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A measurement of the cross section for the production of an isolated photon in association with jets in proton-proton collisions at \( \sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV} \) with the ATLAS detector

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A measurement of the cross section for the production of an isolated photon in association with jets in proton-proton collisions at a center-of-mass energy \( \sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV} \) is presented. Photons are reconstructed in the pseudorapidity range \( |\eta| < 1.37 \) and with a transverse energy \( E_T^{\gamma} > 25 \text{ GeV} \). Jets are reconstructed in the rapidity range \( |y| < 4.4 \) and with a transverse momentum \( p_T^{\text{jet}} > 20 \text{ GeV} \). The differential cross section \( d\sigma/dE_T^{\gamma} \) is measured, as a function of the photon transverse energy, for three different rapidity ranges of the leading-\( p_T \) jet: \( |y^{\text{jet}}| < 1.2 \), \( 1.2 \leq |y^{\text{jet}}| < 2.8 \) and \( 2.8 \leq |y^{\text{jet}}| < 4.4 \). For each rapidity configuration the same-sign \( (\eta^\gamma y^{\text{jet}} \geq 0) \) and opposite-sign \( (\eta^\gamma y^{\text{jet}} < 0) \) cases are studied separately. The results are based on an integrated luminosity of 37 pb\(^{-1}\), collected with the ATLAS detector at the LHC. Next-to-leading order perturbative QCD calculations are found to be in fair agreement with the data, except for \( E_T^{\gamma} \leq 45 \text{ GeV} \), where the theoretical predictions overestimate the measured cross sections.

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I. INTRODUCTION

At colliders, prompt photons are defined as photons produced in the beam particle collisions and not originating from particle decays. They include both direct photons, which originate from the hard process, and fragmentation photons, which arise from the fragmentation of a colored high-\( p_T \) parton \([1,2]\). At the LHC, the production of prompt photons in association with jets in proton-proton collisions, \( pp \rightarrow \gamma + \text{jet} + X \), represents an important test of perturbative QCD predictions at large hard-scattering scales (\( Q^2 \)) and over a wide range of the parton momentum fraction (\( x \)). In addition the study of the angular correlations between the photon and the jet can be used to constrain the photon fragmentation functions \([3]\). Since the dominant \( \gamma + \text{jet} \) production mechanism in \( pp \) collisions at the LHC is through the \( gg \rightarrow \gamma \gamma \) process, the measurement of the photon + jet cross section at high rapidities and low transverse momenta can also be exploited to constrain the gluon density function inside the proton \([3-6]\) for values of the incoming parton momentum fraction \( x \) down to \( \mathcal{O}(10^{-3}) \). For the same reason, this final state can be used to obtain a high purity sample of quark-originated jets \([7]\) that can be exploited to study detector performance with respect to these jets. The same events can also be used to calibrate the jet energy scale by profiting from momentum conservation in the transverse plane and the accurate energy measurement of the photon in the electromagnetic calorimeter \([8]\). Finally, \( \gamma + \text{jet} \) events provide one of the main backgrounds in searches of Higgs bosons decaying to a photon pair \([9]\). An accurate knowledge of the photon + jet rate and angular distribution can be useful to understand the background level and shape in these searches.

In this article a measurement of the production cross section of an isolated prompt photon in association with jets, in \( pp \) collisions at a center-of-mass energy \( \sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV} \), is presented. Photons are reconstructed in the pseudorapidity range \( |\eta\gamma| < 1.37 \) and in the transverse energy range of \( E_T^{\gamma} > 25 \text{ GeV} \). The same isolation criterion as used in our measurements of the inclusive isolated prompt photon \([10,11]\) and diphoton production cross sections \([12]\) is used. It is based on the amount \( E_T^{\text{iso}} \) of transverse energy deposited in the calorimeters inside a cone of radius \( R = \sqrt{(\eta - \eta)^2 + (\phi - \phi)^2} = 0.4 \) centered around the photon direction (defined by \( \eta^\gamma, \phi^\gamma \)) \([13]\). The contribution from electromagnetic calorimeter cells in the \( (\Delta \eta, \Delta \phi) = (\pm 0.0625, \pm 0.0875) \) region around the photon barycenter is not included in the sum. The mean value of the small leakage of the photon energy outside this region, evaluated as a function of the photon transverse energy, is subtracted from the measured value of \( E_T^{\gamma} \). The typical size of this correction is a few percent of the photon transverse energy. The measured value of \( E_T^{\gamma} \) is further corrected by subtracting the estimated contributions from the underlying event and additional inelastic \( pp \) interactions. This correction is computed on an event-by-event basis using the method suggested in Refs. \([14,15]\). After the isolation requirement is applied, the relative contribution to the total cross section from fragmentation photons decreases, though it remains non-negligible especially at low transverse energies, below 35–40 GeV \([2]\). The isolation requirement significantly reduces the main background, which consists of QCD multijet events where one

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jet typically contains a $\pi^0$ or $\eta$ meson which carries most of the jet energy and is misidentified as a prompt photon because it decays into a photon pair. Jets are reconstructed in the rapidity range of $|y^{\text{jet}}| < 4.4$ and transverse momentum range of $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 20$ GeV. The minimum separation between the highest $p_T$ (leading) jet and the photon in the $\{\eta, \phi\}$ plane is $\Delta R > 1.0$. The leading jet is required to be in either the central ($|y^{\text{jet}}| < 1.2$), forward ($1.2 \leq |y^{\text{jet}}| < 2.8$) or very forward ($2.8 \leq |y^{\text{jet}}| < 4.4$) rapidity interval.

The differential cross section $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ is measured for each of the three leading jet rapidity categories. Measurements are performed separately for the two cases where the photon pseudorapidity and the leading jet rapidity have same-sign ($\eta^{\gamma}y^{\text{jet}} \geq 0$) or opposite-sign ($\eta^{\gamma}y^{\text{jet}} < 0$), and the results are compared to next-to-leading order (NLO) perturbative QCD theoretical predictions. Separating the selected phase space into these six different angular configurations allows the comparison between data and theoretical predictions in configurations where the relative contribution of the fragmentation component to the total cross section is large, and in different ranges of $x$, which in the leading-order approximation is equal to $x = \frac{s^2}{4q^2}(e^{+}\eta^- + e^{+}\eta^\prime)$. The differential cross sections are measured up to $E_T^\gamma = 400$ GeV for the central and forward jet configurations, and up to $E_T^\gamma = 200$ GeV for the very forward jet configurations. These measurements cover the region $x \geq 0.001$ and 625 GeV$^2 \leq Q^2 \leq (E_T^\gamma)^2 \leq 1.6 \times 10^5$ GeV$^2$, thus extending the kinematic reach of previous photon + jet measurements at hadron [16–19] and electron-proton [20–23] colliders.

## II. THE ATLAS DETECTOR

The ATLAS experiment [24] is a multipurpose particle physics detector with a forward-backward symmetric cylindrical geometry and nearly $4\pi$ coverage in solid angle.

The inner tracking detector covers pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.5$, and consists of a silicon pixel detector, a silicon microstrip detector, and, for $|\eta| < 2.0$, a transition radiation tracker. The inner detector is surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid providing a 2T magnetic field.

The electromagnetic calorimeter is a lead-liquid argon sampling calorimeter. It is divided into a barrel section, covering the pseudorapidity region $|\eta| < 1.475$, and two end-cap sections, covering the pseudorapidity regions $1.375 < |\eta| < 3.2$. It consists of three longitudinal layers in most of the pseudorapidity range. The first layer, with a thickness between 3 and 5 radiation lengths, is segmented into high granularity strips in the $\eta$ direction (width between 0.003 and 0.006 depending on $\eta$, with the exception of the regions $1.4 < |\eta| < 1.5$ and $|\eta| > 2.4$), sufficient to provide event-by-event discrimination between single-photon showers and two overlapping showers coming from a $\pi^0$ decay. The second layer of the electromagnetic calorimeter, which collects most of the energy deposited in the calorimeter by the photon shower, has a thickness around 17 radiation lengths and a cell granularity of $0.025 \times 0.025$ in $\eta \times \phi$. A third layer, with thickness varying between 4 and 15 radiation lengths, collects the tails of the electromagnetic showers and provides an additional point to reconstruct the shower barycenter. In front of the calorimeter a thin presampler layer, covering the pseudorapidity interval $|\eta| < 1.8$, is used to correct for energy loss before the calorimeter. The electromagnetic energy scale is measured using $Z \rightarrow ee$ events with an uncertainty better than 1% [25]. The linearity has been found to be close to 1%. At low $|\eta|$ the stochastic term is $(9–10)/\sqrt{E_{\gamma}[\text{GeV}]}$. However, it worsens as the amount of material in front of the calorimeter increases at larger $|\eta|$.

The constant term is measured to be about 1.2% in the barrel and 1.8% in the end-cap region up to $|\eta| < 2.47$ which is relevant for this analysis.

A hadronic sampling calorimeter is located outside the electromagnetic calorimeter. It is made of scintillating tiles and steel in the barrel section ($|\eta| < 1.7$), with depth around 7.4 interaction lengths, and of two end-caps of copper and liquid argon, with depth around 9 interaction lengths. Hadronic jets are reconstructed with an energy scale uncertainty of the order of 2.5% in the central to 14% in the very forward regions [26].

The muon spectrometer surrounds the calorimeters. It consists of three large air-core superconducting toroid systems, stations of precision tracking chambers providing accurate muon tracking over $|\eta| < 2.7$, and detectors for triggering over $|\eta| < 2.4$.

Events containing photon candidates are selected by a three-level trigger system. The first level trigger (level-1) is hardware based: using a trigger cell granularity (0.1 × 0.1 in $\eta \times \phi$) coarser than that of the electromagnetic calorimeter, it searches for electromagnetic clusters within a fixed window of size 0.2 × 0.2 and retains only those whose total transverse energy in two adjacent trigger cells is above a programmable threshold. The algorithms of the second and third level triggers (collectively referred to as the high-level trigger) are implemented in software. The high-level trigger exploits the full granularity and precision of the calorimeter to refine the level-1 trigger selection, based on improved energy resolution and detailed information on energy deposition in the calorimeter cells.

## III. COLLISION DATA AND SIMULATED SAMPLES

### A. Collision data

The measurements presented here are based on $pp$ collision data collected at a center-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV in 2010. Only events taken in stable beam conditions are considered and the trigger system, the tracking devices and the calorimeters are also required to be operational. Events are recorded using two single-photon
triggers, with nominal transverse energy thresholds of 20 and 40 GeV. During the 2010 data-taking, no prescale was applied to the 40 GeV threshold trigger and the corresponding total integrated luminosity of the collected sample amounts to $\int L dt = 37.1 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ [27,28]. In this measurement, this threshold is used to collect events in which the photon transverse energy, after reconstruction and calibration, is greater than 45 GeV. During the same data-taking period the average prescale of the 20 GeV threshold trigger was 5.5, leading to a total integrated data-taking period the average prescale of the 20 GeV threshold trigger was 5.5, leading to a total integrated luminosity of $(6.7 \pm 0.2) \text{ pb}^{-1}$. This threshold is used in this measurement to collect events in which the photon transverse energy is lower than 45 GeV.

The selection criteria applied by the trigger on shower-shape variables computed from the energy profiles of the showers in the calorimeters are looser than the photon identification criteria applied in this measurement. Minimum-bias events, triggered by two sets of scintillation counters located at $z = \pm 3.5$ m from the collision center, are used to estimate the single-photon trigger efficiencies for true prompt photons with pseudorapidity $|\eta| < 2.37$. The efficiencies are constant and consistent with 100% within the uncertainty (Sec. VII) for $E_T > 43$ GeV and $E_T > 23$ GeV for the 40 GeV and 20 GeV threshold triggers, respectively.

In order to reduce noncollision backgrounds, events are required to have a reconstructed primary vertex with at least three associated tracks and consistent with the average beam spot position. The inefficiency of this requirement is negligible in true photon + jet events passing the acceptance criteria. The estimated contribution to the final photon sample from noncollision backgrounds is less than 0.1% and is therefore neglected [10,11].

The total number of selected events in data after the trigger, data quality and primary vertex requirements is approximately six million.

B. Simulated events

To study the characteristics of signal and background events, simulated samples are generated using PYTHIA 6.423 [29]. The event generator parameters, including those of the underlying event model, are set according to the ATLAS AMBT1 tune [30], and the detector response is simulated using the GEANT4 program [31]. These samples are reconstructed with the same algorithms used for data. More details on the event generation and simulation infrastructure are provided in Ref. [32]. For the evaluation of systematic uncertainties related to the choice of the event generator and parton shower model, alternative samples are generated with HERWIG 6.510 [33]. The HERWIG event generation parameters are set according to the AUET1 tune [34] and the underlying event is generated using JIMMY 4.31 [35] with multiple parton interactions enabled.

The signal sample includes leading order $\gamma + \text{jet}$ events from both $qg \rightarrow q\gamma$ and $q\bar{q} \rightarrow g\gamma$ hard scattering and from quark bremsstrahlung in QCD dijet events. The background sample is generated by using all tree-level $2 \rightarrow 2$ QCD processes, removing $\gamma + \text{jet}$ events from quark bremsstrahlung.

The ratio between selected diphoton and inclusive photon + jet events is estimated to be 0.3% using PYTHIA diphoton samples. Therefore, background from diphoton events is neglected.

IV. PHOTON AND JET SELECTION

A. Photon selection

Photons are reconstructed starting from clusters in the electromagnetic calorimeter with transverse energies exceeding 2.5 GeV, measured in projective towers of $3 \times 5$ cells in $\eta \times \phi$ in the second layer of the calorimeter. An attempt is made to match these clusters with tracks that are reconstructed in the inner detector and extrapolated to the calorimeter. Clusters without matching tracks are classified as unconverted photon candidates. Clusters with matched tracks are classified as electron candidates. To recover photon conversions, clusters matched to pairs of tracks originating from reconstructed conversion vertices in the inner detector or to single tracks with no hit in the innermost layer of the pixel detector are classified as converted photon candidates. The final energy measurement, for both converted and unconverted photons, is made using only the calorimeter, with a cluster size that depends on the photon classification. In the barrel, a cluster corresponding to $3 \times 5$ $(\eta \times \phi)$ cells in the second layer is used for unconverted photons, while a cluster of $3 \times 7$ $(\eta \times \phi)$ cells is used for converted photon candidates to compensate for the opening between the conversion products in the $\phi$ direction due to the magnetic field. In the end-cap, where the cell size along $\theta$ is smaller than in the barrel and the conversion tracks are closer in $\phi$ because of the smaller inner radius of the calorimeter, a cluster size of $5 \times 5$ is used for all candidates. A dedicated energy calibration [36] is then applied separately for converted and unconverted photon candidates to account for upstream energy loss and both lateral and longitudinal leakage. Both unconverted and converted photon candidates are considered for this measurement. Photons reconstructed near regions of the calorimeter affected by readout or high-voltage failures are not considered, eliminating around 5% of the selected candidates. Events with at least one photon candidate with transverse energy $E_T > 25$ GeV and pseudorapidity $|\eta| < 1.37$ are selected. Photons are selected using the same shower-shape and isolation variables discussed in Refs. [10,37]. The selection criteria on the shower-shape variables are independent of the photon candidate’s transverse energy, but vary as a function of the photon reconstructed pseudorapidity, to take into account variations in the total thickness of the upstream material and in the calorimeter geometry. They are optimized independently for unconverted and converted photons to account for the
different developments of the showers in each case. Applying these selection criteria suppresses backgrounds from jets misidentified as photons. The photon transverse isolation energy $E_T^{iso}$ is required to be lower than 3 GeV. Less than 0.2% of events have more than one photon candidate passing the selection criteria. In such events the leading-$E_T$ photon is retained.

**B. Jet selection**

Jets are reconstructed starting from three-dimensional topological clusters built from calorimeter cells, using the infrared- and collinear-safe anti-$k_t$ algorithm [38] with a radius parameter $R = 0.4$. The jet four-momenta are constructed from a sum over their constituents, treating each as an $(E, \vec{p})$ four-vector with zero mass. The jet four-momenta are then recalibrated using a jet energy scale correction as described in Ref. [26]. The calibration procedure corrects for instrumental effects, such as inactive material and non-compensation, as well as for the additional energy due to multiple $pp$ interactions within the same bunch crossing (pile-up). Jets with calibrated transverse momenta greater than 20 GeV are retained for this measurement.

To reject jets reconstructed from calorimeter signals not originating from a $pp$ collision, the same jet quality criteria used in Ref. [26] are applied here. These cuts suppress fake jets from calorimeter noise, cosmic rays and beam-related backgrounds.

Jets overlapping with the candidate photon, or with an isolated electron produced from $W$ or $Z$ decay, are not considered. For this reason, if the jet axis is within a cone of radius 0.3 around the photon, the jet is discarded. Similarly, if the jet axis is within a cone of radius 0.3 around any electron that passes the tight identification criteria [25] and that has calorimeter isolation, $E_T^{iso}$, less than 4 GeV, the jet is discarded.

The average jet multiplicity after the previous requirements is between 1.3 and 2.0, increasing with $E_T^γ$. In events with multiple jet candidates, the leading-$E_T$ jet is chosen. In order to retain the event, the leading jet is required to have rapidity $|y^{jet}| < 4.4$. The leading jet axis is also required not to lie within a cone of radius $R = 1.0$ around the photon direction.

The contamination in the selected sample from pile-up jets is estimated to be negligible, which is consistent with the low pile-up conditions of the 2010 data-taking, when, on average, only two minimum-bias events per bunch crossing are expected.

**C. Distribution of photon transverse energy in selected events**

The number of events after photon and jet selections is 213003. 96314 events have been collected with the 20 GeV trigger and have $25 \text{ GeV} < E_T^γ \leq 45 \text{ GeV}$, 116689 events have been collected with the 40 GeV trigger and have $E_T^γ > 45 \text{ GeV}$. In 57% of the events the jet is central

![Figure 1](http://example.com/figure1.png)

**FIG. 1 (color online).** Transverse energy distribution of photon candidates in photon + jet events selected in the 2010 ATLAS data, before background subtraction. The distribution is normalized by the integrated luminosity and the transverse energy bin width. Events with $E_T^γ \leq 45 \text{ GeV}$ have been collected with the (prescaled) 20 GeV photon trigger. Events with $E_T^γ > 45 \text{ GeV}$ have been collected with the (unprescaled) 40 GeV photon trigger. (32%/25% are in the same/opposite-sign configuration), in 37% of the events the jet is forward (24%/13% are in the same/opposite-sign configuration), and in 6% of the events the jet is very forward (4%/2% are in the same/opposite-sign photon). The photon candidate is reconstructed as unconverted in 68% of the events and as converted in the remaining 32%. The transverse energy distribution of the photon candidates in the selected sample is shown in Fig. 1.

**V. BACKGROUND SUBTRACTION AND SIGNAL YIELD ESTIMATION**

A non-negligible residual contribution of background is expected in the selected photon + jets sample, even after the application of the tight identification and isolation requirements. The dominant background is composed of dijet events in which one jet is misidentified as a prompt photon, with a tiny contribution from diphoton and $W=Z +$ jets events. In more than 95% of background dijet events, the misidentified jet contains a light neutral meson that carries most of the jet energy and decays to a collimated photon pair. The background yield in the selected sample is estimated in situ using a two-dimensional sideband technique as in Ref. [10] and then subtracted from the observed yield. In the background estimate, the photon is classified as:

(i) Isolated, if $E_T^{iso} < 3 \text{ GeV}$;
(ii) Nonisolated, if $E_T^{iso} > 5 \text{ GeV}$;
(iii) Tight, if it passes the tight photon identification criteria;
(iv) Nontight, if it fails at least one of the tight requirements on four shower-shape variables computed from the energy deposits in a few cells of the first
layer of the electromagnetic calorimeter, but passes all the other tight identification criteria.

In the two-dimensional plane \([10]\) formed by the photon transverse isolation energy and the photon tight identification variable, we define four regions:

(i) \(A\): the signal region, containing tight, isolated photon candidates.
(ii) \(B\): the nonisolated background control region, containing tight, nonisolated photon candidates.
(iii) \(C\): the nonidentified background control region, containing isolated, nontight photon candidates.

FIG. 2 (color online). Estimated signal purity (left column) and signal yield normalized by bin width and integrated luminosity (right column) in data as a function of the photon transverse energy, for the same-sign angular configurations (full circles) and the opposite-sign angular configurations (open triangles). A small horizontal displacement has been added to the points corresponding to the opposite-sign configurations, so that the error bars are clearly shown. The errors are statistical only. Top row: central jet. Middle row: forward jet. Bottom row: very forward jet.
(iv) $D$: the background control region containing nonisolated, nontight photon candidates.

The signal yield $N^\text{sig}_A$ in region A is estimated from the number of events in the four regions, $N_K$ ($K \in \{A, B, C, D\}$), through the relation

$$N^\text{sig}_A = N_A - (N_B - c_B N^\text{sig}_A)(N_C - c_C N^\text{sig}_A)(N_D - c_D N^\text{sig}_A),$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)$$

where $c_K \equiv N^\text{sig}_K / N^\text{sig}_A$ are signal leakage fractions that can be extracted from simulated signal event samples. Equation (1) leads to a second-order polynomial equation in $N^\text{sig}_A$ that has only one physical ($N^\text{sig}_A > 0$) solution. The only hypothesis underlying Eq. (1) is that the isolation and identification variables are uncorrelated in background events. This assumption has been verified both in background simulated samples, and in data in the background-dominated region of $E_T^{\text{jet,iso}} > 7$ GeV. This method was found to return signal yields consistent with the generated ones measured purity by 5–6% at $E_T > 150$ GeV.

The resulting signal purity and signal yield as a function of the photon candidate transverse energy for the six photon and jet angular configurations are shown in Fig. 2. The signal purity typically increases from between 50% and 70% at $E_T^\gamma = 25$ GeV to above 95% for $E_T^\gamma > 150$ GeV. The effect of the non-negligible signal leakage in the background control regions ($c_K \neq 0$) increases the measured purity by 5–6% at $E_T^\gamma = 25$ GeV and 2% at $E_T^\gamma > 150$ GeV compared to the purity estimated assuming negligible signal in the background regions.

### VI. SIGNAL EFFICIENCY AND CROSS SECTION MEASUREMENT

The combined signal trigger, reconstruction, and selection efficiency is evaluated from the simulated signal samples described in Sec. III B, which include leading order $\gamma + j$ events from both hard-scattering (hard sub-processes $qg \rightarrow q\gamma$ and $gg \rightarrow g\gamma$) and from quark bremsstrahlung in QCD dijet events. For each of the six angular configurations, efficiency matrices ($\Lambda_{ij}$) are constructed, with the indices $i$ and $j$ corresponding to reconstructed and true photon transverse energy intervals, respectively. The efficiency matrices account both for trigger, reconstruction, photon identification efficiencies and for migrations between different bins of the true and reconstructed photon transverse energies due to resolution effects. The matrix elements are determined from the ratios of two quantities. The denominators are defined in the following way:

(i) The leading truth-level signal photon within the acceptance ($|\eta^\gamma| \leq 1.37$) is selected.

(ii) Truth jets are reconstructed using the anti-$k_t$ algorithm with a radius parameter $R = 0.4$ on all the particles with proper lifetime longer than 10 ps, including photons, and the leading truth jet is selected among those with axis separated from the photon direction by $\Delta R > 0.3$. The leading photon and the leading jet are required to be separated by $\Delta R > 1.0$.

(iii) To retain the event the true leading photon is required to have $E_T^\gamma > 20$ GeV and to have a truth-particle-level isolation (computed from the true four-momenta of the generated particles inside a cone of radius 0.4 around the photon direction) $E_T^{\text{true}, \gamma} < 4$ GeV. This truth-particle-level cut has been determined on PYTHIA photon $+$ jet samples to match the efficiency of the experimental isolation cut at 3 GeV (more details can be found in Ref. [10]). In this case, the same underlying event subtraction procedure used on data has been applied at the truth level. In addition, the leading truth jet is required to have $E_T^{\text{true}, \text{jet}} > 20$ GeV and $|y^\text{jet}| < 4.4$. At the truth level the minimum $E_T^\gamma$ is set to 20 GeV to account for possible migrations of photons with true transverse energy below 25 GeV in the reconstructed transverse energy intervals above 25 GeV.

The numerators are determined by applying the selection criteria described in Sec. IV to the simulated signal samples. Since the simulation does not describe accurately the electromagnetic shower profiles, a correction factor for each simulated shape variable is applied to better match the data. We require the reconstructed isolation energy to be less than 3 GeV. As for the truth level, photons are allowed to have a $E_T^{\text{true}, \gamma} > 7$ GeV and $|y^\gamma| < 4.4$. At the truth level the minimum $E_T^\gamma$ is set to 20 GeV to account for possible migrations of photons with true transverse energy below 25 GeV in the reconstructed transverse energy intervals above 25 GeV.

The event selection efficiency typically rises from 50% to 80% as a function of $E_T^\gamma$. An inefficiency of around 15% is due to the acceptance loss originating from a few inoperative optical links in the calorimeter readout and from the isolation requirement. An inefficiency decreasing from 20–25% for $E_T^\gamma = 25$ GeV to almost zero at high $E_T^\gamma$ originates from the shower-shape photon identification selection.

The differential cross section as a function of the photon true transverse energy $E_T^{\text{true}, \gamma}$ is computed in each bin $i$ of $E_T^{\text{true}, \gamma}$ and for each angular configuration $k$ as:

$$\frac{d\sigma^\gamma_i}{dE_T^{\text{true}, \gamma}} = \frac{N_i^{\gamma, \text{true,isol}, k}}{\int L dt \Delta E_T^{\text{true}, \gamma}},$$

where $N_i^{\gamma, \text{true,isol}, k}$ is the number of events containing a true isolated photon and hadronic jets, in which the true photon transverse energy is in bin $i$ and the angular configuration formed by the leading photon and jet is $k$. This number is
related to the observed number of events passing the analysis cuts through the efficiency matrices $\Lambda_{ij}$:

$$N_{i\text{,reco},\text{isol},k} = \sum_j \Lambda_{ij} N_{j\text{,true},\text{isol},k}$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

The unfolding procedure allows the reconstruction of the true number of events from the measured distribution, taking into account the measurement uncertainties due to statistical fluctuations in the finite measured sample. The simplest unfolding method is the basic bin-by-bin unfolding, which corrects the observed cross section in bin $i$ with the efficiency obtained from the ratio of selected events to truth events having the photon with reconstructed and true $E_T$ in bin $i$. A more sophisticated method which properly accounts for migrations between bins is based on the repeated (iterative) application of Bayes’s theorem [39]. The differences in the measured cross section for the two methods are a few percent for events with a central or forward jet and slightly higher for events with a very forward jet. Since the differences are within the statistical errors of the methods, we used the bin-by-bin method for these results.

**VII. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES**

We have considered the following sources of systematic uncertainties in the cross section measurement [40]:

(i) Simulation of the detector geometry. The presence of material in front of the calorimeter affects the photon conversion rate and the development of electromagnetic showers. Therefore the cross section measurement uncertainty depends on the accuracy of the detector simulation. The nominal simulation may underestimate the actual amount of material in front of the calorimeters. To quantify the effect of more material on the cross section, the full analysis is repeated using a detector simulation with a conservative estimate of additional material in front of the calorimeter [25]. In this case the photon identification and reconstruction efficiencies are lower than in the nominal case. The increase in cross section is assigned as a positive systematic uncertainty. In the central and forward jet configurations the systematic uncertainty varies from 5% to 8% for photons with 25 GeV < $E_T$ ≤ 45 GeV and from 1% to 5% for $E_T$ > 45 GeV. In the very forward jet configurations the uncertainty is similarly estimated to range from 10% to 23%.

(ii) Photon simulation. In order to take into account the uncertainty on the event generation and the parton shower model, four additional samples are used: PYTHIA or HERWIG samples containing only hard-scattering photons and PYTHIA or HERWIG samples containing only photons from quark bremsstrahlung. The analysis is repeated using these samples, and the largest positive and negative deviations from the nominal cross section are taken as systematic uncertainties. The deviations are mainly positive, varying from 4% to 16% depending on $E_T$ or the angular configuration.

(iii) Jet and photon energy scale and resolution uncertainties. The cross section uncertainty is determined by varying the electromagnetic and the jet energy scales and resolutions within their uncertainties [25,26]. The effect on the cross section is found to be negligible, with the exception of the effect of the jet energy scale uncertainty, which affects mainly the first $E_T$ bin due to the efficiency of the 20 GeV threshold on $p_T$. For the angular configurations including one central or one forward jet this effect is 3% to 7%, for the configurations containing one very forward jet it is 9% to 20%.

(iv) Uncertainty on the background correlation in the two-dimensional sidebands method. The isolation and identification variables are assumed to be independent for fake photon candidates. This assumption was verified using both data and simulated background samples and was found to be valid within a 10% uncertainty for configurations including a central or a forward jet and within a 25% uncertainty for configurations including a very forward jet. The cross section is recomputed accounting for these possible correlations in the background subtraction [10], and the difference with the nominal result is taken as a systematic uncertainty. This procedure gives a systematic uncertainty on the cross section of 3% and 6% in the first $E_T$ bin for these groups of configurations, respectively. This uncertainty decreases rapidly with increasing $E_T$, being proportional to $1 - P$, where $P$ is the signal purity.

(v) Background control regions definition in the two-dimensional sidebands method. The measurement is repeated using a different set of background identification or isolation criteria in the purity calculation, and the difference between the new cross section and the nominal result is taken as a systematic uncertainty. For background identification, three or five shower-shape variables are reversed instead of four as in the nominal case (more details can be found in Ref. [10]). The deviations on the cross section range from 5% in the central jet configurations to 12% in the forward jet configurations, all decreasing with increasing $E_T$. Varying the isolation cut by ±1 GeV results in less than 1% difference in the cross section.

(vi) Data-driven correction to the photon efficiency. The simulated photon shapes in the calorimeter have been corrected in order to improve the agreement with the data. The systematic uncertainty related to the correction procedure is computed...
using different simulated photon samples and a different simulation of the ATLAS detector and is estimated to be of the order of 1% to 4% in the first $E_T^p$ bin and lower than 1% elsewhere [11].

(vii) Uncertainty on the trigger efficiency. The trigger efficiency in the simulation is consistent with the one measured in data, using a bootstrap method, within the total uncertainty of the in situ measurement (0.6% uncertainty for $E_T^p \leq 45$ GeV and 0.4% for $E_T^p \leq 45$ GeV). These uncertainties are added to the total systematic uncertainty on the cross section.

(viii) Uncertainty on the jet reconstruction efficiency. The simulation is found to reproduce data jet reconstruction efficiencies to better than 2% [41]. A 2% systematic uncertainty to the cross section is assigned.

(ix) Uncertainty on the simulated jet multiplicity. The LO generators used to estimate the signal efficiencies do not reproduce precisely the jet multiplicity observed in data, and the signal efficiency could depend on the multiplicity. Reweighting the simulation in order to reproduce the jet multiplicity observed in data changes the cross section by less than 1%, which is taken as a systematic uncertainty.

(x) Uncertainty on the integrated luminosity. It has been determined to be 3.4% [27,28].

(xi) Isolated electron background. Possible backgrounds may arise from $W +$ jets where the $W$ decays into an electron misidentified as photon, and $W + \gamma$ where the $W$ decays into an electron misidentified as a jet. Additional backgrounds may originate from $Z \rightarrow ee$ where an electron may be misidentified as a photon, and combined with the jet arising from the misidentification of the other electron or with a jet from the rest of the event (in $Z +$ jets). Using simulated samples of these processes, scaled to their cross sections measured in [42–44], the total isolated electron background is estimated to be less than 1.5% of the signal yield measured in data in each photon $E_T^p$ bin. Therefore an asymmetric systematic uncertainty ($+1.5/$1.5)% on the measured cross section is assigned.

The sources of systematic uncertainty discussed above are considered as uncorrelated and thus the total systematic uncertainty (listed in the tables in Appendix B) is estimated by summing in quadrature all the contributions.

VIII. THEORETICAL PREDICTIONS

The expected production cross section of an isolated photon in association with jets as a function of the photon transverse energy $E_T^p$ is estimated using JETPHOX 1.3 [1]. JETPHOX is a parton-level Monte Carlo generator which implements a full NLO QCD calculation of both the direct and fragmentation contributions to the cross section. A parton-level isolation cut, requiring a total transverse energy below 4 GeV from the partons produced with the photon inside a cone of radius $\Delta R = 0.4$ in $\eta \times \phi$ around the photon direction, is used for this computation. The NLO photon fragmentation function [45] and the CT10 parton density functions [46] are used. The nominal renormalization ($\mu_R$), factorization ($\mu_F$) and fragmentation ($\mu_J$) scales are set to the photon transverse energy $E_T^p$.

Jets of partons are reconstructed by using an anti-$k_T$ algorithm with a radius parameter $R = 0.4$. The same transverse momentum and rapidity criteria applied in the measurement to the reconstructed objects are used in the JETPHOX generation for the photon and the leading-$p_T$ jet.

As for data, the event is kept if the two objects are separated by $\Delta R > 1.0$ in $\{\eta, \phi\}$. With this setup the fragmentation contribution to the total cross section decreases as a function of $E_T^p$, from 10% to 1.5% for the same-sign, central jet configuration while it varies from 22% to 2.5% in the same-sign, very forward jet configuration. In the opposite-sign configurations the fragmentation contribution is 20% to 50% (depending on $E_T^p$ and the jet rapidity) higher than in the corresponding same-sign configurations.

The JETPHOX cross section does not include underlying event, pile-up or hadronization effects. While the ambient-energy density correction of the photon isolation removes the effects from underlying event and pile-up on the photon side, potential differences between the JETPHOX theoretical cross section and the measured one may arise from the application of the jet selection, in particular, the transverse momentum threshold of 20 GeV. This cut is applied at parton-level in JETPHOX while it is applied to particle jets in the measured cross section and in the fully simulated PYTHIA and HERWIG samples.

One effect of hadronization is to spread energy outside of the jet area, so the jet $p_T$ will tend to be lower than that of the originating parton(s); on the other hand, the underlying event adds extra particles to the jet candidate and results in the increase of the jet $p_T$. To estimate these effects we use the simulated signal PYTHIA samples to evaluate the ratios of truth-level cross sections with and without hadronization and underlying event, and subsequently we multiply each bin of the JETPHOX cross sections by these ratios. These correction factors are smaller than 1 (around 0.9–0.95) at low $E_T^p$, indicating that the impact of hadronization on the jet $p_T$ is more important than the extra energy added from the underlying event and pile-up. The correction factors are consistent with one at high $E_T^p$. This finding is in agreement with the expectations, since the photon and the jet transverse momenta are correlated and for large $E_T^p$ the $p_T > 20$ GeV cut becomes fully efficient both at parton- and particle-level.

The systematic uncertainties on the QCD cross sections computed with JETPHOX are estimated in the following way:
FIG. 3 (color online). Top graphs: experimental (black dots) and theoretical (blue line) photon + jet production cross sections, for the three same-sign (left column) and the three opposite-sign (right column) angular configurations. The black error bars represent the total experimental uncertainty. The blue bands show the total uncertainties on the theoretical predictions obtained with JETPHOX. Bottom graphs: ratio between the measured and the predicted cross sections. The blue bands show the theoretical uncertainties while the error bars show the experimental uncertainties on the ratio. First row: $|y^{\gamma j}| < 1.2$. Second row: $1.2 \leq |y^{\gamma j}| < 2.8$. Third row: $2.8 \leq |y^{\gamma j}| < 4.4$. 
The scale uncertainty is evaluated by fixing any two scales to the nominal value and varying the third between 0.5 and 2.0 times the nominal value. In addition the effect of the coherent scale variations where all three scales are varied together is also taken into account. The envelope of the values obtained with the different scale configurations is taken as a systematic uncertainty. This leads to a change of the predicted cross section between 15% at low $E_T$ and 10% at high $E_T$.

(ii) The uncertainty on the cross section from the PDF uncertainty has been obtained by varying the PDFs within the 68% confidence level intervals. The corresponding uncertainty on the cross section varies between 5% and 2% as $E_T$ increases. Using a different set of PDFs, such as MSTW 2008 [47] or NNPDF 2.1 [48], the computed cross sections vary always within the total systematic uncertainty on the predicted cross section.

(iii) The uncertainty on the correspondence between parton-level and particle-level isolation cut has been evaluated by varying the cut between 3 and 5 GeV. This variation changes the predicted cross section by a few percent for the central configuration but becomes more important for the forward and very forward configurations, where the fragmentation contribution to the cross section is larger.

(iv) The uncertainty on the hadronization and underlying event corrections is estimated as the maximum spread of the correction factors obtained from PYTHIA using both the nominal and the Perugia 2010 tunes [49] and with HERWIG++ 2.5.1 with the UE7000-2 tune [50]. The expected cross sections with their full statistic and systematic uncertainties for all angular configurations under study are summarized in Appendix A.

IX. COMPARISON BETWEEN DATA AND THEORY

The measured $E_T$-differential cross sections in the six photon-jet angular configurations under study are shown, with the theoretical cross sections overlaid, in Fig. 3. The ratio between data and theory is also plotted, showing the relative deviation of the measured cross section from the predicted cross section across the full $E_T$ range on a linear scale. The error bars represent the combination of statistical and systematic uncertainties, but are dominated by systematic uncertainties in all regions. The numerical results are presented in Appendix B.

The NLO pQCD predictions provided by JETPHOX are in fair agreement with the measured cross sections considering the given experimental and theoretical systematic uncertainties. As already observed in previous measurements of the inclusive prompt photon cross section at the LHC [10,11,51], the data are consistently lower than the theoretical prediction in the $E_T < 45$ GeV region, possibly suggesting an inaccuracy at low $E_T$ of the NLO predictions and the need to perform the theoretical calculations at a higher order in perturbation theory.

X. CONCLUSION

A measurement of the production cross section of an isolated prompt photon in association with jets in $pp$ collisions at a center-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV is presented. The measurement uses an integrated luminosity of 37 pb$^{-1}$ and covers the region $x \geq 0.001$ and $625 \text{ GeV}^2 \leq Q^2 \leq 1.6 \times 10^5 \text{ GeV}^2$, thus extending into kinematic regions previously unexplored with this final state at either hadron or electron-proton colliders. The differential cross section $d\sigma/dE_T$, as a function of the photon transverse energy, has been determined for isolated photons in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 1.37$ and transverse energy $E_T > 25$ GeV, after integration over the jet transverse momenta for $p_T > 20$ GeV. A minimum separation of $\Delta R > 1.0$ in the $\{\eta, \phi\}$ plane is required between the leading jet and the photon. The cross sections are presented separately for the three jet rapidity intervals $|y| < 1.2$, $1.2 \leq |y| < 2.8$ and $2.8 \leq |y| < 4.4$, distinguishing between the same-sign ($\eta^+\eta^- = 0$) and opposite-sign ($\eta^+\eta^- < 0$) configurations. This subdivision allows the comparison between data and NLO perturbative QCD predictions in configurations where the relative contribution of the fragmentation component to the cross section and the explored ranges of the incoming parton momentum fraction $x$ are different. The NLO pQCD cross sections provided by JETPHOX are in fair agreement with the measured ones considering the typical (10% to 30%) experimental and theoretical systematic uncertainties. In the $E_T < 45$ GeV region, the NLO QCD calculation consistently overestimates the measured cross section, as observed in previous determinations of the inclusive prompt photon production cross section.

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APPENDIX A: THEORETICAL PHOTON + JET CROSS SECTION

Tables I, II, III, IV, V, and VI show the theoretical photon + jet differential cross sections, in the six photon-jet angular configurations under study, computed as described in Sec. VIII.

TABLE I. NLO pQCD cross section prediction for the production of an isolated photon in the pseudorapidity range $0.00 \leq |\eta^p| < 1.37$ in association with a jet in the rapidity range $|y^{jet}| < 1.2$ and $p_T^{jet} > 20 \text{ GeV}$ ($\eta^p y^{jet} \geq 0$). The NLO pQCD cross section has been computed with JETPHOX 1.3 using CT10 PDFs. Details on the calculation of the uncertainties are discussed in Sec. VIII. In the last column the nonperturbative correction factor that must multiply the JETPHOX cross section is shown, with its uncertainty.

| $E_T^p$ min [GeV] | $E_T^p$ max [GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^p$ [pb/GeV] | stat uncertainty [pb/GeV] | scale uncertainty [pb/GeV] | PDF uncertainty [pb/GeV] | isolation uncertainty [pb/GeV] | correction factor |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 25                | 30                | 550                    | ±6                       | +41                       | +28                      | +9                       | 0.927 ± 0.036    |
| 30                | 35                | 331                    | ±3                       | +51                       | +16                      | +2                       | 0.951 ± 0.034    |
| 35                | 45                | 156                    | ±1                       | +14                       | +7                       | +0                       | 0.983 ± 0.026    |
| 45                | 55                | 60.4                   | ±0.4                     | +6.6                      | +2.7                     | +0.6                     | 0.992 ± 0.020    |
| 55                | 70                | 24.2                   | ±0.2                     | +2.1                      | +1.0                     | +0.0                     | 1.002 ± 0.025    |
| 70                | 85                | 9.26                   | ±0.06                    | +0.92                     | +0.34                    | +0.00                    | 0.995 ± 0.026    |
| 85                | 100               | 4.21                   | ±0.03                    | +0.37                     | +0.14                    | +0.01                    | 1.001 ± 0.022    |
| 100               | 125               | 1.76                   | ±0.01                    | +0.16                     | +0.05                    | +0.00                    | 0.996 ± 0.017    |
| 125               | 150               | 0.699                  | ±0.004                   | +0.061                    | +0.019                   | +0.005                   | 0.992 ± 0.018    |
| 150               | 200               | 0.236                  | ±0.001                   | +0.024                    | +0.006                   | +0.001                   | 0.997 ± 0.016    |
| 200               |                    | 0.0266                 | ±0.0001                  | +0.0026                   | +0.0008                  | +0.0000                  | 0.988 ± 0.026    |

TABLE II. NLO pQCD cross section prediction for the production of an isolated photon in the pseudorapidity range $0.00 \leq |\eta^p| < 1.37$ in association with a jet in the rapidity range $|y^{jet}| < 1.2$ and $p_T^{jet} > 20 \text{ GeV}$ ($\eta^p y^{jet} < 0$). The NLO pQCD cross section has been computed with JETPHOX 1.3 using CT10 PDFs. Details on the calculation of the uncertainties are discussed in Sec. VIII. In the last column the nonperturbative correction factor that must multiply the JETPHOX cross section is shown, with its uncertainty.

| $E_T^p$ min [GeV] | $E_T^p$ max [GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^p$ [pb/GeV] | stat uncertainty [pb/GeV] | scale uncertainty [pb/GeV] | PDF uncertainty [pb/GeV] | isolation uncertainty [pb/GeV] | correction factor |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 25                | 30                | 420                    | ±5                       | +49                       | +21                      | +8                       | 0.925 ± 0.041    |
| 30                | 35                | 261                    | ±2                       | +27                       | +11                      | +0                       | 0.943 ± 0.049    |
| 35                | 45                | 118                    | ±1                       | +17                       | +6                       | +2                       | 0.980 ± 0.032    |
| 45                | 55                | 47.0                   | ±0.3                     | +4.3                      | +2.6                     | +0.9                     | 0.979 ± 0.029    |
| 55                | 70                | 17.2                   | ±0.1                     | +2.8                      | +0.8                     | +0.9                     | 0.982 ± 0.025    |
| 70                | 85                | 6.72                   | ±0.05                    | +0.62                     | +0.28                    | +0.03                    | 0.995 ± 0.018    |
| 85                | 100               | 2.93                   | ±0.02                    | +0.34                     | +0.11                    | +0.01                    | 0.981 ± 0.031    |
| 100               | 125               | 1.24                   | ±0.01                    | +0.14                     | +0.04                    | +0.01                    | 0.989 ± 0.025    |
| 125               | 150               | 0.469                  | ±0.003                   | -0.039                    | -0.016                   | -0.007                   | 0.992 ± 0.027    |
| 150               | 200               | 0.159                  | ±0.001                   | -0.015                    | -0.005                   | -0.001                   | 0.984 ± 0.019    |
| 200               | 400               | 0.0169                 | ±0.0001                  | -0.0015                   | -0.0007                  | -0.0003                  | 0.991 ± 0.026    |
TABLE III. NLO pQCD cross section prediction for the production of an isolated photon in the pseudorapidity range $0.00 \leq |\eta^\gamma| < 1.37$ in association with a jet in the rapidity range $1.2 \leq |y^\text{jet}| < 2.8$ and $p_T^\text{jet} > 20$ GeV ($\eta^\gamma y^\text{jet} \geq 0$). The NLO pQCD cross section has been computed with JETPHOX 1.3 using CT10 PDFs. Details on the calculation of the uncertainties are discussed in Sec. VIII. In the last column the nonperturbative correction factor that must multiply the JETPHOX cross section is shown, with its uncertainty.

| $E_T^\gamma$ min [GeV] | $E_T^\gamma$ max [GeV] | $\frac{d\sigma}{dE_T^\gamma}$ [pb/GeV] | stat uncertainty [pb/GeV] | scale uncertainty [pb/GeV] | PDF uncertainty [pb/GeV] | isolation uncertainty [pb/GeV] | correction factor |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 25                    | 30                    | 434                           | $\pm 5$                  | $+49$                     | $+18$                  | $+3$                         | 0.925 $\pm$ 0.054 |
| 30                    | 35                    | 258                           | $\pm 2$                  | $+35$                     | $+34$                  | $+9$                         | 0.955 $\pm$ 0.034 |
| 35                    | 45                    | 120                           | $\pm 1$                  | $+17$                     | $+14$                  | $+4$                         | 0.988 $\pm$ 0.021 |
| 45                    | 55                    | 42.4                          | $\pm 0.3$                | $+6.5$                    | $+3.7$                 | $+1.5$                        | 0.993 $\pm$ 0.023 |
| 55                    | 70                    | 16.7                          | $\pm 0.1$                | $+1.8$                    | $+1.8$                 | $+0.4$                        | 0.997 $\pm$ 0.025 |
| 70                    | 85                    | 6.02                          | $\pm 0.05$               | $+0.3$                    | $+0.3$                 | $+0.5$                        | 0.994 $\pm$ 0.015 |
| 85                    | 100                   | 2.66                          | $\pm 0.02$               | $+0.3$                    | $+0.3$                 | $+0.5$                        | 0.989 $\pm$ 0.020 |
| 100                   | 125                   | 1.09                          | $\pm 0.01$               | $+0.1$                    | $+0.1$                 | $+0.7$                        | 0.997 $\pm$ 0.020 |
| 125                   | 150                   | 0.401                         | $\pm 0.003$              | $+0.01$                   | $+0.001$               | $+0.03$                       | 0.998 $\pm$ 0.020 |
| 150                   | 200                   | 0.125                         | $\pm 0.001$              | $+0.01$                   | $+0.001$               | $+0.03$                       | 0.994 $\pm$ 0.023 |
| 200                   | 400                   | 0.0118                        | $\pm 0.0001$             | $+0.0011$                 | $+0.00011$             | $+0.0003$                     | 0.993 $\pm$ 0.017 |

TABLE IV. NLO pQCD cross section prediction for the production of an isolated photon in the pseudorapidity range $0.00 \leq |\eta^\gamma| < 1.37$ in association with a jet in the rapidity range $1.2 \leq |y^\text{jet}| < 2.8$ and $p_T^\text{jet} > 20$ GeV ($\eta^\gamma y^\text{jet} < 0$). The NLO pQCD cross section has been computed with JETPHOX 1.3 using CT10 PDFs. Details on the calculation of the uncertainties are discussed in Sec. VIII. In the last column the nonperturbative correction factor that must multiply the JETPHOX cross section is shown, with its uncertainty.

| $E_T^\gamma$ min [GeV] | $E_T^\gamma$ max [GeV] | $\frac{d\sigma}{dE_T^\gamma}$ [pb/GeV] | stat uncertainty [pb/GeV] | scale uncertainty [pb/GeV] | PDF uncertainty [pb/GeV] | isolation uncertainty [pb/GeV] | correction factor |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 25                    | 30                    | 260                           | $\pm 3$                  | $+33$                     | $+13$                  | $+0$                         | 0.935 $\pm$ 0.075 |
| 30                    | 35                    | 141                           | $\pm 1$                  | $+27$                     | $+6$                   | $+0$                         | 0.909 $\pm$ 0.055 |
| 35                    | 45                    | 60                            | $\pm 1$                  | $+17$                     | $+3$                   | $+1$                         | 0.975 $\pm$ 0.034 |
| 45                    | 55                    | 22.3                          | $\pm 0.2$                | $+3.8$                    | $+0.8$                 | $+0$                         | 0.962 $\pm$ 0.051 |
| 55                    | 70                    | 8.1                           | $\pm 0.1$                | $+1.5$                    | $+0.3$                 | $-0.3$                       | 0.961 $\pm$ 0.047 |
| 70                    | 85                    | 2.81                          | $\pm 0.02$               | $+0.45$                   | $-0.09$                | $-0.07$                      | 0.985 $\pm$ 0.024 |
| 85                    | 100                   | 1.14                          | $\pm 0.01$               | $+0.24$                   | $+0.04$                | $+0.00$                      | 0.998 $\pm$ 0.035 |
| 100                   | 125                   | 0.456                         | $\pm 0.004$              | $+0.078$                  | $+0.016$               | $+0.002$                     | 0.974 $\pm$ 0.036 |
| 125                   | 150                   | 0.157                         | $\pm 0.002$              | $+0.040$                  | $+0.005$               | $+0.002$                     | 0.979 $\pm$ 0.040 |
| 150                   | 200                   | 0.0481                        | $\pm 0.0005$             | $+0.0086$                 | $+0.0022$              | $+0.0010$                    | 0.979 $\pm$ 0.031 |
| 200                   | 400                   | 0.00422                       | $\pm 0.00005$            | $+0.00099$                | $+0.00024$             | $+0.00002$                   | 0.966 $\pm$ 0.028 |
In the last column the nonperturbative correction factor that must multiply the JETPHOX cross section is shown, with its uncertainty.

### TABLE VI. NLO pQCD cross section prediction for the production of an isolated photon in the pseudorapidity range 0.00 ≤ |η| < 1.37 in association with a jet in the rapidity range 2.8 ≤ |y| ≤ 4.4 and p_T > 20 GeV (η^γ_/< 0). The NLO pQCD cross section has been computed with JETPHOX 1.3 using CT10 PDFs. Details on the calculation of the uncertainties are discussed in Sec. VIII.

| E_T^γ [GeV] | E_T^j [GeV] | dσ/daT | stat uncertainty [pb/GeV] | scale uncertainty [pb/GeV] | PDF uncertainty [pb/GeV] | isolation uncertainty [pb/GeV] | correction factor |
|-------------|-------------|--------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 25          | 30          | 91     | ±2                         | +18                       | +2                      | +10                           | 0.904 ± 0.062    |
| 30          | 35          | 47     | ±1                         | +12                       | +1                      | +5                            | 0.919 ± 0.071    |
| 35          | 45          | 19.8   | ±0.3                       | +4.4                      | +0.4                    | +1.4                           | 0.959 ± 0.035    |
| 45          | 55          | 6.14   | ±0.11                      | +2.31                     | +0.18                   | +0.59                          | 0.950 ± 0.068    |
| 55          | 70          | 1.97   | ±0.04                      | +0.38                     | +0.07                   | +0.09                          | 0.960 ± 0.066    |
| 70          | 85          | 0.556  | ±0.013                     | +0.147                    | +0.026                  | +0.009                         | 0.975 ± 0.067    |
| 85          | 100         | 0.204  | ±0.005                     | +0.049                    | +0.012                  | +0.010                         | 0.973 ± 0.079    |
| 100         | 125         | 0.064  | ±0.002                     | +0.008                    | +0.004                  | +0.003                         | 0.973 ± 0.056    |
| 125         | 150         | 0.0146 | ±0.00005                   | +0.0019                   | +0.0014                 | +0.0012                        | 0.979 ± 0.068    |
| 150         | 200         | 0.0027 | ±0.0001                    | +0.0007                   | +0.0004                 | +0.0044                        | 1.004 ± 0.056    |

In the last column the nonperturbative correction factor that must multiply the JETPHOX cross section is shown, with its uncertainty.

### TABLE VI. NLO pQCD cross section prediction for the production of an isolated photon in the pseudorapidity range 0.00 ≤ |η| < 1.37 in association with a jet in the rapidity range 2.8 ≤ |y| ≤ 4.4 and p_T > 20 GeV (η^γ_/< 0). The NLO pQCD cross section has been computed with JETPHOX 1.3 using CT10 PDFs. Details on the calculation of the uncertainties are discussed in Sec. VIII.

| E_T^γ [GeV] | E_T^j [GeV] | dσ/daT | stat uncertainty [pb/GeV] | scale uncertainty [pb/GeV] | PDF uncertainty [pb/GeV] | isolation uncertainty [pb/GeV] | correction factor |
|-------------|-------------|--------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 25          | 30          | 53     | ±1                         | +17                       | +1                      | +1                            | 0.84 ± 0.26      |
| 30          | 35          | 27     | ±0                         | +7                        | +1                      | +1                            | 0.81 ± 0.21      |
| 35          | 45          | 10.4   | ±0.2                       | +3.5                      | +0.3                    | +0.5                           | 0.92 ± 0.09      |
| 45          | 55          | 3.37   | ±0.05                      | +0.88                     | +0.12                   | +0.23                          | 0.88 ± 0.08      |
| 55          | 70          | 1.00   | ±0.02                      | +0.30                     | +0.04                   | +0.10                          | 0.93 ± 0.15      |
| 70          | 85          | 0.287  | ±0.0005                    | +0.094                    | +0.017                  | +0.005                         | 0.95 ± 0.06      |
| 85          | 100         | 0.091  | ±0.0002                    | +0.035                    | +0.007                  | +0.004                         | 0.97 ± 0.10      |
| 100         | 125         | 0.028  | ±0.0001                    | +0.010                    | +0.003                  | +0.000                         | 0.94 ± 0.12      |
| 125         | 150         | 0.0067 | ±0.0002                    | +0.0030                   | +0.0008                 | +0.0000                        | 1.00 ± 0.11      |
| 150         | 200         | 0.0014 | ±0.0001                    | +0.0000                   | +0.0002                 | +0.0000                        | 0.92 ± 0.21      |
APPENDIX B: MEASURED PHOTON + JET CROSS SECTION

Tables VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, and XII show the measured photon + jet differential cross sections, in the six photon-jet angular configurations under study, and the comparison to the theoretical predictions.

### TABLE VII

| $E_T^\gamma$ min [GeV] | $E_T^\gamma$ max [GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ stat [pb/GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ syst [pb/GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ total exp. uncertainty [pb/GeV] | Measured cross section | Predicted cross section |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 25                     | 30                     | ±8                              | +74                             | +74                             | 510                    | 510                    |
| 30                     | 35                     | ±6                              | +49                             | +50                             | 315                    | 315                    |
| 35                     | 45                     | ±3                              | +27                             | +27                             | 153                    | 153                    |
| 45                     | 55                     | ±0.7                            | +7.0                            | +7.1                            | 59.9                   | 59.9                   |
| 55                     | 70                     | ±0.3                            | +3.0                            | +3.0                            | 24.3                   | 24.3                   |
| 70                     | 85                     | ±0.20                           | +1.22                           | +1.24                           | 9.21                   | 9.21                   |
| 85                     | 100                    | ±0.15                           | +0.55                           | +0.57                           | 4.21                   | 4.21                   |
| 100                    | 125                    | ±0.07                           | +0.23                           | +0.24                           | 1.76                   | 1.76                   |
| 125                    | 150                    | ±0.038                          | +0.096                          | +0.103                          | 0.693                  | 0.693                  |
| 150                    | 200                    | ±0.017                          | +0.032                          | +0.036                          | 0.236                  | 0.236                  |
| 200                    | 400                    | ±0.0028                         | +0.0041                         | +0.0050                         | 0.0263                 | 0.0263                 |

### TABLE VIII

| $E_T^\gamma$ min [GeV] | $E_T^\gamma$ max [GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ stat [pb/GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ syst [pb/GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ total exp. uncertainty [pb/GeV] | Measured cross section | Predicted cross section |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 25                     | 30                     | ±7                              | +64                             | +65                             | 389                    | 389                    |
| 30                     | 35                     | ±5                              | +41                             | +41                             | 246                    | 246                    |
| 35                     | 45                     | ±3                              | +23                             | +23                             | 116                    | 116                    |
| 45                     | 55                     | ±0.5                            | +5.6                            | +5.6                            | 46.0                   | 46.0                   |
| 55                     | 70                     | ±0.3                            | +2.4                            | +2.4                            | 16.9                   | 16.9                   |
| 70                     | 85                     | ±0.18                           | +0.97                           | +0.99                           | 6.68                   | 6.68                   |
| 85                     | 100                    | ±0.14                           | +0.38                           | +0.40                           | 2.87                   | 2.87                   |
| 100                    | 125                    | ±0.05                           | +0.17                           | +0.17                           | 1.22                   | 1.22                   |
| 125                    | 150                    | ±0.037                          | +0.065                          | +0.075                          | 0.466                  | 0.466                  |
| 150                    | 200                    | ±0.014                          | +0.023                          | +0.027                          | 0.156                  | 0.156                  |
| 200                    | 400                    | ±0.0022                         | +0.0028                         | +0.0035                         | 0.0167                 | 0.0167                 |
TABLE IX. Measured cross section as a function of the photon transverse energy, $E_T^\gamma$, for $|\eta^\gamma| \leq 1.37$, $1.2 \leq |y^{jet}| < 2.8$ and $\eta^\gamma y^{jet} \geq 0$. The last two columns show the cross section predicted by JETPHOX and multiplied by the corresponding nonperturbative correction factor, and its uncertainty.

| $E_T^\gamma$ min [GeV] | $E_T^\gamma$ max [GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ [pb/GeV] | Measured cross section | Predicted cross section |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                        |                        | stat [pb/GeV]                 | syst [pb/GeV]          | total exp. uncertainty [pb/GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ [pb/GeV] | total theory uncertainty [pb/GeV] |
| 25                     | 30                     | 316                           | ±7 $dE_T^\gamma$       | +54 $dE_T^\gamma$      | +55 $dE_T^\gamma$         | 401 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +53 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 30                     | 35                     | 210                           | ±6 $dE_T^\gamma$       | +37 $dE_T^\gamma$      | +37 $dE_T^\gamma$         | 247 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +34 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 35                     | 45                     | 105                           | ±2 $dE_T^\gamma$       | +19 $dE_T^\gamma$      | +19 $dE_T^\gamma$         | 119 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +17 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 45                     | 55                     | 43.6                          | ±0.6 $dE_T^\gamma$     | +5.0 $dE_T^\gamma$     | +5.1 $dE_T^\gamma$        | 42.1 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +6.7 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 55                     | 70                     | 17.5                          | ±0.3 $dE_T^\gamma$     | +2.1 $dE_T^\gamma$     | +2.2 $dE_T^\gamma$        | 16.6 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +2.0 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 70                     | 85                     | 6.39                          | ±0.17 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.82 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.84 $dE_T^\gamma$       | 5.99 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.70 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 85                     | 100                    | 2.71                          | ±0.10 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.35 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.36 $dE_T^\gamma$       | 2.63 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.30 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 100                    | 125                    | 1.27                          | ±0.05 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.17 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.18 $dE_T^\gamma$       | 1.08 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.12 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 125                    | 150                    | 0.441                         | ±0.028 $dE_T^\gamma$   | +0.062 $dE_T^\gamma$   | +0.068 $dE_T^\gamma$      | 0.400 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.052 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 150                    | 200                    | 0.102                         | ±0.012 $dE_T^\gamma$   | +0.015 $dE_T^\gamma$   | +0.019 $dE_T^\gamma$      | 0.125 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.010 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 200                    | 400                    | 0.0090                        | ±0.0017 $dE_T^\gamma$  | +0.0013 $dE_T^\gamma$  | +0.0022 $dE_T^\gamma$     | 0.0117 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.0003 $dE_T^\gamma$ |

TABLE X. Measured cross section as a function of the photon transverse energy, $E_T^\gamma$, for $|\eta^\gamma| \leq 1.37$, $1.2 \leq |y^{jet}| < 2.8$ and $\eta^\gamma y^{jet} < 0$. The last two columns show the cross section predicted by JETPHOX and multiplied by the corresponding nonperturbative correction factor, and its uncertainty.

| $E_T^\gamma$ min [GeV] | $E_T^\gamma$ max [GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ [pb/GeV] | Measured cross section | Predicted cross section |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                        |                        | stat [pb/GeV]                 | syst [pb/GeV]          | total exp. uncertainty [pb/GeV] | $d\sigma/dE_T^\gamma$ [pb/GeV] | total theory uncertainty [pb/GeV] |
| 25                     | 30                     | 188                           | ±6 $dE_T^\gamma$       | +35 $dE_T^\gamma$      | +36 $dE_T^\gamma$         | 243 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +38 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 30                     | 35                     | 115                           | ±4 $dE_T^\gamma$       | +22 $dE_T^\gamma$      | +23 $dE_T^\gamma$         | 128 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +24 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 35                     | 45                     | 58                            | ±2 $dE_T^\gamma$       | +11 $dE_T^\gamma$      | +12 $dE_T^\gamma$         | 58 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +12 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 45                     | 55                     | 24.1                          | ±0.5 $dE_T^\gamma$     | +3.1 $dE_T^\gamma$     | +3.1 $dE_T^\gamma$        | 21.5 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +3.9 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 55                     | 70                     | 8.8                           | ±0.2 $dE_T^\gamma$     | +1.2 $dE_T^\gamma$     | +1.2 $dE_T^\gamma$        | 7.8 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +1.5 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 70                     | 85                     | 3.32                          | ±0.11 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.46 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.48 $dE_T^\gamma$       | 2.76 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.41 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 85                     | 100                    | 1.49                          | ±0.09 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.16 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.19 $dE_T^\gamma$       | 1.14 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.25 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 100                    | 125                    | 0.54                          | ±0.04 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.06 $dE_T^\gamma$    | +0.07 $dE_T^\gamma$       | 0.44 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.08 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 125                    | 150                    | 0.175                         | ±0.022 $dE_T^\gamma$   | +0.022 $dE_T^\gamma$   | +0.031 $dE_T^\gamma$      | 0.154 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.021 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 150                    | 200                    | 0.055                         | ±0.008 $dE_T^\gamma$   | +0.007 $dE_T^\gamma$   | +0.011 $dE_T^\gamma$      | 0.047 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.009 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
| 200                    | 400                    | 0.0041                        | ±0.0010 $dE_T^\gamma$  | +0.0006 $dE_T^\gamma$  | +0.0011 $dE_T^\gamma$     | 0.0041 $dE_T^\gamma$ | +0.0001 $dE_T^\gamma$ |
TABLE XI. Measured cross section as a function of the photon transverse energy, $E_T^{\gamma}$, for $|\eta| \leq 1.37$, $2.8 \leq |y^{\text{jet}}| < 4.4$ and $\eta^{\text{jet}} \geq 0$. The last two columns show the cross section predicted by JETPHOX and multiplied by the corresponding nonperturbative correction factor, and its uncertainty.

| $E_T^{\gamma}$ min [GeV] | $E_T^{\gamma}$ max [GeV] | $\frac{d\sigma}{dE_T^{\gamma}}$ [pb/GeV] | stat [pb/GeV] | syst [pb/GeV] | total exp. uncertainty [pb/GeV] | $\frac{d\sigma}{dE_T^{\gamma}}$ [pb/GeV] | total theory uncertainty [pb/GeV] |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 25                       | 30                       | 66                              | ±4             | +18         | +19                           | 82                           | +20                           |
| 30                       | 35                       | 46                              | ±3             | +13         | +13                           | 43                           | +12                           |
| 35                       | 45                       | 20                              | ±1             | +6          | +6                            | 19                           | +4                            |
| 45                       | 55                       | 8.1                             | ±0.3           | +1.4        | +1.4                          | 5.8                          | +2.3                          |
| 55                       | 70                       | 2.4                             | ±0.1           | +0.4        | +0.4                          | 1.9                          | +0.4                          |
| 70                       | 85                       | 0.86                            | ±0.06          | +0.15       | +0.17                         | 0.54                         | +0.15                         |
| 85                       | 100                      | 0.24                            | ±0.03          | +0.03       | +0.04                         | 0.20                         | +0.05                         |
| 100                      | 125                      | 0.07                            | ±0.01          | +0.01       | +0.02                         | 0.06                         | +0.01                         |
| 125                      | 150                      | 0.014                           | ±0.007         | +0.002      | +0.007                        | 0.014                        | +0.003                        |
| 150                      | 200                      | 0.0028                          | ±0.0019        | +0.0004     | +0.0019                       | 0.0027                       | +0.0009                       |

TABLE XII. Measured cross section as a function of the photon transverse energy, $E_T^{\gamma}$, for $|\eta| \leq 1.37$, $2.8 \leq |y^{\text{jet}}| < 4.4$ and $\eta^{\text{jet}} < 0$. The last two columns show the cross section predicted by JETPHOX and multiplied by the corresponding nonperturbative correction factor, and its uncertainty.

| $E_T^{\gamma}$ min [GeV] | $E_T^{\gamma}$ max [GeV] | $\frac{d\sigma}{dE_T^{\gamma}}$ [pb/GeV] | stat [pb/GeV] | syst [pb/GeV] | total exp. uncertainty [pb/GeV] | $\frac{d\sigma}{dE_T^{\gamma}}$ [pb/GeV] | total theory uncertainty [pb/GeV] |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 25                       | 30                       | 31                              | ±4             | +12         | +13                           | 44                           | +19                           |
| 30                       | 35                       | 21                              | ±2             | +8          | +9                            | 22                           | +6                            |
| 35                       | 45                       | 12                              | ±1             | +5          | +5                            | 10                           | +3                            |
| 45                       | 55                       | 3.5                             | ±0.2           | +1.1        | +1.1                          | 3.0                          | +0.8                          |
| 55                       | 70                       | 1.5                             | ±0.1           | +0.5        | +0.5                          | 0.9                          | +0.3                          |
| 70                       | 85                       | 0.38                            | ±0.04          | +0.11       | +0.12                         | 0.27                         | +0.09                         |
| 85                       | 100                      | 0.12                            | ±0.02          | +0.01       | +0.03                         | 0.09                         | +0.04                         |
| 100                      | 125                      | 0.036                           | ±0.011         | +0.002      | +0.001                        | 0.027                        | +0.001                        |
| 125                      | 150                      | 0.015                           | ±0.007         | +0.002      | +0.007                        | 0.007                        | +0.003                        |
| 150                      | 200                      | 0.0023                          | ±0.0019        | +0.0003     | +0.0019                       | 0.0013                       | +0.0005                       |

APPENDIX C: THE ATLAS COLLABORATION

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The ATLAS reference system is a Cartesian right-handed coordinate system, with the nominal collision point at the origin. The anticlockwise beam direction defines the positive z-axis, while the positive x-axis is defined as pointing from the collision point to the center of the LHC ring and the positive y-axis points upwards. The azimuthal angle \( \phi \) is measured around the beam axis, and the polar angle \( \theta \) is measured with respect to the z-axis. Pseudorapidity is defined as \( \eta = -\ln(\tan(\theta/2)) \), and transverse energy is defined as \( E_T = E \sin \theta \).
MEASUREMENT OF THE PRODUCTION CROSS SECTION ...

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