Search for high-mass diphoton resonances in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector


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Search for high-mass diphoton resonances in $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the ATLAS detector

G. Aad et al.*
(ATLAS Collaboration)
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This article describes a search for high-mass resonances decaying to a pair of photons using a sample of 20.3 fb$^{-1}$ of $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV recorded with the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider. The data are found to be in agreement with the Standard Model prediction, and limits are reported in the framework of the Randall-Sundrum model. This theory leads to the prediction of graviton states, the lightest of which could be observed at the Large Hadron Collider. A lower limit of 2.66 (1.41) TeV at 95% confidence level is set on the mass of the lightest graviton for couplings of $k/M_{Pl} = 0.1$ (0.01).

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I. INTRODUCTION

One of the primary goals of the experiments at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is the search for new phenomena which might manifest themselves in the high-energy regime made accessible for the first time by this machine. This article reports on a search for new high-mass resonances in the diphoton channel using the full data set of proton-proton ($pp$) collisions recorded with the ATLAS detector [1] at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV in 2012.

The diphoton channel is important for searches for physics beyond the Standard Model (SM) since new high-mass states decaying to two photons are predicted in many extensions of the SM, and since searches in the diphoton channel benefit from a clean experimental signature: excellent mass resolution and modest backgrounds. One popular example of theories predicting a new high-mass diphoton resonance is the Randall-Sundrum (RS) model [2]. This model attempts to solve the so-called hierarchy problem of the SM, i.e. the fact that the electroweak scale is 16 orders of magnitude smaller than the Planck scale ($M_{Pl} \approx 10^{16}$ TeV). The hierarchy problem poses the question of the naturalness of the SM, and despite significant efforts over the past few decades, this problem has not been solved so far. In the RS model, the observed hierarchy of scales is accommodated assuming an extra spatial dimension. In this paradigm, the fundamental strength of gravity is comparable to the strength of the electroweak interaction, but gravity appears much weaker than the other interactions because it is diluted by the presence of the extra spatial dimension.

The RS model postulates a “warped” five-dimensional spacetime configuration. In this configuration there are two 3-branes that are the boundaries of the five-dimensional spacetime. The 3-branes can support $(3 + 1)$-dimensional field theories. The SM fields are located on one of the two 3-branes, the so-called TeV brane, while gravity originates from the other brane, called the Planck brane. Gravitons propagate in the five-dimensional bulk. The fifth dimension is compactified with length $r_c$. The solution to Einstein’s equations for this configuration is given by a spacetime metric that couples the standard four dimensions to the extra dimension with an exponential “warp factor.” In this configuration, a field with the fundamental mass parameter $m_0$ will appear to have the physical mass $m = e^{-k\pi r_c} m_0$, where $k$ is the curvature scale of the extra dimension. Scales of the order of 1 TeV are therefore generated from fundamental scales of the order of $M_{Pl}$ if $kr_c \approx 12$ [3]. The compactification of the extra dimension gives rise to a Kaluza-Klein (KK) [4] tower of graviton excitations $G^*$ – a set of particles on the TeV brane with increasing mass. The phenomenology can be described in terms of the mass of the lightest KK graviton excitation ($m_{G^*}$) and the dimensionless coupling to the SM fields, $k/M_{Pl}$, where $M_{Pl} = M_{Pl}/\sqrt{8\pi}$ is the reduced Planck scale. The masses and couplings of the individual graviton states are determined by the scale $\Lambda_x = e^{-k\pi r_c} M_{Pl} \approx O(\text{TeV})$ [3]. Values of $k/M_{Pl}$ in the range $[0.01, 0.1]$ are preferred from theoretical arguments [3]. The lightest graviton state is expected to be a fairly narrow resonance for $k/M_{Pl} < 0.3$ [3]. Its natural width varies like the square of $k/M_{Pl}$. For $k/M_{Pl} = 0.1$, the natural width increases from $\sim 8$ GeV at $m_{G^*} = 800$ GeV to $\sim 30$ GeV at $m_{G^*} = 2200$ GeV. In the first example, the natural width and the experimental mass resolution are similar; in the second example the natural width dominates the total width of the mass peak.

Searches for high-mass diphoton resonances at the LHC have been reported by both the ATLAS and CMS

*Full author list given at the end of the article.

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1The experimental mass resolution at $m_{G^*} = 2200$ GeV is only marginally (6%) better than at $m_{G^*} = 800$ GeV.
collaborations, and the latest results are summarized in Table I. The most stringent experimental limits on RS gravitons to date have been obtained at the LHC, using a combination of the dielectron and dimuon channels. Limits from searches for narrow resonances in other channels are included in Table I, along with those from earlier searches at the Tevatron.

II. THE ATLAS DETECTOR

The ATLAS detector is described in detail in Ref. [1]. It consists of an inner detector (ID) surrounded by a solenoid that produces a 2 T magnetic field, electromagnetic (EM) and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer which employs air-core toroidal magnets. In the pseudorapidity region $|\eta| < 2.5$, the ID provides measurements of the tracks originating from the primary $pp$ collision as well as tracks from secondary vertices, permitting the efficient identification of photon conversions. The EM calorimeter (ECAL) is a lead/liquid-argon (LAr) sampling calorimeter. It is divided into a barrel section covering the region $|\eta| < 1.475$ and two endcap sections covering $1.375 < |\eta| < 3.2$. The ECAL is segmented longitudinally in shower depth into three layers for $|\eta| < 2.5$ and two for $2.5 < |\eta| < 3.2$. Up to $|\eta| < 2.4$, the first layer consists of highly granular strips segmented in the $\eta$ direction for efficient candidate-by-candidate discrimination between single photon showers and two overlapping showers originating from $\pi^0$ decay. The second layer, with a typical granularity of $\Delta \eta \times \Delta \phi = 0.025 \times 0.025$, collects most of the energy from photon showers. Significant energy deposited in the third layer is an indication for leakage beyond the ECAL from a high-energy shower, and the measurements from the third layer are used to correct for this effect. A thin presampler layer, installed in front of the ECAL and covering the pseudorapidity interval $|\eta| < 1.8$, is used to correct for energy loss before the ECAL. In the region $|\eta| < 1.7$, the hadronic sampling calorimeter uses iron absorbers and plastic scintillator tiles as the active material. In the region $1.5 < |\eta| < 4.9$, LAr is used as the active material, with copper or/tungsten absorbers. The muon spectrometer features three stations of precision chambers that allow for accurate measurements of the muon track curvature in the region $|\eta| < 2.7$. Fast detectors enable muon triggering in the range $|\eta| < 2.4$. A three-level trigger system is used to select the events to be recorded for subsequent offline analysis.

III. EVENT RECONSTRUCTION AND SELECTION

The events used in this analysis were recorded using a diphoton trigger. At the highest, software-based level of the trigger system, this trigger requires at least one photon with transverse energy $E_T > 35$ GeV and at least one other photon with $E_T > 25$ GeV. Both photons need to satisfy requirements on the shape of the energy deposit in the calorimeter. This trigger is nearly fully efficient for diphoton pairs that pass the offline event selection.

In the offline analysis, only events that pass the standard ATLAS data quality requirements are considered. Photons are reconstructed from fixed-size clusters of cells in the EM calorimeter. To ensure good diphoton mass resolution, photons are required to be located inside the precision region of the EM calorimeter ($|\eta| < 1.37$ or $1.52 < |\eta| < 2.37$). They are further required to satisfy $E_T > 50$ GeV as well as the loose identification requirements from Ref. [13] updated for 2012 run conditions. The two highest-$E_T$ photon candidates that pass these requirements are retained for further analysis. Events are retained for the main analysis if both candidates also satisfy the tight identification requirements [13] updated for the 2012 run.
between genuine photons and fake candidates from jets (in the adjacent crossings. E fake photon candidates, and to suppress the reducible composition of the data sample in terms of true and

E iso γ is defined for photon candidates. This observable provides further discrimination between genuine photons and fake candidates from jets (j). It is used for two purposes in this analysis: to quantify the composition of the data sample in terms of true and fake photon candidates, and to suppress the reducible background by requiring both photons to be isolated. The isolation energy $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ is defined as the sum of the transverse energies of cells inside clusters of variable size (also called “topo-clusters” [15]) inside a cone of $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta \eta)^2 + (\Delta \phi)^2} = 0.4$ around the photon candidate, excluding a 5 × 7 grid of EM cells in the center of the cone.

The measurement of $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ is corrected for the following two effects: (i) soft energy contributions from the underlying event and pileup that fall inside the isolation cone, and (ii) leakage of photon energy outside the central core, causing the isolation energy to grow as a function of photon $E_{\text{iso}}^T$. The expected soft contributions are subtracted from $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ on an event-by-event basis; the correction is based on a measurement of the properties of low-$p_T$ jets [16] in the event. The average expected contributions to $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ from leakage are subtracted based on simulations. The fluctuations (from one photon shower to another) around the average expected leakage contribution to $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ become more important as $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ increases. In particular, the tail at large $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ becomes more pronounced and would cause significant inefficiencies at large $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ if a fixed upper limit on $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ were imposed in the event selection. To avoid inefficiencies, a negative $E_{\text{iso}}^T$-dependent offset is added to $E_{\text{iso}}^T$, and the requirement $E_{\text{iso}}^T < 8$ GeV is imposed on both photon candidates after the addition of the offset. In the following, the symbol $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ refers to the isolation energy with the offset applied. The $E_{\text{iso}}^T$-dependence of the offset is chosen such that the efficiency of the $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ requirement is independent of $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ in simulated samples, and the size of the offset varies from zero at low $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ to −5 GeV at $E_{\text{iso}}^T = 1$ TeV. The corresponding efficiency of the isolation requirement is 96% per photon. For the purpose of the determination of the background composition, a less stringent requirement of $E_{\text{iso}}^T < 14$ GeV is used. Examples of the $E_{\text{iso}}^T$ distributions will be shown after the discussion of the backgrounds.

**IV. BACKGROUND ESTIMATE**

An important contribution to the background arises from prompt $\gamma \gamma$ production via Standard Model processes. This contribution is irreducible and, as quantified below, represents the dominant source of background. Another significant contribution is due to events in which one or both of the photon candidates arise from other objects, such as misidentified jets or electrons. This background component is dominated by $\gamma + j$ and $j + j$ events with one or two jets reconstructed as photons. Backgrounds with electrons misidentified as photons – e.g. electron-positron events from Drell-Yan production, in $W/Z + \gamma$ or in $\ell \ell$ events – were verified to be negligible after the event selection.

The irreducible background is estimated using Monte Carlo (MC) simulations normalized to the data in a control region defined below, and the reducible background is estimated using control samples in data. A combination of the leading-order (LO) event generator PYTHIA [17] and the next-to-leading-order (NLO) parton-level simulation DIPHOX [18] is used to simulate the irreducible background. Monte Carlo samples are generated using PYTHIA 8.163 with the CTEQ6L1 [19] parton distribution functions (PDFs) and the AU2 PYTHIA parameter tune [20]. The detector response is simulated using GEANT 4 [21,22], including pileup conditions similar to those observed in data. The simulated events are reweighted such that the number of $pp$ interactions per bunch crossing has the same distribution as in data. The NLO correction and the contributions of the fragmentation process are evaluated using DIPHOX 1.3.2 with the CTEQ6.6M [23] PDF set and are used to scale the PYTHIA prediction by a factor that depends on the generated mass of the diphoton system. The so-called box contribution $gg \to \gamma\gamma$ through a quark loop is included in both the PYTHIA and DIPHOX predictions. From the point of view of power counting, this diagram is a next-to-next-to-leading-order (NNLO), i.e. $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_{EM}^2)$, contribution. But given the large gluon luminosity at the LHC compared to the quark-antiquark one, the contribution of the box diagram is comparable to that of the $q\bar{q} \to \gamma\gamma$ process, which corresponds to a LO, i.e. $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_{EM}^2)$, diagram.
To reduce the impact of the theory uncertainties in the absolute normalization of the production cross section of the irreducible background, the background estimates are scaled to the data at low mass. In the mass region \( m_{\gamma\gamma} < 600 \text{ GeV} \), where \( m_{\gamma\gamma} \) denotes the measured invariant mass of the diphoton system, the most sensitive searches for narrow resonances in the diphoton channel rely on background estimates that make use of low-mass and high-mass sidebands [24]. The search described in the present article focuses on higher diphoton masses where the sidebands, especially at high mass, provide insufficient event yields. This search therefore uses a different approach to obtain the background prediction at high \( m_{\gamma\gamma} \). Specifically, the simulated irreducible background is normalized to the data in a low-mass control region after subtraction of the reducible backgrounds. This control region is defined to coincide with the first 22 bins in Fig. 3, i.e. as \( 179 < m_{\gamma\gamma} < 409 \text{ GeV} \). To determine the composition of the data sample in the low-mass control region in terms of irreducible and reducible backgrounds, a template fit to the \( E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}} \) distributions of the leading and subleading photon candidates is performed. A similar technique was used in earlier analyses of low-mass diphoton events [25,26]. The \( E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}} \) distributions, along with the result of the template fit, are shown in Fig. 1 (top and middle). The full event selection described in Sec. III, with the relaxed requirement \( E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}} < 14 \text{ GeV} \), has been applied. The fit is performed simultaneously to the two distributions, and the normalizations for four background components are allowed to float in the fit, namely the irreducible \( \gamma\gamma \) component plus three reducible components: \( \gamma + j \) (subleading photon candidate is fake), \( j + \gamma \) and \( j + j \). Templates for the \( E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}} \) distribution of true photons and of fake photons are determined from data. The template for fake photons is obtained using a sample of photon candidates that pass the non-tight selection: photon candidates must satisfy the loose identification criteria and fail to meet a subset of the criteria in the tight selection. This subset has been chosen to include criteria that have been found to be only weakly correlated with \( E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}} \). The template for true photons is obtained from the sample of tight photon candidates after subtraction of the fake-photon template normalized to the tight data sample at \( E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}} > 10 \text{ GeV} \) where fake photons dominate.

The fit is performed separately in five subsamples of the data, because the relative contributions of the four background components vary significantly from one subsample to another. The five subsamples correspond to different combinations of pseudorapidities of the leading and subleading photon candidates: both photons in the “central” region (\( |\eta| < 1.37 \)), leading photon central and subleading photon in the “endcap” region (\( 1.52 < |\eta| < 2.37 \)), leading photon in endcap and subleading central, both photons in same endcap and both photons in endcaps of opposite-sign pseudorapidity. In Fig. 1, the data from the five subsamples, as well as the corresponding fit results are combined, and

![Graphs showing distribution of isolation energy](image-url)

FIG. 1 (color online). Top: distribution of the isolation energy \( E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}} \) for the leading photon candidate in events in the low-mass control region. Middle: corresponding distribution for the subleading photon. Bottom: distribution of \( E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}} \) for photon candidates with \( E_{\text{T}}^{\gamma} > 400 \text{ GeV} \) at any diphoton mass. The \( E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}} \) values always include the \( E_{\text{T}}^{\gamma} \)-dependent offset discussed in the text.
only the sum of the photon and jet components over the four background components is shown. To illustrate the broadening of the $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}}$ distribution at large $E_{\text{T}}^{\gamma}$ described above, Fig. 1 also includes the $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{iso}}$ distribution for photons with $E_{T}^{\gamma} > 400$ GeV.

The backgrounds in the search region, i.e. at masses higher than the low-mass control region, are predicted using estimates of the $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ shape of each background component and the normalizations obtained in the low-mass control region described above. As discussed above, the shape of the irreducible component is obtained using simulation. The shapes of the reducible components are obtained from data control samples. The control sample used to extract the shape of the $\gamma + j$ background is selected in the same way as the signal sample, except that the subleading photon candidate has to satisfy the loose identification criteria and fail to meet the tight criteria. The control samples for the $j + \gamma$ and $j + j$ backgrounds are defined using the same approach. Since these data control samples contain relatively few events at high $m_{\gamma\gamma}$, a fit to a smooth function of the form $f(m_{\gamma\gamma}) = p_{1} \gamma + p_{2} \log(m_{\gamma\gamma})$, where the $p_{i}$ are free parameters, is used to extrapolate the shapes of the reducible backgrounds to high $m_{\gamma\gamma}$. This functional form describes well the shapes of the data in the control samples of this analysis. It was also successful in describing the shapes of the background control samples in earlier searches in the dijet [27,28], dilepton [29], photon-jet [30] and diphoton [5] channels.

The shapes of the distribution of the isolation energy for genuine photons extracted from data (in bins of $E_{T}^{\gamma}$) are compared to the shapes predicted using simulation. The impact of the small observed differences in the isolation distributions on the predicted $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ shape of the irreducible background and on the signal efficiency is quantified and taken into account in the systematic uncertainties.

The uncertainties in the prediction of the total background are shown in Fig. 2 as a function of $m_{\gamma\gamma}$. The individual contributions due to the uncertainties in the irreducible and reducible components, as well as the contribution from the uncertainties in the normalizations of the different background components (labeled “background composition”), are also shown.

The shape of the reducible background arise from the finite size of the corresponding control samples, and from the extrapolation of the background shapes from the control samples to the signal region. The latter are assessed by varying the definition of the loose selection requirement that is used to define the control samples. The uncertainties in the normalizations of the individual background components are dominated by the uncertainties in the template shapes that are used in the fit to the isolation energy. They are assessed by varying the definition of the non-tight selection requirements that are used to obtain the template shapes.

V. SIGNAL RESPONSE

Simulated event samples of RS graviton signals at different values of $m_{G}$ are used to study the response of the detector for signal events. The samples are generated using PYTHIA 8.163 with the CTEQ6L1 PDF set, the AU2 tune and the same detector and pileup simulation as for the SM $\gamma\gamma$ samples described above. The sources of uncertainty in the expected signal yield are summarized in Table II. The systematic uncertainty is dominated by the uncertainty in the efficiency due to residual imperfections in the simulation of the observables that are used in the tight photon identification criteria and in the simulation of the isolation energy. Smaller contributions arise due to the limited size of the simulated samples and the determination of the trigger efficiency. The uncertainty in the integrated luminosity is also propagated to the expected yield. Uncertainties in the RS resonance shape due to our current knowledge of the photon energy scale and resolution as well as imperfections in the simulation of the pileup conditions were verified to have a negligible effect on the result.
TABLE II. Summary of systematic uncertainties on the expected signal yield, excluding those on the production cross section and the acceptance. The total systematic uncertainty is obtained by summing the individual contributions in quadrature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Uncertainty in signal yield [%]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integrated luminosity</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC statistics</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trigger efficiency</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photon ID efficiency</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photon isolation efficiency</td>
<td>0.3–2.1 (for (m_{G^*} = 500–3000) GeV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>(\approx 5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. RESULTS

The observed diphoton mass spectrum is shown in Fig. 3, together with the background expectation and the predicted signal for two examples of values of the RS model parameters. The acceptance (i.e., the fraction of simulated events in which both photons satisfy the requirements on \(|\eta|\) and \(E_T^\gamma\) described above) for the RS scenario with \(m_{G^*} = 2.0\) TeV and \(k/\sqrt{m_{G^*}} = 0.1\) is 89.3% and the selection efficiency for events within acceptance is \((55.9 \pm 2.6\%)\). The bottom inset in Fig. 3 shows, bin by bin, the statistical significance of the difference between the data and the expected background. This significance is calculated using the prescription in Ref. [32] and is plotted as positive (negative) for bins with an excess (deficit) of data. The observed event yields and expected backgrounds are also summarized in Table III. No significant deviation of the data from the expected background is observed. To further quantify the level of agreement, the BUMPHUNTER [33] algorithm is used to search for any “bump” on top of the expected background, i.e., any excess of events localized in a relatively narrow mass region. Specifically, the BUMPHUNTER algorithm scans the mass distribution in windows of progressively increasing width in order to identify the window with the most significant excess of observed events over the background anywhere in a pre-defined search region. In this analysis, the binned \(m_{\gamma\gamma}\) spectrum from Fig. 3 is used, the search region is defined as \(409 < m_{\gamma\gamma} < 3000\) GeV, and the window size is allowed to vary from one bin to half the number of bins in the search region. The most significant excess is found in the region \(494 < m_{\gamma\gamma} < 745\) GeV. The probability to observe anywhere in the search region an excess that is at least as significant as the one observed in data and that arises from fluctuations in the background is 58%. This confirms the absence of any significant excess in the data.

As no evidence for a signal is found, upper limits at 95% confidence level (CL) are set on the production cross section times branching ratio, \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\), for the lightest RS graviton. A Bayesian approach is used to calculate the limits, and the corresponding computer program is implemented using the toolkit from Refs. [34,35]. A likelihood function is used to describe the probability to obtain the \(m_{\gamma\gamma}\) distribution observed in data, given the background and signal predictions. The likelihood is defined as the product of the per-bin probabilities over all bins in the search region \((m_{\gamma\gamma} > 409\) GeV) in Fig. 3. In each bin, the probability is computed from a Poisson distribution given the observed number of events and the model prediction, where the model prediction is the sum of the expected numbers of background and signal events. The expected signal yield depends on \(m_{G^*}\) and \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\). Using Bayes's theorem, the likelihood is converted into a posterior probability. A uniform positive prior in \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\) is assumed, and systematic uncertainties are incorporated using nuisance parameters with Gaussian priors. For a given value of \(m_{G^*}\), the posterior probability is reduced to one parameter of interest, \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\), and the 95% CL limit on \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\) is obtained via integration of the posterior probability.

The resulting limits on \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\), as a function of the mass hypothesis (value of \(m_{G^*}\)), are shown in Fig. 4. The phenomenology of the RS model can be described in terms of the parameters \(m_{G^*}\) and \(k/\sqrt{m_{G^*}}\), i.e., \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\) can be calculated [36,37] for a given pair of values for these parameters. The results of this calculation are represented by the lines for given values of \(k/\sqrt{m_{G^*}}\) in Fig. 4.
obtained using the PYTHIA generator, which implements the calculations from Ref. [37]. A K-factor is applied to these predictions to account for QCD corrections at NLO. The value of the K-factor varies between 1.6 and 1.9, depending on \( m_G \) and \( k/\sqrt{M_{Pl}} \). These results for the K-factor were provided by the authors of Refs. [38,39], using updated calculations at \( \sqrt{s} = 8 \) TeV. Given these theory predictions for \( \sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) \), the upper limits on \( \sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) \) from Fig. 4 can be translated into upper limits on \( k/\sqrt{M_{Pl}} \). The results are shown, as a function of \( m_G \), in Fig. 5. Alternatively, the upper limits on \( \sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) \) can be translated into lower limits on the graviton mass. The results are shown in Table IV, for different values of \( k/\sqrt{M_{Pl}} \). The limits presented in Fig. 5 and in Table IV do not take into account any theory uncertainties in the prediction of \( \sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) \) for the RS signal. The size of one of the dominant theory uncertainties (the PDF uncertainty) is included in Fig. 4; uncertainties due to missing higher-order contributions in the calculation of the K-factor are estimated to be of comparable size.

FIG. 4 (color online). Expected and observed upper limits on \( \sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) \) expressed at 95% CL, as a function of the graviton mass. At large \( m_G \), the \(-\sigma\) and \(-2\sigma\) variations of the expected limit tend to be particularly close to the expected limit. This is expected, since signals with high \( m_G \) would appear in regions of \( m_{\gamma\gamma} \) where the background expectation is small and the Poissonian fluctuations around the mean expected background are highly asymmetric. The curves show the RS model prediction for given values of \( k/\sqrt{M_{Pl}} \) as a function of \( m_G \). They are obtained using the PYTHIA generator plus a K-factor to account for NLO corrections (see text). The thickness of the theory curve for \( k/\sqrt{M_{Pl}} = 0.1 \) illustrates the PDF uncertainties expressed at 90% CL.

FIG. 5 (color online). Expected and observed upper limits on \( k/\sqrt{M_{Pl}} \) expressed at 95% CL, as a function of the graviton mass.
TABLE IV. Expected and observed lower limits at 95% CL on \(m_{G^*}\) for different values of \(k/\sqrt{\mathcal{M}_{Pl}}\).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(k/\sqrt{\mathcal{M}_{Pl}})</th>
<th>Expected limit [TeV]</th>
<th>Observed limit [TeV]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(-2\sigma)</td>
<td>(-1\sigma)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.010</td>
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<td>0.100</td>
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</table>

VII. CONCLUSIONS

In summary, a search for high-mass diphoton resonances has been performed using the full 2012 dataset collected by the ATLAS detector at the LHC (20.3 fb\(^{-1}\) of \(pp\) collisions at \(\sqrt{s} = 8\) TeV). No significant excess over the expected background is observed, and upper limits on the production cross section times branching fraction \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\) for narrow resonances are reported as a function of the resonance mass. High-mass diphoton resonances are predicted e.g. in models that postulate the existence of extra spatial dimensions in order to address the hierarchy problem, and could be observed at the LHC. Limits on the mass of the lightest graviton state in the framework of the Randall-Sundrum model of extra dimensions are derived from the limits on \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\). The only free parameters of this model are the mass of the lightest graviton \((m_{G^*})\) and the coupling to the SM fields \((k/\sqrt{\mathcal{M}_{Pl}})\), i.e. \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\) can be calculated once the values of these two parameters are specified. The limits can therefore be expressed in terms of \(m_{G^*}\) for a given value of \(k/\sqrt{\mathcal{M}_{Pl}}\). A lower limit of 2.66 (1.41) TeV at 95% confidence level is obtained on the mass of the lightest graviton for a coupling \(k/\sqrt{\mathcal{M}_{Pl}} = 0.1\) (0.01). The results reported in this article constitute a significant improvement over the results in Ref. [5] obtained at \(\sqrt{s} = 7\) TeV. The upper limits on \(\sigma \times BR(G^* \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)\) are reduced by a factor of 2.1 (3.6) for a resonance with a mass of 0.5 TeV (2.75 TeV). Furthermore, the new limits are expressed in terms of the production cross section at \(\sqrt{s} = 8\) TeV, compared to \(\sqrt{s} = 7\) TeV for the old limits, and the production cross section for any new heavy particle is expected to be larger at \(\sqrt{s} = 8\) TeV. The lower limits on the mass of the lightest RS graviton are also significantly improved compared to the previous analysis.

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1 Department of Physics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia
2 Physics Department, SUNY Albany, Albany New York, USA
3 Department of Physics, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB, Canada
4 Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey
5 Division of Physics, TOBB University of Economics and Technologies, Ankara, Turkey
6 LAPP, CNRS/IN2P3 and Université Savoie Mont Blanc, Annecy-le-Vieux, France
7 High Energy Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne Illinois, USA
8 Department of Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson Arizona, USA
9 Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington Texas, USA
10 Physics Department, National Technical University of Athens, Zografou, Greece
11 Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
12 Institut de Física d’Altes Energies and Departament de Física de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
13 Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
14 Department for Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
15 Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley California, USA
16 Department of Physics, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany
17 Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics and Laboratory for High Energy Physics, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
18 School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
19 Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
20 Department of Physics, Dogus University, Istanbul, Turkey
21 INFN Sezione di Bologna, Italy
22 Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
23 Physikalisches Institut, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
24 Department of Physics, Boston University, Boston Massachusetts, USA
25 Department of Physics, Brandeis University, Waltham Massachusetts, USA
26 Universidad Federal do Rio De Janeiro COPPE/EE/IF, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
27 Electrical Circuits Department, Federal University of Juiz de Fora (UFJF), Juiz de Fora, Brazil
28 Federal University of Sao Joao del Rei (UFSJ), Sao Joao del Rei, Brazil
29 Instituto de Física, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
30 Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton New York, USA
31 National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest, Romania
32 National Institute for Research and Development of Isotopic and Molecular Technologies, Physics Department, Cluj Napoca, Romania
33 University Politehnica Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania
34 University of Athens, Athens, Greece
35 Physics Department, National Technical University of Athens, Zografou, Greece
36 Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
37 Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
38 Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley California, USA
39 Division of Physics, TOBB University of Economics and Technologies, Ankara, Turkey
40 High Energy Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne Illinois, USA
41 Department of Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson Arizona, USA
42 Physics Department, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington Texas, USA
43 Physics Department, National Technical University of Athens, Zografou, Greece
44 Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
45 Institute de Física d’Altes Energies and Departament de Física de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
46 Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
47 Department for Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
48 Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley California, USA
49 Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics and Laboratory for High Energy Physics, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
50 School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
51 Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
52 Department of Physics, Dogus University, Istanbul, Turkey
53 INFN Sezione di Bologna, Italy
54 Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
55 Physikalisches Institut, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
56 Department of Physics, Boston University, Boston Massachusetts, USA
57 Department of Physics, Brandeis University, Waltham Massachusetts, USA
58 Universidad Federal do Rio De Janeiro COPPE/EE/IF, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
59 Electrical Circuits Department, Federal University of Juiz de Fora (UFJF), Juiz de Fora, Brazil
60 Federal University of Sao Joao del Rei (UFSJ), Sao Joao del Rei, Brazil
61 Instituto de Física, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
62 Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton New York, USA
63 National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest, Romania
64 National Institute for Research and Development of Isotopic and Molecular Technologies, Physics Department, Cluj Napoca, Romania
65 University Politehnica Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania
66 High Energy Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne Illinois, USA
67 Department of Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson Arizona, USA
68 Physics Department, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington Texas, USA
69 Physics Department, National Technical University of Athens, Zografou, Greece
70 Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
120 Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
121 INFN Sezione di Pavia, Italy
122 Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
123 Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Pennsylvania, USA
124 Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina, Russia
125 INFN Sezione di Pisa, Italy
126 Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
127 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, USA
128 Laboratorio de Instrumentacao e Fisica Experimental de Particulas - LIP, Lisboa, Portugal
129 Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
130 Department of Physics, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
131 Departmentamento de Fisica, Universidade do Minho, Braga, Portugal
132 Departamento de Fisica Teorica y del Cosmos and CAFPE, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain
133 INFN Sezione di Roma, Italy
134 Dipartimento di Fisica, Sapienza Università di Roma, Roma, Italy
135 INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata, Italy
136 Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
137 INFN Sezione di Roma Tre, Italy
138 Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
139 Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Energies - Université Hassan II, Casablanca, Morocco
140 Center National de l’Energie des Sciences Techniques Nucleaires, Rabat, Morocco
141 Faculté des Sciences Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech, Morocco
142 Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier and LPTPM, Oujda, Morocco
143 Faculté des sciences, Université Mohammed V-Agdal, Rabat, Morocco
144 DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l’Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives), Gif-sur-Yvette, France
145 Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California, USA
146 Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle Washington, USA
147 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
148 Fachbereich Physik, Universität Siegen, Siegen, Germany
149 Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC, Canada
150 SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford California, USA
151 Faculty of Mathematics, Physics & Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic
152 Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovak Republic
153 Department of Physics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
154 Department of Physics, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
155 School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
156 Department of Physics, Stockholm University, Sweden
157 The Oskar Klein Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
158 Physics Department, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
159 Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook New York, USA
160 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
161 School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
162 Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
163 Department of Physics, Technion: Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel
164 Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
Department of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece
International Center for Elementary Particle Physics and Department of Physics, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
Graduate School of Science and Technology, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan
Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan
TRIUMF, Vancouver BC, Canada
Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Toronto ON, Canada
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Tufts University, Medford Massachusetts, USA
Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Antonio Narino, Bogota, Colombia
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine, Irvine California, USA
INFN Gruppo Collegato di Udine, Sezione di Trieste, Udine, Italy
ICTP, Trieste, Italy
Dipartimento di Chimica, Fisica e Ambiente, Università di Udine, Udine, Italy
Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana Illinois, USA
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden
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-CNMT), University of Valencia and CSIC, Valencia, Spain
Department of Physics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria BC, Canada
Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom
Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
Department of Particle Physics, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel
Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison Wisconsin, USA
Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg, Germany
Fachbereich C Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany
Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven Connecticut, USA
Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
Centre de Calcul de l’Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules (IN2P3), Villeurbanne, France

Deceased.
Also at Department of Physics, King’s College London, London, United Kingdom.
Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan.
Also at Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia.
Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver BC, Canada.
Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Fresno CA, United States of America.
Also at Department of Physics, University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland.
Also at Departamento de Fisica e Astronomia, Faculdade de Ciencias, Universidade do Porto, Portugal.
Also at Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia.
Also at CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France.
Also at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli, Italy.
Also at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP), Canada.
Also at Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom.
Also at Department of Physics, St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia.
Also at Louisiana Tech University, Ruston LA, United States of America.
Also at Institucio Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avancats, ICREA, Barcelona, Spain.
Also at Department of Physics, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan.
Also at Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin TX, United States of America.
Also at Institute of Theoretical Physics, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia.
Also at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.
Also at Georgian Technical University (GTU), Tbilisi, Georgia.
Also at Ochadai Academic Production, Ochanomizu University, Tokyo, Japan.
Also at Manhattan College, New York NY, United States of America.
Also at Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
Also at LAL, Université Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France.
Also at Academia Sinica Grid Computing, Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
Also at Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology State University, Dolgoprudny, Russia.
bb Also at Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland.
cc Also at International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA), Trieste, Italy.
dd Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC, United States of America.
ef Also at School of Physics and Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China.
gf Also at Faculty of Physics, M.V.Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.
hh Also at National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, Moscow, Russia.
ii Also at Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary.
jj Also at Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom.
kk Also at Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America.
ll Also at Discipline of Physics, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa.
mm Also at University of Malaya, Department of Physics, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

G. AAD et al.
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