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FPGA Based Pico-second Time Measurement System for a DIRC-like TOF Detector

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A prototype of DIRC-like Time-of-Flight detector (DTOF), including a pico-second time measurement electronics, is developed and tested preliminarily. The basic structure of DTOF is composed of a fused silica radiator connected to fast micro-channel plate PMTs (MCP-PMT), and readout by a dedicated FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array) based front-end electronics. The full electronics chain consists of a programmable differential amplifier, a dual-threshold differential discriminator, and a timestamp Time-to-Digital convertor. By splitting a MCP-PMT output signal into two identical electronics chains, the coincidence time resolution (CTR) of pure electronics was measured as 5.6 ps. By the beam test in H4 (150GeV/c, Muon) at CERN, the intrinsic CTR of the whole detector prototype reaches 15.0 ps without using time-amplitude correction. The test results demonstrate that the FPGA based front-end electronics could achieve an excellent time performance for TOF detectors. It is very compact, cost effective with a high multi-channel capacity and short measurement dead time, which is very suitable for practical applications of large-scale high performance TOF detectors in particle physics spectrometer.

Minioral

Yes

Description

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