



Search for supersymmetry in hadronic final states using M_{T2} in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV

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Abstract

A search for supersymmetry or other new physics resulting in similar final states is presented using a data sample of 4.73 fb^{-1} of pp collisions collected at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV with the CMS detector at the LHC. Fully hadronic final states are selected based on the variable M_{T2} , an extension of the transverse mass in events with two invisible particles. Two complementary studies are performed. The first targets the region of parameter space with medium to high squark and gluino masses, in which the signal can be separated from the standard model backgrounds by a tight requirement on M_{T2} . The second is optimized to be sensitive to events with a light gluino and heavy squarks. In this case, the M_{T2} requirement is relaxed, but a higher jet multiplicity and at least one b-tagged jet are required. No significant excess of events over the standard model expectations is observed. Exclusion limits are derived for the parameter space of the constrained minimal supersymmetric extension of the standard model, as well as on a variety of simplified model spectra.

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1 Introduction

A broad class of extensions of the standard model (SM) predict the existence of heavy colored particles that decay to hadronic final states accompanied by large missing transverse energy (E_T^{miss}). The best known of these scenarios is supersymmetry [1] (SUSY) with R-parity conservation. In this paper we present a search for such new physics in pp collisions collected with the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at a center-of-mass energy of 7 TeV. The results are based on the data sample collected in 2011, corresponding to about 4.73 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity.

The search makes use of the “stransverse mass” variable M_{T2} [2, 3] to select new physics candidate events. M_{T2} is the natural extension of the transverse mass M_T to the case where two colored supersymmetric particles (“sparticles”) are pair-produced and both decay through a cascade of jets and possibly leptons to the lightest supersymmetric particle (LSP). The LSP is not visible in the detector and leads to a missing transverse momentum signature. Although M_{T2} was originally introduced to derive the masses of sparticles involved in the cascade decay, we use it here as a discovery variable since it is sensitive to the presence of SUSY-like new physics. The distribution of M_{T2} reflects the produced particle masses, which are much lighter for the SM background processes than for the SUSY processes. Hence, new physics is expected to appear as an excess in the tail of M_{T2} .

The analysis is based on two complementary approaches. A first approach, the “ M_{T2} analysis”, targets events resulting from heavy sparticle production, characterized by large E_T^{miss} , at least three jets, and large M_{T2} . The SM backgrounds in the signal region consist of $W(\ell\nu)$ +jets, $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets, $t\bar{t}$, and single-top events (the last two will be referred to collectively as top-quark background), which are estimated from data-control regions and simulation. This analysis loses sensitivity if the squarks are heavy and the gluinos light, in which case the production is dominated by gluino-gluino processes. The gluinos give rise to three-body decays with relatively small E_T^{miss} . Since the gluino decay is mediated by virtual squark exchange and the stop and sbottom are expected to be lighter than the first- and second-generation squarks, these events can be rich in b quarks. To increase the sensitivity to such processes, a second approach, the “ $M_{T2}b$ analysis”, is developed, in which the threshold on M_{T2} defining the signal region is lowered. To suppress the QCD multijet background, we demand at least one b-tagged jet and place a stricter requirement on the jet multiplicity. The $M_{T2}b$ analysis provides a larger signal-to-background ratio in the region of heavy squarks and light gluinos and hence improves our sensitivity to this scenario.

This paper extends previous results of searches in fully hadronic final states from the CMS [4–7] and ATLAS [8–11] Collaborations. It is organized as follows: after a brief introduction to M_{T2} and its salient properties in Section 2, and a description of the CMS detector in Section 3, we present in Section 4 the data samples used and the event selection. In Section 5, the search strategy is presented. This strategy is applied to the M_{T2} analysis in Section 6 and to the $M_{T2}b$ analysis in Section 7. In these sections the background estimation methods are also discussed. We interpret the results in Section 8 in the context of the constrained minimal supersymmetric standard model (CMSSM) as well as for a variety of simplified models. Finally, Section 9 contains a summary.

2 Definition of M_{T2}

The variable M_{T2} was introduced [2] to measure the mass of primary pair-produced particles in a situation where both ultimately decay into undetected particles (e.g., LSPs) leaving the

event kinematics underconstrained. It assumes that the two produced sparticles give rise to identical types of decay chains with two visible systems defined by their transverse momenta $\vec{p}_T^{\text{vis}(i)}$, transverse energies $E_T^{\text{vis}(i)}$, and masses $m^{\text{vis}(i)}$. They are accompanied by the unknown LSP transverse momenta $\vec{p}_T^{\tilde{\chi}^{(i)}}$. In analogy with the transverse mass used for the W boson mass determination [12], we can define two transverse masses ($i = 1, 2$):

$$(M_T^{(i)})^2 = (m^{\text{vis}(i)})^2 + m_{\tilde{\chi}}^2 + 2 \left(E_T^{\text{vis}(i)} E_T^{\tilde{\chi}^{(i)}} - \vec{p}_T^{\text{vis}(i)} \cdot \vec{p}_T^{\tilde{\chi}^{(i)}} \right). \quad (1)$$

These have the property (as in W-boson decays) that, for the true LSP mass $m_{\tilde{\chi}}$, their distribution cannot exceed the mass of the parent particle of the decay and they present an endpoint at the value of the parent mass. The momenta $\vec{p}_T^{\tilde{\chi}^{(i)}}$ of the invisible particles are not experimentally accessible individually. Only their sum, the missing transverse momentum \vec{p}_T^{miss} , is known. Therefore, in the context of SUSY, a generalization of the transverse mass is needed and the proposed variable is M_{T2} . It is defined as

$$M_{T2}(m_{\tilde{\chi}}) = \min_{\vec{p}_T^{\tilde{\chi}^{(1)}} + \vec{p}_T^{\tilde{\chi}^{(2)}} = \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}} \left[\max \left(M_T^{(1)}, M_T^{(2)} \right) \right], \quad (2)$$

where the LSP mass $m_{\tilde{\chi}}$ remains a free parameter. This formula can be understood as follows. As neither $M_T^{(1)}$ nor $M_T^{(2)}$ can exceed the parent mass if the true momenta are used, the larger of the two can be chosen. To make sure that M_{T2} does not exceed the parent mass, a minimization is performed on trial LSP momenta fulfilling the \vec{p}_T^{miss} constraint. The distribution of M_{T2} for the correct value of $m_{\tilde{\chi}}$ then has an endpoint at the value of the primary particle mass. If, however, $m_{\tilde{\chi}}$ is lower (higher) than the correct mass value, the endpoint will be below (above) the parent mass. An analytic expression for M_{T2} has been computed [13] assuming that initial-state radiation (ISR) can be neglected. In practice, the determination of M_{T2} may be complicated by the presence of ISR or, equivalently, transverse momentum arising from decays that occur upstream in the decay chain [14]. In this case, no analytic expression for M_{T2} is known, but it can be computed numerically, using, e.g., the results of Ref. [15].

To illustrate the behavior of M_{T2} , we consider the simple example of M_{T2} without ISR or upstream transverse momentum. As discussed in Ref. [13], the angular and p_T dependence of M_{T2} is encoded in a variable A_T :

$$A_T = E_T^{\text{vis}(1)} E_T^{\text{vis}(2)} + \vec{p}_T^{\text{vis}(1)} \cdot \vec{p}_T^{\text{vis}(2)}, \quad (3)$$

and M_{T2} increases as A_T increases. Therefore, the minimum value of M_{T2} is reached in configurations where the visible systems are back-to-back. The maximum value is reached when they are parallel to each other and have large p_T . In the simple case where $m_{\tilde{\chi}} = 0$ and the visible systems have zero mass, M_{T2} becomes

$$(M_{T2})^2 = 2A_T = 2p_T^{\text{vis}(1)} p_T^{\text{vis}(2)} (1 + \cos \phi_{12}), \quad (4)$$

where ϕ_{12} is the angle between the two visible systems in the transverse plane. It can be seen that Eq. (4) corresponds to the transverse mass of two systems $(M_T)^2 = 2p_T^{\text{sys}(1)} p_T^{\text{sys}(2)} (1 - \cos \phi_{12})$, with $\vec{p}_T^{\text{vis}} = -\vec{p}_T^{\text{sys}}$ for one of the systems.

In this paper, we use M_{T2} as a variable to distinguish potential new physics events from SM backgrounds. The use of M_{T2} as a discovery variable was first proposed in Ref. [16], but here we follow a different approach. Several choices for the visible system used as input to M_{T2} can be considered: dijet events (as in Ref. [16]), the two jets with largest p_T in multijet events,

or two systems of pseudojets defined by grouping jets together. In this study, we use the last method.

A technique to group jets in multijet events into two pseudojets is the “event hemispheres” method described in Ref. [17] (see Section 13.4). We take the two initial axes as the directions of the two massless jets that yield the largest dijet invariant mass. The pseudojets are then formed based on a minimization of the Lund distance criterion [17, 18].

We use M_{T2} as our main search variable since SUSY events with large expected E_T^{miss} and jet acoplanarity will be concentrated in the large M_{T2} region. In contrast, QCD dijet events, in which the two jets are back-to-back, populate the region of small M_{T2} regardless of the value of E_T^{miss} or jet p_T . In the present study, we choose the visible systems to be massless and set $m_{\tilde{\chi}} = 0$. Then back-to-back dijet events will have $M_{T2} = 0$, as explained above. Hence, M_{T2} has a built-in protection against jet mismeasurements in QCD dijet events, even if accompanied by large E_T^{miss} . However, QCD multijet events with large E_T^{miss} may give rise to acoplanar pseudojets, leading to larger M_{T2} values. For this reason, further protections against E_T^{miss} from mismeasurements need to be introduced, as described below. Other SM backgrounds, such as $t\bar{t}$, single top-quark, and W +jets events with leptonic decays, or Z +jets events where the Z boson decays to neutrinos, contain true E_T^{miss} and can also lead to acoplanar pseudojets.

3 CMS detector

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid 13 m in length and 6 m in diameter that provides an axial magnetic field of 3.8 T. The core of the solenoid is instrumented with various particle detection systems: a silicon pixel and strip tracker, an electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and a brass/scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL). The silicon pixel and strip tracker covers $|\eta| < 2.5$, where pseudorapidity η is defined by $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$ with θ the polar angle of the trajectory of the particle with respect to the counterclockwise beam direction. The ECAL and HCAL cover $|\eta| < 3$. The steel return yoke outside the solenoid is instrumented with gas detectors used to identify muons. A quartz-steel Cerenkov-radiation-based forward hadron calorimeter extends the coverage to $|\eta| \leq 5$. The detector is nearly hermetic, covering $0 < \phi < 2\pi$ in azimuth, allowing for energy balance measurements in the plane transverse to the beam directions. The first level of the CMS trigger system, composed of custom hardware processors, uses information from the calorimeters and muon detectors to select the most interesting events in a fixed time interval of less than $4 \mu\text{s}$. The High Level Trigger processor farm further decreases the event rate from around 100 kHz to around 300 Hz, before data storage. A detailed description of the CMS detector can be found elsewhere [19].

4 Samples and event selection

The data used in this analysis were collected by triggers based on the quantity H_T , the scalar sum of transverse momenta of reconstructed and energy-corrected calorimeter jets. Due to a continuous increase in the instantaneous luminosity of the LHC, the trigger evolved with time from the requirement $H_T > 440 \text{ GeV}$ to $H_T > 750 \text{ GeV}$. In this analysis, only triggers with a threshold of 650 GeV or less have been used, corresponding to a total integrated luminosity of 4.73 fb^{-1} .

The analysis is designed using simulated event samples created with the PYTHIA 6.4.22 [18] and MADGRAPH 5v1.1 [20] Monte Carlo event generators. These events are subsequently processed with a detailed simulation of the CMS detector response based on GEANT4 [21]. The events are

reconstructed and analyzed in the same way as the data. The SUSY signal particle spectrum is calculated using SOFTSUSY [22] and for the decays SDECAY [23] is used. We use two CMS SUSY benchmark signal samples, referred to as LM6 and LM9 [17], to illustrate possible CMSSM [24] yields. The CMSSM is defined by the universal scalar and gaugino mass parameters m_0 and $m_{1/2}$, respectively, the parameter A_0 of the trilinear couplings, the ratio of the vacuum expectation values of the two Higgs fields $\tan\beta$, and the sign of the Higgs mixing parameter $\text{sign}(\mu)$. The parameter values for LM6 are $m_0 = 85 \text{ GeV}$, $m_{1/2} = 400 \text{ GeV}$, $\tan\beta = 10$, $A_0 = 0 \text{ GeV}$ and $\text{sign}(\mu) > 0$. Those for LM9 are $m_0 = 1450 \text{ GeV}$, $m_{1/2} = 175 \text{ GeV}$, $\tan\beta = 50$, $A_0 = 0 \text{ GeV}$ and $\text{sign}(\mu) > 0$. All samples are generated using the CTEQ6 [25] parton distribution functions (PDFs). For SM background simulated samples we use the most accurate calculation of the cross sections currently available, usually with next-to-leading-order (NLO) accuracy. For the CMS SUSY benchmark signal samples we use NLO cross sections of 0.403 pb and 10.6 pb for LM6 and LM9, respectively, obtained by weighting the leading order cross sections from PYTHIA with sub-process dependent K-factors calculated with PROSPINO [26].

The events are reconstructed using the particle-flow (PF) algorithm [27], which identifies and reconstructs individually the particles produced in the collision, namely charged hadrons, photons, neutral hadrons, electrons, and muons.

Electrons and muons with $p_T \geq 10 \text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta| \leq 2.4$ are considered isolated if the transverse momentum sum of charged hadrons, photons, and neutral hadrons surrounding the lepton within a cone of radius $\sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} = 0.4$, divided by the lepton transverse momentum value itself, is less than 0.2. The electron and muon reconstruction and identification algorithms are described in Refs. [28, 29] and [30], respectively. All particles apart from the isolated electrons and muons are clustered into jets using the anti- k_T jet clustering algorithm [31] with distance parameter 0.5 [32, 33]. Jet energies are calibrated by applying correction factors as a function of the transverse momentum and the pseudorapidity of the jet. Residual jet energy corrections are applied to jets in data to account for differences in jet energy scale between simulation and data [34]. The effect of pileup, namely multiple pp collisions within a beam crossing, is reduced by using the FastJet pileup subtraction procedure [35, 36] for data and simulated events. Jets are required to pass loose identification criteria and to satisfy $p_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta| \leq 2.4$. The b-jet tagging is based on the simple-secondary-vertex algorithm [37]. We use the high-purity working point that yields a typical jet-tagging efficiency of 42% for b jets in our search region while the mistagging efficiency for light-flavored (uds quark and gluon) jets is of the order of 0.1% and for c jets, 6.3%. The missing transverse momentum \vec{E}_T^{miss} is computed as the negative vector sum of all particles reconstructed by the PF algorithm [33].

Events are required to contain at least one good primary vertex [38]. The H_T value, computed from PF jets with $p_T > 50 \text{ GeV}$, must satisfy $H_T \geq 750 \text{ GeV}$. With this H_T requirement, the triggers are nearly 100% efficient. At least three jets are required, where a p_T threshold of 40 GeV is used for jet counting. The two leading jets are required to have $p_T > 100 \text{ GeV}$. The value of E_T^{miss} is required to exceed 30 GeV. Events containing beam background or anomalous calorimeter noise are rejected. To reject events where a significant fraction of the momentum imbalance arises from forward or soft jets, a maximum difference of 70 GeV is imposed on the modulus of the difference between the \vec{E}_T^{miss} and \vec{H}_T^{miss} vectors, where \vec{H}_T^{miss} is the negative vector sum of all selected jets. Events containing jet candidates with $p_T > 50 \text{ GeV}$ that fail the jet identification criteria are also rejected.

To reduce the background from QCD multijet events with large E_T^{miss} , arising from mismeasurements or leptonic heavy flavor decays, a minimum azimuthal difference $\Delta\phi_{\text{min}}(\text{jets}, \vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}) > 0.3$ is required between the directions of \vec{E}_T^{miss} and any jet with $p_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$. Finally, events

are rejected if they contain an isolated electron or muon, to suppress the contributions from W +jets, Z +jets and top-quark backgrounds.

5 Search strategy

The M_{T2} variable is computed after applying the selection criteria of Section 4. We separately consider fully hadronic channels with ≥ 3 jets and a tight M_{T2} requirement (the M_{T2} analysis), which is mostly sensitive to signal regions with large squark and gluino masses, and channels with ≥ 4 jets, at least one tagged b jet, and a relaxed M_{T2} requirement (the $M_{T2}b$ analysis), which increases sensitivity to regions with small gluino and large squark masses.

Given the event selection outlined above, we do not expect a significant number of QCD multijet events to appear in the signal regions. Nonetheless, we estimate an upper limit on the remaining QCD multijet background in the signal regions from data control samples. The main backgrounds, consisting of W +jets, Z +jets, and top-quark production, are evaluated from data control samples and simulation. A common strategy is applied to both the M_{T2} and $M_{T2}b$ analyses:

- Two regions are defined in H_T , a low H_T region $750 \leq H_T < 950$ GeV and a high H_T region $H_T \geq 950$ GeV. In each region, several adjacent bins in M_{T2} are defined: five bins for the M_{T2} analysis and four for the $M_{T2}b$ analysis. The lowest bin in M_{T2} is chosen such that the expected QCD multijet background remains a small fraction of the total background. For the M_{T2} analysis the lowest bin starts at $M_{T2} = 150$ GeV and for $M_{T2}b$ at $M_{T2} = 125$ GeV.
- A dedicated method for each background is designed to estimate its contribution in the signal region from data control samples and simulation. The number of events and their relative systematic uncertainties are computed by means of these methods in each H_T , M_{T2} bin. The methods are designed such that the resulting estimates are largely uncorrelated statistically.
- The predicted number of events for all background components and their uncertainties are combined, resulting in an estimate of the total background yield and its uncertainty in each bin.
- The estimated number of background events for each bin is compared to the number of observed events, and the potential contribution from a SUSY signal is quantified by a statistical method described in Section 8.

6 M_{T2} analysis

Figure 1 shows the measured M_{T2} distribution in comparison to simulation. For $M_{T2} < 80$ GeV the distribution is completely dominated by QCD multijet events. For medium M_{T2} values, the distribution is dominated by W +jets and $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets events with some contribution from top-quark events, while in the tail of M_{T2} the contribution from top-quark production becomes negligible and $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets together with W +jets events dominate. We observe good agreement between data and simulation in the core as well as in the tail of the distribution. The white histogram (black dotted line) corresponds to the LM6 signal. It can be noted that in the presence of signal, an excess in the tail of M_{T2} is expected.

The corresponding event yields for data and SM simulated samples, after the full selection and for the various bins in M_{T2} , are given in Table 1 for the low and the high H_T regions.

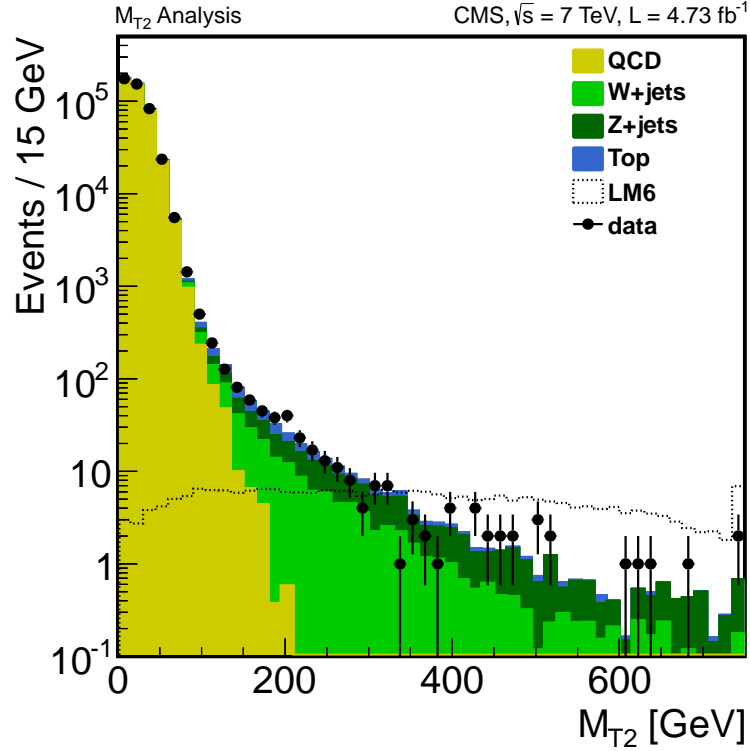


Figure 1: The M_{T2} distribution with all selection requirements applied and $H_T \geq 750$ GeV. The different predictions for the SM backgrounds from simulation are stacked on top of each other. The LM6 signal distribution is not stacked. All distributions from simulation are normalized to the integrated luminosity of the data.

Table 1: Observed number of events and expected SM background yields from simulation in M_{T2} bins for the low and high H_T regions. These numbers are for guidance only and are not used in the final background prediction.

	QCD multijet	W+jets	Top	Z($\nu\nu$)+jets	Total SM	Data
$750 \leq H_T < 950$						
$M_{T2}[0, \infty]$	3.18e+05	9.22e+02	1.30e+03	3.01e+02	3.20e+05	3.20e+05
$M_{T2}[150, 200]$	3.08	37.5	20.6	27.9	90.0	88
$M_{T2}[200, 275]$	0.0	20.6	9.40	20.3	50.3	69
$M_{T2}[275, 375]$	0.0	9.74	2.74	11.6	24.1	19
$M_{T2}[375, 500]$	0.0	3.63	0.69	6.07	10.4	8
$M_{T2}[500, \infty]$	0.0	1.54	0.20	3.55	5.29	6
$H_T \geq 950$						
$M_{T2}[0, \infty]$	1.22e+05	4.39e+02	6.32e+02	1.42e+02	1.23e+05	1.19e+05
$M_{T2}[150, 200]$	9.84	19.8	11.7	12.9	54.2	70
$M_{T2}[200, 275]$	0.47	13.7	5.25	10.5	30.0	23
$M_{T2}[275, 375]$	0.04	6.43	1.83	6.42	14.7	9
$M_{T2}[375, 500]$	0.0	1.63	0.40	2.54	4.57	8
$M_{T2}[500, \infty]$	0.0	1.10	0.16	2.16	3.42	4

Contributions from other backgrounds, such as γ +jets, $Z(\ell\ell)$ +jets and diboson production, are found to be negligible. It is seen that for all but one M_{T2} bin, the observed number of events agrees within the uncertainties with the SM background expectation from simulation. In the low H_T region, the M_{T2} bin [200, 275] GeV exhibits an excess in data compared to background. We investigated whether the origin could be instrumental in nature, but did not find evidence for it. It could be of statistical origin. The excess has a marginal impact on the final observed limit.

6.1 Background prediction

6.1.1 QCD multijet background

The simulation predicts that the QCD multijet background is negligible in the tail of the M_{T2} distribution. Nevertheless, a dedicated method using a data control region was designed to verify that this is indeed the case.

We base this estimation on M_{T2} and $\Delta\phi_{\min}$, which is the difference in azimuth between \vec{E}_T^{miss} and the closest jet. The background in the signal region, defined by $\Delta\phi_{\min} \geq 0.3$ and large M_{T2} , is predicted from a control region with $\Delta\phi_{\min} \leq 0.2$. The two variables are strongly correlated, but a factorization method can still be applied if the functional form is known for the ratio of the number of events $r(M_{T2}) = N(\Delta\phi_{\min} \geq 0.3)/N(\Delta\phi_{\min} \leq 0.2)$ as a function of M_{T2} . It is found from simulation studies, and confirmed with data, that for $M_{T2} > 50$ GeV the ratio falls exponentially. Therefore, a parameterization of the form

$$r(M_{T2}) = \frac{N(\Delta\phi_{\min} \geq 0.3)}{N(\Delta\phi_{\min} \leq 0.2)} = \exp(a - bM_{T2}) + c \quad (5)$$

is used for $M_{T2} > 50$ GeV. The function is assumed to reach a constant value at large M_{T2} due to extreme tails of the jet energy resolution response.

The method is validated with simulation. First the parameters a , b , and c are extracted from a fit to simulated QCD multijet events in the full M_{T2} spectrum. The fitted parameter value for c is compatible with a negligible QCD multijet contribution at large M_{T2} . It is verified that similar fit results for the parameters a and b are obtained when the fit is limited to the region $50 < M_{T2} < 80$ GeV, where contributions from background processes other than that from QCD multijets is small. The robustness of the prediction is checked by systematically varying the fit boundaries.

For the final results, we repeat the fit to data in the region $50 < M_{T2} < 80$ GeV, after subtracting the W +jets, Z +jets and top background contributions using simulation. The fitted parameter values for a and b are in agreement with the values obtained from the QCD multijet simulation. We conservatively fix the constant c to the value of the exponential at $M_{T2} = 250$ GeV, where agreement with data can still be verified. In the lower M_{T2} bins, where the exponential term dominates, the method reliably predicts the QCD multijet background. For higher M_{T2} bins, where the constant term dominates, the method overestimates the number of QCD multijet events relative to the simulation, nonetheless confirming that the QCD multijet contribution is negligible.

The extreme case of total loss of a jet, leading to population of the high M_{T2} tail, is studied using a sample of high p_T mono-jet events obtained with a dedicated event selection. The total number of events is found to be compatible within the uncertainties with the number expected from the electroweak processes, confirming that the QCD multijet contribution is negligible and hence that the constant c is small.

6.1.2 $W(\ell\nu)$ +jets and top-quark background

The backgrounds due to $W(\ell\nu)$ +jets and to semi-leptonic decays of top quarks have the following sources in common:

- leptonic decays of the W boson, where the lepton is unobserved because it falls outside the p_T or η acceptance;
- to a lesser extent, leptonic decays of the W boson, where the lepton is within the acceptance but fails to satisfy the reconstruction, identification, or isolation criteria;
- $W(\tau\nu_\tau)$ decays, where the τ decays hadronically.

We refer to leptons that fall into either of the first two categories as “lost leptons”. The number of events with lost leptons is estimated from a data control sample where a single lepton (e or μ) is found. A correction factor accounting for the probability to lose the lepton is derived from simulation. To avoid a potential contamination from signal events, a transverse mass cut $M_T < 100$ GeV is introduced. This method is applied in the various H_T and M_{T2} bins. First, a successful validation test of the method is performed using simulated samples. Then, a prediction is made from the data bin by bin and found to be in agreement with the expectation from simulation. A systematic uncertainty is evaluated that includes the uncertainty on the lepton efficiencies, acceptance, and background subtraction.

For the background contribution from hadronically decaying tau leptons, a method similar to the one described above is used. Events with an isolated and identified hadronically decaying tau [39] lepton are selected in the various H_T and M_{T2} bins. The contribution from jets misidentified as taus is subtracted. The remaining number of tau events is corrected for the tau reconstruction and identification efficiency. The predicted number of hadronically decaying tau background events agrees with the true number from simulation. Given the small number of events in the data, the numbers of events from the simulation are used for the background estimate, with the same relative systematic uncertainties as for the lost leptons.

6.1.3 $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets background

The estimate of the $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets background is obtained independently from two distinct data samples, one containing γ +jets events and the other $W(\mu\nu)$ +jets events. In both cases the invisible decay of the Z boson is mimicked by removing, respectively, the photon and the muon from the event, and adding vectorially the corresponding \vec{p}_T to \vec{E}_T^{miss} .

For the estimate based on γ +jets events, a sample of events with identified and isolated photons [40] with $p_T > 20$ GeV is selected, where all selection requirements except that on M_{T2} are imposed. This sample contains both prompt photons and photons from π^0 decays in QCD multijet events. The two components are separated by performing a maximum likelihood fit of templates from simulated events to the shower shapes. The event sample is dominated by low p_T photons, where the shower shape provides high discrimination power between prompt photons and π^0 s. The extrapolation of their contributions as a function of M_{T2} is obtained from simulation. The $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets background is estimated for each bin in M_{T2} from the number of prompt photon events multiplied by the M_{T2} -dependent ratio of $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets to γ +jets events obtained from simulation. This ratio increases as a function of the photon p_T (which drives the M_{T2} value) and reaches a constant value above 300 GeV. The resulting prediction of the background is found to be in good agreement with the expectation from simulation. Systematic uncertainties on the background prediction consist of the statistical uncertainties from the number of γ +jets events, a normalization uncertainty in the shower shape fit of 5%, and the systematic uncertainties on the ratio of $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets to γ +jets events in the simulation. The un-

certainties on the ratio are estimated to be less than 20% (30%) for $M_{T2} < 275$ ($M_{T2} > 275$) GeV. To assess these uncertainties, the p_T dependence of the ratio is studied in data and compared to simulation using leptonically decaying Z events. For $p_T > 400$ GeV this test is limited by the number of the leptonic Z events, which justifies the increased uncertainty for $M_{T2} > 275$ GeV.

For the estimate from $W(\mu\nu)$ +jets events, corrections are needed for lepton acceptance, lepton reconstruction efficiency, and the ratio between the production cross sections for W and Z bosons (including differences between the shapes of the distributions on which selection criteria are applied). The lepton efficiencies are taken from studies of $Z(\mu\mu)$ events in data. Also, the top-quark background to the W+jets sample is subtracted. The top-quark background is evaluated by applying b tagging to the data to identify top-quark decays and then correcting for the b-tagging efficiency. The $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets background is then estimated in each of the M_{T2} bins. The systematic uncertainty includes the contributions from the lepton selection and reconstruction efficiencies, the b-tagging efficiency, the acceptance from simulation, and the W-to-Z ratio.

The $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets background estimates from the γ +jets and $W(\mu\nu)$ +jets methods are in good agreement with each other. Since they are statistically uncorrelated, we take the weighted average of the two predictions as the final estimate.

6.2 Results

The results of the background estimation methods for each background contribution are summarized in Table 2 and shown in Fig. 2.

Table 2: Estimated event yields for each background contribution in the various M_{T2} and H_T bins. The predictions from control regions in data are compared to the expected event yields from simulation. Statistical and systematic uncertainties are added in quadrature. The total background prediction is compared to data in the last two columns.

	$Z \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$		Lost lepton		$\tau \rightarrow \text{had}$	QCD multijet		Total bkg.	Data
	sim.	data pred.	sim.	data pred.	Estimate	sim.	data pred.	data pred.	
$750 \leq H_T < 950$									
$M_{T2}[150, 200]$	27.9	24.2 ± 4.9	36.0	29.6 ± 7.1	22.5 ± 5.4	3.1	7.0 ± 3.5	83.3 ± 10.7	88
$M_{T2}[200, 275]$	20.3	21.8 ± 4.8	17.2	11.9 ± 3.9	12.7 ± 4.2	0.0	1.0 ± 0.5	47.4 ± 7.5	69
$M_{T2}[275, 375]$	11.6	13.7 ± 3.8	7.1	4.2 ± 1.9	5.4 ± 2.5	0.0	0.14 ± 0.07	23.4 ± 4.9	19
$M_{T2}[375, 500]$	6.1	4.1 ± 1.6	2.2	1.1 ± 0.9	2.2 ± 1.8	0.0	0.08 ± 0.05	7.4 ± 2.6	8
$M_{T2}[500, \infty]$	3.5	1.8 ± 0.9	1.1	1.2 ± 1.0	0.6 ± 0.5	0.0	0.00 ± 0.00	3.6 ± 1.4	6
$H_T \geq 950$									
$M_{T2}[150, 200]$	12.9	16.7 ± 3.6	18.7	16.2 ± 5.3	12.7 ± 4.1	9.8	11.0 ± 5.5	56.6 ± 9.4	70
$M_{T2}[200, 275]$	10.5	4.5 ± 2.0	11.7	10.2 ± 3.7	7.1 ± 2.6	0.47	1.4 ± 0.7	23.2 ± 5.0	23
$M_{T2}[275, 375]$	6.4	5.7 ± 2.2	5.0	2.9 ± 1.7	3.3 ± 1.9	0.04	0.13 ± 0.07	12.1 ± 3.3	9
$M_{T2}[375, 500]$	2.5	3.0 ± 1.4	1.1	0.6 ± 0.6	0.9 ± 0.9	0.0	0.06 ± 0.04	4.6 ± 1.8	8
$M_{T2}[500, \infty]$	2.2	2.5 ± 1.5	0.6	0.6 ± 0.6	0.6 ± 0.6	0.0	0.06 ± 0.04	3.8 ± 1.7	4

7 $M_{T2}b$ analysis

The selection criteria developed for the M_{T2} analysis are not optimal for events with heavy squarks and light gluinos, such as are predicted by the SUSY benchmark model LM9. To improve sensitivity to these types of events, we perform the $M_{T2}b$ analysis based on loosened kinematic selection criteria and the requirement of a tagged b jet. The restriction on M_{T2} is loosened to $M_{T2} > 125$ GeV and the $\Delta\phi_{\min}(\text{jets}, \vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}) > 0.3$ requirement is applied to the four

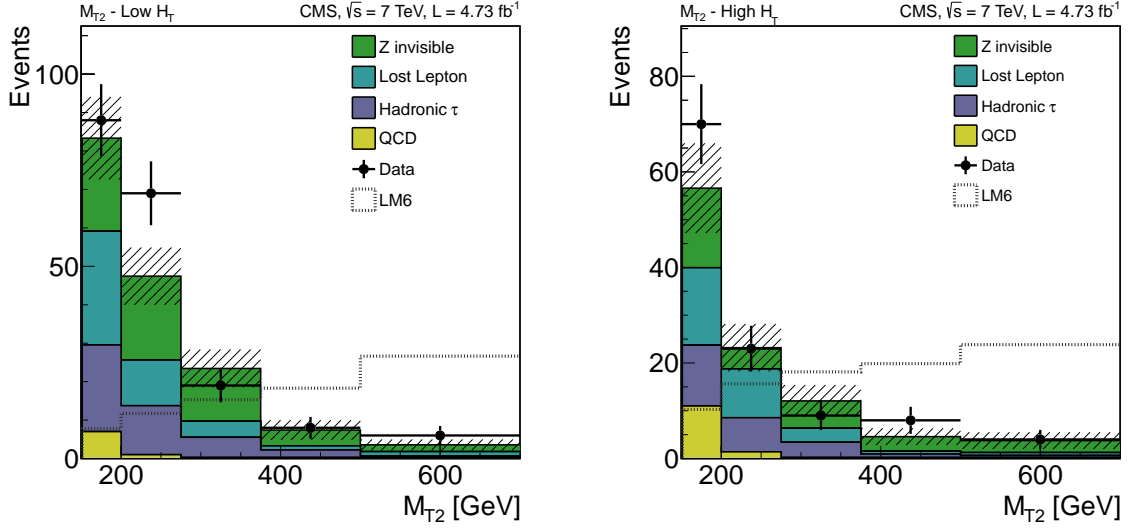


Figure 2: M_{T2} distribution from the background estimates compared to data. The figure on the left corresponds to the $750 \leq H_T < 950$ GeV region, while that on the right corresponds to $H_T \geq 950$ GeV. The predictions from simulated events for the LM6 signal model (not stacked) are also shown. The hatched band shows the total uncertainty on the SM background estimate.

leading jets only. We require that there be at least four jets with $p_T > 40$ GeV, and the leading jet to have $p_T > 150$ GeV. We further require that at least one of the jets in the event be tagged as a b-quark jet.

Figure 3 shows the M_{T2} distribution for events that satisfy the $M_{T2}b$ selection criteria and with $H_T \geq 750$ GeV. As for the M_{T2} analysis (Fig. 1), the QCD multijet background dominates for $M_{T2} < 80$ GeV but is strongly suppressed for $M_{T2} \geq 125$ GeV. In the signal region, top-quark events dominate the electroweak contribution. The white histogram (black dotted line) corresponds to the LM9 signal. The corresponding event yields for data and SM simulation for the low and high H_T regions are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Observed number of events and expected SM background event yields from simulation in the various M_{T2} bins for the $M_{T2}b$ event selection. These numbers are for guidance only and are not used in the final background prediction.

	QCD multijet	W+jets	Top	Z($\nu\nu$)+jets	Total SM	Data
$750 \leq H_T < 950$						
$M_{T2}[0, \infty]$	2.83e+04	4.53e+02	1.15e+03	1.41e+02	2.97e+04	2.99e+04
$M_{T2}[125, 150]$	5.16	1.86	20.3	0.95	28.3	22
$M_{T2}[150, 200]$	0.16	1.94	17.9	2.00	22.1	16
$M_{T2}[200, 300]$	0.0	1.84	9.43	1.25	12.6	16
$M_{T2}[300, \infty]$	0.0	0.57	2.55	0.53	3.65	2
$H_T \geq 950$						
$M_{T2}[0, \infty]$	1.19e+04	2.18e+01	5.46e+02	6.51e+00	1.25e+04	1.23e+04
$M_{T2}[125, 150]$	1.25	0.76	9.95	0.64	12.7	10
$M_{T2}[150, 180]$	0.57	0.79	7.15	0.43	8.96	10
$M_{T2}[180, 260]$	0.67	1.09	6.62	0.68	9.06	9
$M_{T2}[260, \infty]$	0.04	0.76	3.09	0.65	4.55	3

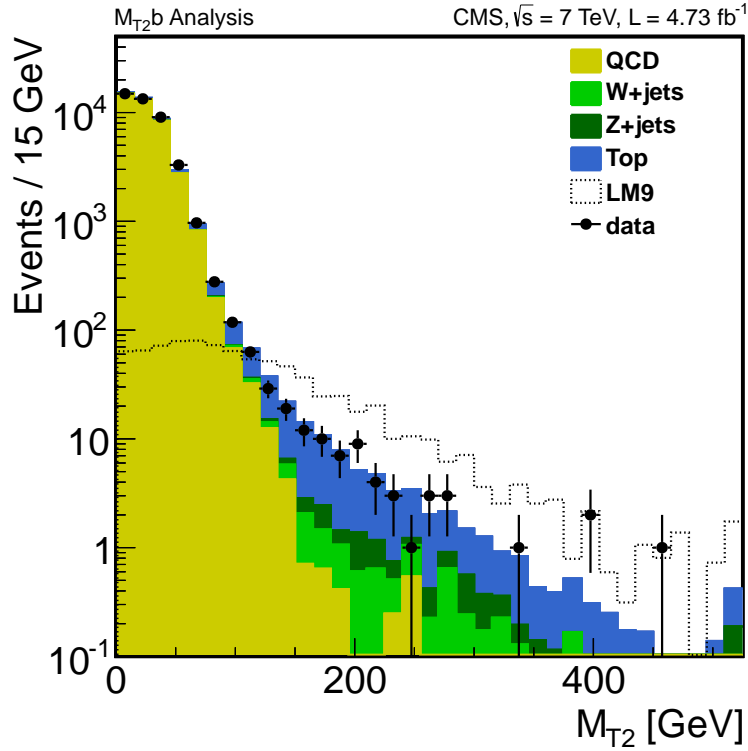


Figure 3: M_{T2} for events with the $M_{T2}b$ selection criteria applied and with $H_T \geq 750$ GeV. The different predictions from simulation for the SM backgrounds are stacked on top of each other. The LM9 signal distribution is not stacked. All distributions from simulation are normalized to the integrated luminosity of the data.

7.1 Background prediction and results

The QCD multijet contribution is estimated following the same approach as for the M_{T2} analysis. We find that the function in Eq. (5) fitted to data in the region $50 < M_{T2} < 80$ GeV provides a good description of the QCD multijet background, also for events containing b-tagged jets. From the fit to data, the prediction of the QCD multijet background is obtained in the various M_{T2} bins for the low and high H_T regions.

Events arising from top-quark production are the dominant background contribution in the signal region. The top-quark contribution is evaluated, together with the one from $W(\ell\nu)$ +jets, in the same way as for the M_{T2} analysis, using single-electron and single-muon events, as well as taus decaying to hadrons.

The background from $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets events is expected to be very small compared with the background from top-quark events. We estimate the background from $Z(\nu\bar{\nu})$ +jets events with the method based on W +jets events discussed for the M_{T2} analysis. As the selection of $W(\mu\nu)$ +jets events includes a b-tag veto to suppress the top-quark background, a ratio of efficiencies for $W(\mu\nu)$ +jets events with a b tag to $W(\mu\nu)$ +jets events without a b tag is taken into account. This ratio is obtained from simulation.

The results of the estimates for the various backgrounds are summarized in Table 4 and shown in Fig. 4.

Table 4: Estimated event yields for each background contribution in the various M_{T2} and H_T bins. The predictions from control regions in data are compared to the expected event yields from simulation. Statistical and systematic uncertainties are added in quadrature. The total background prediction is compared to data in the last two columns.

	$Z \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$		Lost lepton		$\tau \rightarrow \text{had}$	QCD multijet		Total bkg.	Data
	sim.	data pred.	sim.	data pred.	Estimate	sim.	data pred.	data pred.	
$750 \leq H_T < 950$									
$M_{T2} [125, 150]$	1.0	0.5 ± 0.4	12.8	4.5 ± 3.2	8.7 ± 6.3	5.16	4.1 ± 2.1	17.8 ± 7.3	22
$M_{T2} [150, 200]$	2.0	0.7 ± 0.3	11.3	7.6 ± 3.6	8.0 ± 3.8	0.16	0.90 ± 0.51	17.2 ± 5.2	16
$M_{T2} [200, 300]$	1.3	1.0 ± 0.5	6.1	1.3 ± 1.7	4.9 ± 6.7	0.0	0.04 ± 0.03	7.2 ± 6.9	16
$M_{T2} [300, \infty]$	0.5	0.6 ± 0.3	1.3	1.3 ± 0.9	1.8 ± 1.3	0.0	0.00 ± 0.00	3.7 ± 1.6	2
$H_T \geq 950$									
$M_{T2} [125, 150]$	0.6	0.4 ± 0.3	6.2	5.9 ± 3.3	4.3 ± 2.4	1.25	5.4 ± 2.8	16.0 ± 4.9	10
$M_{T2} [150, 180]$	0.4	0.9 ± 0.4	4.6	6.4 ± 3.3	3.2 ± 1.7	0.57	1.7 ± 0.9	12.2 ± 3.9	10
$M_{T2} [180, 260]$	0.6	0.1 ± 0.1	4.2	3.4 ± 2.3	3.3 ± 2.3	0.67	0.45 ± 0.25	7.2 ± 3.2	9
$M_{T2} [260, \infty]$	0.6	0.7 ± 0.4	2.2	2.0 ± 1.6	1.6 ± 1.3	0.04	0.05 ± 0.04	4.3 ± 2.0	3

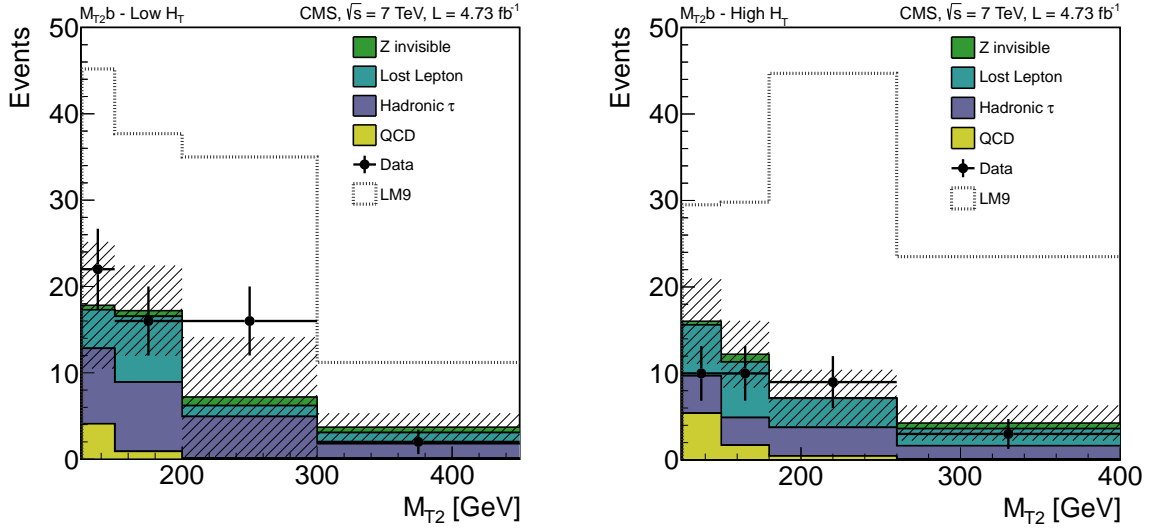


Figure 4: M_{T2} distribution from the background estimates compared to data for the $M_{T2}b$ selection. The figure on the left corresponds to the $750 \leq H_T < 950$ GeV region, while that on the right corresponds to $H_T \geq 950$ GeV. The prediction from simulation for the LM9 signal model (not stacked) are also shown. The hatched band shows the total uncertainty on the SM background estimate.

8 Statistical Interpretation of the results and exclusion limits

No significant deviation from the SM background prediction is observed and upper limits are set on a potential signal. The statistical approach used to derive limits follows closely the methodology of Ref. [41]. A brief description of the steps relevant to this analysis follows.

First, a likelihood function is constructed as the product of Poisson probabilities for each H_T , M_{T2} search bin. These probabilities are functions of the predicted signal and background yields in each bin. Systematic uncertainties are introduced as nuisance parameters in the signal and background models. Log-normal distributions are taken as a suitable choice for the probability density distributions for the nuisance parameters.

In order to compare the compatibility of the data with the background-only and the signal-plus-background hypotheses, we construct the test statistic q_λ based on the profile likelihood ratio:

$$q_\lambda = -2 \ln \frac{\mathcal{L}(\text{data}|\lambda, \hat{\theta}_\lambda)}{\mathcal{L}(\text{data}|\hat{\lambda}, \hat{\theta})}, \quad \text{with } 0 \leq \hat{\lambda} \leq \lambda, \quad (6)$$

where the signal strength modifier λ is introduced to test signal cross section values $\sigma = \lambda\sigma_{\text{sig}}$. Both the denominator and the numerator are maximized. In the numerator, the signal parameter strength λ remains fixed and the likelihood is maximized only for the nuisance parameters, whose values at the maximum are denoted $\hat{\theta}_\lambda$. In the denominator, the likelihood is maximized for both λ and θ . $\hat{\lambda}$ and $\hat{\theta}$ denote the values at which \mathcal{L} reaches its global maximum in the denominator. The lower constraint $0 \leq \hat{\lambda}$ is imposed because the signal strength cannot be negative, while the upper constraint $\hat{\lambda} < \lambda$ guarantees a one-sided confidence interval. The value of the test statistic for the actual observation is denoted q_λ^{obs} . This test statistic [41] differs from that used at LEP and the Tevatron.

To set limits, a modified frequentist CL_s approach is employed [42, 43]. We first define the probabilities to obtain an outcome of an experiment at least as signal-like as the one observed for the background-only and for the signal-plus-background hypotheses. The CL_s quantity is then defined as the ratio of these two probabilities. In the modified frequentist approach, the value of CL_s is required to be less than or equal to α in order to establish a $(1 - \alpha)$ confidence level (CL) exclusion. To quote the upper limit on λ for a given signal at 95% CL, we adjust λ until we reach $\text{CL}_s = 0.05$.

8.1 Exclusion limits in the CMSSM plane

Exclusion limits at 95% CL are determined in the CMSSM $(m_0, m_{1/2})$ plane [44]. The signal cross section is calculated at NLO and next-to-leading-log (NLL) accuracy [26, 45, 46] At each point in the scan four CL_s values are computed for $\lambda = 1$: the observed, the median expected, and the one standard deviation ($\pm 1\sigma$) expected bands. If the corresponding CL_s value is smaller than 0.05, the point is excluded at 95% CL, resulting in the exclusion limits shown in Fig. 5. The results from both the M_{T2} and $M_{T2}b$ selections are shown in Fig. 5 (top). In Fig. 5 (bottom), the results are combined into a single limit exclusion curve based on the best expected limit at each point of the plane.

The dominant sources of systematic uncertainties on the signal model are found to be the jet energy scale and (for the $M_{T2}b$ analysis) the b-tagging efficiency. These two uncertainties are evaluated at each point of the CMSSM plane, typically ranging from 5 to 25% for the former and from 2 to 6% for the latter. Additionally, a 2.2% uncertainty is associated with the luminosity determination [47]. All these uncertainties are included in the statistical interpretation as nuisance parameters on the signal model.

Observed exclusion limits are also determined when the signal cross section is varied by changing the renormalization and factorization scales by a factor of 2 and using the PDF4LHC recommendation [48] for the PDF uncertainty. The exclusion contours obtained from this method are shown by the dashed curves of Fig. 5 and referred to as theory uncertainties.

The effect of signal contamination in the leptonic control region could be significant, yielding a potential background overprediction of about 1-15%. To account for this effect, the signal yields are corrected by subtracting the expected increase in the background estimate that would occur if the given signal were present in the data.

The results in Fig. 5 (top) establish that the M_{T2} analysis is powerful in the region of large

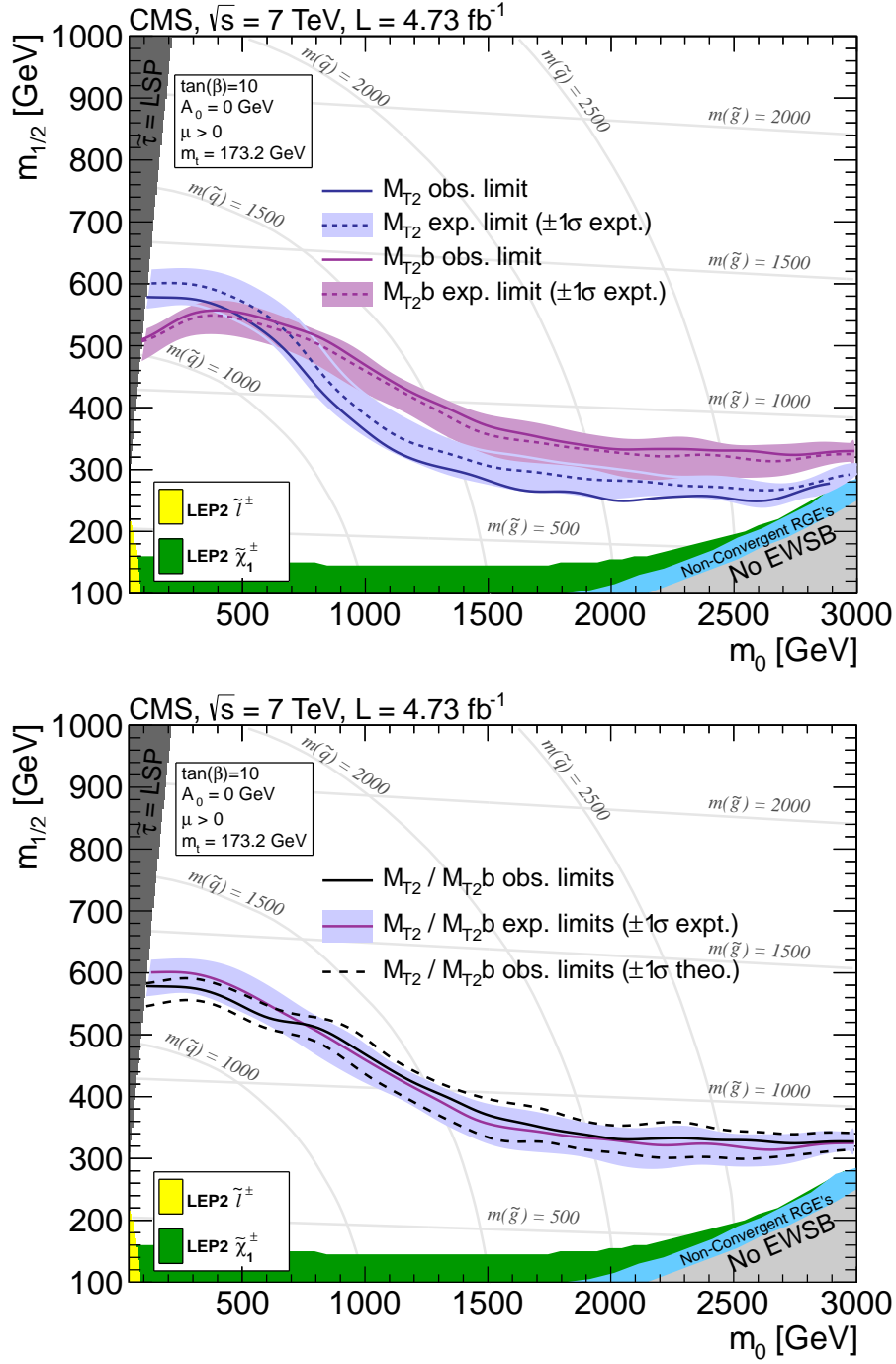


Figure 5: Top: exclusion limit in the CMSSM $(m_0, m_{1/2})$ plane for the M_{T2} and $M_{T2}b$ analyses with $\tan\beta = 10$. Bottom: Combined limit based on the best expected limit at each point.

squark and gluino masses, corresponding to small m_0 and large $m_{1/2}$, while the $M_{T2}b$ analysis increases sensitivity to large squark and small gluino masses, corresponding to large m_0 and small $m_{1/2}$. Conservatively, using the minus one standard deviation (-1σ) theory uncertainty values of the observed limit, we derive absolute lower limits on the squark and gluino masses for the chosen CMSSM parameter set. We find lower limits of $m(\tilde{q}) > 1110$ GeV and $m(\tilde{g}) > 800$ GeV, as well as $m(\tilde{q}) = m(\tilde{g}) > 1180$ GeV assuming equal squark and gluino masses.

8.2 Exclusion limits for simplified model spectra

In this section we interpret the results in terms of simplified model spectra [49], which allow a presentation of the exclusion potential in the context of a larger variety of fundamental models, not necessarily in a supersymmetric framework. We studied the following topologies:

- gluino pair production, with $\tilde{g} \rightarrow q\bar{q}\tilde{\chi}^0$;
- gluino pair production, with $\tilde{g} \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tilde{\chi}^0$;
- gluino pair production, with $\tilde{g} \rightarrow t\bar{t}\tilde{\chi}^0$;
- gluino pair production, with $\tilde{g} \rightarrow q\bar{q}Z\tilde{\chi}^0$.

The last of these models is used to demonstrate the sensitivity of the analysis in a high jet multiplicity topology, since the hadronic decay of the Z boson can lead to (maximally) 8 jets in the final state. In Fig. 6 the 95% CL excluded cross sections are reported as a function of the relevant masses for gluino pair production with $\tilde{g} \rightarrow q\bar{q}\tilde{\chi}^0$ using the M_{T2} analysis, and for $\tilde{g} \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tilde{\chi}^0$, $\tilde{g} \rightarrow t\bar{t}\tilde{\chi}^0$ and $\tilde{g} \rightarrow q\bar{q}Z\tilde{\chi}^0$ using the $M_{T2}b$ analysis. Systematic uncertainties on jet energy scale and on b-tagging efficiencies are taken into account as nuisance parameters on the signal model. To minimize the effect of ISR modeling uncertainties, the region near the diagonal is excluded in the limit setting. Observed, median expected, and one standard deviation ($\pm 1\sigma$ experimental) expected limit curves are derived for the nominal signal cross section. Also shown are the $\pm 1\sigma$ variation in the observed limit when the signal cross section is varied by its theoretical uncertainties.

9 Summary

We have conducted a search for supersymmetry or similar new physics in hadronic final states using the M_{T2} variable calculated from massless pseudojets. M_{T2} is strongly correlated with E_T^{miss} for SUSY processes, yet provides a natural suppression of QCD multijet background. The data set for this analysis corresponds to 4.73 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity in $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ pp collisions collected with the CMS detector during the 2011 LHC run. All candidate events are selected using hadronic triggers. Two complementary analyses are performed. The M_{T2} analysis targets decays of moderately heavy squarks and gluinos, which naturally feature a sizeable E_T^{miss} . This analysis is based on events containing three or more jets and no isolated leptons. We show that the tail of the M_{T2} distribution, obtained after this selection, is sensitive to a potential SUSY signal. A second approach, the $M_{T2}b$ analysis, is designed to increase the sensitivity to events with heavy squarks and light gluinos, in which the E_T^{miss} tends to be smaller. Therefore, the restriction on M_{T2} is relaxed. The effect of the loosened M_{T2} is compensated by requiring at least one b-tagged jet and a larger jet multiplicity, to suppress the QCD multijet background. For both analyses, the standard model backgrounds, arising from QCD multijet, electroweak, and top-quark production processes, are obtained from data control samples and simulation. No excess beyond the standard model expectations is found. Exclusion limits are established in the CMSSM parameter space, as well as for some simplified model spectra. Conservatively, using the minus one standard deviation (-1σ) theory uncertainty values, absolute mass limits in the CMSSM scenario for $\tan\beta = 10$ are found to be $m(\tilde{q}) > 1110 \text{ GeV}$ and $m(\tilde{g}) > 800 \text{ GeV}$, and $m(\tilde{q}) = m(\tilde{g}) > 1180 \text{ GeV}$ assuming equal squark and gluino masses.

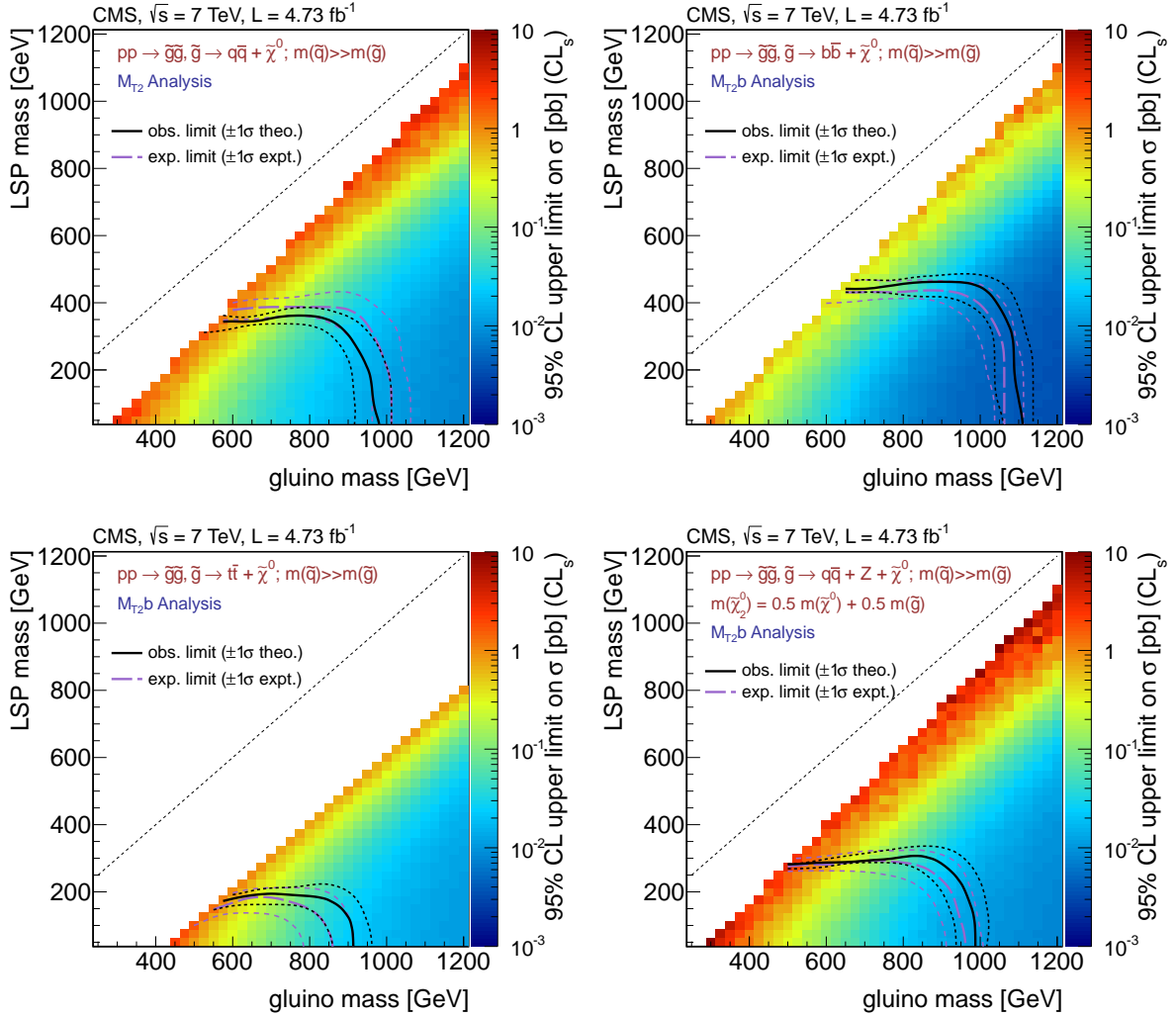


Figure 6: Exclusion limits for simplified model spectra. Upper left: gluino pair production with $\tilde{g} \rightarrow q\bar{q}\tilde{\chi}^0$ using the M_{T_2} analysis. Upper right: gluino pair production with $\tilde{g} \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tilde{\chi}^0$, using the $M_{T_2}b$ analysis. Lower left: gluino pair production with $\tilde{g} \rightarrow t\bar{t}\tilde{\chi}^0$, using the $M_{T_2}b$ analysis. Lower right: gluino pair production with $\tilde{g} \rightarrow q\bar{q}Z\tilde{\chi}^0$, using the $M_{T_2}b$ analysis. The signal production cross sections are calculated at NLO and NLL accuracy [26, 45, 46].

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