

Construction and test of calorimeter modules for the CHORUS experiment

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Abstract

The construction of modules and the assembly of the calorimeter for CHORUS, an experiment that searches for $\nu_\mu \longleftrightarrow \nu_\tau$ oscillation, have been completed. Within the experiment, the calorimeter is required to measure the energy of hadronic showers produced in neutrino interactions with a resolution of $\sim \frac{30\%}{\sqrt{E(\text{GeV})}}$. To achieve this performance, the technique, developed in recent years, of embedding scintillating fibers of 1 mm diameter into a lead matrix has been adopted for the most upstream part of the calorimeter. A more conventional system, of alternating layers of lead and scintillator strips, was used for the rest. Details of module construction as well as results obtained when modules were exposed to electron and muon beams are presented.

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It has been found [1, 2] that fibers of 1 mm diameter and a volume ratio of 1, with lead as passive and scintillator as active materials assure both compensation and good sampling, resulting in an energy resolution of $\sim 13\%/\sqrt{E(GeV)}$ and of $\sim 10\%/\sqrt{E(GeV)}$ for electromagnetic and hadronic showers respectively.

The calorimeter described in this paper is the first large scale application of such technique. However, this calorimeter differs from those studied so far for the fibers are placed in a direction transverse to the beam direction, a configuration seldom used up to now. This is required by the function that the calorimeter has to perform within the experiment and constitutes a novelty of the device.

This paper is organized as follows. The conceptual design of the complete calorimeter is presented in Section 2. Details of the construction of the three types of modules which are used are given in Section 3. Section 4 contains a description of the experimental setup where some of these modules were exposed to charged particle beams. In Section 5 the first results on the performance of the individual modules are discussed and conclusions are drawn in Section 6.

Design of the calorimeter

The CHORUS experiment [3] searches for $\nu_\mu \longleftrightarrow \nu_\tau$ oscillations in the CERN SPS wide band neutrino beam.

Possible charged current ν_τ interactions, with the subsequent decay of the τ lepton into a muon or pions, are searched for in a target of about 0.8 t of nuclear emulsions, which is followed by the electronic components of the detector (scintillating fiber trackers, an air-core magnet, the calorimeter described in this paper and a muon spectrometer). τ decay candidates have to be isolated from a large background of ordinary interactions and it is essential to reduce as much as possible, by means of electronic selectors, the number of events to scan in the nuclear emulsions. This reduction can be achieved by means of a selection on kinematic variables, since the presence of a neutrino in the decay results in an unbalance of the visible transverse momentum. Such a selection is more effective if the hadronic shower produced in the interaction is measured with high energy and angular resolution.

It is also important to have the capability to track through-going muons and to match their trajectories with those determined in the other detectors of the apparatus, a requirement that has not played an important role in the applications, considered so far, of calorimeters of this type at colliders. Therefore the calorimeter must be a *tracking device*, with the fibers placed in a direction perpendicular to that of the incident particles and longitudinal segmentation is also necessary to allow for the insertion of limited streamer tube chambers. Furthermore, the size of the neutrino beam requires modules of considerable length. This makes the problems generated by the attenuation of the light - that has to travel through considerable distances to reach the photomultipliers - potentially more serious than in other calorimeters based upon the same principle, but with a longitudinal orientation of the fibers.

The calorimeter designed for the CHORUS experiment satisfies the requirements

rections. To reconstruct the center of gravity of the energy deposited by the hadrons admitted in the interactions with good accuracy, the width of the modules was chosen to be much smaller than the size of the average hadron shower.

The calorimeter consists of three sectors with decreasing granularity, called EM, HAD1 and HAD2. The first sector will measure the electromagnetic component of the hadronic shower in the neutrino induced events, while the other two sectors will complete the measurement of the hadronic component. The total depth is about 5.2 interaction lengths, sufficient to contain 99% of the shower produced by a pion of $5 \text{ GeV}/c$ momentum. It should be observed that $\sim 90\%$ of the hadrons produced in the neutrino interactions have momentum less than 5 GeV .

The first two sectors of the calorimeter are made of scintillating fibers and lead, while the third sector is made as a sandwich of lead and scintillating strips. The structure of the calorimeter allows light collection through photomultipliers on both sides of the module and this is exploited to reduce effects of light attenuation.

Between the horizontal and the vertical planes of calorimeter modules, limited streamer tube planes are inserted to allow tracking of penetrating charged particles and they are arranged in pairs (to have two coordinates). The streamer tubes were previously used for the CHARM II experiment and their characteristics and performances are described in [5]. In CHORUS, however, only the digital signals from the wires are recorded.

The main features of the calorimeter are summarized in Table 1 and its isometric view is shown in Fig.1. It is mounted on a support standing on rails, so that it can be moved off the detector axis to perform dedicated energy calibration with electron and muon beams.

Module construction

A careful check on the quality of the scintillating materials was performed. All the 900 scintillator strips and a sample, corresponding to 4% of the fibers, were tested, to verify that individual attenuation length and light output were adequate for our purposes. For the fiber tests, a special device was built at INFN Naples [6], while more conventional means (β -source and multi channel analyser) were used for the strips.

1 Electromagnetic modules

The electromagnetic sector is composed of two horizontal and two vertical planes of 31 modules each. These are built by piling up extruded layers of grooved lead and plastic scintillating fibers positioned in the grooves. A module consists of a pile of 21 layers, 2620 mm long and 82.4 mm wide, and 740 fibers of 1 mm diameter and 3050 mm

| | EM | HAD1 | HAD2 | Total |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Module Dimension (<i>mm</i>) | 40 × 80 × 2620 | 80 × 80 × 3350 | 100 × 200 × 3690 | — |
| Number of Planes | 4 | 5 | 5 | 14 |
| Depth: $X_o(\lambda_{int})$ | 21.5 (0.78) | 55.2 (2.0) | 67.1 (2.44) | 143.8 (5.22) |
| Number of Modules | 124 | 200 | 90 | 414 |
| PM Type | Hamamatsu R1355/SM | Thorn - EMI 9839A | Thorn - EMI 9839A | — |
| PM per Module | 4 | 2 | 4 | — |
| Total Number of PM | 496 | 400 | 360 | 1256 |
| Fibers/Strips Type | Kuraray SCS-F81 | Bicron BCF-12 | Bicron BC-408 (strips) | — |
| Number of fibers/strips | 93000 | 310800 | 900 | 404700 |
| Total Length (<i>km</i>) | 283 | 1165 | 3 | 1451 |
| Pb Weight (tons) | 9.7 | 42 | 60 | 111.7 |
| Scintillator Weight (tons) | 0.22 | 0.92 | 1.32 | 2.46 |

Table 1: Characteristics of the calorimeter.

The cross-section of the basic lead layer is shown in Fig. 3. The groove diameter is 1.1 mm and the sheet thickness 1.9 mm . The layer material is 99% lead with 1% antimony content, which improves its mechanical properties. An overall thickness uniformity of less than 2% was achieved through the extrusion procedure.

The fibers were manufactured by Kuraray and are of the type SCSF81. They consist of a polystyrene core surrounded by a $30\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ thick acrylic cladding, and emit in the blue, with a maximum around 420 nm . A reduction in the light attenuation is obtained by painting the surface of the last 5 centimeters of the fibers (on each side) by acrylic black paint. This has the effect of reducing the light from the cladding, which has a smaller attenuation length. About 93000 fibers were used to build the electromagnetic modules, for a total length of 280 km .

The construction is performed by alternating on a L-shaped steel half-box (0.8 mm thick) lead and fiber layers. After the last (lead) layer the second half-box is positioned. A double-sided special adhesive paper is glued between the lateral internal face of the second half-box and the edge of the lead sheet pile. The box is finally closed by soldering the two halves, kept together by applying an appropriate pressure. The adhesive paper is needed to prevent sliding of the layers in the vertical modules; in addition, a ridge mechanically blocks the layers.

Once the box is closed, fibers are grouped at both ends into two sets - so as to form the two read-out cells - and the faces of the bundles are finally milled and polished. The cross-section of the fiber bundles is hexagonal (22.2 mm apex to apex) and they are coupled to a plexiglas light guide, also with hexagonal cross-section (24 mm apex to apex). The hexagonal shape and the length of the light guide have been chosen to reduce non-uniformities in the mixing of the light coming out of the individual fibers [1]. The light guides are then coupled to 1" photomultipliers, type R1355/SM from Hamamatsu, with a special green extended photocathode, of 24 mm useful diameter. The window of the photomultiplier is covered by a yellow filter Kodak Wratten n.3, which absorbs light with wavelength less than 450 nm and therefore selects the spectral component which has a larger attenuation length. Two aluminum boxes (one at each side) house pairs of light guides, photomultipliers, voltage dividers, and mumetals. The boxes are light tight and are closed by PVC plates holding the high voltage and signal connectors.

The EM modules were constructed in the laboratories of INFN Naples.

2 HAD1 modules

Each of the five planes of the HAD1 part of the calorimeter is formed by 40 modules, each made of 43 extruded layers of lead identical in height and groove size to those used for the EM sector, but with a length of 3350 mm . (see Fig. 4). The grooves

The lead layers were manufactured by Centro Servizi Metalli, Milano.

Fibers are collected at both ends in an hexagonal bundle whose polished end is coupled, via a light pipe, to a 2" photomultiplier (EMI 9839 A), previously used in the HARM II experiment. The empty space of the boxes around the fiber bundles is filled with an epoxidic resin (Araldit D) with microballons of a phenolic resin as an additive, to avoid sliding of the lead sheets in vertical modules. This mixture contains also a small percentage of carbon black to reduce light leaks and the contribution of light from the cladding, playing therefore the same role as that of the black paint in the EM type modules.

The modules were assembled by Pol.Hi.Tech. at Carsoli (Italy), using a semi-automatic device developed by INFN Rome. The steps followed at assembly stage are similar to those employed for the construction of electromagnetic modules; the steel box, in this case, is compressed with a total force of $9 \times 10^4 N$. The fibers are collected together and are extracted from the terminal parts of the boxes. At this stage the filling mixture, whose hardening time is about 24 hours, is poured in. The faces of the bundles are then milled and polished and a first test of optical quality of the whole assembly is made. For mechanical reasons, the lead sheets of EM and HAD1 modules have a different orientation relative to the beam direction, as illustrated in Fig. 2 and 4.

3 HAD2 modules

The HAD2 sector is made of five planes (three vertical and two horizontal) of 18 modules each, for a total of 90 modules and a mass of about 60 t.

Each module is constructed by superposing five alternate layers of one lead bar made of 99% lead and 1% antimony ($3690 \times 200 \times 16$ mm) and two adjacent scintillator strips (BICRON, BC-408) $3714 \times 100 \times 4$ mm packed in a 0.5 mm thick stainless steel box open at both ends (see Fig. 5), made of two halves held together by rivets.

Within one module, each of the two groups of five scintillator strips is coupled to photomultipliers - of the same type used for HAD1 - at both ends via plexiglas light guides; therefore a single module is seen by a total of four photomultiplier tubes, and thus contains two read-out cells. Details of the optical coupling of the scintillator to the photomultiplier are shown in Fig. 6. Five trapezoidal, laser-cut, plexiglas plates, 6mm thick, 200mm long and 100mm and 40mm bases, are glued to the scintillator strips prior to their insertion in the calorimeter modules, using an optical cement (BC-600) with an index of refraction close to that of the scintillator. A groove of 4mm width and 2mm depth forming an angle with the vertical plane - varying according to the position of the light guide in the vertical stack (see Fig. 6) - was machined at the wider end to ensure good contact with the scintillator.

A special device was constructed to allow the simultaneous glueing of two sets of

light tight wrapping about 0.5 mm thick, reflective on the inside; the plexiglas guides were made light tight by using a foil of black plastic material with an aluminised inner coating, provided by Prodicon.

The attenuation length and light yield of each scintillator strip were measured, before glueing, using a radioactive source; it was found that the distributions had a spread about their mean value of 13% and 5%, respectively.

Because of their weight, the HAD2 modules were assembled at CERN, close to the location of the CHORUS apparatus.

Test beam setup

While a check on the quality of nearly all the modules was performed using cosmic rays, some were exposed to a charged particle beam to gather detailed information on their expected performance and resolution.

A testing station was prepared in the X7B area of the X7 test beam at CERN, and data were taken in November 1992 and May 1993 with electrons, positrons and muons, the test with pions being meaningful only with the assembled calorimeter, which provides an adequate number of interaction lengths.

The setup is shown in Fig. 7. Coincidences between the scintillation counters $T_1 \cdot T_2 \cdot \bar{H}$ (and when required $T_3 \cdot T_4$) constituted the main trigger. The data acquisition was based on a FIC 8232 system (running SPIDER under OS9) and communicating with AMAC through a VIC bus [7]. Real time monitoring and analysis were possible on a DEC VAX Station connected to the acquisition setup through ethernet. The analog signal from the photomultipliers was digitised by a dual-range 8-bit ADC to increase the dynamic range, with the conversion ratio chosen according to the type of module, in a fashion similar to that adopted in the CHARM experiment [8].

The modules to be tested were placed on a support that could move in the two directions perpendicular to the beam line of flight, thus allowing to study possible dependence of the performance on the position of the impact point of the beam on the module. This impact point was defined with an accuracy of $\sim 1\text{ cm}$ and angular resolution of $\sim 1\text{ mrad}$, with the help of the counters F_1 and F_2 , made out of four smaller scintillators of $1\text{ cm} \times 1\text{ cm} \times 8\text{ cm}$ each.

Data were taken at electron momenta varying between 2.5 and 10 GeV/c and with 10 GeV/c muons. Different types of modules were tested individually and, to achieve good containment for electromagnetic showers, six modules of the EM and six of HAD1 types were packed together to form two *walls*, as shown in the insert of Fig. 7 with a depth of comparable number of radiation lengths ($\sim 17 X_0$ for EM, $\sim 22 X_0$ for HAD1).

Analysis and results

1 Light attenuation lengths and longitudinal uniformity

A typical response to $100\text{ GeV}/c$ negative muons incident at the centre of each of the three types of modules is shown in Fig. 8. Voltage on the photomultipliers was set so that minimum ionising particles would give a signal whose most probable value, when digitised, corresponded to a channel between 25 and 50 of the high sensitivity part of the dual-range ADC. Fig. 9 shows the response of the detectors in the W1, W2 and W3 configurations to electrons of $3\text{ GeV}/c$ nominal momentum, where losses due to longitudinal leakage are expected to be small.

To determine attenuation lengths and to study the longitudinal uniformity of the three types of detectors, a horizontal scan over different impact points of the beam was performed.

For the EM-type modules, the attenuation length was determined using the most probable value of the energy released by $100\text{ GeV}/c$ muons (peak of Landau distribution) as a function of distance from the photomultiplier [†]). The data are shown in Fig. 10a, where the line represents the result of a fit to a single exponential form of the type $e^{-x/\lambda}$ to the points. Averaging over ten modules, a mean value of 462 cm for λ was obtained, with a spread of 53 cm about this mean value. In Fig. 10b the sum of the pulse heights of photomultipliers situated at opposite sides is plotted for various impact points of the beam along the module and it exhibits the expected uniform behaviour, namely a signal which depends only very weakly upon the beam incidence point. A similar behaviour (see Fig. 10c) is also observed with electrons incident on the W1 configuration (EM-wall). In this case the signals from all the photomultipliers connected to all the modules that make up the *wall* are combined. Systematic differences in the response of the detector when particles are incident at the centre or at the edge of the module are very small. The dashed line in Fig. 10c represents the signal averaged over the different impact points. The ratio between the rms spread of the points about this mean value and the average, gives an estimate of the degree of uniformity of the EM-*wall*. For electrons of $3\text{ GeV}/c$ momentum, this ratio was less than 1%.

Fig. 11a shows the results of the analysis of data taken with a $3\text{ GeV}/c$ electron beam hitting the central longitudinal axis of a read-out cell of HAD2 (the part of the calorimeter equipped with scintillator strips), at five different impact points, starting

[†]Muons were preferred in this case over electrons, to avoid systematic errors due to the rather wide pulse height distribution observed in a single EM module with incident electrons, originating from the incomplete containment of the shower (only $\sim 30\%$ at 3 GeV).

ident, in the data taken with filters. Averaging over the five HAD2 modules tested in the X7 beam (corresponding to ten read-out cells), the mean attenuation length with filters is 362 cm with 50 cm rms spread and $(251 \pm 30)\text{ cm}$ without filters. As it is shown in Fig. 11b, the sum of left and right pulses shows little dependence on the distance of the particle impact point from the photomultiplier ($< 10\%$) while the maximum deviation measured without filters amounts to $\sim 25\%$.

A systematic study of the effect of filters was made only for the HAD2-type modules. However some measurements were repeated using the HAD1 modules and these confirmed the conclusions, as it might have been expected since they are equipped with the same type of photomultipliers and the emission spectra of the fibers and the scintillator strips are similar.

Fig. 12a and 12b show the response of one HAD1-type module to 3 GeV electrons as a function of the distance from the photomultiplier. As expected, they exhibit the same behaviour as the other detectors. When averaged over ten modules, for the attenuation length λ , a value of 220 cm with a 20 cm rms spread about this mean value, is obtained without filters. An improvement of $\sim 30\%$ is obtained when filters are used.

Since physical processes are observed by photomultipliers at both ends of the module, it is possible to estimate the number of photoelectrons produced at the cathode using the relation

$$N_{pe} = \frac{2 \langle N \rangle^2}{\sigma_{\Delta}^2}$$

where σ_{Δ} is the standard deviation of the distribution of the difference of left and right ADC counts and $\langle N \rangle$ is their common average value. This formula is valid under the approximation of complete symmetry left-right in light propagation, collection and photocathode efficiencies. It was found that, without filters for HAD1 and HAD2, when electrons of energy E are incident at the center of the module, the cathode of a single photomultiplier would produce $\sim 170 \cdot E$, $\sim 280 \cdot E$ and $\sim 270 \cdot E$ (with E in GeV) photoelectrons. The use of filters in HAD1 and HAD2 of course reduces the number of photons reaching the photocathode. It was computed that in these conditions the number of photoelectrons per GeV is reduced to ~ 140 and ~ 110 respectively for the two detectors. The effect of this reduction on the amplitude of the signal was partly compensated by increasing the operating voltage of the photomultipliers. This does not constitute a problem however, since the absolute number photoelectrons is adequate and does not deteriorate appreciably the energy resolution (see section 5.2). Furthermore, under these conditions the modules are capable of detecting with full efficiency minimum ionising particles that cross at the far end (about $3.7m$ for HAD2).

The response (mean pulse height) of the detectors, in the configurations W1, W2 and W3, as function of the nominal momentum of electrons, incident at the center of the modules, is shown in Fig. 14. As expected, the measured points lie on a straight line, and the results of a fit of the type $a \cdot E + b$ are shown in Fig. 14, superimposed to the data. They show that, in all cases, extrapolation to zero energy leads to a *positive* value of the pulse height. Both a systematic shift of about $300\text{MeV}/c$ in the nominal beam momentum or a non linear behaviour of the detectors at low energy, could generate such an effect.

Several tests were performed to investigate whether its origin is beam related. These included the use of a lead glass detector to have an independent check on the linearity and the extrapolation, as well as data taking with a positive beam, to invert the polarity of the magnets.

These studies showed, in a conclusive manner, evidence of a systematic shift in the beam momentum. Its actual value depended upon the history of the momentum confining magnet and averaged to approximately $280\text{MeV}/c$ [‡]. This average correction will be applied in the determination of the energy resolution.

The energy resolution is shown as a function of energy in Fig. 15, separately for the three detectors. The energy dependence is well described by the parameterisation

$$\frac{\sigma}{E} = \frac{a}{\sqrt{E}} + b$$

(with E in *GeV*) represented by the lines in Fig. 15. The values of a and b are given in table 2, for the two cases, usually considered in recent literature, of a linear or quadratic sum of the two terms contributing to the resolution. The resolution for electromagnetic showers measured by the sectors that use fibers, agrees with the results obtained with similar calorimeters [1, 10, 11]. That measured in the sector equipped with scintillator strips, agrees also with predictions of Montecarlo simulations. Thus we are confident that, when measured in the completely assembled calorimeter, the energy resolution for hadronic showers will not differ much from the expected $\frac{30\%}{\sqrt{E(\text{GeV})}}$.

Conclusions

We have constructed and tested modules of a 110 *t* calorimeter, part of which (50 *t*) presents the first large scale experimental application of the lead-scintillating fiber technique. Because of the special requirements imposed by the use of this calorimeter in

This figure is $\sim 40\%$ larger than the value of $200\text{MeV}/c$ that beam experts consider plausible [9].

| Type of Module | a | b | a | b |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| EM | 0.139 ± 0.003 | 0.001 ± 0.001 | 0.141 ± 0.002 | 0.007 ± 0.005 |
| HAD1 | 0.125 ± 0.005 | 0.005 ± 0.002 | 0.131 ± 0.003 | 0.016 ± 0.003 |
| HAD2 | 0.296 ± 0.005 | 0.001 ± 0.002 | 0.297 ± 0.002 | 0.012 ± 0.009 |

Table 2: Values of parameters obtained fitting the resolution with the functions described in the text.

In the neutrino oscillation experiment CHORUS, its geometry is transverse to the direction of the incident particles, contrary to the configuration typically envisaged for collider applications. The use of scintillating material (fibers and strips) of excellent quality was paramount to overcome potential difficulties related to this geometry and to the considerable size of the modules. Measured attenuation lengths of more than $3m$ and light collection at both ends ensure small corrections and good uniformity. Results from the exposure of the different modules to an electron beam, indicate that the response to electromagnetic showers agrees with the expectations, as far as linearity and energy resolution are concerned. The response of the calorimeter as a whole to electrons and hadrons will be studied in a forthcoming test, where the *high* resolution of the calorimeter for hadrons, required by the experiment, will be verified.

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Isometric view of the calorimeter.

(a) Cross section of EM-type module. The lead sheets are perpendicular to the beam direction, represented by the arrow. (b) Details of grouping of scintillating fibers and optical coupling in EM-type modules. The metal housing for the photomultipliers is also shown.

Grooved lead sheet that constitutes the basic building element of EM and HAD1-type modules.

Details of HAD1-type modules. Shown are cross section, grouping of fibers (hexagonal bundle) and housing for light guide and photomultiplier. Note that the orientation with respect to the beam direction is different from that of EM-type modules.

Cross section of HAD2-type module. Visible are also the screws that hold the lead sheets in the modules placed vertically.

Details of the optical coupling for the HAD2-type modules.

Experimental setup used during the test of some of the modules in the X7B beam at CERN.

Response of the three types of modules to muons of $100\text{ GeV}/c$ momentum. (a) EM; (b) HAD1; (c) HAD2.

Response of the three types of detectors to electrons of $3\text{ GeV}/c$ nominal momentum. (a) EM; (b) HAD1; (c) HAD2.

Performance of EM-type modules. (a) Response to $100\text{ GeV}/c$ muons as a function of the distance from the photomultiplier. The dashed line represents the result of a fit of the type $A \cdot e^{-x/\lambda}$; for this particular module an attenuation length of $\lambda = 455\text{ cm}$ was obtained. (b) Sum of the signals from the left and right photomultipliers for different points of incidence of the muon beam along the module. The center of the module is at zero on the horizontal axis. (c) Sum of all signals (left and right photomultipliers) recorded by the six modules in the W1 configuration (see text) for $3\text{ GeV}/c$ incident electrons, for different impact points of the beam. The center of the module is at zero on the horizontal axis. Note the very small difference between the signal observed with the beam is incident at the center (zero) or at the edge. The dashed line represents the value of the signal when averaged over the different impact points. A measure of the non-uniformity along the module may be given by the dispersion of the individual measurements about the mean value. The rms spread divided by the mean value is 0.008.

Performance of HAD2-type modules. (a) Signal for $3\text{ GeV}/c$ electrons as a function of the distance from the photomultiplier with and without the use of yellow filters. The lines are the results of fits of the type $A \cdot e^{-x/\lambda}$. (b) Sum of the signal seen by photomultipliers at both ends as a function of the beam impact point. The lines represent the expected behaviour if the signals collected were attenuated following an exponential law.

As Fig. 11 but for HAD1-type modules.

are the results of a linear fit performed separately for the three types of modules.
Resolution of the three detectors as a function of the energy of the incident electron.
EM:squares; HAD1:triangles; HAD2:circles. The beam impact point is the center of the
module. The lines are results of the fit described in the text, performed separately
for the three types of modules.