

MIP detection with digital SiPMs

Exploring the Potential of CMOS SPAD Arrays

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HELMHOLTZ



Silicon Photomultipliers

State of the Art Solid State Photodetectors

The schematic diagram shows a cylindrical tube with an entrance window on the left. A light photon enters and strikes a photocathode, releasing a photoelectron. This electron is accelerated by a focusing grid and strikes a series of dynodes, causing a cascade of secondary electrons. The final electron avalanche is collected at the anode. The tube is filled with vacuum and is powered by a high voltage supply connected to the dynodes. An output signal is generated across a resistor R and a capacitor C.

PMT working principle

PMT Example



The SiPM configuration diagram shows a Cathode (K) connected to a network of resistors R_q and four GM-APD (Geiger Mode Avalanche Photodiode) cells. The Anode (A) is connected to ground. The SPAD structure diagram shows a cross-section of a silicon layer with a drift region (p) and a high field region (p) above it, and a p⁺ region below. It includes Al, SiO₂, and R_q layers. The vertical axis is labeled x [μm] with values -0.2 and -1.0. The horizontal axis is labeled W . An electric field (E-field) is shown pointing to the right. The diagram also shows the generation of electron-hole pairs (e⁻, h⁺) and the presence of a pi layer.

SiPM configuration

SPAD Structure

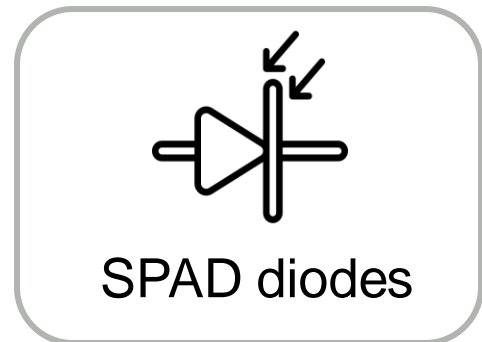
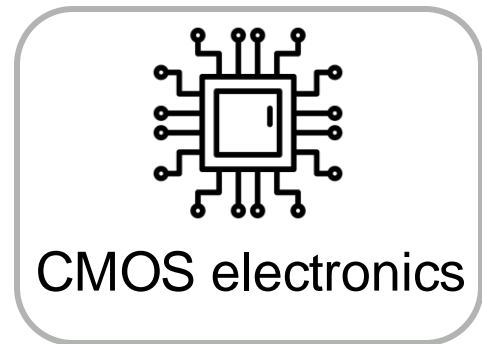
Example of SiPM

SiPM characteristic

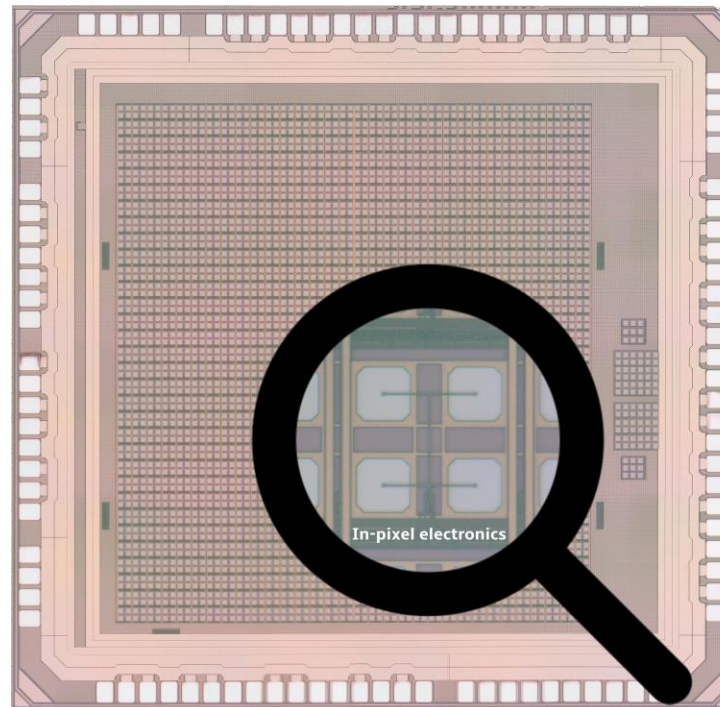
- Low voltage operation
- High and stable gain
- Excellent timing performance
- High photons sensitivity
- Insensitivity to magnetic fields
- Robustness
- **Can detect MIPs**

SiPM-IC Using Commercial CMOS Processes

Exploring SPADs in Foundries Process Design Kits



Digital SiPM integrated circuit (dSiPM)



DESY dSiPM in LFoundry 150 nm

Advantages

- large and fast signals
- Customized readout architectures
- Masking of noisy pixels
- Hitmap readout possible
- Simpler DAQ system
- Large volume production
- Low-cost implementation
- New possible applications

DESY dSiPM Prototype

ASIC in LF 150 nm CMOS

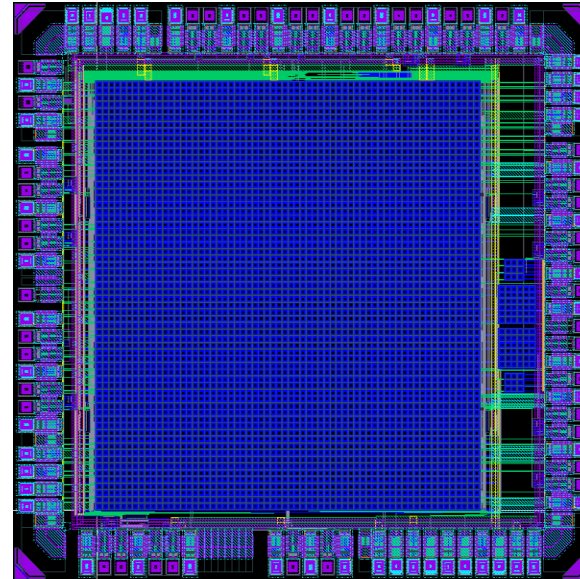
Layout

- In LFoundry 150 nm CMOS technology
- Main matrix: 32 x 32 pixels (4 SPADs per pixel)
- Sensor area: 2.2 x 2.4 mm²
- Test structures in the chip periphery

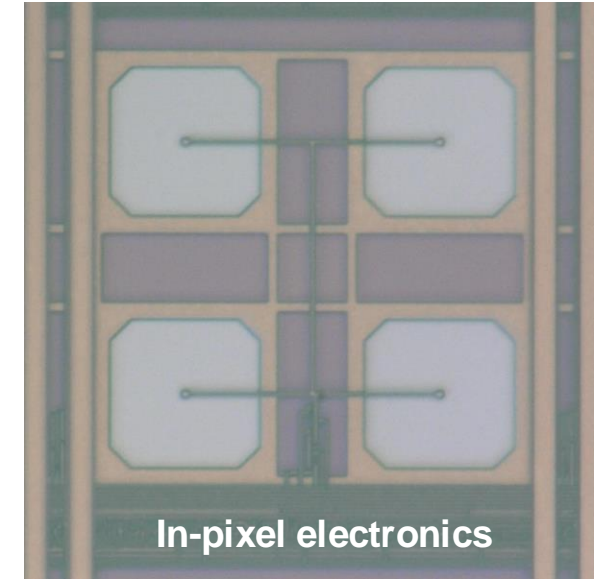
Some Features

- Full hit matrix readout and timing measurements
- 4 x 12-bit Time to Digital Converters with ~95 ps bins
- Pixel masking & 2-bit in-pixel hit counting
- Caribou DAQ system is used for biasing & readout

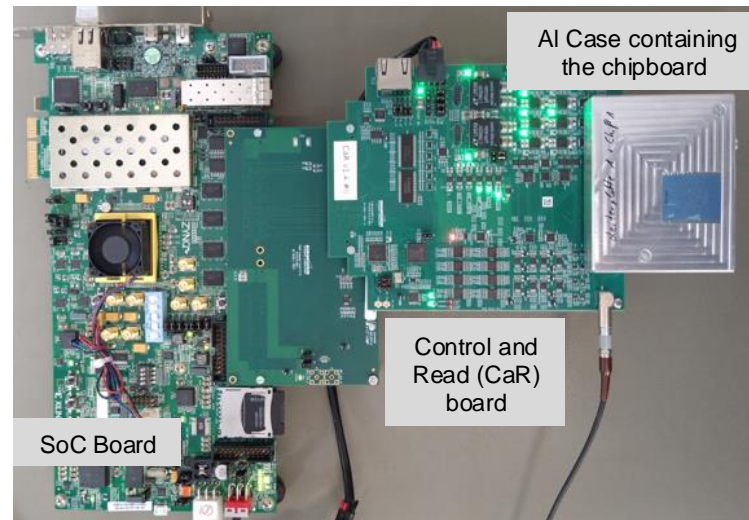
For details: [I. Diehl et al 2024 JINST 19 P01020](#)



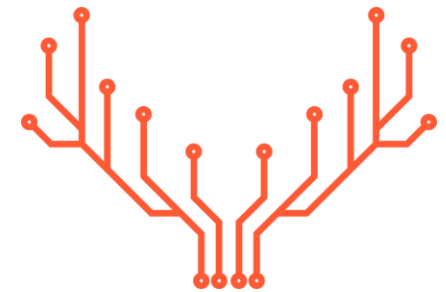
ASIC design of the DESY dSiPM



DESY dSiPM pixel picture (69.6 x 76 μm²)



DAQ System



Caribou DAQ system

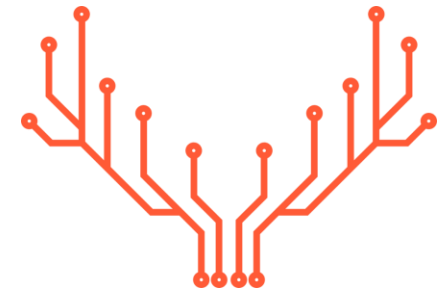
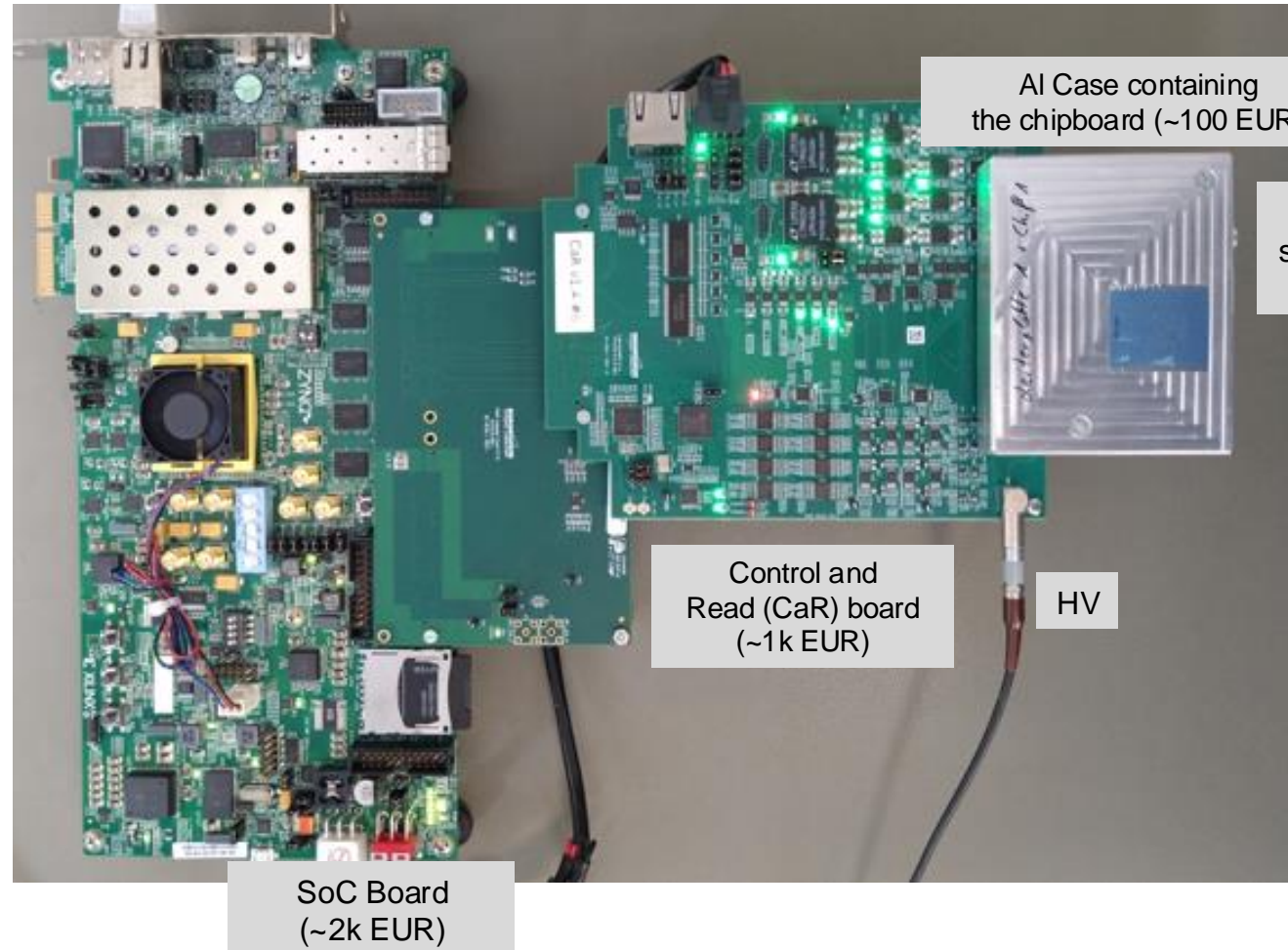
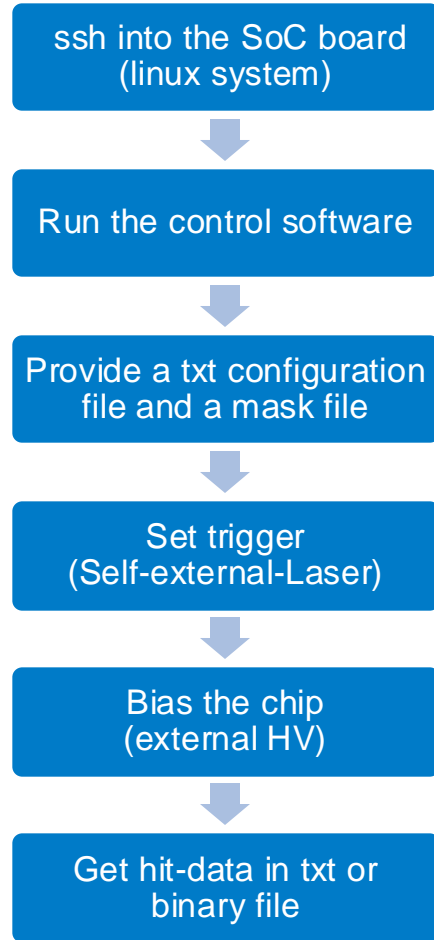
Fast & low-cost implementation of solid-state detector prototypes

<http://dx.doi.org/10.22323/1.370.0100>

<https://gitlab.cern.ch/Caribou/>

DESY dSiPM Prototype

Extremely Easy To Operate,

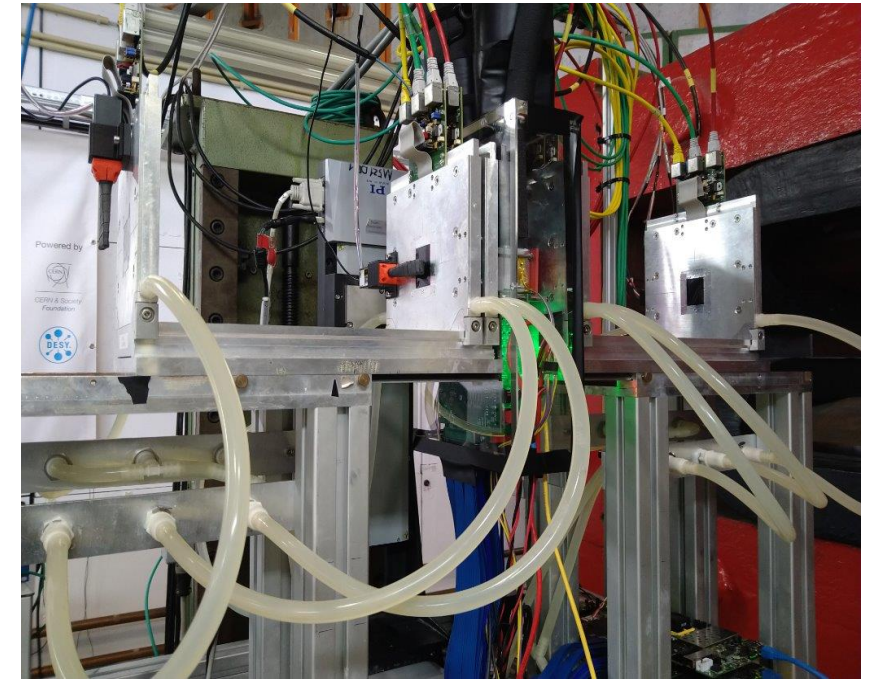
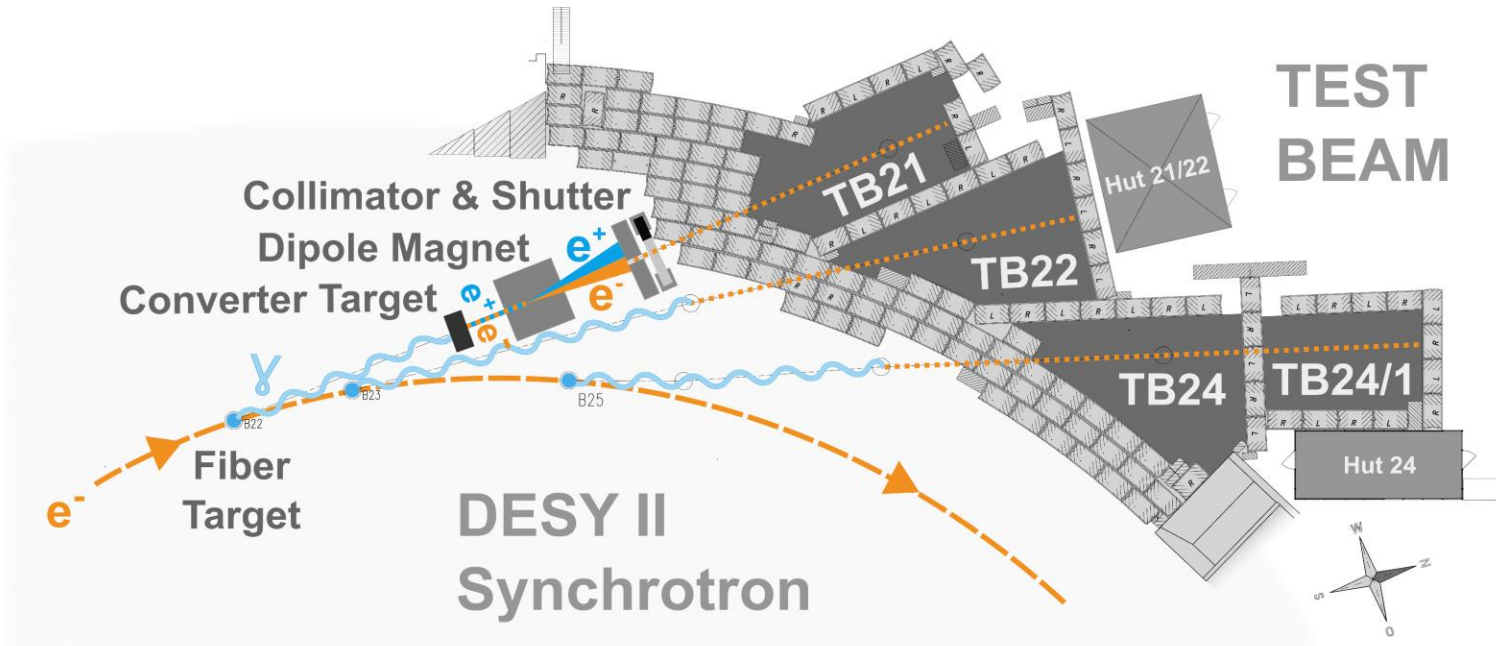


Caribou DAQ system

Fast & low-cost implementation of solid-state detector prototypes
<http://dx.doi.org/10.22323/1.370.0100>
<https://gitlab.cern.ch/Caribou/>

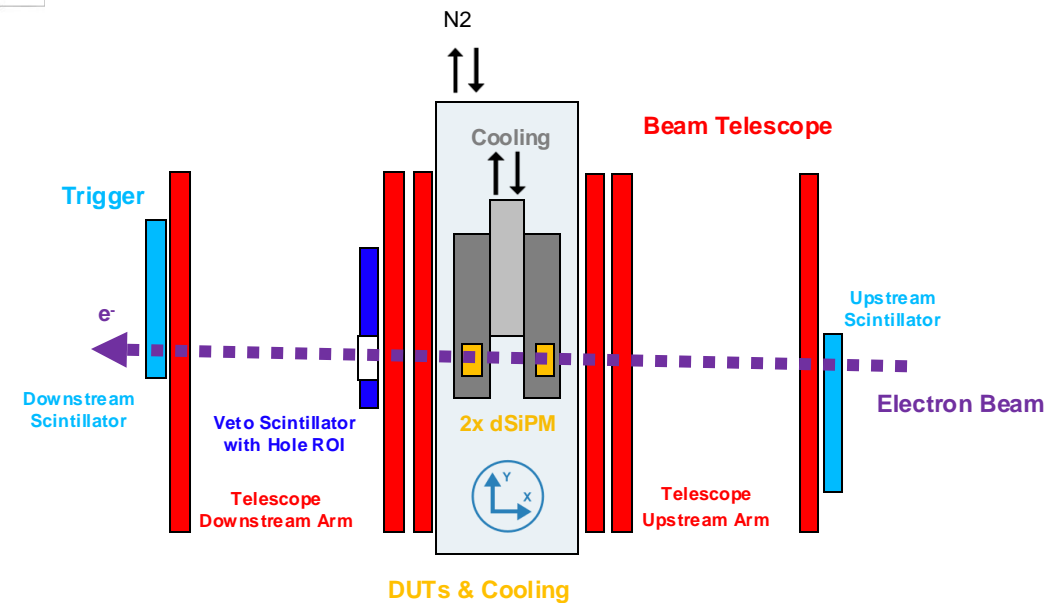
DESY dSiPM Test Beam

Device Treated as a Particle Detector



https://particle-physics.desy.de/test_beams_at_desy/

- Electron/positron beam 1-6 GeV
- High rate, very reliable and continuous beam (no spills)
- Planned to be in operation till 2029 (at least)
- During CERN shutdown (LS3) it will be the main TB facility in Europe
- Beam Telescope available in all beam areas with local support to users



DAQ System in Test Beam

AIDA TLU Core

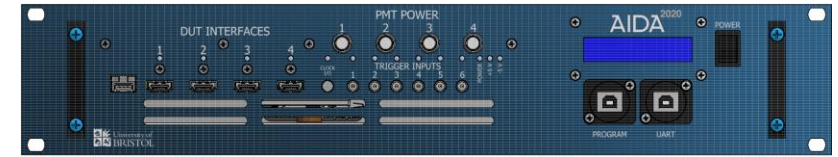


<https://doi.org/10.1140/epjti/s40485-016-0033-2>

Scintillators
& PMTs

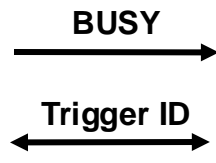


NIM Logic

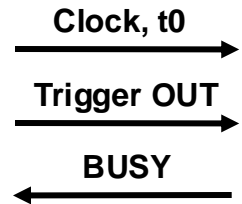


<https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-0221/14/09/P09019>

TELESCOPE
6 x high granularity
pixel reference detectors

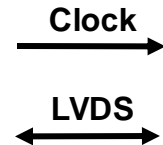


AIDA Trigger Logic Unit
"Aida Mode"



Caribou DAQ

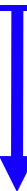
dSiPM



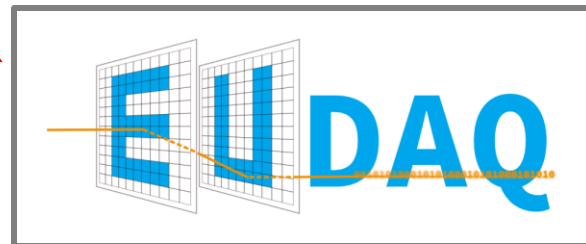
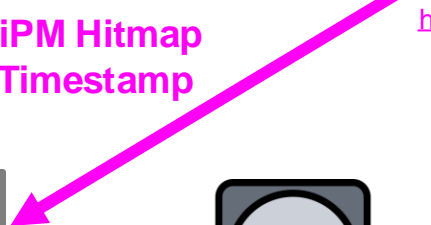
Telescope
Hitmap



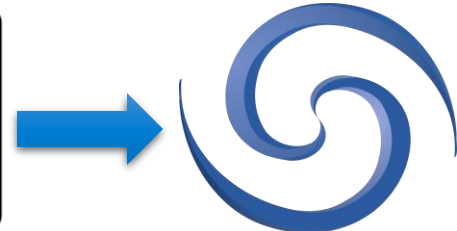
Event Timestamp
& Trigger ID



dSiPM Hitmap
& Timestamp



<https://github.com/eudaq>

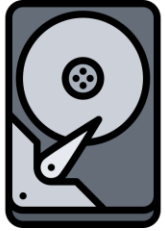


<https://gitlab.cern.ch/corryvreckan/corryvreckan>

Analysis Chain

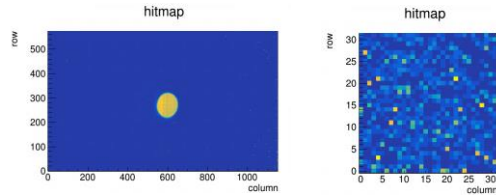


Using Corryvreckan



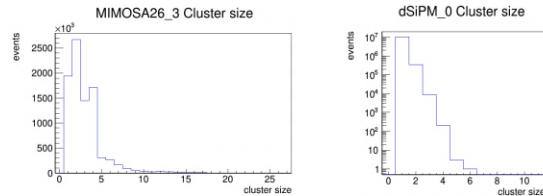
Data Decoding

Raw Telescope & dSiPM data are **decoded** into an accessible format



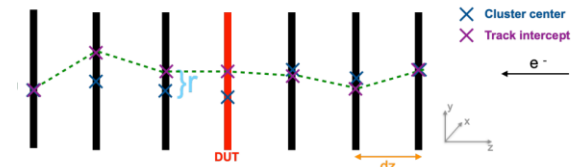
Clustering

Clusters of hits in the reference telescope and DUT are identified



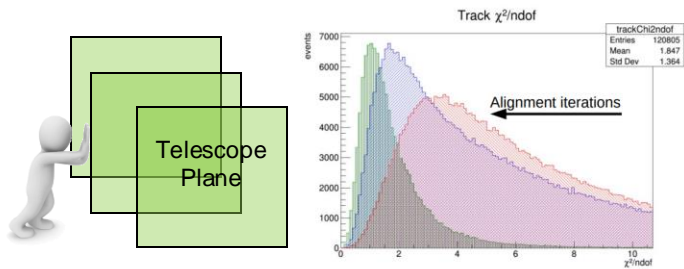
Tracking *

Tracks are reconstructed using telescope clusters + spatial & temporal cuts



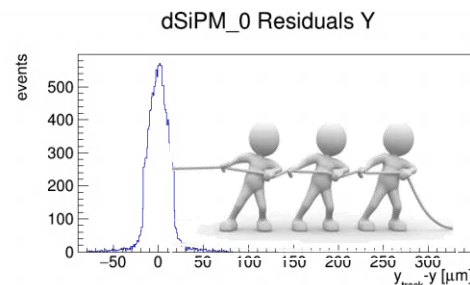
* **Telescope Alignment**

Software **translations and rotations** of the **telescope planes** are performed



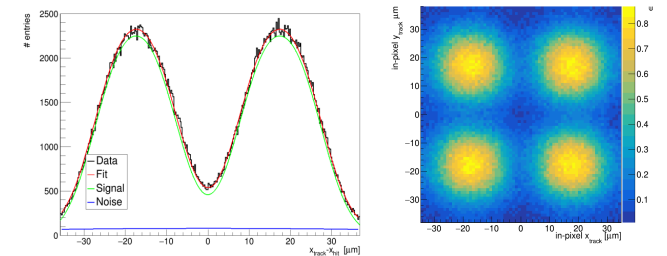
dSiPM Alignment

Translations and rotations of the **DUT** are performed to minimize unbiased residuals



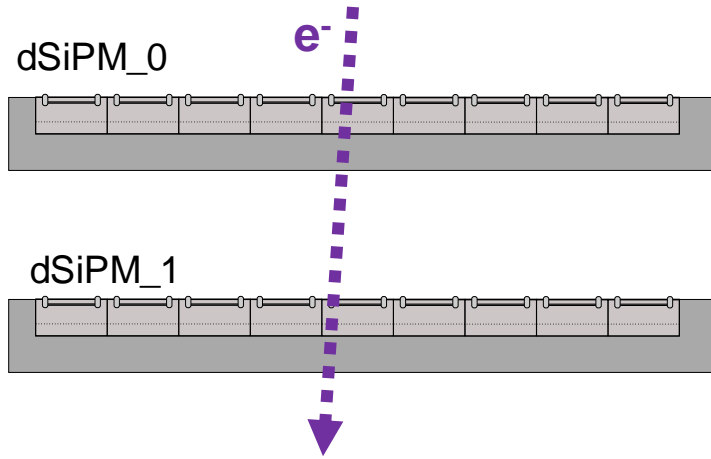
DUT Association & analysis

DUT clusters are associated with tracks & its **MIP detection response** is analyzed



DESY dSiPM 4D-Tracking

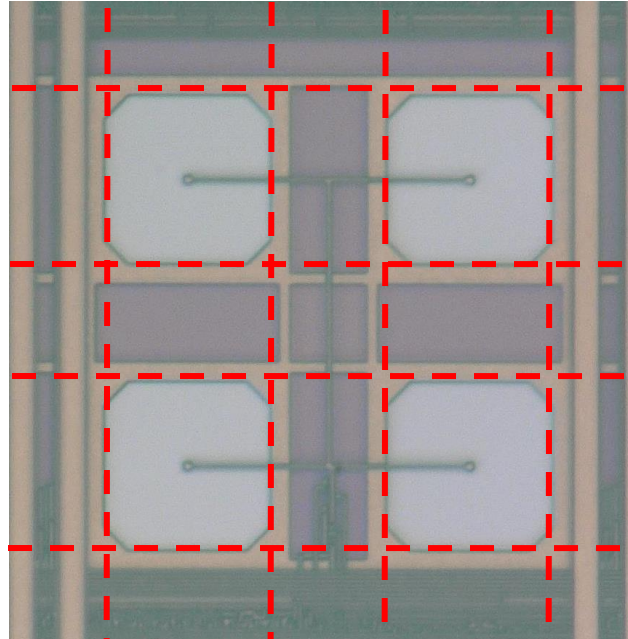
Direct MIP Detection (Only Silicon)



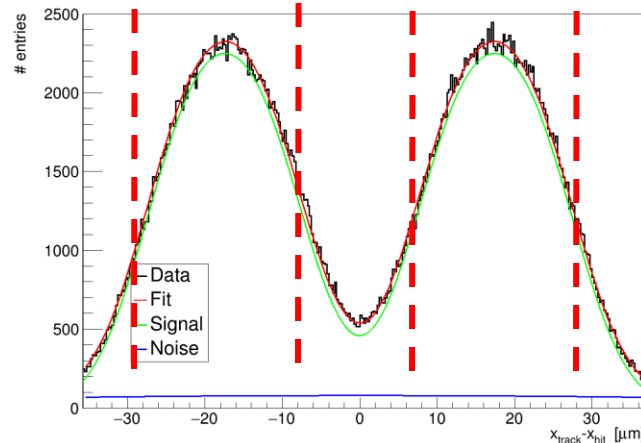
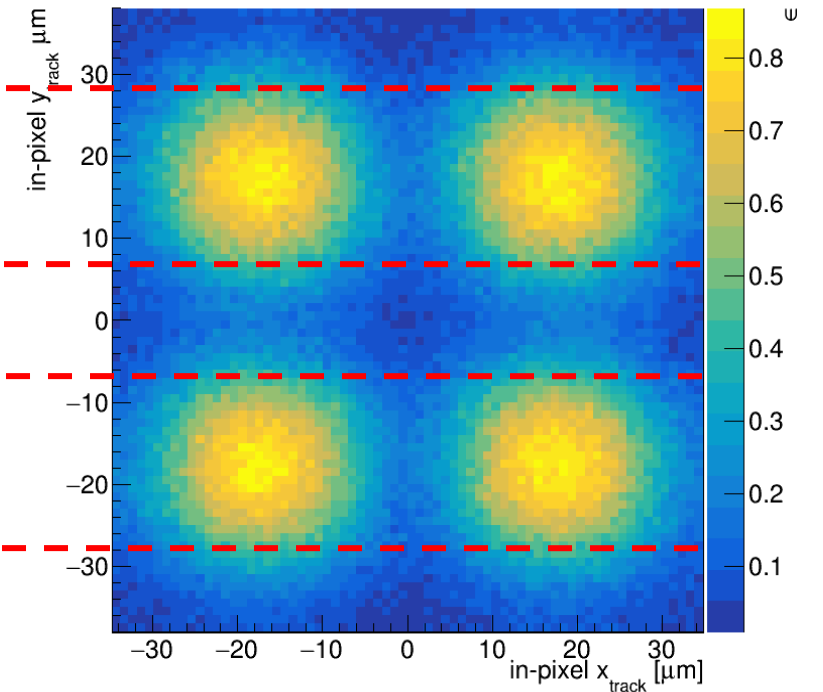
DESY dSiPM Performances

Spatial Resolution	~ 20 μm
Efficiency in MIP detection	~ 33 %
Noise Rate	O(MHz)
Time Resolution	~ 50 ps

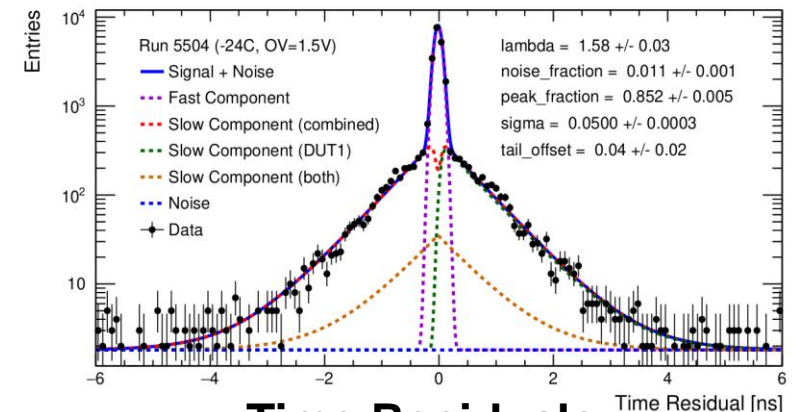
In-Pixel Efficiency



In-Pixel Efficiency



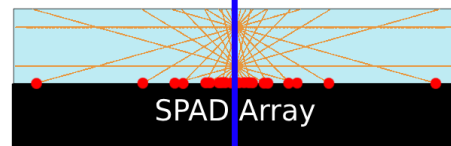
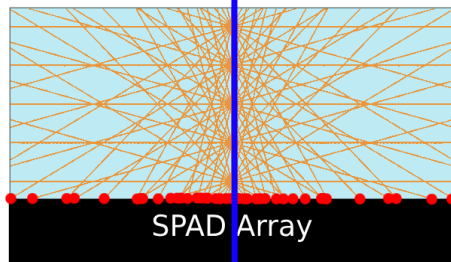
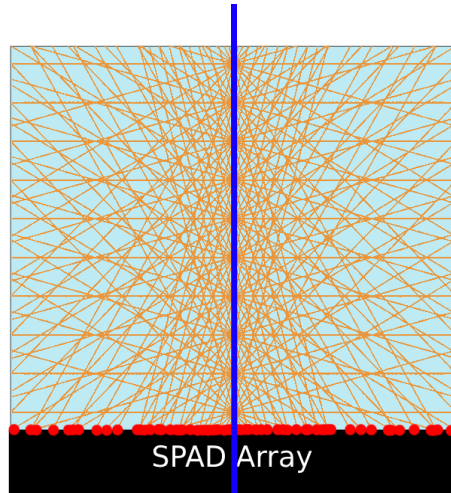
Spatial Residuals



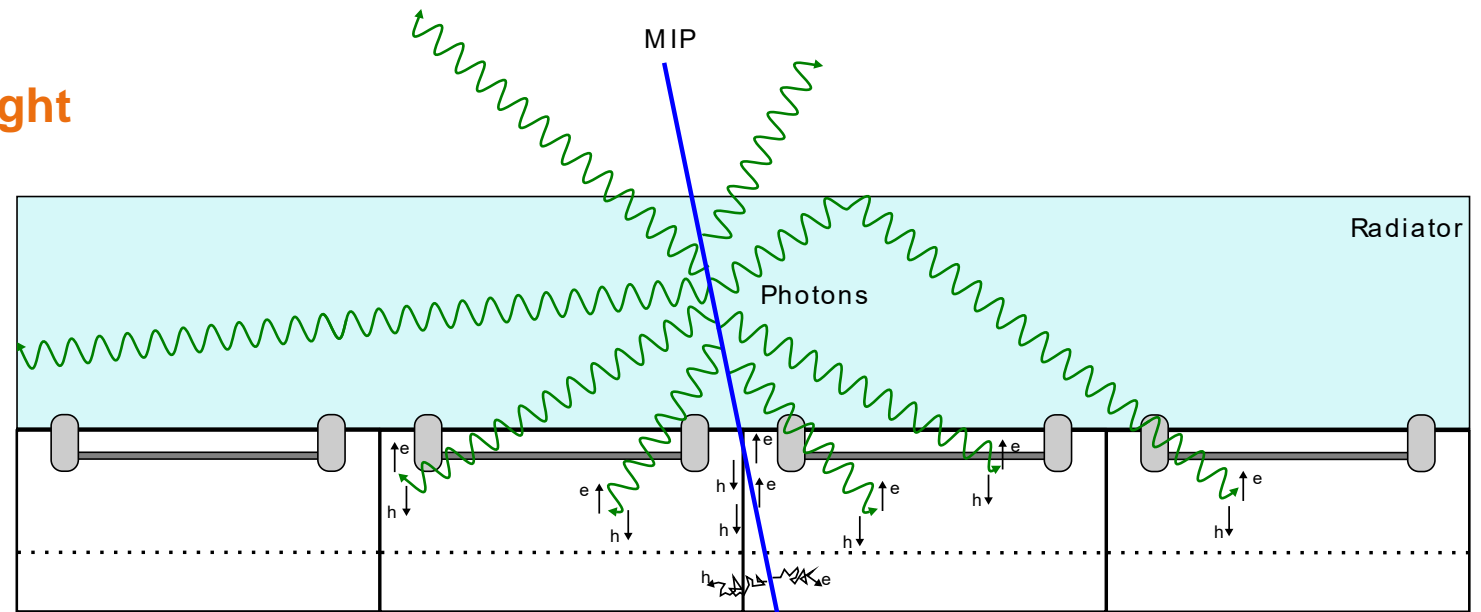
Time Residuals

Thin Radiator Concept

Detecting Cherenkov & Scintillation Light

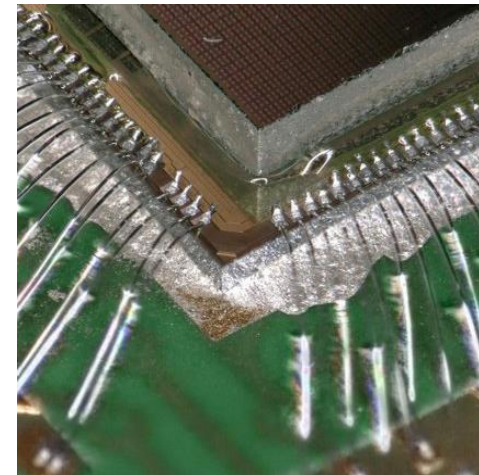


Not a simulation

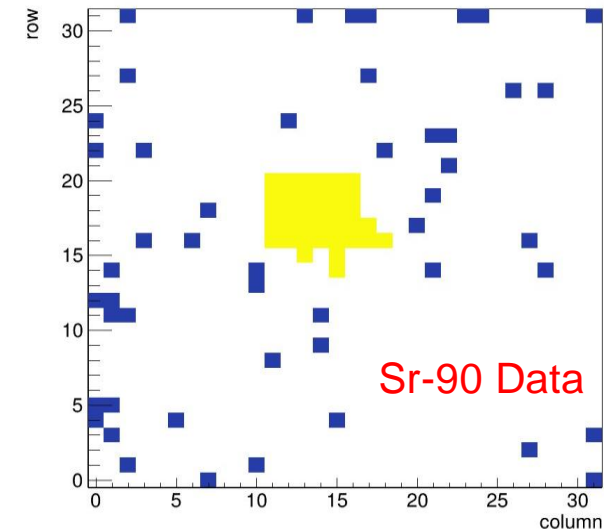


DESY dSiPM + thin LYSO

- Overcome efficiency limit
- Reduce noise contamination (large signals for MIP events)
- Preserve good spatial resolution
- Concept already explored using analog SiPM [1] [2] [3]
- Three samples assembled with 100, 200 & 500 μm thick LYSO



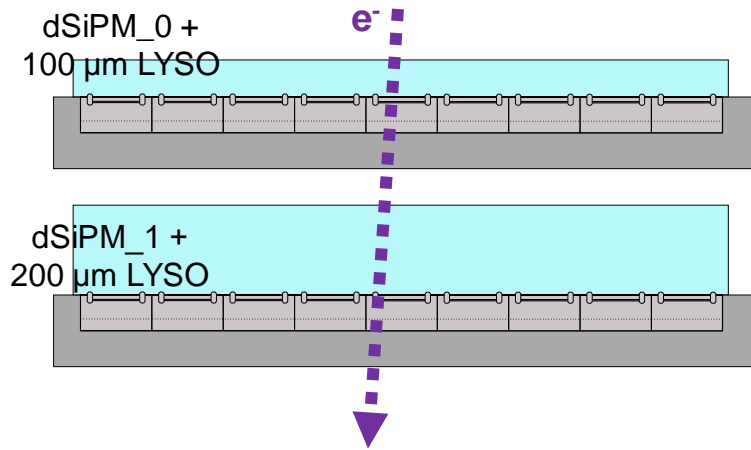
Thin LYSO glued on DESY dSiPM



dSiPM + 200 μm LYSO MIP hit map

DESY dSiPM + Thin LYSO

Using Radiators to Enhance Efficiency



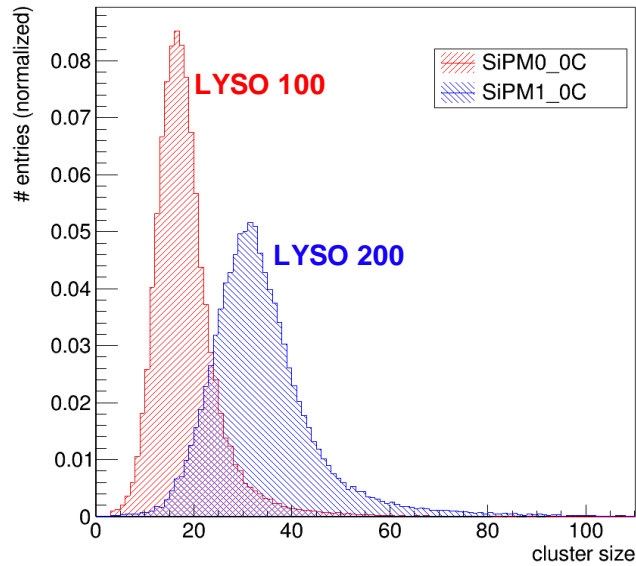
DESY dSiPM + LYSO Performances

Spatial Resolution	~ 35 μm
Efficiency in MIP detection	> 99 %
Noise Rate	$O(\text{Hz})^*$
Time Resolution	< 1 ns ^{**}

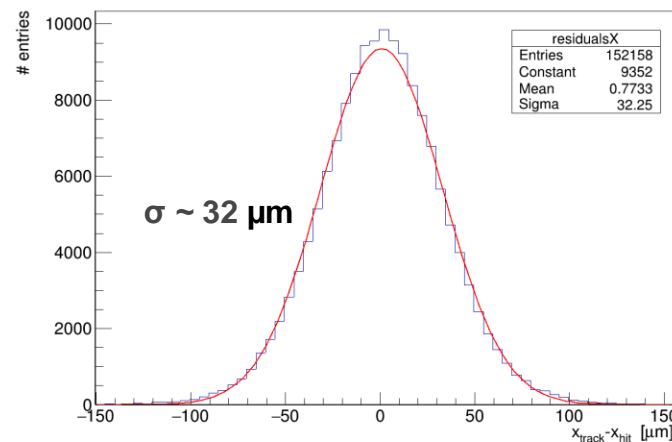
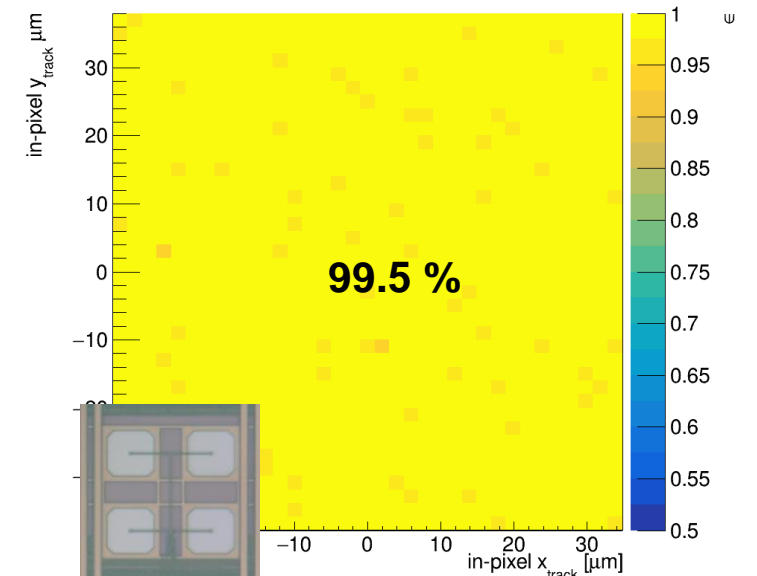
* While cutting on cluster-size

** Currently under investigation

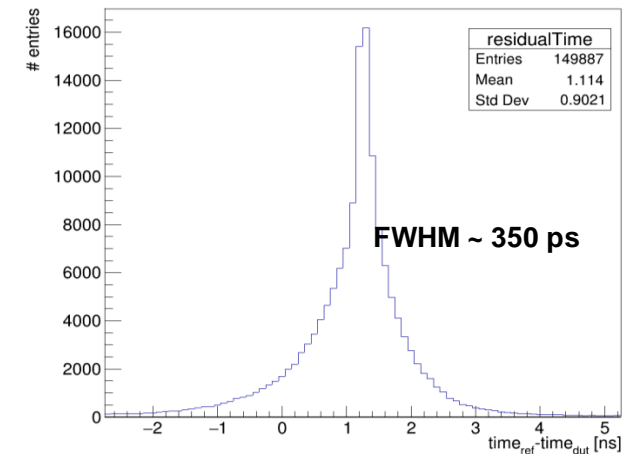
Events Cluster Size



In-Pixel Efficiency



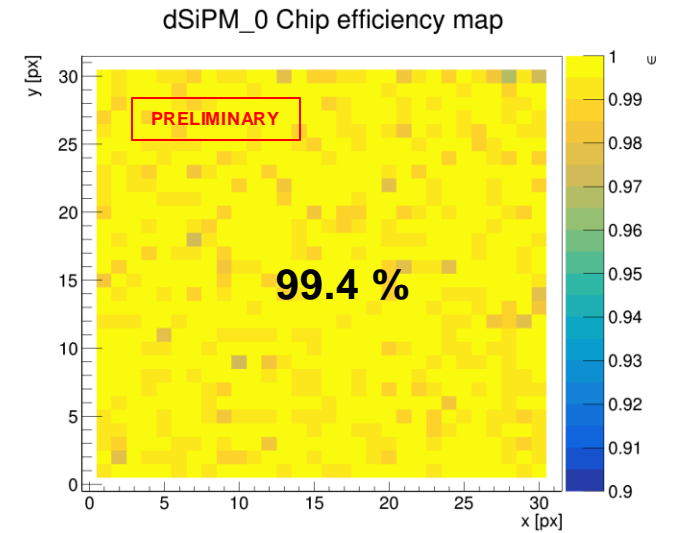
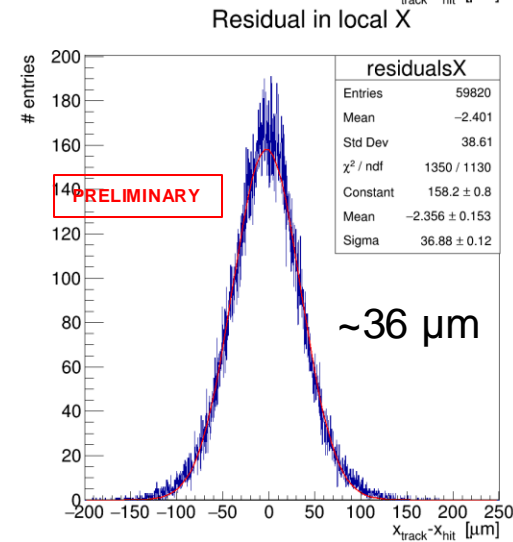
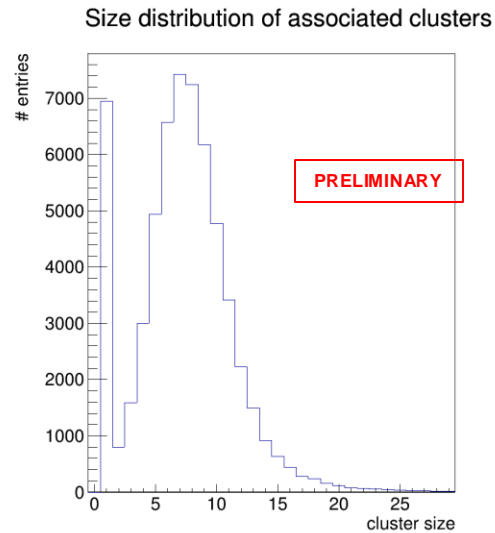
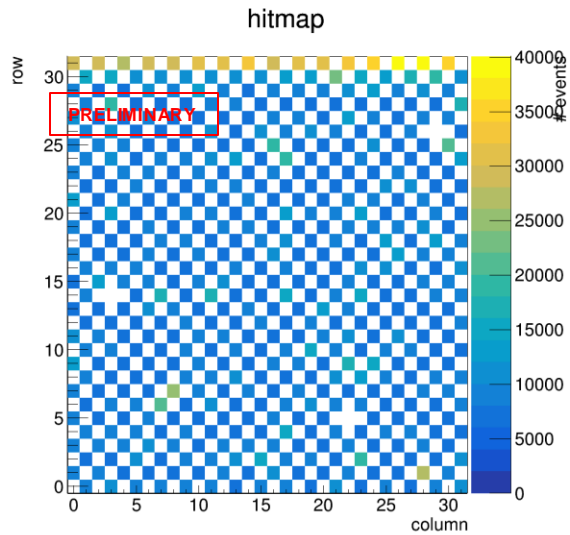
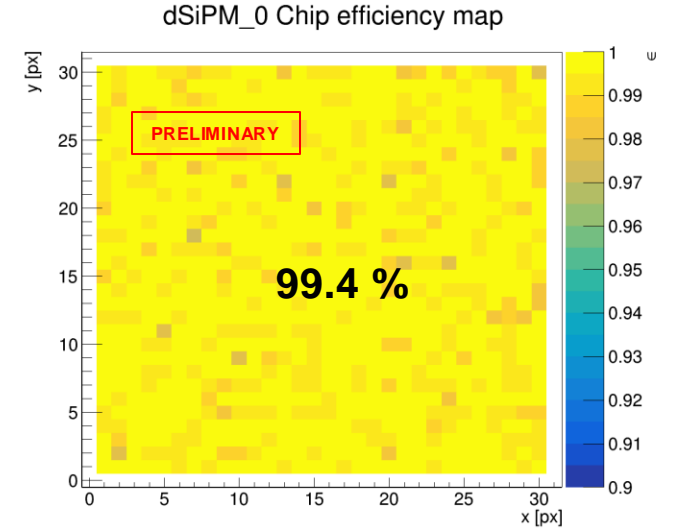
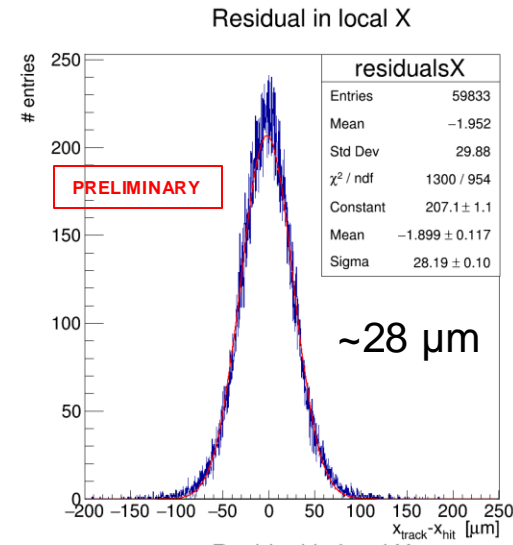
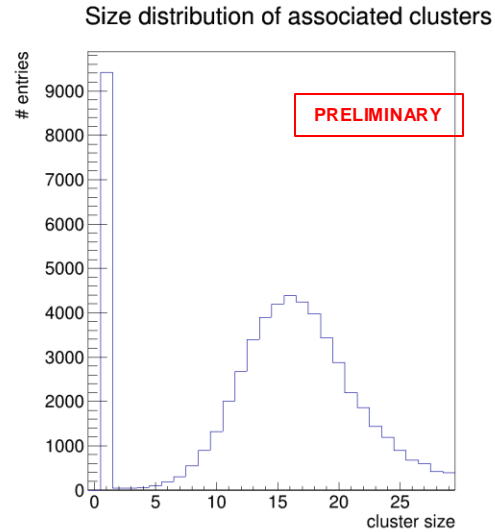
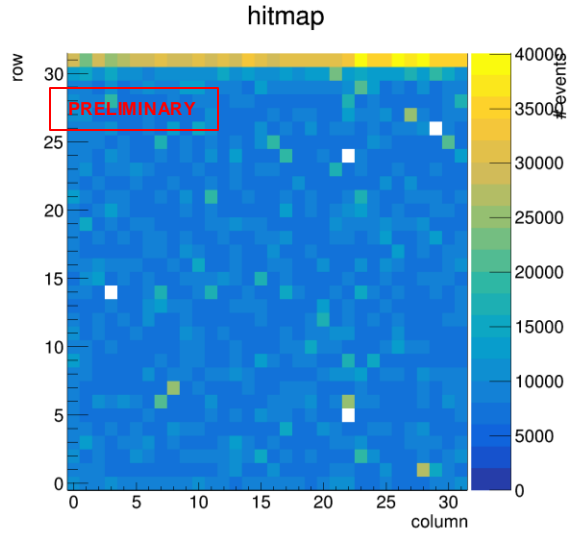
Spatial Residuals



Time Residuals

Let's Play Chess

Similar Performances Whith Half Active Area!

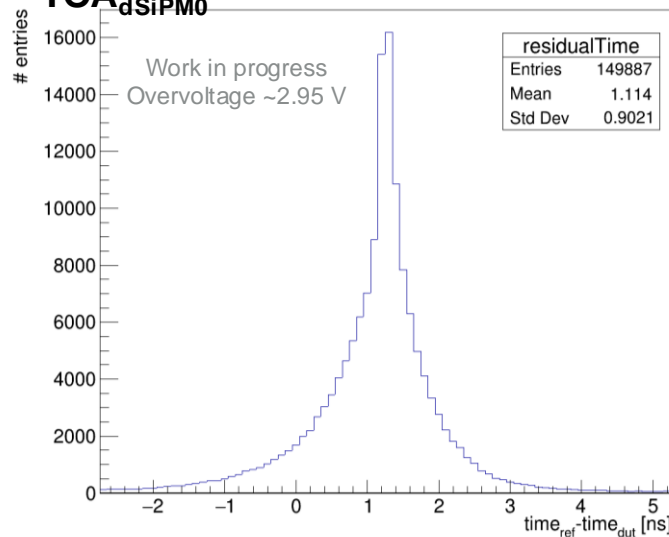


DESY dSiPM + Thin LYSO

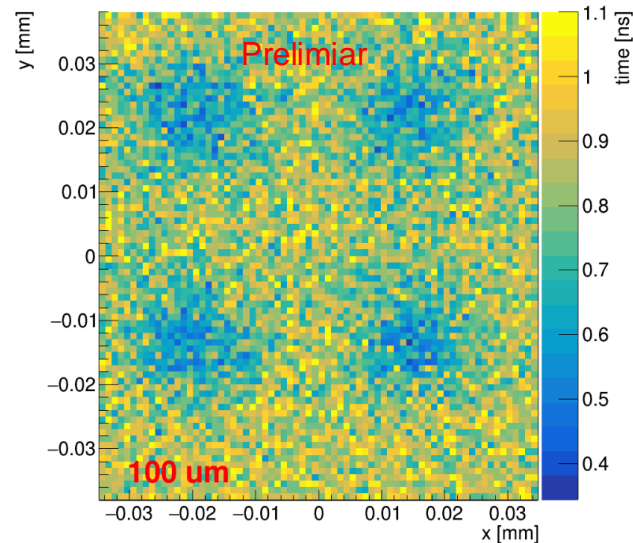
Timing Performances

- The timing is worse when the MIP does not hit the SPAD
- Tail effect attributable to the LYSO's scintillation properties and low fill-factor
- Faster radiators or designs/technology with higher sensor fill-factor will improve timing

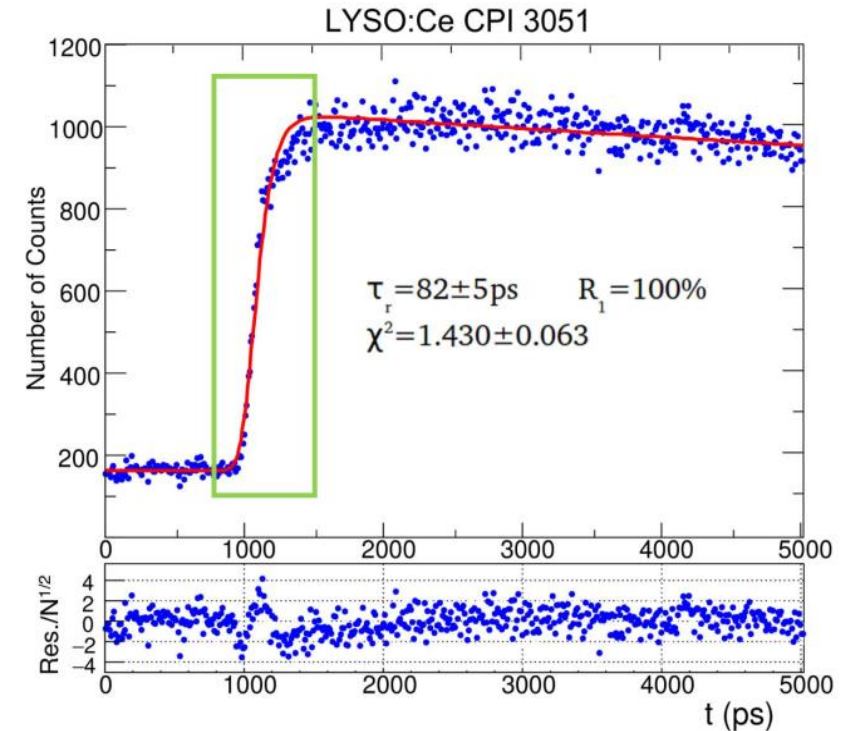
Time residuals: $TOA_{dSiPM1} - TOA_{dSiPM0}$



In-pixel map of time residuals Std Dev



Example of LYSO(Ce) scintillation



LYSO Timestamp: **Fast** if we catch one prompt ph

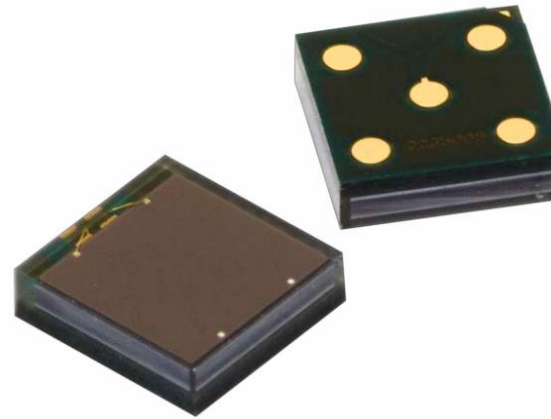
From
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0168900218302286>

Not the LYSO used in the presented studies!

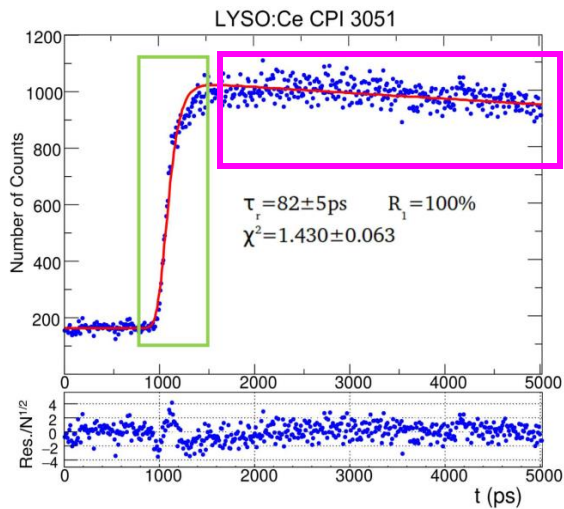
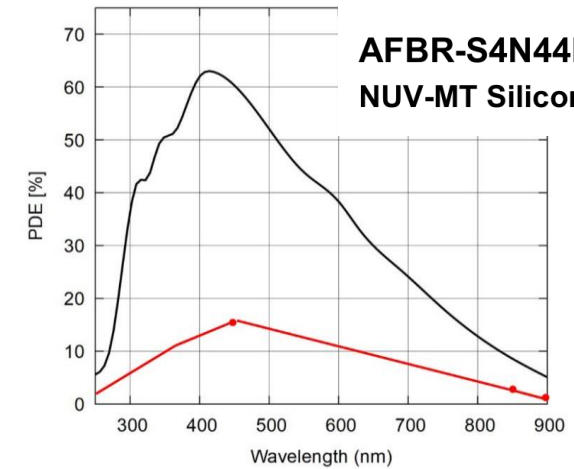
Analog SiPM + Thin LYSO

Confirm that Fill-Factor and Scintillator Properties Affect Timing

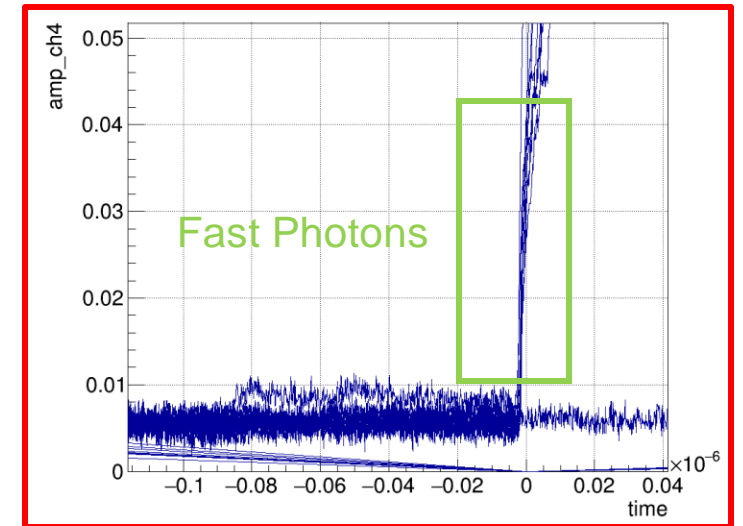
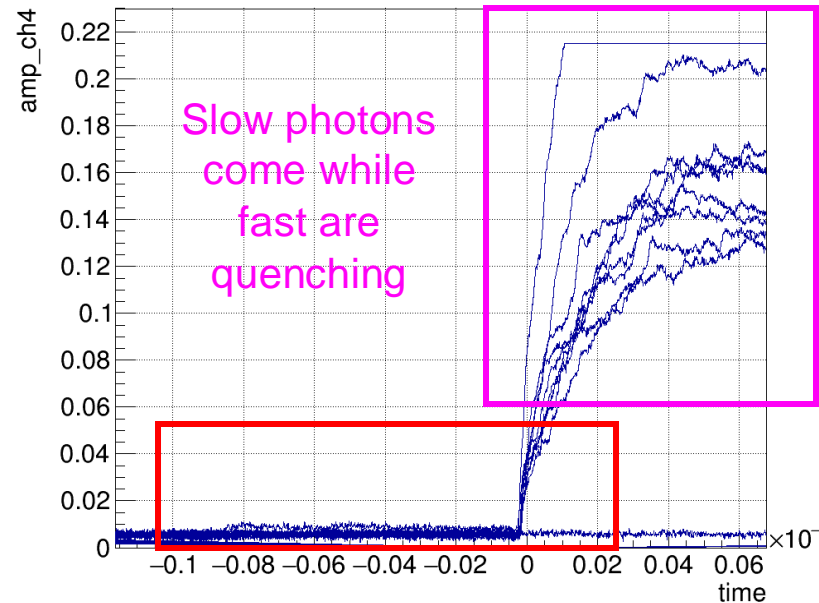
- Thin LYSOs coupled to a commercial analog SiPM
- Investigation of the effect of higher fill-factor
- With low threshold excellent timing measured



AFBR-S4N44P014M
NUV-MT Silicon Photomultiplier

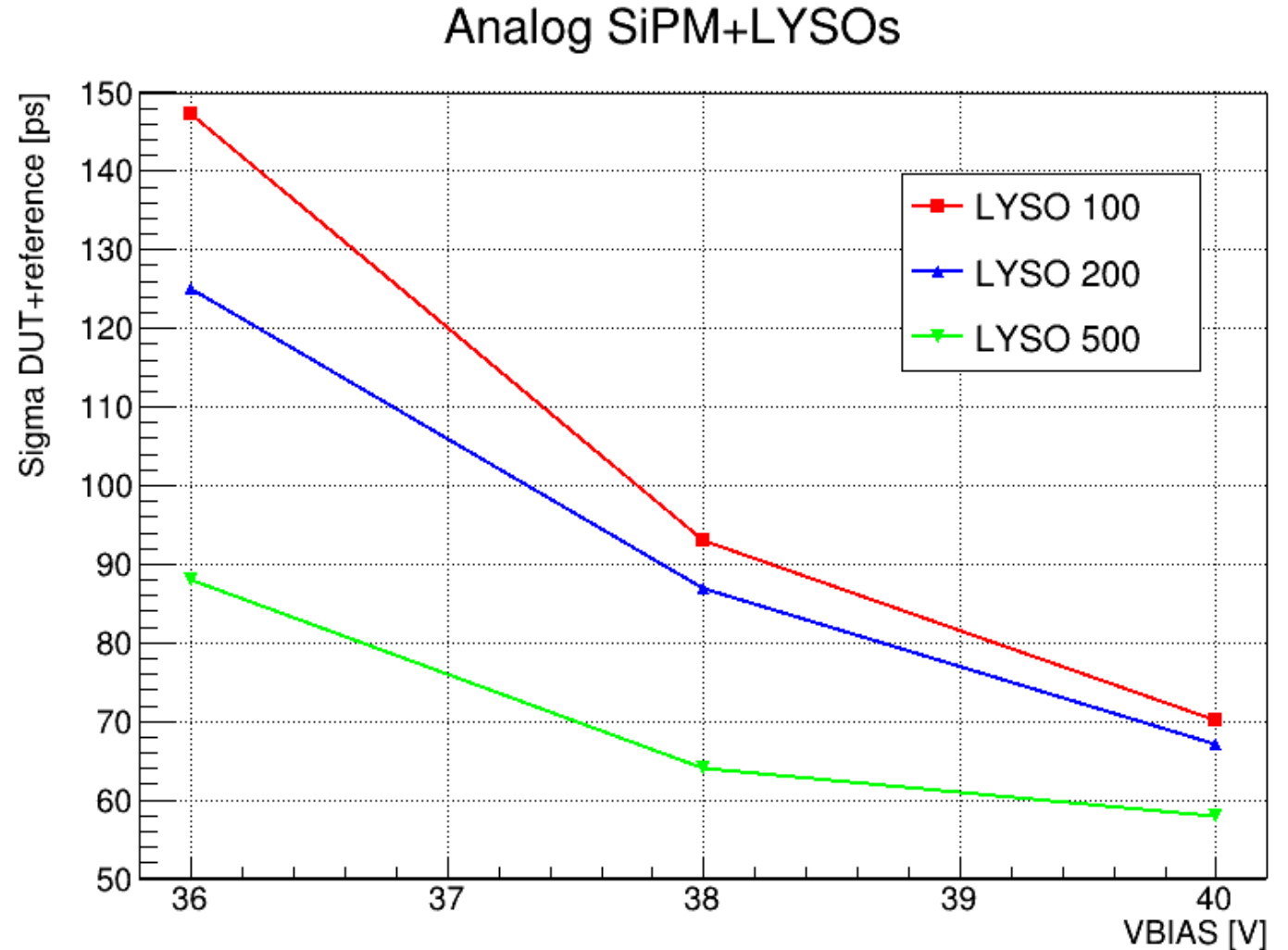
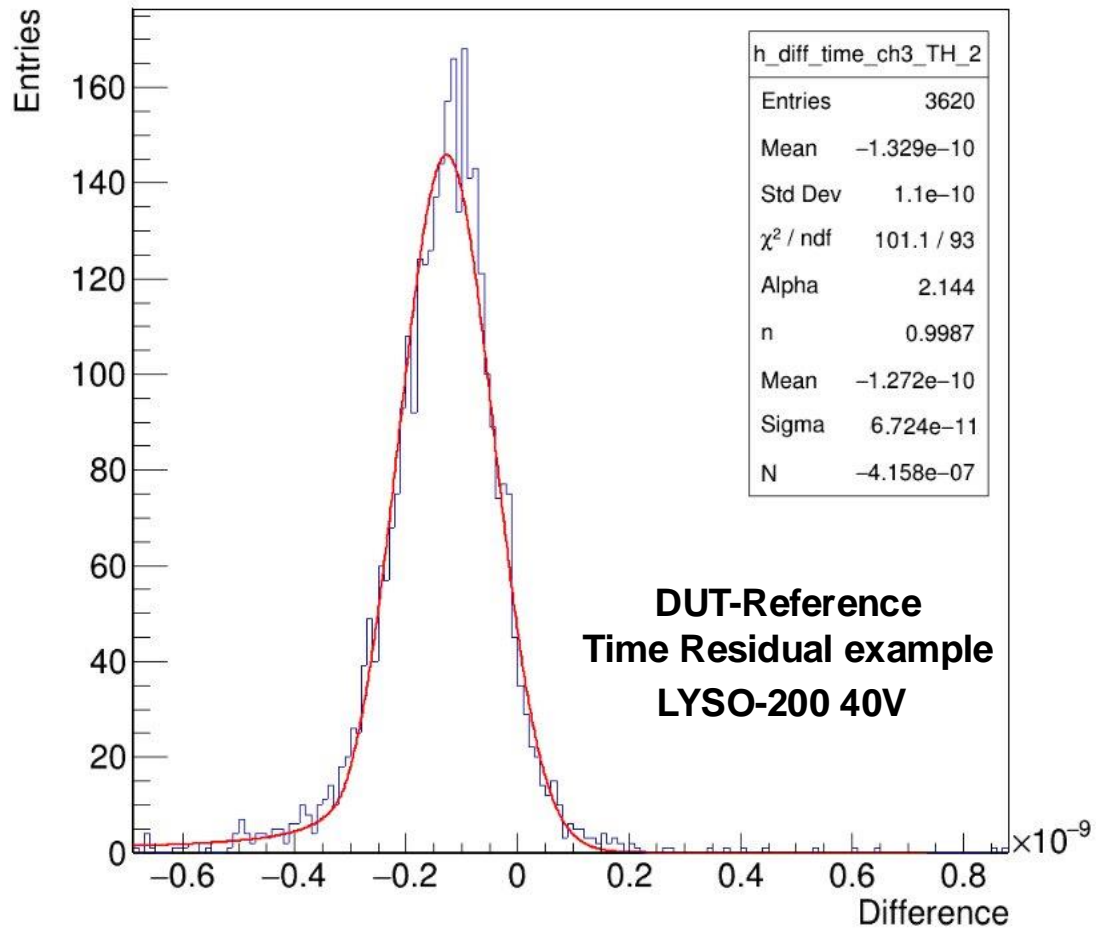


LYSO Timestamp: **Fast** if we catch one prompt ph



Analog SiPM + Thin LYSO

Confirm that Fill-Factor and Scintillator Properties Affect Timing



Summary & Outlook

dSiPM as 4D-Tracking Candidate

CMOS dSiPMs

- Combination of SPAD and CMOS electronics in the same silicon die opens new application possibilities
- Reduction of complexity & cost especially for large volumes

DESY dSiPM & MIPs 4D-Tracking

- Prototype easy to use on a versatile DAQ system
- dSiPM can be a possible candidate technology for 4D-tracking
- Spatial resolution down to $\sim 20 \mu\text{m}$ and $\sim 50 \text{ ps}$ system timing
- Efficiency $>99\%$, very low noise rate using thin LYSOs
- Timing with LYSO coupling limited by the Fill-Factor
- Sensor with higher fill-factor improve timing

DESY dSiPM Performances

	dSiPM	dSiPM+LYSO
Signal Cluster Size	~ 1	10 – 40
Spatial Resolution	$\sim 20 \mu\text{m}$	$\sim 35 \mu\text{m}$
Efficiency in MIP detection	$\sim 33 \%$	$> 99 \%$
Noise Rate	O(MHz)	O(Hz)*
Time Resolution	$\sim 50 \text{ ps}$	$< 1 \text{ ns}^{**}$

* While cutting on cluster-size

** Currently under investigation

Thank you.

References:

I. Diehl et al, Monolithic MHz-frame rate digital SiPM-IC with sub-100 ps precision and 70 μm pixel pitch

S.Lachnit, Time Resolution of a Fully-Integrated Digital Silicon Photo-Multiplier

F.Feindt et al, The DESY digital silicon photomultiplier: Device characteristics and first test-beam results

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Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY
Notkestraße 85, 22607 Hamburg
1C, O1.331, ATLAS



The measurements leading to these results have been performed at the Test Beam Facility at DESY Hamburg (Germany), a member of the Helmholtz Association (HGF).