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Inclusive search for supersymmetry using the razor variables in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s}$ =7 TeV

The CMS Collaboration*

Abstract

An inclusive search is presented for new heavy particle pairs produced in $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV proton-proton collisions at the LHC using 4.7 ± 0.1 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity. The selected events are analyzed in the 2D *razor* space of M_R, an event-by-event indicator of the heavy particle mass scale, and R, a dimensionless variable related to the missing transverse energy. The third-generation sector is probed using the event heavy-flavor content. The search is sensitive to generic supersymmetry models with minimal assumptions about the superpartner decay chains. No excess is observed in the number of events beyond that predicted by the standard model. Exclusion limits are derived in the CMSSM framework as well as for simplified models. Within the CMSSM parameter space considered, gluino masses up to 800 GeV and squark masses up to 1.35 TeV are excluded at 95% confidence level depending on the model parameters. The direct production of pairs of stop or sbottom quarks is excluded for masses as high as 400 GeV.

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Models with softly broken supersymmetry (SUSY) [1–5] predict heavy superpartners of the standard model (SM) particles. Experimental searches for R-parity [6] conserving SUSY at the Tevatron [7, 8] and the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [9–30] have focused on signatures combining energetic hadronic jets and leptons from the decays of pair-produced squarks and gluinos, with large missing transverse energy ($E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$) from the two weakly interacting lightest, neutral superpartners (LSPs) produced in separate decay chains.

In SUSY models, the scale of soft SUSY breaking is related to the scale of electroweak symmetry breaking. This implies either that the soft-breaking mass parameters cannot be too large, or that the smallness of the electroweak scale is explained by large cancellations arising from relations among these parameters in the high energy theory. The latter possibility is complicated by large radiative corrections, particularly those induced by the soft-breaking parameters that are responsible for the masses of the stops and sbottoms, the superpartners of the third-generation quarks. It is thus of special importance to search for the lightest allowed stops and sbottoms, whose decays will be enriched in heavy flavor.

In this Letter we present results of an inclusive search for new heavy particles. The analysis is designed to be largely independent of the details of the decay chains and measures deviations from the characteristic distributions of the relevant SM processes in the razor variable plane [31, 32]. It is generically sensitive to the production of pairs of heavy particles, provided that the decays of these particles produce significant $E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$, that these particles are substantially heavier than any SM particle, and that they are strongly produced in high-energy proton-proton collisions. The selection requires only two or more energetic reconstructed calorimeter objects [33]. The selected events are sorted hierarchically into exclusive data samples, categorized according to the lepton multiplicity in the event. The analysis is repeated with the requirement of the presence of a bottom-quark jet (b-jet) to search for third-generation-enhanced SUSY signatures. While in Monte Carlo studies all SM processes are considered, the major backgrounds are top production and vector boson production in association with jets.

The razor kinematic variables are based on the generic process of the pair production of two heavy particles, each decaying to an undetected particle plus visible decay products. Regardless of its complexity, each event is treated as a dijet-like event by grouping all hadronic jet candidates and isolated electrons in the event into two megajets [32]. The razor kinematic variables are used to test, event-by-event, the hypothesis that the megajet topology represents the visible portion of the decays of two heavy particles. Assuming the pair of megajets accurately reconstructs the visible portion of the parent particle decays, the signal kinematics is equivalent, for example, to pair production of heavy squarks $\widetilde{\mathrm{q}}_1$, $\widetilde{\mathrm{q}}_2$, with $\widetilde{\mathrm{q}}_i \to j_i \widetilde{\chi}^0$, where the $\widetilde{\chi}^0$ are LSPs and j_i denotes the visible products of the decays.

The M_{R} razor kinematic variable is defined in terms of the momentum of the two megajets as $M_{\mathrm{R}} \equiv [(|\vec{p}^{\,j_1}| + |\vec{p}^{\,j_2}|)^2 - (p_z^{j_1} + p_z^{j_2})^2]^{1/2}$ and is, by construction, invariant under longitudinal boosts. In the approximation of massless megajets and negligible initial-state p_{T}, M_{R} equals $\gamma_\Delta M_\Delta$, where $M_\Delta \equiv (M_{\widetilde{\mathrm{q}}}^2 - M_{\widetilde{\chi}}^2)/M_{\widetilde{\mathrm{q}}}$ is twice the magnitude of the momentum of either megajet in the respective squark rest frame, and γ_Δ is the boost factor from the center-of-mass frame to the squark rest frames. Note that this definition of M_{R} is amended from that in [32] to avoid configurations where the razor variable is ill-defined due to unphysical Lorentz transformations.

The razor observable $M_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{R}}$ is defined as $M_{\mathrm{T}}^R \equiv \left[\frac{1}{2}\left(E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}(p_{\mathrm{T}}^{j1} + p_{\mathrm{T}}^{j2}) - \vec{E}_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}\cdot(\vec{p}_{\mathrm{T}}^{\,j1} + \vec{p}_{\mathrm{T}}^{\,j2})\right)\right]^{1/2}$, where $\vec{p}_{\mathrm{T}}^{\,j1,2}$ are the transverse momentum vectors of the two megajets and $\vec{E}_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$ is the missing transverse momentum vector (also referred to as missing tranverse energy). The razor dimen-

sionless ratio is defined as $R \equiv \frac{M_T^R}{M_R}$. For signal events M_T^R has a maximum value (a kinematic endpoint) of M_Δ, so R has a maximum value of approximately one. Thus signal events are characterized by a distribution in M_R that peaks around M_Δ, and a distribution in R that peaks around 0.5, in stark contrast with, for example, QCD multijet background events, whose distribution in either R or M_R is exponentially suppressed away from zero [32, 33]. These properties determine a region of the 2D razor space where the standard model background is reduced while the signal is retained.

A detailed description of the CMS detector can be found elsewhere [34]. A superconducting solenoid provides an axial magnetic field of 3.8 T. The silicon pixel and strip tracker, the high-resolution crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and the brass/scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL) are contained within the solenoid. Muons are detected in gas-ionization chambers embedded in the steel return yoke. The HCAL, combined with the ECAL, measures the jet energy with a resolution $\Delta E/E \approx 100\,\%/\sqrt{E/\,\mathrm{GeV}} \oplus 5\,\%$. CMS uses a coordinate system with the origin located at the nominal collision point, and the pseudorapidity is defined as $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$, where the polar angle θ is defined with respect to the counterclockwise beam direction.

The analysis uses a set of dedicated triggers that apply lower thresholds on the values of R and M_R computed online from the reconstructed jets and E_T^{miss}. Three trigger categories are used: i) hadronic razor triggers applying threshold requirements [33] on R and M_R in events with at least two jets of $p_T > 56\,\mathrm{GeV}$; ii) muon razor triggers that have looser R and M_R requirements than the hadronic triggers and combined with at least one muon in the central part of the detector (barrel) with $p_T > 10\,\mathrm{GeV}$; iii) electron razor triggers with similar R and M_R requirements to those used for muons and with at least one electron of $p_T > 12\,\mathrm{GeV}$ satisfying loose isolation criteria. In addition, a set of non-razor triggers is used to define control data samples.

Events, after detector- and beam-related noise cleaning, are required to have at least one high-quality reconstructed interaction vertex [35]. When multiple vertices are found, the one with the highest associated $\sum_{track} p_T^2$ is selected. The electron and muon candidate reconstruction and identification criteria are described in Ref. [36]. Electrons and muons are required to lie within $|\eta| < 2.5$ and 2.1, respectively, and to satisfy the identification and selection requirements from [36]. Jets are reconstructed from calorimeter energy deposits using the infrared-safe anti-k_T algorithm [37] with radius parameter 0.5. Jets are corrected for non-uniformities of the calorimeter response using energy- and η-dependent correction factors. Only jet candidates with $p_T > 40\,\mathrm{GeV}$ within $|\eta| < 3.0$ are retained. The jet energy scale uncertainty for these corrected jets is 5% [38]. To match the trigger requirements, the p_T of the two leading jets is required to be greater than 60 GeV. The transverse momentum imbalance in the event, $\vec{E}_T^{miss}$, is reconstructed using the particle flow algorithm [39].

The reconstructed jets are grouped into two megajets [33]. The megajets are constructed as a sum of the four-momenta of their constituent objects. After the baseline selection and calculation of the variables R and M_R, the events are assigned to one of six final state boxes according to whether the event has zero, one, or two isolated leptons, divided according to lepton flavor (electrons and muons) as shown in Table 1.

The requirements given in Table 1 define the full analysis regions of the R^2-M_R plane, where the analysis is performed for each box. They are the loosest possible requirements that allow for the valid background description, while at the same time maintaining fully efficient triggers. To prevent ambiguities for events satisfying the selection requirements of more than one box [33], the boxes are arranged in a predefined hierarchy, as given in Table 1. Each event is uniquely assigned to the first box whose criteria are satisfied by the event.

Table 1: Razor boxes definition. The variables and requirements are explained in the text.

Lepton boxes $M_{\mathrm{R}} > 300\,\mathrm{GeV}$, $0.11 < R^2 < 0.5$	
ELE-MU	$p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{e}} > 20\,\mathrm{GeV}$, $p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mu} > 15\,\mathrm{GeV}$
MU-MU	$p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mu 1} > 15\,\mathrm{GeV}$, $p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mu 2} > 10\,\mathrm{GeV}$
ELE-ELE	$p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{e}1} > 20\,\mathrm{GeV}$, $p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{e}2} > 10\,\mathrm{GeV}$
MU	$p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mu} > 12\,\mathrm{GeV}$
ELE	$p_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{e}} > 20\,\mathrm{GeV}$
HAD box $M_{\mathrm{R}} > 400\,\mathrm{GeV}$, $0.18 < R^2 < 0.5$	

Six additional boxes are formed for events with at least one b-jet tagged using the Track-Counting High-Efficiency (TCHE) b-tagging algorithm with 1% misidentification rate [40, 41]. These six boxes define the razor inclusive analysis of data samples with enhanced heavy-flavor content.

The razor analysis is guided by studies of simulated events generated with the PYTHIA6 [42] and MADGRAPH [43] Monte Carlo programs, implemented using the CMS GEANT4-based [44] detector simulation, and then processed by the same software as that used to reconstruct data. Events with QCD multijets, top quarks, and electroweak bosons are generated with MADGRAPH interfaced with PYTHIA for parton showering, hadronization and the underlying event description. To generate Monte Carlo samples for SUSY, the mass spectrum is first calculated with SOFTSUSY [45] and the decays with SUSYHIT [46]. The PYTHIA6 program is used with the SLHA interface [47] to generate the events. Next-to-leading order (NLO) plus next-to-leading-logarithm (NLL) cross section calculations are used [48–53].

For each of the main SM backgrounds, a control data sample is defined from a subset of the data dominated by this particular background. It is used to obtain a description of the shapes of the background components from data. In both simulation and control data samples, the distributions of the major SM background events (QCD multijets, $\mathrm{t\bar{t}}$ + jets, Z + jets, and W + jets) are found to have a simple exponential dependence on the razor variables R^2 and M_{R} over a large part of the R^2-M_{R} plane. A full 2D SM background representation is built using statistically independent data samples. This representation used as input to the final fit performed in each fit region (FR) defined by an L-shaped area in the R^2-M_{R} plane such as shown in Fig. 2. The fit region is dominated by SM processes. Signal contamination has only a small impact on the determination of the background shape in the fit region, as demonstrated through studies based on simulation. The 2D background model obtained in the fit region is extrapolated to the rest of the R^2-M_{R} plane where the analysis is sensitive to a potential SUSY signal.

The fit function has parameters describing the shapes and normalization of the R^2 and M_R distributions of the SM backgrounds. The two-dimensional probability density function (pdf) $P_j(M_R, R^2)$ describing the R^2 versus M_R distribution of each considered SM process j is found to be well-approximated by instances of the same function $F_j(M_R, R^2)$:

$$F_j(M_{\mathrm{R}}, R^2) = \left[k_j(M_{\mathrm{R}} - M^0_{R,j})(R^2 - R^2_{0,j}) - 1\right] \times \mathrm{e}^{-k_j(M_{\mathrm{R}} - M^0_{R,j})(R^2 - R^2_{0,j})}. \quad (1)$$

The scaling of the exponent as a function of the thresholds on M_{R} and R^2 is described by the k_j parameters of the function. When integrated over M_{R} (R^2), this function recovers the exponential dependence on R^2 (M_{R}).

Each SM process in a given final-state box is well described by a pdf P_j that is the sum of a first and a second component of the functional form Eq. 1 with separate normalizations. Studies of

simulated events and fits to control data samples with either a b-jet requirement or a b-jet veto indicate that the parameters corresponding to the first components of these backgrounds (with steeper slopes at low M_R and R^2) are box-dependent. The parameters describing the second component are box-independent, and at the current precision of the background model, they are identical among the dominant backgrounds considered in these final states.

These sets of independent data control samples are used to derive *a priori* the background shape parameters. The results are incorporated in the final fits as a set of Gaussian penalty terms [54, 55] for the parameters k_j, $M^0_{R,j}$ and $R^2_{0,j}$ multiplying the final likelihood (Eq.(2)). The RMS-values of the penalty terms for the k_j parameters are typically $\sim$30%.

An extended and unbinned maximum likelihood (ML) fit is performed in each box using RooFit [55]. The fit performed in the fit region of the R^2-M_R plane provides the description of the SM background in the full plane. The likelihood function for a given box is written as [56]:

$$\mathcal{L}_b = \frac{e^{-\left(\Sigma_{j\in SM}\, N_j\right)}}{N!} \prod_{i=1}^{N} \left(\sum_{j\in SM} N_j P_j(M_{R,i}, R^2_i) \right), \tag{2}$$

where N is the total event yield in the box, the sum runs over all the SM processes relevant for that box, and N_j is the yield of a given fit sample in the box.

The values of the shape parameters that maximize the likelihood in these fits, along with the corresponding covariance matrix, are used to define the background model and the uncertainty associated with it. Additional background shape uncertainties due to the choice of the functional form were found to be negligible [33].

The result of the ML fit projected on M_R and R^2 is shown in Fig. 1 for the HAD box. No significant discrepancy is observed between the data and the fit model in any of the six boxes [33].

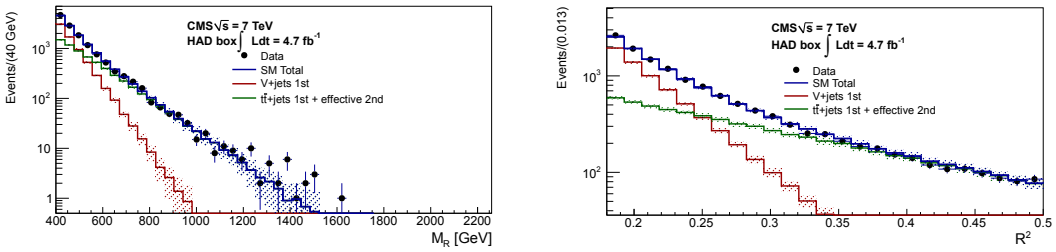
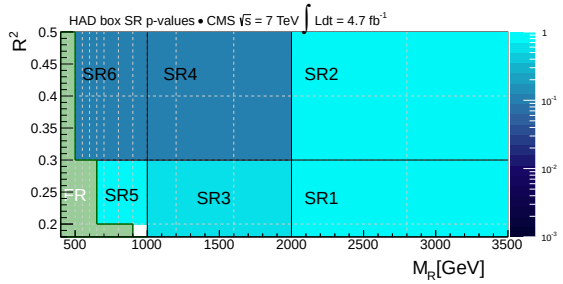


Figure 1: Projection of the 2D fit result on M_R (left) and R^2 (right) for the HAD box. The blue histogram is the total standard model prediction as obtained from a single pseudo-experiment based on the 2D fit. The red and green histograms represent a steep-slope component denoted as $V+$jets first component, and a component that encapsulates the steep-slope first component in $t\bar{t}+$jets and the effective second component, which is indistinguishable for the different SM background processes. The fit is performed in the R^2-M_R fit region (FR as shown in Fig. 2) and projected into the full analysis region. Only the statistical uncertainty band on the background predictions is drawn in these projections.

In order to establish the compatibility of the background model with the observed dataset, we define six signal regions (SRi) in the tail of the background distribution. Using the background model returned by the ML fit, we derive the distribution of the expected yield in each SRi using pseudo-experiments accounting for correlations and uncertainties on the parameters describ-



HAD	68% range	mode	median	observed	p-value
SR1	(0, 0.7)	0.5	0.5	0	0.99
SR2	(0, 0.7)	0.5	0.5	0	0.99
SR3	(45, 86)	73	69	74	0.68
SR4	(4, 15)	9.5	10.5	20	0.12
SR5	(530, 649)	566	593	581	0.82
SR6	(886, 1142)	987	1020	897	0.10

Figure 2: The p-values corresponding to the observed number of events in the HAD box signal regions (SRi). The green region indicates the fit region (FR) in the HAD box. Similar results are obtained for the other boxes.

ing the background model. For each of the SRi the distribution of the number of events derived by the pseudo-experiments is used to calculate a two-sided p-value (as shown for the HAD box in Fig. 2), corresponding to the probability of observing an equal or less probable outcome for a counting experiment in each signal region. The p-values test the compatibility of the observed number of events in data with the SM expectation obtained from the background parameterization. We quote the median and the mode of the yield distribution for each SR, together with the observed yield.

For each box we consider the test statistic given by the logarithm of the likelihood ratio $\ln Q = \ln \frac{\mathcal{L}(s+b|H)}{\mathcal{L}(b|H)}$, where H is the hypothesis under test; H_1 (signal plus background) or the null hypothesis H_0 (background-only). Given the distribution of $\ln Q$ for background-only and signal-plus-background pseudo-experiments, and the value of $\ln Q$ observed in the data, we calculate $\mathrm{CL_{s+b}}$ and $1 - \mathrm{CL_b}$ [57, 58]. From these values the $\mathrm{CL_s} = \mathrm{CL_{s+b}}/\mathrm{CL_b}$ is computed for that model point. A point in the constrained minimal supersymmetric standard model (CMSSM) plane is excluded at 95% confidence level (CL) if $\mathrm{CL_s} < 0.05$. The result is shown in Fig. 3. The shape of the observed exclusion curves reflect the changing relevant SUSY strong production processes across the parameter space with squark-squark and gluino-gluino production dominating at low and high m_0, respectively. The observed limit is less constraining than the median-expected limit at lower m_0 due to an excess of observed events in the HAD box at large R^2, where squark-pair production dominates over gluino-pair production. Cascading decays of gluinos yield more leptons than decays of squarks. Thus, relative to hadronic boxes, the contribution of lepton boxes increases with m_0.

We estimate the systematic bias on the signal shape model due to parton density functions (point-by-point up to 30%), jet energy scale (point-by-point up to 1%) and lepton identification (using using $\mathrm{Z} \to \ell^+\ell^-$ data, 1% per lepton), and on the signal yield due to the luminosity uncertainty (2.2%) [59], the theoretical cross section (point-by-point up to 15%), razor trigger efficiency uncertainty (2%), and lepton trigger efficiency uncertainty (3%). In the b-tag analysis path an additional systematic is considered for the b-tagging efficiency (between 6% and 20% in p_T bins [40]). We consider variations of the function modeling the signal uncertainty (log-

normal versus Gaussian) as well as the R^2 and M_R binning choice, finding negligible deviations in the result.

The results are also interpreted as cross section limits on a number of simplified models [60], where a limited set of hypothetical particles and decay chains are introduced to produce a given topological signature. Specific applications of these ideas have appeared in Refs. [61–63]. For each model studied, the excluded cross section at 95% CL is derived as a function of the mass of the produced particles (gluinos or squarks, depending on the model) and the LSP mass, as well as the exclusion curve corresponding to the NLL-NLO cross section. Exclusion curves for a factor of three cross section enhancement or reduction are also produced as well as for ± 1 standard deviation variations in the NLL-NLO cross section [33]. Figure 4 shows the 95% CL [64] excluded largest parent mass as a function of the LSP mass in each of the simplified model studies, for both the inclusive and b-jet versions of the analysis.

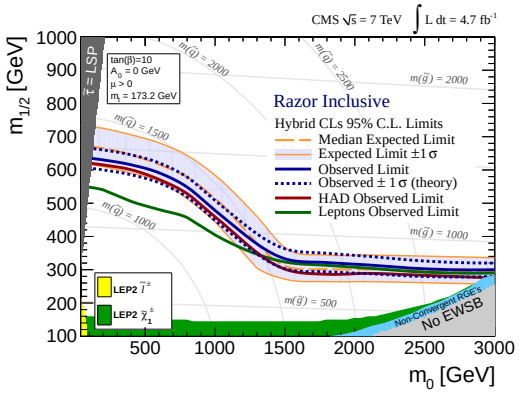


Figure 3: Observed (solid blue curve) and median-expected (dashed curve, shown with its ± 1 standard deviation uncertainty band) 95% CL limits in the (m_0, $m_{1/2}$) CMSSM plane (drawn according to [65]) with $\tan\beta = 10$, $A_0 = 0\,\text{GeV}$, and $\text{sgn}(\mu) = +1$. Shown separately are the observed HAD-only (solid crimson) and leptonic-only (solid green) 95% CL limits.

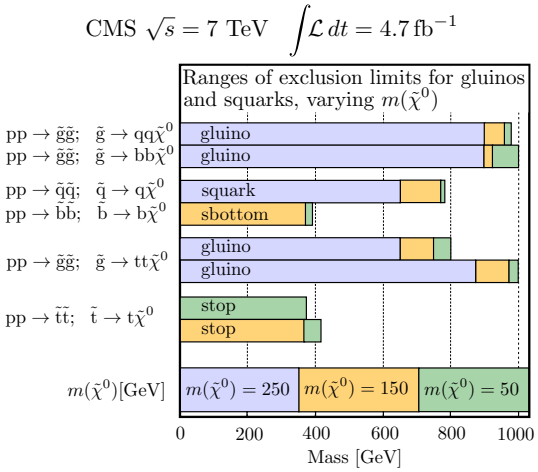


Figure 4: Summary of the 95% CL excluded largest parent mass as a function of the LSP mass in each of the simplified models studied. Results from the inclusive razor analysis (upper bars) and the b-jet razor analysis (lower bars) are shown.

In summary, we performed a search for squarks and gluinos using a data sample of $4.7\,\text{fb}^{-1}$ of

CMS data at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV proton-proton collisions in the razor variable space using a 2D shape description of the relevant standard model processes.

No significant excess over the background expectations is observed, and the results are presented as a 95% CL limit in the (m_0, $m_{1/2}$) CMSSM parameter space. For $m(\tilde{q}) \sim m(\tilde{g})$ we exclude squarks and gluinos up to 1.35 TeV, and for $m(\tilde{q}) > m(\tilde{g})$ we exclude gluinos up to 800 GeV. For simplified models we exclude up to 1 TeV for the gluino mass and up to 800 GeV for the first and second generation squark masses. For direct production of pairs of stops or sbottoms we exclude stop and sbottom masses up to 400 GeV depending on the LSP mass.

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