

Upgraded Fast Beam Conditions Monitor for CMS online luminosity measurement

Jessica Lynn Leonard[†], Alan Bell[†], Maria Hempel[‡], Hans Henschel, Olena Karacheban[‡], Wolfgang Lange, Wolfgang Lohmann[‡], Olga Novgorodova^{‡§}, Marek Penno, Roberval Walsh

DESY

Zeuthen, Germany

E-mail: jessica.lynn.leonard@desy.de, alan.bell@cern.ch,
maria.hempel@desy.de, hans.henschel@desy.de, olena.karacheban@desy.de,
wolfgang.lange@desy.de, wolfgang.lohmann@desy.de,
olga.novgorodova@tu-dresden.de, marek.penno@desy.de,
roberval.walsh@desy.de

Anne Dabrowski, Moritz Guthoff, Rob Loos, Vladimir Ryjov

CERN

Geneva, Switzerland

E-mail: anne.evelyn.dabrowski@cern.ch, moritz.guthoff@cern.ch,
robert.loos@cern.ch, vladimir.ryjov@cern.ch

Piotr Burtowy^{||}

Gdansk University of Technology

Gdansk, Poland

E-mail: piotr.burtowy@cern.ch

Arkady Likhovitskiy

University of Canterbury

Christchurch, New Zealand

E-mail: arkady.likhovitskiy@cern.ch

Nathaniel Odell

Northwestern University

Evanston, Illinois, USA

E-mail: nathaniel.jay.odell@cern.ch

* Speaker

[†] Now at University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

[‡] Also at Brandenburg Technical University, Cottbus, Germany

[§] Now at Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, TU Dresden, Dresden, Germany

^{||} Also at CERN

Dominik Przyborowski*AGH University of Science and Technology**Krakow, Poland**E-mail: przyboro@agh.edu.pl***David Stickland***Princeton University**Princeton, New Jersey, USA**E-mail: david.peter.stickland@cern.ch***Agnieszka Zagodzinska^{||}***Warsaw University of Technology**Warsaw, Poland**E-mail: a.zago@cern.ch*

The CMS beam condition monitoring subsystem BCM1F during LHC Run I consisted of 8 individual diamond sensors situated around the beam pipe within the tracker detector volume, for the purpose of fast monitoring of beam background and collision products. Effort is ongoing to develop the use of BCM1F as an online bunch-by-bunch luminosity monitor. BCM1F will be running whenever there is beam in LHC, and its data acquisition is independent from the data acquisition of the CMS detector, hence it delivers luminosity even when CMS is not taking data. To prepare for the expected increase in the LHC luminosity and the change from 50 ns to 25 ns bunch separation, several changes to the system are required, including a higher number of sensors and upgraded electronics. In particular, a new real-time digitizer with large memory was developed and is being integrated into a multi-subsystem framework for luminosity measurement. Current results from Run II preparation will be discussed, including results from the January 2014 test beam.

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1. Overview of BCM1F

The CMS Fast Beam Condition Monitor (BCM1F) [1] provides bunch-by-bunch information on the flux of beam halo and collision products passing through the inner CMS detector [2]. The system was originally designed to monitor machine-induced background and ensure low enough tracker occupancy for data-taking. However, the purpose of BCM1F has evolved to include fast luminosity measurement in order to function as an online luminometer.

1.1 Run I Setup

During LHC Run I, BCM1F consisted of eight 5 mm x 5 mm single-crystal CVD diamonds positioned around the beam-pipe at a radial distance of 4.5 cm, 1.8 meters from the interaction point. The position of the two BCM1F planes in the z coordinate was such that the collision products and the beam gas products had the maximum possible separation in arrival times, 12.5 ns. Diamond was chosen based on several factors: it requires no cooling, has a good signal-to-noise ratio and fast response, and is radiation-hard. Each diamond sensor was integrated into a frontend readout module including a radiation-hard preamplifier and an optical driver. Power and readout of BCM1F is independent from the rest of CMS, which lets BCM1F take data even when CMS is not running.

A charged particle passing through the diamond sensor creates a signal on the metallized pads on both surfaces of the diamond. This signal is read out through a preamplifier and shaper and passed through an optical fiber to the backend electronics, located in the underground service cavern. From there the information travels through two paths. A discriminator detects hits passing a threshold cut, and the digital signals are passed through a coincidence unit (LUT) and counted using a scaler and, more recently, a dedicated readout board (RHU). In parallel, the analog signals are recorded by an ADC for efficiency studies. However, the deadtime of the ADC is too high to use it for full-time readout.

1.2 Run I Results

BCM1F was successfully tested as a luminometer during Run I [3]. BCM1F participated in CMS-wide van der Meer scans, which provide the calibration for the absolute luminosity

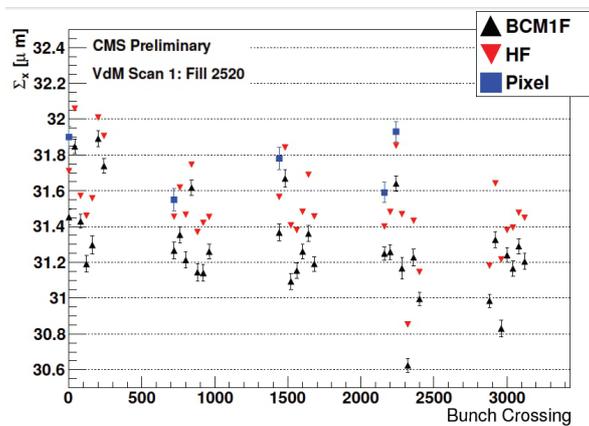


Figure 1: Calibration scan results comparing BCM1F to other luminosity subsystems.

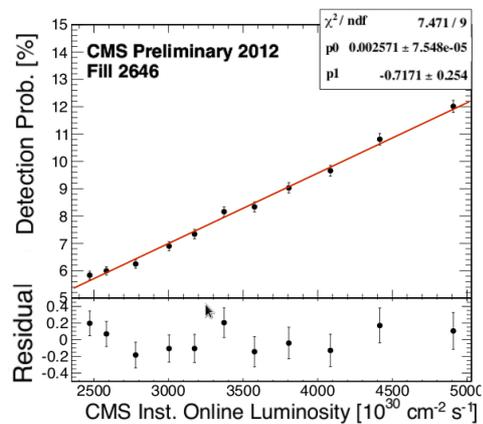


Figure 2: Sensor hit probability with instantaneous luminosity.

measurement. The calibration constant can be extracted from fitting the rate as a function of beam separation distance. The results of the calibration scan show that the BCM1F bunch-by-bunch measurement agrees on average to within a percent of the values measured by the other luminosity systems, the forward hadronic calorimeter (HF) and the pixel detector, as shown in Fig. 1. The BCM1F detection probability was also measured to be linear with luminosity, as shown in Fig. 2.

2. BCM1F Upgrade

2.1 Upgrade Concept

The upgrade of the LHC has multiple implications for the BCM1F system. First, the higher luminosity means a higher hit rate in BCM1F. At a luminosity of 10^{34} cm⁻²s⁻¹, the BCM1F charged particle flux is around 3×10^7 cm⁻²s⁻¹. BCM1F should be able to handle the increased radiation and more hits per unit area. Second, the move to 25-ns bunch spacing means BCM1F should be prepared for a higher frequency of hits in time, as well, requiring a faster response to avoid pileup effects.

The BCM1F upgrade strategy addresses these conditions. To increase the system's dynamic range and maintain linearity, the number of channels is being increased. The system will be expanded from 8 to 24 diamonds, with each diamond having two metallization pads for a total of 48 channels. This makes it more likely that there will be more channels without hits during a given bunch crossing (important for the zero-counting aspect of the luminosity measurement), and also more likely that at least one channel will register a hit due to beam gas.

2.2 Upgrade Carriage Design

The detector carriage for the upgrade consists of a carbon-fiber frame carrying a semi-rigid PCB. The rigid C-shape holds the BCM1F sensors as well as the frontend electronics. The optical components are mounted on the rigid arm of the PCB, further away from the beamline than in Run I in order to lower their radiation exposure. In addition, the optical components will benefit passively from the cooling system for the Pixel Luminosity Telescope (PLT), also carried on the C-shape. The shape of the PCB allows it to fold out into an extended length, letting the piece be manufactured from a single PCB panel. Production of the PCB is in progress, with one board already being assembled and tested.

2.3 Improving Frontend Electronics

The frontend electronics in the Run I system had several sources of inefficiency. The rise time was 25 ns, the same as the foreseen bunch spacing interval for LHC Run II. In addition, occasional large signals caused the preamplifier output to remain over threshold for a period on the order of 100 ns. During this time no signals could be detected. After this saturation, the amplifier signal would then go into an overshoot state lasting up to several μ s, during which time any signals would not necessarily pass the detection threshold.

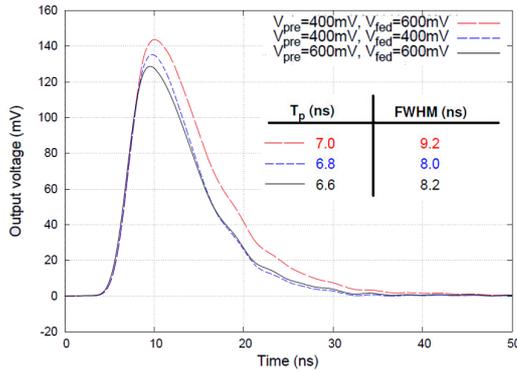


Figure 3: Amplifier response to MIP signals showing fast rise time for various bias settings.

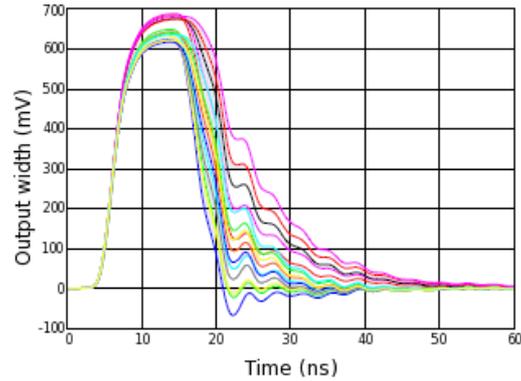


Figure 4: Amplifier response to large signals (150 fC) showing short recovery time.

To deal with these inefficiencies, a new fast frontend ASIC has been developed by AGH-Krakow using IBM CMOS8RF 130 nm technology. It has ~ 50 mV/fC charge gain and equivalent noise charge of $\sim 350 e^-$ at input capacitance 2 pF and below $700 e^-$ for 5 pF. The rise time is around 7 ns for MIP signals, as shown in Fig. 3. In addition, for large signals (150 fC), the signal duration is shorter and the overshoot time is very small, as shown in Fig. 4. This is a large improvement in behavior and will address the issues seen in the previous system.

2.4 January 2014 Test Beam

A BCM1F frontend unit was tested in the DESY test beam in 2014. The test board included single-pad-metallization and split-pad-metallization diamonds, as well as the new frontend ASIC. Results show a high measured charge-collection efficiency, as well as the fast rise time of the ASIC, in accordance with expectations. In addition, the performance of a digitizer option was measured. The present results are encouraging, and analysis is ongoing.

2.5 Backend Electronics

The backend electronics strategy will retain the parallel path design from the Run I setup. The “tried and true” VME discriminator path will be used for initial running, while a μ TCA digitizer system with fast peak-finding will be commissioned for future use.

As in Run I, the analog signal will be passed to a fast, low-deadtime discriminator to measure hit arrival time. The resulting digital signal will be fed into a Lookup Table (LUT) unit to register hit coincidences between channels. This data will be read out by a dedicated board, the RHU, and passed to the DAQ for the luminosity subsystems.

A dedicated readout board, the Real-time Histogramming Unit (RHU), was developed at DESY-Zeuthen to record the BCM1F data for LHC Run II. The RHU provides deadtimeless readout of full-orbit histograms for 8 ECL input channels. The histograms are binned in 6.25 ns bins, or 4 bins per bunch crossing. In addition it receives bunch clock, orbit clock, and beam abort signals. The histogram integration interval is taken from an optical timing signal received from the CMS clock and control system. The RHU has a 5 Mbit RAM FPGA as well as an on-board embedded Linux system and Ethernet readout. The first version prototype was installed in BCM1F in Sept. 2012 and validated during the remainder of the 2012-2013 run. The second version prototype has been tested, and the full production of the boards is in progress.

In parallel with the discriminator/RHU path, a μ TCA digitizer system is being developed for the purpose of fast peak-finding. It will be able to identify both the arrival time and the peak height of arriving signals, and in particular will be able to distinguish overlapping signals, which is more difficult with a discriminator. It will also be able to take data as an ADC for efficiency studies.

The system being developed uses commercial-off-the-shelf ADC/Digitizer FMC mezzanine boards and custom, CMS-specific, μ TCA carriers. The FMCs are foreseen to take 8-10 bit ADC data at 5 GS/s. The carrier board is foreseen to implement the peak-finding algorithm on the ADC data. The produced histograms (hits vs. time and hit amplitude spectra) will be passed directly to the DAQ system responsible for collecting the data from the different subsystems.

2.6 Luminosity subsystem integration

The BCM1F output histograms will be acquired via the LumiDAQ system [4]. This is an expansion of an already-existing structure for taking luminosity data in order to accommodate all CMS luminosity subdetectors. A common timing signal will be distributed via optical fiber, defining the hit count integration interval. In addition, occasional transmitted counters will serve to keep the different subsystems synchronized.

The LumiDAQ software framework receives raw data from each of the subdetector readouts. The raw data is put into an eventing stream, from which downstream subscriber modules can retrieve the data for processing, storage, or publishing. Processed histograms may also be put back into the eventing stream for the same purpose. The software framework and the respective components are currently being developed.

3. Conclusion

BCM1F functioned well as a luminometer in LHC Run I. To deal with the increased luminosities and smaller bunch spacing expected during Run II, several updates to the system are being made. These include more channels, faster frontend electronics, dedicated backend electronics, and integration into the luminosity data-taking framework. Preliminary results from the 2014 test beam support a successful future operation of BCM1F as a luminometer.

References

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