

Observation of Photon-Induced W Boson Pair Production

HEP Seminar, QMUL



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Introduction

- ▶ Recently, ATLAS published a set of landmark results
- ▶ Using the LHC as a photon collider

▶ Previous or similar studies:

$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell$	Phys. Lett. B 749 (2015) 242	pp @ 7 TeV
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$	Phys. Rev. D 94 (2016) 032011	pp @ 8 TeV
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \mu\mu$	Phys. Lett. B 777 (2018) 303	pp @ 13 TeV
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \mu\mu$	Phys. Rev. Lett. 121 (2018) 212301	PbPb @ 5.02 TeV
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	Phys. Rev. Lett. 123 (2019) 052001	PbPb @ 5.02 TeV
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	arXiv:2008.05355 (new!)	PbPb @ 5.02 TeV
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell$	arXiv:2009.14537 (new!)	pp @ 13 TeV

- ▶ New results report the production of particles at the electroweak mass scale from photons
- ▶ With $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$ serving as a fundamental test of electroweak theory
- ▶ Utilising the LHC run-2 pp dataset



HIGGS AND ELECTROWEAK | NEWS

The LHC as a photon collider

15 August 2020

A report from the ATLAS experiment



Future forward Part of the ATLAS forward-proton spectrometer. Credit: ATLAS collaboration

Protons accelerated by the LHC generate a large flux of quasi-real high-energy photons that can interact to produce particles at the electroweak scale. Using the LHC as a photon collider, the ATLAS collaboration announced a set of landmark results at the 40th International Conference on High Energy Physics last week, among which is the first observation of the photo-production of W-boson pairs.

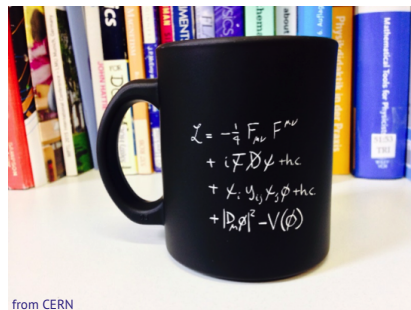
As it proceeds via trilinear and quartic gauge-boson vertices involving two W bosons and either one or two photons, the production of a pair of W bosons from two photons ($\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$) tests a longstanding prediction



Part I: The Theory

The Standard Model

- ▶ The Standard Model describes the fundamental constituents of matter and their interactions
 - ▶ **strong** and **electroweak (EW)** interaction
- ▶ Rich variety of interactions derived from a rather simple set of symmetries
- ▶ Electroweak symmetry is broken
- Mediators of the electroweak force have mass
- ▶ Self-interactions of electroweak gauge bosons
 - ▶ Quantum corrections at EW mass scale (probed in W/Z precision measurements)
 - ▶ Large effects at highest energies
- ▶ At the LHC we can test the electroweak theory at highest energies



$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{SU}(3)_C & \times & \text{SU}(2)_L \times \text{U}(1)_Y \\
 \text{colour} & & \text{weak isospin} \quad \text{weak hypercharge} \\
 \text{red, green, blue} & & I_3 = 0, \pm \frac{1}{2} \quad Y \\
 8 \text{ gluons} & & W^1, W^2, W^3 \quad B \\
 & & \rightarrow W^+, W^-, Z, \gamma
 \end{array}$$

Electroweak Theory

- ▶ Gauge couplings arise from the SU(2) potential term $\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} W_{\mu\nu}^a W_a^{\mu\nu}$, with the field strength tensor $W_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu W_\nu^a - \partial_\nu W_\mu^a - g f_{abc} W_\mu^b W_\nu^c$
- ▶ It generates cubic and quartic couplings

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = ie_{V=\gamma,Z} [W_{\mu\nu}^+ W^{-\mu} V^\nu - W_{\mu\nu}^- W^{+\mu} V^\nu + W_\mu^+ W_\nu^- V^{\mu\nu}]$$

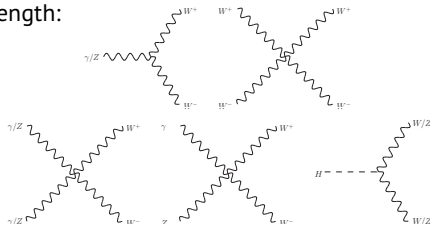
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_4 = e_W^2 & [W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} W_\nu^- W^{+\nu} - W_\mu^- W^{-\mu} W_\nu^+ W^{+\nu}] \\ & + e_{V=\gamma,Z}^2 [W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} V_\nu V^\nu - W_\mu^- V^\mu W_\nu^+ Z^\nu] \\ & + e_\gamma e_Z [2W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} Z_\nu A^\nu - W_\mu^- Z^\mu W_\nu^+ A^\nu - W_\mu^- A^\mu W_\nu^+ Z^\nu] \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ With precise predictions of the coupling strength:

$$e_\gamma = g \sin \theta_W, e_W = \frac{e_\gamma}{2\sqrt{2} \sin \theta_W} \text{ and } e_Z = e_\gamma \cot \theta_W$$

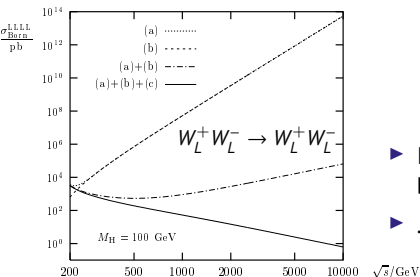
- ▶ They *always* involve a pair of W bosons, there are no neutral vertices
- ▶ Heavy gauge bosons also couple to the Higgs boson

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}} = \frac{m_W^2}{v^2} W_\mu^+ W^{-\mu} h^2 + \frac{m_Z^2}{v^2} Z_\mu Z^\mu h^2$$

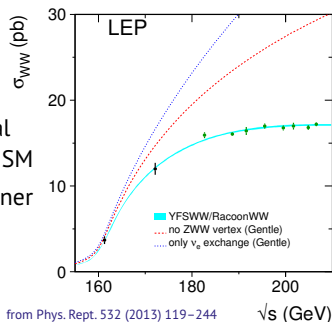


Gauge Cancellations

- ▶ Gauge-boson self interactions play a crucial role for the renormalisability of the electroweak theory
- ▶ Large cancellations of divergences arising in individual diagrams are exact if couplings take the values of the SM
- Diboson measurements are a sensitive probe of the inner structure of the electroweak symmetry



from Nucl. Phys. B525 (1998) 27-50

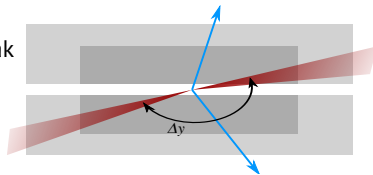


from Phys. Rept. 532 (2013) 119–244

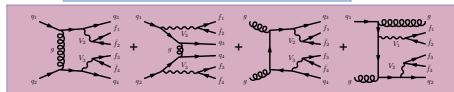
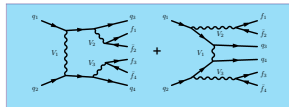
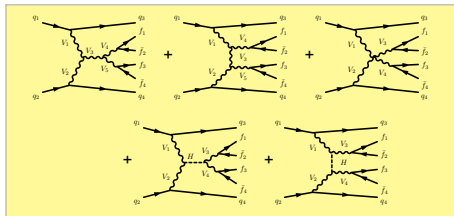
- ▶ In processes involving quartic couplings, the Higgs boson is governing the high energy behaviour
- ▶ ... if only W and Z bosons are involved

Vector-boson Scattering

- ▶ Measurements of processes with quartic electroweak couplings have already been established
- ▶ Electroweak diboson production, $V V_{jj}$

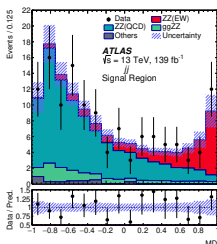


- ▶ The same final state can be produced in:
 - ▶ purely electroweak interactions involving only cubic and quartic self interactions ●
 - ▶ purely electroweak interactions without self interactions ●
 - ▶ processes involving both strong and electroweak interactions ●
- ▶ Electroweak production has characteristic signature of vector-boson scattering
- ▶ They are amongst the rarest reactions measured at the LHC so far ($\sigma = \mathcal{O}(1 \text{ fb})$)

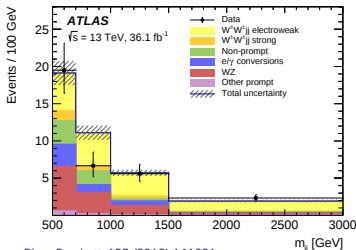


Experimental Status

- Electroweak $V Vjj$ production has been experimentally confirmed for $ZZjj$, $WZjj$, $W^\pm W^\pm jj$, $W\gamma jj$ (and there's strong evidence for $Z\gamma jj$)



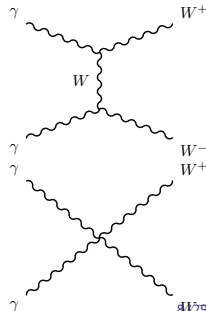
from arXiv:2004.10612



from Phys. Rev. Lett. 123 (2019) 161801

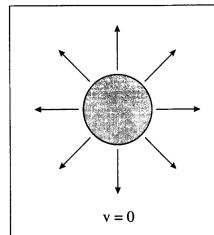
$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{W^\pm W^\pm jj\text{-EWK}}^{\text{fid}} &= 2.89 \pm 0.50 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.29 \text{ (syst) fb} \\ \sigma_{W^\pm W^\pm jj\text{-EWK}}^{\text{fid}} &= 0.57 \pm 0.14 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.07 \text{ (syst) fb} \\ \sigma_{ZZjj\text{-EWK}}^{\text{fid}} &= 0.82 \pm 0.21 \text{ (syst) fb (4}\ell \text{ and 2}\ell 2\nu\text{)}\end{aligned}$$

- Strong production cross sections are typically orders of magnitude larger than those for electroweak production
- $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ production is *unique* in that strong production and electroweak diagrams without self interactions are suppressed
- ... and even more so is $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$

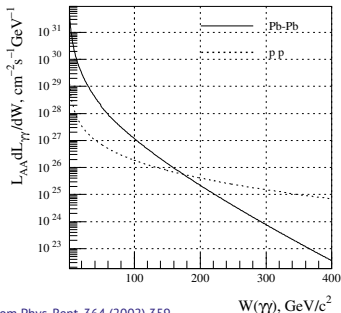
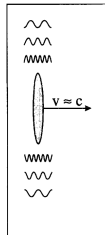
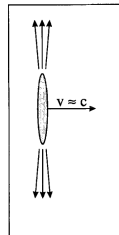


Photon-induced Processes

- ▶ Boosted charged particles are an intense source of “quasi-real” photons (Equivalent Photon Approximation)
- ▶ Longitudinal components of $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{B}$ vanish for $v \rightarrow c$



from Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. **39** (1997), 503

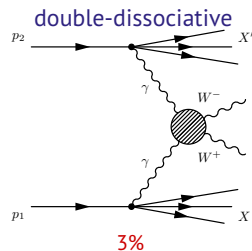
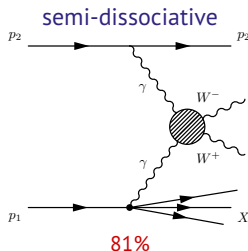
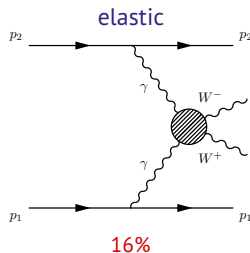


from Phys. Rept. **364** (2002) 359
(with outdated LHC design parameters)

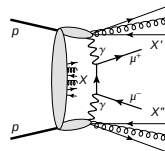
Lead-lead vs proton-proton:

- ▶ Many studies of photon-induced processes use heavy-ion collisions
 - ▶ Photon luminosity scales with $\sim Z^4$
 - ▶ Maximum photon energy $\sim \gamma/R$ (uncertainty principle)
- Use pp data to produce particles at electroweak mass scales or higher

Types of Photon-Photon Reactions



- ▶ In practise, the photon radiation can lead to a breakup of the photon
- ▶ Factorisation into elastic form factors and DIS structure functions
(see e.g. LUXqed approach, JHEP 12 (2017), 046)
- ▶ For elastic production, only, the protons stay intact and no particles except for W boson decay products are produced
- Measurement maximizes acceptance of elastic production, requiring no further *reconstructed* particles
- ▶ Rescattering of proton can cause loss of signal



Part II: The Measurement

Analysis in a Nutshell

Experimental Signature:

- ▶ exactly one electron and muon with opposite electric charge
- ▶ $p_T(l\bar{l}) > 30 \text{ GeV}, m_{\ell\bar{\ell}} > 20 \text{ GeV}$
- ▶ no charged particles associated with the primary interaction vertex

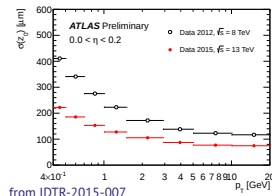
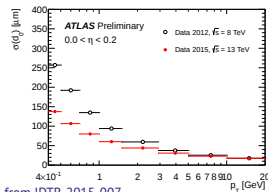
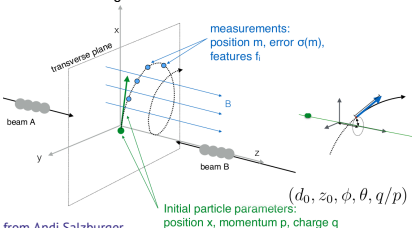
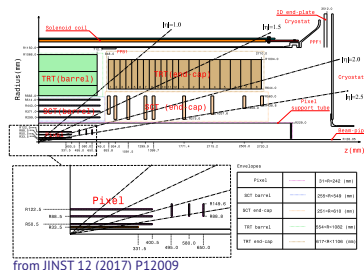


Experimental Challenges:

- ▶ In a typical ATLAS event we have a **primary interaction vertex**, and particles from the **hard interaction**, the **proton fragmentation** and **additional pp interactions**
- ▶ The analysis requires detailed understanding of:
 - ▶ vertex reconstruction ●
 - ▶ modelling of signal ●
 - ▶ the pileup density and multiplicity ●
 - ▶ underlying event of background processes ●

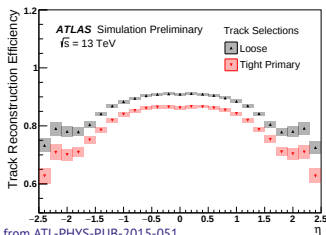
Track Reconstruction

- ▶ Accurately reconstructing as many charged-particle tracks as possible is key!
- ▶ Innermost tracking layer at $r = 33.5$ mm (pixel size: $50 \times 250 \mu\text{m}^2$, intrinsic spacial resolution: $10 \times 75 \mu\text{m}^2$)
- ▶ Tracks for analysis are selected with $d_0 < 1$ mm and $z_0 < 1$ mm



Track Selection

- ▶ Tracks are the largest consumer of CPU in ATLAS reconstruction, and of disk space
- ▶ Only tracks with $p_T > 500$ MeV are available for analysis



from ATL-PHYS-PUB-2015-051

$p_T > 0.1$ GeV

$p_T > 1$ GeV

$p_T > 5$ GeV



Run Number: 336852, Event Number: 8839662

Date: 2017-09-29 09:19:23 CEST

Vertex Reconstruction

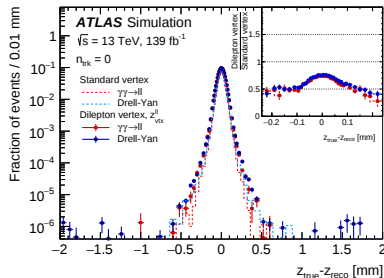
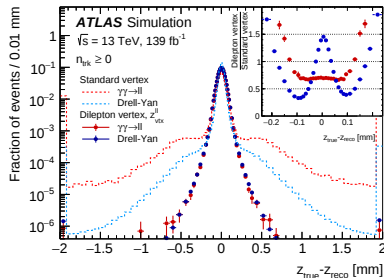
- Usually, the interaction vertices are reconstructed from charged-particle tracks in the inner detector
- The vertex with the largest $\sum p_T^2$ is chosen as the primary vertex
- Not optimal for photon-induced processes

- Instead, leptons are used to reconstruct the interaction vertex:

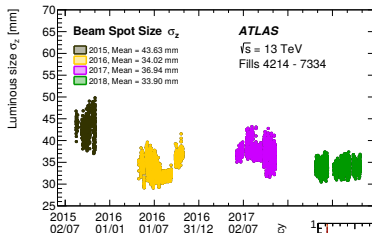
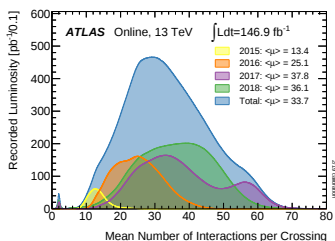
$$z_{\text{vtx}}^{\ell\ell} = \frac{z_{\ell_1} \sin^2 \theta_{\ell_1} + z_{\ell_2} \sin^2 \theta_{\ell_2}}{\sin^2 \theta_{\ell_1} + \sin^2 \theta_{\ell_2}}$$

where $\sin^{-1} \theta_\ell$ parametrises the uncertainty of the measured z_ℓ position

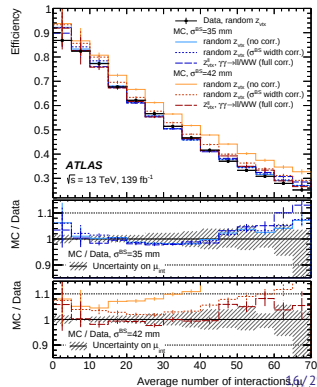
- This vertex is *unbiased* by close-by pileup tracks
- and *more efficient* than the usual $\sum p_T^2$ criterion

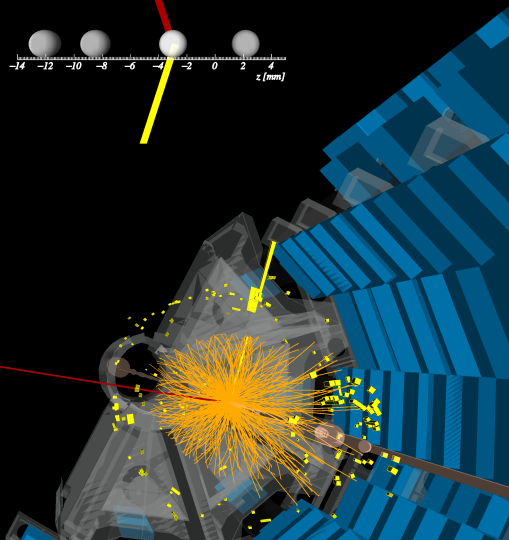
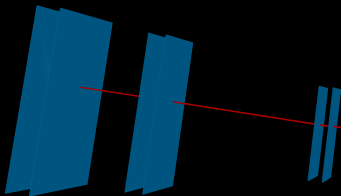
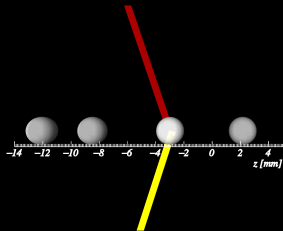
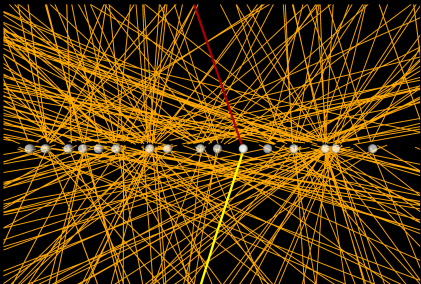


Pileup Challenge



- ▶ Between 2015 and 2018 ATLAS recorded 139 fb^{-1} of pp collision data
 - ▶ With an average of 33.7 collisions per bunch crossing
 - ▶ With varying beam conditions
- ▶ A pileup vertex in the vicinity of the $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$ vertex causes the event to be dropped
- ▶ Measurement relies on the correct description of the multiplicity and density of pileup tracks





ATLAS
EXPERIMENT

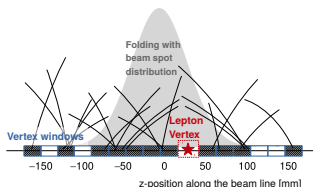
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Event: 653219636

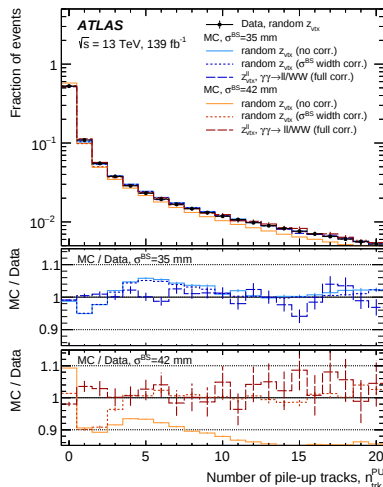
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Pileup Modelling

- ▶ The probability of finding a pileup track within 1 mm of the vertex is 47.4%
- Large source of efficiency loss
- ▶ Measured from several z-positions in Drell-Yan events, weighted with beam-spot distribution

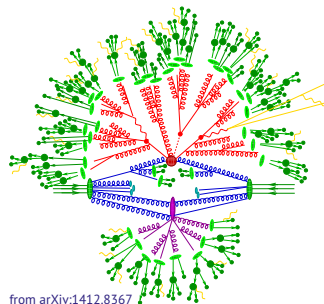
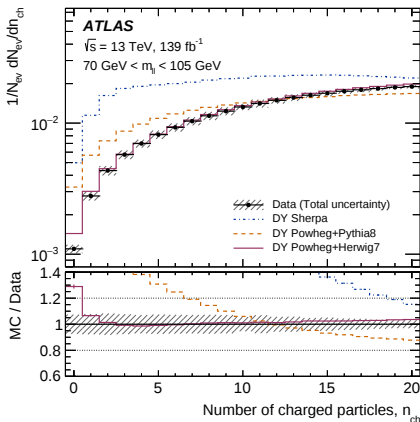


- ▶ Small differences between data and simulation are used as a correction, after correcting the beam-spot size



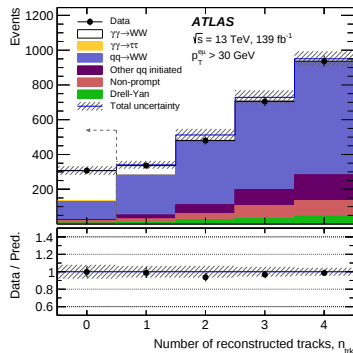
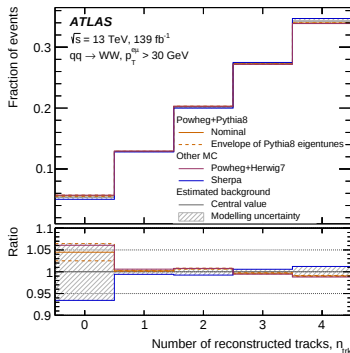
Background Modelling

- ▶ An accurate estimation of the backgrounds relies on the modelling of the underlying event
- ▶ Dominated by low- p_T , non-perturbative physics



- ▶ The number of charged particles is measured in Drell-Yan events
- ▶ Double differentially in n_{ch} and $p_T(l\bar{l})$
- ▶ Separately for all parton shower models used in the analysis

Modelling of $qq \rightarrow WW$ Production



- Underlying event corrections derived in Drell-Yan events are used to correct $qq \rightarrow VV$ events, as a function of n_{ch} and $p_T(VV)$
- Pythia8 eigentune vars., Herwig7 and Sherpa parton-shower models agree within 1% ... except for $n_{\text{track}} = 0$

Differences are the largest source of uncertainty in the measurement

(with the $qq \rightarrow VV$ yield estimated from the average and envelope of the highest and lowest number)

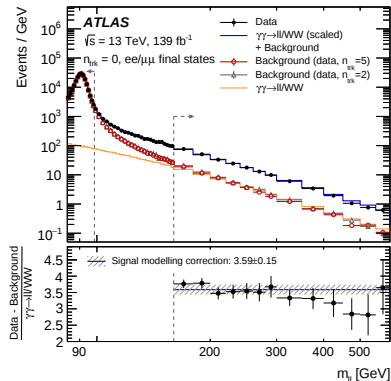
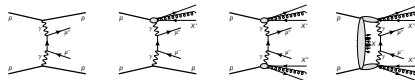
Signal Modelling

- ▶ No complete simulation of $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$ available (or have only recently become available)
- ▶ In particular, no rescattering of the proton
- Measure missing components in $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell$

- ▶ Using elastic contributions for signal predictions, only

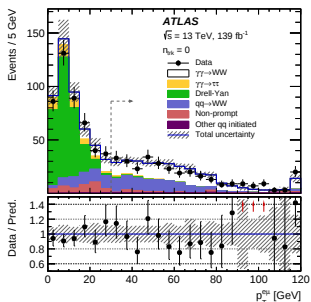
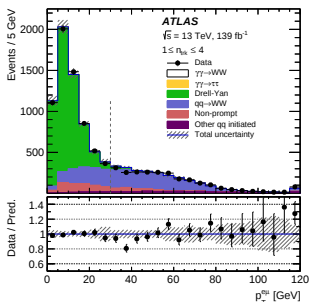
$$\beta_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell} = \frac{N_{\text{data}} - N_{\text{bkg}}}{N_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell}^{\text{elastic}}} = 3.59 \pm 0.15 \text{ (stat.+syst.)}$$

- ▶ Applicability to $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$ ensured with $m_{\ell\ell} > 160 \text{ GeV} \sim 2 \cdot m_W$ (and a generous uncertainty)



This approach assumes that the fraction of elastic and dissociative components are the same in $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell$ and $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$ events, for a given $m_{\gamma\gamma}$

The Observation



$$\beta_{WW} = 1.21^{+0.19}_{-0.23}$$

$$\beta_{\text{Drell-Yan}} = 1.16^{+0.10}_{-0.12}$$

$$\beta_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell} = 3.59 \pm 0.15$$

$$\mu_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW} = 1.33$$

$$\pm 0.14 \text{ (stat.) } ^{+0.22}_{-0.17} \text{ (syst.)}$$

- ▶ Signal extracted in a profile likelihood fit, using
 - ▶ four bins with $p_T(\ell\ell) < 30$ GeV or $p_T(\ell\ell) > 30$ GeV, and $1 \leq n_{track} \leq 4$ or $n_{track} = 0$
 - ▶ one bin for the signal modelling correction, $n_{track} = 0$ and $m_{\ell\ell} > 160$ GeV
 - ▶ four free parameters, the normalisations of $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$, $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell$, Drell-Yan and $qq \rightarrow WW$
- ▶ 307 candidate events are selected in data where 127 are expected from background

The background-only hypothesis is rejected with 8.4σ (6.7σ expected)

Fiducial Cross Section

- ▶ The fiducial cross section ($n_{\text{ch}} = 0$ + kinematic requirements) is measured to be

$$\sigma_{\text{meas.}} = 3.13 \pm 0.31 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 0.28 \text{ (syst.) fb}$$

- ▶ Largest sources of uncertainty
 - ▶ Stat. uncertainties in the backgrounds
 - ▶ Background modelling
 - ▶ Signal modelling (dissociative contributions)
- ▶ Compared to our “expectation”

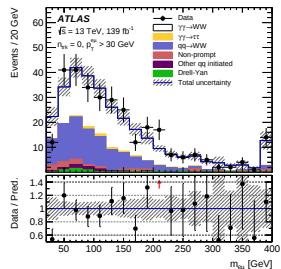
$$\sigma_{\text{elastic}} \cdot \beta_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell} = 2.34 \pm 0.27 \text{ fb}$$

- ▶ A standalone prediction from Madgraph with MMHT2015qed PDF

$$\sigma_{\text{theo.}} = 4.3 \pm 1.0 \text{ (scale)} \pm 0.12 \text{ (PDF) fb}$$

- ▶ This value needs to be corrected for rescattering effects ranging between 0.65 and 0.82

Source of uncertainty	Impact [%]
Experimental	
Track reconstruction	1.1
Electron energy scale and resolution, and efficiency	0.4
Muon momentum scale and resolution, and efficiency	0.5
Misidentified leptons	1.5
Background, statistical	6.7
Modelling	
Pile-up modelling	1.1
Underlying-event modelling	1.4
Signal modelling	2.1
WW modelling	4.0
Other backgrounds	1.7
Luminosity	1.7
Total	8.9

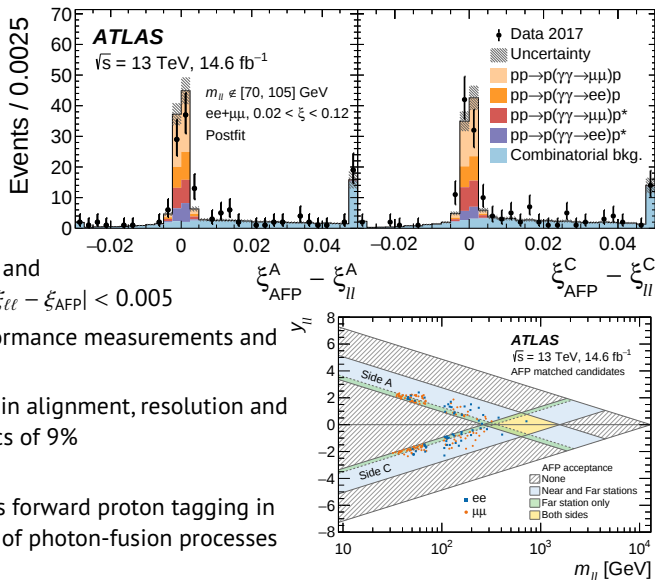


Part III: The Future

Observation of Proton-tagged Dilepton Production

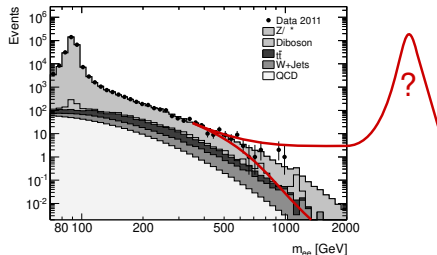
- ▶ Measurement of $pp \rightarrow p(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell)p^{(*)}$
- ▶ Using part of 2017 data
- ▶ Observation of 57 $ee + p$ and 123 $\mu\mu + p$ events with $|\xi_{\ell\ell} - \xi_{\text{AFP}}| < 0.005$
- ▶ Pioneering work on performance measurements and analysis techniques
- ▶ Systematic uncertainties in alignment, resolution and knowledge of beam optics of 9%

The measurement introduces forward proton tagging in cross-section measurements of photon-fusion processes



Standard Model Effective Field Theory

- ▶ Make use of Standard Model measurements to constrain new physics
- ▶ Quantify agreement of couplings with $SU(2) \times U(1)$ prediction
- ▶ Expand Standard Model Lagrangian with higher dimension (of energy) operators Q_i (suppressed by powers of inverse energy scale $1/\Lambda$)



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM EFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_i \frac{c_i^{\text{dim-6}}}{\Lambda^2} Q_i^{\text{dim-6}} + \sum_i \frac{c_i^{\text{dim-8}}}{\Lambda^4} Q_i^{\text{dim-8}}$$

(excluding lepton/baryon number violating operators)

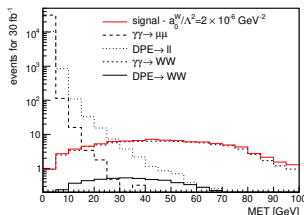
- ▶ Only at dim-8 (or higher) there are operators which affect quartic but not cubic gauge couplings

Vertex \ Operator	O_{M2}								
	O_{S0}	O_{M0}	O_{M3}	O_{T0}	O_{T5}				
	O_{S1}	O_{M1}	O_{M4}	O_{T1}	O_{T6}	O_{T8}			
	O_{S2}	O_{M7}	O_{M5}	O_{T2}	O_{T7}	O_{T9}			
WWWW	✓	✓		✓					
WWZZ		✓	✓		✓				
WWZγ		✓	✓	✓	✓				
WWγγ		✓	✓		✓				
ZZZZ	✓			✓	✓	✓			
ZZZγ		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
ZZγγ		✓	✓		✓	✓			
Zγγγ				✓	✓	✓			
γγγγ					✓	✓			

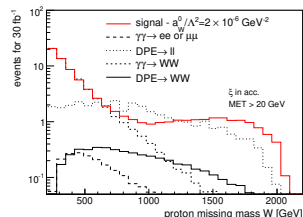
EFT parametrisation of O. Eboli, M.

Gonzalez-Garcia (arxiv:1604.03555)

Prospects for $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$



from Phys. Rev. D 81, 074003 (2010)



from Phys. Rev. D 81, 074003 (2010)

- Forward proton tagging allows reconstruction of the WW system in $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$ events

$$W = \sqrt{s\xi_1\xi_2} = m_{WW}$$

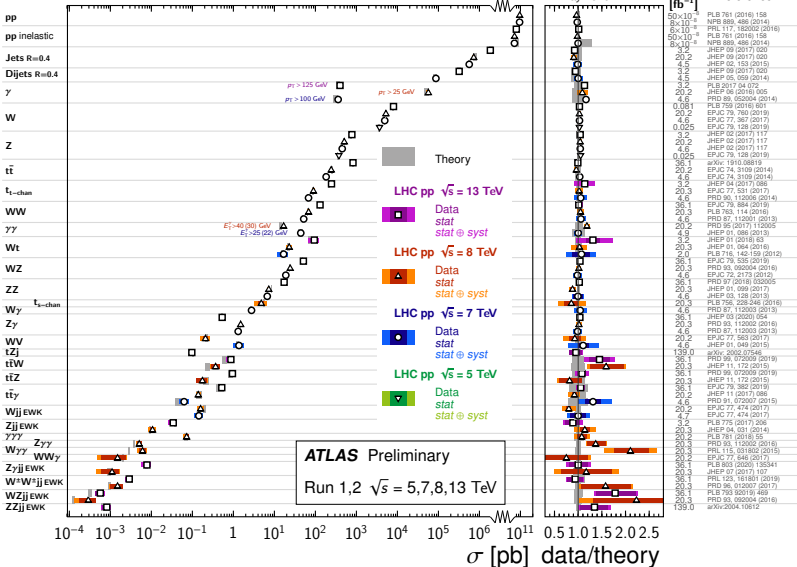
- With acceptance of $300 \text{ GeV} < W < 1.5 \text{ TeV}$ of double-tagged events
- Possibility to measure differential cross section as a function of $m_{\gamma\gamma}$
- Increased sensitivity for EFT interpretations in LHC run-3

Summary

- ▶ There is a vibrant and emerging physics program using the LHC as a photon collider
- ▶ Progress in experimental techniques allow use of high pileup pp data
- ▶ The production of two W bosons from two photons has been observed
- ▶ As it proceeds through quartic gauge couplings, it confirms a longstanding Standard Model prediction
- ▶ Have a look at our paper [arXiv:2010.04019](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.04019)

Backup

Standard Model Production Cross Section Measurements



n_{trk} $p_{\text{T}}^{e\mu}$	Signal region		Control regions	
	$n_{\text{trk}} = 0$		$1 \leq n_{\text{trk}} \leq 4$	
	> 30 GeV	< 30 GeV	> 30 GeV	< 30 GeV
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$	174 ± 20	45 ± 6	95 ± 19	24 ± 5
$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell$	5.5 ± 0.3	39.6 ± 1.9	5.6 ± 1.2	32 ± 7
Drell–Yan	4.5 ± 0.9	280 ± 40	106 ± 19	4700 ± 400
$qq \rightarrow WW$ (incl. gg and VBS)	101 ± 17	55 ± 10	1700 ± 270	970 ± 150
Non-prompt	14 ± 14	36 ± 35	220 ± 220	500 ± 400
Other backgrounds	7.1 ± 1.7	1.9 ± 0.4	311 ± 76	81 ± 15
Total	305 ± 18	459 ± 19	2460 ± 60	6320 ± 130
Data	307	449	2458	6332

