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Performance of the ATLAS tau trigger with 7 TeV collision data at the LHC

Tau leptons are a fundamental ingredient in the discovery of New Physics at the LHC. The Standard Model and various SuperSymmetric models predict an abundant production of taus with respect to other leptons. The reconstruction of hadronic tau decay at the trigger level, although a very challenging task in proton proton collisions environment, allows to double the signal sample collected, and provides additional discovery power to final states including tau leptons. In this contribution we show the present understanding of the tau trigger system in recent proton proton collisions at 7 TeV collected with the ATLAS detector. We present the most relevant quantities used in the different stages of the trigger selection, and the trigger efficiencies as a function of p_T and pseudorapidity using Tau-like QCD events passing the offline reconstruction and identification selection. Finally, we present the prospects for tau trigger measurements with real taus from $W \rightarrow \tau \nu$ and $Z \rightarrow \tau \tau$ processes.

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