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Operational Experience with the ALICE Pixel Detector

The Silicon Pixel Detector (SPD) constitutes the two innermost layers of the Inner Tracking System of the ALICE experiment. It is the closest detector to the interaction point and a special effort was done to narrow its material budget down to 1% X_0 per layer. As a vertex detector, it has the unique feature of generating a trigger signal that contributes to the L0 trigger of the ALICE experiment. The SPD started to record data since the very first pp collisions at LHC in 2009 and it was operational in Pb-Pb collisions as well as in p-Pb collisions in 2013. It is still fully operational in the ongoing LHC run period, Run 2, after a long shutdown period of two years. This contribution will present the main features of the SPD, the detector performance and the operational experience, including calibration and optimization activities from Run 1 to Run 2.

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