



Recent results from the CMS PPS A. Bellora

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The Precision Proton Spectrometer



- LHC magnetic field bends protons that survived the interaction in CMS:
 - Tracking and timing detectors installed in Roman Pots (RPs), to measure:
 - Fraction of momentum lost by the proton (ξ) tracking
 - Longitudinal coordinate of the primary vertex (z) timing
- More than 100 fb⁻¹ of data collected in Run 2
 - Taking Run 3 data with CMS!



The Precision Proton Spectrometer







ons that survived the interaction in CMS:

stalled in Roman Pots (RPs), the proton (ξ) - tracking rimary vertex (z) - timing ected in Run 2

Beam pipe insertions that approach the LHC beam down to ${\sim}1.5~\text{mm}$







The PPS physics case

- Study central exclusive production (CEP) at the LHC
 - Double colourless exchange via QED (γ) or QCD (*IP*)
 - Protons remain intact
- Proton tagging provides:
 - Additional constraints on the final state
 - Strong background rejection
- Exploit LHC as a photon-photon collider:
 - Test QED processes (favoured at high mass)
 - Search for BSM physics:
 - Enhancements over high-mass tails
 - New resonances
 - High sensitivity to anomalous couplings









Proton reconstruction





Detector alignment



Multi-step procedure: base measurement in dedicated LHC fill, then corrected fill-by-fill

- Alignment fill: determine the beam position and the relative detector positions
 - Low intensity (2-3 bunches), detectors closer to the beam, vertical RPs inserted
 - Data collected for each LHC setting that will be used during future data-taking
 - Elastic scattering kinematic properties used to find the beam center



CMS

Corrections: match dedicated observables to their alignment fill counterpart

arXiv:2210.05854



Proton transport

- Reconstruct the proton kinematics at the IP (*d**) from the measurements at the RP positions (*d*)
- Propagation modelled via the transport matrix T, containing the optical functions: $d = T \cdot d^*$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ \theta_x \\ y \\ \theta_y \\ \xi \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_x & L_x & 0 & 0 & D_x \\ v'_x & L'_x & 0 & 0 & D'_x \\ 0 & 0 & v_y & L_y & D_y \\ 0 & 0 & v'_y & L'_y & D'_y \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x^* \\ \theta^*_x \\ y^* \\ \theta^*_y \\ \xi \end{pmatrix}$$

Effective lengths

• Simplified version with leading terms: $\begin{aligned} x &= v_x(\xi) \cdot x^* + L_x(\xi) \cdot \theta_x^* + D_x(\xi) \cdot \xi \\ y &= v_y(\xi) \cdot y^* + L_y(\xi) \cdot \theta_y^* + D_y(\xi) \cdot \xi \end{aligned}$

Magnifications

arXiv:2210.05854



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Dispersions



Optics calibration

- Precise knowledge of the LHC beam optics is needed for proper reconstruction
 - Nominal optics calculated with MAD-X (accelerator simulation based on LHC parameters)
- Further calibration with data:
 - L_y determined using elastic events in the alignment run
 - D_x derived with two methods:
 - Determination of the 'pinch' point $(L_y = 0)$ in min-bias events
 - ξ comparison in (semi-)exclusive di-muon events $\xi_{\pm}(\mu^{+}\mu^{-}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{s}} \left(p_{T}(\mu^{+})e^{\pm\eta(\mu^{+})} + p_{T}(\mu^{-})e^{\pm\eta(\mu^{-})} \right)$
- Optical functions vary with crossing angle
 - This means variable acceptance during data-taking!







Di-lepton CEP as a validation tool

- High-mass central (semi)exclusive production of lepton pairs at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$
 - 5.1 σ significance reached with 2016 data
 - First observation of proton-tagged $\gamma\gamma$ collisions at the EW scale
- Now an essential calibration handle:
 - Select high-mass muon pairs produced back-to-back
 - Use the correlation between di-muons and protons to validate the PPS proton reconstruction:

$$\xi(\mu^+\mu^-) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{s}} \left(p_T(\mu^+) e^{\pm \eta(\mu^+)} + p_T(\mu^-) e^{\pm \eta(\mu^-)} \right)$$











arXiv:2210.05854





CEP of top quark pairs

- First search for top quark-antiquark pair production with intact protons
- Low cross section $\mathcal{O}(0.3 \text{ fb})$ in the PPS acceptance
 - Signal concentrated at low $t\bar{t}$ mass, where BG is dominant
- 2017 dataset: 29.4 fb⁻¹

CMS

TOTEM









CEP of top quark pairs

- Background dominated by inclusive $t\bar{t}$ events in coincidence with pileup protons
- Proton matching criteria used as BDT inputs or kinematic fitting constraints



CERN-TOTEM-NOTE-2022-002









CEP of top quark pairs

- MVA approach used to tag exclusive $t\bar{t}$ events
- Cross section upper limits extracted from multivariate discriminant distributions:

CERN-TOTEM-NOTE-2022-002

• Observed combined 95% CL limit: 0.59 pb $(1.14^{+1.2}_{-0.6} \text{ expected})$









Exclusive $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

- Search for LbyL scattering with proton tagging
- Full Run 2 dataset, 102.7 fb⁻¹
 - Extending Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 011801
- Matching requirement in the mass and rapidity between $\gamma\gamma$ and protons:

$$m_{\gamma\gamma} = \sqrt{s\xi_1\xi_2} \quad y_{\gamma\gamma} = \frac{1}{2}\ln\left(\frac{\xi_1}{\xi_2}\right)$$

- Main background: inclusive γγ production + pileup
- One candidate observed:
 - BG prediction of 1.1 events with 2σ matching



Event selection:

- \geq 2 isolated γ (*H*/*E* < 0.10)
- $|\eta(\gamma_1,\gamma_2)| < 2.5$
- $p_T(\gamma_1, \gamma_2) > 75 \text{ GeV}$ • 100 GeV for 2017/8
- $m(\gamma_1 \gamma_2) > 350 \text{ GeV}$
- $1 |\Delta \phi(\gamma_1 \gamma_2)/\pi| < 0.0025$
- 1 proton per side of PPS within acceptance





Exclusive $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$



within acceptance





Exclusive $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

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 - Extending Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 011801
- Matching requirement in the mass and rapid Limits also set for ALP production $(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$ as a function of m_{ALP} and its coupling f^{-1} : strongest limits in the 500-2000 GeV range
- Main background: inclusive γγ production -
- One candidate observed:
 - BG prediction of 1.1 events with 2σ matching





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CMS

Searching for missing mass with $ZI\gamma$

- A novel technique to search for new particles at the LHC:
 - Use the so-called missing mass:

 $m_{miss}^{2} = \left[\left(p_{p_{2}}^{in} + p_{p_{2}}^{in} \right) - \left(p_{V} + p_{p_{1}}^{out} + p_{p_{2}}^{out} \right) \right]^{2}$

- Search for missing mass produced in association with a *Z* boson or photon in proton-tagged events
- Exploit the high-precision proton momentum measurement from PPS
- Search for weakly interacting BSM massive particles
 - QED interactions are favoured over QCD processes
 - Broad invariant mass spectrum explored (600–1600 GeV)







TOTEM

Searching for missing mass with $ZI\gamma$



1500

Missing mass [GeV]

2000

500

1000



- 2017 data, 37.2 fb⁻¹ integrated luminosity
- Signal modelled with a simplified dedicated MC generator
- Main background: non-exclusive Z/γ production + protons from pileup
 - Data-driven estimation by mixing uncorrelated protons with MC

Searching for missing mass with $ZI\gamma$



- Bump search over missing mass spectrum
 - No major local excess/deficit observed
 - Larger dataset will be analysed



arXiv:2303.04596

Setting 95% CL on fiducial cross section as a function of m_X

INFN



- Search for anomalous WW/ZZ (VV) exclusive production at high mass:
 - Exploring the hadronic decay channel (each V decaying into a boosted and merged jet)
 - Require intact protons on both sides
 - Look for non-resonant enhancements over high-mass tails (AQGC/EFT)
- SM production:
 - **ZZ** not allowed at tree level
 - **WW** exclusive production concentrated in the low mass region:
 - Higher QCD background
 - Out of reach with the Run 2 trigger thresholds on jets
 - Dedicated trigger prepared for Run 3









- Full Run 2 dataset, 100 fb⁻¹
- WW/ZZ separation based on $m(j_1)$ vs. $m(j_2)$
- Selection based on:

CMS

TOTEM

- Mass match ratio
- Rapidity difference
- Two signal regions:
 - $\boldsymbol{\delta}$: both protons from the interaction
 - o: one proton mistakenly chosen from pileup
- Main background:
 - QCD di-jet production combined with pileup protons
 - Data-driven estimation with 'ABCD' method (sidebands)





- ≥ 2 V-tagged AK8 jets
- $|\eta(j_1, j_2)| < 2.5$
- $p_T(j_1, j_2) > 200 \text{ GeV}$
- $|\eta(j_1) \eta(j_2)| < 1.3$



- $p_T(j_1)/p_T(j_2) < 1.3$
- $|1 \Delta \phi(j_1 j_2)/\pi| < 0.01$
- 1126 GeV < $m(j_1j_2)$ < 2500 GeV
- ≥ 1 proton per side of PPS



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|1 - m(VV)/m(pp)|

 $m(pp) = \sqrt{s\xi_1\xi_2}$

|y(PP) - y(VV)| $y(pp) = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{\xi_1}{\xi_2}\right)$ Irat |1 - n m(p

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CMS-TOTEM Preliminary. L = 100.0 fb⁻¹

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CMS

TOTEM

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- $|1 \Delta \phi(j_1 j_2)/\pi| < 0.01$
- 1126 GeV < $m(j_1j_2)$ < 2500 GeV
- \geq 1 proton per side of PPS



- No significant excess observed
- Factor ~15-20 tighter limits on dimension-6 γγWW AQGC wrt. Run 1 analysis without protons
- Limits converted to dim-8 operators, close to CMS same-sign WW and WZ results at 13 TeV after unitarization
- First limits on $\gamma\gamma ZZ$ AQGC via exclusive $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow ZZ$
- Fiducial cross section limits: $\sigma(pp \to pWWp)_{0.04 < \xi < 0.2, m(WW) > 1 \text{ TeV}} < 67(53^{+34}_{-19}) \text{ fb}$ $\sigma(pp \to pZZp)_{0.04 < \xi < 0.2, m(WW) > 1 \text{ TeV}} < 43(62^{+33}_{-20}) \text{ fb}$







Summary

- The PPS proton tagging capabilities open up new analysis strategies for CMS
- Physics processes across multiple domains are now within reach

Looking forward:

- PPS is taking Run 3 data, stay tuned!
- PPS intends to take part in HL-LHC (arXiv:2103.02752)
 - A lot of interesting physics processes to explore!







Thank you!









BACKUP







PPS detector technologies



TOTEM si-strips

3D pixels

scCVD (diamond)

- 2016 Detectors
 - Tracking: 2 stations of TOTEM Si-strips detectors (10 planes), 20 μ m resolution. Limited radiation resistance ($\Phi_{max} \sim 5 \cdot 10^{14}$ p/cm²), no multi-track capability.
- 2017 Detectors
 - Tracking: 1 station of TOTEM si-strips, 1 station of silicon 3D pixels (6 planes with CMS Phase 1 tracker readout chips), $\sigma_x \sim 15 \ \mu m$ and $\sigma_y \sim 30 \ \mu m$, $\Phi_{max} \sim 5 \cdot 10^{15} \text{p/cm}^2$
 - Timing: 1 station with 3 planes of single-layer diamond with expected $\sigma_t = 80$ ps/plane and 1 plane of UFSD with expected $\sigma_t = 30$ ps/plane ($\Phi_{max} \sim 10^{14}$ p/cm²)
 - 2018 Detectors
 - Tracking: two 3D pixels stations
 - Timing: 1 station of diamond detectors (2 single-layer + 2 double-layer)





