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Advancements in the scintillation fibre beam monitor for low-intensity ion beams at HIT

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The Heidelberg Ion-Beam Therapy Centre (HIT) provides proton, helium, and carbon-ion beams with different energies and intensities for cancer treatment and oxygen-ion beams for experiments. For several experiments and possible future applications, such as helium ion beam radiography, a low-intensity ion beam monitor integrated into the dose delivery feedback system for the accelerator control is a necessary pre-requisite. The updated 2D prototype for this purpose consists of scintillating fibres with enhanced radiation hardness, silicon photomultipliers (SiPMs) to amplify the emitted light, and a dedicated front-end readout system (FERS) to process and record the generated signals. This setup was tested successfully on monitoring ion-beam position and profile horizontally and vertically, as well as the beam intensity, for all four ion types with energies from 50 to 430 MeV/u and intensities from 1E2 to 1E7 ions/s. Additionally, time-of-arrival (ToA) measurements on single ions have been successfully performed for a limited intensity range, allowing for ion tracking in a further update. This will reduce noise, and will also improve the accuracy and usability of ion radiography.

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Footnotes

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