Overview of ATLAS forward proton detectors: status, performance and new physics results

André Sopczak IEAP, Czech Technical University in Prague on behalf of ATLAS Forward Detectors

New Trends in High-Energy and Low-x Physics

3 September 2024



Outline

- Physics Motivation
- Absolute Luminosity For ATLAS (ALFA), 2011-2023 operation
- ATLAS Forward Proton Detectors (AFP), since 2016 (one-side), 2017 (double)
 Silicon Tracker (SiT) and Time of Flight (ToF)
- Trigger
- Luminosity LHC Run-3
- Data quality, hit map, track map
- SiT correlation with central ATLAS Inner Detector tracker/Calorimeters
- Alignment
- ToF efficiency, vertex matching, performance
- Matching of proton energy loss with ATLAS central di-leptons/di-photons
- Conclusions
- Supplement: ToF resolution, New control system, Proton reconstruction



• Proton-proton interaction via photon (γ), electromagnetic force, or pomeron (P) exchange, strong force: proton can remain intact



ATLAS Roman Pots

- Forward detectors located in the LHC tunnel outside the ATLAS cavern
- Move close to the beam (1-3 mm) once "Stable Beams" are declared
- Two detector systems
 - Absolute Luminosity For ATLAS (ALFA), 237 m and 245 m ftom IP
 - ATLAS Forward Proton (AFP), 205 m and 217 m from IP



ALFA





- Each station host two pots approaching the beam from top and bottom
- In each pot a set of 10 planes with 2x64 scinitillation fibres is mounted providing spatial resolution of 30 µm
- Trigger: presence of scattered protons
- Reconstruction efficiency: ~85%
- Tracking accuracy is dominated by the global vertical distance uncertainty (after alignment) of ±22 microns.



ALFA Data-Taking

Year	β*	√s [TeV]	Comments
2011	90 m	7	elastics: NPB 889 (2014) excl. π ⁺ π : EPJC 83 (2023) 627
2012	90 m	8	elastics: PLB 761 (2016) single diff.: JHEP 02 (2020) 042
2012	1 km	8	elastics dataset
2013	0.8 m	2.76	proton-lead dataset
2013	0.8 m	2.76	proton-proton reference dataset
2015	90	13	diffractive dataset
2016	2.5 km	13	elastics: EPJC 83 (2023) 441
2018	90 m	13	elastic (large t) and diff. datasets
2018	11 m	0.9	elastics (large t) dataset
2018	50/100m	0.9	elastics dataset
2023	3/6 km	13.6	elastics dataset

- ALFA running needed to measure pp→pp elastic cross sections down to low scattering angles θ. Outgoing protons at different θ were detected at different positions y at ALFA.
- ALFA did not run with high LHC luminosity because the detector is radiation-sensitive.
- Special beam conditions were required.

ALFA Results

- Measurement of the total cross section from elastic scattering in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV with the ATLAS detector, Nucl. Phys. B (2014) 486. $\sigma_{tot} = 95.35 \pm 1.36$ mb One dedicated run at at $\beta^* = 90$ m, integrated luminosity 80 µb⁻¹
- Measurement of the total cross section from elastic scattering in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector, Phys. Lett. B 761 (2016) 158. $\sigma_{tot} = 96.07 \pm 0.92$ mb One dedicated run at at $\beta^* = 90$ m, integrated luminosity 500 µb⁻¹
- Measurement of differential cross sections for single diffractive dissociation in $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV pp collisions using the ATLAS ALFA spectrometer, JHEP 2020 (2020) 42. One dedicated run at at $\beta^* = 90$ m, integrated luminosity 500 µb⁻¹
- Measurement of the total cross-section and p-parameter from elastic scattering in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with the ATLAS detector, Eur. Phys. J. C 83 (2023) 441. Seven dedicated runs at $\beta^* = 2500$ m, total integrated luminosity 340 µb⁻¹
- Measurement of exclusive pion pair production in proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV with the ATLAS detector. Eur. Phys. J. C 83 (2023) 627. One dedicated run at at $\beta^* = 90$ m, integrated luminosity 80 µb⁻¹.

Measurement of the total cross-section and p-parameter from elastic scattering in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with the ATLAS detector, Eur. Phys. J. C 83 (2023) 441

Selection of elastic pp events in ALFA

- Quality cuts on the two proton tracks in the two ALFA stations
- Geometric acceptance cuts: Select back-to-back events, as indicated.
- Selection on x vs θ_x : Elastic events are within the ellipse.



Background levels, Eur. Phys. J. C 83 (2023) 441

Sources of background:

- accidental halo+halo and halo+SD coincidences (data-driven, determined with an event-mixing method)
- central diffraction (MC simulation), double-Pomeron exchange (DPE), $pp \rightarrow pp + X$



Mandelstam variables, invariants $s = (p_1 + p_2)^2$

$$t=(p_1-p_4)^2\cong -(p_0{\color{black}\theta})^2, |\overrightarrow{p_1}|=|\overrightarrow{p_2}|=|\overrightarrow{p_4}|=p_0$$

dN/d*t* [GeV⁻²] ₉01 [GeV⁻²] $\beta^{*}=2.5$ km Data arm 1, run 309039 10⁵ Event-mixing background DPE background 10⁴ Ξ 10³ 11111 10² ≣ Ī 10^{-3} 10⁻² 10^{-1} $-t = (\theta_x^2 + \theta_v^2)p^2$ at IP *-t* [GeV²] Reconstruct t from beam optics and event kinematics using tracking of effective beam optics.

ATLAS

√s=13 TeV

I I I II

Evaluation of results, Eur. Phys. J. C 83 (2023) 441

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma}{\mathrm{d}t_i} = \frac{1}{\Delta t_i} \times \frac{\mathcal{M}^{-1}[N_i - B_i]}{A_i \times \epsilon_{\mathrm{rec}} \times \epsilon_{\mathrm{trig}} \times \epsilon_{\mathrm{DAQ}} \times L_{\mathrm{int}}}$$

 Δt_i is the bin width,

 M^{-1} represents the unfolding procedure applied to the background-subtracted number of events $N_i - B_i$,

 A_i is the acceptance,

 ϵ_{rec} is the event reconstruction efficiency, ϵ_{trig} is the trigger efficiency, ϵ_{DAQ} is the dead-time correction and L_{int} is the integrated luminosity used. Fit: full *BCD*-model with validity up to $-t = 0.2 \text{ GeV}^2$



Inelastic, elastic and total cross-section, Eur. Phys. J. C 83 (2023) 441

Elastic scattering is a low- p_T process, and a perturbative expansion cannot be applied. Therefore, σ_{tot} and the ρ -parameter cannot be calculated from first principles in QCD.



imaginary part of the elastic-scattering amplitude in the limit $t \rightarrow 0$)

Measurement of exclusive pion pair production in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV with the ATLAS detector, Eur. Phys. J. C 83 (2023) 627.



- **Trigger:** Elastic ALFA coincidence of detectors in an elastic combination. Anti-elastic – signal in any ALFA detector, prescaled by 15
- In ALFA detectors: One good quality track on each side
- In ATLAS Inner Detector: Two oppositely charged tracks, taken as pions, $|\eta(\pi)| < 2.5$, $p_T(\pi) > 0.1$ GeV and quality requirements on the pion tracks

Further requirements, Eur. Phys. J. C 83 (2023) 627

- **MBTS veto:** At most one hit in the combined inner MBTS scintillators (at $z = \pm 3.6m$, $2.1 < |\eta| < 3.8$, to remove diffractive-dissociative and non-diffractive events.
- Overall momentum balance: ppπ⁺π⁻ momentum balance in x and in y consistent with zero (±3.5σ)
- Track condition: Track must have sufficient hits in MD layers, with limit on number of multiple hits in a layer



13

Results, Eur. Phys. J. C 83 (2023) 627



- The cuts are very effective at removing background
- A cut on the MBTS counts was essential.
- Low statistics from this short run in 2011 at 7 TeV (4 hours at high β*, μ = 0.035).
- Feasibility of the measurement has been demonstrated.



 ± 1.2

Luminosity

14

 ± 1.2

ALFA outlook

Future data analyses:

- Final run with ALFA completed in LHC Run-3 (2023) using β* = 3/6 km. Improved ρ measurement for total cross section and parameters of elastic pp scattering.
- Exclusive pion pair analysis using Run-2 dataset:
 - resonance analysis
 - possible glueball search
 - possible search for other exclusive final states
- Data at 900 GeV (2018) $\beta^* = 50/100$ m for total cross section and ρ
- High-luminosity 0.5 nb⁻¹ at 13 TeV, $\beta^* = 90$ m for study of dip/bump in t distribution.

ATLAS Forward Proton (AFP) detector

- Two stations on each side of ATLAS
- All stations host Silicon Tracker (SiT)
- Far stations host also Time-of-Flight (ToF) detector





Silicon Tracker (SiT)

- Position measurement of scattered protons
 - Reconstruction of its kinematics
- 4 silicon pixel sensors
 - Spaced 9 mm apart
 - Each sensor 336x80 pixels
 - $_{\circ}$ $\,$ Pixel size 50x250 μm^{2}
 - $_{\circ}$ $\,$ Sensor size 16.8x20 mm^{2}
- Read out by FE-I4B chips
 - Same as ATLAS Pixel IBL
- 14° angle wrt. beam axis
 - To improve reconstruction resolution
 - \sim 6 µm in x and \sim 30 µm in y



Physics Motivation

- Detection of events containing scattered intact protons
- Focused on low-cross section processes with high p_T objects



LHC Run-3 data-taking

Total in LHC Run-3 so far: AFP recorded: 84.4 fb⁻¹ 89.7% wrt ATLAS recorded 83.8% wrt LHC delivered

2022 at √s = 13.6 TeV AFP recorded: 34.1 fb⁻¹ 95.5% wrt. ATLAS recorded 88.6% wrt. LHC delivered 2023 at vs = 13.6 TeV Recorded: 26.1 fb⁻¹ 87.9% wrt. ATLAS recorded 82.3% wrt. LHC delivered

First half of 2024 at Vs = 13.6 TeV Recorded: 24.2 fb⁻¹ 84.3% wrt. ATLAS recorded 79.3% wrt. LHC delivered





Data Quality results

Fraction of good luminosity after Data Quality wrt. ATLAS:

	2022*	2023** preliminary
All of AFP	83.4 %	76.4 %
Silicon Tracker only	92.5 %	81.4 %
A side Silicon Tracker only	96.8 %	84.5 %
C side Silicon Tracker only	93.7 %	82.1 %
Time-of-Flight only	83.6 %	77.7 %

*based on Good Run List for analyses relying on jet, met or b-jet triggers (data22_13p6TeV.periodAllYear_DetStatus-v109-pro28-04_MERGED_PHYS_StandardGRL_All_Good_25ns)

**based on Good Run List for analyses relying on jet triggers at L1 or HLT (<u>data23_13p6TeV.periodAllYear_DetStatus-v110-pro31-06_MERGED_PHYS_StandardGRL_All_Good_25ns</u>)

SiT Hit Map

- First 1.5 M events of run 427929 (LBs 200-206)
- Top: Raw distribution of hits in a single SiT plane
- Bottom: Effect of signal cleaning •
 - Single track reconstructed per station 0
 - Single cluster reconstructed per plane 0
 - Only 1 or 2 hits recorded per plane 0
- "Diffractive pattern"
 - Caused by settings of LHC magnet between 0 ATLAS interaction point and AFP detectors



SiT Track Map

- Distribution of reconstructed tracks
- Center of beam pipe at (0, 10 mm)
- Selection:
 - Events triggered by Minimum-Bias Trigger Scintillators (MBTS)
 - Reconstructed primary vertex
 - Single track in each station on a given side
- Expected relation of scattered proton's x-position in SiT to energy lost ξ_{AFP} in the interaction due to LHC magnetic field



 $p_{T} = 0.0 \text{ GeV}$

 $p_{T} = 0.2 \text{ GeV}$

 $p_{T} = 0.4 \text{ GeV}$

80.0 = 3

-10

ξ = 0.06

0

-2

-4

-6

-8

-12

position (wrt. beam) [mm]

 $\xi = 0.00$

ξ = 0.02

 $\xi_{AFP} = 1 - E_p/E_{beam}$

ATLAS Simulation Preliminary

-2

(D)
ξ = 0.04

x position (wrt. beam) [mm]

Correlation to ATLAS central

- Correlation of track x-position to charged track multiplicity of the Inner Detector (ID)
- Selection:
 - Single AFP track in each station on given side
 - ID track $p_T > 500 \text{ MeV}$
 - ID track |η| < 2.5
 - Reconstructed primary vertex
- Correlation of track x-position to total energy measured by ATLAS Calorimeters
- Selection:
 - Only one AFP track in each station on given side
 - Reconstructed primary vertex



ToF-SiT alignment

- Correlation of SiT track x-position to ToF train signal
- Selection:
 - Single SiT track in the station
 - Single ToF train signal in the station



https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/AtlasPublic/ForwardDetPublicResults



ToF Efficiency

- Probability of observing a hit in the ToF detector during the low-µ run in July 2022
- Tag and Probe method
- Tagged by SiT
- Single track only
- Selection: Single SiT track in the station

High hit probability in expected trains



 $Bars \rightarrow$

ToF Vertex Matching

- Difference between longitudinal vertex position measured with AFP ToF and ATLAS Inner Detector (ID) measured during μ =0.05 run taken in July 2022 mm
- Resolution $9.0 \pm 0.1 \text{ mm} (30 \text{ ps})$
- Small initial background contribution .66 wrt signal Events /
 - Low pile-up data-taking conditions
- Visible advantage of use of ToF information
 - Much smaller difference in vertex position in case of signal
- Selection:
 - Primary vertex in ATLAS ID Ο
 - Single AFP ToF train signal in each far station Ο
 - Maximum of one hit in each ToF channel Ο
 - Single track in AFP SiT in each far station Ο
 - SiT track position matching the ToF train position Ο

https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/AtlasPublic/ForwardDetPublicResults



ToF Performance in LHC Run-2, JINST 19 (2024) P05054

- Full-train efficiency of ~4-6 %
- While low efficiencies are observed, of the order of a few percent, the resolutions of the two ToF detectors measured individually are 21 ps and 28 ps $\mu = 2$ data ATLAS
- Resolution of 6.0 ± 2.0 mm



AFP Results

- Proton tagging with the one arm AFP detector <u>ATL-PHYS-PUB-2017-012</u> (2017)
- Observation and measurement of forward proton scattering in association with lepton pairs produced via the photon fusion mechanism at ATLAS, <u>Phys. Rev. Lett. 125 (2020) 261801</u>
- Performance of ATLAS Forward Proton Time-of-Flight Detector 2017, ATL-FWD-PUB-2021-002 (2021)
- Search for an axion-like particle with forward proton scattering in association with photon pairs at ATLAS, <u>JHEP 2307 (2023) 234</u>
- Performance of the ATLAS Forward Proton Spectrometer during High Luminosity 2017 Data Taking, <u>ATL-FWD-PUB-2024-001</u> (2024)
- Performance of the ATLAS forward proton Time-of-Flight detector in LHC Run-2, <u>JINST 19 (2024) P05054</u>

Matching of lepton pair and proton kinematics $\xi_{\ell\ell}$, ξ_{AFP} PRL 125 (2020) 261801, 14.6 fb⁻¹

- Photon-induced di-lepton production with forward proton tag at 13 TeV
- AFP detection range $0.02 < \xi < 0.12$
- Signal and combinatorial background processes
- p^{*} dissociated proton

$$c_{\ell\ell} = (m_{\ell\ell}/\sqrt{s})e^{\pm y_{\parallel}}, \xi_{AFP} = 1 - E_p/E_{beam}$$



Di-lepton events: rapidity $y_{\ell\ell}$ versus $m_{\ell\ell}$ plane PRL 125 (2020) 261801, 14.6 fb⁻¹

- Event selection and kinematic matching $|\xi_{AFP} \xi_{\ell \ell}| < 0.005$ on at least one side
- Shaded (hatched) areas denote the acceptance (no acceptance) for the AFP stations
- Areas neither shaded nor hatched correspond to ξ ∉ [0, 1]





2017 data: 441 events single matching, no double matching.

AFP key physics results: $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell$ and $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

Measurement of $\gamma \gamma \rightarrow ee$:

PRL 125 (2020) 261801, 14.6 fb^{-1.}

- 57 (123) candidates $e^+e^-+p (\mu^+\mu^-+p)$
- Background-only hypothesis rejected with a significance $>5\sigma$ in each channel
- Cross-section measurements in the fiducial detector acceptance $\xi \in [0.035; 0.08]$

 $\sigma(ee+p)=11.0 \pm 2.6 \text{ (st)} \pm 1.2 \text{ (sy)} \pm 0.3 \text{ (lumi) fb}$

 $\sigma(\mu\mu+p)=7.2 \pm 1.6 \text{ (st)} \pm 0.9 \text{ (sy)} \pm 0.2 \text{ (lumi) fb}$

 Comparison with proton soft survival (no additional soft re-scattering) models: including soft survival probability improves the agreement with data. **Limit on** $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ JHEP 07 (2023) 234



Comparison with previous $\gamma \gamma \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ results and extrapolation (separating systematic and statistical uncertainties)



33

Conclusions and Outlook

- Physics programme with ALFA and AFP enhancement of ATLAS measurement capabilities
- High performance of ALFA and AFP-SiT detectors
- Good efficiency and time reconstruction resolution of AFP-ToF detectors in low-µ campaigns
- AFP efficient recorded data during high-µ campaigns as well as during special, low-µ runs
- Recent ALFA and AFP publications:
 - Measurement of exclusive pion pair production in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV
 - Measurement of total cross-section from elastic scattering in pp collisions at \sqrt{s} = 13 TeV
 - Observation of forward proton scattering in association with lepton pairs in photon fusion
 - Axion-Like-Particle with AFP search
 - AFP ToF Performance in LHC Run-2

Outlook:

- Large additional ALFA and AFP data sets being analysed
- LHC Run-3: AFP detector continues data-taking

Thank you for your attention

Supplement

Trigger

- SiT trigger signal sent by Local Trigger Board (LTB)
 - Standardly, requires signal from at least 3 planes
 - Can be reprogrammed to different logic
 - 400 ns deadtime
- ToF trigger signal sent by Digital Trigger Module (DTM) and Time-to-Digital Converter (TDC)
 - Requires signal from at least N bars in a train
- Far stations can trigger either on SiT or ToF
- Passed to ATLAS cavern (USA15) by ultra-fast Air Core cables
 - To arrive in time to trigger the "central" detector
- Far station signal connected to 5 Central Trigger Processor (CTP) inputs
 - 1 SiT and 1 for each ToF train
- Different latency for SiT and ToF triggers
 - Dedicated timing-in campaigns

Time-of-Flight (ToF)

- Suppression of combinatorial background
- 16 quartz bars grouped in 4 trains
- Train/bar widths are
 3 mm, 3 mm, 5 mm, 5.5 mm
- Directing light to Micro-Channel Plate Photo-Multiplier Tube (MCP-PMT)
- Amplified by 3-stages of Pulse Amplifiers (PAa and PAbc)
- Processed by Constant Fraction Discriminator (CFD)
- Passed through Digital Trigger Module (DTM)
- Processed by High-Performance Time-to-Digital Converter (HPTDC)
- Double PAbc, CFD, and HPTDC; each for 2 trains



ToF Resolution Indication

- Time difference between two channels of the same ToF train
- Selection:
 - Single SiT track in the station
 - SiT track pointing to the given ToF train
 - Single ToF train signal in the station



New control systems in LHC Run-3

Data Quality

- Evaluate usability for physics analysis
 - AFP participating in data-taking
 - AFP in physics position
 - Enough SiT planes working
 - All ToF parts working

Improved online monitoring

- Lots of new histograms
- Increased statistics

Automatic Recovery

- Reconfiguration of modules
- Scheduling of next reconfiguration attempts after failed attempt
- Optional power-cycle after several failed attempts

Mattermost Bot

- Sending messages about AFP state
- Sending warnings about issues which need to be acted on

"Proton" Reconstruction



Not reconstructed

Reconstructed

- Starting with SiT and ToF hits
- SiT cluster reconstruction by grouping of adjacent SiT hits
- SiT track reconstruction using Kalman Filter with clusters on the input
- Proton reconstruction by combining SiT tracks from Near and Far stations
 - Knowledge of the LHC magnetic field, the proton position, and the elevation angle allows for reconstruction of the proton kinematics (energy and momentum)
- ToF track reconstruction by grouping ToF hits in a single train
- Vertex reconstruction by combining reconstructed protons and ToF tracks from each side

