Studies of Beam Loss Effect on Silicon Strip Modules in ATLAS Detector

A.A. Grillo

for

P. Rose, C. Betancourt, V. Fadeyev, H.F.-W. Sadrozinski, A. Seiden, E. Spencer, M. Wilder SCIPP - UCSC

Beam Loss Issues

- At design luminosity the LHC will contain ~10¹¹ protons per bunch with a bunch spacing of 25 ns.
- If the beam becomes misaligned, it can scrape collimators or beam pipe, sending a spray of particles into the ATLAS detector.
- Before the beam loss monitors force a beam dump, the silicon strip detectors (the ATLAS SCT) may experience a large deposition of charge.
- Can this cause damage to the detector?



Vulnerabilities of the SCT Detector Module

- Each SCT module is made up of the components shown in the picture below.
- All components inside the detector volume have been thoroughly tested for radiation hardness such that the extra radiation damage from a beam loss can be tolerated.
- Two components, however, may have a problem with a large instantaneous charge deposition.
 - A large current or voltage spike at the ABCD readout IC input may damage its first stage.
 - Large charge collection at the implant strip may cause breakdown of the coupling capacitor between the implant and readout strips.
 - Either may cause permanent damage.



ATLAS SCT Module

Previous Tests

- Several tests have been conducted to test the limits of these two vulnerabilities:
 - The ABCD has an input spec limit of 450 V and 5 nC in 25 ns.
 - It was not clear how this compares to expected conditions of a realistic beam loss but this limit was tested on single channels and no failures were found up to the voltage limit & twice the charge limit. [1]
 - The dielectric forming the coupling capacitor between the implant strip and aluminum readout strip is spec'd to have a breakdown voltage ≥ 100
 - V. Exceeding this may cause the channel to fail.
 - Tests have been performed on sensor strips using lasers to emulate the charge deposition of minimum ionizing particles.
 - Voltages in excess of 100 V have been measured with charge deposition equivalent to ≥10⁶ minimum ionizing particles (MIPs) per strip (spot size ~27 strips) without seeing breakdown, but damage has been seen at higher charge levels. [2,3]



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This Study

- This study attempts to incorporate the electrical contributions of the entire module and consider realistic beam loss scenarios with regard to expected charge deposition distributions.
- Given the difficulty in creating the expected high density spray of particles into a module, this study will rely on detailed simulations.
- However, the models we have used are based upon sensor and ASIC measurements we have made in our lab.
- This study is still in progress so the results are preliminary, however, they show some interesting features.



Tests & Simulations of ABCD Front-end

- With the present ABCD IC, the base-emitter junction of the front transistor handles any excess current or voltage.
 - We then chose the simplest model to simulate the ABCD response, namely a diode with series resistance and breakdown voltage tuned to match the response we saw with our test setup.



Expected Distribution of Charge Deposition

- A group from University of Sydney has simulated the likely beam loss scenario as reported in an ATLAS note [4]:
 - They assumed 0.1% of the beam (10⁸ protons) scraping the beam pipe or the TAS (Target Absorber Secondaries) collimator, tracking the resulting secondaries through the SCT.
 - The two plots below show the resultant distribution of charge across the inner SCT barrel for one beam bunch.
 - The charge deposition is fairly uniform; using a scale of 3.5 fC/MIP, their results equate to a distribution of incident particles ranging from ~0.4x10⁵ MIPs to 0.5x10⁶ MIPs with 0.2x10⁶ MIPs most probable.



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Beam Loss Timing

- An LHC bunch will pass every 25 ns with each bunch scraping the obstruction.
- Many timing sequences are possible.
- We assume for now a drift of the beam gradually scraping more of the bunch fringe until the beam abort is activated.
 - Then one cycle of the complete ring to send all bunches to the dump.
- An increasing number of MIPs will then hit a module every 25 ns until the beam is cleared, which takes ~90 μs.



Simulation Details

We used SPICE to simulate the response of a full SCT module to such a beam loss scenario.



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 Each strip was modeled as a distributed circuit using SPICE components.



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Details of Sensor Behavior are Included

- The charge injection scheme has two components²
 - Component 1 models the timing structure of the beam.
 - Component 2 models the dependence of the charge collection on the bias voltage.

 For bias voltages below the full depletion value, the amount of collected charge decreases due to smaller depletion depth.



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Simulation Sequence



$$Q = MIPs * 80\frac{e^{-}}{\mu m} * 289.5 \ \mu m * 1.6 * 10^{-19}\frac{C}{e^{-}}$$
$$t_{cc} = 10 \ ns \ * \sqrt[3]{MIPs}$$



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Electrical Response of Module to "Slow" Beam Loss

- Simulation results for beam loss and dump in 100 ms reaching a peak of 0.54x10⁶ MIPs/strip/25ns.
 - Note that the bias voltage quickly drops as the charge is injected.
 - This is because the capacitance of the bias filter is depleted of charge and the power supply cannot maintain the voltage.
 - This drop in bias voltage and field shielding by the large amount of charge deposited greatly limits the charge collection.
- The voltage across the coupling capacitor remains < 25 V and the ABCD input current remains <70 μA (1.8 pC/25 ns) both well below spec





Electrical Response for Two Other Conditions



0.1 ms Scenario

100 ms Scenario with Irradiated Sensor

• Even with a 0.1 ms scenario, the bias still drops quickly enough to limit the charge collection keeping the coupling capacitor voltage and ABCD current within a safe range.

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Electrical Response for Several Time Evolutions



- These plots show the electrical response of the module for the same peak loss of 5.4x10⁵ MIPs/bunch but varying the speed at which the loss evolves.
 - The data points span full evolution times of 100 ms to 0.01 ms
- Even with the fastest rate, the implant voltage and the ABCD input current remain in very safe ranges.

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Careful if Limiting Charge Deposition to One Strip

- Here are the results of simulating a laser pulse hitting a single strip with the same intensity.
 Single Strip Simulation, 5.4x10^5 MIPs Current Collected at Center of Implant Strip
 - Note that the backplane voltage (blue curve above) does not decrease and the effective bias voltage (green curve above) only decreases slightly since the implant voltage is increasing.
 - The voltage across the coupling capacitor (blue curve below) now reaches 70 V
 (> 2x the full module case) and the ABCD input current (red curve below is 6x greater.







Larger Charge Deposition onto One Strip

- Here is the case of 1x10⁷ MIPs on one strip.
 - Now the voltage across the coupling capacitor (blue curve below) exceeds 90 V and the ABCD input current (red curve below) reaches 17 mA – still within spec limits but much closer to the maximum allowable.
 - Actually, the voltage across the coupling capacitor would have reached a much higher voltage but the simulation included a model for capacitor breakdown at 100 V, which activated.
 - We're not sure why the voltage appears to limit at 90 V instead of 100 V. This needs further study.







Conclusions & Continuing Work

- We expect beam loss scenarios to deposit large amounts of charge across the entire sensor.
- Depending upon the time evolution, this distribution of charge results in several mitigating phenomena:
 - Charge collection time increases.
 - Bias voltage decreases due to the finite charge stored on the filter capacitors and to the 2 mA current limit of the bias supply thus reducing the amount of charge collected.
- Depending upon the time evolution of the beam loss, the resulting module response may provide some self-protection.
- Subjecting only a small number of strips to large charge deposition may show very different results. Are they realistic?
- More variations of beam loss intensities along with time evolutions must be simulated to search for limits of safe operation.
- Upgraded detectors must take care with biasing so as not to lose these self-protection aspects of the full system.



References

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