ATLAS AFP: Status and Prospects



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ATLAS Diffractive Rapidity Gap Results

Existing ATLAS data dogged by lack of proton tagging ...

Inclusive single diffractive dissociation: DD, ND contributions?



Single diffractive dijets: Signal barely visible above ND



Proton Spectrometers in ATLAS

ALFA: pairs of Roman pots housing non-rad-hard scintillating fibres. Vertical approach to beam $\rightarrow \sigma_{tot}$, soft diffraction



AFP: pairs of Roman pots with silicon precision spatial detectors & Cerenkov time-of-flight detectors to suppress pile-up (vertex constraint). Horizontal approach to beam \rightarrow high lumi physics - Phase 1 (2016) single side - Phase 2 (2017-) double sided

AFP Detectors

<u>Tracking:</u> four slim-edge 3D pixel sensor planes per station (IBL)

- Pixel sizes 50x250 μm

- 14° tilt improves x resolution (hence ξ)

 $\rightarrow \delta x = 6 \ \mu m$, $\delta y = 30 \ \mu m$

 Trigger capability
 Timing: 4x4 quartz bars at Cerenkov angle to beam. Light detected in PMTs
 → expected resolution 25ps







Trigger and Data Acquisition

AFP fully integrated into ATLAS TDAQ system and able to deliver first level triggers within the 85 bunch crossing latency (fast air-core cables) according to field-programmable criteria.





Acceptance

- Spectroscopic effect of beam optics gives dispersion in ξ and t.

- Excellent $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ resolution, via x

... translates into excellent mass resolution on exclusively produced states.



Beautifully illustrated in the following [with thanks to Maciej Trzebinski]

AFP



Advantages of Roman Pot Technology



M. Trzebiński









































Acceptance for Different Beam Set-ups

Acceptance is a strong function of beam conditions By increasing β^* , change acceptance, reduced luminosity, but can approach closer to the beam (Collimator restriction at large ξ not shown)



Special runs at high , low lumi have little / no pile-up and d_{28} easier trigger conditions

AFP Physics Programme 1 - Special Runs

 \rightarrow Soft phenomenology \rightarrow Diffractive PDFs \rightarrow Gap survival

<u>Single Tags</u>: Single diffractive dissociation



Double Tags: Inclusive central production and low mass exclusive production



- Inclusive differential cross sections
- Particle flow and spectra, event shapes
- Resonance searches (eg glueballs)
- Hard scattering with jets, heavy flavour, W, Z signatures
- Ultra-peripheral collisions \rightarrow diffractive photoproduction ₂₉
- Heavy ion physics (p in pA, nuclear fragments in AA)

AFP Physics Programme 2 - Nominal Runs

→ Searches for New Physics



- Central Exclusive QCD Production of dijets, γ -jet and other strongly produced high mass systems

- Two photon physics \rightarrow exclusive dileptons, dibosons & anomalous multiple gauge couplings, exclusive t-tbar \rightarrow top mass via threshold scan?



 $W/Z/\gamma$

- Searches for new heavy particles (axions, WIMPS, charged and double-charged Higgs, vector-like fermions ...)

Nominal Runs ctd

- Spin parity analysis via angular distributions between outgoing protons [KMR]



- Pair produced BSM states (eg H^{+/-}, Lebiedowicz, Szczurek)
- $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$, best sensitivity to anomalous quartic coupling
- Top mass via threshold scan in exclusive $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow tt$ (Howarth)

... but event rates are always v. small!



AFP Operation So Far

2016

- $\blacksquare~\sqrt{s}=13$ TeV, $\beta^*=0.4$ m \blacksquare
- Only two stations installed (one side)
- Only single tagged events
- Data taken during BBA:
 - two runs
 - closer to the beam than during standard running
 - very useful for alignment and optics studies
- Data taken during special runs:
 - $\blacksquare \ \mu \sim 0.03:$
 - int. lumi.: \sim 40 nb⁻¹
 - main goal: soft diffraction
 - $\blacksquare \ \mu \sim 0.3:$
 - int. lumi.:~500 nb⁻¹
 - **main goal:** low- p_T jets
- Data taken during standard runs: AFP was inserted only when the number of bunches was not greater than 600 (ramp-up)

2017

- $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, $\beta^* = 0.3$ and 0.4 m
- Full system ready
- Single and double tagged events
- Data taken during BBA:
 - two runs
- Data taken during special runs:
 - $\mu \sim 0.05$:
 - Int. lumi.:~65 nb⁻¹
 - main goal: soft diffraction
 - $\blacksquare \ \mu \sim 1:$
 - int. lumi.:~640 nb⁻¹
 - main goal: low-p_T jets
 - \blacksquare $\mu \sim 2$:
 - int. lumi.:~150 pb⁻¹
 - goals: hard diffraction
- Data taken during standard runs: AFP was inserted on regular basis, usually few minutes after stable beams were declared

2017 Performance / 2018 Programme

- AFP operated routinely through most of high luminosity running, approaching beam to $11.5\sigma + 0.3mm$ by the end

- Periods of stand-alone running for ToF commissioning



- 32fb⁻¹ accumulated in total in 2017.
 - \rightarrow Tracking detectors and DAQ functioning well \rightarrow Problems with ToF ... poor efficiencies of PMTs
- Winter shutdown work completed; AFP is ready for restart.
- ToF problems still under study
 - \rightarrow aim to implement in first technical stop (June 18),
 - \rightarrow initial physics focus on lepton and photon signatures

First Physics Study: Single Diffractive Dijets

... using techniques from ATLAS rapidity gap based analysis ...

$$ilde{\xi} \simeq M_{
m X}^2/s = \sum p_{
m T} e^{\pm \eta}/\sqrt{s} = \xi_{
m Cal}$$
 here

... well resolved and good rec-truth correlation over wide range





Data and Selection

Special run taken in October 2016, $\mu \sim 0.3$, $\beta^* = 0.4$ m

Trigger:

- signal sample triggered with AFP (SiT, near and far)
- background sample triggered with minimum bias trigger

Event selection:

- **at least one jet with** $p_T > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 3$
- exactly one reconstructed primary vertex
- at least two tracks associated with vertex
- for signal sample clean signal in AFP (no more than one cluster in each plane, at least 5 planes with a cluster)

Results



Clear enhancement in low ξ_{Cal} diffractive region for AFPtriggered data over MBTS data + common pile-up contribution

Low x data exhibit expected x-y correlation in AFP pixels and correlation between pixel x position and ξ_{Cal}

\rightarrow Clear diffractive signature





Rapidity Gaps?



Δη^F defined by size of empty region between edge of calorimeter acceptance and first calorimeter
 cell above noise threshold ∽ or central track.

Clear enhancement of high $\Delta \eta^F$ tail in AFP-triggered data

 \rightarrow Correlation between 10^{-6} proton-tags and gaps as expected.





ATLAS Proton Spectrometry at HL-LHC?

- Physics case and technical feasibility of running at pile-up of 200 post LS3 are under investigation

 \rightarrow 3000 fb⁻¹ by late 2030s?

Motivation:

- Observing many AFP processes marginal at SM rates pre-HL-LHC
- $\gamma\gamma$ dominates at large mass ... need smaller ξ for QCD processes



More HL-LHC Physics Motivation



Exclusive Higgs production

- High resolution on mass,
- ***b**, W^+ , τ^+ b-bbar mode **b**, W^- , τ^- 0⁺⁺ confirmation, CP structure,
 - QCD production mechanism.

 \rightarrow Search for high mass recurrences with AFP-like set-up \rightarrow SM Higgs would need stations in cold section (cf FP420)

QCD Central Exclusive Production

- eg High stats exclusive jets

Exotica in *yy* **Processes**

- eg high stats $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$ dibosons, $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow$ invisibles (Dark Matter)

Potential for ongoing special runs programme

First Studies with nominal HL-LHC Optics

Acceptances for 2x2cm detector @ $15\sigma+0.5mm$, no collimators



233m: Reduced ξ acceptance relative to that now in AFP region

324,420m: Attractive ξ acceptance extending into SM Higgs region and very wide t range at possible deployment points in cold sections



Summary

- AFP operated in 2017 as two sided system and took 32fb⁻¹ under nominal running conditions

- Tracking detectors performing well

Timing detectors still being commissioned

 operation
 expected in second half of 2018

 First physics study (single sided) → observation of diffractive dijets

- Rich run 2 and 3 physics programme, diffraction / QCD, γγ, exotics

41

- Studies of prospects for HL-LHC system are underway