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Published in:
Physical Review Letters

DOI:
10.1103/PhysRevLett.104.241802

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):

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Search for Randall-Sundrum Gravitons in the Dielectron and Diphoton Final States with 5.4 fb$^{-1}$ of Data from $p\bar{p}$ Collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV


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The large disparity between the scale of quantum gravity, i.e., the Planck scale, $M_{\text{Pl}} = 10^{16}$ TeV, and the electroweak scale, of the order of 1 TeV, is known in the standard model (SM) as the hierarchy problem. In the presence of this hierarchy of scales it is not possible to stabilize the Higgs boson mass at the low values required by experimental data, unless by using an unlikely large amount of fine-tuning.

In the Randall-Sundrum model [1], the existence of a fifth dimension with a warped spacetime metric is proposed, bounded by two three-dimensional branes. The SM fields are localized on one brane, while gravity originates on the other. With this configuration, TeV scales are naturally generated from the Planck scale due to a geometrical exponential factor (the “warp factor”), $\Lambda_\pi = M_{\text{Pl}} \exp(-k\pi r_c)$, if $kr_c = 12$, where $M_{\text{Pl}} = M_{\text{Pl}}/\sqrt{8\pi}$ is the reduced Planck scale and $k$ and $r_c$ are the curvature scale and compactification radius of the extra dimension, respectively.

Gravitons are the only particles that propagate in the fifth dimension, and appear as a Kaluza-Klein series [2] of massive excitations (KK gravitons, $G$) with spin 2, mass splitting of the order of 1 TeV, and a universal coupling to the SM fields. Phenomenologically, it is convenient to express the two Randall-Sundrum parameters $k$ and $r_c$ in terms of two direct observables: the mass of the lightest graviton between 560 and 1050 GeV for values of the coupling $k/M_{\text{Pl}}$ between 0.01 and 0.1.

Using 5.4 fb$^{-1}$ of integrated luminosity from $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV collected by the D0 detector at the Fermilab Tevatron Collider, we search for decays of the lightest Kaluza-Klein mode of the graviton in the Randall-Sundrum model to $ee$ and $\gamma\gamma$. We set 95% C.L. lower limits on the mass of the lightest graviton between 560 and 1050 GeV for values of the coupling $k/M_{\text{Pl}}$ between 0.01 and 0.1.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.104.241802 PACS numbers: 13.85.Rm, 11.25.Wx, 14.70.Kv, 14.80.Rt
need for fine-tuning, $M_1$ should be in the TeV range and $0.01 \leq k/M_{Pl} \leq 0.1$ [3]. KK graviton resonances could be produced in high energy particle collisions and would subsequently decay to pairs of SM fermions or bosons.

In this Letter, we report an inclusive search for the lightest KK graviton in the $ee$ and $\gamma\gamma$ decay channels with the D0 detector at the Fermilab Tevatron Collider, where protons and antiprotons collide at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV. KK gravitons would be produced via quark-antiquark annihilation and gluon-gluon fusion processes. For $k/M_{Pl} \leq 0.1$, KK gravitons would appear as narrow resonances in the $ee$ and $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass spectra, with a natural width much smaller than the resolution of the D0 detector and with a branching fraction for the $\gamma\gamma$ decay mode which is twice that of the decay to $ee$. Previous D0 searches for KK gravitons have excluded $M_1 < 300$ GeV for $k/M_{Pl} = 0.01$ and $M_1 < 900$ GeV for $k/M_{Pl} = 0.1$ at the 95% C.L. [4]. CDF has recently excluded $M_1 < 889$ GeV for $k/M_{Pl} = 0.1$ at the 95% C.L. [5].

The D0 detector [6,7] consists of tracking detectors, calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer. The tracking system includes a silicon microstrip tracker close to the beam and a central fiber tracker, both located within a 2 T superconducting solenoidal magnet. The liquid-argon and uranium calorimeters consist of a central section covering pseudorapidities $|\eta| \leq 1.1$ and two end cap calorimeters that extend the coverage to $|\eta| = 4.2$, where $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$, and $\theta$ is the polar angle with respect to the proton beam direction. The azimuthal angle is denoted by $\phi$. The electromagnetic (EM) section of the calorimeters is segmented into four longitudinal layers (EMi, $i = 1, 4$) with transverse segmentation of $\Delta \eta \times \Delta \phi = 0.1 \times 0.1$, except for the more finely segmented EM3 section where it is $0.05 \times 0.05$. A preshower system (CPS) uses plastic scintillators with different orientations located between the solenoid and the cryostat of the central calorimeter and provides precise measurements of the positions of EM showers. The luminosity is measured using plastic scintillator arrays placed in front of the end cap calorimeters. The data sample was collected between July 2002 and June 2009 using triggers requiring at least two clusters of energy deposits in the EM calorimeter and corresponds to an integrated luminosity of $5.4 \pm 0.3$ fb$^{-1}$.

We select events with two EM clusters, each with transverse momentum $p_T > 25$ GeV and $|\eta| < 1.1$, reconstructed in a cone of radius $R = \sqrt{(\Delta \eta)^2 + (\Delta \phi)^2} = 0.4$. The EM clusters are required to have at least 97% of their energy deposited in the EM calorimeter and to have the calorimeter isolation variable $I = [E_{iso}(0.4) - E_{EM}(0.2)]/E_{EM}(0.2) < 0.07$, where $E_{iso}(R)$ and $E_{EM}(R)$ is the total [EM] energy in a cone of radius $R$.

Given the different branching fractions for the $\gamma\gamma$ and $ee$ decays of the KK graviton, plus the fact that the two channels have different backgrounds, the analysis treats the two channels separately to optimize the sensitivity. If both EM clusters in an event are spatially matched to tracker activity, either a reconstructed track or a density of hits in the silicon microstrip tracker and central fiber tracker consistent with that of an electron, the event goes in the $ee$ category. Otherwise, the event is put in the $\gamma\gamma$ category, which contains events with at least one EM cluster failing to match tracker activity. With this definition, about 97% of the selected $G \to ee$ events are put in the $ee$ category and about 90% of the selected $G \to \gamma\gamma$ events are put in the $\gamma\gamma$ category.

In the $ee$ category, the two electrons are not required to have opposite charges to avoid the loss due to charge misidentification, and two additional requirements are placed on each EM cluster: (i) the scalar sum of the $p_T$ of all tracks originating from the primary vertex (PV, see below) in an annulus of $0.05 < R < 0.4$ around the cluster, $I_{trk}$, be less than 2.5 GeV; (ii) the cluster be consistent with the electron shower shape using a $\chi^2$ test and a neural network discriminant [8]. In the $\gamma\gamma$ category, additional requirements are placed on each EM cluster: (i) $I_{trk} < 2.0$ GeV; (ii) the energy-weighted shower width in the $r-\phi$ plane in EM3 be less than 3.7 cm; (iii) the cluster be consistent with the photon shower shape using a neural network discriminant.

Proper reconstruction of the event kinematics requires correct identification of the PV of the hard collision. For events in the $ee$ category, the PV is chosen from the list of vertex candidates as the one with the least probability of being a vertex from a soft $p\bar{p}$ interaction as estimated from the $p_T$ of associated tracks. For the $\gamma\gamma$ category, we use the EM-CPS pointing capability, which reconstructs the axes of EM showers by fitting straight lines to shower positions measured in the four longitudinal calorimeter layers and the CPS. The EM-CPS pointing spatial resolution is $3.7 \pm 0.2$ cm along the beam axis. If at least one photon candidate is matched to a CPS cluster [9], the vertex consistent with the EM-CPS pointing position is chosen as the PV. For events with no photon candidate having a CPS match or events with inconsistent EM-CPS pointing positions of the two photon candidates, the PV is chosen as the one with the highest number of associated tracks. The PV is required to lie within 60 cm of the geometrical center of the detector along the beam axis. The data include a total of 203 586 events (186 596 in the $ee$ category and 16 990 in the $\gamma\gamma$ category) that satisfy these selection criteria and with the invariant mass of the two EM clusters $M_{ee/\gamma\gamma} > 60$ GeV.

All Monte Carlo (MC) samples used in this analysis were generated using PYTHIA [10] with CTEQ6L1 [11] parton distribution functions and processed through a GEANT-based [12] simulation of the D0 detector and the same reconstruction software as the data. KK graviton signals in the $ee$ and $\gamma\gamma$ decay channels are simulated over the range of parameters $220 \leq M_1 \leq 1050$ GeV and $0.01 < k/M_{Pl} < 0.1$. The accuracy of the PV association has been studied in KK graviton events, where the PV
reconstruction efficiency is $\approx 98\%$, with $\approx 96\%$ ($=93\%$ probability to match the true vertex in the $ee$ ($\gamma\gamma$) channel. The simulated and observed invariant mass spectra are compared in $ee$ and $\gamma\gamma$ categories separately. The dominant irreducible background in the $ee$ final state is due to the Drell-Yan (DY) process, where an $ee$ mass-dependent $k$ factor [13] is applied to correct the PYTHIA spectrum for next-to-next-to-leading order effects. The dominant irreducible background in the $\gamma\gamma$ final state is SM $\gamma\gamma$ production, where PYTHIA $\gamma\gamma$ events are reweighted to reproduce the $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass spectrum predicted by the next-to-leading-order calculation of DIPHOX [14]. D0 has measured the SM $\gamma\gamma$ differential cross section with respect to the $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass, and in the range used for this analysis (above 60 GeV) the shape of this distribution from DIPHOX agrees with the data [15]. The leading systematic uncertainty on this background’s shape arises from the choices in the scales used in the DIPHOX calculation, and is at the level of 10%. The main instrumental background comes from the misidentification of one or two jets as electrons or photons. The shape of the invariant mass spectrum of this source of events is estimated from data by selecting events with EM clusters that are not consistent with electron or photon showers using the $\chi^2$ test ($ee$ category) or the neural network discriminant ($\gamma\gamma$ category). Other SM backgrounds, due to DY $\tau\tau$, $W + \gamma$, $WW$, $ZZ$, $W +$ jets, and $t\bar{t}$ production, are small and are estimated using PYTHIA Monte Carlo events corrected to account for higher order effects [16–18].

Having obtained the shapes of the invariant mass spectra of the various background sources, the background normalization is determined by fitting the invariant mass spectrum of the data to a superposition of the backgrounds in a low-mass control region ($60 < M_{ee/\gamma\gamma} < 200$ GeV), where KK gravitons have been excluded at the 95% C.L. by previous searches. In the fit, the total number of background events is fixed to the number of events observed in the data, and the contributions from SM $\gamma\gamma$, DY $ee$, and instrumental background are free parameters, while the other SM backgrounds are normalized to their theoretical cross sections. The fit is performed for the $ee$ and $\gamma\gamma$ categories separately. By varying the criteria to select the instrumental background sample and the fitting range, the uncertainty of the background normalization procedure is estimated at the level of 2% (10%) in the $ee$ ($\gamma\gamma$) category.

Figure 1 shows the measured $ee$ and $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass spectra from the data, superimposed on the expected backgrounds. The data and predicted background are generally in good agreement. In the region around 450 GeV there is an excess of events in the $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass spectrum. As estimated with pseudoexperiments, the probability that this excess is exclusively due to backgrounds’ fluctuations is 0.011, implying that the background-only hypothesis is disfavored at the 2.30 standard deviations (s.d.) level. If we assume that this excess is due to a KK graviton, including the $ee$ channel reduces the significance to 2.16 s.d.

In the absence of any significant signal for a heavy narrow resonance, we compute upper limits for the production cross section of KK gravitons times the branching fraction into the $ee$ final state using a Poisson log-likelihood ratio (LLR) test [19]. Invariant mass distributions are utilized in the limit calculation. The $ee$ and $\gamma\gamma$ categories are treated as two independent channels, and then the two separate LLRs are added to obtain a combined exclusion limit assuming the 1:2 ratio of the branching fractions.

Systematic uncertainties on the backgrounds’ predictions and on the signal efficiency are considered to calculate limits. These include the integrated luminosity (6.1%), parton distribution functions (0.7%–6.6% for the acceptance and 9.2%–16.9% for the graviton production cross section), electron and photon identification efficiency.
TABLE I. 95% C.L. upper limit on $\sigma(p\bar{p} \rightarrow G + X) \times B(G \rightarrow ee)$ and coupling $k/M_{Pl}$ from 5.4 fb$^{-1}$ of integrated luminosity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graviton mass (GeV)</th>
<th>$\sigma \times B(G \rightarrow ee)$ (fb)</th>
<th>Coupling $k/M_{Pl}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expected</td>
<td>Observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td>10.62</td>
<td>6.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
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<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750</td>
<td>0.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>800</td>
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<td>0.48</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1000</td>
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<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1050</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3.0% per object), EM cluster energy resolution (6%), and trigger efficiency (0.1%). The uncertainty on the acceptance due to initial state radiation (ISR) is estimated to be 4% by varying the parameters governing ISR in PYTHIA. Uncertainties affecting the expected backgrounds arise from electron and photon identification efficiency (3.0% per object), mass dependence of the DY $ee$ next-to-next-to-leading order $k$ factor (5.0%), shape of the SM $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass spectrum, and background normalization. For the EM energy resolution, the SM $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass spectrum, and the background normalization, we consider both the effects on the normalization and on the shape of the invariant mass distribution used in extracting limits. For all other systematic sources we consider only changes to the overall background normalization or signal detection efficiency. Systematic uncertainties are incorporated via convolution of the Poisson probability distributions for signal and background with Gaussian distributions corresponding to the different sources of systematic uncertainty. Correlations in the systematic uncertainties between signal and background in $ee$ and $\gamma\gamma$ categories are taken into account.

The resulting limits on the production cross section times branching fraction into electron-positron pairs of the lightest KK graviton, $\sigma(p\bar{p} \rightarrow G + X) \times B(G \rightarrow ee)$, are given in Table I and displayed in Fig. 2. As shown in Fig. 3, using the cross section predictions from the Randall-Sundrum model with a $k$ factor of 1.54 [20], we can express these results as upper limits on the coupling $k/M_{Pl}$ as a function of $M_{1}$.

In summary, using 5.4 fb$^{-1}$ of integrated luminosity collected with the D0 detector at the Fermilab Tevatron Collider, we have searched for a heavy narrow resonance in the $ee$ and $\gamma\gamma$ invariant mass spectra. The observed spectra agree with predictions from SM background processes. For the Randall-Sundrum model with a warped extra dimension, we set 95% C.L. upper limits on $\sigma(p\bar{p} \rightarrow G + X) \times B(G \rightarrow ee)$ of the lightest Kaluza-Klein mode of the graviton between 6.7 and 0.43 fb for masses between 220 and 1050 GeV at the 95% C.L., which translate into lower limits on the mass $M_{1}$ of the lightest Kaluza-Klein excitation of the graviton between 560 and 1050 GeV for couplings of the graviton to the SM fields $0.01 \leq k/M_{Pl} \leq 0.1$. These results represent the most sensitive limits to date.
We thank the staffs at Fermilab and collaborating institutions, and acknowledge support from the DOE and NSF (U.S.); 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 and NSERC (Canada); BMBF and DFG (Germany); SFI (Ireland); The Swedish Research Council (Sweden); and CAS and CNSF (China).

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