

ABSTRACT

RNTUPLE FOR ATLAS ANALYSIS WORKFLOWS

Fatima Rodriguez, M.A.
Department of Physics
Northern Illinois University, 2025
Hector de la Torre, Director

RNTuple is the new data storage format set to replace TTree at the start of the High Luminosity LHC. An investigation was conducted on how analysis workflows for ATLAS researchers will change with RNTuple. Additionally, performance studies have been conducted that demonstrate an improvement in speed and memory usage at the analysis front. Finally, different compression algorithms were tested and it was found that blah blah remains to best work with RNTuple.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
DE KALB, ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 2025

RNTUPLE FOR ATLAS ANALYSIS WORKFLOWS

BY

FATIMA RODRIGUEZ
© 2025 Fatima Rodriguez

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE
MASTER OF PHYSICS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Dissertation Director:
Hector de la Torre

13

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

14

Thanks thanks

DEDICATION

To my mum.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

17

CHAPTER 1

18

INTRODUCTION

19 Our current understanding of the building blocks of our universe is summarized with one
20 model, called the Standard Model (SM). From the way we power our cities, to the particles
21 that hold them together, the SM explains how the basic building blocks of matter interact,
22 governed by the four fundamental forces. Yet, questions remain about the SM, such as
23 why are there only three generations of fundamental particles? What is the nature of dark
24 matter and dark energy, and how does it fit within the SM? What about the origin of the
25 matter-antimatter asymmetry? Is there a unification theory for the fundamental forces? Is
26 the SM complete or do other exotic particles exists? Over the years, experimental particle
27 physicists and engineers have built technology to test the SM, either by performing precision
28 measurements of particles and their behaviors, or by colliding particles and measuring their
29 outputs. As a result, we have increased our confidence in the SM theory, but continue to
30 search for answers of these remaining questions through experimental discovery.

31 A Toroidal LHC Apparatus (ATLAS) is a particle physics experiment designed to detect
32 the high-energy particle collisions from the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Collisions take
33 place at a rate of more than a billion interactions per second, which is a combined data
34 volume of about 60 million megabytes per second. However, in order to study rare processes,
35 as shown in Figure ??, the LHC will have a major upgrade to increase the number of collisions
36 by a factor of 5 to 7.5. This upgrade, called the High-Luminosity LHC, will require a new
37 data storage format that can handle this increase in data.

38 RNTuple is the new ROOT data storage format that will be in use at the start of the
39 HL-LHC. Due to its design, which takes advantage of modern C++ techniques, it is set to

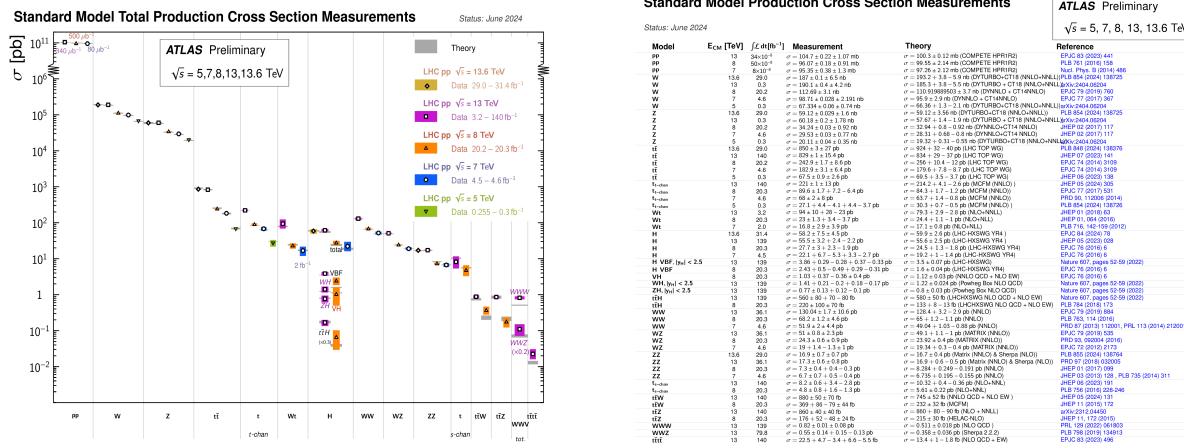


Figure 1.1: Summary of several Standard Model cross-section measurements (a) with associated references (b). The measurements are corrected for branching fractions, compared to the corresponding theoretical expectations.

improve read speedability and memory usage compared to its predecessor, TTree, and other data storage formats such as HDF5 and Parquet. At the start of this work, performance studies on RNTuple were conducted at the production level, and RNTuple was still at an experimental stage. The studies highlighted in this work investigate the performance of RNTuple on the analysis front for ATLAS workflows and serve as documentation for future RNTuple usage.

In the next chapter, I will describe the ATLAS experiment and its detector technology. In Chapter 3, I will introduce the ATLAS software and computing system, and explain our data contents. In Chapter 4, I will give an introduction to RNTuple and TTree. Examples of how RNTuple is applied in comparison to TTree will be shown. In Chapter 5, I will demonstrate the performance studies conducted for RNTuple and how they compare with TTree. In Chapter 6, I will describe the Analysis Grand Challenge (AGC) which served as a benchmark for RNTuple. Finally I will give my conclusions in Chapter 7.

53

CHAPTER 2

54

THE ATLAS EXPERIMENT

55 A Toroidal LHC Apparatus, mainly known as ATLAS, is a particle physics experiment
56 located at the Large Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland. ATLAS is 44 meters long
57 and 25 meters in diameter, making it the largest detector ever constructed for a particle
58 collider. It is designed as a general-purpose particle physics experiment, focused on precision
59 measurements of the Standard Model. Research from ATLAS physicists has led to ground-
60 breaking discoveries, such that of the Higgs boson.

61

2.1 Detector Technology

62 To do this, ATLAS has six different detecting subsystems wrapped concentrically in
63 layers around the collision point to record the trajectory, momentum, and energy of particles.
64 Apart, a huge magnet system bends the paths of the charged particles so that their momenta
65 can be measured as precisely as possible. Overall, the detector tracks and identifies particles
66 to investigate a wide range of physics.

67

2.1.1 Inner Detector

68

what is its main functions

⁶⁹ 2.1.1.1 Pixel Detector

⁷⁰ 2.1.1.2 Semiconductor Tracker

⁷¹ 2.1.1.3 Transition Radiation Tracker

⁷² **2.1.2 Calorimeter**

⁷³ 2.1.2.1 Liquid Argon Calorimeter

⁷⁴ 2.1.3 Tile Hadronic Calorimeter

⁷⁵ **2.1.4 Muon Spectrometer**

⁷⁶ 2.1.4.1 Thin Gap Chambers

⁷⁷ 2.1.4.2 Resistive Plate Chambers

⁷⁸ 2.1.4.3 Monitored Drift Tubes

⁷⁹ 2.1.4.4 Small-Strip Thin-Gap

⁸⁰ 2.1.4.5 Micromegas

⁸¹ **2.1.5 Magnet System**