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SEARCH FOR GAUGE-MEDIATED SUPERSYMMETRY BREAKING

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Graduate School
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in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

by

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This is the abstract.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) is the largest machine in the world and an incredible feat of engineering and science. This machine is used to study elementary particles and their interactions. At the LHC, proton-proton collisions occur at center-of-mass energies up to 13 TeV.

The Standard Model of particle physics describes fundamental particles and their interactions to an incredible level of precision. This is described in more detail in Chapter XX.

The CMS detector and various subsystems will be described in Chapter ?? . Finally, Chapter XX will include a discussion of the results of this analysis and suggestions for future work.

Introduction

Chapter 1: Theory Motivation Standard Model Why we need BSM SUSY GMSB

Chapter 2: LHC About CERN How the accelerator works Chapter 3: CMS Detector

Chapter 4: Object Reconstruction

Chapter 5: Trigger

Chapter 6: Event Selection Including object cleaning

CHAPTER 2

Theoretical Motivation

2.1 The Standard Model of particle physics

2.2 Supersymmetry

2.3 Gauge-mediated supersymmetry breaking

CHAPTER 3

The Large Hadron Collider

3.1 Introduction

The Large Hadron Collider is a particle accelerator located at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

3.2 Injector Chain

3.3 Vacuum and magnet system

3.4 Operating parameters

CHAPTER 4

CMS DETECTOR

The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector is a multi-purpose detector designed to accurately measure the energy of all particles produced in proton-proton collisions. Figure ?? shows a schematic of the detector as a whole. Each subdetector will be described in more detail in the following sections. Moving radially outward from the interaction point, the subdetectors are the silicon pixel and strip tracker (Section ??), the electromagnetic calorimeter (Section ??), the hadron calorimeter (Section ??), and the muon system (Section ??). For a full description of the CMS detector, see [?]. The full length of the CMS detector is 21.6 m, the diameter of the detector is 21.6 m, and the total weight is 12500 t.

4.1 Coordinate system

The origin of the CMS detector coordinate system is located at the nominal collision point. The z -axis is oriented along the beam direction, with the positive z -axis pointing in the counter-clockwise direction when viewing the LHC from above. The y -axis points vertically upward, and the x -axis points toward the center of the LHC. The xy -plane is referred to as the transverse plane.

Due to the nature of particle collisions, however, Cartesian coordinates are often not the most convenient. Because protons are not elementary particles, it is actually the individual quarks or gluons within the proton that interact during the collision. This means that the collision will not be at rest in the lab frame, but will have some

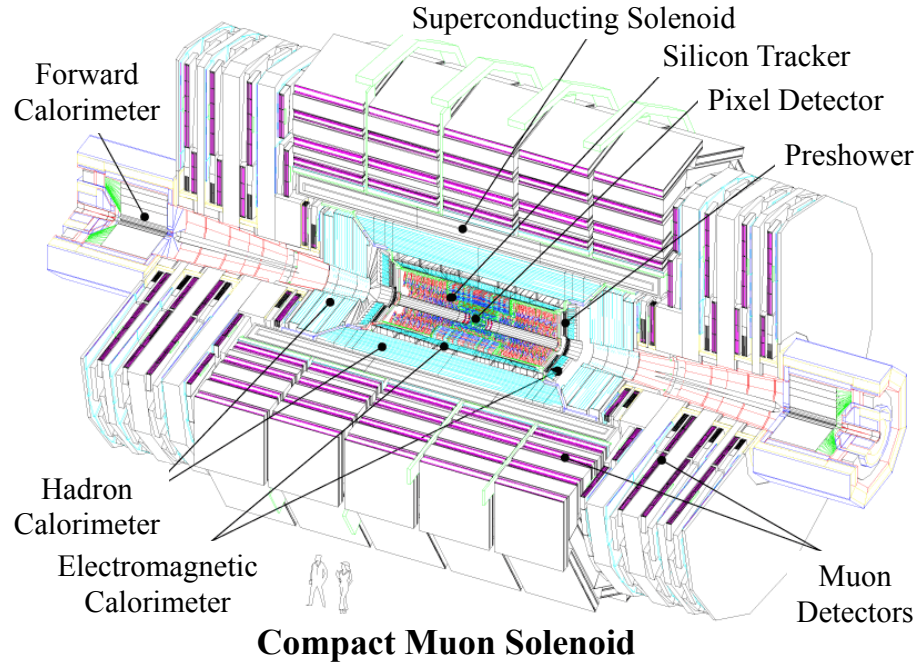


Figure 4.1. Schematic of the CMS detector.

non-zero velocity along the z -axis. To deal with this, it is beneficial to use coordinates that are invariant under boosts in the z direction. CMS follows the particle physics convention of describing the position of a particle in terms of its transverse momentum, azimuthal angle, and pseudorapidity. The transverse momentum p_T is defined as the magnitude of the momentum in the xy plane. The azimuthal angle ϕ is defined in the transverse plane, with $\phi = 0$ corresponding to the positive x -axis. Finally, the pseudorapidity is defined as $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$, where the polar angle θ is measured from the z -axis.

4.2 Superconducting solenoid

One of the most important components of the CMS detector is the superconducting solenoid. The solenoid provides the bending power necessary to precisely measure the momentum of all charged particles produced in the collision. The mag-

net is located between the calorimeters and the muon system. It is 13 m long and has an inner diameter of 6 m. It is capable of producing magnetic fields up to 4 T, although the magnet is generally operated at 3.8 T to prolong its lifetime. At full current, the magnet has a stored energy of 2.6 GJ. A 10,000 ton iron yoke made up of 5 wheels in the barrel and 6 endcap disks serves to return the magnetic flux. A detailed description of the CMS magnet can be found in [?].

4.3 Tracker

The innermost subdetector is the silicon tracker [? ?]. The overall dimensions of the tracker are 5.6 m long and 1.2 m in radius. The full tracking system is cylindrical in shape and is comprised of a barrel and two endcaps, each of which is split into layers of silicon pixel detectors and layers of silicon micro-strip detectors. In total, there are 66 million $150 \times 100 \mu\text{m}$ pixels and 9.6 million strips that are between 80 and $180 \mu\text{m}$ wide. Figure ?? shows a schematic drawing of the layout of the tracker subsystems.

4.3.1 Pixel detector

Due to the high occupancy of the tracker within 10 cm of the beam pipe, pixel detectors rather than strip detectors are used as the innermost layers of the tracker. Three barrel layers and two disks of pixel detectors in the endcap give three high-precision points for every charged particle moving away from the interaction point. The small pixel size of $150 \times 100 \mu\text{m}$ is critical to allow for good secondary vertex reconstruction and for forming seed tracks that are used for high level triggering (see Chapter ??) and for the reconstruction of charged particles in the event (see Chapter ??). The three barrel layers are 53 cm long and are located at mean radii of 4.4, 7.3 and 10.2 cm. The endcap modules extend radially from 6 to 15 cm in radius and are placed on each side at $z = \pm 34.5$ and $z = \pm 46.5$ cm. The endcaps extend

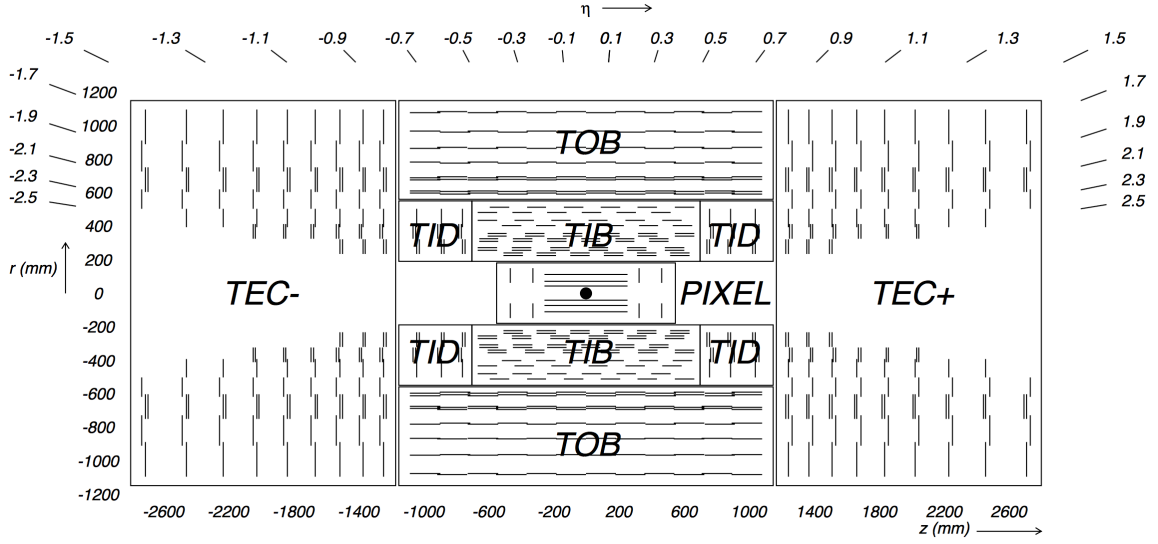


Figure 4.2. Schematic of the CMS tracker system. Detector modules are represented by single lines, and back-to-back modules are represented by double lines.

the coverage of the subdetector out to $|\eta| < 2.5$.

4.3.2 Strip detectors

4.3.3 Tracker performance

For charged hadrons with transverse momentum p_T less than 20 GeV, the p_T can be measured with a resolution of 1%.

4.4 Electromagnetic Calorimeter (ECAL)

Very important. Finds photons.

4.5 Hadron calorimeter (HCAL)

brass sampling calorimeter

4.6 Muon system

The muon subsystem is located outside of the solenoid and is embedded in the return yoke for the magnetic flux. Three different types of detectors are used in the muon system: drift tube chambers (DTC) = positively charged wire within gas volume. Muon knocks electrons off atoms in the gas, which are attracted to the wire. Can determine where electrons hit and where the muon was from the wire to get 2 coordinates for its position. Barrel Cathode strip chamber (CSC) = better for high flux areas. Crisscrossing positive and negative wires. Muons knock off electrons, which go to positive wires. Ions move toward negative wires. Two position coordinates. Endcaps.

CHAPTER 5

Event Reconstruction in the CMS Detector

5.0.1 Particle Flow Algorithm

5.0.2 Jet reconstruction

5.0.3 Pileup subtraction

CHAPTER 6

TRIGGER SYSTEM

6.1 Overview of CMS trigger system

Many more collisions occur within the LHC than can be written out to tape and stored for future analysis. At the four interaction points, including inside the CMS detector, bunches of protons collide every 25 ns. For every bunch crossing, there are on average 25 “soft-scatter” collisions (XX Look up this number XX). This corresponds to an overall event rate of XX. Given that each event produces approximately 1 MB of data, it is impossible to store every event or even the majority of events. This has been especially true in recent years, with the LHC continually breaking new records for instantaneous luminosity.

To solve this problem, the CMS detector includes a sophisticated trigger system to determine which events make it into the XX% that gets written to tape and eventually analyzed. The CMS trigger system is divided into two steps: the Level 1 (L1) trigger which uses customized hardware located in the detector cavern, and the software-based High Level Trigger (HLT). The L1 trigger reduces the rate from 1 GHz to approximately 100 kHz, and the HLT makes the final decisions necessary to reduce the rate to 1 kHz, the maximum amount that can be written to tape and stored. Both steps of the CMS trigger are described in more detail below.

6.1.1 Level 1 Trigger

The L1 trigger reduces the rate from 1 GHz to 100 kHz.

6.1.2 High Level Trigger

6.2 Analysis triggers

6.3 Trigger efficiency

An important input to the analysis is the overall trigger efficiency. Due to the similarity of the ECAL response to electrons and photons, the trigger efficiency can be calculated from $Z \rightarrow ee$ events in data using the tag-and-probe method (CITE XX). In this method, two electron candidates are required. One serves as the “tag” and has to pass electron identification criteria. The second electron candidate serves as the “probe” and has to satisfy the same selection criteria as our offline photon identification requirements (see Section ??). In order to ensure a high purity of electromagnetic objects, the invariant mass of the di-electron system must be between 75 and 105 GeV.

Control trigger

The efficiency of the HLT path or trigger filter that is being studied is given by the following equation, where N_{total} is the total number of tag-and-probe pairs passing all requirements, and N_{pass} is the number of tag-and-probe pairs in which the probe passes the trigger filter.

$$\epsilon_{trig} = N_{pass}/N_{total} \quad (6.1)$$

Because our analysis trigger is seeded by the OR of multiple SingleEG and DoubleEG L1 seeds, the names of which changed over the course of the 2016 data-taking period, calculating the L1 efficiency on its own proved tricky. Instead, it was simpler to calculate the total efficiency with which photon candidates pass both the L1 seed and the leading leg of the HLT path. This efficiency as a function of photon p_T is shown in Figure ??. The efficiency was fit to an error function to calculate the overall efficiency at the plateau. For photon $p_T > 40$ GeV, the leading filter is XX% efficient.

XX Insert figure XX

Tag and probe objects for the trailing leg efficiency must pass the same set of requirements as those used in the leading leg efficiency calculation, with the additional requirement that the tag must pass the leading filter. This requirement comes from how HLT paths are run. Filters are processed sequentially, and if an event fails one filter, the subsequent filters are skipped. Figure ?? shows the efficiency of the trailing filter as a function of photon p_T .

XX Insert figure XX

Finally, we calculated the efficiency of the trigger with respect to the diphoton invariant mass. For this calculation, we required two photons passing our analysis selection criteria and the trailing leg of the trigger and one photon passing the leading leg of the trigger. The efficiency was given by the number of diphoton events passing the full HLT path over the total number of diphoton events passing our requirements. The efficiency of the trigger as a function of invariant mass is shown in Figure ??.

XX Insert figure XX

6.3.1 Efficiency of di-electron control sample

One of the important control samples for our analysis is made up of $Z \rightarrow ee$ events. Due to the invariant mass requirement on the primary analysis, however, a second trigger was used to collect events for the di-electron control sample. This trigger shares all of the same requirements as the primary trigger, with two exceptions: the invariant mass of the two electromagnetic objects is required to be greater than 55 GeV rather than 95 GeV, and both electromagnetic objects are required to be matched to a pixel seed. The pixel seed match requirement affects the efficiency of the trailing leg of the control trigger. This efficiency is shown in Figure ??.

XX Insert figure XX

CHAPTER 7

Event Selection

CHAPTER 8

Data analysis and background estimation methods

8.1 Overview

There are several Standard Model processes that can mimic our signal events. The largest background contribution comes from quantum chromodynamics (QCD) processes. These are primarily multi-jet events, where electromagnetically-rich jets are misidentified as photons, but can also include processes with true photons either from associated photon production or initial-state radiation. In both cases, there is no inherent E_T^{miss} in the event. Instead, the measured E_T^{miss} is actually the result of mismeasured hadronic activity. As described in Section ??, this background is estimated in an entirely data-driven way using a control region derived from a sideband of our photon ID.

The second-largest background is the electroweak (EWK) background. This background is comprised of $W\gamma$ or W +jet events where $W \rightarrow e\nu$. There is inherent E_T^{miss} from the neutrino, and if the electron is misidentified as a photon, these events can mimic our signal topography. By measuring the misidentification rate in data, we can use an $e\gamma$ control sample to estimate the contribution from the EWK background. The background estimation method is described in detail in Section ??.

Finally, there is an irreducible background from $Z\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \nu\nu\gamma\gamma$ events. This background is modeled via simulation (see Sec. ??).

8.2 QCD background

8.2.1 Cross check on QCD background

In order to set a systematic uncertainty on the overall E_T^{miss} shape predicted using the di-EM p_T reweighting method, we sought an alternate way to estimate the QCD background. This cross check relies on the assumption that the ratio of $\gamma\gamma$ events to ff events should not depend sensitively on the E_T^{miss} . If this assumption is true, then we should be able to extrapolate from the low- E_T^{miss} control region to the high- E_T^{miss} signal region.

Figure ?? shows the ratio of $\gamma\gamma/ff$ as a function of E_T^{miss} in the $E_T^{\text{miss}} < 100$ GeV control region. The ratio has been fit to a constant function. Using this function, the expected number of $\gamma\gamma$ events in bin i in the signal region is given by the following equation:

$$N_{\gamma\gamma}^i = f(E_T^{\text{miss}}) \times N_{ff}^i \quad (8.1)$$

XX Insert Figure XX

XX Table ?? XX

8.2.2 Systematic uncertainties on the QCD background

8.3 Electroweak background

The subdominant background for this search is comprised of $W\gamma$ and $W+\text{jet}$ events where $W \rightarrow e\nu$ and the electron is misidentified as a photon. This background is referred to as the electroweak (EWK) background. Unlike the QCD background, there is inherent E_T^{miss} in these events from the escaping neutrino.

To estimate this background, we first calculate the rate at which electrons are misidentified as photons. This is done by comparing the invariant mass peak in a

double electron sample with the invariant mass peak in a sample of events with one electron and one photon. The calculation of this "fake rate" is described in detail in Section ???. To get the final expected contribution from the EWK background in our signal region, the fake rate is used to calculate a transfer factor. By applying the transfer factor to an $e\gamma$ control sample, we are able to estimate how many of our candidate $\gamma\gamma$ events are actually events with one photon and one electron that has been misidentified as a photon.

8.3.1 Fake rate calculation

8.3.2 Calculating EWK estimate

8.3.3 Composition of $e\gamma$ sample

8.3.4 EWK results

Table XX shows the final EWK estimate in the six signal region bins. There are two sources of uncertainty on the EWK estimate: the statistical uncertainty from the limited number of $e\gamma$ events observed in data, and the 30% systematic uncertainty from the calculation of the fake rate. Both of these are displayed in Table XX.

8.4 Irreducible background

In addition to the QCD and EWK backgrounds, there is a small irreducible background from $Z\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \nu\nu\gamma\gamma$ events. Because there is inherent $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$ from this process, it is not included in the QCD background, and because it has two true photons, it is not included in the EWK background either. We model this background using MC simulation, and assign a 50% uncertainty to the estimate to cover any potential mismodeling.

CHAPTER 9

Results and Interpretations

9.1 Comparing observed and expected numbers of events

9.2 Simplified Models

9.3 Signal acceptance and efficiency

9.4 Limits

CHAPTER 10

Conclusions

In this dissertation, a search for gauge-mediated supersymmetry breaking in events with two photons and missing transverse momentum was described. The analysis was performed with data taken with the CMS detector in 2016, but suggestions to improve the background estimation methods for the analysis of the 2017 data were also explored. Results were interpreted in the context of two simplified models, one assuming squark pair production and the other assuming gluino pair production. No evidence for gauge-mediated supersymmetry breaking (GMSB) was observed, and limits were placed on the masses of supersymmetric particles. Work is also ongoing to combine this analysis with other analyses targeting photon final states, in order to set limits on more comprehensive GMSB models.

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