

Operational Experience and Performance with the ATLAS Pixel detector at the LHC

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The ATLAS Pixel (+ IE

2024 modules, **92 M** channels, **1.92 m2** of silicon

*ATLAS pixel detector electronics and sensors,*G Aad *et al* 2008 *JINST* **3** P07007

Production and Integration of the ATLAS Insertable B-Layer, B. Abbott et al 2018 JINST 13 T05008

Insertabl added in

2 x 3 pixels

End-cap disk lay

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LHC/ATLAS status at end of 2024

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Pixel detector status

- Cooling set points at **-25 oC/-20 oC** during LHC **collision** months (**-5 oC /-7.5 oC** during shutdowns**).**
- **C₃F₈** evaporative in Pixel outer layers and **CO**₂ bi-phase in IBL are **very stable.**

IBL Temperatures measured on the flex

- **% Disabled Modules** Various **failure types** (NTC, Rx Plugin, HV open, module not configuring/sending data)
	- Some failures are temporary, others are unrecoverable.
	- **Number** of disabled modules **quite stable**: \rightarrow recently 6 modules recovered in Layer 1 thanks to redundancy lines/fibers (readout speed reduced 160 Mbps \rightarrow 80 Mbps)

95% detector working fraction!

Deadtime

- After years of improvements on Sw/Fw è **Pixel dead time < 0.1 % in 2024!**
- Recovery mechanism (module, ROD) very rare thanks to the periodic reconfiguration of front-end registers (see next slide).

- Pixel hit occupancy should scale linearly with μ (bandwidth extrapolations).
- Possible deviations from linearity occur during fills (**SEE**) or vs the integrated luminosity (**radiation damage**) è good thermometer of the detector "health"!

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Pixel operation: ROD Desynch

ROD desynchronization (wrong assignment of event identification) has been **main source of inefficiency** in outer Pixel layers **(especially B-Layer)** until **June 2023**.

Introduction of *"SmartL1 Fw"* mechanism **reduced drastically (3 orders of magnitude)** the "*ROD desynchronization"* in outer pixel layers. How?

- Triggers not propagated whenever modules are late closing previous events .
- ROD keeps track of # "vetoed" triggers, maintaining data stream synchronization.

è *Preventing modules from getting desynchronized by introducing a known limited inefficiency.*

IBL not really affected by ROD desynchronization (FE-I4 chip optimized for higher data rate).

• Further improvements (August 2024) via Fw that compensates for a FE misbehaviour where a single event split into two events.

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Depletion voltage/Leakage current

- **Depletion voltage** monitoring via **bias voltage (HV) scans** during collisions (begin/end of each year) \rightarrow decide the operating bias voltages for the year ahead.
- Depletion voltage in IBL scales linearly with fluence (cooling stability constrains any annealing).

- **Leakage current monitoring during fills (**and via **IV scans)** \rightarrow linear increase with integrated lumi.
- Making sure we have enough headroom till the end of Run 3.
- Leakage current data used to extract fluence seen by the detector.

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- Module configuration initially used to accommodate for **readout problems**, typically correlated to bandwidth consumption**.**
	- Read out speed, Front-end latency, TOT target point for MIP ,Threshold modulation vs η, ..
- Impact of **radiation damage** on cluster charge becoming evident by end of 2017.
	- è *Sensor bias voltage* and *analog thresholds* updated yearly!

Bias Voltages

Gradually increased, typically at the begin of each year

Analog Thresholds

Increasing or decreasing depending on readout limitations or radiation damage

Cluster charge from data doesn't match anymore the MC with constant charge..

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Cluster charge/Depletion voltage

0

0.05

 0.1

0.15

0.2

0.25

Op/N d/L

DP/NP N/I

- Cluster charge (corrected for Si path) very well reproduced by Radiation Damage MC.
- Exploiting the predictive power to check the cluster charge/shape at the end of Run 3.

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IBL Planar

MCRad End 2026 MCRad Start 2024 Data Start 2024 No Rad Damage Data Start 2015

ATLAS Preliminary \sqrt{s} = 13+13.6 TeV

Hits on track efficiency

Run 2: Readout error age

Most of the hit-ontrack inefficiencies driven by readout problems (desynch): particularly relevant for the B-Layer and Endcap, minor for IBL**.**

Run 3: Radiation damage era

> Predicting the hiton-track efficiency by considering the radiation damage on the sensor via cluster charge shrinking below threshold.

Extrapolating # Hits-on-track from **average 2024** è **end of Run 3 (**based on LHC "optimistic" scenario, **580 fb-1** at the end of Run 3):

- **B-Layer 0.97** (2024) \rightarrow 0.95 (2026)
- **IBL 0.99** $(2024) \rightarrow 0.96$ (2026)

3D pixel sensors located at outer ends of IBL staves (245<|z|<335 mm or 1.90< $|\eta|$ < 2.55), accounting for LHC beam spot length in z.

→ The first large scale 3D pixel detector (0.5 m²) installed at LHC!

• Two different designs adopted: **full-column (FBK)** vs **partial (CNM)** pass through + other differences like guard rings vs fences or p-stop vs p-spray

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IBL 3D: new Perform

New paper published recently about IBL 3D performance

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Sensor response and radiation damage effects for 3D pixels in the ATLAS IBL Detector

The ATLAS collaboration

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ABSTRACT: Pixel sensors in 3D technology equip the outer ends of the staves of the Insertable B Layer (IBL), the innermost layer of the ATLAS Pixel Detector, which was installed before the start of LHC Run 2 in 2015. 3D pixel sensors are expected to exhibit more tolerance to radiation damage and are the technology of choice for the innermost layer in the ATLAS tracker upgrade for the HL-LHC programme. While the LHC has delivered an integrated luminosity of $\simeq 235$ fb⁻¹ since the start of Run 2, the 3D sensors have received a non-ionising energy deposition corresponding to a fluence of $\approx 8.5 \times 10^{14}$ 1 MeV neutron-equivalent cm⁻² averaged over the sensor area. This paper presents results of measurements of the 3D pixel sensors' response during Run 2 and the first two years of Run 3, with predictions of its evolution until the end of Run 3 in 2025. Data are compared with radiation damage simulations, based on detailed maps of the electric field in the Si substrate, at various fluence levels and bias voltage values. These results illustrate the potential of 3D technology for pixel applications in high-radiation environments

KEYWORDS: Detector modelling and simulations II (electric fields, charge transport, multiplication and induction, pulse formation, electron emission, etc); Particle tracking detectors (Solid-state detectors)

ARXIV EPRINT: 2407.05716

Good agreement between data and Ra describes well the **clusters size** (includ

IBL 3D: new Perform

New paper published recently about IBL 3D performance.

- IBL 3D showing better CCE respect to IBL planar sensors for the \rightarrow **~15% less reduction in the CCE at the end of 2023 (~8.3 ×1014).** \rightarrow difference expected to grow to ~25% at the end of Run 3 (~1.
- Resolution in r-Φ (using overlap method) averaged over all cluste
	- 2015 data (8.6 ± 0.4) vs (8.1 ± 0.3) MC
	- 2022 data (9.7 \pm 0.4) vs (9.1 \pm 0.4) MC
- Large pixel multiplicity (small incidence angle in longitudinal proje 3D pixel cluster charge is large \rightarrow radiation damage effects on resolution

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Conclusion and outlook

- ATLAS Pixel detector is operating in Run 3 under very challenging conditions (well beyond the design): $\mu \ge 60$, trigger rate ~ 100 kHz, fluence $\ge 10^{15}$ n_{eq} cm⁻² in the innermost layers.
- Detector **cooling** is very stable, and **hardware** failures are under control. **DAQ and DQ efficiencies** (historically affected by **dead time** and **desynchronization)** have reached their **peak values**.
- Tremendous efforts on **operation (detector configuration optimization)** and on **DAQ (stabilize/streamline the system)**, culminated with the deployment of **SmartL1 Fw:**
	- \rightarrow **Pixel (ATLAS) benchmark for max. operational μ (** \rightarrow **max. instantaneous luminosity** à **max. integrate luminosity) increased considerably**.
- Radiation damage became a fundamental aspects of the detector performance. **New radiation damage digitiser** developed/included in ATLAS Run 3 MC.
- **CCE** vs fluence for data and radiation damage simulation show good agreement, allowing extrapolations to the end of Run 3. Despite **30% CCE expected at the end Run 3, hits-ontrack will remain high (**≳ **95%)** thanks to detector parameter optimization (HV, Threshold).
- **New Paper on IBL 3D senso**r published: improved response of 3D pixels after 10¹⁵ n_{eq} cm⁻² of fluence, with ~25 % gain in CCE compared to planar sensors at the end of Run 3. Cluster properties well described; 3D sensor spatial resolution not much affected by radiation.
- **Outlook**: Very important experience for HL-LHC tracker upgrades, giving insight about future detector operation, supporting choices for next upgrade phases. *Ready to face more radiation till mid 2026 and test the ultimate conditions!*

Back-up

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- The Run 1 Pixel read-out system went through a series of upgrades using the new IBL read-out:
	- Layer2 (2015/2016 Winter Shutdown)
	- Layer1 (2016/2017 Winter Shutdown)
		- B-Layer/Disks (2017/2018 Winter Shutdown)

- Overcome bandwidth limitations but also enhance debugging capability and Sw/Fw flexibility.
- Finally in 2018, one unified read-out system that brought Pixel many advantages:
	- the operation of different type of FEs will always be there but…transparent for most of the operations!

Opto-Board replacement during LS2

- Relevant number of VCSEL (laser array) failures during Run 2 (**~3%**).
	- humidity being the main suspect.
- New **O**pto-**B**oard production (with new $VCSEIs$) \rightarrow >400 qualified.
- Selective replacement done (**178 OBs**) in February 2021.
	- replacement of OBs hosting dead VCSELs (**25 modules recovered**) or VCSEL alive with a shifted optical spectrum.
- Sealing of Optoboxes (hosting OBs) to keep the boards dry (humidity concern).
	- \rightarrow no failures observed so far!

- Detector kept **cold** most of the time.
	- Pixel (and strips) uses C_3F_8 evaporative whilst IBL uses CO_2 bi-phase cooling \rightarrow very stable so far.

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• A new **thermosiphon** system (instead of standard compressors) was developed and **used in Run 3 (shared between Pixel and strips).**

IBL Temperatures measured on module flex (NTC)

- **Rx Plugins** failures (off-detector electronics, receiving data from modules) \rightarrow not fully understood but easily replaceable and relatively small fraction.
- **NTC** failures (increasing with accumulated radiation) \rightarrow causing temperature interlock, loosing temp. readout in single modules.
- **Other module** failures (HV open, not configuring, no data..) under control: \rightarrow a few modules (6) recently recovered in Ly1 using redundancy lines/fibers (readout speed had to be reduced from 160 mbps to 80 mbps).

95%

ATLAS Preliminary

 $0.0 < n < 0.2$

400

 $350¹$

 $300[†]$ $250[†]$ $200⁵$ $150th$ 100 $50⁵$ Ω

 $0.8_{0.6}$

 4×10^{-7}

 $\sigma(d_0)$ [µm]

2015/2012

Pixel performance in Run 2

- **Impact parameter resolution** improvements after IBL insertion (2015)
- B-Layer **Hit-on-track efficiency > 98%** (2016)
- IBL **spatial resolution** (transverse R-φ plane) **~< 10 μm** over Run 2.

 $\overline{2}$

3 4

Data 2012, $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV

Data 2015, \sqrt{s} = 13 TeV

5678910

20

 p_{τ} [GeV]

Pixel operation: FE Desynch

- Remaining de-synchronization is internal to the modules $\frac{1}{8}$ 10⁶ (16 FEs sharing the same micro-controller chip - MCC)
- Single FE can desynchronize, until next ATLAS Event Counter Reset (ECR), issued every 5 seconds.
- Increasing thresholds can mitigate the desync, as far as don't impact cluster properties/hits-on-track efficiency.
- Direct relation between desynchronization and lack of hits-on-track
	- Problem typically correlated with high-rate/mu
		- \rightarrow high bandwidth consumption.
	- Present also in fills with low #bunches and high mu
		- \rightarrow related to spacing of triggers.

IBL TID at the beginner

- **IBL Total Ionizing Dose (TID) effect causing release** increase of FE-I4 currents
	- Induced by the usage (\sim Millions) of 130 nm IBM transformation technology
		- Known to have a special leakage current evolu

		IBL Total lonising Dose [Mrad]

"Production and Integration of the ATLAS Insertable B-Layer" JINST paper for more info about IBL

Impact of radiation on FE electronics: TID

LV power system

- \rightarrow Low voltage current consumption heavily affected (2015-2016)
- \rightarrow under control by 2017, when correlation with Inst Luminosity become finally visible (digital activity in the chip)

FE-I4 (De)Tuning

 $→$ **drift of Thresholds** and **Time-Over -Threshold (TOT)**

 \rightarrow regular (~weekly) re-tuning needed during Run 2!

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Radiation on FE election

Med

Ever

 N o $\frac{3}{2}$
 $\frac{3}{$

 $0.06₁$

 0.04

 0.02

 0_0

Big charge deposit in FE electronics can flip the state of **global/local memory cells**

- IBL FE-I4 affected by SEE already in 2017 $→$ **periodical reconfiguration of FE global registers.**
- Higher luminosity fill in Run 3

 $→$ **SEE becoming relevant in single pixel latches!**

- **noisy pixels ..**firing whilst they should be masked.
- **quiet pixel ..**stop firing during a fill**.**
- Solution: periodical reconfiguration of **single pixel registers** \rightarrow clear gain observed during test run (2018).

Run 3 strategy:

full FE reconfiguration

(completed gradually in $~11$ minutes, without adding extra dead time

IBL register reconfiguration @ECR

FE-I4 SEU studies

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- **dE/dx and cluster size decrease** due to the decreased charge collection efficiency (slow slope).
- **HV (threshold) increase (decrease)** shows gain in dE/dx.
	- however, thresholds increased in 2016 due to bandwidth limitations (B-Layer).

- Charge collection constantly measured via **HV scans**
	- MPV of the fitted Landau cluster charge affected
		- \rightarrow **decrease of plateau.**

Fighting radiation damage: configuration

- Readout electronics/services/module configuration were upgraded/replaced/changed to accommodate for **bandwidth limitations, hardware failures, radiation damage**.
	- Read out speed, Front-end latency, TOT target point for MIP ,Threshold modulation vs η, ..
- *Sensor bias voltage (HV)* and *analog thresholds* updated yearly!

Pixel Leakage currents

- Measured leakage currents quite well described (annealing, temperature dependence) by the Hamburg Model but:
	- scaling factor per layer and z bin is required
	- towards the end of Run 2, the leakage currents seem overestimated.
- **Pixel:** Leakage current per module expected at the end of Run 3 within the power supply limitation (< 2 mA per sensor).

Fighting the reverse annealing

- **Keeping the detector cold during LS2** to prevent reverse annealing \rightarrow keep the depletion voltage
	- under control (B-layer, IBL).
- Warm up periods unavoidable due to the ID maintenance during LS2
- Target to stay **warm for < 60 days** during the LS2.
- Detector warm for **43 (23) days** in Pixel (IBL)
- Exploring colder operating set points $(-25\degree C - 30\degree C)$. for late Run 3.

Radiation

New Pixel digitization model was developed and is now under before entering the official ATLAS simulation

 Recent paper available here: JINST 14 (2019) 06 P06012

- Charge carriers will drift toward the collecting electrode due which is deformed by **radiation damage (double peak)**.
- Their path will be deflected by magnetic field (Lorentz angle
- Electron and hole lifetime inversely proportional to fluence:

 $→$ **charge trapping,**

 \rightarrow reduction of the collected charge.

• Available for both **Planar** and **3D** sensors.

 \rightarrow due to performance constraints (CPU), not used in IBL 3D and Pixel Disks

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z-dependence comparisons

Fluence-to-luminosity conversion factors extracted from the leakage current, Lorentz angle and Depletion Voltage measurements:

• **less fluence at at high |z| on IBL data** respect to Pythia + FLUKA/Geant4 predictions

500

more flat distributions in outer Pixel layers.

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PUB Note on first Run

- End of LS2 (cosmics) and begin of Run 3 (900 GeV co test new configurations with **increased HV** and **lowere**
- Effect of radiation damage on cluster charge data, very **reproduced** by new **Radiation Damage MC!**
- Fraction of tracks with Pixel hits slightly affected in the the detector (short silicon path traversed and higher radiation

Performance of ATLAS Pixel Detector and Track Reconstruct *at the start of Run 3 in LHC Collisions at 900 Gev*

Spatial resolution

- Spatial resolution (r-phi and z) computed using the overlap region:
	- **well reproduced** by new **Radiation Damage MC.**
	- **data improvements by using NN training on Rad. Dam. MC samples.**
- Limited effect of radiation damage on the tracking performance for the Run 2 fluence: impact parameter **d**₀ resolution **well reproduced** by both MC.

