Measurement of Dijet Angular Distributions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV and Searches for Quark Compositeness and Extra Spatial Dimensions

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We present the first measurement of dijet angular distributions in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV at the Fermilab Tevatron Collider. The measurement is based on a dataset corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 0.7 fb$^{-1}$ collected with the D0 detector. Dijet angular distributions have been measured over a range of dijet masses, from 0.25 TeV to above 1.1 TeV. The data are in good agreement with the predictions of perturbative QCD and are used to constrain new physics models including quark compositeness, large extra dimensions, and TeV$^{-1}$ scale extra dimensions. For all models considered, we set the most stringent direct limits to date.

PACS numbers: 12.60.Rc, 11.25.Wx, 12.38.Qk, 13.87.Ce

At large momentum transfers, dijet production has the largest cross section of all processes at a hadron collider and therefore directly probes the highest energy regime. It can be used to test the standard model (SM) at previously unexplored small distance scales and to search for signals predicted by new physics models. The angular
distribution of dijets with respect to the hadron beam direction is directly sensitive to the dynamics of the underlying reaction. While in quantum chromodynamics (QCD) this distribution shows small but noticeable deviations from Rutherford scattering, an excess at large angles from the beam axis would be a sign of new physics processes not included in the SM, such as substructure of quarks (“quark compositeness”) [1, 2, 3], or the existence of additional compactified spatial dimensions (“extra dimensions”) [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]. Earlier measurements of dijet angular distributions and related observables in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.8$ TeV were used to set limits on quark compositeness [9, 10].

In this Letter we present the first measurement of dijet angular distributions in pp collisions at a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV. The data sample, collected with the D0 detector during 2004-2005 in Run II of the Fermilab Tevatron Collider, corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 0.7 fb$^{-1}$. In the experiment and in theory calculations, jets are defined by the Run II midpoint cone jet algorithm [11] with a cone radius of $R = \sqrt{\left(\Delta y\right)^2 + \left(\Delta \phi\right)^2} = 0.7$ in rapidity $y$ and azimuthal angle $\phi$. Rapidity is related to the polar scattering angle $\theta$ with respect to the beam axis by $y = 0.5 \ln \left[\frac{1 + \beta \cos \theta}{1 - \beta \cos \theta}\right]$ with $\beta = |p|/E$. We measure distributions in the dijet variable $X_{\text{dijet}} = \exp\left[y_1 - y_2\right]$ in ten regions of dijet invariant mass $M_{jj}$, where $y_1$ and $y_2$ are the rapidities of the two jets with highest transverse momentum $p_T$ with respect to the beam axis in an event. For massless $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering, the variable $X_{\text{dijet}}$ is related to the polar scattering angle $\theta^* in the partonic center-of-mass frame by $X_{\text{dijet}} = \frac{1 + \cos \theta^*}{1 - \cos \theta^*}$. The choice of this variable is motivated by the fact that Rutherford scattering is independent of $X_{\text{dijet}}$. The phase space of this analysis is defined by $M_{jj} > 0.25$ TeV, $X_{\text{dijet}} < 16$, and $y_{\text{boost}} = 0.5 \left[y_1 + y_2\right] < 1$. Together, the $X_{\text{dijet}}$ and $y_{\text{boost}}$ requirements restrict the jet phase space to $|y_{\text{jet}}| < 2.4$ where jets are well-reconstructed in the D0 detector and the energy calibration is known to high precision. To minimize sensitivity to correlated experimental and theoretical uncertainties, the $X_{\text{dijet}}$ distributions in the different $M_{jj}$ ranges are normalized by their respective integrals. Based on the measurement, we set limits on quark compositeness [1, 2, 3], large spatial extra dimensions according to the model proposed by Arkani-Hamed, Dimopoulos and Dvali (ADD LED) [4, 5], and TeV$^{-1}$ scale extra dimensions (TeV$^{-1}$ ED) [6, 7, 8].

A detailed description of the D0 detector can be found in Ref. [12]. The event selection, jet reconstruction, jet energy and momentum correction in this measurement follow closely those used in our recent measurement of the inclusive jet cross section [13]. The primary tool for jet detection is the finely segmented uranium-liquid argon calorimeter that has almost complete solid angular coverage $1.7^\circ \lesssim \theta \lesssim 178.3^\circ$ [12]. Events are triggered by the jet with highest $p_T$, referred to as $p_T^{\text{max}}$. In each $M_{jj}$ region, events are taken from a single trigger which is chosen such that the smallest $p_T^{\text{max}}$ in the $M_{jj}$ region is above the threshold that ensures 100% efficiency. The $M_{jj}$ regions utilize triggers with different prescales, resulting in integrated luminosities of 0.10 pb$^{-1}$ ($M_{jj} < 0.4$ TeV), 1.54 pb$^{-1}$ ($0.4 < M_{jj} < 0.5$ TeV), 17 pb$^{-1}$ ($0.5 < M_{jj} < 0.6$ TeV), 73 pb$^{-1}$ ($0.6 < M_{jj} < 0.8$ TeV), 0.5 fb$^{-1}$ ($0.8 < M_{jj} < 1.0$ TeV), and 0.7 fb$^{-1}$ ($M_{jj} > 1.0$ TeV).

The position of the pp interaction is reconstructed using a tracking system consisting of silicon microstrip detectors and scintillating fibers, located inside a 2T solenoidal magnet [12], and is required to be within 50 cm of the detector center along the beam direction. The jet four-momenta are corrected for the response of the calorimeter, the net energy flow through the jet cone, energy from event pile-up and multiple pp interactions, and for systematic shifts in $y$ due to detector effects [13]. Cosmic ray backgrounds are suppressed by requirements on the missing transverse momentum in an event [13]. Requirements on characteristics of shower shape are used to suppress the remaining background due to electrons, photons, and detector noise that mimic jets. The efficiency for these requirements is above 97.5%, and the fraction of background events is below 0.1% in all $M_{jj}$ regions.

The $X_{\text{dijet}}$ distributions are corrected for instrumental effects using events generated with PYTHIA v6.419 [14] using tune QW [15] and MSTW2008LO parton distribution functions (PDFs) [16]. The generated particle-level events are subjected to a fast simulation of the D0 detector response, based on parametrizations of resolution effects in $p_T$, the polar and azimuthal angles of jets, jet reconstruction efficiencies, and misidentification of the event vertex. These parametrizations have been determined either from data or from a detailed simulation of the D0 detector using GEANT [17]. The generated events are reweighted according to the $M_{jj}$ distribution in data. To minimize migrations between $M_{jj}$ regions due to resolution effects, we use the simulation to obtain a rescaling function in $M_{jj}$ that optimizes the correlation between the reconstructed and true values. The bin sizes in the $X_{\text{dijet}}$ distributions are chosen to be much larger than the $X_{\text{dijet}}$ resolution. The bin purity after $M_{jj}$ rescaling, defined as the fraction of all reconstructed events that were generated in the same bin, is between 42% and 68%. We then use the simulation to determine $X_{\text{dijet}}$ bin correction factors for the differential cross sections in the different $M_{jj}$ regions. These also include corrections for the energies of unreconstructed muons and neutrinos inside the jets. The total correction factors for the differential cross sections are typically between 0.9 and 1.0, and always in the range 0.7 to 1.1. The corrected differential cross sections within each $M_{jj}$ range are subsequently normalized to their integrals, providing the corrected, final results for $1/\sigma_{\text{dijet}} \cdot d\sigma / dX_{\text{dijet}}$ at the “particle level” as defined.
In order to take into account correlations between systematic uncertainties, the experimental systematic uncertainties are separated into independent sources, for each of which the effects are fully correlated between all data points. In total we have identified 76 independent sources, of which 48 are related to the jet energy calibration and 15 to the jet resolution uncertainty. These are the dominant sources of uncertainty. Smaller contributions are from the jet $\theta$ resolution and from the systematic shifts in $\eta$. All other sources are negligible.

All sources and their effects are documented in Ref. [19]. For $M_{jj} < 1 \text{ TeV}$ ($M_{jj} > 1 \text{ TeV}$) systematic uncertainties are 1%–5% (3%–11%); they are in all cases less than the statistical uncertainties.

The results are available in Ref. [19] and displayed in Fig. 1. The normalized $\chi_{dijet}$ distributions are presented in ten $M_{jj}$ regions, starting from $M_{jj} > 0.25 \text{ TeV}$, and including one region for $M_{jj} > 1.1 \text{ TeV}$. The data are compared to predictions from a perturbative QCD calculation at next-to-leading order (NLO) with non-perturbative corrections applied. The non-perturbative corrections are determined using PYTHIA. They are defined as the product of the corrections due to hadronization and to the underlying event. The NLO results are computed using FASTNLO [20] based on NLOJET++ [21, 22]. All theory calculations use MSTW2008NLO PDFs [16] and the corresponding value of $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.120$. The PDF uncertainties are provided by the twenty MSTW2008NLO 90% C.L. eigenvectors. Renormalization and factorization scales $\mu$ are varied simultaneously around the central value of $\mu_0 = \langle p_T \rangle$ in the range $0.5 \mu_0 \leq \mu \leq 2 \mu_0$, where $\langle p_T \rangle$ is the average dijet $p_T$. The quadratic sum of scale and PDF uncertainties is displayed as a band around the central SM value in Fig. 1. The scale (PDF) uncertainties are always below 5% (2%) so the band is nearly a line.

The theory, including the perturbative results and the non-perturbative corrections, is in good agreement with the data over the whole $M_{jj}$ range with a $\chi^2$ (defined later) of 127.2 for 120 data points in ten normalized distributions. Based on the agreement of the $\chi_{dijet}$ measurement with the SM, we proceed to set limits on quark compositeness, ADD LED, and TeV$^{-1}$ ED models.

Hypothetically, quarks could be made of other particles, as assumed in the quark compositeness model in Ref. [1, 2, 3]. We investigate the model in which all quarks are considered to be composite. The parameters in this model are the energy scale $\Lambda$ and the sign of the interference term $\eta$ between the standard model and the new physics terms. The ADD LED model [4, 5] assumes that extra spatial dimensions exist in which gravity is allowed to propagate. Jet cross sections receive additional contributions from virtual exchange of Kaluza-Klein excitations of the graviton. There are two different formalisms (GRW [23] and HLZ [24]). The model parameter is the effective Planck scale, $M_S$, and the HLZ formalism also includes the subleading dependence on the number $n$ of extra dimensions. The TeV$^{-1}$ ED model [6, 7, 8] assumes that extra dimensions exist at the TeV$^{-1}$ scale. SM production cross sections are modified due to virtual Kaluza-Klein excitations of the SM gauge bosons. In this model, gluons can travel through the extra dimensions, which changes the dijet cross section. The parameter in this model is the compactification scale, $M_C$.

The new physics contributions have only been calculated to leading order (LO), while the QCD predictions are known to NLO. In this analysis, to obtain the best estimate for new physics processes, we multiply the new physics LO calculations bin-by-bin by the SM $k$-factors ($k = \sigma_{\text{NLO}}/\sigma_{\text{LO}}$). The $k$-factors are in the range 1.25–1.5, increasing with $M_{jj}$ and decreasing with $\chi_{dijet}$. Their effects on single bins of the normalized $\chi_{dijet}$ distributions within the different $M_{jj}$ regions is below 12%. The new physics cross sections are computed using the matrix elements from Refs. [2, 3, 5, 8]. The theoretical variations (scale variations and PDF uncertainties) are consistently propagated into both the SM and the new physics contributions. Predictions for the different mod-
els are compared to the $\chi^2_{dijet}$ data and to the SM results in Fig. 1. It is observed that all models predict increased contributions as $\chi^2_{dijet}$ towards large $M_{jj}$. The $M_{jj}$ evolution of the excess towards small $\chi^2_{dijet}$ is observed to be different for different models.

We define the $\chi^2$ between data and theory using the Hessian approach [25] which introduces nuisance parameters for all correlated sources of experimental and theoretical uncertainty. The $\chi^2$ is then minimized with respect to all nuisance parameters, and is therefore only a function of the new physics model parameter(s). In most cases $\chi^2$ has the minimum for a new physics mass scale of infinity, corresponding to the SM value. Only for the quark compositeness model with positive interference and for the TeV$^{-1}$ ED model $\chi^2$ has small minima at $\Lambda = 9.88$ TeV with $\Delta \chi^2 = 0.01$ and $M_C = 2.96$ TeV with $\Delta \chi^2 = 0.28$ below the SM value, respectively.

The $\chi^2$ is then transformed into a likelihood which is used in a Bayesian procedure [10] to obtain 95% C.L. limits on the new physics mass scales $\Lambda$, $M_C$, and $M_S$ in the different models. The prior is chosen to be flat in the new physics mass scale raised to the power in which it appears in the Lagrangian or, alternatively, raised to the power in which it enters the model cross section. While the former has been used in many previous analyses, the latter is statistically preferred for being unbiased in the cross section. Alternatively, we have applied a procedure which defines the 95% C.L. limit as the mass scale at which $\chi^2 - \chi^2_{\text{min}} = 3.84$ [26]. This procedure has the advantage of being independent of an assumed prior. The observed limits and the expectation values are listed in Table I. All observed limits are within one standard deviation of the expected limits.

The limit on $M_C$ obtained in this analysis, while inferior to indirect limits from electroweak precision measurements (Ref. [8] and references therein), is complementary and is the result of the first direct search for TeV$^{-1}$ extra dimensions at a particle collider. The limits on $M_S$ in the different formalisms of the ADD LED model are on average slightly higher as compared to recent D0 results from the combination of 1 fb$^{-1}$ of dielectron and diphoton data in Ref. [27], which were so far the most restrictive limits on ADD LED. Our limits on quark compositeness improve previous results from related dijet observables [9, 10] and are the most stringent limits to date.

In summary, we have presented the first measurement of dijet angular distributions in Run II of the Fermilab Tevatron Collider. This is the first measurement of angular distributions of a hard partonic scattering process at energies above $1$ TeV in collider-based high energy physics. The normalized $\chi^2_{dijet}$ distributions are well-described by theory calculations in next-to-leading order in the strong coupling constant and are used to set limits on quark compositeness, ADD large extra dimensions, and TeV$^{-1}$ extra dimensions models. For the TeV$^{-1}$ extra dimensions model this is the first direct search at a collider. For all models considered, this analysis sets the most stringent direct limits to date.

We thank the staffs at Fermilab and collaborating institutions, and acknowledge support from the DOE and NSF (USA); CEA and CNRS/IN2P3 (France); FASI, Rosatom and RFBR (Russia); CNPq, FAPERJ, FAPESP and FUNDUNESP (Brazil); DAE and DST (India); Colciencias (Colombia); CONACyT (Mexico); KRF and KOSEF (Korea); CONICET and UBACyT (Argentina); FOM (The Netherlands); STFC and the Royal Society (United Kingdom); MSMT and GACR (Czech Republic); CRC Program, CFI, NSERC and WestGrid Project (Canada); BMBF and DFG (Germany); SFI (Ireland); The Swedish Research Council (Sweden); CAS and CNSF (China); and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany).

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[19] See EPAPS Document No. E-PRLTA0-103-025947 for the measurement results and uncertainty correlations. For more information on EPAPS, see http://www.aip.org/pubservs/epaps.html