

STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY

Doctoral Studies in Physics

Licensiate Thesis

Search for \tilde{g} in Mono-jet Final States with the ATLAS Experiment



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*Si sta,
come d'autunno,
sugli alberi,
le foglie*

[G. UNGARETTI, Soldati]

Introduction

Chapter 1

Theoretical overview

1.1 The Standard Model of particle physics

1.2 The Standard Model

The *Standard Model* (SM) is a theoretical model which describes the elementary constituents of matter and their interactions. Up to now, we discovered four kind of different interactions, the *electromagnetic*, the *gravitational*, the *strong* and the *electro-weak interaction*; excluding gravity, all of them are described by means of a *quantum field gauge theory*.

The Standard Model is the collection of these gauge theories, it is based on the gauge symmetry group $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ where $SU(3)_C$ is the symmetry group of the *Quantum Chromo-Dynamics* (QCD), the “C” subscript stand for *color charge* which is the conserved charge in the strong interaction. The $SU(2)_L$ is the weak isotopic spin group acting on *left-handed* doublet of fermions while the $U(1)_Y$ group is the *hypercharge* symmetry group of the *right-handed* fermion singlets. Together $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ form the electro-weak symmetry group.

The Standard Model also contains and (sometimes) predicts the existence of *elementary particles* that interacts between them via the forces mentioned above. The matter constituents are called *fermions*, the interaction are mediated by other particles called *gauge bosons*. Fermions are further categorized into *quark* and *leptons* and are the true fundamental constituents of matter; the gauge bosons arise by means of symmetry property of the Standard Model symmetry group.

The existence of all the leptons, quarks and gauge bosons is confirmed by experimental tests. Among the bosons, the Higgs boson is peculiar because, unlike the others, it is not associated with any interaction, instead is postulated as a consequence of the *spontaneously broken symmetry* of the electroweak sector which is the property, responsible of giving mass to all the elementary particles and the weak gauge bosons.

1.2.1 Electro-Weak Symmetry Group

We can now see how to find out the weak interaction symmetry group, to this end, let us start by writing out the *Hamiltonian*

$$H_{weak} = \frac{4G_F}{\sqrt{2}} J_\mu^\dagger J^\mu \quad (1.2.1)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} J_\mu &\equiv J_\mu^{(+)} = \bar{\psi}_{\nu_e} \gamma_\mu \frac{1}{2} (1 - \gamma_5) \psi_e \equiv \bar{\nu}_{eL} \gamma_\mu e_L \\ J_\mu^\dagger &\equiv J_\mu^{(-)} = \bar{\psi}_e \gamma_\mu \frac{1}{2} (1 - \gamma_5) \psi_{\nu_e} \equiv \bar{e}_L \gamma_\mu \nu_{eL} \end{aligned} \quad (1.2.2)$$

to easy the notation, let us write

$$\chi_L = \begin{pmatrix} \nu_{eL} \\ e_L^- \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ e^- \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.2.3)$$

and using the Pauli matrices

$$\tau_\pm = \frac{1}{2}(\tau_1 \pm i\tau_2) \quad (1.2.4)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} J_\mu^{(+)} &= \bar{\chi}_L \gamma_\mu \tau_+ \chi_L \\ J_\mu^{(-)} &= \bar{\chi}_L \gamma_\mu \tau_- \chi_L \end{aligned} \quad (1.2.5)$$

by introducing a “neutral” current

$$J_\mu^{(3)} = \bar{\chi}_L \gamma_\mu \frac{\tau_3}{2} \chi_L = \frac{1}{2} \bar{\nu}_L \gamma_\mu \nu_L - \frac{1}{2} \bar{e}_L \gamma_\mu e_L \quad (1.2.6)$$

we have a “triplet” of currents

$$J_\mu^i = \bar{\chi}_L \gamma_\mu \frac{\tau_i}{2} \chi_L. \quad (1.2.7)$$

Now if we pick up an $SU(2)_L$ transformation

$$\chi_L(x) \rightarrow \chi'_L(x) = e^{i\vec{\varepsilon} \cdot \vec{T}} \chi_L(x) = e^{i\vec{\varepsilon} \cdot \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2}} \chi_L(x), \quad (1.2.8)$$

where $T_i = \tau_i/2$ are the $SU(2)_L$ generators, and think the χ_L as the *fundamental representation*, then the current triplet is a triplet of $SU(2)_L$, the *weak isotopic spin*.

The right handed fermions are singlet for the $SU(2)_L$, thus

$$e_R \rightarrow e'_R = e_R. \quad (1.2.9)$$

Since we are considering the global transformations, we have no interaction, so the Lagrangian reads

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{e} i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu e + \bar{\nu} i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \nu \equiv \bar{\chi}_L i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \chi_L + \bar{e}_R i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu e_R; \quad (1.2.10)$$

for now we are bounded to set $m_e = 0$, in fact the mass term couples right and left fermion’s components and it is not $SU(2)_L$ invariant. In 1973, experiments detected events of the type

$$\bar{\nu}_\mu e^- \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu e^- \quad (1.2.11)$$

$$\begin{cases} \nu_\mu N \rightarrow \nu_\mu X \\ \bar{\nu}_\mu N \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\mu X \end{cases} \quad (1.2.12)$$

which are evidence of a neutral current. Further investigations yielded that the neutral weak current is predominantly $V - A$ (i.e. left-handed) but not purely $V - A$ so the

$J_\mu^{(3)}(x)$ current introduced above can not be used as it involves only left handed fermions. We know a neutral current that mixes left and right components namely the electromagnetic current

$$J_\mu \equiv eJ_\mu^{(em)} = e\bar{\psi}\gamma_\mu Q\psi \quad (1.2.13)$$

where Q is the charge operator with eigenvalue $Q = -1$ for the electron. Q is the generator of the $U(1)_{(em)}$ group. So we have an isospin triplet and we have included the right hand components, the isospin singlet, what we want to do, is to combine them and define the hypercharge operator

$$Y = 2(Q - T_3) \rightarrow Q = T_3 + \frac{Y}{2}, \quad (1.2.14)$$

for the current we have

$$J_\mu^{(em)} = J_\mu^{(3)} + \frac{1}{2}J_\mu^Y \quad (1.2.15)$$

where

$$J_\mu^Y = \bar{\psi}\gamma_\mu Y\psi \quad (1.2.16)$$

so, by analogy, the hypercharge Y generates a $U(1)_Y$ symmetry, and, as it is a $SU(2)_L$ singlet, leaves (1.2.10) invariant under the transformations

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_L(x) &\rightarrow \chi'_L(x) = e^{i\beta Y} \chi_L(x) \equiv e^{i\beta y_L} \chi_L \\ e_R(x) &\rightarrow e'_R(x) = e^{i\beta Y} e_R(x) \equiv e^{i\beta y_R} e_R. \end{aligned} \quad (1.2.17)$$

We thus have incorporated the electromagnetic interactions extending the group to $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ and instead of having a single symmetry group we have a direct product of groups, each with his own *coupling constant*, so, in addition to e we will have another coupling to be found. Since we have a direct product of symmetry groups, the generators of $SU(2)_L$, T_i , and the generators of $U(1)_Y$, Y commute, the commutation relations are

$$[T_+, T_-] = 2T_3 \quad ; \quad [T_3, T_\pm] = \pm T_\pm \quad ; \quad [Y, T_\pm] = [Y, T_3] = 0, \quad (1.2.18)$$

member of the same isospin triplet, have same hypercharge eigenvalue; the relevant quantum numbers are summarized in the table 1.1.

Lepton	T	$T^{(3)}$	Q	Y	Quark	T	$T^{(3)}$	Q	Y
ν_e	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	-1	u_L	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
e_L^-	$\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	-1	-1	d_L	$\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
					u_R	0	0	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{4}{3}$
e_R^+	0	0	-1	-2	d_R	0	0	$-\frac{1}{3}$	$-\frac{2}{3}$

Table 1.1: Weak Isospin and Hypercharge Quantum Numbers of Leptons and Quarks

1.2.2 Electro-Weak Interactions

As stated before, interactions are mediated by a gauge boson, we now want to find out those for the electroweak interaction, to this end let us consider *local* gauge transformations

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_L &\rightarrow \chi'_L = e^{i\vec{\epsilon}(x) \cdot \vec{T} + i\beta(x)Y} \chi_L \\ \psi_R &\rightarrow \psi'_R = e^{i\beta(x)Y} \psi_R, \end{aligned} \quad (1.2.19)$$

introducing four gauge bosons, $W_\mu^{(1)}, W_\mu^{(2)}, W_\mu^{(3)}, B_\mu$ (same as the number of generators) and the *covariant derivative*

$$\begin{aligned} D_\mu \chi_L &= (\partial_\mu + ig \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \cdot \vec{W}_\mu(x) + i \frac{g'}{2} y_L B_\mu(x)) \chi_L \\ &= (\partial_\mu + ig \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \cdot \vec{W}_\mu(x) - i \frac{g'}{2} B_\mu(x)) \chi_L \\ D_\mu \psi_R &= (\partial_\mu + i \frac{g'}{2} y_R B_\mu(x)) \psi_R \\ &= (\partial_\mu - i \frac{g'}{2} B_\mu(x)) e_R \end{aligned} \quad (1.2.20)$$

the Lagrangian (1.2.10) reads

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \bar{\chi}_L i \gamma \partial \chi_L + \bar{e}_R i \gamma \partial e_R - g \bar{\chi}_L \gamma^\mu \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \chi_L \vec{W}_\mu + \frac{g'}{2} (\bar{\chi}_L \gamma^\mu \chi_L + 2 \bar{e}_R \gamma^\mu e_R) B_\mu \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4} \vec{W}_{\mu\nu} \vec{W}^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4} B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} \end{aligned} \quad (1.2.21)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{W}_{\mu\nu} &= \partial_\mu \vec{W}_\nu - \partial_\nu \vec{W}_\mu - g \vec{W}_\mu \times \vec{W}_\nu \\ B_{\mu\nu} &= \partial_\mu B_\nu - \partial_\nu B_\mu \end{aligned} \quad (1.2.22)$$

are the kinetic plus non abelian interaction term for the $SU(2)_L$ symmetry (first equation) and the kinetic term for the abelian symmetry group $U(1)_Y$. We can now split the Lagrangian terms to find out the field of the vector bosons coupled to the charged current and to the neutral current.

Charged Currents Interaction Let us consider the term

$$\mathcal{L}_{int}^{ew} = -g \bar{\chi}_L \gamma^\mu \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \chi_L \vec{W}_\mu + \frac{g'}{2} \bar{\chi}_L \gamma^\mu \chi_L B_\mu + g' \bar{e}_R \gamma^\mu e_R B_\mu \quad (1.2.23)$$

defining

$$W_\mu^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} W_\mu^{(1)} \mp i W_\mu^{(2)} \quad (1.2.24)$$

we can write

$$\mathcal{L}^{CC} = -\frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} (J_\mu^{(+)} W^{-\mu} + J_\mu^{(-)} W^{+\mu}) \quad (1.2.25)$$

and recognize two charged vector bosons with coupling given by “ g ”.

Neutral Current Interaction The relevant term left to consider for what concerns the electroweak currents is

$$\mathcal{L}^{NC} = -g J_\mu^{(3)} W^{(3)\mu} - \frac{g'}{2} J_\mu^Y B^\mu, \quad (1.2.26)$$

the electromagnetic interaction, $-ie J^{(em)\mu} A_\mu$, is embedded in this expression as will become clear considering the *spontaneously broken symmetry* phenomena, for now, is sufficient to define

$$\begin{aligned} W_\mu^{(3)} &= \cos \theta_w Z_\mu + \sin \theta_w A_\mu \\ B_\mu &= -\sin \theta_w Z_\mu + \cos \theta_w A_\mu \end{aligned} \quad (1.2.27)$$

and invert to get

$$\begin{aligned} A_\mu &= \sin \theta_w W_\mu^{(3)} + \cos \theta_w B_\mu \\ Z_\mu &= \cos \theta_w W_\mu^{(3)} - \sin \theta_w B_\mu \end{aligned} \quad (1.2.28)$$

where θ_w is the electroweak *mixing angle*. Plugging this into (1.2.26) and rearranging terms

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{NC} &= -[(g \sin \theta_w J_\mu^{(3)} + \frac{g'}{2} \cos \theta_w J_\mu^Y) A^\mu \\ &\quad + (g \cos \theta_w J_\mu^{(3)} - \frac{g'}{2} \sin \theta_w J_\mu^Y) Z^\mu] \end{aligned} \quad (1.2.29)$$

since A^μ is the photon field, the first parenthesis must be identified with the electromagnetic current, thus

$$-(g \sin \theta_w J_\mu^{(3)} + \frac{g'}{2} \cos \theta_w J_\mu^Y) A^\mu = -e J_\mu^{(em)} A^\mu \equiv -e (J_\mu^{(3)} + \frac{J_\mu^Y}{2}) A^\mu \quad (1.2.30)$$

from which we get the relation

$$g \sin \theta_w = g' \cos \theta_w = e \quad (1.2.31)$$

and so we can rewrite (1.2.26),

$$\mathcal{L}^{NC} = -\frac{g}{\cos \theta_w} [J_\mu^{(3)} - \sin^2 \theta_w J_\mu^{(em)}] Z^\mu \quad (1.2.32)$$

so that Z^μ can be identified with the field for the neutral vector boson.

1.3 The Higgs mechanism

Up to now, we have massless gauge vector bosons, in fact no term such as $M^2 B_\mu B^\mu / 2$ appear in the Lagrangian (1.2.21), but this kind of terms are not gauge invariant and thus we can not just add them or we will end up with troubles later when trying to renormalize the theory.

A gauge invariant way to recover the fermions and bosons masses, is to spontaneously brake the local $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ electroweak symmetry.

1.3.1 Non Abelian Spontaneously Broken Symmetry

Let us consider a local symmetry breaking and refer to [1] for a more complete explanation. Be ϕ a complex scalar field,

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \phi^*)(\partial_\mu \phi) - \underbrace{\mu^2 \phi^* \phi - \lambda (\phi^* \phi)^2}_{V(\phi^* \phi)} \quad (1.3.1)$$

setting

$$\begin{aligned} \phi &= \frac{\phi_1 + i\phi_2}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \phi^* &= \frac{\phi_1 - i\phi_2}{\sqrt{2}} \end{aligned} \quad (1.3.2)$$

we get

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi_1)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi_2)^2 - \frac{\mu^2}{2}(\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2) - \frac{\lambda}{4}(\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2)^2 \quad (1.3.3)$$

the gauge transformations are

$$\begin{cases} \phi(x) \rightarrow \phi'(x) = e^{i\epsilon} \phi(x) \\ \phi^\dagger(x) \rightarrow \phi'^\dagger(x) = e^{-i\epsilon} \phi^\dagger(x). \end{cases} \quad (1.3.4)$$

There are two possible choices for the potential

- $\mu^2 > 0$, which gives a stable configuration around $|\phi| = 0$.
- $\mu^2 < 0$, which gives a circle of minima such that $\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2 = v^2$, with $v^2 = -\mu^2/\lambda$.
This minima are not gauge invariant, in fact

$$\phi_0 = \langle 0|\phi|0\rangle \rightarrow \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}}e^{i\alpha} \quad \text{if} \quad \phi \rightarrow e^{i\alpha}\phi \quad (1.3.5)$$

To get the particle interaction we make a perturbative expansion around one minimum, we chose one, for example $\alpha = 0$, for which $\phi_1 = v$ and $\phi_2 = 0$ and introduce the two perturbations $\eta(x)$ and $\xi(x)$ so that

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \overbrace{v + \xi(x)}^{\phi_1} + i \overbrace{\eta(x)}^{\phi_2} \quad (1.3.6)$$

and plug them in the Lagrangian (1.3.3) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}'(\xi, \eta) &= \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \xi)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \eta)^2 - \frac{1}{2}(-2\mu^2)\eta^2 \\ &\quad - \lambda v(\eta^2 + \xi^2)\eta - \frac{1}{4}(\eta^2 + \xi^2)^4 + \dots \end{aligned} \quad (1.3.7)$$

as we can see, the third term looks like a mass term so that the field η has mass $m_\eta^2 = -2\mu^2$ while we have no mass term for the field ξ .

This “trick” to give mass to one of the gauge field, is the *braking of the symmetry*. In fact, by choosing one particular vacuum among the infinite ones, we lost our gauge invariance; moreover, we ended up with a scalar gauge boson, known as *Goldstone boson*. We need to find a way to recover the masses of the gauge bosons in a gauge invariant way by getting rid of massless scalar fields; the solution is the topic of the very next section. next section.

1.3.2 The Higgs Mechanism

Consider now a local gauge $SU(2)$ symmetry, the field transformations are

$$\phi(x) \rightarrow \phi'(x) = e^{i\sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon^k T^k} \phi(x), \quad (1.3.8)$$

where $T^k = \frac{\tau^k}{2}$ and $[T^i, T^j] = i\epsilon^{ijk}T^k$ with $i, j, k = 1, 2, 3$. To achieve invariance for the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \phi)^\dagger (\partial^\mu \phi) - \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi - \lambda(\phi^\dagger \phi)^2, \quad (1.3.9)$$

where

$$\phi \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \phi_i \\ \phi_j \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 + i\phi_2 \\ \phi_3 + i\phi_4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1.3.10)$$

we need to introduce the covariant derivative

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \cdot \vec{W}_\mu(x). \quad (1.3.11)$$

In the case of infinitesimal transformations, the fields transform like

$$\phi(x) \rightarrow \phi'(x) \simeq (1 + i\vec{\epsilon}(x) \cdot \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2})\phi(x) \quad (1.3.12)$$

while the gauge bosons transformations are

$$\vec{W}_\mu(x) \rightarrow \vec{W}_\mu(x) - \frac{1}{g}\partial_\mu \vec{\epsilon}(x) - \vec{\epsilon}(x) \times \vec{W}_\mu(x). \quad (1.3.13)$$

Replacing everything in the Lagrangian we obtain

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \phi + ig \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \cdot \vec{W}_\mu \phi)^\dagger (\partial_\mu \phi + ig \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \cdot \vec{W}_\mu \phi) - V(\phi) - \frac{1}{4} \vec{W}_{\mu\nu} \cdot \vec{W}^{\mu\nu}, \quad (1.3.14)$$

where the potential is given by

$$V(\phi) = \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi + \lambda (\phi^\dagger \phi)^2 \quad (1.3.15)$$

and the kinetic term is

$$\vec{W}_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \vec{W}_\nu - \partial_\nu \vec{W}_\mu - g \vec{W}_\mu \times \vec{W}_\nu. \quad (1.3.16)$$

We are interested in the case of the spontaneously broken symmetry, thus $\mu^2 < 0$ and $\lambda > 0$. The minima of the potential lie on

$$\phi^\dagger \phi = \frac{1}{2}(\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2 + \phi_3^2 + \phi_4^2) = -\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda} \quad (1.3.17)$$

and we have to choose one of them, let it be

$$\phi_1 = \phi_2 = \phi_4 = 0, \quad \phi_3^2 = -\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda} \equiv v^2. \quad (1.3.18)$$

To expand ϕ around this particular vacuum

$$\phi_0 \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.3.19)$$

it is sufficient to substitute the expansion

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + h(x) \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.3.20)$$

in the Lagrangian (1.3.14) in order to get rid of the, unobserved, Goldstone bosons and retain only one neutral scalar field, the *Higgs field*.

1.3.3 Masses for the W^\pm and Z^0 Gauge Bosons

The gauge bosons masses are generated simply substituting the vacuum expectation value, ϕ_0 , in the Lagrangian, the relevant term is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left| \left(g \frac{\vec{\tau}}{2} \cdot \vec{W}_\mu + \frac{g'}{2} B_\mu \right) \phi \right|^2 &= \\
 &= \frac{1}{8} \left| \begin{pmatrix} gW_\mu^3 + g'B_\mu & g(W_\mu^1 - iW_\mu^2) \\ g(W_\mu^1 + iW_\mu^2) & -gW_\mu^3 + g'B_\mu \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v \end{pmatrix} \right|^2 \\
 &= \frac{1}{8} v^2 g^2 [(W_\mu^1)^2 + (W_\mu^2)^2] + \frac{1}{8} v^2 (g'B_\mu - gW_\mu^3)(g'B_\mu - gW_\mu^3) \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{2} g v \right)^2 W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- + \frac{1}{8} v^2 \begin{pmatrix} W_\mu^3 & B_\mu \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} g^2 & -gg' \\ -gg' & g'^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} W_\mu^3 \\ B_\mu \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned} \tag{1.3.21}$$

having used $W^\pm = (W^1 \mp iW^2)/\sqrt{2}$. The mass term, lead us to conclude that

$$M_W = \frac{1}{2} g v. \tag{1.3.22}$$

The remaining term is off diagonal

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{1}{8} v^2 [g^2 (W_\mu^3)^2 - 2gg' W_\mu^3 B_\mu + g'^2 B_\mu^2] &= \frac{1}{8} v^2 [gW_\mu^3 - gB_\mu]^2 \\
 &\quad + 0 \quad [g'W_\mu^3 - g'B_\mu]^2
 \end{aligned} \tag{1.3.23}$$

but one can diagonalize and find that

$$\begin{aligned}
 A^\mu &= \frac{g'W_\mu^3 + gB_\mu}{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}} \\
 Z^\mu &= \frac{gW_\mu^3 - g'B_\mu}{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}}
 \end{aligned} \tag{1.3.24}$$

with $M_A = 0$ and $M_Z = v\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}/2$ which are the photon and neutral weak vector boson fields. Thus the mass eigenstates are a massless vector boson, A_μ and a massive gauge boson Z_μ .

We have shown in this section how the Higgs mechanism can be applied to give mass to the gauge bosons of the electroweak model.

1.4 The Hierarchy Problem and Naturalness

The *naturalness criterion* states that one such [dimensionless and measured in units of the cut-off] parameter is allowed to be much smaller than unity only if setting it to zero increases the symmetry of the theory. If this does not happen, the theory is unnatural [2].

There are two important concepts in physics that enter in the formulation of the naturalness principle, symmetries and effective field theories. *Symmetries* are closely connected to conservation laws, moreover theory parameters that are protected by a symmetry, if smaller than the unit, are not problematic according to the naturalness criterion. *Effective field theories* are a sort of simplification of a more general theory

that use less parameters to describe the dynamics of particles with energies less than a cut-off scale Λ .

Let us now consider the strength of the gravitational force, characterized by the Newton's constant, G_N and the weak force, characterized by the Fermi's constant G_F , if we take the ratio of these we get:

$$\frac{G_F \hbar^2}{G_N c^2} = 1.738 \times 10^{33}. \quad (1.4.1)$$

The reason why this number is worth some attention is that theory parameters close to the order of the unit in the SM, may be calculated in a more fundamental theory, if any, using fundamental constants like π or e while very big numbers may not have such a simple mathematical expression and thus may lead to uncover new properties of the fundamental theory.

This number becomes even more interesting if we consider quantum effects. *Virtual particles* are not really particles but rather disturbances in a field, these disturbances are off-shell ($E \neq m^2 + p^2$) and according to the *uncertainty principle*, $\Delta t \Delta E \geq \hbar/2$, can appear out of nothing for a short time that depends on the energy of the virtual particle; according to quantum field theory, the vacuum is populated with such disturbances. The Higgs field, has the property to couple with other SM particles with a strength proportional to their mass. Now all these virtual particles have a mass determined by the available energy Λ and when the Higgs field travels through space, it couples with these virtual particles and, due to quantum corrections, its motion is affected and its invariant mass squared gets a contribution proportional to Λ :

$$\delta m_H^2 = k \Lambda^2, \text{ with } k = \frac{3G_F}{4\sqrt{2}\pi^2} (4m_t^2 - 2m_W^2 - m_Z^2 - m_H^2). \quad (1.4.2)$$

Since $k \approx 10^{-2}$ [3], the value of Higgs' mass $m_H \sim G_F^{-1/2}$, should be close to the maximum energy scale Λ and if we assume this to be the Plank scale $M_{Pl} = G_N^{-1/2}$, the ration G_F/G_N , should be close to the unity which contradicts eq. (1.4.1), this goes by the name of *hierarchy problem*.

The large quantum corrections in (1.4.2) are mainly due to the fact that in the SM, there is no symmetry protecting the mass of the Higgs' field. Supersymmetry (SUSY), among other things, is capable of solving the hierarchy problem by canceling out the quantum corrections that bring m_H close to Λ thus restoring the naturalness of the SM.

Chapter 2

Experimental Apparatus

2.1 The Large Hadron Collider

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [4] is a two ring superconducting hadron accelerator and collider located at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

The performance of a collider is evaluated in terms of its available *center of mass energy*, \sqrt{s} and the *instantaneous luminosity* \mathcal{L} . The former defines the accessible phase space (the momenta) for the production of final state particles. The latter is defined as the interaction rate per unit cross section of the colliding beams (collisions / (cm² s)).

The LHC is designed to operate at $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV in the center of mass although it started off at 7 TeV in 2010 and 2011, 8 TeV in 2012 and 13 TeV in 2015 after the long shutdown between 2013 and 2014.

There are six experiments at LHC: ATLAS [5], CMS [6], ALICE, LHCb, LHCf and TOTEM. ATLAS and CMS aim to a peak luminosity of $L = 10^{34}$ cm⁻² s⁻¹, this requirement exclude the use of anti-proton beams and therefore the LHC is designed to be a proton-proton (pp) collider. The protons are obtained by ionization of hydrogen atoms and organized in bunches, accelerated by LINAC2 to an energy of 50 MeV and subsequently injected in the Proton Synchrotron Booster (PSB). Here they are further accelerated to an energy of 1.4 GeV and fed to the Proton Synchrotron (PS) where they reach the energy of 25 GeV to be then passed to the Super Proton Synchrotron which accelerate them to an energy of 450 GeV. They are finally injected in the LHC in opposite direction where they reach the nominal energy. There are four interaction points where the four main experiments (ATLAS, CMS, ALICE, LHCb) are located, at these locations, every 25 μ s, the bunches cross and interact with each other (*bunch crossing*). A schematic view of the injection chain is depicted in Figure 2.1.

The instantaneous luminosity depends on the beam parameters and is given by:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{N_b^2 n_b f_{rev} \gamma}{4\pi \epsilon_n \beta^*} F \quad (2.1.1)$$

where N_b is the number of particles per bunch, n_b is the number of bunches per beam, f_{rev} is the revolution frequency, γ is the relativistic gamma factor, ϵ_n the normalized transverse beam emittance, the beta function is a measure of the transverse beam size and β^* is the value of the beta function at the interaction point and F is the geometric reduction factor due to the crossing angle of the beams at the interaction

point (IP) [4]. The integrated luminosity is given by:

$$L = \int \mathcal{L} dt \quad (2.1.2)$$

and the integral is carried over data taking periods of the detector. The integrated luminosity can be related to the total number of events by:

$$N_{events} = L \sigma_{events} \quad (2.1.3)$$

where N_{events} is the total number of events, L is the integrated luminosity and σ_{events} is the cross section of the events in units of barn ($1 \text{ b} = 10^{-24} \text{ m}^2$). In 2015 ATLAS recorded an integrated luminosity of 3.2 fb^{-1} .

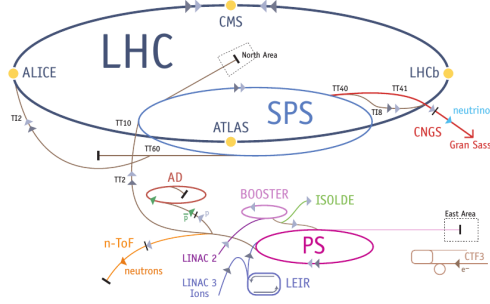


Figure 2.1: The LHC injection chain.

2.2 The ATLAS Detector

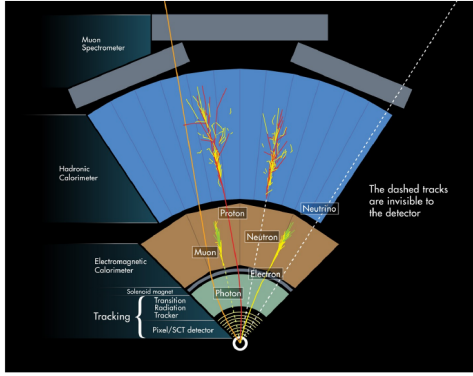
ATLAS (A Toroidal LHC apparatus) is a multi purpose detector designed to be sensitive to a large physics signature like supersymmetry, dark matter and extra dimensions to fully take advantage of the LHC potential. It is capable of identifying photons, electrons, muons, taus, jets and missing energy, Figure 2.2a shows a schematic view of the interaction of the different kind of particles with the ATLAS sub-detectors while Figure 2.2b shows the ATLAS detector with its subsystems. In the following sections a brief overview of the various system that allow particle identification and reconstruction is presented.

2.2.1 The Coordinate System

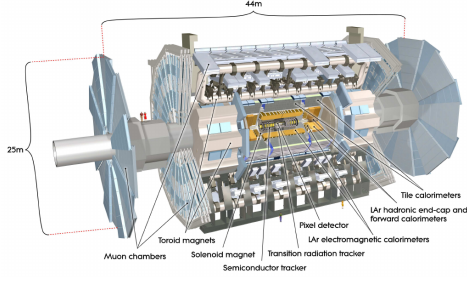
The ATLAS detector uses a right handed coordinate system with the origin at the nominal interaction point with the z -axis along the beam direction and the xy plane orthogonal to it. The positive x -axis goes from the interaction point to the center of the LHC ring and the positive y -axis is defined as pointing upwards. The A-side of the detector is defined as that with a positive z -axis while the C-side has the negative z -axis.

The LHC beam are unpolarized and thus invariant under rotations around the beam line axis, a cylindrical coordinate system is particularly convenient to describe the detector geometry where:

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \quad \phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{x}. \quad (2.2.1)$$



(a) Section of the ATLAS detector showing the interaction of different particles with the sub-detectors.



(b) Overview of the ATLAS detectors with its main sub-detectors.

Figure 2.2

A momentum dependent coordinate, the *rapidity*, is commonly used in particle physics for its properties under Lorentz transformations. The rapidity is defined as:

$$Y = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{E + p_z}{E - p_z} \quad (2.2.2)$$

where E is the energy of the particle and p_z its momentum along the z -axis. Rapidity interval are Lorentz invariant and in the relativistic limit or when the mass of the particle is negligible, the rapidity only depends on the production angle of the particle with respect to the beam axis,

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{r}{z}. \quad (2.2.3)$$

This approximation is called *pseudorapidity* (η) and is defined as:

$$Y \xrightarrow{p \gg m} \eta = -\ln \left(\tan \frac{\theta}{2} \right). \quad (2.2.4)$$

A value of $\theta = 90^\circ$, perpendicular to the beam axis, corresponds to $\eta = 0$. The spatial separation between particles in the detector is commonly given in terms of a Lorentz invariant variable defined as:

$$\Delta R = \sqrt{\Delta\phi^2 + \Delta\eta^2}. \quad (2.2.5)$$

Other quantities used to describe the kinematics of the pp interaction are the *transverse momentum* (p_T) and the *transverse energy* (E_T) defined as $p_T = p \sin \theta$ and $E_T = E \sin \theta$ respectively.

2.2.2 The Inner Detector

The inner detector (ID) is designed to provide good track reconstruction, precise momentum resolution and both primary and secondary vertex measurements above a nominal p_T threshold of 0.5 GeV and within the pseudorapidity $|\eta| < 2.5$. It also provides electron identification over $|\eta| < 2.0$ for energies between 0.5 GeV and 150 GeV [5]. The ID is 6.2 m long and has a radius of about 1.1 m, it is surrounded

by a solenoidal magnetic field of 2 T. Its layout is schematized in Figure 2.3 and, as can be seen, it is composed of three sub-detectors.

At the inner radius the *pixel detector* mostly determines the position of primary and secondary vertex. The silicon sensors are $250\ \mu\text{m}$ thick detectors that operate with an initial bias voltage of $\sim 150\ \text{V}$ that, due to the high radiation level, will increase up to $600\ \text{V}$ after 10 years of operation to maintain a good charge collection.

In the middle layer of the ID the *semiconductor tracker* (SCT) is designed to give eight precision measurements per track which contributes to determine the primary and secondary vertex position and momentum measurements. The silicon sensors are $285 \pm 15\ \mu\text{m}$ thick and initially operates with a bias voltage of $\sim 150\ \text{V}$ which will increase up to $350\ \text{V}$ after ten years of operation for good charge collection.

The last layer of the ID is the *transition radiation tracker* (TRT), it contributes to tracking and identification of charged particles. It consists of drift (straw) tubes, $4\ \text{mm}$ in diameter with a $31\ \mu\text{m}$ wire in the center of each straw, filled with a gas mixture of 70% Xe, 27% CO_2 and 3% O_2 . These tubes substantially act like proportional counters where the tube is the cathode and kept at $-1.5\ \text{kV}$ and the wire is the anode and grounded. When a charged particle cross one tube, leaves a signal; the set of signals in the tubes, reconstructs to a track which represents the path of the crossing object. The space between the straw tubes is filled with material with different refraction index, this causes charged particles crossing it to emit transition radiation thus leading to some straw to have a much stronger signal. The transition radiation depends on the speed of the particles which in turn depends on the initial energy and the mass of the particles thus lighter particles will have higher transition energy and stronger signal in the straw tubes. Tracks with several strong signal straw, can be identified as belonging to electrons (the lightest charged particle).

An additional layer, the Insertable B-Layer (IBL), was recently added in the region between the beam pipe and the inner pixel layer (B-layer). It is designed to increase the tracking robustness by replacing damaged parts of the pixel B-layer and increasing the hit redundancy with the higher luminosity (twice the design luminosity) foreseen for the High Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) in 2020, moreover, being closer to the beam pipe it increases the impact parameter measurement precision. As part of the installation procedure a smaller beam pipe was installed which will be used also in the HL-LHC phase unless an even smaller radius pipe becomes possible [7].

2.2.3 The Calorimeter

The main purpose of a calorimeter is to measure the energy of electrons, photons and hadrons by mean of materials capable of completely absorb the energy of the incoming particles transforming it in some measurable quantity. Calorimeters can be classified in two categories, *electromagnetic* (EM) and *hadronic* depending on the particle they are designed to detect. The EM calorimeters are mainly used to detect photons and electrons while the task of hadronic calorimeters is to identify hadrons. Both types of calorimeters can be further divided into *sampling calorimeters* and *homogeneous calorimeters*. Sampling calorimeters alternates layers of a dense material used to absorb the energy of incident particles (absorber) and an active material to collect the signal. The interaction between the particles and the absorber produces a shower of secondary particles with progressively degraded energy which is deposited in the active material in form of charge or light that can be converted into energy. Homogeneous calorimeters use only one material that serves both as an absorber and an active material [8].

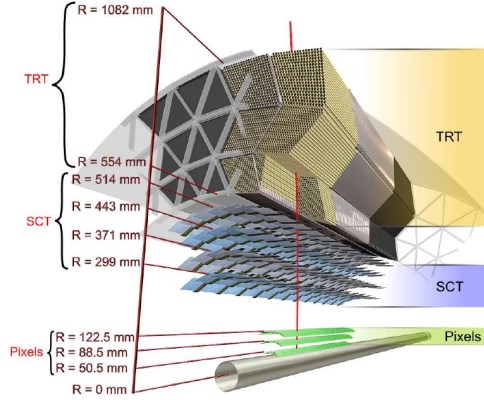


Figure 2.3: Schematic view of a charged track of 10 GeV p_T that traverses the different ID sub-detectors. After traversing the beryllium pipe, the track passes through the three cylindrical silicon-pixel layers, the four layers of silicon-microstrip sensors (SCT) and the approximately 36 straws contained in the TRT within their support structure.

The ATLAS calorimeter is a sampling calorimeter covering up the $|\eta| < 4.9$ region the large η coverage, ensures a good missing transverse momentum measurement (see Section 3.1.5); an illustration of the system is shown in Figure 2.4.

The EM calorimeter has a barrel and two end-caps, covering the $|\eta| < 1.475$ and $1.375 < |\eta| < 3.2$ region respectively. It uses liquid Argon (LAr) as active material and lead as absorber in an accordion geometry that provides ϕ symmetry without azimuthal cracks. In the region $|\eta| < 1.8$ a presampler consisting of a LAr active region is used to correct for electrons and photons energy loss upstream of the calorimeter.

There are then three hadronic calorimeters: the *Tile Calorimeter* (TileCal), the *Hadronic End-cap Calorimeter* (HEC) and the *LAr Forward Calorimeter* (FCal). The TileCal barrel and extended barrels cover the $|\eta| < 1.0$ and $0.8 < |\eta| < 1.7$ and uses steel as absorber and scintillating tiles connected to photomultiplier tubes through wavelength shifting fibers for readout as an active material. The HEC covers the $1.5 < |\eta| < 3.2$ region and, to avoid drops in material density at the transition, it overlaps slightly with the FCal that covers the $3.1 < |\eta| < 4.9$.

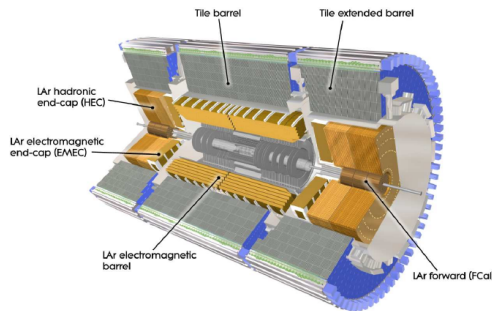


Figure 2.4: Cut-away view of the ATLAS calorimeter system.

2.2.4 The Muon Spectrometer

The Muon Spectrometer (MS) is designed to identify muons and measure their momentum. It is divided in four sub-detectors, the Monitored Drift Tubes (MDT), the Cathode Strip Chambers (CSC), the Resistive Plate Chambers (RPC), and the Thin Gap Chamber (TGC) that. The sub-detectors are immersed in a magnetic field generated by three different toroidal magnets, a barrel toroid covering the $|\eta| < 1.4$ region and two end-caps magnets at $1.6 < |\eta| < 2.7$, which produces a field almost perpendicular to the muon tracks.

The MDT covers the $|\eta| < 2.7$ region and provides a precise measurement of the track coordinates in the principal bending direction of the magnetic field. It uses drift tubes filled with an Ar (93%) and CO₂ (3%) gas mixture and a tungsten-rhenium wire at 3080 V potential as anode. To reconstruct the muon trajectory, the drift time of the ionized charges is used to determine the minimum distance between the wire and the muon. The CSC covers the $2.0 < |\eta| < 2.7$ region and is a multi-wire proportional chamber with cathodes segmented in strips, one perpendicular to the anode wire, providing the precision coordinate, and the other parallel to it (giving the transverse coordinate).

The RPC and the TGC cover the $|\eta| < 1.05$ and $1.05 < |\eta| < 2.7$ regions respectively. They contribute to the Level 1 trigger providing bunch-crossing identification, it allows to select high and low p_T tracks and measure the muon coordinate in the direction orthogonal to that determined by MDT and CSC.

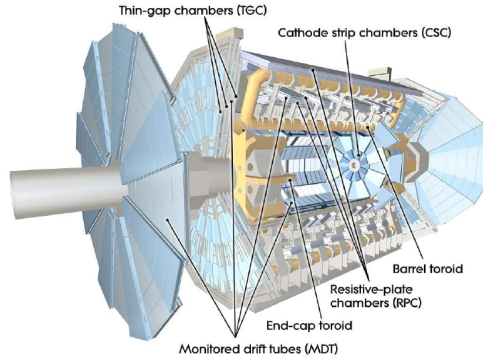


Figure 2.5: Cut-away view of the ATLAS muon spectrometer.

2.2.5 The Forward Detectors

The ATLAS forward region is covered by three smaller detectors: the Luminosity measurement using Cerenkov Integrating Detector (LUCID), the Absolute Luminosity For ATLAS (ALFA) and the Zero-Degree Calorimeter (ZDC). LUCID is located at ± 17 m from the IP, it is designed to monitor the relative luminosity (**relative to what?**) by detecting the inelastic pp scattering. The ZDC is located at ± 140 m from the IP, it consists of alternating layers of quartz rods and tungsten plates designed to measure neutron at $|\eta| < 8.2$, its purpose is to measure the centrality in heavy-ion collisions. ALFA is located at ± 240 m and is designed to measure the absolute luminosity via elastic scattering at small angles.

2.2.6 Track reconstruction

Object reconstruction is the process that associates the signal left in the detector by charged particles to physical objects through a series of algorithms.

Charged particles that moves through a homogeneous solenoidal magnetic field along the z direction, follow helical trajectories. The projection of a helix on the xy plane is a circle and, in order to uniquely parametrize a helix in three dimensions, five parameters are needed. A common choice is to use the *perigee* parameters, where the perigee is the point of closest approach to the beam axis. With this choice, the five parameters are:

- The signed curvature C of the helix, defined as $C = q/2R$ where q is the particle charge and R is the radius of the helix. This is related to the transverse momentum $p_T = qB/C$, where B is the magnetic field measured in Tesla, C is measured in m^{-1} and p_T in GeV / c^2 .
- The distance of closest approach d_0 in the xy plane.
- The z coordinate of this point, denoted by z_0 .
- The azimuthal angle ϕ_0 of the tangent to this point.
- The polar angle θ to the z -axis.

The perigee and the track parameters are schematized in Figure 2.6

try to find what *LooseTrackOnly* is that I mention on [subsection 3.1.3](#)

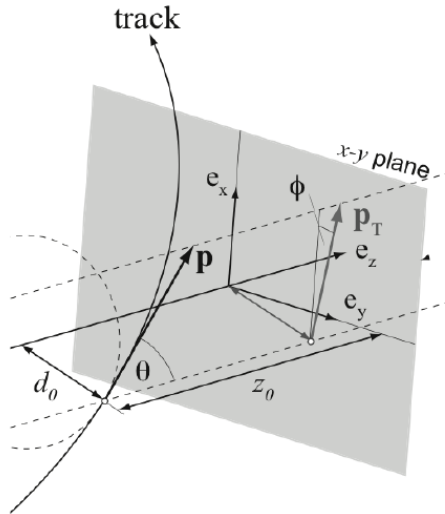


Figure 2.6: Perigee parameters

2.2.7 The Trigger System

The bunch crossing rate at LHC is 40 MHz for a bunch spacing of $25 \mu\text{s}$ (about 7 meters), in reality there are several bigger gaps bringing this rate down to ≈ 31 MHz. Each event recorded by ATLAS require ≈ 1.4 MB of disk space, with approximately

20 to 50 collisions per bunch crossing, the storage space required to record all the events would be ≈ 60 TB/s. This is not feasible thus only the most interesting events are selected and stored on disk. The *trigger system* decides whether to keep or not a collision event for later studies, it consists of a hardware based first level trigger (L1) and a software based high level trigger (HLT).

The L1 trigger determines Region of Interest (RoIs) in the detector using custom hardware and coarse information from the calorimeter and the muon system. The L1 trigger is capable of reducing the event rate to 100 kHz with a decision time for a L1 accept of $2.5 \mu\text{s}$. The RoIs from the L1 trigger are sent to the HLT where different algorithms are run using the full detector information and reducing the L1 output rate to 1 kHz with a processing time of 200 ms [9]. A schematic overview of the ATLAS trigger and data acquisition system is shown in Figure 2.7.

In this analysis the HLT_xe70 trigger has been used, it receives an L1 accept that selects events with a missing energy (see Section 3.1.5) greater than 50 GeV, no muons are used in the reconstruction of the missing energy. At the HLT level, events with a missing energy greater than 70 GeV are then selected. (**Are at the HLT level the muon used? Otherwise, what's the point of this cut? Couldn't the event be selected directly using a 70 GeV cut at L1?**)

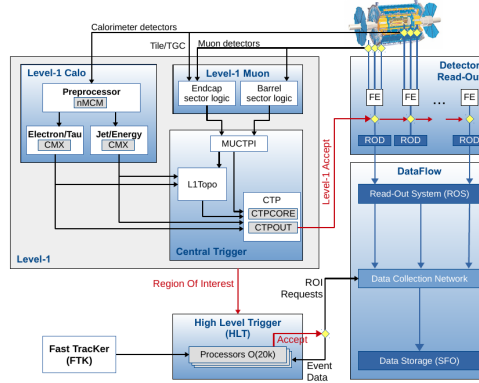


Figure 2.7: Schematic view of the ATLAS trigger and data acquisition system.

Chapter 3

Physical Objects Reconstruction

3.1 Lepton Reconstruction and Identification

This analysis uses electrons, muons, jets and missing transverse momentum ($E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$). Two types of electrons, muons and jets are also defined: *baseline* and *good*, where the former one is used for overlap removal and preselection while the latter for selecting the objects used to define the signal and control regions. In the following a brief introduction to the identification criteria of these objects is presented.

3.1.1 Primary Vertex

In pp collisions, the interaction point that triggered the event recording, usually the most energetic collision, is called *primary vertex*,

3.1.2 Overlap Removal

During object reconstruction, it may happen that different algorithms identify the same track and cluster as different particles, this results in a duplicate object. In physics analyses a decision must be made on which interpretation to give to the reconstructed object, this process is called *overlap removal* [10].

In this analysis, an overlap removal is applied to electrons, muons and jets that pass the baseline criteria and the following objects are removed:

- Remove jet in case any pair of jet and electron satisfies $\Delta R(j, e) < 0.2$.
- Remove electron in case any pair of jet and electron satisfies $0.2 < \Delta R(j, e) < 0.4$.
- Remove muon in case any pair of muon and jet with at least 3 tracks satisfies $\Delta R(j, \mu) < 0.4$.
- Remove jet if any pair of muon and jet with less than 3 tracks satisfies $\Delta R(j, \mu) < 0.4$.

3.1.3 Electrons

Electrons are identified in the central part of the ATLAS detector ($|\eta| < 2.47$) by an energy deposit in the electromagnetic calorimeter and an associated track in the inner detector. Signal electrons are defined as prompt electrons coming from the decay of a W , Z boson or a top quark while background electrons come from hadronic jets, photon conversion and semi-leptonic heavy flavor hadron decay. A likelihood discriminator is formed using the shower shape in the EM calorimeter, the track-cluster matching, some of the track quality distributions from signal and background simulation and cuts on the number of hits in the ID. Cuts that depends on $|\eta|$ and E_T on the likelihood estimator allow to distinguish between signal and background electrons.

Electron identification efficiencies are measured in pp collisions data and compared to efficiencies measured in $Z \rightarrow ee$ simulations. Signal electrons can furthermore be selected with different sets of cuts for the likelihood-based criteria with $\sim 95\%$, $\sim 90\%$ and $\sim 80\%$ efficiency for electrons with $p_T \sim 40$ GeV. The different criteria are referred to as *loose*, *medium* and *tight* operating points respectively [11] where, for example, a tight criterion lead to a higher purity of signal electrons.

In this analysis, the *baseline electrons* are selected requiring a transverse energy $E_T > 20$ GeV, $|\eta| < 2.47$, they need to satisfy the *loose* likelihood selection criteria, it is required that no dead EM calorimeter front-end board (FEB) or high voltage (HV) channels in the calorimeter cluster are present and that the baseline electron passes the OR. The baseline electron criteria is used to veto electrons used in the muon control regions and the signal region definition. In addition to all the baseline criteria, the *good electron* definition requires the electrons to satisfy the *tight* likelihood selection criteria, the electron track $d_0/\sigma_{d0} < 5$ mm and $|z_0| < 0.5$ mm and the *LooseTrackOnly* electron isolation criteria.

Electron Definition	
Baseline electron	Good electron
$E_T > 20$ GeV	<i>baseline</i>
$ \eta < 2.47$	<i>tight</i>
<i>loose</i>	$d_0/\sigma_{d0} < 5$ mm
No dead FEB in the EM calo cluster	$ z_0 < 0.5$ mm
No dead HV in the EM calo cluster	<i>LooseTrackOnly</i>
passes the OR	

Table 3.1: Monojet electron definition

3.1.4 Jets

Insert this part

3.1.5 Missing Transverse Energy

Insert this part

3.1.6 Muons

Insert this part

Chapter 4

The Monojet Signature

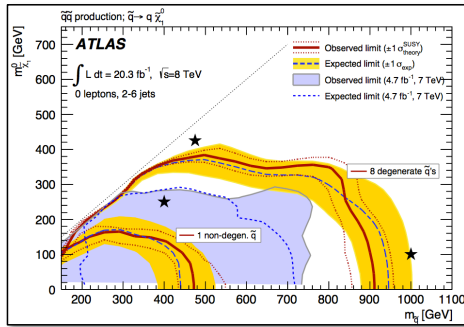
4.1 Motivation

Events with an energetic jet p_T and large E_T^{miss} in the final state, constitute a clean signature for new physics searches at hadron colliders. Signals that can be studied with this experimental signature include the production of WIMPS, the ADD model for large extra dimensions and SUSY.

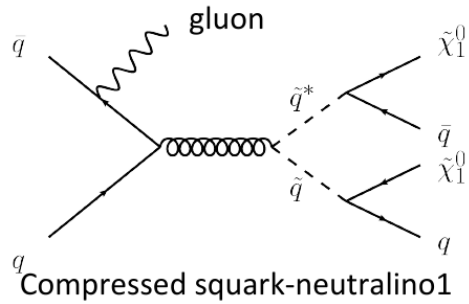
Fix this part

If the mass difference between the sparticles is small, the sensitivity to new physics signal of many standard SUSY searches is reduced due to the low amount of missing energy and the corresponding low transverse momentum of the associated jets. (why is that so? Try to think and find out) If the event has an ISR, the amount of missing energy and the corresponding transverse momentum jets will be large leading thus to a clean signature for the monojet

It is possible to estimate, from eq. (1.4.2), the scale at which new physics is expected. Using $m_H = 125$ GeV [12], we get that $\Lambda \approx 1$ TeV; thus, if the naturalness criterion holds, we expect the two main experiments at LHC, ATLAS and CMS, to find signal for new physics at the TeV scale.



(a)



(b)

Figure 4.1

4.2 Event Selection

The search is carried out in pp collisions using the data collected by the ATLAS experiment during the 2015 Run II corresponding to a total integrated luminosity of 3.2 fb^{-1} .

Appendix A

Some title

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