Software Emulators for the YARR DAQ System

Introduction

The Yet Another Rapid Readout (YARR) software aims to provide a simple, modular, and high performance data acquisition (DAQ) system for next generation pixel readout chips to be deployed in the High Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) ATLAS Inner Tracker Detector (ITk). YARR can interface with current generation pixel readout chips, such as FE-I4, and is being upgraded to interface with the RD53A demonstrator chip for ITk. It can also interface with software emulators of readout chips, greatly simplifying the DAQ development and allowing development of DAQ for future readout chips, such as RD53A. These emulators also allow the implementation of continuous integration for YARR, improving the maintainability and quality of the software.

YARR In a Nutshell

- YARR software interfaces with readout chips via a PCIe FPGA board
- the FPGA firmware is simple and multiplexes links
- core design philosophy is to delegate all data processing to the host
- a recent major addition to YARR is the ability to interface with emulators can be emulated in software

Emulator Design

- emulator receives commands from YARR and decodes them
- non-trigger commands configure Global/Pixel Registers (GR, PR)
- trigger commands cause the emulator to loop over a virtual pixel array
- emulator models pixel hits and sends hit data back to YARR
- 2 emulators currently: FE-I4 (done) and RD53A (in development)

FE-I4 Register Configuration

- Global Registers contain chip-level settings, e.g. global threshold voltage
- Pixel Registers contain pixel-level settings, e.g. local threshold voltage
to configure registers, must send specific commands to the chip/emulator

FE-I4 Hit Modelling

- hits are registered if signal is above a threshold voltage
- the threshold voltage is determined by global and local threshold values
- emulator models threshold behavior/noise with per-pixel Gaussian smearing
- the Time over Threshold (ToT) is the main hit information calculated

FE-I4 Scans and Calibrations

- FE-I4 emulator behaves like real FE-I4 chips
- can run all scans and calibrations, e.g. threshold calibration shown below

References and Further Info

- refs: cern.ch/go/D8GF cern.ch/go/D6TW cern.ch/go/F9BL
- for YARR software on GitLab, scan the QR code to the right:
  my email: alokin@uw.edu

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