



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

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The ATLAS Pixel (+ IBL) detector

	Pixel (3	layers)	IBL (1 layer)	
Sensor Technology	n⁺-in (only pl	<i>-n</i> anar)	n ⁺ -in- <i>n(n⁺-in-p</i> (planar/ <u>3D</u>)	
Sensor Thickness	250 µ	um	200/230 μm	
Front End Technology	FE- 250 nm (I3 CMOS	FE-I4 130 nm CMOS	43
Pixel Size	50 x 40 (short side a	$\begin{array}{c} 50 \ x \ \textbf{400} \ \mu m^2 \\ (\text{short side along } R-\phi) \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 50 \ x \ \textbf{2} \\ (\text{short side along } R-\phi) \end{array}$		
Radiation Hardness	50 Mrad (5 ~ 1 x 10 ¹⁵	500 kGy) n _{eq} ·cm⁻²	250 Mrad (2.5 MGy) ∼ 5 x 10 ¹⁵ n _{eq} ·cm ⁻²	
Barrel	B-Layer	5.05 cm		
<radius></radius>	Layer 1	8.85 cm	2 25 am	
EndCaps	Layer 2	12.25 cm	3.35 CIII	
Radius _{Min}	EndCaps	8.88 cm		

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

3 + 1 pixel layers in barrel 2 x 3 pixels endcaps





Insertable B-Layer (IBL) added in 2014 (Run 2)



LHC/ATLAS status at end of 2024





Pixel detector status

- Cooling set points at -25 °C/-20 °C during LHC collision months (-5 °C /-7.5 °C during shutdowns).
- C₃F₈ evaporative in Pixel outer layers and CO₂ bi-phase in IBL are very stable.

	% DISa	% Disabled wodules						
Layer	2018	2023	2024					
Disks	5.2	4.5	5.5					
B-Layer	6.2	5.2	7.3					
Layer 1	5.8	4.4	3.6					
Layer 2	4.8	6.3	7.4					
IBL (Frontends)	0.7	0.9	0.9					
Total	4.5	4.4	5.0					

IBL Temperatures measured on the flex



- 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:
 → recently 6 modules recovered in Layer 1 thanks to redundancy lines/fibers (readout speed reduced 160 Mbps →80 Mbps)

95% detector working fraction!



Deadtime

- After years of improvements on Sw/Fw → 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) → good thermometer of the detector "health"!



Radiation on FE electronics: SEE





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 <u>reduced drastically (3 orders of magnitude)</u> 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.



→ 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.



Depletion voltage/Leakage current

- Depletion voltage monitoring via bias voltage (HV) scans during collisions (begin/end of each year)
 → 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)
 → 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.





- 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 $\eta,\,..$
- Impact of **radiation damage** on cluster charge becoming evident by end of 2017.
 - → Sensor bias voltage and analog thresholds updated yearly!

			<u> </u>
	2015		2024
IBL-Planar	80 V		450 V
IBL-3D	20 V		70
B-Layer	250 V	•	500 V
Layer 1	150 V		350 V
Layer 2	150 V		350 V
Disks	150 V		350 V

Bias Voltages

Gradually increased, typically at the begin of each year

Analog Thresholds

	2015	2024
IBL	2500e	 1500e
B-Layer	3500e	 4700e
Layer 1	3500e	 4300e
Layer 2	3500e	 4300e
Disks	3500e	 4300e

Increasing or decreasing depending on readout limitations or radiation damage



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



Modeling the radiation damage: MC





Cluster charge/Depletion voltage

N/ND N/I

0.25

0.2

0.15

0.1

0.05

5

10

15

- 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.



PIXEL 2024 - Operation experience ATLAS Pixel detector - M. Bindi

ATLAS Preliminary

MCRad End 2026 MCRad Start 2024

Data Start 2024

 No Rad Damage Data Start 2015

25

30

√s= 13+13.6 TeV

IBI Planar

20



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 → end of Run 3 (based on LHC "optimistic" scenario, 580 fb⁻¹ at the end of Run 3):

- B-Layer 0.97 (2024) → 0.95 (2026)
- IBL 0.99 (2024) → 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





GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT **IBL 3D: new Performance Paper**

New paper published recently about IBL 3D performance

inst Published by IOP Publishing for Sis	sa Medialab
ВЕСИЧ Ассегче: Урр Роцыне: С	en: July 9, 2024 tember 17, 2024 October 4, 2024
Sensor response and radiation damage effects for 3D pixels in the ATLAS IBL Detector	r
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ATLAS	024
The ATLAS collaboration	9
E-mail: atlas.publications@cern.ch	HZ
ABSTRACT: Pixel sensors in 3D technology equip the outer ends of the staves of the Insert (IBL), the innermost layer of the ATLAS Pixel Detector, which was installed before the	table B Layer 500 start of LHC
Run 2 in 2015. 3D pixel sensors are expected to exhibit more tolerance to radiation are the technology of choice for the innermost layer in the ATLAS tracker upgrade for to programme. While the LHC has delivered an integrated luminosity of $\approx 235 {\rm fb}^{-1}$ sinc	damage and the HL-LHC we the start of
Run 2, the 3D sensors have received a non-ionising energy deposition corresponding of $\approx 8.5 \times 10^{14}$ 1 MeV neutron-equivalent cm ⁻² averaged over the sensor area. This pr results of measurements of the 3D pixel sensors' response during Run 2 and the first	to a fluence aper presents two years of
Run 3, with predictions of its evolution until the end of Run 3 in 2025. Data are con- radiation damage simulations, based on detailed mans of the electric field in the Si substra-	mpared with

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

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fluence levels and bias voltage values. These results illustrate the potential of 3D technology for

ARXIV EPRINT: 2407.05716

pixel applications in high-radiation environments.



Nb. of IBL 3D Pixels in X

Nb. of Charge-sorted Pixels in Cluster

Good agreement between data and Rad Damage MC that describes well the clusters size (including charge sharing) and the MPV of the cluster charge vs integrated luminosity.





IBL 3D: new Performance Paper

New paper published recently about IBL 3D performance



- IBL 3D showing better CCE respect to IBL planar sensors for the same fluence
 - → ~15% less reduction in the CCE at the end of 2023 (~8.3 ×10¹⁴ n_{eq} /cm²).
 - → difference expected to grow to ~25% at the end of Run 3 (~1.5 × n_{eq} /cm²).
- Resolution in r-Φ (using overlap method) averaged over all cluster:
 - 2015 data (8.6 ± 0.4) vs (8.1 ± 0.3) MC
 - 2022 data (9.7 ± 0.4) vs (9.1 ± 0.4) MC
- Large pixel multiplicity (small incidence angle in longitudinal projections) → the total 3D pixel cluster charge is large → radiation damage effects on resolution are limited.



Conclusion and outlook

- ATLAS Pixel detector is operating in Run 3 under very challenging conditions (well beyond the design): μ ≥ 60, trigger rate ~ 100 kHz, fluence ≥ 10¹⁵ 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:
 - → Pixel (ATLAS) benchmark for max. operational µ (→ max. instantaneous luminosity → 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 sensor 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:
 - (2015/2016 Winter Shutdown) _ayer2
 - 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!



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Opto-Board replacement during LS2

- Relevant number of VCSEL (laser array) failures during Run 2 (~3%).
 - humidity being the main suspect.
- New Opto-Board production (with new VCSELs) → >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).
 - ➔ no failures observed so far!





- Detector kept **cold** most of the time.
 - Pixel (and strips) uses C₃F₈ evaporative whilst IBL uses CO₂ bi-phase cooling → very stable so far.

LI

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

Typical temperature set points	PIXEL	IBL	
Detector ON	-20 °C /-25 °C	-20 °C	
Detector OFF (winter shutdowns)	-5 °C	-7.5 °C	

IBL Temperatures measured on module flex (NTC)

	C side					A side										
	M	4C	N	13C	M	2C	M	1C	N	11A	M	2A	N	13A	N	14A
	C8	C7	C6	C5	C4	C3	C2	C1	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A
PCB saver	2 1	2	1 2 1 NTC	2	1 2 1 NTC	2	1 2 1 NTC	2 1	1 2	1	2 1 2 TC	1 2 NTC	1 2	1 2 N	2 1 2 TC	1
-	13.7	°C	.13.0	°C	.13.8	°C	·13.9	°C	14.0	°C	.14.1	°C -	14.1	°C	.13.8	•
-	13.1	°C	·13.7	°C	·13.7	°C	-13.6	°C	13.0	°C	-13.2	°C -	13.2	°C	.13.1	•0
-	13.3	°C	·14.2	°C	·14.0	°C	·14.2	°C	13.9	°C	·13.2	°C·	13.8	°C	-13.7	۰(
-	10.9	°C	·13.6	°C	·12.9	°C	-13.2	°C	12.3	°C	-13.7	°C -	14.0	°C	-14.1	۰(
-	13.8	°C	·14.2	°C	·14.3	°C	·12.9	°C	14.2	°C	-13.7	° C -	14.1	°C	-13.9	°C
-	13.3	°C	·13.2	°C	·13.0	°C	·13.3	°C	12.9	°C	·13.3	° C -	13.2	°C	·12.9	°(
-	13.6	°C	·14.0	°C	·13.5	°C	-14.3	°C	14.5	°C	-14.3	°C -	14.0	°C	-10.7	°(
-	14.0	°C	.13.6	°C	·13.9	°C	-13.5	°C	13.7	°C	-14.2	°C -	13.9	°C	-13.0	°(
	13.9	°C	.13.7	°C	.13.6	°C	·13.6	°C	13.2	°C	.13.7	°C ·	13.5	°C	-13.6	°(
	121	°C	·12.4	C	.13.2	°C	.12.2	°C	12.8	°C	.12.2	°C .	13.1	°C	.12.2	•
	13.0	°C	.13.4	°C	.13.7	°C	.14.1	°C	14.3	°C	.14.0	°C -	14.2	°C	.13.9	•
_	13.6	°C	·13.7	°C	.13.5	°C	-13.5	°C	13.2	°C	-13.5	°C -	13.5	°C	·13.2	•
-	13.5	°C	·12.7	°C	·13.2	°C	·13.3	°C	12.9	°C	-13.4	°C -	13.5	°C	·13.0	•



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

Layer	2018	2018 2023 2024					
	Disabled/Total	%	Disabled/Total	%	Disabled/Total	%	
Disks	15/288	5.2	13/288	4.5	16/288	5.5	
B-Layer	18/286	6.2	15/286	5.2	21/286	7.3	
Layer 1	29/494	5.8	22/494	4.4	18/494	3.6	
Layer 2	33/676	4.8	43/676	6.3	50/676	7.4	
Total (Pixel)	95/1744	5.4	93/1744	5.3	105/1744	6.0	
IBL (Frontends)	3/448	0.7	4/448	0.9	4/448	0.9	
Total	98/2192	4.5	97/2192	4.4	109/2192	5.0	

detector working fraction!

95%



400

Pixel performance in Run 2

- ơ(d₀) [μm] ATLAS Preliminary 350 Data 2012, vs = 8 TeV 0.0 < n < 0.2Data 2015, \s = 13 TeV 300 250 200F 150 100 50E Ω 2015/2012 0.8 4×10⁻¹ 2 5678910 3 20 p_T [GeV] efficiency IBL Overlap r-φ Resolution [μm 0.995 0.99 Hit-On-Track 0.985 0.98 ter 7 fb⁻¹ Avg=98.706±0.004% ATLAS Preliminary 0.975 Run-2 Data After 11.5 fb⁻¹ Avg=98.637±0.005% 0.97 **Pixel B-Laver** 0.965 After 20 fb⁻¹ Avg=98.439±0.005% 0.96 After 35 fb⁻¹ Avg=98.403±0.006% 0.955 10 Track p₊ [GeV]
 - 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.





Pixel operation: FE Desynch

- Remaining de-synchronization is internal to the modules ³¹
 (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
 - → high bandwidth consumption.
 - Present also in fills with <u>low #bunches and high mu</u>
 - → related to spacing of triggers.









IBL TID at the begin of Run2

- IBL Total Ionizing Dose (TID) effect causing relevant increase of FE-I4 currents
 - Induced by the usage (~Millions) of 130 nm IBM transistor technology
 - Known to have a special leakage current evolution



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



Impact of radiation on FE electronics: TID

LV power system

- → Low voltage current consumption heavily affected (2015-2016)
- 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)

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





Radiation on FE electronics: SEE

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 → clear gain observed during test run (2018).



<u>Measurements of Single</u>

Lumi-block

Run 3 strategy:

full FE reconfiguration

(completed gradually in ~11 minutes, without adding extra dead time to ATLAS)



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
 → 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 $\eta,\,..$
- Sensor bias voltage (HV) and analog thresholds updated yearly!

	Run 2								Run 3				
	2015	2016	2016	2017	2018			2022	2023	2024			
IBL-Planar	80 V	80 V	150 V	350 V	400 V			450 V	450 V	450 V			
IBL-3D	20 V	20 V	20 V	40 V	40 V			60	60	70	Dias Valtages		
B-Layer	250 V	35	0 V	350 V	400 V			450 V	450 V	500 V	Blas voltages		
Layer 1	150 V	20	0 V	200 V	250 V			300 V	350 V	350 V			
Layer 2	150 V	15	0 V	150 V	250 V			300 V	350 V	350 V			
Disks	150 V	15	0 V	150 V	250 V			300 V	350 V	350 V			
	2015	2016	2016	2017	2018			2022	2023	2024	10		
IBL	2500e	250)0e	2500e	2000e			1500e	1500e	1500e			
B-Layer	3500e	3500e/	/5000e	5000e	5000/ 4300e			4300/ 3500e	4700e	4700e	Analog Thresholds		
Layer 1	3500e	350)0e	3500e	3500e			3500e	4300e	4300e			
Layer 2	3500e	350)0e	3500e	3500e			3500e	4300e	4300e			
Disks	3500e	350)0e	3500e	3500e			3500e	4300e	4300e			

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Pixel "Hybrid" threshold

Threshold	2017	2018					
IBL	2500e, ToT>0	2000e , ToT>0					
B-layer	5000e, ToT>5	4300e(*), ToT>3					
Layer-1	3500e, ToT>5	3500e, ToT>5					
Layer-2	3500e, ToT>5	3500e, ToT>5					
Endcap	4500e, ToT>5	3500e , ToT>5					
* central Eta: 4300e high Eta: 5000e							

Run 2 Bias Voltage Evolution

HV	2015	2016	2017	2018
IBL	80V 🗖	🔈 150V 🗖	🔶 350V 🗖	♦ 400
B-layer	250V	350V	350V	400V
Layer-1	150V	200V	200V	250V
Layer-2	150V	150V	150V	250V
Endcap	150V	150V	150V	250V

Keep adjusting threshold and HV but... <u>limitations on the read-out</u> <u>bandwidth</u> if thresholds decreased too much!

ATLAS Run2 benchmark L1Trigger = 100 kHz <µ> = 60

Module to read-out system bandwidth usage needs to stay within 80%



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
 - 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°C/-30°C).for late Run 3.





Radiation damage MC

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

Recent paper available here: <u>JINST 14 (2019) 06 P06012</u>

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

→ charge trapping,

→ reduction of the collected charge.

- Available for both **Planar** and **3D** sensors.
 - → due to performance constraints (CPU), not used in IBL 3D and Pixel Disks







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
 - more flat distributions in outer Pixel layers.



500







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





- 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 d₀ resolution well reproduced by both MC.

