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Baby MIND: A magnetized segmented neutrino detector for the WAGASCI experiment

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ABSTRACT: T2K (Tokai-to-Kamioka) is a long-baseline neutrino experiment in Japan designed to study various parameters of neutrino oscillations. A near detector complex (ND280) is located 280 m downstream of the production target and measures neutrino beam parameters before any oscillations occur. ND280's measurements are used to predict the number and spectra of neutrinos in the Super-Kamiokande detector at the distance of 295 km. The difference in the target material between the far (water) and near (scintillator, hydrocarbon) detectors leads to the main non-cancelling systematic uncertainty for the oscillation analysis. In order to reduce this uncertainty a new WAter-Grid-And-SCintillator detector (WAGASCI) has been developed. A magnetized iron neutrino detector (Baby MIND) will be used to measure momentum and charge identification of the outgoing muons from charged current interactions. The Baby MIND modules are composed of magnetized iron plates and long plastic scintillator bars read out at the both ends with wavelength shifting fibers and silicon photomultipliers. The front-end electronics board has been developed to perform the readout and digitization of the signals from the scintillator bars. Detector elements were tested with cosmic rays and in the PS beam at CERN. The obtained results are presented in this paper.

KEYWORDS: Neutrino detectors, Muon spectrometers, Scintillators and scintillating fibres and light guides

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1 Introduction

T2K (Tokai-to-Kamioka) [1] is a long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiment in Japan which uses the Super-Kamiokande water Cherenkov detector as the far detector at the distance of 295 km from the neutrino beam source. A near detector complex (ND280) is located 280 m away from the target and at 2.5° with respect to the beam axis. ND280 consists of tracking detectors surrounded by an electromagnetic calorimeter, which are placed inside a magnet. A large part of the ND280 detector is composed of plastic scintillator-based counters with wavelength shifting fibers. The difference in the target material between far (water) and near (scintillator, hydrocarbon) detectors is one of the major non-cancelling systematic uncertainty in the T2K oscillation analysis.

The WAGASCI experiment [2] at J-PARC has been proposed to reduce the systematic uncertainties in the neutrino cross-section measurements on water and hydrocarbon. The WAGASCI detector consists of two main parts, a 3D grid structured plastic scintillator target filled with H_2O and muon range detectors (MRD's), which surround the central neutrino target on two sides (see figure 1). The Magnetized Iron Neutrino Detector (Baby MIND) [3–5] is located downstream of the neutrino target. The Baby MIND will provide charge identification and momentum measurements for muons resulting from neutrino interactions in the WAGASCI neutrino targets located upstream. The charge of secondary particles from neutrino interactions are identified by the curvature of the particle track in the Baby MIND magnetic field of 1.5 T. The MRDs measure the muon momentum by muon path length in the detector layers.

2 Baby MIND design

The main goal of the Baby MIND is to identify μ^+/μ^- with a high efficiency and to measure their momenta in an interval of 0.3-5.0 GeV/c. In this range the multiple scattering degrades the muon momentum measurements. Our simulations show that the charge identification can be improved

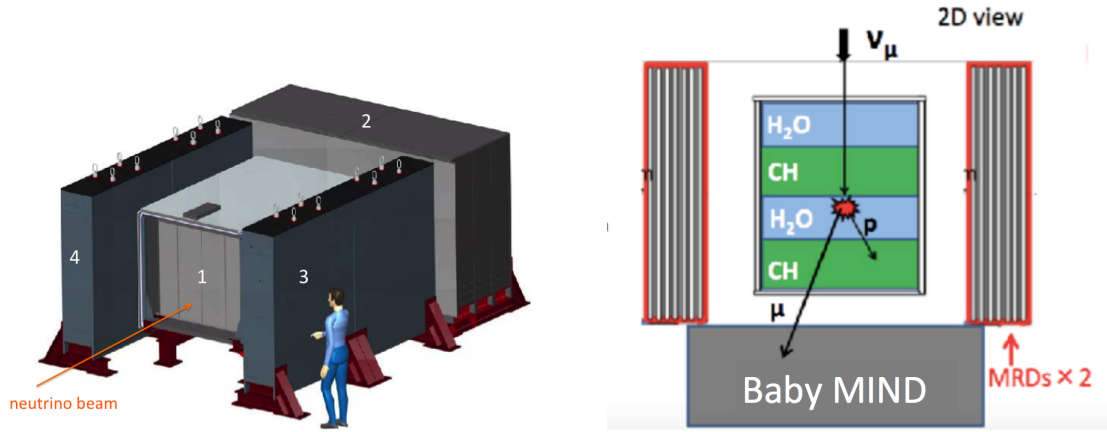


Figure 1. Schematic view of the WAGASCI setup. *Left* — 1: 3D grid-structured WAGASCI water/scintillator neutrino target; 2: Baby MIND; 3-4: side MRD's. *Right* — The event sample of neutrino interaction in the WAGASCI target is shown.

by optimizing the distance between the first magnet planes for the muon momentum down to 500 MeV/c. Figure 2 shows the basic design of the Baby MIND. The detector consists of 33 magnetized 30-mm thick iron plates and 18 scintillator planes. The magnet modules were designed to provide

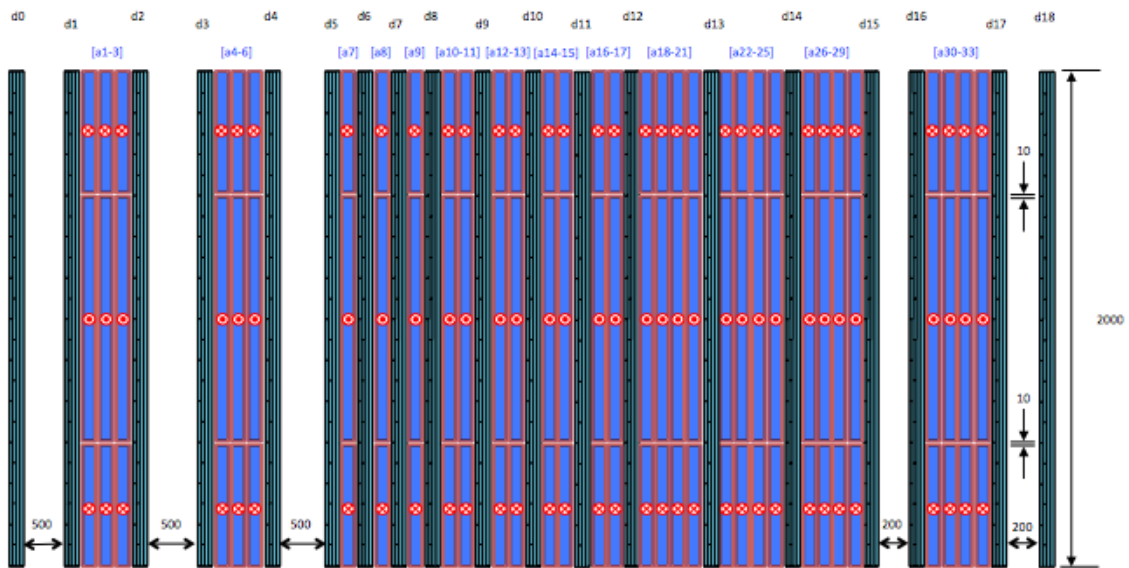


Figure 2. The layout of Baby MIND. Scintillator planes are numerated from d0 (front plane) to d17, magnet plates are numerated from s1 to s33.

a minimum field of 1.5 T over the central tracking region with an uniformity of better than 10% within the iron along the projection of a horizontal plastic scintillator bar. The stray field outside the iron plate is kept below 10 mT. The total power consumption for 33 magnet modules is 12 kW [6]. This is derived from the coil resistance and the voltage drop across the power supply. To satisfy the

space and transportation constraints, the design for the Baby MIND has individual magnetization of the modules by normal conducting coils wound on the surface of the iron plates. The magnet modules are made of the ARMCO steel sheets with two horizontal slits machined in the center and are wrapped by an aluminum coil in a sewing pattern, as shown in Figure 3.

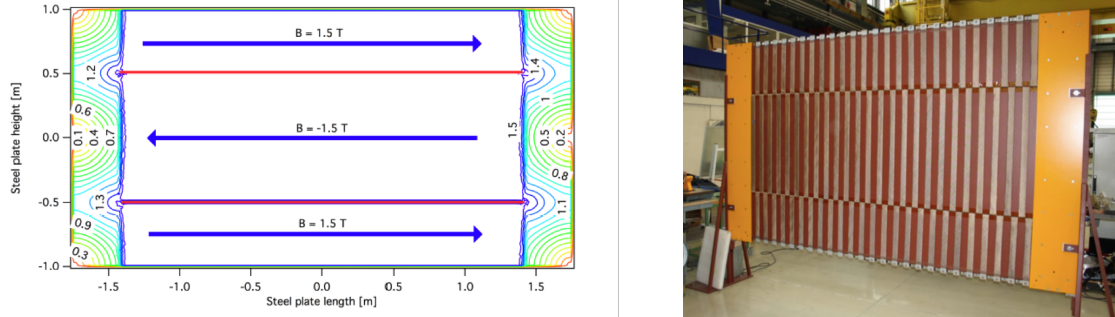


Figure 3. Two-slit configuration allows to halve the cross sections for flux return, leading to a larger central tracking region.

3 Scintillator modules

The Baby MIND scintillator module (plane) is assembled by gluing together 95 horizontal and 16 vertical scintillator bars which are read out with WLS Kuraray Y11 fibers of 1 mm diameter and silicon photomultipliers Hamamatsu S12571-025C. The scintillator composition is a polystyrene doped with 1.5% of paraterphenyl (PTP) and 0.01% of POPOP. Vertical bar size is $0.7 \times 21 \times 195 \text{ cm}^3$, the WLS fiber covers the surface of scintillator in U-shape configuration with both fiber ends drawn at the same end of the bar. Horizontal bars are narrow and longer with $0.7 \times 3 \times 288 \text{ cm}^3$ size. The fiber is glued in the straight groove along the central axis so that readout is implemented at both ends of the bar.

In total, 1744 horizontal bars and 315 vertical bars were manufactured at the Uniplast company (Vladimir, Russia). The 0.7 cm thick extruded slabs of 22 cm width were cut in the bars to the specified size, then the bars were covered by 30–100 μm thick diffuse reflector using etching of polystyrene surface with a chemical agent. Details about the manufacturing technology can be found in [7, 8].

4 Results of cosmic and beam tests

Each bar was tested with cosmic rays to measure the light yield at both ends [9]. A trigger telescope of two large counters was installed above and below of the central part of the parallel array of 4 bars. The same Hamamatsu MPPCs S12571-025C were utilized for the readout. The photosensor signal after preamplifier was sent to a digitizer CAEN DT5742 with 5 GHz sampling rate, then the charge was derived by integrating the signal pulse and calibrated in number of photoelectrons (p. e.). We did not apply the correction for MPPC cross-talk so the absolute light yield shown below is overestimated by 10%. The light yield value was corrected for temperature variations during the tests with normalization to $T = 22^\circ\text{C}$.

The average light yield (sum of both ends) was measured to be 37.5 p.e./MIP and 65 p.e./MIP for vertical and horizontal bars, respectively. Fig. 4 demonstrates the distribution of the light yields

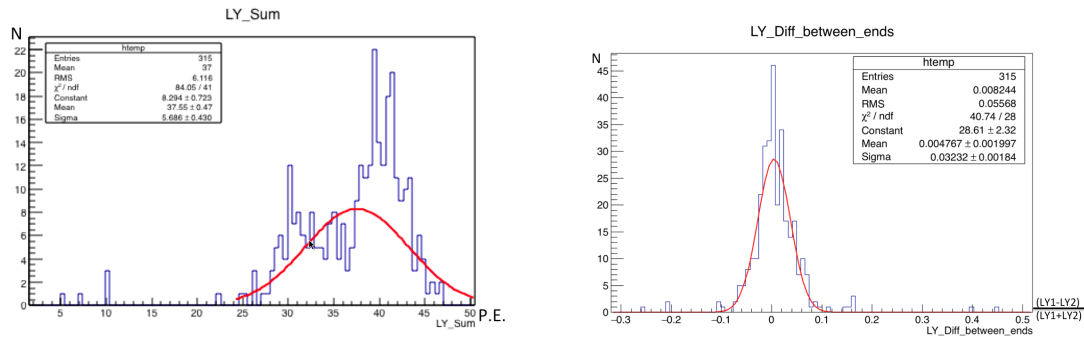


Figure 4. *Left* — Distribution of the light yield (sum of both ends) for 315 vertical bars, *right* — distribution of the light yield asymmetry between the ends.

for 315 vertical bars as well as the asymmetry in light yield between the ends. Light yields and the asymmetry for 1744 horizontal bars are shown in Fig. 5. Light yield asymmetry in both the

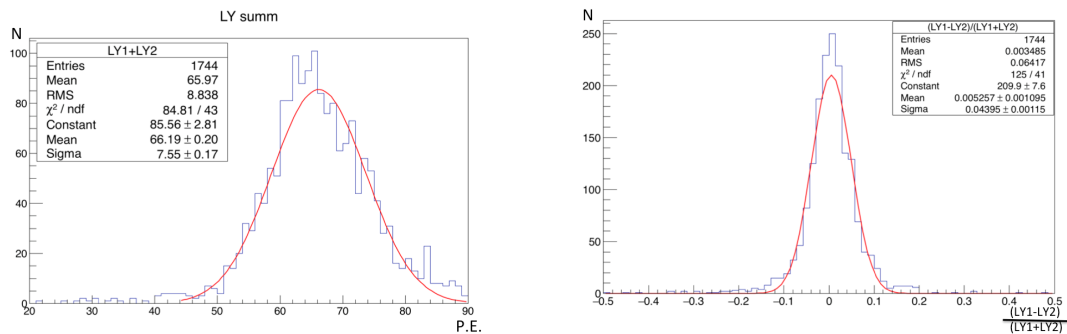


Figure 5. *Left* — distribution of light yield (sum from both ends) for 1744 horizontal bars, *right* — distribution of the light yield asymmetry between the ends.

horizontal and vertical bars does not exceed 10%.

Data obtained in the beam test at the T9 beam area of the CERN PS have been used to calculate the detection efficiency. The electronic trigger signal was produced by two trigger counters in coincidence. Figure 6 shows detection efficiency scan for vertical bars. Efficiency and timing resolution for horizontal bars are described in details in a published paper [10].

5 Baby MIND software

Baby MIND uses the Simulation And Reconstruction Of Muons And Neutrinos (SaRoMaN) software suite [4] to perform event reconstruction of both simulated muon and neutrino events as well as real beam data. The software suite was developed by the Baby MIND project and has been qualified with the Totally Active Scintillator Detector (TASD) [9] detector testbeam and will be further qualified with the Baby MIND testbeam.

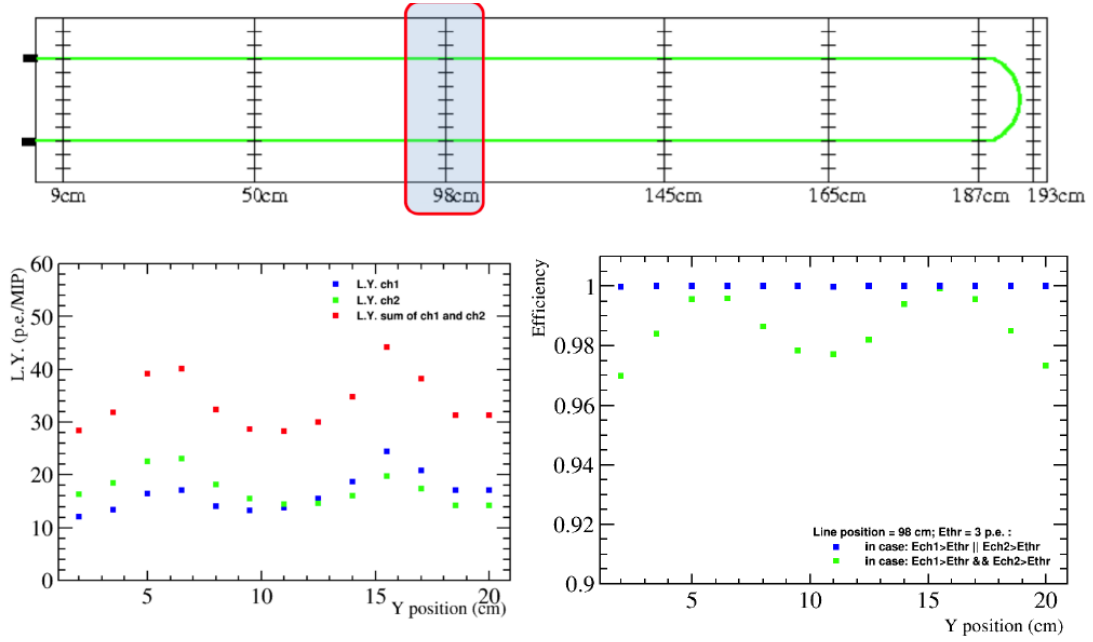


Figure 6. *Top* — vertical bar test map, *bottom left* — light yield scan across a bar, *bottom right* — detection efficiency scan across a bar (blue – the events are counted if the charge is over the 3 p.e. threshold at either of the bar ends (OR logic), green – if the charge is over the 3 p.e. at each of the bar ends (AND logic).

6 Summary

The detector modules of Baby MIND have been assembled and prepared for beam tests at CERN this year. The magnetization scheme and assembly procedure have been successfully proven through the construction yielding 1.5 T in the magnet modules. The average light yield (sum from both ends) was measured with cosmic rays to be 37.5 p.e./MIP and 65 p.e./MIP for vertical and horizontal bars, respectively.

A new Front End Board based on the CITIROC ASIC has been designed for the readout of scintillator modules that will be used in the Baby MIND muon spectrometer. Ongoing beam tests of Baby MIND modules with the front-end board confirm a high light yield of the scintillator bars and a successful operation of the electronic readout scheme.

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