# Two-Photon Pair Production at High Energy Colliders

CMS Experiment at LHC, CERN Data recorded: Sun Oct 17 01:35:10 2010 CES Run/Event: 148029 / 348687590 Lumi section: 446

Krzysztof PIOTRZKOWSKI

AGH University of Science and Technology, Kraków, PL

(formerly CP3 at UCLouvain, BE)





## As an Introduction: LHC as a High Energy yy Collider



Phys. Rev. **D63** (2001) 071502(R) **hep-ex**/0201027

#### **Initial observation:**

**Provided efficient measurement of very forward-scattered protons one can study high-energy**  $\gamma\gamma$  **collisions at the LHC** 

#### **Highlights:**

- gg **CM energy** *W* **up to/beyond 1 TeV (and under control)**
- Large (quasi-real) photon flux *F* therefore significant (effective)  $\gamma\gamma$  luminosity
- **Complementary (and "clean") physics to** *pp* **interactions, e.g. studies of exclusive production of heavy particles might be possible opening new field of high energy** gg **physics**

#### **How to measure these events?**

Measure  $(\gamma \gamma \rightarrow) X$  in the **ATLAS** or **CMS** detector and the scattered protons using dedicated **very forward detectors** (thanks to the proton energy loss)





Very forward detectors needed – capable of running at high luminosity, installed as far (> 100 m) from IP and as close to the beam  $(≥2$  mm) as possible.

Nota bene: no event pileup included at that time

### Beyond Weizsäcker-Williams: *Equivalent Photon Approximation* (EPA)



In EPA the photon spectrum is a function of the photon energy  $\omega$  and its virtuality  $Q^2$  [1]:

$$
dN = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \frac{dQ^2}{Q^2} \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{\omega}{E} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{Q_{min}^2}{Q^2} \right) F_E + \frac{\omega^2}{2E^2} F_M \right],\tag{1}
$$

where  $\alpha$  is the fine-structure constant, E is the incoming proton energy and the minimum photon virtuality  $Q_{min}^2 \simeq [M_N^2 E/(E-\omega) - M_p^2]\omega/E$ , where  $M_p$ is the proton mass and  $M_N$  is the invariant mass of the final state N. For the elastic production, assuming the dipole approximation for proton form factors,  $F_M = G_M^2$  and  $F_E = (4M_p^2 G_E^2 + Q^2 G_M^2)/(4M_p^2 + Q^2)$ , and  $G_E^2 = G_M^2/7.78 =$  $(1+Q^2/0.71 \text{GeV}^2)^{-4}$ . For the inelastic production  $F_M = \int dx F_2/x^3$  and  $F_E =$  $\int dx F_2/x$ , where  $F_2(x,Q^2)$  is the proton structure function and  $x \simeq Q^2/M_N^2$ .

*Physics Reports*, Volume 15, Issue 4, January 1975, Pages 181-282

*Elastic* **(or fully exclusive) production +** *Inelastic***, when proton dissociates**

### EPA: Kinematics/ $\gamma\gamma$  Luminosity

*Virtuality Q*<sup>2</sup> of colliding photons vary between kinematical minimum =  $M_p^2x^2/(1-x)$  where x is fraction of proton momentum carried by a photon, and *Q*<sup>2</sup> max ~ *1/proton radius2*

$$
W^2 = s x_1 x_2
$$
  
(where  $W \equiv M_X$ )

 $\int$  dW  $S_{yy}$ 

250

500

750

1000

 $W_o$ (GeV)

Phys. Rev. **D63** (2001) 071502(R)



### $LHC$  as a  $\gamma\gamma$  collider

At high energies two-photon exclusive pair production cross-section is given by: particle **charge, mass and spin**

for given mass and charge it is largest for vector particles, then for fermions,

 $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$  pair production has a very sizable cross-section at the LHC of ~100 fb (and at least  $\times$  4, if inelastic production included)!

Massive fermions have sizable  $\gamma\gamma$  cross-sections up to about 200 GeV masses, for scalars cross-sections are about 5 times smaller, but there is H<sup>++</sup> case, for example

 $\sigma \propto Z^4 \Rightarrow \sigma \times 16$ !



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## WW pair production @ LHC



## EPA and absorption corrections

EPA assumes **full** factorization of the long range ( $\rightarrow$  photon fluxes) and short range ( $\rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ fusion) physics; values of the impact parameter *b* are the best check of a regime one works with – they are different for the proton elastic and dissociative cases, though the flux *b* dependence is similar,  $dn \propto bdb$ .

If one takes the 8 TeV beam and  $x = 0.01$  (corresponding to W = 160 GeV) then:

*Elastic*:  $b_{max} \approx 20$  fm and  $b_{min} \approx 0.6$  fm

*Inelastic* (dissociative): typ.  $b_{max} \approx 0.1$  fm and  $b_{min} \approx 0.01$  fm



#### Note:

For two-photon exchange one deals with two impact parameters, so one can approximate  $b \approx b_1 + b_2$ 

## EPA and absorption corrections

For two-photon exchange one deals with two impact parameters, hence one can approximate  $b \approx b_1 + b_2$ 

Therefore, relatively small absorption are expected both for fully exclusive (*elastic-elastic*) as well as single dissociative SD (2x *elastic-inelastic*) and **BIG** one for DD case (*inelastic-inelastic*)

Three important comments regarding two-photon *lepton pair production*:

- Lepton pair acoplanarity is a good measure of the relevant impact parameters involved; if there is significant absorption it must distort the acoplanarity
- Absorption should increase with increase of W (since  $b_{max}$  decreases)
- Fully exclusive pairs die fast with increasing pair  $p_T$ ; so above 1 GeV/c one is left with SD+DD only

### Untagged yy: Special Exclusivity Conditions and Lepton Pairs



Exclusivity in initial (very) low luminosity era: **2 muons and "nothing else"** in the tracker **and** calorimeters

In 2010, each event of interest was accompanied by extra "PileUp" events within the same bunch crossing: **~ 2-3 pileup interactions**

In 2011, roughly 7-10 PU per crossing

In 2012, PU =25 put the method to a very limit…

Restricting the analysis to single interactions only would have reduced the data sample a very small fraction of the total  $\rightarrow$  **impose exclusivity using tracking only** 

#### **Question: How to select exclusive events in high pileup environment?**

#### **Answer: Use tracking only and zoom-in onto the vertices!**





### Proof-of-principle: Exclusive  $\gamma \gamma \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$

Exclusive muon pairs *aka* standard candle:

#### "*Pure" QED process:*

- Only electromagnetic form-factors enter
- Small theoretical uncertainties

#### *Striking kinematic distributions:*

- Thanks to very small virtuality of the exchanged photons



Largest background arises from *semi-exclusive* **two-photon** production due to single and double proton dissociative (or inelastic) photon exchange:



#### **CMS Analysis Note**

The content of this note is intended for CMS internal use and distribution only



Figure 3: Invariant mass distribution of the muon pairs for the elastic selection with no additional track

on the dimuon vertex. The dashed lines indicate the Z-peak region. The hatched bands indicate the statistical uncertainty in the simulation.





Figure 6: Transverse momentum distribution for  $\mu^+\mu^-$  pairs with zero extra tracks passing the disso-14/9/2022 ciation selection, for the Z region only (left), and with the Z region removed (right). The hatched bands indicate the statistical uncertainty in the simulation.

Measurement of exclusive  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$  production at

2011/06/19

Jonathan Hollar, Krzysztof Piotrzkowski, and Nicolas Schul Center for Cosmology, Particle Physics and Phenomenology (CP3) Universite catholique de Louvain, Belgium

 $\sqrt{s}$  = 7 TeV

## yy lepton pairs @ 8 TeV





Untagged data show **a very strong suppression of double dissociative events** and not (yet) visible rescattering effects for single dissociation

µµ studies are **essential** for establishing  $S_{\gamma\gamma}$ , including survival probability, however suffer from lack of statistics at large *W*

## Physics with  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$  (and ZZ)

 $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow WW$  and ZZ (=0 at tree level in SM) pairs as a powerful test bench for the gauge boson sector at the LHC

Search for anomalous quartic couplings









 $a_n$ 

 $\gamma \gamma \rightarrow WW \rightarrow \mu e \nu \nu$ 

#### LHC PHYSICS CMS sees first direct evidence for  $YY\rightarrow WW$



In a small fraction of proton collisions at the LHC, the two colliding protons interact only electromagnetically, radiating high-energy photons that

subsequently interact or "fuse" to produce a pair of heavy charged particles. Fully exclusive production of such pairs takes place when quasi-real photons are emitted coherently by the protons rather than by their quarks, which survive the interaction. The ability to select such events opens up the exciting possibility of transforming the LHC into a high-energy photon-photon collider and of performing complementary or unique studies of the Standard Model and its possible extensions.

The CMS collaboration has made use of this opportunity by employing a novel method to select "exclusive" events based only on tracking information. The selection is made by requesting that two - and only two -tracks originate from a candidate vertex for the exclusive two-photon production. The power of this method, which was first developed for the pioneering measurement of exclusive production of muon and electron pairs, lies in its effectiveness even in difficult high-luminosity conditions with large event pile-up at the LHC.

The collaboration has recently used this approach to analyse the full data sample collected at  $\sqrt{s}$ =7 TeV and to obtain the first direct evidence of the  $\gamma y \rightarrow WW$  process. Fully leptonic W-boson decays have been measured in final states characterized by opposite-sign and opposite-flavour lepton pairs where one W decays into an electron and a neutrino, the other into a muon and a neutrino (both neutrinos leave undetected). The leptons were required to have: transverse momenta  $p_r > 20$  GeV/c and pseudorapidity



Fig. 1. Above: Proton-proton collisions recorded by CMS at  $\sqrt{s}$ =7 TeV, featuring candidates for the exclusive two-photon production of a W W pair, where one W boson has decayed into an electron and a neutrino. the other into a muon and a neutrino.

Fig. 2. Top right: The  $p_r$  distribution of eu pairs in events with no extra tracks compared with the Standard Model expectation (thick green line) and predictions for anomalous quartic gauge couplings (dashed green histograms).

#### Fig. 3. Right: Limits on anomalous quartic yyWW couplings.

 $|\eta|$  < 2.1; no extra track associated with their vertex; and for the pair, a total  $p_r > 30$  GeV/c. After applying all selection criteria, only two events remained - compared with an expectation of 3.2 events: 2.2 from yy→WW and 1 from background (figure 2).

The lack of events observed at large values of transverse momentum for the pair, which would be expected within the Standard





Model, allows stringent limits on anomalous quartic yyWW couplings to be derived. These surpass the previous best limits, set at the Large Electron-Positron collider and at the Tevatron, by up to two orders of magnitude (figure 3).

• Further reading CMS collaboration 2013 arXiv:1305.5596 [hep-ex], submitted to JHEP.

#### INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS **CERNCOURIER**

#### VOLUME 53 NUMBER 6 JULY/AUGUST 2013

#### **Hot news back in 2013…**

## LHC as a high energy yy collider: power of modern tracking

CMS breakthrough in 2011-13 (without tagging):

**Track-based only exclusivity selection** for charged *dilepton* final states at high event pileup (PU) – resulted in significantly higher gg luminosity thanks to *quasi-exclusive* contributions, but also in no direct control of *W*

Search for the exclusive two-photon production of  $W^+W^$ pairs in  $pp$  collisions at 7 TeV

The CMS Collaboration

#### Abstract

A search for exclusive or semi-exclusive  $W+W^-$  production,  $pp \rightarrow p^{(*)}W^+W^-p^{(*)} \rightarrow$  $p^{(*)}\mu^{\pm}e^{\mp}p^{(*)}$ , at  $\sqrt{s} = \sqrt{7}$  leV is reported using data corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $5.05$  fb<sup>-1</sup>. Two events passing all selections are observed in data, compared to a Standard Model expectation of  $2.7 \pm 0.5$  signal events with 0.84  $\pm$  0.13 background. The region of high dilepton transverse momentum,  $p_T(\mu^{\pm}e^{\mp}) > 100$  GeV, is studied for deviations from the Standard Model. No events are observed in this region, and the resulting upper limits are compared to predictions assuming anomalous quartic gauge couplings.

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Jonathan J. Hollar, Laurent Forthomme, Krzysztof Piotrzkowski, Gustavo PDFAuthor: Gil Da Silveira. Finn Rebassoo



**Figure 1.** Quartic (left), *t*-channel (center), and *u*-channel (right) diagrams contributing to the  $\gamma\gamma \to W^+W^-$  process at leading order in the SM. The  $p^{(*)}$  indicates that the final state proton(s) remain intact ("exclusive" or "elastic" production), or dissociate ("quasi-exclusive" production).

 $W^+W^- \to e^\pm \nu \mu^\mp \nu$ 

CMS Run 1 final result at 7/8 TeV (for mean event PU  $\approx$  7):

"Upper limits on the anomalous quartic gauge coupling operators aW0,C (dimension-6) and fM0,1,2,3 (dimension-8), the **most stringent to date**, are derived from the measured dilepton transverse momentum spectrum."

*doi:* 10.1007/JHEP08(2016)119

#### **Standard Model Production Cross Section Measurements**

Status: February 2022



## LHC as a high energy yy collider: recent results

$$
W^+W^-\rightarrow e^{\pm}\nu\mu^{\mp}\nu
$$

ATLAS Run 2 final result at 13 TeV (average event **PU ≈ 34**): "The data yield in the signal region is 307, compared with 132 background events predicted by the best-fit result. […] This measurement constitutes **the observation of photoninduced** *WW* **production in** *pp* **collisions**, a process for which only evidence was previously reported."

*doi:* 10.1016/j.physletb.2021.136190

Note: in spite of almost 5 times bigger PU, a similar S/B was achieved, as for Run 1 analyses, thanks to improved tracking/ vertexing and significantly higher  $S_{\gamma\gamma}$  at 13 TeV.



## LHC as a high energy yy collider: recent results II

"The observation of forward proton scattering in association with lepton pairs (e+e− + p or  $\mu^+\mu^-$  + p) produced via photon fusion is presented. The **scattered proton is detected by the ATLAS Forward Proton spectrometer**, while the leptons are reconstructed by the central ATLAS detector. Proton-proton collision data recorded in 2017 at a center-of-mass energy of √s = 13 TeV are analyzed, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of **14.6 fb−1**." *doi:* 10.1103/PhysRevLett.125.261801



FIG. 3. Distributions of dilepton acoplanarity  $A^{\ell\ell}_{\phi}$  (left), invariant mass  $m_{\ell\ell}$  (center), rapidity  $y_{\ell\ell}$  (right) satisfying  $\xi_{\ell\ell}$ ,  $\xi_{\rm AFP} \in [0.02, 0.12]$ , and  $|\xi_{\rm AFP} - \xi_{\ell\ell}| < 0.005$  for at least one AFP side. Events with  $70 < m_{\ell\ell} < 105$  GeV are vetoed. The total prediction comprises the signal and combinatorial background processes, where  $p^*$  denotes a dissociated proton. The simulated predictions are normalized to data to illustrate the expected signal composition. The rightmost bin of the  $m_{\ell\ell}$  distribution includes overflow. The hatched band indicates the combined statistical and systematic uncertainties of the prediction. Error bars denote statistical uncertainties of the data.

## HL-LHC as a high energy yy collider: **challenges**



HL-LHC will provide 10 times bigger integrated luminosity, but:

- $S_{\gamma\gamma}$  only marginally higher (thanks to 13  $\rightarrow$  14 TeV increase)
- PU yet 4 times higher ( $\approx$  140) than for Run 2 but new tracking exclusivity might be more performant
- Very high event pileup will make tagging with forward protons even more tricky – **ps resolution timing detectors** are a must – however, the problem of overall efficiency loss still persists
- New ps timing in central detectors could provide much needed handle to further suppress accidental coincidences!

Major challenges for the high luminosity LHC  $\gamma\gamma$  collider:

- **Only** tracks can be used for the selection of (quasi-)exclusive production
- **Only** exclusive charged dilepton states could be successfully measured so far (after 10-year efforts)
- And, the **re-scattering suppression** is large and uncertain, especially at very large *W*

### Picosecond ToF detectors @ LHC

Use very fast ToF detectors to measure *longitudinal vertex position* by *z-by-timing* from forward proton arrival time difference:



Path length differences are very small for forward protons at LHC, typically << 100 µm corresponding to sub-picosecond time differences.

Ultra fast timing detectors are essential for measuring the exclusive production at LHC, JINST 4 (2009) T10001

#### **Optimal places for tagging Exclusive Production at LHC: @ 220/240m and 420m from IP**



HECTOR**: JINST 2, P09005 (2007) For nominal low-**b **LHC optics**

## **HL-LHC** as a high energy  $\gamma\gamma$  collider: **new physics?**







Proceedings of the International Workshop on High-Energy Photon Collisions at the LHC **CERN**, Geneva, Switzerland 22-28 April 2008

Edited by D. d'Enterrio M. Klasen K. Piotrzkowski

Detection of two-photon exclusive production of supersymmetric pairs at the LHC

Nicolas Schul<sup>a</sup> \* and Krzysztof Piotrzkowski<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Université catholique de Louvain, Center for Particle Physics and Phenomenology (CP3), Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

The detection of pairs of sleptons, charginos and charged higgs bosons produced via photon-photon fusion at the LHC is studied, assuming a couple of benchmark points of the MSSM model. Due to low cross sections, it requires large integrated luminosity, but thanks to the striking signature of these exclusive processes the backgrounds are low, and are well known. Very forward proton detectors can be used to measure the photon energies, allowing for direct determination of masses of the lightest SUSY particle, of selectrons and smuons with a few GeV resolution. Finally, the detection and mass measurement of quasi-stable particles predicted by the so-called sweet spot supersymmetry is discussed.

#### Table 1

Cross sections for several examples of the exclusive two-photon pair production at the LHC.  $(F$  for fermion, S for scalar).  $[1]$ 



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Figure 2. Distribution of two-photon invariant mass  $W_{\gamma\gamma}$  for the LM1 benchmark and integrated luminosity  $L = 100$  fb<sup>-1</sup>. Two visible peaks are due to production thresholds of  $\tilde{\ell}_R^+ \tilde{\ell}_R^-$  and  $\tilde{\ell}_L^+ \tilde{\ell}_L^-$  pairs. Verious contribution are added cumulatively. The background distribution of  $WW$  pairs is shown separately, and is rescaled to obtain similar size as signal.

## **HL-LHC** as a high energy  $\gamma\gamma$  colliders





LM1 signal and  $WW$  background cross sections before and after the acceptance cuts (including the flavor selection), and after the analysis cuts. Values are given in fb.  $(\ell = e, \mu, i = 1, 2)$ .





#### https://

Figure 6. structed mas background  $fb^{-1}$ .

## **(HL-)LHC** as a high energy  $\gamma\gamma$  collider: summary

### High energy yy physics can be successfully studied at the LHC!

- Fundamental role of exclusive µµ (and *ee*) pairs they serve as a **standard candle** in many ways: as a precise calibration tool & acceptance verification + a photon-flux-meter
- Use of very forward proton detectors (AFP!) is essential for full exploration of  $\gamma\gamma$  physics at the LHC – perhaps new channels as semi-leptonic WW can be studied already in Run 3
- HL-LHC opens new horizons in this exploration to properly profit from that, the development of **dedicated ps resolution timing detectors** is mandatory (+ studies of the potential impact of ps timing in central detectors)
- Precise studies of high-mass diffraction at the LHC are **crucial** for optimal extraction of the  $\gamma\gamma$  signals using very forward proton detectors

# New electroweak opportunit



# **Large Hadron electron Collider**

**ERL**, or the on-going revolution in high energy electron acceleration techniques

### **Machine Parameters and Operation - ep**

arXiv:2007.14401





Electrons will have "only" 50 GeV, but **higher** photon flux, as approximately:

 $\mathcal{S}_{\gamma\gamma} \propto \mathsf{In}(Q^2_{\textsf{max,e}}/Q^2_{\textsf{min,e}})\mathsf{In}(Q^2_{\textsf{max,p}}/Q^2_{\textsf{min,p}})$ 

where  $\bm{Q}^2_{\textsf{min}}$   $\propto$   $\bm{\mathsf{m}}^2$ , and  $\bm{Q}^2_{\textsf{max,e}}$  can be very high

For  $W < 50$ spectrum is

 $10<sup>1</sup>$ 

 $10^{-8}$ 

### **HL-LHC vs. LHeC** as high energy yy colliders



Energy reach for yy interactions is higher at the LHC, however at the highest *W* tagging is not possible and the suppression due to re-scattering becomes large.

Event **pileup is very low at the LHeC** – it is **only 5 %** at the highest *ep* luminosity of **2.3 × 1034 cm-2s-1**.

This is not only allowing to **use calorimetry for the selection** of exclusive production, but will also significantly **increase** detection efficiency, including  $\gamma\gamma$  tagging, and **suppress** backgrounds!

### **LHeC** as a very unique, generic high energy  $\gamma\gamma$  collider



**Wide** spectrum of  $\gamma\gamma$  processes will be studied at the LHeC:

- $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  : orders of magnitude higher statistics than for *PbPb* at the HL-LHC +  $\gamma\gamma$  tagging  $\Rightarrow$  kinematic fitting
- $\gamma \gamma \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ : orders of magnitude higher statistics than for *PbPb* at the HL-LHC +  $\gamma\gamma$  tagging  $\Rightarrow$  new decay modes
- $\gamma \gamma \rightarrow Z$  : search for the anomalous single Z boson exclusive production
- $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow ZZ$  : possibility of first ever detection + stringent limits on anomalous quartic gauge couplings (aQGCs) using semi-leptonic decay modes, ZZ → /<sup>+</sup>/<sup>-</sup>jj
- $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow W^+W^-$  : measurements of semi-leptonic decay modes,  $W^+W^- \rightarrow l\nu jj$ , will allow for a use of Optimal Observable methods (even with single  $\gamma\gamma$  tagging) for probing aQGCs; yet high statistics ( $\approx$  as at the HL-LHC) is expected for fully leptonic *W*<sup>+</sup>*W*- decays + tagging

### **FCC-eh case**

60 × 50000 GeV2 ➝ **3.5 TeV** *ep* **[collider](https://indico.cern.ch/event/1072533/contributions/4779225/)** delivering very high luminosity **concurrently** with *pp* collisions



https://indico.cern.ch/event/1072533/contributions

14/9/2022

## **LH***e***C** *vs.* **FCC-***eh*



## **LH***e***C** *vs.* **FCC-***eh*



## **LHeC** as an extraordinary  $\gamma\gamma$  collider

LHeC will complete the HL-LHC science in a very profound and relevant sectors

### **LHeC** offers practically ideal [conditions for studyin](https://kds.kek.jp/event/43635/)g

Scientific potential of  $\gamma\gamma$  physics at the LHeC, both in testing the electro Physics signals, will be deeply explored in the

### Stay tuned!

https://kds.kek.jp/event/43635/

# Thank you for attention!

