

Searching for Supersymmetry with the α_T variable in $p\bar{p}$ collisions with the CMS Detector at the Large Hadron Collider

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Chapter 1

Theoretical Overview

At the heart of particle physics is a quest to discover the fundamental building blocks of the universe, and how they interact with one another. Experimentally this is done by delving into smaller and smaller distance scales using particle colliders with greater energies and analysing the interactions that result. This relationship between small distances and high energies is at the heart of the field, as each increase of energy scale allows the investigation of the structure of matter at a smaller length scale. Throughout the history knowledge has been advanced through a combination of theoretical postulation using mathematical tools, and experimental searches. Particle physicists seek together to build a full description of the dynamics of the fundamental particles, and while they have discovered much, the picture is not complete yet. The description of current understanding is collectively known as the Standard Model (SM), and is a rigorously tested and widely accepted theory. However, whilst there are no disagreements, there are some gaps which hint at physics beyond, fuelling a new generation of experimentalists seeking answers to what lies at the next energy frontier.

1.1 The Standard Model

The Standard Model (SM) is the name given to the theories that successfully describes the known elementary particles and their fundamental interactions with respect to the strong, weak and electromagnetic forces.

Within it there two main types of fundamental particle, which in order to

distinguish we must first address the concept of spin.

Spin

Spin is the name given to a property of elementary particles, corresponding to a type of angular momentum, although this differs from classical angular momentum. This is an intrinsic property and thus has a specific value for each particle type. It can be thought for massive particles as the angular momentum about the central point, but it is known that massless particles such as the photon carry spin also, so this analogy breaks down. The values of the spin quantum number s which describe the magnitude can take any half integer value $s = 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}$, etc. In addition to magnitude we describe a particle as having spin *up* (positive) when the spin is in the direction of the z-axis, and spin *down* (negative) if the spin is against the direction of the z-axis.

The definition of spin gives a second key property, known as chirality. When the spin direction is in the direction of momentum of the particle, it is described as left-handed, and when it is against as right-handed. The chirality of a particle is integral to the way it behaves, as we will see in the treatment of the weak force. In the massless limit the chirality is analogous to the concept of helicity, although it is worth noting that for a massive particle helicity depends on the reference frame of observation, whereas chirality describes an inherent property that determines how the particle will behave.

All fundamental particles are divided into the spin-1/2 *fermions* which are the building blocks for matter, and the force-mediating *bosons* which must carry integer spin, usually spin-1. One consequence of this is the wave function of a bosonic system is symmetric under the swap of two of its particles, whilst that of a fermionic system is anti-symmetric. A consequence of this, as can be seen in Equation 1.1 is the well-known Pauli Exclusion Principle, that two fermions may not exist in the same state.

$$\psi_f(x_a, x_b) = -\psi_f(x_b, x_a), \therefore \psi_f(x_a, x_a) = 0 \quad (1.1)$$

The fermions which make up all visible matter can be described in three families, or “generations”, each of which is further divided into two sets, the

quarks and the leptons. There are three charged leptons with one unit of electric charge, electron (e), muon (μ) and tau (τ), and three associated massless or incredibly light neutral leptons called neutrinos, named after the charged lepton in their generation, ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ respectively. This indicates the introduction of a new concept, “flavour”, of which there are three, one for each generation.

The quarks show an analogous structure, divided into two types in three generations. The up (u), charm (c) and top (t) quarks carry $+2/3e$ while the down (d), strange (s) and bottom (b) quarks carry $-1/3e$ and each of the 6 quarks corresponds to its own flavour.

The generation structure is shown in Equation 1.2. The particles in the second and third generation exhibit the same properties as the corresponding first generation particles, except for the mass which increases with ascending generations. The first generation is therefore stable and all ordinary matter is constructed from it, whilst the second and third once produced are liable to decay into particles of the first generation. In addition to each particle detailed here there exists a corresponding antiparticle due to a symmetry in charge and quantum numbers. Each fermion can be described as a spinor field ψ which describes a pair of complex fields, the left-handed (ψ_L) and right-handed (ψ_R) representations.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \nu_e & u \\ e & d \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \nu_\mu & c \\ \mu & s \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \nu_\tau & t \\ \tau & b \end{bmatrix} \quad (1.2)$$

The particles which mediate the forces are bosons, the photon γ for the electromagnetic force, the 8 gluons g_i for the strong force and the W^\pm and Z bosons that carry the weak (nuclear) force, all of which are spin-1 particles. The photon and gluons are massless, whilst the weak vector bosons have non-negligible mass. The final particle of the SM is the Higgs Boson of spin-0, as yet undiscovered in experiment but expected from the theory, as we will see later.

1.1.1 Gauge Theory of Interactions

The theories that make up the SM are formulated mathematically using Quantum Field Theory (QFT), in which particles are thought of as excitations of fields, and the dynamics of a given system are summarised in what is known as Lagrangian

formalism. In this the Lagrangian L is the difference between kinetic energy T and potential energy V , $L = T - V$. In QFT it is usual to describe a system by the Lagrangian Field Density \mathcal{L} , where L is obtained from \mathcal{L} by integrating over the spatial component d^3x .

In order to reflect the symmetries observed in nature, the dynamics of a system and therefore the Lagrangian Density \mathcal{L} , must be invariant under some set of transformations,

$$\psi \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha}\psi \quad (1.3)$$

where ψ represents a spinor field. If α has no reliance on the space-time coordinate, we say this is a global symmetry. In order to describe the fundamental interactions it is necessary to use the special case where the transformations are *local*, where α has a dependence on the space-time coordinate. The Standard Model describes such symmetries, a case we call gauge invariance, and is a special case of field theory known as Gauge Theory, where the transformations have the form,

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha(x)}\psi(x) \quad (1.4)$$

It is clear that \mathcal{L} will not remain unchanged by such a transformation, as the dependence of α on x means that the coordinate derivative ∂_μ introduces extra terms. In order to leave the Lagrangian unchanged a vector field is introduced A_μ that transforms under another local transformation to keep \mathcal{L} constant:

$$A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu + \frac{1}{g}\partial_\mu\alpha(x) \quad (1.5)$$

Thus we can rewrite \mathcal{L} introducing the *covariant derivative*,

$$\mathcal{D}_\mu = \partial_\mu - igA_\mu. \quad (1.6)$$

This interaction between the spinor field and the vector field through this covariant derivative indicate the interactions of matter particles through the force carrying bosons. From Noether's Theorem, it is known that as a consequence of a symmetry in a dynamical system there is an associated physically conserved quantity[1]. Just as the classical conservation laws pertaining to momentum

and energy are given by the space-time translational symmetries in Classical Mechanics, for the electromagnetic force symmetries in Quantum Mechanics the electric charge is conserved. Analogously, there ought to be conserved “charges” for the strong and weak forces also, corresponding to quantum numbers from their Lagrangian Densities.

The set of possible transformations is described in the language of Group Theory, and thus we describe the SM as a non-Abelian Yang-Mills type gauge field theory based on the symmetry group $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$. As this group is a product the three individual elements are free to each have its own coupling constant, and these may differ. The strong interactions described by Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) are represented by $SU(3)_C$, labelled C to indicate the conserved charge “Colour”. The electromagnetic and weak interactions are represented together due to Electroweak Unification, which we shall explore in detail later, by the group $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ where L stands for left, indicating the parity violation of the weak interaction and Y the conserved charge “hypercharge”. As of yet, the fourth fundamental force Gravity is not included in the Standard Model, but this is seen as of little consequence as gravitational forces have comparatively little effect on fundamental particles at current experimental energy scales.

Quantum Electrodynamics

The fundamental electromagnetic force is studied in quantum field theory as Quantum Electrodynamics (QED), the oldest and simplest of the theories brought together to form the SM. The symmetry group of QED is U(1) and this gives an associated conserved quantity, the electric charge Q. The electromagnetic force is carried by the massless boson, the photon, and affects only the charged fermions. The symmetry allows no self interaction of the photon. The fermion field ψ_q with charge q and mass m_q with symmetries under the group of transformations $e^{-i\alpha(\mathbf{x})}$ gives rise to the Lagrangian in Equation 1.7.

$$\mathcal{L}_{QED} = \bar{\psi}_q(\mathbf{x})(i\gamma^\mu \mathcal{D}_{QED} - m_q)\psi_q(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \quad (1.7)$$

The kinetic term depends on the Field Strength Tensor F,

$$F_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}) = \partial_\mu A_\nu(\mathbf{x}) - \partial_\nu A_\mu(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1.8)$$

which incorporates the introduction of a gauge field A_μ which is transformed along with ψ in the following way:

$$A_\mu(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow A_\mu(\mathbf{x}) + \partial_\mu \alpha(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1.9)$$

The covariant derivative, $\mathcal{D}_{QED,\mu}$ is defined as in Equation 1.10 so as to maintain an invariance to local U(1) charge symmetry.

$$\mathcal{D}_{QED} = \partial_\mu + iqA_\mu \quad (1.10)$$

where q is described as the generator of the symmetry group and is analogous to electric charge. The strength of coupling of each force is described by the coupling constant, in this case governed by the constant e , the charge of an electron: $\alpha = \frac{e^2}{4\pi}$. This is more commonly known as the *fine structure constant* and has been measured experimentally to a high degree of accuracy to have a value $\alpha = 1/137$ [2]. The coupling constants of the standard model are not fixed at all energy scales, rather they vary, and this is called the “running” of the coupling constants. This will become important when incorporating the other forces.

QCD

Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) is the relevant quantum field theory that describes the dynamics of the strong force. The strong force of symmetry group $SU(3)_C$ has 8 massless gauge bosons known as the gluons, and a conserved quantity called colour charge, which has three types called q_i , where $i = 1, 2, 3$. The name “colour” is not meant to imply a connection to visual colour, merely an analogy between the three types and the primary colours red, blue and green. Only particles which carry colour charge are affected - the quarks have colour, while leptons do not. Unlike the photon in electromagnetism, the gluons that mediate the force carry the charge also, leading to the self-interactions that govern the behaviour of QCD.

A quark carries one “colour” q_i , taking one of the three possible values, and an analogous antiquark carries one “anti-colour”. On the other hand, gluons carry both a colour and an anti-colour. Separation of two charges gives rise to a potential energy, which increases linearly as the charges are moved further apart. As a consequence, it would take an infinite amount of energy to separate

two quarks, and thus they are not found free in nature, but only bound within colourless composite particles, an effect we call *confinement*. There are two allowed stable bound states, the three-quark hadrons such as the proton $p \sim uud$ and the neutron $n \sim udd$, and quark-anti-quark mesons such as the pions π^0, π^\pm . This explains why colour charge is not observed in nature, as beyond a fundamental level it is required to be zero.

The local $SU(3)_C$ invariance of QCD is defined by the transformations in Equation 1.11, where g_s is the strong coupling constant, λ_α are the Gell Mann matrices, and the θ^α describe the transformation angles.

$$q(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow e^{i\frac{g_s}{2}\theta^\alpha(\mathbf{x})\lambda_\alpha} q(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha = 1, \dots, 8 \quad (1.11)$$

As with QED, the gauge fields of the gluons A_μ^α also transform as in Equation 1.12 to maintain local invariance.

$$A_\mu^\alpha(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow A_\mu^\alpha(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{1}{g_s} \partial_\mu \theta^\alpha(\mathbf{x}) + f_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \theta^\beta(\mathbf{x}) A_\mu^\gamma(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1.12)$$

The Lagrangian for a quark carrying colour α is then described in Equation 1.13

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \sum_q \bar{q}(i\gamma^\mu \not{D}_{QCD} - m_q)q - \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^\alpha G_{\alpha}^{\mu\nu} \quad (1.13)$$

where the covariant derivative in this case is

$$\not{D}_{QCD} = \partial_\mu - i\frac{g_s}{2} \lambda_\alpha A_\mu^\alpha(stc) \quad (1.14)$$

The gluon field tensor $G_{\mu\nu}^\alpha$, analogous to the photon field tensor we had seen in QED is defined in Equation 1.15. Unlike that of the photon, it can be seen that in the kinetic term of \mathcal{L} this gives rise to three and four gluon terms thus describing the self-interaction of the gluons.

$$G_{\mu\nu}^\alpha(\mathbf{x}) = \partial_\mu A_\nu^\alpha(\mathbf{x}) - \partial_\nu A_\mu^\alpha(\mathbf{x}) + g_s f_{\alpha\beta\gamma} A_\mu^\beta(\mathbf{x}) A_\nu^\gamma(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1.15)$$

To describe the behaviour of the strength with decreasing distance, we define an analogous coupling constant for the strong force to that in QED, which we call $\alpha_S = g_s^2/4\pi$. Whilst its QED equivalent runs weaker as the distance

between charges increases, as we have discussed the strong force has the opposite relationship, reflected in the running of the coupling constants with increasing energy scale, which when extrapolated could highlight an energy scale where the two are equal. When we discuss quarks in particle physics although they are free, this is as a result of the “asymptotic freedom” where when viewed at very large energies the distances are infinitely small, and the quarks behave freely.

The Parton Model

In order to understand the physics at hadron-colliders, Feynman introduced the Parton Model, a description of the way the partons (quarks and gluons) inside a hadron behave. The behaviour depends on the energy at which the collision occurs. Each of the quarks in a hadron is joined to the other two by continually exchanging gluons and changing colour in such a way that the bound state remains colour neutral. However, as the distance between a pair of quarks is extended the colour field is put under stress until the gluon splits in two, and in between them is a quark-anti-quark pair is created. The three quarks which define the hadron are known as the *valence quarks* and those that appear in these pairs are known as the sea quarks. Gluons can be created too through the annihilation of such a pair of sea quarks, and these processes go on continually within hadrons.

When colliding at low energies, the system behaves as three separate valence quarks with a certain fraction of momentum each, but at higher energies the sea quarks must be taken into account also, as they can possess a significant fraction of energy. Thus physics at hadron colliders is more difficult than lepton colliders, as it is not trivial to understand the two particles that interact, or the energy that they collide at. Thus it is necessary to know the probability that a given parton has a certain fraction of the energy of the hadron, described by a Parton Distribution Function (PDF). Calculating PDFs for high energy hadron collisions cannot be calculated theoretically, as inclusion of all potential combinations of sea quarks is not possible due to the non-perturbative nature of QCD caused by the large coupling constant α_S . Thus these are measured experimentally by collaborations such as CTEQ.

The Weak Force and Electroweak Unification

The weak interaction, responsible for radioactive decay, makes up the final piece of the puzzle. So named because of its comparatively low strength compared to the electromagnetic and strong forces, it was theorised as being mediated by massive force bosons W^\pm and Z long before they were discovered experimentally. A lagrangian theory for the weak force must take into account the characteristics of weak interactions. The group symmetry is $SU(2)$ giving rise to a conserved quantity known as weak isospin, I which has a component I_3 that points in the direction of the z axis. The left-handed fermions form isospin doublets with $I_3 = \pm 1/2$ whilst the right handed neutrinos are isospin singlets where $I_3 = 0$.

There are two types of current observed in interactions, the charged current and the neutral current[3]. The charged current, associated with the W Bosons, involves only left handed fermions and right handed anti-fermions, and couples to each fermionic doublet (except that of the top and bottom quark, as $m_t > m_W$), where the two elements differ by one unit of charge. It is capable of changing the flavour of an interaction. The weak eigenstates of the down-type quarks are mixtures of the mass eigenstates, called d' , s' , and b' , the mixing of which is governed by a 3×3 matrix to characterise the flavour changing element. In addition there are neutral current interactions associated with the Z boson, which is flavour conserving, and couples to a fermion anti-fermion pair. In the way the neutral current interactions of the weak force closely resemble that of the photon, affected only by its preference for left handed fermions, whilst QED is chirality blind.

Building an individual Lagrangian to describe the picture of weak interactions was not as simple as in the strong and electromagnetic sectors, with each proposed model suffering problems, as described in detail in Ref. [4]. Finally it was realised that despite their apparent differences the weak and electromagnetic forces were low-energy manifestations of the same force, and a composite theory was proposed [5]. This is called Electroweak Unification, and for this the Nobel Prize was awarded to Glashow, Salam and Weinberg in 1979 [6].

The gauge group of the unified theory is $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$, where $U(1)_Y$ is a different copy of the symmetry seen in electromagnetism, the $U(1)_{em}$ group. In this picture the conserved quantity is Y , the weak hypercharge, and the conserved quantity for the $SU(2)$ symmetry is the weak isospin, T_3 . The previous quantity

conserved under $U(1)_{em}$. Q can be defined as a linear combination of the two $Q = T_3 + \frac{Y}{2}$. The $SU(2)_L$ suffix is not taken from the conserved quantity, T_3 , but from its most important property, its action on only Left Handed (LH) fermions. Fermions that are Right Handed (RH) have a weak isospin $T_3 = 0$ and do not interact via the weak force, whereas LH fermions have $T_3 = \pm \frac{1}{2}$ and interact via three gauge bosons. The W^\pm bosons have each an isospin of unit 1, with a sign defined by the name, and they govern an interaction from a particle of $T_3 = +\frac{1}{2}$ into one of $T_3 = -\frac{1}{2}$ and vice versa, according to conservation laws. The third boson given by the $SU(2)$ group alone is the W^0 boson of $T_3 = 0$, which allows interactions where the weak isospin stays the same. This is not a physically observed particle, as the electroweak unification leads to mixing between this and the boson given by the $U(1)_Y$ group to produce the photon and the Z^0 particle.

The Lagrangian formalism for a fermion field $\psi = \psi_L + \psi_R$ must be invariant under the transformations of both $U(1)_Y$ and $SU(2)_L$. The $U(1)_Y$ transformation of ψ and its gauge field B_μ are shown in Equation 1.16, and the $SU(2)_L$ transformations of ψ and the three gauge fields W_μ^ν in Equation 1.18.

$$\psi(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow e^{i\frac{g'}{2}Y\alpha(\mathbf{x})}\psi(\mathbf{x}) \quad B_\mu(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow B_\mu(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{g'}\partial_\mu\alpha(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1.16)$$

$$\psi(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow e^{igI\sigma_\nu\beta^\nu(\mathbf{x})}\psi(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1.17)$$

$$W_\mu^\nu(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow W_\mu^\nu(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{g}\partial_\mu\beta^\nu(\mathbf{x}) + \epsilon_{\delta\theta}\beta^\delta(\mathbf{x})W_\mu^\theta(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1.18)$$

Using these formalisms the Lagrangian for the Electroweak Sector takes the form in Equation 1.19, where the covariant derivative is as defined in Equation 1.20.

$$\mathcal{L}_{EW} = \sum_{fermions} \bar{\psi}i\gamma^\mu D_\mu\psi - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\theta=1,2,3} W_{\theta,\mu\nu}W_\theta^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}B_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu} \quad (1.19)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_\mu = \partial_\mu - igI\sigma_\nu W_\mu^\nu(\mathbf{x}) - i\frac{g'}{2}YB_\mu(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1.20)$$

The gauge fields give rise to field strength tensors as before in QED and QCD, $B_{\mu\nu}$ and $W_{\mu\nu}^\theta$ defined in Equation 1.22.

$$B_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}) = \partial_\mu B_\nu(\mathbf{x}) - \partial_\nu B_\mu(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1.21)$$

$$W_{\mu\nu}^\theta(\mathbf{x}) = \partial_\mu W_\nu^\theta(\mathbf{x}) - \partial_\nu W_\mu^\theta(\mathbf{x}) + g\epsilon_{\nu\delta\theta} W_\mu^{\delta}/\delta W_\mu^\theta(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1.22)$$

Linear superpositions of the W_μ^1 and W_μ^2 give rise to the W^\pm boson fields, leaving the W^3 and B fields to give rise to the required fields A_μ and Z_μ with an orthogonal combination dependent on the weak mixing angle, the Weinberg angle $\tan \theta_W = g'/g$. However, whilst the W and Z bosons have mass, there are no terms in the existing \mathcal{L} that can explain that, nor if there were would it allow the photon to remain massless whilst repeating the symmetries.

1.1.2 EWSB and the Higgs Mechanism

In order to give mass to the W and Z bosons whilst retaining the necessary local gauge invariance, we say that $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ must be spontaneously broken into $U(1)_{em}$, the group of symmetries representing the electromagnetic sector. The simplest way to introduce such a breaking is known as the Higgs Mechanism, and corresponds to the addition of a scalar field. The Lagrangian for such an addition has the form $\mathcal{L}_h = (D^\mu \phi)^\dagger (D_\mu \phi) - V(\phi)$. Ensuring the change to the Lagrangian is invariant, there is a covariant derivative term and an additional potential. The potential introduced has the form

$$V(\phi) = \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi + \lambda (\phi^\dagger \phi)^2 \quad (1.23)$$

Choosing a potential where μ^2 is positive leads to a minimum at $\phi = 0$, which does not solve our problem. However, if the parameter μ^2 is chosen to be less than zero, it results in a potential colloquially known as a “mexican hat” potential, shown in Figure 1.1. The minimum does not lie at $\phi = 0$, but in 3D space in a circle around ϕ , so there are an infinite number of minima hence introducing a degeneracy. There is a non-vanishing ground state, and as a particular state is chosen, the symmetry is broken. Interactions with the field lead to masses for the W and Z bosons. This leads to the existence of a massive scalar particle, known as the Higgs Boson, to date the only particle of the SM yet to be observed. The coupling strength of a particle to the Higgs field is thought therefor to govern its mass.

The distinction between the two forces caused by this symmetry breaking

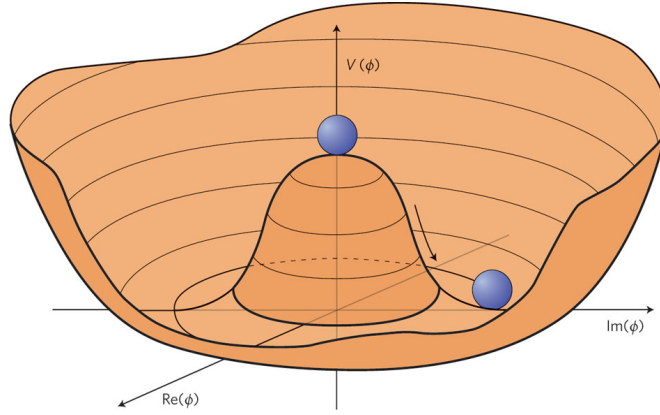


Figure 1.1: The Higgs Potential chosen where $\mu^2 < 0, \lambda > 0$ such that the minimum does not exist at 0, but instead in a ring of infinite minima about zero, thus introducing degeneracy and breaking the electroweak symmetry into that of QED. [7]

are due to a linear combination of the weak hyper charge and isospin, T_3 and Y that vanishes for the Higgs. As this defines the conserved quantity Q for the electromagnetic group, this is not affected by the Higgs, and thus the $U(1)_{em}$ group remains unbroken. Conversely, the weak portion interacts with the Higgs and the W^\pm and Z bosons acquire mass.

1.2 Motivation for Physics Beyond the Standard Model

The standard model has been widely successful, predicting the existence of particles such as the W^\pm and Z Bosons, and the t quark, showing impressive agreement with experimental findings at the level of 0.1%. However, there are several signs that it is not a complete theory, that more information is needed to describe physics at higher energy scales. On the theoretical side, it is dissatisfying that the SM does not currently incorporate the gravitational force, explain the existence of dark matter and dark energy. Neutrino masses and flavour mixing are also unexplained, and the Higgs is as yet undiscovered. In addition it requires several input parameters to tune the masses of particles and flavour mixing, generally viewed as inelegant as this reliance on experimental data does not reflect the fundamental picture of nature. The existing SM is therefore generally thought

of as an effective theory, a very low energy approximation to a more complete theory[8].

The incorporation of the gravitational force has not bothered particle physicists much at the electro-weak energy scale as the strength of the effects of gravity on fundamental particles is negligible compared to the other fundamental forces. However, at an energy known as the Plank Scale, $M_p \sim 10^{18}$ GeV quantum gravitational effects become important, leading to the breakdown of the existing QFT picture of the Standard Model. Thus new physics must exist at this energy scale, or before, indicating the SM is only valid up to some unknown energy scale. We think of the SM as a low-energy approximation of some larger more fundamental theory. One other fundamental problem, the hierarchy problem, shows that between the electroweak and the plank scales there lies theoretical dissatisfaction with the SM.

As there is both theoretical and experimental concerns over the SM, this provokes theories Beyond the Standard Model (BSM), many of which come in to play at the TeV scale, which we are able to explore for the first time with the LHC. A detailed description of a few of the most interesting shortcomings most relevant to this thesis is given below.

1.2.1 The Hierarchy Problem

Although the Higgs Boson has yet to be observed experimentally, its mechanism is necessary to the Standard Model to provide mass to the particles, and thus is considered to exist unless proven otherwise. However, while it solves the SSB problem, the Higgs theory introduces theoretical issues of its own. The presence of the Higgs in the SM ensures the WW scattering amplitude does not violate unitarity, but only whilst the $m_H < 1\text{TeV}$, providing an upper bound on the expected mass[9].

However, the mass of the Higgs, given by its self interaction received extremely large radiative corrections. This is due to the heavy fermion anti-fermion pair loop contribution, seen in Figure 1.2.

If each coupling with a fermion f has a term in the Lagrangian $-\lambda_F H \bar{f} f$, it contributes a quadratically divergent factor δm_H^2 that corrects the squared mass of the Higgs.

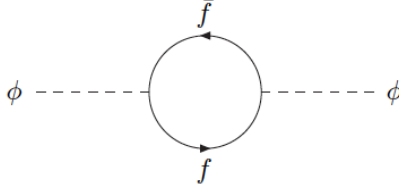


Figure 1.2: The loop contribution to the Higgs self-mass interaction from fermion-anti-fermion pairs in the SM

$$\delta m_H^2 = \sum_f -\frac{|\lambda_f|^2}{8\pi^2} \Lambda_{UV}^2 + \mathcal{O}(\ln \Lambda) \quad (1.24)$$

The factor λ_f represents the coupling for each type of fermion, which is largest in the case of the top quark, where $\lambda_t \approx .1$. The parameter Λ_{UV} is the *ultraviolet cutoff*, so named as it represents the smallest distance to probe in the calculation. It can be thought of as the scale at which the Standard Model is valid up to, as any new physics would change the theory.

If there were no new physics at a lower energy, it takes the value of the Plank Scale M_P , but in this case the correction will be 30 orders of magnitude higher than the 1 TeV upper bound justified experimentally[10]. As there exists nothing in the SM to fix the Higgs Mass, the theory requires fine-tuning, tweaking the parameters to agree with observational findings. This is generally accepted to be an inelegant method, as it requires the input of extra information, and indicates a gap in the fundamental description leading to searches for extensions to the Standard Model.

1.2.2 Cold Dark Matter

The existence of Dark Matter was postulated as early as 1933 by Zwicky [11], as the orbital velocities of galaxies in clusters were inconsistent with their observed mass, suggesting some additional mass was present but not luminous. Measurements of rotation curves of galaxies, cosmic microwave background and structure formation have confirmed this concept over the years. Experimental results from WMAP conclude only $\sim 4.5\%$ of the energy in our universe is made of the baryonic matter we see, while dark matter accounts for $\sim 23\%$ and the rest is comprised of another unknown, dark energy [12]. Although the existence of such

matter has been well documented, there is still no understanding of the physics behind the phenomena. In order to explain the properties a weakly interacting massive particle (WIMP) is required, and it must be electrically neutral. There is no provisions for such a particle in the SM, indicating additional particle content requiring extensions in the theory.

1.2.3 Unification of Coupling Constants

At the basis of theoretical particle physics is the observation of the symmetry and simplicity of nature. Unification, where several theories can be combined into one description, has undergone before, first Electricity and magnetism, and then electromagnetism with the weak force. While each of the three forces of the SM have their own coupling constant, as the energy scale is increased the coupling constants converge towards one another. However precision measurements show that within the current framework, there is no common point where all three intersect. In addition, at the Planck Scale as gravity's coupling constant would be of similar strength many hope for a Grand Unified Theory (GUT), occurring at this scale known also as the GUT scale. This is only possible with the incorporation of some new physics which would alter the trend of the couplings between the electroweak scale and this GUT scale.

1.3 Supersymmetry

Having discussed these major issues with the SM Theory, we move on to a discussion on a potential extension to the SM. There are several options, but this thesis will focus on the theory with the best solution to the three issues highlighted discussed in detail, beginning with a natural way to eradicate the hierarchy problem simply and without fine tuning.

The hierarchy problem could be removed, rather than controlled, if there were a way to cancel out the quadratic diverging term in the Higgs mass correction. As the correction for bosons has the opposite sign, the conception of a new symmetry was born, one between fermions and bosons. Known as SuperSYmmetry (SUSY), this theory extends the SM under this symmetry such that elementary particles in the SM each have a super partner differing by one half unit of spin as yet undiscovered, just as the anti-particles were once postulated. For every fermion

contributing to the quadratic divergence, a boson partner contributes the equal and opposite term, and thus the hierarchy problem cancels out and the mass of the Higgs can take a sensible value.

Under this symmetry elementary particles in the SM would each have corresponding super-partners, differing by one half unit of spin, such that a fermion has a scalar boson super partner, and vice versa. At the heart of supersymmetry is a transformation that changes the field of a fermion into that of a boson, and vice versa. The generator of the transformation shall be known as Q ,

$$Q|\text{fermion}\rangle = |\text{boson}\rangle, \quad Q|\text{boson}\rangle = |\text{fermion}\rangle \quad (1.25)$$

where the complex spinors that generate SUSY anti-commutate, with the following relationships where P^μ is the generator of space-time translations and indices are suppressed:

$$\{Q, Q\} = \{Q^\dagger, Q^\dagger\} = 0 \quad \{Q, Q^\dagger\} = P^\mu \quad (1.26)$$

In addition to its neat solution to the hierarchy problem SUSY has several other consequences which lead to its position as the most favoured theory for new physics at the TeV scale. The inclusion of SUSY particles to the SM has the side affect of altering the runnings of the gauge coupling constants of the three fundamental forces. Figure 1.3 shows the running constants from the SM alongside those with the SUSY model incorporated. Whilst the SM allowed only two to intersect at any point, SUSY alters them such that they are consistent with theories of Grand Unification, as the three are equal at the GUT scale $Q \sim 10^{16}$ GeV.

Rather than a motivation, this is a pleasant coincidence, but lends plausibility to the theory. It also shows promising features necessary for theories to incorporate gravity, although it does not finish the job. SUSY itself cannot be the final fundamental theory of particle physics, but is an extension which shows much promise, and is a pre-requisite for many higher energy theories such as most formulations of String Theory[13]. The final, perhaps most exciting feature of SUSY is that it can offer a candidate for the particle that represents dark matter with the introduction of a new quantum number R - Parity.

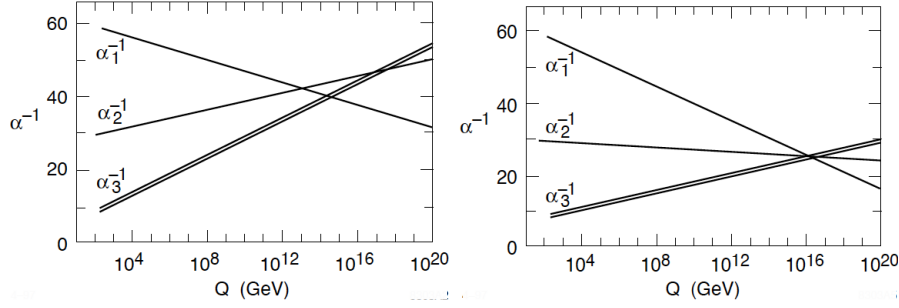


Figure 1.3: (a) The SM running gauge coupling constants for $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ are shown with increasing energy scale Q . (b) same plot is made after the supersymmetric extension to the Standard Model has been applied. The double lines for α_3 indicate the error in experimental measurement, which is negligible for the other two. [14]

1.3.1 R-Parity

Constructing the most general form of SUSY, terms appear which allow processes which violate two quantum numbers, the baryon number B and the lepton number L . Whilst there is no theoretical reason for this to be a problem, these interactions have not been observed, and are constrained heavily. An undeniable constraint is the lifetime of the proton, which is very large, whereas these processes would facilitate its decay. whilst B and L are not fundamental symmetries in the theory, it is possible to construct a new quantum number R defined in Equation 1.27 which can be required as a symmetry R-parity[15]. It distinguishes between particles from the SM and the particles introduced by SUSY, as under this construction, all SM particles carry R of $+1$ and all super partners carry -1 .

$$R = (-1)^{3(B-L)+2S} \quad (1.27)$$

Whilst terms in the Quantum Field Theory do allow for the possibility of violation of this parity, experimental measurements has excluded this for sparticles with masses on the TeV scale, and therefore those within the reach of the LHC. Thus the majority of searches consider models with a symmetry which forbids this violation and conserves R_p . Several phenomenological consequences that transcend specific models arise from this assumption which provide the backbone to SUSY searches at the LHC:

- In order for SUSY particles to be produced at the LHC under this framework, they must be pair produced from SM particles.
- The heavier particles will cascade down a decay chain ending through creation of the lightest of the supersymmetric particles, denoted the Lightest Super Partner (LSP)
- The LSP must be stable as it cannot decay into SM particles, and through cosmological bounds must be electrically neutral.

These characteristics of the LSP show us that it is a WIMP, the type of particle that is sought in Dark Matter searches. These particles will not interact in a detector, therefore are characterised in an experiment as large amounts of missing energy. As this is directly a characteristic of a WIMP in the final state, such a signature represents not only SUSY but is shared by other new physics models with a dark matter candidate particle.

Models may be constructed to constrain the violation of B and L without R-parity conservation, but those shall not be considered in this thesis, as this unique feature provides both physical motivation and a search strategy for physics at the LHC.

1.3.2 MSSM

Whilst there are many ways to construct mathematically the theory of Supersymmetry, it is usual to do it in the way which introduces the least number of new degrees of freedom. This corresponds to the minimal particle content required to satisfy the core symmetry, which corresponds to one new degree of freedom for each existing SM one. This approach is known as the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM), and has an additional new particles, known as a sparticle, for each known SM particle.

The particles are arranged to fit the irreducible representation of the symmetry, in *supermultiplets*, each of which contains both fermions and bosons. The number of bosonic and fermionic degrees of freedom are therefore equal in any supermultiplet. There are two types of supermultiplet available, a chiral supermultiplet which describes a left-handed fermion, its right handed anti-particle, a complex boson and its conjugate, and a vector multiplet - a massless

vector field and a left handed fermion, which result in the fermion and its anti-particle and two transversely polarised vectors bosons[16].

The names of the spin-0 bosons that partner the SM fermions are prefixed with “s-”, known as squarks and sleptons, collectively the sfermions. As the SM contains a distinction between left and right handed fermions, the boson super partners have one of each too, and are labelled RH and LH, but it is important to remember this is not a description of the super partner itself, merely a label to describe the SM particle is associated with. The particles are written with a tilde above the SM symbol so the top quark t becomes the “stop” quark, \tilde{t} .

The names of the fermions from the SM bosons are appended with “-ino” such as the super partners of the gluons, the gluinos. However, for the other fundamental SM bosons, identifying their super-partners is not so simple. The symmetry acts not on the results of electroweak symmetry breaking but on the fields of the $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ group. Thus there should be three Winos \tilde{W} and a Bino \tilde{B} .

The Higgs receives different treatment in SUSY as from in the SM, where the scalar field gives up three degrees of freedom to give mass to the vector bosons W^\pm and Z . In SUSY, instead two supermultiplets with differing quantum number are required to maintain the electroweak symmetry breaking, one chiral and one vector. These give mass respectively to the up-type quarks of charge $-1/3$ and the down-type quarks of charge $+2/3$, and thus are named H_u and H_d [17]. Where the SM has one complex doublet, the MSSM has two complex Higgs doublets, hence the sector has 8 degrees of freedom. Three are lost to give the W and Z bosons mass in electroweak symmetry breaking, leaving five which represent five Higgs boson particles: the charged Higgs bosons H^\pm , and three neutral bosons h , H and A . The corresponding super-partners are known as the higgsinos.

1.3.3 Supersymmetry Breaking

In order to satisfy an exact symmetry, one would expect that each super-partner would have the same characteristics as its SM partner, including its mass. This would indicate they were within the reach of previous physics experiments, but it is clear this is not true as there has been no experimental evidence of particles in the energy spectra previously covered by experimental research. Drawing parallels with the problem of electro-weak symmetry breaking, we say SUSY is

broken by some mechanism, resulting in particles with heavier masses than their counterparts. Although the size of these masses could be theoretically anything, in order for SUSY to eliminate the hierarchy problem this breaking must occur at the Electroweak Scale, which puts an upper bound on the mass differences of 1 TeV.

This is known as “soft” SUSY breaking, and offers the hope of discovering this new physics at the TeV scale, as is now possible for the first time with the LHC. This involves “soft” mass terms incorporated into the Lagrangian theory that do not introduce quadratic divergences that would provide a new “hierarchy problem”. However, the nature of this breaking is not known and thus it is traditional to formulate it in the theory to contain all the mass and mixing terms allowed by the underlying symmetry, which gives arbitrary masses to the sparticles. As there are many unknowns this introduces a large number of parameters to the system. Not all is lost, as SUSY is still capable of making useful predictions, however to compete the theory an understanding of the nature of SUSY breaking is really required.

Due to electroweak symmetry and soft SUSY breaking the fermions superpartners of the $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ group are not generally the mass eigenstates. Instead the winos and bino mix with the higgsino fields to produce the mass eigenstates in two groups, the charginos $\tilde{\chi}_{1,2}^{\pm}$ and the neutralinos $\tilde{\chi}_{1,2,3,4}^0$.

1.3.4 Minimal Supergravity and the Constrained MSSM

Even assuming a minimal particle content, the MSSM has a large number of free parameters, introduced through SUSY and Electroweak symmetry breaking, 105 new parameters in addition to the 19 already present in the SM. When it comes to experimental searches, this is an unworkable number, for to examine possible behaviour of SUSY one would have to look in 105 dimensions. Thus for the purpose of making models to work with, it is desired to constrain this number in the theory. One popular GUT model is the theory of minimal Super GRAvity, otherwise known as mSUGRA.

The many parameters of the MSSM are in fact not all constants, but rather vary with the energy scale. Thus, to contain the model we can assume that there is some “hidden sector” (perhaps on the order of the M_P) which contains fields with no couplings to what is now thought of as the “visible sector” of

the MSSM. There should then be some messenger between the two, that allows supersymmetry braking to be mediated to the MSSM to provide the soft terms. One popular theory as to the nature of this messenger is that it is “gravity mediated”.

The MSSM combined with the theory of mSUGRA is called the Constrained MSSM, or CMSSM, as the number of free parameters has been reduced to a manageable five. These factors are:

- A common scalar mass m_0
- A common gauging mass $m_{1/2}$
- The SUSY Breaking common trilinear coupling A_0
- The ratio of the vacuum expectation values of the two Higgs Fields $\tan \beta$
- The sign of the Higgs parameter, $\text{sign}(\mu)$

With this relatively small parameter space it is possible to construct models with which to construct search strategies, and allows us to exclude regions with the advent of new results. A given point in mSUGRA space defines the mass hierarchy of the squarks, gluinos, charginos and neutralinos, therefore governing the interactions that are possible, as well as the identity of the LSP. Thus in different regions the productions mechanisms can differ, however in the majority of phase space the LSP is the lightest of the neutralinos, $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$. For convenience, mSUGRA is shown graphically in the $m_0 - m_{1/2}$ plane, for set values of the other three parameters.

There are other theories that support mechanisms of SUSY breaking, such as Gauge-Mediated Symmetry Breaking (GMSB) and Anomaly Mediated Symmetry Breaking (AMSB) but these are not considered for the purpose of this thesis.

Current Limits on the CMSSM

Two types of limits exist in mSUGRA space, those imposed theoretically and those that result from experimental data. Of the latter, some are contributed from cosmology, and others from particle physics.

There are some regions of the parameter space where the masses of the particles have a hierarchy which results in the stau being the LSP. This is

theoretically forbidden as the LSP certainly contributes some if not all of the dark matter in the universe, and it is known to be neutral.

In addition, a further region is excluded whereby the relic density of the LSP is consistent with the WMAP measurement of the Dark Matter density.

1.3.5 Production Mechanisms in pp collisions

At a proton-proton collider at TeV energies such as the LHC, as discussed before we can consider the protons as a set of partons each carrying a fraction of the total momentum. It is these quarks and gluons that collide. At such high energies these can be from the gluons and the sea as well as the valence quarks, thus there are qq , $q\bar{q}$, qg and gg collisions to consider. Assuming SUSY exists within the reach of the LHC, indicated by the restriction imposed on the mass differences of SUSY Breaking, then from these interacting pairs large production rates of both squarks and gluinos are expected. Cross sections in the region of 100 pb to 1fb are possible for SUSY sparticles with masses between 0.5 TeV and 1 TeV [18]. Predominantly the production is the result of strong processes resulting in squarks and gluinos, although weak production does exist albeit at smaller cross sections. Decays from these particles through charginos and neutralinos would result in production of the LSP, but the structure of these decays depends on the mass hierarchy of the sparticles, which is determined by the values of m_0 and $m_{1/2}$. Thus a chosen point in this plane represents a certain set of kinematics. SUSY production in these collisions is dominated by the pair-productions $qq \rightarrow \tilde{g}\tilde{g}, \tilde{q}\tilde{q}, \tilde{q}\tilde{\bar{q}}$. The relative cross sections of these decay modes depend on the region of mSUGRA

Within mSUGRA there are three distinct regions which exhibit different decay modes, defined by the mass relationship between the gluinos and the squarks. These can be seen Figure 1.4, where the diagonal green lines represent a cross-over in the squark-gluino hierarchy. Passing left-right on the diagram, the regions are:

Region1: $m_{\tilde{g}} > m_{\tilde{q}}$ As the gluinos are heavier than the squarks, the general form of decays is

$$\tilde{g} \rightarrow \tilde{q}\bar{q}, \tilde{q} \rightarrow q\chi \quad (1.28)$$

Region 2: $m_{\tilde{g}} < m_{\tilde{q}_L}, m_{\tilde{g}} > m_{\tilde{t}_1}$ Here the mass of there gluino between that of the heaviest andy lightest squark, therefore more complicated decay

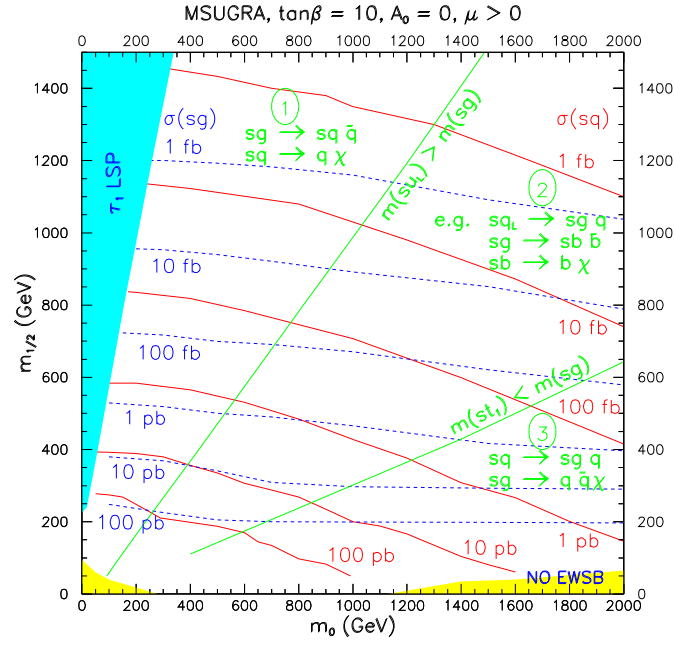


Figure 1.4: The $m_0 - m_{1/2}$ plane of mSUGRA depicting diagonal lines separating three distinct regions of mass hierarchies based on the mass difference of squarks and gluinos. Lines of constant production cross section for squarks and gluinos are shown in red and blue respectively. The allowed decays in each region are shown, where sq denotes a squark, and (sg) a gluino.[19]

relationships between the two are allowed, and these depend on exactly which quarks are heavier and which lighter. The \tilde{q}_L are the heaviest, while states such as \tilde{b}_1 and \tilde{t}_1 are some of the lightest. The heavier quarks decay to lighter squarks and to gluinos, and the gluino decays to lighter squarks.

Region 3: $m_{\tilde{g}} < m_{\tilde{q}}$ Finally in this region the gluino is lighter than any squark, and the allowed decays take the form

$$\tilde{q} \rightarrow \tilde{g}q, \tilde{g} \rightarrow q\bar{q}\chi \quad (1.29)$$

As the dominating decay of both squarks and gluinos produce quarks, we expect in a SUSY event many hadronic jets from these sources along with the gluon radiation from the incoming and outgoing partons. Thus a traditional SUSY signature that provides the basis for this thesis is that of multiple jets and evidence of a (missing) LSP.

Chapter 2

The Compact Muon Solenoid Experiment at the LHC

2.1 The Large Hadron Collider

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is a double-ring circular synchrotron at CERN designed to collide two proton beams with a centre of mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV at a final design luminosity of $10^{34} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. The energy and luminosity have been chosen to with the aim of discovering new physics at the TeV scale, out of reach to previous experiments, where theories predict new physics both within and outside the Standard Model. It will also be used to collide heavy lead ions (Pb^{82+}) to an energy of 2.76 TeV per nucleon, in specific runs, with the purpose of investigating QCD matter at energies 30 times higher than previous experiments. The LHC has unparalleled reach in the search for new physics, not only due to the significant increase of energy over the Tevatron, the previous record holder, but also due to the intensity of the beam delivered. The number of events produced by a given physical process depends proportionally on its cross section σ , and therefore proportional to \sqrt{s} and the luminosity \mathcal{L} , which has the dependence shown in equation 2.2 below [20]:

$$n = \mathcal{L}\sigma, \quad \mathcal{L} = \frac{N_b^2 n_b f_{rev} \gamma_r}{4\pi \epsilon_n \beta^*} F \quad (2.1)$$

where N_b is the number of particles in a single bunch, n_b is the number of bunches in a beam, f_{rev} the frequency of revolutions, γ_r is the relativistic gamma,

ϵ_n is the beam emittance and β^* is the beta function associated with the collision point. The geometric luminosity function F provides a reduction factor based on the beam crossing angle, and depends on the full crossing angle at the IP θ_c , and the transverse and longitudinal RMS beam dimensions σ_* and σ_z with the following dependency:

$$F^2 = \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{\theta_c \sigma_z}{2\sigma_*}\right)} \quad (2.2)$$

Situated in the tunnel of the previous e^+e^- machine LEP located underneath the Franco-Swiss border, the LHC is mostly circular with a circumference of 27km, consisting of 8 arced sectors connected by 8 straight sections in which are the numbered Interaction Points (IP), where the two beams circulating in opposite directions can be allowed to intercept. To bend the protons around the rings, the beams must experience opposite dipole fields from one another, and have two separate vacuum systems. As the tunnel has restricted space available, the dipole magnets are twin bore with two coils and, but share the same structure and cryogenics. The 1232 superconducting dipole magnets present must produce a field in excess of 8T due to the high momentum of the protons, and thus have a high current and must be cooled below 2K by liquid helium to ensure safe operation. The beams are non-continuous, grouped in "bunches" at intervals. In the straight sections the two beams share the same beam line and can be directed to coincide at the IP's. In order to maximise the number of interactions, quadropole magnets are used to collimate the beam providing a minimum cross section at the moment of interaction.

At four of these IP's are located the four main detectors that analyse the data from collisions: the two high luminosity experiments ATLAS (A Toroidal LHC Apparatus) at IP1 and CMS(Compact Muon Solenoid) at IP5 are multi-purpose detectors analysing the p-p collisions for signs of new physics. At IP8 the LHCb (LHC beauty) detector looks for CP violation and other rare decays in a forward detector with lower luminosity runs, and ALICE (A Large Ion Collider Experiment) at IP2 will investigate the lead-lead ion collisions. The locations of the detectors in the LHC ring is shown in Figure 2.1 [21] .

The magnets are optimised for beams of a certain energy range, and therefore the protons cannot be fully accelerated in the LHC. Therefore supply of protons are delivered through a series of other machines that make up part of the CERN accelerator complex, the layout of which is shown in Figure 2.2.

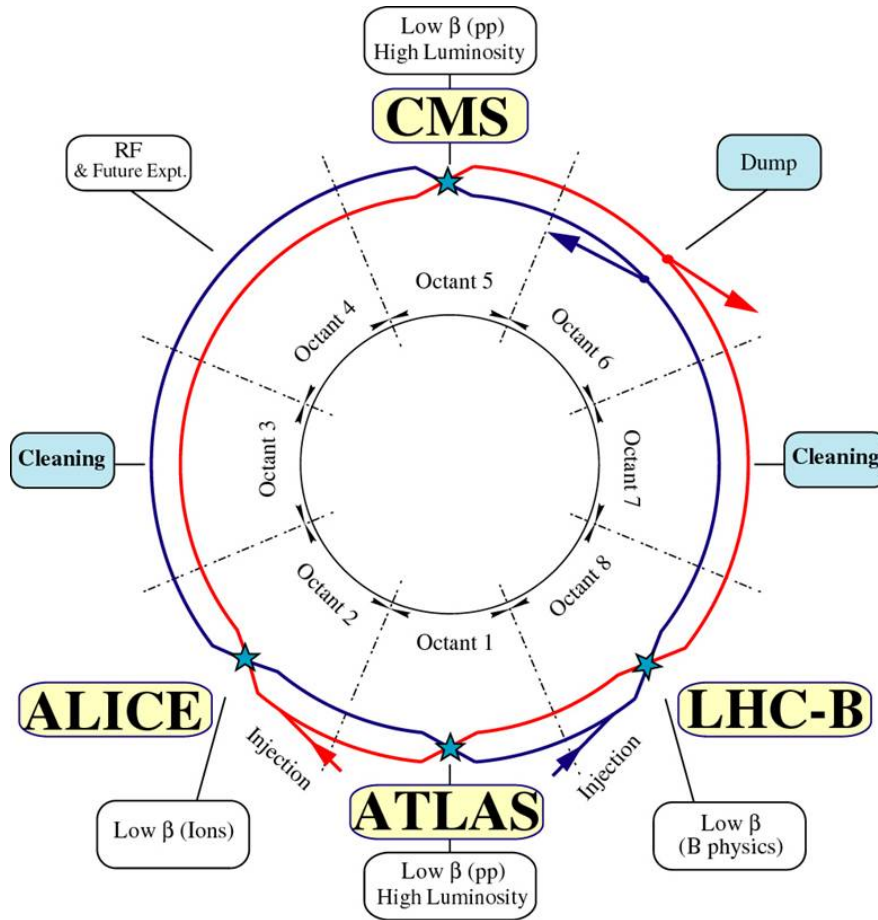


Figure 2.1: Schematic of the LHC ring and the location of the major experiments.

A beam of 50MeV protons is created in LINAC2, in 6 bunches, and each bunch is then split into 12, resulting in 72 bunches which are fed into the Proton Synchrotron Booster. After accelerating to an energy of 1.4GeV, they enter the Proton Synchrotron, where they are accelerated to 26GeV, and fed in sets of 2-4 into the Super Proton Synchrotron. Now 144-288 bunches, they are accelerated to 460GeV ready of injection into the LHC. Twelve of these sets are injected into the LHC at one, directly into both rings, giving a nominal bunch density of 2808, with a spacing of 25ns. This process takes around 20 minutes, and then the LHC takes a further 20 minutes to ramp the protons up to the desired energy. The magnets preventing the beams coinciding in the detectors are turned off and stable collisions occur. However, the luminosity falls regularly as the run progresses, and after 6-12 hours, it has fallen below an acceptable level, and the beam is dumped before repeating the process again.

Using these short runs of high luminosity it is possible for the LHC to take vast amounts of data, and assuming 200 days of data taking a year at design luminosity the machine will be able to deliver 100fb^{-1} a year. As part of the early phase of operation the machine was operated in 2010-2011 at 3.5 TeV per beam, $\sqrt{s}=7\text{TeV}$, in order to protect the magnets, and is not expected to run at full energy until 2014. The 2011 run delivered 5.727fb^{-1} data, the first 1.1fb^{-1} of which was delivered by the end of June, and is considered for this thesis.

2.2 The Compact Muon Solenoid

The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) is one of the two high-luminosity multi-purpose detectors at the LHC, designed to capitalise on the full range of physics opportunities available as a new energy scale is probed. These goals are pursued through the design and construction of the detector and development of software for the reconstruction of physics objects. The detector is constructed of several detector sub-systems contained inside and wrapped in layers around a central 13m long 4T super conducting solenoid as shown in Figure 2.3.

The detector is 21m long, 15m wide and weighs 14000 tonnes, and consists of five wheel-like barrel sections and two end-caps to close. In order for CMS to search for new physics among the high order of Standard Model backgrounds, it is of key importance to develop a detector which has impressive energy and

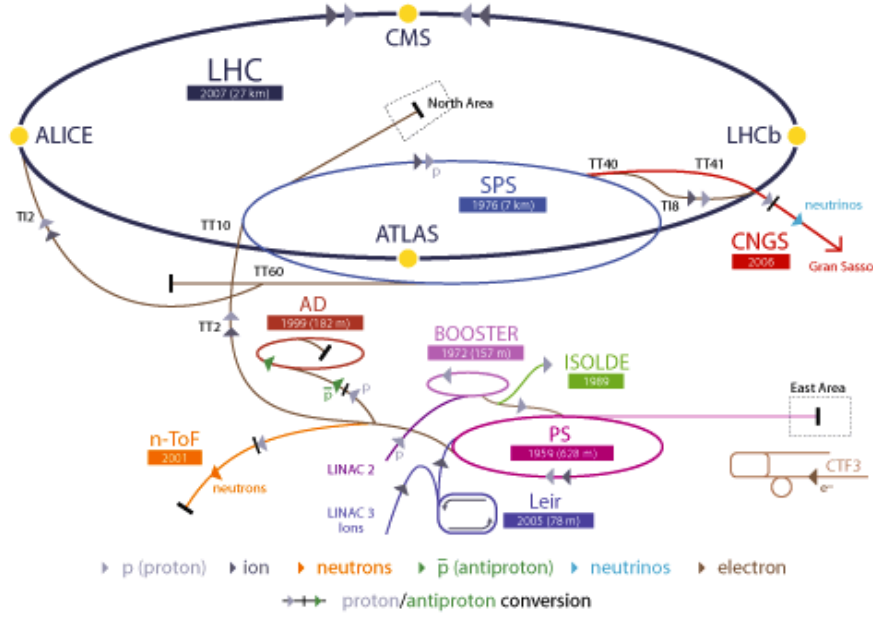


Figure 2.2: Layout of the CERN accelerator complex, illustrating the relationship between the LHC and its supporting accelerators tasked with delivering proton beams at 460 GeV.

momentum resolution, and particle identification. Different particles interact differently with matter and therefore a number of sub-detectors are needed in order to gather all the relative information. This is then combined in order to reconstruct the objects.

The high magnetic field was chosen in order to achieve the bending power necessary for good charged particle momentum resolution. The inner bore of the solenoid is large enough that the inner tracker and the calorimeters are located inside, which minimises the material the particles pass through before entering the calorimeters. This allows a good energy measurement. Four muon "stations" of aluminium drift tubes are integrated within the iron magnetic field return yoke. The full design description can be found in the CMS Technical Design Proposal [22]. As different particles pass through the detector they interact in the sub-systems depending on their type. A transverse slice through the detector illustrating the path through the machine of each type of particle is shown in Figure 2.4

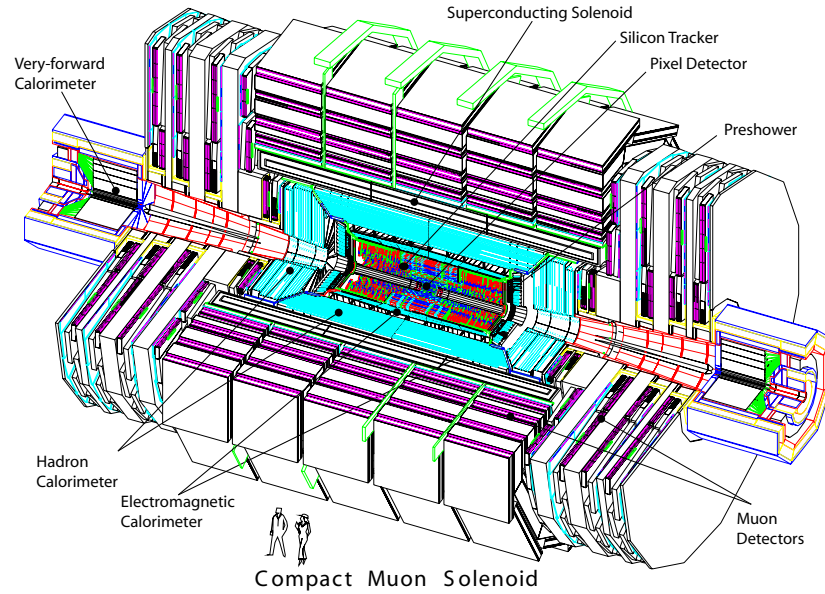


Figure 2.3: A cutaway diagram of the CMS detector structure identifying the main individual sub-systems.

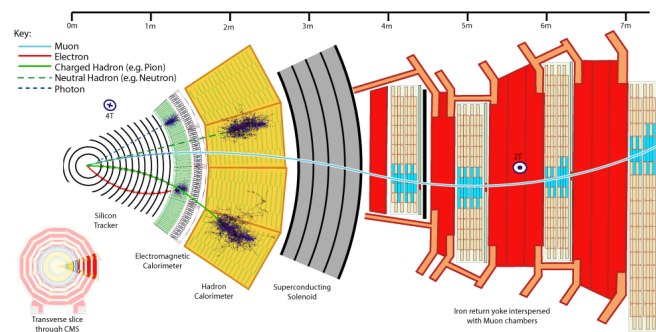


Figure 2.4: Transverse slice through the CMS Detector showing each type of particle and how it interacts with the sub-detectors.

2.2.1 Coordinate System

The coordinate system chosen by CMS uses the nominal interaction point within the detector as the origin. The x-axis points radially inwards to the centre of the beam pipe, and the y-axis points vertically upward. The z-axis then points in the direction of the beam. The azimuthal angle ϕ is defined as the angle from the x-axis in the x-y plane, and the polar angle θ from the z-axis. However, it is common convention to express θ in terms of the Lorentz Invariant quantity, pseudorapidity $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$, as particle production is approximately uniform in η . The transverse components of the energy and momentum, denoted E_T and p_T are then calculated from the x and y components.

2.2.2 Superconducting Magnet

The geometry of the magnetic field is integral to the design and cylindrical structure of the CMS detector, as it uses a global solenoidal magnet. A strong magnetic field is essential to the design of a detector, bending charged particles in order to measure their charge and momentum. In order to ensure that the curvature is significant even with particles of high momentum, the CMS solenoid is designed to be capable of delivering a homogenous field of 4T. Consisting of four layers of NbTi coils, in a vacuum with a cryogenic system maintaining a temperature of 4.5K, the solenoid has a diameter of 5.9m and length 12.5m, and when operating at full current is cable of storing 2.6 GJ of potential energy.

As the solenoid is so large, not only the inner tracking system but also both calorimeter sub-detectors can be accommodated in the interior, giving significant advantage to electromagnetic and jet energy resolution as particles will not have traversed the high-density magnet coil before these measurements are taken. The flux is returned with a large iron yoke of $10^7 kg$, surrounding the inner magnet and built with a barrel of 5 wheels, and two end-caps each containing three disks. The muon system is built within the iron return yoke, in order to take advantage of the reverse magnetic field produced in the outer region, and thus follows the same structure. The drawback of a solenoidal field is that it had strong inhomogeneity in the end-caps, affecting the performance of the muon subsystem, which shall be discussed later.

2.2.3 Tracker

The first sub-detector encountered by particles is the multi-layer silicon tracker, which records precise information about the path of charged particles bending under the magnetic field. It is placed as close to the interaction point as possible in order to distinguish the primary interaction from secondary vertices of particles with significant lifetimes. This is particularly important in the case of identifying B mesons, which can travel a measurable distance before decaying.

The tracker is divided into regions defined by the radius r from the interaction point, as the expected particle flux decreases rapidly as the radius increases. This is due to the high magnetic field, which causes low momentum particles to have small radial helical trajectories.

Nearest to the primary vertex at 4cm, where the expected particle flux is at its highest ($\sim 10^8 cm^{-2}s^{-1}$) are 66 million silicon pixel detectors of size $100 \times 150 \mu m^2$, arrayed in three barrel layers and two end-cap disks. This region is laid out to optimise the resolution in determining the vertex position, delivering a granularity of $10 \mu m$ in the $r-\theta$ plane and $20 \mu m$ in the $r-z$ plane. Pixel detectors have the advantage of being able to measure all three coordinates of the particle simultaneously. However this requires a huge number of readout channels and drives the costs of construction up. For this reason these are chosen for the innermost region where the flux is highest, while the rest of the detector are composed of silicon micro-strip devices.

Outside of the pixel detector lies the silicon strip tracker beginning at $r = 20cm$, divided into two parts, the inner and outer components. As the flux of particles expected is lower than in the pixel detector, the use of 11.4 million silicon strip detectors allows the deserted granularity while reducing costs. Whilst these do not allow a simultaneous 3-coordinate measurement, the layers are constructed at known angles to one another and therefore combined together all three coordinates can be measured. The inner region, immediately outside the Pixel tracker, is composed of four barrel layers (TIB) and closed with three disks (TID) on each end, occupying the region up to $r=55cm$, where the microstrip sensors are $320 \mu m$ thick oriented along the beam line in TIB and radially in the TID. The outer region has 6 barrel layers (TOB) further apart than in the inner sector, and closed with 9 end-caps (TEC) on the end of the barrel, extending out to $r=116cm$. The strips here are $500 \mu m$ thick

In total the tracker covers a total area of 205m^2 with 76 million channels and provides a transverse momentum measurement for high momentum tracks with resolution 1-2% in the region $|\eta| < 1.6$.

2.2.4 ECAL

Immediately outside of the tracker, and still within the magnet core, sits the Electromagnetic Calorimeter (ECAL), used to measure the energy of electrons, photons and pions via the energy they lose through radiation. Electrons lose their energy in the material through bremsstrahlung, and photons by decaying to an electron-positron pair. Using a hermetic homogenous calorimeter of scintillating crystals, this energy can be converted to scintillation light which is picked up by a light sensitive detector.

The use of high density crystals allows a fast calorimeter which has fine granularity and is radiation resistant, requirements which are essential in the LHC environment. After rigorous research and development, lead tungstate (PbWO_4) crystals were chosen as the optimal solution to the requirements of LHC operation, due to a number of desirable characteristics. The extremely short radiation length $X_0 = 0.89\text{cm}$ allows the construction of a compact ECAL which therefore can reside within the solenoid, hence reducing the layers of material the particles have already passed through. In addition, the material has a low Moliere radius (2.2cm) meaning the transverse size of the electromagnetic shower is small, leading to good shower position resolution and separation. It is also essential that a fast scintillator is used, in order to distinguish between bunch crossings. In crystals of PbWO_4 80% of the scintillation light is emitted within 25ns, the bunch spacing of the LHC. Finally the crystals are hard to radiation, as their method of scintillation is resistant to radiation damage.

The ECAL is structurally divided into three distinct regions, the End-caps (EE), the Barrel (EB) and the Preshower (PS), which together cover a pseudorapidity range $|\eta| \leq 3$. The ECAL Barrel is a cylindrical arrangement of 61200 PbWO_4 crystals covering the pseudo rapidity range $|\eta| \leq 1.479$ with a granularity of $\Delta\eta \times \Delta\phi = 0.0174 \times 0.0174$. The radius to the front-face of the crystals is 1.29 m.

The ECAL is closed by two identical end-cap regions, which cover the range $1.479 \leq |\eta| \leq 3$ at the margins of the barrel, each consisting of 7324 crystals

divided into two halves, or *Dees*. Precision energy measurements are possible up to $|\eta| = 2.6$, but crystals are include up to $|\eta| = 3$ to assist the forward-direction energy-flow measurement. The end cap crystals are also wedge shaped with a square front face $28.62 \times 28.62 \text{mm}^2$ and a square back face $30 \times 30 \text{mm}^2$. The crystals point slightly away from the interaction point in order to make the end-caps hermetic, and are grouped mechanically into 5×5 super-crystals (SC).

The size of the crystals is chosen to reflect the properties and requirements, such that the front face surface area is $22 \text{mm} \times 22 \text{mm}$ (the size of the Moliere radius) and the longitudinal depth of the crystals is 230mm , which is $25.8 X_0$ in the barrel, hence allowing a fine granularity and a compact ECAL. In the end-caps the presence of the PS allows for shorter crystals, of 220mm , corresponding to $24.7 X_0$.

A additional component, the Pre-Shower is present in front of the end-caps covering a range of $1.653 \leq |\eta| \leq 2.6$ and consists of two layers of absorbing lead converters and silicon detectors. The primary function of the PS is to identify neutral pions that decay into two photons in the end-caps, which can fake a high-energy photon. It also possesses a high granularity, and therefore is used to improve position determination of particles, and helps the identification of electrons against minimum ionising particles. The two layers of the PS have their strips orthogonal to one another such that the first layer has vertical strips to measure the critical position, and the second horizontal strips for the horizontal position.

The scintillators are read out using photodetectors, which convert the scintillating light of the crystals into an electric signal. The crystals were chosen by a rigorous optimisation of the properties required, which results in a high-performance ECAL, however this material has a relatively low light yield. In order to overcome this, photodetectors designed for use in a magnetic field with intrinsic gain are used. Vacuum Phototriodes (VPTs) are used in the end-caps. These are unsuitable in the central region due to high magnetic, but due to lower radiation levels Avalanche Photodiodes (APDs) are used. Both the crystals and the photodetectors are sensitive to temperature changes, so a stable temperature must be maintained. Radiation damage to the crystals decreases with temperature, but so do the thermal effects which result in recovery. The operational temperature, 18°C is chosen as it is the point of equilibrium between

damage and recovery.

The resolution of an ECAL can be described as a function of the energy E in GeV, shown in Equation 2.3, for energies below about 500 GeV [23]. Above this shower leakage from the back of the crystals become non-negligible.

$$\left(\frac{\sigma}{E}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{S}{\sqrt{E}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{N}{E}\right)^2 + C^2 \quad (2.3)$$

The stochastic term S represents fluctuations related to statistics, including photoelectron statistics and intrinsic shower variations. The noise term N takes into account electronic noise summed over readout channels, and the constant term C accounts for the uncertainty in calibration and the detector non-uniformity. Measurements from test beam reconstructed energy distributions show values for the terms to be $S = 2.8 \pm 0.1 \%$, $N = 0.12 \text{ GeV}$ and $C = 0.30 \pm 0.01 \%$.

2.2.5 HCAL

Outside the ECAL lies the Hadronic Calorimeter (HCAL), responsible for the measurement of the hadronic activity of an event. This also leads to a measurement of apparent missing energy from neutrinos or exotic particles, an important quantity in many searches for new physics. In order to measure the energy of hadrons in a compact space, a sampling calorimeter of interleaved layers of absorbers and scintillators is used. The absorbing material forces hadronic showering through nuclear interaction with heavy nuclei, and the active scintillating material then detects samples the showers of charged particles produced. The absorber material is described by the interaction length λ_I , the distance a hadron will travel through the material before it has lost roughly 63% of its energy through nuclear interactions.

The HCAL is divided into several sections, defined by pseudo-rapidity in order to optimise the resolution under different conditions. Within the space between the ECAL and the magnet coil lie the HCAL Barrel (HB) at $|\eta| < 1.305$, and the HCAL End-Caps (HE) at $1.305 < |\eta| < 3.0$, hermetically joined to completely surround the ECAL. In order to increase the hermicity of the HCAL, and therefore improve the accuracy of the missing energy measurement, the two elements of the HCAL Forward calorimeter (HF) overlap with the HE and extend the range in pseudorapidity to $|\eta| < 5$. There is also a complimentary layer

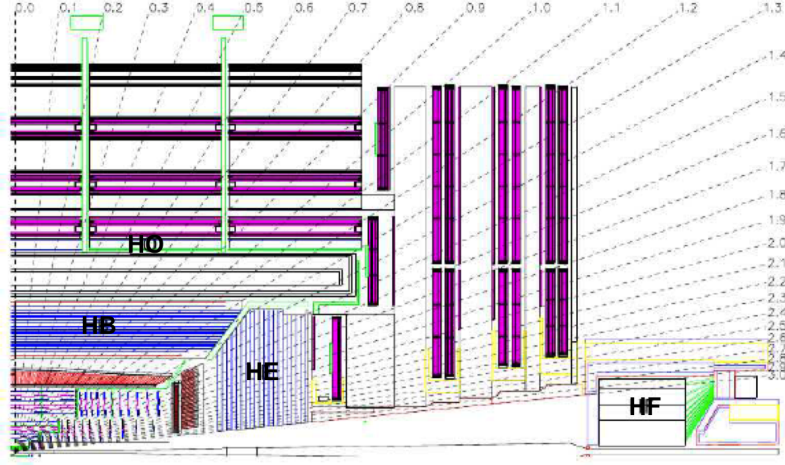


Figure 2.5: Diagram of one quadrant in the r - θ plane showing the locations of the components of the HCAL: HB, HE, HO and HF, with lines of constant η shown.

of scintillators on the outside of the coil, known as the HCAL Outer (HO). This provides shower containment in the central region, where the number of interaction lengths travelled by a particle is at its lowest [24].

The barrel consists of two halves each with 18 identical azimuthal wedges, extending outwards 0.96m. Each wedge has 17 layers of 3.7mm thick plastic scintillator, interspersed with brass absorber plates, with the exception of the innermost and outermost absorbers, made from stainless steel to add structural stability. Directly behind the ECAL is placed the first active layer, with more than double the scintillator thickness (9mm) to actively sample the particles traversing the support material between the ECAL and HCAL. The final layer also has this thickness to catch showers that form late in the absorber.

A similar structure makes up the end-caps with 18 wedges in ϕ containing 19 active plastic scintillators with brass absorbers between. The number of interaction lengths travelled by particles in the HB and HE is dependent on the η of the particle, and while it is 10 at high η , in the central region this is as low as 5. In order to compensate for this, an outer barrel detector is added, consisting of two layers of scintillating material outside the magnet, and therefore utilising the core as an absorber. This extends the total thickness of the full calorimeter to at least 11.8 interaction lengths.

The design of the forward calorimeters is driven by the need for radiation

hardness, as the region closest to the beam line has an energy density up to seven times greater than in the central region. Thus absorbers made of stainless steel and active scintillators of quartz fibres are chosen. Twelve ϕ wedges are located 11.2m from the point of interaction, with the fibres parallel to the beam.

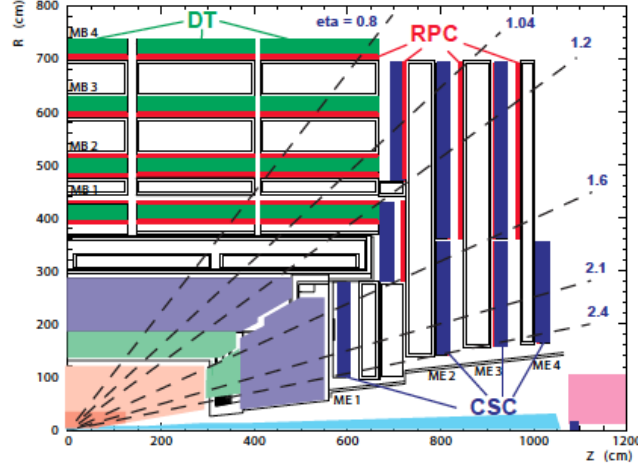
Measurements of hadron energies in the region $|\eta| < 3.0$ rely not only on the HCAL setup described, as a significant fraction of hadrons will have begun to shower while travelling through the ECAL, which contributes around one interaction length. The hadronic component of these showers will continue on into the HCAL, but much of the initial electromagnetic activity can be contained in the ECAL, thus use of measurements in both calorimeters are combined to reconstruct the true energy of a hadron. Using test beams over a range from 2 to 350 GeV/c the resolution for the reconstruction of hadron energy for the HCAL and ECAL combined is given by the following equation [25].

$$\left(\frac{\sigma}{E}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{84.7\%}{\sqrt{E}}\right)^2 + (7.4\%)^2 \quad (2.4)$$

2.2.6 Muon System

Interleaved in the iron return yoke of the detector are the components of the Muon System (MS), an important design feature giving CMS its middle initial. Many new physics signatures at high energy have final states with high momentum muons, and therefore accurately measuring these is crucial for many analyses, including Higgs and SUSY channels. As muons have high mass they interact little in the calorimeters, and thus retain a high percentage of their energy by the time they reach the iron return yoke. Putting the MS here far away from the interaction point allows finer precision, utilising the high magnetic field to bend even high momentum muons, and measuring the bending angle.

Muon momentum resolution using the MS is dominated at low energies ($0 < p_T^\mu < 200$ GeV/c) by the multiple scattering that occurs in the material prior to the first muon station, and therefore a better resolution could be obtained during the tracking system. However, it is possible to use the muon trajectory after the yoke to extrapolate back to the interaction point. Using the tracker and muon system together improves identification and measurements, especially as any particle detected in the MS is expected to be a muon, as other particles are stopped earlier in the detector [26].

Figure 2.6: The Muon system shown in the $r - \theta$

Built within the iron yoke the MS shares the same structural layout, constructed in five barrel wheels, and two end-caps, together covering the region $|\eta| < 2.4$. As a large area must be covered, a silicon based setup such as the inner tracker would be too expensive, hence gaseous detectors are chosen. In the barrel region ($|\eta| < 1.2$) Drift Tubes (DT) are used, and in the end-caps ($0.9 < |\eta| < 2.4$) Cathode Strip Chambers (CSC) are preferred. While the DT and CSC detectors have a good position resolution, they have a long response time and are not suitable for use with the trigger, and so a third element is added in both regions, the Resistive Plate Chambers (RPC). The arrangement of the muon system is shown in Figure 2.6, with the locations of each type of detector shown.

In the barrel, the magnetic field is uniform, and therefore allows the use of Drift Tube chambers. Each of the five wheels are made up of 12 sectors, containing four chambers apiece, making up a full barrel of 240 chambers. The inner three chambers consist of three Super Layers (SL) using the first and third for the ϕ coordinate measurement and the second for the z coordinate. In the outer chamber, there are only two SL's and these contribute only to the ϕ measurement. Four layers of drift tubes make up a SL, and each layer is shifted by half a cell from the one beneath, to ensure any particle trajectory meets some active material. Each tube contains an anode wire and cathode strips, and is filled with a gas mixture of 85% Ar and 15% CO_2 gas. The Ar atoms are ionised by a

charged particle, and the resulting electrons and ions drift towards the anode and cathodes. Electrons reaching the wire are extremely excited by the high density field, which allows them to ionise further molecules, known as the "avalanche effect". Thus an electrical signal can be measured. The drift distance is 21mm and the drift time is limited to 380ns by the gas chosen, corresponding to 16 bunch crossings hence these are not suitable to provide accurate bunch information to the trigger.

Due to the aforementioned solenoidal magnetic field, the end-caps experience an irregular magnetic field, and a higher expected particle flux, and therefore drift tubes are not suitable. In this region 468 Cathode Strip Chambers are used, set out perpendicular in four stations in each end-cap. Trapezoidal chambers consist of seven radially oriented cathode strips, and in between six planes of azimuthal anode wires. The gas filling the gaps is made up of 40% Ar, 50% CO₂ and 10% CF₄, and the chambers work much in the same way as the DT's, with a high voltage applied to achieve the "avalanche effect". As the wires and strips are almost perpendicular its possible to make a simultaneous measurement in r and ϕ by identifying the charge fraction in several cathode strips.

In addition, a complimentary system of RPC's is installed in both the barrel and end-cap regions, providing extra information in the region $|\eta| < 1.6$. In the barrel there are 480 rectangular RPC's, with two layers per station, the inner two stations have one inside and one outside the DT's, and the outer two stations having both inside. The end-caps have overlapping trapezoidal chambers in the outer two concentric rings. These parallel-plate gaseous detectors have two thin gaps between plates, which are attached to high voltage to drive avalanche mode. The avalanche reaches the plates quickly, as the gas gaps have a small width, and so the measurement is made within ns, much smaller than the bunch crossing. The position resolution is adequate at the same time, and so the RPC's are used to contribute to the trigger, and also to map identified muons to a particular bunch crossing.

2.2.7 Trigger

When running at design luminosity, the LHC will collide protons with a bunch crossing of 25ns, each of which will result in 20 interactions corresponding to a rate of 40MHz of data, or 40 TB/second [27]. Not only is it impracticable for this

volume of data to be stored, but much of this corresponds to unwanted events, where no new particles have been produced, as the cross-sections for interesting physics processes are several magnitudes lower than the inelastic p-p cross section. Hence these events must be whittled into those which it is worthwhile to store and consider, which is done by the trigger system. This is divided into two components, the online hardware-based Level 1 Trigger (L1) to reduce the rate to that which can be routed from the buffer to the computing farm, and then the offline software-based High Level Trigger (HLT).

The L1 trigger is driven by the amount of time that data at the incoming rate that can be stored in the buffer, before needing to be overwritten. At design luminosity this is 128 bunch crossings, 3ns. Within this time the rate must be lowered to 10kHz, the acceptable rate for writing to the computing farm used for the HLT. This is accomplished using a tree system of triggers. First, the Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT) and Regional Muon Trigger (RMT) undergo local reconstruction of objects (muons, electrons, photons, jets). The Global Calorimeter Trigger (GCT) and the Global MUon Trigger (GMT) receive these objects, and sort them using a number of criteria e.g. Energy, momentum, quality of identification. The top four of each type are sent to the Global Trigger, which uses this information along with global event measurements such as total momentum to decide if the event passes an L1 Trigger requirement. If so it is sent to the HLT, if not it is not stored and passes out of the buffer.

The HLT essential does the same thing as the L1 trigger, but is not driven by strict time requirements. Running on a large computer farm of multi-core computers, it has access to the entire readout data, and performs sophisticated calculations akin to those performed in physics analyses. Using partial reconstruction algorithms to clearly identify what objects are in an event, it is possible to filter according to a set of desired physics criteria. The desired rate to store to tape is 100Hz, and the HLT is designed and monitored constantly during data-taking to ensure the correct rate is achieved. In a given run a "menu" of different trigger paths is included, to select different types of event and with different thresholds. Some require the presence of a certain object, such as a Muon. Others combine requirements, and these are called Cross-Triggers. For example a family of triggers exist that require a certain HT and MHT. Within this family there are several different thresholds, which go down as low as can

be included in the menu without raising the rate prohibitively much. Thresholds that have a rate which is too high become "pre scaled"

Chapter 3

Searching for SUSY with α_T

The data collected by the CMS detector could hold signs of physics Beyond the Standard Model (BSM). In order to search for signs of new physics they must be distinguished from the vast quantity of Standard Model processes that will arise. Due to the nature of hadron collisions, a large background from QCD events is present, which poses challenges unlike the clean lepton colliders. The events one wishes to look for are termed “signal” events, and all others become part of the “background”. Search strategies are developed to optimise the selection of desired events whilst rejecting a large proportion of the unwanted “background” events. The validity of a search is tested using Monte Carlo simulations of both possible signal and expected background events, and is often evaluated by the proportion of signal S to background B , the S/B of a search.

This thesis focuses on searching for new physics inspired by almost all SUSY models. In this chapter we explore the nature of such new physics and the development of a new variable α_T which forms the backbone of a search for events with quarks and a large quantity of missing energy.

3.1 Inclusive SUSY Search

As previously discussed in Chapter 1, SUSY models that conserve R-Parity and therefore indicate new physics at the TeV scale introduce a candidate particle for dark matter. As this LSP cannot be observed due to its weakly interacting nature, searching for it is analogous to a search for large missing energy in particle collisions. In the CMS detector reconstruction of all visible particles allows us to

calculate the transverse component of this quantity, missing E_T or \cancel{E}_T .

As there are many models to describe the exact nature of SUSY due to the unknown mechanism of SUSY breaking, it is desirable to design an experimental search which does not rely on any one in particular, or even on the assumption of SUSY. These are called “inclusive” searches, and retain sensitivity to any new physics resulting in a new particle with the properties of a WIMP. The main feature is a requirement of a large quantity of \cancel{E}_T along with final state objects (hadronic jets, leptons, photons). The search space is then divided into channels via the final state objects required, in order to perform orthogonal searches to increase sensitivity and to allow combination

Discussion of SUSY on the whole and specific models such as mSUGRA are then used to quantify the reach of the search and to tune the cuts with Monte Carlo data. Where no new physics is found it can be useful to set limits on the parameters of such models, and in this thesis we will use mSUGRA for this purpose, along with test points in the mSUGRA phase space. However it is important to remember that the search itself remains open and sensitive to any WIMP candidate.

Physics at the LHC will suffer from high background rates, especially those from QCD, and the main goal of any analysis is selecting the new physics events required whilst removing the background from Standard Model processes. Missing energy can be observed in events in two ways, real missing energy from the production of weakly interacting particles, such as neutrinos and LSP’s, and fake missing energy which is a result of mismeasurement of objects, or missed objects.

Having noted that the generic signal produced by any such new physics model is a large amount of \cancel{E}_T , it might be assumed this forms the main variable to separate signal from background events. As \cancel{E}_T is measured in the calorimeters, it can be affected by miscalibration and noise in the detector, thus is not robust for early physics at the LHC.

To combat this issue there is also the quantity \cancel{H}_T which represents the vector sum of transverse momenta p_T of the jets in the system, giving the hadronic missing energy analogous to \cancel{E}_T in a hadronic search. However, there are limitations to the use of either of these quantities, as they are not robust to mismeasurements of the jets.

A background event with no missing energy may therefore be selected as having considerable \cancel{E}_T or \cancel{H}_T due to these mismeasurements, and thus it is natural to look for other variables which have a higher discriminatory power.

3.2 α_T in a di-jet system

The first step in devising a SUSY search strategy begins with the simplest of channels, the “dijet” search with just two jets and missing energy corresponding to two missing neutralinos. This channel is motivated by one of the cinematic scenarios of mSUGRA mentioned in Chapter 1, where the gluino is heavier than the squarks, therefore squarks are liable to decay directly to the LSP producing a quark jet. Due to the low multiplicity it is easy to understand kinematically the situation in play.

At the LHC the dominant background is from QCD dijet events, produced with an extremely large cross section. These events do not actually produce \cancel{E}_T but can “fake” this signature through detector effects such as mismeasurement or missed objects. In addition there are a number of other backgrounds from electroweak interactions, $W + \text{jets}$, $t\bar{t}$ and $Z \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu} + \text{jets}$, which we will refer to collectively as EWK. Due to the “fake” \cancel{E}_T signature from QCD events, a significant proportion of these events are not eliminated by a simple \cancel{E}_T or \cancel{H}_T cut.

In a QCD dijet event, were it to be perfectly measured, the two jets are pair produced and following conservation laws must be back-to-back and of equal magnitude. In events with real missing energy, such as our potential SUSY signal, the jets have been produced independently of one another, and such rules do not govern them. The distribution of the azimuthal angle between the two jets, $\Delta\phi$, is therefore very different for the QCD background and potential signal events, shown in Figure XX.

It is possible to exploit the nature of this further using a new variable proposed by Randall and Tucker-Smith, α , defined in Equation 3.1 [28].

$$\alpha = \frac{E_T^{j2}}{M_{inv}^{j1,j2}} \quad (3.1)$$

The E_T^{j2} is the transverse energy of the second jet (the lowest in energy) and

$M_{inv}^{j1,j2}$ is the invariant mass of the dijet system. The design of this variable allows us to exploit the expected back-to-back nature of any dijet from QCD. A well-measured QCD event can only take values of $\alpha < 0.5$. In sharp contrast, a SUSY event can, due to the unseen neutralinos, produce jets in a similar direction with a low invariant mass giving rise to high values of α .

The transverse variant of this variable, given in Equation 3.1 makes use of the transverse mass M_T of the two jets as opposed to the invariant mass.

$$\alpha_T = \frac{E_T^{j2}}{M_T} \quad (3.2)$$

In this case a well-measured QCD event will have exactly 0.5. While both show equally strong power of background discrimination, α_T has greater signal retention for certain mSUGRA points,[29] and therefore is deemed comparable or superior. It is upon this variable that the search strategy is formed. The presence of the second jet energy in the numerator also gives rise to one of the most important properties of this variable, its resilience to jet mismeasurement. If there is a large mismeasurement of one of the jets, the order could be inverted. As a perfectly measured QCD event yields $\alpha_T = 0.5$, the cut chosen is $\alpha_T \leq 0.55$ in order to take into account the finite resolution of the jet energy measurement.

The explicit reliance of α_T on $\Delta\phi$ can be seen when the relationship is rewritten in the massless limit, in Equation ???. This relationship indicates a high correlation, and thus a cut on α_T renders a further cut on $\Delta\phi$ negligible[30].

$$\alpha_T = \frac{\sqrt{E_T^{j2}/E_T^{j1}}}{2(1 - \cos\Delta\phi)} \quad (3.3)$$

3.3 α_T in a n -jet system

More complicated decay processes result in hadronic signatures with more than two jets, generalised to the n -jet system, for example where a gluino-squark pair decay to produce three quarks and two LSP's. In order to increase phase space the dijet search channel may be extended to a final state including N jets and considerable \cancel{E}_T , where $N \geq 2$. This is colloquially known as the all-hadronic search channel as it comprises any fully-hadronic decay modes that might yield possible SUSY signal.

Following the success of the construction of the α_T variable in the dijet topology, the variable was extended to a general form applicable for an n -jet system, thus incorporating the full hadronic SUSY search channel[31] . This is undertaken by modelling the system of n jets as though it were a dijet system, through the mathematical construction of two pseudo jets. Thus α_T can be calculated using the properties of the pseudo jets.

The two pseudo-jets are built by merging the n jets present in two sets with a vectorial sum deciding the direction, and a length equal to the sum of the magnitudes of the composite jets. The combinations chosen to assign n jets into 2 pseudo jets is done such that they are as balanced as possible, i.e. the difference in H_T , ΔH_T is at a minimum. All combinations are therefore considered, and the one which satisfies this condition is chosen. With this pseudo-dijet system we can construct a formalism for α_T that uses the basic kinematic variables of the system in Equation ??.

$$\alpha_T = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(H_T - \Delta H_T)}{\sqrt{H_T^2 - |\cancel{H}_T|^2}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1 - \Delta H_T/H_T}{\sqrt{1 - (\cancel{H}_T/H_T)^2}} \quad (3.4)$$

The second form of the definition shows its dependence on the ratios of ΔH_T and \cancel{H}_T to the events H_T . In a well measured QCD event there is no \cancel{H}_T , and $\Delta H_T/H_T < 1/3$, from which the maximal value comes from the rare ‘‘Mercedes Star’’ QCD event with three jets of equal mass and momenta with the $\Delta\phi$ between any chosen two being equal. Therefore with an ideal detector QCD events have $0.333 < \alpha_T < 0.5$, but large mismeasurement leads to a high \cancel{H}_T which can higher the values of α_T . The chosen cut value of $\alpha_T > 0.55$ corresponds to a missing energy fraction $\cancel{H}_T/H_T > 0.4$, and as this occurs in QCD events the ratio $\Delta H_T/H_T$ is liable to increase also. This relationship prevents α_T for QCD events from significantly exceeding 0.5 unless an object of sizeable momentum were missed altogether in the calculation.

It has been shown that whilst the sharp cut-off for QCD events at $\alpha_T = 0.5$ becomes less distinct, it is still pronounced and thus retains the powerful background rejection properties desired[32]. Performance tests with smeared jet energies shows the α_T variable applied to a multi-jet analysis is robust to jet mismeasurement, and superior in this area to a standard \cancel{H}_T analysis. The jet energy scale does not directly affect α_T but its resolution improves for increasing H_T , as demonstrated with 7 TeV data in Reference [33].

3.4 Defining the ratio R_{α_T}

The proportion of SUSY signal to background differs greatly with the H_T of the event, with background processes dominating at low values while SUSY becomes more prominent for high H_T . In order to investigate this behaviour a new variable R_{α_T} is defined in Equation 3.5 as the ratio of events passing the α_T cut with those that fail it.

$$R_{\alpha_T} = \frac{N(\alpha_T > 0.55)}{N(\alpha_T < 0.55)} \quad (3.5)$$

The relationship of this variable with H_T that can then be studied for background processes and potential SUSY signal using Monte Carlo samples. Where QCD events with no real missing energy dominate the numerator, tightening the H_T cut results in a decreasing R_{α_T} . If the QCD background is negligible due to a successful α_T cut, the now-dominating electroweak backgrounds contribute some real missing energy in the form of neutrinos and exhibit a flat relationship with H_T . However, in the presence of an mSUGRA SUSY signal in the numerator an increase of H_T corresponds to an increasing R_{α_T} . These three distinctive behaviours provide a strong search strategy using R_{α_T} in exclusive bins of H_T . These trends have been shown to be robust to jet mismeasurements, or even when 1 jet in 25 is not included in the calculation []

3.5 Extending α_T for single-lepton searches

A cleaner SUSY signature can be obtained through the single lepton channel, where the kinematics are identical save the extra requirement that there be one muon or electron in the final state. In addition, requiring a lepton can provide a useful control sample for the hadronic search. Hence it is interesting to develop the α_T search to apply to this channel, especially where the lepton p_T is low and hence the dominant background is from fake leptons in QCD events.

In this case, in the final state there is one lepton, and n jets where n is at least two. Production mechanisms for one lepton and two jets in SUSY decay modes at the LHC are similar to those of the 3-jet hadronic channel. Thus it is possible to draw parallels, and describe the system as an n -object system. Here, an n -jet hadronic event is treated the same as that which has 1 lepton and $n-1$ jets. The

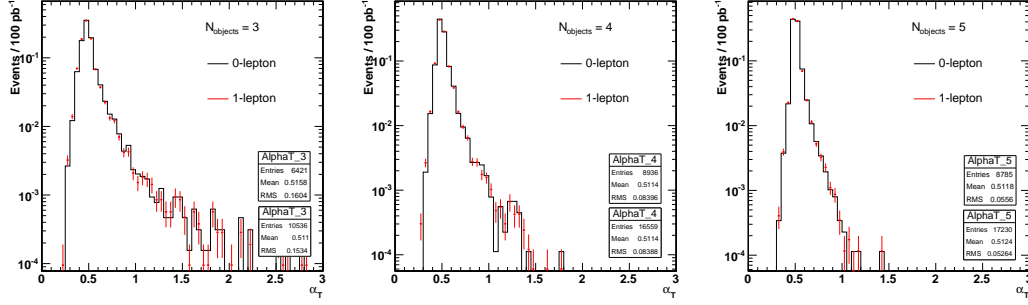


Figure 3.1: The shape of the α_T distributions for object multiplicity N for the N -jet channel (0-lepton) and the $N-1$ jet plus 1 lepton channel superimposed. From left to right the object multiplicities shown are $N=3$, $N=4$, $N=5$.

quantities in the definition of α_T are extended to include the lepton as if it were a jet, such that the lepton is included in the building of the two pseudo-jets.

The validity of this approach can be seen in Figure 3.1 where the hadronic (0-lepton) and single leptonic (1-lepton) cases are shown superimposed for the SUSY test point LM0, for three different object multiplicities 3, 4 and 5. As can be seen, although the shape of the α_T distributions change with the object multiplicity, there is a good agreement between the n jet system and the $n-1$ jet plus lepton system.

3.6 Reliance of α_T on jet object definition

As mentioned above, although α_T is robust to mismeasurements a large value can be obtained from a QCD event if significant objects are not included in the measurement. To remain within the capabilities of the detector and reconstruction algorithms, the definition of a jet for the purpose of analysis requires the passing of a certain jet energy threshold. As this value is relatively small compared to the total H_T of an event, it should not contribute a large mismeasurement effect to the α_T variable. However there might be some cases for high jet multiplicities where a large number of low-energy jets just below the threshold are not considered, and so the α_T value is skewed. Hence, to remove this effect it is possible to make a cut in the ratio of the missing energy estimated from jets \cancel{H}_T and that measured by the calorimeter systems \cancel{E}_T so that an event with $R_{miss} > 1.25$ is rejected.

Chapter 4

Searching for Supersymmetry with α_T in all-hadronic events

The analysis presented here represents a model-independent search for new physics in the all-hadronic channel. Designed to search for signs of supersymmetry whilst remaining sensitive to other new physics models, the strategy centers around a selection of events which fit a topology of heavy new particles pair-produced in p-p collisions, which decay through a chain with an end product which is stable and undetectable. This is achieved in the detector by identifying several jets with a large quantity of missing energy.

4.1 Monte-Carlo Samples

4.2 Trigger

In order to select the signal events and minimise the contamination from backgrounds, a set of selection criteria is applied. As described previously in Section TRIGG, data collected by the CMS detector is stored and organised according to the L1 and HLT trigger paths passed. Each given dataset then undergoes the offline event reconstruction described in Chapter RECON/IDEN, after which n-tuples are constructed from which we apply cuts on objects and analysis variables.

Previous incarnations of this analysis for the 2010 dataset REFF used a set of pure H_T triggers, however these are unsuitable for the 2011 analysis as these

have too high thresholds for the analysis due to the increase in instantaneous luminosity. The use of cross-object triggers is now employed, requiring events that pass thresholds in both H_T and \cancel{H}_T for the signal region, and using the lowest un-prescaled thresholds available to ensure signal yields are accurate. As this analysis makes use of those events which fail the selection criteria also, the hadronic control sample, the pre-scaled H_T -triggers are still used taking into account the pre-scaled factors. In the muon control sample, due to the low p_T threshold we use the same triggers as for the hadronic signal sample, and the photon sample makes use of the single photon trigger paths.

Having passed one of the un-prescaled triggers the events are subjected to a series of cuts on objects and analysis variables in order to select the event topologies required and minimise the background contamination.

4.2.1 Pre-Selection

The events selected must be identified as good events from the CMS detector, using a pre-selection. It is required that events have at least one good primary vertex that is not fake, with $N_{dof} \geq 4$ and a vertex position along the beam axis of $|z_{vtx}| < 24$ cm and perpendicular to the axis of $\rho \leq 2$ cm. Events that have many fake tracks are identified as monester events and removed, by requiring that the ratio of High Purity tracks to the total number be greater than 25% in events with more than 9 tracks.

Events where noise has been identified in the HCAL are removed also, using an algorithm which checks for Photodetectors which have at least 17 out of 18 channels with an $E \geq 1.5$ GeV.

Events are then selected according to the following preselection:

- Require events with $N_{jet} \geq 2$
- $N_{muon}, N_{electron}, N_{photon} = 0$ where $p_{T\mu,e} \geq 10$ GeV, $p_{T\gamma} \geq 25$ GeV
- $H_T \geq 275$ GeV
- To protect the quantity α_T from the scenario where many jets exist below the momentum acceptance threshold, the missing energy variable \cancel{H}_T estimated from jet measurement is compared to the quantity \cancel{E}_T measured

from the calorimeters. If the ratio $R_{miss} = \cancel{E}_T / E_T > 1.25$, the event is rejected.

4.2.2 Object Requirements and Vetoes

Jets

Muons

Electrons

Photons

CutFlow

4.2.3 Trigger

4.3 Data to Monte-Carlo Comparisons

4.3.1 Dependence of R_{α_T} on H_T

4.4 Data-Driven Background Estimation

4.4.1 Total background prediction

4.4.2 Estimating EWK background using high p_T using W+Jets events

Types of decay contributing to Muon Control Sample

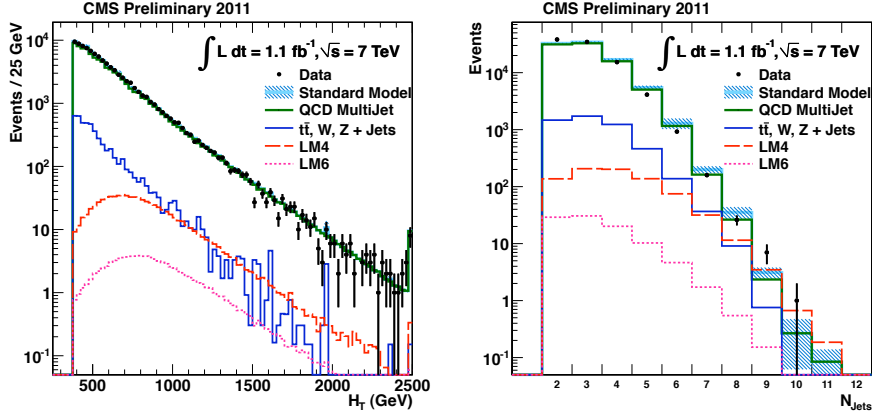
4.4.3 Estimation Z $\nu\bar{\nu}$ + jets background using photon + jets events

4.5 Systematic Uncertainties

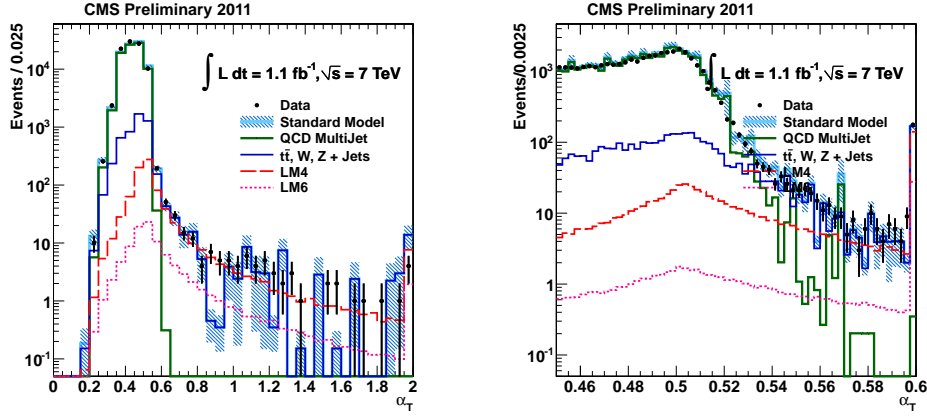
4.6 Simultaneous Fit

4.7 Limits

4.8 Conclusion



(a) Comparison of H_T between data and MC for the hadronic selection, for $H_T \geq 375 \text{ GeV}$ and $M_{HT} > 100 \text{ GeV}$. (b) Comparison of the jet multiplicity between data and MC for the hadronic selection, for $H_T \geq 375 \text{ GeV}$ and $M_{HT} > 100 \text{ GeV}$.



(c) Comparison of the α_T distribution between data and MC for the hadronic selection, for $H_T \geq 375 \text{ GeV}$ and $M_{HT} > 100 \text{ GeV}$.

(d) Comparison of the α_T distribution highlighting the agreement on the sharply falling edge between Data and Monte Carlo for the hadronic selection, in the region $H_T \geq 375 \text{ GeV}$.

Figure 4.1: Comparisons of 1.1 fb^{-1} 2011 7TeV CMS Data and equivalently weighted Monte-Carlo in basic kinematic quantities prior to the α_T selection cut.

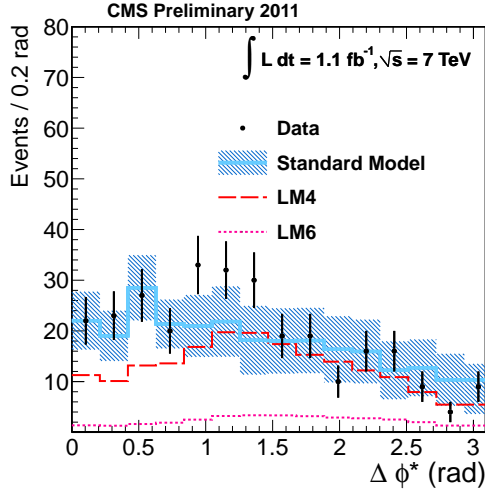
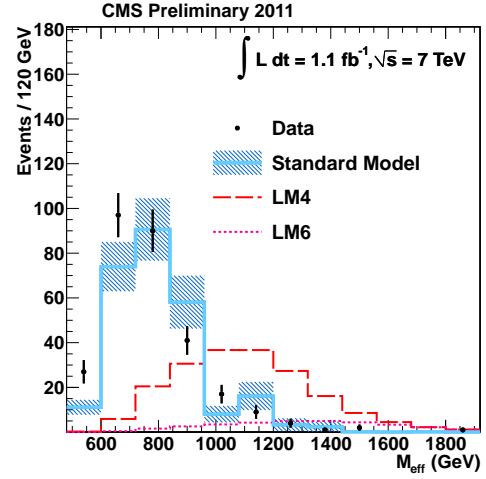
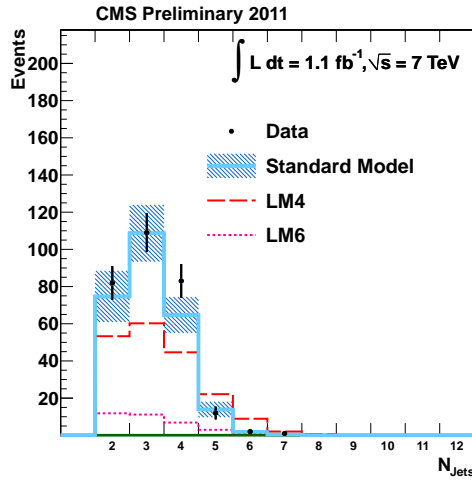
(a) $\Delta\Phi^*$ distribution after α_T selection.(b) The effective mass distribution, $M_{\text{eff}} = H_T + M_{\text{HT}}$, of the events passing the α_T selection.(c) Jet multiplicity after α_T selection.

Figure 4.2: Comparisons of $1.1 \text{ fb}^{-1} 2011 \text{ 7TeV}$ CMS Data and equivalently weighted Monte-Carlo in basic kinematic quantities after the α_T selection cut.

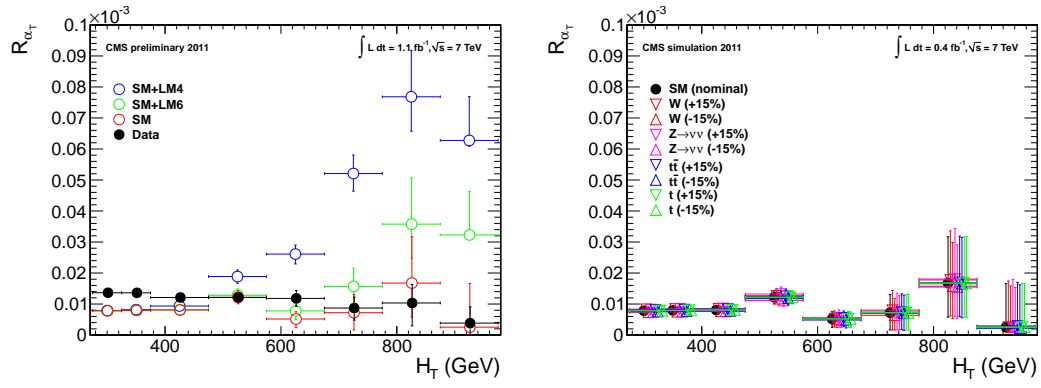


Figure 4.3: (Left) The dependence of R_{α_T} on H_T for events with $N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2$. (Right) Dependence of R_{α_T} on H_T when varying the effective cross-section of the four major EWK background components individually by $\pm 15\%$. (Markers are artificially offset for clarity.)

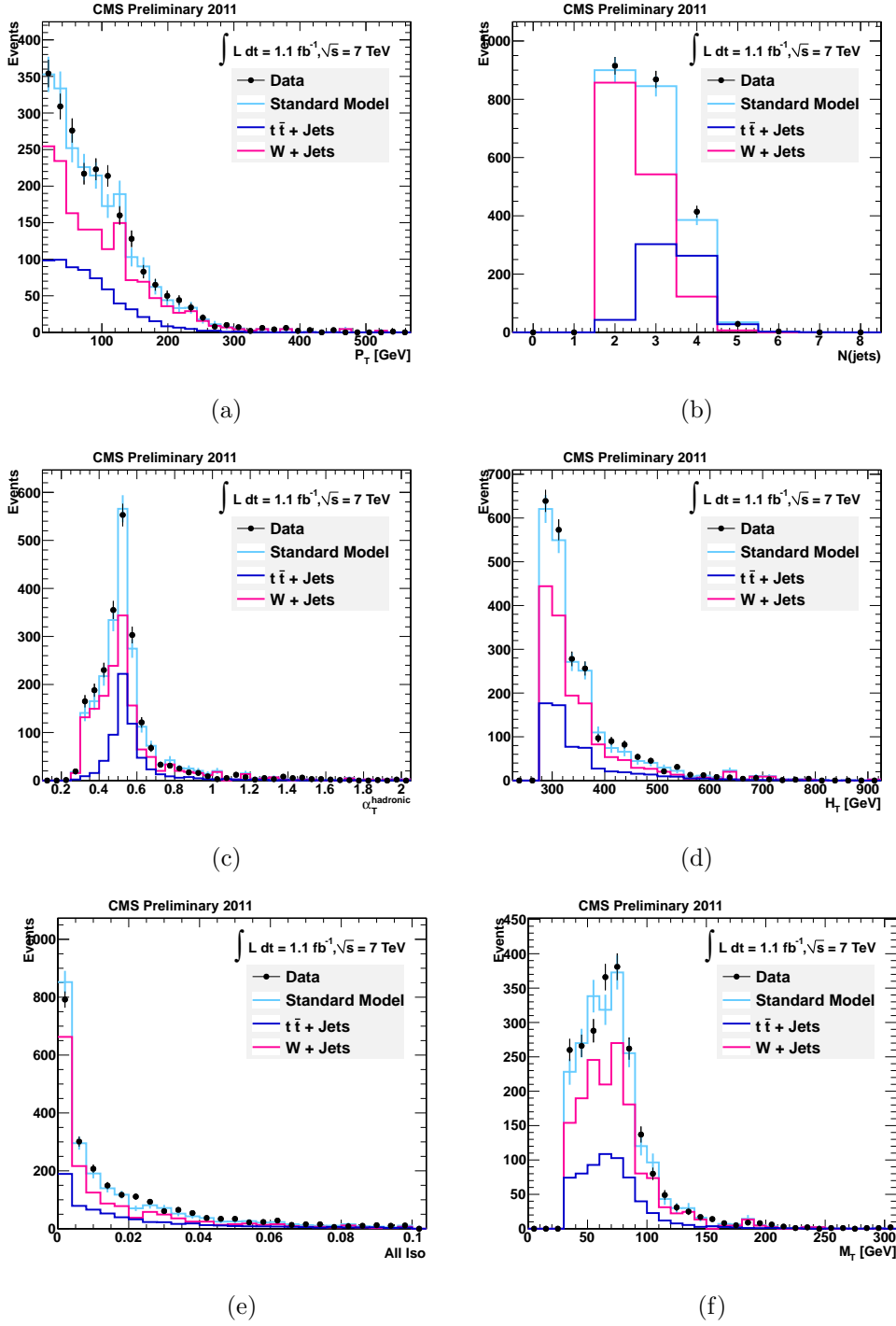


Figure 4.4: Data - Monte Carlo comparisons for the muon control selection before the $\alpha_T > 0.55$ cut is applied, shown for (a) α_T and (b) H_T , (c) Muon Combined Isolation and (d) M_T . A cut of $H_T > 375$ GeV has been applied, to select the region of fixed jet thresholds.

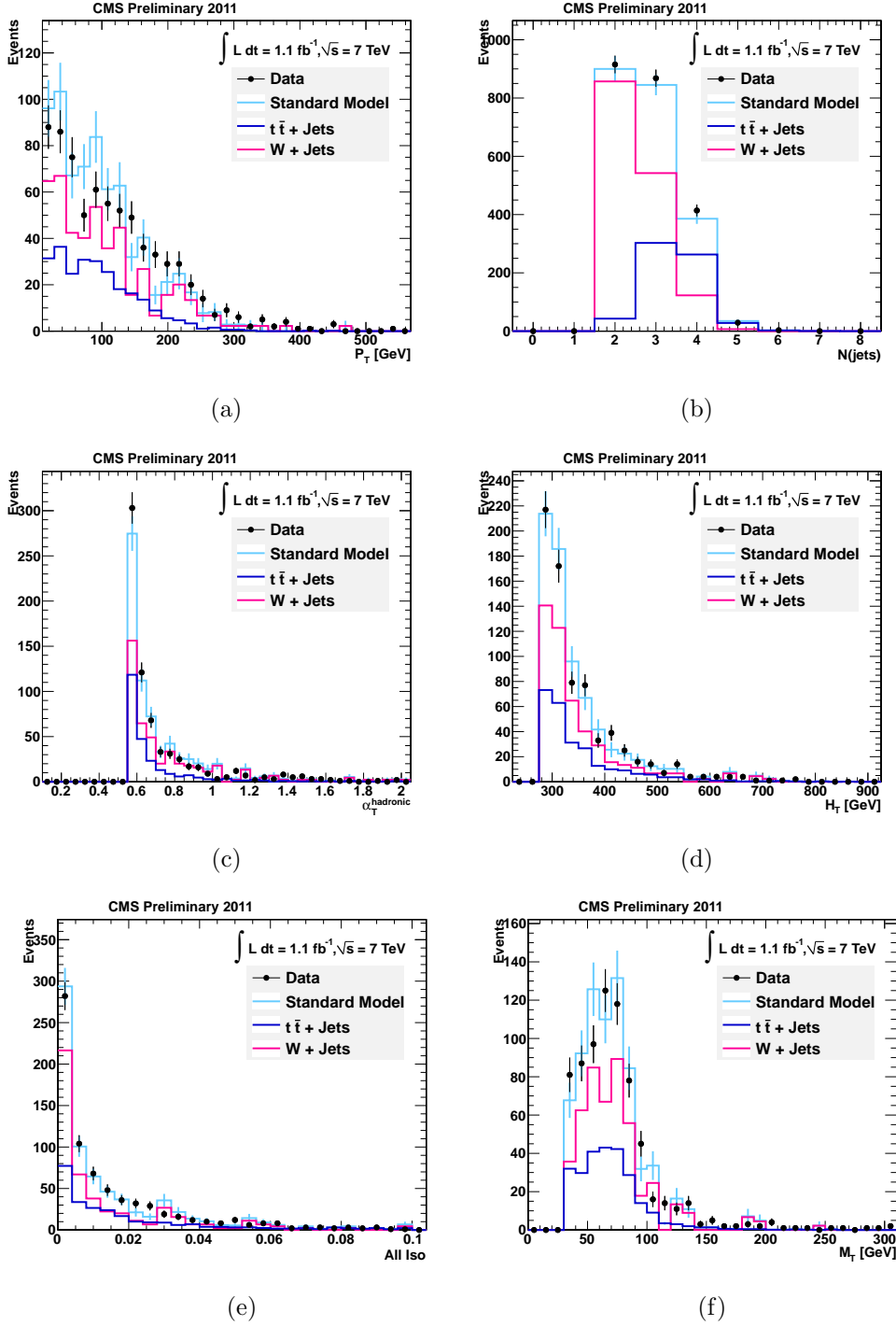


Figure 4.5: Data - Monte Carlo comparisons for the muon control selection after the $\alpha_T > 0.55$ cut is applied, shown for (a) H_T and (b) M_T , (c) Muon Combined Isolation and (d) M_T . A cut of $H_T > 375 \text{ GeV}$ has been applied, to select the region of fixed jet thresholds.

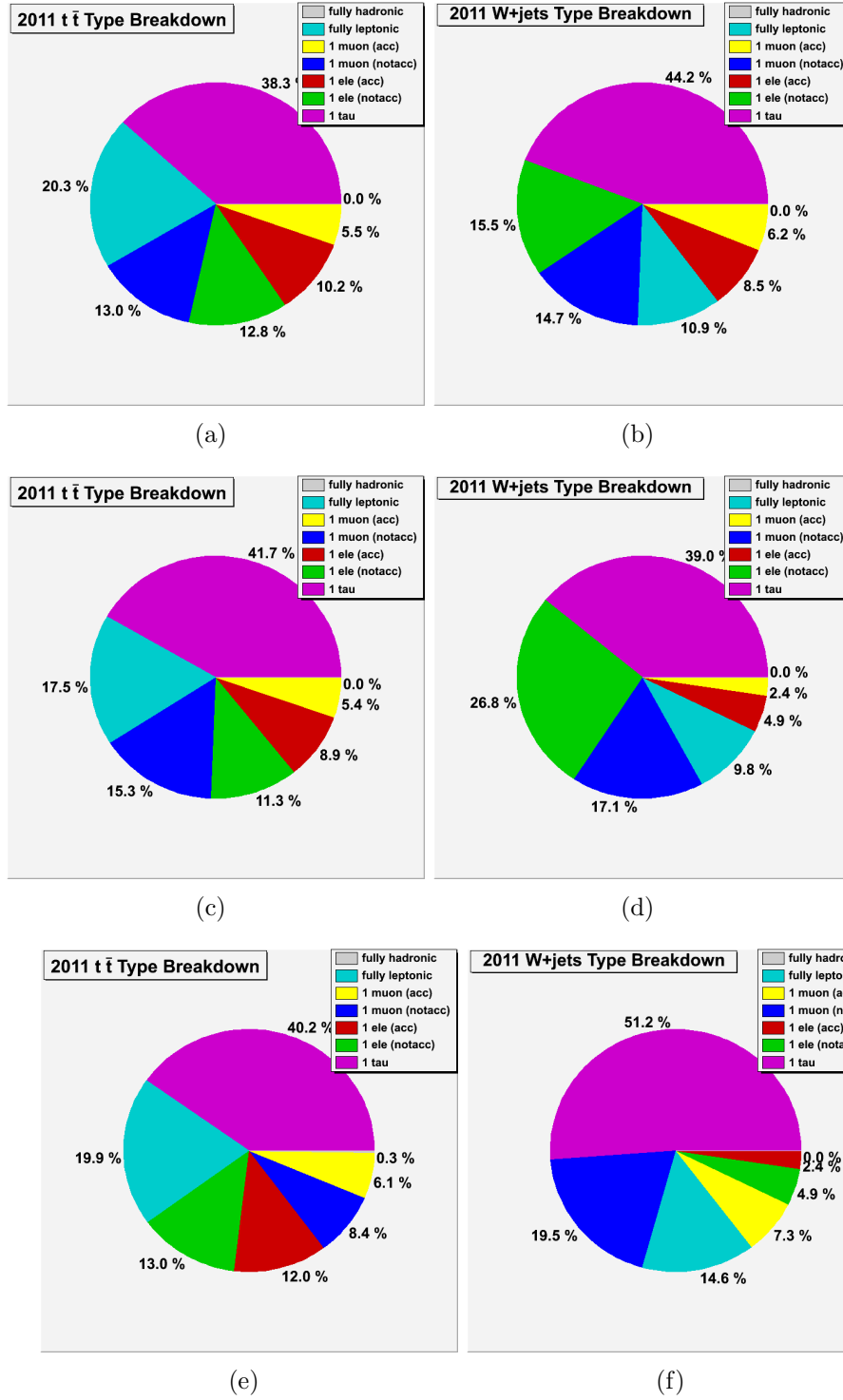


Figure 4.6: Type breakdown of decays resulting in an event selected by the Muon Control selection, shown using Monte-Carlo truth information separately for $t\bar{t}$ + jets (left) and W + jets (right) events. The breakdown is made separately for each jet-scale case: $275 < H_T < 325$ GeV (top), $325 < H_T < 375$ GeV (middle), and $H_T > 375$ GeV (bottom).

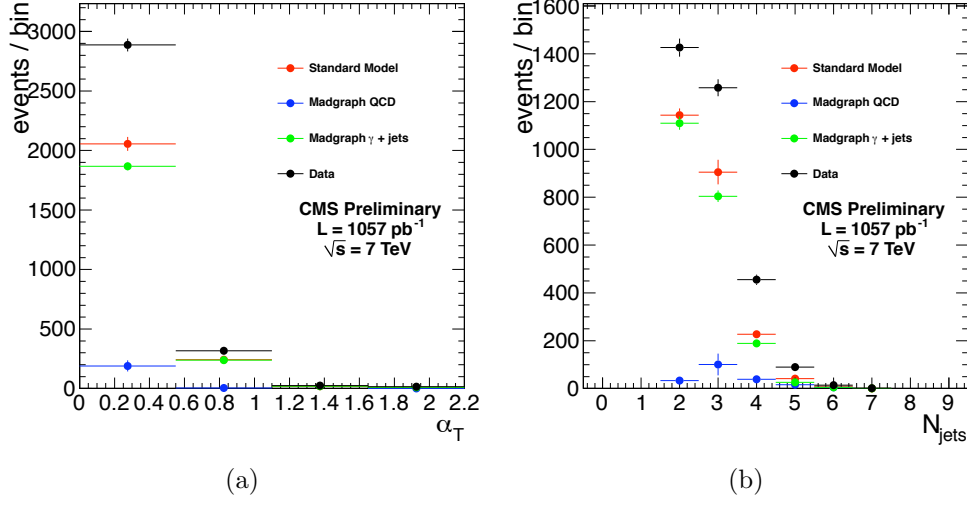


Figure 4.7: Data-MC comparisons for the photon control sample. $H_T > 375$ GeV and $\cancel{H}_T/H_T > 0.4$ are required. Left: the distribution of α_T . Right: the distribution of the number of jets.

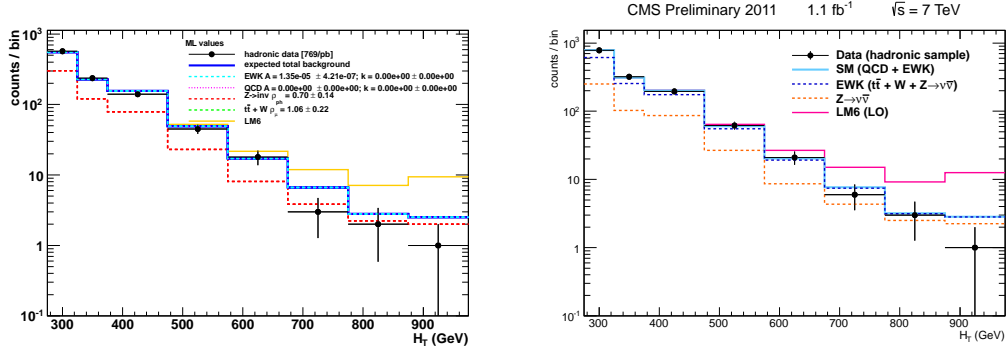


Figure 4.8: H_T distribution for events in the hadronic signal sample for scenario a) (left) and scenario b) (right). Shown are the events observed in data (black points), the outcome of the fit (blue line) and a breakdown of the individual background contributions as predicted by the control samples. A possible signal contribution from benchmark point LM6 is indicated as well (yellow line).

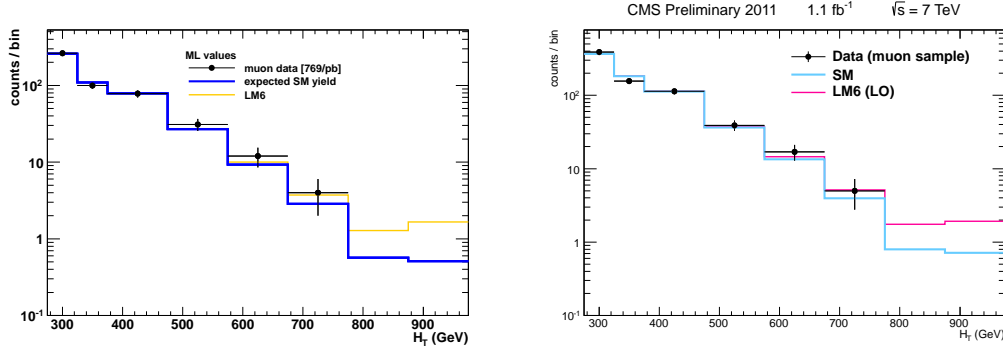


Figure 4.9: H_T distribution for events selected in the muon control sample for scenario a) (left) and scenario b) (right). Shown are the events observed in data (black points), the outcome of the fit (blue line) and the MC expectation (dashed line). A possible signal contribution from benchmark point LM6 is indicated as well (yellow line).

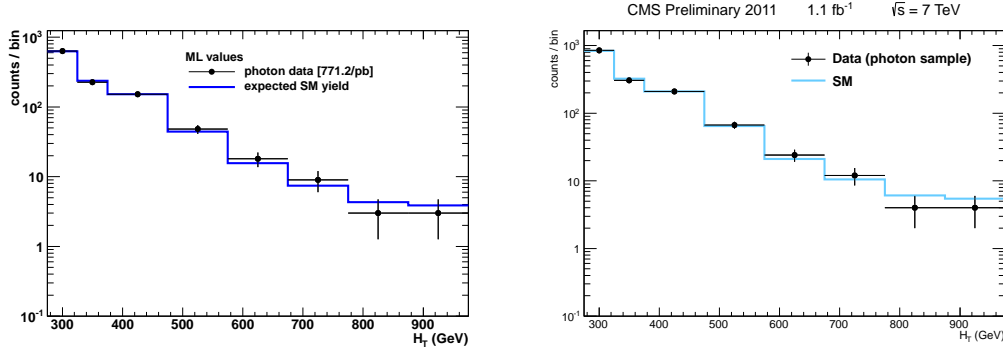


Figure 4.10: H_T distribution for events selected in the photon control sample for scenario a) (left) and scenario b) (right). Shown are the events observed in data (black points), the outcome of the fit (blue line) and the MC expectation (dashed line).

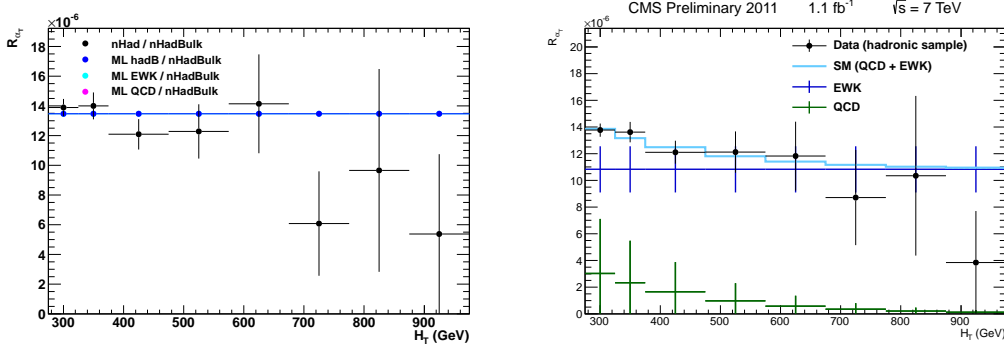


Figure 4.11: R_{α_T} as a function of H_T as observed in data (black points) and the results of the fit assuming different scenarios: a) (left) and b) (right) .

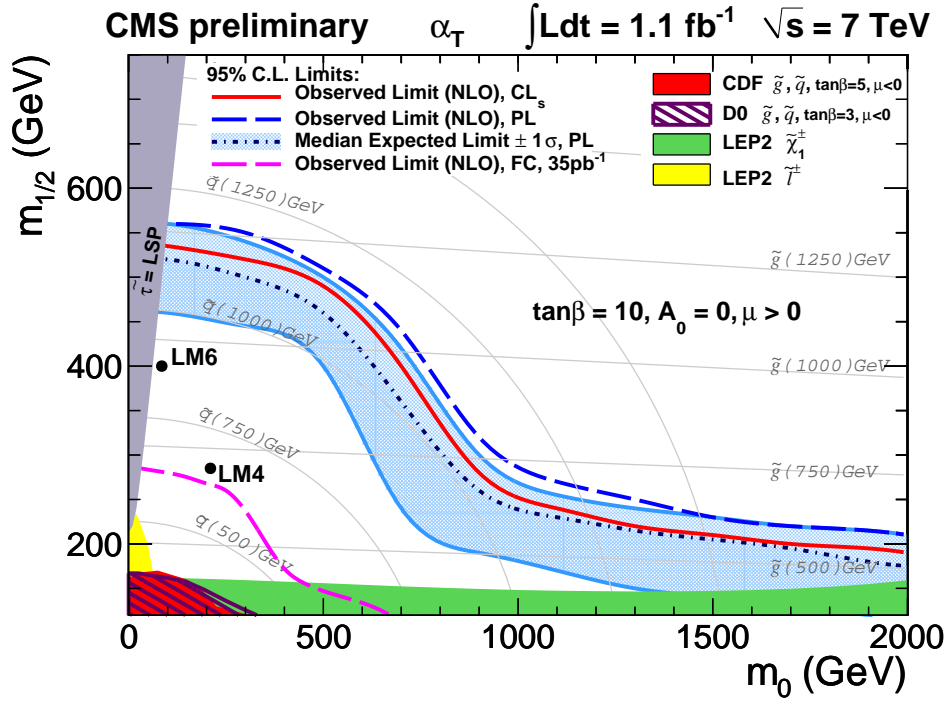


Figure 4.12: Observed and expected 95% CL exclusion contours in the CMSSM ($m_0, m_{1/2}$) plane ($\tan \beta = 10, A_0 = 0, \mu > 0$) using NLO signal cross sections using the Profile Likelihood (PL) method. The expected limit is shown with its 68% CL range. The observed limit using the CL_s method is shown as well.

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