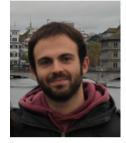
A novel method to estimate the impact parameter on a drift cell by using the information of single ionization clusters

A particle crossing a drift chamber cell produces several **ionization clusters**, but only the signal coming from the **cluster** which is **closest** to the anode wire (with a drift distance ξ_1) is usually exploited to extract the **impact parameter** *b*.

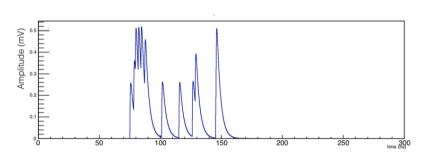
Mean

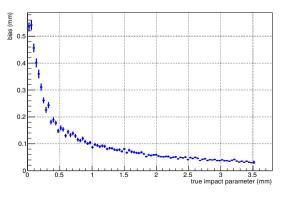
free path





Since $\xi_1 > b$ the estimate of the impact parameter by using the closest cluster is biased. The bias is larger for light gas mixtures (low number of clusters, ~10/cm) and for tracks close to the anode.





Clusters contain the **full information** on the track parameters: with fast electronics one can reconstruct and exploit single clusters, *e.g.* in the MEG II drift chamber.

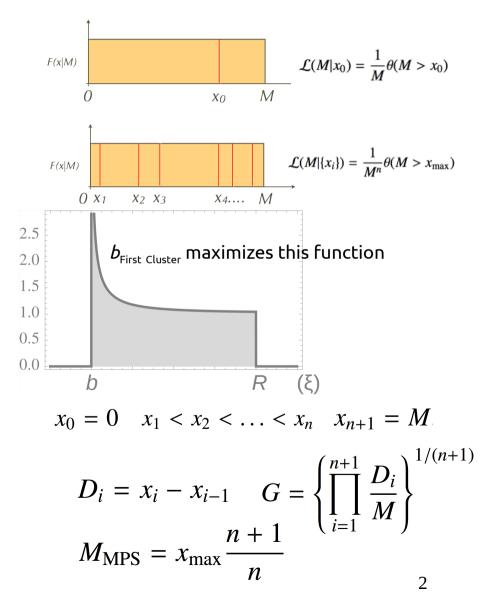
Maximum Likelihood & Maximum Product of Spacing

The problem of exploiting the information of multiple clusters is similar to the problem of estimating the **upper limit of a flat distribution** (between 0 and *M*) by making *N* measurements $\{x_1...x_N\}$.

The Maximum Likelihood (ML) estimator in this case is $x_{max} = \max_{N} x_{i}$, but it is pathological, since the limits of the distribution depend on a parameter!

A **different estimator** for the parameter *M* is the **Maximum Product of Spacing** (MPS) estimator [1,2]. The idea is that if the observables come from a flat distribution their relative spacing $D_i = x_i - x_{i-1}$ should be **uniform**. Since the sum of all spacings is fixed and equals *M*, this reduces to **maximizing the geometrical mean** of the D'_i s (or, alternatively, its logarithm).

R.C.H. Cheng and N.A.K. Amin, J.R. Statist. Soc. **B45** (1983) 394–403
B. Ranneby, Scand. J. Statist. **11** (1984) 93–112 458-469.

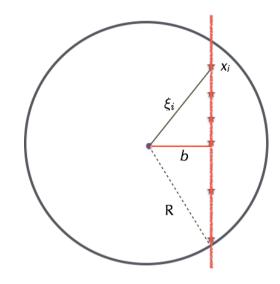


Idea: Applying MPS to tracking

Clusters are randomly distributed along the cord

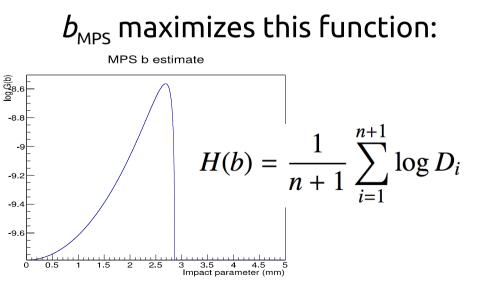
$$F(x|b)dx = \frac{dx}{2\sqrt{R^2 - b^2}}\theta(-\sqrt{R^2 - b^2} < x < \sqrt{R^2 - b^2})$$

$$G(\xi|b)\mathrm{d}\xi = \frac{\xi\mathrm{d}\xi}{\sqrt{R^2 - b^2}\sqrt{\xi^2 - b^2}}\theta(b < \xi < R)$$



To obtain the MPS estimator we need to compute the *D*'s from its cumulative distribution:

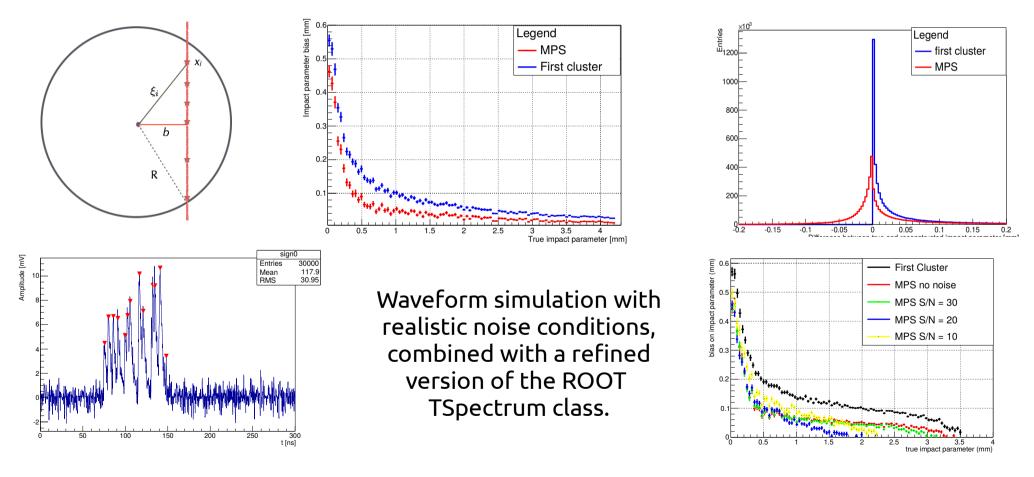
$$y_{i} = \int_{b}^{\xi_{i}} \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{R^{2} - b^{2}}} \sqrt{\xi^{2} - b^{2}} d\xi = \frac{\sqrt{\xi_{i}^{2} - b^{2}}}{\sqrt{R^{2} - b^{2}}}$$
$$D_{i} = y_{i} - y_{i-1} = \frac{\sqrt{\xi_{i}^{2} - b^{2}} - \sqrt{\xi_{i-1}^{2} - b^{2}}}{\sqrt{R^{2} - b^{2}}}$$



Results

We simulated a number of tracks crossing a R=5mm drift cell, filled with a light He:isobutane (85:15) mixture (λ =13 clusters/cm) to simulate the MEG II drift chamber cell.

MPS reduces the bias and the hit position uncertainty!



MPS works also in realistic conditions In progress: application to real data and improvement on track parameters.