

Using cosmic-ray hodoscope data to validate the misalignment model of small-strip thin gap chambers for the ATLAS new small wheels

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Abstract

ATLAS is a multi-purpose particle detector system designed to capture the outcome of proton-proton collisions at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. The innermost end-caps of the ATLAS muon spectrometer consist of two wheels of muon detectors that must be replaced to improve the angular resolution of tracks for precision muon momentum reconstruction in the next phase of LHC operation. The New Small Wheels (NSWs) will be covered with two detector types that must trigger on and track outgoing particles - one type is small-strip thin gap chambers (sTGCs). Canada is responsible for one quarter of the required sTGCs. At McGill University, modules with four layers of sTGCs (called quadruplets) are characterized using a cosmic ray hodoscope before being sent to CERN for further testing and integration into the wheels. Quadruplets must be able to reconstruct particle tracks with 1 mrad angular resolution. Misalignments between sTGC layers must be corrected for to achieve this goal. The charge profile left by an x-ray gun and coordinate measuring machine (CMM) measurements of quadruplet layers are being used to define these parameters. Work on using cosmic ray data to validate misalignment parameters derived using the above-mentioned methods will be presented.

Résumé

C'est le résumé.

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Acknowledgements

Something along the lines of . . . I would like to thank all the little people who made this thesis possible.

Contribution of authors

Something along the lines of . . . I hereby declare that I am the sole author of this thesis. This is a true copy of the thesis, including any required final revisions, as accepted by my examiners.

Chapter 1

Introduction

TO BE WRITTEN.

Chapter 2

Characterization of sTGCs using cosmic rays

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Chapter 3

Datasets used for alignment studies

3.1 Measuring alignment using cosmics data

Misalignments can be modeled as passive transformations. Ideally, a misalignment model would be chosen and the parameters (for example, a global offset and rotation for each layer) calculated. To understand the potential of cosmic muon data, it is useful to define a local offset. For each area of a strip layer, the local offset is the shift of the strip pattern in that area with respect to the nominal geometry. Local offsets systematically change the strip that is hit by a muon passing through the area. The `tgc_analysis/CosmicsAnalysis` software assumes the nominal geometry, so the recorded muon y-position (y) is shifted opposite to the local offset (d_{local}),

$$y = y_{nom} - d_{local}, \quad (3.1)$$

where y_{nom} is the position of the muon that would have been recorded if there was no local offset. Equation 3.1 ignores other factors that could affect the cluster position (like position resolution). The local offset is unknown and there was no external reference to measure y_{nom} . Therefore, only relative alignment parameters can be extracted.

The minimal relative coordinate system uses two reference or fixed layers [1]. The hits on the two fixed layers were used to create tracks that can be interpolated or extrapolated (polated) to the other two layers. The residual of track i , Δ_i is defined as,

$$\Delta_i = y_{i,hit} - y_{i,track}, \quad (3.2)$$

where $y_{i,hit}$ is the recorded hit position and $y_{i,track}$ is the polated track position built from hits on the two reference layers. Track residuals are affected by the local offset in the area

of each layer’s hit. As an example, in figure 3.1, the residual on layer 2 perhaps indicates that layer 2 is offset with respect to layers 1 and 4 in the area of the track. Of course, a single track residual says nothing of the real relative local offset because of the limited spatial resolution of the detectors and fake tracks caused by noise or delta rays. However, the mean of residuals for all tracks in a region will be shifted systematically by the local offsets between layers [1]. For a perfectly aligned quadruplet, the mean of residuals should be zero in all regions and for all reference frames, unlike the example regions shown in figure 3.2.

The residual distributions were wider for tracking combinations where the extrapolation lever arm was largest. In general, residual means calculated with geometrically less favourable tracking combinations have larger statistical and systematic uncertainties. The bin size of 200 μm for the distributions shown in figure 3.2 was chosen based on the uncertainty on residuals calculated from tracks on layer 4 (1) built from hits on layers 1 and 2 (3 and 4) given a cluster y-position uncertainty of 60 μm (appendix A), since these tracks yield residuals with the largest uncertainties.

A gaussian fit was used to extract the mean of the residual distributions. Theoretically, a double gaussian distribution is more apt, but for this analysis the gaussian fit was sufficient, as discussed in appendix C.1.

The area of the region of interest was 100 mm by 100 mm. The size balanced the amount of tracks falling in the region of interest to give sufficient statistics to the local residual distributions, while being smaller than the order on which misalignments were expected to effect the local offsets significantly. "Significantly" in this context was defined based on the distance in x that a large but possible rotation of 1000 μrad would change the local offset by more than 50 μm , which is half the required position resolution of the sTGCs [2].

It is only possible to calculate relative local offsets with cosmics data because there was no external reference to measure positions on all layers with respect to. As an example, assuming that the residual on layer 2 in figure 3.1 is representative of the relative local offset, the residual on layer 2 could be caused by layer 2 being misaligned from nominal, but it could also be caused by layers 1 and 4 being misaligned from nominal while layer 2 is in its expected position! Any number of combinations of local offsets on layers 1, 2 and 4 could produce the residual on layer 2. The value of relative local offset measurements will be shown and discussed throughout this work.

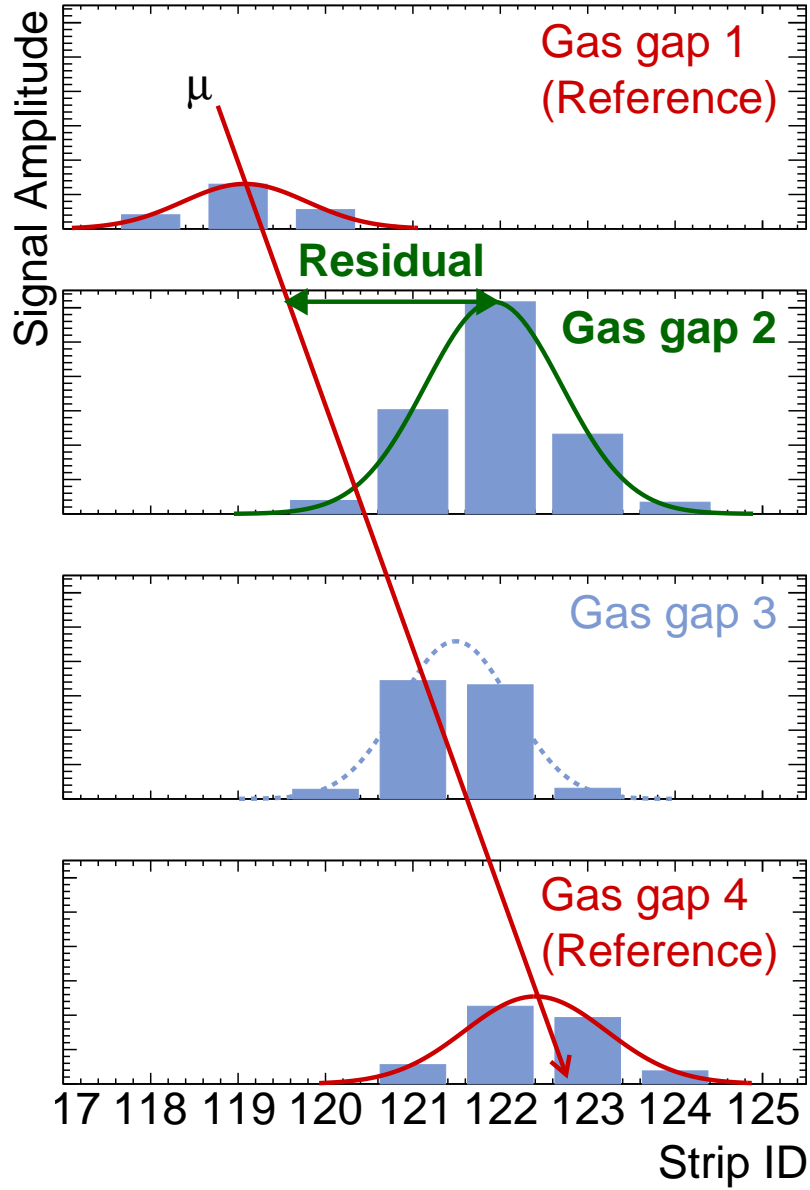
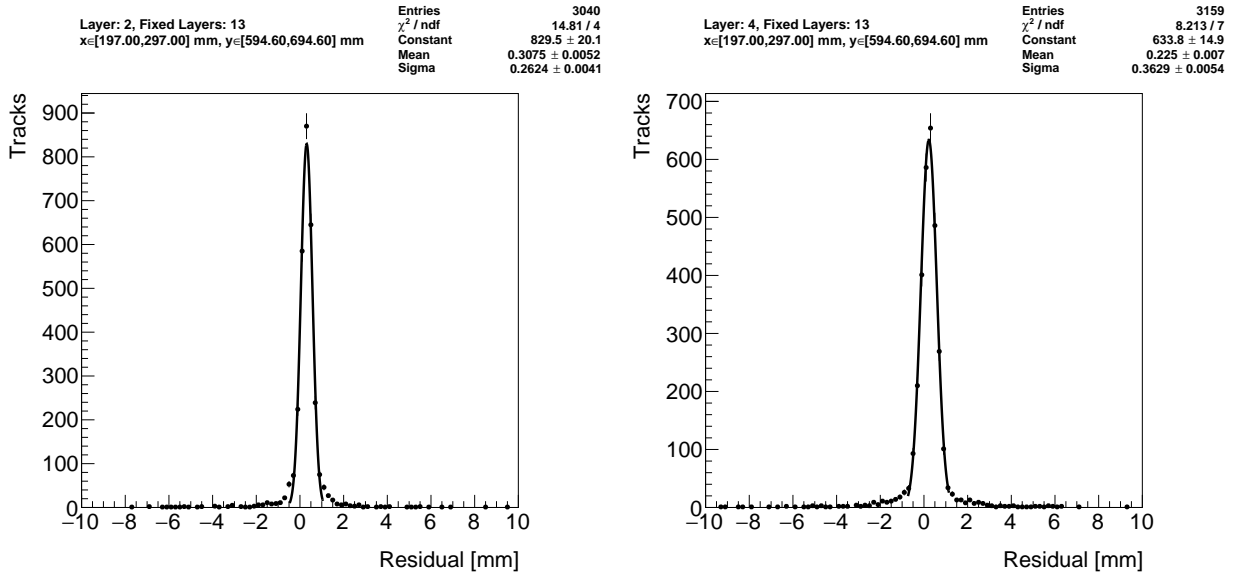


Figure 3.1: Representation of a muon event recorded by an sTGC. The clusters are fit with a Gaussian and the mean is taken as the hit position. A track is built from the chosen reference layers, 1 and 4, and the residual calculated on layer 2. The clusters come from a real muon event, but their positions were modified to highlight the residual on layer 2.



(a) Tracks on layer 2, reference layers 1 and 3. (b) Tracks on layer 4, reference layers 1 and 2.

Figure 3.2: Residual distribution in the region $x \in [197, 297]$, $y \in [594.6, 694.6] \text{ mm}$ (100 mm by 100 mm area) for two different tracking combinations.

3.2 Visualizing relative misalignments between layers

The mean of residuals was extracted for regions across entire quadruplet layers for every tracking combination to get a picture of the relative misalignments between layers.

Figure 3.3 contains the mean of residuals on layers 2 and 4 with tracking reference layers 1 and 3. Many of the residual means are non-zero, and change smoothly over the layer, indicating that there are relative misalignments. Given that the residual mean changes with x in figure 3.3a, there is likely a rotation of layer 2 with respect to layers 1 and 3, combined with an offset of the entire layer. For layer 4 in figure 3.3b, perhaps there is a scaling [3] of the strip pattern with respect to layers 1 and 3. The interpretation of the patterns in the residual means depends on the choice of misalignment model.

3.3 Systematic uncertainty in cosmic residual means

The statistical uncertainty on the local residual means was typically around 10 - 20 μm , and appendix B shows that the analysis was not statistically limited by the number of triggers collected for each quadruplet. The systematic uncertainties were more significant.

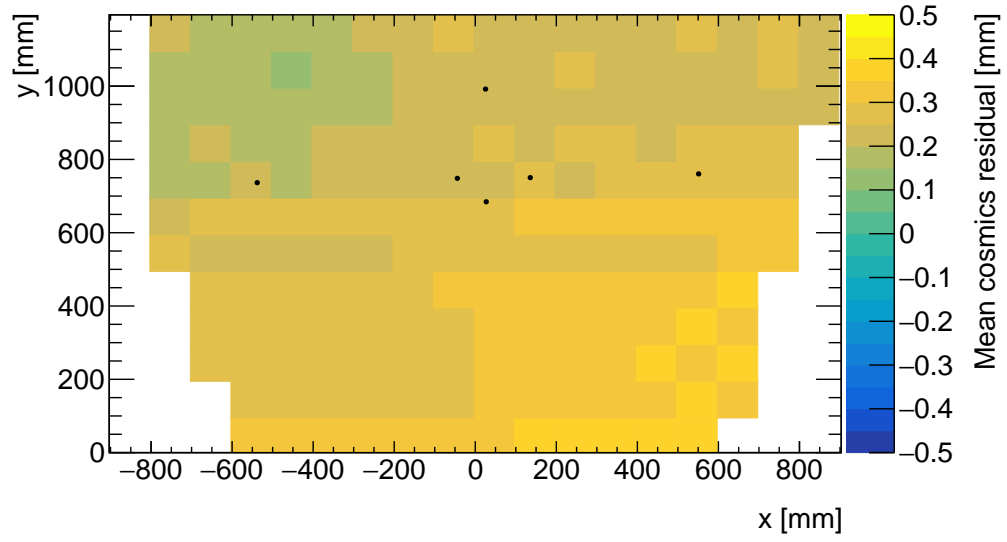
Systematic uncertainties were assigned per tracking combination as the RMS of the distribution of the difference in local residual means each calculated with a different analysis choice. For example, the RMS associated with fitting the local residual distributions with a Gaussian or double Gaussian is 25 μm for the geometrically least favourable tracking combinations and the distribution is shown in appendix C.1. For geometrically similar tracking combinations (like: tracks on layer 1 built from hits on layers 3 and 4, and tracks on layer 4 built from hits on layers 1 and 2), the systematic uncertainty was assigned as the average RMS for both.

Other choices were whether to use data collected at 2.9 kV or 3.1 kV; what cluster fitting algorithm to use; and whether or not to apply a differential non-linearity (DNL) correction to the cluster y-positions. A systematic uncertainty was assigned using the method above to account for the effect of each choice. The reasons for each choice are listed below.

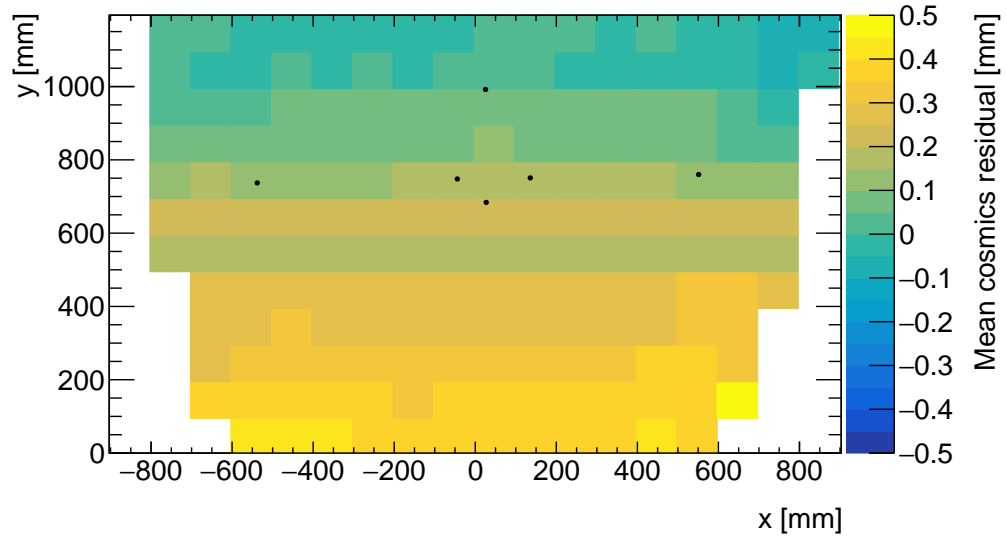
Data taken at 3.1 kV was used over 2.9 kV because the strip and wire tracking efficiency increases with higher voltage [1] (appendix C.2).

The `Minuit2` package [4] was used to fit clusters over Guo's method [5] because it provided automatic statistical uncertainty estimates and is the standard choice (appendix C.3).

The DNL correction was not applied because its effect on the residual means was negligible (appendix C.5).



(a) Mean of residuals for tracks on layer 2, reference layers 1 and 3.



(b) Mean of residuals for tracks on layer 4, reference layers 1 and 3.

Figure 3.3: Mean of residuals in each 100 mm by 100 mm bin over the area of the quad layer for QL2.P.11. The black points represent x-ray survey positions, discussed in chapter 4.

Layer	Fixed layer 1	Fixed layer 2	C.1	C.2	C.3	C.5	Total
3	1	2	0.010	0.041	0.018	0.008	0.047
4	1	2	0.025	0.091	0.027	0.012	0.098
2	1	3	0.008	0.020	0.012	0.003	0.025
4	1	3	0.007	0.042	0.013	0.005	0.044
2	1	4	0.006	0.035	0.012	0.005	0.038
3	1	4	0.006	0.035	0.012	0.005	0.038
1	2	3	0.010	0.041	0.018	0.008	0.047
4	2	3	0.010	0.041	0.018	0.008	0.047
1	2	4	0.007	0.042	0.013	0.005	0.044
3	2	4	0.008	0.020	0.012	0.003	0.025
1	3	4	0.025	0.091	0.027	0.012	0.098
2	3	4	0.010	0.041	0.018	0.008	0.047

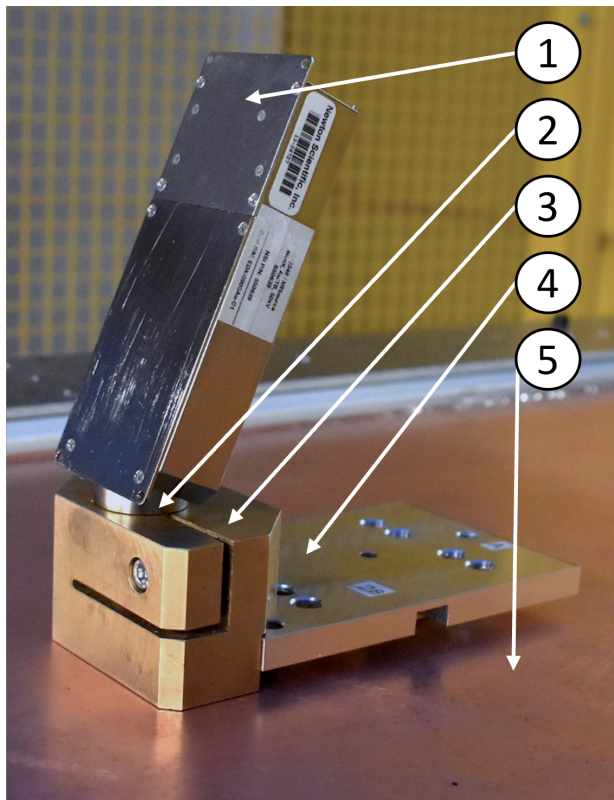
Table 3.1: Systematic uncertainty assigned for each analysis option, detailed in appendix C.

A summary of the systematic uncertainties assigned for each tracking combination is given in table 3.1.

The uncertainty in each mean cosmics residual was assigned as the sum in quadrature of the statistical uncertainty in the mean and the appropriate systematic uncertainty for the tracking combination. Given that the uncertainty in the mean cosmics residuals is lesser than or near to the order of the required position resolution of the sTGCs (100 μm [2]) the cosmic residual means are relevant input for alignment studies.

3.4 The x-ray method

Work on characterizing relative misalignments between quadruplet layers is ongoing [6], (Can I cite John's thesis-in-progress?) but what is required are the absolute strip positions with respect to their nominal position in the ATLAS analysis coordinate system to be input into Athena(?). Somehow, absolute misalignment parameters must be derived to create a model of absolute strip positions - which is not possible with the cosmics dataset. Absolute local offset measurements were done by the so-called x-ray method [7]. The x-ray tests were performed after the quadruplets arrived at CERN and were assembled into wedges. Essentially, an x-ray gun was attached to one of the source plates glued to the surface of the wedge (figure 3.4), and the beam profile recorded by the strips.



1. X-ray gun
2. Collimator
3. Gun mount
4. Base plate (attached to source plate underneath)
5. sTGC wedge surface

Figure 3.4: The x-ray gun mounted to the alignment platform on the surface of the wedge. Adapted from ©CERN for the benefit of the ATLAS collaboration. CC-BY-4.0 license.

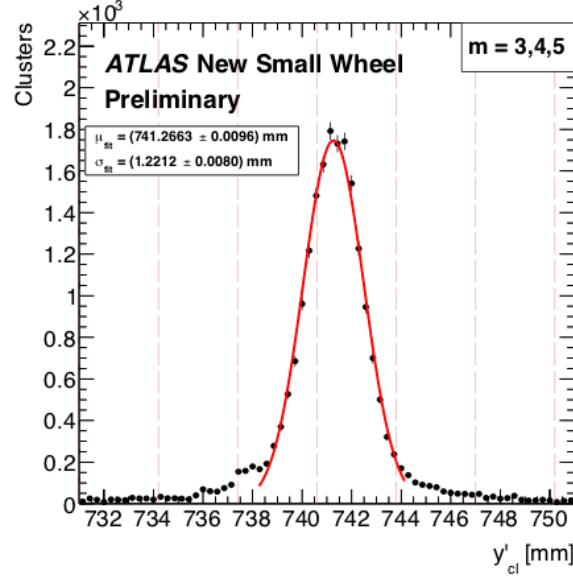


Figure 3.5: Distribution of x-ray cluster mean positions after the analysis cuts and corrections. The strip cluster multiplicity, m , was limited to 3, 4 and 5. The red line is a Gaussian fit of the distribution and the pink lines denote the edges of the strips. Adapted from ©CERN for the benefit of the ATLAS collaboration. CC-BY-4.0 license.

The gun produced x-rays of 7 - 15 keV that were collimated before reaching the surface of the wedge. The x-rays mostly interacted with the wedge's copper electrodes and gold-plated tungsten wires via the photo effect. *The resulting photoelectrons ionized the CO₂ in the gap, which resulted in detectable Townsend avalanches – is it really avalanches or just electrons drifting back?* The beam profile was captured by the distribution of cluster positions. A typical beam profile is shown in figure 3.5.

The mean of the cluster position distribution was taken as the x-ray beam profile center. The expected center was calculated assuming a wedge with nominal geometry given the gun position. The difference between the expected and reconstructed beam profile center is a measure of the local offset. Applying the logic of equation 3.1 to the beam profile, the fitted mean acts as y , the expected center is y_{nom} and the local offset is d_{local} as before. The x-ray local offsets give the absolute local position of the strip pattern with respect to the source plates. Since the position of the source plates will be monitored by the alignment system in ATLAS [2], the local position of the strip pattern can be known in the ATLAS coordinate system for every position where x-ray data was taken.

The main advantage of the x-ray dataset over the cosmics dataset is that absolute local offsets are measurable thanks to the reference frame provided by the source plates. However, the systematic uncertainty on the x-ray offsets is large: 120 μm was accepted by the collaboration. The cuts and corrections applied to the x-ray data that motivate the uncertainty are detailed in Lefebvre, 2020 [7]. In addition, local offset measurements were limited to the positions of the alignment platforms; only 10 - 20 positions were surveyed for each wedge. Therefore, validating the x-ray measurements and seeing how they can be improved is important because of the uncertainty in and incompleteness of the dataset. How the cosmics dataset was used for this purpose is discussed in chapter 4.

Chapter 4

Validating x-ray alignment parameters with cosmic muon data

The goal was to validate the local offsets extracted from the x-ray data with cosmics data. The complication was that the x-ray dataset provided absolute local offsets while the cosmics dataset provided relative local offsets, which could not be compared directly. The solution was to analyze the x-ray data in the same relative coordinate system as the cosmics data. The methods and results of the comparison are presented here.

4.1 Method for comparing x-ray and cosmics data

The measured x-ray beam profile centers were systematically affected by local offsets in the same way as the mean cosmics residuals, as modeled by equation 3.1. Therefore, if a 2-layer track is abstracted from the beam profile centers on each layer and the residual calculated on a third layer, that residual should match the local mean cosmics residual.

The track is "abstracted" because a so-called "beam profile center" is actually the Gaussian mean of all selected mean cluster positions recorded during the x-ray data taking period. Abstracting a track was necessary because the x-rays cause signal in the chamber via the photoeffect so there were not individual "x-ray tracks" to record. In fact the x-ray data was collected separately for each layer. Nonetheless, since the effect of local offsets on the beam profile centers was the same the difference in algorithm between x-ray and cosmics analysis was allowed.

For each x-ray survey position, the x-ray residual was calculated for all possible tracking combinations (which required an x-ray beam profile on at least three layers). The position of the x-ray residuals are shown as black dots over figure 3.3a and 3.3b. Note that the mean of cosmo residuals around the x-ray points were calculated in bins exactly centered on the nominal x-ray gun position, unlike in figure 3.3.

4.2 Assessing correlation

Scatter plots of the x-ray and mean cosmo residuals for two sample quadruplets in figures 4.1 and 4.2 reveal the degree of correlation between the datasets.

First, the fitted slope and offset in figure 4.1 show that the two QL2.P.11 datasets are correlated. However, the magnitude of the uncertainties in the x-ray residuals is large (up to half a millimeter) since it comes from propagating the 120 μm uncertainty in the beam profile centers. The large uncertainty set a limit on the sensitivity of the analysis, for if the absolute value of the x-ray residuals of a quadruplet were smaller than the x-ray residual uncertainties, no conclusion about the correlation could be drawn, like for QL2.P.8 (figure 4.2).

Several quadruplets were tested for each quadruplet construction geometry built in Canada: QL2P, QL2C, and QS3P. Each quadruplet fell into one of the two categories: residuals large enough to see a correlation, or residuals too small to see a correlation. Since the x-ray and mean cosmo residuals were measures of the relative local offsets between the layer of a quadruplet and the two reference layers, quadruplets with the most relative misalignment had the largest range of residuals. So, the correlation plots were an easy visual way to identify quadruplets with large relative misalignments.

There are three patterns in the residuals on the scatter plot explained by geometry. First, for both datasets the uncertainty in the extrapolated track residuals were larger than the interpolated track residuals because of the extrapolation lever arm. For the x-ray residuals, the effect of the lever arm on the uncertainty was direct since the residual was calculated from a single abstracted track; for the cosmo residuals it was the widening of the residual distribution on the layer of interest due to the extrapolation lever arm that increased the statistical uncertainty in the fitted mean of residuals. Second, residuals calculated through extrapolation tend to be larger because the extrapolation lever arm can produce more extreme values. Third, the pattern of points in figure 4.1 is slightly mirrored. This is expected since the residuals calculated for a given set of three layers are geometrically correlated.

The correlation of the cosmo residuals with the x-ray residuals alone does not validate the method; all the studies in described in appendices B and C demonstrate its robustness.

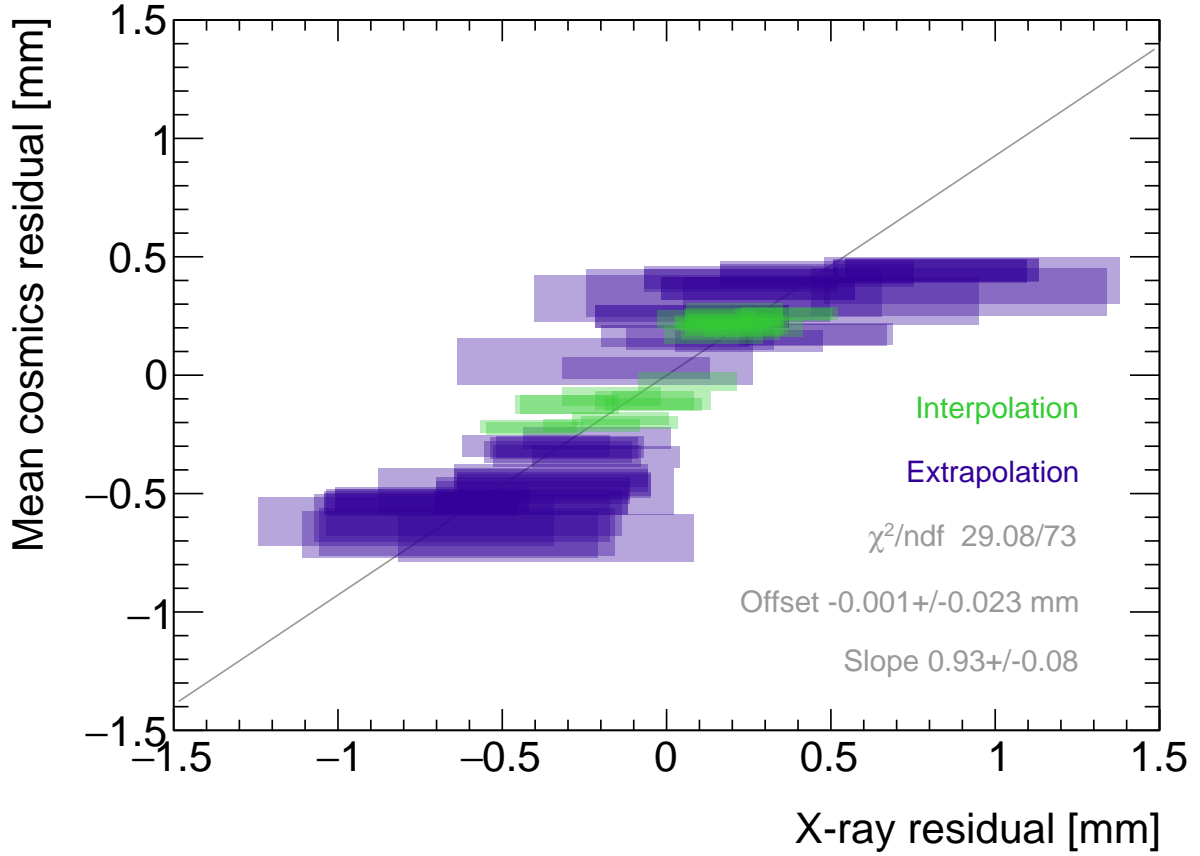


Figure 4.1: Correlation plot between x-ray and cosmics residuals for all tracking combinations for QL2.P.11. Each rectangle is centered on an x-ray and mean cosmics residual pair. The width of the rectangles in x and y are the uncertainty in the x-ray and mean cosmics residual respectively. A printer-friendly version of this plot is available in [appendix D](#).

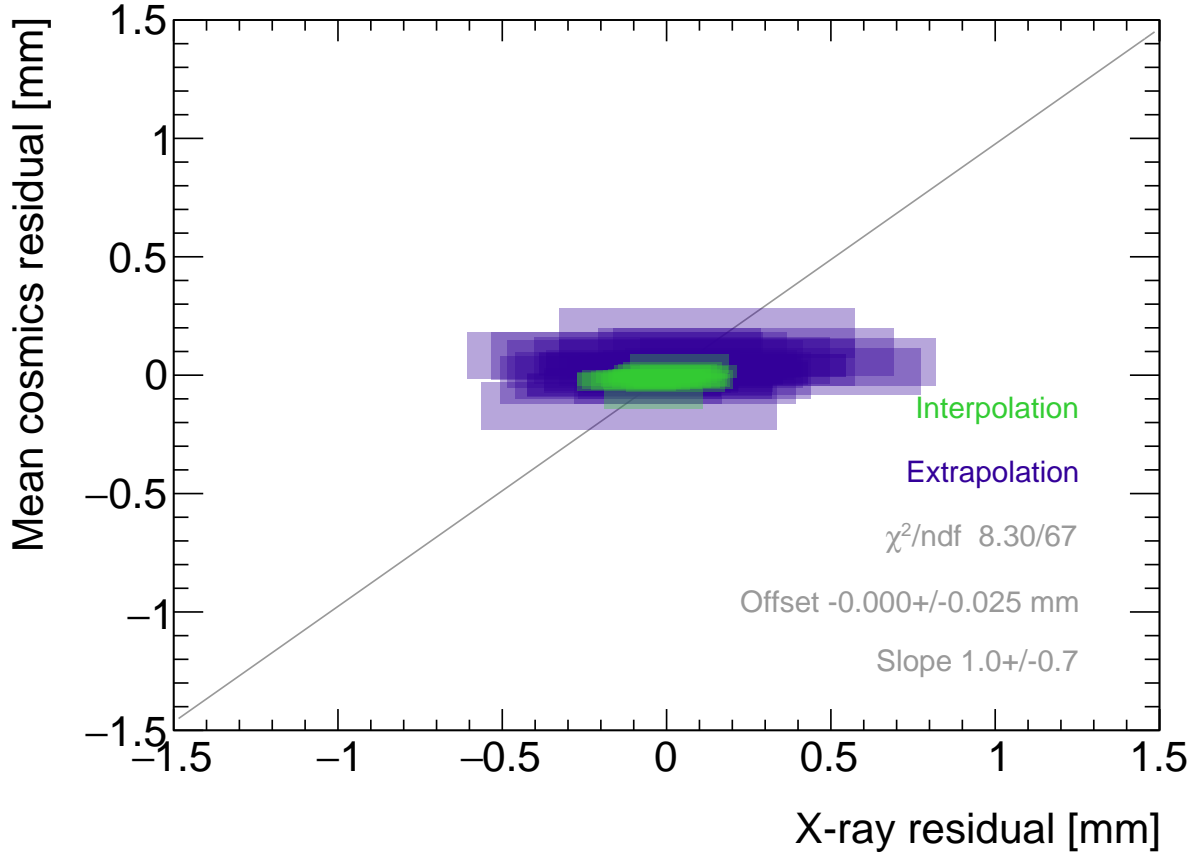


Figure 4.2: Correlation plot between x-ray and cosmics residuals for all tracking combinations for QL2.P.8. Each rectangle is centered on an x-ray and mean cosmics residual pair. The width of the rectangles in x and y are the uncertainty in the x-ray and mean cosmics residual respectively. A printer-friendly version of this plot is available in [appendix D](#).

The analysis could be validated externally by comparing the mean cosmics residuals to the relative misalignment parameters calculated using `tgc_analysis/MatrixMethod` [8] and JOHN FLORES CHI2 METHOD.

4.3 Limitations

The most important limit on measuring the degree of correlation between the x-ray and cosmics residuals was the uncertainty on the x-ray residuals, which stemmed from the systematic uncertainty in the x-ray beam profile centers [7]. The method was limited primarily by the sTGCs' poor x-ray position resolution, since x-rays do not create real tracks anyways.

The analysis of certain quadruplets was also limited by the availability of data. Sometimes, less than three layers were surveyed for a given x-ray gun position so no residuals could be calculated. Too few x-ray residuals prevented the analysis from detecting a significant correlation. Often, the analysis of smaller quadruplets suffered as a result because they had fewer alignment platforms, and hence gun positions, on their surfaces. In addition, the analysis was limited to certain quadruplets. The wedges constructed the earliest (typically small wedges) were surveyed when the method was still being designed and so have limited x-ray residuals calculated from beam profiles of lower quality. Also, not all cosmic muon test sites had enough front end electronics to collect data on three layers simultaneously, which is the minimum required to be able to calculate residuals.

Nonetheless, the comparison of x-ray and cosmics residuals was really to confirm the x-ray local offsets with an independent dataset; the analysis of quadruplets with relative misalignments large enough to detect a correlation achieved this goal.

Chapter 5

Outlook and summary

The cosmic muon dataset was used to independently confirm the absolute local offsets measured by the x-ray method. They are being used to complete the sTGC alignment scheme of the NSWs: the NSW alignment system monitors the position of alignment platforms on the surface of sTGC wedges, and the x-ray measurements provide the offsets of the strip pattern with respect to each alignment platform. The continuation of this analysis is detailed next (section 5.1) before considering the larger context (section 5.2).

5.1 Outlook

Next all quadruplets with suitable cosmics and x-ray data should be surveyed to flag anomalous quadruplets (as a first step). If a quadruplet’s correlation plot like figure 4.1 or 4.2 reveals an unexpected correlation or has a large scatter, it would indicate an issue with either the cosmics or x-ray data collection to be investigated further. The uncertainty in each set of tracking points would inform the interpretation of the anomaly. Then, the quality of the correlation should be evaluated over all quadruplets instead of individually.

For now, the correlation for the individual quadruplets tested support the use of the x-ray data to build a global misalignment model [7]. Work on creating a misalignment model is ongoing with the development of `stgc_as_built_fit` [9]. Currently, the algorithm compares the y-position of a local group of strips at each x-ray gun position as measured by the x-ray and CMM methods in a χ^2 fit. The CMM measurements were taken before the cathode boards were assembled into quadruplets, so alignment parameters for the given layer were extracted from the χ^2 fit by stepping the CMM y-position towards the x-ray y-position by

adjusting the alignment parameters (currently, a rotation and global offset). The plan is that the alignment parameters will be provided to **Athena** [10] to precisely reconstruct muon tracks from the NSWs' sTGCs.

Figure 4.1 and 4.2 clearly show that the uncertainty in the mean cosmics residuals was much smaller than the uncertainty in the x-ray residuals. It was the result of the uncertainty in the cosmic muon hit positions on each layer being smaller than the uncertainty on the x-ray beam profile centers ($60\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ versus $120\text{ }\mu\text{m}$). Therefore, it would be great to use the cosmics residuals as input to calculate and reduce the uncertainty on the alignment parameters. Since mean cosmics residuals can only provide relative misalignment information, one idea would be to use them to constrain the fit of the alignment parameters. In this case, the alignment parameters would need to be fitted on all layers at once, and the shifting y-positions on each layer forced to create an abstracted track residual equal to the local mean cosmics residual (within uncertainty) for each x-ray point. Or, instead of constraining the fit, it could be penalized if the resulting parameters do not result in abstracted track residuals equal to the mean cosmics residuals within uncertainty. Some work on using the three datasets at once in a fit has been started but has prompted the idea to compare just the cosmics and CMM data first.

5.2 Importance in context

Ultimately, the position of the sTGC strip electrodes needs to be known in ATLAS to within $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ so that they can provide the required position resolution for the High-Luminosity LHC. The x-ray measurements will account for misalignments between strip layers to achieve this goal. The cosmics dataset was used to confirm the local offsets measured with the x-ray gun, and could be used to improve the misalignment model that will position each strip.

Achieving the required position resolution on each layer of the NSWs in the particle track bending plane achieves the design momentum resolution for muons ejected towards the end-caps of ATLAS. These muons will be important signatures of electroweak and Higgs sector events of interest for the ATLAS Collaboration's future physics goals [2]. Being the second of two tracking technologies on the NSWs, an effective misalignment model of sTGC quadruplets is a necessary part of making the NSWs redundant for 10 or more years of recording collisions in the High Luminosity era of the LHC.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Uncertainty in cluster positions

A cluster is a series of contiguous strip channels on a layer with non-zero amplitude, all part of the same trigger and having the same event number [1]. Clusters result from the drift of ionization products generated in the ionization avalanche caused by a muon [25]. The peak-detector-output (PDO) of the signal on each strip of a cluster is fit with a Gaussian. The y-position of a particle as it passed through the layer is mean of the cluster, referred to here as the hit position.

The clusters were fit with Guo's method [5] and Minuit2 for ROOT [4]. The difference in cluster means between the two algorithms is shown in figure A.1.

The RMS of the distribution in figure A.1 is 57 μm , which is much larger than the statistical uncertainty in the mean for the Minuit2 algorithm, which peaks around 7 μm . An RMS of 60 μm is common for data taken with most quadruplets at 3.1 kV. Therefore, the uncertainty in the y-hit positions is assigned 60 μm .

The uncertainty assigned to the hit position affected the uncertainty in the extrapolated/interpolated position of the track, and in the residuals. The bin size of the residual distributions was set to 200 μm because that was the uncertainty in the residuals calculated from the tracks with the least favourable geometry (like tracks built from hits on layers 1 and 2 and extrapolated to layer 4).

The x position of the hit was taken to be the center of the wire group with the maximum peak detector output, since wire groups are much wider than the typical charge distribution spread. Assuming that the true x-position of the hit is uniformly distributed over the width of the wire group, the uncertainty in the x-position is given by $\frac{w}{\sqrt{(12)}}$, where w is the width

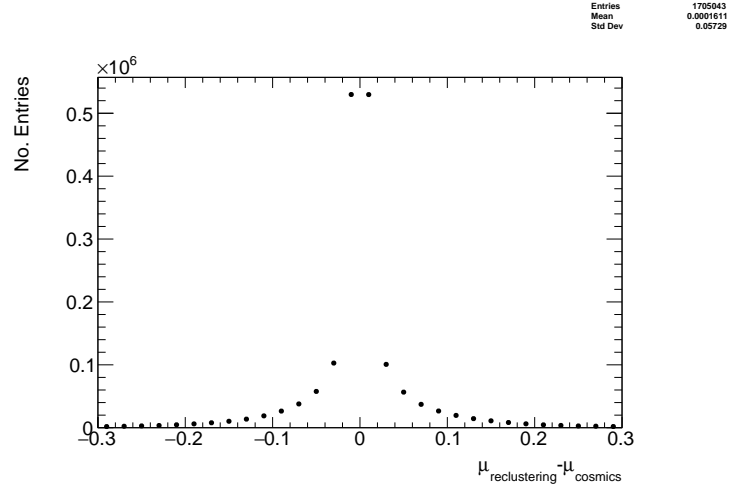


Figure A.1: The difference between cluster means calculated with Guo's method [5] in `tgc_analysis/CosmicsAnalysis` and Minuit2 for ROOT [4] in `strip_position_analysis/ReClustering` for data collected with QL2.P.8 at 3.1 kV.

of the wire group [16]. sTGC wire groups are 36 mm wide so the hit x-position uncertainty was 10 mm.

Appendix B

Study of cosmics for alignment analysis statistical uncertainty

Typically, one million triggers (cosmic muon events and noise) were collected for each Canadian quadruplet at McGill University, resulting in roughly half the number of viable tracks after cuts in `tgc_analysis/CosmicsAnalysis`. For QS3.P.18, 3.5 million triggers were collected. To gauge the sensitivity of the analysis to the available statistics, partitions of this data with each with a different number of triggers were analyzed separately. Ultimately, the quantity of interest was the gaussian mean of the residual distribution in regions of interest, so the peak in the distribution of the statistical uncertainty in the residual means for each area of interest for a specific tracking combination was used to gauge the quality of the analysis. How the peak in the residual mean uncertainty distribution changes with the number of triggers is shown in figure for tracks on layer 1 built from layers 3 and 4 [B.1](#).

The uncertainty is already around $20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ at 1 million triggers, suitable for distinguishing differences in offsets of order $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ as required. Although increased statistics could decrease the statistical uncertainty, it is not required for the goals of this analysis. Moreover, the systematic uncertainty is around $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and the systematic uncertainty on the x-ray residuals is $150\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ so the statistical uncertainty of $20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ is nearly negligible.

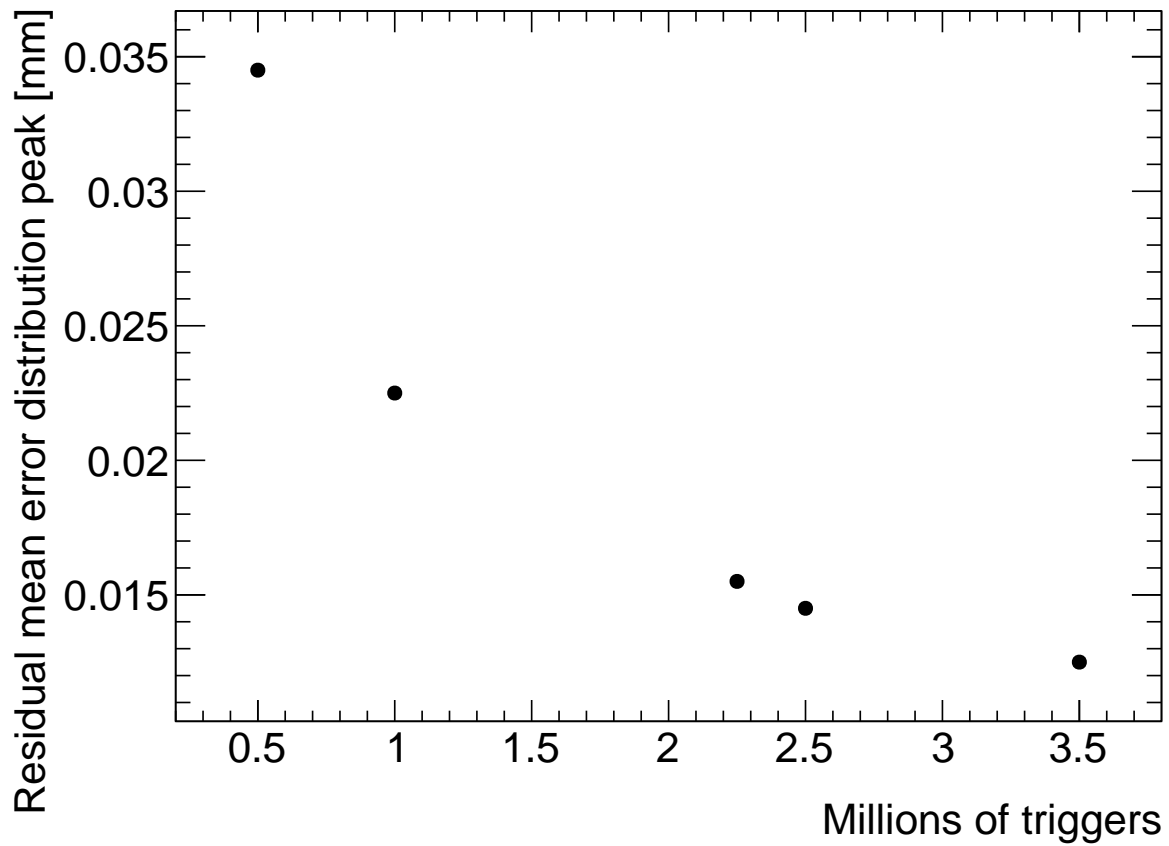


Figure B.1: How the peak of the distributions of uncertainties in the residual means in regions of interest for tracks on layer 1 built from layers 3 and 4 changed with the number of triggers used in the analysis. The distribution falls off as $\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$ as expected.

Appendix C

Study of systematic uncertainties when using cosmics data for alignment studies

C.1 Residual distribution fit function

The distribution of residuals should be modelled by a double gaussian fit^[1]:

$$G(r) = A_s \exp \left[\frac{-(r - \mu)^2}{2\sigma_s^2} \right] + A_b \exp \left[\frac{-(r - \mu)^2}{2\sigma_b^2} \right] \quad (\text{C.1})$$

where r is the residual, A is the gaussian amplitude, μ is the gaussian mean, σ is the gaussian sigma, and the subscripts s and b stand for signal and background respectively. One gaussian captures the real (signal) tracks and the other captures the tracks built from noise (background). The gaussian with the smaller width is identified as the signal.

A single gaussian fit failed less often than a double gaussian fit. The gaussian fits were performed by initially estimating the amplitude to be 100 tracks, the gaussian mean to be the histogram mean, and gaussian σ to be the RMS. The fit range was restricted to ± 1 RMS from the histogram mean. The modification helped the gaussian fit capture the signal peak. An example residual distribution is shown in figure C.1.

For all residual distributions in 100 mm by 100 mm bins on layer 4 built from hits on layers 1 and 2, the difference in gaussian and double gaussian means and σ 's is shown in figure C.2.

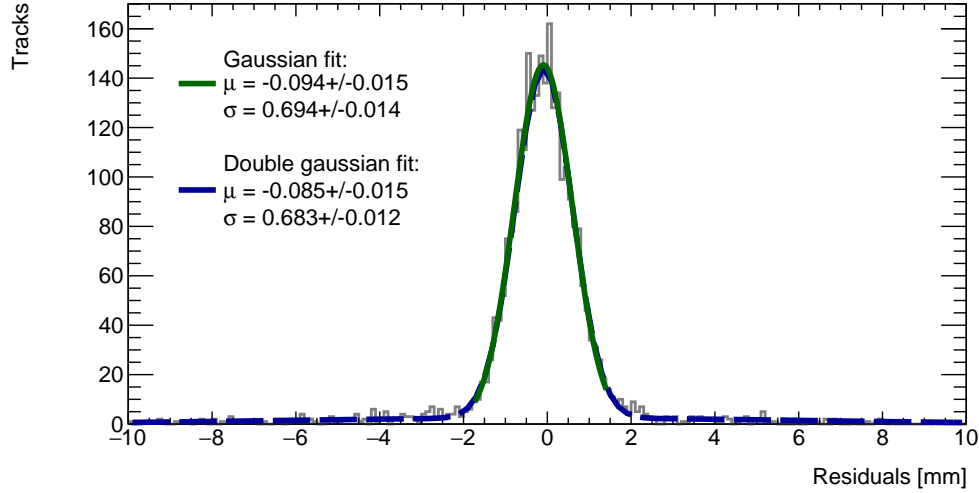


Figure C.1: Residual distribution for tracks on layer 4 built from hits on layers 1 and 2 for $x \in [-3.00, 97.00]$, $y \in [394.60, 494.60]$ mm for QL2.P.8 fit with a double gaussian and a single gaussian in a range of ± 1 RMS from the histogram mean.

Since the RMS of the residual mean differences distribution is less than $50 \mu\text{m}$ the gaussian fit gave the same result within the required precision. Moreover, this is for the tracking combination with the worst extrapolation lever arm and the widest distribution of mean differences; the interpolation combinations have narrower distributions.

The gaussian σ should be larger than the double gaussian σ because the gaussian distribution includes the effect of the noise tracks with large residuals, while the double gaussian models signal and background residuals separately. For this analysis, only the residual mean was important, so the systematic overestimate of the signal σ in the gaussian fit shown on the right of figure C.2 was allowed.

C.2 Cosmic muon data collection voltage

Cosmic muon data was collected at 2.9 kV and 3.1 kV because although 2.9 kV is closer to the operating conditions the chambers will be subject to in ATLAS, the extra gain provided by operating at 3.1 kV increased the signal to noise ratio for pad signals. Also, the tracking efficiency was higher with data collected at 3.1 kV. The difference in gain affected the relative population of clusters of different sizes, which in turn affected the uncertainty in the strip hit

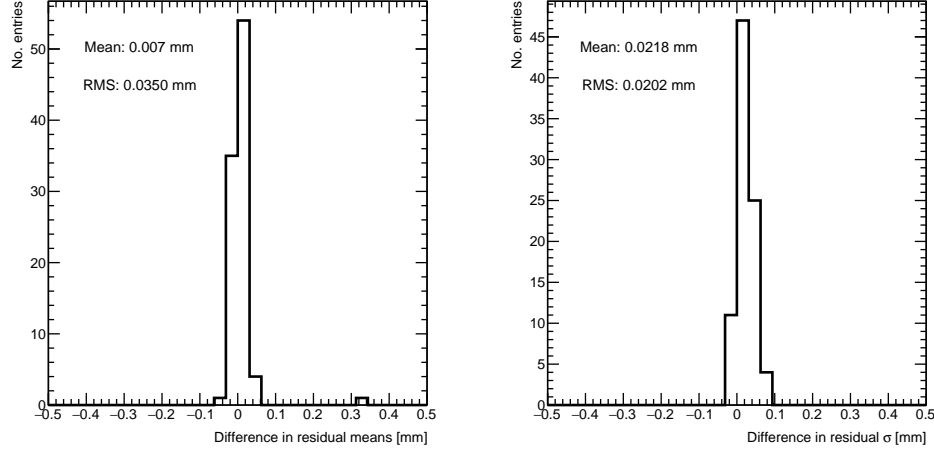


Figure C.2: Difference in residual distribution means and σ 's for a gaussian and double gaussian fit, for all residual distributions in 100 mm by 100 mm bins on layer 4 built from hits on layers 1 and 2 for QL2.P.8.

positions on each layer, the uncertainty in the track positions and the residual distributions. The residual distributions for 3.1 kV data are narrower, as shown in figure C.3.

Neither dataset is better for calculating the mean of residuals in a given area, so a systematic uncertainty can be assigned based on the difference in residual means calculated for 2.9 kV and 3.1 kV data; namely, the systematic uncertainty was approximated as the RMS of the residual mean difference distribution. Data taken with QL2.P.8 was used to estimate the RMS, as in figure C.4a.

Tracks built from hits on layers 1 and 2 and extrapolated to layer 4 have the worst lever arm and hence the most uncertainty. The width of the distribution for geometrically favourable tracks are much narrower. The narrowest width of the residual mean difference distribution is for tracks on layer 2 built from hits on layers 1 and 3 (see figure C.4b).

Therefore, for each tracking combination, a systematic uncertainty equal to the RMS of the residual mean difference distribution was assigned.

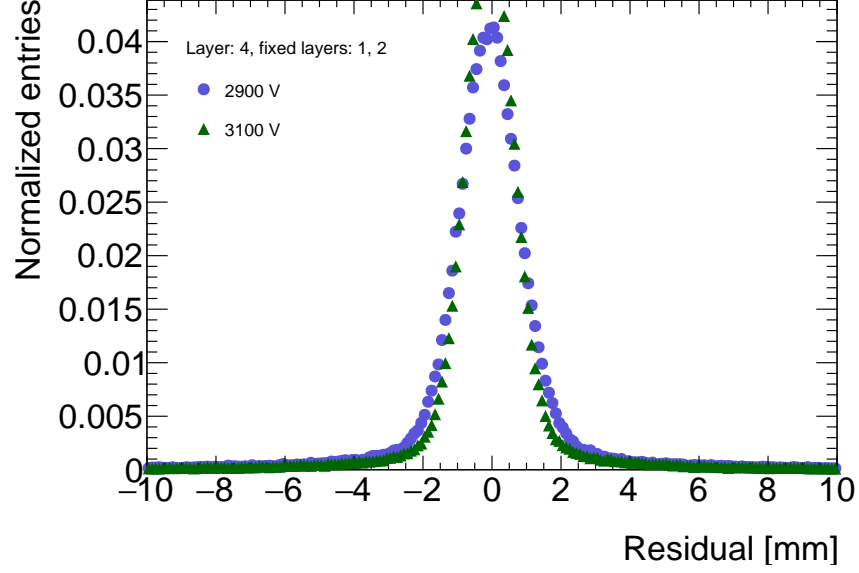
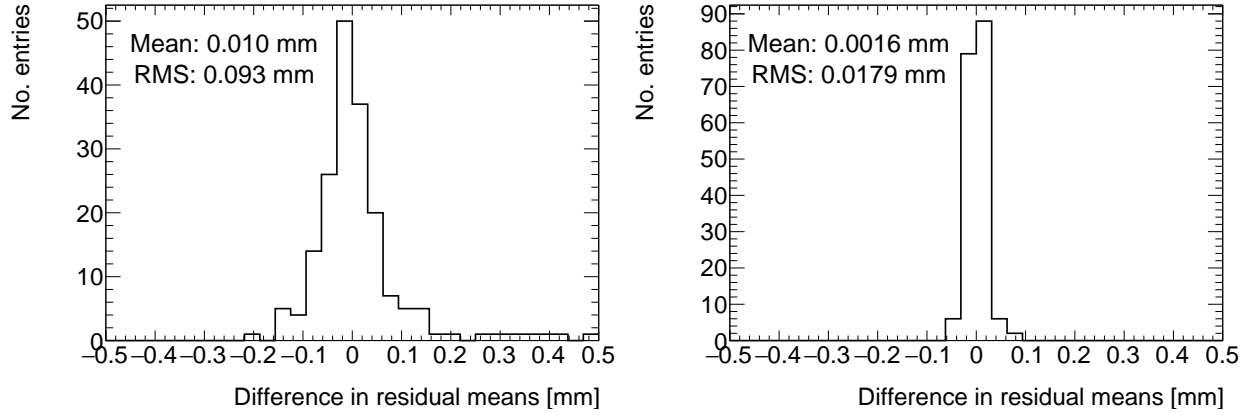


Figure C.3: Residual distribution for tracks on layer 4 built from hits on layers 1 and 2 for QL2.P.8 for data collected at 2.9 kV and 3.1 kV.



(a) Tracks on layer 4, reference layers 1 and 2. (b) Tracks on layer 2, reference layers 1 and 3.

Figure C.4: Difference in residual means for data collected with QL2.P.8 at 2.9 kV and 3.1 kV respectively in 100 mm by 100 mm bins for (a) tracks on layer 4 built from hits on layers 1 and 2 and (b) tracks on layer 2 built from hits on layers 1 and 3.

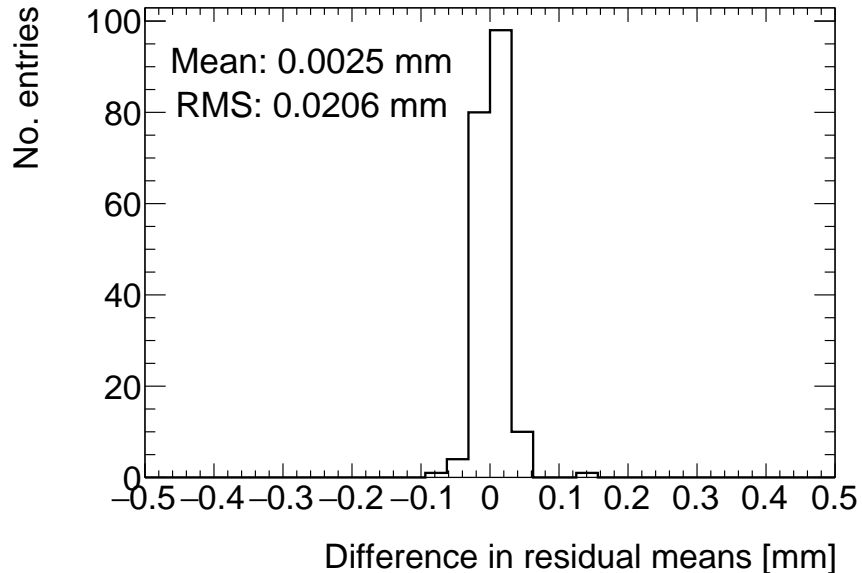


Figure C.5: Difference in residual means when the cluster fit algorithm is Minuit2 [4] versus Guo's method [5] for tracks on layer 4 built from hits on layers 1 and 2 for QL2.P.8.

C.3 Cluster fit algorithm

To ensure that changing the cluster fitting algorithm like in appendix A would not change the calculated mean of residuals in each region of interest significantly, the residual means were compared in both cases. The distribution of the difference in residual means is plotted in figure C.5 for the tracking combination with the worst extrapolation lever arm.

The other tracking combinations had smaller RMS values. Differences on the order of $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ are important, so figure C.5 shows that the clustering algorithm had a small but notable effect. Therefore, the RMS for each tracking combination will be used to add a systematic uncertainty on the residual means.

C.4 OBSOLETE, WRITE ONCE YOU'RE SURE. Area of residual distribution regions of interest

This is the reasoning as of 2021-08-10. Several factors went into choosing the area of the region of interest. First, the uncertainty in the cosmics tracks in the x-coordinates for the

least geometrically favourable case was just under 40 mm, so the width of the bin in x had to be larger. Also since the x -coordinate was discrete the number of entries in each bin was smoothed out by making the width in x larger than two wire groups, or 72 mm. Second, the scale on which local offsets vary by more than $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ is 500 mm, assuming a large but possible rotation angle on a layer of $1000\text{ }\mu\text{rad}$. Variations of $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ were deemed significant since the desired position resolution of the quadruplet is $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. Therefore, the area had to be significantly lesser than 500 mm. Third, the x-ray gun only covered an area of 20 mm by 20 mm, so ideally only cosmic tracks in that region would be included in the calculation of the mean. However, 20 mm in x was too small and the number of tracks is limited in small bins. Balancing these considerations, 100 mm by 100 mm bins were used. The variation in differences between cosmic residual means for these bins and 40 mm by 20 mm bins was insignificant thanks to the increased statistical uncertainty on the cosmic residual means for the smaller bins.

This section is outdated, and likely needs to be removed

The area of the region of interest in which to include tracks is primarily motivated by the misalignment model: the width of the region should be less than the scale on which the local offset is expected to change significantly. Changes in offset of order $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, the approximate position resolution of the sTGCs in the η -coordinate, are significant. In a misalignment model with an offset and rotation, only the rotation changes the local offset with respect to the x -coordinate¹. The distribution of the as-built cathode board rotation angles shows that the RMS of the rotation angle is $200\text{ }\mu\text{rad}$ [<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1035057/> PG. 18]; however, the distribution has a long tail so a typical rotation angle of $1000\text{ }\mu\text{rad}$ was used here. A rotation of $1000\text{ }\mu\text{rad}$ will cause a $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ change in local offset over a change in x of 50 cm. Therefore, the width of the region of interest should be less than 500 mm.

Two other factors inform the width of the region. First, since the hits' x -coordinates are discrete the width in x must be larger than the pitch of the wire groups to ensure the bin will have a sufficient number of tracks fall in it. Second, more tracks will be included in a larger area so more statistics will be available for the residual distribution fit. For the bin widths wider than two wire groups, the statistics are sufficient. For each x-ray residual, the mean cosmic residual was calculated for a few different bin widths, and the difference in means plotted. Figure C.6 shows an example for QL2.C.4. The width of the distribution is on the order of $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, showing that the calculation of the residual mean is relatively robust with respect to the area of the bin. However, $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ is greater than the typical statistical

¹The effect of rotation can be modeled by assuming the recorded track position is related to the hit position by a passive rotation. The angle of rotation is the relative angle between the layer of interest and the nominal geometry. The local offset does change with respect to the track's y coordinate as well, but negligibly in the limit of small rotation angles.

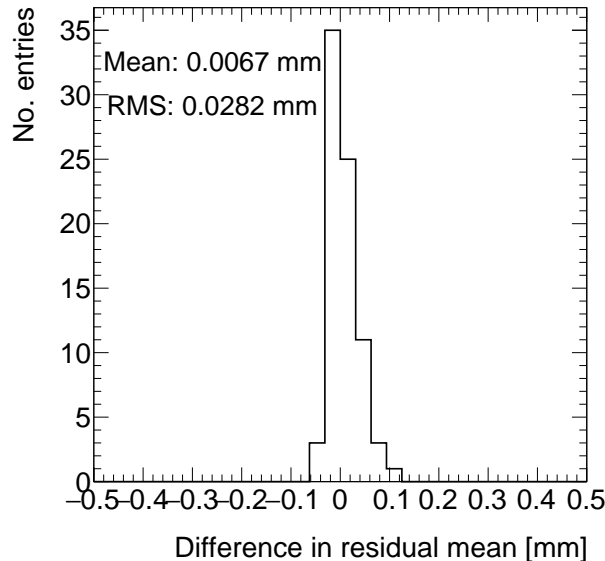


Figure C.6: Difference in cosmic residual means around x-ray residuals for square bins of 100 mm width and 200 mm width for QL2.C.4.

uncertainty on the cosmic residual of means, which ranges from 10 μm - 40 μm depending on the tracking combination under study. Therefore, the cosmic residual means are assigned an uncertainty of 50 μm .

For this analysis, 100 mm by 100 mm bins were used.

C.5 Differential non-linearity

In this context, differential non-linearity (DNL) is when the reconstructed cluster mean is biased by the fit of the discretely sampled PDO distribution over the strips. The bias depends on the relative position of the avalanche with respect to the center of the closest strip. For a summary of DNL, refer to page 40 of Lefebvre's thesis [1]. The cluster mean was corrected for DNL using the equation:

$$y' = y + a \sin(2\pi y_{rel}) \quad (\text{C.2})$$

where y is the cluster mean, y_{rel} is the relative position of the cluster mean with respect to the strip's center, a is the amplitude of the correction, and y' is the corrected cluster mean.

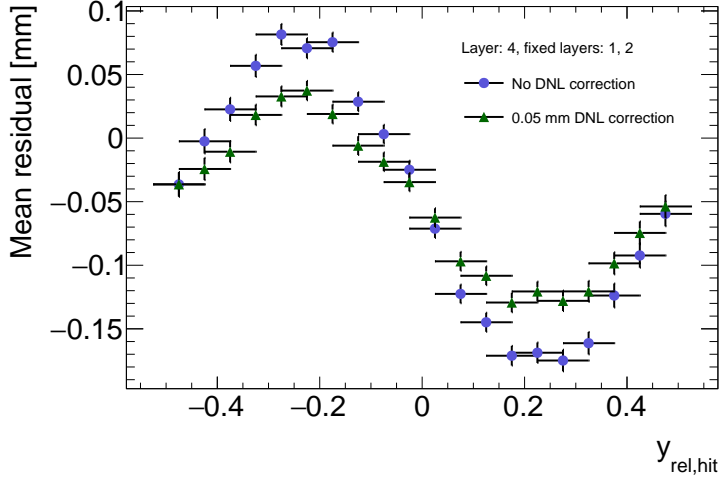


Figure C.7: Effect applying a 50 μm DNL correction to the cluster means on the residual vs y_{rel} distribution for tracks built from layers 1 and 2 and extrapolated to layer 4 for QL2.P.8.

The amplitude can be derived by comparing the reconstructed hit position to the expected hit position, as done in Abusleme, 2016 [15]. With cosmic muons, there is no reference hit position to compare to, so track residuals were used as a proxy [1]. The hallmark of the DNL effect is the periodic pattern in the residual versus y_{rel} profile, and the effect of correcting the cluster means using an amplitude of 50 μm is shown in figure C.7. An amplitude of 50 μm was based on Lefebvre’s estimate of the DNL amplitudes by layer, quadruplet and cluster size using exclusive cosmic muon tracks in `tgc_analysis/CosmicsAnalysis`. Little variation was seen in the amplitude parameters with respect to the quadruplet tested, the layer and the cluster size so a universal correction was used.

Although the correction is not large enough in this case, the figure shows that the correction does reduce the DNL effect. Slightly better performance is seen in the interpolation tracking combinations where the quality of the residuals is better. DNL corrections for cosmic muon data are difficult because the DNL effect is obscured by the effect of misalignments and noise. Misalignments cause the center of the sine pattern in figure C.7 to be shifted off of zero, since the mean of residuals is shifted.

In figure C.8, it is apparent that the effect of the DNL correction on the mean of the residual distribution in 100 mm by 100 mm areas is on the order of micrometers in the worst extrapolation case. Although the σ ’s of the residual distributions shrink with the DNL correction, the mean is the parameter of interest. Therefore, for this analysis DNL was not corrected for.

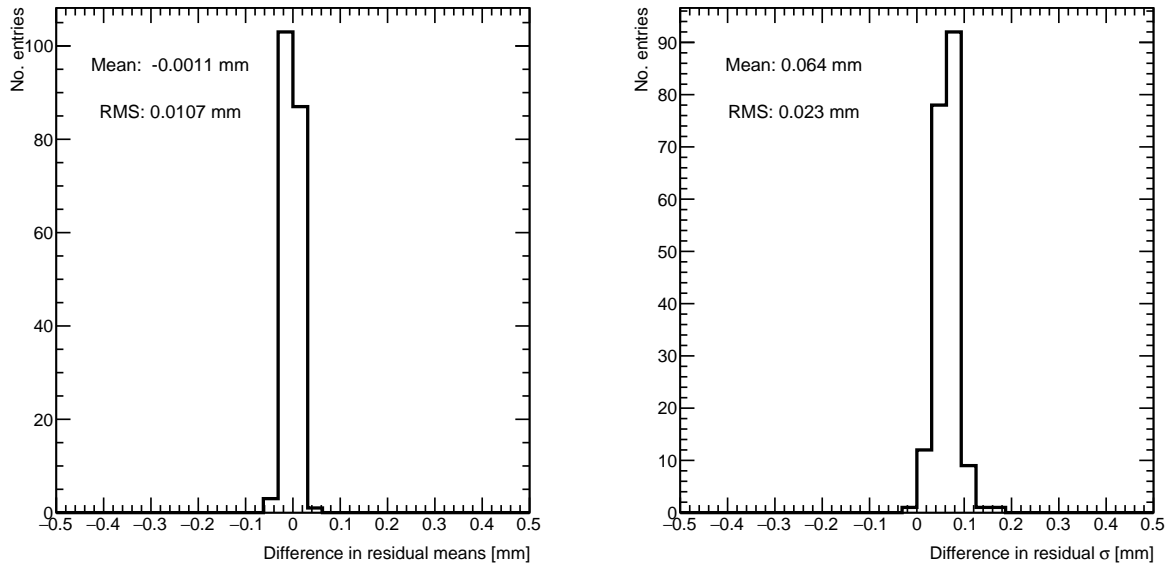


Figure C.8: Difference in residual distribution means and σ 's with and without DNL correction for residuals on layer 4 from reference layers 1 and 2 for QL2.P.8.

The σ 's of the residual distributions do shrink with the DNL correction but not so much to affect the residual means, which are the important parameter for this analysis. Therefore, since the effect of the DNL correction is negligible, it was not pursued further.

Appendix D

Printable plots

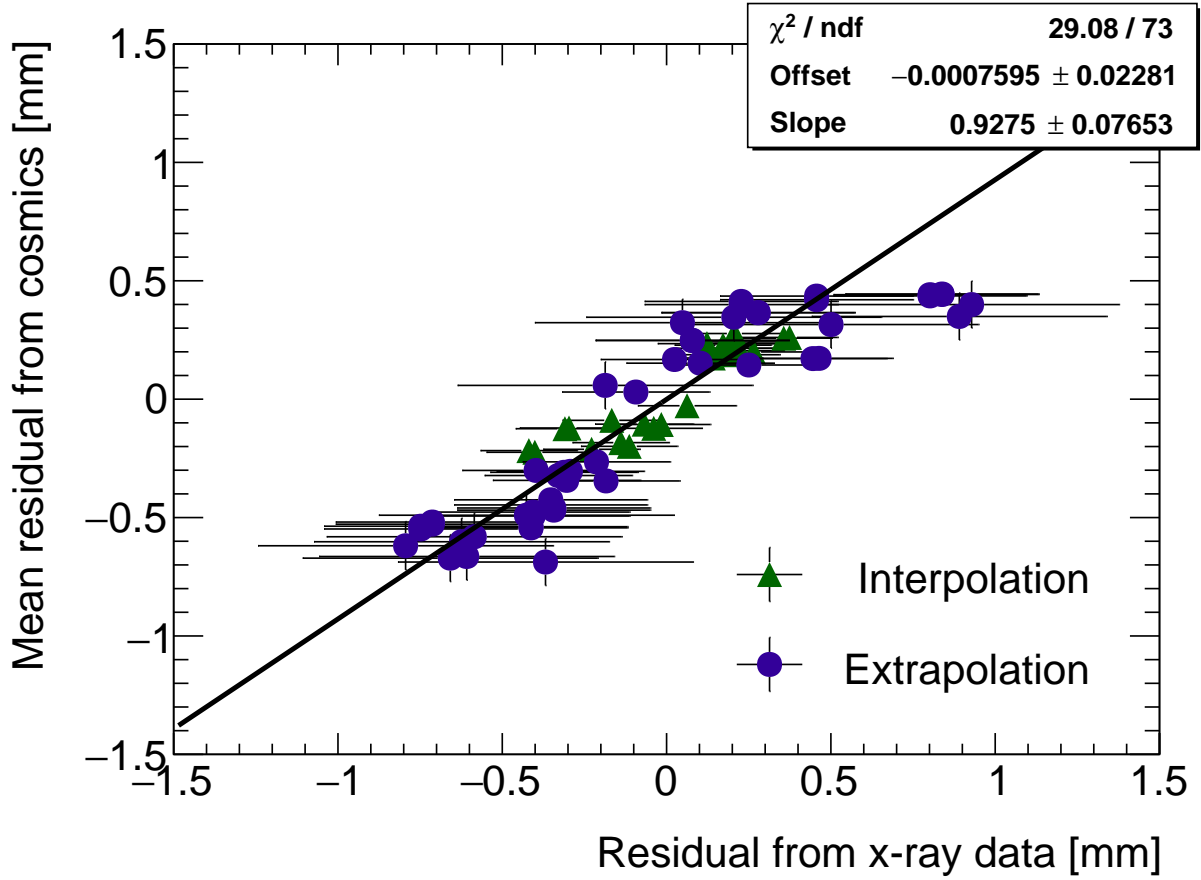


Figure D.1: Correlation plot between x-ray and cosmics residuals for all tracking combinations for QL2.P.11. Each rectangle is centered on an x-ray and mean cosmics residual pair. The width of the rectangles in x and y are the uncertainty in the x-ray and mean cosmics residual respectively. This is a printable version of figure 4.1 in section 4.2.

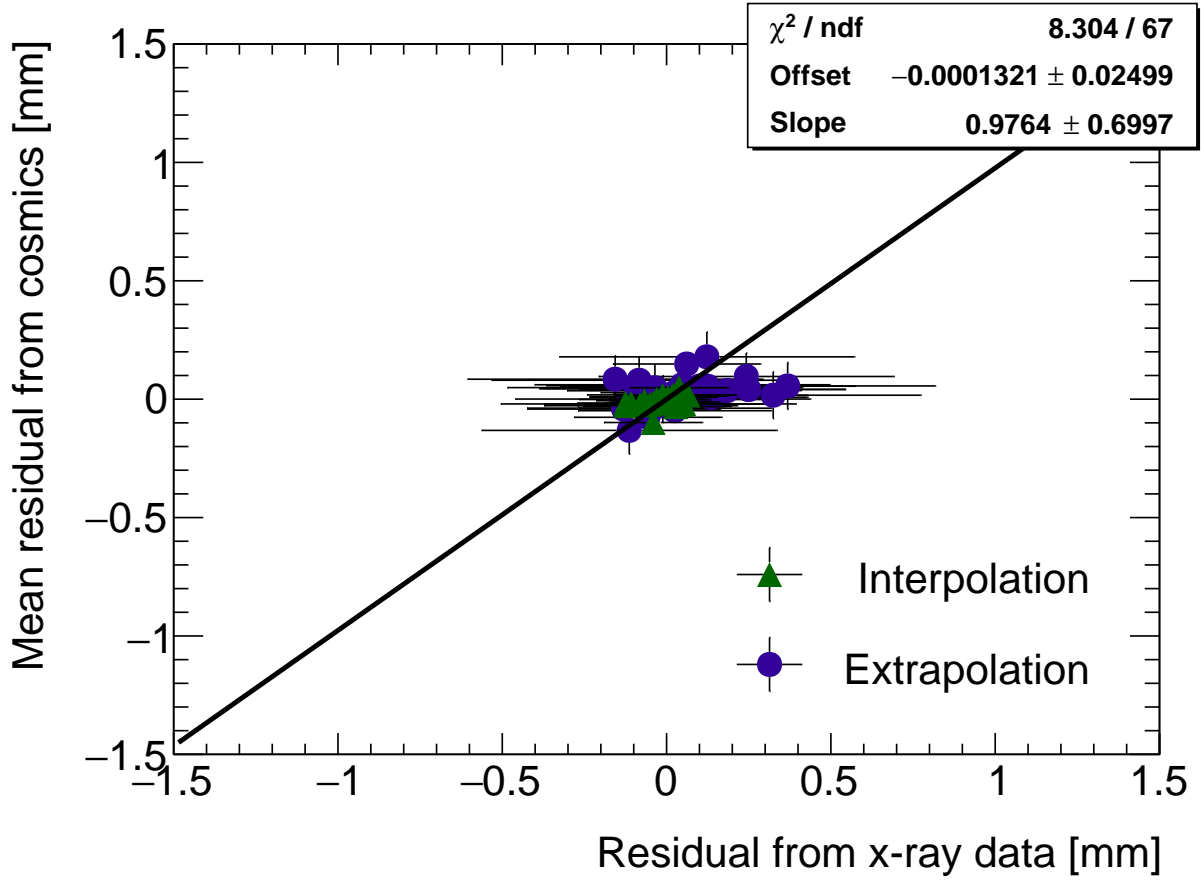


Figure D.2: Correlation plot between x-ray and cosmics residuals for all tracking combinations for QL2.P.8. Each rectangle is centered on an x-ray and mean cosmics residual pair. The width of the rectangles in x and y are the uncertainty in the x-ray and mean cosmics residual respectively. This is a printable version of figure 4.2 in section 4.2.