Search for massive resonances decaying into pairs of boosted bosons in semi-leptonic final states at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV

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Abstract

A search for new resonances decaying to WW, ZZ, or WZ is presented. Final states are considered in which one of the vector bosons decays leptonically and the other hadronically. Results are based on data corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 19.7 fb$^{-1}$ recorded in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with the CMS detector at the CERN LHC. Techniques aiming at identifying jet substructures are used to analyze signal events in which the hadronization products from the decay of highly boosted W or Z bosons are contained within a single reconstructed jet. Upper limits on the production of generic WW, ZZ, or WZ resonances are set as a function of the resonance mass and width. We increase the sensitivity of the analysis by statistically combining the results of this search with a complementary study of the all-hadronic final state. Upper limits at 95% confidence level are set on the bulk graviton production cross section in the range from 700 to 10 fb$^{-1}$ for resonance masses between 600 and 2500 GeV, respectively. These limits on the bulk graviton model are the most stringent to date in the diboson final state.

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1 Introduction

The standard model (SM) of particle physics has been very successful in describing the high-energy physics phenomena investigated so far. One of the predictions of the SM is the existence of a scalar particle, known as the Higgs boson, associated with the spontaneous breaking of the electroweak (EW) symmetry and responsible for the masses of the SM particles [1–6]. The recent discovery by the ATLAS and CMS Collaborations of a particle compatible with the SM predictions for the Higgs boson provides further verification of the SM [7–9]. In view of large loop corrections to the Higgs boson mass, the question arises whether the measured Higgs boson mass is the result of fine-tuned constants of nature within the SM or whether new physics at the TeV scale stabilizes the Higgs field vacuum. This question can be reformulated in terms of the large difference between the mass of the Higgs boson and the Planck scale $M_{Pl}$, where the gravitational force is expected to have the same strength as the other fundamental forces ($M_{Pl} \sim 10^{16}$ TeV).

In many theoretical extensions of the SM, the spontaneous breaking of the EW symmetry is associated with new strong dynamics appearing at the TeV scale. For instance, the origin of the new dynamics may be due to new interactions [10–12] or a composite Higgs boson [13–15]. These extensions of the SM predict the existence of new resonances coupling to pairs of massive vector bosons ($VV$, where $V = W$ or $Z$). Results from previous direct searches at CMS [16–19] and ATLAS [20–23], and from indirect bounds from the EW sector and from flavor physics [24, 25] generally place lower limits on the masses of these VV resonances above the TeV scale.

Models extending the number of spatial dimensions are of particular interest in the attempt to explain the apparently large difference between the EW and the gravitational scale. Some of these models predict the existence of a so-called tower of Kaluza–Klein (KK) excitations of a spin-2 boson, the KK graviton. The WW and ZZ channels are some of the possible decay modes of the Randall–Sundrum (RS) graviton [26] in warped extra dimension models. The original RS model (here denoted as RS1) can be extended to the bulk graviton ($G_{bulk}$) model, which addresses the flavor structure of the SM through localization of fermions in the warped extra dimension [27–29]. In this scenario, coupling of the graviton to light fermions is highly suppressed and the decays into photons are negligible. On the other hand, the production of gravitons from gluon fusion and their decays into a pair of massive gauge bosons can be sizable at hadron colliders. The model has two free parameters: the mass of the first mode of the KK bulk graviton, $M_{C_{G}}$, and the ratio $k/M_{Pl}$, where $k$ is the unknown curvature scale of the extra dimension, and $M_{Pl} \equiv M_{Pl}/\sqrt{8\pi}$ is the reduced Planck mass. Previous direct searches set limits on the cross section for the production of $G_{bulk}$ as a function of $M_{C_{G}}$ [17, 22]. It should be noted that a revised version of the theoretical calculations has been recently released, superseding the previous one [27, 30]. With the new calculation, which predicts production cross sections four times smaller, previous limits may have to be revised. For example, the experimental limits in Ref. [17] cannot set bounds on the bulk graviton mass for the values of $k/M_{Pl}$ considered in the reference.

We present a search for new resonances decaying to WW, ZZ, or WZ in which one of the bosons decays leptonically and the other hadronically. The analysis is based on the proton-proton collision data at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV collected by the CMS experiment at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC) during 2012 and corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 19.7 fb$^{-1}$. The final states considered are either $\ell\nu q\bar{q}$ or $\ell\ell q\bar{q}$, resulting in events with a charged lepton, a neutrino and a single reconstructed-jet ($\ell\nu$+V-jet channel) or two charged leptons and a single reconstructed-jet ($\ell\ell$+V-jet channel). Figure 1 shows two Feynman diagrams relevant to the
production and decays of a generic resonance \( \text{X} \). The search is limited to final states where \( \ell = \mu \) or \( e \); however the results include the case in which \( \text{W} \to \tau \nu \) or \( \text{Z} \to \tau \tau \) where the tau decay is \( \tau \to \ell \nu \nu \). The gain in sensitivity from the decay channels including \( \tau \) leptons is limited, because of the small branching ratios involved.

For large values of the resonance mass, the two quarks originating from the hadronically decaying \( \text{W} \) or \( \text{Z} \) bosons are highly collimated and are typically reconstructed as a single massive jet (“\( \text{V} \) jet”). Final states where two jets from a \( \text{V} \) decay are well resolved in the detector give a negligible contribution to the sensitivity for the resonance masses considered in this search. This analysis uses the additional information from jet substructure to perform jet “\( \text{V} \) tagging” and to further suppress the SM background, which mainly originates from the SM production of \( \text{V} + \) jets and non-resonant \( \text{VV} \) events \(^{[31]}\). In the \( \ell \nu + \text{V-jet} \) channel \( \text{t} \) events also contribute to the background. The signal is characterized as a local enhancement in the \( \text{WW}, \text{ZZ}, \) or \( \text{WZ} \) invariant mass distribution \( (m_{\text{VV}}) \). The invariant mass of the \( \text{WW} \) system is determined by estimating the neutrino transverse momentum with the measured missing transverse energy \( (E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}) \) in the event, while an estimate of the neutrino longitudinal momentum is derived by imposing the constraint of the \( \text{W} \) mass on the invariant mass of the \( \ell \nu \) system. The mass distributions for the dominant \( \text{W}+\)jets and \( \text{Z}+\)jets backgrounds are determined from events with a reconstructed jet mass not compatible with the \( \text{W} \) or \( \text{Z} \) hypothesis. This analysis is optimized for \( \text{WW} \) and \( \text{ZZ} \) resonances, but because of the loose requirement on the \( \text{V-jet} \) mass it is also sensitive to charged resonances decaying to \( \text{WZ} \).

The results of this analysis are combined with limits derived in a companion CMS search for resonances decaying to \( \text{VV} \) final states in the all-hadronic decay channel \(^{[32]}\). The all-hadronic analysis uses the same \( \text{V} \)-tagging techniques as presented here to separate the signal from the large multijet background.

In this paper, Section \(^{[2]}\) briefly describes the CMS detector; Section \(^{[3]}\) gives an overview of the simulations used in this analysis. Section \(^{[4]}\) provides a detailed description of the reconstruction and event selection. In Section \(^{[5]}\) we demonstrate the performance of the \( \text{V} \) tagging by studying a sample of events enriched in top quarks. Section \(^{[6]}\) describes the background estimation and the signal modeling. Systematic uncertainties are discussed in Section \(^{[7]}\). The results of the search for a bulk graviton and for generic resonances are presented in Section \(^{[8]}\). Appendix \(^{[A]}\) contains detailed instructions for applying the results presented here to new models with di-boson resonances.
2 The CMS detector

The central feature of the CMS detector is a 3.8 T superconducting solenoid with a 6 m internal diameter. Within the field volume are the silicon tracker, the crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and the brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL). The calorimeters are supplemented by a steel/quartz-fiber Cherenkov detector (HF) to extend the calorimetric coverage in the forward direction. The muon system is installed outside the solenoid and embedded in the steel flux-return yoke. The CMS experiment uses a right-handed coordinate system, with the origin at the nominal collision point, the $x$-axis pointing to the center of the LHC ring, the $y$-axis pointing up (perpendicular to the LHC plane), and the $z$-axis along the anticlockwise beam direction. The polar angle ($\theta$) is measured from the positive $z$-axis in the $x$–$y$ plane. The radius ($r$) denotes the distance from the $z$-axis and the pseudorapidity ($\eta$) is defined as $\eta = -\ln(\tan(\theta/2))$. The CMS tracker consists of 1440 silicon pixel and 15 148 silicon strip detector modules. The ECAL consists of nearly 76 000 lead tungstate crystals, which provide coverage in pseudorapidity $|\eta| < 1.479$ in the central barrel region and $1.479 < |\eta| < 3.0$ in the two forward endcap regions. The HCAL consists of a sampling calorimeter which utilizes alternating layers of brass as an absorber and plastic scintillator as an active material, covering the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 3$, which is extended to $|\eta| < 5$ in combination with the HF. Muons are measured in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.4$, with detection planes which employ three technologies: drift tubes, cathode strip chambers, and resistive plate chambers. A detailed description of the CMS detector can be found in Ref. [33].

3 Simulated samples

The W+jets and Z+jets SM processes are simulated with MadGraph v5.1.3.30 [34], $t\bar{t}$ and single top quark events are generated with Powheg 1.0 r1380 [35–40], while diboson (WW, WZ, and ZZ) processes are produced with Pythia v6.424 [41]. The parton showering and hadronization are performed with Pythia using the Z2* tune [42]. The CTEQ6L [43] parton distribution functions (PDF) are used in all generated samples, except for the Powheg $t\bar{t}$ sample, where the CT10 PDF set [44] is used. All generated samples are processed through a Geant4-based [45] simulation of the CMS detector. The simulated background samples are normalized using inclusive cross sections calculated at next-to-leading order (NLO), or next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) where available, calculated with MCFM v6.6 [46–49] and FewZ v3.1 [50].

The bulk graviton model is used as a benchmark signal process, with the graviton forced to decay to the WW and ZZ final states. In this specific model, the vector gauge bosons are produced with a longitudinal polarization ($V_L$) in more than 99% of the cases. The graviton masses considered lie in the range 600 to 2500 GeV. The events are generated with JHUGEN v3.1.8 [51], which properly treats the spin correlations in the final state, while the values for the bulk graviton cross sections and decay rates are calculated at leading order with CalcHEP v3.4.1 [52]. The total cross section of the process $pp \rightarrow G_{\text{bulk}}$ at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV is 15.1 fb, for a graviton mass of 1 TeV and $k/M_{\text{Pl}} = 0.5$. At the same resonance mass, the branching fraction of $G_{\text{bulk}} \rightarrow WW$ ($G_{\text{bulk}} \rightarrow ZZ$) is 18.7% (9.5%).

Supplementary minimum bias interactions are added to the generated events in order to match the additional particle production observed in data from the large number of proton-proton interactions per LHC bunch crossing (pileup). The simulated samples are corrected for observed differences between data and simulation in the efficiencies of lepton trigger, lepton identification/isolation, and selection criteria identifying jets originating from hadronization of
4 Reconstruction and selection of events

4.1 Trigger and basic offline selection

In the $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel, candidate signal events are selected online with a trigger requiring either one muon or one electron, without isolation requirements and with loose identification criteria. The transverse momentum ($p_T$) measured online must be higher than 40 GeV for the muons while the minimum transverse energy threshold is 80 GeV for the electrons. The trigger efficiencies for the single-muon trigger vary between 82% and 94% depending on the value of the $\eta$ of the muon. The efficiency is above 98% for the single-electron trigger.

In the $\ell\ell+V$-jet channel, events are selected online with a trigger requiring either two muons or two electromagnetic energy deposits, with loose identification criteria. The trigger used for the electron channel rejects candidates if there is significant energy in the HCAL associated with the ECAL cluster. The clusters are required to be loosely matched to the trajectories of tracks with associated hits in the pixel detector. No lepton isolation requirements are applied at the trigger level. The $p_T$ thresholds applied in the online selection of the muons are 22 GeV for the highest-$p_T$ muon and 8 GeV for the second highest-$p_T$ muon. The transverse energy threshold for the ECAL clusters is set at 33 GeV. The trigger efficiency of the double-muon trigger varies between 80% and 98% depending on the value of $\eta$ of the leptons. The efficiency of the double-electron trigger is above 99%.

Offline, all events are required to have at least one primary vertex reconstructed within a 24 cm window along the beam axis, with a transverse distance from the nominal pp interaction region of less than 2 cm [53]. In the presence of more than one vertex passing these requirements, the primary-event vertex is chosen to be the one with the highest total $p_T^2$, summed over all the associated tracks.

4.2 Muon reconstruction and selection

Tracker muons are reconstructed using the inner tracker with an additional requirement of a matching hit in the muon system [54]. Tracker muons must satisfy requirements on the impact parameter of the track and on the number of hits in the silicon tracker. Muons reconstructed with a fit using both the inner tracking system and the muon spectrometer are defined as global muons [54]. Compared to tracker muons, global muons must pass additional requirements on the number of hits in the muon detectors. These quality selections ensure a precise measurement of the four-momentum and reject misreconstructed muons. A large fraction of isolated high-$p_T$ muons is usually identified as both tracker and global muons. For large values of the mass of a $ZZ$ resonance, the two charged leptons originating from the high-$p_T$ $Z$ boson are highly collimated because of the large Lorentz boost and are characterized by small values of their angular separation, $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta \eta)^2 + (\Delta \phi)^2}$. While the global muon reconstruction and identification are optimized for the case of well-separated muons, inefficiencies in the global-muon reconstruction are observed when two muons from a boosted $Z$ are very close, typically causing the loss of one of them. In order to recover the inefficiency in the muon identification, the $\ell\ell+V$-jet selection requires two tracker muons of which at least one should be reconstructed and identified as a global muon. Wherever possible, the kinematic quantities are calculated with the global fit.

An isolation requirement is applied in order to suppress the background from multijet events.
where jet constituents are identified as muons. A cone of radius $\Delta R = 0.3$ is constructed around the muon direction. The isolation parameter is defined as the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of all the additional reconstructed tracks within the cone, divided by the muon $p_T$. The contribution from any other muon candidate in the cone is excluded from the computation in order to retain high signal efficiency when the two muons originate from a boosted Z and are collimated to the point of entering in each other’s isolation cone. Muon candidates with an isolation parameter smaller than 0.1 are considered isolated and used in the rest of the analysis. The efficiency of this muon selection has been measured with a tag-and-probe method using Z bosons [55], and it has a negligible dependence on the number of reconstructed primary vertices in the event. In the $\ell\ell+V$-jet channel, events must have at least two muons with $|\eta| < 2.4$ of which one should have $p_T > 40$ GeV and the other $p_T > 20$ GeV. In the $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel, we require exactly one global muon with $p_T > 50$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.1$.

### 4.3 Electron reconstruction and selection

Electron candidates are reconstructed by matching energy deposits in the ECAL with reconstructed tracks [56]. In order to suppress multijet background, electron candidates must pass stringent quality criteria tuned for high-$p_T$ objects and an isolation selection [57]. The total scalar sum of the $p_T$ of all the tracks in a cone of radius $\Delta R = 0.3$ around the electron direction, excluding tracks within an inner cone of $\Delta R = 0.04$ to remove the contribution from the electron itself, must be less than 5 GeV. A calorimetric isolation parameter is calculated by summing the energies of reconstructed deposits in both ECAL and HCAL, not associated with the electron itself, within a cone of radius $\Delta R = 0.3$ around the electron. The upper threshold for this isolation parameter depends on the electron kinematic quantities and the average amount of additional energy coming from pileup interactions. When evaluating the isolation parameter in the $\ell\ell+V$-jet channel, the contribution from any nearby electron candidate is excluded from the calculation. This is done in order to retain high signal efficiency when the two leptons from a Z decay are highly boosted and one of them enters into the isolation cone of the other. In the $\ell\ell+V$-jet channel, we require at least two electrons with $p_T > 40$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$. In the $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel, we require exactly one electron with $p_T > 90$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$. In both channels, the electrons must fall outside the overlap region between the ECAL barrel and endcaps ($1.44 < |\eta| < 1.56$).

### 4.4 Jets and missing transverse energy reconstruction

Hadronic jets are clustered from the four-momenta of the particles reconstructed by the CMS particle-flow (PF) algorithm [58, 59], using the FASTJET software package [60]. The PF algorithm reconstructs individual particles by combining information from all sub-detector systems. The reconstructed PF constituents are assigned to one of the five candidate categories (electrons, muons, photons, charged hadrons, and neutral hadrons). In the jet clustering procedure charged PF particles not associated with the primary-event vertex are excluded. Jets used for identifying the hadronically decaying W and Z bosons are clustered using the Cambridge–Aachen algorithm [61] with a distance parameter $R = 0.8$ ("CA8 jets"). In order to identify b jets, the anti-$k_T$ jet clustering algorithm is used [62] with a distance parameter $R = 0.5$ ("AK5 jets") and the combined secondary vertex b-tagging algorithm [63] is applied to the reconstructed AK5 jets. The ratio of the b-tagging efficiency between data and simulation is used as a scale factor to correct the simulated events. A correction based on the projected area of the jet on the front face of the calorimeter is used to take into account the extra energy clustered in jets due to neutral particles coming from pileup. Jet energy corrections are derived from simulation and from dijet and photon+jet events in data [64]. Additional quality criteria are applied to the jets in order to remove spurious jet-like features originating from isolated noise patterns.
in the calorimeters or the tracker. The efficiency of these jet quality requirements for signal events is above 99%. The CA8 (AK5) jets are required to be separated from any well-identified electron or muon by \( \Delta R > 0.8 \) (0.3). All jets must have \( p_T > 30 \text{ GeV} \) and \( |\eta| < 2.4 \) in order to be considered in the subsequent steps of the analysis.

The missing transverse energy \( E_{\text{miss}} \) is defined as the magnitude of the vector sum of the transverse momenta of the reconstructed PF objects. The raw \( E_{\text{miss}} \) value is modified to account for corrections to the energy scale of all the reconstructed AK5 jets in the event. More details on the \( E_{\text{miss}} \) performance in CMS can be found in Refs. [65, 66]. The requirement \( E_{\text{miss}} > 40 \) (80) GeV is applied only for the muon (electron) channel in the \( \ell\nu + \text{V-jet} \) analysis. The threshold is higher in the electron channel to further suppress the larger background from multijet processes.

### 4.5 W → ℓν and Z → ℓℓ reconstruction and identification

In the \( \ell\nu + \text{V-jet} \) channel, identified electrons or muons are associated with the \( W \rightarrow \ell\nu \) candidate. The transverse momentum of the undetected neutrino is assumed to be equal to the \( E_T \). The longitudinal momentum of the neutrino is obtained by solving a second-order equation that sets the \( \ell\nu \) invariant mass to be equal to the known \( W \)-boson mass [67]. In the case of two real solutions, the smaller one is chosen; in the case of two complex solutions, their real part is used. The four-momentum of the neutrino is used to build the four-momentum of the \( W \rightarrow \ell\nu \) candidate. The same procedure is applied for \( W \rightarrow \tau\nu \) candidates, where the \( \tau \) decays to one electron or muon and two neutrinos. In this case, the \( E_{\text{miss}} \) represents the transverse momentum of the three-neutrino system.

In the \( \ell\ell + \text{V-jet} \) channel, the leptonic Z-boson candidate is reconstructed by combining two oppositely charged lepton candidates of the same flavor. The invariant mass of the dilepton system is required to be between 70 and 110 GeV, consistent with the Z-boson mass. This requirement is introduced to reduce significantly the Drell–Yan and top-quark backgrounds, at the cost of a suppression of the small \( Z \rightarrow \tau\tau \rightarrow (\ell\nu) (\ell\nu) \) signal contribution.

### 4.6 W → q\bar{q}' and Z → q\bar{q} identification using jet substructure

CA8 jets are used to reconstruct the \( W \)-jet and Z-jet candidates from hadronic decays of boosted \( W \) and Z bosons, respectively. In order to discriminate against multijet backgrounds we exploit both the reconstructed jet mass, which is required to be close to the \( W \)- or Z-boson mass, and the two-prong jet substructure produced by the particle cascades of two high-\( p_T \) quarks merging into one jet.

As the first step in exploring potential substructure, the jet constituents are subjected to a jet grooming algorithm, that improves the resolution on the jet mass and reduces the effect of pileup [68]. The goal of jet grooming is to re-cluster the jet constituents while applying additional requirements that eliminate soft, large-angle quantum chromodynamic (QCD) radiation coming from sources other than the hard interaction responsible for the V boson. Different jet grooming algorithms have been explored at CMS and their performance on jets in multijet processes has been studied in detail [68]. In this analysis, we use the jet pruning algorithm [69,70]. Jet pruning reclusters each jet starting from all its original constituents using the CA algorithm, discarding “soft” recombinations in each step of the iterative CA procedure. The combination of two input four-vectors \( i \) and \( j \) is considered soft if either (i) \( p_{Ti} \) or \( p_{Tj} \) is small compared to the \( p_T \) of their combination, or (ii) the separation angle between \( i \) and \( j \) is large. With \( \hat{p}_T \) the transverse momentum of the result of the recombination of \( i \) and \( j \), the two possible tags of a soft recombination are expressed as (i) \( \min(p_{Ti}, p_{Tj})/\hat{p}_T < 0.1 \) and (ii) \( \Delta R_{ij} > m_{\text{orig}}/p_{T\text{orig}} \), with \( m_{\text{orig}} \) and \( p_{T\text{orig}} \) representing the mass and \( p_T \) of the original un-pruned CA jet. Soft recombinations
are rejected, in which case the input four-vector with the smallest $p_T$ is discarded and the input four-vector with the highest $p_T$ is retained for further recombinations. A jet is considered as a W-jet candidate if its pruned mass, $m_{\text{jet}}$, computed from the sum of the four-momenta of the constituents surviving the pruning, falls in the range $65 < m_{\text{jet}} < 105 \text{ GeV}$. Similarly, a Z-jet candidate is required to have $70 < m_{\text{jet}} < 110 \text{ GeV}$.

Further discrimination against jets from gluon and single-quark hadronization is obtained from the quantity called $N$-subjettiness [71]. The constituents of the jet before the pruning procedure are re-clustered with the $k_T$ algorithm [72, 73], until N joint objects (subjets) remain in the iterative combination procedure of the $k_T$ algorithm. The $N$-subjettiness, $\tau_N$, is then defined as

$$
\tau_N = \frac{1}{d_0} \sum_k p_{T,k} \min(\Delta R_{1,k}, \Delta R_{2,k}, \ldots, \Delta R_{N,k}),
$$

(1)

where the index $k$ runs over the PF constituents of the jet and the distances $\Delta R_{n,k}$ are calculated with respect to the axis of the $n$th subjet. The normalization factor $d_0$ is calculated as $d_0 = \sum_k p_{T,k} R_0$, setting $R_0$ to the jet radius of the original jet. The variable $\tau_N$ quantifies the capability of clustering the jet constituents in exactly $N$ subjets, with small values representing configurations more compatible with the $N$-subjets hypothesis. The ratio between 2-subjettiness and 1-subjettiness, $\tau_{21} = \tau_2 / \tau_1$, is found to be a powerful discriminant between jets originating from hadronic $V$ decays and from gluon and single-quark hadronization. We reject $V$-jet candidates with $\tau_{21} > 0.75$. The remaining events are further categorized according to their value of $\tau_{21}$ in order to enhance the sensitivity of the analysis. Jets coming from hadronic $W$ or $Z$ decays in signal events are characterized by lower values of $\tau_{21}$ compared to the SM backgrounds.

4.7 Final event selection and categorization

After reconstructing the two vector bosons, we apply the final selections used for the search. In the $\ell\nu+V$-jet ($\ell\ell+V$-jet) channel, both the leptonic and the hadronic $V$-boson candidates must have a $p_T$ greater than 200 (80) GeV. The larger threshold for the $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel is related to the higher trigger thresholds and the larger multijet background in this category of events. In addition, there are specific topological selection criteria in the $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel requiring that the two $W$ bosons from the decay of a massive resonance are approximately back-to-back: the $\Delta R$ distance between the lepton and the W-jet is greater than $\pi/2$; the azimuthal angular separation between the missing transverse energy vector and the W-jet is greater than 2.0 radians; and the azimuthal angular separation between the $W \rightarrow \ell\nu$ and W-jet candidates is greater than 2.0 radians. To further reduce the level of the $t\bar{t}$ background in the $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel, events are rejected if there is one or more b-tagged AK5 jet in the event, using a working point of the b-tagging algorithm tuned to provide a misidentification rate of $\sim 1\%$ and efficiency of $\sim 70\%$. This veto preserves about 90\% of signal events. The looser selections in the $\ell\ell+V$-jet channel allow the extension of the range of probed masses to lower values. The minimum value of $m_{VV}$ is 700 (500) GeV for the $\ell\nu+V$-jet ($\ell\ell+V$-jet) channel, respectively.

To enhance the analysis sensitivity, we distinguish two V-jet categories:

- high-purity (HP) category: $\tau_{21} \leq 0.5$;
- low-purity (LP) category: $0.5 < \tau_{21} < 0.75$.

Although it is expected that the HP category dominates the total sensitivity of the analysis, the LP is retained, since for large masses of a new resonance it provides improved signal efficiency with only moderate background contamination. The final categorization is based on four classes of events, depending on their lepton flavor (muon or electron) and V-jet purity (LP
and HP). In case several distinct diboson resonance candidates are present in the same event, only one is kept for further analysis. Diboson pairs in the HP category are preferred to those in the LP category and, in case multiple choices are still possible, the candidate with the V-jet with the highest $p_T$ is retained. After the final selection no events with multiple leptonic Z candidates remain.

The $p_T$ and $\tau_{21}$ distributions for the hadronic W (Z) boson candidate after the $\ell+V$-jet ($\ell+V$-jet) selection are shown in Fig. 2 (Fig. 3), after applying a $65 < m_{\text{jet}} < 105$ GeV ($70 < m_{\text{jet}} < 110$ GeV) requirement. The $\tau_{21}$ distribution shows some disagreement between data and simulation. Previous studies suggest that part of this discrepancy can be attributed to a mismodeling of the parton showering in simulation [31]. The analysis is designed to be robust against differences between data and simulation independent of their specific sources, as described in the next sections.

![Figure 2: Hadronic W $p_T$ and N-subjettiness ratio $\tau_{21}$ distributions for the combined muon and electron channels and with $65 < m_{\text{jet}} < 105$ GeV. The VV, tt, and single-t backgrounds are taken from simulation and are normalized to the integrated luminosity of the data sample. The W+Jets background is rescaled such that the total number of background events matches the number of events in data. The signal is scaled by a factor of 1600 for better visualization.

5 W tagging in a top-quark enriched control sample

The data/simulation discrepancy observed in the key variable $\tau_{21}$ (Figs. 2 and 3) is of particular concern as the mismodeling of the variable could bias the signal efficiency estimated from the simulated samples. It is important to study the mismodeling in a signal-free sample with the characteristics of the jets similar to those expected for a genuine signal. In this way one can extract correction factors to apply to the signal efficiency suggested by the simulation and obtain a small systematic uncertainty related to this effect. A sample of high-$p_T$ W bosons decaying hadronically, and reconstructed as a single CA8 jet, can be isolated in tt and single top-quark events. The control sample is selected by applying all analysis requirements but inverting the b-jet veto. The data are compared with the predictions from simulation. Discrepancies between data and simulation are corrected in the analysis using the scale factors for top-quark background normalization, V-tagging efficiency, and peak and resolution of the V-jet mass distribution derived in this section. Since the jet substructure produced in simulation depends on the modeling of the parton shower, PYTHIA v6.426 is used for this part of the event simulation.
Figure 3: Hadronic $Z$, $p_T$ and N-subjettiness ratio $\tau_{21}$ distributions for the combined muon and electron channels and with $70 < m_{\text{jet}} < 110$ GeV. The VV and $t\bar{t}$ backgrounds are taken from simulation and are normalized to the integrated luminosity of the data sample. The $Z$+jets background is rescaled such that the total number of background events matches the number of events in data. The signal is scaled by a factor of 2000 for better visualization.

In this way the results of this study can be consistently applied to the signal MC samples, that are also generated with the same parton showering.

The $\tau_{21}$ distribution in the top-quark enriched control sample is shown in the left plot of Fig. 4 while the right plot shows the pruned jet mass distribution after applying the HP selection of $\tau_{21} < 0.5$. The pruned jet mass plot shows a clear peak for events with an isolated $W$ boson decaying to hadrons ($W$-signal component), as well as a combinatorial component mainly due to events where the extra $b$ jet from the top-quark decay is in the proximity of the $W$. From the comparison between data and simulation, a normalization correction factor for $t\bar{t}$ and single top-quark background processes is evaluated in the signal region ($65 < m_{\text{jet}} < 105$ GeV). The measured data-to-simulation scale factors are $0.97 \pm 0.02$ ($0.96 \pm 0.03$) in the muon (electron) channel for the high-purity category, and $1.31 \pm 0.05$ ($1.39 \pm 0.08$) for the low-purity category. These scale factors (including both the $W$-signal and the combinatorial components) are used to correct the normalization of the $t\bar{t}$ and single top-quark simulated background predictions in the signal region.

A simultaneous fit to the jet mass distributions, before and after the $m_{\text{jet}}$ and $\tau_{21}$ requirements, is performed to separate the $W$-signal from the combinatorial components in the top-quark enriched sample, in both data and simulation. The fit results are used to extract the efficiencies for identifying an isolated hadronic $W$ boson ($W$ tagging based on $m_{\text{jet}}$ and $\tau_{21}$ requirements). Differences in the resulting $W$-tagging efficiencies will be driven by the discrepancy between data and simulation in the $\tau_{21}$ distribution. The ratio of the efficiency in data and simulation yields $W$-tagging scale factors that are used to correct the total signal efficiency predicted by the simulation. The scale factor for $W$ tagging is $0.89 \pm 0.08$ ($1.28 \pm 0.30$) for the high-purity (low-purity) category, combining the muon and electron channels.

In addition, the $W$-jet mass peak position and resolution are extracted from the same fit and are measured to be $83.4 \pm 0.3$ and $7.2 \pm 0.4$ GeV, respectively, in the simulation and $84.7 \pm 0.4$ and $7.9 \pm 0.6$ GeV in the data, where the uncertainties given are statistical only. The mass peak position is slightly shifted with respect to the $W$-boson mass because of the presence of
extra energy deposited in the jet cone coming from pileup, underlying event, and initial-state radiation not completely removed by the jet pruning procedure. For events with top quarks, additional energy contributions come also from the possible presence of a b jet close to the W-jet candidate.

The same corrections are used also in the case where the V-jet is assumed to come from a Z boson. The kinematic properties of W-jets and Z-jets are very similar and the agreement between data and simulation is expected to be equally good.

6 Modeling of background and signal

6.1 Background estimation

After the full selection, the dominant background comes from SM V+jets events. A procedure based on data has been developed in order to estimate this background. Other minor sources of background, such as t\(\bar{t}\), single top-quark, and VV production, are estimated using the simulated samples after applying correction factors based on control samples in data, as described in the previous sections. A signal-depleted control region is defined around the \(m_{\text{jet}}\) mass window described in Section 4.6. For the \(\ell\nu\)+V-jet channel, lower and upper sideband regions are defined in the \(m_{\text{jet}}\) ranges [40, 65] and [105, 130] GeV, respectively. In the \(\ell\ell\)+V-jet channel, the sidebands are defined in the \(m_{\text{jet}}\) ranges [50, 70] and [110, 130] GeV.

The overall normalization of the V+jets background in the signal region is determined from a fit to the \(m_{\text{jet}}\) distribution in the lower and upper sidebands of the observed data. The analytical form of the fit function is chosen from simulation studies and the minor backgrounds are taken from the simulation. Figures 5 and 6 show the result of this fit procedure for the \(\ell\nu\)+V-jet and \(\ell\ell\)+V-jet analyses, respectively. Tables 1 and 2 show the predicted number of background events in the signal region after the inclusion of the minor backgrounds and compare it with the data.

Figure 4: Distributions from the top-quark enriched control sample in the muon channel. Left: N-subjettiness ratio \(\tau_{21}\), Right: \(m_{\text{jet}}\) after requiring \(\tau_{21} < 0.5\). The distributions show some disagreement between data and simulation. A method based on data is used to derive the efficiency of the \(m_{\text{jet}}\) and \(\tau_{21}\) requirements (Section 5). This approach ensures that the analysis is robust against differences between data and simulation, independent from their sources.
Figure 5: Distributions of the pruned jet mass, $m_{\text{jet}}$, in the $\ell\nu+V$-jet analysis in the electron channel. The left (right) panel shows the distribution for the HP (LP) category. All selections are applied except the final $m_{\text{jet}}$ signal window requirement. Data are shown as black markers. The prediction of the non-resonant $W$+jets background comes from a fit excluding the signal region (between the vertical dashed lines), while the predictions for the minor backgrounds come from the simulation. The MC resonant shapes are corrected using the differences between data and simulation in the $t\bar{t}$ control region (see Section 5). At the bottom of each plot, the bin-by-bin fit residuals, $(\text{data-fit})/\sigma_{\text{data}}$, are shown together with the uncertainty band of the fit normalized by $\sigma_{\text{data}}$.

Table 1: Observed and expected yields for the $\ell\nu+V$-jet analysis. The yields are quoted in the range $700 < m_{WW} < 3000$ GeV. The expected background is quoted from the sideband procedure. The uncertainties in the background prediction from data are statistical in nature, as they depend on the number of events in the sideband region. Statistical uncertainties in the signal expectations are negligible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$\mu\nu + V$-jet HP</th>
<th>$\mu\nu + V$-jet LP</th>
<th>$e\nu + V$-jet HP</th>
<th>$e\nu + V$-jet LP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observed yield</td>
<td>1483</td>
<td>1546</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected background</td>
<td>1434 ± 38</td>
<td>1644 ± 41</td>
<td>878 ± 30</td>
<td>978 ± 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk graviton ($k/\sqrt{M_{\text{Pl}}} = 0.5$)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$m_{G} = 800$ GeV</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$m_{G} = 1200$ GeV</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$\sqrt{s}$ = 8 TeV, $L = 19.7$ fb$^{-1}$
Figure 6: Distributions of the pruned jet mass, $m_{\text{jet}}$, in the $\ell\ell+V$-jet analysis in the electron channel. The left (right) panel shows the distribution for the HP (LP) category. All selections are applied except the final $m_{\mu\mu}$ signal window requirement. Data are shown as black markers. The prediction of the non-resonant $Z$+jets background comes from a fit excluding the signal region (between the vertical dashed lines), while the predictions for the minor backgrounds come from the simulation. The MC resonant shapes are corrected using the differences between data and simulation in the $t\bar{t}$ control region (see Section 5). At the bottom of each plot, the bin-by-bin fit residuals, $(\text{data-fit})/\sigma_{\text{data}}$, are shown together with the uncertainty band of the fit normalized by $\sigma_{\text{data}}$.

Table 2: Observed and expected yields for the $\ell\ell+V$-jet analysis. The yields are quoted in the range $500$ ($650$) < $m_{\ell\ell}$ < $2800$ GeV for the HP (LP) category. The expected background is quoted from the sideband procedure. The uncertainties in the background predictions from data are statistical in nature, as they depend on the number of events in the sideband region. Statistical uncertainties in the signal expectations are negligible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$\mu\mu + V$-jet HP</th>
<th>$\mu\mu + V$-jet LP</th>
<th>$ee + V$-jet HP</th>
<th>$ee + V$-jet LP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observed yield</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected background</td>
<td>622 ± 29</td>
<td>338 ± 22</td>
<td>370 ± 22</td>
<td>207 ± 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk graviton ($k/M_{\text{Pl}} = 0.5$)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$m_{G} = 800$ GeV</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$m_{G} = 1200$ GeV</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.035</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The shape of the $m_{VV}$ distribution of the V+jets background in the signal region is determined from the low $m_{jj}$ sideband only, through an extrapolation function $\alpha_{MC}(m_{VV})$ derived from the V+jets simulation, defined as:

$$\alpha_{MC}(m_{VV}) = \frac{F_{MC,SR}^{V+jets}(m_{VV})}{F_{MC,SB}^{V+jets}(m_{VV})},$$

where $F_{MC,SR}^{V+jets}(m_{VV})$ and $F_{MC,SB}^{V+jets}(m_{VV})$ are the probability density functions used to describe the $m_{VV}$ spectrum in simulation for the signal region and low $m_{jj}$ sideband region, respectively. The high $m_{jj}$ sideband was not considered in order to exclude possible contamination from beyond-SM resonances decaying into a V boson and a SM Higgs boson, H, with mass of 125.6 GeV [74], in addition to the VV final state considered here. The partial compositeness model [14] is an example of such a scenarios. These signal events from HV resonances, in which the Higgs boson is reconstructed as a jet in the CMS detector and the V decays leptonically, would populate the high-mass sideband region of both the $\ell\ell$ and $\nu\nu$ channels.

The $m_{VV}$ distribution observed in the lower sideband region is corrected for the presence of minor backgrounds in order to have an estimation of the V+jets contribution in the control region of the data, $F_{DATA,SB}^{V+jets}(m_{VV})$. The shape of the V+jets background distribution in the signal region is obtained by rescaling $F_{DATA,SB}^{V+jets}(m_{VV})$ for $\alpha_{MC}(m_{VV})$. The final prediction of the background contribution in the signal region, $N_{SR}^{BKGD}(m_{VV})$, is given by

$$N_{SR}^{BKGD}(m_{VV}) = C_{SR}^{V+jets} \times F_{DATA,SB}^{V+jets}(m_{VV}) \times \alpha_{MC}(m_{VV}) + \sum_{k} C_{SR}^{k} F_{MC,SR}^{k}(m_{VV}),$$

where the index $k$ runs over the list of minor backgrounds and $C_{SR}^{V+jets}$ and $C_{SR}^{k}$ represent the normalizations of the yields of the dominant V+jets background and of the different minor background contributions. The ratio $\alpha_{MC}(m_{VV})$ reflects small kinematic differences between the signal region and sideband, which are mostly independent from the theoretical prediction of cross sections. To test the validity and the robustness of the method, a closure test with data has been performed, predicting successfully the normalization and shape of the V+jets background in an upper sideband using the lower sideband data. The $m_{VV}$ distribution of the background in the signal region is described analytically by a function defined as $f(x) \propto e^{-x/(\sigma_0 + \sigma_x)}$. Alternative fit functions have been studied but their usage does not change the final performance. The $m_{VV}$ range of the fit determines the region of masses probed by the searches. The range has been chosen such that there is a smoothly falling spectrum, in order to have a stable fit and robust control of the background estimation. For the $\ell\nu$+V-jet analysis, the fits are carried out in the $m_{VV}$ range [700, 3000] GeV. In the $\ell\ell$+V-jet analysis, the ranges for the HP and LP categories are [500, 2800] and [650, 2800] GeV, respectively. The fits are always unbinned. In the $\ell\ell$+V-jet analysis, the shapes of the background distributions for the muon and electron channels are found to be statistically compatible. The final shape estimation for the $\ell\nu$+V-jet analysis has been carried out integrating over the two lepton flavors in order to reduce the statistical uncertainties in the fitted parameters.

Figure 7 shows the final observed spectrum in $m_{WW}$ of the selected events in the four categories of the $\ell\nu$+V-jet analysis. The observed data and the predicted background agree with each other. The highest-mass event in the $\ell\nu$+V-jet channel is from the electron LP category and it
Figure 7: Final distributions in $m_{WW}$ for data and expected backgrounds for both the muon (top) and the electron (bottom) channels, high-purity (left) and low-purity (right) categories. The 68% error bars for Poisson event counts are obtained from the Neyman construction as described in Ref. [75]. Also shown is a hypothetical bulk graviton signal with mass of 1000 GeV and $k/M_{Pl} = 0.5$. The normalization of the signal distribution is scaled up by a factor of 100 for a better visualization.
6.1 Background estimation

Figure 8: Final distributions in $m_{ZZ}$ for data and expected backgrounds for both the muon (top) and the electron (bottom) channels, high-purity (left) and low-purity (right) categories. Points with error bars show distributions of data; solid histograms depict the different components of the background expectation from simulated events. The 68% error bars for Poisson event counts are obtained from the Neyman construction as described in Ref. \[75\]. Also shown is a hypothetical bulk graviton signal with mass of 1000 GeV and $k/M_{Pl} = 0.5$. The normalization of the signal distribution is scaled up by a factor of 100 for a better visualization. The solid line shows the central value of the background predicted from the sideband extrapolation procedure.
has $m_{WW} \approx 3200\text{ GeV}$. This event is not included in the statistical analysis of Section 8 which is performed up to $m_{WW}$ of 3 TeV. The impact of this event on the reported results is negligible since we produce limits for a narrow bulk graviton with a resonance mass up to 2.5 TeV. The observed event is compatible at the $1\sigma$ level with the background prediction for $m_{WW}$ above 2.5 TeV.

The $m_{ZZ}$ distribution of the selected events in the $\ell\ell+V$-jet analysis is presented in Fig. 8. Also in this case, an overall good description in both normalization and shape of the data by the background estimation is observed. The highest mass event in the $\ell\ell+V$-jet channel is from the electron HP category and it has $m_{ZZ} \approx 2600\text{ GeV}$.

6.2 Modeling of the signal mass distribution

The shape of the reconstructed signal mass distribution is extracted from the bulk graviton MC samples generated with the coupling $k/M_{Pl} = 0.2$, corresponding to an intrinsic relative width of the resonance of about 0.2%. For models with $k/M_{Pl} \lesssim 0.5$, the natural width of the resonance is sufficiently small to be neglected when compared to the detector resolution. This makes our modeling of the detector effects on the signal shape independent of the actual model used for generating the events. In the final analysis of the $m_{VV}$ spectrum, the discovery potential and exclusion power both depend on an accurate description of the signal shape. We adopt an analytical description of the signal shape, choosing a double-sided Crystal-Ball (CB) function (i.e., a Gaussian core with power law tails on both sides) [76] to describe the CMS detector resolution. To take into account differences between muon and electron $p_T$ resolutions at high $p_T$, the signal mass distribution is parametrized separately for events with electrons and muons. No appreciable differences have been observed in the $m_{VV}$ signal shape between low- and high-purity categories. The typical width of the Gaussian core is about 3%–5% of the nominal mass in the $\ell\ell+V$-jet channel or 4%–6% for the $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel.

7 Systematic uncertainties

7.1 Systematic uncertainties in the background estimation

Uncertainties in the estimation of the background affect both the normalization and shape of the $m_{VV}$ distribution. Uncertainties in the background normalization are mainly statistical in nature and scale with the amount of data in the sideband regions and the number of events in the simulated samples. Tables 1 and 2 show the uncertainties in the background expectations for the $\ell\nu+V$-jet and $\ell\ell+V$-jet analyses, respectively. The systematic uncertainties in the V+jets background normalization are dominated by the statistical uncertainty associated with the number of events in data in the $m_{\text{jet}}$ sideband regions (below 10%). The systematic uncertainty in the $t\bar{t}$ normalization comes from the uncertainties in the data-to-simulation scale factors derived in the top-quark enriched control sample (below 5%). The systematic uncertainty in the WW inclusive cross section is assigned to be 20%, taken from the relative difference in the mean value between the published CMS cross section measurement at $\sqrt{s} = 8\text{ TeV}$ and the SM expectation [77]. An additional systematic uncertainty in the WW normalization comes from the uncertainty in the V-tagging scale factors derived in Section 5. The same uncertainties derived for WW are also used for WZ and ZZ processes.

Systematic uncertainties in the background shape are estimated from the covariance matrix of the fit to the extrapolated sidebands and from the uncertainties in the modeling of $\alpha_{\text{MC}}(m_{VV})$. They are both statistical in nature, as they are driven by the available data in the sidebands and the number of events generated for the simulation of the V+jets background.
7.2 Systematic uncertainties in the signal prediction

Systematic uncertainties affect both the signal efficiency and the $m_{VV}$ shape. Table 3 presents the primary uncertainties in the signal normalization. Among the sources of systematic uncertainty in the signal efficiency are the muon momentum scale and resolution, the electron energy scale and resolution, the jet energy scale and resolution, and the unclustered energy in the event. The event selection is applied to signal samples after varying the lepton four-momenta within one standard deviation of the corresponding uncertainty in the muon momentum scale [54] or electron energy scale [56], or applying an appropriate momentum/energy smearing in case of resolution uncertainties. The same procedure is also applied for the jet four-momenta using the corresponding energy scale and resolution uncertainties [64]. In this process, variations in the lepton and jet four-momenta are propagated consistently to the $E_{\text{miss}}$ vector. The signal efficiency is then recalculated using modified lepton and jet four-momenta separately for each source of systematic uncertainties. The largest relative change in the signal efficiency compared to the default value is taken as the systematic uncertainty for that specific source. The muon, electron, and jet uncertainties are assumed to be uncorrelated.

The systematic uncertainties in the lepton trigger, identification, and isolation efficiencies are derived using a dedicated tag-and-probe analysis in $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ events. The uncertainties in trigger and identification+isolation efficiencies for muons are 3% and 4%, respectively. The total uncertainty in the electron trigger, identification, and isolation efficiency is 3%. These uncertainties are evaluated taking into account the limited number of data events in the boosted regime. We also include systematic uncertainties in signal efficiency due to uncertainties in data-to-simulation scale factors for the V-tagging identification (derived from the top-quark enriched control sample, see Section 5), and b-jet identification efficiencies (derived with the methods described in Ref. [63] and updated with the 8 TeV data). The systematic uncertainties from pileup are assigned by re-weighting the signal simulation samples such that the distribution of the number of interactions per bunch crossing is shifted up and down by one standard deviation compared with that found in data [78]. The impact of these changes on the signal efficiency is used to assess the systematic effect. The impact of the proton PDF uncertainties on the signal efficiency is evaluated with the PDF4LHC prescription [79] using MSTW [80] and NNPDF [81] PDF sets. The uncertainty in the integrated luminosity is 2.6% [82].

Table 3: Summary of systematic uncertainties in signal yield, relative to the expected number of observed signal events. All systematic uncertainties in the list are treated as uncorrelated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>$\ell\nu+V$-jet</th>
<th>$\ell\ell+V$-jet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muons (trigger and ID)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muon scale</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muon resolution</td>
<td>&lt;0.1%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrons (trigger and ID)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electron scale</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electron resolution</td>
<td>&lt;0.1%</td>
<td>&lt;0.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet scale</td>
<td>1–3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jet resolution</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td>&lt;0.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclustered energy scale</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td>—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pileup</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V tagging</td>
<td>9% (HP)</td>
<td>24% (LP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>&lt;0.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luminosity</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Uncertainties in the scale and resolution of the four-momenta of the reconstructed objects can
bias the peak and smear the width of the signal profile. The systematic uncertainties considered to affect the signal shape are the scale and resolution uncertainties on muons, electrons, jets, and the unclustered energy scale. For each of these sources of experimental uncertainty, the lepton/jets four-momenta and $E_{\text{miss}}$ vector are varied (or smeared) by the relative uncertainty. In general, only small effects on the peak position and the width of the Gaussian core of the signal shapes have been found. The jet energy scale and resolution introduce a relative uncertainty of about 3% (2%) in the signal width for the $\ell\nu+V$-jet ($\ell\ell+V$-jet) channel. In the $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel, the unclustered energy scale introduces a 1–3% uncertainty in the signal width, larger at low resonance masses. In the $\ell\ell+V$-jet channel, the muon resolution causes an additional relative uncertainty of 2% in the signal width. The uncertainty in the peak position of the signal is estimated to be less than 1%.

8 Statistical interpretation

The comparison between the $m_{VV}$ distribution observed in data and the background prediction from data is used to test for the presence of a resonance decaying to vector bosons. We set upper limits on the production cross section of a new resonance decaying to the $W W$ final state or the $ZZ$ final state by combining the four event categories of the $\ell\nu+V$-jet analysis or the $\ell\ell+V$-jet analysis, respectively. We follow the modified frequentist prescription described in Ref. [83, 84] (CL$_S$ method). The limits are computed using an unbinned shape analysis. Systematic uncertainties are treated as nuisance parameters and profiled in the statistical interpretation using log-normal priors.

8.1 Limits on a narrow-width bulk graviton model

Exclusion limits can be set in the context of the bulk graviton model, under the assumption of a natural width negligible with respect to the experimental resolution (narrow-width approximation). Figure 9 shows the 95% confidence level (CL) expected and observed exclusion limits as a function of $M_G$. The limits are compared with the cross section times the branching fraction to $WW$ and $ZZ$ for a bulk graviton with $k/M_{Pl} = 0.2$ and $k/M_{Pl} = 0.5$. These results were cross-checked with an alternative background estimation from data, fitting the $m_{VV}$ distributions for the same selected events with a smoothly falling function. This approach, common to previously released CMS results [19, 32, 85], provides results very close to the baseline method described above, further strengthening our confidence in the robustness of the background estimation method.

The $\ell\nu+V$-jet and $\ell\ell+V$-jet analyses are further combined together with a complementary CMS search in the $VV \rightarrow (q\bar{q}^{(i)}) (q\bar{q}^{(j)}) \rightarrow 2 \text{ V-jets}$ final state [32] (dijet channel), in order to maximize the sensitivity of the search for this specific model. The fully hadronic analysis uses the same techniques to identify V-jets discussed in Section 4.6. The systematic uncertainties in jet energy scale/resolution, V-tagging scale factors, and luminosity are considered correlated at 100% among the three analyses entering the statistical combination. The systematic uncertainties in electrons and muons are considered correlated at 100% between the $\ell\ell+V$-jet and $\ell\nu+V$-jet channels. The resulting 95% CL upper limits on the signal cross section are shown in Fig. 10. The $\ell\ell+V$-jet channel is the only one contributing to the limit for resonance masses below 800 GeV. In the range 800–2500 GeV, the $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel dominates the sensitivity, although the $\ell\ell+V$-jet and dijet channels give significant contributions to the combined limit in the region below and above 1300 GeV, respectively. Because of the combination of the analyses, the expected upper limits on cross section are made more stringent by about 15–20% compared to the individual $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel, depending on the resonance mass. The integrated luminos-
8.2 Model-independent limits

The analysis as presented above is specific to the case of a narrow bulk graviton model, but this is not the only extension of the SM predicting resonances decaying to vector bosons. Therefore it is useful to allow the reinterpretation of these results in a generic model. In this section we present the exclusion limits on the visible number of events after having introduced some modifications to the analysis that greatly simplify its structure, at a moderate price in terms of performance. Together with the upper limits on the number of signal events, we provide tables with the reconstruction and identification efficiencies for vector bosons in the kinematic acceptance of the analysis. Following the instructions detailed in Appendix A, it is possible to estimate the number of events for a generic signal model that would be expected to be detected in CMS with the collected integrated luminosity and to compare it with the upper limit on the number of events.

To avoid the dependence on the assumptions in the construction of the separate categories, we perform a simplified analysis, reducing the event classification to one single category. We do this by adding the muon and electron channels and dropping the low-purity category (whose sensitivity is much smaller than the high-purity category). The loss in performance is very small over a large range of masses. The effect of dropping the LP category is visible only at very high masses, where the upper limit on the cross section becomes 15% less stringent.

A generic model cannot restrict itself to narrow signal widths, hence we provide limits as a function of both mass ($M_X$) and natural width ($\Gamma_X$) of the new resonance. The generated line shape is parametrized with a Breit–Wigner function (BW) and its width is defined as the $\Gamma$ parameter of the BW. The BW line shape is convoluted with the double-sided CB introduced in Section 6.2 for describing the detector resolution. While different values of $\Gamma_X$ are scanned,
Figure 10: Left: observed (solid) and expected (dashed) 95% CL upper limit on the graviton production cross section obtained with this analysis and the analysis of the all-hadronic channel \cite{32}. The cross section for the production of a bulk graviton with $k/M_{Pl} = 0.5$ is shown as a red solid curve. In region I, only the $\ell\ell+V$-jet channel contributes. In region II, both $\ell\ell+V$-jet and $\ell+V$-jet channels contribute. In region III, both the semi-leptonic and all-hadronic channels contribute. Right: observed p-value as a function of the nominal signal mass. Conversions of the p-value to the number of standard deviations of a two-sided Gaussian distribution are drawn as dashed horizontal red lines.

The parameters of the double-CB function are kept fixed to the values determined under the narrow-width approximation. It was checked that the parametrization of the detector effects factorizes from the natural width of the resonance and is stable as $\Gamma_X$ increases. The width scan is done at regular steps of the relative width, $\Gamma_X/M_X$. The range of values considered spans from the zero width approximation (as in the nominal analysis), up to $\Gamma_X/M_X = 0.40$, in regular steps of 0.05.

We provide the efficiency as a function of the vector boson kinematic variables, as the efficiency can depend significantly on the production and decay kinematic quantities of the new resonance. The efficiencies are extracted from the bulk graviton samples generated for the baseline analysis. The efficiencies are calculated by first preselecting simulated signal events according to the acceptance requirements of the analysis. Thus the usage of the tables is valid only within this kinematic region, summarized in Tables 4 and 5 of Appendix A for the $\ell+V$-jet and $\ell\ell+V$-jet analyses, respectively. For preselected events, the reconstructed V candidates are then independently checked to pass the full analysis selection. The efficiency tables are presented as a function of the $p_T$ and $\eta$ of the V boson from the resonance decay prior to any simulation of detector effects. Bins with fewer than 25 events generated therein are excluded from the final tables. This choice controls the statistical uncertainty of the parametrization and has a very limited impact on the precision of the parametrized efficiencies because they are located in extreme regions of phase space. All the reweighting and rescaling effects (including lepton identification and trigger efficiencies, and V-tagging scale factors) are included in the efficiencies.

The efficiencies of the second-lepton and b-jet vetoes in the $\ell\ell+V$-jet analysis are found to be independent of the diboson event kinematic in signal events. We use a constant efficiency of 91.5% for the b-jet veto and 98.3% for the second-lepton veto, resulting in a total efficiency for the two combined vetoes of $\epsilon_{\text{vetoes}} = 90\%$. 
It was checked that the dependence of the total signal efficiency and acceptance on the width of the generated sample is very mild. We include this effect in the systematic uncertainties of the procedure as discussed later. The resulting efficiencies are presented in Figs. 11 and 12 for W and Z bosons with longitudinal polarization, respectively. The contribution from $Z \rightarrow \tau \tau$ decays with $\tau \rightarrow \ell \nu \nu$ is not reported since it is suppressed by the dilepton-mass requirement of the analysis described in Section 4.5. The same values are presented in tabulated form in Appendix A.

Figure 11: Reconstruction and identification efficiencies for the $W \rightarrow \mu \nu$ and $W \rightarrow \tau \nu \rightarrow \mu \nu \nu \nu$ (top left), $W \rightarrow e \nu$ and $W \rightarrow \tau \nu \rightarrow e \nu \nu \nu$ (top right), $W_L \rightarrow q \bar{q}$ (bottom left), and $Z_L \rightarrow q \bar{q}$ (bottom right) decays as function of generated $p_T$ and $\eta$ using the W-tagging requirements for the hadronic V decays.

Special care must be given to cases where the boson is transversely polarized ($V_T$). The calculated efficiencies are based on longitudinally polarized bosons, as in the case of the reference bulk graviton model. The efficiency of the V-tagging selections depend significantly on the degree of polarization of the vector boson [31]. This effect is investigated with samples of RS1 gravitons produced with the MADGRAPH generator. The V bosons originating from the decays of RS1 gravitons are transversely polarized in about 90% of the cases. In the cases of bosons de-

Figure 12: Reconstruction and identification efficiencies for the $Z \to \mu\mu$ (top left), $Z \to ee$ (top right), $Z_L \to q\bar{q}$ (bottom left), and $W_L \to q\bar{q}'$ (bottom right) decays as a function of generated $p_T^Z$ and $\eta_V$ using the Z-tagging requirements for the hadronic V decays.
caying leptonically, the tables provided are still valid because of the generator-level selection on the individual leptons, which guarantees that polarization effects for the leptonic boson are included in the acceptance. As shown in Ref. [31], the efficiency of the jet substructure selection is found to be lower for transversely polarized V bosons. Studies of simulated RS1 graviton samples show that the loss of efficiency is largely independent of the V kinematic variables, so that the effect of the transverse polarization can be adequately modeled by a constant scale factor of 0.85, independent of the $\eta$ and $p_T$ of the $V \rightarrow q\bar{q}$.

To validate the procedure, the resulting parametrized efficiencies (including the event-veto efficiencies) are used to predict the total efficiency for reconstructing bulk and RS1 gravitons, and the estimation is compared to the exact number obtained from performing the baseline analysis directly on the simulated samples. In all cases, the agreement between the nominal and parametrized efficiencies is within 10% of their value. Various approximations and uncertainties contribute to the final additional systematic uncertainty in the efficiency; the main ones are unaccounted correlations between the physics objects, statistical uncertainties due to limited size of the simulated sample, and residual dependencies on the natural width. We assign an additional systematic uncertainty of 15% on the total signal efficiency when calculating the model-independent limits. This additional systematic uncertainty conservatively addresses the remaining imperfections in the parametrization of the efficiencies.

Figure 13 and Tables 6 and 7 of Appendix A show the observed limits on the number of events extracted from the simplified analysis, for the $\ell\nu+V$-jet and $\ell\ell+V$-jet analyses independently. The two analyses are not combined in order to avoid assumptions on the branching fractions of a hypothetic resonance decaying to both WW and ZZ channels. The limits are calculated using an asymptotic approximation of the CL$_S$ method [86]. Under the narrow-width approximation, it is explicitly checked that the central values for the expected and observed limits returned by the full hybrid frequentist method and the asymptotic approximation match extremely closely over all the range of the search. All the systematic uncertainties considered in the baseline analysis are included in the calculation of these limits, together with the additional 15% uncertainty related to the approximations used for parametrizing the efficiencies. The main features of the observed limits presented in Section 8.1 are still visible. With increasing width, statistical fluctuations in the limit tend to be smoothed out and the overall performance degrades. For relative widths greater than 0.25, the deterioration of the limit is very mild, because the sensitivity coming from the knowledge of the signal shape is diluted by the very broad signal shape.

Although optimized for WW and ZZ resonances, the analysis is also sensitive to charged resonances decaying to WZ, because of the loose requirement on the V-jet mass. The efficiencies to identify a longitudinally polarized Z (W) boson using W-jet (Z-jet) requirements are computed from the bulk graviton samples using the same procedure described above, and they are reported in Fig. 11 (Fig. 12). The same values are presented in tabulated form in Appendix A. Also in this case, the effect of the transverse polarization of the bosons is modeled by multiplying the aforementioned efficiencies by the constant scale factor 0.85. In addition, in the $\ell\nu+V$-jet channel, the combined efficiency of the second-lepton veto and b-jet veto becomes $\epsilon_{\text{vetoes}} = 81\%$, because of the presence of $Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ decays, which can be rejected by the requirement of the analysis that no jet is tagged as coming from a b quark.

9 Summary

We have presented a search for new resonances decaying to WW, ZZ, or WZ in which one of the bosons decays leptonically and the other hadronically. The final states considered are either
Figure 13: Observed exclusion limits at 95% CL on the number of events for a WV → ℓν + V − jet (left) and a ZV → ℓℓ + V − jet (right) resonance, as a function of its mass and normalized width.

ℓνq(q′) or ℓℓq(q′) with ℓ = μ or e. The results include the case in which W → τν or Z → ττ where the tau decay is τ → ℓνν. The events are reconstructed as a leptonic W or Z candidate recoiling against a jet with mass compatible with the W or Z mass, respectively. Additional information from jet substructure is used to reduce the background from multijet processes. No evidence for a signal is found, and the result is interpreted as an upper limit on the production cross section as a function of the resonance mass in the context of the bulk graviton model. The final upper limits are based on the statistical combination of the two semi-leptonic channels considered here with those of a complementary search in the fully-hadronic final state. Upper limits at 95% CL are set on the bulk graviton production cross section in the range from 700 to 10 fb for resonance masses between 600 and 2500 GeV, respectively. These limits are the most stringent to date in these final states. The two analyses in the semi-leptonic channels are repeated in a simplified scenario, providing model-independent limits on the number of events. The tabulated efficiency of reconstructing the vector bosons within the kinematic acceptance of the analysis allows the reinterpretation of the exclusion limits in a generic phenomenological model, including WZ resonances, greatly extending the versatility of these results.

Acknowledgments

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References


A Detailed instructions and additional material for generic interpretation of the results

This section presents a technical description of the procedure for calculating the signal yield expected to be observed in the CMS detector in a scenario with a new resonance, X, decaying to two vector bosons (WW, ZZ, WZ) in the semi-leptonic final states $\ell\nu+V$-jet and $\ell\ell+V$-jet. Tables 8 to 10 provide the efficiencies for the reconstruction and identification of each of the two W vector bosons coming from the $X \rightarrow WW$ decay. Tables 11 to 13 provide the efficiencies for the reconstruction and identification of each of the two Z bosons coming from the $X \rightarrow ZZ$ decay. In case of hadronic V decays from $X \rightarrow WZ$ resonances the following tables should be: Table 14 provides the efficiencies for the reconstruction and identification of $Z_L \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ using W-tagging requirements; Table 15 provides the efficiencies for the reconstruction and identification of $W_L \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ using Z-tagging requirements. The efficiencies are calculated using the reference bulk graviton samples, listed in Section 3.

These efficiencies can be applied to a generic model with the following procedure:

1. Generate a sample of events for a given mass and width of the X resonance; the simulated process must include the decay of the X resonance to leptons and quarks (including $W \rightarrow \tau\nu \rightarrow \ell\nu\nu\nu$ decays).

2. Filter the events according to the criteria listed in Table 4 (if the X resonance decays to WW) and Table 5 (if the X resonance decays to ZZ). If the resonance decays to $WZ \rightarrow \ell\nu q\bar{q}$, the criteria for hadronic W in Table 4 should be applied on the generated hadronic Z. If the resonance decays to $ZW \rightarrow \ell\ell q\bar{q}$, the criteria for hadronic Z in Table 5 should be applied on the generated hadronic W.

3. For each of the remaining events, calculate the efficiency for reconstructing the $W \rightarrow \mu\nu / W \rightarrow \tau\nu \rightarrow \mu\nu\nu$, $W \rightarrow a\nu / W \rightarrow \tau\nu \rightarrow e\nu\nu$, $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$, and $Z \rightarrow ee$ using the Tables 8, 9, 11, and 12, respectively. The tables provide the efficiency parametrized as a function of $p_T$ and $\eta$ of the W or Z boson.

4. In a similar way, for WW and ZZ resonances, calculate the efficiency of the hadronic W or Z using the values in Table 10 or 13, respectively. If the resonance decays to $WZ \rightarrow \ell\nu q\bar{q}$, calculate the efficiency of the hadronic Z using Table 14. If the resonance decays to $ZW \rightarrow \ell\ell q\bar{q}$, calculate the efficiency of the hadronic W using Table 15.

5. Weight each passing event with the product of the two efficiencies found at steps 3 and 4. In case of a $X \rightarrow WW$ ($\ell\nu+V$-jet channel), also multiply by the combined efficiency of the second-lepton and b-jet vetoes, equal to $\varepsilon_{\text{vetoes}} = 90\%$. In case of a $X \rightarrow WZ$ decaying to $\ell\nu q\bar{q}$, the combined efficiency of the two vetoes is equal to $\varepsilon_{\text{vetoes}} = 81\%$.

6. The resulting sum of weights divided by the total number of events provides an approximation to the total efficiency for the given model.

The final number of events can be directly compared to the observed limits in Fig. 13 and Tables 6 and 7 in order to assess the exclusion power of the experiment with respect to the model considered.

The numbers provided refer to longitudinally polarized bosons. For transversely polarized bosons that decay leptonically, the same numbers are valid, as long as they are applied after the kinematic acceptance requirements. If the boson decays to quarks and has a transverse polarization, the efficiency must be scaled down by a factor of 0.85.
Table 4: Generator level requirements for the WW analysis, to be used for the computation of the efficiency parametrization. The vector sum of the transverse neutrino momenta \( \sum \vec{p}_{T,\nu} \) is taken over all the neutrinos in the final state, coming either from \( W \to \ell \nu \) or \( W \to \tau \nu \to \ell \nu \nu \) decays with \( \ell = \mu \) or e.

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Table 5: Generator level requirements for the \( ZZ \) analysis, to be used for the computation of the efficiency parametrization, with \( \ell = \mu \) or e.

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Table 6: Simplified limits on the number of visible events from generic WV resonances in the $\ell\nu + V$-jet channel as a function of resonance mass, $M_X$, and normalized width, $\Gamma_X/M_X$. Shown are limits on the visible number of events at 95% CL using the asymptotic CL$_S$ approach. Results with $\Gamma_X/M_X = 0$ are obtained using the resolution function only.

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Table 7: Simplified limits on the number of visible events from generic ZV resonances in the $\ell\ell + V$-jet channel as a function of resonance mass, $M_X$, and normalized width, $\Gamma_X/M_X$. Shown are limits on the visible number of events at 95% CL using the asymptotic CL$_S$ approach. Results with $\Gamma_X/M_X = 0$ are obtained using the resolution function only.

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Table 8: Reconstruction and identification efficiency for the $W \to \mu \nu$ and $W \to \tau \nu \to \mu \nu \nu \nu$ decays as a function of generated $p_T^W$ and $|\eta_W|$. Uncertainties on the efficiencies are included in the generic limit calculation as discussed in the text.

<table>
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<th>$p_T^W$ range [GeV]</th>
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Table 9: Reconstruction and identification efficiency for the $W \to e \nu$ and $W \to \tau \nu \to e \nu \nu \nu$ decays as a function of generated $p_T^W$ and $|\eta_W|$. Uncertainties on the efficiencies are included in the generic limit calculation as discussed in the text.

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<th>$p_T^W$ range [GeV]</th>
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Table 10: Reconstruction and identification efficiency for the $W_L \to qq'$ decay as a function of generated $p_T^W$ and $|\eta_W|$ using W-tagging requirements. Uncertainties on the efficiencies are included in the generic limit calculation as discussed in the text.

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A Detailed instructions and additional material for generic interpretation of the results

Table 11: Reconstruction and identification efficiency for the $Z \to \mu\mu$ decay as a function of generated $p_T^Z$ and $|\eta_Z|$. Uncertainties on the efficiencies are included in the generic limit calculation as discussed in the text.

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500–2000</td>
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<td>—</td>
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Table 12: Reconstruction and identification efficiency for the $Z \to ee$ decay as a function of generated $p_T^Z$ and $|\eta_Z|$. Uncertainties on the efficiencies are included in the generic limit calculation as discussed in the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$p_T^Z$ range [GeV]</th>
<th>0.0-0.2</th>
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<th>0.4-0.6</th>
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<th>0.8-1.0</th>
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<td>0.70</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>250–300</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.72</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>300–400</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>400–500</td>
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<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.73</td>
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<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.68</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>800–900</td>
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<tr>
<td>900–1000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000–1200</td>
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<td>1200–1500</td>
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<td>0.63</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500–2000</td>
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Table 13: Reconstruction and identification efficiency for the $Z_L \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ decay as a function of generated $p_T^Z$ and $|\eta_Z|$ using $Z$-tagging requirements. Uncertainties on the efficiencies are included in the generic limit calculation as discussed in the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$p_T^Z$ range [GeV]</th>
<th>0.0–0.3</th>
<th>0.3–0.9</th>
<th>0.9–1.2</th>
<th>1.2–1.5</th>
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<td>—</td>
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<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>0.49</td>
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<td>400–500</td>
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<td>600–700</td>
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<td>0.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>700–800</td>
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<td>0.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>800–900</td>
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<tr>
<td>900–1000</td>
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<td>0.31</td>
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<td>—</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000–1200</td>
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</tr>
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<td>1200–1500</td>
<td>0.45</td>
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<td>1500–2000</td>
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Table 14: Reconstruction and identification efficiency for the $Z_L \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ decay as a function of generated $p_T^Z$ and $|\eta_Z|$ using $W$-tagging requirements. Uncertainties on the efficiencies are included in the generic limit calculation as discussed in the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$p_T^Z$ range [GeV]</th>
<th>0.0–0.3</th>
<th>0.3–0.9</th>
<th>0.9–1.2</th>
<th>1.2–1.5</th>
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<td>0.39</td>
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<td>300–400</td>
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<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400–500</td>
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<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500–600</td>
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<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.56</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>600–700</td>
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<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.57</td>
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<td>700–800</td>
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Table 15: Reconstruction and identification efficiency for the $W_L \rightarrow q\bar{q}'$ decay as a function of generated $p_T^W$ and $|\eta_W|$ using Z-tagging requirements. Uncertainties on the efficiencies are included in the generic limit calculation as discussed in the text.

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<th>$p_T^W$ range [GeV]</th>
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<th>2.1–2.4</th>
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<td>120–150</td>
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<tr>
<td>200–250</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1000–1200</td>
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<td>—</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200–1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500–2000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
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