

Search for monopole production in ultraperipheral Pb+Pb collisions with the ATLAS detector

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In ultraperipheral Pb+Pb collisions, intense electromagnetic fields enable the generation of magnetic monopole pairs via the Schwinger mechanism. Due to their high ionization and unique trajectories in a solenoidal magnetic field, monopoles are expected to leave a large number of clusters in the innermost ATLAS pixel detector without associated reconstructed charged-particle tracks or calorimeter activity. This talk presents a search for monopole-pair production in ultraperipheral Pb+Pb collisions in the monopole mass range of 2-100 GeV, based on 5.02 TeV data recorded in 2015. The results are compared with a leading-order spin-1/2 photon-photon fusion model and a recently developed semiclassical model that includes non-perturbative cross section calculations – as well as with a recent search limits obtained by the MoEDAL Collaboration using complementary techniques.

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