

RECEIVED: June 16, 2016

REVISED: October 10, 2016

ACCEPTED: November 5, 2016

PUBLISHED: November 21, 2016

A comprehensive approach to dark matter studies: exploration of simplified top-philic models

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ABSTRACT: Studies of dark matter lie at the interface of collider physics, astrophysics and cosmology. Constraining models featuring dark matter candidates entails the capability to provide accurate predictions for large sets of observables and compare them to a wide spectrum of data. We present a framework which, starting from a model Lagrangian, allows one to consistently and systematically make predictions, as well as to confront those predictions with a multitude of experimental results. As an application, we consider a class of simplified dark matter models where a scalar mediator couples only to the top quark and a fermionic dark sector (i.e. the simplified top-philic dark matter model). We study in detail the complementarity of relic density, direct/indirect detection and collider searches in constraining the multi-dimensional model parameter space, and efficiently identify regions where individual approaches to dark matter detection provide the most stringent bounds. In the context of collider studies of dark matter, we point out the complementarity of LHC searches in probing different regions of the model parameter space with final states involving top quarks, photons, jets and/or missing energy. Our study of dark matter production at the LHC goes beyond the tree-level approximation and we show examples of how higher-order corrections to dark matter production processes can affect the interpretation of the experimental results.

KEYWORDS: NLO Computations, Phenomenological Models

ARXIV EPRINT: [1605.09242](https://arxiv.org/abs/1605.09242)

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Simplified top-philic dark matter model and its numerical implementation	3
3	Cosmological and astrophysical constraints	9
3.1	Constraints from dark matter relic density	9
3.2	Constraints from direct detection	13
3.3	Constraints from indirect detection	15
4	Collider constraints	17
4.1	Constraints from searches with missing transverse energy	19
4.1.1	The $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ final state	19
4.1.2	Mono- X final states	23
4.2	Constraints from searches without missing transverse energy	27
5	Combined constraints	30
6	Conclusions	32
A	Mediator width	34
B	Details of the top-philic dark matter analysis	36
B.1	Consistency checks of astrophysical and cosmological dark matter signatures	36
B.2	Details on the dark matter annihilation cross sections	37
C	Recasting of LHC searches within the MADANALYSIS 5 framework	39
C.1	The CMS top-antitop plus missing energy CMS-B2G-14-004 search	40
C.2	The CMS monojet CMS-EXO-12-048 search	42

1 Introduction

Evidence for the existence of dark matter (DM), although indirect, is quite convincing [1–3]. Measurements of the cosmic microwave background and baryonic acoustic oscillations predict a dominant dark matter component in the matter budget of the Universe (in the framework of standard cosmology). In addition, detection of gravitational anomalies, such as the flattening of galaxy rotation curves and the presence of gravitational lensing in the absence of visible matter (e.g. the bullet cluster [4]), strongly favours gravitational interactions of dark matter as plausible explanations.

The many hints for dark matter sparked a huge endeavour to detect it and measure its properties, leading to a number of experiments and searches which exploit very different ideas and approaches to dark matter detection. The experiments can be broadly grouped into three categories:

- A wide range of underground nuclear recoil experiments aimed at detecting galactic dark matter scattering off atomic nuclei;
- Searches for dark matter annihilation in the galaxy or nearby dense sources via measurements of, for instance, gamma-rays;
- Collider searches in channels with large missing transverse energy (\cancel{E}_T).

However, despite an enormous experimental effort, the detection of the dark matter particles remains elusive. In fact, there is no clear indication that dark matter interacts with ordinary matter via forces other than gravity, and current experimental results are not able to put stringent bounds on the dark matter properties and couplings in a model-independent way.

As so little is known about the true nature of dark matter, it is a useful strategy to try and constrain viable dark matter scenarios in the most model-independent way (i.e. via simplified models [5]), confronting them with results from collider experiments, direct dark matter searches, astrophysical observations and cosmology. If or when a signal is observed, the aforementioned approach will help us to determine more accurately both the particle properties (mass, couplings, etc.) and astroparticle properties (halo properties, thermal relic density, etc.) of dark matter. Conversely, if searches result only in limits on dark matter parameters, combining constraints from different approaches aids us in excluding specific scenarios and hence narrow down the scope of viable dark matter theories.

Recent collider searches have focused mostly on studies of dark matter in the simplified model framework, where a single dark matter candidate of arbitrary spin couples to visible matter (e.g. quarks) via an s -channel or a t -channel mediator, whose quantum numbers are fixed by assumed local and global symmetries [6]. The minimal implementations of simplified dark matter models involve four basic parameters: the mass m_X of the dark matter particle, the mass m_Y of the mediator, the coupling constant g_X of the dark matter to the mediator and the universal coupling g_{SM} of the mediator to the visible sector (the width of the mediator is a derived quantity). Fast and efficient studies of the full simplified model parameter space require parameter scanning technology beyond simple sequential grids, due to the relatively high dimensionality of the parameter space. Past studies of simplified dark matter models have hence been limited to explorations of the parameter space in two-dimensional projections while keeping the remaining parameters fixed (see e.g. the works of refs. [7–21] and the references therein).

In this paper we illustrate how comprehensive studies of simplified dark matter models can be performed, exploring their full four-dimensional parameter space while taking into account constraints from collider physics, astroparticle physics and cosmology. For concreteness, we focus on a class of simplified models where the dark matter dominantly couples via a scalar mediator to top quarks (i.e. ‘top-philic dark matter’ scenarios). Yet,

the methodology we employ is general and can be applied to other scenarios as well. We provide detailed examinations of the two-dimensional projections of the full parameter space, and we demonstrate that striking features in the structure of the viable parameter space emerge through the combination of all current constraints. We also stress that in addition to collider searches for dark matter in channels with large missing energy, in this study we also consider resonance searches in channels with fully reconstructed final states, which can be useful to constrain the properties of the mediators.

We perform the study of simplified top-philic dark matter models by using a combination of simulation tools, including the MADGRAPH5_AMC@NLO (MG5_AMC shorthand) event generator [22], the FEYNRULES package [23, 24], the MADANALYSIS 5 platform [25–27], the DELPHES 3 detector simulator [28] and the MADDM program [29, 30], together with an efficient parameter sampling technology based on the MULTINEST algorithm [31, 32]. We explore the full four-dimensional parameter space of the model in the light of existing collider and astroparticle constraints. Our analysis thus also represents a proof of concept for a unified numerical framework for comprehensive dark matter studies at the interface of collider physics, astrophysics and cosmology. This has direct implications for dark matter searches at colliders, as comprehensive phenomenological studies of dark matter models can be used to drive the experimental efforts towards the regions of the parameter space that are not already ruled out by astrophysical and cosmological constraints. In addition, we have also implemented previously unavailable experimental analyses into the MADANALYSIS 5 platform, providing an added benefit of our work for future collider studies which go beyond searches for dark matter.

The article is organised as follows. Section 2 describes the details of the simplified top-philic dark matter model under consideration and discusses the constraints on the model parameter space that are implemented in our analysis setup. All cosmology and astrophysics constraints are discussed in section 3. More precisely, the relic density constraints are illustrated in section 3.1. We discuss the direct detection constraints in section 3.2, while constraints from gamma-ray flux measurements are detailed in section 3.3. Collider constraints are investigated in section 4. We study constraints from searches with and without missing transverse energy in section 4.1 and 4.2 respectively. Before concluding in section 6, we provide in section 5 a detailed discussion of the overall combined information coming from all the considered data. We provide more information on the mediator width in appendix A. As a validation of our calculations, we perform a detailed comparison between MADDM and MICROMEGAS in appendix B.1, give details on the annihilation cross section of dark matter in the top-philic model in appendix B.2 and present the validation of the CMS $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ and monojet implementation in the MADANALYSIS 5 framework in appendix C.

2 Simplified top-philic dark matter model and its numerical implementation

The simplified top-philic dark matter model that we consider is constructed by supplementing the Standard Model (SM) with a Dirac-type fermionic dark matter candidate X and a

scalar mediator Y_0 . The interactions of the two particles are described by the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{t,X}^{Y_0} = -\left(g_t \frac{y_t}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{t}t + g_X \bar{X}X\right)Y_0, \quad (2.1)$$

where the new physics interaction strengths are denoted by g_t and g_X for the mediator couplings to the Standard Model sector and to dark matter respectively. We have assumed a minimally flavour-violating [33] scalar theory where the mediator couples to quarks with a strength proportional to the Standard Model Yukawa couplings, so that we neglect all light quark flavour couplings and only include the coupling of the mediator to the top quark, $y_t = \sqrt{2}m_t/v$ where $v = 246$ GeV is the Higgs vacuum expectation value and m_t is the top quark mass. The above Lagrangian is not invariant under the Standard Model gauge group. In ultraviolet completions where Y_0 is one of the components of an $SU(2)_L$ doublet, as in the Two-Higgs-Doublet Model, our simplified model corresponds to scenarios with a high degree of alignment. In this case, the couplings of the gauge bosons to the heavier CP -even scalar are suppressed, e.g. $\cos(\beta - \alpha) \sim 0$ where $\tan \beta$ consists of the ratio of the vacuum expectation values of the neutral components of the two Higgs doublets and α is the CP -even Higgs mixing angle (see e.g. [34, 35]). Such setups are in particular common in minimal supersymmetric realisations. In contrast, if the mediator is a gauge singlet, it should mix with the Higgs sector, leading to a more complex phenomenology as in the so-called Higgs portal dark matter models (see e.g. the works of refs. [36–41]). On the other hand, it has also recently been shown that the use of simplified models for LHC and future (feasible) collider studies does not break perturbative unitarity [42, 43].

The model contains four free parameters (two couplings and two masses),

$$\{g_t, g_X, m_X, m_Y\}, \quad (2.2)$$

while the width Γ_Y is fixed by the remaining model parameters. In addition to the Lagrangian of eq. (2.1), we could also have considered mediator couplings to leptons. They however cannot be well constrained by LHC searches and dark matter direct detection data, and we have excluded them from our model description. We will nonetheless comment on their relevance for relic density predictions and dark matter indirect detection signals in sections 3.1 and 3.3.

The Lagrangian of eq. (2.1) induces dimension-five couplings of the mediator to gluons and photons via loop diagrams of top quarks. The loop-induced operators can be relevant in the context of both astrophysical and collider searches for dark matter. The couplings of the mediator to gluons and photons are given, at the leading order (LO), by the effective operators

$$\mathcal{L}_g^{Y_0} = -\frac{1}{4} \frac{g_g(Q^2)}{v} G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a,\mu\nu} Y_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{L}_\gamma^{Y_0} = -\frac{1}{4} \frac{g_\gamma(Q^2)}{v} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} Y_0, \quad (2.3)$$

with the effective couplings being

$$g_g(Q^2) = g_t \frac{\alpha_s}{3\pi} \frac{3}{2} F_S \left(\frac{4m_t^2}{Q^2} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad g_\gamma(Q^2) = g_t \frac{8\alpha_e}{9\pi} \frac{3}{2} F_S \left(\frac{4m_t^2}{Q^2} \right). \quad (2.4)$$

In the above expressions, Q^2 denotes the virtuality of the s -channel resonance, while F_S is the one-loop form factor

$$F_S(x) = x \left[1 + (1-x) \arctan^2 \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x-1}} \right) \right], \quad (2.5)$$

with $F_S(x) \rightarrow 2/3$ for $x \gg 1$. Eq. (2.4) contrasts with the Standard Model Higgs case where the effective Higgs-photon coupling receives contributions from vector-boson loop-diagrams that are absent in our simplified dark matter model setup. As a result, the gluon and photon effective couplings to Y_0 are characterised by a larger hierarchy compared to their Higgs counterparts.

The tree-level partial decay widths of the scalar mediator are given by

$$\Gamma(Y_0 \rightarrow t\bar{t}) = g_t^2 \frac{3y_t^2 m_Y}{16\pi} \beta_t^3 \Theta(m_Y - 2m_t), \quad (2.6)$$

$$\Gamma(Y_0 \rightarrow X\bar{X}) = g_X^2 \frac{m_Y}{8\pi} \beta_X^3 \Theta(m_Y - 2m_X), \quad (2.7)$$

where $\beta_{t,X} = \sqrt{1 - 4m_{t,X}^2/m_Y^2}$ and $\Theta(x)$ is the Heaviside step function, and we ignored the top quark width in the expression for $\Gamma(Y_0 \rightarrow t\bar{t})$. The loop-induced Y_0 partial widths are

$$\Gamma(Y_0 \rightarrow gg) = g_t^2 \frac{\alpha_s^2 m_Y^3}{72\pi^3 v^2} \left| \frac{3}{2} F_S \left(\frac{4m_t^2}{m_Y^2} \right) \right|^2, \quad (2.8)$$

$$\Gamma(Y_0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) = g_t^2 \frac{\alpha_e^2 m_Y^3}{81\pi^3 v^2} \left| \frac{3}{2} F_S \left(\frac{4m_t^2}{m_Y^2} \right) \right|^2. \quad (2.9)$$

The Y_0 partial width to photons is by construction always smaller than the partial decay width into a pair of gluons by virtue of $\alpha_s^2/\alpha_e^2 \sim 100$. In addition to a coupling suppression, other decay processes such as the loop-induced Y_0 decays into $Z\gamma$, ZZ and hh final states receive a kinematic suppression. Couplings of Y_0 to ZZ and hh could also appear at tree level in our model, but in the spirit of simplified models, we define them to be vanishing. In the following we hence safely approximate the total decay width for the mediator to be the sum of eqs. (2.6), (2.7) and (2.8).

The total decay width and the branching ratios of the mediator into $t\bar{t}$, $X\bar{X}$, gg and $\gamma\gamma$ final states are displayed in figure 1 for different choices of new physics couplings and masses. Light mediators with masses below the top-quark pair or the dark matter pair decay thresholds are narrow states, while above these thresholds, large Γ_Y/m_Y values are possible in particular for large couplings. For mediators with $m_Y \lesssim m_t, m_X$, the dominant decay channel is into a pair of gluons. In contrast, heavy mediators with mass $m_Y > m_t, m_X$ decay predominantly into pairs of top quarks and/or dark matter particles, where the exact details of the partial width values strongly depend on the masses and couplings. The branching ratio of Y_0 to photons is always suppressed, as argued above. We present in appendix A the dependence of the Γ_Y/m_Y ratio on the g_t and g_X couplings for different mass choices and on the m_Y and m_X masses for different coupling choices.

Our top-philic dark matter model can be probed in different ways including astrophysical and collider searches, as listed in table 1. The relative importance of the various

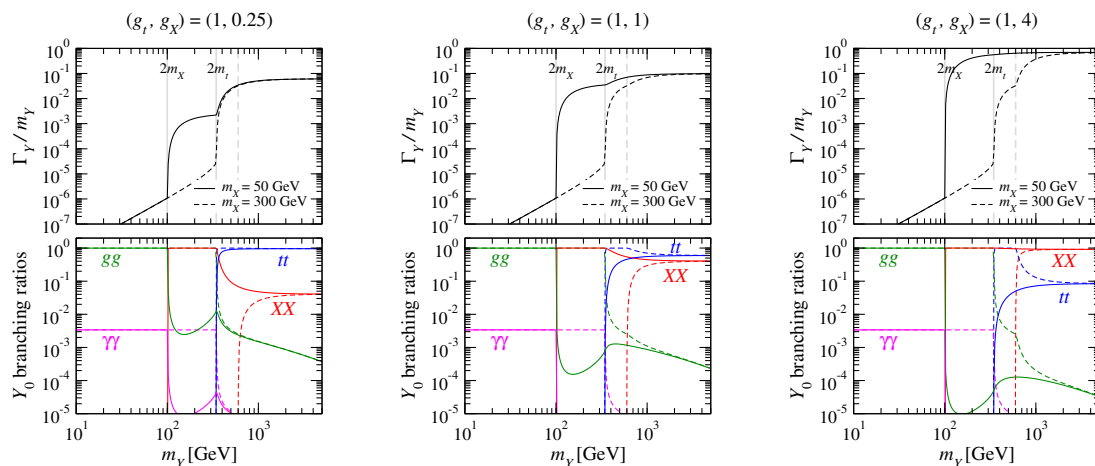


Figure 1. Ratio of the mediator width to its mass Γ_Y/m_Y (upper panels) and mediator branching ratios (lower panels) as a function of the mediator mass for different coupling choices and a dark matter mass fixed to $m_X = 50$ GeV (solid lines) and 300 GeV (dashed lines).

searches depends on the hierarchy of the dark matter, mediator and top-quark masses, as well as on the hierarchy between the couplings. Starting with the dark matter relic density, the annihilation cross section is dominated by subprocesses with top-quark final states for $m_X > m_t$, and by annihilation into gluons and to a lesser extent photons for light dark matter particles with $m_X < m_t$. If the mediator is lighter than the dark matter state, an additional annihilation channel into a pair of mediators can open up. The annihilation mechanisms into top-quarks, gluons/photons and mediators moreover provide an opportunity to indirectly search for dark matter, e.g. in gamma-ray data. The interactions of the dark matter particles with nuclei, relevant for direct detection experiments, proceed via mediator exchanges. The mediator-nucleon coupling is in turn dominated by the scattering off gluons through top-quark loops.

Dark matter production at the LHC proceeds either through the production of the mediator in association with top quarks, or from gluon-fusion through top-quark loops. Searches at the LHC can be classified into two categories regarding the nature of the final states that can contain missing transverse energy \cancel{E}_T or not. Searches involving missing energy may include final state systems containing a top-quark pair and probe in this way the associated production of a top-antitop-mediator system where the mediator subsequently decays into a pair of dark matter particles. Alternatively, the mediator can be produced via gluon fusion through top-quark loops, where the probe of the associated events consists of tagging an extra radiated object. This yields the well-known monojet, mono- Z and mono-Higgs signatures. We do not consider the monophoton channel, as photon emission is forbidden at LO in our simplified model by means of charge conjugation invariance. The second search category is related to final states without any missing energy, i.e. when the mediator decays back into Standard Model particles. This includes decays into top-quarks, leading to final states comprised of four top quarks, into a top-quark pair, as well as into a dijet or a diphoton system via a loop-induced decay. This is, however, relevant only for on-shell (or close to on-shell) mediator production.


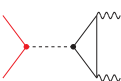


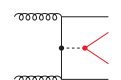
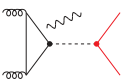
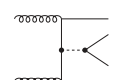
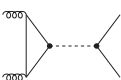
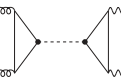
Cosmology	relic indirect		$m_X > m_t$	Planck, FermiLAT
			$m_X < m_t$	
Astrophysics	direct		$m_X > m_Y$	
			$m_X > 1 \text{ GeV}$	LUX, CDMSLite
Colliders	\cancel{E}_T		$m_Y > 2m_X$	$+t\bar{t}$
			$m_Y > 2m_X$	$+j, +Z, +h$
	no \cancel{E}_T		$m_Y > 2m_t$	$4t$
			$m_Y > 2m_t$	$t\bar{t}$
			$m_Y < 2m_X, 2m_t$	$jj, \gamma\gamma$

Table 1. Signatures of our simplified top-philic dark matter model.

We proceed with a description of the numerical setup for our calculations. In the following sections, we explore the full four-dimensional model parameter space and present results in terms of two-dimensional projections. We perform the four-dimensional sampling using the MULTINEST algorithm [31, 32], where we assume Jeffeys' prior on all the free parameters in order not to favour a particular mass or coupling scale. The choice of prior ranges for the parameters is summarised in table 2, in which we have chosen to limit the coupling values to a maximum of π to ensure perturbativity. We implement the relic density constraints into MULTINEST using a Gaussian likelihood profile, while for the direct detection limits we assume a step likelihood function smoothed with half a Gaussian. In addition, the sampling imposes that the model is consistent with values of Γ_Y such that the mediator Y_0 decays promptly within the LHC detectors. Table 3 summarises the constraints that we have imposed on the model parameter space.

MULTINEST parameter	Prior
$\log(m_X/\text{GeV})$	$0 \rightarrow 3$
$\log(m_Y/\text{GeV})$	$0 \rightarrow 3.7$
$\log(g_X)$	$-4 \rightarrow \log(\pi)$
$\log(g_t)$	$-4 \rightarrow \log(\pi)$

Table 2. MULTINEST parameters and prior ranges for the four free parameters. All priors are uniform over the indicated range.

	Observable	Value/Constraint	Comment
<i>Measurement</i>	$\Omega_{\text{DM}}h^2$	0.1198 ± 0.0015	Planck 2015 [44]
<i>Limits</i>	Γ_Y/m_Y	< 0.2	Narrow width approximation
	Γ_Y	$> 10^{-11} \text{ GeV}$	Ensures prompt decay at colliders
	σ_n^{SI}	$< \sigma_{\text{LUX}}^{\text{SI}}$ (90% CL)	LUX bound [45] ($m_X > 8 \text{ GeV}$)
	σ_n^{SI}	$< \sigma_{\text{CDMS}}^{\text{SI}}$ (95% CL)	CDMSlite bound [46] ($1 \text{ GeV} < m_X < 8 \text{ GeV}$)

Table 3. Summary of the observables and constraints used in this analysis and encoded into our MULTINEST routine. The relic density constraints assume a Gaussian likelihood function, while the direct detection limits use step likelihood functions smoothed with half a Gaussian.

Throughout our study, we assume that X is the dominant dark matter component, namely that it fully accommodates a relic density $\Omega_{\text{DM}}h^2$ as measured by the Planck satellite [44]. Concerning the direct detection of dark matter, we consider the currently most stringent bounds on the spin-independent (SI) nucleon-DM cross section as measured by LUX for dark matter with $m_X > 8 \text{ GeV}$ [45] and by CDMSlite for $1 \text{ GeV} < m_X < 8 \text{ GeV}$ [46]. In section 3.3, we focus on indirect detection constraints that are imposed on the basis of the gamma-ray measurements achieved by the Fermi-LAT telescope [47, 48]. Those bounds are however not applied at the level of the likelihood function encoded in our MULTINEST routine, and we have chosen instead to reprocess the scan results for those parameter points that are consistent with both the relic density and direct detection considerations. For the purpose of the relic density and direct detection cross section calculations, we utilise both the MADDM [29, 30] and MICROMEGAS [49] numerical packages, although we only present the results obtained with MADDM. The consistency checks that we have performed with both codes are detailed in appendix B.1.

We derive collider constraints on the simplified top-philic dark matter model using the MG5_AMC [22] framework and the recast functionalities of MADANALYSIS 5 [25–27] (where appropriate). We apply the LHC constraints on the top-philic dark matter model with two different procedures. On one side, similarly to what has been performed for the indirect detection bounds, we reprocess the scenarios that accommodate the observed relic density and that are compatible with LUX and CDMSlite data. However, we also study the collider bounds on the parameter space independently of any astrophysics and cosmology consideration and by relaxing the narrow width requirement (allowing Γ_Y/m_Y to be of $\mathcal{O}(1)$) as well. In order to increase the sensitivity of the LHC searches, we allow

for wider coupling ranges of $10^{-2} < g_X < 2\pi$ and $10^{-2} < g_t < 2\pi$. The collider study without any cosmological and astrophysical constraint therefore includes the cases where the dark matter is not a standard thermal relic (i.e. its relic density is a result of a non-thermal mechanism or a non-standard evolution of the Universe). Details are provided in section 4 and appendix C for what concerns the validation of the CMS analyses that we have implemented in MADANALYSIS 5 for this work.

In conclusion to this section, we point out that even though our current work focuses on a dark matter candidate which is a Dirac fermion, a more general implementation of simplified dark matter models in FEYNRULES [23, 24] can also account for pseudoscalar mediators as well as for CP -mixed states and for dark matter particles which are real or complex scalars [50–52]. The corresponding model files have been used in this work and can be downloaded from the FEYNRULES model repository [53] that also includes a model where the mediator is a spin-1 state that couples to either a fermionic or a scalar dark matter candidate [50]. All the models allow for the automated calculation of next-to-leading-order (NLO) effects and loop-induced leading-order (LO) processes in QCD in the context of LHC predictions.

3 Cosmological and astrophysical constraints

We begin our analysis of the simplified top-philic dark matter model with a detailed discussion of the cosmological and astrophysical constraints.

3.1 Constraints from dark matter relic density

Dark matter annihilation in the early Universe is determined, in the simplified top-philic dark matter model, by a combination of three processes,

$$X\bar{X} \rightarrow t\bar{t} \quad (\text{I}), \quad X\bar{X} \rightarrow gg \quad (\text{II}), \quad \text{and} \quad X\bar{X} \rightarrow Y_0Y_0 \quad (\text{III}),$$

where we have omitted the annihilation into photons as it is always suppressed compared to the annihilation into gluons. The analytic expressions for the thermally averaged annihilation cross section in the non-resonant region $\langle\sigma v_{\text{rel}}\rangle$ corresponding to each of the processes listed above are provided in appendix B.2. The first two processes proceed via an s -channel Y_0 exchange (first two rows of table 1), while the third process consists of a t -channel X exchange (third row of table 1). The resonance structure of the s -channel processes implies that the width of Y_0 potentially plays an important role in the determination of the relic density assuming a dominant annihilation via the processes (I) and (II), while the effects of the Y_0 width are mostly negligible if the annihilation dominantly proceeds via the t -channel X exchange process (III).

According to the hierarchy between the dark matter mass m_X , the mediator mass m_Y and the top quark mass m_t , different situations can occur. Qualitatively, one expects that:

- for $m_Y \gtrsim m_X \gtrsim m_t$: process (I) is dominant as the tree-level annihilation into a pair of top quarks is kinematically allowed, the annihilation into gluons being loop suppressed, and the one into a pair of mediators kinematically suppressed;

- for $m_X \lesssim m_t, m_Y$: dark matter annihilates into a pair of gluons as in process (II), since it is the only kinematically allowed channel;
- for $m_t \gtrsim m_X \gtrsim m_Y$: relic density is determined by process (III) since annihilation into top quarks is kinematically forbidden and the one into gluons occurs away from the resonant pole of m_Y ;
- for $m_X > m_t, m_Y$ and $m_Y < 2m_t$: similarly to the case above, the dominant annihilation mechanism is process (III), as annihilation into top quarks occurs far from the resonant pole and is suppressed kinematically;
- for $m_X > m_t, m_Y$ and $m_Y > 2m_t$: processes (I) and (III) are competitive and the dominant process among the two is determined by the hierarchy between the g_t and g_X couplings.

Requiring our simplified top-philic dark matter model to result in a dark matter relic density consistent with the most recent Planck measurements [44] implies strong constraints on the viable regions of the parameter space. As an illustration, we consider the region of the parameter space in which $m_t \gtrsim m_X \gtrsim m_Y$, where we expect the dominant annihilation mechanism of dark matter to be process (III) and to give rise to a pair of mediators. In this region, the thermally averaged annihilation cross section approximately reads

$$\langle \sigma v_{\text{rel}} \rangle_{\text{ann}} \sim \frac{g_X^4}{m_X^2} \sim 10^{-9} \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \quad (3.1)$$

so that it is clear that imposing that the relic density predictions agree with Planck data leads to a stringent constraint on the ratio g_X^2/m_X . The argument is more involved in parameter space regions where the total mediator width Γ_Y plays a role, as the relevant quantity involved in the relic density calculation is in general not $\langle \sigma v_{\text{rel}} \rangle_{\text{ann}}$ but $\int dx \langle \sigma v_{\text{rel}} \rangle_{\text{ann}}(x)$ where $x \equiv m_X/T$ and $\langle \sigma v_{\text{rel}} \rangle_{\text{ann}}$ is a non trivial function of x . This is especially true, for instance, for the Breit-Wigner-type amplitudes that appear in processes (I) and (II).

In order to provide a more detailed quantitative analysis, we have performed a four-dimensional scan the top-philic dark matter model parameter space and examined the effects of imposing relic density constraints on the allowed/ruled out parameter sets. Figure 2 reveals the rich structure of the four-dimensional parameter space allowed by relic density measurements. The bulk of the allowed parameter points lies in the region where $m_X > m_Y$, and the annihilation cross section is dominantly driven by process (III). This region of the parameter space has the particularity of not being reachable by traditional monojet, monophoton, mono- Z and mono-Higgs searches at colliders. The decay of the mediator into a pair of dark matter particles is indeed not kinematically allowed, so that any new physics signal will not contain a large amount of missing energy. The model can however be probed at colliders via dijet, diphoton, $t\bar{t}$ (plus jets) and four-top analyses. We elaborate on this point more in section 4.2. The characteristic mediator width Γ_Y in this region tends to be extremely small, with values of at most 10^{-4} GeV as shown in the top left panel of figure 2. This is expected as the width is mostly controlled by the decays into

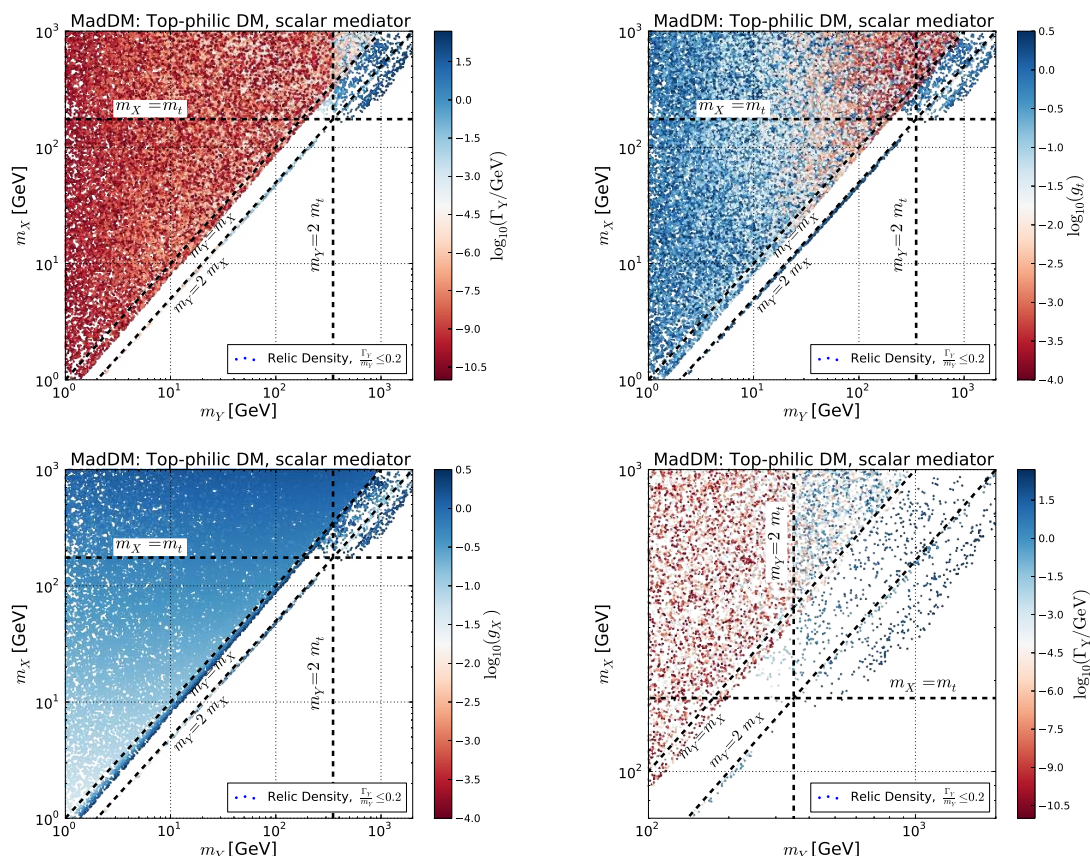


Figure 2. Results of our four-dimensional parameter scan using MADDM projected onto the (m_Y, m_X) plane. The first three panels show the projections with the colourmap representing the values of Γ_Y , g_X and g_t respectively. The right-most panel shows the zoomed-in upper right region of the left-most panel. All represented points feature a relic density in agreement with Planck data, $\Gamma_Y/m_Y \leq 0.2$ and $\Gamma_Y > 10^{-11}$ GeV (cf. table 3).

gluons, and into top quarks in the regions where this decay is kinematically allowed, the decay into a pair of dark matter particles being forbidden.

In the region where $m_X \gtrsim m_t$ and $m_Y \gtrsim 2m_t$, the mediator decay into a $t\bar{t}$ final state is kinematically allowed and the dark matter annihilation cross section is driven by the $X\bar{X} \rightarrow Y_0 \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ process. The only other parameter space region that is not ruled out by the relic density data is centered around the resonance region where $m_Y \sim 2m_X$. The extension of the region away from the resonance pole is due to the Y_0 width that can reach $\mathcal{O}(10)$ GeV. The resonant region extends to lower m_X and m_Y values, and is the only allowed region when both m_X and m_Y are smaller than m_t (but with Y_0 decays into a pair of dark matter particles being allowed). This has interesting implications for LHC searches as the low dark matter/mediator mass region is the one where colliders have the best sensitivity, in particular through monojet searches (see for instance section 4.1.2).

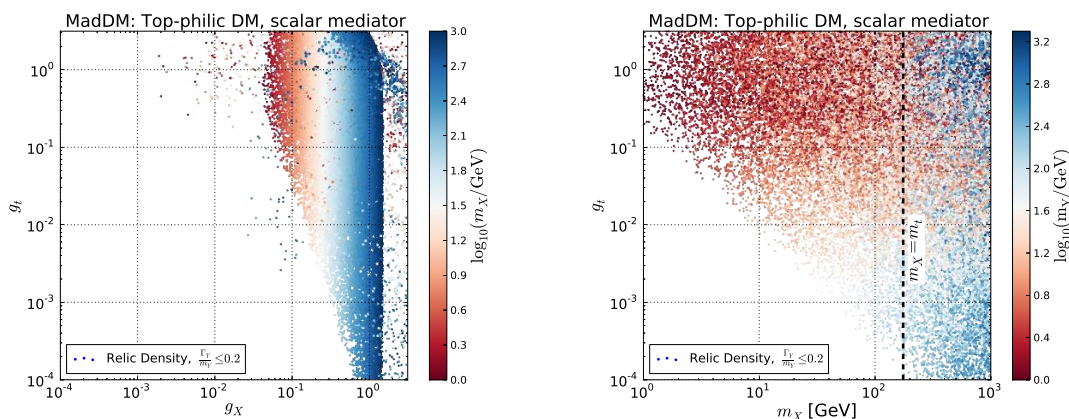


Figure 3. Results of our four-dimensional parameter scan using MADDM, projected onto the (g_X, g_t) plane (left) and (m_X, g_t) plane (right). All represented points feature a relic density in agreement with Planck data, $\Gamma_Y/m_Y \leq 0.2$ and $\Gamma_Y > 10^{-11}$ GeV (cf. table 3).

Relic density constraints favour g_X couplings of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ in most of the scanned parameter range as evident in the left lower panel of figure 2, regardless of the actual value of the g_t coupling which is irrelevant in the $m_X \gtrsim m_Y$ region (upper right panel of figure 2) as it does not enter the calculation of the relic density.

The structure of the ruled out parameter space regions shows several other interesting qualities. The most striking feature is that almost the entire region where $m_Y \gtrsim 2m_X$ does not lead to predictions of a dark matter relic density in agreement with the observations. There are also no allowed points for $m_X \lesssim m_t$, except very close to the resonance line. This region is characterised by a dominant mediator decay into gluons, which results in typical $\Gamma_Y/m_Y \ll 1$, a small total dark matter annihilation cross section, and hence an overproduced dark matter. The upper limit imposed on the size of the couplings (see table 2) is largely responsible for the absence of allowed points in the region. For instance, taking any m_X value so that the predicted relic density agrees with the observed value, an increase in m_Y will result in a decrease of the annihilation cross section, in turn leading to a higher relic density. The only way (away from the resonance) to restore the correct relic density is then to increase the size of g_X and/or g_t . However, our results show that even for couplings of $\mathcal{O}(1)$, the cross section in this region is too small not to overproduce dark matter.

The region of parameter space between $m_Y \sim m_X$ and $m_Y \sim 2m_X$ is consistent with the above-mentioned argument. This strip of the ruled out parameter space can be seen as a part of the larger ruled out region for which $m_Y \gtrsim m_X$. Tuning m_X to be close to $m_Y/2$ and assuming a relatively small Γ_Y value is the only way to enhance the dark matter annihilation cross section and not overproduce dark matter.

In addition to projections of the allowed parameter space onto the (m_Y, m_X) plane, we have also studied several other projections. Figure 3 shows the projections of our results onto the (g_X, g_t) plane (left) and (m_X, g_t) plane (right), where we show m_X and m_Y as a colourmap in the first and second panel respectively. Regardless of the value of m_X and m_Y in the considered scan range, there are no solutions for g_X and g_t which satisfy the

relic density constraint in the region where $g_t \lesssim 10^{-2}$ and $g_X \lesssim 10^{-1}$. This finding is consistent with the left lower panel of figure 2 where we have found that a correct relic density favours g_X couplings of $\mathcal{O}(1)$. Furthermore, we can observe that only couplings of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ result in $\Gamma_Y \gtrsim \mathcal{O}(1)$ GeV, while in the majority of the allowed (g_X, g_t) parameter space regions $\Gamma_Y/m_Y \ll 1$.

We find no striking features in the (m_X, g_t) projection of the scanned parameter space. The unpopulated regions in the lower left corners are artifacts of the lower limit on the coupling size of 10^{-4} .

As a validation, we have cross checked our calculations with the MICROMEGAS code. The results obtained with MADDM and MICROMEGAS agree in most of the parameter space, except in the region where g_t and m_X are small. Some numerical discrepancies are expected to occur in this region, as shown in appendix B.1 and by comparing figures 2 and 19.

As a last remark, allowing the scalar mediator to couple to all quarks and leptons would only have a minor impact on our results. The region dominated by the process (III) will indeed stay unchanged, since it is insensitive to the coupling between Y_0 and the Standard Model fermions. As far as it concerns dark matter annihilation via an s -channel Y_0 exchange, one would have to sum up over all the possible final states kinematically open. This would increase the total annihilation cross-section and decrease $\Omega_{\text{DM}}h^2$, implying that the constraint of having $\Omega_{\text{DM}}h^2 \sim 0.12$ leads to a rescaling of all fermionic couplings towards smaller values with respect to the g_t values shown in this work. The major difference would reside in a potentially larger decay width for Y_0 and hence wider “bands” of the resonance regions of the allowed parameter space.

3.2 Constraints from direct detection

Simplified models of dark matter which feature couplings to quarks and gluons can also be bounded by results from underground direct dark matter detection experiments. In top-philic dark matter scenarios, dark matter scatters off nucleons via the t -channel exchange of Y_0 , where the scattering off gluons via triangle top loops accounts for the dominant contribution to the DM-nucleon scattering rate.

The spin independent (SI) dark matter-nucleon cross section is given by

$$\sigma_{SI}^n = \frac{4}{\pi} \left(\frac{m_X m_n}{m_X + m_n} \right)^2 \left[\frac{2}{27} \frac{m_n}{m_t} \frac{g_X g_t}{m_Y^2} f_G \right]^2, \quad (3.2)$$

where $f_G \equiv 1 - \sum_{q \leq 3} f_q = 0.921$ [54, 55]¹ is the gluon form factor and the sum runs over the light quarks $q = u, d, s$, where $m_n \approx 0.938$ GeV is the nucleon mass and $m_t = 173$ GeV is the top quark mass. The expression in eq. (3.2) does not depend on Γ_Y , simplifying the constraints which can possibly be derived from direct detection. For instance, considering a scenario in which generic m_X and m_Y masses are fixed and where the dominant annihilation process is process (I), direct detection directly constraints the product $g_X g_t$. Extracting the constraint on this quantity in a generic fashion is much more complicated in the case

¹The gluon form factor suffers from relatively large uncertainties on the strange quark content of the nucleons [56], which we here omit.

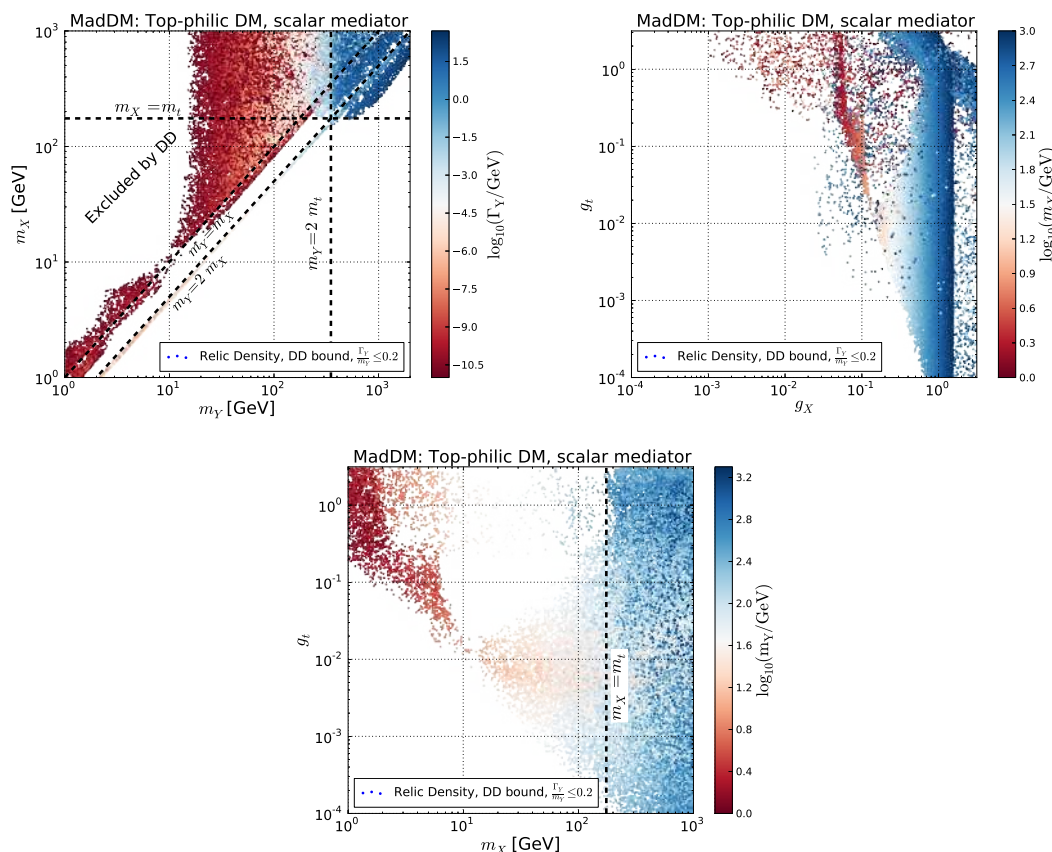


Figure 4. Results of our four-dimensional parameter scan using MADDM. The top left panel shows the projection of the scan into the (m_Y, m_X) plane with a colourmap representing the values of Γ_Y . The top right panel shows the projection of the allowed points into the (g_X, g_t) plane with a colourmap given by m_X . Finally the lower panel shows a projection onto the (m_X, g_t) plane with a colourmap denoting the values of m_Y . All represented points feature a relic density in agreement with Planck data, $\Gamma_Y/m_Y \leq 0.2$, $\Gamma_Y > 10^{-11}$ GeV and accommodate the direct detection constraints (cf. table 3).

of dark matter annihilation in the early Universe and at colliders, as the processes involved in dark matter relic density and dark matter production calculations intrinsically depend on a quantity which is proportional to $g_X g_t / \Gamma_Y$.

The running of the g_X and g_t couplings could have an effect on the value of the spin independent DM-nucleon scattering cross section [57, 58]. However, a proper inclusion of the running couplings would require a careful treatment of the renormalisation group evolution via multiple energy scales which is beyond the scope of our current effort. Instead, we restrict here our calculations to constant g_X and g_t values. The effect of the running couplings would then be equivalent to a rescaling of g_X and g_t to different values.

Next, we have repeated the four-dimensional parameter scan from section 3.1 including into the MULTINEST likelihood function also bounds stemming from direct detection. Figure 4 shows the results of the scan, projected onto three different planes, where we removed

the points excluded by the 95% confidence limit (CL) bound from LUX and CDMSLite. Direct detection rules out a major portion of (m_Y, m_X) space allowed by the relic density constraints (regardless of the coupling value) in the region where $m_X \gtrsim m_Y$, where collider bounds are irrelevant. Figure 4 hence serves as a good example for the complementarity among direct detection, relic density and collider bounds. In the (g_X, g_t) plane, direct detection does not rule out a well defined-region (top-right panel of figure 4), indicating that for any pair of couplings (g_X, g_t) in the range of $[10^{-4}, \pi]$ which are allowed by the relic density constraint, it is always possible to find a pair of (m_Y, m_X) values which are not ruled out by direct detection data. In the (m_X, g_t) projection, we finally observe that direct detection rules out a well-defined portion of the parameter space. Furthermore, the constraint also rules out small width points for $g_X \gtrsim 0.1$ and $m_X \gtrsim m_t$. Direct detection bounds are indeed more sensitive to dark matter masses in the ballpark of 10 to 200 GeV and quickly deteriorate at larger dark matter masses, since the event rate in the detector scales as $1/m_X^2$. We also see that the direct detection exclusion limit is able to rule out a large portion of the parameter space where Y_0 is light, below 30 GeV, while the sensitivity is quickly lost for heavier masses of the scalar mediator. This can be understood by the $1/m_Y^2$ dependence of the SI elastic cross section of eq. (3.2). Both mass dependences are illustrated by the lower panel of figure 4.

3.3 Constraints from indirect detection

Top-philic dark matter annihilation in the present Universe could result in fluxes of cosmic rays and prompt gamma-rays, which can also be used to infer useful limits on the model parameter space. The annihilation of a $X\bar{X}$ pair in the galactic halo (or in dense environments of galactic centers) and the subsequent production of a secondary gamma ray flux is dictated by the same processes (I), (II) and (III) that set the relic abundance. These processes give rise to a continuum of secondary photons due to the decay and subsequent QED showering of the pair-produced top quarks, gluons and/or mediators. As already mentioned in section 2, a direct coupling of the mediator to a pair of prompt photons is induced at higher order in perturbation theory via a loop of top quarks. Hence, analogously to process (II), the process $X\bar{X} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ exists and yields the production of two monochromatic photons that could be detected in searches for lines in the gamma-ray spectrum.²

Similarly to the relic density case, measurements of the gamma-ray fluxes can potentially constrain the coupling g_X for the t -channel process (III) or the product of couplings $g_X g_t$ in the case of an s -channel annihilation via the processes (I) and (II). However, it is important to highlight the differences between factors which are constrained by the dark matter relic density and by its indirect detection. The relic density is an integrated result over the thermal history of the Universe. Hence, the width of the resonance is important, even if $|m_Y - 2m_X| \gg \Gamma_Y$ (except in the case where $m_Y \ll 2m_X$). Conversely, the characteristic velocity of the dark matter particles today is of the order of $v \sim 10^{-3}$, implying highly non-relativistic dark matter annihilation. The width of the mediator in an s -channel

²Dark matter annihilation into two prompt photons is always suppressed by a factor $8\alpha_e^2/9\alpha_s^2$ with respect to annihilation into a pair of jets in the considered class of scenarios.

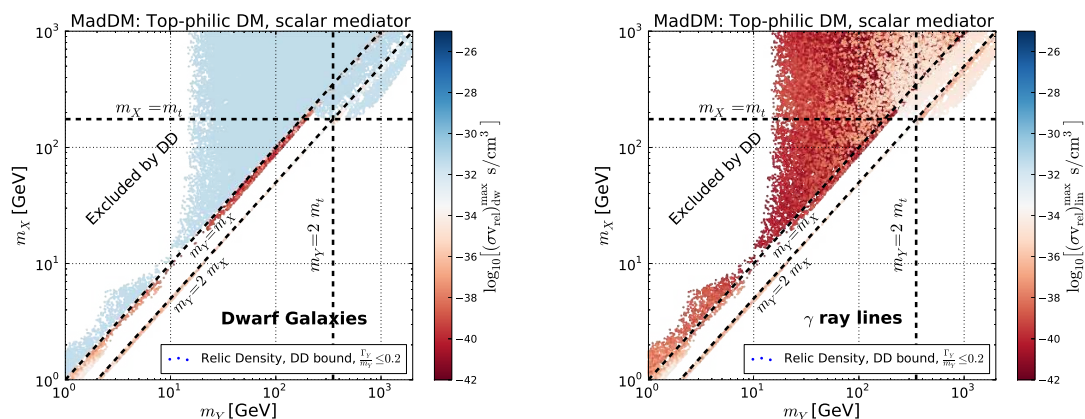


Figure 5. Dark matter annihilation cross section at present time that is relevant for gamma-ray limits extracted from dwarf spheroidal galaxies measurements (left) and gamma-ray line searches (right). We show a maximal estimate of $(\sigma v_{\text{rel}})_{\text{tot}}$ and $(\sigma v_{\text{rel}})_{\gamma\gamma}$ obtained by choosing $v_{\text{rel}} = 2v_{\infty}$, where v_{∞} is the escape velocity for dwarf spheroidal galaxies and the galactic center, respectively. All represented points feature a relic density in agreement with Planck data, $\Gamma_Y/m_Y \leq 0.2$, $\Gamma_Y > 10^{-11}$ GeV and accommodate the direct detection constraints (cf. table 3).

dark matter annihilation process is hence relevant for indirect detection only in the case of $|m_Y - 2m_X| \lesssim \Gamma_Y$.

Searches for gamma-ray signals of dark matter annihilation weakly constrain our simplified top-philic dark matter model. We have investigated results from gamma-ray line searches in the inner galactic region [48], as well as continuum gamma-ray measurements from dwarf spheroidal galaxies [47] and found no meaningful exclusion of the parameter space once the relic density and direct detection constraints are imposed. The lack of additional useful bounds is expected, as the annihilation of dark matter in the present Universe is p -wave suppressed, i.e. $\sigma v_{\text{rel}} \propto v_{\text{rel}}^2$ for all three annihilation channels (see appendix B.2 for more detail). This contrasts with scenarios in which the mediator is a pseudoscalar state that implies that the p -wave suppression at low dark matter velocity is only present for process (III), so that the gamma-ray constraints should be significantly stronger.

The gamma-ray line searches constrain the velocity-averaged cross section for the direct dark matter annihilation into two photons. Due to its p -wave suppression, this quantity is very sensitive to the choice of the velocity distribution of the dark matter in the galaxy which is subject to large uncertainties (see e.g. ref. [59]). We adopt a conservative viewpoint here, evaluating the annihilation cross section at the highest possible velocity $v_{\text{rel}} = 2v_{\infty}$ with v_{∞} being the escape dark matter velocity for our galaxy which we take to be $v_{\infty} = 550$ km/s [60]. The left panel of figure 5 shows the respective result for $(\sigma v_{\text{rel}})_{\gamma\gamma}$. The limits from gamma-ray line searches lie between 2×10^{-32} cm³s⁻¹ (for dark matter masses around 1 GeV) and 4×10^{-28} cm³s⁻¹ (for dark matter masses around 500 GeV).

Photons arising from process (III) when the mediator subsequently decays into two photons provide a box-shaped gamma-ray spectrum, which, for a sufficiently compressed spectrum, can also resemble a line signal [61, 62]. However, in analogy to $X\bar{X} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, this process is both p -wave suppressed and coupling ($8\alpha_e^2/9\alpha_s^2$) suppressed. Gamma ray

line searches hence do not provide any further constraint on the parameter space in this compressed region.

Searches for gamma-ray signals in dwarf spheroidal galaxies constrain the total the annihilation cross section at (two times) the escape velocity, the escape velocity of the considered dwarf spheroidal galaxies being typically much smaller and of the order of 10 km/s [63], which leads to a heavy suppression of the dark matter annihilation cross section. The right panel of figure 5 shows the annihilation cross section evaluated for $v_\infty = 50$ km/s. The cross sections are much smaller than the constraints which are around 10^{-26} cm³s⁻¹, the exact details depending on the dark matter mass and the relevant annihilation processes.

In cases where we would have allowed for leptonic couplings of the scalar mediator Y_0 , our general conclusion about the poor ability of indirect dark matter searches to constrain the model parameter space remains unchanged. Dark matter annihilation into leptonic final states could give rise to additional continuum gamma-ray or positron fluxes, but the overall normalisation of $\langle\sigma v_{\text{rel}}\rangle$ would not change significantly and remain four to five orders of magnitude below the current bounds. Even under the most aggressive assumptions, all obtained bounds would still be far from being able to constrain a top-philic dark matter model with scalar mediators.

4 Collider constraints

As discussed in section 2, simplified top-philic dark matter scenarios can be probed at colliders through the production of the mediator either in association with a top-quark pair or through a top-quark loop. Depending on the mass and coupling hierarchy, the mediator decays either into a pair of dark matter particles, which results in signatures including missing transverse energy (\cancel{E}_T), or into Standard Model final states. The size of the cross sections associated with these two classes of mediator production mechanisms is depicted in figure 6 where we present their dependence on the mediator and dark matter masses m_Y and m_X . For the case where the mediator is singly produced, we use the Higgs cross section values that are reported in the Higgs Cross section Working Group documentation [64] and that are evaluated at the next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) accuracy in QCD. For all the other cases, the hard-scattering cross section is convoluted with the NNPDF 2.3 [65] set of parton distribution functions (PDF) within MG5-AMC, the PDFs being accessed via the LHAPDF library [66, 67]. We employ a five-flavour-number scheme, and leading-order (LO) and next-to-leading-order (NLO) PDFs are used where relevant. The renormalisation and factorisation scales are set to half the sum of the transverse mass of all the final-state particles both for LO and NLO calculations, and the scale uncertainty is estimated by varying the two scales independently by a factor of two up and down. Additional details on the calculation of the $Y_0 t\bar{t}$ cross section are provided in ref. [50] while loop-induced processes are extensively documented in ref. [51].

All the cross sections shown in figure 6 are proportional to g_t^2 and we therefore arbitrarily choose $g_t = 1$ as a benchmark. In this case, sizeable cross sections of $10^1 - 10^3$ pb are expected for the production of light mediators with $m_Y \lesssim 100$ GeV at a centre-of-mass energy of 8 TeV (left panel), the dominant mechanism being the loop-induced $gg \rightarrow Y_0$

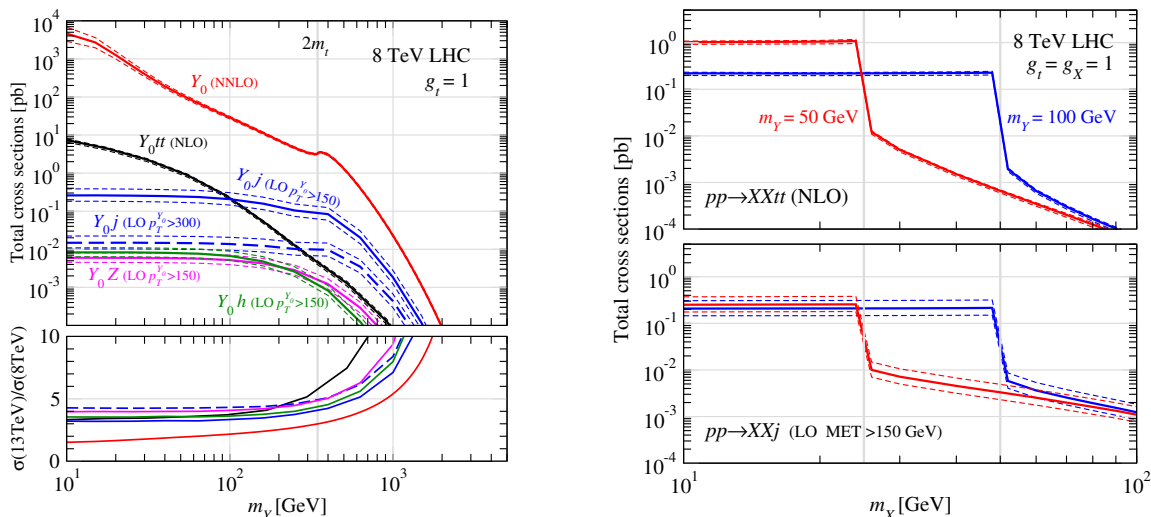


Figure 6. Left: total cross sections (with scale uncertainties) for various mediator production channels (with $g_t = 1$) at a centre-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV as a function of the mediator mass. The NNLO cross section for single mediator production $\sigma(Y_0)$ is taken from the Higgs Cross section Working Group report, the $Y_0 t\bar{t}$ one is computed at NLO accuracy and all other loop-induced processes are evaluated at LO accuracy. The monojet ($Y_0 j$), mono- Z ($Y_0 Z$) and mono-Higgs ($Y_0 h$) cross sections include a transverse momentum cut on the mediator as indicated in the figure. In the lower panel, we show the ratios of the cross sections evaluated at a centre-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV over those at 8 TeV. Right: cross sections for $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ and monojet (with $\cancel{E}_T > 150$ GeV) production for a mediator mass of $m_Y = 50$ and 100 GeV and at a centre-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV given as a function of the dark matter mass.

production mode. Requiring an extra hard jet in the final state reduces the cross section by a factor which depends on the missing energy (or the jet transverse momentum p_T) selection, and the production rates are not sensitive to the mediator mass as soon as the latter is smaller than the \cancel{E}_T selection threshold. The cross sections for producing the mediator in association with a Standard Model Higgs or Z boson are further suppressed. In contrast, the cross section related to the production of the mediator in association with a top-quark pair is significant for light mediators, but falls off quickly with the increase in the mediator mass due to phase-space suppression. As a result, a change in the collider energy from 8 to 13 TeV is important for heavy mediators and the cross section can be enhanced by about an order of magnitude. In the right panel of figure 6, we further show first that the cross sections are constant when the dark matter particle pair is produced through the decay of an on-shell mediator, and next that they are considerably suppressed when the mediator is off-shell, especially for the $t\bar{t}X\bar{X}$ channel.

As already mentioned, the collider searches which provide the most relevant constraints on simplified top-philic dark matter models are based on the production channels shown in figure 6 and can in general be divided into two categories. The first category involves signals with missing transverse energy originating from the production of dark matter particles that do not leave any trace in the detectors and that are accompanied by one or more Standard Model states. The most relevant searches of this type are the production of dark

Final state	Imposed constraint	Reference	Comments
$\cancel{E}_T + t\bar{t}$	See appendix C.1	CMS [68]	Semileptonic top-antitop decay
$\cancel{E}_T + j$	See appendix C.2	CMS [69]	
$\cancel{E}_T + Z$	$\sigma(\cancel{E}_T > 150 \text{ GeV}) < 0.85 \text{ fb}$	CMS [70]	Leptonic Z -boson decay
$\cancel{E}_T + h$	$\sigma(\cancel{E}_T > 150 \text{ GeV}) < 3.6 \text{ fb}$	ATLAS [71]	$h \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ decay
jj	$\sigma(m_Y = 500 \text{ GeV}) < 10 \text{ pb}$	CMS [72]	Only when $m_Y > 500 \text{ GeV}$
$\gamma\gamma$	$\sigma(m_Y = 150 \text{ GeV}) < 30 \text{ fb}$	CMS [73]	Only when $m_Y > 150 \text{ GeV}$
$t\bar{t}$	$\sigma(m_Y = 400 \text{ GeV}) < 3 \text{ pb}$	ATLAS [74]	Only when $m_Y > 400 \text{ GeV}$
$t\bar{t}\bar{t}$	$\sigma < 32 \text{ fb}$	CMS [75]	Upper limit on the SM cross section

Table 4. Summary of the 8 TeV LHC constraints used in this paper.

matter in association with a top-quark pair and the loop-induced production of dark matter in association with a jet, a Z boson or a Higgs boson. This is discussed in section 4.1. The second category of searches relies on Y_0 resonant contributions to Standard Model processes. In our scenario, dijet, diphoton, top-pair and four-top searches are expected to set constraints on the model parameter space. This is discussed in section 4.2. As shown below, missing-energy-based searches and resonance searches are complementary and necessary for the best exploration of the model parameter space at colliders.

In the rest of this section, we study collider constraints independently from the cosmological and astrophysical ones, and we dedicate section 5 to their combination. We moreover allow the mediator couplings to be as large as 2π and do not impose any constraint on the mediator width over mass ratio. We summarise the relevant 8 TeV LHC constraints used in this study in table 4 and give details on the $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ and monojet searches that have been recast in the MADANALYSIS 5 framework in appendix C.

4.1 Constraints from searches with missing transverse energy

4.1.1 The $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ final state

Dark matter production in association with a top-quark pair ($t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$) has been explored by both the ATLAS [76] and CMS [77] collaborations within the 8 TeV LHC dataset, and limits have been derived in particular in the effective field theory approach [78, 79]. Such analyses could however be used to derive constraints in other theoretical contexts, and we choose to recast the CMS search to constrain the parameters of the simplified top-philic dark matter model under consideration. In this work, we simulate $t\bar{t}X\bar{X}$ events at the NLO accuracy in QCD by making use of MG5_AMC. The first study of the genuine NLO effects on the production of a system composed of a pair of top quarks and a pair of dark matter particles has been presented in ref. [50] in which NLO K -factors have been investigated both at the total cross-section and differential distribution level for a series of representative benchmark scenarios. Here, we explore the impact of the NLO corrections on the exclusion limits originating from the $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ channel.

In order to examine the reach of the CMS search, we start by performing a two-dimensional scan of the mediator and dark matter masses with fixed mediator couplings,

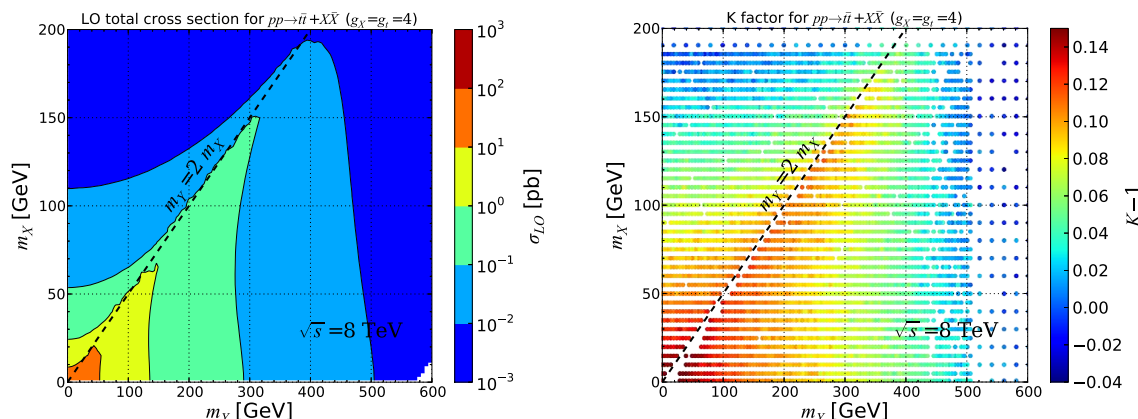


Figure 7. LO cross sections (left) and corresponding K -factors (right) for $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}X\bar{X}$ at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV as a function of the mediator and dark matter masses. The top and dark matter couplings to the mediator are set to 4.

similar to figure 7 in ref. [8]. The same scan is performed at both LO and NLO accuracy concerning the simulation of the hard scattering process, which allows us to determine the impact of the QCD corrections on the exclusion bounds. Before presenting the results for the excluded regions and to facilitate the discussion, we show the dependence of the LO cross section for $g_t = g_X = 4$ on the new physics masses and the corresponding K -factors in figure 7. The cross section is the largest in the low mass regions where the mediator can resonantly decay to a pair of dark matter particles, and falls steeply in the off-shell regions. In particular, the region where $2m_X < m_Y < 2m_t$ is characterised by mediator decays either into a pair of dark matter particles or into a pair of gluons. These two decay rates are related by (see section 2)

$$\frac{\Gamma(Y_0 \rightarrow gg)}{\Gamma(Y_0 \rightarrow X\bar{X})} = \frac{g_t^2}{g_X^2} \frac{\alpha_s^2}{9\pi^2\beta_X^3} \frac{m_Y^2}{v^2} \sim \left(\frac{g_t}{g_X}\right)^2 \times 10^{-5} \frac{m_Y}{\text{GeV}}, \quad (4.1)$$

which suggests that the decay rate into a pair of dark matter particles is always significantly higher, except in the case of a large hierarchy between the couplings ($g_t/g_X \gtrsim 100$). For $m_Y > 2m_t$, the $Y_0 \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ decay mode is open, and $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ production turns out to be suppressed by the visible decay channels of the mediator, unless $g_X > g_t$. Such a feature has already been illustrated in figure 1. The NLO K -factors related to $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ production (right panel of figure 7) are found to vary from 0.96 to 1.15 in the range of masses examined here, the QCD corrections being more important in the low mass region.

The results for the exclusion regions are shown in figure 8 when LO (left panel) and NLO (right panel) simulations are used; see more details on the recasting procedure in appendix C.1. Setups excluded at the 40%, 68% and 95% confidence level (CL) are marked separately in the figures. As expected from the total cross section results, all excluded points (at the 95% CL) lie in the triangular low-mass region where the mediator resonantly decays into a dark matter particle pair. The exclusion region reaches mediator masses of about 200–250 GeV if close to threshold ($m_Y \sim 2m_X$). This region is in fact not exactly triangular as for a given mediator mass, not all dark matter masses below $m_Y/2$ are excluded.

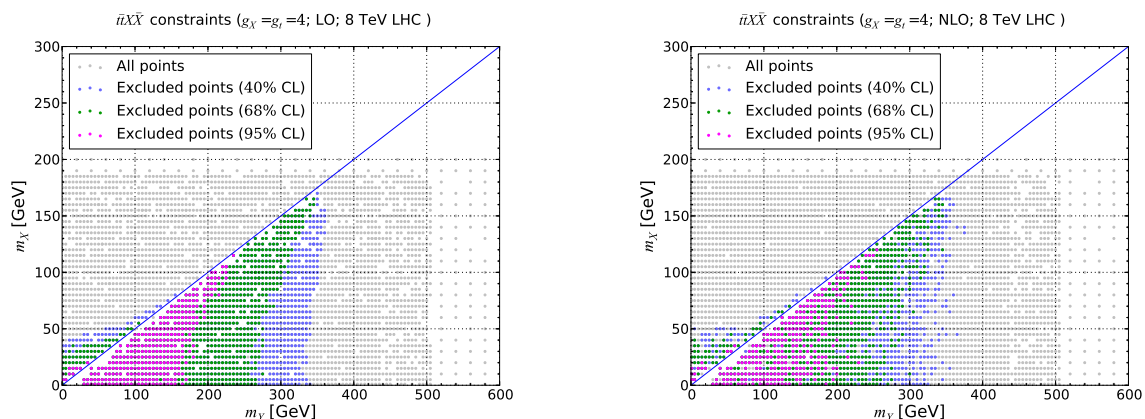


Figure 8. Constraints on simplified top-philic dark matter scenarios from the CMS 8TeV $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ analysis [77]. The top and dark matter couplings to the mediator are set to 4 while the mediator and dark matter masses are allowed to vary freely. LO and NLO exclusions are respectively shown in the left and right panels of the figure.

This is related to the parametric choice of $g_t = g_X = 4$ for which the mediator width can become large. In this case, the narrow width approximation is not valid and the $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ cross section acquires a dependence on the dark matter mass even in the resonant region.

Comparing the LO and NLO results, we observe that in the low mass resonant region where the K -factor is small and of about 1.10, the exclusion contours are mildly modified and this small 10% shift in the cross section does not lead to any significant change. For larger mediator masses, the K -factors are ~ 1 and therefore do not imply a modification of the exclusion regions, if the central prediction at the default choice of scale is considered. However, the inclusion of NLO corrections significantly reduces the theoretical error and thus leads to sharper exclusion bounds as discussed below.

In order to further investigate the effects of the NLO corrections, we select three benchmark scenarios for which we perform a detailed study. These benchmarks are defined in table 5 where they are presented along with the corresponding LO and NLO cross-sections and the CL exclusion obtained with MADANALYSIS 5. As discussed in appendix C.1, the most relevant observables for this analysis consist of the \cancel{E}_T , $M_T(\ell, \cancel{E}_T)$ and M_{T2}^W for which distributions are shown in figure 9. We normalise the distributions to 100, 10 and 1 for the scenarios I, II and III respectively to ensure that they are all clearly visible in the figure. Moreover, we also indicate the scale uncertainty bands that have been obtained from a scale variation of $0.5\mu_0 < \mu_{R,F} < 2\mu_0$. In agreement with the findings of ref. [50], higher-order corrections have a rather mild effect on the distribution shapes for all key observables. Using NLO predictions however leads to a significant reduction of the scale uncertainties compared to the LO case. In table 5, one can also see that the use of NLO predictions leads to a significant reduction of the uncertainty in the cross section which propagates down to the CLs. NLO predictions therefore allow us to draw more reliable conclusions on whether a parameter point is excluded.

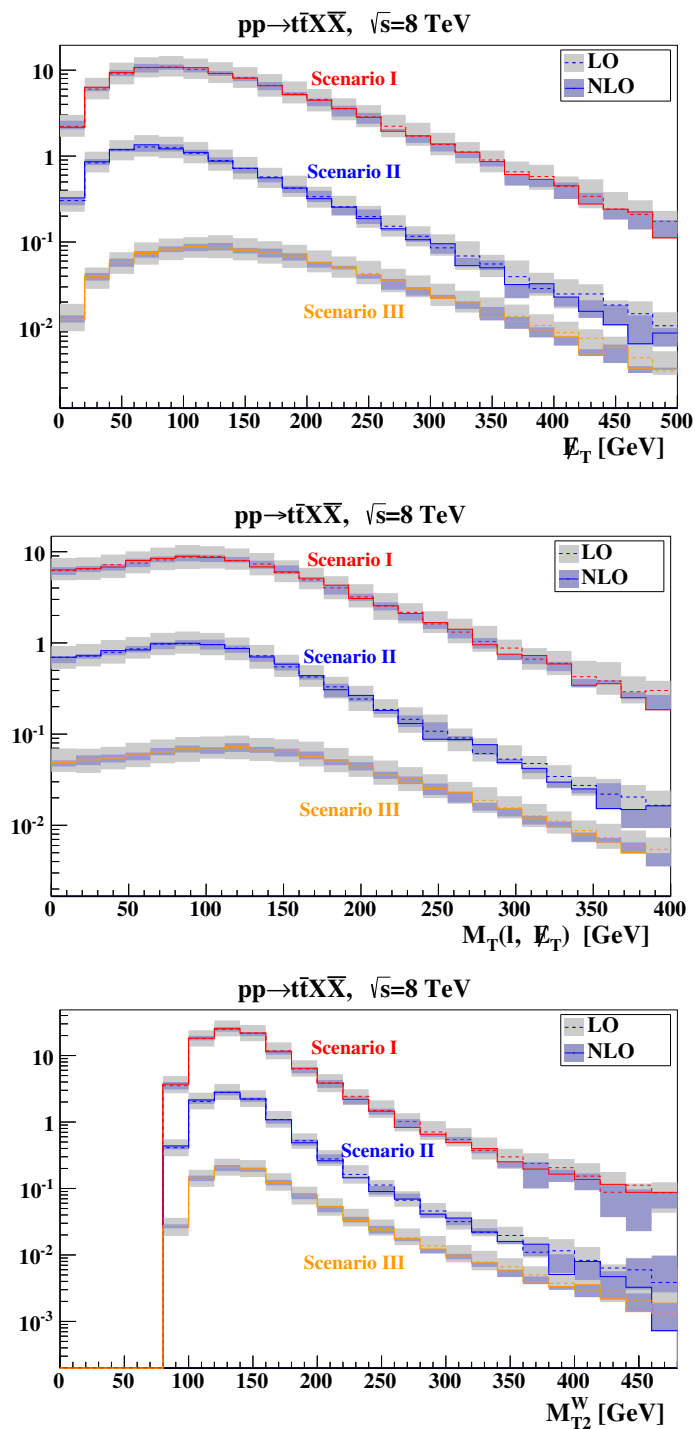


Figure 9. Differential distributions for \cancel{E}_T , $M_T(\ell, \cancel{E}_T)$ and M_{T2}^W for the three scenarios of table 5 at LO and NLO. The distributions are normalised to 100, 10 and 1 for Scenarios I, II and III respectively, and the scale uncertainty bands obtained by varying the renormalisation and factorisation scale in the range of $0.5\mu_0 < \mu_{R,F} < 2\mu_0$ are also shown.

	(m_Y, m_X)	σ_{LO} [pb]	CL_{LO} [%]	σ_{NLO} [pb]	CL_{NLO} [%]
I	(150, 25) GeV	$0.658^{+34.9\%}_{-24.0\%}$	$98.7^{+0.8\%}_{-13.0\%}$	$0.773^{+6.1\%}_{-10.1\%}$	$95.0^{+2.7\%}_{-0.4\%}$
II	(40, 30) GeV	$0.776^{+34.2\%}_{-24.1\%}$	$74.7^{+19.7\%}_{-17.7\%}$	$0.926^{+5.7\%}_{-10.4\%}$	$84.2^{+0.4\%}_{-14.4\%}$
III	(240, 100) GeV	$0.187^{+37.1\%}_{-24.4\%}$	$91.6^{+6.4\%}_{-18.1\%}$	$0.216^{+6.7\%}_{-11.4\%}$	$86.5^{+8.6\%}_{-5.5\%}$

Table 5. Benchmark scenarios used to investigate the impact of the NLO corrections on the $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ CMS search. The LO and NLO cross sections at 8 TeV LHC are shown together with the CL exclusion obtained from MADANALYSIS 5. The uncertainties originating from scale variation ($0.5\mu_0 < \mu_{R,F} < 2\mu_0$) are also shown.

4.1.2 Mono- X final states

In addition to the constraints that can be derived by means of $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ probes and that have been discussed in the previous section, mono- X searches can also be relevant for obtaining bounds on our top-philic dark matter model. Monojet [69, 80, 81], mono- Z [70, 82–85] and mono-Higgs [71, 86–88] signals have been searched for during the first run of the LHC, and these search results could be recast to constrain the dark matter model studied in this work. In contrast to tree-level dark matter production in association with a pair of top quarks, the production of a pair of dark matter particles with a jet, a Z -boson or a Higgs boson proceeds via a gluon fusion top-quark loop diagram. Although they have been largely studied by ATLAS and CMS, monophoton analyses cannot be used as charge conjugation invariance forbids the existence of a monophoton signal for the spin-0 mediator scenario.

Monojet. We start by discussing constraints that can be imposed by the CMS 8 TeV monojet analysis [69]. For this study, hard-scattering events are generated at the LO accuracy within MG5_AMC, and the matching with parton showers is made with PYTHIA 6. The results are analysed in MADANALYSIS 5 that also takes care of the detector simulation using its interface with DELPHES 3. This recasting procedure allows us to exclude any specific parameter space point at any desired confidence level, our exclusion being conservatively derived on the basis of the signal region that drives the strongest bound. This limitation is related to the lack of public information, the statistical model used by CMS for the combination being not available. One can find more details for the recasting procedure in appendix C.2.

Similar to the $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ analysis of the previous section, we perform a two-dimensional scan on the mediator and dark matter masses while fixing both new physics couplings to $g_t = g_X = 4$ (as in figure 5 in ref. [8]). Figure 10 shows our results, where we represent the scenarios excluded at the 40%, 68% and 95% CL. The bulk of the excluded points lie again in the triangular low-mass region where the mediator resonantly decays into a pair of dark matter particles. Except for the small subset of points excluded at the 40% and 68% CL in the region where $m_Y < 2m_X$, the extent of the exclusion region is determined by the significant reduction of the monojet cross section below the resonant production threshold already presented in figure 6. The $pp \rightarrow Y_0 j$ cross section indeed rapidly falls with m_Y , reaching levels beyond the sensitivity of the 8 TeV search at $m_Y \sim 500$ GeV. In

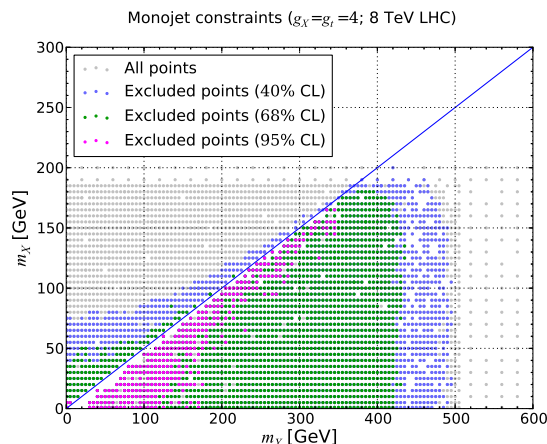


Figure 10. Constraints on the simplified top-philic dark matter model from the CMS 8 TeV monojet analysis [69]. The top and dark matter couplings to the mediator are set to 4 while the mediator and dark matter masses are allowed to vary freely.

(m_Y, m_X)	σ_{LO} [pb]
(100, 10) GeV	0.605
(300, 10) GeV	0.194
(100, 100) GeV	0.00261

Table 6. Benchmarks used to investigate the differential distributions related to the CMS monojet analysis. The corresponding cross sections for a $\cancel{E}_T > 150$ GeV selection are shown in the second column.

addition to the decrease of the Y_0j production cross section, the opening of the mediator decay mode into a top-antitop system when $m_Y > 2m_t$ leads to a further reduction of the monojet production rate. In comparison with the $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ case, the monojet search overall appears to be more constraining, especially for higher mediator mass values thanks to the larger monojet cross section.

As shown in ref. [51], the shape of key monojet differential distributions differs in the resonant and in the off-shell parameter space regions. While the total cross section falls dramatically in the off-shell region $m_Y < 2m_X$ (as shown in figure 6), the \cancel{E}_T and jet transverse momentum distributions tend to be harder for off-shell production. We demonstrate this feature with a detailed investigation of three benchmark points defined in table 6. They consist of two resonant scenarios with different mediator masses and one non-resonant scenario. The monojet production rate is also indicated in the table, and we present normalised distributions relevant for the monojet analysis in figure 11. The off-shell scenario yields harder distributions compared to the resonant cases. This implies that a larger fraction of events features high missing transverse energy ($\cancel{E}_T > 250$ GeV) and populates the different signal regions of the CMS analysis. As a result, a better sensitivity is found than what one might expect from considering the total cross section alone. This feature leads to the exclusion of dark matter scenarios where $m_Y < 2m_X$, as depicted in figure 10.

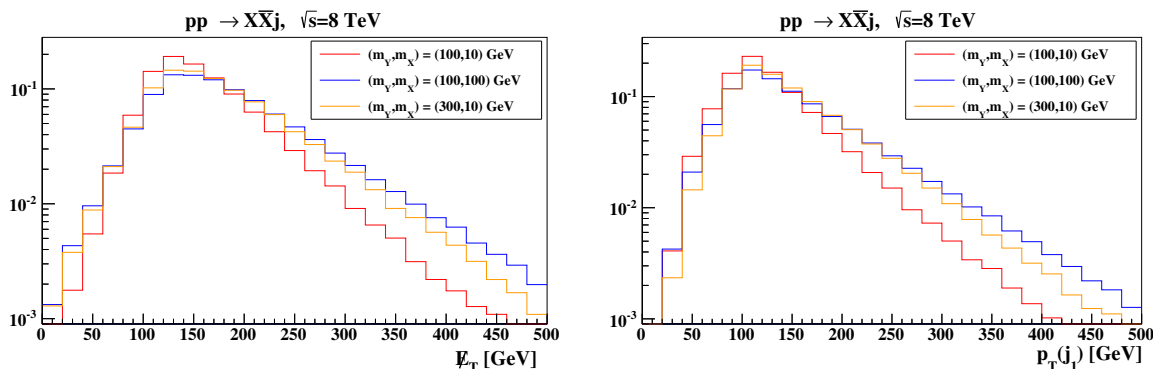


Figure 11. Differential distributions for the missing transverse energy \cancel{E}_T and the hardest jet transverse momentum $p_T(j_1)$ for the three scenarios defined in table 6. The distributions are normalised to one.

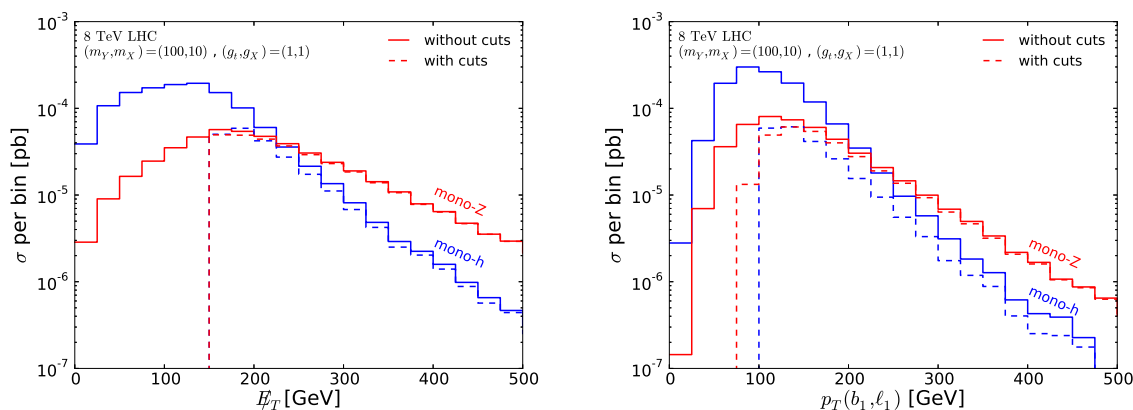


Figure 12. Distributions of missing transverse energy and of the transverse momentum of the leading lepton (b -quark) for mono- Z (-Higgs) production at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV for $(m_Y, m_X) = (100, 10)$ GeV and $(g_t, g_X) = (1, 1)$, without and with including the analysis selections.

In our simulation of the monojet signal, we have ignored the possible impact of the merging of event samples featuring different final state jet multiplicities. A reliable description of the high transverse momentum spectra of the leading jet typically necessitates the merging of event samples including at least one and two jets in the final state [51]. We have explicitly verified that for both resonant and off-shell scenarios, employing a merged sample does not have a big impact on the \cancel{E}_T distribution and therefore on the resulting exclusion contours. This originates from the analysis selection strategy that requires one single hard jet and rather loose requirements on the second jet, so that the configuration that dominates consists of a single hard jet recoiling against the missing energy. Such a configuration is described similarly by the one-jet and merged samples. We nevertheless stress that the importance of the merging procedure has to be checked on a case-by-case basis as this depends on the analysis, so that higher multiplicity samples might be necessary to accurately describe the relevant distributions.

Mono- Z and mono-Higgs. In addition to the use of monojet processes, we explore the possibility of constraining the parameter space of our model using mono- Z and mono-Higgs production. While the production rates are much smaller than the monojet rate as seen in figure 6, the backgrounds can be also small. Therefore, these search channels can be sensitive to the top-philic simplified dark matter model, as we will see below. Here, instead of employing a full recasting procedure as in the $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ and monojet analyses, we perform parton-level analyses to provide rough estimates of the constraints on our model parameters.

We rely on the CMS search for dark matter production in association with a Z -boson that decays leptonically [70], in which a 95% CL upper limit on the visible cross section of 0.85 fb is obtained once a \cancel{E}_T requirement of at least 150 GeV and the minimal detector selection requirements for the leptons ($p_T^\ell > 20$ GeV and $|\eta^\ell| < 2.5$) are considered. We generate events for this process, and after applying the above fiducial selection requirements we obtain a cross section of 0.30 fb for $(m_Y, m_X) = (100, 10)$ GeV and $g_t = g_X = 1$. We show in figure 12 the \cancel{E}_T and leading lepton transverse momentum distributions (red lines) without and with applying the selection strategy. While we have not performed a detailed study, simple estimates show good prospects for setting limits on the parameter space of the model using the mono- Z analysis results. Using the upper limit of 0.85 fb, scenarios with couplings close to $g_t \sim 2$ could be excluded in the resonant region ($m_Y > 2m_X$) with $m_Y < 100$ GeV. For larger mediator masses, the cross section starts to fall due to the reduction of the phase space. In the off-shell region ($m_Y < 2m_X$), the mono- Z cross section suffers from the same drastic decrease seen in figure 6 for the $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ and monojet cases.

The same procedure can be repeated to constrain the parameter space of the model using mono-Higgs events on the basis of the results of the ATLAS search for dark matter production in association with a Higgs boson decaying into two bottom quarks [71]. This search results in a 95% CL upper limit on the visible cross section of 3.6 fb for a \cancel{E}_T threshold of 150 GeV. In order to estimate a limit, we generate events for $(m_Y, m_X) = (100, 10)$ GeV and $g_t = g_X = 1$, and require the two b -quarks to have a transverse momentum $p_T^{b_1} > 100$ GeV and $p_T^{b_2} > 25$ GeV, a pseudorapidity $|\eta^b| < 2.5$ and to be separated in the transverse plane by an angular distance $\Delta R(b_1, b_2) < 1.5$. Moreover, we only select events exhibiting at least 150 GeV of missing transverse energy. We show again in figure 12 the \cancel{E}_T and leading b -quark transverse momentum distributions (blue lines) without and with applying the above-mentioned selection requirements. We then include a b -tagging efficiency of 60% and extract an upper limit on the g_t coupling by comparing our results to the ATLAS limit. Coupling values of $g_t > 2$ are found to be excluded for $m_Y > 2m_X$ with $m_Y < 100$ GeV. All other parameter space regions suffer from the same limitations as the mono- Z case.

From our naive parton-level analysis, we have seen that mono- Z and mono-Higgs signals show promising signs of setting constraints on the parameter space of the model and therefore deserve dedicated studies, which will be reported elsewhere (see also ref. [89]). The sensitivity to such signals will benefit from applying more aggressive \cancel{E}_T thresholds to ensure the reduction of the corresponding backgrounds. As seen in figure 12, we obtain a rather hard \cancel{E}_T distribution [51], especially for mono- Z production. The result implies that an increase in the \cancel{E}_T threshold requirement in future analyses could lead to a sig-

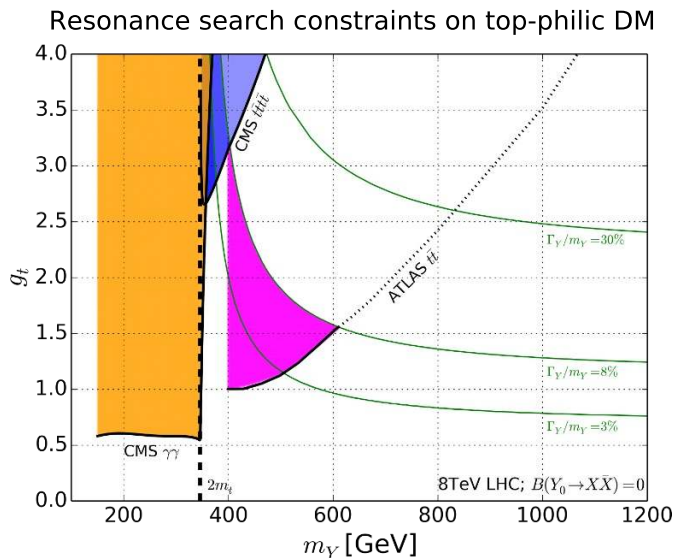


Figure 13. Resonance search constraints from the LHC results at a collision centre-of-mass energy of 8 TeV on the simplified top-philic dark matter model presented in terms of the mediator mass m_Y and the g_t coupling. The different coloured areas are excluded by the diphoton [73] (orange), $t\bar{t}$ [74] (magenta) and $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ [75] (blue) searches. We include information on the mediator width to mass ratios (green curves). We assume a negligible branching ratio to the invisible sector.

nificant improvement of the sensitivity, especially given the the fact that Standard Model backgrounds rapidly fall off with the increase in missing energy.

4.2 Constraints from searches without missing transverse energy

Dijet and diphoton resonances. Dijet and diphoton resonance search results could (in principle) be used to constrain the simplified top-philic dark matter model. Due to double-loop suppressions, mediator-induced contributions to dijet and diphoton production are only relevant in the parameter space regions where $m_Y < 2m_X, 2m_t$ (i.e. where the mediator cannot decay into top quarks and/or dark matter particles). The partial mediator decay rate into gluons is then always dominant (as mentioned in section 2) since

$$\frac{\Gamma(Y_0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)}{\Gamma(Y_0 \rightarrow gg)} \sim \frac{8 \alpha_e^2}{9 \alpha_s^2} \approx 10^{-3} . \tag{4.2}$$

All LHC dijet resonance searches focus on the dijet high invariant-mass region, leading to no useful constraints on the top-philic dark matter model. The lowest mediator mass that is probed is ~ 500 GeV, with a visible cross section restricted to be smaller than 10 pb [90].

Although the branching ratio of the mediator into a photon pair is very small, the background associated with a diphoton signal is low so that one expects to be able to obtain stringent constraints on the model from the diphoton search results. We focus here on the CMS 8 TeV diphoton search [73] that investigates resonance masses ranging from 150 GeV to 850 GeV and derives limits on the corresponding cross section. For instance, the 95% CL upper bound on the mediator-induced diphoton production cross section $\sigma(pp \rightarrow Y_0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$

is of 20 fb (4 fb) for a mediator mass of 150 GeV (300 GeV). Making use of the $pp \rightarrow Y_0$ cross section values shown in figure 6 and the $Y_0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ branching ratio computed from the formulas shown in section 2, we present diphoton constraints on the model in the (m_Y, g_t) plane in figure 13. These results assume that the dark matter particle is much heavier than the mediator that can thus not resonantly decay invisibly. The constraints are found to be stringent below the $2m_t$ threshold, where the g_t coupling cannot be larger than 0.6.

Top-antitop resonances. For scenarios with mediator masses above the top-antitop threshold ($m_Y > 2m_t$), $t\bar{t}$ resonance searches [74, 91] can be used as probes of the model. In our setup, loop-induced resonant mediator contributions can indeed enhance the $t\bar{t}$ signal, in particular when there is a large coupling hierarchy ($g_t \gg g_X$) or mass hierarchy ($2m_t < m_Y < 2m_X$). We derive constraints on our model from the ATLAS 8 TeV $t\bar{t}$ resonance search [74] that relies on the reconstruction of the invariant mass of the top-quark pair to derive a 95% CL exclusion on the existence of a new scalar particle coupling to top quarks. The associated cross section limits range from 3.0 pb for a mass of 400 GeV to 0.03 pb for $m_Y = 2.5$ TeV, assuming that the narrow width approximation is valid with a mediator width being of at most 3% of its mass and that there is no interference between the new physics and Standard Model contributions to the $t\bar{t}$ signal.

Constraints are computed using the NNLO mediator production cross section (see figure 6) and the relevant top-antitop mediator branching ratio derived from the formulas presented in section 2. The latter is in fact very close to one in the relevant region, the mediator decays into dark matter particle pairs being kinematically forbidden and those into gluons and photons loop-suppressed. The results are presented in the (m_Y, g_t) plane in figure 13. This shows that scalar mediators with masses ranging from 400 GeV to 600 GeV could be excluded for g_t couplings in the [1, 4] range, the exact details depending on m_Y and on the fact that the narrow-width approximation must be valid. This demonstrates the ability of the $t\bar{t}$ channel to probe a significant portion of the $m_Y > 2m_t$ region of the model parameter space. In the region where $2m_t, 2m_X < m_Y$, the partial decay $Y_0 \rightarrow X\bar{X}$ reduces the $t\bar{t}$ signal and therefore limits the sensitivity of the search.

Four-top signals. Scenarios featuring a mediator mass above twice the top-quark mass can be probed via a four-top signal, since the mediator can be produced in association with a pair of top quarks and further decay into a top-antitop system. Theoretically, the Standard Model four-top cross section has been calculated with high precision [92], but the sensitivity of the 8 TeV LHC run was too low to measure the cross section. Instead, an upper limit on the cross section at a centre-of-mass energy of 8 TeV has been derived [75, 93]. The four-top production rate is constrained to be below 32 fb [75], a value that has to be compared to the Standard Model prediction of about 1.3 fb. Only models with new physics contributions well above the background (see e.g. ref. [94]) can therefore be constrained by the four-top experimental results.

In our top-philic dark matter model, the new physics contributions to the four-top cross section can be approximated by the $t\bar{t}Y_0$ cross section, the branching ratio $B(Y_0 \rightarrow t\bar{t}) \sim 1$. Using the NLO cross section (see figure 6), we derive limits that we represent in the (m_Y, g_t) plane in figure 13. A small region of the parameter space with $g_t > 2.5$ and in which the

mediator mass lies in the $[2m_t, \sim 450 \text{ GeV}]$ mass window turns out to be excluded. The weakness of the limit is related to the steeply decreasing cross section for $pp \rightarrow Y_0 t\bar{t}$ with the increase in m_Y .

The mediator width. In all the above studies where the final state does not contain any missing energy, the mediator width has been assumed narrow. Concerning the diphoton channel, this assumption holds within the entire excluded region as only loop-suppressed gluon and photon mediator decays are allowed. In the region where $m_Y > 2m_t$, the width of the mediator rises quickly with its mass, and the width over mass ratio rapidly exceeds the 3% value that has been imposed in the ATLAS $t\bar{t}$ resonance search [74] as can be seen in figure 13. The reinterpretation of the ATLAS results to a generic $t\bar{t}$ resonance model should therefore be made carefully, as the limit cannot be necessarily applied to scenarios featuring significantly larger mediator widths. This is shown in figure 13 by a dotted line, and we can also observe that most of the points that would have been excluded by the ATLAS search do not fulfil the requirement of a width below 3% of the mediator mass. In our excluded region of the parameter space, we allow the mediator width to reach 8% of its mass, by the virtue of the experimental resolution on the invariant mass of the $t\bar{t}$ system. This leads to the exclusion of scenarios with mediator masses up to 600 GeV.

The ATLAS resonance $t\bar{t}$ study claims that varying the width of the resonance from 10% to 40% for the massive gluon model results in a loss in sensitivity by a factor 2 for a 1 TeV resonance. An extension of the reinterpretation of the ATLAS limits on our simplified top-philic dark matter model to the case of larger resonance widths could then be performed by rescaling the limits by the appropriate correction factor. We have nonetheless found that no additional points are excluded even without rescaling the sensitivity of the search as the ATLAS analysis rapidly loses sensitivity for resonance masses above 600 GeV. Considering model points with a mediator width to mass ratio of at most about 8% therefore provides a realistic exclusion over the entire model parameter space.

Concluding remarks on direct mediator searches. Mediator resonance searches at 8 TeV show good prospects of constraining our simplified top-philic dark matter model, especially in the mediator mass range of 150–345 GeV and 400–600 GeV by means of the diphoton and top-pair searches respectively. So far, the $t\bar{t}$ resonance searches are strictly applicable to a limited parameter space region of the simplified model, and considering larger widths in the interpretation of the future results would allow for a more straightforward reinterpretation of the limits to a wider range of parameters. Concerning the four-top analysis, it can presently only exclude a restricted part of the parameter space, but future measurements are expected to lead to more competitive bounds.

Finally, the $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} + j$ channel could also be used to probe dark matter models coupling preferably to top quarks. This has been for instance shown in ref. [95] where a loop-induced production of $t\bar{t}j$ can in some cases lead to interesting constraints on top-philic models of new physics. In our case, they are nonetheless not expected to give more stringent constraints than the $t\bar{t}$ resonance searches. One could also consider the $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}j$ and $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}Wt$ processes [95]. Because of the magnitude of the electroweak couplings, these processes are characterised by smaller cross sections than when four top quarks are

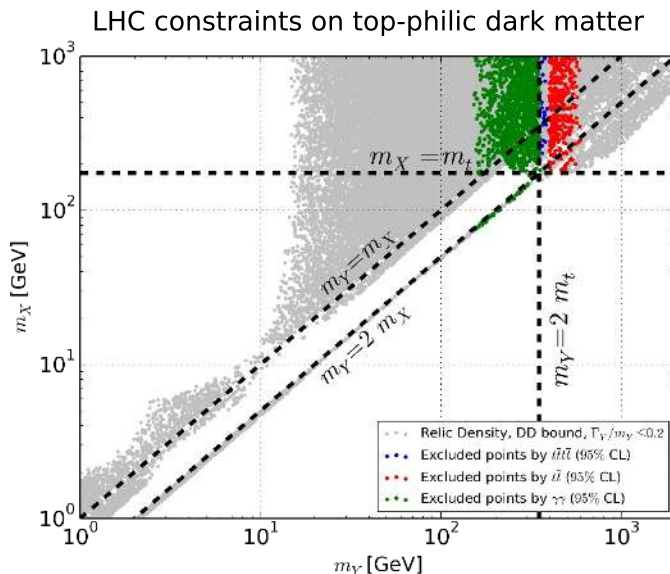


Figure 14. Results of our four-dimensional parameter scan projected onto the (m_Y, m_X) plane once constraints set from the LHC results are imposed. All represented points satisfy the relic density constraint, $\Gamma_Y/m_Y \leq 0.2$, $\Gamma_Y > 10^{-11}$ GeV and the direct detection constraints (cf. table 3).

involved, and are hence not likely to set more stringent constraints on the class of models under consideration.

5 Combined constraints

The final segment of our comprehensive study of top-philic dark matter simplified models is a combined study of astrophysical and collider constraints. We find that in the region where $g_X, g_t \leq \pi$, the 8 TeV collider results that provide relevant bounds (once the relic density and direct detection constraints are imposed) originate from direct mediator production searches when the mediator further decays into a pair of Standard Model particles. Figure 14 illustrates our results and shows the scenarios that are excluded by resonant diphoton and top-pair searches as well as by the four-top analysis. All points in the plot accommodate the dark matter relic density and direct detection constraints, while the colours indicate points excluded by individual complementary collider bounds. The vast majority of excluded points lie in the region where $2m_X > m_Y$ with $m_Y \in [150, 600]$ GeV. This is the region where the mediator decay into a pair of dark matter particles is kinematically forbidden, ensuring large branching fractions for decays into Standard Model particles. The diphoton resonance search excludes points below the $2m_t$ threshold, while $t\bar{t}$ results constrain the $400 < m_Y < 600$ GeV region. The four-top probe is able to exclude a narrow parameter space region close to $m_Y \sim 2m_t$, in agreement with the findings shown in figure 13.

Relaxing the requirements on the relic density, the direct detection and the upper bound on the coupling strengths allows for another meaningful study of combined collider constraints. For this purpose we have performed a joint analysis of collider bounds on the top-philic simplified dark matter model in the scope of a four-dimensional parameter scan

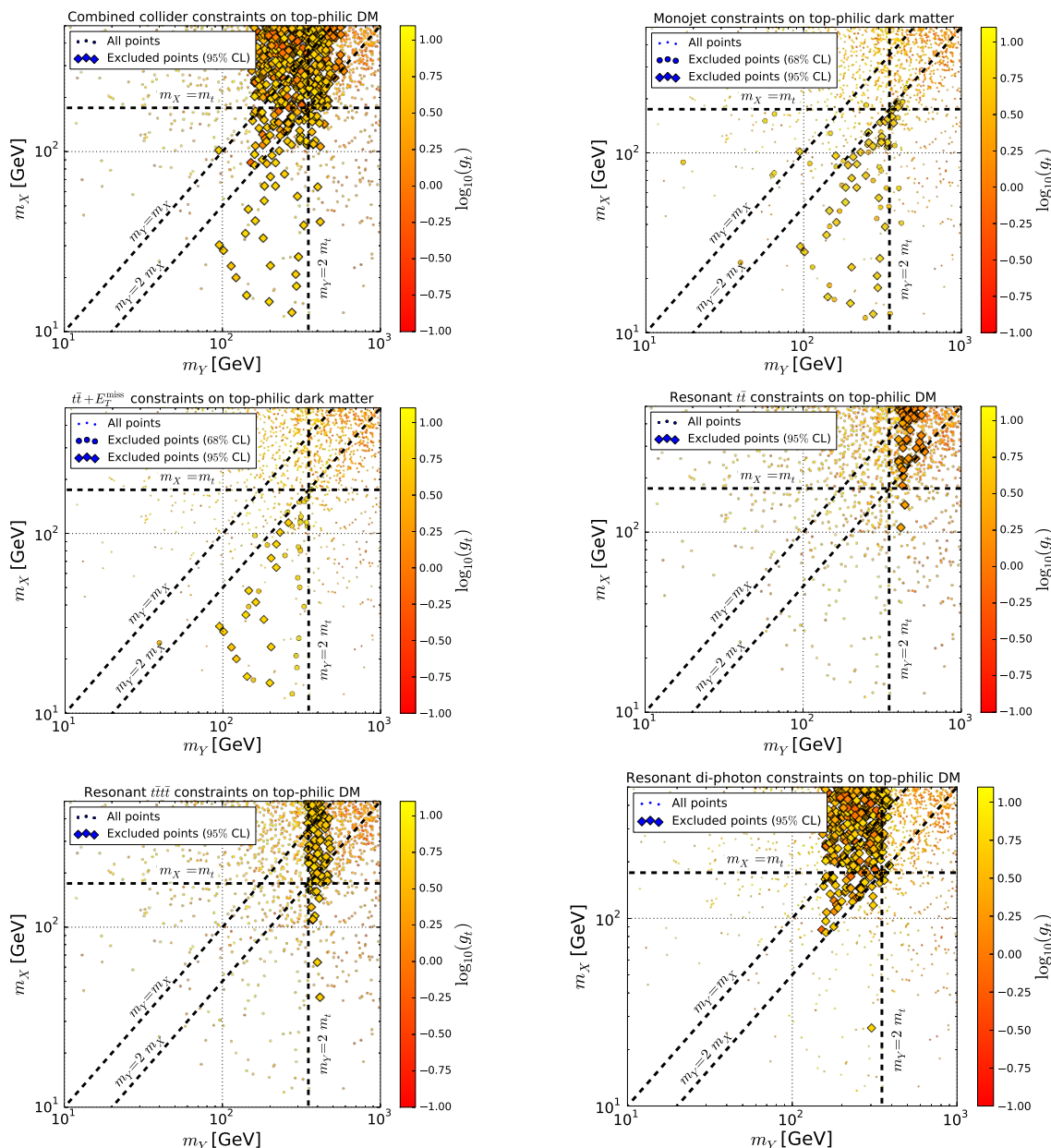


Figure 15. Constraints derived from the LHC Run I results on the simplified top-philic dark matter model. The panels show results of a four-dimensional parameter scan, uniform on the linear scale. The upper left panel shows a combination of all relevant collider constraints. The upper right panel shows the points excluded by monojet constraints, while the third panel shows the points excluded by $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ constraints. The resonant $t\bar{t}$ searches constraints are shown in the fourth panel, while the last two panels show the four top and the diphoton constraints. The results assume couplings smaller than 2π and $\Gamma_Y/m_Y < 0.5$, with no constraints from astrophysics or cosmology being imposed. In case of resonant $t\bar{t}$, four top, and the combined constraints, we only show the 95% CL exclusion as the $t\bar{t}$ and four top results have not been obtained using a recast LHC analysis.

with a flat likelihood function over all dimensions. We have performed the scan by restricting the couplings to be smaller than 2π , as well as by allowing the mediator widths to reach 50% of the mediator mass. Figure 15 shows our results, where the upper left panel shows the model points excluded by the combination of all collider results, and the rest of the panels show the points excluded by individual LHC Run I collider results. We find that the 8 TeV monojet searches exclude model points which lie mainly in and around the triangle bounded by the $m_Y = 2m_X$ and $m_Y = 2m_t$ lines, where the characteristic g_t which is excluded by the 8 TeV results is of $\mathcal{O}(10)$. The region in which the excluded points are located is reasonable, as we expect any significant monojet signal in the region where $m_Y > 2m_X$. Furthermore, we expect the branching ratio to missing energy to be lower in the region where $m_Y > 2m_t$ due to the kinematically allowed decays into a pair of top quarks. This in turn leads to a lower signal cross section in all channels with missing energy and hence a lower number of points which can be excluded by monojet searches in the $m_Y > 2m_t$ region.

The points excluded by the 8 TeV $t\bar{t} + \cancel{E}_T$ measurements lie in roughly the same region as the points excluded by the monojet search, but with a more defined edge of $m_Y = 2m_t$. Conversely, the 8 TeV $t\bar{t}$ resonance search provides constraints in the region of $m_Y \in [400, 600]$ GeV and $m_X \gtrsim 100$ GeV, and is able to rule out g_t couplings of $\mathcal{O}(1)$. The four top searches constrain roughly the same region of the (m_Y, m_X) parameter space as the $t\bar{t}$ searches. However, the characteristic size of the couplings four top searches are able to constrain is significantly larger than the case of $t\bar{t}$.

Finally the diphoton resonant search excludes $m_Y \in [150, 2m_t]$ GeV with $2m_X > m_Y$, ruling out g_t couplings larger than 0.6. In the (m_Y, m_X) plane, we can observe that the constraints arising from all mediator resonance searches, i.e. the diphoton and $t\bar{t}$ analyses, are largely complementary to those issued from searches in channels with large missing energy.

6 Conclusions

We presented a comprehensive analysis of simplified top-philic dark matter models, in the scope of collider physics, astrophysics and cosmology. Our study considered the full four dimensional model parameter space, where we treated the experimental constraints on the model space both separately and in conjunction with each other. The requirement of predicting the measured relic density $\Omega_{\text{DM}}h^2$ gives the most stringent constraint on the viable regions of the parameter space. Most of the region where $m_Y > m_X$ cannot accommodate the observed relic density, except near the resonance $m_Y \sim 2m_X$ and for $m_X > m_t$. Direct detection data complementary excludes large portions of the parameter space in the $m_Y < m_X$ region once experimental results from LUX and CDMSLite are accounted for. In the context of dark matter indirect detection, we studied prospects for further model constraints from gamma-ray flux measurements originating from dwarf spheroidal galaxies and the gamma-ray lines issued from the inner galactic region. In the specific model we consider, the dark matter annihilation cross section is p -wave suppressed, leading to indirect detection bounds which are too weak to provide additional constraints on the parameter space.

Collider searches from LHC Run 1 at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV can constrain the parameter space beyond the limits obtained from the relic density and direct detection, but apply mostly

in the limit of coupling values $\gtrsim 1$. We found that for couplings of $\lesssim \pi$, the resonant $t\bar{t}$ and diphoton searches are able to exclude a fraction of model points in the regions of $m_Y \sim 400 - 600$ GeV and $m_Y \sim 150 - 350$ GeV respectively, even upon assuming astrophysical and relic density constraints.

In addition to studying collider signatures of the top-philic dark matter simplified model as a complementary way of dark matter detection, we performed a study of collider constraints without assuming relic density and direct detection (as well as extended the parameter range to include coupling values of $< 2\pi$ and $\Gamma_Y \leq 0.5m_Y$). Our results for a four dimensional parameter scan show that (in the scenario where astrophysical and cosmological constraints are not relevant), $\cancel{E}_T + j$ and $\cancel{E}_T + t\bar{t}$ 8 TeV results provide meaningful bounds on the model parameter space in the $2m_X < m_Y < 2m_t$ region, but only for $g_t, g_X \gtrsim \pi$. In the $m_X > m_t$ region, the resonant $t\bar{t}$ searches are again able to exclude some model points in the $m_Y \sim 400 - 500$ GeV region, while $\gamma\gamma$ measurements provide constraints in the $m_Y < 2m_t$ region. We have also explored the prospects of using rarer processes such as four-top production as well as mono- Z and mono-Higgs production to constrain our model. While we have not performed a detailed analysis we have found that these processes show promising signs of further constraining the parameter space of our model and deserve dedicated studies.

For the purposes of our study we have recast the CMS monojet and $\cancel{E}_T + t\bar{t}$ searches in the framework of MADANALYSIS 5, which allows us to reliably extract constraints on our model, and can benefit future collider studies which go beyond our simplified model and even beyond dark matter searches. Another important aspect of our work, is the use of NLO QCD predictions for the $\cancel{E}_T + t\bar{t}$ process to constrain our model. While we find that K -factors for this process are close to one, the importance of taking higher order effects into account lies in the reduced theoretical uncertainties of the NLO results. We have shown that the uncertainties in the CL estimates significantly reduce with the inclusion of higher order QCD terms which clearly illustrates the importance of higher order corrections on the interpretation of dark matter searches at colliders.

The work presented in this paper also represents a proof-of-concept for a unified numerical framework for dark matter studies at the interface of collider physics, astrophysics and cosmology in a generic model.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the LHC dark matter forum for motivation to pursue this project and for useful discussions during the April 2016 Amsterdam workshop. We are also grateful to Lana Beck for providing her four top analysis code for cross checks of our results, as well as to Yong Yang from the B2G CMS group for providing useful material to validate the recast of the B2G-14-004 analysis. This work has been supported by the research unit New physics at the LHC of the German research foundation DFG, the Helmholtz Alliance for Astroparticle Physics and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research BMBF. CA is supported by the ATTRACT - Brains back to Brussels grant from Innoviris. MB is supported by the MOVE-IN Louvain Cofund grant. EC, BF and KM

are supported by the Theory-LHC-France initiative of the CNRS (INP/IN2P3). EV is supported by the European Union as part of the FP7 Marie Curie Initial Training Network MCnetITN (PITN-GA-2012-315877). BH is supported in part by the National Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S.-FNRSBelgium) under a FRIA grant. The work of FM and AM is supported by the IISN “MadGraph” convention 4.4511.10 and the IISN “Fundamental interactions” convention 4.4517.08.

A Mediator width

As supplementary material, figure 16 shows the relative mediator width Γ_Y/m_Y in the (g_t, g_X) plane for different mass choices. The magnitude of the mediator width depends on the hierarchy among the different decay processes i.e. $t\bar{t}$, $X\bar{X}$, gg and $\gamma\gamma$. Diphoton channel is negligible compared to the others and will not be discussed. Figure 16 shows that the Y_0 resonance can be considered as narrow (i.e. $\Gamma_Y/m_Y < 0.03$) when only the gg decay mode is involved. As soon as $t\bar{t}$ and $X\bar{X}$ decay channels are opened, the ratio Γ_Y/m_Y grows quickly, reaching 20% for $g_t, g_X \sim 2$. The narrow width approximation is valid below couplings of $\mathcal{O}(1)$. Figure 17 shows the relative mediator width Γ_Y/m_Y in the (m_Y, m_X) plane for different coupling choices. When $g_t, g_X \leq 1$, Γ_Y/m_Y never exceeds 10% and the narrow width approximation is reliable for a wide region of the parameter space. In the kinematic regions where Y_0 decays to X and/or top quarks is allowed, increase in either g_t or g_X quickly leads to Γ_Y/m_Y ratio above 20%.

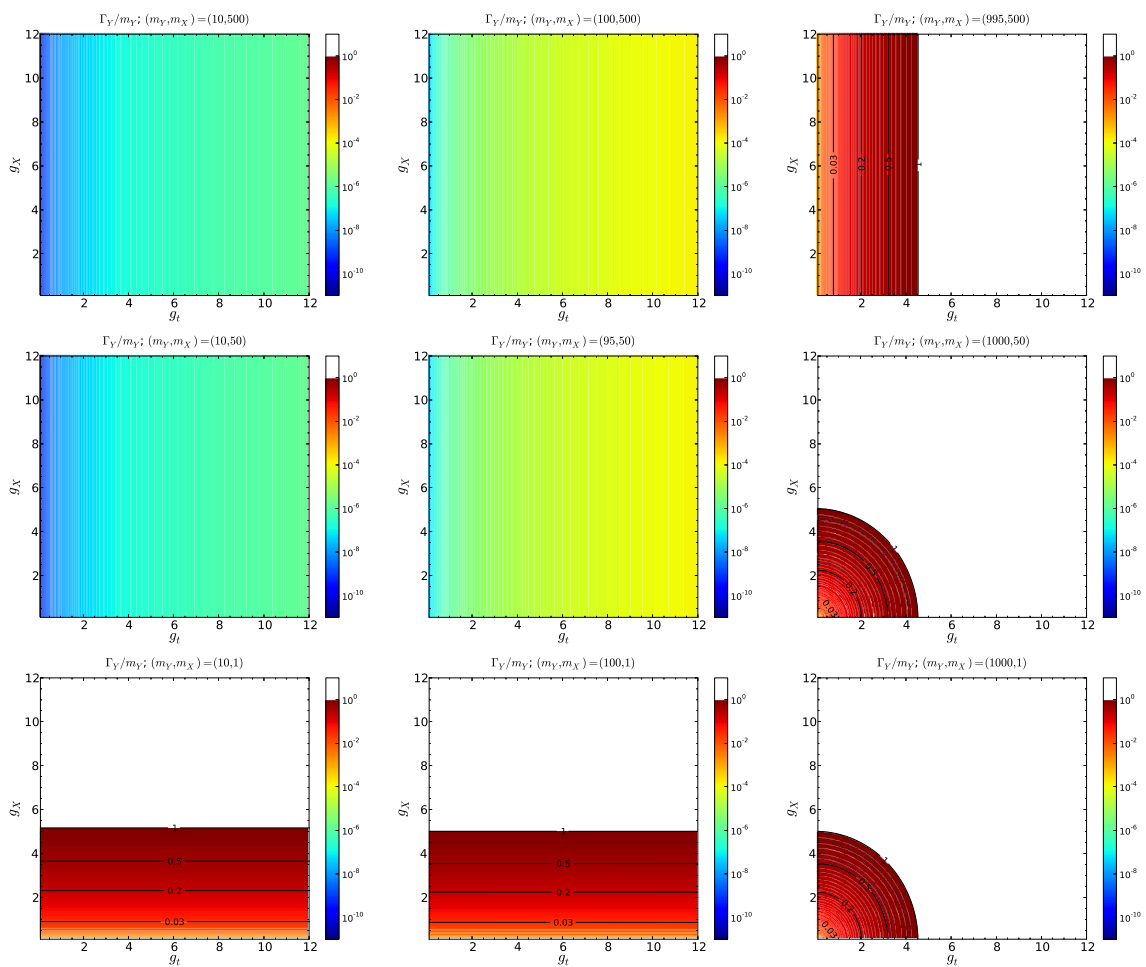


Figure 16. Γ_Y/m_Y in the (g_t, g_X) plane for different mass choices (expressed in GeV). The colour bar shows the numerical value of the width to mass ratio.

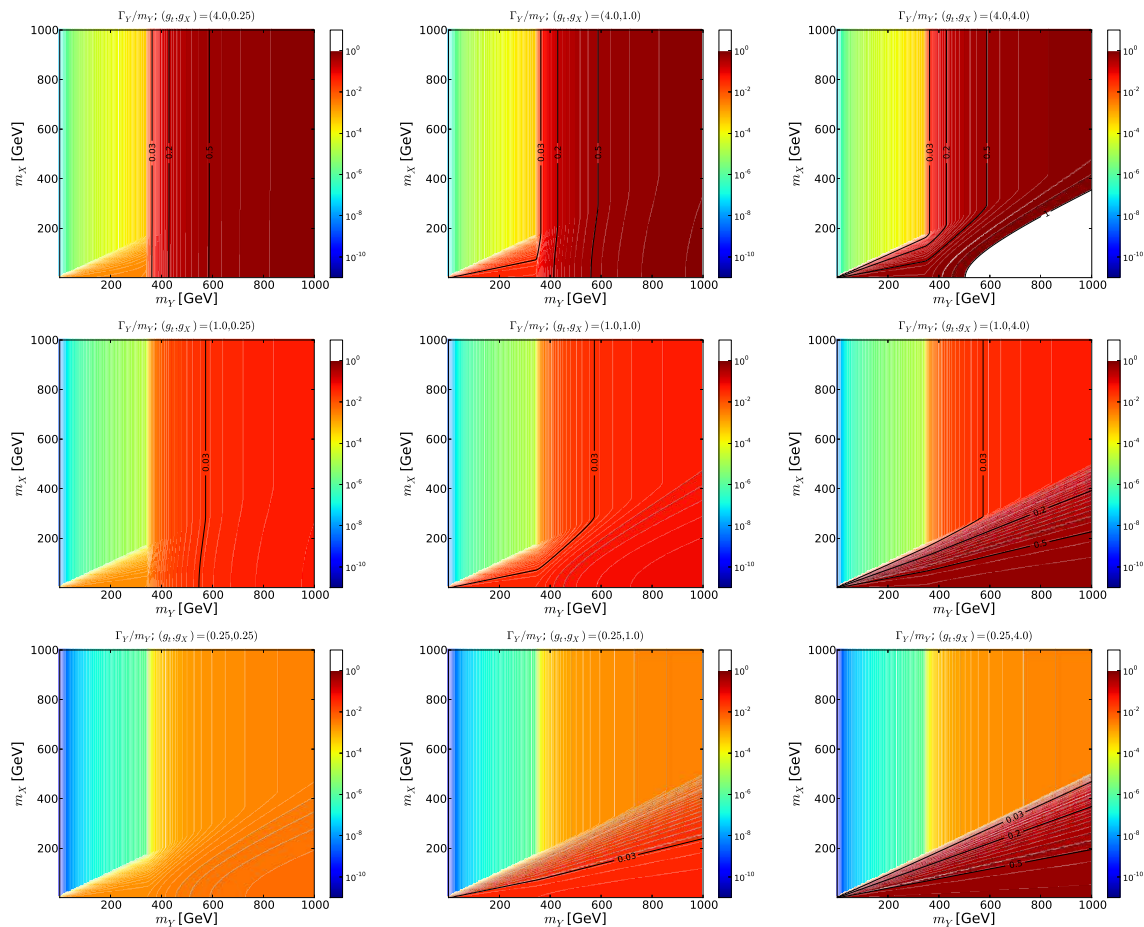


Figure 17. Γ_Y/m_Y in the (m_Y, m_X) plane for different coupling choices. The colour bar shows the numerical value of the width to mass ratio.

B Details of the top-philic dark matter analysis

B.1 Consistency checks of astrophysical and cosmological dark matter signatures

As a part of consistency checks, we have ensured that the scan covers similar regions of the parameter space both in case of MADDM and MICROMEAS. Figure 18 shows the results for distributions of masses and couplings in the scans, where the blue/red lines refer to MADDM/MICROMEAS respectively. Similarities in the distributions of figure 18 indicate that parameter scanning was performed consistently between the two codes.

We also made an explicit comparison between the projections of the four dimensional parameter scans obtained with MADDM and MICROMEAS respectively. Figures 19 and 20 show several examples. We don't find significant deviations between the results obtained in the two codes except in the region of $m_Y \sim 2m_X$ and $m_X \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$ GeV. In these regions we expect some discrepancies due to the possible numerical instabilities in integration of the thermally averaged cross section for amplitudes which feature resonances of extremely small widths.

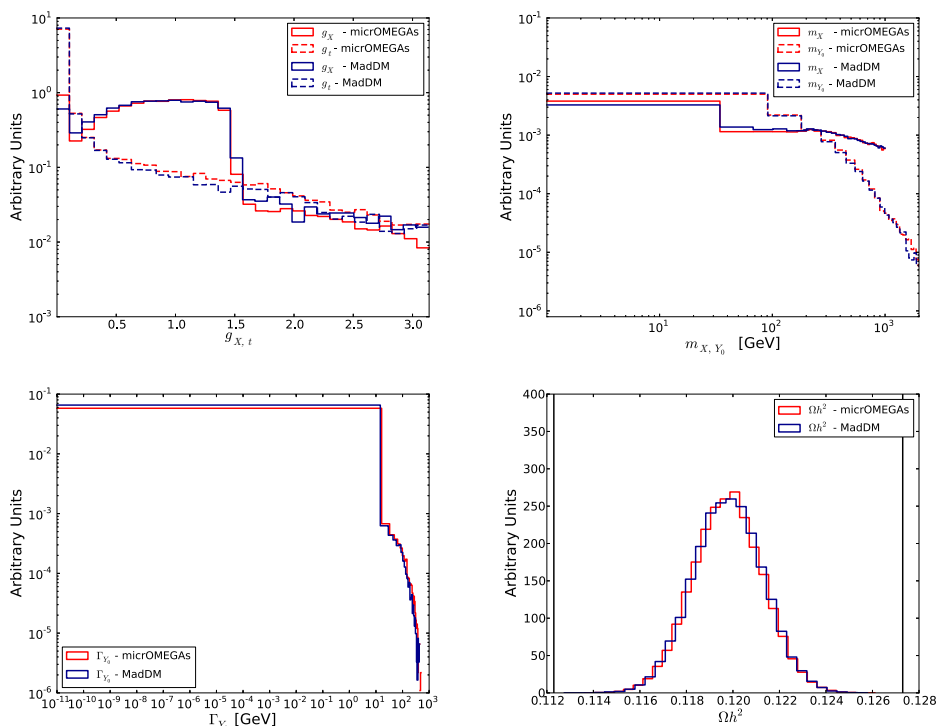


Figure 18. Consistency check for the parameter scan. The panels show the distribution of couplings, masses and Y_0 widths and relic densities resulting from a MULTINEST parameter scan. The vertical lines in the panel showing the distribution of relic density represent the 5σ Planck bound.

B.2 Details on the dark matter annihilation cross sections

In this appendix we give the detailed analytic expression of the three annihilation processes described in section 3.1.

The s -channel annihilation cross section $X\bar{X} \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ (process (I)) is given by:

$$\sigma(X\bar{X} \rightarrow t\bar{t}) = \frac{3g_X^2 g_t^2 y_t^2 (s - 4m_t^2)^{3/2} \sqrt{s - 4m_X^2}}{32\pi s (m_Y^2 - s)^2 + m_Y^2 \Gamma_Y^2}. \quad (\text{B.1})$$

Process (II) denotes the annihilation of dark matter into a pair of gluons via s -channel and is given by:

$$\sigma(X\bar{X} \rightarrow gg) = \frac{g_g^2 g_X^2 s^{3/2} \sqrt{s - 4m_X^2}}{16\pi v^2 (m_Y^2 - s)^2 + m_Y^2 \Gamma_Y^2}. \quad (\text{B.2})$$

Finally the process (III), namely $X\bar{X} \rightarrow Y_0 Y_0$ via t -channel is given by:

$$\sigma(X\bar{X} \rightarrow Y_0 Y_0) = \frac{g_X^4}{64\pi} \frac{h(t_0) - h(t_1)}{s(s - 4m_X^2)}, \quad (\text{B.3})$$

where $t_{0,1}$ are the integration extrema:

$$t_{0,1} = -\frac{1}{4} \left(\sqrt{s - 4m_X^2} \mp \sqrt{s - m_Y^2} \right)^2, \quad (\text{B.4})$$

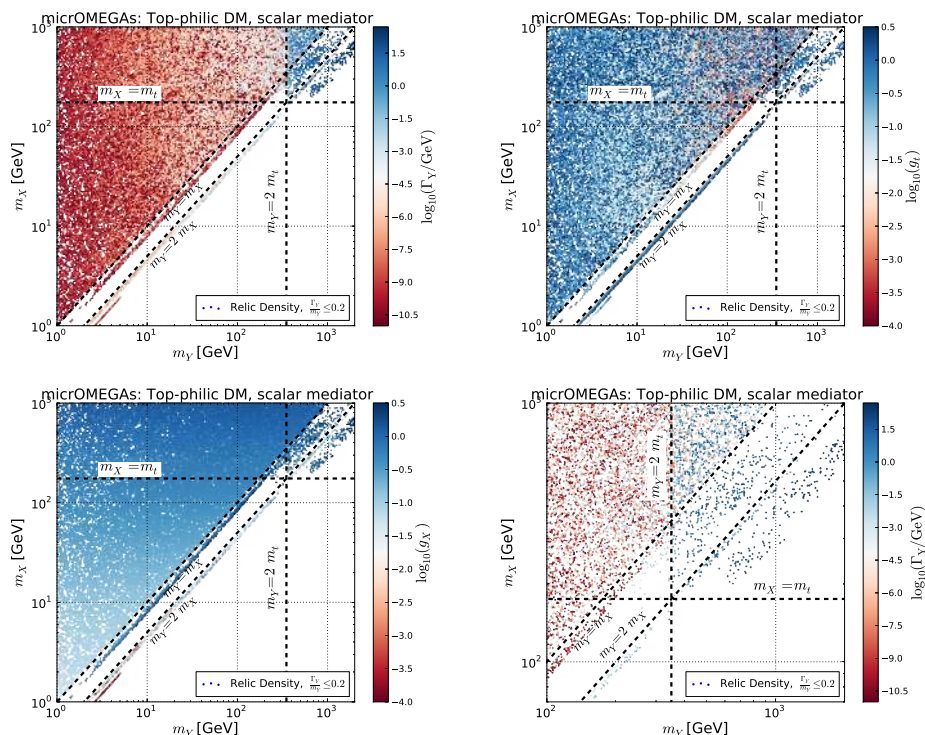


Figure 19. Four dimensional parameter scan using MICROMEGAS, projected onto the m_X , m_Y plane. The first three panels show the projections with the colourmap representing the values of Γ_Y , g_X and g_t respectively. The right-most panel shows the zoomed-in upper right region of the left-most panel. The scan is made under the same assumptions as figure 2.

and the undefined integral $h(t)$ has the form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 h(t) \equiv & \frac{(m_Y^2 - 4m_X^2)^2}{m_X^2 - u} - \frac{(m_Y^2 - 4m_X^2)^2}{m_X^2 - t} - 4t \\
 & + \frac{(6m_Y^2 - 4m_Y^2(4m_X^2 + s) - 32m_X^4 + 16m_X^2s + s^2)}{2m_Y^2 - s} \log\left(\frac{t - m_X^2}{m_X^2 - u}\right), \quad (\text{B.5})
 \end{aligned}$$

with t and u Mandelstam variables such that $u = 2m_X^2 + 2m_Y^2 - s - t$.

In general the thermally averaged cross section can be approximated in the non relativistic regime by expanding the cross section in powers of the dark matter relative velocity v_{rel} , with $s \simeq m_X^2(4 + v_{\text{rel}}^2)$, weighting with the appropriate Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution:

$$\langle \sigma v_{\text{rel}} \rangle(x)_i = \mathcal{A}_i + \frac{3}{2} \frac{\mathcal{B}_i}{x} + \mathcal{O}(x^{-2}) \quad (\text{B.6})$$

where the index i indicated the annihilation process, $x \equiv m_X/T$ and T is the temperature of the dark matter gas. In case of s -channel annihilation, along the resonance the thermal average is much more complex and requires the full computation of the integral $\int dx \langle \sigma v_{\text{rel}} \rangle(x)$. The approximation given in eq. (B.6) holds in all regions far away from the resonance and is useful to show the dependence on v_{rel} of $\langle \sigma v_{\text{rel}} \rangle(x)$ for each specific process.

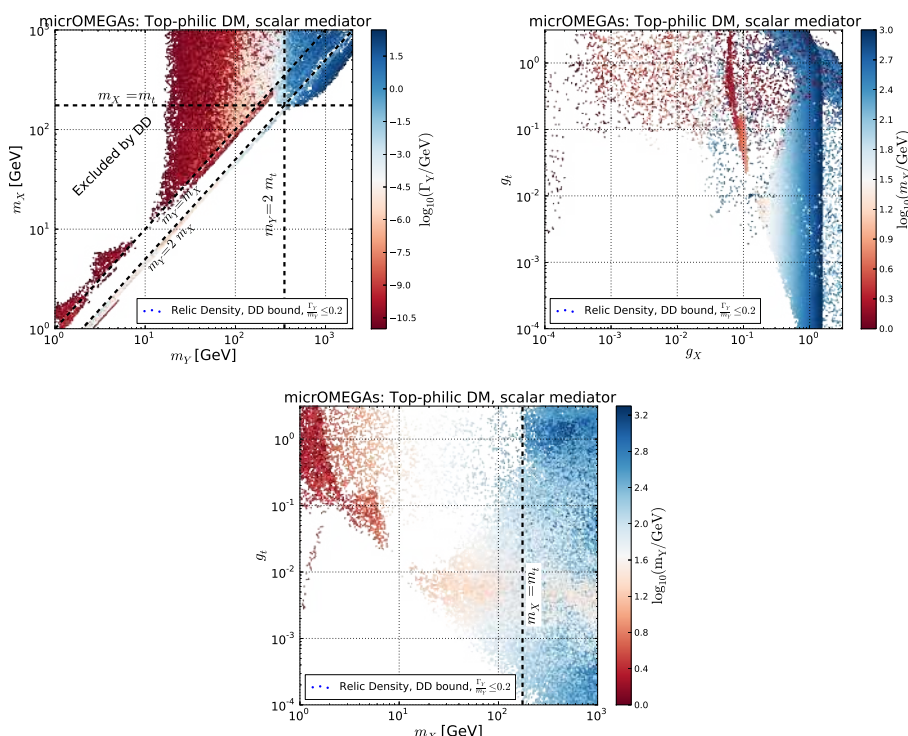


Figure 20. Consistency check for the parameter scan. The panels show projections of the four dimensional parameter scan using MICROMEAS with the same assumptions as in figure 4.

For all processes (I), (II) and (III) the first coefficient is always null, $\mathcal{A}_i = 0$. The first non negligible term in the expansion eq. (B.6) is then \mathcal{B} :

$$\mathcal{B}_{t\bar{t}} = \frac{3g_X^2 g_t^2 y_t^2 m_X^2 (1 - m_t^2/m_X^2)^{3/2}}{16\pi (m_Y^2 - 4m_X^2)^2}, \quad (\text{B.7})$$

$$\mathcal{B}_{gg} = \frac{2g_g^2 g_X^2 m_X^4}{2\pi v^2 (m_Y^2 - 4m_X^2)^2}, \quad (\text{B.8})$$

$$\mathcal{B}_{Y_0 Y_0} = \frac{g_X^4 m_X^2 (9m_X^4 - 8m_X^2 m_Y^2 + 2m_Y^4)}{24\pi (2m_X^2 - m_Y^2)^4} \sqrt{1 - \frac{m_Y^2}{m_X^2}}. \quad (\text{B.9})$$

This is equivalent to say that all three process are p -wave suppressed for dark matter annihilation at present epoch.

The case of Dirac dark matter particles communicating with the SM via a pseudoscalar mediator has been described in [96], where analytic expressions for $\langle\sigma v_{\text{rel}}\rangle$ can be found. Similarly to scalar mediator Y_0 the t -channel process is again p -wave suppressed, while the s -channel annihilation is dominated by s -wave.

C Recasting of LHC searches within the MADANALYSIS 5 framework

In this appendix, we detail the implementation, within the MADANALYSIS 5 framework [25–27], of the two dark matter searches that we have investigated in this work. More precisely,

this consists of the CMS-B2G-14-004 analysis [77] that probes final states comprised of a top-antitop system produced in association with a pair of invisible dark matter particles (see section C.1) and the CMS-EXO-12-048 analysis [69] related to the production of a pair of dark matter particles together with a hard jet (see section C.2). Both recasting codes have been validated within the version 1.3 of MADANALYSIS 5, although the monojet search reimplementation is also compatible with the version 1.2 of the program. The simulation of the detector response is performed with the standard DELPHES 3 package that we have run from the MADANALYSIS 5 platform. In the monojet case, we have used the standard CMS detector parameterisation that is the shipped with MADANALYSIS 5, while in the top-antitop plus missing energy case, we have designed a dedicated detector card. For both setups, jets are reconstructed on the basis of the anti- k_T algorithm [97] with a radius parameter set to 0.5, as implemented in FASTJET [98].

The validation of both our reimplementations is based on material provided by CMS. Two UFO models [99], one for each of the recast analyses, have been shared so that we have been allowed to generate specific dark matter signals for which CMS has released public cutflow charts and differential distributions. Using MG5_AMC [22] (with the leading order set of CTEQ6 parton densities [100]) and PYTHIA 6 [101] (with the Z_2^* tune [102] for the description of the underlying events) for the simulation of the hard scattering process and of the parton showering and hadronisation, respectively, we have generated signal events that have been analyzed with MADANALYSIS 5. Our results have been confronted to the CMS official numbers, which has allowed us to assess the validity of our recasting codes. Our simulation procedure moreover includes the generation of matrix elements containing up to two extra jets that we have merged according to the MLM prescription [103, 104], the merging scale being set to 40 GeV.

All PYTHIA 6, DELPHES 3 and MG5_AMC configuration cards can be downloaded from the public analysis database webpage of MADANALYSIS 5, <http://madanalysis.irmp.ucl.ac.be/wiki/PublicAnalysisDatabase>, while the recasting C++ codes associated with the CMS-EXO-12-048 and CMS-B2G-14-004 analyses can be found on INSPIRE [105, 106].

C.1 The CMS top-antitop plus missing energy CMS-B2G-14-004 search

In order to validate our reimplementation of the CMS-B2G-14-004 search in MADANALYSIS 5, we focus on a new physics model that features the production a pair of dark matter particle X of mass $m_X = 1$ GeV in association with a top-antitop pair via a four-fermion interaction. The CMS event selection strategy requires a large amount of missing transverse energy, a single isolated lepton and multiple jets, and uses $19.7, \text{fb}^{-1}$ of proton-proton collision data recorded at a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV.

The CMS-B2G-14-004 analysis relies on single electron and muon triggers, with lower p_T thresholds of 27 GeV and 24 GeV respectively, and the reconstructed electron (muon) candidate is imposed to be isolated in such a way that the sum of the transverse momenta of all objects lying in a cone of radius $R = 0.3$ centered on the lepton has to be smaller than 10% (12%) of the lepton p_T . Event preselection finally requires that the lepton p_T is larger than 30 GeV and pseudorapidity $|\eta|$ is smaller than 2.5 (2.1 for muons). It additionally

	Selection step	CMS	ϵ_i^{CMS}	MA5	ϵ_i^{MA5}	δ_i^{rel}
0	Nominal	224510		224510		
1	Preselection			15468.5	0.069	
2	$\cancel{E}_T > 320$ GeV	4220.8		4579.8	0.296	
3	$M_T > 160$ GeV	3390.1	0.803	3648.2	0.797	0.75%
4	$\Delta\Phi(j_{1,2}, \cancel{E}_T) > 1.2$	2963.5	0.874	3124.3	0.856	2.06%
5	$M_{T2}^W > 200$ GeV	2267.6	0.765	2403	0.769	-0.52%

Table 7. Comparison of results obtained with our MADANALYSIS 5 reimplementaion (MA5) and those provided by the CMS collaboration (CMS). The efficiencies are defined in eq. (C.1) and the relative difference between the CMS and the MADANALYSIS 5 results δ_i^{rel} in eq. (C.2).

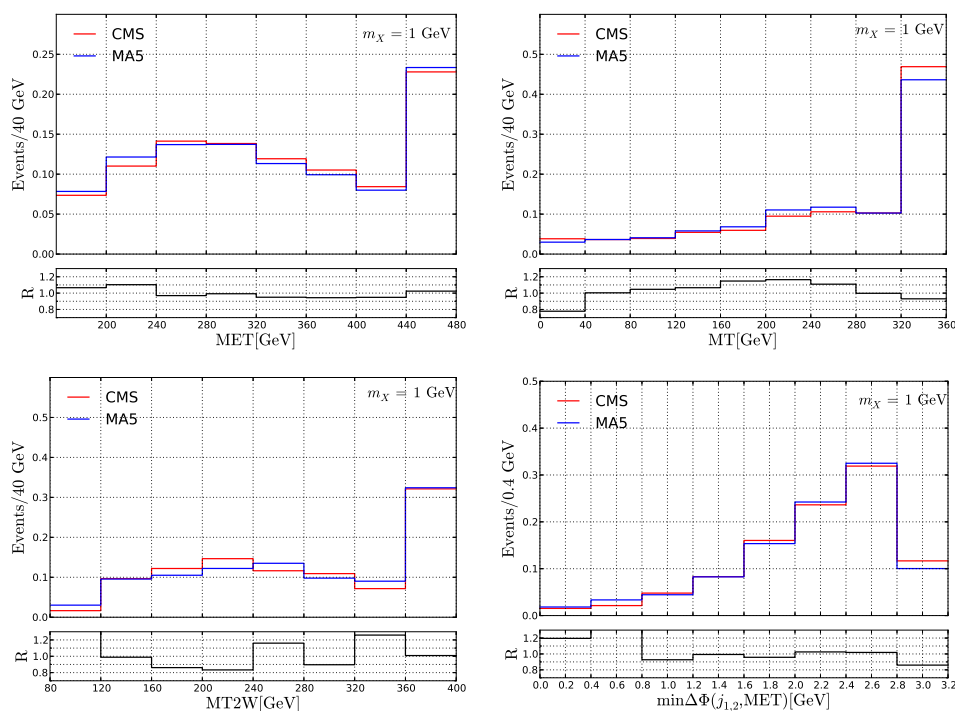


Figure 21. Missing transverse energy, M_T , M_{T2}^W and $\Delta\Phi(j_{1,2}, \cancel{E}_T)$ spectrum as obtained with MADANALYSIS 5 (blue) once all selection steps but the one related to the represented variable are applied, compared to the CMS official results (red).

demands the presence of at least three jets of $p_T > 30$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$ with one of them being b -tagged, as well as missing energy $\cancel{E}_T > 160$ GeV. The signal region is defined by selecting events with a large amount of missing transverse energy $\cancel{E}_T > 320$ for which the transverse mass M_T that is constructed from the lepton and the missing energy is larger than 160 GeV. Moreover, the missing transverse momentum and the two leading jets are asked to be well separated in azimuth, $\Delta\Phi(j_{1,2}, \cancel{E}_T) > 1.2$, and the M_{T2}^W variable [107] is enforced to be greater than 200 GeV.

In table 7, we confront the cutflow chart that has been obtained with MADANALYSIS 5 to the official results of CMS for the benchmark scenario under consideration. For each step of the selection, we have calculated the related efficiency defined as

$$\epsilon_i = \frac{n_i}{n_{i-1}}, \quad (\text{C.1})$$

where n_i and n_{i-1} mean the event number after and before the considered cut, respectively. The *relative difference* information given in the table corresponds to the difference between the MADANALYSIS 5 and the CMS efficiencies, normalized to the CMS result,

$$\delta_i^{\text{rel}} = 1 - \frac{\epsilon_i^{\text{MA5}}}{\epsilon_i^{\text{CMS}}}. \quad (\text{C.2})$$

An agreement at the percent level has been found all over the selection procedure. Moreover, we compare several (normalized) differential distributions as calculated with MADANALYSIS 5 when all selection steps but the one related to the represented kinematic variable are included with the public CMS results in figure 21. A very good agreement can again be observed.

C.2 The CMS monojet CMS-EXO-12-048 search

The validation of our implementation of the CMS-EXO-12-048 search in MADANALYSIS 5 has been achieved on the basis of a benchmark scenario that is inspired by refs. [108–111]. In this context, monojet events arise from the associated production of a pair of invisible Dirac fermions of mass of 1 GeV with at least one hard jet. The interactions of the dark particle with the Standard Model are mediated by a new gauge boson Z' of mass and width of 40 TeV and 10 GeV respectively, and all new physics interactions have been assumed to have a vector coupling structure and a strength set equal to 1. Concerning our signal simulation setup, we have imposed that all parton-level jets have a transverse momentum p_T larger than 20 GeV and that the leading jet has a $p_T > 80$ GeV.

The CMS monojet search relies on an integrated luminosity of 19.7 fb^{-1} of proton-proton collisions at a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV. It focuses on a signal containing a very hard jet with a transverse momentum satisfying $p_T > 110$ GeV and a pseudorapidity smaller than 4.5 in absolute value. A second jet is moreover allowed, provided that its transverse momentum is larger than 30 GeV, its pseudorapidity satisfies $|\eta| < 4.5$ and if it is well separated from the first jet by 2.5 radians in azimuth. Events featuring more than two jets (with $p_T > 30$ GeV and $|\eta| < 4.5$), isolated electrons or muons with a transverse momentum $p_T > 10$ GeV or hadronically decaying tau leptons with a transverse momentum $p_T > 20$ GeV and a pseudorapidity satisfying $|\eta| < 2.3$ are discarded. The analysis then contains seven inclusive signal regions in which the missing energy \cancel{E}_T is required to be above specific thresholds of 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500 and 550 GeV respectively.

The selection strategy of the CMS monojet analysis thus consists of six preselection cuts followed by one region-dependent cut, when we ignore the first two requirements of the analysis related to the cleaning of the events from the detector noise that cannot be handled with DELPHES 3. For the benchmark scenario under consideration, we compare

	Selection step	CMS	ϵ_i^{CMS}	MA5	ϵ_i^{MA5}	δ_i^{rel}
0	Nominal	84653.7		84653.7		
1	One hard jet	50817.2	0.6	53431.28	0.631	5.2%
2	At most two jets	36061	0.7096	38547.75	0.721	1.61%
3	Requirements if two jets	31878.1	0.884	34436.35	0.893	1.02%
4	Muon veto	31878.1	1	34436.35	1.000	0
5	Electron veto	31865.1	1	34436.35	1.000	0
6	Tau veto	31695.1	0.995	34397.54	0.998	0.3%
	$\cancel{E}_T > 250 \text{ GeV}$	8687.22	0.274	7563.04	0.219	20.00%
	$\cancel{E}_T > 300 \text{ GeV}$	5400.51	0.621	4477.67	0.592	4.66%
	$\cancel{E}_T > 350 \text{ GeV}$	3394.09	0.628	2813.70	0.628	0.00%
	$\cancel{E}_T > 400 \text{ GeV}$	2224.15	0.6553	1753.71	0.623	4.93%
	$\cancel{E}_T > 450 \text{ GeV}$	1456.02	0.654	1110.92	0.633	3.21%
	$\cancel{E}_T > 500 \text{ GeV}$	989.806	0.679	722.83	0.650	4.27%
	$\cancel{E}_T > 550 \text{ GeV}$	671.442	0.678	487.54	0.674	0.59%

Table 8. Comparison of results obtained with our MADANALYSIS 5 reimplementation (MA5) and those provided by the CMS collaboration (CMS). The efficiencies are defined in eq. (C.1) and the relative difference between the CMS and the MADANALYSIS 5 results δ_i^{rel} in eq. (C.2).

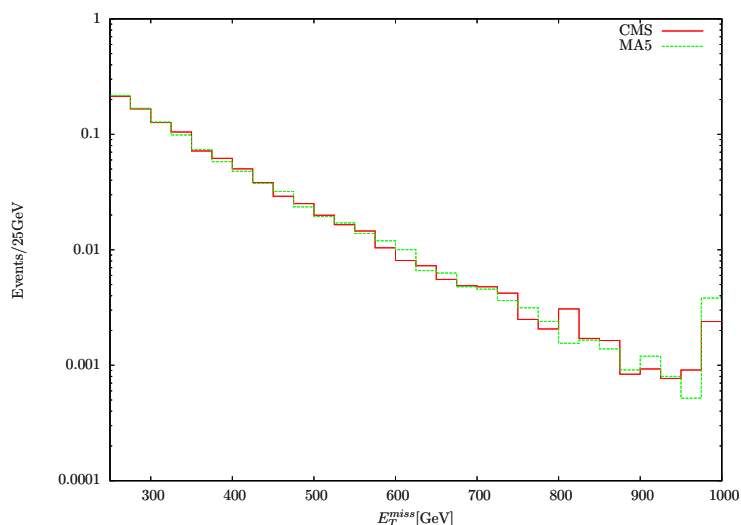


Figure 22. Missing energy spectrum as obtained with MADANALYSIS 5 (green dashed line) after the CMS-EXO-12-048 monojet preselection, compared to the CMS official results (red solid line). The last bin is the overflow bin.

the results that have been derived with our MADANALYSIS 5 reimplementation with those provided by the CMS collaboration in table 8.

We have found that all selection steps are properly described by our implementation, with the exception the missing energy selection $\cancel{E}_T > 250$ GeV for which a disagreement of about 20% has been observed. It is however not uncommon that low missing energy is difficult to simulate with a fast-simulation of the detector based on DELPHES 3. We have verified that for missing energy values of interest, the description of the missing energy agree relatively well with CMS, as illustrated in figure 22 where we compare, for a benchmark scenario where the Z' mass has been set to 900 GeV, the missing energy distribution as obtained by CMS to the one derived with MADANALYSIS 5.

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