## Measurement of photon production cross sections with the ATLAS detector

Bruno Lenzi on behalf of the ATLAS collaboration CERN

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#### Introduction to photon measurements

- Photons are colourless probes, well suited to test QCD at hadron collisions
  - Clean signature

See also talk by Mark Stockton on  $\gamma$ +jets

- Test resummation, pQCD and EW corrections, gluon PDF, ...
- Fixed-order calculations available up to NNLO for  $\gamma$ +X and  $\gamma\gamma$
- Background to Higgs boson studies and searches for new phenomena
  - New resonances (scalar, graviton, Z'), SUSY, ...
- Measurements of isolated  $\gamma$  (13 TeV, 3.2 fb<sup>-1</sup>),  $\gamma\gamma$  and  $\gamma\gamma\gamma$  (8 TeV, 20 fb<sup>-1</sup>)



#### **Measurement strategy**

- Main background from jets (with e.g.  $\pi^0$ ) rejected by ID cuts and isolation
  - Finely segmented EM calorimeter  $(|\eta| < 2.37, excluding 1.37 < |\eta| < 1.56)$
  - Isolation corrected by photon, UE and pileup contributions
  - Data-driven background subtraction using ID and isolation (also  $e \rightarrow \gamma$ , usually small)
- Correction for detector effects, unfolding to particle-level (bin-by-bin)

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma}{\mathrm{d}A}(i) = \frac{N^{\mathrm{sig}}(i)C(i)}{\Delta A(i) \ \mathcal{L}}$$

- Systematic uncertainties dominant in most of the phase-space
  - Efficiencies measured in data. e.g. photon ID





## Inclusive isolated photons at 13 TeV

#### Phys. Lett. B 770 (2017) 473

4

Candidate with  $E_T = 1.3 \text{ TeV}$ 



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#### Inclusive isolated photons at 13 TeV

- 2015 dataset: 3.2 fb<sup>-1</sup> at 13 TeV
- Selection (also at particle level):
  - $E_T > 125$  GeV (trigger)
  - Isolation:  $E_{T^{iso}} < 4.8 \text{ GeV} + 4.2e-3 * E_{T}$
- Jet background subtracted with 2D sidebands methods (ID, iso)
  - Other sources (e.g.  $e \rightarrow \gamma$ ) negligible
- Inclusive cross-section and  $d\sigma/dE_T$  in 4  $\eta$  regions
- Syst uncertainties dominant for  $E_T < 600 \text{ GeV}$ 
  - Energy scale and resolution: 2-5%, larger for  $1.56 < |\eta| < 1.81$
  - Photon ID and background subtraction typically 1-2%



#### Phys. Lett. B 770 (2017) 473

 $E_{T}^{\gamma}$  [GeV]

• Comparison with NLO JETPHOX and MC generators (Pythia, Sherpa)

 $\sigma_{\text{meas}} = 399 \pm 13 \text{ (exp.)} \pm 8 \text{ (lumi.) pb}$ 

 $\sigma_{\text{NLO}} = 352^{+36}_{-29} \text{ (scale) } \pm 3 \text{ (PDF) } \pm 6 (\alpha_{\text{s}}) \pm 4 \text{ (non-perturb.) pb}$ 

- $d\sigma/dE_T$  over 5 orders of magnitude
- Shape well described by MC, except for  $E_T > 500$  GeV in the regions  $|\eta| < 1.37$
- Adequate description by NLO calculation
  - Differences up to 10-15%, covered by theoretical uncertainties (scale)
  - Calls for higher order calculation!



Phys. Lett. B 770 (2017) 473

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Phys. Lett. B 770 (2017) 473

Theory/Data ATLAS NLO QCD (JETPHOX)  $d\sigma/dE_T$  over 5 orders of magnitude  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}, 3.2 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ MMHT2014 -.. luminosity uncertainty **CT14** NNPDF3.0 Shape well described by MC, except for  $E_T > 500$  GeV in the regions  $|\eta| < 1.37$ • Data (0.6< $|\eta^{\gamma}|$ <1.37) • Data ( $|\eta^{\gamma}| < 0.6$ ) Adequate description by NLO calculation Theory/Data • Data  $(1.56 < |\eta^{\gamma}| < 1.81)$  $\Box$  Data (1.81<| $\eta^{\gamma}$ |<2.37) Differences up to 10-15%, covered by • theoretical uncertainties (scale) Calls for higher order calculation! • 200 300 300 400 500 400 500 200  $E_{T}^{\gamma}$  [GeV]  $E_{T}^{\gamma}$  [GeV]

## Comparison with NNLO calculations of pp $\rightarrow \gamma + X$

- NNLO calculation: Campbell et al, <u>PRL 118, 222001 (2017)</u>, <u>1802.03021</u>
  - Scale uncertainties halved
  - Overall good agreement. Small discrepancies in the forward bin for 8 TeV, cancel out when taking the ratio to 13 TeV data



9

Integrated cross-section and differential as a function of 6 variables:

 $m_{\gamma\gamma}, p_{\mathrm{T},\gamma\gamma}, \Delta\phi_{\gamma\gamma}, |\cos\theta_{\eta}^{*}|, a_{\mathrm{T}}, \phi_{\eta}^{*}$ 

 Larger dataset (20 fb<sup>-1</sup>), reduced uncertainties and new variables w.r.t. to rse compression/sofeBuild/attr7 they/t(betterasiensitivity to soft-aluon emission)



## Photon pair production at 8 TeV

Syst. uncertainties dominated by photon ID (2.5%), isolation modelling (2%) and efficiency (1.5%), background control region def. (<sup>+1.5%</sup>-1.7%)

 $\sigma_{\text{tot}}^{\text{fid.}} = 16.8 \pm 0.1 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.7 \text{ (syst)} \pm 0.3 \text{ (lumi) pb}$ 

• Compared to calculations up to NNLO or NLO + PS / gluon-resummation:



#### Photon pair production at 8 TeV

- Uncertainties typically < 5% per bin, up to 25% in few bins with low stats
- Sherpa 2.2.1 with ME+PS at NLO describes the data well
- Impact of IR emissions ( $a_T$  and  $\phi^*$ ) well reproduced by gluon resummation



#### **Production of three photons at 8 TeV**

- Integrated cross-section and differential as a function of  $E_{T1,2,3}$ ,  $\Delta \varphi_{\gamma\gamma}$  and  $\Delta \eta_{\gamma\gamma}$ ,  $m_{\gamma\gamma}$  and  $m_{3\gamma}$
- $E_T > 27, 25, 15 \text{ GeV}; m_{3\gamma} > 50 \text{ GeV}; \Delta R > 0.45; E_T^{iso,part} > 10 \text{ GeV}$
- Jet background subtracted by 2D sideband method (ID and iso); e  $\rightarrow \gamma$  from MC, checked with data around m<sub>z</sub>



arXiv:1712.07291

#### **Production of three photons at 8 TeV**

- Stat uncertainty: ~9%. Syst: ~13%
  - ID eff. (7.9%)
  - Correlation between ID and iso (7.7%)
  - Iso modelling (5.8%)
- Compared to NLO (MCFM with BFG II frag.) and NLO+PS (MG5\_aMC@NLO+Pythia)
  - Scale uncertainty: 10-12%
  - Underestimate the data by ~ factor 2
- Would benefit from NNLO



arXiv:1712.0729

#### **Production of three photons at 8 TeV**

14

- Differential cross-section as a function of  $E_{T1,2,3}$ ,  $\Delta \varphi_{\gamma\gamma}$  and  $\Delta \eta_{\gamma\gamma}$ ,  $m_{\gamma\gamma}$  and  $m_{3\gamma}$ 
  - Stat 20-50% in some bins. Dominates for  $E_{T1,2} > 50$  GeV or  $E_{T3} > 30$  GeV
  - Syst: 15-10%
- Significant discrepancies between data and theory at low  $E_T$  and low inv. masses. Adequate description of  $\Delta \eta_{\gamma\gamma}$ , less so of  $\Delta \varphi_{\gamma\gamma}$



# Summary

- Measurements of cross-sections of pp  $\rightarrow$  up to 3 photons
  - Reach ~1 TeV in  $E_T$  and  $m_{\gamma\gamma}$
  - Differential measurements of several variables
  - Precision of few % in many cases, similar or better than theory errors
- Comparisons with calculations up to NNLO or NLO+PS
  - Some discrepancies but overall agreement with data ok (less so for 3γ)
- Looking forward to improved calculations and updated measurements



#### Photon pair production at 8 TeV

#### Phys. Rev. D 95 (2017) 112005



## Three photon production at 8 TeV

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Measurement of photon production cross sections with the ATLAS detector 17/04/2018 18