Upgrade of the ATLAS Monitored Drift Tube Frontend Electronics for the HL-LHC

Junjie Zhu University of Michigan May 23, 2017 On behalf of the ATLAS Muon Collaboration

ATLAS muon spectrometer

- The world's largest muon spectrometer for muon triggering, identification and momentum measurement
- RPCs/TGCs are used as primary trigger detectors
- MDTs/CSCs are used as precision trackers (10% momentum resolution for 1 TeV muon)



Monitored drift tube and its present readout system

- ~3 cm diameter, Ar/CO₂ (93:7) gas at 3 bar, maximum electron drift time 750 ns
- Average tube resolution of 80 μm
- About 354,000 tubes covering an area of 5000 m²



Muon triggering at HL-LHC

- New trigger and readout systems for MDT at HL-LHC
 - MDTs will be used at the first trigger level (L0) to improve the trigger muon momentum resolution and further reduce the amount of fake muons
 - Handle larger event rate and longer latency
 - RPCs/TGCs provide Bunch Crossing ID and regions of interest (L0 pre-trig)



Proposed muon trigger and readout system



Amplifier-Shaper-Discriminator ASIC

- 8-channel ASD developed using the GF 130 nm CMOS process (7.6 mm²)
- Differential inputs, charge-sensitive pre-amplifier, differential-amplification (DA1-3), Wilkinson ADC, and discriminator (IEEE Sensors 2015)



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ASD DA3 and discriminator outputs





ASD DA3 and discriminator outputs

 The spread of internal offset of channels is extremely low – 4mV. Channel 7 is in range with other channels.





~4 mV spread

3. Enabling analog output on channel 7 adds very little load – effectively shifting threshold by 5mV



Cosmic-ray test of the new ASD



• Three new ASD chips were put on a mezzanine card for a cosmic-ray test on an sMDT chamber.

ATLAS standard mezzanine card as the reference

Mezzanine card with three new ASD chips



• Drift-time spectrum measured with the new ASD chips in excellent agreement with the drift-time spectrum measured with the present ATLAS ASD chips

Time-to-Digital Converter (TDC) ASIC



Custom Layout Part



- Multiple clocks: 12 bits (25 ns, 40 MHz): 3 bits (3.125 ns, 320 MHz): 2 bits (0.78 ns, 4 phases of 320 MHz)
- Main components:
 - → Generation of multiple clock phases: ePLL (CERN, JINST 7, C12014, 2012)
 - \rightarrow Time digitization (coarse + fine time)
 - → Time processing/calibration, output serial interface (TDC logic part)

TDC time measurement



TDC performance





- Fabricated in GF 130 nm process (3.5 x 4.8 mm²)
- Bin sizes for channels are within (0.78 ± 0.04) ns
- Integrated and differential non-linearity are less than 5% of the bin size
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TDC performance



Time-to-Digital Converter (TDC) FPGA

- FPGA TDC has the advantage of re-programmability and is an alternative option
- Performance studies using both Kintex-7 FPGA (0.28 ns bin size) and Microsemi IGLOO2 FPGA (0.78 ns bin size)
- Clocks at different phases are used to sample the hit
- Three-bit fine time measured with quad-phase clocks with 880 MHz frequency (for Kintex-7 FPGA)



Time-to-Digital Converter (TDC) FPGA

- PCBs with both Kintex-7 and IGLOO2 FPGAs were built
- IGLOO2 FPGA performance:
 - Measured time resolution is about 250 ps and close to the quantization error of 230 ps
 - Standard deviation for the bin width measurement: 100 ps
 - Differential and integral non-linearity is less than half of the bin size
 - Power consumption: ~0.5 W



Chamber Service Module (CSM)

- Broadcast the Timing, Trigger and Control signals to the frontend mezzanine cards and send data from up to 18 mezzanine cards to USA-15 via optical links
- Two options under considerations:
 - FPGA-based CSM: flexibility and can easily handle old mezzs that can not be replaced at HL-LHC
 - GBTx-based CSM: radiation hard, natural choice for the FELIX system, require little maintenance after installation

GBTx-based CSM

- Use a service FPGA for JTAG configuration of all chips on mezzs
- One master GBTx to receive the signals from FELIX and HEB
- All three GBTxs send data to HEB via optical fibers
- SCAs used to configure slave GBTxs and provide monitoring information





- A 1/3 demonstrator of the GBTx board has successfully shown to be able to pass data between GBTx and FPGA
- Fully prototype board is under development and will be connected to the current CSM motherboard

Chamber Service Module (CSM)





Conclusions

- Large dataset expected at the HL-LHC will increase the potentials to discover new physics at ATLAS
- ATLAS plans to use the MDT detector at the first trigger level to sharpen the trigger turnon curve and reduce fake trigger muons
- Good progress made on all frontend electronics items
- Various working prototypes have been built
- Ongoing work with beam tests to demonstrate the whole trigger and readout chain