PHYS6011 Experimental Particle Physics - Problem Set 3 Questions - 2011

- 1. Given an average luminosity $1.1 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} s^{-1}$, estimate how often the following inclusive processes occur at the ATLAS detector (1 barn = 10^{-24} cm^2):
 - (a) $pp \rightarrow b\overline{b} : \sigma \sim 10 \,\mu b$
 - (b) $pp \to W : \sigma \sim 10 \,\mathrm{nb}$
 - (c) $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} : \sigma \sim 10 \,\mathrm{pb}$
- 2. The top width (i.e. the quantum uncertainty in its mass) is expected to be about $1.5 \,\text{GeV}/c^2$. What is its lifetime? Explain why there are no top-flavoured hadrons given $\Lambda_{QCD} \approx 200 \,\text{MeV}$.
- 3. What fraction of top pair production events will have a "di-lepton" final state i.e.

$$pp \to t\bar{t} \to l_1 l_2 \nu_1 \nu_2 b\bar{b}$$
 (1)

where l_1 and l_2 can be either 2 electrons, two muons or one of each.

- 4. In a semi-leptonic top pair candidate event there is a muon, a transverse momentum imbalance, two *b*-tagged jets (b_1, b_2) and 2 non-tagged jets (j_1, j_2) . The measured jet energies and directions in spherical coordinates ($\theta = 0$ is the beam directions, the *x* axis is horizontal and all angles are in radians) are as follows:
 - $b_1: E = 145 \,\text{GeV}$ $\theta = 0.3 \ \phi = -1.6$
 - $b_2: E = 90 \,\text{GeV}$ $\theta = 1.3 \,\phi = -0.2$
 - $j_1: E = 125 \,\text{GeV} \ \theta = 0.9 \ \phi = 2.1$
 - $j_2: E = 15 \text{ GeV} \ \theta = 1.7 \ \phi = -1.7$
 - (a) The momenta of the jets approximates the momenta of the original partons. Write down the 4-momenta of the four final state quarks (assume j_1 and j_2 come from mass-less partons). Hint: to convert from spherical coordinates to rectangular coordinates $(p_x, p_y, p_z) = (p \sin \theta \cos \phi, p \sin \theta \sin \phi, p \cos \theta)$
 - (b) Show that the light quark jets are consistent with being the decay products of a W. (Hint: assume they come from the decay $X \to j_1 j_2$ and calculate the mass of X).
 - (c) Which of the two b jets probably came from the same top quark as this hadronically decaying W?
- 5. A search for the supersymmetric particle of the top quark, the *stop* or \tilde{t} , using 200 pb⁻¹ has an expected background of 17 events with a total systematic error of 5 events. The data shows 30 selected events:
 - (a) How significant is this excess?
 - (b) Assuming that the excess is really due to a signal, approximately how much more data will need to be collected before a discovery can be claimed (significance S> 5)? Assume the systematic error remains constant.
- 6. The fraction of $B^0\overline{B}^0$ particles (created by colliding e^+e^-) decaying to a K^{*+} and a K^{*-} $(B^0\overline{B}^0 \to K^{*+}K^{*-})$ compared to total number of decays $(B^0\overline{B}^0 \to X)$ has been measured to be $(0.6 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-6}$. This is called the Branching Fraction.

- (a) What is the probability that the number of decays is in fact zero or less?
- (b) As the result is not significant, we need to quote an upper limit on the Branching Fraction in our paper. What Branching Fraction X should we quote that ensures that there is a 95% chance that the true Branching Fraction is less than X?