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Measurement of the $WW$ cross section in $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV $pp$ collisions with the ATLAS detector and limits on anomalous gauge couplings

ATLAS Collaboration

1. Introduction

Measurements of $WW$ production at the LHC provide important tests of the Standard Model (SM), in particular of the $WWZ$ and $WW\gamma$ triple gauge couplings (TGCs) resulting from the non-Abelian nature of the $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ symmetry group. Precise measurements of TGCs are sensitive probes of new physics in the electroweak sector and are complementary to direct searches. Furthermore, since $WW$ production is a background to possible new processes such as the production of the SM Higgs boson, a precise measurement of the $WW$ cross section is an important step in the search for new physics.

This Letter describes the measurements of the $WW$ cross section and of TGCs in $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV. The dominant SM $WW$ production mechanisms are s-channel and t-channel quark-antiquark annihilation, with a 3% contribution from gluon–gluon fusion. The cross section is measured in the fiducial phase space of the detector using $WW \rightarrow l\nu l\nu$ decays in final states with electrons and muons, and is extrapolated to the total phase space. The fiducial phase space includes geometric and kinematic acceptance. The total production cross section of oppositely charged $W$ bosons is measured according to the equation

$$\sigma(pp \rightarrow WW) = \frac{N_{\text{data}} - N_{\text{bg}}}{A_{WW} \times C_{WW} \times \mathcal{L} \times B}$$

where $N_{\text{data}}$ and $N_{\text{bg}}$ are the number of observed data events and estimated background events, respectively, $A_{WW}$ is the kinematic and geometric acceptance, $C_{WW}$ is the ratio of the number of measured events to the number of events produced in the fiducial phase space, $\mathcal{L}$ is the integrated luminosity of the data sample, and $B$ is the branching ratio for both $W$ bosons to decay to $e\nu$ or $\mu\nu$ (including decays through tau leptons with additional neutrinos). The fiducial cross section is defined as $\sigma \times A_{WW} \times B$ [1].

Previous measurements of $WW$ production using the CMS and ATLAS detectors, both based on the data recorded in 2010 and corresponding to an integrated luminosity of $36 \text{ pb}^{-1}$, have found $\sigma(pp \rightarrow WW) = 41.1 \pm 15.3$ (stat.) $\pm 5.8$ (syst.) $\pm 4.5$ (lumi.) $\text{pb}$ [2] and $\sigma(pp \rightarrow WW) = 41_{-15}^{+20}$ (stat.) $\pm 5$ (syst.) $\pm 1$ (lumi.) $\text{pb}$ [3], respectively. CMS has additionally used these data to set limits on anomalous gauge-coupling parameters at higher center of mass energies than corresponding measurements at the Tevatron [4] and LEP [5].

2. ATLAS detector

The ATLAS detector [6] consists of an inner tracking system (inner detector, or ID) surrounded by a superconducting solenoid providing a $2 \text{ T}$ magnetic field, electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer (MS) incorporating three large superconducting toroid magnets arranged with an eight-fold azimuthal coil symmetry around the calorimeters. The ID consists of silicon pixel and microstrip detectors, surrounded by a transition radiation tracker. The electromagnetic calorimeter is a lead/liquid-argon (LAr) detector. Hadron calorimetry is based on two different detector technologies, with scintillator tiles or LAr as active media, and with either steel, copper, or tungsten as the absorber material. The MS comprises three layers of chambers for the trigger and for track measurements.

A three-level trigger system is used to select events. The level-1 trigger is implemented in hardware and uses a subset of detector information to reduce the event rate to a design value of at most 75 kHz. This is followed by two software-based trigger levels, level-2 and the event filter, which together reduce the event rate to about 200 Hz recorded for analysis.
The nominal $pp$ interaction point at the center of the detector is defined as the origin of a right-handed coordinate system. The positive $x$-axis is defined by the direction from the interaction point to the center of the LHC ring, with the positive $y$-axis pointing upwards, while the $z$-axis is along the beam direction. The azimuthal angle $\phi$ is measured around the beam axis and the polar angle $\theta$ is the angle from the $z$-axis. The pseudorapidity is defined as $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$.

3. Data sample and event selection

The data used for this analysis correspond to an integrated luminosity of 1.02 $\pm$ 0.04 fb$^{-1}$ [7], recorded between April and June of 2011. Events are selected with triggers requiring either a single electron with $p_T > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$ or a single muon with $p_T > 18$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$. Additional data collected with a trigger requiring a single muon with $p_T > 40$ GeV, $|\eta| < 1.05$, and looser identification criteria are used to increase efficiency. The combination of triggers results in $\approx 100\%$ (98\%) trigger efficiency for events with $WW$ decays to $e\nu\mu\nu$ and $e\nu\nu\nu$ passing the selection described below.

The $WW$ event selection begins with the identification of electrons and muons, requiring exactly two of these particles with opposite charge. Electrons are reconstructed with a clustering algorithm in the electromagnetic calorimeter and matched to an ID track. To distinguish electrons from hadrons, selection criteria [8] are applied based on the quality of the position and momentum match between the extrapolated track and the calorimeter cluster, the consistency of the longitudinal and lateral shower profiles with an incident electron, and the observed transition radiation in the TRT. Electrons are required to lie within the fiducial regions of the calorimeters ($|\eta| < 1.37$ or $1.52 < |\eta| < 2.47$), have $p_T > 25$ GeV ($p_T > 20$ GeV for the lower $p_T$ electron in the $e\nu\nu\nu$ decay channel), and be isolated in the calorimeter and tracker. Calorimeter isolation requires the summed transverse energies deposited in calorimeter cells, excluding those belonging to the electron cluster, in a cone of radius $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} = 0.3$ around the electron direction to be $< 4$ GeV. Tracker isolation requires the summed $p_T$ of ID tracks in a cone of radius $\Delta R = 0.2$ centered on and excluding the electron track to be $< 10\%$ of the electron $p_T$.

The muon reconstruction algorithm begins with a track from the MS to determine the muon’s $\eta$, and then combines it with an ID track to determine the muon’s momentum [9]. Muons are required to have $p_T > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$, and in the $\mu\nu\nu\nu$ channel at least one muon must have $p_T > 25$ GeV. Decays of hadrons to muons are suppressed using calorimeter and track isolation. The calorimeter isolation requires the summed transverse energies deposited in calorimeter cells in a cone of radius $\Delta R = 0.2$ around the muon track to be less than 15\% of the muon’s $p_T$. The track isolation requirement is the same as for electrons. The tracks associated with muon and electron candidates must have longitudinal and transverse impact parameters consistent with originating from the primary reconstructed vertex. The primary vertex is defined as the vertex with the highest $\sum p_T^2$ of associated ID tracks.

The presence of neutrinos is characterized by an imbalance of transverse momentum in the event. The missing transverse momentum ($E_T^{\text{miss}}$) is the modulus of the event $-\vec{p}_T$ vector, calculated by summing the transverse momentum determined from each calorimeter cell’s energy and direction with respect to the primary vertex. Cells with $|\eta| < 4.5$ are used in the calculation and a correction is applied to account for the momentum of measured muons.

Misreconstructed leptons and jets, as well as leptons from tau decays, are suppressed by applying cuts on $E_T^{\text{miss}} \times \sin \Delta \phi$ when $\Delta \phi < \pi/2$. Here, $\Delta \phi$ is the azimuthal angle between the missing transverse momentum and the nearest charged lepton or jet; small $\Delta \phi$ indicates that $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ is dominated by a mismeasured lepton or jet, or by the presence of neutrinos in the direction of the lepton or jet, as would occur in a tau decay. The lower cuts on $E_T^{\text{miss}}$, or $E_T^{\text{miss}} \times \sin \Delta \phi$ for $\Delta \phi < \pi/2$, are $25$ GeV in the $e\nu\nu\nu$ channel, or jet, and 45 GeV in the $\mu\nu\nu\nu$ channel. The thresholds in the $e\nu\nu\nu$ and $\mu\nu\nu\nu$ channels are more stringent than in the $e\nu\mu\nu$ channel to suppress the background from Drell–Yan (DY) production of $ee$ and $\mu\mu$ pairs.

Background from top-quark production is rejected by vetoing events containing a reconstructed jet with $p_T > 25$ GeV and $|\eta| < 4.5$. Jets are reconstructed with the anti-$k_t$ algorithm [10] with a radius parameter of $R = 0.4$. A further 30\% reduction of top-quark background is achieved by rejecting events with a jet with $p_T > 20$ GeV, $|\eta| < 2.5$, and identified as originating from a $b$-quark ($b$-jet). The identification of $b$-jets combines information from the impact parameters and the reconstructed vertices of tracks within the jet [11]. The additional $b$-jet rejection reduces $WW$ acceptance by 1.3\%.

Resonances with dilepton decays are removed by requiring $ee$ and $\mu\mu$ invariant masses to be greater than 15 GeV and not within 15 GeV of the Z-boson mass. To suppress backgrounds from heavy-flavour hadron decays, events with an $e\nu\mu$ invariant mass below 10 GeV are also removed. The complete event selection yields 202 $e\nu\mu\nu$, 59 $e\nu\nu\nu$, and 64 $\mu\nu\nu\nu$ candidates.

4. Background estimation

The selected data sample contains 26 $\pm$ 3\% background to the $WW$ production process (Table 1). In decreasing order of size, the main background processes are: DY production of dileptons, with significant $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ arising from misreconstructed jet(s) or charged lepton(s); $tt$ and $t\bar{t}Wb$ production, where the $b$-quarks in the $WWbb$ final state are not rejected by the jet veto; ($W$ + $l$ + jet), where the jet is misidentified as a lepton; $WZ \rightarrow llll$ production, where one lepton is not reconstructed; ($W$ + $l$ + jet) + $\gamma$, where the photon converts in the inner detector and is misreconstructed as an electron; $ZZ \rightarrow llll$ production; and cosmic-ray muons overlapping a $pp$ collision (which is negligible).

Backgrounds are estimated using a combination of Monte Carlo (MC) samples including full GEANT [12] simulation of the ATLAS detector [13], and control samples (independent of the measurement sample) from data. The simulation includes the modeling of multiple $pp$ interactions in the same bunch crossing (pile-up), as well as corrections (determined from data) to improve the modeling of reconstructed objects.

The DY background is estimated using the ALPGEN [14] Monte Carlo generator interfaced to PYTHIA [15] for parton showering. To test the modeling of $E_T^{\text{miss}}$, data are compared to simulated $Z/\gamma^*\rightarrow llll$ events where the lepton pair forms an invariant mass within 15 GeV of the Z-boson mass. The DY MC accurately models the number of events above the thresholds on $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ or $E_T^{\text{miss}} \times \sin \Delta \phi$ used to select $WW$ events, after subtracting the $\approx 20\%$ non-DY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Production process</th>
<th>$e\nu\mu\nu$ selection</th>
<th>$e\nu\nu\nu$ selection</th>
<th>$\mu\nu\nu\nu$ selection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DY</td>
<td>13.0 $\pm$ 2.1 $\pm$ 1.6</td>
<td>12.5 $\pm$ 2.3 $\pm$ 1.4</td>
<td>10.9 $\pm$ 2.5 $\pm$ 1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top</td>
<td>11.9 $\pm$ 1.8 $\pm$ 2.4</td>
<td>3.1 $\pm$ 0.5 $\pm$ 0.6</td>
<td>3.8 $\pm$ 0.6 $\pm$ 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W + jet</td>
<td>10.0 $\pm$ 1.6 $\pm$ 2.1</td>
<td>4.1 $\pm$ 1.3 $\pm$ 0.9</td>
<td>4.2 $\pm$ 1.1 $\pm$ 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diboson</td>
<td>5.1 $\pm$ 1.0 $\pm$ 0.7</td>
<td>2.1 $\pm$ 0.8 $\pm$ 0.3</td>
<td>2.9 $\pm$ 0.4 $\pm$ 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total background</td>
<td>40.0 $\pm$ 3.3 $\pm$ 3.6</td>
<td>21.7 $\pm$ 2.8 $\pm$ 1.8</td>
<td>21.8 $\pm$ 2.8 $\pm$ 2.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
contributions. A 12% relative systematic uncertainty on the DY prediction is taken from the statistical precision of the MC validation in the control sample.

Background from top-quark production arises when the final-state $b$-quarks have low transverse momentum ($p_T < 20$ GeV), are not identified as $b$-jets (for $20 < p_T < 25$ GeV), or are in the far forward region ($|\eta| > 4.5$). To model this background, MCFM [16] samples of $t\bar{t}$ and AcerMC [17] samples of $t\bar{t}Wb$ production are used, respectively, with corrections derived from the data. An overall normalization factor is determined from the ratio of events in data to those predicted by the top-quark MC using the $WW$ selection without any jet rejection. This sample is dominated by top-quark decays, as shown in Fig. 1; a 24% contribution from other processes is subtracted in the normalization. The subtraction of the $WW$ component is based on the SM prediction of $WW$ production, with an uncertainty that covers the difference between the prediction and the cross section measurement reported in this Letter. The relative cross sections of $tt$ to $t\bar{t}Wb$ are set by the generator calculations of $\sigma = 164.6$ pb and $\sigma = 15.6$ pb, respectively.

A key aspect of the top-quark background prediction is the modeling of the jet veto acceptance. To reduce the associated uncertainties, a data-based correction is derived using a top-quark-dominated sample based on the $WW$ selection but with the requirement of at least one $b$-jet with $p_T > 25$ GeV [18]. In this sample, the ratio $P_1$ of events with at least one jet to the total number of events is sensitive to the modeling of the jet energy spectrum in top-quark events. A multiplicative correction based on the ratio $p_{T\text{jet}}^\text{data}/p_{T\text{jet}}^\text{MC}$ is applied to reduce the uncertainties resulting from the jet veto requirement. The residual uncertainty on the background prediction due to jet energy scale and resolution is small (4%) compared to uncertainties from the $b$-quark identification efficiency (6%), parton shower modeling (12%), statistical uncertainty on the $p_{T\text{jet}}^\text{data}/p_{T\text{jet}}^\text{MC}$-based correction (12%), and unmodeled $tt$-$t\bar{t}Wb$ interference and higher order QCD corrections (15%). As a cross-check, the normalization of the top-quark background is extracted from a fit to the jet multiplicity distribution; the result is consistent with the primary estimate.

The $W + \text{jet}$ process contributes to the selected sample when one or more hadrons in the jet decay to, or are misidentified as, a charged lepton. Jets reconstructed as electrons or muons predominantly arise from misidentification or heavy-flavour quark decays, respectively. This background is estimated with a pass-to-fail ratio $f_\ell$ ($f_\mu$), defined as the ratio of the number of electron (muon) candidates passing the electron (muon) identification criteria to the number of candidates failing the criteria. These ratios are measured in data samples dominated by hadronic jets collected with a trigger requiring an electromagnetic cluster or a muon candidate. All candidates are required to pass a loose set of selection criteria, including an isolation requirement. The measured $f_\ell$ and $f_\mu$ are then applied as multiplicative factors to events satisfying all $WW$ selection cuts except with one lepton failing the identification criteria but passing the looser criteria.

The above procedure measures $f_\ell$ and $f_\mu$ ratios averaged over misidentified jets and heavy-flavour quark decays in jet-dominated samples. If, for example, the ratio $f_\ell$ differs for these two contributions, the $W + \text{jet}$ prediction could be biased. To address this issue, two sets of loose criteria are applied to electron candidates, one based on the track and the shower profile and expected to enhance the misidentification fraction, and the other based on the isolation and expected to enhance the heavy flavour fraction. The $f_\ell$ ratio is measured for these criteria separately in events where there is an additional $b$-jet and events where there is no such jet. From the combination of measurements, the heavy-flavour and misidentification contributions are separated; the resulting $W + \text{jet}$ background is consistent with that obtained using the inclusive $f_\ell$ for the misidentification and heavy-flavour components. A similar separation is not performed for $f_\mu$, since heavy-flavour decays dominate the contribution of background muons from the $W + \text{jet}$ process.

The systematic uncertainty on the $W + \text{jet}$ prediction is dominated by a 30% variation of the ratios $f_\ell$ and $f_\mu$ with the jet $p_T$ threshold. This variation is sensitive to the relative fraction of quarks and gluons in the samples used to measure $f_\ell$ and $f_\mu$, and thus encompasses potential differences in $f_\ell$ and $f_\mu$ ratios between these samples and those used to estimate the $W + \text{jet}$ background.

Several alternative methods are used to check the $W + \text{jet}$ prediction and give consistent results. The first method applies the measured $f_\ell$ and $f_\mu$ ratios to an inclusive $W + \text{jets}$ data sample, and then determines the fraction of expected events with no additional jets using $W + \text{jets}$ Monte Carlo events with two identified leptons. The second method defines different sets of “loose” lepton criteria and independently measures efficiencies for lepton identification and rates for misidentified or decaying hadrons to pass the standard identification criteria. Background from dijet production is estimated with this method and is found to be small; it is implicitly included in the primary estimate.

Monte Carlo estimates of the $W\gamma$, $WZ$, and $ZZ$ backgrounds are obtained using a combination of ALPGEN and PYTHIA (for $W\gamma$) and HERWIG [19] with JIMMY [20] (for the others), normalized to the next-to-leading order (NLO) cross sections calculated with MCFM [21]. The $O(10\%)$ systematic uncertainty on these backgrounds is dominated by the uncertainty on the jet energy scale.

5. $WW$ acceptance modeling

The $WW$ total cross section measurement requires the knowledge of the $A_{WW}$ and $C_{WW}$ factors given in Eq. [1]. The acceptance factor $A_{WW}$ is defined as the ratio of generated $WW$ events in the fiducial phase space to those in the total phase space. The correction factor $C_{WW}$ is defined as the ratio of measured events to generator-level events in the fiducial phase space. The value of this ratio is determined primarily by lepton trigger and identification efficiencies, with a small contribution from differences in generated and measured phase space due to detector resolutions. The fiducial phase space is defined at generator level as:

- Muon $p_T > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$ ($p_T > 25$ GeV for at least one muon in the $\mu\nu\nu\nu$ channel);
is modeled by adding each leptonic decay channel, including decays to tau leptons (\(\nu\tau\)) to the production and tau-lepton decays with herwig. Data-based corrections to these channels are based on samples of SM \(WW\) events generated with \(\mathrm{mcNLO}\) and \(\gamma\gamma\)WW respectively. Initial parton momenta are modeled with CTEQ6.6 parton distribution functions (PDFs). The underlying event contributions, as described below. Because the corrections are applied to \(WW\) events according to the distribution of the number of additional collisions in the same bunch crossing as the hard-scattering process, the event \(p_T\) measured with the calorimeter is compared between data and MC in \(Z\) MC. The correction reduces the uncertainties due to jet energy scale and resolution to 1.1%. A theoretical uncertainty of 5.0% on the jet veto acceptance contributes the largest uncertainty to \(WW\), as shown in Table 3.

Table 3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of uncertainty</th>
<th>Relative uncertainty (%)</th>
<th>(e\nu\nu) selection</th>
<th>(ee) selection</th>
<th>(\mu\mu\nu\nu) selection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trigger efficiency</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lepton efficiency</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lepton (p_T) scale and resolution</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(k_{\text{miss}}) modeling</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet energy scale and resolution</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet acceptance</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet veto acceptance</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDFs</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

where \(m_Z\) is the Z boson mass. To reduce the dependence on the model of QED final-state radiation, the electron and muon \(p_T\) include contributions from photons within \(\Delta R = 0.1\) of the lepton direction.

Estimates of \(AWW\) and \(C_{WW}\) are based on samples of \(q\bar{q} \rightarrow WW\) and \(gg \rightarrow WW\) events generated with \(\mathrm{mcNLO}\) and \(\gamma\gamma\)WW, respectively. Initial parton momenta are modeled with CTEQ6.6 parton distribution functions (PDFs). The underlying event and parton showering are modeled with jimmy, and hadronization and tau-lepton decays with herwig. Data-based corrections measured with \(W\) and \(Z\) boson data are applied to reduce uncertainties, as described below. Because the corrections are applied to \(WW\) MC samples, residual uncertainties on the fiducial cross section measurement are based on the kinematics of SM WW production.

The combined factor \(AWW \times C_{WW}\) is estimated separately for each leptonic decay channel, including decays to tau leptons (Table 2). Tau-lepton decays to hadrons are not included in the denominator for the acceptances in the table. The impact of pile-up is modeled by adding PYTHIA-generated low-\(Q^2\) events to the \(WW\) MC according to the distribution of the number of additional collisions in the same bunch crossing in the data. Effects on detector response from nearby bunches are also modeled using this distribution.

A correction to the \(q\bar{q} \rightarrow WW\) MC modeling of the jet veto is derived using Z-boson data. The fraction of Z-boson events with no additional jets is compared between data and MC@NLO simulated samples. The ratio of this fraction in data to the fraction in the MC is applied as a multiplicative correction factor of 0.963 to the \(WW\) MC. The correction reduces the uncertainties due to jet energy scale and resolution to 1.1%. A theoretical uncertainty of 5.0% on the jet veto acceptance contributes the largest uncertainty to \(WW\), as shown in Table 3.

The efficiencies for triggering, reconstructing, and identifying charged leptons are measured as a function of lepton \(p_T\) and \(\eta\) using Z boson events and (for electrons) W boson events [1]. Corrections to the MC derived from these data are within 1% of unity for trigger and muon identification efficiencies and deviate from unity by up to 11% at low \(p_T\) for the electron identification efficiency. Uncertainties on the corrections are largely due to the limited number of events available for the measurements and, in case of electron identification, from the estimate of the jet background contamination.

Finally, there are small uncertainties on the \(WW\) production model. Uncertainties on PDFs are determined using the CTEQ eigenvectors and the acceptance differences between the CTEQ6.6 and MSTW 2008 PDF sets [25]. The impact of unmodeled higher order contributions is estimated by varying the renormalization and factorization scales coherently by factors of 2 and 1/2.

The total acceptance uncertainty on the three channels combined is 6.2%.
6. Cross section results

The $WW$ cross section is measured in the fiducial phase space and extrapolated to the total phase space. The total cross section is defined in Eq. (1), while the fiducial cross section is

$$\sigma_{\text{fid}} = \frac{N_{\text{data}} - N_{\text{bc}}}{L_{\text{WW}}} \tag{2}$$

Uncertainties on the fiducial cross section measurement result from modeling lepton and jet efficiency, energy scale and resolution, and $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ (the first five rows of Table 3). Small uncertainties of 1.4% ($\mu\nu\mu\nu$ and $e\nu\nu\nu$ channels) and 0.5% ($e\nu\nu\nu$ channel) arise from the impact of QCD renormalization and factorization scale variations on lepton momenta (included in the sixth row of Table 3). Table 4 shows $C_{WW}$ and the other components of the cross section measurements for each channel. The measurements are performed by minimizing a likelihood fit to the observed data with respect to the $WW$ and background predictions for the three channels combined. The measured cross sections are consistent with the SM predictions, differing by $+1.7\sigma$ ($e\nu\nu\nu$ channel), $+1.3\sigma$ ($e\nu\nu\nu$ channel), and $-0.1\sigma$ ($\mu\nu\nu\nu$ channel). Contributions from a hypothetical SM Higgs boson would be small: 2.9, 0.9, and 1.8 events in the $e\nu\nu\nu$, $e\nu\nu\nu$, and $e\nu\nu\nu$ channels, respectively, for a Higgs boson mass of 125 GeV.

The $AWW$ uncertainty comes from PDFs and scale variations affecting the jet and veto acceptances (the last three rows of Table 3). The combined $AWW \times C_{WW}$ and the total measured cross section in each channel are shown in Table 4. The contribution of leptons from tau decays is included. The channels are combined by maximizing a log likelihood, yielding

$$\sigma(pp \to WW) = 54.4 \pm 4.0 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 3.9 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 2.0 \text{ (lumi.)} \text{ pb}$$

to be compared with the NLO SM prediction of $\sigma(pp \to WW) = 44.4 \pm 2.8 \text{ pb}$ [16,22]. Fig. 2 shows the following distributions for data and MC: $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ transverse mass, the azimuthal angle between the charged leptons $[\Delta \phi(l, l)]$, and the invariant mass of the charged leptons $[m_{\ell}\ell]$. The transverse mass is $m_T^{\ell\ell}(E_T^{\text{miss}}) = \sqrt{(p_T^1 + p_T^2 + E_T^{\text{miss}})^2 - \sum (p_T^1 + p_T^2 + E_T^{\text{miss}})^2}$, where the sum runs over the $x$ and $y$ coordinates and $p_T^1$ and $p_T^2$ refer to the two charged leptons.

7. Anomalous triple-gauge couplings

The s-channel production of $WW$ events occurs via the triple-gauge couplings $WW\gamma$ and $WWZ$. Contributions to these couplings from new physics processes at a high energy scale would affect the measured cross section, particularly at high momentum transfer [26]. Below the energy scale of these new physics processes, an effective Lagrangian can be used to describe the effect of non-SM processes on the $WWV$ ($V = \gamma, Z$) couplings. Assuming the dominant non-SM contributions conserve $C$ and $P$, the general Lagrangian for $WWV$ couplings is

$$L_{WWV}/g_{WWV} = i g_1^V (W_{\mu}^\dagger W_{\mu}^V - W_{\mu}^V W_{\mu}^V) + i k_V W_{\mu}^\dagger W_{\mu}^V + \frac{\lambda_V}{m_W^2} W_{\mu}^\dagger W_{\mu}^V V_{\mu}^\dagger, \tag{3}$$

where $g_{WW\gamma} = -e$, $g_{WWZ} = -e \cot \theta_W$, $V_{\mu} = \eta_{\mu} V - \delta_{\mu} V$, and $W_{\mu} = \delta_{\mu} W - \eta_{\mu} W$. The SM couplings are $g_1^V = k_\gamma = 1$ and $\lambda_V = 0$. Individually, non-zero couplings lead to divergent cross sections at high $\sqrt{s}$, and non-SM values of the $g_1^V$ or $\lambda_V$ couplings break the gauge cancellation of processes at high momentum transfer. To regulate this behavior, a suppression factor depending on a scale $\Lambda$ with the general form

$$\lambda(\Lambda) = \frac{\lambda}{\Lambda^2} \tag{4}$$

is defined for $\lambda$, $\Delta g_1 \equiv g_1 - 1$ and $\Delta k \equiv k - 1$. Here, $\lambda$ is the coupling value at low energy and $\sqrt{s}$ is the invariant mass of the $WW$ pair. The $g_1^V$ coupling is fixed to its SM value by electromagnetic gauge invariance.

To reduce the number of $WWV$ coupling parameters, three specific scenarios are considered. The first is the “LEP scenario” [27,28], where anomalous couplings arise from dimension-6 operators and electroweak symmetry breaking occurs via a light SM Higgs boson. This leads to the relations

$$\Delta k_V = \frac{-\cos^2 \theta_W}{\sin^2 \theta_W} (\Delta k_Z + \Delta g_1^Z) \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_V = \lambda_Z, \tag{5}$$

leaving three free parameters ($\Delta g_1^Z$, $\Delta k_Z$, $\lambda_Z$). The parameter space can be further reduced by requiring equal couplings of the $SU(2)$ and $U(1)$ gauge bosons to the Higgs boson in the dimension-6 operators. This adds the constraint $\Delta g_1^Z = \Delta k_V/(2 \cos^2 \theta_W)$ and is referred to as the “HSIS scenario” [27]. The third “Equal Coupling scenario” assumes common couplings for the $WWZ$ and $WW\gamma$ vertices ($\Delta k_V = \Delta k_Z$, $\lambda_V = \lambda_Z$, $\Delta g_1^Z = \Delta g_1^\gamma = 0$).

The differential cross section as a function of the invariant mass of the $WW$ pair is the most direct probe of anomalous couplings, particularly at high invariant mass. The mass cannot be fully reconstructed but is correlated with the momentum of the individual leptons. The $p_T$ distribution of the highest-$p_T$ charged lepton is therefore a sensitive probe of anomalous TGCs and is used in a binned likelihood fit to extract the values of the anomalous couplings preferred by the data (Fig. 3). The dependence of the distribution on specific anomalous couplings is modeled by reweighting the MC@NLO SM $WW$ MC to the predictions of the BHO generator.
Fig. 2. The $E_{\text{T}}^\text{miss}$ (top left), $m_T$ (top right), $\Delta \phi (l,l)$ (bottom left) and $m_{\ell \ell}$ (bottom right) distributions for the combined dilepton channels after all selection requirements. The data (dots) are compared to the expectation from $WW$ and the backgrounds (histograms). The $W$ + jet and dijet backgrounds are estimated using data. The hashed region shows the $\pm 1\sigma$ uncertainty band on the expectation.

Fig. 3. The $p_T$ distribution of the highest-$p_T$ charged lepton in $WW$ final states. Shown are the data (dots), the background (shaded histogram), SM $WW$ plus background (solid histogram), and the following $WW$ anomalous couplings added to the background: $\Delta \kappa = 0.1$ (dashed histogram), $\lambda = \gamma = 0.15$ (dotted histogram), and $\Delta g_{Z} = 0.2$ (dash-dotted histogram). The last bin corresponds to $p_T > 120$ GeV.

Table 5 and Fig. 4 show the results of the coupling fits to one and two parameters respectively in the LEP scenario, with the other parameter(s) fixed by Eq. (5) or set to the SM value(s). One-dimensional limits on $\lambda_Z$ in the HISZ and Equal Coupling scenarios are the same as in the LEP scenario. In the HISZ scenario, the 95% CL limits on $\Delta \kappa$ are $[-0.049, 0.072]$ and $[-0.037, 0.069]$ for $\Lambda = 3$ TeV and $\Lambda = \infty$, respectively. The corresponding limits in the Equal Coupling scenario are $[-0.089, 0.096]$ and $[-0.065, 0.102]$, respectively.

The anomalous coupling limits in the LEP scenario are compared with limits obtained from CMS, CDF, D0 and the combined LEP results in Fig. 5. The sensitivity of this result is significantly greater than that of the Tevatron due to the higher center-of-mass energy and higher $WW$ production cross section. It is also comparable to the combined results from LEP, which include data from four detectors and all $WW$ decay channels.

8. Summary

Using 1.02 $fb^{-1}$ of $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV $pp$ data, the $pp \to WW$ cross section has been measured with the ATLAS detector in the fully leptonic decay channel. The measured total cross section of $54.4 \pm 5.9$ pb is consistent with the SM prediction of $44.4 \pm 2.8$ pb and is the most precise measurement to date. In addition, the first measurement of the $WW$ cross section in a fiducial phase space region [29] at the matrix-element level. Fig. 3 demonstrates the sensitivity to anomalous TGCs at high lepton $p_T$; the coupling measurement is negligibly affected by the excess in the data at low $p_T$. The fiducial cross section is measured in the last bin of Fig. 3. The result $\sigma_{\text{fid}}(p_T > 120\,\text{GeV}) = 5.6_{-2.9}^{+2.4}$ (stat.) $\pm 0.2$ (lumi.) $\pm 0.2$ (syst.) pb is consistent with the SM $WW$ prediction of $\sigma_{\text{SM}}(p_T > 120\,\text{GeV}) = 12.2 \pm 1.0$ fb.

Table 5 shows the results of the coupling fits to one and two parameters respectively in the LEP scenario, with the
has been presented. Limits on anomalous couplings have been derived in three scenarios using the $p_T$ distribution of the leading charged lepton. No significant deviation is observed with respect to the SM prediction. These limits are competitive with previous results and are sensitive to a higher mass scale for new physical processes.

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