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Understanding backgrounds towards a first measurement of the top quark pair cross-section at ATLAS

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Outline

- Introduction: top pair signal and backgrounds
- The ATLAS detector
- Strategy for top quark search
- Performance of physics objects reconstructions
- Top quark candidate search using $\int Ldt = 295 \text{ nb}^{-1}$
- Summary

Top pair signal and backgrounds

proton - (anti)proton cross sections



At $\int Ldt = 295 \text{ nb}^{-1} \text{ we expect:}$

- ~15 events in I+jets, I=e,µ
- ~2 events in (ee, $\mu\mu$, $e\mu$)

<u>Tasks:</u>

- Validate object reconstruction (quality, trigger, reconstruction, calibration, validate Monte Carlo predictions)
- Estimate QCD and W/Z backgrounds (HF/LF, data-driven methods vs. simulations)

The ATLAS detector



Strategy for top quark search



- Channels for early discovery: single lepton + jets (this talk), dilepton channel
- Trigger single lepton (electron or muon)
- Reconstruct single offline, isolated lepton
- Missing transverse energy
- Jet selection

Electron selection

Medium electrons:

- EMCal strips against pions (shower size, fraction of energy)
- Hits in Pixel, SCT, track impact parameter
- ETHCal1/ETEMCal

Tight electrons

- > 1 hit in vertexing layer (n_{BL})
- Fraction of high threshold hits in TRT (TRfrac)

Sources for electrons:

- W and Z boson decays
- Heavy flavor decays
- Photon conversions
- Fakes from charged hadrons



Muon selection

Identification

- Muon Spectrometer (MS)
- Inner Detector (ID)
- Use "combined ID+MS muons" by χ² match
- Combination:
 - statistical combination of ID, MS tracks
 - refit of ID+MS track

Muon isolation

- Sum of energy deposited around a combined muon
- Sum of transverse momenta of tracks around a combined muon
- Tool to suppress fake muon background



Jet reconstruction and calibration

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Jet reconstruction

- Anti-Kt algorithm with R=0.4-0.6
- Start with cells regrouped in clusters

Jet calibration schemes

- <u>EM+JES scale</u>: corrections from MC to bring from EM to hadronic scale
- <u>Global Sequential</u>: EM+JES+ add jet-by-jet information (shower shape)
- <u>Global Cell energy-density</u> <u>Weighting</u>: use cell weights to compensate for response of hadronic and em signals
- <u>Local Cluster Weighting</u>: use cluster properties for individual calibration derived from MC simulation of pions





Jet energy scale and resolution

Jet energy scale uncertainty

- Dominant sources of systematics:
- Hadronic shower model (5%)
- Dead material (4%)
- Electronic noise (3%)
- LAr/Tile absolute EM scale (3%)

Jet resolution

- Select back-to-back jet events
- Measure $A = (p_T^{probe} p_T^{ref})/p_T^{average}$
- Compare MC and data
- Agreement within ~14%



Missing Transverse Energy

Missing E_T definition

• Calculated from cells in clusters above noise and muon contribution

Missing E_T calibration

- Global cell weighting or Local cluster calibration
- Add corrections from reconstructed physics objects:
- $E_T^{miss,corr} = E^e_T + E_T^{\Upsilon} + E_T^{\tau} + E_T^{jets} + E_T^{calo,\mu} + E_T^{cellOut}$

Missing E_T resolution

• Reasonable agreement between data and MC



Secondary vertex tagging



SV0 algorithm

- Lifetime-based b-tagger
- Uses signed decay length significance, L/ σ (L), of the reconstructed secondary vertex
- Displaced vertex, impose tracks to have 2track 3-dim impact parameter significance > 6
- Removal of two-tracks resonances, or photon conversion, vertices in vertex layer (interactions)



Estimate of QCD multi-jet background

Sources of leptons

- Real leptons (W, Z, top)
- Non-prompt leptons (HF decays in jets)
- Fake leptons (misidentified hadrons)

Matrix method

- Determine QCD from data
- Define 'tight' and 'loose' samples
 - 'tight': lepton quality tight
 - 'loose': lepton quality relaxed
- Determine ε_{fake} from QCD enriched control data sample
- Determine ϵ_{real} from Z \rightarrow II MC





Top quark search with 0.3 pb-1



- Primary Vertex with ≥ 5 tracks
- Trigger: single electron/ muon, 10 GeV
- One electron/muon with p_T > 20 GeV
- $E_T^{miss} > 20 \text{ GeV}$
- Jet p⊤ > 20 GeV
- At least one b-tagged jet



Top quark search with 0.3 pb-1



Top pair candidate in e+jets channel



Top pair candidate in e+mu channel



Summary

- ATLAS detector fully operational
- Reconstruction shows reasonable agreement between MC and data
- Top search in lepton+jets channel based on lepton, jet, ET^{miss}, b-tagging
- MC expectations after event selections agree with data
- Analysis of larger data samples than shown here is underway
- Next step is a cross section measurement