Search for dark matter produced in association with a hypothetical dark Higgs boson with the ATLAS detector



Dark matter searches at the LHC



Searches for DM with ATLAS

Dark matter models (bottom-up approach)

Fruitful interplay between searches at collider experiments and models for DM production: consistent models – containing salient features of complete models – predict **new signatures**.

Two-mediator dark matter model

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Simplified model can satisfy requirements of gauge invariance and perturbative unitarity by introducing a spontaneously broken U(1)' symmetry.

This gives rise to two s-channel mediators:

- spin-1 mediator: Z' boson
- spin-0 mediator: dark Higgs boson (s)

Searches in the context of consistent simplified models models with two mediators

model parameters			
particle masses		coupling constants	
DM mass	m_{χ}	dark-sector coupling	$g_{\chi} \text{ or } y_{\chi}$
dark Higgs mass	$m_{Z'}$ m_s	Higgs mixing angle	$egin{array}{c} g_q \ heta \end{array}$

New signatures emerge, depending on the parameter choices:







Dark Higgs mixing with SM Higgs enables decay to visible SM particles.



Possible searches in final states:



Signature #1: E_T^{miss} + dark Higgs(bb)



Signature: Dark Higgs boson *b*-jet (system) recoiling against E_{T}^{miss}

Strategy: Double-*b*-tagging based on track-based jets with adaptable radius allows for powerful background suppression also in merged event topologies

Dominant background processes:



Higgs boson di-*b*-jet system E_T^{miss} / resolved (low energy)



AN ANALYSIS It's the difference between if you had airplanes where you threw it away after every flight, versus reusing them multiple times. – Elon Musk

INTERPRETING A MODEL

Credit: Lukas Heinrich (CERN)



Illustration by Lukas Heinrich



Reinterpretation is based on **preserved data** and background estimate, which is combined with a new signal model piped through the analysis chain.

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E_T^{miss} + dark Higgs(bb) RECAST re-interpretation results



E_T^{miss} + dark Higgs(bb) constraints on dark Higgs model



Signature #2: E_T^{miss} + dark Higgs(WW) – hadronic

Signature: Dark Higgs boson decaying to W(qq) W(qq) recoiling against E_T^{miss} in event topologies depending on dark Higgs boson Lorentz boost



Analysis strategy: common pre-selection



Pre-selection requirements are designed to suppress multi-jet background and reduce dominant contribution of dominant background processes.

Analysis strategy: merged category

Dark Higgs candidate: single large-R TAR jet with tight requirements on jet substructure

Track-assisted re-clustering (TAR):

- 1. Create large-R jet with jet algorithm using R=0.2 jets as inputs
- 2. Match inner detector tracks to constituent R=0.2 jets
- 3. Compute R=0.8 jet substructure observables using tracking information





Merged:

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TAT

Analysis strategy: intermediate category

Dark Higgs candidate: large-R TAR jet supplemented with 1-2 R=0.2 jets

TAR+comb algorithm:

- Select TAR jet with m^{TAR} > 60 GeV and jet substructure of two-prong decay.
- 2. If $m^{TAR} < 100$ GeV, create all possible di-jet pairs of R=0.2 jets within ΔR <2.5 of TAR jet and add di-jet pair closest to W boson mass ($|m_{ii} - m_W|$) to TAR jet

If m^{TAR} > 100 GeV, assume that TAR jet contains 3/4 of dark Higgs decay and augment TAR jet with single R=0.2 jet

Selection requirements:

Intermediate= 1 dark Higgs candidatereconstructed with TAR+Comb100 GeV < $m_{TAR+Comb}$ < 400 GeV</td>





Analysis strategy: resolved category



Dark Higgs candidate: system of 4 R=0.4 jets, selected by 2W algorithm

2W algorithm:

- Create all possible combinations of di-jet system
- Select the two di-jet systems closest to the W boson mass m_w = 80.4 GeV without identical constituents

Resolved



Selection requirements:

≥ 4 small-R jets = 1 dark Higgs candidate reconstructed with 2W algo $E_{\rm T}^{\rm miss} * \exp(\Delta R_{12}) > 40$ 100 GeV < m_{2W} < 400 GeV

Fit setup: signal and control regions



- 1. Control regions constrain uncertainties on the background prediction in the signal region.
- 2. Partitioning signal + control region in E_{T}^{miss} bins enhances sensitivity.

E^{miss} + dark Higgs(WW) exp. constraints on dark Higgs mode

2.9



Dark Higgs (s) mass [GeV]

Conclusions and outlook

- New signatures predicted by two mediator dark matter model motivate exploring yet uncovered region of phase-space at the LHC.
- Dark Higgs decaying to b-quarks viable parameter space constrained by RECAST of a ET^{miss} + Higgs(bb) search with partial Run-2 dataset
- Dark Higgs decaying to pair of hadronically decaying W bosons investigated for the first time at the LHC. Challenging signature requires dedicated analysis techniques, e.g. track-assisted reclustered jets.
- Outlook: Combination of dark Higgs decay modes for extensive coverage of model

Any questions? I am happy to discuss now or later.

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Additional material

Outlook: flexible jets with precise jet substructure

