

Direct Photon Results from Tevatron

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This article presents recent measurements of differential cross sections for single and double direct photon production from the CDF and D0 experiments running at the Tevatron. For single photon production, results are shown for both the inclusive and the exclusive production in association with jets. Comparisons of the measurements with next-to-leading order perturbative QCD calculations show good agreement for the inclusive single photon production at high energies and for the diphoton production in the range of kinematics relevant to Higgs searches. The agreement is poor at kinematics where soft gluon interactions and fragmentations are important. For the exclusive single photon production the agreement is generally poor.

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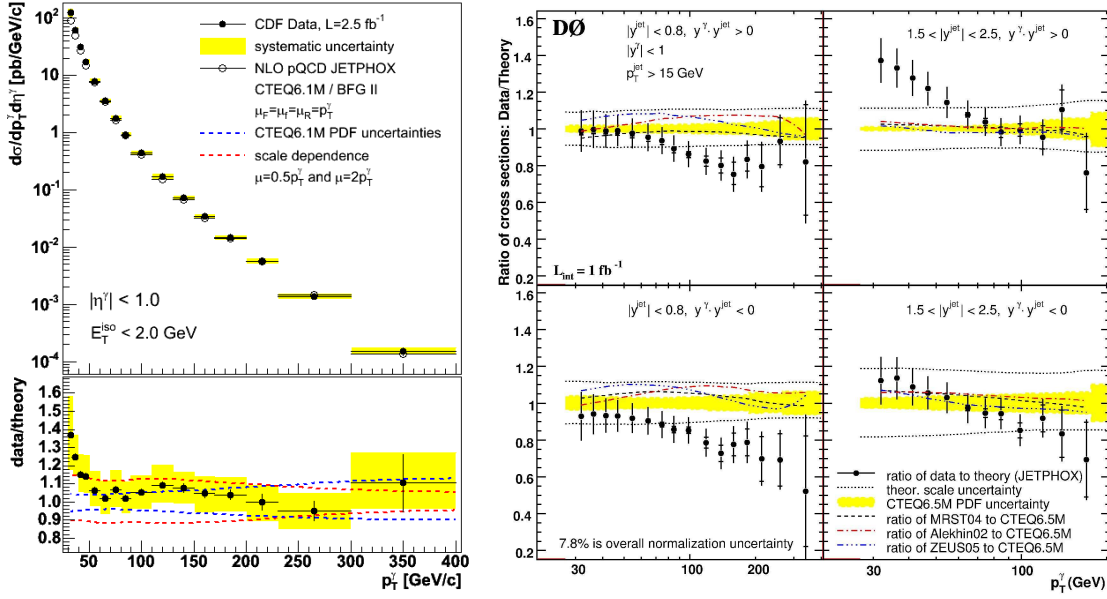


Figure 1: Left: $p\bar{p} \rightarrow \gamma + X$ cross section vs. the photon p_T measured with the CDF detector. **Right:** Ratio of data to theory vs. the photon p_T for the $p\bar{p} \rightarrow \gamma + \text{jet} + X$ cross section measured with the D0 detector.

1. Introduction

Measurements of differential cross sections for the production of high transverse momentum p_T^{γ} “prompt” or “direct” photons, i.e. photons not coming from neutral hadron decays or from radiation in the detector material, are a precision probe for understanding the dynamics of high energy hadron collisions and for searching new phenomena. Fermilab Tevatron is an ideal place to conduct such measurements. It is a highly performing $p\bar{p}$ collider, operating at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96 \text{ TeV}$, which has delivered so far $\sim 9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ of integrated luminosity ($\sim 7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ currently on tape for each experiment). It is equipped with two well understood detectors, CDF and D0, instrumented with high resolution electromagnetic calorimeters, which can measure photons with high precision.

2. Single Photon Production

Measurements of the single photon production cross section test perturbative QCD (pQCD) with potential to constrain the parton distribution functions (PDF) of the proton. Quark annihilation, $q\bar{q} \rightarrow \gamma g$, and Compton scattering, $gq \rightarrow \gamma q$ or $gq \rightarrow gq$ where the final state quark fragments to a photon, dominate in leading order (LO). Figure 1 shows on the left the inclusive cross section measured at CDF [1] as a function of p_T^{γ} in comparison with a next-to-leading order (NLO) pQCD calculation [2]. The ratios of the exclusive $\gamma + \text{jet}$ cross section measured at D0 [3] to the NLO pQCD predictions [2] as functions of p_T^{γ} are shown on the right in four angular regions, with a central or forward jet close to or away from the photon, to separate between low and high x parton scattering. The theory agrees well with the inclusive measurement, except at $p_T^{\gamma} < 50 \text{ GeV/c}$ where fragmentations become important. The agreement is poor for the exclusive cross section.

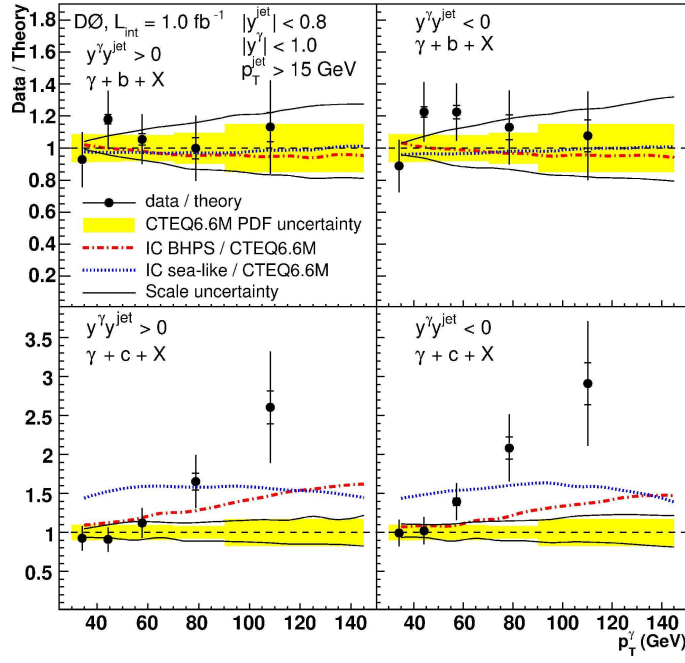


Figure 2: Ratio of data to theory vs. the photon p_T for the $p\bar{p} \rightarrow \gamma + b-, c\text{-jet} + X$ cross section measured with the D0 detector.

Of special interest is the measurement of the exclusive $\gamma + \text{jet}$ cross section where the associated jet arises from a heavy flavor (b or c) quark, which tests the heavy flavor and gluon contents of the proton. Figure 2 shows the ratios of this cross section measured at D0 [4] to NLO pQCD predictions [5] as functions of p_T^γ , again in four angular regions. The agreement is good for the b flavor but poor for the c flavor, with a slight improvement by adding intrinsic charm (IC) flavor to the CTEQ6.6M PDF set [6] used in the calculation.

3. Diphoton Production

Diphoton production is a channel where searches for light mass Higgs and new phenomena, such as heavy resonances and extra spatial dimensions, are conducted or planned. Direct $\gamma\gamma$ production is an irreducible background to these searches which needs to be understood. Measurements of $\gamma\gamma$ production cross sections differential in various kinematic variables also test pQCD. Quark annihilation, $q\bar{q} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, gluon fusion, $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, and Compton scattering, $gq \rightarrow \gamma\gamma q$, dominate in LO. Fragmentations also play a role in the gluon fusion and Compton scattering channels.

Diphoton production cross sections measured at D0 [7] and CDF [8] are compared in Figure 3 with LO [9] and NLO [10, 11] calculations. The NLO predictions are in good agreement with the data in the diphoton invariant mass spectrum (left), with a cut on $M_{\gamma\gamma} > p_T^{\gamma\gamma}$ imposing kinematics similar to low mass Higgs $\rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ decays. However, they underestimate the data in the spectrum of the azimuthal difference $\Delta\phi$ of the photon pair (right), especially at low $\Delta\phi$ where soft gluon scattering and fragmentations are expected to contribute significantly.

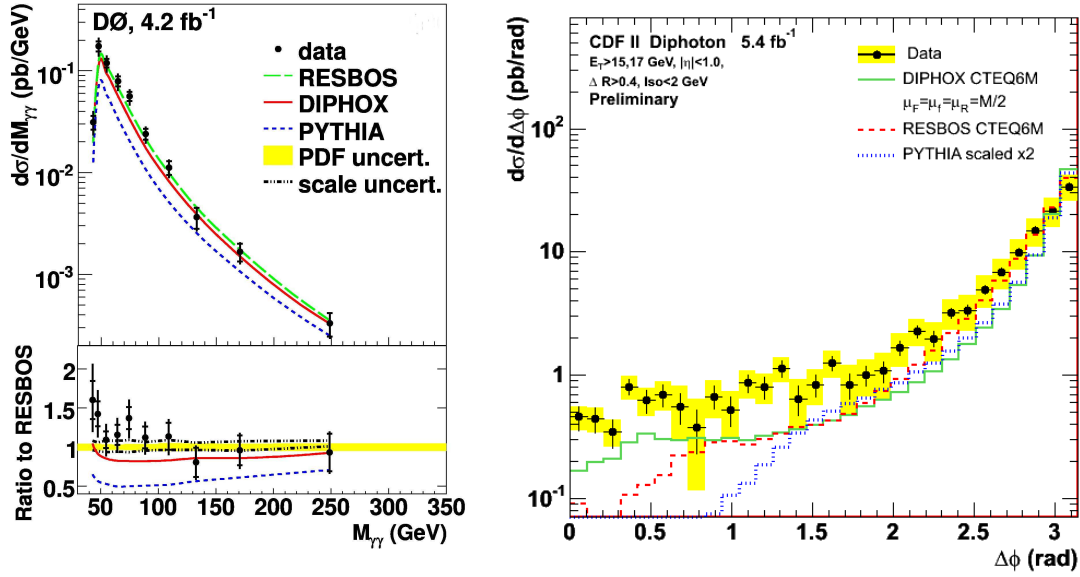


Figure 3: **Left:** $p\bar{p} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma + X$ cross section vs. the diphoton invariant mass for $M_{\gamma\gamma} > p_T^{\gamma\gamma}$ measured with the D0 detector. **Right:** $p\bar{p} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma + X$ cross section vs. the diphoton azimuthal difference $\Delta\phi = |\phi_{\gamma 1} - \phi_{\gamma 2}| \bmod \pi$ measured with the CDF detector.

4. Summary

High precision measurements of differential cross sections for direct photon production over wide kinematic ranges have been recently published from both the D0 and CDF Collaborations. Single direct photon production cross sections have been measured for inclusive production, γ + jet exclusive production and γ + heavy flavor jet production. NLO pQCD calculations do not describe well the exclusive production and fragmentation sensitive distributions of the diphoton production.

References

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