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Towards the fate of natural composite Higgs model through single t' search at the 8 TeV LHC

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ABSTRACT: We analyze the observational potential of single t' production in both the $t' \rightarrow bW$ and $t' \rightarrow th$ decay channels at 8 TeV LHC using an integrated luminosity of 25 fb^{-1} . Our analysis is based on a simplified model with minimal coset $\text{SO}(5)/\text{SO}(4)$ in which the t' is a singlet of the unbroken $\text{SO}(4)$. The single t' production, as a consequence of electroweak symmetry breaking, is less kinematically suppressed, associated with a light forward jet and has boosted decay products at the 8 TeV LHC. Therefore it provides the most promising channel in searching for a heavy t' . We have exploited the above kinematical features and used the jet substructure method to reconstruct the boosted Higgs in th decay channel. It is shown that a strong constraint on the $t'bW$ coupling ($g_{t'bW}/g_{tbW,SM} < 0.2 \sim 0.3$) at the 95% C. L. can be obtained for $m_{t'} \subset (700, 1000) \text{ GeV}$.

KEYWORDS: Hadronic Colliders

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1 Introduction

The discovery of a 125 GeV Higgs-like boson last year at the Large Hadron Collider motivates us to reconsider the origin of electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB) in the next few decades. One long related outstanding question is the naturalness problem: why we have such a dramatic cancellation on the radiative Higgs effective potential which sensitively depends on the ultraviolet physics. Popular models have been proposed and different solutions can be categorized simply based on the objects which cancel the largest Higgs radiative corrections from the Standard Model (SM) top quark. Light scalar particles (stops) would be essential for natural supersymmetry scenario while vector-like quarks with their contributions from higher dimensional operators would appear in composite Higgs models (CHMs).

The second solution, the existence of vector-like quarks, is related to another historical question that why should we only have three generations of fermions. Another chiral quark which is an exact copy of light generation, is highly constrained by indirect searches like electroweak precision test [1–3], Higgs production and decay [4–8]. Vector-like quarks,¹ nevertheless, are very weakly constrained from the above measurements because their contributions are suppressed by the large vector masses.

More recently, an interesting observation has been made in the context of CHMs on the vector-like quark masses [9–15]. If the EWSB is triggered by the radiative Higgs potential from the top quark which mixes linearly with the composite operator that consists of vector-like quarks, there is an upper bound for the lightest vector-like quark for a 125 GeV composite Higgs for fixed ξ (roughly < 900 GeV for $\xi = 0.1$). This provides a very complementary approach to test CHMs besides the Higgs coupling deviations which depends on

¹It is interesting to notice that extra vector-like quarks can also help to explain the Higgs mass and the muon $g - 2$ anomaly in the context of supersymmetry [16].

$\xi = v^2/f^2$ at the leading order. Therefore, the genuine smoking gun of CHMs is not only the deviation of composite Higgs couplings from SM ones, but also the existence of light vector-like quarks.²

If the lightest vector-like quark is a mixture of top quark and a SO(4) singlet, then its charge is 2/3 and serves as a t' particle. Unlike a chiral t' which primarily decays into bW^+ , the vector t' has large flavor changing neutral couplings to Higgs and Z boson and its decay branching ratios into bW^+ , th and tZ are 2 : 1 : 1 in the Goldstone equivalence limit ($m_{t'} \rightarrow \infty$). Therefore, a comprehensive study combing all the decay channels or at least two would be helpful to get either a strong constraint or a hint for discovery.

The pair production of top partners at the LHC has been searched at CMS which sets the t' mass bound of 570 GeV or 625 GeV at 95% confidence level (C. L.) assuming purely bW or tZ decay [18, 19], while at ATLAS, the bound is 656 GeV at 95% CL for pure bW decay channel [20]. The discovery of Higgs-like boson has made the th decay channel promising, which has been considered in the multi- b jet final state [21–23]. A lower bound of 640 GeV was recently set on the t' mass [24] at ATLAS using high multiplicity of b jets with at least one Higgs boson decaying into $b\bar{b}$. Other channels using the multi- b jet final states in stop decay $\tilde{t} \rightarrow th\tilde{\chi}$ [25] and $t' \rightarrow h^+b$ [26] have also been investigated.

We notice however, for 8 TeV LHC, search for heavy t' (> 600 GeV) from the single production via electroweak couplings could be more promising than the pair production via QCD. First, the single production is less kinematically suppressed by the large t' mass. Second, the extra jet from splitting of a valence quark with one W emission always has a strong forward nature. Third, the next decay products from heavy t' has a large space separation where the further decay products are highly collimated. With all those features, we expect to have a large signal to backgrounds ratio in the single t' production channel. Therefore, in this paper we study the observability of a single t' production at 8 TeV LHC combining both the bW and th decay channels. The tZ channel has either small number of events in the Z di-lepton decay channel or large backgrounds in the Z hadronic decay channel. For th decay channel, jet substructure method is applied to reconstruct the hadronically decaying Higgs boson because of its moderately boost in the relatively high mass region of the t' .

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we describe the main features of the simplified model, in a similar fashion as [27]. In section 3 we discuss the single t' production at the 8 TeV LHC and its decay channels that we consider in this paper. In section 4 we turn to study the prospects of observing the single t' production by performing a detailed analysis of the signal and backgrounds in each channel. We conclude and give a outlook in section 5.

2 Simplified model based on SO(5)/SO(4)

Following [27], we consider a simplified composite Higgs model based on SO(5)/SO(4), where the right-handed top quark t_R belongs to the singlet of SO(4) in the strongly

²We notice that by considering the SU(5)/SO(5) breaking pattern [17], the deviation of the composite Higgs couplings to the SM ones could be much smaller than the case of minimal CHM. Therefore, this provide more support to test CHMs in the top partner searches.

interacting sector. Top Yukawa is generated by the linear coupling of $q_L = (t_L, b_L)^T$ to the composite operators, which in general incorporates the top partners Ψ , according to the partial compositeness scenario [28]. The top partners are usually assigned into the fourplet or singlet of the unbroken $SO(4)$. While the lightest top partner from the fourplet is the exotic charge $5/3$, we focus on the singlet case as the possible lightest top partner with charge $2/3$, t' . The SM elementary fields are embedded as fundamental representation of $SO(5)$ $\xi_L^T = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(ib_L, b_L, it_L, -t_L, 0)_{\frac{2}{3}}$, which formally transforms as $\xi_L \rightarrow g\xi_L$ under $g \in SO(5)$. Note that $2/3$ in the expression is $U(1)_X$ charge in order to reproduce the right electric charge of the SM fields $Q = T^{3L} + T^{3R} + X$, $T^{3(L,R)}$ are the third $SO(4) \simeq SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ unbroken generators. The above way of embedding is not the unique way but can simply protect the tree level $Z\bar{b}_L b_L$ vertex [29].

Based on Callan- Coleman-Wess-Zumino (CCWZ) construction [30, 31], the general effective Lagrangian formally invariant under $SO(5) \times U(1)_X$ to the leading order is:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & \bar{q}_L i \not{D} q_L + \bar{t}_R i \not{D} t_R + \bar{\Psi} i \not{D} \Psi - M_\Psi \bar{\Psi} \Psi \\ & + y f \bar{\xi}_L^I U_{I5} \Psi_R + y c_2 f \bar{\xi}_L^I U_{I5} t_R + h.c., \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

where U is the Goldstone boson 5×5 matrix,

$$U = \exp \left(i \frac{\sqrt{2}}{f} h^{\hat{a}} T^{\hat{a}} \right) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_{4 \times 4} & -\frac{\vec{h} \vec{h}^T}{h^2} \left(1 - \cos \frac{h}{f} \right) & \frac{\vec{h}}{h} \sin \frac{h}{f} \\ -\frac{\vec{h}^T}{h} \sin \frac{h}{f} & & \cos \frac{h}{f} \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.2)$$

and takes a simple form in unitary gauge:

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cos \frac{h}{f} & \sin \frac{h}{f} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\sin \frac{h}{f} & \cos \frac{h}{f} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.3)$$

where we have used the same notation h for $\sqrt{h^{\hat{a}} h^{\hat{a}}}$ in eq. (2.2) and for the physical Higgs field in eq. (2.3). Note that the elementary-composite interactions of eq. (2.1) break the $SO(5)$ explicitly and will contribute to the Higgs potential at the loop level. Here, we have neglected the direct mixing term among t_R and t'_R which can be removed by a field redefinition. There are three parameters (M_Ψ, y, c_2) in addition to the decay constant f and all of them can be made real by phase rotations of the chiral fields. It is then straightforward to obtain the mass matrix after EWSB in the basis (t, t') :

$$\left(\bar{t}_L \quad \bar{t}'_L \right) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{c_2 y f}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\xi} & \frac{y f}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\xi} \\ 0 & M_\Psi \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t_R \\ t'_R \end{pmatrix} = f \left(\bar{t}_L \quad \bar{t}'_L \right) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{c_2 y}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\xi} & \frac{y}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\xi} \\ 0 & g_\Psi \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t_R \\ t'_R \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.4)$$

where $\xi = \sin^2 \frac{\langle h \rangle}{f} = \left(\frac{v}{f} \right)^2$ which is smaller than 0.2 as suggested by Electroweak precision test and $g_\Psi = \frac{M_\Psi}{f}$ which is favored theoretically in the range $1 \lesssim g_\Psi \lesssim 3$. Note that there is a zero element in the mass matrix since the right-handed top quark t_R is a composite

singlet in our case. This remarkable feature of the mass matrix will simplify our calculation significantly as we see below. It is then easy to diagonalize it by chiral rotations of the top quark and the top partner fields:

$$\begin{pmatrix} t_L \\ t'_L \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \\ -\sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t_L \\ t'_L \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} t_R \\ t'_R \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \cos \beta & \sin \beta \\ -\sin \beta & \cos \beta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t_R \\ t'_R \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.5)$$

Similar to [27], we present here the approximate expressions for the mass eigenvalues $(m_t, m_{t'})$ and the sine of left-handed mixing angle $\sin \alpha$, while the exact formulae are easily implemented in a Mathematica package, which are used for our plots in the following sections.

$$m_t \simeq \frac{c_2 y f \sqrt{\xi}}{\sqrt{2}} \left[1 - \frac{y^2}{4g_\Psi^2} \xi \right], \quad (2.6)$$

$$m_{t'} \simeq M_\Psi \left[1 + \frac{y^2}{4g_\Psi^2} \xi \right], \quad (2.7)$$

$$\sin \alpha \simeq \frac{y \sqrt{\xi}}{\sqrt{2}g_\Psi} \left[1 + \frac{2c_2^2 - 1}{4} \frac{y^2}{g_\Psi^2} \xi \right]. \quad (2.8)$$

Recall that the zero element in the mass matrix allows us to further rewrite the sine of right-handed mixing angle β as a function of $(\alpha, m_t, m_{t'})$:

$$\sin \beta = \frac{m_t \sin \alpha}{\sqrt{m_t^2 \sin^2 \alpha + m_{t'}^2 \cos^2 \alpha}}. \quad (2.9)$$

From the equations above, we deduce that the value of $c_2 y$ is approximately one in the expected parameter region to reproduce the correct mass of the top quark and the t' mass receives positive contributions from elementary-composite mixing coupling y , hence y should be limited above for given $m_{t'}$. Note that c_2 is expected to be $\mathcal{O}(1)$, $g_\Psi \gtrsim 1$, we anticipate $\sin \alpha \sim 0.2 - 0.4$. Larger value of $\sin \alpha$ would require smaller value of M_Ψ and larger value of y (i.e. smaller c_2) for fixed $m_{t'}$. If we require $M_\Psi \gtrsim 500$ for $m_{t'} = 700$, $\sin \alpha$ is found to be $\sin \alpha \lesssim 0.7$.

Since we consider the relatively high t' mass region, it is convenient to study its dynamics by using the Goldstone boson equivalence theorem. To get the couplings among t' and the charged, neutral Goldstone fields ϕ^\pm, ϕ^0 , we first rewrite the fourplet \vec{h} in terms of the standard Higgs doublet of $+\frac{1}{2}$ hypercharge:

$$\vec{h} = \begin{pmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \\ h_3 \\ h_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}}(\phi^+ - \phi^-) \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\phi^+ + \phi^-) \\ -\phi^0 \\ h \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.10)$$

Then it is straightforward to obtain the Goldstone couplings by using the explicit form of U matrix in eq. (2.2). Neglecting the EWSB, the mixing term between q_L and t' in the effective Lagrangian gives:

$$y f \bar{\xi}_L^I U_{I5} \Psi_R \sim -\frac{y}{\sqrt{2}} (h - i\phi^0) \bar{t}_L t'_R + y \phi^- \bar{b}_L t'_R. \quad (2.11)$$

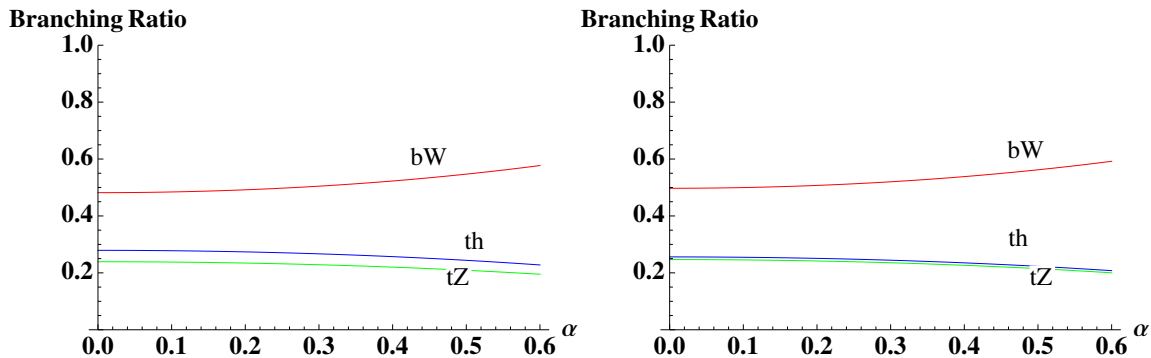


Figure 1. Branching ratios for the three decay modes of t' with $m_{t'} = 700$ GeV. Left panel: $\xi = 0.1$. Red line: bW decay channel; blue line: th decay channel; green line: tZ decay channel. Right panel: the same plot with $\xi = 0.2$.

Note there is a $\sqrt{2}$ suppression of the coupling with the top quark compared to the bottom quark, from which we can easily obtain $\text{BR}(t' \rightarrow th) \approx \text{BR}(t' \rightarrow tZ) \approx \text{BR}(t' \rightarrow bW)/2 \approx 0.25$. One can also calculate the partial decay widths explicitly and obtain the exact formulas [32]:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma_{bW} &= \frac{g^2 \sin^2 \alpha m_{t'}^3}{64\pi m_W^2} f(x_W, x_b) g(x_b, x_W), \\
 \Gamma_{tZ} &= \frac{g^2 \sin^2 \alpha \cos^2 \alpha m_{t'}^3}{128\pi m_W^2} f(x_Z, x_b) g(x_b, x_Z), \\
 \Gamma_{th} &= \frac{g^2 \sin^2 \alpha \cos^2 \alpha m_{t'}^3 (1 - \xi)}{128\pi m_W^2} f(x_t, x_h) [(1 + x_t^2 - x_h^2)(1 + x_t^2) + 4x_t^2], \quad (2.12)
 \end{aligned}$$

where x_i are defined as $x_i = \frac{m_i}{m_{t'}}$, the kinematic functions are given by:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x_i, y_j) &= \sqrt{(1 - (x_i + x_j)^2)(1 - (x_i - x_j)^2)}, \\
 g(x_i, y_j) &= 1 - x_i^2 + x_j^2 (1 + x_i^2) - 2x_j^4. \quad (2.13)
 \end{aligned}$$

In the large mass limit of the top partner $m_{t'} \rightarrow \infty$, $x_i \rightarrow 0$, without the mixing effects, one can see that $\Gamma_{bW} : \Gamma_{tZ} : \Gamma_{th} = 2 : 1 : 1$ from the above expressions in the limit $\xi \rightarrow 0$.

We show the branching ratios of three decay channels by varying left-hand mixing angle α with $m_{t'} = 700$ GeV in figure 1, from which we can see either $\xi = 0.1$ or $\xi = 0.2$, $\text{BR}(t' \rightarrow th) \approx \text{BR}(t' \rightarrow tZ) \approx \frac{1}{2} \text{BR}(t' \rightarrow bW) \approx 0.25$ is a good approximation as expected by Goldstone boson equivalence theorem. We will use this branching fractions in our analysis and $m_{t'} = 700$ GeV as our benchmark point.

3 The single t' production

The single t' can be produced via its electroweak interactions and the leading process is the t-channel which originates from the $W - b$ fusion where W is emitted by a light quark in the

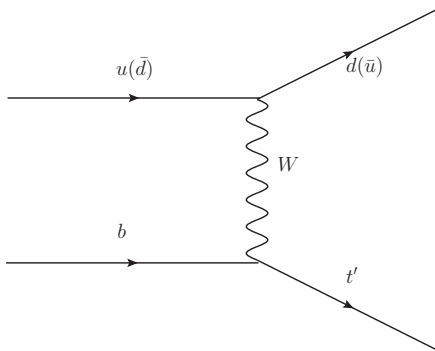


Figure 2. Feynman diagrams of the t-channel single t' production at LO in five-flavor scheme.

proton.³ We calculated the cross section of single t' production, incorporating perturbative QCD corrections up to NLO, using MCFM code [33] in a scheme with the proton containing five quark flavors. The corresponding Feynman diagrams at LO are shown in figure 2.

We plot in figure 3 the cross sections for QCD pair production and electroweak single production of t' with $\sin\alpha = 0.2, 0.3, 0.4$ as a function of its mass. For the t' pair production, we use the HATHOR code [34] which includes perturbative QCD corrections up to NNLO. In all the calculations, we choose the set of the parton distribution functions MSTW2008 [35]. We see that single production rate dominates over pair production in the moderately high mass region with appropriate $t'bW$ coupling which is just $\frac{g}{\sqrt{2}}\sin\alpha$ in the singlet case. This is due to the lower kinematical threshold of single t' production in comparison with the pair production.

Another advantage of considering single t' production channel is that it is a direct probe of the $t'bW$ coupling since the decay branching ratios for the three different decay channels are almost fixed especially for heavy t' .

Concerning the t' decay, we consider the bW and th decay channels in this paper and study their practical observability by analysing the signal and backgrounds respectively. For the th decay channel, we take the advantage of multi- b signature of the signal from Higgs decay and its large transverse momentum magnitude so that jet substructure method can be used to tag the boosted Higgs. Additionally, leptonic decay of the top will be considered in order to suppress the overwhelming QCD multi-jet backgrounds. We do not consider the tZ decay channel here because of the small number of events for leptonic Z decay, although one can use the top tagging method to improve the discovery potential.

4 Event generation and analysis

In this section, we analyze the observation potential of each channel by performing a Monte Carlo simulation of the signal and background events and applying the suitable selection cuts to maximize the significance.⁴ We will take $m_{t'} = 700$ GeV as our benchmark scenario

³There is another possibility that the new vector-like quarks mix sizably with the SM light quarks (see [36]), but then their masses are not connected to EWSB. We do not consider this case in our paper although their production cross section will be very large due to the mixing with valence quarks.

⁴For the full analysis, we use the pythia to decay the top, and it is shown in our sample simulation that the top polarization effect does not change the cutting efficiencies we have used in the paper.

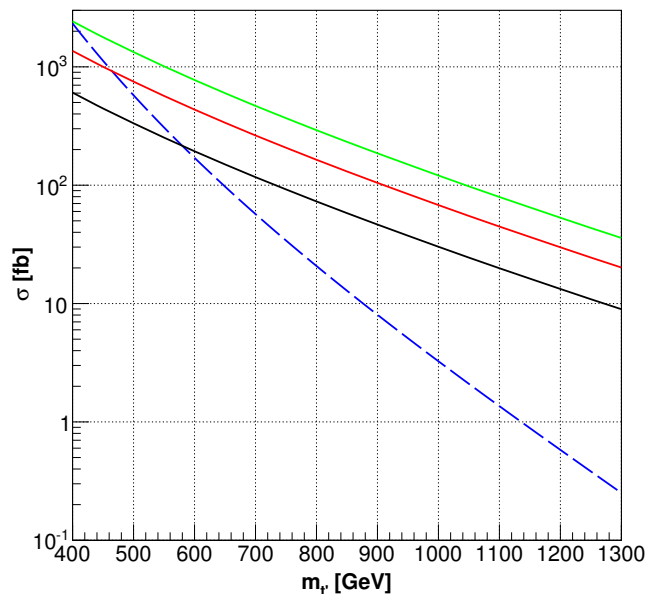


Figure 3. Cross sections of electroweak single t' productions and QCD pair production. The solid black, red, green or dashed blue line stands for the electroweak single production with $\sin\alpha = 0.2, 0.3, 0.4$, or QCD pair production, respectively.

to illustrate event reconstruction techniques used in the analysis. Results of different masses of the top partner are shown separately assuming $\sin\alpha = 0.2$ and $\sin\alpha = 0.3$ for bW decay channel, while for th decay channel the value of $\sin\alpha = 0.4$ is adopted. We finally derive the expected 95% C. L. exclusion plots in the $m_{t'} - \sin\alpha$ plane for each channel and for combination of the two channels.

4.1 bW decay channel

In this section, we consider the bW decay channel of the top partner t' with subsequent decay of W boson into $\ell\nu$, where ℓ is either an electron or a muon. The largest background comes from the $W +$ light jets with one of the jets misidentified as a b -quark jet. The cross section is normalized as ~ 3.96 nb from MadGraph5 [37] LO calculation multiplied with a K-factor of 1.2, where the jet partons are required to have $p_T > 30$ GeV. $W + b +$ light jets and $W + b\bar{b}$ can also make contributions to the backgrounds because they contain real b -quarks. The cross sections are 38.4 pb and 11.5 pb obtained similarly with $W +$ light jets. The second important background is $t\bar{t}$ with cross section ~ 238 pb as obtained from approximate NNLO QCD calculations with HATHOR [34]. Other smaller backgrounds come from single top [38–40] and diboson (WW, WZ) production.

The interactions of t' are implemented into an UFO file for MadGraph5 [37] by using the Feynrules [41] package based on the simplified model. Parton-level events for the signal and backgrounds are generated by MadGraph5 [37] and interfaced to PYTHIA-6.420 [42] for parton-showering and hadronization, after which Delphes 3.0.5 [43] is used for detec-

tor simulation. The decay of SM particles (top quark and W boson) are performed in PYTHIA 6.420. Jets are reconstructed using anti- k_t algorithm [44] with a radius parameter $R = 0.4$ and required to satisfy $|\eta| < 4.5$ and $p_T > 30$ GeV. For the b-quark jets, only the ones satisfying $|\eta| < 2.5$ are considered. In addition, we take the b-tagging efficiency of 70% for b-quark jets, miss-b-tagging probability of 1% for light jets and 20% for c-quark jets [24]. Furthermore, leptons are required to have $|\eta| < 2.5$, $p_T > 25$ GeV and be isolated. By “isolated”, we mean the scalar p_T sum of the tracks and the calorimeter cells within a cone of $R = 0.2$ around the lepton is no more than 10% of the lepton transverse momentum, where the calculation is done by simulating the energy flow algorithm.

We first impose the following basic cuts to reduce the backgrounds:

1. There is exactly one isolated lepton.
2. The missing transverse energy \cancel{E}_T is required to be larger than 10 GeV.
3. There are exactly one b -tagged jet and no more than three jets in total. If there are two untagged jets, we adopt the one with higher absolute value of η as the forward jet candidate.

We do not reconstruct the leptonic W , because the reconstruction of the longitudinal momentum of the neutrino from W decay is not good enough due to the large uncertainty in our energy scale. We only take advantage of the large p_T of the b -tagged jet and the lepton decaying from the relatively high mass of t' and the forward nature of the untagged jet from the light quark produced together with the top partner. Based on the kinematical distributions of the signal and backgrounds in figure 4, we impose the following cuts furthermore to get a high significance:

4. We require the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of the b -tagged jet, the untagged jet, and the lepton to have $H_T > 500$ GeV.
5. We require the b -tagged jet to have $p_T > 200$ GeV, the lepton to have $p_T > 150$ GeV and the light untagged jet to have $|\eta_j| > 2.5$.
6. The invariant mass of the b -tagged jet and the lepton is required to have $m_{b\ell} > 400$ GeV, while the invariant mass of the b -tagged jet and the untagged jet m_{bj} is larger than 500 GeV.

We present the cut flow of the signal and background events in table 1, where the second column corresponds to the number of events we generated by Madgraph5 and the third column denotes the events normalized with the luminosity of 25 fb^{-1} . We finally obtain 11.3 signal and 63 background events in this decay channel, thus getting a local significance of 1.4σ assuming $\sin\alpha = 0.2$. We further explore the discovery potential by varying the mass of the t' and the result is shown in table 2 for $\sin\alpha = 0.2$ and table 3 for $\sin\alpha = 0.3$. As we can observe, the local significance decreased slowly from 3.0σ to 1.8σ by varying the t' mass. This is because of the slowly decreasing cross section and the larger transverse momentum of the objects as t' becomes heavier so that the cut efficient

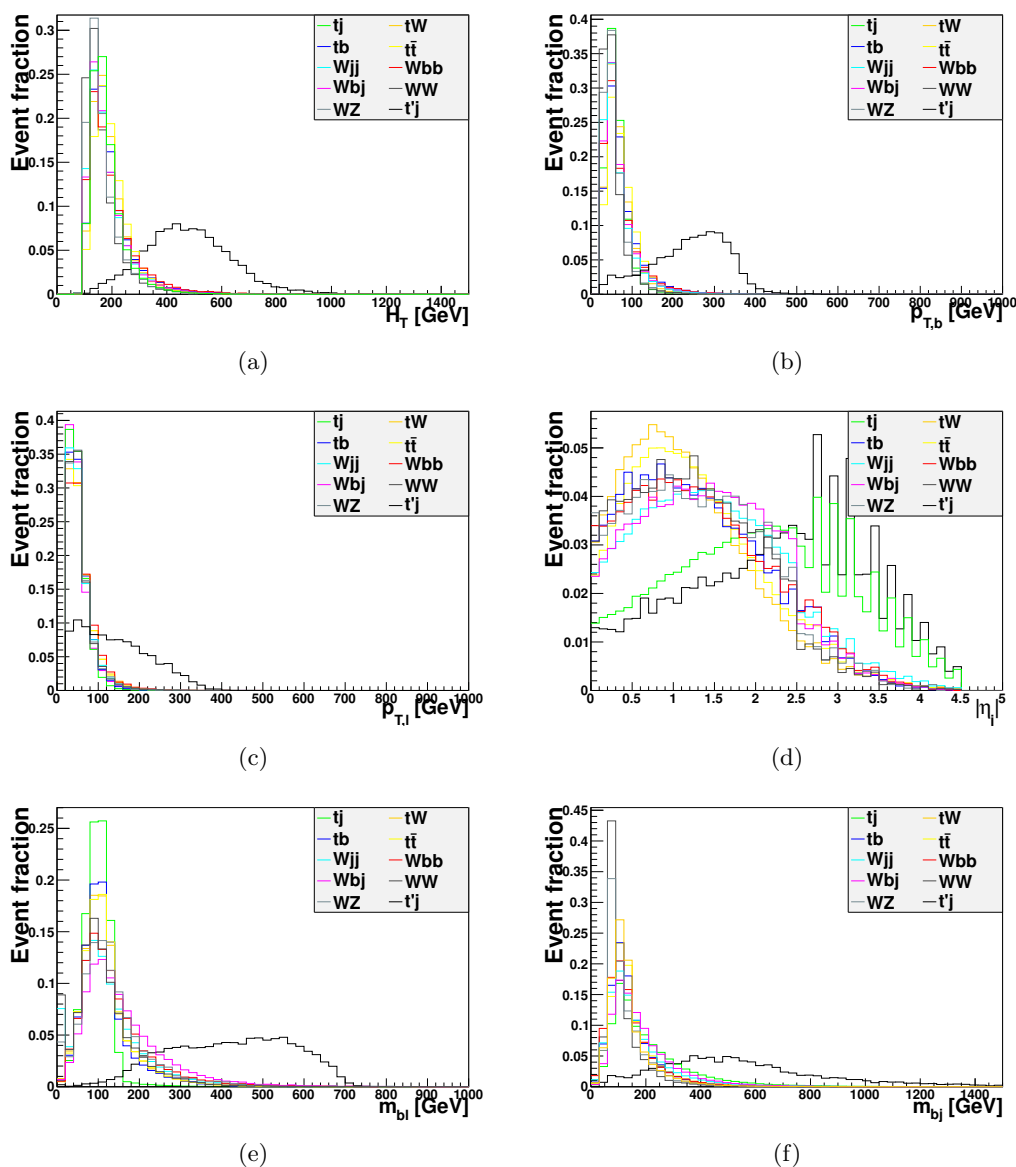


Figure 4. Distributions for the signal and backgrounds of (a) H_T , (b) $p_{T,b}$, (c) $p_{T,\ell}$, (d) $|\eta_j|$, (e) $m_{b\ell}$, (f) m_{bj} after the basic cuts in the $t' \rightarrow bW$ decay channel. The shapes are normalized to unit area.

is higher. Using these results, we depict the expected 95% C. L. exclusion region of this channel in figure 8, from which we can see that this channel will set a strong constraint on the size of mixing $\sin\alpha$ for $m_{t'}$ up to 1 TeV. We also show the constraints for purely chiral fourth generation which has a unit branching fraction of $t' \rightarrow bW$.

4.2 th decay channel

Let us now turn to describe the search strategy for the $3bjW$ channel. The Main background comes from the $t\bar{t}$ +jets production with semi-leptonic decay of the top quark pair.

Process	Generated	Normalized	Cut 1-3	Cut 4	Cut 5	Cut 6
Wjj	39999995	99000000	473641	4893	87	47
$t\bar{t}$	10000000	5950000	311437	1994	15	9.5
$Wb\bar{b}$	400000	288000	12884	234	2.9	2.2
Wbj	1000000	960000	37251	338	3.8	1.9
WW	2000000	1335000	8834	53	1.3	1.3
tW	999998	560000	42563	225	3.4	1.1
tb	300000	140000	6027	65	0	0
tj	2999999	2200000	119071	614	0.7	0
WZ	500000	550000	4505	19	0	0
Total background		110983000	1016210	8435	114	63
$t'j \rightarrow bWj$	100000	1463	122	52	16	11.3

Table 1. Cut flows for the signal and backgrounds in the analysis of the single t' production channel with t' decaying to b and W boson assuming $m_{t'} = 700$ GeV and $\sin\alpha = 0.2$. Charge conjugate production modes are implied in the process. Results are shown for the signal assuming the 50% branching ratio of $t' \rightarrow bW$ decay.

$m_{t'}$ (GeV)	S (no cut)	S	B	$\frac{S}{\sqrt{S+B}}$	Significance(σ)
700	1463	11.3	63	1.3	1.3
750	1153	11.1	63	1.3	1.3
800	911	10.2	63	1.2	1.2
850	726	9.8	63	1.1	1.2
900	581	8.6	63	1.0	1.1
950	468	7.0	63	0.8	0.8
1000	378	6.3	63	0.8	0.7

Table 2. Results for different masses of the top partner assuming $\sin\alpha = 0.2$ in the $t' \rightarrow bW$ decay channel.

$m_{t'}$ (GeV)	S (no cut)	S	B	$\frac{S}{\sqrt{S+B}}$	Significance(σ)
700	3291	25.4	63	2.7	3.0
750	2593	25.0	63	2.7	2.9
800	2050	23.0	63	2.5	2.7
850	1634	22.1	63	2.4	2.6
900	1308	19.4	63	2.1	2.4
950	1052	15.8	63	1.8	1.9
1000	849	14.2	63	1.6	1.7

Table 3. Results for different masses of the top partner assuming $\sin\alpha = 0.3$ in the $t' \rightarrow bW$ decay channel.

This is the most challenging one because of its largest cross section (~ 238 pb) and large miss-b-tagging rate ($\sim 20\%$) of the c-quark jets from the hadronically decaying W boson [24]. Other backgrounds like $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$, $Wb\bar{b}$ +jets can be neglected under our consideration.

Parton-level events for the signal and background are generated by MadGraph5 [37] and interfaced to PYTHIA6.420 [42] for parton-showering and hadronization. For $t\bar{t}$ + jets, MLM matching scheme implemented in pythia is adopted to avoid double-counting in certain regions of phase space. To simulate a realistic experiment environment, we include the smearing effect by using the tracks and the calorimeter tower information, output by the energy flow algorithm from the Delphes 3.0.5 [43], as the (fat)-jet constituents. In what follows, we describe the physical object reconstruction techniques and the selection criteria for the candidate events.

Jets are reconstructed using Fastjet 3.0.3 [45]. Firstly, we search for the Higgs fat jet using Cambridge-Aachen algorithm with radius $R = 1.4$ and require its two leading subjets b-tagged. Once the Higgs fat jet is reconstructed, we erase its constituents from the input particles, while the remaining ones are clustered into narrow jets using anti- k_t algorithm with a width parameter $R = 0.4$. Furthermore, the narrow jets are required to satisfy $|\eta| < 4.5$ and $p_T > 30$ GeV and only b-jets satisfying $|\eta| < 2.5$ are considered. In addition, we take the b-tagging efficiency of 70% for b quark jets, miss-b-tagging probability of 1% for light jets and 20% for charm jets.⁵ Secondly, leptons are required to have $|\eta| < 2.5$, $p_T > 25$ GeV and to be isolated. The isolation requirement is the same with that described previously in the bW decay channel.

To reconstruct the boosted Higgs fat jet, we first follow the BDRS [46] procedure to decompose the fat jets which satisfy $p_T > 40$ GeV to two subjets j_1 and j_2 with $m_{j_1} > m_{j_2}$. Next, we require a significant mass drop condition $m_{j_1} < \mu m_j$ with $\mu = 0.667$ and that the splitting is not too asymmetric, i.e., $y = \min(p_{T,j_1}^2, p_{T,j_2}^2) \Delta R_{j_1,j_2}^2 / m_j^2 > y_{\text{cut}}$ with $y_{\text{cut}} = 0.09$. Finally, we filter the Higgs neighbourhood similar to the BDRS, resolving the fat jets on a finer angular scale, $R_{\text{filt}} = \min(0.35, R_{j_1,j_2}/2)$ and taking the three hardest objects (subjets) that appear, which will eliminate much of the underlying event contamination.

Since Higgs is a color singlet, the b -partons from its decay are color-connected and most radiations will be contained within two angular cones around the b -partons as a result of angular ordering. This radiation pattern controlled by the color flow will provide complimentary information, which is used to define the *pull* for discrimination [47]. In our case, the Higgs is moderately boosted and it may be more useful to use the jet dipolarity instead [48].⁶ The dipolarity \mathcal{D} is defined as:

$$\mathcal{D} \equiv \frac{1}{R_{12}^2} \sum_{i \in J} \frac{p_{Ti}}{p_{TJ}} R_i^2, \tag{4.1}$$

where R_{12} is the angular distance between the two subjets, $R_{12}^2 = (\eta_1 - \eta_2)^2 + (\phi_1 - \phi_2)^2$, and R_i is the minimum euclidean distance between each particle (η_i, ϕ_i) in the fat jet and the line segment that joins (η_1, ϕ_1) and (η_2, ϕ_2) in the $\eta - \phi$ plane. In our calculation, (η_1, ϕ_1) and (η_2, ϕ_2) are identified with those of the two b -tagged subjets in the filtered

⁵We notice that ref. [23] assume the same light and charm quark mis-b-tagging rate, therefore underestimates the backgrounds.

⁶We thank Tao Liu for the useful discussions and the feedback of their cutting efficiency from the pull angle in ref. [25].

	$t\bar{t}+\text{jets}$	$t'j + \bar{t}'j \rightarrow 3bWj$
Generated	30732326	1999998
Normalized	5950000	1697
Cut 1-3	7277	35
Cut 4	178	15
Cut 5	25.4	7.3
Cut 6	6.6	4.1
Acceptance	0.000011	0.0024

Table 4. Cut flows for the signal and background in the analysis of the single t' production channel with t' decaying to top and Higgs for $\sin\alpha = 0.4$ and $m_{\nu'} = 700$ GeV. Results are shown for the signal assuming the 25% branching ratio of $t' \rightarrow th$ decay.

Higgs fat jet and we include all the radiations contained within the two cones of size $R_{12}/\sqrt{2}$ centered around the b -tagged subjects, i.e. we also include the soft radiations which are discarded by the mass drop criterion and filtering. We do not simulate underlying events, but we expect this will not change our results significantly because we choose the smaller cone when including the soft radiations.

The event selection requires at least one filtered fat jet with two leading subjects b -tagged and the highest p_T one will be referred as the $h \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ candidate. Other fat jets will be dropped and the particles will be used to reconstruct the narrow jets with $R = 0.4$ as illustrated above. We then impose the following basic cuts to reduce the backgrounds:

1. There is exactly one isolated lepton.
2. The missing transverse energy \cancel{E}_T is required to be larger than 10 GeV.
3. There is at least one b -tagged jet and one untagged jet in addition to the Higgs fat jet. The leading b -jet will be referred to the top decaying b -jet candidate and the untagged one with the largest absolute value of η will be treated as the light jet produced in association with the top partner.

From table 4, we can see that even after the basic cuts, the backgrounds are significantly rejected. For further analysis, we show the distributions of some important kinematical variables after the basic cuts in figure 5 and figure 6, from which we can infer that one can obtain good discrimination between signal and backgrounds. Here, several remarks are in order. Firstly, the distribution of the invariant mass of the reconstructed boosted Higgs fat jet has been broadened as a result of the limited resolution of the detector. Because of the small number (~ 35) of signal events in hand after the basic cuts, we impose a relatively large mass window around the true Higgs mass. Secondly, since the reconstruction of the leptonically decaying W boson is not as good as expected ($\sim 30\%$), we just abandon the information of the reconstructed top and turn to the system of the leading b -tagged jet and the unique isolated lepton. Some kinematical variables are found to be very useful such as the transverse momentum of the (b, ℓ) system $p_{T,b\ell}$, the invariant mass of the Higgs fat jet, the b -tagged jet and the lepton $m_{h,b\ell}$ and the distance of the Higgs jet with the

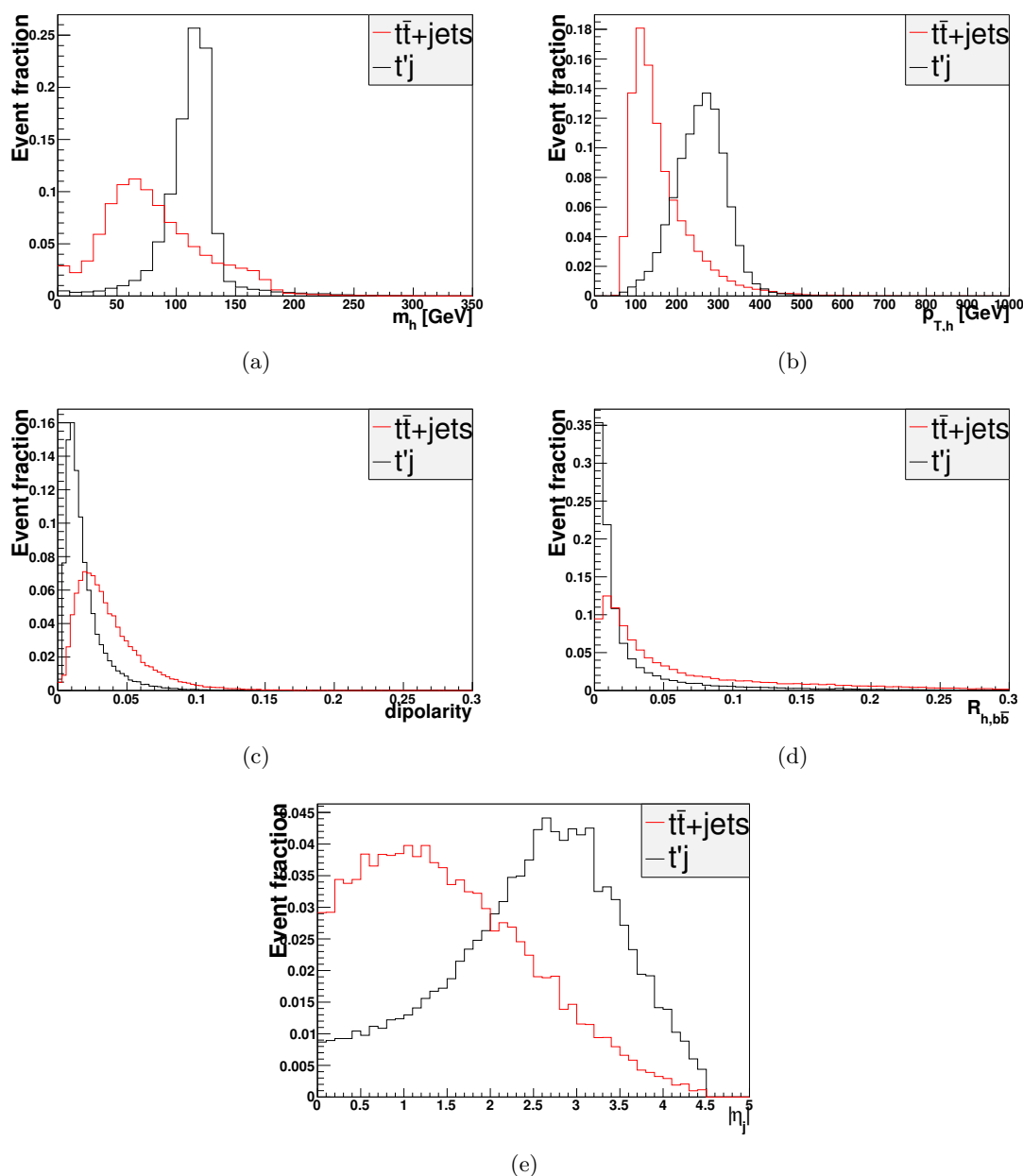


Figure 5. Distributions for the signal and background of (a) m_h , (b) $p_{T,h}$, (c)dipolarity, (d) $R_{h,b\bar{b}}$, (e) $|\eta_j|$ after the basic cuts in the $t' \rightarrow th$ decay channel. The shapes are normalized to unit area.

(b, ℓ) system $R_{h,b\ell}$. They tend to have larger value for the signal as a result of the heavy t' that we search for. In order to enhance the significance, we in further impose the following conditions:

4. We require the Higgs fat jet to have $p_{T,h} > 200$ GeV and the distance between the Higgs and its $b\bar{b}$ subsystem $R_{h,b\bar{b}}$ is smaller than 0.05. We also impose a relatively large mass window for it around the true Higgs mass, $m_h \in [100, 130]$ GeV. In addition, we require the dipolarity of the Higgs fat jet is smaller than 0.02.

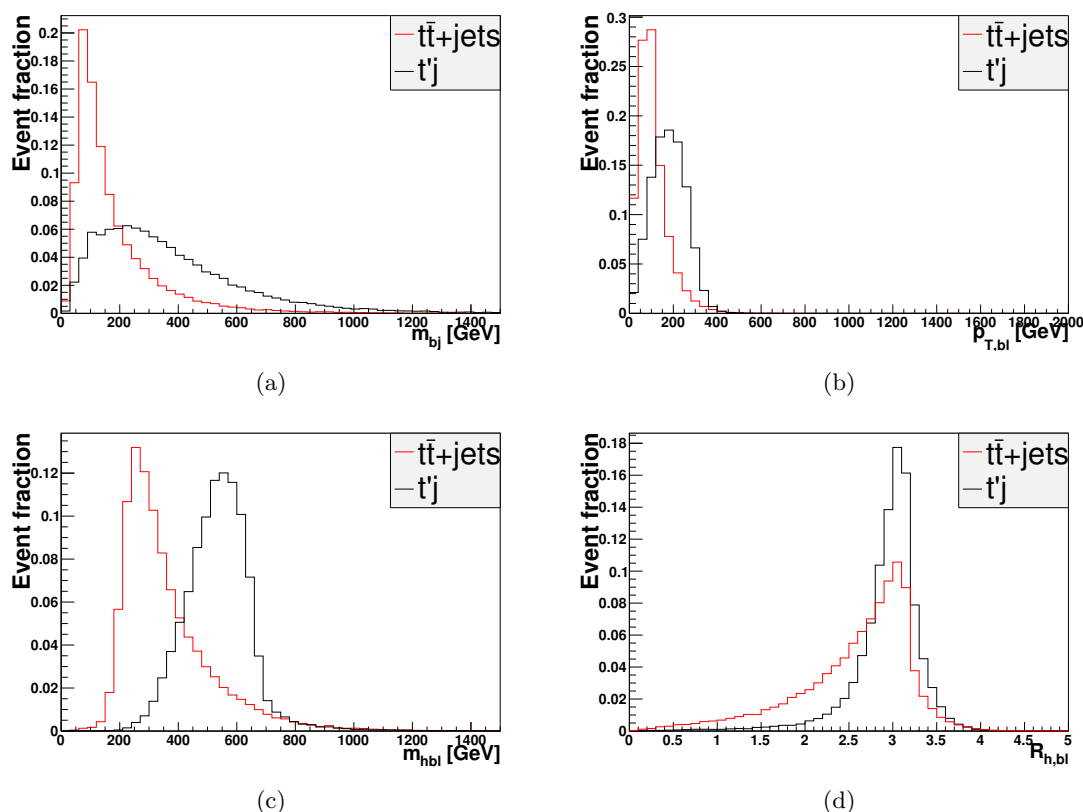


Figure 6. Distributions for the signal and background of (a) m_{bj} , (b) $p_{T,bl}$, (c) $m_{h,bl}$, (d) $R_{h,bl}$ after the basic cuts in the $t' \rightarrow th$ decay channel. The shapes are normalized to unit area.

5. The light untagged jet is required to have $|\eta_j| > 2.5$ and the invariant mass of the b-tagged jet and the untagged jet m_{bj} is larger than 200 GeV.
6. We choose $p_{T,bl} > 160$ GeV, $450 \text{ GeV} < m_{h,bl} < 650$ GeV and the distance of Higgs candidate with the system of the leading b-tagged jet and the lepton $R_{h,bl}$ is larger than 2.0.

We present the cut flow of the signal and background events in table 4 assuming $\sin\alpha = 0.4$, where the second row corresponds to the number of events we generated by Madgraph5 and the third row denotes the events normalized with the luminosity of 25 fb^{-1} . We obtained 4.1 signal and 6.6 background events with $S/\sqrt{S+B} \sim 1.3$, and a local significance of 1.5σ . In order to gain more discrimination power, we apply the boosted decision tree (BDT) method [49] which are implemented in the ROOT TMVA package [50]. In addition to the kinematical variables described above, we add the following: $p_{T,b}, p_{T,j}, p_{T,\ell}, \eta_b, m_{b\ell}, m_{T,W}$, where $m_{T,W}$ is the transverse mass of the leptonically decaying W boson, which is defined as $m_{T,W} = \sqrt{2p_{T,\ell} \cancel{E}_T (1 - \cos\Delta\phi_{\ell, \cancel{E}_T})}$.

We have trained 1000 decision trees and the outputs are presented in figure 7, from which we observe that good discrimination can be obtained between signal and background. We finally obtain 9.7 signal and 10.1 background events, thus getting $S/\sqrt{S+B} \sim 2.2$,

$m_{t'}$ (GeV)	S(no cut)	S	B	$\frac{S}{\sqrt{S+B}}$	Significance (σ)
700	1697	9.7	10.1	2.2	2.7
750	1337	10.1	14.3	2.0	2.5
800	1057	10.5	24.4	1.8	2.0
850	842	9.9	25.2	1.7	1.8
900	674	7.5	15.9	1.6	1.8
950	542	8.3	25.9	1.4	1.5
1000	438	5.6	13.2	1.3	1.4

Table 5. Results for different masses of the top partner assuming $\sin\alpha = 0.4$ obtained by BDT analysis in the $t' \rightarrow th$ decay channel.

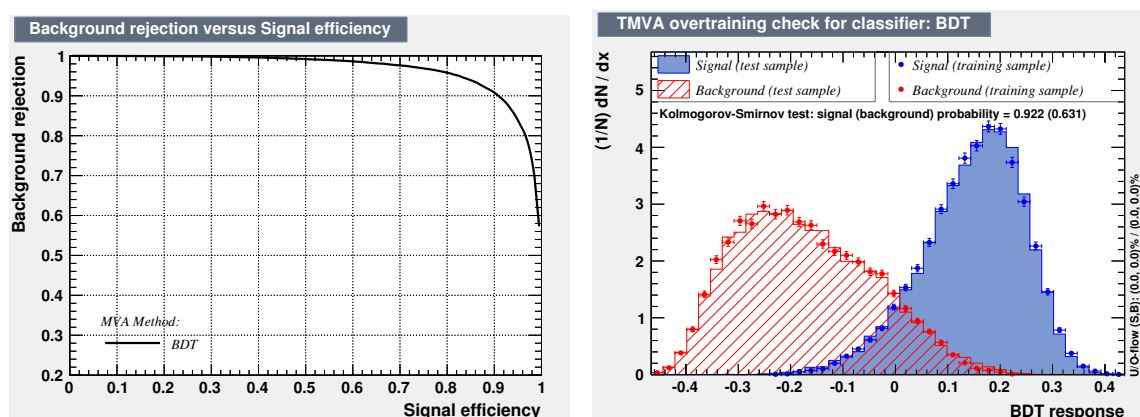


Figure 7. The outputs of BDT analysis. Left panel: background rejection vs. signal efficiency. Right panel: normalized distributions of BDT response for signal and background.

and a local significance of 2.7σ . In table 5, we show the BDT results for different mass of t' with $\sin\alpha = 0.4$, from which we can see that this channel can have evidence up to 1 TeV. Using these results, we plot the expected 95% C. L. exclusion region in the $m_{t'} - \sin\alpha$ plane in figure 8. In this figure, we also show the combined 95% C. L. exclusion region of $t' \rightarrow th$ and $t' \rightarrow bW$ decay channels, from which we can observe that the single t' production channel at the 8 TeV LHC will set a strong constraint on the $t'bW$ coupling with the mass of t' up to 1 TeV. The current V_{tb} constraint from the single top measurements [51, 52] only sets a much weaker upper limit on the parameter $\sin\alpha < 0.59$ in our simplified model, which we depict in figure 8. We have also shown the expected 95% C. L. exclusion region in the $m_{t'} - c_2$ plane in figure 9 in the composite Higgs model.

5 Summary

In this paper, we have studied the prospects of observing the single t' production at the 8 TeV LHC in the bW and th decay channels with 25 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity. To illustrate our result, we adopt the simplified model based on the minimal coset $\text{SO}(5)/\text{SO}(4)$, where the top partner is from the singlet of the unbroken $\text{SO}(4)$. We focus on the relatively

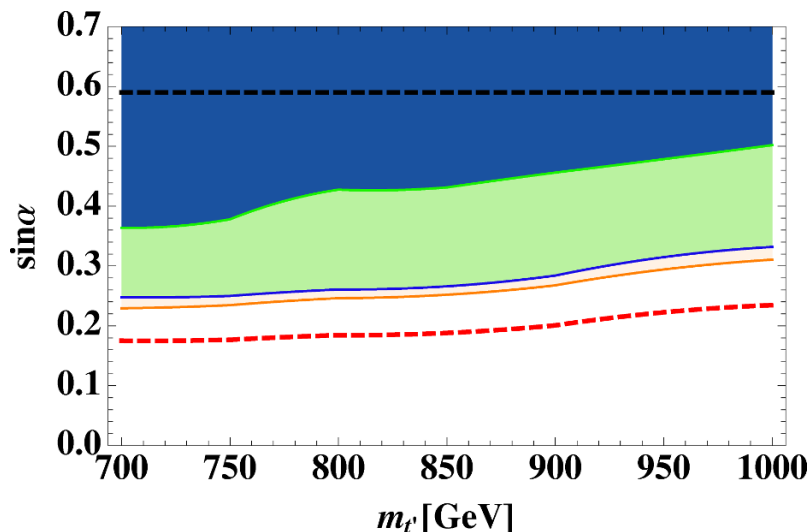


Figure 8. Expected exclusion (95% C. L.) region in the $(m_{t'}, \sin \alpha)$ plane. In green: $t' \rightarrow bW$ decay channel, in blue: $t' \rightarrow th$ decay channel, in orange: combination of the two channels. The black dashed line is the bound from the current V_{tb} constrain and red dashed line is the constrain for the purely chiral fourth generation.

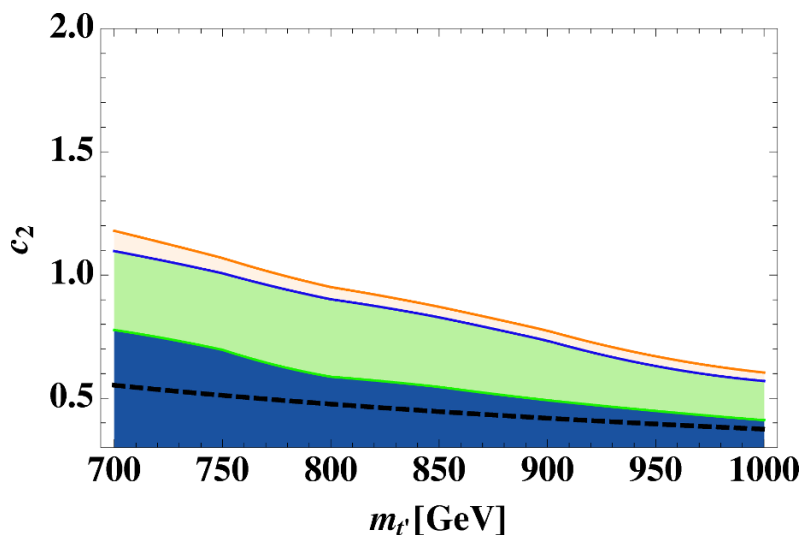


Figure 9. Expected exclusion (95% C. L.) region in the $(m_{t'}, c_2)$ plane. In green: $t' \rightarrow bW$ decay channel, in blue: $t' \rightarrow th$ decay channel, in orange: combination of the two channels. The black dashed line is the bound from the current V_{tb} constrain.

high mass region of the top partner so that the single production is more efficient than the pair production at 8 TeV LHC. Since the single t' production depends on the $t'bW$ coupling and the t' mass (the decay branching ratios are close to the equivalence limit for heavy t'), we constrain the parameter space in the $m_{t'} - \sin \alpha$ plane, where α is the left-hand mixing angle between the top quark and the top partner. In the bW decay channel, we rely on the large p_T of the b-jet, the lepton, and the forward nature of the light jet to suppress the

backgrounds. In the th decay channel, we have exploited jet substructure method to tag the boosted Higgs boson with decaying into $b\bar{b}$, where the dominate background is the $t\bar{t}$ + jets with large mis-b-tagging rate of c-quark from the W decay. We also analyse the jet dipolarity of the Higgs which is a color singlet to improve discrimination ability. Combining the two results from the above two channels, we finally derive the expected 95% C. L. exclusion region in the $m_{t'} - \sin\alpha$ plane, from which we conclude that the single t' production will set a strong constraint on the $t'bW$ coupling ($\sin\alpha \in [0.2, 0.3]$) at the 8 TeV LHC for $m_{t'} \in [700, 1000]$ GeV. Interestingly, our constraint does not sensitively depend on the t' mass because our cut efficiencies are much better for large t' mass.

The single t' production, which only exists after EWSB through $t - t'$ mixing, is intrinsically connected to the origin of EWSB. The size of such a mixing ($\sin\alpha$), which represents the compositeness of top quark, is a critical parameter to induce the radiative Higgs potential from top quark loops, which give us the most important contribution for EWSB. Therefore, we expect our constraints from the single t' production at the early LHC, especially those on the mixing size of a heavy t' , when elaborated by the experimentalists in the future, would provide much more sophisticated understanding on the true nature of composite EWSB.

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