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The ATLAS Collaboration

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1. Introduction

Supersymmetry (SUSY) [1–9] postulates the existence of SUSY particles, or “sparticles”, with spin differing by one-half unit with respect to that of their Standard Model (SM) partner. If R-parity [10–14] is conserved, the lightest SUSY particle (LSP) is stable and sparticles can only be pair-produced and decay into final states with SM particles and LSPs. Charginos ($\tilde{\chi}_{i}^{\pm}$, $i = 1, 2$) and neutralinos ($\tilde{\chi}_{j}^{0}$, $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$) are the mass eigenstates formed from the linear superposition of the SUSY partners of the Higgs and electroweak gauge bosons. These are the Higgsinos, the winos, zino, and bino, collectively known as gauginos. Naturalness requires $\tilde{\chi}_{i}^{\pm}$ and $\tilde{\chi}_{j}^{0}$ (and third-generation sparticles) to have masses in the hundreds of GeV range [15, 16]. In scenarios where squark and gluino masses are larger than a few TeV, the direct production of gauginos may be the dominant SUSY process at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Charginos can decay into leptonic final states via sneutrinos ($\tilde{\nu}_{i}$), sleptons ($\tilde{\nu}$) or W bosons ($W\tilde{\chi}_{i}^{0}$), while unstable neutralinos can decay via sleptons ($\ell\tilde{\nu}$) or Z bosons ($Z\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0}$).

This Letter presents a search with the ATLAS detector for the direct production of charginos and neutralinos decaying to a final state with three leptons (electrons or muons) and missing transverse momentum, the latter originating from the two undetected LSPs and the neutrinos. The analysis is based on $4.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ of proton-proton collision data delivered by the LHC at a centre-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV between March and October 2011. The search described here significantly extends the current mass limits on charginos and neutralinos set by ATLAS [17, 18] and LEP [21], where a model-independent lower limit of 103.5 GeV was set at 95% confidence level (CL) on the mass of promptly decaying charginos.

2. Detector Description

ATLAS [22] is a multipurpose particle detector with forward-backward symmetric cylindrical geometry. It includes an inner tracker (ID) immersed in a 2 T magnetic field providing precision tracking of charged particles for pseudorapidities $|\eta| < 2.5$. Calorimeter systems with either liquid argon or scintillating tiles as the active media provide energy measurements over the range $|\eta| < 4.9$. The muon detectors are positioned outside the calorimeters and are contained in an air-core toroidal magnetic field produced by superconducting magnets with field integrals varying from 1 T·m to 8 T·m. They provide trigger and high-precision tracking capabilities for $|\eta| < 2.4$ and $|\eta| < 2.7$, respectively.

3. New Physics Scenarios

In this analysis, results are interpreted in the phenomenological minimal supersymmetric SM (pMSSM) [23] and in simplified models [24].

In the pMSSM the mixing for the $\tilde{\chi}_{i}^{\pm}$ and $\tilde{\chi}_{j}^{0}$ depends on the gaugino masses $M_{1}$ and $M_{2}$, the Higgs mass parameter $\mu$, and $\tan \beta$, the ratio of the expectation values of the two Higgs doublets. The dominant mode for gaugino production leading to three-lepton final states is $\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{\pm}\tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0}$ production via the $s$-channel exchange of a virtual gauge boson. Other $\tilde{\chi}_{i}^{\pm}\tilde{\chi}_{j}^{0}$ processes contribute a maximum of

1ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point (IP) in the centre of the detector and the z-axis along the beam pipe. The x-axis points from the IP to the centre of the LHC ring, and the y-axis points upward. Cylindrical coordinates ($r, \phi$) are used in the transverse plane, $\phi$ being the azimuthal angle around the beam pipe. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle $\theta$ as $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$. 
the simplified model samples with Herwig++. The QCD NNLO normalisation of the inclusive HERWIG used for $Z$ section is used to rescale the $Z$ analysis.

late SM processes and new physics signals relevant for this

4. Monte Carlo simulation

Several Monte Carlo (MC) generators are used to simulate SM processes and new physics signals relevant for this analysis. Sherpa [23] is used to simulate diboson processes $WZ$ and $ZZ$. These include all diagrams leading to three leptons and one neutrino, and to four leptons, respectively, including internal conversions (virtual photons converting leptons and one neutrino, and to four leptons, respectively, the $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ with a branching ratio of 50% each. In the second scenario, the $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ and $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ decay via $W$ and $Z$ bosons.

4. Monte Carlo simulation

Several Monte Carlo (MC) generators are used to simulate SM processes and new physics signals relevant for this analysis. Sherpa [23] is used to simulate diboson processes $WZ$ and $ZZ$. These include all diagrams leading to three leptons and one neutrino, and to four leptons, respectively, including internal conversions (virtual photons converting into lepton pairs). Herwig [20] is used for $WW$, while MadGraph [27] is used for the $t\bar{t}W$, $t\bar{t}WW$, $t\bar{t}Z$, $W\gamma$ and $Z\gamma$ processes. M@nlo [28] is chosen for the simulation of single- and pair-production of top quarks, and ALPGEN [29] is used to simulate $W/Z+\text{jets}$. Expected diboson yields are normalised using next-to-leading-order (NLO) QCD predictions obtained with MC@NLO [30, 31]. The top-quark pair-production contribution is normalised to approximate next-to-next-to-leading-order calculations (NNLO) [32] and the $t\bar{t}W(W)/Z$ contributions are normalised to NLO [33, 34]. The $W$ and $Z$ yields are normalised to be consistent with the ATLAS cross-section measurement [35]. The QCD NNLO FEWZ [36, 37] cross-sections are used for normalisation of the inclusive $W+$light-flavour jets and $Z+$light-flavour jets. The ratio of the NNLO to LO cross-section is used to rescale the $W$+heavy-flavour jets and $Z$+heavy-flavour jets LO cross-sections.

The choice of the parton distribution functions (PDFs) depends on the generator. The CTEQ6L1 [38] PDFs are used with MadGraph and ALPGEN, and the CTEQ [39] PDFs with M@NLO and Sherpa. The MRTSmlac PDF set [40] is used for Herwig.

The pMSSM samples are produced with Herwig and the simplified model samples with Herwig++. The yields of the SUSY samples are normalised to the NLO cross-sections obtained from PROSPINO [42] using the PDF set CTEQ6.6 with the renormalisation/factorisation scales set to the average of the relevant gaugino masses.

Fragmentation and hadronisation for the ALPGEN and M@NLO (MadGraph) samples are performed with HERWIG (PYTHIA [43]), while for Sherpa, these are performed internally. JIMMY [44] is interfaced to HERWIG for simulating the underlying event. For all MC samples, the propagation of particles through the ATLAS detector is modelled using GEANT4 [45, 46]. The effect of multiple proton-proton collisions from the same or different bunch crossings is incorporated into the simulation by overlaying additional minimum bias events onto hard-scatter events using PYTHIA. Simulated events are weighted to match the distribution of the number of interactions per bunch crossing observed in data (pile-up).

5. Event Reconstruction and Preselection

The data sample was collected with an inclusive selection of single-lepton and double-lepton triggers. If the event is selected by the single-lepton triggers, at least one reconstructed muon (electron) is requested to have transverse momentum $p_T^\mu$ (transverse energy $E_T^e$) above 20 GeV (25 GeV). For di-lepton triggers, at least two leptons are required to be present in the event with transverse energy or momentum above threshold. The two muons are required to have $p_T^\mu>12$ GeV for di-muon triggers, and the two electrons to have $E_T^e>17$ GeV for di-electron triggers, while the thresholds for electron-muon triggers are $E_T^e>15$ GeV and $p_T^\mu>10$ GeV. These thresholds on the reconstructed transverse momenta of leptons are higher than those applied by the online trigger selection, and are chosen such that the trigger efficiency is high, typically between 90 and 99%, and independent of the transverse momentum of the triggerable objects within uncertainties.

Events recorded during normal running conditions are analysed if the primary vertex has five or more tracks associated to it. The primary vertex of an event is identified as the vertex with the highest $\Sigma p_T^2$ of associated tracks.

Electrons must satisfy “tight” identification criteria [47] and fulfill $|\eta| < 2.47$ and $E_T > 10$ GeV, where $E_T$ and $|\eta|$ are determined from the calibrated clustered energy deposits in the electromagnetic calorimeter and the matched ID track respectively. Muons are reconstructed by combining tracks in the ID and tracks in the muon spectrometer. Reconstructed muons are considered as candidates if they have transverse momentum $p_T > 10$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$.

In this analysis “tagged” leptons are defined for evaluating the background, as described below in Sec. 7.1. Tagged leptons are leptons separated from each other and from candidate jets as described below. If two candidate electrons are reconstructed with $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{(\Delta \phi)^2 + (\Delta \eta)^2} < 0.1$, the lower energy one is discarded. Candidate jets within $\Delta R = 0.2$ of an electron candidate are rejected. To
suppress leptons originating from semi-leptonic decays of c- and b-quarks, all lepton candidates are required to be separated from candidate jets by $\Delta R > 0.4$. Muons undergoing bremsstrahlung can be reconstructed with an overlapping electron. To reject these, tagged electrons and muons separated from jets and reconstructed within $\Delta R = 0.1$ of each other are both discarded. Events containing one or more tagged muons that have transverse impact parameter with respect to the primary vertex $|d_0| > 0.2$ mm or longitudinal impact parameter with respect to the primary vertex $|z_0| > 1$ mm are rejected to suppress cosmic muon background.

“Signal leptons” are tagged leptons for which the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of tracks within a cone of $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{\Delta\eta^2 + \Delta\phi^2} = 0.2$ around the lepton candidate, and excluding the lepton candidate track itself, is less than 10% of the lepton $E_T$ for electrons and less than 1.8 GeV for muons. Tracks selected for the electron and muon isolation requirement, defined above, have $p_T > 1$ GeV and are associated to the primary vertex of the event. To suppress leptons originating from secondary vertices, the distance of closest approach of the lepton track to the primary vertex normalised to its uncertainty is required to be small, with $|d_0|/\sigma(d_0) < 6(3)$ for electrons (muons).

Jets are reconstructed using the anti-$k_T$ algorithm with a radius parameter of $R = 0.4$ using clustered energy deposits calibrated at the electromagnetic scale. The jet energy is corrected to account for pile-up and for the non-compensating nature of the calorimeter using correction factors parameterised as a function of the jet $E_T$ and $\eta$. The correction factors applied to jets have been obtained from simulation and have been tuned and validated using data. Jets considered in this analysis have $E_T > 20$ GeV, $|\eta| < 2.5$ and a fraction of the jet’s track transverse momenta that can be associated with the primary vertex greater than 0.75. Events containing jets failing the quality criteria described in Ref. are rejected to suppress both SM and beam-induced background. Jets are identified as containing b-hadron decays, and thus called “b-tagged”, using a multivariate technique based on quantities such as the impact parameters of the tracks associated to a reconstructed secondary vertex. The b-tagging algorithm correctly identifies b-quark jets in simulated top-quark decays with an efficiency of 60% and misidentifies jets containing light-flavour quarks and gluons with a rate of < 1%, for jets with $|\eta| < 2.5$ and jet $E_T > 20$ GeV.

The missing transverse momentum, $E_T^{\text{miss}}$, is the magnitude of the vector sum of the transverse momentum or transverse energy of all $p_T > 10$ GeV muons, $E_T > 20$ GeV electrons, $E_T > 20$ GeV jets, and calibrated calorimeter clusters with $|\eta| < 4.9$ not associated to these objects.

**6. Signal Region Selection**

Selected events must contain exactly three signal leptons. As R-parity conserving leptonic decays of $\chi_1^0$ yield same-flavour opposite-sign (SFOS) lepton pairs, the presence of at least one such pair is required. The invariant mass of any SFOS lepton pair must be above 20 GeV to suppress background from low-mass resonances and the missing transverse momentum must satisfy $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 75$ GeV.

Three signal regions are then defined: two “Z-depleted” regions (SR1a and SR1b), with no SFOS pairs having invariant mass within 10 GeV of the nominal Z-boson mass; and a “Z-enriched” one (SR2), where at least one SFOS pair has an invariant mass within 10 GeV of the Z-boson mass. Events in SR1a and SR1b are further required to contain no b-tagged jets to suppress contributions from b-jet-rich background processes, where a lepton could originate from the decay of a heavy-flavour quark. SR1b is designed to increase sensitivity to scenarios characterised by large mass splittings between the heavy gauginos and the LSP by requiring all three leptons to have $p_T > 30$ GeV. In both SR1b and SR2, the transverse mass variable $m_T$ must take values greater than 90 GeV, where $m_T$ is constructed using the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ and the lepton not included in the lepton pair with invariant mass closest to the nominal Z-boson mass. The $m_T$ requirement is introduced to suppress background from WZ events. The SR1a/b regions target neutralino decays via intermediate sleptons or via off-shell Z bosons while SR2 targets decays via an on-shell Z boson. Table summarises the selection requirements for the three signal regions.

**7. Standard Model Background Estimation**

**7.1. Reducible Background Processes**

Several SM processes contribute to the background in the signal regions. A “reducible” process has at least one “fake” object, that is either a lepton from a semileptonic decay of a heavy-flavour quark or an electron from an isolated photon conversion. The contribution from misidentified light-flavour quark or gluon jets is negligible in the signal regions. The reducible background includes single- and pair-production of top-quarks and WW or W/Z produced in association with jets or photons. The dominant
component is the production of top quarks, with a contribution of 1% or less from $Z$+jets. The reducible background is estimated using a “matrix method” similar to that described in Ref. [53].

In this implementation of the matrix method, the signal lepton with the highest $p_T$ or $E_T^{miss}$ is taken to be real, which is a valid assumption in 99% of the cases, based on simulation. The number of observed events with one or two fakes is then extracted from a system of linear equations relating the number of events with two additional signal or tagged candidates to the number of events with two additional candidates that are either real or fake. The coefficients of the linear equations are functions of the real-lepton identification efficiencies and of the fake-object misidentification probabilities.

The identification efficiency is measured in data using lepton candidates from $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ decays. Misidentification probabilities for each relevant fake type (heavy flavour or conversion) and for each reducible background process, parameterised with the lepton $p_T$ and $\eta$, are obtained using simulated events with one signal and two tagged leptons. These misidentification probabilities are then corrected using the ratio (fake scale factor) of the misidentification probability in data to that in simulation obtained from dedicated control samples. For heavy-flavour fakes, the correction factor is measured in a $bb$-dominated control sample. This is defined by selecting events with only one $b$-tagged jet (containing a muon) and a tagged lepton, for which the fake rate is measured. The non-$bb$ background includes top-quark pair production and $W$ bosons produced in association with a $b$-quark. An $E_T^{miss}$ requirement of less than 40 GeV suppresses both the $tt$ and the $W$ contamination, while requiring $m_T < 40$ GeV reduces the $W$ background. The remaining (small) background is subtracted from data using MC predictions. The fake scale factor for the conversion candidates is determined in a sample of photons radiated from a muon in $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ decays. These are selected by requiring $m_{\mu\mu}$ to lie within 10 GeV of the nominal $Z$-boson mass value. A weighted average misidentification probability is then calculated by weighting the corrected type- and process-dependent misidentification probabilities according to the relative contributions in a given signal or validation region, defined below.

7.2. Irreducible Background Processes

A background process is considered “irreducible” if it leads to events with three real and isolated leptons, referred to as “real” leptons below. Such processes include diboson ($WZ$ and $ZZ$) and $t\bar{t}W/Z$ production, where the gauge boson may be produced off-mass-shell. The $ZZ$ and $t\bar{t}W/Z$ contribution is determined using the corresponding MC samples, for which lepton and jet selection efficiencies are corrected to account for differences with respect to data.

The largest irreducible background, $WZ$, is determined using a semi-data-driven approach. The $WZ$ background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection</th>
<th>VR1</th>
<th>VR2</th>
<th>VR3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}Z$</td>
<td>0.17±0.14</td>
<td>0.12±0.10</td>
<td>1.1±0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}W$</td>
<td>0.6±0.5</td>
<td>0.7±0.5</td>
<td>0.10±0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}WW$</td>
<td>0.017±0.014</td>
<td>0.022±0.017</td>
<td>0.0023±0.0019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZZ</td>
<td>17±15</td>
<td>10.0±0.05</td>
<td>3.9±0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WZ</td>
<td>46±8</td>
<td>0.93±0.29</td>
<td>98±12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducible Bkg.</td>
<td>50±28</td>
<td>13±7</td>
<td>3.1±1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bkg.</td>
<td>114±32</td>
<td>15±7</td>
<td>106±13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Expected numbers of events from SM backgrounds and observed numbers of events in data, for 4.7 fb$^{-1}$, in validation regions VR1, VR2 and VR3. Both statistical and systematic uncertainties are included.

8. Background Model Validation

The background predictions have been tested in various validation regions. A region (VR1) dominated by Drell-Yan and $WZ$ events is selected by requiring three signal leptons, at least one SFOS lepton pair, a $Z$ candidate, $E_T^{miss} < 30$ GeV, a $b$-veto, and $m_T > 40$ GeV. The $WZ$ purity in the control region is $\sim 80\%$. Non-$WZ$ backgrounds, both irreducible and reducible, are determined based on simulation or by using the matrix method and subtracted. A $WZ$ normalisation factor 1.25±0.12 is obtained in the control region under a background-only hypothesis and used to estimate the $WZ$ background in the validation regions. To obtain the model-independent 95% CL upper limit on the new phenomena cross-section, a fit is performed simultaneously in the $WZ$ control and in the signal region, with floating $WZ$ normalisation factor and a non-negative signal in the signal region only. This allows the propagation of the uncertainties on the normalisation factor. When setting limits on specific new physics scenarios, the potential signal contamination in the $WZ$ control region is accounted for in the simultaneous fit.

9. Systematic uncertainties

Several sources of systematic uncertainty are considered in the signal, control and validation regions. The systematic uncertainties affecting the simulation-based estimates (the yield of the irreducible background, the cross-section weighted misidentification probabilities, the signal
yield) include the theoretical cross-section uncertainties due to renormalisation and factorisation scale and PDFs, the acceptance uncertainty due to PDFs, the uncertainty on the luminosity, the uncertainty due to the jet energy scale, jet energy resolution, lepton energy scale, lepton energy resolution, lepton efficiency, b-tagging efficiency, mistag probability, and the choice of MC generator. In SR1a, the total uncertainty on the irreducible background is 24%. This is dominated by the uncertainty on the efficiency of the signal region selection for the W Z generator, determined by comparing the nominal yield with that obtained with the HERWIG generator and found to be 20%. The next largest uncertainties are the uncertainty due to the MC generator (16%) and that on the cross-sections (9%) of the non-W Z background. The MC generator uncertainty partially accounts for the cross-section uncertainty, leading to a slight overestimate of the overall uncertainty. All the remaining uncertainties on the irreducible background in this signal region range between 0.5 and 5%. The total uncertainty on the irreducible background in SR1b is slightly larger, at 25%, due to the limited number of simulated events. In SR2, the uncertainty on the irreducible background is 24%, with increased contributions from the jet energy scale and resolution and cross-section uncertainties.

The uncertainty on the reducible background includes the MC uncertainty on the weights for the misidentification scales by factors of two or one half. The nominal cross-section value is taken to be the midpoint of the envelope and the uncertainty assigned is half the full width of the envelope, following the PDF-ILHC recommendations. 

In all of the above, the value used for the uncertainty on the luminosity is 3.9% \cite{57,58}. Correlations of systematic uncertainties between processes and regions are accounted for.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection</th>
<th>SR1a</th>
<th>SR1b</th>
<th>SR2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(t\bar{t}Z)</td>
<td>0.06±0.05</td>
<td>0.025±0.023</td>
<td>0.6±0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(tW)</td>
<td>0.36±0.29</td>
<td>0.10±0.08</td>
<td>0.09±0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(t\bar{t}W)</td>
<td>0.010±0.008</td>
<td>0.0023±0.0019</td>
<td>0.004±0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ZZ)</td>
<td>0.67±0.21</td>
<td>0.09±0.08</td>
<td>0.34±0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(WZ)</td>
<td>13.5±2.9</td>
<td>1.05±0.28</td>
<td>9.3±2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducible Bkg.</td>
<td>10±5</td>
<td>0.35±0.34</td>
<td>0.5±0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bkg.</td>
<td>25±6</td>
<td>1.6±0.5</td>
<td>10.9±2.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3: Expected numbers of events from SM backgrounds and observed numbers of events in data, for 4.7 fb⁻¹, in signal regions SR1a, SR1b and SR2. The yield for two of the simplified model scenarios, “SUSY ref. point 1” with intermediate sleptons, \((m_{\tilde{e}1}, m_{\tilde{q}1}, m_{\tilde{\chi}0_1}, m_{\tilde{\chi}0_1} = 425, 425, 250, 75 \text{ GeV})\) and “SUSY ref. point 2” with no intermediate sleptons, \((m_{\tilde{e}1}, m_{\tilde{q}1}, m_{\tilde{\chi}0_1} = 150, 150, 0 \text{ GeV})\) are also presented. Both statistical and systematic uncertainties are included. Upper limits on the observed and expected visible production cross-section at 95% CL are also shown. 

### 10. Results and Interpretation

The numbers of observed events and the prediction for SM backgrounds in SR1a, SR1b and SR2 are given in Table 3. Distributions of the \(E_T^{\text{miss}}\) in SR1a and SR2 are presented in Fig. 1.

No significant excess of events is found in any of the three signal regions. Upper limits on the visible cross-section, defined as the production cross-section times acceptance times efficiency, of 3.0 fb in SR1a, 0.7 fb in SR1b and 2.0 fb in SR2 are placed at 95% CL with the modified frequentist \(C_{\text{LS}}\) prescription \cite{59}. All systematic uncertainties and their correlations are taken into account via nuisance parameters in a profile likelihood fit \cite{60}. The corresponding expected limits are 3.0 fb, 0.8 fb and 2.0 fb, respectively.

SR1a and SR1b provide the best sensitivity for the pMSSM scenarios; in particular SR1a (SR1b) targets scenarios with small (large) mass splitting between the heavy gauginos and the LSP. The limits are calculated using the signal region providing the best expected limit for each of the model points. The uncertainties on the signal cross-section are not included in the limit calculation but their impact on the observed limit is shown. The exclusion limits for the pMSSM are shown in Fig. 2 as a function of the three parameters \(M_1\), \(M_2\) and \(\mu\), where the regions with low values of \(M_2\) and \(\mu\) are the excluded ones for all values of \(M_1\). In these plots, the main features can be explained in broad terms as follows. For a given value of \(M_1\), for example \(M_3 = 100 \text{ GeV}\) in Fig. 2 (a), the production cross-section decreases as \(M_2\) and \(\mu\) increase, which explains why limits become less stringent when both \(M_2\) and \(\mu\) take high values. In general, the sensitivity is reduced in the region at low \(M_2\) and high \(\mu\), due to the
small mass splitting between the $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ and the $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$. When $\mu$ is greater than $M_1$ and $M_2$, which is true for example in the rightmost part of the exclusion plots for $M_1 = 100$ GeV (Fig. 2(a)) and $M_1 = 140$ GeV (Fig. 2(b)), the mass of the gauginos does not depend on $\mu$ and the sensitivity remains constant as a function of $\mu$. On the contrary, in a large section of the plane shown for $M_1 = 250$ GeV (Fig. 2(c)), the condition that $\mu$ should be greater than $M_1$ is not fulfilled and the resulting limits on the same plane become less stringent. Additionally, the reduced reach at high $M_2$ and low $\mu$ for $M_1 = 140$ GeV can be explained in terms of smaller cross-section values and smaller mass splittings in that section of the parameter space. The difference between expected and observed limits seen in the upper right corner of the $M_1 = 100$ GeV exclusion plot, where SR1b has the best sensitivity, is explained by the observed under-fluctuation in data with respect to SM predictions.

The value of $\tan \beta$ does not have a significant impact on $\sigma(pp \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \tilde{\chi}_1^0) \times BR(\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow \ell \nu \tilde{\chi}_1^0 r)$, which decreases by 10% if $\tan \beta$ is raised from 6 to 10.

The results obtained in signal regions SR1a and SR1b are combined with results from the relevant signal region in the ATLAS two-lepton search (SR-m$T_2$) [61]. The fits are performed on the combined likelihood function from SR-m$T_2$ with SR1a, and from SR-m$T_2$ with SR1b. The combination yielding the highest expected sensitivity is selected for optimal exclusions in the pMSSM planes (Fig. 3). The uncertainties are profiled in the likelihood and correlations between channels and processes are taken into account. An improvement in the sensitivity for $M_1 = 250$ GeV and small values of $M_2$ is seen when results from the three-lepton and the two-lepton analyses are combined.

Region SR1b provides the best sensitivity to the simplified models with intermediate slepton decay for which the interpretation is shown in Fig. 4(a). In the simplified models with intermediate slepton decays, degenerate $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ and $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ masses up to 500 GeV are excluded for large mass differences from the $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$. Both SR1a and SR2 are used to interpret the results in the simplified model with gauginos decaying via gauge bosons (Fig. 4(b)). The signal region SR1a has the best sensitivity for small mass differences between the heavy and light neutralinos, while SR2 is sensitive to decays of $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ into on-mass-shell $Z$ bosons.

11. Summary

Results from a search for direct production of charginos and neutralinos in the final state with three leptons (electrons or muons) and missing transverse momentum are reported. The analysis is based on 4.7 fb$^{-1}$ of proton-proton collision data delivered by the LHC at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV and collected by ATLAS. No significant excess of events is found in data. The null result is interpreted in the pMSSM and simplified models. For the pMSSM, an improvement in the sensitivity for $M_1 = 250$ GeV and small values of $M_2$ is seen when results from this analysis are combined with those from the corresponding two-lepton ATLAS search. For the simplified models with intermediate slepton decays, degenerate $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ and $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ masses up to 500 GeV are excluded for large mass differences from the $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$. The analysis presented here also has sensitivity to direct gaugino production with decays via gauge bosons.

12. Acknowledgements

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140 GeV, whereas signal region SR1a is used for \( M_1 \) sensitive signal region (lowest expected CL) for \( M_1 \) by applying in each signal grid point the CL values from the most creteness of the signal grids. The exclusion contours are optimised in the pMSSM plane. Linear interpolation is used to account for the dis-

\[ \mu \] values of \( M_1 \) and neutralino production in the pMSSM for \( M_1 = 140 \text{ GeV} \) (b) and \( M_1 = 250 \text{ GeV} \) (c). The regions with low values of \( M_2 \) and \( \mu \) are the excluded ones for all values of \( M_1 \). The expected and observed limits are calculated without signal cross-

section uncertainty taken into account. The yellow band is the ±1σ experimental uncertainty on the expected limit (black dashed line). The red dotted band is the ±1σ signal theory uncertainty on the observed limit (red solid line). The LEP2 limit in the Figure corresponds to the limit on the \( \chi^2 \) mass in [23] as transposed to this pMSSM plane. Linear interpolation is used to account for the discreteness of the signal grids. The exclusion contours are optimised by applying in each signal grid point the CL values from the most sensitive signal region (lowest expected CL) for \( M_1 = 100 \text{ GeV} \) and 140 GeV, whereas signal region SR1a is used for \( M_1 = 250 \text{ GeV} \).

Figure 2: Observed and expected 95% CL limit contours for chargino and neutralino production in the pMSSM for \( M_1 = 100 \text{ GeV} \) (a), \( M_1 = 140 \text{ GeV} \) (b) and \( M_1 = 250 \text{ GeV} \) (c). The regions with low values of \( M_2 \) and \( \mu \) are the excluded ones for all values of \( M_1 \). The expected and observed limits are calculated without signal cross-

section uncertainty taken into account. The yellow band is the ±1σ experimental uncertainty on the expected limit (black dashed line). The red dotted band is the ±1σ signal theory uncertainty on the observed limit (red solid line). The LEP2 limit in the Figure corresponds to the limit on the \( \chi^2 \) mass in [23] as transposed to this pMSSM plane. Linear interpolation is used to account for the discreteness of the signal grids. The exclusion contours are optimised by applying in each signal grid point the CL values from the most sensitive signal region (lowest expected CL) for \( M_1 = 100 \text{ GeV} \) and 140 GeV, whereas signal region SR1a is used for \( M_1 = 250 \text{ GeV} \).

Figure 3: Observed and expected 95% CL limit contours for chargino and neutralino production in the pMSSM for \( M_1 = 100 \text{ GeV} \) (a), \( M_1 = 140 \text{ GeV} \) (b) and \( M_1 = 250 \text{ GeV} \) (c). Contours from the combination of the results from this search with those of the two-lepton ATLAS search in [23]. The various limits are as described in Figure 2. The colour coding is the same as that in Figure 2.
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Figure 4: Observed and expected 95% CL limit contours for chargino and neutralino production in the simplified model scenario with intermediate slepton decay (a) and intermediate gauge boson decay (b). The colour coding is the same as that in Figure 2. For scenarios with intermediate slepton decay (with no intermediate slepton decay) the reference point is “SUSY ref. point 1” (“SUSY ref. point 2”). The “ATLAS 2.06 fb$^{-1}$ 3 leptons” contour corresponds to the result of the ATLAS search documented in [18].
M. Yilmaz\textsuperscript{4c}, R. Yoosofmiya\textsuperscript{4d}, K. Yorita\textsuperscript{171}, R. Yoshida\textsuperscript{6}, C. Young\textsuperscript{143}, C.J. Young\textsuperscript{118}, S. Youssef\textsuperscript{22}, D. Yu\textsuperscript{25}, J. Yu\textsuperscript{8}, J. Yu\textsuperscript{112}, L. Yuan\textsuperscript{66}, A. Yurkewicz\textsuperscript{106}, B. Zabinski\textsuperscript{39}, R. Zaidan\textsuperscript{62}, A.M. Zaitsev\textsuperscript{128}, Z. Zajacova\textsuperscript{30}, L. Zanello\textsuperscript{132a,132b}, D. Zanzi\textsuperscript{69}, A. Zaytsev\textsuperscript{25}, C. Zeitnitz\textsuperscript{175}, M. Zemani\textsuperscript{126}, A. Zemla\textsuperscript{39}, C. Zender\textsuperscript{21}, O. Zenini\textsuperscript{128}, T. Ženiš\textsuperscript{144a}, Z. Žinonos\textsuperscript{122a,122b}, S. Žens\textsuperscript{15}, D. Žerwas\textsuperscript{115}, G. Zevi della Porta\textsuperscript{37}, Z. Zhan\textsuperscript{33d}, D. Zhang\textsuperscript{33b,ak}, H. Zhang\textsuperscript{88}, J. Zhang\textsuperscript{6}, X. Zhang\textsuperscript{33d}, Z. Zhang\textsuperscript{115}, L. Zhao\textsuperscript{108}, T. Zhao\textsuperscript{138}, Z. Zhao\textsuperscript{33b}, A. Zhemchugov\textsuperscript{64}, J. Zhong\textsuperscript{113}, B. Zhou\textsuperscript{87}, N. Zhou\textsuperscript{161}, Y. Zhou\textsuperscript{151}, C.G. Zhu\textsuperscript{33d}, H. Zhu\textsuperscript{12}, J. Zhu\textsuperscript{87}, Y. Zhu\textsuperscript{33b}, X. Zhuang\textsuperscript{98}, V. Zhravlov\textsuperscript{99}, D. Zieminska\textsuperscript{60}, N.I. Zimin\textsuperscript{64}, R. Zimmermann\textsuperscript{21}, S. Zimmermann\textsuperscript{21}, S. Zimmermann\textsuperscript{48}, M. Ziolkowski\textsuperscript{141}, R. Zitoun\textsuperscript{5}, L. Živković\textsuperscript{35}, V.V. Zmouchko\textsuperscript{128,*}, G. Zobernig\textsuperscript{173}, A. Zoccoli\textsuperscript{20a,20b}, M. zur Nedden\textsuperscript{16}, V. Zutshi\textsuperscript{106}, L. Zwalinski\textsuperscript{30}.

1 School of Chemistry and Physics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia
2 Physics Department, SUNY Albany, Albany NY, United States of America
3 Department of Physics, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB, Canada
4 (a) Department of Physics, Ankara University, Ankara; (b) Department of Physics, Dumlupınar University, Kütahya;
(c) Department of Physics, Gazi University, Ankara; (d) Division of Physics, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara; (e) Turkish Atomic Energy Authority, Ankara, Turkey
5 LAPP, CNRS/IN2P3 and Université de Savoie, Annecy-le-Vieux, France
6 High Energy Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne IL, United States of America
7 Department of Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ, United States of America
8 Department of Physics, Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington TX, United States of America
9 Physics Department, University of Athens, Athens, Greece
10 Physics Department, National Technical University of Athens, Zografou, Greece
11 Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
12 Institut de Física d’Altes Energies and Departament de Física de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and ICREA, Barcelona, Spain
13 (a) Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade; (b) Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
14 Department for Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
15 Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley CA, United States of America
16 Department of Physics, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany
17 Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics and Laboratory for High Energy Physics, University of Bern, Berne, Switzerland
18 School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
19 (a) Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul; (b) Division of Physics, Dogus University, Istanbul; (c) Department of Physics Engineering, Gaziantep University, Gaziantep; (d) Department of Physics, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
20 (a) INFN Sezione di Bologna; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
21 Physikalisches Institut, Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany
22 Department of Physics, Boston University, Boston MA, United States of America
23 Department of Physics, Brandeis University, Waltham MA, United States of America
24 (a) Universidade Federal do Rio De Janeiro COPPE/EE/IF, Rio de Janeiro; (b) Federal University of Juiz de Fora (UFJF), Juiz de Fora; (c) Federal University of Sao Joao del Rei (UFSJ), Sao Joao del Rei; (d) Instituto de Fisica, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
25 Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton NY, United States of America
26 (a) National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest; (b) University Politehnica Bucharest, Bucharest; (c) West University in Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania
27 Departamento de Física, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
28 Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom
29 Department of Physics, Carleton University, Ottawa ON, Canada
30 CERN, Geneva, Switzerland
31 Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago IL, United States of America
32 (a) Departamento de Física, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago; (b) Departamento de Física, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Valparaíso, Chile
33 (a) Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing; (b) Department of Modern Physics, University of Science and Technology of China, Anhui; (c) Department of Physics, Nanjing University, Jiangsu; (d) School of Physics, Shandong University, Shandong, China
34 Laboratoire de Physique Corpusculaire, Clermont Université and Université Blaise Pascal and CNRS/IN2P3,
AGH University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, Krakow, Poland

The Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, Poland

Physics Department, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX, United States of America

Physics Department, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson TX, United States of America

DESY, Hamburg and Zeuthen, Germany

Institut für Experimentelle Physik IV, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany

Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham NC, United States of America

SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy

Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland

(a) INFN Sezione di Genova; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Genova, Genova, Italy

E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi; (b) High Energy Physics Institute, Tbilisi

State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

II Physikalisches Institut, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Giessen, Germany

SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

II Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany

Laboratoire de Physique Subatomique et de Cosmologie, Université Joseph Fourier and CNRS/IN2P3 and Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, Grenoble, France

Department of Physics, Hampton University, Hampton VA, United States of America

Laboratory for Particle Physics and Cosmology, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, United States of America

(a) Kirchhoff-Institut für Physik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; (b) Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; (c) ZITI Institut für technische Informatik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Mannheim, Germany

Faculty of Applied Information Science, Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Hiroshima, Japan

Department of Physics, Indiana University, Bloomington IN, United States of America

Institut für Astro- und Teilchenphysik, Leopold-Franzens-Universität, Innsbruck, Austria

University of Iowa, Iowa City IA, United States of America

Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames IA, United States of America

Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, JINR Dubna, Dubna, Russia

KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Japan

Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan

Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

Kyoto University of Education, Kyoto, Japan

Department of Physics, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan

Instituto de Física La Plata, Universidad Nacional de La Plata and CONICET, La Plata, Argentina

Physics Department, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom

(a) INFN Sezione di Lecce; (b) Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università del Salento, Lecce, Italy

Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom

Department of Physics, Józef Stefan Institute and University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

School of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom

Department of Physics, Royal Holloway University of London, Surrey, United Kingdom

Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom

Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et de Hautes Énergies, UPMC and Université Paris-Diderot and CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France

Fysiska institutionen, Lunds universitet, Lund, Sweden

Departamento de Física Teorica C-15, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany

School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France

Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA, United States of America
Department of Physics, McGill University, Montreal QC, Canada
School of Physics, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI, United States of America
(a) INFN Sezione di Milano; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, Milano, Italy
B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
National Scientific and Educational Centre for Particle and High Energy Physics, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA, United States of America
Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal QC, Canada
P.N. Lebedev Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics (ITEP), Moscow, Russia
Moscow Engineering and Physics Institute (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
Fakultät für Physik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München, Germany
Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), München, Germany
Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki, Japan
Graduate School of Science and Kobayashi-Maskawa Institute, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan
(a) INFN Sezione di Napoli; (b) Dipartimento di Scienze Fisiche, Università di Napoli, Napoli, Italy
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM, United States of America
Institute for Mathematics, Astrophysics and Particle Physics, Radboud University Nijmegen/Nikhef, Nijmegen, Netherlands
Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Department of Physics, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL, United States of America
Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, SB RAS, Novosibirsk, Russia
Department of Physics, New York University, New York NY, United States of America
Ohio State University, Columbus OH, United States of America
Faculty of Science, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan
Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK, United States of America
Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater OK, United States of America
Palacký University, RCPTM, Olomouc, Czech Republic
Center for High Energy Physics, University of Oregon, Eugene OR, United States of America
LAL, Université Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France
Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan
Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
(a) INFN Sezione di Pavia; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, United States of America
Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina, Russia
(a) INFN Sezione di Pisa; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA, United States of America
(a) Laboratorio de Instrumentacao e Fisica Experimental de Partículas - LIP, Lisboa, Portugal; (b) Departamento de Física Teórica y del Cosmos and CAFPE, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain
Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Praha, Czech Republic
Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic
Czech Technical University in Prague, Praha, Czech Republic
State Research Center Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia
Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
Physics Department, University of Regina, Regina SK, Canada
Ritsumeikan University, Kusatsu, Shiga, Japan
(a) INFN Sezione di Roma I; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy
(a) INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
(a) INFN Sezione di Roma Tre; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
(a) Faculté des Sciences Alain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Énergies - Université Hassan II, Casablanca; (b) Centre National de l’Energie des Sciences Techniques Nucleaires, Rabat; (c) Faculté des Sciences Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech; (d) Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier and LPTPM, Oujda; (e) Faculté des sciences, Université Mohammed V-Agdal, Rabat, Morocco