T2K Near Detector Time Projection Chambers and Calibration System

for the T2K collaboration, TPC Group



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Tokai-to-Kamiokande (T2K)



Near Detectors (J-PARC)

 Goal of the near detectors is to measure the beam properties before oscillation and neutrino interaction cross-sections

Talks: S. Giffin *FGDs* K. Mahn *NDs*



Time Projection Chambers (TPC)

- Installed in fall 2009, commissioned winter 2010
- Pairs of gas boxes (drift cambers):
 - active Ar:CF₄:iC₄H₁₀ (95:3:2 %)
 - outer CO₂
- Central cathode:2 drift regions
- Readout planes of 12 micromegas
- Main measurements:
 - momentum using track curvature
 - particle ID from energy loss



TPC PERFORMANCE

Micromegas

- TPC use 72 "bulk micromegas":
 - 12 per detector end
 - Pad pitch: 9.8 x 7.0 mm²
 - 1726 pads per micromegas
 - First use of "bulk-micromegas"
 - Show good performance:
 - 0.1 spark/hour
 - ~0.2% of pads unused (dead or sparking)



TPC Resolution

- Resolution goals for T2K TPCs:
 - Point resolution of ~0.7 mm, for tracks at maximum drift distance
 - Momentum resolution of 0.1 p₁ / (GeV/c) (from spatial resolution)



Particle ID

• The resolution of dE/dx is 7.8 ± 0.2% for minimum ionizing particles, better than the 10% requirement for the T2K TPCs.



CALIBRATION

Gain Calibration

- Aim:
 - Equalizes micromegas (MM) to MM over space and time
 - 1. Equalize pad to pad response: test measurements during production
 - 2. Refer all responses to a standard density:
 - a) Gain correction
 - b) dE/dx correction
 - 3. Equalize MM to MM: beam or cosmic tracks



Drift Velocity Calibration

- Calculated from cosmic data
- Uses minimum and maximum signal times from cosmics crossing the TPC central cathode and readout plane (micromegas)



Laser Photo-electron Calibration



- UV Laser (266 nm)
- Multiplexer and 18 distribution fibres
- Targets: Al dots and strips on cathodes

Used for:

- Timing calibration
- Field distortions measurements
- General testing trigger



Time Calibrations

- Calibrate for phase uncertainties between the micromegas electronics
 - can cause breaks in track continuity between micromegas
 - affects alignment results
- Laser provides the phase offsets
- Cosmic and beam data, relative time axis offsets to respective triggers

Laser Base Micromegas time offsets







Summary

- TPCs have operated well since installation in Fall 2009
- Low failure percentage on channels
- TPCs have met the performance goals set: spatial and momentum resolution, PID
- Calibrations are in place or being worked on currently

- Other T2K talks (following immediately):
 - S. Giffin: *FGDs*
 - M. Hartz: T2K Results and Prospects
 - K. Mahn: *Physics results, Near detectors*



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Time projection chambers for the T2K near detectors

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T2K paper (NIM A): The T2K Experiment, arXiv:1106.1238

NUCLEAR

RESEARC

SPARE SLIDES

Earthquake

- Tsunami did not affect
 J-PARC
- No T2K collaborators were injured
- No problems with Tokai reactors
- J-PARC and T2K have started recovery work
- Recently (May) the TPCs were tested and are full functional



Micromegas



Distortion Measurements



- Laser dot targets are used to measure distortions
- At right is comparison of position for B field on/off (TPC #3, downstream)
- Uses charge sharing between sets of 4 pads to estimate dot centers
- Repeated measurements: stand. dev ~0.5 mm



Gas Monitor Chambers

- Two monitor chambers in gas system
 - Small TPCs sampling input and output o

• Gain measurements: ⁵⁵Fe

Drift velocity: two ⁹⁰Sr



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