

# A search for high-mass resonances decaying to dimuons at CDF

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We present a search for high-mass neutral resonances using dimuon data corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $2.3 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  collected in  $p\bar{p}$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 1.96 \text{ TeV}$  by the CDF II detector at the Fermilab Tevatron. No significant excess above the standard model expectation is observed in the dimuon invariant-mass spectrum. We set 95% confidence level upper limits on  $\sigma \cdot BR(p\bar{p} \rightarrow X \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$ , where  $X$  is a boson with spin 0, 1, or 2. Using these cross section limits, we determine lower mass limits on sneutrinos in  $R$ -parity-violating supersymmetric models,  $Z'$  bosons, and Kaluza-Klein gravitons in the Randall-Sundrum model.

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Neutral resonances decaying to muons have historically been a source of major discoveries. They also occur in a variety of theoretical models which attempt to unify the standard model (SM) forces or explain the large gap between the SM and gravitational energy scales. The gauge group  $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  of the SM can be embedded in larger gauge groups such as  $SU(5)$ ,  $SO(10)$ , and  $E_6$ , to achieve unification in a grand unified theory (GUT) [1, 2, 3, 4]. In many schemes of GUT symmetry-breaking,  $U(1)$  gauge groups survive to relatively low energies [2], leading to the prediction of neutral gauge vector ( $Z'$ ) bosons. Such  $Z'$  bosons typically couple with electroweak strength to SM fermions, and can be observed at hadron colliders as narrow, spin-1, dimuon resonances from  $q\bar{q} \rightarrow Z' \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$ . Many other models, such as the  $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_{B-L}$  gauge group of the left-right model [5], and the “little Higgs” models [6, 7], also predict heavy neutral gauge bosons.

Additional spatial dimensions are a possible explanation for the gap between the electroweak symmetry-breaking scale and the gravitational energy scale  $M_{\text{Planck}}$  [8, 9]. The Randall-Sundrum (RS) model [9] predicts excited Kaluza-Klein modes of the graviton, which appear as spin-2 resonances  $G^*$  in the process  $q\bar{q} \rightarrow G^* \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$ . These modes have a narrow intrinsic width when  $k/M_{\text{Planck}} < 0.1$ , where  $k^2$  is the spacetime curvature in the extra dimension. In superstring theories with  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  couplings,  $k/M_{\text{Planck}} \approx 0.01$  [10].

Spin-0 resonances such as the sneutrino  $\tilde{\nu}$  in the process  $q\bar{q} \rightarrow \tilde{\nu}, \tilde{\bar{\nu}} \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$  are predicted by supersymmetric theories with  $R$ -parity violation [11]. Scalar Higgs bosons can be produced as resonances and decay to dimuons.

The most sensitive direct searches for high-mass boson resonances, which have previously been performed at the Tevatron, have set 95% confidence level (C.L.) lower limits on the masses  $M_{Z'}$ ,  $M_{G^*}$ , and  $M_{\tilde{\nu}}$  of  $Z'$  bosons, RS gravitons, and sneutrinos, respectively. The previous dimuon publication from CDF II, based on  $\approx 200 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  of integrated luminosity [12], set mass limits that vary from 170 GeV to 885 GeV [13] depending on the boson spin and couplings to the SM fermions. Other dilepton

and diphoton decay channels have also been explored at the Tevatron [14, 15]. Using an order of magnitude more data, we present in this Letter the most sensitive direct search to date for  $Z'$ ,  $G^*$ , and  $\tilde{\nu}$  bosons at high mass.

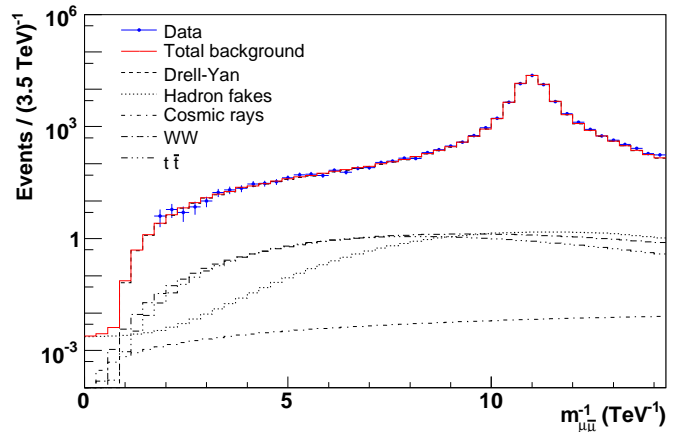


FIG. 1: The distribution of  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}^{-1}$  ( $\text{TeV}^{-1}$ ) for the observed data (points), the individual backgrounds (dotted or dashed histograms) and the summed background (solid histogram). The  $Z$  boson peak is prominently seen. The inverse mass distribution has the useful feature that the detector resolution is constant ( $\approx 0.17 \text{ TeV}^{-1}$ ) over the range shown in the plot.

This analysis uses  $2.3 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data from  $p\bar{p}$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 1.96 \text{ TeV}$  in the CDF II detector [16, 17]. CDF II is a magnetic spectrometer surrounded by calorimeters and muon detectors. We use the central drift chamber (COT) [18], the central calorimeter [19], and the muon detectors [20] for identification and measurement of muons with  $|\eta| < 1$  [13]. The online selection requires a COT track with  $p_T > 18 \text{ GeV}$  [13], and matching muon detector hits. We select a pair of oppositely-charged muons, each with a COT track with  $p_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$  passing quality requirements, and a minimum-ionization signal in the calorimeter. Cosmic rays are rejected using COT hit timing [21]. The dimuon signal sample consists of 68150 events in the control region  $70 < m_{\mu\bar{\mu}} < 100 \text{ GeV}$ , where the  $p\bar{p} \rightarrow Z \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$  process dominates, and 3804 events in the search region  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}} > 100 \text{ GeV}$ .

The alignment of the COT is performed using a pure sample of high-momentum cosmic-ray muons, in order to obtain the best possible dimuon mass resolution. Each muon’s complete trajectory is fitted to a single helix [21]. The fits are used to determine the relative locations of the sense wires, including gravitational and electrostatic displacements, with a statistical accuracy of a few microns [17]. We constrain remaining misalignments, which cause a bias in the track curvature, by comparing  $\langle E/p \rangle$  [13] for electrons and positrons. The tracker momentum scale and resolution is measured by template-fitting the  $Z \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$  mass peak, and calibrating to the

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world average values [22] of the  $Z$  boson mass and width.

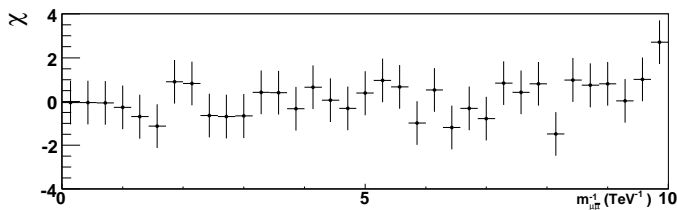


FIG. 2: The difference between the distributions of  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}^{-1}$  ( $\text{TeV}^{-1}$ ) for the observed data and the summed background, divided by the expected statistical uncertainty in each bin. All vertical error bars have unit size.

For a resonance with electroweak coupling and mass above 200 GeV, the observed width of the  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}$  distribution is dominated by the track curvature resolution, resulting in an approximately constant resolution of  $\delta m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}^{-1} \approx 0.17 \text{ TeV}^{-1}$ . Our search strategy is to construct templates of the observable  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}^{-1}$  distribution for a range of boson Breit-Wigner pole masses, add the background distributions to the templates, and compare the templates to the  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}^{-1}$  distribution from the data in the search region  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}} > 100 \text{ GeV}$ . The simulated templates (including backgrounds) are normalized to the data in the  $70 \text{ GeV} < m_{\mu\bar{\mu}} < 100 \text{ GeV}$  region, thus cancelling several sources of systematic uncertainty.

We determine the most likely number of signal events ( $N_S$ ), and the corresponding confidence intervals [23], from the binned Poisson likelihood [17] for the observed data to be produced by a sum of signal and background templates. The use of the constant-resolution variable  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}^{-1}$  simplifies the optimization of the template binning and the scan over the boson pole masses.

Signal and SM Drell-Yan background distributions are evaluated using a specialized Monte Carlo (MC) simulation [17] of boson production and decay, and of the detector response to the leptons and hadrons. The kinematics of boson production and decay are obtained from the PYTHIA [24] event generator using the CTEQ6M [25] set of parton distribution functions. QED radiation is simulated [17] based on the WGRAD program [26]. The MC performs a detailed hit-level simulation of the lepton tracks. COT hits are generated according to their resolution ( $\approx 150 \mu\text{m}$ ) and measured efficiencies, and a helix fit is performed (as it is in data) to simulate the reconstructed track. We apply a mass-dependent next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) multiplicative correction ( $K$ -factor) [27] to the SM Drell-Yan background.

The SM production processes for  $W^+W^-$  [28] and  $t\bar{t}$  [29] have small contributions, and are evaluated using their NLO cross sections, PYTHIA, and a detector simulation based on GEANT [30]. Misidentification backgrounds result from cosmic rays, QCD jets, and  $\pi/K$  decays-in-flight (DIF). We evaluate the cosmic-ray background using a large sample of cosmic rays identified with the COT-

timing-based algorithm [21], and using the direction-of-flight information provided by this algorithm. The  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}^{-1}$  shape of misidentified jets is evaluated from a large sample of inclusive jet events. Decays-in-flight within the COT active volume generate a kink along the helical trajectory, resulting in a mismeasurement of the track curvature. For large reconstructed momenta, the measured DIF curvature distribution is approximately uniform and leads to a flat  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}^{-1}$  spectrum. Most DIF tracks are rejected using their abnormal COT-hit pattern and large fit  $\chi^2$ . The jet and DIF backgrounds are normalized using the mass distribution of same-charge dimuon events.

Figure 1 shows the  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}^{-1}$  distributions of the observed data and the expected backgrounds, which are in good agreement (as shown in Fig. 2). A resonance whose observed width is dominated by detector resolution would appear as a peak spanning approximately three bins. The likelihood-based fitter finds no significant excess. We use background-only ensembles of simulated events, each with the statistics of the data sample, to evaluate the probability of statistical fluctuations anywhere in the search region generating a discrepancy at least as significant as the largest discrepancy found in the data. We find this probability (“p-value”) to be 6.6% and we conclude that the observed data are statistically consistent with the SM expectation. The dielectron  $m_{ee}$  spectrum from  $2.5 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of CDF II data [31] shows that the largest discrepancy with the expected background occurs at  $m_{ee} \sim 240 \text{ GeV}$ . Figure 2 shows that the dimuon data are consistent with the expectation near this mass to better than  $1\sigma$  in statistical precision. The sensitivity of the dielectron analysis for a spin-1 resonance at this mass is  $\approx 20\%$  better than the dimuon analysis reported here.

The likelihood fitter determines the 95% C.L. upper limit on the number of signal events, for each value of the resonance pole mass. We convert these limits to limits on  $\sigma \cdot BR(\tilde{\nu}, \tilde{\nu} \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$ ,  $\sigma \cdot BR(Z' \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$ , and  $\sigma \cdot BR(G^* \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$  using the total acceptance as a function of pole mass, the NNLO cross section for  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$  of  $251.3 \text{ pb}$  [16], and dividing by the observed number of  $Z \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$  events. The acceptance is verified with the detailed GEANT-based simulation, and comparisons to data distributions. The muon identification efficiency is verified using a pure data sample of  $Z$  bosons triggered by one identified muon. The total acceptance, including kinematic and fiducial acceptance and dimuon identification, increases from  $\approx 13\%$  ( $\approx 20\%$ ) for a pole mass of 90 GeV to  $\approx 40\%$  ( $\approx 45\%$ ) for a  $Z'$  (graviton) pole mass of 1 TeV, and decreases for higher pole masses due to the kinematic limit of the parton collisions. The 95% C.L. upper limits on  $\sigma \cdot BR(\tilde{\nu}, \tilde{\nu} \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$ ,  $\sigma \cdot BR(Z' \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$ , and  $\sigma \cdot BR(G^* \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$  are shown in Fig. 3. The dominant mass-dependent systematic uncertainties arise from parton distribution functions (16%), the NNLO  $K$ -factor (9%) [27], QED radiative corrections (3%) [32], and acceptance (3%), all quoted at 1 TeV. These uncertainties

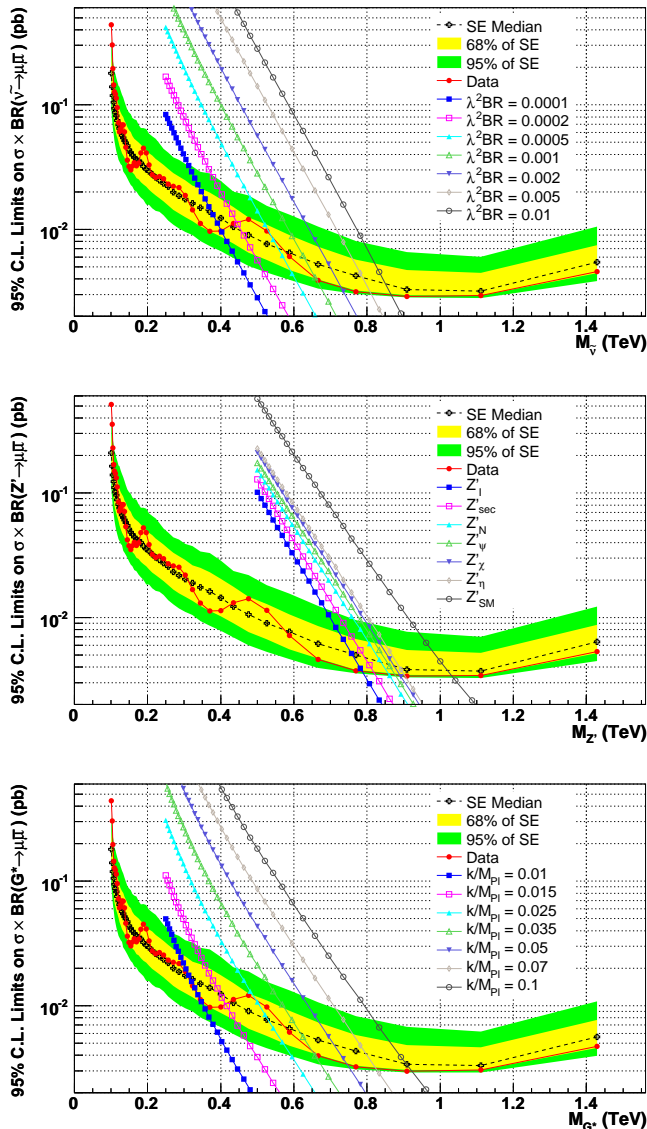


FIG. 3: The 95% C.L. upper limits on  $\sigma \cdot BR(\tilde{\nu}, \tilde{\bar{\nu}} \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$  vs  $M_{\tilde{\nu}}$  (top),  $\sigma \cdot BR(Z' \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$  versus  $M_{Z'}$  (middle), and  $\sigma \cdot BR(G^* \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu})$  versus  $M_{G^*}$  (bottom). Also shown are the theoretical cross sections for various model parameter values [9, 11, 33]. The expected limits and ranges of limits, as derived from simulated experiments (SE), are shown for comparison. The step size between adjacent templates in the signal scan is  $0.2 \text{ TeV}^{-1}$  in pole mass.

are incorporated as functions of  $m_{\mu\bar{\mu}}$  and increase monotonically beyond 100 GeV. Uncertainties on the momentum scale and resolution, and on the non-Drell-Yan background predictions, have a negligible effect.

Our signal templates have been generated with a resonance pole width  $\Gamma = 2.8\% \times M$ , based on the SM  $Z$  boson width. Thus our signal scan probes an observed width of  $\approx [17\%(M/\text{TeV}) \oplus 2.8\%] M$ . In a model where the observed width increases by a factor  $x$ , the cross section limits would increase by about a factor of  $\sqrt{x}$ .

We use PYTHIA to compute the cross sections for pro-

$Z'$	$Z'$	RS graviton	graviton	$\tilde{\nu}$	$\tilde{\bar{\nu}}$
model	mass limit	$k/M_{\text{Planck}}$	mass limit	$\lambda^2 \cdot BR$	mass limit
$Z'_I$	789	0.01	293	0.0001	397
$Z'_{sec}$	821	0.015	409	0.0002	441
$Z'_N$	861	0.025	493	0.0005	541
$Z'_\psi$	878	0.035	651	0.001	662
$Z'_\chi$	892	0.05	746	0.002	731
$Z'_\eta$	904	0.07	824	0.005	810
$Z'_{SM}$	1030	0.1	921	0.01	866

TABLE I: 95% C.L. lower limits on  $Z'$ , graviton, and sneutrino masses (in GeV) for various model parameters [9, 11, 33]. For the  $R$ -parity-violating sneutrino model,  $\lambda$  is the  $d\bar{d}\tilde{\nu}$  coupling and  $BR$  denotes the  $\tilde{\nu}, \tilde{\bar{\nu}} \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$  branching ratio.

duction of  $Z'$  bosons predicted by  $E_6$  models [33] or having the same couplings to SM fermions as the  $Z$  boson, and of  $G^*$  bosons for various  $k/M_{\text{Planck}}$  values. We apply the NNLO  $K$ -factor to these LO cross sections. The NLO  $\tilde{\nu}$  production cross sections are obtained from [11]. We derive the boson mass limits shown in Table I.

In conclusion, we have presented a direct search for high-mass neutral resonances with spin-0, 1, and 2, using an integrated luminosity of  $2.3 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  collected by the CDF II detector. Our dimuon invariant mass spectrum is consistent with the SM expectation. We set the world's tightest constraints on  $Z'$  bosons in various models, on Kaluza-Klein graviton modes in the RS model, and on sneutrinos in  $R$ -parity violating supersymmetric models. At 95% C.L., we exclude  $100 < M_{Z'} < 982 \text{ GeV}$  for a  $Z'_\eta$  boson of the  $E_6$  model,  $100 < M_{G^*} < 921 \text{ GeV}$  for  $k/M_{\text{Planck}} = 0.1$ , and  $100 < M_{\tilde{\nu}} < 810 \text{ GeV}$  for  $\lambda^2 \cdot BR(\tilde{\nu}, \tilde{\bar{\nu}} \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}) = 0.01$ , where  $\lambda$  is the  $d\bar{d}\tilde{\nu}$  coupling and  $BR$  denotes the  $\tilde{\nu}, \tilde{\bar{\nu}} \rightarrow \mu\bar{\mu}$  branching ratio.

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