

Testing dark matter using the Higgs boson

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Snowmass Community Summer Study in Seattle
EF10: BSM: Dark Matter at colliders



July 21, 2022



The Higgs boson exists and then...

- The Higgs boson exists and it's discovered in 2012 → scrutinize its properties and the Higgs sector nature.
- Recent search set a 95% CL upper limit of 21% on the branching ratio for H boson decays via undetected modes.

► [arXiv:1909.02845](https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.02845)

⇒ Exotic decays of the Higgs boson remain a high priority.



- Even with its excellent successes in providing experimental predictions, the SM leaves some phenomena unexplained.
 - hierarchy problem, baryon asymmetry, **Dark Matter**/energy etc...
- Many Beyond Standard Model (BSM) theories predict the Higgs as mediator between SM particles and dark matter

► [PhysRevD.82.055026](https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.02845)

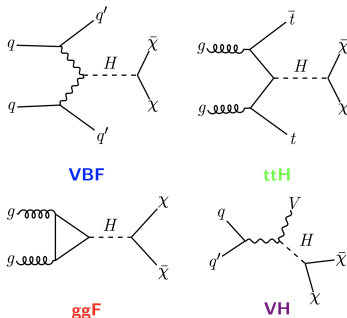
► doi.org/10.1016/

► [Phys. Rev. Lett. 112, 201802](https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.02845)

Higgs to invisible search at the LHC

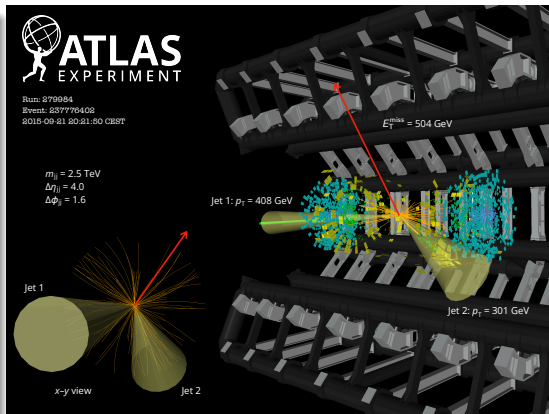
- Invisible Higgs carries off momentum, characterised by large missing transverse momentum in the events

- Four different channels for the Higgs to invisible search
- **Very unlikely process in Standard Model; branching ratio $\mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow inv} \sim 1.05 \times 10^{-3}$ from $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\nu$**
- Can be significantly enhanced in various BSM scenarios, including Higgs coupling to dark matter ("Higgs portal").

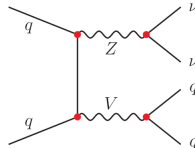
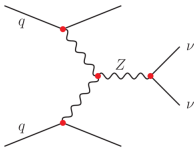
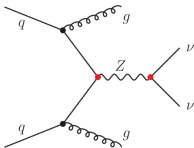


Vector Boson Fusion: VBF

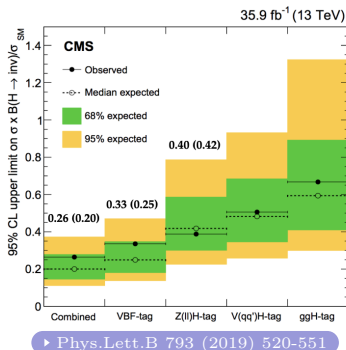
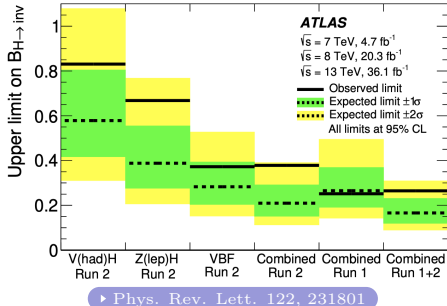
- Strong background rejection due to its distinct event topology.
- The most sensitive mode for invisible decays of a Higgs boson at hadron colliders
- Three main backgrounds: Z strong, Z electroweak and di-boson production.



► arXiv:2202.07953



Previous Higgs to invisible search in ATLAS and CMS



Channel	ATLAS (Run 2)		CMS	
	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected
VBF	0.37	0.28	0.33	0.25
ZH	0.67	0.39	0.40	0.42
VH	0.83	0.58	0.32	0.38
Combined	0.38	0.21	0.26	0.20

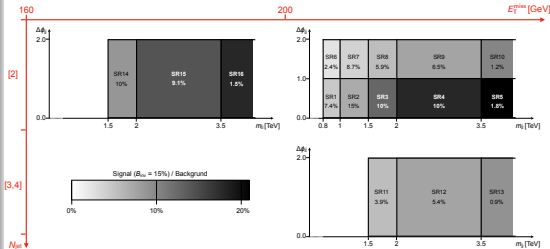
- The most recent search on Higgs to invisible will be discussed in the rest of the talk.
- By focusing on the more sensitive channel: VBF.

Event selection

- Two jets with $p_T(j_1/j_2) > 80/50$ GeV.
- Small add. jet activity: $p_T(j_3) < 25$ GeV.
- Jets in opposite hemispheres.
- $\Delta\eta_{jj} > 3.8$.
- $m_{jj} > 0.8$ TeV
- Veto on e and μ
- A 3D m_{jj} , $\Delta\phi_{jj}$ and N_{jets} binning used.

ATLAS, 139 fb⁻¹

Signal region bins for the search of VBF invisible Higgs boson decays

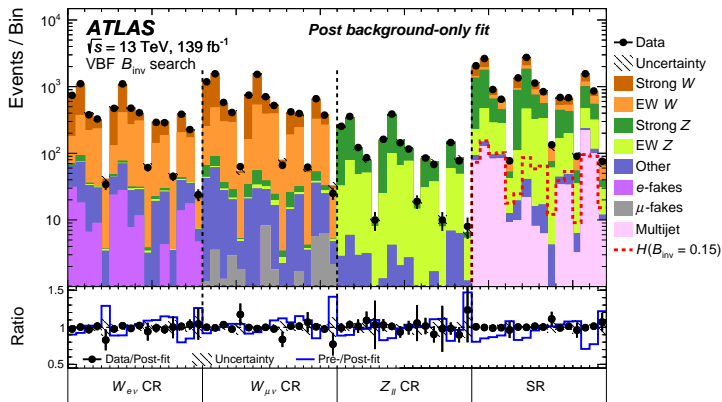


Bkg estimates

- The V+jets (95% bkg) estimates by data-driven technique.

Systematics uncertainties

- Lepton and JER (32% and 40%)
- theoretical uncertainties on V+Jets bkg $\sim 28\%$.



Total bkg.	$14\,990 \pm 2990$	1880 ± 510	6210 ± 1260	9150 ± 1890	4560 ± 760	2110 ± 390	2030 ± 110
H (VBF)	886 ± 81						3.9 ± 1.3
H (ggF)	106 ± 41						$1.0 \pm_{1.0}^{1.5}$
H (VH)	0.9 ± 0.2						-
	Predicted signal for $\mathcal{B}_{\text{inv}} = 15\%$						
Data	16 490	2051	6361	9294	4563	2110	2033

Event selection

- Two complementary trigger strategies:
 - missing momentum triggered region (MTR)
 - VBF jets triggered region (VTR).

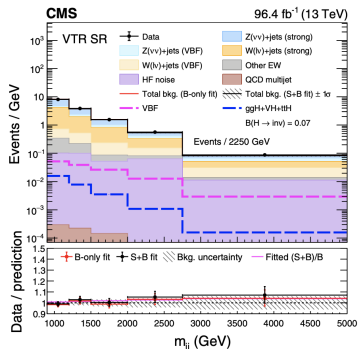
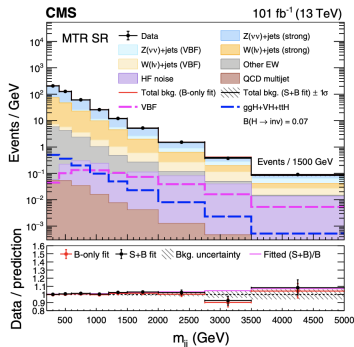
VBF SR selection (Full table available in the backup)		
Observable	MTR	VTR
Choice of pair	Leading- p_T jets	Leading- m_{jj} jets
Leading (subleading) jet	$p_T > 80(40)\text{GeV}, \eta < 4.7$	$p_T > 140(70)\text{GeV}, \eta < 4.7$
p_T^{miss}	$> 250\text{ GeV}$	$160 < p_T^{\text{miss}} < 250\text{ GeV}$
$\min(\Delta\phi(p_T^{\text{miss}}, p_T^{\text{jet}}))$	> 0.5	> 0.8
$ \Delta\phi_{jj} $	$< 1.5\text{ GeV}$	1.8 GeV
m_{jj}	$< 200\text{ GeV}$	900 GeV

Bkg estimation

- V+jets bkg, estimated by independent CRs.
- Data driven method used for the multijet backgrounds.

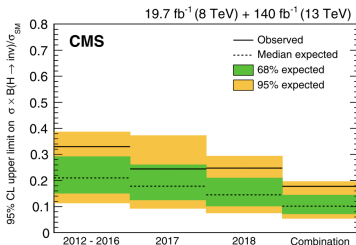
Systematics uncertainties

- Jet energy scale and resolution (up to 35%) , Theory uncertainty taken from another ref.



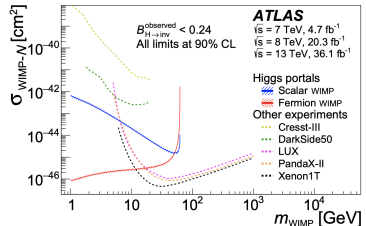
Results

- No significant deviations from the SM expectations are observed.
- Combination of 2017 and 2018 results yields an observed (expected) upper limit of $\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow inv) < 0.18(0.12)$.

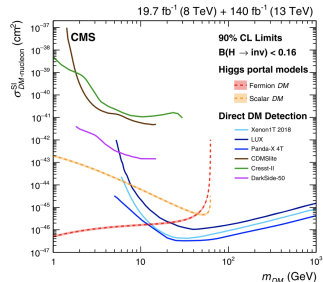


VBF search in ATLAS: Interpretation

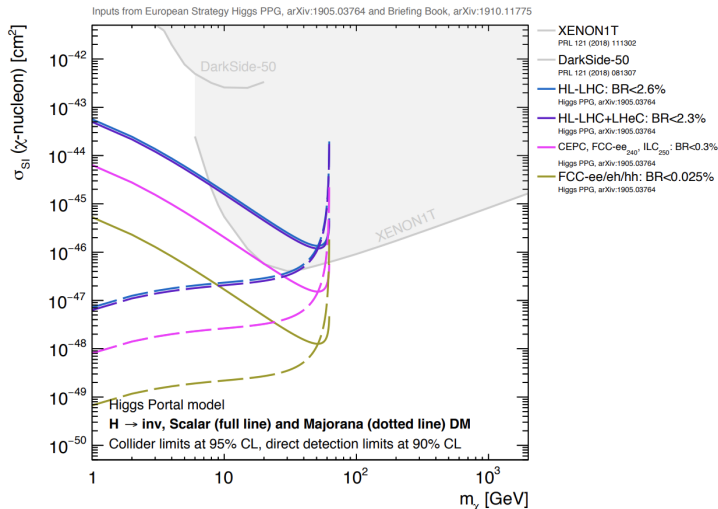
- Interpretation in the context of Higgs-portal models of DM interactions → stable DM particle couples to the SM Higgs boson.
- Higgs boson as mediator between a DM particle and an atomic nucleus.
- If $m_{DM} < \frac{m_H}{2}$, then Γ_{inv} can be translated within and EFT approach into a spin-independent DM-nucleon elastic scattering cross section.
- Transformation performed assuming the DM candidate is either a scalar or a Majorana fermion.



► Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 231801



► arXiv:2201.11585



- The authors propose to extend the results to DM masses below the GeV since the translation between collider parameters of the theory and DM-nucleon cross-section are still valid in all regimes of momentum transfer

- As shown in the slide 10 and 11, Higgs portal Vector DM (VDM) line has been removed in all ATLAS and CMS publication since Run 1.
 - This is motivated by some objection on the EFT approach.
- In our study we propose to reconsider the VDM interpretation.
- UV radiative Higgs portal model also considered in this work.
- **We also do the extension to the low mass regime (below 1 GeV).**

Effective Field Theory approach

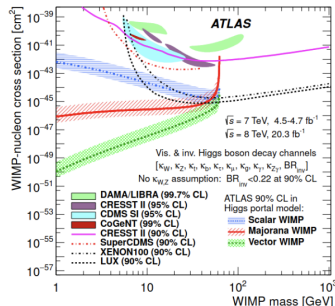
$$\mathcal{L}_V = \frac{1}{2}m_V^2 V_\mu V^\mu + \frac{1}{4}\lambda_V (V_\mu V^\mu)^2 + \frac{\lambda_{HVV}}{4} H^\dagger H V_\mu V^\mu.$$

- Paper: [Phys.Lett.B 709 \(2012\)](#)
- Only 2 parameters:
 - HVV coupling λ_{HVV}
 - Vector mass m_V
- Derive Higgs invisible decay width Γ_{inv} and spin-independent XS - $\sigma_{\text{WIMP-N}}$

$$\Gamma^{\text{inv}}(H \rightarrow VV) = \lambda_{HVV}^2 \frac{v^2 \beta_{VH} m_H^3}{512 \pi m_V^4}$$

$$\sigma^{\text{SI}}(\text{V-N})_{\text{EFT}} = \lambda_{HVV}^2 \frac{m_N^2 f_N^2}{16 \pi m_H^4 (m_V + m_N)^2}$$

$$\sigma^{\text{SI}}(\text{V-N})_{\text{EFT}} = 32 \mu_{VN}^2 \Gamma_{\text{inv}}^H \frac{m_V^2 m_N^2 f_N^2}{v^2 \beta_{VH} m_H^7}$$



Objection on EFT, 1st UV model

Phys.Lett.B.2014.09.040



Invisible Higgs decay width vs. dark matter direct detection cross section in Higgs portal dark matter models

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Arguments:

- EFT Lagrangian has m_V entered arbitrarily.
need a UV model:
 - V belongs to a $U(1)'$ gauge group
 - Need a dark Higgs sector with spontaneous symmetry breaking to generate m_V
- 2 additional parameters: mass of the new scalar (m_2), its mixing angle (α) with the SM Higgs.

$$\mathcal{L}_{VDM} = -\frac{1}{4}V_{\mu\nu}V^{\mu\nu} + D_\mu\Phi^\dagger D^\mu\Phi - \lambda_\Phi(\Phi^\dagger\Phi - \frac{v_\Phi^2}{2})^2 \\ - \lambda_{\Phi H}(\Phi^\dagger\Phi - \frac{v_\Phi^2}{2})(H^\dagger H - \frac{v_H^2}{2}),$$

Full model decay width:

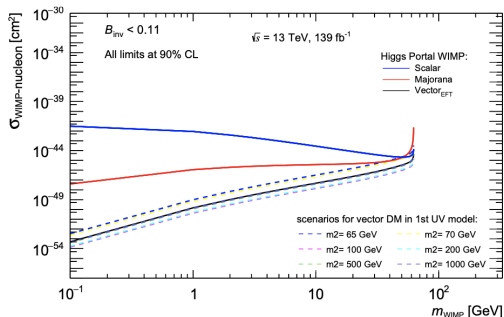
$$\Gamma_{\text{inv}}^H = \frac{g_X^2}{32\pi} \frac{m_H^3}{m_V^2} (1 - 4\frac{m_V^2}{m_H^2} + 12\frac{m_V^4}{m_H^4}) (1 - 4\frac{m_V^2}{m_H^2})^{1/2},$$

Full model cross section:

$$\sigma^{\text{SI}}(\text{V-N}) = \cos^4(\theta) m_H^4 F(m_V, m_i, v) \times \sigma^{\text{SI}}(\text{V-N})_{\text{EFT}},$$

$$\simeq \cos^4(\theta) (1 - \frac{m_H^2}{m_2^2}) \times \sigma^{\text{SI}}(\text{V-N})_{\text{EFT}},$$

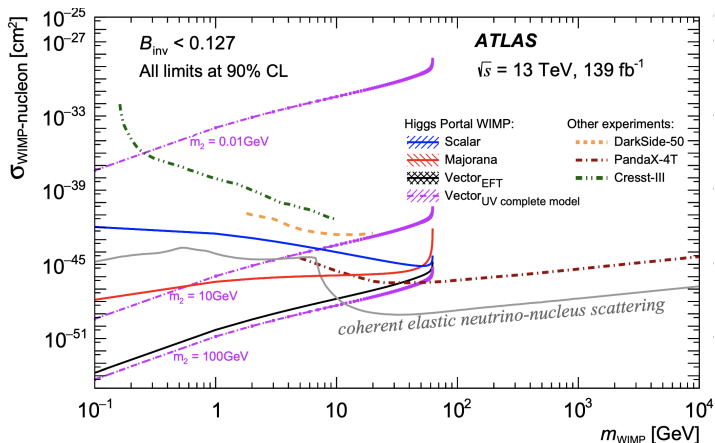
1st UV mode



Scenario:

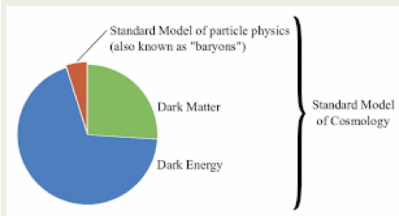
- Small mixing angle $\alpha = 0.2$
 - Scan through m_2 in $[65, 1000] \text{ GeV}$
 - Drop the region of $[0, m_H/2]$ since Γ_{inv}^H does not count for $H \rightarrow H_2 H_2$
 - With different m_2 and α , full model limit can be very different in many order of magnitudes compared to EFT one.
 - EFT results recovered if: $\cos(\alpha) \approx 1$ and $m_2 \gg m_1$
- Two more UV modes are also proposed and available in backup for discussion.

Our proposal adopted by ATLAS

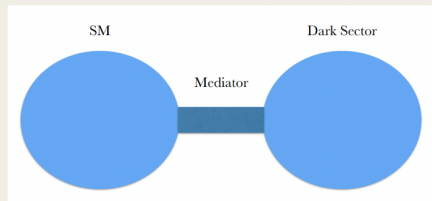


- Our proposal has been adopted by ATLAS in its latest results on the Higgs to invisible search.; [arXiv:2202.07953](https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.07953)

Dark Sector



- Dark Sector states as "New Physics" beyond the SM



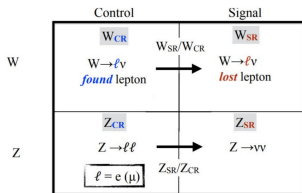
Need new force / interaction to connect SM to Dark Sector — portals. Weak couplings through kinetic mixing, Higgs or mass mixings

Dark Matter could just be one example of Dark Sector State

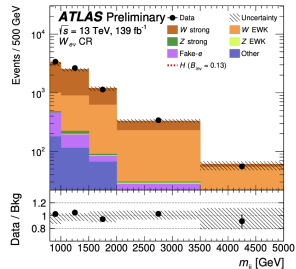
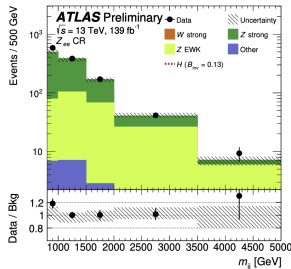
- The Higgs to invisible search at the LHC is presented:
 - Previous search results are reminded.
 - The most recent searches by ATLAS and CMS are reviewed.
- In their interpretation results ATLAS and CMS removed the EFT VDM line.
- We showed that the EFT approach is still viable and we propose to reconsider it.
- We also do the extension to the low mass regime (below 1 GeV).
- Our proposal has been adopted by ATLAS in its latest results on the Higgs to invisible search.; [arXiv:2202.07953](https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.07953)

BACKUP

V+jets Background Modelling: Slide from Ben



$$B_{\text{estimate}}^{SR} = N_{\text{data}}^{CR} \frac{B_{MC}^{SR}}{B_{MC}^{CR}}$$



- Partially data-driven technique: transfer factors from one (W), two (Z) lepton control regions.
- Collaborated with Sherpa authors to enhance high m_{jj} phase space in NLO V+jets MC.
- Signal region MC (B_{MC}^{SR}) rescaled by control region data/MC ratio ($N_{\text{data}}^{CR}/B_{MC}^{CR}$).
- Procedure done for each bin; separate transfer factors for W and Z processes.

Phys.Lett.B 805 (2020)

The Higgs-portal for vector Dark Matter and the Effective Field Theory approach: a reappraisal

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- Same approach as 1st UV model
Introduce a dark Higgs sector ϕ
reproduce the masse of the vector
through SSB.
- 2 additional parameters: mass of the
new scalar (m_2), its mixing angle (α)
with the SM Higgs.
- Corrected factor 32 is used instead of 8.
(Verified with theorists.)

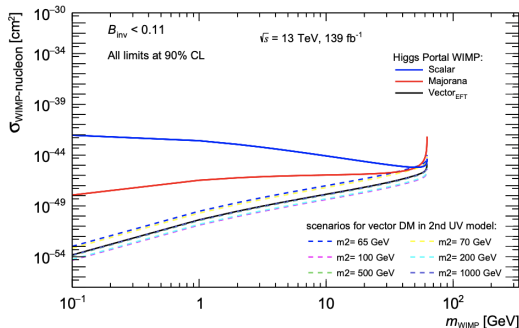
$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}\tilde{g}M_V(H_2\cos(\theta) - H\sin(\theta))V_\mu V^\mu + \frac{1}{8}\tilde{g}^2(H^2\sin^2(\theta) - 2HH_2\sin(\theta)\cos(\theta)) + H_2^2\cos^2(\theta)V_\mu V^\mu,$$

Decay width and cross section:

$$(\Gamma_{\text{inv}}^H)_{U(1)} = \frac{\tilde{g}^2\sin^2(\theta)}{32\pi} \frac{m_H^3}{m_V^2} \beta_{VH},$$

$$\sigma^{\text{SI}}(\text{V-N}) = 32\cos^2(\theta)\mu_{VN}^2 \frac{m_V^2}{m_H^3} \frac{\text{BR}(H \rightarrow VV)\Gamma_H^{\text{tot}}}{\beta_{VH}} \times \left(\frac{1}{m_2^2} - \frac{1}{m_H^2}\right)^2 \frac{m_{N^2}}{v^2} |f_N^2|,$$

2nd UV model



- Small mixing angle
- scan through the additional scalar mass [65,1000] GeV
- similarly to 1st UV model, consider only [65,1000] GeV for m_2
- EFT result recovered if $\sin(\theta) \ll 1$ and $m_2 \gg m_H$
- EFT approach could represent a viable limit of the renormalizable model in large region of its parameter space.

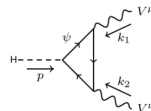
Additional fermions UV model

Vector terms

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4} V_{\mu\nu} V^{\mu\nu} + (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger (D^\mu \Phi) - V(\Phi) + \lambda_P |H|^2 |\Phi|^2$$

Fermion terms

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -m \epsilon^{ab} (\psi_{1a} \chi_{1b} + \psi_{2a} \chi_{2b}) - m_n n_1 n_2 - y_\psi \epsilon^{ab} (\psi_{1a} H_b n_1 + \psi_{2a} H_b n_2) - y_\chi (\chi_1 H^* n_2 + \chi_2 H^* n_1) + h.c.$$



❖ Phase space we used:

- the simplified case:
 - $\lambda_P \ll 1$;
 - charged fermions & 2 heavier neutral states' masses \gg the lightest neutral state mass \Rightarrow decouple.
- Model has no direct relation between σ_{V-N}^{SI} and Γ_{inv} = explore the minimal parameter space: mV, mf, g, y
 - Vector mass, fermion mass, U(1)' coupling, Yukawa coupling of the added fermion to the SM Higgs

- ❖ We need to find (mV, mf, g, y) satisfying $BR_{inv} = 11\%$ (current limit) [ATLAS-CONF-2020-008](#)
 - use the entire scanned phase space for (mf, g, y)

★ Available model constraints:

- mV < mH/2
- mf > mH/2
- $0 < g, y < 4\pi$ and $0 < g^2 y < 40$

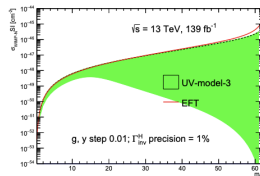
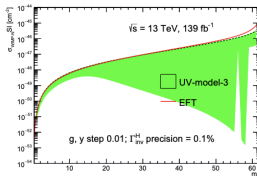
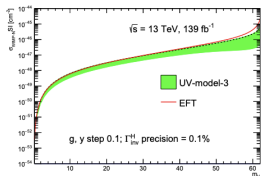
★ Require an uncertainty 1(0.1)% on Γ_{inv}

Ranges and steps of scanned variables

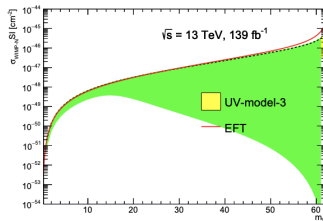
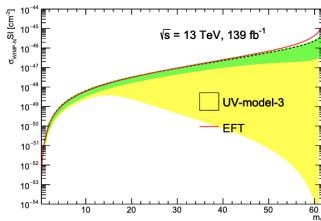
Variable	1st bin	last bin	Step
mV	1	62	1
mf	64	499	5
g	0	12	0.1(0.01)
y	0	12	0.1(0.01)

Additional fermions UV model

Upper limit on σ_{WIMP-N} from different scans and precision of Γ_{inv}^H



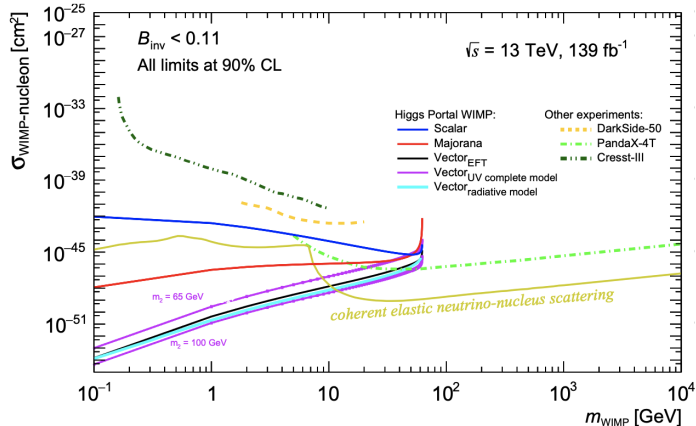
Superimposition of the limits for a coarse scan on top of a fine scan, and vice versa.



Green: coarse scan with a step of 0.1 for g, y . Uncertainty 0.1% on Γ_{inv}

Yellow: fine scan with a step of 0.01 for g, y . Uncertainty 1% on Γ_{inv}

Proposal



- Re-introduce the EFT with the updated form factor uncertainty,
- Include the UV lines/bands for the 1st, 3rd models
- include the sub-GeV range for the WIMP masse.
- Add the neutrino floor (limit for direct detection experiments)

Table 2: Summary of the kinematic selections used to define the SR for both the MTR and the VTR categories.

Observable	MTR	VTR
Choice of pair	leading- p_T jets	leading- m_{jj} jets
Leading (subleading) jet	$p_T > 80$ (40) GeV, $ \eta < 4.7$	$p_T > 140$ (70) GeV, $ \eta < 4.7$
p_T^{miss}	> 250 GeV	$160 < p_T^{\text{miss}} < 250$ GeV
$\min(\Delta\phi(\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}, \vec{p}_T^{\text{jet}}))$	> 0.5	> 1.8
$ \Delta\phi_{jj} $	< 1.5	< 1.8
m_{jj}	> 200 GeV	> 900 GeV
$ p_T^{\text{miss}} - \text{calo } p_T^{\text{miss}} / p_T^{\text{miss}}$		< 0.5
Leading/subleading jets $ \eta < 2.5$	NHEF < 0.8 , CHEF > 0.1	
HF noise jet candidates	0 (using the requirements from Table 1)	
τ_h candidates	$N_{\tau_h} = 0$ with $p_T > 20$ GeV, $ \eta < 2.3$	
b quark jet	$N_{\text{jet}} = 0$ with $p_T > 20$ GeV, DeepCSV Medium	
$\eta_{j1} \eta_{j2}$	< 0	
$ \Delta\eta_{jj} $	> 1	
Electrons (muons)	$N_{e,\mu} = 0$ with $p_T > 10$ GeV, $ \eta < 2.5$ (2.4)	
Photons	$N_\gamma = 0$ with $p_T > 15$ GeV, $ \eta < 2.5$	

Table 6: The 95% CL upper limits on $(\sigma_H/\sigma_H^{\text{SM}})\mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow \text{inv})$, assuming an SM Higgs boson with a mass of 125.38 GeV. The observed and median expected results are shown, along with the 68% and 95% interquartile ranges for each category and for the combinations.

Category	Observed	Median expected	65% expected	95% expected
2012–2016	0.33	0.21	[0.15, 0.29]	[0.11, 0.39]
VTR 2017	0.57	0.45	[0.32, 0.66]	[0.24, 0.94]
VTR 2018	0.44	0.34	[0.24, 0.49]	[0.18, 0.69]
VTR 2017+2018	0.40	0.28	[0.20, 0.40]	[0.15, 0.56]
MTR 2017	0.25	0.19	[0.14, 0.28]	[0.10, 0.40]
MTR 2018	0.24	0.15	[0.11, 0.22]	[0.08, 0.31]
MTR 2017+2018	0.17	0.13	[0.09, 0.18]	[0.07, 0.25]
all 2017	0.24	0.18	[0.13, 0.26]	[0.09, 0.37]
all 2018	0.25	0.15	[0.10, 0.21]	[0.08, 0.29]
all 2017+2018	0.18	0.12	[0.08, 0.17]	[0.06, 0.23]
2012–2018	0.18	0.10	[0.07, 0.14]	[0.05, 0.20]

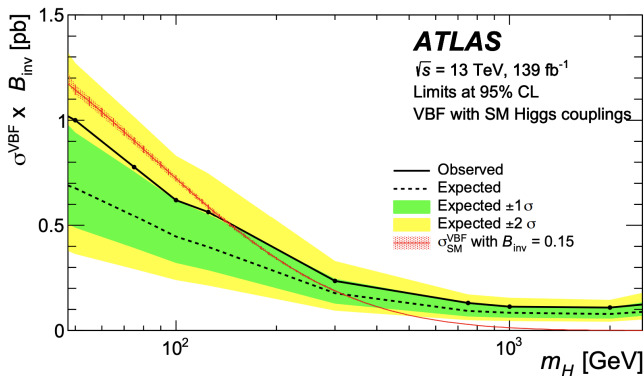


Figure 14: Upper limit on cross section times branching ratio to invisible particles for a scalar mediator as a function of its mass. For comparison the VBF cross section at NLO in QCD, i.e. without the electroweak corrections, for a particle with SM Higgs boson couplings, multiplied by a \mathcal{B}_{inv} value of 15%, is overlaid.