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Measurement of Dijet Azimuthal Decorrelations in $pp$ Collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV

G. Aad et al.*

(ATLAS Collaboration)

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Azimuthal decorrelations between the two central jets with the largest transverse momenta are sensitive to the dynamics of events with multiple jets. We present a measurement of the normalized differential cross section based on the full data set ($\int \mathcal{L} \, dt = 36 \, \text{pb}^{-1}$) acquired by the ATLAS detector during the 2010 $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV proton-proton run of the LHC. The measured distributions include jets with transverse momenta up to 1.3 TeV, probing perturbative QCD in a high-energy regime.

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The production of events containing high transverse-momentum ($p_T$) jets is a key signature of quantum chromodynamic (QCD) interactions between partons in $pp$ collisions at large center-of-mass energies ($\sqrt{s}$). The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) opens a window into the dynamics of interactions with high-$p_T$ jets in a new energy regime of $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV. QCD predicts the decorrelation in the azimuthal angle between the two most energetic jets, $\Delta \phi$, as a function of the number of partons produced. Events with only two high-$p_T$ jets have small azimuthal decorrelations, $\Delta \phi \sim \pi$, while $\Delta \phi \ll \pi$ is evidence of events with several high-$p_T$ jets. QCD also describes the evolution of the shape of the $\Delta \phi$ distribution, which narrows with increasing leading jet $p_T$. Distributions in $\Delta \phi$ therefore test perturbative QCD (pQCD) calculations for multiple jet production without requiring the measurement of additional jets. Furthermore, a detailed understanding of events with large azimuthal decorrelations is important for searches for new physical phenomena with dijet signatures, such as supersymmetric extensions to the standard model [1].

In this Letter, we present a measurement of dijet azimuthal decorrelations with jet $p_T$ up to 1.3 TeV as measured by the ATLAS detector, beyond the reach of previous colliders. The differential cross section $(1/\sigma) \, (d\sigma/d\Delta \phi)$ is based upon an integrated luminosity $\int \mathcal{L} \, dt = (36 \pm 4) \, \text{pb}^{-1}$ [2]. The $\Delta \phi$ distribution is normalized by the inclusive dijet cross section $\sigma$, integrated over the same phase space. This construction minimizes experimental and theoretical uncertainties. Previous measurements of $\Delta \phi$ from the D0 [3] and CMS [4] Collaborations are extended here to higher jet $p_T$ values.

Jets are reconstructed using the anti-$k_t$ algorithm [5] (implemented with FASTJET [6]) with radius $R = 0.6$, and the jet four-momenta are constructed from a sum over its constituents, treating each as an $(E, \vec{p})$ four-vector with zero mass. The anti-$k_t$ algorithm is well motivated since it is infrared safe to all orders, produces geometrically well-defined conelike jets, and is used for pQCD calculations (from partons), event generators (from stable particles), and the detector (from energy clusters [7]). The azimuthal decorrelation $\Delta \phi$ is defined as the absolute value of the difference in azimuthal angle between the jet with the highest $p_T$ in each event, $p_T^{\text{max}}$, and the jet with the second-highest $p_T$ in the event. There are nine analysis regions in $p_T^{\text{max}}$, where the lowest region is bounded by $p_T^{\text{max}} > 110$ GeV and the highest region requires $p_T^{\text{max}} > 800$ GeV [7]. Only jets with $p_T > 100$ GeV and $|y| < 2.8$, where $y$ is the jet rapidity [8], are considered. The two leading jets that define $\Delta \phi$ are required to satisfy $|y| < 0.8$, restricting the measurement to a central $y$ region where the momentum fractions ($x$) of the interacting partons are roughly equal and the experimental acceptance for multijet production is increased. In this region where $0.02 \leq x \leq 0.14$, the parton distribution function (PDF) uncertainties are typically $\pm 3\%$ (at fixed factorization scale) [9]. The cross sections, measured over the range $\pi/2 \leq \Delta \phi \leq \pi$ and normalized independently for each analysis region, are compared with expectations from a pQCD calculation [10] that is next-to-leading order (NLO) in three-parton production. The perturbative prediction for the cross section is $O(\alpha_s^2)$, where $\alpha_s$ is the strong coupling constant.

The angular decorrelation is sensitive to multijet configurations such as those produced by event generators like SHERPA [11], which matches higher-order tree-level pQCD diagrams with a dipole parton-shower model [12]. Samples for $2 \to 2 - 6$ jet production are combined using an improved parton matching scheme [13]. Event generators such as PYTHIA [14] and HERWIG [15] use $2 \to 2$ leading order pQCD matrix elements matched with phenomenological parton-cascade models to simulate higher-order QCD effects. Such models have been successful at reproducing other QCD processes measured by the ATLAS Collaboration [7,16].

The ATLAS detector [17,18] consists of an inner tracking system surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid providing a 2 T magnetic field, electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer based on...
large superconducting toroids. Jet measurements depend most heavily on the calorimeters. The electromagnetic calorimeter is a lead liquid-argon (LAr) detector with an accordion geometry. Hadron calorimetry is based on two different detector technologies, with scintillator tiles or LAr as the active medium, and with either steel, copper, or tungsten as the absorber material. The pseudorapidity ($\eta$) [8] and $\phi$ segmentations of the calorimeters are sufficiently fine to ensure that angular resolution uncertainties are negligible compared to other sources of systematic uncertainty.

A hardware-based calorimeter jet trigger identified events of interest; the decision was further refined in software [17,18]. Events with at least one jet that satisfied a minimum transverse energy ($E_T$) requirement were recorded for further analysis. The events in each $p_T^{\text{max}}$ range are selected by a single trigger with a given $E_T$ threshold, and the lower end of the range is chosen above the jet $p_T$ at which that trigger is $\approx 100$% efficient. Three sets of triggered events with different integrated luminosity are considered: 2.3 pb$^{-1}$ for $110 < p_T^{\text{max}} \leq 160$ GeV, 9.6 pb$^{-1}$ for $160 < p_T^{\text{max}} \leq 260$ GeV, and 36 pb$^{-1}$ for $p_T^{\text{max}} > 260$ GeV [2]. Events are also required to have a reconstructed primary vertex within 15 cm in $z$ of the center of the detector; each vertex had $\geq 5$ associated tracks. The inputs to the anti-$k_t$ jet algorithm are clusters of calorimeter cells seeded by cells with energy that is significantly above the measured noise [7]. Jets reconstructed in the detector, whether in data or the GEANT4-based simulation [19,20], are corrected for the effects of hadronic shower response and detector-material distributions using a $p_T$- and $\eta$-dependent calibration [7] based on the detector simulation and validated with extensive test beam [18] and collision data [21] studies. Jets likely to have arisen from detector noise or cosmic rays are rejected [22].

The resulting $\Delta \phi$ distribution is shown in Fig. 1 for jets with $p_T > 100$ GeV. There are 146 788 events in the data sample, 85 of which have at least five jets with $p_T > 100$ GeV. Also shown is the PYTHIA sample with MRST 2007 LO* PDF [23] and ATLAS MC09 underlying event tune [24], processed through the full detector simulation and normalized to the number of events in the data sample. Two- and three-jet production primarily populates the region $2\pi/3 < \Delta \phi < \pi$ while smaller values of $\Delta \phi$ require additional activity such as soft radiation or more jets in an event. Figure 1 illustrates that the decorrelation increases when a third high-$p_T$ jet is also required. Events with additional high-$p_T$ jets widen the overall distribution.

The measured differential $\Delta \phi$ distributions in data are corrected in a single step with a bin-by-bin unfolding method [7] to compensate for trigger and detector inefficiencies and the effects of finite experimental resolutions. These correction factors, evaluated using the PYTHIA sample, lie within $\pm 9$% of unity. The leading sources of systematic uncertainty on the normalized cross section are the jet energy scale calibration ($2\%$–$17\%$) [7], the bin-by-bin unfolding method ($1\%$–$19\%$), and the jet energy and position resolutions ($0.5\%$–$5\%$). The ranges in parentheses represent the magnitude of the uncertainties near $\pi$ and $\pi/2$, respectively, and correspond to the analysis region with the smallest statistical uncertainty ($160 < p_T^{\text{max}} \leq 210$ GeV). Multiple $pp$ interactions in the same beam crossing that can increase the measured jet energy are included in the evaluation of the jet energy scale uncertainties ($< 0.8\%$ on the cross section for all analysis regions).

The normalized differential cross section is shown for each of the nine $p_T^{\text{max}}$ analysis regions as a function of $\Delta \phi$ in Fig. 2. As $p_T^{\text{max}}$ increases, and the probability for the emission of a hard third jet is reduced, the fraction of events near $\pi$ becomes larger. Overlaid on the data are the results from a NLO pQCD ($O(\alpha_s^3)$) calculation, NLOJET++ [10] with FASTNLO [25] and using the MSTW 2008 PDF [9]. The factorization and renormalization scales are set to $p_T^{\text{max}}$ and are varied independently up and down by a factor of 2 to determine the scale uncertainties. The scale uncertainties are larger between $\pi/2 < \Delta \phi < 2\pi/3$ where the pQCD calculation is effectively leading order in four-parton production. The PDF uncertainties are treated as the envelope of the 68% C.L. uncertainties from MSTW 2008 [9], NNPDF 2.0 [26], and CTEQ 10 [27], and are combined with the uncertainties resulting from an $\alpha_s$ variation of $\pm 0.004$; the $\alpha_s$ contributions dominate. The calculation is corrected for nonperturbative effects due to hadronization and the underlying event [28]; the correction is smaller than 3%. The fixed-order calculation fails near $\Delta \phi \rightarrow \pi$ where soft processes dominate and contributions from logarithmic terms are enhanced. Figure 3 displays the ratio of the cross section
with respect to the NLO calculation. In most regions, the theory is consistent with the data. However, the prediction in the range $110 < \rho_T^{\text{max}} < 160$ GeV is relatively low in the central region of $\Delta \phi$ where the scale uncertainties are small.

The data are also compared with predictions [29] from SHERPA, PYTHIA, and HERWIG in Fig. 4. The leading-logarithmic approximations used in these event generators’ parton-shower models effectively regularize the divergence at $\Delta \phi \to \pi$; all three provide a good description of the data in this region. In the region $\pi/2 < \Delta \phi < 5\pi/6$, where multijet contributions are significant, this observable distinguishes between the three generators. SHERPA, which explicitly includes higher-order tree-level diagrams, performs well in most $\Delta \phi$ and $\rho_T^{\text{max}}$ regions. Having phenomenological parameters that have been adjusted to previous ATLAS measurements, PYTHIA [28] and HERWIG [24] also describe the data.

In summary, we present a measurement of dijet azimuthal decorrelations in events produced in $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV. The normalized differential cross sections $d\sigma/d\phi$ are binned in nine $\rho_T^{\text{max}}$ regions. Overlaid on the data are based on the full data set ($\int L dt = 36$ pb$^{-1}$) collected by the ATLAS Collaboration during the 2010 run of the LHC. Expectations from NLO pQCD [$O(\alpha_s^4)$] and those of

FIG. 2 (color online). The differential cross section $(1/\sigma) \times (d\sigma/d\phi)$ binned in nine $\rho_T^{\text{max}}$ regions. Overlaid on the data (points) are results from the NLO pQCD calculation. The error bars on the data points indicate the statistical (inner error bar) and systematic uncertainties added in quadrature in this and subsequent figures. The theory uncertainties are indicated by the hatched regions. Different bins in $\rho_T^{\text{max}}$ are scaled by multiplicative factors of 10 for display purposes. The region near the divergence at $\Delta \phi \to \pi$ is excluded from the calculation.

FIG. 3 (color online). Ratio of the differential cross section $(1/\sigma)(d\sigma/d\phi)$ measured in data with respect to expectations from NLO pQCD (points). The theory uncertainties are indicated by the hatched regions. The region near the divergence at $\Delta \phi \to \pi$ is excluded from the comparison.

FIG. 4 (color online). Ratio of the differential cross section $(1/\sigma)(d\sigma/d\phi)$ measured in data with respect to the result from SHERPA (points). The shaded region indicates the SHERPA statistical uncertainty. Predictions from PYTHIA and HERWIG, also in ratio to SHERPA, are displayed as lines.
several event generators successfully describe the general characteristics of our measurements, including the increasing slope of the $\Delta \phi$ distribution with $p_T^{\text{max}}$ and the shape near $\Delta \phi \sim \pi/2$ where events with multiple jets make a considerable contribution. Our data, which include jets with $p_T$ values that significantly exceed earlier measurements, explore QCD in a new kinematic region.

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[8] ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point in the center of the detector. Cylindrical coordinates $(r, \phi)$ are used in the transverse plane, $\phi$ being the azimuthal angle around the beam axis. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle $\theta$ as $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$. Rapidity is defined as $y = \frac{1}{2} \ln[(E + p_z)/(E - p_z)]$, where $E$ is the energy and $p_z$ is the longitudinal component of the momentum along the beam direction.
131 Ritsumeikan University, Kusatsu, Shiga, Japan
132a INFN Sezione di Roma I, Roma, Italy
132b Dipartimento di Fisica, Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy
133a INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
133b Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
134a INFN Sezione di Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
134b Dipartimento di Fisica, Università Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
135a Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Energies-Université Hassan II, Casablanca, Morocco
135b Centre National de l’Energie des Sciences Techniques Nucléaires, Rabat, Morocco
135c Université Cadi Ayyad, Faculté des sciences Semlalia Département de Physique, B.P. 2390 Marrakech 40000, Morocco
135d Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier and LPTPM, Oujda, Morocco
135e Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco
136 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 California, USA
138 Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle Washington, USA
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 California, USA
144a Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic
144b Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovak Republic
145a Department of Physics, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
145b School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
146a Department of Physics, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden
146b The Oskar Klein Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
147 Physics Department, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
148 Department of Physics and Astronomy, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook New York, USA
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 TRIUMF, Vancouver BC, Canada
159b Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Toronto ON, Canada
160 Institute of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan
161 Science and Technology Center, Tufts University, Medford Massachusetts, USA
162 Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Antonio Narino, Bogota, Colombia
163 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine, Irvine California, USA
164a INFN Gruppo Collegato di Udine, Trieste, Italy
164b ICTP, Trieste, Italy
164c Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Udine, Udine, Italy
165 Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana Illinois, USA
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-CNM), 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 Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
171 Department of Particle Physics, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel
172 Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison Wisconsin, USA
173 Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg, Germany
174 Fachbereich C Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany
175 Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven Connecticut, USA
aDeceased.
bAlso at Laboratorio de Instrumentacao e Fisica Experimental de Particulas - LIP, Lisboa, Portugal.
cAlso at Faculdade de Ciencias and CFNUL, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal.
dAlso at CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France.
eAlso at TRIUMF, Vancouver BC, Canada.
fAlso at Department of Physics, California State University, Fresno CA, USA.
gAlso at Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, AGH-University of Science and Technology, Krakow, Poland.
hAlso at Department of Physics, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal.
iAlso at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena CA, USA.
jAlso at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP), Canada.
kAlso at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli, Italy.
lAlso at Louisiana Tech University, Ruston LA, USA.
mAlso at Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal QC, Canada.
Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan.
oAlso at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.
pAlso at Manhattan College, New York, NY, USA.
qAlso at School of Physics and Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University, Guanzhou, China.
rAlso at Academia Sinica Grid Computing, Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
sAlso at High Energy Physics Group, Shandong University, Shandong, China.
tAlso at Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom.
uAlso at Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland.
vAlso at Departamento de Fisica, Universidade de Minho, Braga, Portugal.
wAlso at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC, USA.
xAlso at KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Budapest, Hungary.
yAlso at Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.
zAlso at Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom.
aaAlso at DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l’Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat a l’Energie Atomique), Gif-sur-Yvette, France.
bbAlso at Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et de Hautes Energies, UPMC and Université Paris-Diderot and CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France.
ccAlso at Department of Physics, Nanjing University, Jiangsu, China.

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