ASSOCIATED PRODUCTION OF AN ISOLATED, LARGE-TRANSVERSE-MOMENTUM LEPTON (ELECTRON OR MUON), AND TWO JETS AT THE CERN $p\bar{p}$ COLLIDER

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A clear signal is observed for the production of an isolated large-transverse-momentum lepton in association with two or three centrally produced jets. The two-jet events cluster around the $W^\pm$ mass, indicating a novel decay of the Intermediate Vector Boson. The rate and features of these events are not consistent with expectations of known quark decays (charm, bottom). They are, however, in agreement with the process $W \rightarrow tb$ followed by $t \rightarrow bW$, where $t$ is the sixth quark (top) of the weak Cabibbo current. If this is indeed so, the bounds on the mass of the top quark are $30 \text{ GeV/c}^2 < m_t < 50 \text{ GeV/c}^2$.\footnote{Present address: University of Victoria, Canada.} \footnote{Visitor from the University of Padua, Italy.}

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1. Introduction. The UA1 Collaboration has recorded 68 events with e±νe decays [1] of the charged Intermediate Vector Boson (IVB), and a more restrictive sample of W± → μ±νμ decays [2] (14 events). These events have a remarkably clean signature: the main kinematical effect of the composite nature of the initial hadrons is limited to a longitudinal motion and a transverse momentum given to the IVB. Occasionally, the emission of one or more QCD jets radiated from the incident partons is also observed [3],1. In agreement with expectations for initial state bremsstrahlung, these jets are emitted primarily along the incoming beam directions and have a rapidly falling transverse energy distribution.

Observation of the electronic and muonic decay modes of the IVB has provided an understanding of the production process and has built up confidence in the apparatus necessary to extend the search to the quark decay modes. The structure of the weak current responsible for the hadronic decays of the IVBs is expected to be coupled to charge 2/3 quarks and to the Cabibbo-rotated states d¢, s¢, b¢ (namely, linear combinations of charge 1/3 quarks) with the same strength as the coupling to leptons. From the number of observed leptonic decays, taking into account detection efficiencies and colour factor, we conclude that (255 ± 30)W± → ud¢ and the same number of W± → cs¢ must also have been produced in the same data sample. Unfortunately, the observation of these decays is made very difficult by the presence of a relatively large QCD jet background.

The present paper deals with the search for the sixth quark, the t-quark (top or truth), which completes the family of the weak currents with a third doublet (t¢) which manifests itself in the decay W± → tbc (and also W→ tbc), provided mt > 22 GeV/c². Previous, unsuccessful searches for the t-quark in e+e- colliding beams [5] have established a mass limit mt > 40 GeV/c² the reduction factor with respect to massless quarks is 0.71, giving, before detection cuts, an expectation of (181 ± 20)W± → tbc decays from our integrated luminosity.

We concentrate on the semileptonic decay channels of the t-quark:

W± → tbc(t → ℓ±νbcbc) ℓ ≡ (electron, muon)

(and the corresponding reaction for W). In spite of the smaller number of events due to the additional semileptonic branching ratio, this channel is chosen for the clean signature it provides, i.e. two jets, a lepton, and some missing transverse energy (ν) [6]. These events have several features which permit them to be identified and separated from other sources of background:

(i) The invariant mass of the (bcbcν) system must peak around the W mass. Replacing the neutrino momentum pν by the measured missing transverse energy ΔEₘ [5] broadens the peak somewhat, with a small shift of the average mass value.

(ii) The invariant mass of the (bcν) system must be compatible with a common value, namely mt (to a good approximation after the substitution pν → ΔEₘ).

(iii) The t-quark is heavy (mt > 22 GeV/c²) and therefore relatively slow in the laboratory. Angles between particles from the decay in the laboratory are very wide. Furthermore, the lepton momentum has a large component normal to the b¢ jet, pₙ. In the case of decays of lighter quarks (b, c), pₙ < (mb/2, mc/2).

(iv) The recoiling b¢ jet has a characteristic Jacobian peak in the transverse energy distribution, which makes it possible, in most cases, to distinguish it from the other, lower-energy b¢ jet.

As discussed in detail further on, a simple set of topological cuts on the event configuration enables us to extract an essentially background-free event sample.

1 A brief summary can be found in ref. [4]. The contribution from leptonic W decays to the lepton plus two-jet channel is negligible (<0.1 event) after requiring a missing transverse energy of less than 15 GeV and two central jets with transverse energy greater than 7 GeV.

2 The scalar missing energy ΔEₘ is defined as the apparent momentum imbalance in the transverse plane, obtained by adding energy depositions vectorially in all calorimeter cells. Since the calorimetry covers essentially a 4π solid angle, this quantity reflects the transverse component of the momentum of the emitted neutrino(s).

3 The invariant mass mt reflects the "bare" quark mass. Small changes are expected for physical top particles, in which the top quark is bound to "ordinary", much lighter quarks. Within the present accuracy, this effect can be neglected.
However, the number of surviving events is also considerably reduced. For a semileptonic branching ratio \( \sim 1/9 \) ("naive" prediction based on lepton and quark counting) and \( m_t = 40 \text{ GeV}/c^2 \), we expect \((20 \pm 2.2)\) electrons (both signs) and an equal number of muons. With reasonable cuts on the transverse energy of jets and leptons [\( E_T(b_c) > 8 \text{ GeV}; E_T(b_c) > 7 \text{ GeV}; p_T(\ell) > 12 \text{ GeV}/c \)] we arrive at \((4 \pm 0.3)\) events for each leptonic channel, before geometrical and track isolation cuts.

Searching for this small number of events deserves some remarks:

(i) Both the muon and the electron samples will be used in order to increase the significance of the result. Evidence of an effect must rely on its independent observation in both decay channels.

(ii) The electron and muon identification must be considerably improved with respect to the previous search for leptonic IVB decays, since now the signal is only \( \sim 1/20 \) of the \( W \to \ell + \nu \) rate and the average lepton energy is a factor of \( \sim 3 \) smaller, which greatly enhances the probability of hadrons simulating the leptonic signature. Furthermore, the event topology requires a dominant jet activity, thus enhancing QCD associated backgrounds.

Finally, a residual leptonic signal due to \( W \to t\bar{b}_c \) decays must be clearly separated from production of \((b\bar{b})\) and \((c\bar{c})\) with subsequent associated semileptonic decays, which are copious sources of leptons and jets. The cross section and kinematics of heavy quark pair-production via gluon-related and quark-related strong interaction graphs are relatively poorly known at collider energies. In order to extract from the data the information needed to reliably evaluate the expected background from this source, a parallel analysis has been performed aimed at strong interaction production of heavy quarks.

2. The electron sample. As described extensively in previous publications [1,7] \(^{44}\) to which we refer the reader for details, after momentum \((p)\) determination from the magnetic curvature measured by the central detector, electron identification is based on absorption in the \( 27 X_0 \) of a 4\( \pi \) lead/scintillator calorimeter hodoscope segmented four times in depth \((3 X_0, 7 X_0, 10 X_0, 7 X_0)\), followed by a hadron calorimeter in which only a small residual energy \( E_{\text{had}} \) is expected. Each of the four segments of the lead/scintillator calorimeter cells is read out by four independent photomultipliers in a way that permits the determination, by pulse division, of the centroid of the energy deposition in two orthogonal directions.

In the previously reported observation of the \( W \to e^+\nu_e \) decay [1], very generous selection criteria were sufficient to obtain an essentially pure event sample, namely: (i) a charged track of \( p_T > 7 \text{ GeV}, \) of projected length \( > 30 \text{ cm} \) and with at least 20 digitizings; (ii) an energy deposition of \( E_T > 15 \text{ GeV} \) in two adjacent EM cells; (iii) a match within \( 5 \text{ SD} \) between the impact of the track and the centroid of the energy depositions in the calorimeter; (iv) an energy deposition \( E_{\text{had}} < 600 \text{ MeV} \) in the subsequent hadronic calorimeter; (v) electron isolation, namely no more than 10% of the electron energy is allowed for any additional energy deposited in a cone around the electron track \( \Delta R \equiv (\Delta \eta^2 + \Delta \phi^2)^{1/2} \ll 0.7, \) where \( \phi \) is the azimuthal angle measured in radians and \( \eta \) is the rapidity; and (vi) no jet back-to-back in \( \phi \) with respect to the electron within \( \pm 30^\circ \). In this way, we have detected \( 49 \) \( W \to e^+\nu_e \) events, completely background free and satisfying the additional condition [6] \( \Delta E_m > 15 \text{ GeV} \). These events give us an ideal electron calibration sample for the present search.

However, as soon as the limitation on the jet activity (vi) and the missing-energy requirements are dropped, we find a much larger sample of presumably heavily contaminated events. Requiring the electron transverse energy \( E_T > 12 \text{ GeV} \), and tightening the \( E_{\text{had}} \) condition to \( E_{\text{had}} < 200 \text{ MeV} \) leaves us with as many as 152 events. A first reduction of the sample can be achieved by removing photon conversions in the beam tube and in the walls of the central detector. These events can easily be recognized, by scanning or program, by looking for tracks which have a small minimum distance \( D \) from the electron track. As one can see from figs. 1a and 1b, there is a large peak centred around \( D = 0 \), mostly from track pairs having charges of opposite signs. Applying a cut on \( D \) at \( 3\sigma \), forty-three conversions are removed. Recognition of conversions by program and by scanning agree very well, and the number of conversion events is in agreement with expectations [9], based on the flux of high-energy \( \pi^0\)'s and the amount of material traversed.

\(^{44}\) The UA1 Collaboration is preparing a comprehensive report on the detector [8].
Fig. 1. Identification of π0 conversions. (a) The minimum distance D (at the point where the tracks are parallel) between the energetic electron candidate and the nearest track in the drift plane of the central detector is shown normalized by the error on this quantity. When the unreconstructed partners recognized by visual scanning are included, a cut at 3σ removes 43 conversions. (b) The rate of identified conversions shown as a function of the transverse momentum of the low-PT partner, compared with the expected rate [9]. The loss at higher values of PT reflects the isolation criteria imposed on the energetic electron.

The remaining 109 events are still largely contaminated by multiple particle overlaps, namely jets with one charged energetic hadron and one or several π0's simulating the CM behaviour. In order to eliminate this background, we raise the electron transverse energy threshold to 15 GeV and make use of the full rejection power of the detector, namely: (i) a good match between the momentum measurement and the energy deposition in the calorimeters, \( (1/p) - (1/E) < 3σ \); (ii) a good electromagnetic shape in the energy depositions of the four EM segments, characterized [9] by \( \chi^2_R < 20 \); and (iii) a stricter isolation requirement for the electron track, namely that the \( Σp_T \) of all other tracks and the energy deposited in all calorimeters \( ΣE_T \) be less than 1 GeV in a cone of \( ΔR < 0.4 \) around the track. This new selection leads to twelve events, namely seven events with electrons and one jet and five events with at least two jets. Forty-four out of the forty-nine \( W \) events survive these cuts. One can compare the distributions of \( ΣE_T \) versus \( χ^2_R \) for the calibration sample of \( W^± → e^±ν_e \) decays (fig. 2a), the sample of single jets (fig. 2b), and the sample of events with at least two jets (fig. 2c). Whilst both the \( ≥2 \) jet events and \( W → e^±ν_e \) events have a cleanly isolated electron and small values of \( χ^2_R \), the single-jet events are more widely distributed, and indeed their precise number depends on the choice of our cuts, indicating that in general they are not truly isolated. We concentrate on the five events with \( ≥2 \) jets. Their main parameters are listed in tables 1 and 2. Their electron properties closely resemble the ones of the \( W \) calibration sample (fig. 3).

Next we shall evaluate the expected background. As already pointed out, the dominant background is expected to come from QCD jets faking electrons by fragmenting, such that one energetic charged pion overlaps with one or more neutral pions. Two methods have been used to estimate this background: (i) a global method, using a \( π^0 + ≥2 \) jet data sample, in which the shape of the expected QCD background distribution is compared with the shape of the corresponding distribution for the candidate events; (ii) a direct method in which the absolute rate of \( π^± + π^0 + \) jet events is extracted from \( π^± + \) jet selection. The probability that the selected \( π^± \) pass the isolated electron selection criteria is then folded into the resulting estimated background rate.

The shape of the QCD background from \( π^0 + ≥2 \) jet events is shown in fig. 4a, in which \( E_T^{π^0} \), the transverse energy component of the isolated \( π^0 \) perpendicular to the plane formed by the p\( p \) axis and the highest \( E_T \) jet (\( j_1 \)) is plotted as a function of \( cos θ^*_j \). The angle \( θ^*_j \) is between the average (p\( p \)) beam axis and the low-
Fig. 2. Electron isolation. The electron quality parameter $\chi^2_R$ [10] is shown as a function of the energy accompanying the electron candidate in a cone of $\Delta R < 0.4$ around the track. This is shown for (a) $W \rightarrow e^\pm \nu_e$ events, (b) $e^\pm$ single-jet events, and (c) $e^\pm \geq 2$ jet events.
Table 1
Event parameters for the isolated electron + two-jet events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Electron</th>
<th></th>
<th>Jet 1</th>
<th></th>
<th>Jet 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>E_{\tau} (GeV)</td>
<td>\eta (deg.)</td>
<td>\phi (deg.)</td>
<td>E_{\tau} (GeV)</td>
<td>\eta (deg.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6301/716</td>
<td>19.5 \pm 0.8</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
<td>-114</td>
<td>6.7 \pm 5.6</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7443/509</td>
<td>19.1 \pm 0.7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4.5 \pm 6.4</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8578/983</td>
<td>18.3 \pm 0.7</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>5.1 \pm 6.4</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2
Event parameters for the isolated lepton + three-jet events.

| Event | Lepton | Type | | Jet 1 | | Jet 2 | | Jet 3 |
|-------|--------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| E_{\tau} (GeV) | \eta (deg.) | \phi (deg.) | E_{\tau} (GeV) | \eta (deg.) | E_{\tau} (GeV) | \eta (deg.) | E_{\tau} (GeV) | \eta (deg.) |
| 7700/487 | \mu^- | 21.4 \pm 2.6 | 1.7 | -12 | 2.2 \pm 7.0 | 22.9 | -161 | 1.3 | 12.0 | 61 | 1.8 | 9.5 | 31 | 0.3 |
| 5069/192 | e^+ | 15.0 \pm 0.7 | 0.7 | -41 | 26.7 \pm 5.7 | 19.5 | -150 | -0.7 | 14.1 | 32 | -0.5 | 13.0 | -149 | 0.8 |
| 6899/804 | e^- | 18.0 \pm 0.8 | -0.3 | -58 | 9.7 \pm 5.7 | 16.9 | 83 | 0.6 | 8.8 | -121 | -0.1 | 8.5 | 169 | -0.7 |

est \( E_T \) jet (j_2) in the \((\pi^0 j_1 j_2)\) rest frame. The five electron + \(\geq 2\) jet events (fig. 4b) are all contained within a region \( R_I = (E_T^{out} > 8 \text{ GeV}, |\cos \theta^*_2| < 0.73)\), whilst the majority of background QCD events lie in the complementary region \( R_{II} \) \(^{16}\). Table 3 summarizes the number of events in these two regions. On the basis of

\(^{16}\) This effect is well understood according to QCD since the third jet is mostly due to gluon bremsstrahlung from the incoming partons. Experimental verification of this rather general property has been observed at the collider both for QCD jets and for \(W +\) jet events. For more details, see refs. [3,4].

Fig. 3. Electron quality. The quality of the electrons in the \( e + \geq 2 \) jet sample (shaded) is compared with the control sample of electrons from \(W^\pm \to e^\pm \nu_e\) decays. The quality variables shown are: (a) the matching between the momentum measurement and the calorimeter energy deposition; (b) the quality of the matching between the track direction measured in the central detector and the direction measured by pulse division in each of the four segments of the EM calorimeter; (c) an overall quality parameter \(x^2_R\) \([10]\) measuring the electromagnetic shape of the longitudinal shower profile and the pulse sharing between the different calorimeter samples; and (d) the energy deposited in the hadron calorimeter behind the electromagnetic shower.
Fig. 4. (a) Measured shape of the expected QCD background extracted from $\pi^0 + \geq 2$ jet events. The transverse energy component of the isolated $\pi^0$ perpendicular to the plane formed by the $p\bar{p}$ axis and the highest-$E_T$ jet, $E_T^{\text{out}}$, is plotted as a function of $\cos \theta_{j_2}$. The angle $\theta_{j_2}$ is between the average beam axis in the three-body rest frame and the lowest-$E_T$ jet ($j_2$). (b) As above but for the isolated electron + $\geq 2$ jet events (open circles) and the isolated muon + $\geq 2$ jet events (full circles).

These statistics the probability that the QCD background events have a distribution identical to the five electron + $\geq 2$ jet events is $8 \times 10^{-5}$, i.e. a $4\sigma$ difference in shape. The choice of regions RI and RII, however, is arbitrary and a comparison of shape with the Kolomogorov test gives a probability of $5.2 \times 10^{-4}$, i.e. a $3.5 \sigma$ difference.

To determine the absolute magnitude of the background from $\pi^\pm + \geq 2$ jet events, we estimate the probability that a $\pi^\pm$ satisfies the isolated electron selection criteria. Of the 169 $\pi^\pm + \geq 2$ jet events originally selected, 68 satisfy the electron trigger requirement of $E_T > 12$ GeV. The probability that these charged pions fake an isolated electron is estimated to be $1.5 \times 10^{-3}$, yielding a total of 0.1 background events [11]. Results of this background calculation are given in table 4. The corresponding number of background events in region RI is less than 0.06.

Finally the background from unseen conversions with one electron triggered with $p_T > 15$ GeV/c and the other electron unobserved ($p_T < 0.05$ GeV/c) is less than 0.02 events, determined from the measured $\pi^0$ flux in region RI. Therefore, we conclude that the five events with at least two jets have genuine electrons.

### 3. The muon sample

A simple set of cuts is used to arrive at a sample of isolated muons with one or more jets: (i) a muon track in the central detector with $p_T > 12$ GeV/c, good geometrical match in the muon chambers, track projected length $\geq 40$ cm, and at least 30 digitizings; (ii) isolation, namely $\Sigma p_T < 0.1 p_T^{(\mu)}$, $\Sigma E_T < 0.2 p_T^{(\mu)}$, where the sum extends to all tracks and calorimeter hits in a cone $\Delta R \leq 0.4$. Forty events survive these cuts. The dominant source of background comes from the decays of pions and kaons in the central detector drift volume. In the case of slow kaons,

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**Table 3**

The number of events in the two regions of the $E_T^{\text{out}}$ versus $\cos \theta_{j_2}$ plane (see text).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>$\pi^0$</th>
<th>$e$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\pi^0$ /electron + $\geq 2$ jets (RI + RII)</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI = $</td>
<td>E_T^{\text{out}} &gt; 8$ GeV, $</td>
<td>\cos \theta_{j_2}^{\pi^0}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RII = 1 − RI</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4
Expected background to \( e + \geq 1 \) jet events arising from charged pions faking an isolated electron with \( E_T > 15 \) GeV. Both the normal trigger data sample and a low threshold (5 nb\(^{-1}\)) trigger data sample give consistent results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event sample</th>
<th>Channel</th>
<th>Expected background</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isolated(^a)</td>
<td>Super-isolated(^b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal trigger</td>
<td>( \pi^\pm + 1 ) jet</td>
<td>0.7 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( \pi^\pm + 2 ) jets</td>
<td>0.36 ± 0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-threshold (5 nb(^{-1}))</td>
<td>( \pi^\pm + 1 ) jet</td>
<td>1.1 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( \pi^\pm + 2 ) jets</td>
<td>0.3 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Isolation criteria in a cone \( \Delta R < 0.4; \Sigma E_T < 1 \) GeV, and \( \Sigma p_T < 1 \) GeV/c (see text).
\(^b\) Super-isolation criteria, demanding the additional isolation requirement in a cone \( \Delta R < 0.7; \Sigma E_T < 2 \) GeV, and \( \Sigma p_T < 1.5 \) GeV/c. The candidate e + \( \geq 2 \) jet events satisfy these criteria.

Table 5
Event parameters for the isolated muon + two-jet events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>( Q ) (GeV)</th>
<th>( p_T ) (GeV)</th>
<th>( \eta ) (deg.)</th>
<th>( \phi ) (deg.)</th>
<th>( \Delta E_m ) (GeV)</th>
<th>Jet 1</th>
<th>Jet 2</th>
<th>( m(\mu \nu_{\mu j_2}) ) (GeV/c(^2))</th>
<th>( m(\mu \nu_{j_1}) ) (GeV/c(^2))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6639/118</td>
<td>16.0 ± 3.4</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>5.3 ± 7.0</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>-70 ± 0.4</td>
<td>-0.76 ± -0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7501/117</td>
<td>13.5 ± 1.0</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>7.5 ± 7.0</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>-41</td>
<td>-195</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
<td>-0.30 ± -0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7935/232</td>
<td>16.2 ± 3.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>5.8 ± 7.0</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>-140</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>-13 ± 1.0</td>
<td>-0.25 ± -0.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results of this background calculation are summarized in table 6. We find that the corresponding number of decay muon + \( \geq 2 \) jet events is 0.4, giving less than 0.10 background events for \( |\cos \theta^{*_2}| < 0.8 \). In fig. 4 \( E_T^{out} \) is plotted versus \( \cos \theta^{*_2} \) for (a) the \( \pi^0 \) estimate the probability that decaying hadrons (\( \pi, K \rightarrow \mu \nu \)) pass our track-quality cuts and are reconstructed with \( p_T > 12 \) GeV/c. The final background rate is then the convolution of this probability (per decaying hadron) with the measured \( p_T \) spectrum of the 5 nb\(^{-1}\) sample. For a mixture of 50% pions and 25% kaons, this probability is typically \( 4 \times 10^{-5} \) for a hadron with a \( p_T \) of 8 GeV/c to be reconstructed with \( p_T > 12 \) GeV/c.
Table 6
Expected background to $\mu + \geq 1$ jet events arising from the
decay of charged pions and kaons in the central detector
volume. The low-threshold trigger (5 nb$^{-1}$) data sample has
been used. There is a systematic uncertainty of a factor of 2
on the normalization of these estimates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cuts</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Background estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No isolation Isolated$^{ab}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| $p_T > 12$ GeV/c; $\geq 1$ jet with $E_T > 8$ GeV
and $|\eta| < 2.5$ | 6 | 9.0 | 0.9 |
| $\Delta R(\mu,\text{jet}) > 1^{(b)}$
$\geq 2$ jets with $E_T > 7$ GeV
and $|\eta| < 2.5$ | 4 | 3.8 | 0.4 |
| Exactly 2 jets
with $E_T > 7$ GeV
$|\cos \theta| < 0.8$ | 3 | 2.4 | 0.2 |

$^a$ Isolation in a cone $\Delta R < 0.4$.
$^b$ Distance $\Delta R$ between $\mu$ and nearest jet with $E_T > 7$ GeV.

+$\geq 2$ jet events, and (b) the five muon $+\geq 2$ jet events,
and the five $e + \geq 2$ jet events. Of the four muon +
two-jet events, one event is most likely a background
event of QCD origin since the lowest $E_T$ jet $j_2$ lies
close to the beam axis with $\cos \theta_{j_2} = 0.93$. This event
has been removed from the data sample.

4. Backgrounds due to beauty and charm pair
production. Events with the topology of two jets and
an isolated large-$p_T$ lepton can be produced at some
level by more conventional processes not containing
a $t$-quark. Of particular relevance is the case in which
the prompt lepton is produced by the semileptonic
decay of a large-$p_T$ b-quark or a c-quark. These events
ordinarily appear as two jets back-to-back in azimuth
with the lepton embedded in one of the two jets and
therefore they will not meet our isolation require-
ments. However, they can simulate the topology of
our events provided the lepton is the leading particle
(thus suppressing the isolation veto) and another cen-
tral jet is produced by second-order QCD processes,
namely

\begin{align}
&gg \rightarrow gb\bar{g}(gc\bar{c}) , \\
&q\bar{q} \rightarrow gb\bar{g}(gc\bar{c}) , \\
&gg \rightarrow q\bar{b}\bar{b}(qc\bar{c}) .
\end{align}

Since the heavy quark cross sections are expected
to be much larger than the $W \rightarrow t\bar{b}$ rate, these back-
grounds deserve a careful analysis. So far, QCD predic-
tions for heavy-flavour production of large $p_T$ at the
Collider have not been verified by experiment. To this
purpose we have selected inclusively all events in which
a muon of $p_T > 12$ GeV/c is accompanied by at least
one jet of transverse energy $E_T > 8$ GeV, irrespective
of the isolation of the muon track. Evidently, this
analysis is only possible in the case of muons, since
they penetrate the calorimetry and have detectable
tracks in the outer muon chambers after all other jet
debris have been absorbed. After scanning and exclud-
ing events previously identified with $W \rightarrow \mu\nu$ and $Z^0$

![Fig. 5. Measured inclusive muon $p_T$ spectrum (solid squares)
with no isolation cuts. The upper curves are theoretical pre-
dictions of the inclusive muon rate from $b$- and $c$-quarks:
Horgan and Jacob [12] (dashed), Halzen and Scott [13]
(dot--dashed), and Kinnunen [14] (solid). Also plotted is the
muon $p_T$ spectrum from dimuon events (solid circles, two
entries per event). The lower curve (dotted) is a prediction,
using ISAJET [15], of the dimuon rate from $b$- and $c$-quark
decay assuming a total cross section consistent with the in-
clusive single muon rate.](image)
→μ⁺μ⁻ decays, we are left with 59 events, mostly containing muons embedded in jets. Background due to pion and kaon decays has been calculated from the inclusive momentum spectrum of charged tracks and found to be <25% (and <10% for isolated muons).

The resulting cross section for muon inclusive production corrected for detection efficiency is shown in fig. 5. It appears to be in excellent agreement with theoretical calculations [12–15] of large-p_T (c¯c) and (bb) production with subsequent semileptonic decay. In order to further verify the associated production nature of the events, we have selected, also inclusively, events with two prompt muons, of either equal or opposite signs and p_T > 5 GeV/c. The muon transverse momentum spectrum from the resulting 10 events is again in good agreement with the theoretical expectations of ISAJET [11]. QCD calculations of the reactions (1) have been carried out incorporating the requirement that the final state fulfills our selection criteria [16]. The background, mainly from (bb) states with a final hard parton, amounts to at most 1% of the expected signal from W→tb. Thus, at least within the framework of QCD, the backgrounds due to (bb) and (c¯c) production are negligible.

However, in view of the limited experience with these processes, a model-independent determination of this background is highly desirable. Therefore, a more direct method has been employed, which relies empirically on isolation and topology to differentiate between backgrounds and signal. As in the previous section, this analysis is based on the inclusive muon sample. In order to evaluate the effects of the isolation cut, all particles in a cone ΔR < 1 around the muon of p_T > 12 GeV/c have been neglected. Events with a clean two-jet topology outside this cone have been selected and carefully scanned. In addition to the known isolated events, 17 other events have been found in which the jet algorithm finds also a jet inside the ΔR < 1.0 cone around the muon. These events have all the properties expected from processes (1), namely: (i) the higher E_T jet tends to be back-to-back with the muon in the transverse plane, Δφ(μj₁) ≈ 180°, and (ii) the softer jet is sharply collimated around the incoming beam directions |cos θj₂| ≈ 1, indicating the gluon bremsstrahlung nature of the softer parton emission.

These distributions (shown in fig. 6a) are completely different from the ones for isolated events (fig. 6b), which are somewhat broader in Δφ(μj₁) and flat in cos θj₂. The cut, Δφ(μj₁) < 155°, |cos θj₂| < 0.8 removes all 17 non-isolated events and retains 5/6 of the

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Fig. 6. Lepton + two-jet event shape for (a) the non-isolated muon sample for which the lowest E_T jet is central (|cos θj₂| < 0.8), and (b) the isolated electron and isolated muon samples. The angle in the transverse plane between the lepton and the highest E_T jet, Δφ(μj₁), is shown as a function of cos θj₂ (see fig. 4). The curves show the expectation [3,4] for (a) QCD background events from process (1), and (b) W→tb events with a top-quark mass m_t = 40 GeV/c².

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isolated ones. If the isolated events were also of origin (1), both samples should have the same topology, since isolation depends only on the detailed fragmentation of the "jet" into the muon and other debris. The probability that the two samples have an identical source is $P = 3 \times 10^{-4}$, equivalent to a 3.6 SD effect.

Further independent evidence of the different origin of the two samples can be gained by comparing the invariant masses $m(\mu_{T}jj)$ of isolated and non-isolated events (fig. 7a). Whilst the isolated lepton events (both electrons and muons) cluster around the mass of the $W$, thus supporting the $W \to t\bar{b}$ hypothesis, the non-isolated muon events are distributed over a broader mass range. Selecting muon events in the mass range $60 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < m(\mu_{T}jj) < 100 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and looking at the total energy deposited in a restricted cone $\Delta R \leq 0.4$, we find predominantly isolated events. For these isolated muons, the additional energy deposition in the cone is consistent with the expected random energy deposition from the underlying event as measured from a clean sample of QCD two-jet events (fig. 7b). Using ISAJET and known fragmentation factors to extrapolate the shape of the background in the region $\Sigma E_T < 2 \text{ GeV}$, we find an expected background of 0.15 events, in excellent agreement with theoretical QCD predictions. Therefore we conclude that $b$ and $c$ associated processes cannot be the origin of the observed signal.

5. Interpretation of the events. We will now proceed to examine the physical origin of the six events with a lepton (muon or electron) and two jets. An example of one of these events is shown in fig. 8. In figs 9, 10 we show the effective mass of the lepton, two jets, and the transverse component of the neutrino. A very sharp peak can be observed at a value corresponding to the $W$ mass, once we have allowed for the small shift and broadening arising from the neglect of the longitudinal component of the neutrino momentum [14].

The reconstruction of invariant masses from jets is a novel technique and it deserves some discussion. Jet finding is done in the calorimeters with the standard UA1 algorithm which associates both electromagnetic and hadronic cells in $(r, q_{\perp})$ space with $AR = (At/2 + Ac)^{1/2} \leq 1$. The initiators, which form the core of these jets, must have cells with $E_T \geq 1.5 \text{ GeV}$. Only cells with $|\eta| < 2.5$ are used for jet finding. Jets are defined with $E_T > 8 \text{ GeV}$ (first jet), whilst other jets within the same event are defined with $E_T > 7 \text{ GeV}$.
Fig. 8. Graphic display of calorimeter cells ($E_T > 2$ GeV) and charged tracks ($p_T > 1.5$ GeV) observed in the UA1 detector for event 7443/509, a $W \rightarrow t\bar{b}$ candidate. The decay products ($b$, $\bar{b}$, $e^-$ and $\nu$) are labelled. General view.

Fig. 9. As fig. 8, view looking along the beam direction.
Fig. 10. Four-body versus three-body mass distribution for the six $W \to t\bar{b}$ candidate events. The effective mass of the lepton, the lower-$E_T$ jet, and of the transverse component of the neutrino is plotted against the mass of the lepton, two-jet, transverse neutrino system. The four-body mass peaks at the $W$ mass. The three-body mass clusters around a common value of $\sim 40$ GeV/c$^2$. The curves show the expected [14] distributions, taking into account the experimental resolution. Allowance should be made for a systematic error arising from uncertainties in the jet reconstruction ($\pm 10$ GeV/c$^2$).

Two corrections have to be introduced to derive the "true" jet energy: (i) some of the jet debris can fall outside the cone of acceptance and therefore energy must be added, and (ii) some of the uncorrelated low-energy tracks from the underlying event may be added by the jet-finding algorithm and their average contribution must be subtracted. A very complete Monte Carlo calculation has been set up to take into account these effects, starting from the measured fragmentation functions and including the detector properties. Tables of correction factors and of errors have been generated in this way [17] and used to calculate "true" energies. It can be seen in fig. 10 that, within these errors, all six events are consistent with a common mass $m_W$.

Note that ISAJET [15] gives systematically different results by as much as 10–20% on the jet energies.

Fig. 11. The two solutions for the three-body mass distribution $m(\nu_T j_2)$. The solution using the lower-$E_T$ jet, $m(\nu_T j_2)$, gives a distribution consistent with a common value of $\sim 40$ GeV/c$^2$. The other solution using the higher-$E_T$ jet gives a broader distribution extending to higher masses.

Therefore, we conclude that we are observing a new, semileptonic decay of the $W$ particle.

In order to identify the decay mode, we can next evaluate the invariant mass of the lepton, the neutrino, and one of the jets. In fig. 10, we also show the three-body mass distribution $m(\nu_T j_2)$ obtained by selecting the lower-transverse-energy jet. A sharp peak is observed around 40 GeV/c$^2$. The other solution, based on the other choice of jet, gives a broader spectrum, extending to higher masses (fig. 11). For three events, both choices give consistent mass values. For the other three events, we prefer the low-mass solution since (i) the high mass corresponds to decays strongly suppressed by phase space, and (ii) Monte Carlo simulation shows that, for $W \to t\bar{b}$ events, this is the right choice in the majority of cases. Therefore, we conclude that we have observed a new particle state amongst the $W$ candidates.
debris of the W decays; this state subsequently decays semileptonically. All jets have invariant masses of less than 10 GeV/c², which sets an upper limit to the mass of the underlying partons⁹.

The decay hypothesis W → tb with mₜ ≈ 40 GeV/c² describes all kinematical distributions [19] very well, as shown in fig. 12. The rate of occurrence of the events, the number of W → eν decays, and the Monte Carlo determined detection efficiency can be combined in order to evaluate the top semileptonic branching ratio, which is 0.23 ± 0.09, to be compared [18] with 0.13 for b-quarks and 0.12 for the lighter, charmed quarks.

Finally, we quote a systematic error of ±10 GeV/c² in the mass evaluation. This is primarily due to uncertainties in the reconstruction of jets and the determination of the associated parton four-vectors.

In addition to the six lepton + two-jet events we have been discussing, there are three lepton + three-jet events (table 2). The rate and topology of these events

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⁹ This strongly suggests a decay into u, d, c, b quarks, since the quark spectrum below 10 GeV/c² is well known and fully explored by e⁺e⁻ experiments.

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![Fig. 12. Kinematic distributions for the six W → tb candidates, compared with theoretical expectations [19] for a top mass mₜ = 40 GeV/c².](image-url)
are not inconsistent with the hypothesis of \((tt)\) associated production. However, owing to the combinatorial problems and the complexity of the topology, the analysis is more difficult and is still in progress.

6. Conclusions. We observe a clear signal in the channel of an isolated large-transverse-energy lepton plus two or three associated jets. The two-jet signal has an over-all invariant mass clustering around the W mass, indicating a novel decay of the W. The rates and features of the two-jet events do not satisfy the expectations for charm and beauty decay. They are, however, consistent with the process \(W \rightarrow t \bar{b}\), where \(t\) is the sixth \textquotedblleft top\textquotedblright quark of the Cabibbo current. If this is indeed the case, then the mass of the top is bounded between 30 and 50 GeV/c\(^2\). We stress that the present uncertainty in the \((E_{T})_{\text{jet}}\) mass is due to the determination of the jet energies, and that more statistics are needed to confirm these conclusions and the true nature of the effect observed.

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