Version 0.1 DRAFT

ATLAS+CMS DARK MATTER FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Author/contributor list to be added as document is finalized.

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Introduction

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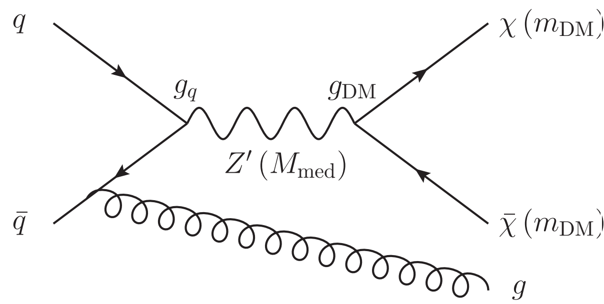

Figure 2.1: The diagram shows the pair production of dark matter particles in association with a parton from the initial state via an s-channel vector or axial-vector mediator. The process if specified by ($M_{\rm med}$, $m_{\rm DM}$, $g_{\rm DM}$, g_q), the mediator and dark matter masses, and the mediator couplings to dark matter and quarks respectively.

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List of simplified models: choices and implementation

General topics:

- choice of Dark Matter type: Dirac (unless specified otherwise) and what we might be missing
- MFV and what we might be missing

2.1 Generic models for mono-jet signatures

2.1.1 Vector and axial vector mediator, s-channel exchange

There are several matrix element implementations of the s-channel vector mediated DM production. This is available in POWHEG, MADGRAPH and also MCFM. The implementation in POWHEG generates DM pair production with 1 parton at next-to-leading order (NLO), whilst MADGRAPH and MCFM are at leading order (LO). As shown in POWHEG Ref. [HKR13], including NLO corrections result in an enhancement in the cross section as compared to LO and though this is not significant, it does lead to a substantial reduction in the dependence on the choice of the renormalization and factorization scale and hence the theoretical uncertainty on the signal prediction. Since NLO calculations are available for the process in POWHEG, we recommend to proceed with POWHEG as the generator of choice.

We consider the case of a dark matter particle that is a Dirac fermion and where the production proceeds via the exchange of a spin-1 *s*-channel mediator. We consider the following interactions between the DM and SM fields including a vector mediator with:

(a) vector couplings to DM and SM,

(b) axial-vector couplings to DM and SM.

The corresponding Lagrangians are

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{vector}} = \sum_q g_q Z'_\mu \bar{q}\gamma^\mu q + g_{\text{DM}} Z'_\mu \bar{\chi}\gamma^\mu \chi \tag{2.1}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{axial-vector}} = \sum_q g_q Z'_\mu \bar{q}\gamma^\mu \gamma^5 q + g_{\text{DM}} Z'_\mu \bar{\chi}\gamma^\mu \gamma^5 \chi \tag{2.2}$$

where the coupling extends over all the quarks and universal couplings are assumed for all the quarks. It is also possible to consider another model in which mixed vector and axial-vector couplings are considered, for instance the couplings to the quarks are vector whereas those to DM are axial-vector. As a starting point, we consider only the models with the vector couplings only and axial vector couplings only.

We assume that no additional visible or invisible decays contribute to the width of the mediator, this is referred to as the minimal width and it is defined as follows for the vector and axial-vector models.

$$\Gamma_{\text{min}} = \Gamma_{\bar{\chi}\chi} + \sum_q \Gamma_{\bar{q}q} \tag{2.3}$$

where the individual contributions to this from the partial width are from

$$\Gamma^{\text{V}}_{\bar{\chi}\chi} = \frac{g_{\text{DM}}^2 M_{\text{med}}}{12\pi}\left(1 + \frac{2m_{\text{DM}}^2}{M_{\text{med}}^2}\right)\sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_{\text{DM}}^2}{M_{\text{med}}^2}} \tag{2.4}$$

$$\Gamma^{\text{V}}_{\bar{q}q} = \frac{3g_q^2 M_{\text{med}}}{12\pi}\left(1 + \frac{2m_q^2}{M_{\text{med}}^2}\right)\sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_q^2}{M_{\text{med}}^2}} \tag{2.5}$$

$$\Gamma^{\text{A}}_{\bar{\chi}\chi} = \frac{g_{\text{DM}}^2 M_{\text{med}}}{12\pi}\left(1 - \frac{4m_{\text{DM}}^2}{M_{\text{med}}^2}\right)^{3/2} \tag{2.6}$$

$$\Gamma^{\text{A}}_{\bar{q}q} = \frac{3g_q^2 M_{\text{med}}}{12\pi}\left(1 - \frac{4m_q^2}{M_{\text{med}}^2}\right)^{3/2} . \tag{2.7}$$

Note the color factor 3 in the quark terms. Figure 2.2 shows the minimal width as a function of mediator mass for both vector and axial-vector mediators assuming couplings of 1. With this choice of the couplings, the dominant contribution to the minimal width comes from the quarks due to the color factor enhancement.

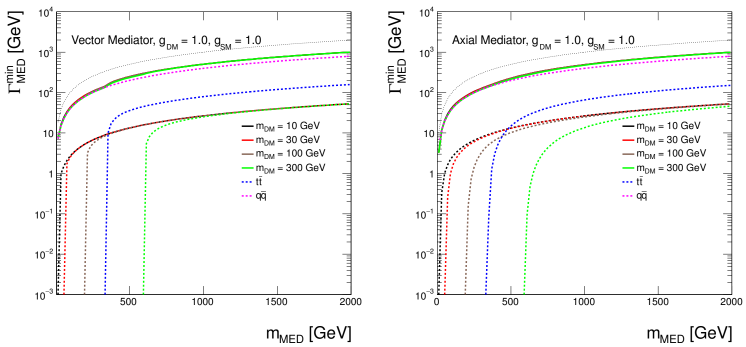


Figure 2.2: Minimal width as a function of mediator mass for vector and axial-vector mediator assuming couplings of 1. The total width is shown as solid lines for Dark Matter masses of 10 GeV, 30 GeV, 100 GeV and 300 GeV in black, red, brown and green, respectively. The individual contributions from Dark Matter are indicated by dotted lines with the same colors. The contribution from all quarks but top is shown as magenta dotted line and the contribution from top quarks only is illustrated by the dotted blue line. The dotted black line shows the extreme case $\Gamma_{\min} = M_{\text{med}}$.

The simplified models described here have four free parameters: mediator mass M_{med}, Dark Matter mass m_{DM}, coupling of the mediator to quarks g_q and coupling of the mediator to Dark Matter g_{DM}. In order to determine an optimal choice of the parameter grid for presentation of the early Run-2 results, dependencies of the kinematic quantities and cross sections on the individual parameters need to be studied. The following paragraphs list the main observations from the scans over the parameters that support the final proposal for the parameter grid.

Scan over the couplings Figure 2.3 reveals there are no differences in the shape of the $\not{E}_T$ distribution among the samples where the pair of 10 GeV Dark Matter particles are produced on-shell from the mediator of 1 TeV, generated with different choice of the coupling strength. The considered coupling values range from 0.1 to 1.45, where the latter value approximates the maximum allowed coupling value, holding $g_q = g_{\text{DM}}$, such that $\Gamma_{\min} < M_{\text{med}}$. Based on similar plots for different choices of mediator and Dark Matter masses, it is concluded that the shapes of kinematic distributions are not altered neither for the on-shell Dark Matter production where $M_{\text{med}} > 2m_{\text{DM}}$, nor for the off-shell Dark Matter production where $M_{\text{med}} < 2m_{\text{DM}}$. Only the cross sections change. Differences in kinematic distributions are expected only close to the transition region where both on-shell and off-shell regimes mix.

The only place where special care needs to be taken are extremely heavy and narrow mediators, in other words with low couplings. Figure 2.4 suggests a change in the shape of the $\not{E}_T$ distribution for 5 TeV mediator once $\Gamma_{\min}/M_{\text{med}}$ gets down to the order of percent or below. This, however, does not come from physics as it is a feature of the generator implementation, where a cutoff for the regions far away from the mediator mass is often used. This is illustrated in Fig. **??** showing the invariant mass of the Dark Matter pair... In general, for such extreme parameter choices as $M_{\text{med}} = 7$ TeV and $\Gamma_{\min} = 36$ GeV,

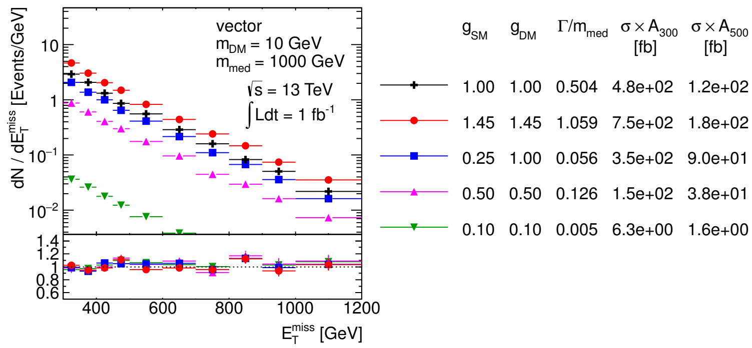


Figure 2.3: Scan over couplings. The $\not\!\!E_T$ distribution is compared for the vector mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not\!\!E_T > 300\,\text{GeV}$ and $\not\!\!E_T > 500\,\text{GeV}$ cut, respectively.

the EFT model should give the correct answer. In case the simplified model calculation does not reproduce the EFT result, the phase space generation of the simplified model has to be carefully examined in order to understand the cause of the problem. Fortunately, this is a rather academic discussion as such extreme corners of the parameter space are not going to be considered for presentation of Run-2 results.

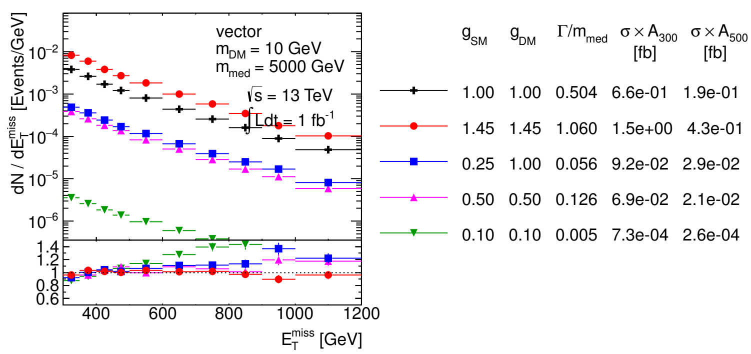


Figure 2.4: Scan over couplings. The $\not\!\!E_T$ distribution is compared for the vector mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not\!\!E_T > 300\,\text{GeV}$ and $\not\!\!E_T > 500\,\text{GeV}$ cut, respectively.

Scan over the Dark Matter mass For the fixed mediator mass and couplings, both the cross section and the kinematic distributions remain similar for different Dark Matter masses as long as $M_{\text{med}} > 2m_{\text{DM}}$. This is illustrated in Fig. 2.5 on an example of 1 TeV mediator and Dark Matter mases ranging from 10 GeV to 300 GeV. It is observed that the cross section decreases as the Dark Matter mass reaches closer to $M_{\text{med}}/2$. Once the Dark Matter pair is produced off-line, the cross section of such simplified model is suppressed and the $\not\!\!E_T$ spectrum hardens, as demonstrated with the choice of 1 TeV Dark Matter in the same plot. Figure 2.6 reveals the $\not\!\!E_T$ spectrum hardens further with increasing Dark Matter mass, accompanied by the gradual decrease of the cross section. From these observations one can conclude:

- A coarse binning along m_{DM} is sufficient at $M_{\mathrm{med}} \gg 2m_{\mathrm{DM}}$.
- Finer binning is needed in order to capture the changes in the cross section and kinematic quantities close to the production threshold on both sides around $M_{\mathrm{med}} = 2m_{\mathrm{DM}}$.
- Due to the significant cross section suppression of the off-shell Dark Matter pair production, it is not necessary to populate the parameter space $M_{\mathrm{med}} \ll 2m_{\mathrm{DM}}$ since the LHC is not going to be able to probe the models there.

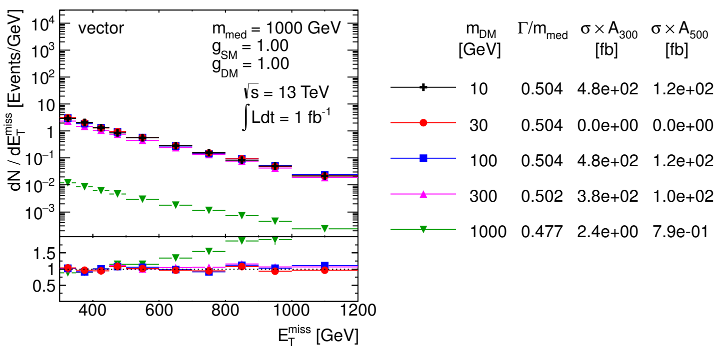


Figure 2.5: Scan over Dark Matter mass. The $\not{E}_T$ distribution is compared for the vector mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not{E}_T > 300\,\mathrm{GeV}$ and $\not{E}_T > 500\,\mathrm{GeV}$ cut, respectively.

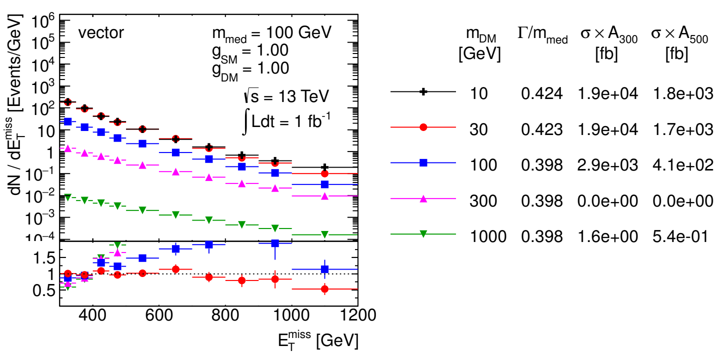


Figure 2.6: Scan over Dark Matter mass. The $\not{E}_T$ distribution is compared for the vector mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not{E}_T > 300\,\mathrm{GeV}$ and $\not{E}_T > 500\,\mathrm{GeV}$ cut, respectively.

Scan over the mediator mass Changing the mediator mass for fixed Dark Matter mass and couplings leads to significant differences in cross section and shapes of the kinematic variables for $M_{\mathrm{med}} > 2m_{\mathrm{DM}}$ as shown in Fig. 2.7. As expected, higher mediator masses lead to harder $\not{E}_T$ spectra. On the other hand, the $\not{E}_T$ shapes are similar in the off-shell Dark Matter production regime as well as no dramatic differences in cross sections are observed, which is illustrated in Fig. 2.8. Therefore, a coarse binning along m_{DM} is sufficient at $M_{\mathrm{med}} \ll 2m_{\mathrm{DM}}$.

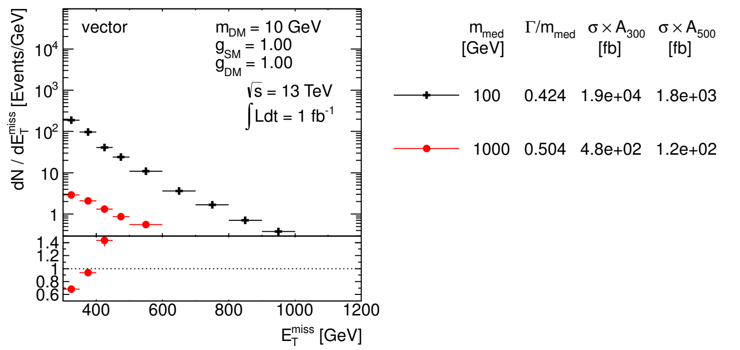


Figure 2.7: Scan over mediator mass. The $\not{E}_T$ distribution is compared for the vector mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not{E}_T > 300$ GeV and $\not{E}_T > 500$ GeV cut, respectively.

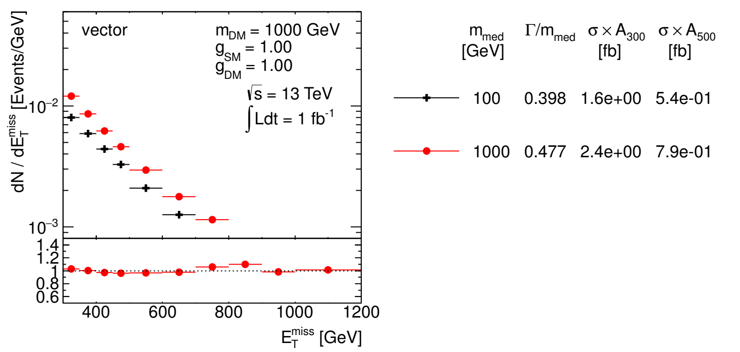


Figure 2.8: Scan over mediator mass. The $\not{E}_T$ distribution is compared for the vector mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not{E}_T > 300$ GeV and $\not{E}_T > 500$ GeV cut, respectively.

Proposed parameter grid Based on the observations above, the following proposal is made for the presentation of the early Run-2 results from the LHC:

(a) Give results in the M_{med}–m_{DM} plane for a particular choice of the couplings.

(b) Give results in the g_q–g_{DM} plane for a particular choice of the masses.

We choose to display the results in the M_{med}–m_{DM} plane for the choice of the couplings $g_q = g_{\text{DM}} = 1$. In order to motivate the highest mediator mass grid point, the expected sensitivity of Run-2 LHC data needs to be taken into account. The expected upper limit at 95% confidence level on the product of cross section, acceptance and efficiency, $\sigma \times A \times \epsilon$, in the final Run-1 ATLAS mono-jet anaylsis [A+15] is 51 fb and 7.2 fb for $\not{E}_T > 300$ GeV and $\not{E}_T > 500$ GeV, respectively. The ATLAS 14 TeV prospects [ATL14] predict twice better sensitivity with the first 5 fb^{-1} of data already. Given the cross section for V+jets processes increases by roughly factor 2 when going from $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV to 13 TeV, similar fiducial cross section limits can be expected with the first Run-2 data as from the final Run-1 analysis. The generator level cross section times the acceptance at $\not{E}_T > 500$ GeV for the model with couplings $g_q = g_{\text{DM}} = 1$, light Dark Matter of 10 GeV and 1 TeV vector mediator is at the order of 100 fb, i.e. the early Run-2 mono-jet analysis is going to be sensitive to heavier mediators than this. The value of $\sigma \times A$ at $\not{E}_T > 500\,\text{GeV}$ for 5 TeV vector mediator is at the order of 0.1 fb, therefore this model probably lies beyond the reach of the LHC. Based on these arguments, the following M_{med} grid points are chosen, equidistant in the logarithmic scale: 10 GeV, 30 GeV, 100 GeV, 300 GeV, 1000 GeV and 3000 GeV. Given the fact that significant changes in cross section happen around the $M_{\text{med}} = 2m_{\text{DM}}$ threshold, the m_{DM} grid points are taken at $M_{\text{med}}/2$, namely: 5 GeV, 15 GeV, 50 GeV, 150 GeV, 500 GeV and 1500 GeV. The detailed studies of the impact of the parameter changes on the cross section and kinematic distributions presented earlier in this section support removing some of the grid points and rely on interpolation. The optimised grids proposed for the vector and axial-vector mediators are given in Fig. 2.9, containing 24 mass points each.

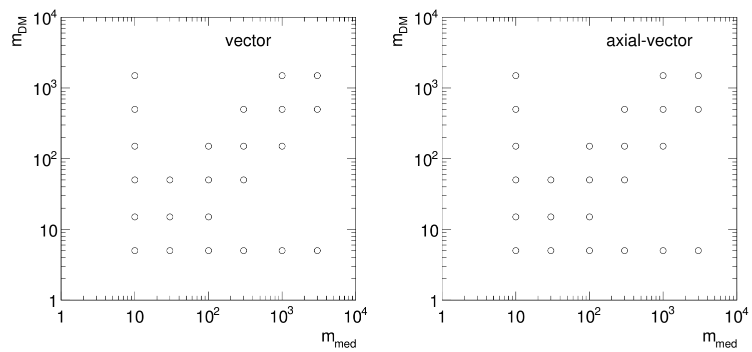


Figure 2.9: Proposed parameter grid for vector and axial-vector mediator in the M_{med}–m_{DM} plane.

The presentation of the results in the g_q–g_{DM} plane for fixed masses benefits from cross section scaling and is discussed in Section 2.1.3.

2.1.2 *Scalar and pseudoscalar mediator, s-channel exchange*

The matrix element implementation of the s-channel spin-0 mediated DM production is available in POWHEG with the full top-loop calculation at LO [HR15]. The model assumes Dirac Dark Matter particles and is based on the minimal flavor violation (MFV), which motivates Higgs-like Yukawa couplings of the mediator to the Standard Model quarks. No other couplings, such as to leptons, are allowed in this model. The following two cases are considered:

(a) scalar couplings to DM and SM,

(b) pseudo-scalar couplings to DM and SM with the corresponding Lagrangians written as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}} = g_q \sum \frac{m_q}{v} (\bar{q}q) S + g_{\text{DM}} (\bar{\chi}\chi) S \tag{2.8}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pseudo-scalar}} = g_q \sum \frac{m_q}{v} (\bar{q}\gamma^5 q) P + g_{\text{DM}} (\bar{\chi}\gamma^5 \chi) P \tag{2.9}$$

$$\tag{2.10}$$

where $v = 246\,\text{GeV}$ denotes the Higgs vacuum expectation value.

We choose to consider minimal mediator width given by Eq. 2.3, where the individual contributions follow from

$$\Gamma^{S}_{\bar{\chi}\chi} = \frac{g^2_{\text{DM}} M_{\text{med}}}{8\pi} \left(1 - \frac{4m^2_{\text{DM}}}{M^2_{\text{med}}}\right)^{3/2} \tag{2.11}$$

$$\Gamma^{S}_{\bar{q}q} = \frac{3g^2_q M_{\text{med}}}{8\pi} \frac{m^2_q}{v^2} \left(1 - \frac{4m^2_q}{M^2_{\text{med}}}\right)^{3/2} \tag{2.12}$$

$$\Gamma^{P}_{\bar{\chi}\chi} = \frac{g^2_{\text{DM}} M_{\text{med}}}{8\pi} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m^2_{\text{DM}}}{M^2_{\text{med}}}} \tag{2.13}$$

$$\Gamma^{P}_{\bar{q}q} = \frac{3g^2_q M_{\text{med}}}{8\pi} \frac{m^2_q}{v^2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m^2_q}{M^2_{\text{med}}}}\ . \tag{2.14}$$

The minimal width for scalar and pseudo-scalar mediators with $g_q = g_{\text{DM}} = 1$ are shown in Fig. 2.10, illustrating the effect of the Higgs-like Yukawa couplings. For the mediator masses above twice the top quark mass m_t, the minimal width receives the dominant contribution from the top quark. For lighter mediator masses, Dark Matter dominates as the couplings to lighter quarks are Yukawa suppressed. Note that we decide to ignore the partial width coming from gluons through loops as it can be safely neglected [HR15].

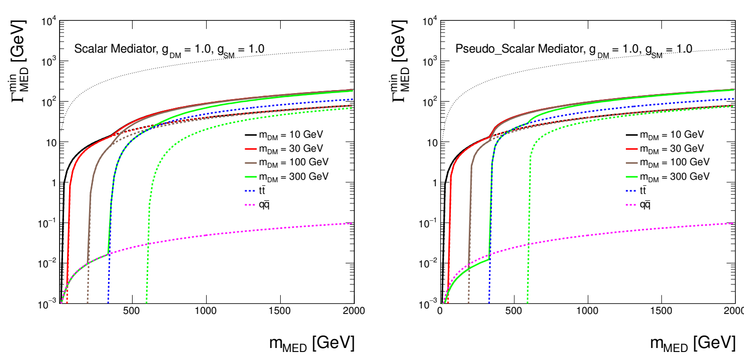


Figure 2.10: Minimal width as a function of mediator mass for scalar and pseudo-scalar mediator assuming couplings of 1. The total width is shown as solid lines for Dark Matter masses of 10 GeV, 30 GeV, 100 GeV and 300 GeV in black, red, brown and green, respectively. The individual contributions from Dark Matter are indicated by dotted lines with the same colors. The contribution from all quarks but top is shown as magenta dotted line and the contribution from top quarks only is illustrated by the dotted blue line. The dotted black line shows the extreme case $\Gamma_{\text{min}} = M_{\text{med}}$.

Similarly as in the case of the vector and axial-vector mediators, scans in the paramater space are performed also for the scalar and pseudo-scalar mediators in order to decide on the optimised parameter grid for the presentation of Run-2 results. Figures **??** show the scans over the couplings, Dark Matter mass and mediator mass and the same conclusions apply as in Section 2.1.1.

Since the top quark gives the dominant contribution to the mediator width due to Higgs-like Yukawa couplings, the effect of the top channel opening in the mediator production was studied in addition. Scan over the mediator mass is shown in Fig. 2.15 where the mediator masses 300 GeV and 500 GeV are chosen to be below and above $2m_t$. The off-shell Dark Matter production regime is assumed by taking $m_{\text{DM}} = 1$ TeV in order to allow studying solely the effects of the couplings to quarks. No differences in the kinematic distributions are observed and also the cross sections remain similar in this case. Therefore, it is concluded that no significant changes appear for mediator masses around the $2m_t$ threshold.

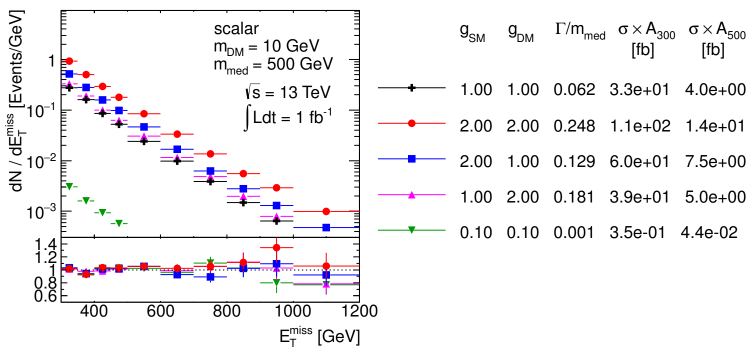


Figure 2.11: Scan over couplings. The $\not{E}_T$ distribution is compared for the scalar mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not{E}_T > 300$ GeV and $\not{E}_T > 500$ GeV cut, respectively.

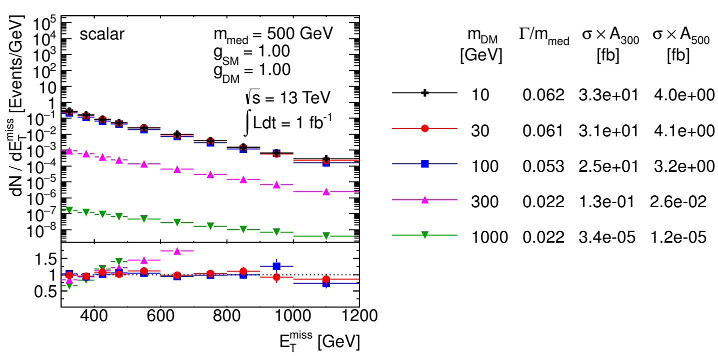


Figure 2.12: Scan over Dark Matter mass. The $\not{E}_T$ distribution is compared for the scalar mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not{E}_T > 300$ GeV and $\not{E}_T > 500$ GeV cut, respectively.

The optimized parameter grid in the M_{med}–m_{DM} plane for scalar and pseudo-scalar mediators is motivated by similar arguments as in the previous section. Therefore, similar pattern is followed here, taking again $g_q = g_{\text{DM}} = 1$. Only the sensitivity to the highest mediator masses has to be revisited. The generator level cross section times the acceptance at $\not{E}_T > 500$ GeV for the model with couplings $g_q = g_{\text{DM}} = 1$, light Dark Matter of 10 GeV and 500 GeV scalar mediator is at the order of 10 fb, i.e. just at the edge of the early Run-2

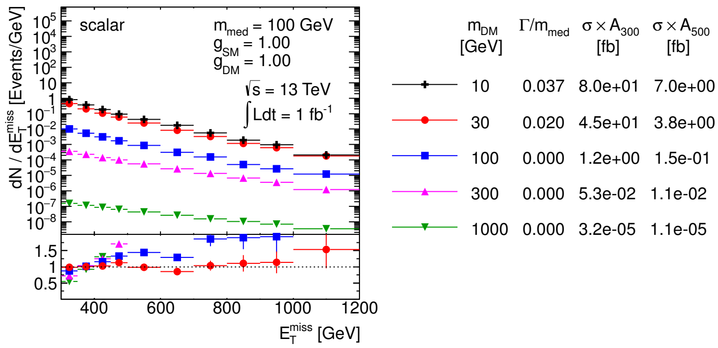


Figure 2.13: Scan over Dark Matter mass. The $\not{E}_T$ distribution is compared for the scalar mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not{E}_T > 300\,\text{GeV}$ and $\not{E}_T > 500\,\text{GeV}$ cut, respectively.

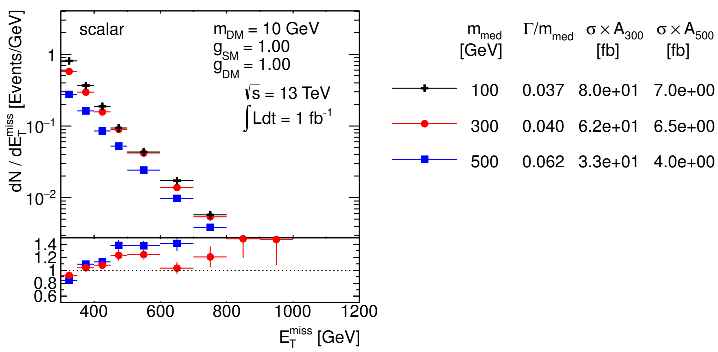


Figure 2.14: Scan over mediator mass. The $\not{E}_T$ distribution is compared for the scalar mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not{E}_T > 300\,\text{GeV}$ and $\not{E}_T > 500\,\text{GeV}$ cut, respectively.

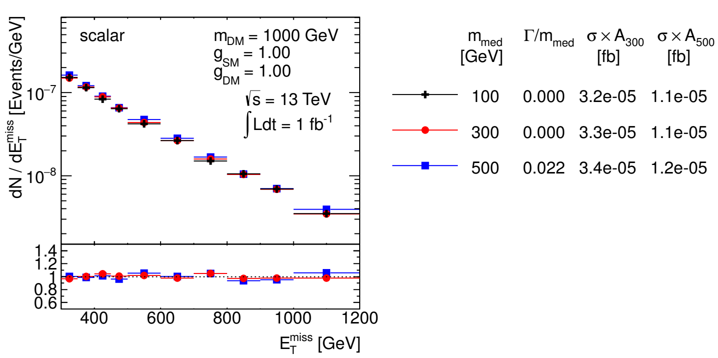


Figure 2.15: Scan over mediator mass. The $\not{E}_T$ distribution is compared for the scalar mediator models using the parameters as indicated. Ratios of the normalized distributions with respect to the first one are shown. A_{300} and A_{500} in the table denote the acceptance of the $\not{E}_T > 300\,\text{GeV}$ and $\not{E}_T > 500\,\text{GeV}$ cut, respectively.

sensitivity. Increasing the mediator mass to 1 TeV pushes the product $\sigma \times A$ down to approximately 0.1 fb, beyond the LHC sensitivity. Therefore, we choose to remove the 3 TeV mediator mass from the grid and present the final grid with 19 mass points only in Fig. 2.16.

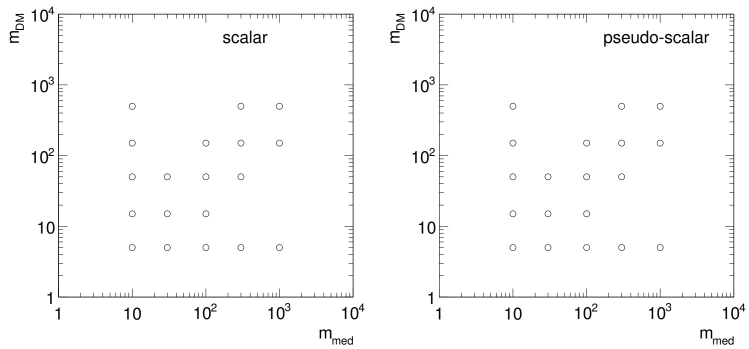


Figure 2.16: Proposed parameter grid for scalar and pseudo-scalar mediator in the M_{med}–m_{DM} plane.

The proposal for the scan in the g_q–g_{DM} plane is described in the following section.

2.1.3 *Cross section scaling*

The aim of the parameter grid optimization is to find out whether certain parts of the parameter space can be omitted and one can rely on the neighboring grid points in order to populate the missing parts. There are two ways of doing this:

- Interpolation is used in-between the grid points that are close enough such that finer granularity is not needed for the presentation purposes, or between the points where smooth or no changes of the results are expected. The latter argument is exactly the one that motivates the reduction of the grid points in the M_{med}–m_{DM} plane.

- Recalculation of the results can be used when the dependencies with respect to the neighboring grid points are known.

The results of the scan over the couplings presented in the previous sections indicate there are no changes in kinematic distributions for different choices of the coupling strengths. This means that the acceptance remains the same in the whole g_q–g_{DM} plane and it is sufficient to perform the detector simulation only for one single grid point. The resulting truth-level selection acceptance and the detector reconstruction efficiency can then be applied to all remaining grid points in the g_q–g_{DM} plane where only the generator-level cross section needs to be known. This significantly reduces the computing time as the detector response is by far the most expensive part of the Monte Carlo sample production. However, a further step can be taken if a parameterization of the cross section dependence from one grid point to another exists, in which case the number of generated samples can be reduced even further.

Let us now elaborate on a cross section scaling procedure. The propagator on the s-channel exchange is written in a Breit-Wigner form as $\frac{1}{\sqrt{s}-M_{\rm med}^2+iM_{\rm med}\Gamma}$. The relative size of the center-of-mass energy defined by the two partons entering the hard process and the mediator mass allows to classify the production in the following way:

- off-shell production when $\sqrt{s} \gg M_{\rm med}$ leading to suppressed cross sections,
- on-shell production when $\sqrt{s} \sim M_{\rm med}$ leading to enhanced cross sections,
- effective field theory (EFT) limit when $\sqrt{s} \ll M_{\rm med}$.

All three categories can be distinguished in Fig. 2.17 showing the upper limit on the interaction scale $M^* \equiv M_{\rm med}/\sqrt{g_q g_{\rm DM}}$ for vector mediator. In the case of the off-shell production and the EFT limit, the first term in the propagator dominates which reduces the dependence on the mediator width. Therefore, in these cases one can approximate the cross section as

$$\sigma \propto g_q^2 g_{\rm DM}^2. \tag{2.15}$$

The on-shell production regime is the most interesting one as it gives the best chances for a discovery at the LHC given the cross section enhancement. The propagator term with the width cannot be neglected in this case and, in the narrow width approximation, one can integrate

$$\int \frac{ds}{(s-M_{\rm med}^2)^2 + M_{\rm med}^2\Gamma^2} = \frac{\pi}{M_{\rm med}\Gamma} \tag{2.16}$$

which further implies the cross section scaling

$$\sigma \propto \frac{g_q^2 g_{\rm DM}^2}{\Gamma}. \tag{2.17}$$

Since $\Gamma \sim g_q^2 + g_{\rm DM}^2$, one can simplify this rule in the extreme cases as follows

$$\sigma \quad \propto \quad \frac{g_q^2 g_{\rm DM}^2}{g_q^2 + g_{\rm DM}^2} \xrightarrow{g_q \ll g_{\rm DM}} g_q^2 \tag{2.18}$$

$$\sigma \quad \propto \quad \frac{g_q^2 g_{\rm DM}^2}{g_q^2 + g_{\rm DM}^2} \xrightarrow{g_q \gg g_{\rm DM}} g_{\rm DM}^2 \,. \tag{2.19}$$

However, it is important to keep in mind that there is no simple scaling rule for how the cross section changes with the Dark Matter mass, mediator mass and the mediator width because PDFs matter in such cases as well. Therefore, the scaling procedure outlined above is expected to work only for fixed masses and fixed mediator width.

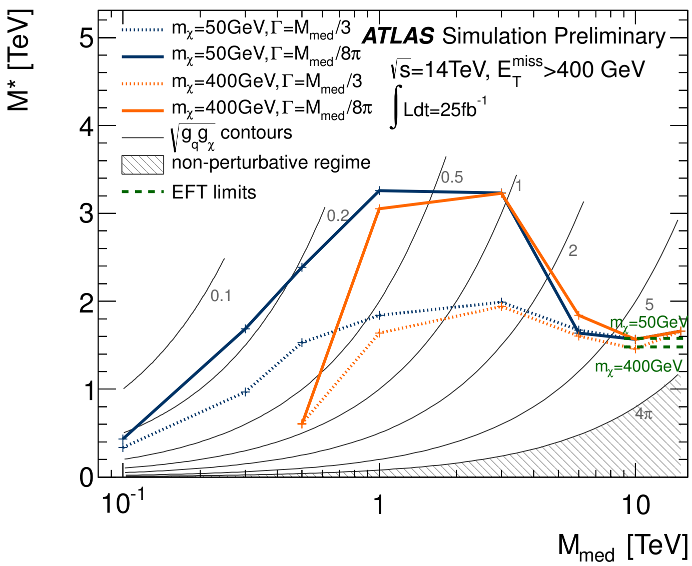


Figure 2.17: Comparison of the 95% CL lower limits on the scale of the interaction of a Z'-like simplified model at 14 TeV, in terms of the mediator mass. Corresponding limits from EFT models are shown on the same plot as green dashed lines to show equivalence between the two models for high mediator masses. Taken from Ref. [ATL14].

Figures 2.18 and 2.19 show the minimal width in the g_q–g_{DM} plane for all vector, axial-vector, scalar and pseudo-scalar mediators for $M_{\mathrm{med}} = 100$ GeV and 1000 GeV, respectively, taking $m_{\mathrm{DM}} = 10$ GeV. The individual colors indicate the lines of constant width along which the cross section scaling works. For vector and axial-vector mediators, the minimal width is predominantly defined by g_q due to the number of quark flavors and the color factor. On the contrary, both the Standard Model and Dark Matter partial width have comparable contributions in case of scalar and pseudo-scalar mediators if the top quark channel is open ($M_{\mathrm{med}} > 2m_t$). However, mostly g_{DM} defines the minimal width for $M_{\mathrm{med}} < 2m_t$ due to the Yukawa-suppressed light quark couplings.

The performance of the cross section scaling is demonstrated in Fig. 2.20 where the mass point $M_{\mathrm{med}} = 1$ TeV and $m_{\mathrm{DM}} = 10$ GeV is chosen and rescaled from the starting point $g_q = g_{\mathrm{DM}} = 1$ according to Eq. 2.17 to populate the whole g_q–g_{DM} plane. This means the width is not kept constant in this test and this is done in purpose in order to point out deviations from the scaling when the width is altered. For each mass point, the rescaled cross section is compared to the generator cross section and the ratio of the two is plotted. For the given choice of the mass points, the scaling seems to work approximately with the precision of $\sim$ 20% in the region where $\Gamma_{\min} < M_{\mathrm{med}}$. Constant colors indicate the lines along which the

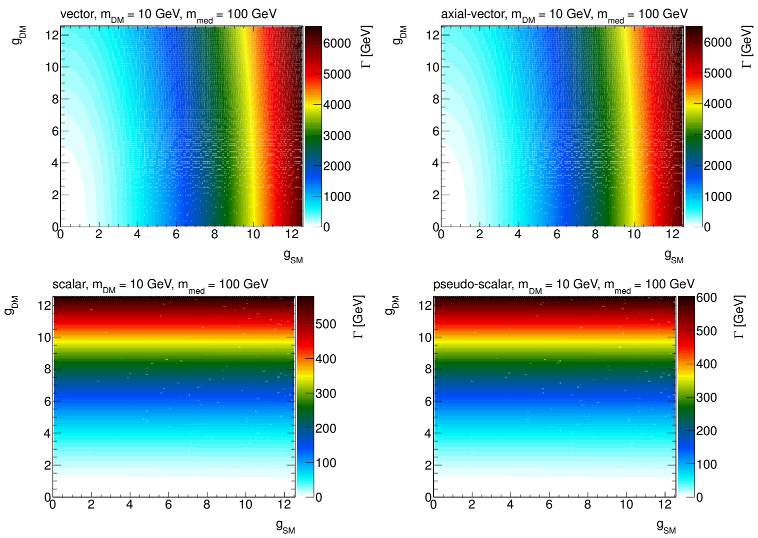


Figure 2.18: Minimal width for vector, axial-vector, scalar and pseudo-scalar mediators as a function of the individual couplings g_q and g_{DM}, assuming $M_{\mathrm{med}} = 100\,\mathrm{GeV}$ and $m_{\mathrm{DM}} = 10\,\mathrm{GeV}$.

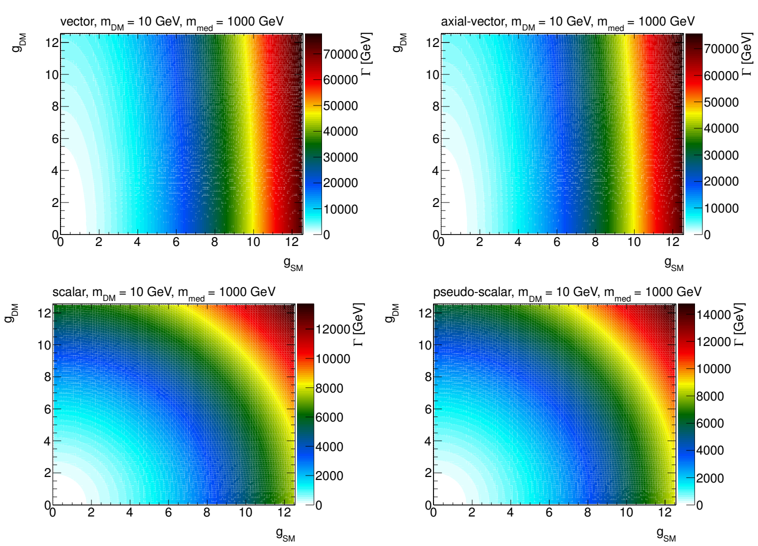


Figure 2.19: Minimal width for vector, axial-vector, scalar and pseudo-scalar mediators as a function of the individual couplings g_q and g_{DM}, assuming $M_{\mathrm{med}} = 1\,\mathrm{TeV}$ and $m_{\mathrm{DM}} = 10\,\mathrm{GeV}$.

cross section scaling works precisely and there is a remarkable resemblance of the patterns shown in the plots of the mediator width. To prove the scaling along the lines of constant width works, one such line is chosen in Fig. 2.21 for a scalar mediator, defined by $M_{\rm med} = 300\,{\rm GeV}$, $m_{\rm DM} = 100\,{\rm GeV}$, $g_q = g_{\rm DM} = 1$, and the rescaled and generated cross sections are found to agree within 3%.

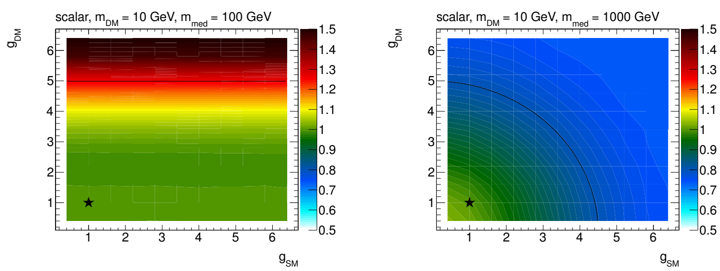


Figure 2.20: Ratio of the rescaled and generated cross sections in the g_q–$g_{\rm DM}$ plane. The point at $g_q = g_{\rm DM} = 1$, taken as a reference for the rescaling, is denoted by a star symbol. Scalar model with $M_{\rm med} = 100\,{\rm GeV}$ (left) and 1 TeV (right) is plotted for $m_{\rm DM} = 10\,{\rm GeV}$. The limiting case $\Gamma_{\rm min} = M_{\rm med}$ is shown as a black line.

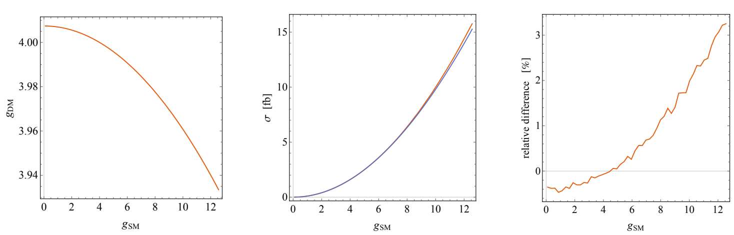


Figure 2.21: Scaling along the lines of constant width. The line of constant width for $M_{\rm med} = 300\,{\rm GeV}$ and $m_{\rm DM} = 100\,{\rm GeV}$, intercepting $g_q = g_{\rm DM} = 4$ is shown on left. The generated and rescaled cross sections are compared in the middle, the corresponding ratio is shown on right.

Proposed parameter grid We propose to present the results in the g_q–$g_{\rm DM}$ plane using the following prescription:

- Since the shapes of kinematic quantities do not change for different couplings, use the acceptance and efficiency for the available $m_{\rm DM} = 50\,{\rm GeV}$, $M_{\rm med} = 300\,{\rm GeV}$, $g_q = g_{\rm DM} = 1$ grid point from the $M_{\rm med}$–$m_{\rm DM}$ plane for the scalar and pseudo-scalar mediator. In case of the vector and axial-vector mediator, use the grid point $m_{\rm DM} = 50\,{\rm GeV}$, $M_{\rm med} = 1\,{\rm TeV}$, $g_q = g_{\rm DM} = 1$.

- Generate additional samples in order to get generator cross sections only. For scalar and pseudo-scalar mediator, choose $m_{\rm DM} = 50\,{\rm GeV}$, $M_{\rm med} = 300\,{\rm GeV}$ with the following values for $g_q = g_{\rm DM}$: 0.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. For vector and axial vector mediator, choose $m_{\rm DM} = 50\,{\rm GeV}$, $M_{\rm med} = 1\,{\rm TeV}$ with the following values for $g_q = g_{\rm DM}$: 0.1, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1.25, 1.5. The upper values are defined by the minimal width reaching the mediator mass.

- Rescale the generator cross sections along the lines of constant width in order to populate the whole g_q–$g_{\rm DM}$ plane.

Rescaling to different mediator width In general there may be an interest to consider larger mediator masses than Γ_{min} in order to accommodate further couplings of the mediator. The cross section scaling method described above can be used to reinterpret the results presented for the minimal width, since multiplying the width by factor n is equivalent to changing the coupling strength by factor $\sqrt{n}$, i.e.

$$\sigma(g_q, g_{\mathrm{DM}}, n\Gamma_{\mathrm{min}}(g_q, g_{\mathrm{DM}})) \propto \frac{g_q^2 g_{\mathrm{DM}}^2}{\Gamma_{\mathrm{min}}(\sqrt{n}g_q, \sqrt{n}g_{\mathrm{DM}})} . \tag{2.20}$$

The cross section for the sample with couplings g_q and g_{DM} and modified mediator width $\Gamma = n\Gamma_{\mathrm{min}}$ can therefore be rescaled from a sample generated with the minimal width corresponding to the couplings scaled by $\sqrt{n}$ as described in the following formula.

$$\sigma(g_q, g_{\mathrm{DM}}, n\Gamma_{\mathrm{min}}(g_q, g_{\mathrm{DM}})) = \frac{1}{n^2}\sigma(\sqrt{n}g_q, \sqrt{n}g_{\mathrm{DM}}, \Gamma_{\mathrm{min}}(\sqrt{n}g_q, \sqrt{n}g_{\mathrm{DM}})) \tag{2.21}$$

Advantage of doing this is again in the fact that no event selection and detector response needs to be simulated since the changes in couplings do not have an effect on the shapes of kinematic distributions.

2.1.4 *POWHEG settings*

The POWHEG implementation allows to generate a single sample that provides sufficient statistics in all mono-jet analysis signal regions by optimizing the following two parameters:

- POWHEG generates weighted events and the `bornsuppfact` parameter is used to set the event suppression factor according to

$$F(k_{\mathrm{T}}) = \frac{k_{\mathrm{T}}^2}{k_{\mathrm{T}}^2 + \texttt{bornsuppfact}^2} . \tag{2.22}$$

  In this way, the events at low $\not{E}_T$ are suppressed and receive higher event weights which ensures higher statistics at high $\not{E}_T$. We recommend to set `bornsuppfact` to 1000.

- The `bornktmin` parameter allows to suppress the low $\not{E}_T$ region even further by starting the generation at a certain value of k_{T}. It is recommended to set this parameter to half the lower analysis $\not{E}_T$ cut, therefore the proposed value for `bornktmin` is 150.

2.1.5 *Colored scalar mediator, t-channel exchange*

An alternative set of simplified models exist where the mediator is exchanged in the t-channel, thereby coupling the quark and dark matter particle directly. Under the assumption that χ is a Standard

Model (SM) singlet, the mediating particle, labeled ϕ, is necessarily charged and coloured. This model is parallel to, and partially motivated by, the squark of the MSSM, but in this case the χ is chosen to be Dirac. Following the example of Ref. [PVZ14], the interaction Lagrangian is written as

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = g \sum_{i=1,2,3} (\phi^i_L \bar{Q}^i_L + \phi^i_{uR} \bar{u}^i_R + \phi^i_{dR} \bar{d}^i_R)\chi \tag{2.23}$$

(Note: [PVZ14] uses only i = 1,2, but I think it's fine to extend this to 3 here.) where Q^i_L, u^i_R and d^i_R are the SM quarks and ϕ^i_L, ϕ^i_{uR} and ϕ^i_{dR} are the corresponding mediators, which (unlike the s-channel mediators) must be heavier than χ. These mediators have SM gauge representations under $(SU(3), SU(2))_Y$ of $(3,2)_{-1/6}$, $(3,1)_{2/3}$ and $(3,1)_{-1/3}$ respectively. Variations of the model previously studied include coupling to the left-handed quarks only [CEHL14, BDSJ$^+$14], to the ϕ^i_{uR} [DNRT13] or ϕ^i_{dR} [PVZ14, A$^+$14b], or some combination [BB13, AWZ14].

Minimal Flavour Violation (MFV) requires that the mediator masses for each flavour be equal; the same logic also applies to the couplings g. The available parameters are then

$$\{m_\chi,\ M_\phi,\ g\}. \tag{2.24}$$

In practice, the third mediator mass and coupling could be separated from the other two, if higher order corrections to the MFV prediction arise due to the large top Yukawa coupling – a common variation is then to define this split between the first two generations and the third, so the parameters are extended to

$$\{m_\chi,\ M_{\phi_{1,2}},\ M_{\phi_3},\ g_{1,2},\ g_3\}. \tag{2.25}$$

The width of each mediator is expressed, using the example of decay to an up quark, as

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(\phi_i \to \bar{u}_i \chi) = {} & \frac{g_i^2}{16\pi M^3_{\phi_i}} (M^2_{\phi_i} - m^2_{u_i} - m^2_\chi) \\ & \times \sqrt{M^4_{\phi_i} + m^4_{u_i} + m^4_\chi - 2M^2_{\phi_i} m^2_{u_i} - 2M^2_{\phi_i} m^2_\chi - 2m^2_{u_i} m^2_\chi}\,,\end{aligned} \tag{2.26}$$

this reduces to

$$\frac{g_i^2 M_{\phi_i}}{16\pi} \left(1 - \frac{m^2_\chi}{M^2_{\phi_i}}\right)^2 \tag{2.27}$$

in the limit $M_{\phi_i}, m_\chi \gg m_{u_i}$.

An interesting point of difference with the s-channel simplified models is that the mediator can radiate a SM object, such as a jet or gauge boson, thus providing three separate mono-X diagrams which must be considered together in calculations. This model can also give a signal in the di-jet + MET channel when, for example, the χ is exchanged in the t-channel and the resulting ϕ pair each decay to a jet + χ.

2.2 *Specific models for signatures with EW bosons*

In this Section, we consider models with a photon, a W boson, a Z boson or a Higgs boson in the final state, accompanied by Dark Matter particles that either couple directly to the boson or are mediated by a new particle. The experimental signature is identified as *V+MET*.

These models are interesting both as extensions of models where the gluon provides the experimentally detectable signature, and as stand-alone models with final states that cannot be generated by the models in Section 2.1.

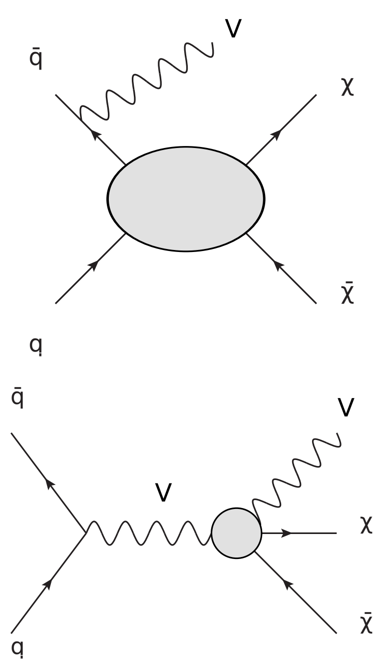


Figure 2.22: Sketch of benchmark models including a contact interaction for V+MET searches, adapted from [NCC+14].

The models considered can be divided in three categories:

Models including a contact operator, where the boson is radiated from the initial state

As depicted in the top diagram of Figure 2.22, these models follow the nomenclature and theory for the EFT benchmarks commonly used by MET+X searches [GIR+10]. These models have been used in past experimental searches [Kha14, Aad14b, K+14, Aad14b, A+14a, Aad14a], and they will not be described here.

Models including a contact operator, where the boson is directly coupled to DM Shown in the bottom of Figure 2.22, these models allow for a contact interaction vertex that directly couples the boson to Dark Matter.

Simplified models where the boson is radiated from the initial state These models follow those already described in Section 2.1, replacing the initial state gluon with a boson.

V-specific simplified models These models postulate direct couplings of new mediators to bosons, e.g. they couple the Higgs boson to a new scalar [CDM+14].

The following Sections describe the models within these categories, the parameters for each of the benchmark models chosen, the studies towards the choices of the parameters to be scanned, and finally point to the location of their Matrix Element implementation.

Simplified models with ISR boson radiation

Searches in the jet+MET final state are generally more sensitive with respect to final states including bosons, due to the much larger rates of signal events featuring quark or gluon radiation with respect to radiation of bosons [ZBW13], in combination with the low branching ratios if leptons from boson decays are required in the final state. The rates for the Higgs boson radiation is too low for these models to be considered a viable benchmark [CDM+14]. However, the presence of photons leptons from W and Z decays and W or Z bosons decaying hadronically allows to reject the background more effectively, making Z/gamma/W+MET searches still worth comparing with searches in the jet+MET final state.

Vector mediator exchanged in the s-channel The case for searches with W bosons in the final state has so far been strenghtened by the presence of particular choices of couplings between the WIMP and the up and down quarks which enhance W radiation [BT13], in the case of the exchange of a vector mediator in the s-channel. Run-1 searches have considered three sample cases for the product of up and down quark couplings to the mediator ξ:

- No couplings between mediator and either up or down quarks ($\xi = 0$);

- Same coupling between mediator and each of the quark types ($\xi = 1$);

- Coupling of opposite sign between mediator and each of the quark types ($\xi = -1$).

The $\xi = -1$ case leads to a large increase in the cross-section of the process, and modifies the spectrum of missing transverse energy or transverse mass used for the searches. The sensitivity of the W+MET search for this benchmark in this case surpasses that of the jet+MET search. However, as shown in Ref. [BCD+15], the cross-section increase is due to the production of longitudinally polarized W bosons, as a consequence of a violation of electroweak gauge symmetries. Unless further particles are introduced (in a fashion similar to the Higgs boson in the Standard Model), choosing a value of $\xi = -1$ for this simplified model will lead to a manifest violation of unitarity at LHC energies. The simplified model with a vector mediator exchanged in the s-channel model can still be considered as a benchmark for searches with a W boson if $\xi = 1$. We leave the study of further models with cross-section enhancements due to different couplings to up and down quarks for studies beyond the early LHC searches covered in this document. **[TODO: Substitute the following sentence with Yang Bai's paragraph]**. An example of such model is the case of both DM and SM Higgs charged under a new U(1)', with a a small mass mixing between SM Z-boson and the new Zprime. This leads to different effective DM couplings to u_L and d_L, proportional to their coupling to the Z boson.

The scan in the parameters that characterize of this model follow what already detailed in Section 2.1.

As in the case of the jet+MET models, the width does not have a significant impact on the kinematic distributions relevant for those searches. An example of the particle-level analysis acceptance using the generator-level cuts from Ref. [Aad15] for the photon+MET analysis, but raising the photon p_T cut to 150 GeV is shown in Figure 2.23, comparing a width that is set to $\Gamma = M_{med}/3$ to the minimal width (the ratio between the two widths ranges from 1.05 to 1.5 with increasing mediator masses).

Examples of relevant kinematic distributions for selected benchmark points are shown in Fig. 2.28; leading-order cross-sections for the chosen benchmark points are shown in Table **?? [TODO: Insert table of cross-sections]**.

Colored scalar mediator exchanged in the s-channel t-channel colored scalar, to be completed...

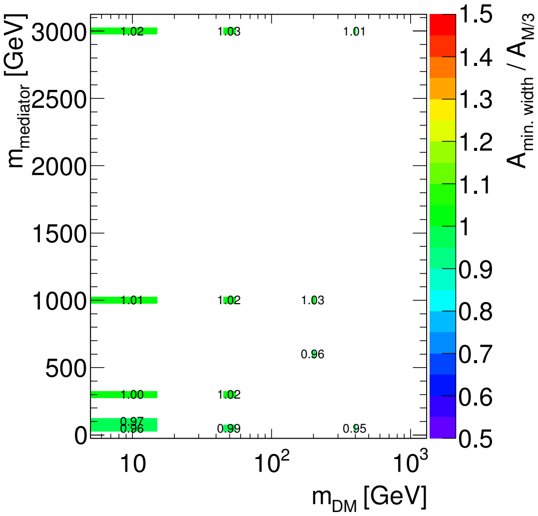


Figure 2.23: Analysis acceptance for the photon+MET analysis when varying the mediator width, in the case of a vector mediator exchanged in the $s-$channel

Model implementation These models are generated at leading order with MadGraph 2.2.2, and parameter cards can be found on SVN **[TODO: Add SVN location]**. The parton shower is done using Pythia 8, with a matching scale of... **[TODO: To be completed.]**

EFT MODELS WITH DIRECT DM-BOSON COUPLINGS

A complete list of effective operators with direct DM/boson couplings for Dirac DM, up to dimension 7, can be found in [CHLR13].

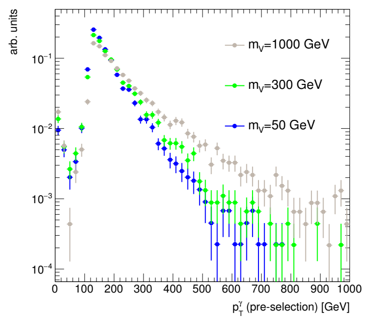
Following the notation of [CNS+13], the dimension 5 benchmark models from this category have a Lagrangian that includes terms such as:

$$\frac{m_W^2}{\Lambda_5^3}\,\bar{\chi}\chi\; W^{+\mu}W^-_\mu + \frac{m_Z^2}{2\Lambda_5^3}\,\bar{\chi}\chi\; Z^\mu Z_\mu\;. \tag{2.28}$$

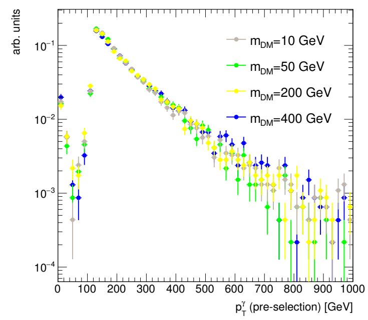
where m_Z and m_W are the masses of the Z and W boson, W^μ and Z^μ are the fields of the gauge bosons, χ denote the Dark Matter fields and Λ_5 is the effective field theory scale. This operator induces signatures with MET in conjunction with Z and W bosons at tree level, while at loop level it induces couplings to photon pairs and $Z\gamma$ through W loops. **[TODO: Ask Linda to explain this better than I did.]**. In these models, a clear relation exists between final states with photons, EW bosons and Higgs boson. **[TODO: see if mono-Higgs studies exist for these operators, include them here]**.

The dimension 7 benchmark models include couplings to the kinetic terms of the EW bosons ($F_i^{\mu\nu}$, with $F_i = 1, 2, 3$ being the field strengths of the SM $U(1)$ and $SU(2)$ gauge groups and $\tilde{F}_i^{\mu\nu}$ their dual tensors). The Lagrangian for the scalar coupling of DM and bosons

Figure 2.24: Kinematic distributions relevant for searches with W, Z and photons in the final state, for the simplified model with a vector mediator exchanged in the $s-$channel.



(a) Missing transverse momentum distribution for the photon+MET final state, for different mediator mass choices, for a DM mass of 10 GeV.



(b) Leading photon transverse momentum distribution for the photon+MET final state, for different DM mass choices, with a mediator mass of 1 TeV.

(c) Missing transverse momentum distribution for the leptonic Z+MET final state.

(d) Transverse mass (m_T) for the leptonic W+MET final state.

(e) Fat **[Insert algorithm]** jet mass (m_T) for the the hadronic W+MET final state.

include terms such as the following:

$$\frac{1}{\Lambda_{7,S}^3}\,\bar{\chi}\chi\,\sum_i k_i F_i^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}^i + \frac{1}{\Lambda_{7,S}^3}\,\bar{\chi}\chi\,\sum_i k_i F_i^{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}^i \tag{2.29}$$

The Lagrangian with pseudoscalar coupling includes the following terms:

$$\frac{1}{\Lambda_{7,PS}^3}\,\bar{\chi}\gamma^5\chi\,\sum_i k_i F_i^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}^i + \frac{1}{\Lambda_{7,PS}^3}\,\bar{\chi}\gamma^5\chi\,\sum_i k_i F_i^{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}^i \tag{2.30}$$

The cut-off scales Λ for the separate terms can be related to operators with different Lorentz structure from Ref. [CHLR13]. Given that they do not lead to substantial differences for collider searches as shown in Figure 2 of Ref. [CNS+13], they have been denoted as $\Lambda_{7,S}$ for the scalar case and $\Lambda_{7,PS}$ for the pseudoscalar case.

The k_i coefficients for the dimension 7 models are related to the couplings of DM to pairs of gauge bosons by gauge invariance:

$$g_{WW} = \frac{2k_2}{s_w^2 \Lambda_7^3} \tag{2.31}$$

$$g_{ZZ} = \frac{1}{4 s_w^2 \Lambda_7^3} \left(\frac{k_1 s_w^2}{c_w^2} + \frac{k_2 c_w^2}{s_w^2} \right) \tag{2.32}$$

$$g_{\gamma\gamma} = \frac{1}{4 c_w^2} \frac{k_1 + k_2}{\Lambda_7^3} \tag{2.33}$$

$$g_{Z\gamma} = \frac{1}{2 s_w c_w \Lambda_7^3} \left(\frac{k_2}{s_w^2} - \frac{k_1}{c_w^2} \right) \tag{2.34}$$

where s_w and c_w are respectively the sine and cosine of the weak mixing angle.

The coefficients k_i determine the relative importance of each of the boson channels, and their correlations. For example, for what concerns searches with W, Z and photons:

- k_2 alone controls the rate of the coupling to W boson pairs;
- If $k_1 = k_2$ contributions from both Z and γ exchange appear;
- If $k_1 = c_w^2/s_w^2 k_2$ the γ exchange is negligible.

The coefficients k_1 and k_2 are related to the coefficients c_1 and c_2 in the equivalent models of Ref. [CHH15] as $k_2 = s_w^2 * c_2$ and $k_1 = c_w^2 * c_1$.

[TODO: Linda will possibly complete/correct this paragraph] UV completions of such operators where the dominant signature is a single photon or EW boson are possible, for example through the exchange of a W′ or a Z′. They are left as benchmarks for future searches as their implementation may require loop diagrams and need further studies beyond the timescale of this Forum.

As shown in Fig. 2.25 kinematics of this model can be approximated by that of a simplified model including a high-mass scalar mediator exchanged in the s-channel. For this reason, the list of benchmark models with direct boson-DM couplings only includes dimension 7 operators. **[TODO: then we need to recommend the scalar mediator, but then the sensitivity is very poor wrt monojets - however, I still prefer to generate a few (high-mass) simplified model points wrt an EFT if given the choice.]**

The kinematic distributions for dimension-7 scalar and pseudoscalar operators only shows small differences, as shown in Fig. 2.26.

Figure 2.25: Comparison of the missing transverse momentum for the simplified model where a scalar mediator is exchanged in the s-channel and the model including a dimension-5 scalar contact operator, in the leptonic Z+MET final state

Figure 2.26: Comparison of the missing transverse momentum for the scalar and pseudoscalar operators with direct interaction between DM and photon, in the photon+MET final state

Similarly, the differences in kinematics for the various signatures are negligible when changing the coefficients k_1 and k_2, as shown in Figure **??**. Only the case $k_1 = k_2 = 1$ is generated as benchmark; other cases are left for reinterpretation as they will only need a rescaling of the cross-sections shown in Table **?? [TODO: add tables with cross sections]** for the various Dark Matter mass points considered.

Examples of relevant kinematic distributions for selected benchmark points are shown in Fig. 2.28.

Specific simplified models Mono-Higgs, to be completed...

2.3 *Specific models for signatures with heavy flavor quarks*

2.4 *SUSY-inspired simplified models*

(a) Missing transverse momentum distribution for the photon+MET final state.

(b) Missing transverse momentum distribution for the leptonic Z+MET final state.

(c) Transverse mass (m_T) for the leptonic W+MET final state.

Figure 2.27: Kinematic distributions relevant for searches with W, Z and photons in the final state, for for the scalar and pseudoscalar operators representing direct interactions between DM and bosons.

(a) Missing transverse momentum distribution for the photon+MET final state.

(b) Missing transverse momentum distribution for the leptonic Z+MET final state.

(c) Transverse mass (m_T) for the leptonic W+MET final state.

(d) Fat **[Insert algorithm]** jet mass (m_T) for the the hadronic W+MET final state.

Figure 2.28: Kinematic distributions relevant for searches with W, Z and photons in the final state, for the simplified model with a vector mediator exchanged in the $s-$channel.

3

Validity of EFT approach

Effective Field Theories (EFTs) are an extremely useful tool for DM searches at the LHC. Given the current lack of indications about the nature of the DM particle and its interactions, a model independent interpretation of the collider bounds appears mandatory, especially in complementarity with the reinterpretation of the exclusion limits within a choice of simplified models, which cannot exhaust the set of possible completions of an effective Lagrangian. However EFTs must be used with caution at LHC energies, where the energy scale of the interaction is at a scale where the EFT approximation can no longer be assumed to be valid. Here we summarise some methods that can be used to ensure the validity of the EFT approximation. These methods are described in detail in Refs. [BDSMR14**?** , BDSJ+14, A+15, RWZ15].

*Outline of the procedure described in Refs. [**?** A+15]*

For a tree-level interaction between DM and the Standard Model (SM) via some mediator with mass M, the EFT approximation corresponds to expanding the propagator in powers of Q_{tr}^2/M^2, truncating at lowest order, and combining the remaining parameters into a single parameter M_* (also called Λ). For an example scenario with a Z'-type mediator (leading to some combination of operators D5 to D8 in the EFT limit) this corresponds to setting

$$\frac{g_{\mathrm{DM}} g_q}{Q_{\mathrm{tr}}^2 - M^2} = -\frac{g_{\mathrm{DM}} g_q}{M^2}\left(1 + \frac{Q_{\mathrm{tr}}^2}{M^2} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{Q_{\mathrm{tr}}^4}{M^4}\right)\right) \simeq -\frac{1}{{M_*}^2}, \tag{3.1}$$

where Q_{tr} is the momentum carried by the mediator, and g_{DM}, g_q are the DM-mediator and quark-mediator couplings respectively. Similar expressions exist for other operators. Clearly the condition that must be satisfied for this approximation to be valid is that $Q_{\mathrm{tr}}^2 < M^2 = g_{\mathrm{DM}} g_q {M_*}^2$.

We can use this condition to enforce the validity of the EFT approximation by restricting the signal (after the imposition of the cuts of the analysis) to events for which $Q_{\mathrm{tr}}^2 < M^2$. This truncated signal can then be used to derive the new, truncated limit on M_* as a function of $(m_{\mathrm{DM}}, g_{\mathrm{DM}} g_q)$.

For the example D5-like operator, $\sigma \propto {M_*}^{-4}$, and so there is a simple rule for converting a rescaled cross section into a rescaled constraint on M_* if the original limit is based on a simple cut-and-count procedure. Defining $\sigma_{\mathrm{EFT}}^{\mathrm{cut}}$ as the cross section truncated such that all events pass the condition $\sqrt{g_{\mathrm{DM}} g_q} M_*^{\mathrm{rescaled}} > Q_{\mathrm{tr}}$, we have

$$M_*^{\mathrm{rescaled}} = \left(\frac{\sigma_{\mathrm{EFT}}}{\sigma_{\mathrm{EFT}}^{\mathrm{cut}}} \right)^{1/4} M_*^{\mathrm{original}}, \tag{3.2}$$

which can be solved for M_*^{rescaled} via either iteration or a scan (note that M_*^{rescaled} appears on both the LHS and RHS of the equation). Similar relations exist for a given UV completion of each operator. The details and application of this procedure to ATLAS results can be found in Ref. [A+15] for a range of operators. Since this method uses the physical couplings and energy scale Q_{tr}, it gives the strongest possible constraints in the EFT limit while remaining robust by ensuring the validity of the EFT approximation.

Outline of the procedure described in Ref. [RWZ15]

In [RWZ15] a procedure to extract model independent and consistent bounds within the EFT is described. This procedure can be applied to any effective Lagrangian describing the interactions between the DM and the SM, and provides limits that can be directly reinterpreted in any completion of the EFT.

The range of applicability of the EFT is defined by a mass scale M_{cut}, a parameter which marks the upper limit of the range of energy scales at which the EFT can be used reliably, independently of the particular completion of the model. Regardless of the details of the full theory, the energy scale probing the validity of the EFT is less than or equal to the centre-of-mass energy E_{cm}, the total invariant mass of the hard final states of the reaction. Therefore, the condition ensuring the validity of the EFT is, by definition of M_{cut},

$$E_{\text{cm}} < M_{\text{cut}} \,. \tag{3.3}$$

For example, in the specific case of a tree level mediation with a single mediator, M_{cut} can be interpreted as the mass of that mediator.

There are then at least three free parameters describing an EFT: the DM mass m_{DM}, the scale M_* of the interaction, and the cutoff scale M_{cut}.

We can use the same technique as above to restrict the signal to the events for which $E_{\text{cm}} < M_{\text{cut}}$, using only these events to derive the exclusion limits on M_* as a function of $(m_{\text{DM}}, M_{\text{cut}})$. We can also define an *effective coupling strength* $M_{\text{cut}} = g_* M_*$, where g_* is a free parameter that substitutes the parameter M_{cut}, and therefore derive exclusions on M_* as a function of (m_{DM}, g_*). This allows us to see how much of the theoretically allowed parameter space has been actually tested and how much is still unexplored; For example, in the Z'-type model considered above, g_* is equal to $\sqrt{g_{\text{DM}} g_q}$. The resulting plots are shown in [RWZ15] for a particular effective operator.

The advantage of this procedure is that the obtained bounds can be directly and easily recast in any completion of the EFT, by computing the parameters M_*, M_{cut} in the full model as functions of the parameters of the complete theory. On the other hand, the resulting limits will be weaker than those obtained using Q_{tr} and a specific UV completion.

4
Recommendations for expressing collider constraints

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