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Measurement of $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ production cross sections in $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV and limits on anomalous triple gauge couplings with the ATLAS detector

The ATLAS Collaboration

Abstract

This Letter presents measurements of $l\pm\nu\gamma$ and $l^+l^-\gamma$ ($l = e, \mu$) production in 1.02 fb$^{-1}$ of $pp$ collision data recorded at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV with the ATLAS detector at the LHC during 2011. Events dominated by $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ production with leptonic decays of the $W$ and $Z$ bosons are selected, and their production cross sections and kinematic properties are measured in several ranges of the photon transverse energy. The results are compared to Standard Model predictions and are used to determine limits on anomalous $WW\gamma$ and $ZZ\gamma/Z\gamma\gamma$ couplings.
Measurement of \( W\gamma \) and \( Z\gamma \) production cross sections in \( pp \) collisions at \( \sqrt{s} = 7 \) TeV and limits on anomalous triple gauge couplings with the ATLAS detector

(ATLAS Collaboration)

(Dated: May 11, 2012)

This Letter presents measurements of \( t^\pm\nu\gamma \) and \( t^\pm t^- \gamma \) \((l = e, \mu)\) production in 1.02 fb\(^{-1}\) of \( pp \) collision data recorded at \( \sqrt{s} = 7 \) TeV with the ATLAS detector at the LHC during 2011. Events dominated by \( W\gamma \) and \( Z\gamma \) production with leptonic decays of the \( W \) and \( Z \) bosons are selected, and their production cross sections and kinematic properties are measured in several ranges of the photon transverse energy. The results are compared to Standard Model predictions and are used to determine limits on anomalous \( WW\gamma \) and \( ZZ/\gamma \) couplings.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Standard Model (SM) predicts self-couplings of the \( W \) boson, the \( Z \) boson and the photon through the non-Abelian \( SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \) gauge group of the electroweak sector. Experimental tests of these predictions have been made in \( pp \) and \( pp \) collider experiments through the \( s \)-channel production of one of the gauge bosons and its subsequent coupling to a final state boson pair such as \( WW, WZ, \) and \( W\gamma \) (\( s \)-channel production of \( ZZ \) and \( Z\gamma \) are forbidden in the SM). The production cross sections are sensitive to the couplings at the triple gauge-boson (TGC) vertices and therefore provide direct tests of SM predictions. Deviations of the TGC from the SM expectation could occur from a composite structure of the \( W \) and \( Z \) bosons, or from the presence of new bosons that decay to SM vector boson pairs. Previous measurements of \( W\gamma \) and \( Z\gamma \) production have been made at the Tevatron by the CDF \([1] \) and D0 \([2, 3] \) collaborations, and at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC) by the ATLAS \([4] \) and CMS \([5] \) collaborations.

In this Letter we report measurements of the production of \( W\gamma \) and \( Z\gamma \) boson pairs from \( pp \) collisions provided by the LHC, at a centre-of-mass energy of 7 TeV. The analysis presented here uses a data sample corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 1.02 fb\(^{-1}\) collected by the ATLAS experiment in 2011. Events triggered by high transverse energy (\( E_T \)) electrons and high transverse momentum (\( p_T \)) muons are used to select \( pp \to t^\pm\nu\gamma + X \) and \( pp \to t^\pm t^- + X \) production. Several processes contribute to these final states, including final state radiation (FSR) of photons from charged leptons in inclusive \( W \) or \( Z \) production, radiation of photons from initial or final state quarks in \( W \) or \( Z \) production, and radiation of photons directly from \( W \) bosons through the \( WW\gamma \) vertex.

The production processes are categorized according to the photon transverse energy. The event sample with low \( E_T^\gamma \) photons includes a large contribution from \( W/Z \) boson decays with final state radiation. For a better comparison to SM predictions the events are analyzed both inclusively, with no requirements on the recoil system, and exclusively, requiring that there is no hard jet. The inclusive \( V\gamma \) \((V = W \) or \( Z \)) event sample includes significant contributions of photons from final state parton fragmentation, whereas for exclusive \( V\gamma \) events, the photons originate primarily as radiation from initial state quarks in \( W \) and \( Z \) production, or from the \( WW\gamma \) vertex in \( W\gamma \) events. The measurements of exclusive \( V\gamma \) events with high \( E_T^\gamma \) photons are used to extract limits on anomalous triple gauge-boson couplings (aTGCs). The observed limits are compared with the corresponding measurements at the Tevatron \([16] \) and LEP \([6] \), as well as the measurements from CMS \([5] \).

II. THE ATLAS DETECTOR AND THE DATA SAMPLE

The ATLAS detector \([7] \) is composed of an inner tracking system (ID) surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid providing a 2 T axial magnetic field, electromagnetic (EM) and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer (MS). The ID consists of three subsystems: the pixel and silicon microstrip (SCT) detectors cover the pseudorapidity range \(|\eta| < 2.5 \) while the Transition Radiation Tracker (TRT) has an acceptance range of \(|\eta| < 2.0 \). The calorimeter system covers the range \(|\eta| < 4.9 \) and is composed of sampling calorimeters with either liquid argon (LAr) or scintillating tiles as the active media. In the region \(|\eta| < 2.5 \) the EM LAr calorimeter is finely segmented and plays an important role in electron and photon identification. The MS is based on three large superconducting toroids arranged with an eight-fold azimuthal coil symmetry around the calorimeters, and a system of three stations of chambers for the trigger and precise measurements of muon tracks. Data were collected during the first half of 2011 from \( pp \) collisions. Events were selected by triggers requiring at least one identified electron with \( E_T > 20 \) GeV or a muon with \( p_T > 18 \) GeV. The total integrated luminosity used

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1 ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point (IP) in the centre of the detector and the \( z \)-axis along the beam pipe. The \( x \)-axis points from the IP to the centre of the LHC ring, and the \( y \)-axis points upward. Cylindrical coordinates \((r, \phi)\) are used in the transverse plane, \( \phi \) being the azimuthal angle around the beam pipe. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle \( \theta \) as \( \eta = -\ln(\tan(\theta/2)) \). The distance \( \Delta R \) in the \( \eta - \phi \) space is defined as \( \Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} \).
for this measurement is 1.02 fb$^{-1}$ with an uncertainty of 3.7% \cite{8,9}.

III. SIMULATION OF $W\gamma$ AND $Z\gamma$ EVENTS AND BACKGROUNDS

Monte Carlo (MC) event samples, including a full simulation \cite{10} of the ATLAS detector within GEANT4 \cite{11}, are used to compare the data to the SM signal and background expectations. All MC samples are simulated with in-time pile-up (an average of four $pp$ interactions within a single bunch crossing) and out-of-time pile-up (signals from neighbouring bunch crossings). The simulated events are weighted such that the distribution of multiple collisions per bunch crossing matches what is observed in the data for the period used in this analysis.

The production $pp \to l^\pm\nu\gamma + X$ is modelled with the ALPGEN generator \cite{12} interfaced to HERWIG \cite{13} for parton shower and fragmentation processes, and to JIMMY \cite{14} for underlying event simulation. The SHERPA generator \cite{15} is used to simulate $pp \to l^+l^-\gamma + X$ events. The CT10 and CT10.6M \cite{16} parton distribution functions (PDF) are used for samples generated with ALPGEN and SHERPA, respectively. The FSR photons from charged leptons is handled by PHOTOS \cite{17} for the ALPGEN sample, and by the SHERPA generator for the SHERPA sample. All the signal production processes, including the photon fragmentation, are simulated by these two generators. The ALPGEN sample is generated with leading-order (LO) matrix elements for final states with up to five partons, whereas the SHERPA sample is generated with LO matrix elements for final states with up to three partons. The $Z \to l^+l^-$ and $W \to \tau\nu$ backgrounds are modelled with PYTHIA \cite{18}. The radiation of photons from charged leptons is treated in PYTHIA using PHOTOS. TAUOLA \cite{19} is used for $\tau$ lepton decays. The POWHEG \cite{20} generator is used to simulate $t\bar{t}$ production, interfaced to PYTHIA for parton showering. The WW and single-top quark productions are modelled by MC@NLO \cite{21,22} interfaced to HERWIG for parton showering and fragmentation. The next-to-leading-order (NLO) cross-section predictions are used to normalize the simulated background events. Other backgrounds are derived from data as described in Section VI.

IV. RECONSTRUCTION AND SELECTION OF $W\gamma$ AND $Z\gamma$ CANDIDATES

The $W$ and $Z$ bosons are selected through their decays into $e\nu$, $\mu\nu$ and $e^+e^-$, $\mu^+\mu^-$ respectively. The $W\gamma$ final state consists of an isolated electron or muon, large missing transverse momentum due to the undetected neutrino, and an isolated photon. The $Z\gamma$ final state contains one $e^+e^-$ or $\mu^+\mu^-$ pair and an isolated photon. Collision events are selected by requiring at least one reconstructed vertex with at least three charged particle tracks. If more than one vertex satisfies the vertex selection requirement, the vertex with the highest sum of the $p_T^2$ of the associated tracks is chosen.

An electron candidate is obtained from an energy cluster in the EM calorimeter associated with a reconstructed charged particle in the ID. The electron’s $E_T$ must be greater than 25 GeV. To avoid the transition regions between the calorimeters, the electron cluster must satisfy $|\eta| < 1.37$ or $1.52 < |\eta| < 2.47$. The selection of $W(\to e\nu)\gamma$ events requires one electron passing tight identification cuts \cite{23}. Two oppositely charged electrons passing medium identification cuts \cite{24} are required in the $Z(\to e^+e^-)\gamma$ selection. To reduce the background due to a jet misidentified as an electron in the $W\gamma$ analysis, a calorimeter-based isolation requirement $E_T^{iso} < 6$ GeV is applied to the electron candidate. $E_T^{iso}$ is the total transverse energy recorded in the calorimeters within a cone of radius $\Delta R = 0.3$ around the electron direction (excluding the energy from the electron cluster). $E_T^{iso}$ is corrected for leakage of the electron energy outside the electron cluster and for contributions from the underlying event and pile-up \cite{24}.

Muon candidates are identified by associating complete tracks or track segments in the MS to tracks in the ID \cite{25}. Each selected muon candidate is a combined track originating from the primary vertex with transverse momentum $p_T > 25$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$. It is required to be isolated by imposing $R^{iso}(\mu) < 0.1$, where $R^{iso}(\mu)$ is the sum of the track $p_T$ in a $\Delta R = 0.2$ cone around the muon direction divided by the muon $p_T$. For the $W(\to \mu\nu)\gamma$ measurement at least one muon candidate is required in the event, whereas for the $Z(\to \mu^+\mu^-)\gamma$ measurement, the selected events must have exactly two oppositely charged muon candidates.

Photon candidates use clustered energy deposits in the EM calorimeter in the range $|\eta| < 2.37$ (excluding the calorimeter transition region $1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52$) with $E_T > 15$ GeV. Requirements on the shower shape \cite{26} are applied to suppress the background from multiple showers produced in meson (e.g. $\pi^0, \eta$) decays. To further reduce this background, a photon isolation requirement $E_T^{iso} < 6$ GeV is applied. The definition of photon isolation is similar to the electron isolation described above.

The reconstruction of the missing transverse momentum ($E_T^{miss}$) \cite{27} is based on the energy deposits in calorimeter cells inside three-dimensional clusters. Corrections for the calorimeter response to hadrons, dead material, out-of-cluster energy, as well as muon momentum are applied. A selection requirement of $E_T^{miss} > 25$ GeV is applied in the $W\gamma$ analysis.

Jets are reconstructed from calorimeter clusters using the anti-$k_t$ jet clustering algorithm \cite{28} with radius parameter $R = 0.4$. The selected jets are required to have $p_T > 30$ GeV with $|\eta| < 4.4$, and to be well separated from the lepton and photon candidates ($\Delta R(l/\mu/\gamma, \text{jet}) > 0.6$). In the exclusive $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ analyses, events with one or more jets are vetoed.

For each selected $W\gamma$ candidate event, in addition to
the presence of one high $p_T$ lepton, one high $E_T$ isolated photon and large $E_{T}^{\text{miss}}$, the transverse mass of the lepton-$E_{T}^{\text{miss}}$ system is required to be $m_T(l, \nu) = \sqrt{2p_T(l) \cdot E_{T}^{\text{miss}} \cdot (1 - \cos \Delta \phi)} > 40$ GeV, where $\Delta \phi$ is the azimuthal separation between the directions of the lepton and the missing transverse momentum vector. A $Z$-veto requirement is applied in the electron channel of the $W\gamma$ analysis by asking that the electron-photon invariant mass ($m_{e\gamma}$) is not within 10 GeV of the $Z$-boson mass.

For $Z\gamma$ candidates, the invariant mass of the two oppositely charged leptons is required to be greater than 40 GeV. In both $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ analyses, a requirement $\Delta R(l, \gamma) > 1.7$ is applied to suppress the contributions from FSR photons in $W$ and $Z$ boson decays.

V. SIGNAL EFFICIENCIES

The efficiencies of the lepton selections, and the lepton triggers, are first estimated from the $W/Z + \gamma$ signal MC events and then corrected with scale factors derived using high purity lepton data samples from $W$ and $Z$ boson decays to account for small discrepancies between the data and the MC simulation \cite{24,26,29}.

The average efficiency for the tight electron selection in $W\gamma$ events is $(74.9 \pm 1.2)$%. For the medium quality electron selection in $Z\gamma$ events, the efficiency is $(96.4 \pm 1.4)$% and $(91.0 \pm 1.6)$% for the leading and sub-leading electron, respectively. The electron-isolation efficiency is $> 99\% \pm 1\%$. The uncertainties reported throughout this Letter, unless stated otherwise, reflect the combined statistical and systematic uncertainties. The efficiency of the electron trigger, which is used to select the data sample for the electron decay channels, is found to be $> 99.5\%$ for both tight and medium electron candidates.

The muon-identification efficiency for the $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ analyses is estimated to be $(90 \pm 11)$%. The muon-isolation efficiency is $> 99\%$ with negligible uncertainty. The efficiency of the muon trigger to select the $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ events is $(83 \pm 1)$% and $(97 \pm 1)$%, respectively.

The photon identification efficiency is determined from $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ MC samples where the shower shape distributions are corrected to account for the observed small discrepancies between data and simulation. The photon identification efficiency increases with the photon $E_T$, and is estimated to be 68%, 88% and 90% for photons with $E_T > 15$, 60 and 100 GeV, respectively. The main sources of systematic uncertainty come from the imperfect knowledge of the material in front of the calorimeter, the background contamination in the samples used to determine the corrections to the shower shape variables, and pile-up effects \cite{25}. The systematic uncertainty in the identification efficiency due to the uncertainty in the photon contributions from quark/gluon fragmentation is also considered. The overall relative uncertainty in the photon identification efficiency is 11% for $E_T > 15$ GeV, decreasing to 4.5% for $E_T > 60$ or 100 GeV. The photon isolation efficiency is estimated using $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ signal MC events and cross-checked with data using electrons from $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ decays \cite{24}. The estimated efficiency varies from $(98 \pm 1.5)$% for $E_T > 15$ GeV to $(91 \pm 2.5)$% for $E_T > 100$ GeV.

VI. BACKGROUND DETERMINATION AND SIGNAL YIELD

The dominant source of background in this analysis comes from $V$+jets ($V=W$ or $Z$) events where photons from the decays of mesons produced in jet fragmentation (mainly $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$) pass the photon selection criteria. Since the fragmentation functions of quarks and gluons into photons are poorly constrained by experiments, these processes may not be well modelled by the MC simulation. Therefore the $V$+jets backgrounds are derived from data.

For the $W\gamma$ analysis, another important source of background which is not well modelled by MC simulations is the $\gamma$+jets process. These background events can be misidentified as $W\gamma$ events when there are leptons from heavy quark decays (or the hadrons inside jets are misidentified as leptons) and large apparent $E_{T}^{\text{miss}}$ is created by the mis-measurement of the jet energies.

The background contributions from $W$+jets and $\gamma$+jets events in the $W\gamma$ analysis, or from $Z$+jets events in the $Z\gamma$ analysis, are estimated from data.

The $Z \rightarrow l^+l^-$ process is also one of the dominant backgrounds in the $W\gamma$ analysis. Its contribution is estimated from MC simulation, since this process is well understood and modelled. Other backgrounds such as those from $t\bar{t}$ decay for the $Z\gamma$ analysis, and those from electroweak (EW) processes ($W \rightarrow \tau\nu$, $WW$), single top and $t\bar{t}$ for the $W\gamma$ analysis, are less important and are estimated from MC simulation. These processes, together with the $Z \rightarrow l^+l^-$ background, are referred to collectively as “$EW+t\bar{t}$ background”.

The misidentified photons (leptons) in $V$+jets ($\gamma$+jets) events are more likely to fail the photon (lepton) isolation criteria. A “pass-to-fail” ratio $f_\gamma$ ($f_l$) is defined as the ratio of photon (lepton) candidates passing the photon (lepton) isolation criteria to the number of candidates failing the isolation requirement. The ratio $f_\gamma$ is measured in $W \rightarrow l\nu$ ($Z \rightarrow l^+l^-$) events with one “low quality” photon candidate. A “low quality” photon candidate is defined as one that fails the photon shower-shape selection criteria, but passes a background-enriching subset of these criteria. The ratio $f_l$ is measured in a control sample, which requires the events to pass all the $W + \gamma$ selection criteria, except the $E_{T}^{\text{miss}}$ requirement. The control sample for $f_\mu$ measurement is defined in a way similar to that used for $f_\gamma$, except that in addition the muon track is required to have a large impact parameter in order to enhance the heavy flavor component. The estimated contribution of $V$+jets is obtained by multiplying the measured $f_\gamma$ by the number of events passing all
$V+\gamma$ selections, except the photon isolation requirement. Similarly the $\gamma$+jets backgrounds is estimated using the measured $f_1$.

The accuracy of the $W/Z/\gamma$+$\gamma$+jets background determination has been assessed in detail. The ratios $f_\gamma$ and $f_l$, which are measured in background-enriched samples, may be biased due to the different composition of these samples and the signal sample. To estimate the uncertainty in $f_l$ from this source, two sets of alternative selections, with tighter and looser background selection requirements, are used to obtain alternative control samples. $f_\gamma$ is also measured in an alternative control sample selected by requiring that events pass all $W+\gamma$ selection criteria, except that the electron fails the tight identification criteria but passes the low quality criteria. To determine the systematic uncertainty on $f_\mu$, the $E_T^{miss}$ and impact parameter requirements for the muon track are varied. To obtain alternative control samples, the $W/Z/\gamma$+$\gamma$+jets background estimates from the alternative control samples are consistent with those obtained from the nominal samples, and the differences are assigned as systematic uncertainties. The changes in the background estimates from varying the photon or lepton isolation requirements are also assigned as systematic uncertainties.

Extrapolation methods are used to cross-check the $W/Z/\gamma$+$\gamma$+jets background estimates in the high $E_T$ region, where few events are available. The extrapolation method scales the well-measured background level in the low $E_T$ region to the high $E_T$ region using the $E_T^z$ distribution shape obtained from control samples. The differences between results obtained from the nominal and extrapolation methods are used as additional uncertainties.

The uncertainties on the "$tt+EW$" background include the theoretical uncertainty on the NLO cross section (between 6%–7% depending on the process), the luminosity uncertainty (3.7%) and the experimental systematic uncertainty. The latter is dominated by the uncertainties on the uncertainty on the jet energy scale (5%) and the uncertainty on the EM shower shape modeling in the MC simulation (4%–11%).

A summary of background contributions and signal yields in the $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ analyses is given in Table I and Table II respectively. The photon transverse energy and jet multiplicity distributions from the selected $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ events are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively. The data are compared to the sum of the backgrounds and the SM signal predictions. The distributions for the expected $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ signal are taken from signal MC simulation and normalized to the extracted number of signal events shown in Table II ($N_W^{sig}$) and Table II ($N_Z^{sig}$).

### TABLE I. Expected numbers of background events, observed numbers of signal events ($N_W^{sig}$) and total numbers of events passing the selection requirements in the data ($N_W^{data}$) for the $pp \rightarrow e^+e^-\gamma$ channel and the $pp \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\gamma$ channel in different $E_T$ and jet multiplicity regions. The combined statistical and systematic uncertainties are shown. The uncertainty on the background prediction is dominated by systematic uncertainties in all regions. The contribution from the EW background is dominated by the $Z\rightarrow e^+e^- (\mu^+\mu^-)$ process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>$E_T &gt; 15$ GeV</th>
<th>$N_{jet} \geq 0$</th>
<th>$N_{jet} = 0$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$N_{W_{\gamma}}^{obs}$</td>
<td>2649</td>
<td>3621</td>
<td>1666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$N_{W_{\gamma}}^{data}$</td>
<td>4393 ± 108</td>
<td>685 ± 102</td>
<td>212 ± 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W+\gamma$</td>
<td>$E_T &gt; 60$ GeV</td>
<td>$N_{jet} \geq 0$</td>
<td>$N_{jet} = 0$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$N_{W_{\gamma}}^{obs}$</td>
<td>124 ± 6.9</td>
<td>27 ± 10.1</td>
<td>6.4 ± 3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W+\gamma$</td>
<td>$E_T &gt; 100$ GeV</td>
<td>$N_{jet} \geq 0$</td>
<td>$N_{jet} = 0$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$N_{W_{\gamma}}^{obs}$</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE II. Expected numbers of background events ($N_{W_{\gamma}}^{GC}$), observed numbers of signal events ($N_W^{sig}$) and total numbers of events passing the selection requirements in the data ($N_W^{data}$) for the $pp \rightarrow e^+e^-\gamma$ channel and the $pp \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\gamma$ channel in different $E_T$ and jet multiplicity regions. The combined statistical and systematic uncertainties are shown. The uncertainty on the background prediction is dominated by systematic uncertainties in all regions. The background comes predominantly from $Z+\gamma$ events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>$E_T &gt; 15$ GeV</th>
<th>$N_{jet} \geq 0$</th>
<th>$N_{jet} = 0$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$N_{W_{\gamma}}^{obs}$</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$N_{W_{\gamma}}^{data}$</td>
<td>3.59 ± 0.67</td>
<td>40.9 ± 7.1</td>
<td>22.4 ± 5.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The distributions for the expected signals are taken from the MC simulation and normalised to the extracted number of signal events shown in Table II and Table III. The ratio between the number of candidates observed in the data and the number of expected candidates from the signal MC simulation and from the background processes is also shown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cuts</th>
<th>Lp → lνγ</th>
<th>Lp → l⁺l⁻γ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lepton</td>
<td>$p_T^l &gt; 25$ GeV</td>
<td>$p_T^l &gt; 25$ GeV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$p_T^l &gt; 25$ GeV</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boson</td>
<td>Low $E_T^\gamma$: $E_T^\gamma &gt; 15$ GeV</td>
<td>Medium $E_T^\gamma$: $E_T^\gamma &gt; 60$ GeV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photon</td>
<td>High $E_T^\gamma$: $E_T^\gamma &gt; 100$ GeV</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet</td>
<td>$E_T^{\text{jet}}$ &gt; 30 GeV, $</td>
<td>\eta^{\text{jet}}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE III.** Definition of the extended fiducial region where the cross sections are evaluated; $p_T^l$ is the transverse momentum of the neutrino from $W$ decays.

The measurements are performed in the fiducial region, defined at the particle level using the objects and event kinematic selection criteria described in Section IV and then extrapolated to an extended fiducial region (as defined in Table III) common to the electron and muon final states. Particle level is the simulation stage where stable particles, with lifetimes exceeding 10 ps, are produced from the hard scattering or after hadronization, but before interacting with the detector. The extrapolation is performed to correct for the signal acceptance loss in the calorimeter transition region ($1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52$) for electrons and photons, for the loss in the high $\eta$ region ($2.4 < |\eta| < 2.47$) for muons, for the loss due to the $Z$-veto requirement in the $W\gamma$ electron channel, and for the loss due to the transverse mass selection criteria in the $W\gamma$ analysis. Jets at the particle level are reconstructed in MC-generated events by applying the anti-$k_t$ jet reconstruction algorithm with a radius parameter $R = 0.4$ to all final state stable particles. To account for the effect of final state QED radiation, the energy of the generated lepton at the particle level is defined as the energy of the lepton after radiation plus the energy of all radiated photons within $\Delta R < 0.1$ around the lepton direction. Isolated photons with $\epsilon^\gamma_h < 0.5$ are considered as signal, where $\epsilon^\gamma_h$ is defined at particle level as the ratio between the sum of the energies carried by final state particles in a cone $\Delta R < 0.4$ around the photon direction and the energy carried by the photon.

The measurements of cross sections for the processes $pp \to l\nu\gamma + X$ and $pp \to l^+l^-\gamma + X$ are expressed as

$$\sigma_{pp\to l\nu\gamma}^{\text{ext}} = \frac{A_{W\gamma}^{\text{sig}}(Z\gamma)}{A_{W\gamma}(Z\gamma) \cdot C_{W\gamma}(Z\gamma) \cdot L}$$

where

- $N_{W\gamma}^{\text{sig}}$ and $N_{Z\gamma}^{\text{sig}}$ denote the numbers of background-subtracted signal events passing the selection criteria of the analyses in the $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ channels. These numbers are listed in Table II and Table III.
- $L$ denotes the integrated luminosities for the channels of interest (1.02 fb$^{-1}$).
- $C_{W\gamma}$ and $C_{Z\gamma}$ denote the ratios of the number of generated events which pass the final selection requirements after reconstruction to the number of generated events at particle level found within the fiducial region.
- $A_{W\gamma}$ and $A_{Z\gamma}$ denote the acceptances, defined at particle level as the ratio of the number of gener-
FIG. 2. Distributions of the jet multiplicity for the combined electron and muon decay channels in (a) $W\gamma$ candidate events with $E_T^{\gamma} > 15$ GeV, (b) $W\gamma$ candidate events with $E_T^{\gamma} > 60$ GeV, (c) $W\gamma$ candidate events with $E_T^{\gamma} > 100$ GeV, (d) $Z\gamma$ candidate events with $E_T^{\gamma} > 15$ GeV, and (e) $Z\gamma$ candidate events with $E_T^{\gamma} > 60$ GeV. The selection criteria are defined in Section IV. Distributions for expected signal contribution are taken from signal MC simulation and normalized to the extracted number of signal events as shown in Table I and Table II. The ratio between the number of candidates observed in the data and the number of expected candidates from the signal MC simulation and from the background processes is also shown.
The correction factors \( C_{Wγ} \) and \( C_{Zγ} \) are shown in Table IV. They are determined using the \( W/Z + γ \) signal MC events and corrected with scale factors to account for small discrepancies between data and simulation. The uncertainties on \( C_{Wγ} \) and \( C_{Zγ} \) due to the object selection efficiency are described in Section V. The uncertainties on \( C_{Wγ} \) and \( C_{Zγ} \) due to the energy scale and resolution of the objects are summarized below.

The muon momentum scale and resolution are studied by comparing the invariant mass distribution of \( Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^- \) events in data and MC simulation. The uncertainty in the acceptance of the \( Wγ \) or \( Zγ \) signal events due to the uncertainties in the muon momentum scale and resolution is < 1%. Similarly the uncertainty due to the uncertainties in the EM energy scale and resolution is found to be < 2.5%. The uncertainty from the jet energy scale and resolution on the exclusive \( Wγ \) and \( Zγ \) signal acceptance varies in the range 5% - 7%. The uncertainty due to the \( E_T^{\text{miss}} \) requirement is estimated to be 3%. It is due to several factors, including the uncertainty on the energy scale of the clusters reconstructed in the calorimeter that are not associated with any identified objects, and uncertainties from pile-up and muon momentum correction.

The overall relative uncertainties in \( C_{Wγ} \), and \( C_{Zγ} \), are as large as 12.5% in the low \( E_T^γ \) fiducial region and as large as 8.3% in the medium and high \( E_T^γ \) fiducial region. They are dominated by the photon identification efficiency and the jet energy scale.

The acceptances \( A_{Wγ} \) and \( A_{Zγ} \) are calculated using the signal MC simulation and shown in Table IV. The systematic uncertainties are dominated by the limited knowledge of the PDFs (< 1%) and of the renormalization and factorization scales (< 1% for low \( E_T^γ \) region, < 3.5% for medium and high \( E_T^γ \) region).

Assuming lepton universality for the \( W \) and \( Z \) boson decays, the measured cross sections in the two channels are combined to reduce the statistical uncertainty. For the combination, it is assumed that the uncertainties on the lepton trigger and identification efficiencies are uncorrelated. All other uncertainties, such as the uncertainties in the photon efficiency, background estimation, and jet energy scale, are assumed to be fully correlated. The measured production cross sections for the \( pp \rightarrow lνγ + X \) and \( pp \rightarrow l^+l^-γ + X \) processes are summarized in Table IV.

### VIII. COMPARISON WITH THEORETICAL PREDICTIONS

The mcfm program is used to predict the NLO cross section for \( pp \rightarrow l^νγ + X \) and \( pp \rightarrow l^+l^-γ + X \) production. It includes photons from direct \( Wγ \) and \( Zγ \) diboson production, from final state radiation off the leptons in the \( W/Z \) decays and from quark/gluon fragmentation into an isolated photon. Possible effects of composite \( W \) and \( Z \) boson structure can be simulated through the introduction of aTGCs. Event generation is done using the MSTW2008NLO parton distribution functions and the default electroweak parameters of mcfm. The kinematic requirements for the parton-level generation are the same as those chosen at particle level for the extended fiducial cross-section measurements (see Table III). The resulting parton-level SM predictions for the cross sections are summarized by the numbers in parentheses in Table IV. These are quoted as inclusive, using only the lepton and photon selection cuts, and exclusive, requiring no quark/gluon with \( |η| < 4.4 \) and \( E_T > 30 \) GeV in the final state. The cross-section uncertainties are dominated by the PDF uncertainty, the scale uncertainty and the uncertainty due to the photon isolation fraction. The scale uncertainty is evaluated by varying the renormalization and factorization scales by factors of 2 and 1/2 around the nominal scale \( M_{W/Z} \). The PDF uncertainty is estimated using the MSTW2008NLO PDFs’ error eigenvectors at their 90% confidence-level (CL) limits. The uncertainty due to photon isolation fraction is evaluated by varying \( ε_γ \) from 0.0 to 1.0. Here \( ε_γ \) is defined at parton level as the ratio of the sum of the energies carried by the partons in the cone \( ΔR < 0.4 \) around the photon direction to the energy carried by the photon. The variation in the predicted cross section due to the choice of \( ε_γ \) threshold is a conservative estimate of the uncertainty in matching the parton-level photon isolation to the photon isolation criteria applied in the experimental

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( E_T^γ )</th>
<th>( N_{μμ} )</th>
<th>( C_{Wγ} )</th>
<th>( A_{Wγ} )</th>
<th>( C_{Zγ} )</th>
<th>( A_{Zγ} )</th>
<th>( N_{jet} )</th>
<th>( C_{Wγ} )</th>
<th>( A_{Wγ} )</th>
<th>( C_{Zγ} )</th>
<th>( A_{Zγ} )</th>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 15 GeV</td>
<td>&gt; 60 GeV</td>
<td>&gt; 100 GeV</td>
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<td>( N_{μμ} = 0 ), e channel</td>
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<tr>
<td>( C_{Wγ} )</td>
<td>0.402 ± 0.049</td>
<td>0.574 ± 0.045</td>
<td>0.517 ± 0.043</td>
<td>( A_{Wγ} )</td>
<td>0.762 ± 0.006</td>
<td>0.685 ± 0.017</td>
<td>0.672 ± 0.019</td>
<td>( C_{Zγ} )</td>
<td>0.397 ± 0.045</td>
<td>0.592 ± 0.044</td>
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<tr>
<td>( C_{Wγ} )</td>
<td>0.453 ± 0.054</td>
<td>0.653 ± 0.057</td>
<td>0.675 ± 0.059</td>
<td>( A_{Wγ} )</td>
<td>0.908 ± 0.006</td>
<td>0.764 ± 0.019</td>
<td>0.708 ± 0.017</td>
<td>( C_{Zγ} )</td>
<td>0.459 ± 0.052</td>
<td>0.641 ± 0.044</td>
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<tr>
<td>( N_{jet} &gt; 0 ), e channel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>( C_{Wγ} )</td>
<td>0.453 ± 0.053</td>
<td>0.598 ± 0.036</td>
<td>0.576 ± 0.035</td>
<td>( A_{Wγ} )</td>
<td>0.725 ± 0.050</td>
<td>0.657 ± 0.011</td>
<td>0.666 ± 0.017</td>
<td>( C_{Zγ} )</td>
<td>0.421 ± 0.044</td>
<td>0.609 ± 0.036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( N_{jet} &gt; 0 ), μ channel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>( C_{Wγ} )</td>
<td>0.511 ± 0.057</td>
<td>0.650 ± 0.035</td>
<td>0.624 ± 0.035</td>
<td>( A_{Wγ} )</td>
<td>0.872 ± 0.005</td>
<td>0.776 ± 0.019</td>
<td>0.747 ± 0.023</td>
<td>( C_{Zγ} )</td>
<td>0.485 ± 0.055</td>
<td>0.645 ± 0.035</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE IV. Summary of acceptance \( A_{Wγ}(A_{Zγ}) \) and correction factors \( C_{Wγ}(C_{Zγ}) \) for the calculation of the \( Wγ(Zγ) \) production cross sections.
measurement. The total uncertainties in the $W\gamma$ ($Z\gamma$) NLO cross-section predictions are 7% (5%) for photon $E_T^\gamma > 15$ GeV and 14% (8%) for photon $E_T^\gamma > 60$ GeV.

To compare the SM cross-section predictions to the measured cross section, the theoretical predictions must be corrected for the difference between jets defined at the parton level (single quarks or gluons) and jets defined at the particle level as done for the cross-section measurement. These corrections account for the difference in jet definitions and for photon isolation definitions between the particle level and the parton level. The ALPGEN+HERWIG (for $W\gamma$) and SHERPA (for $Z\gamma$) MC samples are used to estimate these parton-to-particle scale factors $S_{W\gamma}$ and $S_{Z\gamma}$. They increase the parton-level cross sections by typically 5% with uncertainties that vary from 2% to 9% depending on the channel. These uncertainties are evaluated from the differences in the $S_{W\gamma}$ and $S_{Z\gamma}$ values obtained from several generators.

The SM predictions for the particle-level (parton-level) cross sections are summarized in Table VI. The uncertainties quoted include those from the mcfm parton-level generator predictions, photon isolation matching to the data, and the scaling from parton to particle-level cross sections. Figure 3 presents a summary of all cross-section measurements of $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ production made in this study and the corresponding particle-level SM expectations. There is good agreement between the measured cross sections for the exclusive events and the mcfm prediction.

For inclusive production, the mcfm NLO cross-section prediction includes real parton emission processes only up to one radiated quark or gluon. The lack of higher-order QCD contributions results in an underestimation of the predicted cross sections, especially for events with high $E_T^\gamma$ photons, which have significant contributions from multi-jet final states. Figure 2 shows that the multi-jet contribution is important in the $W\gamma$ processes. Therefore higher-order jet production is needed in the MC simulation (see Section IV) to describe the photon transverse energy spectrum with the inclusive selection and the jet multiplicity distribution in $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ events, as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

IX. LIMITS ON ANOMALOUS TRIPLE GAUGE COUPLINGS

The spectra of high energy photons in $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ events are sensitive to new phenomena that alter the couplings among the gauge bosons. These effects can be described by modifying the $WW\gamma$ coupling $\kappa_s$ from its SM value of one and adding terms with new couplings to the $WW\gamma$ and $ZV\gamma$ ($V = \gamma$ or $Z$) interaction Lagrangian. Assuming C and P conservation separately, the aTGC parameters are generally chosen as $\lambda_s$ and $\Delta\kappa_s$ ($\Delta\kappa_s = \kappa_s - 1$) for the $WW\gamma$ vertex and $h^\gamma_s$ for the $ZV\gamma$ vertices. Form factors are introduced to avoid unitarity violation at very high energy. Typical choices of these form factors for the $WW\gamma$ aTGCs are: $\Delta\kappa_s(s) = s/ (1 + (s/L^2))^2$ and $\lambda_s(s) = s/ (1 + (s/L^2))^2$ and $h^\gamma_s(s)$ for the $ZV\gamma$ vertices. Deviations of the aTGC parameters from the SM predictions of zero lead to an excess of high energy photons associated with the $W$ and $Z$ bosons.

Measurements of the exclusive extended fiducial cross sections for $W\gamma$ production with $E_T^\gamma > 15$ GeV and
Zγ production with $E_T > 60$ GeV are used to extract aTGC limits. The cross-section predictions with aTGCs (σWγ aTGC and σZγ aTGC) are obtained from the MCFM generator. The number of expected Wγ events in the exclusive extended fiducial region ($N_{Wγ}^{aTGC}(\Delta \kappa, \lambda)$) for given aTGCs are obtained as $N_{Wγ}^{aTGC}(\Delta \kappa, \lambda) = \sigma_{aTGC} \times C_{Wγ} \times A_{Wγ} \times S_{Wγ} \times L$. For the Zγ case, $N_{Zγ}^{aTGC}(h_1^+, h_2^+)$ or $N_{Zγ}^{aTGC}(h_3^+, h_4^+)$ are obtained in a similar way. The anomalous couplings influence the kinematic properties of Wγ and Zγ events and thus the corrections for event reconstruction ($C_{Wγ}$ and $C_{Zγ}$). The maximum variations of $C_{Wγ}$ and $C_{Zγ}$ within the measured aTGC limits are quoted as additional systematic uncertainties. The limits on a given aTGC parameter (e.g. $h_1^+$) are extracted from the Bayesian posterior, given the extended fiducial measurements. The Bayesian posterior probability density function is obtained by integrating over the nuisance parameters corresponding to all systematic uncertainties and assuming a flat Bayesian prior in $h_1^+$. This calculation has been done for multiple values of the scale parameter $\Lambda$ in order to be able to compare these results with those from LEP [6], Tevatron [1] and CMS [7]. The limits are defined as the values of aTGC parameters which demarcate the central 95% of the integral of the likelihood distribution. The resulting allowed ranges for the anomalous couplings are shown in Table VII for WWγ and ZVγ. The results are also shown in Figure 4 along with the LEP, Tevatron and CMS measurements.

### Table VII

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$\Lambda$ (2 TeV)</th>
<th>Measured</th>
<th>Measured</th>
<th>Expected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta \kappa$</td>
<td>(-0.36,0.41)</td>
<td>(-0.32,0.37)</td>
<td>(-0.33,0.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\lambda$</td>
<td>(-0.079,0.074)</td>
<td>(-0.060,0.060)</td>
<td>(-0.063,0.055)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Lambda$ (1.5 TeV)</td>
<td>$h_1^+$</td>
<td>(-0.074,0.071)</td>
<td>(-0.028,0.027)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$h_2^+$</td>
<td>(-0.051,0.068)</td>
<td>(-0.022,0.026)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$h_3^+$</td>
<td>(-0.0028,0.0027)</td>
<td>(-0.00021,0.00021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$h_4^+$</td>
<td>(-0.00024,0.0023)</td>
<td>(-0.00022,0.0022)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**X. SUMMARY**

The production of Wγ and Zγ boson pairs in 7 TeV pp collisions has been studied using 1.02 fb⁻¹ of data collected with the ATLAS detector. The measurements have been made using the $pp \rightarrow t^\pm l^\mp \gamma + X$ and $pp \rightarrow t^+ l^- \gamma + X$ final states, where the charged lepton is an electron or muon and the photons are required to be isolated. The results are compared to SM predictions using a NLO parton-level generator. The NLO SM predictions for the exclusive Wγ and Zγ production cross sections agree well with the data for events with both...
FIG. 4. The 95% CL intervals for anomalous couplings from ATLAS, D0 [3], CDF [1], CMS [5] and LEP [6] for (a),(b) the neutral aTGCs $\tilde{h}_3^Z$, $\tilde{h}_3^\gamma$, $\tilde{h}_4^Z$, $\tilde{h}_4^\gamma$ as obtained from $Z\gamma$ events, and (c) the charged aTGCs $\Delta\kappa_\gamma$, $\lambda_\gamma$. Integrated luminosities and new physics scale parameter $\Lambda$ are shown. The ATLAS, CMS and Tevatron results for the charged aTGCs are measured from $W\gamma$ production. The LEP charged aTGC results are obtained from $WW$ production, which is sensitive also to the $WWZ$ aTGCs [6, 35–37]. The sensitivity of the LEP data to neutral aTGCs is much smaller than that of the hadron colliders; therefore the LEP results have not been included in (a) and (b).

Low (15 GeV) and high (60 GeV or 100 GeV) photon $E_\gamma$ thresholds. For the high photon thresholds, where multi-jet production dominates, the measured inclusive $W\gamma$ cross sections are higher than the NLO calculations for the inclusive $pp \rightarrow l^\pm \nu l^\mp + X$ process, which do not include multiple quark/gluon emission. The measurements are also compared to LO MC generators with multiple quark/gluon emission in the matrix element calculations. These LO MC predictions reproduce the shape of the photon $E_\gamma$ spectrum and the kinematic properties of the leptons and jets in the $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ candidate events.

The measurements of exclusive $W\gamma$ ($Z\gamma$) production with $E_\gamma > 100$ (60) GeV are used to constrain anomalous triple gauge couplings ($\lambda_\gamma$, $\Delta\kappa_\gamma$, $h_3^Z$ and $h_4^Z$). No evidence for physics beyond the SM is observed. The limits obtained in this study are compatible with those from LEP and Tevatron and are more stringent than previous LHC results.
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Aubiere Cedex, France
34 Nevis Laboratory, Columbia University, Irvington NY, United States of America
35 Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Kobenhavn, Denmark
36 (a)INFN Gruppo Collegato di Cosenza; (b)Dipartimento di Fisica, Università della Calabria, Arcavata di Rende, Italy
37 AGH University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, Krakow, Poland
38 The Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, Poland
39 Physics Department, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX, United States of America
40 Physics Department, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson TX, United States of America
41 DESY, Hamburg and Zeuthen, Germany
42 Institut für Experimentelle Physik IV, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany
43 Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, Technical University Dresden, Dresden, Germany
44 Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham NC, United States of America
45 SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
46 Fachhochschule Wiener Neustadt, Johannes Gutenbergstrasse 3 2700 Wiener Neustadt, Austria
47 INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
48 Fakultät für Mathematik und Physik, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg i.Br., Germany
49 Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
50 (a)INFN Sezione di Genova; (b)Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Genova, Genova, Italy
51 (a)E.Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi; (b)High Energy Physics Institute, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
52 II Physikalisches Institut, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Giessen, Germany
53 SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom
54 II Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany
55 Laboratoire de Physique Subatomique et de Cosmologie, Université Joseph Fourier and CNRS/IN2P3 and Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, Grenoble, France
56 Department of Physics, Hampton University, Hampton VA, United States of America
57 Laboratory for Particle Physics and Cosmology, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, United States of America
58 (a)Kirchhoff-Institut für Physik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; (b)Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; (c)ZITI Institut für technische Informatik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Mannheim, Germany
59 Faculty of Applied Information Science, Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Hiroshima, Japan
60 Department of Physics, Indiana University, Bloomington IN, United States of America
61 Institut für Astro- und Teilchenphysik, Leopold-Franzens-Universität, Innsbruck, Austria
62 University of Iowa, Iowa City IA, United States of America
63 Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames IA, United States of America
64 Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, JINR Dubna, Dubna, Russia
65 KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Japan
66 Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan
67 Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
68 Kyoto University of Education, Kyoto, Japan
69 Department of Physics, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan
70 Instituto de Física La Plata, Universidad Nacional de La Plata and CONICET, La Plata, Argentina
71 Physics Department, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom
72 (a)INFN Sezione di Lecce; (b)Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università del Salento, Lecce, Italy
73 Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom
74 Department of Physics, Józef Stefan Institute and University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
75 School of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom
76 Department of Physics, Royal Holloway University of London, Surrey, United Kingdom
77 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom
78 Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et de Hautes Energies, UPMC and Université Paris-Diderot and CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France
79 Fysiska institutionen, Lunds universitet, Lund, Sweden
80 Departamento de Física Teorica C-15, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
81 Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany
82 School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom
83 CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France
84 Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA, United States of America
Department of Physics, McGill University, Montreal QC, Canada
School of Physics, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI, United States of America
\(^{(a)}\)INFN Sezione di Milano; \(^{(b)}\)Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, Milano, Italy
B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
National Scientific and Educational Centre for Particle and High Energy Physics, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA, United States of America
Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal QC, Canada
P.N. Lebedev Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics (ITEP), Moscow, Russia
Moscow Engineering and Physics Institute (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
Fakultät für Physik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München, Germany
Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), München, Germany
Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater OK, United States of America
Palacký University, RCPTM, Olomouc, Czech Republic
Center for High Energy Physics, University of Oregon, Eugene OR, United States of America
LAL, Université Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France
Center for High Energy Physics, University of Oregon, Eugene OR, United States of America
Ohio State University, Columbus OH, United States of America
Faculty of Science, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan
Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK, United States of America
Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater OK, United States of America
Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, SB RAS, Novosibirsk, Russia
Department of Physics, New York University, New York NY, United States of America
INFN Sezione di Napoli; \(^{(b)}\)Dipartimento di Scienze Fisiche, Università di Napoli, Napoli, Italy
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM, United States of America
Institute for Mathematics, Astrophysics and Particle Physics, Radboud University Nijmegen/Nikhef, Nijmegen, Netherlands
Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier and Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Énergies - Université Hassan II, Casablanca; \(^{(c)}\)Centre National de l’Energie des Sciences Techniques Nucleaires, Rabat; \(^{(d)}\)Faculté des Sciences Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech; \(^{(e)}\)Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier and LPTPM, Oujda; \(^{(f)}\)Faculté des sciences, Université Mohammed V-Agdal, Rabat, Morocco
DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l’Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat a
l’Energie Atomique), Gif-sur-Yvette, France
137 Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz CA, United States of America
138 Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle WA, United States of America
139 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
140 Department of Physics, Shinshu University, Nagano, Japan
141 Fachbereich Physik, Universität Siegen, Siegen, Germany
142 Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC, Canada
143 SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford CA, United States of America
144 (a)Faculty of Mathematics, Physics & Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava; (b)Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovak Republic
145 (a)Department of Physics, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg; (b)School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
146 (a)Department of Physics, Stockholm University; (b)The Oskar Klein Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
147 Physics Department, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
148 Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook NY, United States of America
149 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
150 School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
151 Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
152 Department of Physics, Technion: Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel
153 Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
154 Department of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece
155 International Center for Elementary Particle Physics and Department of Physics, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
156 Graduate School of Science and Technology, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan
157 Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan
158 Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto ON, Canada
159 (a)TRIUMF, Vancouver BC; (b)Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Toronto ON, Canada
160 Institute of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba,1-1-1 Tennodai,Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8571, Japan
161 Science and Technology Center, Tufts University, Medford MA, United States of America
162 Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Antonio Narino, Bogota, Colombia
163 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine, Irvine CA, United States of America
164 (a)INFN Gruppo Collegato di Udine; (b)ICTP, Trieste; (c)Dipartimento di Chimica, Fisica e Ambiente, Università di Udine, Udine, Italy
165 Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana IL, United States of America
166 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden
167 Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC) and Departamento de Física Atómica, Molecular y Nuclear and Departamento de Ingeniería Electrónica and Instituto de Microelectrónica de Barcelona (IMB-CNMI), University of Valencia and CSIC, Valencia, Spain
168 Department of Physics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada
169 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria BC, Canada
170 Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom
171 Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
172 Department of Particle Physics, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel
173 Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI, United States of America
174 Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg, Germany
175 Fachbereich C Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany
176 Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven CT, United States of America
177 Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
178 Domaine scientifique de la Doua, Centre de Calcul CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne Cedex, France
a Also at Laboratorio de Instrumentacao e Fisica Experimental de Particulas - LIP, Lisboa, Portugal
b Also at Faculdade de Ciencias and CFNU, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
c Also at Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
d Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver BC, Canada
e Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Fresno CA, United States of America
f Also at Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia
g Also at Fermilab, Batavia IL, United States of America
Also at Department of Physics, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

Also at Department of Physics, UASLP, San Luis Potosí, Mexico

Also at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli, Italy

Also at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP), Canada

Also at Department of Physics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Also at Louisiana Tech University, Ruston LA, United States of America

Also at Dep Fisica and CEFITEC of Faculdade de Ciencias e Tecnologia, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Caparica, Portugal

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom

Also at Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal QC, Canada

Also at Department of Physics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan

Also at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Also at Manhattan College, New York NY, United States of America

Also at School of Physics, Shandong University, Shandong, China

Also at CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France

Also at School of Physics and Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University, Guanzhou, China

Also at Academia Sinica Grid Computing, Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

Also at Dipartimento di Fisica, Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy

Also at DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l'Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique), Gif-sur-Yvette, France

Also at Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland

Also at Departamento de Fisica, Universidade de Minho, Braga, Portugal

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC, United States of America

Also at Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary

Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena CA, United States of America

Also at Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland

Also at LAL, Université Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom

Also at Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom

Also at Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

Also at Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America

* Deceased