1.6	911	24.4

Table 2: Measured integrated currents for the dedicated photon runs.

for both polarities of the PS dipole magnet.' The photon beam line during the HPS Test Run produced a relatively large number of e^+e^- pairs originating upstream of the converter position. This contribution was measured during data taking with "empty" converter runs, i.e. removing the converter but with all other conditions the same. The runs taken during the time dedicated to HPS Test Run is summarized in Table 2.

4. Silicon Vertex Tracker

The Silicon Vertex Tracker (SVT) enables efficient reconstruction of charged particles and precise determination of their trajectories. These measurements allow A' decays to be distinguished from background via simultaneous estimation of the invariant mass of e^+e^- de-

217 cay products and the position of decay vertexes downstream of the target.
218

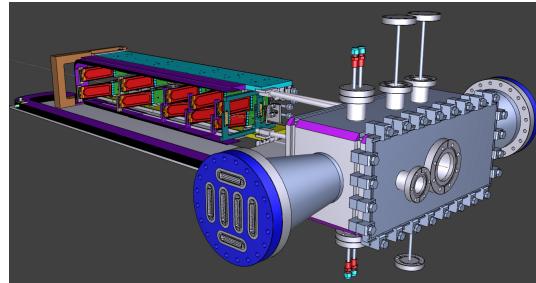
219 The design of the SVT is primarily driven by direct
220 physics requirements and constraints from the environment
221 at the interaction region. The A' decay products
222 have momenta in the range of 1 GeV, so multiple scattering
223 dominates mass and vertexing uncertainties for
224 any possible material budget. The SVT must therefore
225 minimize the amount of material in the tracking volume.
226 The signal yield for long-lived A' is very small,
227 so the rejection of prompt vertices must be exceedingly
228 pure, on the order of 10^{-7} , in order to eliminate all
229 prompt backgrounds. To achieve the required vertexing
230 performance the first layer of the SVT must be placed
231 no more than about 10 cm downstream of the target.
232 At that distance, it is found that the active region of
233 a sensor can be placed as close as 1.5 mm from the
234 center of the beam, defining the 15 mrad “dead zone”
235 mentioned previously, to maximize low-mass A' ac-
236 ceptance with decay products nearly collinear with the
237 beam axis. At the edge of this “dead zone”, the radiation
238 dose approaches 10^{15} electrons/cm²/month, or roughly
239 3×10^{14} 1 MeV neutron equivalent/cm²/month [11], re-
240quiring the sensors to be actively cooled. Meanwhile,
241 very low-energy delta rays from beam-gas interactions
242 multiply the density of background hits, so the SVT
243 must operate inside the beam vacuum. Finally, in or-
244 der to protect the sensors, the detector must be movable
245 so that it can be retracted during periods of uncertain
246 beam conditions.

247 4.1. Layout

248 The layout of the SVT is summarized in Table 4.1 and
249 rendered in Figure 4. Each of the layers is comprised
250 of a pair of closely-spaced silicon microstrip sensors
251 mounted back-to-back to form a module. A 100 mrad
252 stereo angle is used in the first three layers to provide
253 higher-resolution 3D space points for vertexing. Using
254 50 mrad in the last two layers breaks the tracking de-
255 generacy of having five identical layers and minimizes
256 fakes from ghost hits to improve pattern recognition.
257 Altogether, the SVT has 20 sensors for a total of 12780
258 readout channels.

Layer	1	2	3	4	5
<i>z</i> from target (cm)	10	20	30	50	70
Stereo angle (mrad)	100	100	100	50	50
Bend res. (μm)	≈ 60	≈ 60	≈ 60	≈ 120	≈ 120
Non-bend res. (μm)	≈ 6	≈ 6	≈ 6	≈ 6	≈ 6
# of sensors	4	4	4	4	4
Dead zone (mm)	± 1.5	± 3.0	± 4.5	± 7.5	± 10.5
Power cons. (W)	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9

259 Table 3: Layout of the SVT.



260 Figure 4: A rendering of the SVT showing the modules on their
261 support plates held by the hinged C-support on the left and the
262 motion levers on the right. The sensors are shown in red and the
263 hybrid readout boards in green. The beam enters from the
264 right through a vacuum box with flanges for services.

265 The SVT is built in two separate halves that are mirror
266 reflections of one another about the plane of the nom-
267 inal electron beam. Each half consists of five modules
268 mounted on a support plate that provides services to the
269 modules and allows them to be moved as a group rel-
270 ative to the dead zone. The two halves of the tracker
271 are connected to hinges mounted on a C-shaped support
272 just beyond the last layer that defines the nominal spac-
273 ing between the upper and lower halves of the tracker.
274 A shaft attached to each support plate in front of layer
275 1 extends upstream and connects to a linear shift that
276 transfers motion into the vacuum box through bellows
277 to open and close the two halves around the dead zone.
278 The C-support is mounted to an aluminum baseplate
279 that defines the position of the SVT with respect to the
280 vacuum chamber. Figure 5 shows a photograph of both
281 completed detector halves prior to final assembly.



282 Figure 5: Both halves of the HPS Test Run SVT after final as-
283 sembly at SLAC. The cooling manifolds and integrated cable
284 runs are clearly seen.

278 4.2. Components

279 The sensors for the SVT are *p*-on-*n*, single sided,
 280 AC coupled, polysilicon-biased microstrip sensors fab-
 281 ricated on < 100 > silicon and have 30 (60) μm sense
 282 (readout) pitch over their $4 \times 10 \text{ cm}^2$ surface. This
 283 sensor technology was selected to match the require-
 284 ment of < 1% X_0 per layer, single-hit resolution bet-
 285 ter than 50 μm and tolerance of a radiation dose of ap-
 286 proximately 1.5×10^{14} 1 MeV neutron equivalent/ cm^2
 287 for a six month run. The sensors were purchased from
 288 the Hamamatsu Photonics Corporation for the cancelled
 289 Run 2b upgrade of the DØ experiment [12] which satis-
 290 fied the requirement that the technology must be mature
 291 and available within the time and budget constraints.

292 Despite having only small spots with very high occu-
 293 pancy (up to 4 MHz/mm²) closest to the primary beam,
 294 the rates are still high and lowering the peak occupancy
 295 to approximately 1% for tracking requires a trigger win-
 296 dows and hit time tagging of roughly 8 ns. The ECal
 297 readout and trigger described in Sec. 5.3 can achieve
 298 such resolution. To reach this performance the sen-
 299 sors for the SVT are readout by the APV25 ASIC de-
 300 veloped for the CMS experiment at CERN [13]. The
 301 APV25 can capture successive samples of the shaper
 302 output in groups of three at a sampling rate of approx-
 303 imately 40 MHz. By fitting the known *CR-RC* shaping
 304 curve to these samples, the initial time of the hit can
 305 be determined to a precision of 2 ns for S/N \approx 25 [14].
 306 For electron beam running, six-sample readout and the
 307 shortest possible shaping time (35 ns) is used to best
 308 distinguish hits that overlap in time. The APV25 ASICs
 309 are hosted on simple FR4 hybrid readout boards, out-
 310 side the tracking volume, with a short twisted-pair pig-
 311 tail cable to provide power and configuration and signal
 312 readout. Along with a single sensor, these are glued
 313 to a polyamide-laminated carbon fiber composite back-
 314 ing making up a half-module. A window is machined
 315 in the carbon fiber leaving only a frame around the pe-
 316 riphery of the silicon to minimize material. A 50 μm
 317 sheet of polyamide is laminated to the surface of the
 318 carbon fiber with 1 mm overhang at all openings to en-
 319 sure good isolation between the backside of the sensor,
 320 carrying high-voltage bias, and the carbon fiber which
 321 is held near ground.

322 The sensor modules for the SVT consist of a pair
 323 of identical half-modules, sandwiched back-to-back
 324 around an aluminum cooling block at one end and a sim-
 325 ilar PEEK spacer block at the other. Figure 6 shows a
 326 single module after assembly. The cooling block pro-
 327 vides the primary mechanical support for the module as
 328 well as cooling via copper tubes pressed into grooves

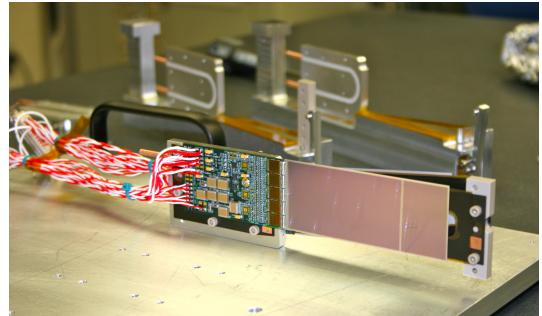


Figure 6: A prototype module assembly (foreground) with the 50 mrad (left) and 100 mrad (right) module assembly fixtures in the background. A pair of cooling blocks and a spacer block can be seen on the fixtures.

329 in the plates. The spacer block defines the spacing be-
 330 tween the sensors at the far end of the module, stiffens
 331 the module structure, and improves the stability of the
 332 sensor alignment. The average support material in the
 333 tracking volume is approximately 0.06% X_0 per double-
 334 sided module for a total material budget of 0.7% per
 335 layer.

336 The total SVT power consumption budget of about
 337 50 W is removed by a water/glycol mixture circulated
 338 through a flexible manifold attached to the copper tubes
 339 in the cooling blocks. During the HPS Test Run the
 340 sensors were operated at around 23° C. The power con-
 341 sumption is dominated by five APV25 ASICs on each
 342 hybrid board consuming approximately 2 W, radiant
 343 heat load is less than 0.5 W per sensor and leakage cur-
 344 rent is only significant in a small spot after irradiation.

345 4.3. Production, Assembly and Shipping

346 Hybrids with APV25 ASICs underwent quick qualifi-
 347 cation testing and each half-module was run at low tem-
 348 perature (\approx 5° C) and fully characterized for pedestals,
 349 gains, noise and time response after assembly. Of 29
 350 half-modules built, 28 passed qualification testing, leav-
 351 ing 8 spare modules after completion of the SVT, all ca-
 352 pable of 1000 V bias voltage without breakdown. Full-
 353 module assembly and mechanical surveys were per-
 354 formed at SLAC before final assembly, testing and ship-
 355 ping of the SVT to JLab. A custom shipping container
 356 with nested crates and redundant isolation for shock and
 357 vibration was built in order to safely send the partly as-
 358 sembled SVT to JLab. At JLab, the entire SVT was
 359 integrated with the full DAQ and the power supplies be-
 360 fore moving the module-loaded support plates to Hall B
 361 for final mechanical assembly and installation inside of
 362 the vacuum chamber.

363 **4.4. Alignment**

364 The SVT was aligned using a combination of optical,
 365 laser and touch probe surveys at SLAC and JLab. The
 366 optical survey of individual modules with a precision of
 367 a few μm was combined with a touch-probe survey of
 368 the overall SVT support structure, with 25-100 μm pre-
 369 cision, to locate the silicon sensor layers with respect
 370 to the support plates and the mechanical survey balls
 371 on the base plate. After full assembly and installation
 372 of the SVT at JLab, a mechanical survey of the SVT
 373 base plate position inside the pair spectrometer vacuum
 374 chamber is used to determine the global position of the
 375 SVT with respect to the CEBAF beam line. The re-
 376 sulting survey-based alignment has the position of the
 377 silicon sensors correct to within a few hundred microns
 378 measured from tracks in the HPS Test Run data. A more
 379 sophisticated global track-based alignment technique to
 380 reach final alignment precision well below 50 μm is be-
 381 ing developed.

382 **5. Electromagnetic Calorimeter**

383 The electromagnetic calorimeter (ECal), installed
 384 downstream of the PS dipole magnet, performs two es-
 385 sential functions for the experiment: it provides a trigger
 386 signal to select what events to read out from the detector
 387 sub-systems and is used in the analysis to identify elec-
 388 trons and positrons. The technology and design choices
 389 are largely driven by the need for a compact forward de-
 390 sign covering the SVT A' acceptance and able to fully
 391 absorb electrons and positrons with energy between 0.5-
 392 6.5 GeV, fine granularity and signal readout speed to
 393 handle 1 MHz/cm² of electromagnetic background and
 394 be radiation hard. The PbWO₄ crystal inner calorime-
 395 ter of the CLAS detector [15], in operation since 2005
 396 in Hall B, meets all the requirements set by HPS. The
 397 modules from this calorimeter have been subsequently
 398 repurposed for HPS.

399 **5.1. Components**

400 The ECal module shown in Figure 7 is based on a
 401 tapered 160 mm long PbWO₄ crystal with a 13.3 \times
 402 13.3 mm² (16 \times 16 mm²) front (rear) face wrapped in
 403 VM2000 multilayer polymer mirror film. The scintilla-
 404 tion light, approximately 3 photoelectrons/MeV, is read
 405 out by a 5 \times 5 mm² Hamamatsu S8664-55 Avalanche
 406 Photodiode (APD) with 75% quantum efficiency glued
 407 to the rear face surface using MeltMount 1.7 thermal
 408 plastic adhesive. The low gain of APDs (~ 200) was
 409 compensated with custom-made preamplifier boards,
 410 which provide a factor of 2333 amplification of the APD
 411 signal.

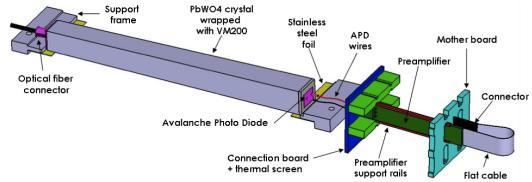


Figure 7: A schematic view of an ECal module.

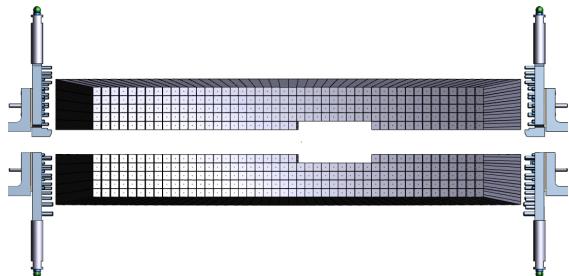


Figure 8: Rendered layout view of the ECal looking downstream.

412 **5.2. Layout**

413 Similar to the SVT, the ECal is built in two separate
 414 halves that are mirror reflections of one another about
 415 the plane of the nominal electron beam to avoid inter-
 416 fering with the 15 mrad “dead zone”. As shown in
 417 Figure 8, the 221 modules in each half, supported by
 418 aluminum support frames, are arranged in rectangular
 419 formation with 5 layers and 46 crystals/layer except for
 420 the layer closest to the beam where 9 modules were re-
 421 moved to allow a larger opening for the outgoing elec-
 422 tron and photon beams. Each half was enclosed in a
 423 temperature controlled box (< 1° F stability and < 4° F
 424 uniformity) to stabilize the crystal light yield and the op-
 425 eration of the APDs and its preamplifiers. Four printed
 426 circuit boards mounted on the backplane penetrated the
 427 enclosure and were used to supply the ± 5 V operating
 428 voltage for the preamplifiers, 400 V bias voltage to the
 429 APDs, and to read out signals from the APDs. Each half
 430 of the ECal was divided into 12 bias voltage groups with
 431 a gain uniformity of about 20%.

432 During the HPS Test Run, both halves were held in
 433 place by four vertical bars attached to an above rail,
 434 placing the front face of the crystals 147 cm from the
 435 upstream edge of the magnet and with a 8.7 cm gap
 436 between the innermost edge of the crystals in the two
 437 halves.

438 **5.3. Signal readout**

439 After a 2:1 signal splitter, 1/3 of an amplified APD
 440 signal was fed to a single channel of a JLab flash ADC
 441 (FADC) board [16]. 2/3 of the signal was sent to a
 442 discriminator module and then to a TDC for a timing
 443 measurement. The FADC boards are high speed VXS
 444 modules digitizing up to 16 APD signals at 250 MHz
 445 and storing samples in 8 μ s deep pipelines with 12-bit
 446 resolution. When a trigger is received, the part of the
 447 pipeline from 5 samples before and 30 after the signal
 448 which crossed a programmable threshold (for the HPS
 449 Test Run this was set to \approx 70 MeV) are summed and
 450 stored in a 17-bit register for readout. In addition a
 451 4 ns resolution timestamp of the threshold crossing is
 452 reported in the readout for each pulse. This scheme
 453 significantly compresses the data output of the FADC.
 454 During offline data analysis, a calibrated pedestal value
 455 is subtracted to obtain the actual summed energy. Two
 456 20-slot VXS crates with 14 (13) FADC boards were em-
 457 ployed in the HPS Test Run to read out the top (bottom)
 458 half of the ECal. In the HPS Test Run 385 out of 442
 459 modules (87%) were used in offline reconstruction, 39
 460 modules were disabled or not read out (no FADC chan-
 461 nel available, no APD bias voltage or masked out due
 462 to excessive noise) and 18 were masked offline due to
 463 noise.

464 **6. Trigger and Data Acquisition**

465 The DAQ system handles acquisition of data from the
 466 ECal and SVT sub-detectors with two DAQ architec-
 467 tures. The SVT DAQ is based on Advanced Telecom
 468 Communications Architecture (ATCA) hardware while
 469 the ECal uses VMEbus Switched Serial (VXS) based
 470 hardware. Data from the sub-detectors are only read-
 471 out when a trigger signal from the trigger system is re-
 472 ceived.

473 **6.1. Trigger system**

474 The trigger system is designed to select time coinci-
 475 dences of electromagnetic clusters in the top and bot-
 476 tom halves of the ECal. Figure 9 shows a schematic
 477 overview of each stage of the system. Each channel on
 478 the FADC board has an independent data path to send 5-
 479 bit pulse energy and 3-bit pulse arrival time informa-
 480 tion every 32 ns to a trigger processing board (CTP), which
 481 is in the same crate. The 3-bit pulse arrival time allows
 482 the trigger to know the pulse timing at 4 ns resolution.
 483 Contrary to the readout path described in Sec. 5.3, this
 484 energy is a pedestal-subtracted time-over-threshold sum

485 with programmable offsets and minimum threshold dis-
 486 criminator for each channel. With input from all FADC
 487 channels, i.e. one half of the ECal, the CTP performs
 488 cluster finding and calculates cluster energy and tim-
 489 ing information. The 3x3 fixed-window, highly parallel,
 490 FPGA-based cluster algorithm simultaneously searches
 491 for up to 125 clusters with energy sum larger than the
 492 programmable energy threshold (\approx 270 MeV). Crystals
 493 in the fixed-window are included in the sum if the lead-
 494 ing edge of the pulse occurred within a 32 ns time win-
 495 dow to take into account clock skew and jitter through-
 496 out the system. The CTP only accepts clusters with the
 497 highest energy 3x3 window locally to deal with over-
 498 lapping and very large clusters. The sub-system board
 499 (SSP) receives the clusters from the top and bottom half
 500 CTP at a maximum of 250MHz and searches for pairs
 501 of clusters in a 8 ns wide coincidence window. The SSP
 502 sends triggers to the trigger supervisor (TS), which gen-
 503 erates all the necessary signals and controls the entire
 504 DAQ system readout through the trigger interface units
 505 installed in every crate that participate in the readout
 506 process.

507 The trigger system is free-running and driven by the
 508 250 MHz global clock and has essentially zero dead
 509 time at the occupancies expected for HPS. The trigger
 510 supervisor can apply dead time if necessary, for exam-
 511 ple on a ‘busy’ or ‘full’ condition from the front-end
 512 electronics. The system is designed to handle trigger
 513 rates above 50 kHz and has a latency set to \approx 3 μ s to
 514 match that required by the SVT APV25 ASIC. During
 515 the HPS Test Run, for the most part the trigger system
 516 required only a single cluster in either the top or bot-
 517 tom Ecal halves and was tested to trigger rates above
 518 100 kHz by lowering thresholds.

519 **6.2. SVT Data Acquisition**

520 The SVT DAQ is based on the Reconfigurable Clus-
 521 ter Element (RCE) and cluster interconnect concept de-
 522 veloped at SLAC as generic building blocks for DAQ



Figure 9: Block diagram of the ECAL trigger system consisting of the FADC that samples and digitizes signals for each detector channel and sends them for cluster finding in the CTP. The CTP clusters are sent to the SSP where the final trigger decision is taken based on pairs of clusters in both halves of the ECal. The decision is sent to the Trigger Supervisor (TS) that generates the necessary signals to readout the sub-detectors.



Figure 10: The SVT DAQ COB board with four data processing daughter cards (DPMs) visible on the left side.

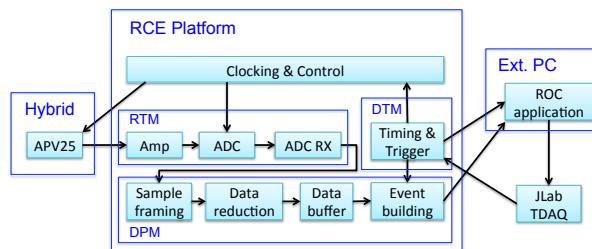


Figure 11: Block diagram overview of the SVT DAQ.

systems. The RCE is a generic computational building block, housed on a separate daughter card called Data Processing Module (DPM), that are realized on an ATCA front board called the Cluster On Board (COB), see Figure 10. The first generation RCE used in the HPS Test Run consisted of a Virtex 5 FPGA with 1 GB of DDR3 RAM. A schematic overview of the system is shown in Figure 11. The analog outputs of up to 12 SVT half-modules (60 APV25 ASICs) are digitized on the Rear-Transition-Module (RTM), a custom board on the back side of the ATCA crate, interfacing the HPS-specific readout to the generic DAQ components on the COB. A pre-amplifier converts the APV25 differential current output to a different voltage output scaled to the sensitive range of a 14-bit ADC operating at the system clock of 41.667 MHz. The RTM is organized into four sections with each section supporting three SVT half-module hybrids (15 APV25 ASICs). The RTM also includes a 4-channel fiber optic module and supporting logic which is used to interface to the JLab trigger system supervisor. Each section of the RTM is input to a DPM which applies thresholds for data reduction and organizes the sample data into UDP datagrams. The DPM also hosts an I²C controller used to configure and monitor the APV25 ASICs. A single ATCA crate with two COB cards was used, one supporting four DPMs

and one supporting 3 DPMs and one DPM that is configured as the trigger and data transmission module. The two COB cards and their DPMs are interconnected with a 10 Gb/s switch card [17] which also hosts two 1Gb/s Ethernet interfaces to the external SVT DAQ PC.

The external PC supports three network interfaces; two standard 1 Gb/s Ethernet and one custom low-latency data reception card. The first is used for slow control and monitoring of the 8 DPM modules and the second serves as the interface to the JLAB data acquisition system. The third custom low-latency network interface is used to receive data from the ATCA crate and supports a low latency, reliable TTL trigger acknowledge interface to the trigger DPM. This PC hosts the SVT control and monitoring software as well as the Read Out Controller application used to interface with the JLab DAQ.

In order to minimize cable length for the analog APV25 output signal the ATCA crate was located approximately 1 m from the beam line, next to our cable vacuum feed-troughs. Before shielding with lead-blankets was arranged, we observed two failures of normally reliable ATCA crate power supplies, time-correlated to beam instabilities.

Although trigger rates during the HPS Test Run were significantly lower, this system was tested at trigger rates up to 20 kHz and 50 MB/s.

6.3. General Data Acquisition and Online Computing

Every crate participating in the readout process contains a Readout Controller (ROC) that collects digitized information, processes it, and sends it on to the event builder. For the ECal, both VXS crates run ROC applications in a single blade Intel-based CPU module running CentOS Linux OS. For the SVT DAQ, the ROC application runs on the external PC under RHEL. The event builder assembles information from the ROCs into a single event which is passed to the event recorder that writes it to a RAID5-based data storage system capable of handling up to 100 MB/s. The event builder and other critical components run on multicore Intel-based multi-CPU servers. The DAQ network system is a network router providing 10 Gb/s high-speed connection to the JLab computing facility for long-term storage. For the HPS Test Run, both the SVT and ECal ROC had a 1 Gb/s link to the network router.

7. Reconstruction and Performance

7.1. SVT Performance

For the duration of the HPS Test Run all SVT modules and APV25 chips were configured to their nominal

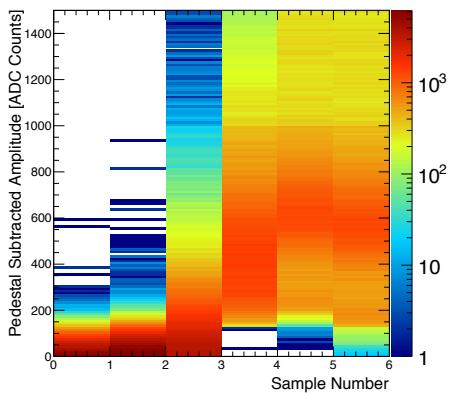


Figure 12: Accumulation of six pedestal-subtracted samples from individual SVT channels associated with hits on tracks.

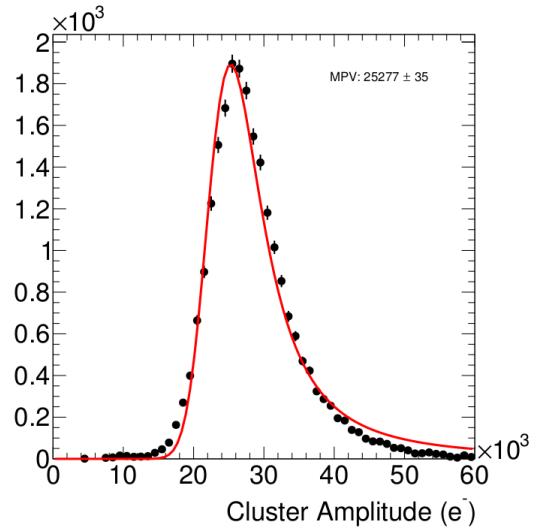


Figure 13: The cluster charge distribution for hits associated with track follow the characteristic Landau shape.

598 operating points [18] with all sensors reverse-biased at
 599 180 V. The sensors were operated within a temperature
 600 range of 20 – 24°C. Approximately 97% of the 12,780
 601 SVT channels were found to be operating normally; the
 602 fraction of dead or noisy channels varied from 2.4%
 603 to 4.7% throughout the HPS Test Run. Most of these
 604 losses were due to 2-4 misconfigured APV25 ASICs, a
 605 known noisy half-module and problems in two particu-
 606 lar APV25 ASICs.

607 7.1.1. Cluster and Hit Reconstruction

608 After a trigger is received, the amplitude of every
 609 APV25 analogue output is sampled and digitized in
 610 six consecutive time bins, separated by roughly 25 ns.
 611 The typical, pedestal subtracted, pulse shape obtained
 612 is shown in Figure 12. As the figure demonstrates, the
 613 SVT was well timed-in to the trigger with the rise of the
 614 pulse at the 3rd sampling point. In order to find the time,
 615 t_0 , and amplitude of each hit, the six samples from each
 616 channel are fitted to an ideal $CR-RC$ function. Note that
 617 in the HPS Test Run the APV25 ASICs were operating
 618 with a 50 ns shaping time. These hits are passed through
 619 a simple clustering algorithm which forms clusters by
 620 grouping adjacent strips with the position of a cluster on
 621 the sensor determined by the amplitude-weighted mean.
 622 With a linear gain up to ≈ 3 MIPs, the cluster charge
 623 for hits associated with a track follow the characteristic
 624 Landau shape. A noise level between $1.1 - 1.5 \times 10^3$
 625 electrons was established through multiple calibration
 626 runs giving a signal to noise ratio of 21 – 25. Lab-
 627 based radioactive source tests were used to provide the
 628 absolute charge normalization. After clustering hits on
 629 a sensor, the hit time for each cluster is computed as

630 the amplitude-weighted average of the individually fit-
 631 ted t_0 on each channel. The t_0 resolution is studied by
 632 comparing the cluster hit time with the average of all
 633 cluster hit times on the track shown in Figure 14. After
 634 correcting for offsets from each sensor (time-of-flight
 635 and clock phase) and accounting for the correlation be-
 636 between the t_0 and track time, the extracted t_0 resolution is
 637 2.6 ns. This is somewhat worse than the approximately
 638 2 ns resolution expected for S/N 25 which we attribute
 639 to the true pulse shape differing from our idealized fit
 640 function which will be improved in the future. Reduc-
 641 ing the APV25 ASIC pulse shaping time to 35 ns will
 642 also improve time resolution. These results show that
 643 we can operate with the six sample readout mode of the
 644 APV25 chip and achieve time resolution adequate for
 645 pileup rejection during electron running in HPS.

646 Good agreement was obtained between observed and
 647 simulated occupancies after taking into account dead or
 648 noisy channels. The hit reconstruction efficiency was
 649 estimated by measuring the number of good tracks with
 650 a hit close to the extrapolated intersection of a given
 651 sensor that was excluded from the track fit itself. Tracks
 652 which intersect regions with known bad channels or
 653 very close to the edge region are excluded. The hit re-
 654 construction efficiency, see Figure 15, was measured to
 655 be above 98% and fairly uniform across the SVT.

656 The spatial resolution of similar microstrip sensors is
 657 well established by test beam data, against which the
 658 charge deposition model in the simulation is validated.
 659 This resolution can be parameterized as a function of the

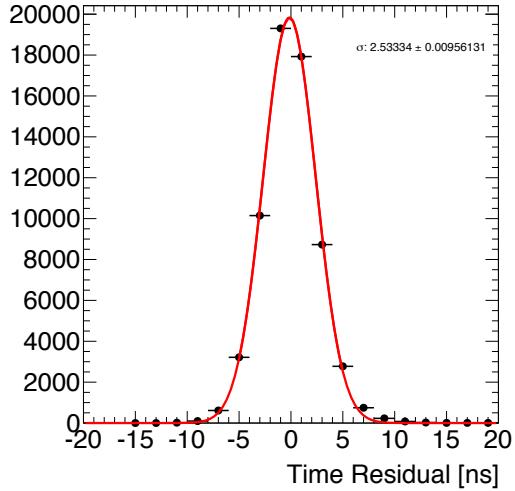


Figure 14: The residual of individual cluster times with the average of all clusters on the track.

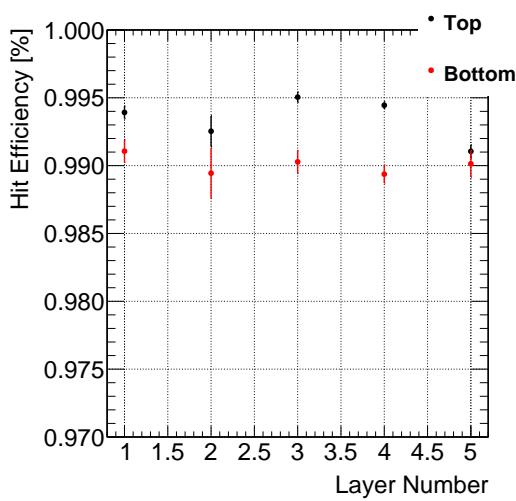


Figure 15: The hit reconstruction efficiency as a function of detector layer.

total signal to single-strip noise and the crossing angle of tracks through the sensor. The single-hit resolution for charged particles with signal to noise ratio above 20, as demonstrated here, is relatively constant at approximately 6 μm for tracks that enter approximately normal to the sensors as in HPS.

7.1.2. Momentum and Vertexing Resolution

By selecting e^+e^- pairs from the triggered events we are able to study basic distributions of pair production kinematics. Pairs of oppositely charged tracks, one in the top and one in the bottom half of the SVT, with momentum larger than 400 MeV were selected. The pair production kinematics are relatively well reproduced as shown in Figure 16.

The expected momentum resolution from simulation is between 4-5% for tracks in the momentum range of the HPS Test Run. By comparing the shapes of the kinematic distributions for single- and two track events between data and simulation we estimate an agreement with the nominal scale and resolution to within 10%.

In the HPS Test Run, as well as in electron running with HPS, the dominant source of uncertainty in the tracking and vertexing is multiple Coulomb scattering. For the vertexing performance the foremost difference compared to electron beam running is that the target was located approximately 67 cm upstream from our nominal target position; giving almost collinear tracks in the detector. The increased lever arm over which tracks are extrapolated widens the resolution with up to a factor of eight (depending on momentum) compared to what is achieved at the nominal electron target position for HPS. Figure 17 shows the horizontal and vertical positions of the extrapolated track at the converter position. While residual alignments show small shifts, the good agreement between data and simulated events of the widths indicates a good understanding of the material budget and distribution in the SVT. Having the dominant contribution to the vertex resolution approximately right demonstrates that the resolution in HPS, with a target at 10 cm, will be as calculated.

7.2. ECal Performance

The integrated pulse of each FADC channel was converted to energy by subtracting a pedestal and applying a conversion factor to convert ADC counts to energy. The pedestals are measured using special runs where each trigger records 100 samples of signals from the APDs with 4 ns between each sample. The pedestals

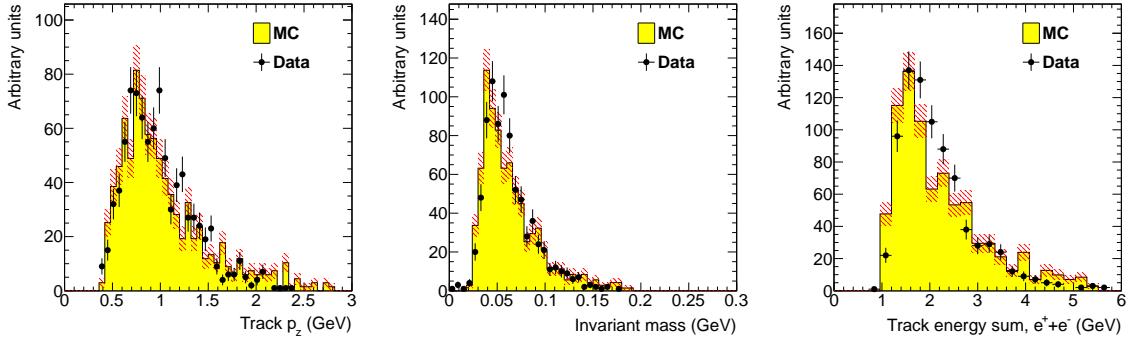


Figure 16: Kinematic distributions for e^+e^- pairs selected by opposite charged tracks in the top and bottom half of the tracker: track momentum in the top half of the SVT (left), invariant mass (middle) and the sum of the track momentum for the pair (right).

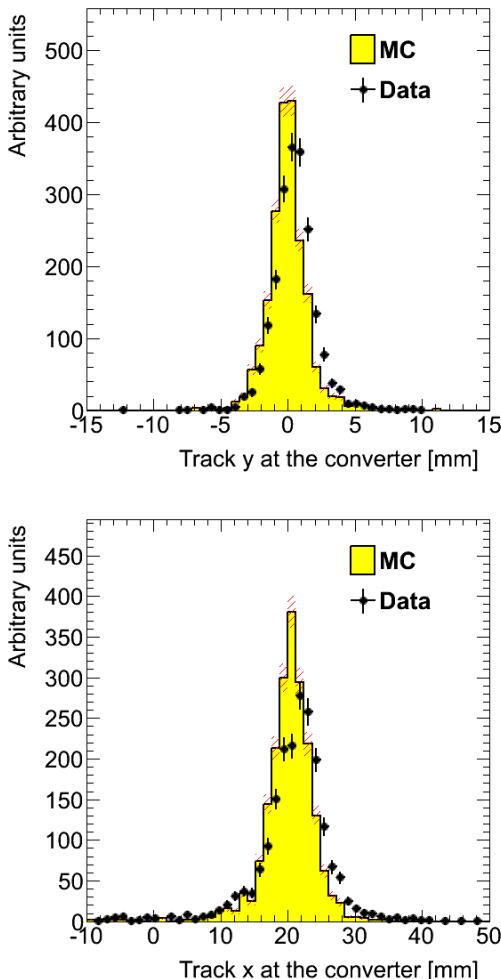


Figure 17: Vertical (top) and horizontal (bottom) extrapolated track position at the converter position taking into account the measured fringe field.

were extracted from the part of the window before the actual hit in the calorimeter. Modules with signal above the threshold are clustered using a simple algorithm similar to the one deployed for the trigger (see Sec. 6.1). Due to the high effective readout threshold of 73 MeV the average number of crystals in a cluster was ~ 3 and the simple clustering algorithm worked well for reconstruction of the detected shower energy. An average noise level of approximately 15 MeV was measured in special pedestal runs.

The ratio of the ECal cluster energy E to the momentum p of a matched track in the SVT was used to determine the conversion factors from ADC counts to energy. To compare data and simulation, all inoperable or noisy channels in the SVT and ECal were disabled in both data and simulation so that any efficiency or bias that affect the data should be reflected in the simulation. Iteratively, conversion coefficients for each crystal were adjusted until the E/p ratio in data and simulation were similar. The distribution of the E/p ratio in data and simulation are compared in Figure 18. The peak position of the distribution indicates the sampling fraction of the ECal, the fraction of the incident particle energy measured in the cluster. The width and tails of the distribution in data indicates imperfect calibration and noise of the ECal modules. This level of calibration and the agreement with simulation was found to be sufficient to study normalized event rates in the HPS Test Run.

7.3. Trigger Performance

As described above in Sec. 6, the energy from each crystal is measured differently in the trigger and what is readout from the ECal. The trigger performance was studied by simulating the trigger for each event and comparing to how the events were actually triggered. To eliminate trigger bias, we use a tag and probe

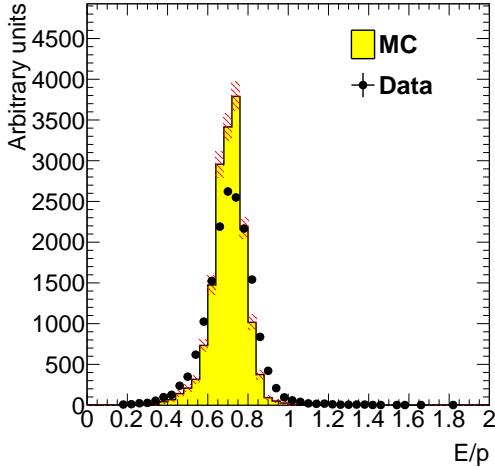


Figure 18: The ECal energy over track momentum ratio (E/p) comparing data and simulation for single cluster triggers in the top half of the ECal.

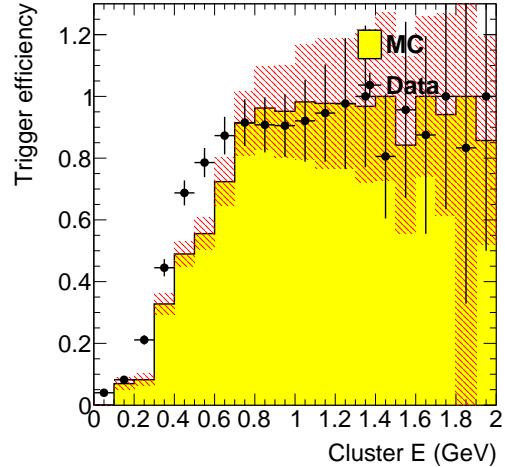


Figure 19: Trigger efficiency in both halves of the ECal for data and simulation as a function of cluster energy.

method: to study the trigger performance in one half of the ECal, we select events which triggered the other half and where there was exactly one probe cluster in the ECal half under study. We then measure trigger efficiency as the fraction of tagged events that fired the trigger in the probe half as a function of the probe cluster energy, shown in Figure 19. The trigger turn-on is slow and reaches an uneven plateau just below 1 GeV for two reasons; gain variations between different crystals lead to the threshold variations and the nonlinearity of the time-over-threshold integral means that the effective threshold is higher for clusters that span multiple crystals. The effective trigger threshold is therefore dependent on position and energy of the particle as well as cluster multiplicity.

As a cross-check we simulate the FADC trigger path by converting from readout hits (with fixed-size window integration) to trigger hits (time-over-threshold integration). The CTP clustering algorithm and the trigger decision from the SSP are simulated before we compare the trigger decision and trigger time to what was reported by the actual trigger. For every event, the trigger reports the trigger decision as a bit mask (top half, bottom half or both) and the time the trigger fired. The turn-on from the trigger threshold was measured to be 1280 in units of ADC counts as expected. The threshold was not perfectly sharp because of uncertainties in the conversion from readout to trigger hits described above, but based on comparisons with simulation we found that the trigger worked exactly as specified.

Converter (% X_0)	1.60	0.45	0.18
EGS5	1162 ± 112	255 ± 28	94 ± 17
GEANT4	2633 ± 250	371 ± 38	114 ± 18
Observed	1064 ± 2	196 ± 1	92 ± 1

Table 4: Observed and predicted event rate (in Hz) normalized to 90 nA for three different converter thicknesses. The uncertainty on the prediction includes systematic uncertainties from ECal alignment, background normalization, beam current normalization and limited statistics in the simulation.

7.4. Trigger Rate Comparisons

Trigger rates observed in the HPS Test Run are dominated by multiple Coulomb scattered e^+e^- pairs in the converter. In simulated events, the rate of triggers depend on the modeling of the pairs angular distribution and the subsequent multiple Coulomb scattering in the converter. Rates from different converter thicknesses are used to study the varying multiple Coulomb scattering contribution (pair production angle is constant). Restricting clusters to a well calibrated region of the ECal and subtracting the “no converter” background we see agreement with the rates predicted by the EGS5 simulation program, see Table 7.4. This gives further confidence that the dominant source of background occupancy for HPS, multiple Coulomb scattered beam electrons, is well described [19, 20, 21].

8. Summary and Outlook

The HPS Test Run experiment, using a simplified version of the apparatus planned for the full HPS ex-

periment in a parasitic photon beam, demonstrated the feasibility of the detector technologies proposed for the silicon vertex tracker, electromagnetic calorimeter, and data acquisition systems. Performance from each of these subsystems has been shown to be adequate to conduct the full experiment successfully. Studies of multiple Coulomb scattering tails of electrons and positrons from photon conversions further backs expectations from simulation, giving credence to estimates of the detector backgrounds expected in electron beam running for HPS.

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