#### A Search for Dark Matter via Disappearing Muons in the CMS Hadronic Calorimeter







#### A Brief Look at Dark Matter

- First observed by Knut Lundmark in Sweden in the 1930's and later Fritz Zwicky at Caltech using galaxies in the Coma Cluster.
- Later, Ford and Rubin show that these unexplained rapid orbits were seen in *every* galaxy.



#### Michael Revering, University of Minnesota

# Why are we so convinced that it is a new particle?



Left: The foreground cluster gravitationally lenses the blue background galaxy into multiple images.

Right: The Bullet Cluster X-ray image (pink) superimposed over visible light (galaxies) and gravitational lensing data (blue). <sup>[2]</sup>







Relative abundances produced in primordial nucleosynthesis as a function of Baryon density.

• Results from CMB measurements and observed relative abundances are both incompatible with baryonic dark matter.

#### **Thermal Dark Matter**



Thermal dark matter freeze out for different annihilation cross sections. <sup>[1]</sup>



- CMB sets DM mass density.
- Freeze out and mass density connect cross section to DM mass.
- Lower mass → Lower Cross section.

#### "Light" Dark Matter



### Dark Bremsstrahlung

Rate is proportional to ε<sup>2</sup>
We use a dark photon (A') for demonstration, signal is largely model independent.





#### **Event Signature**

- Large muon energy loss.
- High muon angular deviation.
- No additional visible particles.

## Using CMS to find Dark Matter

- CMS is a *collider* experiment.
- Need to use secondary particles produced in a collision instead of direct from a beam.





# What do we actually gain by using CMS?

- CMS already exists
- We can use muons as our incident particle



#### **Selecting Muons**



# Why look in the Calorimeter?

 Previously attempted to reinterpret result from CMS tracker.

• Low tracker thickness resulted in weak limit.

• HE thickness (~100  $X_0$ >> ~0.7  $X_0$  for tracker.



#### 2018 HCAL Endcap (HE) Upgrade



Pre-upgrade HCAL depth segmentation<sup>[4]</sup>

- Photodiodes in endcap replaced with Silicon Photomultipliers.
- New SiPMs add necessary depth segmentation and signal resolution.
- Only endcaps were upgraded for 2018 data, barrel will be available for run 3.



Post-upgrade HCAL depth segmentation<sup>[4]</sup>

#### Backgrounds

#### **Missed Muons**

- Muons pass fully through HE and muon chambers, pass below threshold for multiple depths.
- Study with control regions with muon hits in the CSCs.



### Backgrounds

#### **Hard Bremsstrahlung**

- Veto using additional energy deposits from photon.
- Can estimate contribution using Monte Carlo.
- Validate with data control regions containing photon deposits.



Bremsstrahlung differential cross section for several different beam energies. Note that the axis is final photon energy, where earlier graphs where final lepton.

### Backgrounds

#### **μ+Χ**

- Events where the selected probe track doesn't originate from a real muon.
- Study with control region with poor isolation.

action, 59.8

Skg.



# Signal Simulation



- Unique challenge for this type of analysis.
- Muon energy loss before DM interaction can change kinematics.
- Signal implemented in GEANT, imported into CMSSW.
- Modified Custom Physics list, all other changes performed via plugins.

# Outlook

- Studying how pileup effects our signal selection efficiencies.
- Upgrade of HE provides a unique opportunity to look for a well motivated DM signal in a relatively open phase space.
- Many potential ways to improve the study with future detector upgrades.