

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

FERMILAB Conf-94/155-E
CDF

Search for $W \rightarrow e\nu$ in $p\bar{p}$ Collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1800$ GeV

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June 1994

Submitted to the *27th International Conference on High Energy Physics*, Glasgow, Scotland, July 20-27, 1994

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CDF Collaboration^[1]

25 May 1994

Abstract

We have searched for new, heavy charged gauge bosons, W' . The signature searched for is $W' \rightarrow e\nu$, where it is assumed that the neutrino in this decay is stable and non-interacting, thus leaving a momentum imbalance in our detector. We have examined the highest transverse mass electron + missing momentum events from $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.8 \text{ TeV}$ for new Jacobian peaks above the W mass. The data used in the search represent 19.7 pb^{-1} collected by CDF at the Fermilab Tevatron Collider. We establish limits on the W' cross section times branching ratio; assuming standard couplings of the W' to fermions, we establish the limit $M_{W'} > 634 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ (95% C.L.).

The unified electroweak theory of Weinberg,^[2] Salam,^[3] and Glashow^[4] has met with outstanding success with the discoveries^[5,6] of the W^\pm and Z^0 bosons at the CERN Sp \bar{p} S Collider. This paper presents a search for new, heavy charged gauge bosons, W' , in 19.7 pb^{-1} of $p\bar{p}$ collisions from the 1992-1993 Run 1A of the Collider Detector at Fermilab. The properties of the W' depend greatly upon the model used to introduce it. In its simplest form,^[7] the W' appears as a heavier version of the left-handed W . In this case, the primary decay of the W' for very large masses is $W' \rightarrow WZ$. Several models^[8,9,10] have also proposed the existence of a W' in the context of restoring left-right symmetry to the weak force at some mass scale $\Lambda_{LR} \approx M_{W'}$. The coupling of the W' to fermions and to left-handed bosons in these extended gauge models is less certain. It has been argued,^[11] for example, that the decay $W' \rightarrow WZ$ is

Submitted 27th International Conference on High Energy Physics, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, July 20-27, 1994.

suppressed because the coupling at the $W'WZ^0$ vertex is multiplied by a left-right mixing angle $\xi \sim \left(\frac{M_W}{M_{W'}}\right)^2$. The nature of the right-handed fermions, furthermore, is unknown. One may expect, for example, that the right-handed W' decays to right-handed $e_R\nu_R$ pairs, but if neutrinos are not Dirac particles, the properties of the ν_L , namely that it is stable, massless, and non-interacting, may not apply to the ν_R . In some models of extended gauge theories,[12] for example, the ν_R is too heavy for the process $W' \rightarrow e_R\nu_R$ to occur.

The coupling of the W' to right-handed quarks is also *a priori* not known. The restrictions of Lorentz-invariance and renormalizability restrict[13] the W' -fermion coupling to be of the form $\frac{ig}{2\sqrt{2}} \bar{\psi}_i (a + b\gamma_5) \gamma_\mu W'^\mu \psi_j U_{ij}$, where a and b are constants and U_{ij} is the CKM matrix element connecting fermions i and j . $SU(2)_L$ gauge-invariance in the Standard Model leads to the $V-A$ character of the weak interaction with $a = 1$, $b = -1$. No such constraints exist for the right-handed CKM matrix in the context of extended gauge models which introduce a W' . With this coupling the partial width to fermions is

$$\Gamma(W' \rightarrow f_i f_j) = \frac{a^2 + b^2 N_c}{2} \frac{G_F^2 M_W^2 M_{W'}}{6\sqrt{2}\pi} |U_{ij}|^2,$$

where N_c is the color factor of three for quarks and is 1.0 for leptons. We define the parameter $\lambda^2 \equiv (a^2 + b^2)/2$ which is equal to one in, among other cases, the Standard Model. This is 1.0 in models in which the left- and right-handed gauge sectors couple to matter with equal strengths, known as manifest left-right symmetry ($U_R = U_L$). The case $\lambda^2 = 1$ is referred to as "standard strength couplings."

Many searches have been conducted for the W' .[14] Most pertain to the extended gauge models, and hence exploit the differences between the $V-A$ nature of the known electroweak interaction and the predicted $V+A$ nature of the right-handed sector. Table 1 summarizes the previous experimental limits. For very light neutrino masses, the most stringent limits are astrophysical or cosmological: for $m_\nu < 1$ MeV arguments of big bang nucleosynthesis[15] imply $M_{W'} \sim 1$ TeV, and the energetics of Supernova 1987A imply[16]

$M_{W'} > 720 \text{ GeV} - 16 \text{ TeV}$, depending upon assumptions regarding the right-handed CKM matrix. Limits on W' are also derived[17,18] using the limits on deviations of the muon decay parameters from the V-A predictions. Here the limits require the neutrino that couples to the W' to be light enough ($m_\nu < m_\mu$) so as not to cause a suppression of the right-handed decay. The measured difference Δm_K between the K_L and K_S , constrains the right-handed sector, since it is altered[19] if a right-handed current can contribute to the box diagram connecting the $K^0\bar{K}^0$ system. A light W' could also affect the semileptonic branching ratio of $b \rightarrow X\ell\nu$. If the neutrino that couples to the W' is a heavy ($m_\nu > m_b$) Dirac neutrino, then the right-handed charged current cannot contribute to b semileptonic decays, but could contribute to non-leptonic b decays. Thus, the branching ratio adds constraints[20] to new charged currents with heavy neutrinos. $B_d - \bar{B}_d$ mixing strongly constrains[21] the right-handed current, but only in some models for the form of the U_R matrix. The process of neutrinoless atomic double beta decay[22] imposes limits on the W' for the case of heavy Majorana neutrinos. Finally, direct searches for W' by the UA1,[23] UA2,[24] and CDF[25] Collaborations in $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 0.6$ and 1.8 TeV through the decay $W' \rightarrow \ell\nu$ have placed limits of $M_{W'} > 512 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ for the case of "standard strength couplings" ($U_R = U_L$).

We search for the W' in $p\bar{p}$ collisions through the decay $W' \rightarrow e\nu$. This search for new bosons W' is specific to neither right- or left-handed bosons, but in the case of the W_R' it is assumed that the ν_R is non-interacting and stable. It is not assumed that the ν_R is massless, only that it is much lighter than the W' ($(m_\nu / M_{W'})^2 \ll 1$). We search for new Jacobian peaks in the transverse mass spectrum of electron + E_T data. Doing so, we either measure or set a limit on the cross section times branching ratio into $e\nu$ of the W' : $\sigma \cdot B(p\bar{p} \rightarrow W' \rightarrow e\nu)$. To place a limit on the W' mass requires an assumption regarding the right-handed couplings (the parameter λ^2).

To select candidate events, we require an electron in the central, barrel region of the detector ($|\eta(e)| < 1.05$) with an E_T , as measured in the calorimeter, to be $E_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$ and the P_T , as measured in the central tracking chamber (CTC) to be $P_T > 13 \text{ GeV}/c$. [26] In addition we require the electron track to be isolated in the CTC, requiring $Iso(trk) < 5 \text{ GeV}/c$, where $Iso(trk)$ is defined as the scalar sum of the P_T of all CTC tracks within a cone of $\Delta R = 0.25$

in η - ϕ space,^[27] where $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{(\Delta\phi)^2 + (\Delta\eta)^2}$. The ratio of energy in the hadron and electromagnetic calorimeter towers of the electron cluster is required to satisfy $\text{Had}/\text{EM} < 0.055 + 0.045 \times \left(\frac{E}{100}\right)$. A transverse momentum imbalance is required to signal the presence of the non-interacting neutrino. We require $E_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$, where the missing transverse momentum, or " E_T " is defined as the vector sum of the E_T in all towers in the calorimeter with $|\eta| < 3.6$ and $E_T > 100 \text{ MeV}$. Finally, the primary vertex of the event is required to be $|Z_{\text{vertex}}| < 60 \text{ cm}$ and total accidental energy out of time (measured by TDC's in the Hadron calorimeters) is required to be E_T (out-of-time) $< 100 \text{ GeV}$. There are 10845 events passing these cuts. From a study of electrons from $Z^0 \rightarrow e^+e^-$ decays, the efficiency of the isolation, Had/EM, out of time energy, and vertex cuts is found to be $94.3 \pm 0.6 \%$. The Had/EM efficiency, furthermore, agrees well with the efficiency found from an electron testbeam which extended as far as electron energies of 175 GeV . A Monte Carlo simulation of the detector shows no degradation in electron identification efficiency up to $\approx 400 \text{ GeV}$.

Several other processes can mimic the W signal. $Z^0 \rightarrow e^+e^-$ decays, where one electron is detected and the other is lost because it falls into an uninstrumented region of the detector, can produce the signal of an electron and E_T . In some cases a second, isolated stiff track in the CTC or an electromagnetic cluster may be observed. Similarly, QCD dijets, where one jet passes our electron selection criteria and the other is mismeasured or falls into an uninstrumented region of the calorimeter to produce E_T , can mimic the W' signal. It is similarly possible to remove these events by searching for clusters of tracks in the CTC which point at calorimeter cracks and at the E_T vector. A total of 93 events with second isolated, stiff tracks or second electromagnetic clusters are removed from the W' sample as Z^0 candidates and 226 events with clusters of tracks are removed as dijet candidates, leaving 10526 events. We estimate the efficiency of the Z^0 removal cuts for real W events to be $99.9 \pm 0.1 \%$ and the dijet removal cuts are estimated to be $99.5 \pm 0.2 \%$ efficient for real W events.

The backgrounds remaining in the W' sample are QCD dijets, $Z^0 \rightarrow e^+e^-$ decays, and the process $W \rightarrow \tau\nu \rightarrow e\nu\nu\nu$. We estimate the number of $Z^0 \rightarrow e^+e^-$ and

$W \rightarrow \tau \nu$ decays contaminating the W' sample using the ISAJET Monte Carlo^[28] and a detector simulation. We normalize to the results using measured^[29] cross sections $\sigma \cdot B(p\bar{p} \rightarrow Z^0 \rightarrow e^+e^-)$ and $\sigma \cdot B(p\bar{p} \rightarrow W \rightarrow e\nu)$ and the measured branching ratio $BR(\tau \rightarrow e\nu\nu)$. ISAJET predicts well the number of $Z^0 \rightarrow e^+e^-$ decays in which the second electron could be observed using the second track in the CTC even when no calorimeter cluster is found. We find that the number of Z^0 events remaining in the W' sample is 50 ± 15 events and the background from $W \rightarrow \tau \nu$ is 150 ± 45 events. We find a total of 0.01 Z^0 and $W \rightarrow \tau \nu$ events are expected above $M_T > 200 \text{ GeV}/c^2$.

The magnitude and shape of the QCD dijet background is estimated from a study of a control sample in the data of "electrons" in which the "electron" has $Iso(trk) > 6 \text{ GeV}/c$ and $E_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$, and in which $E_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$. These events are presumably mismeasured dijets. We study the efficiency of our dijet removal algorithm on this sample and normalize to the number of events in the W' sample removed using this algorithm. We estimate that the number of dijets left in the sample is 241 ± 40 events. We expect 2.2 events from dijets with $M_T > 200 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. Figure 1 shows the transverse mass distribution of the W candidates and the expected contribution of the backgrounds.

The acceptance, A_W , is defined as the efficiency for W (or W') events to pass the kinematic cuts on the electron and neutrino and for the electron to be in the geometric acceptance of the detector. The acceptance is determined using a Monte Carlo which generates zeroth order diagrams of W production, $q\bar{q} \rightarrow W$ and decays the W into electron and neutrino pairs. The effects of higher order diagrams for W production are mimicked by giving the bosons P_T^W according to a previous measurement^[30] of the P_T^W spectrum. A detector model is used to smear the leptons. We use the MRSD-' structure functions.^[31] Systematic uncertainties in the acceptance calculation come from the uncertainty in the P_T^W distribution (0.6%), the detector model (1.3%), the choice of parton distribution functions (1.7%) input to the generator, and the effect of higher-order diagrams (0.8%) not properly accounted for by our lowest order Monte Carlo with P_T^W added.^[32] The total uncertainty in A_W is found to be 3%. The acceptance for $M_{W'} = 80 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ is found to be $A_W = 0.2169 \pm 0.0064$.

The same Monte Carlo is used to model the W' acceptance. In the Monte Carlo, the W' decay width is taken to have the form $\Gamma(W') = (M_{W'}/M_W)\Gamma_0(W)$, where $\Gamma_0(W) = 2.07$ for $M_{W'} \lesssim 180 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $\Gamma_0(W) = 2.76$ for $M_{W'} \gtrsim 180 \text{ GeV}/c^2$, corresponding to the case where the decay $W' \rightarrow t\bar{b}$ is closed or open.^[33] For the case where $W' \rightarrow t\bar{b}$ is open the leptonic branching ratio is taken to be $1/(12.3)$; otherwise it is taken to be $1/(9.2)$.^[34] Table 2 lists the expected signal from a W' of various masses in $\int \mathcal{L} dt = 19.7 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ of data. The W' acceptance increases with $M_{W'}$ because the charged lepton is more likely to fall within the central barrel region for very heavy W' .

To determine a limit on the W' cross section times branching ratio a binned log likelihood fit to the transverse mass spectrum in Figure 1 is performed in which the fraction of the data that is from W' decays is determined. The expected entries, μ_i , in the i^{th} bin is calculated as the sum of non- W background, W decays, and W' decays: $\mu_i = Bck_i + (N_{cand} - \alpha)W_i + \alpha W'_i$, where N_{cand} is the number of W or W' candidates. The parameter α is required to be non-negative ($0.0 \leq \alpha$), as prescribed by the Particle Data Group.^[35] The case $\alpha = 0$ corresponds to no W' events being present in our data.

For each W' mass, the likelihood function is computed as a function of α and the associated probability function is obtained from the likelihood.^[36] The probability function $P_0(\alpha)$ is the probability of obtaining the value α as determined from the likelihood. The systematic uncertainties described above are used to "smear" the probability distribution $P_0(\alpha)$. The probability distribution is convoluted with a gaussian, $G(\alpha; \Delta\alpha)$, where $\Delta\alpha$ is the size of the uncertainty in α from the systematic effects described above. The 95% C.L. upper limit on the W' content in the data is obtained from the point α where $\int_0^\alpha P(\alpha') d\alpha' = 0.95$. For very high W' masses, where there are no events in the data, the fit returns a maximum possible of 3 events, as expected from Poisson statistics.

The 95% upper limit on the W' cross section times branching ratio is obtained using the 95% C.L. for α , the acceptance for this W' mass, the efficiency of the electron identification, and the acceptance:

$$\sigma \cdot B (95\% \text{ C.L.}) = \frac{\alpha (95\%)}{A_W \epsilon_W \int \mathcal{L} dt}$$

where $\alpha (95\%)$ is determined from the fit, $\int \mathcal{L} dt = 19.7 \pm 0.6 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ is the integrated luminosity, and the acceptance A_W and efficiency ϵ_W come from Table 2. The 95% C.L. limit on the cross section times branching ratio as a function of the W' mass is shown in Figure 2. For the case of standard couplings to fermions, we establish the limit $M_{W'} > 634 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ (95% C.L.).

In conclusion, we have conducted a search for new right-handed charged gauge bosons W' in 19.7 pb^{-1} of $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1800 \text{ GeV}$. Assuming that the W' has standard couplings to fermions, and assuming the right handed neutrino is non-interacting and stable, the 95% C.L. limit $M_{W'} > 634 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ is obtained by looking for new Jacobian peaks beyond the W mass. This search is an extension of a previous search conducted by CDF using both electrons and muons in which the limit $M_{W'} > 512 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ was established.

Experimental data - (Assumptions made regarding ν)	Limit on $M_{W'}$, Weak Assumptions on U_R (GeV/c^2)	Limit on $M_{W'}$, Assuming $U_R = U_L$ (GeV/c^2)
Nucleosynthesis ($m_\nu < 1 \text{ MeV}$)	$O(1 \text{ TeV})$	
SN 1987A ($m_\nu < 10 \text{ MeV}$)	720	16.2 TeV
$\Delta m_K, B_{d^+} \bar{B}_{d^+} \mu$ decay ($m_\nu < m_\mu$)	500 - 560	1.3 TeV
$\Delta m_K, B_{d^+} \bar{B}_{d^+} b$ decay ^{a)} ($m_\nu > m_b$)	450 - 740	1.4 TeV
$\Delta m_K, B_{d^+} \bar{B}_{d^+} b, \beta\beta_{0\nu}$ ^{b)} ($m_\nu > m_b$)	450 - 800	1.4 TeV
$p\bar{p}$ Colliders ($m_\nu < M_{W'}$)	360 - 512 (old) 450 - 634 (THIS RESULT)	512 (old) 634 (THIS RESULT)

a) Dirac neutrino only

b) Majorana neutrino only

Table 1: After Langacker,[14] the current experimental limits on the W' mass. The results of $p\bar{p}$ colliders are direct searches, whereas the other results are indirect limits.

$M_{W'}$ (GeV/c ²)	Expected $\sigma \cdot B$ (pb) ^{a)}	$A_{W'} \cdot \epsilon$ (%)	N_{exp} ^{b)}	95% C.L. for $\sigma \cdot B$ (pb)
80	2237	20.3 ± 0.6	8939 ± 395	< 202
85	1487	23.5 ± 0.7	6874 ± 304	< 168
90	1257	26.5 ± 0.8	6613 ± 289	< 64
100	918	31.3 ± 1.0	5647 ± 249	< 3.6
125	464	39.1 ± 1.2	3564 ± 157	< 1.3
150	259	43.5 ± 1.4	2218 ± 98	< 0.98
175	156	46.1 ± 1.5	1413 ± 62	< 0.79
200	98.1	47.9 ± 1.5	924 ± 41	< 0.68
250	43.2	50.0 ± 1.6	425 ± 19	< 0.61
300	20.8	51.0 ± 1.6	209 ± 9	< 0.48
350	10.6	51.7 ± 1.7	108 ± 5	< 0.40
400	5.59	52.2 ± 1.7	57.4 ± 2.5	< 0.35
450	3.02	52.4 ± 1.7	31.1 ± 1.4	< 0.33
500	1.64	52.8 ± 1.7	17.1 ± 0.8	< 0.31
550	0.820	52.8 ± 1.7	8.50 ± 0.38	< 0.29
600	0.428	52.9 ± 1.7	4.45 ± 0.20	< 0.29
650	0.223	53.0 ± 1.7	2.32 ± 0.10	< 0.29
700	0.116	53.0 ± 1.7	1.00 ± 0.04	< 0.29
750	0.061	53.0 ± 1.7	0.63 ± 0.03	< 0.29

^{a)}Assuming "standard strength" coupling.

^{b)}Expected number of events in 19.7 pb⁻¹.

Table 2: Cross section times branching ratio into $e\nu$ of W' and the W' detector acceptance for several W' masses. The branching ratio assumes the same coupling of the W' to fermions as is observed for the W . The detector acceptance and identification efficiency do not depend upon the assumption of the couplings. Also shown in this table is the expected number of events in $\int \mathcal{L} dt = 19.7 \pm 0.6 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ of data: $N_{exp} = \sigma B \times (A \cdot \epsilon) \times \int \mathcal{L} dt$. The cross sections and the W' acceptances in Table 2 are calculated with the Monte Carlo, and the total detection efficiency $\epsilon = 0.937 \pm 0.010$ is measured from the data. In the final column is shown the 95% C.L. limit on the cross section times branching ratio obtained from the data (see text).

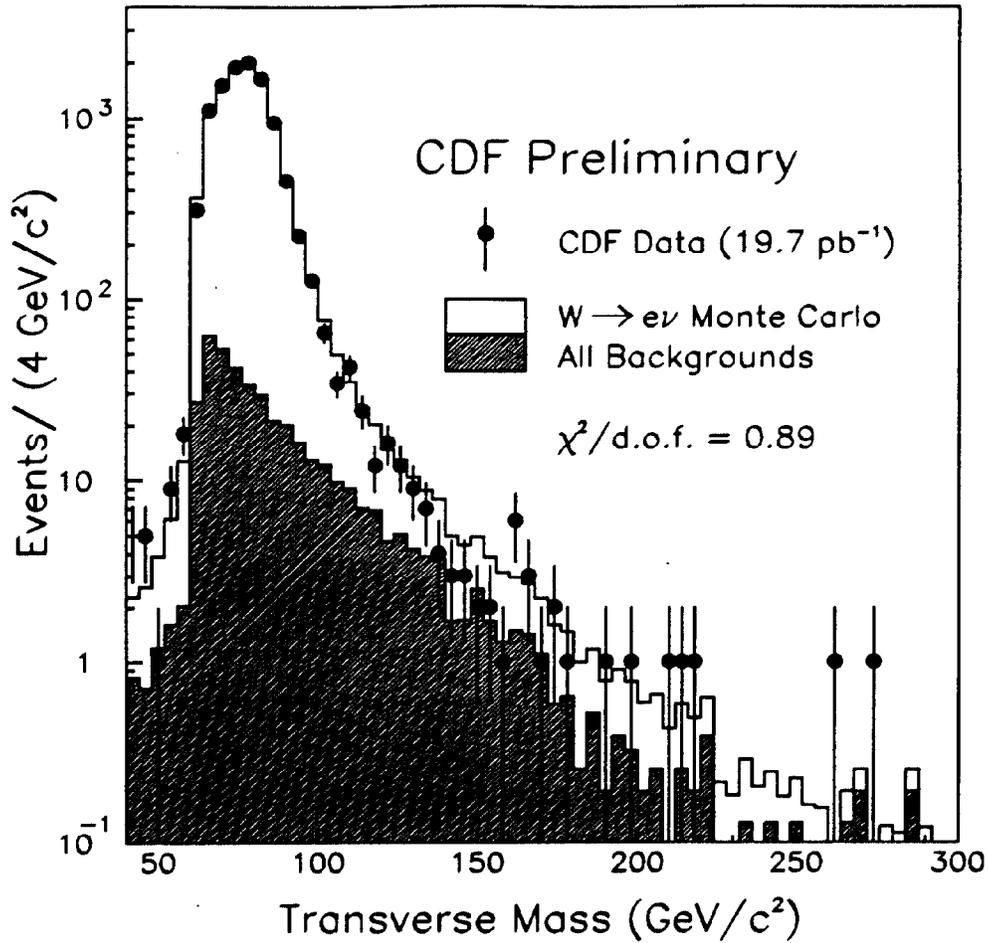


Figure 1: Transverse mass spectrum of the W candidates, along with the expected contributions from non- W backgrounds and from $W \rightarrow e\nu$ events. The $W \rightarrow e\nu$ curve is calculated with the Monte Carlo used to calculate the W and W' acceptances. No overflows are present. A signal from a W' would show up as a second Jacobian peak at $M_T = M_{W'}$.

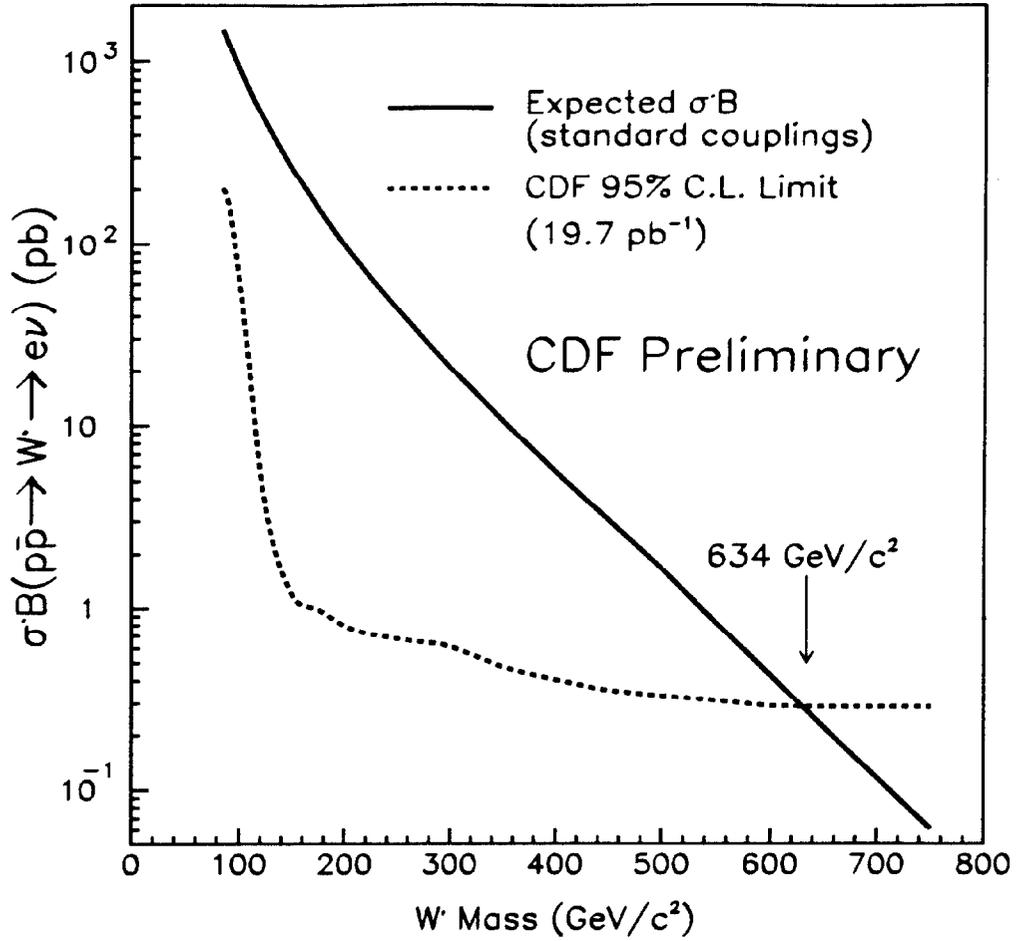


Figure 2: CDF 95% C.L. limit on $\sigma \cdot B(p\bar{p} \rightarrow W' \rightarrow e\nu)$ vs. the W' mass. Also shown is the expected $\sigma \cdot B$, assuming standard couplings. The point $M_{W'} = 634 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ is our limit, assuming standard couplings.

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