Azimuthal decorrelations and multiple parton interactions in \( \gamma + 2 \) jet and \( \gamma + 3 \) jet events in \( p\bar{p} \) collisions at \( \sqrt{s} = 1.96 \) TeV

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Samples of inclusive $\gamma + 2$ jet and $\gamma + 3$ jet events collected by the D0 experiment with an integrated luminosity of about $1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ in $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96 \text{ TeV}$ are used to measure cross sections as a function of the angle in the plane transverse to the beam direction between the transverse momentum ($p_T$) of the $\gamma$-leading jet system (jets are ordered in $p_T$) and $p_T$ of the other jet for $\gamma + 2$ jet, or $p_T$ sum of the two other jets for $\gamma + 3$ jet events. The results are compared to different models of multiple parton interactions (MPI) in the pythia and sherpa Monte Carlo (MC) generators. The data indicate a contribution from events with double parton (DP) interactions and are well described by predictions provided by the pythia MPI models with $p_T$-ordered showers and by sherpa with the default MPI model. The $\gamma + 2$ jet data are also used to determine the fraction of events with DP interactions as a function of the azimuthal angle and as a function of the second jet $p_T$.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The high energy scattering of two nucleons can be considered, in a simplified model, as a single collision of one parton (quark or gluon) from one nucleon with one parton from the other nucleon. In this approach, the remaining "spectator" partons, which do not take part in the hard $2 \to 2$ parton collision, participate in the so-called "underlying event." However, there are also models that allow for the possibility that two or more parton pairs undergo a hard interaction when two hadrons collide. These MPI events have been examined in many theoretical papers [1–17]. A comprehensive review of MPI models in hadron collisions is given in [9]. A significant amount of experimental data, from the CERN ISR $pp$ collider [18], the CERN SPS $pp$ collider [19], the Fermilab Tevatron $p\bar{p}$ collider [20–24] and the DESY HERA $ep$ collider [25, 26], shows clear evidence for MPI events.

In addition to parton distribution functions (PDF) and parton cross sections, the rates of double and triple parton scattering also depend on how the partons are spatially distributed within the hadron. The spatial parton distributions are implemented in various phenomenologi-
cal models that have been proposed over the last 25 years. They have evolved from the first “simple” model suggested in [7], to more sophisticated models [10, 11] that consider MPI with correlations in parton momentum and color, as well as effects balancing MPI and initial and final state radiation (ISR and FSR) effects, which are implemented in the recent (“$p_T$-ordered”) models [12].

Beyond the motivation of better understanding non-perturbative quantum chromodynamics (QCD), a more realistic modeling of the underlying event and an estimate of the contributions from DP interactions are important for studying background events for many rare processes, including searches for the Higgs boson [27–31]. Uncertainties in the choice of the underlying event model and related corrections also cause uncertainty in measurements of the top quark mass. This uncertainty can be as large as 1.0 GeV [32], a value obtained from a comparison of MPI models with virtuality-ordered [9] (“old” models) and $p_T$-ordered [12] (“new” models) parton showers.

In a previous paper [24], we have studied the $\gamma + 3$ jet final state and extracted the fractions of DP events from a comparison of angular distributions in data with templates obtained from a data-driven DP model. That paper also presented the effective cross section ($\sigma_{\text{eff}}$), which characterizes the size of the effective parton–parton interaction region and can be used to calculate the DP cross sections for various pairs of parton scattering processes.

In this paper, we extend our previous study by measuring differential cross sections for the angle in the plane transverse to the beam direction between the $p_T$ vector obtained by pairing the photon and the leading (ordered in $p_T$) jet and the $p_T$ vector of the other (two) jet(s) in $\gamma + 2(3)$ jet + $X$ events (referred to below as “$\gamma + 2(3)$ jet” events). These cross sections are sensitive to the contributions of jets originating from additional parton hard interactions (beyond the dominant one) and can be used to improve existing MPI models, and to estimate the fractions of such events [21, 24, 33]. The cross section measurements are performed at the particle level, which means that the jets’ four-momenta represent the real energy and direction of the jet of stable particles resulting from the hadronization process following the $p\bar{p}$ interaction [34]. The larger statistics in $\gamma + 2$ jet events allows to subdivide the cross section measurement in bins of the second jet $p_T$ ($p_T^{\text{jett}2}$). This extension increases the sensitivity to various MPI models.

In contrast with angular, $p_T$, and multiplicity distributions of low $p_T$ tracks traditionally used to test MPI models [9, 10], we analyze events with high $p_T$ jets ($p_T > 15$ GeV). Our approach complements the previous one since the MPI models have not been well tested in high $p_T$ regimes, yet this kinematic region is the most important for searches for rare processes for which DP events are a potential background [27–31].

This paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we describe the variables used in the analysis and motivate our choice of selection criteria. In Sec. III, we describe the D0 detector and the identification criteria for photons and jets. In Sec. IV, we describe the theoretical models used for comparison with data. In Sec. V, we discuss the corrections applied to the data in the cross section measurements and the related uncertainties. The measured cross sections and comparisons with some model predictions are presented in Sec. VI. In Sec. VII, we extract the fraction of DP events in the $\gamma + 2$ jet final state as a function of $p_T^{\text{jett}2}$. In Sec. VIII, we estimate the fractions of $\gamma + 3$ jet events occurring due to triple parton scattering, in bins of $p_T^{\text{jett}2}$. Section IX presents our conclusions.

II. VARIABLES

In this paper, we follow the notation used in our previous analysis [24] to distinguish between two classes of events. In events of the first class, the photon and all jets originate from the same single parton–parton interaction (SP) with hard gluon bremsstrahlung in the initial or final state. In the second class, at least one of the jets originates from an additional parton interaction and thus we have at least two parton–parton interactions.

To identify events with two independent parton–parton scatterings that produce a $\gamma + 3$ jet final state, we use an angular distribution sensitive to the kinematics of the DP events [24]. We define an azimuthal angle between the $p_T$ vector of the $\gamma$ + leading jet system and the $p_T$ sum of the two other jets:

$$\Delta S \equiv \Delta \phi \left( \vec{p}_T^A, \vec{p}_T^B \right),$$

where $\vec{p}_T^A = \vec{p}_{T\gamma} + \vec{p}_{T1}^{\text{jett}1}$ and $\vec{p}_T^B = \vec{p}_{T2}^{\text{jett}2} + \vec{p}_{T3}^{\text{jett}3}$.

Figure 1 shows the sum $p_T$ vectors of the $\gamma$ + leading jet and jet2 + jet3 systems in $\gamma + 3$ jet events.

Figure 1 shows the sum $p_T$ vectors of the $\gamma$ + leading jet and jet2 + jet3 systems in $\gamma + 3$ jet events. In SP events, topologies with two radiated jets emitted close to the leading jet (recoiling against the photon direction in $\phi$) are preferred and resulting in a peak at $\Delta S = \pi$. However, this peak is smeared by the effects of additional gluon radiation and detector resolution. For a simple model of DP events, with both the second and third jets originating from the second parton interaction, we have
exact pairwise balance in $p_T$ in both the $\gamma + 1$ jet and dijet system, and thus the $\Delta S$ angle can have any value, i.e., we expect a uniform $\Delta S$ distribution [35].

In this paper, we extend the study of DP interaction to the $\gamma + 2$ jet events. In the presence of a DP interaction the second jet in the event originates from a dijet system in the additional parton interaction and the third jet is either not reconstructed or below the $p_T$ threshold applied in the event selection.

In the case of $\gamma + 2$ jet events, we introduce a different angular variable, analogous to (1), to retain sensitivity to DP events. This variable is the azimuthal angle between the $p_T$ vector obtained by pairing the photon and the leading jet $p_T$ vectors and the second jet $p_T$ vector:

$$\Delta \phi \equiv \Delta \phi \left( \vec{p}_T^\gamma, \vec{p}_T^{jet2} \right).$$

Figure 2 shows a diagram defining the $p_T$ of the two systems in $\gamma + 2$ jet events and the individual $p_T$ of the objects. The $\Delta \phi$ distribution in $\gamma + 2$ jet events has been used to estimate the DP fraction by the CDF Collaboration [33].

![Diagram showing the $p_T$ vectors of the $\gamma+1$ leading jet system and $\vec{p}_T^{jet2}$ in $\gamma+2$ jet events.](image)

The $p_T$ spectrum for jets from dijet events falls faster than that for jets, resulting from ISR and FSR in $\gamma + 1$ jet events, and thus the DP fractions should depend on the jet $p_T$ [1, 3-6, 9, 24]. For this reason, the $\Delta \phi$ dependent cross sections and the DP fractions in the $\gamma + 2$ jet events are measured in three $p_T^{jet2}$ bins: $15 - 20$, $20 - 25$, and $25 - 30$ GeV. The $\Delta S$ dependent cross section is measured in $\gamma + 3$ jet events (a subsample of the inclusive $\gamma + 2$ jet sample) in a single $p_T^{jet2}$ interval, $15 - 30$ GeV. Such a measurement provides good sensitivity to the DP contribution, and discriminating power between different MPI models because the DP fraction in $\gamma + 3$ jet events is expected to be higher than that in $\gamma + 2$ jet events. This is expected since the second parton interaction will usually produce a dijet final state, while the production of an additional jet in SP events via gluon bremsstrahlung is suppressed by the strong coupling constant $\alpha_s$.

III. D0 DETECTOR AND DATA SAMPLES

The D0 detector is a general purpose detector described elsewhere in detail [36]. Here we briefly describe the detector systems most relevant for this analysis. Photon candidates are identified as isolated clusters of energy deposits in the uranium and liquid-argon sampling calorimeter. The calorimeter consists of a central section with coverage in pseudorapidity $|\eta_{det}| < 1.1$ [37] and two end calorimeters covering up to $|\eta_{det}| \approx 4.2$. The electromagnetic (EM) section of the calorimeter is segmented longitudinally into four layers, with transverse energy deposits in cells of size $\Delta \eta_{det} \times \Delta \phi_{det} = 0.1 \times 0.1$, except for the third layer, where it is $0.05 \times 0.05$. The hadronic portion of the calorimeter is located behind the EM section. The calorimeter surrounds a tracking system consisting of silicon microstrip and scintillating fiber trackers, both located within a solenoidal magnetic field of approximately 2 T.

The events used in this analysis are required to pass triggers based on the identification of high $E_T$ clusters in the EM calorimeter with a shower shape consistent with that expected for photons. These triggers are 100% efficient for photons with transverse momentum $p_T^\gamma > 35$ GeV. To select photon candidates for our data sample, we use the following criteria [24, 38]. EM objects are reconstructed using a simple cone algorithm with a cone size $R = 0.2$ around a seed tower in $\eta - \phi$ space [38]. Regions with poor photon identification capability and limited $p_T^\gamma$ resolution (found at the boundaries between calorimeter modules and between the central and end calorimeters) are excluded from the analysis.

Each photon candidate is required to deposit more than 96% of its detected energy in the EM section of the calorimeter and to be isolated in the annular region between $R = 0.2$ and $R = 0.4$ around the center of the cluster: $(E_{iso}^{tot} - E_{iso}^{core})/E_{iso}^{core} < 0.07$, where $E_{iso}^{tot}$ is the total (EM+hadronic) energy in the cone of radius $R = 0.4$ and $E_{iso}^{core}$ is the EM tower energy within a radius $R = 0.2$. The probability for candidate EM clusters to be spatially matched to a reconstructed track is required to be $< 0.1\%$, where this probability is calculated using the spatial resolutions measured in data. We also require the energy-weighted EM cluster width in the finely-segmented third EM layer to be consistent with that expected for an electromagnetic shower. In addition to calorimeter isolation, we apply track isolation, requiring that the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of tracks in an annulus of $0.05 \leq R \leq 0.4$, calculated around the EM cluster direction, is less than 1.5 GeV.

Jets are reconstructed by clustering energy deposited in the calorimeter towers using the iterative midpoint cone algorithm [39] with a cone size of 0.7. Jets must satisfy quality criteria that suppress background from leptons, photons, and detector noise effects. To reject background from cosmic rays and $W \rightarrow e\nu$ decays, the missing transverse momentum, calculated as a vector sum of the transverse energies of all calorimeter cells, is required to
be less than $0.7 \cdot p_T^\gamma$. All pairs of objects $(i, j)$ in the event (for example, photon and jet or jet and jet) are required to be separated by $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta \eta)^2 + (\Delta \phi)^2} > 0.9$.

Each event must contain at least one photon in the pseudorapidity region $|\eta_{\text{det}}| < 1.0$ or $1.5 < |\eta_{\text{det}}| < 2.5$ and at least two (or three) jets with $|\eta_{\text{det}}| < 3.5$. Events are selected with photon transverse momentum $50 < p_T^\gamma < 90$ GeV, leading jet $p_T > 30$ GeV, while the next-to-leading (second) jet must have $p_T > 15$ GeV. If there is a third jet with $p_T > 15$ GeV that passes the selection criteria, the event is also considered for the $\gamma + 3$ jet analysis. The higher $p_T^\gamma$ scale (i.e., the scale of the first parton interaction), compared to the lower $p_T$ threshold required of the second (and eventual third) jet, results in a good separation between the first and second parton interactions of a DP event in momentum space. The reconstructed energy of each jet formed from calorimeter energy depositions does not correspond to the actual energy of the jet particles which enter the calorimeter. It is therefore corrected for the energy response of the calorimeter, energy showering in and out the jet cone, and additional energy from event pile-up and multiple $p\bar{p}$ interactions.

The sample of DP candidates is selected from events with a single reconstructed $p\bar{p}$ collision vertex. The collision vertex is required to have at least three associated tracks and to be within 60 cm of the center of the detector in the coordinate along the beam ($z$) axis. The probability for any two $p\bar{p}$ collisions occurring in the same bunch crossing for which a single vertex is reconstructed was estimated in [24] and found to be $< 10^{-3}$.

IV. SINGLE AND MULTIPLE INTERACTION MODELS

Monte Carlo (MC) samples are used for two purposes in this analysis. First, we use them to calculate reconstruction efficiencies and to unfold the data spectra to the particle level. Second, differential cross sections of $\gamma +$ jet events simulated using different MPI models as implemented in the PYTHIA and SHERPA [40] event generators are compared with the measured cross sections.

There are two main categories of MPI models based on different sets of data used in the determination of the models parameters (it is customary to refer to different models and to their settings as “tunes”). The two categories, “old” and “new,” correspond to different approaches in the treatment of MPI, ISR and FSR, and other effects [10, 12]. The main difference between the “new” [11] and the “old” models is the implementation of the interplay between MPI and ISR, i.e., considering these two effects in parallel, in a common sequence of decreasing $p_T$ values. In the “old” models, ISR and FSR were included only for the hardest interaction, and this was done before any additional interactions were considered. In the “new” models, all parton interactions include ISR and FSR separately for each interaction. The new models, especially those corresponding to the Perugia family of tunes [10], also allow for a much wider set of physics processes to occur in the additional interactions.

A detailed description of the different PYTHIA MPI models can be found elsewhere [10, 11]. Here we provide a brief description of the models considered in our analysis. They include: Perugia-0 (P0, the default model in the Perugia family [10]); P-hard and P-soft, which explore the dependence on the strength of ISR/FSR effects, while maintaining a roughly-consistent MPI model as implemented in the P0 tune; P-noc, which excludes any color reconnections in the final state; P-X and P-6, which are P0 modifications based on the MRST LO* and CTEQ6L1 PDF sets, respectively (P0 uses CTEQ5L as a default). We also compare data with predictions determined using tunes A and DW as representative of the “old” MPI models.

The measured cross sections are also compared with predictions obtained from the SHERPA event generator, which also contains a simulation of MPI. Its initial modeling was similar to tune A from PYTHIA [7], but it has evolved and now is characterized, in particular, by (a) showering effects in the second interaction and (b) a combination of the CKKW merging approach with the MPI modeling [40, 41]. Another distinctive feature of SHERPA is the modeling of the parton-to-photon fragmentation contributions through the incorporation of QED effects into the parton shower [42].

The data are also compared with models without MPI, in which the photon and all the jets are produced exclusively in SP scattering. Such events are simulated in both PYTHIA and SHERPA. In PYTHIA, only $2 \rightarrow 2$ diagrams are simulated, resulting in the production of a photon and a leading jet. With the MPI event generation switched off, all the additional (to the leading) jets are produced in the parton shower development in the initial and final states. We refer to such SP events as “PYTHIA SP” events. In SHERPA, up to two extra partons (and thus jets) are allowed at the matrix element level in the $2 \rightarrow \{2, 3, 4\}$ scattering, but jets can also be produced in parton showers. To provide a matching between the matrix-element partons and parton shower jets, we follow the recommendation provided in [42] and choose the following “matching” parameters: the energy scale $Q_0 = 30$ GeV and the spatial scale $D = 0.4$, where $D$ is taken to be of the size of the photon isolation cone [43]. This is the default scheme for the production of $\gamma +$ jet events with and without MPI simulation. The set of events produced without MPI simulation within this scheme is called “SHERPA-1 SP”. We study the dependence of the measured DP fractions on the scale choice in the SHERPA SP models in Sec. VII by setting the matching scale $Q_0$ equal to 20 and to 40 GeV (sets “SHERPA-2” and “SHERPA-3” respectively). For completeness we consider SHERPA SP events in which all of the extra jets are produced (as in PYTHIA) in the parton shower with only a $2 \rightarrow 2$ matrix element, and call this set “SHERPA-4 SP”.

V. DATA ANALYSIS AND CORRECTIONS

A. Background studies

The main background to isolated photons comes from jets in which a large fraction of the transverse momentum is carried by photons from $\pi^0$, $\eta$, or $K_L^0$ decays. The photon-enhancing criteria described in Sec. III are developed to suppress this background. The normalized $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions are not very sensitive to the exact amount of background from events with misidentified photons. To estimate the photon fractions in the $\Delta \phi$ bins, we use the output of two neural networks (NN) [38]. These NNs are constructed using the jetnet package [44] and are trained to discriminate between photon and EM-jets in the central and end calorimeter regions using calorimeter shower shape and track isolation variables [38]. The distribution of the photon NN output for the simulated photon signal and for the dijet background samples are fitted to data in each $\Delta \phi$ bin using a maximum likelihood fit [45] to obtain the fractions of signal events in the data. To obtain a more statistically significant estimate of the photon purity in the $\Delta \phi$ bins, we use a single $p_T^{jet2}$ bin: $15 < p_T^{jet2} < 30$ GeV. The fit results show that the $\gamma + \text{jet}$ signal fractions in all $\Delta \phi$ bins agree well with a constant value, $0.69 \pm 0.03$ in the central and $0.71 \pm 0.02$ in the end calorimeter regions.

The sensitivity of the $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions to this background from jets is also examined by considering two data samples in addition to the sample with the default photon selections: one with relaxed and another with tighter track and calorimeter isolation requirements. According to MC estimates, in those two samples the fraction of background events should either increase or decrease by $(30 - 35\%)$ with respect to the default sample. We study the variation of the $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ normalized cross sections in data by comparing the relaxed and tighter data sets with the default set. We find that the cross section variations are within 5%.

B. Efficiency and unfolding corrections

To select $\gamma + 2$ jet and $\gamma + 3$ jet events, we apply the selection criteria described in Sec. III. The selected events are then corrected for selection efficiency, acceptance, and event migration effects in bins of $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$. These corrections are calculated using MC events generated using PYTHIA with tune P0, as discussed in Sec. IV. The generated MC events are processed through a GEANT-based [46] simulation of the D0 detector response. These MC events are then processed using the same reconstruction code as used for the data. We also apply additional smearing to the reconstructed photon and jet $p_T$ so that the resolutions in MC match those observed in data. The reconstructed $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions in the simulated events using the P0 tune are found to describe the data. In addition to the simulation with the default tune P0, we have also considered P0 MC events that have been reweighted to reproduce the $p_T$ distributions in data. After such reweighting, the reconstructed $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions give an excellent description of the data. Figures 3 and 4 show the normalized distributions as a function of $\Delta S$ for $\gamma + 3$ jet and $\Delta \phi$ for $\gamma + 2$ jet events (for the $p_T^{jet2}$ bin $15 - 20$ GeV, chosen as an example) in data and in the reweighted MC.

Three sets of corrections are applied in data to obtain the differential cross sections which we then compare with the various MPI models. We apply them to correct for detector and reconstruction inefficiencies and for bin migration effects. The first correction deals with the possibility that, due to the detector and reconstruction effects, our selected event sample may contain events which would fail the selection criteria at the particle level. The data distributions are corrected, on a bin-by-bin basis, for the fraction of events of this type. We also apply a correction for events which fail the selection requirement at the reconstruction level. Systematic uncertainties are assigned on these two correction factors to account for uncertainties on the photon and jet identification, the jet energy scale (JES) and resolution, and vary in the $\Delta S$ ($\Delta \phi$) bins up to 12% (18%) in total. They are dominated by the JES uncertainties. The overall corrections obtained with the default P0 and with the reweighted MC samples agree within about 5% for most $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ bins and differ by at most 25%. Since we are measur-
ing normalized cross sections, the absolute values of the corrections are not important, and we need only their relative dependence on $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$.

The third correction accounts for the migration of events between different bins of the $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions, which is caused by the finite photon and jet angular resolutions and by energy resolution effects, and can change the $p_T$ ordering of jets between the reconstruction and the particle level. To obtain the $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions at the particle level, we follow the unfolding procedure described in the Appendix, based on the Tikhonov regularization method \cite{47–50}. The bin sizes for the $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions are chosen to have sensitivity to different MPI models (which is largest for small $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ angles) while keeping good statistics and the bin-to-bin migration small. The statistical uncertainties ($\delta_{\text{stat}}$) are in the range (10–18%). They are due to the procedure of regularized unfolding and take into account the correlations between the bins. The correlation factor for adjacent bins in the unfolded distributions is about (30–45)%, and it is reduced to $\approx 10\%$ for other (next-to-adjacent) bins. To validate the unfolding procedure, a MC closure test is performed. We compare the unfolded MC distribution to the true MC distribution and find that they agree within statistical uncertainties.

VI. DIFFERENTIAL CROSS SECTIONS AND COMPARISON WITH MODELS

In this section, we present the four measurements of normalized differential cross sections, $(1/\sigma_{\gamma j})d\sigma_{\gamma j}/d\Delta S$ in a single $p_T^{\text{jet2}}$ bin (15 – 30 GeV) for $\gamma + 3$ jet events and $(1/\sigma_{\gamma j})d\sigma_{\gamma j}/d\Delta \phi$ in three $p_T^{\text{jet2}}$ bins (15 – 20, 20 – 25, and 25 – 30 GeV) for $\gamma + 2$ jet events. The results are presented numerically in Tables I – IV as a function of $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$, with the bin centers estimated using the theoretical predictions obtained using the P0 tune. The column “$N_{\text{data}}$” shows the number of selected data events in each $\Delta S$ ($\Delta \phi$) bin at the reconstruction level. The differential distributions decrease by about two orders of magnitude when moving from the $\Delta S$ ($\Delta \phi$) bin 2.85 – 3.14 radians to the bin 0.0 – 0.7 radians and have a total uncertainty ($\delta_{\text{tot}}$) between 7% and 30%. Here $\delta_{\text{tot}}$ is defined as a sum in quadrature of statistical ($\delta_{\text{stat}}$) and systematical ($\delta_{\text{syst}}$) uncertainties. It is dominated by systematic uncertainties. The sources of systematic uncertainties are the JES (2 – 17%), largest at the small angles, unfolding (5 – 18%), jet energy resolution simulation in MC events (1 – 7%), and background contribution (up to 5%).

The results are compared in Figs. 5–8 to predictions from different MPI models implemented in PYTHIA and SHERPA, as discussed in Sec. IV. We also show predictions of SP models in PYTHIA and SHERPA (SHERPA-1 model). In the QCD NLO predictions, only final states with a $\gamma + 2$ jet topology are considered, and thus for the direct photon production diagrams, we should have $\Delta \phi = \pi$. The $\Delta \phi$ angle may differ from $\pi$ due to photon production through a parton-to-photon fragmentation mechanism. Even if we take into account this production mechanism, which is included in the JETPHOX \cite{51} NLO QCD calculations, only the two highest $\Delta \phi$ bins receive significant contributions.

Figs. 5–8 show the sensitivity of the two angular variables $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ to the various MPI models, with predictions varying significantly and differing from each other by up to a factor 2.5 at small $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$, in the region where the relative DP contribution is expected to be the highest. The sensitivity is reduced by the choice of SP model, for which we derive an upper value of 25% comparing the ratios of predictions from various models (PYTHIA, SHERPA-2, -3, -4). This upper value is considerably smaller than the difference between the various MPI models.

Tables V and VI are complementary to Figs. 5–8 and show the $\chi^2/ndf$ values of the agreement between theory and data for each model. Here $ndf$ stands for the number of degrees of freedom (taken as the number of bins, $N_{\text{bins}}$ minus 1), and $\chi^2$ is calculated as

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{data}}} \frac{(D_i - T_i)^2}{\delta_{i,\text{unc}}^2},$$

where $D_i$ and $T_i$ represent the cross section values in the $i$-th bin of data and a theoretical model respectively, while $\delta_{i,\text{unc}}^2$ is the total uncorrelated uncertainty in this bin. The latter is composed of the uncertainties for the corrections in the unfolding procedure (Sec. V B), the statistical uncertainties of the data $\delta_{\text{stat}}$ and the theoretical model. The uncorrelated uncertainty $\delta_{i,\text{unc}}^2$ is always larger than all remaining correlated systematic uncertainties. Since small angles ($\angle\Delta S(\Delta \phi) < 2$) are the most sensitive to DP contributions, we calculate the $\chi^2/ndf$ separately for these bins. From Figs. 5–8 and Tables V and VI, we conclude: (a) the predictions derived from SP models do not describe the measurements; (b) the data favor the predictions of the new PYTHIA MPI models (P0, P-hard, P-6, P-X, P-nocr) and to a lesser extent S0 and SHERPA with MPI; and (c) the predictions from tune A and DW MPI models are disfavored.

VII. FRACTIONS OF DOUBLE PARTON EVENTS IN THE $\gamma + 2$ JET FINAL STATE

The comparison of the measured cross section with models (Sec. VI) shows clear evidence for DP scattering. We use the measurement of the differential cross section with respect to $\Delta \phi$ and predictions for the SP contributions to this cross sections in different models to determine the fraction of $\gamma + 2$ jet events which originate from DP interactions as a function of the second parton interaction scale ($p_T^{\text{jet2}}$) and of $\Delta \phi$. Due to ISR and FSR effects the $p_T$ balance vectors of each system may be
and DP models, as well as a sum of the SP and DP dis-
non-zero and have an arbitrary orientation with respect to each other [35], which leads to a uniform \( \Delta \phi \) distribution for DP events.

Using the uniform distribution as the DP model template and the SHERPA-1 prediction as the SP model template, we can fit the \( \Delta \phi \) distributions measured in data and obtain the fraction of DP events from a maximum likelihood fit [45]. We repeat this procedure in three independent ranges of \( p_T^{\text{jet2}} \). The distributions in data, SP, and DP models, as well as the sum of the SP and DP distributions, weighted with their respective fractions, are shown in Figs. 9 – 11 for the three \( p_T^{\text{jet2}} \) intervals. The sum of the SP and DP predictions reproduces the data well. The measured DP fractions \( (f_{\text{dp}}^{\gamma 2j}) \) are presented in Table VII.

The uncertainties in the DP fractions are due to the fit, the total (statistical plus systematic) uncertainties on the data points, and the choice of SP model. The effect from the second source is estimated by varying all the data points simultaneously up and down by the total experimental uncertainty \( (\delta_{\text{tot}}) \). The uncertainties due to the SP model are estimated by considering SP models (Sec. IV) that are different from the default choice of SHERPA-1: -2, -3, -4, as well as PYTHIA SP predictions. The measured DP fractions with all sources of uncertainties in each \( p_T^{\text{jet2}} \) bin are summarized in Table VII. The DP fractions in \( \gamma + 2 \text{ jet} \) events, \( f_{\text{dp}}^{\gamma 2j} \), decrease as a function of \( p_T^{\text{jet2}} \) from \( (11.6 \pm 1.0)\% \) in the bin \( 15 - 20 \text{ GeV} \), to \( (5.0 \pm 1.2)\% \) in the bin \( 20 - 25 \text{ GeV} \), and \( (2.2 \pm 0.8)\% \) in the bin \( 25 - 30 \text{ GeV} \). The estimated DP fraction in \( \gamma + 2 \text{ jet} \) events selected with \( p_T^{\gamma} > 16 \text{ GeV} \) and \( p_T^{\text{jet2}} > 8 \text{ GeV} \) from the CDF Collaboration [33] is \( 14^{+8}_{-7} \% \), which is in qualitative agreement with an extrapolation of our measured DP fractions to lower jet \( p_T^{\gamma} \).

The DP fractions shown in Table VII are integrated over the entire region \( 0 \leq \Delta \phi \leq \pi \). However, from Figs. 9 – 11, the fraction of DP events is expected to be higher at smaller \( \Delta \phi \). To determine the fractions as a function of \( \Delta \phi \), we perform a fit in the different \( \Delta \phi \) regions by excluding the bins at high \( \Delta \phi \); specifically, by considering the \( \Delta \phi \) regions \( 0 - 2.85, 0 - 2.65, 0 - 2.45, 0 - 2.15, \) and \( 0 - 1.60 \). The DP fractions for these \( \Delta \phi \) regions are shown in Table VIII for the three \( p_T^{\text{jet2}} \) intervals. The DP fractions with total uncertainties as functions of the upper limit on \( \Delta \phi \) (\( \Delta \phi_{\text{max}} \)) for all the \( p_T^{\text{jet2}} \) bins are also shown in Fig. 12. As expected, they grow significantly towards the smaller angles and are higher for smaller \( p_T^{\gamma} \) bins.

### VIII. Fractions of Triple Parton Events in the \( \gamma + 3 \text{ Jet Final State} \)

In this section, we estimate the fraction of \( \gamma + 3 \text{ jet} \) events from triple parton interactions (TP) in data as a function of \( p_T^{\text{jet2}} \). In \( \gamma + 3 \text{ jet} \) TP events, the three jets...
TABLE V: The results of a $\chi^2$ test of the agreement between data points and theory predictions for the $\Delta S$ ($\gamma + 3$ jet) and $\Delta \phi$ ($\gamma + 2$ jet) distributions for $0.0 \leq \Delta S(\Delta \phi) \leq \pi$ rad. Values are $\chi^2$/ndf.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>$p_{T}^{\ell 2}$ (GeV)</th>
<th>SP model</th>
<th>MPI model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta S$</td>
<td>15 - 30</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta \phi$</td>
<td>15 - 20</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta \phi$</td>
<td>20 - 25</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta \phi$</td>
<td>25 - 30</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE VI: The results of a $\chi^2$ test of the agreement between data points and theory predictions for the $\Delta S$ ($\gamma + 3$ jet) and $\Delta \phi$ ($\gamma + 2$ jet) distributions for $\Delta S(\Delta \phi) \leq 2.15$ rad. Values are $\chi^2$/ndf.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>$p_{T}^{\ell 2}$ (GeV)</th>
<th>SP model</th>
<th>MPI model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta S$</td>
<td>15 - 30</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta \phi$</td>
<td>15 - 20</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>26.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta \phi$</td>
<td>20 - 25</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta \phi$</td>
<td>25 - 30</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIG. 5: Normalized differential cross section in $\gamma + 3$ jet events, $(1/\sigma_{\gamma \gamma})d\sigma_{\gamma \gamma}/d\Delta S$, in data compared to MC models and the ratio of data over theory, only for models including MPI, in the range $15 < p_{T}^{\ell 2} < 30$ GeV.

FIG. 6: Normalized differential cross section in $\gamma + 2$ jet events, $(1/\sigma_{\gamma \gamma})d\sigma_{\gamma \gamma}/d\Delta \phi$, in data compared to MC models and the ratio of data over theory, only for models including MPI, in the range $15 < p_{T}^{\ell 2} < 20$ GeV.

come from three different parton interactions, one $\gamma +$ jet and two dijet final states. In each of the two dijet events, one of the jets is either not reconstructed or below the 15 GeV $p_T$ selection threshold.

In our previous study of DP $\gamma + 3$ jet events [24], we built a data-driven model of inclusive DP interactions (MixDP) by combining $\gamma +$ jet and dijet events from data, and obtaining the $\gamma + 3$ jet + $X$ final state. However, since each component of the MixDP model may contain two (or more) jets, where one jet is due to an additional
TABLE VIII: DP fractions (%) in data as a function of the $\Delta \phi$ interval for three $p_T^{\gamma+2}$ bins.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$p_T^{\gamma+2}$ (GeV)</th>
<th>0 $-$ $\pi$</th>
<th>0 $-$ 2.85</th>
<th>0 $-$ 2.65</th>
<th>0 $-$ 2.45</th>
<th>0 $-$ 2.15</th>
<th>0 $-$ 1.6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 $-$ 20</td>
<td>11.6 $\pm$ 1.4</td>
<td>18.2 $\pm$ 2.4</td>
<td>25.0 $\pm$ 2.9</td>
<td>33.7 $\pm$ 3.8</td>
<td>45.0 $\pm$ 5.5</td>
<td>47.4 $\pm$ 11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 $-$ 25</td>
<td>5.0 $\pm$ 1.2</td>
<td>9.4 $\pm$ 1.2</td>
<td>13.4 $\pm$ 2.1</td>
<td>19.6 $\pm$ 3.1</td>
<td>28.1 $\pm$ 4.3</td>
<td>63.7 $\pm$ 17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 $-$ 30</td>
<td>2.2 $\pm$ 0.8</td>
<td>3.8 $\pm$ 1.3</td>
<td>5.0 $\pm$ 1.5</td>
<td>6.2 $\pm$ 2.2</td>
<td>9.8 $\pm$ 4.5</td>
<td>27.8 $\pm$ 11.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

parton interaction, the model simulates the properties of “double plus triple” parton interactions. Therefore, the “DP” fractions found earlier in the $\gamma + 3$ jet data (shown in Table III of [24]) take into account a contribution from TP interactions as well. These fractions are also shown in the second column of Table IX. Thus, if we calculate the fractions of TP events in the MixDP sample, defined as $f_{\text{tp}}^{\gamma+3j}$, we can calculate the TP fractions in the $\gamma + 3$ jet data, $f_{\text{tp}}^{\gamma+3j}$, as

$$f_{\text{tp}}^{\gamma+3j} = f_{\text{tp}}^{\gamma+3j} \cdot f_{\text{dp+tp}}^{\gamma+3j},$$

where $f_{\text{dp+tp}}^{\gamma+3j}$ is the fraction of DP+TP events in the $\gamma + 3$ jet sample. Figure 13 shows two possible ways in which a DP event and an SP event can be combined to form a $\gamma + 3$ jet event which is part of the MixDP sample, with details on the origin of the various parts of the event given in the caption. Contributions from other possible MixDP configurations are negligible ($\lesssim 1\%$). In [24], we calculated how often each component, Type I and II, is found in the model. Table IX shows that the events of $p_T^{\gamma+3j} > 25$ GeV.

FIG. 7: Normalized differential cross section in $\gamma + 2$ jet events, $(1/\sigma_{\gamma+2})d\sigma_{\gamma+2}/d\Delta \phi$, in data compared to MC models and the ratio of data over theory, only for models including MPI, in the range $20 < p_T^{\gamma+2} < 25$ GeV.

FIG. 8: Normalized differential cross section in $\gamma + 2$ jet events, $(1/\sigma_{\gamma+2})d\sigma_{\gamma+2}/d\Delta \phi$, in data compared to MC models and the ratio of data over theory, only for models including MPI, in the range $25 < p_T^{\gamma+2} < 30$ GeV.

FIG. 9: $\Delta \phi$ distribution in data, SP, and DP models, and the sum of the SP and DP contributions weighted with their fractions for $15 < p_T^{\gamma+2} < 20$ GeV.
FIG. 10: Same as in Fig. 9, but for $20 < p_T^{jet2} < 25$ GeV.

FIG. 11: Same as in Fig. 9, but for $25 < p_T^{jet2} < 30$ GeV.

FIG. 12: Fractions of DP events with total uncertainties in $\gamma + 2$ jet final state as a function of the upper limit on $\Delta \phi$ for the three $p_T^{jet2}$ intervals.

FIG. 13: Two possible combinations of events present in the MixDP sample that actually represent the contribution from triple scattering events in the $\gamma + 3$ jet final state: (a) a $\gamma + 1$ jet event mixed with a double-dijet DP event, where one jet of each dijet is lost or not reconstructed (Type I); (b) a DP event in the $(\gamma + 1)$ jet+dijet final state with one jet from the dijet lost, mixed with a dijet event with one jet lost (Type II). Dashed lines correspond to the lost jets.

Type II are dominant in all bins. Thus, the fraction of TP configurations (Fig. 13) in the MixDP model, $f_{dp+tp}^{dp+tp}$, can be calculated as

$$f_{dp+tp}^{dp+tp} = F_{Type II} \cdot f_{dp+tp}^{j^2j} + F_{Type I} \cdot f_{dp+tp}^{j^3j} \quad (5)$$

where $f_{dp+tp}^{j^2j}$ and $f_{dp+tp}^{j^3j}$ are the fractions of events with DP scattering resulting in $\gamma + 2$ jet and dijet final states. We separately analyze each of the event types of Fig. 13. The fraction of events having a second parton interaction with a dijet final state with cross section $\sigma_{j^2j}$ can be defined using the effective cross section $\sigma_{eff}$ as $f_{dp}^{j^2j} = \sigma_{j^2j} / (2\sigma_{eff})$. The cross section for a DP scattering producing two dijet final states can then be presented then as $\sigma_{dp}^{j^2j} = \sigma_{j^2j} f_{dp}^{j^2j}$ [7, 9]. The fraction $f_{dp}^{j^3j}$ is estimated using dijet events simulated with PYTHIA. We calculate the jet cross sections $\sigma^{j^3j}$ for producing at least one jet in the three $p_T$ bins with $|\eta^{jet}| < 3.5$. The effective cross section $\sigma_{eff}$ is taken as an average of the CDF [21] and D0 [24] measurements, $\sigma_{eff}^{average} = 15.5$ nb. The determined fractions are shown in the third column of Table X. We assume that the estimates, done at the particle level, are also approximately correct at the reconstruction level. We take an uncertainty on these numbers $\delta f_{dp}^{j^3j} = f_{dp}^{j^3j}$.

The fractions of the $\gamma + 2$ jet events in which the second jet is due to an additional parton scattering are estimated in the previous section and are much higher than...
However, since we estimate the TP fraction in data at the reconstruction level, we repeat the same fitting procedure used for the extraction of $f_{\text{dp}}^{\gamma j}$ on the $\Delta\phi$ distributions in the reconstructed data and SP $\gamma + 2$ jet MC events. The results of the fit in the three $p_T^{\text{jet}2}$ intervals are summarized in the second column of Table X. Here the total uncertainties $\delta_{\text{tot}}$ are due to the statistical and systematic uncertainties shown in Tables II - IV, but excluding the uncertainties from the unfolding.

TABLE XI: Fractions of TP events (%) and the ratio of approximately proportional to the jet cross section. This trend is confirmed in Table XI.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$p_T^{\text{jet}2}$ (GeV)</th>
<th>$f_{\text{tp}}^{\gamma j}$ (%)</th>
<th>$f_{\text{dp}}^{\gamma j}$ (%)</th>
<th>$f_{\text{tp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}$ (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 - 20</td>
<td>15.9 ± 2.2</td>
<td>0.50 ± 0.50</td>
<td>11.7 ± 1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 25</td>
<td>7.8 ± 2.0</td>
<td>0.17 ± 0.17</td>
<td>6.1 ± 1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 30</td>
<td>4.2 ± 1.3</td>
<td>0.07 ± 0.07</td>
<td>3.6 ± 1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By substituting $f_{\text{dp}}^{\gamma j}$ and $f_{\text{tp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}$ into Eq. (5), we calculate the TP fractions $f_{\text{tp}^{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}}$ in the MixDP model. They are shown in the last column of Table X. The TP fraction in the similar data-driven MixDP model in the CDF analysis [21] for (JES uncorrected) $5 < p_T < 7$ GeV was estimated as $17_{-6}^{+8}$%, i.e., a value that is higher, on average, than our TP fractions measured at higher jet $p_T$, but in agreement with an extrapolation of our observed trend to lower jet $p_T$.

By substituting $f_{\text{tp}^{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}}$ and the DP+TP fractions in $\gamma + 3$ jet data $f_{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}$ from [24] into Eq. (4), we get the TP fractions in the $\gamma + 3$ jet data, $f_{\text{tp}^{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}}$, which are shown in the second column of Table XI. They are also presented in Fig. 14. The pure DP fractions, $f_{\text{dp}^{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}}$, can then be obtained by subtracting the TP fractions $f_{\text{tp}^{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}}$ from the inclusive DP+TP fractions $f_{\text{dp}^{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}}$.

The last column of Table XI shows the ratios of the TP to DP fractions $f_{\text{tp}^{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}}^{\gamma j}/f_{\text{dp}^{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}}^{\gamma j}$ in $\gamma + 3$ jet events. Since the probability of producing each additional parton scattering with a dijet final state is expected to be directly proportional to $\sigma^{\gamma j}/\sigma_{\text{eff}}$, the $f_{\text{tp}^{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}}^{\gamma j}/f_{\text{dp}^{\text{dp}^{+\text{tp}^{\gamma j}}}}^{\gamma j}$ ratio should be approximately proportional to the jet cross section $\sigma^{\gamma j}$, and drop correspondingly as a function of the jet $p_T$. This trend is confirmed in Table XI.

TABLE XI: Fractions of TP events (%) and the ratio of TP/DP fractions in the three $p_T^{\text{jet}2}$ bins of $\gamma + 3$ jet events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$p_T^{\text{jet}2}$ (GeV)</th>
<th>$f_{\text{tp}}^{\gamma j}$ (%)</th>
<th>$f_{\text{dp}}^{\gamma j}$ (%)</th>
<th>$f_{\text{tp}}^{\gamma j}/f_{\text{dp}}^{\gamma j}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 - 20</td>
<td>5.5 ± 1.1</td>
<td>0.035 ± 0.028</td>
<td>13.5 ± 0.028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 25</td>
<td>2.1 ± 0.6</td>
<td>0.066 ± 0.020</td>
<td>3.1 ± 0.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 30</td>
<td>0.9 ± 0.3</td>
<td>0.038 ± 0.014</td>
<td>2.6 ± 0.014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIG. 14: Fractions of TP events with total uncertainties in $\gamma + 3$ jet final state as a function of $p_T^{\text{jet}2}$.

IX. SUMMARY

We have studied the azimuthal correlations in $\gamma + 3$ jet and $\gamma + 2$ jet events and measured the normalized differential cross sections $(1/\sigma_{\gamma j})d\sigma_{\gamma j}/d\Delta S$ and $(1/\sigma_{\gamma j})d\sigma_{\gamma j}/d\Delta\phi$ in three bins of the second jet $p_T$. The results are compared to different MPI models and demonstrate that the predictions of the SP models do not describe the measurements and an additional contribution from DP events is required to describe the data. The data favor the predictions of the new PYTHIA MPI models with $p_T$-ordered showers, implemented in the Perugia and S0 tunes, and also SHERPA with its default MPI model, while predictions from previous PYTHIA MPI models, with tunes A and DW, are disfavored.

We have also estimated the fractions of DP events in the $\gamma + 2$ jet samples and found that they decrease in the bins of $p_T^{\text{jet}2}$ as $(11.6 \pm 1.0)%$ for $15 - 20$ GeV, $(5.0 \pm 1.2)%$ for $20 - 25$ GeV, and $(2.2 \pm 0.8)%$ for $25 - 30$ GeV. Finally, for the first time, we have estimated the fractions of TP events in the $\gamma + 3$ jet data. They vary in the $p_T^{\text{jet}2}$ bins as $(5.5 \pm 1.1)%$ for $15 - 20$ GeV, $(2.1 \pm 0.6)%$ for $20 - 25$ GeV, and $(0.9 \pm 0.3)%$ for $25 - 30$ GeV.

The measurements presented in this paper can be used to improve the MPI models and reduce the existing theoretical ambiguities. This is especially important for studies in which a dependence on MPI models is a significant uncertainty (such as the top quark mass measurement), and in searches for rare processes, for which DP events can be a sizable background.

Acknowledgments

We thank the staffs at Fermilab and collaborating institutions, and acknowledge support from the DOE and NSF (USA); CEA and CNRS/IN2P3 (France); FASI, Rosatom and RFBR (Russia); CNPq, FAPERJ, FAPESP and FUNDUNESP (Brazil); DAE and DST (India); Colciencias (Colombia); CONACyT (Mexico); KRF and KOSEF (Korea); CONICET and UBACYT (Argentina); FOM (The Netherlands); STFC and the Royal...
X. APPENDIX

In this appendix we discuss the unfolding procedure used to correct the measured $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions to the particle level in order to obtain a nonparametric estimate of the true $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions from the measured (reconstructed) distribution taking into account possible biases and statistical uncertainties. We use the following approach to extract the desired distributions from our measurements. The observed distribution is the result of the convolution of a resolution function with the desired distribution at the particle level. After the discretization in $\Delta S/\Delta \phi$ bins, the resolution function is a smearing matrix, and distributions on both particle level and reconstruction level become discrete distributions (i.e., histograms). The smearing matrix is stochastic: all elements are non-negative and the sum of elements in each column is equal to 1. Thus, the matrix columns are the probability density functions that relate each bin in a histogram at the particle level to the bins in a histogram at the reconstruction level. We split the full $\Delta S$ ($\Delta \phi$) range $[0, \pi]$ into eight bins and fix two bins at small $\Delta S$ ($\Delta \phi$) angles as $0 - 0.7$ and $0.7 - 1.2$ radians. These two bins are the most sensitive to a contribution from DP scattering, and their widths are chosen as a compromise between sensitivity to DP events and the size of the relative statistical uncertainty. The sizes of the other six bins are varied to minimize the ratio of maximum and minimum eigenvalues of the smearing matrix, defined as the condition number. This ratio, greater than unity, represents the scaling factor for the statistical uncertainties arising from the transformation of the differential cross sections from the reconstructed to the particle level. The same binning is used for the reconstructed and particle level distributions. We build the smearing matrix using reconstructed and particle level events in the reweighted MC sample, described in Sec. V B. To decrease the statistical uncertainties ($\delta_{\text{stat}}$), we use a Tikhonov regularization procedure [47–50] for the matrix. This unfolding procedure may introduce a bias ($b$). We optimize the regularization by finding a balance between $\delta_{\text{stat}}$ and $b$ according to the following criterion: we minimize the following function of $\delta_{\text{stat}}$ and $b$ in the first two bins, $0 - 0.7$ and $0.7 - 1.2$:

$$U = [(0.5 \alpha_1)^2 + (\delta_{\text{stat,1}})^2] + [(0.5 \alpha_2)^2 + (\delta_{\text{stat,2}})^2].$$

These two bins, being the most sensitive to contributions from DP scatterings, are the most important for our analysis. We perform the regularization of the smearing matrix by adding a non-negative parameter $\alpha$ to all diagonal elements of the smearing matrix. The matrix columns are then re-normalized to make the matrix stochastic again ($\alpha = 0$ is equivalent no regularization, while for $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$ the smearing matrix becomes the identity matrix). The smallest uncertainties $U$ are usually achieved with $\alpha = 0.3 - 0.5$. An estimate of the unfolded distribution is obtained by multiplying the histogram (vector) of the measured $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions by the inverted regularized smearing matrix. We use the sample of the reweighted MC events to get an estimate of the statistical uncertainties and the bias in bins of the unfolded distribution. To accomplish this, we choose a MC subsample with the number of events equal to that of the selected data sample and having a discrete distribution (histogram) at the reconstruction level that is almost identical to that in data. We randomize the MC histogram at the reconstruction level repeatedly (100,000 times) according to a multinomial distribution and multiply this histogram by the inverted regularized smearing matrix. We obtain a set of unfolded distributions at the particle level. Using this set and the true distribution for this MC sample, we estimate the statistical uncertainty $\delta_{\text{stat}}$ and the bias $b$ as the RMS and the mean of the distribution “true–unfolded)/true” for each $\Delta S$ ($\Delta \phi$) bin. The unfolded distribution is then corrected for the bias in each bin. We assign half of the bias as a systematic uncertainty on this correction. The overall unfolding corrections vary up to 60%, being largest at the small angles. The total uncertainties, estimated in each bin $i$ for the $\Delta S$ and $\Delta \phi$ distributions as

$$\sqrt{(0.5 \alpha_1)^2 + (\delta_{\text{stat,1}})^2},$$

vary between 10% and 18%.


The polar angle $\theta$ and the azimuthal angle $\phi$ are defined with respect to the positive $z$ axis, which is along the proton beam direction. Pseudorapidity is defined as $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$. $\eta_{\text{det}}$ and $\phi_{\text{det}}$ are the pseudorapidity and the azimuthal angle measured with respect to the center of the detector.

[34] C. Buttar et al., arXiv:0803.0678 [hep-ph].
[35] See Fig. 9 of [24] and nearby text.
[37] The polar angle $\theta$ and the azimuthal angle $\phi$ are defined with respect to the positive $z$ axis, which is along the proton beam direction. Pseudorapidity is defined as $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$. $\eta_{\text{det}}$ and $\phi_{\text{det}}$ are the pseudorapidity and the azimuthal angle measured with respect to the center of the detector.

[43] The choice of ME-PS matching parameters was discussed with the SHERPA authors.