

## ABSTRACT

# OPTIMIZATION OF DERIVATION JOBS AND MODERNIZATION OF I/O INTEGRATION TESTS FOR THE ATLAS EXPERIMENT

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The High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) is a phase of the LHC that is expected to start toward the end of the decade. With this comes an increase in data taken per year that current software and computing infrastructure, including I/O, is being prepared to handle. The ATLAS experiment's Software Performance Optimization Team has areas in development to improve the Athena software framework that is scalable in performance and ready for wide-spread HL-LHC era data taking. One area of interest is optimization of derivation production jobs by improving derived object data stored to disk by about 4-5% by eliminating the upper-limit on TTree basket buffers, at the expense of an increase in memory usage by about 11%.

Athena and the software it depends on are updated frequently, and to synthesize changes cohesively there are scripts, unit tests, that run which test core I/O functionality. This thesis upgrades existing I/O unit tests to now exercise features exclusive to the xAOD Event Data Model (EDM) such as writing and reading object data from the previous EDM using transient and persistent data. These new unit tests also include and omit select dynamic attributes to object data during the component accumulator step.

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OPTIMIZATION OF DERIVATION JOBS AND MODERNIZATION OF I/O  
INTEGRATION TESTS FOR THE ATLAS EXPERIMENT

BY

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23     Here's where you acknowledge folks who helped. Here's where you acknowledge folks  
24 who helped. Here's where you acknowledge folks who helped. Here's where you acknowledge  
25 folks who helped.

## DEDICATION

26

To all of the fluffy kitties. To all of the fluffy kitties. To all of the fluffy kitties. To all of  
the fluffy kitties.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

Particle physics is the branch of physics that studies the fundamental constituents of matter and the forces governing their interactions. The field started as studies in electromagnetism, radiation, and further developed with the discovery of the electron. What followed was more experiments to search for new particles, new models to describe the results, and new search techniques which demanded more data. The balance in resources for an experiment bottlenecks how much data can be taken, so steps need to be taken to identify interesting interactions and optimize the storage and processing of this data. This thesis investigates software performance optimization of the ATLAS experiment at CERN. Specifically, ways to modernize and optimize areas of the software framework, Athena, to improve input/output (I/O) performance during derivation production and create new tests that catch when specific core I/O functionality is broken.

### 1.1 LHC and The ATLAS Detector

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), shown in Figure 1.1, is a particle accelerator spanning a 26.7-kilometer ring that crosses between the France-Switzerland border at a depth between 50 and 175 meters underground.[2] The ATLAS experiment, shown in Figure 1.3, is the largest LHC general purpose detector, and the largest detector ever made for particle collision experiments. The detector lies in a cavern 92.5 m underground at a length of 46 m, height and width of 25 m.[3] A quadrant of the detector is shown in Figure 1.2, where  $\eta$  is a measure

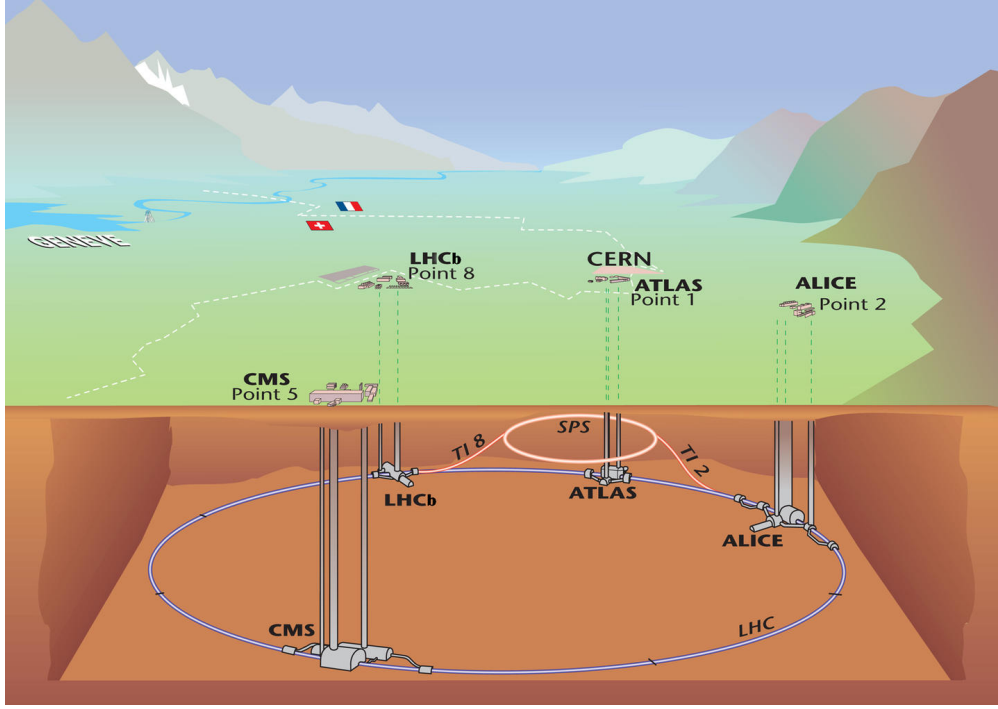


Figure 1.1: Illustration of the LHC experiment sites on the France-Switzerland border.[1]

of the pseudo-rapidity. Pseudo-rapidity is a parameter representing the the angle relative to  
the beamline and is defined as

$$\eta \equiv -\ln \left[ \tan \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \right], \quad (1.1)$$

where if  $\theta = 0$  then  $\eta = \infty$  and if  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$  then  $\eta = 0$ . Pseudo-rapidity is used, as opposed  
to traditional Cartesian angles, because it's Lorentz invariant under boosts along the beam  
axis, making it easier to identify tracks due to symmetry of the collision.

### Inner Detector

The ATLAS detector is comprised of three main sections, the inner detector, calorimeters  
and the muon detector system. The inner detector measures the direction, momentum and  
charge of electrically charged particles. Its main function is to measure the track of the  
charged particles without destroying the particle itself. The first point of contact for particles  
emerging from  $pp$ -collisions from the center of the ATLAS detector is the pixel detector.[6]

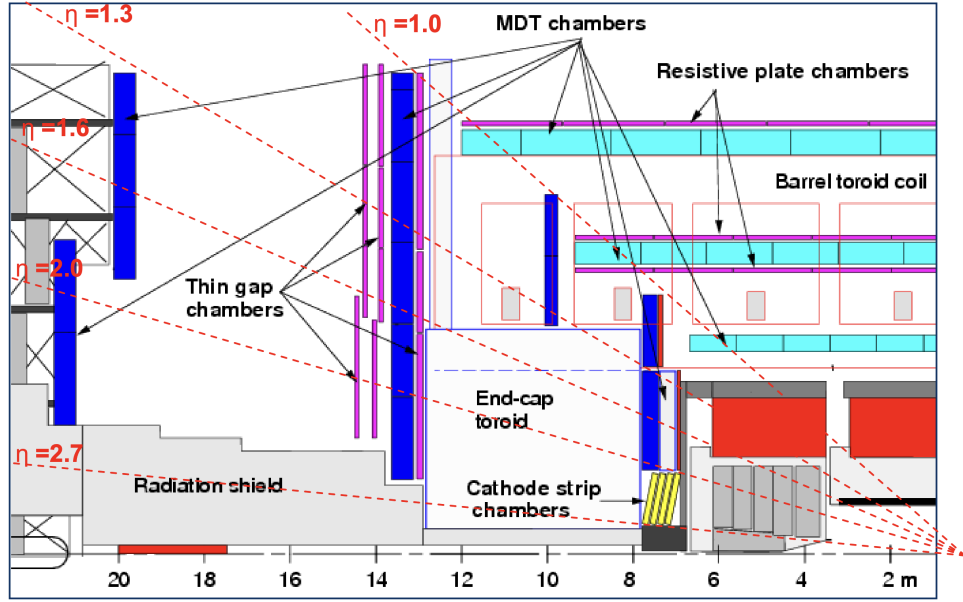


Figure 1.2: One quadrant of the ATLAS detector. The components of the Muon Spectrometer are labelled [4]

It has over 92 million pixels to aid in particle track and vertex reconstruction. Since the pixels are the first point of contact to the incident particles they have to be radiation hard so the electronics may function without fault. When a charged particle passes through a pixel sensor it ionizes the one-sided doped-silicon wafer to produce an excited electron which will then occupy the conduction band of the semiconductor producing an electron-hole pair, leaving the valence band empty.[7] This hole in the valence band together with the excited electron in the conduction band is called an electron-hole pair. The electron-hole pair is in the presence of an electric field, which will induce drifting of the electron-hole pair, drifting that will generate the electric current to be measured.

Surrounding the pixel detector is the SemiConductor Tracker (SCT), which uses 4,088 modules of 6 million implanted silicon readout strips.[8] Both the pixel detector and SCT measure the path particles take, called tracks. While the pixel detector has measurement

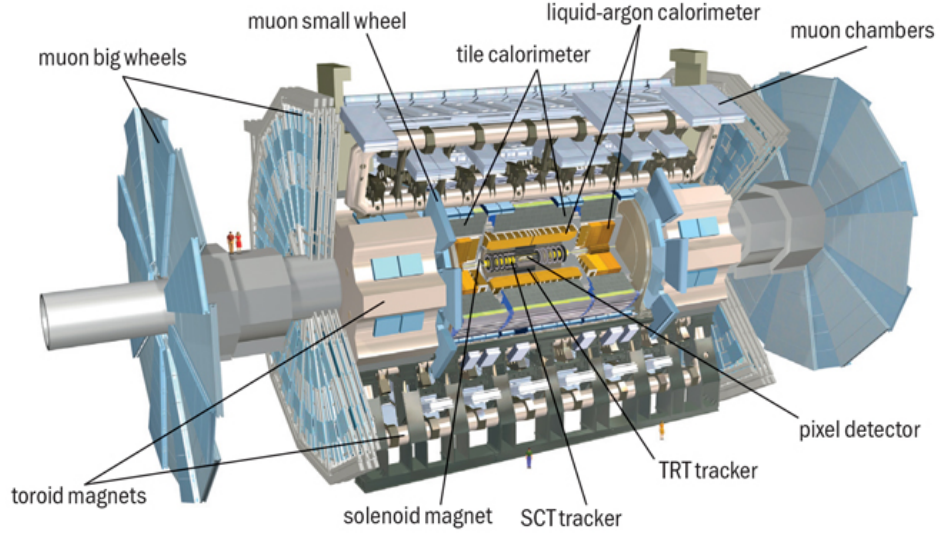


Figure 1.3: Overview of the ATLAS detectors main components.[5]

precision up to  $10\mu m$  in the  $r\phi$ -direction and  $70\mu m$  in the  $z$ -coordinate direction,[9] the SCT has resolution  $17\mu m$  in the  $r\phi$ -direction and  $580\mu m$  in the  $z$ -direction.

The final layer of the inner detector is the transition radiation tracker (TRT). The TRT is made of a collection of tubes made with many layers of different materials with varying indices of refraction. The TRT's straw walls are made of two  $35\mu m$  layers comprised of  $6\mu m$  carbon-polyimide,  $0.20\mu m$  aluminum, and a  $25\mu m$  Kapton film reflected back.[10] The straws are filled with a gas mixture of  $70\%Xe + 27\%CO_2 + 3\%O_2$ . Its measurement precision is around  $170\mu m$ . Particles with relativistic velocities have higher Lorentz  $\gamma$ -factors,

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}. \quad (1.2)$$

The TRT uses varying materials to discriminate between heavier particles, which have low  $\gamma$  and radiate less, and lighter particles, which have higher  $\gamma$  and radiate more.[11]

## 175 Calorimeters

176 There are two main calorimeters for ATLAS, the Liquid Argon (LAr) calorimeter and the  
 177 Tile Hadronic calorimeter. The LAr calorimeter surrounds the inner detector and measures  
 178 the energy deposits of objects that interact via the electromagnetic force. It layers various  
 179 metals to intercept the incoming particles to produce a shower of lower energy particles. The  
 180 lower energy particles then ionize the liquid argon that fill the barrier in between the metal  
 181 layers to produce a current that can be read out. The Tile calorimeter surrounds the LAr  
 182 calorimeter and is the largest part of the ATLAS detector weighing in around 2900 tons.  
 183 Particles then traverse through the layers of steel and plastic scintillating tiles. The Tile  
 184 calorimeter is a hadronic calorimeter, so it interacts with particles via the strong nuclear  
 185 force. When a particle hits the steel, a cascade of secondary protons, neutrons and other  
 186 hadrons (quark bound states, with baryons  $qqq$  and mesons  $q\bar{q}$ ) is produced with lower  
 187 energy. Through this mechanism, these decay products will continue until the energy has  
 188 entirely dissipated.

## 189 Muon Spectrometer (MS)

190 The MS sits at the end of the ATLAS detector and is designed to identify muon tracks  
 191 and momentum to high-resolution, its components are shown in Figure 1.2. Monitored Drift  
 192 Tube (MDT) chambers are used for precision measurement of muon tracks in the principle  
 193 bending direction of the magnetic fields over a large  $\eta$ . The MDT lie in the endcaps and  
 194 barrel regions covering the pseudorapidity regions  $0 < |\eta| < 2.7$ , where the the tubes run  
 195 perpendicular to the beam and in-line with the magnetic field lines. Single cell resolution  
 196 for these drift tubes can reach  $60 \mu m$ . [3] The area of highest particle flux is the region of  
 197 pseudo-rapidity  $2 < |\eta| < 2.7$ , here is where the cathode strip chambers lie. [12] Cathode  
 198 strip chambers (CSCs) are layered to determine track vectors and use multi-wire chambers  
 199 to achieve a resolution up to  $50 \mu m$ .

The RPCs are gaseous parallel-plate detectors suited for fast spacetime particle tracking that combines the the spatial resolution ( $\tilde{1}$  cm) of the wire chambers and the time resolution ( $\tilde{1}$  ns) of a scintillation counter. Resistive plate chambers (RPCs) and the Thin gap chambers (TGCs) provide the trigger information for the MDTs and CSCs to then make a precision measurement, so speed takes priority over spatial resolution for the muon trigger system. Though RPCs don't have wires, their design consists of two strips separated by an insulating spacer to create a gap for the gas ( $C_2H_2F_4$  plus some smaller of argon/butane) to occupy. Thin gap chambers (TGCs) exist in the forward region and are thin wire chambers that aide in muon triggering and measurement of the azimuthal coordinate to be used in compliment with MDTs. The time resolution in TCGs help identify bunch-crossings and granularity in momentum of the muon that comes within the equipotential of the wires. Since each wire can be given a position in the trigger system, any muon that passes through the TGC can be compared with greater spatial precision with the MDTs and illustrate a track later. The accuracy of identifying the correct bunch crossing with TGCs is 99% and the delivery of bunch crossing identification can be delivered within 25 ns, only a small fraction of bunch crossings arrive later than that window.

## 1.2 ATLAS Trigger and Data Acquisition (TDAQ)

The LHC produces  $pp$ -collisions at a rate of 40 MHz, each collision is an “event”. The ATLAS Trigger system is responsible for quickly deciding what events are interesting for physics analysis. The Trigger system is divided into the first- and second-level triggers and when a particle activates a trigger, the trigger makes a decision to tell the Data Acquisition System (DAQ) to save the data produced by the detector. The first-level trigger is a hardware trigger that decides, within  $2.5\mu s$  after the event, if it's a good event to put into a storage



buffer for the second-level trigger. The second-level trigger is a software trigger that decides within  $200\mu s$  and uses around 40,000 CPU-cores and analyses the event to decide if it is worth keeping. The second-level trigger selects about 1000 events per second to keep and store long-term.[13] The data taken by this Trigger/DAQ system is raw and not yet in a state that is ready for analysis, but it is ready for the reconstruction stage.

The amount of data taken at ATLAS is substantial. ATLAS sees more than 3.2 PB of raw data each year, each individual event being around 1.6 MB.[14] All of the data produced by LHC experiments, especially ATLAS, has to be sent to the LHC Computing Grid (LCG). The increase in data means more resources from the Grid will be needed, so optimization is an essential part of ensuring scalability of the data able to be taken in by the experiment. Reconstructed AOD are then processed through derivation jobs that reduced AODs from  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  MB per event to  $\mathcal{O}(10)$  kB per event, creating Derived AOD (DAOD).

### 1.3 HL-LHC and Future Needs in Computation

The High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) is the upgrade to LHC that anticipates more events and more data taken than ever before. The goal is to reach a luminosity of  $350fb^{-1}$ , which is forecasted to be reached gradually by around 2040.[15] The HL-LHC era is projected to demand anywhere from 6-10 times data stored per year, so any attempt to save on disk storage will help.[16]

One area of research to account for this flood of new data is in the development of the ROOT N-Tuple (RNTuple) I/O subsystem, which is a new storage format for high-energy physics data seeking to replace ROOT TTree. The RNTuple is a columnar-based storage format that is optimized for data storage and processing. It's been shown to outperform TTree I/O subsystem and other storage formats in file size (by about 15%), throughput,

246 and compression, but still has more development before full implementation into the anal-  
247 ysis pipeline.[17][18] Additionally, there's a push to utilize GPUs and other accelerators in  
248 conjunction with CPUs to process track reconstruction and AOD derivation. Also being  
249 developed are software framework updates, such as AthenaMT, to make the single-threaded  
250 CPU programs multi-thread ready.[19]

## CHAPTER 2

### I/O TOOLS

The Trigger/DAQ system sends and saves data from the detector to a persistent data storage solution. It's at this stage where the data isn't yet ready for an effective analysis, so what needs to happen is the data needs to be reconstructed and consolidated into physics objects, or Analysis Object Data (AOD) files. Creating AODs from data requires significant computation power and Athena is the software framework that plays a significant role in this process. This chapter will cover some of the important software tools used by ATLAS to run derivation jobs, as well as introduce data structures that represent event information.

#### 2.1 Athena and ROOT

Athena is the open-source software framework for the ATLAS experiment.[20] It uses on other software such as ROOT, Geant4 and other software as part of the LCG software stack. Athena manages ATLAS production workflows which include event generation, simulation of data, reconstruction from hits, and derivation of reconstructed hits.[21] It also provides some in-house based analysis tools as well as tools for specifically ROOT based analysis.

CMake and Make are open-source software that is used to build Athena, ROOT, and other software. A sparse build is a way to make changes to an individual package of code without having to recompile the entire framework at once, which saves time and resources. A user can create a text file identifying the path to the package modified, and the sparse build for Athena will proceed upon issuing the following commands:

---

```

272 1    cmake -DATLAS_PACKAGE_FILTER_FILE=../package_filters.txt ../athena/
273    Projects/WorkDir/
274 2    make -j
275

```

Where `../package_filters.txt` is the text file containing the path to the package modified, and `../athena/Projects/WorkDir/` is the path to the Athena source.

AthenaPOOL is data storage architecture suite of packages within Athena that provide conversion services. It originated as a separate project to serve as a layer between the transient data, stored in memory, used by the software framework and the data stored permanently, or persistently. The transient/persistent style of representing event data will be further explained in § 2.4.

An important step throughout the development of Athena is to ensure any new changes to the codebase won't overrule the functionality of core features to the present workflows. One of the areas needed to be tested before and upon merging of any new changes to Athena is the I/O functionality, or the performance of reading and writing of stored objects within a broader context of various jobs, i.e. reconstruction or derivation. These are unit tests which are scripts written in Python and call upon algorithms written in C++. The python scripts are used to set the job options for the algorithms added to the component accumulator (CA), job options like flag definitions, input and output file names, and other algorithm specific options. While CA is a more general mechanism to run any kind of job with Athena, it's within the scope of this thesis where the focus is on testing core I/O functionality of the new event data model. A general CA script written in pseudocode would take the form:

```

295 1    # Import Packages
296 2    from AthenaConfiguration.AllConfigFlags import initConfigFlags
297 3    from AthenaConfiguration.ComponentFactory import CompFactory
298 4    from OutputStreamAthenaPool.OutputStreamConfig import OutputStreamCfg,
299    outputStreamName

```

```

300 5
301 6     # Set Job Options
302 7     outputStreamName = "StreamA"
303 8     outputFileName = "output.root"
304 9
305 0     # Setup flags
306 1     flags = initConfigFlags()
307 2     flags.Input.Files = ["input.root"]
308 3     flags.addFlag(f"Output.{streamName}FileName", outputFileName)
309 4     # Other flags
310 5     flags.lock()
311 6
312 7     # Main services
313 8     from AthenaConfiguration.MainServicesConfig import MainServicesCfg
314 9     acc = MainServicesCfg( flags )
315 0
316 1     # Add algorithms
317 2     acc.addEventAlgo( CompFactory.MyAlgorithm(MyParameters) )
318 3
319 4     # Run
320 5     import sys
321 6     sc = acc.run(flags.Exec.MaxEvents)
322 7     sys.exit(sc.isFailure())
323

```

324 ROOT is an open-source software framework used for high-energy physics analysis at  
 325 CERN.[22] It uses C++ objects to save, access, and process data brought in by the various  
 326 experiments based at the LHC, the ATLAS experiment uses it in conjunction with Athena.  
 327 ROOT largely revolves around organization and manipulation of TFiles and TTrees into  
 328 ROOT files. A TTree represents a columnar dataset, and the list of columns are called  
 329 branches. The branches have memory buffers that are automatically allocated by ROOT.

These memory buffers are divided into corresponding baskets, whose size is designated during memory allocation. More detail on branch baskets are explored in Chapter 3 and 4.

### 2.1.1 Continuous Integration (CI) and Development

CI is a software development practice where new code is tested and validated upon each merge to the main branch of a repository. Every commit to the main branch is automatically built and tested for specific core features that are required to work with the codebase. This helps to ensure that the codebase is working as intended and that the new code is compatible with the existing codebase.

Athena is hosted on GitLab and developed using CI with an instance of Jenkins, called ATLAS Robot, which builds and tests the new changes within a merge request interface. ATLAS Robot will then provide a report of the build and test results. If the build or test fail, ATLAS Robot will provide a report of which steps failed and why. This allows for early detection of issues before the nightly build is compiled and tested.

## 2.2 TTree Object

A TTree is a ROOT object that organizes physically distinct types of event data into branches. Branches hold data into dedicated contiguous memory buffers, and those memory buffers, upon compression, become baskets. These baskets can have a limited size and a set minimum number of entries. The Athena default basket size at present is 128 kB, and the default minimum number of entries is 10.

One function relevant to TTree is `Fill()`. `Fill()` will loop over all of the branches in the TTree and compresses the baskets that make up the branch. This removes the basket

from memory as it is then compressed and written to disk. It makes reading back branches faster as all of the baskets are stored near each other on the same disk region. [23]

`AutoFlush` is a function that tells the `Fill()` function after a designated number of entries of the branch, in this case vectors, to flush all branch buffers from memory and save them to disk.

### 2.3 Derivation Production Jobs

A derivation production job takes AODs, which comes from the reconstruction step at  $\mathcal{O}(1 \text{ MB})$  per event, and creates a derived AOD (DAOD) which sits at  $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ kB})$  per event. Derivation production is a necessary step to make all data accessible for physicists doing analysis as well as reducing the amount of data that needs to be processed. While derivations are reduced AODs, they often contain additional information useful for analysis, such as jet collections and high-level discriminants.[24] Athena provides two types of output files from a derivation job, PHYS and PHYSLITE. Figure 2.1 shows the object composition of a PHYS and PHYSLITE  $t\bar{t}$  sample. PHYS output files, at 40.0 kB per event, is predomi-

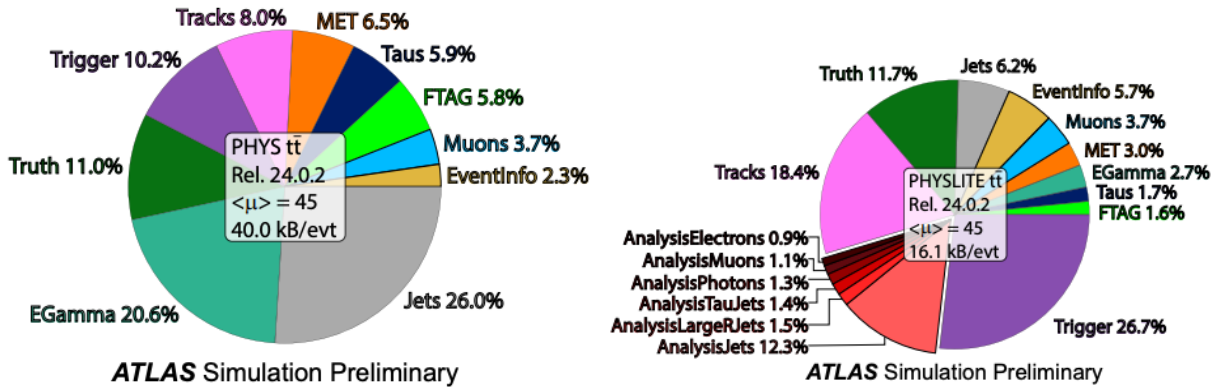


Figure 2.1: Object composition of a PHYS and PHYSLITE  $t\bar{t}$  sample from Run 3.

365 nantly made of jet collections, while PHYSLITE, at 16.1 kB per event, has more trigger and  
 366 track information. There is ongoing work to reduce the amount of Trigger information in  
 367 PHYSLITE which would help further reduce the file size saved to disk. PHYSLITE, being  
 368 the smallest file of the two, sees the largest effect upon attempts of optimization. These jobs  
 369 can demand heavy resource usage on the GRID, so optimization of the AOD/DAODs for  
 370 derivation jobs can be vital.

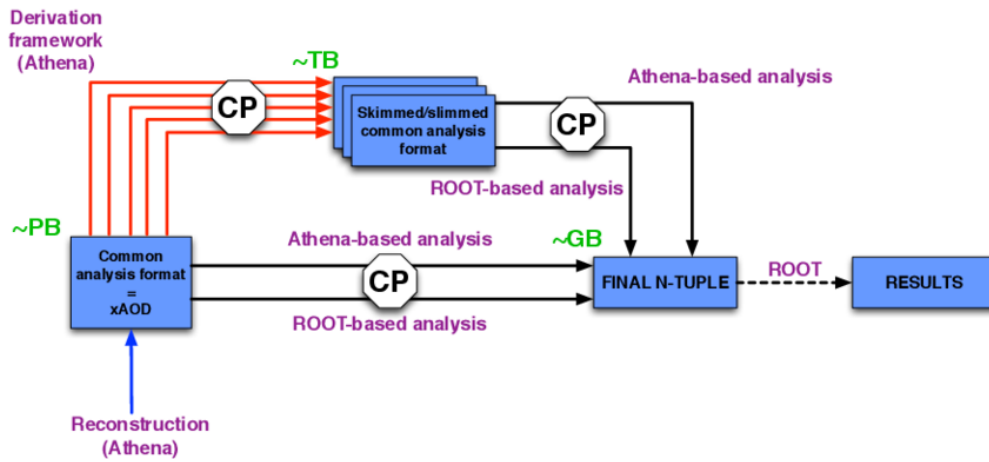


Figure 2.2: Derivation production from Reconstruction to Final N-Tuple[25]

371 The derivation framework is sequence of steps that are performed on the AODs to create  
 372 the DAODs. Skimming is the first step in the derivation framework, and it's responsible  
 373 for removing whole events based on pre-defined criteria. Thinning is the second step, and  
 374 it removes whole objects based on pre-defined criteria. Lastly slimming removes variables  
 375 from objects uniformly across events.

## 2.4 Event Data Models

377 An Event Data Model (EDM) is a collection of classes and their relationships to each  
 378 other that provide a representation of an event detected with the goal of making it easier



to use and manipulate by developers. An EDM is how particles and jets are represented in memory, stored to disk, and manipulated in analysis. It's useful to have an EDM because it brings a commonality to the code, which is useful when developers reside in different groups with various backgrounds. An EDM allows those developers to more easily debug and communicate issues when they arise.

#### 2.4.1 Transient/Persistent (T/P) EDM

One of the previous EDM schemas used by ATLAS concerned a dual transient/persistent status of AOD. With this EDM, the AOD was converted into an ntuple based format called D3PDs. While this conversion allowed for fast readability and partial read for efficient analysis in ROOT, it left the files disconnected from the reconstruction tools found in Athena.[26] When transient data was present in memory, it could have information attached to the object and gain in complexity the more it was used. Transient data needed to be simplified before it could become persistent into long-term storage (sent to disk). ROOT had trouble handling the complex inheritance models that would come up the more developers used this EDM. Before the successor to the T/P EDM was created, ATLAS physicists would convert data samples using the full EDM to a simpler one that would be directly readable by ROOT. This would lead to duplication of data and made it challenging to develop and maintain the analysis tools to be used on both the full EDM and the reduced ones. Additionally, converting from transient to persistent data was an excessive step which was eventually removed by the adoption of using an EDM that blends the two stages of data together, this was dubbed the xAOD EDM.

### 2.4.2 xAOD EDM

The xAOD EDM is the successor to the T/P EDM and brings a number of improvements. This EDM, unlike T/P, is usable both on Athena and ROOT. It's easier to pick up for analysis and reconstruction. The xAOD EDM has the ability to add and remove variables within an `ItemList` at runtime, specified in the CA script, these variables are “decorations.”

The xAOD EDM use two types of objects handle data, interface objects and payload objects. Interfaces act as an interface for the user to access the object but without its stored data. This differs from T/P where the user would have to load an object into memory to access the object. If the user wanted to delay the loading of data into memory, they could use the interface object to do so. The payload object contains the data for the interface object and is allocating contiguous blocks of memory. Payload classes are often referred to as auxiliary storage.

The specific data structure used by ATLAS is the ROOT TTree, but the EDM is agnostic to the type of data structure used. ATLAS specific libraries are not required to handle files written in the xAOD format since the payload can be read directly from the contiguous allocation of memory, a central tenent of the xAOD EDM. This allows for the separation of ATLAS specific analysis frameworks and the preferred analysis tool of the user. More information on how the xAOD EDM is deployed into unit tests in § 5.1.

## CHAPTER 3

### TOY MODEL BRANCH STUDY

Building a toy model for derivation production jobs offers a simplified framework to effectively simulate and analyze the behavior of real and Monte Carlo (MC) data under techniques of optimization aimed to study. One commonality between both data and MC is the data types stored in branches for both is made of a mixture between repeated integer-like data and randomized floating-point data. Integers are easier to compress than floating-point numbers, so adjusting the mixture of each can yield compression ratios closer to real and MC data. Replicating this mixture in a branch give us an effective model that resembles how current derivation jobs act on real and MC simulated data. These toy model mixtures provide an avenue to test opportunities for optimizing the memory and storage demands of the GRID by first looking at limiting basket sizes and their effects on compression of branches.

### 3.1 Toy Model Compression

#### 3.1.1 Random Float Branches

There were a number of iterations to the toy model, but the first was constructed by filling a TTree with branches that each have vectors with varying number of random floats to write and read. Vectors are used in this toy model, as opposed to arrays, because vectors are dynamically allocated and deallocated, which allows for more flexibility when synthesizing AODs. This original model had four distinct branches, each with a set number of events

438 (N=1000), and each event having a number of entries, vectors with 1, 10, 100, and 1000 floats  
 439 each.

440 The script can be compiled with `gcc` or `g++` and it requires all of the dependencies that  
 441 come with ROOT. Alternatively, the script can be run directly within ROOT.

442 The following function `VectorTree()` is the main function in this code. What is needed  
 443 first is an output file, which will be called `VectorTreeFile.root`, and the name of the tree  
 444 can simply be `myTree`. The toy model starts variable initialization with the total number of  
 445 events in the branch, i.e. the number of times a branch is filled with the specified numbers  
 446 per vectors, N. Additionally the branches have a number of floats per vector, this size will  
 447 need to be defined as `size_vec_0`, `size_vec_1`, etc. The actual vectors that are being stored  
 448 into each branch need to be defined as well as the temporary placeholder variable for our  
 449 randomized floats, `vec_tenX` and `float_X`, respectively.

```

450
451 1 void VectorTree() {
452 2     ...
453 3     const int N = 1e4; // N = 10000, number of events
454 4     // Set size of vectors with 10^# of random floats
455 5     int size_vec_0 = 1;
456 6     int size_vec_1 = 10;
457 7     int size_vec_2 = 100;
458 8     int size_vec_3 = 1000;
459 9
460 0     // vectors
461 1     std::vector<float> vec_ten0; // 10^0 = 1 entry
462 2     std::vector<float> vec_ten1; // 10^1 = 10 entries
463 3     std::vector<float> vec_ten2; // 10^2 = 100 entries
464 4     std::vector<float> vec_ten3; // 10^3 = 1000 entries
465 5
466 6     // variables

```

```

467.7 float float_0;
468.8 float float_1;
469.9 float float_2;
470.0 float float_3;
471.1 ...
472.2 }
473

```

474 From here, branches are initialized so each one knows where its vector pair resides in  
 475 memory.

```

476
477.1 void VectorTree() {
478.2 ...
479.3 // Initializing branches
480.4 std::cout << "creating branches" << std::endl;
481.5 tree->Branch("branch_of_vectors_size_one", &vec_ten0);
482.6 tree->Branch("branch_of_vectors_size_ten", &vec_ten1);
483.7 tree->Branch("branch_of_vectors_size_hundred", &vec_ten2);
484.8 tree->Branch("branch_of_vectors_size_thousand", &vec_ten3);
485.9 ...
486.0 }
487

```

488 One extra step taken during this phase of testing is the disabling of `AutoFlush`.

```

489
490.1 void VectorTree() {
491.2 ...
492.3 tree->SetAutoFlush(0);
493.4 ...
494

```

495 Disabling `AutoFlush` allows for more consistent compression across the various sizes of branch  
 496 baskets. The toy model needed this consistency more than the later tests as these early tests  
 497 were solely focused on mimicking data procured by the detector and event simulation. The  
 498 derivation production jobs tested in Chapter 4 were tested with `AutoFlush` enabled because

those tests are not as concerned with compression as they are with memory and disk usage. Following branch initialization comes the event loop where data is generated and emplaced into vectors.

```

502
503 1 void VectorTree() {
504 2     ...
505 3     // Events Loop
506 4     std::cout << "generating events..." << std::endl;
507 5     for (int j = 0; j < N; j++) {
508 6         // Clearing entries from previous iteration
509 7         vec_ten0.clear();
510 8         vec_ten1.clear();
511 9         vec_ten2.clear();
512 0         vec_ten3.clear();
513 1
514 2         // Generating vector elements, filling vectors
515 3         // Fill vec_ten0
516 4         // Contents of the vector:
517 5         //     {float_0}
518 6         //     Only one float of random value
519 7         float_0 = gRandom->Rndm() * 10; // Create random float value
520 8         vec_ten0.emplace_back(float_0); // Emplace float into vector
521 9
522 0         // Fill vec_ten1
523 1         // Contents of the vector:
524 2         //     {float_1_0, ... , float_1_10}
525 3         //     Ten floats, each float is random
526 4         for (int n = 0, n < size_vec_1; n++) {
527 5             float_1 = gRandom->Rndm() * 10;
528 6             vec_ten1.emplace_back(float_1);
529 7         }

```

```

5308
5319 // Do the same with vec_ten2 and vec_ten3, except for
5320 //      vectors with size 100 and 1000 respectively.
5331
5342 // After all branches are filled, fill the TTree with
5353 //      new branches
5364 tree->Fill();
5375 }
5386 // Saving tree and file
5397 tree->Write();
5408 ...
5419 }
542

```

543 Once the branches were filled, ROOT then will loop over each of the branches in the TTree  
 544 and at regular intervals will remove the baskets from memory, compress, and write the  
 545 baskets to disk (flushed), as was discussed in Section §2.2.

546 As illustrated, the TTree is written to the file which allows for the last steps within this  
 547 script.

```

548
549 1 void VectorTree() {
550 2     ...
551 3
552 4 // Look in the tree
553 5 tree->Scan();
554 6 tree->Print();
555 7
556 8 myFile->Save();
557 9 myFile->Close();
558 0 }
559 1
560 2 int main() {

```

```

561 3   VectorTree();
562 4   return 0;
563 5   }
564

```

565 Upon reading back the ROOT file, the user can view the original size of the file (Total-  
 566 file-size), the compressed file size (File-size), the ratio between Total-file-size and File-size  
 567 (Compression Factor), the number of baskets per branch, the basket size, and other infor-  
 568 mation. Filling vectors with entirely random values was believed to yield compression ratios  
 569 close to real data, but the results in Figure 3.1 show changes needed to be made to bring  
 570 the branches closer to a compression ratio of  $\mathcal{O}(5)$ . It is evident that branches containing  
 571 vectors with purely random floats are more difficult to compress due to the high level of  
 572 randomization.

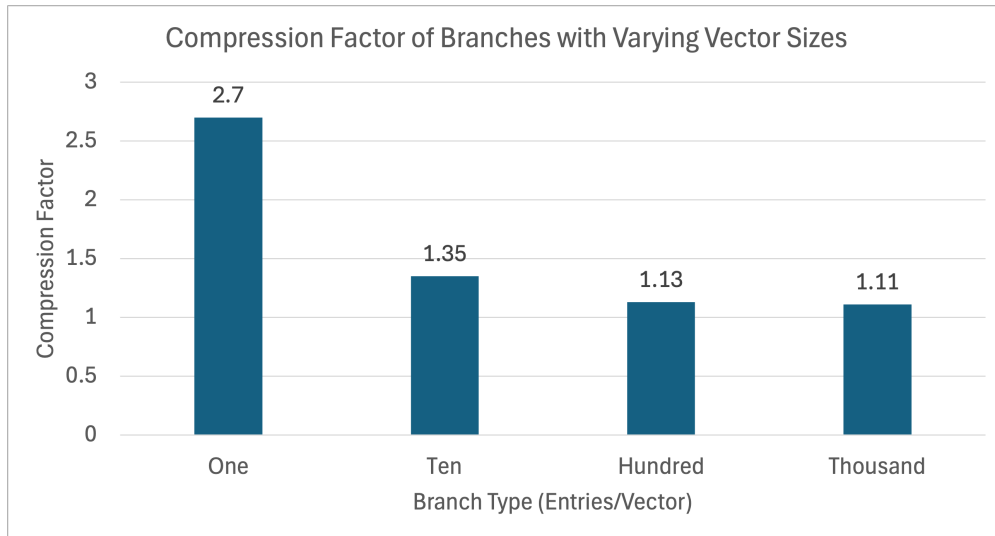


Figure 3.1: Compression factors of  $N = 1000$  entries per branch with random-valued vectors of varying size.

573 Figure 3.1 shows compression drop-off as the branches with more randomized floats per  
 574 vector were present. This is the leading indication that there needs to be more compressible  
 575 data within the branches.



### 3.1.2 Mixed-Random Float Branches

The branches needed to have some balance between compressible and incompressible data to mimic the compression ratio found in real data. How this was achieved was by filling each vector with different ratios of random floats and repeating integers, which will now be described in detail.

The first change was increasing the total number of events per branch from  $N = 10^4$  to  $N = 10^5$ . Mixing of random floats and repeated integer values takes the same script structure as Section § 3.1.1 but adjusts the event generation loop.

```

void VectorTree() {
    ...
    // Events Loop
    for (int j = 0; j < N; j++) {
        // Clearing entries from previous iteration
        vec_ten0.clear();
        vec_ten1.clear();
        vec_ten2.clear();
        vec_ten3.clear();

        // Generating vector elements, filling vectors
        // Generating vec_ten0
        // Contents of the vector:
        //     {float_0}
        //     Only one float of random value
        // And since there's only one entry, we don't mix the entries.
        float_0 = gRandom->Gaus(0, 1) * gRandom->Rndm();
        vec_ten0.emplace_back(float_0);
    }
}

```

```

6051 // Generating vec_ten1
6062 // Contents of the vector:
6073 // {float_1_0, float_1_1, float_1_2, float_1_3, float_1_4, 1,
608 1, 1, 1, 1}
6094 // 5 floats of random values, 5 integers of value 1.
6105 for (int b = 0; b < size_vec_1; b++) {
6116     if (b < size_vec_1 / 2) {
6127         float_1 = gRandom->Rndm() * gRandom->Gaus(0, 1);
6138         vec_ten1.emplace_back(float_1);
6149     } else {
6150         float_1 = 1;
6161         vec_ten1.emplace_back(float_1);
6172     }
6183 }
6194
6205 // Do the same with vec_ten2 and vec_ten3, except for
6216 // vectors with size 100 and 1000 respectively.
6227
6238
6249 // After all branches are filled, fill the TTree with
6250 // new branches
6261 tree->Fill();
6272 }
6283 // Saving tree and file
6294 tree->Write();
6305 ...
6316 }
632

```

633 As shown in the if-statements in lines 14, 25, 36 and 47, if the iterator was less than half  
634 of the total number of entries in the vector then that entry had a randomized float put in  
635 that spot in the vector, otherwise it would be filled with the integer 1. Having a mixture of

half random floats and half integer 1 led to the larger branches still seeing poor compression, so a new mixture of 1/4 random data was introduced. Even though  $N = 10^5$  had the larger branches closer to the desired compression ratio, testing at  $N = 10^6$  events improves the accuracy of the overall file size to more closely resemble real data.

Figure 3.2 shows the difference between compression between the two mixtures at  $N = 10^6$  events. When the number of events is increased from  $N = 10^5$  to  $N = 10^6$ , at the 1/2 random-mixture, the branches with more than one entry per vector see their compression factor worsen. Figure 3.3 shows a compression ratio hovering around 3 for the larger branches, whereas Figure 3.2 shows the same branches hovering around 2.

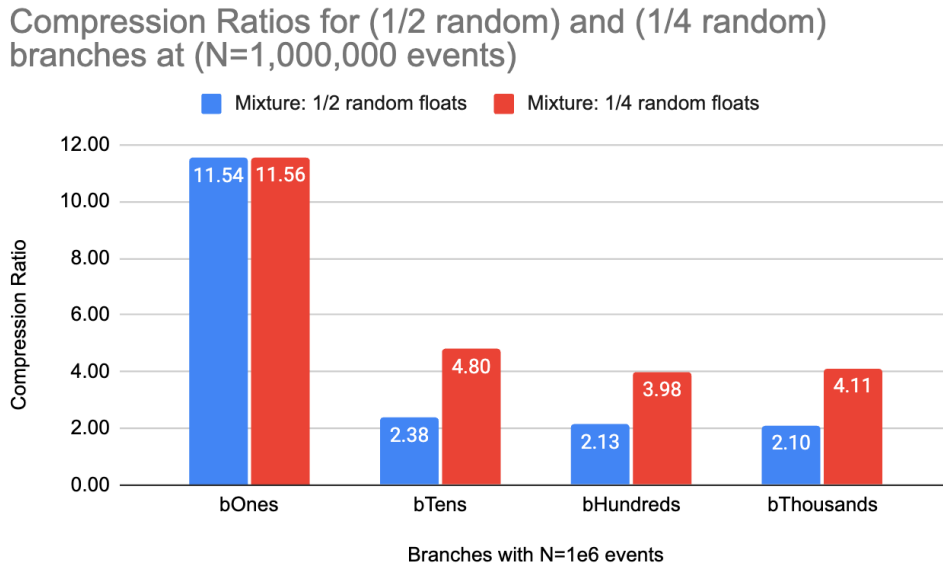


Figure 3.2: Compression Ratios for ( $\frac{1}{2}$  random) and ( $\frac{1}{4}$  random) branches at ( $N = 10^6$  events)

Unlike the mixture of branches having 1/2 random data, the 1/4 mixture does not see the same compression effect, but with this mixture we see a compression ratio that is in-line with real data. This is inline with expectation, more repeated integers within the mixture makes the branch more compressible, and the more random floats in the mixture will make

Compression Ratios for (1/2 random) and (1/4 random) branches at (N=100,000 events)

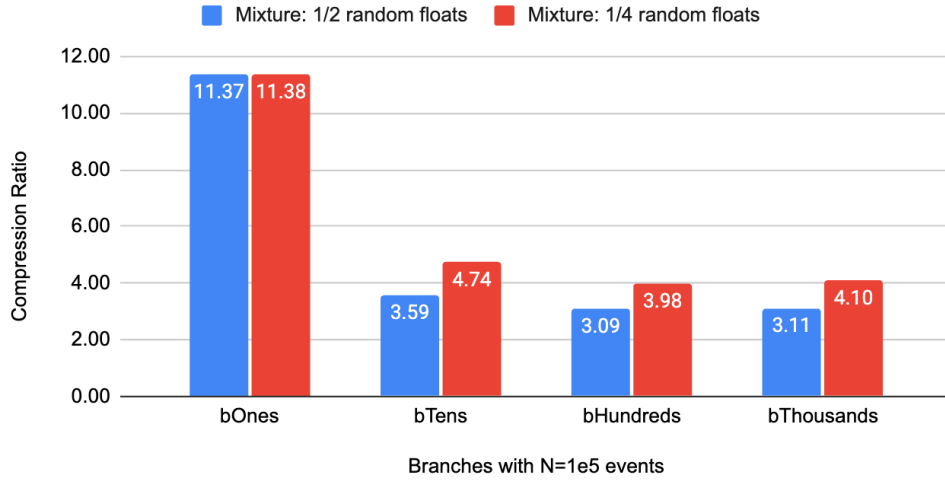


Figure 3.3: Compression Ratios for ( $\frac{1}{2}$  random) and ( $\frac{1}{4}$  random) branches at ( $N = 10^5$  events)

the branch more difficult to compress. With these mixtures added to the toy model, we can start looking at varying the basket sizes to see how they affect compression.

### 3.2 Basket-Size Investigation

Investigating how compression is affected by the basket size requires us to change the basket size, refill the branch and read it out. Changing the basket buffer size was done at the script level with a simple setting after the branch initialization and before the event loop the following code:

```
int basketSize = 8192000; // 8 MB
tree->SetBasketSize("?", basketSize);
```

This ROOT-level setting was sufficient for the case of the toy model; testing of the basket size setting both at the ROOT- and Athena-level would be done later using derivation production

662 jobs in Section §4.1. The lower bound set for the basket size was 1 kB and the upper bound  
 663 was 16 MB. The first branch looked at closely was the branch with a thousand vectors with  
 664 half of them being random floats, see Figure 3.4.

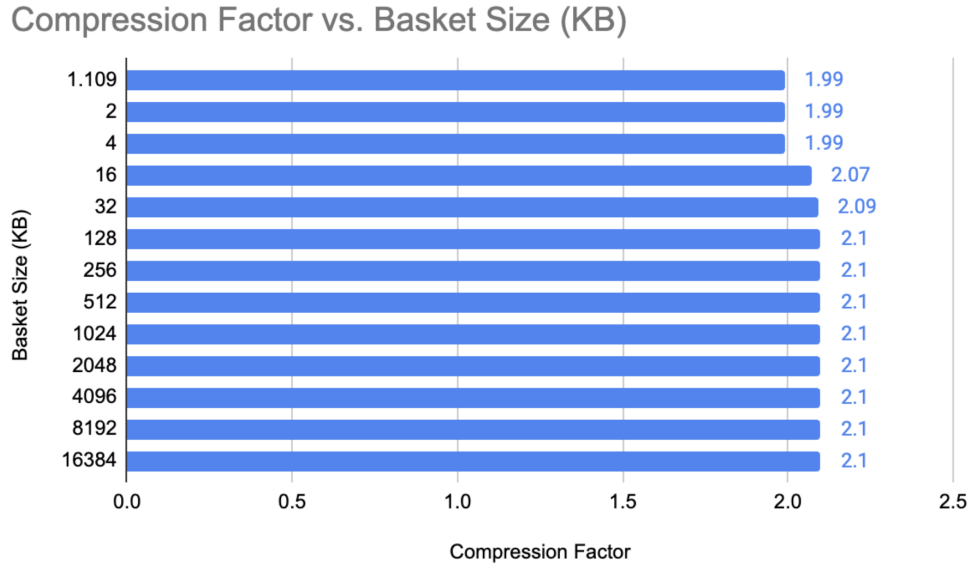


Figure 3.4: Compression Factors vs Branch Size (1000 entries per vector, 1/2 Mixture  $N = 10^6$  events)

665 Figures 3.4 and 3.5 are the first indication that the lower basket sizes are too small to  
 666 effectively compress the data. For baskets smaller than 16 kB, it is necessary to have as  
 667 many baskets as events to store all the data effectively. For a mixed-content vector with one  
 668 thousand entries, containing 500 floats and 500 integers (both are 4 bytes each), its size is  
 669 approximately 4 kB. ROOT creates baskets of at least the size of the smallest branch entry,  
 670 in this case the size of a single vector. So even though the basket size was set to 1 or 2 kB,  
 671 ROOT created baskets of 4 kB. These baskets  $\leq 4$  kB have a significantly worse compression  
 672 than the baskets  $\geq 4$  kB in size, so the focus was shifted toward baskets. Once the basket  
 673 size is larger than the size of a single vector, more than one vector can be stored in a single  
 674 basket and the total number of baskets is reduced.

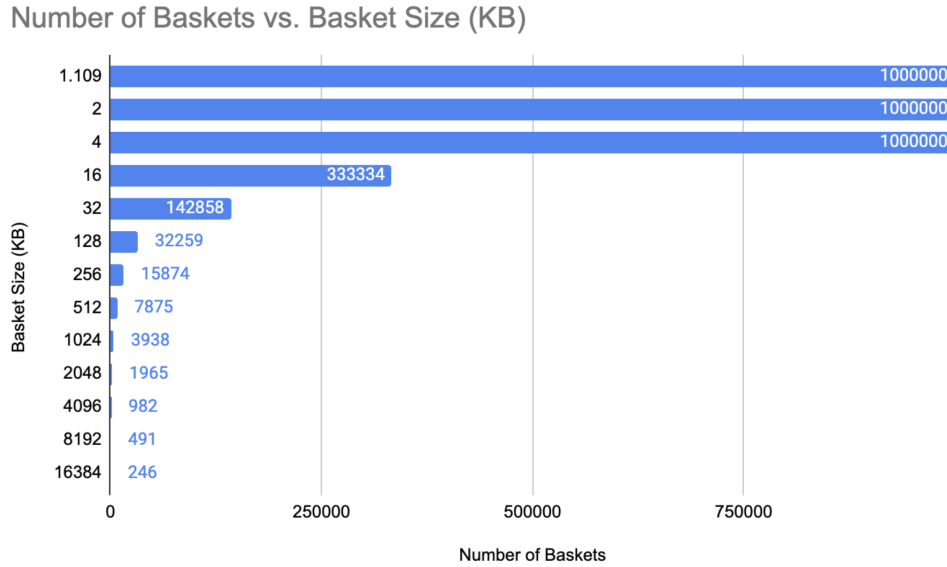


Figure 3.5: Number of Baskets vs Branch Size (1000 entries per vector, 1/2 Mixture  $N = 10^6$  events)

There were different types of configuration to the toy model investigated by this study. Looking further into the types of mixtures and how they would affect compression are shown in Figures 3.6 and 3.7. Here the same mixtures were used but the precision of the floating point numbers was decreased from the standard 32 floating-point precision to 16 and 8, making compression easier.

Each of these sets of tests indicate that after a certain basket size, i.e. 128 kB, there is no significant increase in compression. Having an effective compression at 128 kB, it's useful to stick to that basket size to keep memory usage down. Knowing that increasing the basket size beyond 128 kB yields diminishing returns, it's worth moving onto the next phase of testing with actual derivation production jobs.

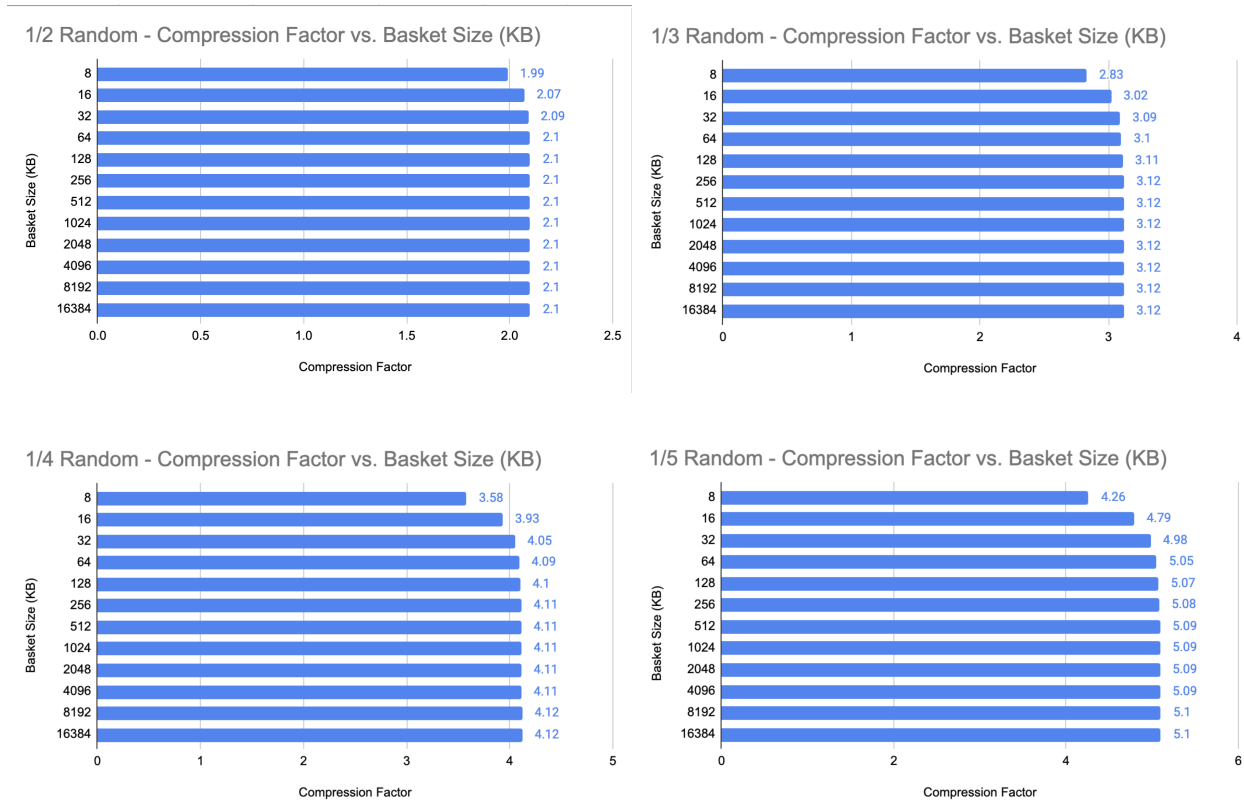


Figure 3.6: Varying Mixtures in 8 point precision - Number of Baskets vs Branch Size ( $N = 10^6$  events)

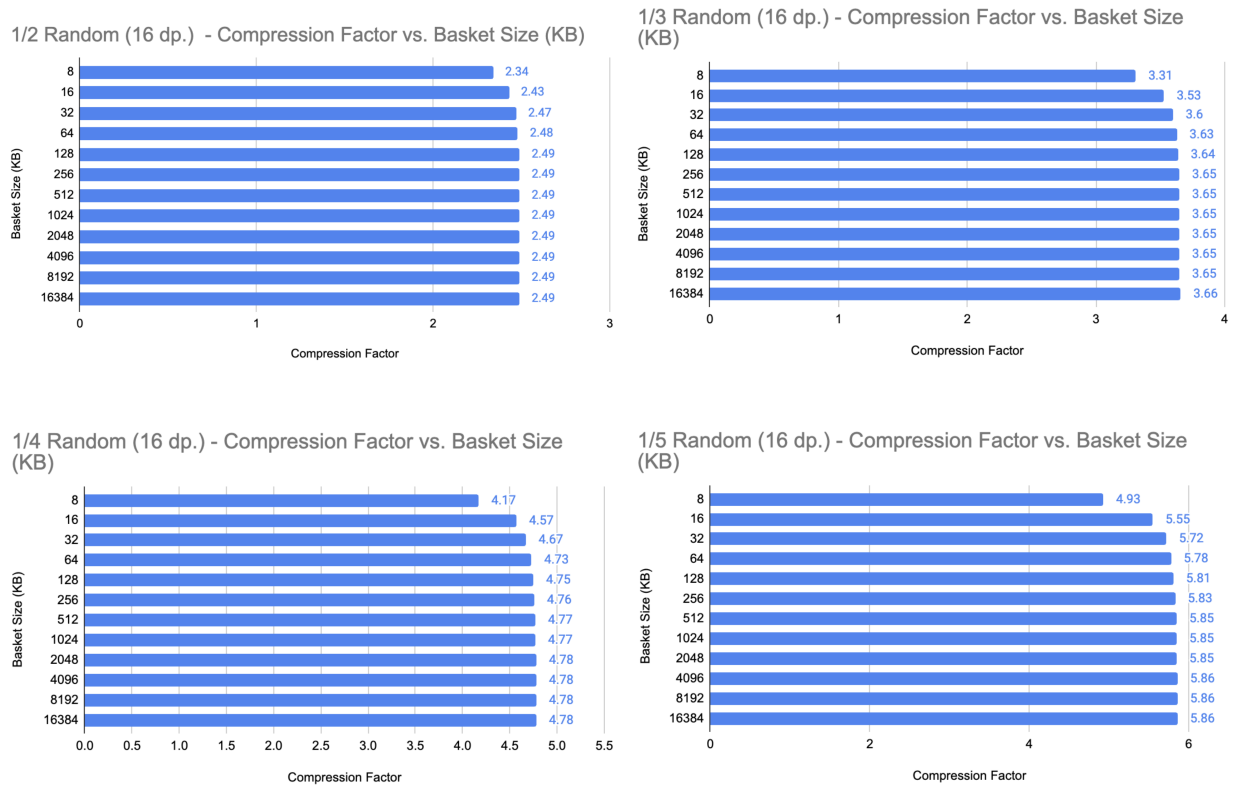


Figure 3.7: Varying Mixtures in 16 point precision - Number of Baskets vs Branch Size ( $N = 10^6$  events)



## CHAPTER 4

### DATA AND MONTE CARLO DERIVATION PRODUCTION

Derivation production demands high memory usage, and DAODs make up a bulk of disk-space usage. DAODs are used in physics analyses and ought to be optimized to alleviate stress on the GRID and to lower disk-space usage. Optimizing both disk-space and memory usage is a tricky balance as they are typically at odds with one another. For example, increasing memory output memory buffers results in lower disk-space usage due to better compression but the memory usage will increase since the user will load a larger buffer into memory. This project opted to take is by optimizing for disk-space and memory by testing various basket limits and viewing the effects of the branches on both data and Monte Carlo (MC) simulated analysis object data (AODs).

#### 4.1 Basket-size Configuration

As the toy model ruled out, the focus here was on optimizing Athena and not ROOTs contribution for optimization. The initial focus was on the inclusion of a minimum number of entries per buffer and the maximum basket buffer limit. The AthenaPOOL script directly involved with these buffer settings is the `PoolWriteConfig.py` found in the path `athena/Database/AthenaPOOL/AthenaPoolCnvSvc/python/`. As discussed in Section §4.2, further testing opted to keep the minimum number of entries set to its default setting, 10 entries per buffer.

Throughout the duration of this testing, the results of compression or file size are independent of any changes to the release or the nightly version of Athena. The data derivation

job comes from a 2022 dataset with four input files and 160,327 events. The MC job comes from a 2023  $t\bar{t}$  standard sample simulation job with six input files and 140,000 events. The datasets are noted in Appendix A.1.

#### 4.1.1 Derivation Job Command

To run a derivation job, AODs need to be downloaded by a data-management service, such as Rucio, to a user's local machine. Rucio is the data-management solution used for this project to procure the various AOD input files used for the derivation jobs. The machine running the Rucio client will need to have a valid proxy added for Rucio to run correctly. A sample command would look like:

```
rucio download data22_13p6TeV:AOD.31407809._000898.pool.root.1
```

This downloads the AOD file from Rucio and saves it to the user's local directory.

The command used by Athena to run a derivation job takes the form of the following example:

```
ATHENA_CORE_NUMBER=4 Derivation_tf.py \
--CA True \
--inputAODFile mc23_13p6TeV.601229.Phy8EG_A14_ttbar_hdamp258p75_SingleLep
.merge.AOD.e8514_e8528_s4162_s4114_r14622_r14663/AOD.33799166._001224.
pool.root.1 \
--outputAODFile art.pool.root \
--formats PHYSLITE \
--maxEvents 2000 \
--sharedWriter True \
--multiprocess True ;
```

Where Athena allows one to specify the number of cores to use with the `ATHENA_CORE_NUMBER` environment variable. `Derivation_tf.py` is a script that runs the derivation job and is part of the Athena release. The `--inputAODFile` is the input file for the derivation job, in this case an AOD file. The user can specify multiple input files at a time by enclosing the input files in quotes and separating each file with a comma, like the following:

```
--inputAODFile="AOD.A.pool.root.1,AOD.B.pool.root.1,AOD.C.pool.root.1,
AOD.D.pool.root.1"
```

The `--outputDAODFile` is the output file for the derivation job, in this case a DAOD file. The `--formats PHYSLITE` flag allows the job to use the PHYSLITE format for the DAOD. Here is where the user may choose to include PHYS or PHYSLITE simply by inclusion of one or both. The `--maxEvents` flag allows one to specify the maximum number of events to run the job on. The `--sharedWriter True` flag allows the job to utilize SharedWriter. The `--multiprocess True` flag allows the job to use AthenaMP tools.

The input files for both data and MC jobs were ran with various configurations of Athena by modifying the basket buffer limit. The four configurations tested all kept minimum number of basket buffer entries at 10 and modified the basket limitation in the following ways:

1. “*default*” - Athena’s default setting, and basket limit of 128 kB
2. “*256k*” - Limit basket buffer to 256 kB
3. “*512k*” - Limit basket buffer to 512 kB
4. “*no-lim*” - Removing the Athena basket limit, the ROOT imposed 1.3 MB limit still remains

## 4.2 Results

### 4.2.1 Presence of basket-cap and presence of minimum number of entries

The first batch testing was for data and MC simulation derivation production jobs with and without presence of an upper limit to the basket size and presence of the minimum number of basket buffer entries. PHYSLITE MC derivation production, from Table 4.2, sees a 9.9% increase in output file size when compared to the default Athena configuration. Since this configuration only differs by the omission of the “min-number-entries” requirement, we assume the minimum number of basket buffer entries should be kept at 10 and left alone. Table 4.2 also shows the potential for a PHYSLITE MC DAOD output file size reduction by eliminating our upper basket buffer limit altogether.

Presence of features (Data)	Max PSS (MB) ( $\Delta\%$ default)	PHYS outFS (GB) ( $\Delta\%$ )	PHYSLITE outFS (GB) ( $\Delta\%$ )
basket-cap, min-num-entries (default)	27.1 ( + 0.0 %)	3.22 ( + 0.0 %)	1.03 ( + 0.0 %)
<del>basket-cap min-num-entries</del>	27.8 ( + 2.5 %)	3.22 ( + 0.2 %)	1.04 ( + 0.2 %)
<del>basket-cap min-num-entries</del>	27.8 ( + 2.5 %)	3.22 ( - 0.0 %)	1.03 ( - 0.4 %)
basket-cap, <del>min-num-entries</del>	27.3 ( + 0.7 %)	3.22 ( + 0.2 %)	1.04 ( + 0.7 %)

Table 4.1: Comparing the maximum proportional set size (PSS) and PHYS/PHYSLITE output file sizes (outFS) for data jobs while varying the presence of features in Athena PoolWriteConfig.py for 160327 entries.

Presence of features (MC)	Max PSS (MB) ( $\Delta\%$ default)	PHYS outFS (GB) ( $\Delta\%$ )	PHYSLITE outFS (GB) ( $\Delta\%$ )
basket-cap, min-num-entries (default)	14.1 ( + 0.0 %)	5.8 ( + 0.0 %)	2.6 ( + 0.0 %)
<del>basket-cap min-num-entries</del>	16.1 ( + 12.1 %)	6.0 ( + 2.9 %)	2.7 ( + 5.1 %)
<del>basket-cap min-num-entries</del>	16.0 ( + 11.5 %)	5.7 ( - 2.8 %)	2.5 ( - 5.6 %)
basket-cap, <del>min-num-entries</del>	14.2 ( + 0.4 %)	6.2 ( + 5.4 %)	2.9 ( + 9.9 %)

Table 4.2: Comparing the maximum proportional set size (PSS) and PHYS/PHYSLITE output file sizes (outFS) for MC jobs while varying the presence of features in Athena PoolWriteConfig.py for 140000 entries.

## 4.2.2 Comparing different basket sizes

Pre-existing derivation jobs were ran for data and MC simulations to compare between configurations of differing basket sizes limits. The results for this set of testing are found from Table 4.3 through Table 4.4. The following tables are the DAOD output-file sizes of the various Athena configurations for PHYS/PHYSLITE over their respective data/MC AOD input files.

Athena Confgs (Data)	Max PSS (MB) ( $\Delta\%$ default)	PHYS outFS (GB) ( $\Delta\%$ )	PHYSLITE outFS (GB) ( $\Delta\%$ )
(default)	27.9 ( + 0.0 %)	3.3 ( + 0.0 %)	1.0 ( + 0.0 %)
256k_basket	28.2 ( + 1.3 %)	3.3 ( - 0.1 %)	1.0 ( - 0.3 %)
512k_basket	28.5 ( + 2.2 %)	3.3 ( + 0.0 %)	1.0 ( - 0.3 %)
1.3 MB (ROOT MAX)	28.6 ( + 2.7 %)	3.3 ( - 0.1 %)	1.0 ( - 0.3 %)

Table 4.3: Comparing the maximum proportional set size (PSS) and PHYS/PHYSLITE output file sizes (outFS) for Data jobs over various Athena configurations for 160327 entries.

Athena Confgs (Data)	Max PSS (MB) ( $\Delta\%$ default)	PHYS outFS (GB) ( $\Delta\%$ )	PHYSLITE outFS (GB) ( $\Delta\%$ )
(default)	15.0 ( + 0.0 %)	5.9 ( + 0.0 %)	2.6 ( + 0.0 %)
256k_basket	15.3 ( + 1.9 %)	5.8 ( - 1.4 %)	2.5 ( - 3.1 %)
512k_basket	16.4 ( + 8.6 %)	5.7 ( - 2.5 %)	2.5 ( - 5.1 %)
1.3 MB (ROOT MAX)	16.9 ( + 11.3 %)	5.7 ( - 2.8 %)	2.5 ( - 5.6 %)

Table 4.4: Comparing the maximum proportional set size (PSS) and PHYS/PHYSLITE output file sizes (outFS) for MC jobs over various Athena configurations for 140000 entries.

“Max PSS” refers to the maximum proportional set size, which is the maximum memory usage of the job. Table 4.3 tells us that with this  $t\bar{t}$  data sample, there are marginal changes in both the memory usage for the job and the output file size of the DAODs. Whereas Table 4.4 shows a much more drastic change, with a 5.6% reduction in output file size for the MC PHYSLITE DAOD when compared to the default Athena configuration. While there’s a 5.6% reduction in output file size for the MC PHYSLITE DAOD, there’s also a 11.3% increase in memory usage.

### 4.2.3 Monte Carlo PHYSLITE branch comparison

Derivation production jobs work with initially large, memory-consuming branches, compressing them to a reduced size. These derivation jobs are memory intensive because they first have to load the uncompressed branches into readily-accessed memory. Once they're loaded, only then are they able to be compressed. The compression factor is the ratio of pre-derivation branch size (Total-file-size) to post-derivation branch size (Compressed-file-size). The compressed file size is the size of the branch that is permanently saved into the DAOD.

Branches with highly repetitive data are better compressed than non-repetitive data, leading to high compression factors—the initial size of the branch contains more data than it needs pre-derivation. If pre-derivation branches are larger than necessary, there should be an opportunity to save memory usage during the derivation job.

The following tables look into some highly compressible branches that might lead to areas where simulation might save some space.

Athena v24.0.16 (default) MC branch	Branch size (kB)	Total-file-size (MB)	Compressed-file-size (MB)	Compression factor
PrimaryVerticesAuxDyn.trackParticleLinks	128	2146.2	24.0	89.4
HardScatterVerticesAuxDyn.incomingParticleLinks	128	118.5	1.7	71.6
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColNames	128	784.0	11.9	65.7
HardScatterVerticesAuxDyn.outgoingParticleLinks	128	108.6	1.9	58.7
TruthBosonsWithDecayVerticesAuxDyn.incomingParticleLinks	96	31.6	0.7	43.5
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColClids	128	390.6	10.7	36.6
AnalysisTauJetsAuxDyn.tauTrackLinks	128	75.0	2.0	36.6
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColKeys	128	390.6	11.7	33.4
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.GhostTrack	128	413.8	13.1	31.5
TruthBosonsWithDecayVerticesAuxDyn.outgoingParticleLinks	83.5	27.3	0.9	31.0

Table 4.5: Top 10 branches sorted by compression factor, MC PHYSLITE [Athena v24.0.16 default configuration.]

An immediate observation: with the omission of the Athena basket limit (solely relying on ROOTs 1.3MB basket limit), the compression factor increases. This is inline with the original expectation that an increased buffer size limit correlate to better compression. *PrimaryVerticesAuxDyn.trackParticleLinks* is a branch where, among each configuration of Athena MC derivation, has the highest compression factor of any branch in this dataset.

Athena v24.0.16 (no-lim) MC branch	Branch size (kB)	Total-file-size (MB)	Compressed-file-size (MB)	Compression factor
PrimaryVerticesAuxDyn.trackParticleLinks	1293.5	2145.5	22.9	93.5
HardScatterVerticesAuxDyn.incomingParticleLinks	693.0	118.5	1.3	90.1
HardScatterVerticesAuxDyn.outgoingParticleLinks	635.5	108.5	1.5	74.0
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColNames	1293.5	783.5	11.9	65.8
TruthBosonsWithDecayVerticesAuxDyn.incomingParticleLinks	96.0	31.6	0.7	43.5
AnalysisTauJetsAuxDyn.tauTrackLinks	447.0	74.9	1.9	39.2
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColClids	1293.5	390.3	11.0	35.5
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColKeys	1293.5	390.3	11.3	34.5
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.GhostTrack	1293.5	413.5	13.0	31.9
TruthBosonsWithDecayVerticesAuxDyn.outgoingParticleLinks	83.5	27.3	0.9	31.0

Table 4.6: Top 10 branches sorted by compression factor, MC PHYSLITE [Athena v24.0.16 without limit to the basket buffer.]

Athena v24.0.16 (default) MC branch	Branch size (kB)	Total-file-size (MB)	Compressed-file-size (MB)	Compression factor
PrimaryVerticesAuxDyn.trackParticleLinks	128	2146.2	24.0	89.4
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColNames	128	784.0	11.9	65.7
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.GhostTrack	128	413.8	13.1	31.5
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColClids	128	390.6	10.7	36.6
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColKeys	128	390.6	11.7	33.4
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.SumPtChargedPFOPt500	128	148.9	7.3	20.5
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.NumTrkPt1000	128	148.8	8.7	17.2
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.NumTrkPt500	128	148.8	11.9	12.5
HardScatterVerticesAuxDyn.incomingParticleLinks	128	118.5	1.7	71.6
AnalysisLargeRJetsAuxDyn.constituentLinks	128	111.5	7.1	15.8

Table 4.7: Top 10 branches sorted by total file size in bytes, MC PHYSLITE [Athena v24.0.16 default configuration.]

Athena v24.0.16 (no-lim) MC branch	Branch size (kB)	Total-file-size (MB)	Compressed-file-size (MB)	Compression factor
PrimaryVerticesAuxDyn.trackParticleLinks	1293.5	2145.5	22.9	93.6
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColNames	1293.5	783.5	11.9	65.8
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.GhostTrack	1293.5	413.5	13.0	31.9
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColClids	1293.5	390.3	11.0	35.5
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColKeys	1293.5	390.3	11.3	34.5
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.SumPtChargedPFOPt500	905.5	148.8	6.8	21.9
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.NumTrkPt1000	905	148.8	8.5	17.6
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.NumTrkPt500	905	148.8	11.8	12.6
HardScatterVerticesAuxDyn.incomingParticleLinks	693	118.5	1.3	90.2
AnalysisLargeRJetsAuxDyn.constituentLinks	950.5	111.4	6.4	17.4

Table 4.8: Top 10 branches sorted by total file size in bytes, MC PHYSLITE [Athena v24.0.16 without limit to the basket buffer.]

Athena v24.0.16 (default) MC branch	Branch size (kB)	Total-file-size (MB)	Compressed-file-size (MB)	Compression factor
PrimaryVerticesAuxDyn.trackParticleLinks	128	2146.2	24.0	89.4
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.GhostTrack	128	413.8	13.1	31.5
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.NumTrkPt500	128	148.8	11.9	12.5
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColNames	128	784.0	11.9	65.7
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColKeys	128	390.6	11.7	33.4
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColClids	128	390.6	10.7	36.6
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.NumTrkPt1000	128	148.8	8.7	17.2
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.SumPtChargedPFOPt500	128	148.9	7.3	20.5
AnalysisLargeRJetsAuxDyn.constituentLinks	128	111.5	7.1	15.8
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.name	128	80.8	4.4	18.4

Table 4.9: Top 10 branches sorted by compressed file size in bytes, MC PHYSLITE [Athena v24.0.16 default configuration.]

Athena v24.0.16 (no-lim) MC branch	Branch size (kB)	Total-file-size (MB)	Compressed-file-size (MB)	Compression factor
PrimaryVerticesAuxDyn.trackParticleLinks	1293.5	2145.5	22.9	93.5
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.GhostTrack	1293.5	413.5	13.0	31.9
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColNames	1293.5	783.5	11.9	65.8
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.NumTrkPt500	905	148.8	11.8	12.6
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColKeys	1293.5	390.3	11.3	34.5
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColClids	1293.5	390.3	11.0	35.5
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.NumTrkPt1000	905	148.8	8.5	17.6
AnalysisJetsAuxDyn.SumPtChargedPFOPt500	905.5	148.8	6.8	21.9
AnalysisLargeRJetsAuxDyn.constituentLinks	950.5	111.4	6.4	17.4
HLTNav_Summary_DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.name	242	80.8	4.5	18.0

Table 4.10: Top 10 branches sorted by compressed file size in bytes, MC PHYSLITE [Athena v24.0.16 without limit to the basket buffer.]

Some branches, like *HLTNav Summary DAODSlimmedAuxDyn.linkColNames* show highly compressible behavior and are consistent with the other job configurations (data, MC, PHYS, and PHYSLITE). Further work could investigate these branches for further areas of optimization for long term storage and better memory usage during derivation.

### 4.3 Conclusion to derivation job optimization

Initially, limiting the basket buffer size looked appealing; after the 128 kB basket buffer size limit was set, the compression ratio would begin to plateau, increasing the memory-usage without saving much in disk-usage. The optimal balance is met with the setting of 128 kB basket buffers for derivation production.

Instead, by removing the upper limit of the basket size, a greater decrease in DAOD output file size is achieved. The largest decrease in file size came from the PHYSLITE MC derivation jobs without setting an upper limit to the basket buffer size. While similar decreases in file size appear for derivation jobs using data, it is not as apparent for data as it is for MC jobs. With the removal of an upper-limit to the basket size, ATLAS stands to gain a 5% decrease for PHYSLITE MC DAOD output file sizes, but an 11 – 12% increase in memory usage could prove a heavy burden (See Tables 4.2 and 4.4).



815 By looking at the branches per configuration, specifically in MC PHYSLITE output  
 816 DAOD, highly compressible branches emerge. The branches inside the MC PHYSLITE  
 817 DAOD are suboptimal as they do not conserve disk space; instead, they consume mem-  
 818 ory inefficiently. As seen from Table 4.5 through 4.10, we have plenty of branches in MC  
 819 PHYSLITE that are seemingly empty—as indicated by the compression factor being  $\mathcal{O}(10)$ .  
 820 Reviewing and optimizing the branch data could further reduce GRID load during DAOD  
 821 production by reducing the increased memory-usage while keeping the effects of decreased  
 822 disk-space.

## CHAPTER 5

### MODERNIZING I/O CI UNIT-TESTS

Athena uses a number of unit tests during the development lifecycle to ensure core I/O functionality does not break. Many of the I/O tests were originally created for the old EDM and haven't been updated to test the xAOD EDMs core I/O functions. The new software developed in this project takes in track information from a unit test using the T/P EDM, writes the data into an example xAOD object to file and reads it back.

#### 5.1 xAOD Test Object

The object used to employ the new unit test is the `xAOD::ExampleElectron` object, where the `xAOD::` is a declaration of the namespace and simply identifies the object as an xAOD object. An individual `ExampleElectron` object only has a few parameters for sake of testing, its transverse momentum, `pt`, and its charge, `charge`. A collection of `ExampleElectron` objects are stored in the `ExampleElectronContainer` object, which is just a `DataVector` of `ExampleElectron` objects.[27] This `DataVector<xAOD::ExampleElectron>` acts similar to a `std::vector<xAOD::ExampleElectron>`, but has additional code to handle the separation of interface and auxiliary data storage.

The xAOD EDM uses an abstract interface connecting between the `DataVector` and the auxiliary data, this is the `IAuxStore`. The function `setStore` is responsible for ensuring the auxiliary data store is matched with it's corresponding `DataVector`. Another feature to the xAOD EDM is the ability to have a dynamic store of auxiliary data. This separates the auxiliary data between static and dynamic data stores. Where the static data stores

comprise known variables, the dynamic counterpart stores data of variables not declared but that still might be needed by the user. Figure 5.1 illustrates how a simple setup of storing a `DataVector` of electrons that hold some specific parameters into one `IAuxStore` while also having a separate `IAuxStore` specifically for the dynamic attributes.

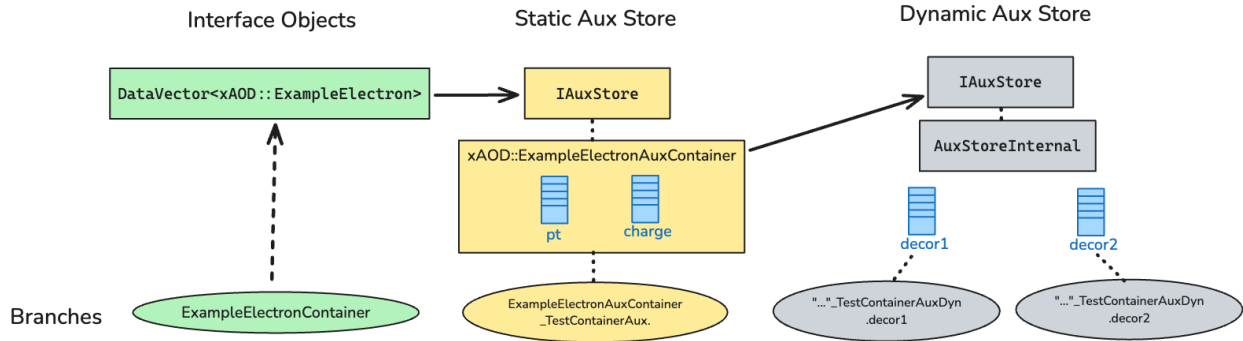


Figure 5.1: The framework between interface objects and the static/dynamic auxiliary data store for a collection of `xAOD::ExampleElectrons`.

## 5.2 Unit Tests

Unit tests are programs that act as a catch during the continuous integration of a codebase and test features that need to remain functional. Athena has a number of unit tests that check every merge request and nightly build for issues in the new code that could break core functionality, either at the level of Athena, ROOT, or any other software in the LCG stack. With the adoption of the xAOD EDM, there were no unit tests to cover core I/O functionality related to this new EDM.

Specifically there were no unit tests to handle selection of dynamic attributes, or decorations, on xAOD objects created during writing and read back. To address this, a new xAOD test object needed to be created and written during a new unit test that fit into the existing unit tests. The list of `AthenaPoolExample` unit tests that are currently executed

859 during a nightly build can be found in Table 5.1. These tests are executed in this order, as  
 860 the objects created in one might be used in proceeding test.

Unit Test	Employed Algorithms
Write	WriteData
ReadWrite	ReadData
Read	ReadData
Copy	None
ReadWriteNext	ReadData, ReWriteData
WritexAODElectron	ReadData, WriteExampleElectron
ReadxAODElectron	ReadExampleElectron

Table 5.1: List of unit tests in the AthenaPoolExample package that are currently executed during a nightly build.

861 The mechanism for passing a unit test is done automatically by building the framework,  
 862 running the unit tests, and comparing the diff of the output file to the unit test with a  
 863 reference file associated with that particular unit test. If the unit test passes, then the diff,  
 864 a product of the `git diff` command, will be empty and the unit test will be marked as  
 865 passing. Conversely, if the unit test fails, then the diff will be non-empty and the unit test  
 866 will be marked as failing.

### 867 5.2.1 WritexAODElectron.py

868 The two new tests added to the package were `WritexAODElectron` and `ReadxAODElectron`.  
 869 During this first unit test, the first algorithm called is to `ReadData` which reads off all of  
 870 the `ExampleTrack` objects stored in one of the files produced by the `ReadWrite` unit-test.  
 871 Within the python script of the first unit test, the user is able to decide what decorations to  
 872 have written to file. This is a part of the `OutputStreamCfg` parameter, `ItemList`, wherein  
 873 the user specifies the object and its name in the format shown in Figure 5.2.

```

1 ItemList = [ "ExampleTrackContainer#MyTracks",
2 "xAOD::ExampleElectronContainer#TestContainer",
3 "xAOD::ExampleElectronAuxContainer#TestContainerAux.-decor2"] )

```

Figure 5.2: WritexAODElectron ItemList for the OutputStreamCfg parameter. Showing how to select dynamic attributes at the CA level.

874 The header file includes various packages needed by the algorithm, such as data ob-  
 875 jects, Write/ReadHandleKeys, base algorithms that give consistent structure to the algo-  
 876 rithm, and whatever else is required. In the write-algorithm, there are ReadHandleKeys  
 877 for ExampleTrack objects saved by a prior unit test. For the WriteHandleKeys, there is  
 878 one for the ExampleElectronContainer and the name given to it is “TestContainer”. This  
 879 “TestContainer” name will be needed for the ReadExampleElectron algorithm as the name  
 880 is how it’s able to refer to the correct ExampleElectronContainer present in the input file.  
 881 Additionally, a WriteHandleDecorKey for the decoration objects is needed for appending  
 882 each decoration onto each ExampleElectron object. Figure 5.3 shows the syntax for how  
 883 these keys would be presently defined.

```

1 // Read key ExampleTracks
2 SG::ReadHandleKey<ExampleTrackContainer> m_exampleTrackKey{
3     this, "ExampleTrackKey", "MyTracks"};
4
5 // Write key for the ExampleElectronContainer
6 SG::WriteHandleKey<xAOD::ExampleElectronContainer>
7     m_exampleElectronContainerKey{this, "ExampleElectronContainerName",
8                                     "TestContainer"};
9
10 // Decoration keys
11 SG::WriteDecorHandleKey<xAOD::ExampleElectronContainer> m_decor1Key{
12     this, "ExampleElectronContainerDecorKey1", "TestContainer.decor1",
13     "decorator1 key"};
14 SG::WriteDecorHandleKey<xAOD::ExampleElectronContainer> m_decor2Key{
15     this, "ExampleElectronContainerDecorKey2", "TestContainer.decor2",
16     "decorator2 key"};

```

Figure 5.3: WriteExampleElectronheader file setup

884 Then the `WriteExampleElectron` algorithm is called and takes `ExampleTracks`, creates an `ExampleElectron` object and sets the electrons `pt` to the tracks `pt`. As shown in Figure

```

1  auto elecCont = std::make_unique<xAOD::ExampleElectronContainer>();
2  auto elecStore = std::make_unique<xAOD::ExampleElectronAuxContainer>();
3  elecCont->setStore(elecStore.get());
4
5  SG::ReadHandle<ExampleTrackContainer> trackCont(m_exampleTrackKey, ctx);
6  elecCont->push_back(std::make_unique<xAOD::ExampleElectron>());
7
8  for (const ExampleTrack* track : *trackCont) {
9      // Take on the pT of the track
10     elecCont->back()->setPt(track->getPT());
11 }
12
13 SG::WriteHandle<xAOD::ExampleElectronContainer> objs(
14     m_exampleElectronContainerKey, ctx);
15 ATH_CHECK(objs.record(std::move(elecCont), std::move(elecStore)));

```

Figure 5.4: Algorithm to initialize and write T/P data (`ExampleTracks`) to an `xAOD` object container (`ExampleElectronContainer`).

885

886 5.4, the `ExampleElectronContainer` and `ExampleElectronAuxContainer` are created and  
887 set to the `elecCont` and `elecStore` respectively. The `elecCont` has an associated aux store,  
888 so the `setStore` function is called with the `elecStore` pointer. The track container is  
889 accessed by using `StoreGate`'s `ReadHandle`, which associates the `m_exampleTrackKey` with  
890 the `ExampleTrackContainer` specified in the header file. This is then looped over all elements  
891 in the container and the `pt` of each track is set to the `pt` of the electron. A `WriteHandle`,  
892 called `objs`, is then created for the container of `ExampleElectrons` which is then recorded.

893 Within the same algorithm, the next step is to loop over each of the newly produced  
894 `ExampleElectrons`, accessing the decorations `decor1` and `decor2`, and setting each to an  
895 arbitrary float value that are easily identifiable later. Figure 5.5 shows how this is done using  
896 two handles for each decoration. Note the difference here using the `WriteDecorHandle`,  
897 where the prior handle type was `WriteHandle`.

```

1 SG::WriteDecorHandle<xAOD::ExampleElectronContainer, float> hdl1(
    m_decor1Key, ctx);
2 SG::WriteDecorHandle<xAOD::ExampleElectronContainer, float> hdl2(
    m_decor2Key, ctx);
3
4 for (const xAOD::ExampleElectron* obj : *objs) {
5     hdl1(objs) = 123.;
6     hdl2(objs) = 456.;
7 }

```

Figure 5.5: Writing of dynamic variables for each of the ExampleElectron objects.

### 5.2.2 ReadxAODElectron.py

The only algorithm called in this test is `ReadExampleElectron`. The header file for the `ReadExampleElectron` only creates `ReadHandleKey` for the container of ExampleElectrons, with the same name from the header of the `WriteExampleElectron` algorithm header, syntax shown in Figure 5.6. From the source file, we can initialize the `ReadHandleKey`

```

1 SG::ReadHandleKey<xAOD::ExampleElectronContainer>
2 m_exampleElectronContainerKey{this, "ExampleElectronContainerName",
3                                     "TestContainer"};

```

Figure 5.6: `ReadHandleKey` for the container of ExampleElectrons

object by a simple `ATH_CHECK(m_exampleElectronContainerKey.initialize());` in the `initialize()` method. This allows for, when defining the `ReadHandle` in `execute`, identifying the correct container defined in the header file. The same can be done for the decoration key, which needs a separate read handle, `ReadDecorHandle`. Once this is setup, all the read algorithm needs to do is to loop over all the `ExampleElectrons` in the “TestContainer” and access their  $p_T$  and charge.

### 5.3 Results

909

910 This project sought to replace existing unit tests that created `ExampleHits`, T/P EDM  
911 objects, to be written and read back. An independent xAOD object, `ExampleElectron`,  
912 was created and implemented into two new unit tests that write and read `ExampleElectron`  
913 objects along with their chosen dynamic attributes. A merge request was created, approved,  
914 and merged into the Athena software framework. Future work can be done to fully modernize  
915 the package these unit tests reside, `AthenaPoolExampleAlgorithms`, including unit tests that  
916 test core functionality of AthenaMT/AthenaMP, and newer storage formats like RNTuple.



## CHAPTER 6

## CONCLUSION

The work done for this thesis was primarily motivated to find avenues to optimize re-source usage for GRID I/O operations. The toy model testing allowed us to create branches with data similar compression ratios to real and simulated data, allowing to investigate the hypothesis that modifying the basket buffer limit had an effect on disk and memory usage. It led to the conclusion that, upon investigating with real data and real MC simulation, that there might be an avenue to look at both ROOT and Athena to limit basket sizes.

Modifying the basket buffer sizes at the Athena level shows there was a balance was struck when using the Athena basket buffer size limited to 128 kB between memory-usage and the size of the DAOD to be saved long-term. Removing the basket buffer size limit, the 5.5% saving in PHYSLITE MC disk-usage at the expense of an 11% increase in memory-usage could be a trade-off worth making in some scenarios. A class of potentially unoptimized AOD branches in MC simulated data was also brought to light during this study. The leading indicator to potential optimization is the highly compressible nature of these branches post-derivation. Further work could be done to look into these AOD branches to identify areas where further work can be done to reduce the overall AOD footprint.

The xAOD EDM comes with a number of new additions to bring about optimization the future of analysis work at the ATLAS experiment. Integrating the new features into a few comprehensive unit tests allow for the nightly CI builds to catch any issues that break core I/O functionality as it pertains to the xAOD EDM, which has not been done before. These new unit-tests exercise reading and writing select decorations on top of the already existing data structures attached to an example object called `ExampleElectron`.

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## APPENDIX

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## DERIVATION PRODUCTION DATA

## A.1 Derivation production datasets

For both the nightly and the release testing, the data derivation job, which comes from the dataset

```
data22_13p6TeV:data22_13p6TeV.00428855.physics_Main.merge.AOD.
r14190_p5449_tid31407809_00
```

was ran with the input files

```
AOD.31407809._000894.pool.root.1
AOD.31407809._000895.pool.root.1
AOD.31407809._000896.pool.root.1
AOD.31407809._000898.pool.root.1
```

Similarly, the MC derivation job, comes from the dataset

```
mc23_13p6TeV:mc23_13p6TeV.601229.PHPy8EG_A14_ttbar_hdamp258p75_
SingleLep.merge.AOD.e8514_e8528_s4162_s4114_r14622_r14663_
tid33799166_00
```

was ran with input files

```
AOD.33799166._000303.pool.root.1
AOD.33799166._000304.pool.root.1
AOD.33799166._000305.pool.root.1
AOD.33799166._000306.pool.root.1
AOD.33799166._000307.pool.root.1
AOD.33799166._000308.pool.root.1
```