Search for new phenomena in the WW →lνl'ν' final state in pp collisions at √s = 7 TeV with the ATLAS detector a b quark in the lepton plus jets final state at √s = 7 TeV with the ATLAS detector


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Search for new phenomena in the $WW \rightarrow ℓνℓ'ν'$ final state in $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV with the ATLAS detector

**ATLAS Collaboration**

**ABSTRACT**

This Letter reports a search for a heavy particle that decays to $WW$ using events produced in $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV. The data were recorded in 2011 by the ATLAS detector and correspond to an integrated luminosity of $4.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. Upper limits on the production cross section times branching ratio into $WW$ candidates is found to be consistent with Standard Model expectations. The upper limits on the production cross section times branching ratio into $WW$ boson pairs are set for Randall–Sundrum and bulk Randall–Sundrum gravitons, which result in observed 95% CL lower limits on the masses of the two particles of 1.23 TeV and 0.84 TeV, respectively.

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shower calorimeters are also used to measure hadronic showers in the end-cap ($1.5 < |\eta| < 3.2$) and forward ($3.1 < |\eta| < 4.9$) regions, while an iron/scintillator tile calorimeter measures hadronic showers in the central region ($|\eta| < 1.7$). The muon spectrometer (MS) surrounds the calorimeters and consists of three large superconducting air-core toroids, each with eight coils, a system of precision tracking chambers ($|\eta| < 2.7$), and fast tracking chambers for triggering. A three-level trigger system selects events to be recorded for offline analysis.

The data used in this analysis were recorded in 2011 at a centre-of-mass energy of 7 TeV, selected by a single-lepton ($e$ or $\mu$) trigger, with a threshold applied to the electron transverse energy, $E_T$, and to the muon transverse momentum, $p_T$. The single-muon trigger required a muon $p_T > 18$ GeV, while for the single-electron trigger the threshold was raised from 20 GeV to 22 GeV for later data. The trigger object quality requirements were tightened progressively throughout the data-taking period to cope with the increasing instantaneous luminosity. After the application of data-quality requirements, the data set corresponds to a total integrated luminosity of 4.7 fb$^{-1}$ with an uncertainty of 3.9% [15,16].

The search for resonant $WW$ production is performed in the fully leptonic decay channel. Events are required to contain two oppositely-charged leptons (either electrons or muons) and large missing transverse momentum $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ due to the presence of neutrinos in the final state. Henceforth this final state is denoted by $ell^+ell^- + E_T^{\text{miss}}$.

Events originating from $pp$ collisions are selected by requiring a reconstructed primary interaction vertex with at least three tracks with $p_T > 0.4$ GeV. Electron candidates are selected from clustered energy deposits in the electromagnetic calorimeter with $E_T > 25$ GeV and within the ID fiducial region $|\eta| < 2.47$, excluding the transition region between barrel and endcap calorimeters $1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52$. A set of electron identification criteria based on the calorimeter shower shape, track quality and track-matching with the calorimeter cluster, referred to as tight [17], is applied. Muon candidates must be reconstructed in both the ID and the MS, and have $p_T > 25$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$. A minimum number of silicon strip and pixel hits associated to the ID muon track is also required. To ensure good reconstruction quality even for very high-$p_T$ muons, the charge-to-momentum ratio of the muon tracks reconstructed in the ID and MS have to be compatible within five standard deviations. Both electron and muon candidates are required to be isolated: the transverse separation of all tracks with $p_T > 1$ GeV reconstructed within a $\Delta R = 0.3$ around the lepton track, excluding the energy associated to the lepton itself, must be less than 0.13 (0.15) times the $E_T$ ($p_T$) of the electron (muon); and the scalar sum of the transverse momentum of all tracks with $p_T > 1$ GeV reconstructed within $\Delta R = 0.3$ around the lepton track, must be less than 0.13 (0.15) times the $E_T$ ($p_T$) of the electron (muon). Corrections are applied to account for electron energy leakage and energy deposition inside the isolation cone due to additional $pp$ collisions occurring in the same or neighbouring bunch crossings. To ensure the leptons originate from the primary interaction vertex each candidate's longitudinal impact parameter is required to be less than 1 mm, and the transverse impact parameter divided by its resolution is required to be less than ten for electrons and less than three for muons. Any electron reconstructed in a $\Delta R = 0.1$ cone around a muon track is discarded.

Jets tagged as originating from a $b$-quark are used in this analysis to suppress the top background. Jets are reconstructed from noise-suppressed three-dimensional topological clusters of calorimeter cells [18] using the anti-$k_t$ algorithm [19] with radius parameter $R = 0.4$. Topological clustering extends up to $|\eta| < 4.9$, and clusters are seeded by calorimeter cell deposits exceeding the cell noise level by at least four standard deviations. Neighbouring cells exceeding the cell noise level by at least two standard deviations are then added to the clusters. At least 75% of the scalar sum of the $p_T$ of all the tracks associated to each jet must belong to tracks associated to the same primary vertex.

Jet energies are calibrated using $E_T$- and $N$-dependent correction factors based on Monte Carlo (MC) simulation, and validated by collision data studies [20]. Jets are identified as originating from $b$-quarks using an algorithm that combines information about the impact parameter significance of tracks in the jet with the topology of semi-leptonic $b$- and $c$-hadron decays [21]. The chosen operating point has an efficiency of 85% for tagging $b$-jets in a MC sample of $t\bar{t}$ events, and a mis-tag rate of less than 5% for jets from light quarks, $c$-quarks and gluons. A scale factor is applied to the data to the tagging efficiency and to the light- and $c$-to-$b$ quark jets mis-tag rate of the MC simulation to reproduce the ones measured in the data. The fiducial kinematic region for well-reconstructed $b$-jets is $p_T > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$. In order to remove electrons reconstructed as jets, $b$-jet candidates that lie within a $\Delta R = 0.3$ cone around an electron track are discarded.

The $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ is determined by the energy collected by the electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and by muon tracks reconstructed in the MS and the ID [22].

Candidate $WW$ events are required to have exactly two oppositely-charged leptons with dilepton invariant mass greater than 106 GeV to reduce the background contamination from $Z$ boson production. Three different final states are considered based on the lepton flavour, namely $ee$, $\mu\mu$, and $e\mu$. To cope with different background compositions, a different requirement on the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ is applied to each final state, which is $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 30, 60$ and 65 GeV for $e\mu$, $ee$ and $\mu\mu$, respectively. To reject top-quark backgrounds, events with any reconstructed $b$-jets are discarded.

The SM processes that can mimic the $ell^+ell^- + E_T^{\text{miss}}$ signature are: electroweak diboson pair production, namely $WW$, which is an irreducible background, $WZ/ZZ$ when only two leptons are reconstructed in the final state, and $W\gamma$ when the photon is reconstructed as a lepton; top-pair and single-top production, when the $b$-jets in the final state are not identified; $W/Z$ production in association with jets, when either one jet is reconstructed as a lepton as for $W + jets$ events, or fake $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ is generated from the mismeasurement of the $p_T$ of the leptons or jets; and QCD multi-jet production, when two jets are reconstructed as leptons.

The expected background contributions from SM diboson, single-top and $t\bar{t}$ production are estimated using the MC simulation [23]. MC samples are generated at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV using a GEANT [24] simulation of the ATLAS detector. To improve the agreement between data and simulation, selection efficiencies are measured in both data and simulation, and correction factors are applied to the simulation. Furthermore, the simulation is tuned to reproduce the muon momentum scale and the muon momentum and electron energy resolutions observed in data. The MC predictions are normalized to the data sample integrated luminosity, except for $W/Z + jets$ processes, whose contributions are estimated from data. $WW$ and $t\bar{t}$ production are simulated using the next-to-leading-order (NLO) generator MC@NLO 3.4 [25], interfaced to HERWIG 6.510 [26] for hadronization and parton showering. The gg2WW [27] program is used to simulate at next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) the $WW$ production via gluon fusion, which is not implemented in mc@NLO; HERWIG 6.510 and ALPGEN 4 [28] are used to simulate at leading order (LO) the $WZ/ZZ$ and $W\gamma$ processes respectively, and NLO corrections computed using
MC [29] are then applied; $W/Z + \text{jets}$ processes are simulated at LO using ALPGEN 4 and NNLO corrections computed with FEWZ 2.0 [30] are applied; single-top production is simulated at LO using ACERMC [31].

After event selection, top-quark pair production is one of the dominant backgrounds. In order to ensure that the MC simulation correctly models the production cross section and kinematics of top-quark events, a background dominated control region (denoted by “top control region”) is defined using the same selection as for the signal region, except requiring two reconstructed b-jets, instead of zero b-jets. This region is kinematically close to the signal region, and completely dominated by top-quark pair production. The number of observed events in the top control region in data is 322 for $ee$, 370 for $\mu\mu$ and 1303 for $e\mu$ channels, to be compared with the MC prediction of $306 \pm 97$, 400 $\pm 120$ and $1210 \pm 300$ events for the three channels, respectively. Good agreement between data and MC simulation is observed for the overall normalization and the shapes of various kinematic distributions for events in this control region, within the statistical and systematic uncertainties, which are described below.

The $Z + \text{jets}$ background is one of the dominant backgrounds in the $ee$ and $\mu\mu$ channels, and it is estimated using the data-driven method described below, while its contribution in the $e\mu$ channel is found to be small and estimated using the MC simulation. This background is mainly due to mismodelings of lepton or jet transverse momenta that result in large $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ in the event. Its contribution is suppressed by the high dilepton invariant mass and $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ requirements. A control region dominated by $Z + \text{jets}$ production (denoted by “$Z + \text{jets control region}” is defined by applying the same set of selection cuts as for the signal region, but reversing the dilepton invariant mass cut to $60 < m_{ll} < 106$ GeV. Since the shape of the $m_{ll}$ distribution in data and MC simulation is in agreement over the full range $60 < m_{ll} < 1000$ GeV, the ratio of $Z + \text{jets}$ events in the signal region to those in the control region is estimated using the MC simulation. The number of data events observed in the $Z + \text{jets}$ control region, after having subtracted the non-$Z + \text{jets}$ events contribution using MC expectations, is scaled by $R$ to estimate the $Z + \text{jets}$ background contribution in the signal region. The ratio $R$ from $Z + \text{jets}$ events generated with ALPGEN, is found to be $0.040^{+0.005}_{-0.006}$ in the $ee$ channel and $0.046^{+0.019}_{-0.015}$ in the $\mu\mu$ channel. The non-$Z + \text{jets}$ events contribution in the $Z + \text{jets}$ control region is $12\%$ in the $ee$ channel and $16\%$ in the $\mu\mu$ channel.

The $W + \text{jets}$ process contributes to the full selected sample when one or more hadrons in a jet decay to, or are misidentified as, a charged lepton. Since the probability for a jet to be identified as a lepton may not be well modelled in the MC simulation, a data-driven method is used to estimate this contribution. A data control sample is selected by requiring one lepton which passes all the quality criteria in the lepton selection described above and a second lepton-like object. The muon-like objects are those reconstructed as muons but failing the isolation requirement. The electron-like objects are those reconstructed as loose electrons [17] but failing both the isolation and the tight quality requirements. These lepton-like objects are most likely jets reconstructed as leptons. To obtain the expected number of $W + \text{jets}$ events contaminating the signal region, the number of events in this $W + \text{jets}$ dominated control sample is then scaled by a pass-to-fail ratio $f$, defined as the number of lepton-like objects passing the full lepton selection requirements divided by the number that fail. The non-$W + \text{jets}$ events in the control region are subtracted using MC expectations. The factor $f$ is measured from data for electrons and muons separately, using two di-jet samples selected by tagging events with one jet and one back-to-back lepton-like object without any isolation requirement (and no tight requirement for the electrons) after suppressing the lepton contribution from $W/Z$ bosons. The ratio $f$ is measured as a function of the jet $p_T$, and its value is found to be between 0.3 and 1.0 for electrons, and between 0.02 and 0.15 for muons.

The background contribution from QCD di-jet events in the signal region is estimated in a similar way to the $W + \text{jets}$ contribution, but in this case the control sample is selected by requiring two lepton-like jets, and the ratio $f$ is applied to both of them. This background contribution is found to be negligible.

The simulation of the RS $G^*$ signal is based on the LO matrix element implemented in PYTHIA [32] 6.421 event generator, with the modified LO [33] parton distribution function (PDF) set MRST2007LO* [34]. The coupling $\kappa/M_{pl} = 0.1$ is assumed. A separate MC sample is generated for each of seven graviton masses $m_{G^*} = 200, 350, 500, 750, 1000, 1250$ and $1500$ GeV. The production cross section times branching ratio $\sigma(pp \rightarrow G^*) \times BR(G^* \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow \ell \ell' \nu \ell'\nu')$ ($\ell, \ell' = e, \mu$ or $\tau$) decreases from 108 pb to 1.8 fb when the simulated $m_{G^*}$ increases from 200 GeV to 1500 GeV. The contribution from the $G^*$ signal is simulated at LO using CALCHEP [35] v3.2 using the CTEQ6L1 PDF set [36], interfaced to PYTHIA for parton showering and hadronization. In order to compensate for the smaller production cross section with respect to the original RS model, a larger coupling $\kappa/M_{pl} = 1.0$ is assumed when generating these samples. Thirteen signal samples with $m_{G^*}$ masses between 300 GeV and 1500 GeV in 100 GeV mass steps are generated, with the predicted $\sigma(pp \rightarrow G^*_{\text{bulk}}) \times BR(G^*_{\text{bulk}} \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow \ell \ell' \nu \ell'\nu')$ ($\ell, \ell' = e, \mu$ or $\tau$) decreasing from 8.6 pb to 0.22 fb. The ATLAS fast simulation [37] is used to simulate the detector response for both $G^*$ and $G^*_{\text{bulk}}$ samples. Events with W bosons decaying to $\tau$ leptons are also considered as part of the signal if electrons or muons are present in the final state. The overall acceptance times trigger, reconstruction and selection efficiencies ($A \times e$, defined as the number of signal events passing the full event selection requirement divided by the number of generated events, increases from 3.0$\%$ at $m_{G^*} = 200$ GeV to 40.9$\%$ at $m_{G^*} = 1500$ GeV for $G^*$. The corresponding $A \times e$ for $G^*_{\text{bulk}}$ increases from 16.8$\%$ at $m_{G^*_{\text{bulk}}} = 300$ GeV to 60.8$\%$ at $m_{G^*_{\text{bulk}}} = 1500$ GeV. The difference in $A \times e$ between the two models is due to different production mechanisms and the treatment of the W boson polarization in its decay, which is properly taken into account by CALCHEP but not by PYTHIA. PYTHIA is chosen to simulate the RS $G^*$ samples, even though it is not properly accounted for the W boson polarization, in order to allow direct comparison with previous search results, which used the same PYTHIA implementation to simulate this process.

Table 5 shows the number of events selected in data and the estimated background contributions with combined statistical and systematic uncertainties. The expected numbers of events for an RS $G^*$ with a mass of 750 GeV and 1000 GeV, and for a $G^*_{\text{bulk}}$ with a mass of 600 GeV and 1000 GeV are also reported. A total of 1384 $\ell \ell' + E_T^{\text{miss}}$ candidates are observed in data, while the expected number of events from SM processes is 1280 $\pm 13$ (stat) $\pm 200$ (syst).

Several sources of systematic uncertainty on the signal and background estimates are considered. The first is related to the correction scale factors applied to MC samples in order to account for the difference in the performance of object reconstruction, identification, isolation and trigger efficiency between data and MC simulation. The uncertainty on the single-lepton trigger efficiency scale factor is 1$\%$, while the electron and muon reconstruction and identification efficiency scale factor uncertainties are less than 1.0$\%$ and 0.4$\%$ respectively, evaluated with tag-and-probe methods using $Z \rightarrow \ell \ell$, $W \rightarrow \ell \nu$ and $J/\psi \rightarrow \ell \ell$ events. A slight degradation of the muon reconstruction efficiency is observed at high $p_T$ in simulated MC samples. An uncertainty of the order 1$\%$ for muons with $p_T > 1$ TeV, corresponding
The uncertainty on the data-driven normalisation of the Z+jets background in the ee and $\mu\mu$ channels due to the non-Z+jets events subtraction in the control region is negligible, while the main contribution comes from the uncertainty on the factor R. This is evaluated accounting for possible uncertainties on the dilepton mass shape due to initial and final state radiation modeling, and on the $E_{T}^{miss}$ shape due to parton shower and hadronization modeling, both determined using PYTHIA and ALPGEN $Z$+jets simulations. The effect of lepton scale and resolution, and $E_{T}^{miss}$ resolution are also taken into account.

Further systematic uncertainties on the $t\bar{t}$ background are estimated, including the difference between event generators, parton shower models and initial- and final-state radiation models. The dominant contribution (up to 40%) is due to the parton shower model, arising from the $b$-jet requirement. The systematic uncertainties on the modelling of the kinematics of the SM $t\bar{t}$ process have been evaluated by comparing different MC generators; the local differences in the distributions are found to be smaller than 10%.

The effect on the signal acceptance due to the choice of the PDF set used to simulate the signal samples is also considered. It is estimated to be 1% by comparing predictions of the nominal PDF set MRST2007 LO* with those of two NNPDF LO* 2.1 [42] sets with values of $\alpha_S = 0.119, 0.130$, and that of the CT09MCS [43] PDF set, using the standard LHAPDF framework [44].

No significant excess in the overall number of selected $W/W$ candidates, defined as

$$m_{T}^{WW} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{2} p_{T,\ell_i}^{2} + E_{T}^{miss} - \sum_{i=1}^{2} p_{x,\ell_i}^{2} + E_{x}^{miss} - \sum_{i=1}^{2} p_{y,\ell_i}^{2} + E_{y}^{miss}}$$

defined as

$$E_{T}^{miss} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{2} E_{x,\ell_i}^{2} + E_{y}^{miss}}$$

is examined for any resonant structure, where $p_{T,\ell_i}$ is the $p_T$ of the $i$-th lepton, and $E_{x,\ell_i}$ is the $x(y)$ component of the $E_{T}^{miss}$. The $m_{T}^{WW}$ distribution of the $W/W$ system for the three analysed channels is presented in Fig. 1, for data and background expectations together with the expected signal contributions from RS graviton and bulk RS graviton models. Due to the small numbers of MC events, a convolution of a Gaussian with an exponential function is used to fit the $m_{T}^{WW}$ distribution of each SM background. The functional form is then used to predict the background contribution in the region $m_{T}^{WW} > 300$ GeV, and the uncertainty on the fit parameters is treated as an additional systematic uncertainty on the final $m_{T}^{WW}$ shape.

The $m_{T}^{WW}$ distribution is used to build a log-likelihood ratio (LLR) test statistic [45] to assess the compatibility of the data with the presence of a signal in addition to the background in a modified frequentist approach [46]. Confidence levels (CL) for the signal...
Fig. 1. Observed and predicted $m_{WW}^T$ distribution after event selection in the (a) $\mu\mu$, (b) $ee$ and (c) $e\mu$ channels. For $m_{WW}^T > 300$ GeV, the predicted backgrounds are obtained from fits to the MC samples. Predictions for an RS graviton with a mass of 1000 GeV and a bulk RS graviton with a mass of 600 GeV are also shown. The shaded area represents the total statistical and systematic uncertainty on the background prediction.

Fig. 2. The observed and expected 95% CL upper limits on $\sigma \times BR$ for (a) the RS graviton $\sigma(pp \rightarrow G^*) \times BR(G^* \rightarrow WW)$ and (b) the bulk RS graviton $\sigma(pp \rightarrow G^*_{bulk}) \times BR(G^*_{bulk} \rightarrow WW)$, with the theoretical predictions at LO (dotted line). The inner and outer bands represent respectively the 1σ and 2σ uncertainty on the expected limit.  

plus background hypothesis, $CL_{s+b}$, and background-only hypothesis, $CL_b$, are computed by integrating the LLR distributions obtained from simulated pseudo-experiments using Poisson statistics, and their ratio $CL_s$ is used to set the limits. Systematic uncertainties on the expected numbers of signal and background events are treated as nuisance parameters. The three analysed channels are treated separately and then combined by summing up the LLR values over all bins. All correlations are maintained among channels and between signal and background. Due to the large residual $Z + jets$ background contamination in the $\mu\mu$ channel, caused by the worse muon resolution at high $p_T$, this channel has a poorer sensitivity than the other two channels.
The observed (expected) 95% CL upper limits on the cross section times branching ratio $\sigma(pp \to G^*) \times BR(G^* \to WW)$ as a function of the RS graviton mass. For each mass point, $A \times \epsilon$ is also reported with the combined statistical and systematic uncertainty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$m_{G^*}$ [GeV]</th>
<th>$A \times \epsilon$ [%]</th>
<th>Expected [pb]</th>
<th>Observed [pb]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>3.0 ± 0.1</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350</td>
<td>16.8 ± 0.5</td>
<td>4.68</td>
<td>5.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>24.4 ± 0.7</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>1.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750</td>
<td>30.7 ± 0.9</td>
<td>0.315</td>
<td>0.264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>36.3 ± 1.0</td>
<td>0.130</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1250</td>
<td>39.0 ± 1.1</td>
<td>0.085</td>
<td>0.062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500</td>
<td>40.9 ± 1.1</td>
<td>0.079</td>
<td>0.061</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No excess is observed in data and the $p$-value of the background-only hypothesis, defined as the probability for the background to produce an excess of equal or larger size than the observed one, is found to be greater than 0.08 in all $m_{WW}$ regions. Upper limits are therefore derived on the production cross section times branching ratio ($\sigma \times BR$) for RS gravitons and bulk RS gravitons decaying to $WW$. The observed (expected) 95% CL upper limits on $\sigma(pp \to G^*/G^*_\text{bulk}) \times BR(G^*/G^*_\text{bulk} \to WW)$ as a function of $m_{G^*}$ and $m_{G^*_\text{bulk}}$ are shown in Fig. 2 and reported in Tables 2 and 3, corresponding to an observed (expected) 95% CL lower limit of 1.23 (1.13) TeV and 0.84 (0.74) TeV on the masses of the $G^*$ and $G^*_\text{bulk}$, respectively. Tables 2 and 3 also report the $A \times \epsilon$ values for each signal sample.

In conclusion, a generic search for resonant production of a pair of $W$ bosons in two opposite sign leptons and large $E_T^{miss}$ final state has been performed using 4.7 fb$^{-1}$ of data collected with the ATLAS detector in $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV at the LHC. No significant excess of events is observed and upper limits on the production cross section times branching ratio are set for two benchmark models: RS $G^*$ and bulk RS $G^*$. The observed (expected) 95% CL lower limit on the masses of the two particles is found to be 1.23 (1.13) TeV for $G^*$ and 0.84 (0.74) TeV for $G^*_\text{bulk}$, assuming the coupling $\kappa/M_{pl} = 0.1$ and $\kappa/M_{pl} = 1.0$, respectively.

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