

A monolithic silicon pixel sensor in SiGe BiCMOS for the FASER high granularity pre-shower detector.

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A monolithic silicon pixel detector is being designed in 130nm SiGe BiCMOS process of IHP to realize a pre-shower detector for the FASER experiment at CERN.

The pre-shower is designed to discriminate electromagnetic showers produced by two primary photons with an energy in the range 100 GeV to 1 TeV and with a separation as small as 200 micron. The monolithic ASIC will have hexagonal pixels of 65 micron of side, each capable to measure a charge in the range of 1 fC to 60 fC. To reconstruct the profile of the electromagnetic shower, the sensor must be able to read hundreds of pixels firing at the same time. The detector planes will have a time resolution of approximately 200 ps. The power budget is limited to less than 150 mW/cm².

The pre-production prototypes, submitted in June 2021, implement two alternative architectures to enable the readout of many pixels with a very large dynamic range.

Title

Your name

Institute

email

lorenzo.paolozzi@cern.ch

Nationality

Primary authors: PAOLOZZI, Lorenzo (CERN); VALERIO, Pierpaolo (CERN); IACOBUCCI, Giuseppe (Universite de Geneve (CH)); NESSI, Marzio (CERN); MARTINELLI, Fulvio (EPFL - Ecole Polytechnique Federale Lausanne (CH)); PICARDI, Antonio (Universite de Geneve (CH)); PERIC, Ivan (KIT - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (DE)); MORETTI, Théo (University of Geneva); CARDELLA, Roberto (Universite de Geneve (CH)); MAGLIOCCA, Chiara (Universite de Geneve (CH)); FERRERE, Didier (Universite de Geneve (CH)); SFYRLA, Anna (Universite de Geneve (CH)); SULTAN, D M S (Universite de Geneve (CH)); MUNKER, Magdalena (CERN); VICENTE BARRETO PINTO, Mateus (Universite de Geneve (CH)); GURIMSKAYA, Yana (Universite de Geneve (CH)); FAVRE, Yannick (Universite de Geneve (CH)); MILANESIO, Matteo (University of Turin); PANDINI, Carlo Enrico (University of Geneva); GONZALEZ SEVILLA, Sergio (Universite de Geneve (CH))

Presenter: MARTINELLI, Fulvio (EPFL - Ecole Polytechnique Federale Lausanne (CH))

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