



### GridPix detector with Timepix3 ASIC

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## Improving Micromegas: GridPix



Could the spatial resolution of single electrons be improved? Ar:CH<sub>4</sub> 90:10  $\rightarrow$  D<sub>7</sub> = 208 µm/ $\sqrt{cm}$ 

 $\rightarrow \sigma$  = 24  $\mu$ m

Ar:iButane 95:5  $\rightarrow$  D<sub>T</sub> = 211 µm/ $\sqrt{cm}$ 

 $\rightarrow \sigma$  = 24 µm Smaller pads/pixels could result in better resolution! At NIKHEF the GridPix was invented. Standard charge collection:

- Pads of several mm<sup>2</sup>
- Long strips (I~10 cm, pitch ~200 μm)

Instead: Bump bond pads are used as charge collection pads.







#### Timepix





Number of pixels: $256 \times 256$  pixelsPixel pitch: $55 \times 55 \ \mu m^2$ Chip dimensions: $1.4 \times 1.4 \ cm^2$ ENC: $\sim 90 \ e^{-1}$ 

<u>Limitations:</u> no multi-hit capability, charge and time measurement not possible for one pixel. Each pixel can be set to one of these modes: TOT = time over threshold (charge) Time between hit and shutter end.



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### **Application IAXO/CAST**



Magnet is pointed to the Sun. Axions and chameleons produced in the Sun convert into X-ray photons. Detector requirements:

- Radiopure materials
- Good background separation (distinguish round X-rays and longer tracks)
- Good energy resolution
- Very low dead time
- => Detector optimized for spatial and energy resolution:
- Gas mixture



- Electric fields (E<sub>drift</sub> = 500 V/cm)
- Gas gain (G~ 3000) and
- Analysis (pixel counting).

During the study energy resolutions  $\sigma_{\rm E}$ /E=3.85% for the photopeak of <sup>55</sup>Fe could be reached.







### Application: ILC



# International Linear Collider (ILC) is a linear $e^+e^-$ colliders with $\sqrt{s} = 500 \text{ GeV} - 1\text{TeV}$



#### **TPC Requirements :**

Parameter	
Geometrical parameters	$egin{array}{ccc} r_{\mathrm{in}} & r_{\mathrm{out}} & z \\ 329 \ mm & 1808 \ mm & \pm 2350 \ mm \end{array}$
Solid angle coverage	up to $\cos heta~\simeq~0.98$ (10 pad rows)
TPC material budget	$\simeq~0.05~{ m X_0}$ including outer fieldcage in $r$
	$<~0.25~{ m X_0}$ for readout endcaps in $z$
Number of pads/timebuckets	$\simeq$ 1-2 $ imes$ $10^6/1000$ per endcap
Pad pitch/ no.padrows	$\simeq~1 imes$ 6 mm $^2$ for 220 padrows
$\sigma_{ m point}$ in $r\phi$	$\simeq~60~\mu$ m for zero drift, $<~100~\mu$ m overall
$\sigma_{ m point}$ in $rz$	$\simeq 0.4-1.4$ mm (for zero – full drift)
2-hit resolution in $r\phi$	$\simeq 2 \mathrm{mm}$
2-hit resolution in rz	$\simeq 6 \text{ mm}$
dE/dx resolution	$\simeq 5$ %
Momentum resolution at $B=3.5 \text{ T}$	$\delta(1/p_t)~\simeq~10^{-4}/{ m GeV/c}$ (TPC only)



#### International Large Detector

- Standard HEP detector
- TPC as main tracker

#### **Benefits of GridPix readout:**

- Lower occupancy → better track finding
- Identification/removal of  $\delta$ -rays/kinks
- Improved dE/dx → primary e<sup>-</sup> counting <u>But</u> to readout the TPC with GridPixes: ~100-120 chips/module 240 module/endcap (10 m<sup>2</sup>) → 50000-60000 GridPixes





### Timepix3



CMOS technology	130 nm, 8-metal stack
Pixels	$256 \times 256$
Pixel size	$55 imes55\mu\mathrm{m}^2$
Acquisition modes	Charge and time
	Time only
	Event counting and integral charge
Zero suppressed readout	YES
Dead time per pixel	ToT Pulse time + 475 ns
Timing resolution	1.5625 ns (640 MHz)
On-chip power pulsing	YES
Output bandwidth	Up to $5.12 \text{ Gbps} (8 \times 640 \text{ Mbps})$
I/O	SLVS, 8b/10b, 8 output links for data









### **Protection Layer**



During a 2 week test beam (5 GeV e-) about 19 out of 160 chips were destroyed.



Reason identified: Machine depositing  $Si_{x}N_{y}$  caused defects in the protective layer during growths. [lə 150 [lə 150

Process has been switched to a different machine.

 $\rightarrow$  no defects anymore







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250

200

> 100

50



Grid sags in the stress relief gaps. At high gains these places are prone for discharges.

=> gaps have been removed







### Production at IZM



Production was set up at the Fraunhofer Institut IZM at Berlin. This process is wafer-based  $\rightarrow$  batches of up to 4 wafers (105 chips each) at a time.



- Formation of Si<sub>x</sub>N<sub>y</sub> protection layer (to protect chip from discharges)
- 2. Deposition of SU-8
- 3. Pillar structure formation
- 4. Formation of Al grid





6. Development of SU-8





#### Pictures















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#### Laser Setup at Nikhef





- pulsed UV nitrogen laser
  - $\lambda = 337 \text{ nm}$
- duration:
   1 ns
- energy: few μJ

- divergence: near diffraction limit
- double photon absorption, ionization enhanced by traces of TMPD => ionization is merely confined to the focal point









- About 10 hits per laser pulse
- 960 laser pulses per spot
- Spot size dominated by diffusion. About 5 pixels (standard deviation) in the example on the right.





#### **Gas Parameters**







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### **Spatial Resolution**



# Residuals in x and y of each laser dot



Outer part of detector shows larger residuals because of field distortions and grid inefficiencies. Central part has a very small residual

distributions. d = 7.6 mm  $N_{pulses} = 960$ 

- 1. partially contained dots
- 2. low efficiency

#### قِ pixels

- 3. field distortions due to field cage
- 4. grid peeling off

5. guard electrode distorted



Residual column [mm]





#### **Plans New Module**



Longterm plan: built a LCTPC – module with about 100 GridPixes Module size: 22×17 cm<sup>2</sup> – keystone shaped GridPixes are grouped into smaller units (4-8 GridPixes) Short term plan: start with a module equipped with 1 or 2 of the small units Currently: Quads, designed to minimize the dead area





Quad assembly





### Summary



GridPix based on Timepix has demonstrated good performance in several applications. But limited because of Timepix performance.

New ASIC, Timepix3, has been developed which has multi-hit capability, a time resolution of 1.56 ns, gives charge and time information for each pixel and has a continuous readout.

InGrids have been built on top of Timepix3 forming new GridPixes. For this

- the quality of the protections layer has been improved
- the grid layout has been modified to decrease the covered pixels from 8.7 % to 2.3 %.

A detector has been built and tested with a laser setup. Good performance could be demonstrated at the center of the chip. E-field distortion expected from detector design.

New larger area detectors are in preparation.

