Observation of the production of three massive vector bosons, and search for long-lived particles using delayed photons, in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

Zhicai Zhang

Caltech

Fermilab Users Meeting August 4, 2021

PRL 125, 151802 (2020), PRD 100, 112003 (2019)

The standard model measurements at LHC



2

The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS)



VVV production

- V = W, Z
- Sensitive to triple/quartic gauge couplings, and higgs-gauge couplings, and anomalies beyond SM
- VVV cross section: ${\sim}1$ pb
 - 1/100 of VV
 - 1/100000 of V
- Previous searches:
 - CMS WWW (36 fb⁻¹): 0.6(1.8)σ
 - ATLAS VVV (80 fb⁻¹): 4.0(3.0)σ



Analysis strategy: VVV full coverage



Zhicai Zhang (Caltech)

URA Graduate Thesis Award

Background rejection with BDT (SS- $2\ell/3\ell$)

- The dominant backgrounds in SS-2ℓ/3ℓ channels are WZ and non-prompt lepton backgrounds
- We trained two BDTs targeting those two kinds of backgrounds separately, and cut on the BDTs
- Separate training for SS-2j, SS-1j, 3ℓ events (in total 2x3=6 BDTs)



Results: event yields (post-fit)



VVV significance: 5.7 (5.9) σ observed (expected)

The standard model measurements at LHC - new !



SUSY and long-lived particles (LLP) searches

- Many puzzles can not be explained by the SM: hierarchy problem, dark matter, etc.
- Most explored BSM theory at LHC: SUSY
- Current SUSY searches only cover short lifetime particles or stable particles (p_T^{miss})
- Lots of uncovered phase space of decay length between $\mathcal{O}(mm)$ and $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ m})$ that we can detect with our current detector resolution and acceptance.

LLP search with delayed photons

• Benchmark model: GMSB



Experimental tool: ECAL



- Vertexing use ECAL shower shape to obtain displacement
- Timing γ arrival time at ECAL (triangular path > straight line)

Photon time resolution

- Overall photon time resolution: 300-400 ps
- Contributions:
 - (Intrinsic) single hit time resolution (< 100 ps)
 - Clock jitter of different readout units $(\approx 150 \text{ ps})$
 - Beam spot time spread (pprox 180 ps)



Global e/γ timing resolution (Δt of two electrons from Z $\rightarrow ee$) Beam spot time spread gets cancelled

Event selection and background estimation

- Select events with at least one photon ($p_{\rm T}>$ 70 GeV) and 3 jets ($p_{\rm T}>$ 30 GeV)
- Use two independent variables used to extract backgrounds: t_{γ} and p_{T}^{miss} :



- Divide 2D plane into four bins: A, B, C, D
- Sig. is enriched in bin C; Bkg. is enriched in bin A/B/D

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{N}_{\mathrm{A}} &= \mathrm{Bkg}_{\mathrm{A}} + \mu \times \mathrm{Sig}_{\mathrm{A}} \\ \mathbf{N}_{\mathrm{B}} &= \mathbf{c}_{1} \times \mathrm{Bkg}_{\mathrm{A}} + \mu \times \mathrm{Sig}_{\mathrm{B}} \\ \mathbf{N}_{\mathrm{C}} &= \mathbf{c}_{1} \times \mathbf{c}_{2} \times \mathrm{Bkg}_{\mathrm{A}} + \mu \times \mathrm{Sig}_{\mathrm{C}} \\ \mathbf{N}_{\mathrm{D}} &= \mathbf{c}_{2} \times \mathrm{Bkg}_{\mathrm{A}} + \mu \times \mathrm{Sig}_{\mathrm{D}} \end{split}$$

t_{γ} and $p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$ distributions



• Delayed photon signals are enriched in high $p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathsf{miss}}$ and large t_{γ} region

Upper limits on cross section



- Most sensitive $c\tau$: about 1 m (ECAL radius)
- Extended previous limits a lot
 - About 100 GeV in neutralino mass
 - About one order of magnitude in neutralino c au

Outlook: with precision timing

- Mip Timing Detector (MTD):
 - A new layer between ECAL and tracker to be installed at CMS during Phase-2 upgrade
 - 3D tracking → 4D tracking (30 ps resolution)
- With MTD:
 - Can measure the primary vertex time with up to 30 ps resolution (thus eliminate the 180 ps beam spot spread)
 - Can also measure arrival time for converted photons
- Significantly extended reach for small c au models





- LHC has been a great success in building the last pieces of the standard model of particle physics
- More and more rare SM processes become accessible at the LHC
- We established the first observation of the VVV production
 - A new tool for many SM meassurements and BSM searches
- With very little phase space left in current SUSY search programs, we start to look for SUSY in the long-lived phase space
 - Beginning of new SUSY search era ...
 - Our LLP search with delayed photon greatly extended previous limits
 - Will be much more sensitive to small $c\tau$ models with precision timing

Thanks!

- Thanks to URA and LPC for the support during my stay at Fermilab (URA visiting scholar, LPC graduate scholar, LPC guest and visitor).
- Thanks to mentors and collaborators at LPC for the great time I spent at LPC.
- Thanks to the Fermilab Test Beam Facility and the team for many great test beam activities I participated for the CMS upgrades R&D.
- Thanks to all CMS colleagues for the collaboration. Bye-bye for now as I have just switched to ATLAS recently...
- And thanks to my thesis advisor, Harvey!