

CONF-920299-4

BNL-48136

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE

Sezione di Trieste

BNL--48136

DE93 005585

MASTER

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BEAM TEST OF A LARGE AREA SILICON DRIFT DETECTOR

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Abstract

The results from the tests of the first large area ($4 \times 4 \text{ cm}^2$) planar silicon drift detector prototype in a pion beam are reported. The measured position resolution in the drift direction is $\sigma=(40 \pm 10)\mu\text{m}$.

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Introduction

The development of a large area silicon drift detector was motivated by the evident interest in a detector capable of delivering the two coordinates of a traversing particle with high spatial resolution without the ambiguities which usually afflicts more traditional detection systems in the presence of high particle multiplicity. It allows high occupancy while requiring a limited number of read out channels and introduces little material in the particle path thus allowing good energy resolution. The working principle of the silicon drift detectors (SiDD) and the detailed design of the present detector are discussed in previous publications [1,4].

Once a careful analysis of the characteristics of the large area detector had been performed by means of IR laser light and high precision x y stages in a laboratory environment [5], a beam test of the complete system including read-out electronics was essential to study the performance of the device under realistic experimental conditions.

The test of a high position-resolution detector requires very accurate measurements of the position of the particles, which would imply the use of a set of microstrip detectors or more SiDD. In this test we have used an array of very thin scintillation counters (blades) as part of our triggering arrangement, this reference detector was aligned on the beam in order to provide the particle position along the drift direction, the pattern produced by the particles onto the drift detector was shaped by the geometry of the trigger scintillation detector.

The position resolution of the SiDD we obtain, taking into account the width of each of the scintillators (100 μ m) and the beam divergence is in substantial agreement with measurements performed on the test bench with the laser. From the analysis of the pulse height detected at the anodes we conclude that no significant charge loss occurs during the drift.

The beam

The test was performed in the CERN SPS X7 beam, using 50 GeV π^- . The trigger consisted of a coincidence of four scintillation counters. Three scintillation detectors formed a traditional telescope defining a spot of about 1 cm radius at the detector, the fourth counter positioned 28 cm upstream of the detector's surface was a stack of 16 scintillation-detector blades (8 x 10 x 0.1) mm³ interleaved with 15 Plexiglass spacers (8 x 10 x 0.9)mm³. When this stack was aligned on the beam it was possible to discriminate between the true scintillation light and the Cherenkov light produced in the light guide. This allowed to project, by means of the beam particles, the image of the scintillation blades stack on to the silicon drift detector. A coarse measurement of the position of the particle by the SiDD allowed to determine which blade was traversed. This in turn

determined the position of the particle to $\pm 50\mu\text{m}$. The SiDD was mounted on a remotely controlled x y stage movable by stepping motors.

The detector and the read-out electronics

All measurements were performed with the multi-anode linear drift detector whose schematic layout is shown in fig.1 , [ref 4, 5]. This is a square detector made of $300\mu\text{m}$ thick, $2\text{ k}\Omega\text{cm}$ FZ n-type silicon. The sensitive area of the detector (about $4 \times 4\text{ cm}^2$) is divided into two parts, with electrons drifting in opposite directions from the centre toward two rows of 166 anode each. This allows to reduce the maximum drift length and the biasing voltages. The detector is provided with an implanted voltage divider and is implemented with injecting electrodes allowing drift velocity calibration [6]. During the tests the whole detector was polarized, but only part of it was implemented with read-out electronics. The read-out anodes, spaced $200\mu\text{m}$ apart, were connected two by two, so that each anode covered a $400\mu\text{m}$ strip of the drift volume.

The read-out electronics consisted of a commercial hybrid pre-amplifier providing the first amplification stage, followed by a line driver and a shaping amplifier at the receiving end. Each shaping amplifier had two outputs: one bipolar for time measurement and a second gaussian for the charge measurement. The bipolar output wave form had the zero crossing corresponding to the time of arrival of the centre of gravity of the signal charge. This was input into a zero-crossing discriminator delivering the stop signal to a fast drift time recorder (DTR) with a $2\mu\text{s}$ time range started by the main trigger. At the test drift field of 724 V/cm , the full scale value of the drift time recorder allowed to cover 1.1cm distance in the drift direction.

For the charge measurement yielding the ionization of the particle, the gaussian output was recorded in a peak-sensing ADC. The recorded values of collected charge can be used for a precise determination of the second coordinate by the diffusing charge division method. The position in the direction perpendicular to the drift path is calculated by taking into account the centroid of the pulse heights recorded at different anodes, an upper limit of the resolution being determined by the width of the anode when the drift time is such that all the charge is collected in a single anode. In this test we were limited by the $400\mu\text{m}$ read-out pitch of the coupled anodes; 32 electronics channels were connected to 32 pair of anodes in the central part of the detector, thus covering a length of about 1.3 cm in the direction perpendicular to the drift.

Data analysis

In silicon drift detectors the electrons produced by the ionizing particle are focused at the centre of the detector slab by means of the depletion field and start drifting in the

direction of the anodes with a speed determined by the applied drift field. In the tests the charge produced by a traversing particle corresponded to about 250mV at the ADC.

While travelling towards the anodes the charge diffuses and is collected by several anodes. In order to reconstruct the total initial charge, the signal collected at contiguous anodes was added. Starting from the anode containing the highest signal above a "clustering threshold", typically 90 mV. The charges contained in all the neighbouring anodes were added to this initial charge. The addition of charges stopped when an anode containing less than a second threshold (30 mV) was encountered. The position of the cluster was found by computing the centre of gravity of the signal distribution seen at the anodes. The time (from the drift time recorders) measured at the anode containing the highest pulse height was taken as drift time.

The gain equalization of the electronic chains was done using the minimum ionizing particle signals with the requirement that the whole charge was seen at a single anode. For the specific purpose of analyzing the effect caused by doping fluctuations present in the 2 k Ω cm silicon used [7,8,9], the time signals were equalized at the level of the first blade of the trigger counter. This was done by imposing that the mean value of the time distributions obtained from particles in the first scintillation detector blade corresponded to the same time.

The results

The raw time spectrum integrated over all the instrumented collecting anodes is shown in fig.2a. The structure introduced by the 100 μ m wide blades of the trigger detector is clear. The particles reproduce the pattern of the blades detector in the solid state drift chamber. At the working field $E_d=724$ V/cm, the electrons drifts towards the collecting anodes with a velocity that we can estimate from this data by measuring the average time difference between two blade peaks. This is found to be 171 ns which with the known pitch of the blades (1000 μ m) yields $v_d = 5.85 \cdot 10^5$ cm/s. The resulting measured average drift mobility is thus:

$$\mu_d = v_d / E_d = 808 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V s.}$$

This shows that chamber was working at a high temperature as the mobility, which has a temperature dependence of $T^{-2.4}$, is lower than the expected at room temperature. The error on the calculated mobility is less than 10%, the mean width of the peaks of fig. 2a is taken as instrumental resolution.

Fig. 2b shows the time-of-arrival spectrum of particles depositing more than 150 mV in a single collecting pad. The peaks of fig.2b) are the result of a convolution of the

intrinsic chamber resolution, the width D of the corresponding blade, the beam divergence and the resolution of the time-measurement electronics.

Fig. 3 shows the measured width σ_τ of each time distribution from fig. 2b, corresponding to the blades of the trigger counter. Thus the variance of a peak σ_{tot} is given by;

$$\sigma_{tot}^2 = (\sigma_\tau \times v_d)^2 = \sigma_{SiDD}^2 + D^2/12 + \sigma_{el}^2 + \sigma_{Beam}^2$$

where:

- σ_τ is the measured width of the time distribution;
- v_d is the drift speed;
- $D/\sqrt{12}$ is the contribution due to the width of a blade, (the effect of multiple scattering in the scintillation detector is negligible);
- σ_{el} is the resolution of the time measuring electronics (measured with a test pulse) $\sigma_{el} = 4$ ns; and
- σ_{Beam} is the contribution due to the beam divergence.

The beam is uniformly distributed on the blade counter, and has (approximately) a Gauss angular distribution with respect to the normal to the drift chamber plane, as determined by a Monte Carlo program that correctly reproduces the characteristics of the beam-line. Given the angular variance $\sigma_\theta = 0.13$ mrad and the distance between the blade scintillation detector and the drift detector, $l = 28$ cm, $\sigma_{Beam} = \sigma_\theta l = 36.4$ μm .

The intrinsic resolution of the detector in the drift direction can be estimated by finding the mean of the data points in fig. 3. This gives :

$$\sigma_{SiDD} = (40 \pm 10) \mu\text{m},$$

Where the large error is due to the uncertainty with which the different contributions to be subtracted are known.

The relation time-distance relation is shown in fig.4 where the position of each triggering blade is plotted versus mean value of the drift-time distribution for the blade.

The results are in substantial agreement with the measures performed on the same detector with an IR laser. The linear response and resolution of this detector are known to be degraded due to the effects of doping fluctuations in the bulk material. A detailed treatment of doping fluctuations in this device is given in a previous paper [7].

The influence in the drift direction of the doping fluctuations is also evident from fig. 5 where the time of arrival of the electron clusters is plotted only for the pads having collected the largest pulse-height in the event. The line corresponding to the blade B1 has been equalized using the procedure described in the previous section. It can be seen that

this situation is not maintained for longer drift times. This affects the linear response at the level of 1–2% (fig. 4) and the position-resolution measurements for late-arriving clusters.

The front-end read out was not optimum as far as capacitance matching and energy resolution is concerned. The minimum ionizing peaks shown in fig.6, obtained with the clustering method mentioned above, suffers from this mismatch. It is evident though that the detector is still capable to separate a single particle from two overlapping particles. The threshold required to initiate a cluster was 90mV while the threshold determining the end of the cluster was 30mV.

In order to show that no significant loss of charge occurred during the drift, the pulse heights recorded for early clusters ($t_{\text{drift}} \leq 0.8\mu\text{s}$, fig 6a) and for the late clusters ($t_{\text{drift}} > 1.2\mu\text{s}$, fig.6b) have been separately analyzed. The difference between the position of the peaks can be attributed to the clustering techniques used. Depending on the drift time the charge distribution is recorded on one or more anodes, for short drift time ($t_{\text{drift}} < 500\text{ ns}$) about 70% of the charge clusters were collected at one single coupled pair of anodes.

Conclusions

The silicon drift detector exposed to the beam had already been studied and characterized in detail. Beam tests intended to check the previous results in more realistic experimental conditions. These tests have shown all the strength of the drift detector as a position and ionization detector. The position resolution found in the drift direction was: $\sigma = (40 \pm 10)\mu\text{m}$. We could demonstrate that no significant charge loss occurred during the drift. The performance is limited by the doping fluctuations in the silicon. These results are encouraging us to proceed to a second production based on a slightly modified design and using higher-quality silicon material.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported in part by the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Italian INFN, MPI, and CNR.

We would like to thank K. Goulianos for his continuous support, L. Camilleri for his crucial help during the different phases of the test, C. Fabjan and K. Bussman for allowing us the use of the blade scintillation detector, and G. Stefanini for the use of the x y stage. We also thank W. Huta for careful mounting of the detector, and Marina Candusso and Fabrizio Massimo for the help during the collection of data.

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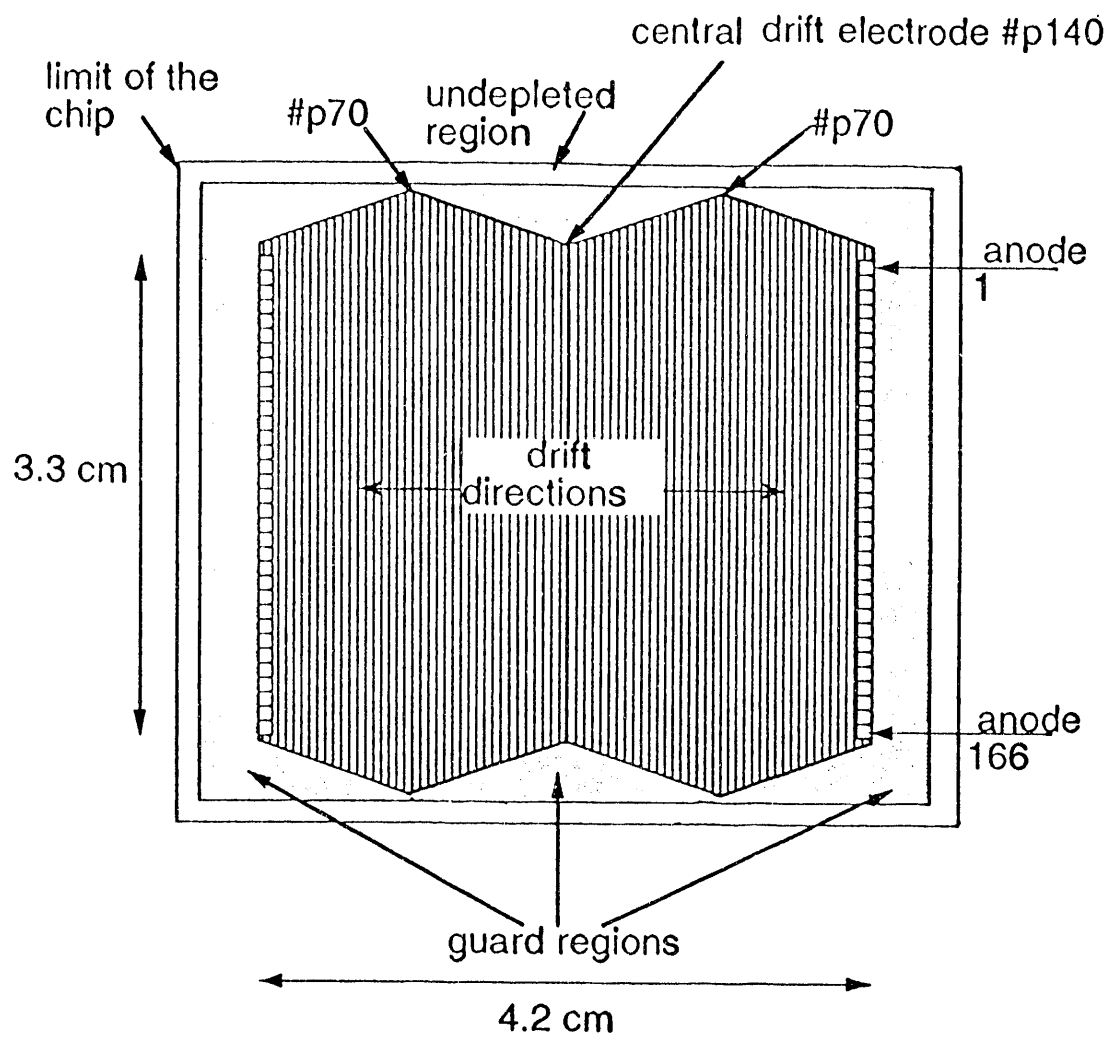


Fig. 1: Schematic drawing of the silicon drift detector.

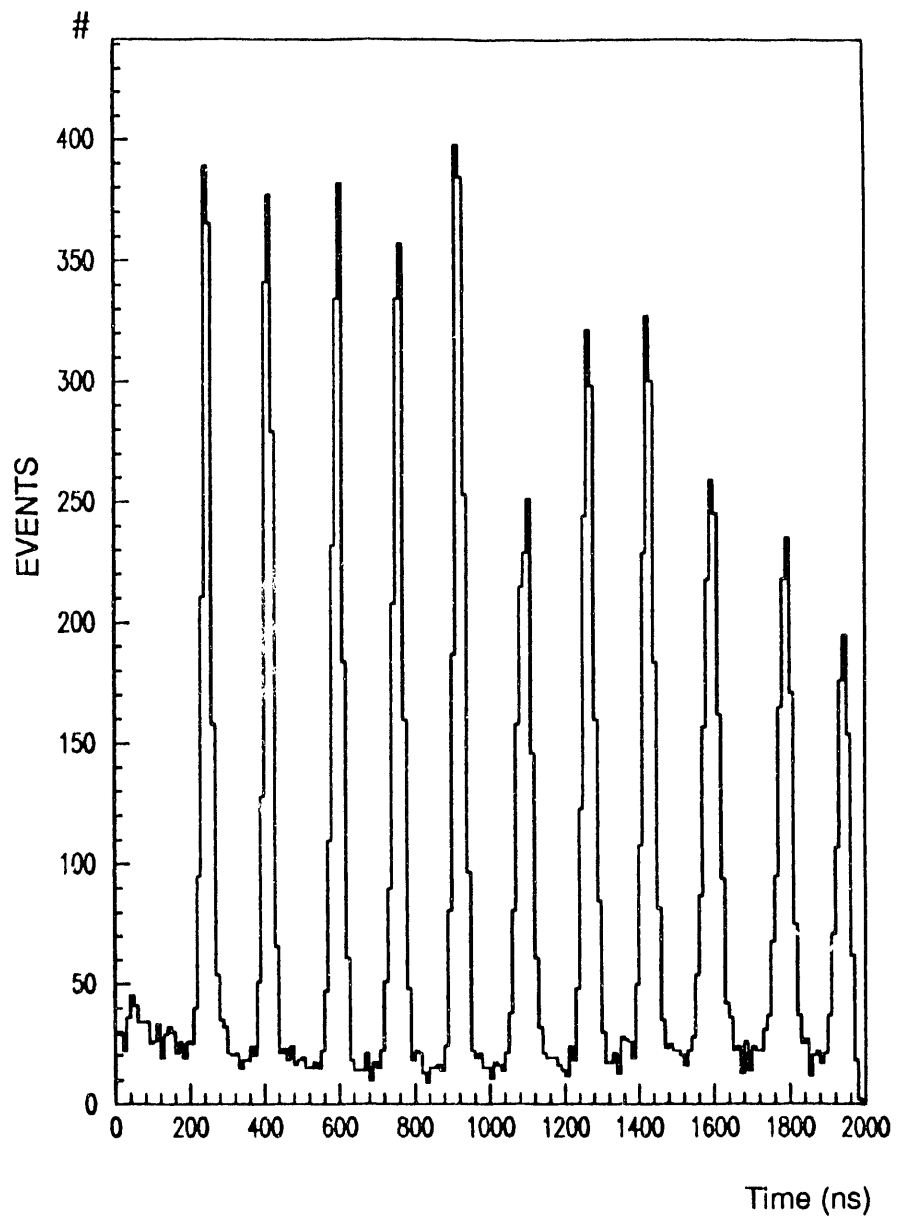


Fig. 2a: Raw data spectrum recorded at the Drift Time Recorders (DTR). This is a projection of the data recorded on all the instrumented anodes.

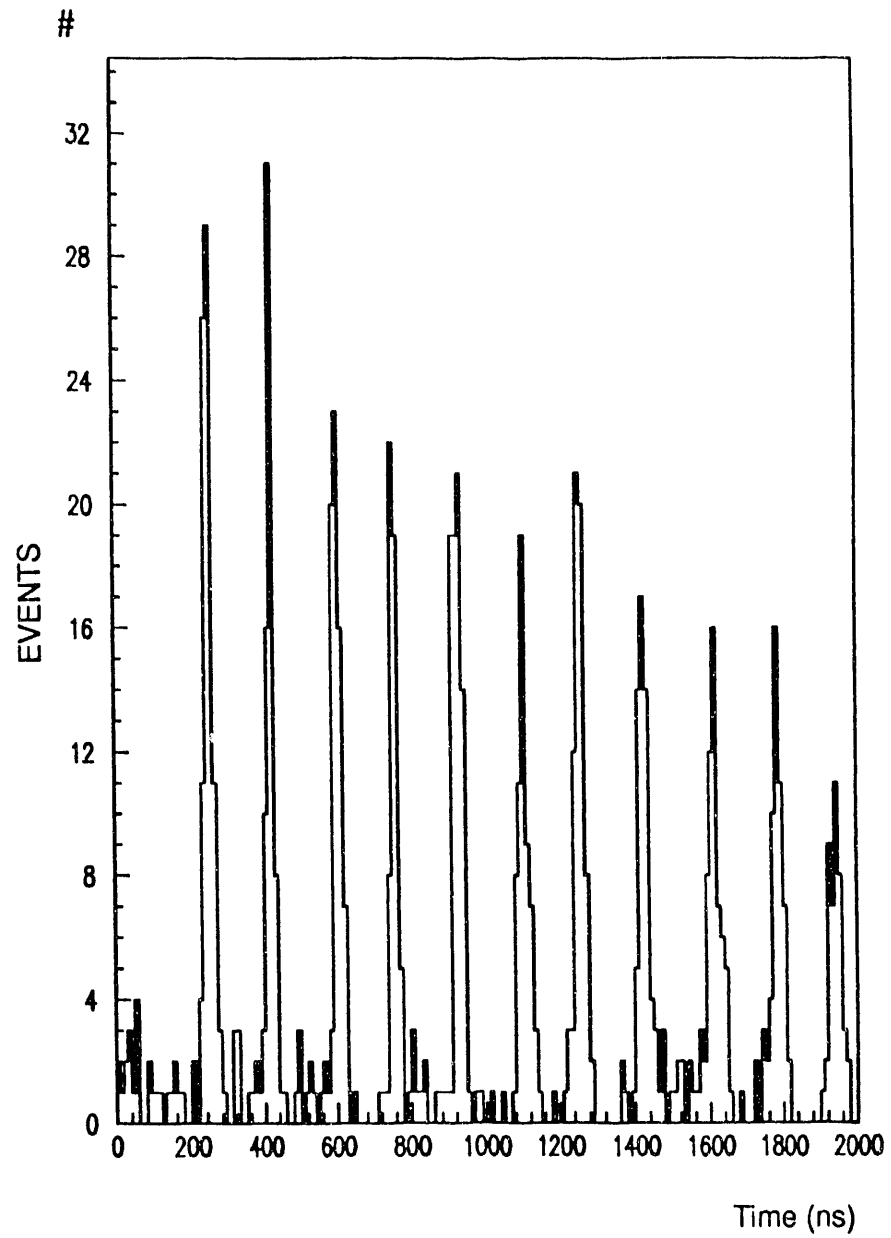


Fig. 2b: Time-of-arrival spectrum for the data recorded by one of the collecting anodes.

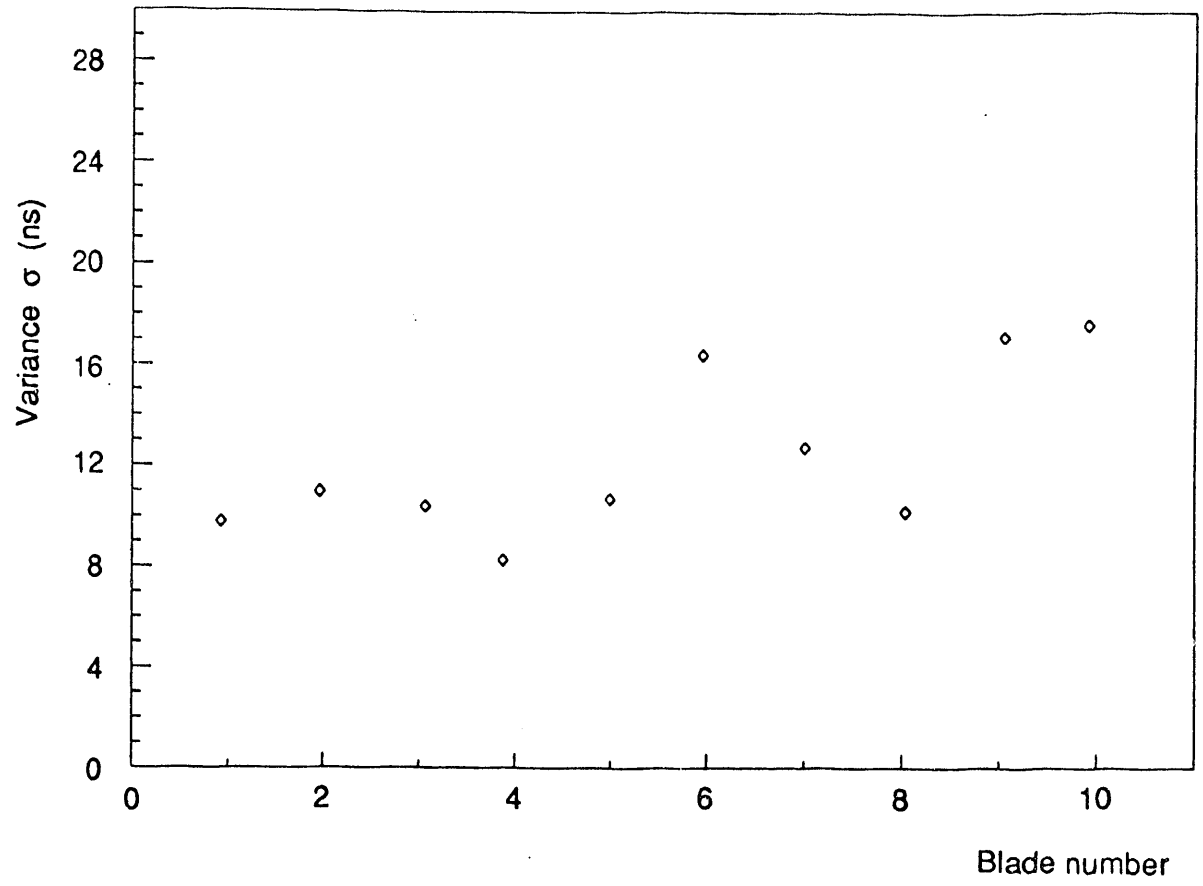


Fig. 3: $\text{SiDD}\sigma_t$ measured on all the time distributions induced by the trigger counter.

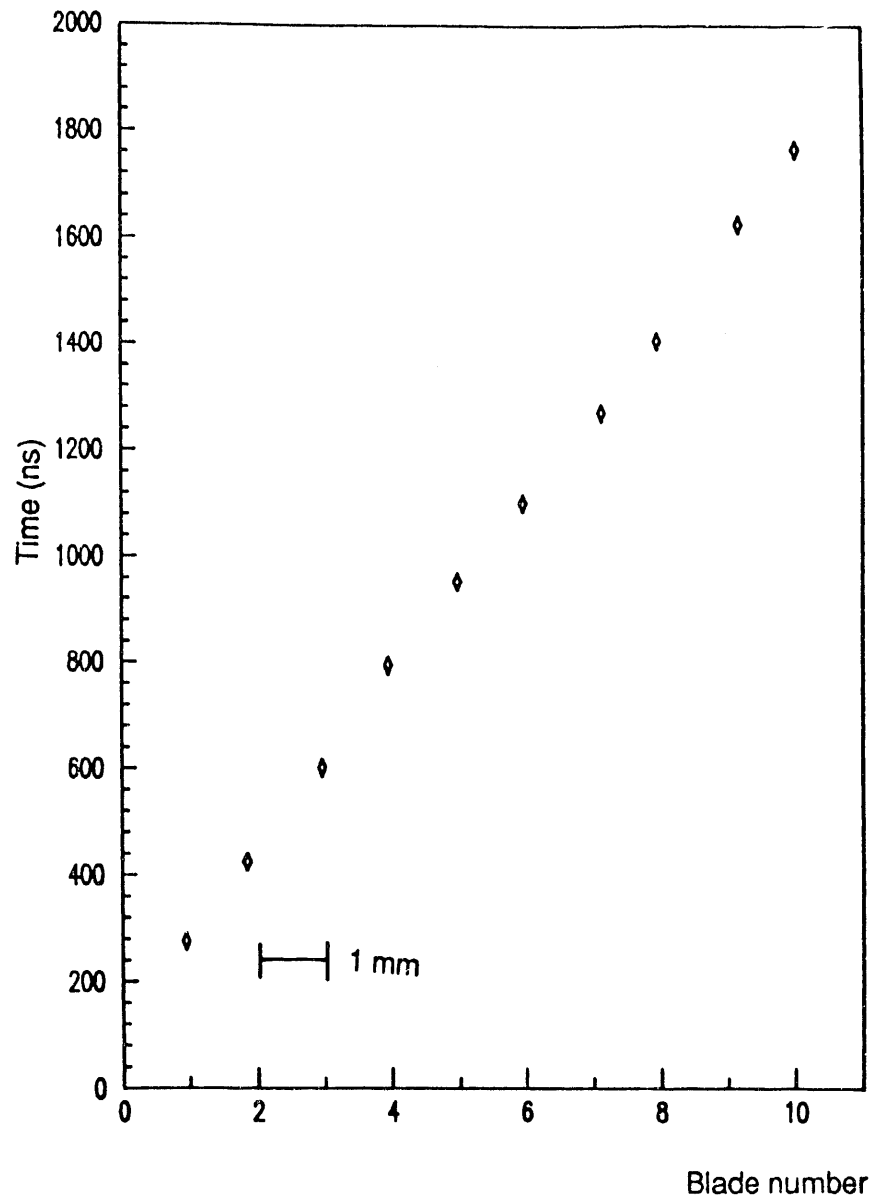


Fig. 4: Landau distribution of the minimum ionizing particles read out through peak sensitive ADC, 2a all clusters, 2b late arriving clusters.

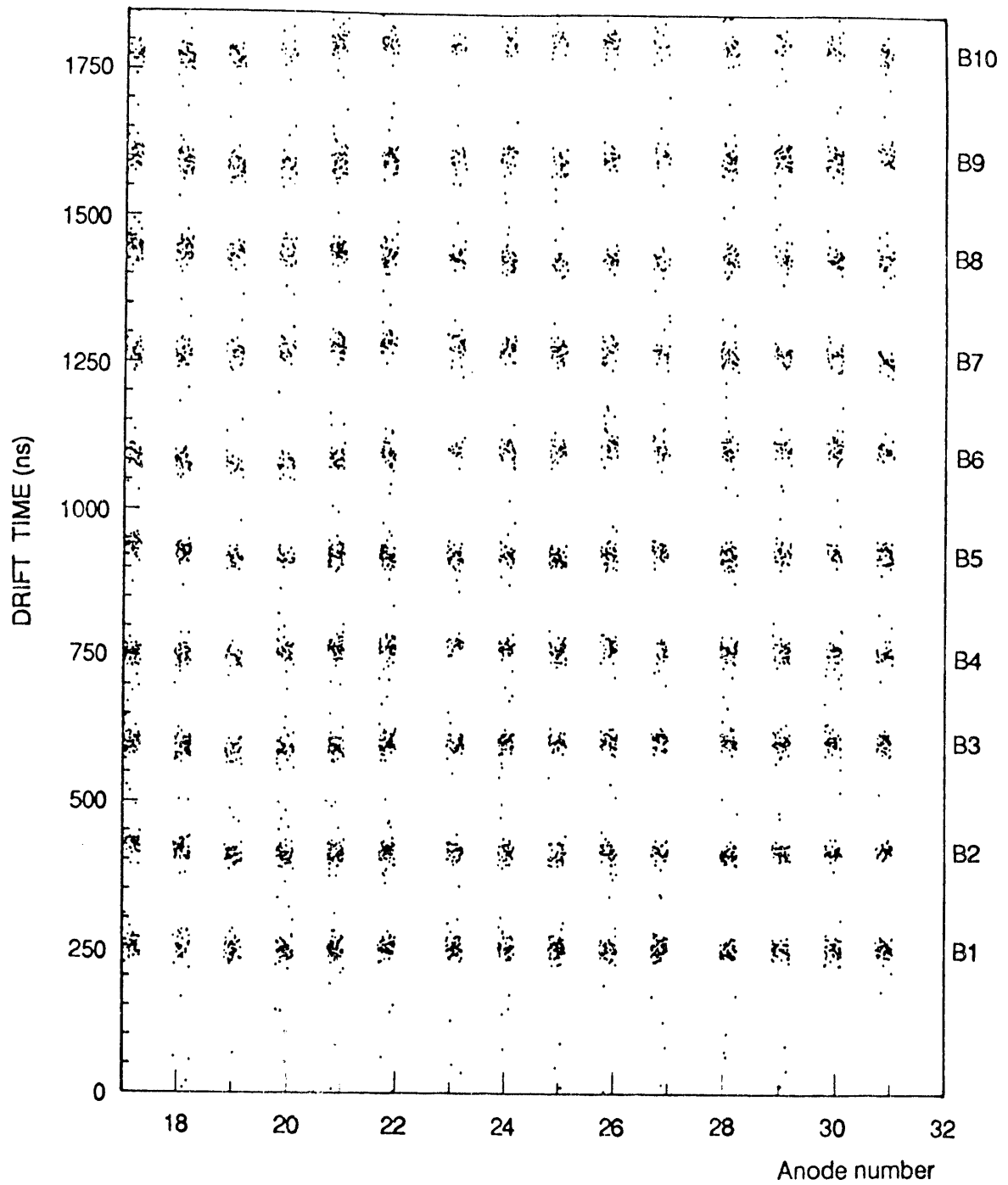


Fig. 5: Time versus blade distribution, each horizontal line of dots correspond to particles crossing one of the scintillating slices. Deviations from linear response due to doping non homogeneity in the silicon wafers can be seen.

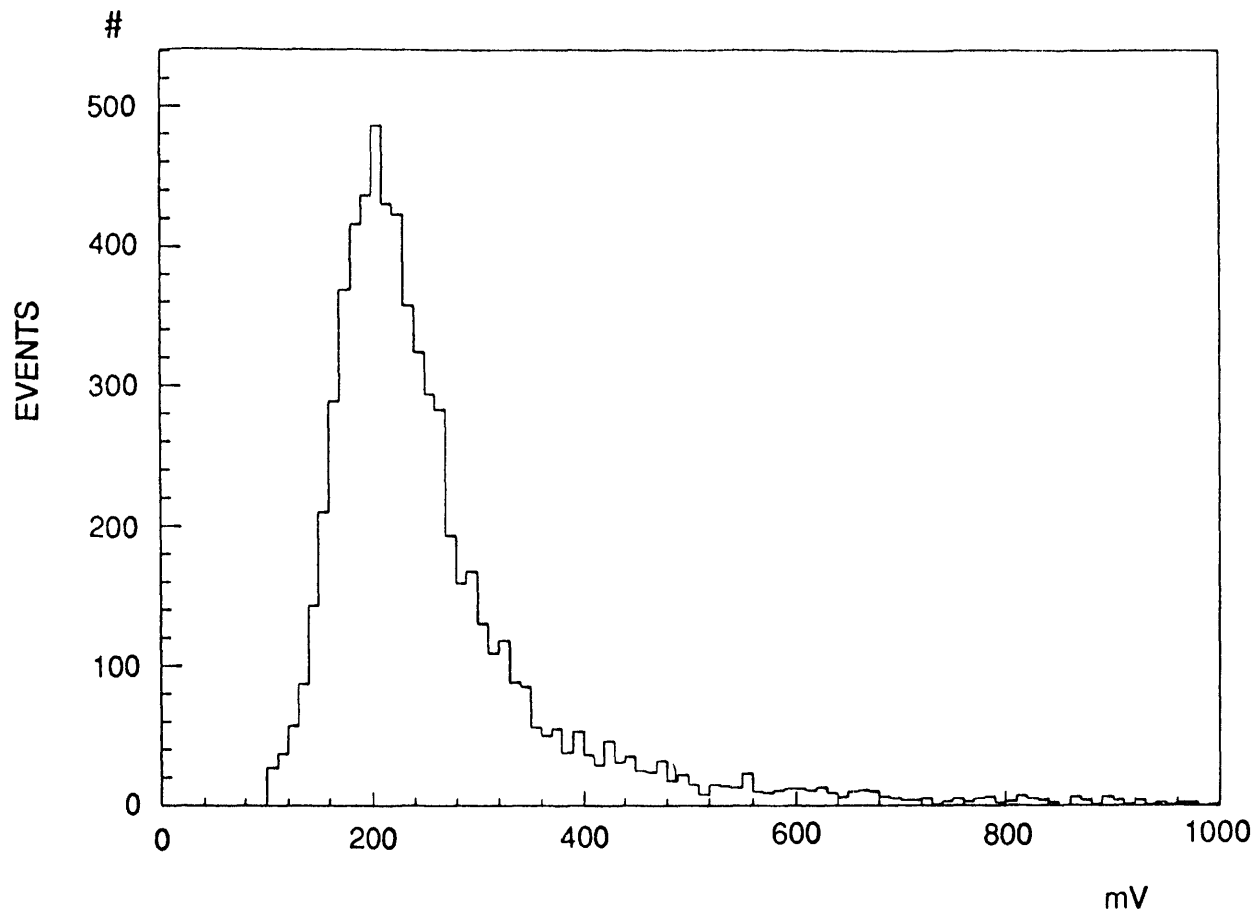


Fig. 6a: The minimum ionizing peak corresponding to early clusters ($t_{\text{drift}} \leq 0.8 \mu\text{s}$).

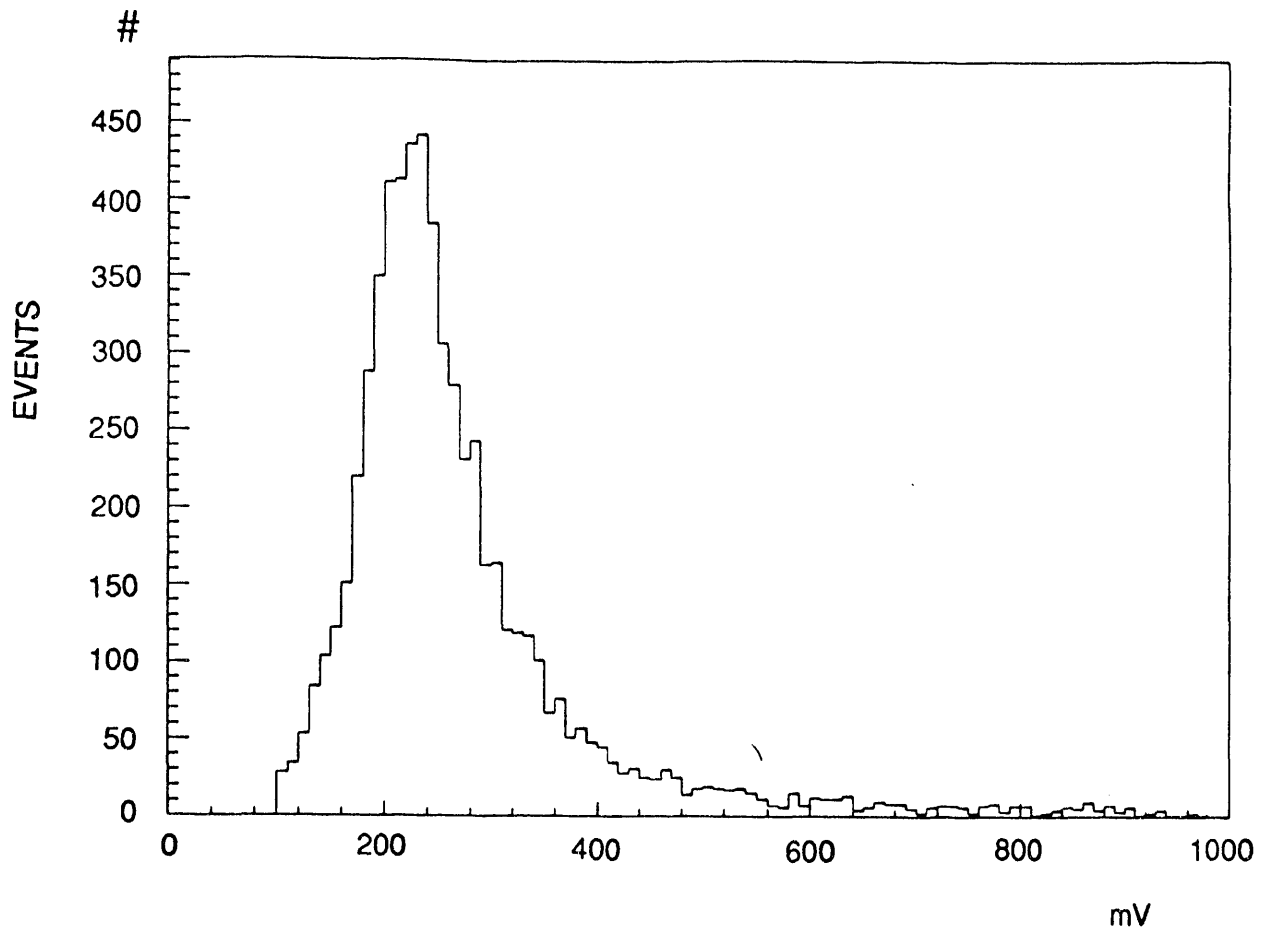


Fig. 6b: The pulse height obtained for the late clusters ($t_{\text{drift}} > 1.2 \mu\text{s}$).

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