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Search for invisible decays of the Higgs boson at the ILC

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Abstract

The existence of dark matter has been established in astrophysics. However, there are no dark matter candidates in the Standard Model (SM). If the dark matter particles or their mediator can not interact with SM fermions or gauge bosons, the Higgs boson is the only portal to the dark matter. We present a simulation study to search for invisible decays of the Higgs boson at the ILC with the ILC detector.

*XXIX International Symposium on Lepton Photon Interactions at High Energies - LeptonPhoton2019
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1. Introduction

The existence of dark matter has been established in astrophysics; the rotation curve of a disk galaxy, spacial distributions of luminous baryonic matter and total matter in a collision of galaxy clusters, and an anisotropy spectrum of cosmic microwave background [1], baryon acoustic oscillations [2], and large scale structure of the Universe. However, there are no dark matter candidates in the Standard Model (SM). If the dark matter particles or their mediator can not interact with SM fermions or gauge bosons, the Higgs boson is the only portal to the dark matter. We present a simulation study to search for invisible decays of the Higgs boson at the International Linear Collider (ILC) with the International Large Detector (ILD) detector.

2. ILC and ILD

The ILC is an electron-positron collider. The center-of-mass energy (E_{CM}) is 250 GeV at the first stage and upgradable to at least 1 TeV at Kitakami site. The length of the ILC is about 20km for the first stage and 50km for the 1 TeV upgrade. The ILC has a beam polarization capability of $\pm 80\%$ and $\pm 30\%$ for electron and positron beams, respectively. This is a powerful tool to select the quantum number of intermediate state and to suppress backgrounds. The ILD is one of the two detectors at the ILC experiment. The ILD detector is optimized to particle flow algorithm [3]. All subdetectors, especially calorimeter system, are highly segmented to enable particle flow approach to maximize the jet energy resolution.

3. Run Scenario

The run scenario assumed in this manuscript is based on H-20 scenario [4]. The E_{CM} is initially 250 GeV and upgraded to 350 GeV and 500 GeV. At all three E_{CM} , two polarization configuration are used $P(e^-, e^+) = (-80\%, +30\%)$ and $P(e^-, e^+) = (+80\%, -30\%)$, named ‘‘Left’’ and ‘‘Right’’, respectively in this manuscript. Table 1 summarizes the integrated luminosities.

Table 1: Integrated Luminosities with H-20 scenario.

E_{CM} [GeV]	‘‘Left’’ [fb^{-1}]	‘‘Right’’ [fb^{-1}]
250	1350	450
350	135	45
500	1600	1600

4. Reconstruction

Invisible decays of the Higgs boson can be searched for using a recoil mass technique in $e^+e^- \rightarrow ZH$ processes in a model independent way. The initial state e^+e^- is known since the electron and positron are both elementary and their four momenta are precisely determined by the beam-delivery system. The Z boson is reconstructed from either of $q\bar{q}$ or $\ell^+\ell^-$ (ℓ stands for electron or muon) final states. The Higgs mass can be reconstructed as recoil mass against Z , $m_{\text{rec}}^2 = P_H^2 =$

$(P_{e^+e^-} - P_Z)^2$. Dominant backgrounds are $e^+e^- \rightarrow ZZ, WW$ and $Z\nu\bar{\nu}$ for $Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$. Figure 1 shows the recoil mass distributions of $Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ decays for “Left” and “Right” polarizations [5]. It is notable that the “Right” polarization is suppressing numerous charge-current background processes due to chiral nature of the charge-current interaction.

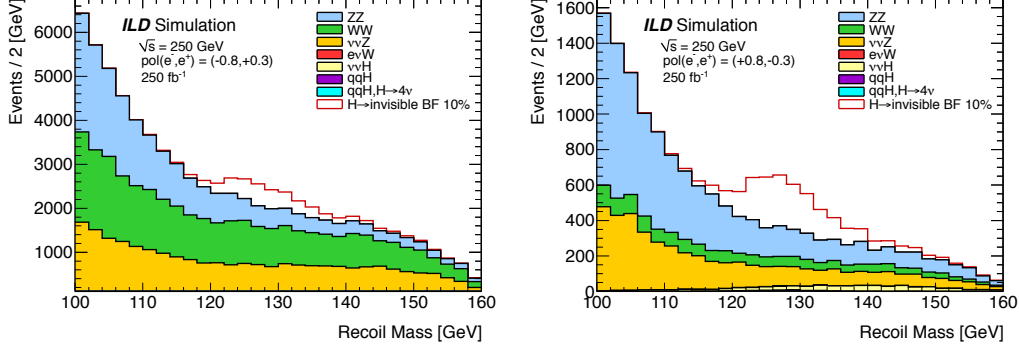


Figure 1: Recoil mass distributions of $Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ for “Left” and “Right” polarizations.

5. Upper Limits on the Branching Fraction

From the recoil mass distributions for signal and backgrounds, we performed ensemble tests to estimate the upper limit on branching fraction of invisible decays of the Higgs boson. The SM process $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\nu$ is also invisible final state and gives the same recoil mass distribution. This known contribution is separately considered in the fit in ensemble test and is not included to the upper limit for the invisible decays of Higgs. The $Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ [5] and $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ [6] are separately analyzed and then combined. Table 2 shows results of upper limits with $Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ and combined $q\bar{q}$ and $\ell^+\ell^-$ cases for each E_{CM} with the same running time. The integrated luminosities of $250 fb^{-1}$, $350 fb^{-1}$ and $500 fb^{-1}$ are taken at E_{CM} of 250 GeV, 350 GeV and 500 GeV, respectively. The upper limit with $q\bar{q}$ final states is much better than that with $\ell^+\ell^-$ thanks to the larger branching fraction of hadronic Z decays. Combination with the result from pure leptonic final state improves precision at all center of mass energies. Lower E_{CM} gives better results since the cross section of $e^+e^- \rightarrow ZH$ is larger at smaller center of mass energies.. The upper limit with “Right” polarization is better than that with “Left” polarization since dominant backgrounds are suppressed. In summary, operation at E_{CM} of 250 GeV with “Right” polarization gives the best upper limit with the same running time.

Table 3 shows the upper limits based on H-20 scenario. By combining all runs, an upper limit of 0.26% can be achieved at the ILC. This result can be compared with the current model dependent LHC results of 26% and 19% by ATLAS [7] and CMS [8], respectively, and 3.8% at HL-LHC with $3 ab^{-1}$ [9]. The ILC will give two orders (one order) of magnitude better result than current LHC (future HL-LHC) experiments.

6. Conclusion

The ILC is the ideal place to search for invisible decays of the Higgs boson with model inde-

Table 2: Upper limits on the branching fraction of invisible decays of the Higgs boson in percent assuming the same running time for each E_{CM} corresponding to $250 fb^{-1}$, $350 fb^{-1}$ and $500 fb^{-1}$ at 250 GeV, 350 GeV and 500 GeV, respectively.

E_{CM} [GeV]	$Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$		$Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ and $\ell^+\ell^-$	
	“Left”	“Right”	“Left”	“Right”
250	0.95	0.65	0.86	0.61
350	1.49	1.37	1.23	1.10
500	3.16	2.30	2.39	1.73

Table 3: Upper limits on the branching fraction of invisible decays of the Higgs boson in percent based on H-20 scenario.

E_{CM} [GeV]	$Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$			$Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ and $\ell^+\ell^-$		
	“Left”	“Right”	combined	“Left”	“Right”	combined
250	0.41	0.51	0.32	0.37	0.45	0.28
350	2.40	3.82	2.03	1.98	3.07	1.66
500	1.77	1.29	1.04	1.34	0.97	0.79
combined	–	–	0.30	–	–	0.26

pendent recoil mass technique. With H-20 scenario, an upper limit on branching fraction of Higgs decaying to invisible final state of 0.26% can be achieved.

7. Acknowledgment

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