

Searches for New Physics in Top Events at the Tevatron

A.W. Jung

for the CDF and DØ collaboration

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Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory,

P.O. Box 500, Batavia, IL, 60510, USA

Recent results of searches for new physics in top events at the Tevatron are presented. In case of CDF three searches are discussed using 6 to 8.7 fb⁻¹ of data, with the latter being the final CDF data sample available for this kind of analysis. CDF carried out a search for Top + jet resonance production, dark matter production in association with single top and boosted tops. No signs of new physics are observed and instead upper limits are derived. DØ used 5.3 fb⁻¹ of data and searched for a narrow resonance in $t\bar{t}$ production and a time dependent $t\bar{t}$ cross section, which would reveal a violation of Lorentz invariance. However, no signs for deviations from standard model are seen and instead upper limits for non-standard model contributions are calculated.

1 Introduction

The *top* quark is the heaviest known elementary particle and was discovered at the Tevatron $p\bar{p}$ collider in 1995 by the CDF and DØ collaboration^{1,2} at a mass of around 175 GeV. The production is dominated by the $q\bar{q}$ annihilation process with 85% as opposed to gluon-gluon fusion which contributes only 15%. The measurements presented here are performed using either the all-jets channel or the ℓ +jets channel. Within the ℓ +jets channel one of the W bosons (stemming from the decay of the *top* quarks) decays leptonically, the other W boson decays hadronically. For the all-jets channel both W bosons decay hadronically. The ℓ +jets channel is a good compromise between signal and background contribution whilst having high event statistics. The branching fraction for top quarks decaying into Wb is almost 100%. Jets containing a beauty quark (b -jets) are identified by means of a neural network (NN) build by the combination of variables describing the properties of secondary vertices and of tracks with large impact parameters relative to the primary vertex.

1.1 Top + jet resonance (CDF)

A search for a heavy new particle M produced in association with a top quark using 8.7 fb⁻¹ of CDF data³ is discussed. The data sample represents the final data sample for this kind of analysis. The search is - amongst other reasons - motivated by the deviation of the measurement of the forward-backward asymmetry A_{FB} from the SM prediction as recently reported by CDF and DØ⁴. The measured value of A_{FB} is significantly larger than the SM prediction and many models explain this by adding a new heavy particle M . The final state is the ℓ +jets decay channel with five or more jets with at least one identified as b -jet and missing transverse momentum \cancel{E}_T .

The resonance mass $m_{t\bar{t}}$ is reconstructed by using a top kinematic reconstruction followed by a likelihood scan for the best match to the $t\bar{t}$ topology. The remaining jets are paired with the t/\bar{t} with m_{tj} being the combination with the highest mass. No signal is observed and instead limits on the production of $t\bar{t} + j$ via a new heavy mediator M are set. Upper limits as a function of m_{tj} range between 0.61 and 0.02 pb at 95% confidence level (C.L.). The results have been used to exclude two specific models in mass-coupling space. Figure 1 shows the excluded regions

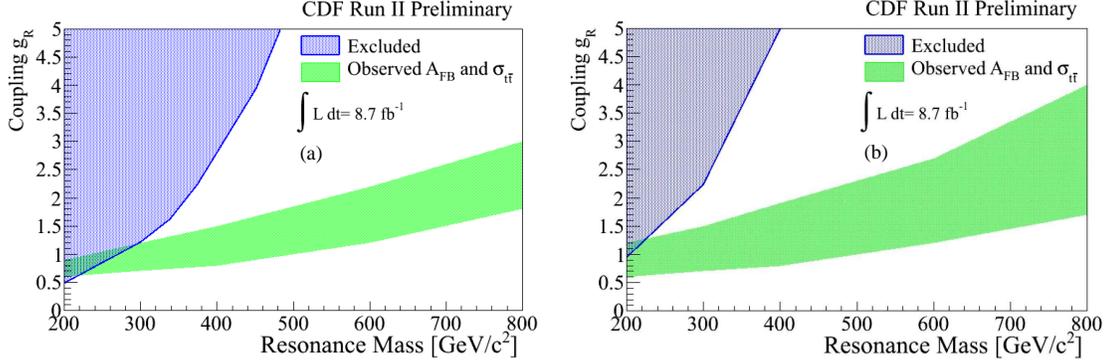


Figure 1: (a) shows the excluded region in mass-coupling space (hashed blue) where the new heavy particle M is part of a singlet or colored triplet (b). In addition the regions consistent with the observed A_{FB} and $t\bar{t}$ and single top cross section measurements are indicated (green band).

(hashed blue) in the case that M is part of a new singlet (a) or colored triplet (b). In addition the regions consistent with the observed A_{FB} and $t\bar{t}$ and single top cross section measurements (green band) are indicated.

1.2 Narrow resonance ($D\bar{O}$)

$D\bar{O}$ used 5.3 fb^{-1} of data to search for a narrow resonance produced in $t\bar{t}$ events⁵. The final state used for the analysis is the $\ell + \text{jets}$ decay channel of $t\bar{t}$ events with a lepton (e/μ) and additional at least three jets with at least one of them identified as a b -jet and \cancel{E}_T . Figure 2a) shows the distribution of the invariant mass of the $t\bar{t}$ system $m(t\bar{t})$ with at least four jets. No observation of a narrow resonance has been made, but a slight excess of 2 standard deviations (s.d.) of events around $950 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ is seen. The best fit yields a cross section times branching fraction of $\sigma \cdot BR(M_X) = 0.10 \pm 0.05 \text{ pb}$. The absence of a narrow resonance allows to calculate limits for the NLO production cross section of a topcolor Z' boson. The intrinsic width Γ_X of the Z' has been set to $0.012 \cdot M_X$ and a branching fraction for $Z' \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ of 100% is assumed. Figure 2b) shows the upper limit on $\sigma \cdot BR$ for a narrow resonance as a function of the resonance mass. The shaded regions around the expected limit represent the one and two standard deviation bands. The solid line shows the predicted topcolor Z' production cross section. The observed cross section limits exclude Z' boson masses below $835 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ (95% C.L.).

1.3 Single top + dark matter candidate (CDF)

A dark matter candidate can be produced in association with a single top quark. CDF used 7.7 fb^{-1} of data to perform the first search for this specific signature⁶. The final state consists of three jets with at least one identified as a b -jet. The dark matter signal is expected to contribute significantly at high \cancel{E}_T . In absence of a signal upper cross section limits are calculated as a function of the mass of the dark matter candidate. Figure 3 shows the upper cross section limit at 95% C.L. which is about 0.5 pb for dark matter candidate masses of $0 - 150 \text{ GeV}/c^2$. The shaded regions around the expected limit represent the one and two s.d. bands. In addition the predicted dark matter candidate production cross section is indicated by the dashed black line.

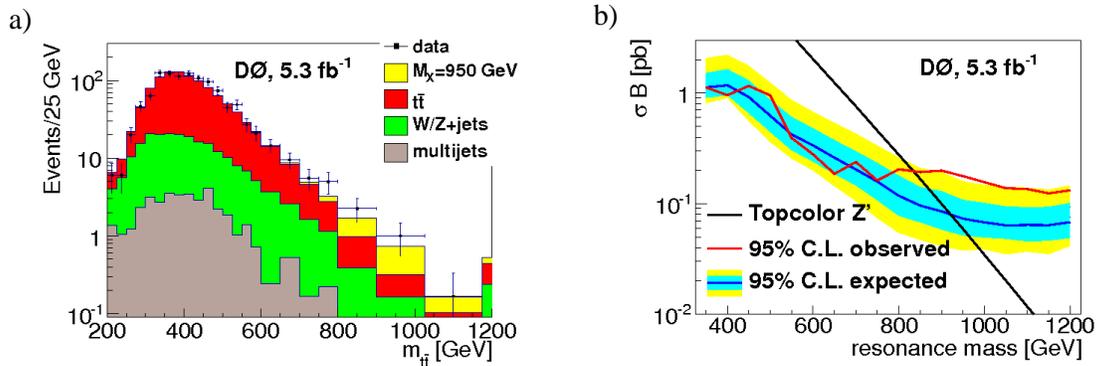


Figure 2: a) compares data to expectations from SM processes and a 950 GeV/ c^2 resonance signal with the best fitted cross section times branching fraction of $\sigma \cdot BR = 0.10$ pb. The highest bin in each histogram shows the number of events with $m(t\bar{t}) > 1175$ GeV/ c^2 . b) shows upper limits at 95% C.L. on $\sigma \cdot BR$ for a narrow resonance as a function of the resonance mass. The shaded regions around the expected limit represent the one and two standard deviation bands. The solid line shows the predicted topcolor Z' production cross section.

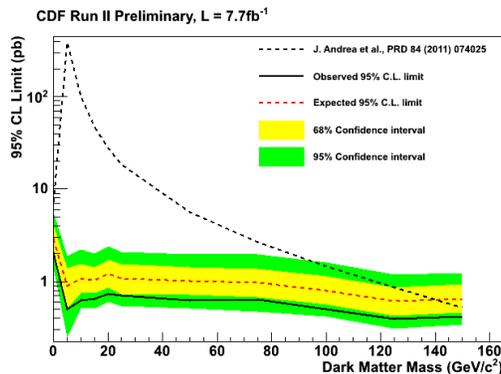


Figure 3: The figure shows the upper cross section limit at 95% C.L. as a function of the dark matter candidate mass. The shaded regions around the expected limit represent the one and two s.d. bands. The dashed black line shows the predicted dark matter production cross section.

1.4 Boosted top quarks (CDF)

CDF used 6.0 fb^{-1} to search for a signature corresponding to boosted tops in a sample of high transverse momentum jets⁷. The substructure of high transverse momentum objects (or jets) has not been studied extensively at Tevatron before this search. The term boosted top refers to the fact that the decay products of these top quarks are collimated into one single massive jet. The background estimation is done using data-driven methods. The predicted top cross section for $p_T > 400$ GeV/ c using the MSTW2008NNLO⁸ parton density distribution function (PDF) is $4.55^{+0.50}_{-0.41}$ fb. No such signal is observed and instead an upper cross section limit of 38 fb at 95% C.L. is set for $p_T > 400$ GeV/ c . It is also possible to search for the pair production of a massive object, in this case an upper cross section limit of 20 fb at 95% C.L. is derived.

1.5 Lorentz Invariance Violation ($D\emptyset$)

$D\emptyset$ searched for a time dependent $t\bar{t}$ production cross section using 5.3 fb^{-1} of data⁹. For the analysis $t\bar{t}$ events in the ℓ +jets channel are selected with a lepton (e/μ), additional at least four jets, exactly one jet identified as a b -jet and \cancel{E}_T . In addition the analysis relies on the timestamp of the data at production time. The standard model extension (SME)¹⁰ is an

effective field theory and implements terms that violated Lorentz and CPT invariance. The modified SME matrix element adds Lorentz invariance violating terms for the production and decay of $t\bar{t}$ events to the standard model terms. The SME predicts a cross section dependence on sidereal time as the orientation of the detector changes with the rotation of the earth relative to the fixed stars. The background and luminosity corrected ratio R is expected to be flat within the standard model, i.e. no time dependence of the $t\bar{t}$ production cross section. Figure 4 shows this ratio as a function of the sidereal phase, i.e. 1 corresponds to one sidereal day. There is no

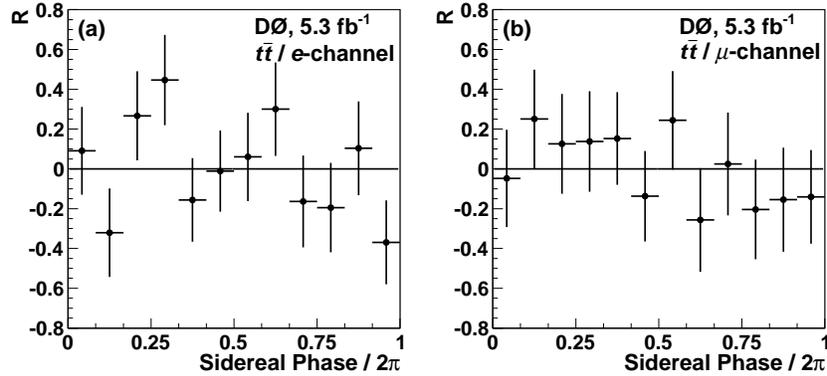


Figure 4: (a) shows the background and luminosity corrected ratio R as a function of the sidereal phase (one sidereal day) for the ℓ +jets decay channel containing electrons, whereas (b) shows the same ratio R for the muon case. No significant time dependence is observed.

indication for a time dependent $t\bar{t}$ production cross section. Instead this measurement sets first constraints on Lorentz invariance violation in the top sector. As the top quark decays before it can hadronize the constraints are also the first ones for a bare quark.

2 Conclusions

Various recent searches in top events at the Tevatron have been discussed. No significant evidence for non-standard model signals or contributions have been seen. CDF and DØ continue to provide unique results in the top sector and more top analyzes using the final data sample are expected to come out soon.

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