

Evaluation of the X-ray SOI pixel detector with on-chip ADC

Thursday 7 December 2023 12:20 (20 minutes)

The monolithic X-ray SOI-CMOS detector "XRPIX" integrates a sensor layer and a CMOS layer by sandwiching an insulating layer made of SiO₂ using SOI technology. This detector is planned to be installed in future X-ray satellites. SOI technology allows us to implement complex CMOS readout circuits. The detection efficiency is high even for X-rays above 10 keV due to the thick depletion layer of several hundred μm . Therefore, by implementing the self-trigger function in pixel circuits, the time resolution of XRPIX is less than 10 μs , which is excellent for observing time-varying celestial objects. In order to achieve a large imaging area in the limited space of the satellite, it is essential that the ADC (analog-to-digital converter) be mounted on the detector (on-chip).

We developed XRPIX9 with on-chip ADC and evaluated the performance of the ADC. The XRPIX9 is equipped with 16 units of 14-bit cyclic ADCs to read out 8 columns. And their convert speed is 5.96 μs . Cyclic ADC performs binary search by repeatedly using a common amplifier and comparator for the number of bits, thus enabling high-precision AD conversion in a small footprint. To evaluate the cyclic ADC, at first, external signals were input to the ADCs by connecting with the function generator. We evaluated the integral non-linearity, differential nonlinearity, and input noise of the ADC, which were found to be 0.06%, 0.5 LSB, and 3 LSB respectively. We also irradiated XRPIX9 with 5.9 keV X-rays from ⁵⁵Fe, then we successfully obtained X-ray signals via on-chip ADC. In this presentation, we will report these evaluations of the performance of on-chip ADC and their details.

Submission declaration

Original and unpublished

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Session Classification: Day 4 - Session 2

Track Classification: Applications in astrophysics