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Development of a multiwire proportional chamber with good tolerance to burst hits

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Abstract

The DeeMe experiment to search for muon-to-electron conversions with a sensitivity 10–100 times better than those achieved by previous experiments is in preparation at the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex. The magnetic spectrometer used by the DeeMe experiment consists of an electromagnet and four multiwire proportional chambers (MWPCs). The newly developed MWPCs are operated with a high voltage (HV) switching technique and have good burst-hit tolerance. In this article, the final designs of the MWPCs, amplifiers for readout, and HV switching modules are described. Additionally, some results of MWPC performance evaluation are presented.

Keywords: multiwire proportional chamber, high voltage switching, magnetic spectrometer, J-PARC MLF

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1. Introduction

Muon-to-electron (μ - e) conversion is one of the charged lepton flavor violation (CLFV) processes, which are strongly suppressed in the Standard Model of elementary particle physics (SM) [1]. However, there are a number of theoretical models beyond the SM predicting CLFV processes with large branching ratios [2]. Therefore, an observation at a large rate should provide clear evidence of the existence of new physics.

DeeMe is an experiment to search for μ - e conversion in a nuclear field by using muons trapped in atomic orbits to form muonic atoms. A signal of μ - e conversion is a monoenergetic 105-MeV electron emerging from a muonic atom with a delayed timing of an order of microsecond after muonic-atom formation. The experiment is planned to be conducted at the Materials and Life Science Experimental Facility (MLF) of the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex (J-PARC). Muonic atoms are produced in a primary-proton target itself, which is hit by pulsed proton beams from the Rapid Cycling Synchrotron (RCS) of J-PARC. To detect the electron and measure its momentum, we use a magnetic spectrometer consisting of a dipole magnet and four sets of multiwire proportional chambers (MWPCs).

In ordinary experiments searching for μ - e conversion, pion-production target, pion-decay and muon-transport section, and muon-stopping target are introduced to produce muonic atoms. However, in the DeeMe experiment, muonic atoms are directly produced in the primary pion-production target itself, which realizes a more compact and cost-effective muonic atom production. Nevertheless, large amounts of beam-prompt charged-particles from the primary proton-target hit the MWPCs. The number of charged particles hitting the detectors is estimated by simulation to be approximately 10^8 particles per proton bunch with an RCS power of 1 MW [3]. The MWPCs must detect a signal electron after exposure to such a high rate of charged particles, and it is critical to manage efficiency drop due to space-charge effects in the MWPCs. To achieve this, gas multiplication is changed quickly to numbers of order between 1 and 10^4 by switching the high-voltage (HV) applied to the MWPCs.

The basic concept of the chamber design, the method of fast HV switching, and proof-of-principle tests using a prototype MWPC are described in [3]. In this article, the production of the final MWPCs with updated chamber design, including electrode configuration, readout amplifiers, HV switching modules, and more details of the chamber performance, are re-

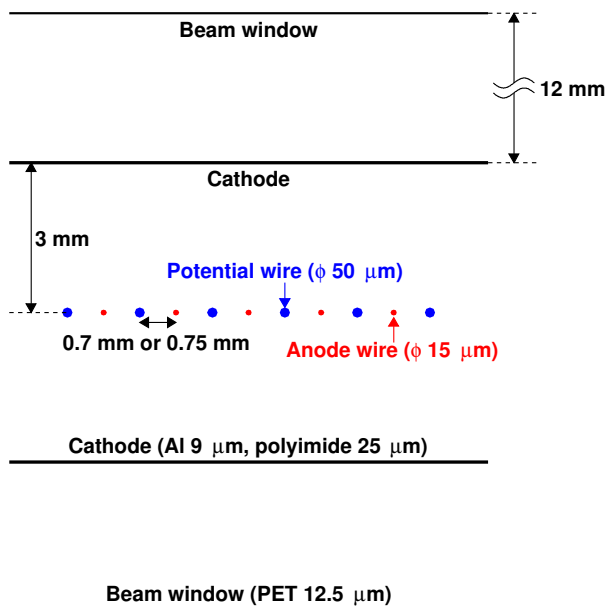


Figure 1: Schematic drawing of the wire and cathode plane configuration.

38 ported.

39 **2. HV-Switching Multiwire Proportional Chamber**

40 *2.1. Chamber Structure*

41 Anode and potential wires are placed alternately in a center plane between
 42 two cathode planes 6 mm apart as shown in Fig. 1. Tungsten-rhenium gold-
 43 plated wires with a diameter of 15 μm are used for the anode, while tungsten
 44 gold-plated wires with a diameter of 50 μm are used for the potential. The
 45 wire length is approximately 300 mm.

46 Spacing between the anode and potential wires is 0.7 mm for two of the
 47 four MWPCs and 0.75 mm for the other two, which are denoted by 0.7-type
 48 and 0.75-type, respectively, in what follows. The 0.7-type MWPCs of full
 49 size, having 144 anode and 145 potential wires, were manufactured first, but

50 they were rather unstable due to sporadic discharges. The wire spacing of
51 the latter two chambers was therefore widened by 0.05 mm for better discharge
52 tolerance. Meanwhile, the 0.7-type MWPCs were successfully operated stably
53 by changing the timing scheme of HV switching compared to the one
54 adopted in [3], which is described later in §2.3.1.

55 The beam window is covered by a PET film with 12.5 μm thick. The
56 cathode is made of an aluminum foil of 9 μm thick on a polyimide film of 25
57 μm thick. The thickness of the space filled with a gas is approximately 30
58 mm. The average energy loss through them is expected to be 40 keV for a
59 minimum ionizing particle.

60 Because the MWPCs are operated with switching HV on potential wires,
61 one should be careful to ensure that the resonance frequency of the wire's
62 mechanical vibration is different from the HV switching cycle. A resonance
63 frequency can be expressed as $n\sqrt{T/\rho}/2L$ ($n = 1, 2, \dots$), where L is the
64 wire length, T is the wire tension, and ρ is the mass per unit length. For
65 the anode wires, by substituting $L = 300$ mm, $T = (0.29 \pm 0.03)$ N, and
66 $\rho = 3.4 \times 10^{-6}$ kg/m, the resonance frequencies estimated to be $(490 \pm$
67 $30)n$ [Hz]. Similarly, by substituting $L = 300$ mm, $T = (0.78 \pm 0.06)$ N,
68 and $\rho = 3.8 \times 10^{-5}$ kg/m, the resonance frequencies for the potential wires
69 are $(240 \pm 10)n$ [Hz]. The wires do not resonate when the HV switching is
70 synchronized with the RCS cycle of 25 Hz because the normal frequencies of
71 the wires are much higher.

72 In the final design of the MWPCs, cathode planes with strip patterns are
73 used for read out. One of the two cathode planes is stripped into 80 channels
74 with a width of 3 mm for measurement of the x coordinate (horizontal direc-
75 tion), where the beam direction is defined to be the z axis. The number of
76 read-out channels for the y coordinate (vertical direction) is 16 by combining
77 the adjacent five strips into one read-out channel.

78 2.2. Amplifier

79 The readout amplifiers connected to the cathode strips have 80 and 16
80 channels for the x and y axes, respectively. They are directly mounted on
81 the connectors of the MWPCs. The outputs are sent to 100-MHz 10-bit
82 fast ADCs [4] to record waveforms through long cables with a length of
83 approximately 15 m.

84 Stray capacitance between the cathode strip and potential wire exists due
85 to the distance of 3 mm between them. When the voltage on the potential
86 wires is switched, a large current flows into the amplifier through the stray

87 capacitance. Therefore, the amplifier must be designed to have sufficient
88 tolerance to large currents induced by the HV switching.

89 The amplifier is modified from the readout circuit of the VENUS vertex
90 chamber in the TRISTAN experiment at High Energy Accelerator Research
91 Organization (KEK) [5]. In particular, there are three points for modifica-
92 tion: 1) to use bipolar junction transistors with more tolerance to electric
93 currents, 2) to increase the gain of the amplifier by changing the resistance
94 of the second stage, and 3) to insert a pole-zero-cancellation circuit (PZC) to
95 shorten the long tail of the MWPC output due to a large number of prompt
96 charged particles [6]. Recently, the negative range of the amplifier was in-
97 creased to prevent the output waveform from saturating, and this version of
98 amplifier has been mass-produced (Fig. 2). The modified parts are indicated
99 in Fig. 2 by dashed-line circles or boxes.

100 *2.3. HV Switching*

101 The upper part of Fig. 3 schematically illustrates the time line of charged
102 particles that will hit the detectors. The RCS beam has a double bunch
103 structure, and the interval between the two bunches is 600 ns. The repetition
104 is 25 Hz so that the next double pulse comes after 40 ms. The protons hit
105 the target and generate prompt charged particles. The charged particles with
106 momenta of approximately 105 MeV/ c pass through the secondary beam line
107 (high momentum muon beamline, H-Line [7]) and hit the detectors. After
108 prompt particles hitting through, the analysis window is opened to search
109 for a signal electron of μ - e conversion.

110 *2.3.1. Timing of the HV switching*

111 The middle part in Fig. 3 shows the scheme to apply HV for the MWPCs.
112 To control the gas multiplication dynamically, the voltage on the potential
113 wires is switched between the same HV as the one for the anode wires and 0
114 V. The spacing between the potential and anode wires is small compared to
115 the gap between the wire and the cathode planes; therefore, the electric field
116 around the anode wire is determined almost entirely by the voltages applied
117 to the potential and anode wires [3]. When the voltages applied to the
118 potential and anode wires are the same, the gradient of the electric potential
119 between the two wires positioned closely is small enough to turn off the gas
120 multiplication. Although the voltage of the cathode strips connected to the
121 readout electronics is kept small compared to the HV to the wires, it does not
122 result in gas multiplication due to the large distance between the wires and

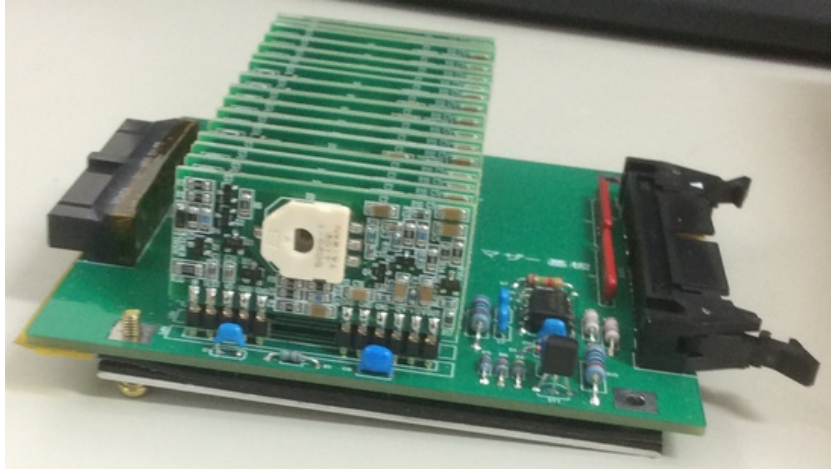
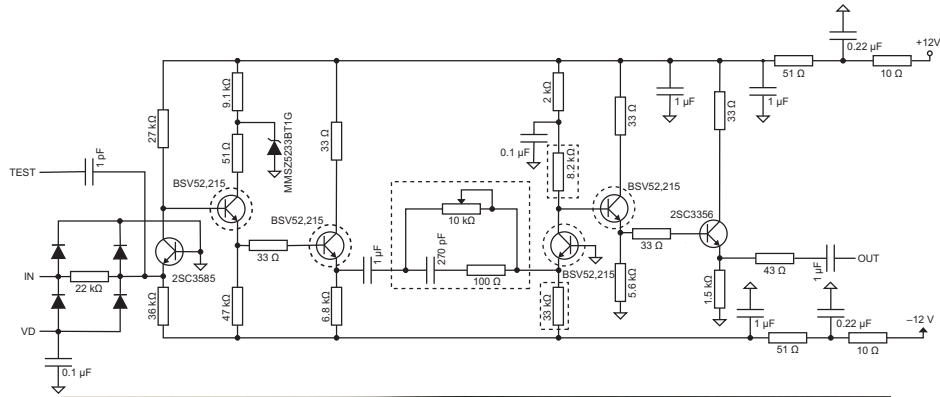


Figure 2: Amplifier circuit for one channel of the MWPCs (top) and a photo of 16 channel amplifiers (bottom). The circles or boxes of dashed line in the top figure represent modified parts with respect to the original circuit of [5].

123 the cathode. Rather, it helps to sweep out electrons that are generated by
 124 prompt incident particles to prevent the avalanche charge produced by them
 125 after turning on gas multiplication. The large voltage difference induced by
 126 switching the voltage on the potential wires to 0 V creates a strong electric
 127 field around the anode wires, enabling gas multiplication.

128 When the voltage difference between potential and anode wires is large,
 129 attractive electrostatic forces between them also become large. Assuming
 130 that wires are long enough, the capacitance between the two wires per unit
 131 length C is given by $C \simeq \pi\epsilon/\ln(s/a)$, where ϵ is the permittivity of the filling
 132 gas, s is the wire spacing, and a is the radius of the wire. Ignoring the dif-

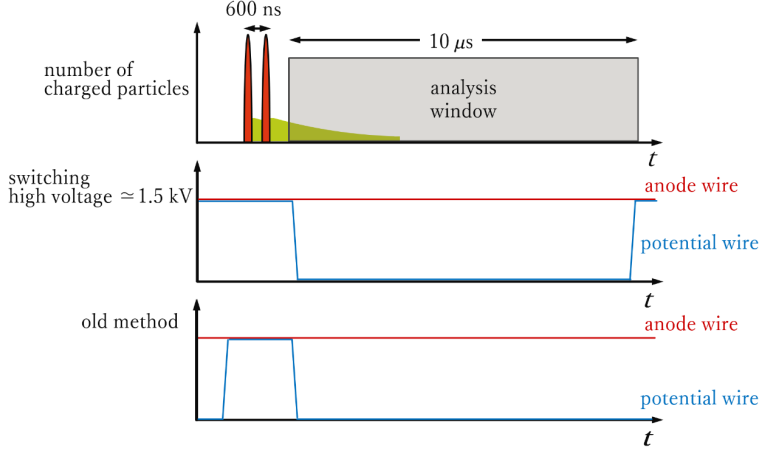


Figure 3: Schematic illustration of time structure of prompt charged particles to hit the MWPCs (top) and how the HV switching is performed (middle and bottom). The tail following the prompt pulses represents contribution of electrons produced with delayed timings. Next double pulses come after 40 ms.

133 ference of diameters between the anode and potential wires and substituting
 134 $\epsilon = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$ F/m, $s = 0.7$ mm, and $a = 7.5 \mu\text{m}$ (the anode wire radius),
 135 C will be 6 pF/m [8]. For the case of applying 1500 V to anode wires and
 136 0 V to potential wires, an electric charge of $6 \text{ pF/m} \times 1500 \text{ V} = 9 \text{ nC/m}$ is
 137 accumulated. Because the attractive force per length between two long wires
 138 is given by $\frac{\lambda^2}{2\pi\epsilon d}$, where λ is the charge per length, d is the distance between
 139 two wires, the sum of forces acting on the anode wire with a sag of 0.1 mm
 140 by the two adjacent potential wires at 0 V is approximately 0.2 mN. On the
 141 other hand, due to the tension of the anode wires, there is a restoring force
 142 of approximately $30 \text{ g} \times 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 \times 0.1 \text{ mm}/(300 \text{ mm}/2) = 0.2 \text{ mN}$ opposite
 143 to the direction of the wire sag. Two competing forces are on the same order
 144 and the stability of the MWPCs may be broken when the wire sag becomes
 145 larger, as the attractive electrostatic forces overcome the restoring forces.
 146 When there is no voltage difference between the two wires, the position of
 147 wires should become stable due to balanced repulsive forces. As shown in
 148 the middle plot of Fig. 3, the duration for which there is a large voltage
 149 difference between the anode and potential wires is minimized and limited to
 150 the search analysis window, on the order of 10 μ s in 40 ms, to ensure stable

151 MWPC operation, which should be compared to the old switching scheme [3]
 152 shown at the bottom of the figure. The current scheme of HV switching is
 153 also expected to have an advantage for stopping consecutive discharges in
 154 $\sim 10 \mu\text{s}$ even if they occur.

155 2.3.2. HV Pulser

156 A HV power supply provides DC voltages to the anode wires, while a HV
 157 switching module is inserted between the HV power supply and potential
 wires. A circuit diagram of the HV switching module is presented in Fig. 4.

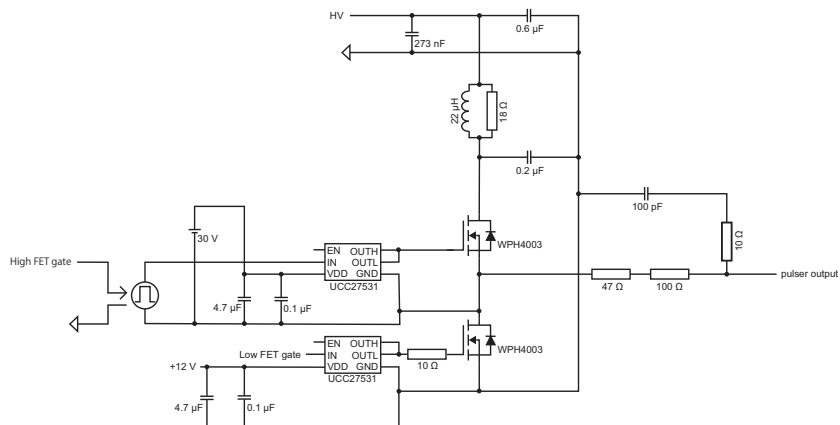


Figure 4: Simplified circuit for the HV switching. It is inserted between the HV power supply and potential wires.

158 The drain of the upper MOSFET is connected to the external HV line,
 159 while the source of the lower MOSFET is grounded. The drain-source con-
 160 nection in the MOSFET is altered by the gate-source voltage. The circuit
 161 output is connected to the source of the upper MOSFET and the drain of
 162 the lower MOSFET. By controlling the drain-source connection of the two
 163 MOSFETs appropriately, the output voltage is switched between HV and
 164 0 V.
 165

166 It is not possible to connect the HV and ground lines at the same time
 167 because a large current flows. Suppose the output voltage is switched from
 168 HV to 0 V for example. The circuit output that is initially connected to
 169 the HV line only is disconnected to become an electrically floating state,
 170 and then it is connected to the 0 V line after $1 \mu\text{s}$.

171 *2.3.3. HV-Switching Noise Filter*

172 To prevent voltage fluctuation on anode wires due to fast voltage change
 173 of potential wires, a capacitor of 2 nF is attached to each anode wire. A
 174 2 M Ω resistor isolates each anode wire from the others. As mentioned in [3],
 175 the capacitor value was once changed to 10 nF to suppress electric oscillation
 176 observed in the output waveform induced by the HV switching. In the final
 177 design, it is changed back to 2 nF and an extra 1 k Ω resistor is included
 178 to reduce the total electric current through the wires when discharge of the
 179 capacitors occurs. The snubber circuits on the voltage inputs to anode and
 180 potential wires, as shown in Fig. 5, are introduced for further suppression
 of the output oscillation. It is also realized that the termination resistor of

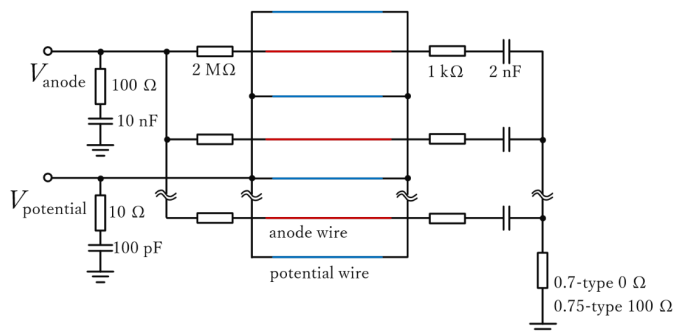


Figure 5: Equivalent circuit of an MWPC.

181
 182 the anode-wire line can help reducing the oscillation amplitude, and a 100 Ω
 183 resistor is attached for the later-manufactured 0.75-type MWPCs.

184 *2.3.4. Output Waveform*

185 Fig. 6 shows a typical output waveform of the detector as a result of the
 186 HV switching only. The time when the voltage on the potential wires starts
 187 to fall is taken to be the time origin, $t = 0$. It corresponds to turning on the
 188 MWPCs. After $t = 0$, negative current flows into the amplifier and negative
 189 saturation occur. After that, due to the PZC, the waveform turns to a rapid
 190 increase to overshoot then settles down. When the voltage is returned to the
 191 original HV, the waveform saturates positively. Gas multiplication occurs

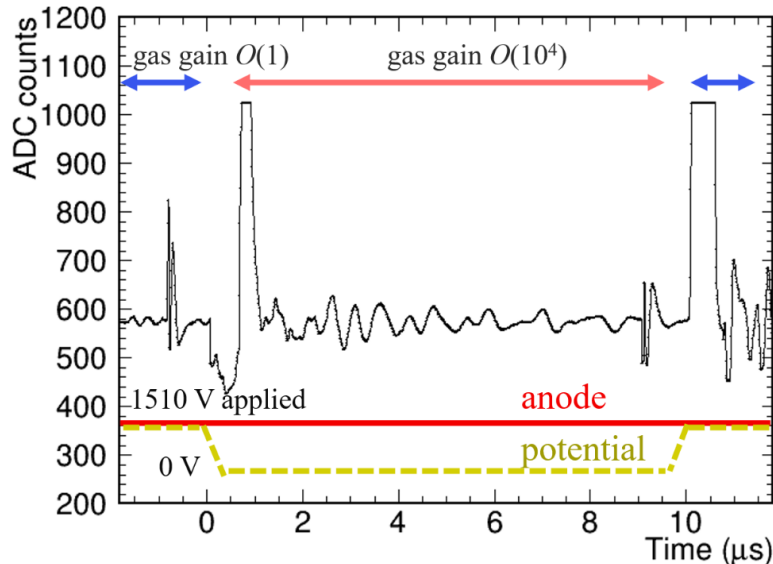


Figure 6: Typical waveform of the detector readout due to the HV switching. The voltages applied to the anode and potential wires are also shown schematically at the bottom of the figure.

192 during the time between negative and positive saturation. A peak followed
 193 by some response fluctuation seen at $t \simeq -1 \mu s$ is a result of transition of
 194 the MOSFET states in the HV pulser circuit. A similar behavior with the
 195 opposite polarity is observed just before the positive saturation too.

196 The oscillation of the output after switching voltage is observed. It ap-
 197 pears to be caused by the fluctuation of the circuit for HV switching. It is
 198 still possible to find a signal by subtracting a template waveform consist-
 199 ing of the most frequent amplitude obtained from a few hundred waveforms
 200 because the shape of the oscillation is rather stable and unchanged.

201 2.4. Operational Conditions

202 2.4.1. Discharge Test

203 Because the wire pitch between the anode and potential wires is rather
 204 small, it is important to understand discharge voltages for stable operation
 205 of the MWPCs. In fact, it was observed for an MWPC that a significant
 206 number of wires were cut simultaneously when discharge occurred.

207 At the R&D stage, discharge voltages were measured for the nominal wire

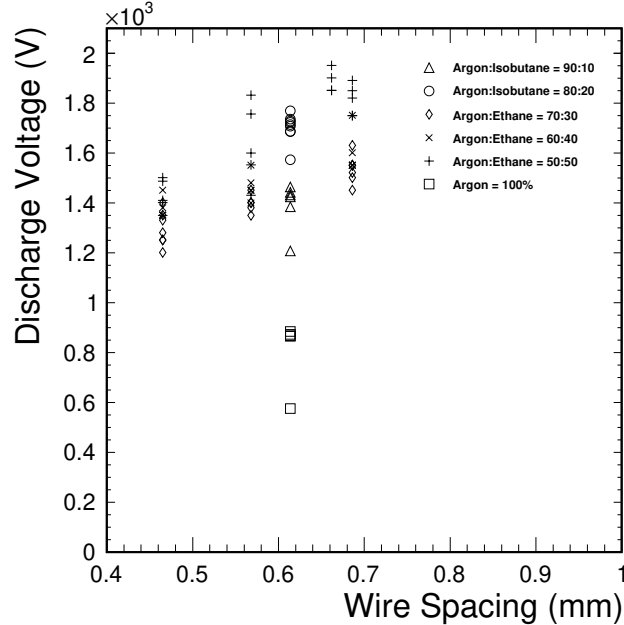


Figure 7: Discharge voltages for several different gas mixtures at atmospheric pressure. Variation of the data points of the same marker type for a given wire spacing represents the reproducibility of the measurement.

208 pitches of 0.5 mm, 0.6 mm, and 0.7 mm. Fig. 7 shows the result obtained by
 209 using several different gas mixtures at atmospheric pressure. This measure-
 210 ment was performed using an anode and potential wires tensed on a glass
 211 epoxy board in a small chamber. The values of wire spacing were actual
 212 measurements by a microscope. We set the potential wire at 0 V, while we
 213 increased the voltage to the anode wire at a ramping speed of 1 V/s [3, 9].

214 According to the Paschen's law [10], the discharge voltage is approxi-
 215 mately proportional to the distance between the electrodes if the distance is
 216 in a range between 0.1 and 1 mm. Using this law, the discharge voltage for a
 217 distance of 0.7 mm is calculated for each measurement shown in Fig. 7, and
 218 the lowest possible voltage is derived as conservative estimation. It is found
 219 to be 1760 V for argon/ethane = 50%/50%, 1790 V for argon/isobutane =
 220 80%/20%, 1380 V for argon/isobutane = 90%/10%, and 660 V for argon =
 221 100%.

222 2.4.2. Gas Gain

223 When a charged particle is incident on the MWPC, electron-ion pairs
224 are created. The mean number of electron-ion pairs created between the two
225 cathode planes with a gap of 6 mm is approximately 62 pairs for argon/ethane
226 = 50%/50%. Gas multiplication occurs if a strong electric field exists around
227 the anode wire. Fig. 8 shows the mean gain of gas multiplication as a function
228 of applied voltage to anode wires estimated by Garfield++ [11] for several
229 cases of gas mixtures, where the voltage of the potential wire is set to 0 V. In
230 this simulation, electrons are randomly placed at a distance of 150 μm from
231 the center of the anode wires in a chamber in which the anode and potential
232 wires are tensed alternately with an interval of 0.7 mm or 0.75 mm, and the
233 number of ions created after avalanche multiplication is counted.

234 For a gas gain of 5×10^4 with a wire spacing of 0.7 mm, the required voltage
235 is 1580 V with argon/ethane = 50%/50%, 1500 V with argon/isobutane =
236 80%/20%, and 1440 V with argon/isobutane = 90%/10%. By looking at
237 the discharge voltages we discussed in Section 2.4.1, the margin voltages
238 to discharge are 180 V, 290 V, and -60 V (unstable due to discharge),
239 respectively.

240 The amplitude of oscillation in the output waveform becomes larger as the
241 applied voltage increases, as shown in Fig. 9. To avoid negative saturation of
242 the waveform as a result of the oscillation, the HVs are set as low as possible
243 to keep sufficient gain and ensure stable operation. Thus, argon/isobutane
244 = 80%/20% is adopted as the base gas mixture.

245 3. Hit Finding in Waveform

246 As already described in the previous sections, the baseline of the read-out
247 signal from this MWPC is not flat due to the induced noise of HV-switching.
248 It is impossible to use a simple discriminator and time-to-digital converter to
249 extract hit information. To solve this problem, the waveform of the read-out
250 signals is recorded using a 100-MHz Fast-ADC, and the bumpy baselines are
251 subtracted in the offline analysis. The computer algorithm to extract the hit
252 information from the waveform is as follows:

- 253 1. Subtraction of the template waveform.

254 The template waveform (solid line in Fig. 10) is constructed by identifying
255 the most frequent ADC count at each FADC sample point obtained from several
256 hundred waveforms. The dashed line in Fig. 10 is

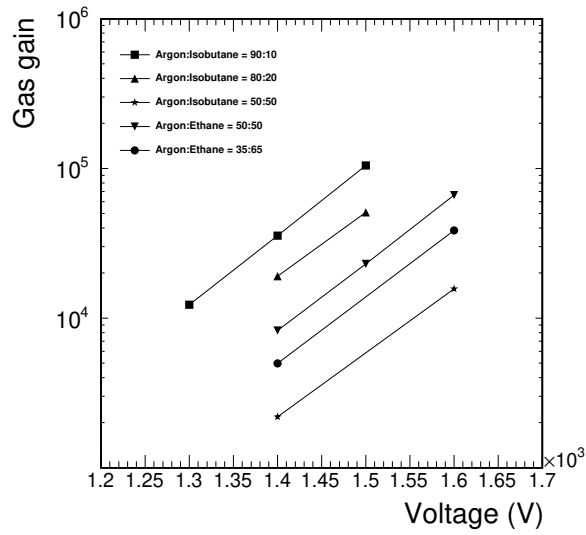
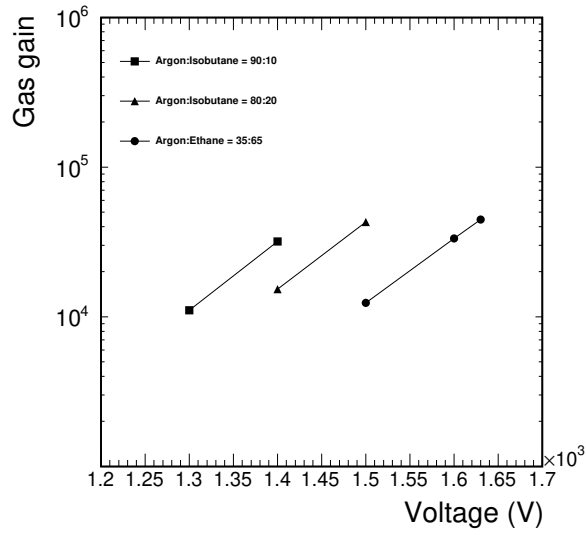


Figure 8: Simulated gain of gas multiplication as a function of applied voltage to the anode wires with the potential wires at 0 V for wire spacings of 0.75 mm (top) and 0.7 mm (bottom).

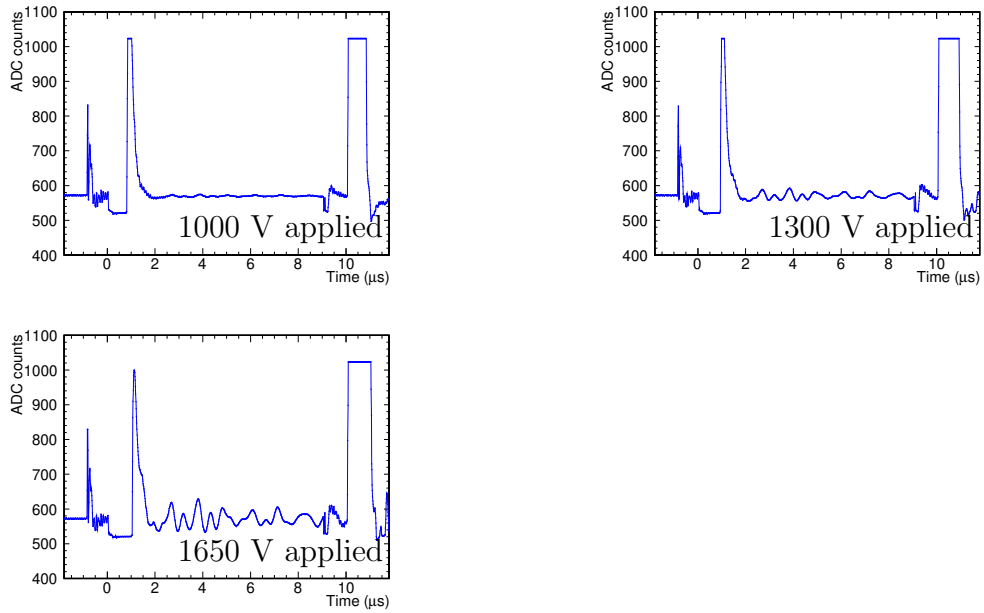


Figure 9: Typical waveforms for different applied HV values.

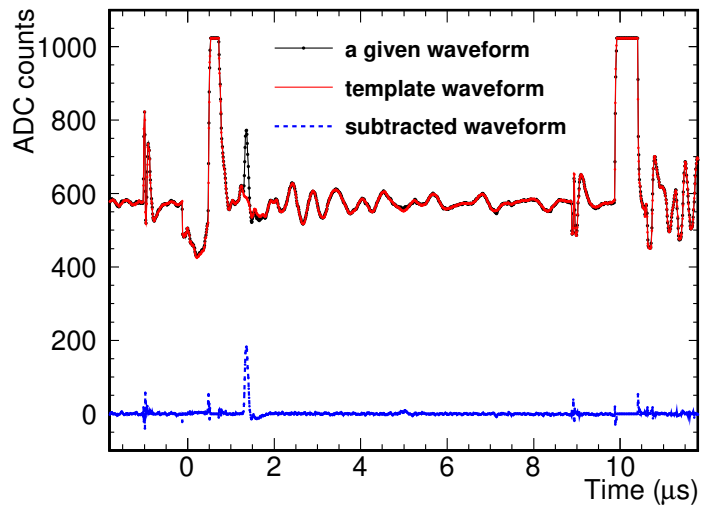


Figure 10: Template waveform (solid line) consisting of the most frequent ADC counts, a waveform in a certain trigger (line with dots), and the subtracted waveform (dashed line).

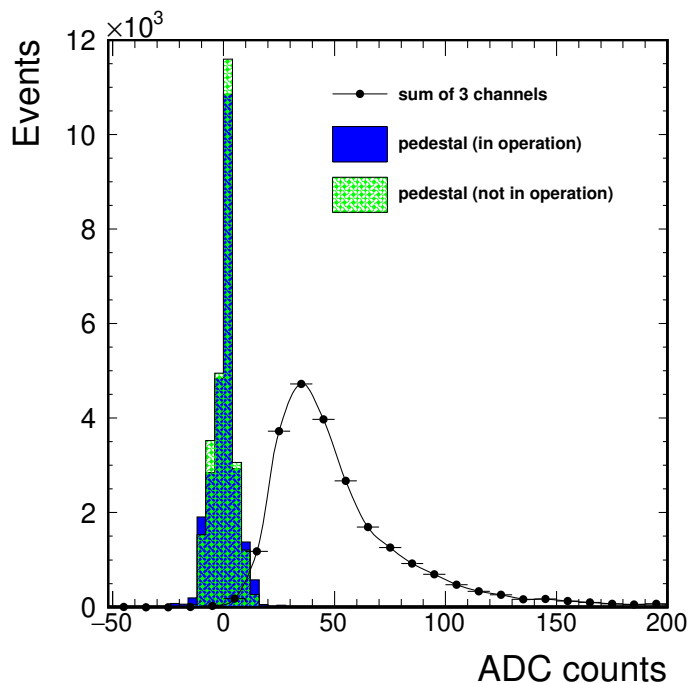


Figure 11: Distribution of signal pulse heights and pedestal values.

257 the waveform after subtracting the template from a given waveform,
 258 shown as the solid line with dots. A peak at around $1.5 \mu\text{s}$ in the
 259 dashed line corresponds to the signal. Small fluctuations seen in the
 260 time region within $\pm 1 \mu\text{s}$ and after $8.5 \mu\text{s}$ arise from imperfect sub-
 261 traction of the template waveform due to FADC jitters. Concerning
 262 the HV switching and the noise induced by that, please refer to Fig. 6
 263 (§2.3.4). Signal and pedestal pulse heights are shown in Fig. 11, where
 264 the signal pulse height is a response sum of three channels around the
 265 strip with the largest signal, and the pedestal values are calculated for
 266 two time-regions, before and after the HV switching. Two pedestal
 267 distributions are almost the same and the subtraction of the template
 268 waveform is confirmed to be effective to extract signals.

269 2. Cluster construction.

270 For each strip and each FADC sample point, a sum of ADC counts over
 271 a certain range of the strip and the time direction is calculated, which

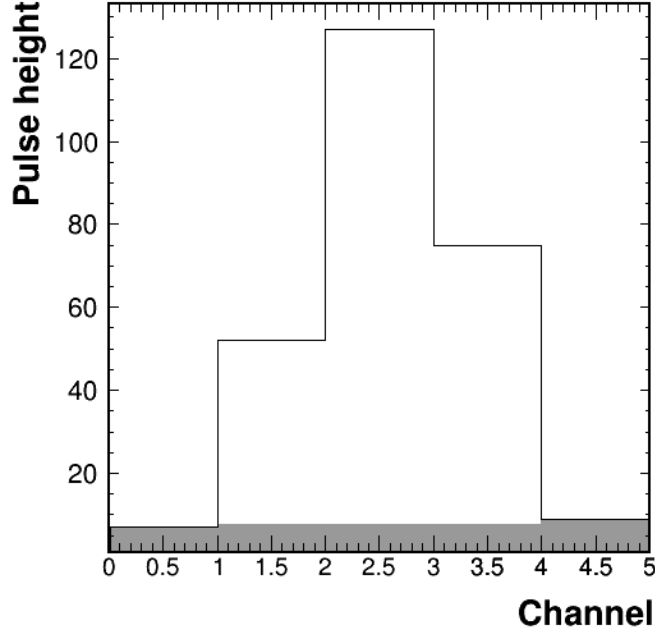


Figure 12: Example of pulse heights in five cathode strips with a signal.

272 we call a “cluster”. As shown in Fig. 12, using five x -strips around a
 273 given strip, the ADC counts of the three center channels are summed
 274 up while subtracting the average ADC count calculated from the outer
 275 two channels as the common noise level. Then, these 3-strip sums
 276 are added over ten sample points in the time direction starting from
 277 the sample point under consideration because the FWHM of signal
 278 responses is approximately 100 ns, independent of pulse heights, as
 279 shown in Fig. 13.

280 3. Hit finding and position reconstruction.

281 If one cluster larger than a threshold is found, the local maximum
 282 around the cluster within a region of ± 2 strips and ± 2 sample points
 283 is identified. The local maximum cluster is accepted as a hit if three
 284 consecutive clusters in the time direction around the local maximum
 285 cluster are larger than the threshold. The hit position for a strip chan-
 286 nel i is calculated by the center of mass method using the three strips of
 287 the cluster as $\sum_{j=i-1}^{i+1} (j \cdot Q_j) / \sum_{j=i-1}^{i+1} Q_j$, where Q_j and j are the strip

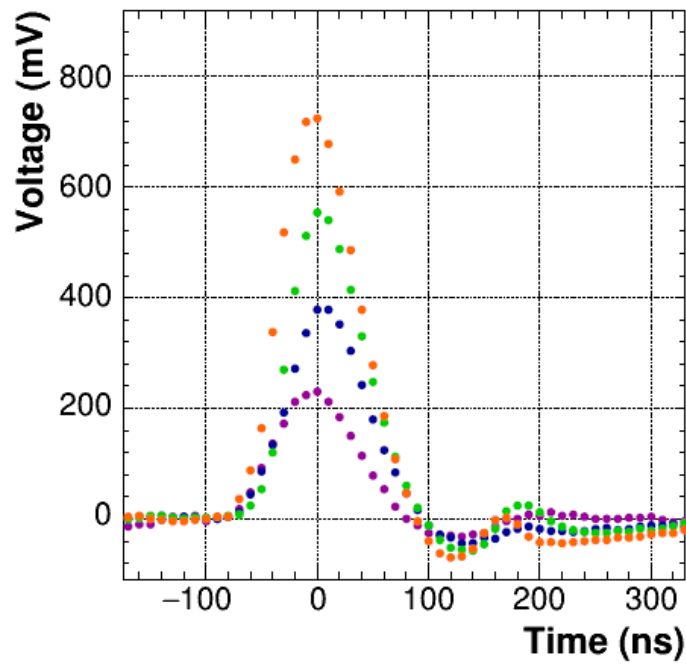


Figure 13: Signals with various pulse heights. Waveforms from different events are superimposed.

288 ADC count (summed over 10 FADC sample points) and strip channel
289 number, respectively.

290 4. Test and Performance Evaluation

291 The performance of MWPCs was evaluated by using electron beams of
292 the Linac at Kyoto University Institute for Integrated Radiation and Nuclear
293 Science. Fig. 14 shows the experimental setup. The electron beam was
294 collimated to 10 mm wide and 18 mm high with lead and iron blocks. The
295 repetition rate of the pulsed beam was set to 25 Hz, which was the same
296 as the RCS in the real experiment. At the beam exit, the MWPCs are
297 placed with scintillation plastic counters for counting the number of electrons.
298 The duration of the beam pulse was 4 μ s and the number of electrons was
299 maintained to be approximately a few per pulse. For clarification, we note
300 that beam particles to simulate large number of prompt charged particles
301 did not irradiate MWPCs in this basic performance evaluation. The default
302 beam energy for our tests was 16 MeV with a FWHM of 1.2 MeV, but
303 in order to investigate an energy dependence of the hit position resolution
304 mainly due to multiple scattering effects, the electron beam with 30 MeV
305 was also used [12].

306 4.1. Pulse Height

307 Fig. 15 shows the pulse height distribution. The distribution denoted by
308 open circles corresponds to the sum of the ADC counts of three channels, the
309 cathode strips with highest pulse height and two adjacent strips, while the
310 distribution represented by black circle points shows the sum of five channels.
311 These are well represented by the Landau distribution. Because there is not
312 much difference in the shape of distribution between three and five channels,
313 it can be said that the avalanche charge created by an incident particle is
314 within the size of 3 mm \times 3 cathode strips. The average avalanche charge is
315 \simeq 17 fC, where readout amplifiers with a gain of 6.9 V/pC and FADCs with
316 an ADC count of 2.0 mV are used.

317 4.2. Hit Efficiency

318 The hit finding efficiency is estimated by looking at the fraction of co-
319 incidences between the two counters with a hit found in the MWPC. More
320 concretely, the coincidence hits within 10 ns detected by the two counters are
321 considered to correspond to electrons penetrating the MWPC. For a given

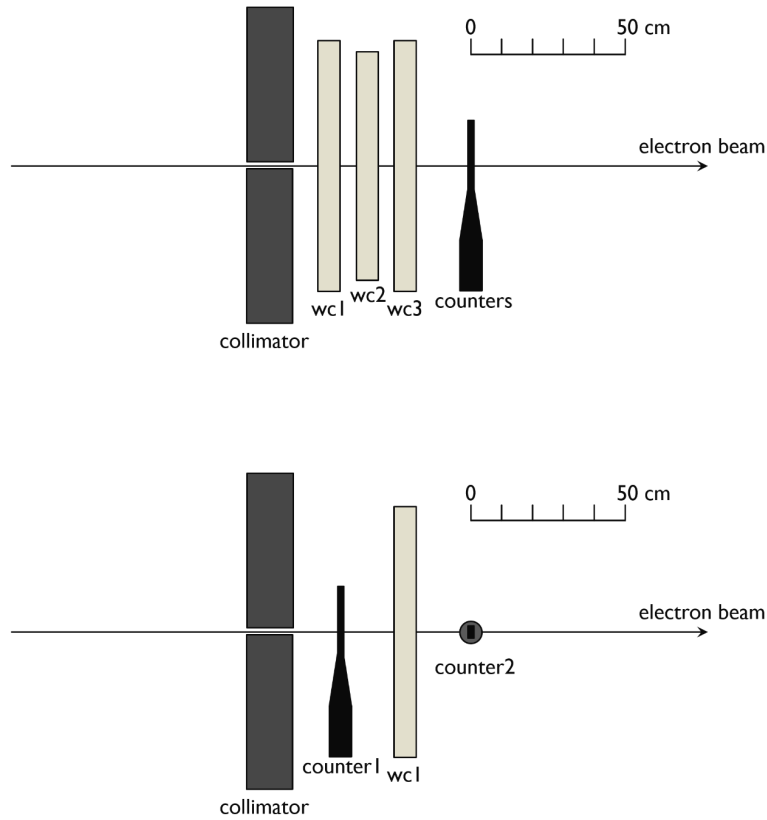


Figure 14: Top view of the experimental setups for the measurement of pulse height and position resolution (above) and the measurement of hit efficiency (below). Electron beam is collimated with lead blocks. WC1, WC2, and WC3 are the production-type MWPCs. WC1 and WC3 are 0.75-type and WC2 is 0.7-type. Scintillation plastic counters are placed to measure the beam intensity.

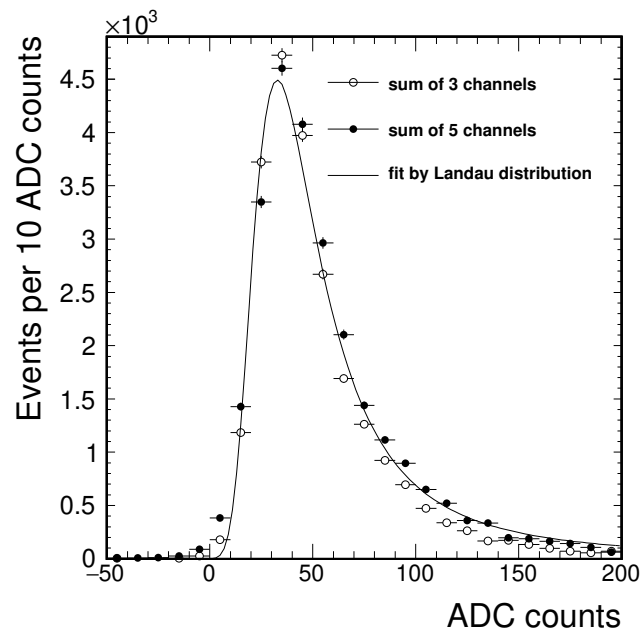


Figure 15: Pulse height distribution in 1 ADC count = 2.0 mV. Open circles correspond to the sum of ADC counts of three channels, the cathode strip with the highest pulse height and two adjacent strips, and black points show the sum of five channels.

322 coincidence, strip responses of the MWPC corresponding to the beam posi-
 323 tion are examined and the hit that is found by the algorithm and is matching
 324 with the coincidence time within 100 ns is defined to be the signal successfully
 325 identified by the MWPC. Fig. 16 shows the efficiency as a function of time
 after turning on the MWPC. The MWPC with a wire spacing of 0.75 mm

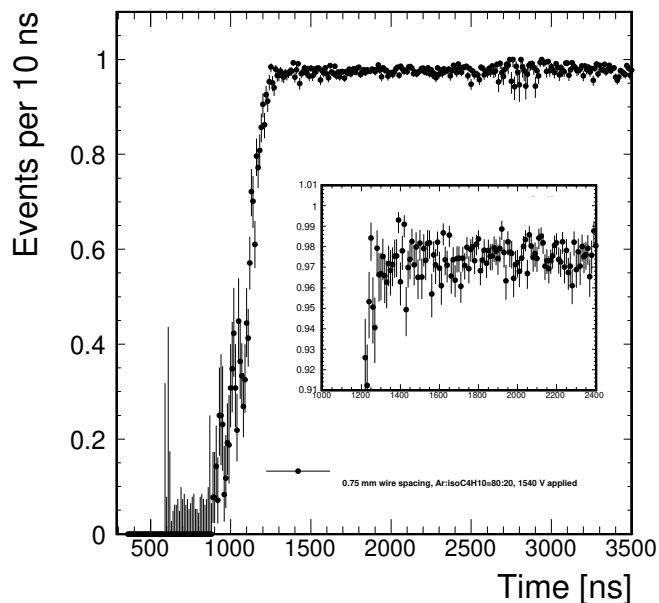


Figure 16: Single hit efficiency of the MWPC as a function of time after the voltage on the potential wires starts to fall.

326
 327 is filled with a mixed gas containing argon/isobutane = 80%/20%. A DC
 328 of 1540 V and switching voltage as shown in Fig. 3 (middle) with a width
 329 of 10 μ s are applied to the anode and potential wires, respectively. The
 330 efficiency for a single electron becomes approximately 98% in 1.4 μ s after
 331 turning on the operation of the MWPC. This recovery time corresponds to a
 332 50% efficiency for signals from muons of muonic carbon-atoms with a lifetime
 333 $\simeq 2.0 \mu$ s. The dead time will be shortened by optimizing parameters such as
 334 the resistor value at the output line of the HV pulser for the time constant
 335 of the HV change, the resistor value of the PZC for the time duration of
 336 the positive saturation, both having effects of a few hundreds nanoseconds,
 337 using actual beams in the real experiment.

338 *4.3. MWPC Position Resolution and DeeMe experiment*

339 To estimate the position resolution, three MWPCs were installed with a
 340 spacing of 5 cm in series along the beam line. The difference between the
 341 hit position on the middle chamber and the expected position (fit position)
 342 estimated by the straight line connecting two hits found in the first and third
 343 chambers is calculated. Fig. 17 shows histograms of hit minus fit position for
 energies of 16 MeV and 30 MeV. By fitting the histograms with a Gaussian

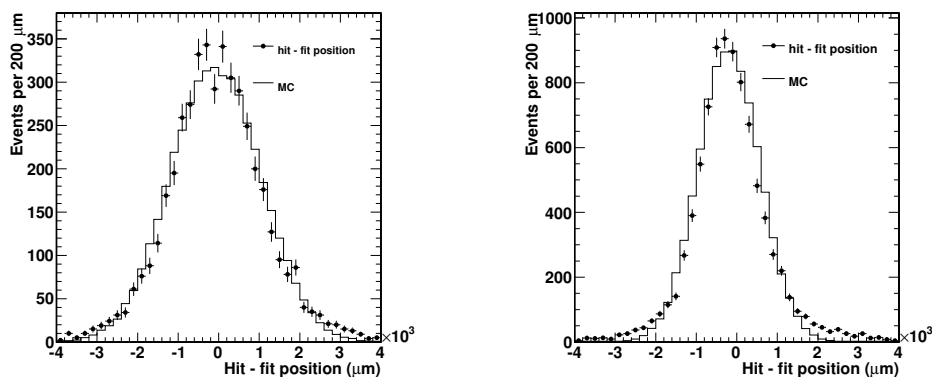


Figure 17: Histograms of position resolution for electron energies of 16 MeV (left) and 30 MeV (right).

344

345 plus constant, the standard deviations are found to be $(1050 \pm 18) \mu\text{m}$ and
 346 $(742.4 \pm 8.7) \mu\text{m}$ for 16 MeV and 30 MeV, respectively.

347 A simple simulation study is performed to reproduce the distributions for
 348 both beam energies in Fig. 17 considering effects of multiple scattering due
 349 to the materials of MWPC and air. The results are included as histograms
 350 in the figure. From the parameter of this simulation, the hit position resolu-
 351 tion combining intrinsic position resolution of the MWPC and the analysis
 352 method is estimated to be $(640 \pm 37) \mu\text{m}$. Note that this measurement is
 353 strongly affected by the multiple scattering of beam electrons with rather
 354 low energies; thus, the observed resolution only shows the upper-limit of the
 355 intrinsic resolution.

356 In the DeeMe experiment, four MWPCs and an electromagnet will be in-
 357 stalled in the J-PARC MLF H1 area. The signal electron of muon-to-electron
 358 conversion has a monochromatic momentum of $\simeq 105 \text{ MeV}/c$, and it is bent
 359 by a nominal angle of $\simeq 70^\circ$ with a curvature radius of 90 cm in the magnetic

360 spectrometer. From these parameters, the momentum resolution solely due
361 to the hit position resolution of $640\ \mu\text{m}$ would be approximately $0.1\ \text{MeV}/c$,
362 which is obtained by simply propagating the hit position uncertainty to cur-
363 vature estimation for a reasonable chamber configuration.

364 5. Conclusions

365 HV switching MWPCs for dynamical gas gain control have been devel-
366 oped. They were tested using the electron linac at Kyoto University Insti-
367 tute for Integrated Radiation and Nuclear Science. It was confirmed that
368 the detector becomes 98% efficient for detecting a single electron. Position
369 resolution was also estimated, and the contribution to the total momentum
370 resolution was expected to be small for the DeeMe experiment.

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