



# Light by Light scattering

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# Outline

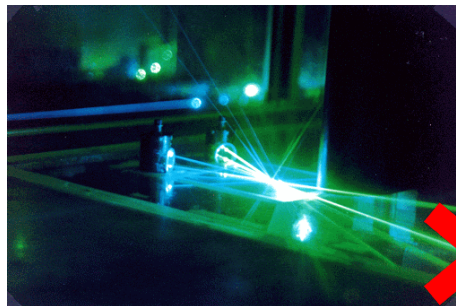


- Physical Motivation
  - What is LbyL and Why to probe it
- Measurement principle
  - Heavy Ion UPC
  - ATLAS detector
- Analysis
  - Trigger, Reconstruction, PID
  - Signal, Background, Selection
  - Results and Uncertainty
- Discussion

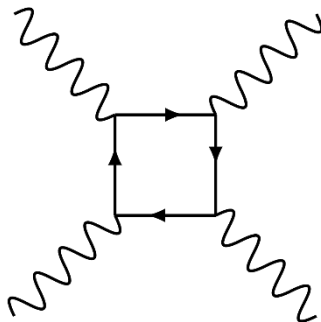
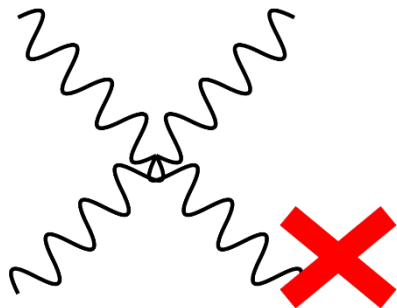
# Physical Motivation

- What is LbyL (Light by Light scattering?)

- In Classical world



- In Quantum world



...

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} B_i = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} E_j \epsilon_{ijk} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial B_k}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} E_k = 4\pi \rho$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} B_j \epsilon_{ijk} - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial t} = \frac{4\pi}{c} J_k$$

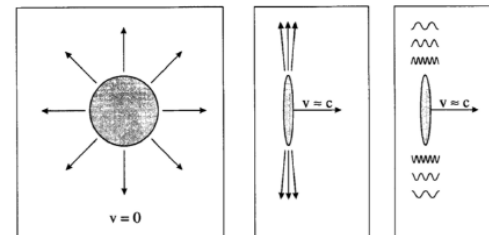
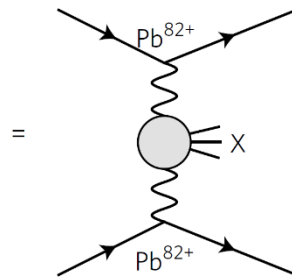
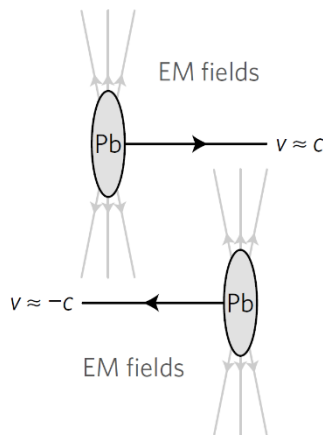
$$B_j = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_m} A_n \epsilon_{mnj}$$

$$E_k = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} \phi - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial A_k}{\partial t}$$

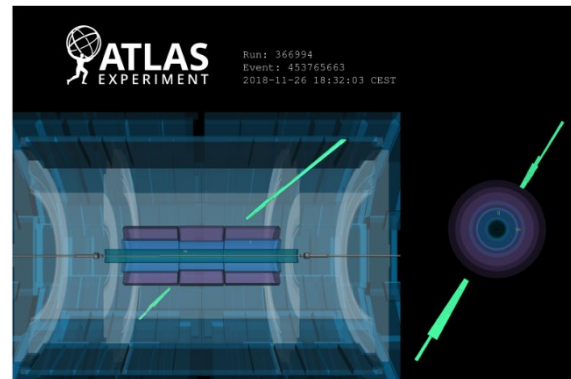
# Physical Motivation

- What is the *photon* here?
- Incoming photon:
  - “Quasi-real” photons
  - Relativistic EM field
  - EPA theory [see backup]
- Outgoing photon:
  - Real back-to-back photons
  - Acoplanarity ( $1 - \Delta\Phi/\pi$ , how it is “back-to-back”)
  - Energy and momentum
- Nothing more

b



[Fermi, Nuovo Cim. 2 (1925) 143]



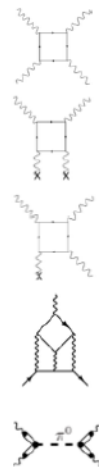
# Physical Motivation

- Other related experiments:
  - Static nuclei involved
- Why this experiment highlights?
  - “Real and direct” Light by Light scattering
  - High event rate and multi probing observables

## Previous experiments

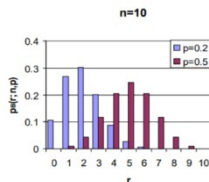
### Experimental status prior to the ATLAS result

Elastic LbyL scattering	$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	Not observed
Delbruck scattering	$\gamma Z \rightarrow \gamma Z$	Observed ('53 - '98)
Photon splitting in Z field	$\gamma Z \rightarrow \gamma\gamma Z$	Observed (2002)
Vacuum electric/magnetic birefringence	$\gamma F \rightarrow \gamma F$	Not observed
Photon splitting in electric/magnetic field	$\gamma F \rightarrow \gamma\gamma F$	Not observed
Impact on muon (electron) g-2	$BI \rightarrow I$	“Observed”
Hadronic LbyL (direct)	$ZZ \rightarrow \pi^0/\eta/\eta' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	Observed ('85 - '88)



# Measurement Principle

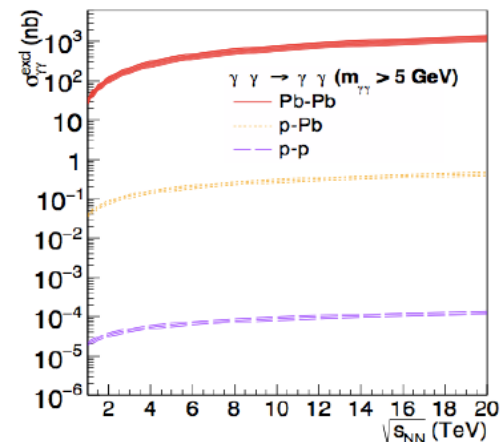
## Counting experiment



## LHC as heavy ion collider

- Clean: almost no pileup
- QED scales with  $Z^4$
- CEP reduced (w/ UPC)
- 0.49/nb @ 5.02TeV (2015) ~ 35 evts.
- 1.73/nb @ 5.02TeV (2018) ~ 121 evts.

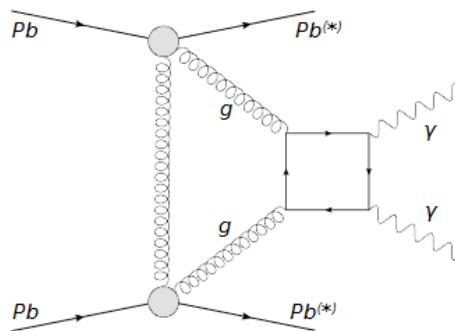
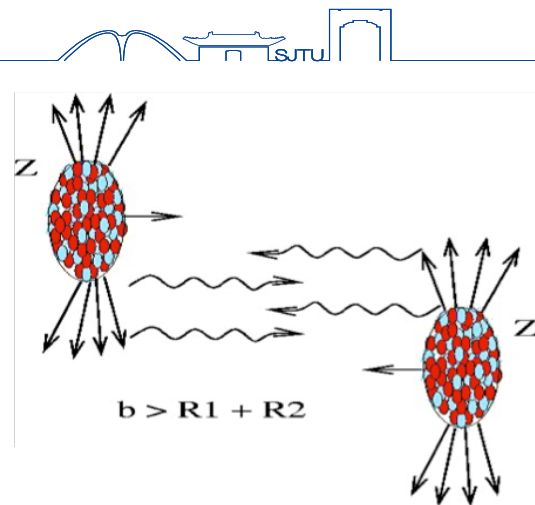
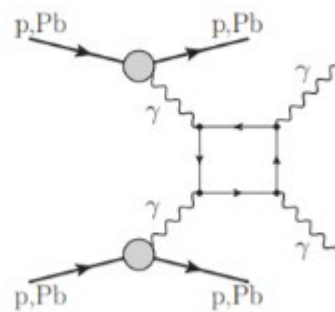
System	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (TeV)	$\mathcal{L}_{AB} \cdot \Delta t$ (per year)	$\gamma$	$R_A$ (fm)	$\omega_{max}$ (GeV)	$\sqrt{s_{\gamma\gamma}^{max}}$ (GeV)	$\sigma_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma}^{excl}$ [ $m_{\gamma\gamma} > 5$ GeV]	$N_{\gamma\gamma}^{excl}$ (per year) [ $m_{\gamma\gamma} > 5$ GeV, after cuts]
p-p	14	1 fb <sup>-1</sup>	7455	0.7	2450	4500	105 ± 10 fb	12
p-Pb	8.8	200 nb <sup>-1</sup>	4690	7.1	130	260	260 ± 26 pb	6
Pb-Pb	5.5	1 nb <sup>-1</sup>	2930	7.1	80	160	370 ± 70 nb	70





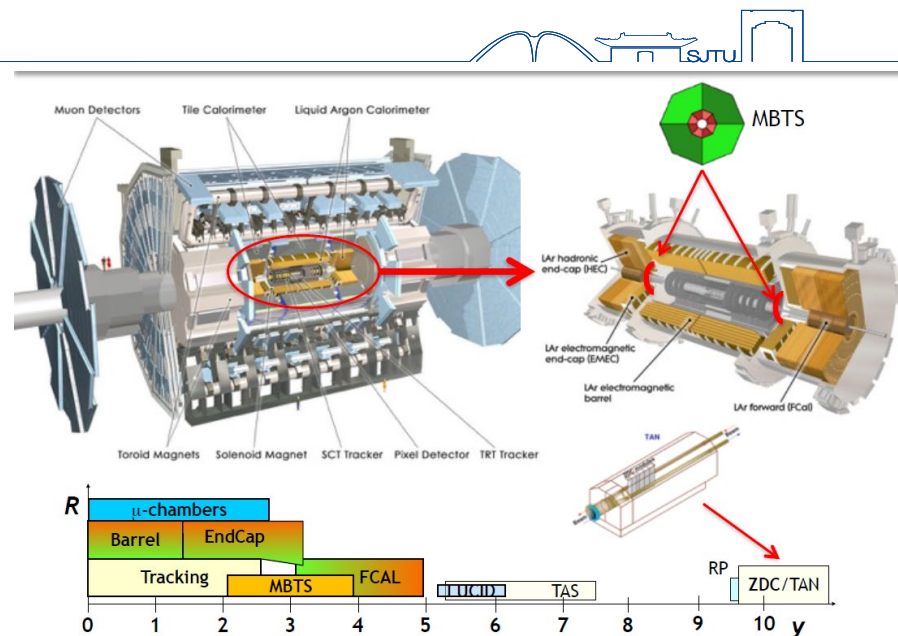
# Measurement Principle

- Scale up the cross section
  - Heavy ion (big Z, intense EM, increased QED)
  - UPC (suppress Strong Int.)
- First LHC-based LbyL observation
  - High energy
  - High luminosity
  - ATLAS detector
- Theory modeling
  - Special **MC generator** for Heavy ion
  - CEP QCD BG ( $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ )
  - Other BG



# ATLAS Detector

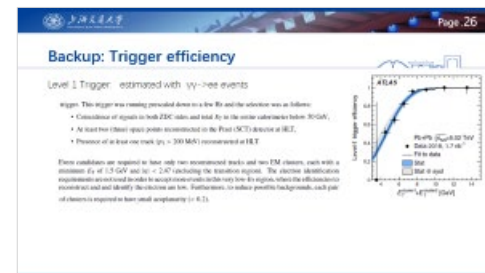
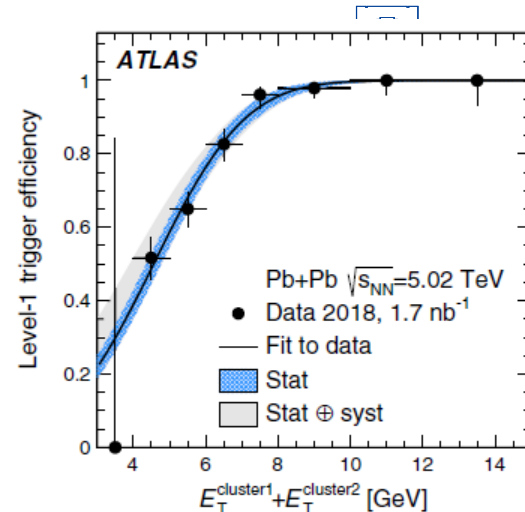
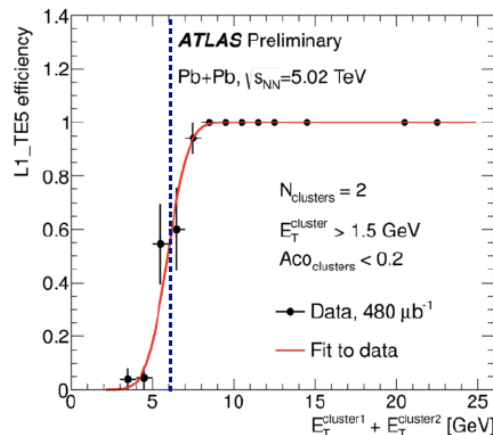
- Inner detector
  - > charged-particle,  $|\eta| < 2.5$
- EM and hadronic calorimeters
  - > provide energy measurements up to  $|\eta|=4.9$
- minimum-bias trigger scintillators (MBTSS)
  - > outer  $2.07 < |\eta| < 2.76$
  - > inner  $2.76 < |\eta| < 2.86$
- Forward calorimeters (FCAL)
  - > cover the range of  $3.2 < |\eta| < 4.9$ .
- The zero-degree calorimeters (ZDC)
  - > detect neutral particles, including neutrons emitted from the nucleus.





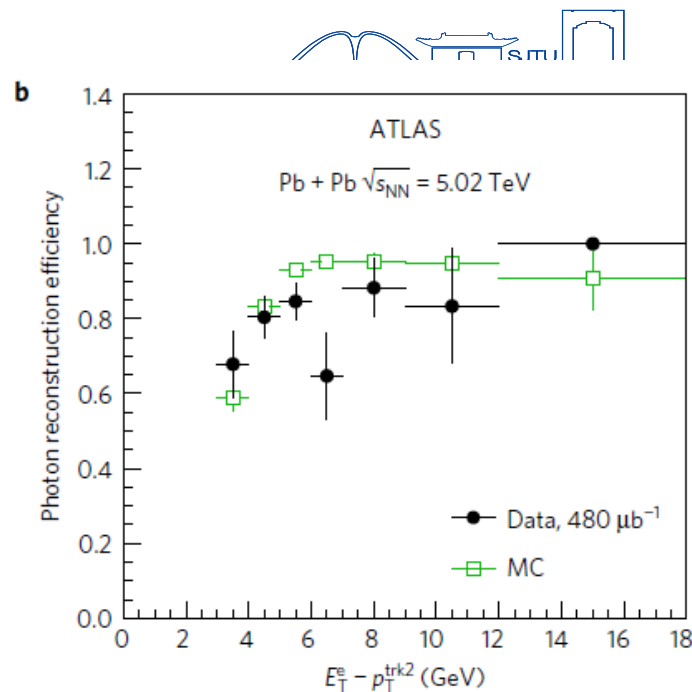
# Trigger efficiency

- Dedicated trigger for LbyL was designed
- 2015 version
  - total  $E_T$  in 5-200GeV [70%-100%]
  - MBTS veto (>1 hit in inner ring) [98%]
  - Pixel detector veto (> 10hits) [100%]
- 2018 version
  - (At least one  $E_T > 1\text{GeV}$  && total  $E_T$  in 4-200GeV) ||  
(At least two  $E_T > 1\text{GeV}$  && total  $E_T < 50\text{GeV}$ ) [60%-100%]
  - FCAL veto (more than noise) [99%]
  - Pixel detector veto (> 15hits) [100%]
- Efficiency estimate
  - $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$  passing another independent trigger(ZDC-based)



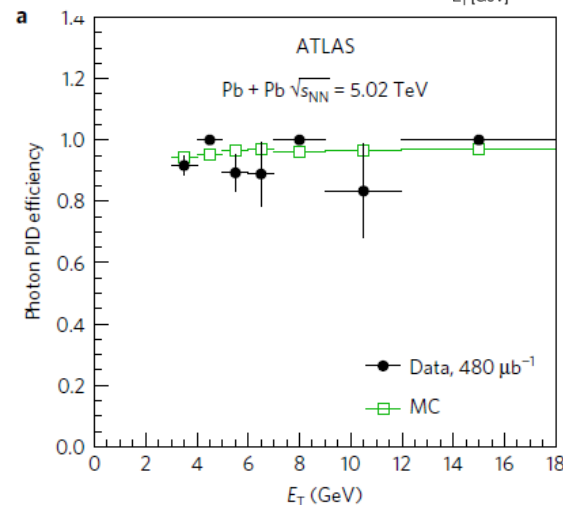
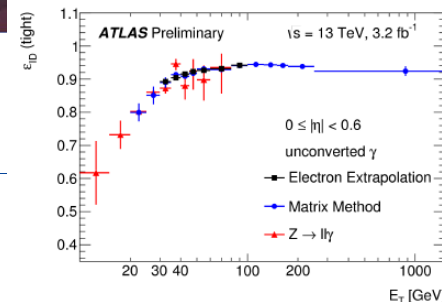
# Reconstruction

- EM cluster (EM calo)+ tracking information (ITD)
- Selection
  - Poorly functioning calorimeter cells
  - Out of time candidates.
- Efficiency study (5-10% uncert.)
  - $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e+e-\gamma$  hard-bremsstrahlung
  - tag: electron matched one track within  $\Delta R < 1.0$
  - probe:  $E_T^\gamma \approx (E_T^e - p_T^{\text{trk}2})$ .
- Cluster energy resolution (8%)
  - $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e+e-$  events  $\Rightarrow p_T$  expects to be balanced
  - By measuring  $E_T^{cl1} - E_T^{cl2}$
- EM cluster energy scale (5% uncert.)
  - By measuring  $E_T / p_T^{\text{trk}}$
- One of the main uncertainty source
  - 5-10% relative uncertainty at low  $E_T$  (3-6GeV)



# PID

- ALTAS detector is not designed for such low energy photon
  - Think about Higgs, myy~100GeV level
- Special optimized PID and detailed efficiency study
  - Use shower shape and MVA method
    - Based on 3 variables(lateral width, energy difference, and first layer reconstructed energy fraction)
    - MVA based (details missing from paper)
  - Finally reached 95% efficiency (but w/ uncer. 16% in  $\sigma$  measurement)
    - Measured using high-pT  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow l+l-$  FSR samples
    - Data and MC agrees
    - Cross-checked with  $Z \rightarrow \mu+\mu-\gamma$ ,  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e+e-\gamma$  hard-bremsstrahlung process and all consistent.



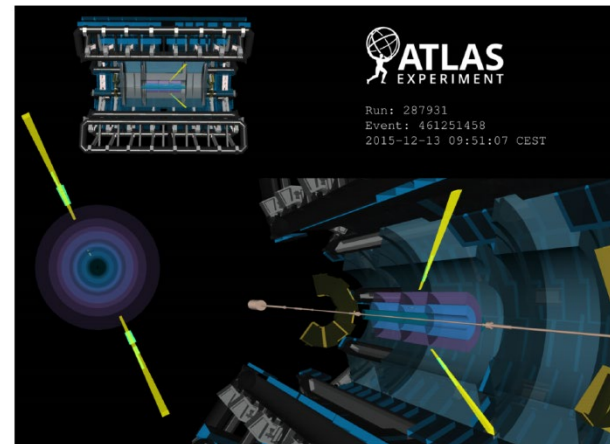
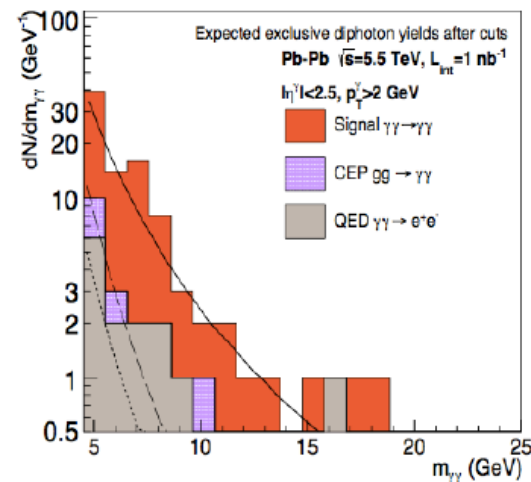
$$Eff = \frac{N_{ID recon}}{N_{recon}}$$

# Signal topology and selection

## ➤ Exclusive light-light scattering

- Exactly two photons (Two showers in EM calorimeter)
- no Tracks in ID (suppress  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$ )
- $E_T > 3 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $|\eta| < 2.37$ ,  $m_{\gamma\gamma} > 6 \text{ GeV}$   
(pre-selection)
- $p_T(\gamma\gamma) < 2 \text{ GeV}$  (fake photon background reduction)  
(dominated by cosmic-ray muons inducing EM clusters)
- back-to-back topology (Diphoton acoplanarity  $< 0.01$ )

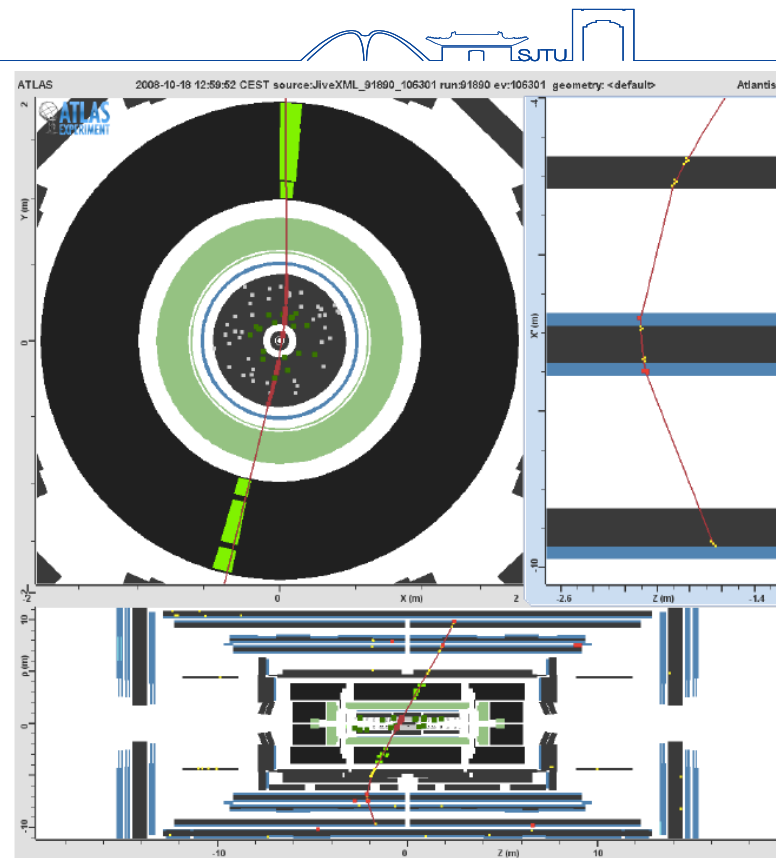
$$A_\phi = (1 - |\Delta\phi_{\gamma\gamma}|/\pi) < 0.01 \Rightarrow |\Delta\phi_{\gamma\gamma}| \approx \pi$$



## Background process

### ➤ Cosmic muons?

- One cosmic muon is seen as two deposits in the detector, very high rate: 700 Hz
- Very rarely it passes through an interaction point and does not deposit tracks in the ID
- Muons leave signals in the Muon Spectrometer
- Calorimetric clusters from muons have different shapes
- Cosmic background can be fully suppressed  
=>  $p_T(\gamma\gamma) < 2 \text{ GeV}$  and shower-shape requirement

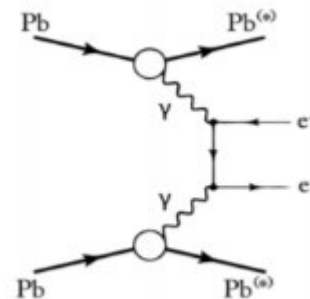
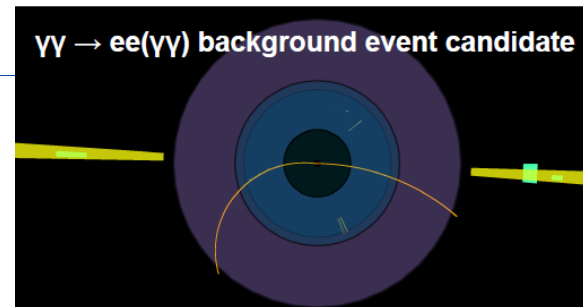


## Background Process: $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$

### ➤ Exclusive production of electron pairs: $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$

- Occur when the electron track is not reconstructed or the electron emits a hard bremsstrahlung photon
- Very high cross section  $\alpha_{\text{em}}^2$  times higher comparing to LbyL
- Electron and photons are distinct objects: electrons deposit tracks
- Production precisely known from QED, can be evaluated and subtracted
- What about if tracks are not measured in the ID?

=> Data-driven method( Define 2 control regions: exactly two photons passing the signal selection but also requiring one or two associated pixel tracks)





## Background Process: $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$



- What about if tracks are not measured in the ID?  
=> Data-driven method( 2 control regions: exactly two photons passing the signal selection but also requiring one or two associated pixel tracks)
- The event yield observed in these two CRs is extrapolated to the signal region using the probability to miss the electron pixel track if the electron track is not reconstructed ( $p^e_{\text{mistag}}$ ).

In order to verify the stability of the  $p^e_{\text{mistag}}$  evaluation method, the  $A_\phi$  requirement is dropped and the difference with the nominal selection is taken as a systematic uncertainty. This leads to  $p^e_{\text{mistag}} = 47 \pm 9\%$ .

- The number of  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$  events in the signal region is estimated to be  $7 \pm 1(\text{stat}) \pm 3(\text{syst})$ , where the uncertainty accounts for the CR statistical uncertainty, the  $p^e_{\text{mistag}}$  uncertainty, and the difference found between the two CRs.

## Background process: $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

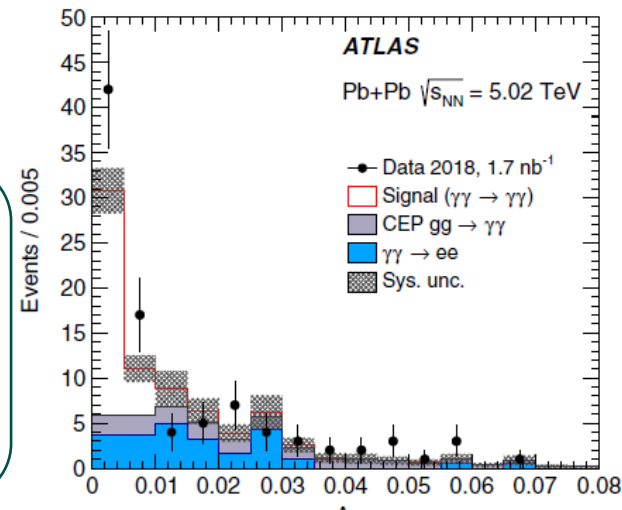
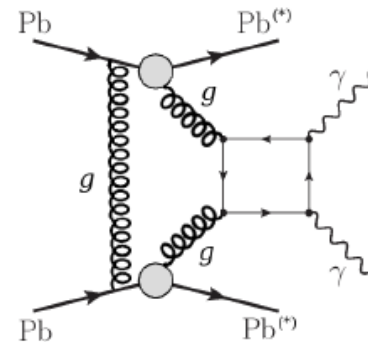
### ➤ Central exclusive $\gamma\gamma$ production (CEP)

- Similar exclusive topology
- Relatively flat  $\gamma\gamma$  acoplanarity distribution (wrt signal)

<- transverse momentum transferred by the photon exchange is much smaller than that due to the colour-singlet state gluons

CEP process: gluons recoil against the Pb nucleus which then dissociates

$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$ : the curvature of the trajectory of the electrons in the detector magnetic field before they emit hard photons in their interactions with the ID material.



## Background process: $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$



- The  $A_\phi < 0.01$  requirement significantly reduces the CEP  $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  background.  
=> Define control region :  $A_\phi > 0.01$ , the statistical uncertainty of the number of events in control region (17%)
- All experimental uncertainties have negligible impact on the normalization of the CEP  $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  background. The impact of the MC modeling of the  $A_\phi$  shape is estimated using an alternative SUPERCHIC MC sample with no absorptive effects
- After applying the datadriven normalization procedure, this leads to a 25% change in the CEP background yield in the signal region, which is taken as a systematic uncertainty. The background due to the CEP process in the signal region is estimated to be  $4 \pm 1$  events.

## Other negligible background process:

### ➤ $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ production

- estimated using MC simulation based on HERWIG++ and found to be negligible

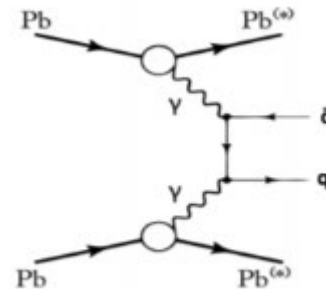
### ➤ Exclusive two-meson production

- Mesons can fake photons either by their intermediate decay into photons (neutral mesons:  $\pi^0$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\eta^0$ ) or by misreconstructed charged-particle tracks (charged mesons: for example  $\pi^+$ ,  $\pi^-$  states).
- Strongly suppressed for  $m_{\gamma\gamma} > 6\text{GeV}$

### ➤ Bottomonia production $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \eta_b \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ or $\gamma\text{Pb} \rightarrow \Upsilon \rightarrow \gamma\eta_b \rightarrow 3\gamma$

### ➤ The contribution from UPC events where both nuclei emit a bremsstrahlung photon

### ➤ $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-\gamma\gamma$ => below 1% of the expected signal



# Kinematic distributions for $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ event candidate

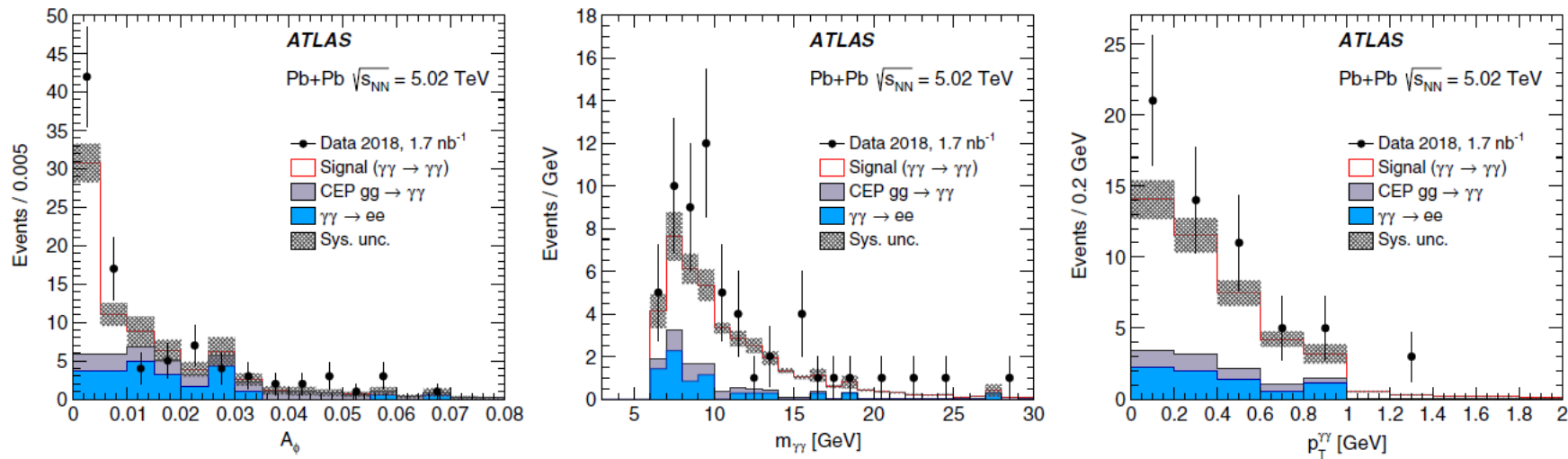


FIG. 2. (a) The diphoton  $A_\phi$  distribution for events satisfying the signal selection, but before the  $A_\phi < 0.01$  requirement. (b) Diphoton invariant mass and (c) diphoton transverse momentum for events satisfying the signal selection. Data (points) are compared with the sum of signal and background expectations (histograms). Systematic uncertainties of the signal and background processes, excluding that of the luminosity, are shown as shaded bands.

# Results

$$\sigma_{\text{fid}} = \frac{N_{\text{data}} - N_{\text{bkg}}}{C \times \int L dt}$$

- 2015    480  $\mu\text{b}^{-1}$
- A total of 13 candidate events were observed with an expected background of  $2.6 \pm 0.7$  events
- The measured fiducial cross-section is  $\sigma_{\text{fid}} = 70 \pm 24$  (stat.)  $\pm 17$  (syst.) nb, corresponding to a significance of 4.4.
- 2018     $1.73 \pm 0.07 \text{ nb}^{-1}$
- 59 candidate events are observed for a background expectation of  $12 \pm 3$  events. The observed excess of events over the expected background has a significance of 8.2 standard deviations. The measured fiducial cross section is  $78 \pm 13$  (stat.)  $\pm 7$  (syst.)  $\pm 3$  (lumi) nb. (SM predictions:  $45 \pm 5$  nb,  $51 \pm 5$  nb,  $50 \pm 5$  nb)

**Table 2 | Summary of systematic uncertainties.**

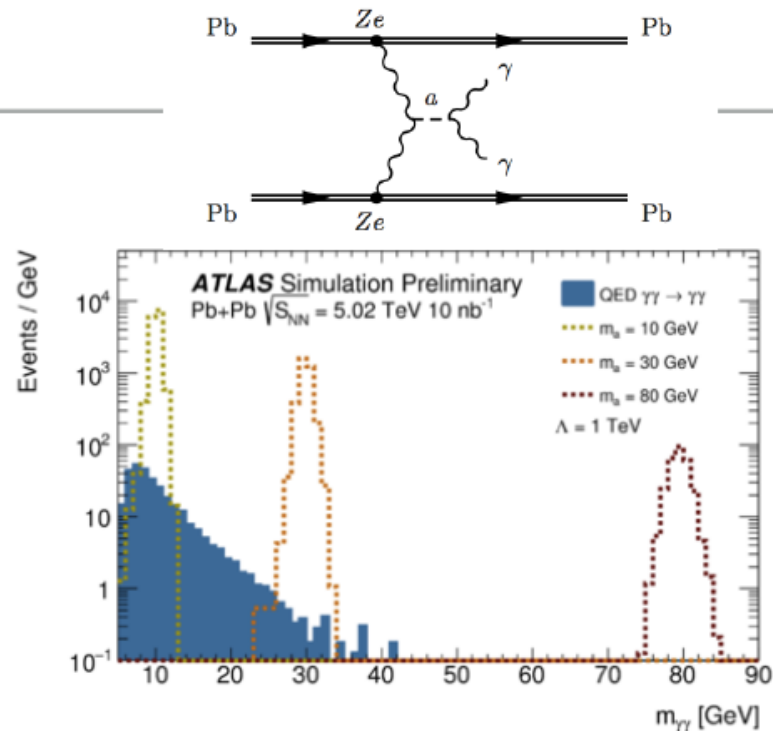
Source of uncertainty	Relative uncertainty
Trigger	5%
Photon reco. efficiency	12%
Photon PID efficiency	16%
Photon energy scale	7%
Photon energy resolution	11%
Total	24%

The table shows the relative systematic uncertainty on detector correction factor C broken into its individual contributions. The total is obtained by adding them in quadrature.



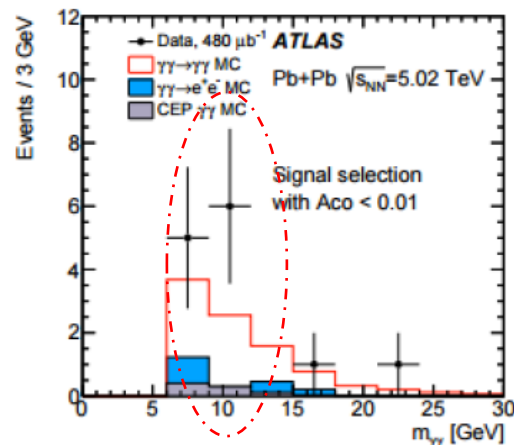
## BSM search: Axions

- Explore potential of UPC data in searches of axionlike particles (ALP) at relatively low  $m_a$ 
  - ▶ Axion: hypothetical particle proposed in 1977
  - ▶ Interaction: gravity, electromagnetic
  - ▶ If it exists: it is a possible component of cold dark matter
- Using the ATLAS LbyL measurement with  $\sim 0.5 \text{ nb}^{-1}$ , the most stringent limits on axions at  $6 < m_a < 100 \text{ GeV}$  have been derived
  - ▶ Studies use full MC simulation of the upgraded ATLAS tracker
  - ▶ Realistic  $m_{\gamma\gamma}$  and background distributions
- Limits agree with results from S. Knappen at al[arXiv:1709.07110]



## Discussion

- Really light by light scattering?
  - Someone<sup>##</sup> doubts that, even though it is “quasi-real”, it is not a real(on-shell) photon QED LbyL, since the CoM energy is too large than electron => which makes the QED LbyL hardly happens
  - Since the 6GeV and above “quasi-photon” is energetic enough to make QCD involved, the exchanged charged particle might be interpreted as quarks
  - However, how about hadronic resonance? like bottomonium  $b\bar{b}$ , at mass 9.86GeV or 9.91GeV (different spin-let) then di-photon decay.
  - The paper says, this possibility is excluded by some theory papers<sup>#</sup> => but how about the other theory papers<sup>##</sup> which doubts this?
  - More or less, the result(or at lease the interpretation) is model dependent to some extent.



##: <https://inspirehep.net/literature/1695543>

# Thanks

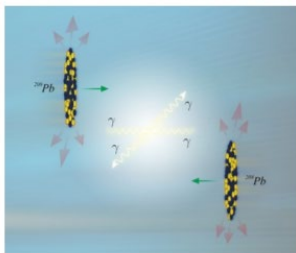


# Backup: slide



## PHOTON-PHOTON PHYSICS AT COLLIDERS

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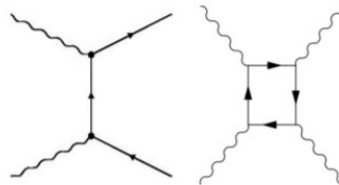
- Basis for photon-photon physics by
  - Fermi, Nuovo Cim. 2 (1925) 143
  - Weizsacker, Z. Phys. 88 (1934) 612
  - Williams, Phys. Rev. 45 (10 1934) 729
- Led to formulation of Weizsacker-Williams Approximation or Equivalent Photon Approximation (EPA)

- Cross section for processes  $AA(\gamma\gamma) \rightarrow AA(X)$  are calculated using:

- Number of equivalent photons (EPA) by integration of relevant EM form factors

$$n(b, \omega) = \frac{Z^2 \alpha_{em}}{\pi^2 \omega} \left| \int dq_{\perp} q_{\perp}^2 \frac{F(Q^2)}{Q^2} J_1(bq_{\perp}) \right|^2$$

$$Q^2 < 1/R^2 \quad \omega_{\max} \approx \gamma/R$$



- Cross section of  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow X$  (elementary):

$$\sigma_{A_1 A_2 (\gamma\gamma) \rightarrow A_1 A_2 X}^{\text{EPA}} = \int \int d\omega_1 d\omega_2 n_1(\omega_1) n_2(\omega_2) \sigma_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow X}(W_{\gamma\gamma})$$

## $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}(\gamma\gamma) \rightarrow \text{Pb}^{(*)} + \text{Pb}^{(*)} e^+ e^-$



- validate the EM calorimeter energy scale and resolution
- To select  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$  candidates, events are required to pass the same trigger as for the diphoton selection. Each electron is reconstructed from an EM energy cluster in the calorimeter matched to a track in the ID. The  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$  events are selected by requiring exactly two oppositely charged electrons, no further charged-particle tracks coming from the interaction region, and dielectron reduced acoplanarity,  $A\phi < 0.01$ . The observed  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$  event yield in data is compatible with that expected from simulation.

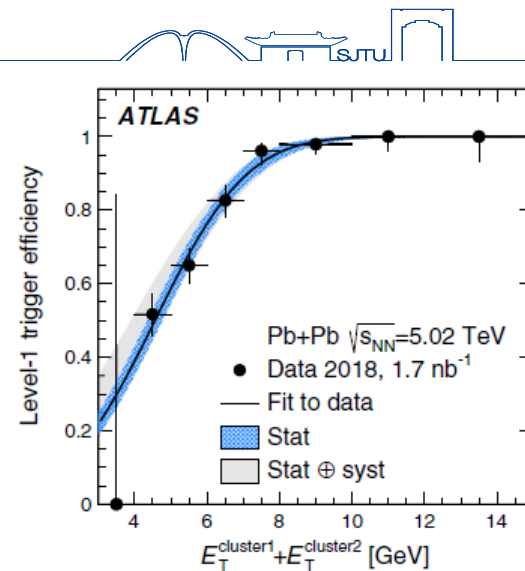
## Backup: Trigger efficiency

Level 1 Trigger: estimated with  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow ee$  events

trigger. This trigger was running prescaled down to a few Hz and the selection was as follows:

- Coincidence of signals in both ZDC sides and total  $E_T$  in the entire calorimeter below 50 GeV,
- At least two (three) space points reconstructed in the Pixel (SCT) detector at HLT,
- Presence of at least one track ( $p_T > 200$  MeV) reconstructed at HLT.

Event candidates are required to have only two reconstructed tracks and two EM clusters, each with a minimum  $E_T$  of 1.5 GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.47$  (excluding the transition region). The electron identification requirements are not used in order to accept more events in this very low- $E_T$  region, where the efficiencies to reconstruct and identify the electron are low. Furthermore, to reduce possible backgrounds, each pair of clusters is required to have small acoplanarity ( $< 0.2$ ).





## Backup: Theory

- Euler–Heisenberg Lagrangian

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler%E2%80%93Heisenberg\\_Lagrangian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euler%E2%80%93Heisenberg_Lagrangian)

$$\mathcal{L} = -\mathcal{F} - \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \exp(-m^2 s) \left[ (es)^2 \frac{\operatorname{Re} \cosh(es\sqrt{2(\mathcal{F} + i\mathcal{G})})}{\operatorname{Im} \cosh(es\sqrt{2(\mathcal{F} + i\mathcal{G})})} \mathcal{G} - \frac{2}{3} (es)^2 \mathcal{F} - 1 \right] \frac{ds}{s^3}$$

Here  $m$  is the electron mass,  $e$  the electron charge,  $\mathcal{F} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{B}^2 - \mathbf{E}^2)$ , and  $\mathcal{G} = \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$ .

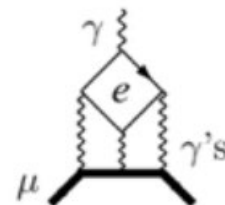
In the weak field limit, this becomes:  $\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{E}^2 - \mathbf{B}^2) + \frac{2\alpha^2}{45m^4} [(\mathbf{E}^2 - \mathbf{B}^2)^2 + 7(\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B})^2]$

- $g$ -2 contribution  $a_\mu = (g_\mu - 2)/2$

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$$a_\mu^{(6)}(\text{lbl}, e) \simeq 20.947\,924\,89(16) \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^3 = 2.625\,351\,02(2) \times 10^{-7}$$

$$a_\mu^{(6)\text{ QED}} = 24.050\,509\,64(46) \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^3$$



## Backup: Theory

- EPA theory (Equivalent Photon Approximation)

(1) Number of equivalent photons (EPA)  
by integration of relevant EM form factors:

$$n(b, \omega) = \frac{Z^2 \alpha_{em}}{\pi^2 \omega} \left| \int dq_{\perp} q_{\perp}^2 \frac{F(Q^2)}{Q^2} J_1(bq_{\perp}) \right|^2$$

$$Q^2 < 1/R^2 \quad \omega_{\max} \approx \gamma/R$$

- $Q^2$

$$\sigma_{A_1 A_2 (\gamma\gamma) \rightarrow A_1 A_2 X}^{\text{EPA}} = \iint d\omega_1 d\omega_2 n_1(\omega_1) n_2(\omega_2) \sigma_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow X}(W_{\gamma\gamma})$$