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Authors
Acosta, D.
The CDF Collaboration

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Search for Scalar Leptoquark Pairs Decaying to $\nu\bar{\nu}q\bar{q}$ in $p\bar{p}$ Collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV


(CDF Collaboration)

1. Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan 11529, Republic of China
2. Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439
3. Institut de Fisica d'Altes Energies, Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, E-08193, Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain
4. Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, University of Bologna, I-40127 Bologna, Italy
5. Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts 02254
6. University of California at Davis, California 95616
7. University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California 90024
8. University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, California 92093
9. University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California 93106
10. Instituto de Fisica de Cantabria, CSIC-University of Cantabria, 39005 Santander, Spain
11. Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
12. Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637
13. Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, RU-141980 Dubna, Russia
14. Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708
15. Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510
16. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611
17. Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, I-00044 Frascati, Italy
We report on a search for the pair production of scalar leptoquarks, $LQ$, using 191 pb$^{-1}$ of proton-antiproton collision data recorded by the CDF experiment during Run II of the Tevatron. The leptoquarks are sought via their decay into a neutrino and quark yielding missing transverse energy and several jets of large transverse energy. No evidence for leptoquark production is observed, and limits are set on $\sigma(p\bar{p} \rightarrow LQLQ \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}qqX)$. Using a next-to-leading order theoretical prediction of the cross section for scalar leptoquark production, we exclude first-generation leptoquarks in the mass interval 78 to 117 GeV/c$^2$ at the 95% confidence level for $\text{BR}(LQ \rightarrow \nu q) = 100\%$.

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The remarkable symmetry between quarks and leptons in the standard model (SM) suggests that some more fundamental theory may exist, which allows interactions between them. Such interactions are mediated by a new type of particle, a leptoquark $LQ$, which carries both lepton and baryon number. A leptoquark is a color-triplet boson with spin 0 or 1, and has fractional electric charge. Leptoquarks are predicted in many extensions of the SM (e.g. grand unification, technicolor, and supersymmetry with $R$-parity violation). The Yukawa coupling of the
leptoquark to a lepton and quark and the branching ratio to a charged lepton, denoted by $\beta$, are model dependent. Usually it is assumed that leptoquarks couple to only one generation to accommodate experimental constraints on flavor-changing neutral currents [2], which allows one to classify leptoquarks as first-, second-, or third-generation. In $pp$ collisions, leptoquarks can be produced in pairs via the strong interaction through $gg$ fusion or $qq$ annihilation. The production rate for scalar leptoquarks is essentially model-independent and is determined by the known QCD couplings and leptoquark mass.

We report on a search for pair production of scalar leptoquarks, with LQ decaying to $\mu q$, resulting in a jets and missing transverse energy ($E_T$) topology. We use $191 \pm 11\text{ pb}^{-1}$ of $pp$ collision data at a center-of-mass energy of 1.96 TeV recorded by the Collider Detector at Fermilab (CDF) during the Tevatron Run II. This analysis is sensitive to leptoquarks of all three generations with $\beta \approx 0$. The previous lower mass limit of 98 GeV/$c^2$ [3] on first-generation leptoquarks in this final state was set by the DO Collaboration. The CDF Collaboration has also published [2] lower mass limits of 123 GeV/$c^2$ and 148 GeV/$c^2$ respectively on second- and third-generation leptoquarks in the $E_T$ plus high-flavor jets final state. Limits on leptoquark production from the Tevatron Run I and HERA experiments as of 1999 are summarized in [4].

CDF is a general-purpose detector that is described in detail elsewhere [7]. The components relevant to this analysis are briefly described here. The charged-particle tracking system is closest to the beam pipe, and consists of multi-layer silicon detectors and a large open-cell drift chamber covering the pseudorapidity $|\eta| < 1$. The tracking system is enclosed in a superconducting solenoid, which in turn is surrounded by a calorimeter. The CDF calorimeter system is organized into electromagnetic and hadronic sections segmented in projective tower geometry, and covers the region $|\eta| < 3.6$. The electromagnetic calorimeters utilize a lead-scintillator sampling technique, whereas the hadron calorimeters use iron-scintillator technology. The central muon-detection system, used for this analysis, is located outside of the calorimeter and covers the range $|\eta| < 1$.

This search centers on selecting events with large $E_T$ and a pair of jets that are acollinear in the transverse plane, because of the neutrinos in the final state. The $E_T$ is defined as the energy imbalance in the plane transverse to the beam direction. A jet is defined as a localized energy deposition in the calorimeter and is reconstructed using a cone algorithm with fixed radius $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{\Delta \eta^2 + \Delta \phi^2} = 0.4$ in $\eta - \phi$ space [8]. We correct jet $E_T$ measurements and $E_T$ for detector effects.

The data sample for this analysis was collected using an inclusive $E_T$ trigger, which is distributed across three levels of online event selection. In the first and second levels of the trigger, $E_T$ is required to be greater than 25 GeV and is calculated by summing over calorimeter trigger towers [10] with transverse energies above 1 GeV. At Level-3 $E_T$ is required to be greater than 45 GeV and is recalculated using full calorimeter segmentation with a tower energy threshold of 100 MeV. We use events from the inclusive high-$p_T$ lepton ($e$ or $\mu$) samples to measure the trigger efficiency directly from data. To reduce systematic effects associated with the online trigger threshold, we select events offline with $E_T > 60$ GeV, where the trigger is fully efficient.

The event electromagnetic fraction ($F_{em}$) and charged fraction ($F_{ch}$) [11] are used to remove events associated with beam halo and cosmic ray sources. We reject events that contain little energy in the electromagnetic section of the calorimeter or that have mostly neutral-particle jets, by requiring $F_{em} > 0.1$ and $F_{ch} > 0.1$. There are 148,462 events in our analysis sample after the initial selection.

The dominant backgrounds to the leptoquark search in the jets and $E_T$ signature are QCD multi-jet production, W and Z boson production in association with one or more jets, and top quark pair production. The ALPGEN generator [12] was used for the simulation of the $W$ and $Z$ boson plus parton production, with HERWIG [13] used to model parton showers. We use the exclusive $Z(\rightarrow ee)+1$ jet sample to determine a scale factor between data and simulation, and apply this factor to all $W/Z+jets$ simulation samples. HERWIG was also used to estimate the contribution from $t\bar{t}$ production.

Data selection requirements were chosen to maximize the statistical significance of the leptoquark signal over background events based on studies of simulated event samples before the signal region data were examined. In addition to $E_T > 60$ GeV, the signal region is defined by requiring that the two highest $E_T$ jets ($E_T > 40$ GeV, $E_T > 25$ GeV) be in the central region $|\eta| < 1$. A third jet with $E_T > 15$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$ is allowed, and we veto events with any additional jets with $E_T > 15$ GeV and $|\eta| < 3.6$. To reject events with $E_T$ resulting from jet energy mismeasurement, we require that the opening angle in the transverse plane between the two highest $E_T$ jets satisfy $80^\circ < \Delta \phi (j_1, j_2) < 165^\circ$. The $E_T$ direction must not be parallel to any of the jets; we require the minimum azimuthal separation between the direction of the jets and $E_T$ to satisfy $30^\circ < \min \Delta \phi (j, E_T) < 135^\circ$. The $E_T$ also must not be antiparallel to the leading $E_T$ jet: $100^\circ < \Delta \phi (j_1, E_T) < 165^\circ$. These criteria reject most of the QCD multi-jet background events. To reduce the background contribution from $W/Z+jets$ and $t\bar{t}$ production, we reject events with one or more identified leptons with $E_T > 10$ GeV (electron candidates) or $p_T > 10$ GeV/c (muon candidates). Criteria similar to those in [11] are used to identify the leptons. To further reduce this background we require each jet not to be highly electromagnetic (jet electromagnetic fraction < 0.9) and to have 4 or more associated tracks for cen-
tral jets ($|\eta| < 1$).

Two methods are employed to estimate the QCD multi-jet contribution in the signal region directly from the inclusive $E_T$ data sample. Among all the offline analysis selection requirements, the azimuthal angular separation requirement between the $E_T$ direction and a jet is most effective at removing QCD multi-jet events. Therefore, for the first method, in addition to the signal region definition, we define a region which is rich in QCD multijet events by requiring that a jet is close to the $E_T$ direction $(20^\circ < \min \Delta \phi(j, E_T) < 27^\circ)$. Studies of simulated QCD multi-jet samples show that the shape of the $E_T$ distribution in this region is similar to the $E_T$ distribution in the signal region. We use $E_T$ and $\min \Delta \phi(j, E_T)$ requirements to define four kinematic regions:

A) $50 < E_T < 57$ GeV, $20^\circ < \min \Delta \phi(j, E_T) < 27^\circ$.

B) $E_T > 60$ GeV, $20^\circ < \min \Delta \phi(j, E_T) < 27^\circ$.

C) $50 < E_T < 57$ GeV, $30^\circ < \min \Delta \phi(j, E_T) < 135^\circ$.

D) $E_T > 60$ GeV, $30^\circ < \min \Delta \phi(j, E_T) < 135^\circ$.

The regions A, B, and C are used to extrapolate the QCD multi-jet contribution into the signal region D: $N_D \approx \frac{N_A}{N_A} N_C$, where $N_A$, $N_B$, and $N_C$ are the remaining number of events in regions A, B, and C, after the $W/Z$+jets and $t\bar{t}$ contributions have been subtracted. For the second method, the combined selection requirement efficiency is measured as a function of $E_T$ in an independent inclusive jet sample at low $E_T$. The extrapolated results of this measurement is then applied to the inclusive $E_T$ sample after the $W/Z$+jets and $t\bar{t}$ contributions have been subtracted. We predict 15.0 $\pm$ 8.0 and 21.5 $\pm$ 12.4 multi-jet events for the first and second methods respectively. We take the weighted average and uncertainty of the two methods as our estimate of the multi-jet background.

We check the simulation predictions for $W/Z$+jets with data in a control region, which is defined by requiring, in addition to 2 or 3 jets, $E_T > 60$ GeV and at least one electron or muon. We observe 144 events in our inclusive $E_T$ sample, which is in excellent agreement with 154.3 $\pm$ 27.9 events predicted from SM processes.

The total detection efficiency ($\epsilon_{LQ}$) is the product of the leptoquark signal efficiency ($\epsilon_{LQ,S}$) and the CDF detector efficiency ($\epsilon_{DET}$). The samples were generated using the CTEQ5.1L parton distribution functions (PDF), with the renormalization and factorization scales set to $\mu = m_{LQ}$. Table I lists the total detection efficiency $\epsilon_{LQ}$, and the corresponding total fractional uncertainty $\delta_{tot}$ for various leptoquark masses. The systematic uncertainty on the signal acceptance includes the uncertainties due to modeling gluon radiation from the initial- and final-state partons (10%), and the choice of the PDF (4%). The limited size of the leptoquark simulation samples gives a 3% statistical uncertainty. The signal acceptance uncertainty due to the jet energy scale varies from 4% to 26%, and the uncertainty on the luminosity is 6%. The uncertainty on the trigger efficiency is 1%. The theoretical uncertainties on the renormalization and factorization scales are not included here, since we conservatively choose the NLO cross section setting $\mu = 2m_{LQ}$ to extract the limits on leptoquark mass. This choice of scale is found to reduce the cross section prediction by 15% relative to $\mu = m_{LQ}$.

In the signal region, we expect 118.5 $\pm$ 14.5 events from SM processes and observe 124 events. The predicted backgrounds from SM processes are summarized in Table II. In Figure 1, the predicted $E_T$ distribution is compared with the distribution observed in data. No evidence for leptoquark production is observed. We calculate the upper limit at the 95% confidence level (C.L.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$m_{LQ}$ (GeV/c²)</th>
<th>$\epsilon_{LQ}$</th>
<th>$\delta_{tot}$ (%)</th>
<th>$\sigma_{NLO}$ (pb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>0.0073</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>69.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>0.0113</td>
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<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>0.1010</td>
<td>12</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Events expected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$W(\rightarrow e\nu)$+jets</td>
<td>6.1 $\pm$ 1.4 $\pm$ 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W(\rightarrow \mu\nu)$+jets</td>
<td>21.7 $\pm$ 2.3 $\pm$ 2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$W(\rightarrow \tau\nu)$+jets</td>
<td>28.4 $\pm$ 3.8 $\pm$ 4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Z(\rightarrow \mu\mu)$+jets</td>
<td>1.1 $\pm$ 0.2 $\pm$ 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Z(\rightarrow \tau\tau)$+jets</td>
<td>0.9 $\pm$ 0.2 $\pm$ 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Z(\rightarrow \nu\nu)$+jets</td>
<td>39.1 $\pm$ 2.8 $\pm$ 3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}$</td>
<td>4.3 $\pm$ 0.4 $\pm$ 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QCD</td>
<td>16.9 $\pm$ 6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Events</td>
<td>118.5 $\pm$ 14.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
on the pair production cross section times the square of the branching ratio of the leptoquark to a quark and a neutrino using a Bayesian approach [10] with a flat prior for the signal cross section and Gaussian priors for acceptance and background uncertainties. The upper limit on the cross section times $(1 - \beta)^2$ is shown in Figure 2 and is compared with the theoretical cross sections. The theoretical cross sections for scalar leptoquark production have been calculated at NLO using CTEQ5M [17] PDFs.

In conclusion, we performed a search for leptoquarks in the jets and $E_T$ topology using 191 pb$^{-1}$ of CDF Run II data. No evidence for leptoquarks is observed. We set an upper limit on the production cross section at the 95% C.L. Assuming a leptoquark decays into a neutrino and quark with 100% branching ratio, we exclude the mass interval from 78 to 117 GeV/c$^2$ for first-generation scalar leptoquarks. This extends the previous limit for the first-generation scalar leptoquark of 98 GeV/c$^2$ [1].

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[8] CDF uses a cylindrical coordinate system in which $\theta$ is the polar angle to the proton beam, $\phi$ is the azimuthal angle about the beam axis, and pseudorapidity is defined as $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$. The transverse energy and transverse momentum are defined as $E_T = E \sin \theta$ and $p_T = p \sin \theta$, where $E$ is energy measured in the calorimeter and $p$ is momentum measured by the tracking system. The missing transverse energy vector, $E_T$, is $-\sum_i E_T^i \mathbf{n}_i$, where $\mathbf{n}_i$ is the unit vector in the azimuthal plane that points from the beamline to the $i$th calorimeter tower.
[10] The physical calorimeter towers are organized into larger trigger towers, covering approximately 0.26 in $\Delta\phi$ and 0.22 in $\Delta\eta$.
[11] $F_{em}$ is the ratio of the energy measured by the electromagnetic calorimeter to the total energy contained in jets of cone radius $\Delta R = 0.4$ with $E_T > 10$ GeV and $|\eta| < 3.6$. $F_{ch}$ is the fraction of the jet energy carried by measured charged-particle tracks ($p_T > 0.5$ GeV/c) averaged over the central jets with $|\eta| < 0.9$. These variables are similar to ones used in T. Affolder et al. (CDF Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 88, 041801 (2002).