Search for resonances in the mass distribution of jet pairs with one or two 
jets identified as $b$-jets in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV 
with the ATLAS detector

M. Aaboud et al.*
(ATLAS Collaboration)

(Received 24 May 2018; published 30 August 2018)

A search for new resonances decaying into jets containing $b$-hadrons in $pp$ collisions with the ATLAS detector at the LHC is presented in the dijet mass range from 0.57 to 7 TeV. The data set corresponds to an integrated luminosity of up to 36.1 fb$^{-1}$ collected in 2015 and 2016 at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. No evidence of a significant excess of events above the smooth background shape is found. Upper cross-section limits and lower limits on the corresponding signal mass parameters for several types of signal hypotheses are provided at 95% C.L. In addition, 95% C.L. upper limits are set on the cross sections for new processes that would produce Gaussian-shaped signals in the di-$b$-jet mass distributions.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.98.032016

I. INTRODUCTION

New heavy particles that couple to quarks or gluons are predicted by several extensions of the Standard Model (SM) [1–5]. There is a renewed interest as these new particles can act as mediators for dark matter (DM) interactions [6–10]. Such heavy particles can be produced in proton-proton collisions at relatively high rates thanks to their possibly strong coupling. The new particles can decay into quarks and gluons, that hadronize and form jets that are observable in the detector. Such a decay will produce dijet systems with an invariant mass around the mass of the new particle, appearing as an excess above the continuum background. This analysis searches for a resonant excess in the dijet mass distribution.

The dijet mass range explored in previous analyses depends on the available center-of-mass energy as well as on the size of the data sample. Past dijet searches have investigated the dijet mass ranges 110–350 GeV at the $spS$ collider [11] and 260–1400 GeV [12], 250–1100 GeV [13] at the Tevatron. At the LHC, the most recent CMS search covers 0.6–7.5 TeV [14], while the last ATLAS search covers 0.45–6.5 TeV [15,16].

Searches restricted to final states involving jets identified as containing a $b$-hadron have an increased sensitivity to certain scenarios, e.g., to particles that preferentially decay into $b\bar{b}$ quark pairs as predicted by some dark-matter models [17,18]. But the sensitivity can be improved even for resonances without an enhanced $b\bar{b}$ decay mode, like many $Z'$ models described below, if the search suffers from non-$q\bar{q}$ backgrounds, in particular gluon radiation. Such searches have been performed by CDF covering the mass range 250–750 GeV [19], by CMS covering 0.3–4 TeV [20,21] and by ATLAS covering 1–5 TeV [22]. So far no deviations from the Standard Model have been found.

Compared to previous collider searches that have explored the mass region below 1 TeV, the LHC can provide higher sensitivity and cover yet unexplored coupling values due to the increase in parton luminosity [23]. Consequently resonance searches in this mass range are still of interest. In particular, some dark-matter models predict such particles [16,17]. In this paper an extension of the ATLAS search into this lower-mass region is made possible by a new trigger strategy, identifying two $b$-jets at trigger level. This strategy is able to cope with the large event rate in the lower dijet-mass region. The search presented in this paper probes the mass range 0.57–7 TeV.

The results are interpreted in the context of several benchmark models. An excited $b^*$-quark, with a dominant decay mode to $bg$, is used as the benchmark for events with at least one jet identified containing $b$-hadrons: the $\geq 1$ $b$-tag category. Excited quarks arise from compositeness models [4,5]. Models featuring an additional gauge boson called $Z'$ [1–3], including a dark-matter model with a $Z'$ mediator [6,7], are considered in the two $b$-tags category. The leading-order Feynman diagrams for these processes are shown in Fig. 1. Further details can be found in Sec. III. In addition, model-independent limits are set on generic resonance signals that have a Gaussian reconstructed
shape. These limits assume, after applying the selection, a narrow-resonance signal shape with an intrinsic width that can be safely truncated or neglected, so that the reconstructed mass distribution reflects the experimental resolution and can be approximated by a Gaussian distribution [24].

II. ATLAS DETECTOR

The ATLAS detector [25] at the LHC covers nearly the entire solid angle around the collision point. It consists of an inner tracking detector surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid, electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer incorporating three large superconducting toroid magnets. The inner-detector system (ID) is immersed in a 2 T axial magnetic field and provides charged-particle tracking in the range $|\eta| < 2.5$.

A high-granularity silicon pixel detector covers the vertex region and typically provides three measurements per track. A new inner pixel layer, the insertable B-layer [26,27], was added during the 2013–2014 LHC shutdown. It is located at a mean sensor radius of 32 mm from the beam line, providing a fourth pixel hit. The pixel detector is followed by a silicon microstrip tracker, which usually provides four two-dimensional measurement points per track. A new inner pixel layer, the insertable B-layer, was added during the 2013–2014 LHC shutdown.

The transition radiation tracker, which enables radially extended track reconstruction up to $|\eta| = 2.0$. The transition radiation tracker also provides electron identification information based on the fraction of hits (typically 30 in total) that deposit energy above a threshold corresponding to transition radiation.

The calorimeter system covers the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 4.9$. Within the region $|\eta| < 3.2$, electromagnetic calorimetry is provided by barrel and endcap high-granularity lead/liquid-argon (LAr) electromagnetic calorimeters, with an additional thin LAr presampler covering $|\eta| < 1.8$, to correct for energy loss in material upstream of the calorimeters. Hadronic calorimetry is provided by the steel/scintillator-tile calorimeter, segmented into three barrel structures within $|\eta| < 1.7$, and two copper/LAr hadronic endcap calorimeters. The solid angle coverage is completed with forward copper/LAr and tungsten/LAr calorimeter modules optimized for electromagnetic and hadronic measurements respectively.

A two-level trigger system is used to select interesting events. The first trigger level is implemented in hardware and uses a subset of detector information to reduce the event rate to a design value of at most 100 kHz. This is followed by a software-based high-level trigger (HLT) which reduces the event rate to about 1 kHz.

III. SIMULATED SIGNAL SAMPLES

The Monte Carlo (MC) simulation is used to generate samples describing the benchmark signal models under consideration. These signal samples were generated with PYTHIA8 [28] using the A14 set of tuned parameters [29] and the NNPDF2.3 PDF set [30]. The EVTGEN decay package [31] is used for bottom and charm hadron decays. The generated samples were processed with the ATLAS detector simulation [32], which is based on the GEANT4 package [33]. To account for additional proton-proton interactions (pileup), further minimum-bias interactions were generated using PYTHIA8 and the MSTW2008LO PDF set [34] and superimposed on the hard-scattering events. The MC samples were reweighted to match the distribution of the number of collisions per bunch crossing observed in the data. For basic background validation a leading-order multijet sample was generated with PYTHIA8 and the same parameters and PDF set used for the signal models. The same reconstruction software was run on the simulated events as was used for recorded collision data.

Signal events in the excited $b^*$-quark model were generated with the compositeness scale $\Lambda$ set to the excited-quark mass $m_{b'}$ and an intrinsic decay width of $\Gamma \sim 0.006 \times m_{b'}$. The branching fraction for the dominant
decay $b^* \to bg$ is 85%. The remaining decay modes are $b^* \to b\gamma$, $b^* \to bZ^0$, and $b^* \to t\gamma^*$. The leading-order (LO) cross section for a 2.5 TeV $b^*$-quark is 123 fb [28].

Three models with a $Z'$ gauge boson are considered. In the sequential standard model (SSM), the $Z'$ boson has the same couplings to SM fermions as the SM $Z$ boson and the bottom-quark decay branching fraction $B(Z' \to b\bar{b})$ is 13.8%. The leptophobic $Z'$ model differs by having vanishing couplings to leptons. The corresponding value of $B(Z' \to b\bar{b})$ is 18.9% in the mass ranges considered. The intrinsic width of the $Z'$ bosons are set to 3% of the resonance mass [1]. The leading-order PyTHIA8 SSM and leptophobic $Z'$ cross sections were corrected to next-to-leading order (NLO) using cross sections calculated at LO and at NLO using MadGraph5_AMC@NLO [35], with the NNPDF2.3 LO and NLO PDF sets, respectively. The NLO prediction uses a model of neutral vector bosons implemented in FeynRules [36] with NLO terms evaluated via NLOCT package [37]. The NLO cross section times branching fraction $\sigma \cdot B(Z' \to b\bar{b})$ for a 2 TeV SSM neutral vector boson is 0.10 fb [28,35]. For both models, only decays into $b$-quark pairs were simulated.

Lastly, a simplified dark-matter model [9] with a $Z'$ axial-vector mediator is considered. The mediator to SM quark coupling ($g_{SM}$) was set to 0.1 or 0.25, the mediator to axial DM coupling to 1.0 and the mass of the dark-matter particle was fixed to 10 TeV within the scope of the Ref. [9]. The intrinsic width was calculated by MadGraph5_AMC@NLO [35]. The LO cross section times branching fraction $\sigma \cdot B(Z' \to q\bar{q})$ for a 1 TeV axial-vector mediator with $g_{SM} = 0.1$ is 2.7 fb [28].

### IV. DATA SAMPLES AND EVENT SELECTION

The data for this analysis were collected by the ATLAS detector in $pp$ collisions with a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. The data set for the high dijet-mass region $m_{jj} > 1.2$ TeV was recorded by selecting events from an inclusive jet trigger requiring at least one jet with a transverse momentum $p_T$ above 380 GeV, and corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 3.2 fb$^{-1}$ in 2015 and 32.9 fb$^{-1}$ in 2016. Events for the low dijet-mass region 570 GeV $< m_{jj} < 1.5$ TeV were recorded using a dijet trigger employing an online algorithm to identify two jets containing $b$-hadrons and having transverse momentum $p_T$ above 150 and 50 GeV, respectively. The above transverse momentum requirements are fully efficient in the quoted mass range. This trigger overcomes the limitation related to the high inclusive single jet trigger rate. Because the $b$-jet trigger was active only for parts of the data taking period, the total integrated luminosity that the low dijet-mass sample corresponds to is 24.3 fb$^{-1}$ in 2016. The $b$-jet trigger chain [38] starts by requiring an energy deposit measured with coarse granularity ($\Delta \phi \times \Delta \eta = 0.2 \times 0.2$) in the calorimeter at the first trigger level. In the HLT, a two-step tracking algorithm is run. First, a fast tracking stage is used to find the primary vertex of the event. The results from this first stage seed precision tracking. The output of this tracking stage provides the input for the $b$-jet identification algorithms, which are based on the offline tools described further below. The identification efficiency is 60% per $b$-jet at trigger level when integrated over transverse momentum $p_T$ and pseudorapidity $\eta$.

Offline jets are reconstructed from topological clusters of energy deposits in the calorimeters [39] with the anti-$k_t$ algorithm [40,41] with a radius parameter of 0.4. Jet energies and directions are corrected by the jet calibrations as described in Ref. [42]. Jets containing a $b$-hadron are identified using a multivariate algorithm [43,44]. This algorithm makes use of the impact parameters of tracks and the reconstructed displaced vertices in the ID. The offline $b$-tagging efficiency operating points are determined on a $tt$ sample when integrated over $p_T$ and $\eta$ [45]. In the high-mass region, an 85% efficiency offline $b$-tagging operating point is employed. In the low-mass region, a 70% offline efficiency $b$-tagging operating point is adopted in addition to the online $b$-tagging requirement, because the online $b$-identification is only partially correlated to the offline $b$-tagging. The online $b$-tagging algorithm is not fully emulated in MC and the tagging efficiency is needed to estimate the signal acceptance. The online $b$-tagging efficiency is measured using a high $b$-jet purity dilepton $\ell\ell$ sample. The offline $b$-tagging operating points have been optimized in order to maximize the overall sensitivity.

In order to ensure full trigger efficiency and lower pileup contamination, the event selection requires a minimum transverse momentum of $p_T > 430$ GeV and $p_T > 80$ GeV for the leading and subleading jet, respectively. The requirement on the leading jet is relaxed to 200 GeV for the low-mass region, corresponding to the reduced transverse momentum requirement in the trigger. Both jets are required to have pseudorapidity $|\eta| < 2.0$ to allow fully efficient $b$-jet identification in the two mass regions. To reduce background from multijet production and enhance $s$-channel signal processes, the rapidity difference $y^* = (y_1 - y_2)/2$ between the two leading jets is required to be $|y^*| < 0.8$. In the low-mass region this requirement is tightened to $|y^*| < 0.6$ to avoid regions of reduced trigger efficiency at the lower mass boundary.

In the analysis, one or both of the leading jets are required to be identified as $b$-jets. The per-event efficiencies, taking the $b$-tagging requirement(s) into account, are shown as functions of the reconstructed invariant mass of the two leading jets, $m_{jj}$, for several signal models in Fig. 2. Events from the $Z'$ model have a higher event-tagging efficiency than for $b^*$ events in the inclusive "$lb$" category because $Z'$ events contain two $b$-quarks in the final state. In the high-mass region, the $b^* \to bg$ decay can be followed by the gluon splitting into a $b\bar{b}$ pair, which
therefore enhances the event $b$-tagging efficiency for $b^*$ events relative to the $Z'$ signal.

V. ANALYSIS

The observed dijet mass distribution of the two leading jets in the high-mass event selection ($m_{jj} > 1.2$ TeV), where at least one ($\geq 1$ $b$-tag) or both ($2$ $b$-tags) jets are identified as $b$-jets, is inspected for resonant contributions from new-physics scenarios. In the low-mass analysis ($570$ GeV < $m_{jj}$ < $1.5$ TeV) only a selection with two $b$-tags is considered due to the trigger selection. The treatment of the 2-$b$-tags overlap region (1.2 TeV < $m_{jj}$ < 1.5 TeV) is discussed in Sec. VII.

The dominant background arises from multijet final states. While the shape of the $m_{jj}$ distribution in data is found to be in good agreement with the PYTHIA8 multijet MC simulation, the normalization is not. In this analysis the background is evaluated from a fit to the mass distribution in data.

Previous dijet resonance searches [15,46] have found that the following fit function:

$$f(x) = p_1(1-x)^{p_2} (x^{p_3}-p_4 \ln x + p_5 (\ln x)^2),$$

(1)

where $p_i$ are fit parameters and $x \equiv m_{jj}/\sqrt{s}$, provides a good global fit to dijet mass distributions in data as well as leading-order and next-to-leading-order simulations of QCD dijet production, where $p_3 \equiv p_4 \equiv 0$ [46] or $p_5 \equiv 0$ [15]. However, it is found that Eq. (1) no longer provides an adequate description of the data for the whole mass distribution comprising the high-mass and low-mass regions. This effect is attributed to a larger data sample than in previous analyses that employed the global fit strategy, in conjunction with the shaping of the $b$-tagged dijet mass distribution due to the $p_T$ dependence of the $b$-tagging efficiency and variations of the quark flavor fractions as a function of $p_T$. The background estimate is therefore derived from a sliding-window fit by using the fit function from Eq. (1) with four or five fit parameters, and by fitting only restricted regions of the spectrum at a time. This technique was introduced in the most recent ATLAS dijet resonance search [15] and is briefly described here.

The number of fit parameters of the sliding-window fit are chosen to have the largest possible window size for a fit function with the fewest number of parameters. The four-parameter fit [where $p_5$ is set to zero in Eq. (1)] is chosen for the high-mass 2-$b$-tags selection, while the five-parameter fit is chosen for the low-mass and the inclusive $\geq 1$ $b$-tag selections. For the low-mass selection the window size is chosen to comprise 14 out of 31 total bins, whereas for the high-mass selection the window size corresponds to 16 bins for the 2-$b$-tags selection and 22 bins for the $\geq 1$ $b$-tag selection out of a total number of 75 bins. The bin width follows approximately the $m_{jj}$ invariant mass resolution as derived from the MC simulation of multijet processes. The bin width increases from about 20 GeV at a mass of 500 GeV to about 130 GeV at a mass of 7 TeV. The background prediction over the full mass range is constructed in each mass bin by evaluating the fit function in the window centered around that bin. At the low and high edge of the mass distribution, the sliding-window regions do not extend outside the considered mass range.

The validity of this background-fitting method is tested in data control regions, where no offline $b$-jet identification is required and the MC-estimated $b$-tagging efficiencies are applied as a weight. Representative background data sets are created by injecting Poisson fluctuations into the data.
control regions. Spurious-signal tests are performed to verify that no artifact is created during the fitting procedure by fitting hundreds of representative background data sets, and then checking the flatness of the probability returned by the BumpHunter algorithm [47] as detailed below. The fit is shown to be robust against spurious signals. In addition, signal injection tests are performed and good linearity between the injected and extracted signal is observed for the full range of signal widths considered. No sensitivity reduction due to the choice of window size is found.

For both the low-mass and high-mass 2-b-tag selections the background prediction covers the full $m_{jj}$ mass region, where the lower boundaries are defined by the plateau region of the trigger as defined in Sec. IV. For the high-mass inclusive $\geq 1$ b-tag selection, studies of the validity of the fit required an increase of the lower mass boundary from 1.2 to 1.3 TeV. The largest value of $m_{jj}$ is measured to be 6.77 TeV with one b-tag and 6.31 TeV with two b-tags.

Figure 3 shows the $m_{jj}$ distributions, overlaid with the fit results and examples of the potential signals described in Sec. III. The lower panel in each plot of Fig. 3 shows the significance of the bin-by-bin differences between the data and the fit, as calculated from Poisson probabilities, considering only statistical uncertainties. The BumpHunter algorithm is used to evaluate the statistical significance of any localized excess in the dijet mass distributions in data relative to the fitted background estimate. The algorithm

FIG. 3. Dijet mass spectra after the background only fit with the background prediction together with the result from the BumpHunter (see text for details). The plots show (a) the inclusive 1-b-tag high-mass region, (b) the high-mass region with two b-tags, and (c) the low-mass region with two b-tags. The potential signals are overlaid on top of the data.
VI. SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

The systematic uncertainty of the background is estimated from the uncertainty associated with the choice of the fit function and the uncertainties in the values of the fit parameters. The uncertainty due to the choice of the fit function is determined by repeating the fit procedure with one additional parameter. For the four-parameter fit of the function is determined by repeating the fit procedure with parameters. The uncertainty due to the choice of the fit function and the uncertainties in the values of the fit parameters is taken to be the average difference between the two fit results across a set of pseudo-data drawn via Poisson fluctuations from the nominal background prediction. The uncertainty due to the values of the fit parameters is taken to be the bin-by-bin root-mean-square of the fit results for all the pseudo-experiments using the nominal fit function.

The uncertainty in the MC-based signal expectation is dominated by the uncertainty in the modeling of the $b$-tagging efficiency [43,45]. This uncertainty grows with jet $p_T$, with a smallest uncertainty of 2% for jets with $p_T$ around 90 GeV and up to 15% for jet $p_T$ around 1.5 TeV. The $b$-jet calibration is based on identifying a high-purity sample of $b$-jets by selecting $t\bar{t}$ events [45]. The uncertainties are measured using data for jet $p_T < 300$ GeV and are extrapolated to jet $p_T > 300$ GeV by means of MC simulation by varying quantities in the simulation that are known to affect the $b$-tagging performance, such as the track impact-parameter resolution, the fraction of poorly measured tracks, the description of the detector material, and the track multiplicity per jet. The uncertainty in the impact-parameter resolution includes alignment effects, dead modules and additional material not properly modeled in the simulation, and is the dominant source of uncertainty for the $b$-tagging efficiency at high $p_T$.

Because the data set for the low-mass analysis is recorded using the $b$-jet trigger as described in Sec. IV, there is an additional systematic uncertainty associated with the $b$-jet trigger efficiency. It is extracted by comparing the $b$-jet trigger efficiency in 2016 data and MC simulation in a high-purity sample of $b$-jets selected from a dilepton $t\bar{t}$ sample by using similar procedures to those used to measure the offline $b$-tagging efficiencies. Uncertainties due to the mismodeling of the $b$-jet purity in simulation, mismodeling of the $b$-jet trigger efficiency for non $b$-jets, simulation statistical uncertainty, data statistical uncertainty (jet $p_T < 240$ GeV) and simulation-based extrapolation (jet $p_T > 240$ GeV) are taken into account. The per-jet uncertainty is estimated to be 1%–20% for jets with $p_T$ of 35–700 GeV (Fig. 4). The total uncertainty of the di-$b$-jet trigger efficiency comes from the per-jet $b$-tagging efficiency with an additional per-event uncertainty of 2% that covers differences in the primary vertex reconstruction.

The combined uncertainty in the jet energy scale (JES) and resolution (JER) is estimated using untagged jets in 13 TeV data and simulation by following the methods described in Ref. [48]. The total uncertainty is found to be less than 2% of the jet $p_T$ across the investigated mass range.

For $b$-tagged jets an additional uncertainty is assigned to the energy scale (bJES). It is estimated using MC samples and verified with data following the method described in Ref. [49]. Firstly, the ratio of the sum of track transverse momenta inside the jet to the total jet transverse momentum measured in the calorimeter is formed, and then this ratio is compared between data and simulation. This double ratio is then compared for inclusive jets and $b$-jets. The relative uncertainty is found to be at most 2.6% in the jet $p_T$ spectrum of interest and is applied in addition to the nominal jet energy scale uncertainty.

The uncertainties described above are summarized in Table I. Other uncertainties that affect only the signal normalization, including the acceptance uncertainties...
associated with the choice of PDF and the uncertainty in the integrated luminosity, are found to be negligible.

VII. INTERPRETATION

Since no significant deviation from the expected background is observed, limits are set on processes that would lead to resonances in the considered mass distributions. The Bayesian method [50] is used to set 95% credibility-level (C.L.) upper limits on the cross section, where the 95% quantile of the posterior is taken as the upper limit. A Gaussian prior is used for each nuisance parameter corresponding to a systematic uncertainty, and a flat prior is used for the signal normalization. The expected limits as well as the 1σ and 2σ bands are calculated using

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Background systematic uncertainty</th>
<th>Low-mass region</th>
<th>High-mass region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fit function</td>
<td>(0.01–1.2)%</td>
<td>(0.01–9)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fit parameters</td>
<td>(0.2–2.7)%</td>
<td>(0.3–34)%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signal systematic uncertainty</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JES</td>
<td>(1–1.2)%</td>
<td>(1.2–1.6)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JER</td>
<td>(0.3–1)%</td>
<td>(0.3–0.4)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bJES</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b-jet trigger</td>
<td>(1–20)%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b-tagging</td>
<td>(7–20)%</td>
<td>(3–5)%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE I. Main sources of experimental systematic uncertainty in the low-mass and high-mass region. The background uncertainties quoted here are the uncertainties on the fitted background yield in each mass bin. The JES, JER, and bJES uncertainties quoted here are the uncertainties on the jet $p_T$. The $b$-jet trigger and $b$-tagging uncertainties quoted here are the uncertainties on the per jet tagging efficiency.

FIG. 5. Observed (filled circles) and expected (dotted line) 95% credibility-level upper limits on the cross section for the $b^*$ model. The dashed lines show the predicted LO cross section as defined in Sec. III. The plot shows the results in the high-mass region with inclusive $b$-jet selection.

FIG. 6. Observed (filled circles) and expected (dotted line) 95% credibility-level upper limits on the cross section times branching ratio for the SSM and leptophobic $Z'$ models. The dashed lines show the predicted NLO cross sections as defined in Sec. III. The plot shows the combined results in the low- and high-mass region (separated by the vertical dotted line) with two $b$-tags selection.

FIG. 7. Observed (filled circles) and expected (dotted line) 95% credibility-level upper limits on the cross section for two different DM $Z$ models. In the low-mass region the $Z'$ is expected to decay to all five quark flavors other than the top quark and the mediator to SM quark coupling ($g_{SM}$) equal to 0.1 is assumed, whereas in the high-mass selection only the decays $Z' \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ are assumed with $g_{SM} = 0.25$. The dashed lines show the predicted LO cross sections as defined in Sec. III.
limits for the masses up to 2.1 TeV for the leptophobic $Z$ matter with SM-value couplings to quarks. Mass limits on a dark-mass following signal mass parameters. The expected limit is chosen within the overlap region. 1.5 TeV. For the combination the result with the better assumed branching fraction for $g$ the SSM is used to set limits at 95% C.L. which exclude masses up to 2.0 TeV for the leptophobic $Z' \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ model and which exclude masses up to 2.1 TeV for the leptophobic $Z' \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ model with SM-value couplings to quarks. Mass limits on a dark-matter $Z'$ depend on the decay mode and the coupling strength to quarks, $g_{SM}$. Assuming only the decay $Z' \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ and $g_{SM} = 0.25$, masses up to 2.1 TeV are excluded at 95% C.L. Assuming $Z'$ decays to all five quark flavors other than the top quark and $g_{SM} = 0.1$, masses up to 1.03 TeV are excluded at 95% C.L.

In order to allow for limit setting on new-physics models beyond those considered in the current studies, limits are quoted on the product of the cross-section $\sigma$, acceptance $A$, selection efficiency $e$ and branching fraction $B$ for a generic resonance with a reconstructed shape approximated by a Gaussian function, assuming a decay into two $b$-jets. A MC-based transfer matrix is used to fold in the detector effects. As the width is decreased from 15% to 0% of the mass, the cross-section limits improve, but at the same time the limits are more affected by statistical fluctuations of the data in a single bin as compared to wider signals. Figure 8 shows the limits for the inclusive $b$-jet selection when the intrinsic width is below the detector resolution. Figure 9 shows the corresponding limits for the low- and high-mass 2-$b$-tags selection.

**FIG. 9.** Observed (filled circles) and expected (dotted line) 95% credibility-level upper limits on $\sigma \times A \times e \times B(X \rightarrow b\bar{b})$, including kinematic acceptance and $b$-tagging efficiencies, for resonances with intrinsic width smaller than the detector resolution. The width of the Gaussian reconstructed shape is dominated by the dijet mass resolution. The plot shows the limits obtained from the high-mass inclusive $b$-jet selection.

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Searches are performed for high-mass resonances in the dijet invariant mass spectrum with one or two jets identified as $b$-jets, using an integrated luminosity of up to 36.1 fb$^{-1}$ of proton-proton collisions with a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV recorded by the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider. The search presented in this paper probes the mass range 0.57–5 TeV. No evidence of a significant excess of events above the expected Standard Model background is found.

Excited $b'$-quarks with $b' \rightarrow bq$ decays are excluded at 95% C.L. for masses up to 2.6 TeV. New $Z'$ gauge bosons are excluded in the sequential standard model (SSM) $Z' \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ model for masses up to 2.0 TeV, and excluded in the leptophobic $Z' \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ model with SM-value couplings to quarks for masses up to 2.1 TeV, both at 95% C.L. Lastly, a $Z'$ axial-vector dark-matter mediator with only $b$-quark

...
couplings set to $g_{SM} = 0.25$ and axial DM couplings of $g_{DM} = 1.0$, is excluded at 95% C.L. for masses up to 2.1 TeV. Assuming $Z'$ decays into all five quark flavors other than the top quark and $g_{SM} = 0.1$, masses up to 1.03 TeV are excluded at 95% C.L.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We thank CERN for the very successful operation of the LHC, as well as the support staff from our institutions without whom ATLAS could not be operated efficiently. We acknowledge the support of ANPCyT, Argentina; YerPhI, Armenia; ARC, Australia; BMWFW and FWF, Austria; ANAS, Azerbaijan; SSTC, Belarus; CNPq and FAPESP, Brazil; NSERC, NRC and CFI, Canada; CERN; CONICYT, Chile; CAS, MOST and NSFC, China; COLCIENCIAS, Colombia; MSMT CR, MPO CR and VSC CR, Czech Republic; DNRF and DNSRC, Denmark; COLCIENCIAS, Colombia; MESTD, Serbia; DST/NRF, South Africa; MINECO, Spain; SRC and Wallenberg Foundation, Sweden; SERI, SNSF and Cantons of Bern and Geneva, Switzerland; MOST, Taiwan; TAEK, Turkey; STFC, United Kingdom; DOE and NSF, United States of America. In addition, individual groups and members have received support from BCKDF, the Canada Council, CANARIE, CRC, Compute Canada, FQRNT, and the Ontario Innovation Trust, Canada; EPLANET, ERC, ERDF, FP7, Horizon 2020 and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, European Union; Investissements d’Avenir Labex and Idex, ANR, Région Auvergne and Fondation Partagé le Savoir, France; DFG and AvH Foundation, Germany; Herakleitos, Thales and Aristeia programmes co-financed by EU-ESF and the Greek NSRF; BSF, GIF and Minerva, Israel; BRF, Norway; CERCA Programme Generalitat de Catalunya, Generalitat Valenciana, Spain; the Royal Society and Leverhulme Trust, United Kingdom. The crucial computing support from all WLCG partners is acknowledged gratefully, in particular from CERN, the ATLAS Tier-1 facilities at TRIUMF (Canada), NDGF (Denmark, Norway, Sweden), CC-IN2P3 (France), KIT/GridKA (Germany), INFN-CNAF (Italy), NL-T1 (Netherlands), PIC (Spain), ASGC (Taiwan), RAL (UK) and BNL (USA), the Tier-2 facilities worldwide and large non-WLCG resource providers. Major contributors of computing resources are listed in Ref. [52].


1 Department of Physics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia
2 Physics Department, SUNY Albany, Albany, New York, USA
3 Department of Physics, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
4a Department of Physics, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey
4b Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey
4c Division of Physics, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara, Turkey
5 LAPP, Université Grenoble Alpes, Université Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS/IN2P3, Annecy, France
6 Physics Department, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA
7 Physics Department, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas, USA
8 Physics Department, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
9 Physics Department, National Technical University of Athens, Zografou, Greece
10 Department of Physics, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA
11 Bahcesehir University, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Istanbul, Turkey
12 Istanbul Bilgi University, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Istanbul, Turkey
12d Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
13 Department of Physics Engineering, Gaziantepe University, Gaziantepe, Turkey
13a Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
14 Institut de Física d’Altes Energies (IFAE), Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Barcelona, Spain
15a Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China
15b Physics Department, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
15c Department of Physics, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China
15d University of Chinese Academy of Science (UCAS), Beijing, China
15e Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
16 Department of Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
17 Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley, California, USA
18 Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics and Laboratory for High Energy Physics, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
19 School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
20 Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Antonio Nariño, Bogota, Colombia
21 Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
22 INFN Sezione di Bologna, Italy
23 Physikalisches Institut, Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany
24 Department of Physics, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
25 Department of Physics, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA
26 Transilvania University of Brașov, Brașov, Romania
27 Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest, Romania
27a Department of Physics, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Iasi, Romania
28 National Institute for Research and Development of Isotopic and Molecular Technologies, Physics Department, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
28a Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic
28b Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovak Republic
29 Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York, USA
30 Departamento de Física, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
31 Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom
32 Department of Physics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
32b Department of Mechanical Engineering Science, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>City, Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32c School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33a Department of Physics, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33b Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Energies—Université Hassan II, Casablanca, Morocco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34a Centre National de l’Energie des Sciences Techniques Nucleaires (CNESTEN), Rabat, Morocco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34b Faculté des Sciences Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech, Morocco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34c Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier and LPTPM, Oujda, Morocco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34d Faculté des sciences, Université Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35c CERN, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36a Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36b LPC, Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS-IN2P3, Clermont-Ferrand, France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37a Nevis Laboratory, Columbia University, Irvington, New York, USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38a Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38b Dipartimento di Fisica, Università della Calabria, Rende, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39a INFN Gruppo Collegato di Cosenza, Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40a INFN, Physics Department, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40b INFN Gruppo Collegato di Cosenza, Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41a INFN Sezioni, Physics Department, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41b INFN Sezione di Genova, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42a INFN Sezioni, Physics Department, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43a INFN Sezioni, Physics Department, Stockholm University, Sweden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43b INFN Sezioni, Physics Department, Stockholm University, Sweden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44a INFN Sezioni, Physics Department, Stockholm University, Sweden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45a Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Hamburg and Zeuthen, Germany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46a Lehrstuhl für Experimentelle Physik IV, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47a Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48a SUPA—School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49a INFN e Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50a II. Physikalisches Institut, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51a II. Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52a Physique Nucléaire et Corpusculaire, Université de Genève, Genève, Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53a Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Genova, Genova, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53b INFN Sezione di Genova, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54a II. Physikalisches Institut, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Giessen, Germany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55a SUPA—School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56a LPSC, Université Grenoble Alpes, CNRS-IN2P3, Grenoble INP, Grenoble, France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57a Laboratory for Particle Physics and Cosmology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58a Department of Modern Physics and State Key Laboratory of Particle Detection and Electronics, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58b Institute of Frontier and Interdisciplinary Science and Key Laboratory of Particle Physics and Particle Irradiation (MOE), Shandong University, Qingdao, China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58c School of Physics and Astronomy, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, KLPPAC-MoE, SKLPPC, Shanghai, China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58d Tsung-Dao Lee Institute, Shanghai, China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59a Kirchhoff-Institut für Physik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59b Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60a Faculty of Applied Information Science, Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Hiroshima, Japan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61a Department of Physics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong, China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61b Department of Physics, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61c Department of Physics, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62a Department of Physics, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63a INFN Gruppo Collegato di Udine, Sezione di Trieste, Udine, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64a INFN Sezione di Lecce, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64b INFN Sezione di Lecce, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65a Dipartimento di Chimica, Fisica e Ambiente, Università di Udine, Udine, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66a INFN Sezione di Milano, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66b Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, Milano, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67a INFN Sezione di Napoli, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68a INFN Sezione di Padova, Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), München, Germany
Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki, Japan
Graduate School of Science and Kobayashi-Maskawa Institute, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA
Institute for Mathematics, Astrophysics and Particle Physics, Radboud University Nijmegen/Nikhef, Nijmegen, Netherlands
Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Department of Physics, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, USA
Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, SB RAS, Novosibirsk, Russia
Department of Physics, New York University, New York, New York, USA
Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA
Faculty of Science, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan
Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, USA
Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA
Palacký University, RCPTM, Joint Laboratory of Optics, Olomouc, Czech Republic
Center for High Energy Physics, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, USA
Université Paris-Sud, CNRS/IN2P3, Université Paris-Saclay, Orsay, France
Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan
Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
Konstantinov Nuclear Physics Institute of National Research Centre “Kurchatov Institute”, PNPI, St. Petersburg, Russia
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas—LIP, Portugal
Departamento de Física, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
Departamento de Física, Universidade de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
Centro de Física Nuclear da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
Departamento de Física, Universidade do Minho, Braga, Portugal
Departamento de Física Teórica y del Cosmos, Universidad de Granada, Granada (Spain), Spain
Dep Física and CEFITEC of Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Caparica, Portugal
Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic
Czech Technical University in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic
Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Prague, Czech Republic
State Research Center Institute for High Energy Physics, NRC KI, Protvino, Russia
Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California, USA
Departamento de Física, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile
Departamento de Física, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Valparaíso, Chile
Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
Department of Physics, Shinshu University, Nagano, Japan
Department Physik, Universität Siegen, Siegen, Germany
Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford, California, USA
Physics Department, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
Departments of Physics and Astronomy, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, USA
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
High Energy Physics Institute, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
Department of Physics, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel
Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel