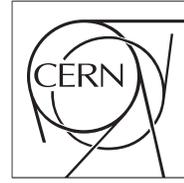


The Compact Muon Solenoid Experiment  
**Conference Report**

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26 November 2011 (v2, 07 December 2011)

# Search for heavy resonances decaying to tau pairs with the CMS detector at the LHC.

Jasbir Singh for the CMS Collaboration

## Abstract

A search for heavy resonance production decaying to tau pair is performed in the proton-proton collisions at the center of mass energy  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV using  $36 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  of data collected with CMS detector at the LHC during the year 2010. The number of observed events are in good agreement with the predictions of Standard Model background processes. Therefore, an upper limit on the resonance cross-section times the branching ratio to tau pair is obtained as a function of the resonance mass. Ditaup resonance  $Z'$  with Standard Model couplings having mass less than  $468 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  is excluded at 95% confidence level.

Presented at *Lepton Photon 2011: XXV International Symposium on Lepton Photon Interactions at High Energies*

## Search for heavy resonances decaying to tau pairs with the CMS detector at the LHC

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**Abstract.** A search for heavy resonance production decaying to tau pair is performed in the proton-proton collisions at the center of mass energy  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV using  $36 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  of data collected with CMS detector at the LHC during the year 2010. The number of observed events are in good agreement with the predictions of Standard Model background processes. Therefore, an upper limit on the resonance cross-section times the branching ratio to tau pair is obtained as a function of the resonance mass. Ditaup resonance  $Z'$  with Standard Model couplings having mass less than  $468 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  is excluded at 95% confidence level.

**Keywords.** Compact Muon Solenoid, Large Hadron Collider, Standard Model

**PACS Nos.** 14.70.-e;14.70.Pw

### 1. Introduction

The Standard Model (SM) of particle physics has served us for last few decades in understanding the world around us. However, there are important theoretical arguments to anticipate that SM describes the nature only up to energies of electroweak scale[1] and new symmetries may come into play at higher energies resulting in *New Physics* beyond SM. Many extensions of SM has been developed in the absence of clear experimental hint or indication about the nature of physics at TeV energy scale and beyond. Some models incorporate additional gauge fields of local broken symmetry which leads to the existence of new heavy gauge bosons. Although, most models with extra gauge bosons obey universality of the couplings, some models include the generation-dependent coupling resulting in a heavy, neutral gauge boson  $Z'$  that preferentially decays to a pair of oppositely charged tau-leptons[2]. This feature provides the opportunity to discover a new gauge boson through its decay to two tau-leptons. Although a  $Z'$ , if exists, would be discovered in its  $e^+e^-$  or  $\mu^+\mu^-$  decay modes first, yet its decay in  $\tau^+\tau^-$  mode would be critical to establish its coupling relative to  $e^+e^-$  or  $\mu^+\mu^-$  mode and also in testing the universality of the coupling constants. The CDF collaboration reported a search in 2005[3] which ruled out a  $Z'$  gauge boson decaying to  $\tau^+\tau^-$  with SM couplings having mass less than  $399 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ .

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## 2. Compact Muon Solenoid Detector

The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector[4] is one of the major experiments at the LHC. The central feature of the CMS detector is a superconducting solenoid magnet which provides a magnetic field of 3.8 Tesla. The solenoid coil houses a silicon based tracker, lead tungstate based electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), brass/scintillator based hadron calorimeter (HCAL). Muons are measured in gas-ionization detectors embedded in the steel return yoke outside the solenoid coil. In addition to the barrel and endcap detectors, CMS has extensive forward calorimetry including a silicon sensor preshower detector in front of the ECAL endcaps.

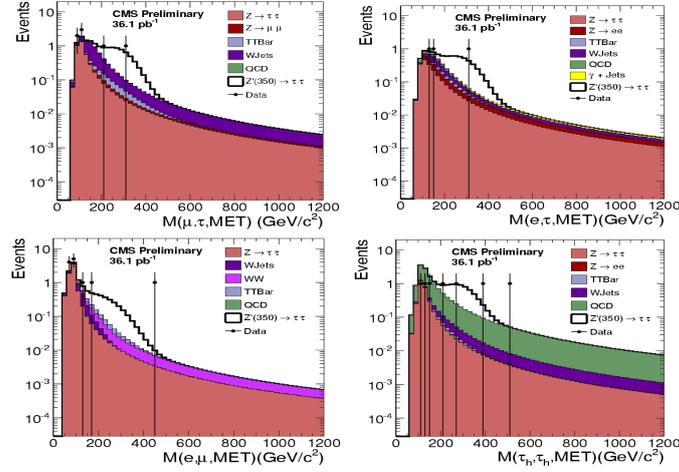
## 3. Analysis Strategy

A tau-lepton is the heaviest charged lepton in SM with a mass of  $1.777 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  and a lifetime of  $2.9 \times 10^{-13}$  seconds. About one third of the taus decay leptonically, while the remainder decay into hadronic jets comprising of one, three or five (rarely) charged mesons accompanied by one or more neutral pions. As the tau-lepton decays to  $e\bar{\nu}_e\nu_\tau$  (17.8%),  $\mu\bar{\nu}_\mu\nu_\tau$  (17.4%) and hadrons +  $\nu_\tau$  (64.8%), these decays are referred as e-decay channel,  $\mu$ -decay channel and the  $\tau_h$ -decay channel. The reported search, based on Sequential Standard Model (SSM), comprises of four dominant decay modes of tau pair *viz.*  $e\mu$  (6.2%),  $e\tau_h$  (23.1%),  $\mu\tau_h$  (22.5%) and  $\tau_h\tau_h$  (42%). Signal events are identified as events with two oppositely charged, nearly back-to-back objects (leptons) accompanied by large missing transverse energy. Selection strategy preserves high efficiency for signal events and provides strong background suppression. Although Drell-Yan process,  $Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ , is a background for all the four channels yet it serves as an important tool to validate the signal selections. Final selections are such that by removing or reversing just a few cuts, a clean sample of  $Z \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$  events can be obtained. Whenever possible we rely on the collision data in estimating the contribution of various backgrounds by creating some control regions with most of the selections similar to the signal selections but enriched with the events from different backgrounds. The selection efficiencies are measured in those regions and extrapolated to the signal region. In cases where a complete data-driven estimation is not possible, scale factors, *i.e.* ratio between observed data events and expected Monte Carlo events in the control region, are used to estimate the background contribution in the signal region. To quantify the significance of any possible excess or to set the upper limit on the  $Z' \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$  production rate, we perform a fit of the invariant mass distribution and employ Bayesian technique to interpret the results in terms of the upper 95% confidence level limits for each individual channel. The combined limit is obtained by combining the posterior probability density functions and taking into account the correlation of systematic uncertainties within and across the four channels. Figure 1 shows the invariant mass distributions of tau-lepton pair in four different final states involving leptons and hadrons.

## 4. Results and Conclusions

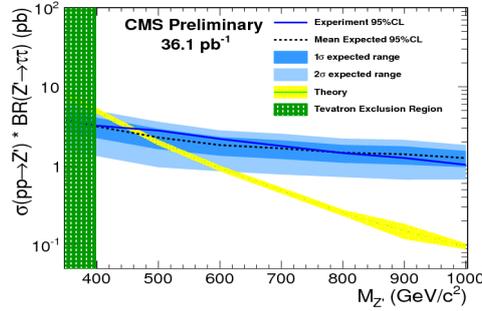
The observed mass spectrum and the number of observed events in the collision data are found to be consistent with the expectations of SM background processes. Hence we determine combined 95% C.L. upper limits on the  $\sigma_{q\bar{q} \rightarrow Z'} \times B.R.(Z' \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-)$  as a function of  $Z'$  mass. Figure 2 shows the experimental and expected limits as well as the theoretical cross-section for various  $Z'$  masses. The bands on the expected limits repre-

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**Figure 1.** Invariant mass distributions (top left) for  $\mu\tau_h$ , (top right) for  $e\tau_h$ , (bottom left) for  $e\mu$  and (bottom right) for  $\tau_h\tau_h$  channels.

sent the  $1\sigma$  and  $2\sigma$  deviations obtained using a large number of pseudo-experiments where the pseudo-data is obtained from distributions having only backgrounds using a Poisson based random event generator. From the figure, one can see that we can exclude a  $Z'$  with mass less than  $468 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  [5] exceeding the limit provided by the CDF experiment.



**Figure 2.** 95% C.L. upper limit on  $\sigma_{q\bar{q}\rightarrow Z'} \times B.R.(Z' \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-)$  as a function of  $M_{Z'}$ .

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