

# Tracking charged particles with 20 ps timing precision using 3D-trench silicon pixels

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# Outline

- Needs of future HEP tracking systems for high luminosity operations
- The TimeSPOT 3D-trench pixel design
- The 2019 PSI beam test
- Laboratory testing of 3D-trench pixels
- Conclusions and outlook



TimeSPOT 3D-trench pixels in a strip-like configuration

#### Present and future challenges in tracking

- Future and today's upgraded colliders will operate at extremely high instantaneous luminosities
  - Very important radiation damage to tracking detectors
  - Extremely difficult event reconstruction due to large pile-up:
     → adding the time information (at the track or hit level) will help recovering tracking and vertexing capabilities
- ATLAS & CMS Phase-II upgrades (2026): mostly "traditional" tracker + single timing layer
  - $\sigma_t \approx 30 \text{ ps}, \sigma_s \approx 100\text{-}300 \,\mu\text{m}$
  - $F \approx 10^{15} \text{ 1 MeV } n_{eq}/cm^2$
  - Approaching production phase
- LHCb Upgrade-2 (2030s): time information on each pixel
  - −  $\sigma_t$  = 30-50 ps per hit (pixel) → 10-20 ps per track
  - $σ_s ≈ 10 \, \mu$ m (pixel pitch 40-50 μm)
  - F =  $10^{16}$  1 MeV  $n_{eq}$ /cm<sup>2</sup> to  $10^{17}$  1 MeV  $n_{eq}$ /cm<sup>2</sup>
- FCC-hh (2040s ?): further improve the radiation hardness
  - (Numbers still under discussion)
  - σ<sub>t</sub> = 10-20 ps per hit (pixel) → 5-10 ps per track
  - $σ_s$  ≈ 10 μm (pixel pitch 40-50 μm)
  - F =  $10^{17}$  1 MeV  $n_{eq}$ /cm<sup>2</sup> to  $10^{18}$  1 MeV  $n_{eq}$ /cm<sup>2</sup>

Spatial resolution, time precision and radiation hardness are required at the same time!



#### Adding the track time information





## What's on the market today?

Technology	Space [µm]	Time [ps]	Radiation hardness [1 MeV n <sub>eq</sub> /cm <sup>2</sup> ]		
LGAD	≈ 100-300 (traditional) <sup>(1)</sup> 10-100 (LGAD <sup>++</sup> ) <sup>(4-7)</sup>	50-20 (2,3)	5x10 <sup>15 (2,3)</sup>		
MAPS (Si-Ge BiCMOS)	100 <sup>(8)</sup>	50 <sup>(6)</sup>	Untested: expected ~10 <sup>15</sup> in CMOS MAPS		
3D	~15 <sup>(9)</sup>	20 <sup>(9)</sup>	> 10 <sup>17 (10)</sup> Very promising!		

#### References

- 1) N. Cartiglia et al., Design optimization of ultra-fast silicon detectors, Nuclear Instruments and Methods A796(2015) 141
- Y. Zhao et al., Comparison of 35 and 50 µm thin HPK UFSD after neutron irradiation up 6 × 10<sup>15</sup>n<sub>eq</sub>/cm<sup>2</sup>, NIM A924(2019) 387, 11<sup>th</sup> International Hiroshima Symposium on Development and Application of Semiconductor Tracking Detectors
- 3) H. F.-W. Sadrozinski et al., Ultra-fast silicon detectors (UFSD), NIM A: 831(2016) 18, Proceedings of the 10th International "Hiroshima" Symposium on the Development and Application of Semiconductor Tracking Detectors
- 4) M. Ferrero et al., Evolution of the design of Ultra-Fast Silicon Detector to cope with high irradiation fluences and fine segmentation, JINST 15(2020) C04027
- 5) S. Hidalgo et al., New iLGAD detector development at CNM, 26<sup>th</sup> RD50 Workshop, Santander, 23<sup>th</sup> June 2015
- 6) M. Mandurrino et al., Analysis and numerical design of resistive AC-coupled silicon detectors (RSD) for 4D particle tracking, NIM A: 959(2020)
- 7) N. Cartiglia and M. Mandurrino, Innovative silicon sensors for future trackers, CERN Detector Seminar, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2020, <u>https://indico.cern.ch/event/915984/</u>
- 8) G. Iacobucci et al., A 50 ps resolution monolithic active pixel sensor without internal gain in SiGe BiCMOS technology, 2019 JINST 14 P11008
- 9) L. Anderlini et al., Intrinsic time resolution of 3D-trench silicon pixels for charged particle detection, JINST 082 P0420 (2020), arXiv:2004.10881

10) M. Manna et al., First characterization of 3D pixel detectors irradiated at extreme fluences, NIMA, 979 (2020) 164458, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2020.164458

## Why 3D sensors?

- Original idea: S. Parker, 1997
- Key points
  - Short inter-electrode drift distance (tens of μm): extremely fast signals (d<<L)
  - Active volume and electrode shape can be designed for maximum performance
  - Unmatched radiation hardness (> 10<sup>17</sup> 1MeV n<sub>eq</sub>/cm<sup>2</sup>), NIMA, 979 (2020) 164458
  - Largely immune to Landau fluctuation by geometry
  - 3D <u>columnar geometry</u> is today a <u>production-ready technology</u> (ATLAS IBL, ATLAS-P2)
- Timing performances
  - S. Parker et al., IEEE TNS 58(2) (2011), 404
    - Column hexagonal geometry, 50µm pitch, 20V bias
    - Tested under <sup>90</sup>Sr beta source @ room temperature
    - Time resolution: 31-177ps (depending on signal amplitude)
    - Limited by front-end electronics noise
  - G. Kramberger et al., NIMA 934 (2019), 26
    - Square geometry, side = 50  $\mu$ m , 300  $\mu$ m thick, 50 V bias
    - Tested under <sup>90</sup>Sr beta source @ room temperature
    - Time resolution of ~75ps, dominated by hit position inside cell
    - New tests (TREDI 2020 Workshop) with <sup>106</sup>Ru source indicate an improved timing resolution of about 40 ps



Planar sensor

3D sensor

p+





#### RAL, 16SEP20

#### A. Cardini / INFN Cagliari



- 4 years INFN R&D program (2018-21) .
- Develop innovative 3D pixel sensors + readout system
  - Space resolution: O(10µm)
  - Radiation hardness: >10<sup>16</sup> 1 MeV n<sub>ea</sub>/ cm<sup>2</sup> (sensors) and >1Grad (electronics) \_
  - Time resolution:  $\leq$  50ps per pixel \_
  - Limited power per FE channel, O(10µW) \_
  - Real time track reconstruction algorithms and fast read-out (data throughput > 1 TB/s) \_
- Target: develop and build a demonstrator consisting of a complete yet simplified tracking . system, integrating O(1000) read-out pixels
- Activities are organized in 6 work packages <u>PI: Adriano Lai / INFN Cagliari</u>: .
  - 3D silicon sensors: development and characterization (resp. G-F Dalla Betta, Trento) \_
  - 3D diamond sensors: development and characterization (resp. S. Sciortino, Firenze) \_
  - Design and test of pixel front-end (resp. V. Liberali, Milano) \_
  - Design and implementation of real-time tracking algorithms (resp. N. Neri, Milano) \_
  - Design and implementation of high-speed readout boards (resp. A. Gabrielli, Bologna) \_
  - System integration and tests (resp. A. Cardini, Cagliari) \_
- 10 Italian Institutes: Bologna, Cagliari, Genova, Ferrara, Firenze, Milano, Padova, Perugia, • Torino, TIFPA, approximately 60 persons and 25 FTE from LHCb, ATLAS, CMS + other activities





ATTRACT program Phase-1 Cagliari, Manchester, Milano, Trento, FBK

### The time resolution

At a first order *simplified analysis* the following terms contribute to the time resolution σ<sub>t</sub> of a silicon detector (with no internal gain but with its front-end) when measuring the time of arrival of a high-energy charged particle:

$$\sigma_t = \sqrt{\sigma_{tw}^2 + \sigma_{dr}^2 + \sigma_{un}^2 + \sigma_{ej}^2 + \sigma_{TDC}^2}$$

- $\sigma_{tw}$  = jitter due (average) event-by-event fluctuations of the signal amplitude, the so-called time walk
- $\sigma_{dr}$  = jitter due to delta rays, which do not only give an event-by-event charge fluctuation but, since they could be created at different depths, this could also result in signal shape variations
- $\sigma_{un}$  = jitter due to the non-uniformities in the <u>weighting field</u> and <u>carrier velocities</u> inside the detector sensitive unit, which modifies the signal shape on an event-by-event basis
- $\sigma_{\rm ej}$  = jitter due to the analog noise of the preamplifier used to readout the sensor
- $\sigma_{\text{TDC}}$  = jitter due to the digital resolution of the electronics used to measure the signal

tetector

#### Limits to the time resolution of a 3D sensor

 $\sigma_t = \sqrt{\sigma_{tw}^2 + \sigma_{dr}^2 + \sigma_{un}^2 + \sigma_{ej}^2 + \sigma_{TDC}^2}$ 

- Key with the time-walk effect can be eliminated by triggering at a constant fraction of the signal amplitude
- by: : negligible in a 3D sensor since all the charge deposits created at various depths contribute in the same way at the total signal because the charge collection occurs in a direction which is perpendicular to the charged particle path (and in general to the delta-rays produced)
- $\sigma_{un}$ : non-uniformities in the weighting field and charge carrier velocities inside the detector sensitive unit give the ultimate limit on the time resolution that can be achieved with a 3D sensor (if the information on the point of impact on the detector sensitive unit is not know or no correction is applied)
- $\sigma_{ej}$ : the analog noise of the preamplifier limits the sensor's time resolution, scales as  $\sim \frac{\sigma_{noise}}{Amplitude}$
- $\mathcal{M}_{C}$ : an adequate TDC will make this term negligible

$$\sigma_t \cong \sqrt{\sigma_{un}^2 + \sigma_{ej}^2}$$

## Toward an optimized 3D sensor design

#### $\sigma_{\mathsf{un}}$

Ramo: the detector signal is produced by the drift of the charge carriers created along the path of the (charged) particle across the pixel volume, which creates an instantaneous current *i* defined as

where  $\vec{E}_w$  is the weighting field and  $\vec{v}_d$  is the carrier's drift velocity. A detector where  $\vec{E}_w \cdot \vec{v}_d$  is as uniform as possible inside the charge drift volume will create signals that do not depend on where the charged particle has crossed the detector. So one needs to (1) make  $\vec{E}_w$  uniform by design and (2) work in a velocity saturation regime

 $i = q \vec{E}_w \cdot \vec{v}_d$ 

#### $\sigma_{\mathsf{ej}}$

To fully exploit the sensor's capabilities one needs to reduce the front-end amplifier noise (e.g. reduce the pixel capacitance – we assume here that we cannot increase the signal: increasing the sensor's thickness is not an option because of multiple scattering, radiation length consideration, and there is no internal gain in our pixels)

#### → TimeSPOT 3D trench-type silicon pixel detectors



#### Simulation-aided sensor design



#### An essential tool for sensor design and optimization

- GEANT4 generated dE/dx deposits in silicon
- Electric, Weighting and Velocity pixel field maps from TCAD Sentaurus
- Carrier dynamics from TCODE custom multithread code (<u>https://github.com/MultithreadCorner/Tcode</u>)

### Comparison between 3D geometries



- Simulated weighting field and velocity maps are much more uniform in the trench geometry both in magnitude and direction thanks to the vertical "planar" design
- This is essential to guarantee, via Ramo theorem, <u>signals which are largely independent on where the charged</u> <u>particles crossed the detector</u>

### Comparison between 3D geometries



- Simulated charge collection curves for 3000 minimum ionizing particles uniformly crossing a pixel over its active area, in two different 3D pixel geometries, obtained with our simulation
- Shorter and much more uniform charge collection time for the 3D trench geometry

### Comparison between 3D geometries



- The time for total charge collection varies strongly as a function of the particle impact point on the pixel in the 5 columns geometry
- <u>This dispersion will strongly affect the overall pixel time resolution</u>
- The "planar" trench design provides a very fast and uniform charge collection time

## The trench-type TimeSPOT 3D pixels





1.500e+20



- 55µm x 55µm pixels (to be compatible with existing FEE, for example the Timepix family)
- In each pixel a 40µm long n++ trench is placed between continuous p++ trenches used for the bias
- 150µm-thick active thickness, on a 350µm-thick support wafer
- The collection electrode is  $135\mu m$  deep

## The TimeSPOT 3D sensors fabrication

- Single sided (Si-Si) process with a support wafer
- First batch produced in 2019 at Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK, Trento, Italy) using the Deep Reactive Ion Etching Technique (DRIE) Bosch process, 10 x 6" wafers
- High aspect ratios (30:1) and good dimensional uniformity
- Photolithography performed with a stepper machine:
  - Minimum feature size 350nm
  - Alignment accuracy 80nm
  - Maximum exposure area 2x2cm<sup>2</sup>
- Many devices were designed and fabricated (single, double pixels, 10 pixel-strips, 18x18 and 256x256 pixel matrices, ...)







### TimeSPOT 2019 3D pixel production



#### First batch DC electrical characterization



Measured <u>capacitance</u> ~100 fF/pixel, in agreement with simulation <u>IV-curves</u> on 18x18 pixel matrices (pixels connected with temporary metal): ~10 pA/pixel – good!





#### 3D structures "dynamically" tested in 2019

We characterize single- and double-pixels, and pixel-strip (10 pixels) test structures, connected to custom-made front-end electronics, both with beam and under a pulsed IR laser



#### Double and single pixel



#### The FEE used for 2019 tests

- We used high-performance FEE boards for the preliminary assessment of the 3D sensors
- Discrete component FEE with a few analog channels, borrowed from various ongoing activities
- Both are transimpedence designs with fast SiGe BJTs: to fully exploit the sensor speed one needs to readout the <u>sensor's current</u>
- Type 1: single stage SiGe BJT + external 4 GHz broadband amplifier
- Type 2: two stages SiGe BJT



Type 1 board, featuring a doublepixel, prepared for the 2019 beam test



### 2019 PSI $\pi$ M1 beam test

- Secondary pion beam: π<sup>+</sup> beam, small contamination from p, e<sup>+</sup>, μ<sup>+</sup>
- High-resolution beamline,  $\Delta p/p \approx 0.1\%$
- Momentum: 100-500 MeV/c
- Nominal spot size: 10mm (15mm) vertical (horizontal)
- We used 270 MeV/c π<sup>+</sup>, which are only 6% more ionizing than MIPs



### The PSI Setup



- All installed in light-tight black plastic box
- Box mounted on the XYZ moving system









### The DAQ

#### The 4 acquired signals



• R&S RTP084 8 GHz Oscilloscope, 20 GSa/s



#### Signal from accelerator RF phase used for PID

• 10m LLC200 low-loss cables to sensors and PMTs

### **Cherenkov Time Tagger**

#### **Photon Detector**

#### 10µm MCP-PMT

53 mm Square, 8x8 Anode - Superior Magnetic Field Immunity

- Enhanced Timing Performance

#### Applications

- ✓ Specialized Medical Imaging
- ✓ Cherenkov RICH, TOF, TOP, DIRC
- High Energy Physics Detectors
- ✓ Homeland Security

Description				
Window options Photocathode Multiplier structure	Schott 8337B or equivalent, UVFS (-Q) Bialkali MCP chevron (2), 10 μm pore, 60:1 L:D ratio			
Anode structure	8×8 array, 5.9 / 6.5 mm (size / pitch)			
Active area	53×53 mm			
Package open-area-ratio	80%			

Photocathode characteristics	Min	Тур	Max	Uni
Spectral range:	200		650	nm
Peak Quantum Efficiency at 380 nm*	18	22		%
Operating Characteristics	Min	Тур	Max	Un
Overall Voltage for 10 <sup>5</sup> Gain *		FIG	2800	V
Total anode dark current @ 10 <sup>5</sup> gain *		2	10	nA
Spatial Uniformity		2:1		
Rise time**		0.5		ns
Pulse width**		0.7		ns
Transit time spread (otts)**		35	60	ps
Maximum Magnetic Field Operation		2		т

**Recommended Voltage Divider (not included** 

#### XP85112

**PLANACON<sup>®</sup>** 







- Cherenkov detectors
- Two Planacon MCP-PMTs, XP85112 (10µm pores) and XP85012 (6µm pores) N.B.: not the optimal choice but we had those 2 PMTs in the lab. - thank you Richard Wigmans for lending us these two PMTs!
- Quartz radiators, 20mm thick



## Time Tagger: performance with beam



- Particle arrival time is estimated with a software constant-fraction method applied to the acquired waveforms
- The time difference between the two MCP-PMTs has a jitter of about 25 ps
- Since we will use both MCP-PMTs and evaluate the average time which we then use as reference, we estimate a <u>time-tagger accuracy of ~12ps</u>

Typical waveforms recorded from the two MCP-PMTs (common electrode)



### 3D pixel waveforms data analysis



٠



Amplitude distribution

- Fit with Landau + gaussian noise
- No losses at small amplitudes due to trigger conditions
- Landau shape is in agreement with what is expected for a 150µm-thick Si sensor



#### 3D sensor signal delay w.r.t to time-tagger time

- Fit with gaussian core + exponential tail (*a tail of late signals is indeed expected from simulation*)
- Gaussian core:  $\sigma_t = 24.0 \pm 0.3 \ ps$

#### RAL, 16SEP20

#### Summary of time resolution measurements

- <u>The 3D pixel time resolution is</u> measured at various sensor's biases <u>by</u> <u>subtracting (in quadrature) the time-</u> <u>tagger jitter</u>:
  - Best results with the previously described method (<u>*Reference*</u>)
  - Traditional Constant Fraction
     Discriminator @ 35% (called <u>PSI</u> in the plot) gives slightly worse results
  - A simple <u>leading-edge</u> triggering, with <u>no</u> <u>correction for the time-walk</u>, gives, somehow unexpectedly, *surprisingly* good results



### Intrinsic sensor's time resolution



#### Intrinsic sensor's time resolution



### The laboratory test setup

- The complete characterization of these very highperformance sensors also needs to be performed in the laboratory with a dedicated setup
- At INFN Cagliari we developed a new testing station
  - 1030nm, 100fs, 2nJ per pulse, 40MHz laser
  - Pulse-picker to select pulses in the pulse train down to O(1 kHz)
  - Mono-mode fiber to the microscope laser port
  - Pin-hole to collimate laser spot on microscope image plane
  - IR camera
  - XY 3D sensor automated moving system (coming soon)







**Both optics** provide an almost cilindrical energy deposit in the sensor; this emulates a MIP crossing the sensor

At 1030nm, ~1/3 of the laser pulse energy is absorbed in 150µm of Silicon



### Measurements with IR laser

- We can measure, over the pixel active area:
  - Timing performances
  - Signal response
- Calibration of deposited energy
  - Using 3D silicon sensor connected to a chargesensitive amplifier and using radioactive sources
  - Cross-checked with test beam data
- Sensor's signal time reference:
  - 1) Use previous laser pulse (note that laser jitters <1ps and the laser amplitude pulse-by-pulse is extremely stable)
  - 2) Use same pulse but seen by another 3D trenchtype sensor (strongly) illuminated by a reflection of the laser in an optical element





## Preliminary results with IR laser







- A new transimpedance FEE with 2-stage SiGe BJTs, single-channel, for sensor's testing, designed and produced in 2020
- TIMESPOT 3D pixel-strip sensor
- Another 3D pixel-strip sensor is used as time reference (more light → better time resolution)
- 20Gs/s, waveform interpolation, software CFD @35%
- Excellent time accuracy to allow a precise sensor characterization
  - Not taking into account the effect of non-uniformities inside the 3D pixels (σ<sub>un</sub>)
     → a convolution of signals from a laser scan over the full pixel active area is needed
  - This result is limited in practice only by the FEE noise <u>o<sub>ei</sub></u>



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#### Time reference outstanding accuracy



Sub-ps timing accuracy can be obtained with 3D sensors when the energy deposit is ~10 MIPs



#### Conclusions

- Unprecedented results on trench 3D Si pixels timing have been presented
- The time resolution of a double-pixel sensor was measured with a 270 MeV/c  $\pi^+$  (MIP) beam and found to be of about 20ps @ V<sub>bias</sub> = -140V (sensor intrinsic + FEE noise)
- Note that results were obtained on wire-bonded sensors (x10 of nominal pixel capacitance)
- The studies to understand the origin of the O(6%) tail in the time distribution are ongoing, but we
  know that this tail arises from the presence of lower field regions in the pixel active area. A
  dedicated signal processing will allow to reduce the tail. However, in a (multi-layer) tracking system,
  its effect will be practically negligible
- **3D devices** confirm their theoretical excellent performance in timing, and the trench geometry appears to be the right direction to go
- Up to now, the front-end electronics is the limiting factor to sensor and system performance

### ... and Outlook

- The TIMESPOT collaboration is developing an optimized VLSI electronics (CMOS 28nm) able to read a small pixel matrix, possibly improving the timing performances already seen in small test structures
- New sensors are currently in production at FBK
  - New pixel matrix, usable with our VLSI FEE
  - New test structures, to continue the characterization of these innovative 3D pixels



# More news on TimeSPOT activities and results at the next Conferences!



Time jitter vs. current consumption of the CSA stage:

- Schematic simulation
- Post-layout simulation including parasitics





## Thank you very much!

#### Publications by the TimeSPOT Collaboration

- 3D trenched-electrode sensors for charged particle tracking and timing, NIM A, (2019)
- Simulation of 3D-Silicon sensors for the TIMESPOT project NIM A, 936-, (2019)
- Development of 3D trenched-electrode pixel sensors with improved timing performance JINST, 14-, C07011 (2019)
- Sensors, electronics and algorithms for tracking at the next generation of colliders NIM A, 927-, (2019)
- Combined TCAD and Geant4 simulations of diamond detectors for timing applications NIM A, 936-, (2019)
- A Timing Pixel Front-End Design for HEP Experiments in 28 nm CMOS Technology, 15<sup>th</sup> Conference on Ph.D. Research in Microelectronics and Electronics, 2019
- First results of the TIMESPOT project on developments on fast sensors for future vertex detectors, to appear in NIM A, 2020
- Timing characterisation of 3D-trench silicon sensors, to appear in JINST, 2020
- Intrinsic time resolution of 3D-trench silicon pixels for charged particle detection, arXiv:2004.10881, to appear in JINST, 2020
- High-resolution timing electronics for fast pixel sensors, arXiv:2008.09867, to appear in JINST