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Single top quark production in ATLAS at the LHC

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Single top quark production at the LHC

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Production via electroweak interactions, predicted by SM



- Cross section measurements to probe Standard Model predictions
- □ Direct constraint of CKM matrix element |V_{tb}|
- □ Charge asymmetry sensitive to proton PDF (u, d)
- Search for new physics

t-channel





t-channel – top/antitop cross-section

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4.7 fb⁻¹ @ 7 TeV

Measurement of separate top quark and antitop quark cross-section

. ..

 $\sigma_t(t) = 53.2 \pm 1.7 (\text{stat.}) \pm 10.6 (\text{syst.}) \text{ pb}$ $\sigma_t(\bar{t}) = 29.5 \pm 1.5 (\text{stat.}) \pm 7.3 (\text{syst.}) \text{ pb}$

 $R_t = 1.81 \pm 0.10 \,(\text{stat.})^{+0.21}_{-0.20} \,(\text{syst.})$



Main uncertainties

- □ Cross-section: JES (19.5 %)
- R_t: stat. (5.5 %), bkg. norm. (4.5 %), JES (4 %)



Wt-channel





- 2 central leptons, p_T > 25 GeV
- $\bullet E_{T}^{miss} > 50 \text{ GeV}$
- >1 jet, p₁ > 30 GeV
- Veto cuts against Z decay
- Likelihood fit of BDT output for
 1, 2 and 3+ jet bins
- Main uncertainties
 - Statistics (17 %)
 - □ JES (16 %), Parton shower model (15 %)

 $\sigma_t = 16.8 \pm 2.9 (\text{stat.}) \pm 4.9 (\text{syst.}) \,\text{pb}$

Significance: 3.4 σ exp., 3.3 σ obs.

 $\sigma = 15.74^{+1.17}_{-1.21} \,\mathrm{pb}$ Phys. Rev. D 82, 054018 (2010)

$$|V_{tb}| = 1.03^{+0.16}_{-0.19}$$



2.05 fb⁻¹ @ 7 TeV

b

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New physics searches in single top topologies









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Search for W' production

- W' model with SM-like couplings
- Sensitivity in lepto-phobic W' models complementary to leptonic searches
- Probe right- and left-handed models
- \square M_{W'_P} = 1.75 TeV to train BDT
- □ Combination of 2- and 3-jet bins



 $M_{W'_{L}} > 1.74 \,\text{TeV}, \, M_{W'_{R}} > 1.84 \,\text{TeV} @ 95 \% \,\text{CL}$



ATLAS-CONF-2013-050

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Search for b* production

- Consider strongly produced excited quark production decaying electroweakly to top quark and W boson
- Single and dilepton channels analyzed
- Invariant mass of Wt system and H_T used as sensitive variables



 b^*





4.7 fb⁻¹ @ 7 TeV

FCNC single top quark production



2.05 fb⁻¹ @ 7 TeV

- □ Same selection as t-channel analysis
 - Require exactly 1 jet
- Measure cross-section of FCNC coupling to u and c quark and interpret in terms of branching ratio
- New physics could enhance FCNC rates involving top quarks





$$\sigma < 3.9\,\mathrm{pb} @~95\,\%~\mathrm{CL}$$





Anomalous couplings

- Normal vector to top quark spin polarisation and spectator quark
- Angle θ^{N} between lepton in W boson rest frame and normal vector
- Standard model:



u(d) $d(\bar{u})$ 4.7 fb⁻¹ @ 7 TeV $A_{\rm FB}^{\rm N} = 0.031 \pm 0.065 \,({\rm stat.}) \,{}^{+0.029}_{-0.031} \,({\rm syst.})$ $A_{\rm FB}^{\rm N} = 0.64 \, P \, \mathbb{I}(g_R)$ $\mathbb{I}(q_R) = [-0.20, 0.30] @ 95\% CL$ ٩ ATLAS Preliminary 2 jets 1 b-jet combined 0.95 $L \, dt = 4.66 \, \text{fb}^{-1}$ √s = 7 TeV 0.9 SM prediction (LO) Observed 0.85 ±1σ (68% CL) ±2σ (95% CL) $A_{\text{FB}}^{\text{N}} = 0.03 \pm 0.07$ (stat. \oplus syst.) 0.8 0.75 ^{0.}/-0.5 -0.3 -0.2 -0.1 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 -0.4 $Im(g_{_{\rm P}})$



Summary



- Standard model verification
 - High significance isolation of t-channel events at 7 and 8 TeV
 - top & antitop quark production cross-sections measured
 - **\square** First evidence for Wt production (3.3 σ)
 - Limit on s-channel production cross-section
- □ New physics searches
 - World's best limit on FCNC ugt/cgt coupling
 - First limit on imaginary part of g_R coupling constant
 - Searches for exotic b* quarks and W' bosons extended limits
- □ Many new analyses at 8 TeV in the ATLAS pipeline
- Systematic limitations pose new challenges

12 Backup slides

t-channel







s-channel



0.7 fb⁻¹ @ 7 TeV

- Same selection as t-channel
- 2 b-tagged central jets with p_T > 25 GeV
- Optimized additional cuts to enrich signal events



Main uncertainties:

- Statistics (100 %)
- Systematics (20-60 %)



W' search





B* search







FCNC single top quark production







BR	SM	2HDM	MSSM	R SUSY	TC2
$t \to ug$	3.7 x 10 ⁻¹²	-	8 x 10 ⁻⁵	2 x 10 ⁻⁴	-
$\textbf{t} \rightarrow \textbf{cg}$	4.6 x 10 ⁻¹⁴	10-4	8 x 10 ⁻⁵	2 x 10 ⁻⁴	10-4

J. A. Aguilar-Saavedra arXiv:hep-ph/0409342v4

(SM) Standard model; (2HDM) two-Higgs doublet model;

(MSSM) Minimal supersymmetric model

(R SUSY) SUSY with R-parity violating

(TC2) topcolor-assisted technicolor model



Anomalous couplings



 $\cos \theta^{N}$





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