

RICE UNIVERSITY

**Search for Stop Quark via All-Hadronic Decay
Channels**

by

Matthew Cavanaugh Kilpatrick

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APPROVED, THESIS COMMITTEE:

Karl Ecklund, Chair
Associate Professor of Physics and
Astronomy

Paul Padley
Professor of Physics and Astronomy

David Scott
Noah Harding Professor

Houston, Texas

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ABSTRACT

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Contents

Abstract	ii
List of Illustrations	v
List of Tables	vi
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Motivation	1
2 Compact Muon Solenoid	2
2.1 Introduction	2
2.2 Silicon Tracker	2
2.2.1 Pixel Detector	2
2.2.2 Silicon Strips	2
2.3 Electromagnetic Calorimeter	2
2.4 Hadronic Calorimeter	3
2.5 Superconducting solenoid	3
2.6 Muon Chambers	3
3 Supersymmetry	4
3.1 Fundamental Problems in the standard model	4
3.2 Superpartners	4
3.2.1 Chirality	4
3.3 Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model	4
3.3.1 R Parity	5
3.4 Mass Spectrums	5

4	Stop quark Production and Backgrounds	6
4.1	Production Modes	6
4.2	Standard Model Background	6
4.2.1	Lost Lepton	6
4.2.2	Z Boson Decay to Neutrinos	7
4.2.3	Quantum Chromodynamic Events	7
4.2.4	Rare Interactions	7
5	Search Region Design	8
5.1	Minimizing the ttZ background	8
5.2	Lost Lepton Application	9
5.3	Search Regions	9
5.4	Search Region Optimization	9
5.5	Limits	9

Illustrations

Tables

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Motivation

Chapter 2

Compact Muon Solenoid

2.1 Introduction

Located near Geneva, Switzerland as part of the CERN collaboration. LHC provides proton beams

General CMS facts. What kind of particles is it meant to detect? What are the subdetectors? Tracker, ECAL, HCAL, superconducting solenoid, muon chambers

2.2 Silicon Tracker

2.2.1 Pixel Detector

What is it? Newly installed pixel detector. New Front-End Driver. larger particle flux and data rate. What is the design of the modules? How do they work? Increased efficiency for B tagging.

2.2.2 Silicon Strips

How is it different from the pixels?

2.3 Electromagnetic Calorimeter

What kinds of particles does this detect? Mechanism?

2.4 Hadronic Calorimeter

What kinds of particles does this detect? Mechanism?

2.5 Superconducting solenoid

Iron yoke? how strong? Purpose?

2.6 Muon Chambers

What kinds of particles does this detect? Mechanism?

Chapter 3

Supersymmetry

3.1 Fundamental Problems in the standard model

Hierarchy problem? Dark Matter? Grand Unified Theory?

Support material for each of these unknowns and how SUSY can solve them. Fine Tuning

3.2 Superpartners

Initial assumption that every fermion has a boson partner and vice versa. These partners are exactly the same but differ by half integer spin. Changes Higgs mass divergence from quadratic to logarithmic (renormalizable)

Must be broken such that the masses of these partners are larger.

3.2.1 Chirality

Equal numbers of fermions and bosons. How does the spin change?

3.3 Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model

Soft supersymmetry breaking.

3.3.1 R Parity

New conserved parameter known as R parity. With this is allows for a stable particle that is a dark matter candidate. Other consequences.

3.4 Mass Spectrums

Higgs boson corrections. spectrum of squarks.

Chapter 4

Stop quark Production and Backgrounds

Why the stop quark? Also Stop quark or top squark?

4.1 Production Modes

Main production mode $\tilde{t} \rightarrow t + \tilde{\chi}_1^0$, $\tilde{t} \rightarrow b + \tilde{\chi}^+$. The top quark most likely decays into a b quark and W boson.

4.2 Standard Model Background

Signal events can be mimicked by SM events that have a large number of jets and missing energy.

Broken up into four major backgrounds, Lost Lepton (LL), Znunu, QCD, Rare decays

4.2.1 Lost Lepton

$t\bar{t}$ production of $t\bar{t}$ via the same mechanism as stop-antistop which can be gluon fusion. Then then decay the same way as explained above. This is a part of the LL background.

wjets: Production of W bosons plus jets. Jets can be tagged as b jets. W boson decay hadronically or leptonically (where the lepton is missed)

tW and $t\bar{t}W$: Missed lepton

Transfer Factors

We want to suppress signal contamination by requiring $M_T(l, \cancel{E}_T) \geq 100$ GeV. This requirement confirms that it is orthogonal to the search regions that are used in the search for direct top squark production in the single-lepton final state. Letting the two analysis statistically combine the results in the future.

We are looking at the event count of data in each corresponding CR for the single-lepton sample. The prediction is allowed by means of a transfer factor (TF) which is obtained from simulation,

$$N_{pred}^{LL} = TF_{LL} \cdot N_{data}(1l), \quad (4.1)$$

4.2.2 Z Boson Decay to Neutrinos

Znunu: production of a Z boson that decays into two neutrinos which are then missed by the detector. Can have jets from other quarks/gluons in the interaction

4.2.3 Quantum Chromodynamic Events

QCD: Events that of jets produced by QCD processes. The missing energy from from a mismeasurement of the jets in the event causing missing energy

4.2.4 Rare Interactions

ttZ, ttH, WW, WZ, ZZ, tZq, tWZ: rare processes that can have jets plus MET. Expand upon these later

Chapter 5

Search Region Design

Using MC simulations that model the SM background for this process we want to reduce the number of events in our Search region. This is an all hadronic search so we are looking at event with zero tagged leptons. Unfortunately, some can get in by not passing the kinematic cuts or just by the non 100 % of the detector. There is a small nonzero inefficiency of mistagging a lepton as something else.

5.1 Minimizing the ttZ background

For the ttZ interactions, we produce two top quarks that can then decay to two b quarks and two W bosons. A possible way to mimic our search region is two have multiple jets, i.e. b quarks that hadronize and W bosons that decay hadronically, but we also need missing energy. This will be in addition to the Z boson decaying into two neutrinos and thus creating a large amount of missing energy.

We now try to look at the differing kinematic structure of the background, ttZ, and the signal region, stop quarks decaying. Under the assumption that the Z boson is created by radiated from the top quark the resulting decay to neutrinos should be close, small $\Delta\phi$, between the resulting jets. For the signal, the missing energy is produced by the neutralino. When the stop quark decays into top quark and neutralino the top quark should recoil off of neutralino to essentially be back-to-back. This will cause a large angle, $\delta\phi$, between them. We then want to use the kinematic

variable, $\Delta\phi(t_{1,2}, \cancel{E}_T)$, where

5.2 Lost Lepton Application

Can we apply this to other backgrounds. For boosted tops the the missing energy caused by missing the lepton in the W boson decay. The variable $\Delta\phi(t_{1,2}, \cancel{E}_T)$ should also apply. Should work for wjts, tW, ttW.

5.3 Search Regions

The HM and LM Search regions should be defined and explained. Why are they defined the way they are?

5.4 Search Region Optimization

Look for an optimized cut for $\Delta\phi(t_{1,2}, \cancel{E}_T)$ to maximize $\frac{S}{\sqrt{B}}$ in each SR. Could have a different cut for each region, but a combination to make it all the same would be nice. Since the signal can decay in multiple ways we need to optimize for all possible scenarios. Explain why we are maximizing $\frac{S}{\sqrt{B}}$

5.5 Limits

Looking at the significance and limits for the mass regions of the stop quark decay. Using the Higgs Combined tool, which includes statistics with a "maximal likelihood" fit? The cut, $\Delta\phi(t_{1,2}, \cancel{E}_T)$, would hopefully improve the values, but an optimized cut has not been chosen yet.