Challenges for High Luminosity LHC

Kazu Akiba Nikhef



Kinetic energy of a proton (K)	Speed (%c)	Accelerator
160 MeV	52	Linac 4
2 GeV	94.8	PS Booster
25 GeV	99.93	PS
450 GeV	99.9998	SPS
7 TeV (design energy)	99.9999991	LHC

Relationship between kinetic energy and speed of a proton in the CERN machines. The rest mass of the proton is 0.938 GeV/c^2





Design parameters	number
Circumference	26 659 m
Dipole operating temperature	1.9 K (-271.3 °C)
Number of magnets	9593
Number of main dipoles	1232
Number of main quadrupoles	392
Number of RF cavities	8 per direction
Energy, protons	7 TeV*
Energy, ions	2.76 TeV/u (**)
Peak magnetic dipole field	8.3 T
Distance between bunches	~7.5 m
Luminosity (protons)	10 ³⁴ cm ⁻² s ⁻¹
No. of bunches per proton beam	2808
No. of protons per bunch	1.1 x 10 ¹¹
Number of turns per second	11 245
Number of collisions per second	1 billion

How LHC can provide more data/second? → Luminosity









Nevertheless the bunch crossing time takes longer than **200 ps in time** (and 44 mm in z) ©Tim Evans







Applying temporal cuts could result in a problem less complex than the current detector

© Robbert Geertsema



Long/short lived particles

A lot of High Energy Physics is based on selecting/identifying the presence of long lived particles. Lifetimes give a clear signature:



Figure of Merit: Impact parameter d_0 **Impact Parameter Secondary Vertex** (Decay Point) Primary Vertex **Particles** (Collision Point) (tracks) $\sigma_{d_0}^2 \propto \sigma_{hit}^2 + \sigma_{ms}^2$



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Impact Parameter -

Figure of Merit of a Vertex Detector

- Depends on 3 main parameters
 - Intrinsic *hit resolution*
 - Distance to the *first measured* point and lever arm
 - Multiple scattering in *detector material*, worse at low p_T





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2 point measurement

 σ_2

 r_2

 σ

Overview of the Current Detector



- 52 modules, 55 µm pitch sensors
- 40M pixels
- Data driven readout
- 5.1 mm sensitive distance to beam.
- Operate in Vacuum
- Innovative micro-channel cooling (-20 °C)
- Separated from the beam by an milled foil



Substrate thickness ~ 500µm Si





A successful experiment @ high luminosity

Main assumption:

Impact Parameter Resolutions will yield same signal selection performance IF timing resolution of 20 ps/track is achieved.

Timing of 50 ps/hit is a global requirement.

Radiation Hardness needs to be up to 6 times larger than now

An extensive R&D program was launched to find the achievable limits



Silicon pixel detectors

- Fast silicon sensors consist e.g. of p-type silicon bulk with n-type pixel implants
- Particles traverse the detector leaving a small charge
- The charge needs to be collected and amplified by a front-end circuit.



- Typical pixel size 20 50 μm
- Typical sensor thickness $20 300 \ \mu m$

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How to get good time resolution (electronics viewpoint)

$$\sigma_t \sim \frac{C^{\alpha}}{Q^{\beta} P^{\gamma}}$$

• Minimise capacitance C

Time resolution

 $O \alpha, \beta > \gamma$

O Small pixel -> can fit less functionality per pixel

O Small electrode -> less uniform fields

• Maximise signal Q in shortest possible time (dQ/dt = current)

O Short drift distance (thin), high drift speed (large bias voltage), avalanche gain

Large power P (transistor transconductance, g_m)
O Last resort, 'costly' in terms of material needed to provide power and cooling



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Sensor candidates



- Large signal (gain)
- Medium capacitance
- Modest rad. hard



- Large signal (thick)
- Rad. Hard (shown 3E16)
- High capacitance
- More material





- Very low capacitance
- Low material
- Small signal
- Challenge to operate at high rate and high rateand high radiation doses.

Electronics Challenges

The increased luminosity brings proportional data rates and radiation damage. Data rate > 100 GB/s/cm2

To cope with this, additional processing at the frontend (pixel) is required.

Fast-timing amplification (on-pixel) also requires more powerful analog design (better cooling)

Current prototyping (CERN+Nikhef) a chip (PicoPix) to achieve <30 ps RMS (TDC <40 ps) in 28 nm CMOS.

Clock distribution and stability is a major challenge for detector operation.



PicoPix -- 2026



Minimising material



Microchannel cooling

- Efficient cooling solution is required to maintain the sensors at < -20°C
- No CTE mismatch
- This is provided by the novel technique of evaporative CO₂ circulating in 120 μm x 200 μm channels within a silicon substrate.





SEM images of etched wafer before bonding



Minimising material

A lot of research is ongoing in using alternative solutions to provide much lighter signature for the substrate, which can include electronics.





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3D printed Ceramics or metals

© Oscar Augusto

Substrate needs to be made of very little material but also provide sufficient heat extraction and a low operating temperature





SNAKEI based design to optimize printing parameters/test feasibility



Simplified FEA focusing on the 5 mm overhang. Substrate in alumina and heat conduction on one side of the cooling plate and Stycast (100um). For $2W/cm^2$, $\Delta T \sim 9$ C.



Summary

LHC can provide more luminosity = collisions/s = physics discovery potential.

However collisions overlap in space, requiring separation in time.

Time resolutions of 50 ps on each pixel are desired.

Further requirements remain:

Spatial resolutions better than $10\mu m$

Minimum material to scatter trajectories.

